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

March 12, 2026

MEETING PACKET

***Pg.* = *Item*:**

- 1 = Meeting Agenda
- 3 = Jan 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- 8 = Jan 29, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- 11 = March BOF Meeting Tentative Agenda
- 13 = March BOF Meeting Roadmap
- 15 = ADF&G Staff Comments on Proposal 186
- 48 = Draft HB 304
- 58 = HB 304 Sponsor Statement (McCabe)

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

Remote Participation: See attached agenda on p. 1

Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division

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

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
AGENDA

Edna Devries, Mayor

Peter Probasco – Chair
Andy Couch – Vice Chair
Gabriel Kitter
Bill Gamble
Kendra Zamzow
Michael Bowles
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

March 12, 2026
REGULAR MEETING
4:00 p.m.

Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:

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

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:
Join on your computer:
Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 280 029 644 221 62
Passcode: uP7Kq2v6

Or call in (audio only):
1-907-290-7880
Phone Conference ID: 632940304#

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 8, 2026
B. January 29, 2026

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

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report
B. Chair's Report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries 2026 March Meeting Strategy*

B. Prep for 2026-27 Board of Fisheries Cycle

C. Waterbody Setback Ordinance Staff Update and Discussion

D. ADF&G Summary Meetings
   1. Questions for ADF&G Annual Game Meeting (April 9)
   2. Cook Inlet salmon genetics presentation

E. Deshka Watershed Land Classification Resolution (RS 25-02)
F. Letter of support for HB304
H. Pike Mitigation Ideas

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026 FWC Officer Elections*

X. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: 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
JANUARY 8, 2026
REGULAR MEETING

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:01pm

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present
Pete Probasco
Andy Couch
Gabe Kitter
Kendra Zamzow
Michael Bowles (left meeting at 5:48PM)
Marty Van Diest
Jim Sykes

Absent
Bill Gamble

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

AC – request to include hatchery plan up for comment – Chair added as Item F under new business
AC moves, GK seconds, agenda as amended approved

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 13, 2025 (packet pg. 4)

AC moves, GK seconds, no objections, minutes are approved

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

Rep Kevin McCabe
Ben Americus
Stephen Braund
Margaret Stern
Sue Mauger

Sam Oslund
Bill Stoltze
Chennery Fife

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report

1. Post-Salmon Symposium Opportunities for Engagement – Susitna River Watershed Plan, Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership Strategic Plan Update

2. BLM Preliminary EA – authorize ROW for construction vehicles on existing Routes in Knik River SRMA - EA Glacier View Access

3. Availability of ADF&G for Game Summary Meeting – April 9 Game Mtg.

4. Upcoming State & Federal Meetings

- Jan 22, 2026, 9:00am, Wrangell - AK Board of Game work session
- Feb 2-11, 8:00am -5:00pm, Anchorage – NPFMC Meetings
  - Feb 2-4 – NPFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee
  - Feb 2-7 – NPFMC Advisory Panel
  - Feb 5-11 – NPFMC Council Meeting

B. Chair's Report

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries 2026 March Meeting Strategy
   BOF Proposal 186 (pg. 11)

AC moves for the FWC to participate in the BOF meeting addressing BOF Proposal 186, GK second.

No objection, motion passed.

Vincent-Lang & Couch discussion summary (pg. 13)
Mac Minard interest email (pg. 15)
Mac Minard proposal (pg. 16)

AC moves to hire Mac Minard for consulting services for the 2026 Statewide BOF meeting as outlined in the proposal, GK seconds. No objections, motion passes

AC moves to accept offer from KRSA to split the cost of the conference room with KRSA, GK seconds.

KZ objects

Motion passes 5-1
Yes – AC, GK, MB, PP, MVD
No – KZ

Schedule special meetings every 2 weeks starting on Jan 29 (Andy will be chair)

***All FWC decide how you want to be involved in the meeting**

B. Prep for 2026-27 Board of Fisheries Cycle – Goals, Tasks, Budget
Proposal deadline announcement – April 10, 2026 (pg. 22)
Strategy document (pg. 25)
AAR from 2024 cycle (pg. 28)

If FWC commissioner has ideas, draft the proposal and bring them forward at our special meetings, or we can also collectively work on proposals at our special meetings

C. Waterbody Setback Ordinance Staff Update and Discussion

D. Scheduling ADF&G Summary Meetings

E. Deshka Watershed Land Classification Resolution (RS 25-02)
Gamble-Metzger Email (pg. 63)

GK moves to have Bill Gamble bring forward the resolution to the Assembly
No objection, motion passes

To-do – follow up with BG to get on the assembly agenda

F. Other Follow-Up from Task List

- Gabe Kitter – Resource Development Council Email (pg. 66)

End of August, Gabe will reach back out to RDC to participate

- Jim Sykes – North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (pg. 67)

Add to Jan 29 Agenda - Consider how we want to proceed for participation at the NPFMC meeting at the Jan 29 meeting.

- MSB – Subcommittee/Working Group Rules

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mayor's Offer for Follow-Up with Governor
Mayor email to Paul (pg. 69)

Gabe will write first draft for the Jan 29 meeting agenda.

KZ moves to extend meeting to 6:15, AC seconds
No objections, motion passes.

B. Letter or Resolution supporting HB 203 / SB 161 (request from Rep. McCabe) – "An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and providing for an effective date."
HB 203 (pg. 71)

MB moves to have the FWC develop a letter or resolution of support, AC seconds
No objections, motion passes

Kendra will take the lead on drafting a letter.

Ask Mayor and/or Assembly if we want to co-sign the letter
MB is willing to bring forward a resolution for the Assembly

C. Changing Pike from Sport Fishery to Commercial Fishery (introduced by Mayor)
(Establish a pick commercial fishery)

D. Inviting presenters from the Salmon Symposium – Kendra
(Ex. ADF&G Fish Pathologist sharing info on the Pacific Salmon Health Monitoring Initiative), Also Erin Larson – Habitat Web Mapper

FWC will consider presentations in May or beyond

E. 2026 FWC Meeting Calendar and Officers

Schedule meetings for the second Thursday every month through May with a start time of 4:00pm

F. Announcement of hatchery plan – comments are due January 31

GK moves to extend meeting by 5 minutes, AC seconds, no objections, motion approved

X. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: January 29, 4:00-6:00 PM

XII. ADJOURNMENT

AC moves to adjourn, GK second, no objections meeting adjourned at 6:17pm

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
MINUTES

Edna Devries, Mayor

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

Paul Clark – Staff

Michael Brown, Borough Manager

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

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

January 29, 2026
SPECIAL MEETING
4:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

AC called meeting to order at 4:00pm

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present
Andy Couch (AC)
Gabel Kitter (GK)
Bill Gamble (BG)
Kendra Zamzow (KZ)
Michael Bowles (MB)
Marty Van Diest (MVD)
Jim Sykes (JS)

Absent
Pete Probasco

Quorum is confirmed

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
GK moves, KZ seconds, no objections, agenda approved

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

Stephen Braund
Oliver Querin
Margaret Stern
Mac Minard

VI. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report
B. Chair's Report

VII. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries 2026 March Meeting Strategy

1. Comments (Deadline – March 2, 2026)

GK moves that Mac draft a letter for the FWC in support of Proposal 186, KZ seconds, no objection, motion passes

2. FWC Member Level of Participation & Tasks

Gabe will work with Paul and Mac to develop a slimmer version of It Takes Fish to Make Fish, maintaining statement about habitat work/fish passage, expectations of productivity, preservation of conservation corridor, able to provide some assistance on updating and slimming down the book

Andy will write a plain-language one pager to make proposal clear

Kendra moves that the FWC members bring a list of invitees to participate in the BOF meeting to the next FWC meeting, GK seconds, no opposition, motion passes.

3. Mayor's Response to Governor's Letter

GK moves to send the letter as written to the Mayor, MVD seconds.
BG moves to amend to go to the state delegation as well - passed
GK moves to amend to send it to DVL and BOF chair - passed
Motion as amended passes.

B. 2026-27 Board of Fisheries UCI Cycle

1. Goals, Tasks, Budget

Jim will update 2027 BOF goals to better depict the dire nature of our fisheries

2. Proposals (Deadline – April 10, 2026)

FWC members will develop proposals and bring them to the next meeting

C. North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meetings

GK moves to have Kendra, Jim and/or Pete represent the commission at the NPFMC meetings, MVD seconds, no objections, motion passes

GK moves to have Paul submit the 2025 comment letter to the NPFMC with a comment that updates will be made during oral testimony due to insufficient time to update our written comment, KZ seconds, no objection, motion passes. (Submit comments prior to 12:00pm on 1/30).

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)

MVD – no comments

KZ – spoke about the possibility to collaborate on work and goals with Chickaloon, but goodwill is probably not currently there.

GK – Excited about the public outreach and engagement that FWC will be doing in the near future

BG – Spoke about the importance of finding agencies and groups as allies. Need to get the word out more about what we are doing as a commission

MB – Wanted to let the FWC know that lake management plan policy will be discussed soon

AC – Stocking plan. Israel Payton suggested that when we have our summary meeting with ADF&G, we could come up with questions about the plan to be able to make informed comments about it. Add agenda item to include stocking plan in state fisheries summary meeting in Nov-Dec 2026

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: Regular Meeting, February 12, 4:00-6:00 PM

X. ADJOURNMENT

KZ moves to adjourn, GK seconds, no objection, meeting adjourned at 5:39pm

_____ _____

Pete Probasco, FWC Chair Date

_____ _____

Paul Clark, MSB Staff Date

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

March 17–21, 2026

Egan Civic & Convention Center, Anchorage

TENTATIVE AGENDA

NOTE: This tentative agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.

This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea to the public of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda.

The DEADLINE to sign up for PUBLIC TESTIMONY will be **Wednesday , March 18 at 10:00 am**.

The DEADLINE to sign up for TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE REPORTS will be **Friday, March 13 at 5:00 pm**. To request providing a Traditional Knowledge report to the board, please fill out the TK sign-up form and email this to Art Nelson, the board's Executive Director at art.nelson@alaska.gov or call (907) 267-2292 for questions. For more information on Traditional Knowledge Reports, please review board finding 2024-305-FB.

Tuesday, March 17 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Morning

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order; Introductions of Board Members and Staff,
Board Member Ethics Disclosures

STAFF REPORTS

Afternoon

Continue STAFF REPORTS, as needed

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE REPORTS

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Oral Public Testimony, including Advisory Committee Reports

Public testimony will continue until those who are present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony.

Wednesday, March 18 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Continue public testimony, as needed

Thursday, March 19, 8:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – **GROUP 1**: COMMERCIAL FISHERIES (13 proposals; **Chair: Wood**)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – **GROUP 2**: HATCHERIES (3 Proposals; **Chair: Carpenter**)

Friday, March 20, 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS on Group 1

BOARD DELIBERATIONS on Group 2

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – **GROUP 3**: SUBSISTENCE AND SPORT FISHERIES AND GEAR (10 Proposals; **Chair: Irwin**)

Saturday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS on Group 3

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ADJOURN

AGENDA NOTES:

1) This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. Schedule updates will be posted at the meeting. An audio of the meeting should be available at the Board of Fisheries webpage (http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main) during periods when the board is on the record.

2) Testimony is expected to be limited to three (3) minutes for individuals and groups and ten (10) minutes for advisory committee representative and regional advisory council representatives. Traditional Knowledge reports are expected to limited to ten (10) minutes). ***These times may be changed by the chair in order to manage the volume of the workload***. Advisory committee and regional advisory council representatives may present reports either at the beginning or end of public testimony. The representative should notify the board secretary whether he or she prefers the beginning or end of public testimony.

3) BOARD COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC PANELS: For this meeting, the board has established a number of committees to serve as Committees of the Whole to provide additional review of proposals. Board committees are comprised of board members, with AC and public advisors to provide information to the board that was not already received in written or oral comments. AC representatives and the public can fully participate in the board's committee discussions. The purpose of the committee process is to: 1) broaden public participation in the regulatory process; 2) provide another forum for stakeholders to discuss resolution or possible compromise on contentious issues; and 3) provide additional detailed information relative to proposals.

TENTATIVE COMMITTEE ROADMAP
(26 proposals)
Alaska Board of Fisheries

STATEWIDE FINFISH & SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES
March 17-21, 2026 - Anchorage

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 1: COMMERCIAL FISHERIES (13 proposals, 3 SOC Action Plans) Chair: Wood

Groundfish gear, closed waters, and fishing periods (12 proposals)

Proposal 11 Close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear west of 170° W. longitude.

Proposal 163 Define all trawl gear operated inside state waters as non-pelagic and develop new performance and monitoring standards to allow state-waters pelagic trawling to occur on a case-by-case basis.

Proposal 164 Establish bottom contact monitoring requirements for pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters.

Proposal 165 Establish salmon excluder requirements for all pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters.

Proposal 166 Amend statewide definition of a mechanical jigging machine.

Proposal 167 Prohibit vessels from having other groundfish gear or equipment onboard while participating in a groundfish fishery using mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear.

Proposal 168 Prohibit vessels from having more than one groundfish gear type onboard when participating in a state-managed groundfish fishery.

Proposal 169 Create a definition of groundfish coil spring or 'slinky pot'.

Proposal 173 Provide emergency order authority to define fishing boundaries when regulatory markers are lost, destroyed or otherwise absent

Proposal 174 Allow the engine of a purse seine vessel or skiff to be shut off when the purse seine is deployed.

Proposal 186 Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area.

Proposal 187 Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon.

Dipnet gear definition (1 proposal)

Proposal 175 Modify dipnet mesh-size and configuration.

Stock of Concern Action Plans (3)

Yukon River Chinook Salmon

Yukon River Fall-run Chum Salmon

Kwiniuk River Chinook Salmon

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 2: HATCHERIES (3 proposals) Chair: Carpenter

Proposal 170 Reduce the permitted egg take level of each hatchery permit containing pink and chum salmon by 25% of the current permitted capacity for those species.

Proposal 171 Amend Prince William Sound hatchery permits to reduce pink salmon egg take capacity.

Proposal 172 Board generated regulation that places a moratorium on pink and chum hatchery production.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 3: SUBSISTENCE AND SPORT FISHERIES AND GEAR (10 proposals) Chair: Irwin

Subsistence fisheries (1 proposal)

Proposal 162 Prohibit commercial transport services in subsistence fisheries.

Sport fisheries (9 proposals)

Proposal 176 Allow anglers fishing from the same vessel to pool bag and possession limits.

Proposal 177 Allow anglers fishing from the same vessel to pool bag and possession limits.

Proposal 178 Modify the definition of bag limit.

Proposal 179 Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of 10 fish.

Proposal 180 Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of five fish.

Proposal 181 Align regulatory and statutory language for sport fishing gear.

Proposal 182 Establish bow fishing as lawful sport fishing gear for species without a bag or possession limit.

Proposal 183 Amend regulations requiring conditions of fish available to inspection while in possession.

Proposal 184 Align the sport fish definition of rockfish with the statewide definition.

PROPOSAL 186 – 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Couch.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would restrict the areas commercial drift gillnet fishing may be opened in Upper Cook Inlet from July 9 through July 31 as follows:

1) Remove Drift Gillnet Area 1 from the optional additional period when Kenai River sockeye salmon run sizes are greater than 2.3 million from July 9 through July 15.
2) Remove Drift Gillnet Area 1 and district wide during regular and additional periods from July 16 through July 31 when Kenai River sockeye salmon run sizes are at the middle (2.3–4.6 million fish) and upper tier (>4.6 million fish).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) commercial drift gillnet fishery within State of Alaska (SOA) waters, commercial periods are open for 12-hour regular periods on Mondays and Thursdays. The season for drift gillnet fishing begins approximately June 19 each year and is typically closed by emergency order when all effort ceases in mid-September. The areas open to regular periods or additional periods are outlined in 5 AAC 21.353 *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan (CDDGFMP)* by date and based on Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run size as follows:

From July 9 through July 15:

- Both regular 12-hour commercial fishing periods are restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1. Any additional commercial fishing time is restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections only.
- When Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run strengths are greater than 2.3 million fish, one additional 12-hour period may be opened in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1.

From July 16 through July 31:

- When Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run sizes are less than 2.3 million fish, both regular 12-hour commercial fishing periods will be restricted to the Expanded Kasilof and Kenai Sections only.
- When Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run sizes are between 2.3–4.6 million fish, one regular 12-hour commercial fishing period will be restricted to one or more of the following areas: Drift Area 1, expanded Kasilof Section, expanded Kenai Section, and Anchor Point Section. The remaining regular 12-hour commercial fishing period will be restricted to one or more of the following areas: Expanded Kasilof Section, Expanded Kenai Section, and Anchor Point Section.
- When Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon run sizes are greater than 4.6 million fish, one regular 12-hour commercial fishing period will be restricted to the Expanded Kasilof, Expanded Kenai, and Anchor Point Sections. The remaining 12-hour regular commercial fishing period is not restricted and may be fished district wide.
- Any additional commercial fishing time is restricted to the Expanded Kasilof, Expanded

Kenai, and Anchor Point Sections.

From August 1 through August 15:

- Both regular 12-hour commercial fishing periods are restricted to one or more of the following areas: Drift Gillnet Area 1, Drift Gillnet Area 3, Expanded Kasilof Section, Expanded Kenai Section, and Anchor Point Section.
- Additional fishing time is allowed only in the expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof and Anchor Point Sections, except when the entire Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed under its own one-percent rule, or the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the drift gillnet fishery, regular fishing periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4.

After August 15, all regular periods are restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 until the season is closed by emergency order.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would reduce the harvest of salmon by an unknown amount in state waters of the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery. As such, this would likely increase the number of salmon moving into the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, the Northern District, and Northern Cook Inlet freshwater systems and subsequently reduce the departments' ability to achieve sockeye salmon escapement and inriver goals in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

The restrictions in this proposal would be limited to State of Alaska waters. The National Marine Fisheries Service administers a federal fishery management plan that regulates salmon fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) within Upper Cook Inlet. Districtwide, Area 1, Area 4, the Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point Sections contain some amount of EEZ waters.

BACKGROUND: The drift gillnet fishery is regulated under the provisions of two management plans, 5 AAC 21.360. *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* and 5 AAC 21.353 *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan (CDDGFMP).* These plans provide the department specific abundance-based criteria to direct the harvest of salmon while outlining time and area restrictions to minimize harvest of Northern Cook Inlet (NCI) sockeye and coho salmon and Kenai River king and coho salmon. The CDDGFMP purpose is to ensure adequate escapement and a harvestable surplus of salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. Kenai River sockeye salmon are the most abundant sockeye salmon stock in UCI; many management decisions, and even management plan provisions, are driven by the abundance of Kenai River sockeye salmon. These management plan objectives are primarily accomplished with specific provisions that restrict commercial fishing during two time periods, July 9–15 and July 16–31, where the drift gillnet fleet is restricted to specific areas of the Central District to reduce the harvest of NCI sockeye and coho salmon. The *CDDGFMP* consistently receives multiple proposals at UCI finfish board meetings and is allocative between commercial fish gear type groups, inriver sport fisheries, and personal use fisheries.

Historical Management and Allocation

In 1996, the *Northern District Coho Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 21.358) was first adopted to minimize the harvest of Susitna River coho salmon and to limit the commercial harvest of coho

salmon bound for freshwater streams and rivers of the Northern District. It included a restriction to the Central District drift gillnet fishery where the first regularly scheduled period after July 25 was restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections, and the fishery closed on August 9 (Figure 186-1, Figure 186-2, and Table 186-1).

In 1999, the plan was renamed the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* and included new restrictions on the Central District drift gillnet fishery. From July 9 to 15, there was one regular fishing period (designated by the department) that was restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections. In addition, for the first regular fishing period immediately before or on July 25 and the first regular period after July 25, fishing was restricted to either or both the Kenai and Kasilof sections and/or that portion of the Central District south of Kalgin Island (now referred to as Drift Area 1). If Kenai River sockeye salmon run was projected to be more than 4.0 million fish, there were no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods. The August 9 season closure remained unchanged.

In 2002, additional changes were made to the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* (Table 186-1). From July 16 to 31, fishing with drift gillnet gear was now restricted for two consecutive regular fishing periods to either or both of the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict, or that portion of the Central District south of Kalgin Island (Drift Area 1). However, if Kenai River sockeye salmon run was greater than 3 million fish, the CDDGFMP provided options to liberalize restrictions to include Drift Area 2 during the July 16–31 timeframe. If Kenai River sockeye salmon run was greater than 4.0 million fish, the plan provided for an option for districtwide openings for the periods on or before July 25 and the first period after July 25. The fishery was only authorized in this additional area if the department determined that: 1) sockeye salmon escapement goals were being met in the Kenai, Kasilof, and Yentna Rivers; 2) abundance of pink salmon and chum salmon stocks were sufficient to withstand commercial harvest; and 3) coho salmon stocks were sufficient enough to withstand commercial harvest and that additional harvest would not lead to restrictions in the coho salmon sport fisheries. The August 9 season closure remained unchanged.

In 2005, the board eliminated all specific references to the Central District drift gillnet fishery in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* and established the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 21.353). In this plan, the board provided for an earlier opening date (the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later); this was done largely in response to strong Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs during the previous nine years (Table 186-1). Restrictions to the drift gillnet fishery required both fishing periods between July 9 and 15 to be limited to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Area 1. Restrictions during this time period were put in place because of difficulty achieving the minimum sockeye salmon escapement goal in the Yentna River. From July 16 to 31, restrictions were based upon run strength of Kenai River sockeye salmon. At run strengths of less than 2.0 million sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during any two regular 12-hour fishing periods was restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Area 1; at run strengths of 2.0 million to 4.0 million sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during two regular 12-hour fishing periods was restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Areas 1 and 2 (Figures 186-1 and 186-2); at run strengths greater than 4.0 million sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there were no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods.

The fishery remained open until closed by Emergency Order, (EO) except that beginning August 11 the drift gillnet fishery was limited to the newly described Drift Areas 3 and 4 (Figure 186-1). Finally, in 2005, the board established an optimal escapement goal (OEG) range for Yentna River

sockeye salmon of 75,000–180,000 fish when Kenai River sockeye salmon runs exceeded 4.0 million fish. The OEG was 15,000 fish below the lower end of the Yentna River SEG range (90,000–160,000 fish) and 20,000 fish above the SEG range on the upper end. Specifically, the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* stated, "Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal."

Also in 2005, 5 AAC 21.320(b)(2)(C)(iii) was amended to include, for the first time, what is commonly referred to as the "one-percent rule." This provision stated that any time after July 31, if less than one percent of the season's total sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Foreland sections of the Central District set gillnet fishery (ESSN), the season will close for both the Central District drift and set gillnet fisheries.

In 2008, the *Pink Salmon Management Plan* was repealed, and the Central District drift gillnet fishery was extended for regularly scheduled fishing periods only between August 11–15 in Drift Areas 1 and 2. Previously the fishery was restricted to Drift Areas 3 and 4 after August 10. Additionally, the board modified the drift gillnet plan to state that if the ESSN fishery was closed based on the one-percent rule, drift gillnet regular fishing periods from August 11–15 would be restricted to Drift Areas 3 and 4.

In 2011, the CDDGFMP was changed as follows: 1) fishing during the second regular fishing period from July 9–15 was restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Area 1; 2) at run strengths greater than 2.3 million sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, the department may, by EO, open one additional 12-hour fishing period in only the Kenai and Kasilof sections (not the Expanded Kenai and Kasilof sections) and Drift Area 1; 3) at run strengths of 2.3 million to 4.6 million sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during one regular 12-hour fishing period per week was to be restricted to either the Expanded Kenai or Expanded Kasilof sections (or both together) of the Upper Subdistrict or to Drift Area 1, but not to both areas concurrently; and 4) at run strengths greater than 4.6 million sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there were no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods (Table 186-1 and Figure 186-1).

In 2014, modifications to the drift gillnet plan included 1) both regular fishing periods from July 9–15 were restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1; 2) at Kenai River run strengths greater than 2.3 million fish, a third 12-hour fishing period during this time may be allowed in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1; 3) from July 16- 31, at run strengths less than 2.3 million Kenai River sockeye salmon, fishing during all regular 12-hour fishing periods were to be restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections; 4) at run strengths of 2.3 million to 4.6 million Kenai River sockeye salmon, fishing during one 12-hour regular fishing period per week was restricted to any or all of the following areas: Expanded Kenai Section, Expanded Kasilof Section, Anchor Point Section, and Drift Area 1. The remaining weekly 12-hour regular fishing period was restricted to one or more of the following: Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, or Anchor Point Sections; 5) at run strengths greater than 4.6 million Kenai River sockeye salmon, fishing during one 12-hour fishing period per week will be restricted to the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point sections. There are no mandatory restrictions on the remaining 12-hour regular fishing period; 6) all additional fishing time, other than regular fishing periods, is allowed in any or all of the following: Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof and Anchor Point Sections; 7) added the "Anchor

Point Section" to the list of corridors. Finally, in 2014, the board adopted a new one-percent rule for drift gillnetting. The drift rule states that after August 1 drift gillnet regular periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4, if the drift fleet harvests less than one percent of their total sockeye salmon harvest for two consecutive fishing periods.

In 2017, the only change to the plan was from July 16–31, one of the drift gillnet Area 1 openings at run strengths 2.3–4.6 million Kenai River sockeye salmon could be expanded to districtwide instead of just in Drift Area 1.

In 2020, the drift gillnet plan was modified by removing the option to expand one Area 1 opening to districtwide from July 16–31 in Kenai River sockeye runs of 2.3–4.6 million fish. Additionally, drift gillnet periods after July 31 were no longer allowed to be district wide and are restricted to Area 1, Expanded Kenai Section, Expanded Kasilof Section, and Anchor Point Section. Additional periods are restricted to the Expanded Kenai Section, Expanded Kasilof Section, and Anchor Point Section during this time period.

In 2024, Kenai River late-run king salmon was designated as a stock of concern and the subsequent recovery plan included a provision that prohibited drift gillnet fishing within 2 miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline for the duration of the season. Additionally, the drift gillnet plan was modified to include Drift Gillnet Area 3 in regular periods from August 1 to August 15.

Following the BOF in the spring of 2024, the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of UCI was adopted and the drift gillnet fishery was fully administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service in these waters. The federal regulations mirrored the existing SOA regulations in the time and area fishing in the EEZ was allowed. Notable additional requirements under the FMP included exclusive participation on a given day between the federal and state fisheries, the mandatory vessel monitoring system, and species specific total allowable catch (TAC) limits set as management objectives.

One Percent Rule Record of Use

Since the drift gillnet fishery specific one-percent rule was implemented in 2014, this regulation has been implemented in 5 of 12 years (Table 186-2). This has affected a total of nine fishing periods over these five years. For the 2024 and 2025 seasons, the department utilized the combined total sockeye salmon harvest from the federal EEZ and State of Alaska drift gillnet fisheries to evaluate the one percent rule.

Harvest Trends and Stock Composition

Harvest is reported in larger aggregates of statistical areas for the drift gillnet fishery. This limits the department's ability to represent harvest specific to Area 1 in a given fishing period or annual harvest summaries.

The drift gillnet fishery average annual harvest of both sockeye and coho salmon has been variable through time and is largely dependent on sockeye abundance and management plan stipulations (Table 186-3). Peak sockeye salmon harvest generally occurs from July 10–July 25 while coho salmon generally peaks from July 17–July 27 (Figure 186-3). The average annual sockeye salmon harvest of approximately 938,000 fish in the most recent 10 years (2015–2024) and 1.37 million fish from the most recent 20 years (2005–2024). Coho salmon harvest has been variable with the most recent 10-year average annual harvest of 85,000 fish and 20-year average harvest of 93,000 fish. From 2005 to 2025, coho salmon harvest has ranged from a low in 2024 of 11,143 fish to a high in 2017 of 191,490 fish.

In 2024 and 2025, UCI drift gillnet fisheries participation was concentrated in the SOA waters fisheries with much less participation in the federal EEZ fishery than was anticipated. Harvest in SOA waters represented 80% of the total salmon harvest in the UCI in 2024 and 89% in 2025 (Table 186-4). The number of open periods has been greater in the SOA fishery as the department uses inseason management to provide opportunity when surplus abundance of sockeye salmon is available or restrict when conservation is needed. Preliminary harvest in SOA waters in 2025 was 65 king, 3,132,220 sockeye, 70,283 coho, 31,027 pink, and 81,565 chum salmon. Preliminary harvest in EEZ waters in 2025 was 39 king, 382,804 sockeye, 15,028 coho, 6,019 pink, and 26,786 chum salmon (Table 186-4). The EEZ drift gillnet fishery has not reached or exceeded any of the species-specific TAC limits in 2024 or 2025.

From 2013 to 2016, genetic mixed stock analyses were conducted on coho salmon harvested in UCI commercial fisheries (Figures 186-4; Tables 186-5 through 186-10). The drift gillnet fishery average annual harvest of NCI coho salmon during these four years averaged 24,000 fish from the Northwest CI; 23,000 from Susitna River; 5,400 from Deshka River; 28,000 from Yentna River; 21,000 from Knik Arm; 1,700 from Jim Creek; and 7,800 originating from Turnagain/Northeast Cook Inlet streams (Tables 186-6 through 186-10). Coho salmon abundance estimates were completed for the entire Susitna River drainage from 2010 to 2012, 2014, and 2015. Abundance estimates ranged from approximately 159,000 fish in 2014 to approximately 263,000 fish in 2015, and average abundance across years was approximately 204,000 fish (Table 186-11). The data has limitations in the ability to detect stock-specific spatial and temporal patterns for NCI coho stocks in the drift gillnet fishery during specific time frames on an annual basis.

UCI Sockeye and Coho Salmon Run and Escapement Trends

Sockeye Salmon

From 2015 to 2024, the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver goal has been achieved once and exceeded nine times while the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) has been achieved three times and exceeded seven times. The annual runs have not been below the lower end of either goal and has been above minimum bounds since 2008. In 2025, approximately 4.25 million sockeye were estimated to have passed the river mile 19 sonar, which is the highest count on record. The preliminary escapement of 3.85 million is estimated using the 5-year average sport fishery harvest upstream of the sonar and exceeds the SEG of 750,000–1,300,000 fish (Table 186-12). The 2025 return is predominately progeny of the 2020 brood year which had an escapement of approximately 1.60 million fish. Sockeye salmon production off multiple consecutive years of escapements in excess of the SEG is unknown at this time and will be more informed as these returns come back over the next six years. This SEG is under review for the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting in the spring of 2027 and will be first presented at the 2026-27 cycle work session. The department does not review inriver run goals.

From 2015 to 2024, the Kasilof River sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) and optimal escapement goal (OEG) have been exceeded each year since 2017. Neither goal has been below minimum bounds. In 2025, approximately 1.19 million sockeye passed the sonar counter which is the highest count on record (Table 186-13). The 2025 return is predominately progeny of the 2020 and 2021 brood years which had escapements of approximately 500,000 fish each year. This BEG is under review for the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting in the spring of 2027 and will be first presented at the 2026-27 cycle work session. The department does not review OEGs.

There are four sockeye salmon stocks in Northern Cook Inlet with SEGs: Larson, Chelatna, and Judd Lakes, and Fish Creek. Fish Creek and Larson Lake weirs have been consistently operated since 2009 while Chelatna and Judd Lakes have intermittently been monitored when funding is available. Since 2016, the SEGs on these stocks have been achieved or exceeded when they are monitored (Table 186-14). In 2025, Larson Lake, Chelatna Lake, and Fish Creek were monitored. The Larson Lake escapement was 32,904 fish which achieved the SEG of 15,000–35,000 fish. The Chelatna Lake escapement was 59,163 fish which exceeded the SEG of 15,000–40,000 fish. The Fish Creek escapement was 42,573 fish which achieved the SEG of 15,000–45,000 fish (Table 186-14).

Coho Salmon

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 Jim Creek (within McRoberts Creek) is assessed with foot surveys. Monitoring coho salmon presents many challenges to obtain consistent and complete run information. Due to flooding water conditions, the Deshka River coho salmon weir counts have been incomplete since 2020 and represent a minimum count of the coho salmon escapement. In 2025, flooding conditions ended the Deshka River weir operations for only the last 2% of the run (based on historical run timing) but 38% of the run was counted on the last day of operation. It is unlikely the SEG of 10,200–24,100 fish was achieved (Table 186-15). The Little Susitna coho salmon weir counts where incomplete from 2021–2024. In 2025, 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 1 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 186-15). The Fish Creek coho salmon escapement counts were completely enumerated since 2020 except for 2022 and the SEG was achieved or exceeded in each of the completed years. The Jim Creek foot survey for coho salmon has been completed each year since 2020 and the SEG has been achieved or exceeded in each of those years (Table 186-15).

Northern District Sport Fisheries Harvest

Coho salmon harvest in Northern District sport fisheries has declined from a historical (1990-2004) average of approximately 75,000 fish annually to an average of approximately 50,000 fish in the recent 20-year period (2005-2024) average and to an average of approximately 36,000 fish annually in the recent 10-year period (2015-2024) (Table 186-16). The 20-year average annual coho salmon sport fishery harvest from 2005 to 2024 at the Deshka River was approximately 2,600 fish and recent 10-year average harvest has declined to 1,800 fish (Table 186-15). The 20-year average annual sport fishery harvest in the Little Susitna River was approximately 6,600 fish and annual harvest declined to 3,600 fish in the 10-year period (Table 186-15).

The department has issued EOs inseason to restrict and liberalize the Deshka and Little Susitna Rivers coho salmon sport fisheries based on inseason weir counts. The Little Susitna River sport fishery has modified by EO in 11 of the last 14 years. This includes closing coho salmon fishing in the last three consecutive years. The Deshka River coho salmon fishery has been modified less frequently inseason by EO in 5 of the last 14 years. Similar to the Little Susitna River, the Deshka River coho salmon sport fishery has been closed in the last three consecutive years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department has concerns about being able to consistently

achieve the Deshka and Little Susitna River coho salmon escapement goals and has managed all fisheries conservatively to allow for passage of coho salmon to these and other Northern Cook Inlet drainages. Increased drift gillnet fishing opportunity in years with large Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon runs exacerbates coho salmon conservation efforts. The department supports adoption of regulations that improve coho salmon conservation.

Regulations and catch limits in the federally managed drift gillnet fishery in the Central District affect stocks independent of state management. Impacts of both state and federal fisheries should be evaluated in tandem when considering how coho salmon are managed.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department.

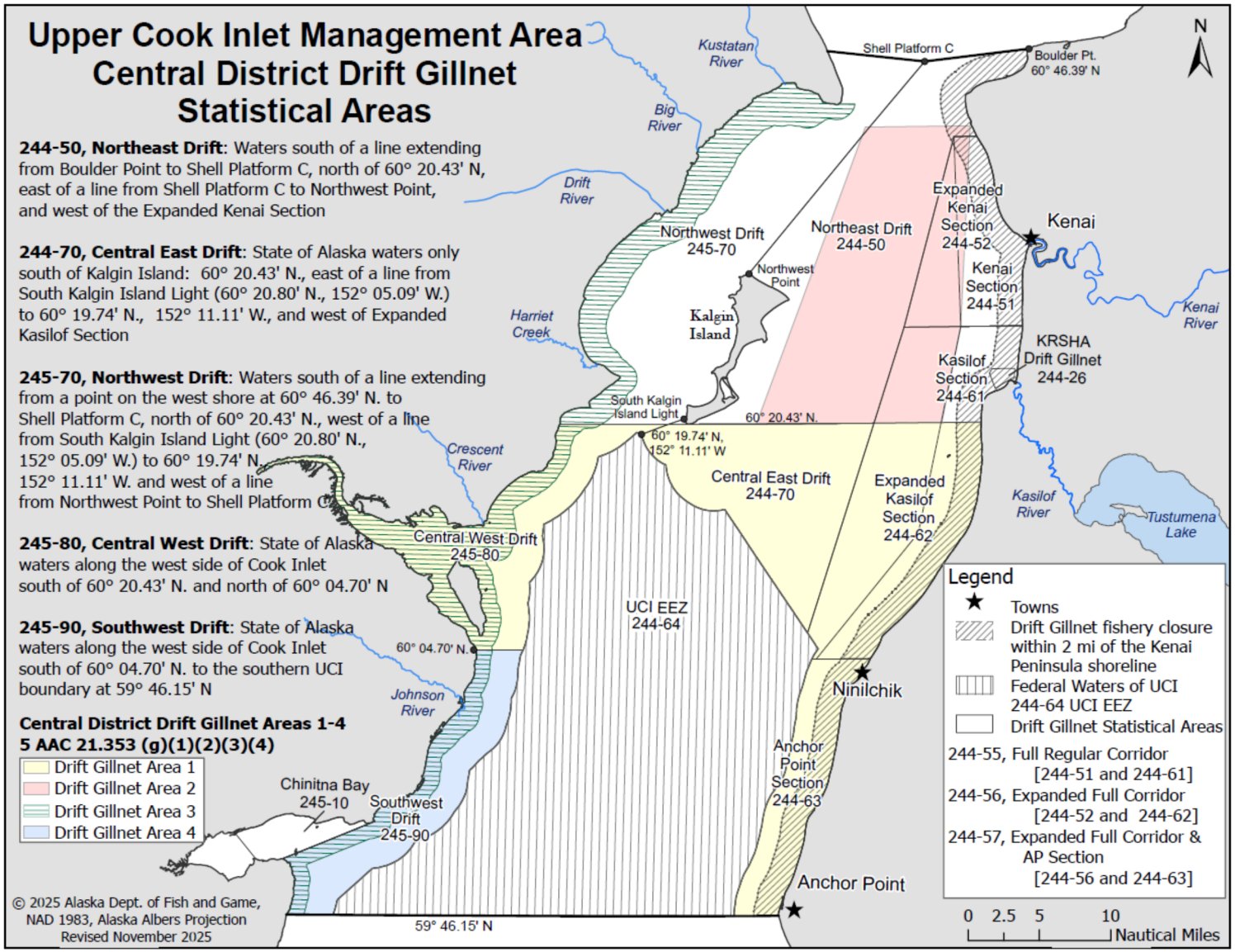

Figure 186-1.–Map of UCI Central District Drift Gillnet Statistical Areas.

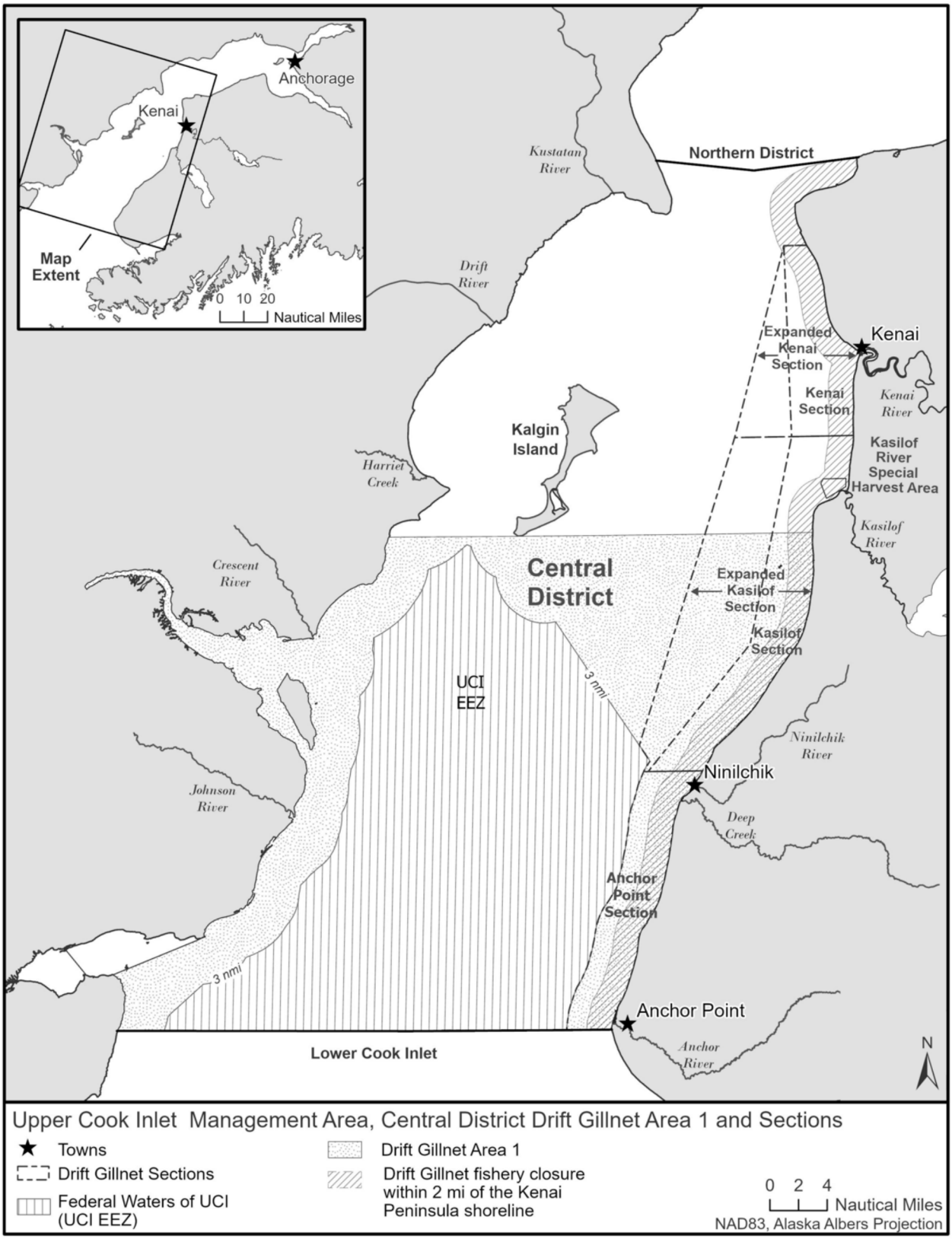

Figure 186-2.–Map of Drift gillnet Area 1, and the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point sections, 2025.

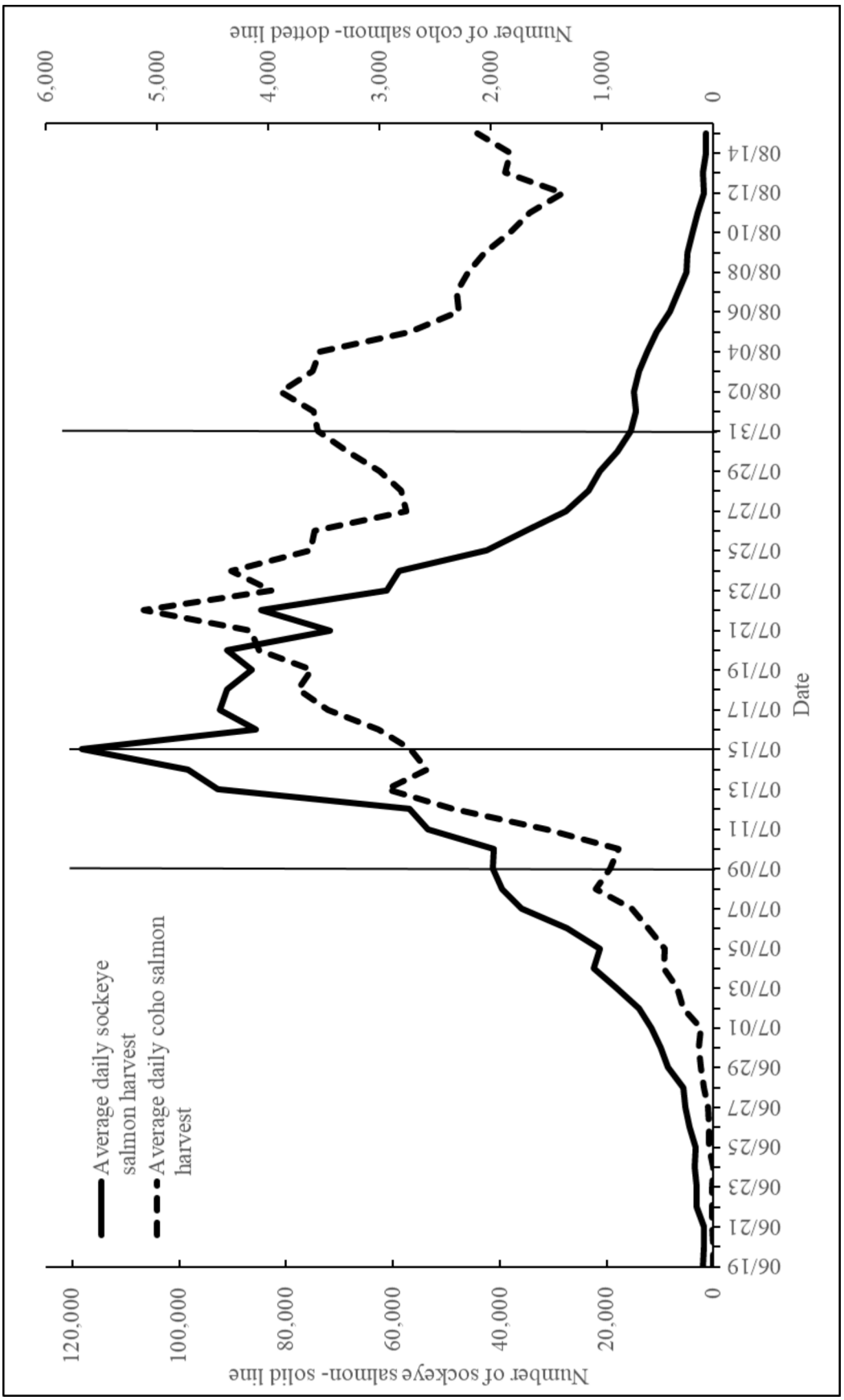

Figure 186-3.– UCI Central District drift gillnet fishery average harvest of sockeye and coho salmon by date, 1999–2024.

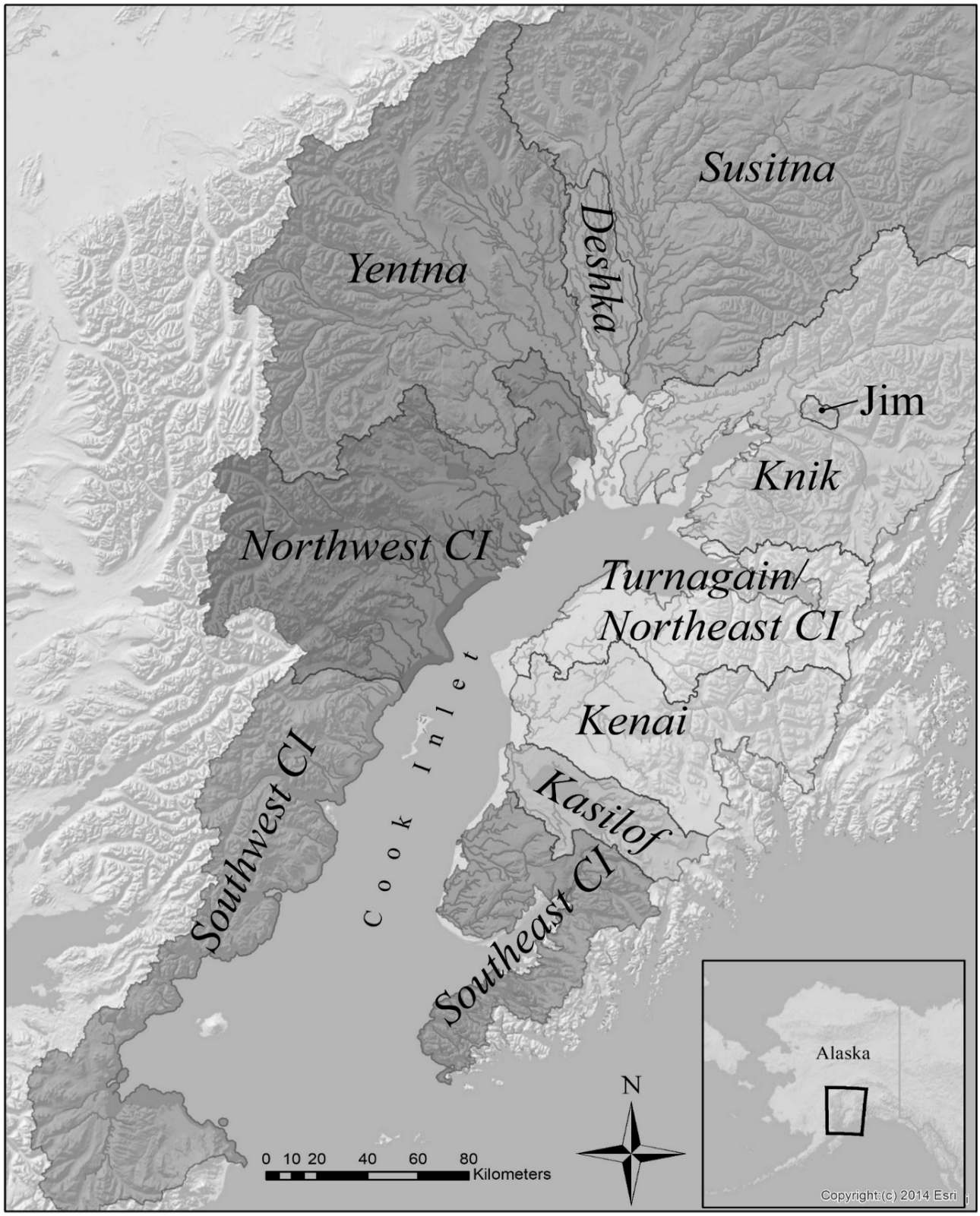

Figure 186-4.–Map of Cook Inlet showing reporting group areas for genetic mixed stock analysis of coho salmon harvest samples.

Table 186-1.–History of season dates, weekly fishing periods, and restrictions in the Central District drift gillnet fishery.

Year	Description
Season Opening/Closing Dates	
1970	June 17 until closed by Emergency Order (EO).
1979	June 25 until closed by EO.
1986	June 25 until closed by EO. However, the fishing season can now open prior to June 25 if certain sockeye salmon passage triggers are met in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers (1986–2004).
1996	June 25 through August 9.
2005	3rd Monday in June or June 19 (whichever is later). From August 11 until closed by EO, fishery is open in Drift Areas 3 & 4 only.
2008	3rd Monday in June or June 19 (whichever is later). From August 15 until closed by EO, fishery is open in Drift Areas 3 & 4 only.
Weekly Fishing Periods	
1970	Prior to July 15: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. After July 15: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m.
1971	Mondays and Fridays from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.
1985	Mondays and Fridays from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.
1999	Mondays and Thursdays from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.
July Restrictions/Tier Restrictions	
1996	The first regular fishing period after July 25 is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections (1996– 1998).
1999	One regular fishing period from July 9–15 is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof sections (1999– 2004). First regular period before and after July 25 is restricted to either the Kenai and Kasilof sections or the area south of Kalgin Island (1999–2001). Regular period restrictions removed if Kenai River sockeye salmon run strength is great than 4 million fish (1999–2004).
2002	From July 16–31 (2002–2004): two consecutive regular periods are restricted to either or both the Kenai and Kasilof sections or Drift Area 1. However, if Kenai sockeye salmon run strength is greater than 3 million fish, fishing is allowed the first regular period on or before July 25 and the first regular period after July 25 in the Kenai/Kasilof sections, Drift Area 1, and in the area south and east of the north tip of Kalgin Island. If two consecutive fishing restrictions are used during two regular periods from July 16–31, no further restrictions are necessary on the periods before or after July 25. After July 20, if the Kenai sockeye salmon run strength is greater than 4 million fish, the first regular period after July 25 may be fished district wide.
2005	Both regular periods from July 9–15 are restricted to Drift Area 1 and the Kenai/Kasilof sections (2005–2010). 'From July 16–31, if Kenai River sockeye salmon run strength is: less than 2 million fish, two regular periods restricted to Drift Area 1 and the Kenai/Kasilof sections (2005– 2010); between 2 million and 4 million fish, two regular periods restricted to Drift Areas 1 and 2 and the Kenai/Kasilof sections (2005 through 2010); and greater than 4 million fish, there are no mandatory restrictions (2005–2010).
2011	From July 9–15: 1st regular fishing period restricted to the expanded corridor (Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections; 2011–2013); 2nd regular fishing period restricted to Drift Area 1 and the narrow corridor (2011–2013); and additional fishing time is allowed only in the expanded corridor (2011–present). From July 16–31: if the Kenai River sockeye salmon run strength is: less than 2.3 million fish, one period is restricted to the expanded corridor (2011–2013); between 2.3 million and 4.6 million fish, one period per week is restricted to Drift Area 1 and/or the expanded corridor (2011–2013); and greater than 4.6 million fish, there are no mandatory restrictions (2011–2013).

-continued-

Table 186-1.–Page 2 of 2.

Year	Description
July Restrictions/Tier Restrictions	
2014	From July 9–15: 1st and 2nd regular fishing periods restricted to the expanded corridor and Drift Area 1. From July 16–31: if the Kenai River sockeye salmon run strength is: less than 2.3 million fish, all 12-hour fishing periods restricted to the expanded corridor; between 2.3 and 4.6 million fish, one 12-hour period per week is restricted to one or more of the following areas: Drift Area 1, expanded corridor, Anchor Point section; the remaining weekly 12-hour period is restricted to one or more of the following areas: expanded corridor, Anchor Point Section; greater than 4.6 million, one regular 12-hour fishing period per week is restricted to the expanded corridor and the Anchor Point Section; and additional fishing time in this time period is allowed only in the expanded corridor and Anchor Point Section.
2017	From July 16–31: same as 2014, except that for Kenai River sockeye salmon runs of 2.3 to 4.6 million fish, during this time period one Drift Area 1 fishing period may be fished districtwide instead of in Drift Area 1.
2020	From July 16–31: Reverted to same regulations as in 2014 for this time period. From August 1–15: all regular 12-hour fishing periods are restricted to one or more of the following areas: Drift Area 1, expanded corridor, Anchor Point section and additional fishing time in this time period is allowed only in the expanded corridor and Anchor Point Section.
2024	From August 1–15: all regular 12-hour fishing periods are restricted to one or more of the following areas: Drift Area 1, Drift Gillnet Area 3, expanded corridor, Anchor Point sections and additional fishing time in this time period is allowed only in the expanded corridor and Anchor Point section.
One Percent Rule	
2008	The board modified the drift gillnet plan to state that if the ESSN fishery was closed based on the one-percent rule, drift gillnet regular fishing periods from August 11–15 would be restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4.
2014	The board adopted a new drift gillnet one-percent rule (5 AAC 21.353 (e)). The drift rule states that after August 1 drift gillnet regular periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4, if the drift fleet harvests less than one- percent of their total sockeye salmon harvest for two consecutive fishing periods or if the entire ESSN fishery was closed based on their one-percent rule.
2017	The one-percent rule for the ESSN fishery was modified to begin after August 7.
2020	The one-percent rule for the ESSN fishery was modified to begin after July 31.
2024	With establishment of the federally managed EEZ, the departments determined to evaluate the one percent rule using total harvest of the combined federal and state drift gillnet fisheries.

Table 186-2.– Drift gillnet fishing periods affected by the drift gillnet one-percent rule, 2014–2025.

	Restricted by 1%		
Year	Yes	No	Dates affected
2014	X		8/11; 8/14
2015		X	
2016	X		8/11; 8/15
2017		X	
2018		X	
2019	X		8/15
2020		X	
2021		X	
2022		X	
2023		X	
2024	X		8/8, 8/12, 8/15
2025	X		8/14

Table 186-3.–Upper Cook Inlet drift gillnet commercial harvest of salmon, 1999–2025.

Year	Permits	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1999	487	575	1,413,995	64,814	3,552	166,612	1,649,548
2000	513	270	656,427	131,478	90,508	118,074	996,757
2001	468	619	846,275	39,418	31,219	75,599	993,130
2002	409	415	1,367,251	125,831	224,229	224,587	1,942,313
2003	420	1,240	1,593,638	52,432	30,376	106,468	1,784,154
2004	441	1,104	2,529,642	199,587	235,524	137,041	3,102,898
2005	472	1,958	2,520,327	144,753	31,230	65,671	2,763,939
2006	396	2,782	784,771	98,473	212,808	59,965	1,158,799
2007	417	912	1,823,481	108,703	67,398	74,836	2,075,330
2008	426	653	983,303	89,428	103,867	46,010	1,223,261
2009	405	859	968,075	82,096	139,676	77,073	1,267,779
2010	379	538	1,587,657	110,275	164,005	216,977	2,079,452
2011	462	593	3,201,035	40,858	15,333	111,082	3,368,901
2012	496	218	2,924,144	74,678	303,216	264,513	3,566,769
2013	496	493	1,662,561	184,771	30,605	132,172	2,010,602
2014	496	382	1,501,678	76,932	417,344	108,345	2,104,681
2015	492	556	1,012,684	130,720	21,653	252,331	1,417,944
2016	468	606	1,266,746	90,242	268,908	113,258	1,739,760
2017	451	264	880,279	191,490	89,963	232,501	1,394,497
2018	446	503	400,269	108,906	83,535	108,216	701,429
2019	422	178	749,101	88,618	27,607	112,518	978,022
2020	364	181	283,727	48,803	293,676	25,223	651,610
2021	343	217	851,913	80,987	67,423	65,391	1,065,931
2022	342	167	893,743	51,306	89,953	92,284	1,127,453
2023	355	110	1,363,839	49,625	57,817	112,838	1,584,229
2024	362	76	1,682,652	11,143	37,637	68,989	1,800,497
2025	418	104	3,515,024	85,311	37,046	108,351	3,745,836
Averages							
2005–2024	425	612	1,367,099	93,140	126,183	117,010	1,704,044
2015–2024	405	286	938,495	85,184	103,817	118,355	1,246,137

Note: Drift gillnet harvest from 2024 to 2025 includes harvest from federal and State of Alaska waters.

Table 186-4.–Upper Cook inlet Drift gillnet commercial harvest of salmon in State of Alaska and Federal waters, 2024 and 2025.

Year and season dates	Area	Permits	No. of periods	King		Sockeye		Coho		Pink		Chum		Total	% of total
				Harvest	%	Harvest	%	Harvest	%	Harvest	%	Harvest	%	harvest	harvest
June 20–Aug 15, 2024	SOA waters	353	38	49	64	1,357,815	81	6,704	60	31,387	83	40,184	58	1,436,139	80
	Federal EEZ	259	15	27	36	324,837	19	4,439	40	6,250	17	28,805	42	364,358	20
	Total	362	39	76		1,682,652		11,143		37,637		68,989		1,800,497	
June 19–Sept 5, 2025	SOA waters	410	49	65	63	3,132,220	89	70,283	82	31,027	84	81,565	75	3,315,160	89
	Federal EEZ	289	18	39	38	382,804	11	15,028	18	6,019	16	26,786	25	430,676	11
	Total	418	49	104		3,515,024		85,311		37,046		108,351		3,745,836	

Table 186-5.–Commercial drift gillnet harvest of coho salmon by major stock reporting group based on genetic analysis of mixtures of fish harvested in Upper Cook Inlet, 2013–2016.

	Harvest				
Reporting group	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average
Southwest CI	1,621	334	649	1,364	992
Northwest CI	35,981	11,717	31,341	17,072	24,027
Susitna	37,207	16,593	20,016	17,265	22,770
Deshka	10,094	3,163	2,955	5,487	5,425
Yentna	53,940	14,752	28,023	16,237	28,238
Knik	31,681	14,654	25,856	13,019	21,302
Jim	2,444	696	2,551	1,258	1,737
Turnagain/Northeast CI	6,240	7,937	9,205	7,809	7,798
Kenai	1,590	1,589	2,903	2,255	2,084
Kasilof	237	3	28	549	204
Southeast CI	782	3	572	919	569
Harvest represented	181,818	71,441	124,099	83,234	115,148
Harvest unanalyzed	2,953	5,491	6,621	7,008	5,518
Total harvest	184,771	76,932	130,720	90,242	120,666

Source: Barclay, A. W., E. Chenoweth, and C. Habicht. 2019. Reanalysis of Upper Cook Inlet coho salmon harvest from 2013 to 2016 using an updated genetic baseline. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 5J19-06, Anchorage.

Table 186-6.–S Stock-specific commercial harvest, standard deviation (SD), and 90% credibility intervals calculated using a stratified estimator for combined strata in the Central District drift gillnet (five temporal strata) and Northern District set gillnet (three spatial strata) fisheries and based on genetic analysis of mixtures of coho salmon harvested in the Upper Cook Inlet in 2013.

			90% CI		
Area stratum	Reporting group	Harvest	5%	95%	SD
Central District drift gillnet					
	Southwest	1,621	1,066	2,295	389
	Northwest	35,981	29,874	42,448	3,731
	Susitna	37,207	30,437	44,197	4,108
	Deshka	10,094	6,640	14,125	2,267
	Yentna	53,940	46,388	61,868	4,745
	Knik	31,681	26,175	37,435	3,380
	Jim	2,444	1,142	3,985	876
	Turnagain/Northeast	6,240	2,045	10,771	2,619
	Kenai	1,590	823	2,472	513
	Kasilof	237	0	723	255
	Southeast	782	144	1,607	453
	Harvest represented	181,818			
	Harvest unanalyzed	2,953			
	Total harvest	184,771			
Northern District, Eastern and General subdistricts set gillnet					
	Southwest	30	0	152	59
	Northwest	6,783	5,042	8,694	1,100
	Susitna	5,712	3,875	7,634	1,141
	Deshka	1,449	471	2,539	626
	Yentna	11,667	9,791	13,658	1,149
	Knik	7,685	6,527	8,934	726
	Jim	475	175	855	207
	Turnagain/Northeast	7,932	6,670	9,225	777
	Kenai	513	224	829	187
	Kasilof	0	0	64	34
	Southeast	0	0	77	39
	Harvest represented	42,246			
	Harvest unanalyzed	147			
	Total harvest	42,393			

Source: Barclay, A. W., E. Chenoweth, and C. Habicht. 2019. Reanalysis of Upper Cook Inlet coho salmon harvest from 2013 to 2016 using an updated genetic baseline. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 5J19-06, Anchorage

Note: Stock-specific harvest numbers may not sum to the total harvest due to rounding error.

Table 186-7.–Stock-specific commercial harvest, standard deviation (SD), and 90% credibility intervals calculated using a stratified estimator for combined strata in the Central District drift gillnet (five temporal strata) and Northern District set gillnet (three spatial strata) fisheries and based on genetic analysis of mixtures of coho salmon harvested in the Upper Cook Inlet in 2014.

			90% CI		
Area stratum	Reporting group	Harvest	5%	95%	SD
Central District drift gillnet					
	Southwest	334	144	601	141
	Northwest	11,717	9,742	14,022	1,316
	Susitna	16,593	13,201	20,262	2,168
	Deshka	3,163	1,467	4,920	1,053
	Yentna	14,752	11,651	17,781	1,884
	Knik	14,654	12,425	17,061	1,397
	Jim	696	54	1,387	400
	Turnagain/Northeast	7,937	5,544	10,596	1,541
	Kenai	1,589	1,078	2,178	335
	Kasilof	3	0	118	63
	Southeast	3	0	141	67
	Harvest represented	71,441			
	Harvest unanalyzed	5,491			
	Total Harvest	76,932			
Northern District, Eastern and General subdistricts set gillnet					
	Southwest	0	0	60	28
	Northwest	6,095	4,799	7,456	820
	Susitna	4,847	3,462	6,290	863
	Deshka	0	0	807	386
	Yentna	4,877	3,687	6,085	747
	Knik	9,000	7,980	10,041	629
	Jim	523	262	827	175
	Turnagain/Northeast	8,169	7,135	9,380	704
	Kenai	189	36	393	115
	Kasilof	3	0	78	36
	Southeast	46	1	191	66
	Harvest represented	33,750			
	Harvest unanalyzed	1,375			
	Total harvest	35,125			

Source: Barclay, A. W., E. Chenoweth, and C. Habicht. 2019. Reanalysis of Upper Cook Inlet coho salmon harvest from 2013 to 2016 using an updated genetic baseline. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 5J19-06, Anchorage

Note: Stock-specific harvest numbers may not sum to the total harvest due to rounding error.

Table 186-8.– Stock-specific commercial harvest, standard deviation (SD), and 90% credibility intervals calculated using a stratified estimator for combined strata in the Central District drift gillnet excluding corridor-only periods (five temporal strata), drift gillnet corridor-only periods (one temporal stratum) and Upper Subdistrict set gillnet (one temporal stratum) and Northern District set gillnet (three spatial strata) fisheries and based on genetic analysis of mixtures of coho salmon harvested in the Upper Cook Inlet in 2015.

			90% CI		
Area stratum	Reporting group	Harvest	5%	95%	SD
Central District drift gillnet (excluding corridor-only periods)					
	Southwest	649	151	1,414	386
	Northwest	26,843	23,316	30,473	2,210
	Susitna	16,044	11,650	20,426	2,676
	Deshka	2,448	886	4,153	1,005
	Yentna	20,478	16,481	24,625	2,498
	Knik	18,522	15,768	21,311	1,701
	Jim	1,844	1,110	2,709	485
	Turnagain/Northeast	6,675	4,217	9,231	1,531
	Kenai	2,590	1,760	3,496	525
	Kasilof	28	0	345	147
	Southeast	572	52	1,188	366
	Harvest represented	96,694			
	Harvest unanalyzed	6,007			
	Total Harvest	102,701			
Central District drift gillnet (corridor-only periods)					
	Southwest	0	0	74	50
	Northwest	4,498	2,864	6,338	1,062
	Susitna	3,972	2,013	6,154	1,255
	Deshka	507	0	1,660	696
	Yentna	7,545	5,279	9,808	1,365
	Knik	7,334	5,762	9,106	1,022
	Jim	706	303	1,235	284
	Turnagain/Northeast	2,531	1,358	3,967	797
	Kenai	313	0	754	245
	Kasilof	0	0	69	45
	Southeast	0	0	58	35
	Harvest represented	27,405			
	Harvest unanalyzed	614			
	Total harvest	28,019			

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Area stratum	Reporting group	Harvest	90% CI 5%	90% CI 95%	SD
Central District, Upper Subdistrict set gillnet					
	Southwest	29	0	201	76
	Northwest	2,233	1,167	3,337	649
	Susitna	1,923	576	3,267	808
	Deshka	20	0	495	206
	Yentna	1,659	577	2,859	690
	Knik	3,998	2,879	5,246	728
	Jim	395	167	671	156
	Turnagain/Northeast	2,205	1,449	3,007	480
	Kenai	4,576	3,833	5,331	450
	Kasilof	467	161	843	209
	Southeast	12	0	212	91
	Harvest represented	17,517			
	Harvest unanalyzed	431			
	Total Harvest	17,948			
Northern District, Eastern and General subdistricts set gillnet					
	Southwest	6	0	74	40
	Northwest	7,390	5,434	9,456	1,201
	Susitna	4,271	2,492	6,163	1,123
	Deshka	1,074	0	2,230	687
	Yentna	8,542	6,875	10,234	1,021
	Knik	12,438	10,712	14,215	1,081
	Jim	372	117	705	182
	Turnagain/Northeast	8,519	7,371	9,873	768
	Kenai	303	120	550	132
	Kasilof	100	0	288	99
	Southeast	0	0	131	68
	Harvest represented	43,015			
	Harvest unanalyzed	3,488			
	Total harvest	46,503			

Source: Barclay, A. W., E. Chenoweth, and C. Habicht. 2019. Reanalysis of Upper Cook Inlet coho salmon harvest from 2013 to 2016 using an updated genetic baseline. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 5J19-06, Anchorage

Note: Stock-specific harvest numbers may not sum to the total harvest due to rounding error.

Table 186-9.– Stock-specific commercial harvest, standard deviation (SD), and 90% credibility intervals calculated using a stratified estimator (see text) for combined strata in the Central District drift gillnet excluding corridor-only periods (two temporal strata), drift gillnet corridor-only periods (one temporal stratum) and Upper Subdistrict set gillnet (one temporal stratum) and Northern District set gillnet (three spatial strata) fisheries and based on genetic analysis of mixtures of coho salmon harvested in the Upper Cook Inlet in 2016.

			90% CI		
Area stratum	Reporting group	Harvest	5%	95%	SD
Central District drift gillnet (excluding corridor-only periods)					
	Southwest	667	194	1,346	367
	Northwest	17,072	12,729	21,569	2,701
	Susitna	14,762	10,739	19,072	2,545
	Deshka	4,291	2,385	6,294	1,191
	Yentna	11,136	7,803	14,669	2,081
	Knik	8,101	4,888	11,883	2,185
	Jim	1,230	531	2,050	471
	Turnagain/Northeast	6,053	2,742	9,471	2,036
	Kenai	1,721	1,016	2,578	466
	Kasilof	549	82	1,470	473
	Southeast	501	52	1,508	480
	Harvest represented	66,083			
	Harvest unanalyzed	5,984			
	Total harvest	72,067			
Central District drift gillnet (corridor-only periods)					
	Southwest	696	393	1,041	199
	Northwest	0	0	337	159
	Susitna	2,503	1,408	3,601	670
	Deshka	1,196	567	1,864	387
	Yentna	5,101	4,051	6,185	637
	Knik	4,918	3,903	5,991	634
	Jim	28	0	285	117
	Turnagain/Northeast	1,757	852	2,747	578
	Kenai	533	299	837	166
	Kasilof	0	0	80	42
	Southeast	418	95	824	223
	Harvest represented	17,151			
	Harvest unanalyzed	1,024			
	Total harvest	18,175			

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Area strata	Reporting group	Harvest	90% CI 5%	90% CI 95%	SD
Central District, Upper Subdistrict set gillnet					
	Southwest	120	29	314	101
	Northwest	0	0	350	157
	Susitna	553	0	1,230	413
	Deshka	140	0	602	230
	Yentna	771	100	1,444	395
	Knik	417	0	942	308
	Jim	0	0	34	22
	Turnagain/Northeast	3,469	2,542	4,467	583
	Kenai	5,395	4,746	6,039	393
	Kasilof	21	0	143	57
	Southeast	343	74	654	174
	Harvest represented	11,228			
	Harvest unanalyzed	378			
	Total harvest	11,606			
Northern District, Eastern and General subdistricts set gillnet					
	Southwest	4	0	82	39
	Northwest	4,175	2,985	5,622	784
	Susitna	4,338	2,755	5,801	932
	Deshka	1,578	859	2,361	452
	Yentna	5,014	3,701	6,281	785
	Knik	5,587	4,816	6,405	497
	Jim	188	58	367	100
	Turnagain/Northeast	8,448	7,619	9,280	511
	Kenai	298	140	507	112
	Kasilof	22	0	111	41
	Southeast	17	0	159	71
	Harvest represented	29,669			
	Harvest unanalyzed	780			
	Total harvest	30,449			

Source: Barclay, A. W., E. Chenoweth, and C. Habicht. 2019. Reanalysis of Upper Cook Inlet coho salmon harvest from 2013 to 2016 using an updated genetic baseline. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 5J19-06, Anchorage

Note: Stock-specific harvest numbers may not sum to the total harvest due to rounding error.

Table 186-10.– Stock-specific commercial harvest, standard deviation (SD), coefficient of variation (CV), and 90% credibility intervals calculated using a stratified estimator for combined temporal strata in all fishing area strata and based on genetic analysis of mixtures of coho salmon harvested in the Upper Cook Inlet, 2013–2016.

			90% CI			
Year	Reporting Group	Harvest	5%	95%	SD	CV
2013	*Southwest*	1,651	1,089	2,349	393	24%
	Northwest	42,764	36,614	49,336	3,879	9%
	Susitna	42,919	35,940	49,962	4,237	10%
	Deshka	11,543	8,001	15,632	2,352	20%
	Yentna	65,607	57,889	73,603	4,842	7%
	Knik	39,366	33,776	45,264	3,456	9%
	Jim	2,919	1,555	4,475	902	31%
	Turnagain/Northeast	14,172	9,808	18,917	2,725	19%
	Kenai	2,103	1,275	3,068	551	26%
	Kasilof	237	0	725	257	108%
	Southeast	782	134	1,612	453	58%
	Harvest represented	224,064				
	Harvest unanalyzed	36,879				
	Total harvest	260,943				
2014	*Southwest*	334	136	600	144	43%
	Northwest	17,812	15,452	20,400	1,525	9%
	Susitna	21,440	17,784	25,283	2,299	11%
	Deshka	3,163	1,373	4,947	1,108	35%
	Yentna	19,629	16,240	22,897	2,025	10%
	Knik	23,654	21,224	26,184	1,500	6%
	Jim	1,219	523	1,999	437	36%
	Turnagain/Northeast	16,106	13,508	18,863	1,681	10%
	Kenai	1,778	1,228	2,410	359	20%
	Kasilof	6	0	142	73	1259%
	Southeast	49	0	241	94	191%
	Harvest represented	105,191				
	Harvest unanalyzed	32,153				
	Total harvest	137,344				

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Year	Reporting Group	Harvest	90% CI 5%	90% CI 95%	SD	CV
2015	*Southwest*	683	163	1,445	396	58%
	Northwest	40,964	36,526	45,622	2,792	7%
	Susitna	26,210	20,644	31,649	3,332	13%
	Deshka	4,049	1,742	6,490	1,435	35%
	Yentna	38,224	33,074	43,544	3,167	8%
	Knik	42,292	38,458	46,109	2,328	6%
	Jim	3,318	2,379	4,369	605	18%
	Turnagain/Northeast	19,929	16,818	23,118	1,908	10%
	Kenai	7,782	6,611	9,004	725	9%
	Kasilof	595	204	1,124	281	47%
	Southeast	584	24	1,272	383	66%
	Harvest represented	184,631				
	Harvest unanalyzed	31,288				
	Total harvest	215,919				
2016	*Southwest*	1,488	875	2,261	432	29%
	Northwest	21,246	16,632	26,134	2,951	14%
	Susitna	22,156	17,353	27,070	2,959	13%
	Deshka	7,205	5,004	9,559	1,364	19%
	Yentna	22,022	18,151	26,024	2,420	11%
	Knik	19,023	15,571	22,990	2,317	12%
	Jim	1,446	709	2,348	502	35%
	Turnagain/Northeast	19,727	16,175	23,507	2,255	11%
	Kenai	7,947	6,934	9,059	640	8%
	Kasilof	592	69	1,519	478	81%
	Southeast	1,278	541	2,362	565	44%
	Harvest represented	124,131				
	Harvest unanalyzed	23,337				
	Total harvest	147,468				

Source: Barclay, A. W., E. Chenoweth, and C. Habicht. 2019. Reanalysis of Upper Cook Inlet coho salmon harvest from 2013 to 2016 using an updated genetic baseline. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 5J19-06, Anchorage

Note: Stock-specific harvest numbers may not sum to the total harvest represented due to rounding error.

Table 186-11.–Susitna River drainage mark-recapture abundance estimates for sockeye salmon in 2006–2008, coho salmon 2010–2015, chum salmon 2010–2012, and king salmon 2013–2015.

		Abundance estimates			
Species	Return Year	Mainstem Susitna River	Yentna River	Total	Source
Sockeye salmon	2006	107,000	311,197	418,197	FDS 07-83[a]
	2007	87,883	239,849	327,732	FDS 11-19[b]
	2008	70,552	288,988	359,540	FDS 11-12[c]
Coho salmon	2010	73,640	122,777	196,417	FDS 13-05[d]
	2011	131,878	84,677	216,555	FDS 16-35[e]
	2012	90,397	93,919	184,316	FDS 16-52[f]
	2013	130,026	No data	No data	AEA 2014[g]
	2014	84,879	73,819	158,698	AEA 2015[h]
	2015	152,500	110,321	262,821	*FDS In prep.*
Chum salmon	2010	151,127	205,869	356,996	FDS 13-05[d]
	2011	1,468,231	283,801	1,752,032	FDS 16-35[e]
	2012	229,903	99,442	329,345	FDS 16-52[f]
King salmon	2013	89,463	No data	No data	AEA 2014[g]
	2014	68,225	22,267	90,492	AEA 2015[h]
	2015	88,600	48,400	137,000	*FDS In prep.*

[a] Yanusz, R., R. Merizon, D. Evans, M. Willette, T. Spencer, and S. Raborn. 2007. Inriver abundance and distribution of spawning Susitna River sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka*, 2006. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 07-83, Anchorage.

[b] Yanusz, R. J., R. A. Merizon, T. M. Willette, D. G. Evans, and T. R. Spencer. 2011. Inriver abundance and distribution of spawning Susitna River sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka*, 2007. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 11-19, Anchorage

[c] Yanusz, R. J., R. A Merizon, T. M. Willette, D. G. Evans, and T. R. Spencer. 2011. Inriver abundance and distribution of spawning Susitna River sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka*, 2008. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 11-12, Anchorage.

[d] Cleary, P. M., R. A. Merizon, R. J. Yanusz, and D. J. Reed. 2013. Abundance and spawning distribution of Susitna River chum *Oncorhynchus keta* and coho *O. kisutch salmon*, 2010. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 13-05, Anchorage.

[e] Cleary, P. M., R. J. Yanusz, J. W. Erickson, D. J. Reed, R. A. Neustel, and N. J. Szarzi. 2016. Abundance and spawning distribution of Susitna River chum *Oncorhynchus keta* and coho *O. kisutch* salmon, 2011. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 16-35, Anchorage.

[f] Cleary, P. M., R. J. Yanusz, J. W. Erickson, D. J. Reed, R. A. Neustel, and N. J. Szarzi. 2016. Abundance and spawning distribution of Susitna River chum *Oncorhynchus keta* and coho *O. kisutch* salmon, 2011. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 16-35, Anchorage.

[g] LGL and ADF&G (LGL Research Associates, Inc. and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish). 2014. Salmon escapement study, Study plan Section 9.7:Initial Study Report–Part A: Sections 1-6, 8-10 (SuWa223). Alaska Energy Authority, Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, Anchorage.

[h] AEA 2015: LGL and ADF&G (LGL Research Associates, Inc. and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish). 2015. Salmon Escapement Study, Study Plan Section 9.7, Study Completion Report. (SuWa289). Alaska Energy Authority, Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, Anchorage.

Table 186-12.–History of Kenai River sockeye salmon personal use, educational, and sport harvest and escapement goals.

Year	Personal use and educational harvest [a]	Sport harvest below sonar	Kenai River sonar count [c]	Sport harvest above sonar	Total Sport Harvest	Total Inriver Harvest	Spawning escapement	Actual run size (millions)	Inriver goal (thousands)	BEG/SEG (thousands)	OEG (thousands)
2005	300,105	58,017	1,376,452	254,818	312,835	612,940	1,121,634	5.6	850-1,100	500-800	**500-1,000**
2006	130,486	30,964	1,499,692	172,638	203,602	334,088	1,327,054	2.5	750-950	500-800	**500-1,000**
2007	293,941	60,623	867,572	265,718	326,341	620,282	601,854	3.4	750-950	500-800	**500-1,000**
2008	236,355	46,053	614,946	208,526	254,579	490,934	406,420	2.3	650-850	500-800	**500-1,000**
2009	343,302	45,868	745,170	241,999	287,867	631,169	503,171	2.4	650-850	500-800	**500-1,000**
2010	393,317	59,651	970,662	256,624	316,275	709,592	714,038	3.3	750-950	500-800	**500-1,000**
2011	543,043	92,225	1,599,217	318,542	410,767	953,810	1,280,675	6.2	1,100-1,350	700-1,200	**700-1,400**
2012	530,128	102,376	1,581,555	368,720	471,096	1,001,224	1,212,835	4.7	1,100-1,350	700-1,200	**700-1,400**
2013	350,302	78,837	1,359,893	379,685	458,522	808,824	980,208	3.5	1,000-1,200	700-1,200	**700-1,400**
2014	384,018	78,057	1,520,340	301,998	380,055	764,073	1,218,342	3.3	1,000-1,200	700-1,200	**700-1,400**
2015	384,095	83,112	1,709,051	309,004	392,116	776,211	1,400,047	3.9	1,000-1,200	700-1,200	**700-1,400**
2016	266,506	79,465	1,383,692	263,704	343,169	609,675	1,119,988	3.5	1,000-1,350	700-1,200	**700-1,400**
2017	308,017	67,233	1,308,498	237,434	304,667	612,684	1,071,064	4.6	1,000-1,300	**700-1,200**	Repealed
2018	173,609	41,122	1,035,761	149,000	190,122	363,731	886,761	1.6	900-1,100	**700-1,200**	
2019	338,952	103,700	1,849,054	392,023	495,723	834,675	1,457,031	3.9	1,000-1,300	**700-1,200**	
2020	259,282	62,665	1,814,252	208,625	271,290	530,572	1,605,627	2.5	1,000-1,200	**750-1,300**	
2021	335,396	138,740	2,441,825	435,535	574,275	909,671	2,003,373	3.8	1,000-1,200	**750-1,300**	
2022	288,453	100,802	1,570,395	364,392	465,194	753,647	1,203,196	2.5	1,000-1,400	**750-1,300**	
2023	334,051	127,425	2,343,976	458,560	585,985	920,036	1,882,901	3.8	1,000-1,400	**750-1,300**	
2024	344,536	138,072	1,926,350	551,675	689,747	1,034,283	1,374,675	3.9	1,000-1,400	**750-1,300**	
2025[c]	ND	ND	*4,252,497*	ND	ND	ND	*3,848,740*	*8.0*	1,100-1,600	**750-1,300**	
5-year averages											
2015-2019	294,236	74,926	1,457,211	270,233	345,159	639,395	1,186,978	3.5			
2020-2024	312,344	113,541	2,019,360	403,757	517,298	829,642	1,613,954	3.3			

Note: ND = no data available. Bold font = the escapement goal for management. Shading = that the goal was achieved. Outlined = below minimum bound of escapement goal

[a] From 1999 to present, Personal use harvest is from Kenai River dipnet fishery and the educational harvest is from the Kenaitze Educational fishery after July 1.

[b] Bendix sonar counts for 1999-2010; DIDSON counts beginning in 2011.

[c] Kenia River sonar count and run size are preliminary. Upstream sport fishery harvest is estimated using the recent 5-year average.

Table 186-13.–Estimated escapement, and escapement goals (BEG, OEG) for sockeye salmon in the Kasilof River, 2005–2025.

Year	Escapement	BEG/OEG	Goal Range	Result
2005	348,012	BEG	150,000–250,000	Above
2006	368,092	OEG	150,000–300,000	Above
2007	336,866	BEG	150,000–250,000	Above
2008	301,469	OEG	150,000–300,000	Above
2009	297,125	OEG	150,000–300,000	Within
2010	267,013	BEG	150,000–250,000	Above
2011[a]	245,721	BEG	160,000–340,000	Within
2012	374,523	BEG	160,000–340,000	Above
2013	489,654	BEG	160,000–340,000	Above
2014	439,997	BEG	160,000–340,000	Above
2015	470,677	BEG	160,000–340,000	Above
2016	239,981	BEG	160,000–340,000	Within
2017	358,724	OEG	160,000-390,000	Within
2018	394,309	OEG	160,000-390,000	Above
2019	378,416	BEG	160,000-340,000	Above
2020	545,654	BEG	140,000-320,000	Above
2021	521,859	BEG	140,000-320,000	Above
2022	968,148	BEG	140,000-320,000	Above
2023	932,896	BEG	140,000-320,000	Above
2024	1,048,092	BEG	140,000-320,000	Above
2025	1,197,471	BEG	140,000-320,000	Above
5-year averages				
2015–2019	368,421			
2020–2024	803,330			

Note: Shading indicates the goal was not achieved.

Table 186-14.–Northern Cook Inlet sockeye salmon escapements and goal ranges, 2005–2025.

	Larson Lake		Chelatna Lake		Judd Lake		Fish Creek	
Year	Escapement goal	Escapement estimate[a]	Escapement goal	Escapement estimate[a]	Escapement goal	Escapement estimate[a]	Escapement goal	Escapement estimate[a]
2005	ND	9,955	ND	ND	ND	ND	20,000 - 70,000	14,215
2006	ND	57,411	ND	ND	ND	40,633	20,000 - 70,000	32,566
2007	ND	47,924	ND	ND	ND	57,251	20,000 - 70,000	27,948
2008	ND	34,595	ND	74,469	ND	53,681	20,000 - 70,000	19,339
2009	15,000 - 50,000	40,933	20,000 - 65,000	17,703	25,000 - 55,000	44,616	20,000 - 70,000	83,477
2010	15,000 - 50,000	20,324	20,000 - 65,000	37,784	25,000 - 55,000	18,446	20,000 - 70,000	126,829
2011	15,000 - 50,000	12,190	20,000 - 65,000	70,353	25,000 - 55,000	39,984	20,000 - 70,000	66,678
2012	15,000 - 50,000	16,566	20,000 - 65,000	36,736	25,000 - 55,000	18,715	20,000 - 70,000	18,813
2013	15,000 - 50,000	21,821	20,000 - 65,000	70,555	25,000 - 55,000	14,088	20,000 - 70,000	18,912
2014	15,000 - 50,000	12,040	20,000 - 65,000	26,212	25,000 - 55,000	22,416	20,000 - 70,000	43,915
2015	15,000 - 50,000	23,176	20,000 - 65,000	69,897	25,000 - 55,000	47,934	20,000 - 70,000	102,296
2016	15,000 - 50,000	14,313	20,000 - 65,000	67,836	25,000 - 55,000	ND	20,000 - 70,000	46,202
2017	15,000 - 35,000	31,866	20,000 - 45,000	26,986	15,000 - 40,000	35,731	15,000 - 45,000	61,469
2018	15,000 - 35,000	23,444	20,000 - 45,000	20,437	15,000 - 40,000	30,844	15,000 - 45,000	71,556
2019	15,000 - 35,000	9,699	20,000 - 45,000	26,303	15,000 - 40,000	44,145	15,000 - 45,000	76,031
2020	15,000 - 35,000	12,018	20,000 - 45,000	ND	15,000 - 40,000	31,220	15,000 - 45,000	64,234
2021	15,000 - 35,000	21,987	20,000 - 45,000	ND	15,000 - 40,000	49,250	15,000 - 45,000	22,271
2022	15,000 - 35,000	17,436	20,000 - 45,000	ND	15,000 - 40,000	38,442	15,000 - 45,000	58,351
2023	15,000 - 35,000	38,069	20,000 - 45,000	ND	15,000 - 40,000	ND	15,000 - 45,000	44,764
2024	15,000 - 35,000	16,133	20,000 - 45,000	ND	15,000 - 40,000	ND	15,000 - 45,000	37,943
2025	15,000 - 35,000	32,904	20,000 - 45,000	59,163	15,000 - 40,000	ND	15,000 - 45,000	42,573

Note: Shading = the escapement goal was achieved. Outlined = below minimum bound of escapement goal. ND = No data

[a] Enumeration estimates prior to 2025 reflect minor adjustments to the escapement database.

Table 186-15.–Estimated sport harvest and passage or escapement of coho salmon in the Little Susitna River, Fish Creek, Jim Creek, and Deshka River, 2003–2025.

	Little Susitna			Fish Creek			Jim Creek			Deshka River		
Year	Harvest	Passage	SEG	Harvest	Passage	SEG	Harvest[a]	Escapement[b]	SEG	Harvest	Passage	SEG
2003	13,672	10,877	10,100–17,700	112	1,231	1,200–4,400	6,415	1,421	400–700	4,946	17,305	–
2004	15,307	40,199	10,100–17,700	774	1,415	1,200–4,400	11,766	4,652	400–700	4,440	62,940	–
2005	10,203	16,839[c]	10,100–17,700	535	3,011	1,200–4,400	10,114	1,464	400–700	3,616	47,887	–
2006	12,399	8,786[c]	10,100–17,700	281	4,967	1,200–4,400	19,259	2,389	400–700	6,042	59,419	–
2007	11,089	17,573	10,100–17,700	120	6,868	1,200–4,400	11,848	725	400–700	2,550	10,575	–
2008	13,498	18,485	10,100–17,700	993	4,868	1,200–4,400	17,545	1,890	400–700	3,426	12,724	–
2009	8,346	9,523	10,100–17,700	1,178	8,214	1,200–4,400	11,573	1,331	400–700	4,060	27,348	–
2010	10,662	9,214	10,100–17,700	805	6,977	1,200–4,400	8,442	242	400–700	5,690	10,393	–
2011	2,452	4,826	10,100–17,700	414	1,428	1,200–4,400	3,132	261	400–700	2,282	7,326	–
2012	1,681	6,779[c]	10,100–17,700	274	1,237	1,200–4,400	1,858	213	400–700	1,358	6,825	–
2013	5,229	13,583[c]	10,100–17,700	356	7,593	1,200–4,400	3,258	663	400–700	2,658	22,141	–
2014	6,922	24,211	10,100–17,700	622	10,283	1,200–4,400	3,045	122	400–700	2,598	11,578	–
2015	8,880	12,756	10,100–17,700	2,041	7,912	1,200–4,400	2,910	571	450–1,400	745	10,775	–
2016	4,361	10,049	10,100–17,700	496	2,484	1,200–4,400	1,343	106	450–1,400	1,528	6,820	–
2017	3,068	17,781	10,100–17,700	358	8,966	1,200–4,400	750	607	450–1,400	2,825	36,869	10,200–24,100
2018	6,663	7,583[c]	10,100–17,700	1,915	5,022	1,200–4,400	2,924	758	450–1,400	3,169	12,962	10,200–24,100
2019	3,167	4,229[c]	10,100–17,700	892	3,025	1,200–4,400	2,856	162	450–1,400	1,578	10,445	10,200–24,100
2020	2,557	9,779	9,200–17,700	1,916	4,555	1,200–6,000	2,404	735	250–700	1,953	5,368[c]	10,200–24,100
2021	3,560	10,229[c]	9,200–17,700	297	6,462	1,200–6,000	3,082	1,499	250–700	2,248	3,431[c]	10,200–24,100
2022	2,114	2,792[c]	9,200–17,700	533	ND	1,200–6,000	3,717	1,899	250–700	1,936	3,137[c]	10,200–24,100
2023	1,093	2,949[c]	9,200–17,700	124	1,534	1,200–6,000	2,691	378	250–700	543	1,817[c]	10,200–24,100
2024	439	964[c]	9,200–17,701	102	235	1,200–6,001	1,291	376	250–701	741	647[c]	10,200–24,101
2025	ND	4,553	9,200–17,702	ND	3,398	1,200–6,002	ND	482	250–702	ND	3,869[c]	10,200–24,102
Averages												
2005–2024	5,919	13,420		713	5,034		5,702	820		2,577	19,606	
2015–2024	3,590	12,591		867	4,466		2,397	709		1,727	15,574	

Note: Shading = the escapement goal was achieved. Outlined = below minimum bound of escapement goal. ND = No data

[a] Includes other Knik River tributaries.

[b] Escapement is a foot index survey of a section of McRoberts Creek, a tributary of the Jim Creek drainage.

[c] Incomplete count.

Table 186-16.– Estimated sport harvest of coho salmon in the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area, 1990–2025.

Year	Knik Arm	Eastside Susitna	Westside Susitna	West Cook Inlet	Total harvest
1990	18,762	11,743	13,883	6,016	50,404
1991	22,186	19,479	20,507	8,253	70,425
1992	25,814	33,790	16,218	7,037	82,859
1993	35,763	26,063	15,454	10,326	87,606
1994	28,539	20,870	15,361	8,247	73,017
1995	20,650	19,165	17,148	8,182	65,145
1996	24,874	24,174	17,375	11,430	77,853
1997	11,773	10,297	7,123	6,492	35,685
1998	23,750	23,086	13,235	8,160	68,231
1999	14,429	23,292	17,995	9,339	65,055
2000	32,530	37,748	23,262	11,712	105,252
2001	30,106	26,617	19,221	13,949	89,893
2002	44,448	27,183	14,144	13,380	99,155
2003	24,583	18,585	16,072	14,239	73,479
2004	34,298	20,484	17,785	16,179	88,746
2005	27,000	17,471	18,266	12,572	75,309
2006	39,953	22,719	20,474	11,940	95,086
2007	27,733	13,464	14,065	12,580	67,842
2008	35,996	24,211	15,126	14,673	90,006
2009	37,271	15,335	14,464	9,801	76,871
2010	26,369	14,291	16,245	9,030	65,935
2011	8,484	9,040	12,483	6,292	36,299
2012	5,014	7,629	9,434	7,813	29,890
2013	12,335	12,989	13,042	7,698	46,064
2014	16,180	12,462	12,972	7,320	48,934
2015	17,800	15,043	14,191	12,849	59,883
2016	7,962	5,939	4,022	6,015	23,979
2017	6,232	12,838	10,759	4,828	34,657
2018	14,429	9,728	15,093	8,554	47,804
2019	9,369	8,308	11,373	10,001	39,051
2020	8,682	8,830	5,283	6,937	29,732
2021	7,870	14,069	10,879	7,572	40,262
2022	6,945	6,722	8,573	3,995	26,236
2023	5,239	3,222	3,766	5,791	28,885
2024	1,849	1,052	2,308	3,130	26,770
2025	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Averages					
1990–2004	26,167	22,838	16,319	10,196	75,520
2005–2024	16,136	11,768	11,641	8,470	49,475
2015–2024	8,638	8,575	8,625	6,967	35,726

Note: ND = No data.

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN J. MCCABE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE DISTRICT 30

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SPONSOR STATEMENT/ HB 304 Ver. A (34-LS1375\I)

"An Act relating to the duties of the commissioner of fish and game; establishing the sport fishing angler access account; establishing the sport fishing angler access surcharge; and providing for an effective date."

Alaska's sport fishing industry is a cornerstone of our state's economy. It supports thousands of jobs, generates substantial state and local revenue, and brings visitors from around the world to experience Alaska's fisheries.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game last produced a comprehensive statewide economic impact report on sport fishing in 2007. Nearly *two decades* later, Alaska's population, tourism activity, infrastructure, and fisheries management challenges have changed significantly. Policymakers are making decisions affecting access, allocation, conservation, and infrastructure without updated statewide economic data.

HB304 requires the Commissioner of Fish & Game to produce and disseminate a biennial report on the economic impacts of sport fishing in Alaska. The report will follow the model of the Department's 2007 Professional Publication No. 08-01 to ensure consistency and credibility in methodology.

To fund this work without relying on unrestricted general funds; the bill establishes a $1 sport fishing angler access surcharge on sport fishing licenses. The $1 minimal surcharge per license and must be clearly disclosed. Individuals eligible for reduced-cost or free licenses are exempt.

The surcharge revenue is intended to function as program receipts to be deposited to the fish and game fund, remain fully subject to annual legislative appropriation, and provide funding support for the production and dissemination of the biennial report.

The proposal has received support from the Department of Fish and Game, the Kenai River Sports Association, and other stakeholders. It reflects a well-vetted effort to update critical economic data while reinvesting directly in Alaska's anglers.

The bill includes a repeal date of January 1, 2032, ensuring the legislature has the opportunity to review its effectiveness before continuing the program. HB304 ensures Alaska has reliable, current economic data on one of its most important renewable resource industries, at minimal cost and with clear legislative oversight.

34-LS1375\G
Bullard
2/24/26

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 304(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to the duties of the commissioner of fish and game; establishing the sport fishing angler access account; establishing the sport fishing angler access surcharge; and providing for an effective date."

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

* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the commissioner of fish and game model the report required under AS 16.05.050(c), added by sec. 2 of this Act, on the Department of Fish and Game's Professional Publication No. 08-01, titled "Economic Impacts and Contributions of Sportfishing in Alaska, 2007."

* **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) Every four years, the commissioner shall produce and disseminate to the public a report on the economic impacts of sport fishing in the state.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(i) Money accruing to the state from the sport fishing angler access surcharge imposed by AS 16.05.340(*l*) shall be deposited in a separate account known as the sport fishing angler access account within the fish and game fund. The department shall allocate money in the angler access account to production and dissemination of the report on the economic impacts of sport fishing in the state required under AS 16.05.050(c). The Department shall, after allocating funds for the production and dissemination of the report under this subsection, allocate funds in the account to programs intended to directly benefit license purchasers by developing, improving, and maintaining access opportunities, facilities and other infrastructure, and services for nonmotorized sport fishing.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 16.05.340(i) is amended to read:

(i) If the commissioner determines that residents of the state are entitled to obtain licenses for sport fishing, including sport fishing for anadromous king salmon, in Yukon, Canada, for the same fees that are charged to residents of Yukon for comparable sport fishing licenses, the commissioner may adopt regulations authorizing residents of Yukon to receive

(1) nonresident annual sport fishing licenses for the fees charged to residents under (a) **and (*l*)** of this section for a resident sport fishing license; and

(2) nonresident anadromous king salmon annual tags for the fee charged to residents under (a) of this section for a resident anadromous king salmon tag.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 16.05.340 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(*l*) In addition to the fees for a sport fishing license set out in (a) and (d) of this section, each person who purchases a sport fishing license shall pay a sport fishing angler access surcharge as set out in this subsection. A person who is eligible for a $5 resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license under (a)(6) of this section or a free license under AS 16.05.341 is exempt from payment of the surcharge imposed under this subsection. The surcharge authorized by this subsection shall take effect on the date established by regulation by the commissioner. The amount of the surcharge must be clearly disclosed on each sport fishing license. The amount of the sport fishing angler access surcharge to be paid under this subsection for each sport

fishing license is as follows:

(1) resident sport fishing license $1

(2) resident hunting and sport fishing license 1

(3) resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license 1

(4) nonresident 14-day sport fishing license 3

(5) nonresident seven-day sport fishing license 2

(6) nonresident three-day sport fishing license 2

(7) nonresident one-day sport fishing license 2

(8) nonresident annual sport fishing license 5

(9) special nonresident military small game and sport fishing license ..1

(10) special nonresident military sport fishing license .....1.

* **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The commissioner of fish and game may adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law implemented by the regulation.

* **Sec. 7.** Section 6 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

* **Sec. 8.** Except as provided in sec. 7 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2027.

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

2025 CALENDAR YEAR LICENSES AND TAGS ISSUED

This report summarizes licenses, stamps, and big game tags reported issued during calendar year 2025

Division of Administrative Services, License Accounting

Prepared January 22, 2026

Compiled from CYTD License Sales Statistics by Vendor Type Ending 12/31/2025

DESCRIPTION	QTY	GROSS	EXPENSE	NET SALES
FISHING & HUNTING LICENSES AND STAMPS				
Resident Fishing License	154,067	$2,572,385	$32,260	$2,540,124
Resident Hunting License	77,945	$2,376,760	$22,493	$2,354,267
Resident Trapping License	27,505	$214,586	$1,634	$212,952
RESIDENT LICENSE TOTAL	**259,517**	**$5,163,731**	**$56,387**	**$5,107,343**
Nonresident Fishing License	355,751	$12,505,446	$167,566	$12,337,881
Nonresident Hunting License	20,189	$2,861,539	$30,340	$2,831,198
Nonresident Trapping License	82	$20,090	$184	$19,906
NONRESIDENT LICENSE TOTAL	**376,022**	**$15,387,075**	**$198,090**	**$15,188,985**
Resident King Salmon Stamp	65,600	$555,590	$6,196	$549,394
Nonresident King Salmon Stamp	114,039	$3,495,130	$39,754	$3,455,376
Collector's King Salmon Stamp	0	$0	$0	$0
KING SALMON STAMP TOTAL	**179,639**	**$4,050,720**	**$45,950**	**$4,004,770**
Waterfowl Conservation Stamp	11,026	$110,260	$1,359	$108,901
Collector Waterfowl Stamp	227	$5,760	$0	$5,760
WATERFOWL STAMP TOTAL	**11,253**	**$116,020**	**$1,359**	**$114,661**
BIG GAME TAGS				
Resident Big Game Tag	4,537	$127,675	$2,218	$125,458
Nonresident Big Game Tag	16,704	$9,295,905	$148,592	$9,147,314
TOTAL	**21,241**	**$9,423,580**	**$150,809**	**$9,272,771**
COMMERCIAL CREWMEMBER LICENSES				
Resident	6,899	$390,270	$17,165	$373,105
Nonresident	8,872	$1,784,140	$98,083	$1,686,057
TOTAL	**15,771**	**$2,174,410**	**$115,248**	**$2,059,162**
PROFESSIONAL LICENSES Resident & Non-Resident Totals				
Fur Dealer	26	$3,900	$0.00	$3,900
Taxidermy	37	$8,000	$0.00	$8,000
Game Mammal & Reptile Farm	0	$0	$0.00	$0
TOTAL	**63**	**$11,900**	**$0.00**	**$11,900**
TOTAL	**863,506**	**$36,327,436**	**$567,843**	**$35,759,593**
DUPLICATE LICENSES				
Duplicate Fishing and Hunting License	891	$4,354	$218	$4,136
Duplicate King Salmon Stamp	130	$650	$33	$618
Duplicate Big Game Tag	311	$1,555	$22	$1,534
Duplicate Crewmember License	99	$495	$49	$446
TOTAL	**1,431**	**$7,054**	**$321**	**$6,733**
GRAND TOTAL	**864,937**	**$36,334,490**	**$568,164**	**$35,766,326**

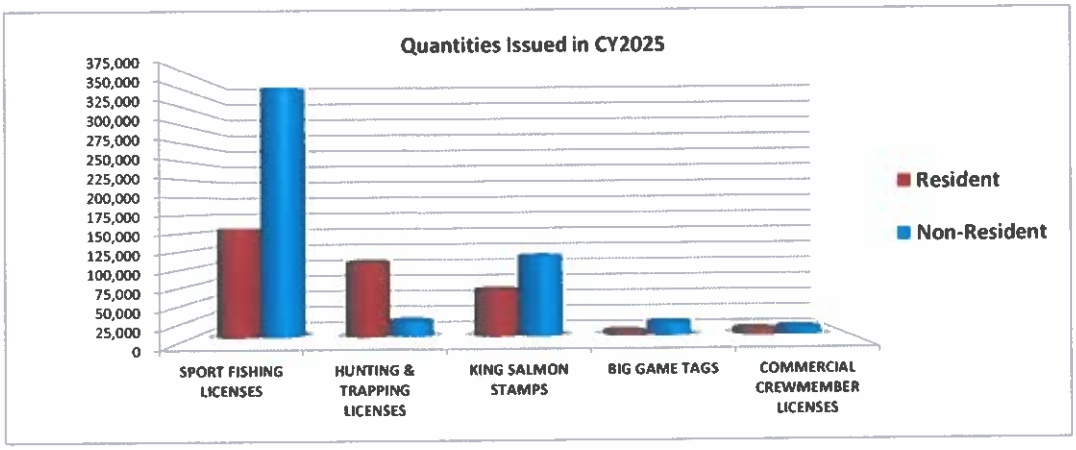
Includes prior and future year licenses that were reported as issued during this calendar year.

The QTY# represents the total number of privileges allowed per license type. For example: A Hunt/Fish/Trap combination license is a single license, but endorses three different privileges. Thus, the QTY# for combination licenses is counted multiple times on this report.

Expenses represent the commission and postage fees retained by license vendors

Includes complimentary Senior Resident Licenses (included in Hunt/Fish/Trap/King Salmon Stamp Qty) and Disabled Veteran Resident Licenses (included in Hunt/Fish/King Salmon Stamp Qty) issued during this calendar year. Includes Duplicate Low Income 5a licenses.

Includes complimentary National Guard/Military Reserves licenses (included in Hunt/Fish Qty) issued during this calendar year.



Estimated Additional Revenue from Proposed Fishing License Fee Increases

The bill draft proposes adding specific surcharge amounts to various fishing license types in Alaska. To estimate the additional revenue generated by each increase, I used the 2025 aggregated sales data from the provided report (total resident fishing privileges: 154,067; total nonresident fishing licenses: 355,751) and applied historical proportions from Alaska Department of Fish and Game statistics (2016–2019 averages, scaled to match 2025 totals). These are estimates, as the 2025 report does not provide a per-type breakdown. Revenue figures represent gross additional income (increase amount × estimated quantity sold).

Category	Description	Increase Amount	Estimated Quantity Sold (2025)	Estimated Additional Revenue
(1)	Resident sport fishing license	$1	89,300	$89,300
(2)	Resident hunting and sport fishing license	$1	39,750	$39,750
(3)	Resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license	$1	6,250	$6,250
(4)	Nonresident 14-day sport fishing license	$3	19,350	$58,050
(5)	Nonresident seven-day sport fishing license	$2	98,200	$196,400
(6)	Nonresident three-day sport fishing license	$2	66,600	$133,200
(7)	Nonresident one-day sport fishing license	$2	142,600	$285,200
(8)	Nonresident annual sport fishing license	$5	20,000	$100,000
(9)	Special nonresident military small game and sport fishing license	$1	~1,000 (low-volume estimate; no specific historical breakdown available)	~$1,000
(10)	Special nonresident military sport fishing license	$1	6,000	$6,000

Notes:

- These calculations assume no significant change in sales volume due to the increases (e.g., no price elasticity effects).
- For residents, the breakdown excludes low-income, blind, National Guard, and disabled veteran licenses (totaling ~19,000 in historical data), as the bill does not explicitly reference increases for those.
- For nonresidents, the "annual" category corresponds to the general nonresident sport fishing (annual) type; military estimates are based on historical "NonRes Military Sport Fish" data.
- The (9) category lacks a direct historical match (may overlap with military hunting combos), so I used a conservative estimate based on similar low-volume special licenses.
- Total estimated additional revenue across all categories: ~$915,150. This does not account for vendor expenses or net sales adjustments from the 2025 report.

Non-Resident vs. Resident Fishing Licenses in Alaska (2025 Data)

Based on the 2025 licenses and tags report, non-residents significantly outnumber residents in fishing licenses issued:

- **Number of Licenses/Privileges**: Non-residents purchased 355,751 fishing licenses, compared to 154,067 resident fishing privileges (this includes fishing endorsements from combination licenses). This means non-residents had **131% more** fishing licenses/privileges than residents ((355,751 - 154,067) / 154,067 × 100%).
- **Revenue from Fishing Licenses**: Non-residents generated $12,505,446 in gross revenue, compared to $2,572,385 for residents. This equates to non-residents contributing **386% more** revenue than residents ((12,505,446 - 2,572,385) / 2,572,385 × 100%).

These figures highlight the outsized role of non-resident anglers in Alaska's sport fishing economy.

Arguments Against Viewing the License Fee Increases as a "Tax"

This legislation aims to fund a comprehensive sport fish report—something that hasn't been updated in depth for about 20 years (based on the last major revisions to survey methodologies around 2011, with specialized economic surveys last conducted in 2017). This lack of current data has led to management decisions without full information, resulting in over 15 king salmon fisheries closures already this season (including major areas like the Kenai River early and late runs, West Cook Inlet fresh waters, Cook Inlet salt waters north of Bluff Point, Susitna and Little Susitna drainages, Anchor River, Deep Creek, Kasilof River, Yukon River, Eagle River drainage, and several Kodiak areas, among others documented in ADF&G emergency orders). For those upset about the fee hikes framing them as an unfair "tax," here are counterarguments emphasizing their necessity, fairness, and targeted benefits:

1. **Non-Residents Shoulder the Bulk of the Costs**: The proposed increases would generate an estimated $915,150 in additional revenue annually, with about 85% ($778,850) coming from non-resident licenses (e.g., higher fees on short-term options popular with tourists). Residents would only contribute around 15% ($135,300), spread across modest $1 bumps. This isn't a broad tax on Alaskans—it's primarily funded by out-of-state visitors who benefit from our world-class fisheries, ensuring locals aren't disproportionately burdened.
2. **It's a User Fee for Direct Benefits, Not a General Tax**: Unlike taxes that go into general funds, these increases are dedicated to producing essential data for better Fish & Game (F&G) management. The sport fish survey provides critical harvest, catch, and effort estimates used annually since 1977, but comprehensive updates (like economic impacts or detailed participation studies) are overdue. This funding ensures decisions are

data-driven, potentially preventing more closures and sustaining fisheries for future generations—directly benefiting anglers who pay the fees.

3. **Essential for Sustainability Amid Declining Stocks**: Without updated reports, F&G is flying blind, leading to precautionary closures that hurt recreation and local economies. We've seen historic lows in king salmon, with preseason forecasts 27% below recent averages, forcing emergency actions across Southcentral and beyond. These small fee hikes (e.g., $2-5 for most non-residents) invest in science to reopen fisheries sooner, protecting jobs in guiding, tourism, and related sectors that generate millions for Alaska.
4. **Minimal Impact Compared to Overall Costs**: For residents, the $1 increase per license is negligible—less than a cup of coffee—while non-residents see modest add-ons to already premium experiences (e.g., $2 for a one-day license). This pales against travel, gear, or guiding expenses, and it's a proactive step to avoid larger economic losses from fishery collapses, which could cost communities far more in lost revenue.
5. **Promotes Equity and Long-Term Gains for Locals**: Residents already enjoy lower base fees and priority in management. This update levels the playing field by using non-resident funds to enhance data, potentially leading to better stock assessments, fewer restrictions, and healthier runs. It's an investment in Alaska's natural resources, ensuring sustainable angling for families and traditions, rather than a punitive tax.

Fiscal Note

Ver A.

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 304
Fiscal Note Number:
() Publish Date:

Identifier: HB304-DFG-DSF-02-18-26
Title: SPORT FISH SURCHARGE
Sponsor: MCCABE
Requester: (H)Fisheries

Department: Department of Fish and Game
Appropriation: Sport Fisheries
Allocation: Sport Fisheries
OMB Component Number: 464

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2027 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2027 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY 2027**	**FY 2027**	**FY 2028**	**FY 2029**	**FY 2030**	**FY 2031**	**FY 2032**
Personal Services				75.0		75.0	
Travel							
Services				350.0		350.0	
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**425.0**	**0.0**	**425.0**	**0.0**
Fund Source (Operating Only)							
1024 Fish/Game (Other)				425.0		425.0	
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**425.0**	**0.0**	**425.0**	**0.0**
Positions							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							
Change in Revenues							
1024 Fish/Game (Other)			465.6	465.6	465.6	465.6	232.8
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**465.6**	**465.6**	**465.6**	**465.6**	**232.8**

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2026) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2027) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? Yes

(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes

If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/27

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable; initial version.

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Division: Division of Administrative Services
Date: 02/18/2026 09:00 AM
Approved By: Bonnie Jensen, Administrative Services Director
Date: 02/18/26
Agency: Department of Fish and Game

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB304

Analysis

This legislation establishes a $1 surcharge on sport fish licenses and creates a sub-account within the Fish and Game Fund to collect the funds. The fees would be used to fund a biennial economic study on the impacts of sport fishing in Alaska. The surcharge sunsets on January 1, 2032.

The licensing surcharge would take effect on the date established by the department through regulation. With an effective date of January 1, 2027, for this legislation, the department anticipates adopting an effective date for the surcharge by July 1, 2027. Using a five-year average of license sales and deducting 10% for vendor commissions and overhead, the department estimates the surcharge revenue generation at $465.6 beginning in FY2028 and $232.8 in FY2032 due to the partial-fiscal year in which the surcharge sunsets.

The department would contract out the work for the economic study with estimated costs of $350.0 for services incurring in FY2029 and FY2031. Staff time would also be required to coordinate the survey and provide data to the contractors. The department estimates $75.0 in personal services costs for approximately four to six months of staff time. A new position is not anticipated to be needed, but the department could fund a temporary or part-time position with the Fish and Game Fund revenue generated from the fees if determined necessary later.

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN J. MCCABE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT/ HB 304 Ver. A (34-LS1375\I)

"An Act relating to the duties of the commissioner of fish and game; establishing the sport fishing angler access account; establishing the sport fishing angler access surcharge; and providing for an effective date."

Alaska's sport fishing industry is a cornerstone of our state's economy. It supports thousands of jobs, generates substantial state and local revenue, and brings visitors from around the world to experience Alaska's fisheries.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game last produced a comprehensive statewide economic impact report on sport fishing in 2007. Nearly *two decades* later, Alaska's population, tourism activity, infrastructure, and fisheries management challenges have changed significantly. Policymakers are making decisions affecting access, allocation, conservation, and infrastructure without updated statewide economic data.

HB304 requires the Commissioner of Fish & Game to produce and disseminate a biennial report on the economic impacts of sport fishing in Alaska. The report will follow the model of the Department's 2007 Professional Publication No. 08-01 to ensure consistency and credibility in methodology.

To fund this work without relying on unrestricted general funds; the bill establishes a $1 sport fishing angler access surcharge on sport fishing licenses. The $1 minimal surcharge per license and must be clearly disclosed. Individuals eligible for reduced-cost or free licenses are exempt.

The surcharge revenue is intended to function as program receipts to be deposited to the fish and game fund, remain fully subject to annual legislative appropriation, and provide funding support for the production and dissemination of the biennial report.

The proposal has received support from the Department of Fish and Game, the Kenai River Sports Association, and other stakeholders. It reflects a well-vetted effort to update critical economic data while reinvesting directly in Alaska's anglers.

The bill includes a repeal date of January 1, 2032, ensuring the legislature has the opportunity to review its effectiveness before continuing the program. HB304 ensures Alaska has reliable, current economic data on one of its most important renewable resource industries, at minimal cost and with clear legislative oversight.