

AYK Stock of Concern Action Plans

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RC6



Overview

- Three Action Plans
 - Yukon River king salmon
 - Yukon River fall chum salmon
 - Kwiniuk River king salmon
- Designation history
- Escapement review for each stock
- Action plan options
- Delisting criteria and conditions for reducing management actions



Definitions

- *Stock of Yield Concern*

“a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvestable surpluses, above a stock’s escapement needs.”

- *Stock of Management Concern*

“a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the sustainable escapement goal (SEG), BEG, optimum escapement goal (OEG), or other specified management objectives for the fishery.”



Definitions

- *Chronic Inability*
 - “the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds of a four to five year period, which is approximately the generation of most salmon species”



Yukon River King Salmon



Stock of Concern History

- Initially designated in 2000 as stock of yield concern
- Primarily due to low harvests from 1998–2000
- First action plan was adopted in 2001
- Regulatory modifications adopted during subsequent board meetings.
 - Harvest allocations and structured schedules
 - Gear restrictions, prohibition of sales, and alternative gear types
- Designated a stock of management concern at 2025 board work session



Yukon King Salmon Escapement

	Over goal	Met goal	Under goal	– Did not operate for some or all of the season						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
East Fork Andreafsky (weir SEG) 2,100 to 4,900	Met	Met	Met	Over	–	Under	–	–	–	–
West Fork Andreafsky (aerial SEG) 640 to 1,600	–	Met	Under	Met	Under	–	–	Under	Under	Under
Anvik River (aerial SEG) 1,100 to 1,700	–	Under	Met	Met	Under	–	Under	–	Under	Under
Nulato River (aerial SEG) 940 to 1,900	–	Met	Under	Under	Under	–	Under	Under	Under	Under
Chena River (sonar/tower BEG) 2,800 to 5,700	Over	Met	Met	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under
Salcha River (sonar/tower BEG) 3,300 to 6,500	Under	Met	Met	Met	–	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under
U.S.-Canada border (sonar IMEG) 42,500 to 55,000 plus Canadian harvest	Over	Over	Met	Under	Under	Under	Under			
7-Year Agreement Border Passage Objective >71,000									Under	Under



Yukon King Action Plan Options

Option 1– Status quo

- Continue management with treaty obligations, current management plans and regulations
- Yukon Treaty: 7-year agreement (2024–2030)
 - Boarder passage objective of 71,000 Canadian-origin king salmon
 - When objective will not be met, all king salmon mainstem fisheries are closed
 - Only a limited subsistence opportunity may be provided if there is surplus in excess of 71,000 fish
 - Additional king salmon conservation and rebuilding measures
 - Rebuilding plan in development



Yukon King Action Plan Options

Option 1– Status quo, cont.

- Recent Management actions
 - Gillnet restriction – 4 inch mesh or less and maximum length of 60 feet, operated as set nets
 - Total gillnet closure approx. 2 weeks, peak of king run
 - Educational permit for customary and traditional harvest



Yukon King Action Plan Options

Option 2– Fish wheel specifications

- Currently can be made with chicken wire and wood
- Adopt fish-friendly subsistence fish wheel specifications to
 - Soft mesh materials used for baskets
 - Foam lined chutes or slides
- Already in place for commercial fish wheels in Subdistrict 4-A and District 6 (5 AAC 05.362 (j))



Yukon King Action Plan Options

Option 3 – King Salmon Harvest Limit for Yukon River Subsistence Permits

- Permits are required in designated area of the middle and upper river and the Tanana drainage
- Incidental harvest of king salmon occurs in these areas when fishery is restricted to small mesh gillnet gear
- Would only be in effect during times of conservation.
- Could decrease the incidental harvest in some areas
- King salmon harvest in recent seasons is already very low



Yukon King Delisting Criteria

- If a majority of the lower bounds of the established BEG and SEG ranges are met or exceeded in 5 consecutive years and is expected to meet the goal ranges in the future years.



Conditions for reducing management restrictions

- If a harvestable surplus in excess of 71,000 Canadian-origin king salmon exists, limited subsistence opportunity in the Yukon River mainstem may be provided, as stated in the 7-year Agreement, which is in place through 2030.
- Subsistence fishery management measures could be relaxed in specific Alaskan tributaries established escapement goals will be met.



Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon

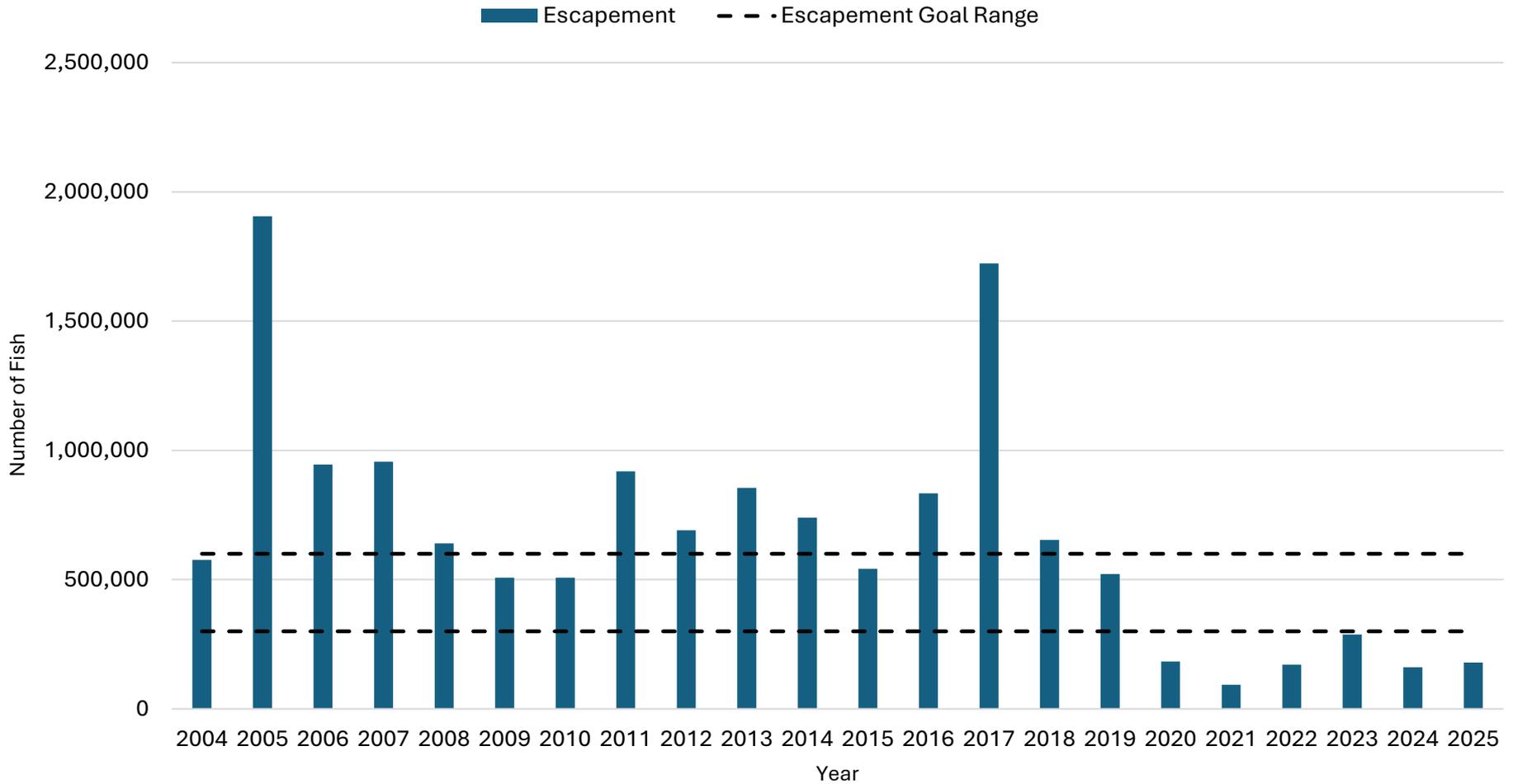


Yukon Fall Chum Stock of Concern History

- Initially designated in 2000 as stock of yield concern
- Due to low runs in late 90's
- Action plan was adopted in 2001
- Runs rebounded and designation was removed in 2007
- Designated a stock of management concern at 2025 board work session



Escapement of Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon (2004–2025)



Yukon Fall Chum Action Plan Options

Option 1– Status Quo

- Continue management with current regulations, management plans, and treaty obligations
- Also managed under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement
- Gillnet mesh size and length restrictions
- Weekly schedule of nonsalmon gillnet opportunity
- Coho fishing with dipnets, when abundance is adequate



Yukon Fall Chum Action Plan Options

Option 2– Fish wheel specifications

- Currently can be made with chicken wire and wood
- Adopt fish-friendly subsistence fish wheel specifications to
 - Soft mesh materials used for baskets
 - Foam lined chutes or slides
- Already in place for commercial fish wheels in Subdistrict 4-A and District 6 (5 AAC 05.362 (j))



Yukon Fall Chum Delisting Criteria

- If the lower bound of the established drainagewide SEG range is met or exceeded in 5 consecutive years and is expected to meet the goal ranges in the future years.

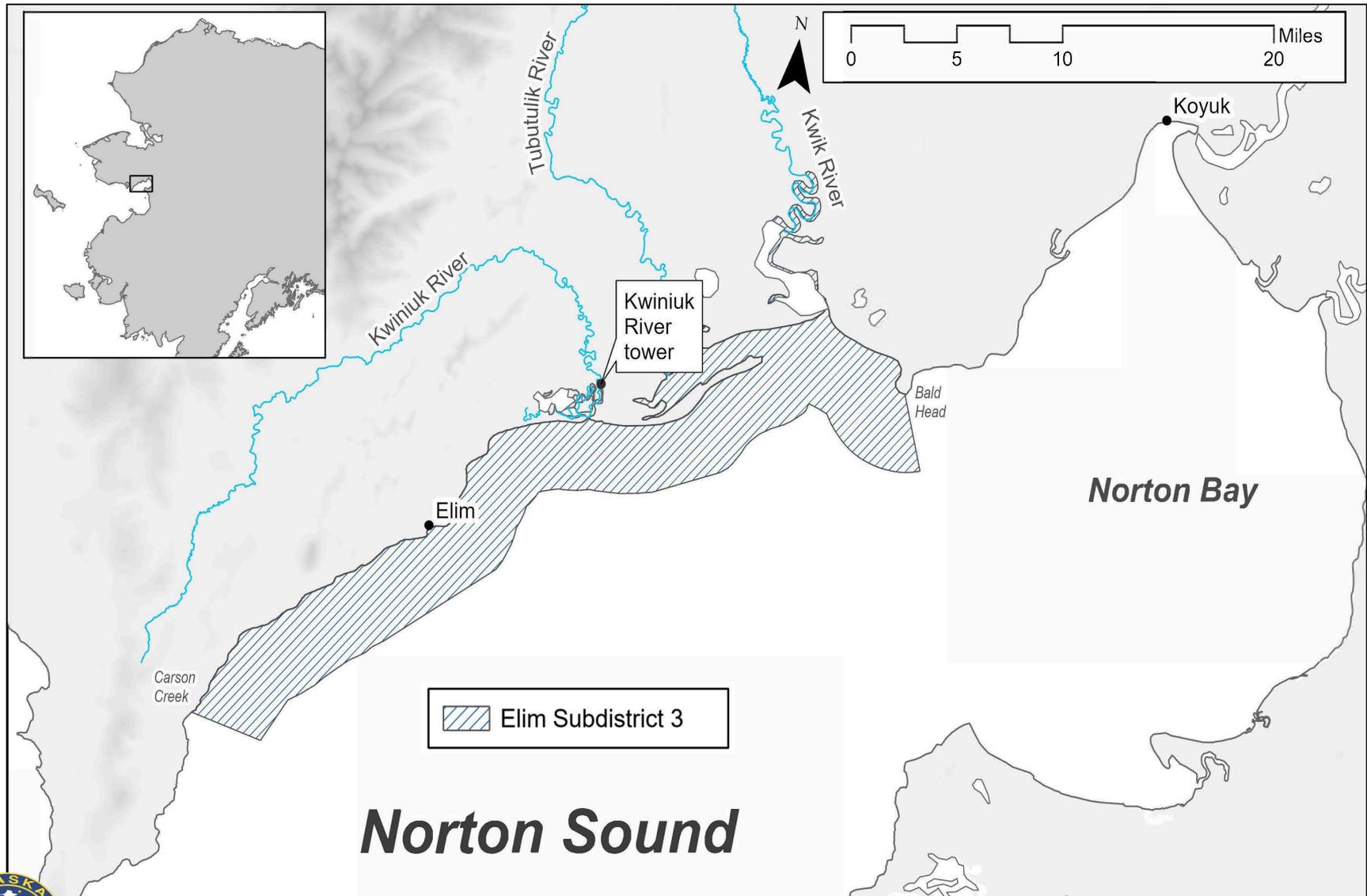


Conditions for reducing management restrictions

- If a harvestable surplus in excess of 300,000 fall chum salmon exists, limited subsistence opportunity in the Yukon River mainstem may be provided
 - Interim Management Escapement Goals (IMEGs) for Fishing Branch River and Canadian Mainstem
- Subsistence fishery management measures could be relaxed in specific Alaskan tributaries if updated stock composition and run assessment data indicates areas where specific restrictions are no longer needed to ensure the established escapement goals will be met



Kwiniuk River King Salmon

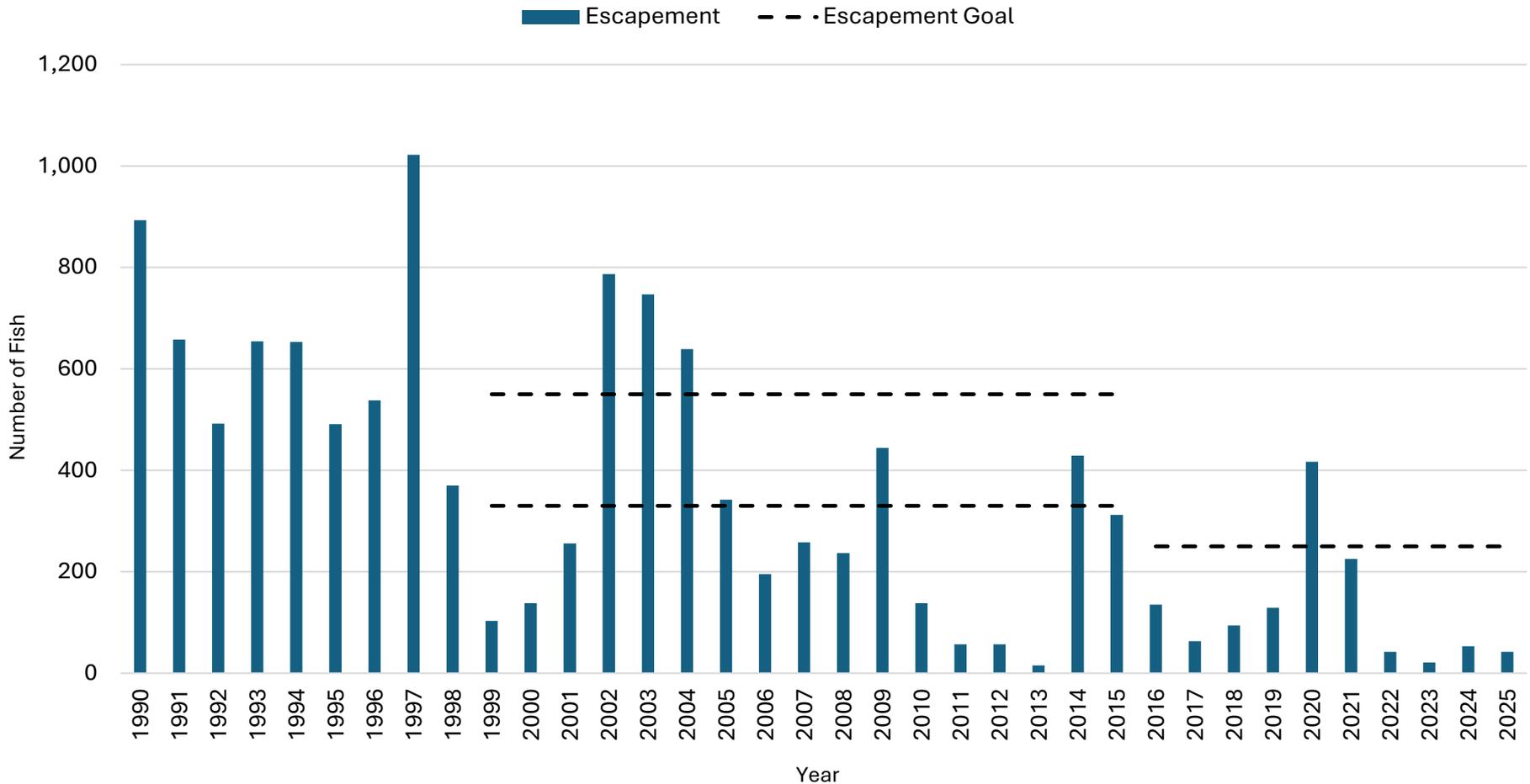


Kwiniuk King Designation Review

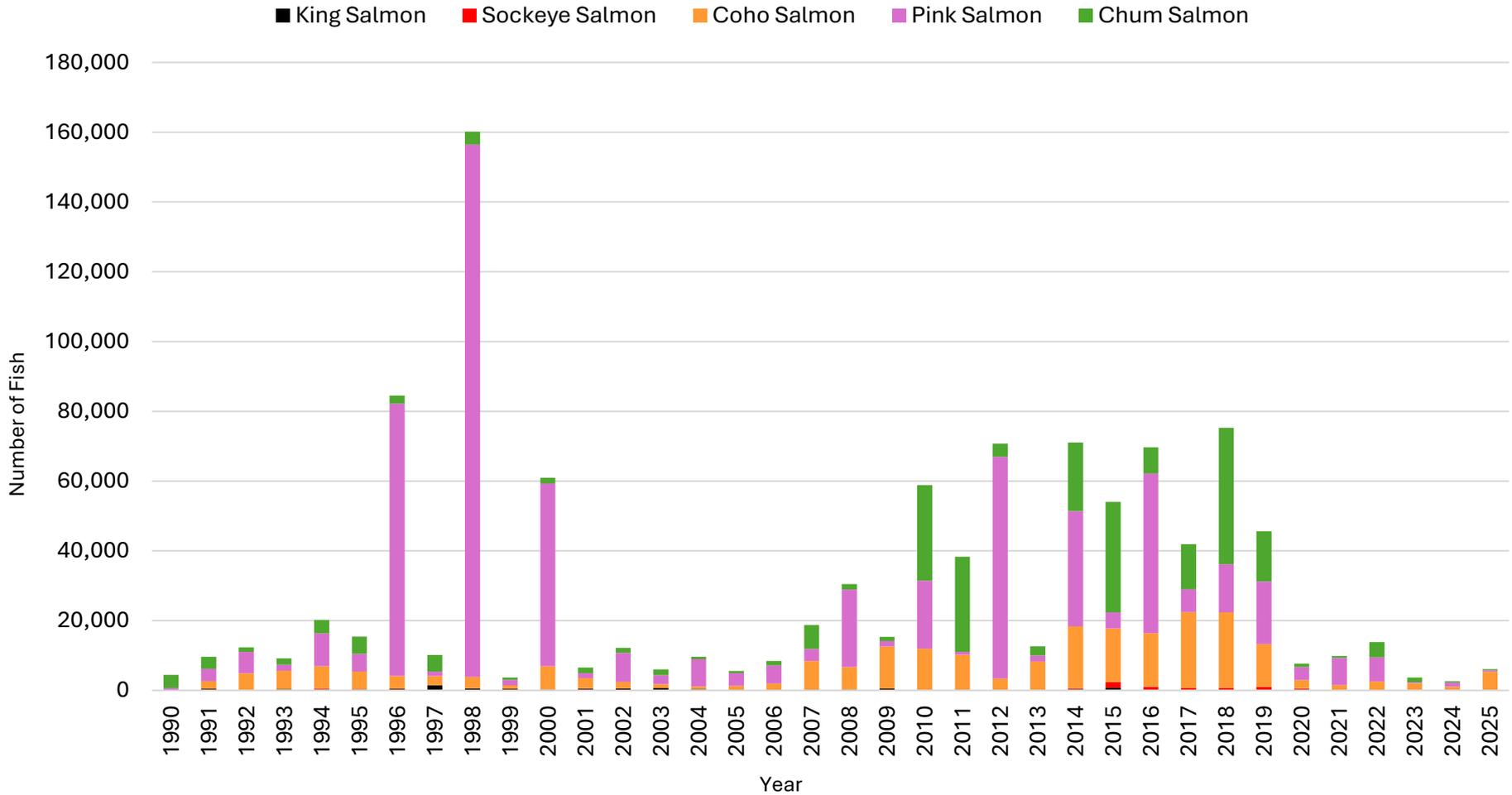
- Stock was not recommended by the department as stock of concern at work session
 - Recent colonization indications
 - No directed fishery
 - Concerns if an escapement goal is appropriate for this stock
 - Hard to consistently achieve goal without closing all fisheries
- Board chose to adopt as stock of management concern at AYK board meeting, November 2025
 - Department was not given an opportunity to provide additional information during deliberations
 - Public not given full opportunity to engage on this topic



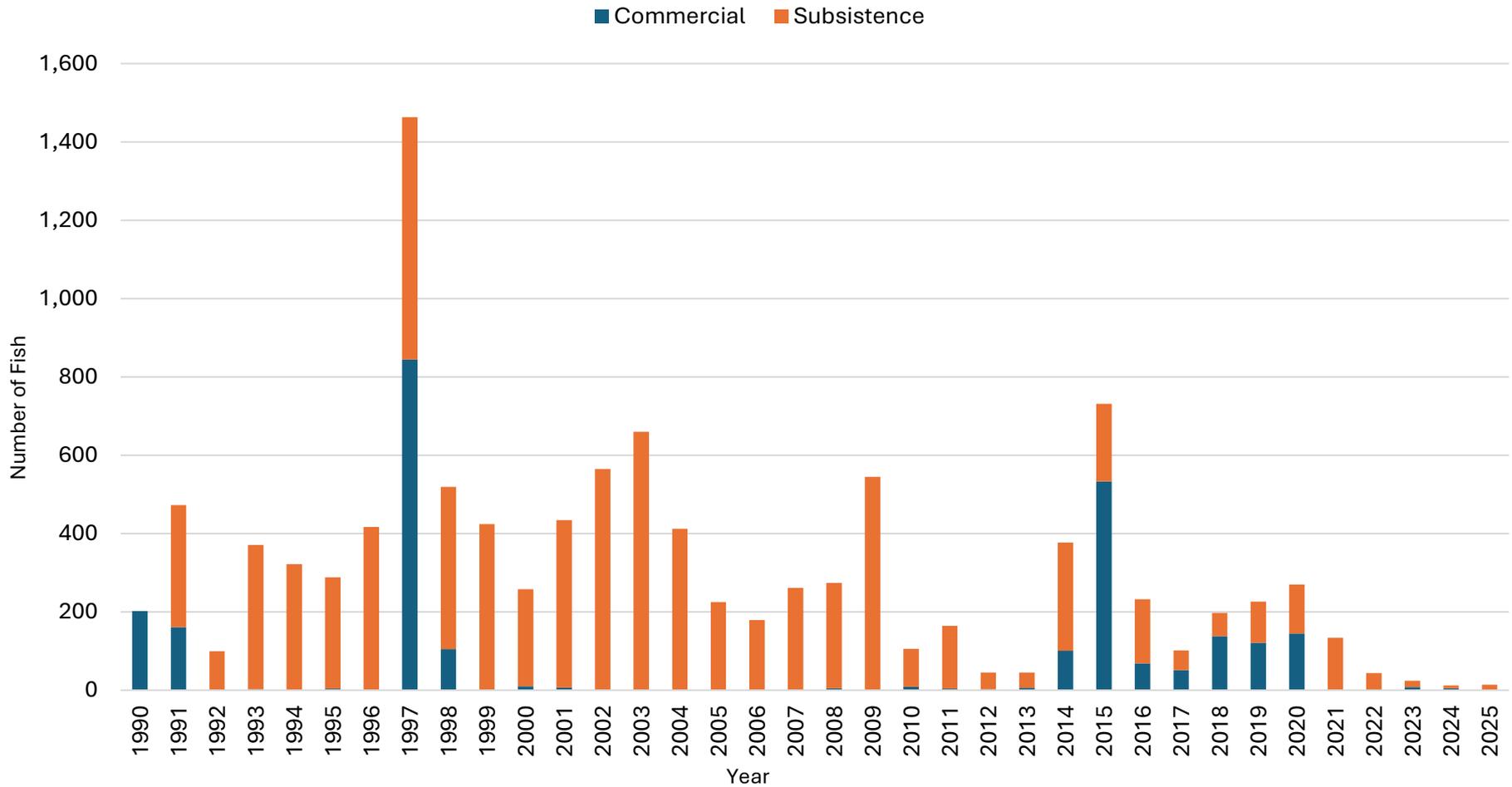
Kwiniuk River King Salmon Escapement (1990–2025)



Norton Sound, Subdistrict 3 Salmon Harvest (1990–2025)



Norton Sound, Subdistrict 3 King Salmon Harvest (2000–2025)



Kwiniuk King Action Plan Options

Option 1 – Status Quo Management

- Continue management with current regulations and management plans
- No directed king salmon fisheries
- Gillnet mesh size restrictions
- Commercial opportunity provided based on chum, pink, and coho salmon abundance



Kwiniuk King Action Plan

Options

Option 2 – Restrict Subsistence, Sport, and Commercial Fishing

- Maximize king salmon escapement by heavily restricting all fisheries
- Close subsistence gillnets in marine waters from June 1–July 15 until a harvestable surplus is identified
 - Beach seines, cast nets, and dip nets with live release of king salmon required
 - Live release of king salmon when hook and line subsistence fishing in freshwaters
- Delay commercial fishing until July 15 or until a surplus of king salmon is identified
- Close king salmon sport fishing



Delisting Criteria and Conditions for reducing management restrictions

- If the lower bound of the established SEG is met or exceeded in 5 consecutive years and is expected to meet the goal ranges in the future years
- Management measures could be relaxed if updated stock information indicates restrictions are no longer needed to ensure the SEG is met



Questions?

