

**PROPOSAL 107 – 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.** Replace the optimum escapement goal with a sustainable escapement goal for Kasilof River sockeye salmon, as follows:

5AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. (a) This management plan governs the harvest of Kasilof River salmon excess to spawning escapement needs. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries that Kasilof River salmon be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, times, and locations of those fisheries. Openings in the areas historically fished must be consistent with escapement objectives for upper Cook Inlet salmon and with the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan (5AAC 21.363).

(b) Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River **sustainable escapement goal of 160,000 – 340,000** [OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT GOAL OF 160,000 – 390,000] sockeye salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Repeal the Kasilof River Optimum Escapement Goal OEG

The Kasilof River OEG of 160,000 - 390,000 is not scientifically defensible and annually puts escapement into the Kasilof River that is more than double the biological escapement goal. The OEG is extreme and is being used as a method to restrict commercial fishing and allocate more sockeye into the river, that will not be utilized by anyone and will jeopardize future returns. There are numerous studies that document over escapement as not beneficial to the resource, habitat or users. World renowned sockeye salmon expert University of British Columbia professor emeritus Carl Walters states that severely restricting salmon fishing to put more spawners on the grounds did not produce more fish and only cost fishermen money. Walters points out that adding more spawners above an intermediate level does not create more fish. Adding extra spawners are not producing any more salmon and adding more spawners isn't adding more value to anybody. He states that consistently putting too many spawners into a system is bad for the fish. This is exactly what the OEG is doing to the Kasilof River. The OEG is contrary to Alaska's Constitution, Alaska's laws, statutory conservation mandates, the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA) and the Sustainable Salmon fisheries policy 5AAC 39.222 especially (a)(2) formulate fishery management plans designed to achieve maximum or optimum salmon production, and (c)(2)(B) salmon escapement goals should be established in a manner consistent with sustained yield: unless otherwise directed, the department will manage Alaska's salmon fisheries, to the extent possible, for maximum sustained yield; and (c)(3)(P).the best available scientific information on the status of salmon populations and the condition of the salmon's habitats should be routinely updated and subjected to peer review. The OEG must be repealed!

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

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