

Nushagak Chinook Management

A recent History & What Comes Next



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The Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute

2018 – The Inflection Point

- Proposal 41 & 42 sought paired restrictions on Sport and Commercial fisheries to conserve king salmon.
- BOF created a special committee to develop a comprehensive King salmon Management Plan.
- Proposal 41 & 42 were tabled and triggers in the plan were removed.
- BBSRI was asked to coordinate the committee and act as an independent Technical Study Team.



Committee Work (2019 – Spring 2020)

- Original Members: Payton, Morisky, and Ruffner
- Committee Expansion: 8 public members chosen from 14 applicants – Representing Key Stakeholder Groups
- First Meeting: October 2019
- Small Group Meetings – December 19 – February 2020
- Formal Board Committee Disbanded
 - February Upper Cook Inlet BOF Meeting
 - Formal Board Committee Disbanded
 - Stakeholders encouraged to Continue
 - BBSRI to Facilitate the Stakeholder Lead Effort



Committee Work (2020-2022)

- Committee Met 15 Times
- What they Did
 - Identified Performance issues with old plan
 - Defined measures of success for each fishery
 - Developed Management Objectives
 - Evaluated possible regulatory actions.
- Consensus Items
 - Committee reached consensus on 7 key actions which resulted in BOF Proposal 11 (April 2022)

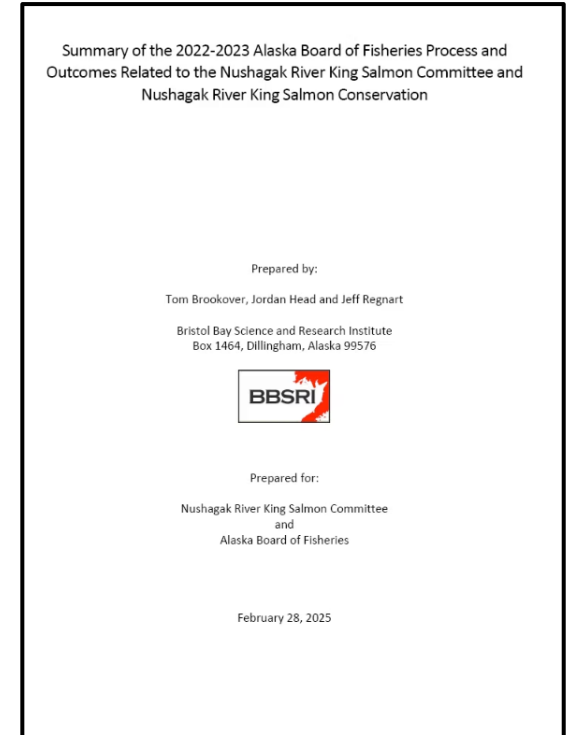


2022 – Summary of Outcomes
from the Nushagak King
Committee



2022/2023 BOF Cycle

- Work Session
 - Nushagak Kings Listed as a Stock of Concern
- November BB BOF Meeting
 - Action on SOC and King Management Deferred to Statewide Meeting.
- Dec '22 – Mar '23
 - BBSRI Study Team, ADFG, Nush AC, and Committee meet numerous times, developed a SOC Management Plan, and revised Proposal 11.
- Statewide Meeting – March 2023
 - Board Approves the SOC Management Plan and Revised Proposal 11 (with amendments, including delisting criteria)



2025 – Summary of 22/23 BOF
Process and Outcomes for
Nushagak King Salmon



SOC Management Plan Actions

- **Commercial Fishery Start Triggers:**

- New triggers for both the Wood and Nushagak Rivers, delay the start of the commercial salmon fishery and thereby afford king salmon additional protection while the ratio of king salmon to sockeye salmon remains relatively high in the district.

- **Sockeye Salmon Optimal Escapement Goals (OEGs):**

- Larger escapement targets, scaled to sockeye run size, allow the manager to take breaks in sockeye commercial fishing for king salmon conservation and replace the need for prescriptive regulatory changes to time, area and/or gear.

- **Sport Fishery Annual Limits:**

- Reduced harvest opportunity for large king salmon by limiting anglers to one fish ≥ 28 inches per year. Protecting large, fecund king salmon and safeguarding the reproductive potential of the stock.

Nush SOC Management Plan - 5 AAC 06.391



Comm Fish King Conservation Performance (2023-2025)

- **Commercial Start Triggers**

- Delayed the commercial fishing start date by 2-5 days annually compared to previous management structure.
- Delays allowed ~6,500-10,800 additional kings to pass the district without harvest pressure.

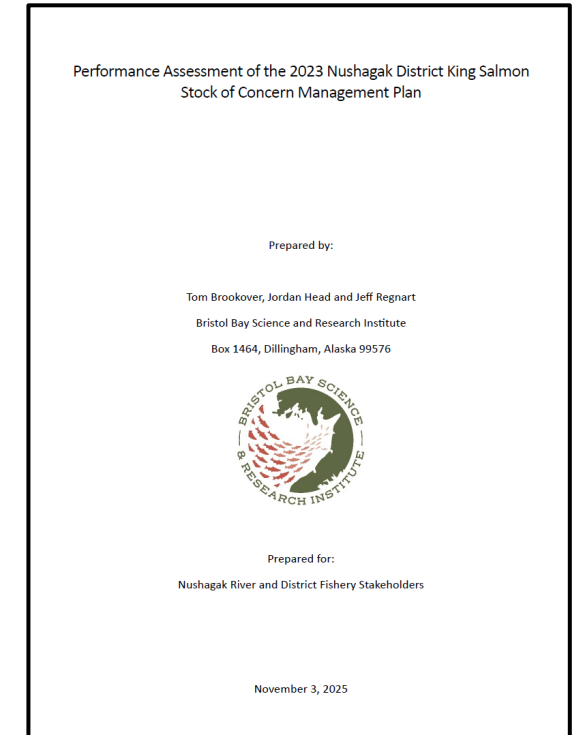
- **OEG's**

- OEG's enabled in-season breaks in fishing to allow windows for king salmon to migrate upriver.

- **Reduction in Fishing Time (Triggers & OEG's)**

(compared to previous management structure 2017-2019)

- Before June 25 80% reduction in fishing time
- June 25-30 45% reduction in fishing time
- July 1-5 11% reduction in fishing time
- Before July 5th 42% reduction in fishing time



2025 – Performance Assessment
of SOC management Plan
Implementation (2023-2025)



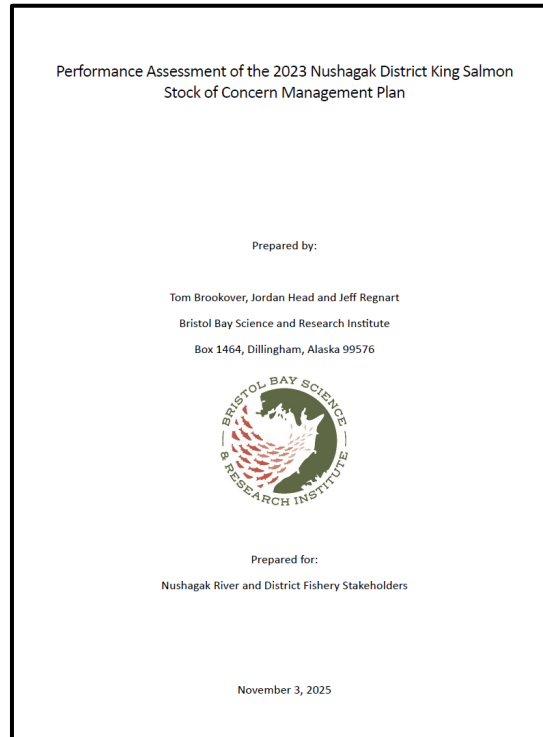
Pending Nushagak King BOF Proposals

Nushagak District king salmon management (6 commercial, 3 sport)

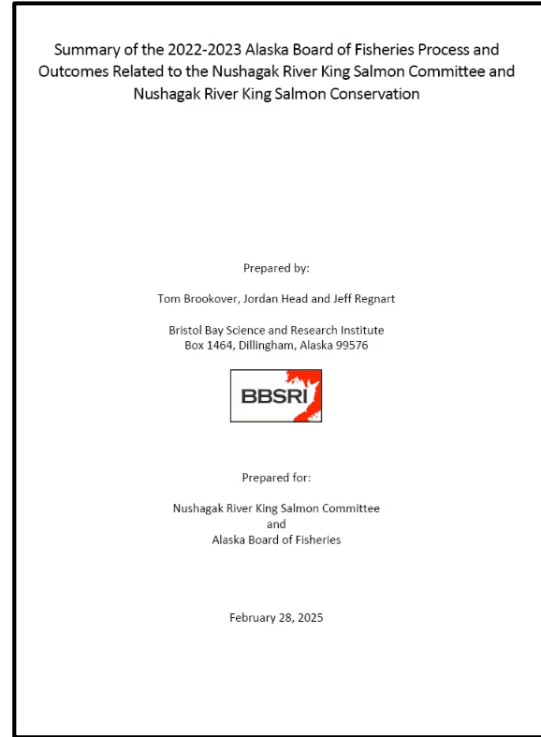
Proposal	5 AAC	Category	Description	Proposer
61	5 AAC 06.391	Nush King SOC Management Plan	Adopt additional restrictions to protect King escapements - Close commercial drift & set fishing before 9:00am June 28 if king run size is projected to be less than 95,000 fish; From 9:00am June 28 through July 4, close the Nushagak section of the Nushagak district for a minimum of 12 hours per day if king run is projected to be less than 95,000 fish; prohibit retention of king salmon in the sport fishery if king run size is projected to be less than 55,000	Kenai River Sportfishing Association
62	5 AAC 06.391	Nush King SOC Management Plan	Prohibit commercial fishing in the Nushagak District until June 28 or until the minimum escapement goal of 55,000 is reached at the Portage Creek sonar	Kent Anderson
63	5 AAC 06.391	Nush King SOC Management Plan	Amend to add a daily limit for king salmon under 20 inches to five per day and five in possession & allow one king salmon 28 inches or greater in length to be retained only after a minimum inriver goal of 70,000 is reached; Implement window closures for the king salmon sport fishery.	Nicholas Dowie and John O'Connor
64	5 AAC 06.391	Nush King SOC Management Plan	Open the WRSMA to drift and set gear until one of the Nush King SOC triggers is met	Rick Tennyson
65	5 AAC 06.391 & 5 AAC 06.367	Nush King SOC Management Plan & Nushagak Set & Drift Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan	Remove WRSMA from Nush District allocation calculations and amend Nush SOC plan to include set gillnet provisions that modify triggers for set gillnets only	Alaska's Best Seafood
66	5 AAC 06.391	Nush King SOC Management Plan	Modify the sport fishing gear allowed in the Nush SOC Plan to only one plug, spoon, spinner, or artificial fly with a single barbless hook	Travis Wren
67	5 AAC 67.022	Methods & Means	Modify the sport fishing gear, size restrictions, and area open for king salmon sport fishing in the Nushagak River drainage	Susie Brito and Tom O'Connor
68	5 AAC 06.361 & 5 AAC 06.391	NMKSMP & Nush King SOCMP	Adopt an OEG for Nush king salmon	Justin Crump
69	5 AAC 06.391	Nush King SOC Management Plan	Adopt a recovery goal for Nush king salmon: SOC plan is in effect until the lower bound of the SEG (55,000) is met or exceeded in three consecutive years and is expected to be met in future years or is met in four out of six consecutive years and is expected to be met in future years.	Kenai River Sportfishing Association



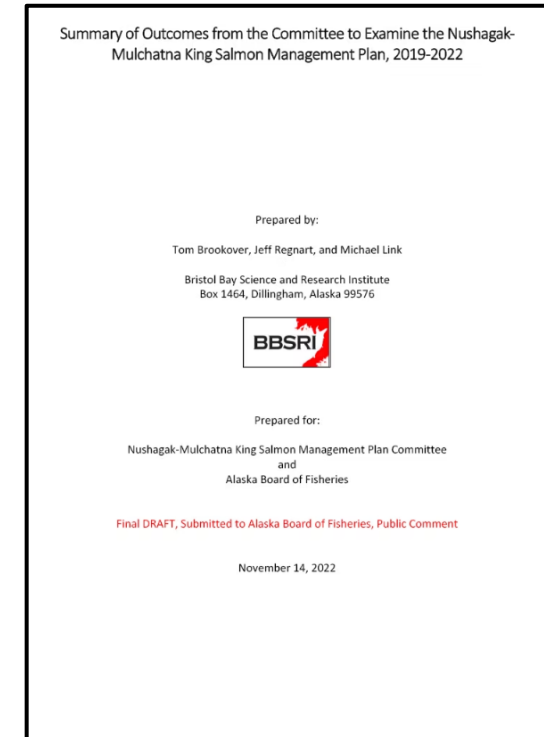
Information & Reports



2025 – Performance Assessment
of SOC management Plan
Implementation (2023-2025)



2025 – Summary of 22/23 BOF
Process and Outcomes for
Nushagak King Salmon



2022 – Summary of Outcomes
from the Nushagak King
Committee

www.bbsri.org/king-committee



Questions



Thank you BBRSDA Members for the financial and all-around support you provide for the Port Moller Test Fishery, BBSRI, and all the projects we operate.