



# Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Proposal 88

Submitted by Amber Every



□ SEG 700,000 - 1.2 million Spawners

## □ Kenai River In-river Goals

- *Runs 2.3 million or less: In-River Goal 900,000 -1.1 million*
  - *Allocates 200,000 - 400,000 Sockeye to In-River sport fishery above the counter*
  - *ESSN may have up to 24 hours of Emergency Order time*
  
- *Runs 2.3 million to 4.6 million: In-River Goal 1.0 Million-1.3 Million \*Increased at 2017 BOF\**
  - *Allocates 300,000 - 600,000 sockeye to In-River sport fishery above the counter*
  - *ESSN may have up to 51 hours of Emergency Order time*
  
- *Runs greater than 4.6 million: In-River Goal 1.1 Million-1.5 Million \*Increased at 2017 BOF\**
  - *Allocates 400,000 - 800,000 sockeye to In-River sport fishery above the counter*
  - *ESSN may have up to 84 hours of Emergency Order time*

# Current Kenai River Sockeye Goals

# Proposed Kenai River Sockeye Goals

- NEW SEG 750,000 - 1.3 million Spawners
- Kenai River In-river Goals
  - Runs 2.3 million or less: In-River Goal 1.0 Million- 1.4 Million
    - Allocates 250,000 - 650,000 Sockeye to In-River sport fishery above the counter
  - Runs 2.3 million to 4.6 million: In-River Goal 1.2 Million-1.6 Million
    - Allocates 450,000 - 850,000 sockeye to In-River sport fishery above the counter
  - Runs greater than 4.6 million: In-River Goal 1.4 Million-1.8 Million
    - Allocates 650,000 - 1,050,000 sockeye to In-River sport fishery above the counter
  - Runs greater than 5.0 million: In-River Goal 1.4 Million- 2.0 Million
    - \*Proposed OEG\*
    - Allocates 650,000 - 1,250,000 sockeye to In-River sport fishery above the counter
- The HIGHEST Harvest above the counter to date is 379,685 and they want 1.25 million allocation

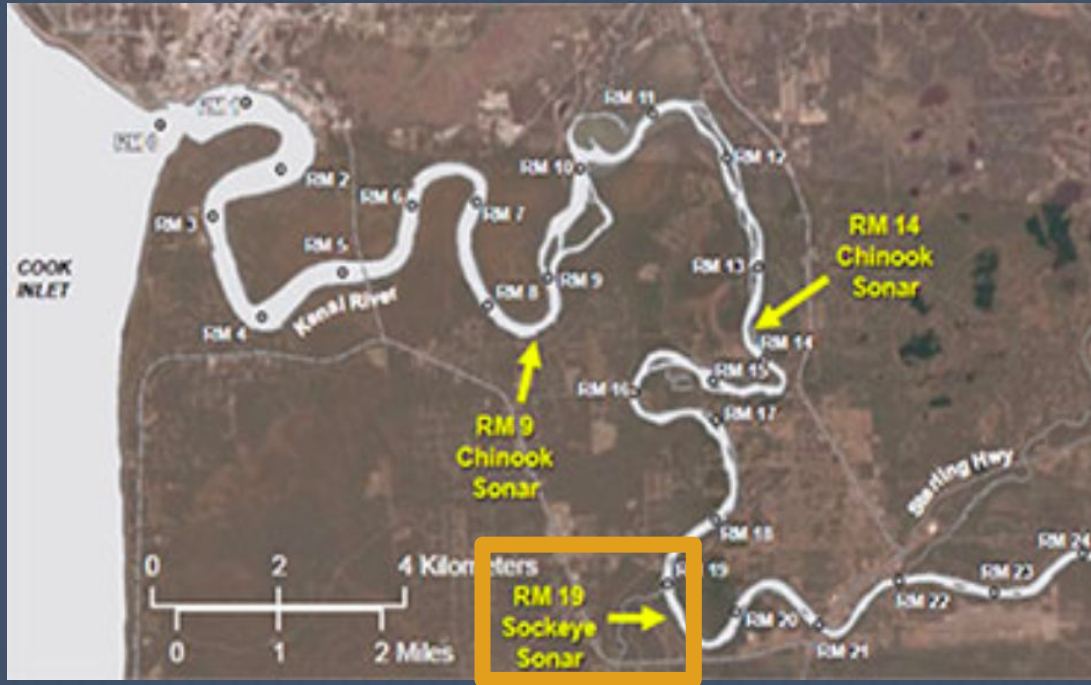
# Exceeding Kenai River Inriver Goals

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Year	Sonar Count	Inriver Goal	Met/Exceeded
2011	1,599,217	1,100,000-1,350,000	Exceeded
2012	1,581,555	1,100,00-1,350,000	Exceeded
2013	1,359,893	1,000,000-1,200,000	Exceeded
2014	1,520,340	1,000,000-1,200,000	Exceeded
2015	1,709,051	1,000,000-1,200,000	Exceeded
2016	1,383,692	1,100,000-1,350,000	Exceeded
2017	1,308,498	1,000,000-1,300,000	Exceeded
2018	1,035,761	900,000-1,100,000	Met
2019	1,849,054	1,000,000-1,300,000	Exceeded

8 out of the last  
9 years the  
CURRENT  
Inriver Goal  
has been  
EXCEEDED

# Kenai In-River Sport Harvest



Below the River Mile 19 sockeye counter the In-River sockeye sport harvest is unlimited. The last 10 year average is 72,790. With the highest harvest ever in 2012 at 102,376. **This harvest is not included in the In-River Goal allocation.**

Above the RM 19 sockeye counter the In-River sockeye sport 10 year average is 282,210. **With the highest harvest ever in 2013 at 379,685.**

**6 out of the last 9 years Bag limits have been increased for sockeye**

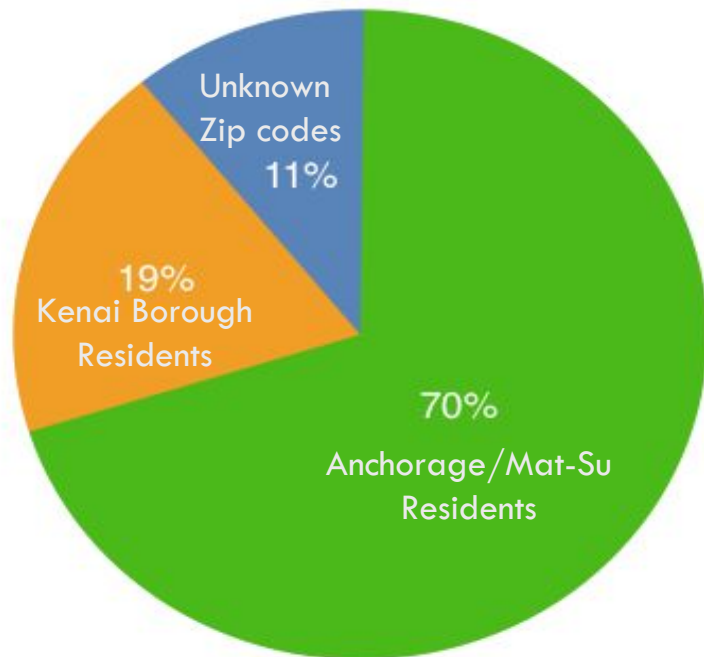


Coastal communities and rural Alaska will never win favorable allocation in a battle of numbers with Urban Alaska. This fishery has seen an increase of 147% in user participation in the last 20 years.



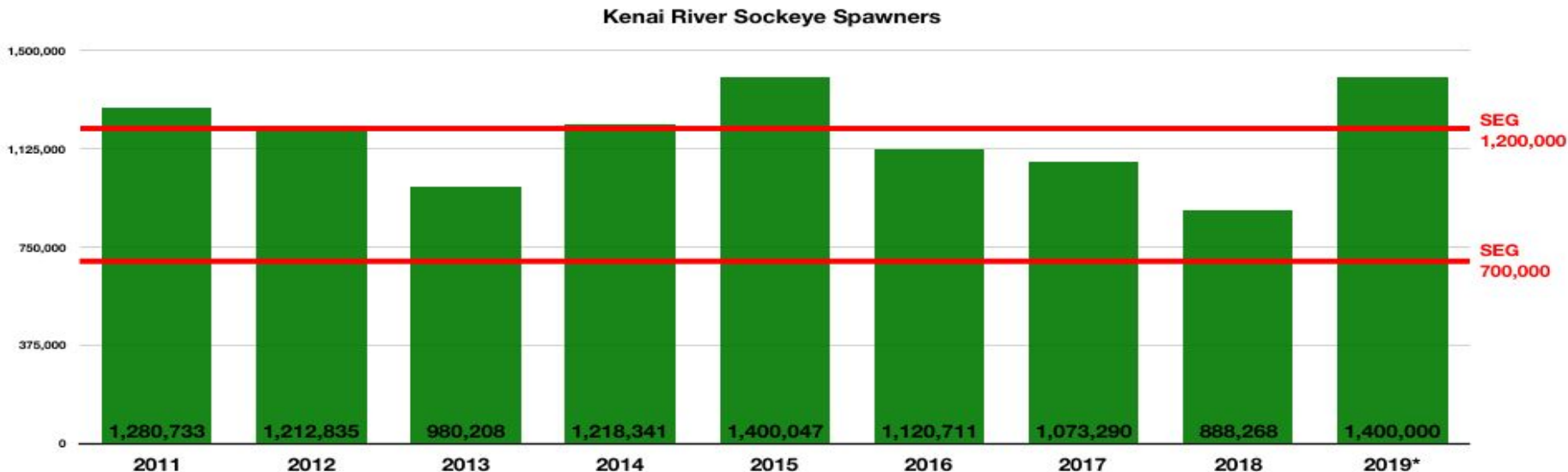
Highest harvest to date is 537,765 sockeye. **These fish are not included in the In-River allocation.**

### Zip code Participation in Kenai River Dipnet Fishery



Data from City of Kenai Dipnet Report. 2014-2018 average

# Kenai River Spawners



In the past 9 years the Kenai River has **EXCEEDED** the SEG 5 years. It is clear that the In-River fishery above the counter is not harvesting the current allocation

\*2019 In-River Sport harvest is not available used an estimate of 449,054 which would be highest harvest to date.



2020

# KENAI RIVER SOCKEYE FORECAST



2.2 Million Sockeye Return

Personal use, Educational Fisheries and Sport Fishery  
(above and below counter) = 1 million harvest

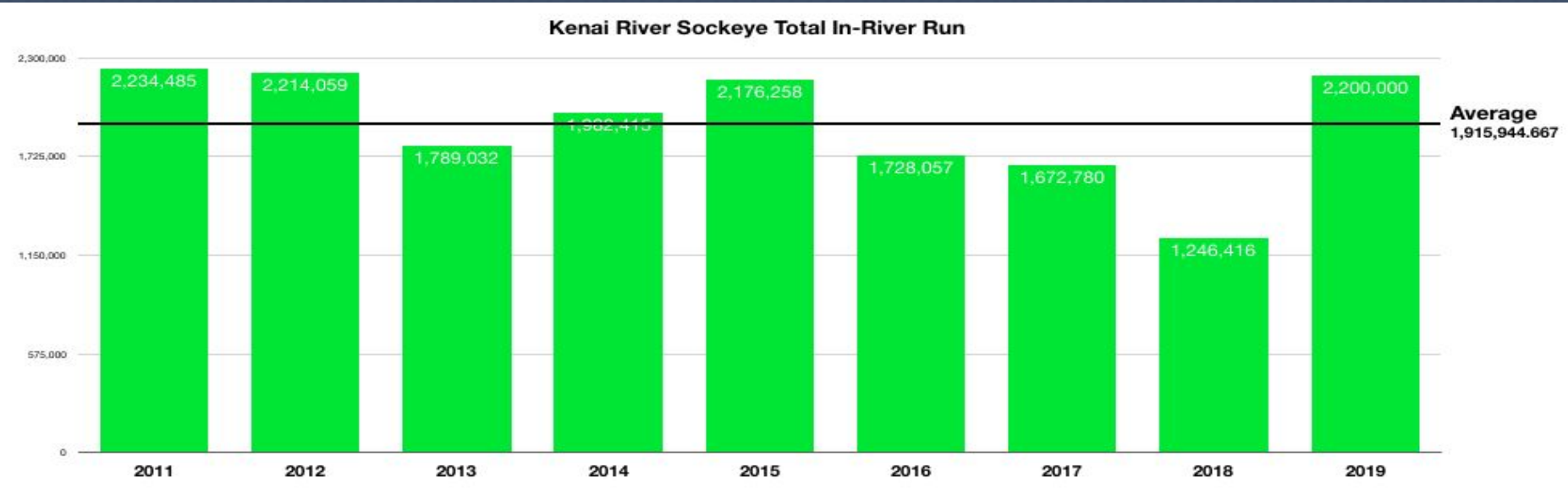
1.1 million Escapement (9 year average)

**What is left for the Commercial Fishery?**

Commercial Fishermen are being  
allocated out of the fishery.



# Have Commercial Fisherman Delivered enough Sockeye to the mouth of the Kenai River?



Last 9 years UCI commercial fisherman have delivered 1,915,944 sockeye to the mouth of the Kenai River

# Proposal 88- Amend the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan to increase inriver goal ranges

## In Summary:

- The **CURRENT** in-river goal ranges already allow for expansion and increased harvest for the in-river sockeye sport fishery above the counter, an allocation that has not been taken.
- To date, the **LARGEST** sport harvest taken above the counter is 379,685 sockeye.
- The in-river sport harvest allocation **ONLY** applies to above the counter. The dipnet harvest and sport harvest below the counter is on top of this allocation and is currently **unlimited**.
- Increasing the In-River goal ranges will increase foregone harvest and economic loss, while continuing to exceed the SEG, which will continue to diminish future returns.
- Increasing the In-River goal ranges would **eliminate** the UCI commercial fleet