



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
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## Department of Fish and Game

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# MEMORANDUM

TO: Dave Rutz, Director, Division of Sport Fish

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THRU: Thomas D. Vania, Regional Supervisor, Division of Sport Fish, Region II

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FROM: Tim McKinley, Regional Research Coordinator, Division of Sport Fish, Region II *TKM*

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DATE: March 26, 2019

SUBJECT: Lower Cook Inlet Escapement Goal Memorandum

This memorandum summarizes the department review of Lower Cook Inlet (LCI) escapement goals and associated recommendations for escapement goals. Escapement goals in this management area have been set and evaluated at regular intervals since statehood, most recently in 2016 by Otis et al. (2016).

In November 2018, an interdivisional salmon escapement goal review committee, including staff from the divisions of Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish, met and reviewed existing salmon escapement goals in the LCI management area. Nearly all LCI goals had been updated in the previous escapement goal review for this area, and the committee recommended that no further changes were warranted at this time. Current Lower Cook Inlet salmon escapement goals are presented in Table 1 below.

The department recognizes the importance of releasing escapement goal recommendations earlier in the year so the public may submit proposals relative to goal recommendations before the deadline of Wednesday April 10, 2019. Thus, department staff completed their review on an accelerated timeline.

A brief oral report will be given to the board at the October 2019 work session.

Salmon stock of concern recommendations will be finalized after the 2019 salmon season to include the most recent year's escapements. These recommendations will be formalized in a memo and presented at the board Work Session in October 2019.

**Literature Cited**

Otis, E. O., J. W. Erickson, C. Kerkvliet, and T. M. McKinley. 2016. A review of escapement goals for salmon stocks in Lower Cook Inlet, Alaska, 2016. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Manuscript No. 16-08, Anchorage.

**Table 1**–Summary of current escapement goals for salmon stocks in Lower Cook Inlet, 2019.

System	Goal	Type	Year adopted	Escapement data <sup>a</sup>
<b>King Salmon</b>				
Anchor River	3,800–7,600	SEG	2017	Weir/Sonar
Deep Creek	350	LB SEG	2017	SAS
Ninilchik River	750–1,300	SEG	2017	Weir/Video
<b>Chum Salmon</b>				
Port Graham River	1,200–2,700	SEG	2017	MFS
Dogfish Lagoon creeks	3,500–8,600	SEG	2017	MFS
Rocky River	1,500–4,400	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Port Dick Creek	1,900–4,300	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Island Creek	5,100–11,900	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Big Kamishak River	6,800–15,600	SEG	2017	MAS
Little Kamishak River	8,000–16,800	SEG	2017	MAS
McNeil River	24,000–48,000	SEG	2008	MAS
Bruin River	5,200–10,000	SEG	2017	MAS
Ursus Cove Creek	5,900–10,100	SEG	2017	MAS
Cottonwood Creek	5,200–12,200	SEG	2017	MAS
Iniskin Bay River	5,900–13,600	SEG	2017	MAS
<b>Pink Salmon</b>				
Humpy Creek	17,500–51,400	SEG	2017	MFS
China Poot Creek	2,500–6,300	SEG	2017	MFS
Tutka Lagoon Creek	6,500–17,000	SEG	2002	MFS
Barabara Creek	2,000–5,600	SEG	2017	MFS
Seldovia Creek	21,800–37,400	SEG	2017	MFS
Port Graham River	7,700–19,700	SEG	2017	MFS
Dogfish Lagoon creeks	800–7,100	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Port Chatham Creeks	7,800–18,100	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Windy Creek Right	3,400–11,200	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Windy Creek Left	5,400–27,100	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Rocky River	11,700–54,800	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Port Dick Creek	17,900–49,800	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Island Creek	9,600–32,500	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
S. Nuka Island Creek	2,800–11,200	SEG	2017	MAS/MFS
Desire Lake Creek	1,500–18,000	SEG	2017	MAS
Bruin River	17,800–103,000	SEG	2017	MAS
Sunday Creek	4,400–24,900	SEG	2017	MAS
Brown's Peak Creek	2,600–17,500	SEG	2017	MAS
<b>Sockeye Salmon</b>				
English Bay River	6,000–13,500	SEG	2002	PAS/Weir
Delight Lake	5,100–10,600	SEG	2017	PAS/Weir
Desire Lake	4,800–11,900	SEG	2017	PAS
Bear Lake	700–8,300	SEG	2002	Weir
Aialik Lake	3,200–5,400	SEG	2017	PAS
Mikfik Lake	3,400–11,000	SEG	2017	Video
Chenik Lake	2,900–13,700	SEG	2017	Video
Amakdedori Creek	1,200–2,600	SEG	2017	PAS

<sup>a</sup> SAS = Single Aerial Survey, MAS = Multiple Aerial Survey, PAS = Peak Aerial Survey, MFS = Multiple Foot Survey.