

Norton Sound Chum and King Salmon Stock Status and Fishery Overview

A Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries



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January 2023

RC 3: Oral Reports, tab 15
RC 3: Written Report, tab 2

Outline

Northern Norton Sound Chum Salmon

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

Southern Norton Sound King Salmon Subdistricts 5 & 6

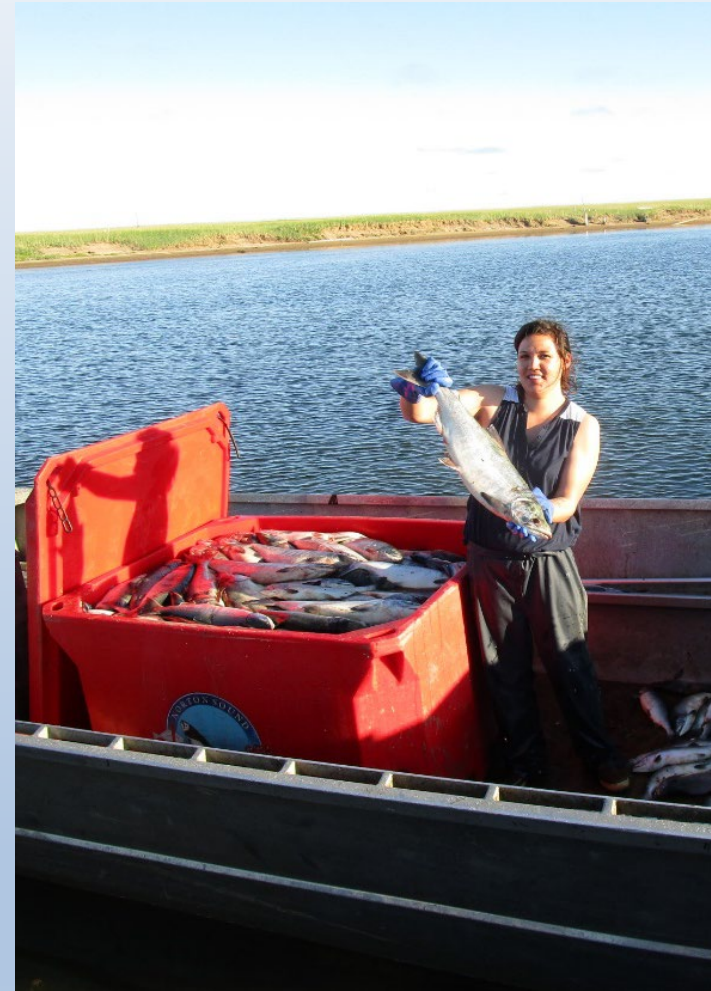
- **Stock Status Summary**

Pink Salmon Status

Board of Fisheries Salmon Proposals

Norton Sound Herring

- **Board of Fisheries Herring Proposal**



The map displays the Norton Sound District, divided into six subdistricts, each highlighted with a different hatching pattern. The subdistricts are:

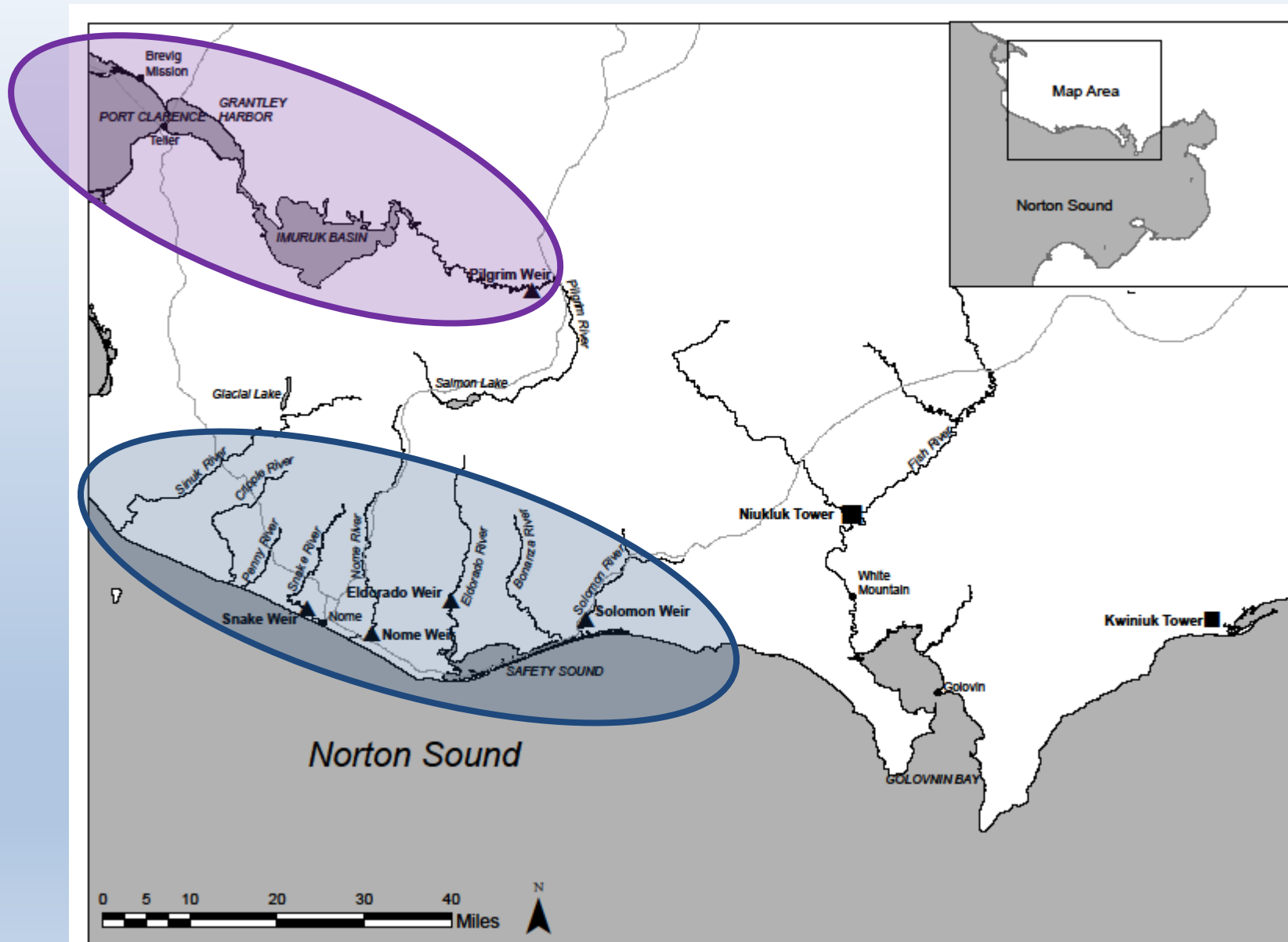
- Subdistrict 1** Nome
- Subdistrict 2** Golovin
- Subdistrict 3** Elim
- Subdistrict 4** Norton Bay
- Subdistrict 5** Shaktoolik
- Subdistrict 6** Unalakleet

Other labeled areas include the **PORT CLARENCE DISTRICT** to the north and the **NORTON SOUND DISTRICT** to the south. Key geographical features and locations marked on the map include:

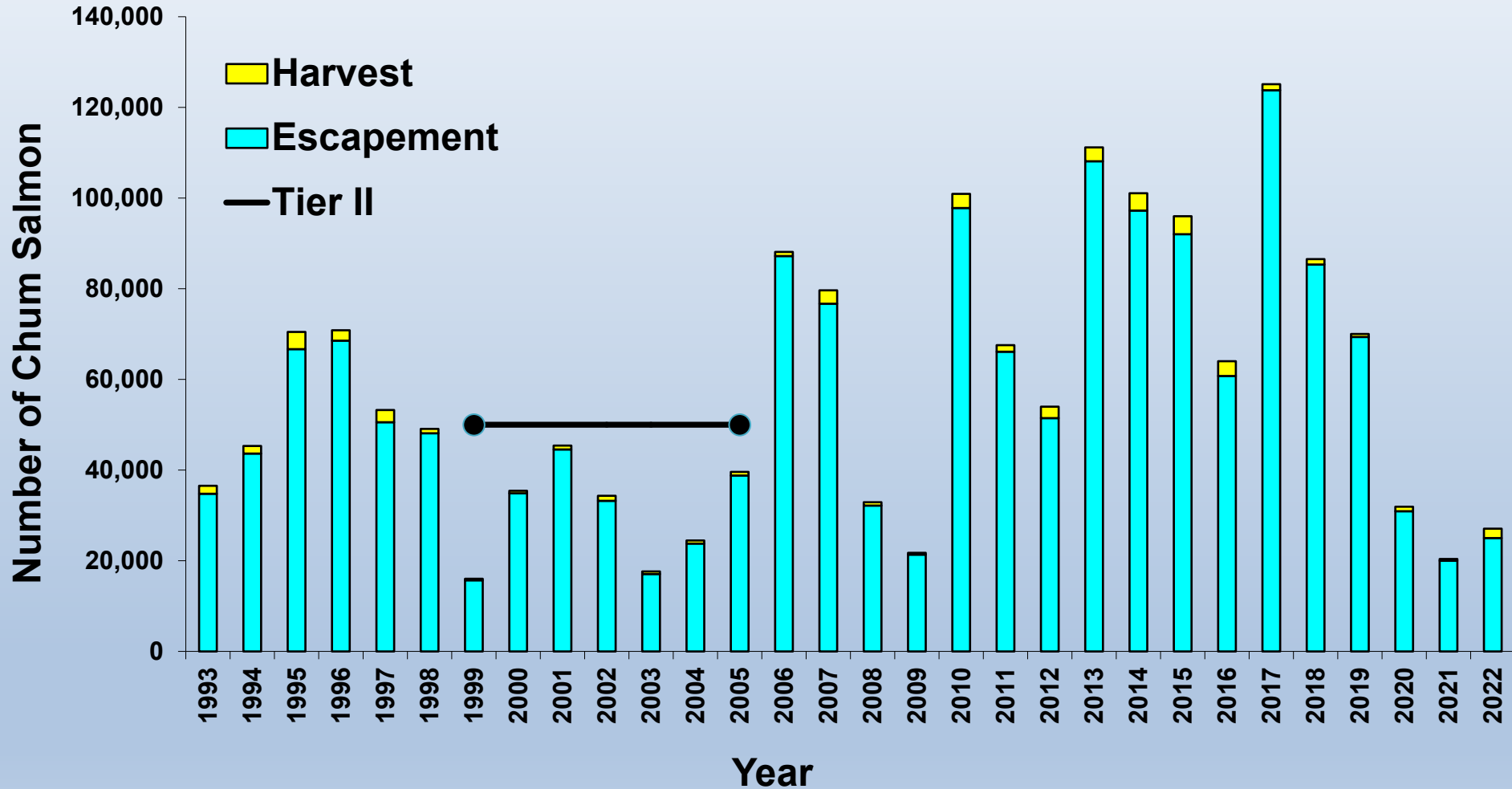
- Cape Prince of Wales** (northwest)
- Cape Douglas** and **Cape Rodney** (west coast)
- Grantley Harbor Subdistrict** (north, near Brevig Mission and Teller)
- Rivers:** Sinuk, Cripple, Snake, Nome, Eldorado, Nuljuk, Fish, Kwinik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Shaktoolik, North, Unalakleet, and the Yukon River Delta.
- Other locations:** White Mountain, Golovin, C. Denbigh, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, Stebbins, St. Michael, Black Point, Point Romanof, and Topkok Head.

A scale bar (0 to 60 miles) and a north arrow are located in the upper right. An inset map titled "Map Area" shows the district's location within the state of Alaska.

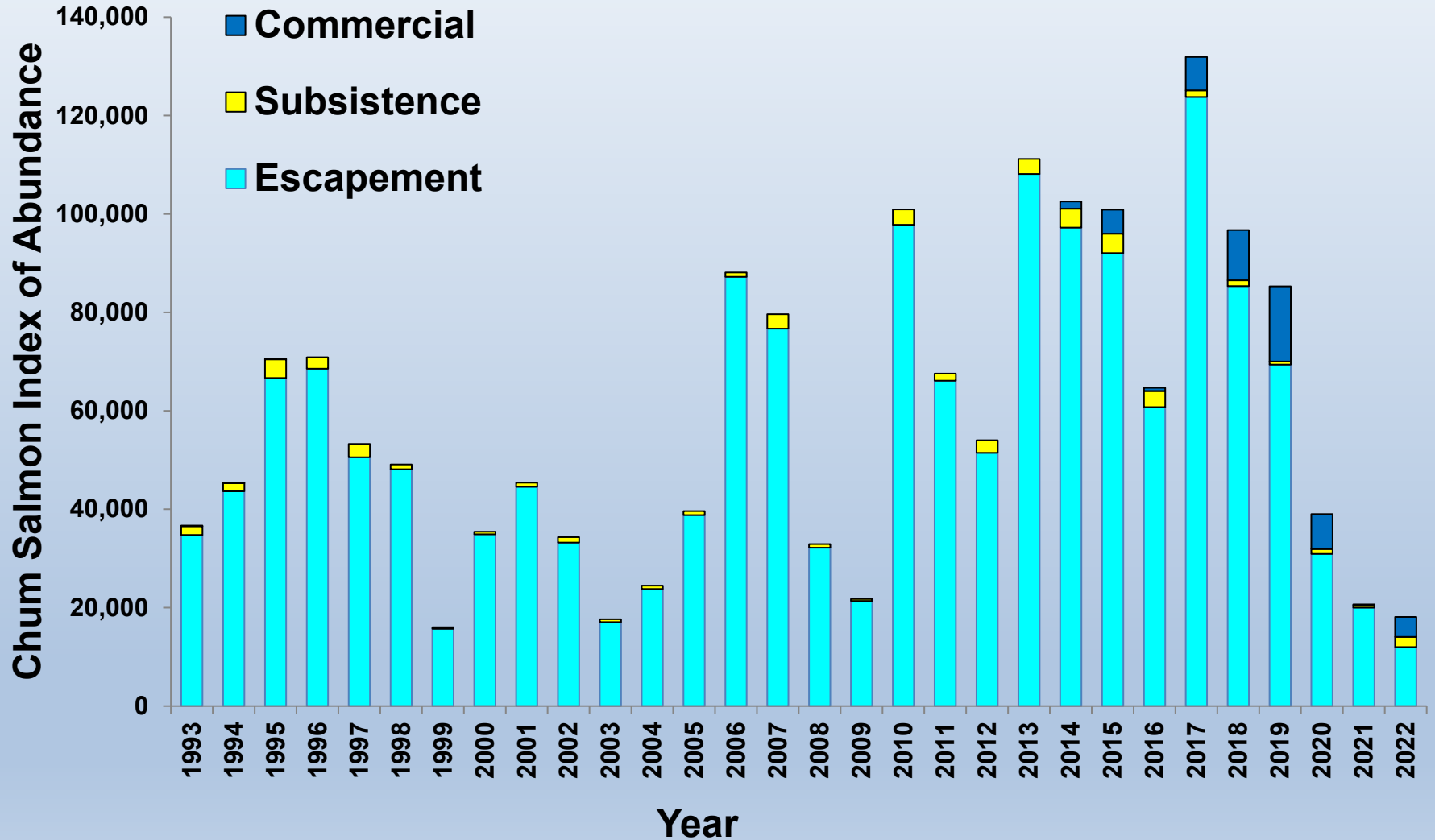
Port Clarence and Subdistrict 1 Escapement Projects



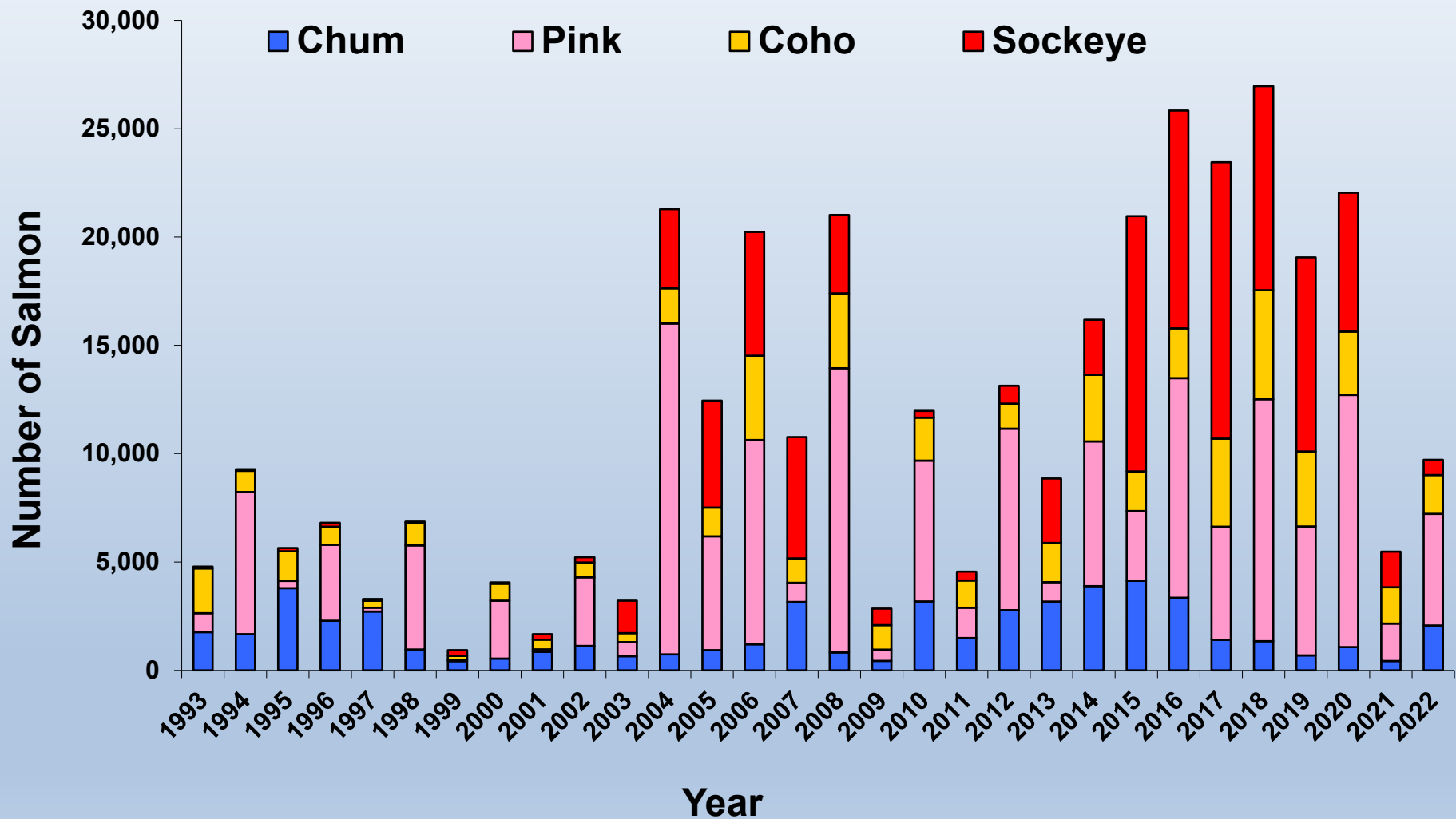
Subdistrict 1 Chum Salmon Subsistence Harvest and Escapement



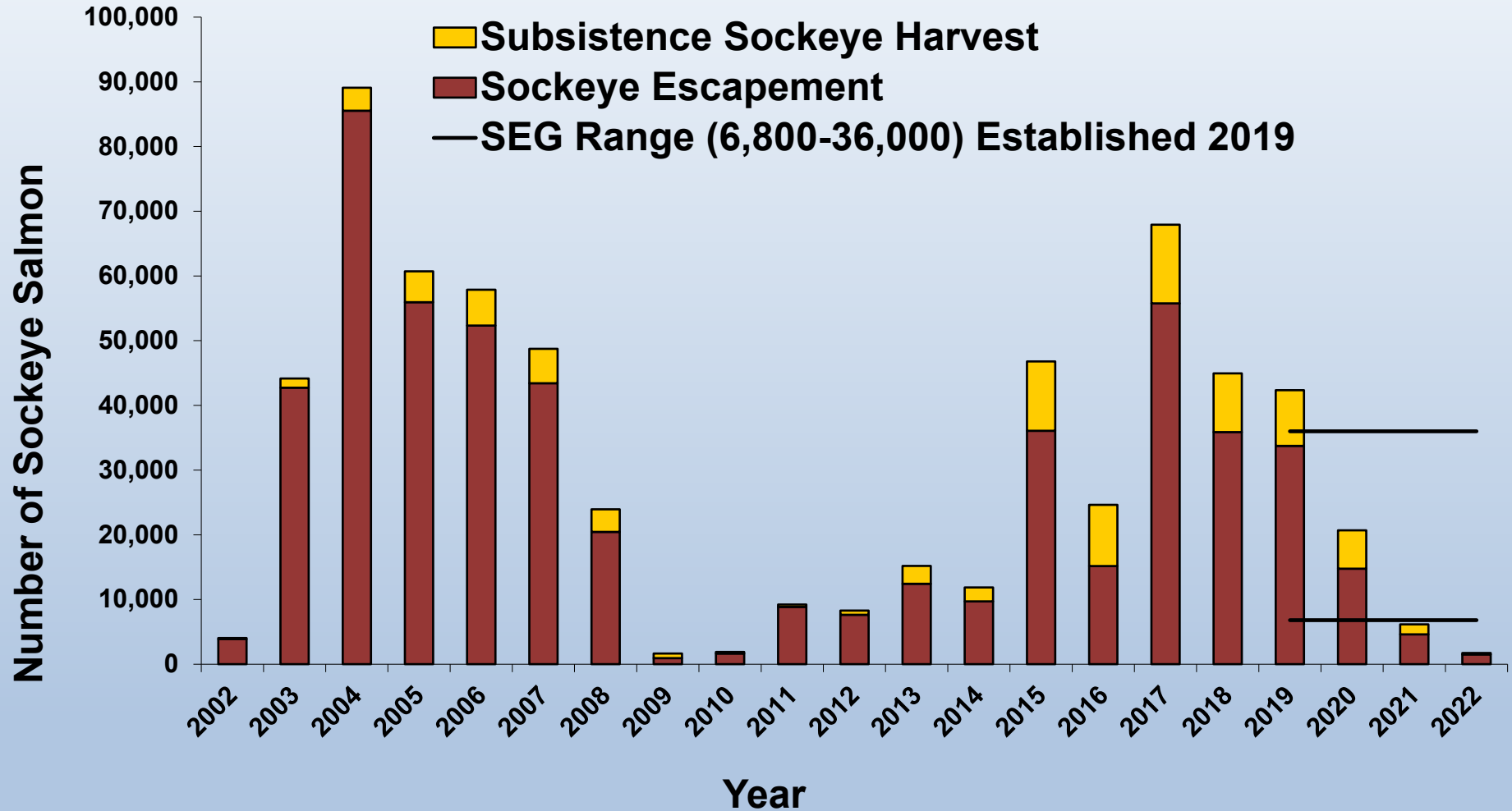
Subdistrict 1 Estimated Chum Salmon Escapement, and Commercial and Subsistence Harvest



Nome Subdistrict and Pilgrim River Subsistence Harvest



Pilgrim River Sockeye Subsistence Harvest and Escapement



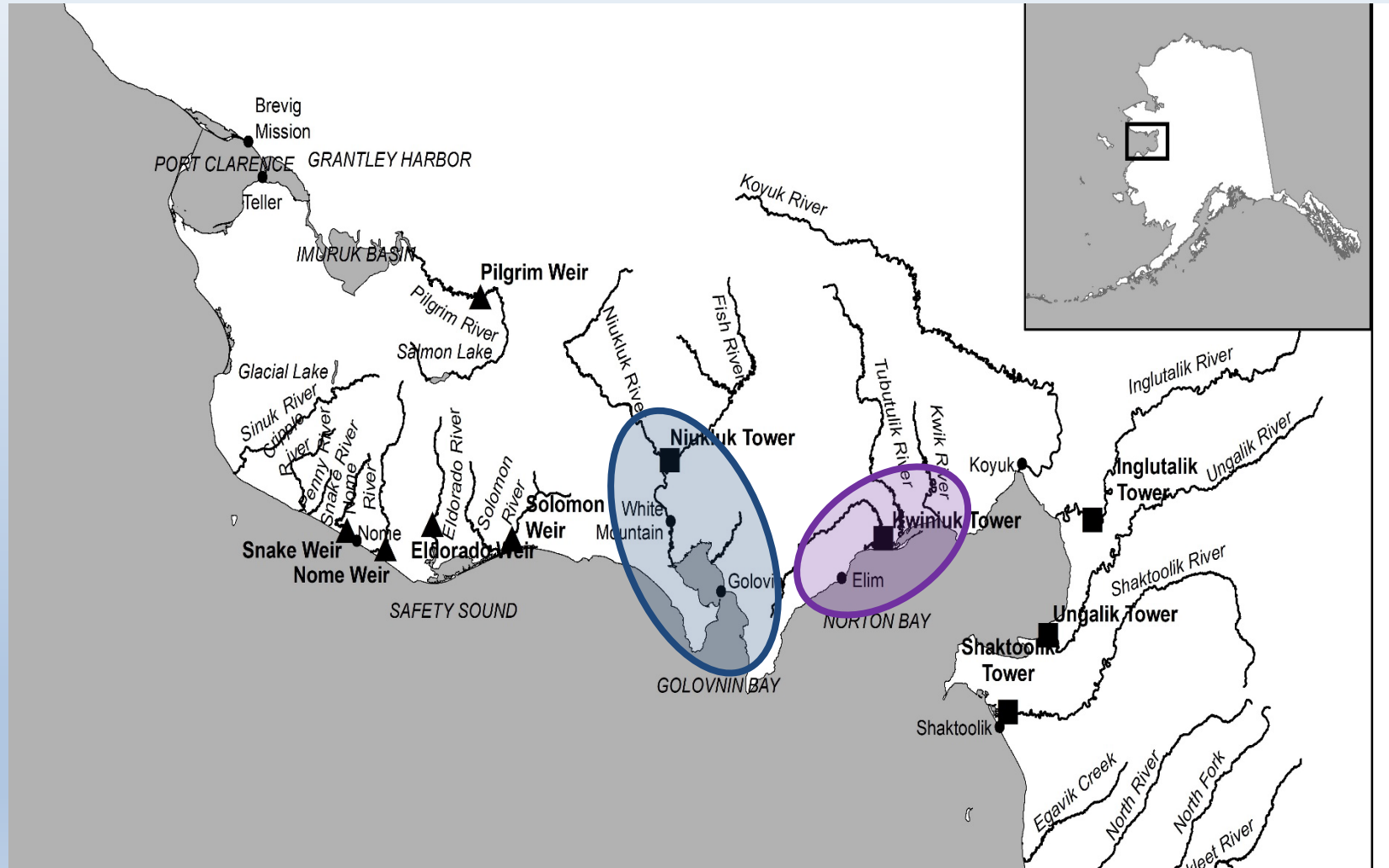
Subdistrict 1 Chum Salmon Stock Status Summary

Large runs in teens and decreasing runs in 2020s

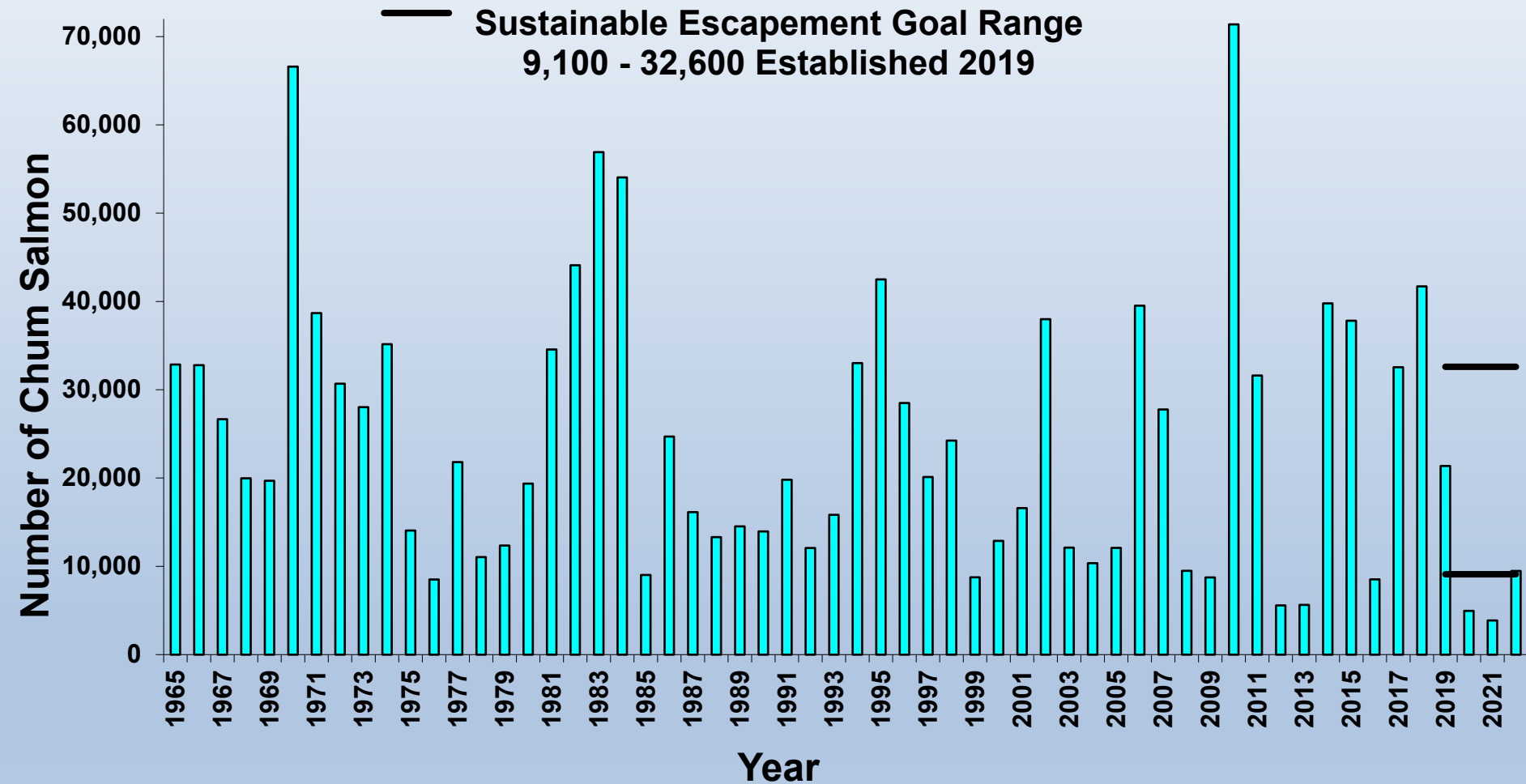
- Escapements reached yearly, except one river in 2020
- Available yield at historical levels, except 2021 & 2022
- Subsistence harvest shifted to other species
- ANS of 3,430-5,716 chum salmon not met since 2015



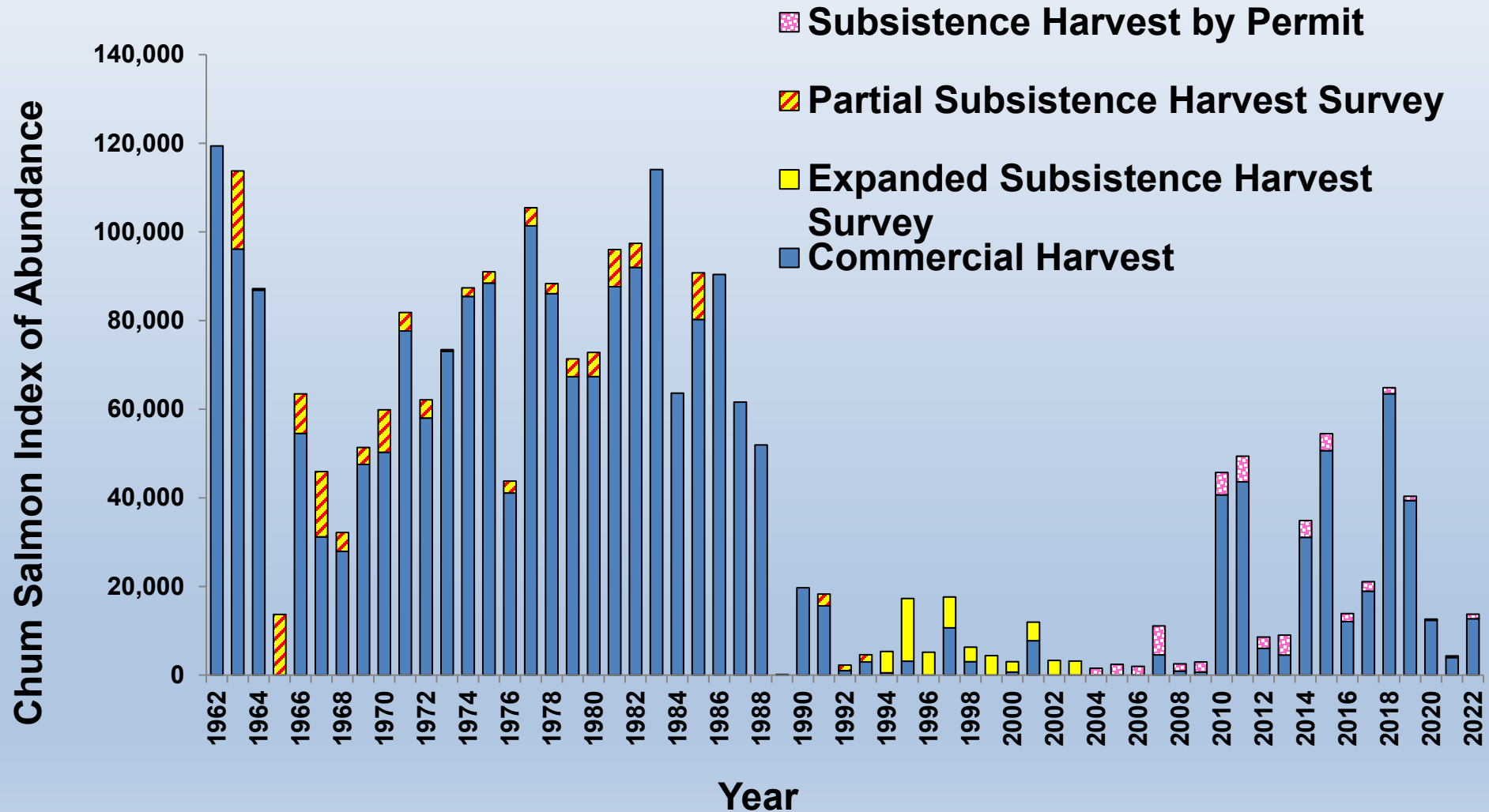
Subdistricts 2 and 3 Escapement Projects



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 met in 3 of last 5 years**
- **Lower chum runs in last 3 years**
- **Limited chum directed commercial fishing in 2 of 5 years**



Subdistricts 5 and 6 King Salmon Stock Status Summary

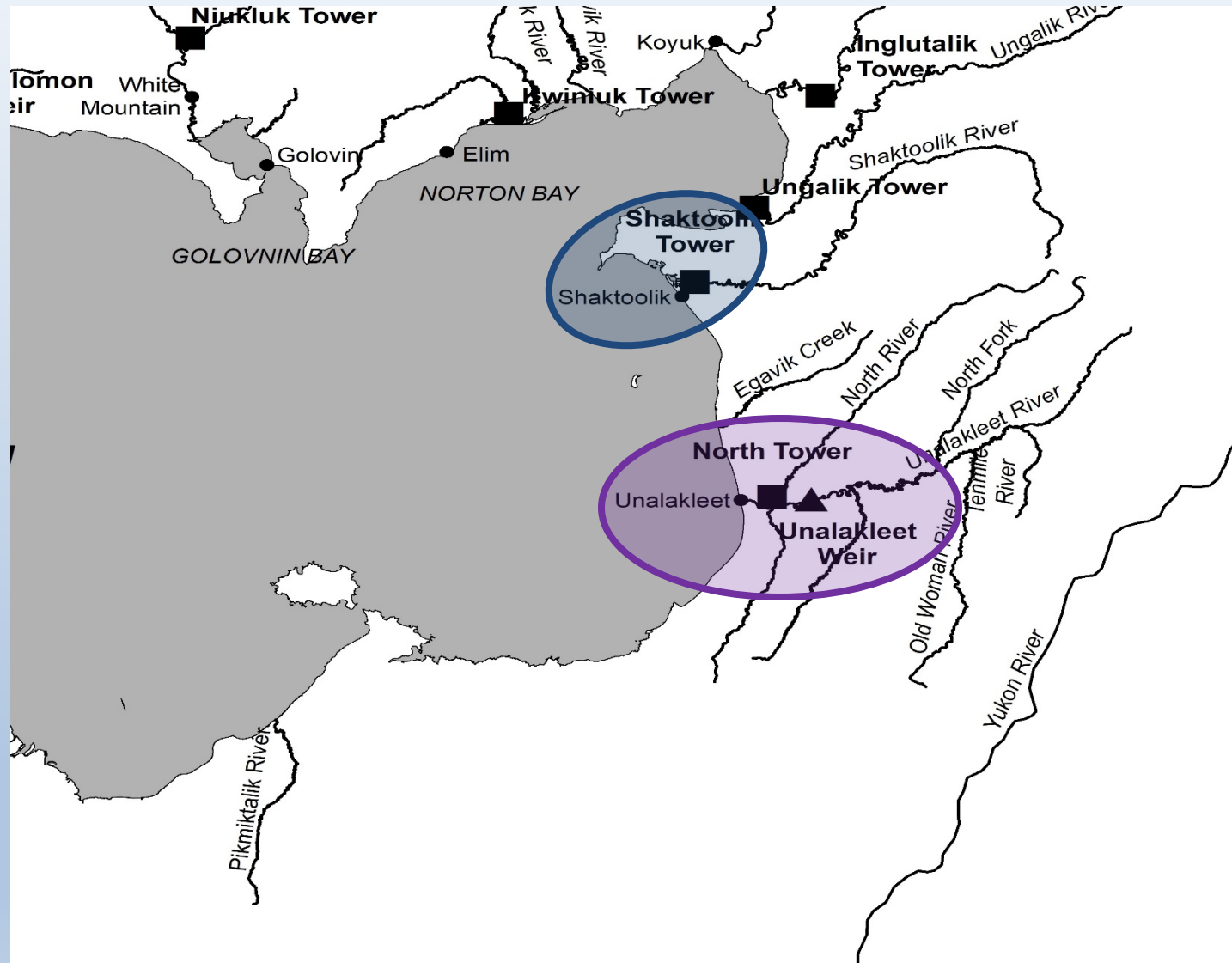
Management Plan

- **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**

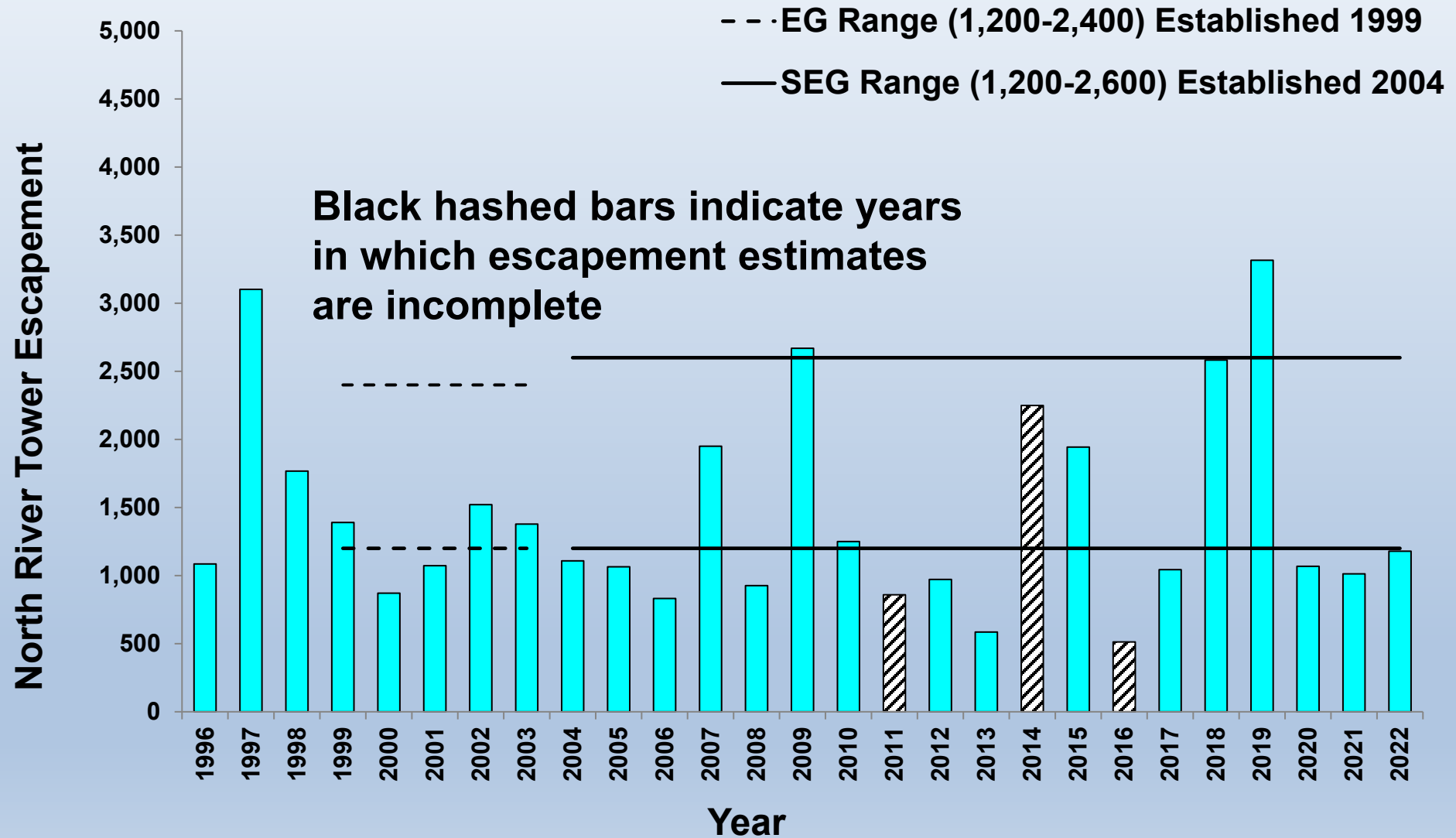
Since 2017

- **Escapement goals met in 2 of the last 5 years**
- **Limited subsistence fishing time**

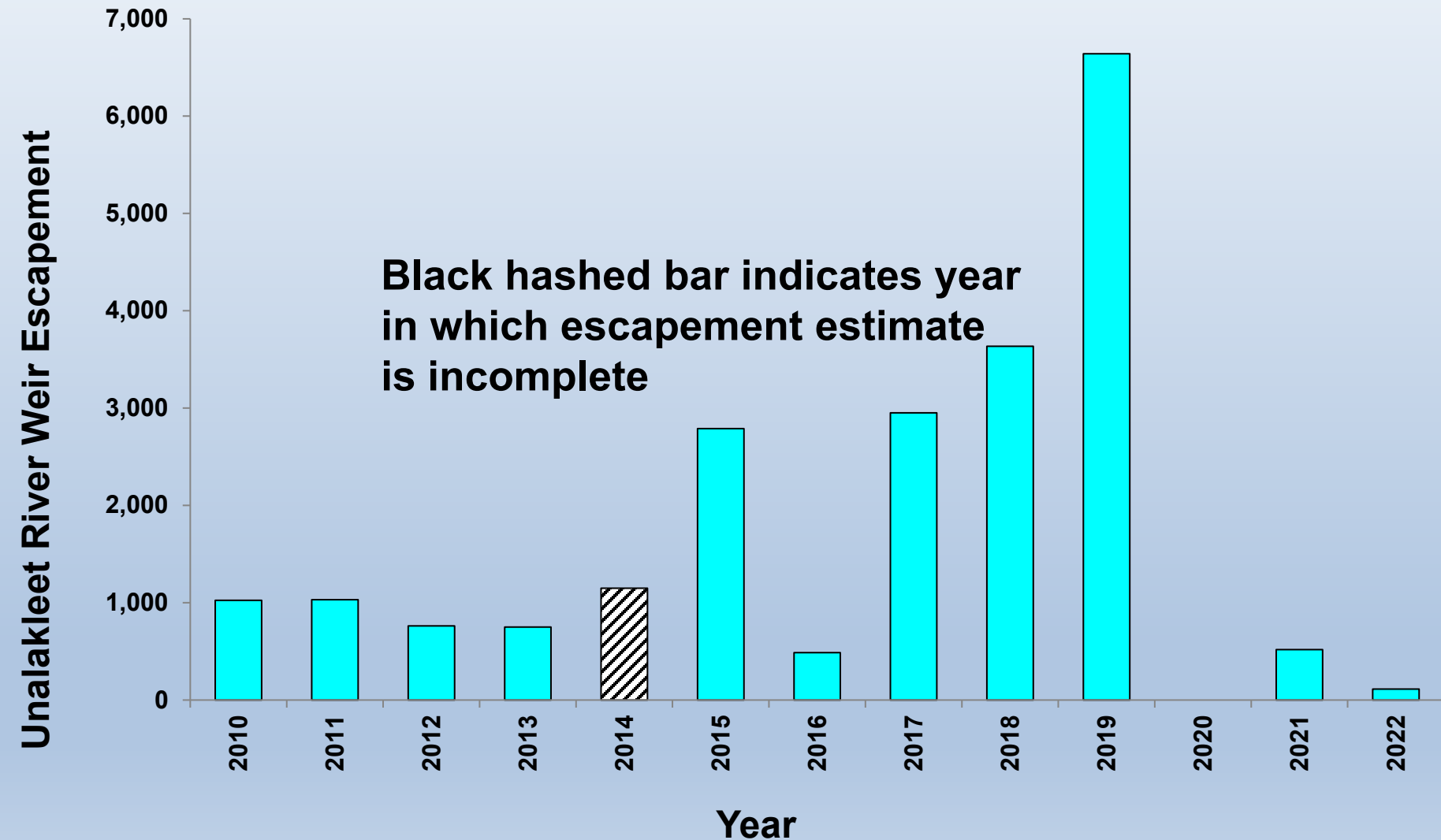
Subdistricts 5 and 6 Escapement Projects



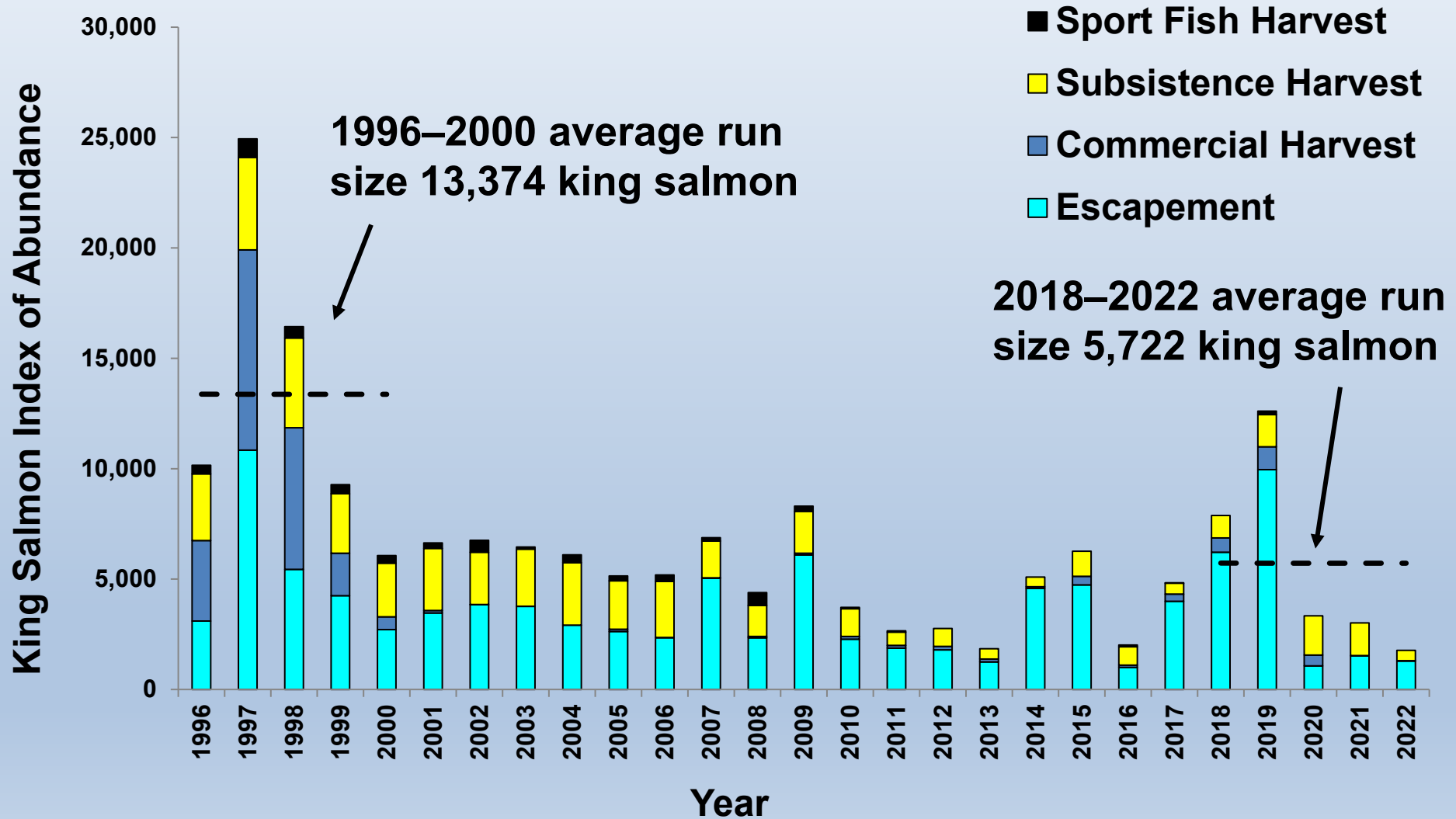
North River Tower King Salmon Escapement, 1996–2022



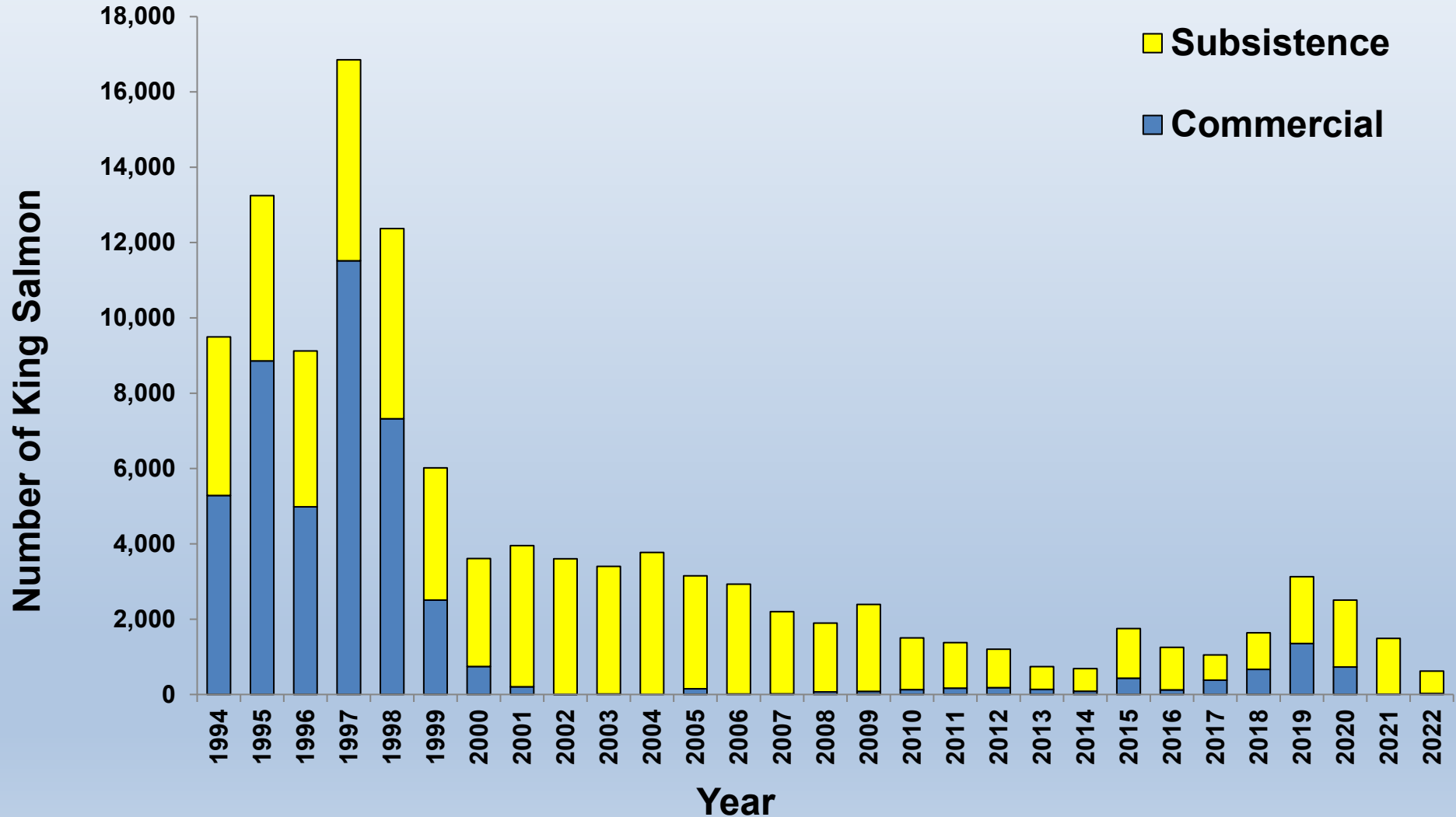
Unalakleet River Weir King Salmon Escapement, 2010–2022



Unalakleet River King Salmon Total Run Size, 1996–2022



Subdistricts 5 and 6 Commercial and Subsistence King Salmon Harvest, 1994-2022



Subdistricts 5 and 6 King Salmon Stock Status Summary

- Escapement goals met in 2 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
- Continued Stock of Yield Concern status



Norton Sound Pink Salmon



- Even/odd year cycle
- Little commercial market interest
- 2016-2020 record runs
- 2021 experimental purse seine fishery

Board of Fisheries Salmon Proposals

Kotzebue Sound District

Proposal 76 — Allow set gillnet gear to be unattended during commercial fishery

Port Clarence District

Proposal 77 — Establish an OEG of 7,000 to 12,000 for the Salmon Lake drainage with a management plan

Norton Sound Herring

- **1979, commercial sac roe fishery started**
- **2013, last commercial sac roe fishery conducted**
- **2016, Aerial surveys for herring biomass estimates eliminated**
- **2014-2021, small commercial harvests to supply local markets with bait**
- **Proposal 78 — Modify the start and end dates of the herring sac-roe fishery and herring food and bait fishery**

Acknowledgements

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

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund

Sitnasuak Native Corporation

Unalakleet Native Corporation

Elim Native Corporation

Bering Straits Native Corporation

Solomon Native Corporation

THE END OF THE TRAIL





QUESTIONS