

# Fisheries Update Winter 2023







# Unuk Eulachon monitoring

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03/19/20

# 2022 Eulachon monitoring

- Qualitative relative abundance surveys during spawning season
- Observers onsite to document abundance, distribution, and harvest
- Aerial, walking, and boat surveys
- Collaboration with local landowners, KIC, and Ocean and Earth Environmental Services
- Crew onsite March 17-26
- Harvest open to Federally qualified users
- Four permits issued with 5-gallon bucket limit per household
- Harvest reported on one permit



*Figure 1. Lower Unuk River looking downstream March 21, 2022; note birds feeding on Ooligan in distance*

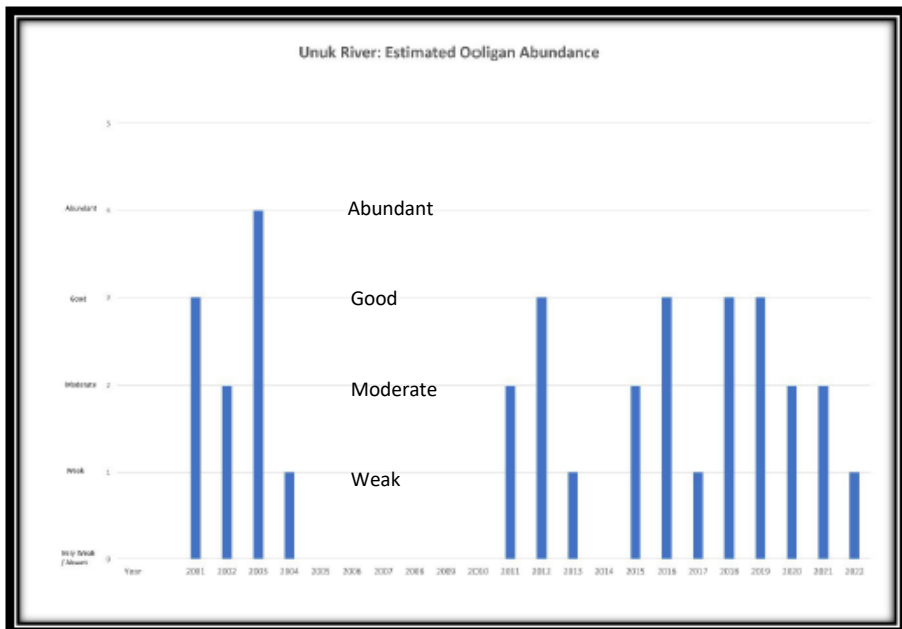


Figure 4. Estimated relative abundance from visual observations of Ooligan in the Unuk River from 2001 to 2022.

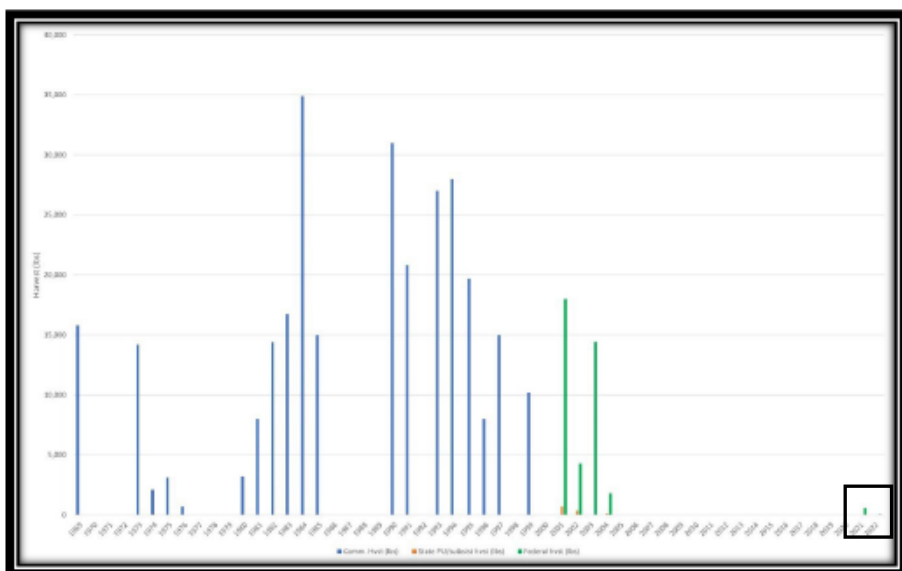


Figure 5. Harvest from 1969 to 2022 by harvest type in District 1 (Van Alen 2011 – Unpublished).

# 2022 Eulachon monitoring

2022 Estimated abundance: “Weak”



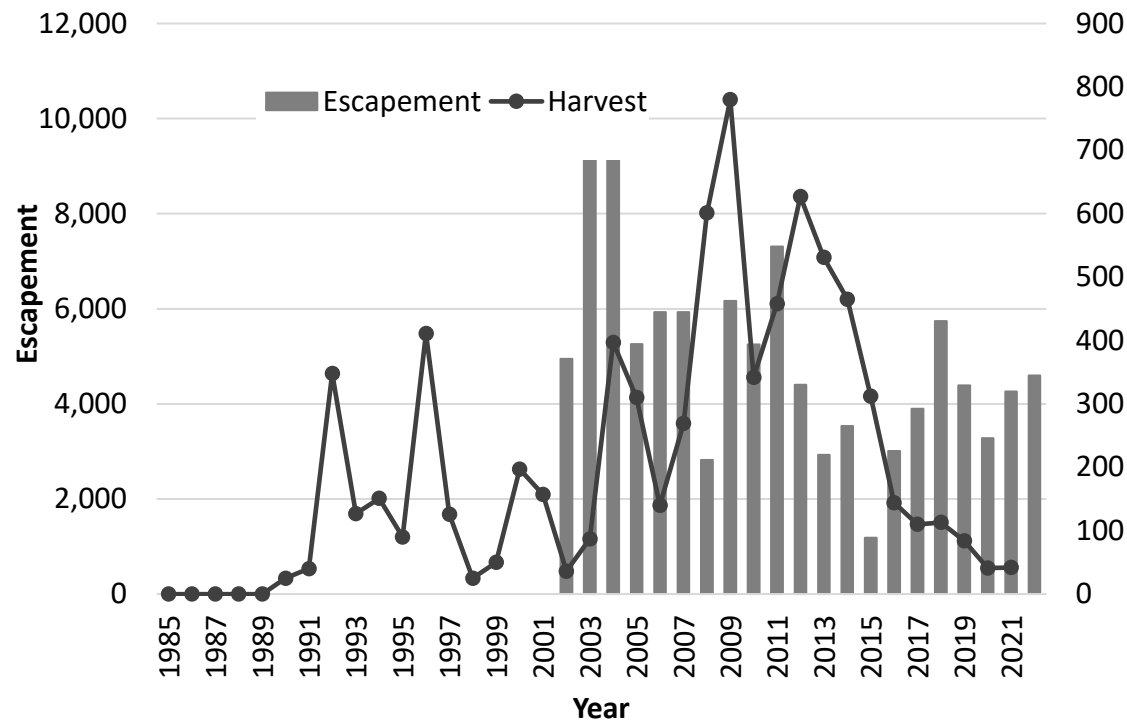
Minimal harvest in both 2021 and 2022



# 2023 Eulachon fishery

- Closed to NFQU
- District 1 closed, only Unuk open
- Limit of one 5-gallon bucket
- Dip net and cast net only

# Neva Lake Sockeye

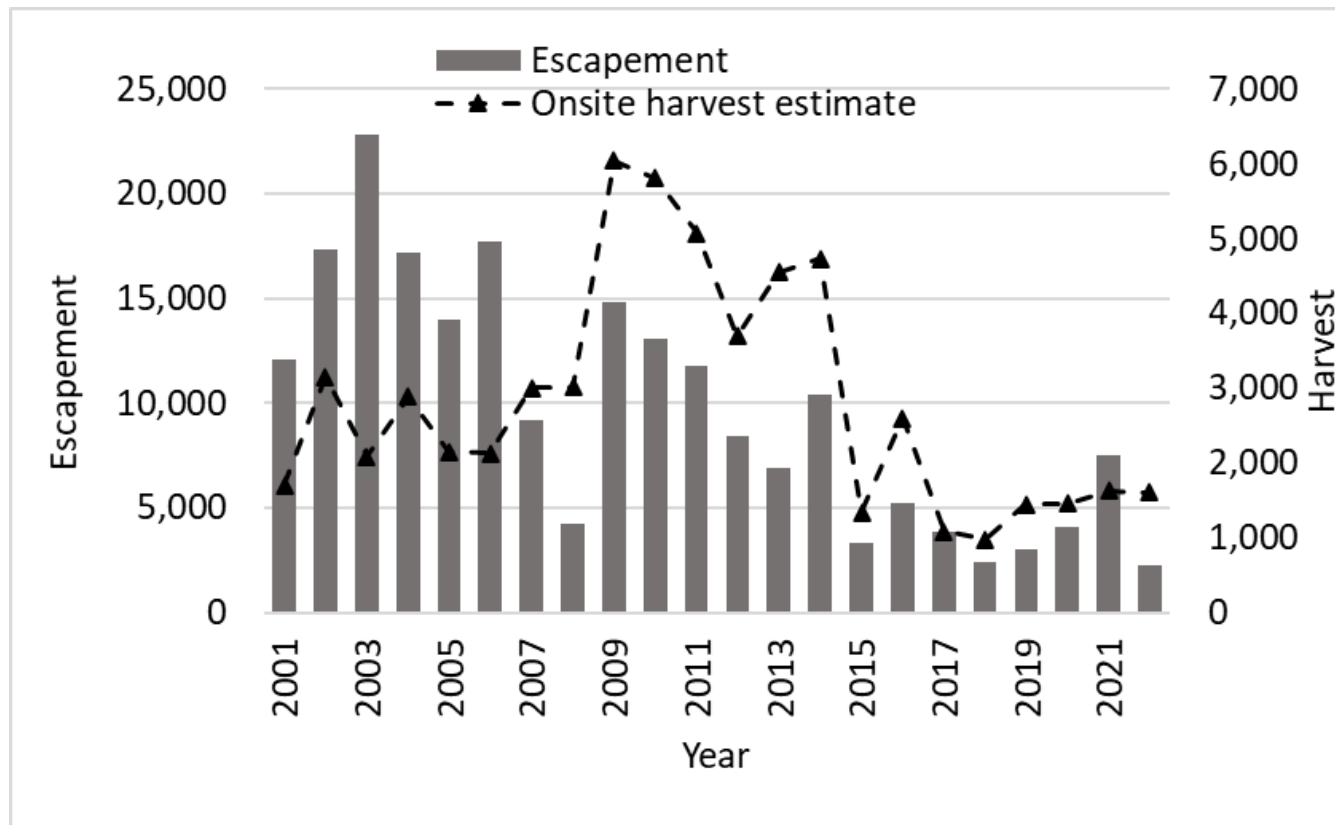


- Preliminary escapement ~ 4,600 sockeye
- Run appears to have stabilized after decline in 2009-2015
- Lowest harvest limit in SEAK (10), very little subsistence harvest in recent years
- Closure to NFQU maintained by FSB
- Working with ADF&G to adjust harvest limit to 20

Harvest



# Klag Bay Sockeye



- FRMP project operated by Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Lowest escapement since monitoring began (2,289)
- Onsite harvest survey estimate of 1,610 fish
- Possible site for adjusting harvest limits?
- Current limit is 50/50
- Good candidate for calculating optimum escapement goal



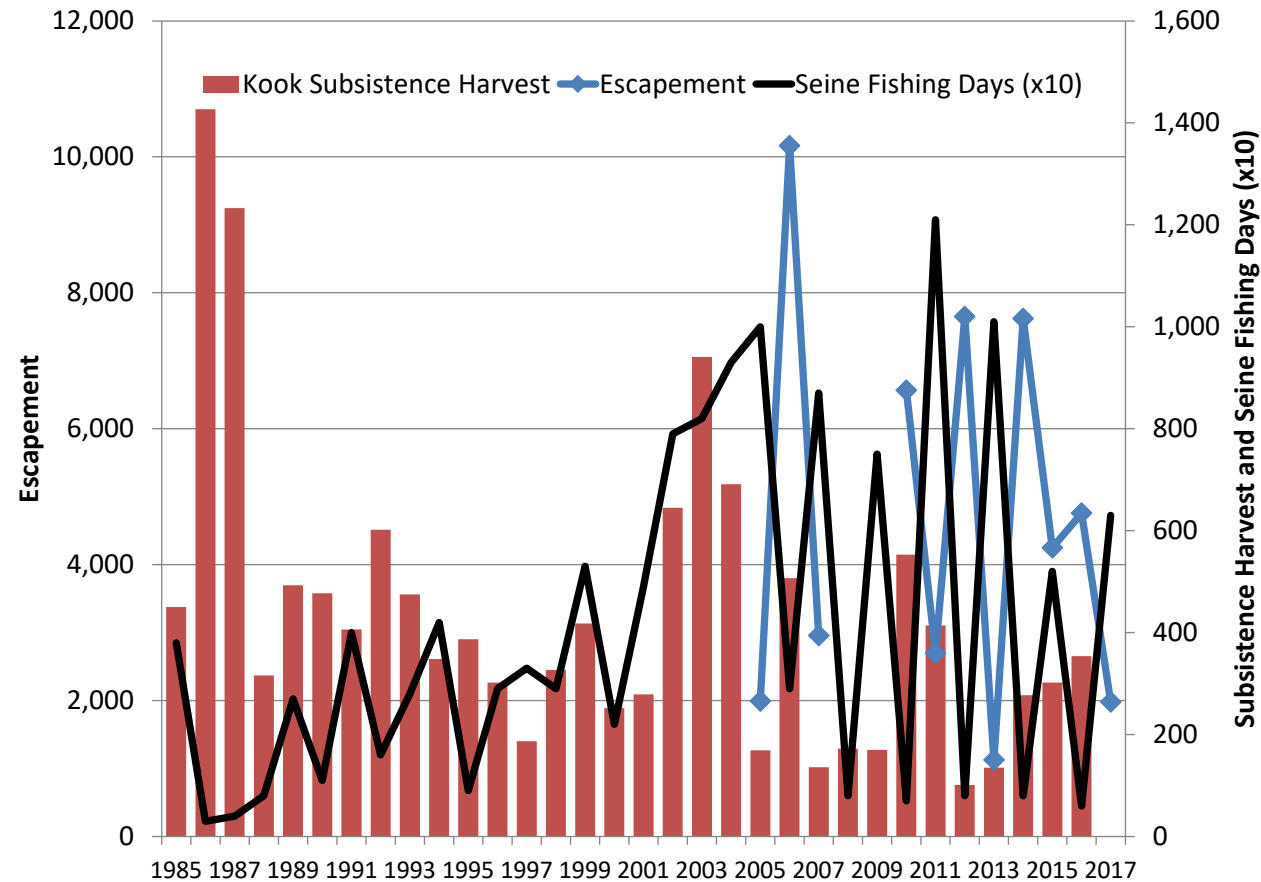


# Taku River

- Closure rescinded
- Inseason management until regulation can be established
- Current personal use fishery for sockeye
- 10 sockeye for 1 person household, 20 for 2+
- Set gillnets <15 fathoms
- Usually open July, but adjusted later to avoid Chinook
- 2023 Chinook forecast of 23,000 within goal of 19,000 – 36,000



## Prognostication and predictions...



- 2023 Pink salmon forecast is weak, at 19 million fish
- Low seine effort = more sockeye escaping to terminal areas
- Expect (hope for?) decent sockeye returns in Chatham corridor systems



## Predictions....

- Stikine Chinook forecast is 11,700 large fish, which is below the escapement goal range of 14,000 to 28,000. Expect early season closure for Chinook conservation, as in previous seasons.
- Situk forecast for Chinook is 450 large fish, which is at the lower bound of the escapement goal range of 450 to 1,050. Expect early season closure until/if escapement goals are met.



A photograph of a waterfall in a forest. The water is white and turbulent as it falls over dark, layered rocks. The surrounding area is covered in green moss and dense foliage. A large, fallen log lies across the upper part of the waterfall. The text "Questions or comments" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

Questions or comments