system not to achieve its escapement goal. Bear River exceeded its escapement goal with a total of 517,000 sockeye salmon. All other systems met their escapement goals.

Nelson River

In 2022, 109,900 sockeye salmon escaped into streams in the Nelson Lagoon Section (Table 4), of which 98,000 fish returned to Nelson River, 6,900 returned to David's River, and 5,000 returned to Caribou River (Appendix A1). The Nelson River weir escapement of 98,000 fish met the escapement goal of 97,000–219,000 but was below the 10-year average of 259,096 fish (Tables 14 and 15; Schaberg et al. 2019). The peak daily escapement (5,244 fish) at the Nelson River weir occurred on July 16 (Table 15).

Nelson River is the only North Alaska Peninsula river system with a female sockeye salmon escapement objective. In the past, high numbers of female sockeye salmon have been harvested in the commercial fishery, reducing the quality of escapement. To account for this, the proportion of female sockeye salmon passing the weir is determined through periodic sampling. This proportion is then extrapolated to account for the entire day's escapement. An estimated 43,463 female sockeye salmon, 44% of the total escapement, passed the weir in 2022, failing to meet the escapement objective of 50,000–110,000 female fish (Murphy and Russell 2022).

Nelson missing re female sockeye escapement

Bear River

Bear River has early and late sockeye salmon escapement goals because the river has 2 temporally distinct runs. In 2022, the Bear River early run (before August 1) exceeded the escapement goal of 176,000–293,000 fish with an escapement of 365,699 sockeye salmon, and the late run (after July 31) exceeded the escapement goal of 117,000–195,000 fish with an escapement of 151,301 sockeye salmon (Tables 16 and 17; Schaberg et al. 2019). The largest daily escapement at the weir in 2022 occurred on July 9 when 20,407 sockeye salmon were counted (Table 17).

Sandy River

The 2022 Sandy River sockeye salmon escapement of 44,000 fish was within the escapement goal range of 34,000–74,000 fish but was below the 10-year average escapement of 77,776 fish (Tables 14 and 18; Schaberg et al. 2019). The largest daily escapement at the Sandy River weir occurred on July 16 when 3,343 sockeye salmon were counted (Table 18).

Ilnik River

In 2022, 94,500 sockeye salmon passed the Ilnik River weir. However, the Ocean River, a tributary of the Ilnik River, changed course during the winter and flowed directly into the Bering Sea in 2022. Aerial surveys estimated an escapement of 16,000 sockeye salmon into Ocean River for a total escapement of 110,500 sockeye salmon into the Ilnik Systems (Table 19, Appendix A1). Ilnik River escapement met the escapement goal of 40,000–60,000 fish and was above the 10-year average of 82,621 fish (Table 14; Schaberg et al. 2019). The largest daily escapement at the Ilnik River weir occurred on June 19, when 6,827 sockeye salmon passed the weir (Table 19).

Port Heiden

Most of the escapement in Port Heiden is composed of fish spawning in Meshik River. Escapement into Meshik River and its tributaries are determined by aerial surveys. A total of 112,700 sockeye salmon were documented in the Meshik River (including Red Bluff Creek), exceeding the