

March 12, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Just like any other sport/commercial encounter on the Kenai  
Nothing has changed! The commercial side is asking to lower the established standards so they can fish more at the expense of the Kings!! Since 1982 there has NEVER been a year where the sport catch and escapement has even come close to the by catch of the commercial side!!!!

I think it's obscene for the Board of Fish to even consider such a bias change. The board needs to ask themselves one question, if this was the sports fisherman asking for this change how would they rule? I think we all know the answer!

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

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