



Bristol Bay Science And Research Institute

March 10, 2015

Tom Kluberton
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

RE: Evaluation of escapement goals for Bristol Bay

Dear Mr. Kluberton,

Following up on my letter of 19 January 2015, please find attached two draft reports from a study of alternative escapement goals for Bristol Bay.

Analysis of Escapement Goals for Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon taking into Account Biological and Economic Factors

An evaluation of biological escapement goals for sockeye salmon of Bristol Bay, Alaska.

The study's Advisory Panel (AP) met in Seattle on March 5, 2015 to review the study's results and conclusions. Here in this letter, the AP unanimously puts forward for the Board of Fisheries and ADF&G consideration at the March 17-20 meeting in Anchorage the following.

Conclusions

- A combination of existing and proposed SEGs (Dec. 2012) addresses biological and economic concerns of the industry.
- If the escapement goals proposed here are adopted by ADF&G *and* the Board of Fisheries makes the change below to management plan (s), the AP believes OEGs for these stocks are not necessary.

Recommendations

- ADF&G adopt as SEGs (or BEGs) the lower bound from the existing escapement goals and the upper bound of the proposed goals (Table 1 below).
- The Board of Fisheries implements regulatory language in district-specific management plans as to where generally within the adopted SEG range the Department should manage. For example:
 - *The Department will manage for escapement to fall within the lower or upper half of the adopted river-specific escapement goal ranges, commensurate with pre-season and ongoing in-season assessment of run strength to the fishing district.*

For illustration purposes, Table 1 also provides the ranges of the lower and upper half of its proposed escapement goal ranges. With this recommended language for management plans, the AP does not envision that the Department be held accountable for falling tightly within these ranges as a function of run size, in all years. Instead, the AP believes the proposed language (above) provides sufficient guidance and flexibility for the Department to achieve higher escapements at times of large runs to the Bay.

Table 1. Current, previously proposed, and Advisory Panel proposed escapement goal ranges for six sockeye salmon stocks in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Stock	Development of Recommended Ranges				
	Current SEGs	ADF&G		Lower half of EG range	Upper half of EG range
		proposed (Dec. 2012)	Advisory Panel (March 2015)		
Ugashik					
Lower	500	600	500	500	950
Upper	1,200	1,400	1,400	950	1,400
Mid/Median	850	1,000	-	725	1,175
Egegik					
Lower	800	900	800	800	1,400
Upper	1,400	2,000	2,000	1,400	2,000
Mid/Median	1,100	1,450		1,100	1,700
Igushik					
Lower	150	200	150	150	275
Upper	300	400	400	275	400
Mid/Median	225	300		213	338
Naknek					
Lower	800	900	800	800	1,400
Upper	1,400	2,000	2,000	1,400	2,000
Mid/Median	1,100	1,450		1,100	1,700
Wood					
Lower	700	800	700	700	1,250
Upper	1,500	1,800	1,800	1,250	1,800
Mid/Median	1,100	1,300		975	1,525
Nushagak					
Lower	370	400	370	370	635
Upper	840	900	900	635	900
Mid/Median	655	700		503	768
Kvichak					
Lower	2,000				
Upper	10,000		-----no change-----		

We will have at least three members from the AP available for the March 17-20 meeting in Anchorage (Regnart, Webster, Link), and if you like, I am willing to make an evening presentation to Board members and interested public.

On behalf of the Study's Advisory Panel,



Michael R. Link

Project Manager and AP member for the OEG study, and Chief Scientist, BBSRI

cc.

Advisory Panel: J. Regnart, F. Johnson, M. Luck, A. Williams, V. Webster, B. Monroe, J. Heins, J. Boggs, M. Reimer

Keggie Tubbs, BBSRI Executive Director

Sue Aspelund, Executive Director, BBRSDA