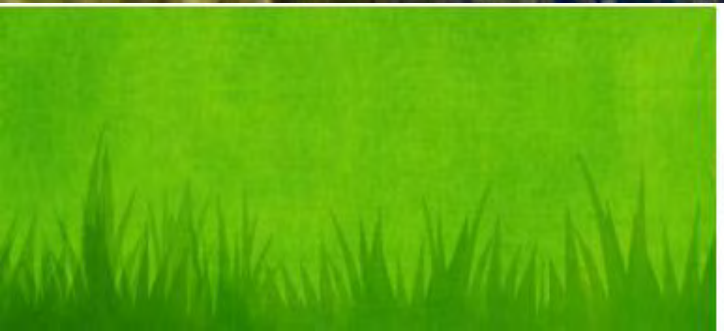




2017 Alaska Board of Fisheries

EAST SIDE SETNETTERS





The ♥ of
Upper Cook Inlet
is
SOCKEYE SALMON!!

Trade-off



Chinook

Sport Fisherman

- 301 Registered Guides
- Private Resident Anglers

Economic

- Local businesses
- Tourism



Personal Use

- 34,315 Household Permits
- 100,000 Alaskan Residents

Subsistence

Native Tribes

Commercial

- 1305 Upper Cook Inlet Permits
- 5000 Jobs

Processors & Buyers

- Over 19 Major Buyers for UCI

Sport Fisherman

- Increased guided anglers
- Private Anglers

Economic

- Local businesses
- Tourism

Sockeye



More Alaskan residents benefit from a healthy sockeye run.

ESCAPEMENT GOALS

SEG

Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is an estimate based on historical performance and other factors. An SEG is meant to conserve stocks over a five to 10 year period. It is used in situations where a biological escapement goal cannot be estimated because there is no stock-specific catch information. The sustainable escapement goal is the primary management objective for escapement. The SEG is used unless an optimal escapement (OEG) or in-river run goal has been adopted by the BOF. An SEG is developed by ADF&G using biological data. The SEG are the Spawners that escape to the spawning grounds.

OEG

Optimum Escapement Goal (OEG) allows for sustainable runs based on biological needs of the stock and ensures healthy returns for all user groups. The Optimum escapement goals are set by the BOF. An OEG is a management objective that considers biological and allocative factors. OEGs are set by the BOF. The OEG are the Spawners that escape to the spawning grounds.

In-River

In-river Goal is a specific management objective for salmon stocks that are subject to harvest upstream of where the escapement is estimated; the inriver run goal will be set in regulation by the BOF and is comprised of the SEG, BEG or OEG, plus specific allocations to in-river fisheries.

Kenai River Sockeye Goals

SEG- 700,000 - 1.2 million Spawners

OEG-700,000 - 1.4 million Spawners (Set by BOF in 2011)

In-river Goals

Runs of 2.3 million or less: In-River Goal 900,000 -1.1 million

- Allocates 200,000 - 400,000 Sockeye to in-river
- ESSN may have up to 24 hours of Emergency Order time

Runs 2.3 million to 4.6 million: In-River Goal 1 million -1.2 million

- Allocates 300,000 - 500,000 Sockeye to in-river
- ESSN may have up to 51 hours of Emergency Order time

Runs greater than 4.6 million: In- River Goal 1.1 million -1.35 million

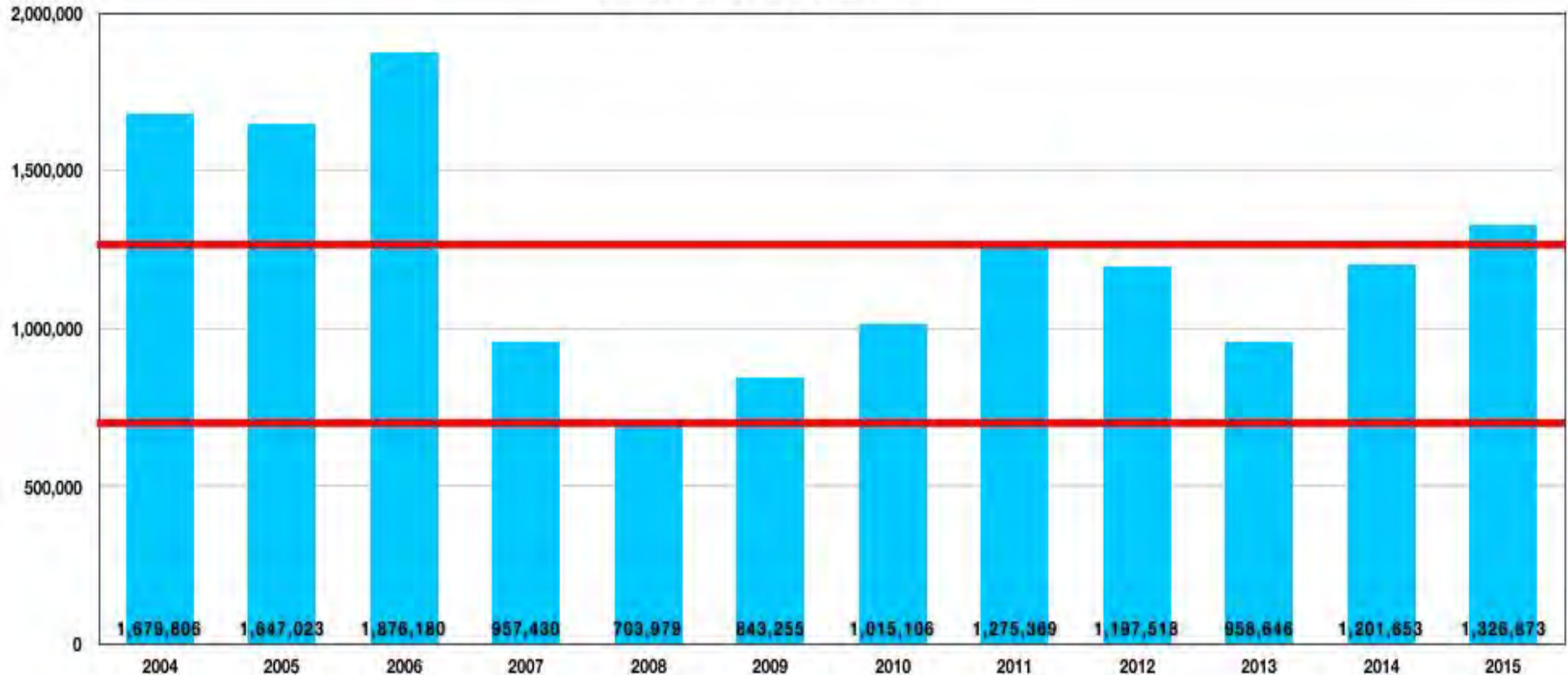
- Allocates 400,000 - 650,000 Sockeye to in-river
- ESSN may have up to 84 hours of Emergency Order time

SOCKEYE



KENAI RIVER spawners

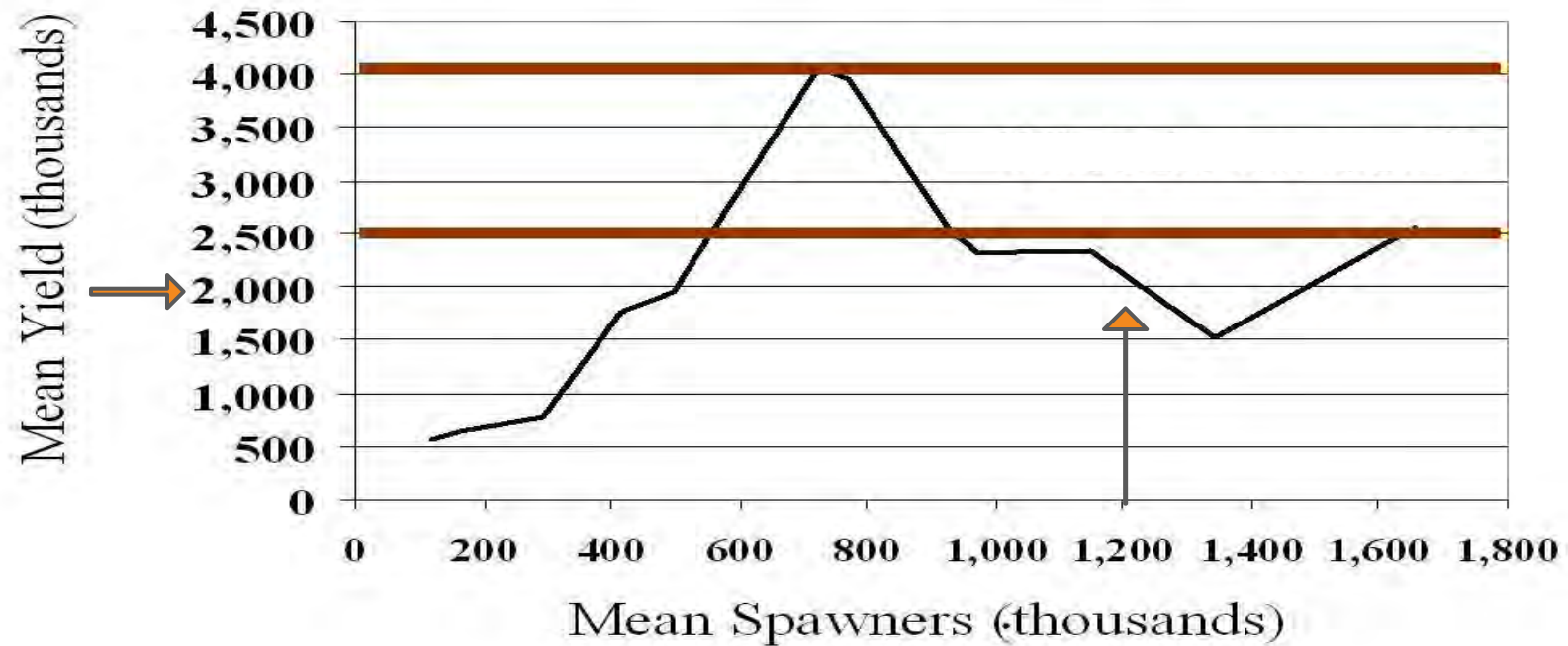
Kenai River Sockeye Escapement



The 12 year average of spawners in the Kenai River is 1,223,553
Why should this CONCERN us?

What Kenai Sockeye Salmon YIELDS Do We Want?

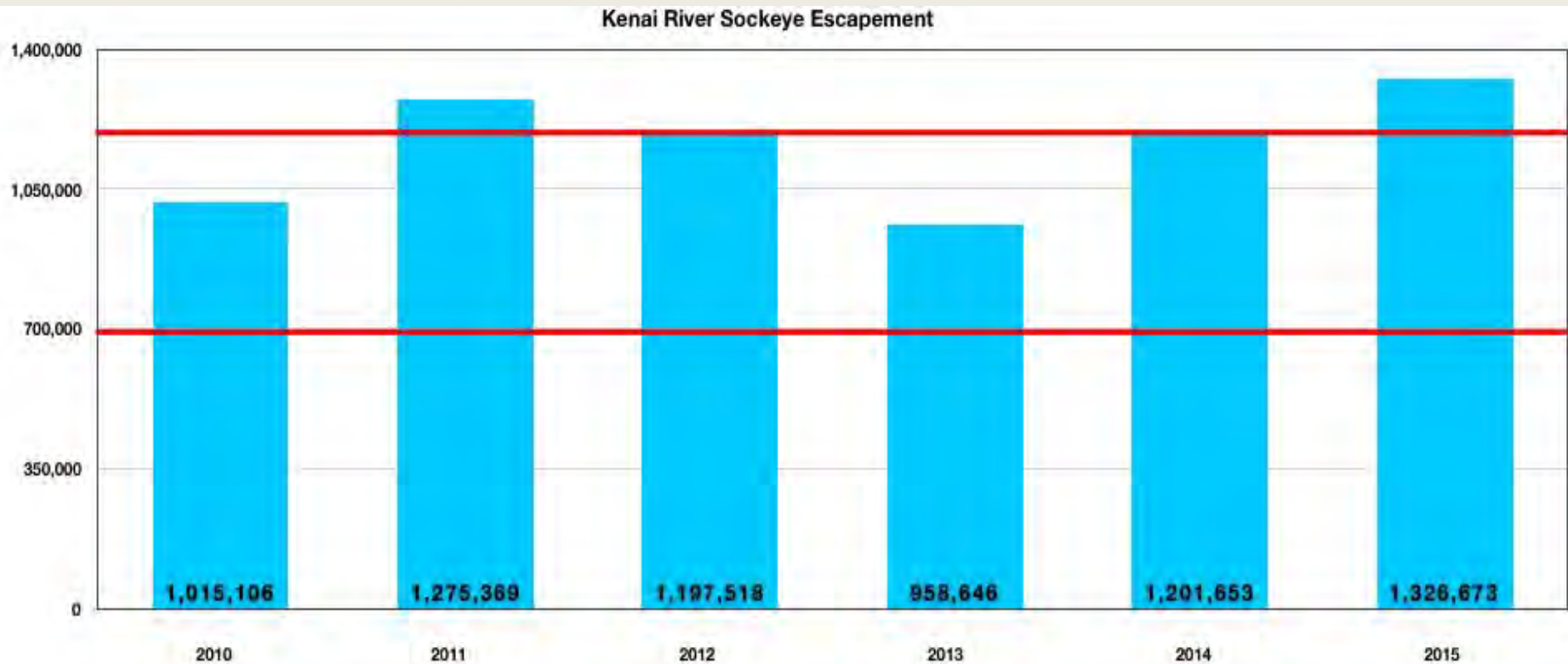
Mean Yield of Kenai River Sockeye Salmon at Various Spawner Densities



Future Yields are diminished on a salmon stock which the majority of Alaskans depend upon.

Source of Data : ADF&G - Actual measured values

KENAI RIVER spawners



According to the Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries, the department shall seek to maintain evenly distributed escapements among the SEG. The last 6 years the Kenai River has been at the upper limits of the SEG. In-river user groups are not harvesting what commercial fisherman are delivering to the Kenai River or we would have lower escapements.



2 Million Sockeye Return

**Personal use and Sport Fishery = 1 million Harvest
Spawners/Escapement = 1 million**

What is left for the Commercial Fishery?

Commercial Fishermen are being allocated out of the fishery.

HARVEST RATES Kenai River Sockeye

ESSN are a very *Important* Management Tool



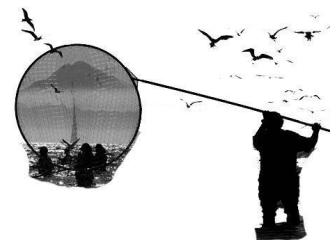
ESSN

Harvest **70%** of available sockeye in a 12 hour period



Drifters

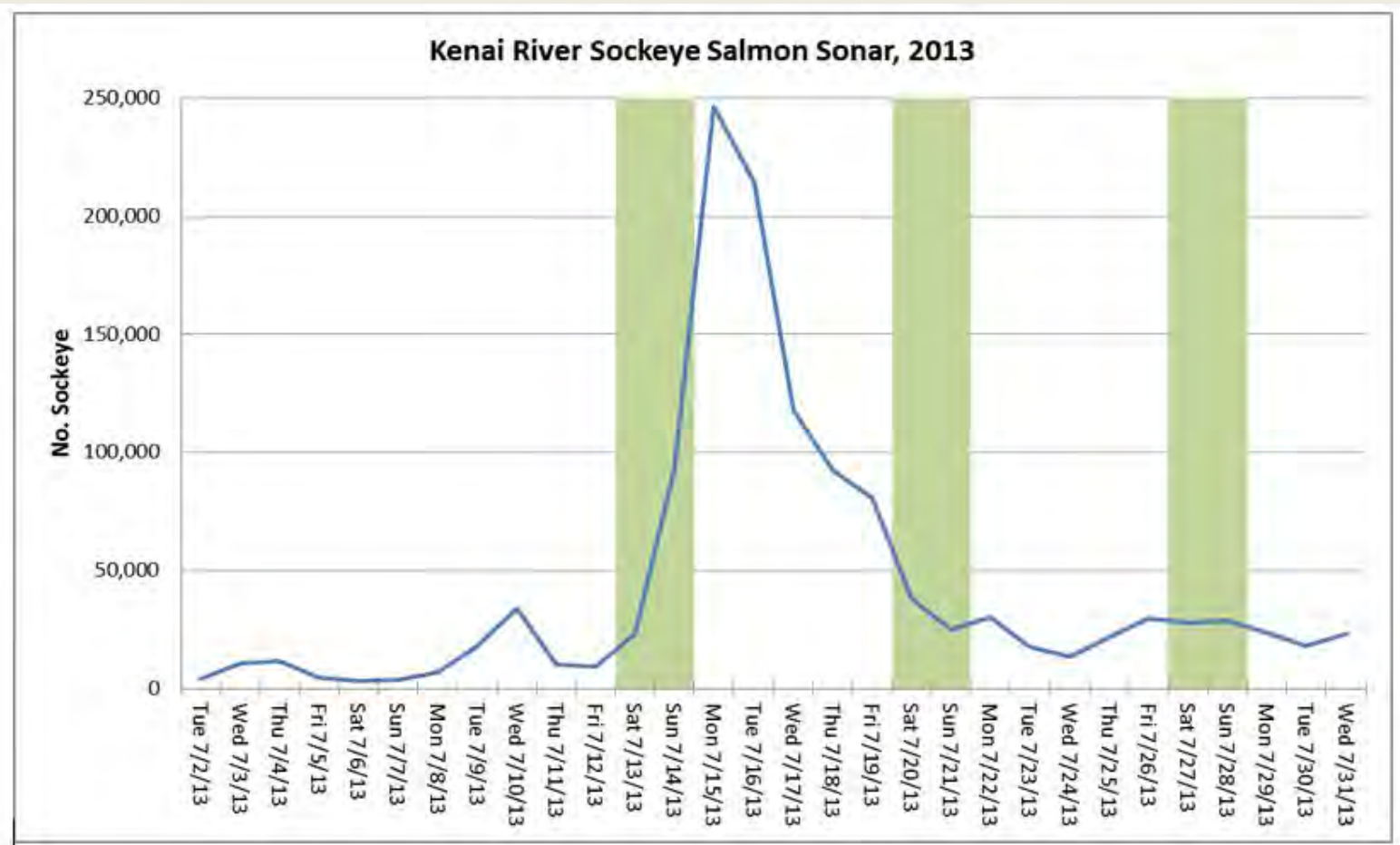
Harvest **40%** of available sockeye in a 12 hour period



Dipnet

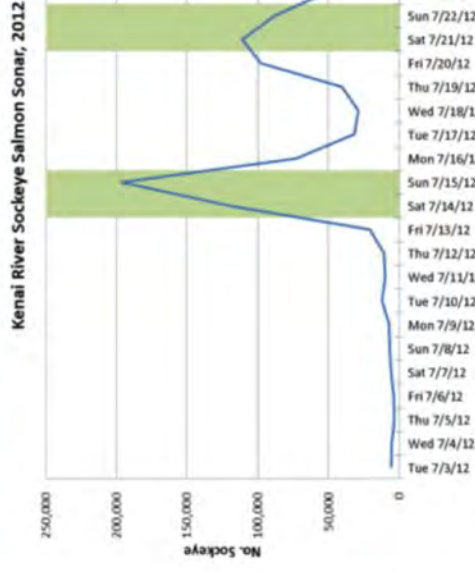
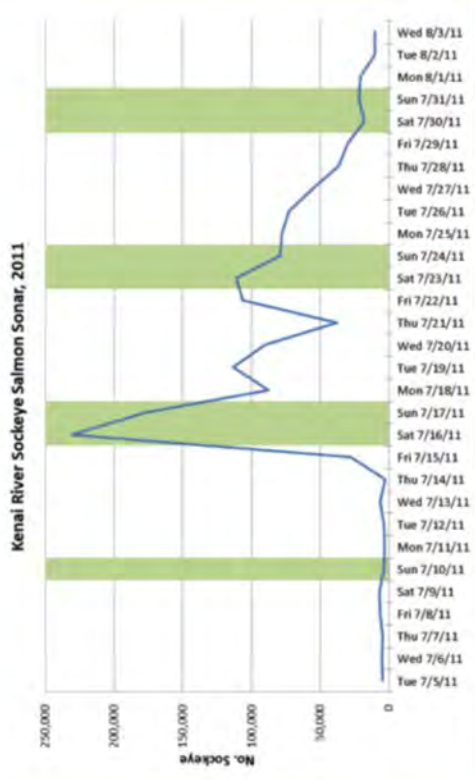
Harvest **30%** of available sockeye in a 12 hour period

KENAI RIVER sockeye timing



2013 is the FIRST year that a pulse of sockeye did not fall on a weekend.
Sockeye don't know what day of the week it is!!

KENAI RIVER sockeye timing



Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Sonar, 2015



Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Sonar, 2014





**Late-Run Chinook
KENAI RIVER**



KENAI RIVER escapement goal

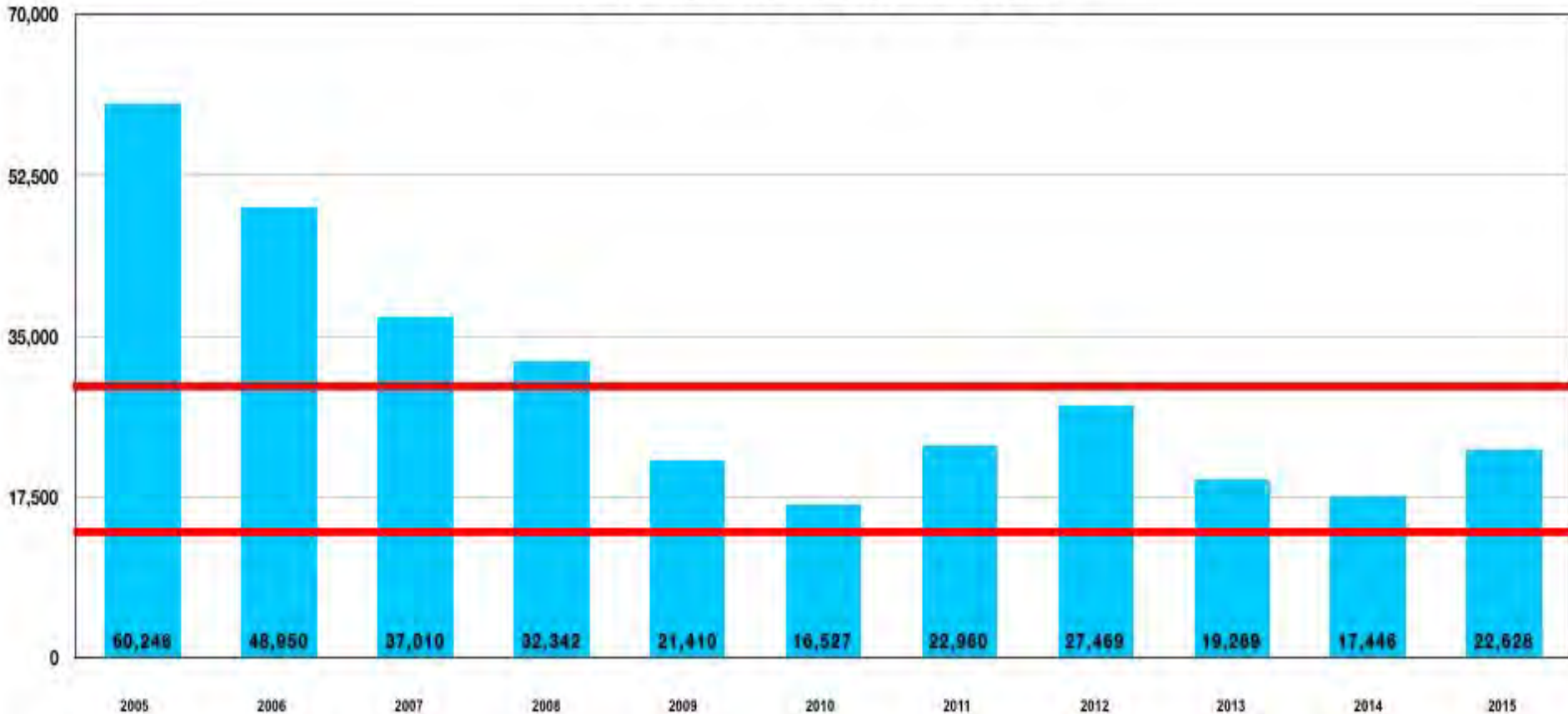
In 2013 ADF&G changed the Late-Run Chinook Salmon Escapement Goal to
15,000-30,000

Selection of an escapement goal always involves a tradeoff between risk to the stock (lower goals increase risk of overharvest) and risk to the fishery (higher goals increase risk of fishery restrictions). The recommended goal of 15,000 to 30,000 provides a **small safety factor** to reduce risk to the Chinook salmon stock. That is, the goal range is not centered with respect to maximum yield probabilities (Figure 8), nor with respect to expected sustained yields (Figure 9), being slightly higher than what would be required to symmetrically bracket these measures of yield performance. Along with the uncertainties discussed above, the primary reason for slightly elevating the recommended goal is that we have not yet experienced returns from escapements below 20,000 (Figure 12). The lowest escapement from which the return is complete was 23,830 (90% CI: 17,630-31,170) in 1997, which produced 59,000-88,370 (90% CI) returning adults (Table 4). Returns from the small 2009 escapement (22,320; 17,110-28,990) will commence as age-4 fish in 2013, and from the smaller 2010 escapement (16,320; 12,730-20,590) as age-4 fish in 2014 (Table 4).

This did **NOT** lower the goal, it was simply adjusting to the counting method with the new Didson sonar. In Fact, on Page 16 of the **Draft Escapement Goal Report**, the recommended goal of **15,000 to 30,000** provides a "small safety factor" to reduce risk to the Chinook salmon stock. Without the "safety factor" the NEW SEG would be **12,000-28,000**. (3,000 Chinook "safety factor")

KENAI RIVER late-run chinook

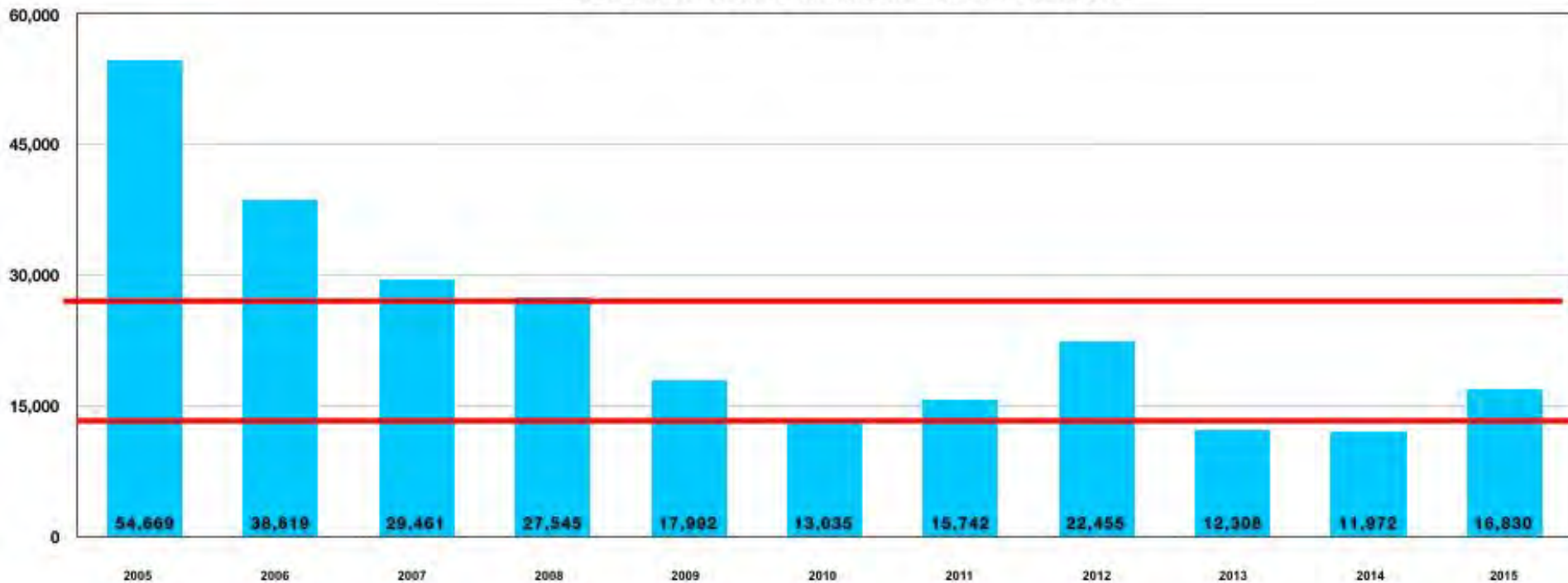
Late Run Kenai River Chinook Salmon ALL sizes



In 2013 ADF&G made an escapement goal for Late Run Kenai River Chinook of 15,000-30,000 ALL sizes. Due to weak runs there have been restrictions amongst all user groups. The escapement goal has never not been met, even with the safety factor.

KENAI RIVER late-run chinook

Late Run Kenai River Chinook Salmon 75 cm or longer

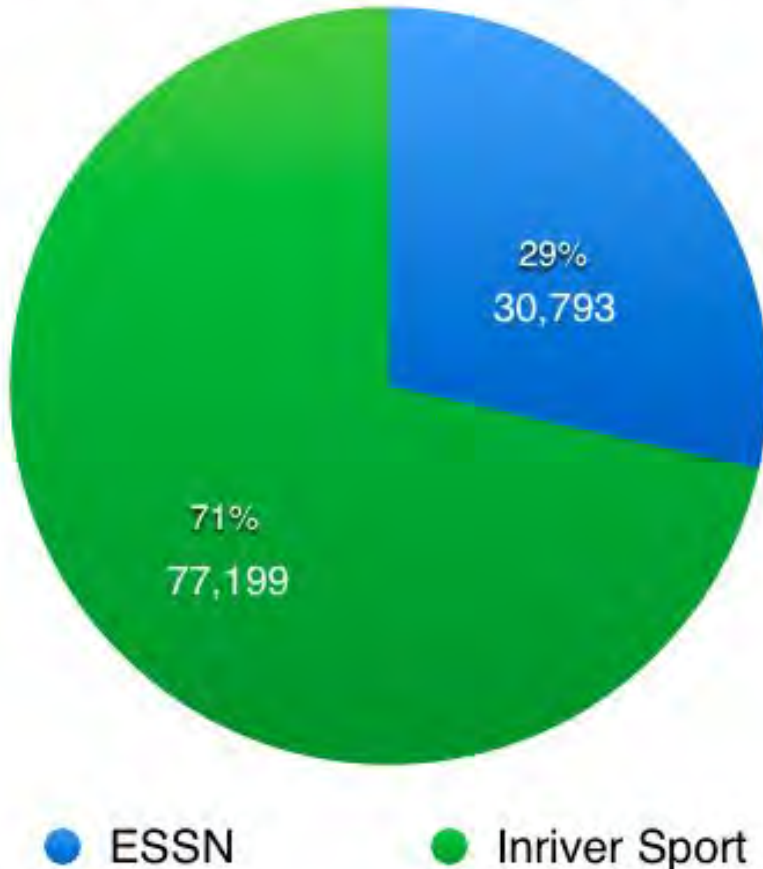


In Jan 2017 ADF&G came out with a new Escapement goal range, only counting **large** Chinook 75cm or longer. 13,500- 27,000 is the new goal. This was to simplify counting chinook inseason since accurate estimates of **small** Chinook salmon abundance are indirect, imprecise, time consuming, and difficult to obtain inseason.

According to ADF&G, recent late runs have been unusually low in abundance and small in body size. If such runs persist, the recommended late-run goal may provide less fishing opportunity than could have occurred under the current goal.

KENAI RIVER late-run chinook

Harvest for Kenai River late-run Chinook salmon 75cm METF and longer, 2005-2015



The Inriver sport fishery is the **PRIMARY** harvester of 75cm and longer chinook salmon. It is a **3:1 ratio**.

According to the policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries “burden of conservation” means the restrictions imposed by the board or department upon various users in order to achieve escapement, rebuild, or in some other way conserve a specific salmon stock or group of stocks; this burden, in the absence of a salmon fishery management plan, **will be generally applied to users in close proportion to the users' respective harvest of the salmon stock**

Therefore, we believe that inriver sport fisherman targeting king salmon **SHOULD** bear the burden of restrictions, because of their proportion to harvest of Large King Salmon **BEFORE** setnetters, who target sockeye out in Cook Inlet.

CHINOOK regulations

What restrictions do ESSN take for Chinook Conservation?

ESSN	In-River Fishery
<p>2 Regular Periods: Monday & Thursday June 25- August 15 (Kasilof District) July 8- August 15 (Kenai District)</p>	<p>Open 7 days a week Guides allowed 5 days a week January 1-August 31</p>
<p>Kenai District does not start until July 8th-11th for the sole purpose of conserving Chinooks</p>	<p>July 1- July 31 Bait- One single hook.</p>
<p>Emergency Hour Limitations: No matter what sockeye are doing ESSN's have hour limitations</p>	<p>Slot limit: Only above Slikok Creek through July 14 to protect Early Run Kings and then there is no slot limit.</p>
<p>By regulation mesh on ESSN gear must be 6" or smaller to maximize sockeye harvest and reduce Chinook Harvest</p>	<p>1 per day/1 in possession 20" or longer (2 may be taken from Kenai River) 20" or less- 10 per day/10 in possession</p>
<p>Windows- We have specific closures for the sole purpose of moving fish into the river</p>	

Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan

5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan. (a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions.

(b) The department shall manage the late run of Kenai River king salmon to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 15,000 – 30,000 king salmon as described in this section.

(c) In the sport fishery,

(1) if the sustainable escapement goal is projected to be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, extend the sport fishing season up to seven days during the first week of August;

(2) from July 1 through July 31, a person may not use more than one single hook in the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake;

(3) that portion of the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a nonmotorized vessel on Mondays in July; for purposes of this paragraph, a nonmotorized vessel is one that does not have a motor on board.

(d) If the projected late-run king salmon escapement is less than 15,000 king salmon, the department shall

(1) close the sport fisheries in the Kenai River and in the salt waters of Cook Inlet north of the latitude of Bluff Point to the taking of king salmon;

(2) close the commercial drift gillnet fishery in the Central District within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River; and

(3) close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District.

(e) From July 1 through July 31, if the projected inriver run of late-run king salmon is less than 22,500 fish, in order to achieve the sustainable escapement goal and provide reasonable harvest opportunity, the commissioner may, by emergency order, establish fishing seasons as follows:

(1) in the Kenai River sport fishery,

(A) the use of bait is prohibited; or

(B) the use of bait and retention of king salmon are prohibited, and only one unbaited, barbless, single-hook, artificial lure, as described in 5 AAC 57.121(1)(J), may be used when sport fishing for king salmon;

(2) in the Kenai River personal use fishery, if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1) of this subsection, the retention of king salmon is prohibited in the personal use fishery;

(3) in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 21.360(c)(1)(B), (2)(B), and (3)(B), based on the abundance of sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers,

(A) if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(A) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 36 hours per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, during which the number of set gillnets operated may also be restricted to either

(i) three set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth or two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or

(ii) two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth or one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or

(B) if the use of bait and the retention of king salmon are prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(B) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 12 hours per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

(f) From August 1 through August 15, if the projected escapement of king salmon into the Kenai River is at least 16,500, but less than 22,500 fish, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 21.360(c)(1)(B), (2)(B), and (3)(B), the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict to no more than 36 hours of fishing time.

(g) Consistent with the purposes of this management plan and 5 AAC 21.360, if the projected inriver return of king salmon is less than 40,000 fish, the department may not reduce the closed waters at the mouth of the Kenai River described in 5 AAC 21.350(b).

(h) The provisions of this section do not apply to provisions of the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan contained in 5 AAC 21.365(f) that pertain to the Kasilof Special Harvest Area.