

Submitted By: Jeff Wedekind

Unuk and Chickamin River King Salmon Management Plan

Unuk River and Chickamin River King Salmon escapement is trending up compared to other stock of concern Rivers in SE Alaska. Additional time and area closures put into place in 2018 show positive results in achieving escapement goals. If Option A – Status Quo is chosen and current conservation measures are given a few more years, these two rivers could recover without the increased economic impacts and hardships, which would result from more restrictive time and area closures in Option B.

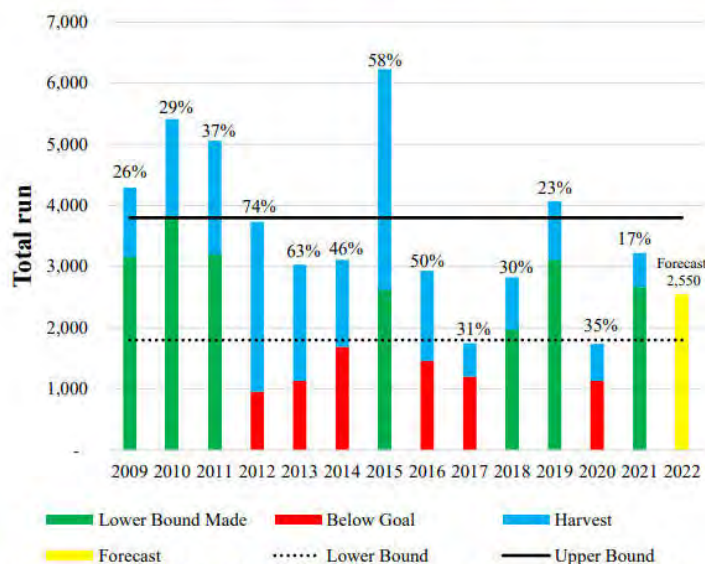
The Neets Bay King Salmon THA, located in the west Behm Canal Unuk and Chickamin River corridor has been moved to Carroll inlet where adult chinook can be harvested by all user groups without jeopardizing Unuk and Chickamin wild adult chinook. Elimination of commercial fishing in this area will reduce the harvest rate of those fish in the near future.

At the time of writing the 2021 Unuk-Chickamin King Salmon Stock Action plan, the preseason forecast for the Unuk River was:

” The 2021 preseason forecast for the total run of Unuk River king salmon is 1,550 large fish, which, with no harvest, is below the lower bound of the BEG range of 1,800 to 3,800 large fish.” (Pg 6 – Outlook).

However, the actual 2021 escapement for the Unuk was 2,667 and adding the 17% harvest equates to a total of 3,120 large fish or twice the total run forecasted at the time of writing the action plan and developing options A and B.

Unuk River King Salmon



Harvest, escapement, and run of Unuk River king salmon, 2009-2021, with the run forecast for 2022. Harvest rate is shown as a percent for each year.

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Southeast King Salmon Escapements (2012-2021)

Stock	Goal		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Goal
	Lower	Upper						Missed
Situk	450	1,050	1,187	420	623	1,197	1,064	1
Elsek	3,500	5,300	1,762	4,312	6,400	5,308	5,616	1
Chilkat	1,750	3,500	1,173	873	2,028	3,180	2,038	2
Taku	19,000	36,000	8,214	7,271	11,558	15,593	10,806	5
King Salmon	120	240	85	30	27	100	134	4
Stikine	14,000	28,000	7,335	8,603	13,817	9,753	8,376	5
Andrew	650	1,500	349	482	698	470	530	4
Unuk	1,800	3,800	1,203	1,971	3,115	1,135	2,667	2
Chickamin	2,150	4,300	722	2,052	1,610	2,280	2,404	3
Blossom	500	1,400	341	1,087	557	515	170	2
Keta	550	1,300	903	1,662	1,041	668	707	0

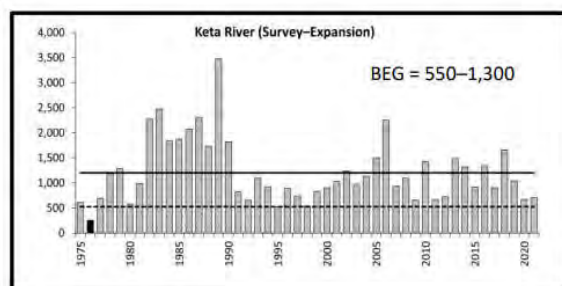
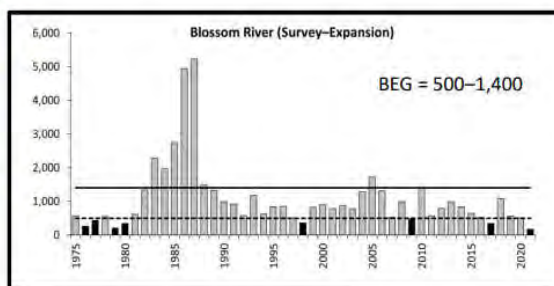
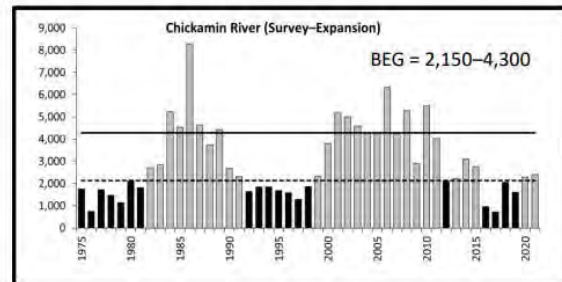
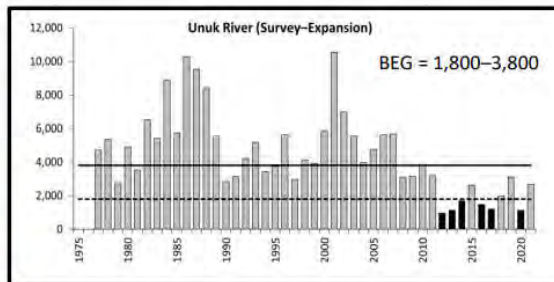
Including 2021 escapements, the Chilkat stock has made the escapement goal in 3 consecutive years, achieving a condition listed in the Action Plan for delisting; however, the 2022 forecast is for continued poor production and conservative management actions should be continued

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King Salmon Escapement Trends - 3

Spawning Escapement



Achieved Goal
 Below Goal