



2023 Mat-Su Salmon Science
& Conservation Symposium



Mat-Su Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission Update

MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission

Next Meeting: Nov. 16th @ 4:00 pm
<https://matsugov.us/boards/fishcommission>



MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission

01



9 member **volunteer board**, appointed by the MSB Mayor; created to advise the MSB Assembly on fish & wildlife related issues

02



Members with **pertinent expertise** as State biologists, hunting & fishing guides, etc., as well as past BOF service and 2 current MSB Assembly members

03



Regular **monthly meetings**, excluding June-August; 3rd Thursday @ 4:00 pm; public participation encouraged

2023 Highlights



Waterbody Setbacks



Weir Funding



Federal Salmon Management in UCI



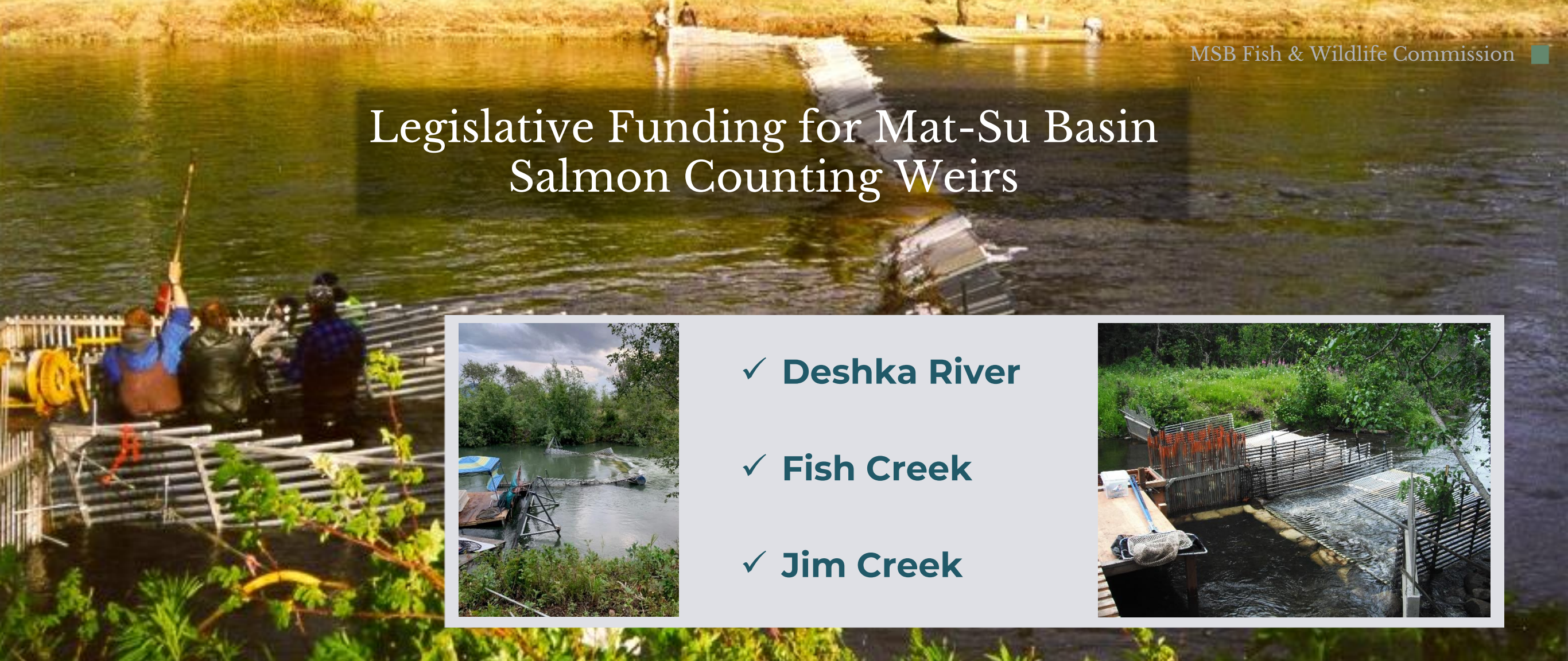
Board of Fisheries 2024



Waterbody Setback Ordinance

- **Approximately 1100 documented structures currently in violation on MSB lakes**
- **Significant Public Input**
- **Pete & Eileen Probasco Input**
- **Fish & Wildlife Commission Recommendations**
- **Waterbody Setback Advisory Board**
 - **9 member board** (FWC – Kendra Zamzow, MSSHP – Matt LaCroix)
 - **Monthly Meetings** – recommendations due to Assembly September 2024

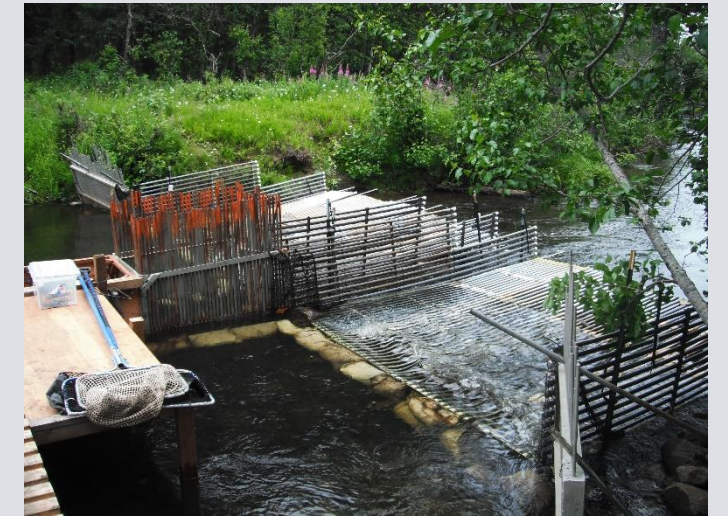
Legislative Funding for Mat-Su Basin Salmon Counting Weirs



✓ **Deshka River**

✓ **Fish Creek**

✓ **Jim Creek**



Partners: Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau, Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee, Matanuska-Susitna Legislative Delegation & Governor Dunleavy

**Judd Lake (lack of staff/funding in 2023)*

***Chelatna Lake/headwaters of Lake Creek (no funding)*



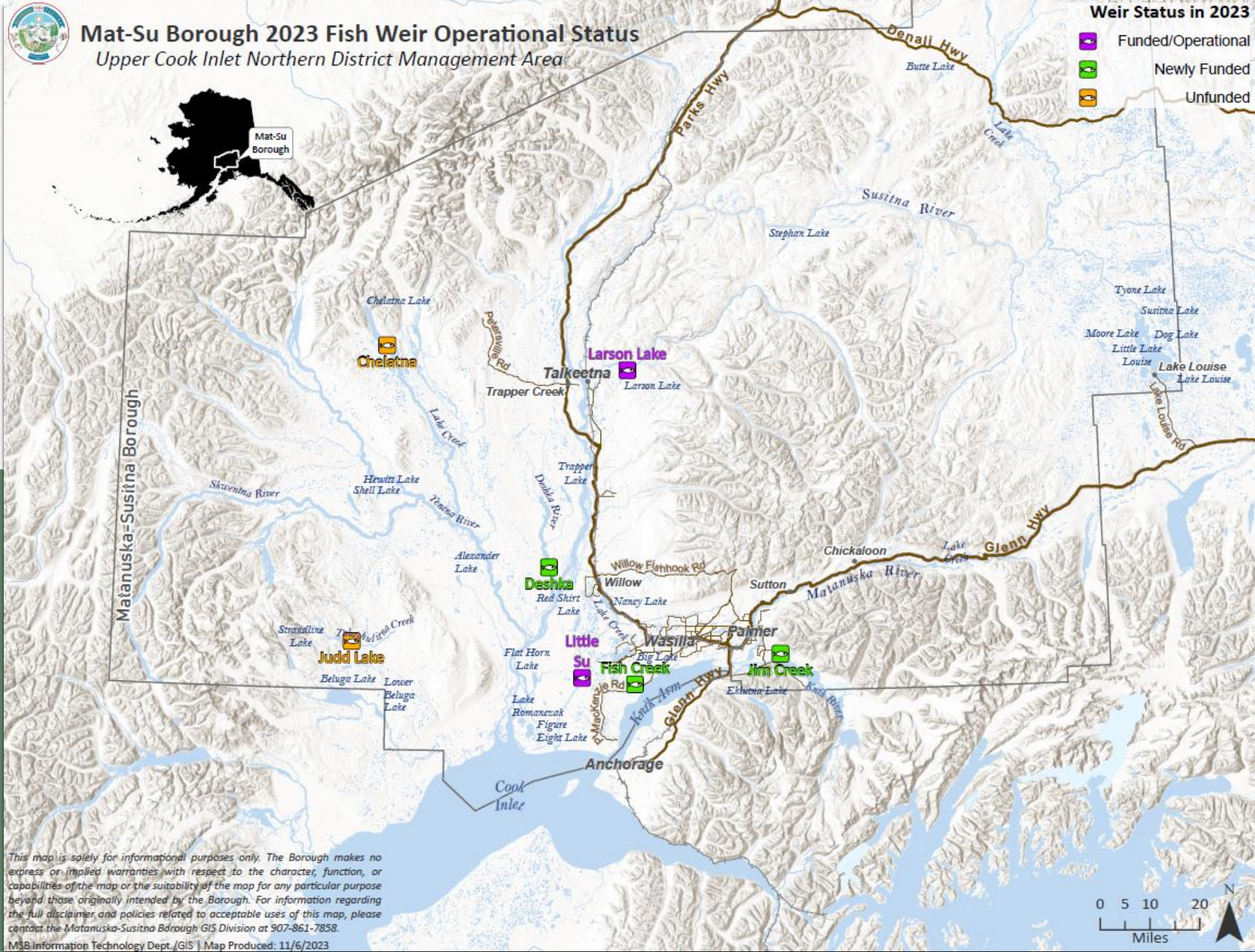
Mat-Su Borough 2023 Fish Weir Operational Status

Upper Cook Inlet Northern District Management Area

Weir Status in 2023

-  Funded/Operational
-  Newly Funded
-  Unfunded

Life Commission



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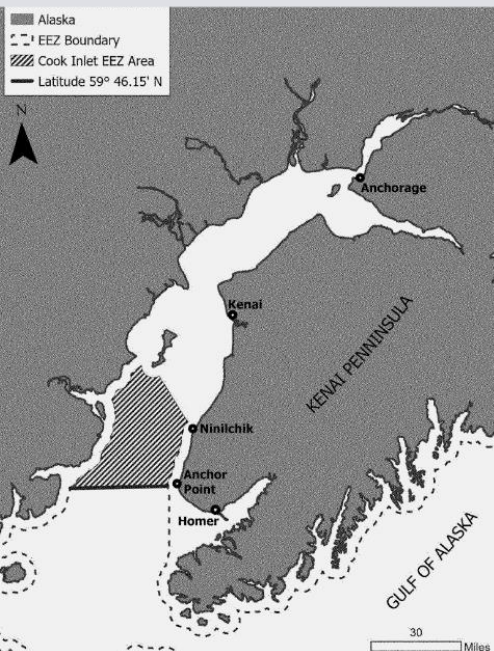
MSB Information Technology Dept./GIS | Map Produced: 11/6/2023



Federal Salmon Management in the Upper Cook Inlet

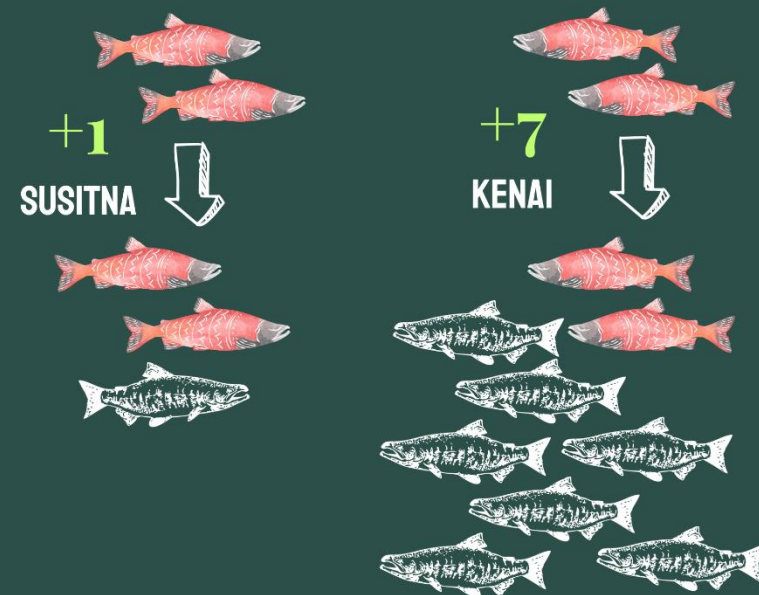
Northern Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

If approved, Amendment 16 and this proposed rule would **establish Federal fishery management for all salmon fishing that occurs in the Cook Inlet EEZ**, including commercial drift gillnet and recreational salmon fishery sectors



Public Comment Deadline:
December 18, 2023

Link: <https://www.regulations.gov/>
Search: NOAA-NMFS-2023-0065



Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet Finfish

February 23 - March 6, 2024
Egan Convention Center - Anchorage, AK



Commission Goals

1

Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan.

2

Continue conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks of Concern.

3

Increase in-river returns of Coho salmon to Northern Cook Inlet river systems.

4

Review and evaluate the existing Chinook salmon management plans and strategies to determine if they adequately address the conservation of the early run king salmon in northern Cook Inlet.

5

Personal use fishery: maintain or extend personal use fishing opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing the Northern Cook Inlet who choose to harvest salmon with net gear.



Thank you!



Andy Couch

MSB FWC Chair

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