



Chinook Salmon Surveys

In Northern Cook Inlet

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Aerial Surveys are done annually by ADF&G Biologists

This years
surveyors :

- Dave Rutz
- Samantha Oslund
- Daryl Lescanec
- Sam Ivey

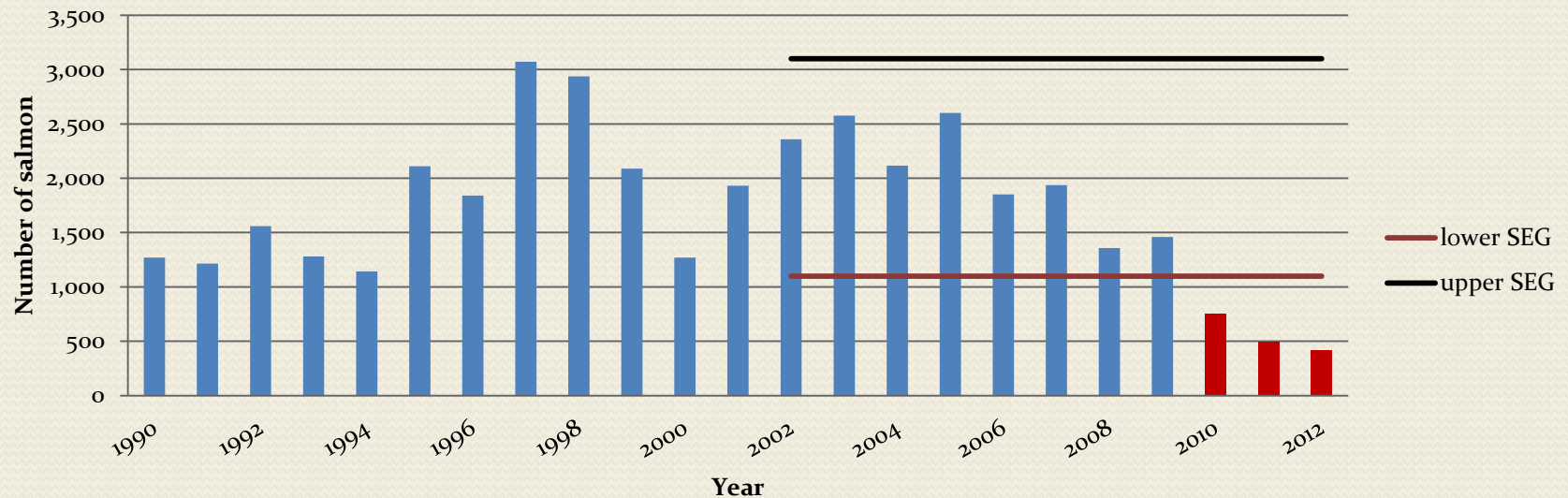


Project Leader Samantha Oslund



Goal – Determine if spawning escapements are within “Sustainable Escapement goals”

Montana creek



Objective:

Count Chinook salmon

24 Northern Cook Inlet streams

15 July and 7 August

**Susitna
River
drainage,
Knik Arm
and
Matanuska
River
index
streams**



Clear water streams only

East Fork Chulitna

Kashwitna Mainstem



Why July 15 to August 7?



**We record weather, stream, and
visibility conditions**



If stream conditions are normal counts comparable between years



Weather influences counts & the ability to get to survey streams.

Happy to fly on this day

Not happening on this day!



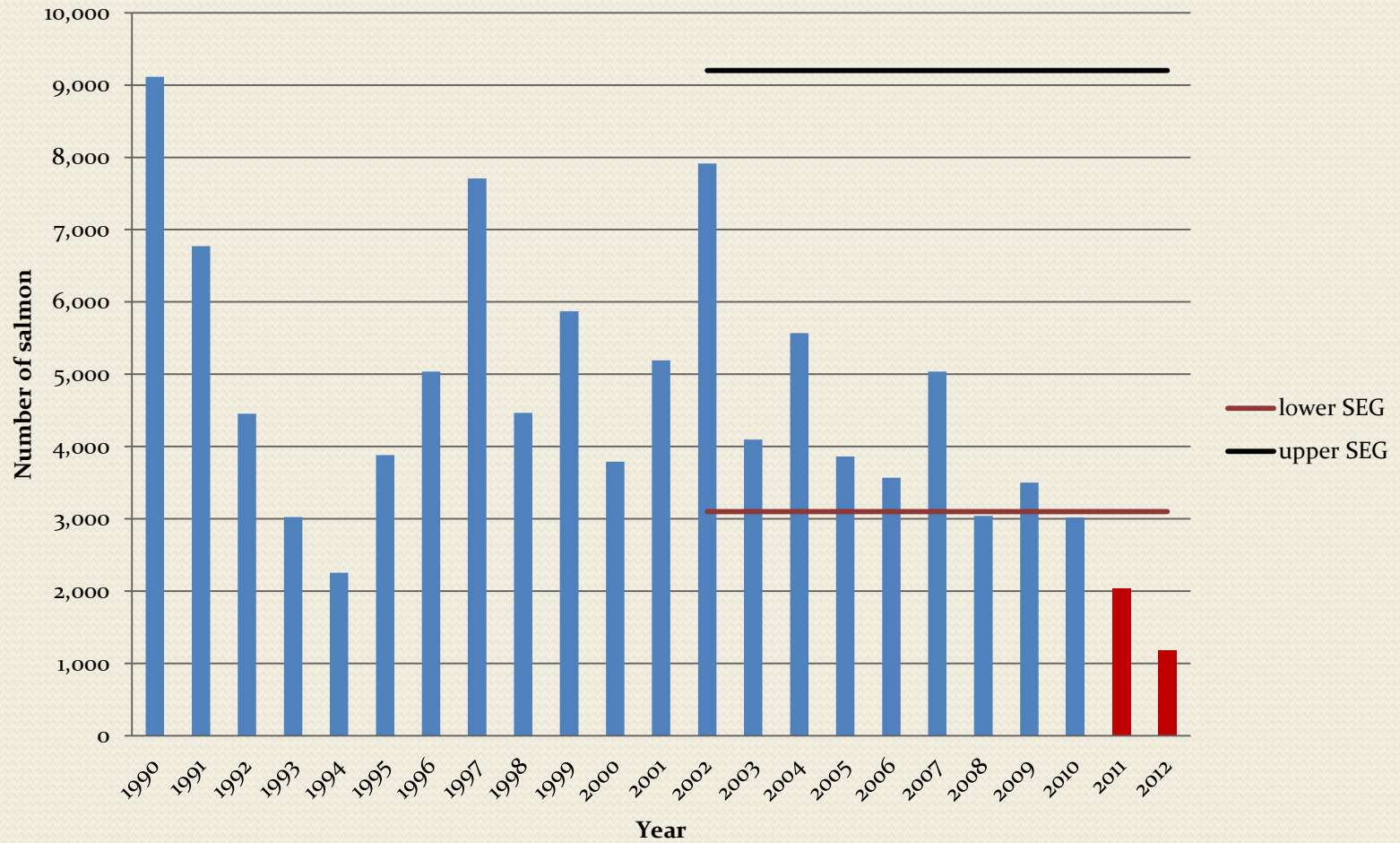
Skilled pilots and helicopters are essential



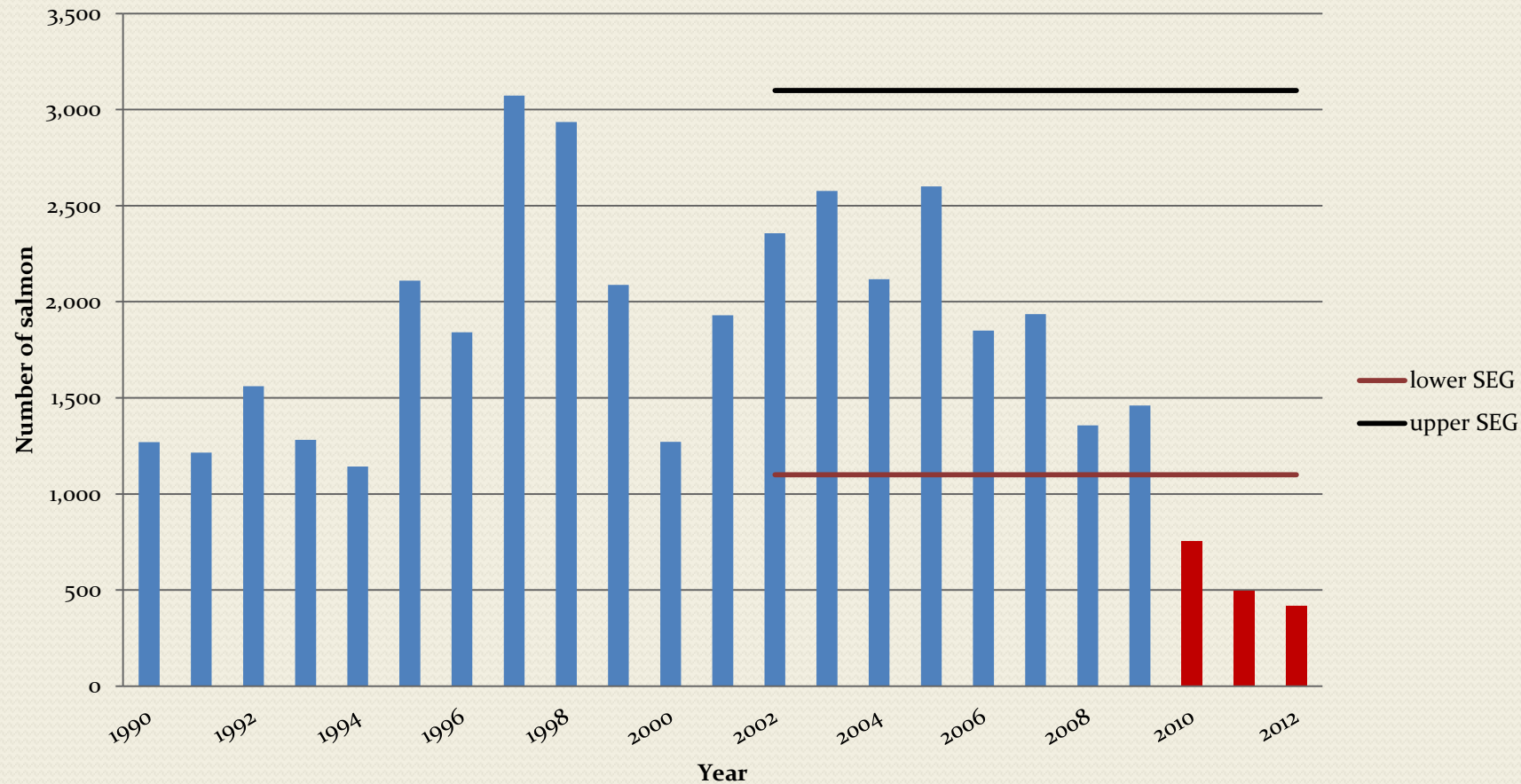
Trained Surveyors are essential also!



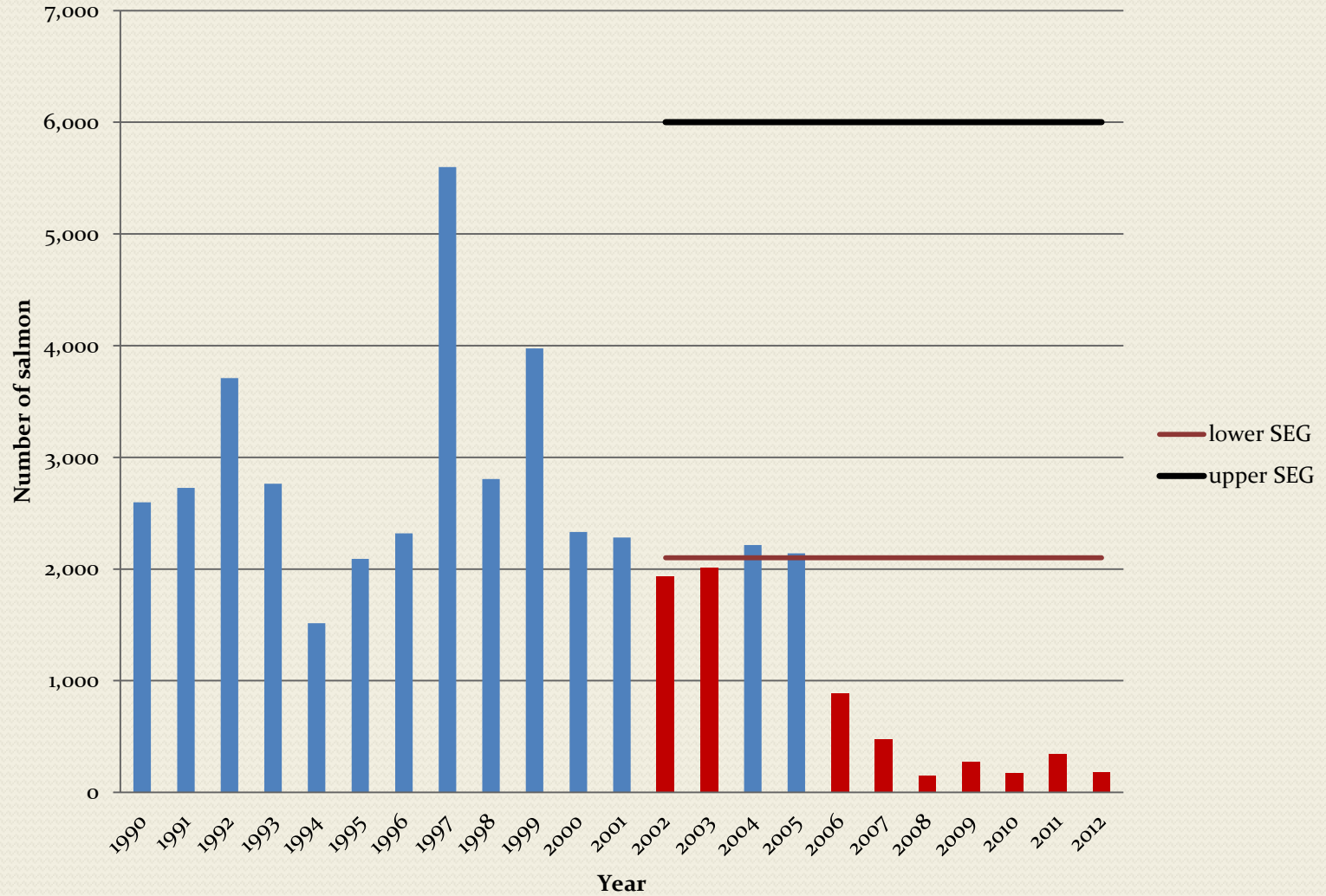
Prairie creek



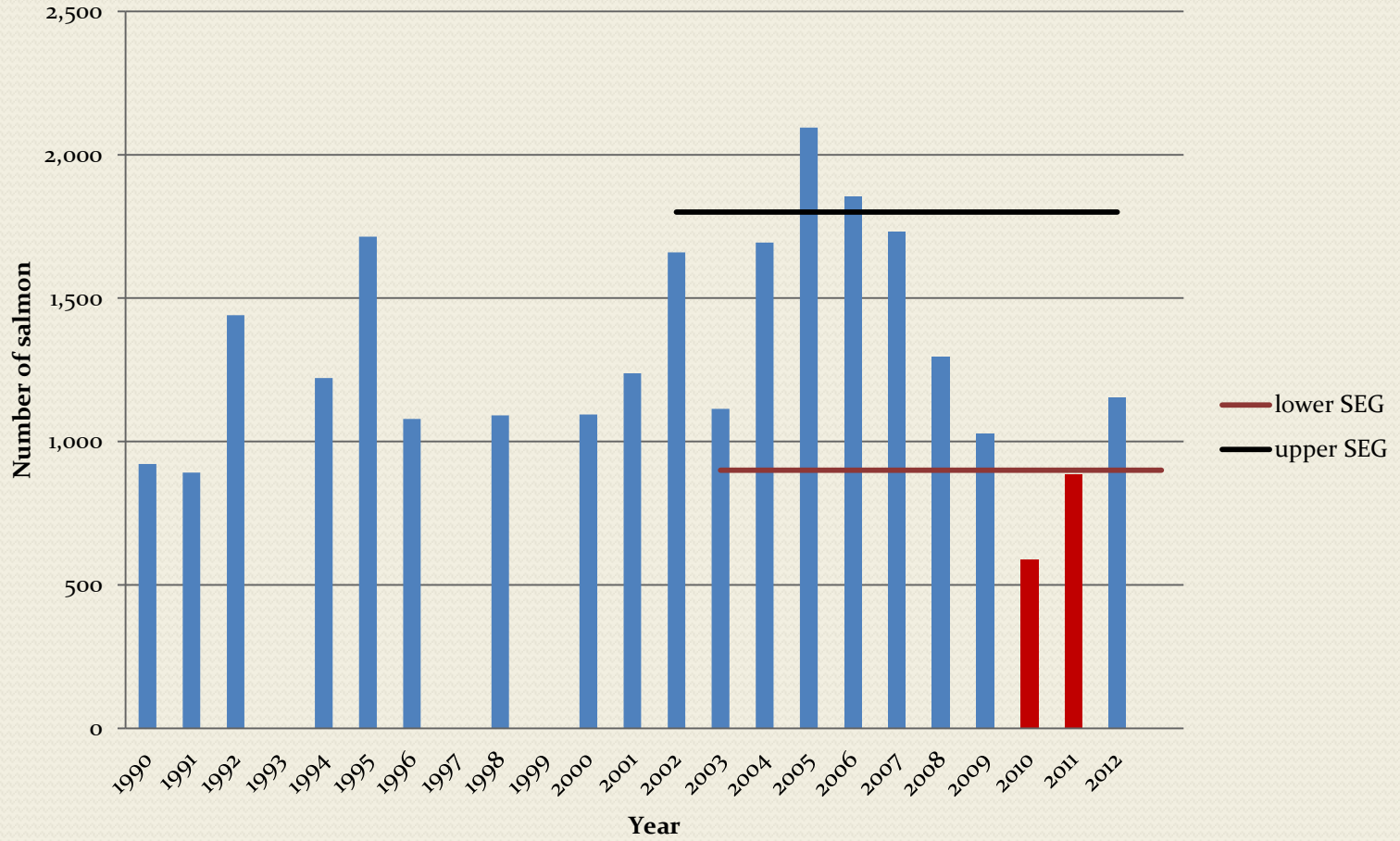
Montana creek



Alexander Creek



Little Susitna River



2012 Results

Goal not achieved

- Alexander Creek
- Lake Creek
- Talachulitna River
- Peters Creek
- Chulitna River
- Prairie Creek
- Montana Creek
- Goose Creek
- Sheep Creek
- Willow Creek

Goal made

- Deshka River
- Little Susitna River
- Clear Creek
- Little Willow Creek

Conclusion

- Northern Cook Inlet Chinook salmon stocks are experiencing a period of low production.
- Actions have been taken to reduce the harvest.
- The Department of Fish and Game will closely monitor escapements through existing and new projects.