

## Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Summary

# COMMITTEE A

### Personal Use Fisheries January 31 – February 13, 2014

---

#### Board Committee Members:

1. Orville Huntington, \*Chair
2. Sue Jeffrey
3. Reed Morisky

#### Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Charlie Swanton Director, Sport Fish
2. Tom Brookover – Deputy Director, Sport Fish
3. Tom Vania – Regional Management Coordinator, Sport Fish
4. Robert Clark – Fish Scientist, Sport Fish
5. Robert Begich – Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish
6. Jason Pawluk – Assistant Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish
7. Sam Ivey – Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish
8. Kristine Dunker – Regional Invasive Species Coordinator
9. Dan Bosch – Anchorage Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish

#### Alaska Wildlife Troopers

1. Captain Burke Waldron

#### Alaska Department of Law

1. Lance Nelson

#### Advisory Committee Members:

1. Terry Nininger – Mat-Su AC
2. Paul Shadura – Kenai/Soldotna AC
3. Bruce Morgan – Anchorage AC
4. Monte Roberts - Kenai/Soldotna AC
5. David Martin – Central Peninsula AC
6. Jim Stubbs - Anchorage AC

## Public Panel Members:

1. Rick Koch (City of Kenai)
2. Chris Every
3. Roland Maw (UCIDA)
4. Megan Smith
5. Arni Thompson (Alaska Salmon Alliance)
6. Rod Arno (Alaska Outdoor Council)
7. Jim Colver (Mat-Su Borough)
8. Neil DeWitt
9. Ricky Gease (Kenai River Sportfishing Association)
10. Ted Crookston
11. Kristin Mellinger
12. Kenny Rogers
13. Christine Brandt (SOKI)
14. Preston Williams
15. John McCombs

## Federal Subsistence Representative:

1. None

---

The Committee met February 6, 2014 at 9:32 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

---

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (25 total) 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 172, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 318.

---

**PROPOSAL 269 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Management Plan.** Update sockeye salmon numbers within the personal use salmon management plan to align with the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: Support or opposition to this proposal will not affect discussion on Proposal 278 extending the personal use fishery by EO to 24 hours.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Amend language to set the trigger point to 2 million sockeye instead of 2.3 million.
- DIDSON has scaled up the trigger point to 2.3 million. If the trigger point was 2 million it would liberalize the PU fishery earlier; therefore to be more conservative, prefer to stay at 2.3 million sockeye as a trigger point.
- Concerned over consequences of having a 24 hour fishery.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 270 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Clarify when a person is required to record their harvest within Upper Cook Inlet personal use salmon fisheries regulations.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: Definition language was crafted so recording occurs before leaving fishery; proposal language captures how regulation is being enforced.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: Support proposal because it clarifies language for users, enforcement and the court system; troopers are sensitive to boat launch issue and the language present in this proposal will give them adequate guidance.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Proposal because language clarification is needed to inform the public.
- Suggest wording that would not add to traffic concerns at the boat launch.
- Need fishing site definition that keeps recording requirements within the fishery to help the public.
- Don't want recording requirement language that would result in innocent people being cited.
- Allow recording and marking in an area that is not concentrated in the boat launch area.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 271 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Direct department to provide permit holder information to enforcement officials if permit holder fails to return their permit.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: 50% of PU users comply with reporting deadline. A reminder is sent to nonresponders, followed by a second reminder. Reports from non-compliant (late) users are used to expand estimates of harvest for all nonrespondents. The department envisions future online reporting system to be similar to online hunt permits.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: Difficult to enforce non-compliance now due to chain-of-custody issues with providing drop boxes for users to submit harvest cards. Department has full access to ADF&G permit and license database.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- State needs to have an online reporting system for PU reporting.
- Enforcement needs to focus on more important issues – proposal is overkill.
- Supports because proposal encourages reporting compliance.
- Need to encourage reporting compliance; suggest requiring reporting to qualify for future permits.
- Potential fines from non-compliance could generate up to \$11 million for enforcement budget.
- Advise not to make enforcement action retroactive for past nonresponders.
- Amend to get rid of drop-box reporting.
- Online reporting could be similar to hunt permits as far as tracking the eligibility of those who apply.
- Suggest using Board of Game Tier Hunt I & II (or registration hunt) permitting model to control number of permits issued.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 272 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Require a person to show proof of residency prior to a permit being issued and require the personal use fishery to be closed if more than five percent of permits are not returned.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: (In response to residency requirement question) A resident is defined as one who resides in Alaska for 12 consecutive calendar months. A driver license or state-issued ID card is the primary method of showing residency.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: Many hours are spent training new officers on nuances of residency of requirements. Sport fish license is easiest tool.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Support concept but have doubts vendors can carry out the process.
- Residency verification does not occur when permit is issued.
- Better proof of residency would be an improvement.
- Online registration, linked to the PFD requirement, could aid in verifying residency and issuance of permits, burden of proof-of-residency would be on the State instead of vendors.
- How do we define residency, what are the requirements?

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 273 - 5 AAC 77.015. Personal use fishing permits and reports and display of personal use fish and 5 AAC 77.525. Personal use salmon fishery.** Exempt a person obtaining a personal use dipnet permit for Cook Inlet from requirement that the person is the holder of a valid resident sport fish license or is a resident exempt from licensing under AS 16.05.400.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: Definition of residency is complicated; the sport fish license is an easy tool for identifying residency and if this proposal is adopted it would make it difficult to identify residency. Many hours are spent training new officers on the nuances of residency of requirements. Sport fish license provides clues to residency and is the easiest tool for enforcement and do not want to lose this tool.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- The PU fishery is not a sport fishery so it should have its own permit.
- Online reporting would solve many issues.
- Vendors not reliable in determining residency.
- Don't want online only registration – many Alaskans don't have online access.
- PU fishery intent is not for a subsistence fishery. There is a long history of misunderstanding of what a personal use fishery is.
- Department does a good job working with vendors to teach them the proper method of issuing permits.
- Need legislation to clarify what a personal use fishery is.
- Could increase compliance with existing permit requirements.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 274 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Require online permitting for personal use permits, establish penalties for violations, and reduce household limit to 15 per head of household and 5 for each additional member.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Opposed to reducing limit to the 21,000 families utilizing the fishery; should consider opportunities allowing more Alaskans to utilize the fishery.
- Supports online permit registration idea.
- Too many volatile issues are involved with this proposal but want to see the PU growth controlled.
- Current PU harvest estimates are accurate with the current level of compliance.
- Need to limit PU fishery by other means.
- Reducing time and opportunity are punitive measures directed at ordinary Alaskans that have only a few times available to get fish.
- Many Kenai Peninsula residents (67%) get fish from this fishery.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.



**PROPOSAL 275 - 5 AAC 77.525. Personal use salmon fishery.** Limit the number of Cook Inlet personal use permits that can be issued to 30,000 permits.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: To limit permits, the board would have to use a system similar to Board of Game by utilizing a drawing, lottery or first-come-first-serve style program. Limiting access to State of Alaska resources is a sensitive issue.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Intent of the proposal is to cap PU permits like limited entry does for commercial fisheries.
- Social conflicts are occurring in the PU fishery; the resource has been fully allocated since the 1970's but wasn't when PU fisheries were first initiated.
- The number of permits will continue to increase and suggest using Board of Game Tier Hunt I & II (or registration hunt) permitting model to control number of permits issued.
- Oppose any proposal to limit public access to the resource; users are not negatively affecting the sockeye salmon resource.
- Slowing the growth of the PU fishery might be the right direction to go for social issues but this hard cap to permit numbers is not the right way to do it.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 276 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Open Kenai River personal use fishery after 350,000 sockeye salmon escapement has been reached.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- In 1996, opening fishery changed to a calendar date on July 10 to achieve an allocation of 80,000 fish.
- In 2008, commercial fishery was closed but PU fishery remained open and that wasn't right.
- Department is doing a good job of managing fishery. If it is not broke, don't fix it.
- Other fisheries fish on a calendar date.
- Biological triggers are used elsewhere and are appropriate here.
- PU fishery should always come first- assume under this proposal commercial fishing wouldn't start until 350,000 sockeye goal is reached.
- Public needs extended opportunity to harvest resource and an arbitrary trigger number will cause folks to miss fishing opportunities.
- People have expectation to harvest the limit of fish and the board needs to take action to drop the bag limit and to increase it if abundance allows.
- This proposal would increase crowding but helps spread out the burden of conservation amongst users.
- Predictable season dates help users plan fishing trips.
- This is a radically different approach to managing the fishery that depends on time to provide opportunity; this proposal greatly reduces opportunity.
- The resource is finite.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 277 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Open Kenai River personal use fishery after escapement has been met.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Proposal is a method to limit fishery growth.
- Fishery started as a means to harvest surplus fish when escapement is going to be exceeded and should remain that way.
- Run size affects fisheries.
- PU fishery negatively impacts commercial fishery.
- 99% of all fish are harvested by commercial fisheries. Kenai PU fishery is the largest in the state and is important for people to use.
- Proposal submitted more to generate conversation on the issue.
- Fishery is out of control, fishery should limit participation.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 278 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Prohibit emergency order (EO) authority liberalizing personal use salmon fishery to 24 hours per day, but allow for increased harvest limits.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: A 24 hour fishery taxes enforcement resources.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- A 24 hour fishery causes safety issues due to operating under low light conditions.
- Proposal restricts opportunity for public.
- Night fishing is a safety hazard (and burdens the City of Kenai that utilizes the closed fishing hours to conduct fish waste cleanup on the beach and maintenance of infrastructure).
- City of Kenai supports eliminating a 24 hour fishery but takes no position on harvest limits. The city doesn't want to close the beach and be in conflict with PU fishing regulations. The city wants to be a good neighbor with the State. Currently, night fishing has been minimal but is enough to affect city cleanup efforts.
- City of Kenai needs help from the board to protect city assets.
- Support proposal over safety issues because it would reduce commercial fishing boats and PU boats concurrently utilizing the same area during low light conditions.
- No biological reason not to increase to a 24 hour fishery.
- Increases crowding and social issues.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 279 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Modify existing Kenai River personal use fishery hours from 6:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m., to 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Intent of proposal is to restrict the fishery to daylight periods over safety concerns.
- Proposal restricts the fishery and condenses users into a more limited time period.
- Tides influence the fishery and this proposal disrupts that. Current times allow for more than one tide and 16 hours a day is needed.
- Restricts time and opportunity.
- There is adequate daylight during current fishing period.
- It would restrict PU fishing from a boat which has little impact to City of Kenai operations.
- Limiting PU boat fishing time would increase fishing congestion.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 280 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Reduce Kenai River personal use fishing season, establish paired restrictions with commercial fishery to achieve inriver goal, and prohibit retention of king salmon.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Department already has the tools to regulate the fishery.
- Proposal is restrictive and makes planning to participate in the PU fishery more difficult.
- Will increase hook and line fishing effort along the river bank, resulting in more habitat damage.
- Retaining a king salmon is a unique benefit if abundance is high.
- Department can issue an EO to prohibit king retention so no need to put it in regulation.
- Benefit of PU fishery is ability to return king salmon back into the water alive. PU fishery was the first fishery to be restricted for king harvest in 2013. Did not affect ability to harvest sockeye.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.** Close the Kenai River personal use fishery when it is announced the sockeye salmon optimal escapement goal (OEG) may not be met.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Leave discretionary priorities to department. Department already has EO authority and proposal would limit opportunity.
- This proposal would distribute conservation burden amongst user groups.
- Escapement needs to be met before fishing on surplus stocks.
- PU fishery hard cap is the season ending date of July 31. The commercial fishing may close in July, but can reopen in August.
- This fishery has been closed in the past by EO due to low abundance.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 281 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Kenai River personal use fishery.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Department has demonstrated it will prohibit king retention if needed by EO.
- It is a sockeye directed fishery; currently people ignore EOs to prohibit king retention, so nonretention of king salmon needs to be in regulation.
- Would align Kenai River PU fishery regulations with Kasilof PU dipnet fishery regulations.
- Limits department flexibility.
- Noncompliance for retention of king salmon is rare due to self-enforcement in dipnet community and if king salmon abundance improves it would be good to be allowed to retain one.
- Suggest king salmon retention is eliminated when sport fishery goes to no bait.
- Intent of the fishery is to target sockeye for meat and prefer more public education on how to ID fish species to aid in compliance when no king salmon retention is in effect.
- Discriminating against Alaskans. Have commercial fishermen bring in their kings and give them to the food bank.
- Should be able to retain a king salmon during times of abundance.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.



**PROPOSAL 282 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Extend the Kenai River personal use fishery into August.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Concern that catch and release of coho salmon in August would result in increased fish mortality.
- Need flexibility to open for more fishing time.
- Fishery does not target coho salmon.
- Proposal increases PU season 50% but not many users would participate. The City of Kenai would have to provide beach maintenance operations longer.
- Prefer using EO to extend the PU season.
- Plenty of other options exist to liberalize PU fishing regulations.
- Coho concerns have impacted commercial fisheries; current season helps separate harvests of coho salmon and sockeye salmon and should not be changed.
- Variable run timing can affect ability to target fish.
- EO has been used in the past (2006) to give opportunity and it seemed to work out.
- Unintended consequences when you give people more opportunity; their expectations will rise and they will expect it in the future.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 283 - 5 AAC 77.525. Personal use salmon fishery.** Reduce household limits for Kenai River personal use fishery based upon Kenai River sockeye salmon run size.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Other PU fisheries provide opportunity to obtain household limit.
- Proposal ties PU fishery to abundance.
- Proposer submitted PC446 to amend proposal to reflect existing sockeye salmon tier levels and to withdraw support on prohibiting PU and sport caught fish on the same day.
- Difficult to change limits inseason.
- Household limit is Cook Inlet-wide, not just for the Kenai River. Adds complexity to regulations and harvest limits to the Cook Inlet household limits.
- Existing plan is carefully crafted.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 284 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Establish harvest allocations for the Kenai River personal use fishery based upon Kenai River sockeye salmon run size.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Bag limit could be reduced under low sockeye abundance. Limit of 15 sockeye for head of household and additional 5 for each other household members is adequate.
- PU proposal is a reflection that this fishery has grown beyond its capacity.
- Department has missed its preseason forecast for sockeye salmon 10 out of 14 years. If the fishery changes mid-season, users would have to come back a second time to obtain more fish.
- PU harvest restrictions under this proposal could be more restrictive than sport harvests.
- Support tying the harvest limits to sockeye salmon abundance tier levels.
- City dock is in tidal zone and can be closed during low tides. This causes increased boat traffic from upriver areas to access the fishery from launches that remain open.
- Why reduce bag limit if sockeye escapement will be achieved?

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 285 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Prohibit dipnetting from boats in the Kenai River personal use fishery.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Concern by commercial fishing boat owners who anchor their vessels in the area open to PU fishing from a boat. PU users are tying off to their commercial vessels and tossing fish waste on their decks.
- Fish waste management is an issue throughout the Kenai Peninsula.
- Proposal does not address safety issues.
- Proposal puts more users on the beach.
- Too narrow of a restriction for a problem affecting a wide area and many user groups.
- Reduces harvest opportunity for those who are not able to fish from shore.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 286 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Establish a no-wake zone and maximum speed limit on the Kenai River between river mile 3 and 4.5 during the personal use fishery.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Proposer is a riverside home owner who is losing property to bank erosion from PU-generated boat traffic.
- More public education is needed on boat wake erosion.
- Proposal is unenforceable.
- Regulation booklet should include information on when critical high tides occur to help educate the public when it is prudent to slow boat speeds in the PU fishery.
- Just ask users to slow down during extreme high tides.
- City of Kenai closes beach on extreme high tides but boats are still present on high tides.
- Washington State ferry system was sued due to damage to private property.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 287 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Reduce allowable mesh size to 2-inch mesh in Cook Inlet personal use dipnet fisheries.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Proposal intent is to protect king salmon.
- Department already has EO authority to prohibit king salmon retention; would create confusion between other PU fisheries.
- Proposal is restrictive and allocative.
- Should be a statewide proposal.
- Would force users to purchase different nets.
- PU users can reduce mesh size if they choose to.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 288 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Prohibit release of salmon caught in Cook Inlet personal use fisheries.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- PU-caught fish are for meat, no need to release them.
- Released fish will die and be wasted.
- Don't force people to keep fish they don't want; may lead to illegal dumping.
- If it is not prohibited to release salmon it will still be rare for users to release a salmon.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 289 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Require fish waste from the Kenai River personal use fishery to be ground up to three-quarters inch.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Proposal would help City of Kenai with fish waste problems.
- Proposal is aligned with Department of Environmental Conservation regulations.
- Puts an undue burden on PU fishermen.
- Causes a discrepancy between sport and PU fish waste management.
- If proposal is adopted into regulation, the City of Kenai does not want to be responsible for implementation or enforcement.
- A fish head would be difficult to deal with.
- City of Kenai had success with new ordinance requiring disposal of fish waste back into the river.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.



**PROPOSAL 290 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Change dates for the Kasilof River personal use (PU) set gillnet fishery from June 15–24 to June 20–30, and close the PU set gillnet fishery and require release of all king salmon in the PU dip net fishery when sport fish restrictions are placed on king salmon in the Kenai or Kasilof rivers.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Current PU fishery timing is in place because it doesn't conflict with commercial fishing.
- EO can be used if there is a conservation concern.
- Kasilof king salmon are in bad shape.
- If something needs to be done, restrict gear but not opportunity.
- Leave dates as is, use EO to restrict.
- Amend so king salmon greater than 28 inches must be released.
- Commercial fishing boats can get fouled by PU nets so leave dates as they are.
- This fishery is the last remnant of a subsistence fishery; it is a fishery popular with the elderly, kids and the disabled who are unable to stand in the river to dipnet.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 291 - 5 AAC 77.527. Personal use smelt fishery.** Extend fishing season for personal use smelt fishery from April 1 through June 15.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Confused whether proposal is intended for smelt or hooligan.
- Support because hooligan are in high abundance and have been underutilized.
- Proposed dates don't make sense.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 318 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Open the Fish Creek personal use fishery unless the sockeye salmon escapement is projected to be less than 50,000 fish.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Fishery should be prosecuted by EO and not regulation.
- Coho salmon catches could be an issue.
- Fish Creek used to be a commercial fishery terminal harvest area; bait was closed due to concerns with coho salmon.
- Burden should be on department to justify closing the fishery – this is a popular fishery and may alleviate pressure on the Kenai River PU fishery.
- Opposed because Fish Creek is no longer a stocked fishery.
- Support because people in the area need a local PU fishery.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.