

Norton Sound Chum and King Salmon Stocks of Concern



**A Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, January, 2016
Presented by Jim Menard and Scott Kent**

**RC 3: Written Reports, color tabs 2 and 3
RC 3: Oral Reports, black & white tab 2**

Outline

Northern Norton Sound Chum Salmon Subdistrict 1

- **Stock Status Summary**

Subdistricts 2 & 3

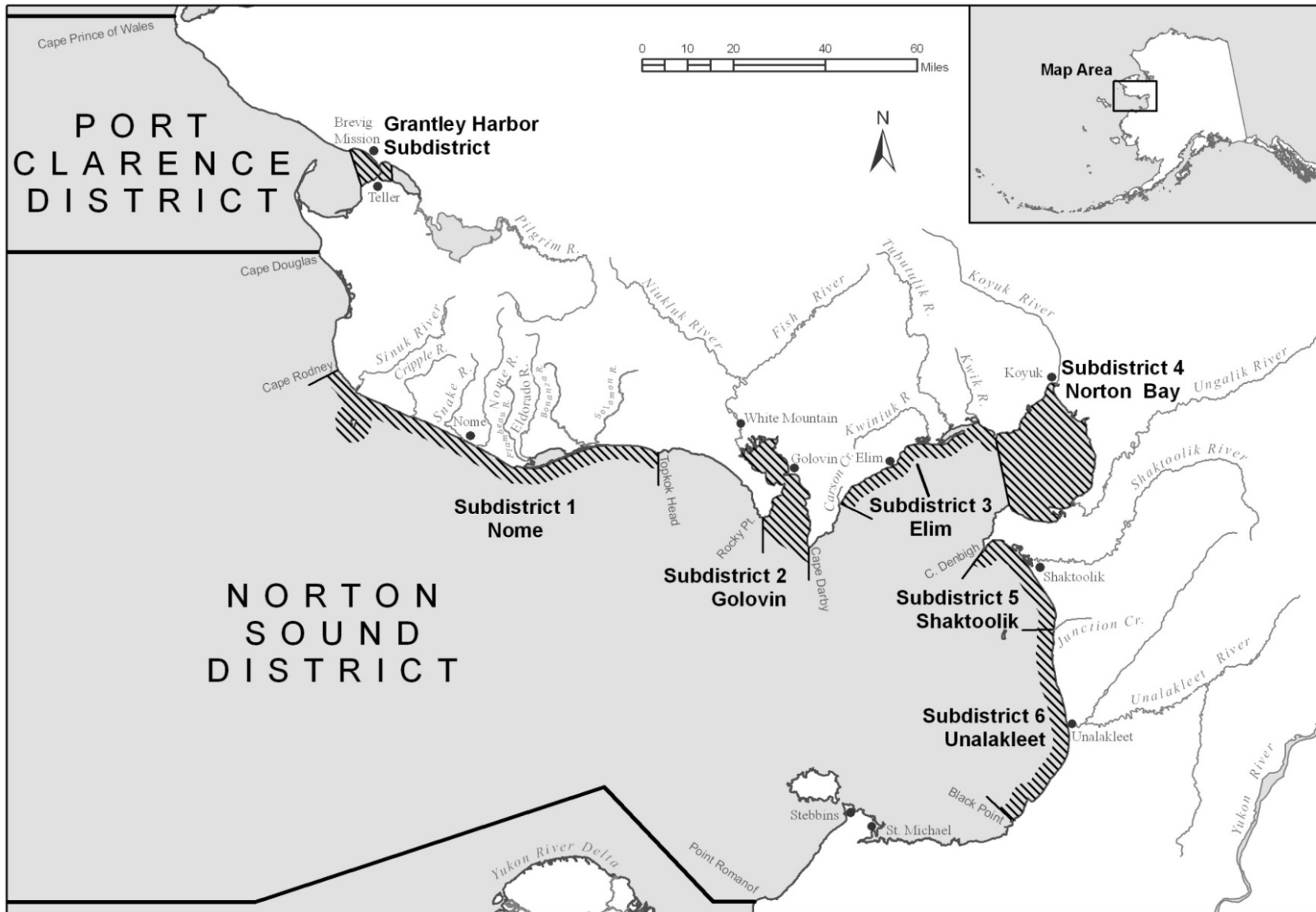
- **Stock Status Summary**
- **Management Action Plan**

Southern Norton Sound King Salmon Subdistricts 5 & 6

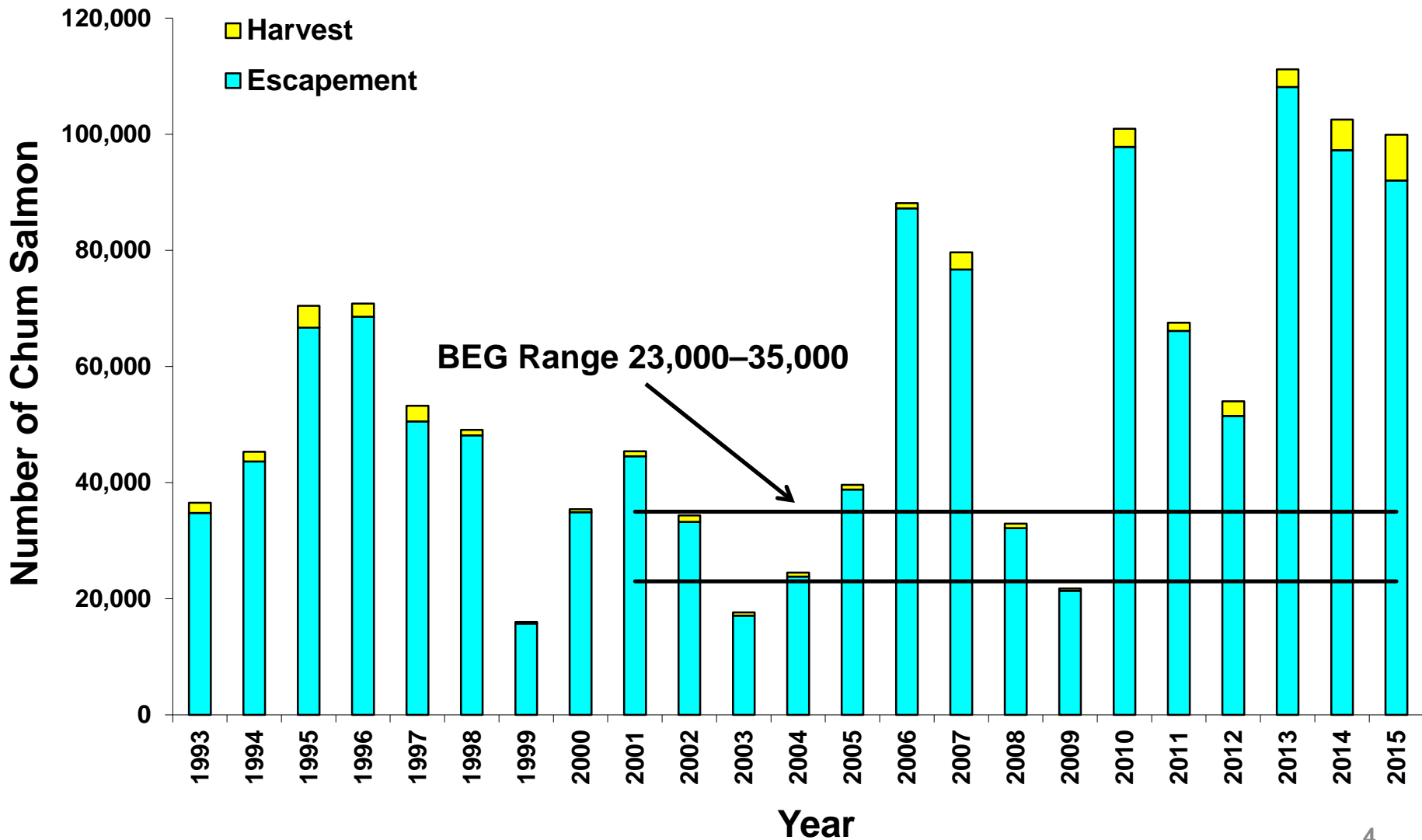
- **Stock Status Summary**
- **Management Action Plan**



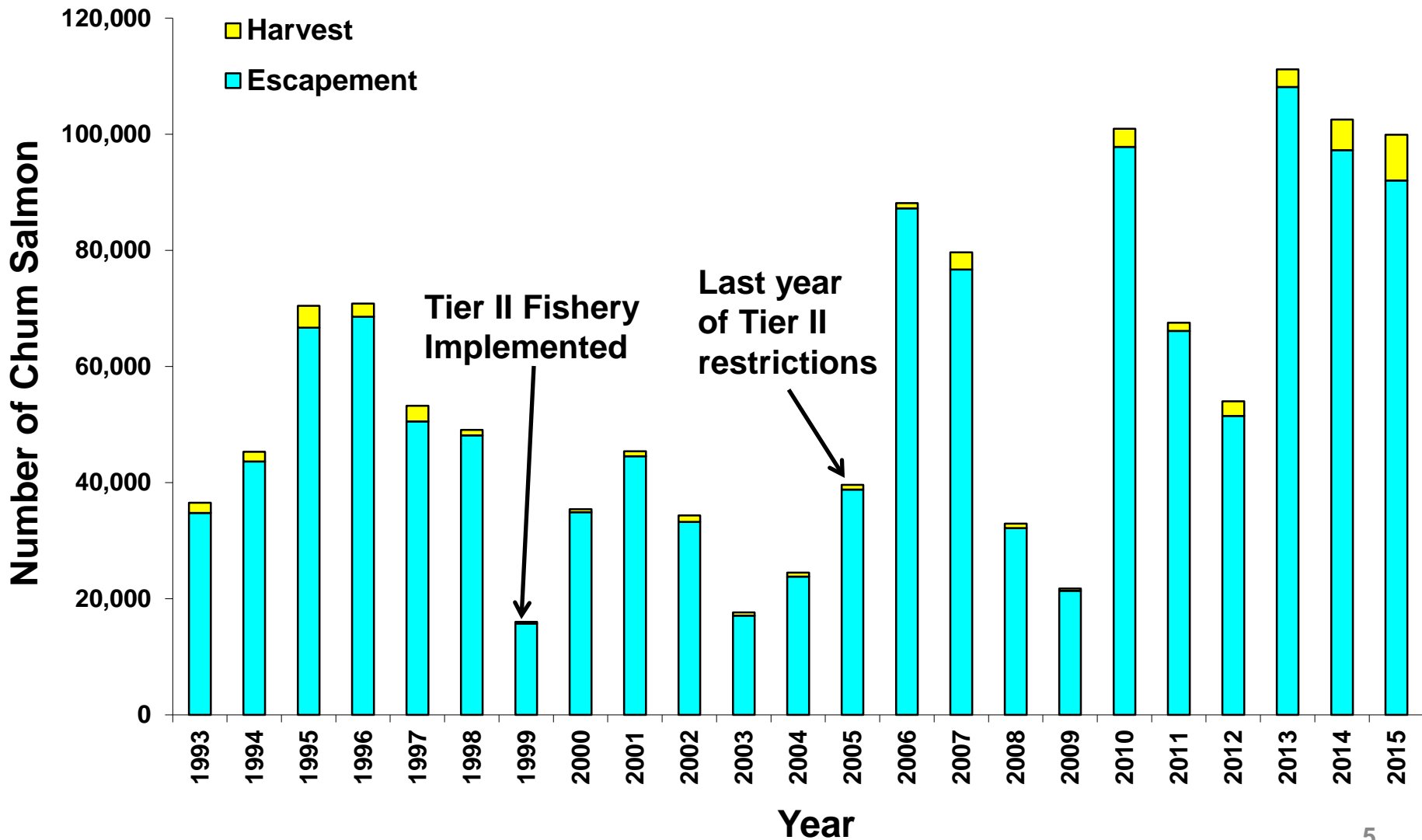
Norton Sound Commercial Salmon Fishing Districts and Subdistricts



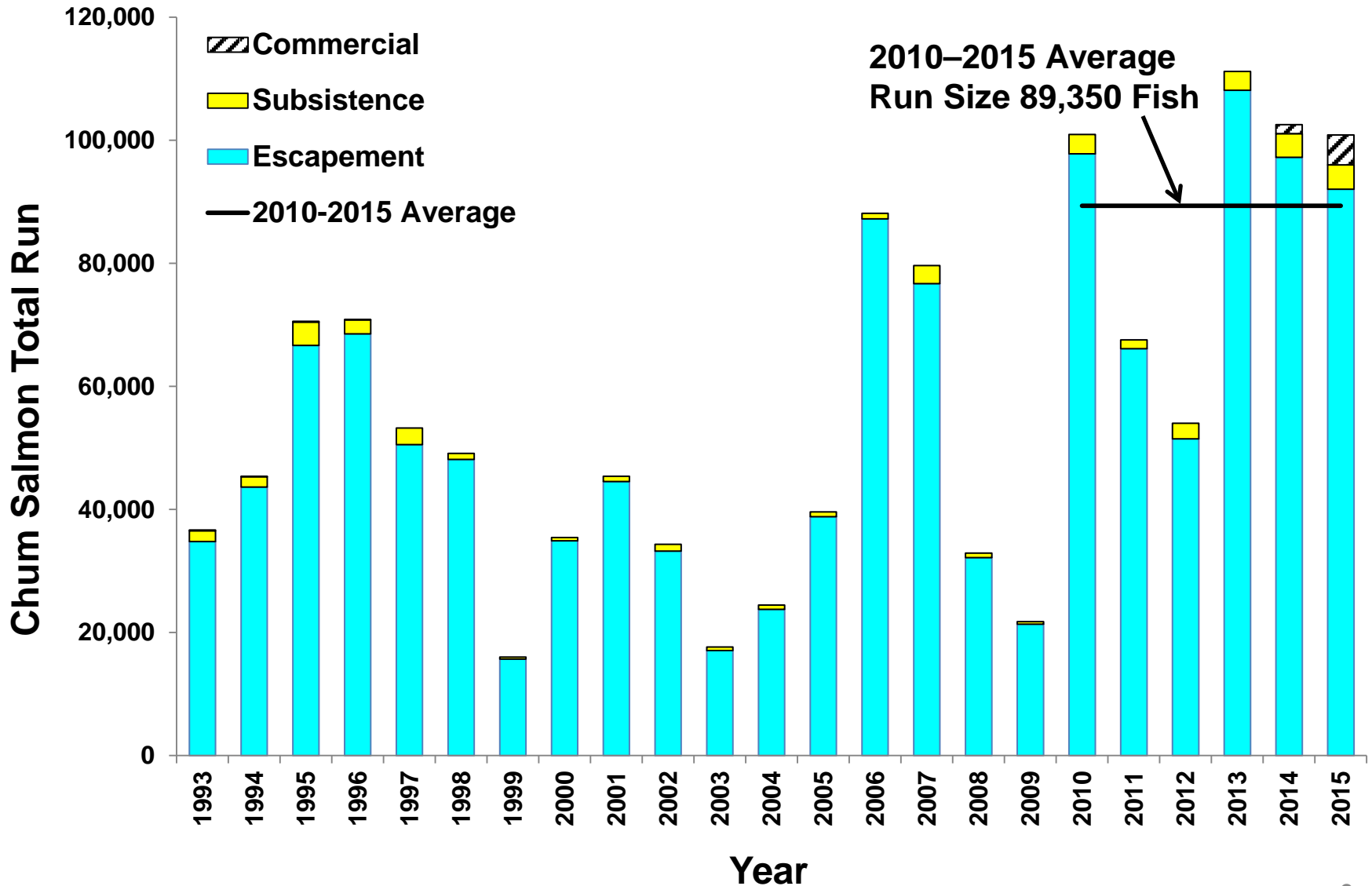
Subdistrict 1 Chum Salmon Subsistence Harvests and Escapements



Subdistrict 1 Chum Salmon Subsistence Harvests and Escapements



Subdistrict 1 Estimated Chum Salmon Escapements, and Commercial and Subsistence Harvests

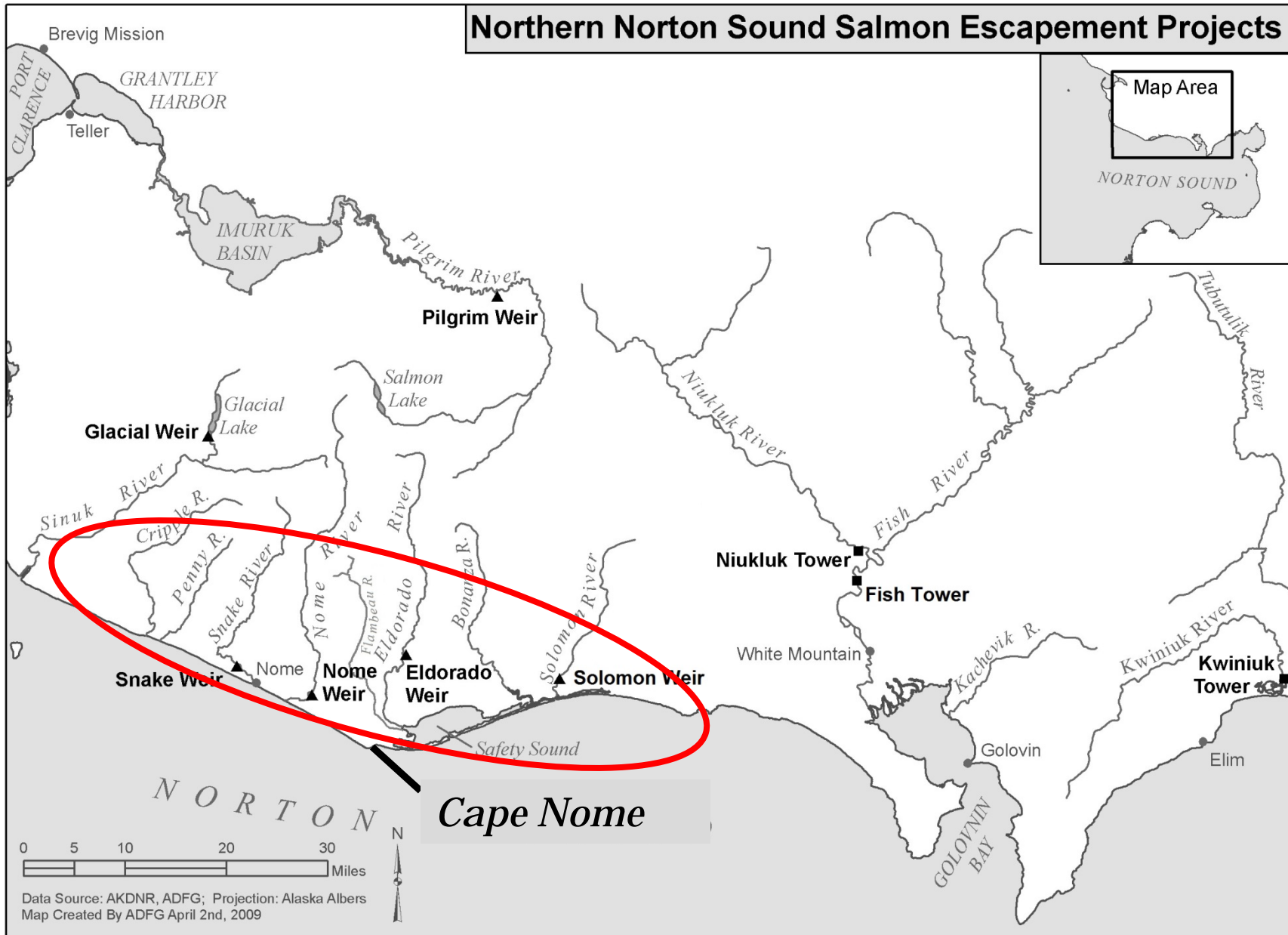


Subdistrict 1 Chum Salmon Stock Summary

Improved runs in recent years

- **Escapements met or exceeded**
- **Available yield at historical levels**
- **Subsistence harvest shifted to other species**
- **Eastern stocks improved more quickly than western stocks, but western stocks have also improved**
 - **Relevant to proposal 131**

Subdistrict 1 Chum Salmon

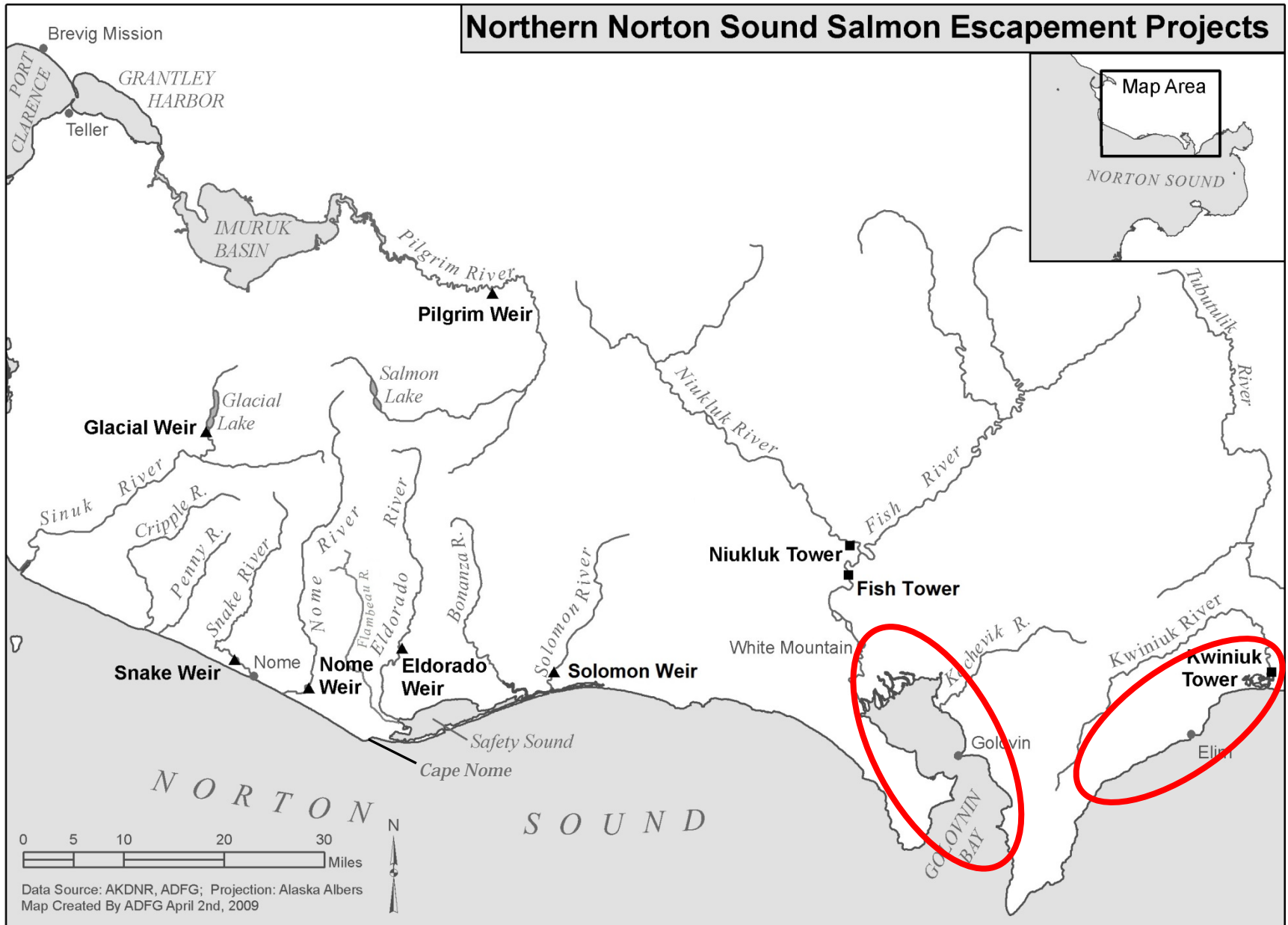


Proposals Affecting Subdistrict 1

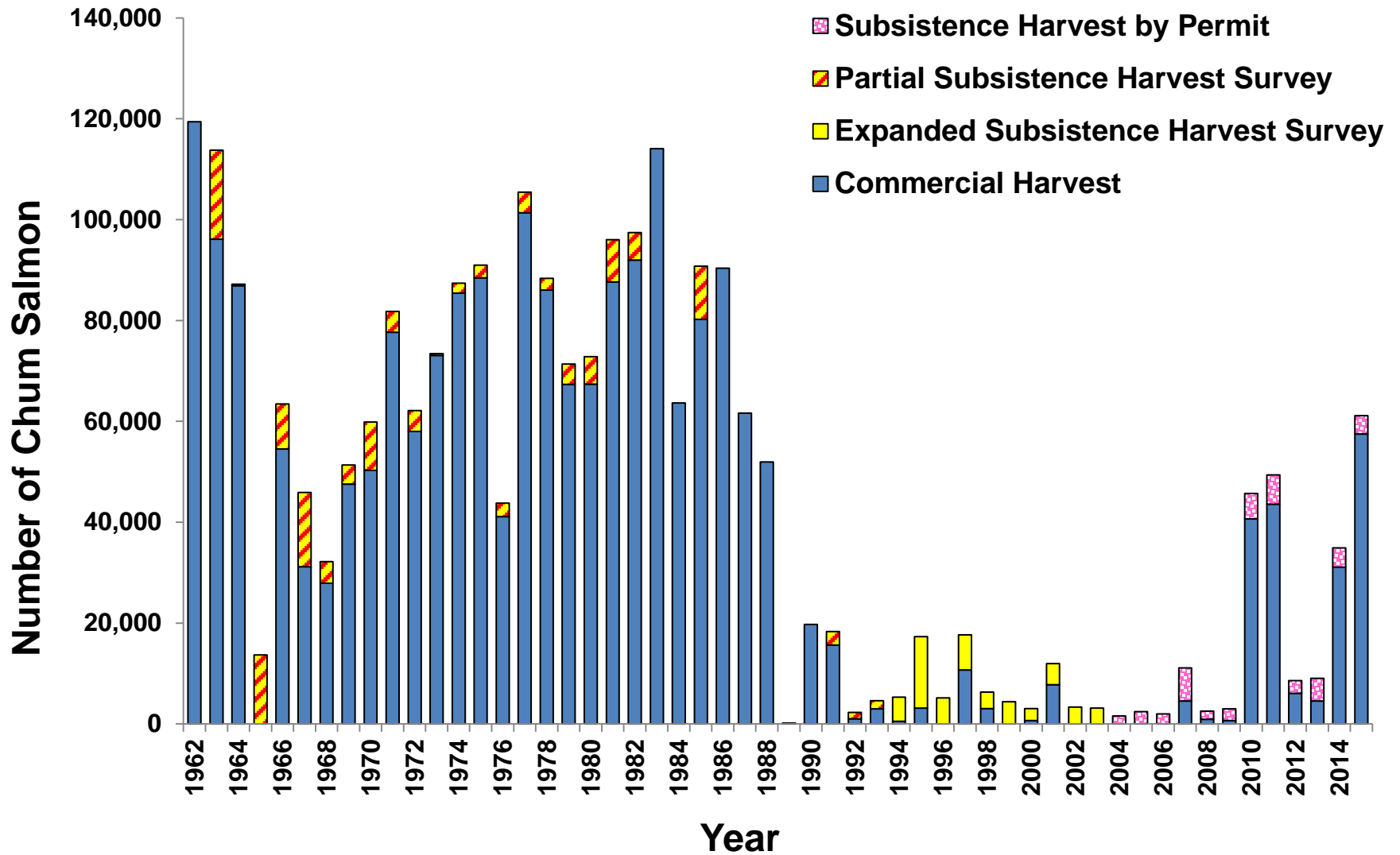
Proposal 131—Would increase subsistence fishing time in freshwater areas and marine waters west of Cape Nome. Seeks to also increase the length of subsistence beach seining season.



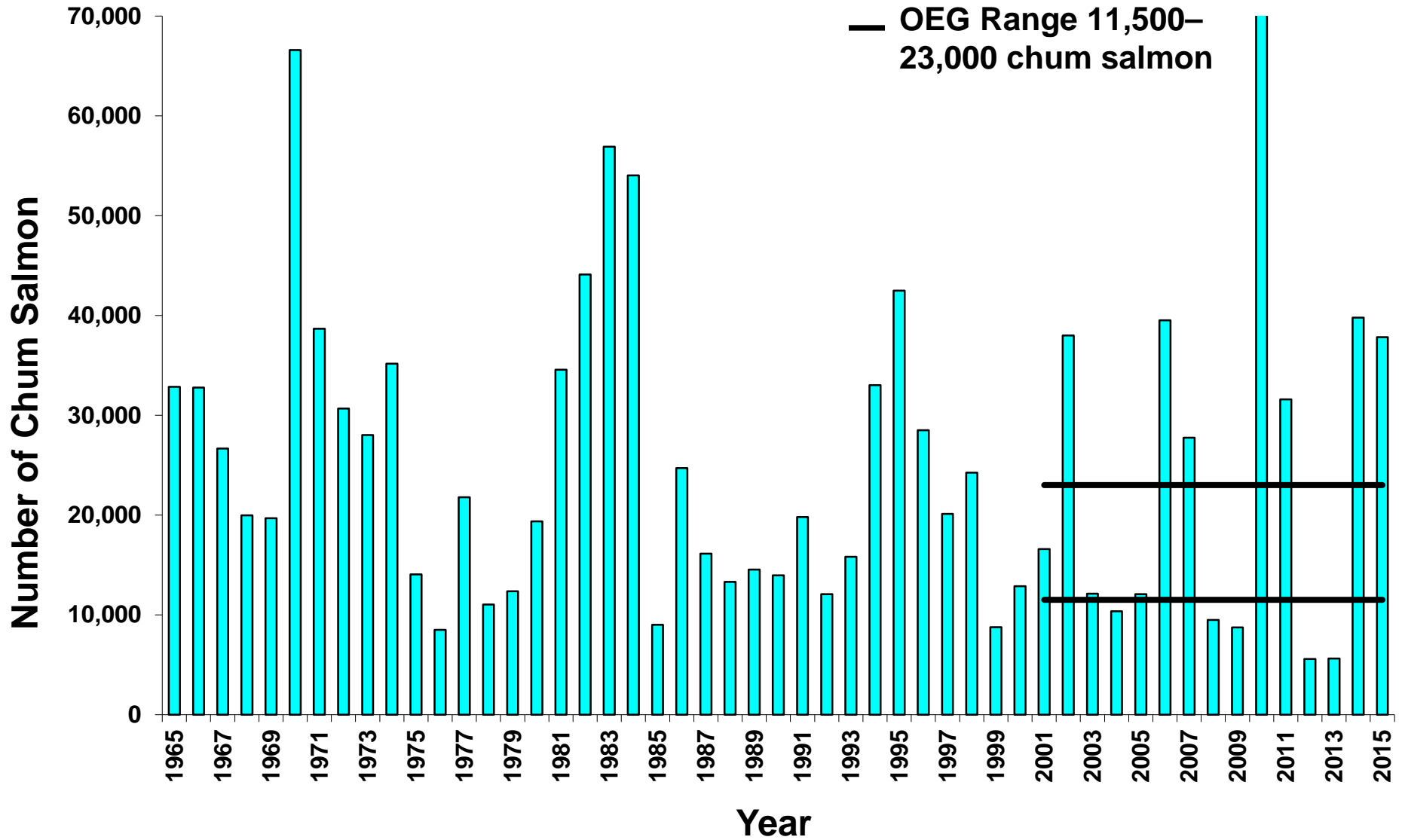
Subdistricts 2 and 3 Chum Salmon



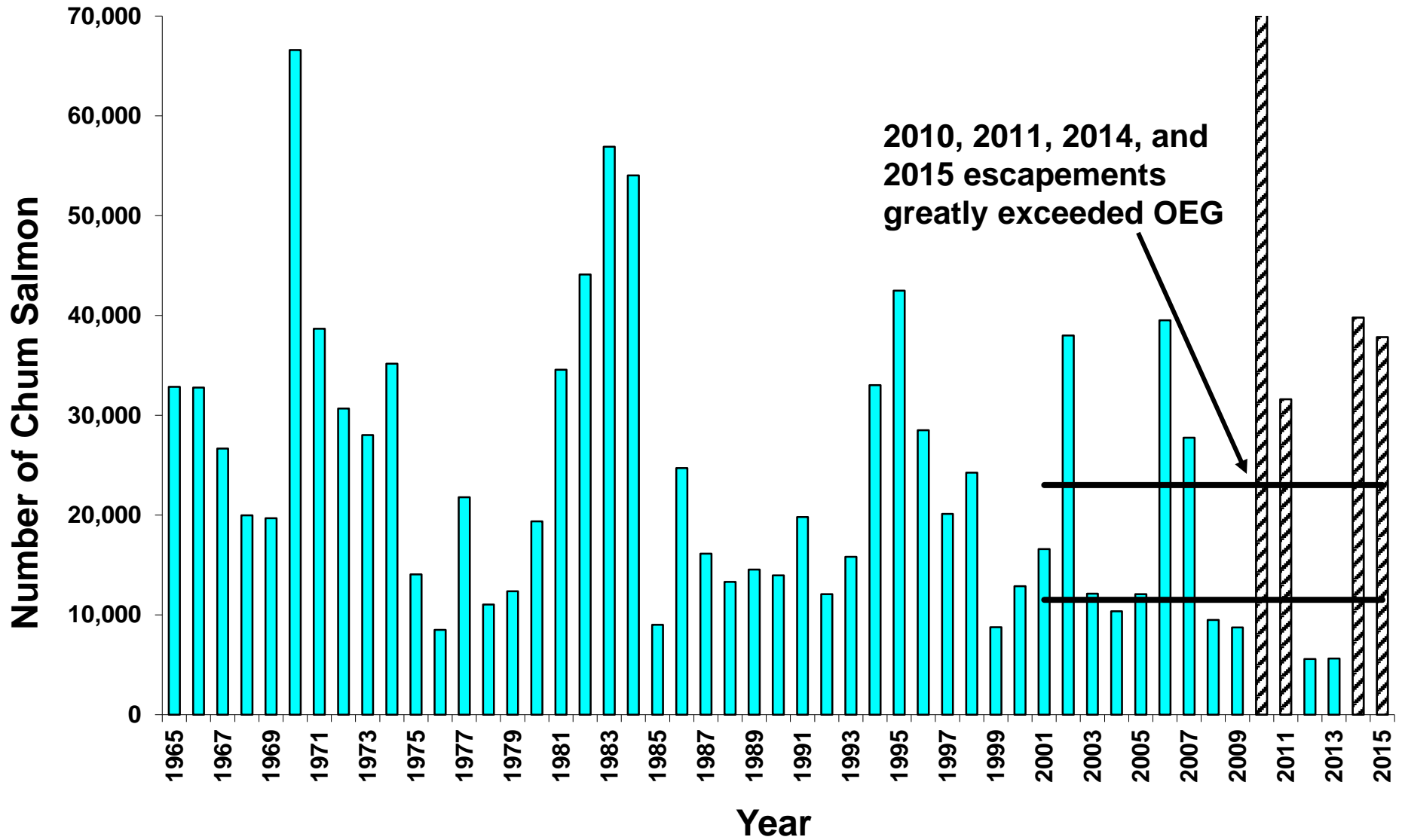
Subdistricts 2 & 3 Commercial and Subsistence Chum Salmon Harvests



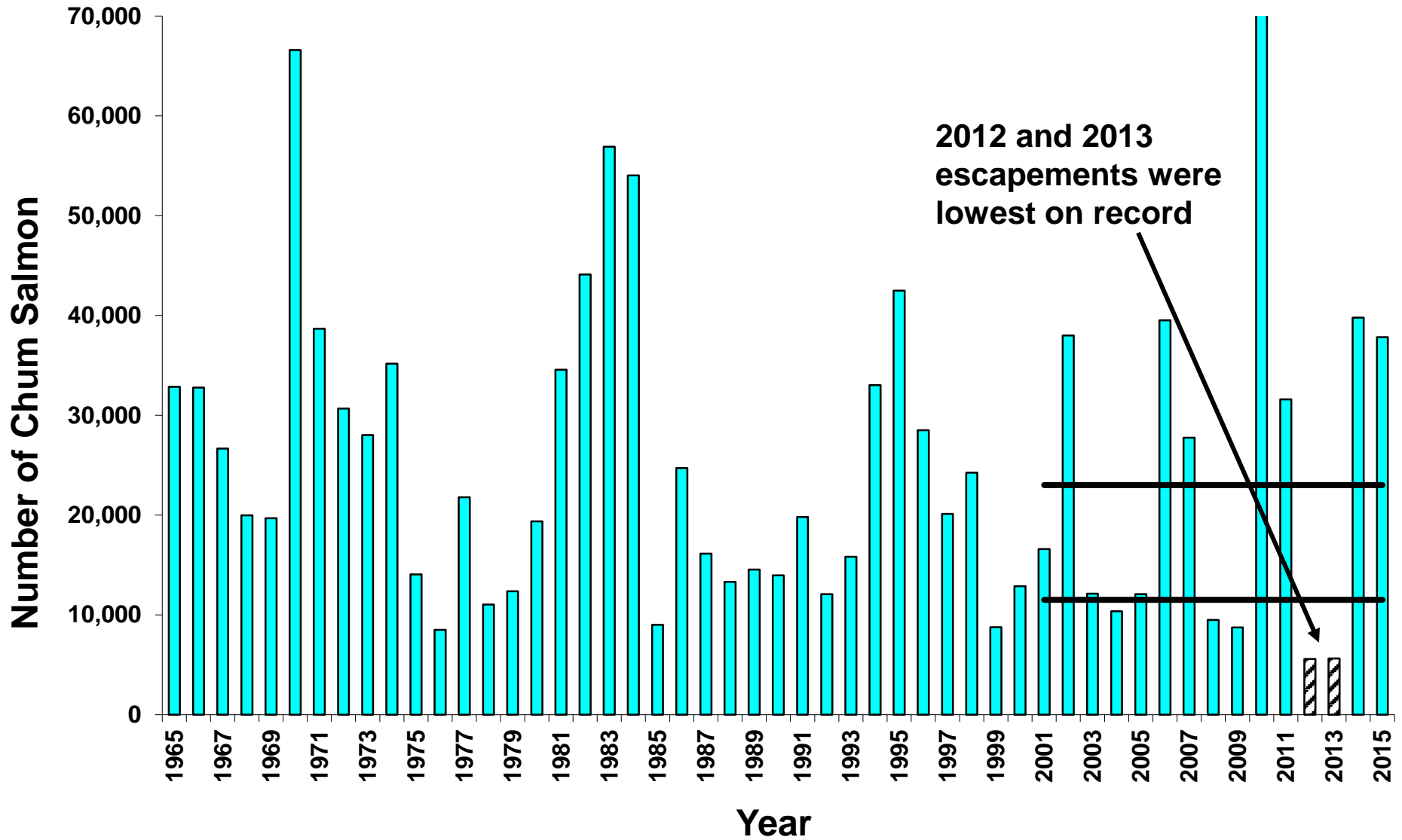
Kwiniuk River Chum Salmon Escapements



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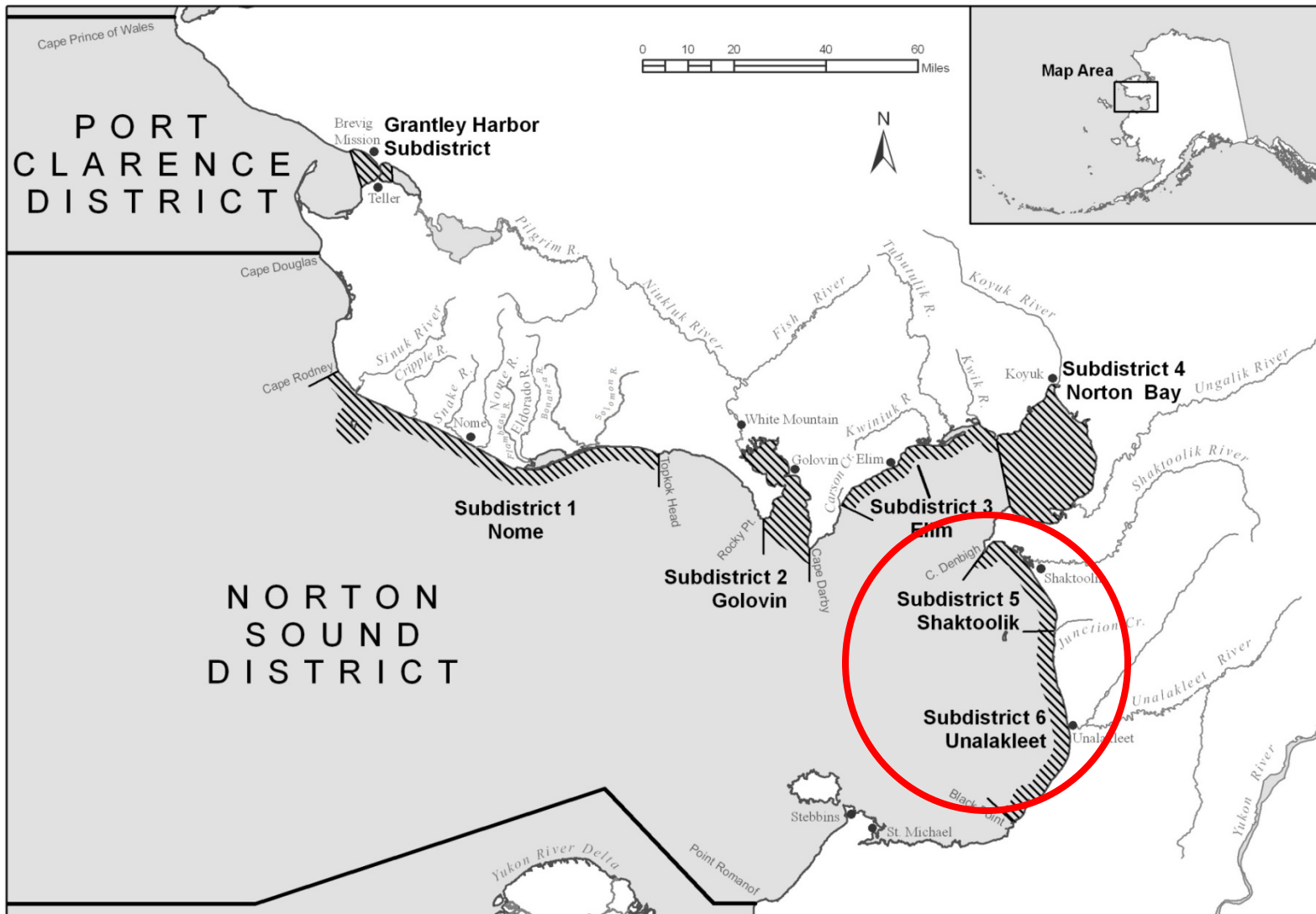
Subdistricts 2 and 3 Chum Salmon Stock of Concern Summary

- **Harvests highly variable, and either well above or well below historical yield in subdistricts 2 and 3**
- **Escapement success has been inconsistent in recent years either well above or below escapement goals**
- **Recommend this stock remain a stock of yield concern**

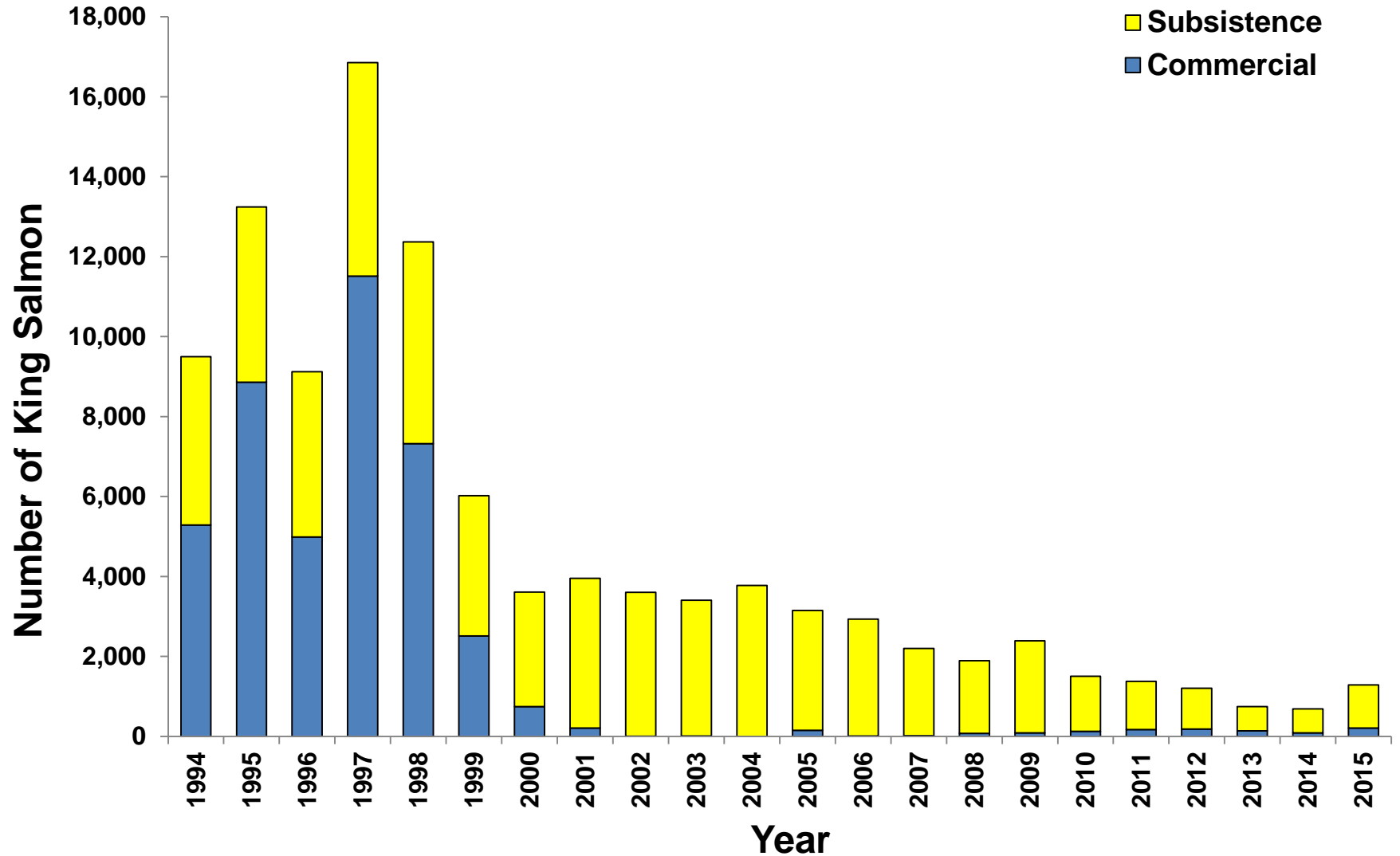
Management Action Plan

- **Use Kwiniuk tower escapement, Fish River drainage aerial surveys, and commercial CPUE to assess chum salmon abundance inseason**
- **Continue efforts with NSEDC to develop ground-based escapement monitoring in Subdistrict 2**

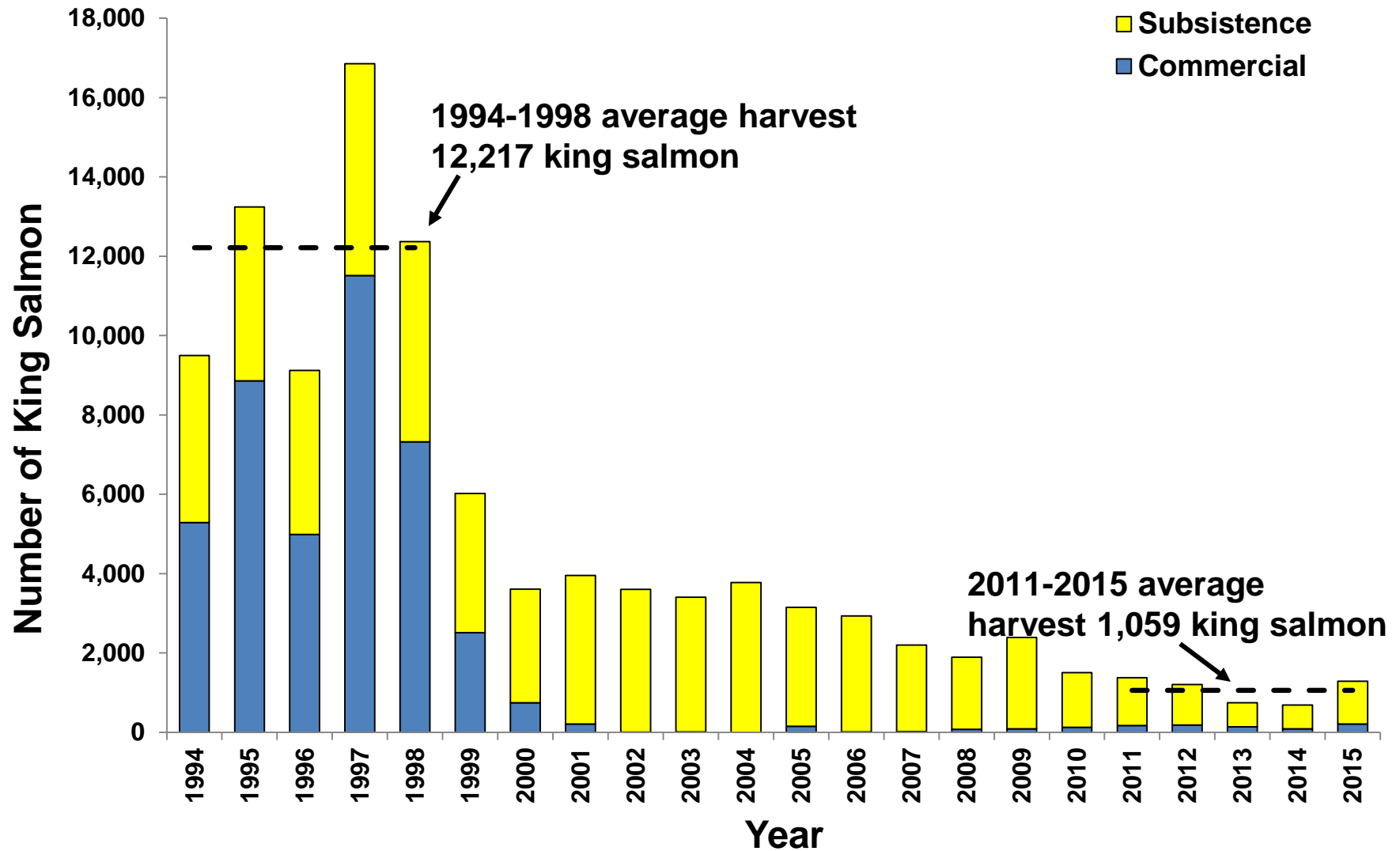
Norton Sound Commercial Salmon Fishing Districts and Subdistricts



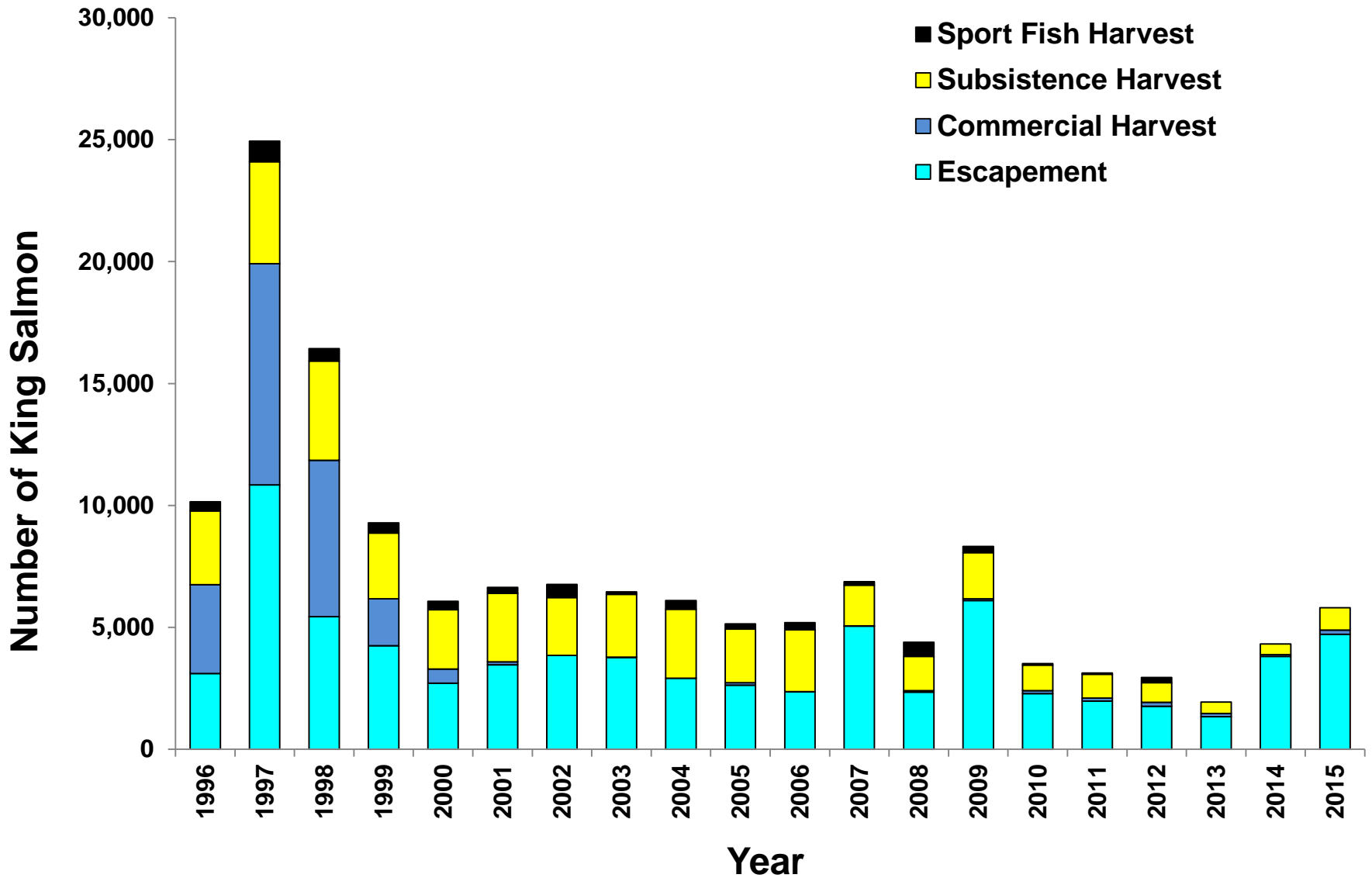
Subdistricts 5 and 6 Commercial and Subsistence King Salmon Harvests, 1994-2015



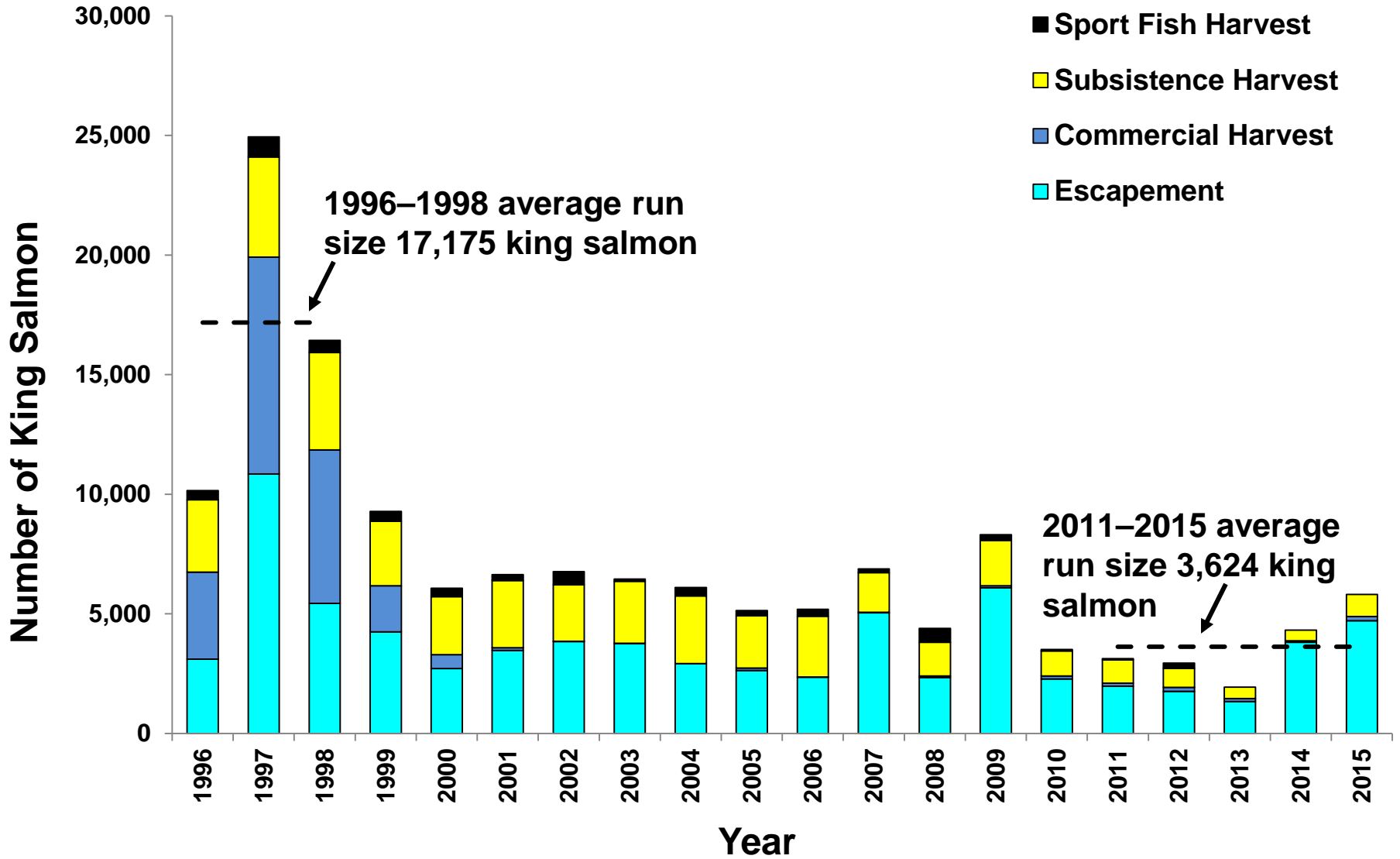
Subdistricts 5 and 6 Commercial and Subsistence King Salmon Harvests, 1994-2015



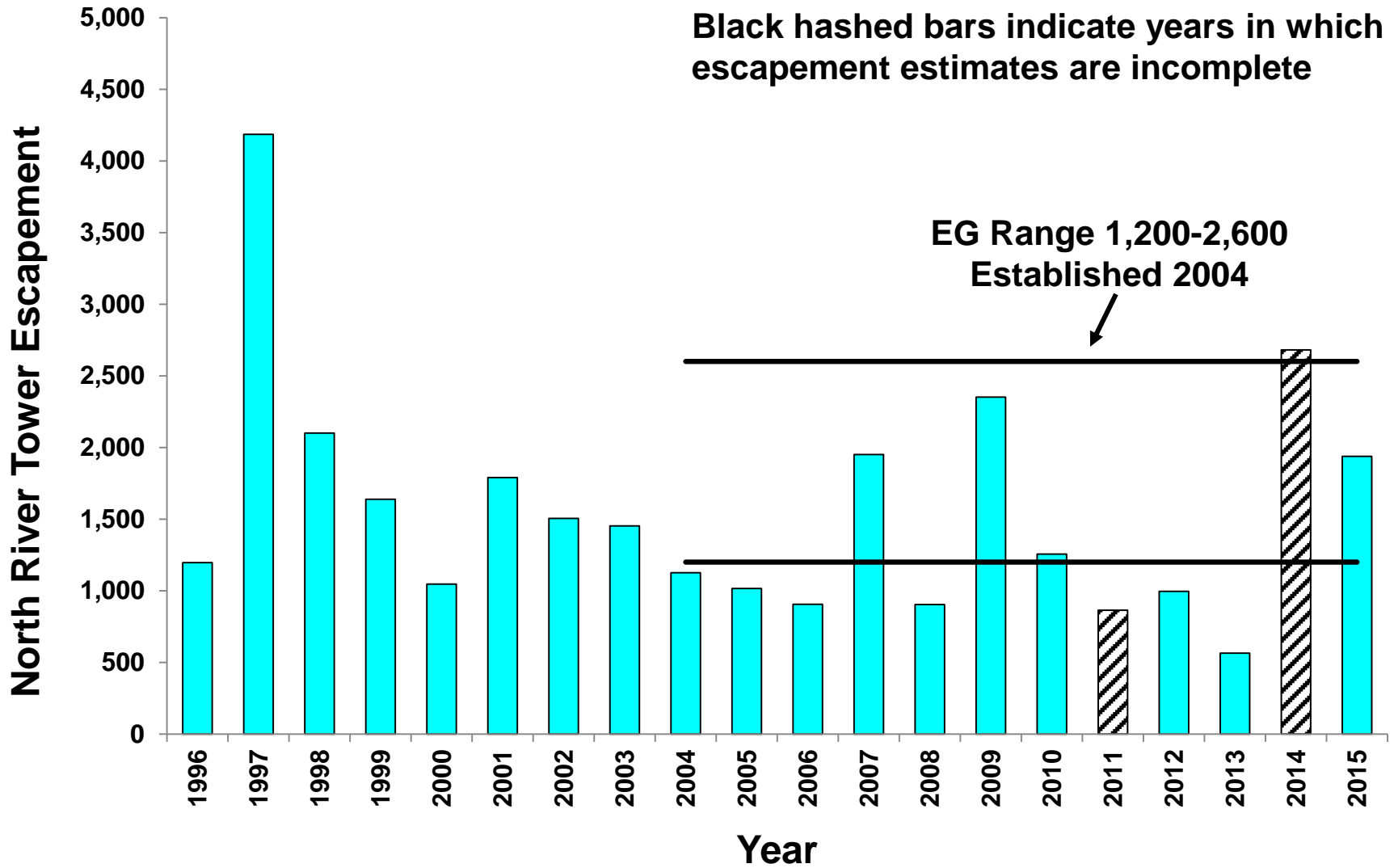
Unalakleet River King Salmon Total Run Size, 1996–2015



Unalakleet River King Salmon Total Run Size, 1996–2015



North River Tower King Salmon Escapements, 1996–2015



Subdistricts 5 and 6 King Salmon Stock of Concern Summary

- **King salmon runs declined in 2000s**
- **Escapement goals met in 2 of the previous 5 years**
- **Increased restrictions on fisheries**
- **Recommend this stock remain a stock of yield concern**

Management Action Plan

- **No directed king salmon commercial fishing**
- **Incidental harvest may not be sold**
- **Continue combination of fishing time reductions and mesh size restrictions to minimize harvest of king salmon**
- **Use gear and time restrictions in pink and chum salmon commercial fishery to protect king salmon**

Proposals Affecting Subdistricts 5 and 6 Salmon

Proposal 133 – Establish a commercial beach seine fishery for chum and pink salmon.



Proposals Affecting all Norton Sound Subdistricts

Proposal 129 – During times of conservation, require the return of a specified salmon species immediately to the water unharmed during beach seining

Proposal 130 – Allow the restriction of gillnet mesh size in the subsistence fishery during times of conservation for chum and king salmon

Proposals Affecting all Norton Sound Subdistricts Continued

Proposal 132 – Would designate cast nets and dip nets as legal subsistence fishing gear throughout the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for salmon and other finfish



Acknowledgements

NSEDC

Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund

Sitnasuak Native Corporation

Unalakleet Native Corporation

White Mountain Native Corporation

Elim Native Corporation

Bering Straits Native Corporation

Native Village of Unalakleet

U.S. National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and FWS-OSM

THE END OF THE TRAIL

