

What is Tim Thinking?

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Good afternoon,

We are getting a bunch of calls, so I thought it might help to send out a little update. First, the regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries were signed by the Lt. Governor and will take effect on July 12. At that time, in the Nushagak district, king salmon will no longer be allowed to be kept for personal use. Until then, please make sure all king salmon kept for personal use are recorded on fish tickets.

As the sockeye and king salmon runs progress, the department will evaluate both the existing and newly developed management triggers, including the timing at which each may be reached, and will implement the trigger that provides the greatest level of king salmon conservation. That decision will involve regular coordination with department leadership, as inseason projections approach the old (not yet adopted) triggers. King salmon conservation remains a top priority, and the department will continue to take a precautionary approach.

In the Nushagak District, the sonar crew started counting on June 6. At this time, we have 26,350 sockeye salmon past the sonar. Last year, on June 17, we had 285,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar. We are more in the ballpark of 2019 (20,500) or 2022 (22,519) as far as timing goes at this point. However, it is really way too early to say much about run timing.

The Wood River crew started counting yesterday morning at 0800. 1,098 fish for our first day.

District test fish started this morning. There are certainly a few fish in the district, but again, too early to make any comment.

I think the next good wind will push fish through the district and give us a lot more information about where we are at.