

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE/SUBJECT FILES 8672

2436 SCOMM 102: HOUSE SPEC. COMM. ON FISHERIES, 1997-98

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 62 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska

P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / Telephone (907) 424-3447 / Fax (907) 424-3430

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Gene Kubina
House of Representatives
State Capitol
MS 3101, Room 404
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Sent via facsimile to (907) 465-4859

Dear Representative ^{Gene}Kubina:

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) is writing in opposition to House Bill 149 (the F.I.S.H. Initiative). If passed, the negative ramifications to not only the commercial fishing industry but the State in lost revenues is tremendous.

The coastal communities of Alaska rely on commercial fishing for a large portion of their operating expenses. In 1995, the fishermen contributed 50% of the city of Cordova's operating budget. The raw fish tax, harbor fees, combined with contributions to sales and property taxes equaled \$2.1 million of the total \$4.2 million city budget.

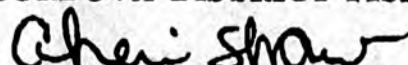
HB 149 is *not* about meeting the needs of Alaskan anglers. The number of Alaska resident sport licenses have remained constant since 1984. Non-resident licenses have doubled and now account for over 50% of all sport fishing licenses sold. Tourists envision Alaska as a unique destination with high caliber fishing. Overcrowding our rivers with people is sure to lessen the quality of the sportfishing experience and diminish the Alaska mystique.

In addition, we have a responsibility to protect sensitive habitat in which salmon spawn. Anglers elbow to elbow on the riverbanks will increase erosion and be detrimental to the resource if not kept in check.

We must leave salmon allocation decisions up to the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Sound scientific decisions are made with proper data and knowledge of the resource and its users, not by elected officials.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the concerns brought forth by CDFU. If you have any questions regarding this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,
CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMEN UNITED


Cheri Shaw, Executive Director

cc: Representative Austerman
Representative Hodgins
Representative Ogan
Representative Ivan



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389

(907) 283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306 e-mail: ucida@kenai.net

April 30, 1997

SENT BY TELEFAX (907) 465-4956

**TO: Representative Alan Austerman
Chair, House Special Fisheries Committee**

SUBJECT: UCIDA opposition to HB 149

Dear Representative Austerman,

United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) represents the 585 salmon drift permit holders in Upper Cook Inlet. Some 350 permit holders are current members of our association. UCIDA is also active at the state and federal levels as a member of the Executive Committee of United Fisherman of Alaska (UFA).

UCIDA would like to express its strong opposition to HB 149 which is nothing more than special interest allocation legislation inappropriate for consideration by the legislature. The sponsor's reference to "recent river closures and restrictions" and the devastating effect "to the economy of the Matanuska-Susitna Valley" to justify this legislation is nothing short of an attempt to deceive the public and justify this special interest legislation aimed at selectively crippling commercial fisheries.

The only restrictions or closures of economic impact on the Mat-Su economy have occurred on the June run of northern chinook stocks. These stocks have not seen a commercial harvest by the drift fishery since 1953. Harvests of these stocks have been allowed - and also severely curtailed in recent years - by a small number of setnetters in the Northern District. ADF&G has repeatedly informed the Board of Fisheries that this limited harvest of mixed northern chinook stocks has not necessitated the sport restrictions or closures.

UCIDA

April 30, 1997

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Simply put, the harvest capacity in the northern chinook sport fishery far exceeds the total return of those stocks and bag limit restrictions were, and will continue to be, necessary. Further, as already noted, the closures on certain streams during the June chinook fishery are not the result of any commercial harvest.

UCIDA categorically rejects attempts to use the sport fishery's potential to overharvest June chinook as a pretext to selectively target stocks of salmon anywhere in Cook Inlet for 100% exploitation by sport fishermen based on their harvest "potential" (Sec. 16.05.740 (c)(3)). We respectfully request that this legislation not be moved from committee.

UCIDA appreciates this opportunity to comment and requests that you share its comments with the rest of your committee.

Sincerely,

Philip Squires P.M.

Philip Squires, President

cc Senator Torgerson
Senator Ward
Representative Davis
Representative Phillips
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
Mayor Mike Navarre, Kenai Peninsula Borough
Frank Rue, ADF&G Commissioner
UFA



United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
PO Box 22427
Juneau, Alaska 99802
(907) 586-5860 Fax (907) 780-6621

Testimony on HB 149

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association (USAG) **opposes HB 149**. The Legislature should leave allocating of fishery resources to the present Board of Fish system. Our current healthy and abundant salmon runs are a result of management plans developed by the Alaska Board of Fish and AK Dept of Fish and Game within a public process system. HB 149 allocates 5% statewide and not by region or by stock. This allows the AK Board of Fisheries no management flexibility to deal with the differences in a region or a community's dependence on commercial fishing. AK Dept of Fish under HB 149 basically is mandated to make sure that 5% of the harvest is reserved to satisfy the needs for personal use and sport fisheries, but how can they determine per area and species how much fish to leave available. We must remember that overescapement of a fishery is as damaging to the long-term productivity as underescapement.

The 5% allocation would be based on projected harvests each year statewide, including the projections for enhanced fish. The commercial fishermen pay an assessment tax on their commercial catch to raise these enhanced fish. Some hatcheries do projects for the sports fishermen and consider their needs in placement of the release sites. I ask you if it is fair to include enhanced fish in the projected surplus harvest numbers? The commercial fisheries in priority areas would be restricted while CFMD tries to manage a statewide 5% priority goal for consumptive users.

Two priority areas, Southeast Alaska and Cook Inlet would have commercial fisheries curtailed to allow 5% priority of the statewide harvest to be caught by sports fishermen and personal use fishermen. These areas would face more than a 5% loss in their commercial fishery, they would be losing within their region up to the 5% priority of the projected statewide harvest. These regions would be impacted by the loss of revenue from the fish tax revenue shared with the state and municipalities when you restrict the commercial harvests. The towns in the region would be affected by the loss of revenue the commercial fishermen would spend. The state would be affected by the loss of general fund revenues generated by the commercial fishermen.

Salmon for Alaska's Future (SFAF) conducted a poll in August of 1996 regarding the F.I.S. H. Initiative. USAG would like to quote part of the conclusion. "Nearly 60% of the respondents (Alaskan residents) indicated that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the current status of salmon sport fishing in Alaska. Moreover, by a 3-1 margin, Alaskans rated the "quality" of the sport fishing experience more important than the "quantity" of the catch. "74% said Alaska's sport fishing areas were overcrowded and 63% said they would not support any priority for sport fishing if it resulted in more overcrowding. Alaskans place a high value on not only protecting our salmon runs, but also on preserving the commercial fishing jobs and economic benefit rural Alaskan communities derive from commercial fishing."

We must remember that the commercial fishery in Alaska is the number one private employer and the second largest source of State tax revenues behind the oil industry. Who will truly benefit from this priority consumptive use? The guided sport fisheries will

and this fishery contributes very little to the State general fund. Alaskan resident sports fishermen feel that the guided sport fisheries is really a commercial entity at this point. The number of guides and nonresident fishermen has been increasing at an incredible rate. The number of Alaskan resident sport fishing licenses has been at a very steady level since the late '80's while the nonresident sport fishing licenses have been steadily rising. In Southeast Alaska, the complaints we hear is that the resident sport fishermen of Ketchikan and Sitka are being crowded out of the opportunities to fish in the traditional areas due to the increase in guided sport fishing boats using the area. This type of legislation will just encourage a greater influx of nonresident fishermen in Southeast Alaska elbowing out the resident commercial and sport fishermen.

Please do not pass HB 149 out of the committee. Leave the management and allocation to the Board of Fish. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this written testimony.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Phone (907) 772-9323 Voice and Fax

April 25, 1997

Representative Alan Austerman
Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Chairman Austerman and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, I would like to express our opposition to HB 149. HB 149 jeopardizes the successful management practices of our state's most abundant renewable resource and poses a direct threat to the viability of the Alaska seafood industry.

If this legislation were to pass, 5% of the total state-wide salmon prediction would be reserved to satisfy the harvest need for sport and personal-use. Last year, the total statewide prediction for all species of salmon was 204 million. This would grant up to 10 million fish for sport and personal-use. It is unlikely that sport and personal use harvesters would be interested in catching 10 million pink salmon. Last year's total commercial harvest of king and coho salmon was around 4.5 million fish. In other words, sport fishermen could demand 100% of the statewide commercial harvest of king and coho and still not be anywhere the 5% cap.

Under the provisions of HB 149, the Board of Fish would be obligated to provide for the harvest needs of sport and personal-use fishermen before a commercial fishery could occur. If applied in Southeast, it could delay commercial openings until the only salmon available to harvest were dark and unmarketable. The result is simple: Alaskan salmon would not be able to compete on the world market and our coastal communities, thousands of family-run fishing businesses, and tens of thousands of employees in the processing sector would be devastated. Our organization is very concerned about the effects this legislation could have on our industry and the state's economy. Economic losses to the fishing industry would translate into losses for both local and state government. Currently, the seafood industry is Alaska's largest private employer and contributes over \$120 million in taxes to the state and local communities.

Lastly, the State of Alaska has achieved record returns of salmon based on management by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game. We believe the authority to manage our fisheries should stay with the Board and allocation disputes resolved within that forum.

Sincerely,

Liz Cabrera

Liz Cabrera
Director

**Testimony of Dale Kelley on HB 149 for
Alaska Trollers Association and Salmon for Alaska's Future
Alaska House Special Committee on Fisheries
April 30, 1997**

Good evening. I'm Dale Kelley, executive director of the Alaska Trollers Association, and chairman of Salmon for Alaska's Future. ATA represents the interests of the Southeast troll fleet. Salmon for Alaska is a group dedicated to public education about Alaska's commercial fishing industry. Salmon for Alaska formed in response to the FISH Initiative, which was defeated in Supreme Court last year. **Both ATA and Salmon for Alaska oppose HB 149, which mirrors the FISH initiative.**

HB 149 is a dangerous, deceptive bill. The sponsor statement highlights the its deceptive nature by pointing out that anglers get only 1% of the statewide salmon harvest. I ask you to carefully consider this question: 1% of what?

Each year, the entire statewide salmon harvest is well over 200 million fish. It's true, anglers only catch about 1%. In 1995, pink, chum and sockeye made up 97% of the statewide harvest, 68%, were pink and chum – how many of these fish would sport anglers like to harvest? There are plenty to share. But HB149 isn't about reallocating pink and chum, is it? **All of the chinook and all of the coho harvested in all of Alaska make up less than 5% of the statewide harvest, and totaled only 3% in 1995.** I believe HB 149 is focused on these species with a few sockeye thrown in. If that's the case, it is deceiving to discuss sport harvest as a percent of the statewide salmon catch. Instead, how about the fact that anglers harvest over 80 percent of the chinook and 30% of the coho in Cook Inlet? Or that anglers harvest 20% of the chinook in Southeast?

Not only is HB 149 deceptive, it totally disregards regional differences with respect to harvest dependence. This could have a chilling impact on communities throughout Alaska.

Under HB149, Southeast is considered *an area of intense common use*, as angler effort exceeds half a million hours per year. The troll fleet targets chinook and coho, but this bill will prevent trollers from fishing until the harvest needs of every other user group are satisfied. As a practical matter, trollers wouldn't get fish until the fall, when very few fish are available to meet our fleet's harvest needs. The trollers represent the largest salmon fleet in the state, there are 2600 permits and about 1500 are fished each year. This doesn't account for employment from deckhands, processing and the support sector. The fleet is 85% resident, with 40% residing in rural communities.

The Board of Fisheries will be mandated to provide up to 5% of the statewide harvest to *"consumptive users"*, without regard to region or species. *Remember,*

all the kings and cohos make up less than 5% of the statewide salmon harvest. So, it's conceivable that all of the chinook and coho in Southeast could be allocated away from commercial fishermen and the consumers they serve.

With all the talk of *consumptive users*, I feel compelled to remind you that commercial fishermen provide a service for folks who don't have the opportunity or inclination to go fishing, but enjoy eating salmon. Why is this considered less important than providing salmon for tourism? That's primarily what this bill does. It feeds the growth of the guided sportfishing industry at the expense of residents – both sport and commercial. One look at the sport license numbers will show that angler growth is occurring mostly in the non-resident sector.

Have you been to the Kenai River lately? It's elbows to armpits fishing. Guides and lodges rule the Kenai drainage, which is not to say tourist opportunity shouldn't be made available, because it's very important too, but at what level and what cost to the people who live in this state?

Last summer, Salmon for Alaska polled 1000 people statewide. First, we found that 70% of the people polled knew nothing about the FISH initiative. Those who knew about the FISH initiative were confused about its ramifications. After all, "it's only 5%" sounds more than fair. Once people were given a few documented facts, only 36% of those responding said they would vote for the initiative.

On a scale of 1-10 :

- The future of rural communities that depend on commercial fishing rated a 5, second only to the health of salmon at 9.0
- At 8.2, the importance of jobs for the commercial fishing industry tied with resident sportfishing.
- 87% favored commercial fishing, though 64% had no ties to the industry
- 84% believe Alaska needs to maintain a viable commercial fishing industry
- Only 22% think it's important to catch lots of salmon when they sport fish – compared to 62% who said QUALITY of their experience rates higher than quantity.
- 92% sport fish. 67% of them sportfish for recreation – only 30% do so for food.
- 74% think Alaska's sportfishing areas are overcrowded. In fact, 60% of those people think the areas are HIGHLY overcrowded.

- **63% said they wouldn't support ANY priority for sport fishing if the result was more crowding in sportfishing areas. [Have you noticed how many guides supported the FISH initiative?]**

Since 1986, charterboat registrations in Southeast have gone through the roof -- from 225 to over 900 in 1996. In 1991, when chinook were first allocated between trollers and anglers, there were only 400 charterboats -- the fleet has more than doubled in six years. I believe the numbers are nearly as impressive in the Kenai. The same state that imposed limited entry to protect salmon and fishermen, has refused to curtail the explosive growth of the guided industry. The failure to limit this growth is taking its toll on Alaska, as residents lose commercial fishing jobs and favorite fishing holes.

That any one group or region can drive the allocation agenda of this entire state is beyond belief. As Salmon for Alaska's poll revealed, most people aren't even familiar enough with issues like the FISH initiative to weigh in, but most are supportive of all resource users and their communities. It's a few loud militants, out to pad their own pockets, that are attempting to splinter the state into angry factions. They ought to be ashamed.

Robert Fulghum wrote that everything he needs to know about how to live his life he learned in kindergarten. I'd like to leave you with a few of items he learned. Maybe the wisdom of our grade school teachers can carry us through this and other state struggles:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Flush.

And,

When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together.

Please, let's let the Board of Fish and ADF&G do the jobs they've been delegated and strike FISH allocation from the legislative agenda. Vote no on HB149!



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 • 0389

(907) 283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306 e-mail: ucida@kenai.net

May 7, 1997

SENT BY TELEFAX (907) 465-4956

TO: Representative Alan Austerman
Chair, House Special Fisheries Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SUBJECT: UCIDA comments in opposition to HB 149

- 1) Comfish represents Kenai Peninsula Borough's largest private sector employer with 3,500 harvesters and 3,000 processing workers.
 - Over 1,300 small businessmen hold Cook Inlet permits.
 - In 1991, ADNR noted that commercial fishing represented "1,789 year-round jobs - or 13% of the Kenai Peninsula Borough's employment in 1990." This compared with 12% for the oil and gas industry. (Final Finding, Sale 74, 6/18/91)
- 2) Unless the legislature contemplates 6,000 more guides in Cook Inlet, HB 149 should suffer the same fate as legislation that would threaten the viability of Cook Inlet's guided and non-guided sport fisheries. We request that this bill NOT be moved from committee.
- 3) Rep. Kohring either does NOT understand or misrepresents the 5% harvest priority provision of this bill.
 - If it really is the intent to allow comfish to harvest 95% of Cook Inlet stocks we would be falling all over ourselves to sign up.
- 4) Rep. Mulder has misrepresented the results of the ISER study.
 - It did NOT evaluate the status quo and say it was "a wash"
 - ISER evaluated putting 200,000 MORE sockeye in the Kenai River AND concluded that with the increased sport allocation:
 - A) Commercial losses would be larger than sport gains,
 - B) The Alaska economy would lose more jobs than would be created,
 - C) The net economic value increase for residents in non-monetary, and
 - D) Most of the loss in net economic value for comfish is monetary.

UCIDA
May 7, 1997
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- 5) Robert Hall has misrepresented the F.I.S.H. survey results.
 - Respondents were misinformed about current allocations in C.I.
 - Respondents were not informed of impact on commercial fisheries.
 - Respondents, OF COURSE, replied to support their self interests because they were not informed of the consequences.
- 6) Robert Hall has misrepresented the make-up of the Board of Fisheries.
 - The current sport priority until July 1 and after Aug. 15th was created by the "mythical" comfish dominated Board of Fisheries.
 - ONLY 2 of 7 current BOF members are involved in salt water mixed stock fisheries.
- 7) The myth of a constitutional preference for "consumptive users" over limited entry permit holders underlies many of the arguments for HB 149.
 - The Alaska Supreme Court totally rejected similar arguments in Tongass Sport Fishing Assoc. v. State (1994).
 - The court noted that "differential treatment of such diverse groups as commercial, sports and subsistence fishermen" is necessary.
 - The court noted that "to conclude that, because a certain species is made available for sport fishing in a given area, commercial fishing of the same species in the same area must also be allowed, would be to go far beyond the purpose of (section 15)."
 - The opposite argument also holds - i.e. sport fishing need not be allowed on a given species in every area when commercial fishing is allowed, and
 - Finally, we respectfully submit that, while recognizing the importance of consumptive uses, Alaskans' need not be given a priority over every stock in every area to satisfy their entire consumptive "need" with each stock as demanded by HB 149.

Sincerely,



Theo Matthews
Executive Director

CC Senator Torgerson
Senator Ward
Representative Davis
Representative Phillips
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
Mayor Mike Navarre, Kenai Peninsula Borough
Frank Rue, ADF&G Commissioner
UFA

Economic and Social Importance of Alaska's Seafood Industry

Did you know.....

Alaska produces more fish than the rest of the United States combined. If Alaska were a nation, it would rank among the top ten seafood producers in the world, ahead of Canada, Norway, Iceland and other fishing nations.

The seafood industry is Alaska's largest private employer (47% of jobs are seafood related) and it generates revenues second only to oil.

According to the State Department of Commerce & Economic Development, each year nearly 6 billion pounds of seafood is harvested in Alaska waters worth more than \$3 billion annually. Salmon accounts for more than 40% of the total volume.

More than 700 processing facilities of all sizes operate in Alaska, employing nearly 70,000 workers.

A total of 50,638 people harvested fish commercially in Alaska in 1995.

According to the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, more than 12,000 permits are held by commercial salmon fishermen, of which 80% are Alaska residents. They in turn employ thousands of crew and create jobs in processing and support services.

For many coastal communities, commercial fishing is the major source of cash. For example, in Pelican the seafood industry accounted for 32% of the total city budget in FY96.

More than 50 different commercial fisheries occur throughout the year in Alaska, from Ketchikan to Kotzebue and far out into the Bering Sea.

The 1995 ex-vessel (dock side) value of Alaska's seafood was \$1.26 billion. The value of the fisheries include:

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| • salmon | \$461 million | • groundfish | \$434 million |
| • shellfish | \$265 million | • halibut | \$ 65 million |
| • herring | \$ 42 million | | |

Revenues Generated for the State from Commercial Fishing, 1995

Raw Fish Tax:	\$39.0 million	Salmon Enhancement Tax:	\$5.7 million
Marine Fuel Tax:	\$ 3.9 million	Seafood Marketing Tax:	\$4.7 million
Licensing Fees:	\$ 4.7 million	Seafood Marketing Assessment:	\$3.2 million
Fishery Landing Tax:	\$ 7.3 million		

"In many ways, fish are Alaska's first Permanent Fund. This renewable resource is a well managed portfolio with diversified accounts that include groundfish, salmon, shellfish, herring, halibut and many undeveloped species. The interest from this fund (harvest) has supported Alaskan's for years."

--ADF&G statement

This information provided courtesy of
Salmon for Alaska's Future • P.O. Box 92149 • Anchorage, AK 99509
Phone (907) 562-8825 • Fax (907) 562-8826

The Myth-Buster

"Separating Fact from Fiction in Alaska's Fishing Politics"

October 3, 1996

MYTH: 70% of Alaska voters would have supported Ballot Measure 2 in November.

FACT: In a comprehensive statewide poll of 1,000 randomly selected voters*, 70% said they knew nothing about BM2, and 64% said they would support it. But following a 20-minute review of arguments for and against BM2, only 37% of voters said they would support it.

MYTH: Most commercial fishing limited entry permits are owned by non-residents.

FACT: According to state records, nearly 80% of the state's 13,000 fishing permits are owned by Alaskans. Of those, 56% reside in the State's rural areas.

MYTH: Not catching enough fish is the main concern of sport anglers.

FACT: According to the previously mentioned state wide poll, quality of the sportfishing experience was most important to 62% of those surveyed. Catching fish finished a distant second at 22%.

MYTH: Resident anglers are dissatisfied with their sport fishing experience.

FACT: In the same poll, 60% said they were satisfied with their sport fishing experience; only 23% were dissatisfied.

MYTH: Alaska sport anglers want to catch more fish regardless of the consequences.

FACT: The same poll also found that 74% say Alaska's sport fishing areas are overcrowded, and over 60% said they would not support a guaranteed percentage of the salmon catch if it led to more overcrowding, or if out-of-state tourists would benefit most.

MYTH: More Alaskans hold sport fishing licenses than non-residents.

FACT: According to ADF&G/Sport-fish, non-resident sport fishing licenses now outnumber resident licenses by more than 50,000!

MYTH: Anchorage is not a "fishing town."

FACT: Anchorage is Alaska's largest "fishing village."

This format will be used to document and correct misinformation regarding Alaska's seafood industry. It will be published and distributed as necessary. For additional industry information, or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact:

According to a UAA Marine Advisory Study, nearly 850 permit holders and 2,100 crew reside in the municipality of Anchorage, with a gross income averaging almost \$50 million. Another 1,025 permit holders live in the surrounding area, including Wasilla and Palmer.

Salmon for Alaska's Future
PO Box 92149 • Anchorage, AK 99509-2149
(907) 562-8825 • Fax (907) 562-8826

*August 5-17, 1996 • Ridder/Braden, Inc. - Randomly selected, demographic conforming voter poll. 100 question, 33 minute poll of 1,000 voters. Commissioned by Salmon for Alaska's Future.

RESULTS OF STATEWIDE SALMON INDUSTRY POLL

Salmon for Alaska's Future (SFAF), a group founded by former Governor Jay Hammond and the United Fishermen of Alaska, commissioned a 1000 sample statewide voter opinion poll as part of its preparation to oppose Ballot Measure 2. The 30-33 minute long telephone interviews were conducted August 5-17, 1996 by the professional polling firm Ridder/Branden of Denver, Colorado. Voters were asked their opinion on more than one hundred questions. The poll was balanced regionally and demographically and split almost evenly between males and females.

Since the poll was to be used in planning a sophisticated statewide campaign, the results had to be accurate. The statistically valid margin of error was $\pm 3\%$. The poll was carefully designed to present balanced arguments on both sides of the issue to minimize any potential bias. In reporting the results here, no attempt has been made to manipulate the numbers.

With the Supreme Court's decision removing Ballot Measure 2 from the November ballot, SFAF felt sharing the information with the public would be the best use of the poll to help further a deeper understanding of fisheries allocation decisions among the public, decision makers and opinion leaders. The following is a capsulation of the poll results.

56% of the respondents believe things in Alaska are "going in the right direction", as opposed to "seriously off track." This response reflects significant movement in overall voter satisfaction with conditions in Alaska compared to responses to the same question over the past few years, where Alaskans were at best mixed on this issue.

59% said they were "somewhat" or "very" satisfied with "the quality of sport fishing for salmon in Alaska right now."

Only 21% indicated they were "somewhat" or "very" dissatisfied with "the quality of sport fishing for salmon in Alaska right now."

70% had not heard anything about Ballot Measure 2 or the FISH Initiative.

Initially 65% indicated that they would likely support Ballot Measure 2, when the issue was explained in the following question: "There will be a question on the November ballot, known as Ballot Measure 2, that would set aside up to five percent of the statewide salmon harvest for sport fisheries and personal use. If the election were held today, would you vote YES to approve or NO to disapprove this measure?"

After learning more about the issue through the course of the interview, however, support for Ballot Measure 2 dropped dramatically to only 36%. Undecided voters rose slightly (11% to 17%) while opposition to the Ballot Measure doubled from 21% at the beginning of the survey to 42% once the issues were explained.

87% said they had a favorable opinion of resident commercial fishermen.

95% had a favorable opinion of resident sport fishermen.

75% considered sport fishing guides and charter operators to be "commercial entities."

75% had an unfavorable opinion of non-resident sport fishing guides.

78% had an unfavorable opinion of non-resident commercial fishermen.

84% agreed that "Alaska needs to maintain a viable Alaskan commercial fishing industry that can compete with foreign fishing interests."

Respondents were asked to rate, on a scale of 1-10, the importance of various issues the Alaska Board of Fish should consider when developing fishing regulations for the state. In priority order are the responses, with 10 being "very important" and 1 "not important."

A. The health of our salmon runs	9.0
B. The future of rural communities which depend on commercial fishing for their economy	8.5
C. The jobs of Alaskans involved with the commercial fishing industry	8.2
D. The sport fishing interests of resident Alaskans	8.2
E. The environmental impact of both commercial and sport fishing	8.1
F. The income brought into Alaska by commercial fishing	7.6
G. The availability of sport fishing for tourists	6.3

63% disagreed with the statement that "Sport fishermen should be guaranteed a percentage of the salmon catch even if it leads to more overcrowding on the rivers."

74% said they think Alaska's sport fishing areas are overcrowded.

60% of those who thought sport fishing areas were overcrowded, characterized the situation as "highly overcrowded."

62% of the respondents indicated that the "QUALITY" of their sport fishing experience was more important than the "QUANTITY" of their catch. Only 22% indicated that "QUANTITY" was more important.

67% said they went sport fishing for "RECREATION," while only 30% indicated they go sport fishing for "FOOD."

52% said they were frequent sport fishers, while 40% said they went sport fishing a few times a year, and 7% said they sport fished less than once a year.

79% said they, or someone in their household sportfishes.

68% said they never used paid guides for sport fishing.

Less than 5% said they regularly sport fish with paid guides.

64% said neither they nor anyone in their family had worked in the commercial fishing industry.

On the question of whether Alaska's wild salmon stocks are "in better or worse shape than they were ten years ago," responses were divided evenly 37% BETTER; 37% WORSE; 10% SAME.

Conclusions:

Clearly the myth of the "frustrated" angler is just that – at least in the context of sport vs. commercial fishing. Nearly 60% of the respondents indicated that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the current status of salmon sport fishing in Alaska. Moreover, by a 3-1 margin, Alaskans rated the "quality" of the sport fishing experience more important than the "quantity" of the catch.

Frustration clearly exists, however, with the overcrowded nature of Alaska's sport fishing areas. 74% said Alaska's sport fishing areas were overcrowded and 63% said they would not support any priority for sport fishing if it resulted in more overcrowding. Non-resident sport fishing guides had one of the lowest favorability ratings of any group. Alaskans also overwhelmingly view sport fishing guides as "commercial entities."

Alaskans place a high value on not only protecting our salmon runs, but also on preserving the commercial fishing jobs and economic benefit rural Alaskan communities derive from commercial fishing.

Considering that most Alaskans are satisfied with their current salmon sport fishing experience, it is not surprising that there has been little or no public reaction to the Supreme Court's decision to remove the issue from the ballot.

In addition, considering that Alaskans have a highly favorable opinion of the Alaskan commercial fishing industry, it is also not surprising that support for the FISH Initiative dropped off dramatically once the potential impact of the issue was explained. Voters made it clear that they would not support a sport priority if the result was a loss of Alaskan jobs or loss of economic benefit to rural communities who depend on commercial fishing.

The poll demonstrates that Alaska's policy makers and opinion leaders can do more to improve public satisfaction with sport fishing by focusing more on issues like overcrowding that affect the "quality" of the Alaska sport fishing experience than by arbitrarily increasing the "quantity" of the sport fishing catch.

For more information about this poll, contact:

Salmon for Alaska's Future
PO Box 92149 Anchorage, AK 99509
(907) 562-8825 fAX (907) 562-8826

The Anchorage Connection to Alaska's Commercial Fishing Industry

Did you know.....

Anchorage is home for more fishermen than any other community in the state, including such fishing hot spots as Kodiak, Cordova and Petersburg!

According to a 1994 report by the University of Alaska at Anchorage/Marine Advisory Program, nearly 850 permit holders live in the municipality of Anchorage, and nearly 1,025 in the Anchorage bowl (including Wasilla and Palmer). Anchorage is also home to an estimated 1,600 crew members. Total gross income for Anchorage bowl fishermen averaged nearly \$60 million since 1988.

Fisheries management, administration and education for the Southcentral and Western regions are centered in Anchorage. More than a dozen government, university and private organizations employ nearly 200 residents to deal with fishing issues. Salaries and operating expenditures for this group total more than \$12 million annually. The seafood industry draws another \$2 million each year into Anchorage hotels, food service, and transportation sectors.

Anchorage is the major transportation hub for the seafood industry. Seafood is flown here from fishing ports throughout the state to be shipped to markets around the world. The volume of seafood shipped means lower freight rates for all Alaskans. The UAA report also said:

- an estimated 40 million pounds of seafood flies in and out of Anchorage each year, generating nearly \$20 million in freight and handling revenues by 500 resident employees;*
- seafood provides an estimated \$2 million to local trucking firms and helps pay wages for about 100 employees;*
- SeaLand and TOTE move about 2,000 vans of canned and frozen seafood across city docks for transport to the Pacific Northwest and Asia. The vans produce docking and wharfage income for the port of over \$50,000 each year;*
- twenty-two processing companies are licensed to operate in the Anchorage bowl. As a group they employ 500 people at peak periods. The wholesale value of their production has varied from \$12 million to \$42 million in recent years.*

Figures from the State Commerce Department show that the seafood industry is a \$100 million industry in Anchorage, taking into account only the harvesting, processing, transportation and agency support sectors. Nearly 4,000 area residents are employed in these and related sectors.

Fishing and processing expenditures are distributed broadly and deeply through the Anchorage business community and add significantly to the economic well-being of the region.

*This information provided courtesy of
Salmon for Alaska's Future • P.O. Box 92149 • Anchorage, AK 99509
Phone (907) 562-8825 • Fax (907) 562-8826*

Why is the Fish Initiative **Bad** for Alaska?

Prioritizing five percent of the statewide projected salmon catch exclusively for sport fishing sounds reasonable and harmless enough. Why, in recent years the total prediction has topped 200 million fish and runs are expected to remain strong long into the future! So why were so many Alaskans up in arms about the FISH initiative? Here's what those who analyzed the impacts of FISH found:

BECAUSE—

FISH would cause the loss of thousands of jobs, especially for rural Alaskans.. FISH would cost the state millions of dollars in lost fish taxes...FISH would lead to dramatic overcrowding of rivers, mostly by non-resident sport users...FISH would cause more damage to fragile habitat... FISH would grant 10 million fish to sport and personal use groups, a 1000 percent increase...FISH would doom the state to long, costly court battles and tie up resource decisions for years.

HERE'S PROOF—

It's important to note that the five percent can be allocated in any location, for any species. Any commercial fishery targeting the same fish as the sport users could be closed until the "priority" fisheries get all they want.

The Department of Law called FISH "vague and ambiguous," saying "only a court could be the final arbiter of its meaning." ADF&G staff found FISH to be "overly broad and confusing" in its application, and said the Board of Fish would have a "very difficult time implementing it—even more so than they had with implementing the subsistence law."

The new management plan would pretty much bypass the Board of Fish process and the public input that accompanies it. It would force the state to revamp the management plans for every region of the state to reflect the special harvest priority.

FOR EXAMPLE—

Last year, the total commercial harvest of kings (chinook) and silvers (coho) was a little over 4 million fish. Priority users could demand 100 percent of the statewide harvestable surplus of these two prized species and still not reach the five percent cap!

- For Southeast Alaska's troll chinook fishery, five percent means 100 percent of that region's catch.
- It could preclude Bristol Bay fishermen from harvesting sockeye salmon while sport users target kings in that area.
- It could eliminate traditional fisheries in more populous areas like the Kenai Peninsula, largely to benefit a fast growing, largely unregulated sport fishing industry that requires ever-increasing numbers of non-resident anglers.
- Restrictions could even cross over to trawlers who often catch small numbers of king salmon while targeting cod or pollock!

More than 100 towns, boroughs, municipalities, fishing groups, processors and businesses came out against regulating the state's salmon resource by initiative. The measure was opposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives. Governor Tony Knowles also criticized the FISH initiative saying that salmon allocation issues should remain with the Fish Board and ADF&G managers.

For more information on the effects of the FISH Initiative to Alaskans, contact:
Salmon for Alaska's Future • P.O. Box 92149 • Anchorage, AK 99509
Phone (907) 562-8825 • Fax (907) 562-8826

Thank You, Alaska!



This August, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled *unanimously* that the F.I.S.H. Initiative was unconstitutional and could not be placed on the November election ballot. The Initiative would have circumvented Alaska's proven fisheries management system and established a special salmon harvest priority for some Alaskans at the expense of all others.

The initiative would have cost Alaska thousands of jobs, bankrupted Alaskan fishing families and devastated the economies of many rural Alaskan communities that depend on commercial fishing.

The initiative was not only unconstitutional—it was bad public policy. Governor Tony Knowles took a stand against the initiative as the wrong approach to fisheries management.

In recent years Alaska has enjoyed near record salmon runs, and we have the strongest wild salmon stocks in the world. This is not the time to make risky changes to the way we manage our fisheries.

THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER...

Some legislators now say they will introduce new legislation to enact the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

Please join Salmon for Alaska's Future and the groups listed here in the fight to protect Alaskan jobs and the viability of Alaska's greatest renewable resource industry!

Contact the governor and your legislators, and tell them you support Alaska's seafood industry.

Contribute to *Salmon for Alaska's Future* today, and volunteer your time to help get the message out!

Send your contribution to:

Salmon for Alaska's Future

P.O. Box 92149, Anchorage, AK 99509 Phone (907) 562-8825

...for supporting Alaska's Seafood Industry:

- ★ Alaska's Largest Private Sector Employer, Providing 35,000 Jobs
- ★ Second Largest Source of State Tax Revenues Behind Oil
- ★ 47% of Alaska's Private Sector Employment is Related to Seafood
- ★ Generates \$1.2 Billion in Annual Economic Activity for Alaska
- ★ 77% of Commercial Salmon Permits are Owned by Alaskans

Salmon for Alaska's Future, a group founded by former Governor Jay Hammond and others to fight the F.I.S.H. Initiative, wants to thank its contributors and the more than 100 Alaskan municipalities, groups and businesses that passed resolutions opposing the F.I.S.H. Initiative.

Boroughs/Municipalities
Aleutians East Borough
City & Borough of Juneau
City & Borough of Sitka
City of Bethel
City of Cordova
City of Craig
City of Dillingham
City of Homer
City of Hoonah
City of Kenai
City of Ketchikan
City of King Cove
City of Kodiak
City of Kupreanof
City of Pelican
City of Petersburg
City of Port Alexander
City of Sand Point
City of Unalaska
City of Valdez
City of Wrangell
Edna Bay Community
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Ketchikan Gateway Borough
Kodiak Island Borough

Chambers of Commerce
Cordova Chamber of Commerce
Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce
Kodiak Chamber of Commerce
North Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

Municipal Organizations
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

Commercial Fishing Organizations
Alaska Trappers Association
Pacific Seafood Processors Assn. Members
North Pacific Fisheries Association
United Fishermen of Alaska
(representing 17 Alaska commercial fishing organizations and 4 aquaculture associations)

Native Corporations & Associations
Alaska Federation of Natives
Eyak Corporation
Eyak Tribal Council
False Pass Tribal Council
Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA
Salamatof Native Association, Inc.
Shumagin Corporation
Tatishlak Corporation

Regional Aquaculture Associations
Southern SE Regional Aquaculture Association

Alaskan Businesses
Adams Enterprises
Alaska Commercial Fishing & Agriculture Bank
Alaska Power
Alaska Ship Supply
Alaskan Bar
Anderson Electronics
Arc 'n' Spark Welding
Babic Fisheries
Club Bottle Shop
Copper Highway Heating
Copper River Delta Smokery
Cordova Air Service

Cordova Airporth
Cordova Commercial Company
Cordova Dive Salvage & Recovery
Cordova Drug Company, Inc.
Cordova House Restaurant
Cordova Outboard
Cordova Realty
Davis Super Foods
Espresso to Go
Finn's
Harbor Hydraulics
Hoover's Movers, Inc.
Killer Whale Cafe
Laura's Liquor Shoppe
Lost Coast Engineering
Ocean Beauty Seafoods
Orca Book
Orca Oil Company, Inc.
Performance Power Sports
Platt Enterprises
Plumbline Plumbing & Heating
Porter House Apartments
Prince William Motel
Redden Net
R&P Marine
R&R Enterprises
Remy's Florist
Rhonda's Hair Flair
Ronald O. Goodrich Company
Samuelson Rentals
Sound Investor Fisheries
St. Elias Seafoods
Tongass Trading Company
Uptown Business Organization
Webber Marine & Manufacturing, Inc.



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 112
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907/586-2820
Fax: 907/463-2545

The Truth about the F.I.S.H. Initiative

What is the F.I.S.H. Initiative all about?

- * The F.I.S.H. Initiative seeks to give absolute priority to sport and personal use fishing over commercial fishing, by allocating 5% of the total statewide salmon harvest to sport and personal use fishing and by giving priority to sport and personal use fishing over commercial fishing.
- * A 5% allocation of the statewide salmon harvest is equal to a 1,000 percent increase compared to existing statewide sport and personal use harvest levels.
- * The F.I.S.H. Initiative allocates 5% statewide, not by region or by stock. This leaves the Board of Fisheries no management latitude to deal with fishery reliance or patterns of use, which differ by area.

The 5% Allocation is Unrealistic and Deceptive.

- * The allocation would be based on projected "harvest capability" each year, or how much the Board of Fisheries thinks the sport fishery may be able to catch, not what is needed to maintain quality sport fishing experiences, food for Alaskan residents and viable commercial fisheries.
- * The F.I.S.H. Initiative allocates five percent statewide, not by region or stock. In some areas, the priority sport and personal use fisheries could take *all* of the harvest as long as the statewide total does not exceed five percent -- which on average could be six to ten million fish.
- * In many regions, angler catches of sport target species already far exceed 5% of the area harvest of some salmon stocks. For example, in Upper Cook Inlet 93% of the chinook and 46% of the coho were caught in the recreational fisheries in 1993. During that same year in Upper Cook Inlet, sport anglers also caught 7% of sockeye, 42% of pink and 15% of chum salmon.

If the F.I.S.H. Initiative passes -- Alaska loses!

*** Fish Lose.**

The healthy and abundant salmon runs Alaska enjoys today are a result of successful management plans developed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and implemented by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. When it comes to maintaining salmon production levels necessary to meet Alaska's goal of conservation and fair sharing, too many fish on the spawning grounds can be just as disruptive to the balance as too few.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association
Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Peninsula Marketing Association
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

Management decisions that could lead to additional in-river effort should be carefully assessed with an eye toward habitat protection. The preservation of our fragile fisheries resources is an important responsibility that shouldn't be driven by the vagaries of politics and misinformation.

• **Resident anglers lose.**

The F.I.S.H. Initiative creates an incentive for commercialization of Alaska's sport fisheries. As the number of non-resident anglers increases, their "harvest capability" will climb at the expense of our residents.

• **Commercial Fishermen lose.**

Since the allocation will be reserve based on projected harvest capability, not actual need, commercial fisheries will be restricted if there is a chance of affecting the success rate (harvest capability) of a priority fishery.

Any commercial fishery that harvests even a small portion of fish destined for sport or personal use areas could be closed until the priority users get all they want.

• **The Public loses.**

Many people in Alaska and elsewhere enjoy eating salmon, but not all of them can or want to catch their own. Taking fish from commercial fishermen deprives the consumers they serve.

The public benefits from commercial fishing contributions to the state general fund, as well as business opportunities provided by the seafood industry.

The seafood industry is Alaska's biggest private employer and is second only to oil in the revenue generated for the state.

From gear suppliers to grocery stores, thousand of Alaska small businesses thrive on a healthy seafood industry.

• **The State of Alaska loses.**

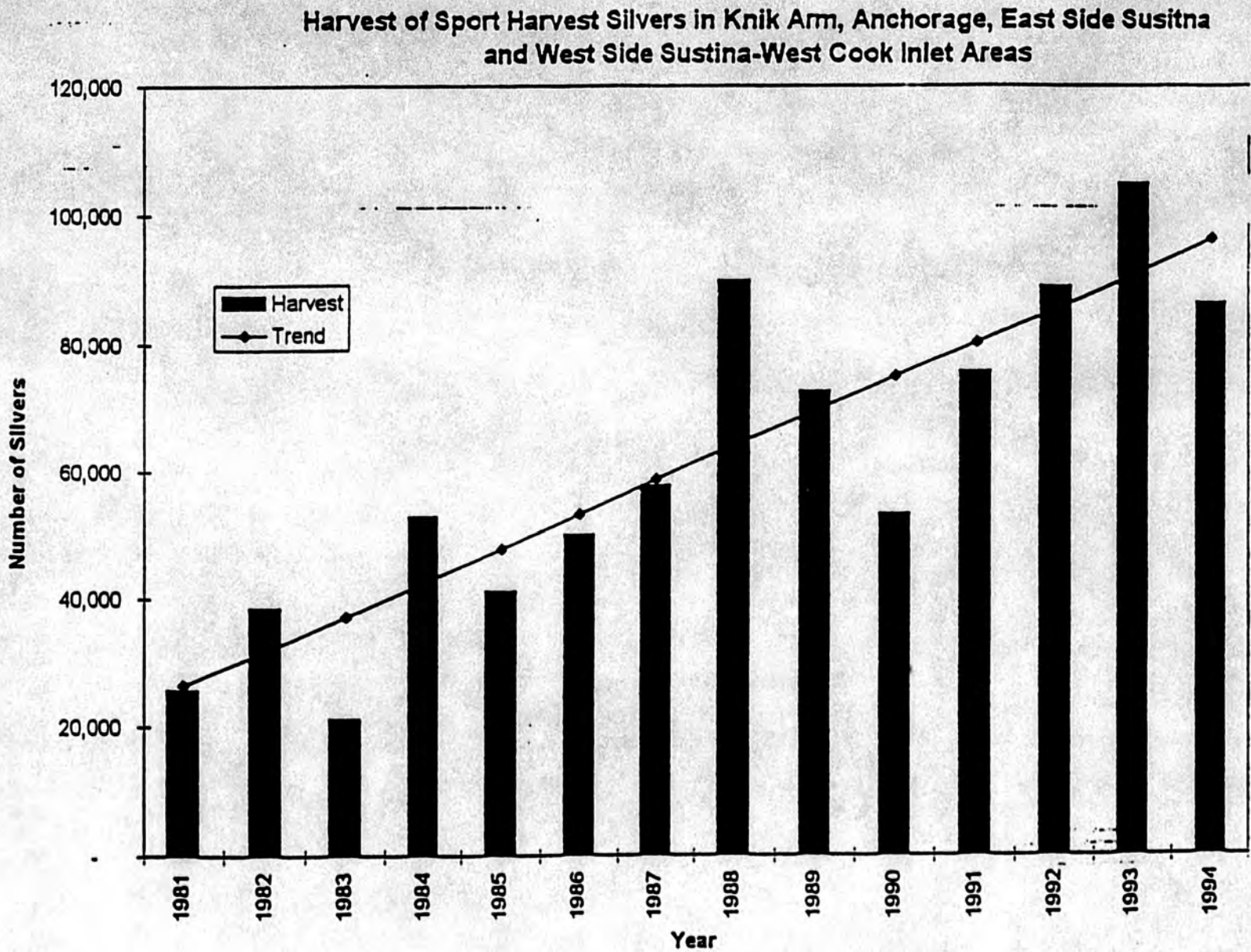
Granting a resource priority which benefits a special interest is contrary to Alaska's commitment to multiple use principles. The F.I.S.H. Initiative discourages investment in an existing industry, will displace resident fishermen of all types and could negatively impact tourism. Jobs could be lost statewide.

The seafood industry is the state's largest employer with a labor force of nearly 35,000 each year. The seafood industry fuels much of Alaska's rural economy. Eighty percent of Alaska's salmon permit holders are residents. Some fisheries are as much as 86% resident Alaskans. These fishermen hire thousand of residents each year and thousands more are employed in the processing and support sector. The Initiative places a significant number of those jobs at risk.

The F.I.S.H. Initiative discourages investment in the salmon industry at a time when value-added processing and new marketing methods are increasing the number of Alaskans directly benefiting from this vital industry.

Alaska has been marketed to tourists as a unique place to get high quality fishing experience. Packing our rivers with people is sure to diminish the quality of the experience and kill the Alaska mystique.

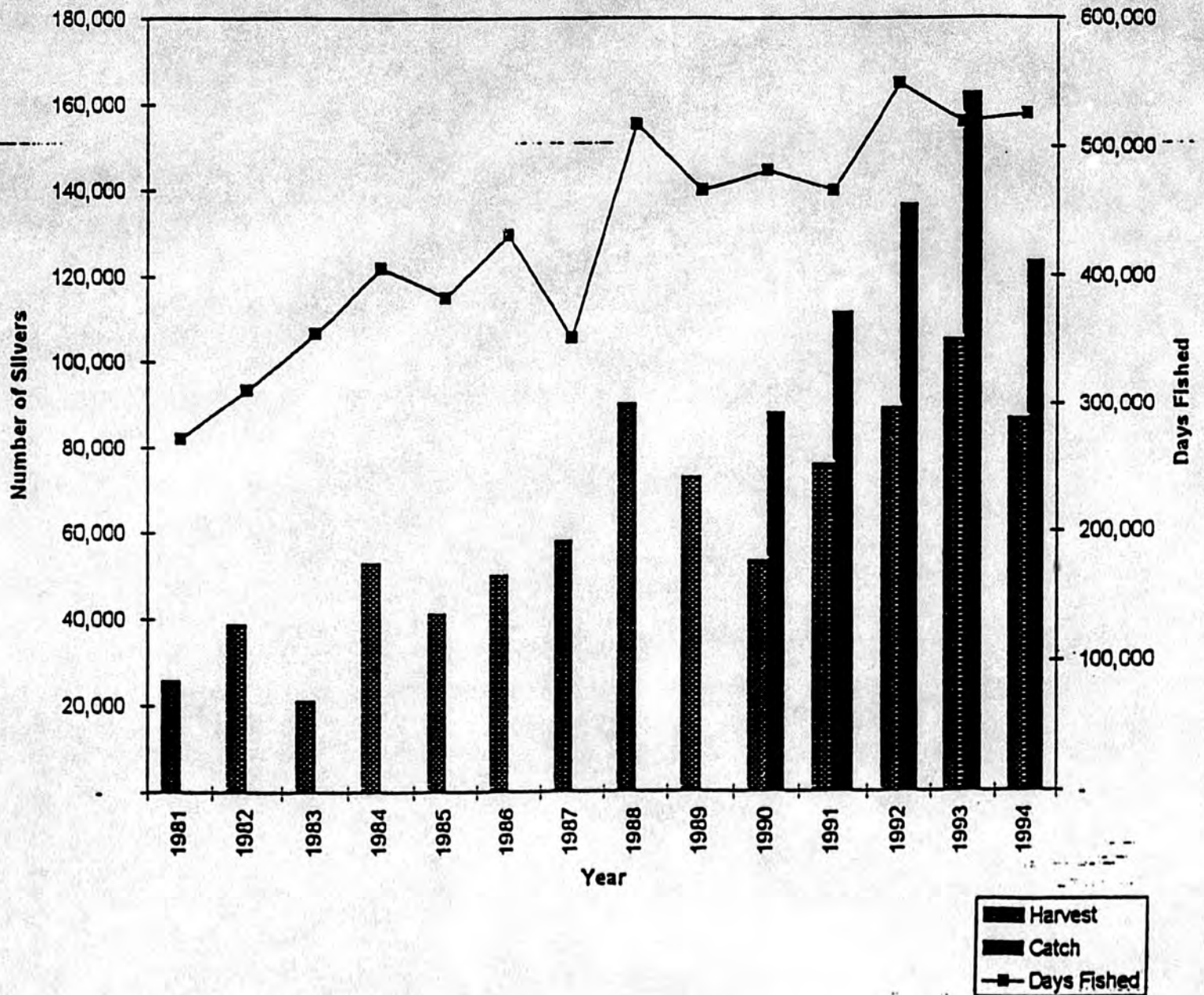
Figure 5



This chart shows the number of sport caught silvers in Knik Arm, Anchorage, East Side Susitna, West Side Susitna-West Cook Inlet drainages. It is evident from the trend line that the silver harvest has increased substantially over that time period.

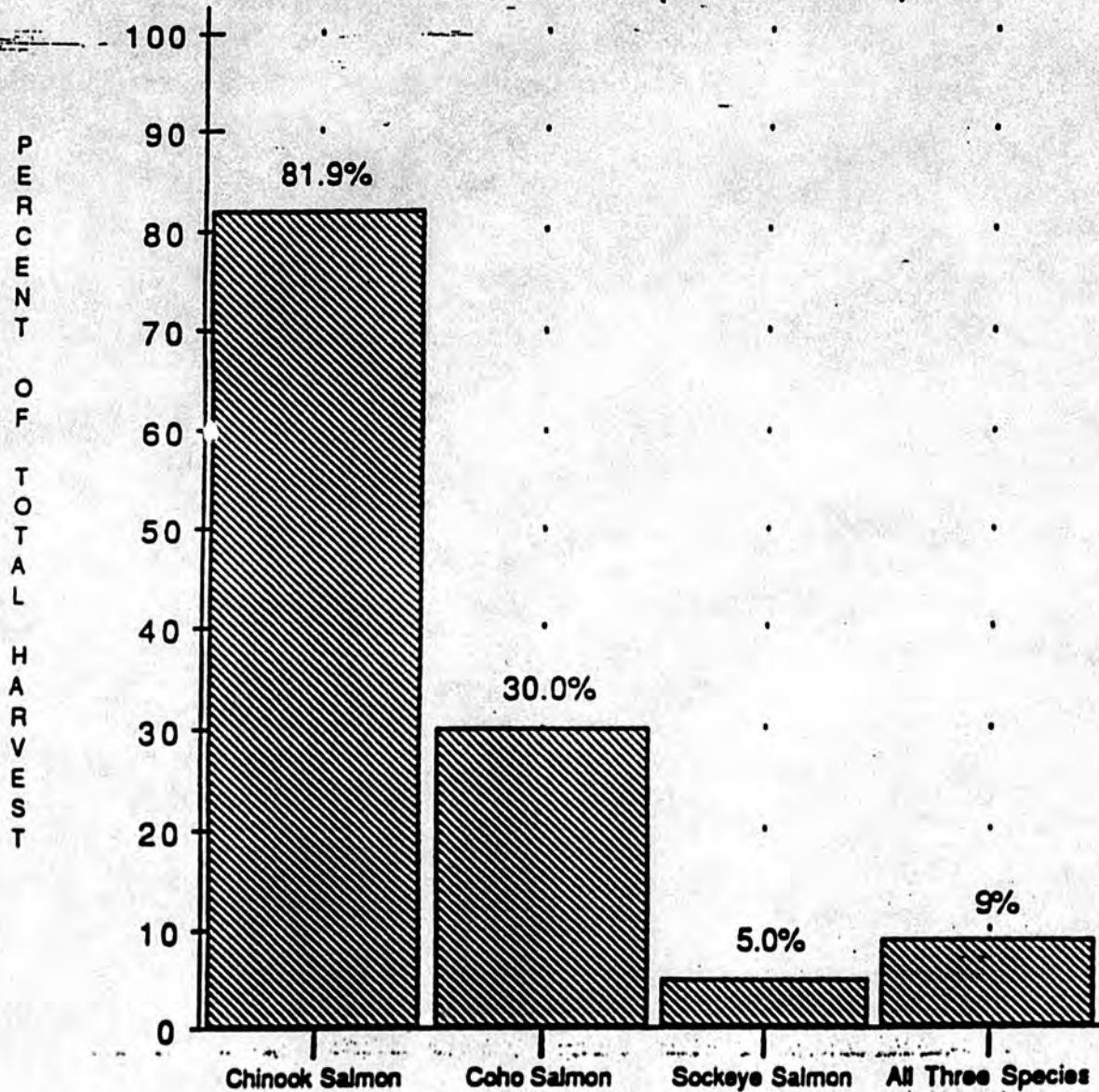
Figure 6

**Sport Harvest of Silvers in Knik Arm, Anchorage, East Susitna River, and West Cook Inlet
West Susitna River Drainages**



This chart compares the number of sport-fishing days in Knik Arm, Anchorage, East Side Susitna, West Side Susitna-West Cook Inlet drainages with the catch and harvest of silvers in those systems. The number of total fishing days has about doubled since statistics have been kept while the harvest has increased almost four-fold.

Upper Cook Inlet - Percent Of Total Salmon Harvest Taken By Recreational Fishermen (1990 - 1995)



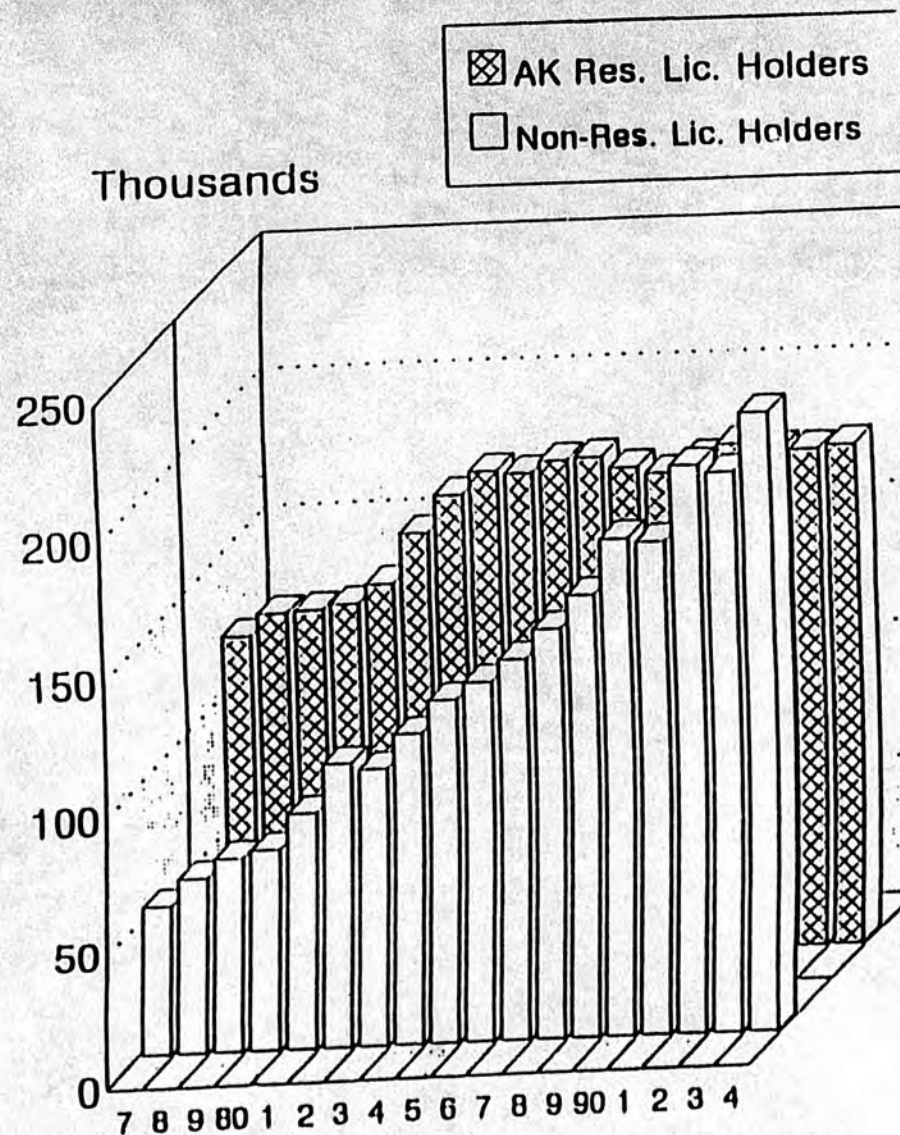
- * Recreational harvest does not include Resurrection Bay or Lower Cook Inlet
- * Recreational harvest does not include any dipnet, personal use or subsistence fisheries.

Source: (1) "Harvest, Catch and Participation in Alaska Sport Fisheries" Reports for 1990 - 1995, ADF&G
 (2) "Upper Cook Inlet Annual Management Report, 1994", ADF&G

PERCENT TAKEN

Resident and Non-Resident Alaska Fishing License Holders (1977 - 1994)

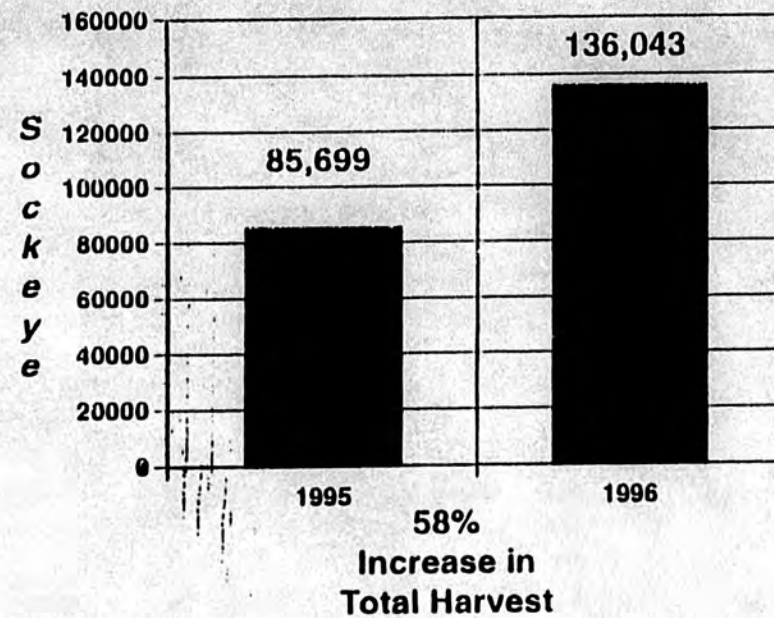
Recreational Fisheries Participation in a Statewide Context



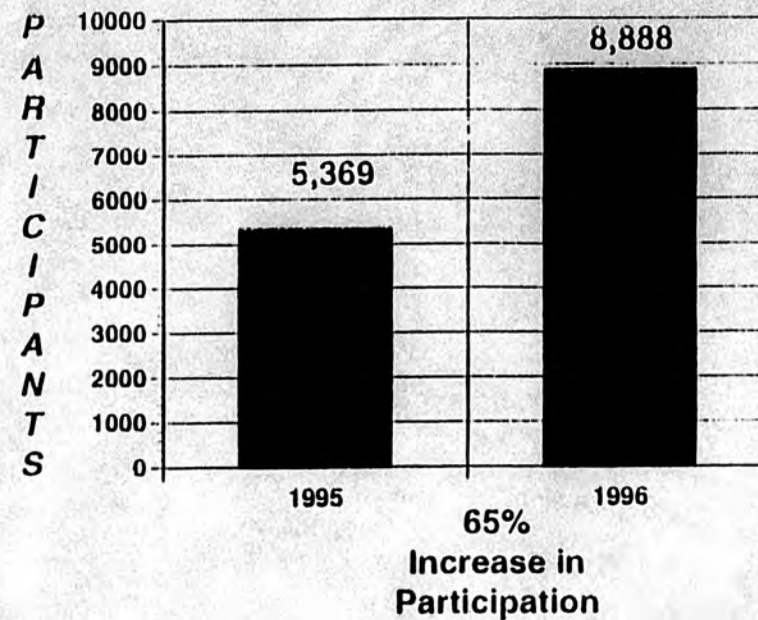
The Only Growing Sport Fishery
Is The Non-Resident Sport Fisherv!

1995 & 1996 Personal Use Sockeye Fishery

HARVEST 1995 & 1996



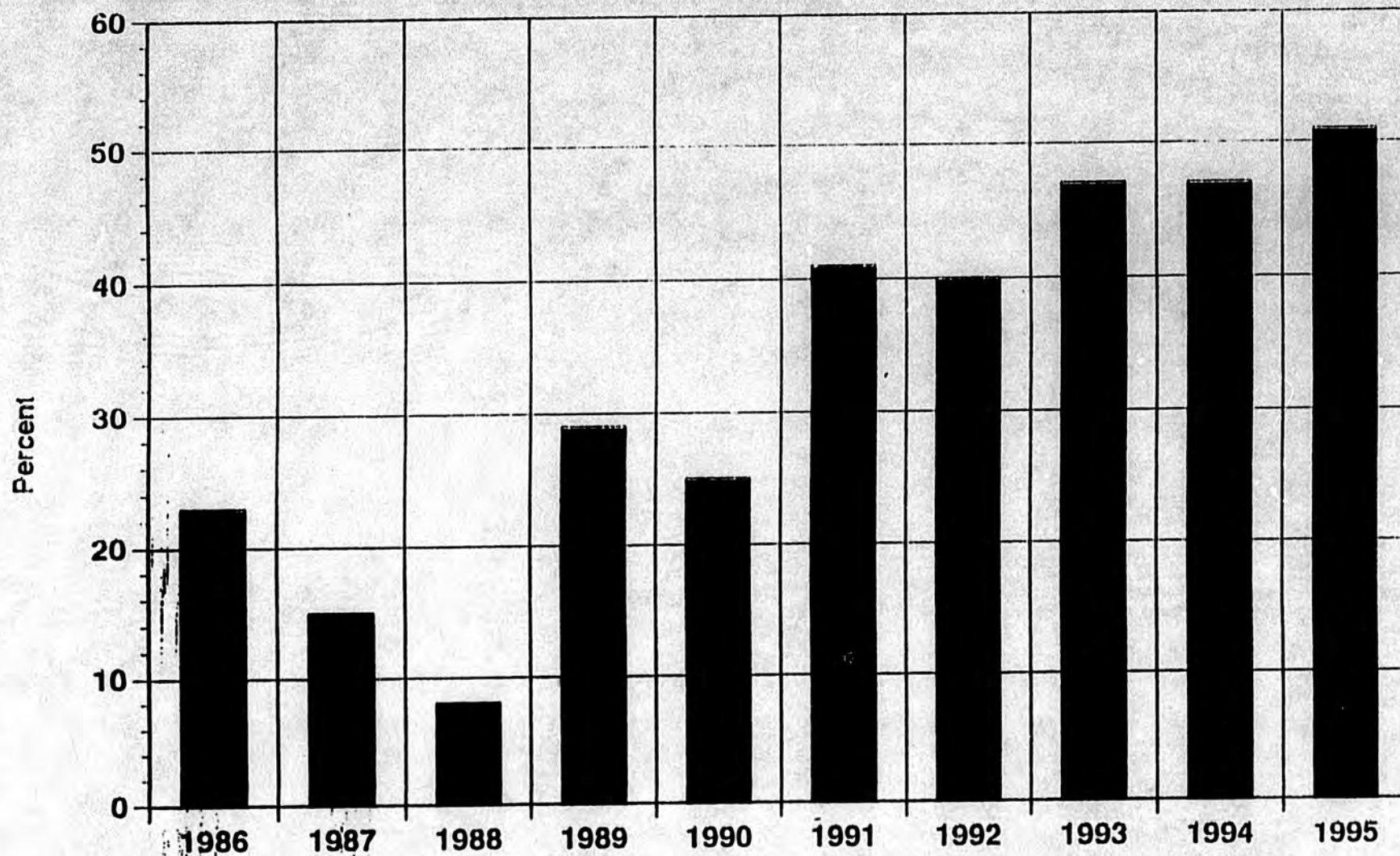
Participation 1995 & 1996



*Includes *ONLY* permits returned with reported harvest.

**"It would be prudent to stabilize the harvest of Kenai River coho."
(ADF&G Proposal H problem statement)**

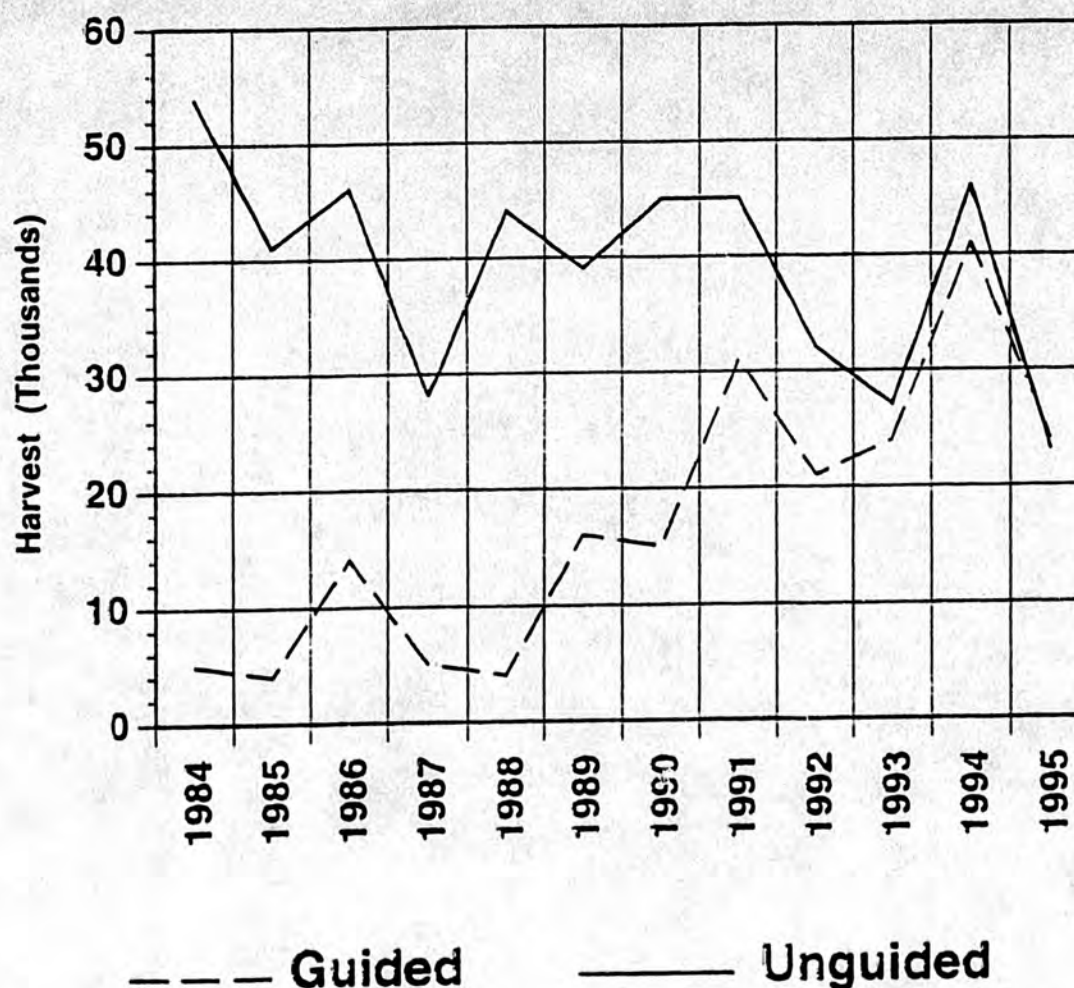
***Guided Percentage of Kenai River Coho Sport Harvest
1986 - 1995***



Guided angler harvest percentage has shown steady growth since 1989.

**"In recent years the harvest by guided anglers has increased and now equals that of non-guided anglers"
(ADF&G Proposal H problem statement)**

***Kenai River Sport Harvest of Coho Salmon
Guided & Unguided 1984 - 1995***



**Commercialization of in-river sport fisheries
has dramatically increased Kenai River coho harvests.**



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 389 • Kenai, Alaska 99611 - 0389

(907) 283-3600 • FAX (907) 283-3306 e-mail: ucida@kenai.net

November 5, 1997

To: House Special Committee on Fisheries

Subject: Documentation in support of our opposition to HB 149

Dear Committee Members,

UCIDA appreciates this opportunity to meet with you in Soldotna and discuss issues surrounding Upper Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. UCIDA is adamantly opposed to the allocative legislation known as HB 149 which was spawned from the F.I.S.H. Initiative. In these comments we have limited our remarks to what we term the **THREE MYTHS**:

- The Myth of the dissatisfied angler
- The Myth of the greater value of a sport caught fish, and
- The Myth of a 99% commercial harvest

As supporting materials we would like to submit the following enclosures:

- 1) Results of a public opinion poll conducted in Southcentral Alaska for Salmon Producers Alliance, Feb. 23, 1996 (Pages 1-7)
 - *25.6% of households have no fishers
 - *74.7% of respondents were satisfied or sometimes satisfied with their family catch over the last 3 years
 - *83.3% felt paid guided trips should be limited when river becomes too crowded
 - *61.3% had no opinion about the Board of Fisheries and any commercial domination, and
 - *79.0% felt that the right of commercial fishers to make a living should be an important consideration when allocating fish.

November 5, 1997

Page Two

- 2) The Executive Summary of the "ISER" Report - Economic Effects of Management Changes for Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye, Feb., 1996 (Pages 8-19)

ISER did not study the status quo. It studied the consequences of increasing the sockeye escapement into the Kenai River to benefit sport anglers.

The most general findings of the ISER Report (please see pg. 10 enclosures) were:

- *Most of the increase in net economic value of the sport fishery for residents is non-monetary, and
- *Most of the net loss in net economic value for the commercial fishery is monetary, and
- *As measured by economic impacts, reducing commercial harvest would probably cost the economy more jobs and payroll than would be created by the improved sport fishery

- 3) Catch and harvest data compiled from 1977-1994 ADF&G's Statewide Harvest mail surveys indicate (Pages 20-25):

*ADF&G data shows that for 1994, Upper Cook Inlet anglers harvested 9.0% of all salmon, 81.2% of all chinook salmon, 25.4% of all coho salmon, 5.0% of all sockeye salmon, 3.3% of all pink salmon, and 1.1% of all chum salmon.

UCIDA appreciates the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,



Theo Matthews
Executive Director
UCIDA

TM/ra

Enclosures

Applied Marketing Research
400 D Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 279-3982 • FAX (907) 279-0321
Internet: jcraciun@craciun.alaska.net

CRACIUN & ASSOCIATES

A Marketing Research Report

conducted for

Salmon Producers Alliance

by
CRACIUN & ASSOCIATES
February 23, 1996

CONTENTS

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II. RESEARCH METHODS	3
♦ NOTE TO READER	4
III. RESEARCH RESULTS	5
A. FISHING PRACTICES	5
B. ISSUES RELATED TO FISHING	7

I. INTRODUCTION

The Salmon Producers Alliance sponsored a telephone survey of four hundred residents of the Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula, and Mat-Su Valley areas to determine public opinion about the fishing industry. This study was conducted as part of an ongoing effort by the Salmon Producers Alliance to develop pro-active strategies for promoting the commercial fishing industry to government policy-makers and to the Alaskan people.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

Survey Instrument

The Craciun team collaborated with representatives of the Salmon Producers Alliance to develop the survey instrument, using information from two focus groups Craciun & Associates conducted for the client in November of 1995. Craciun interviewers conducted a pre-test with the draft questionnaire and the team recommended modifications to the survey instrument before the study began.

Sample

A random sample of telephone numbers was drawn from current voter registration lists in the Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Kenai areas. The number of interviews completed from the three geographic areas were n=271 in Anchorage (68%), n=74 in the Mat-Su Valley (19%), and n=53 in the Kenai Peninsula (13%). The percentages approximately represent the proportionate numbers of voters from these locations. The ratio of women to men interviewed was 1:1, and more than half of the respondents (54%) were 35 to 54 years old.

The final survey sample was four hundred (N=400). The margin of error for statistics derived from a sample of N=400 is ± 5 percent. In other words, the odds are 19 out of 20 that if researchers sought to survey all voters from the specified geographic areas, the findings would differ from the actual results by no more than 5 percentage points in either direction. Standard screening procedures ensured that each respondent was at least 18 years of age.

Interviews

Respondents were personally contacted by professional interviewers employed by Craciun & Associates from November 28, 1995 through December 11, 1995 from a centralized and supervised phone bank. Interviewers are trained in skills needed to keep non-response to a minimum, answer frequently-asked questions, use vocabulary relevant to the study, and record verbatim responses to open-ended questions accurately. Interviewers used a data sheet to record both the results of the initial call and the eligibility for call backs (up to five callbacks were made). All information gathered was considered strictly confidential.

All Craciun interviewers must participate in on-going training sessions and are constantly supervised. The importance of these measures was highlighted when a recent Alaska Pacific University focus group project concluded that the interviewer's professionalism is a primary reason that people ultimately decide to participate in surveys and continue through till their completion.¹ We believe that our attention to detail and commitment to quality underlie the success of this survey.

Craciun & Associates conducts extensive tracking and internal monitoring of all completed surveys. All staff members complete Confidentiality Forms prior to the start of all research projects and Certification Forms at the end of a project. We are committed to the highest ethical and professional standards in every phase of the research process, from our concern for "human participants" to our expert training and experience in gathering data.²

Analysis

Once the data was collected from the respondents, the answers from each survey instrument were coded and entered into SPSS³, a computer software program used for data analysis. Data was recorded, as necessary, to include unanticipated answers to single questions and to create new variables based on combinations of answers given by survey respondents. Survey data presented in this report include tables showing frequency distributions of answers to survey questions and cross tabulations of relevant variables.

Note to Reader

Research results are presented below. Included in the presentation of each question's response is a short narrative that analyzes some of the significant findings in the accompanying tables. Except where specifically noted, only tables and narratives that represent statistically significant findings are included in this report. All percentages in the narrative are rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

For ease of reference, all tables within the body of the report are numbered according to the question number on the survey instrument. For instance: the table entitled "Table A4-2" would be the second table presented in reference to Question #2, and would be found in Section A of this report.

Frequency tables list categories of response by the actual number of responses and include the percentage of the total responses in each category. Often a few respondents fail to answer a question. Unless the percentage of those who failed to answer is significant, these people are not included in the totals on which the percentages are based.

¹ Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage. Department of Business Administration. MS 641 Marketing Research and Strategy, Winter, 1996. Syllabus. Instructor: Jean Craciun

² See Committee for the Protection of Human Participants in Research. (1982) *Ethical principles in the conduct of research with human participants*. Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association.

³ Trademark Registered.

II. RESEARCH RESULTS

A. FISHING PRACTICES

Question:

Does anyone else in your household go fishing?

This series of questions were aimed at revealing the level of familiarity that individuals in the general public feel with fishing in Alaska, and the level of satisfaction they feel with their fishing experiences.

When those 383 respondents (not commercial fishers or paid guides) were asked if anyone else in their household fishes, three-quarters (74%) responded that at least one person in their household currently does some type of fishing.

TABLE A2-1: Households of Respondents who are not Commercial Fishers or Guides

	Count	Percent
At least one fisher in household	285	74.4%
No fishers in household.....	98	25.6%
TOTAL.....	383	100.0%

Note: Only the 383 people who are not now commercial fishermen or guides were asked this question.

Question:

In the last three years have you or your family been catching enough fish to satisfy your needs?

Two hundred fourteen of the respondents were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their experience catching fish. Fourteen percent refused to answer or answered "Don't Know".

TABLE A2-2: Satisfaction with Recent Catch

	Percent of those who answered		Percent of all respondents	
In the last 3 years:				
Family catch satisfactory...	174	60.8%	174	52.3%
Sometimes satisfactory.....	40	13.9%	40	12.0%
Not satisfactory.....	72	25.2%	72	21.6%
No answer.....			47	14.1%
TOTAL.....	286	100.0%	333*	100.0%

*This question was asked only of those who are not currently commercial fishermen or paid guides and have some experience of fishing.

B. ISSUES RELATED TO FISHING

Question:

Here are some statements about the salmon fishers in Cook Inlet.

Please tell me for each whether you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree?

In the question above several statements were addressed to the respondents regarding issues of concern for the Salmon Producers Alliance. The respondents were asked to indicate their strong or moderate agreement or disagreement with each declaration.

One statement with which a large majority of respondents agree, strongly or somewhat, is "Paid guided trips should be limited when a river becomes too crowded" (83%).

Especially telling is the response to the question concerning the key issue of control and ownership in the fishing industry sixty-one percent did not respond at all to the statement: "The fisheries board is dominated by commercial fishing members". Although respondents gave the least amount of approval for this statement, they also indicated a very significant lack of information.

TABLE B4-1: Comparison of Attitudes by Area Polled
(Percentage of those who Agree Strongly or Somewhat)

	Agree	No opinion *	Disagree
Paid guided trips should be limited when a river becomes too crowded.....	333 83.3%	26 6.5%	41 10.3%
The fisheries board is dominated by commercial fishing members.....	113 28.3%	245 61.3%	42 10.5%

Each of these percentages represents the proportion of respondents in that category who agreed, either strongly or somewhat, with the statement on that row.

The right of commercial fishers to make a living should be an important consideration when allotting fish

316	79.2%	23	5.8%	61	15.3%
-----	-------	----	------	----	-------

UPPER COOK INLET FISHERIES INFORMATION

		RECREATIONAL FISHERY (does not include fish taken in Resurrection Bay or Lower Cook Inlet, nor does it include any dipter, personal use or subsistence fisheries)	COMMERCIAL FISHERY (includes only Upper Cook Inlet catch)	Of The Total Anadromous Salmon Of ALL SPECIES CAUGHT in Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisheries, The Recreational Fishery CAUGHT	Of The Total Anadromous Salmon Of ALL SPECIES HARVESTED in Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisher: The Recreational Fishery HARVESTED
1977		174,866	4,047,257		4.1%
1978		283,685	5,118,134		5.3%
1979		161,541	1,926,658		7.7%
1980		276,444	4,035,918		6.4%
1981		167,546	2,896,634		5.5%
1982		286,824	6,299,185		4.4%
1983		235,004	6,771,874		3.4%
1984		323,066	3,864,947		7.7%
1985		301,915	5,612,407		5.1%
1986		401,030	8,017,585		4.8%
1987		633,027	10,450,191		5.7%
1988		541,941	8,601,969		5.9%
1989		610,491	5,566,098		9.9%
1990	C	889,856	5,075,630	14.9%	7.7%
	N	423,581	5,075,630		
1991	C	795,375	2,911,721	21.5%	15.4%
	N	529,222	2,911,721		
1992	C	1,098,405	10,564,584	9.4%	5.4%
	N	601,567	10,564,584		
1993	C	968,530	5,303,924	15.4%	9.0%
	N	522,693	5,303,924		
1994	C	814,850	4,988,000	14.0%	9.0%
	N	493,690	4,988,000		

C = catch N = harvest

UPPER COOK INLET FISHERIES INFORMATION

RECREATIONAL FISHERY
(does not include fish
taken in Resurrection
Bay or Lower Cook Inlet,
nor does it include any
dipnet, personal use or
subsistence fisheries)

COMMERCIAL FISHERY
(includes only Upper
Cook Inlet catch)

Of The Total Anadromous
KING SALMON
CAUGHT In Upper Cook Inlet
In These Two Fisheries,
The Recreational Fishery
CAUGHT

Of The Total Anadromous
KING SALMON
HARVESTED In Upper Cook
Inlet In These Two Fisheri
The Recreational Fishery
HARVESTED

1977		19,807		14,790		57.3%
1978		20,583		17,299		54.3%
1979		25,913		13,738		65.4%
1980		16,829		13,798		54.9%
1981		27,684		12,240		69.3%
1982		33,356		20,870		61.5%
1983		42,008		20,634		67.1%
1984		46,298		10,062		82.1%
1985		50,273		24,088		67.6%
1986		60,872		39,240		60.8%
1987		66,010		39,661		62.5%
1988		78,978		29,060		73.1%
1989		67,064		26,742		71.5%
1990	C	129,684		16,105	88.8%	76.7%
	H	52,938		16,105		
1991	C	111,665		13,535	89.2%	82.5%
	H	63,853		13,535		
1992	C	158,953		17,171	90.3%	82.8%
	H	82,648		17,171		
1993	C	246,347		18,719	92.9%	86.0%
	H	114,941		18,719		
1994	C	138,369		20,260	87.2%	81.2%
	H	87,255		20,260		

C = catch H = harvest

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UPPER COOK INLET FISHERIES INFORMATION

		RECREATIONAL FISHERY (does not include fish taken in Resurrection Bay or Lower Cook Inlet, nor does it include any dipnet, personal use or subsistence fisheries)	COMMERCIAL FISHERY (includes only Upper Cook Inlet catch)	Of The Total Anadromous COWO SALMON CAUGHT In Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisheries, The Recreational Fishery CAUGHT	Of The Total Anadromous COWO SALMON HARVESTED In Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisheries The Recreational Fishery HARVESTED
1977		33,756	192,599		14.9%
1978		46,701	219,193		17.6%
1979		49,063	265,166		15.6%
1980		74,834	271,418		21.6%
1981		56,159	484,411		10.4%
1982		86,229	793,937		9.8%
1983		50,833	516,322		9.0%
1984		122,761	449,993		21.4%
1985		95,596	667,213		12.5%
1986		120,299	756,830		13.7%
1987		107,762	451,404		19.3%
1988		157,981	560,022		22.0%
1989		154,188	339,201		31.3%
1990	C	200,812	500,634	28.6%	
	H	127,251	500,634		20.3%
1991	C	227,805	425,724	34.9%	
	H	170,497	425,724		28.6%
1992	C	226,866	468,911	32.6%	
	H	157,722	468,911		25.2%
1993	C	258,661	306,822	45.7%	
	H	177,273	306,822		36.6%
1994	C	262,436	580,567	31.1%	
	H	197,775	580,567		25.4%

C = catch H = harvest

UPPER COOK INLET FISHERIES INFORMATION

RECREATIONAL FISHERY (does not include fish taken in Resurrection Bay or Lower Cook Inlet, nor does it include any dipnet, personal use or subsistence fisheries)		COMMERCIAL FISHERY (includes only Upper Cook Inlet catch)	Of The Total Anadromous SOCKEYE SALMON CAUGHT IN Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisheries, The Recreational Fishery CAUGHT	Of The Total Anadromous SOCKEYE SALMON HARVESTED IN Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisher- ies The Recreational Fishery HARVESTED
1977	82,235	2,052,291		3.9%
1978	105,462	2,621,421		3.9%
1979	63,479	924,415		6.4%
1980	92,621	1,573,597		5.6%
1981	64,424	1,439,277		4.3%
1982	109,054	3,259,864		3.2%
1983	124,520	5,049,733		2.4%
1984	94,263	2,106,714		4.3%
1985	140,758	4,060,429		3.4%
1986	158,803	4,787,982		3.2%
1987	441,876	9,500,186		4.4%
1988	256,528	6,834,342		3.6%
1989	368,197	5,010,698		6.8%
1990	C 355,993 H 196,852	3,604,064 3,604,064	9.0%	5.2%
1991	C 409,113 H 281,100	2,177,576 2,177,576	15.8%	11.4%
1992	C 510,613 H 323,549	9,108,340 9,108,340	5.3%	3.4%
1993	C 370,390 H 216,201	4,754,698 4,754,698	7.2%	4.3%
1994	C 309,503 H 187,643	3,567,392 3,567,392	8.0%	5.0%

C = catch H = harvest

UPPER COOK INLET FISHERIES INFORMATION

		RECREATIONAL FISHERY (does not include fish taken in Resurrection Bay or Lower Cook Inlet, nor does it include any dipnet, personal use or subsistence fisheries)	COMMERCIAL FISHERY (includes only Upper Cook Inlet catch)	Of The Total Anadromous PINK SALMON CAUGHT in Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisheries, The Recreational Fishery CAUGHT	Of The Total Anadromous PINK SALMON HARVESTED in Upper Cook Inlet in These Two Fisheries The Recreational Fishery HARVESTED
1977		36,968	553,851		6.3%
1978		92,598	1,688,442		5.2%
1979		17,378	72,982		19.2%
1980		86,377	1,786,430		4.6%
1981		14,191	127,164		10.0%
1982		49,738	790,648		5.9%
1983		10,981	70,327		13.5%
1984		51,343	617,452		7.7%
1985		11,142	87,828		11.3%
1986		50,116	1,299,360		3.7%
1987		10,064	109,801		8.4%
1988		33,144	469,972		6.6%
1989		9,931	67,430		12.8%
1990	C	183,185	603,630	23.3%	6.7%
	H	43,004	603,630		
1991	C	31,612	14,663	68.3%	40.2%
	H	9,868	14,663		
1992	C	178,491	695,859	20.4%	4.6%
	H	33,831	695,859		
1993	C	72,166	100,918	41.7%	7.0%
	H	7,654	100,918		
1994	C	92,431	520,481	15.1%	3.3%
	H	17,613	520,481		

C = catch H = harvest

UPPER COOK INLET FISHERIES INFORMATION

RECREATIONAL FISHERY
(does not include fish
taken in Resurrection
Bay or Lower Cook Inlet,
nor does it include any
dipnet, personal use or
subsistence fisheries)

COMMERCIAL FISHERY
(includes only Upper
Cook Inlet catch)

Of The Total Anadromous
CHUM SALMON
CAUGHT In Upper Cook Inlet
In These Two Fisheries,
The Recreational Fishery
CAUGHT

Of The Total Anadromous
CHUM SALMON
HARVESTED In Upper Cook
Inlet In These Two Fisheries,
The Recreational Fishery
HARVESTED

Year		RECREATIONAL FISHERY	COMMERCIAL FISHERY	Of The Total Anadromous CHUM SALMON CAUGHT In Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisheries, The Recreational Fishery CAUGHT	Of The Total Anadromous CHUM SALMON HARVESTED In Upper Cook Inlet In These Two Fisheries, The Recreational Fishery HARVESTED
1977		2,098	1,233,722		0.2%
1978		18,341	571,779		3.1%
1979		5,708	650,357		0.9%
1980		5,783	390,675		1.5%
1981		5,088	833,542		0.6%
1982		8,447	1,433,866		0.6%
1983		6,662	1,114,858		0.6%
1984		8,401	680,726		1.2%
1985		4,146	772,849		0.5%
1986		10,940	1,134,173		1.0%
1987		7,315	349,139		2.1%
1988		15,310	708,573		2.1%
1989		11,111	122,027		8.3%
1990	C	20,182	331,197	5.4%	1.0%
	N	3,536	331,197		
1991	C	15,180	280,223	5.1%	1.4%
	N	3,904	280,223		
1992	C	23,482	274,303	7.9%	1.4%
	N	3,817	274,303		
1993	C	20,966	122,767	14.6%	2.6%
	N	3,241	122,767		
1994	C	22,894	299,300	7.1%	1.1%
	N	3,384	299,300		

C = catch N = harvest

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Appendix A13.-Number of angler-days fished in Alaska and percentage by region and area, 1985-1995.

Area Fished	1985		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Southeast												
Ketchikan	81,303	4.2	82,914	4	83,697	3.9	98,166	4.2	92,647	4.1	91,127	3.7
Prince of Wales Island	24,208	1.2	25,002	1.2	30,845	1.4	35,571	1.5	50,659	2.2	50,214	2
Kake, Petersburg, Wrangell, Stikine	29,849	1.5	30,502	1.5	37,181	1.7	39,004	1.7	53,955	2.4	59,965	2.4
Sitka	36,615	1.9	39,760	1.9	45,583	2.1	48,680	2.1	59,230	2.6	61,906	2.5
Juneau	122,781	6.3	121,055	5.8	114,756	5.3	108,860	4.7	115,360	5.1	122,045	5
Haines-Skagway	40,412	2.1	43,870	2.1	46,011	2.1	40,169	1.7	48,018	2.1	56,746	2.3
Glacier Bay	3,901	0.2	3,864	0.2	7,178	0.3	9,276	0.4	8,895	0.4	7,857	0.3
Yakutat	10,698	0.6	11,020	0.5	14,476	0.7	18,067	0.8	12,142	0.5	12,685	0.5
Total^a	349,767	18	357,987	17.3	379,727	17.6	397,793	17.2	440,906	19.5	462,545	18.9
Southcentral												
Glennallen	48,707	2.5	51,563	2.5	52,324	2.4	45,867	2	52,262	2.3	50,791	2.1
Prince William Sound	72,662	3.7	64,280	3.1	81,221	3.8	84,971	3.7	95,295	4.2	105,739	4.3
Knik Arm Drainage	122,626	6.3	131,606	6.4	140,167	6.5	183,029	7.9	146,912	6.5	142,884	5.8
Anchorage	96,760	5	103,152	5	115,145	5.3	114,823	5	107,613	4.8	125,849	5.1
East Susitna River Drainage	67,764	3.5	92,289	4.5	77,817	3.6	107,977	4.7	96,864	4.3	101,917	4.2
West Cook Inlet-West Susitna River Drainages	95,887	4.9	104,768	5.1	103,350	4.8	111,585	4.8	115,054	5.1	110,927	4.5
Kenai Peninsula	743,455	38.3	808,450	39	829,267	38.5	878,292	38	799,409	35.3	896,360	36.5
Kodiak	84,841	4.4	77,166	3.7	75,650	3.5	69,325	3	86,342	3.8	81,603	3.3
Naknek River Drainage-Alaska Peninsula	34,731	1.8	46,611	2.3	47,961	2.2	52,505	2.3	45,114	2	67,192	2.7
Kvichak River Drainage	25,459	1.3	25,426	1.2	18,578	0.9	10,788	0.5	17,854	0.8	30,857	1.3
Nushagak	13,527	0.7	13,401	0.6	14,570	0.7	20,777	0.9	20,828	0.9	30,991	1.3
Total^a	1,406,419	72.4	1,518,712	73.3	1,556,050	72.3	1,679,939	72.7	1,583,547	69.9	1,745,110	71.1
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim												
Tanana River Drainage	135,745	7	144,814	7	155,346	7.2	173,706	7.5	185,715	8.2	184,887	7.5
Kuskokwim River Drainage	11,358	0.6	11,319	0.5	17,856	0.8	23,494	1	16,457	0.7	15,858	0.6
Seward Peninsula-Norton Sound	19,919	1	18,107	0.9	21,413	1	20,278	0.9	17,692	0.8	21,799	0.9
Northwest Alaska	6,701	0.3	6,313	0.3	10,221	0.5	5,279	0.2	4,932	0.2	3,782	0.2
Yukon River Drainage	8,670	0.4	9,381	0.5	7,017	0.3	8,261	0.4	10,712	0.5	15,539	0.6
North Slope Brooks Range	4,490	0.2	4,779	0.2	5,256	0.2	2,541	0.1	4,118	0.2	3,764	0.2
Total^a	186,883	9.6	194,713	9.4	217,109	10.1	233,559	10.1	239,626	10.6	245,629	10
Alaska Total^a	1,943,069	100	2,071,412	100	2,152,886	100	2,311,291	100	2,264,079	100	2,453,284	100

-continued-

Appendix A13.-Page 2 of 2.

Area Fished	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Southeast										
Ketchikan	98,284	4	84,482	3.3	77,145	3	90,363	3.3	76,580	2.7
Prince of Wales Island	47,297	1.9	44,470	1.8	62,544	2.4	69,572	2.6	60,552	2.2
Kake, Petersburg, Wrangell, Stikine	48,013	2	56,306	2.2	47,382	1.9	63,584	2.3	52,755	1.9
Sitka	68,193	2.8	78,281	3.1	74,944	2.9	107,993	4	101,138	3.6
Juneau	113,913	4.6	149,382	5.9	133,896	5.2	137,856	5.1	161,241	5.8
Haines-Skagway	39,624	1.6	25,896	1	41,655	1.6	32,592	1.2	34,484	1.2
Glacier Bay	21,965	0.9	15,279	0.6	15,054	0.6	18,219	0.7	25,314	0.9
Yakutat	17,062	0.7	14,496	0.6	18,583	0.7	22,760	0.8	19,926	0.7
Total^a	454,351	18.5	468,592	18.4	471,203	18.4	542,939	20	531,990	19.1
Southcentral										
Glennallen	64,207	2.6	72,052	2.8	77,870	3	85,520	3.1	102,951	3.7
Prince William Sound	113,115	4.6	113,443	4.5	104,601	4.1	122,330	4.5	138,194	5
Knik Arm Drainage	146,605	6	141,825	5.6	118,214	4.6	143,372	5.3	126,154	4.5
Anchorage	117,780	4.8	141,571	5.6	143,492	5.6	142,277	5.2	176,401	6.3
East Susitna River Drainage	113,178	4.6	149,484	5.9	128,382	5	114,533	4.2	102,686	3.7
West Cook Inlet-West Susitna River Drainages	121,505	4.9	116,360	4.6	129,165	5	125,529	4.6	79,134	2.8
Kenai Peninsula	869,715	35.4	945,272	37.2	946,252	37	1,003,847	36.9	1,043,493	37.4
Kodiak	96,481	3.9	84,777	3.3	93,320	3.6	99,132	3.6	85,529	3.1
Naknek River Drainage-Alaska Peninsula	69,010	2.8	61,415	2.4	51,132	2	45,920	1.7	44,119	1.6
Kvichak River Drainage	28,553	1.2	34,876	1.4	41,697	1.6	39,141	1.4	44,463	1.6
Nushagak	41,906	1.7	28,855	1.1	33,108	1.3	45,384	1.7	42,415	1.5
Total^a	1,782,055	72.5	1,889,930	74.4	1,867,233	73	1,966,985	72.3	1,985,539	71.2
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim										
Tanana River Drainage	155,662	6.3	120,848	4.8	160,117	6.3	148,633	5.5	201,389	7.2
Kuskokwim River Drainage	13,055	0.5	14,404	0.6	14,505	0.6	18,117	0.7	16,289	0.6
Seward Peninsula-Norton Sound	23,622	1	22,684	0.9	18,930	0.7	18,922	0.7	19,647	0.7
Northwest Alaska	9,543	0.4	6,145	0.2	7,809	0.3	6,036	0.2	8,495	0.3
Yukon River Drainage	10,749	0.4	12,831	0.5	14,011	0.5	12,872	0.5	18,677	0.7
North Slope Brooks Range	7,291	0.3	4,940	0.2	5,600	0.2	5,407	0.2	5,644	0.2
Total^a	219,922	9	181,852	7.2	220,972	8.6	209,987	7.7	270,141	9.7
Alaska Total^a	2,456,328	100	2,540,374	100	2,559,408	100	2,719,911	100	2,787,670	100

^a Statewide and regional angler totals do not equal regional or area sums because some anglers fished in more than one area and in more than one region.

COMMERCIAL FISHING; WHILE SUBSISTENCE, PERSONAL USE AND SPORTS FISHING ARE CALLED COMMON CONSUMPTIVE USES. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE COMMON CONSUMPTIVE USERS ARE ALLOCATED APPROXIMATELY 1% OF THE STATEWIDE SALMON HARVEST WHILE COMMERCIAL FISHING RECEIVES NEARLY 99%. IF THERE WERE AN INITIATIVE ON THE BALLOT THAT PROVIDED COMMON CONSUMPTIVE USERS A HARVEST PRIORITY OF UP TO 5% OF ALASKA'S STATEWIDE SALMON HARVEST, DO YOU FEEL YOU WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THAT INITIATIVE?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	FOR	AGAINST
TOTAL.....	11%	70%	20%
GENDER			
MALE.....	8%	70%	22%
FEMALE.....	14%	70%	17%
AGE			
18-29 YRS OF AGE	6%	64%	30%
30-44 YRS.....	8%	75%	17%
45-59 YRS.....	10%	67%	23%
60+ YEARS OF AGE	24%	65%	11%
VOTER			
REGISTRATION			
REFUSED.....	40%	60%	0%
DEMOCRAT.....	18%	61%	21%
REPUBLICAN.....	7%	77%	16%
NON-PARTISAN....	8%	70%	22%
OTHER.....	3%	74%	22%
NOT REGISTERED..	19%	61%	20%
TIME IN			
COMMUNITY			
0-4 YEARS.....	11%	73%	16%
5-9 YEARS.....	6%	78%	16%
10-14 YEARS.....	7%	74%	20%
15+ YEARS.....	13%	65%	22%
LOCATION			
RURAL.....	12%	67%	21%
CENTRAL.....	15%	71%	14%
SOUTHCENTRAL....	4%	77%	18%
ANCHORAGE.....	9%	72%	19%
SOUTHEAST.....	19%	52%	29%
EMPLOYER			
FEDERAL GOVT....	2%	78%	20%
STATE GOVT.....	7%	71%	21%
LOCAL GOVT.....	11%	76%	13%
PRIVATE SECTOR..	8%	67%	25%
NOT IN WORKFORCE	20%	70%	10%

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

1900 GLENN HWY., SUITE 4
PALMER, ALASKA 99645
PHONE: (907) 746-6300
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FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

DATE: _____

TO: Renee

Vic Kohring

FROM: Dave Rutz

ADF & G

Palmer

MESSAGE: HB 149 FISH Initiative

No. of pages: _____
(including this page)

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

FISH SURVEY

WATER Bokenburg Cr. (Tons)
LOCATION Tolman - Butte area

DATE	DIST. SURVEY MILES 1/	CONDITIONS 2/				TIMING OF RUNS				REMARKS 2/	OBSERVER	
		WEATHER	STREAM	VISIBILITY	SPECIES	ALIVE	DEAD	SEASONAL	MIGRATION PEAK			SPAWNING PEAK
8/6/91	F	D	N	E	RS	160					no fish above fish pass	DS
8/29/92	F	C	N	E	RS	54					"	DS
8/2/92	F	C	N	E	RS	46						DS
"					CS	4						DS
8/24/93	F	C	N	E	RS	212						Jim
"					CS	14						
8/24/94	F	C	N	E	RS	720					2 RS + 1 CS above culvert pass	DS
"					CS	35						
8/6/94	F	C	N	E	CS	43						DS
8/24/95	F	C	N	E	RS	156					no fish above pass	DS
"					CS	219						
8/28/96	F	C	N	E	RS	96					Rudds cleared - no native spawning No chum's seen - 1st pond only	LB
8/14/96	F	C	N	E	RS	11						DS

^{1/} A=Acid, B=Basic, P=Pool, F=Foot, T=Tower, W=Well
^{2/} Weather: C=Clear, O=Overcast, T=Thunder, S=Storm
Stream: L=Low, N=Normal, H=High, C=Clear, S=Stagnant
Visibility: E=Excellent, N=Normal, P=Poor
^{3/} Indicate type of aircraft, etc.

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Table 38. Eastside and westside Susitna River drainage coho salmon escapement index counts, 1981-1996.

Year	Westside Susitna River Drainage			Eastside Susitna River Drainage ^a				Susitna River ^b	Grand Total
	Yertna River ^c	Rabideux Cr.	Total	Birch Cr.	Question Cr.	Answer Cr.	Total		
1981	17,017 ^e	ns ^d	17,017	ns ^d	ns ^d	ns ^d	ns ^d	87,000	54,017
1982	34,086	ns ^d	34,086	ns ^d	ns ^e	ns ^d	ns ^d	80,000	114,086
1983	8,567	ns ^d	8,567	ns ^d	ns ^d	ns ^d	ns ^d	74,000	82,567
1984	16,587	489	16,487	236	60	57	353	ns ^d	16,840
1985	9,181	52	9,162	93	59	32	184	ns ^d	9,346
1986	23,451	ns ^d	23,451	28	ns ^d	ns ^e	28	ns ^d	23,479
1987	6,210	215 ^e	6,326	46	140	11	296	ns ^d	6,622
1988	2,153	239	12,405	62	347	160	569	ns ^d	12,974
1989	23,615	20	25,711	180	31	66	277	ns ^d	25,988
1990	21,340	36	21,366	36	4	5	45	ns ^d	21,411
1991	57,375	95	57,460	305	432	51	788	ns ^d	58,248
1992	26,073	ns ^d	26,073	167	227	131	525	ns ^d	26,598
1993	37,742	ns ^e	37,742	178	370	34	582	ns ^d	38,324
1994	35,173	05	35,218	712	379	0 ^f	563	ns ^d	35,781
1995	74,384	39	74,385	127	155	35	317	ns ^d	74,702
1996	34,464	ns ^d	34,464	458	231	42	731	ns ^d	35,195

^a Survey conducted by walking portions of the creek.

^b Sonar counts upstream of river mile 80.

^c Sonar counts, dates of assessment may vary.

^d No survey conducted.

^e Poor survey conditions.

^f Beaver dam blocking passage of fish downstream of index area.

36
Table 39. Fish Creek weir sockeye and coho salmon escapements, 1968-1996.

Year	Coho ^a	Sockeye ^b	Dates of Operation
1968	2,088	19,616 ^c	1 Jul-31 Jul
1969	4,253	12,456	4 Jul-2 Sep
1970	1,048	25,000	19 Jul-8 Aug
1971	583	31,470	8 Jul-7 Aug
1972	716	6,981	24 Jul-10 Sep
1973	210	2,705	18 Jul-6 Sep
1974	1,154	16,225	8 Jul-6 Sep
1975	1,601	29,882	3 Jul-8 Sep
1976	765	14,032	5 Jul-10 Sep
1977	970	5,183	7 Jul-15 Aug
1978	3,184	3,555	7 Jul-30 Sep
1979	2,511	68,739 ^c	9 Jul-29 Aug
1980	8,924	62,828 ^c	4 Jul-1 Sep
1981	2,330	50,479 ^d	9 Jul-7 Sep
1982	5,201	28,164	12 Jul-8 Sep
1983	2,342	118,797 ^c	12 Jul-30 Aug
1984	4,510	192,352 ^c	1 Jul-19 Sep
1985	5,089	68,577 ^c	8 Jul-20 Aug
1986	2,166	29,800 ^c	14 Jul-26 Aug
1987	3,871	91,215 ^c	8 Jul-27 Aug
1988	2,162	71,603 ^c	7 Jul-9 Sep
1989	3,478	67,224 ^c	6 Jul-8 Sep
1990	2,673	48,717 ^c	5 Jul-14 Sep
1991	1,297	50,500 ^c	9 Jul-12 Sep
1992	1,705	72,108 ^c	10 Jul-10 Sep
1993	2,378	117,619 ^d	7 Jul-20 Aug
1994	350	100,638 ^d	8 Jul-15 Aug
1995	390	115,101 ^d	7 Jul-15 Aug
1996	582	63,164 ^d	9 Jul-15 Aug
Mean ^e		54,646	

^a Measured by weir (1968 excepted). Years 1980-1993 include downstream foot surveys upon removing weir.

^b Weir count.

^c A counting screen was used instead of a weir.

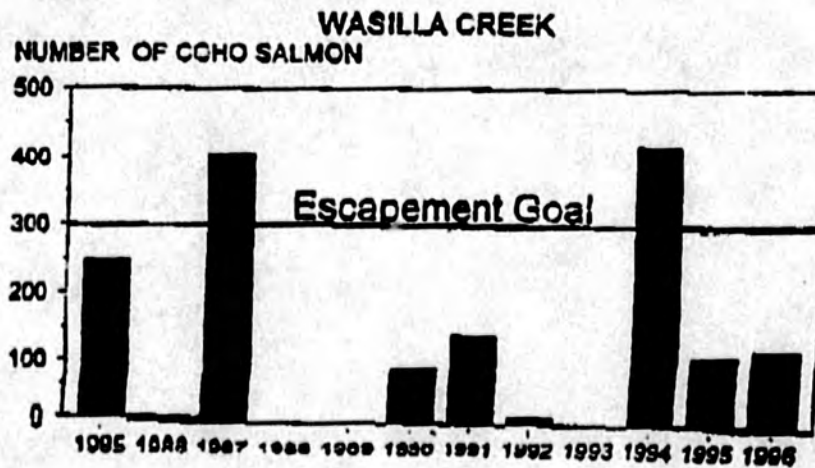
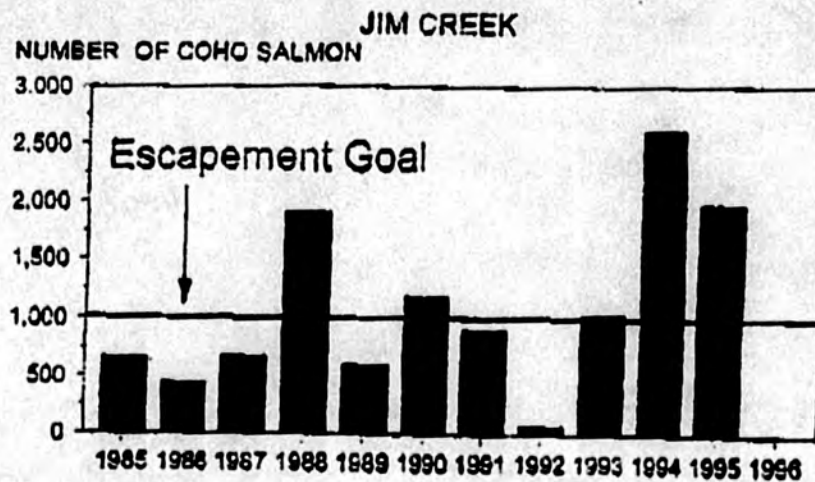
^d Years hatchery sockeye salmon contributed to the escapement.

^e The mean coho salmon escapement is not estimated because in many years of record the weir was removed before the run was complete.

In mid-August,
weir taken
out
(thus good)

Barrel of
fisher's

6 KNIK ARM COHO SALMON ESCAPEMENT



A DIGEST OF KEY STORIES ESPECIALLY FOR DECISION-MAKERS



ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS FAX

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 31,
1996

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Fishing study stirs new furor

Foes quarrel over
impact of sport
angling on Kenai

By NATALIE PHILLIPS

Daily News reporter

If Kenai sport fishermen were allowed to take a larger share of Cook Inlet red salmon at the expense of the commercial harvest, would the anglers pump more money into the local economy?

The answer is no, according to a University of Alaska Anchorage study released Tuesday.

Despite what sport-fishing advocates have been asserting for years, divvying up the fish differently would probably be a financial wash and might actually cost the area economy jobs and money, according to the much-anticipated study by the University's Institute of Social and Economic Research.

Representatives of the commercial fishing industry were quick to praise the report, while sport-fishing advocates wasted no time condemning it.

"The report states the obvious," said Theo Matthews, executive director of United Cook Inlet Drift Association. "In some ways it totally destroys the most cherished myth in the sport-fishing world, that sport-caught fish is worth more and that they need the priority all the time."

"I just hope this will, once and for all, stop these claims that 'our fishery is so much more economically valuable than yours,'" Matthews said. "The only ones who are going to be real upset with the report are the ones who wanted a predetermined outcome."

Bob Penney, chairman of Kenai Sportfishing Inc., challenged the report's conclusions.

"We know it is flawed," Penney said. "We're saying something is wrong somewhere. Either all the other studies we've seen for the past 10 years are flawed or this one is. And we are going to get to the bottom of this because in our opinion (this) study is a waste of the taxpayers and state's money."

Penney said his organization will hire its own experts to evaluate the report's findings.

The \$300,000 study was authorized by the Legislature in 1993 at the urging of sport-fishing groups. ISER was selected to conduct the study by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game through competitive bid. ISER economists conducted extensive telephone surveys of commercial fishing permit holders, deck

hands, crew members and Alaska households for the study. They also mailed surveys to out-of-state tourists who had fished in Alaska.

The final 500-page report was sent to peer reviewers at the University of California at Davis.

The complete document is expected to be available through Fish and Game later this week. A 12-page executive summary of the report — with many disclaimers about how difficult it is to account for all the variables in fisheries management — was released Tuesday. ISER officials have scheduled a public meeting to discuss the report's findings on Feb. 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the Loussac Library. And the report is sure to play a

See STUDY, Page 6

Tests wronged Natives

Report urges feds
to admit errors

By DAVID WHITNEY

Daily News reporter

WASHINGTON — A National Research Council report released Tuesday concluded that no harm was done to Alaska Natives tested with radioactive iodine during Cold War experiments four decades ago.

But the 102 Native men, women and children who were subjects of the experiments were "wronged" because they were not adequately informed before they were given oral doses of Iodine-131, the report concluded. Nineteen white military personnel also were given the radioactive pills.

The report recommended the federal government and the Air Force, which conducted the tests, acknowledge their

wrongs.

The report also urged the Air Force to contact all participants and give them records of the experiments. It recommended follow-up examinations on anyone younger than 20 at the time because they have the longest sustained risk of contracting thyroid cancer. More than 30 of the subjects are still living.

The Air Force did not return a call asking for comment. Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski, who asked for the report, had no immediate reaction.

The experiments were conducted between 1953 and 1957 when there was fear that Alaska would be a major battleground in a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

To prepare troops for deployment, the Air Force wanted to know whether the thyroid gland played any role in adjusting to cold weather. Researchers

See IODINE, Page 6

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Draft Press Release
Kenai River Economic Study to be Released by
the University of Alaska

The results of a study of the economic value of Kenai River sockeye salmon fisheries will be released by the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) of the University of Alaska on January 30, 1996.

The study is titled "Economic Effects of Management Changes for Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye." The study looked at the economic effects of alternative Kenai River sockeye management scenarios on Alaskan sport and commercial fishers, jobs, payroll, purchases, and personal income. The study estimated changes in economic values, including measures of monetary value (like commercial fishers' and sport fishing guides' profits) and non-market value (like job satisfaction of commercial fishing and enjoyment of sport fishing).

The scenarios assessed the economic effects of putting more or less fish into the Kenai River. Scenarios included managing the fishery for 200,000 more sockeye at the sonar counter, 100,000 more sockeye at the sonar counter, or 100,000 fewer sockeye at the sonar counter. The scenarios also looked at conditions such as low, medium, or high fish prices and low, medium, or high fish run sizes which might affect relative gains and losses for sport and commercial fishermen.

The Alaska legislature appropriated \$300,000 for the study in 1993. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game awarded the study to ISER through a competitive bid process. The ISER study team included Matt Berman, Sharman Haley, Scott Goldsmith, Gunnar Knapp, and Jack Kruse. The findings were independently reviewed by two noted experts in resource economics -- James Wilen and Doug Larson of the University of California at Davis.

An executive summary of the study will be available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage at (907) 267-2353. A limited number of copies of the full report will also be available. ISER will hold a public meeting in Anchorage at the Loussac Public Library's Wilda Marston Theater on Monday, February 12th, 2:30-4:30 to discuss the findings of the study.

Executive Summary

Economic Effects of Management Changes for Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye



Institute of Social and Economic Research
University of Alaska Anchorage

January 1996

If fishery managers allowed more late-run sockeye salmon into the Kenai River in July, what would be the economic gains for the sport fishery and the losses for the Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery?

The Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage examined that question, under a contract with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). We looked mainly at the effects of increasing the management target for late-run sockeye by 200,000.

Managers could make that change in a number of ways—but for this study, ADF&G provided us with specific assumptions about what they would do. Different assumptions could change our results. To assess the effects of the management changes we studied, it helps to think about three questions:

- (1) What creates the economic effects?
- (2) How do we measure those effects?
- (3) How do different conditions affect the results?

If 200,000 more sockeye were in the Kenai River, resident sport anglers would take more trips to the Kenai, spend more for those trips, and catch more fish. But while fishing more on the Kenai, they would take fewer fishing trips elsewhere (as Figure 1 shows). Better fishing would also encourage visiting anglers to take more trips to the Kenai and spend more in the economy.

Commercial fishermen would lose some of their harvest and their incomes. Fishermen and processors would work fewer hours, and the fishing and processing industries would buy less from other businesses.

We measured the effects of those changes in two ways: changes in net economic value and economic impacts.

Net economic value is a measure of benefits minus costs: we add up all the benefits and costs of a change, then subtract the costs. What's left is the net gain or loss in value.

Economic impacts are changes in payroll, jobs, or sales. Impacts are aggregate rather than net measures of change.

Figure 1 shows our estimates of economic effects, when Kenai River sockeye runs and prices paid fishermen are at medium levels.

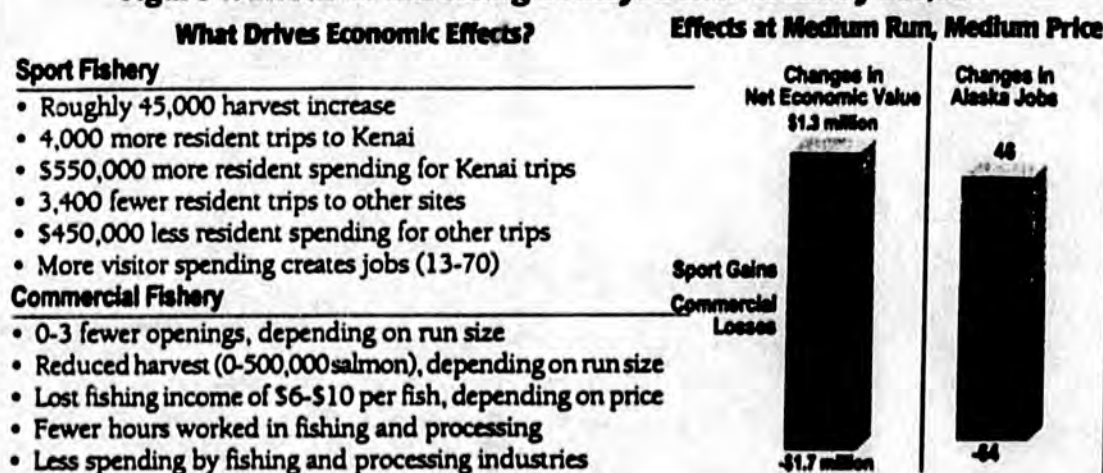
- Estimated commercial losses appear somewhat larger than sport gains—a gain of \$1.3 million for the sport side and a loss of \$1.7 million for the commercial side. But given the range of uncertainty in our estimates, we can't definitely conclude that actual commercial losses would be larger than sport gains.

- The Alaska economy would probably lose slightly more jobs than would be created. A rough estimate is that increased spending for sport fishing would create about 46 jobs, but lost commercial harvests would cost the economy 64 jobs. But given the uncertainty about the future level of visitor spending, the actual number of jobs created on the sport side could range from 13 to 70.

Our results would vary in years of different run sizes and prices. During high runs, managers wouldn't need to make any changes to put 200,000 more sockeye in the river—so there would be no gains or losses.

During low runs, managers would eliminate more commercial fishing time, to make sure extra sockeye reached the Kenai River. Then commercial losses would be larger than sport gains—and the higher the price of sockeye, the larger the losses. When prices were low and runs were medium, sport gains would probably exceed commercial losses.

Figure 1. Effects of Increasing Sockeye Sonar Count by 200,000



Background

The study originated when the Alaska Legislature appropriated money to ADF&G in 1994 for an economic analysis of "management alternatives for Cook Inlet salmon."

ADF&G decided, based on public interest and other factors, to focus the study on the economic effects of increasing the management target for late-run Kenai River sockeye. The current management target for late-run sockeye is 450,000 to 700,000 sockeye (as measured at the sonar counter below the Soldotna bridge). Increasing the target by 200,000 would raise the range to 650,000 to 900,000. Making such a change would require reducing the Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest, except in years of high runs. The Alaska Board of Fisheries, which regulates the fisheries, establishes the management target and decides if it will be changed.

Both the sport fishery and the commercial fishery in the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet highly value late-run Kenai River sockeye, which generally begin moving into the river in late June and peak toward the end of July. This run alone makes up about half the total commercial salmon harvest in Upper Cook Inlet. And about three-quarters of the statewide harvest of sockeye is taken from the Kenai River and its tributary, the Russian River.

Sport anglers want more sockeye; commercial fishermen want to keep what they have.

What ISER Studied

We mainly studied the effects of increasing the Kenai River management target by 200,000 late-run sockeye. To help define a range of variation, we also looked at the effects of increasing the sonar count by just 100,000, and of decreasing the sonar count by 100,000.

Specifically, we estimated economic effects on the Kenai River sport fishery, including the Russian River (Map 1, page 5); and on the commercial fishery in the Central District of the Upper Cook Inlet management area (Map 2, page 6).

There are other potential effects of such a change—effects we were asked to recognize but not to quantify. Those include:

- Potential increased damage to riverbanks and fish habitat. Any change that attracts more anglers to the Kenai River—which already

sees 100,000 sport anglers in a season—has the potential to increase bank trampling and damage to vegetation and fish habitat.

- Potential overescapement of sockeye. Fishery managers believe that having too many spawning salmon return to a river has the potential to damage future runs, by taxing spawning and rearing areas and food supplies. Biologists haven't established an overescapement estimate for Kenai River late-run sockeye.

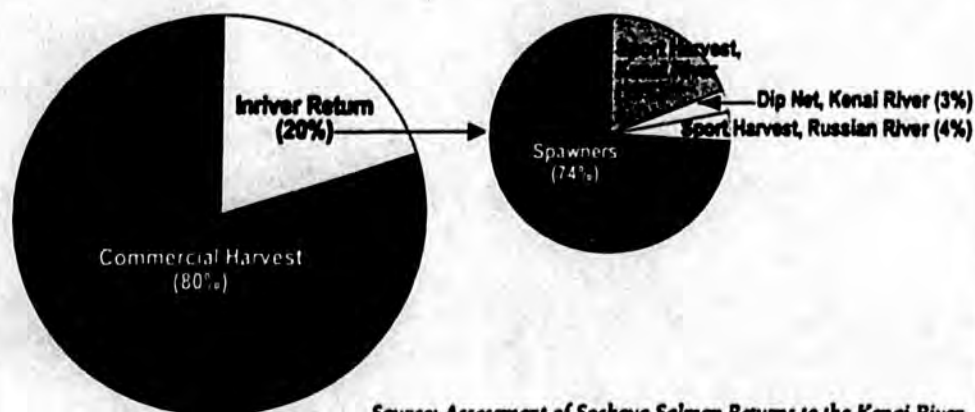
- Potential benefits for commercial setnetters in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet and Susitna River sport anglers and personal use dipnetters. Managers assume that during low Kenai River runs they would have to eliminate a regular districtwide opening in the Central District to make sure 200,000 additional sockeye reached the Kenai River. In those circumstances, more salmon would move past the Central District drift fleet and into the Northern District, where some would be harvested. We don't have estimates of how many.

Current Allocation

Figure 2 shows how the late run of Kenai River sockeye has been divided in the 1990s. Commercial drift and setnetters in the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet harvested about 80 percent. Of the sockeye that returned to the river, about 74 percent spawned. Sport anglers on the Kenai River mainstem took about 19 percent and anglers on the Russian River took 4 percent. Dipnetters (who harvested fish under both personal use and subsistence regulations during that period) took about 3 percent.

Since 1990, annual commercial harvests of Kenai River sockeye have varied from just over 1 million to nearly 7 million. Annual sockeye sport harvests on the Kenai and Russian rivers varied between about 120,000 and 270,000.

Figure 2. Allocation of Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye, 1990-1994



Source: Assessment of Sockeye Salmon Returns to the Kenai River, Doug McBride and Steve Hammarstrom, ADF&G, 1995

Measuring Economic Effects

On the front page we defined net economic value as benefits minus costs: the gain or loss after all benefits are added and all costs are subtracted. Changes in net economic value are difficult to calculate, because this measure takes into account not only monetary costs and benefits (like the market price of fish or costs of fishing tackle) but also assigns a dollar value to intangibles (like the pleasure of fishing). On page 8 we describe how we assigned a dollar value to improved Kenai River fishing. Here we just want to point out that net economic value takes into account the substantial non-monetary value in the sport fishery.

General Findings

To assess how changes in run sizes, prices, sport bag limits, and other conditions would affect our results, we developed 10 study scenarios. Assumptions that went into those scenarios, and our findings by scenario, are described on pages 8-12. Here we present general findings not tied to specific scenarios. We found if the Kenai River management target for late-run sockeye were increased by 200,000:

- The net increase in resident trips to all Alaska sites would be about 650, and the net increase in resident spending for fishing trips would be about \$108,000. Southcentral resident households with sport anglers would make 4,000 additional trips to Kenai River sites and spend \$550,000 more in late July. But our analysis showed that in order to make more trips to the Kenai, resident anglers would make fewer trips and spend less elsewhere in Alaska—about 3,400 fewer trips and \$450,000 less spending.
- Most of the increase in the net economic value of the sport fishery for residents is non-monetary: the value of improved sport fishing. Some is savings—because residents substitute less expensive trips to the Kenai River for more expensive fishing trips to other Alaska sites.
- Most of the loss in net economic value for the commercial fishery is monetary: reduced harvest revenue. Some is reduced job satisfaction.
- As measured by economic impacts, reducing the commercial harvest would probably cost the economy more jobs and payroll than would be created by the improved sport fishery. One reason is that the commercial fishery creates jobs and payroll in two ways—from the market value of the harvest itself, and from fishery-related spending in other industries. The sport fishery creates jobs only through fishery-related spending. Unlike commercial fishermen, sport anglers don't earn money while they're fishing—although they enjoy a great deal of non-monetary value.

- How many jobs and how much payroll an improved sport fishery would create statewide would depend mostly on how much more non-resident anglers spent. As we said earlier, Alaskans would certainly take more trips and spend more for Kenai River fishing, if the fishing were improved—but they would also take fewer trips to other Alaska sites. So most of the additional resident spending would simply be shifted from one place to another within the state. But if better fishing induced non-residents to stay longer and spend more than they otherwise would have, that spending would represent additional money in the economy.

- Non-residents visiting Alaska might extend their visits to fish more on the Kenai—and spend more in the economy. That additional spending could be anywhere from \$630,000 to \$3.3 million more in a season, generating between 13 and 70 jobs. These are rough, order-of-magnitude estimates based on survey responses of the small percentage of non-resident anglers who said they would have stayed longer in Alaska if the fishing were better. We do think this change would probably be much larger than the change in resident spending for sport fishing.

- A reduction in Cook Inlet sockeye harvests is unlikely to affect Alaska consumers much—because most Cook Inlet sockeye is sold outside the state.

- By reducing the supply of sockeye, the proposed reduction in Cook Inlet commercial sockeye harvests could increase prices paid fishermen for Cook Inlet sockeye by as much as 1 cent per pound. But we think that even such a small price increase is unlikely—because Cook Inlet sockeye make up a relatively small share of all Alaska sockeye, and because the growing supply of farmed salmon worldwide would offset the effects of a smaller Cook Inlet harvest.

Assumptions

Size of Kenai River late sockeye run

- Low run: Fewer than 2 million
- Medium run: 2-5 million
- High run: More than 5 million

Ex-Vessel Price (price paid fishermen) for Cook Inlet sockeye

- Low price: \$1.00/lb.
- Medium price: \$1.43/lb.
- High price: \$1.75/lb.

Definitions

Southcentral Alaska: the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Kenai River system (study sites): all fishing on Kenai River mainstem from the mouth at Cook Inlet to Kenai Lake and including the Russian River

Organization of the Summary

Pages 4-7: Profiles of the Fisheries

Pages 6-7: Methods, Sources, and Assumptions

Pages 11-12: Summary of Findings

Profile of the Sport Fishery

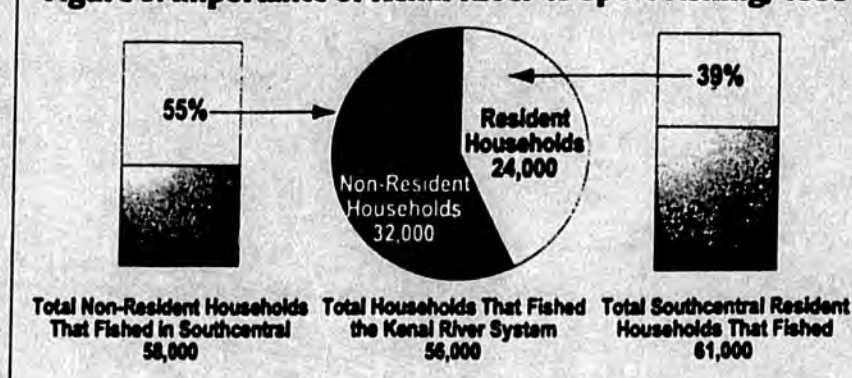
The Kenai River system sport fishery (including the Russian River) is easily accessible and immensely popular with Alaskans and tourists. In 1993, 39 percent of all the Southcentral households with anglers fished on the Kenai or Russian rivers, and 55 percent of the visiting households that fished in Southcentral Alaska traveled to the Kenai or Russian rivers (Figure 3). Southcentral Alaska includes the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The Kenai River has long been known for its king salmon fishing, but in recent times growing numbers of anglers have been going after sockeye. Significant numbers of coho salmon are also harvested in the river.

About three-quarters of the statewide sport harvest of sockeye is taken in the Kenai mainstem and the Russian River. This study look at the economic effects of a change in management of the late-run of sockeye, which generally begins moving into the river in late June and peaks toward the end of July. (The early run is much smaller and is mostly harvested in the Russian River.)

Figures 4 and 5 show the importance of the Kenai and Russian rivers to Southcentral anglers. Half of all households in Southcentral Alaska—61,000 of an estimated 122,000 households—had sport anglers in 1993. Those sport fishing households made nearly 626,000 fishing trips. An estimated 25 percent of those trips were to the Kenai and Russian rivers, by far the most popular sport fishing sites in the region. The average fishing trip by residents to all

Figure 3. Importance of Kenai River to Sport Fishing, 1993



Southcentral sites lasted 1.8 days and cost \$155. Trips to the Kenai River cost residents less—averaging 1.6 days and \$105 per trip (Table 1).

Visiting anglers also fish the Kenai heavily. About 58,000 non-resident households made 98,000 sport fishing trips while visiting Southcentral Alaska in 1993. Around 54,000 of those trips were to the Kenai River system. Visitors spent more per trip than residents—an average of \$400 for all Southcentral trips and \$460 for trips to the Kenai. Their trips were also longer, averaging close to 3 days (Table 1).

Altogether, residents and visitors spent \$136 million for 1993 sport fishing trips in Southcentral Alaska, with \$34 million of that for trips to the Kenai and Russian rivers (Figure 6). The biggest expense for residents on fishing trips to the Kenai was transportation (including the costs of fuel and other vehicle expenses). Resident anglers on average spent little for guide and charter services; by contrast, non-resident households spent an average of \$160 per trip for guides and charters (Figure 7).

How many late-run sockeye do anglers take from the Kenai and Russian rivers? Figure 8 shows that the sport harvest of late-run sockeye in the past decade has varied from less than 40,000 to more than 330,000.

Figure 4. Southcentral Resident Trips by Region, 1993

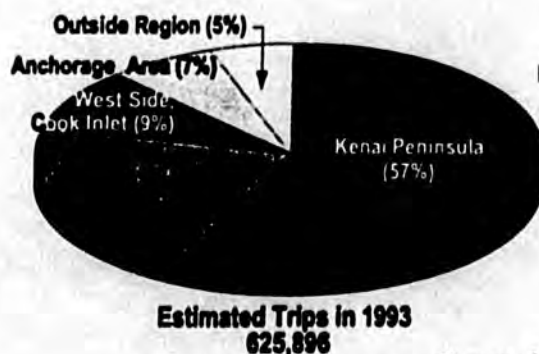
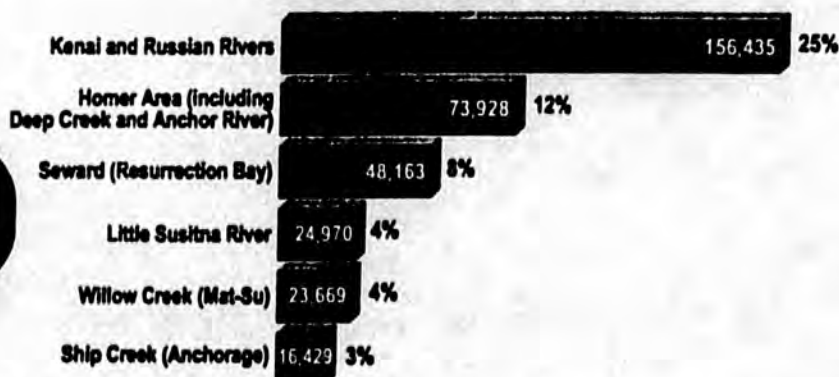


Figure 5. Most Popular Fishing Sites for Southcentral Residents, 1993



*Sources of Table 1, Figures 2-4 and 6 and 7: ISER Surveys

Map I. Kenai River System Sport and Personal Use Fisheries

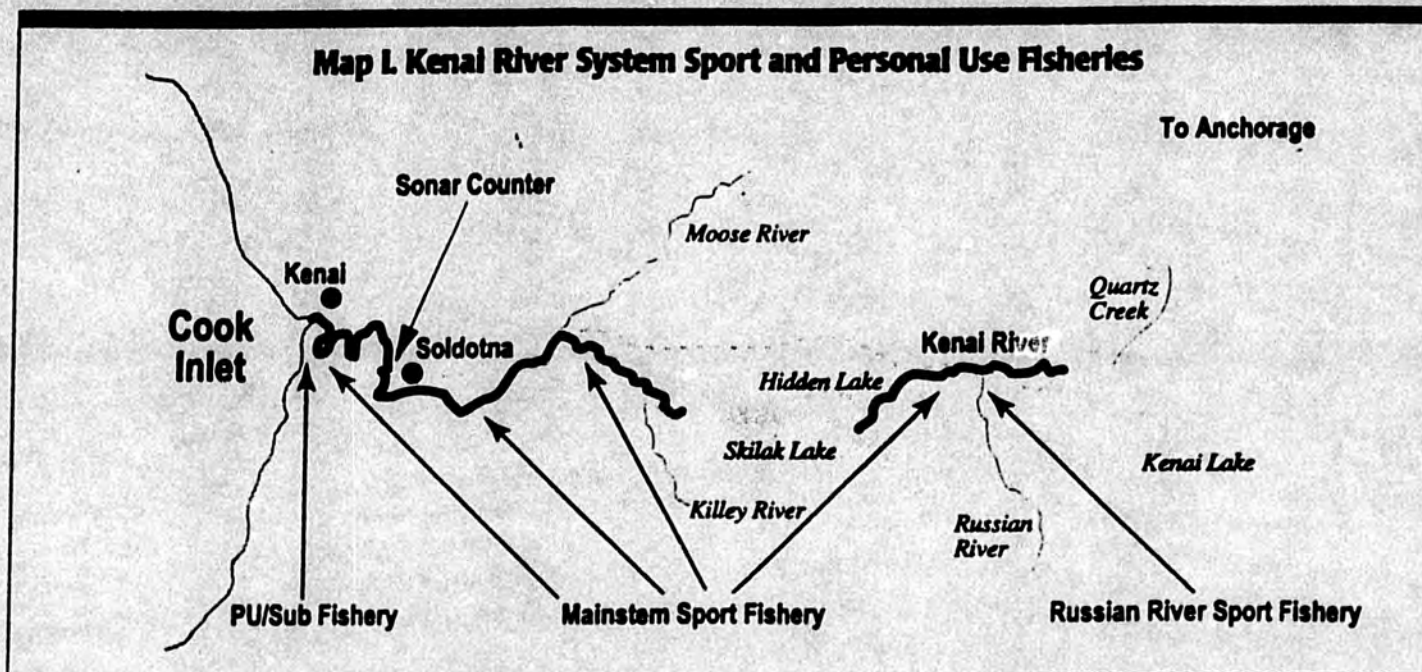


Figure 6. Resident and Non-Resident Spending for Fishing Trips, 1993

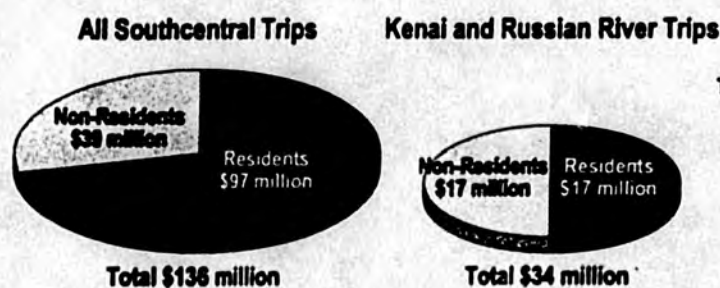


Figure 7. Per Trip Spending for Kenai River Trips

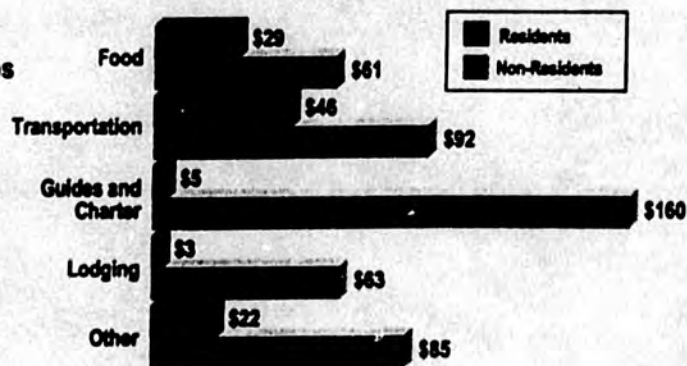
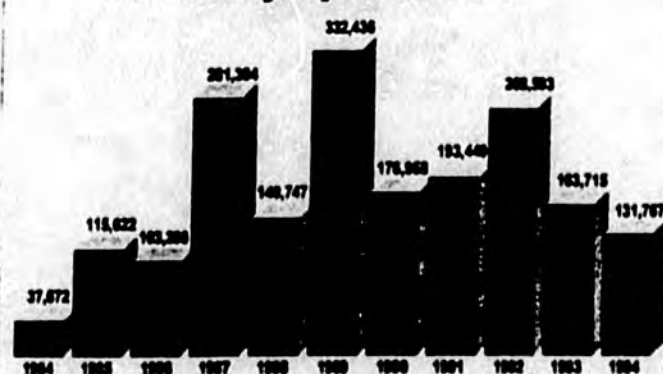


Table 1. Cost and Length of Sport Fishing Trips, 1993

	Resident Households	Non-Resident Households
All Southcentral Trips		
Average Per Trip Spending	\$155	\$400
Average Number of Trips per Household	10	1.7
Average Length of Trip	1.8 days	2.9 days
Trips to Kenai and Russian Rivers		
Average Per Trip Spending	\$105	\$460
Average Number of Trips per Household	6.7	0.7
Average Length of Trips	1.6 days	2.7 days

Figure 8. Kenai and Russian River Sockeye Sport Harvests



Source: Assessment of Sockeye Salmon Returns to the Kenai River, Doug McBride and Steve Hammarstrom, ADF&G, 1995

Profile of the Commercial Fishery

Cook Inlet is divided into two commercial fisheries management areas—Upper and Lower Cook Inlet. Anchor Point is the boundary between the two regions. Upper Cook Inlet is in turn divided into two districts—the Central District (from Anchor Point north to Boulder Point) and the Northern District (from Boulder Point north).

The Upper Cook Inlet salmon harvest is taken with drift and set gillnets. The drift fleet is restricted to the Central District. Setnetters fish in both the Central and the Northern Districts, but about 70 percent of setnetters are concentrated on the east side of the Central District.

Both the size of the Upper Cook Inlet harvest and its value can change sharply from year to year, depending on the size of salmon runs and the price paid fishermen. The harvest was as small as 3 million and as large as 10 million in the past five years, and the ex-vessel value ranged from less than \$20 million to more than \$100 million (Figures 9 and 10).

Sockeye make up about 80 percent of the harvest. Kenai River sockeye alone make up about 50 percent of the Upper Cook Inlet commercial harvest (Figure 11). Other sockeye in the harvest include stocks of the Kaslof, the Susitna, and other rivers along Upper Cook Inlet. Those stocks of sockeye—as well as runs of king, coho, and chum salmon—mingle in Upper Cook Inlet, complicating management.

Driftnetters and eastside setnetters in the Central District took about 95 percent of the Upper Cook Inlet sockeye harvest in the 1990s (Figure 12). It is those fishermen who would lose salmon (mostly sockeye but also including other species) if a management change allowed more sockeye into the Kenai River.

Table 2 shows 1994 employment and earnings of drifters and eastside setnetters in the Central District. About 2,900 people worked either as heads of operations (permit holders) or crew members. Harvest revenues totaled \$33 million; crew members were paid about 20 percent of that total, mostly through shares.

Table 3 estimates 1994 harvesting costs for Central district permit holders. Variable costs (like food and fuel) totalled \$4.2 million for the drifters and \$2 million for the setnetters. Fixed costs (like insurance and taxes) totalled \$5 million for the drifters and \$2 million for the setnetters. Crew payments for drift crews amounted to \$2.7 million and set net crews \$3.9 million.

Boats and equipment for the drift fleet were valued at \$76 million and at \$56 million for east side setnetters in 1994. Drift permits had an estimated value of about \$38 million and setnet permits close to \$15 million (Table 4).

Map 2. Upper Cook Inlet Management Districts

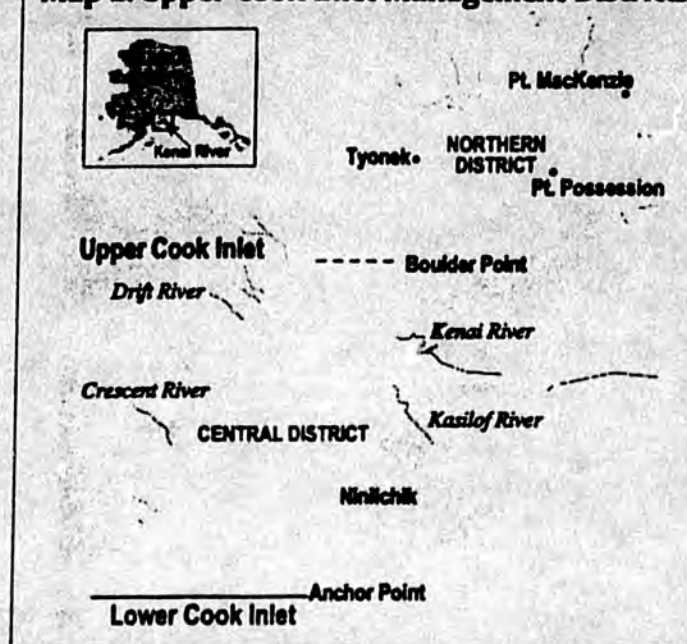


Figure 9. Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Salmon Harvests (In Millions of Fish)

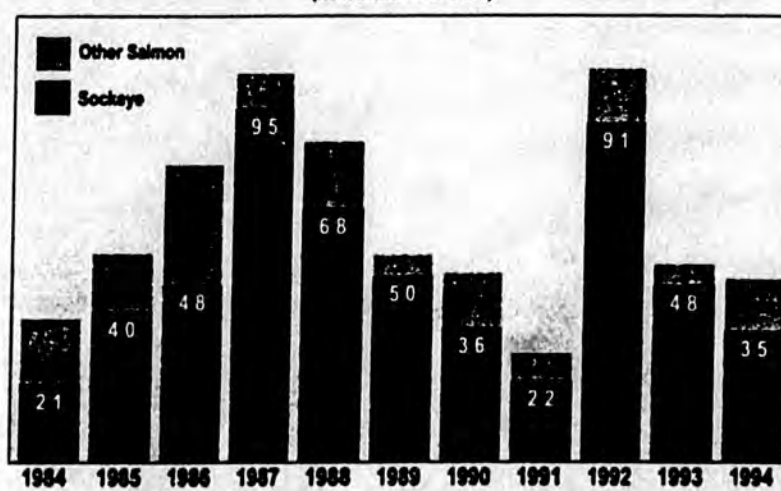


Figure 10. Ex-Vessel Value, Upper Cook Inlet Salmon

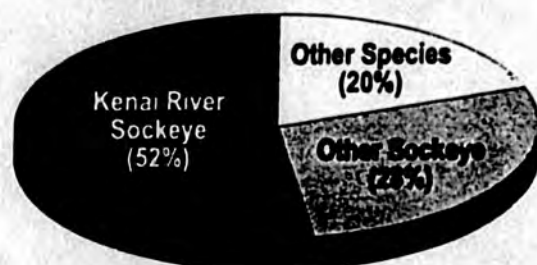
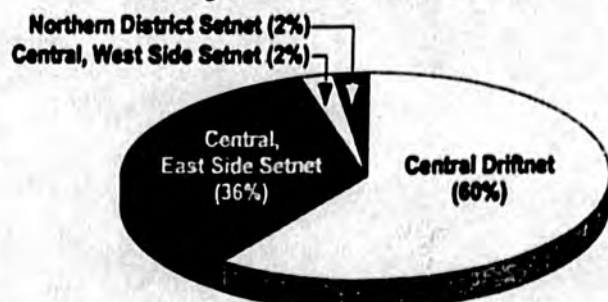


Table 2. Employment and Earnings in Central District, Upper Cook Inlet, 1994

	Driftnet	Eastside Setnet	Total
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERMITS FISHED IN 1994	580	514	1,094
ESTIMATED TOTAL OPERATIONS	567	258	825
AVERAGE NUMBER OF FISHERMEN PER OPERATION			
Heads of operations	1.0	1.0	1.0
Crew*	1.6	4.6	2.6
TOTAL	2.6	5.6	3.5
ESTIMATED TOTAL FISHERMEN			
Heads of operations	567	258	825
Crew	884	1,183	2,068
TOTAL	1,451	1,442	2,893
METHOD OF PAYMENT (FOR PERSONS OTHER THAN HEADS OF OPERATIONS)			
Owner	6.1%	13.1%	10.1%
Share	73.3%	62.5%	67.1%
Fixed rate	5.4%	12.7%	9.6%
Family member	6.6%	3.5%	4.8%
Other	5.3%	4.0%	4.5%
Not available	3.3%	4.2%	3.8%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%
ESTIMATED TOTAL CREW EARNINGS	\$2,709,000	\$3,941,000	\$6,649,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES	\$19,548,000	\$13,508,000	\$33,057,000
TOTAL CREW EARNINGS AS % OF TOTAL REVENUES	13.9%	29.2%	20.1%

Source: Estimates based on ISER permit holder and crew surveys.

*Includes a few permit holders other than heads of operations paid as owners.

Figure 11. Composition of Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Harvest, 1990-1994**Figure 12. Division of Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye Harvest, 1990-1994****Table 3. Salmon Harvesting Costs for Limited Entry Permit Holders, Central District, 1994**

	Drifters	East Side Setnetters
Payments to Crew	\$2.7 million	\$3.9 million
Variable Costs	\$4.2 million	\$2.0 million
Fixed Costs	\$5.2 million	\$2.1 million

Table 4. Value of Limited Entry Permits and Property in Central District, 1994

	Drifters	East Side Setnetters
Boats, Equipment and Property	\$76.2 million	\$56.3 million
Value of Permits	\$37.7 million	\$14.6 million

Sources for Tables 2-4: ISER Surveys; CFEC permit price data

Sources for Figures 8-11: Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries, Annual Management Report, 1993 and 1994, Paul Ruesch, and Jeff Fox, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division

Methods of Estimating Effects

Changes in Net Economic Value

For both the sport and the commercial fisheries, we used several standard methods to assess changes in net economic value. Our most reliable results use statistical analysis to assess the net benefits people derive from fishing, based on their actual past choices among different options with different costs. Although sport fishermen don't pay for the fish they harvest, they do spend money on food, fuel, bait, and other expenses. The behavior analysis estimates whether people would still go fishing, if it cost them more. Then, the net value of the fishery is what they would be willing to pay, minus their actual costs.

For the sport fishery, we relied heavily on the results of large surveys of sport anglers (Table 5 on page 9). We asked Southcentral anglers where they fished, how often they went, how far they traveled, how much they spent, and other information about fishing trips in 1993. From that information, and from ADF&G data and other sources of information about fishing conditions at different Alaska sites, we built a computer model that estimates how much Southcentral anglers would value improved fishing at the Kenai River. The model works through equations that (1) use information about what people actually spent for fishing trips to different sites under different conditions; (2) relate anglers' choices of where and when to fish to the cost and the quality of fishing (as measured by variables like the sonar fish count, the catch rate, and the weather); and (3) estimate how much anglers would value improved fishing conditions at the Kenai River.

To assess changes in net value for permit holders, we used observations about past landings and participation to develop a model that assesses potential changes in the profitability of fishing, if commercial fishing opportunities were reduced. We relied mainly on ADF&G management information and landings data for 1990 through 1993. To

assess changes in net value for crew members, we used responses from a crew survey that asked how they would rank different jobs that paid different amounts to assess how they would value reduced fishing opportunities.

Changes in Economic Impacts

Economic impacts are jobs, income, sales, or other measures associated with some economic activity. Economic impact analysis provides familiar, concrete measures of change—but it doesn't include any intangible value.

To assess changes in economic impacts, we estimated how spending by sport and commercial fishermen would change, and how these changes in spending translate into changes in jobs and income in Alaska. We also estimated direct changes in jobs and income of commercial fishing and processing workers as a result of harvesting and processing fewer fish.

Data Sources

We used three main sources of information for our analysis:

- 1993-95 surveys of commercial fishermen (both permit holders and crew members) and sport anglers, including residents and non-residents. Table 5 shows numbers of respondents, dates, response rates, and estimated margins of error for our surveys.
- ADF&G fisheries data
- ADF&G assumptions about how management changes would be put into effect and the resulting changes in sport and commercial harvests.

Assumptions and Scenarios

For Kenai River sockeye, no two years are alike: the size and timing of the run; the management regulations; sport and commercial fishing activities; prices paid commercial fishermen; and many other factors can vary. So how can we

What About Late-Run Kenai River Kings?

Our contract with ADF&G asked us to look specifically at the economic effects of changing the management target for Kenai River late-run sockeye. Reducing commercial openings to allow more sockeye into the river would also have the effect of increasing the number of late-run king salmon returning to the river. There is no targeted commercial fishery in the Central District for late-run kings, but commercial fishermen catch kings while fishing for sockeye, because the runs overlap.

Our analysis includes the economic effects of extra kings returning to the river, but we did not measure those effects separately. ADF&G biologists estimate that under the management alternatives we studied, increasing the number of sockeye by 200,000 would increase the king return by about 1,600. Part of the reason why the increase in the number of kings wouldn't be larger is the timing of the commercial closures. ADF&G told us to assume that managers would let extra sockeye into the river by eliminating one or more commercial openings during the peak of the sockeye run in late July. Because the king run is more spread out than the sockeye run, eliminating one or two openings wouldn't sharply reduce the incidental commercial catch of kings.

assess the potential economic effects of a management change, when conditions in the fishery change so much and so frequently?

To try to capture the range of likely effects, we chose—in consultation with ADF&G—a set of 10 hypothetical scenarios with different assumptions about run sizes, ex-vessel prices, sport bag limits, and other factors.

Most of the scenarios assume an increase of 200,000 sockeye at the Kenai River sonar counter.

To help define a range of variation, we also included one scenario that would increase the sonar count by just 100,000, and one scenario that would decrease the sonar count by 100,000. The economic effects of adding 100,000 sockeye were about half those of adding 200,000. Subtracting 100,000 sockeye from the sonar count had roughly equal results in the opposite direction.

Table 6 shows the study scenarios and major assumptions about changes in prices, run sizes, and sport bag limits.

Table 5. ISER Sport and Commercial Fishing Surveys, 1993-1995

Survey Respondents	When	Method	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Margin of Error
Sport Anglers Alaska Statewide	June 1993	phone	1,355	83%	±4%
Sport Anglers Alaska Statewide*	Fall 1993	phone/panel	918	68%	±5%
Southcentral Alaska Sport	Winter 1994/1995	phone (panel sample of 1993 respondents)	160	57%	±11%
Southcentral Alaska Sport (new sample)	Winter 1994/1995	phone	491	76%	±6%
Non-resident sport anglers	Winter 1993/1994	mail	4,278	61%	±2%
Non-resident sport anglers (follow-up of 1994 survey)	Winter 1994/1995	mail/panel	972	45%	±4%
Cook Inlet permit holders (pre-season)	May 1994	phone	487	85%	±4%
Cook Inlet permit holders (post season)	Fall 1994	phone	320	90%	±6%
Cook Inlet crew	Fall 1994	phone	213	84%	±10%

*ADF&G conducted follow-up interviews with the same respondents interviewed in June.

Table 6. Study Scenarios and Assumptions

SCENARIO NAME AND CODE

	+200K at sonar A	Higher sport bag limit B	Higher sport and dip net bag limits C	+100K at sonar D	-100K at sonar E	Low run, Low price A1	High price A2	Low run A3	High run A4	low price A5
ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT MANAGEMENT										
Change in sonar target	+200,000	+197,189*	+152,576*	+100,000	-100,000	+200,000	+200,000	+200,000	+200,000	+200,000
Change in sport bag limit	no change	higher	higher	no change	no change	no change	no change	no change	no change	no change
Change in personal use bag limit	no change	no change	higher	no change	no change	no change	no change	no change	no change	no change
ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT CONDITIONS										
Run size	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	low	high	low
Ex-vessel price	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	low	high	medium	medium	low
Number of anglers	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium

*Scenario is based on the same reduction in commercial harvests and increase in return to the river mouth as Scenario A. The increase in the sonar count target is less than 200,000 because sport harvests (Scenarios B and C, and dip net harvests (Scenario C) below the sonar are higher.

Note: Bold type indicates change from Scenario A. ISER file: Scenario Assumptions.

Low Run: Less than 2 million
Low Ex-Vessel Price: \$1.00/lb.

Medium Run: 2-5 million
Medium Ex-Vessel Price: \$1.43/lb.

High Run: More than 5 million
High Ex-Vessel Price: \$1.75/lb.

Table 7. Comparison of Scenario Assumptions and Historical Run Sizes and Ex-Vessel Prices

Run Size and Price	Scenario Assumptions	Historical 1984-1994
Medium run, medium price	5	3
Medium run, low price	1	1
Medium run, high price	1	0
Low run, medium price	1	0
High run, medium price	1	3
Low run, low price	1	2
High run, low price	0	1
High run, high price	0	1

Note: See Table 6 for definitions.

None of those scenarios is intended as a prediction of what will actually happen in future years; they're intended to help us look at the range of possibilities. But it helps put the scenarios in context to look at how the assumptions about run size and price compare with actual run and price conditions over the past decade. As Table 7 shows, 5 scenarios assume medium run, medium price; those conditions occurred 3 times in the past 11 years. High runs and medium prices also occurred 3 times; one scenario assumes those conditions. The scenarios don't reflect historical conditions in two instances—when runs were high and prices were either high or low.

ADF&G Estimates of Harvest Changes and Commercial Closures

Critical to assessing economic effects are estimates of how sport and commercial harvests might change under different conditions, and how managers would alter commercial fishing time to allow more sockeye into the Kenai River. ADF&G provided assumptions about harvest and management changes. These assumptions are at the foundation of the analysis: how many fish commercial fishermen lose, and how many the sport anglers gain, are very important for determining economic gains and losses. On the sport side, changes in the quality of fishing (as measured not only by harvests but by the time it takes to catch a fish) are also important.

Table 8 shows assumed changes in sport harvests, if 200,000 more sockeye came past the sonar counter. Table 9 shows how managers would adjust regular and emergency commercial fishing openings to make that change, and how many fish Central District fishermen would give up, assuming different run sizes.

No management change would be required in years of high runs, and so there would be no change in sport

harvests. In years of medium or low runs, ADF&G estimates that under current bag limits (3 sockeye per day, 3 in possession) sport anglers would catch about 1 in 5 of the additional sockeye.

In high run years, commercial fishermen in the Central District wouldn't lose any salmon. In medium run years, they would lose an estimated 245,000, mostly sockeye but including other species. In a low run year, they would lose 500,000—because managers would eliminate a regular, districtwide opening. During regular openings, the drift fleet is typically allowed to operate throughout the Central District, harvesting fish bound for all the rivers and streams along Upper Cook Inlet. During emergency openings (which managers use to augment regular openings during the peak of the run), the drifters are typically confined to an area close to shore, known as the corridor, where they harvest mainly sockeye bound for the Kenai River.

The eastside setnetters would give up more harvest in medium runs (when just emergency openings would be eliminated), and the drifters give up more catch during low runs (when a regular opening would be eliminated). ADF&G estimates that in a medium run, the setnetters would face 75 percent of the loss and in a low run the drifters would face about 75 percent of the loss.

Table 8. ADF&G Assumptions About Changes in Sockeye Sport Harvest (Scenario A)

	Low Run	Medium Run		High Run
		Current Bag Limit	Double Bag Limit	
Sockeye	+45,000	+45,000	+50,800	No change
King	+500	+500	+500	No change

Table 9. ADF&G Assumptions About Changes in Commercial Harvests (Scenario A)

	Low Run	Medium Run	High Run
	(fewer than 2 million)	(2-5 million)	(More than 5 million)
Changes in Commercial Openings			
Regular	1 fewer	No change	No change
Emergency	1-2 fewer	2-3 fewer	No change
Change in Drift or Setnet Harvest, Central District			
Sockeye	-417,000	-245,000	No change
King	-1,800	-1,600	
Other	97,500	0	
Change in Return to Mouth of Kenai			
Sockeye	+221,000	+221,000	No change
King	+1,800	+1,600	
Other	0	0	

Summary of Findings

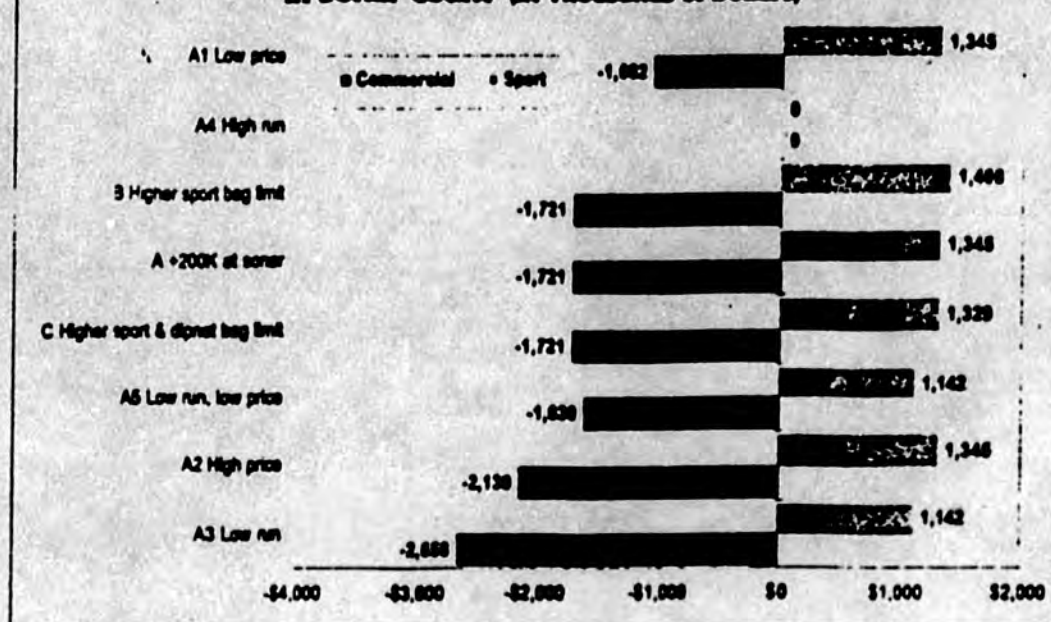
Figure 12 shows changes in net economic value under the scenarios, and Figure 13 shows changes in jobs under the scenarios. We found:

- In more than half the scenarios, we can't say with certainty whether there would be gains or losses in net value, given the range of uncertainty in our results. Those include Scenario A (medium runs and prices); Scenario B (higher sport bag limits); Scenario C (higher sport and personal use dip net bag limits); Scenario A1 (medium run, low ex-vessel price); and A4 (high run).

- The biggest gain in net economic value for the sport fishery—roughly \$1.4 million—would be from the combination of adding 200,000 sockeye and doubling the bag limit. Most of the gain for sport anglers would be non-monetary: enhanced enjoyment of fishing. Some would be savings, from substituting less expensive fishing trips to the Kenai for more expensive trips elsewhere in Alaska.

- Commercial losses would probably exceed sport gains when sockeye runs were low (Scenarios A3 and A5). That's

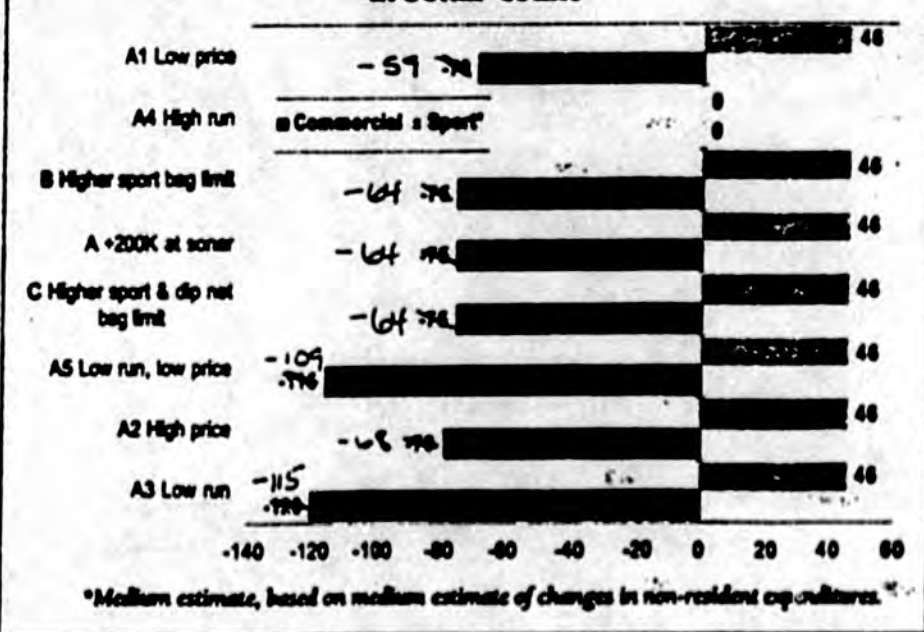
Figure 12. Changes in Net Economic Value With 200,000 Increase in Sonar Count (in Thousands of Dollars)



because ADF&G managers assume that in a low-run year, fishermen would have to give up a lot more fish to allow 200,000 more sockeye into the Kenai River. The higher the ex-vessel price, the more valuable each fish would be. At high prices, commercial losses would likely exceed sport gains, in years of medium as well as low runs.

- The Alaska economy would probably experience a net loss of jobs and payroll in years when the run size and ex-vessel price were both medium. The reduction in the commercial harvest would cost the economy the equivalent—in work hours—of about 64 jobs and \$1.9 million in payroll. Of those jobs, 24 would be among fishermen, 10 among processing workers, and 30 in other Alaska industries. Our rough "medium estimate" is that improved sport fishing would create about 45 new jobs and \$990,00 in payroll in industries that supply goods and services to sport anglers. However, this estimate is based on limited data from our survey of non-residents, and the actual effects might be significantly smaller or larger.

Figure 14. Changes in Alaska Jobs With 200,000 Increase in Sonar Count



Sources of Uncertainty in Results

Given how important Kenai River sockeye are to Alaskans, it's reasonable to ask how confident we are in our results. Our general answer is that we believe our results give us a good but not a precise picture of the likely effects of reallocating a share of Kenai River sockeye. There are many sources of uncertainty that we have tried to minimize but can't eliminate.

- **Uncertainty about Future Conditions**—Neither we nor anyone else can predict future run sizes and prices (which will make a very substantial difference in effects on the commercial fishery) or the future level of non-resident sport fishing on the Kenai River (which makes a great deal of difference in our conclusions about changes in economic impacts of the sport fishery). We attempted to take potential run and price differences into account by looking at three levels of run size and price, based on historical data. We attempted to deal with uncertainty about growth in non-resident spending by making low, medium, and high estimates of how much non-resident anglers might increase their spending because of improved fishing on the Kenai. These are the best estimates we could make with available data, but they are still just rough, order-of-magnitude estimates.
- **Data Collection**—Our analyses are largely based on surveys of resident and non-resident sport anglers, commercial permit holders, and commercial fishing crews. Our survey designs were reviewed by independent experts. Overall we believe our survey results are sound, with good response rates and reasonable margins of error. The biggest shortcomings are in the mail-out survey of non-resident anglers who had previously fished in Alaska. We asked non-residents how much they would be likely to extend visits to Alaska, if there were better sockeye fishing on the Kenai River. Their answers about how much longer they would stay didn't vary with differences in the amount of improvement in fishing. We think many respondents may have given quick answers based on partial understanding of the questions—so their answers may not provide a reliable indication of how non-resident anglers' trips might be affected by better Kenai sockeye fishing. We attempted to deal with that problem, as described above, by making low, medium, and high estimates of changes in non-resident spending.
- **Choice and Design of Models**—We used several methods to estimate changes in net economic value. We think our best results for both the sport and the commercial fisheries are from computer simulation models that project change by doing statistical analysis of what people did in the past under various conditions. Our results are only as good as the computer models. Our model designs and results were reviewed by independent experts in fisheries economics. The reviewers called our analysis "well-conceived" and "carefully and thoroughly executed."

Projected and Actual Changes

In this study we have assumed managers could make precise changes in numbers of sockeye coming into the Kenai River. But in the complex real world of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries, precise management is impossible. Salmon runs are brief but intense, with hundreds of thousands or even millions of fish moving within very short periods. Also, several stocks of sockeye and other salmon mingle in Upper Cook Inlet, complicating the management of any given run. Weather, timing of runs, and other factors affect harvests.

That's why the Kenai River management target for sockeye is a range rather than a single number. As the adjacent table shows, in the past 15 years, managers have been within (or very close to) the target range seven times, exceeded it seven times, and were below once. Raising the management target by any given amount would not make fisheries management any more precise. As in the past, in some years the return would be near the low end of the range and sometimes near the high end.

We also know that if fisheries management isn't precise, neither are our results: in any given year the actual economic effects would be greater or smaller than we project, depending on how close managers come to their targets. Still, the economic effects we project under different run sizes, prices, and other factors provide a reasonable picture of how increasing the management target for late-run Kenai River sockeye could affect the sport and commercial fisheries.

Management Targets and Sonar Counts of Kenai River Sockeye

	Management Target	Sonar Count	Level
1981	350,000-500,000	408,000	within
1982		620,000	above
1983		630,000	above
1984		345,000	below
1985		501,000	within
1986		501,000	within
1987	400,000-700,000	1,597,000	above
1988		1,021,000	above
1989		1,599,000	above
1990		659,000	within
1991		645,000	within
1992		995,000	above
1993		814,000	above
1994		1,004,000	above
1995		630,447	within

METRO

WEDNESDAY, September 3, 1997 ★

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

SECTION B

Warming seas lure California fish north

The Associated Press

KODIAK — Kodiak fishermen caught tuna about a month ago. A tropical fish called a pelagic armorhead — normally found in the central Pacific — was pulled in recently. And there have also been reported finds of California anchovies.

The reason? Water temperatures are unusually warm, whether the result of an unusually warm Alaska summer or the harbinger of El Nino, a vast pool of tropical Pacific water that is bulging north and west. One El Nino effect forecast-

ers predict is the appearance of tropical fish far to the north of their usual range.

In the Gulf of Alaska, surface temperature readings have been about 10 degrees higher than normal, according to meteorologist Russ Page, who tracks sea temperatures for the National Weather Service in Anchorage.

Temperatures in the gulf usually average 54 to 55 degrees. Last month, he said, the readings went as high as 64 degrees. Tuna swim in seas with temperatures of about 59

In the Gulf of Alaska, surface temperature readings have been about 10 degrees higher than normal.

degrees, Page said.

Jim Blackburn, a fish biologist, said the pelagic armorhead probably thought Kodiak was part of its natural territory.

Joel Curtis, a technician for the National Weather Service, said he

found California anchovies in the stomachs of salmon he caught in Yakutat Bay last month.

At the time, Curtis said, he recorded a surface temperature of 63 degrees. The normal range is in the mid-50s.

Although summer is fading, exotic fish sightings could continue well into fall.

Water takes longer to warm and is slower to cool than air, so the ocean should be at its warmest in August and September, biologist Blackburn said.

Surface temperatures in the Bering Sea in July were about 7 degrees warmer than normal, Page said. Fishermen and researchers in Bristol Bay also reported unusually warm water temperatures during the red salmon run.



UCIDA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT ASSOCIATION

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November 5, 1997

TO: House Special Committee on Fisheries
SUBJECT: Comments on Upper Cook Inlet salmon allocation issues

Dear Committee Members,

As president of UCIDA, I would like to briefly comment on facts that we feel should be kept in mind when dealing with Cook Inlet salmon allocation issues. UCIDA fully appreciates the social and economic values of sport fisheries in South Central Alaska. We are very concerned, however, that the issues be objectively presented, lest an unwarranted bias be created against the commercial fisheries of Cook Inlet.

UCIDA would like to comment upon four areas where anti- commercial sport advocates often clearly mis-represent the issues.

Please consider the following:

1. The \$127 million value of the sport fisheries often cited is for the entire sport fishery in South Central Alaska. This figure is cited from the 1987 "Jones & Stokes" study. (Please see Table 4-1, Stokes, enclosed).

This figure covers year round activities, from burbot winter fishing at Lake Louise to halibut and razor clams. None of these fisheries have any relevance what so ever to allocation issues between sport and commercial fisheries. Indeed 96% of the value of sport fisheries would remain even if there were no late run Kenai sockeye sport fishery.

2. Prior to July 1 and after August 15 of each year, for all practical purposes all salmon fisheries are exclusively non-commercial, and are not affected by commercial fisheries of the Central District.

3. A major allocation issue revolves around late run Kenai River sockeye salmon. To compare apples with apples, a glance at the 1987 Jones & Stokes Study of the 1986 season shows an economic value for the sport fishery of only \$5.23 million for late run Kenai sockeye. (\$4.184 million Kenai Mainstream plus \$1.046 million Russian River late run). This number (\$5.23 million), which is relevant to the issue at hand, pales in comparison to the \$107.5 million wholesale value of the 1986 commercial salmon fishery.

Our point in this discussion is not that one fishery is more valuable than another. Rather we would like to stress that they both co-existed in 1986 and they continue to do so. Their true values to the state are ADDITIVE.

4. Finally, we would like to note that the non-commercial fisheries on late run Kenai sockeye have harvested between 4 and 27% of the commercial harvest of Kenai sockeye since 1987, when large overescapements first began.

We caution against use of percentages as a measure of angler success since the sport fishery is simply incapable of harvesting large numbers of fish. For example, the largest Kenai return was in 1987 when non-commercial fisheries harvested 4.2% (305,484) of the commercial harvest. This compares to the small return year of 1991, when the non-commercial harvest was 27% of the commercial harvest (but only 292,306 sockeye). Clearly the 1991 season was not 6 1/2 times more productive for the non-commercial fisheries as the "percentage game" would suggest.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment. UCIDA feels that Cook Inlet can sustain both viable sport and commercial fisheries. We encourage this committee to look beyond the deceptive number and percentage "games" often employed by anti-commercial advocates as you attempt to assess the status of our already world class fisheries.

Sincerely,



Philip Squires,
President

Table 4-1. Angler Expenditures and Net Willingness to Pay (WTP) Associated with Sport Fishing in Southcentral Alaska, by Activity and Fishery (Thousands of Dollars)

	Resident Anglers		Nonresident Anglers		Total	
	Expenditures	Net WTP	Expenditures	Net WTP	Expenditures	Net WTP
ALL SOUTHCENTRAL SPORT FISHING	\$74,163	\$246,391	\$52,892	\$30,385	\$127,055	\$276,776
King salmon - all sites	16,606	17,862	21,451	8,812	38,057	26,674
Halibut - all sites	12,615	21,626	6,031	3,526	18,646	25,152
Razor clams - all sites	1,025	1,757	945	268	1,970	2,025
By Fishery:						
Kenai River						
All sport fishing	18,932	15,241	19,029	8,011	37,961	23,252
King salmon fishing (early run)	4,186	4,038	6,148	2,916	10,334	6,954
King salmon fishing (late run)	3,184	2,477	5,142	2,444	8,326	4,921
Silver salmon fishing (early run)	2,848	2,541	1,068	466	3,916	3,007
Silver salmon fishing (late run)	2,020	1,645	2,619	1,139	4,639	2,784
Red salmon fishing	1,613	1,711	2,571	418	4,184	2,129
Rainbow trout fishing	1,989	688	486	125	2,475	813
Russian River						
Red salmon fishing (early run)	2,804	2,130	1,361	640	4,165	2,770
Red salmon fishing (late run)	480	211	566	267	1,046	478
Lower Streams in the Kenai Peninsula ¹						
All fishing	3,551	1,970	2,363	496	5,914	2,466
King salmon fishing	1,338	503	797	207	2,135	710
Deep Creek Marine						
King salmon fishing	1,427	1,253	929	404	2,356	1,657
Halibut fishing	1,840	2,357	2,192	269	4,032	2,626
Kachemak Bay - Halibut fishing	5,818	5,364	2,902	2,709	8,720	8,073
Resurrection Bay - Silver salmon fishing	1,118	902	775	450	1,893	1,352
Little Susitna River						
King salmon fishing	794	1,323	666	360	1,460	1,683
Silver salmon fishing	312	583	397	90	709	673
West Side Cook Inlet/West Side Susitna Streams ²						
King salmon fishing	2,480	1,180	2,569	585	5,049	1,765
Silver salmon fishing	278	458	363	269	641	727
East Side Susitna Roadside Streams ³						
King salmon fishing	435	576	507	134	942	710
Silver salmon fishing	161	726	195	45	356	771
Gulkana River						
All fishing	1,102	1,834	412	107	1,514	1,941
Grayling fishing	370	346	81	5	451	351
Lake Creek - all fishing	541	852	322	N/A	863	852
Kepler Lake Complex - Rainbow trout fishing	162	1,700	2	N/A	164	1,700
Lake Louise, Susitna, Tyone - Lake trout and burbot winter fishing	66	186	N/A	N/A	66	186
Anchorage Area Stocked Lakes - Rainbow trout and land-locked salmon fishing	1,395	2,335	316	90	1,711	2,425
Big Lake - Rainbow trout fishing	214	1,431	40	N/A	254	1,431

¹ Includes Ninilchik River, Anchor River, and Deep Creek.

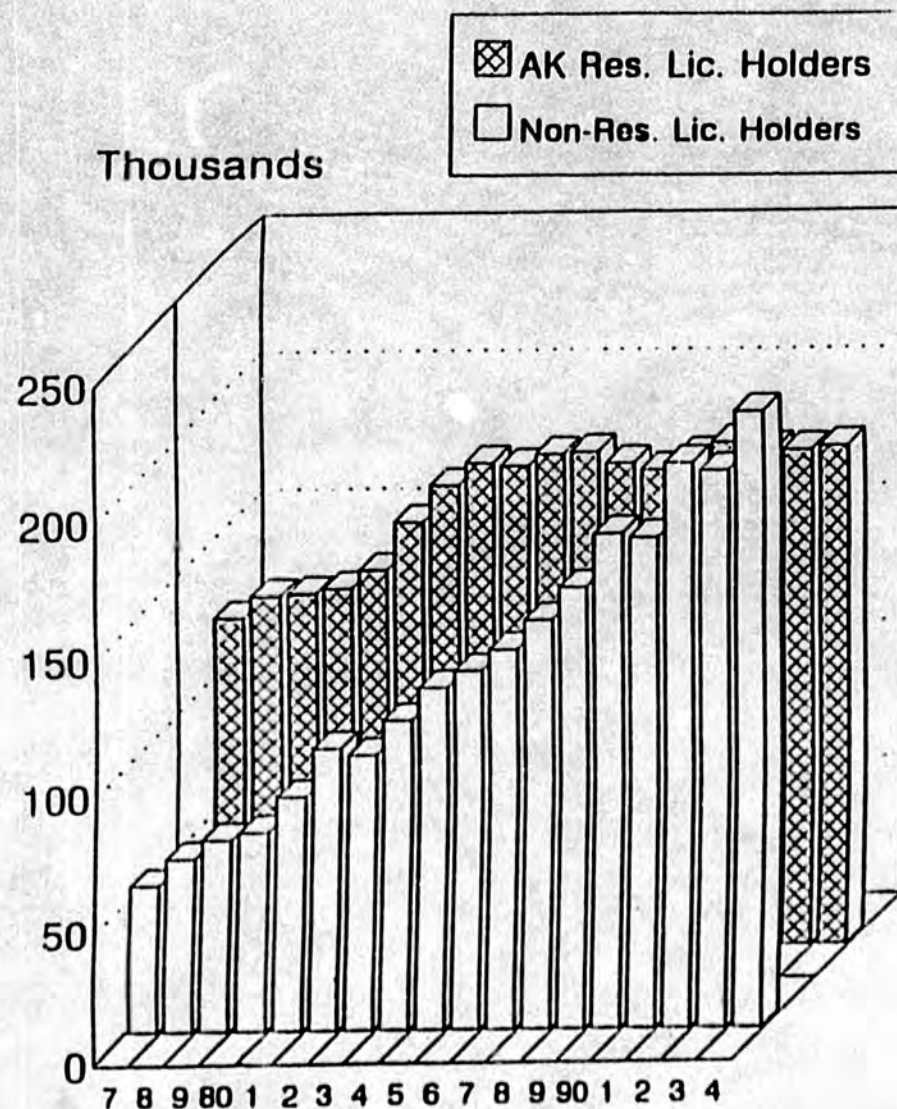
² Includes Doshka River/Kroto Creek, Alexander Creek, Talachulitna River, Chuitna River, and Theodore, Lewis, and Ivan Rivers.

³ Includes Montana Creek, Caswell Creek, Willow and Little Willow Creeks.

N/A = No data available.

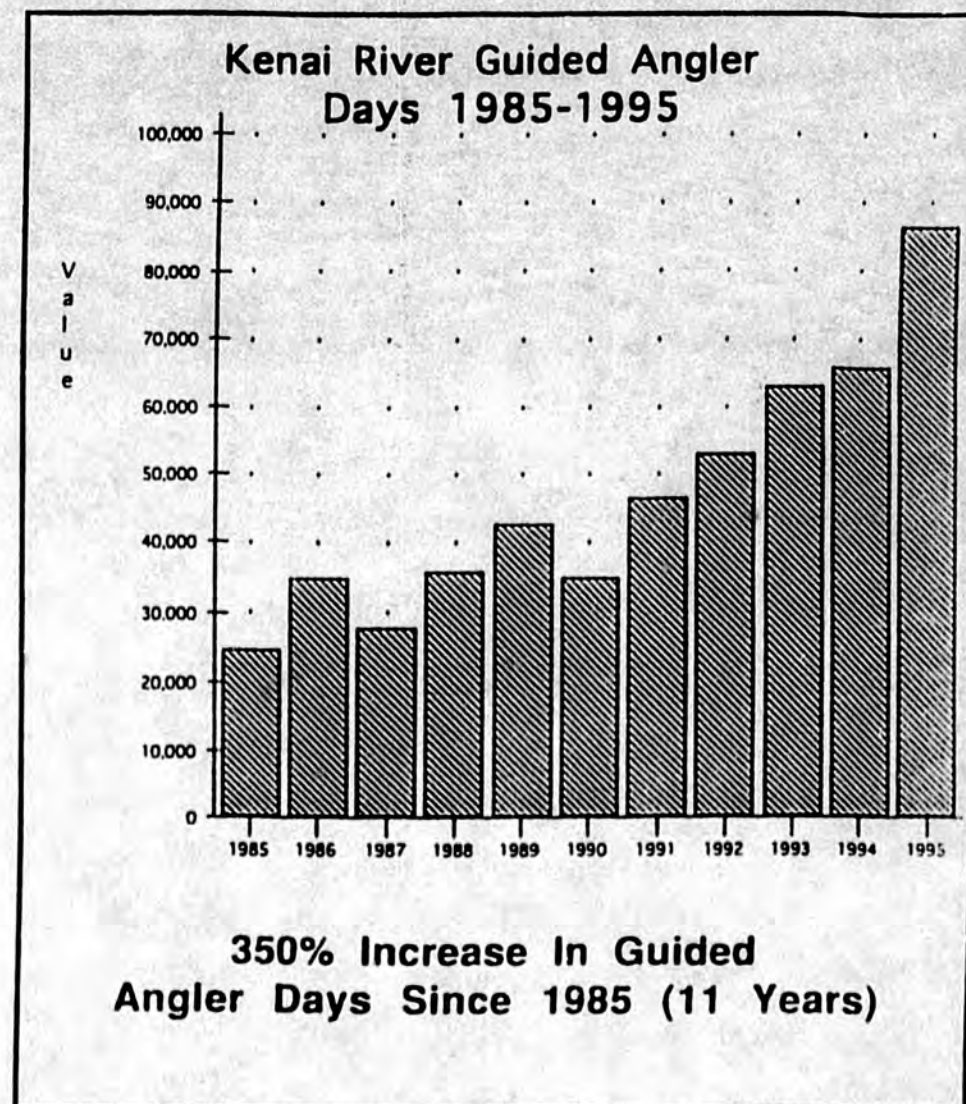
Resident and Non-Resident Alaska Fishing License Holders (1977 - 1994)

Recreational Fisheries Participation in a Statewide Context



**The Only Growing Sport Fishery
Is The Non-Resident Sport Fishery!**

Kenai River Guided Angler Days Fished (Total All Species)





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFSH
committee name

committee on HB 145 , dated 11-5-97
bill/subject
Speaker
Against

Mark Please excuse that I had to go to work & could not attend.

Point 1 The Restrictions are presently to the point that many commercial fishers cannot support their families through the year and need to work other jobs to live here in Alaska while some fishers do have large incomes there are many who presently are only able to make 5,000 to 25,000 for the season

Point 2 if we were talking Alaska sport fisherman the bills would be understandable but I do not feel that I should be denied the ability to live up here at the expense of providing fish for those who don't.

Point 3 The increase of additional competition from many new Bed & Breakfasts, more motels, etc. Have taken up a limited # of visiting tourists and from this are blaming another source for this Problem

Signed:

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Special Fisheries
committee name
HB 149 Subsistence, personal use
committee on + Sport Fishing, dated 11-5-97
bill/subject

I would like to go on record in support of HB 149. We are a large family & we depend on personal use fishing to feed our family throughout the year. We would be seriously affected if this was taken from us. When net fishing was shut down on the Kachik for personal use & all we had was the Kachik. We went out a month early to check it out & every spot was already taken. So obviously other people are in need also. I'm not interested in the political end of things. I'm a realist - facts

Signed:

Marie J. Penrod

Testifier

MARIE J. PENROD

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 4016 Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

907-262-6795
Phone No.

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Point 4 The figures of "a miniscule 1% of the state Resource" needs to reflect the taking of sport fish caps over the state. NO is one area where population access is the easiest.

Point 5 my understanding is that there are additional environmental problems of flooding, overfishing in spawning areas & streams, and a growing population of Northern pike and these items should be addressed before attacking another user group.

Point 6 The genetics of the streams have been altered due to sports take with trophy harvest & letting smaller fish going back. Now the stream is not natural any more and we all have an obligation to insure genetics by inhancing the larger fish, as is being done for genetics with the moose restrictions.



Alaska State Legislature

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Signed: Marie J. Penrod

Testifier

MARIE J. PENROD

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 4016 Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

907-262-6795

Phone No.

are facts. The fish belong to the people. In
the Hoga. In land here the rivers have
suffered ~~severely~~ greatly.

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

KENAI/SOLDOTNA FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

House Special Commission On Fisheries

Rep. Alan Austerman
Chairman

The Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee would like to thank you and your commission for taking the time to come to Soldotna to accept testimony on these very important Fisheries Legislative issues.

The Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee does not support Management of our Fish and Game Resources by the Legislature or at the Ballot Box.

The accepted process for the management of these resources for the last 30 years or more has been the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game making decisions after department of Fish and Game and Public input.

In view of the fact that this process may seem cumbersome, time consuming and frustrating at times it has elevated the State of Alaska to a position envied by most other States. It has brought our resources back to current levels after Federal bureaucratic management had nearly destroyed the fisheries resources of the Territory.

If the Legislature decides to adopt any legislation such as HB149 to tell the Boards of Fisheries and Game how to vote on any issue it should also (in the same vote) abolish the Board of Fisheries and Game and all of the Advisory Committees and the Public process from Fish and Game management.

The Legislature should be more aggressive in funding and finding new ,better, and more ways to support an already successful Department of Fish and Game including the Boards and their process.

The one tool that is missing from the equation that would be very beneficial to the management that only the Legislature and the people can provide is Limited Entry into a developing and ever expanding Commercial Fishery (Commercial Guides)that continually claims to be a Sport Fishery but would not exist if it were not for the MONEY.

We realize that the resources in question are not inexhaustible and if enough people come and enough development occurs we will someday find ourselves in the same dilemma as many other places on the Pacific Coast.

Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee



Edward N. Krohn
Chairman

ENK/lak