

PROPOSAL 15

Extend the area open to hatchery king fishing up to river mile 4.5, at the broodstock weir collection area at Brody Bridge.

- Dates open to hatchery king fishing will be June 16 ~ July 15 (24/7)
- Gear will be single hook, artificial, no bait in order to reduce mortality on any naturally produced king salmon hooked.
- Single hook, artificial, no bait mortality on king salmon is approximately 3 ~5%. With bait is 10%.
- The reason for this proposal is to harvest hatchery king that fishermen can eat or put on their freezers for winter consumption as opposed to these surplus kings going above the 2 mile marker being placed in totes and given to dog mushers for their dogs.
- Human consumption should come before food for dogs.
- Figure 14-2 is the chart of the hatchery fish escapement above the 2 mile limit for kings 2019 ~ 2023. This ranged from 750 to 1350 kings and surplus that fishermen could be harvesting, plus pushing both wild and hatchery up to the broodstock collection area from pressure. The kings will hold up in the 8-10 holes between the 2 mile limit and 4.5 broodstock collection area and not move up stream when not being pressured by fishermen.
- Fishing pressure on the kings holding between mile 2 and mile 4.5 should move the kings upstream.

- Ninilchik is only 1 of 2 streams open to fishing for king salmon in Southcentral Alaska because of their hatchery component.
- For the fishermen of Southcentral Alaska, Ninichik and Kasilof are the only 2 streams enhanced with hatchery kings that we can harvest for human consumption.
- Kings for the dinner table SHOULD ALWAYS come before food for sled dogs.
- Please pass this proposal so fishermen can feed their families and help move king upstream to the broodstock collection area and wild fish can pass upstream to spawn.

Submitted by Jim Stubbs

November 2023

