

Submitted by Board Member Wood, prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

11/30/2022

Data request for Nushagak Action Plan – Example of another Action Plan delisting conditions.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME



AYAKULIK RIVER KING SALMON

ACTION PLAN

January 11, 2020

late May through early September, with the peak of the run usually from June 15 to June 30 (Fuerst 2018). The weir is operated from late May to late August. All king salmon are counted as they pass upstream of the weir. It is currently anticipated that weir operation will continue in future years.

PAST RESEARCH PROJECTS

In the past king salmon age, sex, and length (ASL) data were collected then used to monitor quality, track productivity, and generate data needed to review and update escapement goals. However, for the past 9 years (since 2011), due to budget constraints, king salmon ASL data have not been collected. It is doubtful ASL data will be collected in the future.

A creel survey of anglers fishing the Ayakulik River during the king salmon run was conducted through 2007 as well, ending prior to much of the decline in the king salmon run and fishing effort. It is unlikely this project will occur in the near future.

A king salmon genetics study was implemented for the KMA from 2014 through 2016. Stock composition data can be found in the *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Chinook Salmon in Kodiak Management Area, 2014–2016* (Shedd et al. 2016). In those years, the estimated genetic stock specific harvest of Kodiak area king salmon for the combined Southwest Kodiak and Alitak Districts was 56 fish in 2014, 153 fish in 2015, and 16 fish in 2016 (Shedd et al. 2016).

CONDITIONS FOR REDUCING MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS OR DELISTING A STOCK OF CONCERN

1. If the lower bound of the biological escapement goal range is met or exceeded in 3 consecutive years and expecting to meet the goal range in future years, or is met in 4 out of 6 consecutive years and expecting to meet the goal range in future years, the department will recommend removing Ayakulik River king salmon as a stock of management concern at the first Kodiak board meeting after this condition is met.
2. Management measures could be relaxed in specific areas if updated stock composition and harvest data indicates areas where restrictions are no longer needed to ensure the escapement goal is met.
3. In the event that 2 consecutive years of escapements are near the upper bound of the escapement goal range or above the range, management restrictions may be relaxed or set aside using EO authority.

Stock status, action plan performance (including information on harvest rate, distribution, and timing in commercial fisheries), and escapement goal review will be updated in a report to the board at the 2023 Kodiak meeting.