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California Fish and Wildlife commission

Jack Baylis, Vice President

Johnson's Bait and Tackle

Feather River Early Run Salmon Management Proposal

A review of the early run Chinook salmon abundance provided by the Feather River Hatchery indicates that over 10,000 early run Chinook salmon entered the hatchery holding tanks during the months of May and June of 2014. It is estimated that another 14,000 salmon that arrived did not enter the hatchery making a total of about 24,000 adult Chinook in the river system. The Feather River Hatchery utilized only 1,400 of the hatchery fish for spawning purposes leaving an excess of 8,600 hatchery salmon that served no useful purpose whatever. Many of the protected Spring Run salmon simply died and rotted in the river during the hot summer months. When the ladders reopened in September, The surviving Spring Run fish and the early Fall Run fish that came in August and early September were slaughtered without being spawned. We are told that this 100% kill of early salmon is being done in an attempt to set the Fall Run back to October. We feel that this practice is a waste of a valuable resource that could be put to a much better use. In view of this economic waste, we once again propose the following management program for Early Run Chinook on the Feather River:

An Early Run season to open on Saturday May 2, 2015 with a possession limit of one (1) fish per angler per day. This season to extent to the opening of the summer/fall run season when the fall run regulations would then take affect.

Instead of wasting this valuable resource, this proposal would generate over one million dollars in revenue for for Sutter, Yuba, and Butte Counties and fishing related businesses plus, providing recreational opportunities for hundreds outdoor enthusiasts. This proposal would in no way impact the Feather River Hatchery spawning operation nor affect the early run reproduction of Chinook salmon

Robert Boucke, Owner Johnson's Bait & Tackle
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