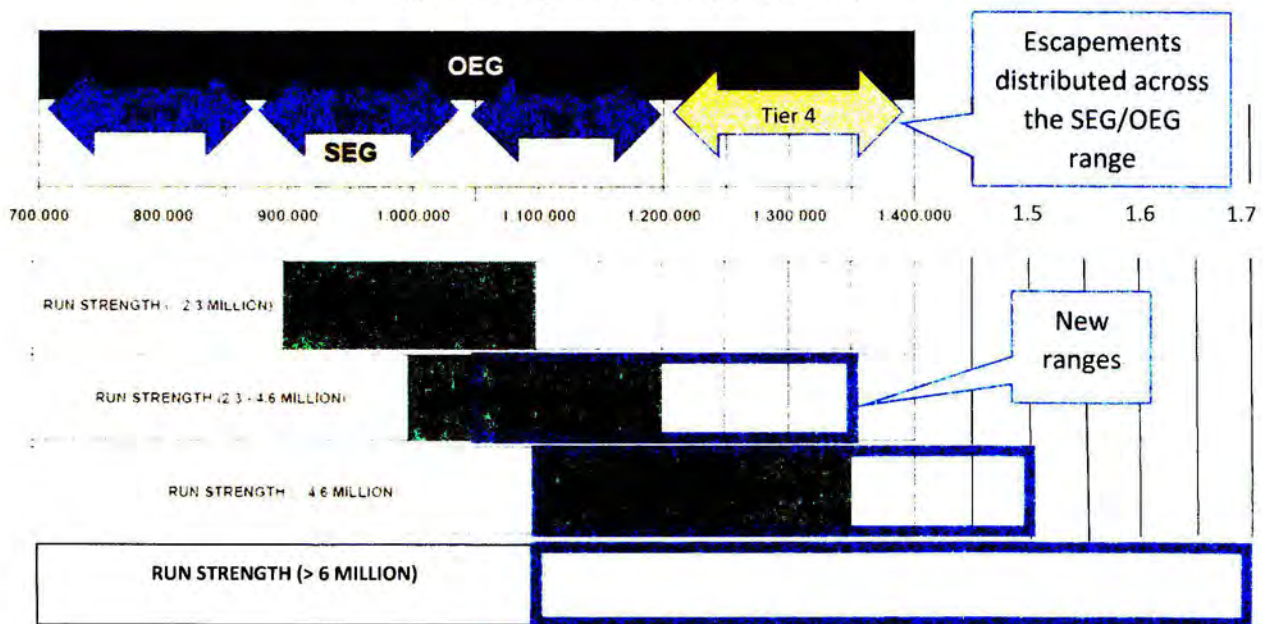


## Kenai Sockeye In-River Goal Revisions (Proposal 116 Substitute Language)

- Proposal #116 by the Department calls for review of the Kenai late-run in-river goals and OEG but did not identify specific numbers.
- The problems are: a) the inriver goals no longer distribute escapements throughout the SEG at current sport harvest numbers above the sonar, and b) the inriver goal ranges are too narrow to consistently hit.
- In order to address this problem, the upper end of the tiers need to be increased.
- The Department has indicated that an appropriate top end for the SEG of 700,000 to 1,200,000 would be 1,500,000 with current sport harvest of 300,000 above the sonar.
- The current plan also identifies an OEG with an additional 200,000 fish above the SEG in order to conserve weak stocks during big runs.
- This proposal revises current in-river goals for consistency with the current SEG, OEG and sport fish harvest levels, as follows:

Tier	Current	Revised
< 2.3 million	900,000 – 1,100,000	same
2.3 – 4.6 million	1,000,000 – 1,200,000	1,050,000 – 1,350,000
4.6 – 6.0 million	1,100,000 – 1,350,000	1,100,000 – 1,500,000
> 6 million	"	1,100,000 – 1,700,000

**Management Objectives & Projected Escapements**



## Regulatory Language

### 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

- (a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.
- (b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to
  - (1) meet an optimum escapement goal (OEG) range of 700,000 – 1,400,000 late-run sockeye salmon **when run size is projected to exceed 6,000,000;**
  - (2) achieve inriver goals as established by the board and located at river mile 19;
  - (3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly size of the run; and
- (c) Based on pre-season forecasts and in-season evaluations of the total Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return during the fishing season, the run will be managed as follows:
  - (1) at run strengths of less than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon,
    - (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 900,000 - 1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19; and
    - (B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 51 hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; and
  - (2) at run strengths of 2,300,000 - 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,
    - (A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of **[1,000,000 – 1,200,000] 1,050,000 - 1,350,000** sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;
    - (B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 51 hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365; and

The OEG is applicable only at run sizes exceeding 6 million (consistent with the original intent)

Middle tier realigned for current sport harvest above the sonar



(h) Subject to the requirement of achieving the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the department shall manage the sport fishery on the Kenai River, except that portion of the Kenai River from its confluence with the Russian River to an ADF&G regulatory marker located 1,800 yards downstream, as follows:

(1) fishing will occur seven days per week, 24 hours per day;

(2) the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is three per day, with six in possession, in the sport fishery, unless the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye salmon exceeds 2,300,000 fish, at which time the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit as the commissioner determines to be appropriate; and

(3) if the projected inriver run of sockeye salmon above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19 is less than 900,000 fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, decrease the bag and possession limit, as the commissioner determines to be appropriate, for sockeye salmon in the sport fishery above the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19.

(i) For the purposes of this section, "week" means a calendar week, a period of time beginning at 12:00:01 a.m. Sunday and ending at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday.

(j) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e).