



It Takes Fish to Make Fish

Gabe Kitter,
Mat-Su Borough
Fish & Wildlife
Commission



Volunteer Board





Community Engagement



Engaging Local Citizens

- Informed and passionate community members are **key** to **fostering a culture of conservation.**
 - The FWC/MSB has directed over **\$20 million in Borough, State, and Federal appropriations** toward improving fisheries research, management, and fish passage.
 - **Our collaboration with residents** allows us to tap into local knowledge while encouraging individuals to take an active role in the stewardship of our natural resources.
-

Waterbody Setback Advisory Board

- MSB FWC participation – Kendra Zamzow
- Recommendations provide new and improved pollution mitigation measures
- Public Comment open November 13 – January 13

Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Advocacy

- Eklutna Hydro Project
- Susitna Gas Lease
- Water Reservations
- West Susitna Access Road
- Local Development Projects

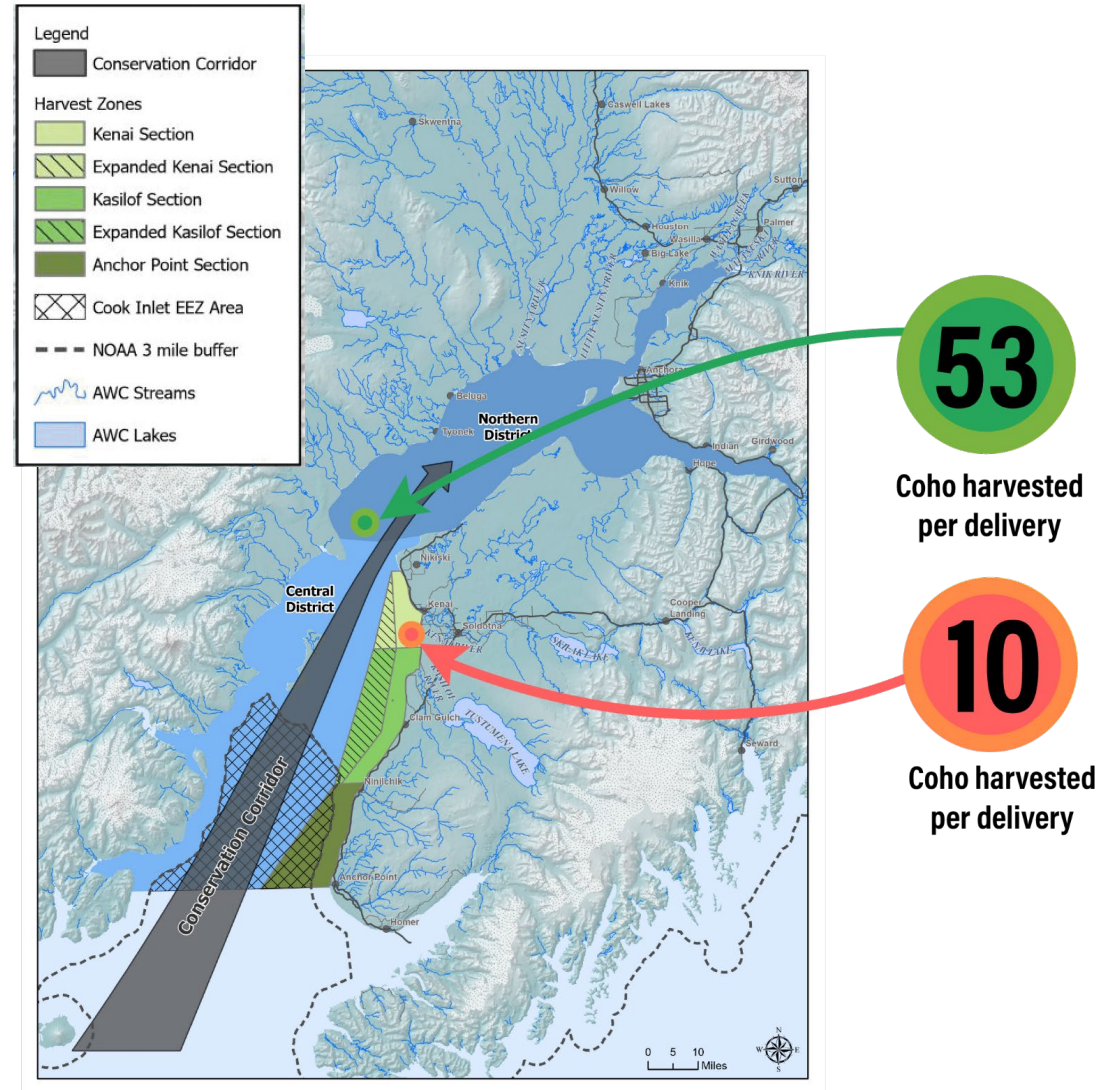
The MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission believes it is essential, and more economical, to protect salmon habitat and populations instead of restoring them.



Board of
Fisheries



Establishment & Maintenance of the Conservation Corridor



**Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G): Temporal and Spatial Distributions of Kenai River and Susitna River Sockeye Salmon and Coho Salmon in Upper Cook Inlet: Implications for Management,*

2024 BOF Efforts

- February: Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting
 - Maintenance of conservation corridor regulations
- October: Stock of Yield Concern
 - Susitna King Salmon
 - Little Susitna Coho Salmon



Securing Funding



State Legislative Priorities

- Support collaboration between the State and Federal fisheries management to reduce bycatch.
 - **Maintain/increase funding and support for fish weirs in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, coho genetic sampling to improve salmon management, and invasive species suppression programs.**
 - Fully match Federal funds from license fees to maximize Federal dollars for fish and game.
 - **Maintain the conservation corridor for Northern-bound salmon.**
 - **Ensure adequate ADF&G staffing to operate and execute fishery-related programs efficiently and effectively.**
 - **List Susitna king salmon and Little Susitna coho salmon as stocks of yield concern and develop corresponding management action plans.**
 - Hold Alaska Board of Fisheries meetings at a neutral site such as Anchorage, rather than in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough or Kenai Peninsula Borough.
-



Future Actions



Key areas we plan to focus on

- Stocks of Concern
 - Pike Suppression
 - Funding for Research & Personnel
 - Better Forecasting Methods
 - Addressing Federal Management Concerns
-



Takeaways



Safe guarding our fisheries for future generations

We need your support.

- Continued engagement and advocacy to ensure that salmon habitat and populations remain vibrant and sustainable
 - Access to science & data to support informed decisions & recommendations
 - Supporting one another in navigating the challenges we face
 - Work together towards a future where our fisheries thrive
-



Thank you!

