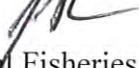




MEMORANDUM


TO: Members
Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: September 20, 2014

FROM: Jeff Regnart, Director 
Division of Commercial Fisheries

SUBJECT: Prince William Sound
Management Area
Stock of Concern
Recommendations

and

Charles O. Swanton, Director 
Division of Sport Fish

The *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222) directs the department to report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) on the status of salmon stocks and identify any stocks that present a concern related to yield, management, or conservation during regular board meetings. This memorandum summarizes the results of the stock of concern evaluation for Prince William Sound Management Area (PWSMA) salmon stocks for the 2014 board regulatory cycle. The evaluation includes input from regional and area management staff from both fishery divisions.

Salmon escapements in PWSMA are primarily monitored by multiple aerial surveys of stream reaches that can be monitored. However, one PWSMA stock's escapement was measured using sonar, one with mark-recapture techniques, and two with weirs. There are 29 escapement goals in PWSMA. None of the PWSMA stocks exhibited a chronic inability to achieve their escapement goals (Table 1; Munro and Volk 2014), and therefore, we recommend that no stocks of concern be established.

Literature Cited

Munro, A.R., E.C. Volk. 2014. Summary of Pacific salmon escapement goals in Alaska, with a review of escapements from 2005 to 2013. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Manuscript Series No. 14-01, Anchorage.

Prince William Sound Management Area Stock of Concern Memo

Table 1.– Prince William Sound Management Area king, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon escapement goals and escapements, from 2005 to 2013. Shaded cells indicate years when the lower bound of the escapement goal was not met.

Species/System	2013 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	Escapement								
	Lower	Upper			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
KING SALMON													
Copper River	24,000		lower-bound SEG	2003	21,528	58,454	34,565	32,487	27,787	16,771	27,994	27,395	29,008 ^a
SOCKEYE SALMON													
Upper Copper River	360,000	750,000	SEG	2012	515,599	579,552	612,083	480,597	468,725	502,995	607,657	953,736	864,152
Copper River Delta	55,000	130,000	SEG	2003	58,406	98,896	88,285	67,950	69,292	82,835	76,507	66,850	73,505
Bering River	15,000	33,000	SEG	2012	30,890	14,671	21,471	18,396 ^b	17,022 ^b	4,367	28,530	17,890	21,900
Coghill Lake	20,000	60,000	SEG	2012	30,313	24,157	70,001	29,298	19,293	24,312	102,359	72,678	17,231
Eshamy Lake	13,000	28,000	BEG	2009	23,523	41,823	16,646	18,495	24,025	16,291	20,565	NA ^c	NA ^c
COHO SALMON													
Copper River Delta	32,000	67,000	SEG	2003	101,082	89,270	53,820	76,892	41,294	41,077	38,495	37,010	34,680
Bering River	13,000	33,000	SEG	2003	44,542	33,192	33,062	28,932	22,141	21,311	18,890	15,605	18,820
PINK SALMON^d													
Eastern District (even year)	250,000	580,000	SEG	2012									
Eastern District (odd year)	310,000	640,000	SEG	2012								301,709	
Northern District (even year)	140,000	210,000	SEG	2012									1,266,783
Northern District (odd year)	90,000	180,000	SEG	2012								106,544	
Coghill District (even year)	60,000	150,000	SEG	2012									328,896
Coghill District (odd year)	60,000	250,000	SEG	2012								172,611	
Northwestern District (even year)	70,000	140,000	SEG	2012									640,414
Northwestern District (odd year)	50,000	110,000	SEG	2012								117,795	
Eshamy District (even year)	3,000	11,000	SEG	2012									203,444
Eshamy District (odd year)	4,000	11,000	SEG	2012								1,052	
Southwestern District (even year)	70,000	160,000	SEG	2012									12,145
Southwestern District (odd year)	70,000	190,000	SEG	2012								85,384	
Montague District (even year)	50,000	140,000	SEG	2012									348,012
Montague District (odd year)	140,000	280,000	SEG	2012								77,756	
Southeastern District (even year)	150,000	310,000	SEG	2012									411,373
Southeastern District (odd year)	270,000	620,000	SEG	2012								258,047	
													1,472,633
CHUM SALMON													
Eastern District	50,000		lower-bound SEG	2006	113,135	109,403	123,814	74,740	55,219	91,514	196,933	61,969	119,110
Northern District	20,000		lower-bound SEG	2006	30,657	52,039	49,669	38,791	37,358	38,207	52,474	14,680	34,240
Coghill District	8,000		lower-bound SEG	2006	11,979	15,900	14,052	39,660	36,724	51,589	16,368	10,281	11,369
Northwestern District	5,000		lower-bound SEG	2006	12,696	25,860	10,778	28,051	34,290	30,074	11,447	7,072	4,746
Southeastern District	8,000		lower-bound SEG	2006	25,547	26,739	60,464	21,614	16,453	85,138	91,218	20,467	35,942

^a Estimate is preliminary pending final 2013 sport harvest estimates.

^b The escapement goal in effect at the time for Bering River sockeye salmon (20,000–35,000) was not achieved.

^c The Eshamy River weir was not operated in 2012 or 2013. A pilot project to assess the use of video monitoring in 2013 did not provide a comparable total escapement estimate, but did provide a minimum estimate of 4,500 sockeye salmon.

^d Prior to 2012, pink salmon goals were Sound-wide goals within a broodline (even and odd years). During the period 2003-2011, the odd year broodline exceeded the lower bound of the escapement goal in 5 out of 5 years and even year broodline exceeded the lower bound of the goal 2 out of 4 years.