

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 December 11, 2025

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Assembly Chambers, 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*

December 11, 2025
REGULAR MEETING
4:00 p.m.

Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:

IN-PERSON: Back of Assembly Chambers, DSJ Building

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Join on your computer:

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Meeting ID: 213 715 044 561

Passcode: mJ26N5BL

Or call in (audio only):

1-907-290-7880

Phone Conference ID: 123 236 754#

- 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
- 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](#)

B. Chair's Report

1. Response to Mayor's Letter from Governor's Office
Copy of letter

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Waterbody Setback Ordinance Staff Update and Discussion

B. Scheduling ADF&G Summary Meetings

- Response from Colton email, commercial fish summary
Availability of ADF&G for Game Summary Meeting

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

D. Board of Fisheries 2026 March Meeting Strategy
Vincent-Lang email, Minard email

E. Prep for 2026-27 Board of Fisheries Cycle – Goals, Tasks, Budget
Strategy document, AAR from 2024 cycle

F. Other Follow-Up from Task List

- Gabe Kitter – Resource Development Council Email
Jim Sykes - North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
MSB – Subcommittee/Working Group Rules

IX. NEW BUSINESS

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

B. Inviting presenters from the Salmon Symposium – Kendra
(Ex. ADF&G Fish Pathologist sharing info on the Pacific Salmon Health Monitoring Initiative)

C. 2026 FWC Meeting Calendar

- 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



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.

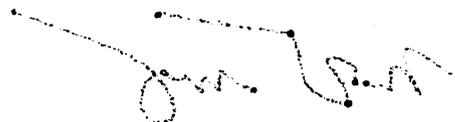
To address the harvest of northern bound coho salmon in the Central District, the Board of Fisheries voted in October to take up an Agenda Change Request to evaluate unforeseen impacts associated with the management of the UCI Drift Net Fishery in light of large returns of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye salmon 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 [unclear]", located in the lower right quadrant of the page.



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: October 24, 2025

CONTACT: Colton Lipka, Area Management Biologist
Lucas Stumpf, Assistant Area Management Biologist
(907) 262-9368

2025 Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Salmon Fishery Season Summary

The following is an overview of the 2025 Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) commercial salmon season. All data are preliminary. The 2025 UCI sockeye salmon total run of 12.1 million fish was 74% greater than the preseason forecast of 6.9 million fish (Table 1). The commercial harvest of 4.0 million salmon was 41% greater than the recent 20-year average annual harvest of 2.9 million fish (Table 2). The 2025 exvessel value of all salmon species was \$36.4 million and was 57% greater than the previous 20-year average annual exvessel value of \$23.1 million (Table 3). Of the five species of Pacific salmon harvested in UCI, sockeye salmon accounted for 91% of the total exvessel value over the past 20 years (Table 3). The 2025 king salmon harvest of 128 fish is the lowest on record. Low commercial harvest of king salmon corresponds to low abundance trends and restricted fishing effort observed this season. Overall participation in UCI was less than in previous years with 622 permits making deliveries, which is 29% less than the 20-year average of 875 permits (Tables 4 and 5).

All monitored UCI sockeye salmon escapement goals were met or exceeded in 2025. Fish Creek and Larson Lake were within their respective sustainable escapement goals (SEG) while Chelatna Lake and Kasilof River exceeded their respective escapement goals. The Kenai River sockeye salmon late-run exceeded the inriver goal. The Judd Lake weir was not operated in 2025 due to funding not being available (Table 6).

In 2025, the Kenai River early-run large king salmon optimal escapement goal (OEG) was not achieved while the Kenai River late-run large king salmon recovery goal and OEG were achieved. Of the three southern Kenai Peninsula king salmon systems with escapement goals, the SEG was achieved at the Anchor River and for the Ninilchik River wild run. The Deep Creek king salmon run was not assessed due to lack of funding. In the Northern Cook Inlet region, the Little Susitna River king salmon SEG was not achieved and the Deshka River king salmon BEG was not achieved. The SEG on the Chuitna River in the West Cook Inlet area was also not achieved. King salmon escapements for the Susitna River Drainage are currently undergoing post-season analysis but preliminary results from aerial surveys indicate low abundance of king salmon (Table 6).

In 2025, coho salmon weir counts on the Deshka River are considered a minimum count due to flooding; however, it is likely the SEG was not achieved. The coho salmon SEG for Jim Creek and the SEG for Fish creek were both achieved. The Little Susitna River SEG was not achieved. The chum salmon SEG for Clear Creek in Chinitna Bay was achieved (Table 6).

SOCKEYE SALMON

2025 Run and Fishery Summary

In 2025, approximately 6.9 million sockeye salmon were forecasted to return to the UCI. Of these, 4.9 million sockeye salmon were estimated to be available for harvest, including commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries. The preliminary total run estimate for UCI sockeye salmon in 2025, which includes both harvest and escapement estimates, is 12.1 million fish (Table 1). This total run estimate is 5.1 million fish, or 74%, higher than forecasted. The performance of individual stocks varied but all stocks returned in greater than forecasted numbers (Table 1).

The end of season passage estimated at the river mile 19 sonar of 4,252,497 sockeye salmon exceeded the Kenai River sockeye salmon upper-tier inriver goal range (1,200,000–1,600,000 fish) and was the largest inriver passage on record (Table 6). In 2025, the midpoint of sockeye salmon passage occurred on July 26, which is one day earlier than the previous 20-year average (2005–2024).

The Kasilof River sockeye salmon sonar count of 1,197,471 fish exceeded the Kasilof River BEG of 140,000–320,000 fish and the OEG of 140,000–370,000 fish (Table 6). The passage midpoint for Kasilof River sockeye salmon occurred on July 12, which was five days earlier than the 20-year average midpoint of July 17.

The 2025 total UCI commercial harvest of 3.7 million sockeye salmon was 60% above the 2005–2024 average annual harvest of 2.3 million fish (Table 2 and 5). Prices varied during the season but, based on an estimated average price of \$1.73 per pound, the total exvessel value for sockeye salmon harvested was \$35.8 million, or 98% of the total 2025 exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3).

East Side Set Net and Dip Net Fishery

The Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery (ESSN) started closed for the 2025 season due to a poor forecast of Kenai River late-run large king salmon (Figures 1 and 2). On August 4, the recovery goal of 14,250 large Kenai king salmon was projected to be achieved in all reasonable run timing scenarios, subsequently, two 8-hour periods for the ESSN commercial fishery were announced for August 5 and August 6. The periods were implemented with the prescribed gear restrictions and fishing times were centered around high tide to minimize king salmon harvest. The total ESSN harvest of 42,992 sockeye salmon with 82 permit making deliveries (Table 4).

The 2025 dip net commercial fishery preliminary harvest was 1 king, 130,498 sockeye, 45 coho, 187 pink, and 17 chum salmon. A total of 37 permits delivered fish from the commercial dip net fishery. (Table 4). Harvest was concentrated during the peak of the Kenai River sockeye salmon run from July 15 to July 31 and the highest success was on beaches near the mouth of the Kenai River.

In 2025, six commissioner's permits were issued to experiment with the use of beach seines in the Upper Subdistrict to harvest sockeye salmon and release king salmon utilizing existing beach infrastructure. Of the six permits issued, two fished the experimental gear type in 2025. Harvest of salmon was not allowed during the 2025 season, all fish captured with seines were required to be released.

Drift Gillnet Fishery

The drift gillnet fishery management started the season under the provisions of the middle run size tier for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon (2.3–4.6 million fish) based the preseason forecast. On

July 25, the inseason projection of 5.4 million fish shifted the management to the upper-tier (> 4.6 million fish) regulations, increasing the inriver run goal from 1.1–1.4 million fish to 1.2–1.6 million fish. Unlike the ESSN fishery, the drift gillnet fishery was not as severely impacted by the KRLKSSOC. Beginning in 2024, the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Cook Inlet was managed directly by the National Marine Fisheries Service under a separate Federal Fisheries Management Plan. The remaining State of Alaska waters (SOA) were managed following stipulations in the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* (CDDGFMP 5 AAC 21.353, Figure 3). Commercial fishing was opened following the complex guidance of these plans. Following these plans results in mixed openings in SOA waters primarily using prescribed drift gillnet areas, expanded corridor sections, and sockeye abundance triggers to guide commercial openings through the season.

From June 19 through September 5, the drift gillnet fleet fished a total of 42 days as follows: 3 days in the Expanded Kasilof Section only, 6 days in the Expanded Kasilof and Anchor Point Section, 1 day in the Ex. Kenai/Kasilof sections only, 15 days in the Ex. Kenai/Kasilof and Anchor Point sections only, 5 days in Drift Gillnet Area 1 with some or all the expanded sections, 1 day in Drift Gillnet Area 1 & 3 with all the expanded sections, and 7 days district wide in State of Alaska waters. Beginning August 15, the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict was open to commercial drift and set gillnet fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays, harvest was recorded on 4 days. All UCI commercial drift gillnet fisheries were closed by EO on September 22 for the 2025 season.

The State of Alaska waters drift gillnet fishery in UCI harvested 67 king, 3,135,793 sockeye, 73,613 coho, 31,843 pink, and 79,008 chum salmon for a total harvest of 3,320,324 salmon caught by 404 permits that made deliveries (Table 4).

The Federal waters drift gillnet fishery in UCI harvested 33 kings, 359,000 sockeye, 13,414 coho, 5,587 pink, and 24,182 chum salmon for a total harvest of 402,216 salmon caught by 154 permits that made deliveries (Table 4).

The total UCI drift gillnet harvest of 3,494,793 sockeye salmon was above the 20-year average harvest of 1,367,339 fish (Table 5). In 2025, 404 drift gillnet permits made deliveries for a season average harvest of approximately 8,650 sockeye salmon per permit. Participation was below the 20-year average of 425 drift gillnet permits (Tables 4 and 5).

Western and Chinitna Bay Subdistricts Fisheries

The Western Subdistrict (Figures 1 and 2) set gillnet fishery opened for regulatory fishing periods on Monday, June 19. The Chinitna Bay Subdistrict harvest is confidential due to the number of participants and processors. Approximately 28,755 sockeye salmon were harvested with set gillnet gear in the Western and Chinitna Bay subdistricts. This was 29% below the average annual harvest of 40,614 fish during the most recent 20 years. Participation was near the 20-year average with 19 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Table 4 and 5).

Kustatan Subdistrict Fishery

The Kustatan Subdistrict includes those waters from the Drift River oil terminal to the Northern District boundary near the West Foreland (Figures 1 and 2). The 2025 fishery was closed from June 2 until June 16 by EO for conservation of Northern District king salmon. Approximately 16,469 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Kustatan Subdistrict in 2025, of which 339 sockeye salmon were harvested during the Big River fishery from June 16 through June 23. The 2025 sockeye salmon harvest for the Kustatan Subdistrict was 219% greater than recent 20-year average harvest of 5,170 fish. Participation was near the 20-year average with 7 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Table 4 and 5).

Kalgin Island Subdistrict Fishery

The Kalgin Island Subdistrict (Figures 1 and 2) opened for regulatory Monday and Thursday fishing periods beginning June 26. In 2025, a total of 36,050 sockeye salmon were harvested from the Kalgin Island Subdistrict, with 3,572 of those fish taken during the Big River sockeye salmon fishery. The 2025 Kalgin Island Subdistrict harvest was 35% below the recent 20-year average harvest of 55,128 fish. Participation was near the 20-year average with 24 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Table 4 and 5).

The Packers Creek video weir was not operated and the SEG (15,000–30,000) was not assessed in 2025 (Table 6). The project is not expected to be operated in the future.

Northern District Fishery

The Northern District (Figure 4) opened for sockeye salmon on July 3, after the directed king salmon fishery (May 25–June 24) and regular periods on June 26 and June 30, were closed for king salmon conservation. Commercial fishing was reduced from 12 hours to 8 hours on the August 14 period due to developing coho salmon concerns. In response to weak coho salmon abundance at the Little Susitna and Deshka River weirs, commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Northern District was closed effective 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 18, 2025. In 2025, a total of 40,571 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Northern District. This harvest was 4% below the recent 20-year average harvest of 42,177 sockeye salmon. Participation was below the 20-year average with 49 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Table 4 and 5).

COHO SALMON

2025 Run and Fishery Summary

The 2025 commercial harvest estimate of 112,965 coho salmon in UCI was 31% below the recent 20-year average of 163,760 fish (Tables 2, 4, and 5). The 2025 drift gillnet harvest of 87,027 coho salmon was 7% below the recent 20-year average of 93,149 fish. The Northern District set gillnet fishery harvested 17,972 coho salmon, which was 50% below the recent 20-year average of 36,095 fish (Table 4 and 5).

Based on an average price per pound of \$0.77, the estimated exvessel value of the 2025 commercial coho salmon fishery was \$339,431 or 0.9% of the total exvessel value of all species in Upper Cook Inlet. This was 53% below the recent 20-year average exvessel value of \$728,409 for coho salmon in UCI (Table 3).

In UCI, there are four coho salmon systems with escapement goals. The Little Susitna River, Deshka River, and Fish Creek are monitored by weirs, while McRoberts Creek was assessed with foot surveys.

The Little Susitna weir was moved from its original location at river mile 32.5 to river mile 39.5 and began operating on July 23. Low water conditions slowed the coho salmon passage through August. High water prevented counting from August 30 until September due to safety concerns, the last day of counts was on September 9. The weir count of 4,506 fish did not achieve the SEG of 9,200–17,700 fish (Table 6).

The Deshka River weir began operation on June 13, the first coho salmon was counted on July 26. Low water conditions slowed the coho salmon passage into August. Flooding prevented counting fish at the Deshka River weir beginning August 29 ending the weir project. Visual assessments by department staff did not identify many fish in stream before or after the flood occurred. The count

of 3,869 coho salmon is considered a minimum count and incomplete, but it is unlikely the SEG of 10,200–24,100 fish was achieved (Table 6).

Fish Creek weir operated for the full coho salmon season. The SEG of 1,200–6,000 fish was exceeded with a final count of 3,398 fish (Table 6).

The SEG for Jim Creek of 250–700 coho salmon is assessed postseason by a foot survey of McRoberts Creek, a small spawning tributary within the Jim Creek system. A survey conducted on September 25 counted 450 coho salmon, which was within the goal range (Table 6).

KING SALMON

2025 Run and Fishery Summary

The 2025 UCI commercial king salmon harvest of 128 fish was 98% below the recent 20-year average of 8,217 fish (Table 2 and 5). Fisheries across UCI were restricted or closed to reduce king salmon harvest. Using the average price of \$3.92 per pound for king salmon, the estimated exvessel value of the 2025 harvest was \$4,571, or >1% of the total exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3).

In the Central District of UCI there are five monitored king salmon stocks with escapement goals. The early and late-run Kenai River stocks are monitored with sonar, the Anchor River is monitored with a combination of sonar and weirs, and the Ninilchik River and Crooked Creek are monitored with weirs.

The total Kenai River large fish (> 75 cm Mid eye to tail fork length) early-run king salmon passage through June 30, 2025, at the river mile 14 sonar was 2,541 large king salmon. Neither the OEG of 3,900–6,600 large fish or the SEG of 2,800–5,600 large fish was achieved (Table 6). This stock is not generally harvested in commercial fisheries.

The total Kenai River large fish late-run king salmon passage through August 21, 2025, at the river mile 14 sonar was 15,015 large king salmon. ADF&G applies harvest and catch-and-release mortality estimates and spawning downstream of the sonar estimates to generate a preliminary spawning escapement estimate of 15,641 large fish. The stock of concern action plan recovery goal was achieved in 2025 as well as the 15,000–30,000 large fish OEG and the 13,500–27,000 large fish (Table 6).

The SEG (700–1,400) for wild run king salmon in Crooked Creek was not achieved in 2025 with a final weir count of 305 fish (Table 6). The SEG for wild king salmon has not been achieved since 2020. This stock is not generally harvested in commercial fisheries.

Of the three southern Kenai Peninsula king salmon systems, the SEG was achieved on two systems and not assessed in the third. The Anchor River preliminary escapement estimate was 4,040 fish (SEG 3,200–6,400) and the Ninilchik River naturally produced count was 1,144 fish (SEG 900–1,600) (Table 6). The Deep Creek king salmon run was not assessed due to lack of funding. These stocks are not generally harvested in commercial fisheries.

The Northern District of UCI there are two systems with escapement goals monitored for king salmon inseason using weirs and multiple streams from the westside of Cook Inlet and the Susitna River Drainage are evaluated by aerial surveys.

The final escapement estimate of king salmon in the Deshka River was 1,690 fish, which did not achieve the BEG of 9,000–18,000 fish. The Little Susitna River king salmon SEG of 2,100–4,300 was not assessed in 2025 by weir due to the removal and installation of the weir at a different location 7-miles upriver. The Little Susitna SEG was evaluated by aerial and the aerial survey SEG

is 700–1,500 fish. Surveys estimated 437 king salmon which did not achieve the SEG. Aerial surveys of the indicator stocks throughout the Susitna drainage king salmon systems are pending analysis to determine whether aggregate goals have been achieved. Preliminary results indicated goals were not achieved and low king salmon is continuing in these systems (Table 6).

Northern District King Salmon Fishery

Northern District king salmon are primarily harvested during the directed fishery in late May and June. Northern District commercial fisheries were restricted and closed to reduce king and coho salmon harvest this season.

The 2025 total Northern District commercial king salmon harvest was 3 fish and 99% below the previous 20-year average harvest of 1,840 fish (Table 4 and 5).

ESSN King Salmon Fishery

The 2025 preseason forecast was for a total run of 8,742 large Kenai River late-run king salmon. Based on low preseason forecast, the late-run king salmon sport fishery was closed preseason and remained closed for the 2025 season. Subsequently, the ESSN commercial fishery was closed by EO on February 13, in compliance with the KRLKSSOC. Two 8-hour periods for set gillnetting in the ESSN, on August 5 and 6, were allowed after the recovery goal of 14,250 large Kenai River king salmon, accounting for anticipated harvest, projection error and inseason run strength was projected to be achieved. During the two set gillnet periods that were opened, 7 king salmon were reported on fish tickets. One king salmon was harvested in the dip net commercial fishery that occurred in the ESSN area (Table 4 and 5).

PINK SALMON

Pink salmon runs in UCI are even-year dominant, with odd-year average harvests typically less than even-year harvests. The 2025 UCI commercial pink salmon harvest was 40,532 fish (Table 2), which was 51% below the average annual harvest of 82,485 fish from the most recent 20 years of odd-year harvest (Table 4 and 5). Using an average price of \$0.35 per pound, the exvessel value for the 2025 pink salmon harvest was \$44,261 or 0.1% of the total exvessel value of salmon in UCI (Table 3).

CHUM SALMON

The 2025 harvest of 109,952 chum salmon was 13% below the recent 20-year average annual harvest of 125,867 fish (Table 4 and 5). Using the average price of \$0.38 per pound the exvessel value of the 2025 UCI commercial chum salmon harvest was \$264,710 or 0.7% of the total exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3). An aerial survey of Chinitna River/Clearwater Creek produced an estimate of 6,431 chum salmon within these streams, which was within the SEG range of 3,500–8,000 fish (Table 6). Commercial fishing with set and drift gillnet gear was allowed on Tuesdays and Fridays, for 12-hour periods, beginning August 15. This area was closed on September 22 when all of UCI closed to commercial salmon fishing for the season.

ANCHOR POINT OFFSHORE TEST FISHERY

The Anchor Point offshore test fishery (OTF) began in 1979 by ADF&G near the southern boundary of the UCI salmon management area between Anchor Point and the Red River Delta (Figure 5). The project was designed to index sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* abundance (including run timing) returning to UCI during the commercial salmon fishing season. These data are used to assist ADF&G commercial fishery managers in adjusting commercial fishing times

and areas to efficiently harvest sockeye salmon or restrict fisheries that may overharvest specific stocks. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) has assembled management plans requiring inseason abundance estimates of the annual sockeye salmon run to implement specific plan provisions. The OTF project has become one of the more important tools that Upper Cook Inlet fishery managers utilize to make inseason fishery management decisions.

In 2024 the OTF project was not operated due to lack of funding. During the 2025 season, a cooperative agreement between ADF&G and the Alaska Salmon Alliance was formed to operate the project. The 2025 results of the project can be found on Tables 7, 8, and 9.

Table 1.–Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon forecast and preliminary total run (in 1,000s), by river system, 2025.

System	Forecast	Actual	% Change
Kenai River	4,190	8,068	92.6%
Kasilof River	1,240	1,905	53.6%
Susitna River	404	597	47.8%
Fish Creek	105	146	39.1%
Minor Systems	1,010	1,368	35.5%
Overall Total	6,930	12,085	74.4%

Table 2.–Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by species, 2005–2025.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2005	27,667	5,238,699	224,657	48,419	69,740	5,609,182
2006	18,029	2,192,730	177,853	404,111	64,033	2,856,756
2007	17,625	3,316,779	177,339	147,020	77,240	3,736,003
2008	13,333	2,380,135	171,869	169,368	50,315	2,785,020
2009	8,750	2,045,794	153,210	214,321	82,808	2,504,883
2010	9,900	2,828,342	207,350	292,706	228,863	3,567,161
2011	11,248	5,277,995	95,291	34,123	129,407	5,548,064
2012	2,527	3,133,839	106,775	469,598	269,733	3,982,472
2013	5,398	2,683,224	260,963	48,275	139,365	3,137,225
2014	4,660	2,344,034	137,419	642,986	116,127	3,245,226
2015	10,798	2,649,667	216,032	48,004	275,960	3,200,461
2016	10,027	2,396,943	147,495	382,468	123,679	3,060,612
2017	7,660	1,849,243	303,642	167,842	243,600	2,571,987
2018	3,405	817,879	232,290	126,923	115,366	1,295,863
2019	3,149	1,720,559	163,863	70,827	129,176	2,087,574
2020	3,008	695,754	139,240	345,072	29,217	1,212,291
2021	3,973	1,410,854	147,607	81,360	70,243	1,714,037
2022	2,278	1,126,280	102,666	100,964	99,494	1,431,682
2023	734	1,574,157	83,736	66,197	126,465	1,851,289
2024	169	1,870,044	24,750	41,679	73,905	2,010,547
2025 ^a	128	3,790,128	112,965	40,532	109,952	4,053,705
2005-2024 Avg	8,217	2,377,648	163,702	195,113	125,737	2,870,417
2015-2024 Avg	4,520	1,611,138	156,132	143,134	128,711	2,043,634

^a Preliminary data

Table 3.—Approximate exvessel value and percentage of Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by species, 2005–2025.

Year	King	%	Sockeye	%	Coho	%	Pink	%	Chum	%	Total
2005	\$ 688,993	2.2%	\$ 30,165,827	95.2%	\$ 708,620	2.2%	\$ 12,796	0.0%	\$ 101,106	0.3%	\$ 31,677,341
2006	\$ 617,278	4.4%	\$ 12,311,850	88.5%	\$ 679,463	4.9%	\$ 174,522	1.3%	\$ 121,265	0.9%	\$ 13,904,377
2007	\$ 629,643	2.7%	\$ 21,916,852	93.6%	\$ 682,747	2.9%	\$ 53,029	0.2%	\$ 141,097	0.6%	\$ 23,423,367
2008	\$ 544,042	3.3%	\$ 15,530,144	93.0%	\$ 482,298	2.9%	\$ 64,466	0.4%	\$ 75,766	0.5%	\$ 16,696,717
2009	\$ 266,548	1.8%	\$ 13,720,051	94.1%	\$ 399,704	2.7%	\$ 71,582	0.5%	\$ 115,969	0.8%	\$ 14,573,854
2010	\$ 359,184	1.1%	\$ 30,556,535	92.1%	\$ 1,090,191	3.3%	\$ 311,199	0.9%	\$ 851,004	2.6%	\$ 33,168,113
2011	\$ 634,836	1.2%	\$ 51,363,720	96.7%	\$ 406,726	0.8%	\$ 27,548	0.1%	\$ 688,878	1.3%	\$ 53,121,708
2012	\$ 121,626	0.3%	\$ 32,008,304	91.6%	\$ 480,119	1.4%	\$ 622,809	1.8%	\$ 1,723,098	4.9%	\$ 34,955,955
2013	\$ 210,638	0.5%	\$ 37,787,069	93.9%	\$ 1,362,395	3.4%	\$ 53,754	0.1%	\$ 828,113	2.1%	\$ 40,241,970
2014	\$ 206,119	0.6%	\$ 32,819,090	93.6%	\$ 778,672	2.2%	\$ 588,409	1.7%	\$ 687,214	2.0%	\$ 35,079,504
2015	\$ 359,903	1.5%	\$ 22,285,338	92.2%	\$ 753,078	3.1%	\$ 39,197	0.2%	\$ 726,696	3.0%	\$ 24,164,211
2016	\$ 491,323	2.2%	\$ 20,853,404	92.3%	\$ 557,531	2.5%	\$ 328,922	1.5%	\$ 351,248	1.6%	\$ 22,582,429
2017	\$ 634,666	2.7%	\$ 19,711,471	82.7%	\$ 2,168,036	9.1%	\$ 89,448	0.4%	\$ 1,234,825	5.2%	\$ 23,838,446
2018	\$ 207,901	1.7%	\$ 10,139,195	81.8%	\$ 1,367,047	11.0%	\$ 115,431	0.9%	\$ 569,659	4.6%	\$ 12,399,234
2019	\$ 172,899	0.9%	\$ 17,131,030	93.3%	\$ 684,442	3.7%	\$ 45,667	0.2%	\$ 321,909	1.8%	\$ 18,355,947
2020	\$ 69,730	1.4%	\$ 4,008,623	79.1%	\$ 591,193	11.7%	\$ 300,689	5.9%	\$ 96,539	1.9%	\$ 5,066,774
2021	\$ 124,439	0.9%	\$ 12,665,469	91.3%	\$ 684,272	4.9%	\$ 63,900	0.5%	\$ 327,161	2.4%	\$ 13,865,241
2022	\$ 93,634	0.7%	\$ 12,064,999	92.1%	\$ 368,873	2.8%	\$ 110,691	0.8%	\$ 461,507	3.5%	\$ 13,099,704
2023	\$ 40,434	0.3%	\$ 13,655,095	94.8%	\$ 253,751	1.8%	\$ 46,846	0.3%	\$ 412,463	2.9%	\$ 14,408,588
2024	\$ 7,978	0.0%	\$ 18,703,631	97.6%	\$ 69,022	0.4%	\$ 31,853	0.2%	\$ 351,508	1.8%	\$ 19,163,992
2025 ^a	\$ 4,571	0.0%	\$ 35,800,791	98.2%	\$ 339,431	0.9%	\$ 44,261	0.1%	\$ 264,710	0.7%	\$ 36,453,764
2005–2024 average	\$ 324,091	1.5%	\$ 21,469,885	91.5%	\$ 728,409	3.9%	\$ 157,638	0.9%	\$ 509,351	2.2%	\$ 23,189,374

^a Preliminary data

Table 4.—Preliminary Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by district and species, 2025.

Gear	District	Subdistrict	Permits ^a	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Drift	Central	State of Alaska (SOA)	404	67	3,135,793	73,613	31,843	79,008	3,320,324
		Federal Waters (EEZ)	154	33	359,000	13,414	5,587	24,182	402,216
Total UCI Drift Gillnet Harvest			404	100	3,494,793	87,027	37,430	103,190	3,722,540
Setnet	Central	Upper	82	7	42,992	1,576	76	33	44,684
		Kalgin Island	24	2	36,050	3,081	162	959	40,254
		Western & Chinitna Bay	19	15	28,755	2,669	115	1,857	33,411
		Kustatan	7	0	16,469	595	76	24	17,164
Total Central District Set Harvest			132	24	124,266	7,921	429	2,873	135,513
Dip Net	Central	Upper	37	1	130,498	45	187	17	130,748
Beach Seine ^b	Central	Upper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Setnet	Northern	General	21	3	16,485	10,208	484	2,757	29,937
		Eastern	28	0	24,086	7,764	2,002	1,115	34,967
Total Northern District Set Harvest			49	3	40,571	17,972	2,486	3,872	64,904
Total UCI Harvest			622	128	3,790,128	112,965	40,532	109,952	4,053,705

^a Permit totals may not equal the sum of individual stat areas if the same permit was fished in multiple stat areas.

^b Beach seine gear was prosecuted under Commissioner's Permits that prohibited the retention of fish.

Table 5.–Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by district and species, 20-year average (2005–2024).

Gear	District	Subdistrict	Permits ^a	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink ^b	Chum	Total
Drift	Central	State and EEZ	425	612	1,367,339	93,149	41,685	117,047	1,619,832
Setnet	Central	Upper	312	5,206	864,863	11,675	29,143	621	940,743
		Kalgin Island	26	323	55,128	14,731	2,076	1,545	74,971
		Western & Chinitna Bay	23	129	40,614	6,335	1,633	2,856	50,890
		Kustatan	11	106	5,170	1,521	186	28	6,914
Total Central District Set Harvest			373	5,764	965,784	34,516	33,048	5,416	1,044,529
Setnet	Northern	General	31	326	21,040	13,533	2,621	514	38,033
		Eastern	47	1,514	21,137	22,562	5,132	2,889	53,235
Total Northern District Set Harvest			78	1,840	42,177	36,095	7,753	3,403	91,268
Total UCI Harvest			875	8,217	2,375,300	163,760	82,485	125,867	2,755,629

^a Permit totals may be less than the sum of individual stat areas if the same permit was fished in multiple stat areas.

^b Pink salmon 20-year average is for odd years only

Table 6.–Select Upper Cook Inlet salmon escapement goals and passage (or counts), 2025.

System	2025 Estimate	Goal type	Lower goal	Upper goal
Sockeye Salmon				
Kenai River	4,252,497	IRG	1,200,000	1,600,000
		SEG	750,000	1,300,000
Kasilof River	1,197,471	BEG	140,000	320,000
		OEG	140,000	370,000
Larson Lake	32,904	SEG	15,000	35,000
Judd Lake	ND	SEG	15,000	40,000
Chelatna Lake	59,163	SEG	20,000	45,000
Fish Creek	42,573	SEG	15,000	45,000
Packers Creek	ND	SEG	15,000	30,000
King Salmon				
Kenai River Early-run	2,541	OEG	3,900	6,600
		SEG	2,800	5,600
Kenai River Late-run	15,015	RG	14,250	30,000
		OEG	15,000	30,000
		SEG	13,500	27,000
Crooked Creek	305	SEG	700	1,400
Anchor River	4,040	SEG	3,200	6,400
Ninilchik River	1,144	SEG	900	1,600
Deshka River	1,690	BEG	9,000	18,000
Little Susitna (aerial survey)	437	SEG	700	1,500
Susitna Drainage Aggregates	TBD	SEGs	–	–
Coho Salmon				
Little Susitna River	4,506	SEG	9,200	17,700
Deshka River	^a	SEG	10,200	24,100
Fish Creek	3,398	SEG	1,200	6,000
Jim Creek (McRoberts)	450	SEG	250	700
Chum				
Clearwater Creek	6,431	SEG	3,500	8,000

*Note: BEG= Biological Escapement Goal, SEG=Sustainable Escapement Goal, OEG=Optimum Escapement Goal, and IRG = Inriver Goal, ND = No Data, TBD = To Be Determined, RG = Recovery Goal

^a Weir count is considered a minimum count and incomplete due to missed passage.

Table 7–Summary of sockeye salmon fishing effort, daily and cumulative catch, and daily and cumulative CPUE, Upper Cook Inlet offshore test fish project, 2025.

Date	Number of stations	Total mean fishing time (min)	Catch		CPUE		Mean length (mm)
			Daily	Cum	Daily	Cum	
1 July	6	230.0	24	24	18.5	19	531
2 July	6	237.0	54	78	39.0	58	535
3 July	6	233.0	53	131	40.2	98	537
4 July	6	229.0	61	192	45.7	143	541
5 July	6	222.0	131	323	104.5	248	526
6 July	6	246.0	140	463	91.6	340	537
7 July	6	230.5	42	505	32.4	372	538
8 July	6	224.5	53	558	38.1	410	525
9 July ^a	4	153.5	46	604	35.7	446	534
10 July	6	221.5	47	651	37.0	483	549
11 July	6	219.5	72	723	57.6	540	531
12 July	6	233.0	73	796	54.0	594	541
13 July ^a	5	246.5	99	895	82.9	677	539
14 July	6	229.5	124	1,019	77.3	754	554
15 July ^a	4	177.5	210	1,229	154.7	909	535
16 July ^a	3	114.0	60	1,289	109.6	1,019	544
17 July	6	231.0	90	1,379	73.3	1,092	544
18 July	6	224.0	70	1,449	53.1	1,145	546
19 July	6	234.5	156	1,605	114.6	1,260	544
20 July	6	220.0	61	1,666	48.2	1,308	541
21 July ^a	2	83.0	72	1,738	88.4	1,396	555
22 July	6	236.5	119	1,857	85.7	1,482	545
23 July ^a	0	-	-	1,857	91.7	1,574	-
24 July ^a	3	117.5	74	1,931	95.4	1,669	547
25 July ^a	3	126.0	122	2,053	118.9	1,788	553
26 July	6	221.0	70	2,123	52.4	1,840	546
27 July	6	222.0	33	2,156	25.5	1,866	541
28 July	6	244.0	224	2,380	158.8	2,025	542
29 July	6	217.5	31	2,411	25.5	2,050	542
30 July ^a	0	-	-	2,411	29.5	2,080	-
31 July	6	223.5	44	2,455	33.5	2,113	560

^a Not all stations fished due to weather or maintenance; the shaded CPUE data is for missing stations that were interpolated.

Table 8.—Estimated sockeye salmon catch by date and station, Upper Cook Inlet offshore test fish project, 2025.

Date	Station number						Total
	4	5	6	6.5	7	8	
1 July	5	1	11	5	2	0	24
2 July	3	3	18	5	24	1	54
3 July	11	26	6	0	7	3	53
4 July	0	12	0	30	18	1	61
5 July	0	7	48	66	7	3	131
6 July	13	0	35	68	18	6	140
7 July	0	7	14	5	3	13	42
8 July	0	51	0	1	0	1	53
9 July ^a	2	17	25	2	-	-	46
10 July	22	9	2	13	1	0	47
11 July	5	1	17	33	10	6	72
12 July	0	19	0	14	8	32	73
13 July ^a	16	4	21	42	16	-	99
14 July	4	94	16	6	4	0	124
15 July ^a	0	63	65	82	-	-	210
16 July ^a	-	-	-	9	24	27	60
17 July	3	10	32	16	5	24	90
18 July	2	47	7	2	3	9	70
19 July	10	41	44	6	53	2	156
20 July	24	1	3	32	1	0	61
21 July ^a	8	64	-	-	-	-	72
22 July	17	31	50	21	0	0	119
23 July ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 July ^a	0	-	38	36	-	-	74
25 July ^a	0	72	50	-	-	-	122
26 July	2	4	0	0	52	12	70
27 July	0	17	14	1	1	0	33
28 July	1	46	72	39	49	17	224
29 July	5	13	7	5	0	1	31
30 July ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 July	11	8	1	21	3	0	44
Total	164	668	596	560	309	158	2,455
%	7%	27%	24%	23%	13%	6%	100%

^a Not all stations fished due to weather or maintenance.

Table 9.—Estimated sockeye salmon CPUE by date and station, Upper Cook Inlet offshore test fish project, 2025.

Date	Station number						Total
	4	5	6	6.5	7	8	
1 July	4	1	9	4	1	0	19
2 July	2	2	13	4	17	1	39
3 July	9	19	5	0	6	2	40
4 July	0	10	0	21	14	1	46
5 July	0	6	48	43	6	2	104
6 July	10	0	25	37	14	5	92
7 July ^a	0	6	11	4	2	10	32
8 July	0	36	0	1	0	1	38
9 July	2	13	19	2	0	0	36
10 July	17	7	2	10	1	0	37
11 July	4	1	13	26	8	5	58
12 July ^a	0	15	0	9	7	24	54
13 July ^a	11	1	16	30	13	12	83
14 July	5	52	12	5	3	0	77
15 July ^a	0	39	44	49	12	10	155
16 July ^a	1	24	37	7	20	20	110
17 July ^a	2	8	30	10	4	18	73
18 July ^a	2	34	6	2	3	7	53
19 July ^a	8	27	33	5	40	2	115
20 July	18	1	2	26	1	0	48
21 July ^a	6	43	18	21	0	0	88
22 July	14	24	33	15	0	0	86
23 July	7	33	31	21	0	0	92
24 July	0	41	28	26	0	0	95
25 July ^a	0	49	33	13	19	5	119
26 July ^a	2	3	0	0	38	10	52
27 July	0	13	11	1	1	0	26
28 July	1	31	47	33	33	13	159
29 July	4	11	6	4	0	1	26
30 July ^a	7	8	3	9	1	0	29
31 July	9	6	1	15	3	0	33
Total	145	566	535	452	266	149	2,113
Percentage	7%	27%	25%	21%	13%	7%	

^aNot all stations fished due to weather or maintenance; the shaded CPUE data is for missing stations that were interpolated.

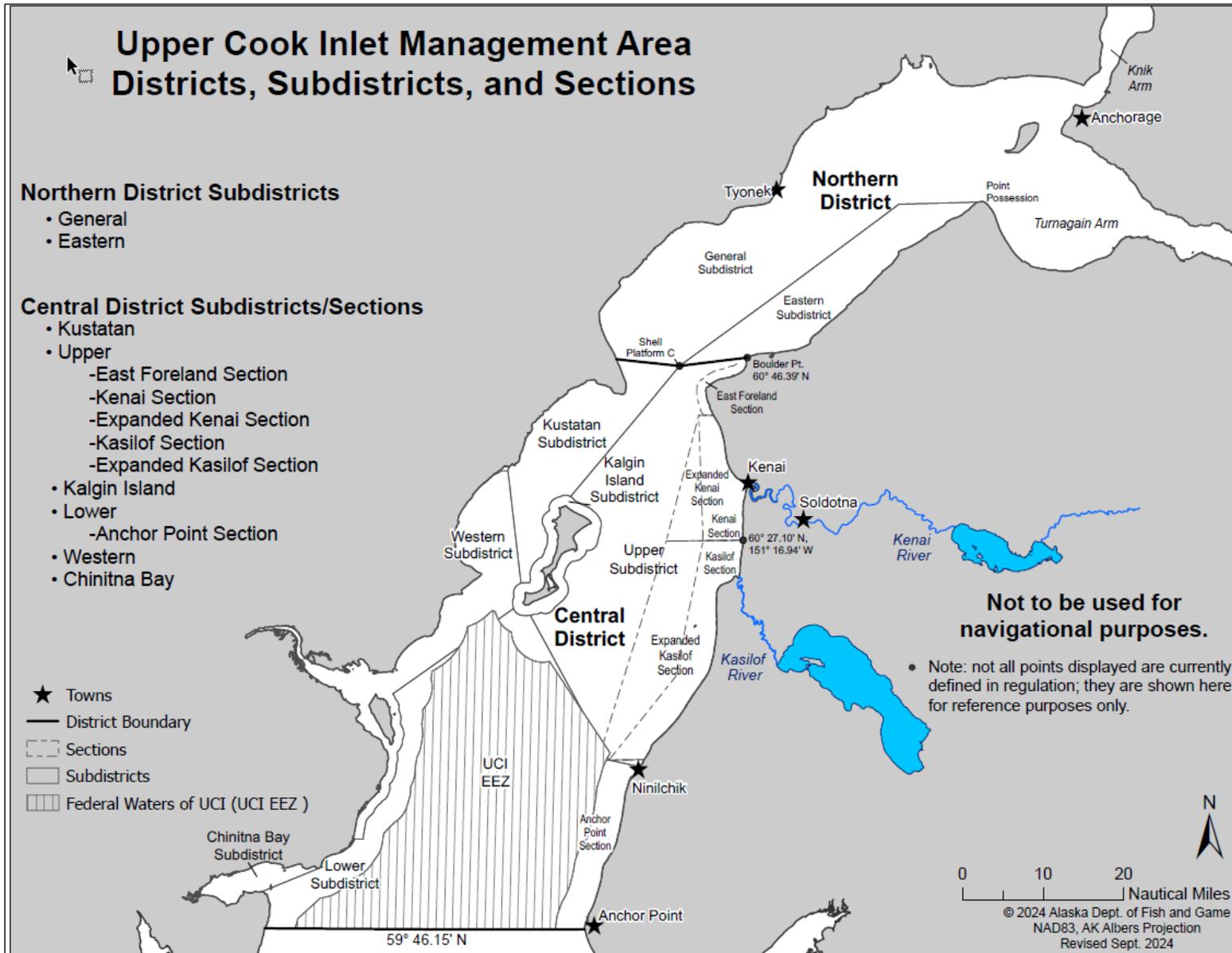


Figure 1.—Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries districts, subdistricts, and sections fishing boundaries.

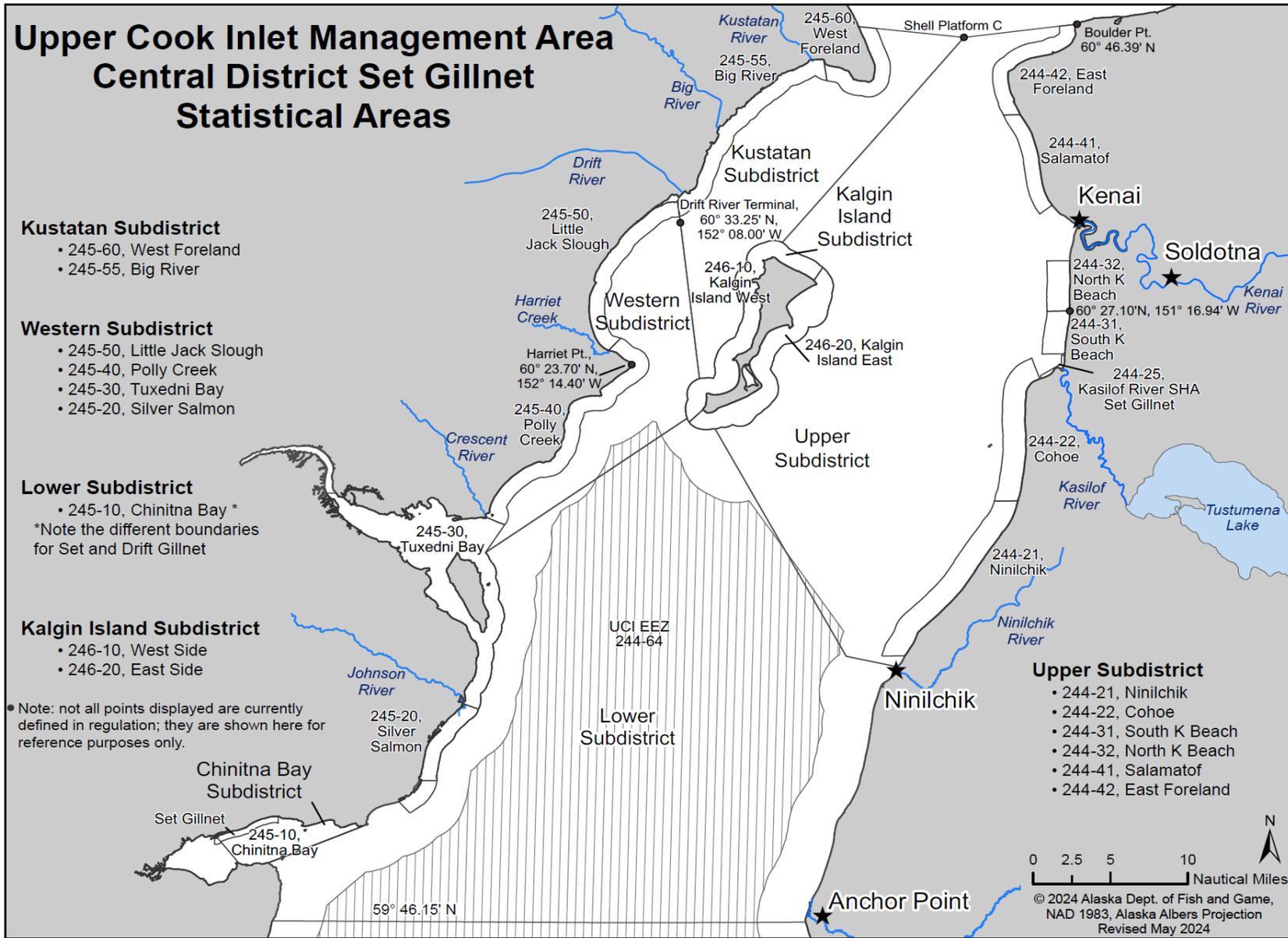


Figure 2.—Upper Cook Inlet, Central District commercial set gillnet statistical areas.

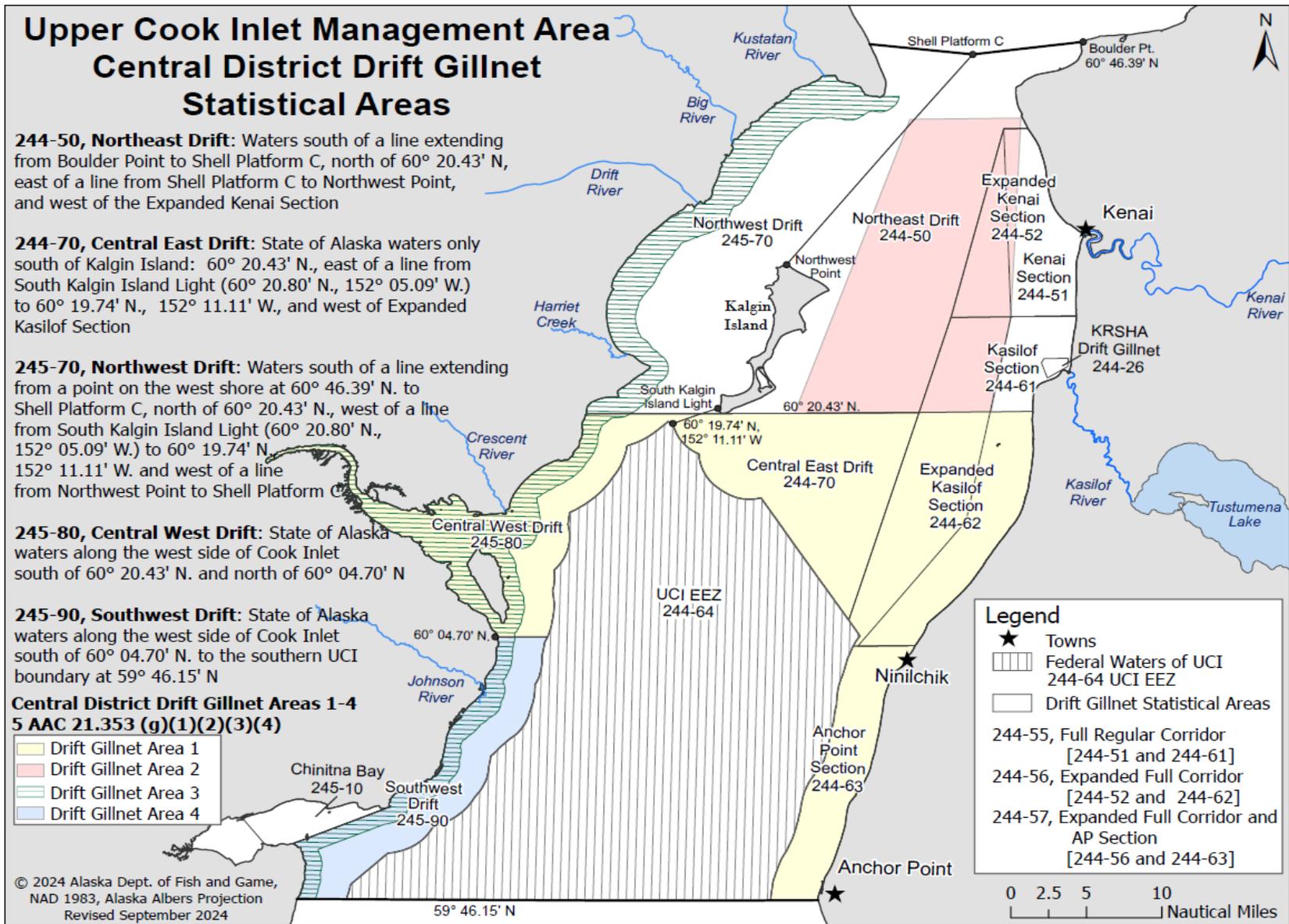


Figure 3.—Map of Upper Cook Inlet Drift Gillnet Statistical Areas, Drift Areas 1-4, and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

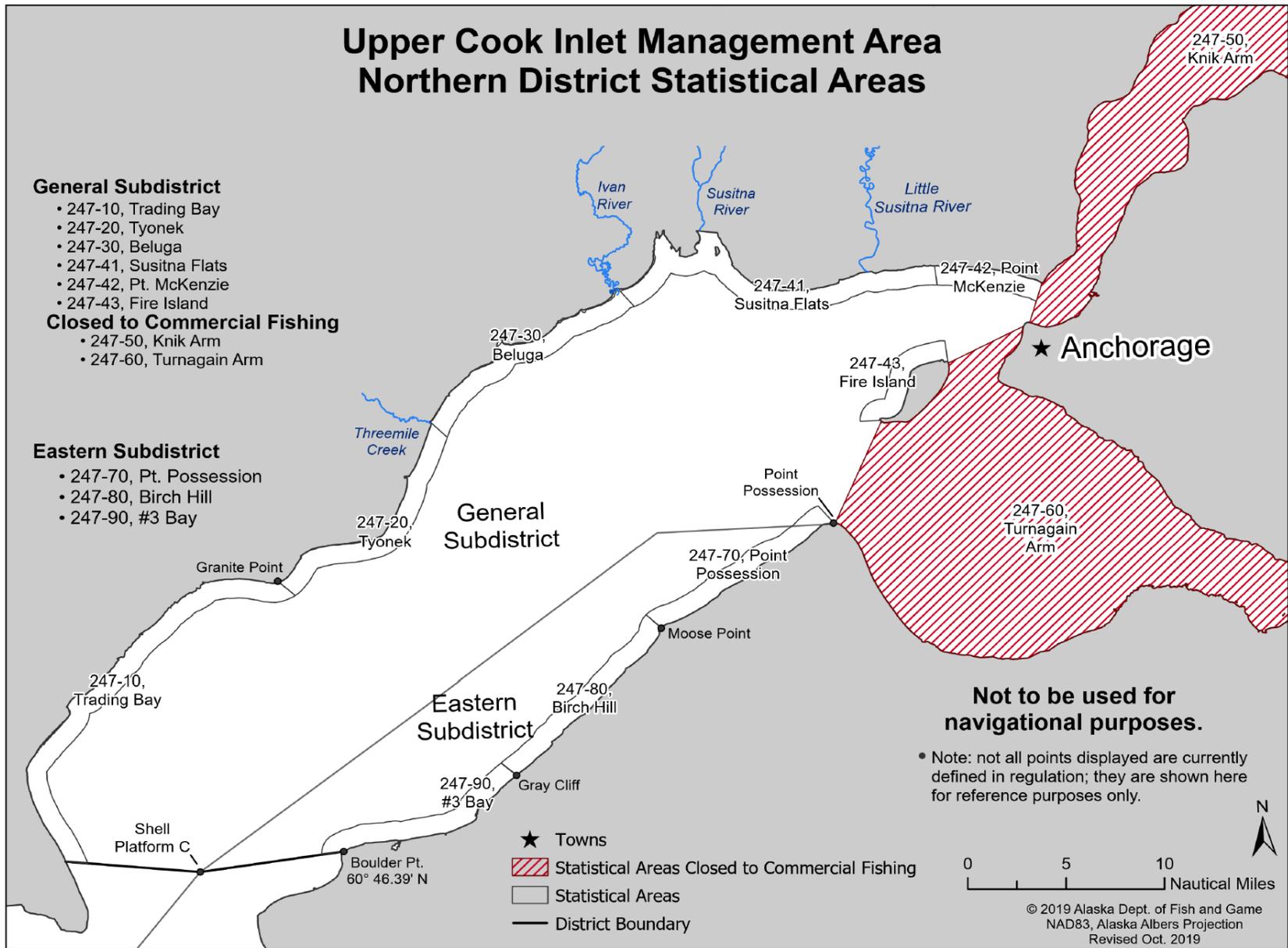


Figure 4.—Upper Cook Inlet, Northern District commercial set gillnet statistical areas.

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)

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. FWC 25-02**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION RECOMMENDING MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECT ADMINISTRATION TO CLASSIFY KEY BOROUGH-OWNED PARCELS ON THE SHORE OF DESHKA RIVER AS WATERSHED LANDS TO PROTECT SALMON POPULATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) has reviewed the outcomes of a recent study on the temperature of water entering the Deshka River from adjacent groundwater seeps; and

WHEREAS, this new information shows that certain parcels supporting the cold-water inputs to the Deshka River are essential for maintaining healthy salmon runs on the river; and

WHEREAS, spatial variation in water temperature is a key feature of habitat complexity that contributes to the movement, resilience, and persistence of cold-water fishes, including salmonids; and

WHEREAS, during spawning migration, periods of high river temperatures can block migratory corridors and cause thermal stress or mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) ranks the Susitna River drainage king salmon population as the fourth largest in the State of Alaska, with Deshka River

providing spawning and rearing habitat for approximately 20 percent of the Susitna River king salmon return on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, during the 10-year period from 1997-2006 Deshka River king salmon spawning escapements averaged more than 33,000 fish per year and the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery was an important economic driver for the Matanuska - Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, even with no sport harvest allowed in 2023 and 2024, not a single Chinook salmon spawning escapement goal was attained anywhere in the Susitna River drainage; and

WHEREAS, unsustainability of Susitna River drainage Chinook salmon is a rapidly accelerating problem; and

WHEREAS, the Deshka River is also a very productive producer of coho salmon within the Susitna River drainage, with Deshka River coho salmon escapements used by ADF&G as a tool for managing coho salmon stocks throughout the entire Susitna River drainage; and

WHEREAS, economic studies in our region in 2007 and 2017 show the significant positive economic impact returning salmon have on the economy of the MSB, that included \$56 million in direct spending benefits to the MSB in 2017 alone, and there are additional economic benefits from healthy wildlife and fish

populations, both of which require adequate and quality habitat locally; and

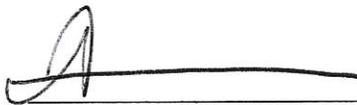
WHEREAS, the FWC believes it is important that the MSB takes every available action to safeguard healthy salmon runs in local water bodies; and

WHEREAS, the MSB can classify these parcels as watershed lands in recognition of the water quality function they provide that protects salmon habitat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the FWC recommends the Matanuska- Susitna Borough Assembly direct Borough Administration to bring forward legislation classifying key Borough- owned parcels on the shore of the Deshka River as "Watershed" Lands ADOPTED by the Matanuska- Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission this 13th day of March 13, 2025.


Peter Probasco, Chair

ATTEST:

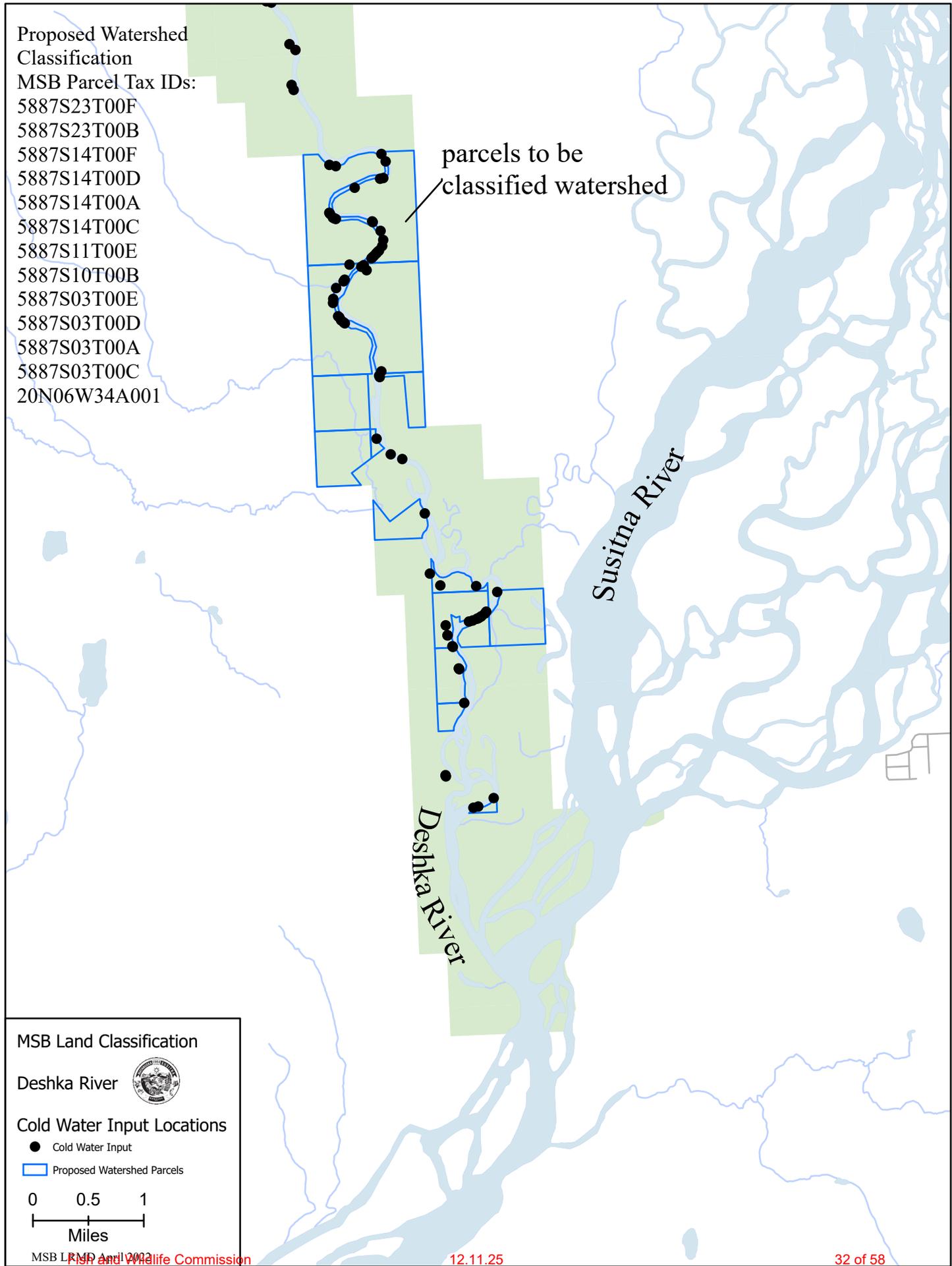

Margaret Brown, Staff

Proposed Watershed
Classification

MSB Parcel Tax IDs:

- 5887S23T00F
- 5887S23T00B
- 5887S14T00F
- 5887S14T00D
- 5887S14T00A
- 5887S14T00C
- 5887S11T00E
- 5887S10T00B
- 5887S03T00E
- 5887S03T00D
- 5887S03T00A
- 5887S03T00C
- 20N06W34A001

parcels to be
classified watershed



MSB Land Classification

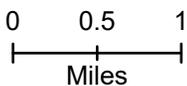
Deshka River



Cold Water Input Locations

● Cold Water Input

▭ Proposed Watershed Parcels



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

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
RC200	Andy Couch	Fishery Policy
	Mat Su	Mat Su Borough Proposed Amendment to Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan
RC228	Mat Su	Mat Su Borough Amendment to Proposal 127

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

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

DRAFT NPFMC THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK – 11/21/2025

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

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>
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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/>