

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 06.391. Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan.

Modify the sport fishing gear allowed in *Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan*, as follows:

5AAC 06.391 (e) Add (3) Appropriate Sports Fishing Gear used for king salmon on the Nushagak River and Nushagak River Drainages that are open for king salmon fishing from June 1st-July 31st.

Sports fishing for king salmon may only be conducted by use of the following:

A closely attended single line attached to not more than one artificial lure with a single barbless hook which includes the following:

- **One plug with single barbless hook**
- **One spoon with single barbless hook**
- **One spinner with single barbless hook**
- **One artificial fly with single barbless hook**

Bait, scent sprays, and liquid scents of any type are prohibited.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? From my experience of being a lodge owner and guiding on the Nushagak River daily during the King salmon sports fishing season for 8 years, I have seen the difference of catching King salmon with and without bait, and the damage that occurs using bait and scent with a barbed hook. Using a barbed hook can cause tearing of the mouth, which can be exacerbated by using bait as this increases the possibility of the king salmon getting hooked further into the mouth. This can cause the fish to bleed and increase the rate of mortality. These king salmon, traveling upriver, some more than 80 miles, can be caught multiple times on their way to their spawning grounds. From my experience, use of bait is very efficient and significantly increases the number of times these fish are caught in transit, which compounds the damage previously mentioned.

Currently we are operating within the Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan. During this time of concern methods to protect these salmon once they reach the river should be considered of high importance. Under this plan there needs to be a restriction on Methods and Means for Sports Fishing for King Salmon. To give them the best opportunity to survive we must decrease the mortality rate. By going to artificial lures and flies with a single barbless hook, we can lower the efficiency of angler's gear, reducing the number of times a fish is caught during its journey, and thus reducing the damage, without depriving anglers the opportunity of a lifetime to fish for Kings on the Nushagak River.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No, I am a Dillingham resident and previous lodge owner with 8 years of guiding experience on the Nushagak River. I have also participated in commercial drift fishing for salmon in the bay throughout most of my life. I still actively sportfish with friends and family on the Nushagak River early in the king salmon run before I start commercial fishing for the season.

PROPOSED BY: Travis Wren

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