

**Summary of Staff Analyses of
Fishery Regulatory Proposals for the Kenai Peninsula
FP07-10, 11, 12, 13, 27B–D, 29, 30**

Utilizing the strategy presented in the Overview (see Overview of Staff Analyses of Fishery Regulatory Proposals for the Kenai Peninsula FP07-10, 11, 12, 13, 27B–D, 29, 30), staff prepared analyses for Kasilof River salmon, Kasilof River resident species, Kasilof River steelhead, Kenai River salmon, and Kenai River resident species. A key point of this analytical strategy was to provide for subsistence gear types that allow for species, stock, and size selective management, which is necessary to address conservation of these heavily utilized and co-mingled species without unnecessary restrictions to existing fisheries. This strategy precluded widespread use of gillnets, as requested in many proposals. However, other gear types were also requested including rod and reel (FP07-10, 27B and C), jig gear (FP07-27D), and dip nets (FP07-27C); which provide for fine-scale management. The request for use of winter gillnets in Tustumena Lake (FP07-30) is also recommended, consistent with the temporary fishery currently in effect (FSA06-01b).

These analyses were presented and reviewed in several forums; including reviews by the Interagency Staff Committee and ADF&G; two meetings in February of the Stakeholder Subcommittee to the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council; and at the Council meeting March 13–16. These analyses contained recommended modifications to address conservation of the complex of species and stocks that are spawning, less abundant and prone to overharvest, or of critical size; that are co-mingled in the Federal waters of these drainages. These recommended modifications provided the basis for Ninilchik Traditional Council's submission of modified proposals to the Council. These modified proposals were adopted by the Council, and with some amendments, provided the basis for their recommendations to the Board for subsistence fisheries in both the Kasilof (**Table 1**) and Kenai (**Table 2**) river drainages.

There was some question among the Council whether their recommendation to the Board adequately provides for a subsistence priority (see Overview, Implementation of Title VIII ANILCA). Staff analysis of this question is as follows.

The Council's recommendations address all requests for total annual harvest quotas, including those for Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon, coho salmon, rainbow trout, lake trout, and Dolly Varden (FP07-27B, 27C, and 30). All requests for annual household/dependent limits for Chinook, sockeye, pink, and coho salmon were also met (FP07-27B and C), as well as for resident species in the jig fishery for Tustumena Lake (FP07-27D). The only requests for annual household limits that were not met were those requested in FP07-10 (5 steelhead), FP07-11 (50 rainbow trout), FP07-12 (50 lake trout), and FP07-13 (50 Dolly Varden). These requested limits are far in excess of other requests for the same species (see FP07-27D and 30), as well as established principles of conservation for these species. The Council's recommendations provide for all requested gear types except widespread use of gillnets. The Council's recommendations to preclude widespread use of gillnets is based upon conservation.

In addition, the Council's recommendations provide for increased (double) daily, possession, and annual limits in the existing rod and reel subsistence fishery (that currently matches sport fishing limits) for most species. The only limits in the rod and reel fishery which were not increased were for rainbow trout in the Kasilof and Kenai rivers, Dolly Varden/Arctic char in the Kenai River, and steelhead in the Kasilof River. The Council's recommendations to not increase the limits for these species and stocks were in direct response to NTC's suggested modifications to the proposals. Per those suggested modifications, the increased opportunity for subsistence harvests of rainbow trout in the Kasilof River, and rainbow

Table 1. Summary of recommended limits by the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council for subsistence fisheries in the Kaslof River drainage.

Dip Net/Rod&Reel Fishery Proposals FP07-27B, C Location: upper 7 miles of Kaslof River down to Silver Salmon Rapids. Up to 2 baited hooks in rod&reel fishery.		Rod & Reel Fishery Proposals FP07-27B, C Location: Tustumena Lake and tributaries. Seasons, areas, methods/means per Alaska fishing regulations except up to 2 baited hooks.				
Species	Season	Total Harvest Quota	Household/Dependent Limit	Annual Limit	Daily/Possession	Comment
Chinook Salmon	6/16 - 8/15	500	10/2			Consistent with request in 27D. Few early run Chinook salmon in Federal waters. Abundance of late run Chinook salmon unknown, sustained sport harvests of LR Chinook in lower river average ~1,000.
Sockeye Salmon	6/15 - 8/15	4,000	25/5			Consistent with request in 27B
Coho Salmon	6/16 - 10/31	500	10/2		4/4	Consistent with FSA 06-01a
Pink Salmon	6/16 - 10/31	500	10/2		6/6	Abundance unknown.
Other Species						Incidental harvest allowed. Up to 200 rainbow trout/steelhead through August 15.
Winter Gillnet/Jug Fishery Proposals FP07-27D, 30 Location: Tustumena Lake, excluding within 1/4 mile of tributaries and Kaslof River		Rod & Reel Fishery Proposals FP07-27D, 30 Location: all Federal waters in the Kaslof River drainage. Seasons, areas, methods/means per Alaska fishing regulations				
Species	Season	Total Harvest Quota	Household/Dependent Limit	Annual Limit	Daily/Possession	Comment
Dolly Varden	Permit conditions	500	30		Flowing waters: 4/4 Lakes: 10/10	Consistent with FSA 06-01b. Household limit is only for the jig fishery and is combined for all 3 species. Gillnet fishery and harvest of affected species closes if total annual quota is reached.
Lake Trout	Permit conditions	200	30		20 inches or longer: 4/4 < 20 in: 15/15	Household limit is only for the jig fishery and is combined for all 3 species. Gillnet fishery and harvest of affected species closes if total annual quota is reached.
Rainbow Trout/Steelhead < 20 inches	Permit conditions	200	30		Flowing waters: 2/2 Lakes: 5/5	Consistent with FSA 06-01b. Household limit is only for the jig fishery and is combined for all 3 species. Gillnet fishery and harvest of affected species closes if total annual quota is reached.
Other Species						Incidental harest allowed.
Total Harvest Quota		Household/Dependent Limit		Annual Limit		Comment
Species	Season	Total Harvest Quota	Household/Dependent Limit	Annual Limit	Daily/Possession	Comment
Rainbow Trout/Steelhead 20 inches or longer						No directed fishery other than rod&reel. Mandatory release in dip net fishery, incidental harvest allowed in winter gillnet fishery.
				2		Nikolai Creek is only stock in Federal waters and abundance in low hundreds.

trout and Dolly Varden/Arctic char in the Kenai River are recommended to occur through provisions for incidental harvest in the dip net fisheries for salmon, rather than the rod and reel fisheries. The Council's recommendation for limits in the Kasilof River steelhead subsistence fishery is not an increase from harvest limits currently available in the sport fishery, consistent with conservation for this species. However, the Council's recommendation provides for more efficiency in harvest through the use of bait during the fall; and removal of the single-fish daily bag and possession limit, while maintaining the annual limit of two steelhead. The Council's recommendations for rod and reel subsistence fisheries for salmon also include provisions for the use of bait throughout Federal waters in the Kasilof River drainage and Federal waters during most of the year in the Kenai River below Skilak Lake. The use of bait for sport fishing is currently prohibited during much of the year in these waters.

In total, the Council's recommendations for subsistence fisheries in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers should provide for a subsistence priority consistent with existing information on recognized principles of fish conservation, and without unnecessary restrictions to existing fisheries.

Looking to future development of proposals, the Council made two requests to staff. First, the Council requested that staff further investigate resolution of issues for development of a dip net fishery at Hidden Creek (see Supplemental Materials, Potential Development of a Subsistence Dip Net Fishery for Sockeye Salmon on Hidden Creek). Second, the Council requested that staff develop a proposal to address development of a fish wheel fishery (see Supplemental Materials, Fish Wheels as a Subsistence Gear Type in Federal Waters of the Kenai Peninsula) for Council consideration at their fall, 2007 meeting.

Table 2. Summary of recommended limits by the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council for subsistence fisheries in the Kenai River drainage.

Species	Season	Total Harvest Quota	Household/Dependent Limit	Comment	Annual Limit	Daily/Possession	Comment
Early-run Chinook Salmon				Mandatory release - Most early-run Chinook bound for spawning tributaries in Funny and Killey rivers.	4	2/2	Less than 44 inches or greater than 55 inches. Annual limit in combination with late run. Double sport fishing bag and possession limits.
Late-run Chinook Salmon	16 July to 30 Sept	1,000	10/2	Consistent with request in 27B.	4	2/2	20 inches or longer. Annual limit in combination with early run. Double sport fishing bag and possession limits.
Sockeye Salmon	15 June to 15 August	4,000	25/5	Consistent with request in 27B.		6/6	Combined daily bag limit of all salmon 16 inches and longer - no more than 4 can be coho, no more than 2 coho from Russian R. Double sport fishing bag and possession limits.
Coho Salmon	16 July to 30 Sept	3,000	20/5	Consistent with request in 27C.		Kenai R: 4/4 Russian R: 2/2	16 inches or longer. Double sport fishing bag and possession limits.
Pink Salmon	16 July to 30 Sept	2,000	15/5	Abundance unknown.		6/6	Combined daily bag limit of all salmon 16 inches or longer - no more than 4 can be coho, no more than 2 coho from Russian R. Double sport fishing bag and possession limits.
Other Species				Russian R falls: mandatory release of all but sockeye salmon. Below Skilak: incidental harvest allowed, mandatory release of rainbow trout and Dolly Varden/Arctic char 18 inches or longer.			
<p style="text-align: center;">Gillnet Fishery Proposals FP07-27D, 30</p>							
							Location: all Federal waters in the Kenai River drainage. Seasons, areas, methods/means per Alaska fishing regulations
Species	Season	Total Harvest Quota	Household/Dependent Limit	Comment	Annual Limit	Daily/Possession	Comment
Dolly Varden	None			Population sensitive to harvest of large spawners. Gear type does not allow for fine-scale management necessary for conservation.		Flowing waters: 1/1 Lakes & ponds: 2/2	Consistent with sport fishing bag and possession limits. Maximum size for flowing waters of 16" in upper Kenai, 18" below Skilak Lake. In lakes and ponds, only 1/day 20 inches or longer.
Lake Trout	None			Population sensitive to harvest of large spawners. Gear type does not allow for fine-scale management necessary for conservation.		20 inches or longer: 4/4 Less than 20": 15/15 Hidden L: 4/4	Double sport fishing bag and possession limits.
Rainbow Trout	None			Population sensitive to harvest of large spawners. Gear type does not allow for fine-scale management necessary for conservation.	2 ± 20" from lakes&ponds only	Flowing waters: 1/1 Lakes & ponds: 2/2	Consistent with sport fishing bag and possession limits. Maximum size for flowing waters of 16" in upper Kenai, 18" below Skilak Lake. In lakes and ponds, only 1/day 20 inches or longer, 2 annually.