

JULY 2024



2026-2027 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Regulatory Meeting Location Proposal

Prepared for Art Nelson, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

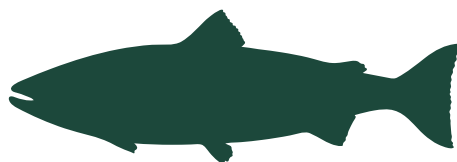
PRESENTED BY:

Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
Kenai Peninsula Borough
City of Kenai
Kenai Chamber of Commerce
City of Soldotna
Soldotna Chamber of Commerce



Table Of Contents

01	Proposal Overview
02	Stakeholders
03	Regional Significance
04	Event Facility
05	Lodging
07	Transportation
08	Dining
09	Contact Information



MEETING LOCATION PROPOSAL

2026-2027 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meetings

The Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District supports and advocates for public engagement processes and opportunities for our stakeholders and communities. We formally and respectfully request the Alaska Fish and Game Board of Fish to hold the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Regulatory meetings for 2026-2027 on the Kenai Peninsula, specifically in Soldotna. This proposal request will outline the history, accommodation, logistic resources, and outlay of permit holders and business operators, as well as resolutions from our municipalities and borough communicating the need for the meeting to be held in Soldotna.

As the Board of Fish makes decisions on fish allocation and management for the commercial and sportfishing industries in the region, it is vital to hold the meeting where the stakeholders, business owners, and waters are. For context, it has been over a decade since the Board of Fish has held any public meetings in this region; the last regular Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting was in 1999 with in-person BOF work sessions in 2016 and an Upper Cook Inlet Task Force meeting in 2013. KPEDD respectfully requests the Board of Fish to see this as an opportunity to re-engage and re-establish connections through this public process to proceed with its work to make sound judgments and well-informed decisions and develop comprehensive policy with viewpoints and local perspectives considered.



Director Cassidi Cameron
Kenai Peninsula Economic
Development District

PROPOSAL SPONSORED BY



Mayor Peter Micciche
Kenai Peninsula Borough



Mayor Brian Gabriel
City of Kenai



Mayor Paul Whitney
City of Soldotna



Director Samantha Springer
Kenai Chamber of Commerce



Director Maddy Olsen
Soldotna Chamber of
Commerce

Cook Inlet Stakeholders

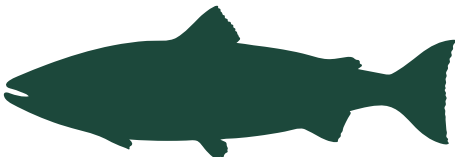
INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES AFFECTED BY MEETING DECISIONS

Permit/License Type Active in 2023	# Registered
Finfish Guides & Charters	197
Drift Gillnets	356
Set Gillnets	672
Purse Seine	68
Total	1,293

85% of active set net permits and 75% of active drift gillnet permits are owned by Alaska residents.

Regional stakeholders require reasonable access to the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish (UCI) Regulatory Meetings, as they are directly affected by decisions made by the Board of Fish. Holding the two-week Board of Fish UCI meetings solely in Anchorage leads to disproportionate representation of special-interest groups that have the resources to attend the meetings and underrepresentation of individual residents of the Kenai Peninsula. Government officials and representatives of these groups have the ability to travel to the Peninsula for meetings as their costs are borne by the organization rather than the individual. The fluidity of these meetings also makes it difficult for residents to make adequate travel accommodations to provide public testimony.

The Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District will act as a point of contact, in partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Borough and regional municipalities, to assist in identifying resources and cost savings for the State. KPEDD will strive to ensure that logistical considerations, adequate public facilities, transportation, lodging and experience are met with the upmost care.



Upper Cook Inlet

REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- The Kenai Peninsula waterways of the Kenai, Kasilof, and Susitna Rivers, and Fish Creek are the entry points to major sockeye salmon systems in Upper Cook Inlet
-
- The Kenai River and its lakes are the primary sockeye salmon producing systems in the Cook Inlet
-
- The Kasilof River and Tustumena Lake is the second-most (sometimes the third-most) productive sockeye salmon producing system in Cook Inlet
-
- Commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use fisheries are essential to the Kenai Peninsula Economy
-
- The value and economic impact goes far beyond the number of permit holders in the region
-

Commercial fisheries land a combined average of 31.3 million pounds of salmon annually, valued on average at 50.1 million USD annually

The regulatory authority must work alongside industry to protect the Kenai Peninsula’s natural resources, communicate on regulatory needs, and receive necessary stakeholder engagement to find best-suited options for the highest economic returns on investment revolving around the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon system. Holding the 2026 and 2027 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Regulatory Meetings in Soldotna would provide resource stakeholders with the opportunity to be present at public discussions affecting the management of their resources.

SOLDOTNA FIELD HOUSE



SIZE

- NEWLY BUILT 40,500 SQ FT MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY
- 215' X 115' MEETING AREA WITH REMOVABLE TURF SYSTEM
- DIVIDER CURTAINS ALLOWING FOR MULTIPLE MEETING SPACES

ACCOMMODATIONS

- AUDIO AND VISUAL EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT MEETINGS AND LARGE EVENTS
- COMMERCIAL KITCHEN ACCESS FOR FOOD SERVICE
- SMALL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM PLUS ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE ROOMS AT THE SOLDOTNA REGIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- HIGH SPEED WIFI

LOCATION

- CENTRALLY LOCATED ON THE KENAI PENINSULA, EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD AND AIR, WITH MANY AMENITIES AND LODGING OPTIONS NEARBY



Lodging

The newly remodeled Aspen Hotel is located in the heart of downtown Soldotna, less than five minutes from the Soldotna Field House. The Aspen also offers block rates for local event attendees. There are also 3 other lodging options in Soldotna and 6 in Kenai providing accommodations for out-of-town meeting attendees.

ASPEN HOTEL - SOLDOTNA

<https://aspenhotelsak.com/soldotna/>

Phone: (907) 260-7736 Address: 326 Binkley Cir, Soldotna, AK 99669

ALASKA ANGLERS INN - SOLDOTNA

<https://www.anglersinnalaska.com/>

Phone: (907) 420-0500 Address: 44715 Sterling Hwy, Soldotna, AK 99669

SOLDOTNA INN - SOLDOTNA

<https://www.soldotnainn.com/>

Phone: (907) 262-9169 Address: 35041 Kenai Spur Hwy, Soldotna, AK 99669

SOLDOTNA INN - SOLDOTNA

<https://www.soldotnainn.com/>

Phone: (907) 262-9169 Address: 35041 Kenai Spur Hwy, Soldotna, AK 99669



Lodging

Kenai also offers numerous lodging options, and is less than 15 minutes from the Soldotna event center. A few hotel options include:

ASPEN HOTEL - KENAI

<https://aspenhotelsak.com/kenai/>

Phone: (907) 283-2272 Address: 10431 Kenai Spur Hwy, Kenai, AK 99611

QUALITY INN - KENAI

<https://www.choicehotels.com/alaska/kenai/quality-inn>

Phone: (907) 283-6060 Address: 10352 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, AK, 99611

KENAI AIRPORT HOTEL - KENAI

<https://www.kenaiairport-hotels.com/>

Phone: (907) 283-1577 Address: 230 N Willow St, Kenai, AK 99611

UPTOWN MOTEL - KENAI

<http://www.uptownmotel.com/>

Phone: (907) 283-3660 Address: 47 Spur View Dr, Kenai, AK 99611



Transportation

Flights operate daily between Anchorage and Kenai through Kenai Aviation and Grant Airlines. There are two car rental centers located in the Kenai Airport, Budget and Avis, for local travel to and from the event. Alaska Bus Company provides shuttle services to and from Anchorage, and Alaska Cab offers shuttle services between and around both Kenai and Soldotna.

KENAI AVIATION - 15 FLIGHTS FROM ANCHORAGE TO KENAI DAILY

<https://www.kenaiaviation.com/> Phone: (888) 505-3624

GRANT AVIATION - 30 FLIGHTS FROM ANCHORAGE TO KENAI DAILY

<https://www.flygrant.com/> Phone: 888-359-4726

BUDGET CAR RENTAL - KENAI

<https://www.budget.com/en/locations/us/ak/kenai/ena>

Phone: (907) 283-4506 Address: 305 N Willow St Ste 116, Kenai, AK 99611

AVIS CAR RENTAL - KENAI

<https://www.avis.com/en/locations/us/ak/kenai/ena>

Phone: (907) 283-7900 Address: 305 N Willow St, Kenai, AK 99611

AK BUS COMPANY - DAILY SHUTTLE BETWEEN ANCHORAGE AND KENAI

<https://www.alaskabuscompany.com/> Phone: (907) 299-6806



Dining

There are more than twenty-five restaurants in and near Soldotna, offering a wide range of local favorites. Fine dining options include Addie Camp, the Flats, and Mykel's. Soldotna also offers casual dining and fast food options for attendees.

ADDIE CAMP

<https://www.whistlehillsoldotna.com/> Phone: [\(907\) 262-2334](tel:(907)262-2334)
43540 Whistle Hill Loop, Soldotna, AK 99669

THE FLATS

<https://theflatsbistro.com/> Phone: [\(907\) 335-1010](tel:(907)335-1010)
39847 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Kenai, AK 99611

MYKEL'S

<https://www.mykels.com/> Phone: [\(907\) 262-4305](tel:(907)262-4305)
Address: 35041 Kenai Spur Hwy, Soldotna, AK 99669

ST. ELIAS BREWING

<https://www.steliasbrewingco.com/> Phone: [\(907\) 260-7837](tel:(907)260-7837)
Address: 434 Sharkathmi Ave, Soldotna, AK 99669

ODIES

<https://odiesdeli.com/> Phone: [\(907\) 260-9000](tel:(907)260-9000)
44315 Sterling Hwy, Soldotna, AK 99669

KENAI PENINSULA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



PLEASE CONTACT US
WITH ANY QUESTIONS

CASSIDI CAMERON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CASSIDI@KPEDD.ORG
(907)519-8637

