FWC Regular Mtg.

2/18/21 Packet

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

CHAIRPERSON Mike Wood

VICE CHAIR Howard Delo

MSB STAFF Ted Eischeid



BOARD MEMBERS Tam Boeve

Andy Couch Larry Engel Tim Hale Pete Probasco Kendra Zamzow *Ex officio*: VACANT

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA MSB DSJ Bldg, Lower Level Conference Room, Palmer

February 18, 2021 – 4:00 PM

Remote Participation Options: Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)

+1 907-290-7880,,694788670# United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: 694 788 670#

Find a local number Reset PIN

Learn More | Meeting options

Meeting Documents available on the FWC Web Page: https://www.matsugov.us/boards/fishcommission

4 P.M.

MSB Directive #10 for COVID-19: Cloth facial coverings or a face shield are required (with limited exceptions) while in a Mat-Su Borough facility; face masks are available upon request.

REGULAR MEETING

Ι.

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; ESTABLISH QUORUM

- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

February 18, 2021

FWC Regular Mtg.

2/18/21 Packet

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. January 21, 2021
- IV. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS & PARTICIPATION (3 min./person, chair's discretion)
- V. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS
 - a. West Susitna Access Road Project Update
 - b. Staff report/correspondence
 - c. Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance
- VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS
 - 1. West Susitna Access Road Project
 - 2. Alaska Board of Game Actions
 - a. Proposals/brown bear & antlerless moose-Comments and Action
 - b. FWC request to BOG providing public opportunity to submit new, withdraw old, or amend current proposals.
 - 3. Federal Subsistence Board upcoming wildlife regulatory cycle/proposals
 - MSB Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance approve public hearing for 3/18/21 FWC agenda.
 - 5. ADFG King Salmon Fishing Regulation for upcoming MSB sport fishery (AC).

- 6. Appointing a committee to discuss FWC history and priorities with MSB Management.
- VII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING March 18, 2021, 4 PM AGENDA AND PRESENTATION IDEAS?
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION Regular Meeting: January 21, 2021 – Minutes

MSB Lower Level Conference Room //Teams Remote Participation Option

Minutes prepared by Ted Eischeid, Planner II

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; ESTABLISH QUORUM

- a. Call to Order at: 4:04 PM by Chair Mike Wood.
- b. Present: Mike Wood (MW); Howard Delo (HD); Larry Engel (LE); Tim Hale (TH); Tam Boeve (TB).
- c. Absent: None.
- d. Quorum (5 minimum): Quorum established.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Moved by: AC moved to approve the agenda as presented;
- b. Seconded by: TH
- c. Motion result: Motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. December 17, 2020
 - i. Moved by: HD;
 - ii. Seconded by: AC
 - iii. Corrections? None.
 - iv. Motion result: *Motion passed unanimously*.

IV. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS & PARTICIPATION (3 min./person, chair's discretion)

- a. Peter Probasco, FWC Candidate.
- b. Steve Braund, NDSNCI
- c. Brad Sworts, staff
- d. Jesse Peterson, AIDEA.
- e. Kendra Zamzow

V. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. Staff report/correspondence
 - i. Brad Sworts/Jesse Peterson gave an update on the West Susitna Access Road project.

-Had virtual open house about a month ago, with supporting web site; went well.

- Update: getting up on the tail end of phase 2 with a finish by early March with deliverables coming soon. Virtual open house recording is available online.

Finalizing wetland and preliminary engineering reports.

Looking to discuss phase 3 in early summer;

Pleased with the number of open house/meeting participants.

-TB: when you are compiling information, will we be seeing any attendance lists along with the specific comments made?; ANS: We have attendee list along with specific comments that will be made available in summary report; target date for info sharing is March;

-MW: Phase 3 discussion will be internal or open to the public? ANS: It will be a combination of both, depending upon further conversation with consultants and the MSB; it will be a work in progress after our phase 2 deliverables;

- ii. Ted Eischeid gave a staff report.
 - 1. MW: how can we impact Assembly on wetlands?
 - a. TH: one-on-one contacts/discussions.
 - b. TB: agrees with TH; appreciates Mayor's decision.
 - c. TH: some of the assembly members don't seem to understand relationship between wetlands and fish.
 - LE: Suggestion in making an informal contact with the new Mgr; set up a meeting with 3 or less FWC members to discuss main FWC issues with the MGR.
 - 3. SN: maybe have an Assembly Workshop on wetlands prior to Assembly action? Would have to go through the manager.
 - 4. TH: maybe put off wetlands to after budget deliberations?
 - TB: I myself and the Mayor have asked Mgr. Brown for a workshop; I anticipate something coming soon. Just want to make sure FWC is available for this.
 - AC: concerning what Tam just mentioned; since COVID and fisheries regulation have had an impact on my business, I'd chose the charter business over attending a wetland workshop if the two conflicted.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Alaska Board of Game Proposal – Comments and Actions

i. Discussion:

- a. HD: gave a summary of the committee work on BOG proposals by the committee consisting of HD, AC, and MW. Noted LE's motion to postpone BOG action until FWC has more information from ACs/ADFG. Perhaps a way forward is to put proposals in priority groups and just try to deal with the most critical ones; HD was going to do this, but didn't get it done; sounds like BOG is leaning towards delaying actions by a year because of COVID, and dealing with these issues in 2021-22; does anyone know what the BOG has decided on regarding a future meeting schedule?
- b. AC: I was talking to a game guide, he said they decided they would hold a meeting later this year to discuss antlerless moose and bear exemption fees; would provide an opportunity to comment to support/oppose that new proposals would be allowed next year; during the next cycle; additional note regarding comments from ACs/ADFG ACs did submit comments, not sure why the minutes weren't available; ADFG had produced some comments, but they weren't approved by higher up as official ADFG positions;
- c. HD: the antlerless moose hunt and brown bear fee exemption issues need to be addressed by BOG this year or those things won't happen; the BOF is meeting January 25th I believe, and there is a concern if the two boards don't coordinate that they might generate dueling conflicting meetings.

ii. Moved by: AC moved that FWC table BOG proposal comments other than brown bear/antlerless moose issues for 2020/21 BOG cycle.

- iii. Seconded by: HD
- iv. Discussion:
- v. Action: *Motion passed unanimously.*

ii. Moved by: AC for 2021/22 BOG cycle to allow new proposals or amendments to proposals already submitted this year.

iii. Seconded by HD.

iv. Discussion – AC: for some of the proposals submitted already this year, there is some interest for proposal submitters to clarify their proposals through resubmittal; HD: Agenda Change Request procedure for BOG will still be available according to their web site, although that won't do any good if they aren't actually having a meeting.
MW: what will happen, what will we end up doing, if this motion passes? I feel our time on BOG is kind of wasted at this point, and would prefer we not put a lot of time into this, and would instead we focus more on BOF. HD: all this motion would do is tell the BOG that we support a resubmission option, otherwise proposals will be frozen and it might be 4 years before someone can do something this with new proposals.

AC: what else the FWC might need to do? Perhaps write a letter to the BOG about our position and the action we are suggesting they take.

v. Action: Motion passed unanimously.

How to write the letter to BOG: AC will do this and see if we have time to bring the letter back to FEB. FWC meeting for consideration.

ii. ANC Watershed and Natural Resources Adivsory Committee Collaboration Action

i. Discussion:

a. Discussed options for further collaboration.

ii. Moved by: AC moved that chair MW and staff Ted Eischeid listen in to the WNRAC meetings with HD as an alternate to MW.

iii. Seconded by: TH

iv. Discussion: Ted will share calendar.

v. Action: *Motion passed unanimously.*

- iii. West Susitna Access Road Project Update
 - i. Action: None

7 of 44

iv. Governor's Conservationist of the Year Award nominations

i. Action: *None*.

v. Vacant FWC positions for 2021

- i. Discussion:
 - a. Peter Probasco and Kendra Zamzow have submitted applications.
 - b. MW reached out to several people;
 - c. Peter Probasco introduced himself. MSB resident for many years; long time fisheries manager, also wildlife knowledge; LE I've known Pete for many years, and I think he would be a great addition to the FWC/he grew up here, raised a family here, and has worked elsewhere; I strongly urge Peter to join our FWC; HD I'd like to echo what LE said, I've known him for over 40 years, including down in Kodiak; he has an excellent fisheries and waterfowl background.
 - d. Kendra Zamzow I can't match what Pete has; I recently joined Chickaloon Tribe as an environmental scientists; I was a PWS commercial fisher along with some CI comm fish; I hope to bring a tribal perspective to the FWC. Has a Ph.D. in environmental chemistry, and has expertise in water quality issues. HD – I don't know Kendra, but I was impressed with her background as well as her bringing the native perspective to FWC. AC- our FWC has been looking at water quality, and we don't have that expertise in that, so Kendra could be a good addition, along with Pete; Pete was the commercial fisheries manager in Kodiak.

ii. Moved by: AC moved that Ted write a FWC resolution supporting KZ and PP

- iii. Seconded by: HD
- iv. Discussion:
- v. Action: *Motion passed unanimously.*

ii. Motion: AC moved that we write thank you letters to our recent FWC members whose terms has ended: AA, RC, and BK.iii. Second: TH

iv. Action: Motion passed unanimously.

HD: should we recruit Jim Sykes for ex officio FWC member? TH: I can text him right now about it? MW: Yes.

VII. Member Comments

- a. HD: I'd like to thank Pete and Kendra to serve on the FWC; it can be a pain at time, and busy during certain times; I'm glad you are offering your services.
- b. AC: ADFG has still not clarified what king salmon sport fishery regs for the MSB; might want to put this topic on the agenda for next meeting; request ADFG to clear up the king salmon options will be for next season for sport fishery; second, I talked to Jared at 3 Rivers/used to work at Chickaloon he wanted us to know of his concern about harvest of large rainbow trout and arctic char from Big Lake and wanted this to made a catch and release fishery there for those species; individual members may want to make comment on state fish stocking plans/open for comment until end of this month; finally, thank you to Pete and Kendra.
- c. LE: the ice fishing on Finger Lake has been excellent there for landlocked salmon.
- d. TH: None.
- e. TB: Thanks Pete and Kendra
- f. TE: None
- g. MW: Be sure to let me know if there are any future agenda items you desire. I've been enjoying the light; glad to have two new people on the FWC – thank you.

h. Neil – BOG gave a short update: 5:49 PM.

VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – February 18, 2021, 4 PM; LLCR & Remote Options –

AGENDA AND PRESENTATION IDEAS?

- a. WNRAC Collaboration
- b. AC: ADFG king salmon fishing regs for MSB sport fishery for upcoming season.

FWC Regular Mtg.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Moved by: TH
- b. Seconded by: LE
- c. Motion result: *Motion passed unanimously.*

Meeting stands adjourned at: 5:51 PM.

Mike Wood, Chair	Dated
ATTEST:	
Ted Eischeid, Planner II Staff	Dated

FWC Regular Mtg.

2/18/21 Packet

<u>10 of 44</u>



<u>11 of 44</u>

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Planning and Land Use Department Planning Division 350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645 Phone (907) 861-7833 http://www.matsugov.us • planning@matsugov.us

Date: 18 February 2021

Re: FWC Staff Report

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1. FWC Vacancy Status

2. Supplemental Wetlands Mitigation Ordinance update

New tentative timeline:

a. MSB FWC

i. Introduction/presentation 2/18/2021

- ii. Hearing/action 3/18/2021
- b. MSB Planning Commission
 - i. Introduction/presentation 3/15/2021
 - ii. Hearing/action 4/5/2021
- c. MSB Assembly
 - i. Introduction/presentation 5/4/2021
 - ii. Hearing/action 5/18/2021

3. Anchorage Watershed and Natural Resources Advisory Committee Update

a. January Agenda

4. National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Seat for Local Government

representative-update.

5. Agenda items-staff review:

- 1. West Susitna Access Road Project
- 2. Alaska Board of Game Actions

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community Ted Eischeid, Planner II

Supporting <u>Environmental Planning</u> and the <u>MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission</u>. <u>Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us</u> Ph. 907.861-8606, Cell 795-6281

FWC Regular Mtg.

a. Proposals/brown bear & antlerless moose-Comments and Action

b. FWC request to BOG providing public opportunity to submit new, withdraw old, or amend current proposals.

3. Federal Subsistence Board upcoming wildlife regulatory cycle/proposals

4. MSB Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance – approve public hearing for 3/18/21 FWC agenda.

5. ADFG King Salmon Fishing Regulation for upcoming MSB sport fishery (AC).

6. Appointing a committee to discuss FWC history and priorities with MSB Management.



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Join by Link: <u>Click here to join the meeting</u> and/or Join by Conference Call: **Teams Meeting Dial-in Number:** 907-519-0237 **Meeting Conference ID:** 996 785 948#

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establishment of Quorum
- B. Disclosures

II. MINUTES

A. December 23, 2020

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. WNRC Case No. 2017-03, Eklutna River Restoration, Eklutna Hydroelectric Project Presentation—Eklutna Hydro Project Team
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
- V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit)
- VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: February 24, 2021, Teams Meeting



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Virtual Teams Meeting

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Regular Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.

A. Establishment of Quorum

Present:	Emily Creely Tamás Deák Brett Jokela David Nyman, Chair Rick Sinnott Simon Wigren
Excused: Absent:	Paul McLarnon Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, Vice Chair Holly Kent
	Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, Long-Range Planning Division, Planning Department

B. Disclosures

No disclosures.

II. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of November 18, 2020

Commissioner Sinnott moved to approve the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes as written. *Commissioner Jokela* seconded.

The November 18, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously as written.

FWC Regular Mtg.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2020-02, Potential Collaboration with Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Fish and Wildlife Commission

The Commission continued an open discussion about how it can establish and enhance collaboration on issues of mutual interest with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission. Items to consider included having both commissions sharing regular meeting announcements and agendas and including Matanuska-Susitna Borough Commission staff in our announcements. Staff will send out meeting announcements.

B. Eklutna River Restoration Study Document—Follow-up

Commissioner Jokela had volunteered to review the study document on behalf of the Commission and gave an overview of these documents. He focused on the geomorphology, infrastructure, and hazards analyses and submitted comments to the project manager contact, who thanked him for commenting.

Commissioner Jokela suggested the Commission consider adding a member to the project technical working group. He volunteered to continue as the Commission's liaison.

Chair Nyman offered to contact Brad Meiklejohn to request the Watershed Commission be included as a technical working group member. The Commission will invite someone from the restoration project's working group to attend the next regular meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Nyman led a discussion about Commission goals and identification of future projects to review for the next year. The Commission recommended further discussion of this action plan for the January meeting. Some items for consideration included:

- Connors Bog Snow Dump
- Chester Creek Restoration Project at Arctic Boulevard
- Solar Farm at Strawberry Bog
- Cook Inlet Beluga Whales
- Fish Creek Restoration in Spenard
- MOA Stormwater Utility
- Tire Particulates as Pollution (per Seattle findings)

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (none)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Deák moved to adjourn. Commissioner Sinnott seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

FWC Regular Mtg.

2/18/21 Packet

17 of 44

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645 907.861-8606

CHAIRPERSON Mike Wood

VICE CHAIR Howard Delo

MSB STAFF Ted Eischeid



BOARD MEMBERS VACANT Tam Boeve VACANT Andy Couch Larry Engel Tim Hale *Ex officio*: VACANT

MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

<u>Memorandum</u>

dfg.bogcomments@alaska.gov 907-465-6094 FAX

ADF&G Board Support Section ATTN: Board of Game Comments PO Box 115526 Juneau AK 99811-5526

February 19, 2021

Dear Chairman Daele and Board of Game Members,

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission was created in 2007 to advocate on fish and wildlife issues for the Mat-Su Borough and its citizens. We have a strong interest in fish and wildlife issues that impact the quality of life for the borough, which is the fastest growing region in Alaska, and where many enjoy abundant fish and wildlife.

Regarding your decision to postpone public meetings to consider 2020 —2021 Board of Game proposals until next fall / winter's cycle, the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission would encourage the Board to provide the public an opportunity to submit new game proposals, along with an opportunity for groups or individuals to amend and/or withdraw game proposals they had previously submitted for the 2020—2021 meeting cycle.

We believe this approach will provide for more carefully worded proposals, will allow the incorporation of the most recent biological data, and may help the public and board support and adopt better game regulations during the Board meetings rescheduled for next winter.

Thank you for your consideration of providing additional public input as a result of unforeseen delays caused by COVID-19 concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike Wood, Chair

FWC Regular Mtg.

FWC Regular Mtg.

2/18/21 Packet

<u>18 of 44</u>

<u>Mulligan, Benjamin J (DFG)</u>
Theodore Eischeid
Burch, Mark E (DFG)
Upcoming Federal Subsistence Board Wildlife Regulatory Cycle
Monday, February 1, 2021 9:22:09 AM

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

I figured I'd get this heads up to you and you could share it with the Commission members.

As you may know the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) will be beginning its wildlife regulatory cycle soon. Due to the change in administration we're not sure when they'll officially kick off the call for proposals, but I didn't want to wait to give you the heads up so if you and the Commission had any proposal ideas you had time to develop those and ask for any data you may need from us. ADF&G will also be going through its own process to determine what proposals it'll be submitting and we'll be sure to let you know what those are. The timeline once they do make the formal announcement is 60 days. Although we don't know a lot of the deadlines right now, we know the meeting to deliberate any potential proposals along with the closure reviews will be April 11-15, 2022.

As pertinent information comes to us from the FSB we'll be sure to pass that along and if there's anything we feel we need to discuss with you we will reach out, and if you see something please do the same.

Best regards,

Ben Mulligan Deputy Commissioner ADF&G

<u>FWC Regular Mtg.</u>

For Immediate Release: February 8, 2021 **Contact:** Caron McKee (907) 717-6128 or (800) 478-1456 caron_mckee@fws.gov

Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to meet via teleconference

The Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council will meet February 24-25, 2021, via teleconference. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. daily.

The Council will develop proposals to change Federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations and discuss other issues related to subsistence in the Southcentral Region.

The public is welcome to participate in this meeting. To teleconference into this meeting, dial toll-free (866) 560-5984 (passcode: 12960066).

All meeting materials may be found here: <u>https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions/sc_materials</u>. You may also request to have these documents mailed, faxed, or emailed to you by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management.

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to these meetings for all participants. Please direct requests for special accommodation needs to the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888; or by e-mail at <u>subsistence@fws.gov</u> at least seven business days prior to the meeting.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at <u>www.doi.gov/subsistence</u> or by visiting <u>www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska</u>.

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing <u>fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov</u>.

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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Via Teleconference and Videoconference February 24 - 25, 2021 9:00 a.m. daily

AUDIO: By TELECONFERENCE ONLY - call the toll free number: 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

- VIDEO: Call 1-800-478-1456 or 1-907-351-0081 for the link to Microsoft Teams videoconference (VIDEO ONLY: for audio, call conference line above)
- **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your concerns and knowledge. Time limits may be set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep the meeting on schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: These are estimated times and the agenda is subject to change. Contact staff for the current schedule. Evening sessions are at the call of the chair.

AGENDA

Asterisk identifies action item. 1. Invocation 2. Call to Order (Chair) 4. Welcome and Introductions (Chair) 6. Election of Officers Chair (DFO) Vice-Chair (New Chair) Secretary (New Chair) 7. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes* (Chair) 5 8. Reports **Council Member Reports** Chair's Report 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items (available each morning) 10. Old Business (Chair)

FWC Regular Mtg.

2/18/21 Packet

22 of 44

	b. Update on NPS individual C&T determinations (NPS)
	c. Denali Subsistence Resource Commission Appointment
	d. State Board of Fisheries Proposals
	BOF Proposal #6: Require inseason reporting of subsistence, sport fish, and personal use harvest and effort (similar to FP21-11)
	BOF Proposal #7: Prohibit guiding in subsistence finfish fisheries
	BOF Proposal #8: Prohibit dipnetting near tributary mouths of the Upper Copper River District
	BOF Proposal #9 & #10: Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict - Upper Copper River District
	BOF Proposal #14: Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets (monofilament/multifilament material before Aug 15)
	BOF Proposal #15: Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets (monofilament/multifilament/web material) on the Copper River
	BOF Proposal #16: Prohibit the use of depth/fish finders on boats in Upper Copper River District from June 1 to September 30
	Other BOF Proposals
11.	New Business (Chair)
	a. Southcentral Federal Subsistence Fisheries & Wildlife Harvest Update
	b. Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals*
	c. Council Charter Review* 50
	d. Review and approve FY2020 Annual Report*
12.	Agency Reports
	(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)
	Tribal Governments
	a. Ninilchik Traditional Council
	b. Native Village of Eyak
	Native Organizations
	a. Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission
	US Fish and Wildlife Service
	USDA - Forest Service
	National Park Service

	a. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve	
	Bureau of Land Management θ	53
	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	
	Office of Subsistence Management	
13.	Future Meeting Dates*	
	Confirm Fall 2021 meeting date and location (Oct. 13-14, 2021, TBD)	55
	Select Winter 2022 meeting date and location	56

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (Chair)

Please note that the audio portion of this meeting will be by teleconference only. 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

Speakers and presentations can be seen through Microsoft Teams videoconference platform. Call 1-800-478-1456 or 1-907-351-0081 for the website link. No download is required.

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to DeAnna Perry, 907-209-7817, deanna.perry@usda.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 8, 2021.

CODE ORDINANCE

Sponsored by: Introduced: Public Hearing: Action:

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 21-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTING MSB 17.31 SUPPLEMENTAL WETLANDS MITIGATION PROVISIONS FOR LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS REQUIRING UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INDIVIDUAL PERMITS UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT; AND AMENDING MSB 1.45.100 SCHEDULE OF FINES FOR INFRACTIONS.

WHEREAS, the rationale and intent of this ordinance are found

in IM No. 21- which accompanies this ordinance.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. <u>Classification</u>. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Borough Code.

Section 2. <u>Adoption of chapter</u>. MSB 17.31 is hereby adopted as follows:

CHAPTER 17.31 SUPPLEMENTAL WETLANDS MITIGATION

- 17.31.010 Purpose and Intent
- 17.31.020 Applicability
- 17.31.030 Application Requirements
- 17.31.040 General Standards for approval
- 17.31.050 Final Action
- 17.31.100 Violations, Enforcement and Penalties
- 17.31.110 Definitions

17.31.010 PURPOSE AND INTENT

(A) The purpose of this chapter is to protect health and safety, property, infrastructure, and promote economic stability while maintaining functions of wetlands and aquatic resources.

(B) The intent of this chapter is to

(1) Avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to aquatic resources that:

(a) minimize public and private lossesdue to flood conditions;

(b) prevent and control water pollution;

(c) prevent soil loss and erosion of stream beds and banks;

(d) preserve natural drainage features and minimize the need to construct, repair, maintain, or replace structural water management systems;

(e) maintain and support stream base flow and temperature, lake levels, and shallow groundwater supplies; and

(f) preserve and improve fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and open space.

Page 2 of 10

17.31.020 APPLICABILITY

(A) This chapter applies to all private and public lands in the borough.

(B) This chapter does not apply within the cities of Houston, Palmer, or Wasilla.

(C) A Compensatory Mitigation Certificate of Compliance (CMCC) is required prior to discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough authorized by a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Permit.

(1) A CMCC is not required for discharges of dredged or fill material within the borough that:

(a) are authorized by a USACE NationwidePermit or other General Permit as permitted by 33CFR 325.5(C); or

(b) impact less than 5 acres of Jurisdictional Waters.

17.31.030 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

(A) Pre-Application Meeting. The applicant is encouraged to schedule an appointment with the Planning Department to discuss the proposed development and explain what information must be submitted.

Page 3 of 10

(B) Application for a CMCC shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) CMCC application form;

(2) A complete copy of the USACE applicationmaterials and mitigation determination;

(3) USACE decisional documents associated with
the project;

(4) A calculation of the aquatic function debits associated with the proposed discharge or fill, and a specific proposal to fully offset the debits through compensatory mitigation or in-lieu fee program; and

(5) Appropriate filing fee as established by the assembly, payable to the borough.

17.31.040 GENERAL STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL

(A) The amount of compensatory mitigation shall be sufficient to fully replace the aquatic resource functions lost as a result of the discharge or fill.

(1) For the use of credits generated by permittee-responsible mitigation, authorized impacts shall be considered offset when the permittee submits documentation that the USACE has approved the final mitigation plan.

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Page 4 of 10
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Ordinance Serial No. 21-____ IM No. 21-____

(B) The total number of credits purchased shall be equal to or greater than the number of debits calculated for the discharge or fill.

(C) Credits purchased through a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program shall be from an USACE approved provider within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary.

17.31.050 FINAL ACTION

(A) The CMCC shall be issued by the director following review of the application and demonstration that the aquatic resource impacts authorized by the USACE individual permit have been fully offset in accordance with this chapter.

17.31.100 VIOLATIONS, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

(A) Violations, enforcement and penalties shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 1.45, Violations, enforcement and penalties.

(B) Except as otherwise specified in this chapter violations of this chapter are infractions.

17.31.110 DEFINITIONS

(A) For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

• "Aquatic resources" mean surface waters, including

29 of 44

30 of 44

wetlands, and the habitat they provide for both plant and animal communities.

- "Compensatory mitigation" means the restoration (reestablishment or rehabilitation), establishment, creation, enhancement, or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.
- "Credit" means a unit of measure (e.g., a functional or areal measure or other suitable metric) representing the accrual or attainment of aquatic functions at a compensatory mitigation site. The measure of aquatic functions is based on the resources restored, established, enhanced, or preserved.
- "Debit" means a unit of measure (e.g., a functional or areal measure or other suitable metric) representing the loss of aquatic functions at an impact or project site. The measure of aquatic functions is based on the resources impacted by the authorized activity.
- "Dredged material" means material that is excavated

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Page 6 of 10
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FWC Regular Mtg.

2/18/21 Packet

30 of 44

or dredged from waters of the United States.

• "Fill material" means material placed in waters of the United States where the material has the effect of:

(a) Replacing any portion of a water of the UnitedStates with dry land; or

(b) Changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a water of the United States. Examples of such fill material include, but are not limited to: rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the United States. The term fill material does not include trash or garbage.

- "Functions" means the physical, chemical, and biological processes that occur in ecosystems.
- "Individual permit" means a Department of the Army authorization that is issued following a case-by-case evaluation of a specific project involving the proposed discharge(s)in accordance with the procedures of this part and 33 CFR part 325, and a determination that the proposed structure or work is

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Page 7 of 10
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32 of 44

in the public interest pursuant to 33 CFR 320.

- "In-lieu fee program" means a program involving the restoration, establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation of aquatic resources through funds paid to a governmental or non-profit natural resources management entity to satisfy compensatory mitigation USACE permits. Similar requirements for to а mitigation bank, an in-lieu fee program sells compensatory mitigation credits to permittees whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the in-lieu program sponsor. However, the rules governing the operation and use of in-lieu fee programs are somewhat different from the rules governing operation and use of mitigation banks. The operation and use of an in-lieu fee program are governed by an in-lieu fee program instrument.
- "Jurisdictional waters" mean those areas meeting the definition of waters of the United States and therefore subject to the jurisdictional authority of the Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act.
- "Mitigation bank" means a site, or suite of sites, where resources (e.g., wetlands, streams, riparian areas) are restored, established, enhanced, and/or

Page 8 of 10

33 of 44

preserved for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation for impacts authorized by Department of Army permits. In general, a mitigation bank sells compensatory mitigation credits to permittees whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the mitigation bank sponsor. The operation and use of a mitigation bank are governed by a mitigation banking instrument.

- "Permittee-responsible mitigation" means an aquatic resource restoration, establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation activity undertaken by the permittee (or an authorized agent or contractor) to provide compensatory mitigation for which the permittee retains full responsibility.
- "Waters of the United States" means those areas subject to the jurisdictional authority of the Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act as defined in 33 CFR Part 328.

34 of 44

Section 3. Amendment of Subsection: MSB 1.45.100(C) is hereby

amended by adding the following to the schedule of fines:

Code	Description	Fine
Reference		Amount
17.31.020(C)	Failure to Obtain Compensatory	
	Mitigation Certificate of	
	Compliance	
	1st Offense	\$150
	2nd Offense	\$300
	3rd & Subsequent Offenses	\$500

Section 4. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2021.

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. MCKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



35 of 44

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Planning and Land Use Department Planning Division 350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645 Phone (907) 861-7833 http://www.matsugov.us • planning@matsugov.us

Date: 1/4/2021

Re: Analysis of USACE Individual Wetland Permits issued in MSB 2015-19+

POA	<u>Name</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	Watershed	Wetland Area	Permittee- Proposed	<u>USACE</u> <u>Required</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Impact</u>	Notes	
				Impacted	<u>Mitigation</u>	Mitigation	<u>Mitigated</u>		
<mark>1995-</mark>	Donlin	Donlin	Susitna	200 A		~ 5 A	<mark>2.5%</mark>		
<mark>120</mark>	Pipeline	Gold							
2003-	Lu Young	MSB-Bob	Knik Arm	0.67 A			0	Beattie	
1410	Lane	Walden							
2010-	Zak Lake	ADOT&PF	Lucille Ck;	2.76 A	Buy MB	Replace	? Assume		
249			Meadow Ck		credits 2:1;	culvert	less than		
					revised to	with	100%??		
					culvert	bridge on			
					removal	Little			
						Meadow			
						Ck			

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

Ted Eischeid, Planner II

Supporting <u>Environmental Planning</u> and the <u>MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission</u>.

<u>Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us</u> Ph. 907.861-8606, Cell 795-6281

FWC Regular Mtg.

<u>36 of 44</u>

POA	<u>Name</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Watershed</u>	<u>Wetland</u> <u>Area</u> Impacted	Permittee- Proposed Mitigation	<u>USACE</u> <u>Required</u> Mitigation	<u>Percent</u> <u>Impact</u> <u>Mitigated</u>	Notes	
2014- 533	Greenstreet	Darrel Green street		5.45 A	Su-Knik MB; construct	Yes; must purchase 11.7	100% 3.9(5.45x0.71 FCI)=11.7	Budnik	
		succ			1.54 A bioretention	credits from	101)-11.1		
					<mark>basins</mark>	approved CM provider			
2016- 336	Montana Ck-Flood Control Dike	MSB	Montana Ck	0.33 A (reduced from 1.2 A)	None	None	0	Beattie	
2016- 16	Wasilla Ck	Arctic DEVDO	HUC 190204010802	0.83 A	ILF from GLT	None	0	Budnik	

POA	Name	Applicant	Watershed	Wetland	Permittee-	USACE	Percent	Notes	
				<u>Area</u>	Proposed	Required	<u>Impact</u>		
				Impacted	Mitigation	Mitigation	Mitigated		
2017-	Carnegie	KG	Carnegie Ck	2.67 A	Place 5.08	PRM place	100%?	Hewitt	
500	Ck	Enterprises	Wasilla Ck		A/500'	5.84 A			
			190204010802		Carnegie	wetlands			
					Ck in	into Cons.			
					cons.	Easment			
					Easement				
2019-39	Walby Lk	Allen	Walby Lk;	2.5 A	None	Purchase	100%	Sargent	Used
		Short	Wasilla Ck			1.6 credits	2.5Ax0.64=		AKWAM
						from MB	1.6 Cr.		
2019-	Estates at	Richard	Lk Lucille	0.06 A	None	None	0	Beatty	Applicant
437	Lk	Clark							reduce
	Lucille								impact.12A
									to .06A.
<u>#</u>	Impacted	Mitigated	Unmitigated	<mark>% Area</mark>	<mark>%</mark>	<mark>%</mark>	<mark>% Projects</mark>		
Projects	<mark>Area</mark>	<mark>Area</mark>	<mark>Area</mark>	Impacted	<u>Projects</u>	Projects	with NO		
				Mitgated	with: full	with:	<mark>CM</mark>		
					CM	Partial			
						CM			
<mark>9</mark>	215.27 A	<mark>18.79</mark>	196.48 A	<mark>8.7%</mark>	33% (3/9)	22% (2/9)	44% (4/9)		

FWC Regular Mtg.

NOTES-

A = Acres

- CM = Compensatory Mitigation
- MB = Mitigation Bank
- MSB = Matanuska-Susitna Borough

39 of 44

ALASKA DEPARTMENT

OF FISH & GAME

SPORT FISHING *Emergency Order*

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-07-21

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, January 22, 2021

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Saturday, May 1, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency restricts sport fishing for king salmon in the Susitna River drainage to catch-and-release only. This emergency order further limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in all waters of the Susitna River drainage. A single-hook is defined as a hook with only one point. In addition, fishing time is reduced in Unit 2 or the Susitna River to allow catch-and-release fishing for king salmon from Saturday, May 1 through Monday, June 14, 2021, and then only on Sunday and Monday for three consecutive weeks starting Sunday, June 20. Areas open to catch-and-release fishing include waters normally open to king salmon fishing by regulation such as lower minor tributaries within Unit 1 of the Susitna River and the Deshka River, Parks Highway streams within Unit 2, Yentna River (Unit 4), Talkeetna River (Unit 5), Chulitna River (Unit 6), and Upper Susitna River (Unit 3).

King salmon may not be targeted and those caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The area affected by this emergency order includes all waters open to king salmon fishing in Units 1 - 6 of the Susitna River drainage.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.110. (1)(A) and (B)(i), 5 AAC 61.112. (1), (4), (6)(A), and (B), 5 AAC 61.114. (1), (3), and (15), 5 AAC 61.116. (2), 5 AAC 61.118. (1), (2), (4), (6)(A), and (7)(A) and (C), 5 AAC 61.120. (1), (2), and (3)(B), and 5 AAC 61.122. (1) and (4)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 6:00 a.m. Saturday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2021:

5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(1) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

- (1) in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (4) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately;
- a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;
- (6) in the Deshka River drainage, including Trapper Lake,

(A) in flowing waters, including waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(B) from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located 300 feet downstream of the weir (river mile 7), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must

FWC Regular Mtg.

be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; the remainder of the drainage is closed to sport fishing for king salmon;

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(1) from May 1 - July 13, Unit 2 is open to sport fishing for all finfish species, except king salmon; sport fishing for king salmon is open through the second Monday in June, and on Sunday and Monday for three consecutive weeks starting on the Saturday following the second Monday in June; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

- (3) in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (15) from May 1 July 13, sport fishing for any finfish species is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(2) from May 1 - July 13, king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; sport fishing for any finfish species is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

- (1) in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (2) from May 1 July 13, sport fishing is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;

(4) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately;

- a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;
- (6) in the Fish Lake Creek drainage,

(A) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(7) in the Lake Creek drainage,

(A) from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(C) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

- (1) in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;
- (2) from May 1 July 13, sport fishing is not allowed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.;
- (3) in the Clear (Chunilna) Creek drainage;

(B) king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(1) in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

(4) in the East Fork of the Chulitna River drainage, including all waters within a one-quarter mile radius of its confluence of the East Fork and West Fork and including the Middle Fork of the Chulitna and the first quarter mile of Honolulu Creek,

(A) the waters are open to sport fishing for all finfish species, including king salmon; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey, Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Susitna River and other king salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet are experiencing a period of low productivity. Below average escapements have resulted in preseason and inseason restrictions and closures on the Deshka, Eastside, Talkeetna, and Yentna king salmon stocks and other isolated streams since 2012.

The preseason forecast for Deshka River king salmon is for a total run of 11,464 king salmon, with an 80% prediction interval of 3,041 - 19,887 fish. There is uncertainty in the forecast of 4-yr old fish due to a history of weak brood years 2013-2015 that returned low numbers of 4-yr old fish during 2017-2019. The Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of 9,000 - 18,000 fish was achieved in 2020 with a catch-and-release fishery in place. Given a forecast within but near the low end of the BEG, coupled with uncertainty in the return of 4-yr old fish, a cautionary approach is warranted. The weir counts will be used to adjust management actions as run strength is monitored during the season. Mortality due to catch-and-release fishing and harvest of this stock in commercial and subsistence fisheries is not expected to reduce escapement below the lower end of the BEG based on the point estimate of the forecast.

Modeled escapement of the Yentna River king salmon stock is based on post season aerial index counts of spawners on three major and five minor streams of the Yentna River drainage (Unit 4 of the Susitna River). Escapement of the Yentna River king salmon stock trended upward from 2017-2019, exceeding the Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) of 16,000 - 22,000 in 2019. The OEG was narrowly missed in 2020, however, as a downward trend is not yet evident, catch-and-release fishing is justified in 2021.

Modeled escapement of the Talkeetna River king salmon stock is based on post season aerial index counts of spawners on two major streams of the Talkeetna River drainage (Unit 5 of the Susitna River). Escapement of the Talkeetna River king salmon stock trended upward from 2017-2019 and was within the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 9,000 - 17,500 king salmon in 2019. The SEG was missed in 2020, however, as a downward trend is not yet evident, catch-and-release fishing is justified in 2021.

Modeled escapement of the Eastside king salmon stock is based on post season aerial index counts of spawners on eight streams within Unit 2 of the Susitna River. Escapement of the Eastside king salmon stock in 2020 of 13,815 showed improvement over 2018-2019 escapement levels and an upward trend has been experienced

over the past three years. Even still, a cautionary approach is warranted given escapements in 2018 and 2019 were below the lower end of the SEG of 13,000 - 25,000 king salmon.

The East Fork Chulitna River (Unit 6) SEG of 1,200 - 2,900 king salmon was achieved in 2019 and missed in 2020. Indexed escapement in Indian and Portage creeks of the upper Susitna River (Unit 3) were below the 10-yr average and similar to the recent 5-yr average. These remote areas of the Susitna River drainage receive minor effort; mortality due to catch-and-release fishing is negligible.

Prohibiting retention of king salmon in the Susitna River drainage is expected to provide sport fishing opportunity and still achieve escapement goals during 2020. Below average runs during previous years, past performance of fisheries within the Susitna River drainage under previous years' management strategies, and uncertainty over how returns may recover in the future justify starting the 2020 season with these restrictions. Data gathered from weirs, fishwheels, boat surveys, and aerial surveys will be used to gauge run strength during the season.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.

FWC Regular Mtg.

<u>2/18/21 Packet</u>

43 of 44

SPORT FISHING *Emergency Order*

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-06-21

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m. Saturday, May 1, 2021

EXPLANATION:

Issued at: Palmer, Friday, January 22, 2021

ALASKA DEPARTMENT

OF FISH & GAME

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

This emergency order prohibits the retention of king salmon in the Little Susitna River and limits sport fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. (9)(A) and (B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 6:00 a.m. Saturday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2021:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(9) in the Little Susitna River drainage,

(A) from May 1 - July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, sport fishing is open for king salmon; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(B) from May 1 – July 13, in flowing waters from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used;

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Little Susitna River king salmon, like other king salmon stocks throughout Cook Inlet, are experiencing a period of low productivity and, since 2007, below average run strength. The Little Susitna River king salmon Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 2,100 - 4,300 fish was not achieved in 2018 and achieved in 2019. The SEG was again attained in 2020 near the low end of the SEG range with a catch-and-release fishery in place. The last several years demonstrate no apparent trend in abundance. The Little Susitna king salmon fishery has the potential for higher sport harvest rates relative to other Northern Cook Inlet sport fisheries. The SEG is likely to be achieved through nonretention in 2021 given a comparable run size as in 2020 and a weir will be used to evaluate run strength inseason on a daily basis should additional actions be necessary to either close the fishery or relax restrictions during the season.

FWC Regular Mtg.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.