



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Board of Fisheries

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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Finding in the Establishment of Optimal Escapement Goals for Nushagak River Sockeye Salmon for the Conservation of King Salmon 2023–303–FB

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 consistently 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 allows 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.

In addition to conserving the earlier portion of the king salmon run, OEGs should reduce the need to prosecute the sockeye salmon fishery aggressively during the latter portion of the king salmon run since the OEGs are larger than the SEG and accommodate a broader range of sockeye salmon escapement levels than the SEG. It is the board's intent that the department manage the commercial sockeye salmon during the latter portion of the king salmon run to ensure that portion of the king salmon is adequately protected.

VOTE: **X-X**

Date Adopted: March 13, 2023
Anchorage, Alaska

Märit Carlson-Van Dort, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries