



## United Cook Inlet Drift Association

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### **UCIDA FEBRUARY 2021** **UPDATE**

#### **1. Round 1 – CARES Act, COVID-19 Issues, Economic Security Act**

The first round of economic disbursements is nearing completion, including:

- Alaska Cares Act – available for small businesses in Alaska
- Kenai Peninsula Borough grants
- Municipal Cares Act grants – available for Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, Seward and smaller communities within the KPB
- \$300 Million Fishing Industry Funding – Alaska received \$50 million to be disbursed upon application to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- Economic Security Act – This was the \$1,200 direct deposit or debit card for each individual from the IRS

**Alaska and Washington States do not have NMFS approved disbursement plans.** This economic relief program is what Doug Vincent-Lang is trying to reallocate away from the processors to the sport charter businesses. As a consequence of this attempted reallocation, all funds, even the funds not in question, are being held hostage by Governor Dunleavy's ADF&G Commissioner, Doug Vincent-Lang.

#### **2. Round 2 – CARES Act, COVID-19 Issues, Economic Security Act**

- Understand there is an additional \$300 million for the fishing industry. If the original \$300 million allocation model is applied, then Alaska will receive \$50 million. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission will be taking applications and issuing the checks.

- **HOWEVER** – there needs to be an approved allocation plan (see above comment). The allocation plan in Round 1 more than likely will be the model. If and when Round 2 comes to fruition, Alaska will receive \$50 million.
- Economic Security Act – This was the \$600 direct deposit or debit card for each individual from the IRS.

### 3. Round 3 – CARES Act, COVID-19 Issues, Economic Security Act

- This is the economic stimulus funding that is currently being debated in Washington, DC. Democrats are suggesting \$1.9 trillion package while the Republicans are suggesting a \$600-\$700 billion package. Watch the National news for updates on the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. We have no information on this, as this round is a political ping-pong match.

### 4. Economic Disaster Requests for Salmon Run and Salmon Harvest Failures in UCI:

- |                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| • 2018 – Sockeye Run Failure  | UCIDA Request |
| • 2018 – Sockeye Run Failure  | KPB Request   |
| • 2020 – Sockeye Run Failure  | UCIDA Request |
| • 2020 – Pink Harvest Failure | UCIDA Request |
| • 2020 – Salmon Run Failure   | KPB Request   |
| • 2020 – Sockeye Run Failure  | CIFF Request  |
| • 2020 – Pink Harvest Failure | CIFF Request  |
| • 2020 – Sockeye Run Failure  | KPB Request   |

All of the above Economic Disaster Requests have been submitted to Governor Dunleavy and to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

No acknowledgements or actions have been taken on any of the above Economic Disaster Requests by Governor Dunleavy.

The UCIDA Office inquired as to the receipt and any actions taken on these economic disaster requests. Vocal reply was: “We are so busy and have so many requests we are overwhelmed.”

For your information: Norton Sound, Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Chignik, Cook Inlet, Copper River, and Southeast Alaska have all submitted economic disaster requests, which have all been approved by the local and regional governments, as per the standard approval procedures.

## 5. Seafood Trade Relief Program

Applications were submitted to the Department of Agriculture to receive 16¢ per pound on 2019 salmon harvests. Some fishermen have already received funds, some are still waiting on disbursements. The application period was extended 30 days but closed on January 15, 2021.

## 6. 2021 Preseason Upper Cook Inlet Forecast – sent out on January 25

### SOCKEYE RUN FORECASTS

- Total Sockeye (Anchor Pt. line) 4.37 mil
- Kenai Late-Run Sockeye 2.33 mil
- Kasilof Sockeye .88 mil
- Susitna Sockeye (59k above 20 yr. average) .47 mil
- Harvest (All Users) 2.37 mil
- Escapement (All Systems) 2.00 mil

Special Note: Please look at page 4 of the 2021 UCI Forecast, Total Sockeye Run Forecasts for All Systems

- The 2.2 age class forecast: 269,000
- 20 yr average: 589,000  
320,000 missing
- The 2.3 age class forecast: 216,000
- 20 yr average: 987,000  
771,000 missing
- Total 2.2 and 2.3 missing: 1,091,000

**Similar patterns have occurred for the last 5-6 years.**

## 7. Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

The December Council actions to select and approve Alternative 4 is under current review by NMFS.