

Subject: Wild Salmon Update

Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2011 10:31 am

WILD SALMON UPDATE

COPPER RIVER – The latest speculation on the opener is possibly Monday May 16th. Once again we expect kings to be very short but do expect more of a “normal” sockeye run. In fact if the projections are accurate this could be big sockeye year on the Copper River producing over 1 million sockeyes

COLUMBIA RIVER KINGS – The lower Columbia River terminal fisheries or “safe areas” have been temporarily suspended due to the fact the last opener Monday night caught too many up river kings. These fish should not have been in these safe areas but indeed were mixed in with the terminal hatchery kings. I expect another opener to be set for Thursday night 4/28.

The Native Americans, although fishing now, are not allowed to sell their catch as these first fish are used for ceremonial and subsistence purposes. I expect the commercial sale of these hook and line and scaffold Springer’s to begin around May 15th.

OREGON TROLL KINGS – Oregon’s troll king fishery opened April 15th south of Cape Falcon but the catch has been light, partially due to the weather and cold water temperatures. Cash buyers will continue to create havoc on the docks until there are enough fish to fill the pipeline and in reality that may not happen until the California troll season begins to produce good numbers around May 7th or so.

WASHINGTON / CALIFORNIA TROLL KINGS - Washington’s troll season opens May 1st from the Canadian border south into Oregon to Cape Falcon (Manzanita). This fishery is however a quota fishery and in season changes could occur when the 13,700 fish limit looks as though it will be met.

California’s troll season from Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt. (San Francisco) also opens on May 1st with early sports fishermen reporting plenty of fish around.

ALASKAN TROLL KINGS – The winter troll king season is now closed. Although the spring troll king season will be on going the areas that are allowed to be fished typically do not provide much tonnage. The next opportunity, which will be HUGE, will be the summer troll fishery which commences July 1st.

CANADIAN TROLL KINGS – Canada’s troll king fishery kicked off this past week with approximately 60 vessels fishing the north coast of Vancouver Island. No reports yet as to how the boats are doing.
