Ayakulik King Salmon
Action Plan

Written Report: RC 3; Tab 4
Ayakulik King Salmon Escapement

Did not achieve the BEG for 6 of the past 7 years
97% of king salmon escapement prior to July 15

King salmon run overlaps with Ayakulik early-run sockeye salmon run

Throughout the king salmon run the commercial seine fishery is managed based Ayakulik early-run sockeye salmon

Conservative Ayakulik early-run sockeye salmon management:
- target the midpoint of early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal
- Fishery closed until 80% early-run sockeye salmon lower escapement goal is assured
- Focuses the majority of commercial seine openings in the Outer Ayakulik Section
- Since 2011 non retention of large king salmon has established in the seine fleet in the SW Kodiak District
Current Ayakulik Sport Salmon Management

Ayakulik king salmon sport fishery has been restricted to non-retention or closed for the past 5 seasons
Ayakulik King Salmon Harvest

- Both commercial and sport king salmon harvest declined in 2003 due to weak Ayakulik early-run sockeye returns.

- Since adoption of non retention regulation in 2011, commercial seine king salmon harvest remains low.

2011 non retention of large kings established.
King Salmon Non Retention Seine Mortality

- Pacific Salmon Commission Technical Report (CTC; 1997)\(^a\) reported seine caught mortality rates of:
  - 62.8% for small king salmon
  - 50.5% for medium king salmon
  - 28.0% for large king salmon (greater than 28 inches)

- CTC also reported that all sizes of king salmon also had a delayed mortality of 23.0%

- CTC also noted that extremely low values of delayed mortality (1.1%) in situations where fish were within 45 to 60 days of spawning

- Mature Ayakulik king salmon harvested in the commercial seine fishery in front of Ayakulik River are likely to spawn within 45 to 60 days

Potential Actions

Commercial

• Status Quo: Maintain current regulations including non retention of commercially–caught king salmon

• Restrict commercial salmon openings in the Inner Ayakulik Section until the department determines the midpoint of the Ayakulik early-run sockeye salmon run will be achieved

• Restrict commercial salmon openings in the Inner Ayakulik Section until the department determines the upper escapement value of the Ayakulik early-run sockeye salmon run will be achieved

Potential Actions

Sport Fish

• Status Quo: continue to use EO authority to manage

• Restrict the Ayakulik River king salmon sport fishery to non retention by regulation

• Close the Ayakulik River sport fishery by regulation
Questions?