

BRIEFING:

N. Gook

INLET

FISHERIES

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

cc for U.
STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR
*also Swack
Menard*

P.O. BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

April 5, 1988

Mr. Ted A. Whip, Jr.
Mr. Roland G. Ellidge
P. O. Box 9-2377
Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear Mr. Whip and Mr. Ellidge:

Representative Johnny Ellis provided me with a copy of your recent letter concerning upper Cook Inlet salmon management. I welcome the opportunity to respond to the two issues you raised in your letter: catch allocation and escapement to the Susitna River and Northern District streams.

You requested that the department manage the commercial fishery in such a way that a specified number or percentage of fish go to the Northern District. Your letter implies that there is currently a catch allocation to the Northern District which is unfairly low. Northern District set netters have proposed such an allocation to the Board of Fisheries many times, and the board has rejected making any such allocation. The fact that the board has repeatedly rejected proposals to allocate specific numbers of fish to the Northern District prevents the staff from doing so on its own.

Since the fishery stocks in question are currently heavily utilized, a reallocation would involve gain for one user group at the expense of another. Achieving such an allocation would require extended closures of the Central District drift gill net fishery, resulting in a substantial reduction of harvest and possibly excess escapement to the Kenai River most years. Attempts to harvest these excess fish with the east side set nets would increase user conflicts over the late run Kenai king salmon.

Currently, much of the increase in Central District catches is the result of the Tustumena Lake stocking project and record returns to the Kenai River. These are stocks which normally do not enter the Northern District and, therefore, are not available to Northern District set netters.

Forecasting salmon returns in Upper Cook Inlet is a relatively new practice. Only sockeye returns are forecasted, and river system forecasts have not been very

accurate. Predictions for other species are based on average catches. Setting an allocation quota based on predicted returns by area or river system is not practical. For these reasons, the Board of Fisheries has not made an allocation to the Northern District set netters.

Escapement data is very limited for Northern District rivers due to the difficulty of counting fish in turbid water and to limited funding. We have a sonar counter on the Yentna River (a major tributary to the Susitna), a weir on Fish Creek, a weir on the Little Susitna, and a weir at Larson Lake operated by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. Sonar counts in the Yentna are used as an index of escapement in the Susitna system.

Since escapement goals were established in the Susitna, the department has had a hard time meeting them due to the mixed stock nature of the catch and difficulties with stock identification. It is extremely difficult to estimate the abundance of Susitna stocks while they are still in salt water. Once the fish are past the sonar counter, it is too late to make adjustments in the commercial fishery if the escapement is low. Therefore, management of the set net fishery in the Northern District is based on catch rather than escapement.

The escapement goal for Fish Creek is normally met or slightly exceeded. In 1987 a terminal harvest area for set netters was opened to harvest excess Fish Creek sockeye.

My staff has tried a variety of closed areas in the Central District to ensure passage of fish into the Northern District. The proposed Barber's Triangle would not be adequate to ensure passage of Susitna stocks, since most of the harvest of Susitna stocks occurs outside the triangle. During 1987, we made extensive use of a line from the East Foreland to Cape Ninilchik to keep the drift fleet close to the east side and away from Susitna stocks. Post-season analysis revealed that even this restriction was inadequate, and large numbers of Susitna fish were harvested on the east side of that line. Widespread violation of the line by drift gill netters made the problem worse. For 1988 we are planning even more restrictive fishing with a three-mile-wide corridor along the east side.

In years when Kenai stocks are abundant, this type of fishing may result in excess escapement to the Kenai. In 1987 escapement to the Kenai was 1.6 million sockeye, about one million over the goal. This overage was largely due to restricted fishing because of concern for escapement of Susitna stocks as well as Kenai king and coho stocks. Escapement to the Yentna was 66,000 sockeye. We estimate that allowing another 34,000 to 84,000 sockeye to escape into the Yentna would have resulted in an additional million

Mr. Ted A. Whip, Jr.
Mr. Roland G. Ellidge

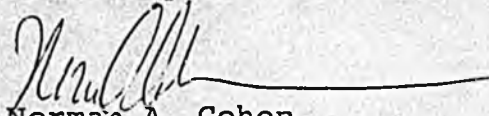
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April 5, 1988

fish escapement to the Kenai, a loss of about \$10 million ex-vessel value.

I am hopeful the information above addresses the issues you raised. If you have further questions, please contact Ken Parker, Director of the Division of Commercial Fisheries, at 465-4210.

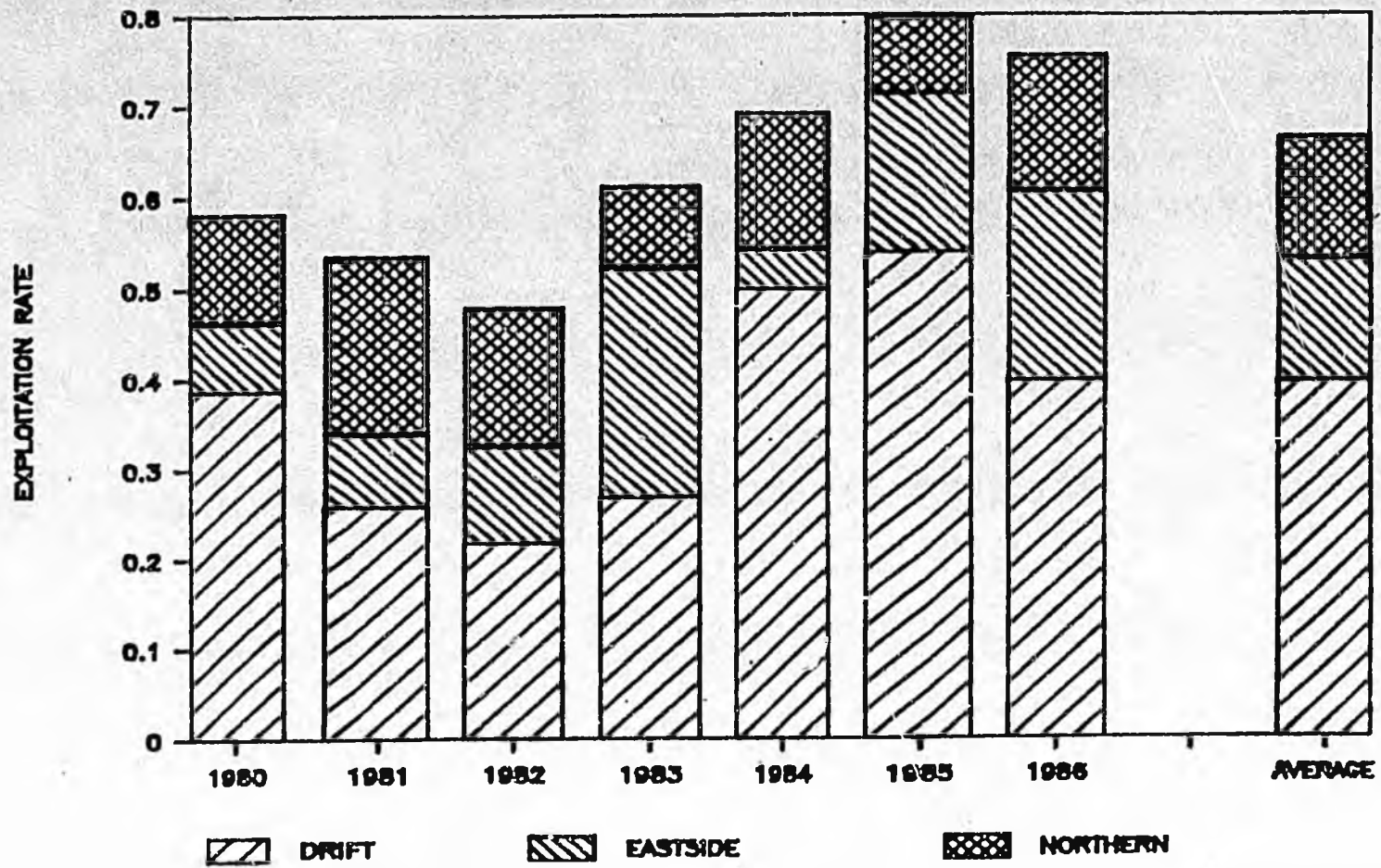
Sincerely,



Norman A. Cohen
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Ken Parker
Representative Ellis

SUSITNA EXPLOITATION BY FISHERY



COMPARISON CHART OF CENTRAL DISTRICT CATCH (C.D.C.)
TO NORTHERN DISTRICT CATCH (N.D.C.)
AND TOTAL COOK INLET CATCH (C.I.C.)

1966 - 1987

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL C.I.C</u>	<u>TOTAL C.D.C</u>	<u>TOTAL N.D.C</u>	<u>C.D.%</u>	<u>N.D.%</u>
1966	5,418,734	4,069,386	619,610	75%	11%
1967	2,387,595	1,685,769	208,947	70%	8%
1968	5,737,965	4,071,501	890,987	71%	15%
1969	1,496,011	1,025,066	80,910	69%	5%
1970	3,429,641	2,291,907	349,340	67%	10%
1971	1,687,698	1,019,195	97,251	60%	5%
1972	2,399,996	2,010,983	220,605	84%	9%
1973	2,227,767	1,535,512	237,824	70%	10%
1974	1,688,412	1,416,703	168,141	83%	9%
1975	3,324,709	1,971,412	220,446	60%	6%
1976	3,850,414	3,339,506	270,096	86%	7%
1977	5,592,081	3,761,840	285,347	67%	5%
1978	5,710,145	4,655,236	464,150	81%	8%
1979	5,214,125	1,723,646	202,400	33%	3%
1980	5,081,922	3,346,219	687,951	65%	13%
1981	6,634,734	2,411,452	484,282	36%	7%
1982	7,227,704	5,974,101	322,441	83%	4%
1983	8,052,265	6,481,930	289,944	80%	3%
1984	4,941,709	3,359,272	501,837	68%	10%
1985	7,588,227	4,971,490	301,834	65%	3%
1986	9,689,574	7,499,100	443,800	77%	4%
1987	11,190,477	9,840,303	380,473	87%	3%
AVERAGE TOTAL:	5,025,995	3,488,085	351,300	70%	7%

Run 50%
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 10/1/87

Testimony animated in fishing dispute

By RONNIE CHAPPELL
Daily News reporter

Cook Inlet sport and commercial fishermen pulled all the stops Sunday in their long-running battle over how to divide the salmon that return each summer to the Kenai River.

By late afternoon, more than two dozen people had testified before the Alaska Board of Fisheries and another hundred were waiting in the wings to take their turns at the microphone.

Sportsmen screened a slick propaganda film, operated a

hospitality suite and complained about state management policies that are turning the EARLY "last fish of plant king salmon" into canned fish.

East side setnetters talked about how commercial fishing builds strong families, and portrayed anglers as hard-bearded people who would rob others of their livelihoods for the chance to catch a trophy-sized king.

Both groups used their children to tug at the heart strings of fisheries board members who had heard it all before. And members of both groups ap-

plauded each time one of their own testified. For a while, it seemed like "Queen for a Day." The fight over late-run Kenai king has gone on for years. Anglers say that too many of the big fish end up in the nets of Kenai Peninsula commercial fishermen. Last year, they took more than 20,000 of them.

Sportfishermen — who caught 15,900; kept 8,500 and released 7,400 late-run kings — say it's unfair to give 350 setnetters so many of the monster fish.

The state uses a ten-year-old

management plan to divide fish between sport and commercial fishermen. "The plan is completely unfair," said Bob Hunter of the Alaska Sportfishing Association. "It is nothing but a blank check to commercial users. Since it was written in 1977 we've seen sport-fishing effort triple."

The late-run king fishery has grown from 25,000 angler-days of effort in 1976 to 75,000 angler-days of effort this year. Sportsmen deserve a big share of the resource, Hunter said. In their film, "A trophy or another

can of salmon," anglers also contend that state management of the fishery and "a few hundred commercial fishermen are jeopardizing the resource."

Much of the information in the film runs contrary to research conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Those studies show that:

- Both early and late king runs are extremely strong.
- Large numbers of king salmon are entering the river.
- Extra commercial fishing periods have almost no impact on the number of kings reach-

ing the Kenai

Increasing the number of kings available to anglers doesn't guarantee a corresponding increase in sport-fishing success.

This year's late run was almost twice as big as last year's. The state is estimating the total return at 92,000 kings. An estimated 62,580 entered the river. Of those, 47,520 entered in July and were available to sport fishermen. That's an 18,000 fish increase over July 1983.

See Page B-3, FISH

FISH: Kenai dispute continues

Continued from Page B-1

"When the nets go in the water the fishing goes dead," said fishing guide Jennifer Krollek. "We must have a fair share" of the resource. "It's a disgrace that our fisheries managers haven't learned from mistakes made in the Lower 48" where big kings were killed out and replaced by measly 35-pounders.

"I'm having a hard time with my emotions," said Wendell Honoe, who has fished a Kenai Peninsula setnet site for 26 years. "I feel like there's been a lot of propaganda here today. It's being made to look like we're decimating the fish. The biological data we've seen do not bear that out."

Honoe urged the board to "forget all the rhetoric and look

at the numbers."

Board member Ernie Carter, a Fairbanks sportfisherman, will likely do just that. A two-year veteran, he's heard all the sob stories before. There's always someone somewhere who believes a fish allocation decision is going to take the bread from their children's mouths.

"I don't think the emotional (testimony) affects" board members, he said. When the time comes to make a decision "you analyze the facts, the catch rates, the escapement goals" and the numbers compiled by Fish and Game.

Carter has a lot of faith in the state biologists.

"I give top high marks," he said. "I think we have the cream of the crop in the entire United States."

COOK INLET FISHERY ECONOMIC STUDY

Assessment of the Economic Value of the Cook Inlet
Commercial Salmon Fishery

by Richard G. Wilson & Associates
December 1, 1978

In conclusion, the use of a conservative multiplier suggests the significant extent to which the commercial salmon fishery plays an economic role in the economy. If the Cook Inlet fishery continues to harvest over 7% of the statewide salmon catch and Cook Inlet processors continue to process 19% of the in-state harvest, assuming no further growth in available harvest or processing capacity, the fishery is a significant, local industry that brings into the state in the neighborhood of \$150 million. This represents a substantial share of its return on all export products.

The Northern District's equitable historical average percentage of catch was between 14%-30%, which would have equaled between \$21-\$45 million for Anchorage/Mat-Su areas in 1978. The 1987 catch was double that of 1978. Using this logical thinking we could double the above figure to mean as much as \$90 million for the Anchorage/Mat-Su area.

It is paramount in our opinion to appoint a setnetter to the Board of Fisheries to ensure the setnet commercial fishermen their just representation.

We agree with the findings of the Board of Fisheries Review Committee (February 22, 1988) and strongly recommend that the Board, the Administration and the Legislature make every effort to develop a coherent statewide fisheries policy immediately in order to provide structure and guidelines for the formulation and submittal of management plans and proposals, and to provide focus and direction to the Board.

We further agree with the Committee that allocation decisions should be based on socioeconomic considerations which neither the Board nor the Department are adequately equipped to evaluate. The Board of Fisheries would be able to allocate equitably if relevant and timely socioeconomic data were routinely available to it. Neither the Legislature nor the executive branch have provided adequate standards or criteria concerning allocation issues. The Legislature does in fact have the authority and responsibility to provide such guidance, pursuant to Article 8, Section 2 of the Alaska Constitution.

The preceding recommendation will require legislative action. Members of the Mayor's Fishery Committee could be available to assist in the drafting and review of these legislative proposals.

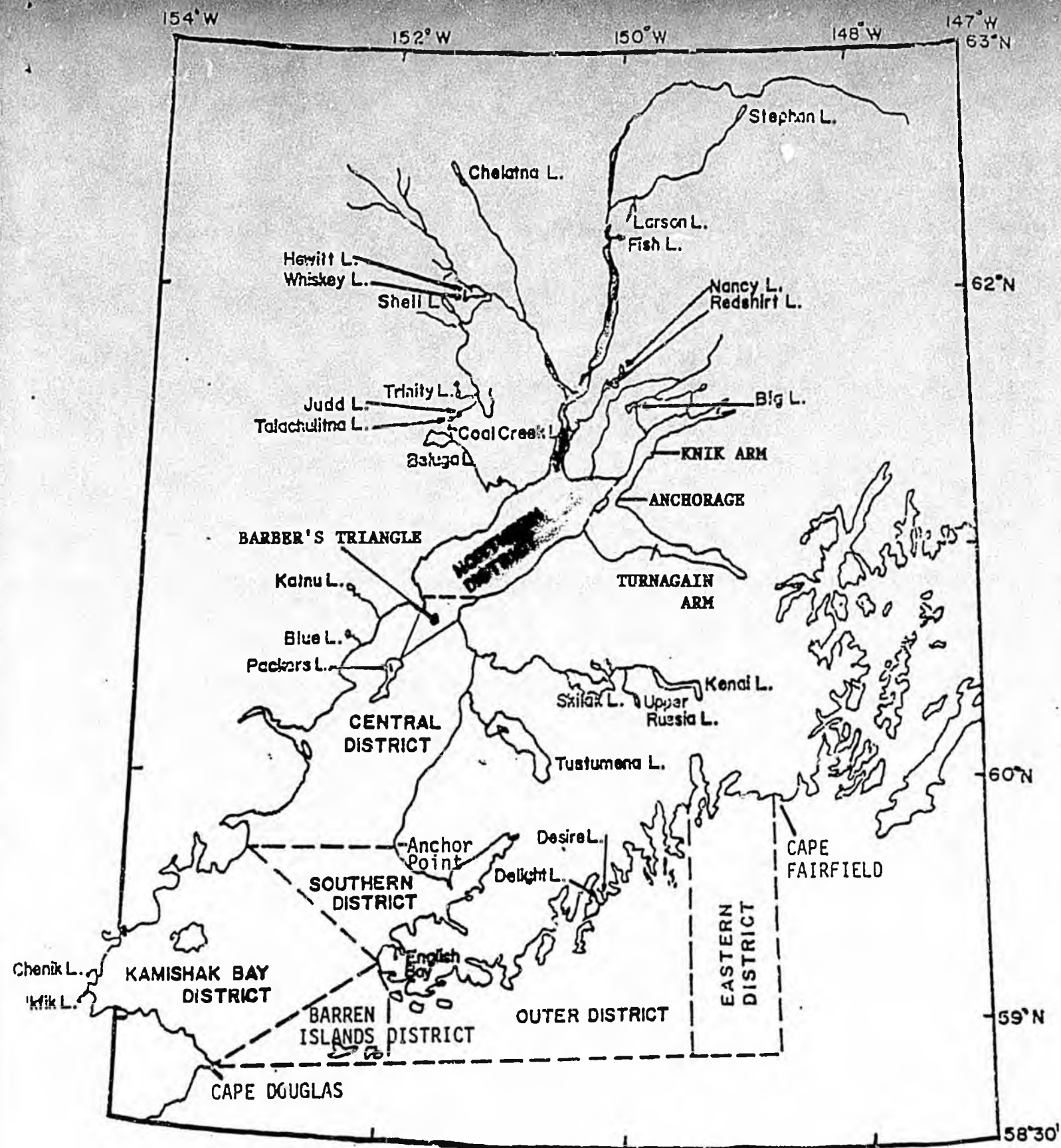


Figure 1. Commercial fishing districts of the upper and lower Cook Inlet areas, 1974-1976.

Ted A. Whip, Jr. (243-5792)
Roland G. Ellidge (338-2194)
P. O. Box 9-2377
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

February 29, 1988

Dear Representative Cotten:

We represent a group of salmon setnet commercial fishermen in the Northern District of Cook Inlet (see attached map for location reference). Fishery matters of the Northern District of Cook Inlet, both commercial and sport fishing, have a history of gross neglect and non-equity of salmon allocations. This letter is intended to briefly inform you of the facts.

The Whip family has been setnetting in Alaska since 1971. Our fish site is located at Moose Point, on the east side of the Northern District of Cook Inlet. The Ellidge family has fished at their site on Point Possession for the last 25 years. We have noticed a dramatic allocation inequity of salmon between the Northern District setnetters versus the Central District drift fleet.

The rightful Northern District's catch percentage for the commercial fisherman has dwindled over the past 40 years from over 30% to 3%. From 1951-1959, the Northern District's allocation of the entire Cook Inlet catch was greater than 14%. From 1966-1986 its allocation was 5.2%. During the 1987 season the Northern District caught 3%, or 350,174 fish, of the total Cook Inlet salmon catch of 10,190,477 fish. This drastic reduction is largely due to our fisheries resource being managed almost exclusively for the benefit of the drift fleet. Last year, the special interests of setnetters was recognized by the Alaska Supreme Court in the case of Meier v. State of Alaska, Board of Fisheries, Opinion No. 3195, July 10, 1987. This Opinion states that allocations between drift and setnet commercial fishermen can be allocated by the Board of Fisheries.

It is imperative that this situation be remedied, not only for the benefit of Northern District commercial fishermen, but also for the sport fishermen that utilize those streams. According to Tom Elias, President of the Alaska Sport Fishermen's Association, the Northern District streams have seen a 400% increase in sport fishing pressure in the last 20 years. Spawning goals in this area have been inconsistent since Statehood and it is obvious that our spawning streams cannot handle this increased pressure without readjusting the fishing allocations in the Central District.

Ensuring the Northern District's equitable percentage will mean an increase in real earnings of up to six times that earned yearly in the last 20 years by commercial fishermen.

February 29, 1988
Page 2

Using the circulated monies formula, this would mean \$40-\$60 million invested in the Anchorage/Mat-Su areas yearly. Alternately, the Northern District sport fishermen (approximately 140,000 plus) spend an average of \$65.00 in the Anchorage/Mat-Su area businesses per fishing trip. This clearly shows the amount of money that could be generated by the commercial fisherman and also circulated by the sport fishermen.

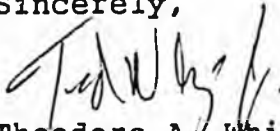
To increase profits and marketability, Anchorage processors need the Northern District fishermen's fish. The only way Anchorage processors are able get top quality fresh fish is from the Northern District commercial fishermen. Anchorage processors hire between 1,000 to 1,500 employees yearly. Once the Northern District's escapement and catch is brought up to its historical level (pre-1940), the processors and related businesses will expand phenomenally. Instead of the meager 1,000,000 pounds per year of the Northern District's present average catch, the processors can look forward to handling 8,000,000 pounds or more each year of number 1 grade salmon.

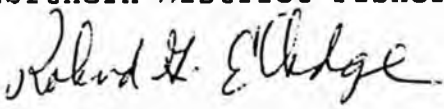
We have attached charts and excerpts clearly showing the inequity of the Northern District salmon escapement. Upon request, we will provide you with USF&G and/or Alaska Fish and Game periodicals, charts and statistics documenting our findings.

We have also attached several documents addressing the issues and proposing solutions. A letter of intent requiring the application of these solutions, attached to the Fish & Game budget, would help rectify the gross neglect we have all historically endured. Anchorage needs and deserves its salmon.

After you have had an opportunity to review these documents, please contact me at the above address with your questions or comments. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Theodore A. Whip, Jr.
Northern District Fisherman


Roland G. Elledge
Northern District Fisherman

Enclosures

Problem: Depletion of the Northern District's Salmon Harvests and Escapements

- Present situation:**
1. Historical depletion (since 1940) of salmon bound for the Northern District of Cook Inlet. Escapement goals have not been met. See Attachment 1.
 2. Drastically reduced harvests for Northern District Set Netters. See Attachment 1.
 3. Reduced incomes for Anchorage and Mat-Su area residents and processors. See Attachment 2.
 4. Declining fishing for sports fishermen. See Attachment 5.
 5. Money that should stay in the State leaves with non-resident fishermen. 170 out of 590 drift fishermen are non-residents. See Attachment 3.
 6. Management (under Paul Reusch) does not, and will not, implement any plan ensuring Northern District salmon escapement for spawning goals. He is chairman of the Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team but there is no enhancement plan for the Northern District spawning systems under his chairmanship.

- Management suggestions:**
1. Install an area large enough to be effective to ensure Northern District escapement such as the Barber's Triangle as a closed zone to the Drift Fleet only, ensuring that the fish bound for the Northern District spawning streams can muster there without being molested or intercepted. See Attachment 4.
 2. Establish July 10th as the first opening for the Drift Fleet. Eliminate special openings for the Central District Drift Fleet targeted on Susitna Chums. Reduce the length of drift gear from 150 fathoms to 105 fathoms. See Attachment .

3. Enforce existing regulations for flagrant abuse of fishing times and zones. See Attachment .
4. Accurate emergency openings and escapement reports announced on Fishermen's Corner radio program after every fishing period on Susitna, Fish Creek, Chickaloon and Beluga River escapements by an Anchorage radio station. See Attachment .

Synopsis:

The fishing situation in Upper Cook Inlet is very unfairly allocated to the Northern District Fishermen. The political implications are, if the State administration does not remedy the situation, it could be open to charges of defacto discrimination by the Native and White Set Netters of the Northern District. The Sportsfishermen will certainly have a voice in this matter. A very high percentage of the Central District Drift Fleet live outside Alaska. That means a large amount of money leaves the State every year with non-voting fishermen.

If 10% of the catch in the Central District is allowed to return to the Northern District it would mean an increase in the earnings of Northern Cook Inlet Fishermen of at least \$3 million. This money spent in Anchorage would mean an increase of \$20-\$30 millions of circulated monies. At a time when the economic situation in Anchorage is not good, this money would be a help in reducing the current depression in Anchorage.

Increased escapement in the Northern District will insure the conservation of a renewable resource that will aid to increase the quality of life in the most populated area of the State.

Finally, Susitna River Systems, Cottonwood Creek, Wasilla Lake, Nancy Lake stock and Knik Arm stock have become so depleted that artificial means of enhancement is necessary to restore the runs to historical self sustained balances. Measures must be taken NOW to ensure the future of these systems.

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Tom Kron
Regional Program Manager
ADFG-FRED Div.
Anchorage

DATE: 11-Dec-87

PHONE: 892-6816

FROM: Bob Chlupach
Area Biologist, NCI
Big Lake

SUBJECT: FRED's Position
Statement in NCI

The subject of salmon enhancement is of great interest to all of us. Admittedly I am bias because of close attachment to the organizational, start-up, and operational aspects of our programs. However, I should point out that with my intimacy I truly have approached our programs with the posture that these same programs are for the benefit of all the users; commercial, sport, and subsistence. I do not view these as my programs but rather our programs for the people of Alaska. They are the product of Sport Fish, Commercial Fish, and FRED Division. The ultimate net result is whether the user is satisfied. Satisfied can take on any number of connotations. In this case the net result of our efforts also means infusions of money into the economy of the State of Alaska on an annual basis.

A credible program such as this does not result from any one individual nor does it occur overnight. It has taken several years of guidance and continues to grow as a product of the Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team, per provisions of Alaska Statute 16.10.375. The single most important factor as a result of this statute is the working document, *Cook Inlet Regional Salmon Enhancement Plan 1981-2000*. Over a two year period fishermen from the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) and representatives of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) met to develop a 20 year plan for salmon enhancement in Cook Inlet.

The Plan portrays the complexity of dealing with a resource available to over one-half of the total State population in a 50,000 square mile area. The salmon migration is correspondingly varied and complex. Two major components to the planned increases in the number of salmon can be achieved through MANAGEMENT of the natural stocks and from SUPPLEMENTAL PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES. Through a number of projects designed to supplement the salmon resource the Regional Planning Team was able to envision a total of 4 plus million salmon being added to the annual harvest for a projected total harvest of 9 to 10 million by year 2000. The ultimate success in achieving a greater number of salmon and the ability to maintain will depend in large part on the ability to manage the resource effectively.

"The Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team recognizes that any one of many different elements might alter the feasibility of what is proposed in the Plan in either a positive or negative way. However, it also understands that a frame of reference is necessary, if the work is to be orderly and systematic and progress is to be measured. The Plan has the specificity to make immediate action possible and the flexibility to adjust to changing circumstances. Additionally, as it reviews proposed projects for salmon enhancement it will assess them in the light of the goals and objectives of the Plan. The Regional Planning Team is committed to maintaining the usefulness and timeliness of the Plan through a formal review and revision in 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2000."

Through means of supplemental production the objectives outlined in the Plan are:

130,000 returning sockeye salmon annually produced by the Big Lake Hatchery by 1990.

80,000 returning coho salmon annually produced through the Big Lake Hatchery by 1990.

200,000 returning coho salmon annually produced through the Anchorage complex of hatcheries by 1990.

75,000 returning king salmon annually produced through the Anchorage complex of hatcheries by 1990.

The strategies involving supplemental production for sockeye salmon are to release fry into the Big Lake, Cottonwood, and Little Susitna River drainages, for coho salmon the release of fingerling, pre-smolt, smolt into Knik Arm tributaries (Big Lake drainage, Cottonwood Lake drainage, Little Susitna River drainage, Wasilla Creek, Rabbit Slough, Jim Creek), and for chinook salmon the release of smolts into east side Susitna River tributaries along the Parks Highway (Willow Creek, Sheep Creek, Montana Creek).

To date, our program is:

The release of sockeye salmon fry into the Big Lake drainage.

The release of coho salmon fingerling into the Big Lake, Cottonwood Lake, and Little Susitna River drainages (Knik Arm tributaries).

The release of coho salmon pre-smolt into the Big Lake drainage (Knik Arm tributary).

The release of coho salmon smolt into the Little Susitna River, Big Lake, and Cottonwood Lake drainages, Wasilla Creek, Rabbit Slough, Jim Creek (all Knik Arm tributaries) and Caswell Lake drainage (east side Susitna River tributary) all of which are vehicle accessible.

The release of chinook salmon smolt into Willow, Sheep, and Montana Creek drainages (east side Susitna River tributaries accessible via Parks Highway).

Provided for and soon to occur but currently in the brood development phase will be the release of chinook salmon smolt into the Little Susitna River drainage.

We will be doing the foundation work and feasibility analysis for Willow Creek coho this coming season.

The finesse of supplemental production has involved close working involvements with the fisheries management divisions. To briefly review. The sockeye program was of high priority and was stated in the 20 year plan that coho salmon production must not significantly interfere with or impact the enhancement of Big Lake sockeye. At one time we were involved too with sockeye production in Nancy Lake (tributary to Little Susitna River), however, this was with the understanding that this may be de-emphasized in favor of a coho program, which was ultimately begun and sockeye discontinued. As our programs developed the management divisions began to see the need to assure less competition between the supplemented species. They favored smolt production of coho salmon as there would be an elimination of freshwater food competition with sockeye. With each passing year are closer to seeing this through at Big Lake Hatchery. In addition, we've been whittling away at brood development sites, egg take efficiency modifications, incubation technology, rearing strategies, release strategies to mention a few.

We currently have in place a comprehensive enhancement program which addresses priority areas as outlined in the *20 Year Plan*. It continues to be finessed working out the glitches. For instance, we are developing the technology for changing the coho salmon fingerling program at Big Lake Hatchery into a pre-smolt smolt program. This has involved some alterations and additions with the physical operation but already our Knik Arm enhancement strategy is becoming more comprehensive with coho salmon smolt releases in Jim Creek, Rabbit Slough, Wasilla Creek, Little Susitna River (second most intensively sport fished stream in the State), pre-smolt and fingerling releases in the Big Lake drainage, and fingerling releases in the Cottonwood Lake drainage. It should be noted that the sport fisheries at Rabbit Slough, Wasilla Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Fish Creek (Big Lake) are week-end only fisheries and that Sport Fish Division has imposed additional restrictions on the fishery at Fish Creek. This is to help insure that sufficient numbers of fish enter the drainage for brood development with resultant fish for supplemental production going to the previously mentioned Knik Arm tributaries. With regard to east side Susitna River tributaries the only coho releases are as smolt into the Caswell Lake drainage.

Chinook salmon sport users at east side Susitna River tributaries of Willow, Sheep, and Montana Creeks (smolt releases to these sites begins this next spring) are restricted to a 4 week-end 3 day fishery.

Our functions as an enhancement division is to not take the side of any user but to address the needs of those users. That we have begun to do. Over the past few years as the program has bloomed the results indicate that we indeed are edging toward the outlined goals. Our adult sockeye contribution seems to be somewhere around 250,000 adults, there was a substantial contribution of coho adults to the Little Susitna River sport fishery this year, and with two chinook salmon age classes in it looks like the chinook enhancement will be equally as successful. Additionally, it should be pointed out that greater numbers of adult returns from hatchery production are still at sea.

Ultimately the allocation issue has to surface. The Board of Fisheries to some extent has attempted to handle it by directing the management of salmon species to be based on user priorities. Those being; sockeye-commercial, chinook-sport, and coho-sport. In our enhancement efforts we too have followed this format not only in stocking strategies in part involving release timing but in de-emphasizing the release of fingerling and moving toward coho pre-smolt and smolt production. In addition, we've proportionately spread our fish about so that sport effort does not become too concentrated on any one stream negatively affecting that stream brood. In theory the same rationale would apply to the commercial harvest as well, a proportionate harvest from all. In reality there are disparities as evidenced by weekend only sport fishing. In any event the demand obviously exceeds the supply.

Cook Inlet fisheries management is admittedly complex due to the many stocks moving at different but overlapping intervals through the inlet. Perspectives on issues make for many interesting discussions. Opinions and concessions colloquially make the world go-round. Some of us move on to bigger and better, some of us remain behind and advance forward through new challenges, and some of us accept the status quo with the axiom of don't rock my boat. FRED Division was created out of the verified perception that fisheries enhancement WAS needed. A 20 year plan was created because it WAS needed. It is a capably functioning entity. Why? Because it addressed and continues to address user group needs as outlined in the various plans, in Cook Inlet specifically the 20 year plan. It is a working program with provisions to continue looking ahead. However, it seems we've reached a perceived juncture.

At the November 12 meeting I came away trying to surmise just what was actually being said. On the one hand, Sport Fish Division indicated they did not want any more sockeye enhancement because their commercial harvest is already too caustic on available sport harvest of coho of which 50% are harvested commercially. On the other hand, Commercial Fish Division indicated that any more sockeye enhancement in northern Cook Inlet would jeopardize their ability to manage the Kenai stock effectively.

BARBARA TRAUKE
WILL ELIMINATE
THIS PROBLEM

A good many of the current management strategies have been in effect far longer than existing managers have spent doing their job. Is this an insult? No, but what it does point out is the tendency to maintain the status quo. Long before FRED Division was ever an entity these briefly presented

problems have been in existence. For instance, the weekend only sport fishery scenario has been in place for over 17 years, the Big Lake sockeye run a mere few thousand fish not to mention coho returns of less than a thousand fish, a decade of almost complete closures on major chinook salmon streams along the Susitna River. FRED Division did not make this bed! Their existence came to be not totally but in part because of this scenario. With greater public participation there has been a corresponding greater awareness in allocation issues by all user groups and in managements approach. Witness, chinook management, generally agreed that 10% commercial interception is now the figure. Admittedly environmental conditions play a significant role but the management of the species is still the one controllable pivot we have. It has been obvious that little is known about any sockeye stocks short of the Kenai River. For instance, the vacillations in Kenai run timing and its management protection has meant bumper years to the Big Lake drainage and in some years lack of accurate run timing information (on a good Kenai year) has also resulted in a bumper run to Big Lake. With Stock Separation's modeling it is evident that the Big Lake run often rivals and on some occasions surpasses that of the entire Susitna River drainage, in large part due to a successful enhancement program. But in all credit to the drainage Big Lake has historically (before FRED Division) ranked as one of the top four or five sockeye producing drainages in the Cook Inlet region. There is a dearth of information on Cook Inlet sockeye salmon stocks for all drainages except the Kenai. There we employ state of the art technology and analysis but it is at the sacrifice of not only other major sockeye stocks but also the northern bound coho.

Management strategies today must address the whole picture. The future economy of Cook Inlet does not depend on one stock, it depends on the entire Cook Inlet salmon resource wherever it may be. The 20 year plan also indicates that more definitive knowledge of Cook Inlet's salmon stocks has to be achieved for greater control of individual stock management. FRED Division has slowly been developing their programs as to assigned responsibility designated by the users through the 20 year plan. Meantime the additional enhancement of salmon stocks will be waylaid by continuing to use the same applications of 20 years ago. Not only is it not equitable to the users but the tremendous potential for additional money infusion into the State economy will not be realized.

Table 1. Commercial Salmon Catch by Species, Upper and Lower Cook Inlet areas combined, 1882-1987

Year	Species						Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum		
1882	2,000	73,000	5,000	-	-	-	80,000
1883	4,000	178,000	13,000	-	-	-	195,000
1884	6,000	254,000	19,000	-	-	-	279,000
1885	6,000	231,000	17,000	-	-	-	254,000
1886	9,000	341,000	26,000	-	-	-	376,000
1887	9,000	369,000	28,000	-	-	-	406,000
1888	13,000	509,000	38,000	-	-	-	560,000
1889	15,000	606,000	45,000	-	-	-	666,000
1890	9,000	344,000	26,000	-	-	-	379,000
1891	18,000	708,000	53,000	-	-	-	779,000
1892	6,000	249,000	19,000	-	-	-	274,000
1893	30,000	170,000	34,000	-	-	-	234,000
1894	15,500	406,840	19,000	-	-	-	441,340
1895	25,199	324,277	-	-	-	-	349,476
1896	18,076	309,863	27,600	37,800	-	-	393,339
1897	14,083	354,800	28,000	-	-	-	396,883
1898	16,389	551,168	83,412	-	-	-	650,969
1899	17,102	558,529	54,890	-	-	-	630,521
1900	26,683	585,309	20,000	-	-	-	631,992
1901	34,319	482,406	8,967	5,591	-	-	531,283
1902	49,013	710,280	54,864	79,246	-	-	893,403
1903	66,023	564,189	58,968	-	-	-	689,180
1904	30,073	489,348	23,880	-	-	-	543,221
1905	17,668	95,547	-	-	-	-	113,215
1906	22,420	225,506	93,485	64,100	-	-	405,511
1907	62,944	460,620	177,276	6,420	-	-	707,260
1908	33,774	670,774	94,936	375,140	-	-	1,174,624
1909	59,624	582,562	88,380	3,790	-	-	734,276
1910	49,028	840,187	79,702	217,666	1,318	-	1,187,901
1911	55,845	1,249,154	87,909	70,665	749	-	1,464,322
1912	47,866	1,194,888	70,567	1,661,874	121,628	-	3,096,823
1913	63,652	1,369,196	81,484	10,926	10,813	-	1,536,071
1914	47,554	1,472,829	188,341	1,255,798	39,905	-	3,004,427
1915	83,793	1,860,684	122,028	19,308	27,833	-	2,113,646
1916	62,895	1,699,323	209,978	1,682,672	128,322	-	3,783,190
1917	65,499	1,659,907	60,776	54,286	78,468	-	1,918,936
1918	34,886	1,668,394	251,151	721,231	108,200	-	2,783,862
1919	23,801	943,694	172,855	43,447	54,333	-	1,238,130
1920	39,563	1,314,916	302,353	445,524	97,541	-	2,199,897
1921	13,946	983,625	20,519	4,717	42,409	-	1,065,216
1922	31,030	860,019	199,923	637,405	74,389	-	1,802,766
1923	29,911	1,099,465	142,926	39,146	23,481	-	1,334,929
1924	27,012	1,056,090	187,656	752,016	36,755	-	2,059,529
1925	51,033	1,510,861	198,146	11,828	15,064	-	1,786,932
1926	75,620	1,999,720	353,173	586,054	118,455	-	3,133,022
1927	87,404	1,459,068	387,746	251,866	59,380	-	2,245,464
1928	69,885	1,172,959	522,509	568,052	101,086	-	2,434,491
1929	67,694	1,049,851	184,856	376,863	134,601	-	1,913,867
1930	72,317	917,882	498,475	1,022,679	99,630	-	2,610,983
1931	51,402	805,526	328,294	472,221	62,628	-	1,720,071
1932	70,931	1,131,958	374,976	441,125	64,749	-	2,083,739

Table 1. Commercial salmon catch by species, Upper and Lower Cook Inlet areas combined, 1932-1987, cont'd.

Year	Species						Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Cono	Pink	Chum	Cod	
1933	59,281	1,336,135	187,972	118,187	57,245	1,758,820	
1934	72,379	1,815,267	251,260	929,992	91,319	3,150,217	
1935	75,075	1,355,787	170,438	430,540	161,424	2,193,264	
1936	81,062	2,390,231	328,496	852,924	264,909	3,917,672	
1937	85,982	1,581,183	215,700	487,692	148,869	2,519,426	
1938	57,663	2,425,253	213,804	948,733	191,328	3,736,781	
1939	52,726	2,334,904	163,010	319,312	231,645	3,101,597	
1940	63,016	1,648,952	478,096	2,604,235	280,831	5,075,130	
1941	104,822	1,293,234	359,224	715,211	272,345	2,744,836	
1942	95,180	1,540,185	644,823	965,507	400,989	3,646,684	
1943	111,381	1,468,279	279,852	1,457,161	301,899	3,618,572	
1944	85,210	1,939,932	256,621	1,815,441	258,840	4,356,044	
1945	69,202	1,556,713	329,828	1,367,950	305,901	3,629,594	
1946	64,281	1,474,473	581,374	1,338,731	383,563	3,842,422	
1947	106,804	1,473,973	443,879	681,731	279,227	2,985,614	
1948	105,996	2,035,306	408,079	1,660,147	439,314	4,648,842	
1949	111,281	2,153,213	279,701	433,003	239,646	3,215,844	
1950	162,942	2,642,374	351,366	1,132,164	463,507	4,752,353	
1951	187,513	2,481,746	284,715	417,485	292,293	3,663,352	
1952	74,500	1,510,214	233,771	2,277,019	450,580	4,546,084	
1953	83,430	1,490,062	227,612	550,073	538,439	2,893,616	
1954	65,325	1,246,672	336,685	2,460,051	775,659	4,884,392	
1955	46,499	1,064,128	180,452	1,286,068	317,053	2,894,140	
1956	65,310	1,295,095	207,534	1,803,295	870,269	4,241,503	
1957	42,767	670,629	127,199	306,841	1,207,920	2,355,356	
1958	22,847	496,842	241,561	2,598,314	596,179	3,955,743	
1959	32,783	634,313	112,664	137,255	411,157	1,328,172	
1960	25,539	948,040	314,153	2,023,252	776,079	4,089,063	
1961	19,778	1,185,079	119,397	337,394	405,221	2,066,969	
1962	20,270	1,172,859	358,051	4,960,030	1,149,841	7,661,051	
1963	17,632	958,101	203,876	234,052	525,537	1,939,198	
1964	4,622	990,709	462,114	4,287,378	1,402,419	7,147,242	
1965	9,751	1,426,352	154,481	139,561	344,521	2,074,666	
1966	9,603	1,867,323	295,101	2,585,820	660,887	5,418,734	
1967	8,035	1,409,106	180,455	407,717	382,282	2,387,595	
1968	4,600	1,200,146	475,333	2,863,638	1,194,248	5,737,965	
1969	12,462	815,050	101,575	235,866	331,059	1,496,011	
1970	8,455	753,526	280,156	1,388,179	399,325	3,429,641	
1971	19,838	658,537	105,197	428,495	475,631	1,687,698	
1972	16,174	937,721	83,167	657,243	705,691	2,399,996	
1973	5,339	699,234	106,521	633,587	783,086	2,227,767	
1974	6,779	524,613	206,639	534,337	416,050	1,639,412	
1975	4,933	712,960	233,583	1,399,797	973,442	3,324,709	
1976	11,081	1,700,835	220,605	1,394,065	522,828	3,850,414	
1977	15,009	2,155,617	196,207	1,846,337	1,379,511	5,592,081	
1978	19,049	2,778,071	225,889	2,041,659	645,477	5,710,145	
1979	14,976	988,832	277,416	3,059,516	873,385	5,214,125	
1980	14,222	1,643,039	285,923	2,676,133	462,605	5,081,922	
1981	13,326	1,549,490	495,926	3,899,316	1,172,602	6,634,734	
1982	21,936	3,391,184	840,829	2,183,215	1,631,549	7,227,704	
1983	21,269	5,220,715	532,206	1,001,006	1,337,069	8,052,265	
1984	9,532	2,373,523	489,511	1,320,789	777,920	4,941,709	
1985	24,340	4,130,835	630,251	1,313,265	744,768	7,586,227	
1986	40,805	4,974,585	762,531	2,710,206	1,199,447	9,689,574	
1987						10,190,477	

Alaska Commercial Salmon
 Catch Statistics
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife
 Service, Digest #50
 (R. Simpson)
 1951-1959-Nine year average
 Northern District
 479,698 is 14% of the
 total Cook Inlet catch.

Average
 3,418,062

Northern District
 Actual Average
 (398,294)

Average
 7,180,081

OUR EQUITABLE AVERAGE SHOULD BE 1,005,211

SUMMARY OF TABLE 1

Commercial Salmon Catch by Species
Upper and Lower Cook Inlet areas combined, 1882-1987

COOK INLET CATCH - 1951-1959 Average	3,418,062
NORTHERN DISTRICT CATCH - 1951-1959 Average (This figure is 14% of total Cook Inlet Catch)	479,698
COOK INLET CATCH - 1979-1987 Average	7,180,081
NORTHERN DISTRICT CATCH - 1979-1987 Average	398,294

Taking a 14% average of the total Cook Inlet catch for the years 1979-1987, our equitable average for the Northern District should be 1,005,211.

1907 - 1927

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF NORTHERN DISTRICT CATCH
AS COMPARED TO TOTAL COOK INLET CATCH

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL COOK INLET CATCH</u>	<u>TOTAL NORTHERN DISTRICT CATCH</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
1907	707,260	235,753	33%
1908	1,174,624	347,924	30%
1909	734,276	232,757	31%
1910	1,187,901	310,997	26%
1911	1,464,322	285,719	20%
1912	3,096,823	385,896	12%
1913	1,536,071	265,123	17%
1914	3,004,427	687,362	22%
1915	2,113,646	538,203	25%
1916	3,783,190	919,885	24%
1917	1,918,936	438,203	23%
1918	2,783,862	561,091	21%
1919	1,238,130	228,761	19%
1920	2,199,007	414,872	20%
1921	1,065,216	142,210	14%
1922	1,802,760	822,242	46%
1923	1,334,929	504,774	38%
1924	2,059,529	696,660	34%
1925	1,786,932	802,779	45%
1926	3,133,022	1,407,853	45%
1927	2,245,464	715,936	<u>31%</u>
		Total Average	27%
1987	10,190,477	350,174	3.4%

COMPARISON CHART OF CENTRAL DISTRICT CATCH (C.D.C.)
TO NORTHERN DISTRICT CATCH (N.D.C.)
AND TOTAL COOK INLET CATCH (C.I.C.)

1966 - 1987

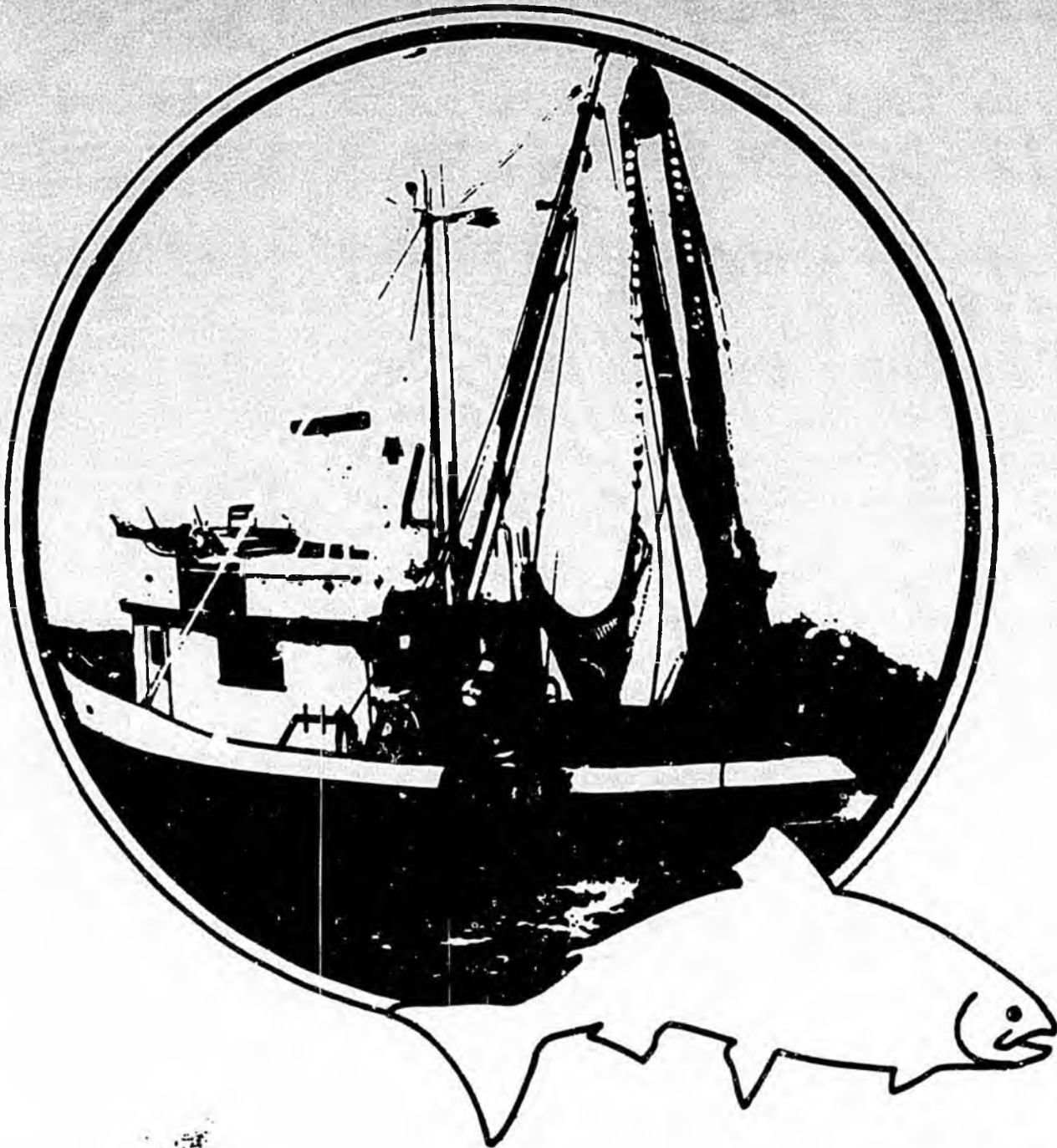
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL C.I.C</u>	<u>TOTAL C.D.C</u>	<u>TOTAL N.D.C</u>	<u>C.D.%</u>	<u>N.D.%</u>
1966	5,418,734	4,069,386	619,610	75%	11%
1967	2,387,595	1,685,769	208,947	70%	8%
1968	5,737,965	4,071,501	890,987	71%	15%
1969	1,496,011	1,025,066	80,910	69%	5%
1970	3,429,641	2,291,907	349,340	67%	10%
1971	1,687,698	1,019,195	97,251	60%	5%
1972	2,399,996	2,010,983	220,605	84%	9%
1973	2,227,767	1,535,512	237,824	70%	10%
1974	1,688,412	1,416,703	168,141	83%	9%
1975	3,324,709	1,971,412	220,446	60%	6%
1976	3,850,414	3,339,506	270,096	86%	7%
1977	5,592,081	3,761,840	285,347	67%	5%
1978	5,710,145	4,655,236	464,150	81%	8%
1979	5,214,125	1,723,646	202,400	33%	3%
1980	5,081,922	3,346,219	687,951	65%	13%
1981	6,634,734	2,411,452	484,282	36%	7%
1982	7,227,704	5,974,101	322,441	83%	4%
1983	8,052,265	6,481,930	289,944	80%	3%
1984	4,941,709	3,359,272	501,837	68%	10%
1985	7,588,227	4,971,490	301,834	65%	3%
1986	9,689,574	7,459,100	443,800	77%	4%
1987	<u>11,190,477</u>	<u>9,840,303</u>	<u>380,473</u>	<u>87%</u>	<u>3%</u>
AVERAGE TOTAL:					
	5,025,995	3,488,085	351,300	70%	7%

Appendix Table 6. Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by gear type and area, 1966-1985.

Year	Central District Drift Gillnet		Central District Set Gillnet				Northern District Set Gillnet	
	Number	%	Eastside Number	%	Kalgin/Westside Number	%	Number	%
1966	2,203,180	47	1,538,621	33	327,585	7	619,610	13
1967	1,184,228	63	366,292	19	135,249	7	208,947	11
1968	2,612,714	53	1,189,117	24	269,670	5	890,987	18
1969	652,011	59	247,514	23	125,541	11	80,910	7
1970	1,641,429	62	460,680	18	189,798	7	349,340	13
1971	739,835	66	153,374	14	125,986	11	97,251	9
1972	1,207,217	54	643,323	29	160,443	7	220,605	10
1973	1,105,354	62	299,616	17	130,542	7	237,824	14
1974	827,141	52	471,210	30	118,352	7	168,141	11
1975	1,457,277	66	340,625	15	173,510	8	220,446	11
1976	2,142,563	59	1,012,991	28	183,952	5	270,096	8
1977	2,626,455	65	912,023	22	223,362	6	285,347	7
1978	3,304,925	65	1,085,009	21	265,302	5	464,150	9
1979	1,199,085	62	308,166	16	216,395	11	202,400	11
1980	2,165,142	54	911,327	23	269,750	6	687,951	17
1981	1,672,457	58	558,657	19	180,338	6	484,282	17
1982	4,139,886	66	1,530,966	25	303,249	4	322,441	5
1983	4,621,365	70	1,582,746	24	277,819	4	289,944	4
1984 ¹	2,284,831	59	764,638	20	309,803	8	501,837	13
Ave.	1,988,794	60	756,664	22	209,823	7	347,500	11
1985 ¹	2,903,709	55	1,623,449	31	444,332	8	301,834	6

¹ Preliminary data.

Data Source: Soldotna ADF&G Honeywell computer files.



Municipality of Anchorage

**CAPACITY ANALYSIS
OF THE
ANCHORAGE
SALMON FISHERIES INDUSTRY**

by
Dames & Moore

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Anchorage's fish processing capacities have at least doubled since the 1979 season. Several new plants have opened in Anchorage and, together with the existing plants, plan to process between 33.5 and 43.5 million pounds of fish (mostly salmon) this year. Last year, Anchorage plants processed about 18.5 million pounds, or approximately 12 percent of the State fresh, frozen and cured pack.

Dames & Moore, under contract to the Municipality of Anchorage, conducted interviews during the first two weeks of June 1980, and compiled information to determine the capacity of existing Anchorage storage and processing facilities and supporting infrastructure to handle the 1980 Bristol Bay salmon harvest. Their survey identified a substantial increase in fisheries industry activities within Anchorage. However, a great deal of pervasive financial and marketing uncertainty is attached to this year's harvest. Processors indicate that they intend to emphasize high-quality products that will compete in Lower 48 and European markets.

Anchorage's new capacity of 12.5 - 16.5 million pounds is nearly sufficient to offset the entire State processing deficit reported as 18.3 million pounds in the Final Summary Report of the Fishery Harvest Planning Group on the Bristol Bay salmon harvest. This capacity was not counted in the State survey published in March.

Employment in these plants and related activities associated with the salmon season will expand to nearly 1500 persons this year from approximately 1000 last year. These people will work in the Anchorage plants, fly and load aircraft to transport salmon from Bristol Bay (mostly) to Anchorage, and drive trucks within Anchorage to move fish between the airport, processing plants, and the Port of Anchorage.

COOK INLET FISHERY ECONOMIC STUDY

Assessment of the Economic Value of the Cook Inlet
Commercial Salmon Fishery

by Richard G. Wilson & Associates
December 1, 1978

In conclusion, the use of a conservative multiplier suggests the significant extent to which the commercial salmon fishery plays an economic role in the economy. If the Cook Inlet fishery continues to harvest over 7% of the statewide salmon catch and Cook Inlet processors continue to process 19% of the in-state harvest, assuming no further growth in available harvest or processing capacity, the fishery is a significant, local industry that brings into the state in the neighborhood of \$150 million. This represents a substantial share of its return on all export products.

The Northern District's equitable historical average percentage of catch was between 14%-30%, which would have equaled between \$21-\$45 million for Anchorage/Mat-Su areas in 1978. The 1987 catch was double that of 1978. Using this logical thinking we could double the above figure to mean as much as \$90 million for the Anchorage/Mat-Su area.

ANCHORAGE PROCESSOR EMPLOYEES AT PEAK OF SEASON

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>NO. OF EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Alaska Gourmet (Mr. Schilling)	30-40	Year round	563-3752
Tenth & M Lockers (Bill Nix)	20-25	Year round	272-3474
John Cabot Trading (Hank Lind - Seldovia)	300-400	Year round	349-2783
ANPAK	400	Seasonal	561-1399
Seafood From Alaska (Roland Swankie - Moose River Plant)	50	Year round	278-0821 262-9050
Whitney Fidalgo (International Airport and Ship Creek Plants)	135	Seasonal	243-3311

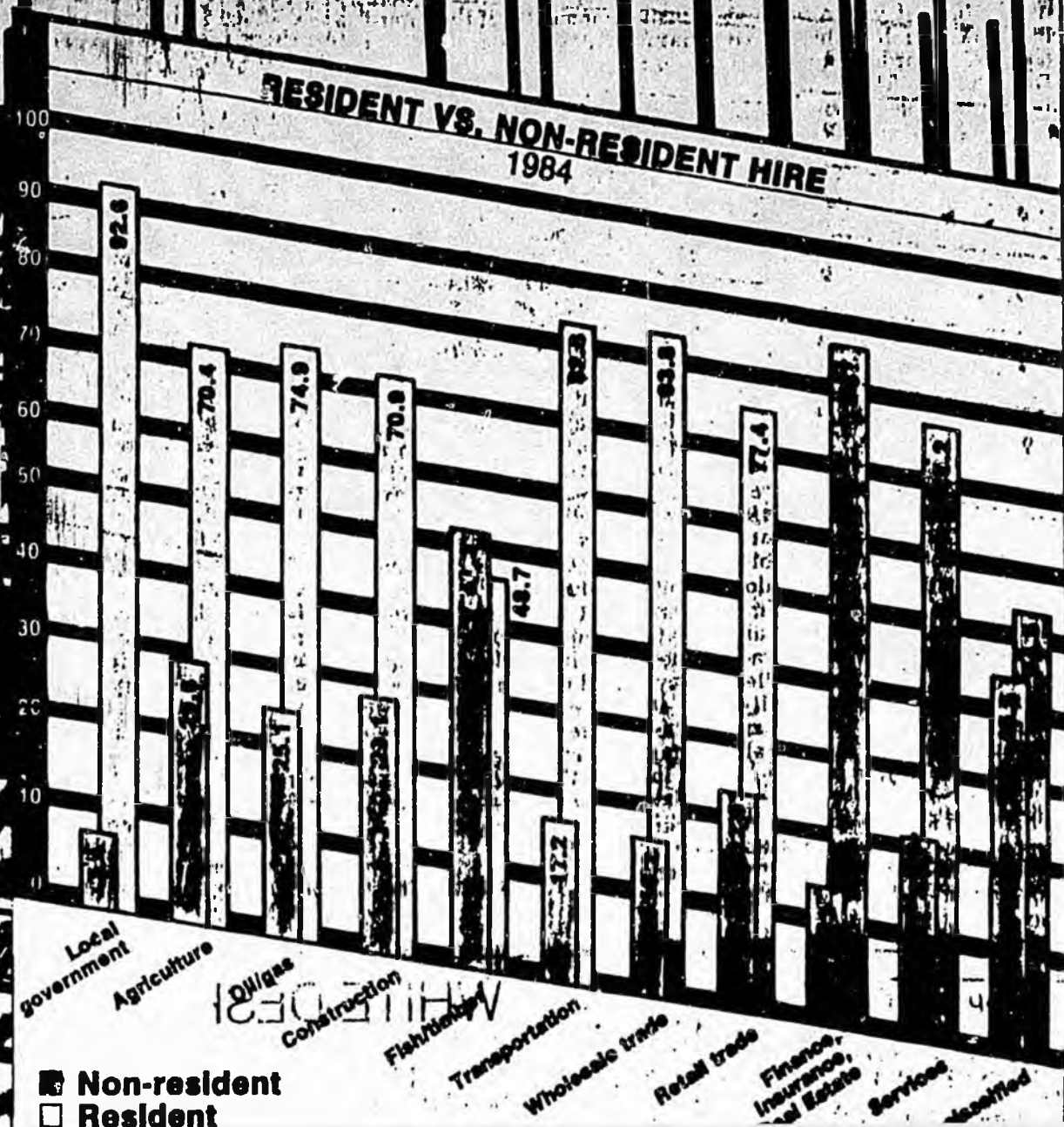
Appendix Table 11. Registered units of gillnet fishing effort by gear type in Cook Inlet, 1960-1985.

Year	Drift			Set			Total
	Resident	Non-Resident	Sub-total	Resident	Non-Resident	Sub-total	
1960	221	67	288	511	59	570	858
1961	279	93	372	564	22	586	958
1962	260	112	372	589	28	617	989
1963	333	139	472	626	34	660	1,132
1964	323	145	468	596	35	631	1,099
1965	329	145	474	536	34	590	1,064
1966	328	176	504	580	48	628	1,132
1967	350	186	536	554	56	604	1,140
1968	407	204	611	638	43	681	1,292
1969	497	208	687	686	42	728	1,415
1970	537	220	757	707	65	772	1,529
1971	519	191	710	693	38	731	1,441
1972	419	152	571	672	35	701	1,272
1973	516	146	662	632	43	775	1,437
1974	458	150	608	764	39	803	1,411
1975	291	162	453	613	44	657	1,110
1976	343	171	514	669	42	711	1,225
1977	360	179	539	690	41	731	1,270
1978	366	183	549	698	44	742	1,291
1979	372	182	554	700	44	744	1,298
1980	373	179	554	697	47	744	1,298
1981	414	185	599	688	59	747	1,346
1982	416	175	591	697	51	748	1,339
1983	417	170	587	685	60	745	1,332
1984	426	162	588	672	72	744	1,332
1985	420	170	590	666	65	731	1,321

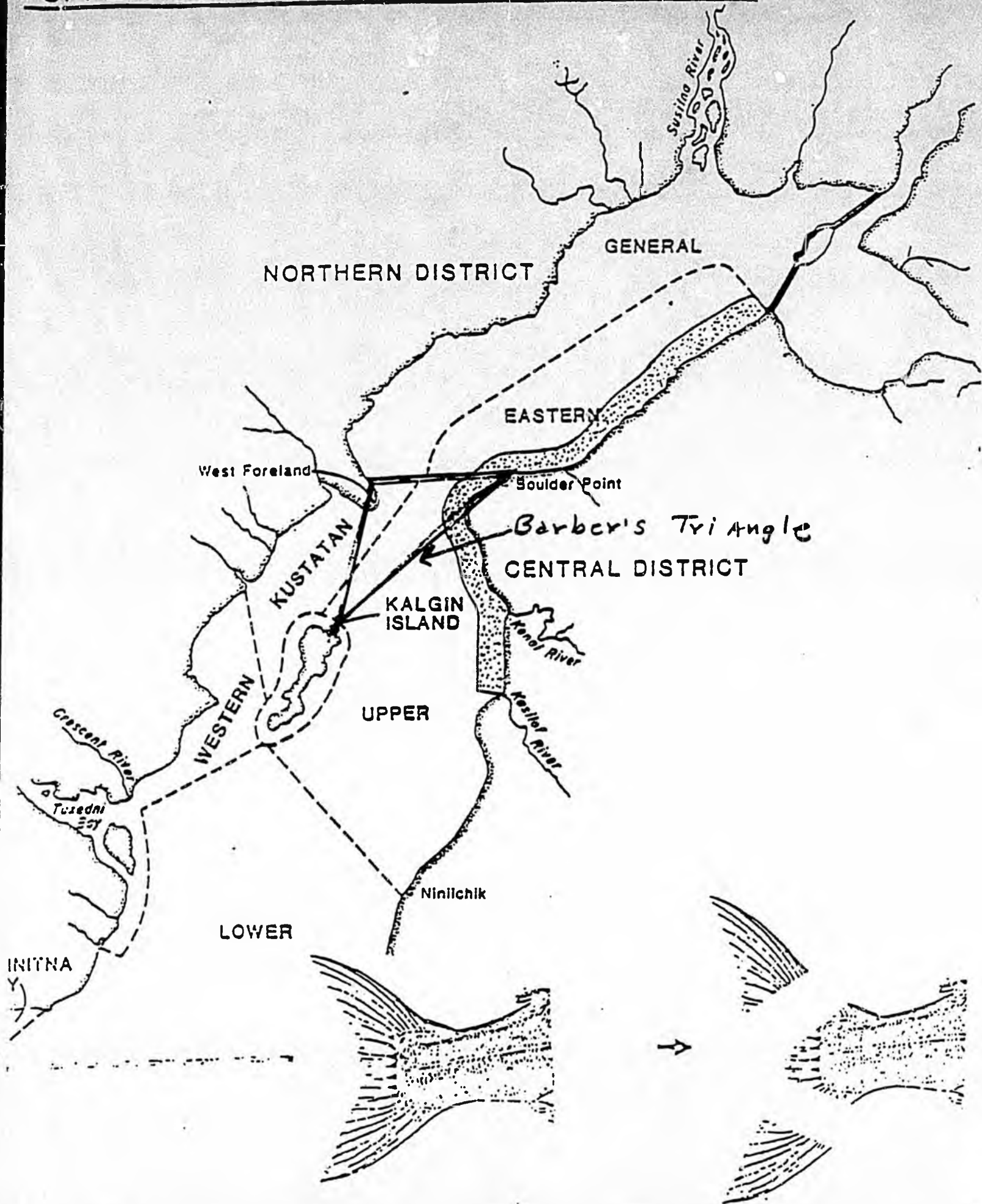
Data Sources: 1960-1974 ADF&G unpublished reports.
1975-1984 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

Northern District setnetters total 30% of Cook Inlet fishermen (approximately 200).

story by Hal Berntson



UPPER COOK INLET SALMON DISTRICTS



POINTS TO ENSURE EQUITY

1. Escapement must be assured for Northern District spawning streams.
2. Enforcement of existing regulations.
3. July 10th date set as first opening for drift fleet.
4. Establishment of a sufficient area such as the Barber Triangle sanctuary area closed to drift fishing.
5. Limit drift gill net length to 105 fathoms.
6. Remove Reusch from his present position and replace him with a person who will manage the Central District not at the expense of the Northern District.
7. Divide Northern District into two main areas, East Side and West Side. The Eastern District would not be regulated by Susitna escapement, but by its own river system's projected return, i.e. Fish Creek (Knik Arm). The Northern District should be regulated by a qualified biologist based in

Anchorage, such as Gary Sanders, a former Director, who did an excellent job of this type of management. Cook Inlet will then have three separate management areas, Lower District, Central District and Northern District. The Northern District biologist will monitor the Lower and Central District harvest of Northern District intercepted fish, and will be able to add, by emergency openings, fishing time as he projects run strength for Susitna (West Side) and Fish Creek (East Side) in the Northern District.

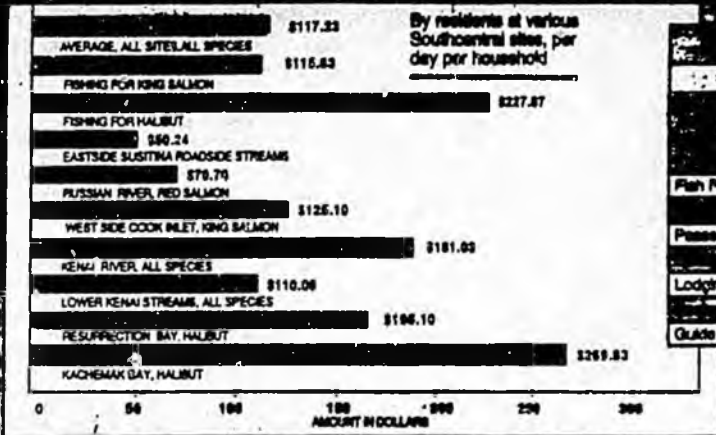
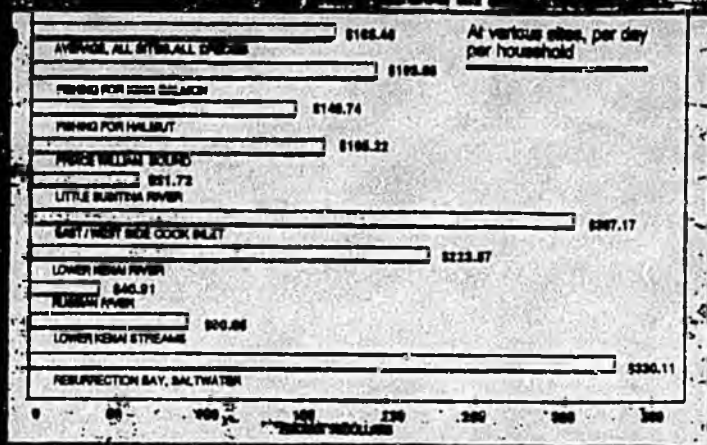
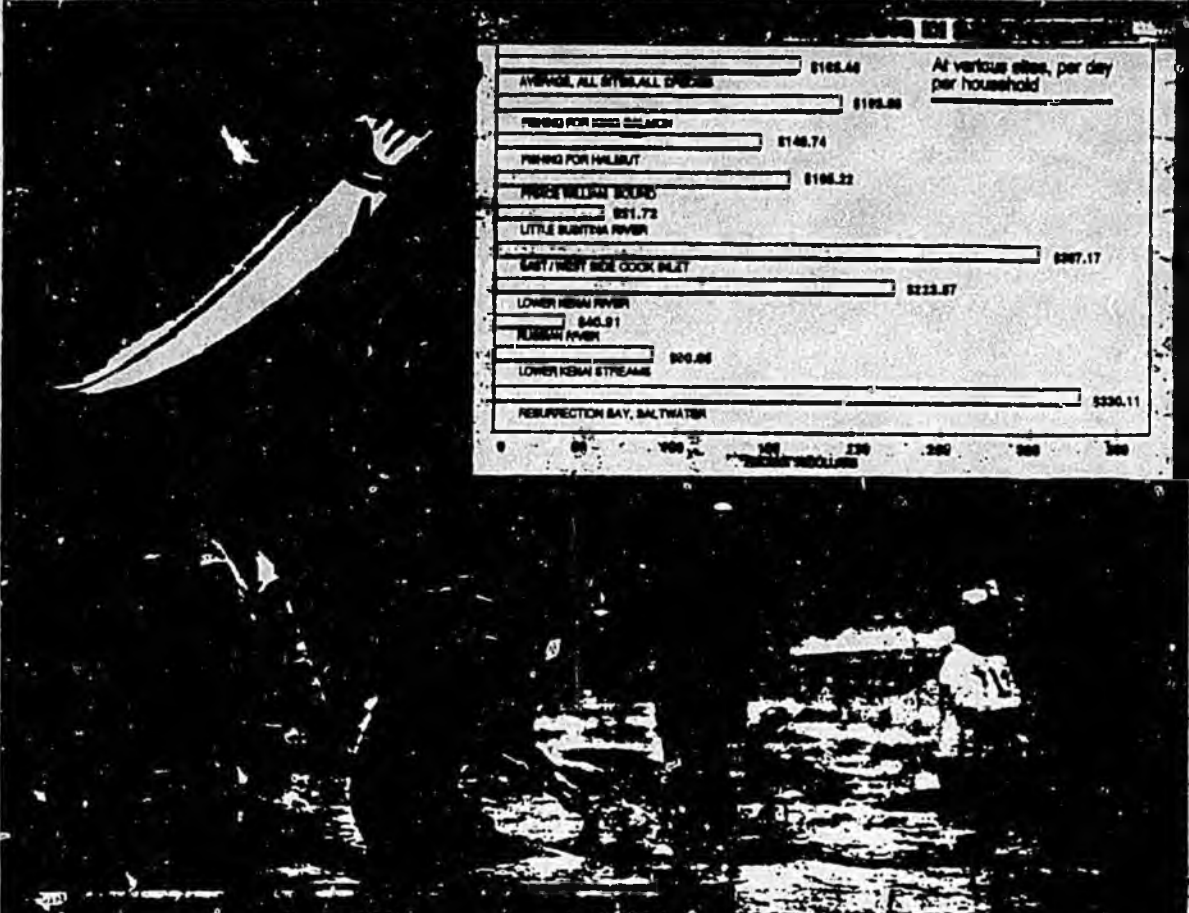
8. Cook Inlet must be managed as one entity. In years past, the management focus has been largely on the Kenai and Kasilof river systems of the Central District. Cook Inlet management must be moved to Anchorage where the river terminus exists for the Cook Inlet. Both the Lower and Central District fishermen must check with Anchorage management to confirm fishing times for both regular and emergency openings. Northern District escapements must be met each year to ensure the fishing rights of both commercial and sport fishermen in years to come. Commercial efforts in the Northern District have remained stable, however the number of fishermen have decreased in the last 20 years. On the other hand, the sport fishing efforts have mushroomed 400% in that same time period. The Northern District spawning escapement goals have not increased during this time frame to meet this added pressure

but have in fact been on a negative cycle. This cannot continue. We must reverse this trend to ensure our rightful, renewable and economically viable resource.

In 1985 alone, 140,000 sports fishermen spent money at the Anchorage - Mat-Su area stores and retail businesses to fish in the Northern District streams. These monies along with the monies earned commercially from the Northern District will contribute greatly to the improvement of Anchorage's sagging economy.

THE BIG PICTURE IS THIS: If we save the Northern District we boost Cook Inlet production as a whole and everyone from the Lower Inlet to the most northern district benefits. All communities involved with fishing in the Cook Inlet will benefit economically, therefore expanding and developing positively for our future generations. This will only happen if we bring Cook Inlet management to Anchorage.

ANGLERS SPEND FORTUNE IN SOUTHCENTRAL



Spent Fishing in Southcentral Alaska

Fish Packing/Processing	\$0.6 million	n.a.	\$0.6 million
Passenger Transportation	\$3.8 million	\$3.6 million	\$7.3 million
Lodging	\$2.9 million	\$3.6 million	\$6.5 million
Guide Services	\$2.4 million	\$3.2 million	\$5.6 million

Source: Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Economic Study

Anchorage Daily News/Ron Engstrom

Salmon fishermen spend \$87 million

Study likely to fuel dispute between commercial, sport fishermen

By CRAIG MEDRED
Daily News outdoors editor

Sport fishing was a \$127 million business in southcentral Alaska in 1986, pumping more cash into the Alaska economy than the statewide total of \$118 million paid to all workers in salmon processing that year, according to a new economic study prepared for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Researchers reported Southcentral anglers spent most of their money — some \$77 million — fishing for salmon

bound for Kenai Peninsula streams or Susitna River tributaries.

Because all those salmon migrate through Cook Inlet, the study is expected to fuel the ongoing dispute between sport and commercial fishermen over salmon allocations.

The 1986 commercial catch of nine million Cook Inlet salmon was valued at \$46 million, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. But that sum represents only a portion of the income from the commercial fishery

Commercial fishing also produces wages in the fish processing businesses and generates spending for boats, equipment and supplies.

No figure on total spending by the commercial fishery in 1986 is available, according to Fish and Game officials, so it is not possible to directly compare the value of the sport and commercial fisheries.

Several of the top resource economists on the West Coast worked as

See Back Page. FISHING

FISHING: Anglers spend \$127 million in Southcentral

Continued from Page A-1

consultants on the \$300,000 study done by Jones & Stokes Associates of Sacramento, Calif., said Al Howe, a state biologist involved in helping contract for the study.

Jones & Stokes was picked from among eight competing firms in large part because it offered to bring in economists from the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Arizona and elsewhere to help with the study, Howe said.

Those economists spent almost two years studying how much anglers spent to fish in Southcentral.

The \$127 million answer surprised many people.

"Geez. That is an interesting figure," Sus Carter, executive director of the Kenai-Soldotna Chamber of Commerce, said Wednesday. "It would be really interesting to look at that report and see what it was based on."

"Essentially, that was a pork-barrel study," said commercial fisherman Frank Mullen of Soldotna. "They (sport fishermen) got some money to prove a point. ... That was the design of it in the first place. There was nothing very subtle about that."

"I think the important thing now is for all fishermen to work together for the continued health of the fisheries — not to use this thing as a club."

Russ Redick, executive director of the Anchorage-based Alaska Sportfishing Association, said he doesn't expect anglers to start clubbing commercial fishermen with the study. But he said it will undoubtedly be used to let the Alaska Board of Fisheries know that

sport fishing is an important regional industry that must be recognized when the board decides how to divvy up salmon.

"I think that it's going to add a lot of credibility to legitimizing sport fishing as an industry," he said. "I don't think it's going to have any immediate, big impact. I would guess it's going to be one of those slow processes. I do think it's a good stroke."

Among the key findings in the analysis:

- Sport fishing accounted for 2,178 jobs in fishing-related businesses in the region. Almost 900 of those jobs were on the Kenai Peninsula, with nearly 800 in Anchorage. The largest number of jobs, 35 percent, were in retail stores — tackle shops, sporting goods stores, groceries and variety stores.

- Statewide, sport fishing in Southcentral provided the economic impetus to support the equivalent of 2,840 full-time jobs.

- The average resident angler spent \$65 per day of fishing. The money went for boats, boat repairs, fishing tackle, travel, lodging, eating, drinking and guides. These anglers spent the biggest share of money, \$16.6 million, trying to catch king salmon. They spent \$12.6 million fishing for halibut.

- The average non-resident angler spent \$103 per day of fishing. All told, these anglers spent \$31 million in the region in 1986.

- Anchorage got most of the money spent by anglers, but the Kenai Peninsula got the most from non-resident anglers. Out-of-state visitors to the Peninsula spent \$9.2 million compared to the \$7.6 million spent in Anchorage.

Other spending was scattered broadly around the region.

- Non-resident anglers spent almost \$3 million for Kenai guide services in 1986. They left another \$2.8 million in Peninsula stores, \$1.6 million in hotels and motels, and \$1 million in bars and restaurants.

- Resident anglers traveling to the Peninsula, primarily from Anchorage, spent \$1.8 million on guides, \$11.7 million on gas, groceries and tackle, \$3.7 million on food and drinks, \$3.4 million on boats or boat repairs, and \$1.4 million on lodging.

- The Kenai River was the biggest attraction for all anglers. The Kenai, famed for its king, silver and red salmon fishing, is where a world-record king was caught by a Soldotna angler two years ago. Almost a quarter of all Alaska anglers head for the Kenai, and some 78.3 percent of non-residents go there to fish. All together, these anglers spent \$18.7 million to pursue all species of salmon and rainbow trout in the river.

- The regional economy would lose \$100,000 in business from resident anglers if the Kenai River is closed to king salmon fishing a week early in July. That has happened several times in the past because of a combination of weak returns and commercial catches. There was no projection on the loss of spending by non-resident anglers if the Kenai were closed.

- Kenai River fishing is followed in economic importance by sport fishing for halibut in Kachemak Bay, where anglers spend \$8.7 million, and angling for red salmon in the Russian River, where anglers spend \$5.2 million.