

Central District Drift Coho Salmon harvest by stock groupings

The Northern Coho salmon stock groupings include the Northwest CI, Susitna River, Deshka River, Yentna River, Knik Arm, Jim Creek, and the Turnagain Arm/Northeast CI (Figure 1). The Yentna River stock contributed the highest percentage to the 2014 fishery harvest, 29.7%, both 2015 fisheries harvests, 21.2% and 27.5%, and the 2016 corridor fishery harvest, 29.7%. The Susitna River stock grouping contributed the highest percentage to the 2014, 23.2%, and the 2016 fishery harvest, excluding the corridor harvest, 22.3% (Figure 1). The average contribution of the Northern stock groupings to the Central District drift Coho salmon harvests for the years 2013-2016, for all fisheries, range from 1.5% for the Jim Creek stock to 24.3% for the Yentna River stock.

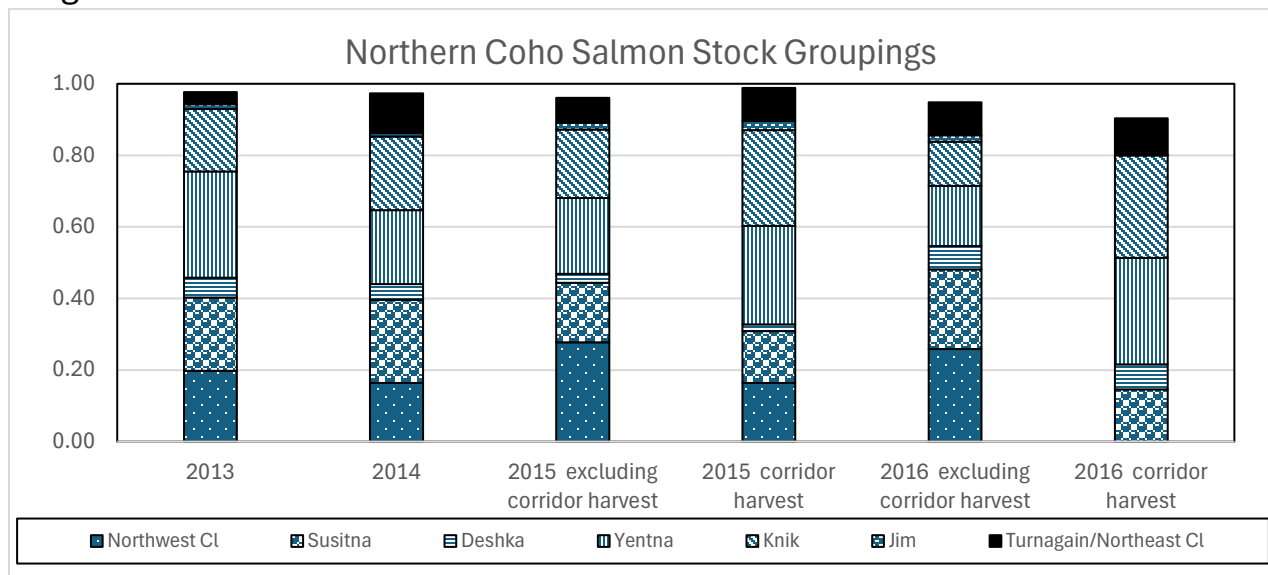


Figure 1. Individual Northern stock groupings contribution to the Central District drift fisheries, 2013-2016.

The Southern stock groupings include the Southwest CI, Kenai River, Kasilof River, and the Southeast CI. The contribution of individual Southern stock groupings to all the Central District drift fisheries were very small, ranging from 0.0% in several fisheries to 4.1% in the 2016 corridor fishery harvest by the Southwest CI stock grouping. The Kenai River stock grouping contributed the highest percentage for the Southern stock groupings in all other fishery harvests, ranging from 0.9% to 2.7% (Figure 2)

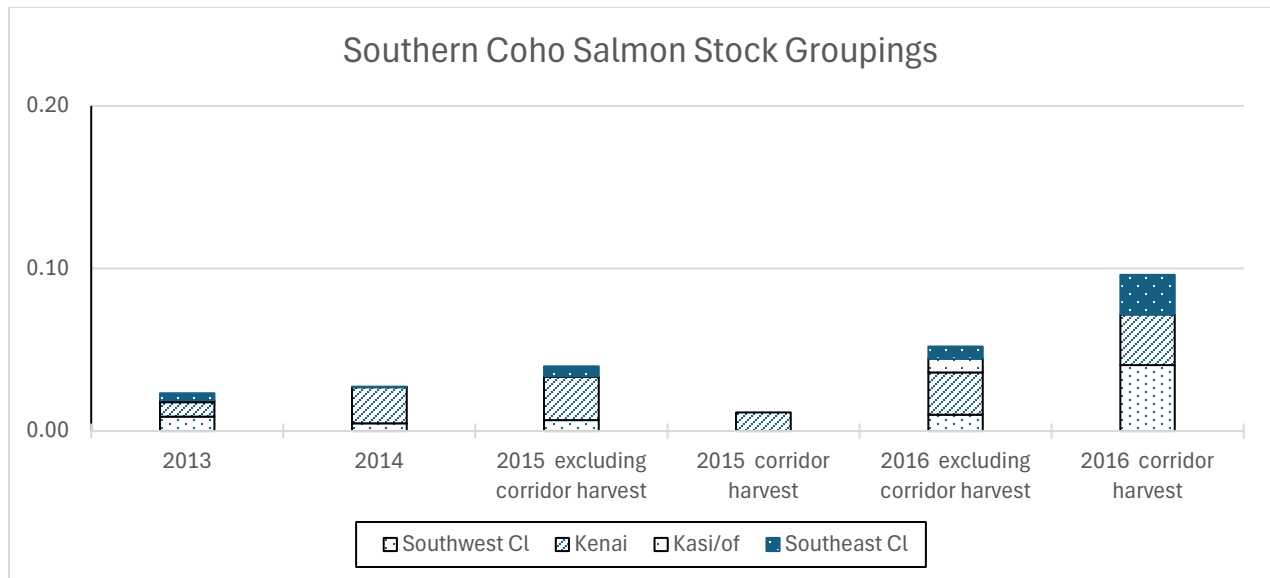


Figure 2. Individual Southern stock groupings contribution to the Central District drift fisheries, 2013-2016. Note y-axis scale is one-fifth the scale of Figure 1.

The combined Northern stock groupings average contribution for all Central District drift fisheries during the period, 2013-2016 was 95.8% and ranged from 90.4% in the 2016 corridor harvest fishery to 98.9% in the 2015 corridor harvest fishery (Figure 3). The average contribution of the combined Southern stock groupings was 4.2% and ranged from 1.1% in the 2015 corridor fishery harvest to 9.6% in the 2016 corridor fishery harvest (Figure 3).

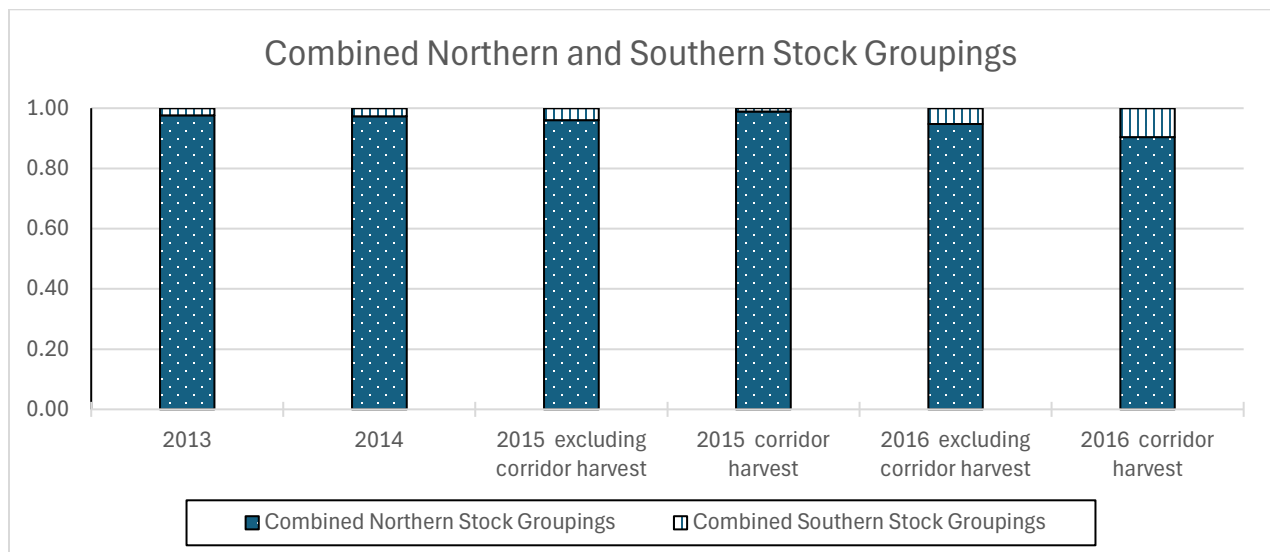


Figure 3. Combined Northern and Southern stock groupings contribution to the Central District drift fisheries, 2013-2016.

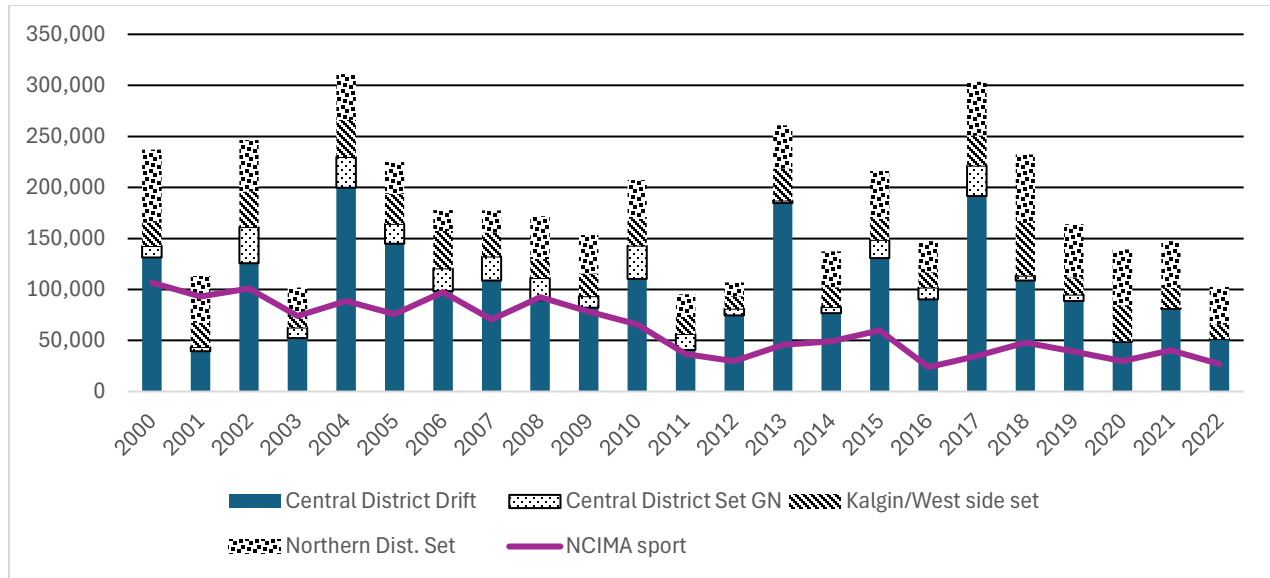


Figure 4. Combined Upper Cook Inlet commercial Coho salmon harvest by fishery compared to the NCIMA sport Coho salmon harvest, 2000-2022.

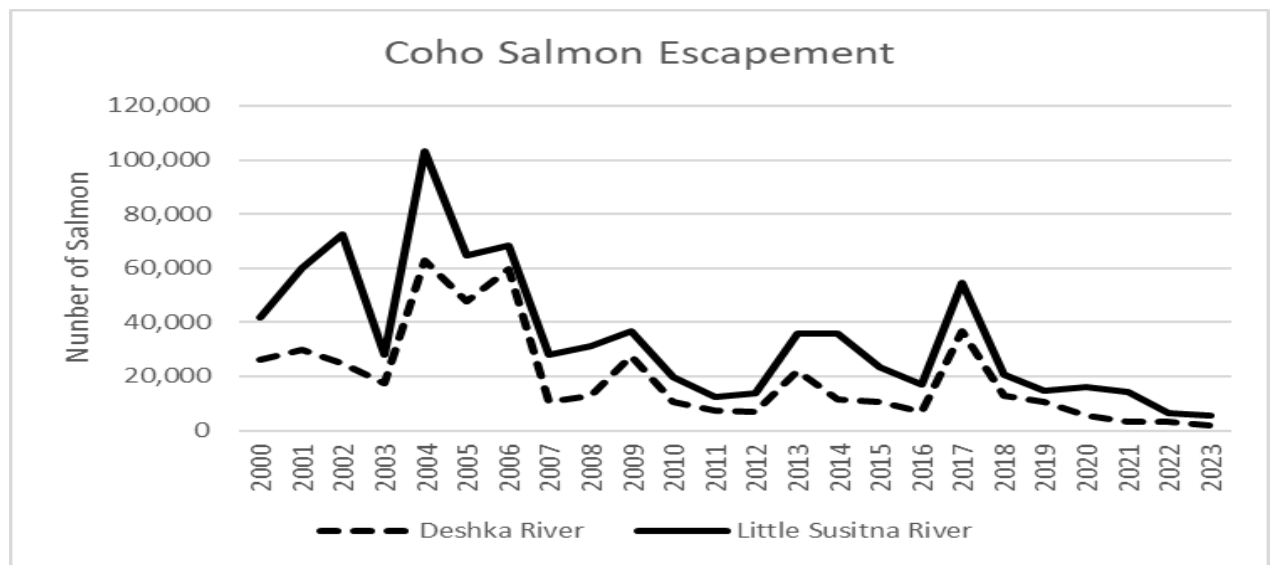


Figure 5. Coho salmon escapement to the Deshka and Little Susitna rivers, 2000-2023. The Deshka River weir counts were incomplete for 2020-2023. The Little Susitna River weir counts were incomplete for 2022 and 2023. See Table 1 for further information.

Inspection and comparison of Figures 4 and 5 indicate a decline in both commercial and sport harvests and escapements. The recent low escapements depicted in Figure 5 and Table 1 for the Deshka and Little

Susitna rivers, coupled with the harvest declines indicate that the Northern District Coho salmon stock is much less productive than previous decades and requires much more conservative management in all fisheries to assure meeting escapement goals. Commercial fisheries especially must be managed more conservatively so that escapements, and not just the lower bound of the SEG, can be achieved. It is also important that all users share in the benefits of the decreased coho salmon runs. Inriver users in the NCIMA must be given an opportunity to harvest some of these Coho salmon that spawn in the NCIMA streams and rivers. It is unfair to depend on the inriver users to absorb the brunt of the conservation necessity.

Table 1. Coho salmon harvest and escapement for the Northern District and the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area, 2000-2023.

Year	Coho Salmon Harvest							
	Northern District Commercial Harvest		Northern Cook Inlet Sport Harvest		Total Harvest	Deshka River Escapement	Little Susitna Escapement	
	number	prop.	number	prop.	number	number	number	
2000	71,475	0.40	106,737	0.60	178,212	26,297	15,436	
2001	45,928	0.33	92,960	0.67	138,888	29,915	30,383	
2002	50,292	0.33	100,947	0.67	151,239	24,612	47,938	
2003	24,015	0.25	73,928	0.75	97,943	17,305	10,877	
2004	44,819	0.34	88,746	0.66	133,565	62,940	40,199	
2005	30,859	0.29	75,795	0.71	106,654	47,887	16,839	
2006	20,368	0.17	97,631	0.83	117,999	59,419	8,786	
2007	21,531	0.23	70,574	0.77	92,105	10,575	17,573	
2008	42,177	0.31	92,377	0.69	134,554	12,724	18,485	
2009	37,629	0.32	78,374	0.68	116,003	27,348	9,523	
2010	38,111	0.37	65,726	0.63	103,837	10,390	9,182	
2011	22,113	0.38	36,582	0.62	58,695	7,508	4,826	
2012	13,206	0.31	29,890	0.69	43,096	6,825	6,770	
2013	42,413	0.48	45,627	0.52	88,040	22,141	13,583	
2014	35,200	0.42	49,154	0.58	84,354	11,578	24,211	
2015	46,616	0.44	59,883	0.56	106,499	10,775	12,421	
2016	30,476	0.56	23,898	0.44	54,374	6,816	9,998	
2017	52,701	0.60	34,657	0.40	87,358	36,869	17,781	
2018	67,098	0.58	47,918	0.42	115,016	12,933	7,583	
2019	51,935	0.57	39,051	0.43	90,986	10,445	4,226	
2020	54,453	0.65	29,784	0.35	84,237	5,368	10,765	a
2021	45,825	0.53	40,280	0.47	86,105	3,338	10,923	b
2022	36,895	0.58	26,863	0.42	63,758	3,168	3,162	c
2023	37,924	na	na	na	na	1,817	3,726	d
Averages								
Years	number	prop	number	prop	number	number	number	
2018-22	45,406	0.58	33,995	0.42	81,272	4,827	6,560	
2013-17	46,418	0.52	43,102	0.48	89,520	15,794	14,399	
2008-12	30,694	0.37	51,240	0.63	81,934	14,842	8,777	
2004-07	31,951	0.27	85,025	0.73	116,975	38,709	20,376	
2000-03	47,928	0.33	93,643	0.67	141,571	24,532	26,159	
a	Incomplete weir counts. Weir pulled on August 13							
b	Incomplete weir counts. Weir pulled on August 12							
c	Incomplete weir counts. Weir pulled on August 8							
d	Incomplete weir counts. Weir pulled on August 30							
e	Incomplete weir counts. Weir pulled on August 10							
f	Incomplete weir counts. Weir pulled on August 26							