

Subsistence Harvest and Escapement

Southeast Alaska Region



District 1 Eulachon Monitoring - 2020

- Two aerial surveys as of March 19
- No on-site monitoring due to access difficulties
- Two small schools observed in Upper Landing Slough on the Unuk River

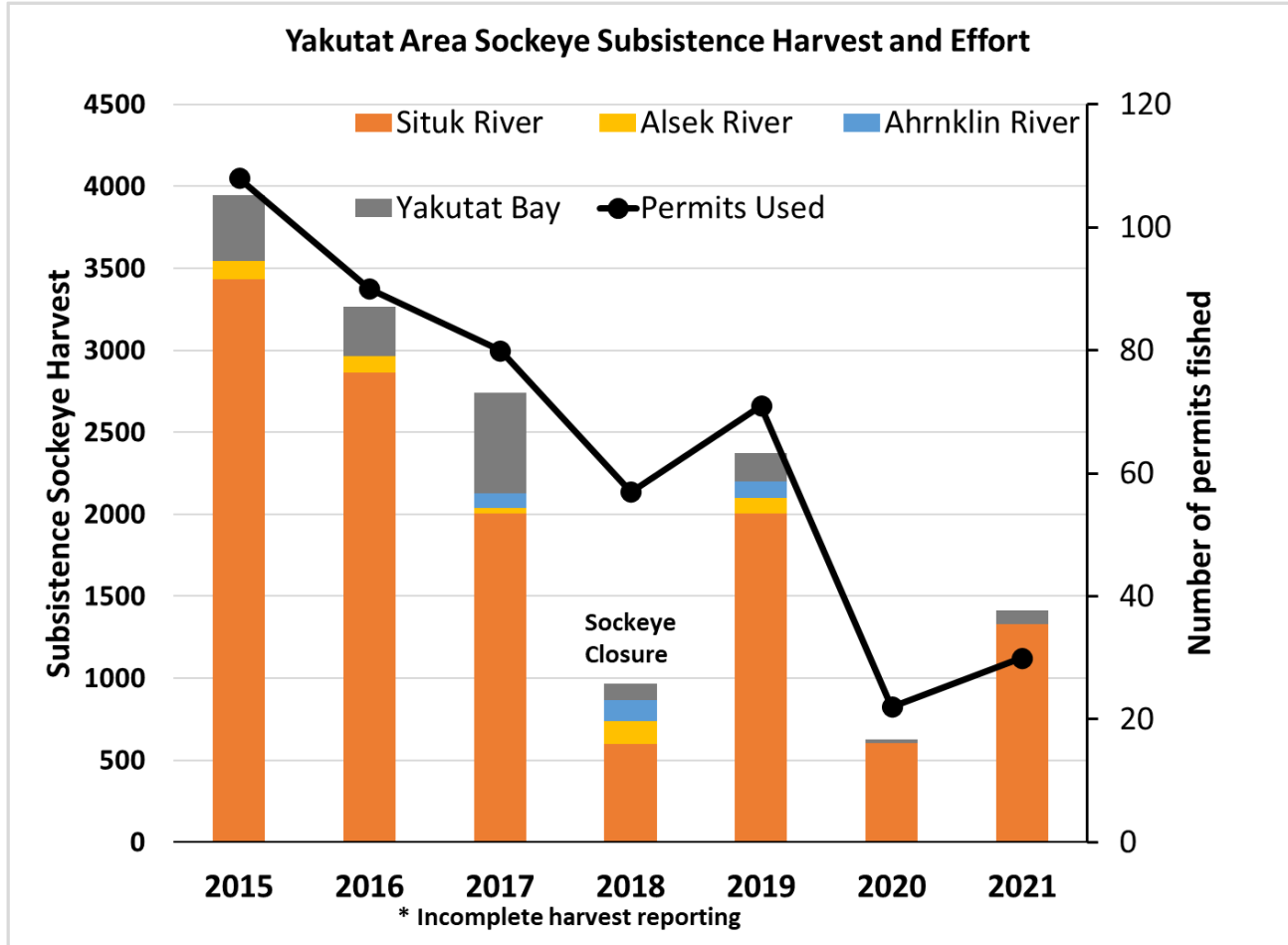


District 1 Eulachon Monitoring - 2021

- Phone surveys with local landowners began March 1
 - March 16 –“The Eulachon have finally arrived”
 - March 22 “Still Present”
 - March 29 – “Very few fish present”
 - Overall run was classified as a 3/10
- On-site monitoring at Unuk and Eulachon Rivers - March 25
- Aerial monitoring throughout the area - March 9, March 19
- Seven harvesters participated in the limited fishery on the Unuk River



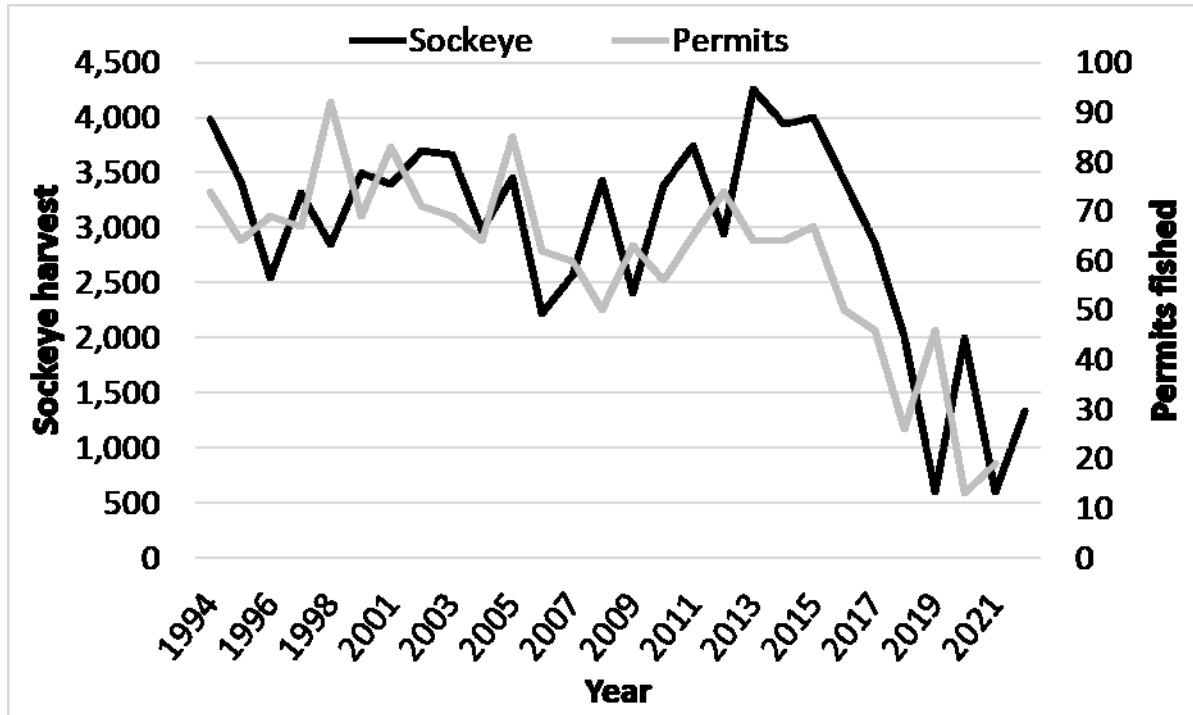
Yakutat Salmon



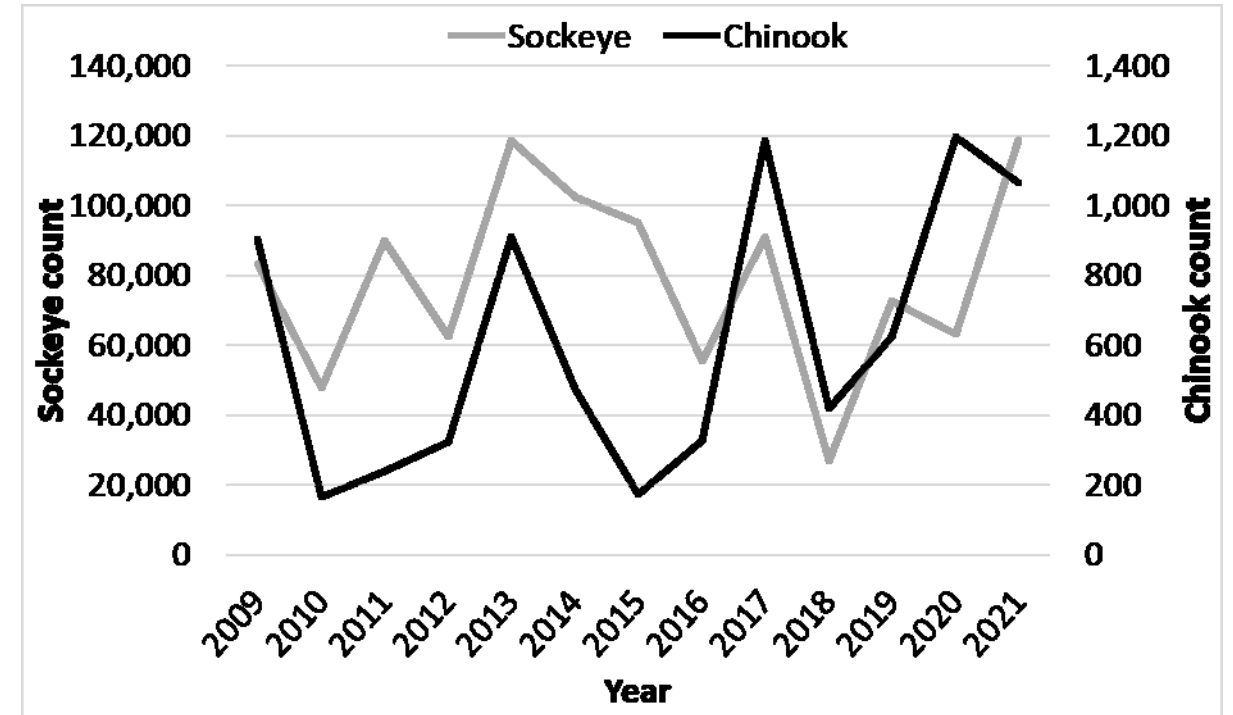
- No active FRMP projects
- Situk River is largest producer, Yakutat Bay also important, esp. for Chinook
- Situk Chinook closures for the past decade due to poor returns, Sockeye closure in 2018
- Sockeye harvest and effort declining in marine waters, possibly due to effects of Chinook closure during overlapping run timing



Sitku River Salmon



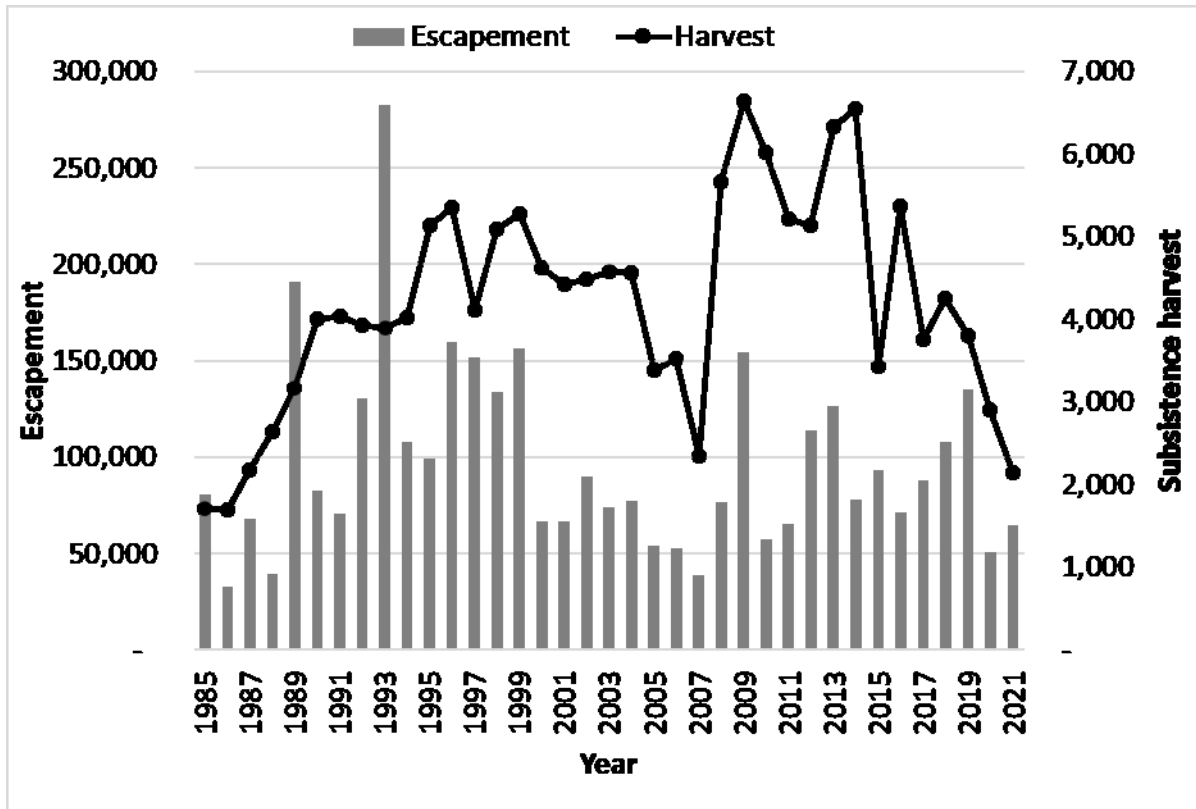
- Situk Sockeye harvest and effort had been relatively stable for 20+ years, before declining over the past few years.



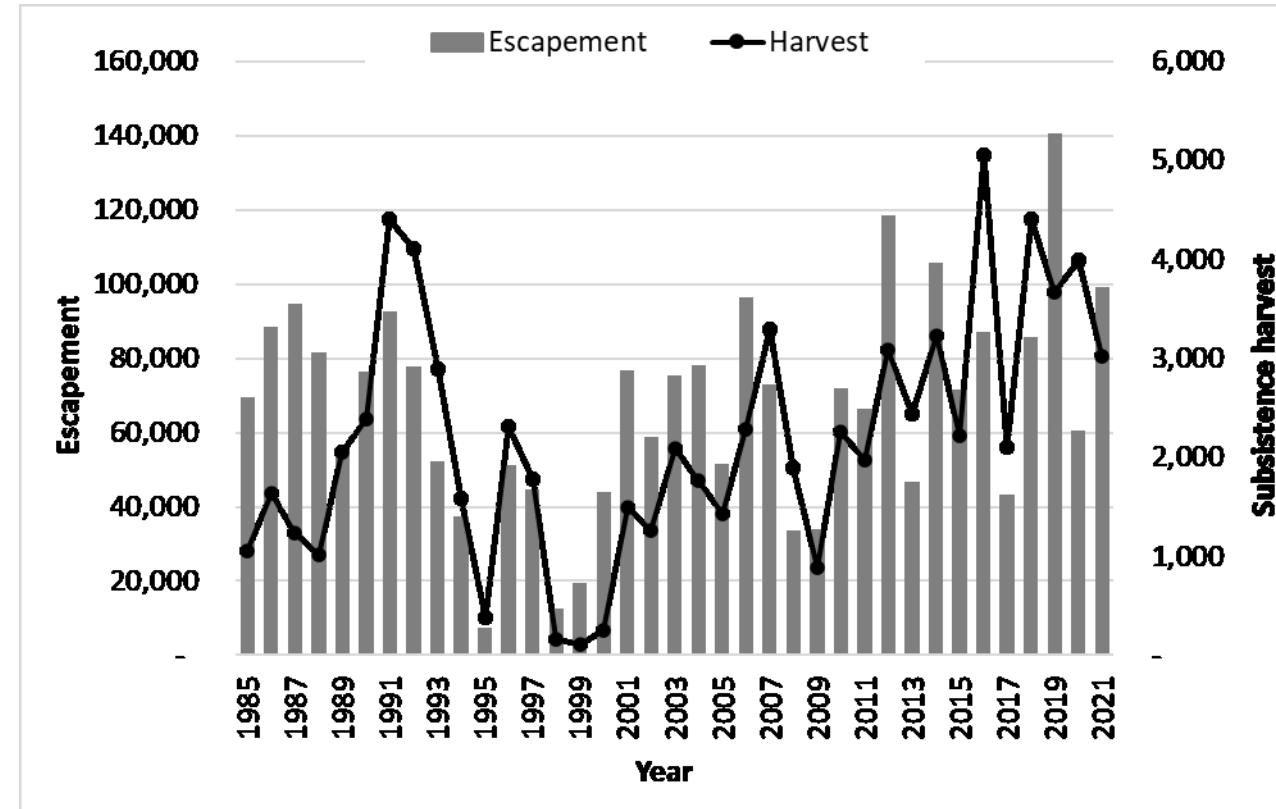
- Sockeye counts have generally met escapement goals, with notable exception of 2018.
- Chinook counts have met minimum



Haines/Upper Lynn Canal



Chilkat



Chilkoot

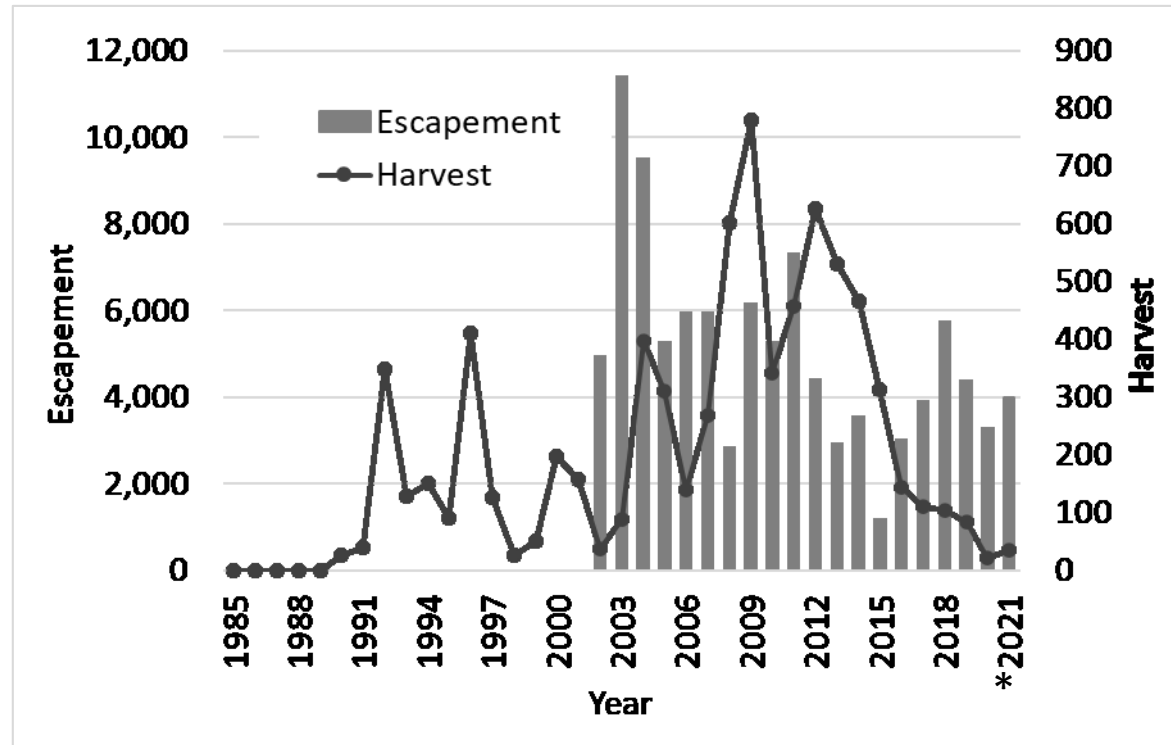


Hoonah/Icy Straits

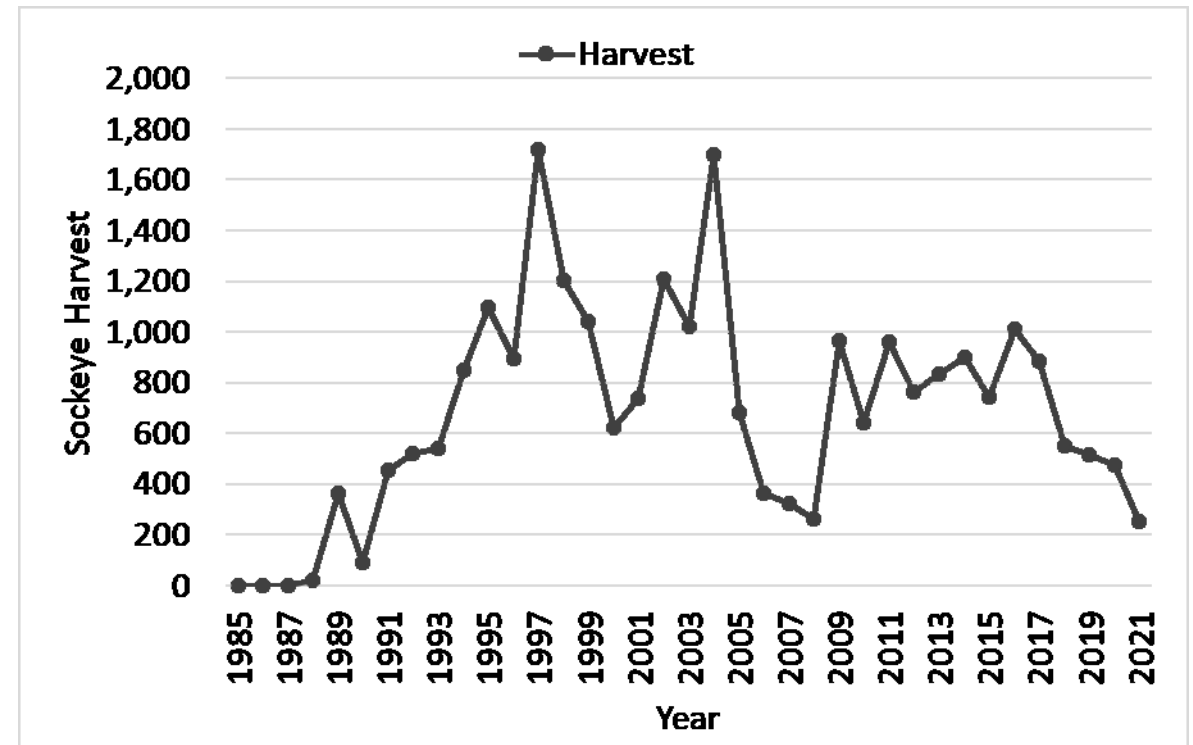


- Active FRMP project at Neva Lake (Excursion Inlet)
 - Improved escapements over past few years (5yr average 4,261)
 - Harvest lower due to reduced limits (approx. 61/year, down from 450)
 - Recent Sockeye closure to non-rural users
- Hoktaheen harvest relatively stable

Hoonah Area Systems



Neva



Hoktaheen

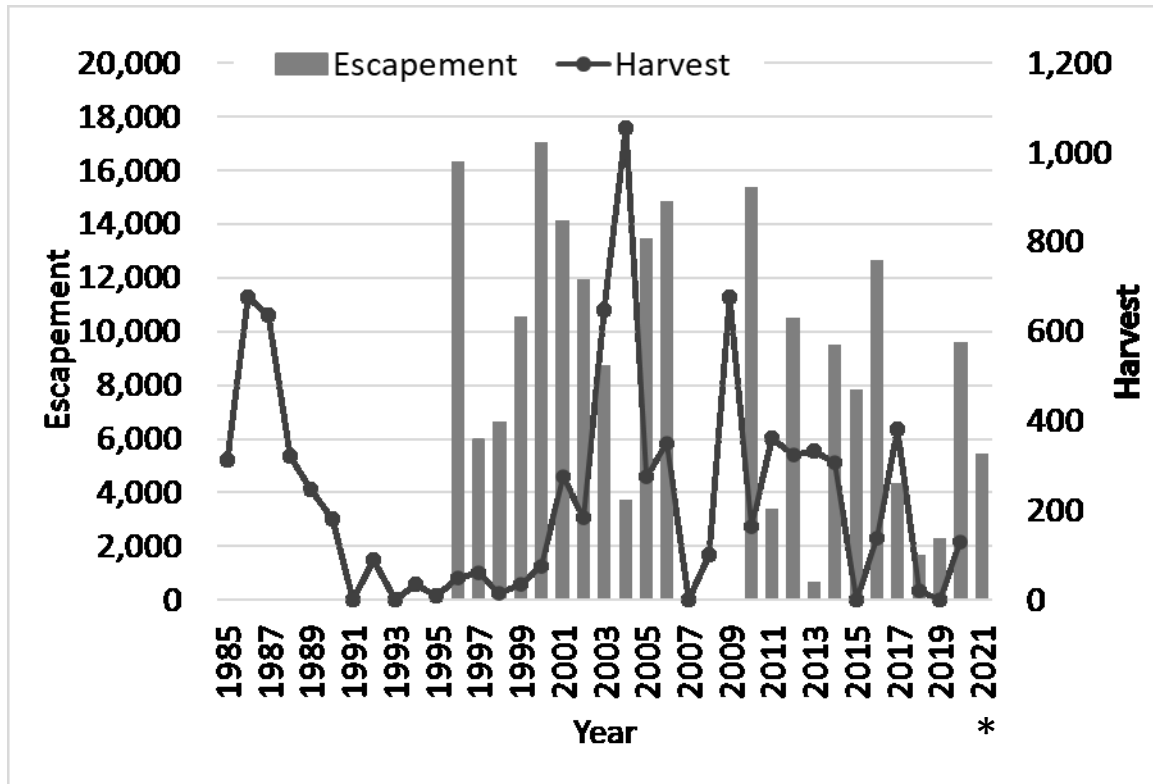


Angoon

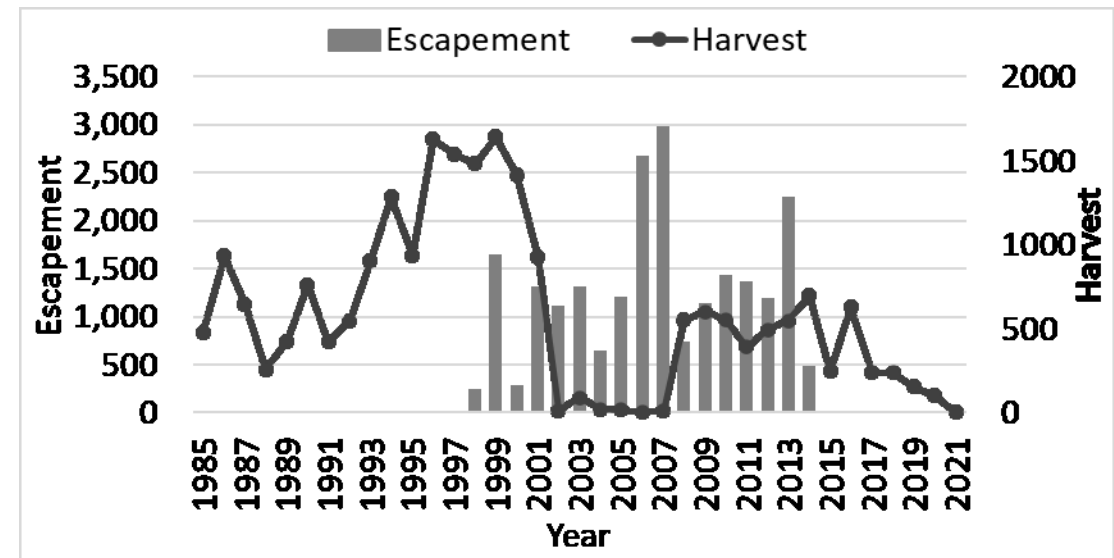


- Active FRMP project at Sitkoh Lake
 - Escapement rebounding after very low escapements 2017-2019 (approx. 2,000 compared to 8-12,000)
 - Discontinued projects at Kook Lake and Kanalku Lake (ended 2017)
- Increased effort and catch at Lake Eva/Hanus Bay

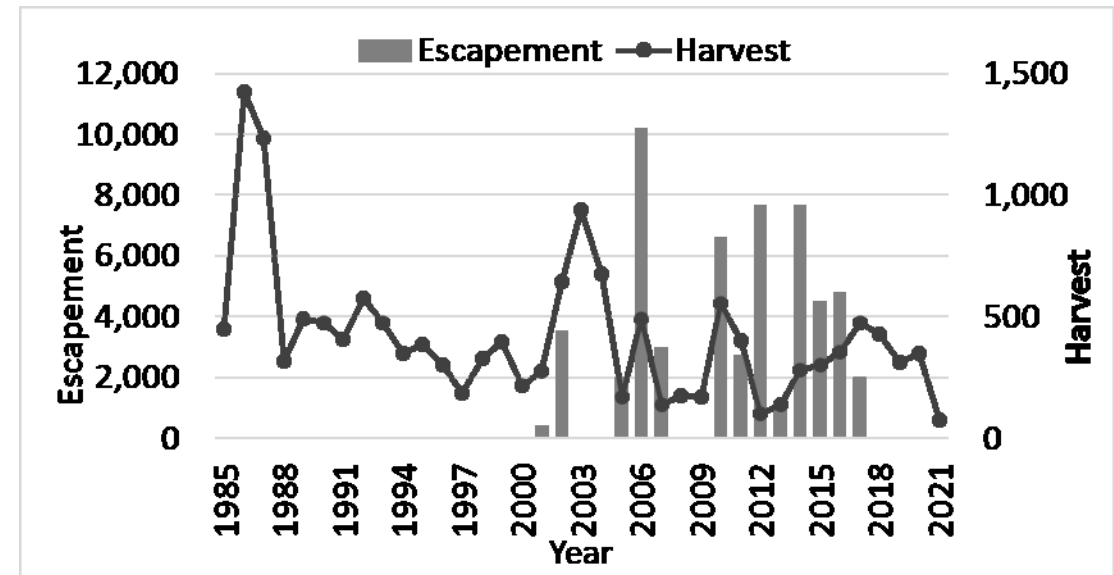
Angoon Area Systems



Sitkoh



Kanalku

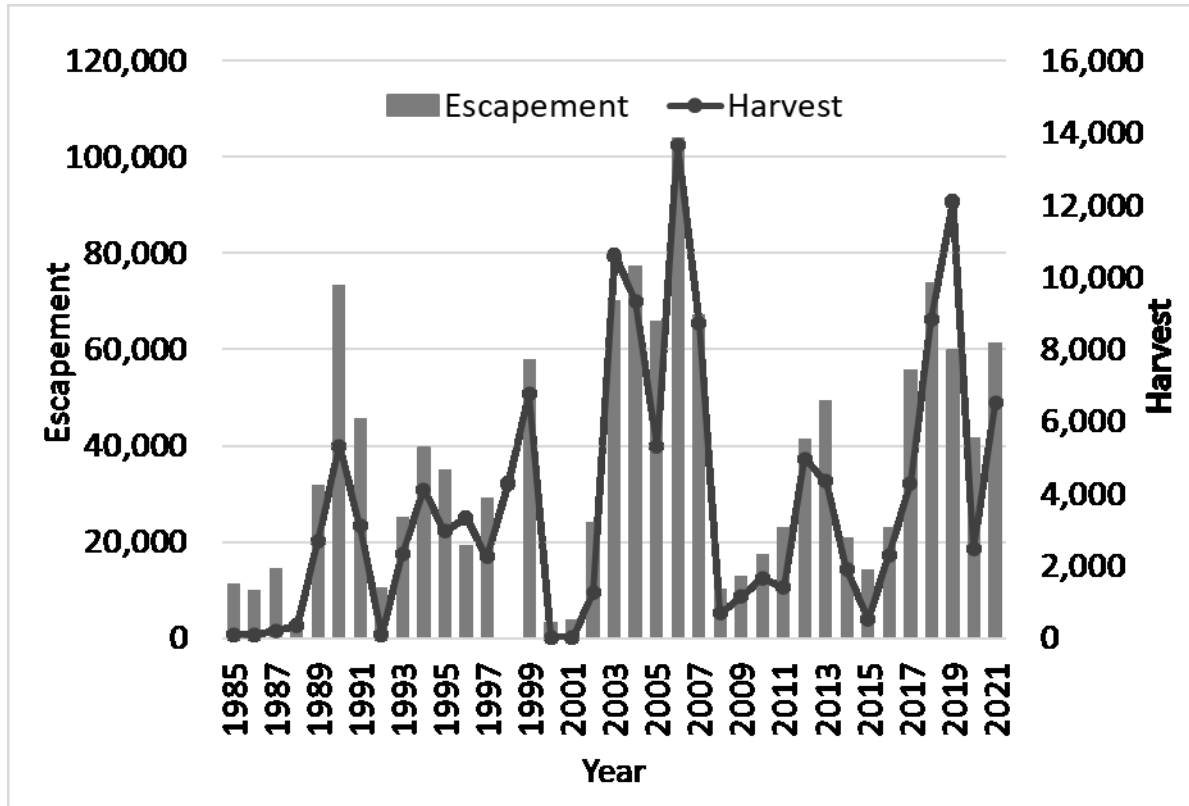


Sitka

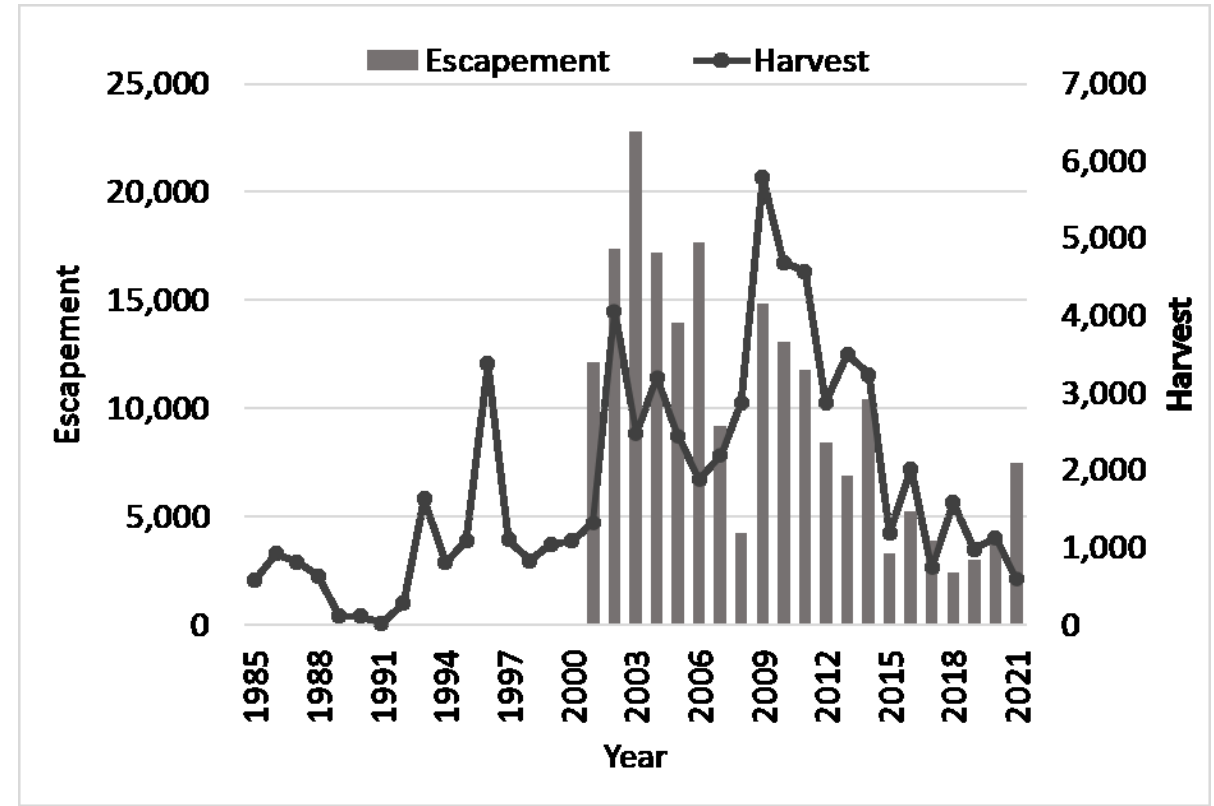


- Active FRMP project at Klag Bay
 - Poor escapement = effort shifted to other systems
 - Low water flows delay run
- Redoubt Lake monitoring
 - Strong recent returns, increased harvest and effort
- Other systems used
 - Redfish Bay and Necker Bay

Sitka Area Systems



Redoubt



Klag



Kake



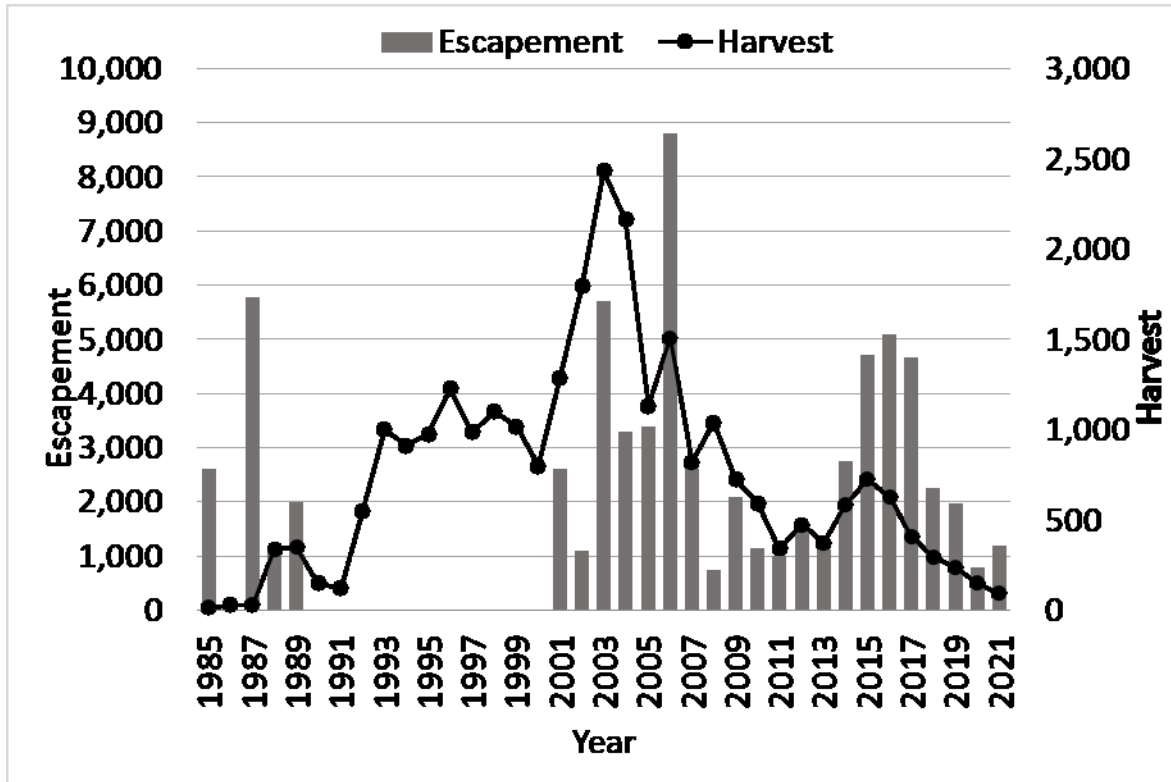
➤ Falls Lake and Gut Bay – active

- Strong returns at Falls Lake from 2015-2017 with low returns recently
- Low water inhibited escapement in 2019, especially at Falls Lake

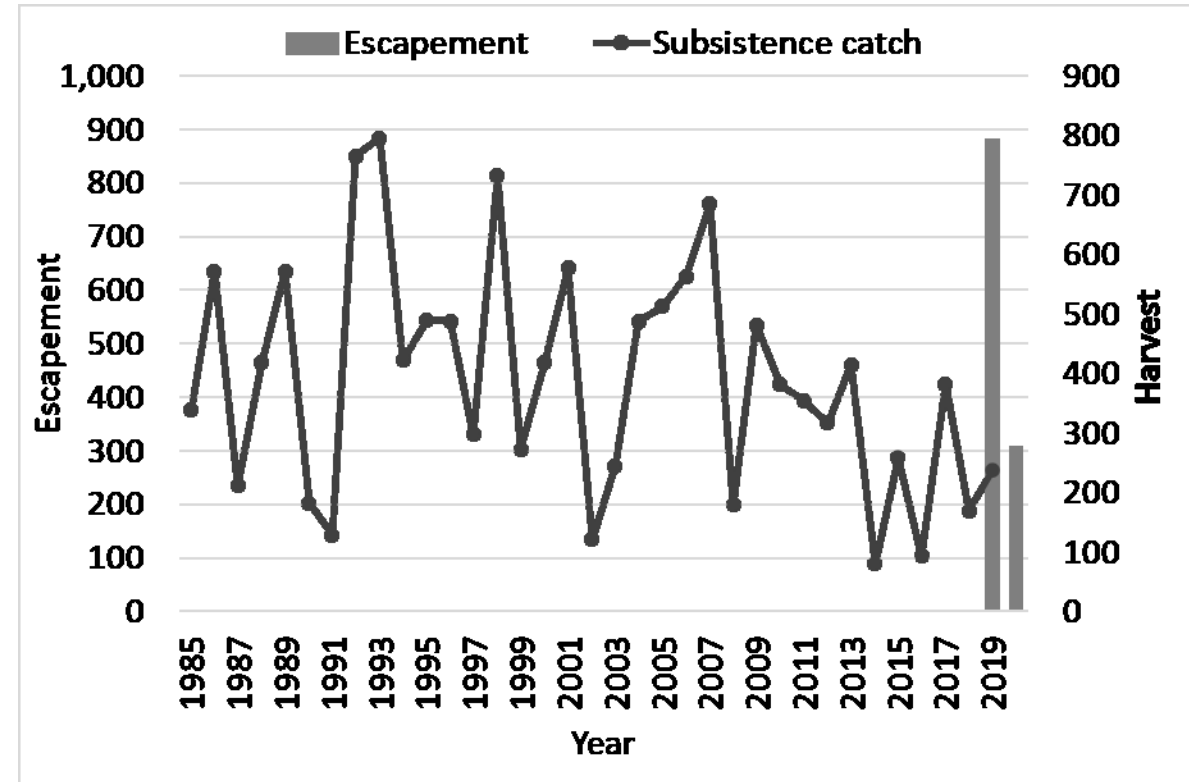
➤ Other systems

- Kutlaku/Pillar Bay
- Alecks Creek/Tebenkof Bay

Kake Area Systems



Falls Lake



Gut Bay

Petersburg/Wrangell



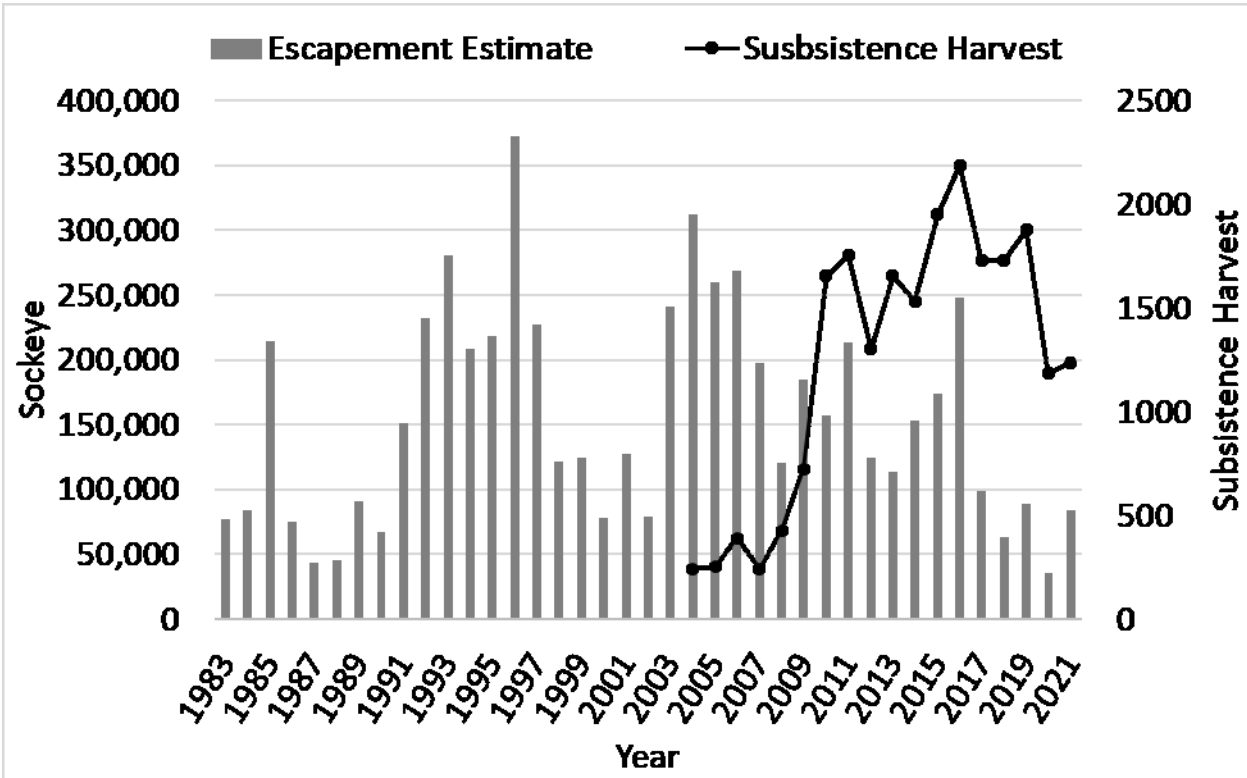
➤ Stikine River

- Primary subsistence salmon system for PSG and WRG
- Subsistence Chinook fishery remains closed
- Low Sockeye returns since 2018
- High water made fishing very difficult in 2020 and 2021

➤ Other Systems

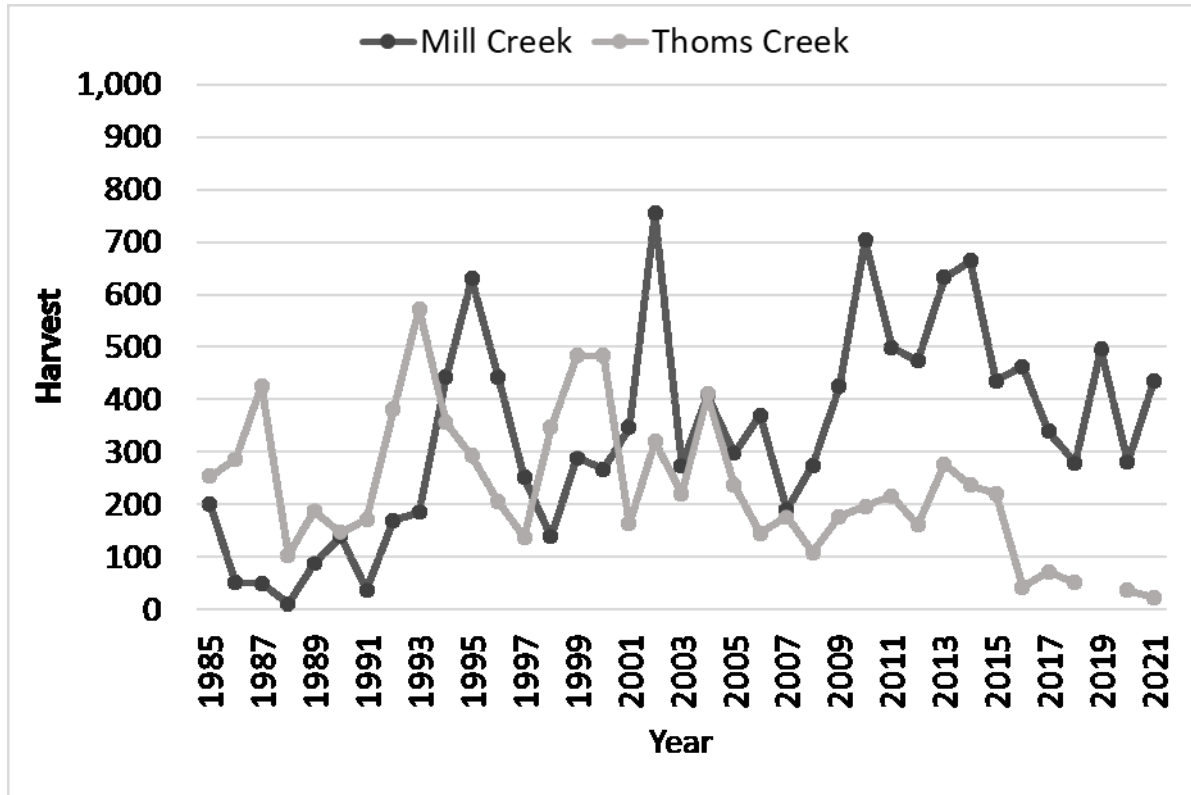
- Kah Sheets River- Small harvest
- Mill Creek/Thoms Creek

Petersburg/Wrangell Area Systems

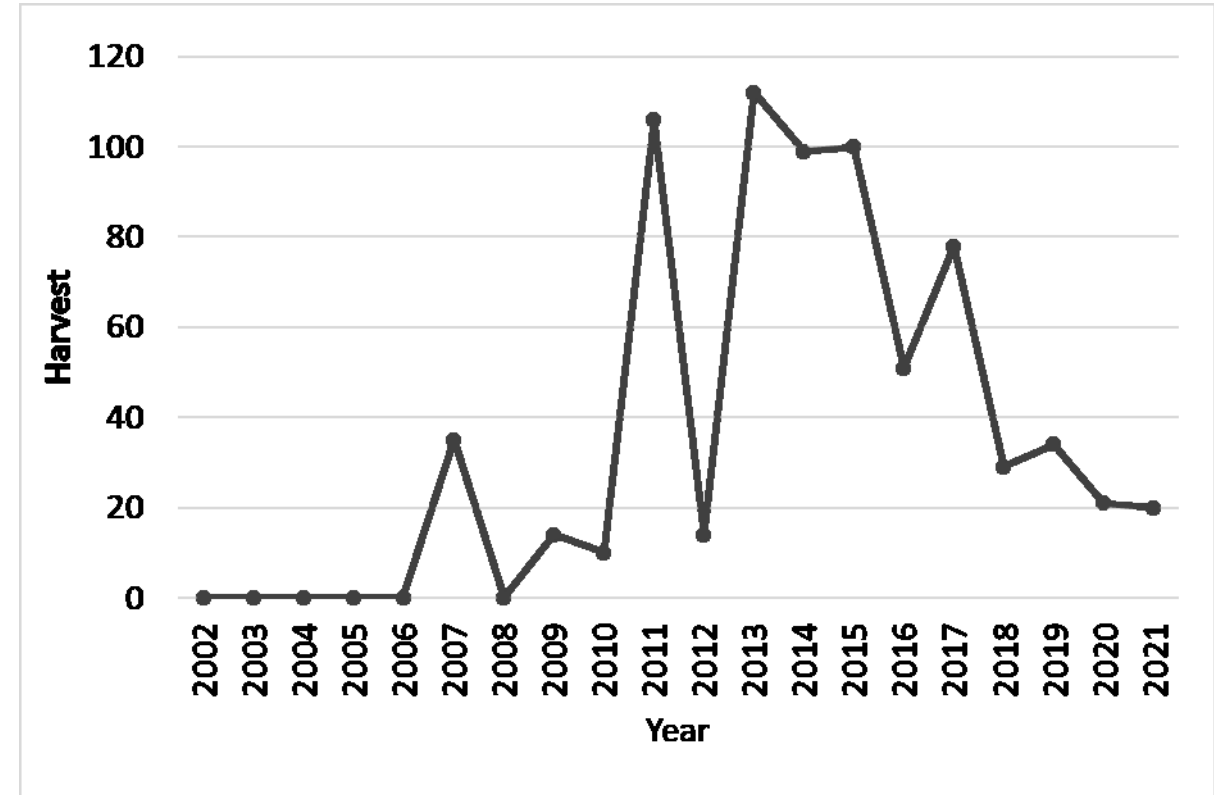


Stikine

Petersburg/Wrangell- Smaller Systems



Mill Creek



Kah Sheets

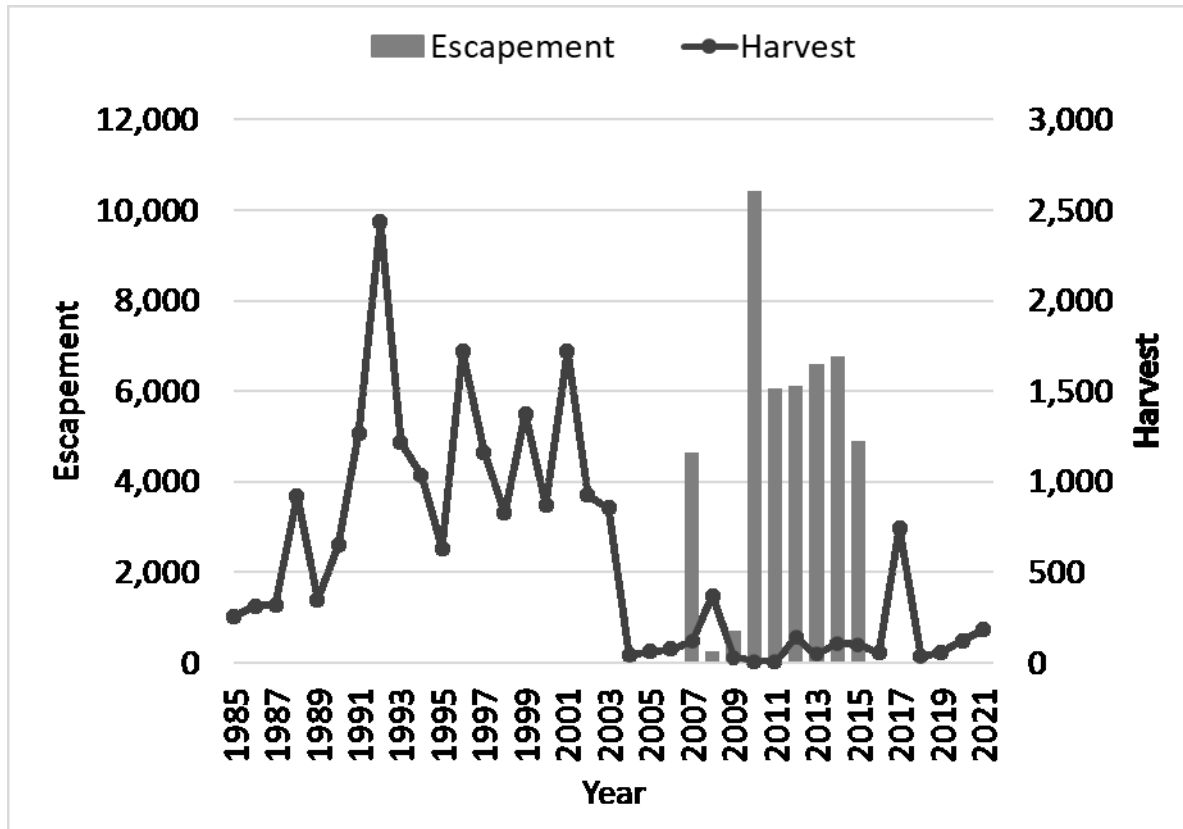


Prince of Wales Island

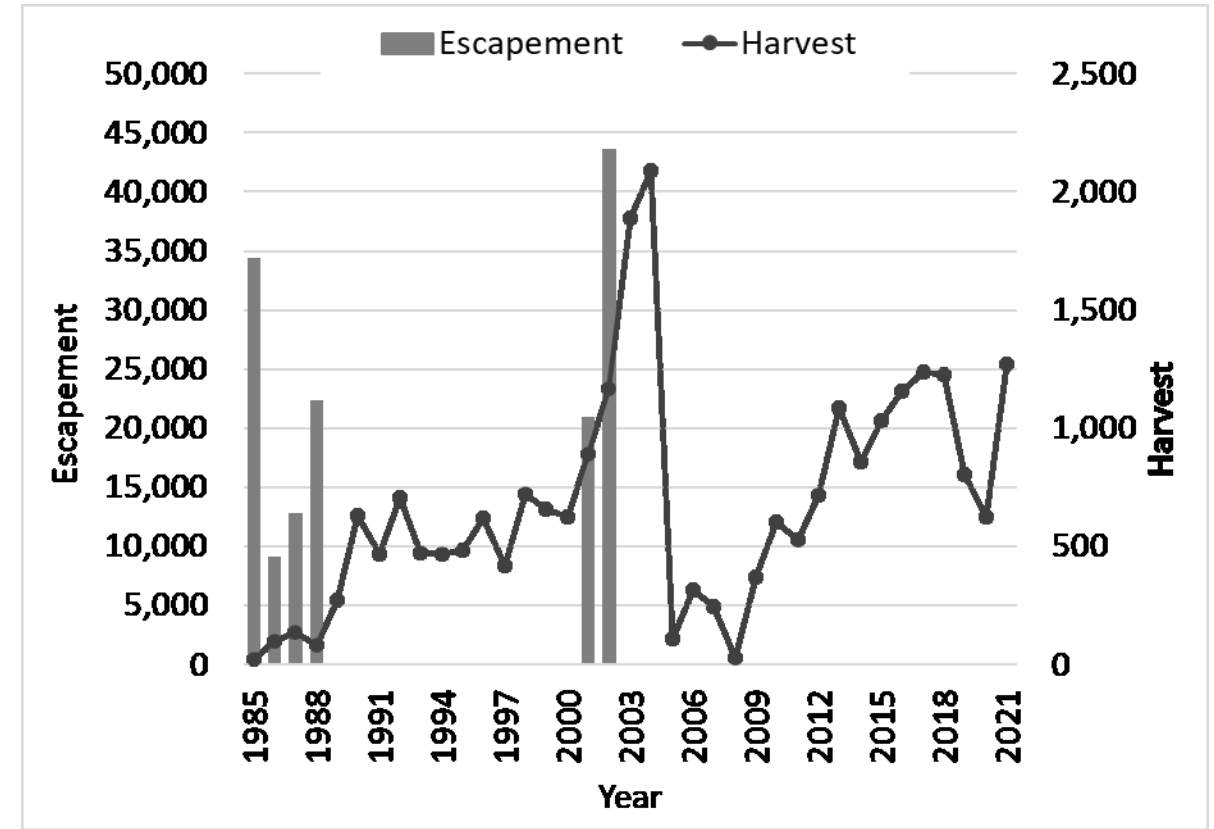


- Two active FRMP projects
 - Hetta and Eek
- Klawock River weir
- Past projects
 - Karta River and Hatchery Creek
- Sockeye harvest is down everywhere except Salmon Bay

Prince of Wales Island - North

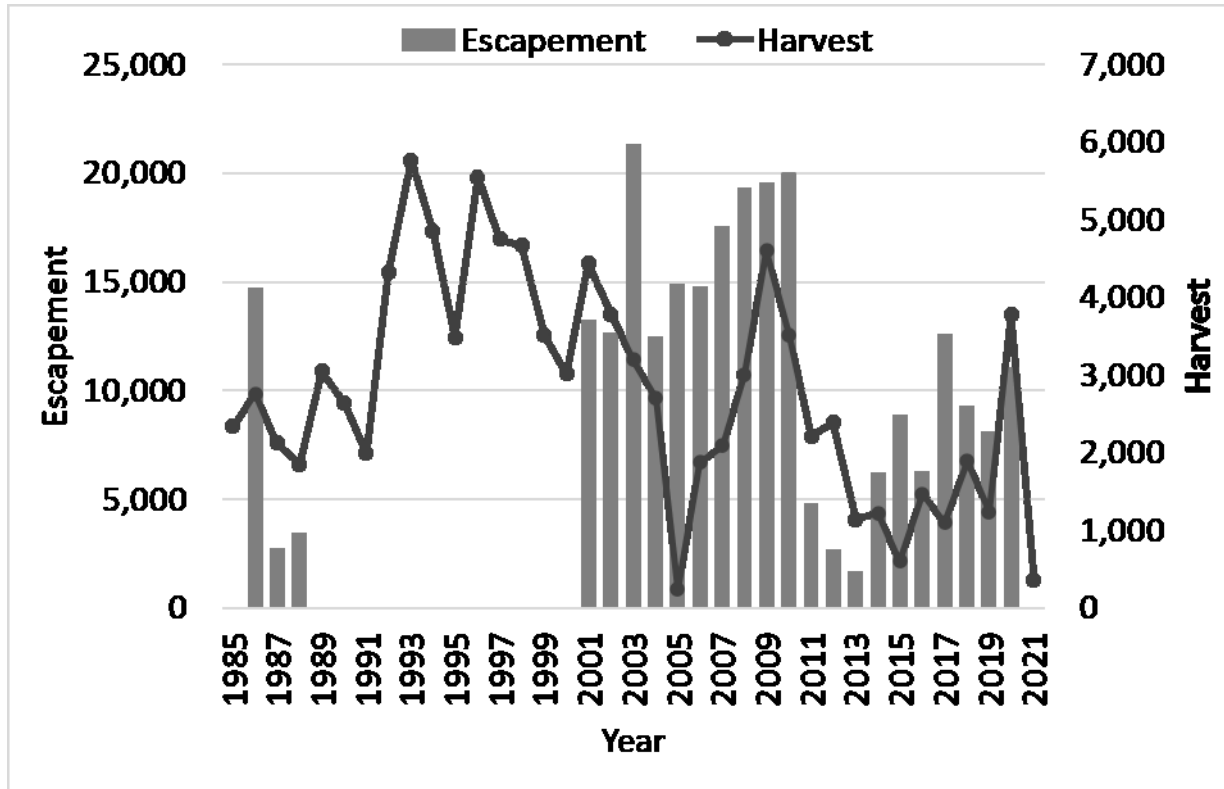


Hatchery Creek

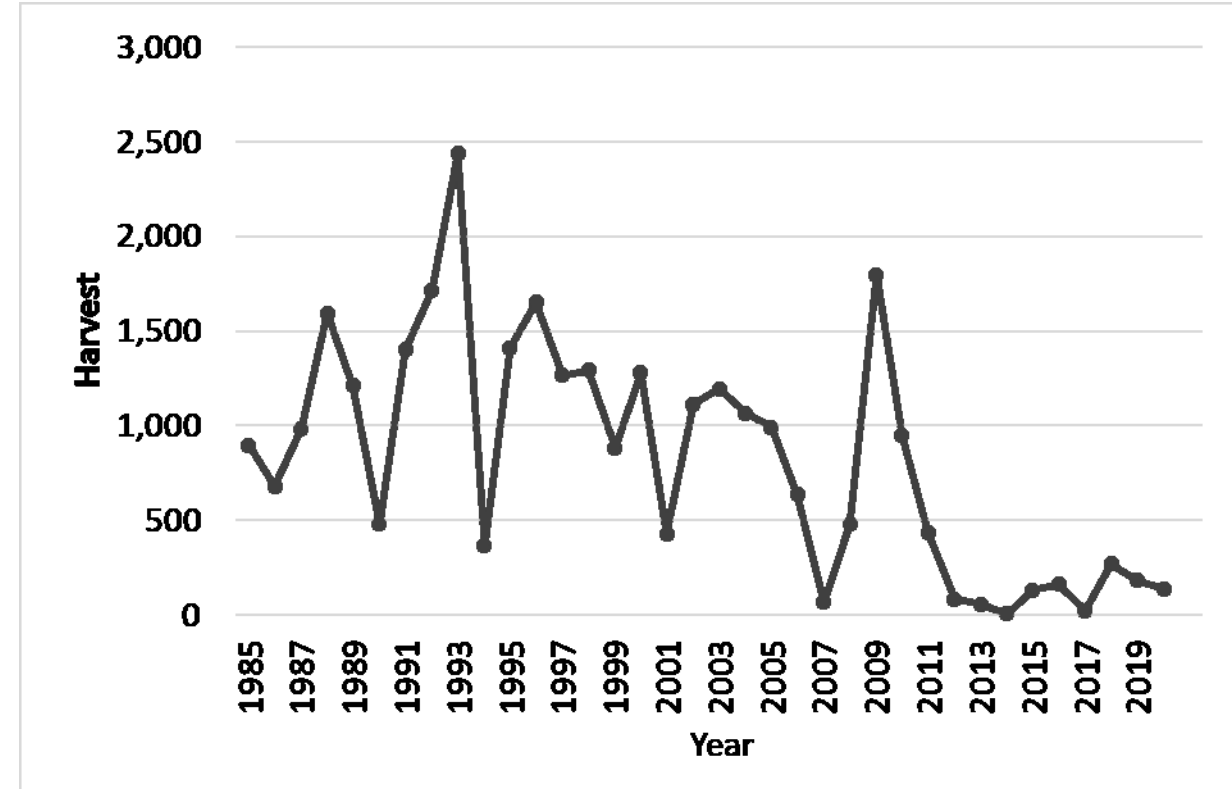


Salmon Bay

Prince of Wales Island - West



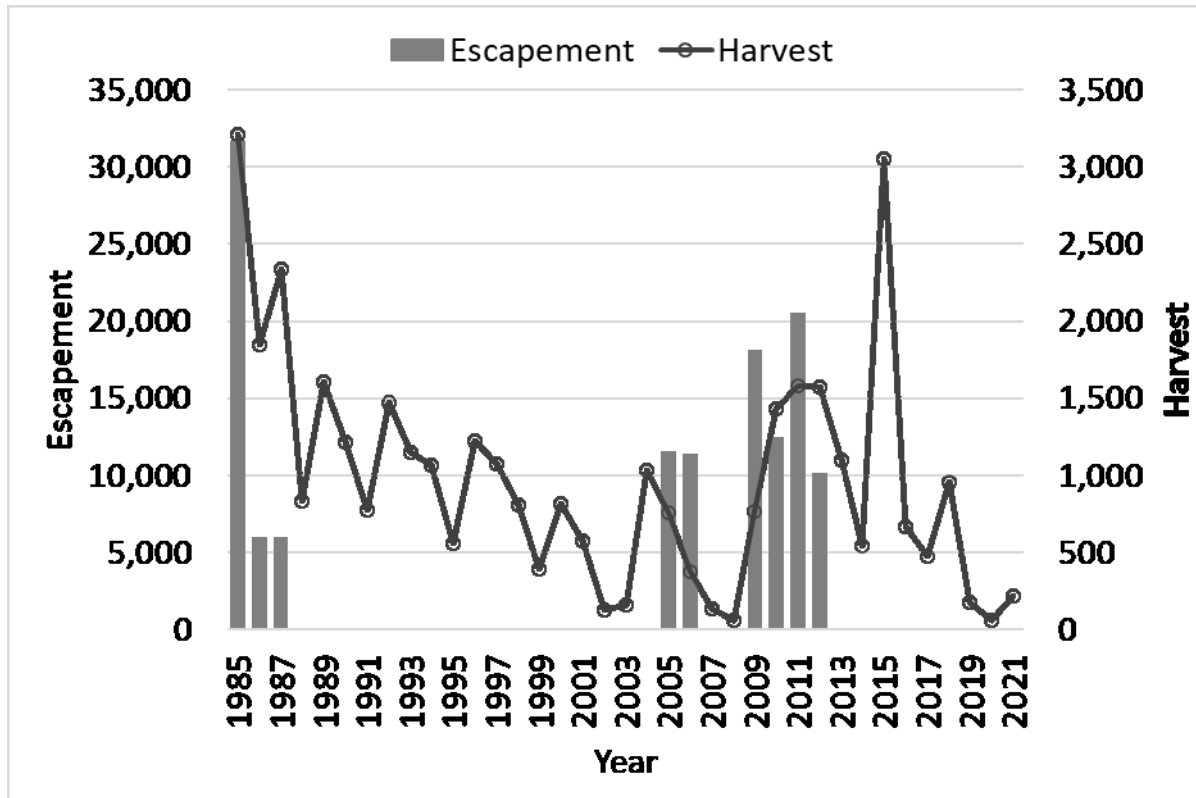
Klawock



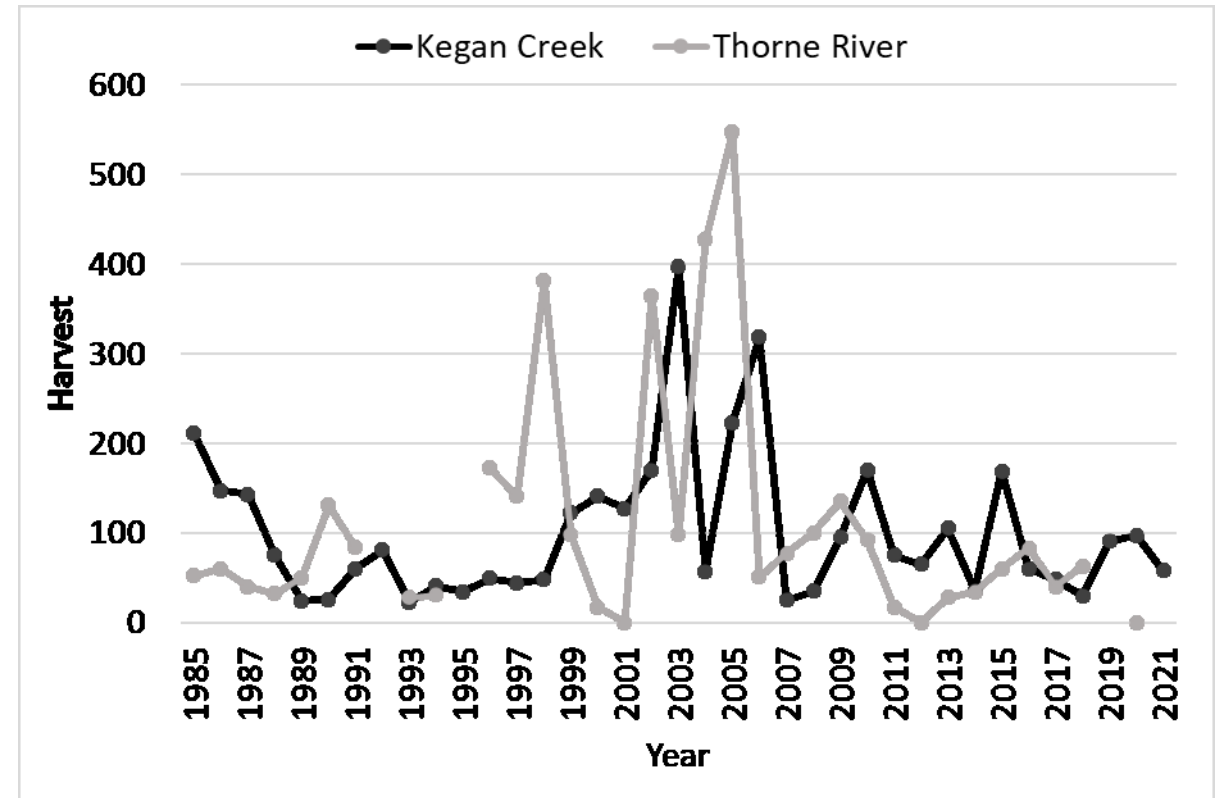
Sorkar



Prince of Wales Island - East



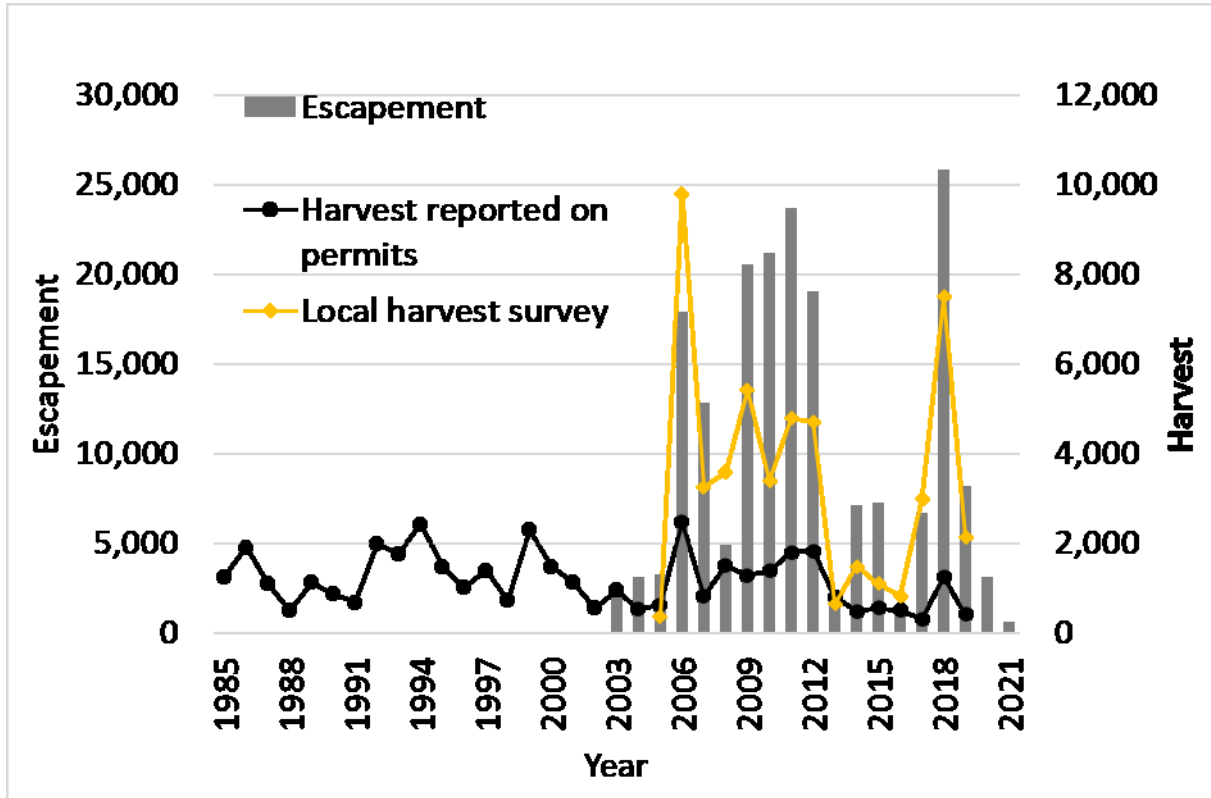
Karta



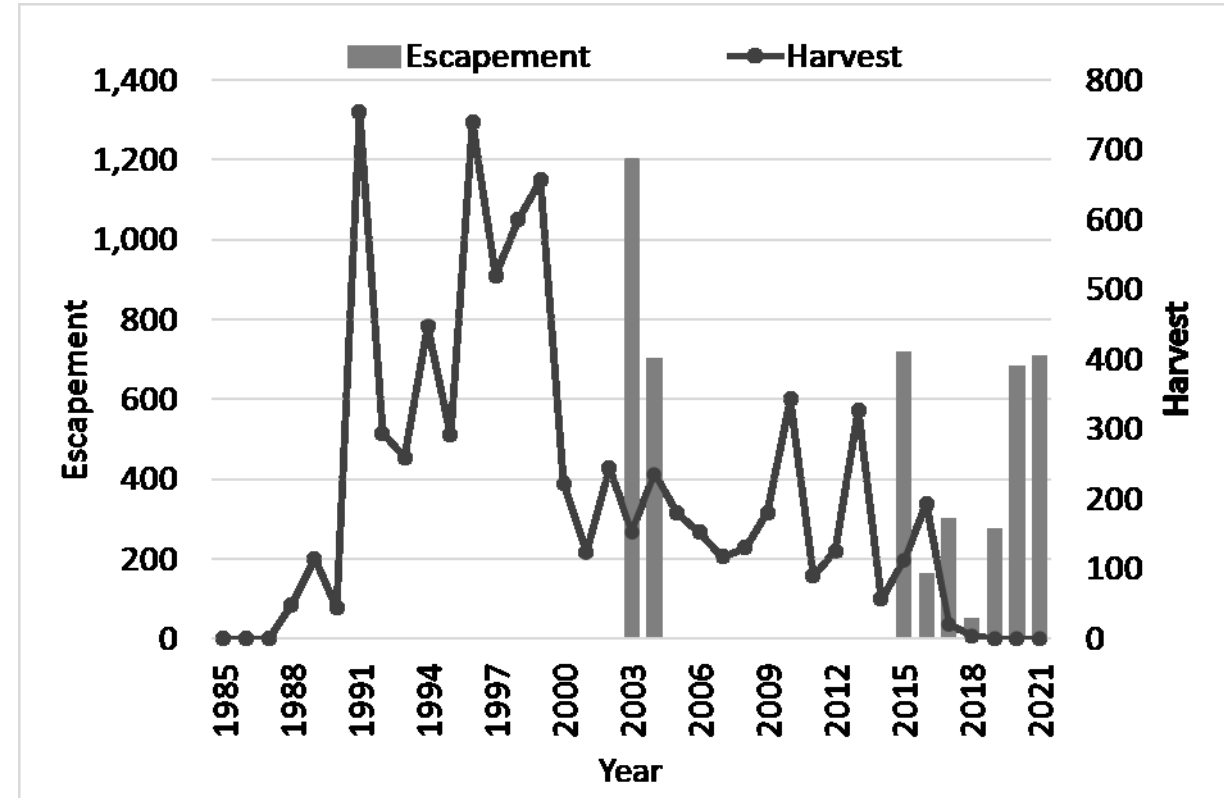
Kegan/Thorne



Prince of Wales Island - South



Hetta



Eek



Recent Management Actions

- Situk River – ADFG weir
 - Chinook closure
- Stikine River – ADFG escapement forecasts
 - Chinook closure
 - 2019 in-season Sockeye closure
- District 1 Eulachon – On-site and aerial - USFS
 - Limited opening



Active FRMP Sockeye Monitoring →2021

- Neva - Escapement
- Sitkoh - Escapement
- Klag - Escapement and harvest
- Falls - Escapement and harvest
- Hetta - Escapement and harvest
- Eek - Escapement and harvest



Summary

- Many important subsistence sockeye locations
- Escapement and harvest are variable
- Some effort shifting to more productive locations

