

Current levels of sports fish estimated Chinook mortality should necessitate closures of time and area to preserve Chinook stock.

In 1992, a cap of 5,000 Chinook for sports fish was established. This was changed from a cap to a guideline in 1994. This number is still used to assess harvest for sports fishermen. In 2022, preliminary reports (from the department) show a harvest of 6,500 Chinook retained and 23,000 caught and released. In consideration of the 6.7% shown mortality, provides an overall reduction of Chinook stocks by 8,041 by sport fish users. This number is only estimated as guide logbooks were discontinued in 2018. These Chinook have a much larger average, as trophy class fish are targeted. In 2022, the commercial harvest was 5,325, however this number was likely underestimated in reporting, but the average was approximately 8.1 pounds/Chinook based on higher harvest rate of Jack Kings, specifically those under 20" in overall length.

To facilitate more consistency in conservation between user groups, it is suggested to restrict sport fishing for Chinook to catch and release only from a point 300 ft above the sonar location where ADF&G regulatory markers are located. This will coincide with the amended Proposal 11 (RC 41) language for conservation measures used in commercial fishing. Specifically, this period will end June 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am or based on the OEG triggers. This will provide critical information as it will protect Chinook for more accurate enumeration to be able to more accurately assess and project daily Chinook migration.

Reciprocally, starting on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, or after OEG triggers have been reached, restrict sport fishing for Chinook salmon to catch and release only in the Mulchatna river drainage, the Nuyakuk river drainage and the Nushagak river drainage, upstream of the confluence with the Nuyakuk. This area was previously proposed by Nancy Morris Lyons in Bristol Bay proposal 28, which was mostly supported by the Board on a 3-2 vote for an entire closure area, to protect spawning grounds.