

Chignik River Early-Run Sockeye Salmon Stock of Concern Action Plan



February 2026
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RC3 Tab12

Overview

- Escapement review
- 2023 Action plan review
- 2026 Action plan options
- Conditions for delisting

Definitions

Stock of Management Concern

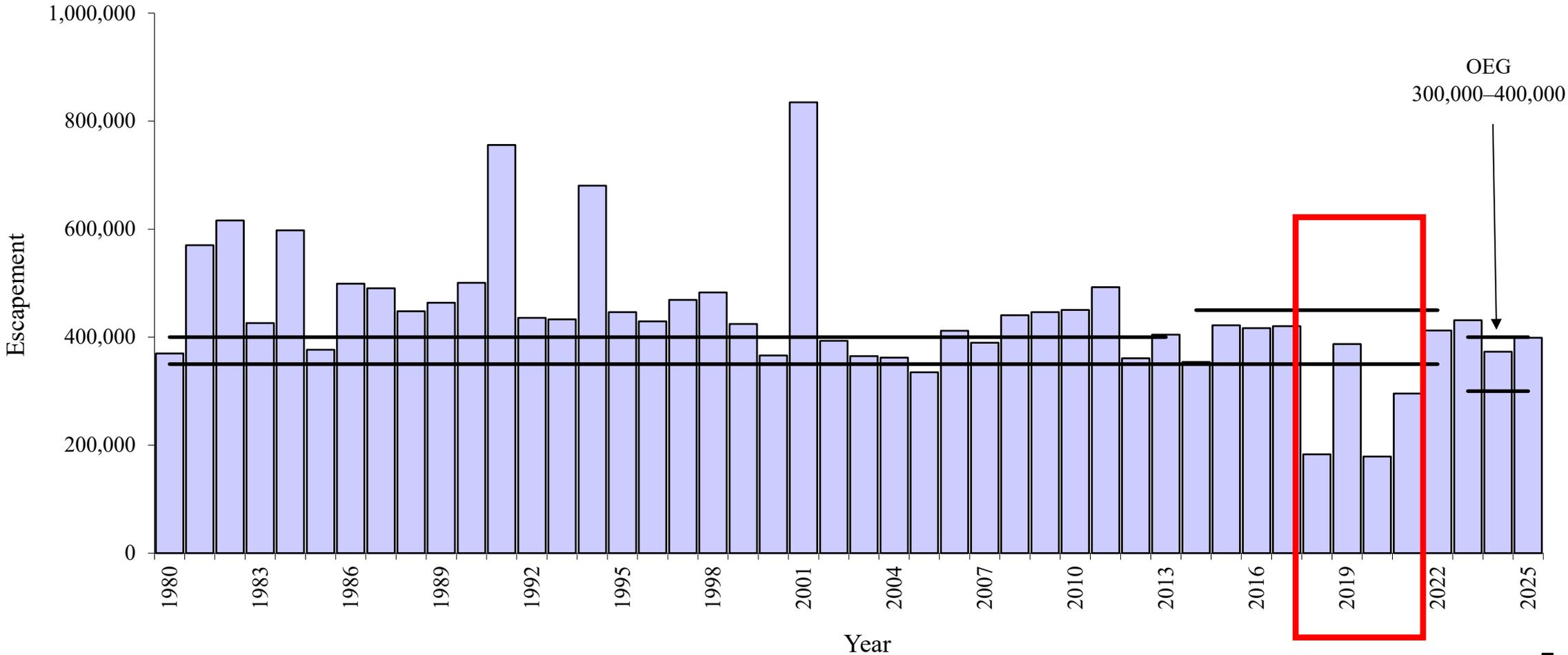
“Means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the SEG, BEG, OEG, or other specified management objectives for the fishery.”

Definitions

Chronic Inability

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

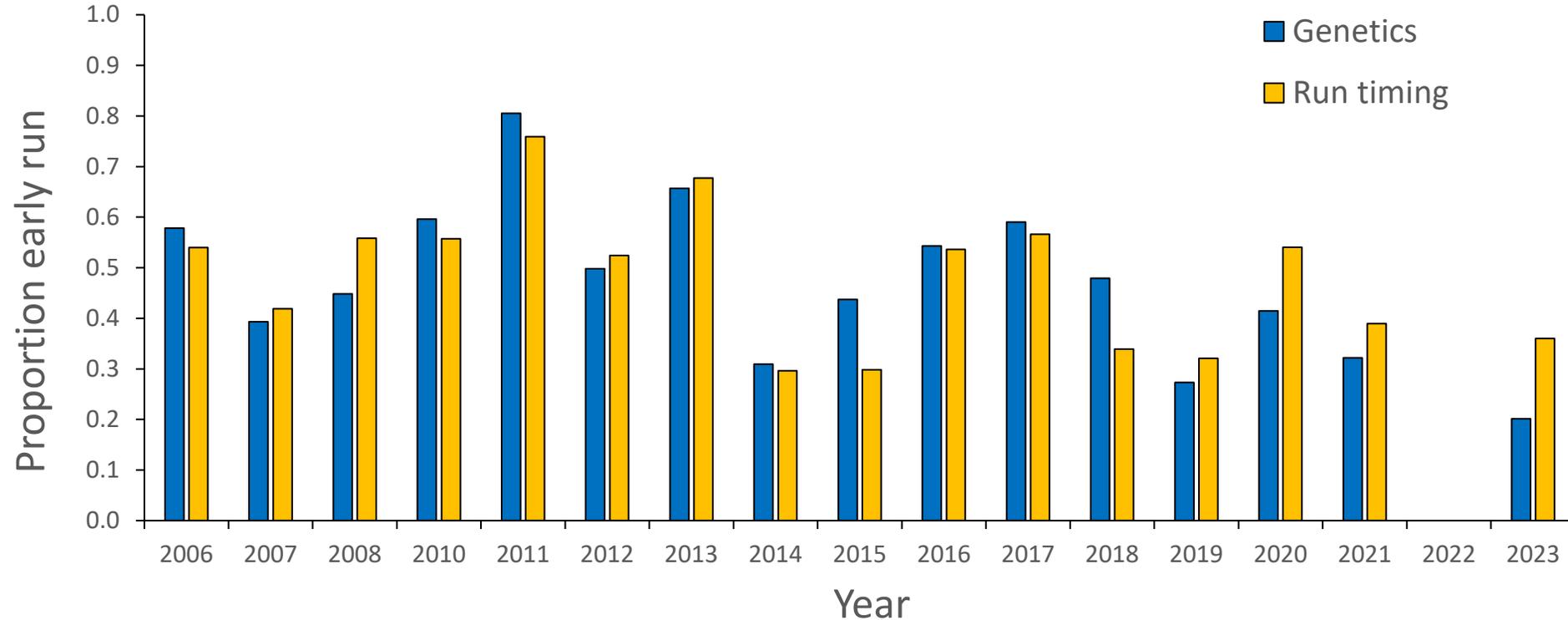
Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement 1980–2025



Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon 2022–2025

- Current method uses a run timing distribution (RTD) model. Goal was near or above upper end of OEG each year
- Genetic stock identification (GSI) results currently available for 2023, also 2006–2021
- Models are **estimates**, and each model has its own pros, cons, and assumptions. Estimates have relatively wide confidence intervals
- No true way of knowing the true proportion between runs without a Black Lake weir to ground truth
- 2023 results showed the largest difference between models ever seen. Despite this, lower end of OEG was still reached by both models
- Model estimates are usually much closer

Early run apportionment by stock separation method



- Average proportional difference of 6.4% between models across all years

Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon 2023

(Source: RC 13 October 2025 work session)

Table 2: The number of sockeye salmon assigned to the early run in 2023 by ADF&G long term average and 2023 genetic stock identification (GSI, model smoothed), with lower and upper confidence intervals for model prediction.

Method	Early run escapement	Difference from ADF&G	Lower confidence interval	Upper confidence interval
Long term average	431,283	--	--	--
GSI - Smoothed	300,750	130,533	168,364	418,582

Department RTD Model

CRAA GSI Model:

Department GSI Model	301,789
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Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon 2023

Year	All Black Lake Tributaries
2011	342,000
2012	196,000
2013	278,000
2014	327,000
2015	257,800
2016	ND
2017	265,300
2018	258,500
2019	157,900
2020	76,000
2021	60,200
2022	ND
2023	260,900
2024	307,100
2025	315,700

- Actual escapement probably somewhere between mid (300,750) and upper confidence interval estimate (418,582)
- Implied by Black lake survey escapement and RTD estimate

So what about 2022, 2024 and 2025?

- Difference between models in 2023 was mostly likely due to extreme difference in early run and late run escapement
- 2023 saw highest late run proportion of all compared years
- No other year had similar disparities
- RTD model most likely much closer to what GSI results would be for these years
- Further supported by black lake aerial surveys for 2024 and 2025

2022 – 2025 escapement in summary

- Department confident escapement has been achieved last 4 years and will continue to be achieved
- Despite unusual difference between models in 2023, both showed escapement was met
- RTD estimate put early run escapement near or above upper OEG goal each year. Even if higher disparity than usual was seen between models, unlikely OEG was not reached
- Black Lake aerial surveys also imply adequate escapement

Designation review

- Early-run Chignik river sockeye salmon designated stock of concern by BOF in March 2022
- Out of cycle with escapement goal review due to COVID meeting delays
- RC104 used as 2022 interim action plan
- Formally adopted in 2023

RC104

- Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners
- Not projected to meet early-run goal, reduce Shumagin Islands seine time by 50%
- June 15, June 20, June 25

Member Mitchell

RC104

3/29/2022

The framework below represents the understanding between the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and the Area M Seiners Association regarding how the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may manage fisheries to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon in 2022 following the Alaska Board of Fisheries' designation of Chignik River early run sockeye salmon as a Stock of Management Concern. This framework is not an action plan and does not restrict the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's emergency order authority to manage salmon stocks for sustained yield in both the Chignik and South Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

Based on early run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik Weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would be reduced by 50%, in the Shumagin Islands Section, in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal.

Fishing time for purse seine gear under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon early run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* and in the Chignik Management Area. The department would attempt to balance providing harvest opportunity on Chignik late-run sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area, and local South Alaska Peninsula stocks in the South Alaska Peninsula Area while continuing to conserve Chignik early run sockeye salmon.

Subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area would not be restricted.



George Anderson, Chignik Intertribal Coalition

2023 Action Plan Review

- Status quo to 2022 RC104
- By June 15, if early-run goal at Chignik is not being met:
- Shumagin Islands Section 50% time reduction on June 16, June 20 and June 25 periods
- Purse seine gear only
- No changes to sport or subsistence management

2023 Action Plan Review

- 2023: Shumagin Islands reductions to June 16, and June 20 periods
- 2024: Shumagin Islands reductions to June 16, June 20, and June 25 periods
- 2025: No Reductions

2026 Action Plan Options

- Department recommends delisting based on the 2023 board designated delisting criteria
- If not delisted, department recommends:
 - 1 commercial options for action plan
 - 1 subsistence option
 - 1 sport option
- All recommend status quo - no change
- 2 Alternate Delisting options (new)

WASSIP

Year	Date	stat area	Chignik sockeye harvest composition
2006	9-Jun	282-11	7.1%
2006	25-Jun	282-11	11.4%
2007	9-Jun	282-11	1.1%
2007	16-Jun	282-11	2.3%
2007	24-Jun	282-11	3.4%
2008	17-Jun	282-11	3.5%
2008	24-Jun	282-11	5.0%
2006	16-Jun	282-25	28.9%

- Average Chignik sockeye harvest composition of 7.8% across all June sampling events.

Commercial Action Plan Option #1

- Status quo Chignik, SEDM, Igvak regulations, 2023 Action plan
- Shumagin Islands seine 50% time reduction
- June 16, June 20, and June 25 periods reduced if not projecting to meet OEG

Subsistence and Sport Action Plan Options

- No Change (no previous restrictions)
- Harvest in both fisheries extremely minimal in relation to overall run size
- 10-year total subsistence harvest average is 5,283 sockeye (early- and late-run combined)
- Retain EO authority to manage fisheries

Recommended Conditions For Delisting SOC

- Lower bound of the OEG range met or exceeded in 3 consecutive years AND Expecting to meet goal range in future years

OR

- Lower bound of OEG range met or exceeded in 4 out of 6 consecutive years AND Expecting to meet goal range in future years
- Based on departments post season apportionment method at time of recommendation OR GSI results IF available

Alternate Condition #1 For Delisting SOC

- Same as previous conditions, except that an alternate delisting goal of 350,000–450,000 Chignik early-run sockeye salmon would be targeted
- CMA management would target the delisting goal
- Selected actions (Shumagin reductions) would continue to be linked to the lower OEG
- Delay and reduce CMA harvest opportunity

Alternate Condition #2 For Delisting SOC

- In season accomplishable goals
- Same delisting criteria (3/3 or 4/6 years) BUT
- Based on reaching 3 inseason combined run interim Objectives:
 - 150,000 through June 25
 - 250,000 through July 5
 - 350,000 through July 15
- Goals are above lower early- and combined run interim objectives, and below midpoint objectives

Alternate Condition #2 For Delisting SOC

- Not dependent on any postseason modeling or apportionment
- June 25 date is a strong indicator of early run strength (little late-run influence yet, during peak of early-run)
- Acts as a more difficult condition to achieve. This criteria would have been met in 2023 and 2025
- CMA management would continue to target existing OEG midpoint
- Selected commercial action (Shumagin reductions) would continue to be linked to OEG
- Unlikely to impact management in anyway.

Questions?