

Southeast Region Stock of Concern Review

Board of Fisheries Work Session
October 15, 2020

Jeff Nichols and Ed Jones, Division of Sport Fish
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*Oral Report:
RC-4*

Southeast Region Stock of Concern Review



THE STATE
of ALASKA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members
Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: September 30, 2020

FROM: Sam Rabung *SR*
Director Division of Commercial Fisheries

SUBJECT: Southeast Region Salmon
Stock of Concern
Recommendations

and

Dave Rutz *DR*
Director, Division of Sport Fish

The *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222) directs the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) to report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) on the status of salmon stocks and identify any stocks that present a concern related to yield, management, or conservation during regular board meetings. A management concern is defined (5 AAC 39.222) as "a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapement for a stock within the bounds" of the established escapement goal, and "chronic inability" means "continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period, which is approximately equivalent to the generation time of most salmon species."

This memorandum summarizes the results of the stock of concern evaluation for Southeast Alaska Region salmon stocks for the 2020/2021 board regulatory cycle. Following the 2020 salmon season, all salmon stocks with formal escapement goals in the Southeast Alaska management area were examined for potential stock of concern status. Four stocks previously designated as stocks of management concern at the 2018 Southeast region board meeting were also evaluated. This evaluation included input from headquarters, regional, and area staff from both fishery divisions. Department recommendations and brief summaries on the status of underperforming stocks are provided below; more detailed accounting of management prescriptions applied over the last 5 years including additional tables, and maps outlining time and area restrictions are available upon request. The department recommends no change in status for the 4 existing stocks of management concern, based on criteria for removing the stock of concern designation outlined in action plans developed at the 2018 board meeting (Lum and Fair 2018a, 2018b; Walker et al. 2018). The department also recommends that 6 additional stocks be listed as stocks of management concern.

- Stock of Concern (SOC) Memo (**RC—3**)
- 10 recommendations from Division Directors to the Board
- SOC Memo includes relevant stock assessment, fishery, and management descriptions and escapement history

Synopses: Current Stocks of Concern

- 4 salmon stocks are currently considered Stock of Management Concern (2018-current)
- Southeast EG Review committee recommended maintaining SOC status for each of these stocks (3 king salmon; 1 sockeye salmon)
- Action Plans were developed at 2018 Southeast BOF meeting
- Action Plans include management prescriptions and delisting criteria

Synopses: New Stocks of Concern

- Southeast EG Review committee **recommended 6 additional salmon stocks** be designated as a Stock of Management Concern (4 king salmon; 1 sockeye salmon; 1 pink salmon)
- 3 of these stocks (2 king salmon; 1 sockeye salmon) are transboundary river (TBR) stocks (all spawning occurring in Canada)
- TBR stocks are jointly managed with Canada in accordance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty and state regulation (*United States-Canada Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 33.361*)

Synopses: New Stocks of Concern

- Southeast EG Review committee recommended 6 additional salmon stocks be designated as a Stock of Management Concern (4 king salmon; 1 sockeye salmon; 1 pink salmon)
- The NSEI pink salmon stock qualifies as a stock of concern per guidance in the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (*SSFP*)
- The *SSFP* may not apply well to pink salmon, given their unique life history traits and associated population structure
 - Flexible inseason management is required

Stock Systems & Locations



- 10 recommended SOC's
- 4 existing SOC's
 - 3 king salmon; 1 sockeye
- 6 new stocks
 - 4 king salmon; 1 sockeye; 1 pink
 - 3 of these are TBR stocks, managed jointly with Canada as dictated by the Pacific Salmon Treaty and AAC

Recommended SOCs: Escapement Performance

System	SOC Year of Designation or Recommendation	Stock species	Goal type	Escapement goal	Escapement				
					2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Chilkat River	2018	King salmon	BEG	1,750–3,500	1,380	1,173	873	2,028	3,210
King Salmon River	2018	King salmon	BEG	120–240	149	85	30	27	100
Unuk River	2018	King salmon	BEG	1,800–3,800	1,463	1,207	1,971	3,115	1,135
Chickamin River	2020	King salmon	BEG	2,150–4,300	964	722	2,052	1,610	2,280
Stikine River	2020	King salmon	BEG	14,000–28,000	10,344	7,335	8,603	13,817	12,000
Andrew Creek	2020	King salmon	BEG	650–1,500	402	349	482	698	470
Taku River	2020	King salmon	BEG	19,000–36,000	12,381	8,214	7,271	11,558	13,000
McDonald Lake	2018	Sockeye salmon	SEG	55,000–120,000	15,600	24,000	11,000	24,200	8,200
Klukshu (Alsek) River	2020	Sockeye salmon	BEG	7,500–11,000	7,391	3,711	7,143	18,749	4,370
Northern Southeast Inside	2020	Pink salmon	BEG	2.5–6.0 million	1.8 million	4.7 million	1.4 million	1.7 million	2.3 million

Below Goal

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QUESTIONS ??

