

Submitted By; Nanci Morris Lyon;

Proposal 76 – I would support the following substitute language for this proposal;

“No commercial fishing with drift or set net gear in the Naknek/Kvichak District when the tide is less than 7 feet, to allow for the conservation of King Salmon.”

Having been involved in the Naknek River fishery since 1985 and being a local resident, lodge owner and subsistence user, I am fairly knowledgeable in how we got to where we are right now in our management plan. The escapement of king salmon on the Naknek River has long been an issue that has ultimately been decided by the sockeye commercial fleet openings schedule and the lack of the Department's ability to monitor the current king salmon escapement with any confidence. It is very frustrating as a guide or sport fisherman to be told that they cannot allow too many sockeye up the river, regardless of where the king salmon escapement might be sitting.

I have spoken in depth with Mr. Morstad, our current commercial fish biologist, in order to properly encompass his current strategy for allowing windows in each tide for the king salmon escapement into the Naknek River. He has used this strategy during his term of employment to this area and it has allowed for king salmon escapement. Knowing Mr. Morstad plans to retire from his current position, I feel it would be in everyone's best interest to implement his strategy for the king salmon in the Naknek River, into the future.

With king populations reducing in number, statewide, I feel it would be prudent to take steps to do the best we can to protect the runs that we have left in all our rivers. Bristol Bay, in most areas, is sadly lacking in information of any sort concerning king salmon stocks and adoption of this proposal would be a clear move toward king salmon conservation that should not prove detrimental to any other specie or fisherman

In addition, consideration might be given to implementing the following conservation measures;

Restricting the Big Creek drainage to catch and release only, single hook from June 1 until July 15th, after July 15th Big Creek will be closed to fishing for king salmon.

No fishing for or retention of king salmon will be allowed above the spool hole on the Naknek River.

Both of these measures would also help insure conservation of king salmon stocks in the Naknek River drainage by protecting king salmon in some of their major spawning areas.