

An OEG for Copper River Kings

Alaska's Policy for the Sustainable Management of Salmon Fisheries [5 AAC 39.222] defines an "optimal escapement goal" or "(OEG)" as a specific management objective for salmon escapement that considers biological and allocative factors and may differ from the SEG or BEG.

OEG Benefits

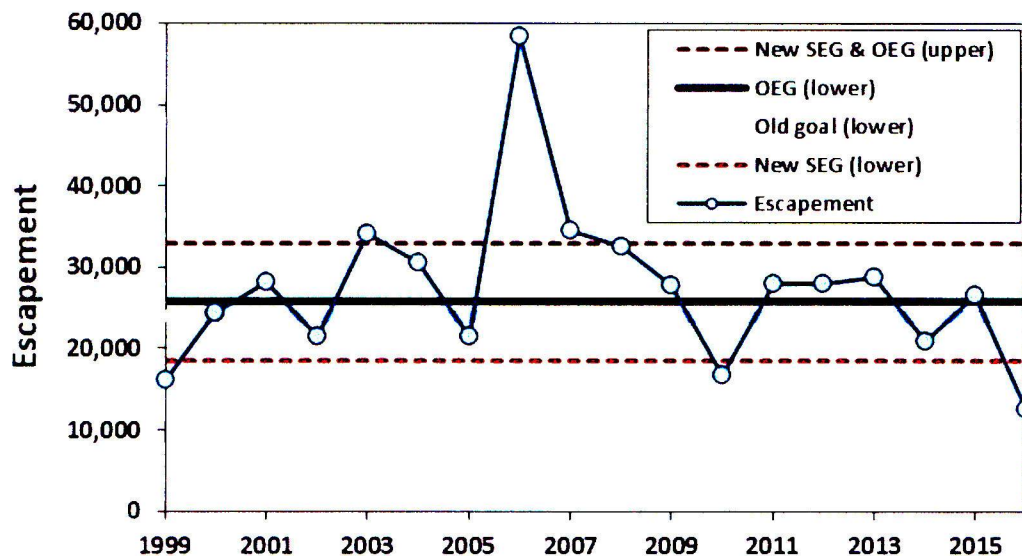
- Provides escapements which sustain both high returns and high yields of kings.
- Minimizes risks of low escapements and future poor returns due to inevitable forecast and management errors.
- Protects component populations from critical low escapements.

OEG Proposal

Lower end = midpoint of the new SEG range (25,750).

Upper end = same as the new SEG (33,000).

Previous SEG	24,000 (lower bound only)
New SEG	18,500 – 33,000
Proposed OEG	25,750 – 33,000



Concerns with the new SEG

- The new SEG is a 23% reduction relative to the historical lower bound.
- This change allows increased exploitation of king salmon - this is not precautionary in a period of historical low abundance.
- Because this is an aggregate goal, a goal reduction may not adequately protect component populations like Gulkana from very low escapements.
- This change was based on a modeling methodology which has also produced lower SEG recommendations for other Alaska kings. The model is very complicated but lower input numbers lead to lower goal recommendations.