

# Chignik River Sockeye Salmon Stock of Concern Action Plan



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**RC3 Tab12**

# Overview

- Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon designated stock of concern by BOF in March 2022
- Out of cycle with escapement goal review due to COVID meeting delays
- RC104 used as 2022 interim action plan

# Overview

- Escapement goal review
  - Early- and late-run goals shifted to one goal
  - First half of run cutoff date July 10
- Action plan options
- Conditions for delisting

# Definitions

## *Stock of Management Concern*

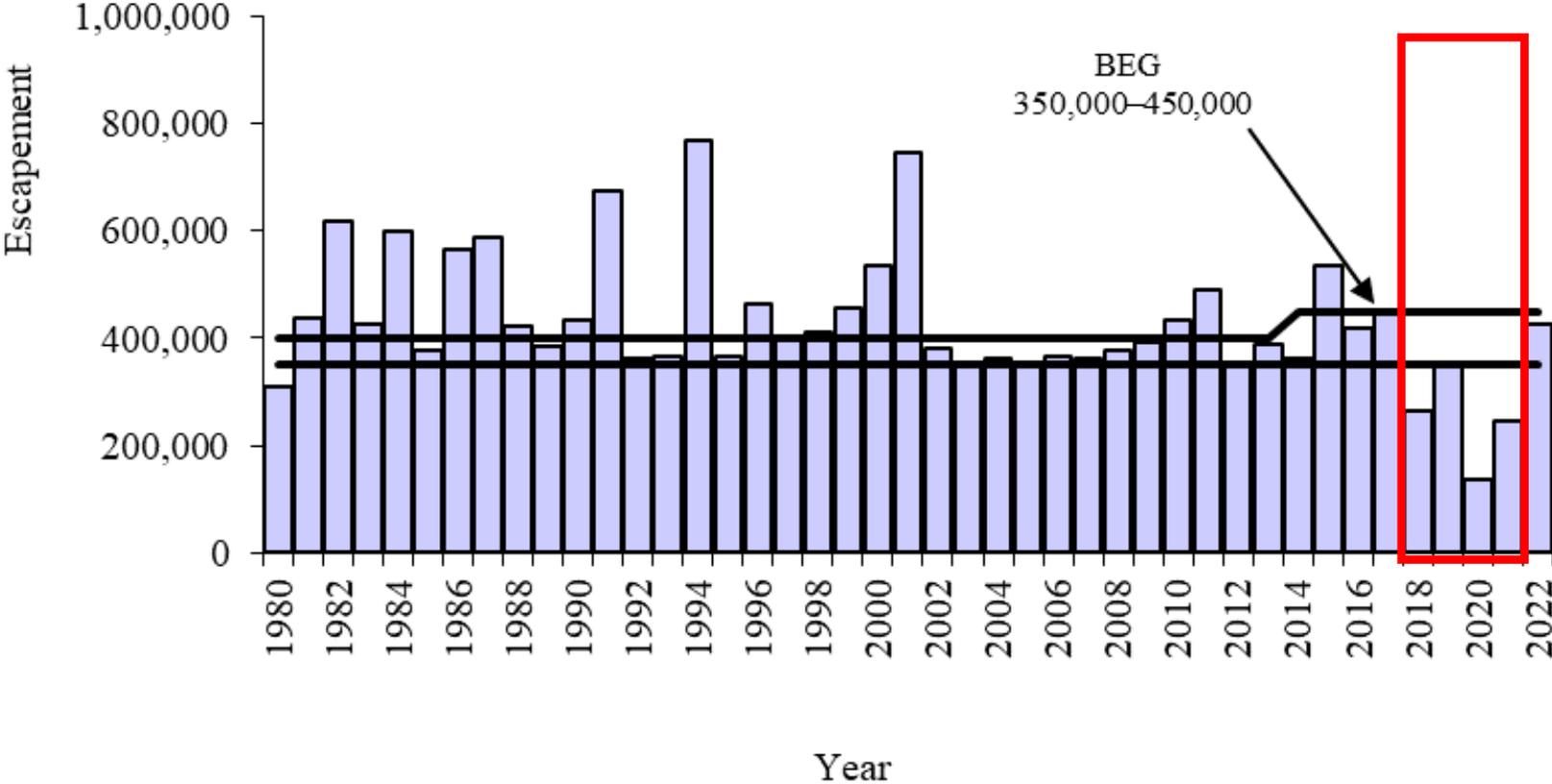
“Means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the SEG, BEG, OEG, or other specified management objectives for the fishery.”

# Definitions

## *Chronic Inability*

“Chronic inability means the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four- to five- year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species.”

# Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement, 1980–2022



# RC104

- Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners
- Not projected to meet early-run goal, reduce Shumagin Islands seine time by 50%
- June 15, June 20, June 25

Member Mitchell

RC104

3/29/2022

The framework below represents the understanding between the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and the Area M Seiners Association regarding how the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may manage fisheries to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon in 2022 following the Alaska Board of Fisheries' designation of Chignik River early run sockeye salmon as a Stock of Management Concern. This framework is not an action plan and does not restrict the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's emergency order authority to manage salmon stocks for sustained yield in both the Chignik and South Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

Based on early run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik Weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would be reduced by 50%, in the Shumagin Islands Section, in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal.

Fishing time for purse seine gear under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon early run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* and in the Chignik Management Area. The department would attempt to balance providing harvest opportunity on Chignik late-run sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area, and local South Alaska Peninsula stocks in the South Alaska Peninsula Area while continuing to conserve Chignik early run sockeye salmon.

Subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area would not be restricted.



George Anderson, Chignik Intertribal Coalition

# 2022 Actions

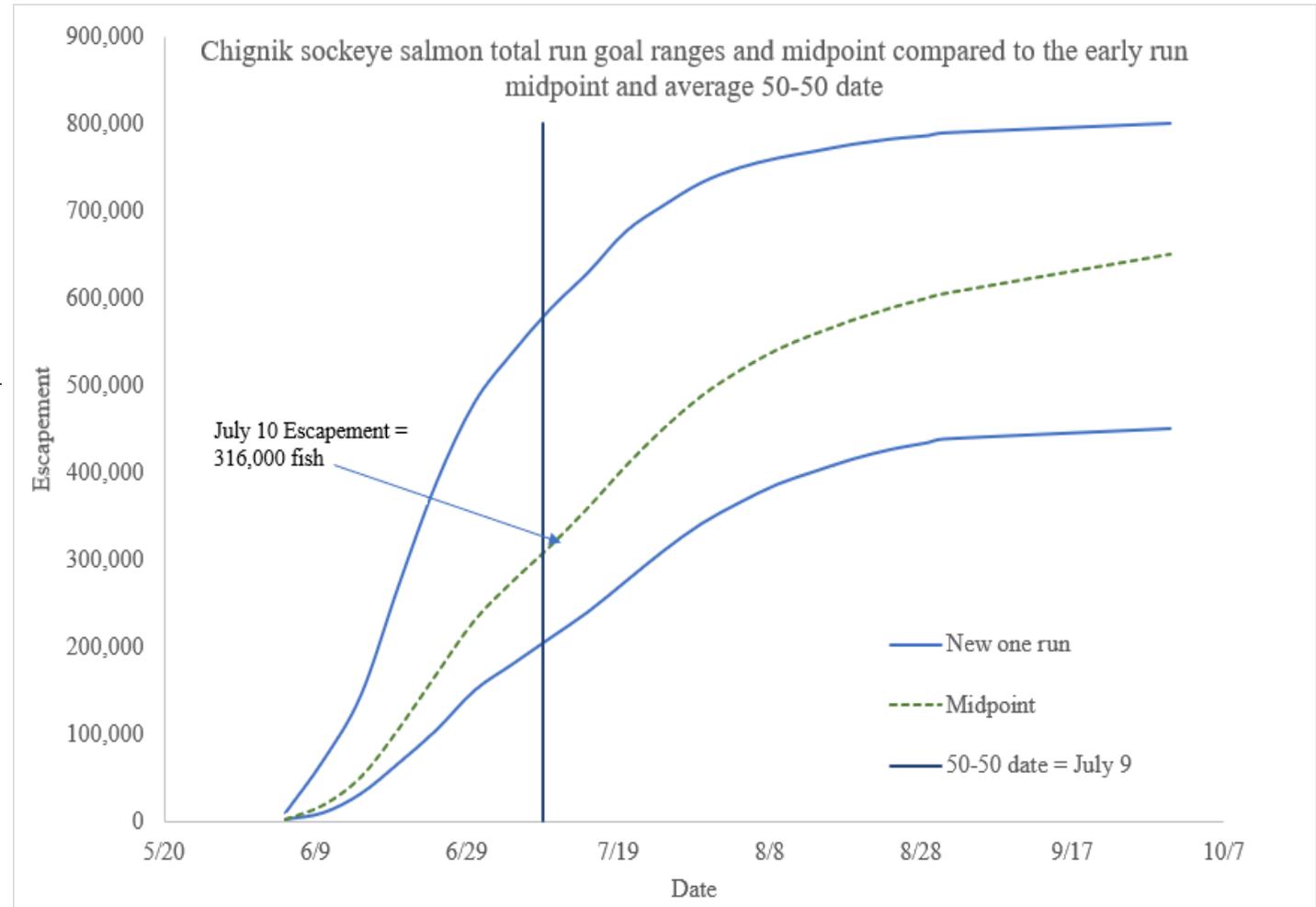
- By June 14, early-run goal at Chignik not project to be met
- June 15 reduction from 88 hours to 40 hours
- Shumagin Islands Section
- Purse seine gear only
- Same actions for June 20 and June 25

# Escapement Goal Review and Options for Action Plan

- Early-run and late-run goals changed to one goal
- First half of run assessed through July 10
- Maintain intent of RC104 with new goal
- 3 commercial options for action plan
- 1 subsistence option (no change)
- 3 sport options

# July 10 assessment date

- 90% of early-run escaped
- Half of the total one run escapement
- Coincides with July 9 50-50 early- and late-run date



# Commercial Action Plan Option #1

- Status quo Chignik, SEDM, Igvak regulations
- Shumagin Islands seine 50% time reduction
- June 15, June 20, and June 25
- Not projected to meet July 10 lower bound

# Commercial Action Plan Option #2

- Change CMA regulations to manage solely on Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement
- SEDM and Igvak regulations unchanged
- Shumagin Islands seine 50% time reduction
- June 15, June 20, and June 25
- Not projected to meet July 10 midpoint

# Commercial Action Plan Option #3

- Change CMA regulations to manage solely on Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement
- SEDM and Igvak regulations unchanged
- Shumagin Islands seine 50% time reduction
- June 20 and June 25
- Not projected to meet July 10 mid point

# Subsistence

## Action Plan Option #1

- No change

# Sport Action Plan Option #1

- No Change

# Sport Action Plan Option #2

- Close Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishery

# Sport Action Plan Option #3

- Reduce bag limit for Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishery

# Conditions for Delisting SOC

- Lower bound of the BEG range for July 10 met or exceeded in 3 consecutive years

AND

- Expected to meet goal range in future years

OR

- Lower bound of BEG range for July 10 met in 4 out of 6 consecutive years

AND

- Expected to meet goal range in future years

# Conditions For Reducing Management Restrictions on SOC

- Inseason management measures relaxed in other areas if escapement numbers met AND Chignik commercial salmon permit holders are fishing
- In the event that 2 consecutive years of escapements are near the upper bound of the escapement goal range or above the range, management restrictions may be relaxed or set aside using EO authority

# Questions?

