

ADF&G comments on draft Eklutna Recreational study- March, 2023

1. P.15- coho were produced and stocked from the Eklutna hatchery 1983-1998. Anchorage hatcheries 1998-present.
2. Top p.16 specify “two” youth only fisheries...
3. P.16 add stocking objectives for king salmon
 - a. Produce a return of 4,000 adult Chinook salmon to the Eklutna Tailrace and generate 10,000 angler-days annually of Chinook salmon sport fishing effort.
4. Totals in harvest table look off. Double check.
5. Bottom p.16. ADF&G does not monitor fish counts at the Tailrace. Instead of saying, “...facility operation’s impacts on fish counts”, say, “facility operation’s on fishing success and harvest”.
6. ADF&G observation for possible inclusion- When the Hydroelectric plant decreases flow in the tailrace during annual maintenance and inspections in late – May, anglers believe the fish do not move into the Eklutna Tailrace fishery as well as the water isn’t flowing. The Knik backs up into the Tailrace with muddy water and the fish do not bite very well. Decreased flow/no flow and dirtier water greatly diminishes fishing success.
7. Guide Services accessing the Eklutna Tailrace fishery from the Knik River Bridge launch site.
 - a. ADF&G requires guides to register with the department prior to providing services. General locations of guiding services are required to register vessels with the department (primary river drainages) however, guides can move to any location they wish. ADF&G guide staff were not able to provide a listing of business operating specific to this location. To capture this information this data could be collected onsite at the Knik River Bridge from approximately the end of May-July 15.