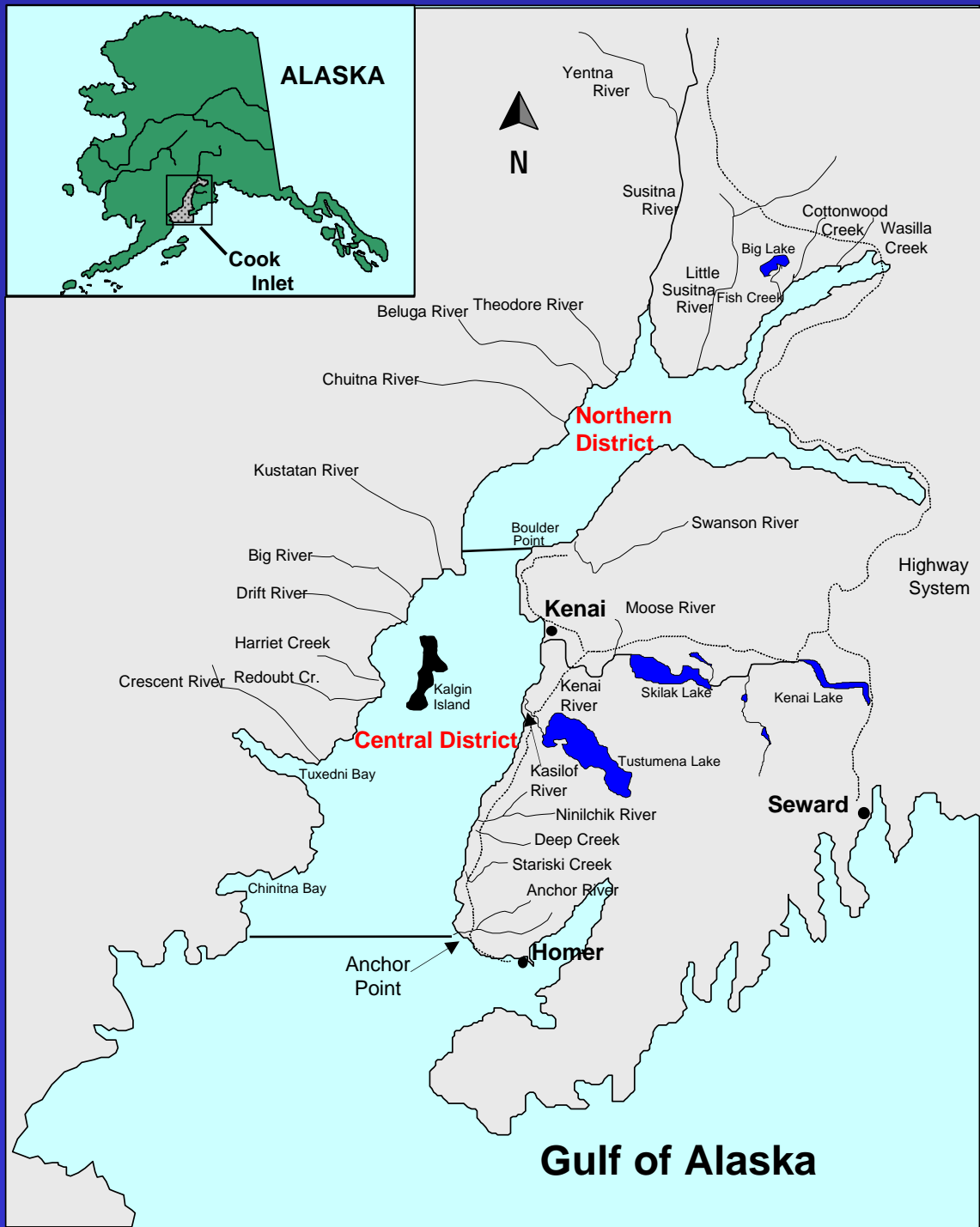


Legislative Task Force Overview Of Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management & Management Plans



Presented by John Hilsinger,
Director of Commercial Fisheries

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Latitude and Longitude are based on the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) which is equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84).

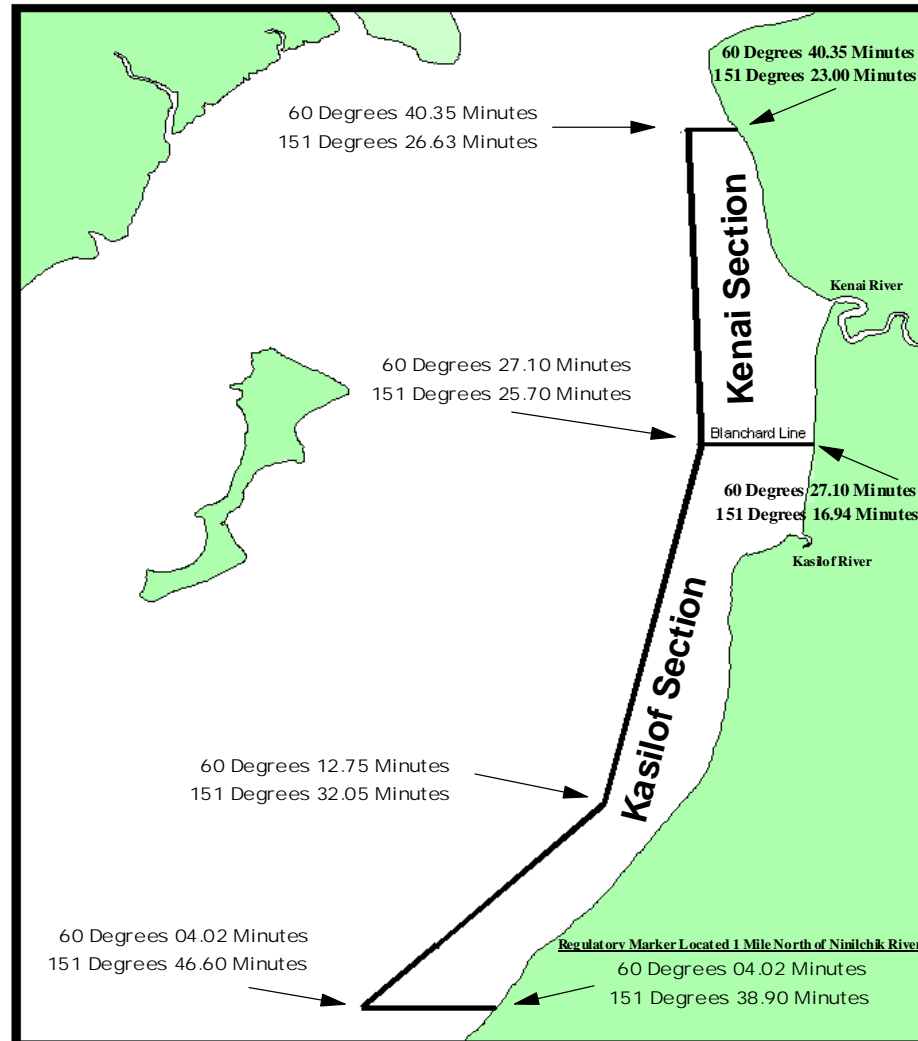


Figure 1. Map of the Kenai and Kaslof Sections with waypoint descriptions.

Organization of Management Plans in Upper Cook Inlet

UCI Salmon Management Plan
 Yentna River Subsistence Plan
 UCI Personal Use Plan
 Riparian Habitat Plan

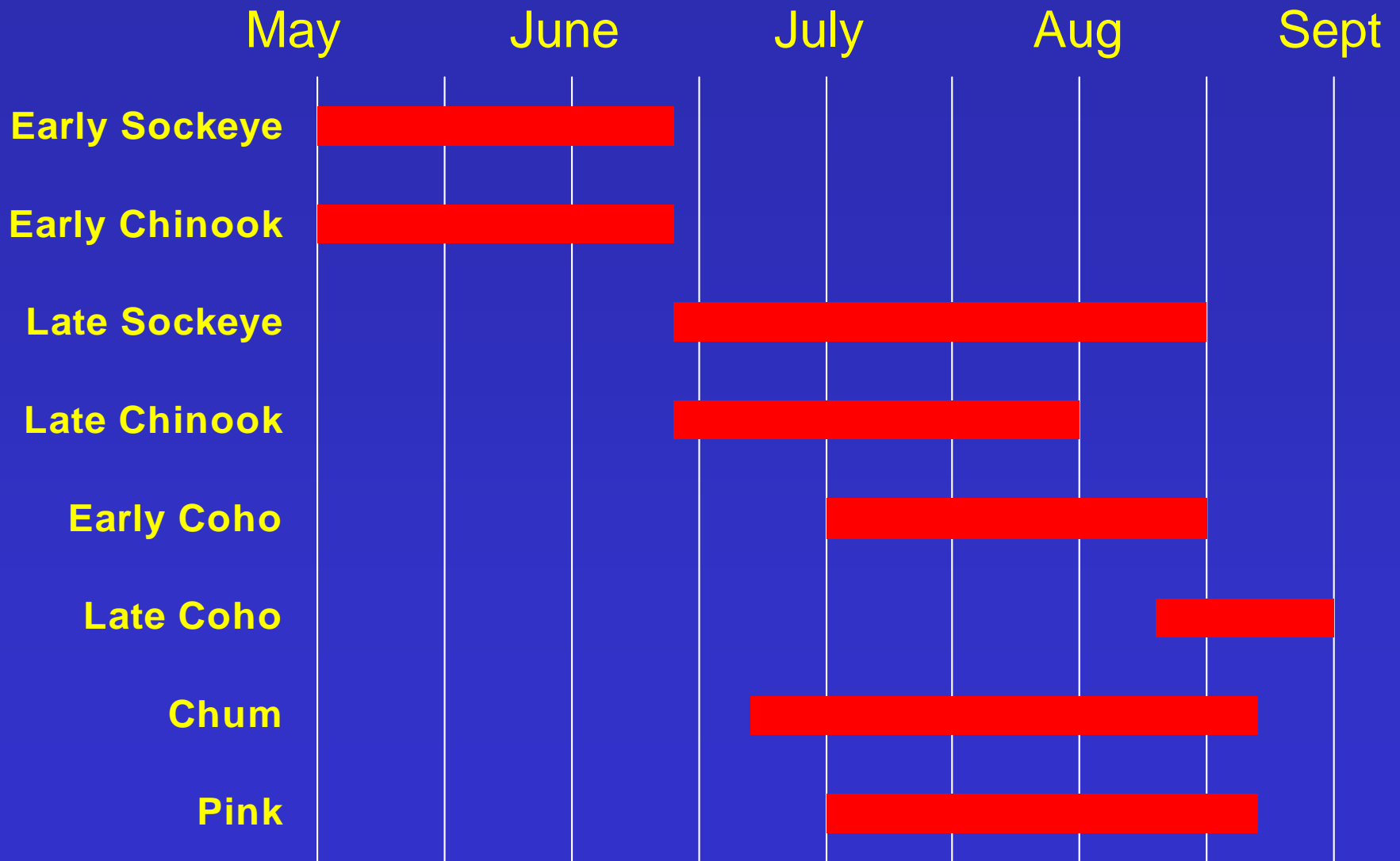
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Northern District King Kenai/Kasilof ER King Big River Sockeye UCI Marine Early King	Kenai LR King Kenai LR Sockeye Kasilof Salmon Packer's Creek Sockeye	Kenai Coho
	Russian River Sockeye Central District Drift Plan Little Susitna Coho Northern District Salmon	

There are a total of 17 management plans in the UCI Mgmt Area 4

OVERVIEW OF SALMON MANAGEMENT PLANS IN UPPER COOK INLET

- The Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan guides the harvest and allocations of stocks through the step down management plans. States that meeting escapement goals is the primary objective of the department.
- “Step-down plans” provide specific objectives and guidelines to the department for in-season management of salmon resources. Of particular importance are specifying management objectives and allocative instructions.
- Step-down plans are structured around migratory timing of major stocks of salmon moving through Upper Cook Inlet






Run Timing of Salmon in Upper Cook Inlet



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UCI Subsistence Fisheries

- Most of UCI is designated as a non-subsistence area.
- Two small subsistence fisheries:
 - Tyonek
 - King salmon fishery in Tyonek Section of Northern District.
 - Set gillnets used.
 - Upper Yentna River
 - Sockeye fishery in upper reaches of Yentna River.
 - Fish wheels with a live box.

PERSONAL USE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Parts overlap all timeframes, although emphasis is during the middle-July, timeframe.

- Fisheries:
 - Evolved from the old subsistence fisheries.
 - One remaining set gillnet fishery- targets Kasilof sockeye.
 - Most opportunity is in the two dip net fisheries that target Kasilof and Kenai sockeye.
 - Fisheries are date-triggered and focused on stocks and species of greatest abundance.

RIPARIAN HABITAT FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Not specific to any time frame, although emphasis is clearly during the middle time frame (July).
- The objective of these management plans are to provide the ability to regulate inriver fisheries to protect riparian habitat.
- Most of the assessment and application has been for the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon fishery.

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Russian River Sockeye → Central District Drift Plan → Little Susitna Coho → Northern District Salmon →		

MANAGEMENT PLANS DURING THE EARLY TIMEFRAME (PRIOR TO JULY 1)

- Priority: most stocks managed primarily for recreational purposes.
- Fisheries:
 - Freshwater sport fisheries for king salmon.
 - Sport fishery for early-run Russian River sockeye.
 - Commercial fisheries for Northern Cook Inlet king salmon and Western Cook Inlet sockeye.

MANAGEMENT PLANS DURING THE EARLY TIMEFRAME (PRIOR TO JULY 1)

Northern District King Salmon Management Plan

- Specifically addresses management of commercial fishery in Northern District. The Northern District king salmon fishery open for Monday periods between May 25 and June 24. (5 in 2008)

Kenai R. and Kasilof R. Early Run King Salmon Conservation Mgmt. Plan

- Purposes are to ensure adequate escapement, conserve unique large size Kenai River kings, and provide management guidelines.
- Primarily Governs the sport fishery harvest.

Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

- Purpose is to ensure adequate escapement and provide management guidelines to department to preclude allocation conflicts.
- Early run harvested primarily by sport fishery, late-run harvested by sport, commercial and personal use fisheries.

Big River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

- Specifically addresses management of commercial fishery in the Kustatan Subdistrict and the west side of the Kalgin Island Subdistrict .

UCI Marine Early King Salmon Management Plan

- Primarily Governs the sport fishery king salmon harvest in the Deep Creek Area 13

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MANAGEMENT PLANS DURING THE MIDDLE TIMEFRAME (JULY)

- Sockeye, chum, and pink salmon stocks, which move through UCI, will be managed primarily for commercial uses.
- Kenai late run king salmon stocks managed primarily for sport and guided sport uses,
- Minimize the incidental take of Northern District coho, late Kenai king, and Kenai coho.
- Major Fisheries: commercial, personal use, sport, guided sport.

KENAI RIVER LATE RUN SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Directs department to manage Kenai Late Run sockeye:
 - Primarily for commercial uses
 - Minimize commercial harvests of ND coho, late-run Kenai king, and Kenai coho to provide PU, sport and guided sport reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon,
 - Management objectives specified are: 1) meet OEG range, achieve in-river goals, and distribute escapements evenly within OEG range in proportion to run size.
- Establishes in-river goals based on abundance (<2 mil, 2-4 mil, >4 mil) and provides management guidelines for each run strength range.
- 2008 Kenai R. sockeye salmon projection is 2-4 million with in-river goal= 750,000-950,000
- Gives direction regarding habitat

KENAI RIVER LATE-RUN KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Provides for adequate escapement of late-run king salmon.
- Directs department to manage this stock primarily for sport and guided sport uses.
- Includes direction on managing sport, guided sport, and commercial fisheries and conducting habitat assessment.

KASILOF RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Governs the harvest of Kasilof sockeye salmon excess to escapement needs, directs department to manage this stock to be harvested in fisheries that have historically harvested them.
- States achieving lower end of Kenai OEG shall take priority over not exceeding upper end of Kasilof OEG.
- Sets commercial season opening dates and allowable fishing time including limits on additional fishing time and mandatory closed periods.
- From the beginning of the fishery through July 7, no more than 48 hours of additional fishing time per week and to close the fishery for 36 consecutive hours per week (changed from 48 floating closed window at BOF in 2008), which will begin between 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays and 7:00 a.m. on Fridays.
- States that using Special Harvest Area should be rarely used, and only after exhausting other methods.
- Regulates guided sport fishery for king salmon.
- Tied to Kenai R. late run sockeye salmon management plan after July 7

Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

- Central District: all waters between a line extending from Boulder Point, to Shell Platform C, to a point on the west shore, and the latitude of Anchor Point Light
- Kenai and Kasilof Sections, Drift Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4
- 3.1 million sockeye projected run size for the Kenai River in 2008
- From July 9 - July 15, fishing is restricted for two regular fishing periods to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections and Drift Area 1; Because of past difficulties in achieving the Yenta River escapement goal of 90,000 to 160,000 sockeye salmon, the department will further restrict the July 10 regular drift fishing period to the Kenai and Kasilof Sections only.
- From July 16 - July 31, two of five regular drift periods are restricted based on the size of the Kenai sockeye run: (a) if < 2 million, drifting restricted to Area 1 and Kenai/Kasilof Sections; (b) if 2-4 million (2008), restricted to Areas 1 & 2 and Kenai/Kasilof Sections; (c) if >4 million, no restrictions.

NORTHERN DISTRICT SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Directs the department to manage harvest of Northern District chum, pink, and sockeye for commercial uses

- Directs the department to “minimize” the harvest of Northern District coho salmon to provide sport and guided sport reasonable opportunity to harvest by:
 - Additional Northern District periods not allowed if coho salmon expected to be most abundant stock in harvest,
 - Regular periods only in the Northern District after August 15.
 - Achieving lower end of Yentna escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding upper end of Kenai OEG.

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KENAI RIVER COHO SALMON CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

THE LATE TIMEFRAME (August - September)

- Directs department to manage Kenai coho primarily for sport and guided sport uses
- East side set nets close August 15, unless closed earlier by EO after July 31, if the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods
- Closes sport and guided sport fisheries on November 30

OVERVIEW OF SALMON MANAGEMENT PLANS IN UPPER COOK INLET

Summary :

- Meeting escapement goals are the primary objective of all management plans.
- Management plans are structured around migratory timing of major stocks of salmon moving through Upper Cook Inlet.
- “Step-down” plans provide specific management objectives to the department for management and allocation of fisheries.

OVERVIEW OF SALMON MANAGEMENT PLANS IN UPPER COOK INLET

Summary :

- In Feb, 2008 BOF passed two new gear regulations for the commercial fishery:
 - All web may be single-filament (mono)
 - Provided for “stacking” on drift boats, i.e., two permit holders may fish on one boat and add an extra 50 fathoms of gear during regular fishing periods (normal maximum amount of gear is 150 fathoms per permit; this allows for up to 200 fathoms total)
 - Outlawed the use of spotter planes one-hour before a fishery opens and while the fishery is being prosecuted
 - Susitna River sockeye salmon found by the Board to be a stock of yield concern. Action plan was developed to conservatively manage the commercial fishery while research continues