

Paul Clark
Long Range Planner
Matanuska Susitna Borough
Public Testimony
2026 Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Board of Fisheries Meeting

I. Introduce the Mat Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Topics – Paul Clark

My name is Paul Clark. I am a long-range planner for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and staff the Borough's Fish & Wildlife Commission. The FWC is a 9-member board advising Borough officials, state or federal agencies, and other organizations on interests that may affect the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat across an area the size of West Virginia. The region contains four indigenous communities: Chickaloon, Knik, Eklutna, and Tyonek, and includes commercial, personal use dip net, sport fish, and subsistence users.

I would like to introduce the members of the Mat/Su Fish and Wildlife Commission who will be speaking to you today on behalf of the Mat Su Borough.

Andy Couch, Vice Chairman of the FWC will address Northern District sockeye and coho conservation concerns.

- Mr. Couch has been a professional salmon guide for over 40 years, has served on Matanuska Valley AC for 30 years, and has years of experience in the Board of Fish Regulatory Arena.
- Andy has also written a fishing column for the Frontiersman newspaper for 14 years.

Pete Probasco, Chairman of the FWC, will address the complexity of Mixed-stock fisheries and the History and Efficacy of the Conservation Corridor.

- Mr. Probasco served with ADF&G for 23 years and retired as the Commercial Fish Division Regional Supervisor in Kodiak.
- He also spent 17 years with the Federal Subsistence program, migratory birds, and state programs.

Gabe Kitter will address Federal Fisheries Management and the EEZ

- Mr. Kitter is a lifelong Mat-Su resident and local hunting guide and serves on the Mat/Su Fish and Wildlife Commission for 4 years.

Mac Minard will close our presentation by highlighting the challenges ahead of us at this meeting.

- Mr. Minard served with ADF&G for 22 years and during that time led the commercial fish research efforts in western Bristol Bay, served as the Bristol Bay Area Sport Fish Biologist and retired as the AYK Regional Supervisor.
- Mr. Minard has extensive experience in complex fisheries management issues and the Alaskan regulatory process.
- Mr. Minard currently is on contract with the Mat Su Borough as a Fisheries Consultant