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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

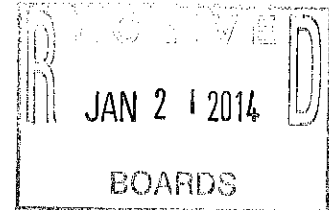
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



FWS/AFES

JAN 14 2014

Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99211-5526



Dear Mr. Johnstone:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) will deliberate on 2013/2014 regulatory proposals that address Upper Cook Inlet fisheries in January 2014. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) would like to provide comments on seven of those proposals for fisheries within the Kenai River that will likely affect fish populations on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. We may wish to comment on other proposals or update our comments if issues arise during the meeting which may have an effect on refuge fish stocks.

Proposals 190, 191, 192, 193, and 194 request modifications to the Kenai River early-run Chinook salmon slot limits. Proposal 190 requests management modifications for Kenai River early-run Chinook salmon including the elimination of the slot limit as a liberalization during strong Chinook salmon returns. Proposal 191 requests repealing the slot limit to increase opportunity. Proposals 192 requests expanding the slot limit from 46"-55" to 42"-55" in length. Proposal 193 requests lengthening the slot limit season by two weeks to end on July 31 and expanding the slot limit from 46"-55" to 42"-55" in length. Proposal 194 requests restricting sport harvest to Chinook salmon less than 42" in length.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recommended Action: Support with modification. The Service supports and promotes resource conservation and is concerned that the current slot limit has the potential to negatively affect long-term sustainability of Chinook salmon stocks within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and other stocks within the Kenai River watershed. The most recent information collected by the Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) indicates that harvest selection since implementation of the slot limit overlaps with the age and size composition of most spawning fish returning to the Funny River, and likely other tributary stocks comprised of smaller fish. The Service supports the concept of changes to the slot limit that will allow fishery participation while still ensuring long-term sustainability of all spawning stocks of Kenai River Chinook salmon. The Service is willing to work with the Department and others to come up with a solution, and is also supportive of other (and perhaps better) alternatives that may arise through the Board of Fish process that also achieve this goal.





Mr. Karl Johnstone

2

Proposal 219 requests establishing two Spawning Conservation Areas to protect Chinook salmon that spawn in the mainstem Kenai River. Spawning Conservation Area 1 would close the mainstem Kenai River to sport fishing for Chinook salmon from July 1 – 31 from the mouth of the Moose River upstream to Skilak Lake; Spawning Conservation Area 2 would close the mainstem Kenai River to sport fishing for Chinook salmon from July 10 – 31 from the Sterling Highway Bridge upstream to the Moose River.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recommended Action: Support with modification. The Service supports and promotes resource conservation and fishery participation. Chinook salmon use waters on the mainstem Kenai River below Skilak Lake as a staging and spawning area, and a request was made to the Service to close the Kenai River within the borders of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to sport fishing for Chinook salmon in February of 2013 as a conservation measure to protect spawning fish. The Service supports this proposal with modifications such that the spawning conservation areas and times reflect mainstem spawning and staging areas identified by analysis of the Department's recent radio telemetry data or other studies as appropriate. The Service is willing to work with the Department to identify appropriate time and area closures in the mainstem Kenai River below Skilak Lake to protect staging and spawning Chinook salmon on waters under Federal jurisdiction. If regulatory time and area closures are adopted, a proposal will be made to the Federal Subsistence Board to implement similar regulatory closures.

Proposal 225 requests changes to the general provisions for seasons, bag, possession, size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Proposal 225 requests modifying the Kenai River king salmon annual limit to two fish, of which only one may be greater than 28 inches in length from January 1 to July 31.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recommended Action: Support. The Service supports and promotes resource conservation and fishery participation. The Service supports proposal 225 for the goal of conserving large older Chinook salmon in the Kenai River. Reducing the annual bag limit to one fish over 28 inches would promote conservation of larger Chinook salmon while providing fishery participation and harvest opportunity. The Service is also supportive of other (and perhaps better) alternatives that may arise through the Board of Fish process that also achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time to review our comments on these proposals.

Sincerely,

Regional Director



Boards Support Section

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

Attn: BOF Comments

Re: Proposals 138, 139, 140, 142, and 143

To whom it may concern,

I oppose proposals 138, 139, 140, 142, and 143.

If adopted these proposals would close Area 1 to drift gillnetting. Regardless of their intentions, the result would be the reallocation of economic resources from Homer up the Inlet. If Area 1 is closed to fishing, the 100 plus drift boats that fish out of Homer for the first part of the season and deliver fish here would have to relocate up the inlet, taking their business with them.

When asked "Who is likely to suffer?" on the mentioned proposals there was not one word of the economic losses to the City of Homer and the many small business that support the Upper Inlet Drift Fisheries. As owner of a marine trades business in Homer the result of these proposals would be a direct loss of income. I'm only one of many small family-run marine trades businesses that would be affected. In addition, it would create a loss in hours, and possibly employment, for the 12-15 employees who support their families through my business. It would also result in the loss of a substantial amount of revenue to the Homer Harbor possibly causing harbor rate increases to make up for lost revenue.

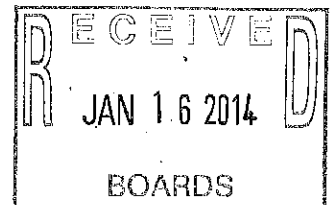
I feel that if there is a biological concern of Upper Inlet salmon stocks that Fish and Game already has the tools it needs to manage the fishery and they are the appropriate body to regulate closed areas. Given that there is no stock identification survey that proves that closing Area 1 would in fact increase Upper Inlet fish stocks, I feel that it's best to not adopt proposals 138 through 143 and leave the biological management to Fish and Game.

I don't think that it is the Board of Fisheries intention to reallocate economic resources from one community to another. Passing these proposals based on a few groups' armchair biological management ideas would do just that, having far reaching consequences for an unknown gain.

Sincerely,

Matthew Alward

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Alward".





2014

JUNEAU, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

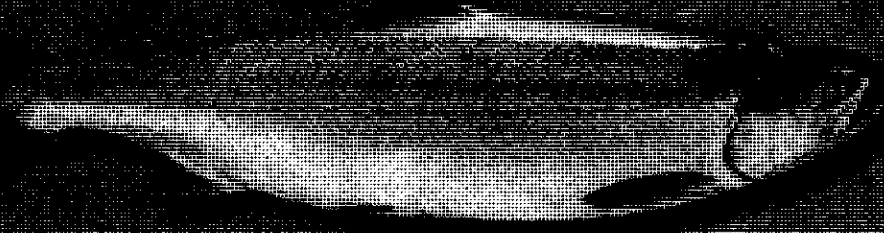


Mat-Su Salmon Returns are Plummeting



Conservation
Corridor

Harvest Zone





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Juneau, We have a Problem



Salmon abundance by nature is cyclical, but numbers returning to Northern Cook Inlet streams are almost universally in decline.

King salmon numbers have dropped to record lows. Sockeye salmon numbers and harvests have spiraled downward in the Susitna River for two decades. Once identified by ADF&G as the second largest freshwater coho salmon sport fishery in Alaska, the coho minimum spawning escapement level was not even achieved four years in a row on the Little Susitna.

So discouraged this season, many sports fisherman didn't buy fishing licenses. Mat-Su anglers used to enjoy 314,435 angler days in 2007. In 2012, angler days sank to the lowest level in 37 years.

In the last five years, the personal use fishery for Upper Cook Inlet has grown into an economic force with more than 35,000 Alaskan households participating. This year—however—zero personal-use fishing occurred at the only personal use fishery in Northern Cook Inlet: Fish Creek in Knik Arm. Dipnetting for sockeye in Fish Creek is more a surprise than an established fishery.

Too many Northern District stocks of concern sputter along at low yield levels here. Seven stocks of concern out of the State's 11 stocks of concern are struggling in the Northern District drainages.

Northern District salmon fail to get through the Central District commercial fisheries gauntlet in sufficient numbers. Conservation elements in the management plan are based solely on the abundance of Kenai sockeye, not on plummeting returns of northern-bound salmon. Escapement goals—the bedrock of fisheries management—have met chronic failure in Northern District streams, while to the south, the commercial harvest often has continuous emergency openings to catch more fish. ADF&G already has the authority to manage the commercial drift gill net fishery more conservatively than what is practiced during a strong Kenai red run.

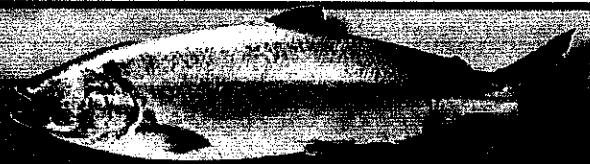
It takes fish to make fish. Please help us reverse this decline.

*Bruce Knowles Larry Engel Jim Colver Howard DeLo Andy Couch
Jennifer Ehmann Ben Allen*

—Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission



The Matanuska-Susitna Fish & Wildlife Commission



The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission consists of seven dedicated volunteers appointed by the Mayor to advise the Assembly and the Alaska State Boards of Fish and Game on policies that affect the resource and the people of the region.

Members of the Commission have 50 years of combined expertise as state biologists, 70 years combined experience as fishing guides, and 12 years of experience on the State's highest fish regulating board.

Chairman Bruce Knowles—a veteran fishing guide and advocate for sustainable fisheries.

Acting Chair Larry Engel—Chair of the Alaska Board of Fish for three years, a member on the Board for 9 years, former fisheries biologist with ADF&G for 30 years including 20 years as Mat-Su Area Manager.

Jim Colver—a personal-use fisher since 1989, a sportsfisherman, former commercial crewman in Prince William Sound, Mat-Su Borough Assembly Member 10 years, & former School Board President.

Howard Delo—a former member of the Alaska Board of Fish for three years and worked as a biologist with Fish & Game for 21 years, fisheries columnist.

Andy Couch—fishing guide business owner for 30 years in the Mat-Su, member Mat Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee, fisheries writer.

Jehnifer Ehmman—President of the Palmer Chamber of Commerce and an avid sports fisher. Chair of the Mat Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

Ben Allen, owner of a sportfishing guide business, former member Mat Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

The Commission seeks a more balanced allocation of fish that originate in Northern Cook Inlet.

The Commission has actively supported the development and implementation of effective fishery management plans and strategies. We have sought to foster an effective working relationship with ADF&G; providing regular input on research and management policies and strategies; facilitating the exchange of ideas and knowledge with Mat Su residents. The Commission has also successfully worked through the Governor's and Legislature's budgeting process to secure critical funding for scientific research and monitoring. The Commission has directed Borough support for independent scientific peer review to ensure that the best available science is utilized on key resource issues.



Overview

The Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission (MSBFWC) believes that the fishery management system in Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) is out of step with the economic and cultural realities of today. Management of UCI salmon continues to be driven by commercial fisheries despite much greater economic value and participation in sport and personal use fisheries. The sustainability of Matanuska-Susitna salmon runs has been placed at risk by overexploitation in mixed stock commercial fisheries that target larger more robust Cook Inlet salmon runs.

UCI commercial fisheries are currently operated to maximize harvest from the dominant Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks.

The reasonable harvest opportunity for subsistence, sport, guided sport, commercial set net, and northern personal use fisheries is severely impacted by mixed stock, drift fishery management.

Many smaller and less productive salmon stocks of Northern District origin are seriously impacted by these mixed stock commercial fisheries.

Spawning escapement goals are non-existent (Northern District pink and chum salmon), grossly inadequate (northern sockeye and coho), or not met (sockeye).

Current numbers are at critical levels for over half of all Northern king salmon stocks and Little Susitna River coho.

Information critical for effective management is severely lacking.

Timeliness and transparency of incorporation of new research data into management practice has been questionable.

The Mat-Su Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission has submitted a series of proposals to the Alaska Board of Fish regarding management of salmon originating in the Northern District drainages of Upper Cook Inlet (UCI).

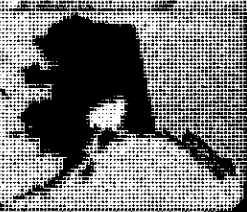
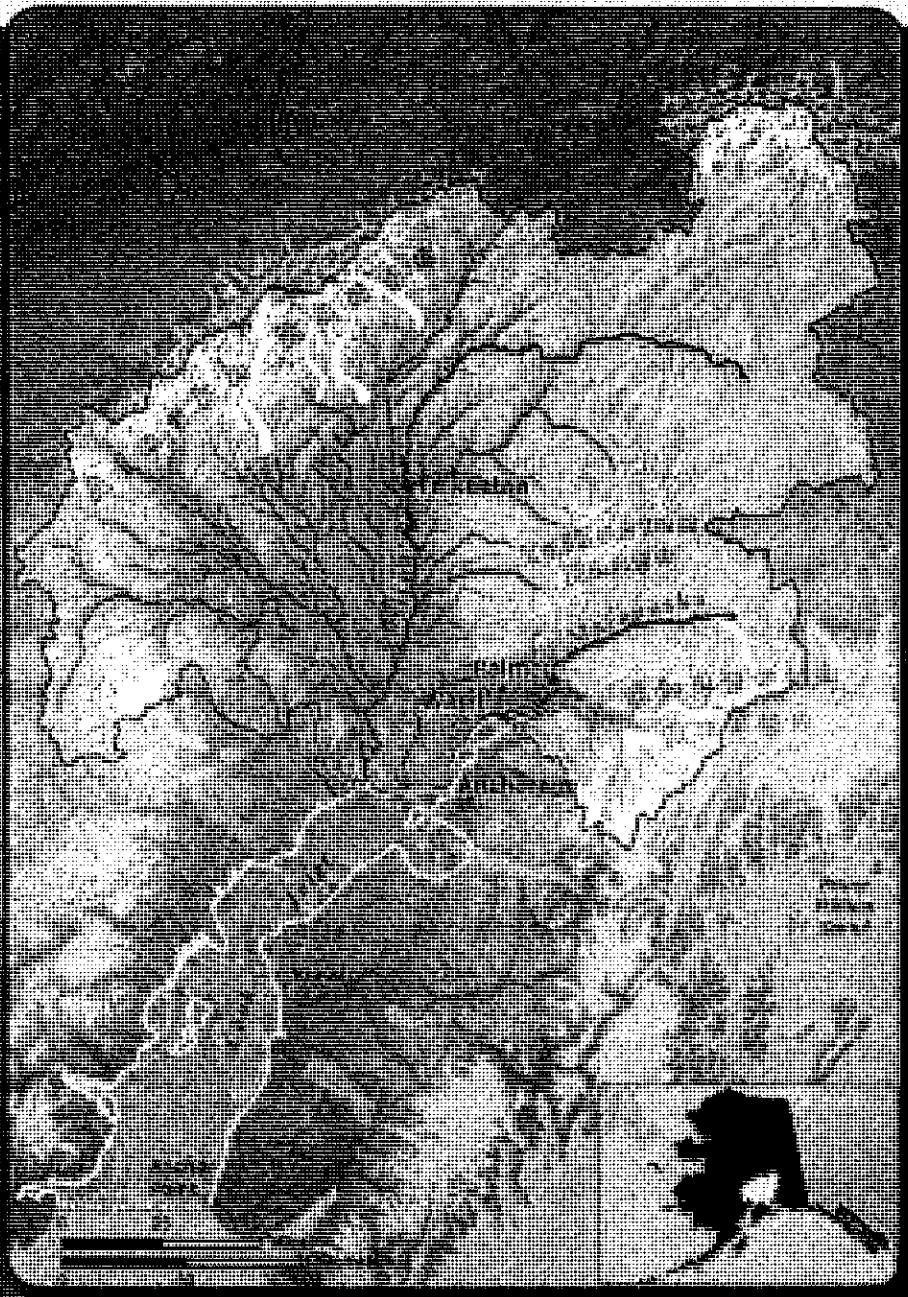


The Mat-Su Salmon Factory

Northern Cook Inlet waters support one of the most diverse salmon populations on the planet.

Salmon Return to Practically Every Accessible Niche & Water Body

The vast and varied landscape and topography of the Borough supports a tremendous variety of fish habitat and fish runs. Salmon inhabit 735 Mat-Su Basin rivers, streams and creeks totaling 4,426 miles more than 25,000 square miles. Other regions of Alaska may support greater salmon numbers but none are more diverse.





The Mat-Su Salmon Factory

All 5 Species of North American Salmon

Chinook (king) salmon, return to large rivers and streams throughout the Borough with substantial populations in the Deshka, Lake Creek, Talkeetna River, Little Susitna, and east side Susitna River tributaries from Willow Creek to Montana Creek. Susitna basin streams support the largest king run in Cook Inlet and the fourth largest in the state. Total returns may exceed 100,000 in good years.

Coho (silver) salmon are produced in practically every accessible stream in Cook Inlet - over 900 in total. Returns number in the hundreds of thousands during good years. Susitna drainages support the largest coho returns in Cook Inlet. Genetic studies have shown the run is comprised of many unique subpopulations returning to different areas. The Deshka, Talkeetna, Little Susitna, Jim Creek, Lake Creek, Talachulitna, and Jim Creek are top producers in the Northern Inlet.

Sockeye (red) salmon include over 20 populations that spawn in lakes, rivers, and sloughs throughout the Borough. Around 300,000 Susitna sockeye return to Cook Inlet on average but numbers are dwarfed by returns of over 4 million Kenai and Kasilof sockeye, which are the focus of intensive commercial fisheries farther down the inlet.

Pink (humpy) salmon return to streams and rivers throughout Upper Cook Inlet with large populations in the Susitna and Kenai rivers. Runs are even-year dominant. Numbers are not estimated due to a limited fishery focus.

Chum (dog) salmon spawn in rivers and streams throughout Upper Cook Inlet but predominately in western and northern portions of Cook Inlet. The Little Susitna and Eastside streams including Talkeetna River are top producers. Commercial fishery data suggests that chum numbers have fluctuated at low levels since 1990. Preliminary chum escapement estimates for the Susitna River drainage ranged from 334,000 to 1,752,000 during the period 2010-2012.



Salmon Runs Support Complex, Mixed-Stock Fisheries

Salmon return to Cook Inlet waters from May through September in broadly overlapping waves.

Timing varies among species and also within a species among different stocks and populations with specific patterns adapted for the specific conditions in their home rivers.

Overlapping timing and variable abundance are at the root of complex and difficult fishery management problems in the mixed stock fisheries of Cook Inlet.

Run Timing of Salmon in UCI

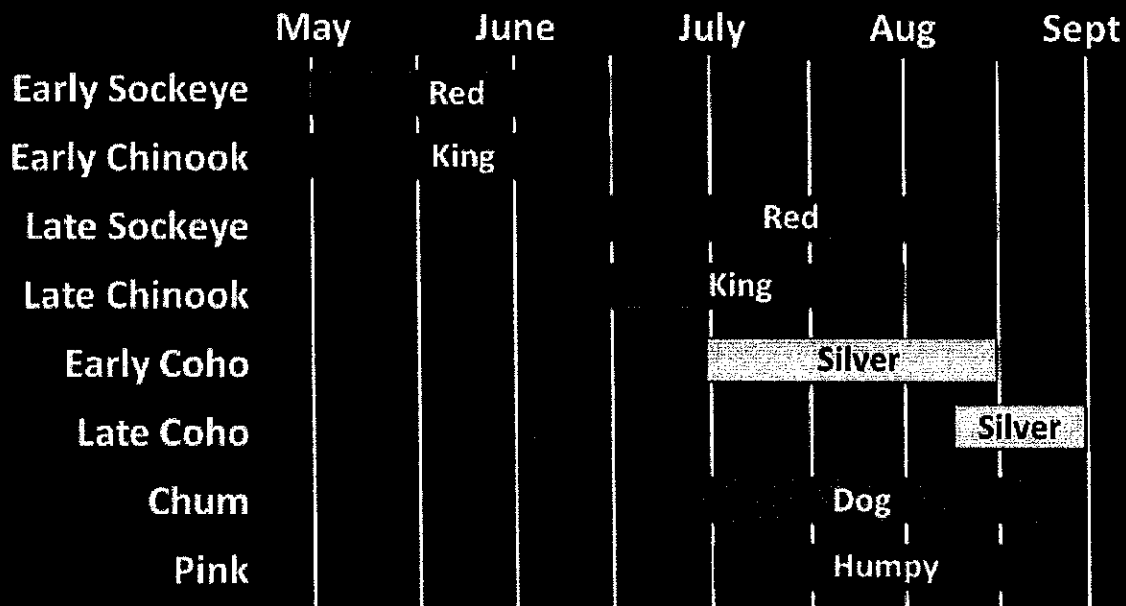
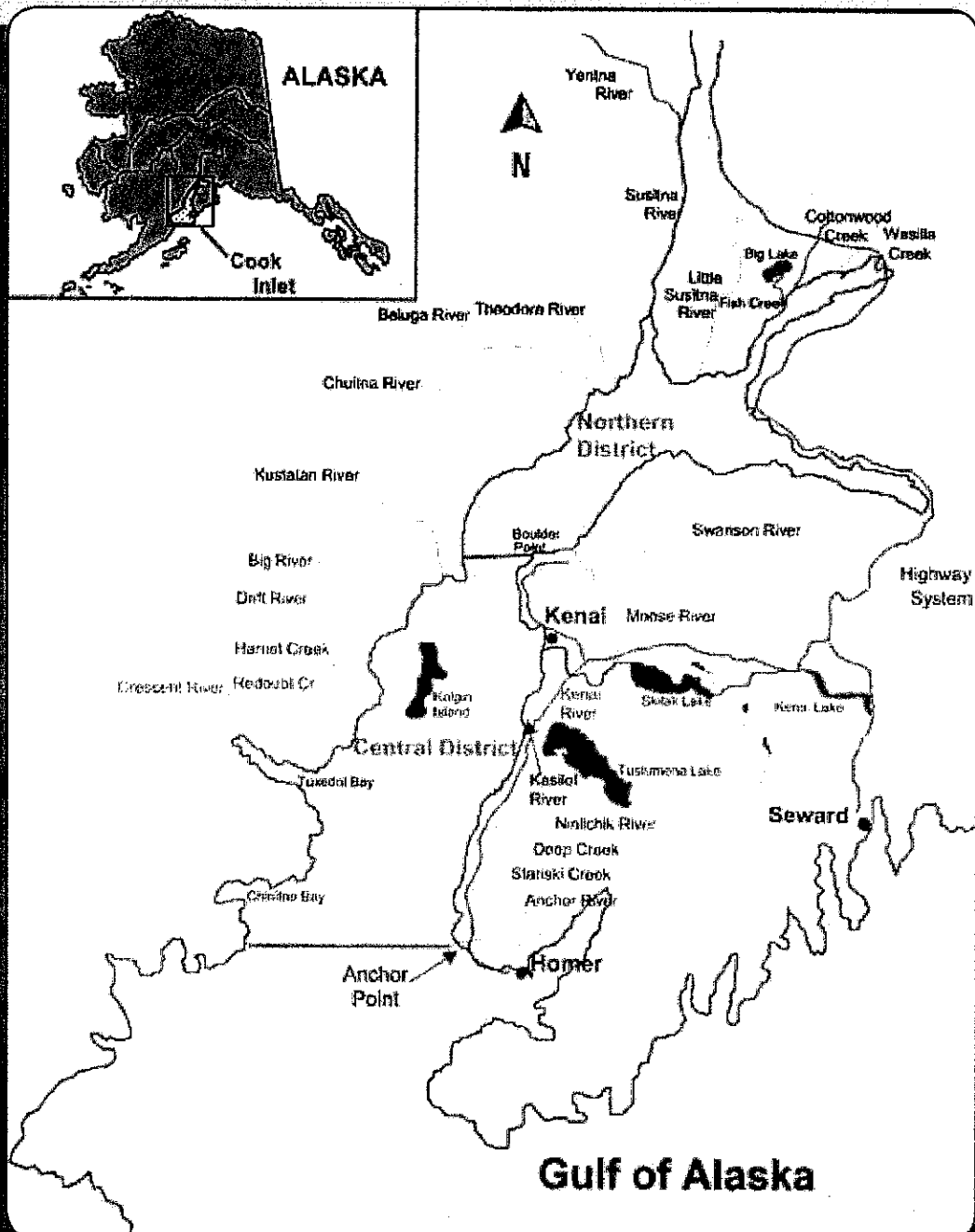


Figure 1. The Mainstem of UCI Basin and Cook Inlet.

Water Terms

Upper Cook Inlet includes all waters draining into Cook Inlet, north of Anchor Point. It consists of two commercial fishing areas, divided into a Northern District and a Central District.

This booklet focuses on all salmon that use the drainages of the Northern District. Some water terms include Northern Inlet, Northern Cook Inlet streams, & Mat Su Basin Rivers.





An Essential Value

Salmon are essential to the character, lifestyle and economy of the State of Alaska.

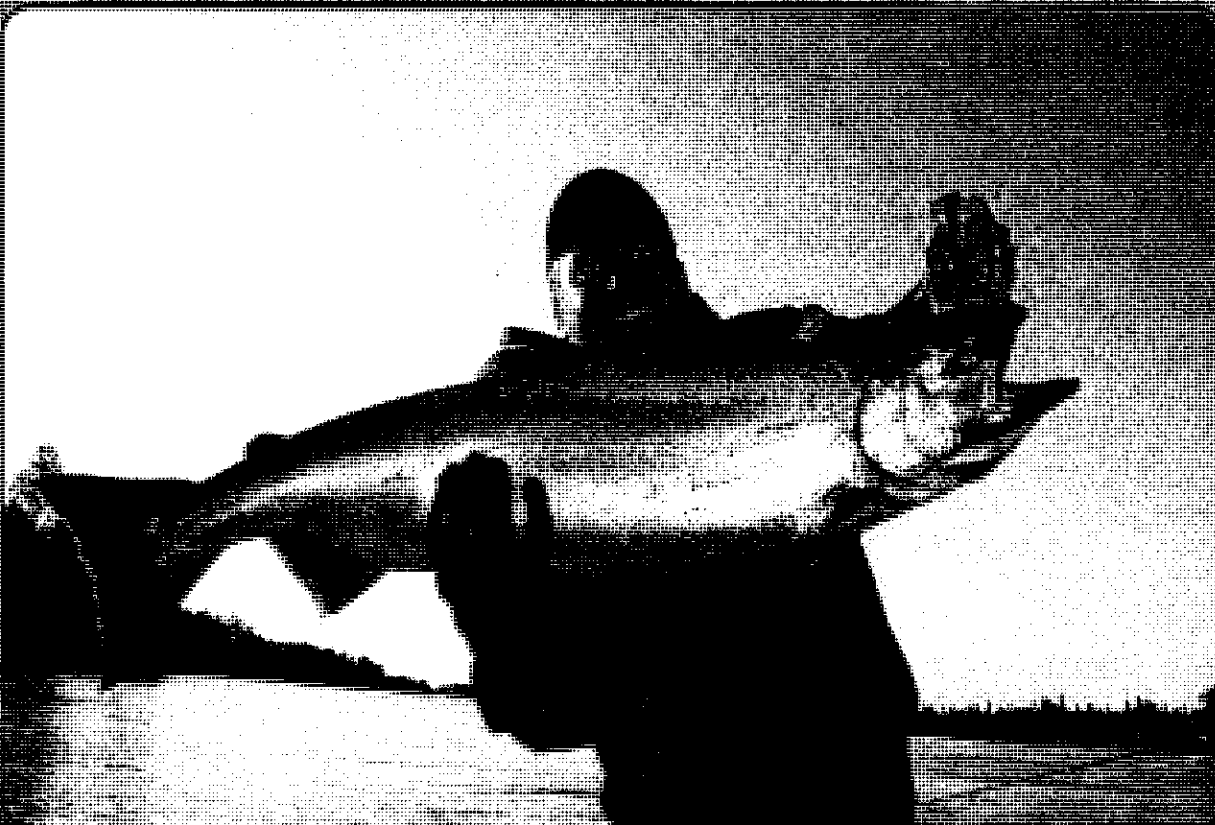
Alaska's Sport Fishery Center

About 1 of 3 Alaskans sport fish— the highest rate in the nation.

Nearly 2/3 of AK's residents reside along the shores of Upper Cook Inlet.

250,000 people sport fish annually in Upper Cook Inlet— 160,000 are salmon fishermen.

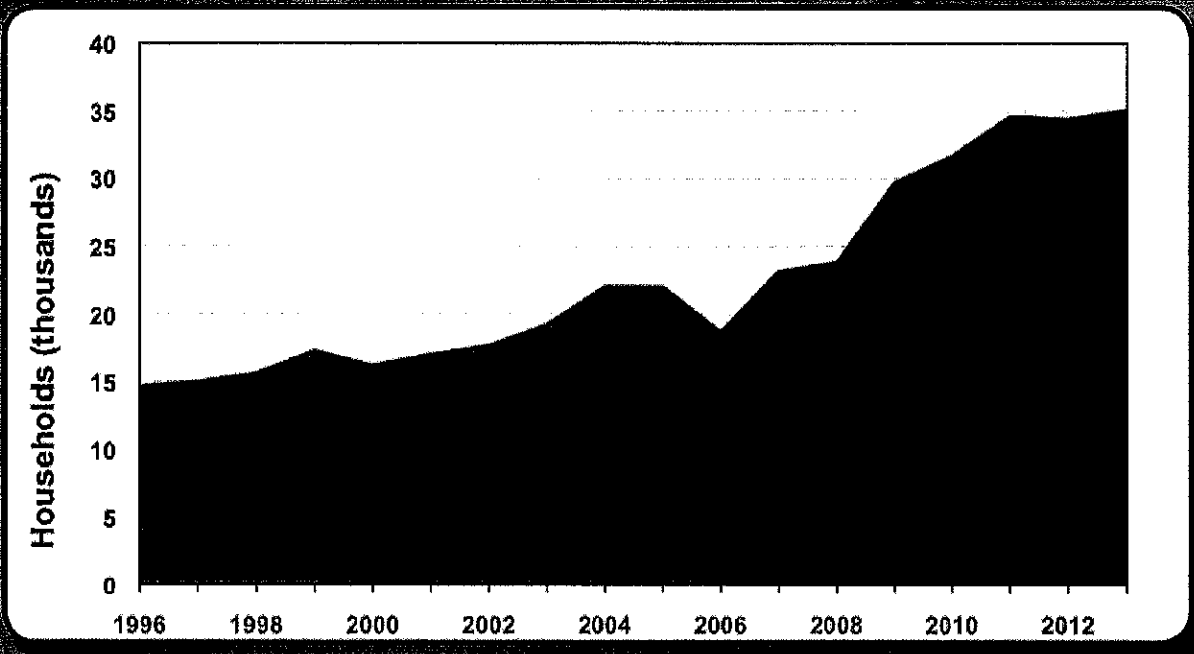
Over 300,000 angler days of sport fishing effort had occurred in Northern Cook Inlet waters during a typical year. Today angler days have sunk to the lowest level in 37 years.





Personal Use Fisheries—Food for Alaskans

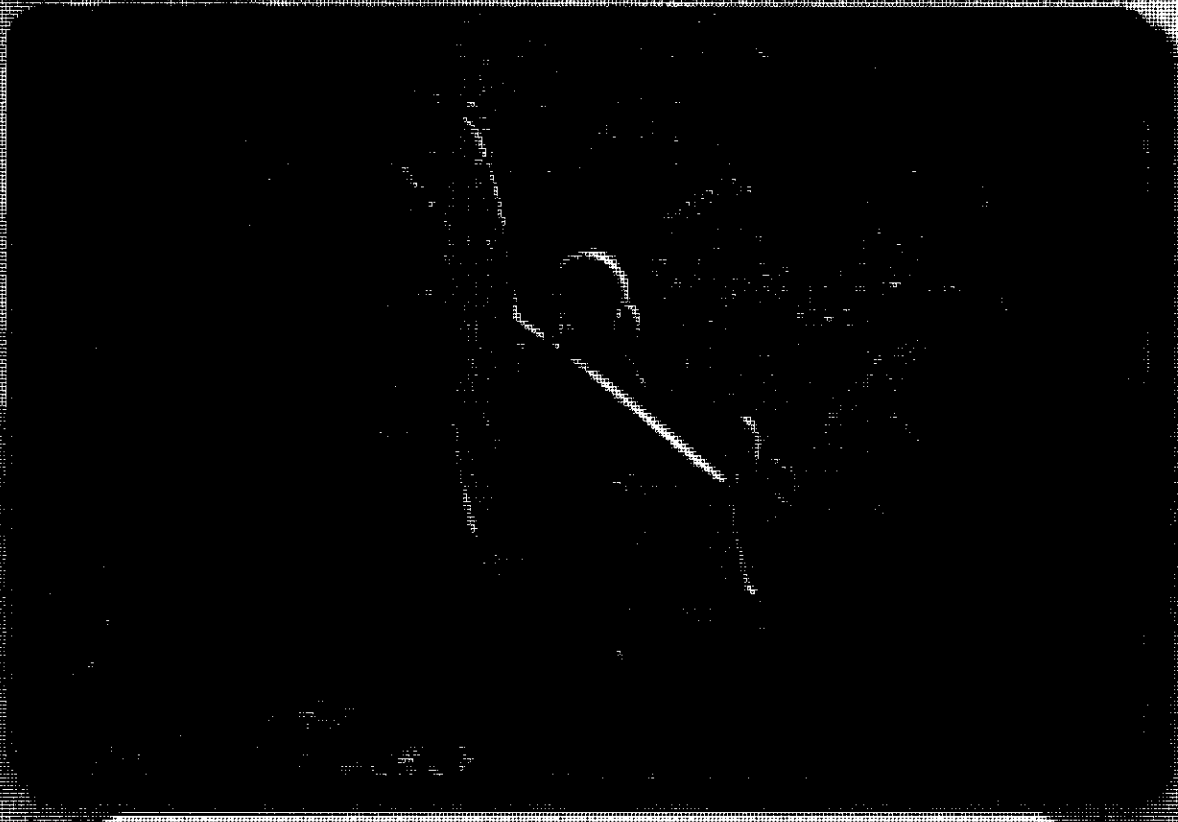
Over 35,000 households currently participate in the UCI personal use fishery.



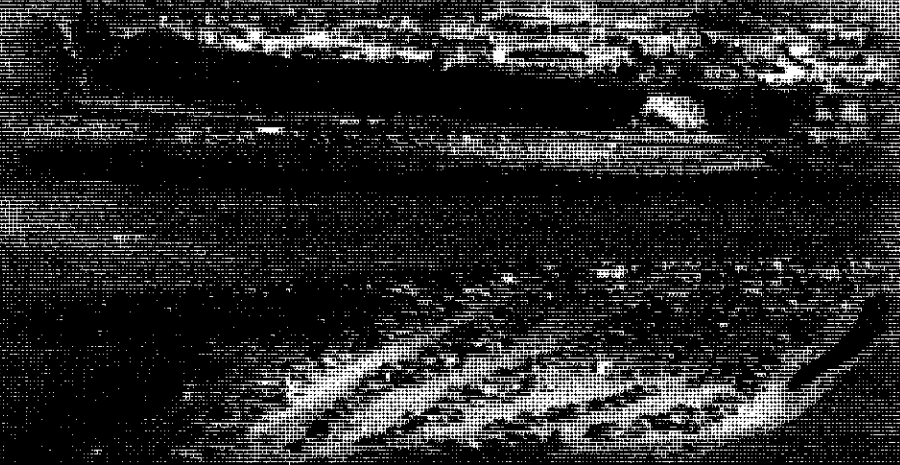


Only one personal use fishery exists in the Northern Inlet. (Fish Creek sockeye) and too few fish remain in most years to open this fishery. No fishing occurred in 2012 or 2013.

Resident fishing on Fish Creek in the Northern Inlet.



Northern Inlet residents must currently travel to the Kenai Peninsula (or Chitna on the Copper River) to access significant numbers of salmon for personal use.



Unbalanced Harvest Sharing

Harvest allocation has not kept pace with growing demand by the sport and personal use sectors and is out-of-step with the economic and cultural realities of today.

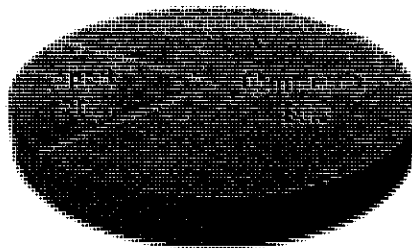
Fishery management continues to be driven by commercial fisheries despite much greater economic value and participation in sport and personal use fisheries.

Less than 20% of the UCI salmon harvest is effectively allocated to over 150,000 sport anglers and 35,000 personal use fishery households.

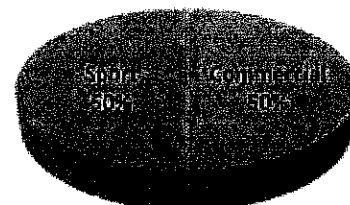
Over 80% of the harvest is taken by fewer than 1,300 limited entry commercial permit holders.



UCI Sockeye
3 million / year



All UCI Salmon



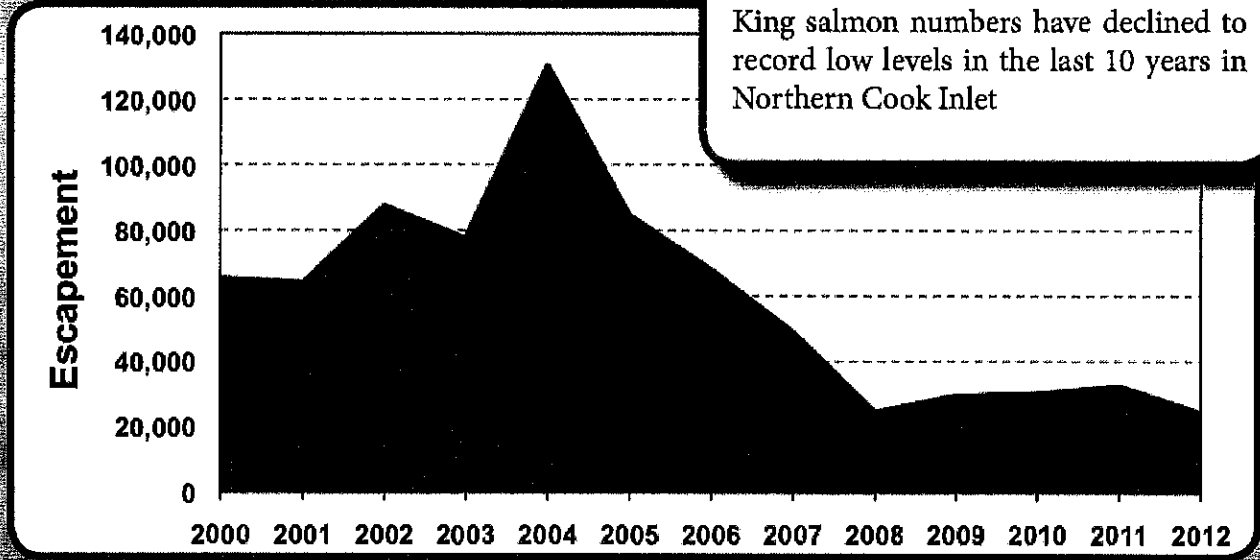
UCI Coho
400,000 / year

Figure 3. Recent 1999-2004 harvest shares of Upper Cook Inlet salmon among commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries as a result of current management plans.

Trends of Concern

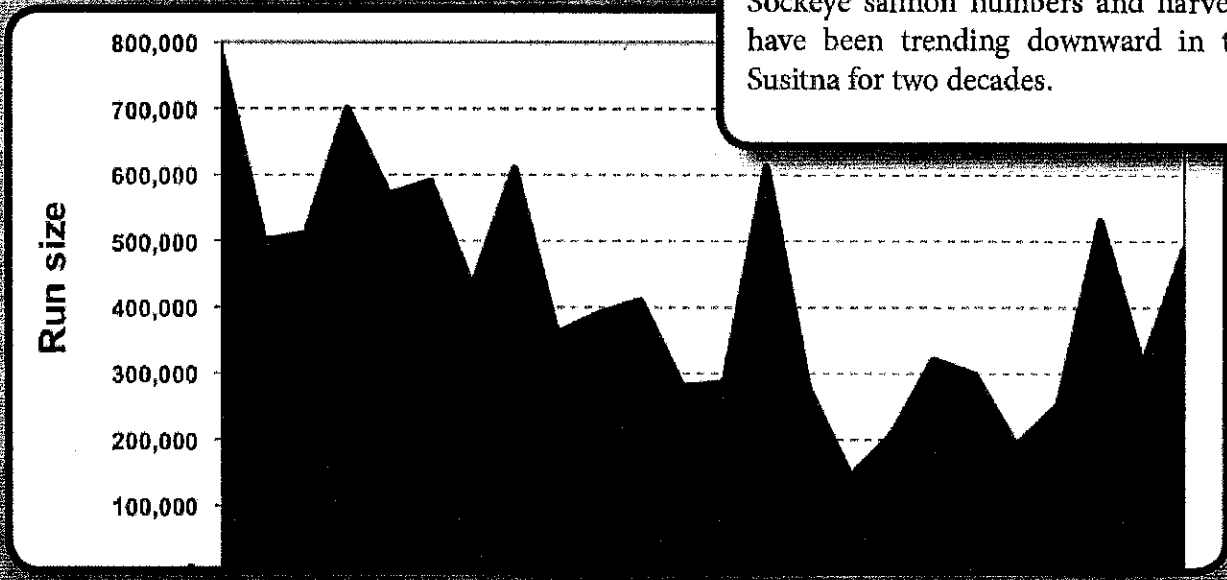
Salmon abundance is by nature cyclical but numbers returning to Northern Inlet streams are almost universally in decline

Falling Numbers



King salmon numbers have declined to record low levels in the last 10 years in Northern Cook Inlet

Figure 4. Escapement values for Northern Cook Inlet King salmon (total of index counts from Susitna and Kook-Aan streams)



Sockeye salmon numbers and harvests have been trending downward in the Susitna for two decades.

Figure 5. Historical Susitna sockeye run size in Upper Cook Inlet.

Coho numbers are counted in only a handful of the hundreds of Northern Cook Inlet streams to which they return. Numbers have fluctuated widely over the last 20 years with recent numbers approaching record lows seen in many streams during the late 1990s.

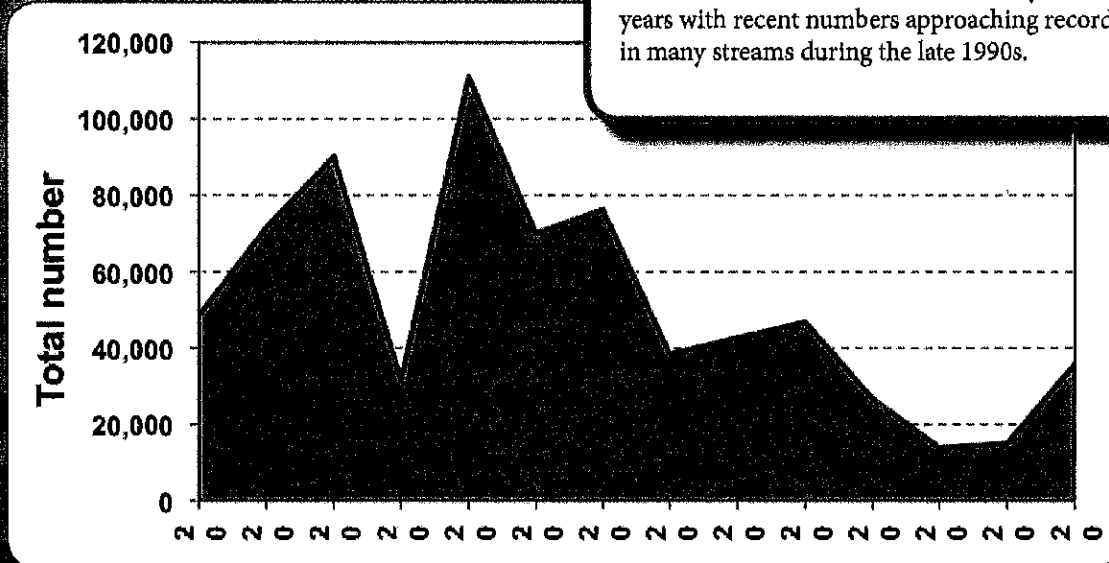
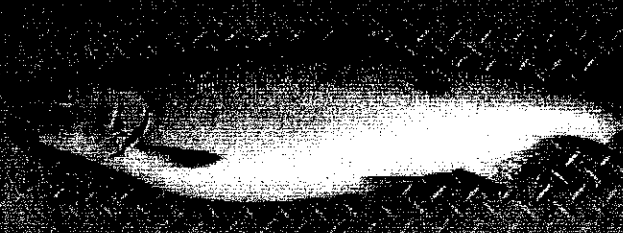


Figure 6 Escapement index for Northern Cook Inlet coho salmon (total of index counts from Deshka, Little Susitna, Jim Creek, and Fish Creek)



Chum salmon data is limited but numbers are believed to have severely declined since the 1980s. As many as 1.4 million chum were harvested in the commercial fisheries in 1982 when demand was high and significant fishing occurred in August. Commercial harvest of chum salmon has dropped dramatically in the last two decades but variable harvest effort between years can mask population trends.

Pink salmon numbers are unknown but are believed to be relatively high in the dominant even years of their run cycle, but actual data is lacking.

Failing Escapement Goals

Management shall be managed to attain escapements within ranges necessary to conserve and sustainably harvest fisheries and maintain normal ecosystem functioning.



Majority of Northern Cook Inlet salmon stocks have failed to meet minimum

—Sockeye escapements fell short of at least one of their three goals in each of the last 5 years. Judd Lake numbers were short in 3 of the last 4 years.

—The majority of king stocks has missed minimum goals in most of the last 5 years.

—Coho escapement goals exist for only three streams, all located on the Knik Arm. Of these, the Little Suatina and Jim Creek have missed minimum escapement goals in the fourth and third years, respectively, of the last 5 years. There are presently no escapement goals for Suatina River drainage coho salmon.

—Only one chum salmon goal has been established in all of Cook Inlet (Clearwater Creek). No goals have been established for any northern chum stock.

—It is unclear whether existing goals are representative of the entire stock unit. Without goals, there are no benchmarks for assessing management effectiveness.

—Goals also provide a large measure of protection for specific stocks. Stocks without goals do not get the same management consideration.

—This lack of information and reference points poses a high risk to stock sustainability, particularly where fishery exploitation is significant.

Escapement Goals – Cornerstone of Sustainable Salmon Management in Alaska

Spawning escapements are the money-in-the-bank investment that ensures continuing strong salmon returns in the future.

Goals define a range of numbers that historically produced healthy returns and productive fisheries.

Overfishing occurs when too many fish are harvested and minimum spawner target. Low spawner numbers greatly reduced the future returns.

Escapements in excess of goals unnecessarily forego harvest of fish up to the productive capacity of the stock. These fish can be harvested without impacting the returns of the particular stock.

Fishery managers must universally regard meeting minimum goals as once important and essential.



Table 1. Salmon escapement goals, failure rates, and areas of recent sport fishery closures in northern Cook Inlet.

Species	Populations	Goals	System	Goal	Failure rate ^a	Closures
Chinook	20+	18	Alexander ^b	2,100 – 6,000	100%	Yes
			Campbell ^c	>380	70% ^d	--
			Chulitna ^b	1,200 – 2,900	100% ^d	Yes
			Chulitna	1,800 – 5,100	60% ^d	Yes
			Clear	950 – 3,400	40%	Yes
			Deshka	13,000 – 28,000	20%	--
			Goose ^b	250 – 650	100% ^d	Yes
			Lake ^c	2,500 – 7,100	60%	--
			Lewis ^b	250 – 800	80%	Yes
			Little Susitna	900 – 1,800	50% ^d	--
			Little Willow	450 – 1,800	0%	Yes
			Montana ^c	1,100 – 3,100	60%	Yes
			Peters	1,000 – 2,600	30% ^d	--
			Prairie ^c	3,100 – 9,200	75%	Yes
			Sheep ^c	600 – 1,200	100% ^d	Yes
Coho	100+	3	Talachullitna ^c	2,200 – 5,000	75% ^d	Yes
			Theodore ^b	500 – 1,700	100% ^d	Yes
			Willow ^b	1,600 – 2,800	80%	Yes
Sockeye	30+	4	Jim ^c	450 – 700	60%	Yes
			Fish	1,200 – 4,400	0% ^d	--
			Little Susitna ^c	10,100 – 17,700	80%	--
			Chelatna ^b	20,000 – 65,000	20%	--
Chum	Unknown	0	Judd ^b	25,000 – 55,000	60%	--
			Larsen ^b	15,000 – 60,000	20%	--
			Fish	20,000 – 70,000	40%	--
Chum	Unknown	0	--	--	--	--
Pink	Unknown	0	--	--	--	--

^a Based on escapements less than minimum goal during last five years (2009-2013).

^b Stock of Concern.

^c Candidate for Stock of Concern.

^d 2009-2012 data only.

Examples of plummeting fish returns include:

—The goals for coho on the Little Susitna have failed 80% of the time over the last five years.

—The goals for coho on Jim Creek have failed 60% of the time over the last five years. Coho here are a candidate for a Stock of Concern.

—The goals for chinook on Alexander Creek have failed 100% of the time, and chinook here are a Stock of Concern.



Too Many Stocks of Concern

- Seven of 11 Alaska Stocks of Concern are in Northern Cook Inlet.
- Susitna sockeye was identified as a stock of yield concern in 2008 and 2011.
- Six king stocks were designated as stocks of management concern in 2011 (Alexander, Willow, Goose, Chuitna, Theodore and Lewis Rivers).
- In 2014, a number of additional northern Cook Inlet salmon Chinook and coho stocks are candidates for designation as Stocks of Concern based on chronic failures to meet escapement goals (Table 1).

Definitions

Stocks of concern are formally designated by the Board of Fisheries in cases where numbers are failing to meet established objectives according to Alaska's Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries [5 AAC 39.222].

Yield, management, or conservation concerns may be identified based on a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain harvestable surpluses, meet escapement goals or achieve sustained escapement thresholds.

Status of all salmon stocks is reviewed at regular Board of Fisheries meetings. The Board determines if stock concerns exist. ADF&G and the Board then collaborate on the development of an action plan to remedy the concern.





Sport Fishery Declines

- Sport fisheries are disproportionately shouldering the conservation burden of salmon declines.
- Declining numbers of kings, silvers and reds to Northern Inlet streams has resulted in widespread restriction or closure of sport fisheries since 2010.
- Sport harvest of salmon has fallen accordingly throughout the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area. For kings, harvest has declined every one of the last five years (15,919 in 2008; 11,349 in 2009; 10,824 in 2010; 9,712 in 2011; and 3,020 in 2012).
- Angler participation (measured in angler days) has fallen by over half since 2000 reaching the lowest levels in 37 years.

Angler Days

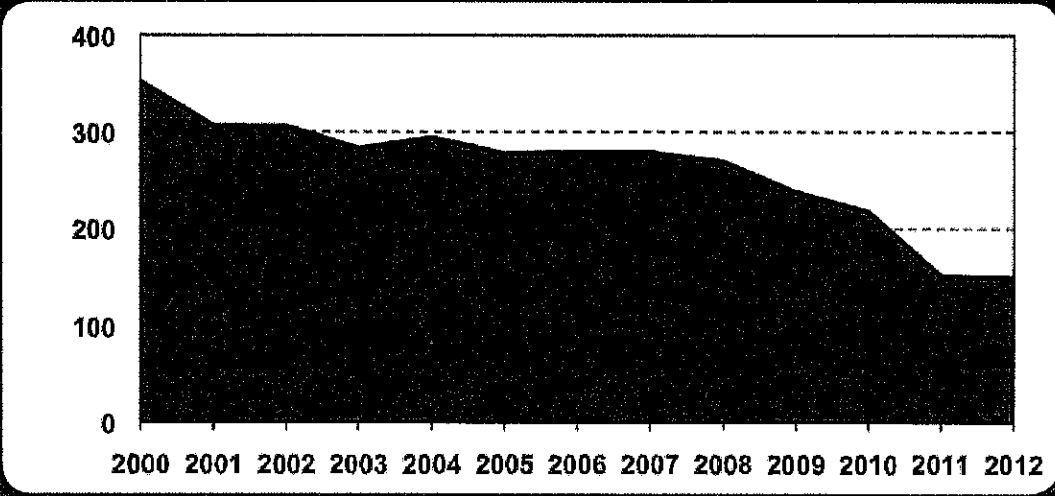


Figure 1. Annual angler days in sport fisheries in Northern Cook Inlet (Prick Area, Eastside, Susitna, and Westside, Susitna).

The dominant Central District commercial fisheries, managed primarily based on strong Kenai and Kaslof sockeye abundance, have continued to enjoy strong harvests throughout the recent period (although the distribution of harvest shares has varied considerably among commercial sectors in some years).

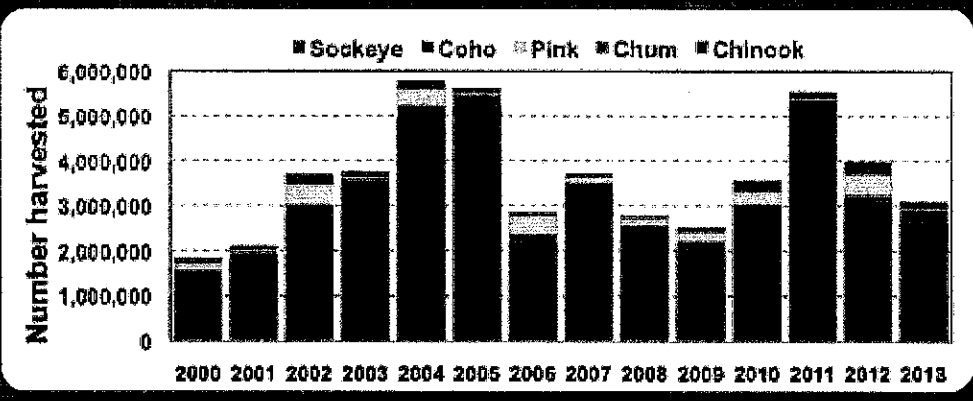


Figure 2. Kenai and Kaslof commercial salmon harvest by species.



Factors Affecting Salmon Abundance in Northern Cook Inlet

Low salmon abundance has resulted from a complex network of factors, large and small, operating in both freshwater and ocean environments.

High Seas

- Environmental patterns, bycatch in other fisheries and related Federal Fishery Management policies can all impact salmon in the ocean.
- Marine survival of salmon can vary substantially due to annual and longer-term cycles in water temperature, circulation and forage availability.
- Ocean environmental conditions affect different salmon species and stocks differently depending on distribution and resource requirements.
- The recent collapse in king returns throughout Alaska is largely attributable to a period of unfavorable environmental conditions in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.

High Seas

Environmental
Patterns

Bycatch

Federal Policies

Freshwater

- Salmon habitat conditions are excellent across vast areas of the Mat-Su Borough. Localized issues have been identified in some developed areas, but salmon effects are quite limited in relation to the basin-wide scale of salmon production.
- The quantity and quality of the freshwater habitat ultimately determines the natural productivity and abundance of salmon, including their ability to withstand high rates of fishing.
- Natural productivity can also be affected by environmental factors like the 2006 and 2013 floods by dislodging salmon eggs incubating in the gravel.
- Numbers can be impacted by ecological factors such as invasive pike.

Freshwater

Habitat
Quantity &
Quality

Invasives &
predators

Environmental
Patterns

Passage Barriers

Watershed Development



Mat-Su Tends to its Freshwater

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has a long history of active involvement in fish habitat conservation and restoration work on water quality, streams, riparian zones, wetlands and watersheds. Concern over risks from population growth and development also led the Borough in 2005 to help establish the Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB).

The Partnership has been the recipient of several national awards from the U. S. Department of the Interior for fish passage and outreach projects.

A strategic action plan was completed in 2008 to identify long-term goals and strategies, and provide a tool for project prioritization. Financial and technical assistance provided by the Borough and partners have supported numerous activities including educational programs, fish passage improvements, lakeshore restoration, wetlands protection and recreational access.

86 culverts replaced for salmon passage



As of 2013, more than \$7 million has been spent on upgrading culverts to allow for fish passage.

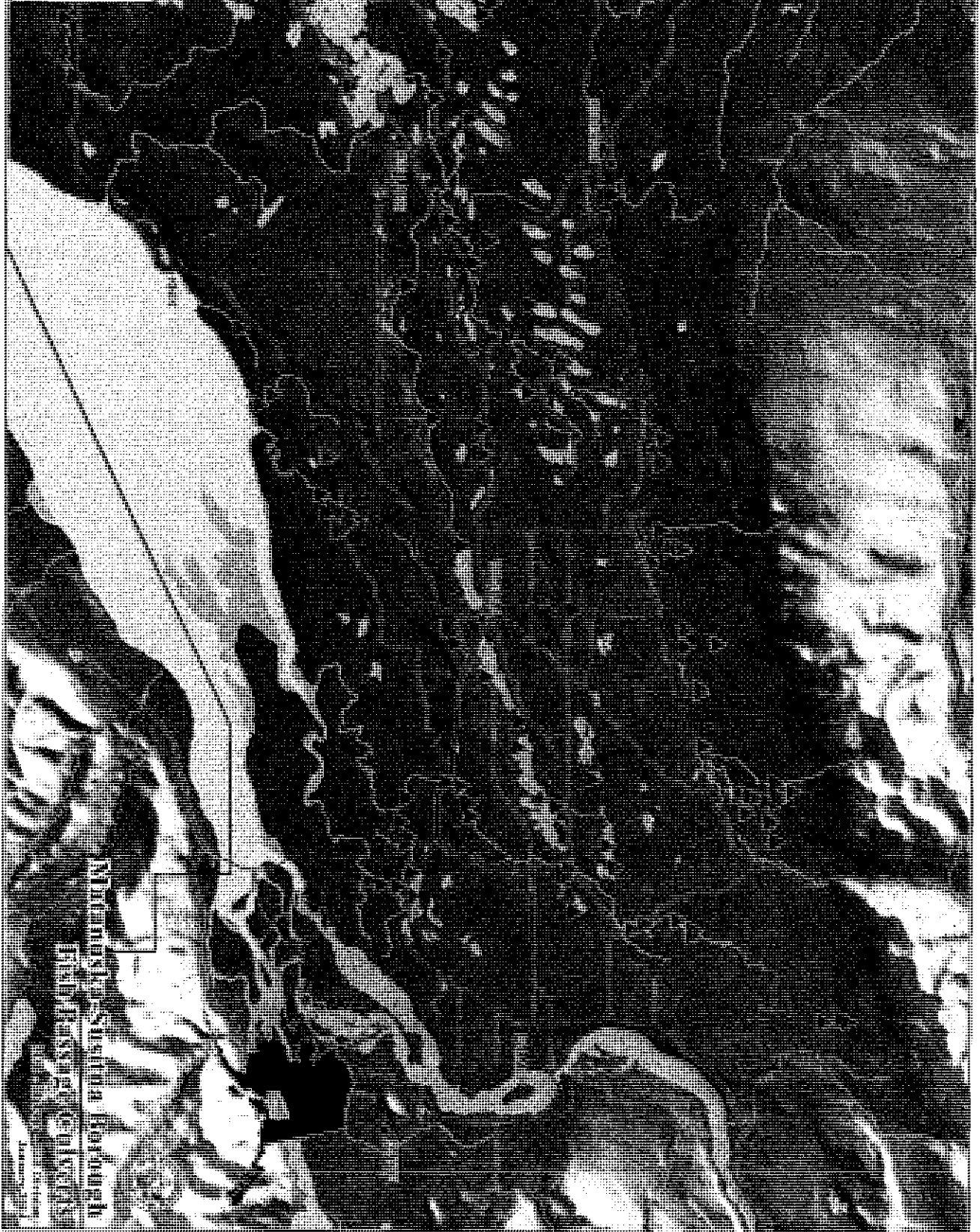
- 62 replaced on Borough roads
- 14 replaced on private roads
- 4 replaced with Alaska Railroad
- 2 replaced with AKDOT
- 4 replaced with road upgrade monies by DOT

The culvert replacement area is to the east of most of the Mat-Su's major fish producing rivers, creeks, and lakes. See Stocks of Concern map, showing few roads are near creeks, lakes, and rivers with our most troubled fish.



Legend

- ▲ State Personnel Management System - 2007 to 2012
- ▲ State Personnel Management System - 2013 to 2018
- ▲ State Personnel Management System - 2019 to 2024



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Causes for Decline—Cook Inlet Fishery Interceptions

Large numbers of northern-bound salmon are harvested in Cook Inlet by a mixed species and stock, commercial gillnet fishery managed primarily for Kenai and Kaslof sockeye

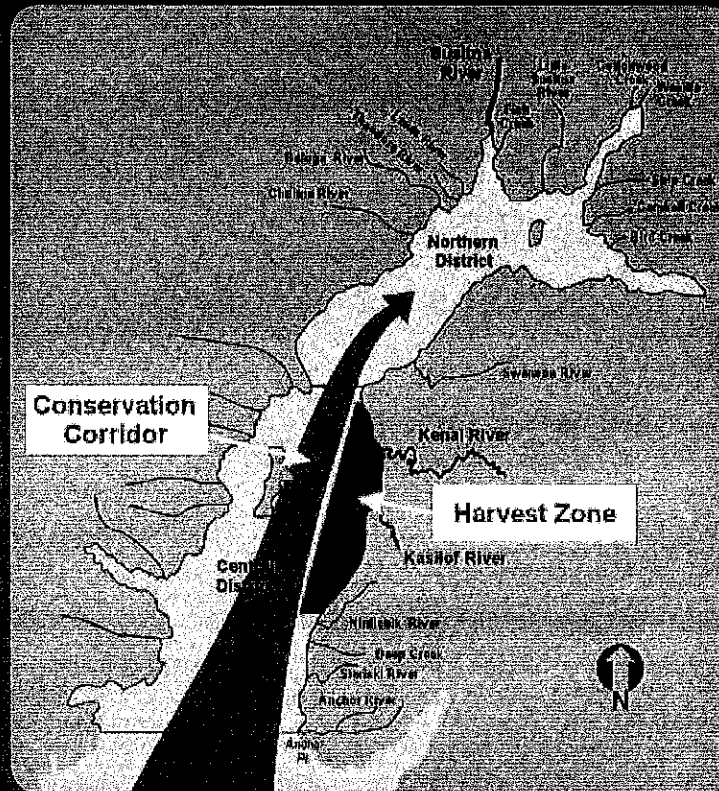
- The single-most important human factor currently impacting Mat-Su region salmon returns is interception in intensive commercial gill net fisheries for mixed species and stocks in the marine waters of Upper Cook Inlet. Too few salmon are escaping interception fisheries to meet sustainable escapement requirements and fishery needs in the areas where these fish are produced.
- Fisheries management priorities in Upper Cook Inlet have long been driven by commercial harvest of the large and productive Kenai and Kaslof sockeye stocks.
- Current practices are over-fishing Northern Inlet stocks of sockeye and early-run coho in order to maximize harvest of other sockeye stocks.
- Northern Inlet salmon are not getting through the Central District commercial gauntlet in sufficient numbers to support Northern Inlet subsistence, sport, guide sport, commercial, or personal use fisheries or to consistently achieve Northern spawning escapement goals.
- ADF&G has failed to develop and implement effective in-season management tools for protecting northern stocks of sockeye and coho from the Central District mixed stock commercial fishery.
- Current fishery management priorities and plans in Upper Cook Inlet must change in order to return Mat-Su rivers to their former abundance.



Recommendations

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has identified the following strategies for addressing Northern Cook Inlet salmon concerns:

- 1—Revise fishery management plans to formally recognize a priority that meeting low end escapement of any and all species has much higher priority than avoiding exceeding the high end for any species in this drainage. This will ensure that northern returns of coho and sockeye, and harvest allocations, are managed on an equal footing with the productive Kenai and Kasilof sockeye stocks.
- 2—Establish discrete harvest zones for mixed stock commercial fisheries in order to focus on the abundant and valuable Kenai and Kasilof sockeye stocks. Restructure UCI commercial fishery to be more similar to Bristol Bay commercial fishery – the most successful salmon fishery in the world.

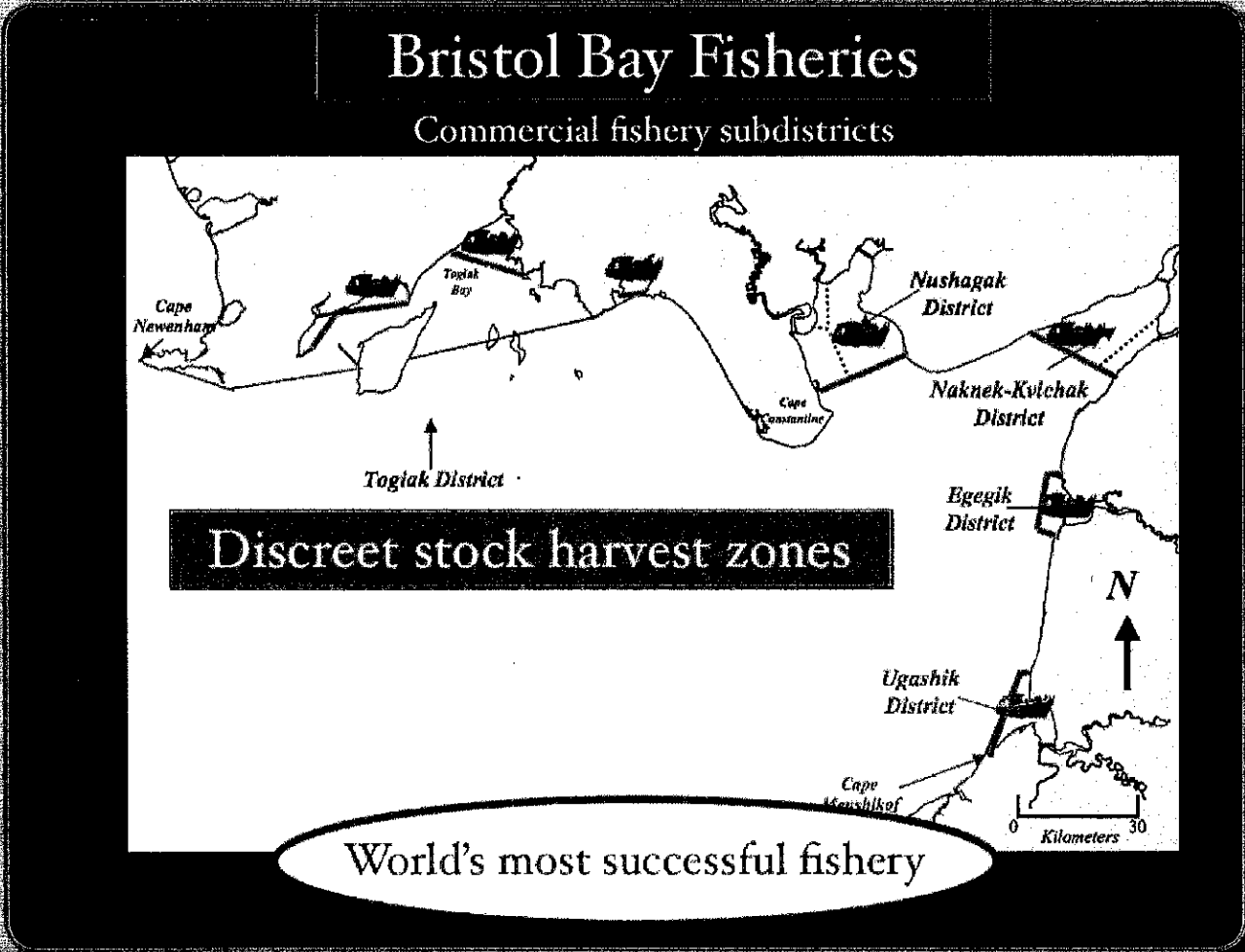


- 3—Provide a conservation corridor for northern salmon passage by restricting the Central District drift gillnet commercial fishery to the terminal harvest zones established by the Board of Fisheries in 2011 (expanded Kenai and Kasilof sections). Subsequent use demonstrated the promise of this approach for efficiently harvesting large numbers of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye, while also reducing harvest of northern sockeye and especially coho. 2013 was the first time the conservation corridor concept was applied in its totality. Results aren't yet conclusive. There was a bigger run, and more fish did manage to go north.

Recommendations

4—The Bristol Bay sockeye fishery is the world's most successful salmon fishery and uses discreet harvest zones to manage the catch.

Cook Inlet needs to copy this approach to salmon fisheries management



5—Protect personal use and subsistence fishing opportunities. Literally tens of thousands of Alaskans fill their freezers and smokers with these fish and rely upon them for their dinner table.

6—Maintain fishery windows and increase in-river goals for Kenai sockeye to ensure adequate delivery of fish through east side set net commercial fisheries and meet the needs of the Kenai personal use sockeye fishery.

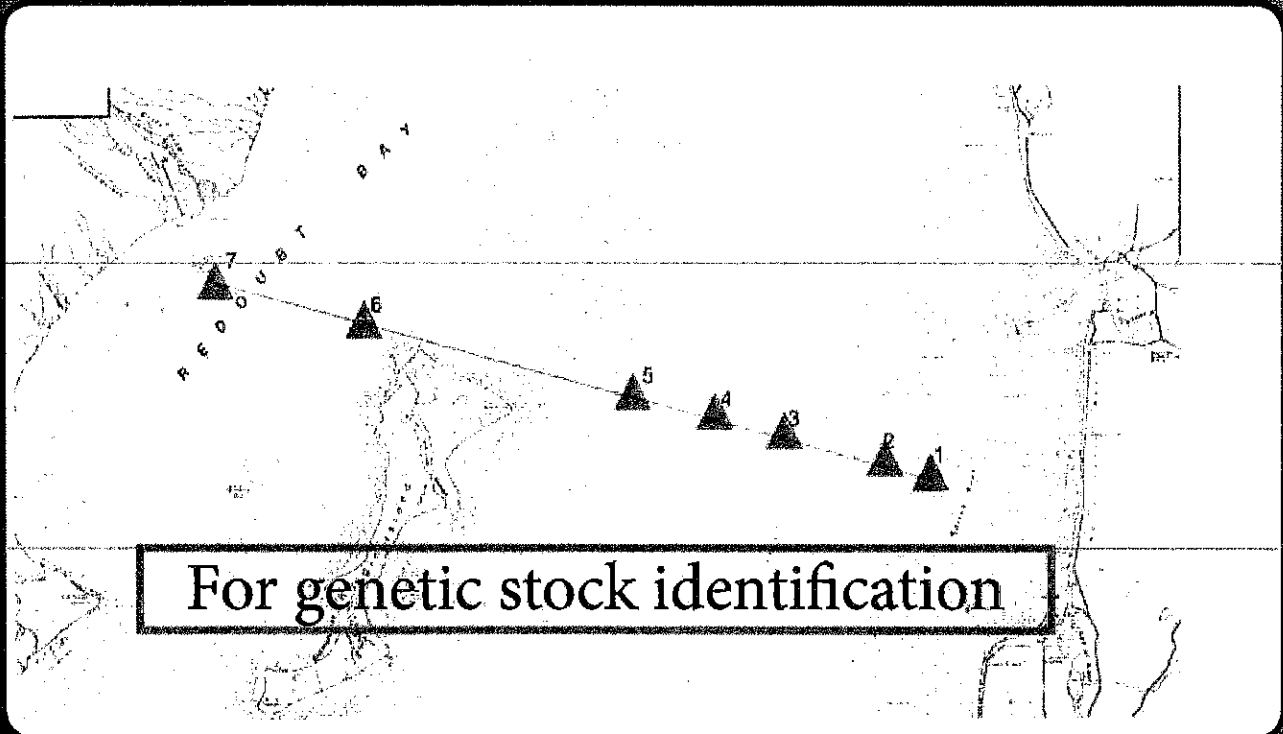


Recommendations

Management Tools & Information

- 1—Establish escapement goals adequate to ensure sustainable management of all species of salmon throughout Northern Cook Inlet drainages.
- 2—Develop new management tools and scientific information needed for effective management of Northern Cook Inlet salmon stocks.
- 3—Continue to implement an annual test fishery in the Central Inlet to provide real-time in-season information on movements and abundance of specific sockeye and coho stocks
- 4—Take advantage of advances in genetic stock identification and acoustic telemetry to identify movement and timing of stocks of all five salmon species through the Inlet. This information will provide tremendous power for more surgical management to optimize harvest and value of all salmon fisheries

Off-Shore Test Fishery





Highlights from THE MATSU PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH SURVEY

January 3rd to 11th, 2014
Sample size = 404; margin of error + 4.87%
Hellenthal and Associates

Introduction and Methodology

Four hundred four (404) MatSu registered voters were interviewed between January 3rd and 11th, 2014. Interviewing was conducted by telephone on a random digit basis. That is, computerized random numbers were generated for the last two digits of the suffix of each workable telephone prefix in MatSu. All MatSu voters who are accessible by telephone had an equal chance of being interviewed.

1. Do you fish for sport and/or personal use?

FISH FOR SPORT AND/OR PERSONAL USE FREQUENCY PERCENT

Yes.....326.....80.8%
No.....78.....19.2%

2. Have you wanted to fish for sport and/or personal use but couldn't?

WANTED TO FISH FREQUENCY PERCENT

Yes.....165.....40.8%
No.....239.....59.2%

3. Do your children and/or grandchildren go with you on sport and/or personal use fishing trips?

FISH WITH CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN FREQUENCY PERCENT

Yes.....260.....64.4%
No.....144.....35.6%

Counting all money spent of boats, ATVs, fishing gear, food, fishing licenses, lodging, gasoline and the like, roughly how much money does your family spend on sport and/or personal use fishing each year?

AMOUNT PER YEAR FREQUENCY PERCENT

None.....72.....17.7%
\$ 1 to \$ 400.....102.....25.3%
\$ 401 to \$1,000.....105.....25.9%
\$1,001 or more.....126.....31.1%
(All voter Mean = \$1,622.20)
(All voter Median = \$ 462.50)
(Fisher voter Mean = \$1,971.71)
(Fisher voter Median = \$ 904.76)

Survey Highlights

5. Should the number of fish allowed to pass through commercial nets to our MatSu rivers be increased or decreased?

FISH ALLOWED TO PASS NETS FREQUENCY PERCENT

Increased.....262.....64.9%
Decreased.....47.....11.6%
Don't know.....95.....23.4



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Roger Penrod
10287 Halfhitch Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

January 15, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet will be critical for the sustainability of Kenai River king salmon and all other kings in Cook Inlet, many of which are stocks of concern. The abrupt fall in numbers of kings in the Inlet should be a red flag to all concerned parties. I urge you to action to deal with the conservation of kings at your upcoming meeting. My views on certain proposals are as follows.

I enjoy fishing the Kenai river as a sport fisherman. Every year I have friends from outside come up for fishing experience. THEY BRING LOTS OF DOLLARS INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. Restrict commercial fishing near the mouth of the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

In these times of historic low returns of king salmon to Cook Inlet and especially to the Kenai River, all user groups must share equitably in the burden of conservation. Sport anglers have seen harvest rates on the Kenai River for king salmon decline by 95 percent, while personal use (dipnetters) have foregone any harvest opportunity for Kenai kings the last two years. Meanwhile, in 2013, despite record-low numbers of king salmon, a severely restricted sport fishery and escapement goals barely being met, commercial set net sockeye fishermen were granted significant net-in-the-water time until near the end of the season.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

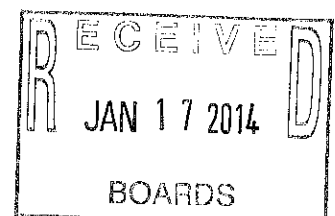
Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing





#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

It's all about money. Either you can see to it your cronies (commercial fisherman) do well at the expense of the tourist/sportfisherman industry which benefits many more of the locals. Air services, guide services, processing and shipping services, lodging. Think long and hard!

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Roger P Penrod

Roger Penrod
10287 Halfhitch Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

Email address: pharmboy@gci.net

Phone number: 9073060546

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Conservationist, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



Jeremy Anderson
PO Box 652
Sterling, AK 99672

January 15, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

In areas like the Kenai River, many people feel like I do that king salmon are more important as a sport fishery than as a commercial fishery. In my mind, the obvious decline in the number of king salmon returning to the Kenai demands your attention. When returns, catch rates, and angler hours all drop by three quarters in less than a decade, something is wrong and business as usual is no longer acceptable. At the fast approaching Board of Fisheries meetings for Cook Inlet, please make king salmon management a priority consideration.

My wife and I live in Sterling, Alaska. We are in our 30's and live in Alaska because of the many fun, exciting, and outdoor activities that are possible on the Kenai Peninsula. The fishing, hunting, & gardening, the subsistence living, is a major part of why we love and live in Alaska.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

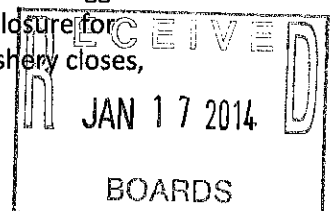
Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

I support putting Alaskan residents first in the management of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Many people harvest fish to feed our families and share with friends. Access to fish is one of the primary reasons Alaskans value living in Alaska. When fishery managers puts the needs of Alaskan residents behind the needs of national and global fish markets, people are justifiably resentful. Cook Inlet supports Alaska's largest sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries. The needs of Alaskan residents must be a top priority in Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes,





proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. We live in Alaska, work in Alaska, and care about this resource being managed properly. Right now it is not being managed with the resource first. That needs to change and the Alaska residents need to have priority on a local fishery. The fishing has changed in the last 13 years I have been fishing in Alaska and people are getting greedy. We need to stop the greed and think about future generations of people being able to enjoy the same resource. This is a fragile ecosystem that needs to be taken care of better. Thank you for listening to my views on these subjects. Together we can all make a lasting difference in the long term health of our fishery resources. I trust you will do the right thing when considering how best to conserve and restore once healthy salmon runs to their former glory.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Anderson

Jeremy Anderson
PO Box 652
Sterling, AK 99672

Email address: jahaeffects@yahoo.com

Phone number: 907-529-8677

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler



Timothy Miller
7841 Robert Cir
ANchorage, AK 99516

January 15, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Many people share my unease about the steep decline of king salmon on the Kenai River and elsewhere in Cook Inlet. It is a very important situation that demands careful consideration and action at your next fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet. You must make this a priority - we need to act now before it is too late. From the many proposals for you to look at, I think these are areas to pay close attention to. I rely on the dipnet fishery to feed my family. I am less a sport fisher and more of a personal use. I do not believe commercial should get all the fish or even the majority. It is an Alaskan resource. However I do appreciate what I am able to ascertain from myself and family from our pristine waters.

As ocean productivity seems to be in a general statewide decline for king salmon, I think it is a mistake to lower escapement goals as a management response. Fewer spawners seem to bear fewer fish and it can be a reinforcing downward cycle. We must have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon in our rivers. This will maximize the overall size of the returns. Larger returns greatly reduce our risks for overfishing this invaluable resource.

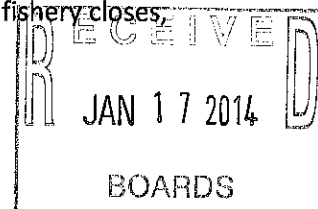
Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy directs that the burden of conservation will be applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock. Where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measurable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource. All user groups need to bear in the burden of conservation of Kenai River king salmon in an equitable manner.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes





proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. I want my children to benefit from this fishery when they are parents. Longevity and sustainability are key to the management of our fisheries.

Thank you for your service to responsible fisheries management in Alaska. I can think of no higher priority than to deal successfully and in a forthright manner with the crisis we are now facing with the Kenai River king salmon. Their future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Timothy J Miller

Timothy Miller
7841 Robert Cir
ANchorage, AK 99516

Email address: tjmiller@alaska.edu

Phone number: 9076460786

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter



Gary Sholly
25168 PRINCE CIR
CHUGIAK, AK 99567

January 15, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As ocean productivity seems to be in a general statewide decline for king salmon, I think it is a mistake to lower escapement goals as a management response. Fewer spawners seem to bear fewer fish and it can be a reinforcing downward cycle. We must have adequate numbers of spawning king salmon in our rivers. This will maximize the overall size of the returns. Larger returns greatly reduce our risks for overfishing this invaluable resource.

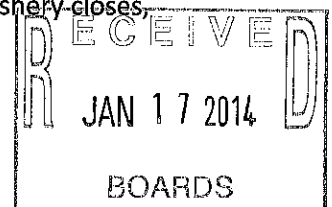
Therefore I am in support of proposal 188 that seeks to maintain an optimal escapement goal of 5,300 - 9,000 for early-run Kenai kings and proposal 207 that seeks a new optimal escapement goal of 20,000 - 40,000 for late-run Kenai kings.

In these times of historic low returns of king salmon to Cook Inlet and especially to the Kenai River, all user groups must share equitably in the burden of conservation. Sport anglers have seen harvest rates on the Kenai River for king salmon decline by 95 percent, while personal use (dipnetters) have foregone any harvest opportunity for Kenai kings the last two years. Meanwhile, in 2013, despite record-low numbers of king salmon, a severely restricted sport fishery and escapement goals barely being met, commercial set net sockeye fishermen were granted significant net-in-the-water time until near the end of the season.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 209 that seeks to pair restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and commercial set net fisheries and proposal 211 that seeks to allow for incremental gear restrictions in the commercial set net fisheries.

A majority of Alaskans have access to the Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and we love to fish. Alaskans have the highest rates of participation in recreational fishing in the nation. Sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries provide essential food for many Alaskan households. Cook Inlet is the primary location in the state of Alaska where the majority of residents provide food for their families. It must be a top management priority. It is time to put Alaskans first in Cook Inlet.

Therefore I am in support of proposal 169 that starts the Kenai sockeye bag limit at 6 fish, proposal 161 that allows more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River, proposal 112 that raises the trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing, proposal 156 that mandates a Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing, proposal 248 that sets a coho bag limit of 3 fish with the set net fishery closes,





proposal 126 that prohibits commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits, and proposal 139 that expands time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye. I am grateful for the chance to let you know how concerned I am about the dire situation facing our Cook Inlet king salmon fisheries. Kings are very important to me as well as to my family and friends. Your decisions will greatly impact the direction and health of these king salmon runs for many years to come. The time is now to act on this most important resource.

Sincerely,

Gary Sholly

Gary Sholly
25168 PRINCE CIR
CHUGIAK, AK 99567

Email address: g.sholly@gci.net

Phone number: 907-688-4546

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Concerned Citizen



Randall Smith
7727 blackberry st
Anchorage, AK 99502

January 16, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for Upper Cook Inlet will be critical for the sustainability of Kenai River king salmon and all other kings in Cook Inlet, many of which are stocks of concern. The abrupt fall in numbers of kings in the Inlet should be a red flag to all concerned parties. I urge you to action to deal with the conservation of kings at your upcoming meeting. My views on certain proposals are as follows.

My name is Randall Smith, I have lived in Alaska for 18 years.

Managing for the low end of the escapement goal for Kenai River king salmon is not good public policy. We need more kings in the river to spawn, not less. More fish in future years means everyone benefits.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

When one group is restricted, all should be restricted. We should place paired restrictions upon sport, personal-use and commercial set net fisheries so that all participants share in the burden of conservation equitably in times of scarcity. Commercial set net fishermen must share in the conservation of Kenai kings; once bait and or harvest restrictions occur in the sport fishery, commercial fishermen must be restricted to regular periods only.

I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support putting Alaskan residents first in the management of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Many people harvest fish to feed our families and share with friends. Access to fish is one of the primary reasons Alaskans value living in Alaska. When fishery managers puts the needs of Alaskan residents behind the needs of national and global fish markets, people are justifiably resentful. Cook Inlet supports Alaska's largest sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries. The needs of Alaskan residents must be a top priority in Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

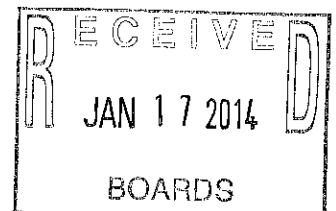
#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye





Commercial fishing needs to be shut down or drastically reduced. Commercial fisherman need to be paid off and cross trained into other career fields. The reason for cross training and payoff is because alot of these people dont know how to do anything else. The cross training would be good for the younger generation coming into this dying industry. Are salmon cannot survive commercial fishing and the biproduct they kill in there process of harvesting is disgusting. These fish will become extinct and then what will the commercial fisherman catch? Nothing and they will be jobless. Sport fisherman are not the problem, we dont kill bicatch and we only catch a fraction of what commercial fisherman catch. Its all about money, greed and corruption because it doesnt take a brain surgeon to figure this out. Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Thank you for the chance to share my ideas. I trust that you recognize the critical state facing king salmon on the Kenai River and in Cook Inlet. I wish you and your colleagues on the board good fortune as you tackle these matters.

Sincerely,

Randall Smith

Randall Smith
7727 blackberry st
Anchorage, AK 99502

Email address: hunt4life@gci.net

Phone number: 907-854-0963

Additional information about me:

I am a Resident Sport Angler, Personal Use / Dipnetter, Concerned Citizen



Lorran Skinner
15889 25th Ave. SW
Burien, WA 98166

January 16, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Kenai kings are world famous for their quality as a sport fish. However, the sharp drop in numbers and increase in restrictions / closures for king fishing on the Kenai now make headlines. Just meeting minimum escapements is not enough. Barely scraping by does not do this once premier sport fishery justice. You must take up proper consideration of king salmon management and conservation at the next Upper Cook Inlet meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I am a born and raised Alaskan and have fished the Kenai River for many years. Although I am now living in Washington, I still own a cabin in Alaska and return to my birthplace regularly. Fishing for kings on the Kenai with close friends are among my best memories, and I hope to continue to do that in my retirement years. However, that is not going to be possible for me or certainly for future generations of Alaskans and visitors, if the current decline in the population of that fishery is not arrested and reversed. It seems for the last several years the numbers of kings in the river has been in decline and the opportunities to catch one have been significantly diminished. Please take the actions necessary to protect this important resource and ensure that the stocks can recover to a level that will be sustainable into the future.

King salmon are a sport fish priority in Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Sport fisheries benefit more from greater abundances of fish, not less. We benefit from managing Kenai River king salmon fisheries for maximum sustained return, not minimum escapement goals. Making sure we have healthy escapements to deliver larger returns of kings is critical.

I support proposals:

#188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000

#207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

Sport, personal use and commercial set net fisheries can all fish but must share equitably in the burden of king salmon conservation. To assure future sustainable and healthy king salmon returns to the Kenai River, everyone must be held accountable for their harvest and mortality of kings. Without accountability for all user groups, there will be no conservation success stories for king salmon.

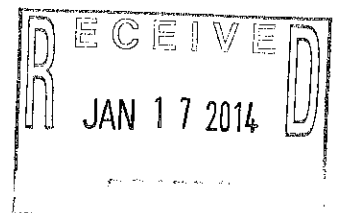
I support proposals:

#209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries

#211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

Alaska residents should not have to buy our fish back from commercial fishermen. There should be increased, meaningful opportunity for sport and personal-use fishing for sockeye on the Kenai River. I support the expanded use of the commercial drift-gillnet fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye in Upper Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:





#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

#248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set net fishery closes

#126: Prohibit commercial set net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits

#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Your work on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is important. Alaska is known for its sustainable fisheries management. The crisis in low numbers of Kenai kings is a significant challenge. No other sport fishery in Alaska is as well-known as the Kenai. Your actions will shape the health of the fish and the viability of this fishery for years to come.

Sincerely,

Lorran Skinner

Lorran Skinner
15889 25th Ave. SW
Burien, WA 98166

Email address: lorranskinner@comcast.net

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



Eric Billeci
646 Via Appia
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

January 16, 2014

RE: Letter of support for Upper Cook Inlet sport fishery

Glenn Haight
Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

In areas like the Kenai River, many people feel like I do that king salmon are more important as a sport fishery than as a commercial fishery. In my mind, the obvious decline in the number of king salmon returning to the Kenai demands your attention. When returns, catch rates, and angler hours all drop by three quarters in less than a decade, something is wrong and business as usual is no longer acceptable. At the fast approaching Board of Fisheries meetings for Cook Inlet, please make king salmon management a priority consideration.

Every year my friends and I fly up to the peninsula towards the end of July to do some fantastic fishing on the Kenai. This annual trip has grown over the past 10 years. We've upgraded our equipment, lodging, restaurant experiences, fish processing, etc. over the years. Since the decline of the kings in the Kenai our annual trip is consistently trending on a downward slope. Two years ago we didn't even get to king fish. Last year we went to the Kasilof for poor results. We are giving this summer 1 more shot but we sadly know going in that this may be our last. This is a shocking reality to my group because we've been avid enthusiasts trying to build our group each of the last 10 years. I've been so fond of the peninsula that I named my chocolate lab "Kenai". The commercial fisherman need to be shut down. They won't have a job, regardless, if this keeps up. Recreation guys like myself will simply choose another outlet to go fishing.

It is short-sighted to manage a fully allocated resource with multiple groups wanting fish on the basis of yield instead of maximizing the overall returns. A larger pie allows more fish to be utilized by more users. Put more king salmon into the Kenai River to spawn, not less. Lowering the escapement goals for kings is not a viable or responsible long-term policy.

I support proposals:

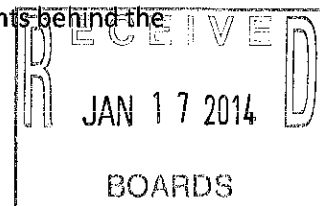
- #188: Early-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 5,300-9,000
- #207: Late-run Spawning Escapement Goal of 20,000-40,000

All fishermen can be passionate to a fault, as our needs are always great with families to feed. However, during times of crisis everyone is responsible for the health of our fisheries. Success requires the best efforts from everyone to sustain future returns. No one should be exempt in the conservation of Kenai River king salmon.

I support proposals:

- #209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set net fisheries
- #211: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set net fisheries

I support putting Alaskan residents first in the management of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. Many people harvest fish to feed our families and share with friends. Access to fish is one of the primary reasons Alaskans value living in Alaska. When fishery managers puts the needs of Alaskan residents behind the





needs of national and global fish markets, people are justifiably resentful. Cook Inlet supports Alaska's largest sport and personal use (dipnetting) fisheries. The needs of Alaskan residents must be a top priority in Cook Inlet.

I support proposals:

#169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3

#161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River

#112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set net fishing

#156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set net fishing

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#139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

The commercial guys will end up going under regardless. If there are no fish to catch revenue will not be generated. The sport guys like myself bring so much business to the peninsula. We should be your priority in regards to appeasing. Last summer there were an extreme # of EO's that favored the comm fishery. I am from northern California and our king fishery has become better than yours! That's embarrassing! Your water resources are so much greater than ours. It is likely I'll begin to fish in my own backyard instead of traveling the 2000 miles to be disappointed again so your comm fisherman can deplete the once renowned fishery!

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter. The conservation and sustainability of Kenai River king salmon rests in your able hands. The fish come first!

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric Billeci

646 Via Appia

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Email address: ericbilleci@yahoo.com

Phone number: 925-998-4469

Additional information about me:

I am a Non-Resident Sport Angler



Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
ATTN: BOF COMMENTS

I support Proposal # 286 and I agree with what the Proposal states on the Issue, what would happen if nothing is Done.

I have watched large pieces of my bank and vegetation leaving the bank, from the boat wakes or waves. My neighbors have also had damage done to their banks.

When the tide is high, the river almost stops moving, but the boat Wakes and Waves pound the bank. The river does not damage the bank, however the Waves and Wakes that come from the Dip Netters boats during Personal Use Salmon Fishery does.

Sincerely,

Reubin Payne

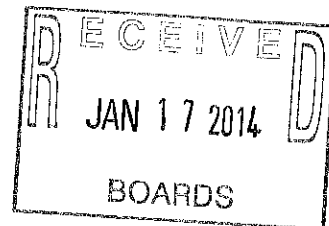
Date:

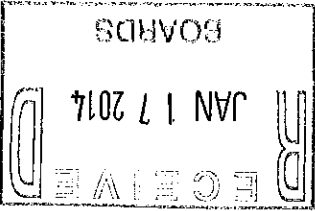
1-12-14

Address:

PO 1171
Soldotna AK 99669

Physical Address:
2535 Watergate Way
Kenai AK 99611





Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

Major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. Angler hours have dropped by 80 percent and harvest rates are 95 percent lower than a decade ago. We are barely, if at all, making minimum escapements for kings on the Kenai and many other rivers in Cook Inlet. Although king salmon declines are a statewide issue, it is an emergency situation on the Kenai.

Therefore, I support the following proposals (please check the proposals you support):

- # 188: Early-run spawning escapement goal of 5,300-9,000 king salmon
- # 207: Late-run spawning escapement goal of 20,000-40,000 king salmon
- # 209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set-net fisheries
- # 11: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set-net fisheries
- # 169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3
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- # 248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set-net fishery closes
- # 126: Prohibit commercial set-net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits
- # 139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kaslof sockeye

Deadlines:
 Letters received prior to Jan. 17th will be included in Board packets prior to the meeting (preferable).
 Letters received prior to Jan. 31st will be distributed manually at the meeting.

I consent to my contact information being included on printed copies of my comments.

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. I appreciate your efforts to preserve this valuable fishery.

Name:

Mike Leady

Email:

shad@ei.net

Address:

15000

Seward Circle

Anchorage, AK

99516

Phone:

580-0104



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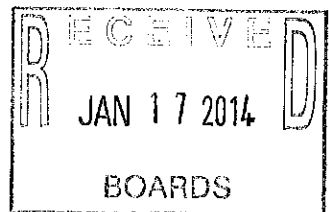
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Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. I appreciate your efforts to preserve this valuable fishery.

Name: Richard Bivins ^{rbivins@} Email: grinet Phone: 907-223-8268
(All contact information required)
 Address: 2240 Sues Way, Anchorage, AK 99516





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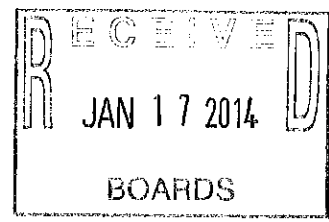
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I consent to my contact information being included on printed copies of my comments.

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. I appreciate your efforts to preserve this valuable fishery.

Name: Tara Bivins Email: Tarabivins@gmail.com Phone: 229-5746
(All contact information required)
 Address: 2210 Sives Way, Anchorage, AK 99516





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210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / Fax: 907-283-3014
www.ci.kenai.ak.us

PROPOSAL COMMENT COVER FORM

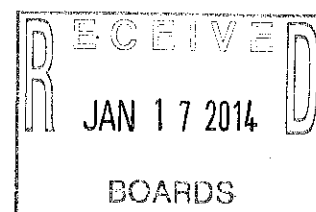
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2014

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 103

SUPPORT/OPPOSE: Oppose

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2014-10
2. Memorandum from Councilors Gabriel and Boyle to Kenai City Council dated January 9, 2014
3. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2011-14





Suggested by: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, OPPOSING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES (BOF) PROPOSAL NUMBER 103 AMENDING THE UPPER COOK INLET SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 103 requests an amendment to the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan to drop inriver goals from list of escapement goals, prioritize achieving the lower end over exceeding the upper end of an escapement goal, and require the department to utilize all, prescriptive elements found in codified plans before going outside codified plans to achieve established escapement goals; and,

WHEREAS, BOF Proposal Number 103 is in conflict with City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 which supported sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet; and,

WHEREAS, BOF Proposal 103 imposes unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions upon the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to successfully manage mixed stock fisheries; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the Council opposes Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal Number 103 amending the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 15th day of January, 2014.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / FAX: 907-283-3014



MEMO:

TO: Mayor Porter and City Councilors

FROM: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle

DATE: January 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16

We respectfully request that the City Council support the adoption of Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16.

Each of these resolutions establishes the City of Kenai's support or opposition to Alaska Board of Fish Proposals that will be discussed during the Alaska Board of Fish meeting to consider proposals affecting Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries.

Resolutions 2014-10 (Proposal 103) and 2014-11 (Proposal 138), request consideration of amendments to the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan and Central District Gillnet Fishery Management plan, respectively, that will cause economic hardship to residents and businesses in the City of Kenai and throughout the Kenai Peninsula. These proposals also limit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to manage the fisheries based on sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet, as supported by City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 (attached).

Resolution 2014-12 supports proposal 201 submitted by the ADF&G, amending the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan, to provide additional protections for King Salmon in the Silkok Creek king salmon sanctuary area.

Resolution 2014-13 supports proposal 229 submitted by the ADF&G to provide a specific boundary between the waters of the Kenai River and the waters of Cook Inlet.

Resolution 2014-14 supports proposal 238 amending the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan to add an additional drift-only (Thursdays) day on the Kenai River. This proposal is substantially the same as a proposal 237 which was submitted by the City of Kenai.





Resolution 2014-15 supports proposal 270 submitted by the ADF&G amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan to clarify when a person is required to record their harvest.

Resolution 2014-16 supports proposal 286 submitted by a property owner of Kenai river-front property within the City of Kenai to require a no-wake zone between river mile 3 and 4.5 when the tide is 21' and higher. Loss of river-front property occurs when the river is at an extremely high tide and boats create wakes that erode river-front properties within the City of Kenai.

Thank you for your consideration.





Suggested by: Counselors Brian Gabriel and Joe Moore

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING SOUND FISHERIES-MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND DIVERSIFIED HARVEST OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COOK INLET.

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai has benefited from healthy well-managed salmon runs as a central part of its economy and quality of life for its citizens and visitors for over one hundred years; and,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, State of Alaska fishery policymakers have adopted regulations to increase opportunities for Alaska residents to harvest certain species of salmon, but have done so without regard to the impacts of those fisheries have on our community; and,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, Cook Inlet commercial fishers have experienced substantial reductions in fishing opportunities that adversely impacted their businesses and our local economy, while other users have not been burdened by the same conservation or harvest reallocation measures; and,

WHEREAS, the City has invested several hundred thousand dollars in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the resident-only fishery, by building infrastructure solely for the benefit of this fishery, often at the expense of spending capital on projects that would be otherwise utilized by citizens year around; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to business opportunities for many citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the State of Alaska, the Cook Inlet commercial salmon industry is a critical component of our local economy because it provides jobs and is a reliable tax base on both real and personal property; and,

WHEREAS, because it has been able to rely on a predictable stream of salmon harvested in Cook Inlet during summer months, the local seafood processing industry has been able to expand its season by months and now includes processing other species such as halibut and cod, as well as fish flown in from other regions of the State; and,

WHEREAS, the local commercial salmon industry is a vital part of our local economy because it is supported by local commercial fishers, processors and the many vendors that rely on its business year around; and,

WHEREAS, improvements in salmon handling and quality in both the commercial harvest and processing sector has resulted in salmon prices nearing 20-year highs -- substantially increasing fish taxes to the Borough and the City of Kenai; and,



Resolution No. 2011-14
Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS, adoption of regulations that significantly reduce the opportunities for Cook Inlet commercial fishers to harvest and process salmon during its traditional summer season, without a sound biological reason for doing so, will result in long-term and perhaps irreversible damage to our local economy; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, *2011 Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon Forecast* indicates a commercial, sport, and personal use salmon harvest of 4.4 to 4.8 million salmon in Cook Inlet, most of which will be processed within the City of Kenai, and suggests managers have reached an acceptable balance between the needs of competing salmon harvesters.

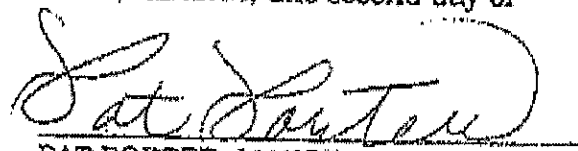
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1: Supports sound fisheries management practices in Cook Inlet specifically with respect to the Kenai River salmon runs; and,

Section 2: Respectfully requests the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries to recognize the historical and economic significance of the salmon runs that return to the Kenai River by avoiding adoption of regulations that reduce opportunities for all Cook Inlet and Kenai Peninsula salmon harvesters and City of Kenai fish processors and other businesses without a sound biological reason for doing so.

Section 3: Upon passage, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Sean Parnell, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Commissioner Cora Campbell, Alaska Board of Fisheries members (individually), Senator Tom Wagoner, Speaker of the House Mike Chenault, and Representative Kurt Olson.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this second day of February, 2011.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Carol L. Freas, City Clerk



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / Fax: 907-283-3014
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PROPOSAL COMMENT COVER FORM

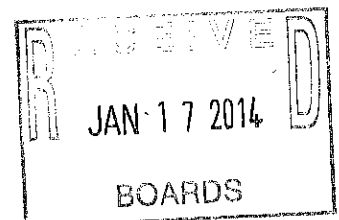
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2014

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 138

SUPPORT/OPPOSE: Oppose

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2014-11
2. Memorandum from Councilors Gabriel and Boyle to Kenai City Council dated January 9, 2014
3. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2011-14





Suggested by: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, OPPOSING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES (BOF) PROPOSAL NUMBER 138 AMENDING THE CENTRAL DISTRICT DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 138 requests an amendment to the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan to restrict drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections from June 19-August 10; and,

WHEREAS, BOF Proposal Number 138 is in conflict with City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 which supported sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet; and,

WHEREAS, BOF Proposal 138 imposes unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions upon the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to successfully manage mixed stock fisheries; and,

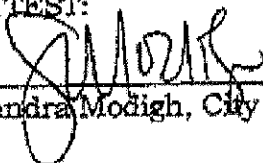
Whereas, BOF Proposal 138 recognizes that ADF&G would be required to deal with "management issues" through the Commissioner's Emergency Order authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the Council opposes Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal Number 103 amending the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 15th day of January, 2014.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / FAX: 907-283-3014



MEMO:

TO: Mayor Porter and City Councilors

FROM: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle

DATE: January 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16

We respectfully request that the City Council support the adoption of Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16.

Each of these resolutions establishes the City of Kenai's support or opposition to Alaska Board of Fish Proposals that will be discussed during the Alaska Board of Fish meeting to consider proposals affecting Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries.

Resolutions 2014-10 (Proposal 103) and 2014-11 (Proposal 138), request consideration of amendments to the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan and Central District Gillnet Fishery Management plan, respectively, that will cause economic hardship to residents and businesses in the City of Kenai and throughout the Kenai Peninsula. These proposals also limit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to manage the fisheries based on sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet, as supported by City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 (attached).

Resolution 2014-12 supports proposal 201 submitted by the ADF&G, amending the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan, to provide additional protections for King Salmon in the Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area.

Resolution 2014-13 supports proposal 229 submitted by the ADF&G to provide a specific boundary between the waters of the Kenai River and the waters of Cook Inlet.

Resolution 2014-14 supports proposal 238 amending the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan to add an additional drift-only (Thursdays) day on the Kenai River. This proposal is substantially the same as a proposal 237 which was submitted by the City of Kenai.





Resolution 2014-15 supports proposal 270 submitted by the ADF&G amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan to clarify when a person is required to record their harvest.

Resolution 2014-16 supports proposal 286 submitted by a property owner of Kenai river-front property within the City of Kenai to require a no-wake zone between river mile 3 and 4.5 when the tide is 21' and higher. Loss of river-front property occurs when the river is at an extremely high tide and boats create wakes that erode river-front properties within the City of Kenai.

Thank you for your consideration.





Suggested by: Counselors Brian Gabriel and Joe Moore

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING SOUND FISHERIES-MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND DIVERSIFIED HARVEST OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COOK INLET.

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai has benefited from healthy well-managed salmon runs as a central part of its economy and quality of life for its citizens and visitors for over one hundred years; and,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, State of Alaska fishery policymakers have adopted regulations to increase opportunities for Alaska residents to harvest certain species of salmon, but have done so without regard to the impacts of those fisheries have on our community; and,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, Cook Inlet commercial fishers have experienced substantial reductions in fishing opportunities that adversely impacted their businesses and our local economy, while other users have not been burdened by the same conservation or harvest reallocation measures; and,

WHEREAS, the City has invested several hundred thousand dollars in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the resident-only fishery, by building infrastructure solely for the benefit of this fishery, often at the expense of spending capital on projects that would be otherwise utilized by citizens year around; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to business opportunities for many citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the State of Alaska, the Cook Inlet commercial salmon industry is a critical component of our local economy because it provides jobs and is a reliable tax base on both real and personal property; and,

WHEREAS, because it has been able to rely on a predictable stream of salmon harvested in Cook Inlet during summer months, the local seafood processing industry has been able to expand its season by months and now includes processing other species such as halibut and cod, as well as fish flown in from other regions of the State; and,

WHEREAS, the local commercial salmon industry is a vital part of our local economy because it is supported by local commercial fishers, processors and the many vendors that rely on its business year around; and,

WHEREAS, improvements in salmon handling and quality in both the commercial harvest and processing sector has resulted in salmon prices nearing 20-year highs -- substantially increasing fish taxes to the Borough and the City of Kenai; and,



Resolution No. 2011-14
Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS, adoption of regulations that significantly reduce the opportunities for Cook Inlet commercial fishers to harvest and process salmon during its traditional summer season, without a sound biological reason for doing so, will result in long-term and perhaps irreversible damage to our local economy; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, *2011 Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon Forecast* indicates a commercial, sport, and personal use salmon harvest of 4.4 to 4.8 million salmon in Cook Inlet, most of which will be processed within the City of Kenai, and suggests managers have reached an acceptable balance between the needs of competing salmon harvesters.

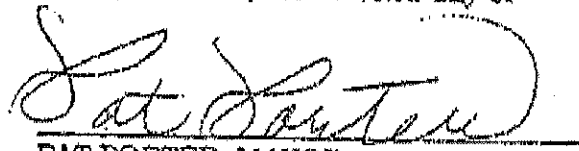
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1: Supports sound fisheries management practices in Cook Inlet specifically with respect to the Kenai River salmon runs; and,

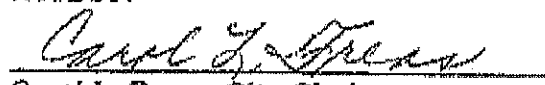
Section 2: Respectfully requests the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries to recognize the historical and economic significance of the salmon runs that return to the Kenai River by avoiding adoption of regulations that reduce opportunities for all Cook Inlet and Kenai Peninsula salmon harvesters and City of Kenai fish processors and other businesses without a sound biological reason for doing so.

Section 3: Upon passage, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Sean Parnell, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Commissioner Cora Campbell, Alaska Board of Fisheries members (individually), Senator Tom Wagoner, Speaker of the House Mike Chenault, and Representative Kurt Olson.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this second day of February, 2011.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Carol L. Freas, City Clerk



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / Fax: 907-283-3014
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PROPOSAL COMMENT COVER FORM

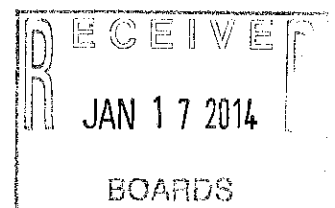
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2014

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 201

SUPPORT/OPOPOSE: Support

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2014-12
2. Memorandum from Councilors Gabriel and Boyle to Kenai City Council dated January 9, 2014
3. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2011-14





Suggested by: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES (BOF) PROPOSAL NUMBER 201 AMENDING THE KENAI RIVER AND KASILOF RIVER EARLY-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 201 requests an amendment to the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan by establishing the lower Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area as the lower boundary for restrictive actions in July to conserve early-run king salmon and prohibit bait for an additional two weeks in July in those waters; and,

WHEREAS, BOF Proposal Number 201 conforms with City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 which supported sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet; and,

WHEREAS, BOF Proposal 201 is proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game(ADF&G) to enhance protection of king salmon and manage mixed stock fisheries; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the Council supports Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal Number 201 amending the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 15th day of January, 2014.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk

PC 317
3 of 6

"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / FAX: 907-283-3014



MEMO:

TO: Mayor Porter and City Councilors

FROM: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle

DATE: January 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16

We respectfully request that the City Council support the adoption of Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16.

Each of these resolutions establishes the City of Kenai's support or opposition to Alaska Board of Fish Proposals that will be discussed during the Alaska Board of Fish meeting to consider proposals affecting Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries.

Resolutions 2014-10 (Proposal 103) and 2014-11 (Proposal 138), request consideration of amendments to the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan and Central District Gillnet Fishery Management plan, respectively, that will cause economic hardship to residents and businesses in the City of Kenai and throughout the Kenai Peninsula. These proposals also limit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to manage the fisheries based on sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet, as supported by City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 (attached).

Resolution 2014-12 supports proposal 201 submitted by the ADF&G, amending the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan, to provide additional protections for King Salmon in the Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area.

Resolution 2014-13 supports proposal 229 submitted by the ADF&G to provide a specific boundary between the waters of the Kenai River and the waters of Cook Inlet.

Resolution 2014-14 supports proposal 238 amending the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan to add an additional drift-only (Thursdays) day on the Kenai River. This proposal is substantially the same as a proposal 237 which was submitted by the City of Kenai.





Resolution 2014-15 supports proposal 270 submitted by the ADF&G amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan to clarify when a person is required to record their harvest.

Resolution 2014-16 supports proposal 286 submitted by a property owner of Kenai river-front property within the City of Kenai to require a no-wake zone between river mile 3 and 4.5 when the tide is 21' and higher. Loss of river-front property occurs when the river is at an extremely high tide and boats create wakes that erode river-front properties within the City of Kenai.

Thank you for your consideration.





Suggested by: Counselors Brian Gabriel and Joe Moore

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING SOUND FISHERIES-MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND DIVERSIFIED HARVEST OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COOK INLET.

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai has benefited from healthy well-managed salmon runs as a central part of its economy and quality of life for its citizens and visitors for over one hundred years; and,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, State of Alaska fishery policymakers have adopted regulations to increase opportunities for Alaska residents to harvest certain species of salmon, but have done so without regard to the impacts of those fisheries have on our community; and,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, Cook Inlet commercial fishers have experienced substantial reductions in fishing opportunities that adversely impacted their businesses and our local economy, while other users have not been burdened by the same conservation or harvest reallocation measures; and,

WHEREAS, the City has invested several hundred thousand dollars in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the resident-only fishery, by building infrastructure solely for the benefit of this fishery, often at the expense of spending capital on projects that would be otherwise utilized by citizens year around; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to business opportunities for many citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the State of Alaska, the Cook Inlet commercial salmon industry is a critical component of our local economy because it provides jobs and is a reliable tax base on both real and personal property; and,

WHEREAS, because it has been able to rely on a predictable stream of salmon harvested in Cook Inlet during summer months, the local seafood processing industry has been able to expand its season by months and now includes processing other species such as halibut and cod, as well as fish flown in from other regions of the State; and,

WHEREAS, the local commercial salmon industry is a vital part of our local economy because it is supported by local commercial fishers, processors and the many vendors that rely on its business year around; and,

WHEREAS, improvements in salmon handling and quality in both the commercial harvest and processing sector has resulted in salmon prices nearing 20-year highs -- substantially increasing fish taxes to the Borough and the City of Kenai; and,



Resolution No. 2011-14
Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS, adoption of regulations that significantly reduce the opportunities for Cook Inlet commercial fishers to harvest and process salmon during its traditional summer season, without a sound biological reason for doing so, will result in long-term and perhaps irreversible damage to our local economy; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, *2011 Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye Salmon Forecast* indicates a commercial, sport, and personal use salmon harvest of 4.4 to 4.8 million salmon in Cook Inlet, most of which will be processed within the City of Kenai, and suggests managers have reached an acceptable balance between the needs of competing salmon harvesters.

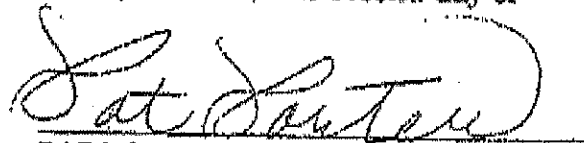
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1: Supports sound fisheries management practices in Cook Inlet specifically with respect to the Kenai River salmon runs; and,

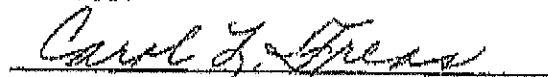
Section 2: Respectfully requests the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries to recognize the historical and economic significance of the salmon runs that return to the Kenai River by avoiding adoption of regulations that reduce opportunities for all Cook Inlet and Kenai Peninsula salmon harvesters and City of Kenai fish processors and other businesses without a sound biological reason for doing so.

Section 3: Upon passage, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Sean Parnell, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Commissioner Cora Campbell, Alaska Board of Fisheries members (individually), Senator Tom Wagoner, Speaker of the House Mike Chenault, and Representative Kurt Olson.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this second day of February, 2011.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Carol L. Freas, City Clerk



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PROPOSAL COMMENT COVER FORM

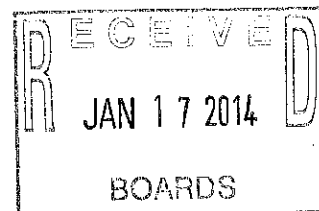
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2014

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 229

SUPPORT/OPOUSE: Support

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2014-13
2. Memorandum from Councilors Gabriel and Boyle to Kenai City Council dated January 9, 2014





Suggested by: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle
Mayor Pat Porter

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES (BOF) PROPOSAL NUMBER 229 AMENDING 5 AAC 57.106, DESCRIPTION OF KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE AREA SECTIONS.

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 229 requests an amendment to 5 AAC 57.106 by denoting the lower water of the Kenai River by a line from the green light tower on the north shore and an Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) marker on the south shore; and,

WHEREAS, BOF Proposal 229 is proposed by the ADF&G to minimize confusion over where the Kenai River ends and the marine waters of Cook Inlet begin for the purposes of administering fishing regulations.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the Council supports Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal Number 229 amending 5 AAC 57.106, Description of Kenai River Drainage Area Sections.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 15th day of January, 2014.



PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Sandra Modigh, City Clerk



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

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Telephone: 907-283-7535 / FAX: 907-283-3014



MEMO:

TO: Mayor Porter and City Councilors
FROM: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle
DATE: January 9, 2014
SUBJECT: Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16

We respectfully request that the City Council support the adoption of Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16.

Each of these resolutions establishes the City of Kenai's support or opposition to Alaska Board of Fish Proposals that will be discussed during the Alaska Board of Fish meeting to consider proposals affecting Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries.

Resolutions 2014-10 (Proposal 103) and 2014-11 (Proposal 138), request consideration of amendments to the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan and Central District Gillnet Fishery Management plan, respectively, that will cause economic hardship to residents and businesses in the City of Kenai and throughout the Kenai Peninsula. These proposals also limit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to manage the fisheries based on sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet, as supported by City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 (attached).

Resolution 2014-12 supports proposal 201 submitted by the ADF&G, amending the Kenai River and Kaslof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan, to provide additional protections for King Salmon in the Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area.

Resolution 2014-13 supports proposal 229 submitted by the ADF&G to provide a specific boundary between the waters of the Kenai River and the waters of Cook Inlet.

Resolution 2014-14 supports proposal 238 amending the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan to add an additional drift-only (Thursdays) day on the Kenai River. This proposal is substantially the same as a proposal 237 which was submitted by the City of Kenai.





Resolution 2014-15 supports proposal 270 submitted by the ADF&G amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan to clarify when a person is required to record their harvest.

Resolution 2014-16 supports proposal 286 submitted by a property owner of Kenai river-front property within the City of Kenai to require a no-wake zone between river mile 3 and 4.5 when the tide is 21' and higher. Loss of river-front property occurs when the river is at an extremely high tide and boats create wakes that erode river-front properties within the City of Kenai.

Thank you for your consideration.





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PROPOSAL COMMENT COVER FORM

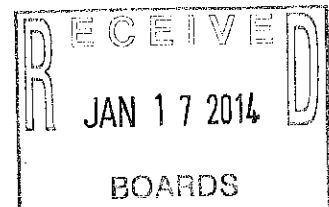
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2014

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 238

SUPPORT/OPPOSE: Support

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2014-14
2. Memorandum from Councilors Gabriel and Boyle to Kenai City Council dated January 9, 2014





Suggested by: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle
Mayor Pat Porter

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES (BOF) PROPOSAL NUMBER 238 AMENDING THE KENAI RIVER LATE-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 238 requests an amendment to the Kenai River late-run King Salmon Management Plan by adding an additional drift boat-only day (Thursdays) on the Kenai River; and,

WHEREAS, BOF Proposal 238, as proposed, is substantially similar to BOF Proposal Number 237 which was submitted by the City of Kenai.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the Council supports Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal Number 238 amending the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 15th day of January, 2014.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

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MEMO:

TO: Mayor Porter and City Councilors

FROM: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle

DATE: January 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16

We respectfully request that the City Council support the adoption of Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16.

Each of these resolutions establishes the City of Kenai's support or opposition to Alaska Board of Fish Proposals that will be discussed during the Alaska Board of Fish meeting to consider proposals affecting Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries.

Resolutions 2014-10 (Proposal 103) and 2014-11 (Proposal 138), request consideration of amendments to the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan and Central District Gillnet Fishery Management plan, respectively, that will cause economic hardship to residents and businesses in the City of Kenai and throughout the Kenai Peninsula. These proposals also limit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to manage the fisheries based on sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet, as supported by City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 (attached).

Resolution 2014-12 supports proposal 201 submitted by the ADF&G, amending the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan, to provide additional protections for King Salmon in the Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area.

Resolution 2014-13 supports proposal 229 submitted by the ADF&G to provide a specific boundary between the waters of the Kenai River and the waters of Cook Inlet.

Resolution 2014-14 supports proposal 238 amending the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan to add an additional drift-only (Thursdays) day on the Kenai River. This proposal is substantially the same as a proposal 237 which was submitted by the City of Kenai.





Resolution 2014-15 supports proposal 270 submitted by the ADF&G amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan to clarify when a person is required to record their harvest.

Resolution 2014-16 supports proposal 286 submitted by a property owner of Kenai river-front property within the City of Kenai to require a no-wake zone between river mile 3 and 4.5 when the tide is 21' and higher. Loss of river-front property occurs when the river is at an extremely high tide and boats create wakes that erode river-front properties within the City of Kenai.

Thank you for your consideration.





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PROPOSAL COMMENT COVER FORM

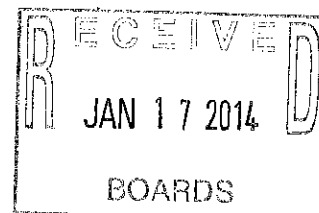
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2014

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 270

SUPPORT/OPPOSE: Support

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2014-15
2. Memorandum from Councilors Gabriel and Boyle to Kenai City Council dated January 9, 2014





Suggested by: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle
Mayor Pat Porter

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES (BOF) PROPOSAL NUMBER 270 AMENDING THE UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 270 requests an amendment to the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Fishery Salmon Management Plan by clarifying when a person is required to record their harvest within Upper Cook Inlet personal use fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, during the 2012 season over 300 citations were issued for failure to record personal use salmon harvest before leaving the fishing site; and,

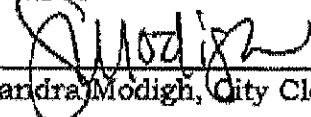
WHEREAS, BOF Proposal 270, is proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) to minimize confusion over when fish harvested in the personal use fishery must be recorded; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the Council supports Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal Number 270 amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Fishery Management Plan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 15th day of January, 2014.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk



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MEMO:

TO: Mayor Porter and City Councilors
FROM: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle
DATE: January 9, 2014
SUBJECT: Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16

We respectfully request that the City Council support the adoption of Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16.

Each of these resolutions establishes the City of Kenai's support or opposition to Alaska Board of Fish Proposals that will be discussed during the Alaska Board of Fish meeting to consider proposals affecting Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries.

Resolutions 2014-10 (Proposal 103) and 2014-11 (Proposal 138), request consideration of amendments to the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan and Central District Gillnet Fishery Management plan, respectively, that will cause economic hardship to residents and businesses in the City of Kenai and throughout the Kenai Peninsula. These proposals also limit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to manage the fisheries based on sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet, as supported by City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 (attached).

Resolution 2014-12 supports proposal 201 submitted by the ADF&G, amending the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan, to provide additional protections for King Salmon in the Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area.

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Resolution 2014-14 supports proposal 238 amending the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan to add an additional drift-only (Thursdays) day on the Kenai River. This proposal is substantially the same as a proposal 237 which was submitted by the City of Kenai.





Resolution 2014-15 supports proposal 270 submitted by the ADF&G amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan to clarify when a person is required to record their harvest.

Resolution 2014-16 supports proposal 286 submitted by a property owner of Kenai river-front property within the City of Kenai to require a no-wake zone between river mile 3 and 4.5 when the tide is 21' and higher. Loss of river-front property occurs when the river is at an extremely high tide and boats create wakes that erode river-front properties within the City of Kenai.

Thank you for your consideration.





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PROPOSAL COMMENT COVER FORM

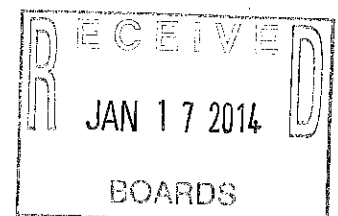
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2014

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 286

SUPPORT/OPPOSE: Support

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2014-16
2. Memorandum from Councilors Gabriel and Boyle to Kenai City Council dated January 9, 2014





Suggested by: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle
Mayor Pat Porter

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES (BOF) PROPOSAL NUMBER 286 AMENDING THE UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Proposal Number 286 requests an amendment to the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Fishery Salmon Management Plan establishing a no-wake zone and maximum speed limit on the Kenai River between river mile 3 and 4.5 during the personal use fishery when there is a high tide of twenty-one (21) feet and higher to protect the river bank and river bank vegetation; and,

WHEREAS, the adoption of Proposal Number 286 would protect private and public property between river mile 3 and 4.5 during the personal use fishery when tides are 21' feet and higher.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the Council supports Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal Number 286 amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Fishery Management Plan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 15th day of January, 2014.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk

PC 321
3 of 4

"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / FAX: 907-283-3014



MEMO:

TO: Mayor Porter and City Councilors

FROM: Councilors Brian Gabriel and Mike Boyle

DATE: January 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16

We respectfully request that the City Council support the adoption of Resolutions 2014-10 through 2014-16.

Each of these resolutions establishes the City of Kenai's support or opposition to Alaska Board of Fish Proposals that will be discussed during the Alaska Board of Fish meeting to consider proposals affecting Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries.

Resolutions 2014-10 (Proposal 103) and 2014-11 (Proposal 138), request consideration of amendments to the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan and Central District Gillnet Fishery Management plan, respectively, that will cause economic hardship to residents and businesses in the City of Kenai and throughout the Kenai Peninsula. These proposals also limit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) ability to manage the fisheries based on sound fisheries management practices and diversified harvest opportunities in Cook Inlet, as supported by City of Kenai Resolution 2011-14 (attached).

Resolution 2014-12 supports proposal 201 submitted by the ADF&G, amending the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan, to provide additional protections for King Salmon in the Slikok Creek king salmon sanctuary area.

Resolution 2014-13 supports proposal 229 submitted by the ADF&G to provide a specific boundary between the waters of the Kenai River and the waters of Cook Inlet.

Resolution 2014-14 supports proposal 238 amending the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Management Plan to add an additional drift-only (Thursdays) day on the Kenai River. This proposal is substantially the same as a proposal 237 which was submitted by the City of Kenai.





Resolution 2014-15 supports proposal 270 submitted by the ADF&G amending the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan to clarify when a person is required to record their harvest.

Resolution 2014-16 supports proposal 286 submitted by a property owner of Kenai river-front property within the City of Kenai to require a no-wake zone between river mile 3 and 4.5 when the tide is 21' and higher. Loss of river-front property occurs when the river is at an extremely high tide and boats create wakes that erode river-front properties within the City of Kenai.

Thank you for your consideration.





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210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / Fax: 907-283-3014
www.ci.kenai.ak.us

PROPOSAL COMMENT COVER FORM

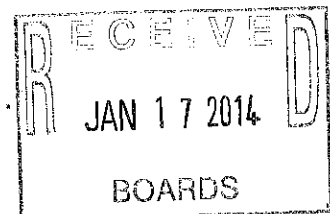
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 13, 2014

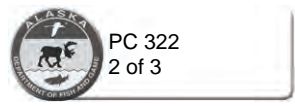
PROPOSAL NUMBER: 289

SUPPORT/OPPOSE: Oppose

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. City of Kenai Council Resolution 2014-09
2. Memorandum from Mayor Pat Porter to Kenai City Council dated January 9, 2014





Suggested by: Mayor Porter

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, OPPOSING PROPOSAL 289 TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISH THAT WOULD REQUIRE FISH WASTE FROM THE PERSONAL USE FISHERY TO BE GROUND UP TO THREE-QUARTERS OF AN INCH.

WHEREAS, Proposal 289 has been submitted to the Board of Fish requesting fish waste from the Kenai River personal use fishery to be ground up to three-quarters of an inch; and,

WHEREAS, while theoretically this proposal might be of benefit to City, the practical effect most likely would be detrimental; and,

WHEREAS, expecting users of the fishery to grind their own waste is unreasonable and the burden would most likely fall on the City at great financial cost; and,

WHEREAS, fish waste collection activities necessary to implement the proposal would likely create significant legal exposure for the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA:

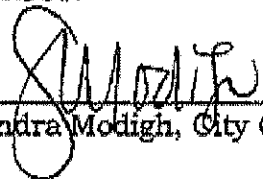
Section 1. That the City of Kenai Opposes Proposal 289 submitted to the Board of Fish and requests the Board of Fish not adopt the proposal.

Section 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 15th day of January, 2014.


PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidaigo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794
Telephone: 907-283-7535 / FAX: 907-283-3014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members
FROM: Mayor Porter
DATE: January 9, 2014
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2014-09

The City of Kenai and its residents bear a heavy burden from the Personal Use Dip Net Fishery. Proposal 289 to the Board of Fish, attached hereto, requests the Board of Fish to require that all fish waste from the dip net fishery be ground to three-quarters of an inch in size. While this utopian idea might sound good, the reality is it would most likely result in yet another burden from the state fishery for the City to fund and regulate, the resources for which are not available. Your consideration of this Resolution opposing Proposal 289 is appreciated.



Della Colver Barry
2123 Solstice Circle
Anchorage, Alaska
99503-1757

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Upper Cook Inlet Meeting
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Fax #907 465-6094

Re: Opposition to Proposal 290

Dear Board of Fisheries Members,

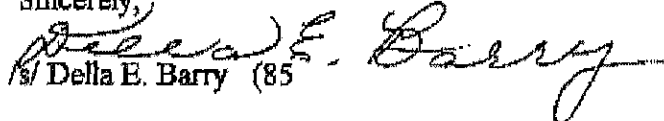
My family has been participating in the Kasilof River personal use set gillnet fishery for many years.

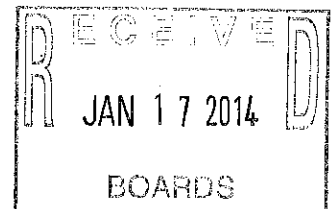
This is an annual family tradition. I personally am a 65-year Alaska resident, a grandmother, and I camp and fish with my family there, using the food. I can help catch and gillnet on the beach, but I cannot dipnet at my age.

Last year, 2013, was a very short opener. There were no king salmon in our nets along the beach nets.

Don't take away this last place for an opportunity to participate in the resource. Thanking you for your consideration. This annual tradition is something I look forward to and depend on.

Sincerely,


s/ Della E. Barry (85)





Gary Clayton
3431 N Tampa Court
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Fax (907) 465-6094

Re: Opposition to Proposal 290

Dear Board of Fisheries Members,

My Family has been participating in the Kasilof River personal use set gillnet fishery since 2003

- Family tradition
 - 2 adults and 2 seniors participate
 - How we feed our family
 - This fishery is a tradition that our extended family participates.

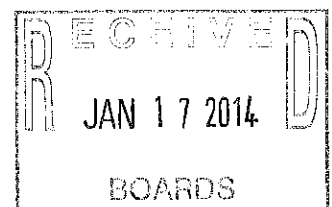
There is no biological or scientific evidence to support this proposal to tie the closure of this fishery to Chinook conservation measures.

Last season the Kasilof personal use set gillnet fishery was closed after only 5 days by Emergency Order because the Kenai River was closed to king salmon sport fishing. No one in this PU fishery caught any kings! This is a sockeye fishery. People were upset at the loss of opportunity. Each year we are seeing a reduction in the runs, but they are not a result of the 1/2 of 1% catch by the subsistence users.

Traditionally very few king salmon are caught in this fishery. We are lucky if we catch 1-2 kings a year! We are out there from the start of the opening until we limit out. Lately it has taken the entire time. This is the last remaining fragment of the Cook Inlet subsistence fishery that included all eastside beaches.

If the season dates are changed to June 20-30 from June 15-25 this may create a conflict with the Kasilof District commercial set gillnet fishery. That season usually opens about June 26-30th and can be opened on the 20th by EO if triggered by Kasilof River sockeye escapement. Opening the season later may create user conflicts. **For these reasons this proposal is a bad idea.**

Sincerely,





Susan Dunham
PO Box 1436
Palmer Ak 99645

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Fax (907) 465-6094

Re: Opposition to Proposal 290

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My Family has been participating in the Kasilof River personal use set gillnet fishery since 2003

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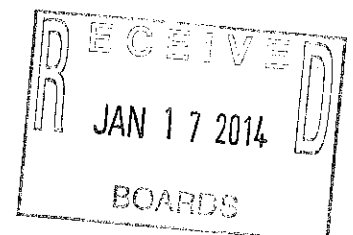
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Sincerely,

Susan H. Dunham



2014-01-17