Southeast Region Salmon Escapement Goal Review

Board of Fisheries Work Session October 15, 2020

Steve Heinl, Division of Commercial Fisheries
Jeff Nichols and Ed Jones, Division of Sport Fish



Southeast Region Escapement Goal Review

- 47 current salmon escapement goals.
- Review committee recommended changes to 2 goals.



Disappearance Creek weir



Hugh Smith Lake smolt weir

Taku River sockeye salmon:





Taku River mouth

Photo: Jeff Williams

Map: Kathy Smikrud

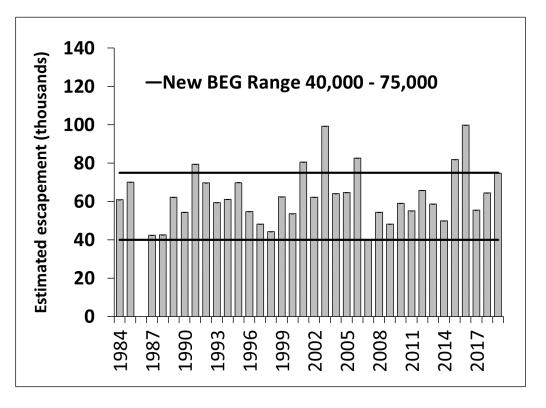
- Transboundary River aggregate sockeye salmon runs spawn in Canada.
- Managed under provisions of the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.
- Inriver abundance estimated annually through U.S.-Canada mark—recapture project.
- Recent Treaty called for establishment of MSY escapement goal by 2020.

Taku River sockeye salmon:



Taku River fish wheels

Photo: Jeff Williams

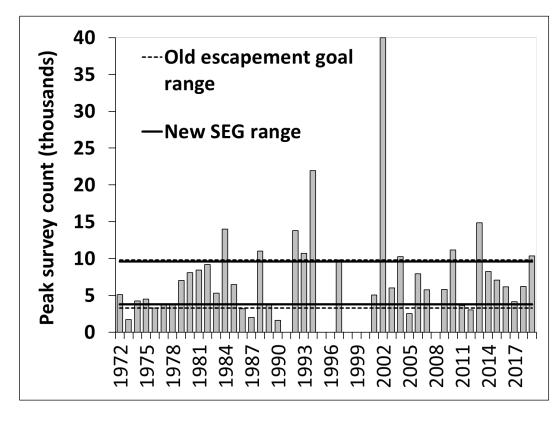


- Bilateral Taku Working Group conducted review of assessment data and escapement goal.
- Escapement goal analysis and recommendation reviewed by:
 - ADF&G, DFO, Taku Tlingit First Nation, 2 expert reviewers, CSAS, TTC, TBR Panel.
- New BEG 40,000–75,000 adopted prior to the 2020 fishing season.

Situk River coho salmon:



Situk River mouth



- Assessment consists primarily of weekly boat survey counts.
- Recommended replacing the current biological escapement goal with a sustainable escapement goal range of 3,800–9,600 coho salmon counted annually on a peak survey.