

# Mat-Su Fish & Wildlife Commission

*Collaborating to benefit fish & wildlife in the Mat-Su & beyond...*

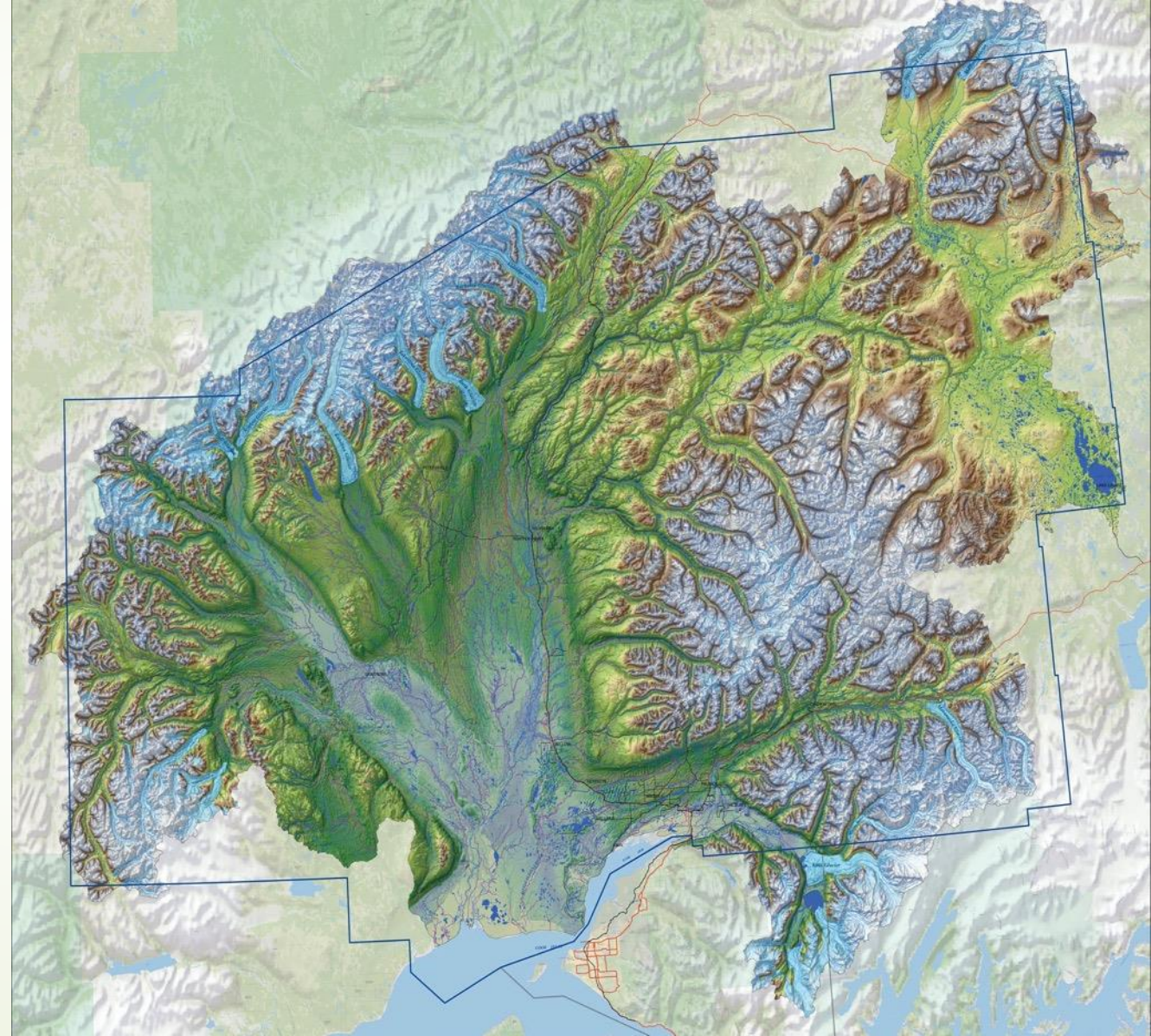
March 2022





# Overview

- Who is the MSB FWC?
- What do we do?
- Our priorities
- Why our work matters
- Moving forward





# What is the MSB FWC?

- Started in 2007
- An 8-member MSB commission advocates for sound fish and wildlife management on behalf of MSB and its citizens
- Uses science & citizen input
- Provides local expertise to the MSB Assembly, citizens, regulators



**Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission:** Left to right: Howard Delo, Larry Engel, Amber Allen, Assemblymember Tamara Boeve, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Chair Mike Wood, Andy Couch  
Commissioners not pictured: Bob Chlupach and T. Bruce Knowles



Alaska's Israel Payton posing next to, what is believed to be, a world record bull moose at 80 inches. (KTUU)

By Kari Bustamante

Published: Sep. 22, 2017 at 4:09 PM AKDT

Credit: [Alaskan harvests what could be a record breaking bull moose \(alaskanewssource.com\)](http://alaskanewssource.com)

# What's at stake in our fisheries work?

- The Mat-Su has been famous for it's King and Coho Salmon runs...
- Fishing is important to us – sustenance for the soul and the body.



- Fishing provides significant economic contribution to the Mat-Su

# Economics of Sportfishing in MSB – it matters

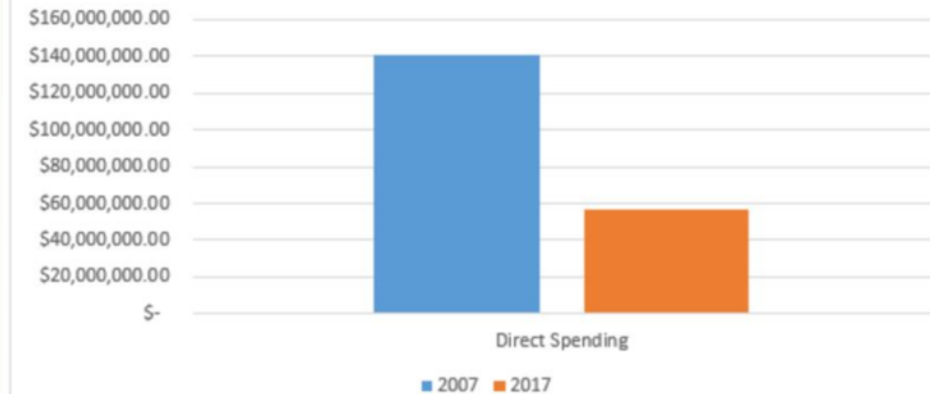
- In 2017 direct spending on sport fishing in MSB totaled over \$57 million.
- Though still significant, this level of spending is down from 2007.
- How do we maintain the robust economic contributions of fisheries to the local economy?

## Economic Contributions of Sportfishing on the Cook Inlet Region

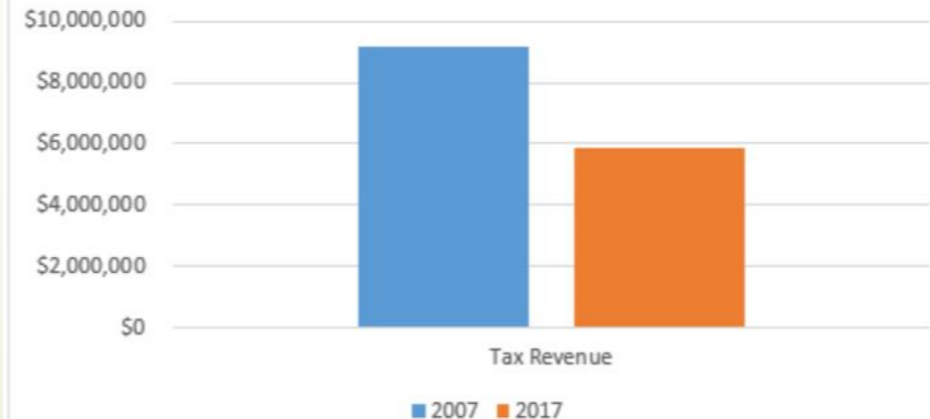


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Direct Spending in MSB Sportfishing decreased 59%, 2007-2017



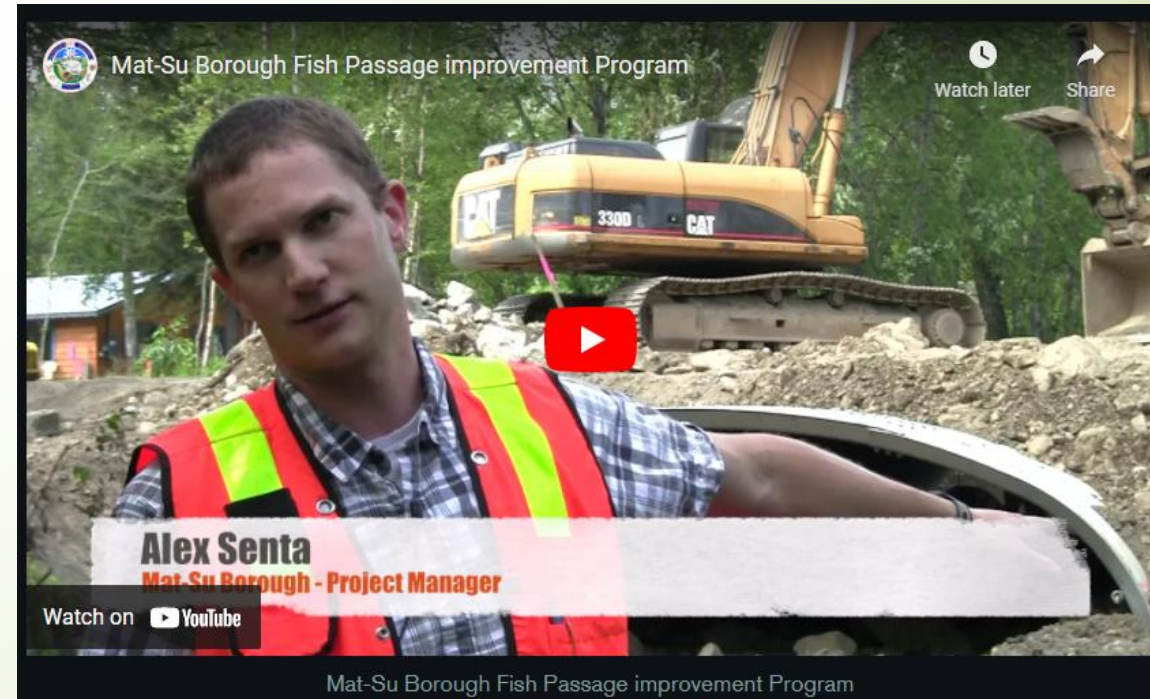
Tax revenues tied to MSB sportfishing fell 36%, 2007-2017





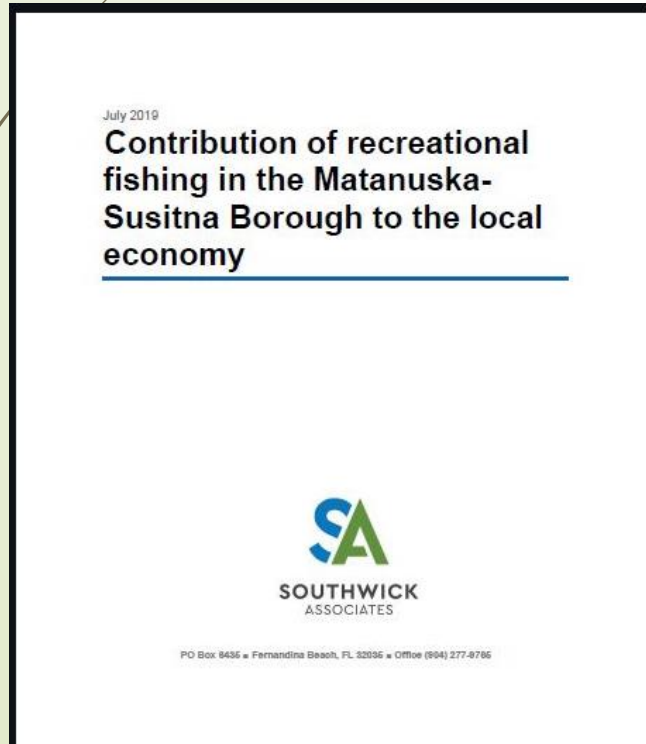
# The MSB investment in Fisheries: Fish Passage

- Since 2000, over \$20 million invested
- Over 100 fish passage culverts installed
- Restoration of 67 stream miles and 6,224 lake acres of anadromous fish habitat – we walk our talk!



# Fisheries Investments: Research & Mgmt.

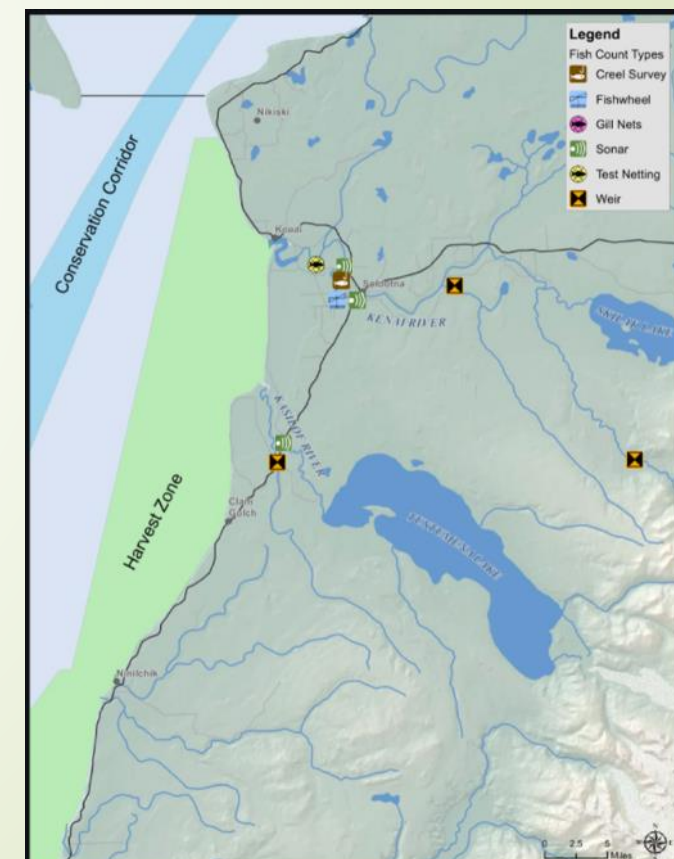
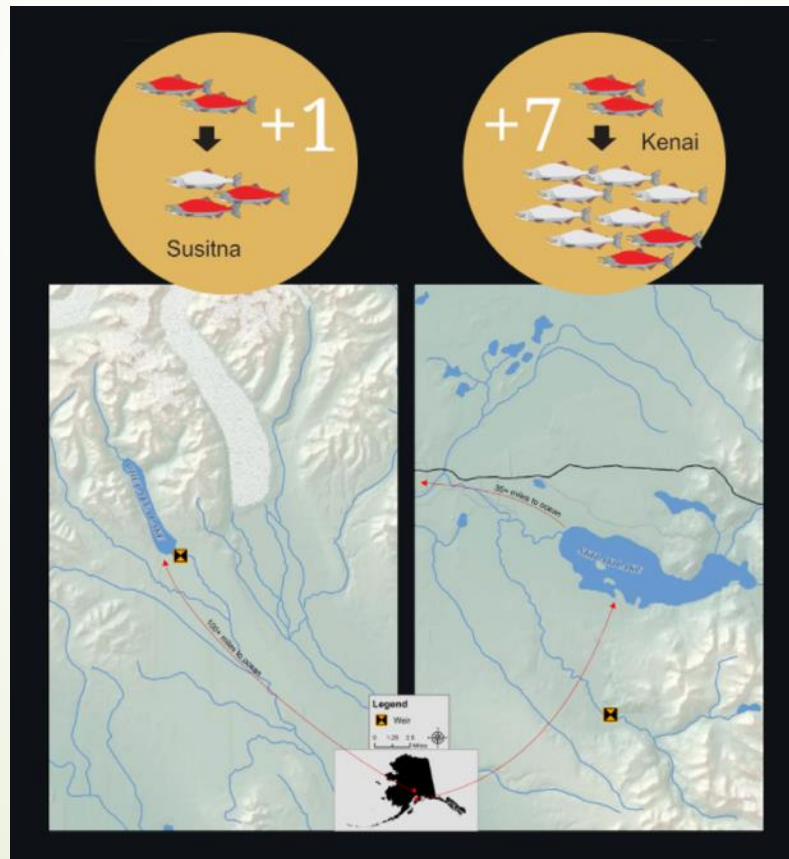
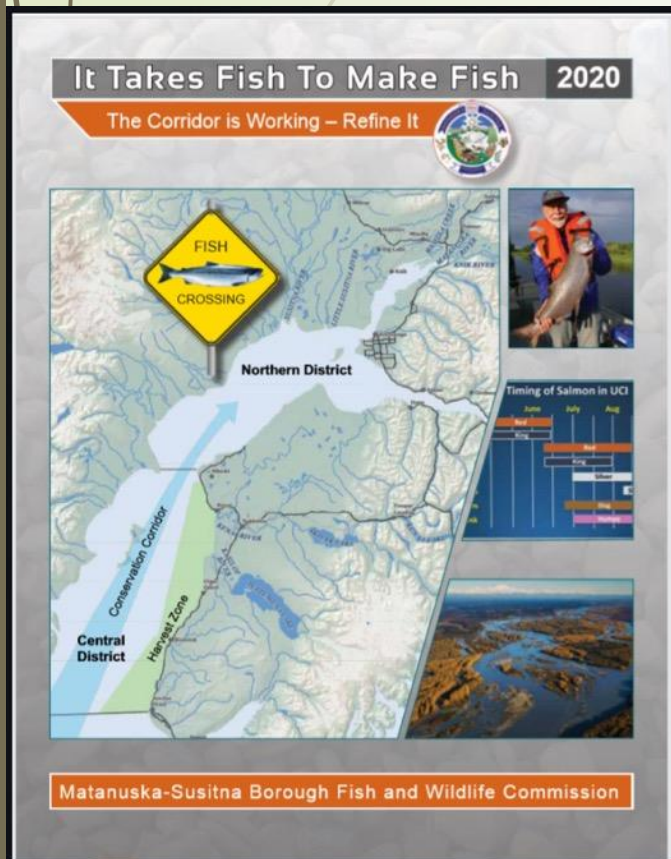
- In 2014 the MSB received a \$2.5 million state legislative grant for fisheries work:
  - Fish passage culverts installed
  - Research gap analysis done
  - 13 research and management projects funded





# Alaska Board of Fisheries/Wildlife Work

- We engage in the BOF/BOG meetings to advocate for science-based management and regulation.

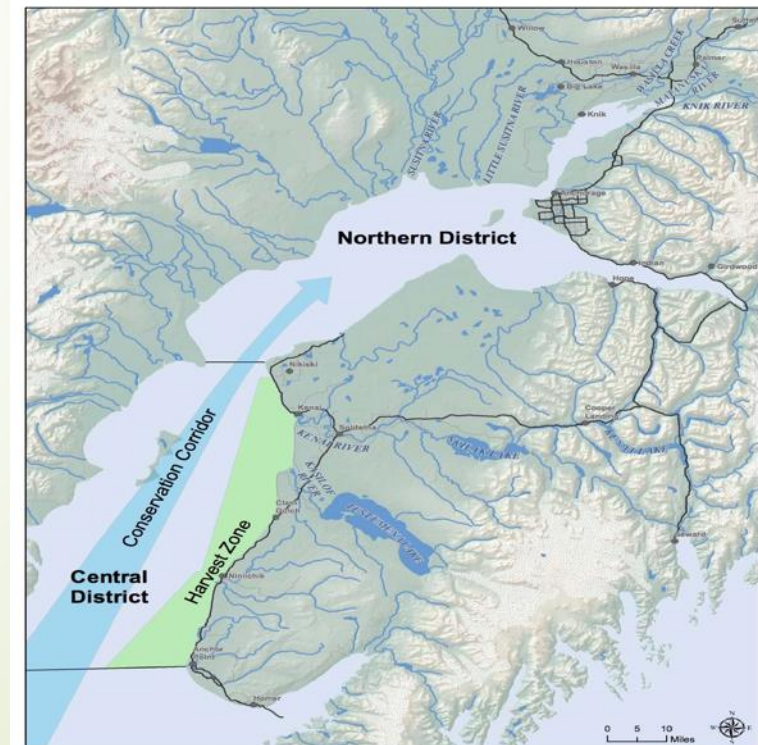
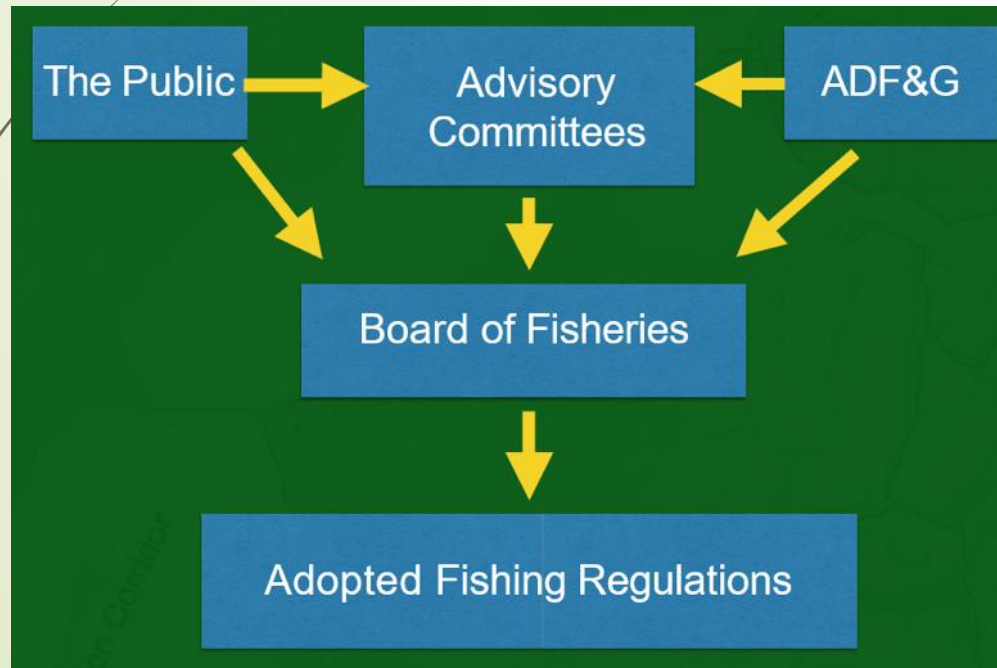




# 2020 BOF UCI Finfish Meeting:

## Feb. 7-19, Egan Center

- We worked collaboratively to advance science-based proposals that benefit fisheries conservation, traditions, and the public interest.



# Looking for partners and allies

- We see common interests –
  - how can we best conserve our fish/wildlife resources?
  - How can we maintain and pass on our Alaskan fish and wildlife cultural traditions?
- We feel that finding partners and allies around common interests will benefit fisheries and wildlife in the MSB and Alaska, now and in the future.





# How can we work together?



- By advocating for sound fisheries/wildlife management, all can benefit.
- Filling knowledge & management gaps:
  - Genetic fish stock analysis in Cook Inlet
  - Funding fishing weirs and sonar for better in-season management
  - Applying the successful model of commercial fishing from Bristol Bay in the complex mixed stock fishery of Cook Inlet



# A better future together?

- Let's work together for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and each other.





# Learn more

- We meet monthly except for the summer (gone fishing!)
- You can stay apprised of FWC activities:  
Visit our web page: <https://www.matsugov.us/boards/fishcommission>  
Visit our “fish hub”: <https://www.matsugov.us/fishhub>  
Watch (3:14): Fish Passage Program [LINK](#)



Susitna sockeye salmon display their spawning colors as they migrate up a clear-water tributary.