

The creation of an OEG for Nushagak River sockeye salmon provides guidance to managers to restrict early season fishing for sockeye salmon to allow for king salmon passage through the district. The tiered OEG seeks balance between allowing for restrictive actions to protect king salmon while at the same time setting upper guidelines for controlling sockeye salmon escapement.

An OEG provides guidance for incrementally more conservative management steps based on the preseason forecast sockeye salmon run size. Setting OEG tiers that are greater than the upper end of the sustainable escapement goal for Nushagak River sockeye salmon allow more conservative management and less fishing time on sockeye salmon. Less fishing, especially early season, will reduce king salmon commercial harvest. A tiered OEG provides a sliding scale of implementation to reduce the potential for sockeye salmon over escapement as sockeye salmon run size increases while providing for king salmon conservation.