

Submitted By  
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Submitted On  
1/21/2020 7:22:24 AM  
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KPFA

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Dear Decision Makers,

I have fished as a setnetter in Upper Cook Inlet for my entire life. I have seen my season start from the end of May, to early, to mid to late June; to early July to mid July. A similar pattern has occurred at the ending of the season from October to Sept, to August, to even the end of July. I am lucky if I get more than 5 days a year. This methodology is damaging the river as well as putting me and my family and my friends out of business.

I have seen escapement number go from 600K, to 700K, to 800K all the way up to 1.5 Million. I have my gear reduced to the point that it makes it pointless to go fishing, I have seen my regularly scheduled fishing periods taken away. I could go on and on. The fisheries that have changed so drastically in the past 15 years and thus threatening the livelihood of commercial fishing and the King salmon in general, is **in river commercial fishery (KRSA)** and the **PU fishery**. I understand that there are multiple user groups that need to utilize the salmon resource, but as elected officials I hope that you would see the value of feeding nations in a sustainable way as a trump card over sports and rec and a welfare fishery. If KRSA gets their way there will be no fishery at all! KRSA wants to plug the river with fish because that is the only way that they can snag them (because reds do not bite during the run). The reds have become the new hot sport fish, and they are using the King salmon conservation as a method of doing just that. Sport fishing hasn't suffered one bit, if you catch Kings, then you can snag a bunch of Red (if the river is plugged) that is the reason for proposals 78, 88, and 104.

**I respectfully oppose proposal 78, Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan to include weighted criteria for the allocation of fishery resources.**

- The current in-river goal ranges already allow for expansion and increased harvest for the in-river sockeye sport fishery above the counter.
- The current in-river goals provide more fish to the in-river sport fishery above the sonar than can currently be harvested. The in-river sport fishery, even when liberalized, does not exploit the fish they are already allocated. This results in exceeding in-river goals, exceeding escapement goals, and foregone harvest.

**I respectfully oppose proposal 88, Amend the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan to increase in-river goal ranges.**

- The current in-river goal ranges already allow for expansion and increased harvest for the in-river sockeye sport fishery above the counter.
- The current in-river goals provide more fish to the in-river sport fishery above the sonar than can currently be harvested. The in-river sport fishery, even when liberalized, does not exploit the fish they are already allocated. This results in exceeding in-river goals, exceeding escapement goals, and foregone harvest.

**I respectfully oppose proposal 104, Adopt an optimal escapement goal and amend the paired restrictions in the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

- I oppose this arbitrary and premature change to the scientifically established SEG. The big king goal was an attempt to revive the struggling king runs, and setnet fishermen have shouldered the majority of the conservation burden since it was established. ADF&G set the goal just three years ago at the 2017 meeting, so recently that not even one king salmon lifecycle has been completed. The efficacy of the new goal has yet to be established, and changing it now is premature. The result will be further unnecessary restrictions to the commercial setnet fishery.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership during this difficult time. May God bless you to support the right decisions.

Alan Crookston

Submitted By  
Martin L. Meigs  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 3:51:53 PM  
Affiliation  
COB, Alaska Sport Fishing Assn

Alaska Sport Fishing Association BOF comments

88. Alaska Sport Fishing Association supports the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's biological move of increasing the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal, and in addition we support the concept of increasing the Optimum Escapement Goal (OEG) as proposed in #88. Upper Cook Inlet supports about 60% of all the sport fishing in the state of Alaska and is also home to about 60% of the state's population.

The Kenai River is the largest freshwater sport fishery in Upper Cook Inlet and in all of Alaska. A larger optimum escapement goal would help provide more reasonable harvest opportunities for the large numbers of both residents and nonresidents that fish in the Kenai and other freshwater fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet.

Since the abundance of Kenai sockeye is what determines commercial harvest rate for many salmon stocks throughout Upper Cook Inlet, putting more Kenai sockeye into the river could greatly increase the likelihood of achieving escapement levels of salmon stocks further north in the Inlet and also increase the likelihood that Northern commercial, subsistence, sport, and personal user fisheries for those Northern Cook Inlet salmon stocks could proceed without in season restrictions or closures.

89 and 90. These seem to be the same proposal by an individual and by the Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

We strongly support changing the preamble language to include sport, personal use, and guided sport fisherman as users to which the Kenai River sockeye salmon resource would be managed. Since this is the largest and economically most important sockeye salmon stock in all of Upper Cook Inlet, for all users, it should also be managed for commercial gill netters simply in conjunction with other users.

We agree with the Department's new Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal and with the concept of providing OEG for in river users. We also agree with the concept of decreasing the amount of emergency hours provided for in the management plan. When these hours are used by the gill netters, many fewer salmon are allowed to migrate into the harvest areas of the in river users. In addition, listing such large amounts of emergency hours creates unrealistic expectations for the commercial users.

Managers typically schedule openings during daylight hours when enforcement is easier and typically schedule openings for 12 hours or less per day. Scheduling longer openings creates enforcement and safety issues. We support the commercial users fishing regular periods primarily and without so much extra time, similar to the way ADF&G managed the fishery in 2019.

123. Renaming Drift Gill Net Area 2 as a "Conservation and Allocation Sanctuary Area" would support the proven Conservation Corridor concept of achieving Northern Cook Inlet escapement goals and effect a better sharing of harvest opportunities for all Northern Cook Inlet user groups.

124. By Alaska Outdoor Council — this would change the Central District Drift Gill Net Fishery Management to more accurately state the purpose as passing Northern District Bound salmon in order to provide all in river users.

133. The current Central District Drift Fishery Management Plan has been failing to minimize the commercial harvest of Northern coho salmon — a stated purpose in the plan. In addition, the fishery, as currently configured, is not allowing enough coho salmon to pass through the Central District to provide sport and guided sport fishing throughout the season for Northern coho as also stated in the plan.

Further, ADF&G data shows that most commercial harvest of Northern Cook Inlet coho salmon occurs in the Central District.

Similar to action the Board of Fisheries took in Kodiak, this proposal could help to pass both sockeye and coho salmon through to Northern Cook Inlet where sport harvests have suffered. Furthermore, the economic value from sport fisheries has declined by about 50% since 2007.

Providing reasonable and fair salmon harvest opportunities to Alaska residents and visitors fishing in Northern Cook Inlet would be substantially advanced by adopting this proposal. Additionally, this proposal would also help pass Northern Cook Inlet salmon of other species.

Check on Number of Northern Cook Inlet Sport fishery closures and missed Northern coho and sockeye escapement goals in the past 3 years!

126. This proposal was written by an Alaska Sport Fishing Association member and while not written as clear and eloquently as other proposals — it shows support for the same concepts as expressed in proposals 123, 124, 127, and 133.

127. Recognizes the need to place an appropriate allocation to support a fairer and more reasonable harvest opportunity for all Northern Cook Inlet user groups. A 60% to 80% harvest of the Upper Cook Inlet harvest of northern bound sockeye and coho salmon within Northern Cook Inlet is the request.

Four or five years achieving this benchmark for harvest of Northern Cook Inlet sockeye stock or another specific sockeye harvest target within Northern Cook Inlet waters could be an agreeable level at which the Stock of Yield Concern for Susitna sockeye salmon might be alleviated.



Management practices harvesting this level of northern/ Susitna sockeye in Northern Cook inlet would serve to shield Central District commercial users from future conservation concerns over this stock.

204. Alaska Sport fishing Association strongly supports this proposal which would specify management of Northern District salmon stocks to include all commercial and in river users. In addition, the fishery should be managed for the personal and economic benefit of all Alaskans. It should be noted that chum and pink salmon are often released when caught by many Northern District set netters as the benefit of marketing them is negligible compared to the cost of quality control and transporting them to market. In addition, no escapement goals exist for these species in Northern Cook Inlet and management for them is passive at best.

234, 235, 236, 237. These proposals would open a personal use salmon dip net fishery on the lower Susitna / Yentna River(s). We believe all Northern Cook Inlet user groups should have a reasonable opportunity to harvest Northern salmon stocks. Each of these proposals offers conservative personal use opportunity. 234 would limit harvest opportunity to 51 hours per week, 235 would provide 117 hours of opportunity, 236 would provide 48 hours of opportunity, 237 would provide 49 hours of opportunity and 238 would provide 51 hours of opportunity. We believe the board could use tools /concepts from each of these proposals to provide a conservative fishery. The Board needs to use a cautious approach and provide enough salmon migration into this area to still meet escapement needs and provide for all in river fisheries.

104. This proposal would create an Optimum Escapement Goal for Kenai River king salmon and also adjust tighter paired restrictions between the sport king salmon fishery and the Eastside set net fishery during times of king salmon shortage.

Kenai king salmon and Kenai sockeye salmon are both extremely important and heavily utilized salmon stocks for all of Upper Cook Inlet. With good abundance, both of these salmon stocks provide some of the highest economic values of salmon stocks in Upper Cook Inlet. They are both extremely important, and should be managed with reasonable shared harvest and conservation responsibilities for all Alaskans and visitors.

We emphasize that nonresident participation and purchases are important parts of both sport and commercial uses and provide a significant portion of the ADF&G budget.

171 and 80. The Alaska Sport Fishing Association submitted this proposal along with a companion proposal for the commercial gill net fisheries.

We strongly believe the best and highest use of Upper Cook Inlet king salmon is in the sport fishery. The economic benefit from the sport fishery and especially the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery is extremely high. King salmon are often what entices both residents and nonresidents to purchase sport fishing licenses, king salmon stamps, and take a fishing trip.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has long recognized the importance of king salmon to the sport fishery for years with language that calls for Upper Cook Inlet king salmon to be managed primarily for sport and guide sport users. In these times of low king salmon production and abundance, however, all user groups have seen restrictions and closures to king salmon harvest or fishing, or even closures to regular fishing opportunities in the commercial fishery.

If the commercial and personal use fisheries were restricted to harvesting only king salmon less than 36 inches in length, additional king salmon would pass through to the sport fishery. Those larger fish would also be counted as escapement under ADF&G's current Kenai River escapement goal for king salmon. Harvest of king salmon less than 36 inches in length could be allowed at all times by the commercial and personal use fisheries without impacting the escapement goal and causing restrictions or closures for all user groups.

Restricting harvest to only the smaller than 36 inch king salmon would also help alleviate the problem of unintended fish sorting error as a salmon 36 inches or longer is obviously a king salmon.

We believe commercial harvested king salmon in all of Upper Cook Inlet should fall under this less than 36 inches in length restriction, since king salmon stocks everywhere in the Upper Cook Inlet are in a period of very low production.

37 and 38. We agree to the concepts of these two proposals, however we do not have any regulation ideas on how they would work.

199. We support adjusting the Northern District King Salmon Fishery Management Plan in way that would still provide fishing opportunities. We believe king salmon should be managed throughout Upper Cook Inlet primarily for sport and guided sport uses. We support putting into regulation some of the current practices used by the Department during the past several years. We also support a more restrictive sport fish size limit as a step down measure to keep the fishery open and allow limited harvest when projection or escapement numbers allow.

200. The Northern District king salmon fishery is the only directed commercial king salmon fishery in Upper Cook Inlet. It was re-established in 1985 based on an abundance of king salmon above which the sport fishery could harvest at the time. The Board of Fisheries in 1985 recognized this abundance of king salmon was likely a short-term situation, and even if the stock stayed at the same level, the sport fishery would likely grow to where it could harvest the available surplus king salmon. The last paragraph of this proposal write up quotes the Board's position on the future of the Northern District commercial set net fishery:

Obviously there has been little or no surplus king salmon beyond sport fishing needs since 1996. No bait and other restrictions and closures have occurred in most Northern Cook Inlet wild king salmon fisheries in an effort to maintain adequate king salmon spawning escapements!

We request the 2020 Board follow the 1985 Board's finding and close the Northern District commercial set net fishery until surplus king salmon abundances beyond what the sport fishery can utilize once again occur.

201. Currently and since 1996 there has been no Northern Cook Inlet surplus king salmon available on a regular basis beyond the sport fishery needs. Therefore we do not support liberalizations of the Northern District commercial set net fishery. Reference the comments made regarding proposal 200.

Point 1 of this proposal which would allow Northern District commercial harvest when the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery was open would be a liberalization of the Commercial fishery and would allow commercial king salmon harvest when no sport harvest was allowed in the biggest wild king salmon fishery in the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area. We strongly object to this idea!

Point 2 would put into regulation a practice ADF&G management has followed and could in fact, be a good tool for shared conservation of this valuable resource. We support his point.

Point 3 is already in the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan and is currently followed by ADF&G.

Point 4 is a reallocation of the king salmon resource to the Commercial fishery not allowed under the current Northern District King Salmon Management Plan. There are currently no surplus king salmon available beyond sport fishery needs. King salmon management is supported by sport fishery license and king salmon stamp sales, and most years the average individual sport angler fishing in Northern Cook Inlet catches less than one king salmon per year.

202. If the Board passed this proposal they would be liberalizing the Northern District commercial set net king salmon allocation at a time when there are no surplus king salmon beyond sport fishery needs. In addition, we do not support the practice of permit stacking at any time in the Northern District, and especially at any time the net per individual is already restricted to less than 3 nets or 110 fathoms of gear. Northern District salmon resources are in high demand, with more users than available resource in many situations. There is no need to give any individuals more harvest opportunity at the expense of all other users. ASFA strongly oppose this proposal.

203. Would allow expansion of Northern District Commercial king salmon fishery whenever the Deshka River king salmon sport limit was increased to two fish daily. We oppose this proposal as there are many other sport fisheries throughout Northern Cook Inlet where sport king salmon fishing is entirely closed or greatly restricted, and has been so for over 6 years! There is no need to provide this one small user group a larger share of Northern Cook Inlet king salmon at the expense of all other users. Even when the sport fishery daily limit has increase in the distant past, there has always been a season 5 king salmon per person limit.

215. Would put into regulation management practices followed by ADF&G for Yentna River and Susitna River drainage king salmon stocks above Deshka River. There is also a step down provision that could allow harvest of smaller king salmon during times of low abundance while preserving all of the larger spawners.

216. This would create a goal specifically for large king salmon on Deshka River, similar to what ADF&G uses on the Kenai River. Large king salmon include most of the females in the population. With sport fishing regulations often set at one king salmon per day and with emergency regulations often restricting the seasonal limit to two king salmon per year, anglers tend to selectively harvest the larger fish. In times of low production we should provide protection for a desired amount of these larger fish — and harvest should be selective on smaller king salmon. This is similar to the approach we proposed in 171 and 80. The department would be free to provide the best "large king salmon size" and the appropriate goal size.

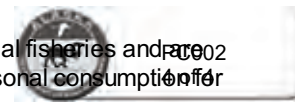
217. Would create a Deshka River king salmon management plan for the sport fishery. This puts into regulation practices followed by ADF&G during the past several years of low production. ADF&G prefers to manage Deshka River as a separate unit. Put management practices into regulation — which would allow future adaptive management fishery proposals. Deshka River has a weir and the best king salmon escapement data for all of Northern Cook Inlet.

219. Would create a Little Susitna River king salmon fishery management plan. This is the only fishery for wild king salmon in the Knik Arm drainage. There is a weir to manage the fishery, and this proposal would put into regulation management practice followed by the Department.

145. One of our members submitted this as a personal proposal. We would like to comment on the aspect of extending the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery through August 15. We believe this is a good idea, as Kenai River sockeye run timing is often late. Because of this late return, there are years where relatively little harvest occurs in this fishery.

Concerning harvest of king salmon over 36 inches in length, we suggest no personal use harvest in August.

Similar to the commercial opportunity this fishery through August 15 should follow the abundance of sockeye salmon. If the commercial set netters get closed by the 1%, 2%, or 3% rule then we would advocate that the personal use fishery close on the same date.



Some coho would likely be harvested by the personal use fishery, however, coho are also harvested in commercial fisheries and are an important fish for consumption. This would simply be one of the costs of this fishery that provides salmon for personal consumption for large numbers of Alaska and Southcentral Alaska residents.

78. The Alaska constitution calls for fisheries to be managed for maximum benefit of the people of Alaska. All Alaskans are to be common users of the resource. We believe the criteria in this order would provide for a better sharing of Alaska's salmon resources and would also provide for much higher economic benefit from the resource. Allocating for personal consumptive use by Alaskans as the highest priority places importance on a share for everyone. The Alaska Sport Fishing Association supports this proposal.

229. This proposal was submitted by one of our members, and we choose to support this youth fishery option for kids under 16 years old to have a better opportunity to catch a king salmon. As mentioned earlier, most people participating in a king salmon fishery in Northern Cook Inlet do not catch even one king salmon in an entire year. This would simply give youth a better chance of catching a Northern Cook Inlet (Ship Creek) king salmon on one day of the season. Other people could still fish for king salmon below the C Street Bridge on this day — this particular area is muddy and not as user friendly for kids.

#### Subsistence Proposals

242. This is a subsistence proposal that would provide two additional days per week for this fishery. There are two time periods for this proposal June 1 - 30 and July 15 — August 7. King salmon are in extremely short supply in Northern Cook Inlet. When there was a sport fishery in this area and residents could catch their king salmon with sport fishing gear, no subsistence king salmon fishery occurred. If the sport fishery was to re-open to Alaska resident harvest of king salmon there would be no need expand this subsistence opportunity — ADF&G has even gone on record saying there could be a sport fishery in the Yentna River drainage in 2020. Therefore we would advocate that the June fishery remain at the same 3-days per week, while the July 15 — August 7 fishery should go to 5 days per week as requested to meet reasonable subsistence needs.

243. We support subsistence fisheries, however there is an aspect of this proposal that seems disturbing. One is the premise that if the limit was expanded to all species of salmon, the harvest of king salmon would somehow go down. If king salmon are the preferred species for harvest, and if normal fishing opportunity were provided, it is hard to think that king salmon harvest would go down. A more likely scenario might be that the harvest of king salmon could remain consistent and the harvest of other species would go up. All users have been having a more difficult time catching or harvesting king salmon, because of lower abundance, however, the Tyonek subsistence harvest in 2018 seems to provide nearly the entire 70 king salmon per permit allowed.

Note: this was at a time when the commercial fishery was closed and no sport harvest was allowed on the entire Susitna River drainage as well.

225. This would allow king salmon fishing further down the Knik River with a harvest restriction for king salmon in the proposed area of only hatchery clipped king salmon. This would provide more area for anglers to fish and spread out, and new water to fish after trying other spots. Since few hatchery king salmon exist in this area harvest in the new area would be extremely low.

192, 193, 194, 195. Alaska Sport Fishing Association supports the concept of a 1%, 2%, or 3% rule to transition from commercial fishing into sport fishing management. The higher the percentage the more benefit for sport and less benefit for commercial. We strongly believe the rule should go into effect starting July 31. It would allow commercial harvest to continue through August 15 on years when late abundances of sockeye were available, but switch to sport management on years when sockeye abundance fell off earlier. Something needs to be adjusted with this concept — since not starting the rule until on or after August 7 does nothing but take up extra space in the regulation book. We believe this rule should apply to both set netters and drift netters. Since few hatchery king salmon exist in this area harvest in the new area would be extremely low.

192, 193, 194, 195. Alaska Sport Fishing Association supports the concept of a 1%, 2%, or 3% rule to transition from commercial fishing into sport fishing management. The higher the percentage the more benefit for sport and less benefit for commercial. We strongly believe the rule should go into effect starting July 31. It would allow commercial harvest to continue through August 15 on years when late abundances of sockeye were available, but switch to sport management on years when sockeye abundance fell off earlier. Something needs to be adjusted with this concept — since not starting the rule until on or after August 7 does nothing but take up extra space in the regulation book. We believe this rule should apply to both set netters and drift netters.

Submitted By

Andrew Couch

Submitted On

1/23/2020 4:34:18 PM

Affiliation

Fishtale River Guides, business owner and guide

Chairman Morisky and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, My name is Andrew (Andy) Couch. I live near Palmer, Alaska in the Northern Cook Inlet sport fishery management area. For more than 35 years I have been a sport fishing business owner and sport fishing guide working in freshwaters of the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area. I am also a member of the Matanuska Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee, however this is individual comment representing myself and my guide business.

For my first comment, I would like to personally Thank You on behalf of myself and all other Upper Cook Inlet user groups for taking action to allow better passage of Upper Cook Inlet and Chignik sockeye salmon through the Kodiak area seine fishery. From a fisheries science basis these salmon stocks can be managed better in the districts where they are bound and closer to their natal streams. These salmon stocks are also extremely important for the well being of the communities where they are bound.

Over the past 18 years, since 2006, there has been a perceptuous and dramatic decline in Northern Cook Inlet sport fishery participation and harvest of ocean-run salmon by participants in this fishery. For my business chinook (king) salmon and coho (silver) salmon have been the main business attractions and source of yearly income. The same could be said for numerous other fishing guide services, tackle and bait business, boat launch facilities, and are lodging facilities. The decline in this industry is documented both in Alaska Department of Fish and Game harvest and sport fishing effort data over this time period, and also in a 2007 Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) economic study showing data for other Upper Cook Inlet compared to a 2017 study funded by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, but using ADF&G methodology and the same economics contractor for the study.

Since 2017 Sport king salmon fishing opportunities have continued to decline in the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area with the entire Susitna River drainage restricted to catch and release only sport king salmon fishing during the entire 2018 season. During 2019 the entire Sustina River drainge was closed to all king salmon fishing (including catch and release) for the entire season.

During the 3 years since the last Upper Cookk Inlet board of fisheries meeting, in 2017 coho salmon were harvested heavily in late July and early August by large area drift gill net openings This had a retarding effect on coho salmon abundances reaching Northern Cook Inlet sport fisheries, with poor harvests for much of the season, followed by an abundance of salmon too late in the season for the sport fishery to capitalize on good number of coho that ended primarily as escpement. 2018 was wet with good movement of coho salmon migrating upstreams and good sport coho salmon throughout the season. 2019 was a hot weather low water year for Northern Cook Inlet with a large coho harvest in the Northern District set net fishery, but low coho abundance and poor fishing, and closures later in the sport fishery. My primary concern for the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting mirrors my guide buiness, and I would like to see the board adopt regulation to restore Northern Cook Inlet sport fisheries and the huge economic, food security, and recreational boosts they provide for the local community. At the same time, I believe thoughtful regulations can also provide for reasonable salmon harvest opportunities for all Northern Cook Inlet and Upper Cook Inlet user groups. I plan to be availbale throughout the Board meeting, and would like to voice my SUPPORT for the following proposals or specific concepts within these proposals. Drift Gillnet proposals 133, 129, 126, 127, 124, 123. Kenai Sockeye proposal 88 and concepts in 89, 90, 100. King salmon proposals 199, 215, 216, 217, 219, 225, 80, 171, and the BOF finding contained in proposal. I also authored and continue to support coho OEG goal proposal 218.

Thank you for your service on the Board and I look forward to working with you,

Andrew N. Couch, owner, Fishtale River Guides

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1/23/2020 10:21:41 PM  
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PROPOSAL  
NUMBER

COMMENTS

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 78 | KPFA opposes this proposal. The current Allocation Criteria that the board MAY consider are there as a guide for them already   |
| 79 | KPFA opposes this proposal. The Personal Use fishery already has a priority based on historical restrictions. They are closed by emergency ONLY when the department sees the need to close ALL fisheries.   |
| 38 | KPFA Opposes this proposal as written. KPFA could support some aspects of these proposals if it reduces the incidental harvest of UCI chinook salmon in the LCI and KMA areas as well as other intercept fisheries.   |
| 37 | KPFA Opposes this proposal as written. KPFA could support some aspects of these proposals if it reduces the incidental harvest of UCI chinook salmon in the LCI and KMA areas as well as other intercept fisheries.   |
| 80 | KPFA opposes this proposal. The gear used in the ESSN fishery in most areas of Upper Cook Inlet target sockeye.   |
| 81 | Support in Concept  |
| 82 | No action   |
| 83 | KPFA opposes this proposal. Tthe Board of Fisheries is tasked with conserving and developing fisheries resources and under statute ...must, consistent with sustained yield...provide a fair and reasonable opportunity for the taking of fishery resources by personal use, sport, and commercial fishermen. ( AS 16.05.251 (a) (d) )<br>While a realistic expectation for success is desired the Alaska Constitution, Article VIII, section 15, prohibits granting monopoly rights.<br>Clearly, this proposal seeks to deny Alaskans, who are commercial fishermen access to a fisheries resource and the pursuit of a livelihood through commerce. |
| 84 | No action   |
| 9  | No action   |
| 15 | No action   |
| 86 | Oppose  |
| 85 | No action   |
| 88 | KPFA opposes this proposal. The current inriver goals are providing more fish to the above the sonar inriver sport fishery than they can currently harvest. The inriver sport fishery, even when liberalized, does not exploit the fish they are already allocated. This results in exceeding inriver goals, exceeding escapement goals, and foregone harvest.  |
| 87 | No action   |
| 89 | Oppose  |
| 90 | Oppose  |
| 91 | No action   |
| 92 | KPFA Supports   |

KPFA Supports this proposal.

Managing for an SEG when in times of low returns is scientifically defensible over an optimal escapement goal which considers allocative factors rather than biological integrity. In river goals are similar although for conservation needs in achieving a biological escapement goal they are highly allocative and may burden one user disproportionately.

Lack of flexibility within regulatory management plans may hinder the department managers in using management tools to achieve the goals while at the same time allowing a reasonable and predictable opportunity for all users in times of uncertainty.

93

94 KPFA opposes this proposal. Adding an additional 24 hour closure when the run strength exceeds 4.6 million is a purely punitive action directed at the setnet fishery.

95 KPFA Opposes this proposal. Sockeye have been prioritized for commercial uses based on ABUNDANCE in Upper Cook Inlet in the Kenai River Sockeye Management plan. The department already makes this adjustment to meet escapement goals.

96 KPFA opposes increasing the inriver goal. In river fishermen have never harvested that many in the past. The current escapement goals are not being harvested as they are set even with full guide boats. In 2012 setnetters were totally out of the water. 1,581,555 sockeye passed the sonar counter. The above sonar sport fishery took only 368,720 fish despite maximum liberalization of bag limits. There is no justification make this increase when there is no way these fish can be harvested by in river fishermen.

97 No action

98 Support in Concept

99 No action

100 No action

101 KPFA supports this proposal. Removing the minimizing language will give managers greater flexibility to manage on a real time basis

102 KPFA agrees in concept. Successive sockeye escapements at or over the goal range produce lower yields, disadvantaging all user groups.

103 KPFA Opposes this proposal. Can not mandate ADFG funding. Current escapement goals are sustainable.

104 KPFA Opposes this proposal. OEG of 16,500-30,000 big fish replaces SEG 13,500-27,000 big fish. Oppose based on OEG language and only one board cycle, no full fish cycle to see if new Large Fish goal is effective.

105 KPFA Opposes this proposal. Goal of 15,000-35000 big fish replaces SEG 13,500-27,000 big fish. Oppose based on only one board cycle, no full fish cycle to see if new Large Fish goal is effective.

106 KPFA Opposes this proposal. Goal of 15,000-35000 big fish replaces SEG 13,500-27,000 big fish. Oppose based on only one board cycle, no full fish cycle to see if new Large Fish goal is effective.

107 KPFA does not support this proposal. This proposal seeks to allow the ADFG Commissioner authority to liberalize the fishery. The commissioner, as we understand, has authority to allow such a request if the circumstances are appropriate. As such, commissioners' authority renders this proposal moot.

108 KPFA does not support this proposal. This type of concept of "paired restrictions" was adopted in the 2014 Board cycle. The Board revisited the issue during the 2017 meeting and repealed certain aspects of "paired restrictions" in favor of allowing biologists to manage the fishery based on sound fishery management techniques rather than unreasonable regulations that are rooted in politics.

109 Support

110 Support

111 Support

112 Support

113 Support in Concept

114 Oppose. OEG Language, No need to change the goals since no time given for Large King goals to work

115 KPFA opposes this proposal. Allowing bait during catch and release undermines the intended impact of the restriction. it will increase mortality, negating the impact of catch and release and increase the mortality of the fish we're trying to protect and conserve

116 Oppose

KPFA supports this proposal. Even 1,200' from Mean High Tide is still inside the





117 intertidal zone for virtually the entire Kasilof Section, potentially going dry during  
118 openings. This gives opportunity to users that don't own sites within 600' of Mean High  
119 Water. Should not significantly alter stock composition of catches intended to maximize  
120 harvest of Kasilof bound Sockeye.

118 Support  
119 Support

120 Support

KPFA opposes this proposal. This fishery continues to be underutilized for the  
"maximum benefits" of the people of Alaska. The historical commercial fisheries  
dependent on this stock have been denied a reasonable opportunity to maintain a  
stable sockeye fishery.

Step down plans that are currently in regulation are not used to their fullest intent.

121 The additional language suggested by this proposer is redundant and would only defeat  
all the current step-down regulations in place. It would again force commercial  
fishermen into the conflicted Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA).

OPPOSE:

KPFA understands the frustration with traditional fisheries that are restricted by time  
and area. The Kasilof sockeye fishery has many step-down options that impede an  
orderly traditional setnet harvest.

We are always interested in ways to increase harvests amongst all setnet fishermen.

122 However, using a dipnet as a "method" is not a traditional setnet harvest tool. We are  
123 also concerned that the quality of sockeye harvested in the riverine areas may have a  
124 lesser value to the market and may damage the Kasilof River sockeye "brand". We are  
also aware of the need to maintain an orderly fishery and it is not clear on how this  
proposal will allow commercial setnet fishermen to conduct the fishery while not  
impeding traversing vessels, vessels at anchor, sport fishing users and personal use  
participants.

124 Oppose  
123 No action  
125 No action

KPFA opposes this proposal. The action puts the entire burden of conservation on one  
user group while ignoring the other causes of Northern District shortfalls. Until the ND  
deals with pike, lack of culverts, unrestricted 4-wheeler damage to habitat

126  
127 127 same as above

Support. KPFA which is primarily a setnet representation organization is not directly  
managed under this management plan. However, we highly support a deregulation  
process that deletes burdensome, confusing regulations that seek to exclude user  
groups while a surplus salmon stock may be available for harvest.

We agree with the simplified management principle that manages for reasonable  
opportunity on the common property, public trust principle.

128  
129 Oppose  
130 No action  
131 No action  
132 No action  
133 No action  
134 No action  
135 No action

KPFA supports this proposal. This valuable fishery, currently paying as much as 25 per  
pound has been squandered because commercial fishermen are never allowed to fish.

137  
136 No action  
138 No action  
139 Oppose  
140 No action  
141 No action

KPFA supports this proposal. This fishery would have no impact on northbound fish and  
would restore historical access to these fish for commercial fishermen.

142  
143 Support

144 Support

KPFA Oppses this proposal. Commercial fishermen have already been severely



restricted to accommodate sport and personal use fisheries despite the fact that the late run is supposed to be managed of commercial harvest. Extending the sport and personal use harvest will further erode the viability of the fishery.

145 KPFA supports this proposal, The upper Kenai is already overcrowded. We think anglers should quit after they've caught their bag limit and give others a chance to fish. This proposal will improve both the fishing experience and the habitat on the upper river.

147 KPFA opposes this proposal. Liberalizing the sport harvest before run develops is poor management and could lead to unforeseen closures later in the season.

146 No action

148 No action

149 KPFA supports this proposal. We think anglers should quit after they've caught their bag limit. Unless taking fish for consumption, salmon should be allowed to move up river without being harassed. This will give others a chance to fish and improve both the fishing experience and the habitat on the river.

150 Oppose

151 Support

152 No action

153 No action

154 Oppose

14 Oppose

155 Support

157 Support

158 Oppose

156 KPFA Opposes this proposal, Rarely are there groups of 5 that need to fish together. Groups of 2-4 are most common in the commercial guided sport industry. This was written by a guide that only seeks personal gain and has no problem mixing strangers together. Approval for 5 will lead to bigger boats that can carry 6, then 7.... Etc. Also more weight in the boat will lead to bigger wakes that will further erode our existing banks.

159 KPFA Opposes this proposal. The heavier the commercial guided sport boat, the larger the wake which leads to further bank erosion. This proposal is asking that the guided industry be allowed to transport more than 5 anglers to the fishing grounds. The Kenai River is already overcrowded. Limiting commercial guided sport fishing boats to 4 persons per day is a good regulation to hold back the pressure the Kenai River is now experiencing.

160

161

163 KPFA Opposes this proposal. Enforcement of the Kenai River is hard enough. Removing the restriction for other fish species when the King season is closed would be impossible to enforce without going boat to boat to check everyone's gear and landed fish. The Kenai River is not the only river that the commercial guided industry can fish when the King season in closed due to low escapement levels. The restrictions we now have in place to limit angler pressure and to protect the Kenai River late run King stock should not be changed.

162 KPFA supports this proposal. We feel it would be good to give the river a rest. This is where we put the early run king, and all reds. Continual abuse from powering through this portion of the river hurts these runs. this proposal will protect the waters off the mouths of the tributaries where fish can gather for month. Out of respect for fish that have already passed, let them rest unmolested by powerboat passage so they will actually enter the tributaries to spawn.

164 KPFA supports this proposal. Any time we can reduce motorized activity on the river, we're improving water quality, habitat, and allowing salmon to move unmolested by power boat impacts.

165 KPFA supports this proposal. Any time we can reduce motorized activity on the river, we're improving water quality, habitat, and allowing salmon to move unmolested by power boat impacts.

166 KPFA opposes this proposal as it is unenforcable as written.

167 No action

168 Oppose

170 No action

169 Oppose

171 KPFA supports this proposal. We believe restrictions must be put in place to limit the personal use fishery. All users should share the burden of conservation. Unlimited

173 users on a limited resource is unsustainable.

172 Oppose

KPFA is in agreement with this proposal. This proposal seeks to allow North Kalifonsky Beach setnetters (within 600 feet of mean high tide) to participate in Kasilof River stock harvest beginning July 1 regardless if the date falls on a regular period. This would restore historical opportunity that occurred prior to 1999. The proposal also asks that gear modification be instituted during the period of July 1-7 to allay any concern relative to chinook incidental catch.

175

174 Oppose

KPFA is in support of this proposal and believes this clears up any ambiguity as it relates to when North Kalifonsky Beach may open in relation to the harvest of excess Kasilof stocks.

176

177 No action

KPFA is in support of this proposal. KPFA has endorsed the concept of gear reduction as contained in Senate bill 90. The Bill, if enacted, would reduce the ESSN permit area by 45%. To then allow drift fishers into the vacated setnetter areas would render gear reduction moot and simply replaces one gear type with another.

178

KPFA supports this proposal, in 8 out of the past 10 years both the inriver goal in the Kenai River and the BEG in the Kasilof River were exceeded. Allowing for extra harvest opportunities once all management objectives have been met, and or, exceeded would provide area managers with more tools to meet ADFG management objectives.

179

KPFA supports this proposal, in 8 out of the past 10 years both the inriver goal in the Kenai River and the BEG in the Kasilof River were exceeded. Allowing for extra harvest opportunities once all management objectives have been met, and or, exceeded would provide area managers with more tools to meet ADFG management objectives.

180

182 Support

KPFA Opposes this proposal. A record breaking early Russian River sockeye run in 2019 would hardly support the theory that the early sockeyes are not making into the Kenai River. In fact, the early Russian River stocks have been returning within their goal range for several cycles.

Other than an early run of Kasilof sockeye, from the mid part of June to the start of the second week in July sockeye are sporadic on most of the ESSN beaches. Early Run Kenai king salmon are migrating in single digits and the Late Run Kenai king salmon are limited in size for the first 14 days in July.

No apparent conservation needs are evident this early in the season so no significant escapements are reported this time of year other than the Kasilof sockeye. The Kasilof River has had issues with exceeding its BEG so delaying openings in these areas can only compound this affect.

181

183 Support

185 Support

184 No action

186 Support

187 No action

188 No action

189 No action

190 No action

KPFA opposes this proposal. Until the well-established commercial preference for late sockeye run is acknowledged and applied to management decisions, moving the 1 percent rule start date from August 7 to July 31 is unsupportable. In addition, the exploitation rate of coho relative to the number of active setnetters is nominal and would not impact the sport fishery.

192

191 No action

KPFA opposes further restrictions on setnet fishermen. The setnet fleet on the eastside of the central district harvests a very low percentage of Coho bound for the Kenai River as detailed in the Kenai River Coho studies.

In 2018, the ESSN harvested 4,705 Coho's of all origins. Compare this with just the in-river Kenai River harvest of 50,575 and a North Kenai Peninsula total of 58,354. Coho harvests by the sportfishery in the South Kenai Peninsula, Northern District and Westside waters of Upper Cook Inlet far exceed the ESSN harvest on a yearly basis. Total historical harvest percentages in the ESSN fishery in relationship to the total mortalities associated with sport or personal use fisheries have been in the single

193

digits.

194 Oppose  
195 Oppose

KPFA opposes this proposal.

Windows have not allowed managers to harvest salmon with individuals that have historically harvested them, according to the methods, means, times, and locations of these fisheries (5 AAC 21.363 Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan (a) (5)). Whether you apply the principles of the umbrella plan or of the SSFP (5 AAC 39.222 Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries) there is no mention of “windows” as a guiding principle, no acceptable methodology, no definition or prescriptive uses for sound biological fisheries management using the windows method.

Forcing a second “floating” or “static” window further disrupts historical commercial fishing patterns and may add to the unrealistic expectation that surplus salmon will be available at a given time.

196  
197 No action  
198 No Action  
199 No Action  
200 No action  
202 Support  
201 No Action  
203 Support  
204 Oppose  
205 Oppose  
206 Support  
207 No action  
208 No action  
209 No action  
210 No action  
211 No action  
212 No action  
213 No action  
214 No action  
215 No action  
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232 No action  
233 No action  
234 No action  
235 No action  
236 No action  
237 No action  
238 No action  
239 No action  
240 No action  
241 No action  
242 No action  
243 No action

KPFA opposes this proposal. Using a dipnet as a “method” is not a traditional setnet harvest tool. Conflicts within the current KRSHA terminal fishery have been well documented and it is our view that this proposal would continue to exacerbate that

situation. We are also concerned that the quality of sockeye harvested in the riverine areas may have a lesser value to the market and may damage the Kasilof River sockeye "brand". We are also aware of the need to maintain an orderly fishery and it is not clear on how this proposal will allow commercial setnet fishermen to conduct the fishery while not impeding traversing vessels, vessels at anchor, sport fishing users and personal use participants.

122

Submitted By  
Annette McCrone  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 3:56:58 PM  
Affiliation

I support Proposal 169 to restrict power boats on the Kasilof river. The river is too small to allow those boats. They run in the same narrow part of the river that the Salmon are coming up in. Boats with large motors are launching at the bridge and running upstream to flip for Reds on the gravel bars. Many guide boats are powering downstream, also, to get out quickly. It is time to restrict them now because there are more and more every year, and less of the Second Run Kings that run up the upper river to spawn in the Slack Water. Big power boats are launching at the bridge and going eight miles downstream to Dip Net, and then running over the fish for another eight miles on the way back to the bridge. All of this power boat use is creating problems with bank erosion and turbidity. It's just wrong, and has to be stopped now! PLEASE PASS THIS PROPOSAL. Thank you for your time!

## RE: PROPOSAL 163 Prohibit guiding in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dip net fishery

I am a retired Alaskan veteran without access to a boat. It is difficult for me to dip net from the shore line because of the physical demands. I have used a guiding service since it first started three years ago. This allows me to participate in dip netting on the Kenai for the first time since arriving in Alaska 20 years ago. The guide boat I have used can accommodate wheelchairs which is very unique on the river. I think this is a valuable service and should not be stopped. I believe there needs to be limits to both guiding and private boats on the Kenai and the river needs to be more closely policed due to some of the dangerous driving and the dangerous congestion I have seen. Thank you for allowing comments.



January 16, 2020

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
Proposal 169  
Proposed by Charles McCrone (HQ-F19-002)



To Whom It May Concern,

I'm a retired Alaska Fish and Game employee and I've fished both the Kenai and Kasilof rivers since 1983. I'm in the process of building a home in Kasilof.

Over the years I've watched many proposals submitted to Fish and Game for consideration. Some were sound proposals, but the vast majority were generated by greed. Nothing more than one special interest group trying to gain the exclusive right to a resource over another group and using every excuse in the book to accomplish their end. I've watched commercial fisherman propose limits on sport fisherman and sport fisherman propose limits on commercial fisherman, but the group that seems to lose the most by these proposals are the personal use fisherman. This is the group that usually need the resource most to survive our long winters.

If you grant Mr. McCrone's proposal, what's next? Will he then propose we limit fishing from the bank of the river so he's not bothered by having to drift around the fishing lines? And won't granting Mr. McCrone's proposal drive more folks to fish from the river banks? Surly we haven't forgotten the millions of dollars we've spent over the years for riverbank restoration from excessive bank foot traffic.

I'm asking the Board to dismiss Mr. McCrone's proposal as just another in a long line of attempts to hoard a resource for one group over another.

Sincerely, .

Barry Wise

1-907-746-7807

[bswise@mtaonline.net](mailto:bswise@mtaonline.net)



Submitted By  
Ben Allen  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 4:36:44 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907 715 1095

Email  
[fish@millersriverboat.com](mailto:fish@millersriverboat.com)

Address  
4150 East Wickersham Way  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Board Members, I am Ben Allen, owner/operator of Millers Riverboat Service, located in Wasilla, AK. Guiding fishing trips, throughout Knik Arm and the Susitna Drainage, provides for my livelihood. I have been guiding fishing trips in the Matsu full time for 12 years. Millers Riverboat Service has been a successful fishing business in the Matsu since 1978. If the current trend of restricted King sportsfishing and low coho returns continue, I will be forced out of business. I have always been flexible and willing to try different fisheries such as trout and pike, but the bottom line is that the majority of Alaskans and visitors, want to catch and harvest wild salmon. Currently, we don't know if we will even have a King sportfishery in the Susitna Drainage or Little Su this year. King fishing comprises a significant portion of my income. I have lost a majority of my long term business due to the ongoing trend poor Coho and King sportfishing and regulation changes- that often occur with 2-3 day notice.

Coho sportfishing throughout the Susitna Drainage and Little Su for the last 12 years has been overall poor, largely unpredictable, and very regulated. After spending many days floating and hiking Eastside (Unit 2) streams, I strongly feel there are more Kings than Coho in those streams. The majority of streams in the Susitna Drainage do not have escapement goals for Coho, so there is no baseline for managers to ensure adequate escapement of these fish; additional conservation in the commercial fishery, than what is in current regulation, is desperately needed. Using Kenai River sockeye abundance as the baseline for allowing harvest of northernbound fish in a mix stock fishery is not a sustainable method for managing Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Currently, Susitna and Knik Drainage coho and sockeye stocks as a whole, are in decline and current commercial regulations allow for the unsustainable of these fisheries. As a user who has spent countless hours & years fishing throughout the Matsu (Yetna, Talkeetna, Little Su, Deshka, Parks Highway, ect..), I can confidently state, that sport and guided sportfishermen have not been provided a reasonable opportunity to harvest Coho and King salmon, in the Susitna and Knik Arm drainage, over the entire run, consistently for the last 12 years.

I strongly support proposals 123, 126, 127. When applied, proposals 126 and 127, will increase run strength to all Matsu streams and will allow Alaskan sports and personal use fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest fish in a sustainable manner. If proposals 123, 126 and 127 are passed, commercial regulation will allow for a sustainable management approach of which provides reasonable opportunity to all user groups. I support the concepts in proposal 200 and encourage Board members to recognize the Board finding quoted in 1985.

Thankyou for your time reading my comments. I will be attending the Board of Fisheries meeting and look forward to talking to you and making more comments on additional proposals.

Sincerely, Ben Allen

**From:** [Benjamin Mohr](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** 2020 UCI Board of Fish Meeting Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, January 23, 2020 3:36:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [2017 Economic Report.pdf](#)

---

Good afternoon -

I would like to respectfully submit the report *Economic Contributions of Sportfishing on the Cook Inlet Region*, by Southwick and Associates, for the record for the upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting addressing Upper Cook Inlet finfish.

Beyond the attached, I would like to register my personal support for proposals 78, 88, 104, 121, 129, 154, and 195.

I would like to further register support for proposals 127, 129, 133, 154, 195, 199, 215, 217, 219, and 234.

In total, I believe these proposals work well together to put more fish in the rivers, strengthen conservation, and increase access to personal use.

This submission is offered personally and separate from that of my employer, Kenai River Sportfishing Association, which has submitted its own comments.

Thank you

--

- Ben Mohr

[www.RockAcresAlaska.com](http://www.RockAcresAlaska.com)

# Economic Contributions of Sportfishing on the Cook Inlet Region



## Executive Summary

In 2017, anglers fished a total of 907,000 days in Alaska's Cook Inlet region and spent \$716.5 million on trip-related goods and services, pre-purchased packages, equipment and real estate used for fishing. An input-output model of the Cook Inlet region was used to estimate the total economic contributions that the spending created through the economic multiplier effect. As anglers' dollars move from business to business in the Cook Inlet economy, the total effects of the spending generated \$832.4 million in economic output and supported more than 6,300 jobs that provided \$271.4 in household income.

Although residents of Alaska spent roughly the same as non-residents (\$358.5 million compared to \$358.0 million), it was the resident spending that made a larger economic contribution (more jobs and income). This was the result of differences in the kinds of expenditures made by residents and non-residents. Resident anglers spent more of their money on equipment while non-residents spent most their money on trip-related purchases and pre-arranged packages that include services such as guides, lodging and meals produced by the region's businesses.

**Table E1. Summary of angler activity and economic contributions on the Cook Inlet region in 2017**

	<b>Resident Anglers</b>	<b>Non-resident Anglers</b>	<b>All Anglers</b>
<b>Days fished*(thous.)</b>	514.2	392.9	907.1
<b>Angler purchases:</b>			
<i>Trip-related (non-package) (millions)</i>	\$46.2	\$135.0	\$181.2
<i>Packages (millions)</i>	na	\$37.2	\$37.2
<i>Equipment (millions)</i>	\$201.8	\$54.0	\$255.8
<i>Real estate (millions)</i>	\$110.6	\$131.7	\$242.3
<b>Total retail sales (millions)</b>	<b>\$358.5</b>	<b>\$358.0</b>	<b>\$716.5</b>
<b>Total economic contributions, including multiplier effects:</b>			
<i>Industry output (millions)</i>	\$489.0	\$343.4	\$832.4
<i>Labor income (millions)</i>	\$158.8	\$112.6	\$271.4
<i>Employment (thous.)</i>	3.4	3.0	6.4

\*Includes only those days reported fishing in the Cook Inlet region

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## Introduction

The economic contributions of sportfishing to the economy of the Cook Inlet region is an important consideration for its natural resource managers. Earlier estimates of economic contributions associated with sportfishing are available for Alaska and for the region. For example, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR) in 2011 provides estimates of angler spending at the state-level. These estimates, however, do not provide the level of detail to calculate the economic contributions at the regional level. A regional economic contribution study of sportfishing in Alaska was conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and completed in 2008 with estimates for 2007 fishing activity. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) used that study as a basis to do a more regionally specific study through the University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute of Social and Economic Research (UAA-ISER) published in 2009. Estimates from these two regional projects are now roughly ten years old.

In 2015, the Matanuska-Susitna Salmon Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Plan for Upper Cook Inlet (RM&E), identified current estimates of the economic contribution of sportfishing to the Cook Inlet region as a gap in available data. In 2017, the MSB contracted with Southwick Associates to develop updated estimates of the economic contribution of sportfishing to the regional economy using the same methods as the 2007 study. The project's goal is to provide information to the MSB needed to develop, implement, and evaluate projects, policies and management strategies in ways that seek to optimize social and economic benefits to Alaskans.

The project was designed to supplement traditional fisheries information on angler effort, catch, and harvest data collected by the ADF&G's of Sport Fish Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS). The ADF&G provided assistance to the project per a Memorandum of Agreement that included contact information for Alaska resident and non-resident anglers who purchased a sportfishing license, estimates from the Statewide Harvest Survey, contact information for sportfishing guides, and reviews of project plans and methodology.

## Methodology

### Research Objective

The primary purpose of this study is to quantify the economic contributions generated by resident and non-resident sportfishing activities in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska.<sup>1</sup> Impacts are summarized for several strata: by residency (Alaska residents & non-resident visitors), chartered services (guided and unguided), and water type (freshwater and saltwater).

---

<sup>1</sup> There is a distinction between the use of "on" versus "in" with respect to the economic contributions to the Cook Inlet region. Contributions from sportfishing "in" the Cook Inlet region includes only those anglers who fished within the region. Contributions from sportfishing "on" the Cook Inlet region included both those anglers who fished in the region as well as those anglers who did not fish in the region but did purchase items used for the purpose of sportfishing from businesses with the region.

Additionally, a key requirement of the project was a set of results that can be directly compared the 2007 study. To that end, care was taken to ensure that the sampling procedures, survey approach, questionnaires and analysis used in this study were consistent with the 2007 study.

## **Data Collection**

The study included two separate surveys. The first, and largest, survey was sent to anglers who purchased a 2017 Alaska fishing license. The purpose of this survey was to collect data for the Cook Inlet related to spending by anglers for fishing trips and equipment. A second survey of fishing charter boat operators was conducted as part of this project. The purpose of the business survey was to improve the accuracy of the economic models used to analyze spending on guided fishing trips.

### *Angler Survey*

The data needed to produce economic contribution estimates of sportfishing on the Cook Inlet region include numbers of anglers, fishing effort and average expenditures. Number of anglers and days of fishing are available from the SWHS. Several sources are available that could provide angler expenditure profiles, such as the USFWS National Survey and previous economic studies of Alaska's sportfishing. They are, however, several years old, do not provide the requisite data at the regional level, and/or fail to capture the full range of expenditures made by Alaska's anglers. To develop the necessary angler expenditure profiles, a detailed survey of Alaska resident and non-resident anglers was conducted.

### *Survey Method*

The nature of the survey required survey participants to identify where they fished and where they spent money with respect to the Cook Inlet region. To achieve that, a detailed map was created to visually define the regional boundaries for respondents. This prevented the use of a telephone survey.

A multi-mode questionnaire with both a mail and an online component was implemented for the angler survey. A portion of the anglers selected as part of the sample frame was contacted via mail and provided with a paper-based survey packet. These anglers were also given the option to the online questionnaire. The balance of the sample was sent an email message asking them to take part in the survey along with a clickable link to access the online questionnaire. The online questions, content and order of presentation was identical to the mail survey to ensure the data from both survey forms were compatible and could be combined prior to analysis. The detailed mail and online survey instruments are included in the Appendix.



## *Seasonal Survey Waves*

The angler expenditure survey was conducted in two waves. There are two major reasons to not use a single wave approach, such as an annual survey. First, seasonal variations in average trip expenditures, the amount spent by anglers, can vary depending on the time of year. For example, winter fisheries in many places are oriented towards ice fishing and a different mix of gear is required. Even during the summer fisheries, expenditures for early season Chinook fisheries are expected to differ from later season fisheries which range from river to lake fisheries for salmon, trout, grayling, and other species, to saltwater fishing for salmon, halibut and other groundfish. To capture these differences, anglers were asked to report their expenditures for a specific trip within defined time periods, which is expected to result in greater recall accuracy of the final expenditure estimates.

The second reason to conduct the survey in two waves was to reduce the influence of recall error in the reported spending values. An annual survey may force some anglers to report expenses for trips that occurred 12 or more months earlier. Research funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service has shown that anglers can have significant difficulty recalling specific amounts spent a year earlier. This problem is more severe for items with lower prices and/or are purchased frequently such as terminal tackle, gasoline and other similar items. Sending two waves of surveys, each with recall periods shorter than annual recall, would help reduce recall error.

Wave I inquired about fishing activity and expenditures for trips taken January 1 through April 30, 2017 and May 1 through June 30, 2017. Only residents were included in the first wave as few non-residents typically fish in the winter months. The second survey wave inquired about fishing activity and expenditures for trips taken May 1 through October 31, 2017. Residents and non-residents were included. Separate resident and non-resident survey packets were produced. The detailed resident and non-resident survey instruments are included in the Appendix.

## **Questionnaire Design**

### *Identifying the Cook Inlet region*

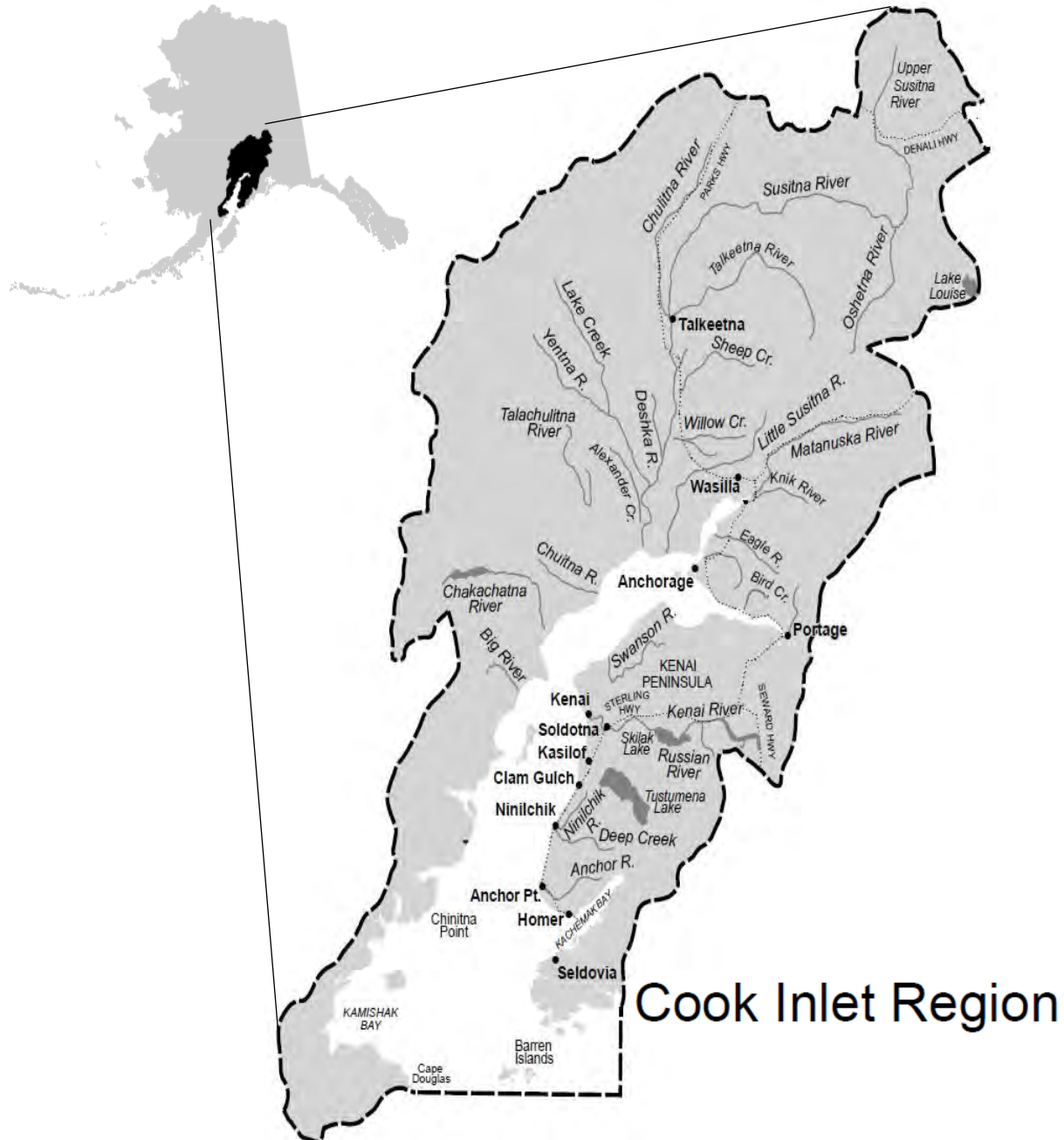
The survey questionnaires mirrored those developed during the 2007 statewide research effort with revisions to focus activity and spending only on the Cook Inlet region. While there is probably some level of consensus among anglers of the general locations that make up the region, it is likely that some debate would occur about the specific boundaries of the region among a group of anglers. As a result, it was critical to clearly delineate the boundaries of the region and provide geographical detail to respondents in order to isolate activity and spending which occurred within the Cook Inlet region.

Both the paper-based and online survey instrument provided a visual reference



(Figure 1) of the Cook Inlet region with the regional boundary as defined for this study. The goal was to provide physical landmarks such as rivers, towns, and the coastline for anglers to use as references to help them identify whether they fished or made expenditures within the region.

**Figure 1. Detailed map of the Cook Inlet region provided in the survey**





## *Survey Content*

At the outset of the survey, each angler was asked several screening questions. Based on their responses to these questions, each angler was directed to a different section of the survey. The screener questions were used to identify anglers who a) actively fished in and purchased items used for sportfishing from the Cook Inlet region, b) actively purchased items used for sportfishing from but had not actively fish in the region, c) actively fished in but did not purchase items used for sportfishing from the region, and d) neither fished in nor purchased items used for sportfishing from the region. To estimate the economic contributions of sportfishing on the Cook Inlet region, it was important to capture spending by anglers who fit into the first three types (a, b, and c).

The survey captured data from four main types of questions: a) the number of days fished in 2017, b) the type of sportfishing and expenditures made on the most recent trip within a 2017 season, c) equipment and real estate expenditures directly attributable to sportfishing made in 2017, and d) demographic information. A brief description of the question types is included below (the detailed surveys are available in the Appendix).

Each angler was asked to reflect on their annual fishing activity in 2017 and report the total days for each survey time period (Jan 1-April 30, May 1-June 30, and July 1-October 31). These responses are critical to allocate total annual days from the SWHS to the season-specific spending profiles to develop annual expenditure profiles for each stratum.

Anglers provided detailed travel-related expenditures made in the Cook Inlet region for their most recent trip within a specified time period and expenditures made for others in conjunction with items such as fuel, food, bait, and ice. Information specific to the type of trip was used to develop the trip-related spending profiles across the multiple strata (residency, guide usage, and water type) and to calculate the trip-related spending as a per fishing day metric.

Equipment used for sportfishing can be used in many trips and was not included in the 'most recent trip' questions. Equipment expenditures in the Cook Inlet region over the past 12 months was requested in both survey waves. For those items which can be used for other activities, respondents were asked about the percentage of time each equipment item was used for sportfishing, and only that percentage of the item's cost was assigned to this project. Items such as rods & reels, tackle, camping equipment, and off-road vehicles were included in this section of the survey. Equipment and real estate spending profiles were developed on a 'per-angler' basis to match with the SWHS numbers of anglers.

Demographic information, such as age and gender, was collected and used to help ensure the results adequately represent the population of Alaska anglers. Where differences between the survey sample and the angler population exist, post-survey, proportional weights were created. Details about the representativeness of the sample is included in a later section.

The survey instrument was also accompanied by a cover letter explaining the purpose of the survey and confidentiality steps. Southwick Associates letterhead was used for the cover letter and the MSB and ADF&G logos were included to reflect the collaborative effort. The use of the logos and the name recognition of the local agencies was expected to increase response rates to the survey.

### *Online Questionnaire*

An online version of the survey instrument was developed and presented the same questions, wording, and order as the mail survey. In the cover letter to the mail group, survey recipients were offered the opportunity to take the survey online as a convenience that could potentially help boost response rates. The draft online survey was tested and made available for the MSB and ADF&G review prior to the mail survey's first distribution. Each survey was assigned a code, used internally to track responses for the second and third round mailings. Survey respondents were asked to use this code to access the survey, preventing them from generating duplicate entries. This code also helped to prevent survey recipients from encouraging friends to take the survey which could bias the results.

## **Sampling Frame and Sample Sizes**

### *Sample Frame*

The 2017 ADF&G sportfishing license database was the sampling source. PIDs and DAVs were included in both survey waves.<sup>2</sup> To prevent diluting the survey sample with individuals who may not have fished in 2017, only PIDS that applied for a license between 2013 and April 30, 2017 were included. According to the ADF&G, there were between 6,000 to 7,000 issued during any one year between 2013 and 2016.

The angler survey was limited to licensed anglers only. Economic contributions are also generated from purchases made for and by unlicensed anglers (e.g., youth under 16 yrs. of age), however. To account for some youth-related purchases, licensed anglers were asked to include their expenditures made for themselves and others, which would include unlicensed youth anglers. As a result, a portion of expenditures made for youth travel and equipment are included in the final impact estimates. While this approach omits youth, who pay their own way, this step does capture a greater share of all sportfishing-related expenditures.

### *Sampling Procedures*

A randomly selected stratified sample was drawn for each of the two survey waves. Only Alaskan residents were included in the sample for Wave I while both resident and

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<sup>2</sup> PID: Alaska residents 60 or older are not required to purchase sportfishing licenses but must apply for an ADF&G Permanent Identification Card (PID). These are lifetime hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. These are valid for the remainder of the recipient's life. It is assumed that those who apply for a PID in a given year are similar in terms of likelihood of going sportfishing as residents who purchase a license. DAV's are Alaskan Disabled American Veteran permits.



non-residents were included in the sample for Wave II. Anglers selected for the sample for Wave I were excluded from inclusion in Wave II. Anglers listed in the ADF&G license database (including issued PIDs/DAVs) and meeting the stratum criteria had an equal chance of being selected to participate in the survey effort.

The results from the 2016 SWHS were used to approximate the proportion of Alaska anglers most likely to fish in the Cook Inlet region by water type (freshwater or saltwater). The results from the 2007 statewide study were used to approximate the proportion of guided and unguided trips (Table 1). The goal was to achieve a minimum target sample based on the most detailed stratum to calculate the total size of the sample to be drawn from the license database.

**Table 1. Expected proportion of responses by stratum**

	Residents	Non-Residents
<b>Alaskan anglers fishing in the Cook Inlet region</b>	70%	53%
<b>Water type fished in Cook Inlet region</b>		
Freshwater	68%	60%
Saltwater	32%	40%
<b>Charter usage in Cook Inlet region</b>		
Freshwater		
Guided	7%	65%
Unguided	93%	35%
Saltwater		
Guided	23%	78%
Unguided	77%	22%

Based on the above proportions, sample frames of the following sizes were drawn from the 2017 license sales records:

Wave I = 2,423 surveys  
 Wave II = 22,114 surveys  
 Total N = 24,537 surveys

The increased rate of email capture among licensed Alaskan anglers, respondents' increased familiarity with online surveys since the 2007, and the low marginal cost of fielding online questionnaires suggested that the survey could make greater use of the online mode for capturing angler survey responses in 2017. In 2016, 55% of non-residents and 61% of residents had provided an email address to ADF&G. Early results from the roll-out of an e-vendor system indicate that the proportion had grown in 2017. It is unclear however if this initial growth remained consistent across the whole year of license sales. Table 2 outlines the sample frame based on the type of survey instrument and angler residency.



**Table 2. Sample distribution by survey mode (paper-based and email) and residency**

	Email survey	Paper-based survey
<b>Residents</b>		
<b>Total surveys by type</b>	11,000	1,754
Early (Wave I)	2,090	333
Late (Wave II)	8,910	1,421
<b>Non-residents</b>		
<b>Total surveys by type</b>	10,000	1,783

*Contact Protocol*

The mail survey included an advance postcard indicating that the recipient had been selected for the study and would be receiving a survey package within the next 7-10 days. Using the advance notification technique formalized the request, generated a level of awareness prior to the arrival of the survey, and was anticipated to improve response rates. Next, anglers selected as part of the mail-based effort received a full mail packet, which included a cover letter, questionnaire, and postage-paid return envelope, via first class mail. Initial contact with anglers selected to be part of the email effort began with a message which mirrored the paper-based cover letter as well as a link to the online version of the survey.

Completed surveys were tracked to determine who had responded to prevent mailing a second survey. Business reply mail was used to track undeliverable mail pieces. Follow-up contact for the paper-based effort included a thank-you/reminder postcard approximately 7-10 days after the mail-out of the survey package. Non-respondents to the first email packet were sent a second survey package which included a cover letter, questionnaire, and postage paid envelope. The second packet was sent approximately two weeks following the thank-you/reminder postcard.

Follow-up contact for the email effort included a thank-you/reminder message seven days after the delivery of the initial survey message. Non-respondents to the previous contact received one final message which was similar to the second mail cover letter as well as the link to the online version of the survey. Response among the email group to the Wave II survey effort was light, given the size of the sample. A fourth round of reminders was sent to encourage response. The email subject line and message were modified to signal the need for action before the survey closed.



**Table 3. Angler survey timeline and highlights**

	WAVE I		WAVE II	
	Dates that sample was pulled from ADF&G license database	June 2017		November 2017
Mailing mode	Mail	Email	Mail	Email
Sample size	334	2,029	3,204	17,780
Target sample	Residents		Residents & Non-residents	
Time period covered by the survey	January 1 – June 30		May 1 – October 31	
Advance message	July 1, 2017	na	December 15, 2017	na
First survey invitation	August 4, 2017	August 16, 2017	December 29, 2017	January 10, 2018
Reminder message	August 11, 2017	August 23, 2017	January 12, 2018	January 16, 2018
Second survey invitation	August 25, 2018	August 30, 2017	January 30, 2018	January 29, 2018
Final survey invitation	na	na	na	February 5, 2018
Overall response rate	37%	15%	29%	8%

Note: Detailed response counts and proportions by stratum are reported in Appendix Table A1.

### Sample Testing

The survey generated complete responses from 2,763 resident and non-resident anglers who held an Alaska sportfishing license in 2017. The sample underwent rigorous testing in relation to the total population of Alaska’s licensed anglers. It was found to be representative of the population by residency. Within the non-resident group, the respondent sample has a higher proportion of males and older anglers relative to the non-resident angler population. Within the resident group, the respondent sample is older and proportionally more live in the Cook Inlet region.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Region assignments are generated by linking the zip code of residency on file in the license database to the respective borough assignment using IMPLAN. Note that the Cook Inlet region is a sub-region of South Central.



**Table 4. Angler survey respondents by demographics and license type**

	License database	Survey panel
<b>Residency<sup>a</sup></b>		
Resident	49.3%	45.9%
Non-resident	50.7%	54.1%
<b>Gender<sup>b</sup></b>		
Residents		
Male	62.6%	67.2%
Female	37.4%	32.8%
Non-residents		
Male	75.1%	86.5%
Female	24.9%	13.5%
<b>Age category<sup>c</sup></b>		
Residents		
35 years or younger	32.7%	16.7%
35-54 years	34.6%	33.7%
55-64 years	23.6%	37.4%
65 years or older	9.0%	12.3%
Non-residents		
35 years or younger	24.2%	10.8%
35-54 years	32.5%	23.8%
55-64 years	23.3%	32.1%
65 years or older	20.0%	33.2%
<b>License type group (Residents only)<sup>d</sup></b>		
Sportfishing license	76.0%	75.5%
PID/DAV license holder	24.0%	24.5%
<b>Region of residency (Residents only)<sup>e</sup></b>		
Cook Inlet	65.9%	74.1%
Interior	17.1%	13.0%
South East	4.8%	9.6%
South Central (excluding Cook Inlet)	12.2%	3.2%

<sup>a</sup>Calculated z-value = 3.1, p-value 0.002

<sup>b</sup>Resident calculated z-value = 2.7, p-value = 0.007/Non-resident calculated z-value = 9.9, p-value = 0.00

<sup>c</sup>Using the average ages: Resident calculated t-stat 12.7, p-value < 0.0001/Non-resident calculated t-stat = 16.5, p-value < 0.0001

<sup>d</sup>Calculated z-value = 0.4, p-value = 0.70

<sup>e</sup>Calculated z-value = 6.1, p-value = <0.0001

An imbalance in any of these characteristics has the potential to impact the average angler spending estimates. For example, older anglers might be more likely to have additional discretionary spending and time to fish. A post-stratification multivariate weighting adjustment was applied to balance our respondent sample with Alaska's licensed angler population. Based on statistical tests (see notes below Table 4), the target variables included residency, gender, age, and region of home residence. An iterative rake weighting procedure available in SPSS was implemented to create proportional respondent weights. The weighted sample matches the angler populations in each of the demographic metrics.





There is the possibility that the respondent sample are systematically different from the group of licensed anglers who opted to not respond (also known as nonresponse bias). Extrapolating data from a biased sample will not produce results that accurately reflect the population. Comparison of the responses provided by anglers who completed their surveys shortly after the earliest contact to responses provided by anglers who completed their surveys after the final contact was the approach used to test for the presence of nonresponse bias. Two metrics which have a direct effect on the spending estimates to be developed (per day trip spending and annual days by water type) were tested for nonresponse bias. Specifically, the calculated average of each metric among anglers reporting early relative to the later responders was tested for statistically significant differences for both residents and non-residents. The results suggest that there was no evidence of nonresponse bias in the survey.<sup>4</sup>

## Data Analysis

Sportfishing expenditures were split into three main categories: trip spending, equipment spending, and real estate spending. Trip spending was further broken apart into non-package and package (or pre-bundled expedition) spending.

### Trip Expenditures

Development of the trip spending estimates was the most involved due to the application of adjustments for seasonality of spending as well as the likelihood of the trip to occur. Spending profiles were defined for three main seasons: winter (January through April), spring (May through June), and fall (July through October). The analysis assumes that trip spending among residents for trips taken in November through December is similar to spending for winter trips.

Some fishing trips would have occurred even if there was not an opportunity to fish. To count only trip spending associated with fishing, respondents were asked to indicate the likelihood that a trip would have occurred if they were not able to fish. Ordinal response categories were then used to capture trip and expenditure expenditures on a proportional basis. Only spending on items directly related to fishing (i.e. bait, rentals, processing) were included in the trip spending profiles of anglers who indicated they **definitely would** have taken the trip even if they were **not** able to fish. An increasing proportion of ancillary spending was applied to the spending profile as their response shifted from “definitely yes, the trip would have occurred” to “definitely no, the trip would

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<sup>4</sup> T-tests for equality of average angler days (proxy for avidity) between early and late responders by stratum: Non-resident saltwater anglers t-value = 0.85, p-value = 0.39. Non-resident freshwater anglers t-value = 1.22, p-value = 0.22. Resident saltwater anglers t-value = 0.66, p-value = 0.52. Resident freshwater anglers t-value = 0.65, p-value = 0.52. T-tests for equality of average per fishing day spending by season between early and late responders by stratum: Non-resident early season trips t-value = -0.38, p-value = 0.70. Non-resident late season trips t-value = -0.75, p-value = 0.46. Resident early season trips t-value = 0.71, p-value = 0.48. Resident late season trips t-value = -0.94, p-value = 0.35.



not have occurred". Among anglers who indicated they **definitely would not** have taken the trip if they were not able to fish, all spending items were included in the trip spending profiles.

Package spending refers specifically to pre-bundled spending made in advance of the fishing trip to the Cook Inlet region. As in the 2007 study, it was assumed that packages were purchased primarily by non-residents. Anglers were asked to report package spending as a lump sum and to indicate the types of goods and services included in the package. Using data from those anglers who did not purchase a package trip, the lump sum was apportioned across the set of goods and services categories specific to each respondent's package.

Separate trip and package spending profiles were developed for residents and non-residents, guided and unguided trips, freshwater and saltwater and calculated as a per-fishing day measure. Trips were allocated to each stratum based on survey responses, defining the trip as either salt or fresh water and either guided or unguided. The per fishing day measure was multiplied by total days fished in the Cook Inlet region as reported in the SWHS to generate the regionwide total trip and package spending estimates.

### **Fishing Equipment Expenditures**

Given the geographical focus, we asked anglers to only report spending on items purchased from within the Cook Inlet region. Two groups of equipment items were included within fishing equipment expenditures. First there are those items that are used exclusively for fishing (rods & reels, tackle, etc.). For this group of items, 100% of the reported spending was allocated to the equipment spending profile. The second group includes items that can be used for fishing as well as other activities (boats, coolers, apparel, etc.). For this group, respondents were asked to report the percentage of the items use that was specifically for fishing. The reported spending was then adjusted by the percent the item was used for sportfishing. In the case where the stated percent was missing, the average percentage for that item was applied.

The Cook Inlet Region is home to major retail outlets and there are likely many anglers who purchase equipment from businesses within the region but do not fish within the region. Spending for fishing and fishing-related equipment was calculated based on all observations, thereby generating an average per-angler spending measure across all Alaska anglers. Separate estimates were calculated for resident and non-resident anglers. Total fishing and fishing-related equipment spending in the Cook Inlet Region was estimated by multiplying the total number of licensed anglers by the average spending per angler, by residency.



## Real Estate Expenditures

The fishing-related real estate category captures spending in 2017 on the purchase or lease of existing structures, on-site construction or maintenance of structures, and purchases of structures constructed off-site, each used primarily for sportfishing. Similar to equipment spending, real estate expenditures were also calculated based on all observations, thereby generating an average amount spent per angler. Separate estimates were calculated for resident and non-resident anglers. Average real estate spending was multiplied by the total number of licensed anglers, by residency, to estimate total spending.

For the purpose of this analysis, 100% of the reported real estate construction and maintenance spending was included in the angler spending profiles. Purchases of existing structures or land are mostly a transfer of assets and generate little economic contributions except for the fees paid to real estate agents, leasing agents and financial institutions. Appropriate adjustments were applied to total annual spending on real estate prior to the IMPLAN modeling to isolate only the portion of the spending that generates economic activity.

## Economic Modeling

### *Background and Metrics*

The economic contributions of fishing-related spending on the Cook Inlet region are measured with an input-output model of the regional economy and IMPLAN Pro© impact analysis software.

Input-output models are driven by some change in economic activity, usually spending (also known as the direct effect). The **direct effect** refers to the initial stimulus to the economy. In this study, it refers specifically to the dollars spent by anglers for trip-related purchases, fishing equipment, and other spending that is immediately attributable to their fishing activity. In the strictest sense, the direct effect does not always equate with angler spending due to economic leakages. Because some of the equipment purchased by anglers is manufactured outside of the region, some of the dollars spent by anglers in the Cook Inlet leak immediately beyond the region's borders and do not have a direct effect on the regional economy. In that case, angler spending may not equal direct effect in the language of input-output models. In other cases, the amount of angler spending is the direct effect. For example, spending for lodging and restaurant meals represents purchases of goods and services that are produced entirely where they are bought, and the entire purchase is captured in the direct effect on the regional economy.

The average trip-related expenditures per fishing-day and total angler-days of fishing effort in the Cook Inlet region, as provided by ADF&G in the 2017 SWHS, formed the



basis for the estimate of total trip and package sportfishing spending in Alaska's Cook Inlet region by all anglers in 2017. The average equipment and real estate expenditures per angler and total licensed anglers as reported by the 2017 SHWS defined the balance of estimated total sportfishing spending in the region. The total estimated spending for trip-related and durable equipment items were organized into categories and mapped to specific industry sectors in the IMPLAN input-output model.

The total economic contributions of sportfishing on the Cook Inlet region are based on the spending described above plus the multiplier effect of that spending. The input-output model produces estimates of the total multiplier effects (indirect and induced) that arise from the spending by anglers (the direct effect).

**Indirect effect** refers to the economic activity (e.g., output, employment, income) in the businesses that supply the industries stimulated by the direct effect. Those indirectly affected industries, in turn, stimulate additional activity among their local suppliers, and so on. For example, if an angler spent \$100 to purchase the services of a guide, the guide uses a portion of the \$100 paid by the angler to purchase boat fuel, equipment, bait, utilities, etc. from local sources. In addition, a portion of the \$100 pays for goods and services from out-of-state providers. In the next round, the in-state business that supplies bait to the guide (as well as all of the other in-state businesses that supply goods and services to the guide), in turn, must use part of the money that it receives from the guide to pay its own business expenses (e.g., fuel, gear, utilities). Their suppliers, in turn, also pay in-state and out-of-state suppliers to support their increased business activity. This indirect activity continues in this way until the effect becomes negligible as a portion of each round of payments for goods and services eventually leaks out of the local economy.

The **induced effect** measures the economic activity that results from the household spending of salaries and wages that were generated from the business activity associated with the direct and indirect effects.

The interpretation of the results of the economic models depends on the changes that drive the model. The term "economic impact" is normally reserved to describe some level of economic activity that would not occur except for the initial economic activity. In the case of recreational activities like sportfishing, it is generally agreed that economic impact comes from spending by visitors to the region. If not for their presence, their spending would never occur. If quality sportfishing was no longer available in the Cook Inlet, for example, non-resident anglers may choose to fish elsewhere, and their spending would not occur in the region and thus not generate additional economic effects in the regional economy. Most resident anglers, on the other hand, choose fishing as an activity on which to spend their recreational dollars locally. If quality sportfishing was no longer available some residents would likely choose some other local recreational activity on which to spend their money in place of fishing and their spending would remain in the regional economy.



It is generally acknowledged that retained economic activity can also represent a real economic impact. For example, the quality of fishing opportunities in the Cook Inlet is such that some anglers choose to fish in Alaska rather than go elsewhere. If the quality of fishing were to decline, then some dedicated resident anglers may choose to travel outside of the region for sportfishing and their dollars would be lost to the Cook Inlet economy. It is unclear what portion of resident anglers would fall into that category. In another retention scenario, it may be the case in the Cook Inlet that there are few recreational alternatives to fishing, so that if the quality of fishing as a recreational activity declined, some portion of anglers may choose to travel outside of the state to pursue an alternative recreational activity (e.g., a Caribbean vacation). It was beyond the scope of this study to investigate either of those scenarios.

The focus of this study was on the total economic activity associated with sportfishing as a measure of its overall contribution to the region's economy. In that case, it was appropriate to include all spending for sportfishing, including both resident and non-resident anglers. That measure is alternately called "economic contribution" or "economic significance", among others. This study was concerned with measuring the economic significance of sportfishing and therefore includes resident spending as part of the direct effect. To help understand the relative contributions that residents and non-residents make to the economy, results in this report were broken out separately by residency.

Separate models, based on residency, guide usage, and water type, were created to estimate the associated contributions of sportfishing. The IMPLAN regional models were based on 2016 economic data. Deflators included within the modeling software were employed to account for inflation effects between the model year data (2016) and the year of reported angler expenditures (2017). IMPLAN economic Data are available for each of the boroughs in Alaska and can be combined to create custom analysis regions. The Cook Inlet economic model consists of the Anchorage, Kenai and Matanuska-Susitna boroughs.

Economic activity can be measured in several different ways. The most common way to portray how expenditures on sportfishing affect the economy include the following metrics. These descriptions explicitly include the multiplier effects of angler spending.

**Retail Sales** – These include expenditures made by anglers for equipment, travel expenses and services related to their sportfishing activities over the course of the year. These combined initial retail sales are the stimulus that trigger the multiplier effects in the regional economy.

**Output** – This measure reports the volume of economic activity within the local economy that is related to sportfishing. Because it does not discount the value of raw materials as they move through the production of goods or services, this measure double-counts a portion of the output of the industries in the value chain.

**Labor Income** – This figure reports the total salaries and wages paid in all sectors of the regional economy as a result of sportfishing activities. These



are not just the paychecks of those employees directly serving anglers or manufacturing their goods, it also includes portions of the paychecks of all employees affected by the direct, indirect and induced effects. For example, it would include a portion of the dollars earned by the truck driver who delivers food to the restaurants serving anglers and the accountants who manage the books for companies down the supply chain, etc.

**Employment** – Much like Labor Income, this figure reports the total jobs in all sectors of the economy as a result of the sportfishing activity and includes both full-time and part-time jobs. These are not just the employees directly serving anglers or manufacturing their goods but can also include employees of industries impacted by the direct, indirect and induced effects.

**Federal, State, and Local Tax Revenues** – Including all forms of personal, business and excise taxes, the IMPLAN model estimates the tax revenues collected by the local, state and federal governments as a result of the initial expenditures by anglers.<sup>5</sup>

### *Sportfishing Guides Survey*

The base IMPLAN model includes 536 nationally classified economic sectors, or industries. To the extent that a local industry operates differently from the national model's base assumptions, adjustments can be made to the IMPLAN models to reflect the unique local practices.

A sportfishing guide operations survey was completed during the 2007 research effort in order to produce model results that more accurately reflected the nature of their industry. In the absence of any structural change within the industry signaling the need to update the economic models, it would be reasonable to rely on those models for this effort. Discussions with ADF&G in 2017 suggest some change within the structure of industry necessitated an updated business survey. Therefore, a business survey of guide businesses was repeated to determine how and where they receive and spend their business revenues in 2017. The survey instrument itself was built to mirror the survey implemented for the statewide research effort in 2007 and to capture current business practices.

ADF&G provided the list of licensed sportfishing guides who operate in the Cook Inlet region's fresh and salt water. Email capture among this sportfishing business group was 83%. The business survey was conducted via email and all guides with emails on record were asked to participate in the survey effort. Three rounds of email invitations were sent (Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and March 8<sup>th</sup> of 2018). The emails included a message

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<sup>5</sup> Tax revenue estimates from the IMPLAN model are based on actual total collections from industry but at a more aggregated sector level. These values are then apportioned to specific industries and local levels using Bureau of Economic Analysis and Annual Survey of Government Finances data. This approach can cause estimated collections realized at a more localized level to deviate from the model estimates.



explaining the purpose of the survey and a promise of confidentiality along with a clickable link to the survey. A response rate of 26% was achieved.

Two key vectors were utilized in the modification of the IMPLAN model: 1) the percent that each category of business expense represents of the respondent’s total business expenses (i.e., the production function); and, 2) the percent of each business expense category that the respondent purchased in the Cook Inlet region. Detailed results for the vectors are included in the Appendix Table A6. Summary data analysis checks were employed to check for errors. For the first response vector, the sum of responses should add to 100%. In several surveys, the sum of responses did not total 100% and the individual response categories were adjusted to force the sum to equal 100% under the following rule. If the sum of the response categories was less than 90% or more than 110% then the survey was discarded as unusable. If the sum fell within that range but was not equal to 100%, each category response was proportionally adjusted to force the sum to equal 100%. For the second response vector, no single response should exceed 100%.

## Results

### Angler Days

Anglers spent 907,000 days sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region in 2017 (Table 5). Alaska residents accounted for the majority of days fished (57% or 514,000) while non-residents fished 393,000 days (43%). Eighty-two percent of all sportfishing days were unguided. While there are more freshwater angler days, saltwater fishing days have a higher proportion of guided days (37.0%) relative to freshwater days (13.3%). Non-resident anglers are more likely to have taken a guided fishing trip (34.3%) relative to residents (6.0%), regardless of water types.

**Table 5. Angler days by water type, guide usage, and residency (2017)**

	Resident		Non-resident		All Anglers	
	Angler-Days (thous.)	%	Angler-Days (thous.)	%	Angler-Days (thous.)	%
<b>Freshwater</b>						
Guided	18.1	4.4%	77.5	25.4%	95.6	13.3%
Unguided	395.7	95.6%	227.1	74.6%	622.8	86.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>413.8</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>304.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>718.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Saltwater</b>						
Guided	12.7	12.7%	57.2	64.7%	69.9	37.0%
Unguided	87.7	87.3%	31.1	35.3%	118.8	63.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>188.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total Guided</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>134.7</b>	<b>34.3%</b>	<b>165.5</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
<b>Total Unguided</b>	<b>483.4</b>	<b>94.0%</b>	<b>258.2</b>	<b>65.7%</b>	<b>741.6</b>	<b>81.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>514.2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>392.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>907.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: 2017 Statewide Harvest Survey, Alaska Department of Fish and Game



## Angler Spending

In 2017, anglers spent an estimated \$716.4 million in the Cook Inlet region (Table 6). Total spending is evenly split between residents and non-residents (\$358.5 million and \$358.0 million). Twenty five percent (\$181.2 million) of total spending is trip-related spending. A portion of non-resident anglers, traveling to the region to fish, pre-purchase a package experience from one of the many outfitters or guides operating in the region, securing a range of services for the one fixed price. Overall, 5% (\$37.2 million) of total spending is package-related spending.

**Table 6. Spending for sportfishing, by residency and expenditure category (2017)**

Expenditures	Resident		Non-resident		All	
	Angler Spending (millions)	%	Angler Spending (millions)	%	Angler Spending (millions)	%
Trip	\$46.2	12.9%	\$135.0	37.7%	\$181.2	25.3%
Package	\$0.0	0.0%	\$37.2	10.4%	\$37.2	5.2%
Equipment	\$201.8	56.3%	\$54.0	15.1%	\$255.8	35.7%
Real Estate	\$110.6	30.8%	\$131.7	36.8%	\$242.3	33.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$358.5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$358.0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$716.5</b>	<b>100%</b>

During their sportfishing days, both residents and non-residents may make a portion of their trip-related purchases closer to home and then make additional trip-related purchases in the Cook Inlet region. It is important to note that anglers were asked to not include those purchases made outside of the region. As a result, the spending reported in Table 6 reflects only purchases made inside the region.

More than one third (\$255.8 million) of all sportfishing related spending in the Cook Inlet region is associated with equipment. While the trip-related spending reflects anglers, who reported fishing in the region, equipment spending includes anglers who fished outside of the region as well. Given that this area contains a large portion of Alaska's businesses, many anglers likely make trips to the region to purchase equipment. As a result, the equipment spending reflects purchases made within the region which may or may not have been used to fish within the region. Finally, another third (\$242.3 million) is associated with sportfishing-related real estate spending.

Distribution across the four spending category types is quite different between the two groups. Among resident anglers, spending on sportfishing-related equipment and real estate account for 87.1% (\$312.2) of total spending. Equipment and real estate spending still account for the majority of spending (51.9% or \$185.7 million) among non-resident anglers. However, the proportion associated with trip and package spending among non-residents is four times greater than residents (48.1% or \$172.2 relative to 12.9% or \$46.2 million).

Average spending within each of the major expense categories is shown in Table 7. Trip and package spending are based on total spending in those categories (Table 6)





averaged across all reported fishing days in the region (Table 5). Collectively, anglers spend an average of \$241 in the region on purchases such as fuel, groceries, bait, lodging, and restaurants (see Table 8 for the complete list of trip-related items).

**Table 7. Average sportfishing expenditures, by residency and category (2017)**

	<b>Resident Anglers</b>	<b>Non- resident Anglers</b>	<b>All Anglers</b>
	<i>\$ per angler-day</i>		
Trip Expenditures	\$89.78	\$343.61	\$199.72
Package Expenditures	NA*	\$94.68	\$41.01
<b>Total trip spending</b>	<b>\$89.78</b>	<b>\$438.29</b>	<b>\$240.73</b>
	<i>annual \$ per licensed angler</i>		
Equipment Expenditures	\$1,102.92	\$203.08	\$569.69
Real Estate Expenditures	\$604.26	\$494.94	\$539.48
<b>Total equipment &amp; real estate spending</b>	<b>\$1,707.18</b>	<b>\$698.02</b>	<b>\$1,109.18</b>

Equipment and real estate spending are based on total spending in those categories (Table 6) averaged across all Alaskan anglers. Based on data from ADF&G’s SWHS, there were 182,963 licensed resident anglers and 266,111 licensed non-resident anglers in 2017. Collectively, anglers spent an average of \$1,109 in the region on purchases such as rods, reels boats, motors, apparel, docks, and maintenance (see Tables 9 & 10 for the complete list of equipment and real estate items).

On average, non-residents spent more per fishing day on trip-related items in the region relative to residents (\$438.29 versus \$89.78). Conversely, residents spent more per angler on equipment and real estate items relative to non-residents (\$1,707.18 versus \$698.02).

Sportfishing trip and package spending encompasses a wide variety of items from fuel and oil to support the trip; from groceries to restaurants to sustain the angler; and from derby tickets to rentals to support the day on the water. The common theme is that trip-related items are services or items considered non-durable and purchased specifically for the trip. The full list of items and the amount spent in the region by resident and non-resident anglers is presented in Table 8. Additional detailed tables by guide use and water type are presented in the Appendix tables A2 & A3.

**Table 8. Detailed sportfishing trip spending, by residency (2017)**

	<b>Resident Anglers</b>	<b>Non- resident Anglers</b>	<b>All Anglers</b>
<b>Trip Expenditures (millions)</b>			
Fuel and oil for transportation	\$13.7	\$7.8	\$21.5
Guide and charter fees	\$6.1	\$37.8	\$43.9
Air travel	\$0.4	\$28.0	\$28.4
Transportation services	\$0.6	\$3.1	\$3.7
Boat launch & dockage fees	\$2.9	\$0.8	\$3.7
Ice	\$0.8	\$0.5	\$1.3
Bait	\$1.3	\$0.9	\$2.1
Groceries	\$8.1	\$7.7	\$15.8
Restaurants	\$5.2	\$7.5	\$12.7
Heating & cooking fuel	\$0.4	\$0.2	\$0.6
Fish processing	\$1.5	\$11.0	\$12.6
Rentals	\$0.7	\$7.8	\$8.5
Overnight accommodations	\$3.8	\$17.2	\$21.0
Derby	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.3
Souvenirs & gifts	\$0.3	\$3.4	\$3.7
Other entertainment expenses	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$0.9
Other	\$0.1	\$0.5	\$0.6
<b>Sub-Total (millions)</b>	<b>\$46.2</b>	<b>\$135.0</b>	<b>\$181.2</b>
Package Expenditures (millions)	na	\$37.2	\$37.2
<b>Total Trip &amp; Package (millions)</b>	<b>\$46.2</b>	<b>\$172.2</b>	<b>\$218.4</b>

Sportfishing equipment spending encompasses a similarly diverse list of items from rods and tackle (specific to sportfishing) to boats and apparel (which can be used for multiple purposes). In contrast to trip or package related items, equipment items are durable in nature and typically used for more than one trip. Table 9 presents the full list of items and total spending in the region by resident and non-resident anglers.

**Table 9. Detailed sportfishing equipment spending, by residency (2017)**

	Resident Anglers	Non-resident Anglers	All Anglers
<b>Equipment expenditures (millions)</b>			
License and stamps	\$3.8	\$12.2	\$16.0
Rods, reels, and components	\$11.6	\$6.2	\$17.8
Fishing tackle	\$6.7	\$4.1	\$10.8
Tackle boxes or cases	\$1.1	\$0.5	\$1.7
Electronics	\$3.9	\$1.0	\$5.0
Nets	\$2.3	\$0.5	\$2.9
Miscellaneous fishing equipment	\$2.6	\$1.5	\$4.1
Shellfish equipment	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$0.5
Taxidermy	\$1.5	\$0.9	\$2.4
Books and magazines	\$0.4	\$0.3	\$0.7
Items to store/preserve fish	\$4.0	\$1.8	\$5.9
Coolers, fish boxes	\$2.0	\$2.1	\$4.1
Clothing	\$3.7	\$3.3	\$7.0
Boots, shoes, waders	\$4.9	\$2.4	\$7.3
Life jackets	\$1.0	\$0.1	\$1.1
Boats, canoes, rafts, etc.	\$21.5	\$0.8	\$22.3
Boat motors	\$15.4	\$0.1	\$15.6
Trailers, hitches	\$2.5	\$0.1	\$2.7
Bear spray, bug spray, sun screen	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$1.4
Firearms	\$4.7	\$1.2	\$5.8
Cameras, binoculars, sunglasses	\$2.2	\$0.9	\$3.2
Tents, screen rooms, tarps, backpacks, sleeping bags	\$2.1	\$0.5	\$2.5
Camping trailer	\$9.6	\$1.1	\$10.7
Other camping equipment	\$2.1	\$0.3	\$2.4
Vehicles	\$65.6	\$4.9	\$70.4
Airplanes and related equipment	\$0.4	\$1.1	\$1.5
ATVs, snow machines	\$13.2	\$1.1	\$14.3
Boat/camper registrations and excise taxes	\$1.1	\$0.1	\$1.2
Vehicle, boat, or airplane repair/maintenance	\$10.1	\$3.3	\$13.4
Other	\$0.4	\$0.9	\$1.3
<b>Total (millions)</b>	<b>\$201.8</b>	<b>\$54.0</b>	<b>\$255.8</b>

The reported dollar figures reflect total spending on fishing equipment and only that portion of multi-use equipment items anglers report was used specifically for the purpose of sportfishing. Resident purchases amount to \$201.8 million, accounting for 79% of total sportfishing equipment. Non-resident purchases amount to \$54.0 million, accounting for 21% of equipment spending.



Annual real estate spending estimates are presented in Table 10. The real estate category captures spending in 2017 on the purchase or lease of existing structures, on-site construction or maintenance of structures, and purchases of structures constructed off-site. Spending by non-residents sums to \$131.7 million, the majority (54%) of the total spending in this category. Almost the entirety (98%) is associated with purchases or leases of land and existing houses. Despite the sizable amount of spending, only a portion generates economic activity primarily in the real estate and finance sectors. Residents spend \$110.6 million, slightly less than non-residents. Sixty-eight percent of their spending is associated with on-site construction and repair as well as the purchase of structures built off-site.

**Table 10. Detailed sportfishing real estate spending, by residency (2017)**

	<b>Resident Anglers</b>	<b>Non-resident Anglers</b>	<b>All Anglers</b>
<b>Real Estate Expenditures (millions)</b>			
Purchases of lots, existing houses and cabins, and/or land	\$34.1	\$116.4	\$150.5
Leases of land, cabins, boat slips, and storage	\$1.4	\$12.0	\$13.4
Construction of houses and cabins, and repair or maintenance expenses	\$69.4	\$2.6	\$72.0
Purchase or construction of boat docks, sheds, or outbuildings	\$5.7	\$0.6	\$6.4
<b>Total (millions)</b>	<b>\$110.6</b>	<b>\$131.7</b>	<b>\$242.3</b>

### Economic Contributions

The angler spending discussed in the previous section, known as the direct effects, cycles through the regional economy generating additional rounds of economic activity. These extra rounds include indirect effects driven by businesses who provide supporting services and goods to anglers as well as induced effects resulting from household spending by employees of these businesses, known together as the multiplier effects. The three effects as a collective comprise the total economic contribution effects. The IMPLAN model is used to track the flow of these multiple rounds of spending.

Anglers spent an estimated \$716.5 million across all expenditure categories (Table 6). After adjustments to isolate the portion of spending that actually generated economic activity within the region, the direct contribution to the region’s economic output is \$491.6 million (Table 11). That activity supported more than 4,235 full and part-time jobs and \$159.2 million in household income.

Spurred by the initial spending of anglers, the economic output attributable to the supporting industries, or multiplier effect, is \$340.8 million. The indirect and induced activity supported 2,143 jobs and \$112.2 million in household income. Together, the



total effects of the spending activity generated \$832.4 million in economic output and supported more than 6,300 jobs that provided \$271.4 in household income.

**Table 11. Economic contributions of all sportfishing spending by residency (2017)**

	<b>Resident Anglers</b>	<b>Non-resident Anglers</b>	<b>All Anglers</b>
<b>Direct effect</b>			
Output (millions)	\$299.7	\$191.9	\$491.6
Labor Income (millions)	\$96.2	\$63.0	\$159.2
Employment (thous.)	2.2	2.0	4.2
<b>Multiplier effects</b>			
Output (millions)	\$189.3	\$151.5	\$340.8
Labor Income (millions)	\$62.6	\$49.6	\$112.2
Employment (thous.)	1.2	1.0	2.1
<b>Total effect</b>			
Output (millions)	\$489.0	\$343.4	\$832.4
Labor Income (millions)	\$158.8	\$112.6	\$271.4
Employment (thous.)	3.4	3.0	6.4

Table 12 presents the economic contributions from trip and package related spending by residency. Tables providing detail by residency, guide usage, and water type are provided in the Appendix tables A7 & A8. The total effects of trip and package spending activity generated \$306.2 million in output, more than 2,800 jobs, and \$100.3 million in household income. The majority of these effects come from non-resident spending.

**Table 12. Economic contributions of sportfishing trip and package spending by residency (2017)**

	<b>Resident Anglers</b>	<b>Non-resident Anglers</b>	<b>All Anglers</b>
<b>Direct effects</b>			
Output (millions)	\$40.4	\$130.6	\$171.1
Labor Income (millions)	\$12.1	\$45.0	\$57.1
Employment (thous.)	0.4	1.6	2.0
<b>Multiplier effects</b>			
Output (millions)	\$27.6	\$107.6	\$135.2
Labor Income (millions)	\$8.6	\$34.6	\$43.2
Employment (thous.)	0.2	0.7	0.8
<b>Total effects</b>			
Output (millions)	\$68.0	\$238.2	\$306.2
Labor Income (millions)	\$20.6	\$79.6	\$100.3
Employment (thous.)	0.6	2.2	2.8

Table 13 presents the economic contributions from equipment and real estate related spending by residency. The total effects of equipment and real estate spending activity generated \$526.2 million in output, more than 3,500 jobs, and \$171.2 million in household income. In this case, the majority of these effects come from resident spending.

**Table 13. Economic contributions of sportfishing equipment and real estate spending by residency (2017)**

	<b>Resident Anglers</b>	<b>Non-resident Anglers</b>	<b>All Anglers</b>
<b>Direct effects</b>			
Output (millions)	\$259.2	\$61.3	\$320.5
Labor Income (millions)	\$84.2	\$18.0	\$102.2
Employment (thous.)	1.8	0.5	2.2
<b>Multiplier effects</b>			
Output (millions)	\$161.7	\$43.9	\$205.6
Labor Income (millions)	\$54.0	\$15.0	\$69.0
Employment (thous.)	1.0	0.3	1.3
<b>Total effects</b>			
Output (millions)	\$421.0	\$105.2	\$526.2
Labor Income (millions)	\$138.2	\$33.0	\$171.2
Employment (thous.)	2.8	0.7	3.5



The economic activity generated in the region also produced tax revenues at the local, state, and federal level. The IMPLAN modeling produced generalized region-specific estimates of tax revenues based on existing ratios of output, income, and employment to tax revenues. It is estimated that angler spending in the Cook Inlet region in 2017 generated \$31.7 million and \$63.2 million in state/local and federal tax revenue, respectively (Table 14). Forty-three percent of tax revenues were the result of non-resident angler spending.

**Table 14. Tax revenues generated from the economic contributions of sportfishing (2017)**

	<b>State and Local Tax Revenues (millions)</b>	<b>Federal Tax Revenues (millions)</b>	<b>Total Tax Revenues (millions)</b>
<b>Resident anglers</b>			
Trip & Package Expenditures	\$4.2	\$5.4	\$9.6
Equipment Expenditures	\$10.0	\$19.8	\$29.8
Real Estate Expenditures	\$3.7	\$11.5	\$15.2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$18.0</b>	<b>\$36.7</b>	<b>\$54.6</b>
<b>Non-resident anglers</b>			
Trip & Package Expenditures	\$10.7	\$18.9	\$29.6
Equipment Expenditures	\$2.3	\$6.3	\$8.6
Real Estate Expenditures	\$0.8	\$1.3	\$2.2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$13.8</b>	<b>\$26.6</b>	<b>\$40.3</b>
<b>All anglers</b>			
Trip & Package Expenditures	\$14.9	\$24.3	\$39.2
Equipment Expenditures	\$12.3	\$26.1	\$38.4
Real Estate Expenditures	\$4.6	\$12.8	\$17.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31.7</b>	<b>\$63.2</b>	<b>\$95.0</b>



## Summary and Discussion

This study was conducted in order to provide current estimates of the economic contributions made by sportfishing activity on the Cook Inlet region. Prior to this research, the most recent study of sportfishing in Alaska that offers regional level analysis was completed roughly ten years ago. The updated information can contribute to the MSB's policy discussions regarding fishery projects, land and water resource management and other relevant topics.

More than 907,000 days were spent fishing in the Cook Inlet region. Anglers who fished in the region and anglers who traveled to the region to purchase items used for sportfishing spent a total of \$716.5 million. The majority of those retail dollars were retained in the local economy supporting more than 4,200 jobs and providing \$159.2 in labor income. A regional level input-output model was used to track the collective economic contributions of the direct spending and the multiplier effects created as the angler dollars moved from business to business in the Cook Inlet economy. The total contributions generated by angler spending was estimated to be \$832.4 million in economic output, which supported more than 6,300 jobs and \$271.4 million in labor income.

One of the main objectives of this study was to take collecting, analyzing and reporting estimates of economic contribution from sportfishing developed for the 2007 study and apply it here. Slight modifications to the methodological approach of this study were made to better capture spending, particularly in the real estate category. Outside of these improvements, every effort was made to mirror the earlier methodology. This was to ensure that the economic information produced by this study could be directly compared to the earlier results to examine changes in specific segments of sportfishing over the past ten years (resident/non-residents, freshwater/saltwater, guided/unguided). We remind readers who wish to make comparisons that adjustments should be made to the 2007 spending estimates to account for inflation over the ten-year period. We also encourage readers making comparisons between the two studies to explore the condition of the state economy between the two periods, as it may provide context for differences in participation, spending, and economic contributions.



## Appendices

1. DETAILED ANALYSIS
2. ANGLER SURVEY PACKAGE
  - Resident
  - Non-resident
3. SPORTFISHING GUIDE BUSINESS SURVEY

## Detailed Results by Stratum

- Survey response by group (residency, guide usage, and water type)
- Trip and package spending by group (residency, guide usage, and water type)
- Economic contributions of trip and package spending by group (residency, guide usage, and water type)
- Sportfishing guide business operation by water type



**Table A 1. Number of survey respondents reporting fishing activity by strata**

Respondents		Response rate	Count	Proportion fishing in Cook Inlet			Proportion by water type			Proportion guided		
					Count		Count		Count		Count*	
<b>Resident</b>												
Email	764	Resident (email) 7%	764	Cook Inlet 54%	680	Fresh water 80%	543	Guided 5%	26***			
Mail	503	Resident (mail) 29%	503					Unguided 95%	517*			
Subtotal	1,267					Salt water 36%	247	Guided 19%	48***			
								Unguided 81%	199*			
<b>Non-resident</b>												
Email	936	Non-resident (email) 10%	936	Cook Inlet 55%	821	Fresh water 60%	490	Guided 54%	266*			
Mail	560	Non-resident (mail) 31%	560					Unguided 46%	224*			
Subtotal	1,496					Salt water 40%	330	Guided 74%	244*			
								Unguided 26%	86**			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,763</b>											

Note: Asterisk coding reflects a level of caution to be used given the sample sizes at the highest level of disaggregation. The smaller sample sizes among resident guided days and non-resident unguided saltwater days are not unexpectedly smaller and profiles are developed for each group. However, the margin of error around the estimates for these groups would be somewhat larger than those groups with larger sample sizes.

**Table A 2. Detailed sportfishing trip and package spending, by residency, guide use (2017)**

	Resident		Non-resident		All Anglers
	Guided	Unguided	Guided	Unguided	
<b>Trip Expenditures (millions)</b>					
Fuel and oil for transportation	\$1.0	\$12.6	\$3.0	\$4.9	\$21.5
Guide and charter fees	\$5.9	\$0.1	\$37.8	\$0.0	\$43.9
Air travel	\$0.4	\$0.0	\$15.3	\$12.7	\$28.4
Transportation services	\$0.1	\$0.5	\$1.7	\$1.3	\$3.7
Boat launch & dockage fees	\$0.1	\$2.8	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$3.7
Ice	\$0.1	\$0.7	\$0.2	\$0.3	\$1.3
Bait	\$0.1	\$1.2	\$0.3	\$0.5	\$2.1
Groceries	\$0.7	\$7.3	\$3.5	\$4.2	\$15.8
Restaurants	\$0.7	\$4.5	\$4.4	\$3.2	\$12.7
Heating & cooking fuel	\$0.0	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.6
Fish processing	\$0.5	\$1.0	\$8.5	\$2.6	\$12.6
Rentals	\$0.1	\$0.7	\$3.7	\$4.1	\$8.5
Overnight accommodations	\$1.0	\$2.9	\$9.6	\$7.7	\$21.0
Derby	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.3
Souvenirs & gifts	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$2.2	\$1.2	\$3.7
Other entertainment expenses	\$0.0	\$0.2	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.9
Other	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.4	\$0.1	\$0.6
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$10.8</b>	<b>\$35.4</b>	<b>\$91.1</b>	<b>\$43.9</b>	<b>\$181.2</b>
Package Expenditures (millions)	na	na	\$35.2	\$2.0	\$37.2
<b>Total Trip &amp; Package (millions)</b>	<b>\$10.8</b>	<b>\$35.4</b>	<b>\$126.3</b>	<b>\$45.9</b>	<b>\$218.4</b>

**Table A 3. Detailed sportfishing trip and package spending, by residency, guide use, and water type (2017)**

	Resident		Non-resident		All Anglers
	Guided	Unguided	Guided	Unguided	
<b>FRESHWATER ANGLERS</b>					
<b>Trip Expenditures (millions)</b>					
Fuel & oil for transportation	\$0.6	\$9.4	\$1.4	\$3.7	\$15.1
Guide and charter fees	\$3.8	\$0.1	\$17.7	\$0.0	\$21.7
Air travel	\$0.4	\$0.0	\$6.4	\$11.0	\$17.8
Transportation services	\$0.1	\$0.5	\$0.8	\$1.2	\$2.6
Boat launch & dockage fees	\$0.1	\$2.2	\$0.1	\$0.5	\$2.8
Ice	\$0.0	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.9
Bait	\$0.0	\$0.8	\$0.2	\$0.3	\$1.3
Groceries	\$0.5	\$5.9	\$1.6	\$3.5	\$11.4
Restaurants	\$0.4	\$3.6	\$1.9	\$2.6	\$8.7
Heating & cooking fuel	\$0.0	\$0.3	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.4
Fish processing	\$0.2	\$0.7	\$2.4	\$1.8	\$5.1
Rentals	\$0.1	\$0.3	\$2.0	\$3.6	\$6.0
Overnight accommodations	\$0.6	\$2.1	\$3.7	\$7.2	\$13.6
Derby	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.1
Souvenirs & gifts	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.8	\$1.0	\$2.0
Other entertainment expenses	\$0.0	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.3	\$0.6
Other	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.3
Sub-Total	\$7.0	\$27.0	\$39.3	\$37.0	\$110.3
Package Expenditures (millions)	na	na	\$18.9	\$1.7	\$20.6
<b>SALTWATER ANGLERS</b>					
<b>Trip Expenditures (millions)</b>					
Fuel & oil for transportation	\$0.4	\$3.2	\$1.6	\$1.2	\$6.4
Guide and charter fees	\$2.1	\$0.0	\$20.1	\$0.0	\$22.2
Air travel	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$8.9	\$1.7	\$10.7
Transportation services	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.9	\$0.2	\$1.1
Boat launch & dockage fees	\$0.1	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.9
Ice	\$0.0	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.3
Bait	\$0.0	\$0.4	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.8
Groceries	\$0.2	\$1.4	\$1.9	\$0.8	\$4.4
Restaurants	\$0.2	\$0.8	\$2.5	\$0.5	\$4.1
Heating & cooking fuel	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.2
Fish processing	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$6.1	\$0.8	\$7.5
Rentals	\$0.0	\$0.4	\$1.6	\$0.5	\$2.6
Overnight accommodations	\$0.3	\$0.7	\$5.9	\$0.5	\$7.4
Derby	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.2
Souvenirs & gifts	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.4	\$0.2	\$1.6
Other entertainment expenses	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.2
Other	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.3	\$0.0	\$0.3
Sub-Total	\$3.8	\$8.4	\$51.7	\$6.9	\$70.8
Package Expenditures (millions)	na	na	\$16.3	\$0.3	\$16.6



**Table A 4. IMPLAN sector assignments: Trip and guide spending**

<b>Economic survey trip spending categories</b>	<b>IMPLAN Sector(s)</b>	<b>Sector description</b>
Fuel and oil for vehicles, boats, planes	156, 159	Petroleum refineries/Petroleum lubricating oil and grease manufacturing
Guide and charter fees	na	Guide business survey spending categories
Airfare to and from Alaska	408	Air transportation
Commercial travel within Alaska	409, 410, 412	Air, water, and intra-urban transportation
Rentals (boat, equipment, autos)	443	General and consumer goods rental except video tapes
Derby tickets	515	Business and professional associations
Boat launch and dock fees	494, 496	Other amusement, gambling, and recreation industries
Ice	85	Soft drink and ice manufacturing
Bait (natural bait only)	14	Fishing
Groceries, food, liquor bought in stores	PCE	Personal consumption expenditures
Restaurants, bars, take-out food	501, 502, 503	Food services and drinking places
Lodging (hotels, campgrounds, cabins)	499,500	Hotels, motels and other lodging; campgrounds
Souvenirs and gifts	406	Miscellaneous store retailers
Processing and taxidermy	492	Independent artists, writers, and performers
Other entertainment expenses	496	Other amusement, gambling, and recreation industries
<b>Guide business survey spending categories</b>	<b>IMPLAN Sector(s)</b>	<b>Sector description</b>
Business & guide license/permit	523	Other state government enterprises
Fishing licenses (for anglers)	523	Other state government enterprises
Fuel & oil	156, 159	Petroleum refineries/Petroleum lubricating oil and grease manufacturing
Restaurants & prepared meals	501, 502, 503	Food services and drinking places
Wages, salaries, and payments to owners	5001	
Equipment purchases	286, 344, 349, 364, 385	Engine equipment, light duty truck, trailer, boat, and sporting goods manufacturing
Equipment rental	445	Commercial equipment rental and leasing
Equipment maintenance & repair	504, 506, 507, 508	Auto repair, electronic equipment repair, commercial machinery repair, personal goods repair
Bait	17	Commercial fishing
Groceries	PCE	Personal consumption expenditures
Lodging	499, 500	Hotels, motels and other lodging
Airline tickets	408	Air transportation
Other public transportation	409, 410, 412	Air, water, and intra-urban transportation
Business services (accounting, legal, advertising, etc.)	447, 448, 457, 465, 466, 470	Legal services, accounting services, advertising, business support, security services, other support services
Real estate in the CI region	440	Real estate
Utilities	42, 51	Electricity, water, sewage, and other systems
Taxes	531, 533	State and local government, non-education
Insurance	437	Insurance carriers
Other (boat launch fees)	408, 445, 496	Air transport, machinery and equipment rental, other recreation industries

**Table A 5. IMPLAN sector assignments: Equipment and real estate spending**

<b>Economic survey equipment spending categories</b>	<b>IMPLAN Sector</b>	<b>Sector description</b>
<b><u>Equipment</u></b>		
Rods and reels	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Tackle (lines, leaders, lures, etc.)	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Tackle boxes	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Electronics (e.g., depth finders)	315	Search, detection, and navigation instruments
Nets	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Misc. fishing equipment	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Shellfish fishing equip.	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Taxidermy	492	Independent artists, writers, and performers
Books and magazines	418, 419	Book and periodical publishers
Smokers, vacuum sealers, etc.	329	Household appliance manufacture
Coolers, fish boxes	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Clothing	129	Other cut and sew apparel manufacturing
Boots, waders, other footwear	132	Footwear manufacturing
Life jackets, PFDs	129	Other cut and sew apparel manufacturing
Boats, canoes, kayaks, etc.	364	Boat building
Boat motors	286	Other engine equipment manufacturing
Trailers, hitches, etc.	286	Other engine equipment manufacturing
Bear spray, bug spray, etc.	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Firearms	259	Small arms manufacturing
Cameras, binoculars	272	Optical instrument and lens manufacturing
Tents, backpacks, sleeping bags	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Camping trailer	349	Travel trailer and camper manufacturing
Other camping equipment	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Trucks, SUVs, RVs	343, 344	Automobile and light truck manufacturing
Planes and related equip	357	Aircraft manufacturing
ATVs, snow machines	367	All other transportation equipment manufacturing
Registration and excise taxes	523	Other state government enterprises
Vehicle, boat, plane repairs	504	Automotive, electronic, machinery and household repair
Other equipment	385	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
<b><u>Real Estate used primarily for fishing</u></b>		
Cabins-existing sales	440	Real estate
Land leased for fishing	440	Real estate
Cabin-new construction	59	construction of new single-family residential structures
Maintained and repaired residential structures	63	Maintenance and repair of residential structures
Purchase or construction of boat docks, sheds, or outbuildings	144	Prefabricated wood building manufacturing



**Table A 6. Sportfishing guide operations business survey results**

	Fresh water guides		Salt water guides	
	Percent of Total	Percent purchased in Cook Inlet	Percent of Total	Percent purchased in Cook Inlet
<b>Business expenses</b>				
Business & guide license/permit	5.5%	90%	4.6%	89%
Fishing licenses (for anglers)	0.3%	98%	0.1%	100%
Fuel & oil	14.4%	90%	23.0%	84%
Restaurants & prepared meals	2.6%	96%	1.2%	100%
Wages, salaries, and payments to owners	21.0%	95%	21.7%	89%
Equipment purchases	11.5%	96%	12.7%	100%
Equipment rental	0.2%	90%	0.1%	99%
Equipment maintenance & repair	5.9%	90%	8.8%	89%
Bait	2.6%	97%	3.9%	99%
Groceries	3.6%	98%	1.3%	99%
Lodging	3.4%	98%	2.3%	95%
Airline tickets	1.5%	92%	0.8%	89%
Other public transportation	0.1%	90%	0.1%	84%
Business services (accounting, legal, advertising, etc.)	7.3%	93%	5.1%	85%
Real estate in the CI region	3.8%	95%	2.3%	95%
Utilities	3.4%	98%	1.6%	100%
Taxes	4.8%	96%	4.3%	100%
Insurance	4.9%	87%	4.2%	89%
Other (boat launch fees)	3.0%	95%	2.1%	95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>na</b>



**Table A 7. Economic contributions of sportfishing trip and package spending by residency, guide usage (2017)**

	Resident		Non-resident		TOTAL		All Anglers
	Guided	Unguided	Guided	Unguided	Resident	Non-resident	
<b><u>ALL ANGLERS</u></b>							
<b>Direct effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$8.3	\$32.1	\$94.4	\$36.3	\$40.4	\$130.6	\$171.1
Labor Income (millions)	\$2.8	\$9.3	\$32.7	\$12.3	\$12.1	\$45.0	\$57.1
Employment	88	331	1,128	443	419	1,571	1,990
<b>Multiplier effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$6.7	\$20.9	\$80.0	\$27.6	\$27.6	\$107.6	\$135.2
Labor Income (millions)	\$2.2	\$6.4	\$26.0	\$8.6	\$8.6	\$34.6	\$43.2
Employment	42	122	507	169	163	675	839
<b>Total effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$15.0	\$53.0	\$174.4	\$63.8	\$68.0	\$238.2	\$306.2
Labor Income (millions)	\$4.9	\$15.7	\$58.7	\$20.9	\$20.6	\$79.6	\$100.3
Employment	130	453	1,634	612	583	2,246	2,828



**Table A 8. Economic contributions of sportfishing trip and package spending by residency, guide usage, and water type (2017)**

	Resident		Non-resident		TOTAL		All Anglers
	Guided	Unguided	Guided	Unguided	Resident	Non-resident	
<b><u>FRESHWATER ANGLERS</u></b>							
<b>Direct effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$5.3	\$24.4	\$43.2	\$30.4	\$29.7	\$73.6	\$103.3
Labor Income (millions)	\$1.8	\$7.1	\$15.4	\$10.5	\$8.9	\$25.8	\$34.7
Employment	53	251	460	363	304	823	1,127
<b>Multiplier effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$4.3	\$15.8	\$37.1	\$23.2	\$20.2	\$60.3	\$80.4
Labor Income (millions)	\$1.4	\$4.9	\$12.1	\$7.3	\$6.3	\$19.4	\$25.6
Employment	27	92	233	141	119	374	493
<b>Total effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$9.6	\$40.2	\$80.3	\$53.6	\$49.9	\$133.9	\$183.7
Labor Income (millions)	\$3.2	\$11.9	\$27.5	\$17.7	\$15.1	\$45.2	\$60.3
Employment	79	343	692	505	423	1,197	1,619
<b><u>SALTWATER ANGLERS</u></b>							
<b>Direct effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$3.0	\$7.7	\$51.2	\$5.9	\$10.7	\$57.0	\$67.8
Labor Income (millions)	\$1.0	\$2.2	\$17.3	\$1.8	\$3.2	\$19.1	\$22.4
Employment	35	80	668	80	116	748	863
<b>Multiplier effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$2.4	\$5.1	\$42.9	\$4.4	\$7.4	\$47.3	\$54.7
Labor Income (millions)	\$0.8	\$1.5	\$13.9	\$1.4	\$2.3	\$15.3	\$17.6
Employment	15	30	274	27	45	301	346
<b>Total effects</b>							
Output (millions)	\$5.4	\$12.8	\$94.1	\$10.3	\$18.2	\$104.3	\$122.5
Labor Income (millions)	\$1.7	\$3.8	\$31.2	\$3.2	\$5.5	\$34.4	\$39.9
Employment	50	110	942	107	160	1,049	1,209

## Angler Survey Packages

### Wave I: Residents only

- Advance postcard
- First letter and survey
- Thank you/reminder postcard
- Second letter
- Email messages

### Wave II: Residents and non-residents

- Advance postcard
- First letter and survey
- Thank you/reminder postcard
- Second letter
- Email messages



# SURVEY WAVE I: ADVANCE POSTCARD

Pre-post card (FRONT)



## COOK INLET SPORTFISHING ECONOMIC STUDY

c/o Southwick Associates  
PO Box 6435  
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035

<<First name>> <<Last Name>>  
<<Address>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

Postcard (BACK)

Dear Angler,

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct a study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. The project is being conducted in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game with funding provided by the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

You were selected to be part of this study as a result of purchasing an Alaska sportfishing license in 2017. In approximately 7-10 days, you will be receiving a survey from Southwick Associates in the mail. When it arrives, please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey. Thank You!



**Matanuska-Susitna  
Borough**

**Alaska Department  
of Fish & Game**



## SURVEY WAVE I: FIRST LETTER



**SOUTHWICK**  
ASSOCIATES

{Date}

Dear Alaska angler:

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct a study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet Region. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and funding support from the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

You have been selected at random to be a part of this study from a sample of anglers who purchased an Alaska sportfishing license in 2017. Even if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet Region, we would still like to hear from you. You are one of a small group of people who have been selected to represent all Alaska anglers, so it is very important that we hear from you. The entire survey should only take you about 10 minutes to complete.

The information that you provide will be kept confidential and will only be used by the project contractor, **Southwick Associates**, Inc. ([www.SouthwickAssociates.com](http://www.SouthwickAssociates.com)) to produce summary estimates of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet Region of Alaska.

After you complete the survey, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If you prefer, you can take the survey online at:

[www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3694062/AK-Cook-Inlet-2017](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3694062/AK-Cook-Inlet-2017)

Your Access Code for the online survey is <<SA\_UID>>.

To show our appreciation for your participation, all completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the study for a **gift certificate worth \$500** at the sporting goods retailer of your choice.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 904-277-9765. I would like to thank you in advance for agreeing to participate in this important study.

Sincerely,



**Rob Southwick / President**  
**Southwick Associates**



*Project sponsored by:*  
**Matanuska-Susitna Borough**



*With assistance from:* **Alaska**  
**Department of Fish and Game**

**SURVEY WAVE I: SURVEY**

***Cook Inlet Sportfishing Economic Survey***



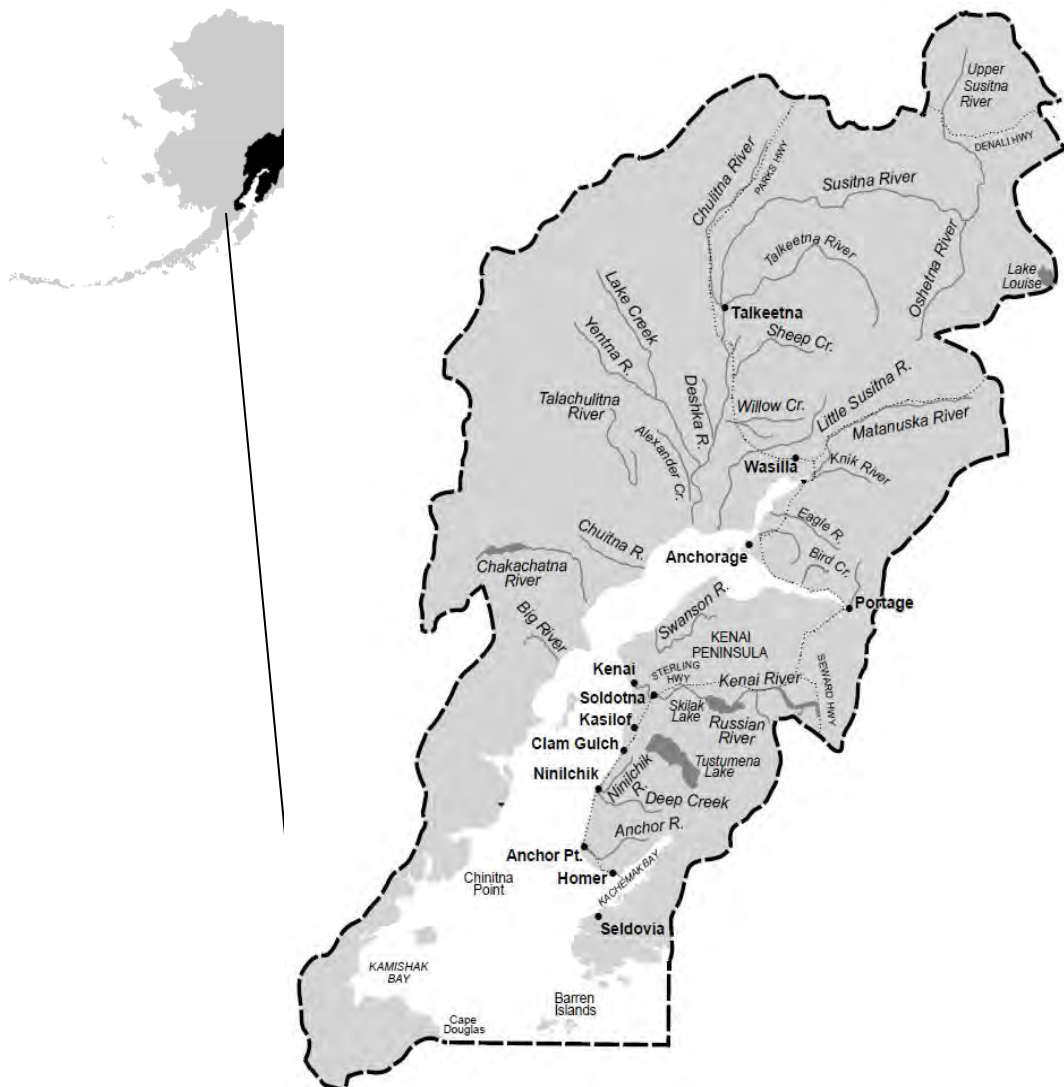
**This survey asks about your fishing activity and spending in the Cook Inlet Region during the first six months of 2017.**

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct this study in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.



<<merge SA\_UID>>

**Please note that the Cook Inlet Region includes both the saltwater inlet portion above Kodiak Island as well as the freshwater rivers that drain into the Cook Inlet.**



on



Please note that “sportfishing” is defined as the taking of fish and shellfish (clams, crabs, shrimp, etc.) under Alaska sportfishing license regulations, including personal use fishing (e.g. dip netting). Please do not report activities and expenditures associated with subsistence

**Section A – GENERAL:**

In this section, we are interested in learning some general information about your sportfishing activities in the **Cook Inlet Region**. Please refer to the detailed map at the front of this survey.

1. Did you go sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet Region** of Alaska between **January 1<sup>st</sup>** and **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**? (see map)
  - Yes Please continue to **Question 3** below.
  - No
2. Did you purchase any fishing equipment, fishing-related gear, or real estate in the **Cook Inlet Region** of Alaska in the **last twelve months**? (see map)
  - Yes Please continue to **Question 16 on page 5**.
  - No Please skip to **Question 18 on page 6**.
3. Did you buy an Alaska sportfishing license in 2017 *primarily* to go personal use fishing (e.g. dip netting, gill netting, etc.)?
  - Yes
  - No
4. As best as possible, please report the number of days you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet Region** between **November 1, 2016** and **December 31, 2016**. (Please enter “0” if you did not fish in this period.)
  - Number of saltwater fishing days \_\_\_\_\_
  - Number of freshwater fishing days \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B – SPORTFISHING ACTIVITY:**

In this section, we want to know how often you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet Region** between **January 1<sup>st</sup>** and **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017** and between **May 1<sup>st</sup>** and **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**.

5. **January through April:** How many days did you go freshwater and saltwater fishing in the **Cook Inlet Region** between **January 1, 2017** and **April 30, 2017**? (mark ‘0’ if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region in January through April)
  - Freshwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in January through April
  - Saltwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in January through April
6. **May through June:** How many days did you go freshwater and saltwater fishing in the **Cook Inlet Region** between **May 1, 2017** and **June 30, 2017**? (mark ‘0’ if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region in May through June)
  - Freshwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in May through June
  - Saltwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in May through June
7. For the entire period between **January 1** and **June 30, 2017**, please tell us how many **days** you fished for these species. If you fished for more than one species on the same



day mark each species as one day. *Please note the species you targeted might not necessarily have been the fish actually caught on the trip. (Report days for all that apply)*

Species	Total days Jan. 1 through June 30, 2017
King Salmon ( <i>Chinook</i> )	_____ days
Silver Salmon ( <i>Coho</i> )	_____ days
Red Salmon ( <i>Sockeye</i> )	_____ days
Other Salmon ( <i>Pink, Chum</i> )	_____ days
Steelhead	_____ days
Trout ( <i>rainbow, cutthroat, lake trout, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Halibut	_____ days
Other saltwater ( <i>Lingcod, Rockfish, Shark, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Other freshwater ( <i>Dolly Varden, Arctic Grayling, Northern Pike, Burbot, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Shellfish ( <i>clams, crab, shrimp, etc.</i> )	_____ days

---

**Section C – THE LAST TIME YOU WENT SPORTFISHING:**

Now we would like to know about the **last time** you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet Region** between **January 1<sup>st</sup>** and **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Please remember, “sportfishing” includes personal use (e.g., dip netting) and shellfish fishing, but does ***not*** include subsistence fishing.

- 
8. In what month did you last go sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet Region** between **January 1** and **June 30, 2017**?
- January
  - February
  - March
  - April
  - May
  - June





9. Fishing trips often include time for fishing, travel, and non-fishing activities. How long was this last fishing trip (including fishing days, travel days, and non-fishing days)? *Note that single-day trips do not need to take a whole day. For example, if the last time you went fishing you only fished for a few hours after work, this would be counted as '1' day.*

Total days on your last fishing trip to **Cook Inlet Region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

10. How many days did you actually fish the last time you went fishing in the **Cook Inlet Region**? (Count partial days of fishing as '1' day)

Fishing days on your last trip to **Cook Inlet Region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

11. Would you still have taken this trip even if you were not able to go fishing?

Definitely "No"      Maybe "No"      Not sure      Maybe "Yes"      Definitely "Yes"  
                                                                                       

12. Was this trip primarily.....? (check one)

- rod & reel sportfishing
- dip netting (personal use)
- shellfish fishing

13. Was this trip primarily in.....? (check one)

- freshwater
- saltwater

14. Did you pay for a guide or a charter boat on this trip?

- Yes
- No



In this next section, we ask about your spending on your **last fishing trip** to the **Cook Inlet Region** that occurred between **January 1 through June 30, 2017** (the trip described in Questions 8 through 14).

15. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent on the following TRIP-RELATED items ON THE TRIP DESCRIBED ABOVE. Please only include amounts that you spent within the **COOK INLET REGION**. Include money that **you** spent for other people on your trip; do **not** include money that other people spent on your behalf. We will ask about your equipment purchases in later questions.

<b>Items purchased on <u>last trip</u> in <u>Cook Inlet Region</u> (between <u>January 1</u> and <u>June 30, 2017</u>)</b>	<b>Amount Spent in <u>Cook Inlet Region</u></b>
Fuel and oil for your car, truck, boat, airplane, ATV, and/or other transportation	\$
Guide and charter fees	\$
Transportation services (air taxis, boat ferries, shuttle vans, taxis, etc.)	\$
Boat launch and dockage fees	\$
Ice	\$
Bait (natural bait only, do not include lures)	\$
Groceries, food, liquor bought in stores (not in restaurants or bars)	\$
Restaurants, bars, and take-out food purchases	\$
Heating and cooking fuels	\$
Fish processing and shipping	\$
Rentals (boats, equipment, autos, etc.)	\$
Overnight accommodations (hotels/motels, B&B's, campgrounds, cabin rentals, etc.)	\$
Derby tickets	\$
Souvenirs and gifts	\$
Other entertainment expenses during fishing trip (movies, etc.)	\$
Other (please specify):	\$

**Section D – FISHING EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES:**

NOTE: In this section, we want to know about sportfishing and related equipment you **purchased in the Cook Inlet Region during the last 12 months**, including equipment purchased for sportfishing, personal use (e.g., dipnet) and/or shellfish fishing.

16. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent on the following fishing equipment items **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**. **Only report purchases made within the Cook Inlet Region** – excluding purchases from catalogs or online web sites. Include money that **you** spent for other people; do **not** include money that other people spent on your behalf. Please write in the amount that you spent in the Cook Inlet region. Since some items can be used for non-fishing activities, please estimate the percentage that the purchased fishing related gear is used for sportfishing.



<b>Fishing equipment purchased WITHIN COOK INLET REGION DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS</b>	<b>Total Amount Spent in the Cook Inlet Region</b>	<b>% Used for sportfishing</b>
<b>FISHING EQUIPMENT:</b>		
Licenses and stamps	\$	100%
Rods, reels, & components	\$	100%
Fishing tackle (lines, leaders, lures, creels, stringers, etc.)	\$	100%
Tackle boxes, cases to protect fishing equipment	\$	100%
Depth finders, fish finder, other electronics	\$	100%
Landing nets, dipnets & gillnets	\$	100%
Miscellaneous fishing equipment (knives, scales, etc.)	\$	100%
Shellfish fishing equipment (shovels, pots, buckets, etc.)	\$	100%
Fishing mounting (taxidermy)	\$	100%
Books and magazines devoted to fishing	\$	100%
<b>FISHING-RELATED GEAR OR OTHER NON-FISHING PURCHASES:</b>		
Items to store/preserve fish (smoker, vacuum sealer, etc.)	\$	%
Coolers, fish boxes	\$	%
Clothing (fishing vest, raingear, heat net, etc.)	\$	%
Boots, shoes, waders, and other footwear	\$	%
Life jackets	\$	%
Boats, canoes, rafts, kayaks, and other watercraft	\$	%
Boat motors	\$	%
Trailers, hitches, and accessories	\$	%
Bear spray, bug spray, sun screen	\$	%
Firearms for personal protection	\$	%
Cameras, binoculars, sun glasses	\$	%
Tents, screen rooms, tarps, backpacks, sleeping bags	\$	%
Camping trailer (pop-ups, self-contained, 5th wheel)	\$	%
Other camping equipment (stoves, grills, lanterns, etc.)	\$	%
Vehicles (trucks, SUVs, motorhomes, etc.)	\$	%
Airplanes and related equipment	\$	%
ATVs, snow machines	\$	%
Boat/camper registrations and excise taxes	\$	%
Vehicle, boat, or airplane repair/maintenance	\$	%
Other (please specify):	\$	%

17. Please report how much you spent **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS** on any real estate located in the **Cook Inlet Region** that was purchased or used primarily for sportfishing purposes. (If you spent nothing, enter '0')

<b>Real estate spending in the <u>past 12 months</u> primarily for fishing in the <u>Cook Inlet Region</u></b>	<b>Total Amount Spent</b>
Purchases of lots, existing houses and cabins, and/or land	\$
Leases of land, cabins, boat slips, and storage (do not include any short-term rentals that were already reported as a trip-related expense)	\$
Construction of houses and cabins, and repair or maintenance expenses (not including boat docks, sheds, or outbuildings)	\$
Purchase or construction of boat docks, sheds, or outbuildings	\$

### **Section E – BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

To help us learn more about who fishes in the **Cook Inlet Region**, please answer these final questions. All answers you provide will be kept fully confidential. Your answers help us ensure the survey best represents ALL **Cook Inlet Region** anglers, even those not surveyed.

18. Is your primary residence within the Cook Inlet Region?

Yes  No

19. What is your gender?

Male  Female

20. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Which category best describes the highest level of education you have completed?

- Did not graduate from high school       College graduate (bachelor's degree or equivalent)  
 High school graduate or GED               Postgraduate, master's degree, doctorate, law degree, other professional degree  
 1-3 years college (some college)

22. Which best describes your household's annual, before-tax income? (check one)

- Less than \$10,000       \$40,000 - \$49,999       \$100,000 - \$149,999  
 \$10,000 - \$19,999       \$50,000 - \$74,999       \$150,000 - \$199,999  
 \$20,000 - \$29,999       \$75,000 - \$99,999       \$200,000 or more  
 \$30,000 - \$39,999


**Thank you for taking our survey!**

If you have any additional comments you wish to share about this study, please provide them here:





## SURVEY WAVE I: REMINDER POSTCARD

Thank you/Reminder-post card (FRONT)

 <b>SOUTHWICK</b> <small>ASSOCIATES</small>	<b>COOK INLET SPORTFISHING ECONOMIC STUDY</b>
	c/o Southwick Associates PO Box 6435 Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035
<<First name>> <<Last Name>> <<Address>> <<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>	

Postcard (BACK)

<p>Dear Angler,</p>	
<p>Recently, you received a survey from Southwick Associates asking about your sportfishing activities in the Cook Inlet Region of Alaska. If you have already completed and returned your survey, <b><u>thank you!</u></b> If you have not yet completed the survey, we <b><u>ask you</u></b> to take a few minutes to do so and return your completed survey in the postage paid envelope included in the package. It is very important that we hear from you, even if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet Region last year.</p>	
<p>Southwick Associates was contracted by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to conduct this study. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game and funding support from the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.</p>	
<p>Thank You!</p>	
	<p><b>Matanuska-Susitna Borough</b></p>
	<p><b>Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game</b></p>

## SURVEY WAVE I:

## SECOND LETTER



{Date}

Dear Alaska angler:

In July, we sent a survey to you asking about your sportfishing activities in the Cook Inlet Region during the first six months of 2017. Many of the other anglers who received the survey have already responded, but we have not yet received your completed questionnaire.

We are conducting the survey to provide a better understanding of the importance of sportfishing to the Cook Inlet Region's economy. Information about your experience is very valuable to this study because you have been chosen to represent many other sport anglers in Alaska. Therefore, it is very important that we hear from you.

Enclosed is a replacement questionnaire. Your responses to the survey questions will be kept strictly confidential. Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey and return it in the postage-paid envelope. If you prefer, you can take the survey online at:

[www.surveymoz.com/s3/3694062/AK-Cook-Inlet-2017](http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/3694062/AK-Cook-Inlet-2017)

Your Access Code for the online survey is <<SA\_UID>>.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough contracted Southwick Associates to conduct this study. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and funding support is provided by the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

All completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the study for a **gift certificate worth \$500** at the sporting goods retailer of your choice.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 907-277-9765. I would like to thank you in advance for agreeing to participate in this important study.

Sincerely,

**Rob Southwick/ President  
Southwick Associates**



*Project sponsored by:  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough*



*In cooperation with: Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game*

## SURVEY WAVE I: INITIAL AND REMIDER EMAIL INVITATIONS

Dear Alaska angler:

The **Matanuska-Susitna Borough** has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct a study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the **Alaska Department of Fish & Game**.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey. The information that you provide will be kept confidential. The entire survey should only take you about 10 minutes to complete. Even if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region, we would still like to hear from you.

[Click Here to Start the Survey](#)

To show our appreciation for your participation, all completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the study for a **gift certificate worth \$500** at the sporting goods retailer of your choice.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 904-277-9765. Thank you for participating in this important study.


Sincerely,  
**Rob Southwick/President**



A cooperative project with:





## SURVEY WAVE II: ADVANCE POSTCARD

 <p><b>SOUTHWICK ASSOCIATES</b></p>	<p><b>COOK INLET SPORTFISHING ECONOMIC STUDY</b> c/o Southwick Associates PO Box 6435 Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035</p>
<p>Angler name and address</p>	

Pre-post card (FRONT)

Postcard (BACK)

<p>Dear Angler,</p>		
<p>The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct a study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. The project is being conducted in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game with funding provided by the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.</p>		
<p>You were selected to be part of this study as a result of holding an Alaska sportfishing license in 2017. In approximately 7-10 days, you will be receiving a survey from Southwick Associates in the mail. When it arrives, please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey. Thank You!</p>		
	<p><b>Matanuska-Susitna Borough</b></p>	<p><b>Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game</b></p>
		



## SURVEY WAVE II: LETTER

{Date}

Dear Alaska angler:

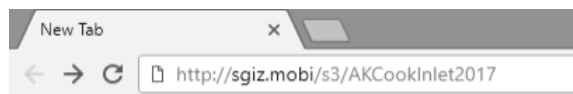


The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct a study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and funding support from the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

You have been selected at random to be a part of this study from a sample of anglers who held an Alaska sportfishing license in 2017. You are one of a small group of people who have been selected to represent all anglers who fish in Alaska, so it is very important that we hear from you. Even if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region, we would still like to hear from you. The entire survey should only take you about 10 minutes to complete.

The information that you provide will be kept confidential and will only be used by the project contractor, **Southwick Associates**, Inc. ([www.SouthwickAssociates.com](http://www.SouthwickAssociates.com)) to produce summary estimates of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet Region of Alaska.

After you complete the survey, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If you prefer, you can take the survey online by typing this web address (<http://sgiz.mobi/s3/AKCookInlet2017>) directly into the address bar of your browser. Your Access Code for the online survey is XXX.



To show our appreciation for your participation, all completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the study for a **gift certificate worth \$500** at the sporting goods retailer of your choice.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 904-277-9765. I would like to thank you in advance for agreeing to participate in this important study.

Sincerely,

  
**Rob Southwick / President**  
**Southwick Associates**



*Project sponsored by:  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough*



*With assistance from: Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game*

**SURVEY WAVE II: RESIDENT SURVEY**

***Cook Inlet Sportfishing Economic Survey***



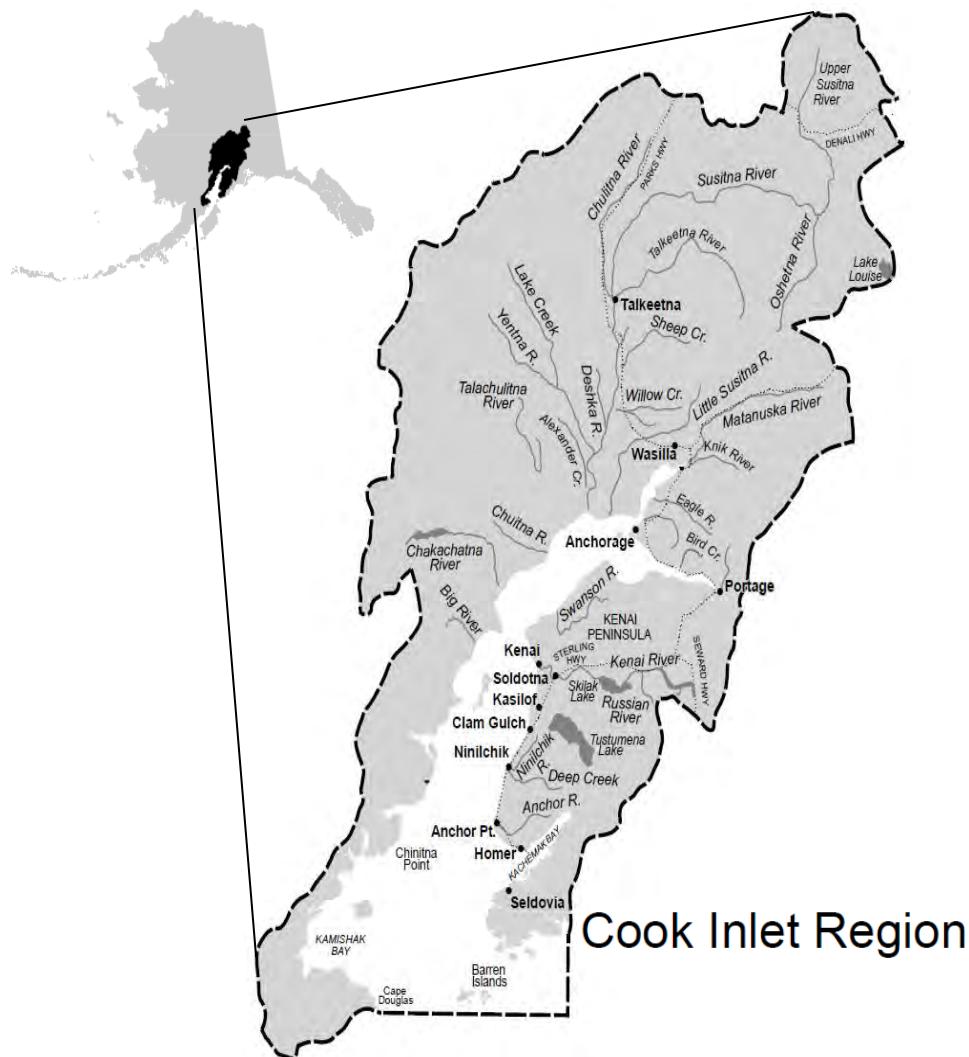
**This survey asks about your fishing activity and spending in the Cook Inlet region during May to October 2017.**

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct this study in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.



<<merge ID>>

**Please note that the Cook Inlet region includes both the saltwater inlet portion above Kodiak Island as well as the freshwater rivers that drain into the Cook Inlet.**





Please note that “sportfishing” is defined as the taking of fish and shellfish (clams, crabs, shrimp, etc.) under Alaska sportfishing license regulations, including personal use fishing (e.g. dip netting). Please do not report activities and expenditures associated with subsistence fishing.



### Section A – GENERAL:

In this section, we are interested in learning some general information about your sportfishing activities in the **Cook Inlet region**. Please refer to the detailed map at the front of this survey.

23. Did you go sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** of Alaska between **May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**? (see map)

- Yes  Please skip to Question 3 below.
- No 

24. Did you purchase any fishing equipment, fishing-related gear, or real estate that you acquired primarily for fishing purposes in the **Cook Inlet region** of Alaska in the **last twelve months**? (see map)

- Yes  Please skip to **Question 24 on page 7**.
- No  Please skip to **Question 26 on page 8**.

25. Did you buy an Alaska sportfishing license in 2017 *primarily* to go personal use fishing (e.g. dip netting, gill netting, etc.)?

- Yes
- No

26. As best as possible, please report the number of days you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **November 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016**. (Please enter “0” if you did not fish in this period.)

Number of saltwater fishing days \_\_\_\_\_

Number of freshwater fishing days \_\_\_\_\_

### Section B – SPORTFISHING ACTIVITY:

In this section, we want to know how often you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017** and between **July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**.

27. **May through June:** How many days did you go freshwater and saltwater fishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **May 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017**? (mark ‘0’ if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region in May through June)

**Freshwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in May through June

**Saltwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in May through June

28. **July through October:** How many days did you go freshwater and saltwater fishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **July 1, 2017 and October 31, 2017**? (mark ‘0’ if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region in July through October)

**Freshwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in July through October

**Saltwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in July through October



29. For the entire period between **May 1 and October 31, 2017**, please tell us how many **days** you fished for these species. If you fished for more than one species on the same day mark each species as one day. *Please note the species you targeted might not necessarily have been the fish actually caught on the trip. (Report days for all that apply)*

Species Targeted	Total days May 1 through Oct 31, 2017
King Salmon ( <i>Chinook</i> )	_____ days
Silver Salmon ( <i>Coho</i> )	_____ days
Red Salmon ( <i>Sockeye</i> )	_____ days
Other Salmon ( <i>Pink, Chum</i> )	_____ days
Steelhead	_____ days
Trout ( <i>rainbow, cutthroat, lake trout, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Halibut	_____ days
Other saltwater ( <i>Lingcod, Rockfish, Shark, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Other freshwater ( <i>Dolly Varden, Arctic Grayling, Northern Pike, Burbot, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Shellfish ( <i>clams, crab, shrimp, etc.</i> )	_____ days

**Section C1 – LAST TIME YOU WENT SPORTFISHING IN MAY OR JUNE 2017:**

Now we would like to know about the last time you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Please remember, “sportfishing” includes personal use (e.g., dip netting) and shellfish fishing, but does **not** include subsistence fishing.

30. In what month did you last go sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **May 1 and June 30, 2017**?

- May
- June
- I did not fish between May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> (skip to Q16 in section C2)

**\*\*\* THESE NEXT QUESTIONS REFER TO THE LAST TIME YOU WENT SPORTFISHING IN THE COOK INLET REGION BETWEEN MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2017\*\*\***

31. Fishing trips often include time for fishing, travel, and non-fishing activities. How long was this last fishing trip including fishing days, travel days, and non-fishing days? *Note that single-day trips do not need to take a whole day. For example, if the last time you went fishing MAY through JUNE you only fished for a few hours after work, this would be counted as ‘1’ day.*

**Total** days on your last fishing trip in **Cook Inlet region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

32. How many days did you actually fish during your fishing trip in the **Cook Inlet region** between **May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>**? (Count partial days of fishing as ‘1’ day)

**Fishing** days on your last trip in **Cook Inlet region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days



33. Would you still have taken this trip even if you were not able to go fishing?  
 Definitely "No"      Maybe "No"      Not sure      Maybe "Yes"      Definitely "Yes"

34. Was this trip primarily.....? (check one)  
 rod & reel sportfishing  
 dip netting (personal use)  
 shellfish fishing

35. Was this trip primarily in.....? (check one)  
 freshwater  
 saltwater

36. Did you pay for a guide or a charter boat on this trip?  
 Yes  
 No

In this next section, we ask about your spending on your **last fishing trip** to the Cook Inlet region that occurred between **May 1 through June 30, 2017** (the trip described in Question 8 through 14).

37. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent on the following TRIP-RELATED items ON THE TRIP DESCRIBED ABOVE. Please only include amounts you spent in the **COOK INLET REGION**. Include money that **you** spent for other people on your trip; do **not** include money that other people spent on your behalf. We will ask about your equipment purchases in later questions.

<b>Items purchased on <u>last trip</u> to Cook Inlet region (between <u>May 1 and June 30, 2017</u>)</b>	<b>Amount Spent in Cook Inlet region</b>
Fuel and oil for your car, truck, boat, airplane, ATV, and/or other transportation	\$
Guide and charter fees	\$
Airline tickets	\$
Transportation services (air taxis, boat ferries, shuttle vans, taxis, etc.)	\$
Boat launch and dockage fees	\$
Ice	\$
Bait (natural bait only, do not include lures)	\$
Groceries, food, liquor bought in stores (not in restaurants or bars)	\$
Restaurants, bars, and take-out food purchases	\$
Heating and cooking fuels	\$
Fish processing and shipping	\$
Rentals (boats, equipment, autos, etc.)	\$
Overnight accommodations (hotels/motels, B&B's, campgrounds, cabin rentals, etc.)	\$
Derby tickets	\$
Souvenirs and gifts	\$
Other entertainment expenses during fishing trip (movies, etc.)	\$
Other (please specify):	\$



**Section C2 – LAST TIME YOU SPORTFISHED DURING JULY THROUGH OCTOBER 2017:**

Now we would like to know about the **last time** you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. Please remember, “sportfishing” includes personal use (e.g., dip netting) and shellfish fishing, but does **not** include subsistence fishing.

38. In what month did you last go sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **July 1** and **October 31<sup>st</sup> of 2017**?

- July
- August
- September
- October
- I did not fish between July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> (skip to Q24 in section D)

**THESE NEXT QUESTIONS REFER TO THE LAST TIME YOU WENT SPORTFISHING IN THE COOK INLET REGION BETWEEN JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2017**

39. Fishing trips often include time for fishing, travel, and non-fishing activities. How long was this last fishing trip including fishing days, travel days, and non-fishing days? *Note that single-day trips do not need to take a whole day. For example, if the last time you went fishing JULY through OCTOBER you only fished for a few hours after work, this would be counted as ‘1’ day.*

Total days on your last fishing trip in **Cook Inlet region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

40. How many days did you actually fish during your fishing trip in the **Cook Inlet region** between **July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>**? (Count partial days of fishing as ‘1’ day)

Fishing days on your last trip in **Cook Inlet region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

41. Would you still have taken this trip even if you were not able to go fishing?

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Definitely “No”          | Maybe “No”               | Not sure                 | Maybe “Yes”              | Definitely “Yes”         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

42. Was this trip primarily.....? (check one)

- rod & reel sportfishing
- dip netting (personal use)
- shellfish fishing

43. Was this trip primarily in.....? (check one)

- freshwater
- saltwater

44. Did you pay for a guide or a charter boat on this trip?

- Yes
- No



In this next section, we ask about your spending on your last fishing trip to the Cook Inlet Region that occurred between **July 1 through October 31, 2017** (the trip described in Question 16 through 22).

45. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent on the following TRIP-RELATED items ON THE TRIP DESCRIBED ABOVE. Please only include amounts you spent in the **COOK INLET REGION**. Include money that you spent for other people on your trip; do **not** include money that other people spent on your behalf. We will ask about your equipment purchases in later questions.

<b>Items purchased on <u>last trip to Cook Inlet region</u> (between <u>July 1 and October 31, 2017</u>)</b>	<b>Amount Spent in <u>Cook Inlet region</u></b>
Fuel and oil for your car, truck, boat, airplane, ATV, and/or other transportation	\$
Guide and charter fees	\$
Airline tickets	\$
Transportation services (air taxis, boat ferries, shuttle vans, taxis, etc.)	\$
Boat launch and dockage fees	\$
Ice	\$
Bait (natural bait only, do not include lures)	\$
Groceries, food, liquor bought in stores (not in restaurants or bars)	\$
Restaurants, bars, and take-out food purchases	\$
Heating and cooking fuels	\$
Fish processing and shipping	\$
Rentals (boats, equipment, autos, etc.)	\$
Overnight accommodations (hotels/motels, B&B's, campgrounds, cabin rentals, etc.)	\$
Derby tickets	\$
Souvenirs and gifts	\$
Other entertainment expenses during fishing trip (movies, etc.)	\$
Other (please specify): _____	\$



**Section D-FISHING EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES:**

NOTE: In this section, we want to know about sportfishing and related equipment you purchased in the Cook Inlet Region during the last 12 months, including equipment purchased for personal use (e.g., dipnet) and/or shellfish fishing.

46. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent on the following fishing equipment in the last 12 months. **Only report purchases made within the Cook Inlet Region** – excluding purchases from catalogs and online web sites. Include purchases you made for yourself and for others. Please write in the amount spent and the percent of time that item was used for sportfishing in the Cook Inlet Region.

<b>Fishing equipment purchased WITHIN COOK INLET REGION DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS</b>	<b>Total Amount Spent in the Cook Inlet region</b>	<b>% Used for sportfishing</b>
Licenses and stamps	\$	100%
Rods, reels, & components	\$	100%
Fishing tackle (lines, leaders, lures, creels, stringers, etc.)	\$	100%
Tackle boxes, cases to protect fishing equipment	\$	100%
Depth finders, fish finder, other electronics	\$	100%
Landing nets, dipnets & gillnets	\$	100%
Miscellaneous fishing equipment (knives, scales, etc.)	\$	100%
Shellfish fishing equipment (shovels, pots, buckets, etc.)	\$	100%
Fishing mounting (taxidermy)	\$	100%
Books and magazines devoted to fishing	\$	100%
Items to store/preserve fish (smoker, vacuum sealer, etc.)	\$	%
Coolers, fish boxes	\$	%
Clothing (fishing vest, raingear, head net, etc.)	\$	%
Boots, shoes, waders, and other footwear	\$	%
Life jackets	\$	%
Boats, canoes, rafts, kayaks, and other watercraft	\$	%
Boat motors	\$	%
Trailers, hitches, and accessories	\$	%
Bear spray, bug spray, sun screen	\$	%
Firearms for personal protection	\$	%
Cameras, binoculars, sun glasses	\$	%
Tents, screen rooms, tarps, backpacks, sleeping bags	\$	%
Camping trailer (pop-ups, self-contained, 5th wheel)	\$	%
Other camping equipment (stoves, grills, lanterns, etc.)	\$	%
Vehicles (trucks, SUVs, motorhomes, etc.)	\$	%
Airplanes and related equipment	\$	%
ATVs, snow machines	\$	%
Boat/camper registrations and excise taxes	\$	%
Vehicle, boat, or airplane repair/maintenance	\$	%
Other (please specify):	\$	%



47. Please report how much you spent in 2017 on any real estate located in the **Cook Inlet region** that was purchased or used primarily for sportfishing purposes. (If you spent nothing, enter '0')

<b>Real estate spending in the last 12 months for fishing in the <u>Cook Inlet region</u></b>	<b>Total Amount Spent</b>
Purchases of lots, existing houses and cabins, and/or land	\$
Leases of land, cabins, boat slips, and storage (do not include any short-term rentals that were already reported as a trip-related expense)	\$
Construction of houses and cabins, and repair or maintenance expenses (not including boat docks, sheds, or outbuildings)	\$
Purchase or construction of boat docks, sheds, or outbuildings	\$

---

**Section E-BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

To help us learn more about who fishes in the **Cook Inlet region**, please answer these final questions. All answers you provide will be kept fully confidential. Your answers will help us evaluate the survey to best represent ALL **Cook Inlet region** anglers, even those not surveyed.

48. Is your primary residence within the Cook Inlet region?

- Yes  No

49. What is your gender?

- Male  Female

50. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

51. Which category best describes the highest level of education you have completed?

- Did not graduate from high school  High school graduate or GED  
 1-3 years college (some college)  College graduate (bachelor's degree or equivalent)  
 Postgraduate, master's degree, doctorate, law degree, other professional degree

52. Which best describes your household's annual, before-tax income? (check one)

- Less than \$10,000  \$40,000 - \$49,999  \$100,000 - \$149,999  
 \$10,000 - \$19,999  \$50,000 - \$74,999  \$150,000 - \$199,999  
 \$20,000 - \$29,999  \$75,000 - \$99,999  \$200,000 or more  
 \$30,000 - \$39,999

**Thank you for taking our survey!**

**If you have any additional comments you wish to share about this study, please provide them here:**



## SURVEY WAVE II: NON-RESIDENT SURVEY

# Cook Inlet Sportfishing Economic Survey



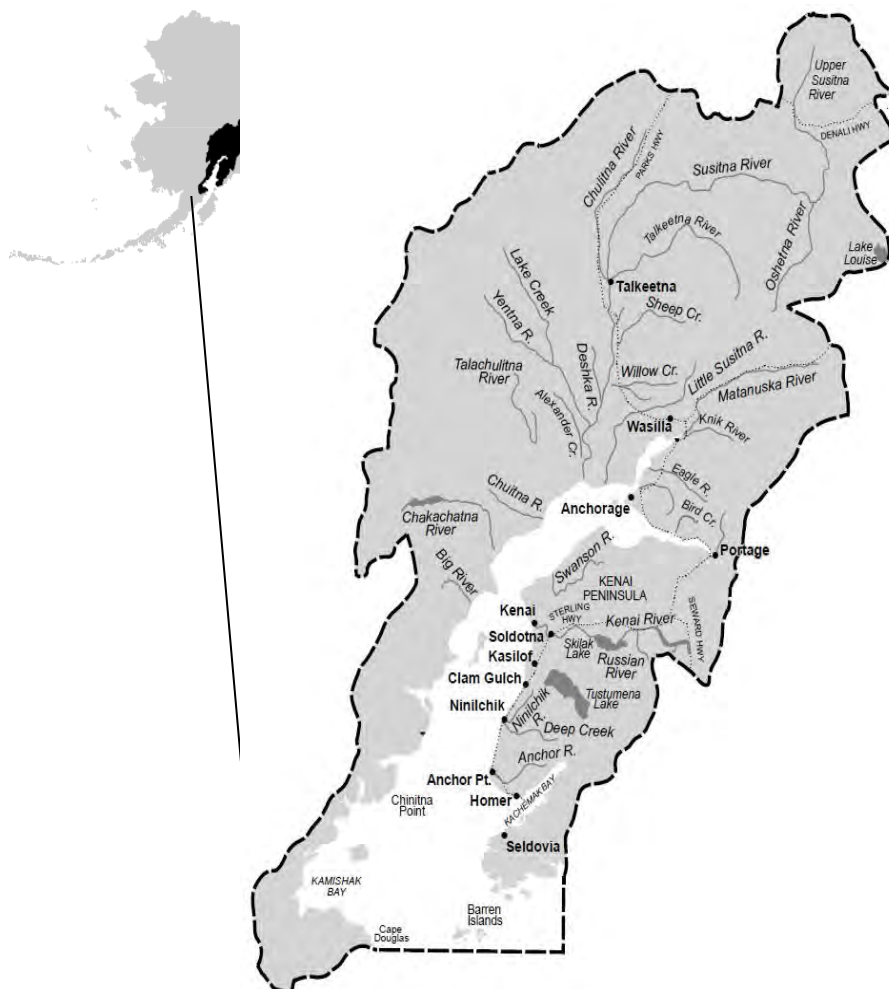
**This survey asks about your fishing activity and spending in the Cook Inlet region during May to October 2017.**

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct this study in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.



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**Please note that the Cook Inlet region includes both the saltwater inlet portion above Kodiak Island as well as the freshwater rivers that drain into the Cook Inlet.**





on

Please note that “sportfishing” is defined as the taking of fish and shellfish (clams, crabs, shrimp, etc.) under Alaska sportfishing license regulations, including personal use fishing (e.g. dip netting). Please do not report activities and expenditures associated with subsistence



### Section A – GENERAL:

In this section, we are interested in learning some general information about your sportfishing activities in the Cook Inlet region. Please refer to the detailed map at the front of this survey.

53. Did you go sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska between May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017? (see map)

- Yes  Please skip to Question 3 below.
- No 

54. Did you purchase any fishing equipment, fishing-related gear, or real estate that you acquired primarily for fishing purposes in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska in the last twelve months? (see map)

- Yes  Please skip to **Question 25 on page 8**.
- No  Please skip to **Question 27 on page 9**.

55. As best as possible, please report the number of days you went sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region for each of the two time periods listed below. (Please enter “0” if you did not fish in this period.)

	Number of saltwater fishing days	Number of freshwater fishing days
November through December, 2016	_____	_____
January through April, 2017	_____	_____

### Section B – SPORTFISHING ACTIVITY:

In this section, we want to know how often you went sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region between May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and between July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

56. **May through June:** How many days did you go freshwater and saltwater fishing in the Cook Inlet region between May 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017? (mark ‘0’ if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region in May through June)

**Freshwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in May through June  
**Saltwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in May through June

57. **July through October:** How many days did you go freshwater and saltwater fishing in the Cook Inlet region between July 1, 2017 and October 31, 2017? (mark ‘0’ if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region in July through October)

**Freshwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in July through October  
**Saltwater:** \_\_\_\_\_ days in July through October

58. For the entire period between May 1 and October 31, 2017, please tell us how many **days** you fished for these species. If you fished for more than one species on the same



day mark each species as one day. *Please note the species you targeted might not necessarily have been the fish actually caught on the trip. (Report days for all that apply)*

Species Targeted	Total days May 1 through Oct 31, 2017
King Salmon ( <i>Chinook</i> )	_____ days
Silver Salmon ( <i>Coho</i> )	_____ days
Red Salmon ( <i>Sockeye</i> )	_____ days
Other Salmon ( <i>Pink, Chum</i> )	_____ days
Steelhead	_____ days
Trout ( <i>rainbow, cutthroat, lake trout, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Halibut	_____ days
Other saltwater ( <i>Lingcod, Rockfish, Shark, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Other freshwater ( <i>Dolly Varden, Arctic Grayling, Northern Pike, Burbot, etc.</i> )	_____ days
Shellfish ( <i>clams, crab, shrimp, etc.</i> )	_____ days

**Section C1 – LAST TIME YOU WENT SPORTFISHING IN MAY OR JUNE 2017:**

Now we would like to know about the last time you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Please remember, “sportfishing” includes personal use (e.g., dip netting) and shellfish fishing, but does **not** include subsistence fishing.

59. In what month did you last go sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **May 1 and June 30, 2017**?

- May
- June
- I did not fish between May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> (skip to Q16 in section C2)

THESE NEXT QUESTIONS REFER TO THE **LAST TIME YOU WENT SPORTFISHING IN THE COOK INLET REGION BETWEEN MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

60. Fishing trips often include time for fishing, travel, and non-fishing activities. How long was this **last fishing trip** including fishing days, travel days, and non-fishing days? *Note that single-day trips do not need to take a whole day. For example, if the last time you went fishing **MAY** through **JUNE** you only fished for a few hours after work, this would be counted as ‘1’ day.*

**Total** days on your last fishing trip in **Cook Inlet region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

61. How many days did you actually fish during your fishing trip in **Cook Inlet region** between **May 1<sup>st</sup>** and **June 30<sup>th</sup>**? (Count partial days of fishing as '1' day)

Fishing days on your last trip in **Cook Inlet region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

62. Would you still have taken this trip even if you were not able to go fishing?

Definitely "No"      Maybe "No"      Not sure      Maybe "Yes"      Definitely "Yes"

63. Was this trip primarily.....? (check one)

- rod & reel sportfishing
- shellfish fishing

64. Was this trip primarily in.....? (check one)

- freshwater
- saltwater

65. Did you pay for a guide or a charter boat on this trip?

- Yes
- No

In this next section, we ask about your spending on your **last fishing trip** to the Cook Inlet region that occurred between **May 1 through June 30, 2017** (the trip described in Question 8 through 13).

66. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent PRIOR TO DEPARTING ON YOUR TRIP for any pre-purchased travel packages such as cruises, travel tours, guided trips, etc.

Travel package purchased for <b>last trip</b> to Cook Inlet region (between <b>May 1 and June 30, 2017</b> )	Amount spent on trip to <b>Cook Inlet region</b>	
Pre-arranged cruise, package tour or chartered trip (including fishing excursions purchased through a cruise line)	\$	
Which of the following were included in the pre-arranged package?		
Transportation to or from Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Transportation once you arrived in Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Fishing guides and/or charter boats	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Lodging	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Fishing license	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No



67. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent on the following TRIP-RELATED items ON THE TRIP DESCRIBED ABOVE. Do **not** include any package spending already reported in Question 14. Please only include amounts you spent in the **COOK INLET REGION**. Include money that **you** spent for other people on your trip; do **not** include money that other people spent on your behalf. We will ask about your equipment purchases in later questions.

<b>Items purchased on last trip to Cook Inlet region (between <u>May 1 and June 30, 2017</u>)</b>	<b>Amount Spent in <u>Cook Inlet region</u></b>
Fuel and oil for your car, truck, boat, airplane, ATV, and/or other transportation	\$
Guide and charter fees	\$
Airline tickets	\$
Transportation services (air taxis, boat ferries, shuttle vans, taxis, etc.)	\$
Boat launch and dockage fees	\$
Ice	\$
Bait (natural bait only, do not include lures)	\$
Groceries, food, liquor bought in stores (not in restaurants or bars)	\$
Restaurants, bars, and take-out food purchases	\$
Heating and cooking fuels	\$
Fish processing and shipping	\$
Rentals (boats, equipment, autos, etc.)	\$
Overnight accommodations (hotels/motels, B&B's, campgrounds, cabin rentals, etc.)	\$
Derby tickets	\$
Souvenirs and gifts	\$
Other entertainment expenses during fishing trip (movies, etc.)	\$
Other (please specify):	\$

---

**Section C2 – LAST TIME YOU SPORTFISHED DURING JULY THROUGH OCTOBER 2017:**

Now we would like to know about the **last time** you went sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. Please remember, “sportfishing” includes personal use (e.g., dip netting) and shellfish fishing, but does **not** include subsistence fishing.

68. In what month did you last go sportfishing in the **Cook Inlet region** between **July 1** and **October 31<sup>st</sup> of 2017**?

- July
- August
- September
- October
- I did not fish between July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> (skip to section D)



THESE NEXT QUESTIONS REFER TO THE **LAST TIME YOU WENT SPORTFISHING IN THE COOK INLET REGION BETWEEN JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2017**

69. Fishing trips often include time for fishing, travel, and non-fishing activities. How long was this last fishing trip including fishing days, travel days, and non-fishing days? *Note that single-day trips do not need to take a whole day. For example, if the last time you went fishing **JULY** through **OCTOBER** you only fished for a few hours after work, this would be counted as '1' day.*

Total days on your last fishing trip in **Cook Inlet region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

70. How many days did you actually fish during your fishing trip in the **Cook Inlet region** between **July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>**? (Count partial days of fishing as '1' day)

Fishing days on your last trip in **Cook Inlet region**: \_\_\_\_\_ days

71. Would you still have taken this trip even if you were not able to go fishing?

Definitely "No"      Maybe "No"      Not sure      Maybe "Yes"      Definitely "Yes"  
                                                                                       

72. Was this trip primarily.....? (check one)

- rod & reel sportfishing
- shellfish fishing

73. Was this trip primarily in.....? (check one)

- freshwater
- saltwater

74. Did you pay for a guide or a charter boat on this trip?

- Yes
- No



In this next section, we ask about your spending on your last fishing trip to the Cook Inlet region that occurred between **July 1 through October 31, 2017 (the trip described in Question 17 through 23).**

75. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent PRIOR TO DEPARTING ON YOUR TRIP for any pre-purchased travel packages such as cruises, travel tours, guided trips, etc.

Travel package purchased for <u>last trip to Cook Inlet region</u> (between <u>July 1 and October 31, 2017</u> )	Amount spent on trip to <u>Cook Inlet region</u>	
Pre-arranged cruise, package tour or chartered trip (including fishing excursions purchased through a cruise line)	\$	
Which of the following were included in the pre-arranged package?		
Transportation to or from Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Transportation once you arrived in Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Fishing guides and/or charter boats	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Lodging	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Fishing license	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

76. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent on the following TRIP-RELATED items ON THE TRIP DESCRIBED ABOVE. Do **not** include any package spending already reported in Question 23. Please only include amounts **you** spent in the **COOK INLET REGION**. Include money that you spent for other people on your trip; do **not** include money that other people spent on your behalf. We will ask about your equipment purchases in later questions.

Items purchased on <u>last trip to Cook Inlet region</u> (between <u>July 1 and October 31, 2017</u> )	Amount Spent in <u>Cook Inlet region</u>
Fuel and oil for your car, truck, boat, airplane, ATV, and/or other transportation	\$
Guide and charter fees	\$
Airline tickets	\$
Transportation services (air taxis, boat ferries, shuttle vans, taxis, etc.)	\$
Boat launch and dockage fees	\$
Ice	\$
Bait (natural bait only, do not include lures)	\$
Groceries, food, liquor bought in stores (not in restaurants or bars)	\$
Restaurants, bars, and take-out food purchases	\$
Heating and cooking fuels	\$
Fish processing and shipping	\$
Rentals (boats, equipment, autos, etc.)	\$
Overnight accommodations (hotels/motels, B&B's, campgrounds, cabin rentals, etc.)	\$
Derby tickets	\$
Souvenirs and gifts	\$
Other entertainment expenses during fishing trip (movies, etc.)	\$
Other (please specify): _____	\$





**Section D-FISHING EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES:**

NOTE: In this section, we want to know about sportfishing and related equipment you purchased in the Cook Inlet region during the last 12 months, including equipment purchased for personal use (e.g., dipnet) and/or shellfish fishing.

77. As best as possible, please tell us how much you spent on the following fishing equipment in the last 12 months. **Only report purchases made within the Cook Inlet region** – excluding purchases from catalogs and online web sites. Include purchases you made for yourself and for others. Please write in the amount spent and the percent of time that item was used for sportfishing in the Cook Inlet Region.

<b>Fishing equipment purchased WITHIN COOK INLET REGION DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS</b>	<b>Total Amount Spent in the Cook Inlet region</b>	<b>% Used for sportfishing</b>
Licenses and stamps	\$	100%
Rods, reels, & components	\$	100%
Fishing tackle (lines, leaders, lures, creels, stringers, etc.)	\$	100%
Tackle boxes, cases to protect fishing equipment	\$	100%
Depth finders, fish finder, other electronics	\$	100%
Landing nets, dipnets & gillnets	\$	100%
Miscellaneous fishing equipment (knives, scales, etc.)	\$	100%
Shellfish fishing equipment (shovels, pots, buckets, etc.)	\$	100%
Fishing mounting (taxidermy)	\$	100%
Books and magazines devoted to fishing	\$	100%
Items to store/preserve fish (smoker, vacuum sealer, etc.)	\$	%
Coolers, fish boxes	\$	%
Clothing (fishing vest, raingear, head net, etc.)	\$	%
Boots, shoes, waders, and other footwear	\$	%
Life jackets	\$	%
Boats, canoes, rafts, kayaks, and another watercraft	\$	%
Boat motors	\$	%
Trailers, hitches, and accessories	\$	%
Bear spray, bug spray, sun screen	\$	%
Firearms for personal protection	\$	%
Cameras, binoculars, sun glasses	\$	%
Tents, screen rooms, tarps, backpacks, sleeping bags	\$	%
Camping trailer (pop-ups, self-contained, 5th wheel)	\$	%
Other camping equipment (stoves, grills, lanterns, etc.)	\$	%
Vehicles (trucks, SUVs, motorhomes, etc.)	\$	%
Airplanes and related equipment	\$	%
ATVs, snow machines	\$	%
Boat/camper registrations and excise taxes	\$	%
Vehicle, boat, or airplane repair/maintenance	\$	%
Other (please specify):	\$	%

78. Please report how much you spent in 2017 on any real estate located in the **Cook Inlet region** that was purchased or used primarily for sportfishing purposes. (If you spent nothing, enter '0')

<b>Real estate spending in the last 12 months for fishing in the <u>Cook Inlet region</u></b>	<b>Total Amount Spent</b>
Purchases of lots, existing houses and cabins, and/or land	\$
Leases of land, cabins, boat slips, and storage (do not include any short-term rentals that were already reported as a trip-related expense)	\$
Construction of houses and cabins, and repair or maintenance expenses (not including boat docks, sheds, or outbuildings)	\$
Purchase or construction of boat docks, sheds, or outbuildings	\$

---

**Section E-BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

To help us learn more about who fishes in the **Cook Inlet region**, please answer these final questions. All answers you provide will be kept fully confidential. Your answers will help us evaluate the survey to best represent ALL **Cook Inlet region** anglers, even those not surveyed.

---

79. What is your gender?

- Male  Female

80. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

81. Which category best describes the highest level of education you have completed?

- Did not graduate from high school       High school graduate or GED  
 1-3 years college (some college)       College graduate (bachelor's degree or equivalent)  
 Postgraduate, master's degree, doctorate, law degree, other professional degree

82. Which best describes your household's annual, before-tax income? (check one)


- Less than \$10,000       \$40,000 - \$49,999       \$100,000 - \$149,999  
 \$10,000 - \$19,999       \$50,000 - \$74,999       \$150,000 - \$199,999  
 \$20,000 - \$29,999       \$75,000 - \$99,999       \$200,000 or more  
 \$30,000 - \$39,999

**Thank you for taking our survey!**

**If you have any additional comments you wish to share about this study, please provide them here:**

## SURVEY WAVE II: REMINDER POSTCARD

Thank you/Reminder-post card (FRONT)

 <p><b>SOUTHWICK</b> ASSOCIATES</p>	<p><b>COOK INLET SPORTFISHING ECONOMIC STUDY</b> c/o Southwick Associates PO Box 6435 Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035</p>
<p>Angler name and address</p>	



Postcard (BACK)

Dear Angler,

Recently, you received a survey from Southwick Associates asking about your sportfishing activities in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska. If you have already completed and returned your survey, **thank you!** If you have not yet completed the survey, we ask you to take a few minutes to do so and return your completed survey in the postage paid envelope included in the package. It is very important that we hear from you, even if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region last year.

Southwick Associates was contracted by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to conduct this study. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and funding support from the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Thank You!

	<p><b>Matanuska-Susitna Borough</b></p>	<p><b>Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game</b></p>	
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## SURVEY WAVE II: SECOND LETTER

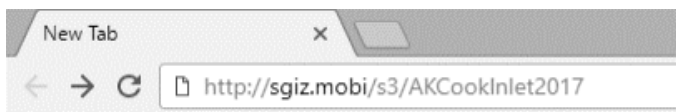


{Date}  
Dear Alaska angler:

We recently sent a survey to you asking about your sportfishing activities in the Cook Inlet region during May through October of 2017. Many of the other anglers who received the survey have already responded, but we have not yet received your completed questionnaire.

We are conducting the survey to provide a better understanding of the importance of sportfishing to the Cook Inlet region's economy. Information about your experience is very valuable to this study because you have been chosen to represent many other sport anglers who fish in Alaska. Therefore, it is very important that we hear from you.

Enclosed is a replacement questionnaire. Your responses to the survey questions will be kept strictly confidential. Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey and return it in the postage-paid envelope. If you prefer, you can take the survey online by typing this web address



(<http://sgiz.mobi/s3/AKCookInlet2017>) directly into the address bar of your browser. Your Access Code for the online survey is XXX.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough contracted Southwick Associates to conduct this study. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and funding support is provided by the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

All completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the study for a **gift certificate worth \$500** at the sporting goods retailer of your choice.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 904-277-9765. I would like to thank you in advance for agreeing to participate in this important study.

Sincerely,

**Rob Southwick / President  
Southwick Associates**



*Project sponsored by:*



*With assistance from: Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game*

## SURVEY WAVE II: INITIAL EMAIL INVITATION

Dear Alaska angler:

The **Matanuska-Susitna Borough** has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct a study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the **Alaska Department of Fish & Game**.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey. The information that you provide will be kept confidential. The entire survey should only take you about 10 minutes to complete. Even if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region, we would still like to hear from you.

[Click Here to Start the Survey](#)

To show our appreciation for your participation, all completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the study for a **gift certificate worth \$500** at the sporting goods retailer of your choice.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 904-277-9765. Thank you for participating in this important study.

Sincerely,  
**Rob Southwick/President**



A cooperative project with:



## SURVEY WAVE II: SECOND REMINDER EMAIL

Dear Alaska angler:

We want to ensure that your voice is heard in the Cook Inlet region. The **Matanuska-Susitna Borough** has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct a study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the **Alaska Department of Fish & Game**.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey. The information that you provide will be kept confidential. The entire survey should only take you about 10 minutes to complete. Even if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region, we would still like to hear from you.

[Click Here to Start the Survey](#)

To show our appreciation for your participation, all completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the study for a **gift certificate worth \$500** at the sporting goods retailer of your choice.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 904-277-9765. Thank you for participating in this important study.

Sincerely,  
**Rob Southwick**/*President*  
Southwick Associates

A cooperative project with Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

## SURVEY WAVE II: THIRD AND FINAL REMINDER EMAIL

Dear Alaska angler:

Recently you were asked to participate in a survey about sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. Even if you did not fish in the Cook Inlet region, we would still like to hear from you. We have contracted Southwick Associates to conduct the study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey. The information that you provide will be kept confidential. The entire survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

[Click Here to Start the Survey](#)

To show our appreciation for your participation, all completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the study for a **gift certificate worth \$500** at the sporting goods retailer of your choice.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 904-277-9765. Thank you for participating in this important study.

Sincerely,  
Brianna Blackburn, *Environmental Planner*  
**Matanuska-Susitna Borough**

## Sportfishing Guide Business Operation Survey



{Date}

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has contracted Southwick Associates to conduct a study of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region. The project is being conducted with cooperation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and funding support from the Borough and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

You have been selected at random to be a part of this study from a sample of businesses that held an Alaska Sportfishing Guide Business license in 2017. Even if you did not operate guide services in the Cook Inlet Region, we would still like to hear from you. You are one of a small group of businesses that have been selected to represent the Alaska sportfishing guide and outfitter industry, so it is very important that we hear from you. The entire survey should take only about 10 minutes to complete.

The information that you provide will be kept confidential and will only be used by the project contractor, **Southwick Associates**, Inc. ([www.SouthwickAssociates.com](http://www.SouthwickAssociates.com)) to produce summary estimates of the economic importance of sportfishing in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska.

To access the survey, please click the link below:  
<<link>>

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact Lisa Bragg at [LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com](mailto:LBragg@SouthwickAssociates.com) or 904-277-9765. I would like to thank you in advance for agreeing to participate in this important study.

Sincerely,

**Rob Southwick / President  
Southwick Associates**



*Project sponsored by:  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough*



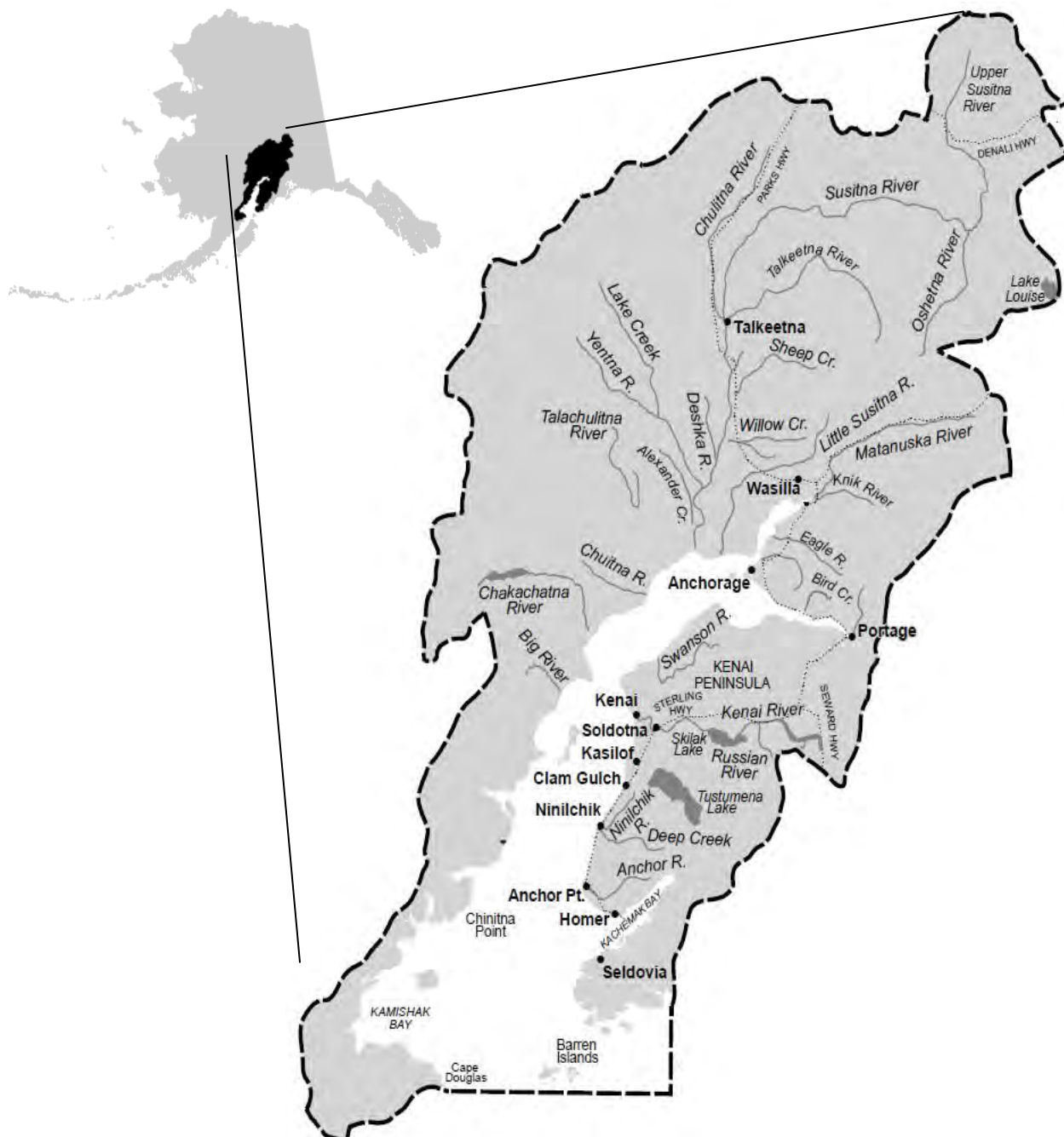
*With assistance from: Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game*





## Sportfishing Guide Business Survey Cook Inlet region

Please note that the Cook Inlet region includes both the saltwater inlet portion above Kodiak Island as well as the freshwater rivers that drain into the Cook Inlet.



1. Approximately how many years has your company been providing sportfishing guide services for hire in Alaska? \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. Did you offer sportfishing guide services for hire in the Cook Inlet region in 2017?

Yes 

No 

3. Did you make business expense purchases for your sportfishing guide service for hire in the Cook Inlet region in 2017?

Yes 

No 

**If you selected “No”, you have reached the end of the survey. Thank you for your time!**

4. What types of services do you provide for your clients on a typical guided sportfishing trip? “Provide” means your business arranged and paid for the service on behalf of your client.

*(Check all that apply)*

	Freshwater Trips	Saltwater Trips
<b>Fishing licenses</b> .....		
<b>Lodging</b> .....		
<b>Meals</b> .....		
<b>Fish Processing</b> (your business cleans and packages fish for the client, <u>not</u> subcontracted to another) .....		
<b>Transportation to and from the Cook Inlet region</b> .....		
<b>Transportation within the Cook Inlet region</b> .....		
<b>Other</b> (please specify) <u>    </u> (guiding/safety equipment) <u>    </u>		

5. In order to determine the contribution of sportfishing guide business activities to the Cook Inlet regional economy, we need to know general information about how your business expenses were distributed in 2017 and where those expenses occurred.

**We do not need to know your actual business expenses.**

In the first column of the table below, write in the percent that each category contributes to your total business expenses in 2017. Include expenses you incur for the business and on behalf of your clients (e.g., licenses, lodging, meals, etc.) The total for the first column should add to 100%.

In the second column, report the approximate percentage of each business expense that you purchase from sources within the Cook Inlet region. These are business expenses incurred by you as the owner, not expenses incurred by your clients.



BUSINESS EXPENSES in 2017	Percent of Total	Percentage purchased in the Cook Inlet region
<b>EXAMPLE: Business services</b> .....	%	%
<b>Business and guide licenses &amp; permits</b> .....		
<b>Licenses purchased for your paying anglers</b> .....		
<b>Fuel and oil</b> (boat, plane, car/truck, etc.) .....		
<b>Restaurants and prepared meals</b> .....		
<b>Wages, salaries and payments to owners</b> (hired labor and your own pay) .....		
<b>Equipment purchases</b> (boats, motors, vehicles, trailers, gear, etc.) .....		
<b>Equipment rental</b> .....		
<b>Equipment maintenance and repair</b> .....		
<b>Bait</b> .....		
<b>Groceries</b> .....		
<b>Lodging</b> (for you, employees and provided to clients) .....		
<b>Airline tickets</b> .....		
<b>Other public transportation</b> .....		
<b>Business services</b> (accounting, advertising, legal, etc.) .....		
<b>Real estate located in the Cook Inlet region</b> .....		
<b>Utilities</b> .....		
<b>Taxes</b> .....		
<b>Insurance</b> .....		
<b>Other</b> (please specify) _____ IE: boat launch fees _ ...		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

If you have any additional comments about the survey or the information you provided, please provide them here.

Submitted By  
Bert  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 2:21:32 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
417-229-4694

Email  
[Mrbrew2u@gmail.com](mailto:Mrbrew2u@gmail.com)

Address  
1003 farm road 1195  
Aurora , Missouri 65605

I support proposal 169!!

Submitted By  
Billie & Joe Hardy  
Submitted On  
1/22/2020 1:40:40 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073989224  
Email  
[billie.hardy7@gmail.com](mailto:billie.hardy7@gmail.com)  
Address  
PO Box 3391  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

To Alaskans, sport and personal use fishing are important to our way of life. It's how we recreate and how we feed our families. Sportfishermen also have an economic impact nearly 3 times that of the commercial sector in Cook Inlet, with only 28% of the salmon harvested.

The Board of Fisheries should make regulations and allocations that increase the sport and commercial use fisheries, including reasonable, shared conservation measures. We ask for balanced fishery management and sustainable fish policies, which should include a stronger conservation corridor in Cook Inlet.

I support Kenai River Sportfishing Association's proposals designed to put more fish in Alaska's rivers. Thank you for your service to the people of Alaska and our wonderful fish.

Submitted By  
Billy Chisum  
Submitted On  
1/20/2020 12:25:23 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9078547563

Email  
[billy.j.chisum@gmail.com](mailto:billy.j.chisum@gmail.com)

Address  
8201 DeBarr Rd  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

I oppose Proposal 163. If Proposal 163 is approved it essentially shuts down the option by the general public to choose a Charter or Guide service to access the Personal Use Fishery on both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

This proposal will make it far more difficult if not completely unobtainable for most Alaskan residents, like myself , to access this fishery.

As a disabled veteran I depend on services of this nature. So I can provide subsistence salmon to my family.

Please do not stop these limited amount of guides from giving these great veterans a opportunity to be active and provide for their families.

Sincerely

Bill Chisum

Disabled veteran

Submitted By  
Bobby May  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 4:29:24 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073508647

Email  
[bob@gallerylodge.com](mailto:bob@gallerylodge.com)

Address  
P.O. Box 898  
Kasilof, Alaska 99610

I support Proposal 169, Restricting Motorboats on the Kasilof River.

Brent Lannen

11/17/2019 11:14 AM AKST



**RE: PROPOSAL 239 Establish a personal use gillnet pike fishery in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley**

I would like to also propose a dip net fishery for pike for total eradication of pike from south central.

Brent Lannen

11/17/2019 11:17 AM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 240 Create a personal use northern pike gillnet fishery in the Susitna River drainage**

Perfect proposal for pike elimination!

Brent Lannen

11/17/2019 11:30 AM AKST

**RE: Comment on other issues**

Stock local lakes with cutthroat trout and start new king salmon fisheries in other streams/rivers with the king salmon that are used to stock local area lakes in south central Alaska. Continue rainbow trout stocking.



Submitted By  
Brent Ramsay  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 10:42:01 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9074060236

Email  
[brent.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:brent.ramsay@gmail.com)

Address  
1912 Kuskokwim St  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

I am writing in support of Proposal 170 to move the dipnet regulatory marker on the north shore of the Kasilof River a modest 650 feet. Currently, the best access to salmon for users fishing from the north shore is restricted to approximately 750 feet between a point on the bank where the river wraps around the beach and continues down to the existing regulatory marker. Dipnetting success from shore is very limited upstream of this "point" due to the current and topography of the river extending the main channel to great of a distance for dipnetting gear to be successful from shore. As a result, very few users attempt to fish upstream of this location and are alternatively pushed into a very small portion of beach below the point. This area is about half the length of what is the typically successful shoreline that users on the south shore access. This proposal would extend the north shore fishing area to alleviate the crowding that users experience. As this simply allows people to spread out and does not affect the number of people using the fishery, it will not affect the harvest. As such, it will not affect any other user group of the fishery. The only cost will be moving the physical regulatory marker on the beach and updating the map and regulations to reflect the changes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## RE: PROPOSAL 169 Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1— September 15

I oppose proposal 169. There are several people who have property on the Kasilof that is only accessible by boat. Limiting motorized boats would almost make it impossible to utilize the property on the river without road access. I do not believe limiting motorized boats is the answer to a smart Fish and Game Management plan, this will only limit personal choice or ability. If Fish management is the real concern with this proposal then it can be done in several other ways that does not infringe upon others ability to exist on the river. Alaska already has several drift boats only rivers and river sections, the Kasilof does not need to be added to the list. Thank You

Submitted By  
Bryon Jaymes  
Submitted On  
1/16/2020 6:25:28 PM  
Affiliation

Please restrict motorized boats on the Kasilof. No motors Jan 1 - Sept 15

Submitted By  
Carter Garrett  
Submitted On  
1/15/2020 4:09:15 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-740-0200  
Email  
[carterlgarrett@hotmail.com](mailto:carterlgarrett@hotmail.com)

Address  
911 Joham Circle  
28755 Kowakan Street, Soldotna, Ak, 99669  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

Jan 15th 2020

Alaska Department of fish and Game

Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, Alaska, 99811-5526

Reff: Proposal 169 5 ACC 56.122 Special provisions for seasons, etc.

Dear Honorable Board Member,

I am **AGAINST** and With **disapproval** of the referred proposal 169 to add or change 5 ACC 56.122 to "Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1 – September 15th follows: Proposed is "from Jan 1 to Sep 15 Motors being prohibited from the ADFG marker located 3 miles upstream of Silver Salmon Rapids and Non- motorized boats being allowed" for the following reasons:

I have a cabin and river property at mile 12.5 just up stream of Moose Head Rapids and Downstream of Silver Salmon rapids. My property falls with in the proposed area. I only have access to my property (as do the 10 property's above mine) by river. We do not use our property for commercial use as the proposal implies. The only access is by motor boat (impeller not a propeller motor) as I am unable to access and use my property by drifting by in a drift boat. This proposal looks as if it will limit access to public use of the Kasilof River resources, but only to the commercial operators and few people that have the time and resources to drift the river.

The proposal has been addressed in the past and has created restriction regarding fishing from a motorized boat and now the only fishing is done by the drift boat operators or occasional individual. So now laws to limit my access to Alaska's right to its natural resources as per the fishing from my boat, now a proposal to restrict me from getting to my property.

Since the limited use of motorized boat, it has brought more commercial drift boats to the Kasilof. I feel the excessive fishing by the commercial operators and commercial drift boats that is the root to limited fish stocks and not the motorized boats as there are few. With my time on the river I have seen the number of commercial operators on the river increase substantially. Some days 5-6 pass my cabin per hour.

My Suggestion to Solve the low fish stocks on the Kasilof are:

- Do not allow any fishing at all by any boat, motorized or non-motorized.
- Stop and disallow any commercial drift fishing anywhere on the river.
- Stop Commercial fishing in the Cook Inlet near Kasilof river mouth of 10 miles south of the river mouth.
- A complete moratorium of fishing on the Kasilof River.

I enjoy and love the ~20 years accessing my cabin. I have paid my taxes and made all necessary changes required to my property required. I am an inholder property and I will do what is necessary to secure my right to access and get to and from my property. it is not right for a select elite few to mandate the rights of the many; that understand or are not aware of the issues on how it will affect the lives of all Alaskans.

Thank you for addressing this issue and its overall effect on Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Carter Garrett

Kasilof River Property (~1/4 Miles of River Front)

Parcel ID: 13703103 and 13703104

In Anchorage:

911 Joham Circle, Anchorage, Ak,99515

In North Kasilof

28755 Kowakan Street, Soldotna, Ak, 99669

Tel: Cell 907-740-0200



Submitted By  
Catherine Felt  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 12:27:02 PM  
Affiliation

I am the author of proposal #163. I wish the Board was meeting in the Kenai/Soldotna area so i could attend.

Currently, the Dipnet Fishery in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers is immensely popular with enforcement lacking, unable to keep up with the sheer volume of users. A full service dipnet guiding industry is emerging completely unregulated, adds to the pressure on the Rivers and the demand for the fish. It wont be long before this new industry demands their fair share for the salmon, adding to the immense pressure to the resource and the Rivers. Currently there are guides coming in from all over to make a dollar in the personal use fishery. Lodges in Soldotna offer full service, taking customers who bed there miles downstream via boat- adding to the bank erosion- guide them to the pockets of fish. they provide coolers, gear, loading unloading, cleaning and packing fish. A full service dipnet guide industry is emerging completely unregulated. With no regulations, this industry can't be held accountable, theres nothing for wildlife troopers to enforce. Theres no standards, required certifications, ehtical guideline, rules in place. It just leads to more of a 'free for all' here on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

Therefore, I support proposal 163 to prohibit unregulated guiding in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers Personal Use Dip Net Fisheries

Catherine Felt

Submitted By  
chad  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 8:33:50 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073947854  
Email  
[chad.waggoner@gmail.com](mailto:chad.waggoner@gmail.com)  
Address  
po box 2445  
kenai, Alaska 99611

We oppose proposal 88 and 104. The in-river goal is so far beyond healthy for the river already.

The paired restrictions is something that hasn't even been put to use long enough to see if it works and they aren't even following the rules on it for testing. That is just bad science. You would be opening your self up for libel.

Submitted By  
chad waggoner  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 8:30:02 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073948547  
Email  
[chad.waggoner@gmail.com](mailto:chad.waggoner@gmail.com)  
Address  
po box 2445  
kenai, Alaska 99611

We OPPOSE proposal 78. I am a 3rd generation setnetter and i oppose this because it takes away freedom to make changes as the board sees fit as the fish come in.

## RE: PROPOSAL 169 Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1— September 15

A hundred years ago, Andrew Berg was motoring his wooden boat up the Kasilof with his trusty 15 horsepower Evinrude. He certainly had a God-given right to do so. A hundred years ago, salmon in the Kasilof were being harvested with fish traps at the river mouth. My friends, the times have changed... Thousands of residents and tourists now come to the Kasilof to pursue our valuable salmon. As the King Salmon fishery on the Kenai continues to implode, the pressure on our river has increased dramatically. I have been anchored at the top of Cohoe Cove as a series of power boats blast by, creating large wakes and completely ruining the peaceful atmosphere. They are launching at the bridge, and powering downstream to dip net at the river mouth. On the upper river, boats are motoring both upstream and downstream, in the same narrow deeper channels that the second run King Salmon are swimming in to return to their spawning grounds. Many of the boats going downstream are guides attempting to rush through in order to do two Sockeye charters in the same day. With all of the other challenges that our King Salmon are facing, it is our responsibility to maximize their ability to reproduce once they have reached the river. Eliminating the power boats would be a good start. Please support this proposal. Thank you for your time!

Submitted By  
Charles McCrone  
Submitted On  
1/16/2020 9:49:30 AM  
Affiliation  
  
Phone  
907 2997454  
Email  
[datileguys@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:datileguys@hawaiiantel.net)  
Address  
PO Box 629  
Kasilof, Alaska 99610

I strongly support Proposal 169 to restrict power boats on the Kasilof River. We lived in Hawaii for 37 years before moving to a beautiful place on a high bluff with a view from our living room of a half mile of the Upper Kasilof River. While we lived in Hawaii, I saw the demise of the 'Ahi tuna fishery from over exploitation by long liners fishing twenty miles of baited hooks. The near shore reef fishing was nearly completely destroyed by personal use gill nets. Paradise Lost.

A hundred years ago, Andrew Berg was motoring his wooden boat up the Kasilof with his trusty 15 horsepower Evinrude. He certainly had a God-given right to do so. A hundred years ago, salmon in the Kasilof were being harvested with fish traps at the river mouth. My friends, the times have changed...

Thousands of residents and tourists now come to the Kasilof to pursue our valuable salmon. As the King Salmon fishery on the Kenai continues to implode, the pressure on our river has increased dramatically. I have been anchored at the top of Cohoe Cove as a series of power boats blast by, creating large wakes and completely ruining the peaceful atmosphere. They are launching at the bridge, and powering downstream to dip net at the river mouth. On the upper river, boats are motoring both upstream and downstream, in the same narrow deeper channels that the second run King Salmon are swimming in to return to their spawning grounds. Many of the boats going downstream are guides attempting to rush through in order to do two Sockeye charters in the same day. With all of the other challenges that our King Salmon and Red Salmon are facing, it is our responsibility to maximize their ability to reproduce once they have reached the river. Eliminating the power boats would be a good start. Please support this proposal.

Thank you for your time!



## RE: PROPOSAL 169 Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1— September 15

I own two houses on the Kasilof river off Webb Ramsell drive. I purchased the properties in 1994. One of the main things that drew me to the property was that there were no motors allowed during King season. Now guides and pleasure boats with jet power have blasted the quiet that once existed, If i wanted all that noise i would live on the Kenai. I have found i can dip plenty of fish right from the bank. Please stop the power boats.

Chris Every

01/11/2020 09:49 AM AKST



## RE: PROPOSAL 78 Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan to include weighted criteria for the allocation of fishery resources

There is allocation criteria that is working quite well. This was addressed last year at the state wide finfish meeting. There was tremendous state wide consensus against this proposal, the board voted 5 to 2 against this. This comment in this proposal is very misleading; 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. If you were to look at the sports, guided sport, personal use (dip net), subsistence and commercial fisheries. The number of fish caught has increased for each of the user groups except commercial fisheries. We seem to have forgotten that the sockeye Salmon according to policy are supposed to be managed for the commercial fisheries. While the Chinook and Coho are to be managed primarily for the sports industry. Look at: The expansion of the dip net fishery and how popular it has become. The ever-growing in river shorebase sockeye fishery in the Kenai River. The very popular sport fishery. I do not believe these fisheries have grown to favor the commercial industry. Please vote against this proposal!

Chris Every

01/11/2020 10:50 PM AKST

## RE: PROPOSAL 222 Allow fishing for resident species on days closed to king salmon fishing in Unit 2

I have always advocated for closing the entire stream or river if you are truly concerned about the low escapement of a fish. This is true conservation, This regulation should stay as is.

Chris Every

01/11/2020 10:08 AM AKST

## RE: PROPOSAL 80 Prohibit retention of king salmon greater than 36” in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial gillnet fisheries

Support , with one change, in parentheses, All gill net caught (\_live\_) king salmon 36 inches or greater in length would be required to be released.

Chris every

01/11/2020 11:47 AM AKST

## RE: PROPOSAL 99 Establish mandatory closed inriver fishing windows for sockeye salmon

This is a great new idea

Chris Every

01/11/2020 10:11 AM AKST



**RE: PROPOSAL 81 Manage fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet by designating types of salmon habitat**

This proposal needs to be taken very seriously, the author of this proposal brings things up that I believe are not being considered for the longevity of our fishery.

Chris Every

01/11/2020 11:59 AM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 103 Make numerous amendments to the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan**

This proposal has a lot of value, it should be discussed.

Chris Every

01/11/2020 10:40 AM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 82 Allow two regular 12-hour commercial fishing periods per week**

The board needs to truly allocate a number of fish to the In River users and make them responsible for catching and counting their allocated number. Fish the commercial fleet two days a week, (Mondays and Thursdays) During times of low chinook abundance a true sure based fishery needs to be established(600' to 1200' setnet fishery)

Chris Every

01/11/2020 10:42 AM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 83 Close all commercial fishing in Upper Cook Inlet**

The proposal is very one sided

Chris Every

01/11/2020 10:49 AM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 86 Establish resident and non-resident annual limits for sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet Area**

We can't let the overharvesting of our salmon resourced to continue let's put checks on our process before we lose the industry.

Chris Every

01/11/2020 10:52 AM AKST



**RE: PROPOSAL 87 Eliminate the personal use salmon dip net fishery and prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon in the Kenai Peninsula area**

Another good concern

Chris Every

01/11/2020 11:10 AM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 90 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**

They want to commercial industry to give up more and more and more

Chris Every

01/11/2020 11:15 AM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 91 Lower the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal**

This is a very logical approach to setting escape goals without the political and allocative issues being involved.

Chris Every

01/11/2020 11:33 AM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 93 Manage the personal use dip net fishery on the lower Kenai River subject to achieving the inriver goal**

Well written and consideration needs to be taken

Chris Every

01/11/2020 01:42 PM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 117 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**

600' to 1200'--Yes in all stat areas

Submitted By  
Chris Every  
Submitted On  
1/22/2020 6:13:56 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-394-0720  
Email  
[cpevery58@hotmail.com](mailto:cpevery58@hotmail.com)  
Address  
37033 Minke Drive  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

**PROPOSAL 88**  
**5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

Please vote this Proposal 88 down,

Please, Do not place an in river goal or OEG on the new numbers that the ADF&G escapement goal review committee has worked long and hard to establish.

Submitted By  
Chris Every  
Submitted On  
1/22/2020 6:34:04 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
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Address  
37033 Minke Drive  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

**I, OPPOSE proposal 104: Adopt an optimal escapement goal and amend the paired restrictions in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*.**

- We oppose this arbitrary and premature change to the scientifically established SEG. The big king goal was an attempt to revive the struggling king runs, and setnet fishermen have shouldered the majority of the conservation burden since it was established. ADF&G set the goal just three years ago at the 2017 meeting, so recently that not even one king salmon lifecycle has been completed. The efficacy of the new goal has yet to be established, and changing it now is premature. The result will be further unnecessary restrictions to the commercial setnet fishery.

Submitted By  
 Chris Every  
 Submitted On  
 1/22/2020 6:26:39 PM  
 Affiliation

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 907-394-0720  
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[cpevery58@hotmail.com](mailto:cpevery58@hotmail.com)

Address  
 37033 Minke Drive  
 Kenai, Alaska 99611

I, OPPOSE proposal **78: Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan to include weighted criteria for the allocation of fishery resources.**

**This issue was addressed at the last state wide finfish meeting and voted down 5-2.**

- The proposal takes away the Board of Fish members' discretion and independence. Current regulation recognizes a list of factors that a board member "may" take into consideration. This phrasing allows latitude for board members to consider which elements are appropriate to which circumstances. Proposal 78 seeks to take that latitude away and to dictate the factors that the board member "shall" use to decide while mandating the weight that each element must be given, instead of considering each proposal based upon all evidence and circumstance. If the board passes this proposal, it will be abdicating its authority now, and for all future BOF members, to ethically conduct the responsibilities of the board of fish.
- We support the board's current allocation criteria and the board's ability to equally balance all of these criteria when making an allocative decision. When the Alaska Board of Fisheries was established at statehood by the legislature, the founding language gave the board the flexibility to consider the most appropriate criteria for each proposal under consideration. The intent of KRSA's arbitrary ranking of the allocation criteria, which favor personal use, and sportfishing groups, is to regulate our setnet community out of business.
- Vote NO on Proposal 78-Thank You

Name	Proposal	Position
Chris Every	79	oppose
Chris Every	9	support
Chris Every	89	oppose
Chris Every	92	support
Chris Every	94	oppose
Chris Every	95	oppose
Chris Every	96	oppose
Chris Every	100	oppose
Chris Every	101	support
Chris Every	102	support
Chris Every	105	oppose
Chris Every	107	oppose
Chris Every	110	support
Chris Every	111	support
Chris Every	121	oppose
Chris Every	122	oppose
Chris Every	123	oppose
Chris Every	124	oppose
Chris Every	126	oppose
Chris Every	127	oppose
Chris Every	128	support
Chris Every	137	support
Chris Every	145	oppose

Chris Every	149	support
Chris Every	150	support
Chris Every	151	oppose
Chris Every	153	oppose
Chris Every	157	support
Chris Every	158	support
Chris Every	162	oppose
Chris Every	161	oppose
Chris Every	160	oppose
Chris Every	159	oppose
Chris Every	158	oppose
Chris Every	164	support
Chris Every	168	support
Chris Every	169	support
Chris Every	172	support
Chris Every	175	support
Chris Every	176	support
Chris Every	178	support
Chris Every	179	support
Chris Every	186	support
Chris Every	195	oppose
Chris Every	194	oppose
Chris Every	192	oppose
Chris Every	226	support

Submitted By  
Chris little  
Submitted On  
1/20/2020 11:36:29 AM  
Affiliation  
  
Phone  
9077768560  
Email  
[Clittleak@gmail.com](mailto:Clittleak@gmail.com)  
Address  
Box 8133  
Nikiski, Alaska 99635

**I have fished commercially east forelands in Cook Inlet for 34 years,this is my first comment to BOF,June fishery was taken away years ago due to lack of kings never to return to date,now July fishing is following suit,I have only caught a couple kings during this 34 years,I know Fish and gave staff likes to be neutral but they have data to support this,You will hear many ponzi schemes why users cant bear the burden,Mainly the highest harvesters of king salmon!Just a thought ,maybe we could use the highest level of restriction until firm numbers of kings are in spawning grounds and safe,then allow step up fishing among user groups,instead of step down with restrictions after its too late, Thanks Chris Little**

Submitted By  
Cindy Rombach  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 7:47:33 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073981850

Email  
[cghkenai@hotmail.com](mailto:cghkenai@hotmail.com)

Address  
38539 High Point Ave  
Sterling, Alaska 99672

I oppose Proposal 78, which seeks to include weighted criteria when allocating fishery resources in Cook Inlet. The Board of Fisheries already has full authority to emphasize which criteria they deem important when making decisions on allocative issues. This proposal would limit the Board's authority by requiring them to make decisions based on weighted criteria. This proposal has implications for all of Alaska's fisheries, as it sets a dangerous precedent. There is no sound reason to misalign the allocation criteria between different regions of Alaska.



Submitted By  
Colleen K Darrell  
Submitted On  
1/20/2020 11:56:01 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-715-0390  
Email  
[colleen.darrell@yahoo.com](mailto:colleen.darrell@yahoo.com)  
Address  
1230 N Golden Hills Drive  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

**I oppose Proposal 163.** If Proposal 163 is approved it will severely impact my ability and that of the hundreds of disabled military veterans to obtain a chartered or guided service for the purpose of accessing the Personal Use Fishery on both the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers. As a disabled veteran myself, this action will **shut down my ability and likely my only opportunity to subsistence fish**, as well as safe access for thousands of others to access the fisheries. I personally rely on this means of subsistence fishing to feed my family. **Simply put, there are no other compatible means for Personal Use fishing due to my disability outside of accessing these fisheries.**

Last year, I participated in the Alaska's Healing Hearts (AHH) event which was offered to me free of charge as a disabled Navy veteran. I had the time of my life and being out on the water in a safe and compatible vessel gave me the opportunity to Personal Use fish, even though my disability has discouraged this for years. I fished from the DipShip accommodated vessel which created a safe environment resulting being a wonderful experience for me. It also gave me the freedom to forget about my PTSD for awhile and feel safe and calm. I am a 60 year old veteran with PTSD and mobility and balance limitations. The opportunity for me to get out in an open space on the water gave me the confidence to have fun and forget a bit about my limitations and condition, which have severely escalated in most crowded and noisy environments.

**Being able to access a safe fishing opportunity has given me the freedom to be like "normal" Alaska residents**, which is an opportunity I cherish and promote to other disabled veterans. My limitations seemed to almost disappear when I fished on the DipShip, as opposed to the state of panic I have experienced in the past on crowded beaches.

The DipShip is the **only vessel which I can safety access for Personal Use fishing the Kenai river.** I truly believe that **Proposal 163 will severely impact the military veterans in Alaska and is a high demand service for the thousands of disabled and non-disabled veterans who have made Alaska their home.** Speaking on behalf of the disabled veteran community, we would greatly appreciate that **Proposal 163 be taken off the table.** It will do a great disservice to Alaska disabled veterans and will place an unfair burden on our ability to feed out families and improve our disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen KC Darrell

Retired US Navy disabled veteran

Submitted By  
Colleen Sinnott  
Submitted On  
1/16/2020 4:04:51 PM  
Affiliation

Re: Proposal 169

Yes, please keep engine powered boats off of the Kasilof. In the last few years it has turned into another Kenai River circus. Put the health of the fish above the wealth of the guides. Thank you.



**PROPOSAL 37: Create a king salmon plan with paired restrictions in Kodiak and Cook Inlet commercial Fisheries**

**Name** Cook Inlet Seiners Association

P.O. Box 130

Homer, Ak 99603

**Organization** - Cook Inlet Seiners Association

**Email Address** - [cookinletseiners@gmail.com](mailto:cookinletseiners@gmail.com)

**Position-** Oppose

CISA is opposed to this proposal. Seine harvest of king salmon in the LCI is extremely limited, and LCI has no directed king fishery. Our catch numbers are typically low in an area that has many charter and sport fishermen targeting the species. There is currently a retention sport harvest and charter fishery targeting these kings. A genetic study of sport caught kings in LCI have shown that the kings in the area are largely non-local stock with a majority component being out-of-state hatchery kings.

This proposal is not specific to the mechanism to regulate king harvest. If time or area closures were implemented there would likely be foregone harvest of our targeted red salmon fisheries. This is an area that is already managed to be a non-intercept area, often restricted to the inner bays for 48 hours a week. If retention would be regulated, it would be problematic to sort as the areas of highest king harvest are also the districts with our largest hatchery. As seiners it is extremely difficult to identify species of salmon as they are loaded on the vessel as we are often loading fish directly into our fishholds to reduce the weight on deck. If a king salmon is rolled into the fish hold we may become in violation of law without our knowledge.

Districts in LCI with no local hatchery king salmon release often have no king salmon harvest for several years.

**Sincerely**

**Cook Inlet Seiners Association**



**I2: PROPOSAL 38 Create a king salmon management plan with paired restrictions in Upper and Lower Cook Inlet commercial fisheries**

**Name** Cook Inlet Seiners Association

P.O. Box 130

Homer, Ak 99603

**Organization** - Cook Inlet Seiners Association

**Email Address** - [cookinletseiners@gmail.com](mailto:cookinletseiners@gmail.com)

**Position-** Oppose

CISA is opposed to this proposal. This proposal does not specify gear type and would seem to make retention of king salmon illegal. Seine harvest of king salmon in the LCI is extremely low, and there is currently a retention sport harvest and charter fishery targeting these kings.

As seiners it is extremely difficult to identify species of salmon as they are loaded on the vessel as we are often loading fish directly into our fishholds to reduce the weight on deck. If a king salmon is rolled into the fish hold we may become in violation of law without our knowledge.

Due to the nature of Seine fishing, where we are setting sequentially one after another at a given point, a king salmon released from a seine is likely to be caught in multiple seines in one day. We have a serious concern that this could insalmoncrease mortality.

LCI has no directed king fishery. Our catch numbers are typically low in an area that has many charter and sport fishermen targeting the species.

**Sincerely**

**Cook Inlet Seiners Association**

Submitted By  
Craig Baker  
Submitted On  
1/17/2020 10:14:42 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
8086316013

Email  
[islandangler@ak.net](mailto:islandangler@ak.net)

Address  
1010 alaska ave  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Sirs, please consider the new proposal (169) during discussion and debate. I am a property owner why support the proposal . I have seen a significant uptick in motorized vessels motoring in the river. The Kasilof is a unique river , undeveloped, unmotorized (limited) and quiet. Please stop any motors on the river with the exception of the lower 3 miles as is currently enforced for guides. I would like to add that there are also no horsepower limits on vessels traveling upstream.. allowing for very fast vessels on a relatively small system. Please protect the unique drift only river. Thank you

Submitted By  
Craig Rose  
Submitted On  
1/20/2020 12:19:05 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9076914610

Email  
[Jennycraigrose@gmail.com](mailto:Jennycraigrose@gmail.com)

Address  
24206 alpenglow dr  
Eagle river , Alaska 99577

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition to proposal 163 that would eliminate guides from providing dipnet charters in the Kenai River and other personal use fisheries. I believe the guides provide a good service to the public and help protect the fishery from abuses. Getting participants off of the banks and in boats is necessary for many older, younger and handicapped individuals who have the same rights to this resource that more capable and apparently "entitled" resource users that oppose everything that isn't a direct and maybe even exclusive benefit to themselves. It would be a grave disservice to many Alaskan residents that count on this resource and deserve the same ability to access the fishery in the same manner as others do.

Sincerely,

Craig Rose  
Life long Alaskan and avid fisherman

Submitted By  
Dan Norman  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 4:01:12 PM  
Affiliation  
Small Business Owner

Phone  
907-350-0885  
Email  
[akdanimal79@gmail.com](mailto:akdanimal79@gmail.com)  
Address  
35045 Reef Dr  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Members of the Board of Fisheries,

I am unable to attend the meeting as I am Active duty Army Officer deployed to Afghanistan. I wanted to write and bring up a few points for you to consider during your deliberation.

The first thing I want to bring up is the potential impacts of Senate Bill 90. This Bill has broad support from all user groups and has the very real potential to alter the current fisheries in UCI. There are no stocks of concern of which the ESSN fishery has any impact; therefore there is no need for drastic knee jerk reactions in the current allocation or management of the fishery.

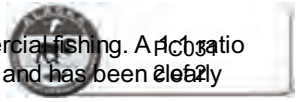
The second thing I want to bring up is that the so called fish wars are a huge money maker for the sport fishing industry and their hired lobbyists. They are essentially paid to shut down small family businesses. Most of which are state residents. The Governor has said that Alaska is open for business so I hope you are able to see that economic benefit the commercial fleet brings to our coastal communities. This economic benefit is not measured with a simple ex-vessel value. That is a simplistic view and one that likes to get used to diminish our contributions to the state and local economies. Each business hires a crew, pays for groceries, fuel, building materials. We hires welders, buy skiffs and outboards. We buy nets, buoys, and expensive lines. All of these dollars are not captured in the ex-vessel numbers, but are the engine of our local economies. Each permit holder represents a small business and in many times it is a family business. I am raising my son and two daughters on the beaches and waters of UCI as 4th generation commercial fishermen and women. There, they are developing skills not found in many places. They learn the value of hard work, the ability to work as a team, and a strong economic foundation. It pains me to see a few well financed and state backed lobbyists working so diligently to put my family out of business.

Another issue I want to bring up is that the abuses of the personal use fishery. I have been stationed all over the United States during my 19 year Army career. I see the same thing in every state. Boxes and boxes and boxes of fish being flown out of Alaska to the 4 corners of the US. The people often have the same story. They are non-residents, but have a friend who gives them 30 or more reds every year. I have been to farmers markets and seen sockeye from people selling the personal use fish. This fishery needs more enforcement on limits, more enforcement to ensure it is for residents only and a better reporting system. People can simply go online and print a new permit and never truly report their catch. The bottom line is that these fish are a precious resource. That is something we can all agree on. So why are we treating this wasteful and greed stricken fishery as sacred? This fishery has only been around for a relatively short time and people act as if they would starve if "they can't fill their freezer." Filling the freezer is a goal, not a right. I am a resident and a commercial fisherman. I own a permit and that gives me the opportunity to harvest fish. There is no guarantee that I will make a dime, but I am optimistic for an opportunity to do so. The same goes for a sport and/or personal use permit. These permits allow for opportunity to harvest fish. No more, no less. So while the commercial fleet is shut down, the sport and personal use fisheries have seen no reduction in fishing time. This is not a shared burden of conservation. The burden has continually fallen on the shoulders of me, my family and my neighbors.

Salmon are a precious and finite resource. We must ensure they are harvested in a responsible and sustainable way. Why is it that not every Alaskan can go to Delta and kill a moose? Because the resource is precious and finite. Some people just can't hunt in that area in order to preserve the resource for future years. The same should be considered when allocating fish. The Kenai river cannot support an unlimited sport and personal use fishery. The commercial fishery is limited and with some more hard work, we are willing to impose further reduction in the number of permits through Senate Bill 90.

I see several proposals about escapement goals brought forward by various user groups. The common trend is that sport backed agencies want higher goals and the commercial fleet wants either status quo or a return to historical goals. The Kenai and kasilof river have been mismanaged for years. For starters, the early kenai kings are 100% allocated to the sport industry. This run continues to struggle by missing escapement goals. The sport lobbyists continue to threaten the future of this run through regulations that allow for harvest and killing of fish despite the mandate to manage for future sustained yield. When the late run kenai king escapement goals changed from DIDSON to ARIS, there was a conversion factor. Then there was a buffer of 2000 fish placed on the lower end of the goal. The chart clearly shows that 11,500 fish predicts the same return and the 27,000, but this buffer moved the minimum goal to 13500 fish. This is a purely political move. Now we see several proposals to raise the goals yet again. These goals are not scientifically based and have no merit to be considered.

The proposals to raise the kenai sockeye goal are also not based in science. The largest sockeye returns to the kenai river came from very small escapements. We have seen a continued trend to raise escapement goals and decreased returns because of it. The evidence of this mismanagement can be seen in the overall spawner to return ration. We are now below 1:4 ratio. This is one of the lowest ratios in



the state. This is not be accident. This is a continual effort to raise goals and reduce yields in order to limit commercial fishing. A ratio would be ideal for the sport industry as this effectively shuts down the commercial harvest. Again, this is their goal and has been clearly demonstrated over the years.

The last issue I want to bring up is the Kenai river coho. There are proposals that go to limit commercial harvest of coho, but at the same time the sport industry has derby fisheries. So is there an issue of poor returns or is there enough abundance to support sport fishing derbies? Seward hosts a silver salmon derby, but there is also a strong effort to enhance the fishery with hatcheries. I would strongly support hatcheries for both coho and chinook salmon in the Kenai river. Instead of fighting for scraps of a smaller and smaller pie, let's all build a bigger pie!

Lately I want to show my strong opposition to all proposals that raise the escapements goals. I adamantly oppose proposals 78, 88 and 104.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Dan Norman



Submitted By  
Dave Blossom  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 3:38:12 PM  
Affiliation  
Land Owner  
  
Phone  
907-398-7073  
Email  
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Address  
P.O. Box 313  
Kasilof, Alaska 99610

I Dave Blossom am commenting on Proposal 169 prohibiting motorized vessels from operating on the Kasilof River section from the Sterling Highway Bridge upstream to the Silver Salmon Rapids from Jan 1-Sept 15 (would prefer all year) I am a life long Alaskan-58 years -and have been using and living on the Kasilof River for 50 years. The bank erosion and spawning bed degradation caused by the increased use of outboards by the guides on the Kasilof have been devastating to salmon habitat. The Kasilof River is very shallow, even during the summer and the increased use of outboard turbulence is digging out the spawning beds and harrasing spawning salmon. Hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars have been spent on riverbank restoration only to see the use of outboards wash it all down the river. The guides got along great for years not using outboards and it is time for them to go back to drift only in this section as well as the entire lower river. It is not a danger to get back to their haulouts using only oars. They did it for years without any incidences. Please for the sake of the salmon and habitat, close the Kasilof River to use of outboard below Silver Salmon Rapids. Thank you. Dave Blossom.

Submitted By  
David Moynihan  
Submitted On  
1/16/2020 6:36:17 AM  
Affiliation  
KASILOF RIVER PROPERTY OWNER

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907 262-4791

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Address  
physical address 21629 Tustumena Lake road  
mailing address PO BOX 375  
KASILOF , Alaska 99610

I "OPPOSE" proposal 169. 5 AAC 56.122. Kasilof River by Charley McCrone prohibiting motorized boats.

I am a property owner on the upper Kasilof River. The property is remote and my access to the property in the summer is by a motorized boat. I have been doing this for 20 years now.

My only means to access my property on the upper Kasilof River is by motorized boat. Rowing a drift boat is not an option for me.

These properties on the upper Kasilof River are remote. I know of at least of 5 property owners who use motorized boats to access their remote properties. If this proposal were to go through it would deny us access to our property.

David Moynihan

Submitted By

Deb

Submitted On

1/23/2020 9:38:23 AM

Affiliation

I support bill 169 restrictions for power boats on the kasilof River.

Submitted By  
Debra Blossom  
Submitted On  
1/18/2020 6:57:13 PM  
Affiliation

Please adopt proposal 169 prohibiting motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River from Jan 1- Sept 15 (or all year) from the Sterling highway bridge to the Silver Salmon rapids. This section of river is critical King habitat. Guides and other fishermen are increasingly using motors on this section of the river. I have seen first hand the devastation the wake of their motors causes when motoring down stream, particularly when the river is high. Guides are quick to blame commercial fisherman for the decline of king salmon, but motors being used in spawning habitat could be the greatest cause of decline of this species. Let's be proactive in saving habitat and keep the Kasilof peaceful.

Submitted By  
Debra Isel  
Submitted On  
1/17/2020 5:15:26 PM  
Affiliation  
Recreational and personal fisher  
  
Phone  
907-632-8133  
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The idea to ban guides from dipnetting the Kenai would put us old and less than physically robust residents out of the opportunity to dipnet safely. The guides that dipnet are the more skilled boat handlers in what can, at times be a scrum. We customers of those guides do not leave an environmental nightmare on the riverbank nor do the professional guides let us act like drunken yahoos. Please reconsider this prohibition which would deprive me and many other old geezers from getting to dipnet unless we all go out in our own boats which would create another mess entirely.

Submitted By  
Delbert M Lahti Jr  
Submitted On  
1/20/2020 9:30:14 AM  
Affiliation

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P.O. Box 2146  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

I oppose Proposal 163. If Proposal 163 is approved it essentially shuts down the option by the general public to choose a Charter or Guide service to access the Personal Use Fishery on both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

This proposal will make it far more difficult if not completely unobtainable for most Alaskan residents, like myself , to access this fishery.

As a disabled veteran I depend on services of this nature. So I can provide subsistence salmon to my family.

As the Director of operations for Alaska's Healing Hearts I get to see the good this service provides. Each year the Dipship donates six opportunities to our organization. We fill those positions with our veterans with disabilities that would preclude them from participating in the personal use subsistence fisheries. These men and women range in age up-to 83 and types of disabilities from blindness, wheel chair bound, and other physical limitations. Outside of physical limitations, some of our veterans that have mental health conditions have additionally been able to benefit for example our veterans with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) that can make it hard on a crowded fishing area.

These members are empowered by the opportunity to have access to feed their families. Their injuries preclude them from walking the shoreline and operating their own watercraft.

Please do not stop these limited amount of guides from giving these great veterans a opportunity to be active and provide for their families.

Sincerely  
Delbert M Lahti Jr  
Retired MSgt USAF disabled  
Director of operations Alaska's Healing Hearts

Submitted By  
Don Nelson  
Submitted On  
1/16/2020 5:04:07 PM  
Affiliation

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9097949691

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[fairbear101@aol.com](mailto:fairbear101@aol.com)

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22516 Kasilver Ln.  
Kasilof, Alaska 99610

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Regarding Proposal 169, I am concerned regarding the damage and dangers of power boats on the Kasilof River. As a property owner on the river, I have a front-row seat to observe the dangerous and chaotic interactions between drift boats and power boats, the interactions between private and professional fisherman. The power boats racing down river from the Swift Water launch ramp pushing the people in drift boats and canoes dangerously aside. The power boats motoring up river, interacting with all the downstream traffic, causing props of boats to ground out on the riverbed. The yelling and screaming of the sometimes violent human interactions by non-skilled power boat operators in the whitewater currents. This is just the potentially deadly human events. Now I am not a biologist, but the river bank erosion and traumatic conditions caused by power boats is enormous. I watch the waves caused by the power boats wash the river banks down stream, and the meat grinder props, I can only imagine the harm done to the fish population. Please take it from a front-row seat observer, who witnesses the carnage every day, the power boats need to be band from the prestine Kasilof River.

Submitted By  
Donald Dolifka  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 11:35:07 AM  
Affiliation  
Kasilof Preservation, LLC

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3037757588

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Kasilof, Alaska 99610

I support proposal 169 to restrict motorized vessels on the Kasilof, from Jan 1 - Sept 15, from the bridge to the head of Silver Salmon Rapids. Let's be proactive in protecting this wonderful river and not repeat the previous mistakes made on the Kenai River.



Submitted By  
Donald Dolifka  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 11:25:37 AM  
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Kasilof, Alaska 99610

I strongly support the proposal to limit

## RE: PROPOSAL 169 Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1— September 15

I agree with this proposal. Like it has been said, "It is a matter of being responsible stewards of a precious resource and passing it on intact to the next generation"...

Submitted By  
Drew von Lindern  
Submitted On  
1/19/2020 3:17:50 PM  
Affiliation

I just wanted to voice my support for Proposal 170. I've fished at the Kaslof River for years, and it can definitely get out of hand when everyone is crowded together. The moderate expansion of the regulatory markers would alleviate the problem and allow families to fish together without having to battle the crowd. I don't believe the proposal would adversely affect escapement goals and it would allow more Alaskans to access our natural resources.

Submitted By  
Dwight Kramer  
Submitted On  
1/18/2020 9:21:49 AM  
Affiliation  
self  
  
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907-395-7558  
Email  
[dwimar@gci.net](mailto:dwimar@gci.net)  
Address  
1650 Pebble Beach Ct.  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Hello, my name is Dwight Kramer, and I reside in Kenai. I have over 40 years experience fishing the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, and over 20 years experience of involvement with the BOF process. Please accept my comments from the viewpoint of a private angler concerned for long-term sustainability of our fishery resources and for private angler rights. Also, please understand that myself and other members of the private angler user group will not be in attendance at the UCI meeting. Although we are probably the largest user group from the area, we simply cannot afford to attend because of the personal financial burden required for travel, lodging food, etc.. Individuals from the guide industry or commercial fishermen can write off their expenditures because they have a financial interest in the out comes of the process. In the days after the public testimony portion, I challenge you to view those in attendance. About 90% of those in attendance will be from the Kenai Peninsula but they will all be from the commercial sector. There won't be any individual private anglers because of cost issues. Please keep this in mind when you consider where to hold the 2023 UCI meeting as we would like very much to participate fully. Thank you. Proposal 104, 114: SUPPORT – These proposals are designed to add a necessary conservation measure to the current LR Kenai River Chinook SEG escapement goal range by establishing a higher OEG range to raise the bar some and put us in a better position of obtaining higher escapements to help rebuild this run. Since 2008 our escapements have averaged in the lower quartile of the SEG range and have failed to produce many escapements in the mid to upper bounds of the range. Some of this is due to management practices that tend to treat the lower bound of the SEG 13,500, more as a threshold, as they feel an obligation to provide harvest opportunity whenever they perceive that they will make the lower end of the goals. This is one of the paramount reasons why we continue to fail to achieve higher escapement levels throughout the range. A case in point was the management of the 2019 LR season. From the beginning of the season managers felt they were going to achieve the lower end of the SEG so they allowed a full harvest of all sized fish without bait. As the season progressed and they knew it was going to be close for making the bottom of the SEG but instead of erring on the side of conservation, with some restrictions, they allowed the full harvest opportunities to continue throughout the season. In the end they fell short of making the lower end of the goals and put future returns in jeopardy because of their mandate to prioritize “Harvest Opportunity” over the well-being of the resource. By incorporating this higher OEG range and offering a 36in. rule, as a harvest alternative, I feel these changes can provide us a better opportunity of reaching higher escapement levels, help rebuild this run and bring back more robust and sustainable future returns. I realize that all of us may have to make some short-term sacrifices regarding additional restrictions related higher goals but more sustainable future returns will benefit everyone over time. Especially the fish and they should always come first. Proposals 155, 156: OPPOSE – I am against these proposals to allow a guide to fish from the banks of the Kasilof river while clients are present. In the process of fishing or landing his own fish a guide could be easily distracted from his duties to his clients and other nearby fishermen in some areas of an already crowded fishery. Proposals 158, 159, 160, 161, 162: OPPOSE - These proposals are designed to increase Kenai river guiding opportunity by fishing with clients present, allowing more clients in their boats or fishing from boats on days that are currently set aside for private anglers to enjoy without having to compete with guides for places to fish or better opportunities to catch fish. Guides can already guide 24/7 for Sockeye from the banks on days when they are restricted from fishing from a boats so they still have financial opportunity afforded to them. Private anglers enjoy the slower pace of the fishery on days when guides are not present.

Submitted By  
Ed Fogels  
Submitted On  
1/18/2020 12:28:42 PM  
Affiliation  
Kenai River Sportfishing Association

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9072452626

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6930 Serenity Circle  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Board Members,

I would like to submit my comments for your consideration at your upcoming Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting. I am an avid sportfisherman, and a current board member of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. I am also a past board member of the Alaska Flyfishers, and have over 33 years of professional experience in natural resource management in our state.

In summary, we need to ensure more fish returning to our rivers and streams, to provide food and an economy for our residents. We need to provide more personal use opportunities, especially in the Mat-Su Valley.

I support proposals 104 and 129 which, along with proposals 127, 133 and 199, will strengthen the Conservation Corridor in Upper Cook Inlet and put more fish in Cook Inlet streams and rivers.

I support of proposals 121, 104 and 88 to ensure that minimum escapement goals for all salmon are met

I support proposals 127 and 234 to ensure adequate personal use opportunities in the Mat Su valley.

I support all the proposals that will ensure all Alaskans have access to the fish they need for their needs, and I encourage the Board to support proposals 78, 88, 104, 121, 129, 154 and 195.

Respectfully,

Ed Fogels

Submitted By  
Francis Estalilla  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 7:45:13 PM  
Affiliation

I would like to voice my support for Proposal 104. The Kenai River late run chinook have seen a steady decline in abundance and a very worrisome shift in age class composition. The downsloping trend line cannot be ignored. The late run chinook stock is in dire need of similar forward-thinking conservation and re-building reforms as those passed by the Board in 2017 for early run chinook. The commendable conservation-based rationale the Board supported for the early stock is just as badly needed for the late run if these fish are to ever thrive in historic numbers. I support raising the OEG because for far too long, the late run has been managed on the razor's edge of goals that many feel are FAR too small to test the true productivity potential of this stock. After all, how could the fish possibly be harmed by being more conservative and shooting higher? Current management leaves the stock wide open to errors of over-exploitation as we saw in 2019. With the current low numbers returning to the river, the risk of going OVER staff's top end SEG is exceedingly small, even if ADFG manages for the increased OEG that's asked in Prop 104. Ask yourselves honestly when was the last time you saw a salmon run intentionally HARVESTED back to recovery? The problem with current late run management is that wide open harvest is permitted right out of the gate... until staff figures out they're in a conservation shortfall. More often than not, the necessary restrictions are insufficient in scope and/or implemented far too late in the season to make a meaningful difference. That's if the necessary restrictions are even invoked in the first place (harken back to 2019, please) when all sizes of chinook were wide-open for harvest for the entire season under staff's "watchful" eye. Bottom line is you can't UN-KILL the fish already exploited to make up the conservation shortfall. In that vein, I am particularly supportive of the 36" provision to limit any potential harvest to the fish that will have the least impact on female spawners, and ultimately the collective aggregate fecundity of the escapement as a whole. Until we actually see escapements routinely testing the upper limits of the SEG, allowing the lion's share of fecund females to escape the fishery is paramount to rebuilding the Kenai chinook population. You'd have to be a damned fool to believe otherwise! Please vote YES on 104!

Submitted By  
Frede Stier  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 4:56:43 PM  
Affiliation  
None

Alaska Board of Fisheries Members,

I am a sport and personal use fisher living in the Mat-Su Valley north of Anchorage who uses these two methods to harvest my yearly supply of salmon. I have participated in both the Kenai River and Copper River dip net fisheries, but must say they require an extremely long drive when abundant salmon stocks are available much closer to home. It is my belief that regular Alaskan should have a reasonable and efficient opportunity to harvest abundant salmon stocks near where they live. That is why I submitted and support Proposal 236 and appreciate your careful consideration of providing a personal user fishery on the lower Sustina River drainage.

Thank You,

Frede L. Stier

Submitted By  
Gabrielle Brown  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 7:16:00 PM  
Affiliation

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Cordova, Alaska 99574

I am a lifelong Alaskan and a commercial fisherman. I appose Proposition 78. This proposition allows unfair treatment towards the allocation of resources towards commercial and sports fishing. It undermines the Board's ability to equally allocate resources to all user groups. If this proposition passes, it could allow this attack on commercial fisherman to spreads to my fishing areas, including Prince William Sound and the Copper River. Please help protect the huge economic driver that is commercial fishing.



Submitted By  
Gail Knobf  
Submitted On  
1/22/2020 2:41:52 PM  
Affiliation

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Kasilof, Alaska 99610

I have lived on the Kasilof River for 30 years and love it here. When we first moved here there was almost no motors on the river. Fishermen were happy to drift leisurely down the river. We have noticed that in the last few years the number of motors has increased dramatically which really diminishes the beauty and serenity that has awed the tourists and locals alike.

We do not want the Kasilof River to become another Kenai. Motors are not friendly to fish, fauna, water, and residents. I support Proposal 169. 5 AAC 56.122 Prohibiting motorized vessels on the Kasilof River January 1-September 15. However, since we live downstream from the bridge, I would like the prohibition to be extended to cover my neck of the woods.

Sincerely,

Gail Knobf



1/4/2020

Chairman Morisky and Members of the Alaska BOF,

I authored proposal 175, which seeks to open Set netting on North Kalifonsky Beach ( NKB-statistical area 244-32) on or after July 1, with set nets within 600 feet of MHT and with 29 mesh deep nets, with mesh size not more that 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. This limited fishery would have no more than 29 beach nets that could participate.

Although proposal175, is fairly self exclamatory, here is some background on the issue.

Historically, since before Statehood, 244-32 has harvested Kasilof stocks on NKB. At the 1999 BOF meeting, this statistical area lost time to harvest Kasilof stocks that are the dominant stock on NKB, at this time frame.

At the 2017 BOF, they passed regulatory language that this area (NKB) could be opened, independent of the Kenai Section, to harvest abundant Kasilof stocks, on or after July 8. Proposal 136 passed the BOF unanimously.

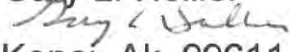
At the Statewide meeting in March of 2018, the BOF, on a 6-1 vote, passed regulations that made any hours fished in this area to be exempt from the Late Run Sockeye & King Salmon Plans for the Kenai River.

In this PC I am resubmitting, information that I presented to the 2017 BOF on proposal136, that has not changed. The data is all relevant to the current proposal 175 that the BOF will consider.

Since the passing of proposal 136 in 2017, new information to this BOF, is that in the past three years (2017, 2018, 2019) the Kasilof River has exceeded its BEG two times and the OEG once. To me this is compelling information, for the BOF to pass proposal 175.

Thank you,

Gary L. Hollier

  
Kenai, Ak. 99611

Chairman Jenson and Members of the Alaska Board of Fish,

I authored proposal 136, asking to open North Kalifonsky Beach (NKB) statistical area 244-32.

136 is asking for ADF&G to may open NKB after July 8, with limited area ( only out to 600 ft from MHT) and restricted gear (29 mesh deep gear with a mesh size  $4 \frac{3}{4}$  in or smaller), whenever the Kasilof section is open for Emergency Opener's to harvest Kasilof stocks.

I have enclosed a map of the Set Net Sections with 244-32 and South Kalifonsky Beach (SKB) statistical area's highlighted. Kalifonsky Beach is approximately 8 miles in length. The beach is split about in half with these two sections.

I have enclosed ADF&G documents that show the genetic harvests in the ESSN fishery. One chart shows in 2006 and 2008 over 50% of the harvest on NKB was Kasilof stocks. The other graph illustrates that in 2009 close to 50% of the harvest on NKB was of Kasilof origin.

I have enclosed harvests on Kalifonsky Beach from 1999-2016, from each section.

King salmon harvest on all K Beach was 51,403. NKB harvest of kings was 18,030 (35%). SKB harvest of kings was 33,373 (65%).

Red salmon harvest on all K Beach was 5,876,196. NKB harvest of reds was 2,127,955 (34%). SKB harvest of reds was 3,748,235 (64%).

Additionally enclosed is escapement data for sockeye into the Kasilof River. From 1999-2016 the two ocean and younger component ( small fish under 500 mm) made up 61% of the escapement.

In the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area the harvest of the younger age classes and therefore smaller fish was 69% of the harvest.

From 2008-2015 in the Kasilof section (set net) the harvest of these smaller fish comprised 33% of the harvest. I believe that the harvest on SKB is of similar proportion.

SKB fishes on average twice as many days per year as NKB. SKB harvest is almost twice that of kings and reds as NKB. All this on a run's to the Kasilof River that are at best 30-35% of what the Kenai River red run is.

For many years SKB fished 50% of the Wednesday's in July before the regular schedule period on Thursday. Occasionally these EO's were extended thru the night right up to NKB opening up on Thursday. This management philosophy was and continues to be brutal on NKB fishermen.

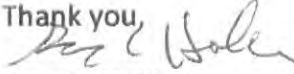
There are between 60 and 70 permits that register on NKB. On NKB there are 29 beach nets that fish from shore out to 1200 ft depending on the tides. These 29 beach nets are fished by 9 family operations. These 9 family operations hold 45 permits that fish NKB. 10 permits are fished on the beach and the remaining permits are fished off shore. If this proposal was to pass it would benefit 66% of ALL the fishing nets that are on NKB (244-32).

NKB was always a harvester of Kasilof stocks. These Kasilof reds are predominately beach orientated and when the prevailing winds blows from the SW are all over the beach.

Due to our proximity to the Kenai River and very vocal opposition from a few setnetters on SKB we have been limited on our ability to harvest these sometime very abundant Kasilof reds.

The Kasilof River has exceeded its BEG 88% of the time since 1999. From 1999-2016 the Kasilof escapement was comprised of 61% of two ocean and younger age class reds.

Proposal 136, fishing 29 mesh deep gear and 4 ¾ in mesh would have limited impact on King Salmon. NKB would be targeting smaller Kasilof fish, and could have a substantial positive economic impact for NKB fishers that have been shut out from this traditional fishery.

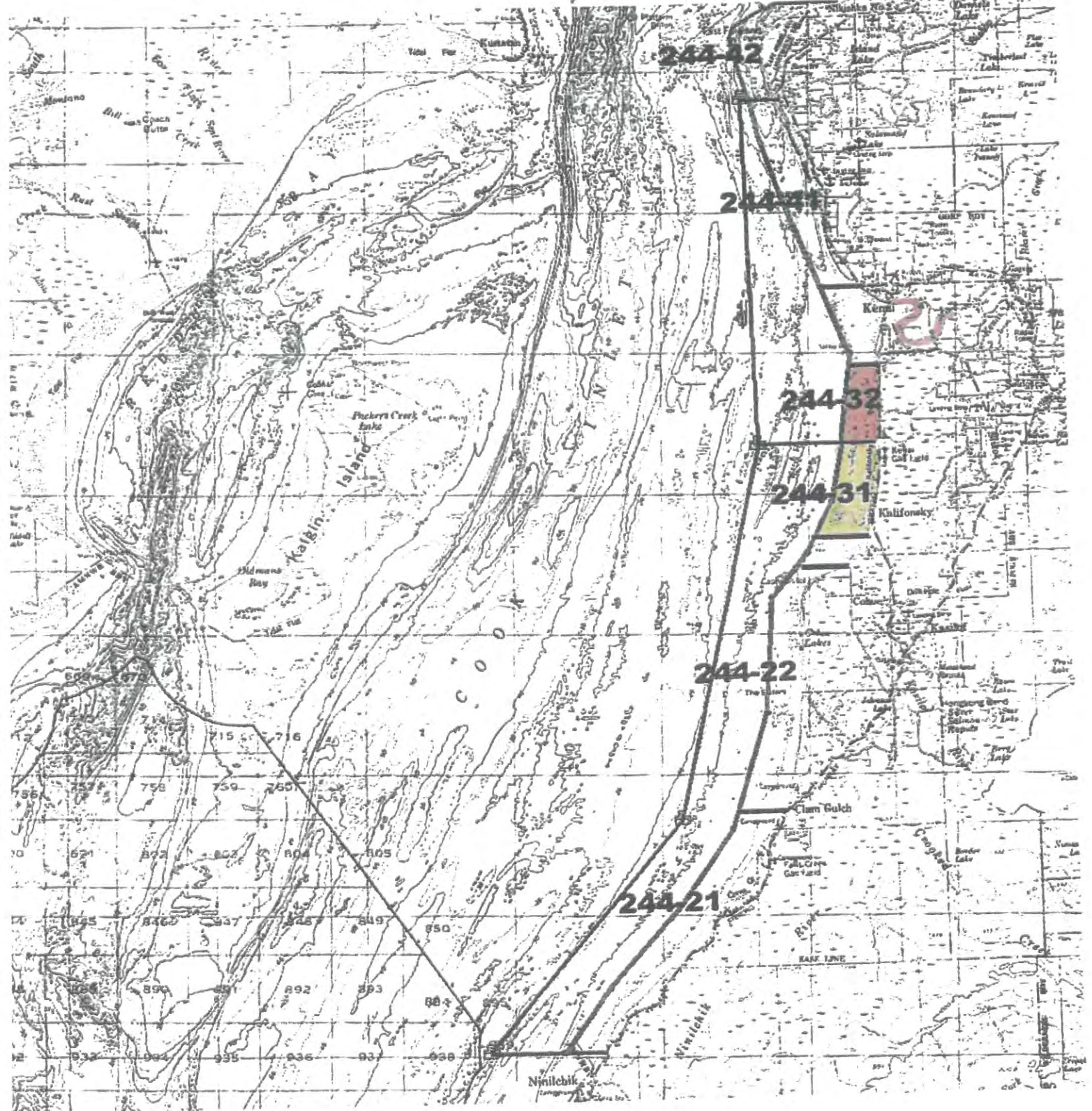
Thank you,  
  
Gary L. Hollier

Kenai, Ak.

2/3/2017

# Proposal 136 Beach Sections and Expanded Corridor

GARY HOLL

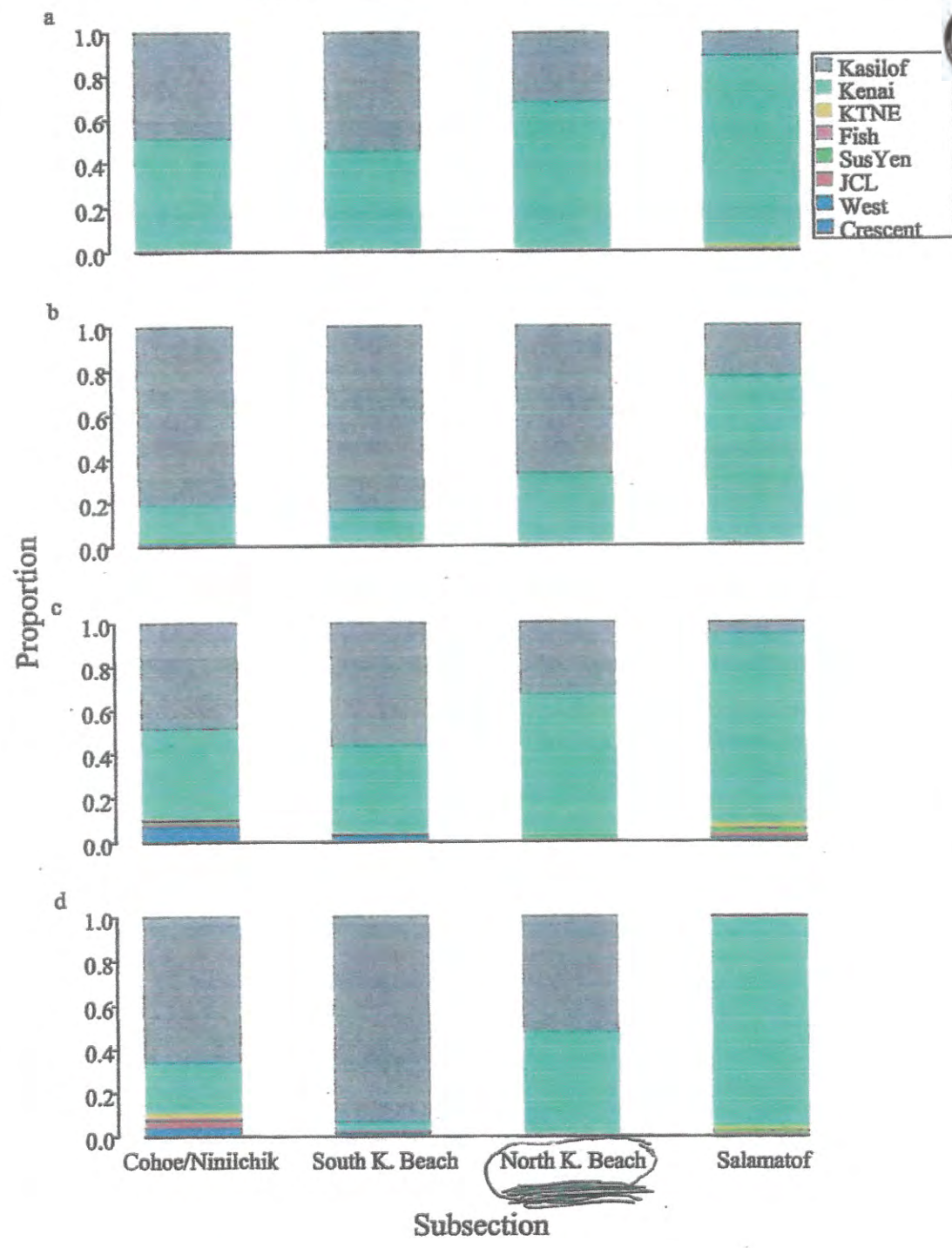


Upper Cook Inlet  
Break down of statistical Areas for  
Set-nets and the Expanded Corridor

Map of Upper Cook Inlet Beach 244-31

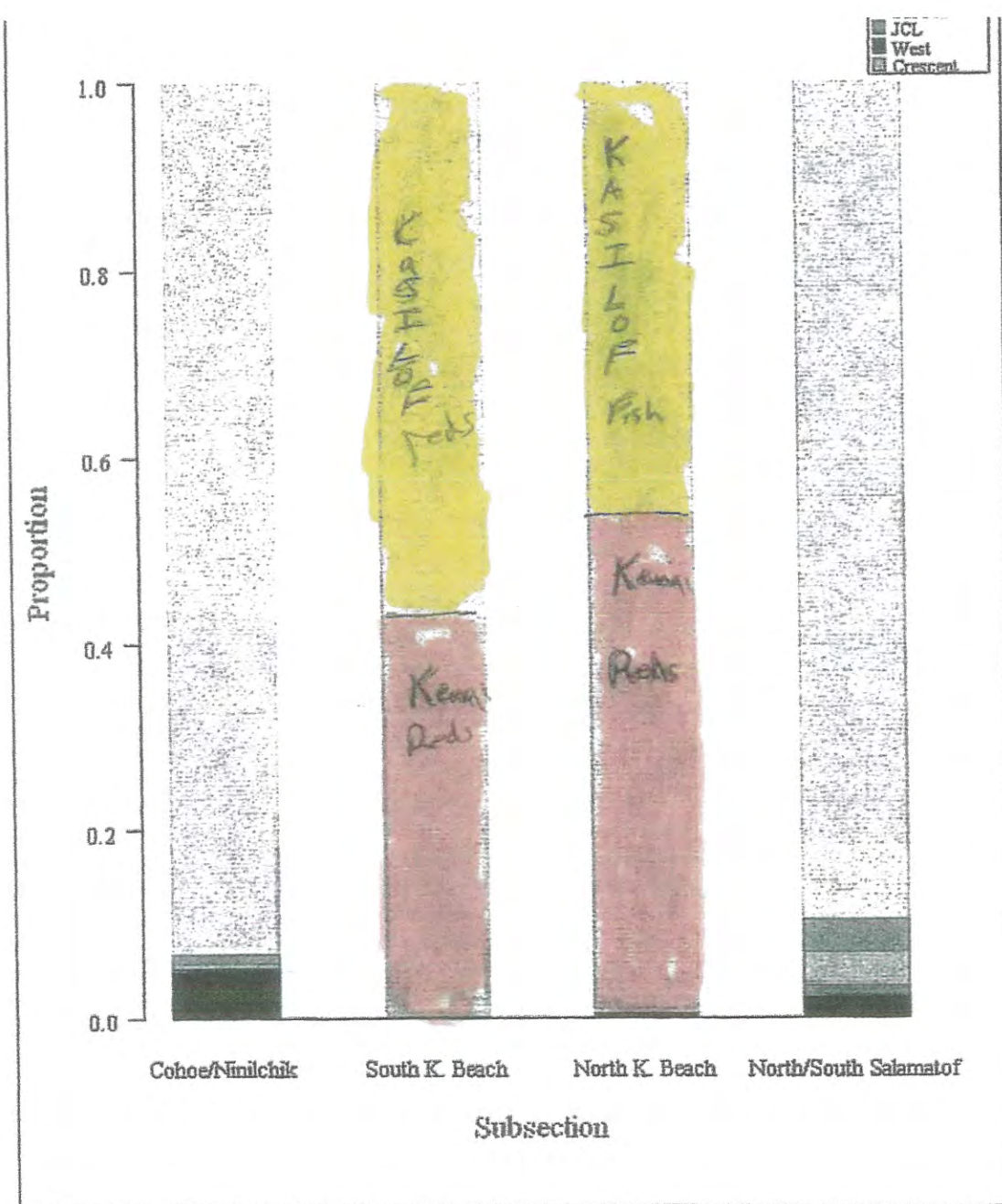


2005  
2006  
2007  
2008



Note: There are 2 subdistricts for each section and they are displayed from south to north.  
 Figure 10.—Stock composition estimates for the Kasilof and Kenai Section set gillnet fisheries (Central District, East Side Subdistrict) divided into subsection from a) 2005, b) 2006, c) 2007, and d) 2008.

In 2006 and 2008,<sup>109</sup> 50% or higher of Kasilof sockeye, where harvested in the North K-Beach sections  
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Note: There are 2 subdistricts for each section and they are displayed from south to north.

Figure 6.-Stock composition estimates for the Kasilof and Kenai/EF sections set gillnet fisheries (Central District, Upper Subdistrict) divided into subsections from 2009.

In 2009 close to 50% of the North-K-Beach harvest<sup>52</sup> was comprised of Kasilof Sockeye.

<http://www.bing.com/search?q=dancing+with+the+stars&form=MSNH14&qs=AS&sk=&...> 2/28/2011

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1999-2016

North Kalitonsky

244-32

18,030 Kings harvested

18030 King salmon

All of Kalitonsky  
Beach harvested  
51,403 King Salmon

18,030 - NKB 35%

51,403 - All KB each 100%

NKB harvested

35% of all

King salmon  
harvest on all of  
Kalitonsky Beach  
from 1999-2016

	410	2.3%	88.0%
12	378	2.1%	90.0%
	385	2.1%	92.2%
24	275	1.5%	93.7%
	293	1.6%	95.3%
15	361	2.0%	97.3%
	173	1.0%	98.3%
5	231	1.3%	99.6%
	55	0.3%	99.9%
	19	0.1%	100.0%
	2	0.0%	100.0%

2016	Total	Percent	Cum Percent
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0.0%	0.0%
	13604	0.6%	0.6%
	18078	0.8%	1.5%
	18582	0.9%	2.4%
15,058	52229	2.5%	4.8%
	37973	1.8%	6.6%
6,020	109673	5.2%	11.8%
6,148	107212	5.0%	16.8%
	165131	7.8%	24.6%
5,558	173360	8.1%	32.7%
4,172	104763	4.9%	37.6%
8,016	155120	7.3%	44.9%
2,878	70857	3.3%	48.2%

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1999-2016



North Kalitonsky Beach

244-32

	80324	3.8%	52.0%
6,632	121430	5.7%	57.7%
	56127	2.6%	60.4%
2,749	99020	4.7%	65.0%
6,889	67765	3.2%	68.2%
4,644	66675	3.1%	71.3%
	81473	3.8%	75.2%
	56706	2.7%	77.8%
3,431	54181	2.5%	80.4%
	34330	1.6%	82.0%
	35530	1.7%	83.7%
	48296	2.3%	85.9%
3,785	51097	2.4%	88.3%
	36876	1.7%	90.1%
3,774	25829	1.2%	91.3%
	40602	1.9%	93.2%
2,719	31294	1.5%	94.7%
	29488	1.4%	96.0%
2,439	26418	1.2%	97.3%
	21128	1.0%	98.3%
813	19989	0.9%	99.2%
	11750	0.6%	99.8%
	4935	0.2%	100.0%
	110	0.0%	100.0%

2127955 red salmon

2,127,955 - reds harvest

The total harvest on all Kalitonsky Beach was 5,876,196

$$\frac{2,127,955 - \text{NKB} - 36\%}{5,876,196 \text{ All K Beach} - 100\%}$$

NKB harvested 36% of all red salmon harvested on all of Kalitonsky Beach 1999-2016

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August 12/1

1799-2016



1,061	296822	7.9%	53.7%
2,489	197540	5.3%	59.0%
4,554	226423	6.0%	65.1%
2,351	90230	2.4%	67.5%
	129592	3.5%	70.9%
3,384	128583	3.4%	74.3%
	109669	2.9%	77.3%
1,925	98078	2.6%	79.9%
3,004	81300	2.2%	82.1%
1,772	98060	2.6%	84.7%
	78478	2.1%	86.8%
	67757	1.8%	88.6%
1,863	58276	1.6%	90.1%
	27095	0.7%	90.9%
	37321	1.0%	91.9%
	54437	1.5%	93.3%
2,033	45005	1.2%	94.5%
	30336	0.8%	95.3%
1,644	33026	0.9%	96.2%
	35577	0.9%	97.1%
1,905	21824	0.6%	97.7%
	25874	0.7%	98.4%
1,265	19700	0.5%	98.9%
	12158	0.3%	99.3%
375	15478	0.4%	99.7%
	10523	0.3%	100.0%
	1168	0.0%	100.0%
	292	0.0%	100.0%
	3748235		red salmon

There was a total harvest on all Kalifornsky Beach of 5,876,196 reds from 1999-2016

3,748,235 - SKB 64%  
5,876,196 - All KB each 100%

South Kalifornsky Beach - 244-31

3,748,235 reds harvested 1999-2016

SKB harvested 64% of all red salmon harvested on All of Kalifornsky Beach

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1999-2016

South Kalitonsky Beach  
244-31 SKB

33,373 ~~244-31~~ Kings Harvested

33373 Kingsdon

From 1999-2016

there were 51,403  
Kings salmon harvested  
on all Kalitonsky Beach

$$\frac{33,373 - SKB}{51,403 - All KB} = \frac{65\%}{100\%}$$

SKB Harvested  
65% of all

Kings Salmon  
on Kalitonsky Beach

1999-2016

	121	2.2%	83.4%
	1042	3.1%	86.5%
31	798	2.4%	88.9%
	545	1.6%	90.5%
9	445	1.3%	91.9%
	671	2.0%	93.9%
6	295	0.9%	94.8%
	472	1.4%	96.2%
12	547	1.6%	97.8%
	166	0.5%	98.3%
5	376	1.1%	99.4%
	140	0.4%	99.9%
	41	0.1%	100.0%
	3	0.0%	100.0%

2016	Total	Percent	Cum Percent
	14037	0.4%	0.4%
	7477	0.2%	0.6%
	22386	0.6%	1.2%
5,381	18289	0.5%	1.7%
	4227	0.1%	1.8%
3,338	72947	1.9%	3.7%
	63604	1.7%	5.4%
3,100	58293	1.6%	7.0%
	71726	1.9%	8.9%
3,180	69028	1.8%	10.7%
3,263	92224	2.5%	13.2%
	61039	1.6%	14.8%
3,699	57373	1.5%	16.3%
	69224	1.8%	18.2%
6,380	88026	2.3%	20.5%
	44396	1.2%	21.7%
3,017	64850	1.7%	23.5%
2,548	52169	1.4%	24.8%
	53092	1.4%	26.3%
5,177	54575	1.5%	27.7%
	43250	1.2%	28.9%
7,845	49322	1.3%	30.2%
	92012	2.5%	32.6%
3,808	90278	2.4%	35.1%
3,718	150150	4.0%	39.1%
	253619	6.8%	45.8%

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N420

P02

P11

P03

P12



Year	Category	Value	P02	P11	P03	P12	Other
2016	Kalifornsky	173880	0.0000	0.0000	0.0013	0.14	
1972	Kasilof Escapement	115486	0.0000	0.0020	0.0000	0.4260	0.0010
1973	Kasilof Escapement	40880	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2050	0.0050
1974	Kasilof Escapement	71540	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.3600	0.0040
1975	Kasilof Escapement	48884	0.0010	0.0090	0.0000	0.2830	0.0050
1976	Kasilof Escapement	142058	0.0000	0.0020	0.0000	0.3590	0.0000
1977	Kasilof Escapement	158410	0.0000	0.0030	0.0000	0.2940	0.0080
1978	Kasilof Escapement	119165	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.4130	0.0000
1979	Kasilof Escapement	155527	0.0010	0.0070	0.0000	0.5890	0.0000
1980	Kasilof Escapement	188314	0.0000	0.0210	0.0000	0.6700	0.0000
1981	Kasilof Escapement	262271	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2890	0.0000
1982	Kasilof Escapement	184204	0.0000	0.0080	0.0000	0.3060	0.0020
1983	Kasilof Escapement	215730	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.4951	0.0000
1984	Kasilof Escapement	238413	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.5050	0.0020
1985	Kasilof Escapement	512827	0.0000	0.0020	0.0000	0.5740	0.0010
1986	Kasilof Escapement	283054	0.0012	0.0000	0.0000	0.4087	0.0008
1987	Kasilof Escapement	256707	0.0000	0.0024	0.0000	0.4335	0.0008
1988	Kasilof Escapement	204336	0.0000	0.0006	0.0000	0.3369	0.0011
1989	Kasilof Escapement	164952	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.1493	0.0007
1990	Kasilof Escapement	147663	0.0000	0.0040	0.0006	0.3290	0.0000
1991	Kasilof Escapement	233646	0.0004	0.0000	0.0013	0.3154	0.0006
1992	Kasilof Escapement	188819	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2109	0.0019
1993	Kasilof Escapement	151801	0.0000	0.0035	0.0000	0.1629	0.0035
1994	Kasilof Escapement	218826	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2642	0.0000
1995	Kasilof Escapement	202428	0.0000	0.0017	0.0000	0.4395	0.0000
1996	Kasilof Escapement	264511	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2483	0.0000
1997	Kasilof Escapement	263780	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2111	0.0000
1998	Kasilof Escapement	259045	0.0012	0.0012	0.0000	0.3967	0.0058
1999	Kasilof Escapement <i>176,333</i>	312481	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2967	0.0010
2000	Kasilof Escapement <i>148,543</i>	263631	0.0000	0.0013	0.0000	0.4192	0.0039
2001	Kasilof Escapement <i>146,385</i>	318735	0.0000	0.0035	0.0000	0.2926	0.0018
2002	Kasilof Escapement <i>128,898</i>	235732	0.0000	0.0027	0.0000	0.3391	0.0147
2003	Kasilof Escapement <i>236,084</i>	353526	0.0000	0.0065	0.0000	0.3731	0.0022
2004	Kasilof Escapement <i>425,887</i>	523653	0.0007	0.0019	0.0000	0.4503	0.0019
2005	Kasilof Escapement <i>207,901</i>	360065	0.0000	0.0066	0.0000	0.3876	0.0029
2006	Kasilof Escapement <i>245,866</i>	389645	0.0000	0.0054	0.0000	0.3528	0.0041
2007	Kasilof Escapement <i>239,375</i>	365184	0.0000	0.0064	0.0000	0.4475	0.0016
2008	Kasilof Escapement <i>188,395</i>	327018	0.0000	0.0036	0.0000	0.3951	0.0018
2009	Kasilof Escapement <i>133,189</i>	326283	0.0000	0.0073	0.0000	0.1161	0.0218
2010	Kasilof Escapement <i>177,779</i>	295265	0.0021	0.0103	0.0000	0.2784	0.0144
2011	Kasilof Escapement <i>103,105</i>	245721	0.0000	0.0145	0.0000	0.1364	0.0269
2012	Kasilof Escapement <i>265,049</i>	374523	0.0000	0.0677	0.0000	0.3404	0.0444
2013	Kasilof Escapement <i>308,223</i>	489654	0.0019	0.0194	0.0000	0.3450	0.0116
2014	Kasilof Escapement <i>288,986</i>	440192	0.0038	0.0172	0.0000	0.4237	0.0267
2015	Kasilof Escapement <i>264,980</i>	470677	0.0019	0.0047	0.0000	0.2099	0.0104



	0.0000	0.4841	0.1455	0.0000	0.0041	0.2132	0.0005	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.3570	0.0310	0.0000	0.0060	0.1740	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.5620	0.1840	0.0000	0.0000	0.0440	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.5760	0.0440	0.0000	0.0000	0.0160	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.0690	0.5900	0.0000	0.0000	0.0430	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2410	0.2820	0.0000	0.0000	0.1140	0.0000	0.0020	0.0000
	0.0000	0.3000	0.2780	0.0000	0.0000	0.1170	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.4010	0.1040	0.0000	0.0000	0.0820	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2820	0.1050	0.0000	0.0000	0.0160	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2310	0.0500	0.0000	0.0010	0.0270	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.6360	0.0590	0.0000	0.0000	0.0160	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.5440	0.0930	0.0000	0.0000	0.0470	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.3314	0.1286	0.0000	0.0000	0.0449	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2480	0.1790	0.0000	0.0000	0.0660	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2180	0.1780	0.0000	0.0010	0.0260	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.4201	0.1191	0.0000	0.0032	0.0458	0.0000	0.0011	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2744	0.2239	0.0000	0.0000	0.0642	0.0008	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.3643	0.1751	0.0000	0.0016	0.1199	0.0000	0.0005	0.0000
	0.0000	0.3530	0.3662	0.0000	0.0006	0.1302	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2065	0.3317	0.0000	0.0026	0.1236	0.0020	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.3340	0.2895	0.0000	0.0009	0.0579	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2745	0.3531	0.0000	0.0000	0.1596	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2977	0.2802	0.0000	0.0000	0.2522	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2835	0.2822	0.0000	0.0000	0.1701	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.1550	0.2505	0.0000	0.0000	0.1533	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.4827	0.2136	0.0000	0.0000	0.0554	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.5474	0.1346	0.0000	0.0000	0.1069	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	0.0000	0.2812	0.2217	0.0000	0.0035	0.0887	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1999	0.0000	0.3382	0.2666	0.0000	0.0021	0.0944	0.0010	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.5643</u>
00	0.0000	0.3389	0.1138	0.0000	0.0000	0.1229	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.5369</u>
01	0.0000	0.4857	0.1649	0.0000	0.0018	0.0479	0.0018	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.4593</u>
02	0.0000	0.3808	0.1930	0.0000	0.0027	0.0657	0.0000	0.0013	0.0000 <u>.5468</u>
03	0.0000	0.2607	0.2925	0.0000	0.0000	0.0650	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.6678</u>
04	0.0000	0.1425	0.3611	0.0000	0.0006	0.0410	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.8133</u>
05	0.0000	0.3275	0.1869	0.0000	0.0000	0.0877	0.0008	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.5774</u>
06	0.0000	0.3053	0.2741	0.0000	0.0000	0.0583	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.631</u>
07	0.0000	0.2531	0.1927	0.0000	0.0000	0.0987	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.6918</u>
08	0.0000	0.3832	0.1792	0.0000	0.0000	0.0371	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.5761</u>
09	0.0000	0.4538	0.2703	0.0000	0.0018	0.1289	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.4082</u>
10	0.0000	0.3175	0.3093	0.0000	0.0000	0.0680	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.6021</u>
11	0.0000	0.3076	0.2563	0.0000	0.0000	0.2583	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.4196</u>
12	0.0000	0.1057	0.3763	0.0000	0.0000	0.0655	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.7611</u>
13	0.0000	0.2674	0.3178	0.0000	0.0000	0.0369	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.6744</u>
14	0.0000	0.2939	0.2061	0.0000	0.0000	0.0286	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.6565</u>
15	0.0000	0.3485	0.3533	0.0000	0.0000	0.0712	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 <u>.5736</u>

✓	11.3	2.0	2.11	1.4	2.3	3.2	2.4
0.0000	0.2032	0.3924	0.0000	0.0015	0.0676	0.0013	0.0000
0.0000	0.1425	0.3611	0.0000	0.0006	0.0410	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000	0.3275	0.1869	0.0000	0.0000	0.0877	0.0008	0.0000
0.0000	0.2222	0.2185	0.0000	0.0022	0.0679	0.0007	0.0007
0.0000	0.2531	0.1927	0.0000	0.0000	0.0987	0.0000	0.0000
0.0000	0.2100	0.2092	0.0004	0.0012	0.0567	0.0000	0.0004

PC049  
13 of 33

0.0000 .5111  
0.0000 .7099  
0.0000 .6418  
0.0000 .7299

23368

Terminal - 69.5%

Year	Kasilof Escapement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	0.0000	0.0159	0.0000	0.298	PC20 15 of 17
2004	Kasilof Terminal	4,465	5476	0.0007	0.0019	0.0000	0.45	PC049 14 of 33			
2005	Kasilof Terminal	56,122	97199	0.0000	0.0066	0.0000	0.38				
2006	Kasilof Terminal	686,550	687543	0.0006	0.0009	0.0000	0.4865	0.0000			
2007	Kasilof Terminal	13,022	20290	0.0000	0.0064	0.0000	0.4475	0.0016			
2008	Kasilof Terminal	56,837	77869	0.0014	0.0000	0.0000	0.5185	0.0022			

# All ADFEG Data

$\frac{22902}{5}$   
 11  
1,45804    .00172

## Kasilof River - Escapement

6,333,068 - total Escapement Kasilof River 1999-2016  
 3,891,277 - Age 2 ocean Fish & younger - 61.44%

## Terminal - Age Comps - 2004-2008

615,026 - Age 2 ocean & younger - 69.23%  
 888,377 - Total harvest - Terminal

## Kasilof River Escapement - 1999-2016

$\frac{3,891,277}{6,333,068}$  - Age 2 ocean Fish & younger } 61.44%  
 - total Escapement in Kasilof River

## Kasilof Terminal Fishery Age Comps 2004-2008

$\frac{615,026}{888,377}$  - Age 2 ocean younger in harvest } 69.23%  
 - Total harvest

Proposal ~~175~~  
175

Shore Fishing  
Leases South  
of Kenezi River



Jacob!

Meat Drive

Karik Court

SAIY  
Hollis





1/4/2020

Chairman Morisky and Members of the Alaska Board of Fish

I am opposed to any proposals that would raise the Late Run Sockeye Salmon Goals to the Kenai River.

Specifically I am opposed to 88, 89, 90.

In looking at the sport fish harvest above the Kenai River Sonar Counter the most sockeye harvested was in 2013, with a harvest of 379,685. That was with an in-river sonar count of 1,359,893.

In 2015 with an in-river sonar count of 1,709,051, the sport harvest above the counter was 309,004.

Large in-river sonar counts do not equate to larger sport harvest above the counter.

Most importantly in 5AAC 21.360 (3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the (SEG) range, in proportion to the size of the run.

With sockeye escapements being raised in the upper end of the three tiers by 300,000 fish, distributing escapements evenly with the SEG, is virtually impossible. Thus ADF&G cannot meet the mandate set by regulation in 5 AAC21.360 (3).

Most importantly to me is the return per spawner is reduced and then in most years yield will decrease also.

Please leave Kenai River in-river goals at status quo.

Gary L. Hollier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary L. Hollier'.

Kenai, Ak.



Table 1. Late-run Kenai sockeye salmon spawners, return, return per spawner. Note: Hidden enhance

Brood Year	Spawners	Return	Return per Spawner	Run	Total Harvest	Harvest Rate
1968	115,545	960,169	8.3			
1969	72,901	430,947	5.9			
1970	101,794	550,923	5.4			
1971	406,714	986,397	2.4			
1972	431,058	2,547,851	5.9			
1973	507,072	2,125,986	4.2			
1974	209,836	788,067	3.8			
1975	184,262	1,055,373	5.7	485,350	301,088	0.6
1976	507,440	1,506,012	3.0	1,374,607	867,167	0.6
1977	951,038	3,112,620	3.3	2,268,567	1,317,529	0.6
1978	511,781	3,785,040	7.4	2,096,342	1,584,561	0.8
1979	373,810	1,321,039	3.5	797,838	424,028	0.5
1980	615,382	2,673,295	4.3	1,481,394	866,012	0.6
1981	535,524	2,464,323	4.6	1,176,410	640,886	0.5
1982	755,672	9,587,700	12.7	2,766,442	2,010,770	0.7
1983	792,765	9,486,794	12.0	3,981,411	3,188,646	0.8
1984	446,297	3,859,109	8.6	1,286,678	840,381	0.7
1985	573,761	2,587,921	4.5	2,496,016	1,922,255	0.8
1986	555,207	2,165,138	3.9	2,945,961	2,390,754	0.8
1987	2,011,657	#####	5.1	9,391,896	7,380,239	0.8
1988	1,212,865	2,546,639	2.1	6,054,519	4,841,654	0.8
1989	2,026,619	4,458,679	2.2	6,656,274	4,629,655	0.7
1990	794,616	1,507,693	1.9	3,224,183	2,429,567	0.8
1991	727,146	4,436,074	6.1	2,182,082	1,454,936	0.7
1992	1,207,382	4,271,576	3.5	8,235,298	7,027,916	0.9
1993	997,693	1,689,779	1.7	4,446,195	3,448,502	0.8
1994	1,309,669	3,052,634	2.3	3,886,918	2,577,249	0.7
1995	776,847	1,899,870	2.4	2,628,555	1,851,708	0.7
1996	963,108	2,261,757	2.3	3,696,067	2,732,959	0.7
1997	1,365,676	3,626,402	2.7	4,610,042	3,244,366	0.7
1998	929,090	4,465,328	4.8	1,902,219	973,129	0.5
1999	949,276	5,755,063	6.1	2,984,568	2,035,292	0.7
2000	696,899	7,058,333	10.1	1,814,779	1,117,880	0.6
2001	738,229	1,697,957	2.3	2,189,670	1,451,441	0.7
2002	1,126,616	3,628,712	3.2	3,466,762	2,340,146	0.7
2003	1,402,292	1,919,813	1.4	4,439,571	3,037,279	0.7
2004	1,690,547	3,236,600	1.9	5,705,141	4,014,594	0.7
2005	1,654,003	4,804,018	2.9	6,109,173	4,455,170	0.7
2006	1,892,090	5,006,280	2.6	2,848,597	956,507	0.3
2007	964,243	4,378,678	4.5	3,601,777	2,637,535	0.7
2008	708,805	3,380,397	4.8	2,082,431	1,373,626	0.7
2009	848,117	3,809,455	4.5	2,430,414	1,582,297	0.7
2010	1,038,302	3,625,388	3.5	3,596,458	2,558,156	0.7
2011	1,280,733	4,512,033	3.5	6,263,091	4,982,359	0.8



2012	1,212,921	1,468,110	1.2	4,769,681	3,556,760	0.7
2013	980,208	1,102,967	1.1	3,628,121	2,647,914	0.7
2014	1,218,342			3,404,034	2,185,693	0.6
2015	1,400,047			3,819,016	2,418,969	0.6
2016	1,120,711			3,711,842	2,591,131	0.7
2017	1,073,290			2,595,720	1,522,430	0.6
2018	888,268			1,566,210	677,942	0.4
2019	1,499,054			3,632,385		
Mean (197	982,271	3,681,057	4.2	3,370,572	2,402,941	0.7

The Average return per spawner  
to the Kenai River  
is 4.2

Since 2012 - 1.2  
2013 - 1.1

I hear 2014 - 1.6

Continued large escapements  
do not have average spawner  
return ratios.

As a result yield drops

Gary Haller  
Kenai, AK

Proposed 98



Year	Personal Use		Kenai River		Sport Harvest		Spawning		Inriver Goal	BEG/SEG	OEG	Presason Actual Run	
	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Dip Net, and Educational	Sport Harvest Below Sonar <sup>b</sup>	Sport Harvest Above Sonar <sup>c</sup>	Sonar Count <sup>e</sup>	Sport Harvest Above Sonar	Escapement	Forecast				Size	
1987	24,090		50,274	233,958	1,596,871	233,958	1,362,913	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	3.5	8.6
1988	16,880		29,345	144,093	1,021,469	144,093	877,376	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	5.0	5.8
1989	51,192		66,162	268,958	1,599,959	268,958	1,331,001	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	4.7	5.9
1990	3,477		19,640	155,742	659,520	155,742	503,778	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	4.2	2.7
1991	13,433		31,536	227,697	647,597	227,697	419,900	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	1.9	1.7
1992	30,454		47,622	222,482	994,798	222,482	772,316	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	1.5	3.9
1993	35,592		27,717	137,229	813,617	137,229	676,388	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	2.3	3.4
1994	15,804		17,954	102,378	1,003,446	102,378	901,068	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	2.5	2.3
1995	15,720		29,451	108,076	630,447	108,076	522,371	450,000-700,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	4.0	3.2
1996	104,110		39,810	166,166	797,847	166,166	631,681	550,000-800,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	1.7	3.9
1997	116,107		43,642	147,057	1,064,818	147,057	917,761	550,000-825,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	1.6	2.5
1998	105,497		33,980	155,905	767,558	155,905	611,653	550,000-850,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	330,000-600,000	2.5	1.4
1999	150,993		46,043	187,725	803,379	187,725	615,654	750,000-950,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	2.4	1.8
2000	99,571		57,978	203,801	624,578	203,801	420,777	600,000-850,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	1.7	3.0
2001	152,580		51,374	168,104	650,036	168,104	481,932	600,000-850,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	2.0	3.8
2002	182,229		46,693	213,066	957,924	213,066	744,858	750,000-950,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	3.2	5.0
2003	227,207		60,722	253,734	1,181,309	253,734	927,575	750,000-950,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	3.3	5.6
2004	266,937		62,397	254,836	1,385,981	254,836	1,131,145	850,000-1,100,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	1.8	2.5
2005	300,105		58,017	254,818	1,376,452	254,818	1,121,634	850,000-1,100,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	2.4	2.4
2006	130,486		30,964	172,638	1,499,692	172,638	1,327,054	750,000-950,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	3.1	2.3
2007	293,941		60,623	265,702	867,572	265,702	601,870	750,000-950,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	2.4	3.4
2008	236,355		46,053	208,334	614,946	208,334	406,612	650,000-850,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	2.4	2.4
2009	343,302		45,868	241,938	745,170	241,938	503,232	650,000-850,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	1.7	3.3
2010	393,317		59,651	256,582	970,662	256,582	714,080	750,000-950,000	500,000-800,000	500,000-1,000,000	500,000-1,000,000	3.9	6.2
2011	543,043		92,225	318,484	1,599,217	318,484	1,280,733	1,100,000-1,350,000	700,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,400,000	700,000-1,400,000	4.0	4.7
2012	530,128		102,376	368,720	1,581,555	368,720	1,212,835	1,100,000-1,350,000	700,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,400,000	700,000-1,400,000	4.4	3.5
2013	350,302		78,837	379,685	1,359,893	379,685	980,208	1,000,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,400,000	700,000-1,400,000	3.8	3.3
2014	384,018		78,057	301,998	1,520,340	301,998	1,218,341	1,000,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,400,000	700,000-1,400,000	3.6	3.9
2015	384,095		83,112	309,004	1,709,051	309,004	1,400,047	1,000,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,400,000	700,000-1,400,000	4.7	3.5
2016	266,506		79,465	262,981	1,383,692	262,981	1,120,711	1,100,000-1,350,000	700,000-1,200,000	700,000-1,400,000	700,000-1,400,000	na	4.6
2017	308,017		67,233	235,208	1,308,498	235,208	1,073,290	1,000,000-1,300,000	700,000-1,200,000	na	na	2.5	1.6
2018	173,609		41,122	147,493	1,035,761	147,493	888,268	900,000-1,100,000	700,000-1,200,000	na	na	3.8	
2019					1,849,054			1,000,000-1,300,000	700,000-1,200,000	na	na		

Source: State-Wide Harvest Surveys from Mills 1982-1994; Howe et al. 1995, 1996, 2001 a-d; Walker et al. 2003; Jennings et al. 2004, 2006a-b, 2007, 2009a-b, 2010a-b, 2011a-b, 2015; Romberg et al., *In Prep* a-d; Brannian and Fox 1996; Reimer and Sigurdsson 2004; Dunker and Lafferty 2007; Dunker 2010, 2013; K. J. Dunker, Sport Fish biologist, Anchorage, personal communication; King 1995, 1996; Pappas and Marsh 2004; Shields and Dupuis 2016; Educational harvest data, Kenaitze Indian Tribe; 2007-2015 Subsistence data, USFWS.

Note: ND = no data available

<sup>a</sup> Personal use (1987-1995), Subsistence dip net harvest (1991-1995), and Kenaitze educational harvest (1989-1995) from Brannian and Fox, 1996. From 1994 to present, the educational harvest is the total late-run harvest.

<sup>b</sup> In 1994 and 1995 a creel survey was conducted to estimate harvest below the sonar. In 1994, 49.7% of the below Soldotna Bridge harvest was taken below the sonar. In 1995, 68.6% was taken below the sonar. The average of these two percentages is applied to all other year's below-bridge harvest to estimate the harvest below the sonar.

<sup>c</sup> Bendix sonar counts for 1987-2010; DIDSON counts beginning in 2011.

Gary Holman  
Kenai, AK



## COOK INLET AREA

this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e).

**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.

(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.

(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 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 1,000,000 – 1,300,000 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 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 24-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 1,100,000 – 1,500,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

GARY HADNER Kenai, AK



Table 88-1 – History of Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon tiers, windows, EO hour limitations, and escapement goals.

Year	Tier	Window	EO			
			Limitation	Inriver Goal (1,000s)	BEG/SEG (1,000s)	OEG (1,000s)
1999	< 2 million	None	none	600 - 850	500 - 800	500 - 1,000
	2 to 4 million	> July 20, 24 hour window start 12 noon Fri in Kenai/E.F. Sections	none	750 - 950		
2002	> 4 million	None; extra time for Kenai sockeye only in Kenai/E.F. Sections	none	850 - 1,100		
	< 2 million	None	24 hour	600 - 850	500 - 800	500 - 1,000
2005	2 to 4 million	48 hours floating	36 hour	750 - 950		
	> 4 million	36 hours floating	60 hour	850 - 1,100		
2008	< 2 million	None	24 hour	650 - 850	500 - 800	500 - 1,000
	2 to 4 million	36 hour "Friday window" & 24 hour floating	51 hour	750 - 950		
2011 <sup>a</sup>	> 4 million	36 hour "Friday window"	84 hour	850 - 1,100		
	< 2.3 million	None	24 hour	900 - 1,100	700 - 1,200	700 - 1,400
2014	2.3 to 4.6 million	36 hour "Friday window" & 24 hour fixed "Tuesday Window"	51 hour	1,000 - 1,200		
	> 4.6 million	36 hour "Friday window"	84 hour	1,100 - 1,350		
2017	< 2.3 million	None	24 hour	900 - 1,100	700 - 1,200	700 - 1,400
	2.3 to 4.6 million	36 hour "Friday window" & 24 hour floating "Tue or Wed Window"	51 hour	1,000 - 1,300		eliminated
	> 4.6 million	36 hour "Friday window"	84 hour	1,100 - 1,500		

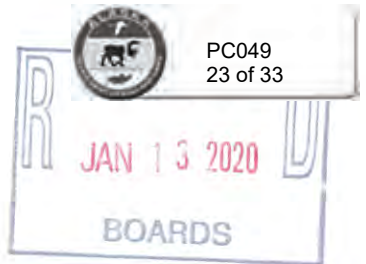
<sup>a</sup>Tiers and goals adjusted from Bendix sonar to DIDSON units beginning in 2011.



Table 88-2.—History of Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon BEG/SEGs, inriver goals, and OEGs.

Year	Kenai River sockeye salmon goal changes		
	BEG/SEG	Inriver	OEG
1969		150,000	
1972		150,000-250,000	
1978	350,000-500,000	350,000-500,000	
1987	330,000-600,000	400,000-700,000	330,000-600,000
1995		450,000-700,000	
1996	330,000-600,000	550,000-800,000	330,000-600,000
1997	330,000-600,000	550,000-825,000	330,000-600,000
1998	330,000-600,000	550,000-850,000	330,000-600,000
1999	500,000-800,000	600,000 - 1,100,000 <sup>a</sup>	500,000 - 1,000,000
2005	500,000-800,000	650,000 - 1,100,000 <sup>a</sup>	500,000 - 1,000,000
2011	700,000-1,200,000	900,000 - 1,350,000 <sup>a</sup>	700,000 - 1,400,000
2014	700,000-1,200,000	900,000 - 1,350,000 <sup>a</sup>	700,000 - 1,400,000
2017	700,000-1,200,000	900,000 - 1,500,000 <sup>a</sup>	eliminated

<sup>a</sup> Inriver goal is set at one of three tiers depending upon total run size



1/4/2020

Chairman Morisky and Members of the Alaska Board of Fish.

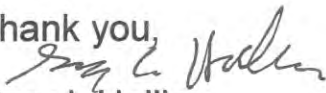
I am opposed to any change to the 1% rule in the ESSN fishery. The rule at best should stay at 1% and not start to be triggered until August 7.

In looking at genetics data from 2013, 2014, and 2015 the coho salmon harvest is minimal in the ESSN fishery. Please look at attached charts of coho's on harvest in the ESSN fishery.

I am against proposals 192, 193, 194, 195.

I support 191. With such a small harvest of coho's there is no reason for a 1% rule on the ESSN fishery.

Thank you,

  
Gary I. Hollier

Kenai, Ak.



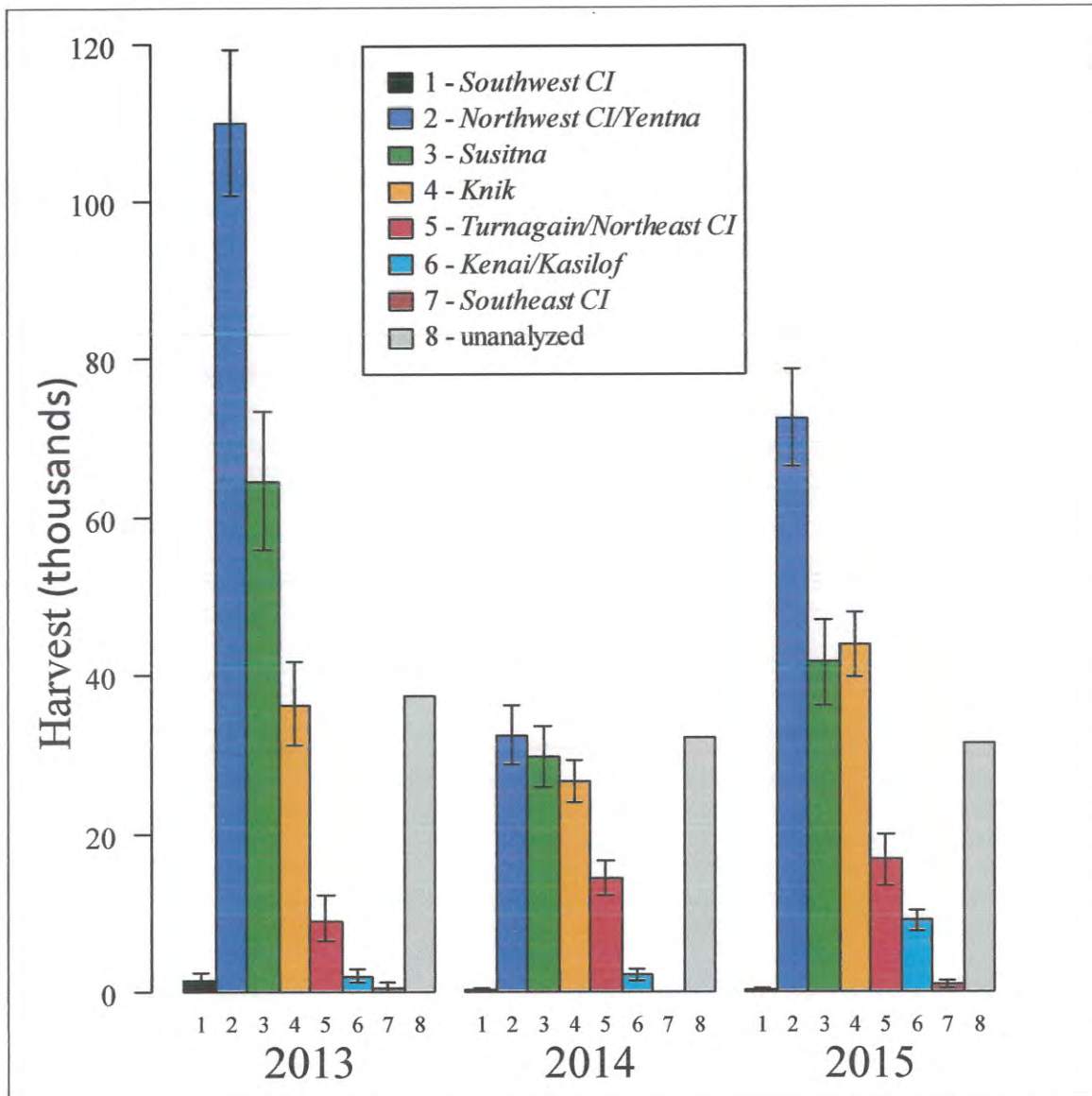


Figure 26.—Overall Cook Inlet commercial fishery stratified harvest estimates and credibility intervals for coho salmon by stock for 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Day 2 Walker  
Kenai, AK

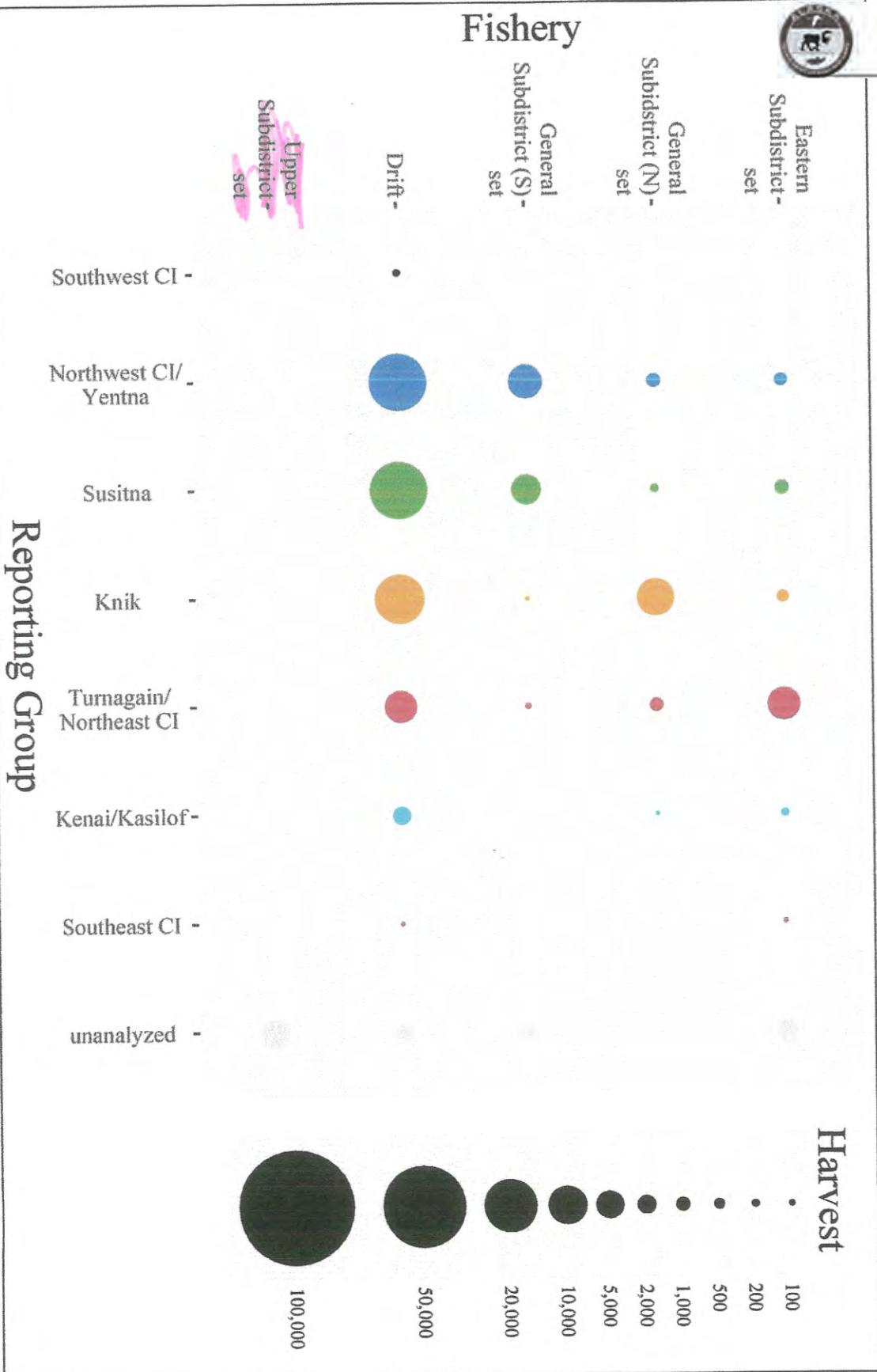


Figure 22.—Coho salmon harvest estimates by stock (reporting group) and Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery in 2014. Gray circles indicate the portion of the total harvest from each fishery not included in the analysis (unanalyzed).

*Dr. C. Hollis*  
Kenai, AK

Appendix C2.—Commercial coho salmon harvest by area and date in Upper Cook Inlet, 2014



PC049  
26 of 33

Upper Subdistrict Set Gillnet

Date	Statistical Area						
	244-21	244-22	244-25	244-31	244-32	244-41	244-42
06/23		1					
06/26		1					
06/28	1						
06/30				1			
07/03	3	2		1			
07/05	1						
07/07	9	6		2			
07/09	4	5		1	3	10	28
07/12	18	6		5			
07/15	9	35		3			
07/16			2				
07/17	9	10	8	8	22	141	106
07/18			3				
07/19			42				
07/20			11				
07/21			17				
07/22			16				
07/23	50	69	3	7	20	74	91
07/24			6				
07/25			34				
07/26			26				
07/27			16				
07/28			36				
07/29			31				
07/30			41				
08/01			43				
08/02	135	54	10	41	78	343	197
08/04	316	96		115	95	503	315
08/06					406	1,362	745

-continued-

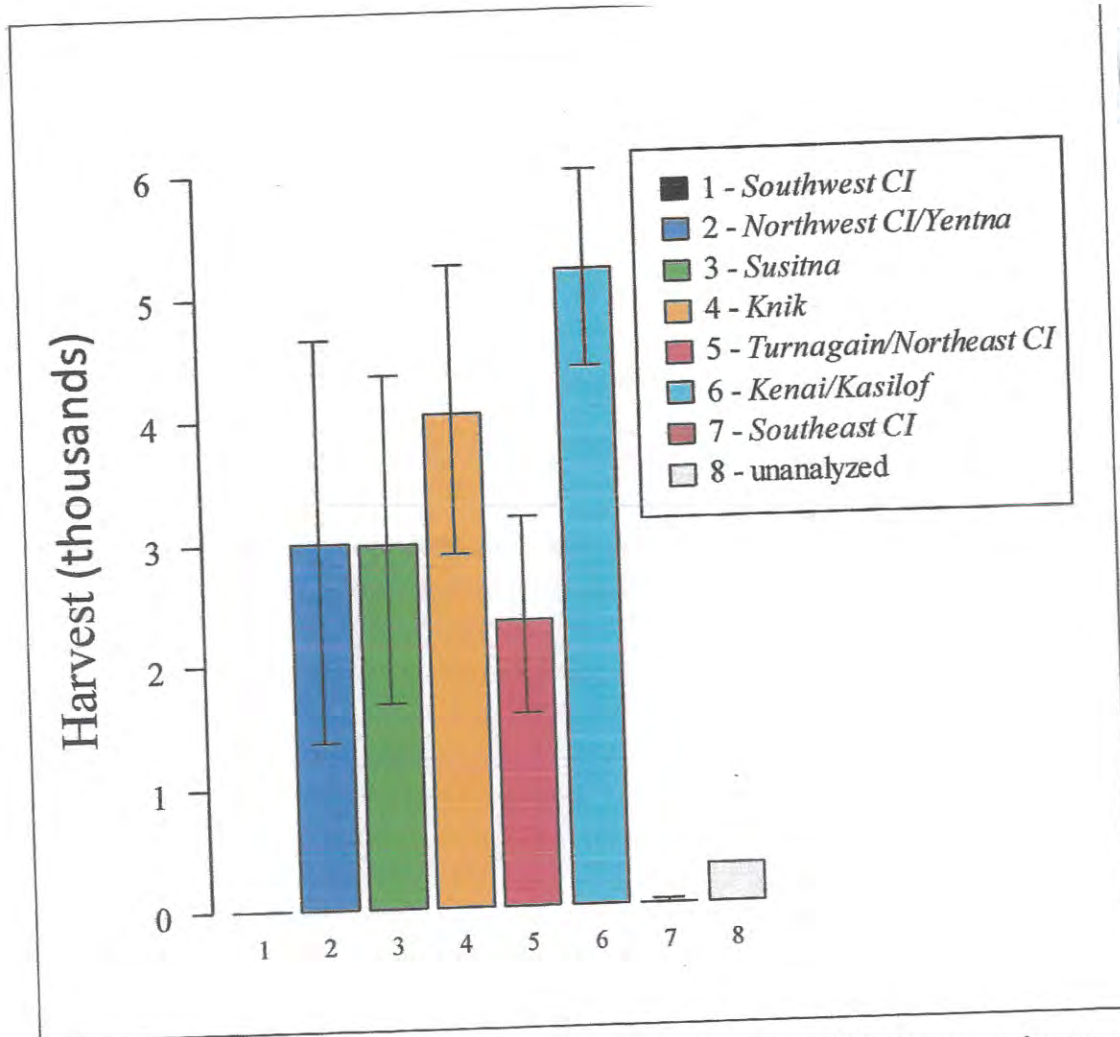


Figure 20.-Upper Subdistrict (Central District) set gillnet fishery 2015; harvest estimates and 90% credibility intervals for coho salmon by stock.

Approximately 10,000 coho salmon harvested in entire ESSN Fishery in 2015. Of which 5000+ was going to the Kenai River.

In 2013 and 2014 the coho harvest was considerably less. There is no reason for a <sup>73</sup> 20% percent rule!!

GARY HOLLIE



1/15/2020

Chairman Morisky and Members of the Alaska Board of Fish,

I am totally opposed to Proposal 78, which would amend the Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan (UCIMP).

This proposal would totally rewrite and change to UCIMP that went into effect in 1978. That is not to say that the current plan has not had many changes to it since inception.

The proposer states that ... the BOF ....continuing to restrict sport, guided sport and personal use salmon fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet in favor of the commercial fisheries.

The underlying premise of the UCIMP, adopted in 1978, gave a priority for sockeye, pink, and chum salmon to commercial fishermen. It gave a coho and King salmon priority to sport fisheries.

It also set time and area regulations on the commercial fishery.

For the ESSN fishery under the UCIMP, the season was June 25 to August 15. The Kenai section now starts on or after July 8, so some years our opening date isn't till July 10. With the changes to the UCIMP that have occurred in the past 40 years, it is a remarkable event to actually set net till August 15.

The Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement in 1978, had an in-river goal of 350,000 – 500,000. For the 2019 season, depending on the tier the in-river goal was 900-1,500,000 sockeye.

The in-river guided sport fishery has grown exponentially. Some years the in-river sports harvest above the sonar counter has been in excess of 350,000 sockeye. This guided fishery benefits Alaska residents and the rest of the nation and world.

There is a personal dip net fishery, for Alaska residents, that is continually growing in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, along with a set net personal use fishery in the mouth of the Kasilof River. These fisheries harvest hundreds of thousands of sockeye salmon.



The sport daily harvest of Kenai/Russian River sockeye has been as high as 9 a day and 18 in possession. There has been no shortage or opportunity for Alaskan Residents to harvest sockeye.

There is now a Late Run Kenai River King Salmon Management Plan, which insures opportunity for Alaskan residents.

There is now a "1 %" rule which shuts down set netting in the Upper Sub District to ensure an "orderly transition" to coho salmon in rivers. The set nets by regulation fish from August 11-15, only regular periods with no Emergency Order opportunity. This was supposed to be the transition to coho. This 1% rule gives more opportunity to coho sport fishermen.

Pink salmon use to be a big component in fishing time and revenue to the ESSN fishery. We now have a Pink Salmon Plan, which lets the ESSN fishery target pinks for two days a season only on even years. Since the inception of the Pink Plan, I believe it has only been implemented once or twice, due to the 1% rule or restrictions due to other plans. Hence millions of Pink salmon make it into the Kenai and Kasilof rivers for Alaska Residents, people of the nation, and the World to harvest.

These are a few examples of fishing opportunities for Alaskan Residents, most of much have evolved since 1978. Every one of these regulations has increased benefits to the "sports" fishery to Alaskan Residents. While with their gain it came at the expense of commercial fishermen in Cook Inlet.

At the March 2018 Statewide BOF meeting this similar proposal was soundly rejected by the BOF.

I urge not passing proposal 78.

Thank you,

Gary I. Hollier

Kenai, Ak.



1/15/2020

Chairman Morisky and Members of the Alaska Board of Fish,

I am writing this RC in opposition to proposal 104, which would add an OEG to the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan (KRLRKSMMP).

Additionally this proposal would drastically reduce hours that could be fished in the East Side Set Net Fishery.

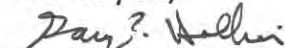
At the 2017 BOF the Board approved the current KRLRKSMMP, the plan originally asked by the Department would need a lower goal of 11,731, which would be the lower end of MSY. Please see attached email to me from ADF&G. The BOF raised the lower goal to 13,500 for allocative concerns.

The proposer states an issue in the current plan is that “ ... 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.....”.

Please look at the data concerning harvest of LLRKRKS, even during low King Salmon runs the in-river Sport harvest is more than 50%.

The KRLRKSMMP has only been in regulation for three years, please leave this plan status-quo, for a minimum of three more years.

Thank you,

  
Gary I. Hollier

Kenai, Ak.

**From:** Shields, Patrick A (DFG) [pat.shields@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 03, 2020 4:23 PM  
**To:** Gary Hollier  
**Cc:** Marston, Brian H (DFG); Frothingham, Alyssa (DFG)  
**Subject:** RE: In river harvest



PC049  
31 of 33

Gary: here is a table that we have inserted into Proposal 108. It is an estimate of large kings harvested in the inriver fishery versus the ESSN fishery. I'm not sure of the methods used to estimate large fish but it likely had to do with the estimate of the various age classes in each year's return. Basically the table says what we all know. When there are lots of kings in the run, the inriver fishery takes the largest share of the harvest. However, when the run get small, then the harvest breakdown between the two fisheries becomes much closer, averaging 46% ESSN to 54% sport in the last six years. In the years prior to 2014, the harvest breakdown between the two fisheries was 26% ESSN and 74% sport.

Table 108-4.- Estimated harvest of Kenai River late-run large (> 75 cm) king salmon in the ESSN and Kenai River sport fisheries, 1998-2019.

Year	Total Run	Total Inriver sport harvest	ESSN	% of harvest by inriver sport	% of harvest by ESSN	Escapement
1998	43,130	6,435	2,165	75%	25%	33,385
1999	45,657	11,336	4,402	72%	28%	29,100
2000	41,719	13,709	1,795	88%	12%	25,502
2001	45,754	13,873	1,905	88%	12%	29,531
2002	55,910	11,122	3,483	76%	24%	40,514
2003	67,984	13,353	4,375	75%	25%	48,461
2004	91,312	14,507	9,990	59%	41%	65,112
2005	84,189	17,011	9,501	64%	36%	55,688
2006	57,122	13,407	3,074	81%	19%	39,305
2007	44,421	9,262	4,055	70%	30%	29,664
2008	42,680	10,303	3,425	75%	25%	28,094
2009	28,044	7,503	1,410	84%	16%	18,251
2010	22,180	5,633	2,384	70%	30%	13,037
2011	26,381	5,921	2,499	70%	30%	15,731
2012 <sup>a</sup>	23,206					22,453
2013	14,382	978	679	59%	41%	12,305
2014	13,403	293	706	29%	71%	11,980
2015	22,796	2,755	2,808	50%	50%	16,825
2016	25,629	6,710	2,906	70%	30%	14,676
2017	30,408	6,225	2,998	67%	33%	20,634
2018	17,798	427	555	43%	57%	17,285
2019 <sup>b</sup>	12,780	1,160	613	65%	35%	11,548
Average 1998-2013	47,391	10,290	3,676	74%	26%	32,245
Average 2014-2019	20,469	2,928	1,764	54%	46%	15,491

<sup>a</sup> 2012 not included in averages due to significant restrictions in the fishery

<sup>b</sup> 2019 data is preliminary





**Gary**

**From:** Shields, Patrick A (DFG) [pat.shields@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2019 4:11 PM  
**To:** Gary Hollier  
**Subject:** RE: King goal  
**Attachments:** FMS17-02-Kenai River king salmon esc goal.pdf

Gary: the attached file is the Kenai River king salmon escapement goal report provided to the board at the 2017 meeting, which is where the large fish goal was first set. If you look at page 28 (copied in below), that is where the 11,700-32,000 goal around MSY could have been set. This report is heavy on statistical jargon, but maybe you can come to your own conclusion as to why the goal was shifted to the right, but it was. The department used OYPs (optimum yield profiles) and shifted this puppy to the right, setting the bottom end at 13,500. I am probably not the best person to get into the weeds and attempt to explain this, but if it is a desire by you to try and understand this, Adam Reimer in our local office is the person to talk to.

Escapement leading to maximum sustained yield SMSY was estimated to be between 11,731 and 31,832 (posterior median 18,477, CV 0.31; Table 6). Late-run SMSY was estimated with somewhat less certainty than early-run SMSY (CV = 0.24; Table 3). The optimal yield profiles (Figure 14 top panel) are slightly less steep and reach lower maxima than the early run, indicating less certainty about yield dynamics.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gary Hollier <glh@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2019 1:53 PM  
**To:** Shields, Patrick A (DFG) <pat.shields@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** King goal

Hey Pat when the Department came out with the large king goal in 2014?, didn't they recommend 11,500 and the BOF put an additional 2000 on the low end for 13,500?

Thanks  
Gary

Sent from my iPhone

10/23/19

# Statistical Areas for East Side Set-Mittimus Cook Inlet

907-252-5870

Gary L. Honier 36055 Re-Air, Kenai AK  
gch@alaska.net



Submitted By  
Georgie Heaverley  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 11:23:49 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
(907) 398-1849  
Email  
[glheaverley@gmail.com](mailto:glheaverley@gmail.com)  
Address  
4020 Crosson Dr.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

### **Proposal 78 – OPPOSE**

- Current regulations give the Board of Fisheries full authority to emphasize listed criteria as they see fit when making allocative decisions. This criteria is not set in any order of importance, meaning the Board has complete decision making authority on allocative issues. This proposal would limit the Board's authority by requiring them to make decisions based on weighted criteria.
- This proposal would place priority on the fishery with the highest number of participants. The personal use and sport fisheries of Cook Inlet continue to grow in number, whereas the commercial drift and setnet fishery participation has been limited by law since 1974, when limited entry was enacted.
- This proposal has far reaching implications beyond Cook Inlet. It is not necessary to misalign the allocation criteria between different regions of the state. If the Cook Inlet fisheries are re-allocated in such a manner it will set a dangerous precedent for all fisheries in Alaska.

### **Proposal 79 – OPPOSE**

See comments for Proposal 78.

### **Proposal 119 – SUPPORT**

I support the Department's use of biological escapement goals to assist in making science-based management decisions for the Cook Inlet fisheries.

### **Proposal 129 – OPPOSE**

This would place financial burden upon commercial fishermen, as they would need to purchase new gear in order to meet the proposed mesh depth requirement.

### **Proposal 138 – SUPPORT**

I support the implementation of weekly fishing periods in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict as this would provide stability for fishery participants and area management. Chinitna Bay is the most remote commercial fishing area in Upper Cook Inlet, and therefore it takes more time and financial resources to participate in than other areas. Allowing regular openers would provide ample time for both fishermen and processors to prepare for the Chinitna Bay salmon runs.

### **Proposal 139 – OPPOSE**

A complete closure of the commercial drift fishery in Chinitna Bay would have negative economic impacts for Cook Inlet drifters and processors who rely on these fishing openers. The focus should be on ensuring that adequate resources are provided to properly manage the Chinitna Bay fishery.

### **Proposal 186 – SUPPORT**

I support the elimination of the one percent rule in both the drift and setnet fisheries of Cook Inlet, as it restricts the Department's ability to make effective science-based management decisions when determining the commercial fishing season end.

### **Proposals 192-195 – OPPOSE**

See comments for Proposal 186.

## RE: PROPOSAL 163 Prohibit guiding in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dip net fishery

This proposal is highly discriminatory towards many, if not most Alaska residents for several reasons. It is in my honest opinion, that guides provide more than just an opportunity to harvest fish. Guide services on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers are simply an organized avenue of access on a very congested waterway. To eliminate the option of having a professional, licensed and qualified charter operator on either of these two rivers, regardless of it being a Personal Use or Subsistence type fishery, would pull away from the GOOD things that they currently uphold, such as: - Providing safe access for special needs Alaskans, that both physically and or mentally would not be able to participate otherwise. - Reducing vessel congestion on the river. - Actively enforcing legal and ethical practices while engaging in the fishery. - Promoting boater safety and assuring that the rules and regulations for operating a vessel on these HIGH RISK waterways on navigable waters are adhered too. - Maintaining a higher level of ecological awareness by self imposing limited daily use of the fishery IE: 6 & 8 hour charter lengths. - Due to the nature of this fishery, upholding the ADFG Rules and Regulations of the Personal Use Fishery in general, and doing so with greater respect, on account of the liability of involving a commercial operation.

Name	Proposal	Position
Glen Trombley	122	oppose

Submitted By  
Grant Fritz  
Submitted On  
1/20/2020 7:49:51 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907 2624361

Email  
[Grantfritz1@gmail.com](mailto:Grantfritz1@gmail.com)

Address  
P.O. Box 34  
Kasilof, Alaska 99610

This letter is in reference to proposal 169 to prohibit motorized vessels on the section of the Kasilof River.

I Grant Fritz, have lived on the Kasilof River for 64 years. The outboard use on the river has increased drastically in the last 5 years. The river guides who once floated the river, are now using outboards to get down river quickly, so they can get two trips of clients in one day. These drift boats with 4-5 people in them, are not designed to be pushed by 25-30 horse outboards. The result is that they throw about 2ft wake. This alone has been the biggest factor in damaging the river bank. We have lost an estimated 3ft or more in the past few years. I have at great cost, restored 250 ft of river bank to enhance salmon habitat. We partnered with Alaska Fish and game as well as Kenai Soil and Water to accomplish the project. The down river wakes from these outboards has already begun to erode the newly built river bank. They will not hold up to this kind of activity.

Please take careful consideration of this proposal to protect the King Salmon run on the Kasilof River. Do not let special interest groups such as the sports fishing guides association influence common sense stewardship of this valuable resource. The eventual loss of habitat is not worth a handful of guides having the opportunity to make an extra buck.

Sincerely,  
Grant Fritz

Submitted By  
Guy tri  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 1:16:09 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907 398 5137

Email  
[Guytriak@gmail.com](mailto:Guytriak@gmail.com)

Address  
51040 passage dr  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Been here 67 yrs no ,no close the hold thing now .no I'm not a commercial fisherman and I Dnt fish on the kenai period, it been over 30 yrs sense I've fish the Kasilof . If I need fish I'll go down to some fish set and buy some. This has been a big mistake , I live 1/4 mile from cannery road , it just crazy down there . Had to run off people on my land looking for wood, 5 year ago someone dump a ice box full bad fish here a the grave pit mile 12 1/2 , nice right. Call fish and game they didn't do anything but take picture  Went down there pick them up about 100 fish took back to the inlet. There no control there. ( one day I hope a high tide take them out to sea ) now want to see if guides would work hell no. There too many boat on the river then , guytri

Submitted By  
Hampton Joye  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 1:55:50 PM  
Affiliation  
Azarel Setnet Fisheries - shareholder

As a lifelong East Side Setnetter I strongly oppose **KRSA proposals** 78, 88 and 104.

Under KSRA 104 I agree with the below point already laid out ..

- We oppose this arbitrary and premature change to the scientifically established SEG. The big king goal was an attempt to revive the struggling king runs, and setnet fishermen have shouldered the majority of the conservation burden since it was established. ADF&G set the goal just three years ago at the 2017 meeting, so recently that not even one king salmon lifecycle has been completed. The efficacy of the new goal has yet to be established, and changing it now is premature. The result will be further unnecessary restrictions to the commercial setnet fishery.
- 

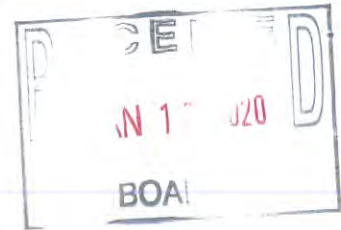
We simply cannot continue making decisions that continue to restrict the setnet fisheries.  
Please consider the equality and fairness of all fisheries in the Rivers And Cook Inlet.

Thank you for your time! I look forward to hearing the news of these propositions not passing.



January 15, 2020

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526A



RE: PROPOSAL 169 Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River  
January 1—September 15


I am writing this letter to oppose Proposal 169. The Kasilof River is already closed to fishing above the Sterling Highway Bridge for king salmon and existing regulations have closed the river below the bridge to fishing from power boats (other than 10 hp motors used to navigate in the tidal areas).

The closure of the Kasilof River above the Sterling Highway Bridge will take a large portion of the river away from the power boating public for no real reason. The problems in the Kenai River and the Lower Kasilof river don't exist above the Sterling Highway Bridge. The State and Federal government are both land holders along both sides of the Kasilof River above the Sterling Highway Bridge. My family's ability to access these lands will be extremely limited if I can no longer use my power boat to get there.

I also object to this proposal as a resident of Kasilof because it will take away yet another opportunity for me (an older Alaskan) to operate my power boat to access sport fishing in the river both above and below Silver Salmon Rapids.

Thank you for your consideration and taking comments from the public regarding these proposals.

Sincerely,

  
JACK G Fidler



Submitted By  
James Trombley  
Submitted On  
1/14/2020 12:05:48 PM  
Affiliation

I **OPPOSE** Proposal 163 for the following reasons:

The personal use fishery is open to ALL residents of Alaska, not just those who are physically capable or can afford their own boat or have the desire to stand chest deep in the water to try and catch fish. If a resident should choose to hire a boat to take them dip netting then that is their right to do so just as they are allowed to hire a boat to take them salmon or halibut fishing or a plane to fly them out somewhere to fish or hunt.

According to recent studies, approximately 11.6% of the population of Alaska suffers from some type of disability. That equals almost 9000 residents statewide. The service that is provided by guided dip netting helps many of those disabled residents (many of them Veterans) participate in this Resident fishery. Passage of this proposal could be seen as a discriminatory action against that group. Passage would mean that not ALL resident could participate.

Some would say that those in that group should just use the Proxy method that is allowed, however many disabled Alaskans want to continue to try and provide for themselves in any manner possible and if that means hiring a guide to help them access that fishery then by all means that should be allowed. I have spoken with disabled passengers who have used a guide to participate and many have said that if it wasn't for this option being available to them that they would be unable to participate. Are you willing to take that ability away from them?

I have seen several people on social media complaining about this subject, griping about the few guides that are actually providing this service. I've found that many of those voicing anger about this are those on the other side of the fence.... Commercial fishermen. The Commercial fishing vs Personal Use Fishing issue has been going on for years and this is just the newest topic..... the flavor of the month. Interesting that the ones on social media bragging that they filed this proposal is not the one whose name appeared on the original posting as having filed it. Perhaps the connection to commercial fishing would be to apparent if the truth be known?

Banning a handful of participants from this fishery is not going to solve the problems that exist within the fishing industry in Alaska. Remember, this fishery is for ALL Alaskans. Able bodied, disabled, poor or wealthy. Do not discriminate against a few because they elect to participate in this fishery by having a guide take them out to exercise their rights.

Submitted By  
Jan Kornstad  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 12:05:51 PM  
Affiliation

I strongly oppose Proposal 78. To change the wording from "may" to "shall" is an insult to any BOF member and an attempt to restrict their ability to think for themselves and make informed decisions based on scientific information. Another thinly veiled effort by KRSA to eliminate the setnet fishery in Cook Inlet.

Submitted By  
Jan Kornstad  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 12:12:11 PM  
Affiliation

I strongly oppose Proposal 88. Current goals are more than adequate to accomplish numbers thoughtfully and purposefully set by those whose job it is to know these numbers. Stop trying to replace science with allocations for Sport Fish gain. The effect will be the destruction of the Kenai River Sockeye runs.

Submitted By  
Jan Kornstad  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 12:17:45 PM  
Affiliation

I strongly oppose Proposal 104. An OEG was set a few years ago and has not even completed one 5 year cycle yet. Again, wait for science to reach a conclusion. Just another attempt to restrict the setnet fishery with incomplete scientific evidence.

Submitted By  
Jayden Hollier  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 4:06:18 PM  
Affiliation  
set netter

My name is Jayden Hollier and I like to go commercial fishing with my dad. I'm a 4th generation fishergirl. I love to spend my summers on the beaches. I'm only 10, but in a few years I want to be able to drive my dad's boat. Please don't put us out of business. I oppose #78, 88, and 104

Submitted By  
Jayne Fortson  
Submitted On  
1/19/2020 7:51:00 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907 351-4434

Email  
[j\\_fortson@hotmail.com](mailto:j_fortson@hotmail.com)

Address  
10101 Middlerock Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

I oppose proposition 163 for the following reason:

I have lived in Alaska for 29 years and I have raised my 3 children here. We love Alaska and the opportunities it provides. I have always wanted to go dipnetting and for years have listened to others talk about their experiences. I was unable to go dipnetting because I am a paraplegic and use a wheelchair. Fishing from the beach is impossible in a wheelchair and no one I know has a boat that can accommodate a wheelchair. Two years ago I was finally able to dipnet because I learned of a charter called the Dip Ship that had a boat built specially for wheelchair use. It has a flat deck and it can pull up alongside the dock and with a ramp. I can get on the boat and move around the deck a bit. It even has a makeshift place to use as a bathroom on the back. I was able to go dipnetting with my daughter and it was the first time for both of us. It was a magical day that we will always remember. The following year I went with two friends. There are so many people that are disabled but are unable to dipnet because of the logistics. It is very challenging for those with disabilities to get out and enjoy the Alaska that everyone else takes for granted. The Dip Ship makes it possible for me to partake of the dipnet fishery which is the right of all Alaskans.

If you close the fishery to charters, disabled people who do not own a custom made boat will no longer be able to partake in this wonderful Alaska experience. This should be the right of all Alaskans.

Jayne Fortson MD

Submitted By  
Jeff Dick  
Submitted On  
1/22/2020 4:39:15 PM  
Affiliation  
citizen

Phone  
(907) 440-2078  
Email  
[prickly.goat@gmail.com](mailto:prickly.goat@gmail.com)  
Address  
4111 E. 20th Ave. #7  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Hello. I oppose proposition 163 on the grounds that it will significantly exclude a significant portion of Alaskans from access to the personal use fishery on both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. If passed, proposition 163 will impact Alaskans with disabilities, making areas that are currently accessible to dipnet through the use of a charter or guide service inaccessible without significant hardship and financial burden. According to DisabilityStatistics.org, 12.6% of Alaskans have a disability. This means that 90,705 Alaskans have a disability of some type. More specifically, 5.8% of Alaskans have a mobility impairment, which means that 42,771 Alaskans (and specifically 26,204 Alaskans in the South-Central Region) are unable to dipnet in the traditional manner. In having access to charters and guiding services, people with disabilities (and especially mobility impairments) are able to get onto the river and and enjoy one of the many benefits of being an Alaska resident - dipnetting and providing food for their families as countless others have done year in and year out. Denying this to a segment of the population based on ability is going backwards and not consistent with who we are as a State.

If passed, proposition 167 will directly affect many many people, including a number of my friends and even my wife. They will be excluded from participating in this uniquely Alaskan experience. and from helping provide food for their families - a "right" most of us take for granted. I strongly urge you to keep all of these residents in mind when considering all of the factors and provide a voice for them by voting no to 167. Thank you for your time and service on this Board and to our State.

Submitted By  
Jennifer Jaymes  
Submitted On  
1/16/2020 6:39:34 PM  
Affiliation

Please restrict motorized boats on the Kasilof. No motors Jan 1 - Sept 15



Joe and Diane Owens  
P.O. Box 1085  
Seward, Alaska 99664  
January 16, 2020

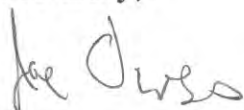
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Board of Fisheries Members,

It is our understanding that you may soon address our concern for salmon runs on the Kasilof River. **We are writing in support of PROPOSAL 169**, a special provision that proposes to restrict power boats on the Kasilof River.

As riverfront property owners, we are concerned that the salmon runs be managed in order that all those fishing here may enjoy continued healthy returns. We feel PROPOSAL 169 can help sustain our Kings and Sockeyes.

Yours truly,



Joe & Diane Owens  
(907) 224-4768

Submitted By  
Joe McElroy  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 5:31:02 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073120224  
Email  
[jwm.ggmfa@gmail.com](mailto:jwm.ggmfa@gmail.com)  
Address  
P.O. Box 182  
Kasilof, Alaska 99610

Proposal 196 - In favor.

To whom it may concern:

As a property owner on the Kasilof River directly effected by this proposal, I strongly support the restrictions on motors in the river. My wife and I have watched as river bank erosion has been extremely exacerbated by the combination of motorized boats creating wakes and high water levels in the river. This has not only caused significant loss of land (and associated land value), but does significant damage to salmon habitat.

Ironically, we initially noticed the significance of the eroision problem when Fish and Game conducted king salmon tagging and netting around our house using motors to get up and down the river and catch/release tagged salmon. Since then, a new phenomenon of river guides using motos has taken over. We used to only see motor use on the river in late fall when levels were high and typically hunters used the river for access. Guiding was never motorized - always by drift boat. Now the guides have started using motors to get down river faster for what I can only assume is to get more trips in one day and increase profits. What they don't understand is in their haste to make more money now, they are killing there resource in years to come. A very short sighted view.

I ask the board to consider this proposal as a mandatory need to maintain healthy salmon runs and protect environmental damage from erosion. It is critical that this action be taken now before the river banks and spawning grounds are beyond repair. Thank you for your consideration, and diligence in this critical matter. - Joe and Julie McElroy



Submitted By  
Joe Owens  
Submitted On  
1/15/2020 12:04:19 PM  
Affiliation  
  
Phone  
907-422-7668  
Email  
[jdowens@gci.net](mailto:jdowens@gci.net)  
Address  
PO Box 1085  
Seward, Alaska 99664

I understand that you may soon address our concern for salmon runs on the Kasilof River. I am writing **in support of PROPOSAL 169**, a special provision that proposes to restrict power boats on the Kasilof River.

As a Kasiloff riverfront property owner, I am concerned that the salmon runs be managed in order that all those fishing here may enjoy continued healthy returns. I feel PROPOSAL 169 can help sustain our Kings and Sockeyes. Please be pro-active and address this issue before power boats ruin the runs.

Submitted By  
JON M LEVAN  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 8:01:23 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9075392253

Email  
[JLEVANKODIAK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JLEVANKODIAK@GMAIL.COM)

Address  
PO BOX 8676  
KODIAK, Alaska 99615

I am opposed to Proposal 78 which seeks to include weighted criteria when allocating fishery resources in cook inlet. For one the board of fisheries already has full authority to allocate the resources. The precedent it can set for all of Alaska fisheries concerns me and other fisherman in Kodiak. This proposal if passed would negatively affect friends of mine in cook inlet and have the potential to negatively affect me directly in the future if it sets a precedent.

To Whom It May Concern:

Below are my comments to the proposal

**Proposal 148**

I, Jordan A. Perrego support as amended.

The two, unbaited, single hooks should only be allowed during the winter and early spring months. Because as mentioned in Mr. Brna and Mr. Brown's proposal that is the only time of the year the anglers are supposedly using the technique. If this proposal is allowed through the entire year, anglers will have the need to fish two hooks during salmon spawning season and immediately after that which last several months. Which is when the majority of Rainbow Trout/Steelhead and Arctic Char/Dolly Varden are most vulnerable to being caught. Therefore, this would have an exponential increase on pressure to the Rainbow Trout/Steelhead and Arctic Char/Dolly Varden species. Due to the poor unhooking and releasing techniques by majority of anglers this is highly increase post-release mortality and truly hurt a non-renewable resource. Because as history has shown, true "Kenai Kings" are rare to come by nowadays, therefore I fear there will be no more trophy trout for the next generations to come. To reiterate, I highly advise there to be a winter and spring only regulation for the 2 hooks no bigger than a size 10.

Thank you for the time to read my comment.

Very Respectfully,

Jordan A. Perrego  
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(540) 312-3174

## RE: PROPOSAL 169 Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1— September 15

I have owned property on the upper Kasilof River that is accessible only by boat in the summer for over 20 years. I have a drift boat that I have rowed on the Kasilof for many years but due to my physical limitations (I am currently 65), it is difficult for me to now do. I have purchased a jet boat to be able to access my property as the other land owners that purchased property in my area have done. By not allowing motorized boats on the upper Kasilof, you would be greatly limiting my access to my recreational property. I have recently built a cabin on my property and am set to retire this year. I look forward to finally being able to fully enjoy the many years of hard work that I have put into my property. I fully oppose this proposal and hope that you do the same. Thank you for your time.

Submitted By  
Karen McGahan  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 9:12:58 AM  
Affiliation

I oppose Proposal #78, which takes away the ability of the board member to be flexible in that member's considerations.

Submitted By  
Karen McGahan  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 9:24:33 AM  
Affiliation

I oppose Proposal #88.

The in-river goals are so high now that they cannot be harvested.

Submitted By  
Karen McGahan  
Submitted On  
1/21/2020 9:38:39 AM  
Affiliation

I oppose Proposal #104.

First of all, "paired restrictions" are not based on science or on the biologists recommendations.

ADF&G set the goal just three years ago at the 2017 meeting, so recently that not even one king salmon lifecycle has been completed. The efficacy of the new goal has yet to be established, and changing it now is premature.

Submitted By  
Katie Blossom  
Submitted On  
1/22/2020 11:43:55 AM  
Affiliation

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This comment is in regards to proposal 169 5 AAC 56.122

I Katie Blossom was born and raised here in Kasilof on the River. My dad homesteaded 60 years ago. This river has been a quiet, peaceful sanctuary with year round beauty. We love to watch ducks, moose, swans, bears, and abundant salmon. Recently, I was part of a massive river bank restoration project my family was working on to keep the bank from washing away and destroying fish and wildlife habitat. It is difficult to watch motorized boats come way too fast along the river and see the wake slosh on the bank over and over again. Where this wake occurs is right where we watch king salmon roll spawn and lay their eggs and we see the baby king salmon. I plan to be here years to come and want to see this beautiful river protected. I support this proposal. Thank You

Submitted By  
Katie Tongue  
Submitted On  
1/15/2020 8:30:02 AM  
Affiliation  
none

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Kasilof, Alaska 99610

I dont have much time to write this but I would like to express my wholehearted support for PROPOSAL 169.

I have lived in Kasilof (near, but not on the river) since 1996 and I have watched the volume of boats on the river increase to a level unimaginable 20 years ago. The drift boats are one thing, but when I started hearing the buzz of motors on the river, the future became obvious. First off I was surprised that motors could navigate the river as it is smaller and had previously been considered too shallow and too rocky to use motors on. But not surprisingly with the restrictions on the declining Kenai, the guide industry has gotten innovative and less risk averse.

The Kasilof is smaller and more vulnerable than the Kenai. I am not a biologist but I suspect the same adverse effects of motors on banks of the kenai will be magnified on the smaller Kasilof.

I am hoping you can see the right thing to do here is to allow the Kasilof to remain the driftbaot fishery it has historically been and hope that the pressure of drift boats alone does not exceed what the fishery can bear.

Please prevent motor boats from damaging our small and serene river.

Submitted By  
Kellie Kvasnikoff  
Submitted On  
1/15/2020 2:44:23 PM  
Affiliation

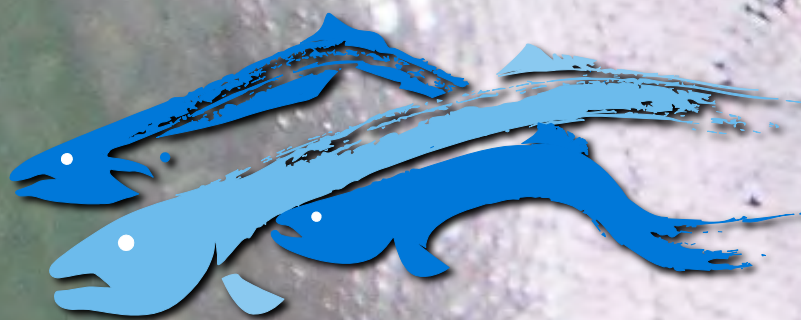
Dipnetting was a created user group given an unsustainable resource. Cook Inlet commercial drift fishery, as well as the setnet fishery where designated to manage the fish in Cook Inlet. The number of fishing guides in Cook Inlet, and the Kenai River, and Kasilof river is a larger number than the commercial fishing fleet. However the commercial fishing fleet has been excused from the management of The fishery, and the experience substantially more days off the water then the guides, or the dipnetters. Dipnetting needs to be erased, guides need to be managed, and the commercial fishery needs to resume the management a fish in Cook Inlet. Also the over escapement every year needs to cease, it's a matter of record that the highest return rates where those with escapement values of around 600,000 fish. The Alaska department of fish and game has failed miserably in the management of Cook Inlet fish. we need to return back to the practices that were successful in the 70s, and 80s.





# 2020 UPPER COOK INLET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORT TO THE  
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES



**KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING  
ASSOCIATION**

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## Kenai River Sportfishing Association

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The Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) is a professional 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization. KRSA is dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of the world's premier sportfishing river – the Kenai.

We are a nonpartisan fishery-conservation organization that works to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of fish resources in the Kenai River and elsewhere in Alaska, through advocacy of sport and personal-use fisheries and the promotion of science-based fish management.

Headquartered in Soldotna, KRSA's original focus was on the Kenai River. We have recently begun expanding our efforts to protect fish and fishing throughout the state.

We fund or create programs to protect and/or rehabilitate fish habitat; we fund research on the health of Alaska rivers and other fresh waters and fish populations; we fund or staff programs to educate children, the general public and our government/business leaders on fish and water conservation; and we advocate at the government level for sustainable and equitable fisheries management.

Since 1984, KRSA has been a leading advocate for fisheries conservation in Alaska, working diligently to ensure Alaskans' recreational fishing rights are protected and the fisheries are healthy for generations to come.

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## I. A FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE IN UCI SALMON FISHERIES

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What is the current state of salmon management in UCI?

***PROBLEM STATEMENTS that describe the faults and shortcomings in Upper Cook Inlet salmon fisheries***

1. The people of Alaska and the State of Alaska are suffering because the Alaska Board of Fisheries has not been fulfilling its Constitutional obligation to maximize the benefit of the fisheries resource to the people of the State by continuing to restrict personal use, sport, and guided sport salmon fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet in favor of the commercial salmon fisheries.
2. Personal Use, Sport, and guided sport fishermen lack sufficient opportunity to successfully harvest sockeye, chum and coho salmon in the Upper Cook Inlet during July and August because the existing management regime prioritizes commercial fisheries.
3. All user groups face the distinct possibility each year of closure of opportunity due to low abundance of both early and late-run king salmon. Aggressive assessment and conservation strategies featuring effective and fair paired restrictions are essential.

How would implementation of this framework change salmon management in Upper Cook Inlet?

***DESIRED OUTCOMES necessary to fulfill constitutional directives, provide for sustained yield, maximize benefit, and protect state interests:***

1. Substantially improve opportunity for sport, guided sport and personal use fishermen to successfully harvest sockeye, late-run kings and coho salmon in the rivers, streams and marine waters of Upper Cook Inlet.
2. Increase management precision in Chinook fisheries throughout Cook Inlet; reduce the frequency of emergency closures to all users, over time, by increasing the abundance of Chinook in the rivers, streams and marine waters of Upper Cook Inlet.
3. Increase personal use opportunity in Northern Cook Inlet and maintain current levels of opportunity in personal use fisheries on the Kenai Peninsula.
4. A commercial fishery that is sustainable, shares the conservation burden, and is based on reasonable expectations that are likely to be met.

## How do we get there?

### ***Change the primary TARGETS for fisheries management.***

The primary target for salmon management is assuring that established escapement goals for all salmon are achieved.

Achieving in-river goals (measured by sonar on the Kenai) for sockeye salmon is the other significant target. In river goals include fish for both escapement and the allocation to fisheries upstream of the counting site. Raising the in-river goals for late-run sockeye salmon will result in more predictable opportunity for non-commercial fishermen throughout Upper Cook Inlet to harvest salmon. Establishing an optimum escapement goal for Kenai River late run sockeye salmon will enhance the probability of sustaining larger returns in the future.

### ***Fine tune management with using the traditional TOOLS for management.***

Examples of those commonly used tools include: preamble language, time and area, gear, bag and possession limits, seasonal limits, allocation plan harvest proportions, “windows”, the “conservation corridor”, commercial net depth, and the “one percent” rule.

- A. Allow the movement of more salmon through the Central District Drift Gill Net Fishery by strengthening the Conservation Corridor in both July and early August.***
- B. Strengthen the “paired restrictions” currently found in the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan to support the conservation of this important species during times of low abundance.***
- C. Establish regulatory strategies for Early Run King Salmon in Northern Cook Inlet that address management of these important fisheries during current levels of low abundance.***
- D. Increase personal use opportunity in Northern Cook Inlet and maintain current levels of opportunity in personal use fisheries on the Kenai Peninsula.***
- E. Support changes to the Allocation Criteria specific to the Upper Cook Inlet and amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan to include the revised priorities.***



## II. KENAI LATE-RUN SOCKEYE PLAN [5 AAC 21.360]

### Proposal #88 – Realign In-river Goals with the New SEG

**Problem**     *In-river goals are not consistent with the new Sustainable Escapement Goal and current harvest levels above the sonar.*

**Solutions**     *A. Realign in-river goals.*

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

***B. Establish an OEG at large Kenai sockeye run sizes:***

Run Strength	SEG (new)	Proposed OEG
> 5.0 mil	750,000 – 1,300,000	1,400,000 – 2,000,000*

*\*Proposed OEG in years of run sizes greater than 5 million.*

**Explanation**

- ADF&G has recently increased the SEG from 700,000 – 1,200,000 to 750,000 – 1,300,000.
- The SEG change was based on recent data from large escapements which shows that maximum sustained yield occurs at higher escapements than previously thought.
- In-river goal ranges are based on the SEG and need to be revised accordingly.
- In-river goal ranges are designed to distribute escapement throughout the SEG according to run size with allowances for sport harvest upstream from the sonar.
- Proposed revisions align in-river goals with the reality of growth in the sockeye sport fishery upstream from the sonar.
- Sport harvest above the sonar currently ranges from about 200,000 to 400,000 per year depending on number of sockeye available in-river. Upstream harvests of 250,000 to 500,000 are expected at large run sizes.
- Success in fisheries throughout the river including the personal use fishery and sport fisheries above and below the sonar is highly dependent on the number and pattern of sockeye delivered to the river as directed by these in-river goals. Benefits include higher catches and more predictable fishing opportunities.



**Basis of Proposed Goals**

- 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. Narrower goal ranges are not practical to achieve given variable and uncertain run assessments.
- The higher goal range at runs over 5 million 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.

**How often are Kenai sockeye goals met?**

- It has always been difficult to meet in-river and escapement goal ranges due to the inherent uncertainty in run forecasts and management complexities.
- Escapement goal ranges have been met just 40% of the time over the last 30 years. The best average was seen in the last 10 years.
- In-river goals have been similarly difficult to achieve with any consistency. In-river goals have been exceeded more than half the time over the last 30 years with the last 10 years the worst.
- Escapement goals are often met even in years when in-river goals are exceeded. This highlights the need to better align in-river and escapement goals consistent with current harvest levels upstream from the sonar.

**Table 1. Historical frequency with which Kenai late-run Sockeye goal ranges are met.**

	In-river Goals <sup>a</sup>					
		In	Over	Under	In	Over
1990-1999	0	6	4	0	4	6
2000-2009	1	4	5	3	3	4
2010-2019	0	1	9	0	5	5

<sup>a</sup> Measured at the sonar.

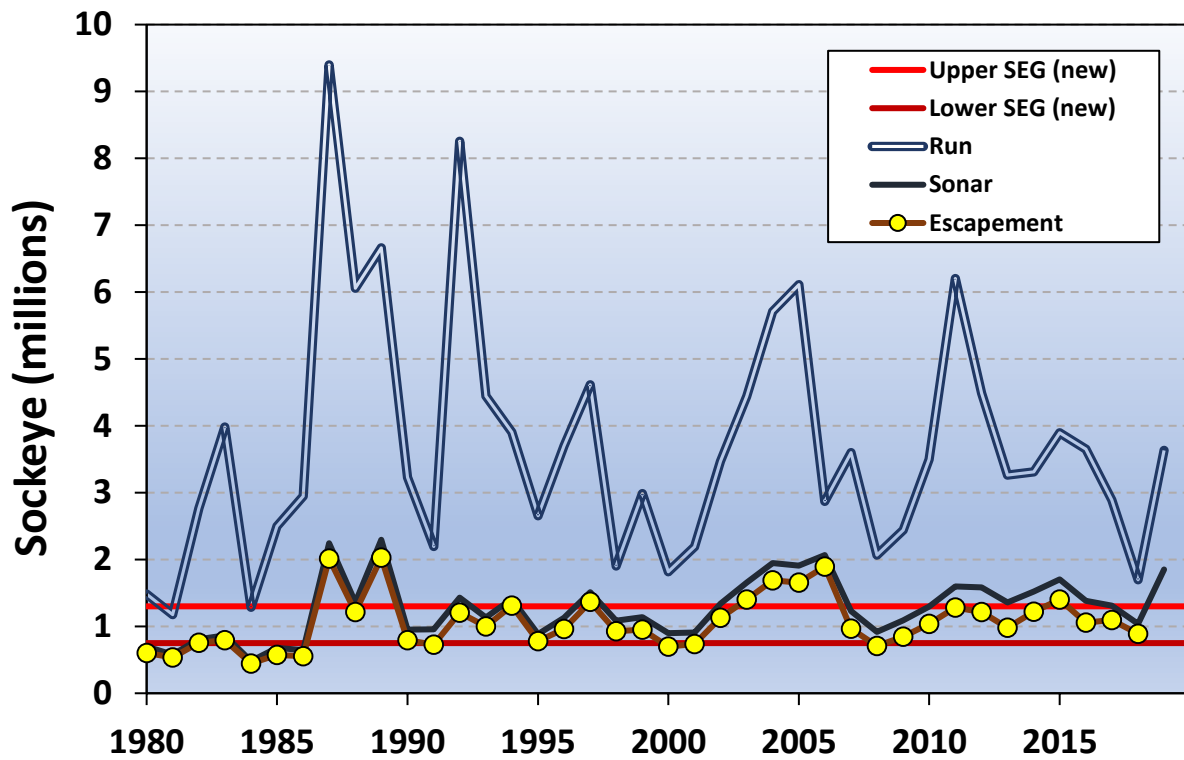


Figure 1. Historical run size, sonar count and escapement of Kenai late-run sockeye relative to new SEG identified by ADF&G.

**Myth:** Current management plans produce disastrous sockeye “overescapements.”

**Fact:** “Overescapement” arguments are largely an effort to establish a biological rationale for allocative strategies favoring the commercial fisheries.

“Overescapement” of Kenai sockeye is a theoretical problem which has proven to be practically insignificant.

Since 2000, in-river goals have been exceeded by a little or a lot in 14 of 20 years. Escapement goals have been exceeded in 9 of the 20 years. (Kenai sockeye escapements have often fallen within the SEG even when in-river goal ranges are exceeded because of harvest upstream from the sonar.)

Successive large escapements from 2004-2006 had some people predicting an imminent disaster. But that did not happen. Instead, these brood years produced some of the largest runs in the over 20 years.

Subsequent analysis of the new data showed that previous escapement goals were too low and that maximum yield is produced by escapements around 1.2 million. It is clear that Kenai sockeye continue to produce large returns even when previous escapement goals were exceeded.

No Kenai sockeye escapement has ever failed to replace itself. Brood-year interaction models used by ADF&G to predict a severe decrease in recruitment have failed.

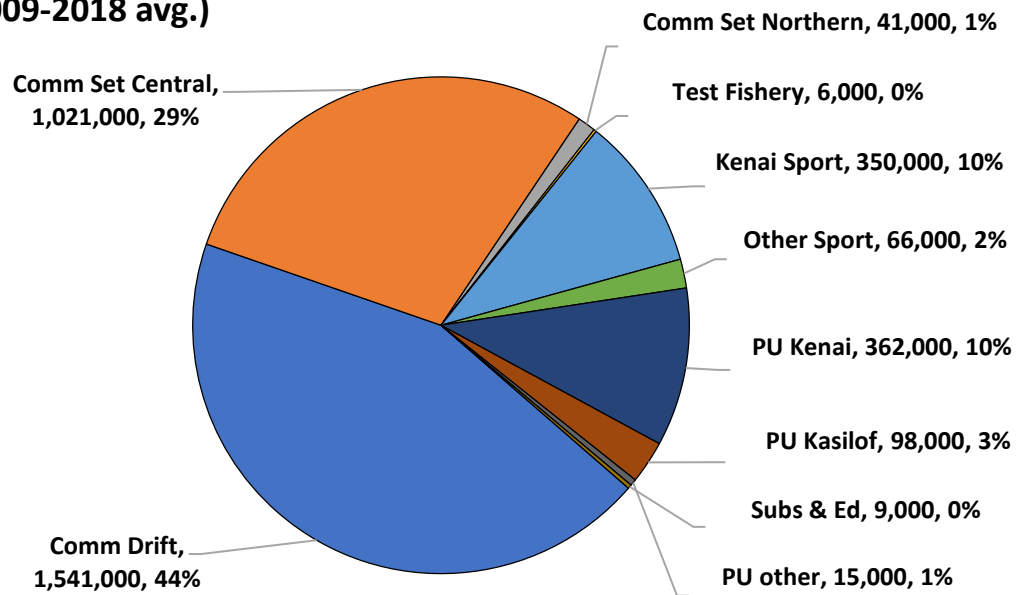
Kenai and Kasilof sockeye already sustain some of the highest exploitation rates (70%+) of any wild stock of sockeye in Alaska (Clark et al. 2007). That is not even considering significant harvest recently documented at Kodiak (Shedd et al. 2016). Managing with even higher exploitation rates to contain escapement is simply not a prudent practice for sustainability.



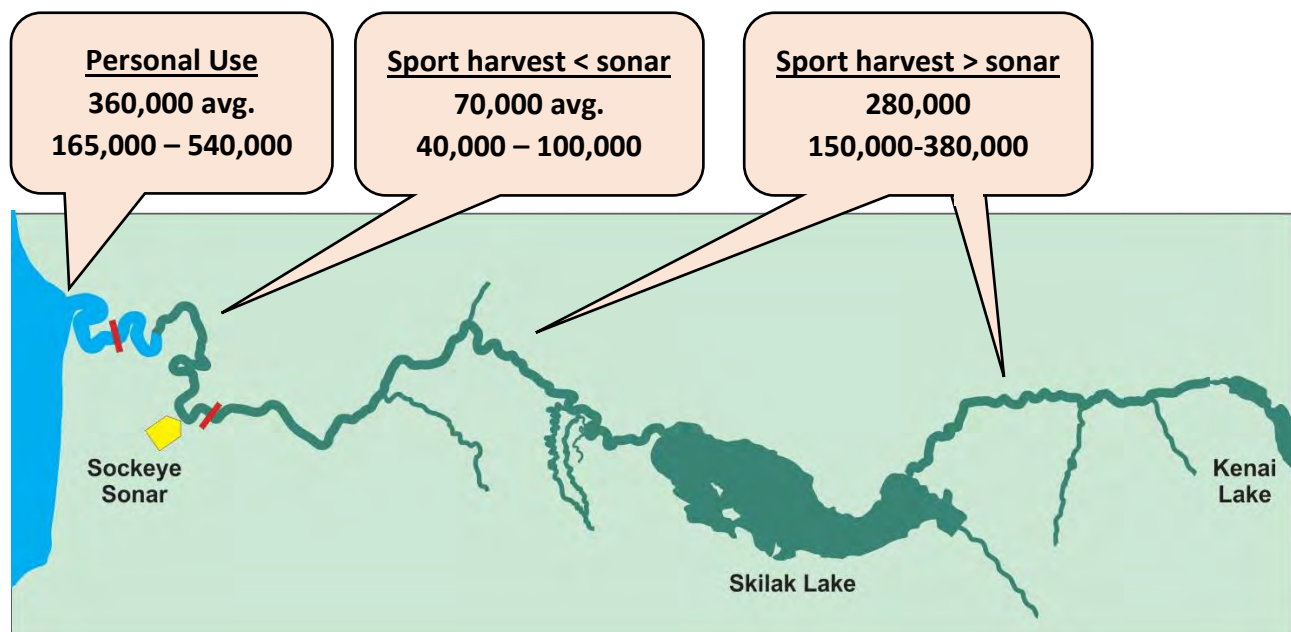
**Where are Upper Cook Inlet sockeye harvested?**

- Total annual harvest has averaged 3.5 million over the last ten years. Of this, the commercial fisheries account for 74% on average (Figure 2).
- Combined harvest of late-run sockeye in the Kenai river by personal use and sport fisheries has averaged 720,000 and ranged from 350,000 to 1 million in 2009-2018.

**UCI Sockeye Harvest  
(2009-2018 avg.)**



**Figure 2.** Recent average annual harvest distribution of sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet fisheries.



**Figure 3.** Recent (2009-2018) average and ranges in harvest of late-run sockeye in Kenai River personal use and sport fisheries.

**What is the harvest above the Kenai sonar?**

- Sport harvest accounts for the difference between in-river and escapement goals.
- When the in-river goals were first adopted in 1999, upriver sport harvest of sockeye typically averaged about 150,000 per year (Figure 4).
- The upriver sport fishery has subsequently demonstrated the capability of harvesting many more sockeye in recent years.
- Harvest above the sonar increases with abundance (Figure 5). Increasing sport fishery effort is expected to produce even higher catches in the future.

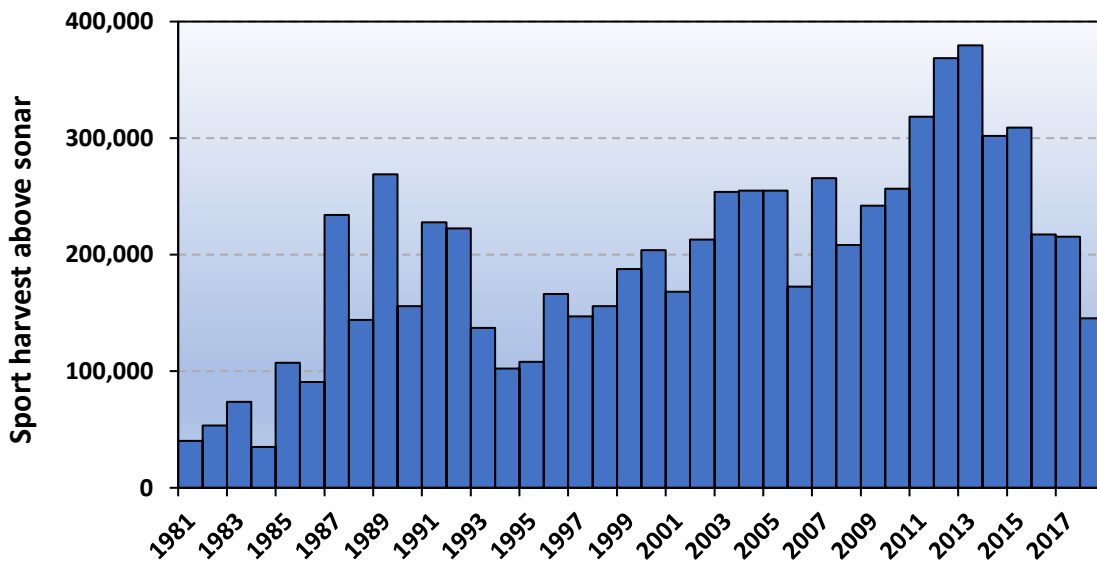


Figure 4. Sport harvest of Kenai late-run sockeye upstream from the sonar assessment site.

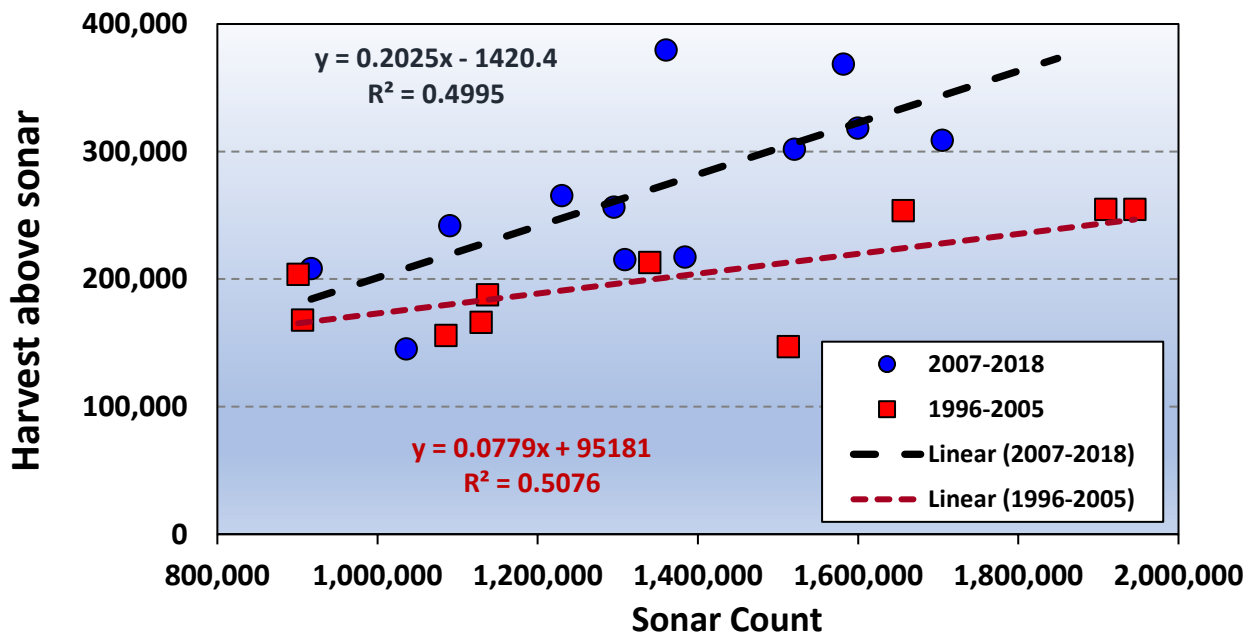


Figure 5. Current and historical relationships between sockeye sonar counts and upstream sport harvest. (2006 is omitted as an outlier due to record 11 days late sockeye run timing.)

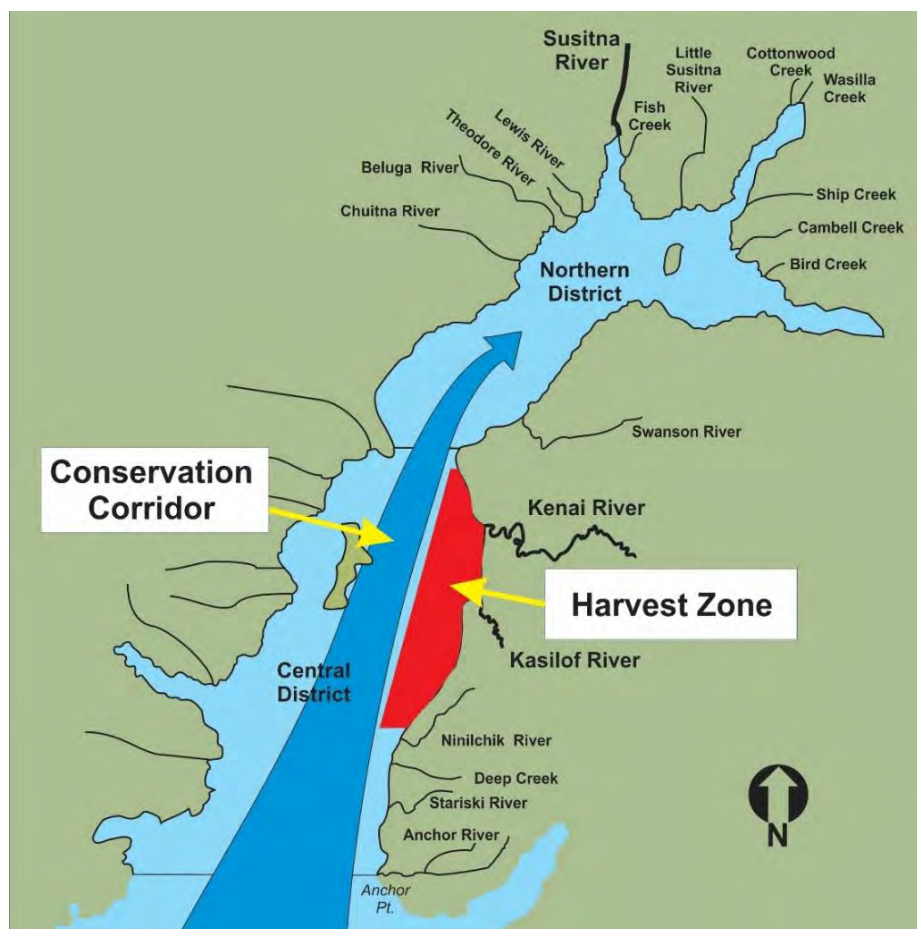


### III. DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY [5 AAC 21.353]

#### Proposal #133 – Conservation Corridor<sup>1</sup>

**Problem**      *Current time and area restrictions of the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery do not adequately protect delivery of sockeye and coho to the northern district.*

**Solution**      *Amend the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan with additional mandatory area restrictions to regular fishing periods.*



#### **Explanation**

- The “conservation corridor” regulation provides strategic time and area closures in the center of Cook Inlet and expands use of terminal fishing areas based on abundance of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye.
- These regulations are designed to pass additional sockeye and coho through marine waters of the Central District, into northern rivers and streams to provide adequate escapements and produce a successful sport fishery for coho in most years.

<sup>1</sup> Proposal submitted by the Matanuska Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission.



- 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.

#### **5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan (Proposal)**

(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]

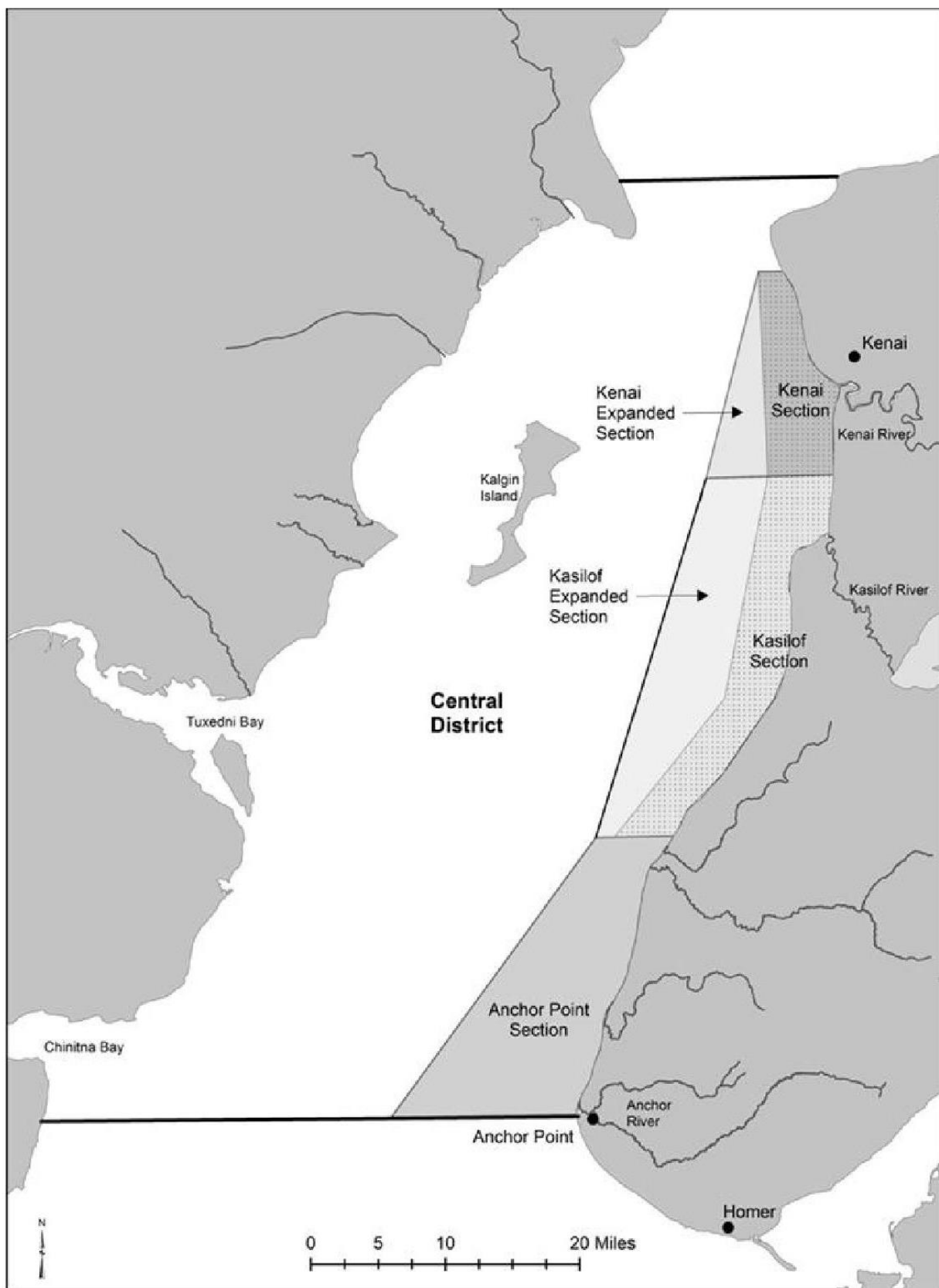
**(1) fishing during both regular 12 hour fishing periods per week will be restricted to one or more of the following sections and areas: (A) Expanded Kenai Section: (B) Expanded Kasilof Section (C) Anchor Point Section (D) Drift Gillnet Area 1,** except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery 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.

#### **Background**

- The Central District drift gillnet fishery is the most powerful and mobile of all commercial fisheries in UCI and the primary harvester of north-bound salmon.
- Commercial interception of northern inlet sockeye and coho dwarfs harvest of these stocks in upstream sport fisheries. Susitna sockeye salmon are currently designated as a stock of yield concern. Commercial fisheries continue to harvest the majority of UCI harvest of coho in spite of a 35-year-old regulatory directive to minimize the harvest of coho for benefit of the sport fishery.
- Expanded "terminal" harvest areas off of the Kenai and Kasilof rivers are designed to focus the drift net fishery on local sockeye stocks and to reduce interception of northern-bound sockeye and coho.
- This regulation was adopted by the 2011 Board and revised in 2014 by unanimous 7-0 vote. Nine years of data are now available on corridor effectiveness.
- Expanded harvest areas have subsequently proven effective at harvesting significant numbers of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye while reducing associated catches of coho.



**Figure 6.** Map of the regular and expanded Kenai sections, regular and expanded Kasilof sections and Anchor Point section (source: ADFG).

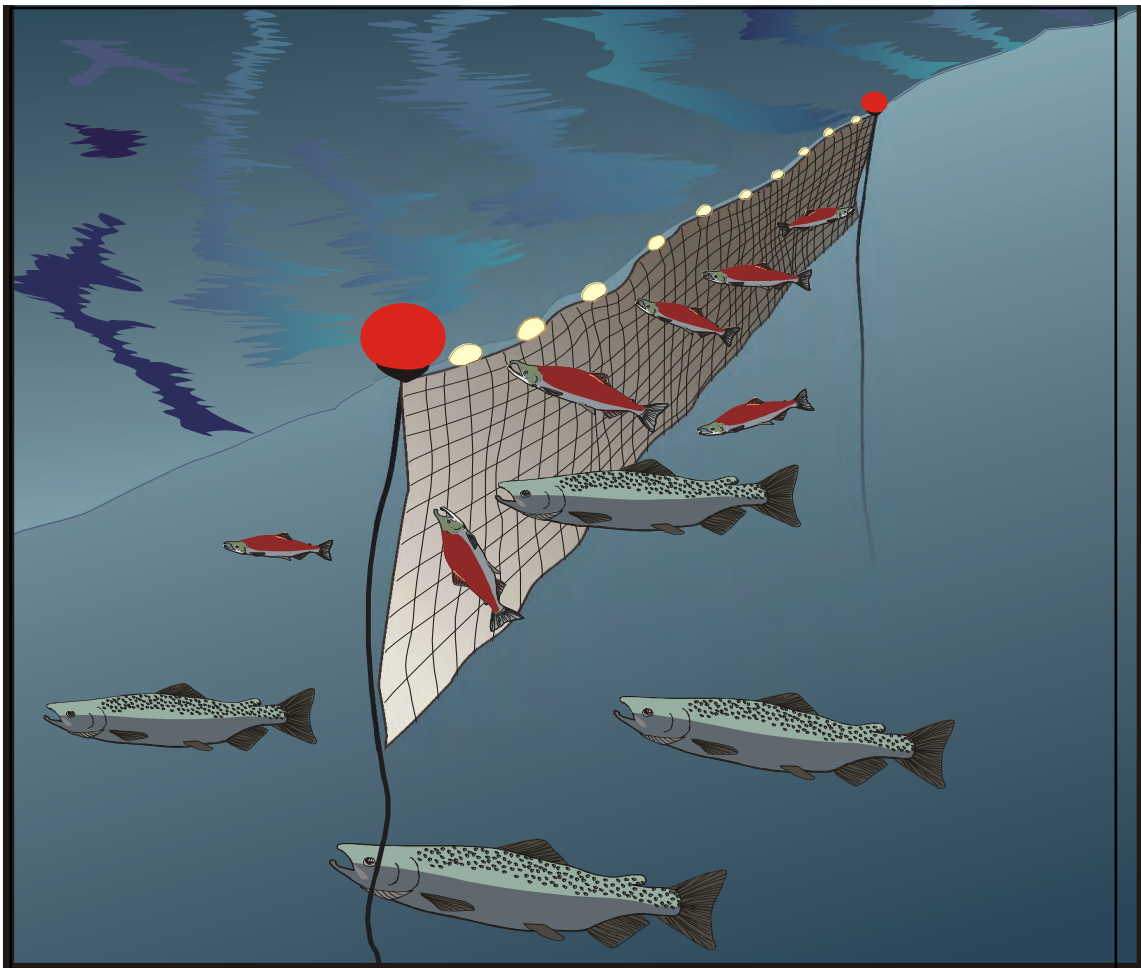
## Proposal #129 - Drift Gillnet Length & Depth Regulatory Authority

**Problem** *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.*

**Solution** *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 meshes.*

**Explanation**

- 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 operated 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, and a person holding two permits may operate 200 fathoms of gear.



SOCKE

Chine



### 5 AAC 21.331 Gillnet Specifications and Operations

(a) No person may operate a set gillnet that has not been intentionally set, staked, anchored or otherwise fixed, and no person may operate a drift gillnet that has been intentionally set, staked, anchored or otherwise fixed.

(b) The maximum mesh size for gillnets is six inches.

(c) Except as allowed under 5 AAC 21.333, a drift gillnet may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. No person may operate more than one drift gillnet.

(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, 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;

(2) repealed 6/11/2005.

(e) Set gillnets shall be operated in substantially a straight line. No more than 20 yards of each set gillnet may be used as a single hook.

(f) Repealed 3/8/74.

(g) Repealed 4/2/88.

(h) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.250(c), in the Cook Inlet Area, a person may use single filament mesh web in a drift gillnet or in a set gillnet.

(i) 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 and 45 meshes in depth, except that in the Upper Subdistrict no more than 105 fathoms in length may be more than 29 meshes in depth. A single set gillnet may not exceed 35 fathoms in length. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.280, in order to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet, the permit holder shall mark the buoys as specified in 5 AAC 21.334 with both of the permit holder's five-digit CFEC permit serial numbers followed by the letter "D" on the identification buoy. In addition, each set gillnet operated under this subsection that is not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at one end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background.

**(j) drift gillnets may be restricted to less than 150 fathoms in length, less than 200 fathoms in length, and/or 29 meshes in depth.**



## IV. SET GILLNET FISHING SEASONS [5 AAC 21.310]

### Proposal #195 - Set Gillnet Fishery 2% Rule

**Problem**      *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.*

**Solution**      *Increase trigger for fishery closure from 1% to 2%.*

**Explanation**

- 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. Returning the trigger date for this regulation to August 1 (as it was before 2017) is essential.
- The current one percent standard does not effectively anticipate the demise of the sockeye run. A higher standard is more appropriate.

#### 5 AAC 21.310 Fishing seasons

(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.;

**Background**

- The existing 1% rule was intended to define a clear ending of the set net fishery as the sockeye run has passed and catches of the sport-priority coho begin to build during early August. It is similar in concept to the trigger ADF&G uses to end weir or sonar counting used for stock assessment.
- The 1% rule originally applied to the combined Kenai and Kasilof sections.
- The 2017 Board amended the rule to apply separately to the Kenai and Kasilof sections.





## V. SPORT FISHERY MANAGEMENT [5 AAC 57.170]

### Proposal #154 - Increase Kenai Coho Bag Limit from Two to Three

**Problem** *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.*

**Solution** *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.*



### **Explanation**

- If there are enough coho salmon to support significant commercial harvest during August, then there are enough to restore the sport bag limit to three coho.
- 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 and commercial restrictions have been relaxed.
- 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.
- During the recent period of low king salmon abundance, coho have also become much more important to the recreational fishery during August than in the past.



Corresponding regulatory changes in 5 AAC 57.170 (b)(3) 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;

### Who is catching Coho in Upper Cook Inlet?

- Coho harvest in combined UCI fisheries has been variable but with no increasing or decreasing trend since about 2000.
- Commercial fisheries continue to harvest the majority of UCI harvest of coho in spite of a 35-year-old regulatory directive to minimize the harvest of coho for benefit of the sport fishery.

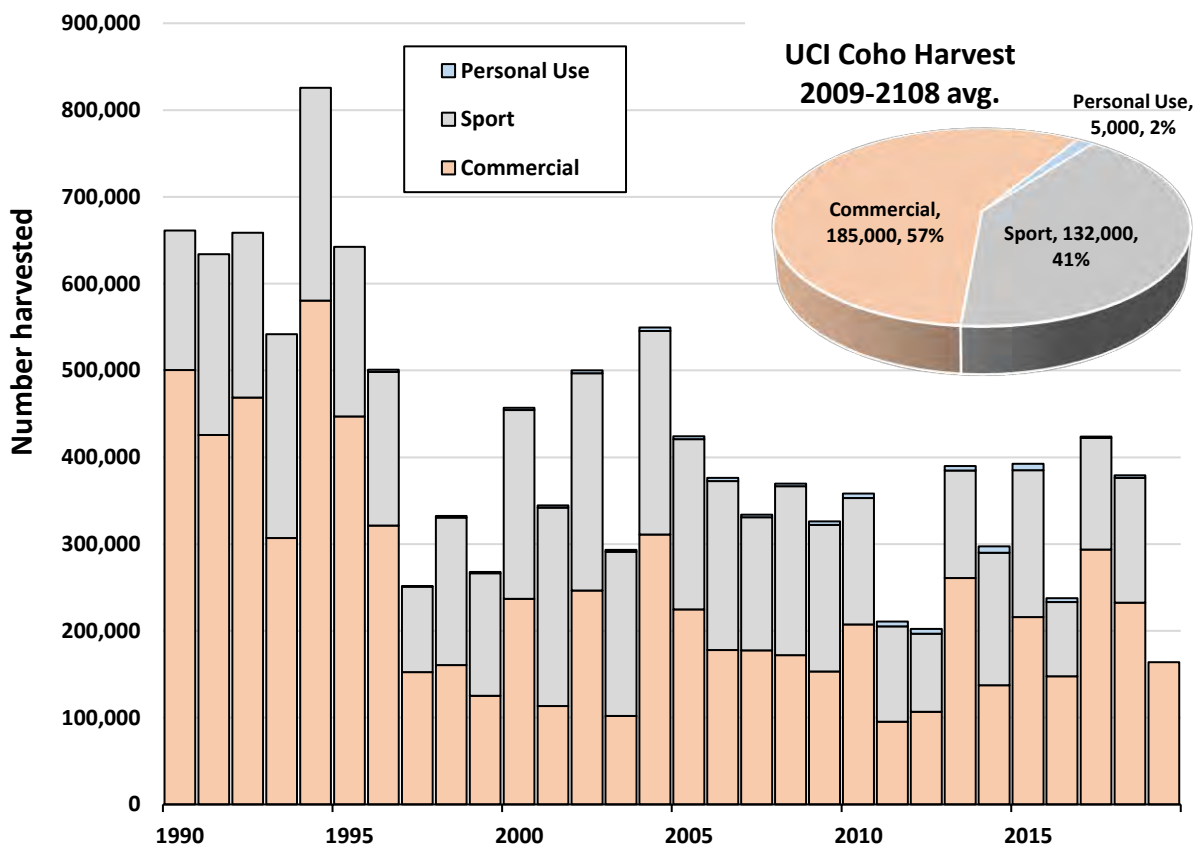


Figure 7. Annual harvests and recent harvest shares of Upper Cook Inlet coho salmon.



## VI. UCI “UMBRELLA” MANAGEMENT PLAN [5 AAC 21.363]

### Proposal #78 – I Identify Allocation Criteria Priorities

**Problem**     *The State of Alaska, through the 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.*

**Solution**     *Recognize the need and priority of harvest by residents for personal and family consumption and weight the importance of the fishery relative to the economy of the state.*

#### **Explanation**

- 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.
- The highest priority should be afforded to the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption.

#### ***Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.363)***

Amend with the following guidance for allocation:

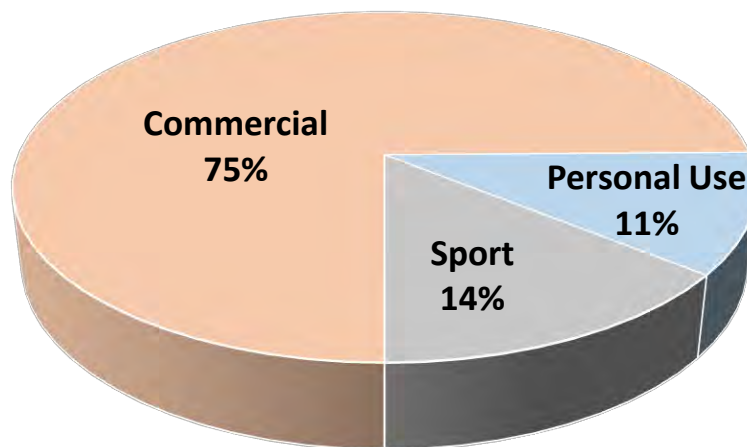
**When allocating fishery resources within the Upper Cook Inlet Region the Board shall consider the following factors giving appropriate weight to each in the order provided herein,**

- (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.**
- (7) The availability of alternative fisheries resources of similar characteristics.**

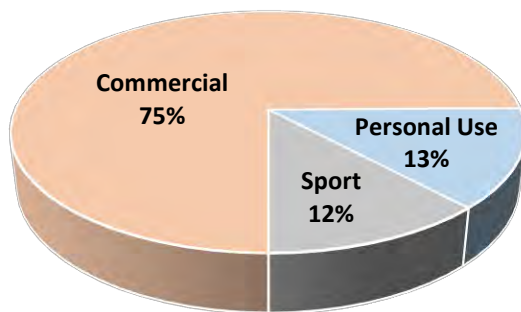
**Background**

- 4.3 million salmon are harvested annually from combined UCI fisheries (2009-2018).
- 80% of all salmon harvested in combined UCI fisheries are sockeye.
- 75% of all UCI salmon harvest occurs in the commercial fisheries.
- The commercial fisheries take the majority of sockeye, pink, chum and coho salmon harvest in UCI. The sport fishery takes the majority of the Chinook harvest.

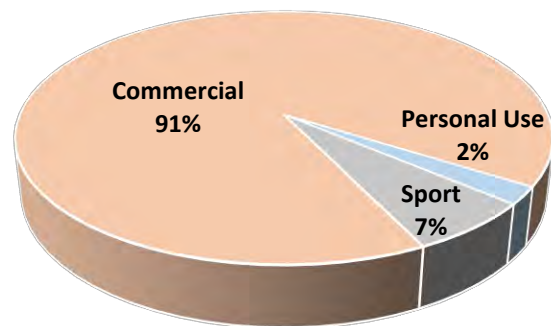
**All Upper Cook Inlet Salmon**



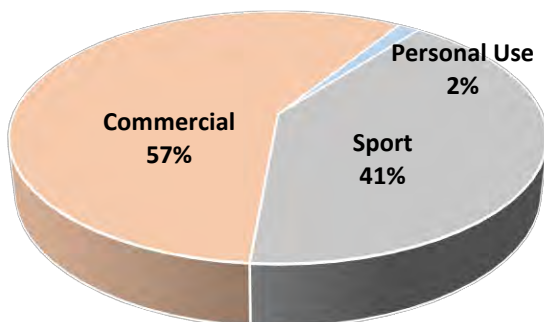
**Sockeye 3.5 million / yr**



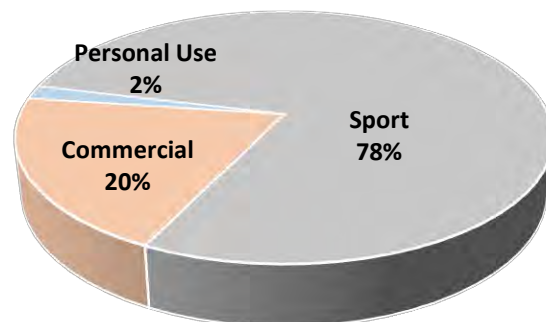
**Pink & Chum 450,000 / yr**



**Coho 320,000 / yr**



**Chinook 37,000 / yr**



**Figure 8.** Harvest shares of salmon fishery harvest in Upper Cook Inlet (2009-2018).



## VII. KENAI LATE-RUN KING PLAN [5 AAC 21.359]

### Proposal #104 – OEG & Paired Restrictions

**Problem**      *Current regulations do not adequately protect escapement or equitably share the king conservation burden during periods of low abundance*

- Historically low king runs have introduced tremendous uncertainty in the ability to deliver kings to the river and sockeye to the commercial fleet.
- Paired restrictions were previously adopted in the Kenai River sport fishery and East Side set net commercial fishery to share the conservation burden in times like these.
- Current early season fisheries risk in-season closures which are disastrous to both the sport and commercial fishery.
- The current plan does not adequately protect late run kings during late June while they are moving and staging outside of river mouths or in August when a significant proportion of the large females are returning.
- The current SEG allows for perilously low escapements which are likely to impair future returns during an extended period of low production we are currently in.
- 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.

**Solution**

- Revise goals and paired restrictions consistent with a slow start, step up strategy.
- This strategy will maximize the opportunities for a full month of sport fishing and commercial fishing on peak of the sockeye abundance.
- This proposal includes four elements: 1) a precautionary OEG; 2) extension of paired restrictions through August; 3) an option for a 36" maximum sport size limit; and 4) refinements in paired restrictions.

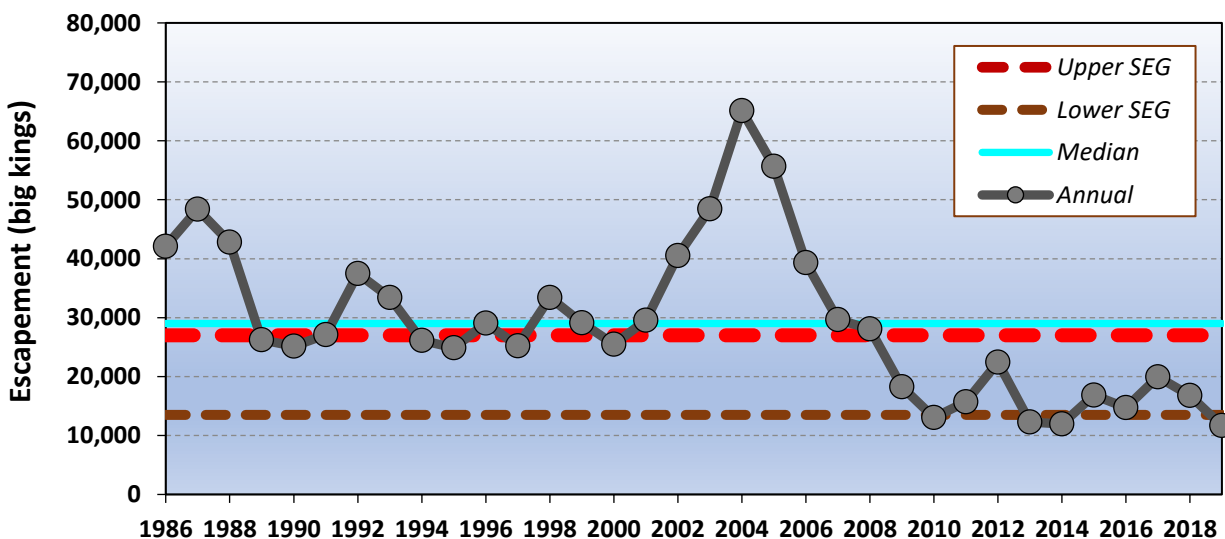


Figure 9. Escapements of large ( $\geq 75$  cm MEF) late-run Kenai king salmon relative to the current SEG.



### 1. Adopt a precautionary OEG.

The proposed OEG is based on maximum sustained recruitment which reduces the likelihood of critically low escapements and is also a more appropriate standard for the sport priority king run than maximum sustained yield.

<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>

#### **Optimum Sustained Yield & Maximum Sustained Recruitment**

The Sustainable Salmon Fishery Policy defines three types of escapement goals:

**Biological Escapement Goals (BEGs)** identify escapements that provide the greatest potential for *Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY)*. MSY is the greatest average annual yield (i.e., harvest) from a stock.

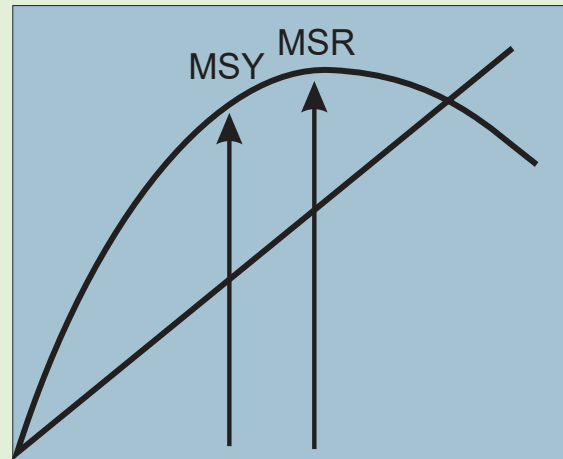
**Sustainable Escapement Goals (SEGs)** identify escapements that are known to provide for sustained yield in situations where BEGs cannot be estimated or managed for.

**Optimum Escapement Goals (OEGs)** identify a specific management objective for escapement that considers biological and allocative factors and may differ from a BEG or SEG. Corresponding management objectives are often defined as *Optimum Sustained Yield (OSY)*. For instance, OSY objectives can include enhancement of catch per unit effort in a sport fishery.

BEGs based on MSY are appropriate goals for a commercial fishery because they generally provide for the greatest catches where the fishing power is high and the fishery can catch a high proportion of the run even at low run sizes.

OEGs based on *Maximum Sustained Recruitment (MSR)* are appropriate goals for a sport or personal use fishery where the greatest catch and value occurs at the greatest average annual salmon abundance. MSY is not an ideal goal for a sport fishery where fishing power is considerably less than in a commercial fishery and fishing effort typically varies with abundance.

Recruits



Spawners

MSR is produced by escapements greater than those which produce MSY. MSR is not specifically defined in the SSFP but falls in the category of optimum sustained yield.

The choice of MSY or MSP as the basis for a goal is a policy decision based on the objectives and features of the associated fishery.

ADFG is responsible for identifying biological reference points consistent with sustainability, MSY and MSP. However, only the Board of Fisheries can identify an OEG. There is precedent for ADFG defining goals based on MSR. The Kenai early run king SEG was based on the maximum recruitment/production profile because this stock is primarily harvested by the recreational fishery.

## 2. Extend Paired Restrictions through August

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).

## 3. Adopt a 36-inch sport fishery maximum size limit under certain circumstances.

A 36-inch maximum size limit, coupled with no bait, can provide for a limited harvest opportunity in between options of full retention and no retention.

## 4. Application of Paired Restrictions as follows:

Paired restrictions as initially adopted in this plan were substantially weakened at the 2017 Board meeting and need to be revised.

### Preseason Assessment

The Department shall, using all available information, provide the public with a projection of total run of 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:

Run Size Forecast	Kenai River King Sport Fishery	Set Net Commercial Fishery
Escapement within or above OEG range (with normal fishing)	Bait allowed / Retention of all sizes allowed	In-river 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:

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



<sup>1</sup> Kasilof regulations identical to those implemented for the Kenai River.

<sup>2</sup> The prohibition of bait or 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 regulations pair as per the existing plan at any point in the fishing season:  
No bait in the 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	Kenai River King Sport Fishery	Set Net Commercial Fishery
Within or above OEG range	Bait allowed / Retention of all sizes allowed	In-river 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:

Run Size Forecast	Kenai River King Sport Fishery*	Set Net Commercial Fishery
Within OEG range:	No size restriction, bait prohibited or;	No more than 24 hours plus net restrictions on number and depth of nets. 600 ft. exempt but only one net per permit.
	Size restriction, bait prohibited or;	No more than 18 hours plus net restrictions on number and depth of nets. 600 ft. exempt but only one net per permit.
	No retention, bait prohibited.	No more than 12 hours plus net restrictions on number and depth of nets. 600 ft. exempt but only one net per permit.
Below OEG range	Closed	Closed

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





### **Who is catching Kenai late-run kings?**

- The east side set gillnet (ESSN) fishery consistently harvests more Kenai late-run kings than the sport fisheries in spite of the UCI sport fish priority for king salmon.
- Kings are particularly vulnerable to the set net fishery because they often mill in the fishery area for days before entering freshwater (versus sockeye which generally move onshore and into the rivers with little delay).

***Myth: Windows don't work because of unpredictable sockeye movement patterns.***

***Fact: Windows deliver significant numbers of sockeye and kings to rivers during periods when salmon are moving through the inlet.***

Windows are working exactly as intended in UCI. They interrupt sustained periods of set net fishing along the east-side beaches to reduce unpredictable boom or bust patterns in in-river returns which severely impact personal use and sport fisheries.

While windows cannot guarantee delivery of fish to the rivers when fish aren't moving, this in no way counters their value. Conversely, the lack of fishery windows can practically eliminate pulses of salmon into the rivers as the historical management practice typically involved extended periods of intensive commercial fisheries across the peak of the sockeye run. Intensive commercial fisheries have the effect of keeping the in-river fisheries off balance and severely limiting opportunities to access a reasonable share of the common property sockeye resource.

Windows also provide significant biological benefits by protecting escapement of stocks that are not monitored in-season (i.e. Kasilof late-run kings) and protecting the inherent genetic and life history diversity of stocks across the duration of the run.

Initial concern that windows would either unnecessarily constrain management flexibility to attain escapement goals or increase the chances of missing unpredictable large pulses of fish onto the beach, into the river, and over the escapement goal, have not been realized.



## VIII. KASILOF RIVER SALMON PLAN [5 AAC 21.365]

### Proposal #121 - Kasilof Goal Priorities

**Problem**      *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.*

**Solution**      *Clarify that meeting the lower end of the Kenai late-run king salmon goal takes priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof sockeye goal.  
KRSA recommends no change in the Kasilof River optimum escapement goal.*

#### **Explanation**

- The current Kasilof salmon management plan provides clear 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. The plan 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.
- The current Kasilof sockeye OEG 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.

#### ***Kasilof River Salmon Plan (5 AAC 21.365)***

(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.

#### **Background**

- In the absence of stock assessment or escapement goals, Kenai late-run King management also protects the Kasilof king run.
- Genetics data shows that the Kasilof supports a substantial run of late-run kings and a significant portion of the set net harvest.
- Kenai kings are also subject to substantial harvest in the Kasilof section set gillnet fishery.



## IX. KRSA POSITIONS ON ALL PROPOSALS

***KRSA has reviewed each proposal before the Board, and respectfully offers the following position statements. Support, Oppose, and Neutral are all self-explanatory. "In-Concept" refers to KRSA support of a proposal in concept only; the proposal may go too far, may not go far enough, may not be implementable, may be outside the authority of the Board, may be better addressed in another proposal, or for other reasons.***

#	Description	Position
9	Establish a seasonal limit of five king salmon in Cook Inlet from October 1—April 30.	Oppose
14	Modify the definition of bag limit to include fish landed but not originally hooked by an angler.	Oppose
15	Prohibit reselling of guide services by anyone other than licensed guides.	Oppose
37	Create a king salmon management plan with paired restrictions in Kodiak and Cook Inlet commercial fisheries.	In Concept
38	Create a king salmon management plan with paired restrictions in Upper and Lower Cook Inlet commercial fisheries.	In Concept
78	Amend the <i>Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan</i> to include weighted criteria for the allocation of fishery resources.	Support
79	Establish a personal use priority for Cook Inlet salmon fisheries.	In Concept
80	Prohibit retention of king salmon greater than 36" in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial gillnet fisheries.	Oppose
81	Manage fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet by designating types of salmon habitat.	Oppose
82	Allow two regular 12-hour commercial fishing periods per week.	Oppose
83	Close all commercial fishing in Upper Cook Inlet.	Oppose
84	Clarify the requirement of immediately releasing king salmon over 20 inches.	Neutral
85	Limit the prosecution of fishing derbies.	Oppose
86	Establish resident and non-resident annual limits for sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet Area.	Oppose
87	Eliminate the personal use salmon dip net fishery and prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon in the Kenai Peninsula area.	Oppose
88	Amend the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> to increase inriver goal ranges.	Support
89	Amend the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> 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.	In Concept
90	Amend the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> to manage primarily for sport, personal use and guided sport anglers;	In Concept



	increase the sustainable escapement goal; and limit commercial fishing periods.	
91	Lower the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon sustainable escapement goal.	Oppose
92	Reduce the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal range to 450,000–750,000 salmon.	Oppose
93	Manage the personal use dip net fishery on the lower Kenai River subject to achieving the inriver goal.	Oppose
94	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.	In Concept
95	Amend the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> to remove and replace the provision to manage for commercial uses with a provision to manage for commercial, sport, and personal use groups.	In Concept
96	Increase the Kenai River sockeye salmon sustainable escapement and inriver goals, increase sockeye salmon bag and possession limits, and pair closures.	Oppose
97	Create sport and personal use allocations of sockeye on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.	Oppose
98	Establish an annual limit for the Kenai River sockeye salmon sport fishery.	Oppose
99	Establish mandatory closed inriver fishing windows for sockeye salmon.	Oppose
100	Amend the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> to open commercial fishing periods to stay within ten percent of daily inseason run projections.	In Concept
101	Amend the preamble to the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> by removing minimize language and adding a provision for common property fishery harvest.	Oppose
102	Amend the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> to manage for the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal and replace inriver goals with allocation ranges.	Oppose
103	Make numerous amendments to the <i>Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan</i> .	Oppose
104	Adopt an optimal escapement goal and amend the paired restrictions in the <i>Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan</i> .	Support
105	Increase the Kenai River late-run king salmon sustainable escapement goal range to 15,000-35,000 salmon.	In Concept
106	Increase the Kenai River late-run king salmon sustainable escapement goal range to 15,000–35,000 salmon.	In Concept
107	Allow the use of bait and modify maximum size above Slikok Creek when the escapement goal range is projected to be exceeded.	Oppose
108	Reduce the number of hours the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery may be fished in the <i>Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan</i> paired restrictions.	In Concept



109	Allow set gillnet fishing periods in the Kenai and Kasilof sections to be managed independently when under “paired” restrictions.	Oppose
110	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.	Oppose
111	Remove “paired” restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery.	Oppose
112	Remove gear restrictions in the Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet fishery when the use of bait is prohibited in the sport fishery.	Oppose
113	Establish paired restrictions to close personal use fisheries when commercial fisheries are closed.	Oppose
114	Modify the <i>Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan</i> .	In Concept
115	Allow the use of bait in the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery when the fishery is restricted to catch and release.	Oppose
116	Limit sport fisheries for king salmon on the Kenai River based on inseason abundance.	Oppose
117	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.	Oppose
118	Amend the <i>Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan</i> to include the Kasilof River biological escapement goal.	In Concept
119	Eliminate the Kasilof River sockeye salmon optimal escapement goal.	Oppose
120	Remove the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area from (c)(4) of the <i>Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan</i> .	Oppose
121	Amend the <i>Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan</i> to prioritize achieving the lower end of the Kenai River late-run king salmon escapement goal.	Support
122	Create a commercial dip net fishery in the Kasilof River.	Oppose
123	Rename Drift Gillnet Area 2 to the "Conservation and Northern District Allocation Sanctuary Area".	In Concept
124	Amend the purpose of the <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> to include inriver users.	In Concept
125	Amend the <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> and include inseason assessments.	Oppose
126	Close the Central District drift gillnet fishery corridor.	In Concept
127	Amend the <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> to allocate 60-80% of northern-bound sockeye and coho salmon harvests to Northern Cook Inlet fisheries.	Oppose
128	Amend the <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> to remove the provision to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon and add a provision for reasonable opportunity for common property fishery harvest.	Oppose
129	Allow the commissioner to limit Central District drift gillnets to less than 150 and 200 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth.	Support



130	Allow commercial fishing with drift gillnets in the Chinitna Bay subdistrict starting August 15.	Oppose
131	Remove restrictions to the drift gillnet fishery so that the fishery would occur during two inlet-wide fishing periods per week.	Oppose
132	Remove restrictions to the drift gillnet fishery so that the fishery would occur during two inlet-wide fishing periods per week.	Oppose
133	Amend the <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> with additional mandatory area restrictions to regular fishing periods.	Support
134	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 <i>Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan</i> .	Oppose
135	Allow one additional regular fishing period in the Central District drift gillnet fishery July 24– 31.	Oppose
136	Open two additional inlet-wide fishing periods per week between July 24 and August 15 in even-numbered years.	Oppose
137	Repeal and readopt the <i>Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan</i> to manage for commercial priority and 40–70% exploitation rate.	Oppose
138	Establish drift gillnet weekly fishing periods in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict.	Oppose
139	Close the drift gillnet salmon fishery in Chinitna Bay.	Oppose
140	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.	Oppose
141	Allow a vessel to carry more than a legal complement of gillnet gear in the Cook Inlet Area.	Oppose
142	Create a commercial set gillnet fishery for coho salmon in the Upper Subdistrict.	Oppose
143	Clarify the fishing season for king salmon less than 20 inches in length on the Kasilof River.	Support
144	Align spring sport fishing dates for Bishop and Bench creeks.	Support
145	Allow sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon on the Kenai River until August 15.	Oppose
146	Increase the sockeye salmon limit to six fish per day in the Kenai River when the commercial fishery is open.	In Concept
147	Prohibit fishing for salmon on the upper Kenai River after taking the bag limit for that day.	Oppose
148	Allow two unbaited, single-hook artificial flies and limit hook size throughout the Kenai River drainage.	Neutral
149	Prohibit catch and release fishing for king salmon on the Kenai River.	Oppose
150	Require retention of sockeye salmon caught in the Kenai River.	Oppose
151	Allow retention of sockeye salmon snagged on the Kenai River.	Oppose
152	Prohibit barbed hooks when fishing in the Kenai River drainage.	Oppose



153	Increase the bag limit for the Kenai River coho salmon sport fishery to three fish July 1 – August 31.	In Concept
154	Increase limits for Kenai River coho salmon from two to three fish.	Support
155	Allow sport fishing guides to sport fish while a client is present from the banks of the Kasilof River.	Neutral
156	Allow sport fish guides to sport fish on the Kasilof River from shore while a client is present.	Oppose
157	Limit the number of client groups per guide or guide vessel on the Kasilof River in July.	Oppose
158	Prohibit sport fishing guides from sport fishing from shore while a client is present.	In Concept
159	Allow five anglers per vessel used for guided sport fishing on the Kenai River in July.	Neutral
160	Allow transport of more than five persons per vessel used for guided sport fishing on the Kenai River in July.	Neutral
161	Allow sport fishing from a guide vessel on the Kenai River on Mondays in August.	Neutral
162	Remove restrictions to guided sport vessels on the Kenai River when the King salmon sport fishery is closed.	In Concept
163	Prohibit guiding in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dip net fishery.	Oppose
164	Prohibit motorized vessels on the Kenai River from Skilak Lake to the Soldotna Bridge May 1– August 31.	Oppose
165	Prohibit sport fishing from a motorized vessel on the lower Kenai River on Thursdays in July.	Oppose
166	Prohibit sport fishing from a motorized vessel on the lower Kenai River on Thursdays in July.	Oppose
167	Allow sport fishing from a vessel with a motor on board but not in use on the Kenai River on Mondays in July.	Oppose
168	Prohibit motorized vessels on the Kenai River.	Oppose
169	Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1– September 15.	Oppose
170	Move the ADF&G regulatory marker for personal use dipnetting on the Kasilof River north shore beach.	In Concept
171	Reduce the Kenai River personal use bag limit for king salmon to one salmon less than 36" in length.	Oppose
172	Limit personal use dipnetting on the Kenai River by day of the week.	Oppose
173	Reduce the annual limit for the Kenai River dip net fishery and create tiered harvest quotas.	Oppose
174	Prohibit set gillnets in the personal use salmon fishery if the king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai or Kasilof Rivers is restricted.	Oppose
175	Allow commercial fishing with set gillnets in the North Kalifornsky Beach area starting July 1.	Oppose



176	Allow commercial fishing with set gillnets in the North Kalifornsky Beach area starting July 8.	Oppose
177	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.	Oppose
178	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.	Support
179	Extend the commercial salmon fishery season closing date in the Kenai and East Forelands Sections August 15 – September 15.	Oppose
180	Allow regular weekly fishing periods after August 15 in the Upper Subdistrict sockeye salmon set gillnet fishery based on abundance.	Oppose
181	Delay all Upper Cook Inlet set and Central District drift gillnet commercial fishing opening dates.	Oppose
182	Open the Kasilof Section commercial set gillnet fishery June 20 instead of June 25.	Oppose
183	Extend the Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet season to August 20.	Oppose
184	Open extra commercial fishing periods at a set time of 7 a.m. in the Upper Subdistrict set net fishery.	Oppose
185	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.	Oppose
186	Eliminate the one percent rule in both Upper Subdistrict set and Central District drift gillnet fisheries.	Oppose
187	Eliminate the one percent rule in the Central District drift gillnet fishery and create mandatory area restrictions based on escapement goals.	Oppose
188	Eliminate the drift gillnet one-percent rule.	Oppose
189	Eliminate the one percent rule in the Central District drift gillnet fishery.	Oppose
190	Eliminate the one percent rule in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery.	Oppose
191	Eliminate the one percent rule in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery.	Oppose
192	Amend the one percent rule in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to apply starting July 31 instead of August 7.	In Concept
193	Amend the one percent rule to a three percent rule beginning August 1 in Cook Inlet Area subdistricts.	In Concept
194	Amend the one percent rule to a three percent rule for both Upper Subdistrict set and Central District drift gillnet fisheries.	In Concept
195	Amend the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet one percent rule to a two percent rule beginning July 31 instead of August 7.	Support
196	Remove mandatory closed fishing periods or "windows" in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fisheries.	Oppose
197	Provide waypoint locations for landmark names and modify waypoint locations in Chinitna Bay.	Support
198	Amend waypoint descriptions and provide coordinates for landmark names.	Support
199	Amend the <i>Northern District King Salmon Management Plan</i> .	Support





200	Close the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery when the sport fishery in the Susitna or Knik Arm drainages are restricted.	In Concept
201	Amend paired restrictions in the Deshka River king salmon sport and commercial fisheries.	Oppose
202	Amend the <i>Northern District King Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow operation of one set gillnet per permit.	Oppose
203	Provide additional fishing periods in the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery when the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery is liberalized.	Oppose
204	Amend the <i>Northern District Salmon Management Plan</i> to specify management priority of sockeye, pink, and chum salmon includes inriver users.	In Concept
205	Clarify the definition of “minimize” in the <i>Northern District Salmon Management Plan</i> .	In Concept
206	Amend the <i>Northern District Salmon Management Plan</i> 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.	Oppose
207	Remove the Eastern Subdistrict gear restrictions in the <i>Northern District Salmon Management Plan</i> .	Oppose
208	Modify description of waters open to fishing.	Oppose
209	Amend the waypoint location for Light Point on Kalgin Island.	Support
210	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.	Oppose
211	Eliminate the four set gillnet per person limit.	Oppose
212	Eliminate the requirement to obtain a commissioner's permit for the Cook Inlet Smelt fishery.	Neutral
213	Allow anglers to use 5 lines while fishing for northern pike through the ice.	Support
214	Prohibit live release of northern pike in the Anchorage Bowl and Knik River drainages.	Support
215	Create a Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Fishery Management Plan.	Support
216	Create a Deshka River large king salmon optimum escapement goal.	Support
217	Create a Deshka River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan.	Support
218	Create an optimal escapement goal for McRoberts Creek coho salmon of 450-1,400 fish.	In Concept
219	Create a Little Susitna River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan.	Support
220	Prohibit retention of rainbow trout and the use of bait in the Lake Creek drainage.	Oppose
221	Extend the use of bait to September 11 in Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area sport fishery.	Support
222	Allow fishing for resident species on days closed to king salmon fishing in Unit 2.	Support



223	Allow more than one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Susitna River.	neutral
224	Allow more than one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the rainbow trout fishery throughout the Susitna River Drainage.	neutral
225	Limit retention of king salmon in the Eklutna Tailrace to hatchery fish.	Support
226	Require retention of coho salmon caught in the Little Susitna River sport fishery.	Oppose
227	Open additional days in the sport fishery in the Fish Creek drainage.	In Concept
228	Prohibit fishing while wading in Fish Creek.	neutral
229	Extend the hours of the Ship Creek youth fishery.	Support
230	Allow retention of snagged sockeye salmon in the Big River Lakes and Wolverine Creek.	Oppose
231	Establish limits in the Big River Drainage of two salmon 16" or greater in length.	Oppose
232	Close a section of the south fork of Big River to sport fishing.	Oppose
233	Allow fishing for fish, other than salmon, in upper Threemile Creek and the Threemile Lake outlet.	Support
234	Create a personal use salmon dipnet fishery on the Susitna River.	Support
235	Create a lower Susitna River personal use dip net fishery.	In Concept
236	Create a Susitna River personal use dip net fishery.	In Concept
237	Create a Susitna River personal use dip net fishery.	In Concept
238	Create a personal use dip net fishery in Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage.	In Concept
239	Establish a personal use northern pike gillnet fishery in the Mat-Su valley.	Oppose
240	Create a personal use northern pike gillnet fishery in the Susitna River drainage.	Support
241	Establish provisions for the personal use of aquatic plants in the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area.	Neutral
242	Allow two additional fishing days per week in the Upper Yentna River subsistence salmon fishery.	Neutral
243	Allow the harvest of other salmon in place of king salmon in the Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery.	Neutral



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## X. REFERENCES

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## RE: PROPOSAL 163 Prohibit guiding in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dip net fishery

Dip netting from shore is way too crowded. For those of us who don't have a boat or can't afford a boat, hiring a guide is the only way to have a decent dip netting experience. Please don't do this.

Kenny Bingaman  
Self  
01/04/2020 12:34 PM AKST



## RE: PROPOSAL 37 Create a king salmon management plan with paired restrictions in Kodiak and Cook Inlet commercial fisheries

There is too much interception of Cook Inlet bound King Salmon stock in the Kodiak Commercial fishery. With low returning numbers at play there should be paired restrictions.

Kenny Bingaman  
Self  
01/04/2020 12:30 PM AKST

## RE: PROPOSAL 79 Establish a personal use priority for Cook Inlet salmon fisheries

The residents of Alaska should be the priority at all times with regards to our fisheries. Personal Use fisheries helps Alaska residents get food to feed their families. There is no greater interest in my opinion.

Kenny Bingaman  
Self  
01/04/2020 12:39 PM AKST

## RE: PROPOSAL 86 Establish resident and non-resident annual limits for sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet Area

I do not support this proposal for Alaskan residents.

Kenny Bingaman  
Self  
01/04/2020 12:40 PM AKST

## RE: PROPOSAL 87 Eliminate the personal use salmon dip net fishery and prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon in the Kenai Peninsula area

Personal use Fisheries is for Alaskan residents only. It should not be eliminated.

Kenny Bingaman  
Self  
01/04/2020 12:49 PM AKST



**RE: PROPOSAL 93 Manage the personal use dip net fishery on the lower Kenai River subject to achieving the inriver goal**

Personal Use is for all the residents of Alaska. It should be the priority over all other Fisheries.

Kenny Bingaman  
Self  
01/04/2020 12:43 PM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 95 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**

This is probably the single most important proposal for this cycle. All user groups should have equal access, opportunity and importance. Please support this proposal. It is important for the future residents of Alaska. Our Fisheries should be managed for the majority of the people, not the minority.

Kenny Bingaman  
Self  
01/04/2020 12:51 PM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 98 Establish an annual limit for the Kenai River sockeye salmon sport fishery**

There is no need for this proposal.

Kenny Bingaman  
Self  
01/04/2020 12:52 PM AKST

**RE: PROPOSAL 99 Establish mandatory closed inriver fishing windows for sockeye salmon**

No support of this proposal

Name	Proposal	Position
Kenny Bingaman	85	oppose
Kenny Bingaman	91	oppose
Kenny Bingaman	92	oppose
Kenny Bingaman	101	oppose
Kenny Bingaman	102	oppose
Kenny Bingaman	103	oppose

## RE: PROPOSAL 163 Prohibit guiding in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dip net fishery

I do not believe this proposition supports the needs of Alaskans as pertains to subsistence fishery access and accessibility. it is my opinion that guiding services of the Kenai and Kasilof rivers provides a valuable service to Alaskans who do not have access to personal vessels nor the physical ability or stamina to participate in the "from shore" fishery. furthermore, licensed guides on the river system are highly qualified and experienced safety-oriented vessel operators who contribute to the overall safety and responsiveness of a fishery that resides entirely inside an area designated by the US Coast Guard as "High Risk" requiring considerable the highest level of licensure to operate commercially.



## RE: PROPOSAL 163 Prohibit guiding in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers personal use dip net fishery

These types of companies are how so many Alaskans can get out and get their fish following ethical standards, laws, rules, and learn the best way to help manage the Kenai for future generations. Having the charters guide allows for less people on the river, experienced guides who know the river, the sand bars, and the flow of tides to help with better traffic control. I personally have taken advantage of the guiding services and was very glad to be able to feel safe with so many boats and personally in our boat we had five different families making it one boat, instead 5 more if we had all come with personal craft that day. Please oppose this rule and keep guided charters for dip netting legal to help support the industry as there are so many more positives then negatives with guided dip net companies.

Submitted By  
Kristin Webber  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 8:47:07 AM  
Affiliation

I support Proposal 169 restricting power boats on the Kasilof River.

Proposal 78 requests that Kenai sport fisheries/PU are to be exempt from “restrictions”. What natural resource in Alaska much less the nation is available to the public “without restriction”? Everything that could be classified as a natural resource (water use, timber, mining, oil, fish and game, land, etc) are managed to both ensure that the resource is not depleted and to regulate the access and use of the resource.

Commercial fishing is probably the most heavily “restricted” use of a natural resource. In 2012, Kenai district set netters only fished 2 days due to low king salmon numbers while the sport fishery fished kings up to July 19th. While the king fishery was then shut down for both the “in river king fishing” and set netters, the personal use fishery and Kenai sport fishery (other than kings) continued to fish the remainder of their seasons. In 2018, the Kenai set netters fished 3-5 days (depending on sub district) while sport/Pu was shut down ONE day early. These examples show that the BOF has NOT shown favoritism to commercial salmon fisheries but rather the opposite. Proposal 78 is NOT in the best interest of the resource.

Proposal 104 addresses the paired restriction for Kenai king salmon. Footnote 2 under the Early Season Conservation Regime part B, notes that the East Forelands sub section would no longer be exempt from the paired restrictions. This East Forelands exemption was created due to the fact that the East Forelands sub section catches very few king salmon compared to other East Side sections and its exemption allows management to allow the harvest of sockeye salmon while doing little to no damage to the king population. The East Forelands section does NOT contribute to what this proposal calls a “large percentage” of the combined sport and commercial harvest share. IF the board however chooses to support Proposal 104, Footnote 2 should be removed to allow the East Forelands to harvest sockeye in years of sockeye abundance and low kings per the original plan for the Forelands section.

Proposal 195 requests that two drastic changes be made to the commercial fishery that will take what could currently be a maximum of a 5 week fishery (Kenai section used as an example here, roughly July 8<sup>th</sup> through Aug 15) and turn it into a 3 week fishery (roughly July 8<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>) . It also asks for a doubling of the number of fish caught by comm fish (2% rather than 1% ) or the season would be shut down Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. If last year’s August escapement is looked at, around 500,000 sockeye went up the river un harvested at a loss of millions of dollars to the Peninsula economy.

Proposal 79 tries to tie two completely different harvest methods together and make them equal. Fishing with rod/reel/dip net vs commercial gear is like comparing someone seeking gold with a pan vs a dredge. Commercial fishing is going to catch more fish by nature of the gear used and should not be penalized due to this. Sport fish and dip netting have very few restrictions compared to commercial fishing (compare fishing hours/days per season for example) and, typically see between 1.0 and 2.0 million fish swim in a concentrated area up river past their lures/bait/dip nets. The “in river” fishery is essentially unrestricted for sports fisherman/PU use and the experience of trying to get fish is called fishing and not guaranteed catching. The catch totals can never be equal when you are comparing different types of gear fished in different areas (in river vs salt), different fishing dates/times etc.

**Lance Alldrin, Nikiski Set Netter**

Submitted By  
Lisa Gabriel  
Submitted On  
1/23/2020 10:37:52 PM  
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**I Oppose Proposal 78: Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan to include weighted criteria for the allocation of fishery resources.**

- The proposal takes away the Board of Fish members' discretion and independence. Current regulation recognizes a list of factors that a board member "may" take into consideration. This phrasing allows latitude for board members to consider which elements are appropriate to which circumstances. Proposal 78 seeks to take that latitude away and to dictate the factors that the board member "shall" use to decide while mandating the weight that each element must be given, instead of considering each proposal based upon all evidence and circumstance. If the board passes this proposal, it will be abdicating its authority now, and for all future BOF members, to ethically conduct the responsibilities of the board of fish.
- I support the board's current allocation criteria and the board's ability to equally balance all of these criteria when making an allocative decision. When the Alaska Board of Fisheries was established at statehood by the legislature, the founding language gave the board the flexibility to consider the most appropriate criteria for each proposal under consideration. The intent of KRSA's arbitrary ranking of the allocation criteria, which favor personal use, and sportfishing groups, is to regulate our setnet community out of business.

**I Oppose Proposal 88: Amend the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* to increase in-river goal ranges.**

- The current in-river goal ranges already allow for expansion and increased harvest for the in-river sockeye sport fishery above the counter.
- The current in-river goals provide more fish to the in-river sport fishery above the sonar than can currently be harvested. The in-river sport fishery, even when liberalized, does not exploit the fish they are already allocated. This results in exceeding in-river goals, exceeding escapement goals, and foregone harvest.

**I Oppose Proposal 104: Adopt an optimal escapement goal and amend the paired restrictions in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*.**

- I oppose this arbitrary and premature change to the scientifically established SEG. The big king goal was an attempt to revive the struggling king runs, and setnet fishermen have shouldered the majority of the conservation burden since it was established. ADF&G set the goal just three years ago at the 2017 meeting, so recently that not even one king salmon lifecycle has been completed. The efficacy of the new goal has yet to be established, and changing it now is premature. The result will be further unnecessary restrictions to the commercial setnet fishery.