

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 RES 12674

- 1 (78) Township 25 North, Range 8 East, Copper River Meridian  
 2 Sections 6 - 7  
 3 Sections 18 - 19  
 4 Sections 31 - 32;  
 5 (79) Township 26 North, Range 5 East, Copper River Meridian;  
 6 (80) Township 26 North, Range 6 East, Copper River Meridian;  
 7 (81) Township 1 South, Range 3 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 8 Section 1  
 9 Sections 11 - 14  
 10 Section 15: S1/2, S1/2N1/2  
 11 Section 16  
 12 Section 23: NE1/4  
 13 Section 24: N1/2;  
 14 (82) Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 15 Sections 1 - 2  
 16 Section 4: S1/2  
 17 Section 5: S1/2, NW1/4  
 18 Sections 6 - 7  
 19 Section 8: north of Chena River  
 20 Section 9: the NW1/4 north of Chena River, N1/2NE1/4  
 21 Section 10: NE1/4  
 22 Section 11  
 23 Section 12: N1/2  
 24 Section 17: north of Chena River  
 25 Section 18;  
 26 (83) Township 1 South, Range 5 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 27 Section 6;  
 28 (84) Township 1 South, Range 3 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 29 Section 26: S1/2 south of Parks Highway  
 30 Section 27: south of Parks Highway  
 31 Section 28: south of Parks Highway

- 1 Section 29: west of Old Nenana Highway and south of Parks  
 2 Highway  
 3 Section 31: south of Parks Highway  
 4 Section 32: south of Parks Highway  
 5 Section 33: south of Parks Highway  
 6 Section 34: south of Parks Highway  
 7 Section 35;  
 8 (85) Township 1 South, Range 4 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 9 Section 4: SW1/4  
 10 Sections 7 - 8  
 11 Section 9: NW1/4  
 12 Section 18: N1/2  
 13 Section 23: SE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4  
 14 Sections 24 - 29  
 15 Section 32: N1/2N1/2  
 16 Section 34: excluding NW1/4NW1/4  
 17 Sections 35 - 36;  
 18 (86) Township 1 South, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 19 Sections 2 - 12  
 20 Section 13: N1/2  
 21 Sections 14 - 23  
 22 Sections 28 - 30  
 23 Section 31: N1/2, N1/2S1/2  
 24 Section 32: N1/2, N1/2S1/2;  
 25 (87) Township 1 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 26 Sections 1 - 4  
 27 Sections 9 - 16  
 28 Sections 21 - 28  
 29 Sections 32 - 34  
 30 Section 35: E1/2  
 31 Section 36: N1/2;

- 1                   (88) Township 1 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 2                               Sections 3 - 10  
 3                               Sections 15 - 22  
 4                               Sections 27 - 34;  
 5                   (89) Township 1 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 6                               Sections 1 - 6;  
 7                   (90) Township 1 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 8                               Sections 1 - 24  
 9                               Sections 27 - 34;  
 10                  (91) Township 1 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 11                               Sections 1 - 2  
 12                               Sections 11 - 14  
 13                               Section 21: south of the unnamed creek  
 14                               Sections 22 - 28  
 15                               Section 31: south of right limit of Tanana River  
 16                               Section 32: south of right limit of Tanana River  
 17                               Sections 33 - 36;  
 18                  (92) Township 1 South, Range 13 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 19                               Section 27: north of a branch of Tanana River  
 20                               Section 34: north of a branch of Tanana River  
 21                               Section 35: north of a branch of Tanana River  
 22                               Section 36: north of a branch of Tanana River;  
 23                  (93) Township 2 South, Range 3 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 24                               Section 2: N1/2, tract F, ASLS 80 - 118  
 25                               Sections 3 - 10  
 26                               Section 13: Lots A and C  
 27                               Section 14: Lots 5 - 7, NE1/4, SW1/4  
 28                               Section 15: west of left limit of Tanana River  
 29                               Sections 16 - 19  
 30                               Section 20: north of military reservation  
 31                               Section 21: north of military reservation

- 1 Section 22: north of military reservation  
 2 Section 23: north of military reservation  
 3 Section 24: north of military reservation  
 4 Section 28: north of military reservation  
 5 Section 29: north of military reservation  
 6 Sections 30 - 31  
 7 Section 32: north of military reservation;  
 8 (94) Township 2 South, Range 4 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 9 Sections 1 - 3  
 10 Section 4: E1/2, SW1/4  
 11 Section 7: SE1/4SE1/4  
 12 Section 8: S1/2NE1/4, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4, and  
 13 all land south of Parks Highway  
 14 Sections 9 - 36;  
 15 (95) Township 2 South, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 16 Sections 1 - 2  
 17 Sections 7 - 27  
 18 Sections 31- 36;  
 19 (96) Township 2 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 20 Section 3  
 21 Section 4: N1/2, SE1/4, SW1/4SW1/4  
 22 Section 5  
 23 Sections 10 - 12  
 24 Section 16;  
 25 (97) Township 2 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 26 Section 35: SE1/4SE1/4  
 27 Section 36: SE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4;  
 28 (98) Township 2 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 29 Section 6;  
 30 (99) Township 2 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian  
 31 Sections 1 - 24

- 1                                   Sections 27 - 34;
- 2                   (100) Township 2 South, Range 13 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 3                                   Sections 1 - 6
- 4                                   Section 7: Tracts A, B, and C, ASLS 81-54 SW1/4
- 5                                   Section 8: NE1/4, Tracts D, E, F, ASLS 81-54
- 6                                   Sections 9 - 30
- 7                                   Sections 33 - 36;
- 8                   (101) Township 3 South, Range 3 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 9                                   Section 6: north of military reservation
- 10                                  Section 7: north of military reservation;
- 11                   (102) Township 3 South, Range 4 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 12                                  Sections 1 - 11
- 13                                  Section 12: north of military reservation
- 14                                  Section 14: north of military reservation
- 15                                  Section 15: north of military reservation
- 16                                  Section 16
- 17                                  Section 17: north of military reservation
- 18                                  Section 20: north of military reservation
- 19                                  Section 21: north of military reservation
- 20                                  Section 22: north of military reservation;
- 21                   (103) Township 3 South, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 22                                  Sections 1 - 12
- 23                                  Section 13: NW1/4NW1/4, Lots 2 - 4
- 24                                  Section 14: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 25                                  Section 15: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 26                                  Section 17: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 27                                  Section 18: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 28                                  Section 19: north of left limit of Tanana River, excluding
- 29                   NE1/4NE1/4
- 30                                  Section 20: north of left limit of Tanana River, excluding Lot 3
- 31                                  Section 21: north of left limit of Tanana River

- 1                                   Section 31: Lot 2;
- 2                   (104) Township 3 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 3                                   Sections 13 - 36;
- 4                   (105) Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 5                                   Section 1
- 6                                   Section 2: E1/2, E1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4
- 7                                   Section 3: SE1/4SE1/4
- 8                                   Section 9: south of Parks Highway
- 9                                   Section 10: that portion of NE1/4 that lies south of Parks
- 10                                  Highway, SW1/4SE1/2
- 11                                  Section 11: N1/2, N1/2SE1/4
- 12                                  Section 12: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
- 13                                  Section 20: S1/2
- 14                                  Sections 22 - 29
- 15                                  Section 31 - 36;
- 16                   (106) Township 3 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 17                                  Sections 3 - 10
- 18                                  Sections 15 - 19
- 19                                  Section 30;
- 20                   (107) Township 3 South, Range 13 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 21                                  Section 12: E1/2
- 22                                  Section 13
- 23                                  Section 14: E1/2
- 24                                  Sections 24 - 25
- 25                                  Section 26: E1/2
- 26                                  Sections 35 - 36;
- 27                   (108) Township 4 South, Range 4 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 28                                  Section 30: west of Richardson Highway
- 29                                  Section 31: west of Richardson Highway
- 30                                  Section 32: west of Richardson Highway;
- 31                   (109) Township 4 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian

- 1 Sections 1 - 12
- 2 Sections 14 - 18;
- 3 (110) Township 4 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 4 Sections 1 - 12
- 5 Section 13: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 6 Section 14: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 7 Section 18: Lots 3 - 6;
- 8 (111) Township 4 South, Range 13 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 9 Sections 1 - 2
- 10 Section 3: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 11 Section 4: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 12 Section 8: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 13 Section 9: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 14 Section 10: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 15 Section 11
- 16 Section 15
- 17 Section 16: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 18 Section 17: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 19 Section 20: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 20 Section 21: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 21 Section 22
- 22 Section 27: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 23 Section 28: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 24 Section 29: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 25 Section 33: east of left limit of Kantishna River
- 26 Section 34: east of left limit of Kantishna River;
- 27 (112) Township 5 South, Range 4 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 28 Sections 5 - 6
- 29 Section 7: east of military reservation
- 30 Section 8
- 31 Section 17

1 Section 18: east of military reservation  
 2 Section 19: east of military reservation  
 3 Section 20  
 4 Section 29  
 5 Section 30: east of military reservation  
 6 Section 31  
 7 Section 32: excluding NE1/4SE1/4, Lots 1 - 4;  
 8 (113) Township 5 South, Range 5 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 9 Sections 25 - 29  
 10 Sections 33 - 36;  
 11 (114) Township 5 South, Range 6 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 12 Sections 28 - 29  
 13 Section 30: S1/2  
 14 Sections 31 - 34  
 15 Section 36: S1/2;  
 16 (115) Township 5 South, Range 8 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 17 Sections 1 - 6  
 18 Sections 8 - 17  
 19 Sections 20 - 30  
 20 Sections 32 - 36;  
 21 (116) Township 5 South, Range 9 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 22 Sections 4 - 9  
 23 Sections 13 - 36;  
 24 (117) Township 6 South, Range 4 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 25 Section 5: excluding Lots 1, 2  
 26 Section 6: east of military reservation  
 27 Section 7: east of military reservation  
 28 Section 8  
 29 Section 9: excluding N1/2NE1/4SE1/4, S1/2S1/2NE1/4, Lot 5  
 30 Section 14: Lot 4  
 31 Section 15: south of Tanana River

- 1 Section 16
- 2 Section 21: east of military reservation
- 3 Section 22
- 4 Section 23: NE1/4NE1/4, that portion west of Richardson
- 5 Highway
- 6 Section 25: south of Richardson Highway
- 7 Section 26: excluding Lot 1
- 8 Section 27: east of military reservation
- 9 Section 35
- 10 Section 36: W1/2SW1/4;
- 11 (118) Township 6 South, Range 5 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 12 Sections 1 - 4
- 13 Sections 9 - 15
- 14 Section 16: S1/2, NE1/4
- 15 Section 20: S1/2
- 16 Sections 21 - 28
- 17 Section 29: N1/2
- 18 Section 36;
- 19 (119) Township 6 South, Range 6 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 20 Section 1
- 21 Sections 3 - 9
- 22 Section 10: W1/2
- 23 Section 11: E1/2
- 24 Sections 12 - 36;
- 25 (120) Township 6 South, Range 7 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 26 Sections 3 - 36;
- 27 (121) Township 6 South, Range 8 East, Fairbanks Meridian;
- 28 (122) Township 6 South, Range 9 East, Fairbanks Meridian;
- 29 (123) Township 6 South, Range 10 East, Fairbanks Meridian;
- 30 (124) Township 7 South, Range 6 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 31 Sections 1 - 5

- 1 Sections 8 - 15
- 2 Sections 21 - 24
- 3 Section 25: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 4 Section 26: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 5 Section 27: north of left limit of Tanana River
- 6 Section 28
- 7 Section 29: S1/2
- 8 Section 30: S1/2
- 9 Sections 31 - 32
- 10 Section 33: north of left limit of Tanana River;
- 11 (125) Township 7 South, Range 7 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 12 Sections 1 - 18
- 13 Section 19: north of Richardson Highway
- 14 Section 20: north of Richardson Highway
- 15 Section 21: north of Richardson Highway
- 16 Sections 23 - 26
- 17 Section 27: north of Richardson Highway
- 18 Section 35: excluding ASLS 81-213 except Tract A
- 19 Section 36: excluding ASLS 81-213 except Tract A;
- 20 (126) Township 7 South, Range 8 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 21 Sections 1 - 12
- 22 Sections 15 - 21
- 23 Section 22: W1/2
- 24 Section 27: W1/2
- 25 Sections 28 - 32
- 26 Section 34;
- 27 (127) Township 7 South, Range 9 East, Fairbanks Meridian
- 28 Sections 3 - 10
- 29 Section 15: N1/2
- 30 Section 16: N1/2;
- 31 (128) Township 7 South, Range 10 East, Fairbanks Meridian

1 Sections 24 - 25  
2 Sections 35 - 36;  
3 (129) Township 7 South, Range 11 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
4 Sections 1 - 2  
5 Sections 11 - 14  
6 Sections 19 - 36;  
7 (130) Township 7 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian;  
8 (131) Township 8 South, Range 5 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
9 Section 1: S1/2SW1/4  
10 Section 2: S1/2 north of military reservation, S1/2NW1/4,  
11 SW1/4NE1/4  
12 Section 3: SE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4, north of military  
13 reservation  
14 Section 11: north of the military reservation  
15 Section 12: north of the military reservation  
16 Section 13: north of the military reservation;  
17 (132) Township 8 South, Range 6 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
18 Section 1: S1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4  
19 Section 2: S1/2S1/2  
20 Section 3: S1/2S1/2  
21 Sections 7 - 16  
22 Section 17: north of military reservation  
23 Section 18: north of military reservation  
24 Section 20: north of military reservation  
25 Section 21: north of military reservation  
26 Sections 22 - 26  
27 Section 27: north of military reservation  
28 Section 28: north of military reservation;  
29 (133) Township 8 South, Range 7 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
30 Section 1  
31 Section 13: W1/2, SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4

1 Section 14: W1/2SW1/4, E1/2NE1/4  
2 Section 15: S1/2, NW1/4, S1/2NE1/4  
3 Sections 16 - 17  
4 Section 19: SE1/4SE1/4  
5 Sections 20 - 22  
6 Section 23: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, NE1/4NE1/4, W1/2NE1/4  
7 Section 24: N1/2 NW1/4  
8 Section 27: W1/2, NW1/4NE1/4  
9 Section 28: NE1/4SE 1/4, north of Delta River  
10 Section 29  
11 Section 30: NE1/4NE1/4  
12 Section 34: NW1/4NW1/4;  
13 (134) Township 8 South, Range 8 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
14 Sections 4 - 6  
15 Section 18: SW1/4SE1/4, S1/2SW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4  
16 Section 19: N1/2, N1/2SE1/4  
17 Section 20: SW1/4NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4;  
18 (135) Township 8 South, Range 10 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
19 Section 1  
20 Sections 12 - 13;  
21 (136) Township 8 South, Range 11 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
22 Sections 1 - 18  
23 Sections 22 - 27  
24 Section 36;  
25 (137) Township 8 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
26 Sections 1 - 10  
27 Sections 15 - 22  
28 Sections 27 - 34;  
29 (138) Township 8 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
30 Sections 25 - 26  
31 Sections 33 - 36;

- 1 (139) Township 9 South, Range 11 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 2 Section 3: S1/2  
 3 Sections 4 - 5  
 4 Sections 8 - 11  
 5 Sections 13 - 16  
 6 Section 17: E1/2, NE1/4SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4  
 7 Sections 21 - 27  
 8 Section 28: excluding FO2662;  
 9 (140) Township 9 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 10 Sections 19 - 21  
 11 Sections 28 - 36;  
 12 (141) Township 9 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 13 Sections 1 - 3  
 14 Section 10: E1/2  
 15 Sections 11 - 13  
 16 Sections 24 - 25  
 17 Section 26: S1/2  
 18 Section 27  
 19 Section 28: NE1/4  
 20 Sections 34 - 36;  
 21 (142) Township 9 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian;  
 22 (143) Township 9 South, Range 16 East, Fairbanks Meridian;  
 23 (144) Township 10 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 24 Sections 1 - 3  
 25 Section 4: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 26 Section 5: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 27 Section 6: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 28 Section 10: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 29 Section 11: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 30 Section 12: north of left limit of Tanana River;  
 31 (145) Township 10 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian

1 Sections 1 - 6  
 2 Section 7: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 3 Section 8: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 4 Sections 9 - 12  
 5 Section 14: N1/2  
 6 Section 15: N1/2;  
 7 (146) Township 10 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 8 Sections 1 - 20  
 9 Section 21: NE1/4SE1/4, W1/2, N1/2NE1/4  
 10 Sections 22 - 24  
 11 Section 25: excluding Tract C  
 12 Section 26: excluding SW1/4SW1/4  
 13 Section 27: N1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4  
 14 Section 28: W1/2  
 15 Section 29  
 16 Section 30: NE1/4NE1/4  
 17 Section 32: excluding Tract U, Delta I  
 18 Section 33: W1/2;  
 19 (147) Township 10 South, Range 16 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 20 Sections 1 - 35;  
 21 (148) Township 11 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 22 Section 4: NW1/4, Tracts A, B, E  
 23 Section 5: excluding Tract U, Delta Barley I  
 24 Section 9: Tracts A, B, E1/2  
 25 Section 10: Tracts B, C  
 26 Section 15: Tracts B, C  
 27 Section 16: E1/2, Tracts A, B  
 28 Section 21: Tracts A, B  
 29 Section 22: NW1/4, Tracts A, B, D  
 30 Section 23: Tracts A, B, D, E  
 31 Section 26: Tracts A, B, C, D

1 Section 35: E1/2, Tracts A, B  
2 Section 36: Tracts A, B, C, D, E;  
3 (149) Township 11 South, Range 16 East, Fairbanks Meridian;  
4 (150) Township 12 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
5 Section 1: excluding USS 4013  
6 Section 2: excluding ASLS 79-93  
7 Section 11: excluding ASLS 79-93  
8 Sections 12 - 13  
9 Section 14: excluding ASLS 79-93  
10 Section 23: excluding ASLS 79-93  
11 Section 24: excluding ASLS 79-93  
12 Section 25: excluding ASLS 79-93  
13 Section 36: excluding ASLS 79-93;  
14 (151) Township 12 South, Range 15 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
15 Sections 2 - 6  
16 Section 7: excluding SE1/4SW1/4  
17 Sections 8 - 14  
18 Section 15: E1/2, E1/2NE1/4  
19 Section 18: W1/2W1/2  
20 Section 19: W1/2W1/2  
21 Section 21: S1/2SE1/4  
22 Section 22: excluding N1/2NW1/4  
23 Sections 23 - 30  
24 Section 31: SW1/4  
25 Section 32: SE1/4, S1/2SW1/4  
26 Sections 33 - 36;  
27 (152) Township 12 South, Range 16 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
28 Sections 1 - 5  
29 Sections 9 - 16  
30 Sections 21 - 28  
31 Sections 34 - 36;

- 1 (153) Township 13 South, Range 15 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 2 Sections 1 - 3  
 3 Section 4: N1/2SE1/4, NE1/4, N1/2NW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4,  
 4 NW1/4SW1/4  
 5 Section 5: Tracts A and C  
 6 Section 6: north of Alaska Highway  
 7 Section 11: Tracts D and F  
 8 Section 12  
 9 Section 13: Tracts B and C;  
 10 (154) Township 13 South, Range 16 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 11 Section 1  
 12 Sections 6 - 7  
 13 Section 12: excluding George Lake Subdivision  
 14 Sections 16 - 18  
 15 Section 19: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 16 Section 20: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 17 Section 21  
 18 Section 27  
 19 Section 28: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 20 Section 29: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 21 Section 32: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 22 Section 33: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 23 Sections 34 - 35;  
 24 (155) Township 14 South, Range 16 East, Fairbanks Meridian  
 25 Sections 1 - 3  
 26 Section 4: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 27 Section 10: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 28 Section 11: north of left limit of Tanana River  
 29 Section 12.  
 30 \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 2008.

**Alaska Forest Association, Inc.**



111 STEDMAN STREET, SUITE 200  
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901  
Phone: 907-225-6114  
Fax: 907-225-5920  
E-mail: [afa@akforest.org](mailto:afa@akforest.org)

January 22, 2008

Senator Joe Thomas  
State of Alaska  
State Capitol, Room 510  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 229 – Tanana Valley State Forest Changes

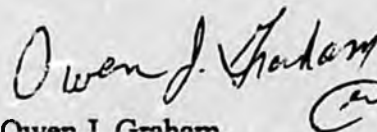
Dear Senator Thomas:

We urge you to approve the boundary changes to the Tanana Valley State Forest as proposed by the State Division of Forestry. The changes are consistent with the Alaska Statutes which state that, "State Forest proposals shall consist primarily of commercially viable forest land....".

Managed timberlands can provide a perpetual supply of timber for manufacturing into wood products and at the same time provide enhanced wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities.

The State of Alaska has one of the smallest timber industries in the nation and this small increase in managed forestland will strengthen the timber industry in the Tanana region.

Sincerely,

  
Owen J. Graham  
Executive Director



**FAIRBANKS**  
*Economic Development*

301 Cushman St., Suite 301, Fairbanks, AK 9970

January 29, 2008

Dear Senator Joe Thomas,

The Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) strives to promote value added product development in Interior Alaska and, therefore, thanks you for your sponsorship of Senate Bill 229: An act relating to the Tanana Valley Forest.

Fairbanks' remote location poses some challenges to economic development. However, when looking to the abundant natural resources found in the Interior, there is also great opportunity for the creation of new, higher paying jobs through responsible development of those valuable resources.

FEDC has long been a supporter of Interior Forest product development and, in partnership with the State Division of Forestry, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and State of Alaska Office of Economic Development, publishes "New Growth"; a prospectus offering information to potential forest industry developers. Our continuing effort is to encourage and support existing & potential businesses aimed at developing local, value added forest products for use here in Alaska. The most crucial need in developing new forest product businesses is ensuring sustainable, easily accessible, high value forest lands for development.

FEDC strongly supports SB 229. Passage of this legislation will add over 100,000 acres of commercially valuable forest land to the State Forest. These lands would increase the amount of valuable forest resources available for the development of value added products for the Interior and the State of Alaska.

This initiative can be a great asset to the State of Alaska, the Interior and to our continued pursuit of a diversified, stable and self-sustaining economy. FEDC thanks you for your time and efforts in sponsoring this bill and is excited about the potential it will bring to our State Forest lands.



Jim Dodson  
CEO/President  
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation



Cassie Finkel  
Project Manager, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

CC: Chris Masiach  
Marty Freeman

# STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1450  
Anchorage, AK 99501

## BOARD OF FORESTRY

February 4, 2008

Senator Joe Thomas  
State Capitol, Room 510  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Thomas:

The Board of Forestry represents diverse interests with respect to forestry in Alaska. By law, it provides a forum for forest management issues on state land, and is charged with monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the Forest Resources and Practices Act on all lands (AS 41.17.047).

The Board of Forestry would like to express its support for SB 229, amendments to the boundary of the Tanana Valley State Forest and the Minto Flats Game Refuge. This bill would correct old drafting errors, update the boundaries to be consistent with changes in land status, add productive forest land to the State Forest, and delete wetlands and other non-productive forest land. The revised boundary will better match the purpose of State Forests, and the intent to included primarily commercially valuable forest land (AS 41.17.200.-210).

In the 25 years since it was established, the State Forest has proved its worth as a source of sawtimber and fuelwood, wildlife habitat, and hunting and recreation opportunities for Alaskans.

The changes in this bill were recommended by the 2001 update to the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, with wide public support. The Board officially commended the Department of Natural Resources for the broad public process used to draft and revise the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan update. SB 229 will implement these widely supported recommendations.

We encourage prompt passage of SB 229, and thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,



Chris Maisch, Chair

### ALASKA BOARD OF FORESTRY

Rob Bosworth  
Matt Cronin  
Wayne Nicolls  
John DiMarchi

Erin McLarron  
Bill Oliver  
Rick Rogers  
Ron Wolfe



**Sharon Long**

---

**From:** Lesh, Melanie G (DNR) [melanie.lesh@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2008 5:57 PM  
**To:** Sharon Long  
**Cc:** Lesh, Melanie G (DNR)  
**Subject:** SB 229 - offnet request (Saturday SRES Hearing)

Hi Sharon,

For tomorrow's SRES hearing, we would like to request an offnet teleconference approval for the hearing on SB 229, for Chris Maisch calling from Fairbanks home number: 455-6359.

RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE \*  
Feb 16 Saturday 11:00 AM BUTROVICH 205  
\*+SB 253 BOARD OF GAME  
\*+SB 229 TANANA VALLEY FOREST/MINTO FLATS REFUGE  
\*+SB 237 MGMT OF SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES

Witness list for SB 229:

- Senator Joe Thomas and/or Grier Hopkins, introducing
- Chris Maisch, Director of the Division of Forestry for the Dept. of Natural Resources (offnet)
- Marty Freeman-Wellborn, Division of Forestry, DNR, (in Juneau)

Also available for questions:

- David James, Northern Region Supervisor, ADFG (not sure how he'll be calling in Tim Barry arranged with Grier/ may be another offnet request?)

Thanks!

**Melanie G. Lesh**  
Legislative Liaison  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
400 W. Willoughby  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907-465-4730

**SB**

**237**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Chair  
Sen. Bert Stedman, Vice Chair  
Sen. Lyda Green  
Sen. Gary Stevens  
Sen. Lesil McGuire  
Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
Sen. Thomas Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau AK 99801-1182  
907-465-3878  
Fax: 907-465-3265  
800-862-3878

## Senate Resources Committee Butrovich Room 205

Saturday, February 16, 2008  
11:00-1:30 p.m.

### AGENDA

- **SB 253 Board of Game**
- **SB 229 Tanana Valley Forest/Minto Flats Refuge**
- **SB 237 Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries**

Teleconference

**SB 237 – SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**SPONSOR: SENATE RESOURCES  
REFERRALS: RESOURCES & FINANCE**

- 1. Sponsor Statement and Fiscal Notes**
- 2. ADF&G and Board of Fisheries --- Comments/Concerns**
- 3. Preliminary Draft of the Susitna Sockeye Action Plan – February 2008**
- 4. Letters of Support**
- 5. Letters of Opposition**
- 6. Press Clippings**

**EXTRA BACKGROUND MATERIAL For Your Information**

**NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER MEMBERS' PACKETS**

- 7. Information on the Board of Fisheries**
- 8. ADF&G – Division of Comm Fisheries – 2008 Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye Forecast**
- 9. Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy - ADF&G and Board of Fisheries – 2001**
- 10. HB 189 – Companion Legislation – Sponsor Statement, Bill History, Committee Minutes**
- 11. ADF&G Susitna River Proposals – CIAA Susitna River Committee - January 2008**
- 12. Yentna Sockeye – Larry Engel's Presentation to the Board of Fish – February 2008**
- 13. Final Report – Marine Stewardship Council Program – October 2007**

**SB 237 – SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**SPONSOR: SENATE RESOURCES  
REFERRALS: RESOURCES & FINANCE**

- 1. Sponsor Statement and Fiscal Notes**
- 2. ADF&G and Board of Fisheries --- Comments/Concerns**
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- 11. ADF&G Susitna River Proposals – CIAA Susitna River Committee - January 2008**
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- 13. Final Report – Marine Stewardship Council Program – October 2007**

**SENATE BILL NO. 237**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 1/18/08**

**Referred: Resources, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the policy for management of sustainable salmon fisheries."**

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

3 **\* Section 1. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:**

4 **Sec. 16.05.247. Management of sustainable salmon fisheries. (a) The Board**  
5 **of Fisheries and Department of Fish and Game shall adopt regulations recognizing that**

6 **(1) while, in the aggregate, Alaska's salmon fisheries are healthy and**  
7 **sustainable largely because of abundant pristine habitat and the application of sound,**  
8 **precautionary, conservation management practices, there is a need for a**  
9 **comprehensive policy for the regulation and management of sustainable salmon**  
10 **fisheries; and**

11 **(2) in formulating fishery management plans designed to achieve**  
12 **maximum or optimum salmon production, the board and the department must consider**  
13 **factors including environmental change, habitat loss or degradation, data uncertainty,**  
14 **limited funding for research and management programs, existing harvest patterns, and**  
15 **new or expanding fisheries.**

1 (b) Regulations adopted under this section must ensure conservation of salmon  
2 and salmon's required marine and aquatic habitats, protection of customary and  
3 traditional subsistence uses and other uses, and the sustained economic health of  
4 Alaska.

5 (c) Management of salmon fisheries by the state shall be based on the  
6 following principles and criteria:

7 (1) wild salmon stocks and the salmon habitats shall be maintained at  
8 levels of resource productivity that ensure sustained yields;

9 (2) salmon fisheries shall be managed to allow escapement within  
10 ranges necessary to conserve and sustain wild salmon production and maintain normal  
11 ecosystem functioning;

12 (3) diversity shall be maintained to the maximum extent possible at the  
13 genetic, population, species, and ecosystem levels;

14 (4) depleted salmon stocks shall be allowed to recover or, where  
15 appropriate, be actively restored;

16 (5) in the face of uncertainty, salmon stocks, fisheries, artificial  
17 propagation, and essential habitats shall be managed conservatively based on a  
18 precautionary approach that gives priority to conserving the reproductive potential of  
19 the salmon resource.

20 (d) The principles and criteria for sustainable salmon fisheries shall be applied  
21 by the board and the department using the best available information, as follows:

22 (1) effective management systems shall be established and applied to  
23 regulate human activities that affect salmon;

24 (2) management plans for each fishery must contain goals and  
25 measurable objectives that are derived from the principles and criteria under this  
26 section and are reviewed on a regular basis;

27 (3) action plans shall be developed for stocks of concern, identified  
28 based on the failure of the stocks to consistently meet prescribed escapement goals and  
29 objectives, and must contain

30 (A) measurable and implementable rebuilding goals and  
31 objectives;

- 1                   **(B) fishery management and habitat restoration and protection**
- 2                   **measures required to restore the stock of concern; and**
- 3                   **(C) a schedule of performance measures appropriate for**
- 4                   **monitoring and gauging the effectiveness of the action plan;**
- 5                   **(4) public support and involvement for sustained use and protection of**
- 6                   **salmon resources shall be sought and encouraged in an open process.**
- 7                   **(e) Nothing in the policy set out in this section is intended to expand, reduce,**
- 8                   **or be inconsistent with the statutory regulatory authority of the board, the department,**
- 9                   **or other state agencies with regulatory authority that affects the fishery resources of**
- 10                   **the state.**

**TAB 1**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Chair  
Sen. Bert Stedman, Vice Chair  
Sen. Lyda Green  
Sen. Gary Stevens  
Sen. Lesil McGuire  
Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
Sen. Thomas Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau AK 99801-1182  
907-465-4907  
Fax: 907-465-3265  
800-862-3878

## Senate Resources Committee

### SPONSOR STATEMENT: SENATE BILL 237

*"An Act relating to the policy for management of sustainable salmon fisheries."*

In 2001, the Alaska Board of Fish adopted the Statewide Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. This policy recognized that threats to sustainable management do exist, and they justify the development of an explicit statewide umbrella policy to help guide fishery management plans and programs. Given the importance of salmon in Alaska, both for consumptive use and commercial fishing, it is vital to ensure salmon populations are sustained for future generations by codifying this policy into statute.

Senate Bill 237 will strengthen our state's resolve to protect one of our most important resources by

- establishing the fundamental principles for the policy and the criteria that apply these principles to real issues;
- implementing procedures in which this policy will be carried out; and
- clarifying terminology used in the language of the legislation.

SB 237 is companion legislation to HB 189, which is sponsored by Reps. Stoltze and Johnson.

---

Contact: Jody Simpson

907.465.2861

Version 25-LS1248 \ A

January 29, 2008

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: SB237-LAW-CIV-02-13-08  
 Bill Version: SB237  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: LAW  
 Title: An Act relating to management of sustainable salmon fisheries. RDU: CIVIL  
 Component: NATURAL RESOURCES  
 Sponsor: SENATE RESOURCES  
 Requester: SENATE RESOURCES Component Number: 2212

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	148.9	0.0	148.9	148.9	148.9	148.9	148.9	148.9
Travel	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Contractual	23.5	0.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Supplies	3.0		3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Equipment	1.9	0.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>178.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	178.3	0.0	171.8	171.8	171.8	171.8	171.8	171.8
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	1	-	1	1	1	1	1
Part-time							
Temporary							

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached analysis.

Prepared by: Robert Meiners, Administrative Services Manager  
 Division: Administrative Services  
 Approved by: Talis Colberg, Attorney General  
Department of Law

Phone (907) 465-5427  
 Date/Time 2/13/08 2:30 PM  
 Date 2/13/2008

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. SB237**

**ANALYSIS CONTINUATION**

The bill is intended to codify into statute the statewide sustainable salmon fisheries policy adopted by the Alaska Board of Fish in 2000. In reviewing the bill the department has identified what it believes are a number of areas of concern that could result in significant legal challenges against the state as it attempts to carry out policies that would become mandated by law under the bill. It is difficult to predict with any certainty the volume and extent to which such challenges will arise but it is believed the likelihood is quite high and the cost of defending against them will be significant.

It is estimated that Law would need a minimum of one journeyman level attorney to advise and represent the Board of Fish in the legal disputes and litigation that would likely arise if this legislation passes.

**TAB 2**

# STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 115526  
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526  
PHONE: (907) 465-4100  
FAX: (907) 465-2332

January 24, 2008

Representative Bill Stoltze  
State Capitol, Room 501  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

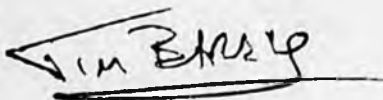
Dear Representative Stoltze,

Your aide, Mr. Mulligan, has asked me to write you regarding a bill you introduced last session, House Bill 189, "Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries". As you know, the Alaska Board of Fisheries currently uses its Statewide Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy in its deliberations on regulatory issues. The state's Assistant Attorney General for the Board has told us that there are significant legal concerns with HB 189, and expressed the opinion that passage of the bill as written would put requirements on the Board that it would be unable to meet. In addition, he feels that, if the bill were enacted, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Board would be vulnerable to potentially successful legal challenges. Needless to say, ADF&G values the advice of our legal counsel.

Earlier this month, the Alaska Board of Fisheries unanimously passed a resolution expressing its opposition to HB 189. ADF&G's fisheries managers are required to manage in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Board. In addition, at this point, ADF&G management is unsure what the potential fiscal impact would be of passage of the bill.

Having said all that, ADF&G believes HB 189 is unnecessary. The existing Sustainable Salmon Policy guides management decisions through Board of Fisheries regulations, and the department looks forward to continuing to co-operate with the Board in managing Alaska's salmon resources. Please feel free to contact me or any other ADF&G staff if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,



Tim Barry  
Legislative Liaison

cc: Senator Charlie Huggins

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**Resolution in Opposition to Placing Sustainable Salmon Policy in Statute**

**2008-258-FB**

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alaska is considering legislation (House Bill 189/Senate Bill 237) to codify the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries contained in Fish and Game regulations (5 AAC 39.222), and

WHEREAS, the legislature previously codified policies of the Board of Game into state statutes, and

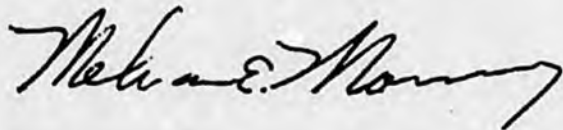
WHEREAS, such codification of Board of Game policies has resulted in an exponential increase in filed lawsuits, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Law anticipates that the direct consequence of entering into statutes the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries will have an identical result, and

WHEREAS, there is no identified problem, indicating that the Board of Fisheries is ignoring in any manner or fashion the policies which it struggled for four years to craft with the aid, assistance, and participation of all concerned user groups,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board Fisheries is opposed to House Bill 189/Senate Bill 237 and strongly urges the Alaska State legislature and the Governor of Alaska to oppose this legislation.

ADOPTED this 12th day of February, 2008



---

Mel Morris, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**Resolution in Opposition to Placing Sustainable Salmon Policy in Statute**

**2008-254-FB**

WHEREAS, House Bill 189 (Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries) would place in statute a policy of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) placed in regulation, and

WHEREAS, this policy took over four years to properly and fully develop, and

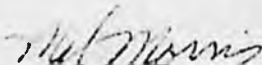
WHEREAS, all interested and affected stakeholders actively participated in formulating the final wording, and

WHEREAS, since its passage, the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries has been actively and successfully used in helping to guide decisions of the Board of Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, as changes in usage may identify minor improvements to the language,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board Fisheries is adamantly opposed to House Bill 189 and to any effort to reduce, constrain or otherwise handcuff the ability of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game to make free, intelligent and wise decisions based on the best available current information.

ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mel Morris, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed

**Jody Simpson**

**From:** Ben Mulligan  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2008 1:01 PM  
**To:** Jody Simpson  
**Subject:** FW: HB 139 Comments from DOL

---

**From:** Lance Nelson [mailto:Lance\_Nelson@law.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2007 4:42 PM  
**To:** Ben Mulligan  
**Cc:** tim\_barry@fishgame.state.ak.us; Melvan Morris; Deborah Behr; Elizabeth Barry; Steven Daugherty; Art Nelson  
**Subject:** HB 139 Comments from DOL

Ben, Tim Barry at ADF&G authorized me to release the summary of our concerns that I plan to give in House Fisheries tomorrow:

Generally, this bill would tend to micromanage and also sets very difficult or impossible standards, and will result in increased litigation. Here are the primary specific concerns we have with the language of the bill:

1. Under paragraph (a)(1), does "comprehensive policy" mean that every regulatory plan has to be comprehensive? That will be an unrealistic standard for many stocks.
2. Under paragraph (a)(2), almost all plans are designed to achieve "maximum or optimum salmon production." What other objective would they have? So the department would have to affirmatively supply data on each of the listed criteria and the board would have to formally consider all the criteria, regardless of whether each was an important factor in the particular proposal before the board. In such cases, consideration tends to be a formal, rote recitation of the criteria without translating to a better, more informed decision: however, failure to expressly address any of the criteria could result in successful legal challenges against Board regulations.
3. Under subsection (b), the phrase "must ensure" sets an impossible standard for salmon management. "Ensure" means to guarantee a result, which is impossible given the way salmon return and the limits on the state's ability to control their entire lifecycle. Certainly, the Board has very limited control over the marine habitat of salmon, and no power to ensure the "sustained economic health of Alaska."
4. In subsection (c), the term "shall" imposes new, difficult standards.

5. For example, in (c)(1), even in the sustained yield provision of the Alaska Constitution (section 4, article VIII) there is no mandate that salmon stocks be maintained to "ensure sustained yields." The constitutional provision says: "Fish ... shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses." That language has been interpreted with flexibility in light of the record of the constitutional convention, which states, in pertinent part:

As to forests, timber volume, rate of growth, and acreage of timber type can be determined with some degree of accuracy. For fish, for wildlife, and for some other replenishable resources ..., it is difficult or even impossible to measure accurately the factors by which a calculated sustained yield could be determined. Yet the term "sustained yield principle" is used in connection with management of such resources. When so used it denotes conscious application insofar as practicable of principles of management intended to sustain the yield of the resource being managed. That broad meaning is the meaning of the term as used in the Article.

Papers of Alaska Constitutional Convention, 1955-1956, Folder 210, Terms *quoted in Native Village of Erim v. State*, 990 P.2d 1, 7 (Alaska 1999). The Supreme Court went on to elaborate as follows in the *Erim* case:

[T]he primary emphasis of the framers' discussions and the glossary's definitions of sustained yield is on the flexibility of the sustained yield requirement and its status as a guiding principle rather than a concrete, predefined process.

*Id.* at 7-8. The language in the bill, on the other hand, imposes a standard of strict guarantees.

6. Under (c)(2), the directive "shall be managed to allow escapement within ranges necessary to conserve and sustain wild salmon production and maintain normal ecosystem functioning" is also problematic. It does not recognize the variables at work in salmon management. As noted by the Alaska Supreme Court:

The salmon in these waters are subject to numerous pressures, any one of which could account for a population decrease in a given year. A short and incomplete list of these factors includes weather, natural predators, competition with other fish, international fishing efforts, water pollution, and improved efficiency of fleets and fishing methods. Moreover, several different species of salmon travel through the False Pass fishery, thus creating a mixed stock that increases challenges of management. The record also shows that the salmon operate on a fluctuating cycle that makes estimating returns from year to year difficult even under the best conditions.

*Id.* at 8. Use of mandatory terms like "shall" and "ensure" in salmon management statutes sets up unrealistic expectations and invites legal challenges, which are much more likely to be successful with mandatory language.

Provision (c)(4) could be interpreted to require the Board to shut down any mixed stock fishery that involves take of a depleted salmon stock regardless of consequences to other fisheries or other escapement objectives. Thus, a relatively low rate of interception of a depleted stock could result in closure of a fishery causing significant overescapement and possibly harming production of another stock, even while providing little benefit to the depleted stock. The failure to define the terms "depleted" and "actively restored" also raises concerns.

Other paragraphs of subsection (c) also contain problematic language such as "to the maximum extent possible," and "priority."

Similar language in a regulation can be addressed by qualifying language in another regulation, such as by adding a "notwithstanding" provision, and further, the Board receives great deference in interpreting its own regulations, however if this type of language is put in statute, the Board will not have any discretion to do anything but follow the letter of statutory language.

7. In subsection (d), the language "best available information" could be problematic because it might be construed to require the department and board to seek out and review all possible information rather than what they deem to be the most critical. Any one could argue that there was better information available and the Board did not hear or consider it.

The Board normally relies upon a short report from the Department and consideration of all public comments submitted to it in adoption of its regulatory decisions. Similarly, the Department normally relies principally upon fish ticket and escapement information collected by the department in development of its reports and recommendations to the Board. While this information is often extensive, other information is available from the internet, scientific journals, and other sources, and it could certainly be argued that some of this information may be "better" regarding discrete issues. This bill could be interpreted to require the Department and Board to actively gather and review this information even if not presented by a member of the public. Thus, if this bill were enacted, Department recommendations and Board decisions would be vulnerable to potentially successful legal challenges unless the Department commits significant new resources to doing a thorough scientific review of all potentially relevant background information, and presents the resulting information to the Board for consideration with regard to each of the several hundred proposals considered by the Board each year. This would require increased staffing of biologists and economists and would significantly extend the time necessary for Board meetings, possibly to the extent that Board members would be precluded from effectively engaging in other occupations.

8. In (d)(1) the language applies to "human activities that affect salmon," but the statutory authority of the Board extends generally to fishing activities and not many other activities that affect salmon, some of which are more specifically regulated by other state agencies, such as salmon stream activity permitting under AS 41.14.870.

9. Under (d)(2), every management plan would have to contain "goals and measurable objectives." This connotes a formulaic, equation-type approach to management plans that

works in some fisheries, but there are probably current plans that do not specifically express goals and measurable objectives because of the nature of those fisheries or the lack of information. They would be subject to challenge under this provision.

10. Paragraph (d)(3) has the same kind of language that sets the Board and Department up for easy challenges to regulations and department actions. The language on habitat restoration and protection measure is largely outside the authority of the Board or Department.

**TAB 3**

RC 154

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME**

No point in restricting  
Northern District. Only  
3% of the catch  
-----  
No restriction of  
Central District  
-----  
CIAA's plan of inaction.



**PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF SUSITNA  
SOCKEYE SALMON ACTION PLAN**

(to be discussed if BOF determines the stock meets the  
criteria as stated in the SSFP)

February 8, 2008

PAGE 1

## DRAFT

# SUSITNA RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON STOCK STATUS AND ACTION PLAN, 2008

## INTRODUCTION

### SYNOPSIS

In response to the guidelines established in the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222), the Board of Fisheries has identified the Susitna River sockeye salmon stock as a stock of yield concern. For this determination, the estimated Susitna River commercial harvest for the most recent 5-year average was compared to the previous 10- and 20-year averages for the Central District drift and Northern District fisheries. Identification of Susitna River sockeye salmon as a stock of yield concern is based on the definition of "yield concern" contained in SSFP. A "yield concern" is defined as "a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvestable surpluses, above a stock's escapement needs; a yield concern is less severe than a management concern, which is less severe than a conservation concern" [5 AAC 39.222 (f) (42)]. The policy defines "chronic inability" as "the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species" [5 AAC 39.222 (f) (5)].

This report describes the existing management plans and Emergency Order authority that the department follows to conserve Susitna River sockeye salmon. In addition to the existing management plans, options have been presented regarding management of the Northern District set gillnet fishery and Susitna River sport fishery. In light of increased uncertainty of the department's ability to accurately assess escapements of sockeye salmon into the Susitna River, a research plan has been developed to improve the department's ability to assess sockeye salmon stocks within the drainage. With these ongoing studies, the department will have better information on the productivity and sustainability of the stock at the 2011 Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting.

### STOCK ASSESSMENT

Since 1981 the Yentna River daily sonar estimates have been used as an indicator of sockeye salmon escapement into the Susitna River drainage. The sockeye salmon escapement in the Yentna River has been thought to be approximately one half of the total Susitna River sockeye salmon escapement based on a combination of 1981-1985 capture-recapture abundance estimates passing Sunshine (1982-1985; Susitna River rkm 116), and sonar abundance estimates passing Yentna (1981-1985; Yentna River rkm 7) and Susitna Station (1981; Susitna River rkm 116; Westerman and Willette 2006).

Based on Bendix sonar estimates since 1981, the number of Yentna River spawners has ranged from approximately 37,000 to 181,000 sockeye salmon. The sonar estimate of sockeye salmon escapement into the Yentna River has not met the current SEG range of 90,000 to 160,000 for 5 of the past 8 years.

Although sockeye salmon escapements are estimated via a Bendix sonar system, there is great uncertainty surrounding their accuracy and precision. The high variability observed between

## DRAFT

various methods of escapement assessment (i.e., ongoing Bendix estimates compared with recent estimates from capture-recapture and DIDSON sonar projects; Yanuzzi et al. 2007) has added to the uncertainty regarding our previous assessments.

In the Central District drift gillnet fishery, the estimated commercial harvest of Susitna River sockeye salmon for the most recent 5-year average (2003–2007) is 59% of the previous 10-year (1993–2002) average and 49% of the previous 20-year (1983–2002) average. In the Northern District, the most recent 5-year average is 31% of the previous 10-year average and 22% of the previous 20-year average. Since the total Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) commercial harvest averages 2.9 million sockeye salmon and the age composition allocation model estimate of the Susitna sockeye salmon harvest is only 8.4% of the total, the department has low confidence in the accuracy of our estimate of the Susitna sockeye salmon harvest.

### ESCAPEMENT GOAL HISTORY

An escapement goal of 200,000 sockeye salmon was established for the Susitna River in 1979. It was set using a return-per-spawner value of 4, and an assumption that the Susitna River could produce about 800,000 adult sockeye salmon. A review of the goal in 1989 based on euphotic volume of rearing lakes suggested the existing goal was valid. In 1986, the sonar site at Susitna Station was destroyed by a flood, and no alternative hydroacoustic site could be found on the mainstem of the Susitna. Therefore, hydroacoustic estimates from a Yentna River site were used to assess total Susitna River escapement. Based on comparisons of estimates for the Yentna and the Susitna Rivers over 5 years, 1981–1985, it was decided that an escapement of 100,000 to 150,000 sockeye salmon into the Yentna River should result in a total escapement of at least 200,000 sockeye salmon into the entire Susitna drainage (Fried 1994). This was based on the average proportion of the total Susitna River escapement, which entered the Yentna River (49%) during the 5 years studied, as well as the range of annual proportions (41–59%) for these 5 years.

In 2001, the biological escapement goal for the Yentna River was changed to a sustainable escapement goal of 90,000–160,000 sockeye salmon based on Yentna sonar data from 1981–2000, because reliable estimates of total return to the system were not available (Bue and Hasbrouck *Unpublished*). Escapement goal reviews since 2001 have resulted in no change recommended to this goal type or range (Hasbrouck and Edmundson 2007, Fair et al. 2007). In 2005, an optimal escapement goal of 75,000–180,000 Yentna River sockeye salmon was adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries contingent on the sockeye salmon run to the Kenai River being projected to exceed 4 million.

## ACTION PLAN FOR ADDRESSING STOCK OF CONCERN

### MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

#### Commercial Fisheries

There are currently no actions in the Central District Upper Subdistrict (Eastside) set gillnet fishery for the conservation of northern bound salmon stocks. However, in the Northern District set gillnet fishery, the department's primary tools to reduce exploitation on Susitna stocks is to reduce gear from three nets to two or one from July 20 through July 31, or to close the commercial fishery. In practice, the department has done both concurrently, but most commonly the fishery has been closed. For example, from 2005 through 2007, the department closed the

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entire Northern District 17 times. In the Central District drift gillnet fishery two regular drift gillnet fishing periods between July 9-15 are restricted to Area 1 (Figure 1) to conserve Susitna sockeye salmon stocks. Furthermore, from July 16-31 the drift gillnet fishery is to be restricted for two regular fishing periods to drift Area 1 when Kenai River sockeye salmon runs are less than two million fish, or drift Area 1 & 2 (Figure 1) when Kenai runs are between two and four million sockeye salmon. These restrictions are for both sockeye and coho salmon conservation. The department will continue to conserve Susitna River sockeye salmon through prescribed management plans and the use of Emergency Order authority.

### CURRENT ACTIONS IN NORTHERN DISTRICT SALMON PLAN FOR SALMON CONSERVATION

5 AAC 21.358 Northern District Salmon Management Plan (a) The purposes of this management plan are to minimize the harvest of coho salmon bound for the Northern District of upper Cook Inlet and to provide the department direction for management of salmon stocks. The department shall manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide commercial fisherman with an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho salmon, to provide sport and guided sport fisherman a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions, or as specified in this section and other regulations.

(b) The department shall manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries based on the abundance of Yentna River sockeye salmon, the Yentna River escapement goal, or other salmon abundance indices as it deems appropriate. Achievement of the lower end of the Yentna River optimal escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kenai River escapement goal. When the sockeye salmon returns to the Kenai River are four million or greater, the optimal escapement goal is 75,000 to 180,000 sockeye salmon in the Yentna River.

(c) From July 20 through July 31, if the department's assessment of abundance indicates that restrictions are necessary to achieve the escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Northern District and immediately reopen the season during which the number of set gillnets that may be used is limited to the following options selected at the discretion of the commissioner:

- (1) three set gillnets that are not more than 105 fathoms in aggregate length;
- (2) two set gillnets that are not more than 70 fathoms in aggregate length;
- (3) one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length.

(d) In addition to the provisions specified in (b) and (c) of this section, the department shall manage the Northern District commercial salmon fisheries to minimize the incidental take of coho salmon stocks bound for the Northern District in the following manner:

- (1) additional fishing periods, other than the weekly fishing periods described in 5 AAC 21.320(a) (1), may not be provided when coho salmon are expected to be the most abundant species harvested during that period; additional fishing periods may not be provided based on the abundance of Northern District coho salmon;
- (2) after August 15, the department shall limit the harvest of coho salmon in the Northern

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District by limiting commercial fishing time to the weekly fishing periods described in 5 AAC 21.320(a) (1).

### Potential Modifications to 5 AAC 21.358 Northern District Salmon Management Plan

(c) In light of recent department data revealing concerns about the validity of Yentna River sockeye salmon enumeration data, it is the intent of the Board that Susitna River sockeye salmon stocks will be conservatively managed while the Department continues its studies in this drainage. Until the UCI BOF finfish meeting in 2011, Susitna River sockeye salmon will be managed as follows:

(1) From the beginning of the regular commercial salmon fishing season, which occurs on or after June 25, through July 19, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish no more than two regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods per week.

(2) From July 20 through August 7, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will fish regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods, but will be limited to no more than one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit. If it is determined by the Department that the Yentna River sockeye salmon [SEG or OEG] will be achieved during this time frame, the Department may increase the allowable fishing gear from one 35-fathom set gillnet per permit to two 35-fathom set gillnets per permit or the full complement of three set gillnets that are not more than 105 fathoms in aggregate length per permit.

(3) On the first regular fishing period after August 7, and thereafter, the Northern District set gillnet fishery will again return to a full complement of fishing gear of three set gillnets that are not more than 105 fathoms in aggregate length per permit, unless restricted or closed by emergency order.

(4) The Central District drift gillnet fishery will be managed to conserve Susitna drainage sockeye salmon as follows:

(i) The Department will implement all of the provisions of 5AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery management plan.

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## CURRENT ACTIONS IN DRIFT GILLNET PLAN FOR SALMON CONSERVATION

For the Central District drift gillnet fishery, there are two types of possible restrictions currently in place designed to conserve northern bound stocks. First, beginning July 9 the department must restrict the drift gillnet fishing fleet to Area 1 (Figure 1) of the Central District (section A below), which is that area south of the south end of Kalgin Island, and to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections (the corridor). Prior to 2005, restrictions were made to the drift fleet for one period to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections during this time frame, and for one inlet-wide period. In 2005 the BOF also provided the department with an option of an additional period in Area 1 during this time, if the Kenai River sockeye salmon run was greater than 2 million. This option has never been used.

Secondly, restrictions to the drift fleet for the conservation of Susitna stocks can occur from July 16-31 (section B below). For Kenai River sockeye salmon runs less than 2 million, the department must restrict the drift fleet to Area 1 (and the Kenai and Kasilof Sections); for runs of 2 million to 4 million, the drift fleet is restricted to Area 1 and Area 2 (and the Kenai and Kasilof Sections); and for runs greater than 4 million there are no mandatory restrictions. These restrictions apply to any two regular periods during this time frame. The purpose of the July 9-15 restrictions are to allow for the passage of northern-bound sockeye salmon, while the July 16-31 restrictions are primarily for northern-bound sockeye and coho salmon.

### 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

(a) The department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:

(1) weekly fishing periods are as described in 5 AAC 21.320(b);

(2) the fishing season will open the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, and

(A) from July 9 through July 15,

(i) fishing during the two regular fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Gillnet Area 1;

(ii) at run strengths greater than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open one additional 12-hour fishing period in the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1;

(B) from July 16 through July 31

(i) at run strengths of less than 2,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during the two regular 12-hour fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1;

(ii) at run strengths of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during the two regular 12-hour fishing periods is restricted to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2;

(iii) at run strengths greater than 4,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, there will be no mandatory restrictions during regular fishing periods;

(C) from August 11 until closed by emergency order,

(i) Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods;

(ii) through the 2007 fishing season, Chinitna Bay may be opened by emergency order.

(b) For the purposes of this section,

(1) "Drift Gillnet Area 1" means those waters of the Central District south of Kalgin Island at 60° 20.43' N. lat.;

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(2) "Drift Gillnet Area 2" means those waters of the Central District enclosed by a line from 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 54.83' W. long. to a point at 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 39.00' W. long. to a point at 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 24.00' W. long. to a point at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 25.70' W. long. to a point at 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 28.55' W. long.;

(3) "Drift Gillnet Area 3" means those waters of the Central District within one mile of mean lower low water (zero tide) south of a point on the West Foreland at 60° 42.70' N. lat., 151° 42.30' W. long.;

(4) "Drift Gillnet Area 4" means those waters of the Central District enclosed by a line from 60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 34.74' W. long. to the Kalgin Buoy at 60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 09.90' W. long. to a point at 59° 46.15' N. lat., 152° 18.62' W. long. to a point on the western shore at 59° 46.15' N. lat., 153° 00.20' W. long., not including the waters of the Chinima Bay Subdistrict.

### Sport Fisheries

#### 5 AAC 75.003. Emergency order authority

The commissioner may, by emergency order, change bag and possession limits and annual limits and alter methods and means in sport fisheries. These changes may not reduce the allocation of harvest among other user groups. An emergency order may not supersede bag and possession limits or methods and means established in regulatory management plans established by the Board of Fisheries. The commissioner will use emergency order authority to manage sport fishing opportunity in the following circumstances:

(1) The commissioner or an authorized designee may decrease sport fish bag and possession limits and annual limits and restrict methods and means of harvest by emergency order when

(A) the total escapement of a species of anadromous fish is projected to be less than the escapement goal for that species listed in management plans that have been adopted by the Board of Fisheries or established by the department; or

(B) the recreational harvest must be curtailed in any fishery for conservation reasons; the department may issue a "catch and release only" emergency order when the estimated hooking mortality is not projected to reduce the population of fish below the number required for spawning escapement or, in the case of resident species, below the level required for maintenance of the desired age and size distribution of the population; "catch and release" as a tool to address conservation under this section shall be labeled "conservation catch and release" to differentiate from catch and release regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries for special management to create diversity in sport fisheries.

(2) The commissioner or an authorized designee may increase sport fish bag and possession limits and annual limits and liberalize methods and means of harvest by emergency order when

(A) the total escapement of a species of anadromous fish is projected to exceed the escapement goal for that species listed in management plans that have been adopted by the Board of Fisheries or established by the department, if the total harvest under the increased bag and possession limit will not reduce the escapement below the escapement goal; or

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(B) hatchery-produced fish escape through existing fisheries to designated harvest areas in numbers that exceed broodstock needs, any natural spawning requirements, or cost recovery goals of private nonprofit hatcheries; the intent of this subparagraph is to allow harvest when there are no other competing user groups.

(3) For purposes of data collection to improve harvest or stock assessment, or for purposes of enforcement of bag and size limits, the commissioner or an authorized designee may establish, by emergency order, times and areas when anglers may not fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a specific species of fish in a manner that would prevent species identification, examination of the adipose fin of salmonids, recovery of tags, or determination of the number, sex, age, or length of fish taken until the fish are brought to shore and offloaded from a vessel or removed from a shoreline fishing site. The commissioner or an authorized designee may also require in the emergency order that certain parts of a fish remain attached for the purpose of species identification or data collection. However, during these periods, an angler may gill and gut a fish before the fish is brought to shore and offloaded from a vessel or removed from a shoreline fishing site. This section does not prohibit the consumption or preservation of fish aboard a vessel. For the purposes of this section, "shoreline fishing site" means the shoreline where the fish is hooked and removed from the water and becomes part of the angler's bag limit.

### Potential Modification to Sport Fishery in Susitna River drainage

(5) The sockeye salmon sport fishery in the Susitna River drainage will be prosecuted with a bag limit of 3 fish. If the Northern District set gillnet fishery is closed to conserve sockeye salmon, the Susitna River drainage sport fisheries will remain open unless the board directs otherwise. The Susitna River sport harvest is not used to determine spawning escapement or in the development of escapement goals.

## RESEARCH PLAN

The department currently assesses Yentna River sockeye salmon escapement and commercial and sport harvests annually. The following research projects include current and proposed projects used to gather detailed information about sockeye salmon stocks in the Susitna River.

### CURRENT SUSITNA RIVER DRAINAGE SOCKEYE SALMON RESEARCH PROJECTS

#### *YENTNA RIVER SALMON ESCAPEMENT*

*Objectives:* The primary objectives of this project are to estimate (1) the daily and cumulative escapement of sockeye salmon into the Yentna River, and (2) the age, length, and sex composition of those escapements.

*Description:* Fish passage into the Yentna River is estimated using side-looking (formerly referred to as side-scanning) Bendix sonar. Fish caught and sampled at companion fish wheels are used to apportion sonar counts to estimate species composition of fish passage (i.e., estimate abundance of sockeye salmon) and the age, length, and sex composition of the inriver sockeye salmon run.

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### *COMPARING BENDIX AND DIDSON SONAR PASSAGE ESTIMATES IN THE YENTNA RIVER*

*Objective:* The primary objective of this project is to compare the Bendix sonar estimates of migrating salmon in the Yentna River with estimates from a Dual frequency Identification SONar (DIDSON).

*Description:* A DIDSON sonar is placed on both banks of the Yentna River to collect fish passage data independent of the existing Bendix sonar. Both types of sonar equipment are operated at the same time and encompass the same/similar area of the river so that the passage data is directly comparable.

### *INRIVER ABUNDANCE AND SPAWNER DISTRIBUTION OF SUSITNA RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON*

*Objectives:* The primary objectives of this study are to (1) estimate the inriver abundance of adult sockeye salmon migrating into the Susitna River with a capture-recapture experiment, and (2) identify sockeye salmon spawning areas in the Susitna River.

*Description:* In 2006-2008, a capture-recapture experiment is conducted to estimate sockeye salmon abundance in the entire Susitna River. Radio telemetry is used to estimate the spawning distribution throughout the watershed.

### *EVALUATION OF SOCKEYE SALMON PRODUCTION FROM LAKES IN THE SUSITNA RIVER WATERSHED*

*Objectives:* The primary objectives of this study are to (1) evaluate limnological conditions in seven lakes considered important (major) to sockeye salmon production and compare current conditions to those observed in the 1980s and 1990s, (2) estimate the abundance and mean body size of juvenile sockeye salmon and other juvenile fishes rearing in each lake in the fall, (3) estimate the age composition of the juvenile sockeye salmon in each lake, and (4) evaluate the survival from potential egg deposition to fall fry and from fall fry to smolt.

*Description:* Estimates of smolt and fall fry abundance, and limnological characteristics such as water chemistry and zooplankton abundance by species are collected (Chelatna, Shell, Eyers, Swan, Larson, Stephan, and Judd lakes). Analyses focus on determining carrying capacity of the lakes for sockeye salmon fry and assessing the adequacy of spawning escapements over time.

### *BIOLOGICAL COMPOSITION OF COMMERCIAL SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST IN UPPER COOK INLET*

*Objective:* The primary objective of this project is to estimate the age and sex composition of the commercial salmon harvest.

*Description:* Sockeye salmon harvested in various commercial fisheries in UCI are sampled using a stratified systematic sampling design. Area strata are determined *a priori* using established fishery districts and subdistricts. Temporal stratification is determined post season based on catch patterns in each fishery and the number of samples collected.

### *STOCK COMPOSITION OF THE UPPER COOK INLET SOCKEYE SALMON COMMERCIAL HARVEST*

*Objectives:* The primary objectives of this study are to (1) estimate the stock composition of sockeye salmon harvested in major commercial fisheries in spatial/time strata, and (2) compare

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stock composition among substrata (i.e., fish processors for the drift gillnet fishery and beaches within each management subdistrict for the set gillnet fishery).

*Description:* This project uses new single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs) genetic stock identification (GSI) methods to estimate stock-specific composition of the commercial harvest in UCI.

### PROPOSED SUSITNA RIVER DRAINAGE SOCKEYE SALMON RESEARCH PROJECTS

A recent review of Division of Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish Division programs in the Susitna River drainage identified the need for improved escapement, smolt, and habitat information for sockeye salmon. The following research programs are planned to gather further detailed information about sockeye salmon stocks in the Susitna River drainage:

#### *SUSITNA RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON MAJOR SYSTEM ADULT WEIRS*

*Objective:* The primary objective of this project is to estimate the abundance of sockeye salmon spawners entering 7 major rearing lakes in the Susitna River watershed.

*Description:* Adult weirs will be collaboratively operated by the Department and the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) on 7 major sockeye salmon rearing lakes (Chelatna, Shell, Byers, Swan, Larson, Stephan, and Judd lakes) in the Susitna River watershed to estimate spawner abundance. The age, sex, and length composition of the adult sockeye salmon escapement will be estimated at each weir. Environmental conditions will be recorded daily (i.e., percent cloud cover, precipitation, and stream and air temperature). Sockeye salmon spawner abundance estimates will be used to (1) evaluate the accuracy of sockeye salmon passage estimates from the Yentna River sonar project, (2) help set escapement goals, and (3) estimate freshwater production of sockeye salmon in the watershed (in conjunction with smolt production project described below).

#### *SUSITNA RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON ADDITIONAL SYSTEM ADULT WEIRS*

*Objective:* The primary objective of this project is to estimate the abundance of sockeye salmon spawners entering 7 additional rearing lakes in the Susitna River watershed.

*Description:* Adult weirs will be collaboratively operated by the Department and CIAA on 7 additional sockeye salmon rearing lakes (Whiskey, Hewitt, Lockwood, Trapper, Red Shirt, Spink, and Trinity lakes) in the Susitna River watershed to estimate spawner abundance. The age, sex, and length composition of the adult sockeye salmon escapement will be estimated at each weir. Environmental conditions will be recorded daily (i.e., percent cloud cover, precipitation, and stream and air temperature). Sockeye salmon spawner abundance estimates will be used to (1) evaluate the accuracy of sockeye salmon passage estimates from the Yentna River sonar project, (2) help set escapement goals, and (3) estimate freshwater production of sockeye salmon in the watershed (in conjunction with smolt production project described below).

#### *SUSITNA RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON MAJOR SYSTEM SMOLT PRODUCTION*

*Objective:* The primary objective of this project is to estimate the abundance of sockeye salmon smolt emigrating from 7 major rearing lakes in the Susitna River watershed.

*Description:* The abundance of sockeye salmon smolt emigrating from 7 major sockeye salmon rearing lakes (Chelatna, Shell, Byers, Swan, Larson, Stephan, and Judd lakes) in the Susitna River watershed will be collaboratively estimated by the Department and CIAA. Fyke nets will be operated from late May through June at 6 of the lakes to provide a total smolt enumeration. At the remaining lake (Chelatna Lake), three inclined-plane traps will be operated from late May

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through August, and smolt population size will be estimated using standard mark-recapture techniques. Age, weight and length of smolts will be estimated from samples collected daily at each site. Smolt abundance estimates will be used to (1) forecast adult returns, and (2) estimate freshwater production of sockeye salmon in the watershed (in conjunction with adult escapement estimates).

### *SUSITNA RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON ADDITIONAL SYSTEM SMOLT PRODUCTION*

*Objective:* The primary objective of this project is to estimate the abundance of sockeye salmon smolt emigrating from 7 additional rearing lakes in the Susitna River watershed.

*Description:* The abundance of sockeye salmon smolt emigrating from 7 additional sockeye salmon rearing lakes (Whiskey, Hewitt, Lockwood, Trapper, Red Shirt, Spink, and Trinity lakes) in the Susitna River watershed will be collaboratively estimated by the Department and CIAA. Fyke nets will be operated from late May through June at all of these lakes to provide a total smolt enumeration. Age, weight and length of smolts will be estimated from samples collected daily at each site. Smolt abundance estimates will be used to (1) forecast adult returns, and (2) estimate freshwater production of sockeye salmon in the watershed (in conjunction with adult escapement estimates).

### *SUSITNA RIVER FISH PASSAGE RESTORATION*

*Objective:* The primary objective of this project is to restore and improve salmonid access to upstream spawning and rearing habitats in the lower Susitna River.

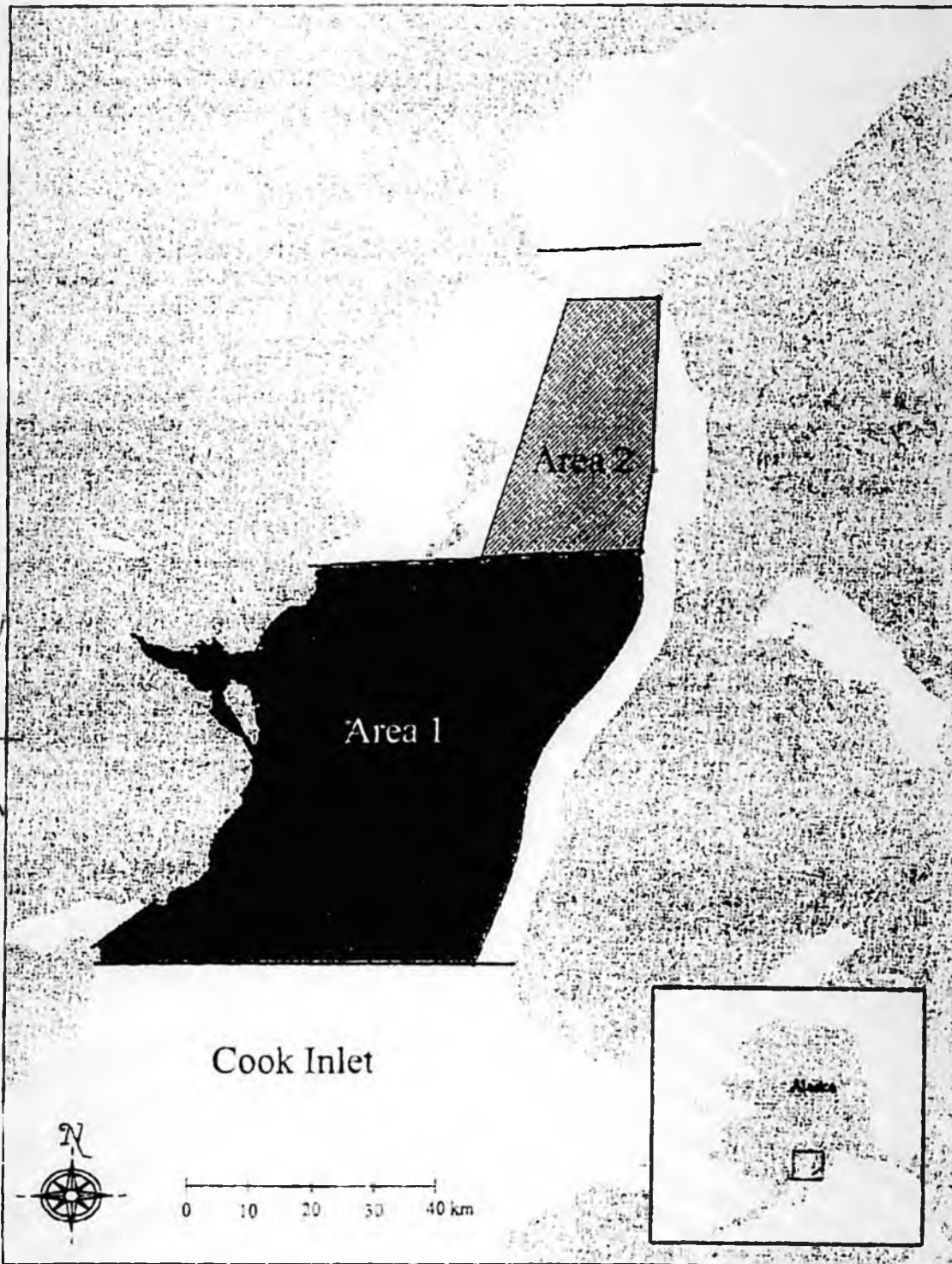
*Description:* Upstream access to historically occupied salmonid habitats will be evaluated in the lower Susitna River to facilitate removal of culvert barriers or other in-stream obstructions. As many as 10 upstream fish passage barriers will be identified, prioritized according to cost-benefit analyses of fishery values and project costs, and upstream access improved and restored. During construction and after the fish passage restoration projects have been completed, an established monitoring protocol will be used to track individual restoration project performance.

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**Figure 1.**—Map of Central Cook Inlet showing management fishing boundaries for Area 1 and Area 2 for drift gillnet fisheries.

**TAB 4**