Ayakulik King Salmon Action Plan

Written Report: RC 3; Tab 4



Current Ayakulik Commercial Salmon Management Practices



- 97% of king salmon escapement prior to July 15
- King salmon run overlaps with Ayakulik earlyrun 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 <u>closed</u> for the past 5 seasons



Ayakulik King Salmon Harvest



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

^a CTC (Chinook Technical Committee). 2004. Estimation and application of incidental fishing mortality in Chinook salmon management under the 1999 agreement to the Pacific Salmon Treaty Pacific Salmon Commission Report TCCHINOOK (04)-1. Vancouver, British Columbia.

<u>Potential Actions</u> <u>Commercial</u>

- 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

<u>Potential Actions</u> <u>Sport Fish</u>

- 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?