

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Fish & Wildlife Commission

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

CHAIRPERSON

Mike Wood

VICE CHAIR

Andy Couch

MSB STAFF

Ted Eischeid

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Howard Delo

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Peter Probasco

Rob Yundt

Kendra Zamzow

Ex officio: Jim Sykes

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

MEETING PACKET – TABLE OF CONTENTS

Regular Meeting

03/16/2023**Pg. = Item:**

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- 11 = NPFMC Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendments 12/10/22
- 13 = NPFMC April 2023 Meeting Agenda
- 15 = Draft ADF&G Game Season Summary Questions To Date
- 17 = MSB Assembly Adopted Fish & Wildlife Priorities

Physical Location of Meeting: LLCR, DSJ Bldg, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer.**Remote Participation:** See attached agenda.**Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division**

Cell Phone (907) 795-6281

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

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission **AGENDA**

Edna Devries, Mayor

Mike Wood – Chair
Andy Couch – Vice Chair
Howard Delo
Larry Engel
Tim Hale
Peter Probasco
Rob Yundt
Kendra Zamzow
Jim Sykes – Ex officio member

Ted Eischeid - Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

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

*Lower Level Conference Room
Dorothy Swanda Jones Building
350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer*

March 16, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
4:00 p.m.

Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:

Physical Location: Lower Level Conference Room, MSB Dorothy Swanda Jones Bldg, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer.

Remote Participation: See Below...

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 875 014 574

Passcode: UF4SCK

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 907-290-7880,,433535974#](#) United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: 433 535 974#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. February 16, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)
- VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - 1. Board of Fisheries 2024 Draft FWC Proposals
 - 2. North Pacific Fisheries Management Council: Comment Letter
 - 3. ADF&G Game Season Summary Meeting Planning
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Providing FWC Testimony on waterbody setbacks, draft OR 23-002.
 - 2. Letter/Resolution on SOA funding for wiers and genetic studies
- X. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, April 20, 4 PM, Lower Level Conference Room
- 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.

MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSIONRegular Meeting: February 16, 2023Minutes

DSJ Building, Lower Level Conference Room //TEAMS Remote Participation

Minutes prepared by Ted Eischeid, Planner

-
- I. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order at 4:03 PM by chair Mike Wood.
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Present:
Mike Wood = MW
Andy Couch = AC
Howard Delo = HD
Larry Engel = LE
Pete Probasco = PP
Jim Sykes = JS
- Absent:
Rob Yundt
Tim Hale
Kendra Zamzow
- Quorum established.
- MW read the Land Acknowledgement:
We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Ahtna and Dena'ina people, and we are grateful for their stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Moved by LE, HD
Motion passed without objection.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
a. Feb 2, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.
Moved by LE; Seconded HD
Motion passed without objection.
- VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*):
1. Bill Stoltze, MSB Lobbyist: more receptivity towards our issues in Juneau with state House legislators; fisheries committee, resources committee.
2. Becky Long: thanks for FWC work on waterbody setbacks; SOA Rec Rivers Board meeting for Feb. 22 has been cancelled.
3. Stephanie Nowers, Assembly: SOA Rec Rivers Board met at the Palmer Library yesterday for a

work session to work on the RRB plan update; will meet on March 1 at MSB bulding at 10 AM to continue planning work. Remote option? Board vacancies - MSB Planning Comm seat will be taken by Kurt Scoggin;

4. Dan Billman, Commercial fisher.
5. Kevin Delaney, Kenai River Sportfishing Association.
6. Marc Lamoreaux, Native Village of Eklutna.
7. Neil Dewitt.
8. Stephen Braund, Northern District Set Netters Association
9. Paige Herring
10. Trevor Roman

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS
A. Staff Report – Ted Eischeid

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Board Of Fisheries 2024 Meeting Goals & Proposals

MW recognized Kevin Delaney, KRSA, to discuss their BOF work.

Kevin Delaney, Kenai River Sportfishing Association

Priorities:

1. Adjust sockeye goals in Kenai river to accomindate the various users, but to also to flex upward marginly when needed to prevent overharvest.
2. Careful management of king salmon with an OEG that will allow the stock to grow, and in the setnet fishery using effective selective harvest strategies.
3. Maintain integrity of the conservation corridor; recommends FWC focus on this; and getting salmon into the northern district; maintain the PU fishery in the Susitna and consider expanding that opportunity.

- KRSA is looking at five areas to submit proposals.
- Would like to work with setnet fishers in the upper district to develop selective harvest strategies; for example to incentivize shallow net gear.
- Would like a flexible OEG for late run sockeye salmon; adding across the abundance strata when conditions allow, giving managers some flexibility.
- Commissioner DVL through EO has lengthened the Friday opener to about 60 hours; will recommend this be reduced to a 48 hour window.
- Develop a draft Kasilof king salmon mangagement plan.

Would like to emphasize to the FWC to carefully watach that the Conservation Corridor concept is maintained in BOF24.

LE: appreciates Kevin being here, and is looking forward to working with KRSA.

PP: would echo LE's comments; when you mention extending the window, what do you mean?

KD: DVL has taken position that PU fisheries should be nurtured.

BOF 24 Meeting Goals:

Old 2020 BOF Goal Discussion

1. CC concept; "Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan."

2. Continue conservative mgmt. practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks Of Concern.

PP: question for the group – how do we feel about the various FMPs? AC: I would like to see some changes; using words like "may" in FMPs gives the next commissioner too much latitude; need specific language in regulation;

3. "Increase inriver returns of coho salmon to Northern Cook Inlet river systems."

Discussion ensued...

Angler days, number of nets allowed, return timing, impact of weir presence, ... LE: let's stay general on the goals and save the specifics for the proposals;

4. "Adopt Chinook (King Salmon) management plans..."

PP: are we happy with the FMPs? MW: yes, and I personally wouldn't change these;

Review and evaluate the existing chinook salmon management on plans and strategies to determine if they adequately address the conservation of the early run king salmon in the northern Cook Inlet.

5. Personal use fishery: maintain or extend personal use fishing use opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing the Northern Cook Inlet who choose to harvest salmon with net gear.

6. Scratch this as a goal, but put the sentiment into the BOF booklet for 2024 (via Stefan).

Motion: by MW, to accept goals as discussed as written below; PP seconded:

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

2. Continue conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks Of Concern.

3. Increase inriver returns of coho salmon to Northern Cook Inlet river systems.

4. Review and evaluate the existing chinook salmon management plans and strategies to determine if they adequately address the conservation of the early run king salmon in northern Cook Inlet.

5. Personal use fishery: maintain or extend personal use fishing use opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing the Northern Cook Inlet who choose to harvest salmon with net gear.

Motion passes unanimously

PROPOSALS:

Motion: to form a working group to develop proposals, that include MW, AC, and PP. Moved by MW, seconded by PP.

Motion passes unanimously.

PP: should we be extending the OTF be a goal?

Booklet work; make it a May motion to create a work group to work with Public Affairs in Sept/October to update BOF booklet with Public Affairs and the consultant..

2. ADF&G Game Season Summary Meeting Planning

Moved by PP and seconded by AC to have a special game summary meeting in May.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

1. AC: weirs and coho genetics previously identified as priorities should be communicated to legislators. MatSu Sportsman Show at end of March: March 24-25-26.

2. JS: we should present to the PC on the waterbody setback at their March meeting. March 20

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 16, 4 PM, LLCR.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by AC. Seconded by LE.

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting stands adjourned at 6:21 PM

Mike Wood, FWC Chair

Dated

ATTEST:

Ted Eischeid, Planning Division Staff

Dated

FWC Adopted Goals for BOF 2024

1. Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan.
2. Continue conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks Of Concern.
3. Increase in-river returns of Coho salmon to Northern Cook Inlet river systems.
4. Review and evaluate the existing Chinook salmon management plans and strategies to determine if they adequately address the conservation of the early run king salmon in northern Cook Inlet.
5. Personal use fishery: maintain or extend personal use fishing use opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing the Northern Cook Inlet who choose to harvest salmon with net gear.

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**Motion: by Mike Wood, to accept BOF 2024 goals as written below; Pete Probasco seconded:
Motion passes unanimously.**

2/16/2023

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From: [Theodore Eischeid](#)
To: [Maija DiSalvo \(Maija.DiSalvo@matsugov.us\)](#)
Bcc: [Andy Couch \(fishing@fish4salmon.com\)](#); [Howard Delo \(hodelo@mtaonline.net\)](#); [jessesumnerdistrict6@gmail.com](#); [Jim Sykes](#); [Kendra Zamzow](#); [Larry Engel \(larryengel@gci.net\)](#); [Mike Wood](#); [Mike Wood \(mollyhops@icloud.com\)](#); [Pete and Eileen Probasco](#); [Tim Hale - MSB Assembly \(TimHaleDistrict1@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: RE: Cook Inlet Salmon
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 1:41:00 PM

[This message sent BCC to FWC members]

Further insight on this issue from the Alaska Journal of Commerce, dated 12/27/22: [Alaska Journal | Council has 4 months to fix Cook Inlet salmon fishery management plan](#)

Ted

From: Theodore Eischeid
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 3:51 PM
To: Maija DiSalvo (Maija.DiSalvo@matsugov.us) <Maija.DiSalvo@matsugov.us>
Subject: FW: Cook Inlet Salmon

[This message sent BCC to FWC members]

Below is further detail on NPFMC action earlier in December on the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP action.

Best,

Ted

From: Nicole Watson - NOAA Affiliate <nicole.watson@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2022 12:35 PM
To: Theodore Eischeid <Ted.Eischeid@matsugov.us>
Cc: David Witherell - NOAA Affiliate <david.witherell@noaa.gov>; Diana Evans <diana.evans@noaa.gov>
Subject: Cook Inlet Salmon

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

Ted,

Thank you for following up regarding the Cook Inlet Salmon agenda item.

At the December meeting, the Council conducted its initial review of the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment analysis, which evaluates alternatives to manage salmon fishing in the Federal waters of upper Cook Inlet. The analysis describes and evaluates the impacts of the four management alternatives under consideration by the Council, noting that two of these are not viable based on court decisions. **For the next version of the analysis, staff will provide additional details on Federal oversight and other operational details that would result from implementing Alternative 2 or 3. The Council elected not to select a preliminary preferred alternative at this time, and anticipates taking final action on this amendment at**

the April 2023 Council meeting.

Additional information, including the initial review document and presentations, can be found in the eAgenda link by clicking [here](#), and scrolling to agenda item C3.

Feel free to reach out with any further questions or concerns.

Respectfully,
Nicole Watson

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Nicole M. Watson, PhD Candidate | Fishery Analyst

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council

907-271-2809

www.npfmc.org

**C3 - Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment
Council Motion, December 10, 2022**

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for a new amendment to the Salmon FMP for public review and anticipated final action at the April 2023 Council meeting. This action is necessary so NMFS can implement an FMP amendment by the May 1, 2024 court-ordered deadline. The Council is not selecting a preliminary preferred alternative at this time.

Purpose and Need (unchanged from the Council's October 2022 motion)

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage salmon fishing in the Federal waters of upper Cook Inlet. Federal management must be consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including the required provisions for an FMP specified in section 303(a). This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the 2016 Ninth Circuit decision and the recent summary judgment opinion of the Alaska District Court in UCIDA et al. v. NMFS.

Alternatives (unchanged from the Council's October 2022 motion except for adding the options summarized below)

Alternative 1: No Action.

Alternative 2: Federal management of the fishery in the EEZ with specific management measures delegated to the State.

Option 1: Delegate recreational salmon fishery management measures to the State (as described at Section 2.4.3, pg. 81) and include monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting measures (as described at Section 2.4.8.2, pg. 97) as well as standardized bycatch reporting methodology for the recreational fishery (as described at Section 2.4.9, pg. 98).

Option 2: Establish a peer review process that works in conjunction with the SSC as an option for an Annual Process for Determining the Status of the Stocks (as described in Section 2.4.7, pg. 91).

Option 3: Streamline the process to determine the status of stocks and set harvest specifications as a sub-option for an Annual Process for Determining the Status of the Stocks (as described in Section 2.4.7, pg. 94).

Alternative 3: Federal management of the fishery in the EEZ.

Option 1: Define optimum yield in terms of a range of annual catch limits (as described at Section 2.5.5, pg. 109).

Option 2: Streamline the process to determine the status of stocks and set harvest specifications as a sub-option for an Annual Process for Determining the Status of the Stocks (as described in Section 2.5.6, pg. 111).

Option 3: Adopt recreational salmon fishery management measures (as described at Section 2.5.9, pg. 113) and include monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting measures (as described at Section 2.5.7.2, pg. 113) as well as standardized bycatch reporting methodology for the recreational fishery (as described at Section 2.5.8, pg. 113).

Option 4: Fix a commercial salmon fishery closure date for the Cook Inlet EEZ as an option for establishing commercial fishing periods (as described in Section 2.5.11, pg. 94). Evaluate July 15 as a potential closure date, as well as a range of other potential closure dates in July.

Alternative 4: Federal management of the commercial fishery in the EEZ with the EEZ closed to commercial fishing.

**NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL****NPFMC Council/AP April 2023 - 264th****April 5-11, 2023****AGENDA****Council**, April 6-11, 2023; Aleutian Ballroom, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska;
8am-5pm**Zoom Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81451130091>**Meeting ID: 814 5113 0091**

Or join by phone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

Advisory Panel, April 5-7, 2023, Denali Room, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska;
8am-5pm**Zoom link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88671612019>**Meeting ID: 886 7161 2019**

Or join by phone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

Public comment:

Please submit written comment for the Council and Advisory Panel by clicking on the 'Comment Now' links next to the relevant agenda item, below. **The comment period will open on March 17, 2023, and the deadline for written comments is 12 pm (Alaska time) on Friday, March 31, 2023.** Submitted comments will be reviewed then visible online after the deadline closes, as per the Council's [comment policy](#). The AP and Council will also take in-person and remote oral testimony during the meetings. During the meeting, you will be able to click on the applicable 'Sign-up' link next to each agenda item below, and indicate whether or not you'll be testifying remotely or in person.

The AP and the Council meeting will be broadcast on zoom. If you intend to give oral testimony remotely, you must be connected to the meeting, either through zoom on your device or using a call-in phone number above. **All information provided through the eAgenda or during testimony is part of the public record.** We are recording the meeting and will post the recordings shortly after the meeting is over.

If you'd like to receive text alerts on Council timing, text the word "NPFMC" to the number 1-833-237-1598.

*Related meetings:***Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)**, April 4-5, 2023; [AGENDA](#)**Ecosystem Committee**, April 4, 2023, 8am-5pm; [AGENDA](#)**Enforcement Committee**, April 4, 2023, 1pm-4pm; [AGENDA](#)**A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER****A1 Approval of Agenda****Attachments:** [Schedule \(link\)](#)

[Review document Schedule \(link\)](#)

B. REPORTS

- B1 Executive Director's Report (including update on allocation review schedule; oral)
Attachments: [B1 Pollock Fishery Salmon Avoidance Plans Event Flyer](#)
[B1 IFQ Report to the Fleet](#)
- B2 NMFS Management Report (including EFH consultation, seabird working group; oral)
Attachments: [B2 BSAI Amend 123 \(Halibut ABM\) Approval Letter to NPFMC](#)
[B2 NMFS Tribal Engagement Meeting Flyer](#)
- B3 NOAA General Counsel Report (including report on violation penalties; oral)
- B4 AFSC Report (oral)
- B5 ADF&G Report
Attachments: [B5 CDQ Decennial Review](#)
- B6 USCG Report
- B7 USFWS Report
- B8 NIOSH Report
- B9 US Navy Report on Northern Edge exercises for May 2023 (oral)
- B10 North Pacific Fisheries Commission Report (oral)
- B11 Cooperative Reports (AFA, A80, CGOA Rockfish, BSAI crab)
- B12 Public Comment on B1 through B11 agenda items
- B13 SSC Report
- B14 AP Report

C. MAJOR ISSUES / FINAL ACTION ITEMS

- C1 **C1 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment - Final Action, Enforcement Committee Report**
- C2 C2 Salmon Bycatch Reports - review (a) Chinook/chum genetics reports for BS, GOA; (b) pollock IPA and Sea Share reports; (c) Salmon Bycatch Committee recommendations
- C3 C3 Scallops - SAFE report, ABC/OFL, Plan Team Report
- C4 C4 Scallop FMP multi-year specifications amendment - Initial/Final Action
- C5 C5 Greenland Turbot in Longline Pots - Final Action

D. OTHER ISSUES

- D1 D1 Report on SSC rapid environmental change workshop - Review (T)
- D2 D2 BS FEP Local Knowledge, LKTKS Taskforce - Review Draft Protocol, Taskforce Report
- D3 D3 BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce - Review workplan, report
- D4 D4 Groundfish and Crab Economic SAFE reports - Review (SSC only)
- D5 D5 Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO) report, NSRKC research update - Review (SSC only)
- D6 D6 Groundfish Plan Team Dec 2022 workgroup recommendations - Discuss (SSC only)

E. STAFF TASKING / COMMITTEES

- E1 E Committees, New Business, and Tasking - Review (including Ecosystem Committee report)

Proposed ADFG Game Season Summary Meeting Questions for Consideration at 1/19/23**Group A**

1. What are ADF&G's most recent Moose population / bull to cow / and calf to cow data for GMUs 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B, 13A?
 2. What year(s) was the most recent moose data collected from those same subunits?
 3. What is the moose population objective range for GMUs 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B, and 13A?
 4. After ADF&G's first moose browse survey (done several years ago) what is the follow up data on the condition of Mat-Su Valley moose browse?
 5. How will our recent heavy snowfall in the Mat-Su Valley affect the number of antlerless moose permits given out for GMU 14A, 14B, and 13A for the 2023 / 2024 hunting season?
-

Group B

1. I would like an update on moose harvests in units 13A, 13D, 14A, 14B, and 14C. I would like to know how many tags were sold, how many bulls were harvested, how many cows were harvested, and how many calves were harvested. I would like to know where and when ADFG performed surveys of moose populations, and the population figures for the last 5 years.
2. I would like a general overview of the results of harvests and populations for caribou in units 13 and 14
3. I would like a general overview of the harvests and populations for sheep in unit 13A
4. What is the state of habitat for wildlife? Are there areas that are now doing a better or worse job of supporting different species than in the past 20-50 years? If so, what appear to be the primary causes?
5. What issues keep ADFG wildlife up at night? What are they watching that we should be aware of?

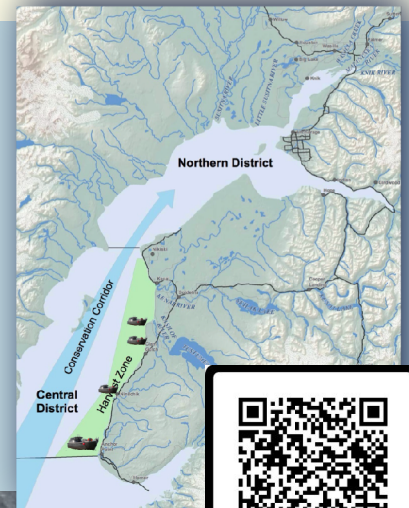
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King and Silver Salmon are the economic drivers of Mat-Su sport fisheries

Direct spending on MSB sport fisheries fell from \$141 million in 2007 to \$57 million in 2017, a decrease of 59%

In 2014, a 7-0 vote at the Alaska State Board of Fisheries set in motion a sea of change in how the commercial fisheries are managed in Upper Cook Inlet under the Central Drift Gillnet Management Plan. Regulatory teeth were put in place that allow more northern bound fish to pass through a gauntlet of commercial fishing nets, into the Mat-Su Basin, where the shallow braided river channels and sloughs challenge even the toughest of returning salmon.



Fish & Wildlife Priorities



Enhance the Conservation Corridor in the Central District.

Increase State funding for fish weirs located in the MSB and increase genetic sampling to improve salmon management

Hold State Board of Fish meetings at a neutral site, such as Anchorage, rather than in the MSB or Kenai Peninsula Borough

Fully match Federal funds from license fees to maximize Federal dollars for Fish and Game

Continued improvements to the MSB fish passage culvert program.

Support collaboration between the State and Federal management to reduce bycatch.