

# A lake ferry won't harm salmon.

Some have expressed concern about the ferry which will cross Iliamna Lake and whether it will harm the salmon there. So let's get right to the point. The ferry will NOT have any measurable effect on the fish of Iliamna Lake. Why? Let's count the reasons.

**1** The ferry moves slowly, and fish avoid noise and vibrations.

All **scientific literature** and experience affirms what common sense tells you. Big boats are slow, and little fish are fast. **They simply swim away** long before the ferry arrives.

**2** The design of the ferry's propellers will minimize harm.

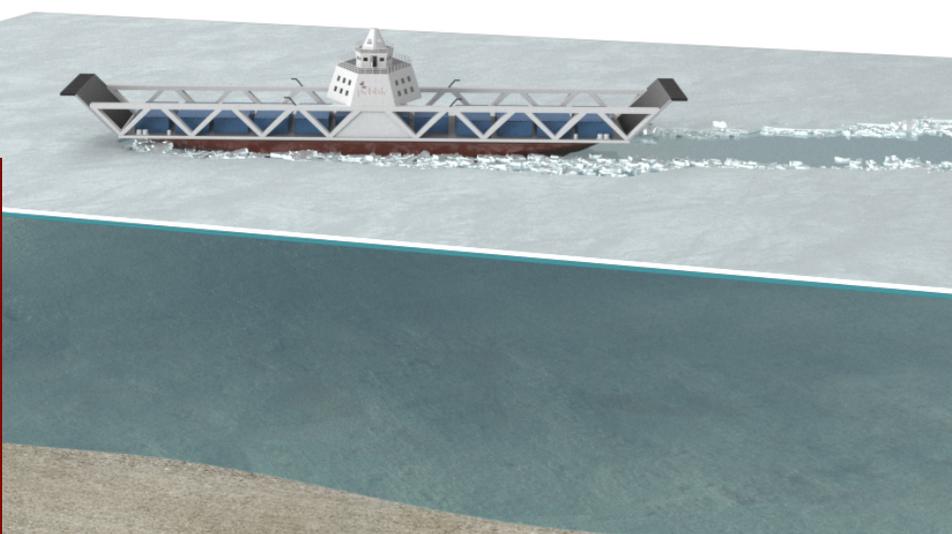
The propellers are contained **within hull recesses away from the bows** — and do not protrude below the keel of the vessel. This provides **additional protection to juvenile salmon**.

**3** Salmon do not spawn where the ferry terminals are located.

**Iliamna Lake is enormous**, and the shoreline at the ferry terminals is **minuscule in comparison**. The number of salmon fry there is **nearly unmeasurable** compared to the total lake population.

## Where to learn more...

This is one in a series of fact sheets on the Pebble project. You can find other topics, FAQs, and more by visiting **PebblePartnership.com**



# Where do the salmon live?

The western area of the lake has **significantly lower densities of salmon yearlings and fry** compared to the east. There just aren't many fish along the ferry route, and they **don't constitute a meaningful percentage** of Iliamna Lake's total salmon population.

Are you seeing fish underneath the ice in the winter? They probably aren't salmon, which tend to swim **30 feet or more below the surface** during the day. But if they ARE salmon feeding near algae, they **won't be found along the ferry crossing** — algae only grows on undisturbed ice, which will be routinely broken by the ferry along the route.

Even if a small number of salmon find themselves in the path of the ferry during its Iliamna Lake crossing, **fry and yearling salmon have enough motility to easily avoid the ferry**. The noise from the ferry or breaking ice would drive fish out of the path long before potential impact, either away to the side of the ferry or into deeper waters.



## What about the winter?

The ferry will use an ice-breaking bow to slowly clear the daily winter passage. How will it affect the salmon?

- 1** The ferry will only make one round trip across the lake during the day.
- 2** Salmon swim deep during winter days and only rise to the surface at night.
- 3** The ferry is big and slow. Fish don't like noise, and any in the area will simply swim out of the way.

## How do you know?

Science tells us the ferry will be **safe for the salmon**. But you don't have to take our word for it — **the permitting process will validate it**.



## Contact the Partnership

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