

Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments on Chignik drainage sockeye salmon escapement goal brood tables found in RC51.

March 28, 2022

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) has recently undergone a thorough review of the Chignik sockeye salmon brood tables which included alternative methods as outlined in the bullet points shown in RC 51. These brood tables are being used by the department in the ongoing evaluation of escapement goals for Chignik sockeye salmon to reflect current conditions and incorporate best available information regarding harvest and escapement. The authors of RC51 contacted the department specifically about conducting evaluations of escapement levels, and the department determined it was appropriate to distribute these revised tables (with description of differences), so that all parties were using the same data when conducting escapement goal assessments. These changes were described to all individuals that this information was shared with, as well as participants of the March 8, 2022, Chignik AC meeting.

The department has not formally adopted the new brood table approach, as no goals have been designated using this data. The escapement and goals provided in the 2021 Chignik Management Area Annual Management Report (RIR.4K.22-04, Table 20) are the correct values for discussion at this board meeting. The escapement published in this report is consistent with historic approaches, and the approach and brood tables that were used when the current goals were established.

If escapement goal analysis using the new brood tables results in changes to the escapement goals, or the department implements an alternate apportionment method post season, the department will update all escapement levels consistent with the methods used in developing the new brood tables and goals and publish these in the escapement goal report and subsequent annual management report. Consistent with how the department approached changes to enumeration and goals with other species, the department will clearly show results of both methods and the differences among them within the escapement goal report. Until that occurs, the department advises individuals to use the escapement and goals that are currently published.