

FINDINGS CONCERNING COOK INLET CENTRAL DISTRICT,
LATE RUN KENAI RIVER, COHO SALMON

1. Late Kenai River coho salmon migrate primarily along the east portion of Cook Inlet's Central District and begin entering the Kenai River in mid-August. The run continues through early November.
2. Data presented at the spring 1984 Board of Fisheries meeting indicates the run is currently relatively healthy and relatively abundant.
3. Data presented at the spring 1983 and 1984 Board of Fisheries meetings, the spring 1984 Joint Board of Fisheries and Game meeting, and earlier Board of Fisheries meetings (see for example, Findings of Fact regarding subsistence fishing in Cook Inlet, #81-90-FB, pages 9 and 10) demonstrate that a historic personal use set gill net fishery has existed on the run since statehood. That fishery was called "subsistence" before the board implemented the state subsistence law in Cook Inlet, and as noted in Resolution #81-95-FB, experienced a sudden and substantial growth in 1978.
4. As noted in Resolution #81-95-FB, recreational harvests of this run were minimal before 1976, but then generally increased, and the importance of this run for sport fishing is expected to continue. However, data presented at the spring 1984 Board of Fisheries meeting show that the level of sport effort is currently relatively stable. Also data presented at the spring 1984 meeting indicate that the bulk of the sport effort on that run occurs before the middle of September.
5. As noted in Resolution #81-95-FB, a commercial set net fishery on the run averaged 13,470 cohos from 1966 through 1978. No data has been presented that that level of harvest jeopardized the sustained yield of the run.
6. The Department of Fish and Game in the past has used the emergency order closure authority in AS 16.05.060 effectively in managing set gill net fishing on the run, and that authority may also be used for conservation purposes to manage a personal use fishery.
7. Based on the above, the Board of Fisheries finds under 5 AAC 77.001(b) that it is in the public interest to authorize a limited personal use fishery on the run, because of the importance of that use to some individuals. The board also finds that a limited personal use fishery will not jeopardize the sustained yield of the run.

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
April 10, 1984

VOTE: 6/0 (Bonney abstained)

Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Exhibit # 3