

Fishery Management Report No. 08-31

**Kodiak Management Area Harvest Strategy for the
2008 Commercial Salmon Fishery**

by

Jeff Wadle,

Joe Dinnocenzo,

and

Geoff Spalinger

May 2008

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



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Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Kodiak

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES.....	ii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	ii
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
HARVEST PROJECTIONS.....	3
FISHING PERIODS.....	3
Advance Notice.....	3
Fishery Opening Times.....	3
Timing and Length of Initial Fishing Periods.....	4
Sockeye Salmon.....	4
Pink Salmon.....	7
Chum Salmon.....	8
Coho Salmon.....	8
Inperiod Closures.....	9
INSEASON EMERGENCY ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	9
ADF&G STAFF CONTACT NUMBERS.....	10
NOTABLE REGULATIONS AND CHANGES TO REGULATIONS MADE DURING THE 2008 BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING.....	10
Multiple Set Net Permits.....	10
Seine Practice Sets.....	11
Increase To Shoreward Zones.....	11
Closed Water Areas.....	11
Closed Water Sanctuary for the 2008 Season.....	12
New Statistical Areas.....	12
Release of Large Chinook (King) Salmon by Purse Seine Fishermen.....	12
Use of Net Pens.....	12
Waste of Salmon.....	13
Personal Use of Commercially Taken Salmon (Home Pack).....	13
Direct Marketing.....	13
Fish Transporters.....	13
FISH TICKETS / HARVEST REPORTS.....	14
Processors / Tenders.....	14
Purse Seine Fishermen.....	14
Set Gillnet Fishermen.....	15
REFERENCE CITED.....	15
TABLES.....	17
APPENDIX A. MAPS OF THE KODIAK MANAGEMENT AREA SALMON FISHING DISTRICTS.....	21
APPENDIX B. CHARTS OF CURRENT ESCAPEMENT GOALS FOR SELECT STREAMS AND SPECIES.....	31

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Alaska Board of Fisheries approved fishery management plans for the Kodiak Management Area, 2008.....	18
2. Actual versus projected 2007 commercial salmon harvest, by species and fishery, and 2008 harvest projections, for the Kodiak Management Area.....	19

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Commercial salmon fishery chronology by species, for the Kodiak Management Area.....	2

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A1. Map of the Kodiak Management Area identifying commercial salmon fishing districts.....	22
A2. Map of the Afognak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.....	23
A3. Map of the Northwest Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.....	24
A4. Map of the Southwest Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.....	25
A5. Map of the Northeast Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.....	26
A6. Map of the Eastside Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.....	27
A7. Map of the Mainland District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.....	29
B1. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for Chinook salmon into the Karluk system.....	32
B2. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for early-run sockeye salmon into the Karluk system.....	33
B3. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for late-run sockeye salmon into the Karluk system.....	34
B4. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for Chinook salmon into the Ayakulik system.....	35
B5. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Ayakulik system.....	36
B6. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for early-run sockeye salmon into the Upper Station system.....	37
B7. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for late-run sockeye salmon into the Upper Station system.....	38
B8. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Frazer system through the Dog Salmon River weir.....	39
B9. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Litnik system.....	40
B10. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Buskin system.....	41
B11. Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Saltery system.....	42

ABSTRACT

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will manage the commercial salmon fisheries in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) to promote maximum production potential for future KMA salmon returns by achieving salmon escapement goals. In addition, the department will attempt to provide for orderly fisheries while maximizing harvest opportunities on the highest quality salmon. The department will adhere to the biological and allocative requirements of the Management Plans adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries for the KMA. Management of the fisheries follows a general chronology based on the run timing of four commercially targeted salmon species: sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka*, coho *O. kisutch* pink, *O. gorbuscha*, and chum *O. keta* salmon.

The 2008 preseason forecasts project a harvest of approximately 1,716,150 sockeye, 406,737 coho, 9,850,000 pink, and 924,372 chum salmon. Additionally, about 20,000 Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* could be harvested incidentally in fisheries targeting other salmon species. All fishing periods are established by emergency order. The initial sockeye salmon commercial test fishery for the westside of Kodiak Island is scheduled for June 5. A June 5 fishery opening is also planned for the Duck Bay Section and the Foul Bay and Waterfall Bay Special Harvest Areas. The initial commercial test fishery in the Alitak District may occur on June 9, which would be announced no later than June 5. The actual opening date for the Alitak District will be determined based on inseason indicators of run strength. Beginning July 6, weekly fishing periods targeting pink salmon will be 57 hours (2½ days) per week for Kodiak Archipelago sections and 57 hours (2½ days) per week for Mainland District sections north of Cape Aklek.

Key Words: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kodiak, Afognak, Alaska Peninsula, Karluk, Ayakulik, Frazer, Upper Station, Alitak, Cape Igvak, North Shelikof, commercial fishery, salmon, management plan, purse seine, set gillnet, Chinook, sockeye, coho and pink salmon.

INTRODUCTION

The Kodiak Management Area (KMA; Appendices A1 – A8) 2008 commercial salmon fishery harvest strategy emphasizes three criteria:

- (1) Promote maximum production potential for future KMA salmon returns by ensuring salmon escapements of sufficient magnitude and distribution.
- (2) Provide for orderly fisheries while maximizing harvest opportunities on the highest quality salmon.
- (3) Adhere to the biological and allocative requirements of all management plans adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) for the KMA salmon fishery.

There are 10 salmon management plans that direct Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) management activities for specific portions of the KMA (Table 1). Every salmon fishing section within the KMA has a season-long regulatory management plan. Proper implementation of these plans requires a major effort in communication between ADF&G and industry personnel.

Salmon run timing within the KMA follows a general chronology by species (Figure 1). Commercial fisheries management is based on the run timing of four targeted salmon species: sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka*, coho *O. kisutch*, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and chum salmon *O. keta*. Commercial salmon fisheries are structured around the seasonal abundance of salmon. Inseason adjustment in areas open to fishing and fishing time are dictated by escapement goals (Honnold et al. 2007).

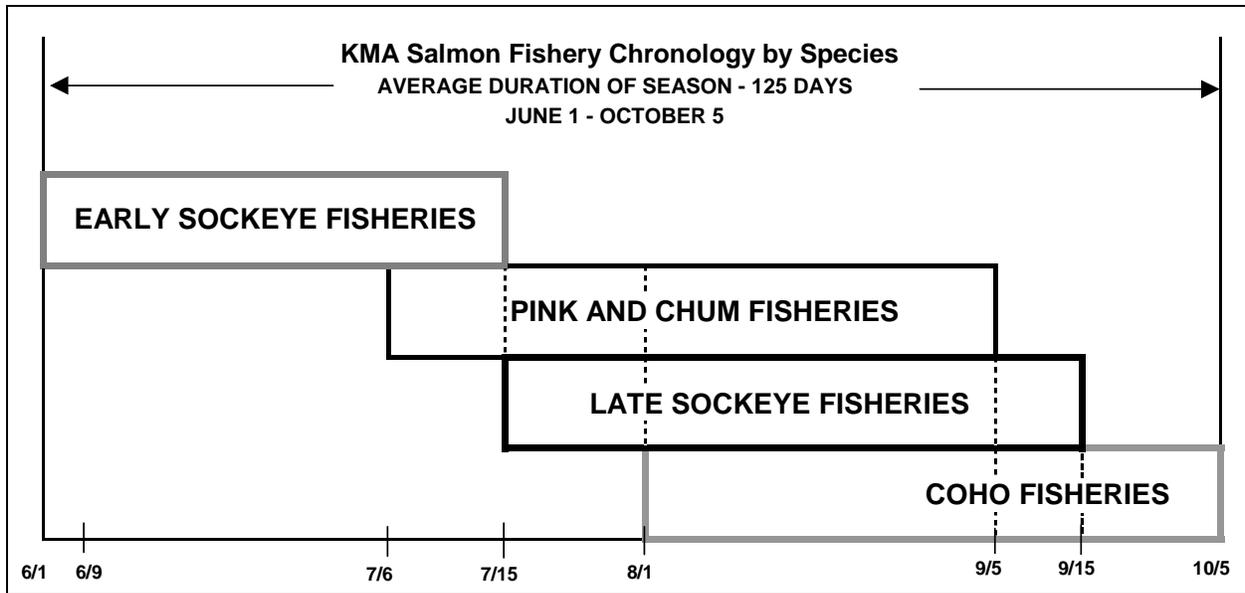


Figure 1.—Commercial salmon fishery chronology by species, for the Kodiak Management Area.

The KMA salmon fisheries are managed with data that are compiled and evaluated daily. Data used to make fishery management decisions include escapement information from weir counts and/or aerial, boat, and foot surveys, and harvest trends (total catch and fishery performance).

Management of major sockeye salmon runs is escapement based, and utilizes daily escapement information from up to seven salmon counting weirs (Appendix B). Due to inadequate funding, weirs for smaller sockeye salmon systems are no longer deployed. Management of these systems relies on aerial survey data. Aerial survey escapement counts are not available until sockeye salmon begin to move into the spawning streams. A more conservative management approach, including, but not limited to, increased closed water areas and reduced fishing time, will likely occur for systems that have the potential to be over harvested or have shown signs of overharvest in previous years.

In 2008, Saltery Lake weir will be operated for the first year since it was discontinued after 2003. Management will strive to achieve escapement goal of 15,000 to 30,000 fish as measured at the weir (Appendix B11). This represents a change from the aerial survey based escapement goal of 20,000 to 50,000 fish as recommended by ADF&G during the most recent escapement goal review in 2007 (Honnold et al. 2007). This will allow for more precise and timely measure of escapement to this system but will not significantly change the management harvest strategy for this stock.

The length of the initial fishing periods for pink salmon are determined preseason based on the on the magnitude of the pink salmon forecast. Adjustments in weekly fishing time and areas open to fishing will occur as the actual run strength becomes apparent through assessment of harvest and escapement estimates.

Chum and coho salmon are initially incidentally harvested in sockeye or pink salmon directed fisheries. Terminal or near-terminal fisheries targeting chum or coho salmon will be managed based on an assessment of actual run strength and current harvest information.

Commercial fisheries are not currently directed toward surplus Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha*. Incidental harvests of Chinook salmon occur during fisheries that are directed toward sockeye and pink salmon.

HARVEST PROJECTIONS

Based on preseason projections, a total of approximately 20,000 Chinook, 1,716,150 sockeye, 406,737 coho, 9,850,000 pink, and 924,372 chum salmon could be available for harvest throughout the KMA in 2008 (Table 2).

Of this total, the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) has forecasted the harvest of salmon returning to the Kitoi Bay Hatchery as approximately 46,000 sockeye, 3,950,000 pink, 215,000 chum, and 161,000 coho salmon (Table 2). KRAA will conduct a cost recovery fishery in the Inner and Outer Kitoi Bay sections. The desired cost recovery harvest is similar to the 2007 season with an anticipated harvest of 7 million pounds of pink salmon (approximately 1.87 million salmon). Additional enhanced salmon production, from projects conducted by KRAA and ADF&G, should contribute about 246,000 sockeye salmon to the common property fisheries (e.g., Spiridon Lake, Hidden Lake, etc.; Table 2).

FISHING PERIODS

All fishing periods will be established by Emergency Order (EO).

ADVANCE NOTICE

For the initial sockeye salmon fisheries from June 5 through June 14, there will be at least 42 hours advance notice. All subsequent fishing periods will have at least 18 hours advance notice. For the opening of the Cape Igvak Section (Appendix A8) fishery, there will be at least 24 hours advance notice. For the openings in the Inner or Outer Akalura, Inner or Outer Upper Station, or Dog Salmon Flats sections (Appendix A7), there will be at least 24 hours advance notice. For adjustments to closed waters (increase or decrease), there will be at least 18 hours advance notice.

For extension of a previously announced fishing period, or for in-period closure of an announced fishing period, there will be at least three hours advance notice.

FISHERY OPENING TIMES

Most fishing periods, through August 15, open at NOON and close at 9:00 PM. Beginning on August 16, most fishing periods will close at 6:00 PM, instead of 9:00 PM.

There are several exceptions to this opening/closure schedule:

Cape Igvak fisheries open at 12:01 AM and close at 12:01 AM from June 5 through July 25. The 12:01 AM opening and closure time allows for more orderly fisheries due to the possibility of relatively short notice given for extensions of fishing periods.

Except for the initial commercial test fishery (June 5 - June 13), Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay section (Appendix A7) fisheries will begin and end at different times through September 15, as follows:

In the Olga Bay Section, fishing periods open at 6:00 AM and shall close at 9:00 AM the following day¹. In the Moser Bay Section, fishing periods open at NOON and shall close at 3:00 PM the following day¹. In the Alitak Bay Section, fishing periods open at 6:00 PM and shall close at 9:00 PM the following day¹. In the Cape Alitak Section, fishing periods open at 6:00 AM the day following the openings of the Olga Bay, Moser Bay, and Alitak Bay sections, and shall close at 9:00 AM the following day¹ (5 AAC 18.361).

The Humpy-Deadman Section opens and closes at the same time as the Cape Alitak Section through July 15. From July 16 through August 15, fishing periods open at NOON and close at 9:00 PM. Beginning on August 16, most fishing periods will close at 6:00 PM, instead of 9:00 PM.

Inner Ayakulik Section (Appendix A4) fisheries usually begin near low tide. These will be daylight openings, and fishing begins when ADF&G personnel, located on the bluff northeast of the Ayakulik River mouth, launch a flare. When such openings occur, the opening time for the Outer Ayakulik Section may be adjusted to coincide with the Inner Ayakulik Section.

The Inner Kitoi Bay Section (Appendix A2) common property fisheries will usually begin between NOON and 12:30 PM, when a flare is launched by hatchery staff within inner Kitoi Bay.

TIMING AND LENGTH OF INITIAL FISHING PERIODS

Sockeye Salmon

The first commercial salmon fishing period will begin on Thursday June 5, 2008.

June 5 Commercial Fisheries

Commercial salmon fishing will begin at NOON Thursday June 5, 2008, in the following management areas:

The Central and North Cape sections of the Northwest Kodiak District, and the Outer Karluk Section of the Southwest Kodiak District (Appendices A3 and A4).

For these sections, this will be a 57-hour commercial test fishing period, from noon Thursday June 5 through 9:00 PM Saturday June 7. An extension of this period will depend on escapement buildups in Karluk Lagoon. The commercial catch from this period will be used to assess the strength of the sockeye salmon run to the Karluk system, with consideration of the Ayakulik, Frazer (Dog Salmon), and Upper Station sockeye salmon runs (5 AAC 18.362).

The Foul Bay and Waterfall Bay Special Harvest Areas and Duck Bay Section of the Afognak District (Appendix A2)

These fisheries will be open at noon Thursday June 5, and will remain open until further notice (5 AAC 18.361).

¹ Extensions are possible; any extension to fishing time will be in 24-hour increments.

Cape Igvak Section of the Mainland District (Appendix A8).

Chignik sockeye salmon are considered, by regulation, the principal stock harvested in the Cape Igvak Section from June 1 to July 25. The timing of initial commercial fisheries in the Cape Igvak Section depends on the evaluation of the Chignik sockeye salmon run strength. The first Cape Igvak fishery may occur between June 5 and June 9. Fishing periods in the Cape Igvak Section will be in 24-hour increments, beginning at 12:01 AM (5 AAC 18.360).

June 9 Commercial Fisheries

Commercial salmon fishing is expected to begin June 9, 2008, in the following management area:

Cape Alitak, Humpy-Deadman, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections of the Alitak District (Appendix A7).

These fisheries may open at noon Monday June 9 as a commercial test fishery, depending on early indications of sockeye salmon run strength to Frazer and Upper Station. If a commercial test fishery were allowed on June 9, it would be announced no later than June 5, and would be no more than 33 hours in length, with no extension. All sections would open and close concurrently, from noon Monday June 9 through 9:00 PM Tuesday June 10 (5 AAC 18.361).

Izhut Bay, Inner Kitoi Bay, and Outer Kitoi Bay sections.

These fisheries may open at noon Monday June 9. Most openings will remain open until further notice. The fishery for the Kitoi Bay Hatchery early chum salmon runs may extend through late June (5 AAC 18.365).

Anton Larson, Sharatin Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, and Uyak Bay sections of the Northwest Kodiak District (Appendix A3).

These sections may open at noon Saturday June 9, for a 33-hour commercial test fishing period. Management of these sections is based on local chum or sockeye salmon runs. Opening in these sections must run concurrently with open fishing periods in the Central and North Cape sections (5 AAC 18.362).

June 14 to June 21 Commercial Fisheries

Commercial fisheries in the following management units may also occur on or after June 14, if escapement objectives are met or exceeded.

Anton Larson, Sharatin Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, and Uyak Bay sections of the Northwest Kodiak District (Appendix A3).

These sections may open at noon Saturday June 14 as a 33 hour commercial test-fishing period (5 AAC 18.362).

Southwest Afognak, Perenosa Bay, Pauls Bay, and Northwest Afognak sections of the Afognak District (Appendix A2) Eastside Kodiak District (Appendix A6) Big River and Outer Kukak Bay sections of the Mainland District (Appendix A8).

Commercial salmon fishing will open at noon Saturday, June 14 for a 33-hour fishing period. This initial fishing period targets early-run sockeye salmon bound for Pauls, Portage, Thorsheim, Long Lagoon, Saltery, Ocean Beach, Swikshak, and/or Kafli systems. A second fishing period for minor sockeye salmon systems should occur on Saturday, June 21 (5 AAC 18.362; 5 AAC 18.367; 5 AAC 18.368; 5 AAC 18.369).

Spiridon Bay Special Harvest Area (Telrod Cove; Appendix A3).

The initial commercial salmon fishing period targeting enhanced sockeye salmon returning to Telrod Cove is not expected to occur prior to Saturday, June 21. The actual starting date will depend on the salmon buildups in Telrod Cove and ADF&G's ability to monitor the commercial fisheries (5 AAC 18.366).

Inner and Outer Ayakulik sections of the Southwest Kodiak District (Appendix A4) and the Southeast Afognak Section of the Afognak District (Appendix A2).

The initial fishing period in the Inner and Outer Ayakulik sections and the Southeast Afognak Section is solely dependent on sockeye salmon escapement to the Ayakulik (Red) or Afognak (Litnik) systems, respectively (5 AAC 18.362).

Additional fishing time from mid June to early July will be based on sockeye salmon run strength as determined by salmon escapements counts, salmon buildups, and fishery performance. In order to maintain sockeye salmon escapements within established goal ranges, commercial fishing may be extended or curtailed.

Directed commercial fisheries within the Inner Karluk Section are solely dependent on Karluk River sockeye salmon escapement, and are only expected to occur if it appears likely that either the early-run or late-run Karluk sockeye salmon escapement goal would be exceeded.

For most late-run sockeye salmon stocks, a portion of the harvestable surplus is taken during fishing periods targeting pink salmon. Consequently, a blended management strategy is needed to ensure that escapements for each species are achieved. Commercial fisheries targeting Upper Station late-

run sockeye salmon may begin August 10 and fisheries targeting Karluk late-run sockeye salmon may begin August 16 (5 AAC 18.362).

Pink Salmon

In addition to the three management criteria identified in the introduction of this document, the KMA harvest strategy for pink salmon also utilizes:

- a fixed opening date (July 6),
- pink salmon forecasts to set the length of the initial fishing periods, and
- coordination of multiple fisheries, whenever possible, to disperse the purse seine fleet.

The initial fishing periods will be 57 hours in length, including the Mainland District fisheries. From July 6 to July 25, fishing time for that portion of the Mainland District north of Cape Aklek will not exceed 57 hours per week (this does not include the Cape Igvak or Wide Bay sections, which are managed in accordance with the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan, (5 AAC 18.360). During the peak harvest period, from late July to mid August, fishing periods may be adjusted to match the actual strength of the pink salmon run.

The following schedule of pink salmon fishing periods for the 2008 season are provided for industry and ADF&G planning purposes, especially for the first three fishing periods. Changes to the following schedule should be expected if the perceived pink salmon run strength is weaker or stronger than forecast. No extensions will occur during the first two periods. Extensions to later fishing periods may occur.

First Period: 57 hours - NOON Sunday, July 6 through 9:00 PM Tuesday July 8. Harvests during this initial period provide important data to assess early run strength of KMA pink and chum salmon stocks. There will be no extension in fishing time following this period. In the Mainland District north of Cape Aklek this period will also be 57 hours, from NOON July 6 through 9:00 PM July 8.

Second Period: 57 hours - NOON Saturday, July 12 through 9:00 PM Monday July 14. During the second period, run strength for both pink and chum salmon will again be assessed from harvest data. There will be no extension in fishing time following this period. In the Mainland District north of Cape Aklek this period will be 57 hours, from NOON Saturday July 12 through 9:00 PM Monday July 14.

Third Period: 57 hours - NOON Friday July 18 through 9:00 PM Sunday July 20. The previous closures will likely allow an influx of pink and chum salmon into terminal closed areas, resulting in the build up of potential escapement. At this time, a combination of harvest and early escapement and/or buildup information should provide an indication of the actual run strength for major pink salmon stocks. In the Mainland District north of Cape Aklek, this period will be 57 hours, from NOON Friday July 18 through 9:00 PM Sunday July 20. In the Inner or Outer Kitoi Bay, Izhut Bay, or Duck Bay sections, fishery restrictions may occur to meet hatchery cost recovery needs.

Fourth Period: 57 hours - NOON Thursday July 24 through 9:00 PM Saturday, July 26. During this period the total run strength should be evident by the end of the period. The pink salmon harvest has traditionally increased during this period. If the pink salmon run is strong, extensions

in fishing time will occur. In the Inner or Outer Kitoi Bay, Izhut Bay, or Duck Bay sections, fishery restrictions may occur to meet hatchery cost recovery needs.

Subsequent fishing periods will likely follow the same weekly pattern, unless escapement information indicates that an extension or reduction of fishing time is necessary. Fishing time will be based on pink salmon returns to individual systems. Differential fishing time, by management unit, may occur as stronger production areas are targeted, while moderate or lower production areas are provided additional protection. There may be changes in closed water sanctuaries to increase escapement levels or to harvest surplus salmon.

From approximately August 1 through August 16, there will be cost recovery fisheries for the Kitoi Bay Hatchery. These cost recovery fisheries will primarily occur within the Inner Kitoi Bay Section, but may also expand into the Outer Kitoi Bay Section. There may be restricted fishing time in the Izhut Bay and Duck Bay sections during this time period, to allow fish to move into the Kitoi Bay sections for cost recovery and broodstock needs.

Chum Salmon

The supplemental Kitoi Bay Hatchery chum salmon run is projected to be fair this season. Extended fishing time in the vicinity of the hatchery should be expected in June and early July.

With the exception of chum salmon returning to the Kitoi Bay Hatchery, a major portion of the 2008 chum salmon harvest will occur in non-terminal locations during directed sockeye and pink salmon fisheries. The initial fishing periods targeting chum salmon will begin on July 6, and will follow the same opening dates and times as those for pink salmon. System-specific chum salmon fisheries that occur during the pink salmon fishery may result in some management units (such as the Kizhuyak Bay, Sturgeon, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, Inner or Outer Kukak Bay, or Outer Ugak Bay sections) having more or less fishing time than those targeting primarily pink salmon stocks. Again, from July 6 to July 25, fishing time for that portion of the Mainland District north of Cape Aklek will not exceed 57 hours per week. Additional fishing time after July 25 for that portion of the Mainland District north of Dakavak Bay will depend on assessment of local chum salmon runs. Chum salmon run strength will be assessed primarily from aerial surveys and harvest data.

Coho Salmon

Initially, coho salmon harvests will occur in non-terminal locations during directed pink salmon fisheries. System-specific coho salmon fisheries may occur during the pink salmon fishery, and may result in some management units having more or less fishing time than those primarily targeting pink salmon stocks (such as the Pauls Bay, Perenosa Bay, Zachar Bay, or Inner Ayakulik sections). Coho salmon run strength will be assessed from weir escapements, aerial surveys, foot surveys, and harvest data.

A directed coho salmon fishery in the Pauls Bay Section will begin on August 1 while a directed coho salmon fisheries in the Shuyak Island Section may begin on August 1. The supplemental Kitoi Bay Hatchery coho salmon runs have been successful over the past several years, and are projected to be strong again this season. Additional fishing time in the vicinity of the hatchery may occur in early September once pink salmon broodstock requirements are ensured. After September 10, coho salmon fishing may be allowed in the Settler Cove Special Harvest Area, if at least 500 coho salmon are available for harvest (Appendix A3).

INPERIOD CLOSURES

From July 6 through July 25 there are limits on the number of sockeye salmon that may be harvested in areas bordering the North Shelikof Strait (5 AAC 18.363). Purse seine permit holders operating in the North Shelikof Strait from July 6 to 25 are advised that inperiod closures of designated Seaward Zones will occur in the likely event the harvest of sockeye salmon approach these limits (Appendices A2; 5 AAC 18.360). Since the plan went into effect (1990), Seaward Zone closures have occurred every year except 1991 and 2000.

Seaward Zone closures, if required, will be announced on single side band radio (SSB) frequency 3.230 MHz, from the ADF&G office in Kodiak and on VHF 6 and SSB frequency 3.230 MHz from the *R/V K-Hi-C* on the fishing grounds. Inperiod Seaward Zone closures announcement times will be 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM, OR 8:00 PM. There will be at least 3 hours advance notice given for Seaward Zone closures.

INSEASON EMERGENCY ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

After enough information has been collected to determine the fishing time needed to harvest surplus fish, a fishery announcement (news release) will be issued in the following manner:

- (1) A news release (NR) will be issued that details:
 - (a) the date, time, and number of the emergency order announcement,
 - (b) the length of the fishing period,
 - (c) the opening and closing times and dates of the fishing period,
 - (d) the areas opening to fishing,
 - (e) the areas closing to fishing,
 - (f) the location of closed water adjustments (if any), and
 - (g) a list of any previous news release information that is still pertinent.
- (2) The NR will be posted at the main entrance of the Kodiak ADF&G office at 211 Mission Road. Copies of the NR will be available outside the main entrance, in the Kodiak ADF&G office during regular office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM), and posted at the Region IV commercial salmon fishery web site.
- (3) The NR (fishery announcement) will be recorded on a 24-hour recorded message phone (486-4559).
- (4) The NR will be made available to local radio stations (KVOK-AM / KRXX-FM and KMXT-FM).
- (5) The Kodiak ADF&G management staff will monitor SSB radio channel 3.230 MHz (call sign WON 32), and Matrix satellite phone dispatch number 7410, during regular office hours, and will reply to public and industry inquiries.
- (6) The NR will be distributed to all registered processors by fax, email, telephone, hand delivery, or through the ADF&G recorded message phone.
- (7) Copies of EOs, which detail specific regulation changes and justifications, will be available upon request.

Fishery announcements are generally very detailed and complicated. It is advised that tender operators and permit holders obtain a written copy, or use a tape recorder to document the exact wording of each announcement as it is broadcast.

ADF&G STAFF CONTACT NUMBERS

ADF&G Kodiak management staff is available to answer questions regarding commercial salmon fishery regulations, openings, closures, and harvests. Contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses are as follows:

General Information - 486-1830

Matrix Dispatch - 7410

Jeff Wadle - 486-1808/539-1807
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Joe Dinnocenzo - 486-1807
Assistant Area Management Biologist

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539-1807

Geoff Spalinger - 486-1804
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Fisheries Biologist

NOTABLE REGULATIONS AND CHANGES TO REGULATIONS MADE DURING THE 2008 BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) met in Kodiak during January 2008 to discuss Kodiak salmon fishery regulations. Changes were made that will be in effect for the 2008 commercial salmon fishery. A synopsis of several important regulations and regulation changes follows, but all participants in the Kodiak commercial salmon fishery are urged to make themselves aware of all applicable regulations. Copies of the KMA commercial salmon fishery regulations and the most recent Kodiak Area Salmon Statistical Chart are available at the Kodiak ADF&G office. It is important to get the latest edition of the statistical chart for the 2008 season, as there were closed water and section line changes established for the 2008 season. Also, there were some changes to statistical area designations. All latitude and longitude coordinates in Kodiak Area regulations have been converted to decimal minutes and are based on the North American Datum of 1983. All latitude and longitude coordinates are measured using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology.

MULTIPLE SET NET PERMITS

A new regulation (5 AAC 18.331 (j)) was adopted allowing a CFEC permit holder who owns two Kodiak set gillnet permits to operate them both. This permit holder may operate no more than four set gillnets, with no more than 300 fathoms of set gillnet in aggregate. No set gillnet may be more than 150 fathoms in length. Both of the permit holder's five digit CFEC permit serial numbers

followed by the letter “D” to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet must be located on the identification buoy and site markers required by 5 AAC 39.280. At least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers of the permit holder. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible and unobscured and have permanent symbols in a color that contrasts with the background. This regulation has a sunset clause and is only in effect until December 31, 2010.

SEINE PRACTICE SETS

Purse seine practice sets will be allowed prior to the salmon season beginning May 25 in designated areas.

INCREASE TO SHOREWARD ZONES

The shoreward zone of the Northwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District was increased and is now described as south and east of a line from one-half mile west of the northern entrance of Big Bay at 58° 33.85' N. lat., 152° 40.30' W. long., to one-half mile west of the western entrance of Blue Fox Bay at 58° 27.68' N. lat., 152° 43.65' W. long., to one-half mile west of Black Cape at 58° 24.50' N. lat., 152° 53.30' W. long., to one-half mile west of Cape Paramanof at 58° 18.33' N. lat., 153° 02.65' W. long (Appendix A2).

CLOSED WATER AREAS

All freshwater streams and rivers of the KMA are closed to commercial salmon fishing. Additionally, adjacent to streams and rivers, all saltwater within 500 yards of the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks is closed to commercial salmon fishing, unless:

- (1) Alternatives are specifically listed in the regulation book (see 5 AAC 18.350. CLOSED WATERS); or
- (2) The stream number is circled on the most recent version of the salmon statistical chart, issued annually by ADF&G. For streams with circled numbers commercial salmon fishing is allowed to the stream terminus; or
- (3) Closed water areas are specifically reduced or increased in season by EO at a particular stream or bay (announced by NR); or
- (4) Closed waters markers are in place. The intent is to maintain a 500-yard closed water area from the stream terminus, at all stages of the tide, unless the area is made larger or smaller by regulation or EO. If closed waters markers are in place, the closure line may be a straight line or may be an arc, as follows:
 - (a) The closure line is a straight line between two regulatory markers if specifically stated in regulation or EO, or if, at all stages of the tide, the markers are farther than 500 yards from the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks of the salmon streams located inside the markers.
 - (b) The closed water line will be an arc if necessary to maintain the 500-yard distance from the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks of the salmon stream at any stage of the tide. Then, waters closed to salmon fishing will be a line arcing from the markers to a point 500 yards directly off the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks that designates the stream mouth. The actual shape of the closed water area will change as the tide ebbs and floods.

As stated in 5 AAC 18.350. CLOSED WATERS. (b). If the location of a regulatory marker is in conflict with the closed waters listed in this section, it is illegal to fish on the streamward side of that marker. There will be no inseason adjustments of closed water markers unless ADF&G personnel are available to remove the normal markers, install new markers, and subsequently reinstall the normal markers. There will be at least 18 hours advance notice prior to adjusting closed waters.

Closed Water Sanctuary for the 2008 Season

In addition to the closed water areas listed in the regulations (5 AAC 18.350), the following closed water sanctuary will be in effect for the 2008 season:

Ayakulik River Closed Water Sanctuary

Should commercial fishing be allowed in the Inner Ayakulik Section, ADF&G regulatory markers will be placed in such a manner as to better define the stream terminus of the Ayakulik River. One marker shall be placed on each side of the river mouth. Waters closed to salmon fishing will be a line arcing from the markers to a point 500 yards directly off the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks that designates the stream mouth. The intent of this closed water sanctuary is to prevent fishing gear from being set to completely block access to the river for migrating fish.

NEW STATISTICAL AREAS

There are several statistical area number changes to the KMA statistical chart. It is important that permit holders have the most recent statistical chart (March 2008) and take note of the new numerical designations for many of the inner bay statistical numbers.

RELEASE OF LARGE CHINOOK (KING) SALMON BY PURSE SEINE FISHERMEN

ADF&G may require commercial fishermen to release large Chinook salmon (greater than 28 inches in length) from their catch. If ADF&G does require the release of Chinook salmon, any Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches would have to be released unharmed, immediately. This would apply only in the Inner Karluk, Outer Karluk, Inner Ayakulik, or Outer Ayakulik sections, and only if the department determines that the Karluk or Ayakulik Chinook salmon runs will not likely meet seasonal escapement goals (5 AAC 18.395). During the 2008 KMA salmon season, it is likely nonretention of Chinook salmon will be implemented for the first fishing period of both the Inner and Outer Karluk sections.

USE OF NET PENS

Floating net pens may be used in the KMA to hold live commercially caught salmon prior to processing. However, any fishermen that choose to use a net pen to hold live salmon must obtain a permit at the Kodiak ADF&G office (5 AAC 18.395). The permit will outline restrictions, conditions, and reporting requirements. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain any additional licenses or permits that may be required. Any fishermen that wish to use a net pen should contact salmon management staff at the Kodiak Fish and Game office.

WASTE OF SALMON

Waste of salmon will not be tolerated and may result in fishing period closures (AS 16.05.831 and 5 AAC 93.310). Unless prohibited by law, salmon taken commercially may be used or sold as bait (5 AAC 93.350).

PERSONAL USE OF COMMERCIALY TAKEN SALMON (HOME PACK)

It is legal for commercial fishermen to keep for their own use salmon legally taken in their commercial gear during open commercial fishing periods (home pack). However, the number of fish harvested and kept for home pack must be reported on a fish ticket. These fish may not be sold or bartered (5 AAC 39.010).

At the delivery, record the number of each species of salmon caught but not sold in the lower right hand corner of the fish ticket, in the space designated for that purpose.

DIRECT MARKETING

There has been an increase in interest by Kodiak commercial salmon fishermen to market their own lawfully taken commercial catch (direct marketing). In the KMA, the amount of salmon being harvested, custom processed, and kept by local fishermen, has increased dramatically over the past several years. If fish are to be sold later for human consumption, then the commercial fishermen must be properly registered and licensed. There are several ways to legally market your own fish, but some require special registration and licensing. Registration and licensing ensures accurate reporting of harvests, which is essential for sound management of commercial fisheries.

Direct marketers are responsible for filing their own fish tickets with ADF&G and may be required to complete a Commercial Operators Annual Report. Direct marketers must also register with the ADF&G salmon management office in Kodiak.

FISH TRANSPORTERS

A fish transporter differs from a tender. A tender acts as the agent of a registered processor or buyer, and is the first point of sale of fish from the CFEC permit holder to a processor or buyer. A fish transporter is an agent of the CFEC permit holder(s), and is authorized to take legally harvested fish from one or more commercial salmon fisherman to a buyer or buyers. A fisherman or group of fishermen may hire a fish transporter, who may then legally take their fish to the first point of sale.

A Fish Transporter Permit is required, and must be in possession of the operator during the transport and sale of fish. The ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries in Juneau issues Fish Transporter Permits. All fish transporters who plan to transport salmon within the KMA must also be registered with the ADF&G Kodiak commercial salmon fishery management staff. The transporting vessel used must be licensed as a commercial fishing vessel and all people working aboard the vessel must have crewmember licenses.

Fish transporters are required to report their activities to ADF&G and to fill out a fish ticket for all fish taken aboard their vessel. The commercial fisherman who caught the salmon is required to provide the fish transporter with fish ticket information such as the CFEC permit number, the area of harvest, catch dates, and catcher vessel ADF&G number, and must sign the fish ticket. The number of fish by species and the weight of the fish by species must be estimated and

recorded on the fish ticket. Final weights and fish counts will be verified upon delivery of the fish to the buyer or processor. The buyer or processor submits the finalized fish ticket to ADF&G. Additional information and Fish Transporter Permit applications are available from the ADF&G Kodiak staff.

FISH TICKETS / HARVEST REPORTS

It is the legal responsibility of commercial fishermen, tenders or transporters, and processors and buyers to ensure that all information on a fish ticket is complete and correct. Prior to completing and signing fish tickets, permit holders, tender operators, and/or processing personnel should make sure that the proper statistical area with the correct harvest information has been entered and the fish ticket is complete, legible, and accurate.

PROCESSORS / TENDERS

Management of the KMA commercial salmon fisheries requires timely, accurate harvest reporting. Without accurate information, a more conservative harvest strategy will be adopted and less fishing time will be allowed. Processors and buyers are required to accurately report catches daily to ADF&G (5 AAC 39.130 (a)(3)). In order to process the harvest information and use it for management decisions, catch reports must include the estimated number of salmon harvested by species, for each gear type, from each major catch area (by statistical area, or by geographic area such as a bay, cape, or headland). ADF&G management staff will contact processors to arrange the daily reporting times and format. Daily reports can be made verbally, by fax, or by email. Email is the preferred method. Processors should obtain correct, up to date, information from tender operators prior to providing daily reports to ADF&G.

Each day, tender operators must provide their processing companies with an accurate count of deliveries and number of salmon delivered, by species and by catch area. Alternately, tender operators may report, the total number of pounds and the average weight by species, by catch area.

Statistical area numbers are used to record harvest location(s) on fish tickets. Tender operators should ensure that the location of the catch, rather than the location of the tender pick-up, is recorded on the fish ticket.

The correct harvest location and number of fish harvested by species must be recorded on each fish ticket. This information is extremely important in evaluating inseason harvests, stock contribution, and effort distribution. In order to provide maximum allowable fishing time, especially in areas such as the Cape Igvak Section and the north Shelikof Strait, it is imperative that the correct statistical areas and numbers of fish by species are reported on the fish ticket at the time of delivery.

PURSE SEINE FISHERMEN

Be certain that your fish tickets show the number of fish of each species, or the total weight and average by species, for your delivery. Purse seine permit holders must, at a minimum, provide estimates of harvest by statistical area to tender operators. For example: "1/3 of my sockeye were from Cape Alitak (257-20) and 2/3 were from Outer Ayakulik (256-20). The rest of my fish were 1/2 and 1/2 from each of those two areas". Do not record the location of the tender where the fish were delivered as the harvest location.

SET GILLNET FISHERMEN

Again, make sure your fish tickets show the number of fish of each species, or the total and average weight by species, for your delivery. Because of the fixed nature of set gillnet gear, each permit holder's reporting area (statistical area) is usually consistent between landings. In the event that you move a gillnet into a new statistical area, make sure the tender operator is provided with that information.

REFERENCE CITED

Honnold S. G., M. J. Witteveen, M. B. Foster, I. Vining, and J. J. Hasbrouck. 2007. Review of salmon escapement goals for salmon stocks in the Kodiak Management Area, Alaska. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Manuscript No. 07-10, Anchorage. <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FedAidPDFs/sp07-10.pdf>

TABLES

Table 1.—Alaska Board of Fisheries approved fishery management plans for the Kodiak Management Area, 2008.

Management Plan	Year Initiated	Mgmt. Units Affected	Dates in Effect
Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360)	1978	Cape Igvak Section Wide Bay Section	6/1 - 7/25
Alitak Bay District Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.361)	1987	Alitak Bay District	6/1 - 10/31
Westside Kodiak Management Plan (5 AAC 18.362)	1990	NW Kodiak District SW Kodiak District SW Afognak Section	6/1 - 10/31
North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.363)	1990	SW Afognak Section NW Afognak Section Shuyak Island Section Big River Section Hallo Bay Section Inner and Outer Kukak Bay sections Dakavak Bay Section	7/6 - 7/25
Crescent Lake Coho Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.364)	1990	Special Harvest Area in the Central Section near Port Lions	7/15 - 10/31
Eastside Afognak Management Plan (5 AAC 18.365)	1993	Southeast Afognak Section Raspberry Strait Section Inner and Outer Kitoi Bay sections Duck Bay Section Izhut Bay Section	6/1 - 10/31
Spiridon Lake Sockeye Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.366)	1993	Special Harvest Area in Spiridon Bay Section	6/1 - 10/31
Eastside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.367)	1995	Eastside Kodiak District NE Kodiak District	6/14 - 10/31
North Afognak / Shuyak Island Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.368)	1995	NE Afognak Section Perenosa Bay Section Pauls Bay Section Shuyak Island Section NW Afognak Section	6/1 - 10/31
Mainland District Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.369)	1999	Mainland District	6/14 - 10/31

Table 2.—Actual versus projected 2007 commercial salmon harvest, by species and fishery, and 2008 harvest projections, for the Kodiak Management Area.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Projected Harvest 2007 ^a	20,000	1,923,800	434,500	12,162,000	1,019,400	15,559,700
Actual Harvest 2007 ^a	17,222	2,012,564	356,063	24,809,213	728,912	27,923,974
Projected Harvest 2008	20,000	1,706,150	409,737	9,850,000	919,372	12,905,258

FISHERY	2007 Harvest		2008 Harvest Projection ^b
	Projection ^b	Actual ^c	
Early Sockeye Salmon Fisheries (6/1-7/15)			
Kitoi Bay Hatchery ^d	35,950	19,928	23,000
Cape Igvak ^e	111,700	58,363	108,000
Karluk ^f	355,000	527,704	251,000
Ayakulik ^g	20,000	0	85,500
Alitak Bay District ^h	186,000	19,322	357,000
Minor Systems ⁱ	30,000	32,330	39,000
Minor Enhancement ^j	10,100	703	20,000
Spiridon ^k	106,200	92,700	109,368
Other	100,000	37,883	100,000
Subtotal	954,950	788,933	1,092,868
Late Sockeye Salmon Fisheries (7/16-10/31)			
Kitoi Bay Hatchery ^d	35,950	15,335	23,000
Cape Igvak ^e	81,400	0	60,150
Karluk ^f	481,000	879,111	191,000
Ayakulik ^g	0	98,283	85,500
Alitak Bay District ^h	73,000	66,147	55,000
Minor Systems ⁱ	9,700	9,876	12,000
Spiridon ^k	247,800	78,641	116,632
Other	40,000	76,238	70,000
Subtotal	968,850	1,223,631	613,282
TOTAL SOCKEYE	1,923,800	2,012,564	1,706,150
Pink Salmon Fisheries			
Kitoi Bay Hatchery ^d	4,712,000	7,884,867	3,950,000
Afognak (Wild) ^l	650,000	2,335,215	400,000
Westside Kodiak ^m	3,400,000	7,378,307	3,800,000
Alitak ⁿ	1,250,000	474,016	700,000
Eastside/Northend Kodiak ^o	1,500,000	6,119,466	600,000
Mainland ^p	650,000	617,342	400,000
Subtotal	12,162,000	24,809,213	9,850,000
Chum Salmon Fisheries			
Kitoi Bay Hatchery ^d	415,000	210,699	215,000
Afognak (Wild) ^l	24,200	30,676	19,750
Westside Kodiak ^m	235,600	169,797	271,100
Alitak ⁿ	36,300	47,931	43,952
Eastside/Northend Kodiak ^o	187,300	217,396	201,300
Mainland ^p	121,000	52,413	168,270
Subtotal	1,019,400	728,912	919,372

-continued-

Table 2.—Page 2 of 2.

FISHERY	2007 Harvest		2008 Harvest
	Projection ^b	Actual ^c	Projection ^b
Coho Salmon Fisheries			
Kitoi Bay Hatchery ^d	149,400	125,781	161,000
Afognak (Wild) ^l	42,800	26,561	37,380
Westside Kodiak ^m	145,400	138,773	136,637
Alitak ⁿ	11,400	2,456	8,530
Eastside/Northend Kodiak ^o	68,400	45,681	48,241
Mainland ^p	17,100	16,811	17,950
Subtotal	434,500	356,063	409,737
<hr/>			
GRAND TOTAL ^q	15,559,700	27,923,974	12,905,258

Note: Harvest projections presented in this table represent formal forecasts as well as projections based on past fishery performance and therefore may not necessarily be the same as those published earlier in Nelson et al. 2008.

^a In number of salmon. Does not include subsistence, sport, personal use, or ADF&G test fish harvests.

^b Projected harvests for enhanced and major sockeye systems are based on the formal forecasts for those individual stocks (total run minus escapement) and the projected harvest from minor sockeye systems and other salmon species are based on less formal escapement to return relationships. The 2008 sockeye salmon harvest should be greater than forecast, based on past forecasting performance.

^c Actual harvest is the number taken in a particular geographic area, not the catch assigned to an individual salmon stock.

^d From the Duck Bay, Izhut Bay, and Inner and Outer Kitoi Bay sections plus expected returns to Jennifer and Ruth lakes.

^e From the Cape Igvak Section. Early run is from the beginning of season through June 4. The projected harvest of late run Chignik sockeye salmon beginning on July 5 and running through July 25.

^f From the Southwest Afognak Section, Northwest Kodiak District (except for Spiridon and Settler Cove Special Harvest Areas), Inner and Outer Karluk sections, plus 50% of Halibut Bay Section from June 21 through July 15 and 100% after July 31.

^g From the Outer and Inner Ayakulik sections, plus 50% of Halibut Bay Section from June 21 through July 15 and 100% from July 16 through 31.

^h From the Alitak Bay District. Frazer and Upper Station harvest estimates are based on initial run and fishery timing and stock separation.

ⁱ From minor systems at Inner and Outer Ugak Bay (Saltery), Buskin River, Perenos Bay (Portage), Northwest Afognak (Thorsheim & Long Lagoon), Big River (Swikshak), and Outer Kukak Bay (Kafliia & Kuliuk) sections.

^j From the Foul Bay, Waterfall Bay, and Settler Cove Special Harvest Areas.

^k From the Spiridon Lake Special Harvest Area (Telrod Cove), plus an estimate of Spiridon-bound sockeye taken in adjacent areas.

^l From the Afognak District except for the Duck, Izhut, and Inner and Outer Kitoi Bay sections.

^m From the Southwest Kodiak District (256- and 255-) and the Northwest Kodiak District (254- and 253-) except for the North Cape, Anton Larson, Sharatin, and Kizhuyak sections, and part of the Central Section (259-35 to 259-39).

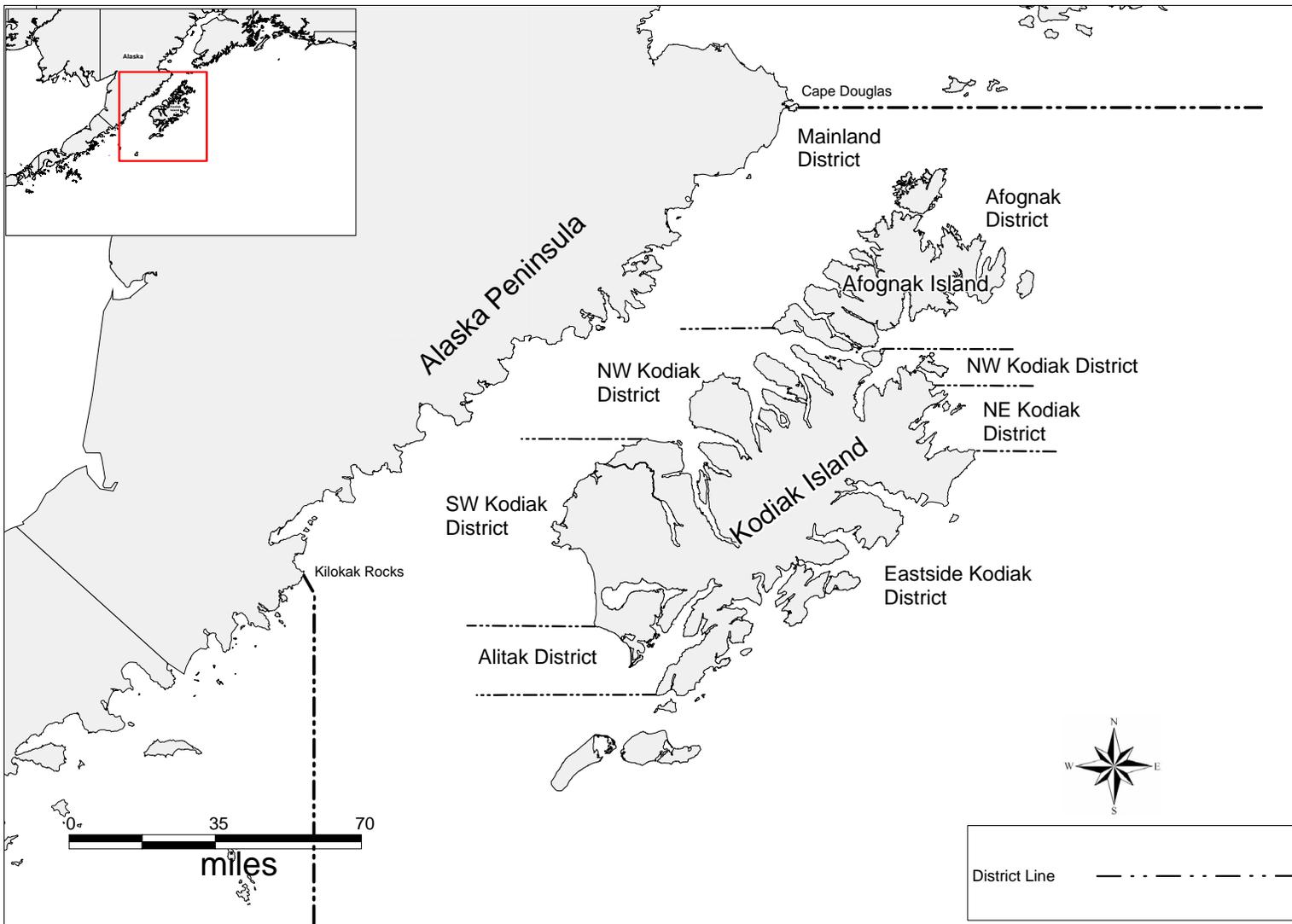
ⁿ From the Alitak District.

^o From the Eastside Kodiak District (258-, and 259-40 to 259-42), Northeast Kodiak District (259-21 to 259-25), and the North Cape, Anton Larson, Sharatin, and Kizhuyak sections, plus part of the Central Section (259-35 to 259-39).

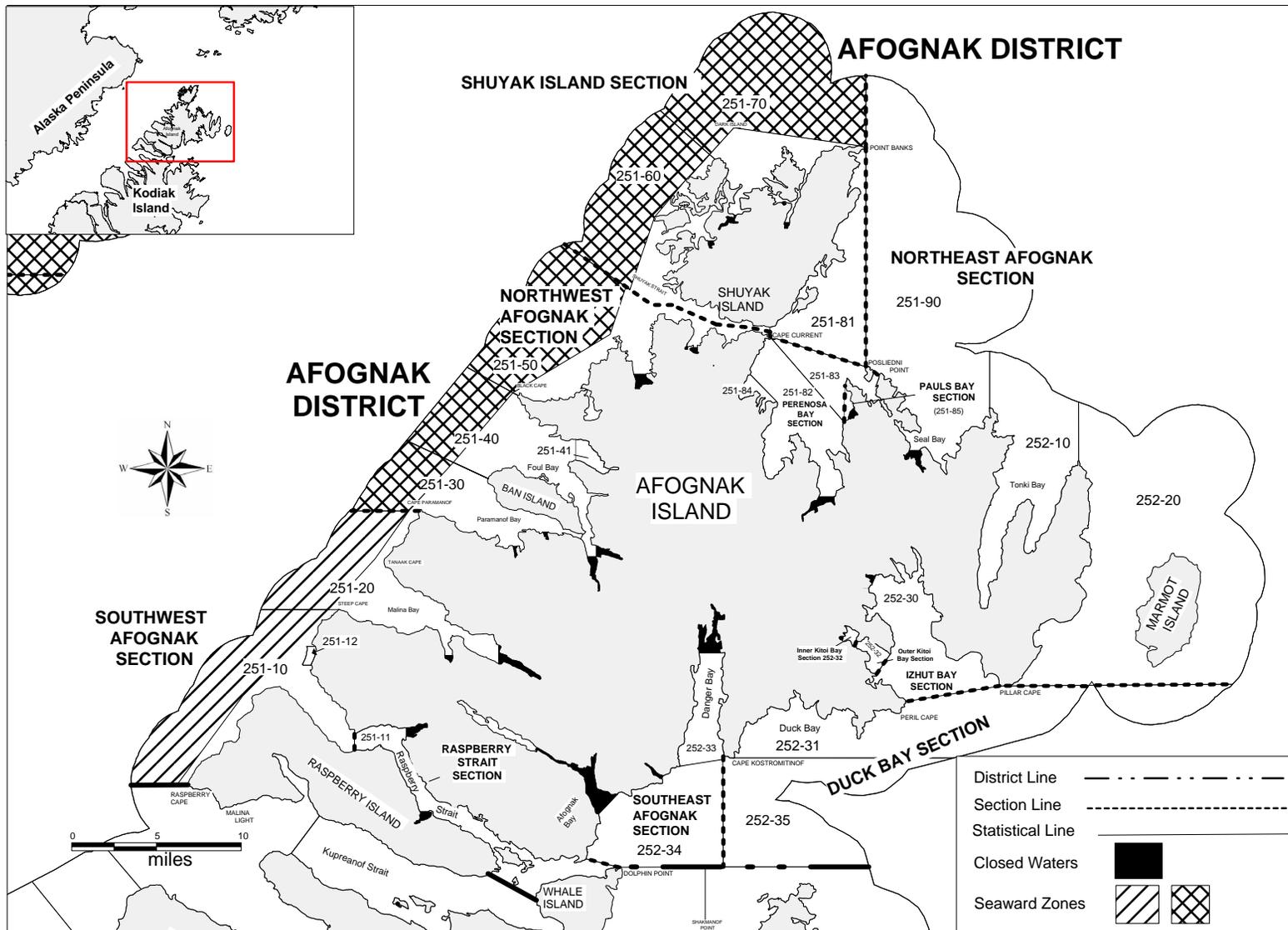
^p From the Mainland District.

^q Includes the projected 2007 harvest of 20,000 Chinook salmon, the actual 2007 harvest of 17,222 Chinook salmon and a projected 2008 harvest of 20,000 Chinook salmon.

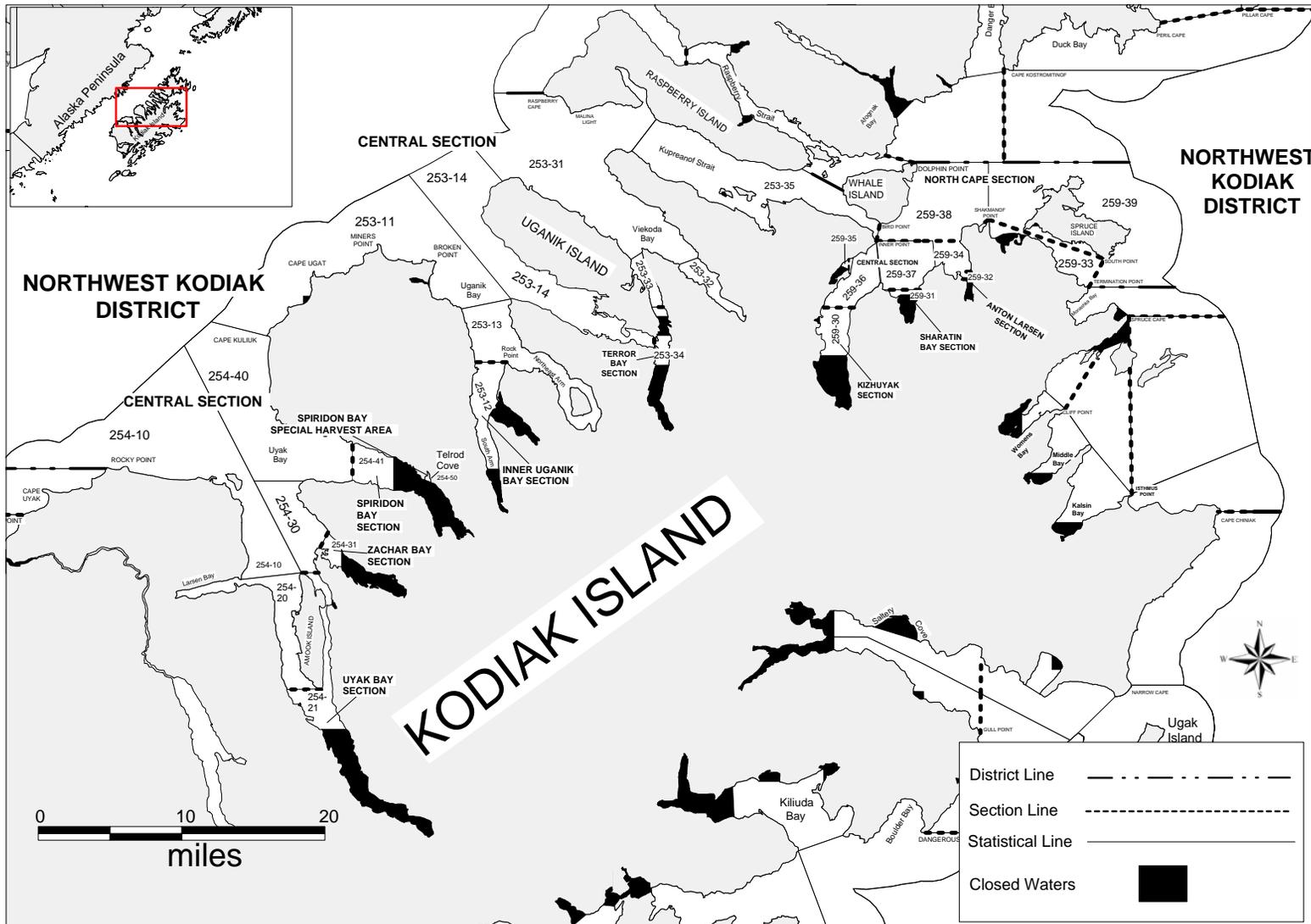
**APPENDIX A. MAPS OF THE KODIAK MANAGEMENT AREA
SALMON FISHING DISTRICTS**



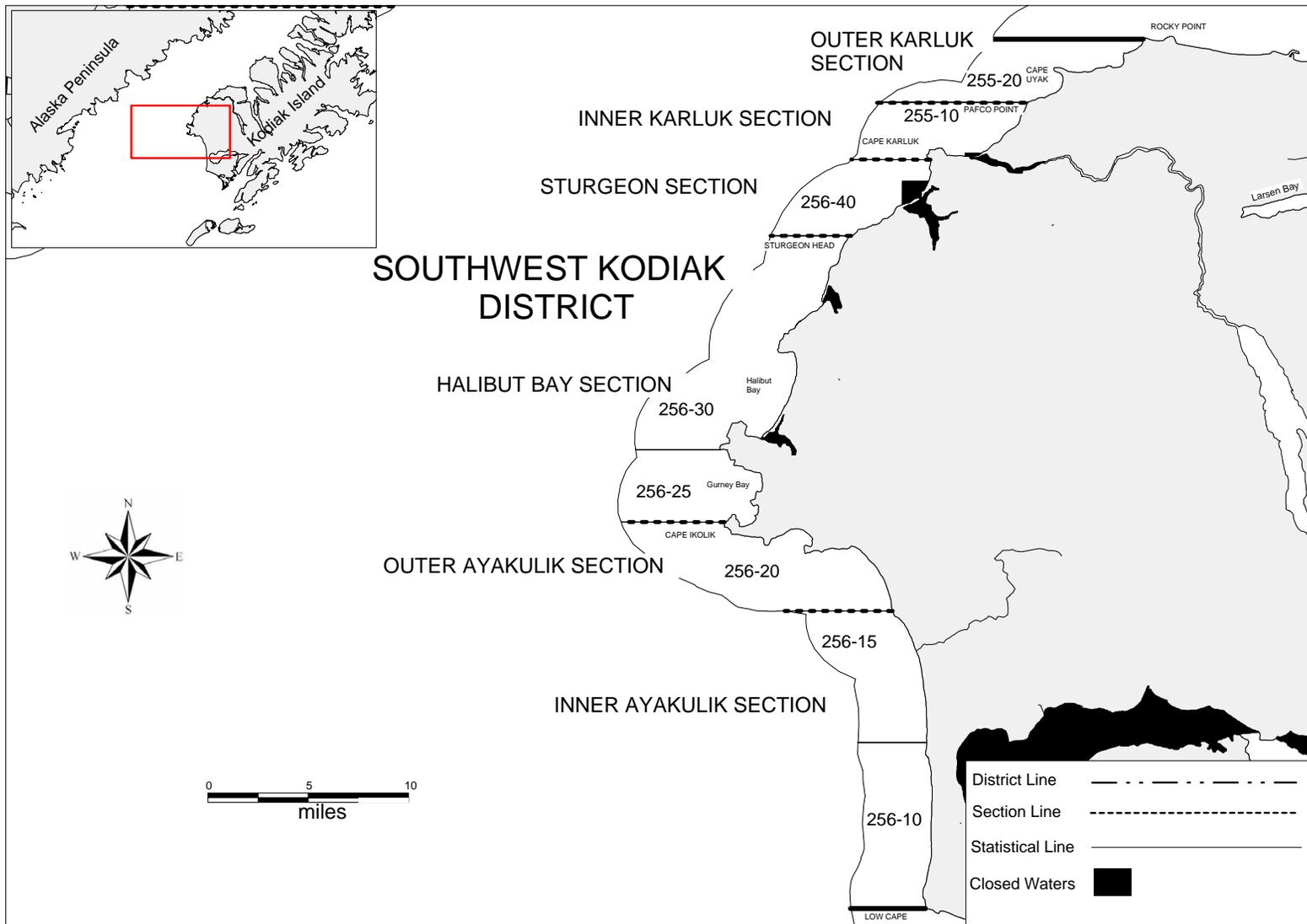
Appendix A1.—Map of the Kodiak Management Area identifying commercial salmon fishing districts.



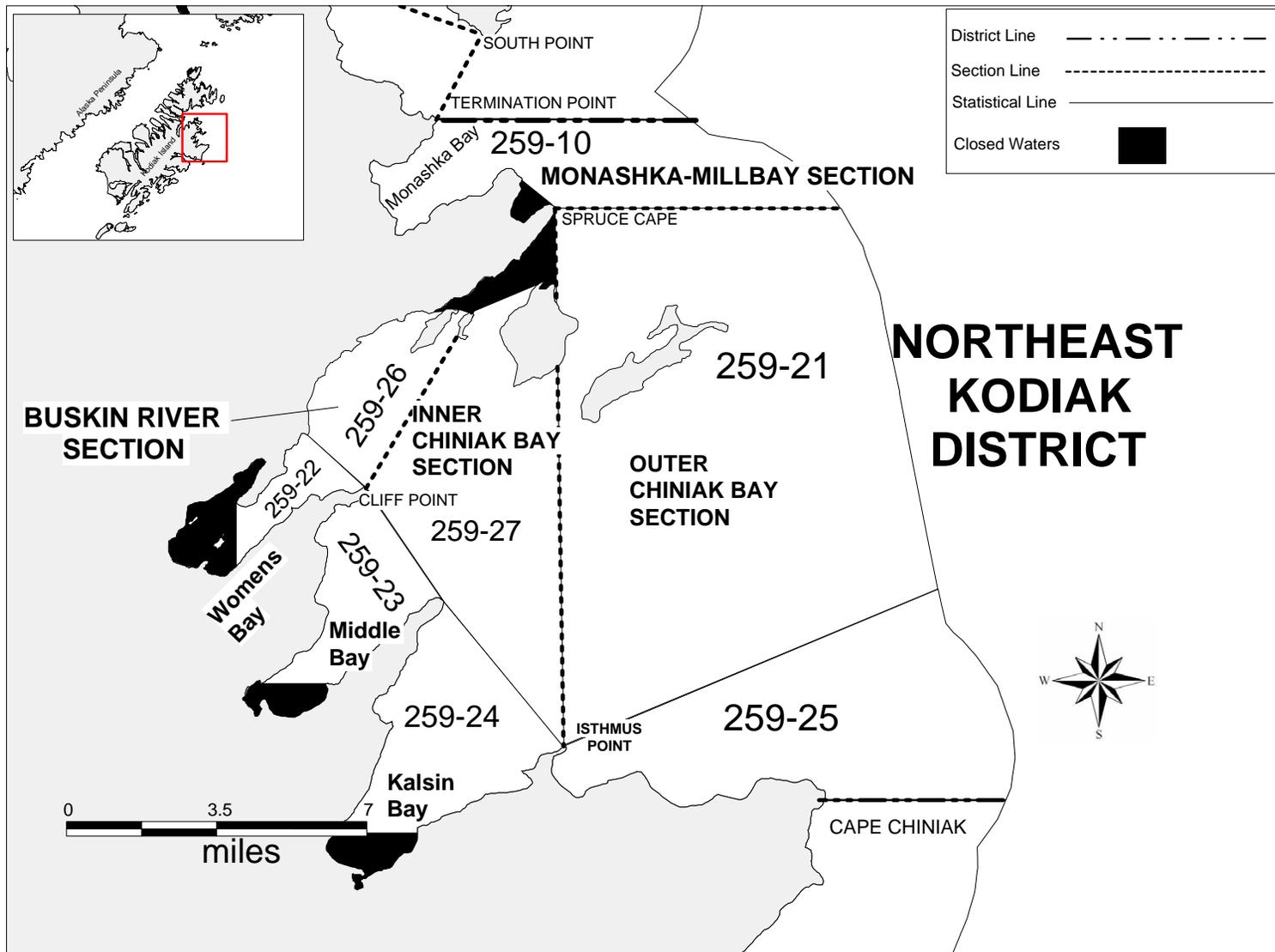
Appendix A2.—Map of the Afognak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.



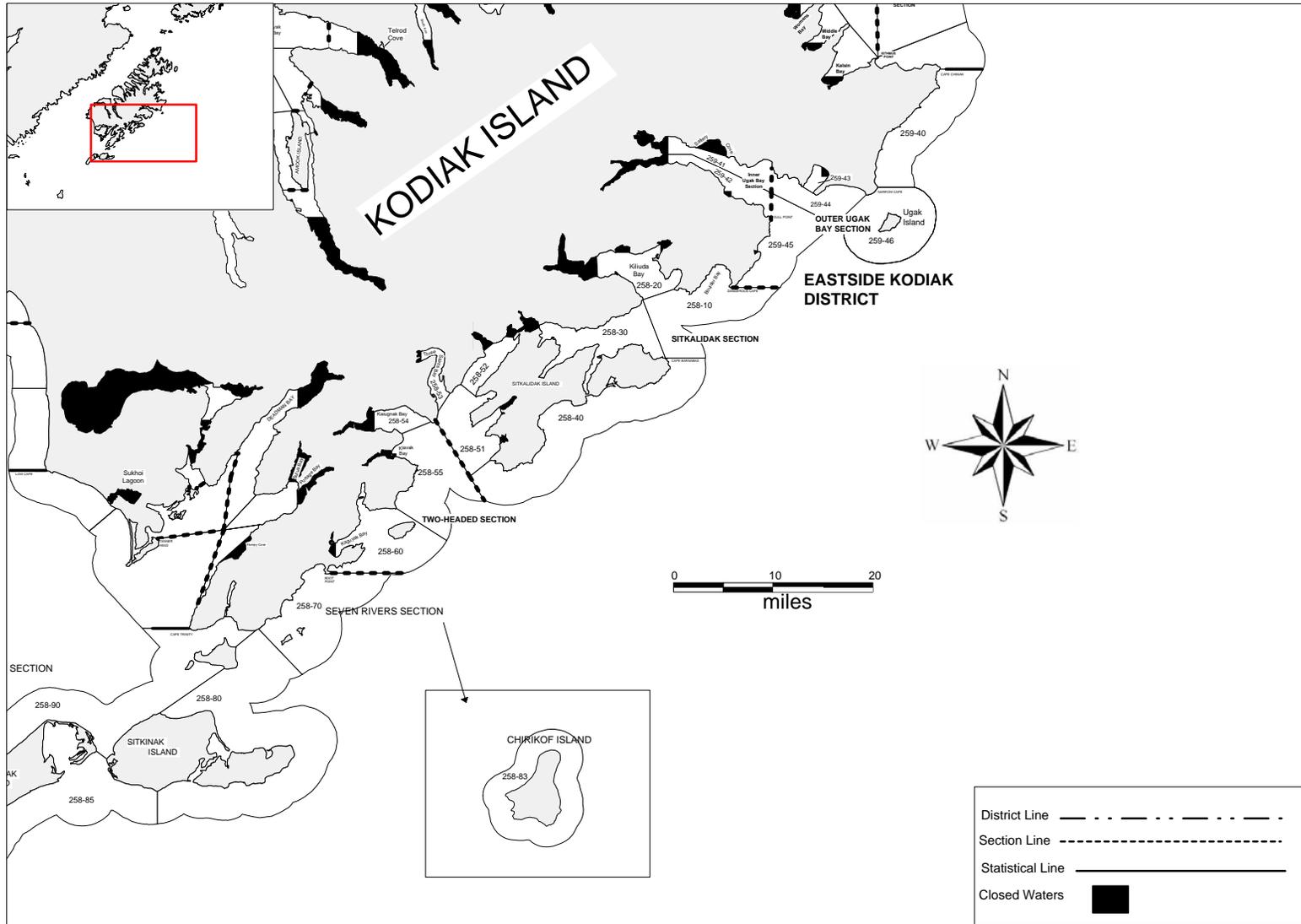
Appendix A3.—Map of the Northwest Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.



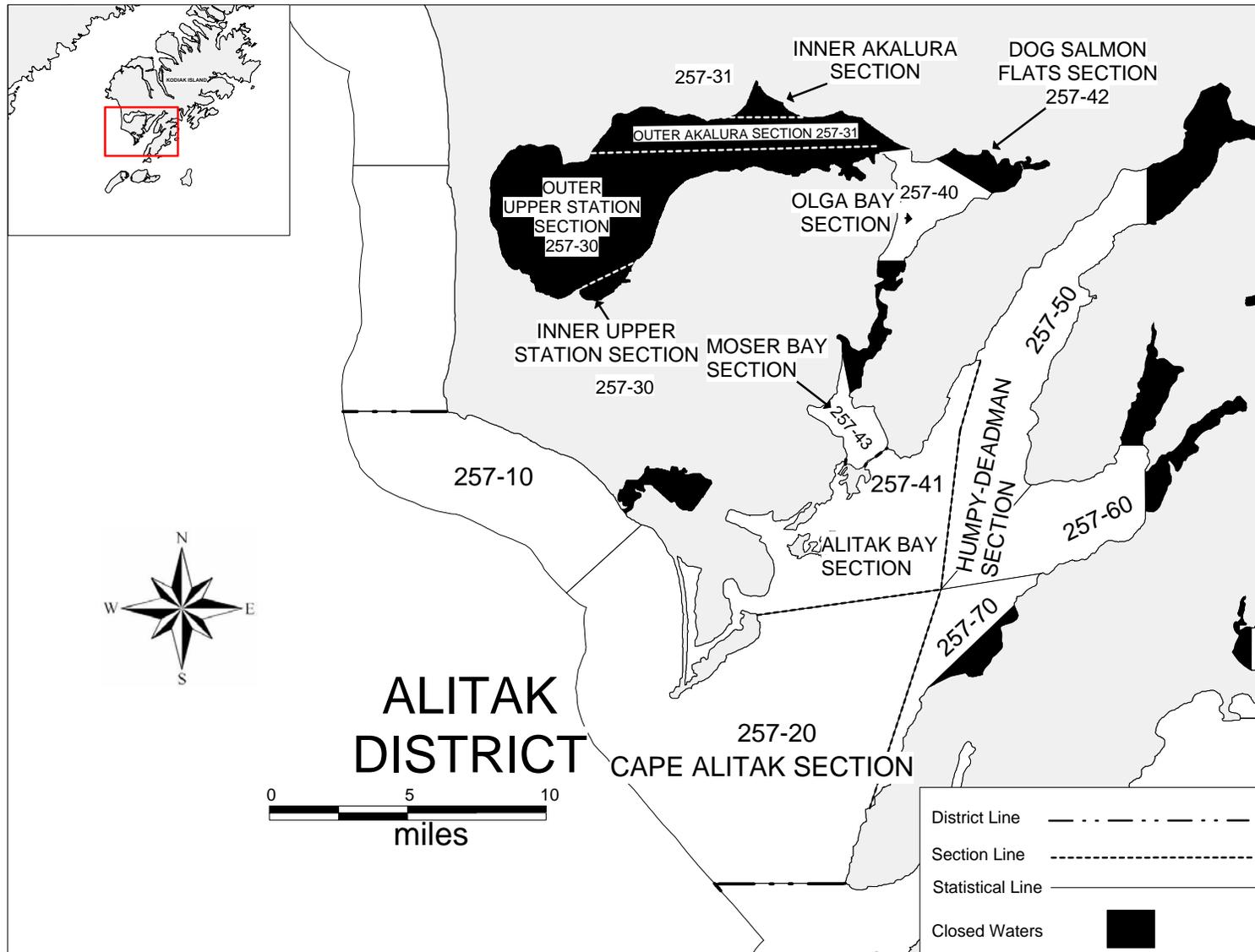
Appendix A4.—Map of the Southwest Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.



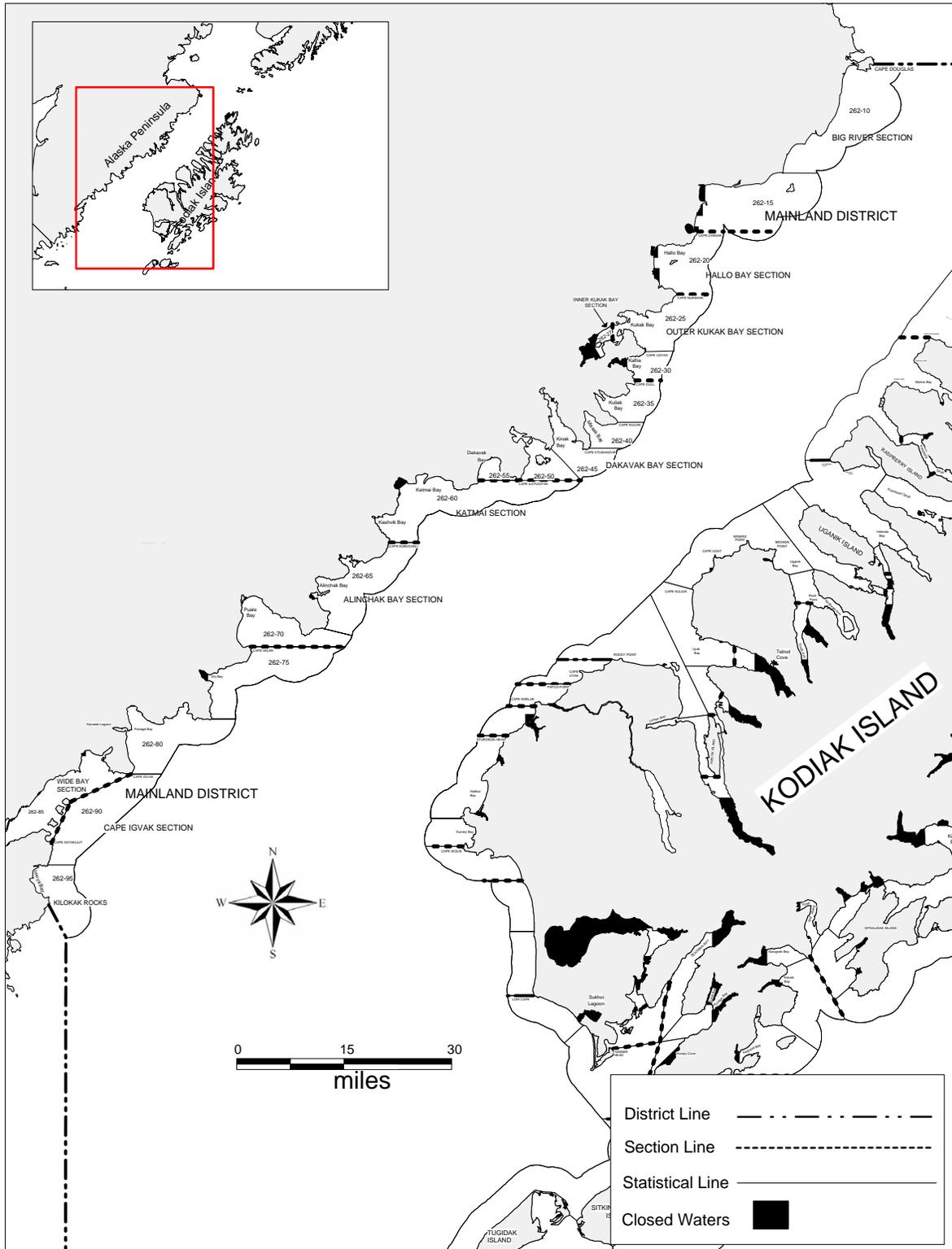
Appendix A5.—Map of the Northeast Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.



Appendix A6.—Map of the Eastside Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.



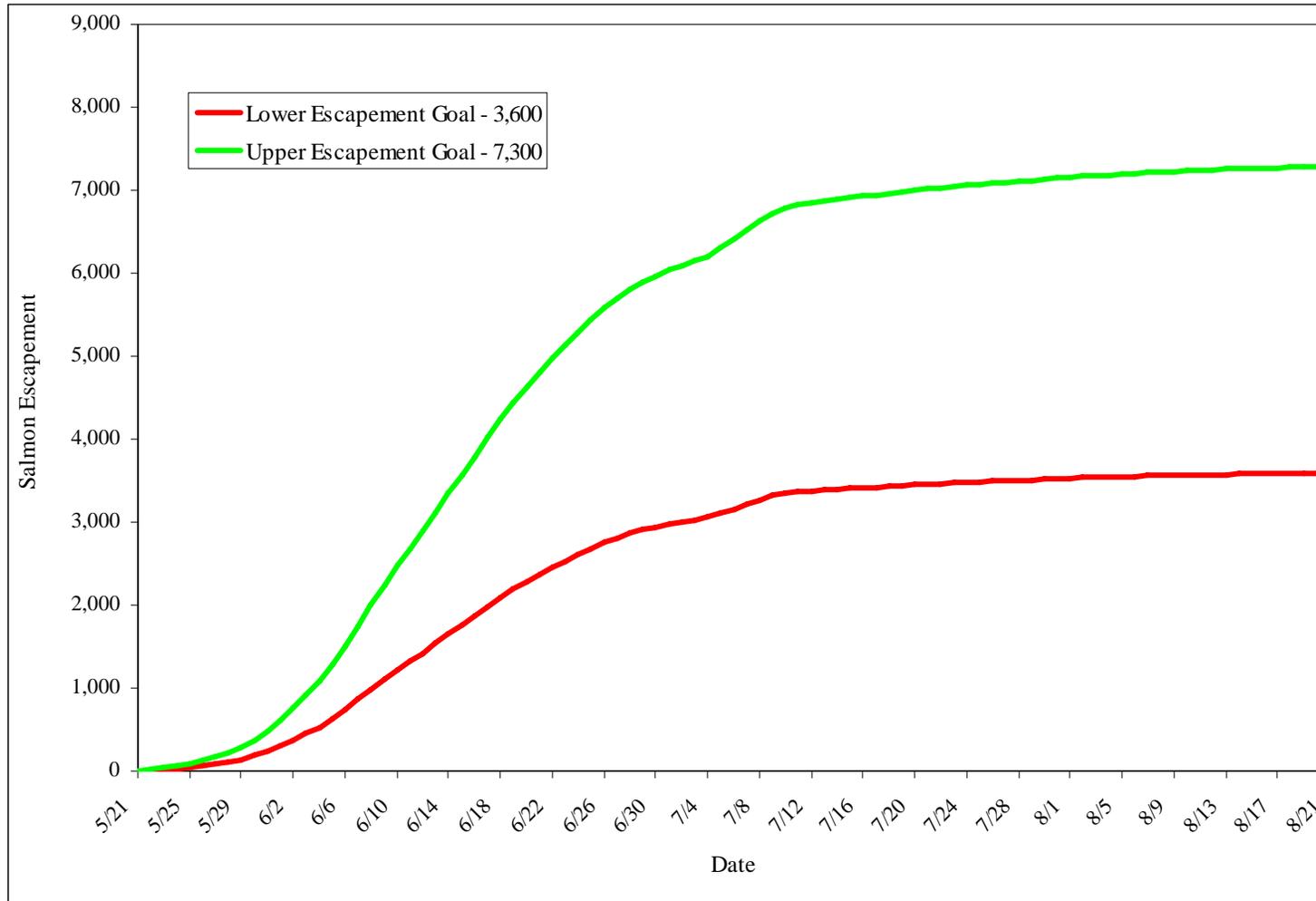
Appendix A7.—Map of the Alitak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.



Appendix A8.—Map of the Mainland District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

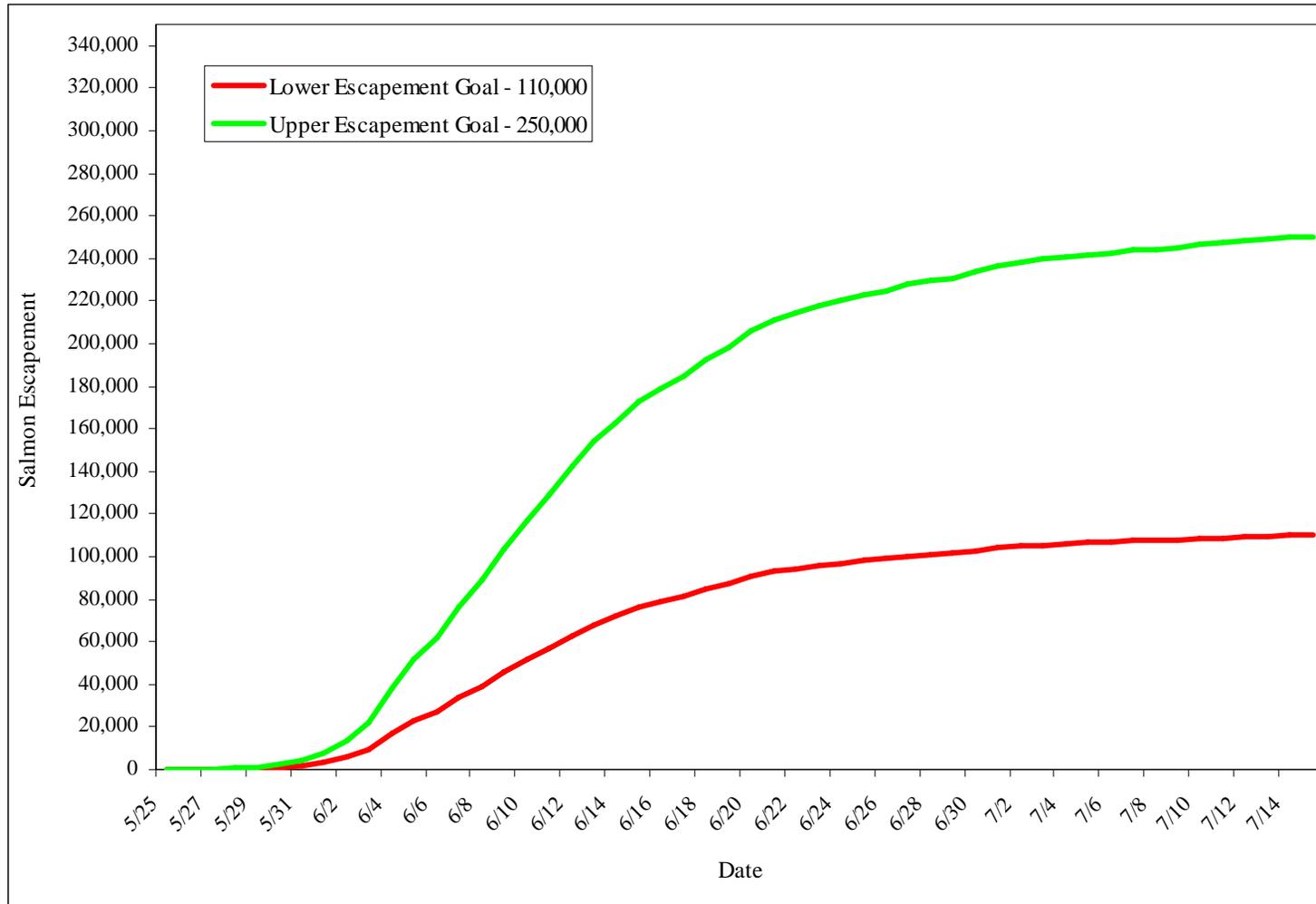
**APPENDIX B. CHARTS OF CURRENT ESCAPEMENT GOALS
FOR SELECT STREAMS AND SPECIES**

Appendix B1.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for Chinook salmon into the Karluk system.



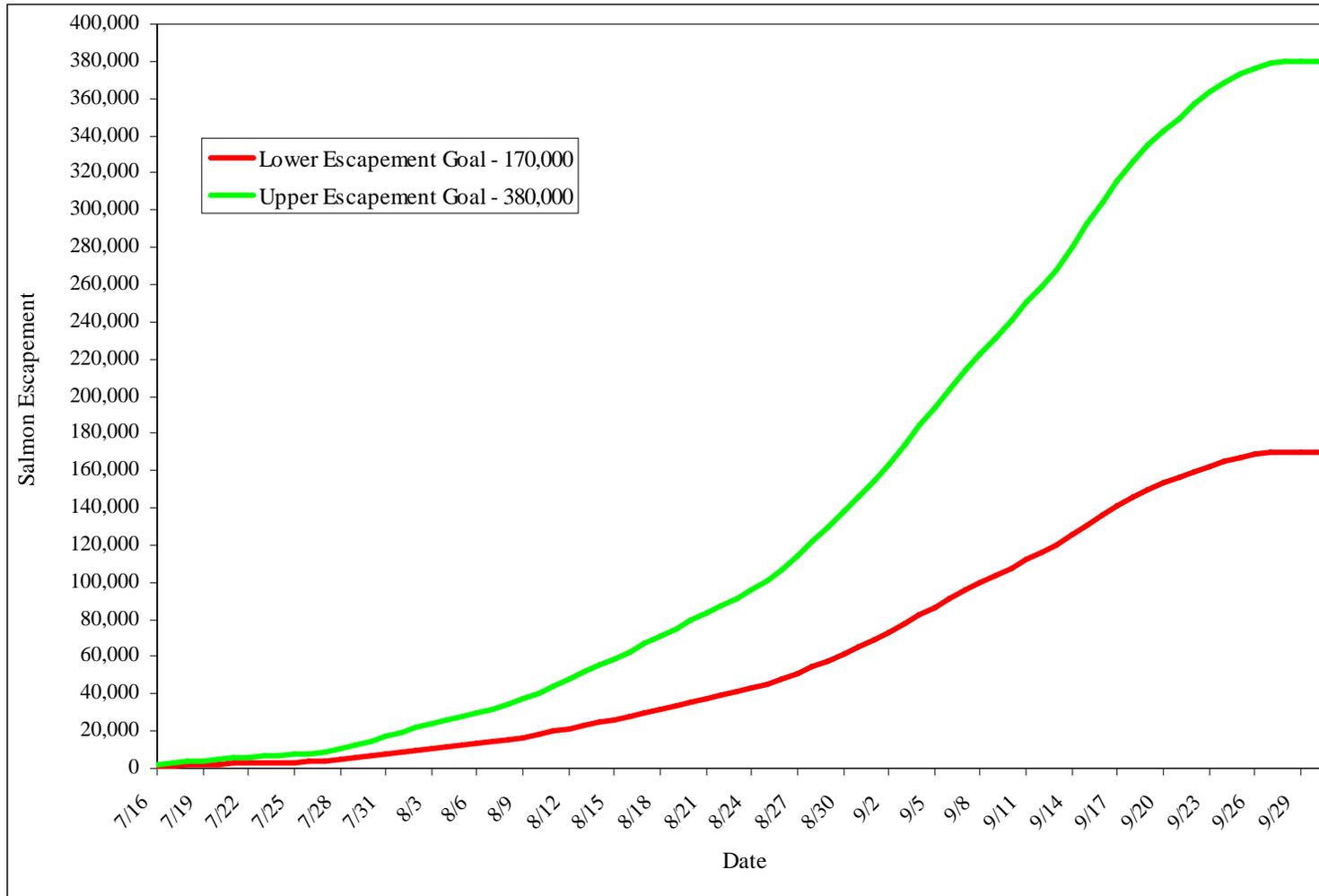
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B2.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for early-run sockeye salmon into the Karluk system.



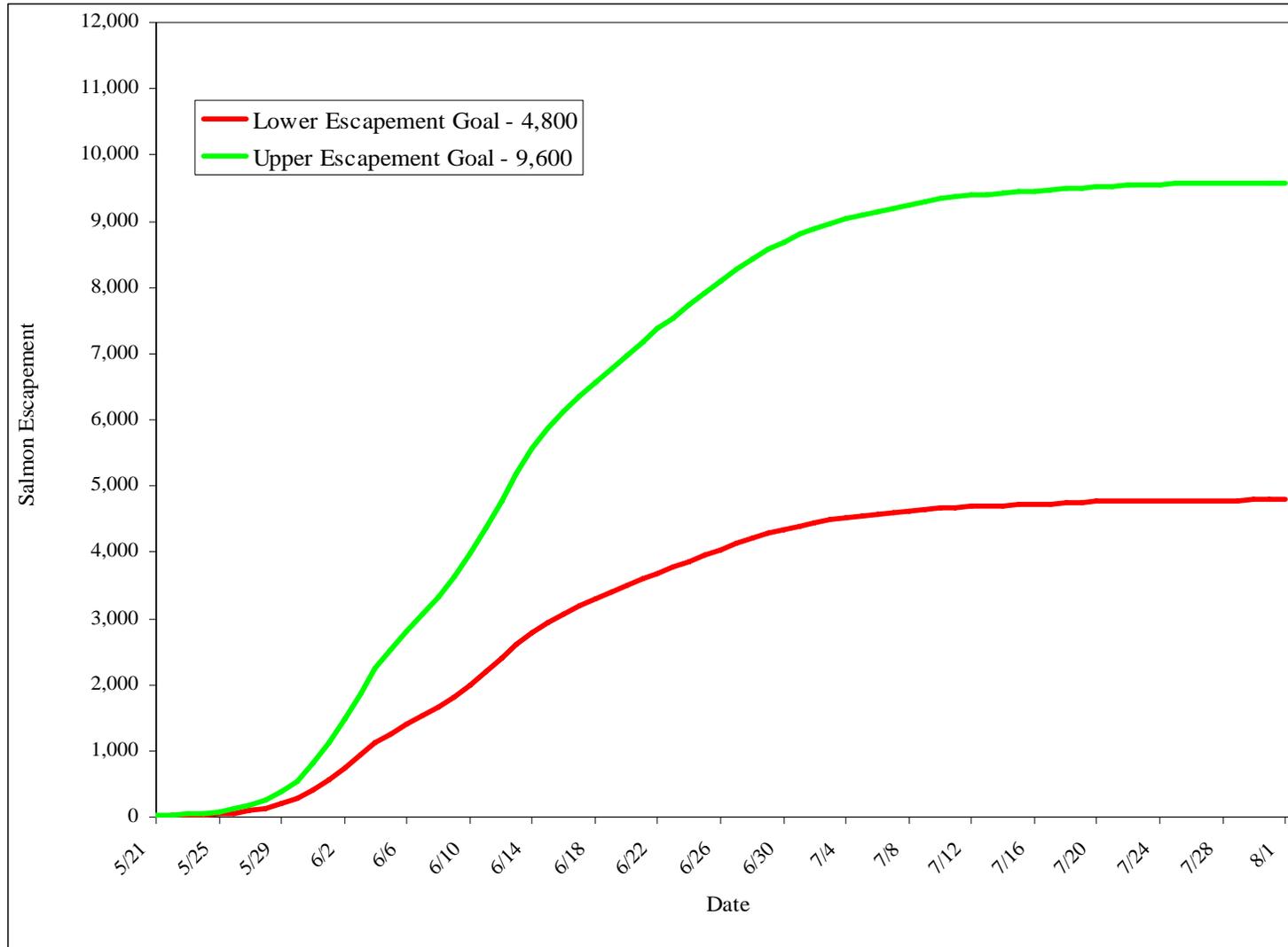
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B3.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for late-run sockeye salmon into the Karluk system.



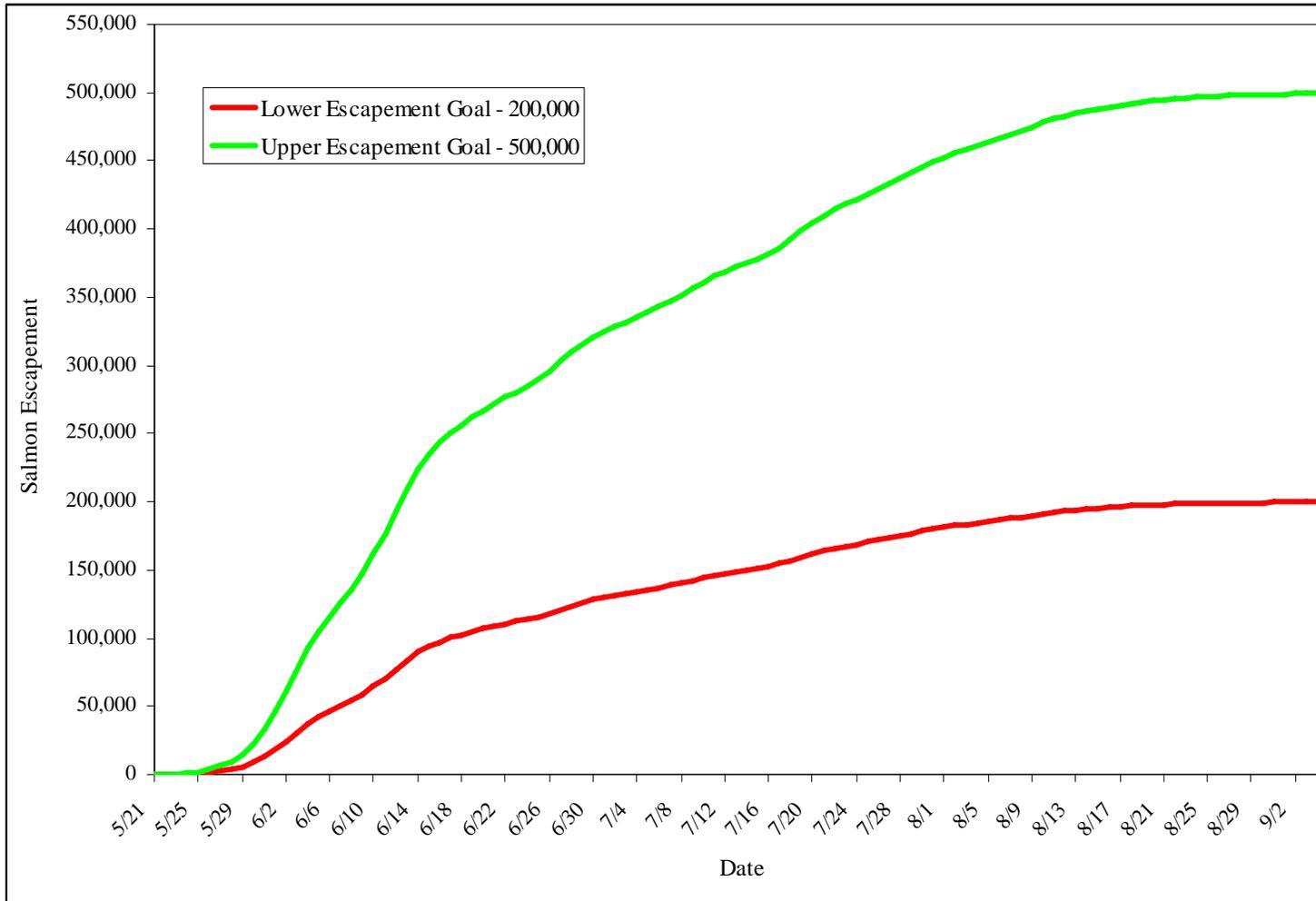
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B4.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for Chinook salmon into the Ayakulik system.



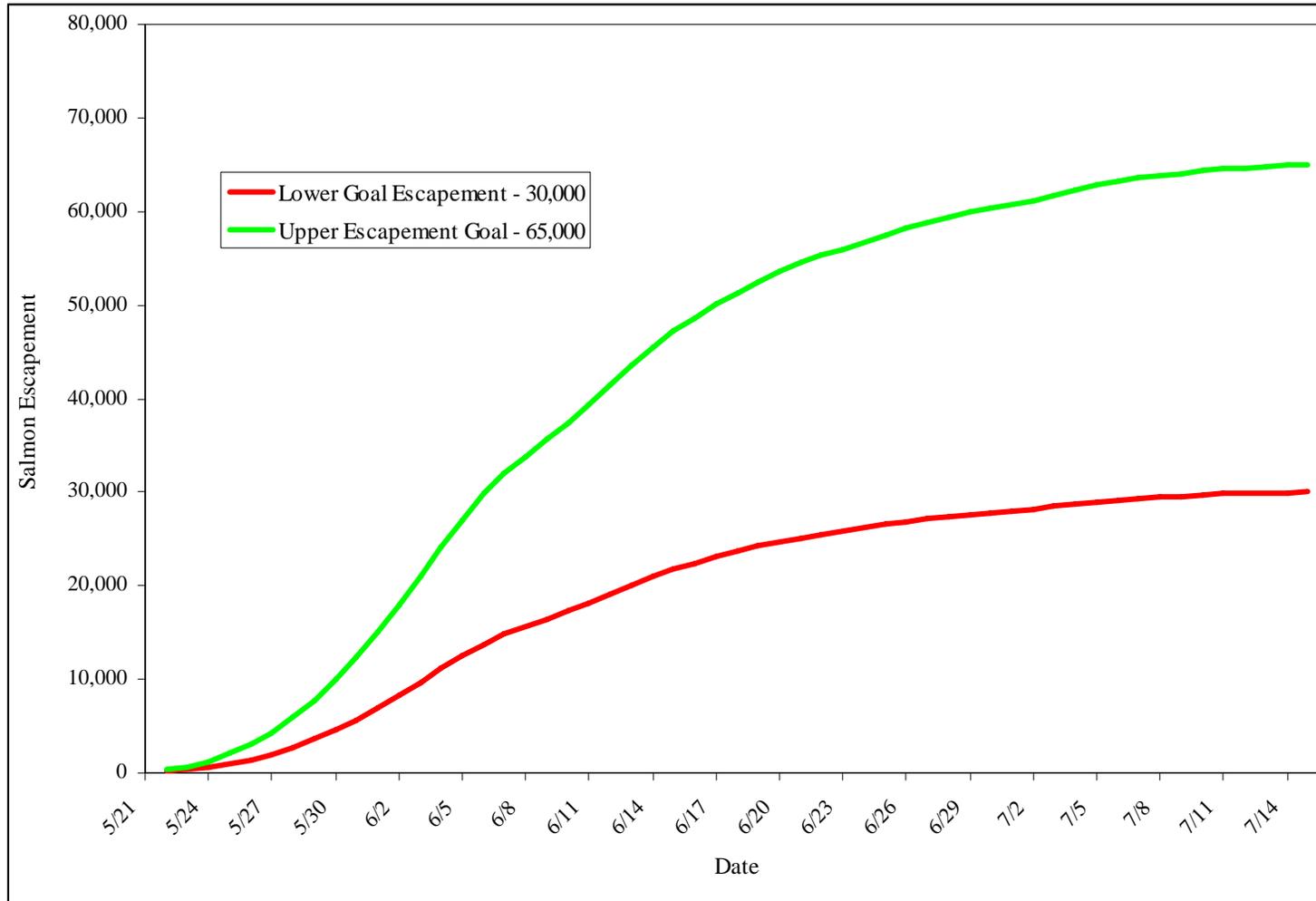
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B5.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Ayakulik system.



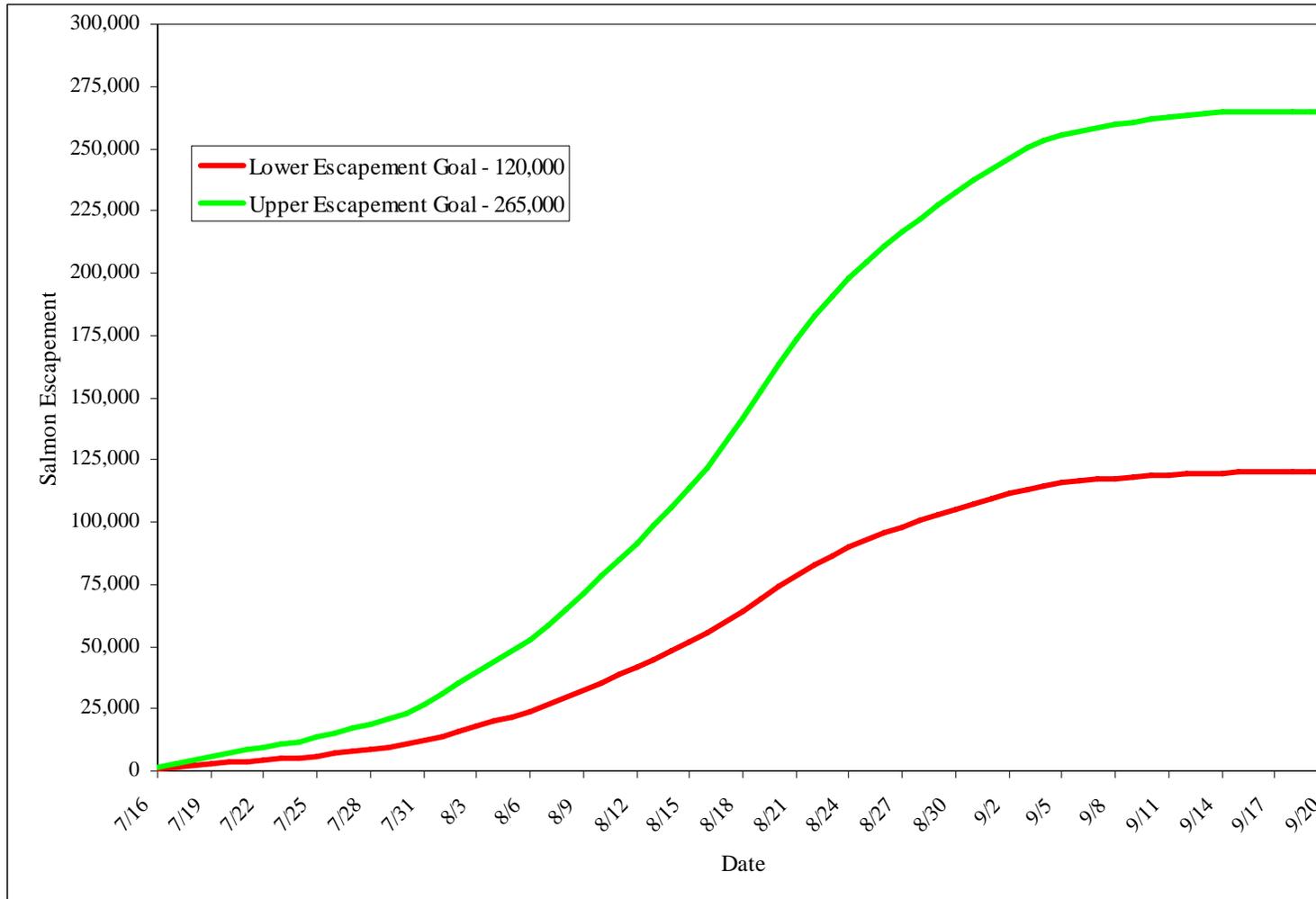
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B6.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for early-run sockeye salmon into the Upper Station system.



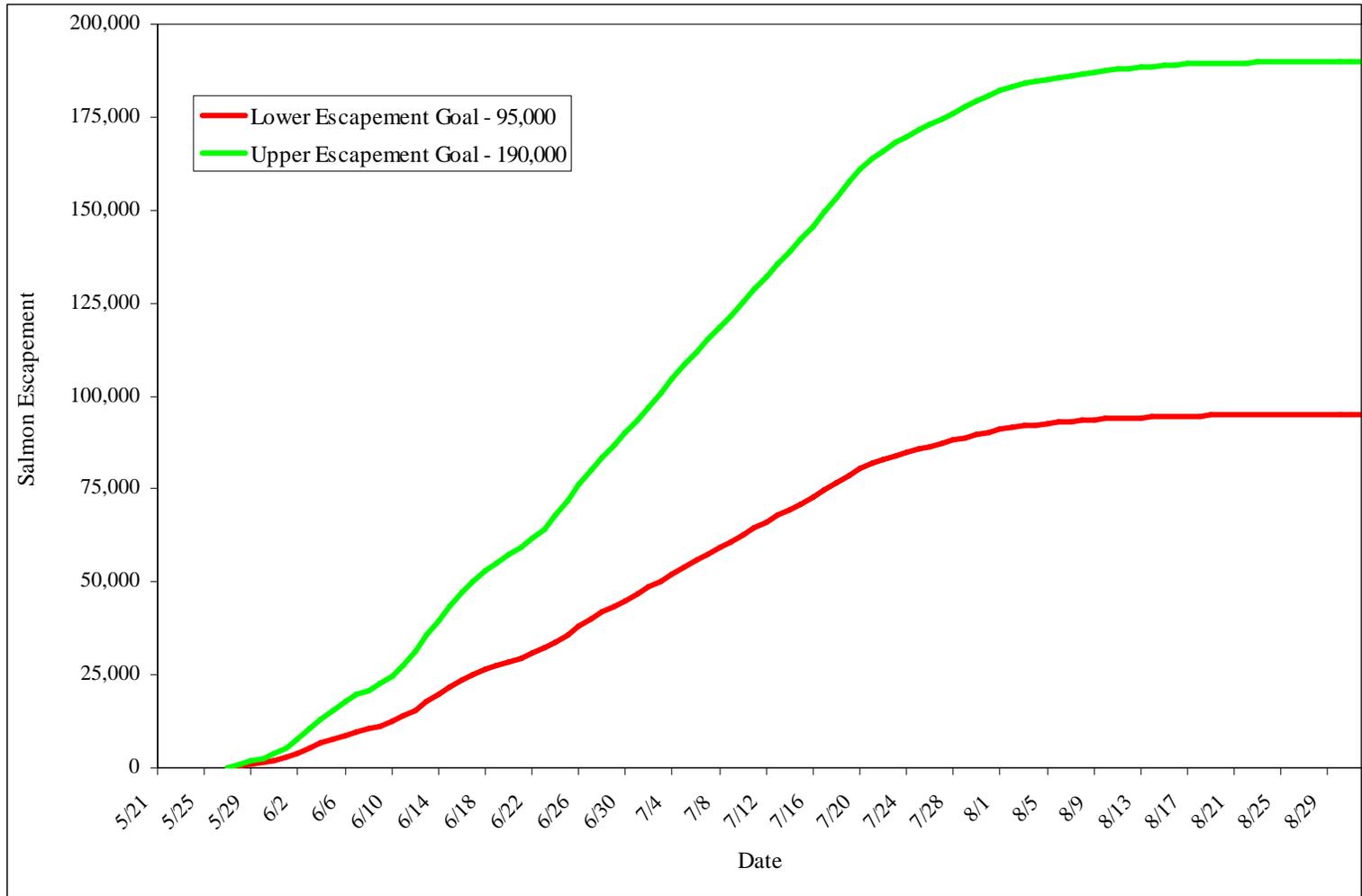
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B7.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for late-run sockeye salmon into the Upper Station system.



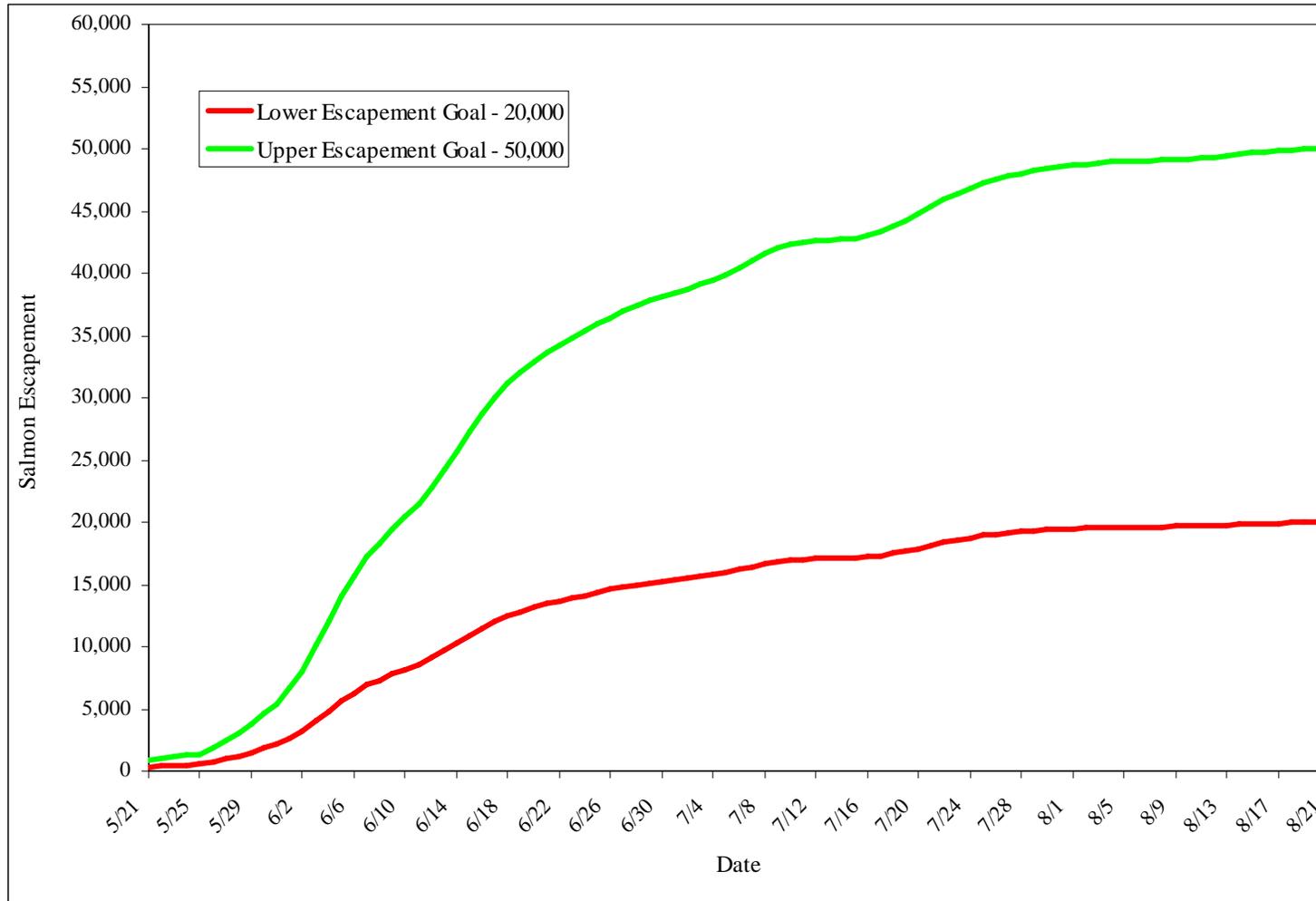
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B8.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Frazer system through the Dog Salmon River weir.



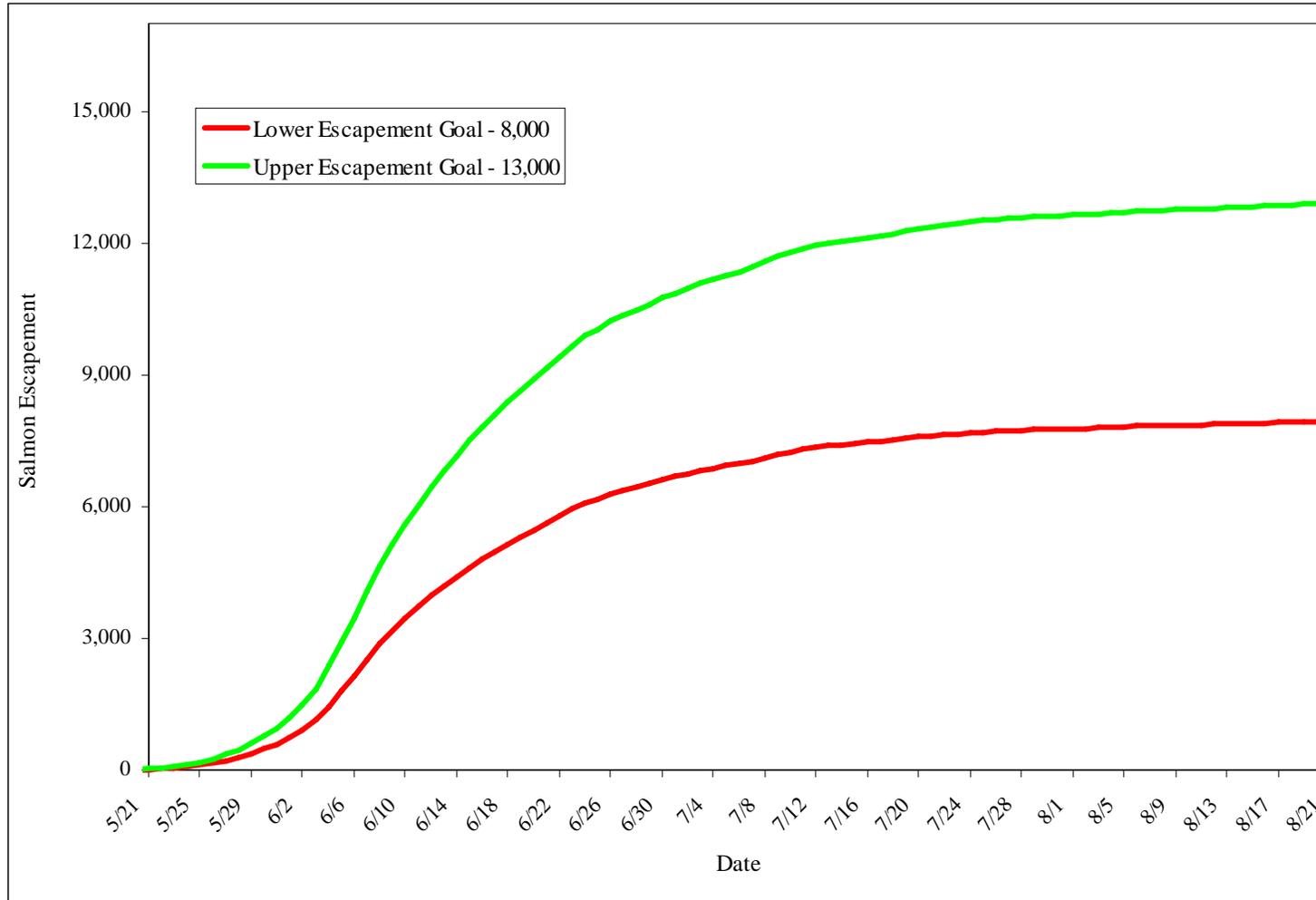
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B9.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Litnik system.



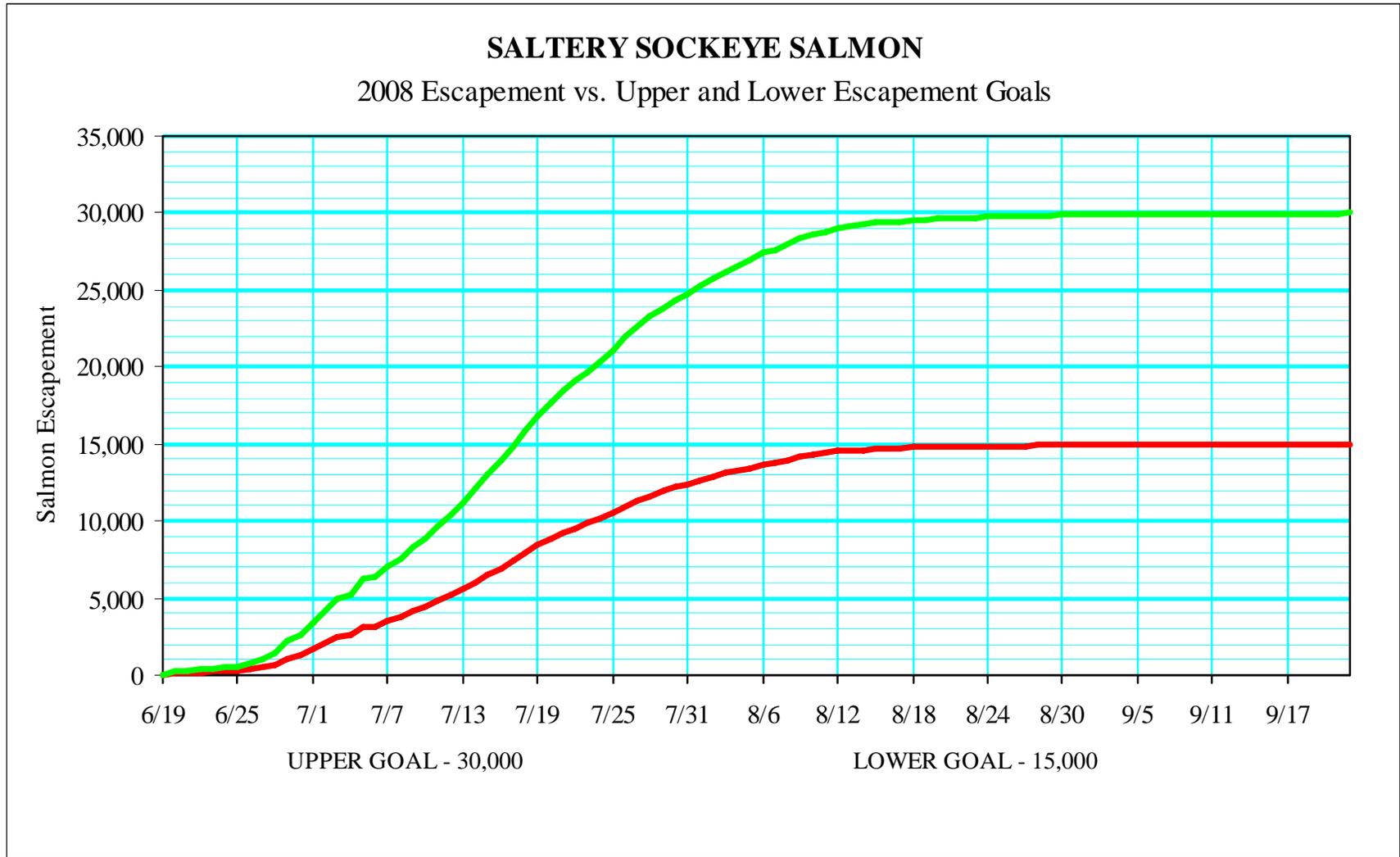
Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B10.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Buskin system.



Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.

Appendix B11.—Average run timing based on lower and upper escapement goals for sockeye salmon into the Saltery system.



Note: These charts do not represent interim escapement goals.