

Submitted by Nate Rose



RC152

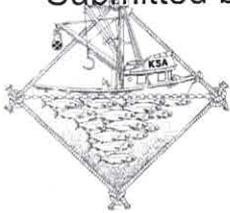
Kodiak Sciners Association
PO Box 8835
Kodiak, AK 99615

To the members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Sockeye harvest caps applied to outlying districts in the Chignik Management Area address multiple issues concerning growing harvest pressure on non-local stocks in the Eastern, Western and Perryville Districts, while still allowing for fishing effort focused on pink and chum stocks in these areas as well as traditional harvest rates of sockeye. Staff comments by the Alaska Department of Fish game as well as public comments by Kodiak fishermen mention the recent increase in harvest efforts in segments of the CMA where stock composition data indicates 50% harvest rates of non-local sockeye stocks. Sockeye harvest caps were selected to eliminate recent non-traditional harvest patterns in the CMA while providing a minimal conservation burden on traditional harvest levels. The proposed Western and Perryville combined 100,000 sockeye cap for July 5 – Aug 1st, historically would have triggered only 5 closures in 35 years prior to the expanding fishing efforts in these districts. Over that 35-year period, Chignik fishermen have exceeded that cap cumulatively by 100,000 fish. Assuming that 50% of those fish are of Chignik origin and would be available for harvest in the Central and Chignik Bay sections, this cap would result in a total maximum conservation burden over 35 years of roughly 50,000 sockeye. The actual conservation burden would likely have been substantially lower given that a portion of the sockeye are harvested in the inner-bay sections which are unaffected by this measure. This conservation burden is disproportionately small compared to the 20,000 sockeye cap applied to the Mainland District of the Kodiak Management Area, which triggers closures every year and was set to prevent even traditional sockeye harvest from occurring.

The proposed August sockeye caps applied to the Eastern, Western and Perryville districts are even less onerous when measured against traditional harvest patterns and would have triggered only two closures in the outer waters of the Western and Perryville districts during the 35-year pre-expansion period and no closures in the Eastern district.

Area Support



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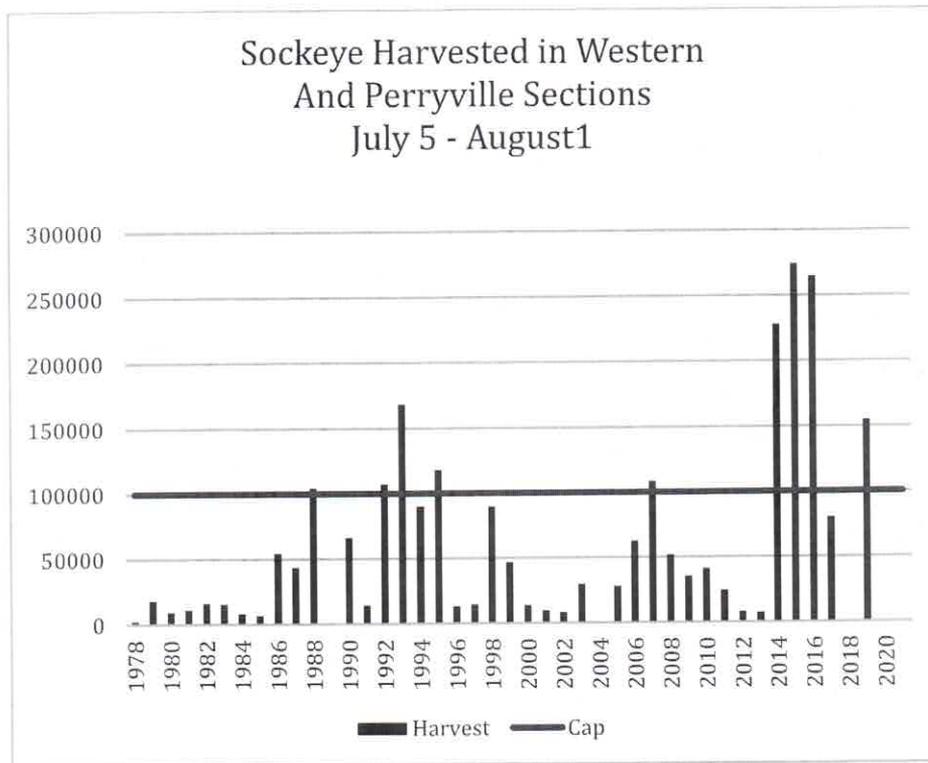


Figure 3. July Harvest of sockeye in the Western/Perryville district with proposed 100,000 fish cap.



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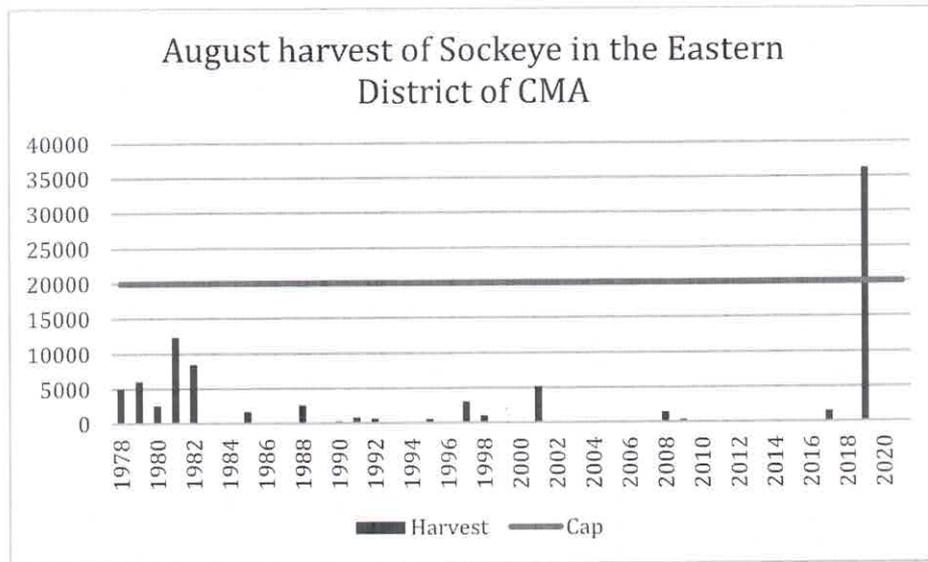


Figure 1. August harvest of Sockeye in the Eastern District of CMA with proposed 20,000 fish cap.

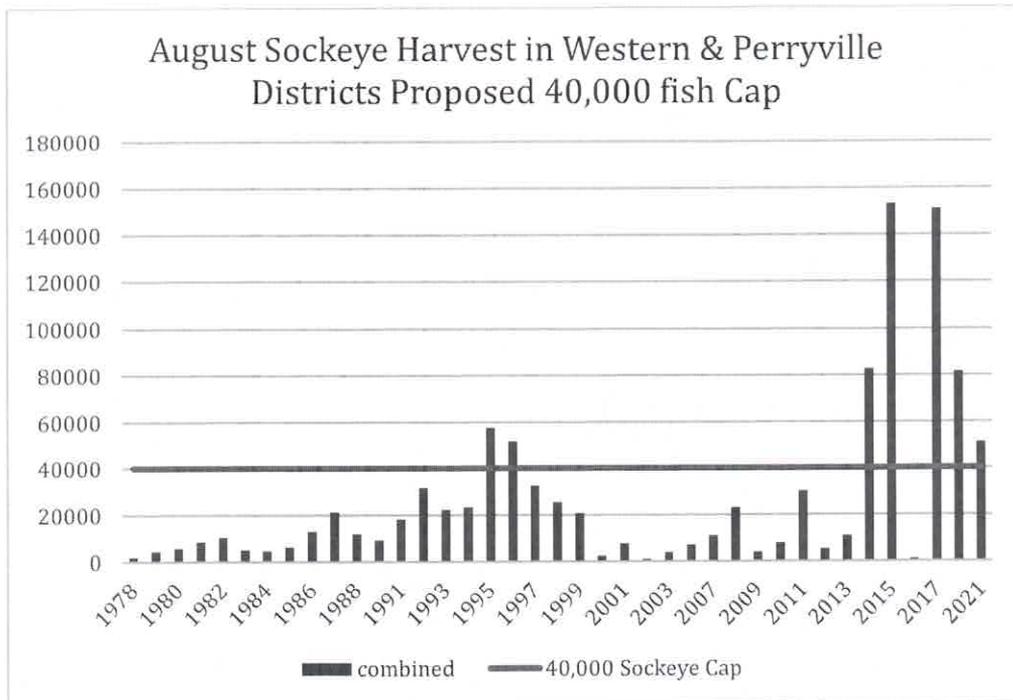


Figure 2. August Harvest of Sockeye in the Western/Perryville districts with proposed 40,000 fish cap.