



Jake's Nushagak Salmon Camp - 2011 fishing report

Our "High Boat" guide days for 3 fishermen in a day were 124 and 105 (just one day of fishing). We had days with boats in the 80's and 90's per boat. The shore fishing was excellent with hundreds caught in front of camp many nights after the boat fishing was over for the day. Where else can a Fly Rod produce 16 Kings in a relaxing evening in front of camp after dinner? Our self-guided camp just down river caught hundreds of Kings from shore right in front of our spike camp.

'The best fishing in 25 – 30 years or more'... What a blast!

Simply phenomenal are the only words to describe the fishing this summer on the Nushagak River. The returning King salmon that flooded the river this summer provided the best fishing Fred Plowman had seen in 25 – 30 years and possibly the best ever. Fred is known as "Grandfather River" as he pioneered sport fishing on the Nushagak in the late 1970's. Fred spent 16 days with us this past season and proclaimed it to be the best King Salmon fishing he could remember. Most of the fish were big ones and there were plenty to go around. A nice bonus was that the Jake's guided boats were some of the only boats on the river. The most boats I remember seeing at any one time were 12 and half of those were ours.

The King Salmon that refused to return in 2010 seemed hell bent on making the 2011 season one that many of our guests will cherish for a lifetime.

The first few days of fishing saw a lot of fish in the teens but quickly graduated to days on end with a high percentage of the catch running into the 30+ pound range. We always see a bad day or two and 2011 was no exception with a few stinkers. We only had a few slow days, and slow took on a new meaning when slow is considered around 20 Kings for a boat with just 3 fishermen.

The July fish were gangbusters and doubles and triples of chrome bright Kings were the order of the day. On July 8th it seemed every boat had all rods bent. Next season we plan to offer dates extending through July 9th as this is always when the largest fish enter the river and is still easily within the historic peak of the run. Sonar counts continued to be strong even after we closed camp, pointing to a healthy return to the runs the Nushagak is world famous for.

The highest percentage of the Kings in this summers' run were from the record 2005 spawning season making them BIG, Strong fighters and 2012 should produce another banner year as those will be the returning fish from the second highest escapement on record, the 2006 spawning season.

Simply put "The Nush is alive and well" and we are proud to have spoiled our 2011 guests.

All things considered, 2012 should be equally as good if not better. We hope you will consider joining us as a guest in 2012'; if you are interested, please give us a call. We always look forward to visiting with old friends and making plenty of new ones.

To read other stories on guests' experiences at Jake's this year, check out Terry Wiest's blog on www.steelheaduniversity.com and our guide Brian Lull's photo blog on www.nwsportsmanmag.com (destinations page) <http://www.nwsportsmanmag.com/destinations/>

