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RC 012

Good morning Mr. Chairman and board members. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Jim Lavrakas and I own Skookum Charters here in Homer. I'd like to give you a little background on some of the data behind feeder kings.

To clarify, there is no such thing as a "winter king", because these fish are here year around. These kings have left their native streams in search of food and travel thousands of miles to fatten up before returning to spawn. So, they are feeder kings.

Between January 2003 and August 2016 (that's 14 years), ADF&G collected 805 coded-wire tagged fish from the recreational king salmon troll fishery in Cook Inlet.

Here's the breakdown of where they came from:

37% came from British Columbia
34% from Washington
17% from Oregon
11% from Southeast Alaska
6 tenths of one percent from Idaho
And 4 tenths of one percent from Cook Inlet

We'll discuss these results in more detail during Committee, but for now, just consider the fact that of the 805 coded-wire tagged kings that were collected by trolling over the past 14 years, only THREE were from Cook Inlet.

So, let's look at who DID catch Cook Inlet king salmon. A 2014 NMFS report that looked at coded-wire tagged recovery data from 1981-2013 recorded 198 coded-wire tagged Cook Inlet king salmon that were incidentally caught in trawl nets. Many of these fish were intercepted around Kodiak Island, the Shelikof Strait, the Aleutian chain and the Bering Sea.

Furthermore, ADF&G reports more than 600 king salmon coded-wire tagged recoveries outside the Inlet between 1983 and 2003. These fish were caught by Alaska's commercial fisheries in a far ranging distribution of nearly 2000 miles. You can find this data on the ADF&G tag lab website under commercial survey site report.

I'd also like to point out a little known ADF&G study done in Kodiak (1997-1998). A total of 78 coded-wire tagged kings from Cook Inlet were caught. Four of those kings were from the Kenai River.

Along with common sense reasoning, fisheries management decisions should be made using the best available science (which is part of ADF&G's Mission Statement & Guiding Principals). Our Cook Inlet stocks are impacted by **commercial interceptions** outside the Inlet, and by river fishermen later when the kings re-enter their spawning streams. It's overwhelmingly clear from the data that saltwater recreational king salmon troll fishermen have very little affect on our Inlet stocks.

Wednesday, November 30, 2016