



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game
DIVISIONS OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
AND SPORT FISH
Headquarters

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Mr. Thomas Kluberton – Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Chairman Kluberton and members of the Board of Fisheries:

Since the December 2012 Bristol Bay Board of Fisheries (board) meeting in Naknek, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) has participated in a series of meetings with a committee of users, processors, and members of the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute. This committee was charged by the board to prepare recommendations relating to the development of optimal escapement goals for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. As a part of this effort, the committee reviewed a draft escapement analysis report and presentations prepared by scientists from the School of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Washington and LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc. that evaluated escapement goals for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon taking into account biological and economic factors. Based on the biological and economic analysis, and the escapement goal analysis conducted by the department in 2012 (Fair et al. 2012), the department recommends the lower bounds of the existing sustainable escapement goals (SEGs) and the upper bounds of the escapement goals following the recommendations from Fair et al. 2012 (Table 1). The department intends to implement these recommendations prior to the 2015 fishing season.

In addition, the department is developing umbrella language for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon management as guidelines for managers. This regulatory language will be introduced during the statewide miscellaneous shellfish board meeting in March of 2015 for the department to manage escapements to fall within the lower or upper half of the adopted river-specific escapement goal ranges, proportionate with pre-season and inseason assessments of run strength to fishing districts.

Table 1. - Recommended Bristol Bay sockeye salmon escapement goals (in thousands).

River	Current SEG		SEG recommendations from Fair, et al. 2012		Recommended SEG	
	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Egegik	800	1,400	900	2,000	800	2,000
Igushik	150	300	200	400	150	400
Kvichak	2,000	10,000	2,000	10,000	2,000	10,000
Naknek	800	1,400	900	2,000	800	2,000
Nushagak	370	840	400	900	370	900
Ugashik	500	1,200	600	1,400	500	1,400
Wood	700	1,500	800	1,800	700	1,800


Citations:

Fair, L.F., C.E. Brazil, X. Zhang, R.A. Clark, and J.W. Erickson. 2012. Review of salmon escapement goals in Bristol Bay, Alaska, 2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Manuscript Series No. 12-04, Anchorage.

Sincerely,



Jeff Reghart, Director
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Anchorage



Tom Brookover, Acting Director
Division of Sport Fish
Anchorage