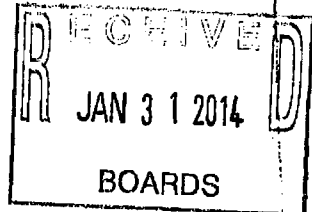


LC-50



1/29/14

Chairman Johnstone and Alaska Board of Fisheries Members,

Matsu King Salmon numbers have dropped to record lows over the last 10 years. Over the last 5 years, the only system in Northern Cook Inlet, to achieve the minimum escapement for King Salmon every year, has been Little Willow Creek. Other systems that achieved minimum escapement goals since 2009 have predominately barely achieved minimum escapement goals.

Falling escapement rates and system closures for Northern Cook Inlet, is illustrated on page 15 and 18 of the 2014 Matsu Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission Board of Fisheries Guide.

No doubt, King Salmon are one of the Matsu Valley's most sought after sport fish and thus serve as a substantial economic driver within the Matsu Valley. The cumulative affects, of a continued reduction in angler participation in Matsu King Salmon fisheries, will have dramatic negative economic impacts, for many Matsu businesses.

ADF&G's estimated sport king salmon harvest from the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area set a new 25-year record low every year from 2009 - 2012.

The reduction in Matsu Valley Angler Days is illustrated on page 21 of the 2014 Matsu Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission Board of Fisheries Guide.

Due to the negative direction, Matsu Valley King salmon stocks have taken, the need for more intensive management and conservation is justified in the enormous demand to maximize current opportunity and ensure a healthy perpetuation of these stocks.

In this period of low King Salmon abundance, management of King Salmon through current regulations and emergency orders has failed to achieve a stable and predictable sport fishery. A large percentage of Alaska residents and visitors begin planning their fishing trips, making lodging and guide reservations, and asking for time off from work in January, February and March. Pre-season emergency order regulations have not been made available until April and May. There has been a high level of uncertainty among users on ADF&G's in season management strategy.

In regards to Matsu King Salmon, the Matanuska Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission developed proposals 296, 298, and 132, with the objective of implementing additional conservation measures, maximizing sport fish opportunity in a biologically sound manner and providing a more stable and predictable sport fishery.

I strongly encourage the board to adopt the above proposals.

Sincerely,

Ben Allen
Owner / Operator Millers Riverboat Service