

Norton Sound Chum and King Salmon Stock Status and Fishery Overview



**A Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, January, 2019
Presented by Jim Menard and Justin Leon**

RC 3: Written Reports, tabs 2 and 3

RC 3: Oral Reports, tab 15A

Outline

Northern Norton Sound Chum Salmon

- **Stock Status Summaries**
 - Subdistrict 1
 - Subdistricts 2 & 3

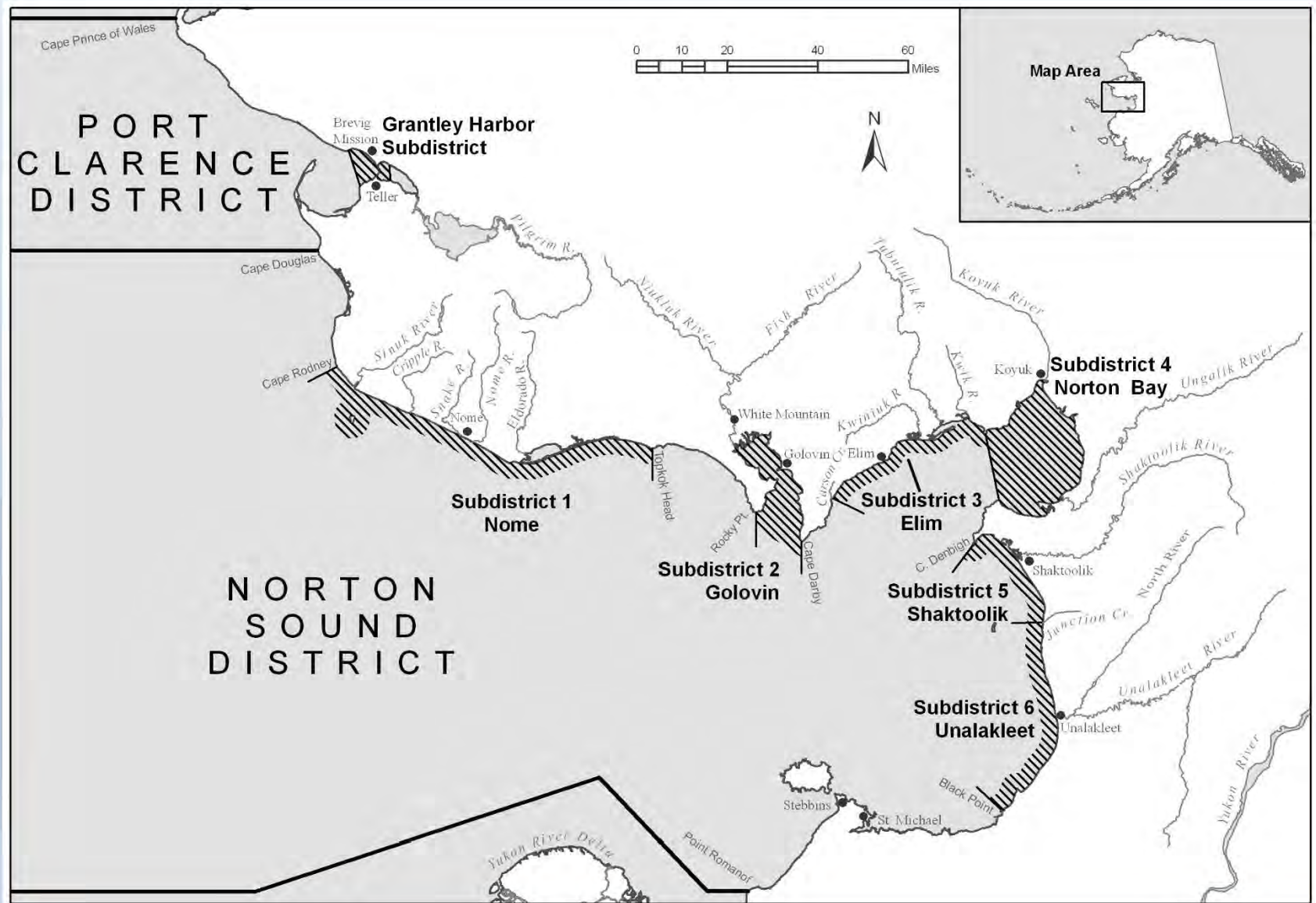
Southern Norton Sound King Salmon Subdistricts 5 & 6

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

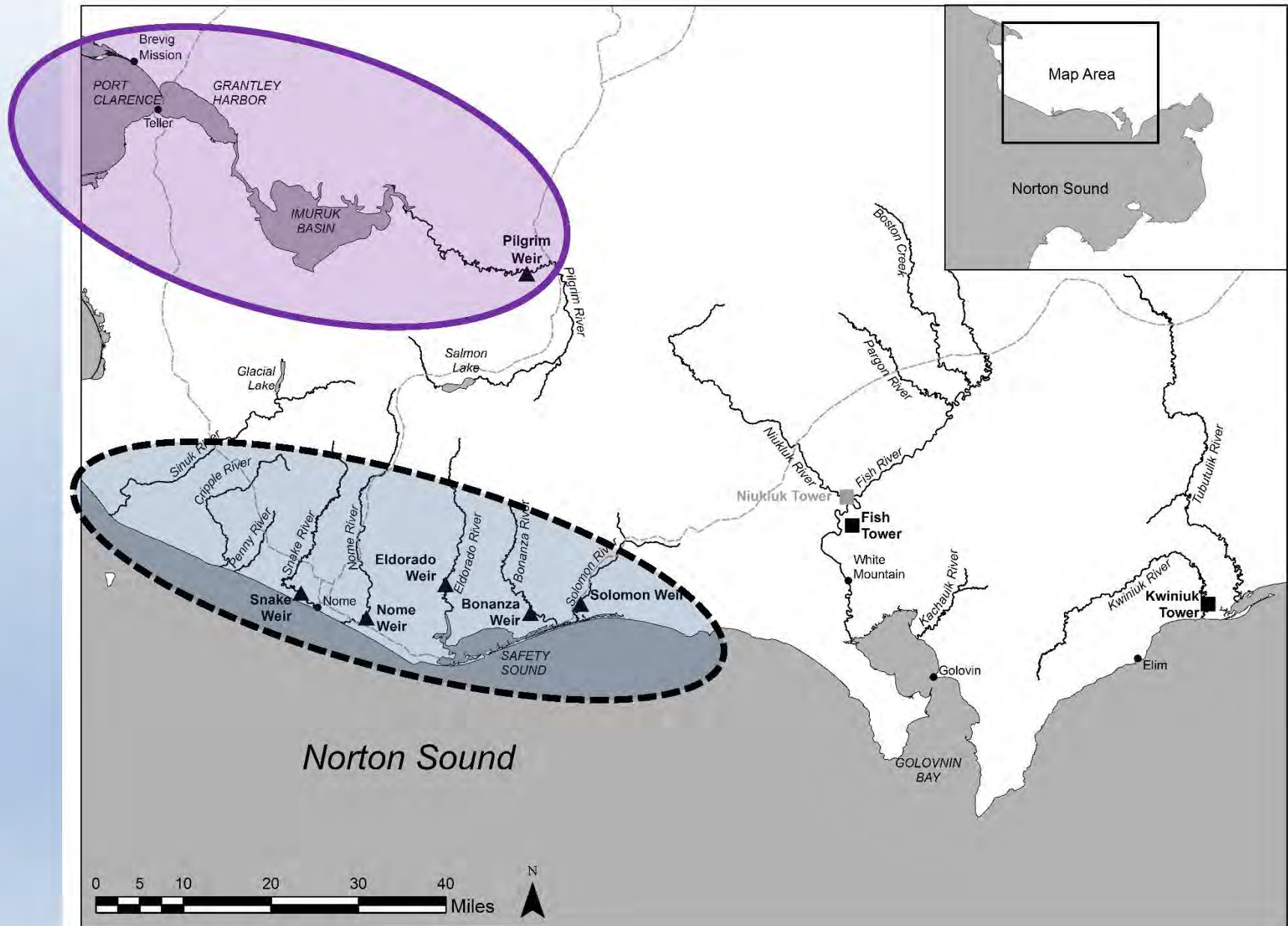
Board of Fisheries Proposals



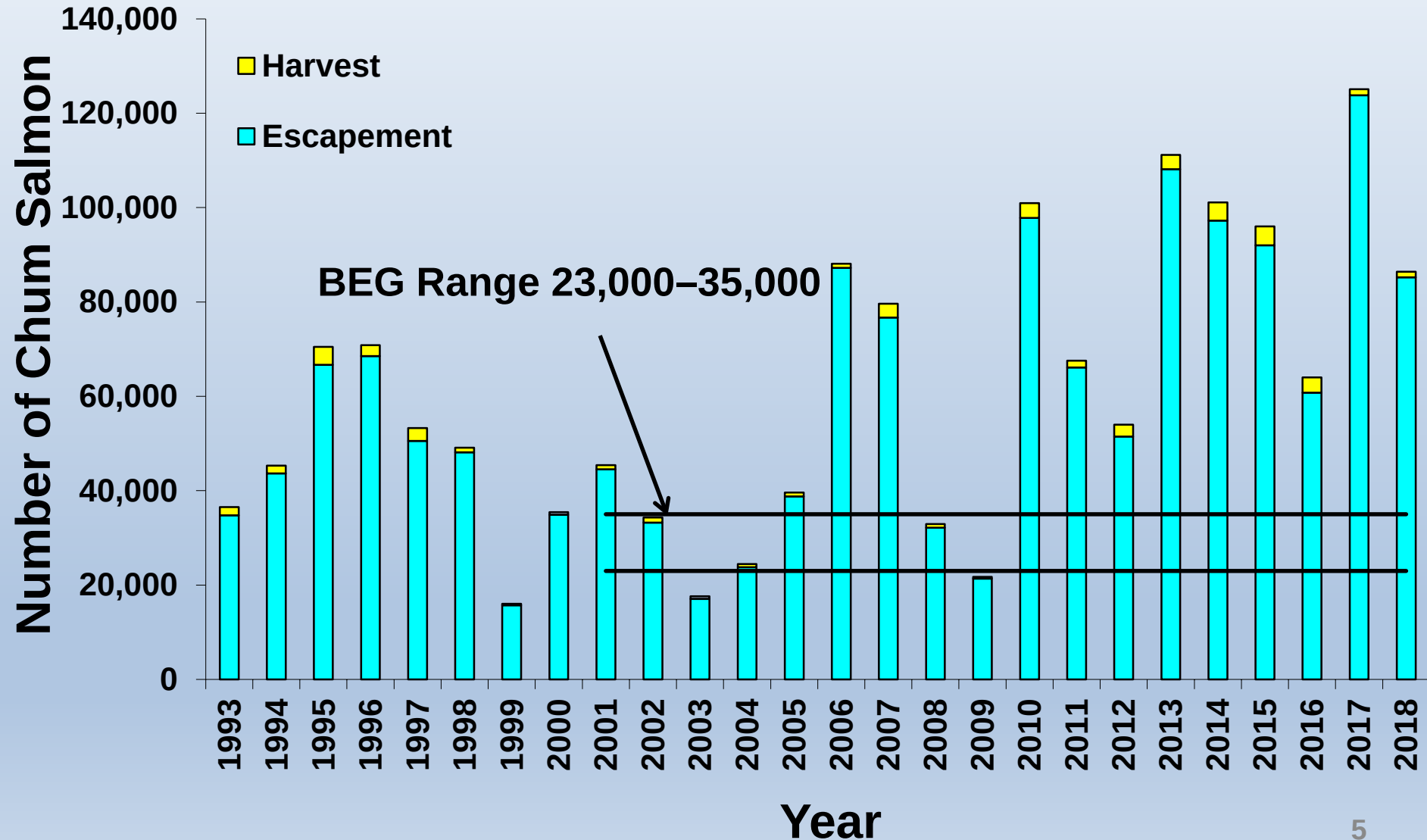
Norton Sound-Port Clarence Commercial Salmon Fishing Districts and Subdistricts



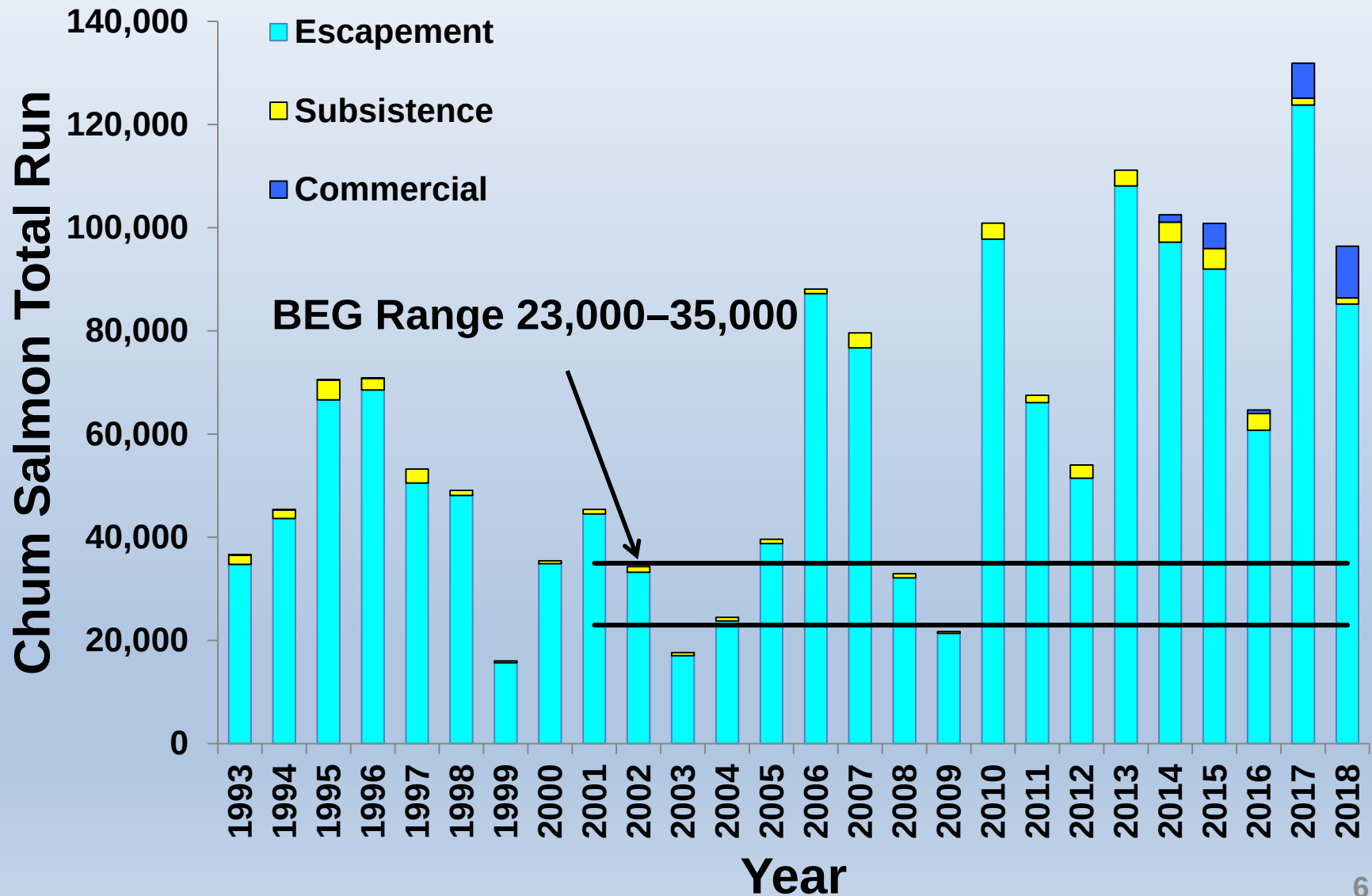
Port Clarence and Subdistrict 1 Escapement Projects



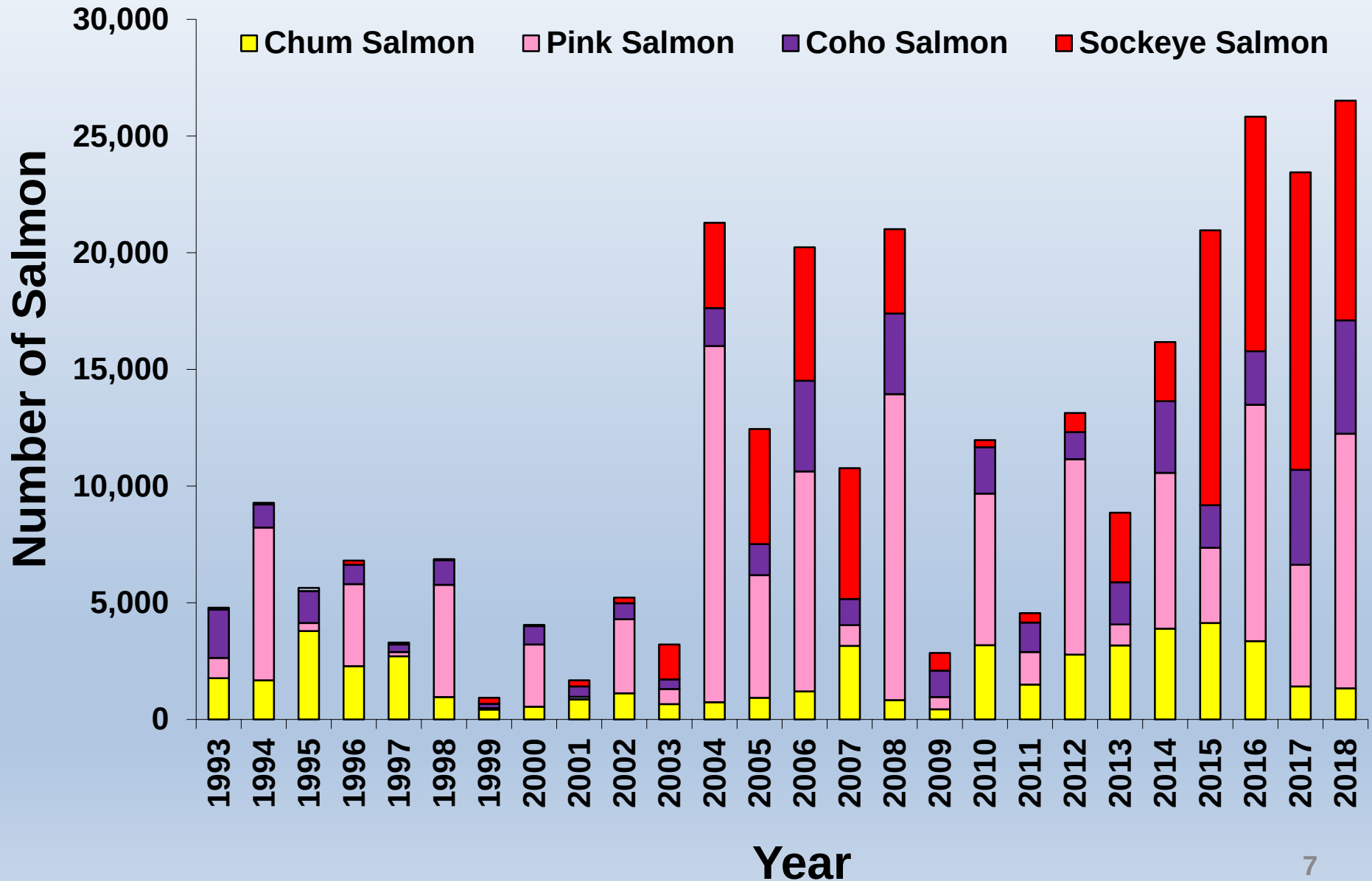
Subdistrict 1 Chum Salmon Subsistence Harvest and Escapement



Subdistrict 1 Estimated Chum Salmon Escapement, and Commercial and Subsistence Harvest



Subdistrict 1 (Nome) and Pilgrim River Subsistence Harvest



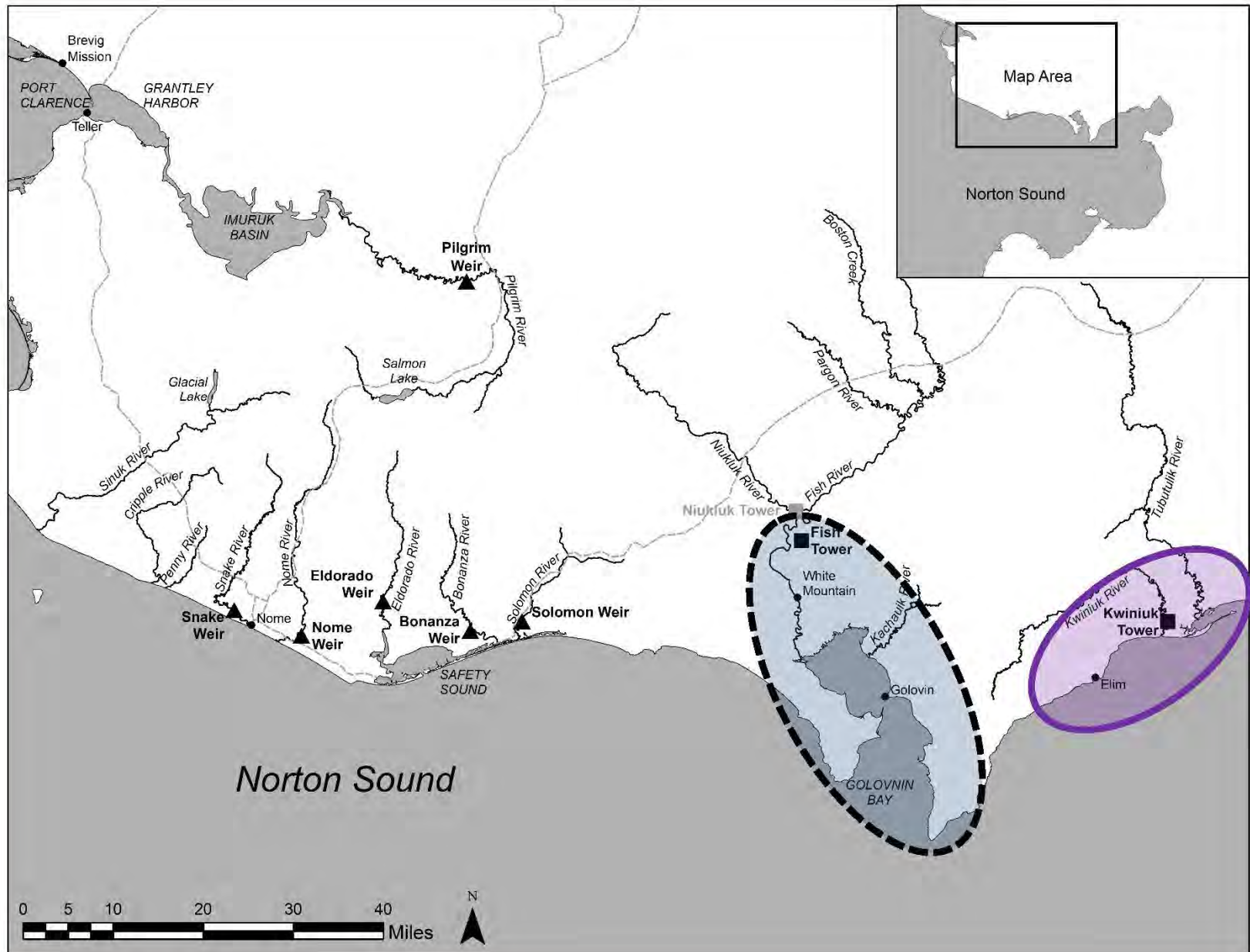
Subdistrict 1 Chum Salmon Stock Status Summary

Improved runs have continued the last 5 years

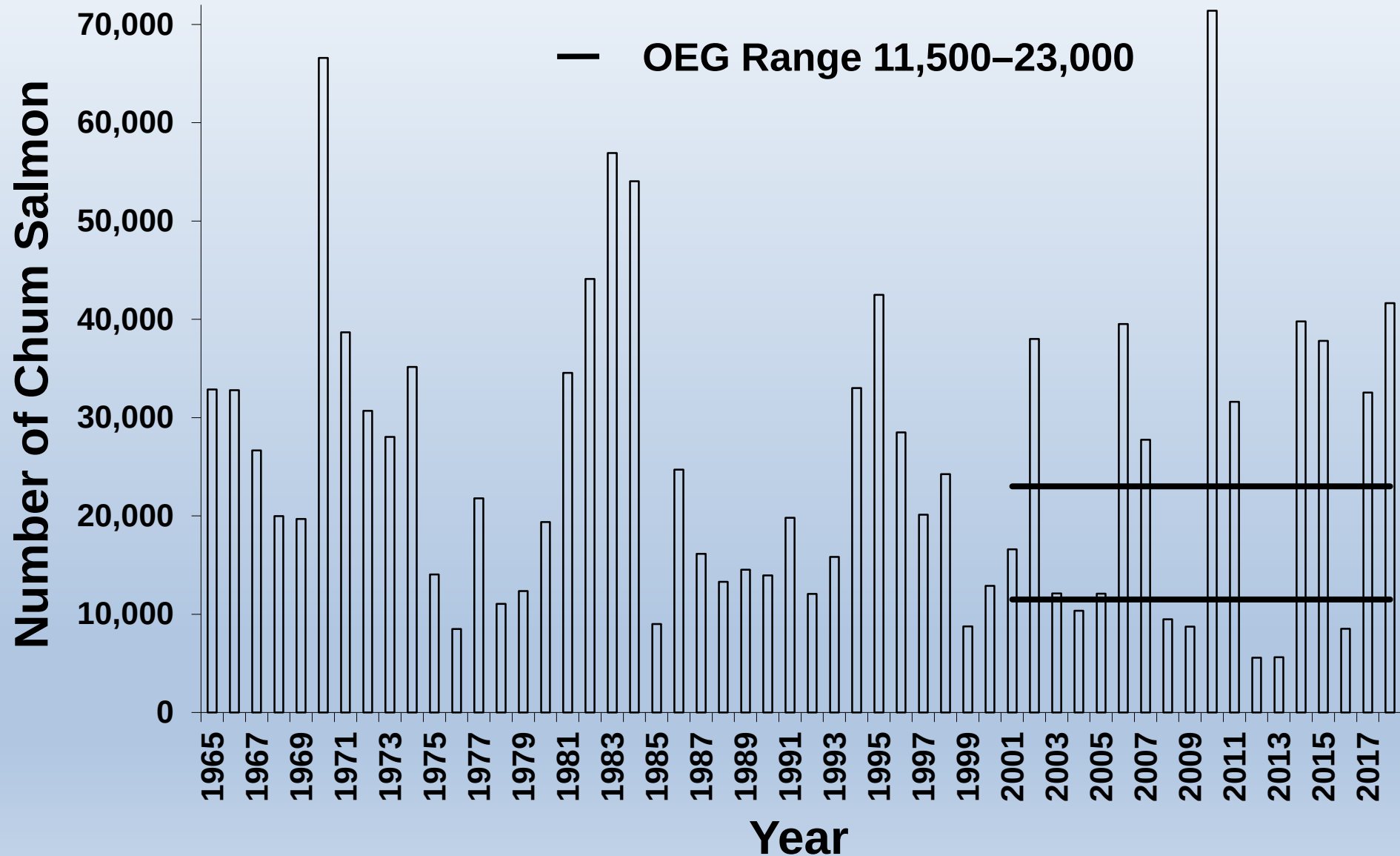
- **Escapements have exceeded all goals**
- **Available yield is at historical levels**
- **Subsistence harvest shifted to other species**



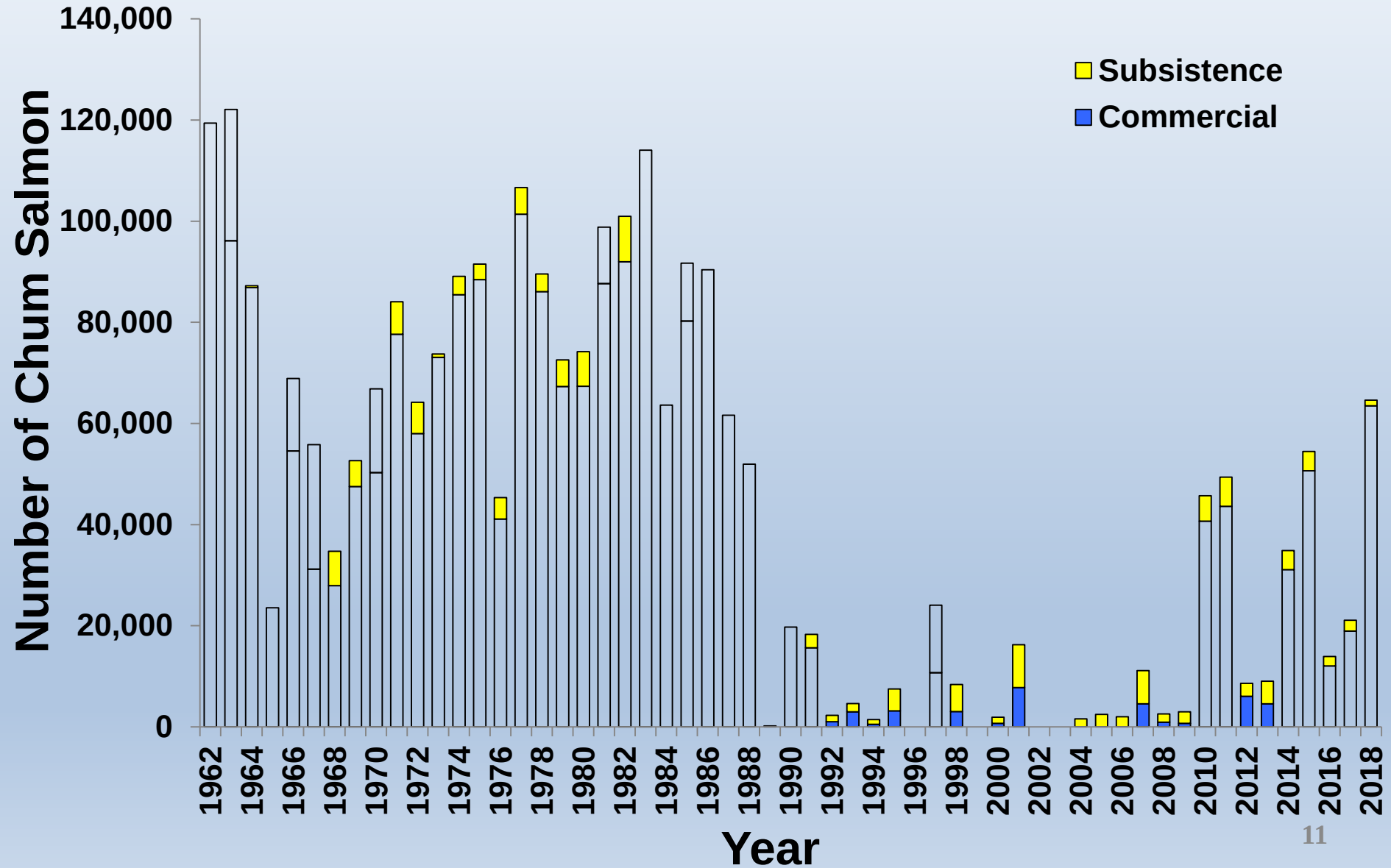
Subdistricts 2 and 3 Escapement Projects



Kwiniuk River Chum Salmon Escapement



Subdistricts 2 and 3 Commercial and Subsistence Chum Salmon Harvest



Subdistricts 2 and 3 Chum Salmon Stock Status Summary

- Escapement goals have been exceeded in recent years
- Commercial harvests have been the highest since 1988
- Recommend discontinue stock of yield concern status



Subdistricts 5 and 6 King Salmon Stock Status Summary

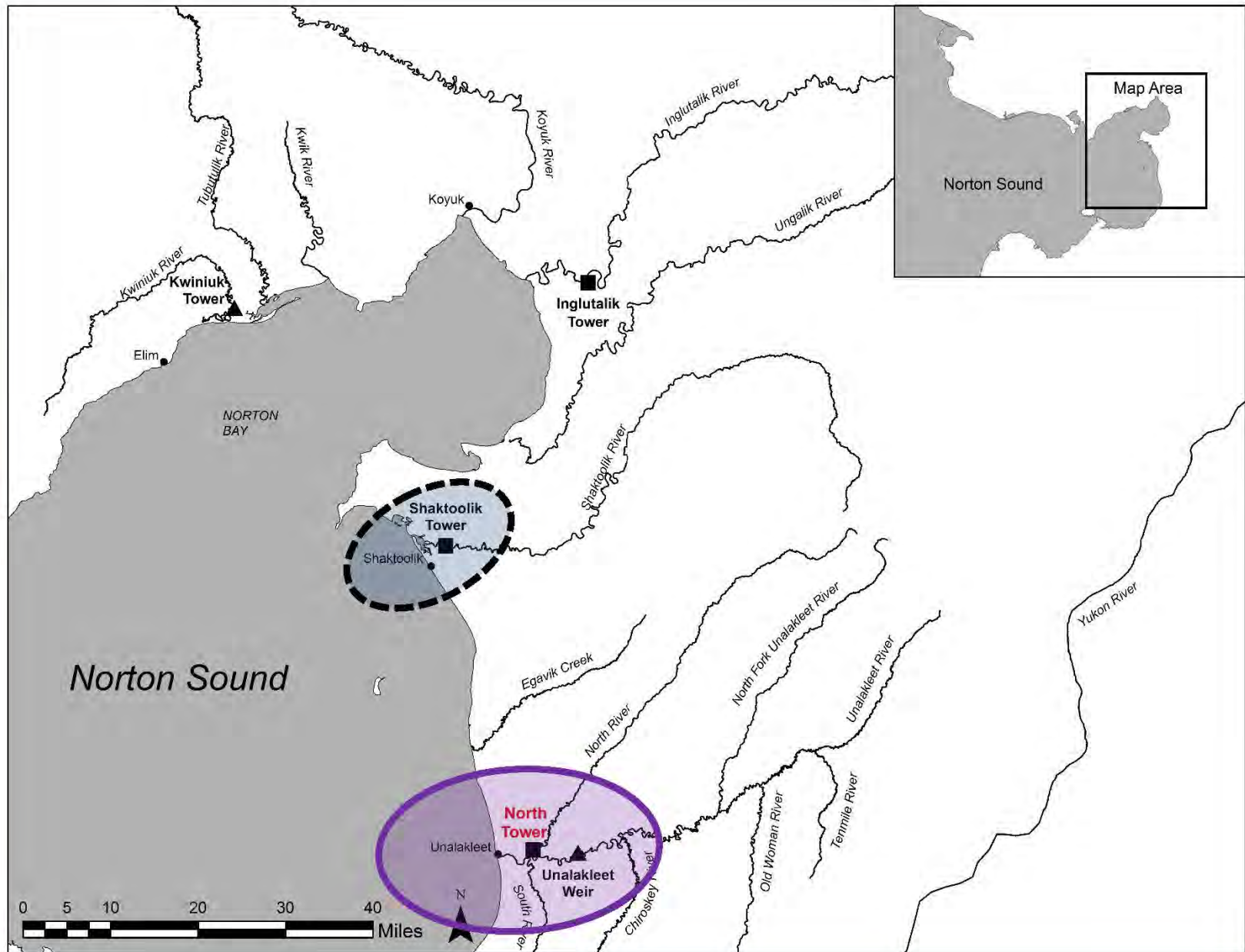
Management Action Plan

- **No directed king salmon commercial fishing**
- **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**

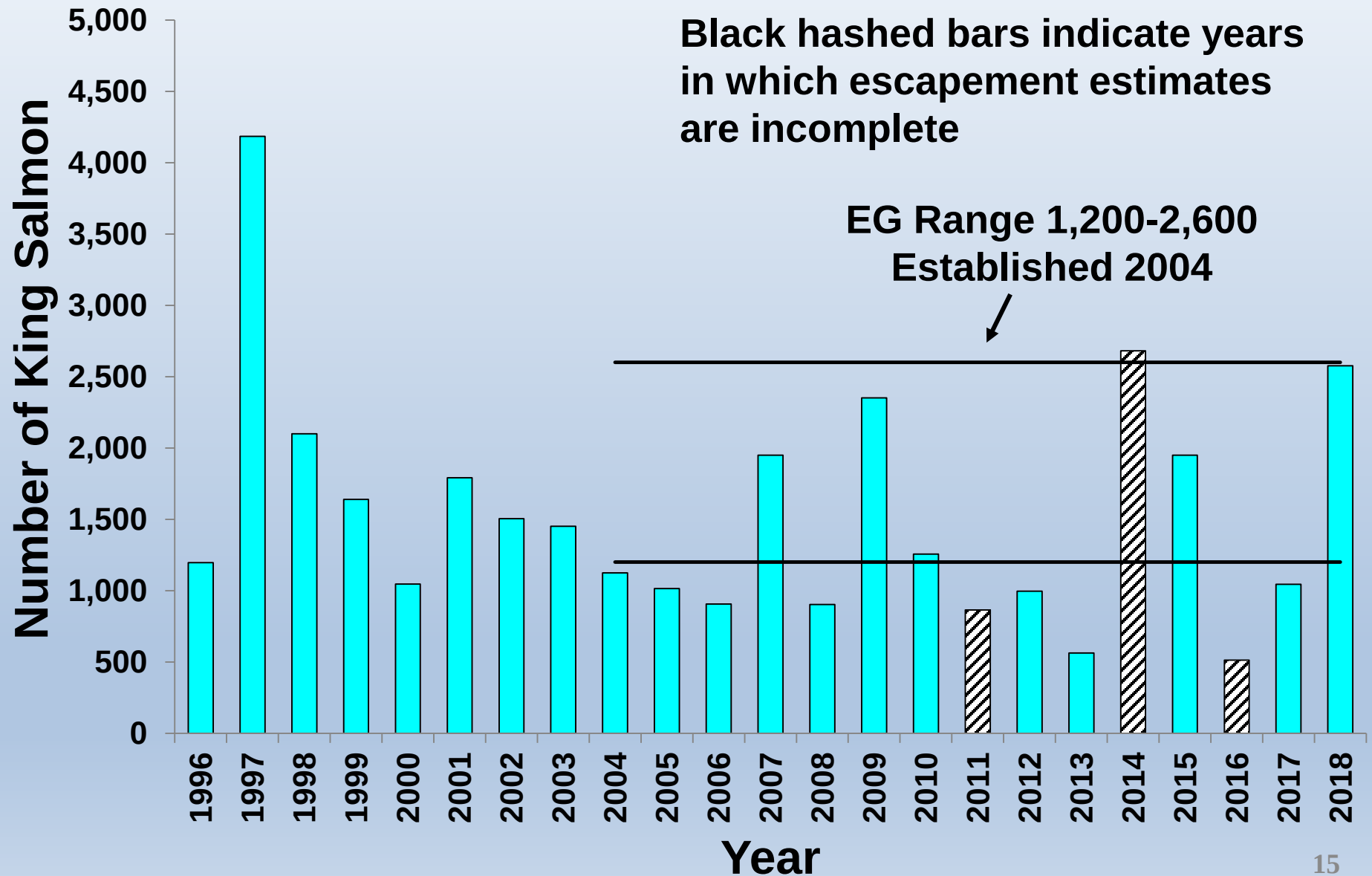
Since 2013

- **Escapement goals met in 3 of the previous 5 years**
- **Increased restrictions on fisheries**

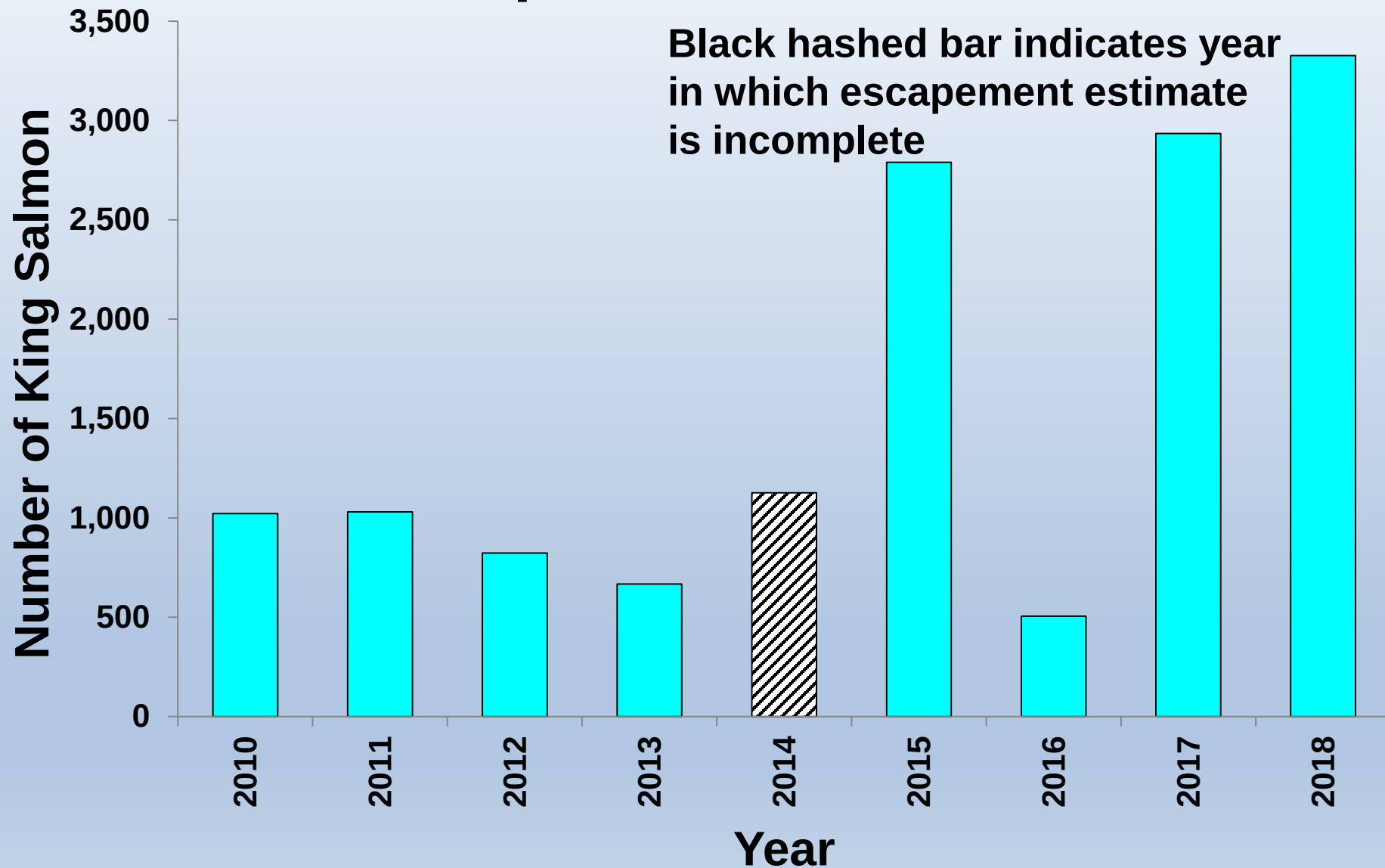
Subdistricts 5 and 6 Escapement Projects



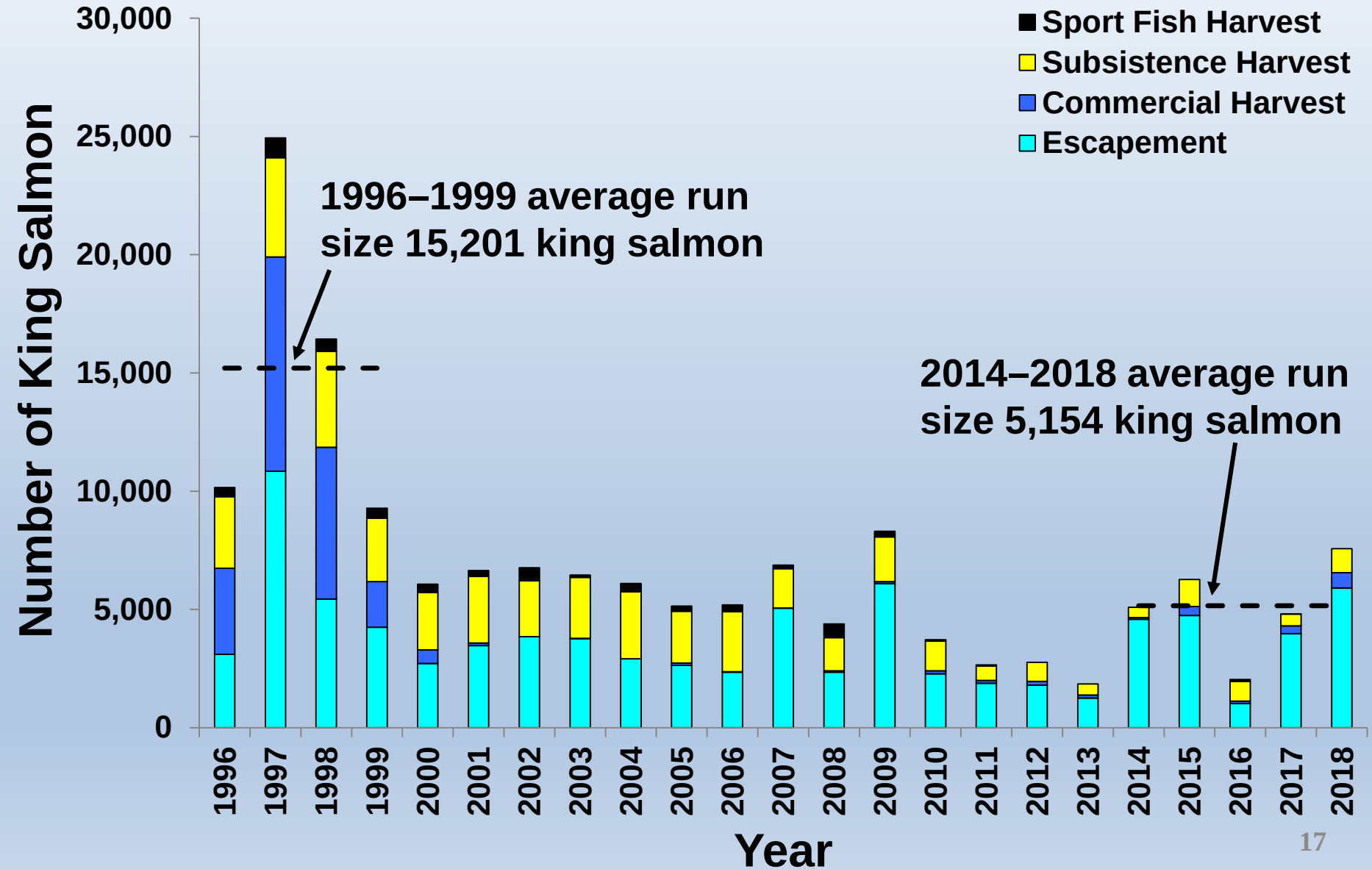
North River Tower King Salmon Escapement, 1996–2018



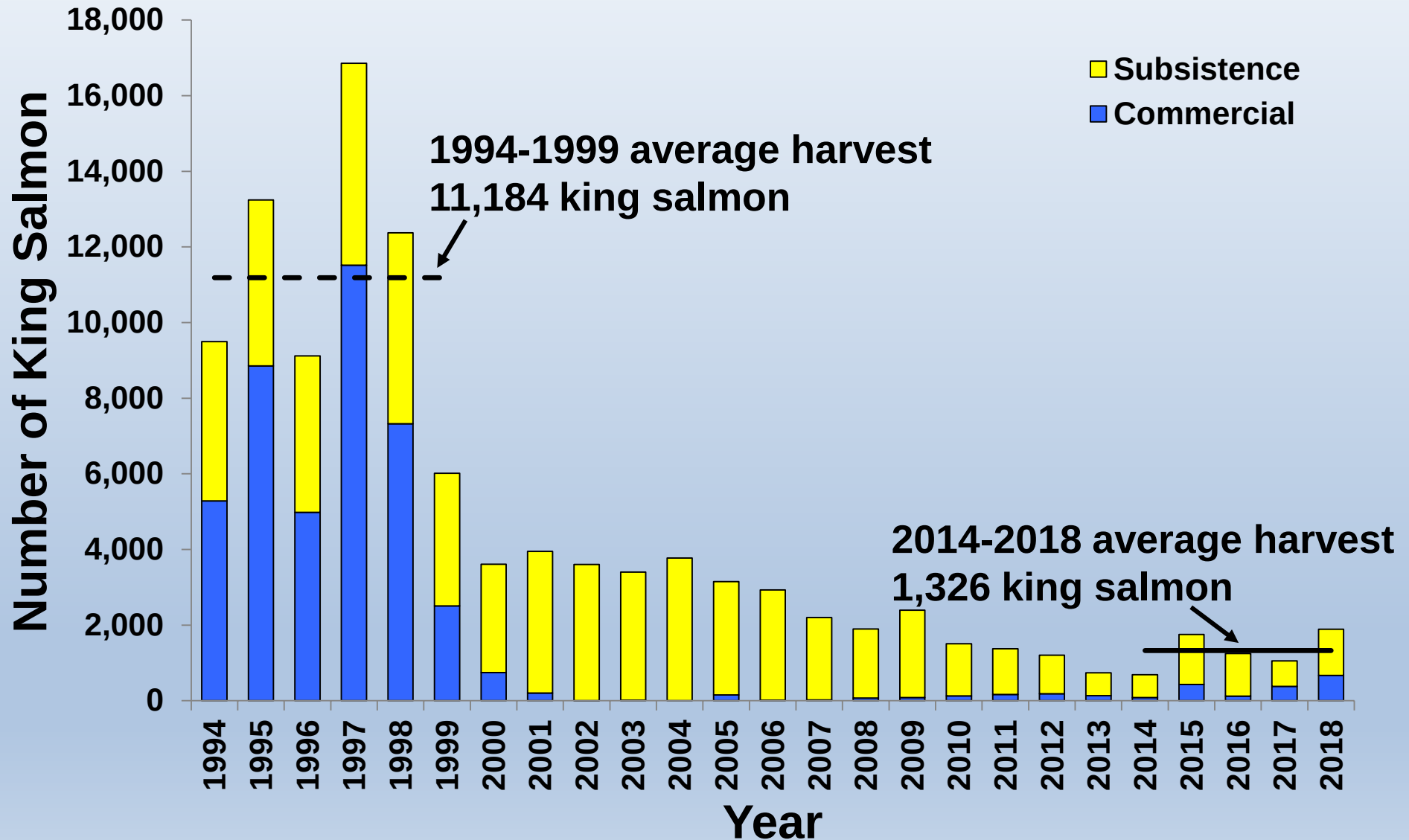
Unalakleet River Weir King Salmon Escapement, 2010–2018



Unalakleet River King Salmon Total Run Size, 1996–2018



Subdistricts 5 and 6 Commercial and Subsistence King Salmon Harvest, 1994-2018



Subdistricts 5 and 6 King Salmon Stock Status Summary

- Escapement goals met in 3 of the previous 5 years
- Increased restrictions on fisheries
- No directed king salmon commercial fishing
- Combination of fishing time reductions and mesh size restrictions to minimize harvest of king salmon
- Recommend continue stock of yield concern status



Board of Fisheries Proposals

Norton Sound District, Subdistrict 1

Proposal 123 — Repeal Tier II chum salmon fishing regulations

Proposals 124-126 — Allow more commercial fishing time by expanding fishing season and fishing period length

Port Clarence District

Proposal 127 — Set subsistence sockeye catch limits and allow commercial fishing time based on previous two years' of escapements

Acknowledgements

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

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

