A new study of sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay, Alaska, published in *Nature*, offers new insights into how to restore West Coast salmon runs. Authored by Daniel Schindler and Ray Hilborn of the University of Washington, the study concludes that the key to restoring West Coast salmon runs lies in ensuring there is a wide diversity of stocks within a given species.

While other big salmon rivers have wild swings in productivity, the Bristol Bay area has remained remarkably stable. The authors suggest that Bristol Bay has been consistently productive because there are so many different types of sockeye there. Hilborn said that the lesson for management is that salmon should be managed to promote diversity. This means protecting a wide range of habitat, avoiding a dependence on hatcheries, and keeping catches low enough that a wide variety of stocks is allowed to return to spawn.

More here and here

TAGS: sockeye salmon, Bristol Bay, diversity, *Nature*, Ray Hilborn, Daniel Schindler, University of Washington, fisheries management, sustainable, fisheries, fishing

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