

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough



January 10, 2020

Alaska Board of Fisheries Members - *Via Fax to 907-465-6094*

**Re: Matanuska-Susitna Borough Manager Comments for Consideration  
Board of Fisheries Kodiak Finfish Meeting January 11-14, 2020**

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing in support of efforts to address Kodiak's mixed stock salmon fishery. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has been dealing with the decline of Chinook and Sockeye returns in the rivers of Cook Inlet for decades. The low returns of all species of salmon, particularly Chinook and Sockeye salmon, have forced the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to declare eight northern Cook Inlet stocks as Stocks of Concern out of 16 Stocks of Concern statewide.

Our Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has advocated for years to use genetics studies to guide reasonable management by ADFG to return Chinook and sockeye salmon to their natal streams. The economic impact of salmon returning to the Mat-Su Borough has been significant. We ask that the Board consider the impacts to communities like Chignik and others in the Mat-Su Borough where the impact of low salmon returns on livelihoods and economies have been severe. However, the source of the problem reaches beyond Northern Cook Inlet, including the interception of fish trying to return to their natal streams.

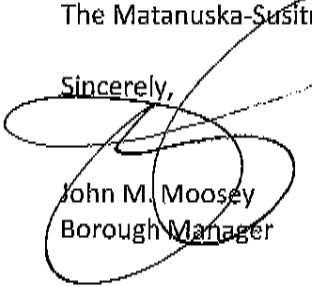
In past decades the Kodiak seine fleet has changed dramatically. The ships are much larger and they have developed very effective fishing techniques and gear that can harvest many more fish than their traditional methods. They can now navigate beyond the capes and into the straits, thus intercepting fish destined for rearing grounds elsewhere.

We urge BOF members to look at genetics and consider the impacts on local fisheries and economies like Chignik and the Susitna rivers, and take actions that rebuild our dwindling stocks and economy in Northern Cook Inlet.

Proposals such as 58 and 60 are addressing these very issues, as are proposals 63, 64, 65, and 66. I ask that the Alaska Board of Fisheries give their serious consideration and support for these proposals.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough thanks you for your service.

Sincerely,

  
John M. Moosey  
Borough Manager

