

ELEPHANT In The Room

Good morning Mr. Chairman and board members. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Daniel Donich I am starting my 25th season running Daniels Personalized Guide Service, taking Alaska residents and visitors from all over the Globe fishing for King salmon and Halibut year- round here in Homer.

I'd like to talk about ~~several~~^{the} elephants in the room – the Kenai River. A long-running urban myth has it that saltwater trollers are responsible for catching a significant number of Kenai kings. Not true.

The 2013 ADF&G report No. 13-02, page 26, table 1, describes the harvest breakdown by user groups.

The 10-yr average of the 2002-2011 late-run kings harvest was 25,643 fish. The breakdown is as follows:

- [12,667] 53.6% by Kenai river Sport Anglers
- [8,125] 34.4% by Set netters
- [1,039] 4.4% by Personal Use
- [799] 3.4% due to Released Mortality in the river
- [577] 2.4% by the Driftnet fleet
- [426] 1.8% by Deep Creek Marine Sport anglers

At the time the table was written, Fish & Game assumed 60% of the kings that recreational trollers caught were Kenai fish. However, more recent preliminary genetics results show that is grossly overstated.

The very recent ADF&G genetics study for years 2014-2016,

concluded the highest average catch of Cook Inlet kings north of Bluff Point was 18%.

This is the clearest indication that north of Bluff Point troll fishing takes a very small percentage of Cook Inlet origin king salmon.

Furthermore, during the past five years very few trollers have fished late-run kings along the beach. It's far more productive to spend precious hours targeting feeder kings. For the most part, you would be lucky to see a hand full of trollers, on any given day during July, fishing the beach between Anchor Point and Deep Creek.

Because of this data and anecdotal observations, I urge the Board to adopt Proposals 15, and 19 through 27.

Thanks again for your time.

Any questions?

And yes I would like to be on
Comittee

Table 1.—Estimated harvest below and above river mile 9 (RM 9) for Kenai River late-run Chinook salmon, 1986–2012.

| Year | Harvest and other mortality | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--------|------------|-------------------------|--------|------|
| | Below RM 9 | | | | | | | Above RM 9 | | | |
| | Deep Creek marine sport ^a | Comm setnet ^b | Comm driftnet ^c | Personal use | Subsistence | Sport | Total | Sport | Hook relative mortality | Total | CV |
| 1986 | 378 | 13,619 | 1,100 | | | | 15,097 | 9,872 | 316 | 10,188 | 0.05 |
| 1987 | 731 | 14,536 | 2,731 | | | | 17,998 | 13,100 | 123 | 13,223 | 0.06 |
| 1988 | 892 | 8,834 | 1,330 | | | | 11,056 | 19,695 | 176 | 19,871 | 0.05 |
| 1989 | 821 | 7,498 | 0 | | 22 | | 8,341 | 9,691 | 88 | 9,779 | 0.06 |
| 1990 | 963 | 2,843 | 373 | 91 | 13 | | 4,283 | 6,897 | 69 | 6,966 | 0.07 |
| 1991 | 1,023 | 3,361 | 145 | 130 | 288 | | 4,947 | 7,903 | 16 | 7,919 | 0.05 |
| 1992 | 1,269 | 7,363 | 326 | 50 | 402 | | 9,410 | 7,556 | 234 | 7,790 | 0.06 |
| 1993 | 1,700 | 9,672 | 451 | 129 | 27 | | 11,979 | 17,775 | 478 | 18,253 | 0.04 |
| 1994 | 1,121 | 10,700 | 276 | 13 | 392 | | 12,502 | 17,837 | 572 | 18,409 | 0.04 |
| 1995 | 1,241 | 8,291 | 314 | 36 | 646 | | 10,528 | 12,609 | 472 | 13,081 | 0.05 |
| 1996 | 1,223 | 7,944 | 219 | 45 | 294 | | 9,725 | 8,112 | 337 | 8,449 | 0.06 |
| 1997 | 1,759 | 7,780 | 293 | 339 | 26 | | 10,197 | 12,755 | 570 | 13,325 | 0.06 |
| 1998 | 1,070 | 3,495 | 199 | 271 | 2 | | 5,037 | 7,515 | 595 | 8,110 | 0.07 |
| 1999 | 602 | 6,501 | 345 | 488 | 4 | 1,170 | 9,110 | 12,425 | 682 | 13,107 | 0.08 |
| 2000 | 631 | 2,531 | 162 | 410 | 6 | 831 | 4,571 | 14,391 | 499 | 14,890 | 0.05 |
| 2001 | 552 | 4,128 | 371 | 638 | 8 | 1,336 | 7,034 | 15,144 | 825 | 15,969 | 0.07 |
| 2002 | 256 | 6,511 | 249 | 606 | 6 | 1,929 | 9,558 | 10,678 | 665 | 11,343 | 0.07 |
| 2003 | 120 | 10,174 | 744 | 1,016 | 11 | 823 | 12,888 | 16,120 | 1,803 | 17,923 | 0.09 |
| 2004 | 996 | 14,897 | 916 | 792 | 10 | 2,386 | 19,997 | 14,988 | 1,019 | 16,007 | 0.07 |
| 2005 | 624 | 15,183 | 1,103 | 775 | 11 | 2,287 | 19,984 | 15,927 | 1,267 | 17,194 | 0.08 |
| 2006 | 563 | 6,840 | 631 | 1,034 | 11 | 3,322 | 12,400 | 12,490 | 830 | 13,320 | 0.08 |
| 2007 | 478 | 8,445 | 547 | 1,509 | 6 | 1,750 | 12,735 | 9,690 | 670 | 10,360 | 0.07 |
| 2008 | 310 | 5,203 | 392 | 1,362 | 15 | 1,011 | 8,293 | 10,128 | 370 | 10,498 | 0.08 |
| 2009 | 154 | 3,839 | 515 | 1,189 | 4 | 1,132 | 6,833 | 7,904 | 626 | 8,530 | 0.07 |
| 2010 | 335 | 4,567 | 323 | 865 | 21 | 445 | 6,556 | 6,762 | 264 | 7,026 | 0.06 |
| 2011 | 528 | 5,596 | 356 | 1,243 | 5 | 458 | 8,186 | 6,894 | 479 | 7,373 | 0.07 |
| 2012 | 30 | 484 | 115 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 630 | 101 | 95 | 196 | 0.06 |

^a Assumes 60% of Deep Creek marine sport harvest is of Kenai-origin fish.

^b Kenai River fish only, based on 2010–2011 genetic sampling of commercial setnet fishery (Appendix B).

^c Assumes 60% of commercial driftnet harvest is of Kenai-origin fish.

Harvest Breakdown Provided by CIRF
Source Above ADF&G Fishery Manuscript No. 13-02
Kenai king salmon harvest 2002–2011, average percentage of total harvest by user group
10 Year Average 23,643 Kings

| Deep Creek Marine Sport Anchor Pt. North | Driftnet | Personal Use | Setnet | Kenai River Sport Anglers | Mortality |
|--|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 436 (1.8%) | 577 (2.4%) | 1,039 (4.4%) | 8,125 (34.4%) | 12,667 (53.6%) | 799 (3.4%) |