

Oral Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries



Review of Salmon Escapement Goals in the Bristol Bay Area, 2015



by

**Jack Erickson
CF**

and

**Tim McKinley
SF**

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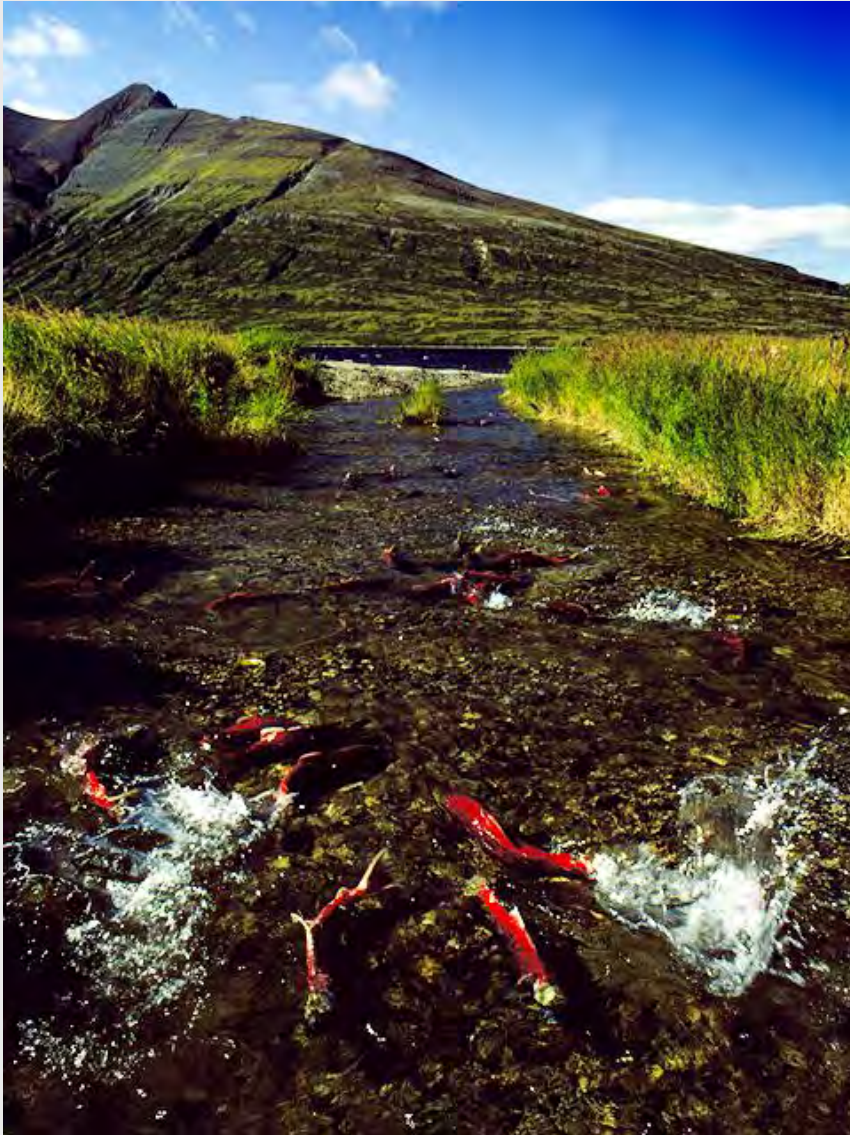
**Oral Report:
Tab 5**

**Written Report:
Tab 1**

Presentation Objectives

- Introduce escapement goal policies
- Explain review process
- Summarize results and recommendations

Escapement Goal Policies



- Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222)
- Policy for Statewide Salmon Escapement Goals (5 AAC 39.223)
- Goals are adopted to ensure salmon stocks are conserved, managed, and developed using the sustained yield principle

Escapement Goal Review Process

- 1) Establish escapement goal committee (CF, SF)
- 2) Evaluate existing goals
- 3) Consider new goals and those to be eliminated
- 4) Develop a memo to division directors for their approval of recommended escapement goals
- 5) Present preliminary findings at board Work Session
- 6) Complete a written and oral report

Existing Bristol Bay Escapement Goals

King salmon: 3 stocks

Alagnak, Naknek, and Nushagak rivers

Chum salmon: 1 stock

Nushagak River

Coho salmon: 1 stock

Nushagak River

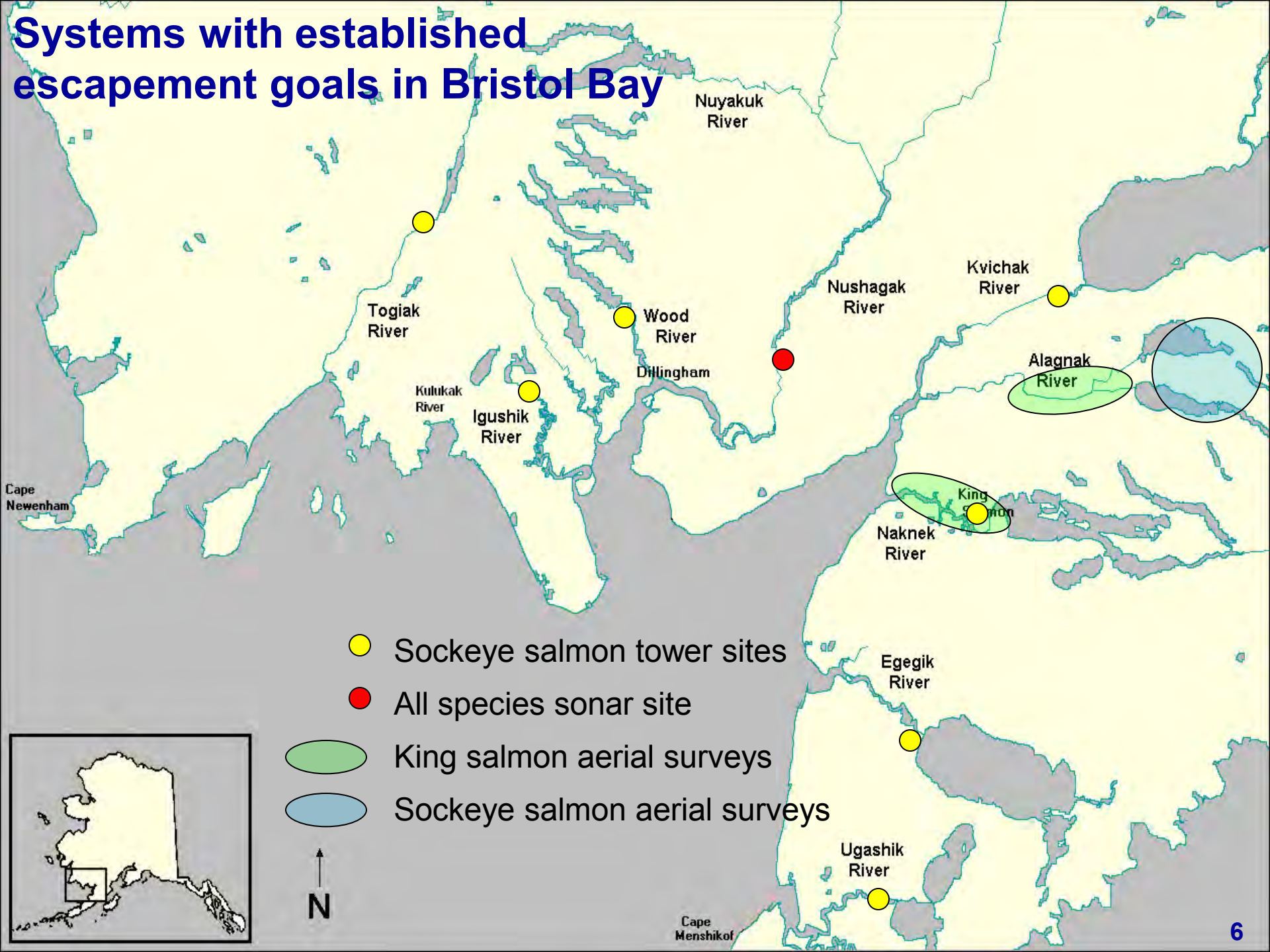
Pink salmon: 1 stock

Nushagak River

Sockeye salmon: 9 stocks

Alagnak, Egegik, Igushik, Kvichak, Naknek, Nushagak, Togiak, Ugashik, and Wood rivers

Systems with established escapement goals in Bristol Bay



● Sockeye salmon tower sites

● All species sonar site

○ King salmon aerial surveys

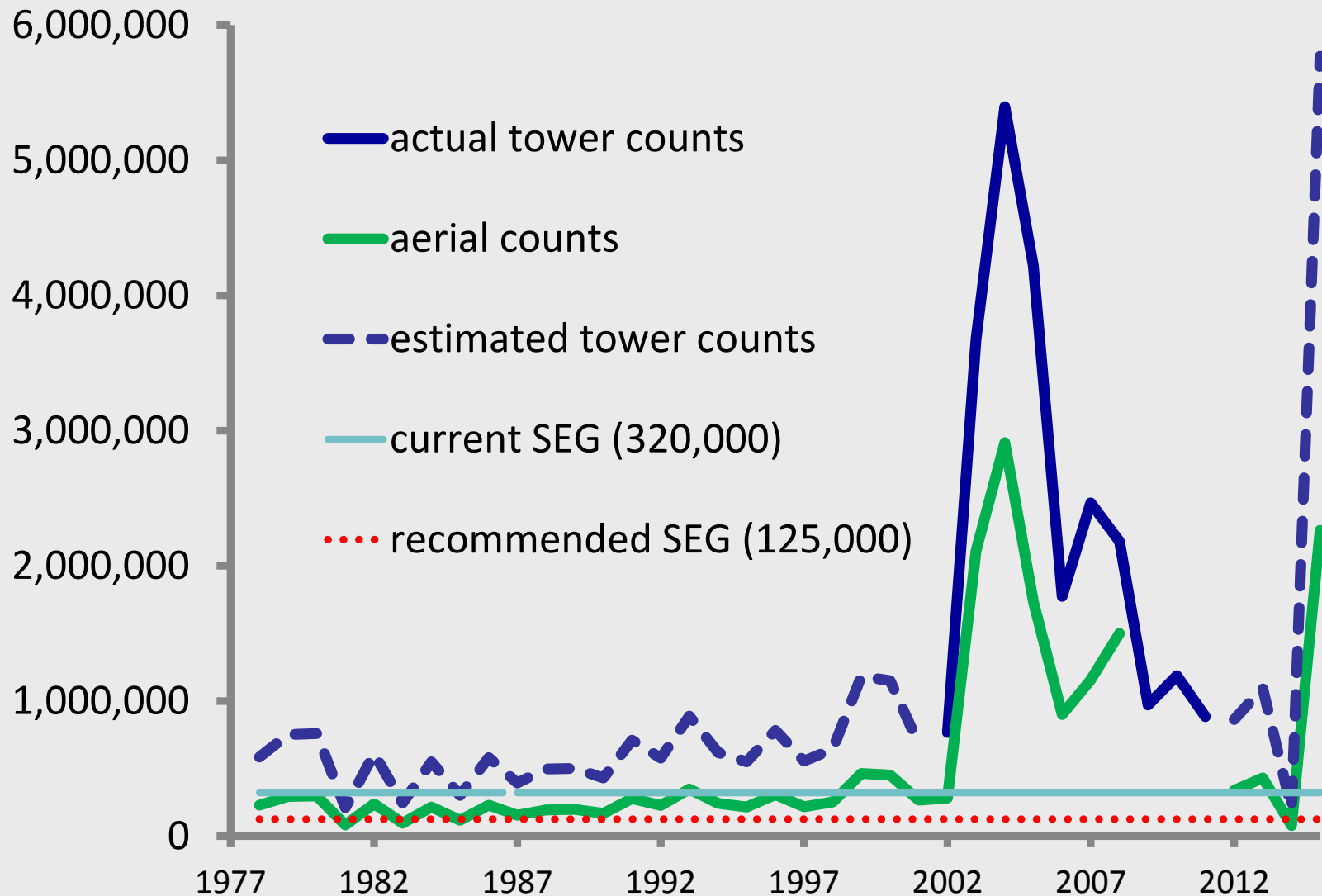
○ Sockeye salmon aerial surveys



Sockeye salmon goals adopted in March 2015

River	SEG
Egegik	800,000 – 2,000,000
Igushik	150,000 – 400,000
Naknek	800,000 – 2,000,000
Nushagak	370,000 – 900,000
Ugashik	500,000 – 1,400,000
Wood	700,000 – 1,800,000

Alagnak sockeye salmon escapement estimates and goals



Discontinuing king salmon goals for Alagnak & Naknek

- **There was no funding for surveys in 5 of the last 6 years.**
- **Funding these aerial surveys in the near future is unlikely.**
- **The long-time observer recently retired; the visual efficiency of the new observer is unknown and likely different.**
- **EO authority has been used (in 2010), without the aerial surveys.**
- **Typically these stocks are passively managed.**

Discontinuing king salmon goals for Alagnak & Naknek (cont.)

Current regulations provide for sustainable fisheries

Alagnak

- Escapement goal is a lower bound SEG of 2,700.
- Recent escapements have averaged ~3,300.
- Recent sport harvests have averaged ~800.
- The most recent inseason action was to reduce the bag limit in 2010.

Naknek

- Escapement goal is a lower bound SEG of 5,000.
- Recent escapements have averaged ~6,600.
- Recent sport harvests have averaged ~1,700.
- There have been no recent inseason management actions.

Recommended goal changes to Directors:

King salmon

- **Discontinue Alagnak and Naknek river goals**

Alagnak River sockeye salmon

- **Recommend lower bound SEG of 125,000 based on aerial surveys**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Key Contributors

Chuck Brazil – CF

Greg Buck – CF

Bob Clark – SF

Fred West – CF

Xinxian Zhang – CF

