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## Eastside Setnetters Amber Every and Lisa Gabriel

2020

Presentation to Alaska Board of Fisheries

# GOALS

- To introduce Eastside Setnetters and show who we are and our role in the Upper Cook Inlet fishery
- To **DEFEND** our Eastside Setnet fishery against unrelenting attacks of **elimination** that have spanned over 30 years
- Allocation Criteria- Counter KRSA proposal 78
- Kenai River Sockeye- Counter KRSA proposal 88
- Kenai River Late Run Chinook- Counter KRSA proposal 104
- **Save a 148 year old commercial fishery in Upper Cook Inlet**



## WE ARE EASTSIDE SETNETTERS

We are fathers and mothers, we are grandparents, we are children, sons and daughters, we are families. We are a community filled with generations of setnetting families. We are an important part of our local history. Setnetting is not just a job to us.

*Setnetting defines us, it is who we are.*

For generations, Upper Cook Inlet fisherman have helped feed the world a natural and healthy protein

80% of Upper Cook Inlet Setnetters are Alaskan residents



# EASTSIDE SETNET HISTORY

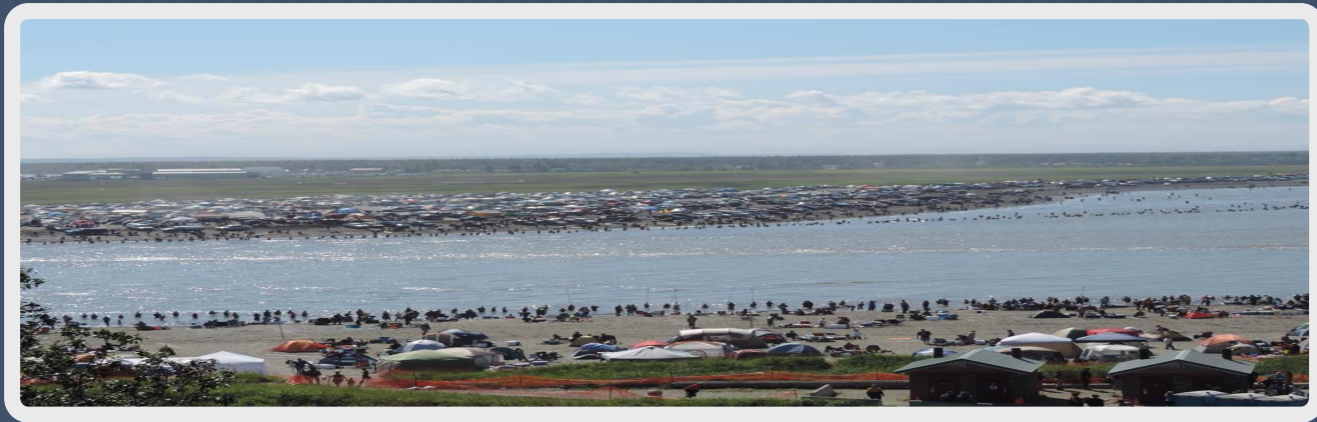


For over 150 years these salmon have been feeding people both locally and all over the world. This rich, renewable resource was first exported in the 1840's when ships from America and other nations began fishing in Alaskan waters and delivering salted salmon to ports around the world.

The first cannery in Cook Inlet was built at the mouth of the Kasilof River in 1882. Six years later the first salmon cannery was constructed on Kenai River. By 1892, thirty-seven canneries had been built in Alaska.



Gillnets had been used to some degree in the silty waters of Cook Inlet from the beginning. After fish traps were outlawed, independent fishermen caught the salmon for the canneries with gillnets.



# Allocation Criteria

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Consistent with the decision of the Court, the board finds that it will utilize the following specific allocation criteria when allocating between fisheries .

- 1) the history of each personal use, sport, and commercial fishery ; **Settnetting in UCI has been around for 150 years**
- 2) the characteristics and number of participants in the fisheries ; **Since Limited entry in 1973 the number of Cook Inlet setnet permits has not grown from original number of 746. In 2018 there were 735 Cook Inlet Setnet permits small businesses registered.**
- 3) the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption ; **80% of UCI setnet permits belong to Alaska state residents.**
- 4) the availability of alternative fisheries resources ; **Unlike In-River fisheries, there are no other alternative fisheries that setnetters can participate in, which is why in most recent years fisherman have had to sit on the beach.**
- 5) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the state ; **According to Northern Economics study the total processed product value (wholesale value) of Cook Inlet set and drift net salmon in 2011 exceeded \$94 million.**
- 6) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located ; **735 small business operate in local communities. According to Northern Economics study the local labor income for Southcentral commercial fishing is 106 million.**
- 7) the importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents .

# Allocation in Upper Cook Inlet

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## In-River Fishery

- Early Run King Salmon
- Late Run King Salmon
- Coho
- Sockeye

## Commercial Fleet

- Sockeye
- Pink Salmon- Very limited pink salmon openers for the commercial fleet

Allocation in Upper Cook Inlet already prioritizes personal use and In-River sport fisheries. In the most recent 5 years the allocation to the commercial fleet is declining and the personal use, sport fisherman and educational fisheries is increasing.

In 2018, Sport fisherman, Personal Use, and Educational fisheries harvested 53% of the sockeye while the commercial fleet harvested 48%.



## **Weighted Allocation Criteria** in ANY fishery:

- **Dictates** an outcome with a **prescriptive formula** for allocation.
- Mandates that personal use fisheries are prioritized over **all** other fisheries.
- **Prioritizes** non-resident sport fishermen over Alaskan Commercial fishermen, processors, retailers and restaurant owners.
- **Eliminates** an individual board member's ability to analyze the data and make their decision of allocation based on that data.

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

### In Summary:

- Allocation in Upper Cook Inlet already exists- Personal use and In-river sockeye fisheries are unlimited in harvest. As shown in 2018, in times of low abundance they become the primary harvester of sockeye salmon.
- 80% of Upper Cook Inlet setnetters are Alaskan residents
- Individual board members need the ability to analyze data and make decisions based on that data and not some prescriptive formula.
- This proposal **FAILED** at the statewide meeting in 2019, and is just another attack on commercial fishing in Cook Inlet.