

**Recommendations on King Salmon
Stock Action Plan 2013**

**Southern Norton Sound AC
Art Ivanoff/Wade Ryan**

Supporting documents AC #4, , RC 27, RC 61 and RC 93

- **Echo support for proposal 121, 120, & 126 while finding new conservation measures for Chinook Salmon in the Norton Sound districts 5 & 6, Unalakeet and Shaktoolik**
- **Call for king salmon sport harvest and catch closure until escapement is met along the Unalakeet River. Table 3 illustrates estimates for Unalakeet River.**

Year	King Salmon Catch	King Salmon Harvest
2006	2,511*	394*
2011	534*	53*

Total Sustainable Escapement Goal 1,200 to 2,500 fish. According to report, roughly 25% of the escapement goal is caught. Mortality rates are unknown, however, the "stock of concern" calls for DF&G to error on the side of caution.

2006, according to Table 4* report suggests no commercial king salmon fishing & subsistence closures effective July 10.

Chinook openings since 2000-**Three targeted commercial openings.**

Subsistence restrictions & closures occur since 2003

2010 Chum Salmon net loss to commercial fishermen

DF&G projected 120,000 chum escaped unmolested by commercial fishermen due to conservation concerns for Chinook salmon. Harvest rate was projected at 60,000. $60,000 \times 7 \text{ lbs avg} \times .70 =$ net loss to local fleet of \$290,000 in an economically depressed area. Forgone economic loss local fishermen

Numerous other cases when pink and chum salmon targeted take reduced due to conservation concerns since 2000

TEST FISHING

The test fishery is not considered to provide a reliable index of king salmon abundance in subdistricts 5 and 6.*

Two counting methods provide good escapement data, the North River Counting Tower and the Weir along the Unalakleet River. **RECOMMENDATION.** Since test fishery is not a reliable index to king salmon abundance, SNSAC recommendation to cease the use of test nets. This measure will increase the number of fish left unmolested to spawn.

KEY ISSUES

- **EVERY FISH COUNTS(CHINOOK)**
- **THERE IS NO ABUNDANCE OF CHINOOK**
- **COMMERCIAL CHINOOK SALMON CLOSURES SINCE 2000**
- **NUMEROUS SUBSISTENCE CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS**
- **THERE IS BIOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION TO MAINTAIN SPORT CLOSURE UNTIL ESCAPMENT GOAL IS MET. 1,200 TO 2,500**