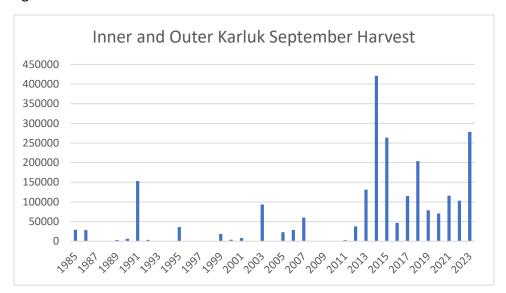


Kodiak Seiners Association

What Happened in 2012?

There was a sudden, and since sustained, increased shift in seine harvest in inner and outer Karluk in 2012. This topic was detailed in **PC74** and is central to the shift in relative harvest rates between gear types. 2012 was the first year of the late-run revival of Karluk sockeye. Since that time, the late-run has grown in strength while the early run had been diminishing since 2008.



We currently are experiencing an unprecedentedly high ratio of Karluk late-run to early-run returns. Seiners have resultantly shifted their effort later into the season in response to the changed abundance. West Side setnetters have not, whether market driven or for personal reasons. Prior to 2012 West Side setnet fishermen after September 5th averaged 152 deliveries on years that they fished during this time frame. Since that they have averaged just 114 deliveries after the 5th. Fewer than 50% of west side setnetters made deliveries after the 5th on each year since 2012. This means that while seine effort has extended substantially into the fall in response to the new abundance of Karluk late-run stocks, setnetters have fished *less* during this period of time than in the past.

The diminished late-run setnet effort cannot be explained by poor setnet harvest numbers. Although a higher proportion of late-run fish do not migrate through the central section compared to early-run sockeye, the larger late-run volumes provide adequate harvest opportunity in the Central Section. On 50% of the seasons that setnetters fished past September 5, their average number of sockeye per delivery has *higher* than before the 5th.

It also should be noted that increased fishing opportunity in Inner and Outer Karluk is partially due to recently reduced escapement goals for that system. The shift of seine effort into these areas results in *lower* seine pressure in the Central Section, yet setnet fishermen still aren't exploiting the fishing opportunity available to them.

1990 and 1991 are the only two years historically that exhibited similar run dynamics to what we have seen in the past 10 years with strong late-run sockeye and relatively weak early-run Karluk sockeye. Setnet harvest rates per permit during these years was similar to what we've seen in the past 10. Essentially, the critical determining factor of setnet harvest rates is the ratio of late to early-run Karluk sockeye.

