

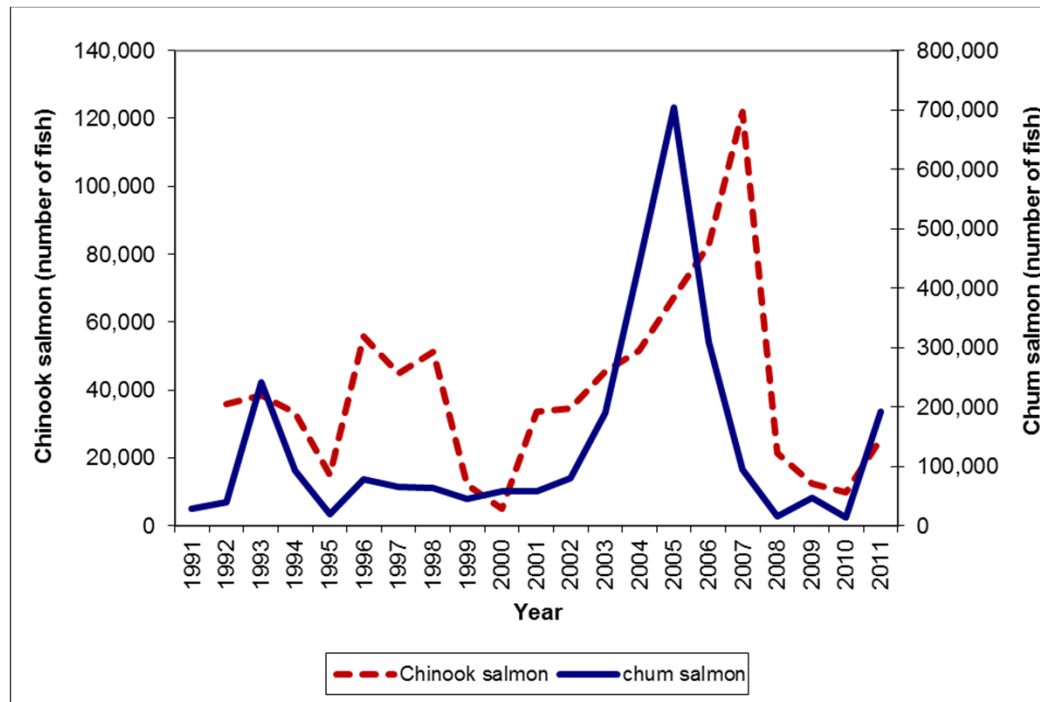
# Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Groundfish Fisheries

Alaska House Fisheries Committee  
March 19, 2013

Becca Robbins Gisclair  
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association  
Alaska Marine Conservation Council



# Bering Sea Chinook Salmon Bycatch: Trends



Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

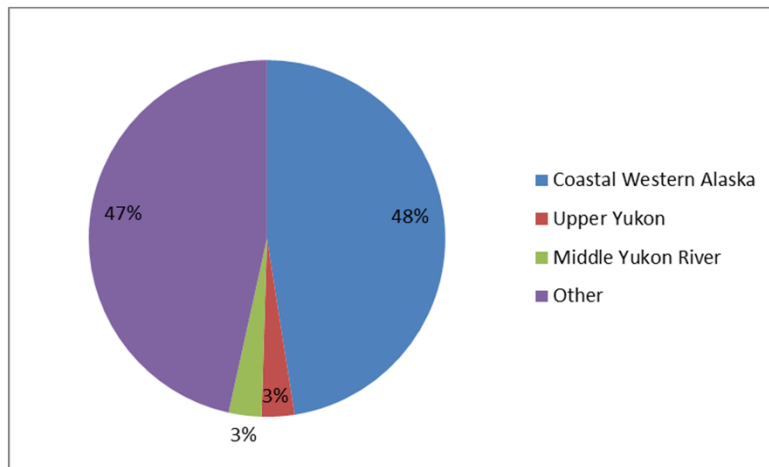
Promoting healthy, wild salmon fisheries on the Yukon River

\* Chum salmon bycatch occurs in B season only

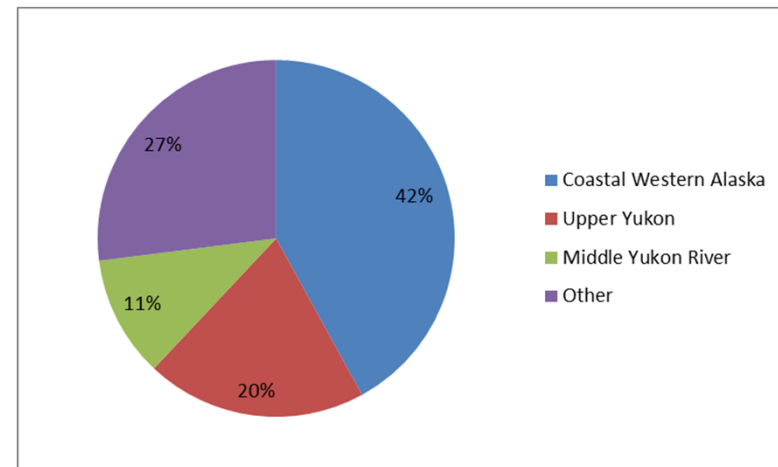
# Bering Sea Chinook Salmon Bycatch: Stock of Origin

## Genetic Stock Composition

2005-2007



2010



Coastal Western Alaska includes Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, Norton Sound and Bristol Bay

Other includes N. Alaska Peninsula, **Cook Inlet**, the Pacific Northwest, Southeast Alaska, the Pacific Northwest (lower 48) and Russia

# Bering Sea:

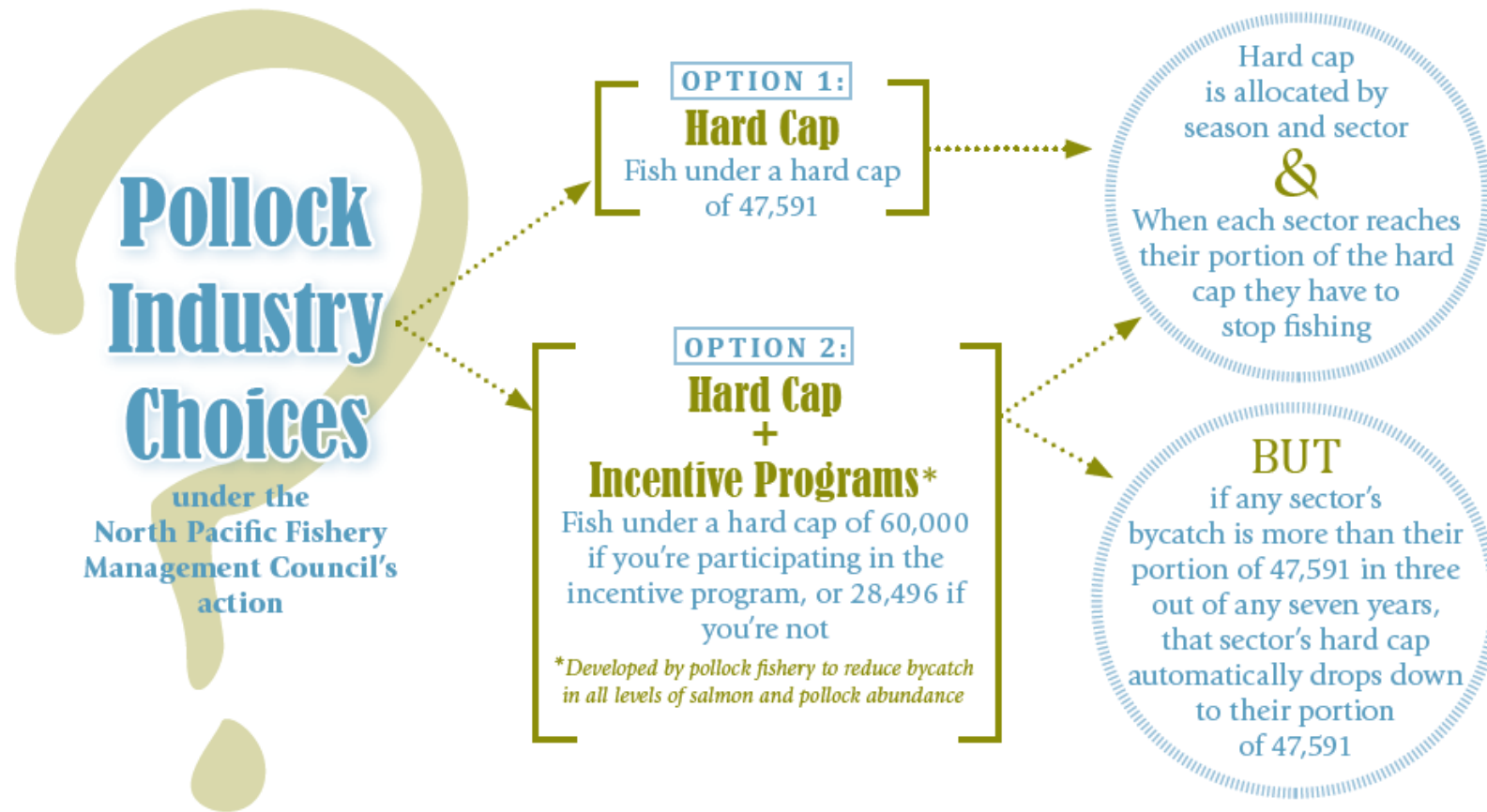
## Chinook Salmon Stock Status

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- 2 Stocks of Concern: Yukon River Chinook and Norton Sound;
- Disaster declarations for 2008-2012 for the Yukon River and 2011-2012 for the Kuskokwim River;
- Yukon River:
  - \* Subsistence severely restricted: 2008-2012 harvest well below amounts necessary for subsistence (ANS);
  - \* No directed commercial harvests of Chinook salmon;
  - \* Canadian escapement goal only been met in 2 out of the last 5 years;
  - \* Mean run size of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon) declined 45% for the period 1998-2010 compared to 1982-1997;
- 2012: severe subsistence restrictions due to low returns on the Kuskokwim as well.

# Bering Sea Chinook Salmon Bycatch:

## Current Management



# Bering Sea Chinook Salmon Bycatch: Recommendations

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## Reduce overall cap by at least half

- Western Alaska groups, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Federal Subsistence Board and many others requested a cap of 30,000 initially;
- 60,000 hard cap could result in catch of over 40,000 Western Alaska fish according to 2010 genetic data (without adjusting for marine mortality).





Pollock spills from a trawl net onto the deck of the Saga Sea, a factory trawler fishing in the Bering Sea, Alaska.  
© Natalie Fobes/Corbis



## Questions?

