

March 13, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, Alaska 99811-5524

Attn: Executive Director / Art Nelson

Chairperson / Carlson-Van Dort / Members of the Board of Fisheries

While presenting my testimony on an Emergency Petition I was asked if I knew an estimate of how many Kenai River Late Run Large Kings could possibly be harvested by the ESSN fishery if RC 033 were accepted. I did a verbal estimate based on the post season analysis (2022 Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Salmon Fishery Season Summary - published December 6, 2022).

In 2022, for the entire ESSN fishery from Ninilchik to Boulder Point (60 plus miles) 104,678 sockeyes were harvested.

Approximately 32 Kenai River bound large kings were harvested out of a total of 341.

The 10-year average is approximately 970,898 sockeyes for the entire beach.

The 10-year average harvest for ALL king sizes was 3,202.

Assuming the ratio of kings applied to the 10-year average of sockeye using 2022 data a 10:1 ratio could be possible or if harvests in 2023 achieved the average harvest of sockeye then using the estimate of 10 times the harvest of 32 large kings in 2022 could mean 320 large kings in 2023. That is of course if all regular fishing periods were utilized from June 20th to August 15th. Probably not reasonable to assume considering the issues at hand.

The real number would be much less than 322 if the fishing time was within the 7 periods fished in the Kasilof Section and 2 in the Kenai section in 2022. The estimate for 2023 would most likely would remain around 32 total.

Paul A. Shadura II