

# Review of Salmon Escapement Goals in the Bristol Bay Management Area, 2026



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**Oral Report: RC 3, Tab 5    Written Report: RC 3, Tab 1**

# *Presentation Objectives*

- Introduce escapement goal policies
- Explain review process
- Summarize results and findings

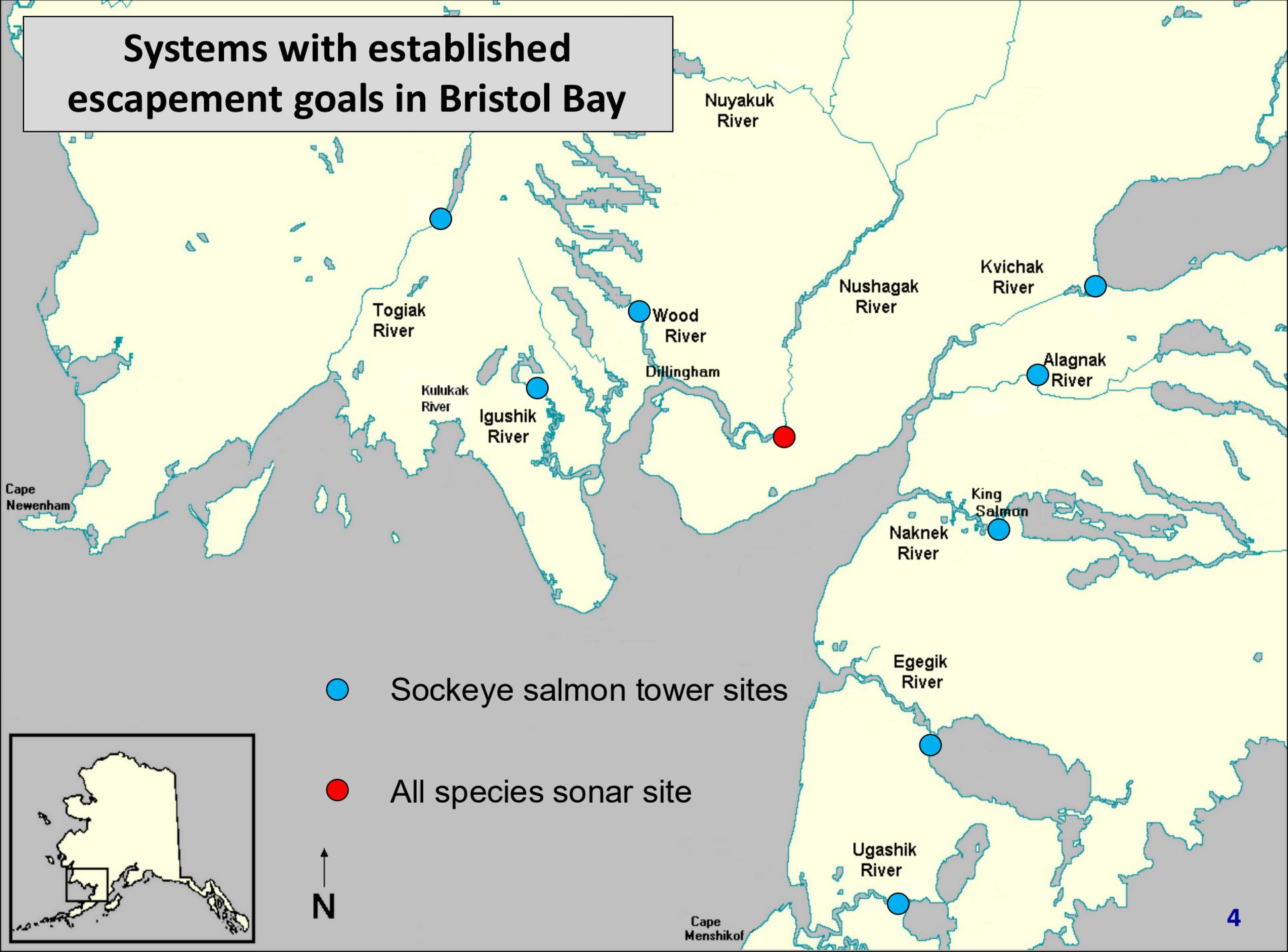


# *Escapement Goal Policies*

- Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222)
- Policy for Statewide Salmon Escapement Goals (5 AAC 39.223)
- Goals are adopted to ensure salmon stocks are conserved, managed, and developed using the sustained yield principle



# Systems with established escapement goals in Bristol Bay



# *Existing Escapement Goals*

**King salmon: 1 stock**

Nushagak River

**Chum salmon: 1 stock**

Nushagak River

**Coho salmon: 1 stock**

Nushagak River

**Pink salmon (even years): 1 stock**

Nushagak River

**Sockeye salmon: 9 stocks**

Alagnak, Egegik, Igushik, Kvichak, Naknek,  
Nushagak, Togiak, Ugashik, and Wood rivers

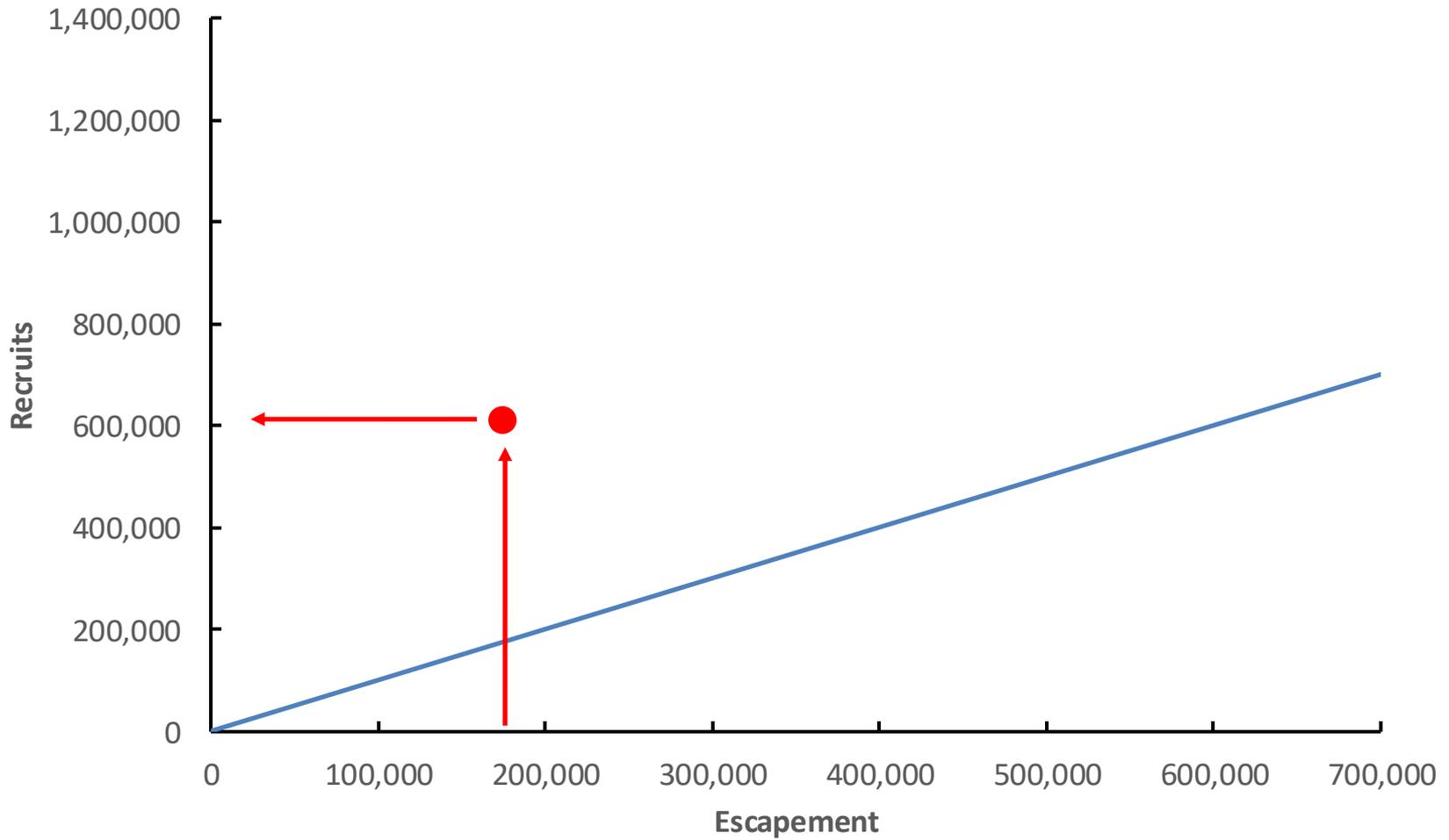


# *Review of sockeye salmon escapement goals*

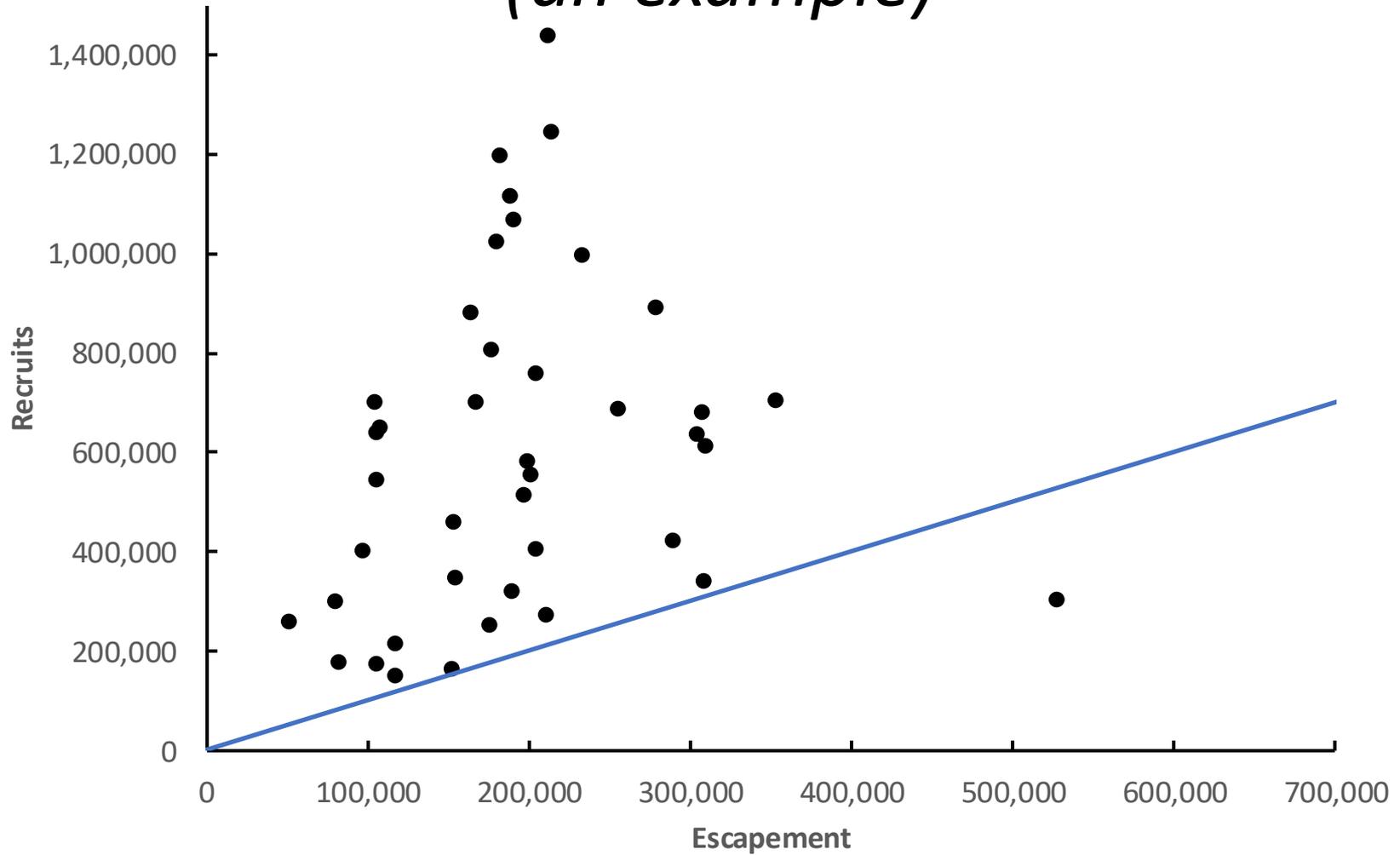


- Majority of Goals implemented in 2015 were developed from 2012 review process
  - **Biological and economic criteria were considered when developing these goals**
  - All escapement goals have been reviewed twice since 2015
- Updated the time series for completed returns through 2024

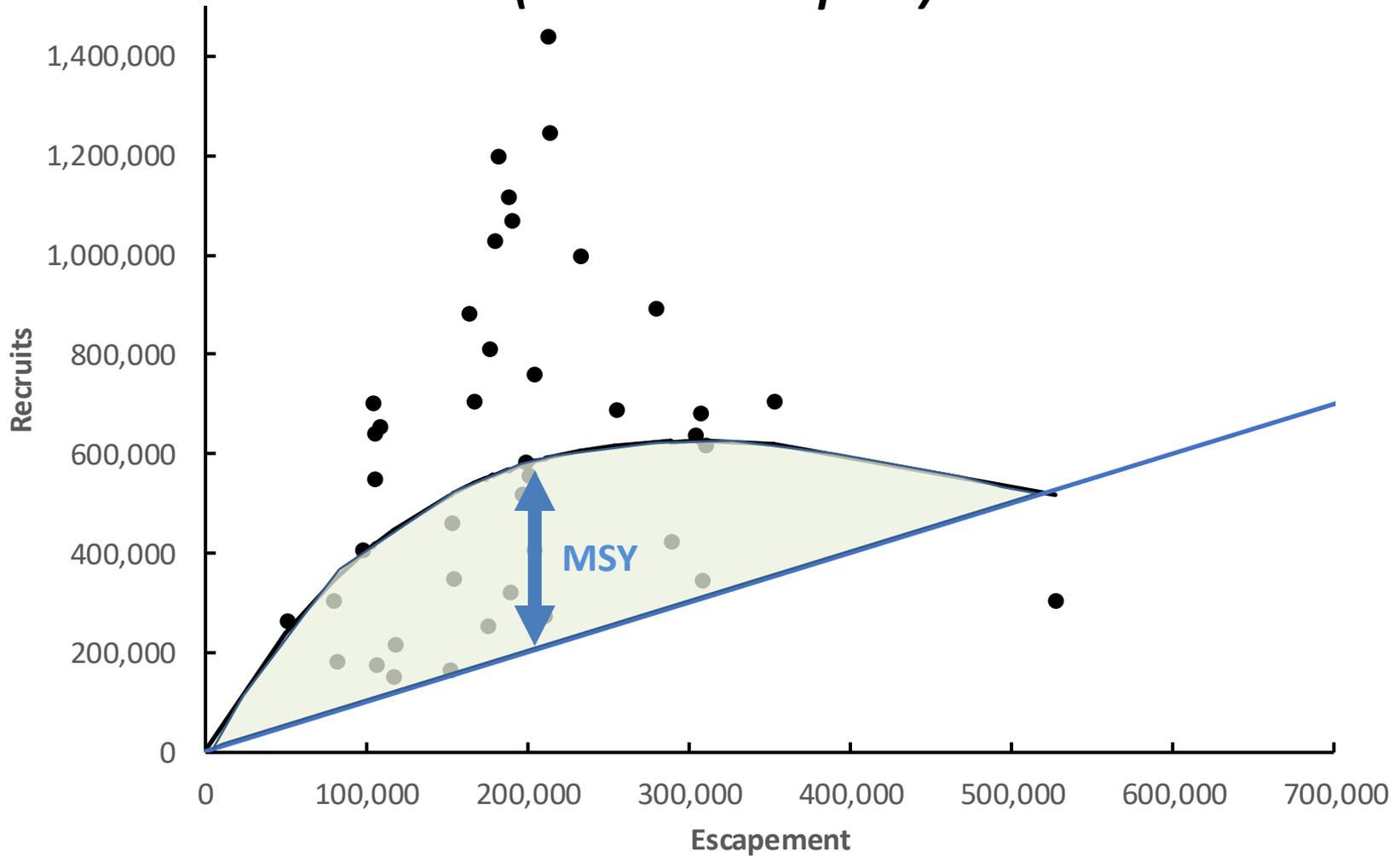
# *Ricker stock-recruit*



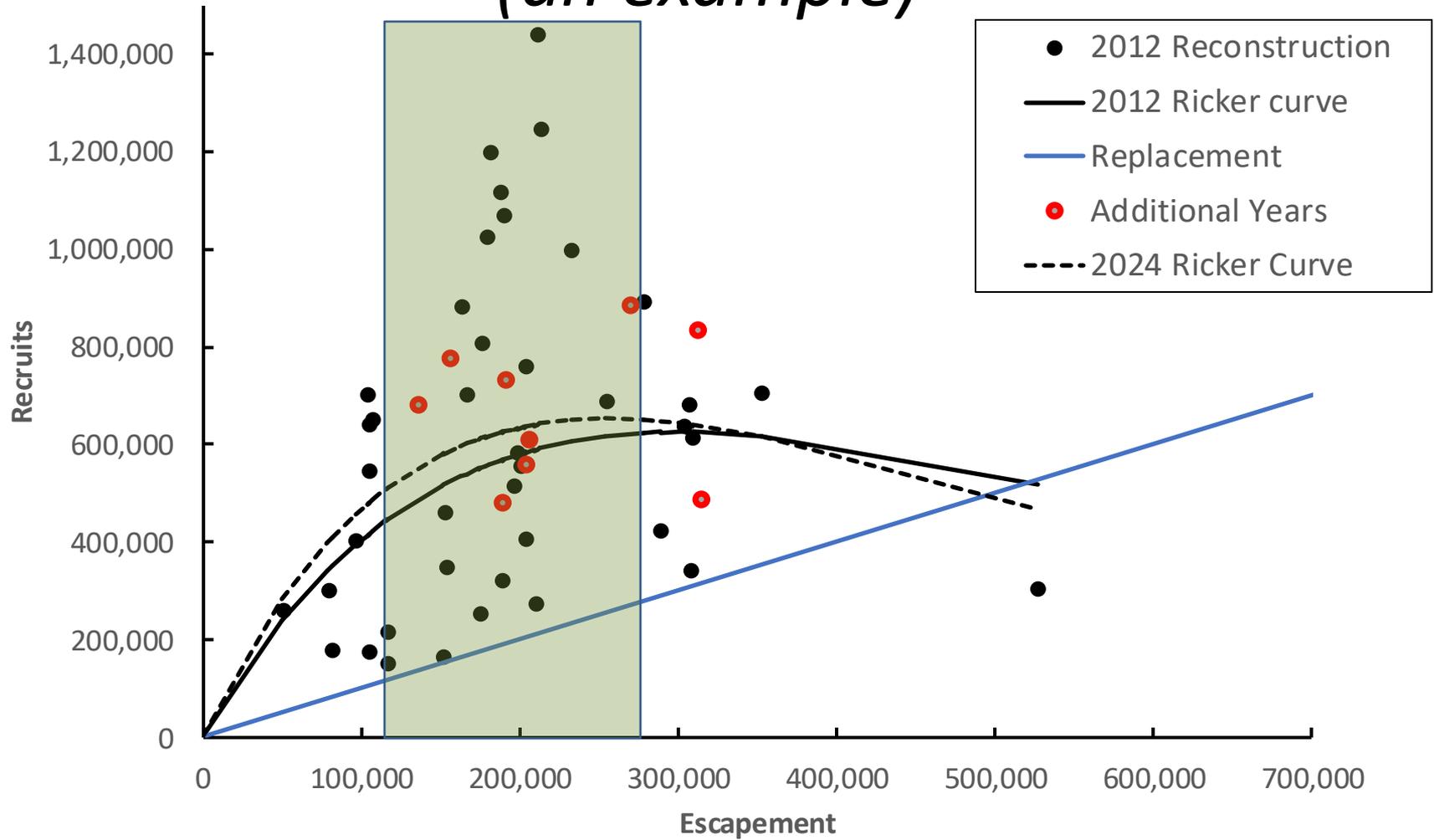
# *Togiak River sockeye salmon stock-recruit (an example)*



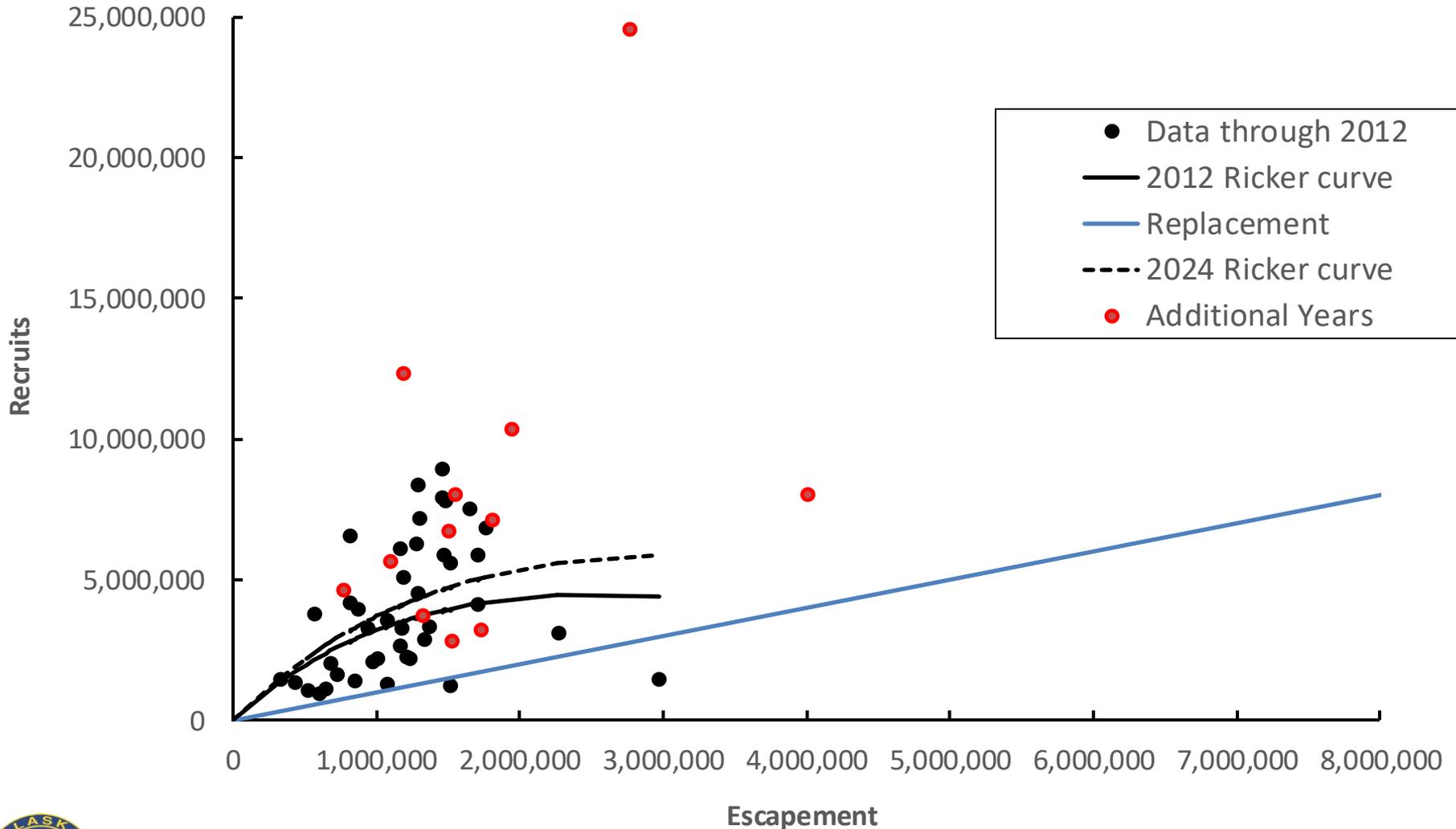
# Togiak River sockeye salmon stock-recruit (an example)



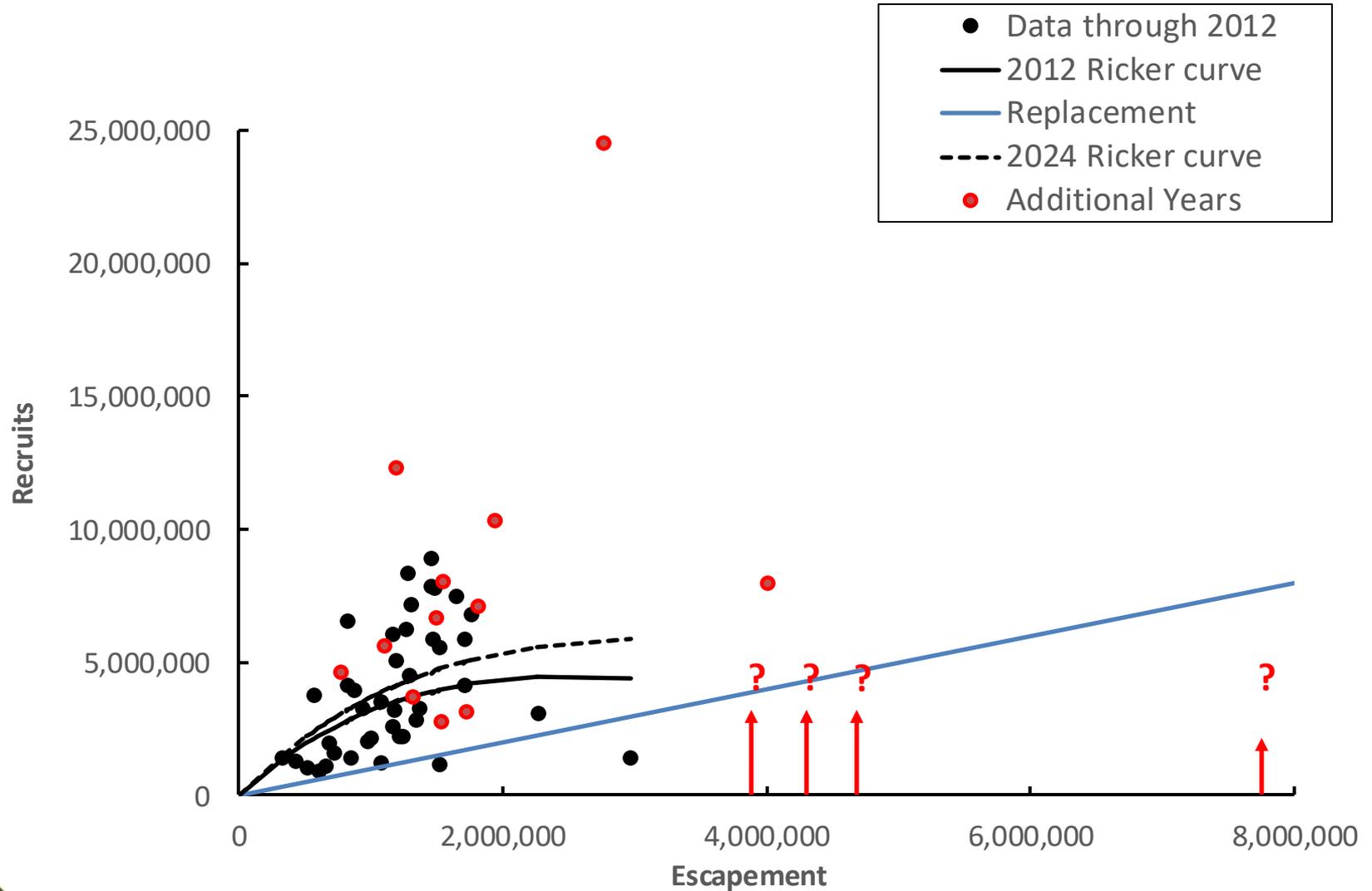
# Togiak River sockeye salmon stock-recruit (an example)



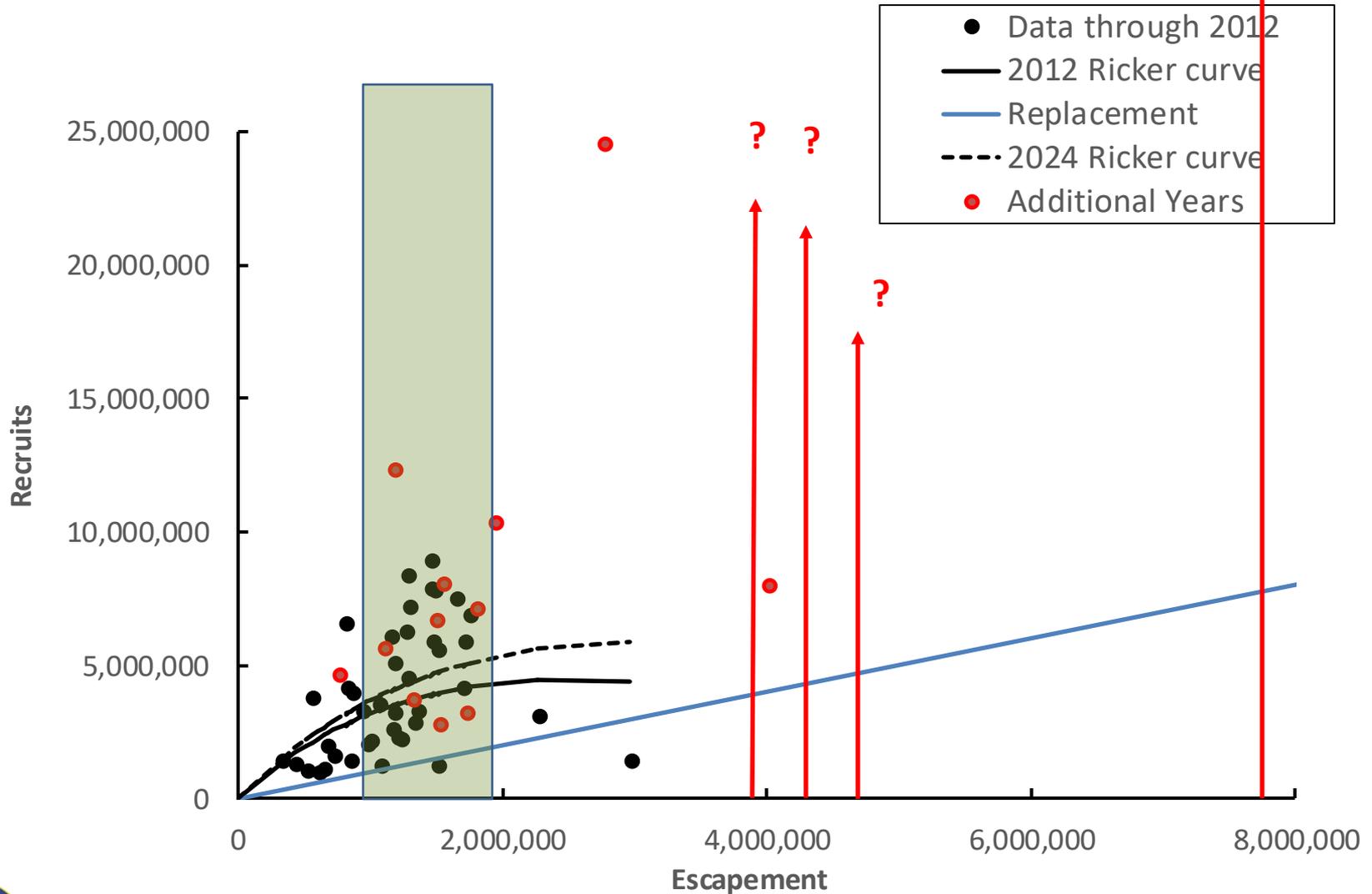
# Wood River sockeye salmon stock-recruit



# Wood River sockeye salmon stock-recruit



# Wood River sockeye salmon stock-recruit



# *Sockeye salmon recommendations*

- The current goals are working well
- No changes at this time
- More information from large returns at the next board cycle



# *Nushagak River even-year pink salmon escapement goal history*

- Variety of escapement estimates back to 1958 (towers, aerial, sonar)
- Previous SEG (600k-1,100k) eliminated in 2007
- Lower bound SEG (165k) reestablished in 2013



# *Nushagak River even-year pink salmon escapement goal history*

- Last assessed in 2018
- No directed fishery
- Goal could be reestablished if market conditions change
- Assessment is not cost effective



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# *Nushagak River coho salmon escapement goal history*

- Sonar estimates back to 1980
- Previous SEG (50-100k) eliminated in 2007
- Current SEG (60-120k) reestablished in 2013



# *Nushagak River coho salmon escapement goal history*

- Last assessed in 2019
- Commercial interest has declined
- Assessment is not cost effective
- Goal and assessment could be reestablished if market conditions change
- Department will continue to manage on harvest and effort



# *Review of Nushagak River king salmon*



- Current SEG is 55,000 – 120,000
- Updated the time series estimates
- No change at this time
- New run-reconstruction based goal to be developed after sonar independent estimates are incorporated

# *Summary*

- Sockeye salmon goals and Nushagak king salmon reviewed.
  - No changes
- Chum, pink and coho analyses were not updated
- Eliminate Nushagak River pink and coho salmon SEGs



# *Questions*

