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Board of Fish 2017

RC 024

Let's begin by refreshing you with some of the (ADF&G numbers) concerning KINGS IN THE KENAI.

Please look at the first chart in the leaflet.

In- river run strength 1987 -- 63,550 Down 74% to 17,015 by 2013. That's not the way it's supposed to go.

Average wt of 34 lb in 1987..was down to 15 lbs by 2013 . WOW Again another bad for the Kenai Kings .

Escapement in 1987 was 50,327 --- in 2013 it was 15,395. That's down 70%. That doesn't look too good to me either. With only 12% females instead of the 51% in 1987.

Here is another set of bad #s. Jacks 9% in 1987 and 66% in 2013. These are active, sexually mature one & two ocean male fish.

Here's the real kicker. Of the 15,395 escapement in 2013 only 12% were females. This leaves only 1,847 available for reproduction .. That's 7% of what we had in 1987. On top of that we had about 411,000 anglers trying to catch those same 1,847 fish. That's 400,000 fishermen trying to catch one thousand eight hundred fish.

Ok let's look at the early run.

We did not make half the minimum escapement in 2013 and have barely made minimum numbers since then. That was 8% of the run strength of 1987.

I couldn't find jack numbers or % female numbers for the early run but if we use late run ratios, we may have had as few as 245 reproductive females for all of the early run in 2013.

The only good thing I get out of the demolished (collapsed) early run is that it's hard to blame the set net fishery.

These numbers may not tell the whole story, but they are directly from the ADF G. And the best we have.

If we continue to ignore carrying capacity ,fishing in the spawning grounds, the genetic damage with trophy fishing, and the real damage of hook and release reality will take over as it has in the early run.