

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
KENAI-RUSSIAN RIVER
SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

*See also #77-27-FB, #78-42-FB,
#81-88-FB, #81-90-FB,
#81-91-FB, #81-95-FB*

I. Introduction: The purpose of this plan is to insure an adequate escapement of sockeye (red) salmon into the Kenai and Russian River systems and to provide management guidelines in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts over the use of this resource.

II. Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Run

1. This plan will govern only those sockeye salmon which pass the sonar counters at Soldotna after June 21. Sockeye salmon in the Kenai River prior to this date are primarily of Russian River origin and are managed as a discrete stock.
2. The Commercial Fisheries Division will manage the Cook Inlet gill net fishery to attain a total run of sockeye salmon into the Kenai River after June 21, ranging from 350,000 to 500,000 fish to insure an adequate escapement and provide for a recreational harvest.
3. a. The Sport Fish Division will manage the recreational fishery on the Kenai River to insure adequate escapement by restricting the sport harvest to the following levels based on projected sockeye salmon run size past the sonar counter.

<u>Projected Kenai River Run Size</u>	<u>Maximum Mainstem Kenai River Sport Harvest Levels</u>
Under 300,000	Total Closure*
300,000 to 350,000	15,000 to 17,500 (5%)
350,000 to 400,000	21,000 to 24,000 (6%)
400,000 to 500,000	24,000 to 30,000 (6%)
Over 500,000	6%

- b. If it appears that based on current escapement rates the minimum escapement goal may not be attained, necessitating an extended closure of the commercial fishery, it is recognized that the recreational fishery will also be adjusted to achieve the minimum escapement goal.

III. Russian River Sockeye Salmon Run

1. Early Russian River sockeye salmon stocks have been harvested primarily by the recreational fishery since 1974. Since the bulk of the early Kenai River run is comprised of Russian River stocks, they will be managed by the Sport Fish Division in the Kenai-Russian River systems to achieve a minimum escapement of 9,000 fish.
2. Late Russian River sockeye salmon stocks are harvested in both the Cook Inlet commercial gill net and Kenai-Russian River

* When a total run size of less than 300,000 sockeye salmon is projected, a limited sport harvest will occur before the sport fishery can be closed by emergency order.

recreational fisheries. Since, at the present time, the Commercial Fisheries Division is unable to separate these fish "in-season" from other Kenai River stocks, it will not always be possible to allow a sufficient number of sockeye salmon into the Russian River system to meet both the escapement and recreational angler needs. When this situation occurs, the Sport Fish Division will attempt to achieve a minimum escapement of 30,000 fish.

3. Early and late Russian River sockeye salmon are discrete stocks with established escapement goals. Because of this, they will be managed by the Sport Fish Division as a separate entity without regard to Kenai River sockeye salmon run size. The Russian River harvest, therefore, will not be included in the Kenai River recreational harvest quota outlined in Section II (3) (a).
4. The Department recognizes that once the determination is made that late Russian River stocks are comprising the bulk of the Kenai River sockeye salmon run, appropriate measures will be taken to protect the remaining mainstem Kenai River escapement.

ADOPTED: December 20, 1979
Anchorage, Alaska

VOTE: 6/0 (Jimmy Huntington absent)