

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

November 30, 2023

Addendum to the McNeil River Chum Salmon Action Plan

CONDITIONS FOR DELISTING A STOCK OF CONCERN

The *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* defines “management concern” as “a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the SEG, BEG, OEG, or other specified management objectives for the fishery; a management concern is not as severe as a conservation concern.”

The stock of management concern (SOC) for this stock is based on failure to achieve the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG). Recommendations for delisting McNeil River chum salmon as a stock of management concern will be based on the ability to achieve the SEG.

1. Delisting - If the lower bound of the SEG is met or exceeded in three consecutive years and is expected to be met in the future years or is met in three out of five consecutive years and is expected to be met in future years, the department will recommend removing McNeil River chum salmon as a stock of management concern at the first Lower Cook Inlet board meeting after this condition is met.
2. Management Restrictions - Management restrictions may be relaxed if inseason assessment of chum salmon abundance indicates restrictions are no longer needed to ensure the escapement goal is met. This may only occur if both SOC stocks, Mikfik Lake sockeye salmon and McNeil River chum salmon, escapement goals are projected to be met.

Stock status, action plan performance (including information on harvest rate, distribution, and timing in fisheries), and the results of the escapement goal review will be updated in a report to the board at the next Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting.