



NUSHAGAK OUTFITTERS

Specialty King Salmon Fishing
Alaska Big Game Hunting
P.O. Box 734
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

RC11

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ATTN: Bristol Bay BOF Comments
Board Support Section
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-556

Members of the Board:

My name is Randy Triplett, My family and I have been guiding and outfitting on the Nushagak River since 1990. Prior to our move to Montana two years ago, I was a resident of Dillingham for 25 years. We currently own and operate Nushagak Outfitters/Nushagak River Lodge which is located at the mouth of the Nushagak River—just above Black Point.

PROPOSAL 239 – 5 AAC 67.022 (g) (6). Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, size limits and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.

I **OPPOSE** Proposal 239, restricting the use of bait and single hook only on the Nushagak for the following reasons:

The **NUSHAGAK-MULCHATNA CHINOOK SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (NMCSMP)**, already authorizes the Department to manage this fishery with the tools they have in place.

I can find no research/data which supports, that the use of treble hooks results in a higher mortality rate than single hooks.

I believe Bud Hodson and the people that he worked with to develop the NMCSMP did a very good job and it works great. With this plan our area sport and commercial biologist who I respect very highly already have the tools in place to slow the fishery down or close entirely if the need arises.

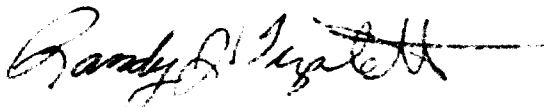
I would like to say that I have seen this fishery go from a meat fishery (3 kings per day bag limit) in the early 90's to a successful sport fishery we have today (4 king annual bag limit). We are all stewards of the resource and all want to be pro active when addressing this issue. My philosophy is if it is not broke do not try and fix it.

My fishermen come to the Nushagak with thoughts of landing 5 to 10 fish per day. If we take that away immediately, they will not come. These are the only #'s I will throw at you. On an average my fishermen spend \$3000.00 for a 5-day fishing package. \$1750.00 for me and \$1250.00 on flights, lodging, food, etc. As a lot of people would say a trip is not defined successful or unsuccessful in the amount of the resource you bring home but in memories.

This may sound a little dramatic but if the board voted in support of Proposal 239 I know without a doubt that the few camps and lodges that are on the river now, because of down turn in our economy, would also disappear.

Thank you for your valuable time in addressing this issue.

Randy Triplett
Owner/Operator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Triplett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Nushagak Outfitters/Nushagak River Lodge