

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Fish & Wildlife Commission

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

CHAIRPERSON

Peter Probasco

VICE CHAIR

Andy Couch

MSB STAFF

Paul Clark



BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Bowles

Marty Van Diest

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble

Kendra Zamzow

Ex officio: Jim Sykes

Regular Meeting

January 8, 2026

Meeting Packet – Table of Contents

Pg. = Item:

- 1 = Meeting Agenda
- 4 = Minutes, Nov 13
- 6 = Email Confirmation from Todd Rinaldi (ADF&G Wildlife)
- 7 = ADF&G Notice of Public Meeting Email – Board of Game
- 9 = Governor Response to Mayor's Letter
- 11 = 2026 BOF Proposal 186
- 13 = Andy & Doug Vincent-Lang Summary (2026 BOF)
- 15 = Email from Mac Minard
- 16 = Mac Minard Consultant Proposal for 2026 BOF
- 20 = KRSA 'War Room' Cost Share Email
- 22 = FY27 BOF Proposal Deadline Announcement
- 25 = 2026-27 Draft BOF Strategy
- 28 = After Action Review BOF 2024
- 44 = Email from Colton Lipka (ADF&G Com Fish)
- 46 = 2025 Sportfish Summary
- 63 = Gamble – Metzger Email about Deshka

- 66 = E-Mail from Resource Dev. Council
- 67 = NPFMC – 3 Meeting Outlook
- 69 = E-Mail from Mayor to Paul re: Gov. Follow-up
- 71 = House Bill 203

Conference Room 203, DSJ Bldg, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645

Remote Participation: See attached agenda on p. 1

Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division

<http://www.matsugov.us> • planning@matsugov.us

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
AGENDA

Edna Devries, Mayor

Peter Probasco – Chair
Andy Couch – Vice Chair
Gabriel Kitter
Bill Gamble
Kendra Zamzow
Michael Bowles
Vacant – Seat 3/Hunting
Marty Van Diest
Jim Sykes – Ex officio member

Paul Clark – Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
Jason Ortiz, Planning & Land Use Deputy Director
Wade Long, Development Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

*Assembly Chambers
Dorothy Swanda Jones Building
350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer*

JANUARY 8, 2026
REGULAR MEETING
4:00 p.m.

Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:

IN-PERSON: Conference Room 203, DSJ Building (Limited Seating)

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Join on your computer:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 234 006 359 176 90

Passcode: 5Np6wF6b

Or call in (audio only):

1-907-290-7880

Phone Conference ID: 819 907 478#

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. November 13, 2025 (packet pg. 4)
- VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)
- VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report

1. Post-Salmon Symposium Opportunities for Engagement – Susitna River Watershed Plan, Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership Strategic Plan Update
2. BLM Preliminary EA – authorize ROW for construction vehicles on existing Routes in Knik River SRMA - [EA Glacier View Access](#)
3. Availability of ADF&G for Game Summary Meeting – April 9 Game Mtg. Supplemental Packet – Email confirmation from Todd Rinaldi (pg.6)
4. Upcoming State & Federal Meetings
 - Jan 22, 2026, 9:00am, Wrangell - [AK Board of Game work session](#)
ADF&G Notice of Public Meeting Email (pg. 7)
 - Feb 2-11, 8:00am -5:00pm, Anchorage – [NPFMC Meetings](#) – Opportunities to comment are open online
 - Feb 2-4 – NPFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee
 - Feb 2-7 – NPFMC Advisory Panel
 - Feb 5-11 – NPFMC Council Meeting

B. Chair's Report

1. Response to Mayor's Letter from Governor's Office
Copy of letter (pg. 9)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries 2026 March Meeting Strategy

BOF Proposal 186 (pg. 11)
Vincent-Lang & Couch discussion summary (pg. 13)
Mac Minard interest email (pg. 15)
Mac Minard proposal (pg. 16)
KRSA 'war room' cost share email (pg. 20)

Approve funding for Minard proposal and KRSA cost share?

B. Prep for 2026-27 Board of Fisheries Cycle – Goals, Tasks, Budget

Proposal deadline announcement – April 10, 2026 (pg. 22)
Strategy document (pg. 25)
AAR from 2024 cycle (pg. 28)

C. Waterbody Setback Ordinance Staff Update and Discussion

D. Scheduling ADF&G Summary Meetings

Commercial fish summary (see pg. 8 of Dec 11 packet)

Response from Colton email (pg. 44)

2025 Sport Fish Summary (pg. 46)

E. Deshka Watershed Land Classification Resolution (RS 25-02)

Gamble-Metzger Email (pg. 63)

F. Other Follow-Up from Task List

- Gabe Kitter – Resource Development Council Email (pg. 66)
- Jim Sykes – North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (pg. 67)
- MSB – Subcommittee/Working Group Rules

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mayor's Offer for Follow-Up with Governor

Mayor email to Paul (pg. 69)

B. Letter or Resolution supporting [HB 203](#) / [SB 161](#) (request from Rep. McCabe) – “An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and providing for an effective date.”

HB 203 (pg. 71)

C. Changing Pike from Sport Fishery to Commercial Fishery (introduced by Mayor)

D. Inviting presenters from the Salmon Symposium – Kendra

(Ex. ADF&G Fish Pathologist sharing info on the Pacific Salmon Health Monitoring Initiative)

E. 2026 FWC Meeting Calendar and Officer Elections (next month)

X. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: **TBD**, 4:00-6:00 PM

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Disabled persons needing reasonable accommodation in order to participate at a MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8432 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
REGULAR MEETING: November 13, 2025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 4:00 PM

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present

Andy Couch
Michael Bowles
Marty Van Diest
Gabe Kitter
Bill Gamble
Jim Sykes
Pete Probasco
Kendra Zamzow

Absent

Tim Hale

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Andy Couch moved to approve agenda, Marty Van Diest seconded, no objections, motion passed

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 9, 2025

Andy Couch moved to approve October 9 minutes, Gabe Kitter seconded, no objections, motion passed

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)

Samantha Oslund
Stephen Braund
Chennery Fife
Jessica Speed
Sue Mauger
Danny Tanis

Gary Foundrey
Bill Stoltze
Ben Americus
Margaret Stern
Angela Stephl
Oliver Querin

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report

- i. Healthy Riparian Area Education & Outreach project

B. Chair's Report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Waterbody Setback staff update and discussion

B. Deshka Resolution 25-02 – Classify Borough Lands as Watershed Lands

C. Board of Fisheries Work Session – Andy

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation Shell Lake Flow Control Feasibility Study (15 min)
- Danny Tanis, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association

B. ADF&G Summary meeting

C. Preparation for Board of Fisheries 2026-2027 Cycle

X. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: December 11, 2025, 4:00-6:00PM Back of Assembly Chambers

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Re: Annual Game Summary Meeting with Mat-Su Borough

From Rinaldi, Todd A (DFG) <todd.rinaldi@alaska.gov>

Date Mon 12/8/2025 10:31 AM

To Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>; Dorendorf, Ross R (DFG) <ross.dorendorf@alaska.gov>; Eichholz, Manny L (DFG) <manny.eichholz@alaska.gov>; Van Diest, Gerrit M (DFG) <gerrit.vandiest@alaska.gov>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Hi Paul,

April 9 will work with our calendars. As the date approaches please let us know if there are specific items the commission would like addressed.

Todd

From: Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 9:39 AM

To: Dorendorf, Ross R (DFG) <ross.dorendorf@alaska.gov>; Rinaldi, Todd A (DFG) <todd.rinaldi@alaska.gov>; Eichholz, Manny L (DFG) <manny.eichholz@alaska.gov>; Van Diest, Gerrit M (DFG) <gerrit.vandiest@alaska.gov>

Subject: Re: Annual Game Summary Meeting with Mat-Su Borough

Some people who received this message don't often get email from paul.clark@matsugov.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Gerrit, Todd, Manny, and Ross,

I just wanted to check back in regarding your availability for an annual game summary meeting with the Mat-Su Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission on April 9, 2026. I'm hoping to provide the commission with an update this Thursday at our next meeting.

Thanks!

Paul Clark
Long Range Planner
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
907-861-8556 (desk)
907-795-3984 (mobile)

Notice of Public Meeting of the Board of Game

From Alaska Department of Fish and Game <adfg@public.govdelivery.com>

Date Mon 12/22/2025 3:42 PM

To Paul Clark <paul.clark@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

The Alaska Board of Game (board) will conduct a one-day work session in Wrangell on Thursday, January 22, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the James and Elsie Nolan Center, located at 296 Campbell Drive.

Meeting topics include agency reports, board committee reports and assignments, approval of the 2026/2027 board meeting dates and locations, and other administrative business. The board will not be taking any regulatory action during the meeting.

The meeting is open to the public in person and via live video stream. The link for listening will be posted online at <https://adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main> the day of the meeting. Live audio will also be accessible by calling +1 253 215 8782 and entering the meeting ID: 851 2837 0142.

The board will not be taking oral testimony during the Work Session but is accepting written comments. Comments can be submitted online at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=01-22-2026&meeting=wrangell> . Comments can also be mailed to: ADF&G Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; or sent via fax to (907) 465-6094.

The deadline for submitting written comments to be included in the meeting workbook is Friday, **January 16, 2026**. Once the meeting begins, comments will be accepted as record copies submitted online at the link above, by hand delivery at the meeting, or via the above-mentioned fax number. Comments submitted during the meeting are limited to ten single-sided or five double-sided pages in length from any one individual or group.

The agenda and other meeting documents will be available prior to the Work Session on meeting information webpage at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=01-22-2026&meeting=wrangell>

For more information about the meeting, contact ADF&G Boards Support Section at (907) 543-2931. If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this public meeting, please contact Art Nelson at number listed above no later than Monday, January 12, 2026, to make any necessary arrangements.

/s/

Art Nelson, Executive Director

ADF&G Boards Support Section

December 22, 2025

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES: [Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)

This email was sent to paul.clark@matsugov.us using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Alaska Department of Fish and Game · P.O. Box 115526 · Juneau, AK 99811-5526





Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

November 14, 2025

The Honorable Edna DeVries
Mayor
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 East Dahlia Avenue
Palmer, AK 99645

Mayor DeVries,

Thank you for your October 24, 2025 letter regarding chinook and coho salmon returns to the Mat-Su Borough and Northern Cook Inlet areas. I share your concerns and have asked the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to improve their assessment of chinook and coho salmon in these areas. Assessment is complicated because of operational difficulties associated with weir operations and the presence of a mixed-stock fishery in the Central District that occurs prior to assessment of run timing. I remain committed to continuing to evaluate better assessment tools and encourage you to work with ADF&G Commissioner Vincent-Lang to further explore options.

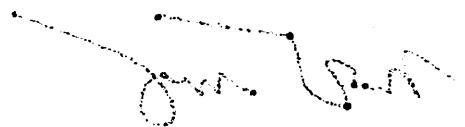
To address the harvest of northern bound coho salmon in the Central District, the Board of Fisheries voted in October to take up an Agenda Change Request to evaluate unforeseen impacts associated with the management of the UCI Drift Net Fishery in light of large returns of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye salmon and the absence of the ESSN fishery. In approving the Agenda Change Request, the Board asked the ADF&G to be prepared to discuss coho salmon harvests in relation to the 1 percent rule in light of the new federal fishery in the EEZ, the use of the step-up provision to expand drift opportunity based on in season projections of sockeye abundance, and the use of Area 2 and state water Area 1 during regular openers of the drift fishery. The ADF&G will be prepared to have these discussions in March 2026.

You requested to work with my administration and the ADF&G to further address these issues during the 2026-2027 regulatory year. I will be termed out before this cycle occurs, but I look forward to working with you on these issues during 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John L. Smith', located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

PROPOSAL 186

5 AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area, as follows:

Please consider permanently reducing the amount of State owned Alaska managed commercial drift gillnet fishing allowed in the middle of Upper Cook inlet beyond the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point Sections, — Specifically when larger abundances of Kenai River sockeye allow additional days and hours of drift gillnet harvest— those added harvest opportunities should avoid the primary mixed stocks areas, and only occur closer to the rivers where the abundant stocks are bound, as follows:

(c) From July 9 through July 15,

(2) at run strengths greater than 2,300,000 sockeye to the Kenai River the commissioner may, by emergency order, open one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict [AND DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1];

(d). From July 16 through July 31.

(2) at run strengths of 2,300,000 - 4,600,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River,

(A) fishing during all [ONE] regular 12-hour fishing periods per week will be restricted to one or more of the following sections and areas:

(i). Expanded Kenai Section of the Upper Subdistrict;

(ii) Expanded Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict;

(iii) Anchor Point Section of the Lower Subdistrict;

[(IV) DRIFT GILLNET AREA 1;]

(B) Additional fishing time under this subsection is allowed only in one or more of the following sections: Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, Anchor Point. [THE REMAINING WEEKLY 12-HOUR REGULAR FISHING PERIOD WILL BE RESTRICTED TO ONE OR MORE OF THE

FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

(I) EXPANDED KENAI SECTION;

(II) EXPANDED KASILOF SECTION;

(III) ANCHOR POINT SECTION;]

(3) at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, all [ONE] regular 12-hour fishing periods per week will be restricted to the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point Sections;

(B) Additional fishing time under this subsection is allowed only in one or more of the following sections: Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, Anchor Point. [THE REMAINING WEEKLY 12-HOUR REGULAR FISHING PERIOD WILL BE RESTRICTED TO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

(I) EXPANDED KENAI SECTION;

(II) Expanded KASILOF SECTION;

(III) ANCHOR POINT SECTION;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since the federal EEZ drift gillnet fishery has started, allowing 200 fathoms of gillnet per drift permit holder, and the State of

Alaska has attempted to harvest a larger portion of the remaining harvestable surplus Kasilof and Kenai River sockeye salmon offshore in the drift gillnet fishery, there has been a resulting shortage of Northern bound coho salmon to meet spawning escapement needs and to provide reasonable harvest opportunities for subsistence, commercial, sport, and personal use needs in Northern Cook Inlet. Those shortages have resulted in consistent sport fishing restrictions and closures — in particular at Deshka River and Little Susitna River over the past three years — however even with these inriver restrictions and closures too many salmon had already been harvested and not enough remained to even come close to ADF&G established coho salmon SEGs at both rivers. Adaptive Management Changes need to be made. A more precautionary management approach as outlined in 5 AAC 39.222 is clearly required.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

(ACR-F26-005)

Andy Couch's conversation with ADF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent - Lang

From Andy Couch <fishing@fish4salmon.com>

Date Wed 11/26/2025 2:47 PM

To Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>; Pete and Eileen Probasco <peprob@mtaonline.net>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Paul,

Would you please provide the below write up of my discussion with Doug Vincent-Lang -- assigned to me at the last FWC meeting.

Thank you,

Andy Couch

Fishtale River Guides

(907) 746-2199

fishing@fish4salmon.com

Fish and Wildlife Commission Members.

On Wednesday November 26, 2025 I had an encouraging conversation with ADF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang (as assigned at our last FWC meeting), concerning how the Upper Cook Inlet Drift Gillnet Fishery might be restructured to ensure better attainment of Northern Cook Inlet coho salmon spawning escapement goals (as measured at Deshka River and Little Susitna River).

We started our conversation with the mutual acknowledgement that we were only talking about the State of Alaska managed fishing area and not management of the federal Cook Inlet EEZ drift gillnet fishery.

I mentioned that the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) would like to work with ADF&G if the Department had preferred options for providing adequate Northern coho salmon spawning escapements.

Doug commented that more salmon (both sockeye and coho) were caught in the Expanded Kenai / Expanded Kasilof / Anchor Point Sections in 2026 than from further out portions of Drift Gillnet Area 1 and Drift Gillnet Area 2. With that he mentioned that some time limit for the amount of drift gillnetting allowed in those areas may be a component of passing adequate numbers of coho salmon north.

The Commissioner mentioned that the step-up provision(s) of the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan could be removed or adjusted. That is what Agenda Change Request (ACR) 5 asks for in a very broad sense — during years where more than 2.3 million sockeye are returning to the Kenai River. This would require BOF determination that allowing adequate protection for Northern bound coho salmon (in the further from shore portions of Area 1 and Area 2) would have higher priority than providing additional Area 1 and / or Area 2 drift gillnetting to maximize harvest of Kenai River and Kasilof River sockeye salmon during years of large Kenai River sockeye returns.

He mentioned we may want to consider when or if any drift gillnetting should be allowed in Area 2 (beyond the the expanded harvest sections). For example during 2025 a step up provision allowed an

additional area-wide Central District drift gillnet opening (which ADF&G utilized in late July) because of the Kenai River sockeye return projection exceeding 4.6 million fish. Of consideration here — why have such a provision in the plan it not to use it? If it remains in the plan, it could have negative impacts on Northern coho escapement levels whenever Kenai River sockeye returns exceed 4.6 million fish.

Doug mentioned damage likely done to Little Susitna River coho by a Northern pike population expanding its distribution within that drainage, that is likely reducing coho salmon smolt production from the lake(s) with the drainage. He also said that a coho salmon stocking program may be useful to address possible lost coho smolt production within the Little Susitna River system.

Commissioner Vincent-Lang has mentioned he plans to step away from the ADF&G Commissioner position with the end of the Governor Dunleavy administration — so the FWC has an additional opportunity to work with him and ADF&G in March 2026, that will be changed with a new administrating before the 2027 Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting.

Bottomline, no commitments were made, but we had a far-ranging discussion of the issues that I wanted to make FWC members aware of.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Andy Couch

Fwd: Assistance with March Meeting

From Pete and Eileen Probasco <peprob@mtaonline.net>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 10:20 AM

To Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

[**EXTERNAL EMAIL** - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Paul,

Please include this email from Mac Minard in our meeting packets. Thanks

Pete

From: "Mac Minard" <macminard@mt.net>
To: "peprob" <peprob@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 8:40:58 AM
Subject: Assistance with March Meeting

Good Morning Pete

I am interested in assisting with the March Board of Fisheries meeting if the Commission feels it would be beneficial. I believe we had unfinished business that could greatly improve the conservation of northern bound stocks and ultimately provide improved fishing opportunity with in the Mat Su. Getting on this early to develop a clear set of goals/deliverables and strategy to attain those agreed upon goals is essential. In considering this I would recommend that as part of my involvement that I make a trip to AK in advance of meeting as early as reasonable to meet with the Fisheries team directly. I will not charge time for such a meeting, but would require travel expenses only. I think we have a very good shot at attaining something significant for the Mat Su given the make up and tenure of Fish Board members. It is hard to say when an opportunity like this may present itself again. That is what led to my suggestion of a face to face. If that is not doable it would not be the end of the world.

At any rate, I am interested in assisting once more. I am excited about the prospect to attain some significant and beneficial changes and look forward to hearing what the Commission thinks once you approach them.

Please confirm you received this email.

Happy Thanksgiving
Mac

Mac Minard
#4 Fiddlers Green
Clancy, MT 59634
macminard@mt.net
406 439-2059
December 19, 2025

Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues – March 17-21, 2026

I. Scope of Service

1) Board Meeting Preparation

- Task 1 - Meet with MSB (Fish and Wildlife Commission, Public Affairs, Planning) to discuss BOF priorities and strategy related to Proposal 186, the proposal of primary interest.
- Task 2 - Liaison with ADF&G, Kenai River Sportfishing Association, and others to coordinate BOF activities with FWC.
- Task 3 – Prepare comments for FWC for proposals of interest to the FWC (Due March 2, 2026).
- Task 4 - Develop board packet and related information for distribution.
- Task 5 - Develop tentative schedule for FWC meeting attendance.

2) Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues – March 17-21, 2026

- Task 7 - Coordinate Commissioners schedules for attendance at BOF public meetings and committee meetings
- Task 8 - Develop and distribute technical materials (RCs, proposals, testimonies)
- Task 9 - Communicate (emails, calls) with commissioners to update on daily activities
- Task 10 - Coordinate FWC activities with KRSA, ADF&G and other partners
- Task 11- Prepare a summary report of BOF actions and follow-up activities recommended.

3) Deliverables

- a. FWC comments on proposals as deemed necessary by the Commission members
- b. BOF Board packet related to Proposal 186
- c. Technical documents at BOF meeting
- d. Summary report of BOF meeting (After-Action)

Having reviewed carefully the Scope of Work and the stated deliverables I believe the project is manageable and would like to be considered for the position of Consultant to the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission for coordination of the Board of Fisheries Meeting as outlined in the 11 tasks listed above. With the acceptance of ACR submitted by Andy Couch in the form of Proposal 186, it appears there is an appetite among the Board members to consider the harsh declines in coho stocks, the persistent decline in Cook Inlet chinook salmon, and the impact the Federally managed EEZ is having on State management practices.

II. Project Schedule

It is my understanding that the timeline is to complete the project tasks is by March 31, 2024. That should be workable. I have only limited front-end time due to prior commitments.

- 4) Preparation. I will be able to complete tasks 1, 2, 3, and 5 in advance of the meeting and early enough to submit written comments (due by March 2, 2026) as deemed necessary by the FWC. In addressing Task 4, I will need to work closely with staff who are assembling the Board books to ensure this task is addressed (if in fact FWC is assembling a packet). Additionally close coordination with Dr Ray Beamesderfer and Kevin Delaney (KRSA) as well as leading Department staff will be essential. This effort will constitute the deliverable 3 (a) from above. It is also my understanding that I will review and assist with developing comments (task 3) to proposals but will not be solely responsible for that task. This will all be accomplished during the period January 1 – March 2, 2026.
- 5) Meeting Attendance. In reviewing Tasks 7-10 I see no problem in being able to complete these in a timely manner. In so doing I will complete deliverable 3 b. submission of technical documents at the BOF Meeting. This will all be accomplished during the period March 17 – 21, 2026.
- 6) Post Meeting Work. Task 11 calls for a summary report as related to deliverable 3 c. Summary Report of Board of Fish Meeting (After Action Report). This is to be completed and submitted prior to March 31, 2026.

III. Coordination with KRSA

KRSA is planning a full-time presence at the Statewide meeting as they have several proposals they have submitted and have a significant interest in Proposal 186. It is imperative to the success of this effort that we be allowed space in the KRSA War Room. Please reach whatever agreement necessary and prudent to assure access to the room and supporting office equipment (copy machine and scanners etc.) Additionally, it is necessary to be housed at the Captain Cook for the purpose of interacting with Board of Fisheries members and the staff of Kenai River Sportfish Association. I have been assured by KRSA leadership that they are willing to cover my lodging and meals at the Captain Cook for the duration of this meeting.

IV. Estimated Project Cost

The following is a breakdown for each phase of work and the approximate number of hours and cost.

i. Phase One - Preparation

The first phase involves preparation for the Board of Fisheries meeting. This phase is critical to effective BOF participation. Liaison with Department staff and Board members and frequent communication with Committee members is essential. The time frame for this work is January 1 to March 2, 2026

- Participation in teleconferences as requested/possible
- Develop and review comments on proposals identified by FWC
- Development of strategies for the BOF meetings
- Development of Board Packet including technical materials and reports consistent with effective participation

My involvement is limited to approximately 20 hrs. @ \$175/hr. for meeting preparation. Cost for this phase is estimated to be \$3,500.

ii. Phase Two – Participation

The second phase is the meeting attendance phase and covers the attendance and participation at the BOF meeting in Anchorage. The meeting is scheduled from March 17 – 21, 2026; a 5-day period with 2 additional days for travel. This portion of the budget provides funding for technical services during the meeting. Those services include but are not limited to, participation in assigned committees, maintaining liaison with key ADF&G staff and BOF members, assisting in the development of technical materials (RCs, draft proposal language, testimony), and providing daily email updates to Committee members. In general, I will help with every aspect of the BOF meeting to help the Committee realize their stated goals for the meeting.

Payment for this service is made as a flat fee which was developed based on \$175 per hour for 7 eight-hour days (no charge for hours worked beyond 8 hours per day). Cost for this phase is estimated to be \$9,800.

iii. Phase Three – Follow-up

The third phase will cover the work necessary to produce the After-Action Report that will serve as a summary and an evaluation of the meeting and recommendations for next steps, if appropriate. Submitted by March 31, 2026.

Cost for this phase of the project was calculated as 8 hrs. @ \$175/hr. = \$1,400

This places my compensation for the project at **\$14,700 from the Matanuska Borough.**

In addition to the direct payment of \$14,700 for support the Borough will also cover expenses in the following categories:

- Round Trip to Anchorage for BOF Travel
- Room and meals at the Captain Cook and meals while attending the meeting in Anchorage (paid by KRSA per leadership commitment)
- Office supplies while in attendance at the meeting
- Miscellaneous meal expenses not taken at the Captain Cook

V. Billing and Payment Schedule

Bills for Services will be submitted to the Borough office at the close of each phase of work. Payment shall be made within two (2) weeks of billing. Bills will be submitted on March 3 (phase 1), March 23 (phase 2) and no later than March 31 (phase 3).

Reimbursements for travel and meals shall be paid promptly upon submission of original (or copies of original) invoices and receipts.

All payments are to be made out to R. Eric Minard, Northwestern Resource Consultants.

This statewide meeting has the potential to allow the Mat Su Fish and Wildlife commission attain goals we were unable to realize in the 2024 meeting. The potential exists to secure Board actions that will afford desired conservation outcomes and dramatically improve salmon passage into the Northern District and inland waters. I am very excited to be part of this effort and look forward to working with the Mat/Su Fish and Wildlife Commission and on behalf of the people of the Borough.

Sincerely,

Mac Minard
Northwestern Resource Consultants
December 23, 2025

Re: Egan room rental for Statewide March 2026

From Pete and Eileen Probasco <peprob@mtaonline.net>
Date Wed 12/10/2025 7:53 AM
To Andy Couch <fishing@fish4salmon.com>
Cc Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>; shannon@krsa.com <shannon@krsa.com>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Good morning,

I would agree we should share the expenses of this room with the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. However, at this time we don't have a quorum for tomorrow's meeting, and I don't believe we can move forward without a motion and approval from the Commission. Paul, please weigh in, is this a correct assumption?

Pete

From: "Andy Couch" <fishing@fish4salmon.com>
To: "Paul Clark" <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>, "Pete and Eileen Probasco" <peprob@mtaonline.net>, shannon@krsa.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 9:56:06 PM
Subject: Fwd: Egan room rental for Statewide March 2026

Paul and Pete,

I received this email from Shannon Martin concerning possible sharing a room with Kenai River Sportfishing Association at the Egan Convention Center during the March Statewide Board of Fisheries Meeting and wanted to bring it to the Fish and Wildlife Commission's attention.

Andy Couch
Fishtale River Guides
(907) 746-2199
fishing@fish4salmon.com

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Shannon Martin <Shannon@krsa.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 12:01 PM
Subject: Egan room rental for Statewide March 2026
To: Andy Couch <fishing@fish4salmon.com>

Hi Andy,

I rented a room at the Egan for the Statewide BOF meeting March 2026. You guys are welcome to share the space. I attached the invoice which came to \$1,219.

Fish on!
Shannon



Alaska Board of Fisheries Opens 2026/2027 Call for Proposals

From Alaska Department of Fish and Game <adfg@public.govdelivery.com>

Date Wed 12/24/2025 9:29 AM

To Paul Clark <paul.clark@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

**THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES CALLS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES
IN THE SUBSISTENCE, PERSONAL USE, SPORT, GUIDED SPORT, AND
COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE
LOWER AND UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH, and KODIAK FINFISH FISHERIES.**

PROPOSAL DEADLINE – FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) is accepting proposed changes to the subsistence, personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishing regulations for the Lower and Upper Cook Inlet finfish, and Kodiak finfish management areas. Finfish includes salmon, herring, trout, other freshwater finfishes, and groundfish, including Pacific cod, for consideration by the board in its 2026–2027 meeting cycle. The board may also consider subsistence proposals for other topics (including other areas) under the subsistence proposal policy, 5 AAC 96.615, if proposals are submitted within this deadline and the board determines they meet the criteria in either 5 AAC 96.615(a)(1) or (a)(2).

To ensure the proposal book is finished in advance of the board meetings, the board sets Friday, April 10, 2026, as the proposal deadline.

Proposals may be submitted online, email, mail or fax at:

Online: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.forms>

Mail:

ADF&G, Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: (907) 465-6094

Proposals must be received by Friday, April 10, 2026 at the Boards Support Section office in Juneau. A postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit proposals at the earliest possible date. The Board of Fisheries proposal form, including the on-line proposal form, is available at the Boards Support website, <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.forms>. Proposal forms are also available at any Boards Support office. Proposals must be submitted on the current approved form. Any additional information provided with the form, such as pictures, tables, Internet web links, or charts/maps will not be included in the proposal book.

The completed proposal form must contain a contact telephone number and address. Email addresses are appreciated. Please print or type the individual's or organization's name as appropriate.

All proposals are reviewed prior to publication. Language that is emotionally charged detracts from the substance of the proposal and may draw opposition not germane to the element(s) of the proposal. Such language may be edited or deleted prior to publication. **Proposals that do not meet this call will not be accepted.** Proposals must pertain to the region, species, and uses in this call. Proposals that do not request a regulatory change or are outside the authority of the board will not be accepted. If duplicative proposals are received by the same individual or group only one will be included in the proposal book.

Proposals published in the proposal book will be referenced with the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and include a brief description of the action requested.

Proposal books are sent to advisory committees for review and comment. Proposals are posted online for the public at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.proposalbook>. Those submitting proposals are encouraged to review the proposal book at their earliest convenience to ensure proposals are included and accurate. Noted errors and omissions should be reported to Boards Support immediately. The public is encouraged to visit the Board of Fisheries website frequently for news and information regarding the upcoming cycle.

Responsive proposals received by the proposal deadline will be considered during the board's 2026/2027 meeting schedule.

For more information, please contact the Art Nelson, Executive Director for the Board of Fisheries at art.nelson@alaska.gov or (907) 267-2292.

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES: [Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)

This email was sent to paul.clark@matsugov.us using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Alaska Department of Fish and Game · P.O. Box 115526 · Juneau, AK 99811-5526



2026-27 FWC Board of Fisheries Strategy

2024 FWC Goals – What changes need to be made to the goals?

- 1 Long-term salmon conservation and protection of salmon habitat.
- 2 Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan.
- 3 Clarify or strengthen conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks of Concern.
- 4 Increase inriver returns of coho and sockeye salmon to Northern Cook Inlet river systems.
- 5 Adjust existing king salmon management plans and strategies to more adequately address conservation concerns for king salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet drainages.
- 6 Maintain or extend personal use fishing opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing Northern Cook Inlet drainages.

FWC Workplan (based on workplan for 2024 Board of Fisheries)

2026-27 MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission Workplan						
Task	FWC / MSB Lead	Target Date	Budget	Notes	Note 2	Complete Date
Develop Initial FWC Goals		Nov 2025 - Jan 2026				January 2026
Secure FWC BOF Budget for FY26-27		Dec 2025 - Feb 2026		Currently (as of Nov 26) - \$22,378	Submit budget request to MSB Planning.	Final request to MSB by 2/1/26

Identify Allied Groups		Dec 2025 – Feb 2026		Participate in Salmon Symposium		Ongoing
Develop FWC Strategy for off-cycle ACR		Dec 2025 - Feb 2026				
Participate in BOF Session		March 2026	\$2,000			
Develop FWC BOF Proposals		Dec 2025 – March 2026				Submit April 10, 2026
Submit FWC BOF Proposals		NLT April 10, 2026				10-Apr-26
Extend BOF Project Funds		April – May 2026		Current project expires 6/30/26.	Extend current project to 6/30/27.	6/1/2026
BOF Member Education		Summer 2026		Develop/offer field trips for BOF and stakeholders	Involve Salmon Habitat Partnership	Aug-26
FWC BOF Media Development		June 2026 – Feb. 2027		Update Booklet / Website / StoryMap	Need a FWC Work Group Prior to 6/1/26	Dec-26
BOF Consultant Hired		July – Aug. 2026	\$30,000	RFP developed, publicized, consultant hired.		Aug-26
BOF Outreach Plan		Develop June – Oct. 2026; Deliver		Identify key target groups; develop content messaging;	Print Social media Presentations Workshops	Ongoing

		Nov. 2026- Feb. 2027		deliver program.		
ID Partners for sharing onsite resources		Summer 2026		Onsite meeting room; printing resources.		May 2026 FWC reso in support.
BOF Proposal Review & Recommendations		Fall 2026		FWC Committee		Dec. 2026
FWC Participates in BOF Work Session		October 28-29, 2026		Anchorage - Egan Civic & Convention Center	ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	
FWC Participates in BOF Meeting		March 4-15, 2027	\$5,000	Anchorage - Egan Civic & Convention Center		
After Action Summary Report		Mar-27		Internal report	Community summary press releases	Mar-27
Strategy Reflection for BOF '27		April – May 2027				May-27
Next Steps				Communicate successes, gratitude for partner support, identify next steps, implementing changes		

**Matanuska Susitna Borough
Fish and Wildlife Commission**

**Alaska Board of Fisheries
After Action Report**

February 23 – March 6, 2024

*Submitted by
Mac Minard
Northwestern Natural Resource Consultants*

I. Meeting Outcome Goals

There were six Matanuska Susitna Borough Fish Wildlife Commission (MSBFWC) outcome goals identified for the 2024 Board of Fish Meeting:

- 1) Long-term salmon conservation and protection of salmon habitat.**
- 2) Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan.**
- 3) Clarify or strengthen conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks of Concern.**
- 4) Increase inriver returns of coho and sockeye salmon to Northern Cook Inlet systems.**
- 5) Adjust existing king salmon management plan and strategies to more adequately address conservation concerns for king salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet drainages.**
- 6) Maintain or extend Personal Use fishing opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing Northern Cook Inlet drainages.**

II. Preparations and Coordination

In the months prior to the Board of Fish meeting the nine-member Mat/Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission (MSBFWC) met frequently to produce the central document *It Takes Fish to Make Fish*. This 30-page publication effectively communicated the Borough concerns, priorities and prior accomplishments. Many positive comments were received from Board of Fish members and staff as to the utility of this publication.

Additionally, the fisheries work group and Commission reviewed and developed positions for proposals affecting fisheries within the Mat Su. Leadership was provided by the Commission members, included several former ADF&G biologists and managers, two former Board of Fisheries members, professional fishing guides and individuals with local expertise. Coordination with Department staff was included to the extent we were able and open discussions with Board of Fisheries members and Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) helped to inform the preparations by the MSBFWC. These position statements were sent in as part of the on time written comments to the Board.

Planning and Communications

- 1) On July 28, 2023 Stefen Hinman produced a Facebook post [Fish Creek Personal Use](#).

This post reached an extraordinary number of folks (79k) and elevated the important results of the MSBFWC in the Board process. Follow up reporting such as this makes the actions at prior Board of Fish meetings relevant and elevates the importance of coming meetings.

- 2) A report titled *It Takes Fish to Make Fish 2024* was developed as a supporting document for the Mat Su by Commission members and staff members Maija DiSalvo and Stefan Hinman.

The graphics, maps and easy to use format made the material highly effective and was used extensively in preparing Board members and Commission members concerning the issues and priorities. This report tells a compelling story that established a level of understanding and credibility necessary to gain Board of Fish member's confidence. Planning and Public Affairs staff deserve a great deal of credit for their work. This booklet was distributed as part of the on-time comments and as PC 138.

- 3) MSBFWC members Larry Engel, Pete Probasco and chairman Andy Couch all participated in several separate radio programs informing the public about the upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting and issues.
- 4) Three members of the MSBFWC along with borough staff hosted a public workshop on participation in the Board of Fisheries process days prior to the state of the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting.
- 5) Commission members Howard Delo and Andy Couch also published informative newspaper columns prior to the start of the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting.
- 6) On social media, prior to the Board of Fisheries Meeting, Public Affairs staff posted an explanation characterizing why residents should go and participate. A copy of the Mat Su fish booklet was posted drawing in 11k people (That's high).
- 7) A letter from the MSBFWC was drafted and sent to Board chairman John Wood requesting the order of the Group work be arranged in such a manner as to allow

big issues like the Federal EEZ and Central District Drift Fishery could be discussed and deliberated on prior to moving into the Northern District issues. That letter, although sent, never reached the chairman, and no action or response on his part was taken.

- 8) Report detailing the Matanuska Susitna positions on Board of Fisheries proposals. This 17-page report (Comments on 2024 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals) was submitted as part of the on time public comments and was entered as [RC025](#) and [RC026](#).
- 9) Andy Couch, Mat-Su Anglers Column for Friday February 23, 2024 Frontiersman.
- 10) Mac Minard participated in a radio interview on 650am Kenai Radio with Amy Demboski on 2.26.24 at 7:30 am.
- 11) Mac Minard briefed the Alaskan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus via zoom at the request of the caucus advisory council on 2.28.24 at 5:15 pm.
- 12) Stefan Hinman worked diligently to document the Board meeting with video snippets which were posted to the Borough Facebook page. His included seven different posts on BOF, including a link to our Booklet for people to thumb through virtually. In addition all the testimony given by the FWC was posted to the social media platform.
- 13) Submission of Record Copies (RCs). The MSBFWC submitted thirteen RCs that supported positions and informed the Board on issues. These were generally prepared by Mac Minard and submitted on behalf of the Commission. We also supported the Matanuska Valley AC when the positions were aligned with the Commission. RCs may be viewed in Appendix A.

All documents for the meeting may be viewed here:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=02-23-2024&meeting=anchorage>

III. Logistics: Work Room and Equipment:

MSBFWC combined logistical efforts with KRSA. Access to internet, copy machine, and office space made for an optimal mix of support and coordinated interaction. This coordinated effort reduced costs for both organizations and increased our overall effectiveness.

Housing the Commission and Borough members and Advisory Committee representatives at both the Captain Cook and Hilton was also a strong tactical decision.

Board of Fish members stay in both locations and we had reasonable access to Board members in the mornings and evenings. Regular contact provided for effective communications.

The combined effort produced an organized and coordinated approach that proved to be a formidable coalition and served the interests of the in-river users of the Mat-Su Borough very well.

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) covered all of Mac Minard's lodging and incidentals at the Captain Cook Hotel and saved the Borough significantly.

IV. Live Streaming and Email Updates

While the Board was in session, visitors were able to [stream live audio](#) from the Board of Fisheries home page. This afforded real time opportunity to remain up to date while operating in a remote location.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEb1p1JBPh8>

At the close of each day, Mac Minard, Maija DiSalvo, and/or members of the Mat Su Committee would outline the content of a daily email summary sent to members of the Borough Assembly and members of the Mat Su FWC as well as interested parties. These updates kept those who were unable to attend the meeting informed and up to date. Approximately 11 Commission Updates were issued throughout the run up to and during the meeting.

V. Staff Reports

ADF&G presented two written reports and seven oral reports. Presentations were made in timely manner. Some published products were available only after the cut off for public comment making the timeframe for us to incorporate into our comments impossible. Reports can be viewed here:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=02-23-2024&meeting=anchorage>

VI. Public Testimony Saturday - Sunday

Approximately 106 people (153 testified in 2020) testified before the Board of Fisheries. Matanuska Susitna Borough coordinated nine presentations/testimonies and submitted 14 RCs as supporting documentation during this phase of the meeting. When coupled with KRSA testimony we produced a very concise and coordinated effort. Several Board members commented on the effectiveness of our team. RCs are listed in Appendix A.

ORDER	WHO	WHAT	Related Goal(s)	BOOKLET PAGES	RC
1	Maija DiSalvo	Introduce the Mat-Su Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission, Booklet, Topics	All	All	RC054

2	Andy Couch	The Conservation Corridor	2	5	RC065
3	Larry Engel	History and Efficacy of the Conservation Corridor	2	6 - 8	RC056
5	Pete Probasco	Mixed Stock Fishery Complexity	1, 3	9 - 13	RC049
4	Howard Delo	Stocks of Concern		19	RC047
6	Kendra Zamzow	Federal Fisheries Management	3	14 - 17	RC055
7	Gabe Kitter	Habitat in the Mat Su	1	23 - 24	RC046
8	Jim Sykes	Fish Habitat Improvements in the Mat Su	1	25 - 26	RC048
9	Mac Minard	Wrap Up/ Takeaways	All	27 - 28	

VII. Committee Work

The Board established a Committee of the Whole with eight Groups. We detailed a Public Testimony schedule involving key representatives from the Mat Su Borough. Each testifier was armed/briefed with relevant materials and supporting RCs and Commission positions. Support material was very helpful and allowed full and complete participation by assigned committee members. In the future, MSBFWC must continue to develop this work product.

Committee work was conducted in a New England Town Hall format and was civil and provided an opportunity to get key information on the record. MSBFWC representation was excellent and there was an obvious coordination with most AC testimony as well.

Highlighted below are [Board Actions](#) concerning proposals that the MSBFWC commented on or had an interest.

Committee of the Whole – Group 1: Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Action Plan
This committee and topic took up a lot of the meeting energy. MSBFWC did not participate directly in this committee. The following summary is for information only.

Public Testimony

- The Board took 7 hours of public testimony regarding the late run Kenai King Salmon management plan.

Board Deliberations on the Action Plan

- A draft action plan was brought to consideration by Marit Carlson-Van Dort. Her plan established rebuilding goals based on the current Optimum Escapement Goal

(OEG) and equitable sharing of the conservation burden among all fisheries consistent with a plan proposed by KRSA.

Board chair John Wood and members Mike Wood and Gerad Godfrey led the effort to reduce the Kenai River late-run king salmon Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) in order to increase opportunities in the set gill net fishery at low run sizes. This effort ignored clear direction from the Commissioner that managing for a lower goal would reduce the likelihood of recovery.

- An amendment from Mike Wood to reduce 15,000 to 13,500 failed 3-4 (Carpenter, Carlson-Van Dort, Zuray, Svendsen opposed). A subsequent amendment to change 15,000 to 14,250 passed 4-3 (Wood, Wood, Carpenter, Godfrey in favor). Carlson-Van Dort, Zuray, and Svendsen opposed plan adoption due to reduction in goal.

Assessment of Action

- The Board of Fisheries adopted a stock-of-concern action plan for Kenai late-run kings that reduced fishery impacts to low levels until such time as the stock is delisted. This is one of the most conservative action plans ever adopted for a stock-of-concern in Alaska. The action plan will remain in effect for a minimum of three years until the next in-cycle Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Board of Fish meeting.
- The Kenai River sport fishery for kings was closed by regulation.
- The commercial set gillnet fishery was closed when escapement is not projected to achieve minimum goals. Up to eight, 8-hour fishing periods may be allowed when the minimum goal is projected to be achieved. There is no opportunity for liberalization beyond eight periods for the duration of this plan unless the commissioner chooses to exercise his authority to go outside the plan.
- The limited setnet fishery also included a series of innovations focused on units of gear allowed, as well as net length and depth intended to increase selectivity for sockeye and reduce interception of kings.
- The Board reduced the escapement goal from the current OEG of 15,000 to 30,000 to a recovery goal of 14,250-30,000.
- The setnet fishery will fish even when the sport fishery for kings is closed.
- The Board also created a provision for a NEW commercial gear type to include dip nets in lieu of set gillnets in an effort to test the concept and reduce king bycatch. This fishery could be used in the 2024 season.
- It is difficult to reconcile a reduction in the escapement targets in order to increase commercial fishing opportunity with the stock of concern listing and critical low levels of abundance and productivity of Kenai kings.

Committee of the Whole – Group 2: Northern Cook Inlet Subsistence, Northern District Commercial, Smelt, and Susitna River Sport and Personal Use Fisheries (29 proposals). MSBFWC members Pete Probasco, Andy Couch, Larry Engel, Howard Delo, Kendra Zamzow Maija DiSalvo and Mac Minard participated.

Committee met on 2.28.24. Mat Su Borough developed [RC 151](#) to amend Proposal 207 to clarify king salmon management targets and establish a historically appropriate king salmon target of 1,500 in the Northern District Set net fishery.

On Thursday 2.29.24 the Board deliberated Group 2: Northern Cook Inlet Subsistence, Northern District Commercial, Smelt, and Susitna River Sport and Personal Use Fisheries. Outcomes on all deliberated proposals are listed below.

Assessment of Actions

- The MSBFWC submitted an amendment to Proposal 207, suggesting changes to the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan that was not considered due to procedural issues with the board member submitting the amendment.
- On Proposal 206, the Board voted to lower the Northern District Setnet king salmon cap from 12,500 to 4,500 king salmon. MSBFWC recommended a cap of 1,500 based on evaluation of 30-year and recent 10-year average harvests. The 4,500 fish cap, selected by the Board, had no basis in prior performance and will be applicable between May 25 through June 24.
- For the 2024 season the Susitna River drainage sport king salmon fishery, Little Susitna River sport king salmon fishery, and the northern District commercial king salmon seasons will all likely be closed before the season starts, because of a poor projected 2024 king salmon return.

Committee of the Whole – Group 3: Cook Inlet Areawide Sport Fisheries, Knik River Area Sport Fisheries, and Anchorage Area Sport and Personal Use Fisheries (24 Proposals).

Committee met on Monday 2.26.24 and Mat Su Commission members and Mac Minard participated based on the submitted comments.

Deliberation on Proposals for the Committee of the Whole Group 3. Cook Inlet Areawide Sport fisheries took place on Tuesday 2.27.24.

Assessment of Actions

The Board of Fish made decisions concerning 23 of the approximately 186 fishing regulation proposals. Highlighted below are actions concerning proposals that the MSBFWC commented on or had an interest.

- Proposal 237 - Bow Fishing for Northern Pike in Palmer - Wasilla Zone flowing waters. This allows bow and arrow and spear fishing for northern pike and blackfish year-round in Palmer - Wasilla Zone flowing waters.
- Proposal 245 - Additional Days of Fish Creek Salmon Fishing. The portion of Fish Creek near Knik Goose-Bay Road, and open to sport salmon fishing, will now be open 7 days per week starting June 15 — July 14, and from the second Saturday in August - December 31.
- Proposal 234 - With substitute language, updated the boundaries of the Palmer - Wasilla Zone and allows northern pike fishing year-round in flowing waters between the Little Susitna River and Susitna River.
- Proposal 236 — Adds six lakes to the stocked lakes list where anglers may harvest larger limits of stocked fish.
- Proposal 246 — Will expand the list of waters where anglers may use 5 lines when ice fishing for northern pike.
- Proposal 250 — Sport fishing for king salmon will now be allowed year-round in the portion of Ship Creek open to salmon fishing.
- Proposal 251 - Closes Eklutna River drainage to coho and sockeye salmon fishing until populations can rebound to sustainable levels.
- Proposal 247 - Will prohibit the practice of chumming in Big, Mirror, and Flat Lakes from November 1 - April 30.
- Proposal 248 - Restricts Big Lake Arctic char to catch-and-release year-round in the Fish Creek drainage.
- Proposal 244 - Redefined Fish Creek near Knik Goose-Bay Road to include all waters within 1/4-mile radius of its confluence with Knik Arm.
- Proposal 249 — by ADF&G removed outdated regulation language.

Committee of the Whole – Group 4: Stock of Concern – Kenai River Late Run King Salmon Management Plan, Kenai River King Salmon, Upper Cook Inlet Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Plan (46 Proposals)

- The MSBFWC elected to not address this group of proposals.

Committee of the Whole – Group 5: Sockeye Salmon Management Plans (8 Proposals)

- The MSBFWC elected to not address this group of proposals.

Committee of the Whole - Group 6: Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, Fishing Districts and Gillnet Specifications and Operations, Pink Salmon Management Plan, Hatchery Production, Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan, West Cook Inlet Salmon (25 Proposals) – Pete Probasco, Andy Couch, Larry Engel, Howard Delo, Kendra Zamzow and Mac Minard participated.

The Board deliberated Group 6 on Monday March 4, 2024. The Mat Su effort to bring forward a super exclusive registration area [RC200](#) and remand the drift gillnet fishery to the expanded harvest corridors stimulated some very good discussions.

Assessment of Actions

- No repeal of intent language placing sport and guided sport as priority fisheries for king and coho salmon. (Proposals 121, 125).
- No loss in the 1% rule and affirmation by the Commissioner to use harvest number from the EEZ in calculating the application of the 1% rule. (Proposals 122, 123, 124).
- No increase in drift fishing opportunity in drift area 1 or 2, all proposals to do so were defeated. We are thankful to Commissioner Vincent-Lang for his assurance that he will not allow commercial fishing in those areas at least for the next two years. This assurance on the record effectively guarantees the utility of the Conservation Corridor at least for the next two or three years, this can be considered a temporary “win”.
- Proposal 125 was amended by Board Chair John Wood, to allow additional fishing time and area in Drift Area 3 (west side) for coho. MSBFWC opposed this action.
- Proposal 136 closed areas to commercial fishing by prohibiting commercial drift fishing within 1 mile of mouth of Silver Salmon and Shelter creeks. MSBFWC supported this proposal.

Committee of the Whole – Group 7: Kasilof King Salmon Sport Fisheries, Vessel and Habitat Restrictions, and Guides (15 Proposals)

The Committee of the whole met on March 3, 2024 and was deliberated on March 4, 2024.

- The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission elected to not address this group of proposals.

Committee of the Whole- Group 8: Kenai, Kasilof, and Russian River – Sport and Personal Use (39 Proposals)

The Committee of the whole met on March 3, 2024 and was deliberated on March 4, 2024.

- The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission elected to not address this group of proposals.

VIII. Evaluation of Goals

The MSBFWC team went into the Board meeting with six goals that guided their policy and involvement. The overarching goal was to protect all previous gains that had been achieved in the past and particularly those related to passage of fish to the Northern District.

The looming and unknown impacts of the Federally managed Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are real and informed the MSBFWC comments and involvement.

The following is an assessment of those goals.

1) Long-term salmon conservation and protection of salmon habitat.

The MSBFWC were the leaders in the discussion of the threat that the EEZ presents to state managed fisheries. Having Commission member Kendra Zamzow attending the Council meetings, and bringing her knowledge to the topic, was cornerstone in our communication on this issue. The MSBFWC members wove the uncertainty and call for conservative management due to the threats posed by federal management of the EEZ into all the positions the MSBFWC took. With the exception of late-run Kenai River king salmon action plan, there were no changes in regulations that would have a negative affect on long term salmon conservation and protection of salmon habitat.

2) Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan.

The Conservation Corridor was maintained — There were 17 proposals that sought to diminish or eliminate the conservation corridor in one form or another and the MSBFWC defeated them all. MSBFWC introduced [RC228](#) to confine the Drift Gillnet fleet to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof terminal harvest areas which did not pass, however, assurances from the Commissioner to not fish outside those terminal harvest areas may effectively protect/enhance the Conservation Corridor for the next two to three years. Overall, we protected the important gains made in previous Board of Fisheries meetings and by so doing continued the process of elevating the Northern District fishery issues.

3) Clarify or strengthen conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks of Concern.

This Goal was Met. We defeated several proposals that would have increased exploitation on Northern District king, coho, and sockeye salmon. Additionally, the MSBFWC elevated awareness that king and coho salmon depressed and ought to be listed as stocks of concern. This clearly informed Board member decisions.

4) Increase inriver returns of coho and sockeye salmon to Northern Cook Inlet systems.

There was little progress on this goal — as measured by board action. The MSBFWC softly supported-in-concept Northern District Salmon Management Plan proposals 212, 213, 214 — each of which sought to adjust shared surplus salmon harvest opportunities between commercial and inriver users of Northern Cook Inlet. All were rejected by the board with votes of 0-5 for 212, 1-4 for 213, and 1-4 for 214.

MSBFWC also supported Proposal 137 which would establish one-state mile commercial fishing closure areas from the terminus of Susitna River and Little Susitna River. ADF&G comment was opposed as was Board vote 1-5.

MSBFWC softly supported Proposal 210 requiring the Northern District commercial fishery be managed partially based on the abundance of king salmon, coho salmon, and sockeye salmon counted through Little Susitna River Weir — with stipulations concerning when the commercial fishery could fish within one state mile of the Little Susitna River channel and terminus with saltwater. This proposal was amended to remove management based on sockeye salmon and also to remove king and coho salmon abundance stipulations as to when the commercial fishery could fish within one mile of Little Susitna River. After amendment the proposal was adopted unanimously 5-0-0.

Although the MSBFWC proposed closure of Drift Area 1 and Drift Area 2 did not pass, the Commissioner committed to not fishing in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof areas for the next two or more years. Additionally, the MSBFWC effectively argued against any increases in commercial fishing time that would have impacted Northern bound salmon.

5) Adjust existing king salmon management plan and strategies to more adequately address conservation concerns for king salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet drainages.

Little Significant Progress. MSBFWC softly supported Northern District King Salmon Management Plan Proposal 205 (closed waters from the Wood Chip Dock to Susitna River), 206 (Reduce king salmon cap to 2,000 fish), 208 (Adjusted paired harvest closures of sport / commercial fisheries), and supported-in-concept 207 (% harvest cap and adjusted paired sport / commercial restrictions).

The Board passed proposal 206 with a 4,500 fish cap (John Wood Amendment) rather than the 2,000 fish cap called for in the proposal or the 1,500 fish cap suggested by MSBFWC (substitute language RC 151 —procedurally not allowed). Wood Amendment passed 5-0.

The only proposals addressing the Northern District Salmon Management plan, that would have affected king salmon were ones to remove/repeal management plan language that affirms the need to provide for sport and guided sport uses and allow additional fishing time in the Northern District setnet fishery. The MSBFWC found

these proposals to be in contradiction with sound management practices and opposed them. Ultimately the Board voted each of them down and in doing so acknowledged the depressed condition of Northern District king salmon stocks.

6) Maintain or extend Personal Use fishing opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing Northern Cook Inlet drainages.

This Goal was Met. There was no loss in personal use opportunity. MSBFWC had submitted proposal 231 would have shifted dates of the Susitna PU fishery and afforded additional PU opportunity. This proposal failed 0-6 and given the conservative posture the Mat Su had taken on other proposals we did not press this issue.

A full summary of Board of Fish action can be found at:
https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2023-2024/uci/soa_uci-2024.pdf

IX. Summary and Recommendations

Summary

The Mat Su was well represented by the members of the MSBFWC and others who made the time to attend. On numerous occasions, Alaska Board of Fisheries members and ADFG staff, commented positively on the informed quality of your collective involvement. You maintained open and honest communications with Board members, staff, stakeholders and members of the public.

This was a particularly difficult meeting given the challenges of sick or absent Board of Fisheries members. An erratic agenda that presented small items first and addressing the larger issues (EEZ) and Central District Drift Gillnet Plans later, made for a challenging and dynamic schedule. Additionally, the public involvement process involving the submission of Record Copies (RC) was new and turned out to be untimely and cumbersome for the public and Board members alike.

The lack of detailed discussion and strategic planning for the issue of Federal management within the EEZ was surprising. The Board adopted a wait and see attitude that was not shared by the MSBFWC. The uncertainty that combined management (Federal and State) presents was central to the Mat Su message.

A positive outcome of this meeting was the Commissioner's pledge that the commercial drift gillnet fishery will be confined to the terminal harvest areas is very significant. This means that the Conservation Corridor will remain an open pipeline for Northern bound salmon, which was a top tier priority for the MSBFWC.

Maintaining the orderly termination of the sockeye fishery driven by the one-percent rule in the drift fisheries along with the use of the Conservation corridor will permit more coho salmon to reach the Northern district waters.

Recommendations

There are three principal areas of execution that make for successful Board of Fisheries outcomes. These are:

Policy – you must have a solid statement of the problem and the policy outcomes to attain them. The MSBFWC is very good at developing policy that is both necessary and sufficient to attain their stated goals and based on decades of fisheries experience.

Politics – it is essential that the “right” Board members are appointed to the Board. These would be people who are interested in addressing the Borough residents’ concerns and willing to work with the MSBFWC to attain stated policy goals. Oddly we did not see this in action at this meeting, there was no clear champion among Board members, for the policy the MSBFWC was advocating. This area also includes political leaders that represent the Borough and fully embrace the policy positions being advocated.

Public Relations (PR) – it is essential that a consistent drip of information be released in a well-planned and executed PR program. This effort generally begins long before the meeting and continues throughout the meeting. Establishing support for the desired policy outcomes and being recognized as the subject matter experts helps drive the media narrative and gain support. This is an essential part of a successful campaign.

1) Policy

- a. Begin preparations for the next Board meeting now. The focus must be to advance conservation and management efforts that lead to viable and robust fisheries in the Northern District waters, sufficient that all users may enjoy historical levels of participation.
- b. Seek stock of concern status for king and coho salmon status for the Northern District where appropriate. This action is governed by the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and requires the Department to provide the status of salmon stocks and identify any salmon stock that present a concern. Currently there are four king salmon stocks listed as stocks of management concern and no coho stocks listed. It can be argued that while they are not stocks of management concern, multiple coho stocks in the Northern District would qualify as stocks of yield concern. Gaining designations for stock of concern status will require a focused effort with the Department and getting them to advance a recommendation to the Board. If this can be done off-cycle (Statewide

finfish meeting) that would open the door to address the Stock of Concern Action Plan (this is where the gains can be made) at the next UCI Board meeting.

- c. Prepare Action Plan Recommendations. The MSBFWC is experienced in this area having successfully navigated the sockeye stock of concern in the past. The Action Plan is the vehicle to institutionalize the conservative measures in fisheries directly impacting Northern bound stocks and to identify key assessment tools that need to be developed or better supported.
- d. Remain focused and involved in the Federal Management program of the EEZ. It cannot be overstated how dangerous this new element can be to the sustainability of Northern district stocks. Maintaining involvement and seeking to influence policy decisions by the Feds and the State remains vitally important.
- e. Develop proposals that advance the Northern District interests in getting fish into the watershed with the overarching goal of rebuilding sustainable fisheries at historical levels and accompanying opportunity for personal use and sport fisheries.

2) Politics

- a. Actively work for Board of Fisheries appointments that will be sensitive and supportive of the Borough policy positions. This requires engagement in the process early and working with policy makers and people of influence to accomplish the task. Success at the Board of Fisheries requires four votes and it is important to actively cultivate that level of support.
- b. Engage with local leaders and legislators to make them aware of and supportive of the policy positions of the MSBFWC. Developing the fairness and economic arguments would be logical topics to build from.
- c. Seek out partnerships with others to grow the political support needed to advance policy. For example, maintain/increase the frequency of communications with KRSA and the Mat Su AC over the interim to ensure that policies and proposals are in sync with each other. A mutually supportive coalition is critical to maintaining the gains in salmon conservation and advancing new policy.

3) Public Relations

- a. Continue to budget for and commit resources to a “right-sized” Public Relations (PR) effort. This effort continues to address the lead up to the meeting, coverage during the meeting, and the follow up to the meeting.

This effort would logically start six to nine months in advance and be used to garner support for the policy direction the MSBFWC seeks to advance.

- b. A strategic PR campaign that positions MSBFWC as the subject matter and policy experts will allow you to manage the messaging and gain public support. This campaign should cover all outlets of media coverage.
- c. Cultivate relations with leaders of the business community. Businesses within the Borough will benefit from the goals of the Commission and would logically support the Mat Su positions relative to the fisheries. Having representatives of the business community as part of the team going forward will demonstrate the broad positive impacts that additional fish in the Northern district provide.
- d. Develop stories of locals satisfying their food budgets without having to travel long distances. These are powerful and links the importance of the MSBFWC efforts to real outcomes and people. An example is the coverage that was given to the Susitna dipnet fishery last summer. Positive examples linked back to the MSBFWC successful efforts before the Board of Fisheries.
- e. Continue to report out Borough efforts to protect, enhance and improve habitat. Habitat preservation and restoration is a hallmark of the Mat Su Borough. It is powerful testimony to a long-term commitment to healthy fisheries and sets the MSBFWC apart from other advocacy groups in a very positive manner.
- f. Consider another field trip to the Susitna hosted by the Borough. This can be incredibly important in laying a foundation for Board members to understand the area the issues and the people and to develop personal relationships with MSBFWC members. I believe this was done prior to the 2020 meeting and paid dividends. Perhaps a forum with affected business owners (guides, hotels, restaurants, sporting goods) could be worked in to such a trip.

Appendix A

RCs Submitted on Behalf of Mat Su Fish and Wildlife Commission

RC Number	Submitted By	Subject
PC 138	Mat Su	It Takes Fish to Make Fish
RC 25 & 26	Mat Su	Proposal Comments
RC065	Andy Couch	Public Testimony
RC046	Gabe Kitter	Public Testimony
RC047	Howard Delo	Public Testimony
RC048	Jim Sykes	Public Testimony
RC055	Kendra Zamzow	Public Testimony
RC056	Larry Engle	Public Testimony
RC054	Maija DiSalvo	Public Testimony
RC049	Pete Probasco	Public Testimony
RC 144		Cook Inlet North District June King
	Andy Couch	Fishery Policy
RC200	Mat Su	Mat Su Borough Proposed Amendment to Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan
RC228	Mat Su	Mat Su Borough Amendment to Proposal 127

Re: Estimated Date for Final UCI Salmon Harvest Results

From Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

Date Thu 11/20/2025 8:30 AM

To Lipka, Colton G (DFG) <colton.lipka@alaska.gov>

Awesome, thanks for the update, Colton!

The commission did talk about scheduling our annual meeting at our last meeting (Nov 13), and I believe the conclusion was that the group thought a summary report would be most fruitful once the genetic studies were also available, along with the harvest reports. Thus, I anticipate a meeting request to you and others will likely be around Feb-Mar, or whenever the genetics are ready.

Thanks!

Paul Clark
Long Range Planner
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
907-861-8556 (desk)
907-795-3984 (mobile)

From: Lipka, Colton G (DFG) <colton.lipka@alaska.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 1:53 PM

To: Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

Subject: RE: Estimated Date for Final UCI Salmon Harvest Results

[**EXTERNAL EMAIL** - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Hello Paul,

We are doing error checking on fish tickets now but getting towards the end, at which point the numbers usually don't move much into the future. All harvest numbers we give until the AMR is published are considered preliminary. We will start on the report soon but we likely won't have that published for a while. Publications is a slow process and it is a large report.

We are preparing staff comments for the BOF process this year that will have fish ticket numbers and those will likely be out in February. If the Matsu commission has a specific request, we can facilitate those. We usually have received a list of questions by now and an invite to the December meeting, but we haven't seen that yet and have been wondering if we were not being requested for this year's meeting?

Thank you,
Colton

From: Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Lipka, Colton G (DFG) <colton.lipka@alaska.gov>
Subject: Estimated Date for Final UCI Salmon Harvest Results

You don't often get email from paul.clark@matsugov.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Colton,

I'm a new member of the Mat-Su Borough planning staff, and one of my tasks is to support the Fish & Wildlife Commission. For our Dec 11 meeting, I wanted to ask **when you think the final 2025 salmon harvest results will be ready?** I saw the preliminary results are out, and I'll be sure to include that .pdf in our meeting packet.

Thanks!

Paul Clark
Long Range Planner
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
907-861-8556 (desk)
907-795-3984 (mobile)

2025 Summary

COOK INLET SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREAS

Northern Cook Inlet, Northern Kenai Peninsula, and Lower Cook Inlet

Northern Cook Inlet Management Area

King Salmon

Greater Susitna River/ Knik Arm Area

Below average escapements since 2012 have resulted in preseason and inseason restrictions and closures on the Susitna and Little Susitna River drainages. 2025 marks the sixth year of king salmon management under four stock-based goals set on the Susitna River drainage (Deshka, Yentna, Eastside, and Talkeetna). The preseason forecast for Deshka River king salmon was for a total run of 5,208 king salmon. Given a forecast below the low end of the BEG and that the escapement goal was missed in 2024, the Deshka king salmon fishery started the 2025 season closed as did fisheries within the Talkeetna, Yentna, Little Susitna, and Eastside Susitna areas. Escapement goals for all systems were missed in 2025.

Westside Susitna Tributaries

The BEG for the Deshka River of 9,000 - 18,000 king salmon was not achieved in 2025 despite the sport fishery remaining closed throughout the season. High water prevented weir install until June 13th. The estimated portion of king salmon missed from June 1-13 is approximately 101 fish. The final weir count was 1,690 king salmon, and adding the estimated missed counts for June 1-13 produces a season total of 1,791 fish. The age composition of the Deshka Chinook run and forecast for the 2025 season is pending analysis of scale samples collected at the weir.

A complete sonar count was conducted for Lake Creek and aerial escapement surveys were flown in late July on four streams contributing to the Yentna king salmon stock: Talachulitna River, Cache Creek, Peters Creek, and Lake Creek. Assessment of the Yentna OEG of 16,000 – 22,000 is pending data analysis; however, aerial counts were well below average, and the Lake Creek sonar count was similar to 2024.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, closed king salmon fishing in the Susitna River drainage. Gear was restricted to only one unbaited, single hook, with a gap between the point and shank of the hook of ½ inch or less when fishing in Units 1-6 of the Susitna River drainage.

Eastside Susitna and Talkeetna Tributaries

Management decisions effecting Eastside Susitna streams (Units 2, 3, 5, and 6) are based upon postseason aerial surveys over eight streams that are used to estimate run size and escapement of the Eastside (Unit 2 streams along the Parks Highway) king salmon stock and the Talkeetna River stock. Counts for the Eastside stock were successfully conducted on Willow, Deception Creek, North Fork Kashwitna, Little Willow and Montana creeks and Clear, Prairie, Indian, and Portage Creeks, were counted for the Talkeetna stock. Assessment of the Eastside and Talkeetna stock goals is pending data analysis; however, counts on these systems were some of the lowest on record and are not likely to achieve the SEG. A survey count of 289 on the Chulitna River was well below its SEG of 1,200 – 2,900 fish.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, closed king salmon fishing on Eastside Susitna (Unit 2), the Talkeetna River (Unit 5), and the Chulitna river (Unit 6). Gear was restricted to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure with a gap between the point and shank of the hook of ½ inch or less.

Knik Arm

The SEG for the Little Susitna River is 2,100 - 4,300 king salmon as assessed by weir or 700 - 1,500 fish as assessed by post season aerial survey. The Little Su weir location was moved from river mile 32.5 to 39.0 in an effort to collect data for complete seasonal counts at a location less prone to flooding. In 2025, the use of sonar at the Little Susitna Public Use Facility was explored as an alternative to weir counts and the data collected is currently being evaluated. The sport fishery was closed by emergency order pre-season. The aerial survey count was 437 king salmon which was below the aerial survey goal of 700-1,500 fish.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, closed king salmon fishing in the Little Susitna River drainage. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure with a gap between the point and shank of the hook of ½ inch or less in the waters normally open to king salmon fishing.

West Cook Inlet

Sport fisheries on the Chuitna, Theodore, Lewis, and the Beluga rivers drainages are closed by regulation. An aerial survey was conducted on the Chuitna River in which 490 king salmon were counted, well below the SEG of 1,000 – 1,500 fish. The survey of the Theodore River had only 30 king salmon in 2025, down from 33 kings in 2024.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, closed king salmon fishing in all West Cook Inlet streams north of Cape Douglas and not already closed by regulation.

Sockeye Salmon

Susitna Tributaries

A weir was operated to count sockeye salmon escapement into Larson Lake, which drains into the Talkeetna River via Larson Creek (Susitna drainage) as well as a weir on Chelatna Lake (Lake Creek headwaters). A weir on Judd Lake (Talachulitna River) was not operated this year due to budget reductions. On Larson Creek, the sport fishery, which occurs at the confluence of Larsen Creek and the Talkeetna River, is in relatively close proximity to the weir, allowing for timely inseason management of the fishery. Water levels were favorable toward consistent daily fish passage and fishing success throughout the season. The Larson Creek SEG of 15,000 - 35,000 sockeye salmon was achieved with a final count of 32,904 fish within the SEG range. The Chelatna SEG of 20,000 – 45,000 sockeye salmon was achieved with a final count of 59,987 fish over the SEG.

A Susitna River personal use dip net fishery was implemented by the Board of Fisheries in 2020 to take place on the lower Susitna River from a point located approximately one mile below the old Susitna Station, downstream to the Alexander Creek turnoff/tip of Bell Island. This fishery is remote and only accessible by boat or short field performance aircraft capable of landing on gravel bars. The fishery is part of the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery management plan and occurs each Saturday and Wednesday between 6:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. from July 10 through July 31. This was the fifth year of this fishery. Fishing effort mostly mirrored last season with relatively low participation. Fishing success was reported as poor to fair each period through the end of July.

Management Actions

- An inseason emergency order was issued on August 13 to increase the sockeye salmon bag limit to 6 per day in Larson Creek.

Knik Arm

A weir was operated on Fish Creek to assess escapement and as a tool to manage the personal use dip net fishery. The SEG for Fish Creek is 15,000 - 45,000 sockeye salmon. By management plan, a personal use dip net fishery may be opened by emergency order between July 15 and July 31, if the escapement can be projected to be above 35,000 fish. The dip net fishery was opened on July 23 for 9 days. Positive dipnetting reports combined with a strong run suggests harvest estimates may be average to above average (5-yr mean harvest of 25,000 salmon; 22,500 sockeye salmon). The weir was successfully operated through the duration of the run, in which 42,616 sockeye salmon were counted, and sport fishing was open 7 days a week per regulation.

Management Actions

- On July 23, the Fish Creek Personal Use Dip Net Fishery was opened for all salmon species, except king salmon through July 31.
- An inseason emergency order was issued on August 9 to increase the sockeye salmon bag limit to 6 per day in Fish Creek.

Coho Salmon

Susitna Tributaries

Coho salmon monitoring within the Susitna River only occurs in the Desha River. Low water conditions on the Desha River slowed the coho salmon run into August. Water levels rose to a flash flood event on August 29th at the historic 98% of the run. Flooding then prevented counting fish at the Desha River weir after the weir flooded and minor damages sustained, the weir was removed. 3,869 coho were counted failing to achieve the SEG of 10,200 – 24,100 fish. This count should be considered a minimum but likely did not exceed 4,000 based on historical run timing. Due to the low counts, a series of emergency orders were issued to reduce the harvest of coho salmon.

Management Actions

- On August 15, the bag limit for coho salmon was reduced to one fish and bait prohibited in the Desha River.
- On August 21, the Desha River was closed to retention of coho salmon.

Knik Arm

The Little Susitna weir was installed in time for coho counts on July 23. Similar to the Desha River, the water conditions were extremely low which slowed the coho salmon run. The run progressively stalled, and the fishery was restricted to a harvest of one fish and no bait beginning August 15th. The counts failed to project meeting the necessary escapement and was closed to the retention of coho on August 21st. The weir count was 4,553, which failed to achieve the SEG of 9,200-17,700. From August 30 through September 1, high water prevented counting due to safety reasons. The weir withstood flood damage in the new location. The weir was pulled September 10 and the coho salmon count considered complete.

Fish Creek weir operated for the full coho salmon season and remained fully operational. The SEG of 1,200 – 6,000 fish was attained with a final count of 3,398 fish. Water conditions did not influence coho salmon passage.

Jim Creek weir operated for the full season. Low warm water slowed coho salmon passage through most of August and some mortality of coho and sockeye salmon were observed. Several of these fish have been sent to pathology for further fish health analyses which is pending at this time. Water temperatures cooled and fish passage improved at about the quarter point of the historical run. The SEG for Jim Creek of 250 - 700 coho salmon is assessed post season by a foot survey of McRoberts Creek, a small spawning tributary within the Jim Creek system. A survey conducted on September 25 counted 482 coho salmon, within the goal range.

Management Actions

- On August 15, the bag limit for coho salmon was reduced to one fish and bait prohibited in the Little Susitna River.
- On August 21, the Little Susitna River was closed to retention of coho salmon.

West Cook Inlet

Coho salmon escapement is not monitored on West Cook Inlet (WCI) area streams and ADF&G must rely on trends in harvest and angler effort taken from the Statewide Harvest Survey and reports from anglers and guides when assessing these stocks. Sport fishing success was reportedly good for the 2025 season.

- No management actions were implemented during the 2025 sport fishing season.

Northern Kenai Peninsula Management Area

King Salmon

Kenai River - Early Run

The outlook for the early-run of Kenai River king salmon in 2025 was below average, with a large fish (>75 cm mid eye to tail fork length or approximately >34 inches in total length) forecast of 1,531 fish. The 2025 forecasted total run was less than the optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 3,900 – 6,600 large fish which, by regulation, starts the sport fishery closed. The total estimated passage through June 30, 2025, at the river mile 14 sonar was 2,541 large king salmon. With the fishery closed and no other harvest, the preliminary spawning escapement estimate and the total inriver run estimate are also 2,541 large king salmon. This run was the largest since 2021 but was still poor and ranked 7th out of the past 12 years. Using length as a surrogate for age, the run was predominately composed of age-4 fish (48%), followed by age-2 fish (36%), age-3 fish (10%), and age-5 fish (6%). The mid-point of the run occurred on June 13, which is exactly on time when compared to the historical mid-point.

Neither the OEG nor the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) were achieved in 2025. The OEG has not been achieved in the last 4 consecutive years.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, king salmon fishing was closed from the Kenai River mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake until June 30.

Table 1. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest, and escapement, Kenai River early-run king salmon (≥ 750 mm) fishery, 2025.

Escapement Goal Range	3,900 – 6,600 large king salmon (≥ 75 cm)
Total Catch ^a	0
Total Harvest ^a	Below sonar =0; Above sonar =0; Total =0
Sonar Estimate In-River	2,541
Preliminary Escapement	~ 2,541

^aLower River (below Soldotna Bridge).

Kenai River - Late Run

The outlook for the late-run of Kenai River king salmon in 2025 was well below average, with a large king salmon (>75 cm mid eye to tail fork length) forecast of approximately 8,742 fish. The 2025 forecasted total run was less than the recovery goal of 14,250 – 30,000 fish so the fishery started closed. The total estimated passage through August 21, 2025, at the river mile 14 sonar was 15,641 large king salmon and the preliminary escapement is 15,641 large fish. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 28, which is one day later than the mean historical mid-point. The OEG and the Stock of Concern rebuilding goal (14,250-30,000) were both achieved in 2025. The SEG has been achieved in three of the last seven years. This is the first time the lower bound of the OEG has been achieved since it was created in 2020. Using length as a proxy for age, the predominate age classes for all sizes of fish are the ocean-age 3 (43%), ocean-age 4 (34%), ocean-age 1 fish (13%), and ocean-age 2 (10%).

Management Actions

- In accordance with the Kenai River Late-Run Stock of Concern management plan, the late-run king sport fishery remained closed for the entire season.

Table 1. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest, and escapement, Kenai River late-run king salmon (≥ 75 cm) fishery, 2023.

Escapement Goal Range	14,250 – 30,000 large king salmon (≥ 75 cm)
Total Catch ^a	0
Total Inriver Harvest ^a	Below sonar =0; Above sonar =0; Total =0
Sonar Estimate In-River	15,015
Preliminary Escapement ^b	Approximately 15,641

^a Lower River (below Soldotna Bridge).

^b Includes estimate of king salmon that spawn downstream of sonar.

Kasilof River

In June 2025, approximately 78,836 king salmon smolt were stocked into Crooked Creek to augment natural production and enhance recreational sport fishing opportunity in the Kasilof River. The wild component of the Crooked Creek early-run king salmon return is managed to achieve a SEG of 700 – 1,400 king salmon 20” or greater in length. The estimated escapement of wild (naturally-produced) king salmon was 305 fish which failed to achieve the SEG for the 3rd consecutive year. The egg take goal for future stocking of Crooked Creek was 33 pairs of naturally-produced king salmon of which 25 pairs were spawned in 2025.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, the early-run king salmon bag and possession limits were restricted to two hatchery-produced fish, 20 inches or greater in length in the Kasilof River drainage. The retention of naturally-produced king salmon was prohibited. The use of bait and multiple hooks was prohibited downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge.
- On July 10, 2025, the king salmon fishery was closed from the mouth of the Kasilof River upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge.

Sockeye Salmon

Kenai River

The 2025 Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) sockeye salmon forecast projected a total run of 6.92 million fish: 4.19 million fish to the Kenai River, 1.24 million fish to the Kasilof River, with the remaining fish being comprised of Susitna River, Fish Creek, and unmonitored systems. Based on the preseason forecast, the sockeye salmon run was managed on the highest tier for runs greater than 4.6 million Kenai River sockeye salmon, with an inriver goal of 1.2 – 1.6 million sockeye salmon. The preliminary inriver sonar passage estimate was 4,252,747 sockeye salmon. Subtracting the recent 10-year average harvest upstream of the sonar (337,820 fish) produces a preliminary escapement estimate of 3,914,927 sockeye salmon, which exceeds the sockeye salmon SEG 750,000–1.30 million fish. Final estimates will be available when the 2025 Statewide Harvest Survey is completed in the fall of 2026.

Management Actions

- On August 16, 2025, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased to six per day and twelve in possession from the Kenai River mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake.

Russian River - Early Run

The escapement goal for Russian River early-run sockeye salmon is a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 22,000 – 42,000 fish. The weir count on July 14, 2023, was 37,153 sockeye salmon and exceeded the lower end of the BEG.

Management Actions

- On July 1, 2025, the Russian River Sanctuary Area opened early for sport fishing.

Russian River - Late Run

The escapement goal for Russian River late-run sockeye salmon is an SEG of 44,000 – 85,000 fish. The final Russian River weir count on September 1, 2025, was 66,591 sockeye salmon, which was within the SEG.

Management Actions

- On July 31, 2025, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased to six per day and twelve in from Skilak Lake upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing (including the Russian River Sanctuary Area) and the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls.

Kasilof River

The forecast for Kasilof River sockeye salmon was 1,240,000 fish. Kasilof River sockeye salmon are managed for a BEG of 140,000 – 320,000 salmon, and an OEG of 140,000 – 370,000 fish. The sockeye salmon sonar enumerated salmon passage through August 9, 2025, with a preliminary estimate of 1,197,471 fish.

Management Actions

- On June 25, 2025, sockeye salmon limits were increased in all portions of the Kasilof River open to salmon fishing to six per day and twelve in possession.

Coho Salmon

Kenai River

Kenai River coho salmon are not monitored for abundance inseason and are managed through angler reporting, observations, and conservative general regulation. Angler reports indicate that coho salmon were showing up in the harvest during the last week of July and catches were reported as fair to good through August and fair into September. September reports generally indicated a mix of angler success from day to day.

Management Actions

- No management actions were taken for coho salmon in 2025.

Personal Use Dip Net Fisheries

Kasilof River and Kenai River

Harvest and participation information for the 2025 season are currently being compiled and will be available this coming winter. The Kasilof River set gill net personal use fishery was closed by emergency order for the first three days of the fishery, to reduce mortality of Kenai River bound king salmon. The Kasilof River dipnet fishery was open by regulation from June 25 through August 7. The area open to dipnetting was expanded by emergency order for the Kasilof fishery on June 25. The Kenai River dipnet fishery opened by regulation on July 10 through July 31, with no retention of king salmon allowed in compliance with the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon. Stock of Concern action plan

Harvest Reports

- Harvest reporting was required to be completed online by August 15. Reminder letters were mailed to permit holders who have not yet returned their harvest record. Estimates of total harvest will be available in January 2026.

Management Actions

- The Kasilof River personal use set gillnet fishery season was reduced by 3 days closing June 15 through June 17.
- On June 25, 2025, the Kasilof River personal use dipnetting area was expanded. Dipnetting from the shore was allowed from ADF&G markers on Cook Inlet beaches upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge and dipnetting from a boat was allowed from ADF&G markers located on Cook Inlet beaches upstream to ADF&G markers at approximately river mile 3 of the Kasilof River.
- On July 18, 2025, The Kenai River personal use dipnet fishery was extended to 24 hours per day.

Lower Cook Inlet Management Area

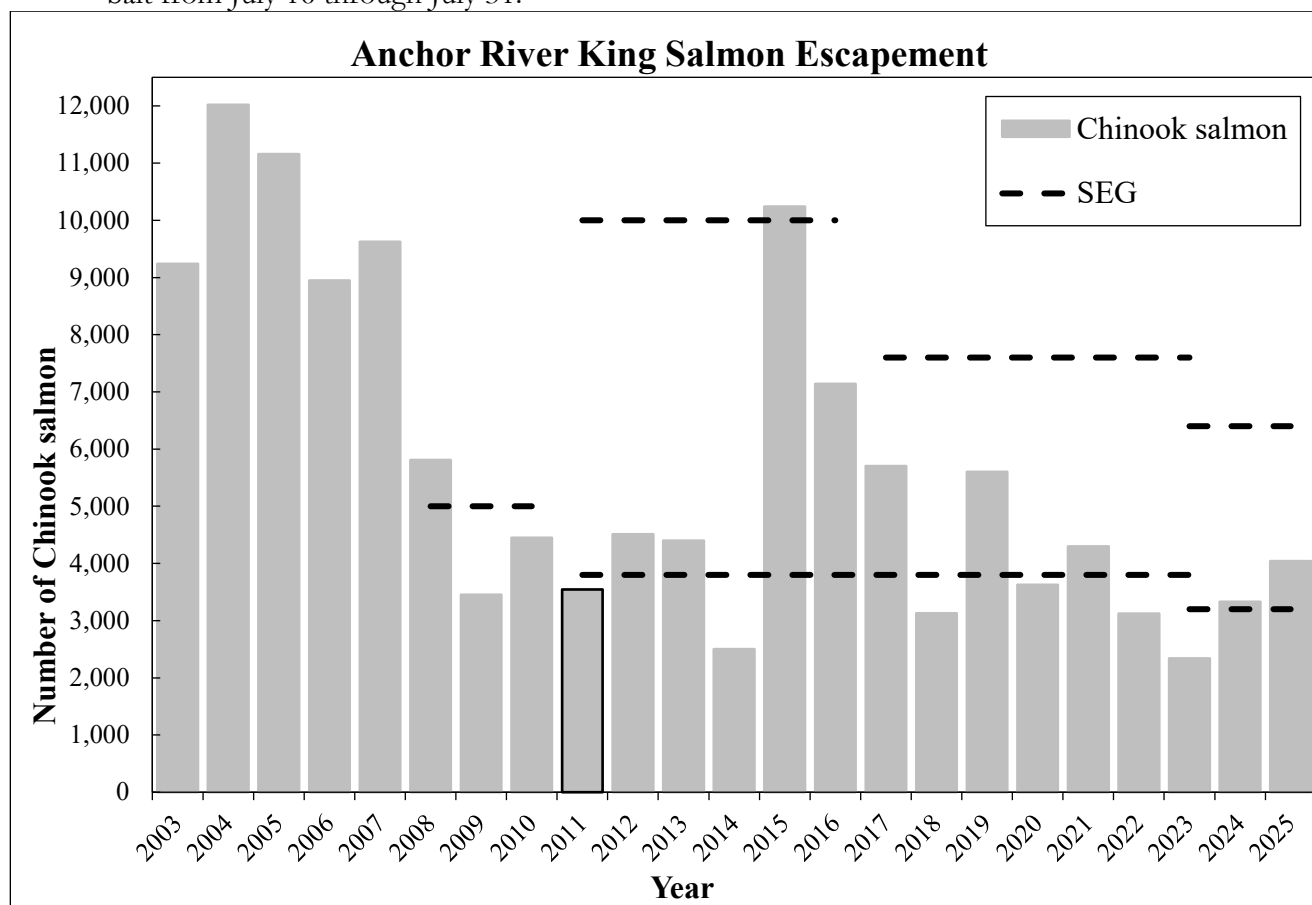
King Salmon

Anchor River

The 2025 preseason inriver forecast of 2,931 king salmon was below the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 3,200-6,400 fish. With this forecast, the inriver sport fishery was closed preseason based on the management plan. King salmon escapement monitoring occurred at approximately one mile upstream of the river mouth. The preliminary escapement estimate was 4,040 fish, which achieved the SEG for the second consecutive year. The cumulative run-timing mid-point (June 29) was similar to the most recent 5-year average but was still substantially later than historical run timing. When the sport fishery was scheduled to open on July 16 for other species, water conditions were low and there were a large number of king salmon staging in the lower river. This triggered an emergency order to restrict gear to single hook artificial lures and prohibited the use of bait in all of the lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams through the end of July. The intention of this action was to reduce the incidental catch of king salmon when targeting other species.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order closed the Anchor River and Deep Creek to all sport fishing through July 15.
- An inseason emergency order restricted gear to single hook artificial lures and prohibited the use of bait from July 16 through July 31.



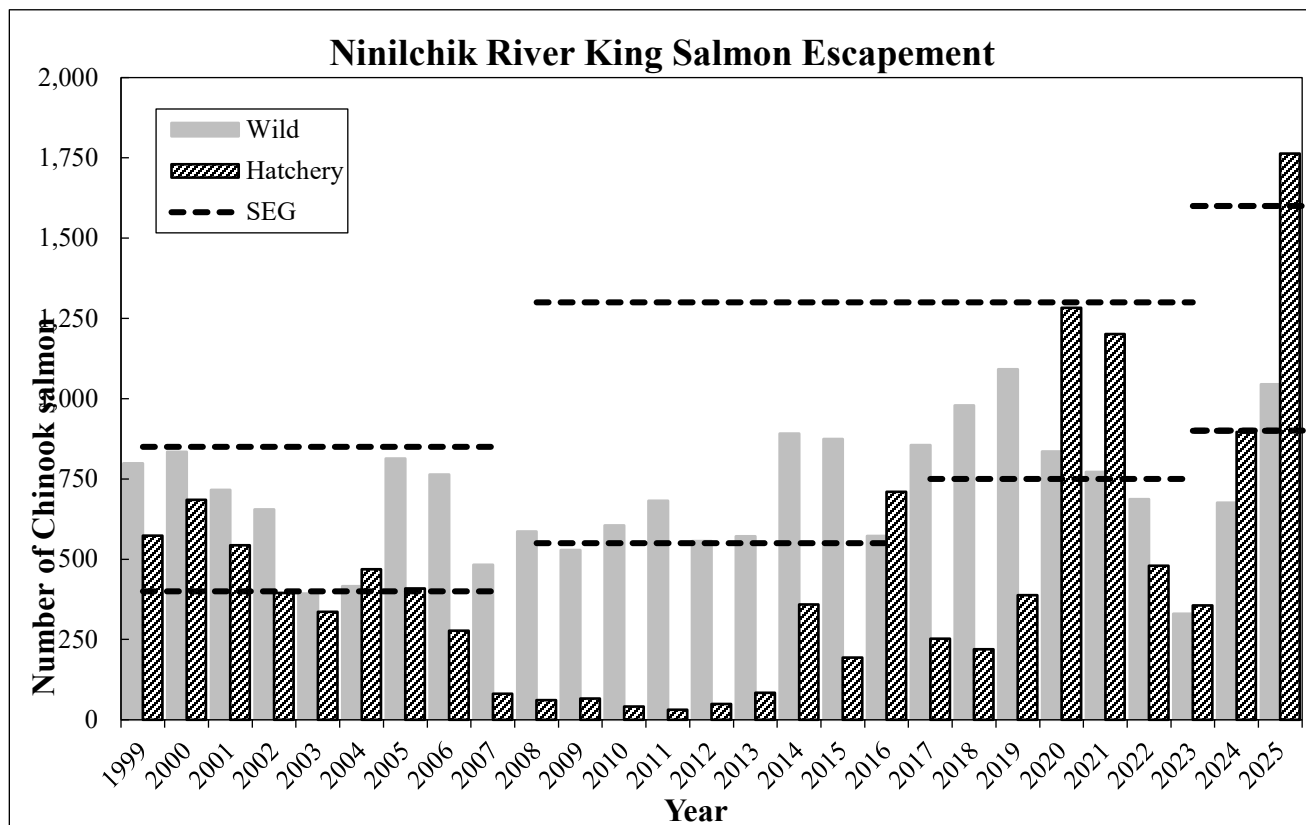
Ninilchik River

No preseason forecast was estimated for the 2025 wild Ninilchik River king salmon run. Preseason actions restricted gear to single hook artificial lures and prohibited the use of bait through the king salmon season. This action was taken based on the recent poor performance toward achieving the SEG. Effort and success generally increased over the weekend openers. The youth-only fishery occurred without many fish in the river, but some youth anglers still caught king salmon. The best fishing of the season occurred at the start of the continuous fishery on June 16. The inseason projection of wild king salmon in late June was projecting not to achieve the SEG so an emergency order was issued to close the river to all sport fishing through July 15. An additional emergency order was issued in mid-July to close the king salmon fishery for the remainder of the year. These actions helped achieve the SEG.

The 2025 Ninilchik River wild king salmon escapement was 1,045 after broodstock removals. The hatchery king salmon count upstream of the sport fishery was 3,374 fish, and after culling of small males and removals for broodstock, the hatchery escapement was 1,763 fish. Broodstock collection at the Ninilchik River met both the wild and hatchery collection goals which will result in stocking the Ninilchik River with 150,000 king salmon smolt in 2026.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order restricted gear to single hook artificial lures and prohibited bait for the king salmon season.
- An inseason emergency order closed the Ninilchik River to all sport fishing through July 15.
- An inseason emergency order closed the king salmon sport fishery for the remainder of the season.



Deep Creek

The sport fishery was closed with preseason restrictions along with the Anchor River based on management actions outlined in the management plan. Deep Creek has a SEG of 350 king salmon and is assessed postseason via a single aerial survey. No survey was conducted in 2025 due to a lack of funding.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order closed the Anchor River and Deep Creek to all sport fishing through July 15.

Marine Fisheries

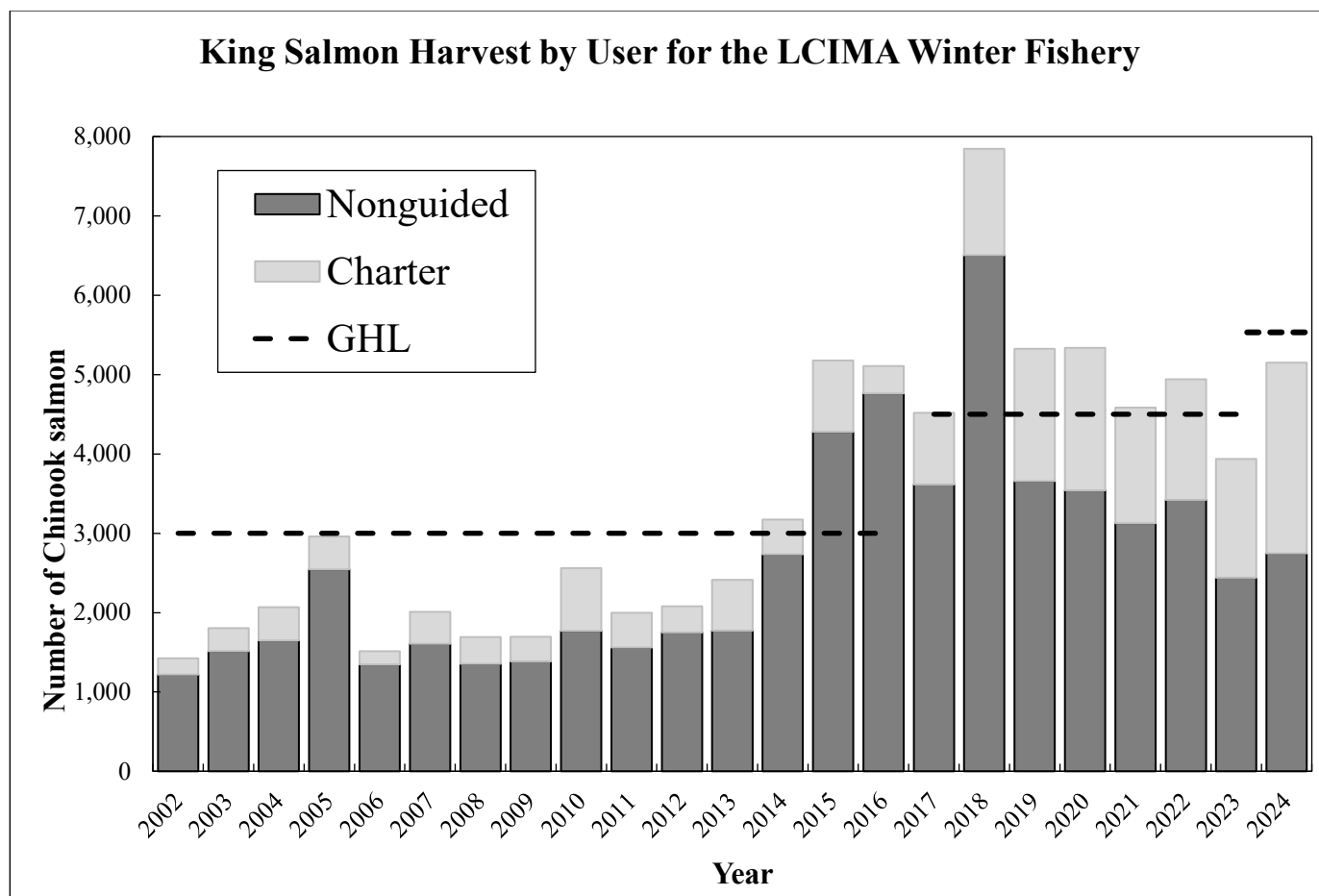
Sport fishing for king salmon in Cook Inlet is structured into the Winter (September 1–March 31) and the Summer (April 1–August 31) Fisheries. The Summer Fishery is separated into two fisheries with the Lower Cook Inlet fishery occurring south of the Bluff Point latitude (lat 59°40.00' N) and the Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) fishery occurring north. There are preseason and inseason management actions within the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery management plan based on forecasts and inseason projections for early-run stocks (Deshka, Kenai, and Anchor Rivers). For early-run stocks, the effective dates for the management actions are May 1 through July 15. This fishery is closed in regulation from June 20 through August 15 in the Kenai River Late Run King Salmon Recovery Plan. In the recovery plan, the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery is closed in regulation from June 20 through August 15. With these plan stipulations, sport fishing for king salmon was closed in UCI from May 1 through August 15. For the Lower Cook Inlet (LCI) Summer Fishery, the bag limit was reduced from two to one king salmon any size in LCI from April 1 through August 31, based on the closure in UCI and anticipated poor returns of Cook Inlet. Additionally, this bag limit reduction was extended through September 15 for all of Cook Inlet salt waters in the Winter Fishery. The bag limit of 1 king salmon from April 1 through September 15 occurred throughout the sport fisheries in northern Gulf of Alaska from Prince William Sound to Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula.

The performance of these fisheries is only assessed postseason with the Statewide Harvest Survey and charter logbook data, and harvest estimates for 2025 will not be available until 2026. For 2024, the SWHS estimates of king salmon harvest for the Summer and Winter Fisheries were all below their GHIs and their respective averages for the past three years.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order closed king salmon fishing in the Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) from May 1 through August 15.
- A preseason emergency order reduced the king salmon bag limit from 2 to 1 fish any size south of Bluff Point from April 1 through August 31.
- A preseason emergency order reduced the king salmon bag limit in all Cook Inlet salt waters during the Winter Fishery from September 1 through September 15.

Lower Cook Inlet Management Area													
Year	UCI Summer			LCI Summer			Winter			Total MA		Overall total	
	Charter	Non-guided		Charter	Non-guided		Charter	Non-guided		Charter	Non-guided		
		guided	Total		guided	Total		guided	Total		guided		Total
2014	1,160	1,379	2,539	2,964	2,095	5,059	438	2,735	3,173	4,562	7,427	11,989	
2015	2,282	1,904	4,186	3,594	4,472	8,066	902	4,277	5,179	6,778	12,737	19,515	
2016	1,962	1,801	3,763	5,335	4,533	9,868	344	4,762	5,106	7,641	12,364	20,005	
2017	1,862	1,294	3,156	5,059	3,628	8,687	903	3,615	4,518	7,824	9,614	17,438	
2018	1,436	1,541	2,977	3,318	3,500	6,818	1,341	6,503	7,844	6,095	12,062	18,157	
2019	1,586	645	2,231	4,246	2,589	6,835	1,667	3,656	5,323	7,499	8,151	15,650	
2020	592	1,188	1,780	4,756	2,319	7,075	1,795	3,540	5,335	7,143	8,002	15,145	
2021	1,315	464	1,779	7,471	3,544	11,015	1,455	3,128	4,583	10,241	8,100	18,341	
2022	1,490	896	2,386	4,534	3,853	8,387	1,520	3,422	4,942	7,544	9,216	16,760	
2023	877	487	1,364	4,211	2,509	6,720	1,497	2,439	3,936	6,301	6,239	12,540	
2024	713	228	941	4,099	1,789	5,888	2,409	2,746	5,155	7,221	5,912	13,133	
Averages													
2002–2013	1,854	1,664	3,485	2,234	2,163	4,397	510	2,433	2,943	5,100	8,522	12,038	
2014–2021	1,524	1,277	2,801	4,593	3,335	7,928	1,106	4,027	5,133	7,223	9,807	17,030	
2022–2024	1,027	537	1,564	4,281	2,717	6,998	1,809	2,869	4,678	7,022	7,122	14,144	



Coho Salmon

Freshwater Fisheries

There are no preseason forecasts and no escapement goals for any coho salmon stocks in the lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams (Anchor and Ninilchik Rivers, Deep and Stariski Creeks). A video weir was operated on the Anchor River to enumerate coho salmon escapement for the entire run. The preliminary escapement count was 4,432 fish, which was similar to the historical average. Coho salmon escapement was also monitored on the Ninilchik River for the first time using a video weir, but the operation ended on September 4. The count was 1,357 coho salmon which likely represented around 50% of the total run based on the Anchor River run timing.

Sport fishing effort was low throughout August on all lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams. Some sport harvest monitoring occurred on the Anchor River in late August to assess the proportion of the total harvest that occurred above the weir. Almost all of the observed coho salmon harvest occurred below the weir. The Statewide Harvest Survey estimates of harvest for these fisheries will not be available until 2025.

Anchor River												
Year	Project Dates	Chinook salmon				Coho salmon				Steelhead		
		Escapement	Harvest	Catch	Rate	Escapement	Harvest	Catch	Rate	Count	Catch	Catch Rate
1987	05 Jul–11 Sep	ND	2,489	NA	--	2,409	2,010	NA	0.45	136	NA	4.7
1988	03 Jul–06 Oct	ND	2,548	NA	--	2,805	2,219	NA	0.44	878	NA	0.2
1989	06 Jul–07 Nov	ND	2,182	NA	--	20,187	2,635	NA	0.12	769	2,066	2.7
1992	04 Jul–02 Oct	ND	8,389	18,994	--	4,596	2,267	4,850	0.33	1,261	4,578	2.2
2003	30 May–9 July	9,238	1,011	4,311	0.10	ND	3,999	12,133	--	ND	3,409	--
2004	15 May–15 Sep	12,016	1,561	5,561	0.11	5,728	4,383	10,194	0.43	20	3,710	--
2005	13 May–09 Sep	11,156	1,432	5,028	0.11	18,977 ^b	5,314	11,639	0.22	107	2,524	--
2006	15 May–24 Aug	8,945	1,394	4,638	0.13	10,181 ^b	3,920	7,634	0.28	4	4,513	--
2007	14 May–12 Sep	9,622	2,081	9,792	0.18	8,226	3,962	9,881	0.33	325	8,365	--
2008	13 May–12 Sep	5,806	1,486	3,245	0.20	5,951	4,790	7,658	0.45	258	8,733	--
2009	12 May–11 Sep	3,455	737	2,296	0.18	2,692 ^b	3,882	6,332	0.59	85	4,119	--
2010	12 May–29 Sep	4,449	364	889	0.08	6,014	2,863	4,799	0.32	586	2,018	3.4
2011	13 May–21 Sep	3,545	573	1,227	0.14	1,866	808	1,275	0.30	132	401	3.0
2012	14 May–3 Aug	4,509	38	189	0.01	ND	1,121	1,548	--	ND	1,833	--
2013	15 May–3 Aug	4,401	97	423	0.02	ND	912	1,360	--	ND	2,246	--
2014	14 May–3 Aug	2,499	203	926	0.08	ND	1,528	2,638	--	ND	3,621	--
2015	10 May–3 Aug	10,241	344	1,159	0.03	ND	2,072	5,070	--	ND	2,892	--
2016	3 May–3 Aug	7,142	1,384	4,232	0.16	ND	651	1,638	--	ND	2,516	--
2017	4 May–4 Aug	5,700	845	2,888	0.13	ND	934	1,912	--	ND	3,010	--
2018	3 May–8 Aug	3,129	40	305	0.01	ND	1,071	1,353	--	ND	2,052	--
2019	7 May–31 Aug	5,603	151	424	0.07	ND	263	538	--	ND	1,368	--
2020	4 May–26 Oct	3,624	364	206	0.15	2,272	1,498	1,910	0.40	552	1,468	2.7
2021	7 May–24 Sept	4,300	0	104	0.00	3,801	742	983	0.16	103	260	2.5
2022	16 May–14 Oct	3,123	0	47	0.00	3,312	356	624	0.10	1,210	857	0.7
2023	16 May–26 Aug	2,338	0	0	0.00	1,487	259	805	--	18	604	--
2024	15 May–31 Oct	3,331	0	0	0.00	2,138	401	487	0.16	1,390	2,870	2.1
2025	21 May–29 Sep	4,040	--	--	--	4,432	--	--	--	522	--	--
Averages												
1987–2009		8,605	2,301	6,733	0.14	7,129	3,580	8,790	0.36	384	4,669	2.5
2010–2022		4,790	339	1,001	0.07	3,453	1,140	1,973	0.26	517	1,888	2.5
2023–2025		3,236	0	0	0.00	2,686	330	646	0.16	643	1,737	2.1

Marine Fisheries

Sport fishing for coho salmon in Cook Inlet was improved from 2024 but was still poor in comparison to other years from late-July through early-September. The Statewide Harvest Survey estimates for this fishery will not be available until 2024.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during 2025 for freshwater and marine coho salmon fisheries.

Terminal Stocked Salmon Fisheries

Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon

In 2025, the stocking goals were not met for king salmon in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (NDFL) on the Homer Spit and the Seldovia Slough due to broodstock collection shortages throughout the region in 2024. Approximately 189,000 and 74,000 king salmon smolt were stocked in NDFL and Seldovia, respectively. The coho stocking goal at NDFL was met with approximately 120,000 smolt. The Statewide Harvest Survey estimates harvest for these fisheries will not be available until 2026. Overall, the king and coho salmon fisheries were below the recent averages. There were not as many king salmon harvested by anglers during the period open to snagging compared to other recent years.

Management Actions

- Snagging was allowed in the NDFL from July 3 through July 6 to harvest the remainder of the king salmon milling in the lagoon prior to coho salmon returning.

Year	Effort		Chinook salmon		Coho salmon	
	Number of Anglers	Angler-days	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch
2014	8,544	20,566	1,060	1,200	9,418	11,315
2015	7,877	17,026	1,766	2,234	2,930	3,402
2016	6,737	13,384	1,033	1,268	1,404	1,901
2017	5,655	12,861	933	1,371	1,313	1,530
2018	7,975	14,183	518	1,186	4,477	4,998
2019	4,680	11,618	1,226	1,830	2,097	2,512
2020	4,238	8,368	906	1,192	1,215	1,585
2021	5,531	10,753	907	1,241	1,381	1,475
2022	5,738	11,856	947	1,063	3,201	4,529
2023	6,832	12,333	372	516	1,378	1,632
2024	5,555	11,397	554	811	269	670
Averages						
1986–2005	10,507	21,416	2,651	4,072	8,065 ^a	10,999
2006–2021	5,893	12,477	947	1,376	2,442	2,999
2022–2024	6,042	11,862	624	797	1,616	2,277

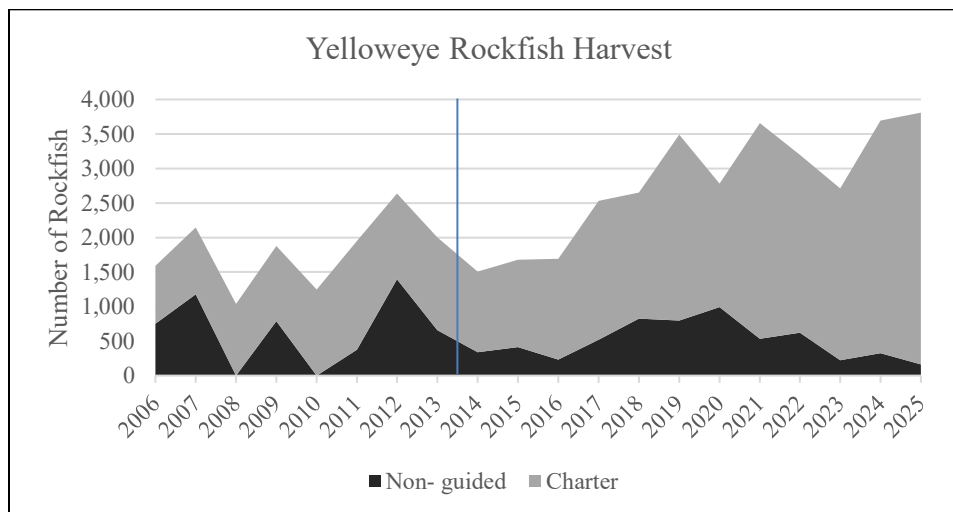
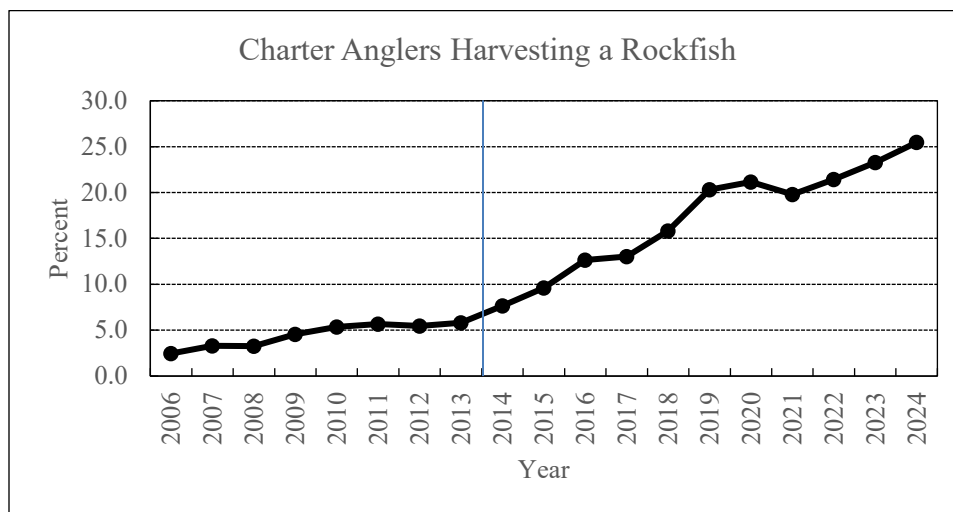
Rockfish

Marine Fisheries

The harvest of rockfish has increased steadily since 2013, and sustainable levels of rockfish harvest are currently unknown. The sport fishery is monitored with harvest data from SWHS and Charter Logbook program and biological data from port sampling program in the Homer Harbor. Preliminary stock assessment work that was reviewed in spring 2025 suggests the sport fishery is harvesting black rockfish at too high of a level. Additionally, the yelloweye rockfish harvest is continuing to increase annually. This resulted in an inseason action to reduce the bag limit. Preliminary 2025 harvest data suggest that the harvest of black rockfish remained similar to the 2024 level and the 2025 yelloweye rockfish harvest increased from 2024.

Management Actions

- An emergency order was issued on May 27 to prohibit the harvest of yelloweye rockfish through June 30 and to restructure the bag limit to 2 pelagic rockfish and 1 nonpelagic rockfish per day.



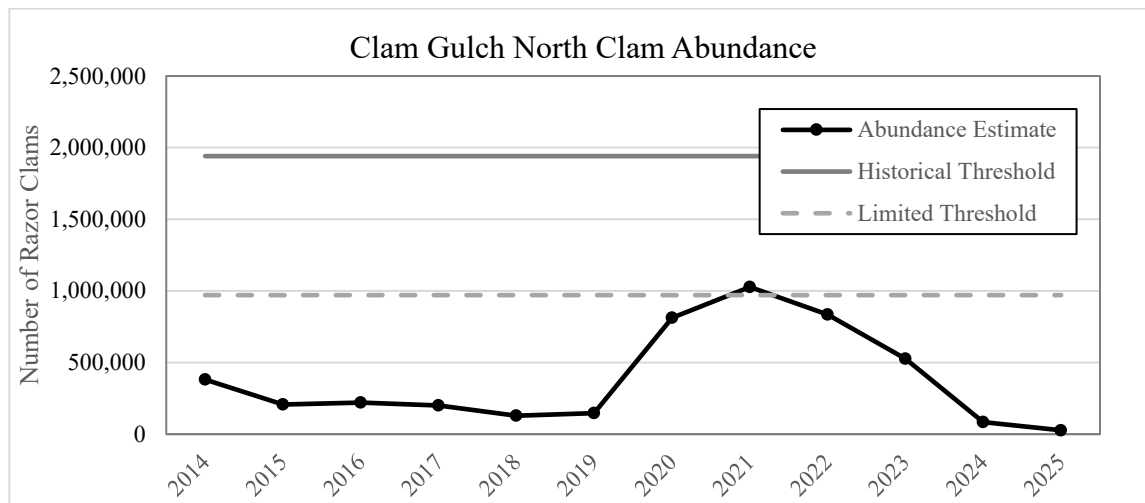
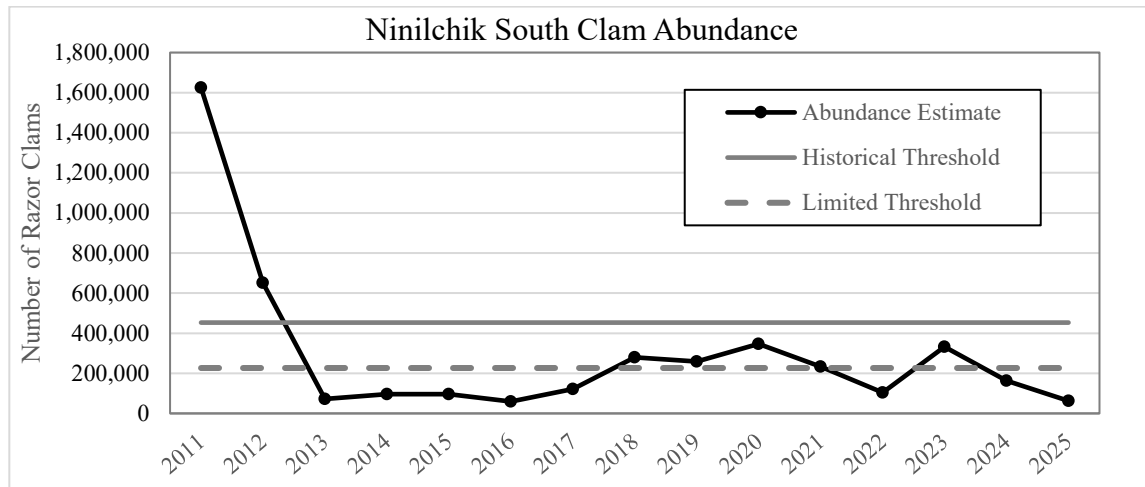
Razor Clams

East

All East Cook Inlet beaches remained closed to sport and personal use clamming for the start of 2025 until abundance surveys could be conducted in the spring. Surveys were conducted in April and May at both Clam Gulch and Ninilchik area beaches. Abundances of adult-sized razor clams at both beaches were below the threshold outlined in the management plan to open the fishery and were at historical lows. Additionally, the abundance of juvenile clams at both beaches were also at historical lows, which suggests that the stock is not rebuilding and won't support harvest opportunities for the next few years.

Management Actions

- The fishery was closed in 2025 based on the stipulations outlined in the management plan.



West

The West Cook Inlet beaches remained open to sport, and personal use clamming in 2025. Harvest estimates for the sport fishery are not available yet, but clambers report good success at Polly Creek and Crescent River Bar areas with larger clams being found at Crescent River Bar.

Management Actions

- The BOF adopted a department proposal to implement a harvest permit starting in 2026.

Tanner Crab

Cook Inlet Tanner Crab

No trawl surveys have been conducted since 2019, so the limited fishery was implemented for this season. Permits are available through ADF&G's online store for the 2025–2026 season. Effort and Tanner crab harvest has been stable in recent years.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented for the 2025-2026 fishery season.
- The BOF adopted a department proposal to change the harvest strategy to allow the standard fishery to open based on the most recent trawl survey instead of a 3-year average.

Tanner Crab Sport Fishery				
Year	Permits Issued	Percent Fished	Kachemak Bay	
			Effort (crabber-days)	Harvest (tanner crab)
2017–2018	1,782	55	3,030	8,010
2018–2019	1,587	62	2,986	8,139
2019–2020	1,327	55	1,537	7,106
2020–2021	1,889	69	1,914	5,458
2021–2022	1,712	72	2,079	5,991
2022–2023	2,396	70	2,449	7,043
2023–2024	2,162	78	2,062	5,821
2024–2025	2,177	69	2,012	5,546
Averages				
2017–2022	1,659	63	2,309	6,941
2022–2024	2,245	72	2,174	6,137

Personal Use Dip Net Fisheries

China Poot Creek

The China Poot Creek personal use dip net fishery does not require a permit for participation. Harvest and effort data available from the SWHS. The Commercial Fish Division conducts weekly foot surveys to count sockeye and pink salmon. Success through most of July was fair to good but not exceptional like other Kenai Peninsula sockeye salmon runs. The success in this fishery is most likely attributed to changes in commercial fishing and cost recovery operations associated with the stocking.

Management Actions

- No management actions occurred in 2025.

FW: Reminder - Deshka Watershed Land Classification Follow-Up

From Joseph Metzger <Joseph.Metzger@matsugov.us>
Date Mon 12/8/2025 2:59 PM
To Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

FYI

From: Joseph Metzger
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 11:24 AM
To: Bill Gamble <Bill.Gamble@matsugov.us>
Cc: Jillian Morrissey <Jillian.Morrissey@matsugov.us>
Subject: RE: Reminder - Deshka Watershed Land Classification Follow-Up

Mr. Gamble,

Looks like the most southern parcel is 12.98 miles as the crow flies to the most up-to-date West Su Access Road route. Please let me know if there is anything else I can assist with.

Thanks,

Joe

Measure Distance

Planar

Miles

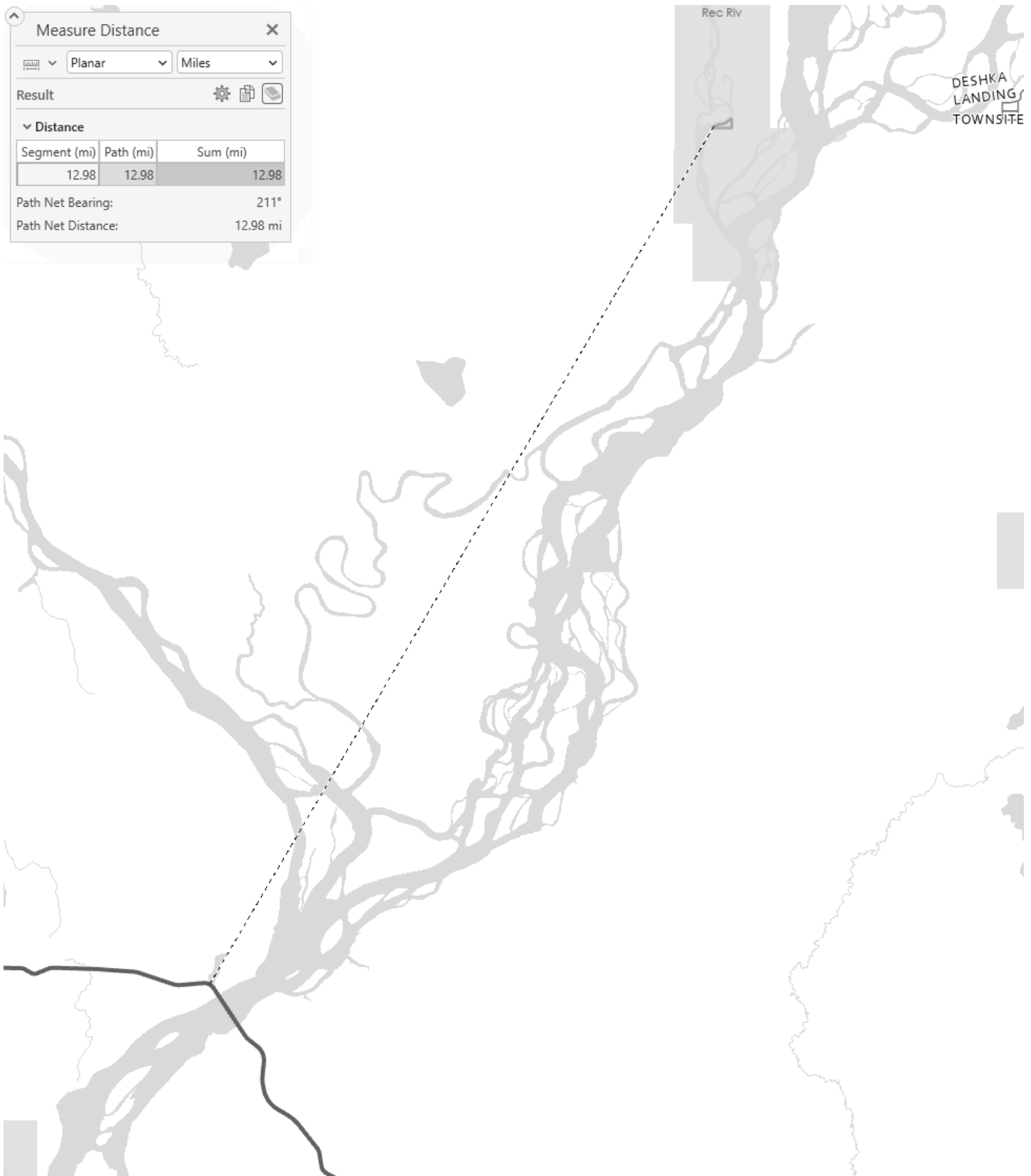
Result

Distance

Segment (mi)	Path (mi)	Sum (mi)
12.98	12.98	12.98

Path Net Bearing: 211°

Path Net Distance: 12.98 mi



From: Joseph Metzger
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Bill Gamble <Bill.Gamble@matsugov.us>
Cc: Jillian Morrissey <jillian.Morrissey@matsugov.us>
Subject: RE: Reminder - Deshka Watershed Land Classification Follow-Up

Good Morning, Mr. Gamble.

I reached out to GIS to confirm the distance of these MSB parcels in relation to the West Su Access road. I'll follow up as soon as I have that information verified. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Joe Metzger – Manager
MSB Community Development
Land & Resource Management Division
907-861-7864
jmetzger@matsugov.us

From: Bill Gamble <Bill.Gamble@matsugov.us>
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 5:49 PM
To: Joseph Metzger <Joseph.Metzger@matsugov.us>
Cc: Jillian Morrissey <Jillian.Morrissey@matsugov.us>
Subject: Fwd: Reminder - Deshka Watershed Land Classification Follow-Up

Good evening, Joe.

Could you take a look at the attached map identifying MSB parcels the FWC would like to designate as "Watershed" properties and let me know if any of them are close to the proposed West Susitna Access Road?

Thank you

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>
Date: November 18, 2025 at 11:48:17 AM AKST
To: Bill Gamble <Bill.Gamble@matsugov.us>
Cc: Jillian Morrissey <Jillian.Morrissey@matsugov.us>
Subject: Reminder - Deshka Watershed Land Classification Follow-Up

Assembly Member Gamble,

Following up on our Nov 13 FWC meeting, this email is to remind you to reach out to Jillian Morrissey (copied) regarding the FWC RS 25-02 to classify Borough-owned parcels along the Deshka River as "Watershed Lands" to protect salmon habitat. I let Jillian know you'd be contacting her about the topic sometime before our next FWC meeting on Dec 11. The resolution is attached for reference. Thanks!

Respectfully,

Paul Clark
Long Range Planner
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
907-861-8556 (desk)
907-795-3984 (mobile)

Matanuska Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission Inquiry

From Gabe Kitter <gabe.kitter@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 11/18/2025 7:12 AM

To resources@akrdc.org <resources@akrdc.org>

Cc Paul Clark <paul.clark@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Good Morning,

I attended the RDC Conference this year in a professional capacity and noticed the panels focused on commercial and sport fishing with ADF&G's Commissioner. As a member of the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission, I believe both RDC and the FWC could benefit from having the Commission represented in these types of fisheries discussions.

What would it look like for the Mat-Su Fish and Wildlife Commission to become involved with RDC and its work in the fishing industry? More specifically, would it be possible for the MSB FWC to be considered for future panel participation? I've CC'd Paul Clark, the Mat-Su Borough staff member who assists the Commission.

If you'd like to learn more about the Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission and its role within the MSB, please visit our [website](#). Feel free to reach out with any questions or if you'd like to discuss our involvement in Southcentral Alaska fish, wildlife, and habitat-related topics further.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gabe Kitter
907-232-5870

	DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK – 11/21/2025					
	December 2-9, 2025	Council staff contact	February 2-11, 2026	Council staff contact	June 1-9, 2026	Council staff contact
Topics	Egan Center, Anchorage, AK		Egan Center, Anchorage, AK		Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA	
EVENTS/ REPORTS*	NMFS report: ADP update	DE	NMFS report: Annual cost recovery, EFH consultations (T)	DE	ED report: CCC update	DE
	AFSC, NOAA Enforcement reports	DE	AFSC report	DE	NOAA Enforcement report	DE
	BS pollock report on 2026 dynamic spatial closures	DE	NPRB report	DE	Finance/Executive Committee (T)	DE
	IPHC halibut assessment presentation	SM	IPHC report (T)	DE	Cooperative reports	AH
	Finance Committee, Executive Session	DE				
	Staff tasking: IRA update	KL				
GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECS	BSAI Groundfish: Final Specifications	DS	Harvest control rule adjustments: SSC progress check	DS	Harvest control rule adjustments: Report	DS
	GOA Groundfish: Final Specifications	SC				
OTHER SPECS: CRAB, SALMON, SCALLOP	BSAI Crab: NSRKC ABC/OFL specs, Crab PT report	AK	Cook Inlet salmon: Harvest specifications	DS	BSAI Crab: AIGKC specs, Plan Team report	AK
					Scallop: Final specifications, Plan Team report	AK
REPORTING/ MONITORING					Observer 2025 Annual Report: Review, FMAC report	SC
BSAI/GOA GFISH MGMT					Cost recovery program improvements: Initial review (T)	TH
					Pelagic trawl bottom contact reseach: Update	AK
					Crab and pelagic trawl footrope resarch: Update	AK
					Pelagic trawl impacts and performance std.: Next steps (T)	AK
BSAI CRAB MGMT	Crab arbitration: Final Action	SM				
Crab C-shares: Final Action	TH					
	NSRKC recency: Discussion paper	AH				
BYCATCH			Chum Salmon bycatch: Final action	KH	GOA Tanner crab protection meas.: Initial Review	AK
HALIBUT: IFQ/CHARTER	2026 Charter halibut mgmt measures: Final action	SM			CQE/IFQ adjustments: Expanded discussion paper	AH
OTHER	EFH 5-year review workplan: Review	AK	EFH 5-year review workplan: SSC review	AK	Climate workplan: Update	DS
	SSPT update: Action as necessary	SM	Harvest control rule adjustments: SSC progress check	DS	Groundfish FMP objectives review: Report	KL
					Ecosystem Committee: Report	KL

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED:	Inseason authority to prevent ACL overages: <i>Initial Review</i> Pot gear regulation consistency: <i>Discussion paper</i> Sablefish motion scales: <i>Discussion paper</i> BS Herring PSC limit adjustment: <i>Initial Review</i> Omnibus recordkeeping and reporting: <i>Initial Review</i>	Cook Inlet Salmon tribal fishery feasibility: <i>Discussion paper</i> Charter Halibut Mgmt Measures Timing: <i>Discussion Paper (Oct 2026)</i> Lead level 2 endorsement criteria: <i>Initial Review</i> Eliminate bled sablefish IFQ deduction: <i>Initial Review</i>
--------------------------	---	--

Council staff contacts: AH - Anna Henry, AK - Anita Kroska, DE - Diana Evans, DS - Diana Stram, KH - Kate Haapala, KL - Katie Latanich, MF - Mike Fey (AKFIN), SC - Sara Cleaver, SM - Sarah Marinan, TH - Taylor Holman

*Reports in addition to the standard agency B reports (Executive Director, NMFS Management, NOAA General Counsel, ADFG, USCG, USFWS.) For acronyms and abbreviations, see online list: <https://www.npfmc.org/library/acronyms/>

REPORT

DT: 10 December 2025

TO: MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Members

FR: Jim Sykes

RE: Report on North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Activities

Please note column two of page 58 in the packet (the last page). It is the draft agenda for the February 2-11 meeting of the NPFMC that will finalize the 2026 Fisheries Management Plan for the federal EEZ in Cook Inlet.

The NPFMC just finished its December meeting that included mid-point 5-year review of Essential Fisheries Habitat, required by The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and defined as, *“those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity”... minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on EFH caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of EFH.*” They were focused on groundfish issues at that meeting.

The upcoming NPFMC, February 2-11 will consider and approve the federal Cook Inlet EEZ Fisheries Management Plan for 2026. The SAFE report draft will be forthcoming from National Marine Fisheries Service, (NMFS), in Juneau. Normally the draft is available a month before their meeting, but it could be as little as two weeks. The Council will then come up with Over Fishing Limits (OFL) as well as the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and approve the 2026 federal FMP for Cook Inlet.

This Wednesday, I was able to briefly reach new Executive Director Diana Evans and Scientist Diana Stramm, who focuses on Cook Inlet. It turns out they are awaiting final fishing statistics from the State of Alaska and the NMFS SAFE draft. Due to the time squeeze, the proposal will NOT go through the usual Advisory panel, but straight from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to the full Council. It is supposed to be the first item on the agenda for the SSC on the February 2, 2026. There will be an opportunity to make comments. It is expected to come to the full Council immediately preceding the intense issue of Chum bycatch and conservation agenda item.

As we prepare for the State Board of Fish meeting in March, it might be important to pay some attention to the NPFMC, as there may not be another opportunity to comment once the federal Cook Inlet FMP for 2026 is approved for by the NPFMC in February. We are already on record with concerns, and we also have SAFE documents generated by NMFS from last year.

We may want to comment, attend the meeting and/or observe proceedings online.

Re: Letter from the Governor

From Edna DeVries <Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 3:34 PM

To Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

If the commission wants to draft a follow up, I am willing to to do so.

Maybe even a thank you with some additional details or information.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 1, 2025, at 2:24 PM, Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us> wrote:

Mayor Devries,

Thank you for passing the Governor's response on to me, and for your earlier effort in sending the letter to the Governor! I have included the Governor's letter in our Dec 11 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting packet.

Respectfully,

Paul Clark
Long Range Planner
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
907-861-8556 (desk)
907-795-3984 (mobile)

From: Edna DeVries <Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us>

Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 1:00 PM

To: Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

Cc: Mike Brown <Mike.Brown@matsugov.us>; George Hays <George.Hays@matsugov.us>

Subject: Letter from the Governor

Attached is the letter from the Governor in answer to the Fish and Wildlife commission's letter that they requested that I write to the Governor. I have forwarded a copy to Chairman Couch. Can a copy of this letter be place in your packet for Dec. 11 meeting?

Thank you. Edna

Mayor Edna DeVries
350 E. Dahlia, Palmer, AK 99645
907-861-8682 907-795-8133
Edna.devries@matsugov.us

HOUSE BILL NO. 203

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCCABE, Foster, Tomaszewski

Introduced: 4/22/25

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A BILL**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and
 2 providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.10 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 16.10.135. Use of trawl or dredge fishing gear.** A person may not use,
 6 employ, or operate any trawl or dredge fishing gear that makes substantial bottom
 7 contact with the seafloor while in use, as determined by the department, in the water of
 8 the state.

9 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 10 read:

11 STUDY AND REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF BOTTOM TRAWLING AND ON
 12 THE CONDITION OF THE SEAFLOOR. The Department of Fish and Game shall conduct a
 13 comprehensive study of the health of seafloor ecosystems and fish habitat in state water. The
 14 department shall submit a report on the results of the department's study under this section to

1 the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives on or before January 1,
2 2027, and notify the legislature that the report is available. The report must include

3 (1) information as to how the state's fishery resource and seafloor marine
4 ecosystems have been, and may continue to be, affected by the use of trawl or dredge fishing
5 gear that makes substantial bottom contact with the seafloor while in use;

6 (2) to the extent available, the quantities of fishery resources taken as bycatch
7 by fishers using trawl or dredge fishing gear that makes substantial bottom contact with the
8 seafloor while in use, including the number of fish of each species, taken over the last 10
9 years; and

10 (3) recommendations as to whether the use of trawl or dredge fishing gear that
11 makes substantial bottom contact with the seafloor while in use should be prohibited or
12 otherwise limited for

13 (A) the maximum benefit of the state's people; and

14 (B) the sustained yield of the state's fishery resource.

15 * **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this Act takes effect January 1, 2028.

16 * **Sec. 4.** Except as provided in sec. 3 of this Act, this Act takes effect immediately under
17 AS 01.10.070(c).