

RC on Optimal Escapement Goal By C&T Committee

The *Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals* (5 AAC 39.223) recognizes the establishment of salmon escapement goals as a joint responsibility of the department and the board and describes the concepts, criteria, and procedures for establishing and modifying salmon escapement goals

Optimal Escapement Goal

- Changing the Escapement Goal should be done through a proposal process to allow the public to comment on SEG.
- We support an Optimal Escapement Goal with a range from 28,000 to 55,000 for King Salmon in the Copper River.
- Preseason SEG set in 2002, King Salmon
- Sufficient King Salmon in the Copper River must reach spawning grounds.
- Department's recommendation to reduce the lower end of SEG to 18,500 for King Salmon in the Copper River is too low
- Reducing lower end SEG to 18,500 will eventually deplete King Salmon in the Copper River.
- In three of the years from 2007 to 2017, King Salmon escapement has been less than 24,000.
- Forecast for King Salmon escapement this summer - 2017 - was inaccurate.
- Subsistence fisheries was restricted to June 1st opening this year due to inaccurate forecast.
- Setting an Optimal Escapement Goal with a lower end of 28,000 will provide ADFG staff to make good sound decisions.
- King Salmon will be abundant and have a healthy, strong run strength.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STAFF COMMENTS ON COMMERCIAL, SPORT, AND SUBSISTENCE FINFISH
REGULATORY PROPOSALS,
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING
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In the 2005 escapement goal report, the evaluation team noted that the average escapement between 1980 and 2004, from a catch-age model, was approximately 26,000 king salmon and produced an average annual yield of about 48,000 fish.

Table 33-1.-Copper River king salmon in-river abundance and escapement summary, 1999-2013.

Year	Estimate source ^a	Inriver abundance	Inriver harvest	Estimated spawning escapement	Spawning escapement goal	Spawning escapement vs. goal
1999	ADF&G	32,090	15,933	16,157	-b	-b
2000	ADF&G	38,047	13,555	24,492	28,000-55,000	Below
2001	ADF&G	39,778	11,570	28,208	28,000-55,000	Within
2002	ADF&G	32,873	11,371	21,502	28,000-55,000	Below
2003	NVE	44,764	10,730	34,034	24,000 or greater	Within
2004	NVE	40,564	9,919	30,645	24,000 or greater	Within
2005	NVE	30,333	8,805	21,528	24,000 or greater	Below
2006	NVE	67,789	9,335	58,454	24,000 or greater	Within
2007	NVE	46,349	11,774	34,575	24,000 or greater	Within
2008	NVE	41,343	8,856	32,487	24,000 or greater	Within
2009	NVE	32,401	4,614	27,787	24,000 or greater	Within
2010	NVE	22,323	5,559	16,764	24,000 or greater	Below
2011	NVE	33,889	5,895	27,994	24,000 or greater	Within
2012	NVE	31,452	3,617	27,835	24,000 or greater	Within
2013	NVE	32,581	3,569	29,012	24,000 or greater	Within