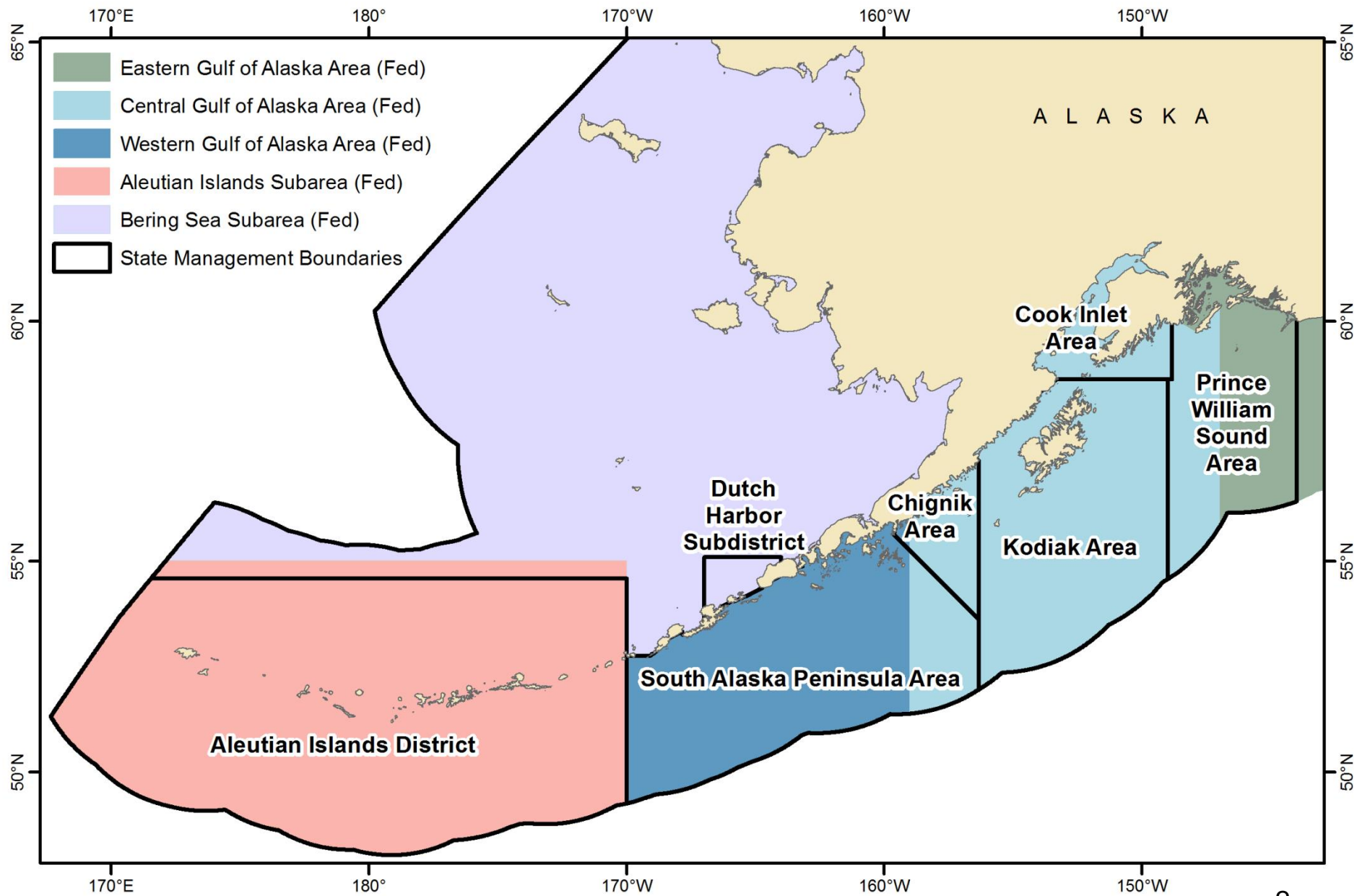


Alaska's Groundfish and BSAI Crab Fisheries

House Fisheries Special Committee

January 26, 2017



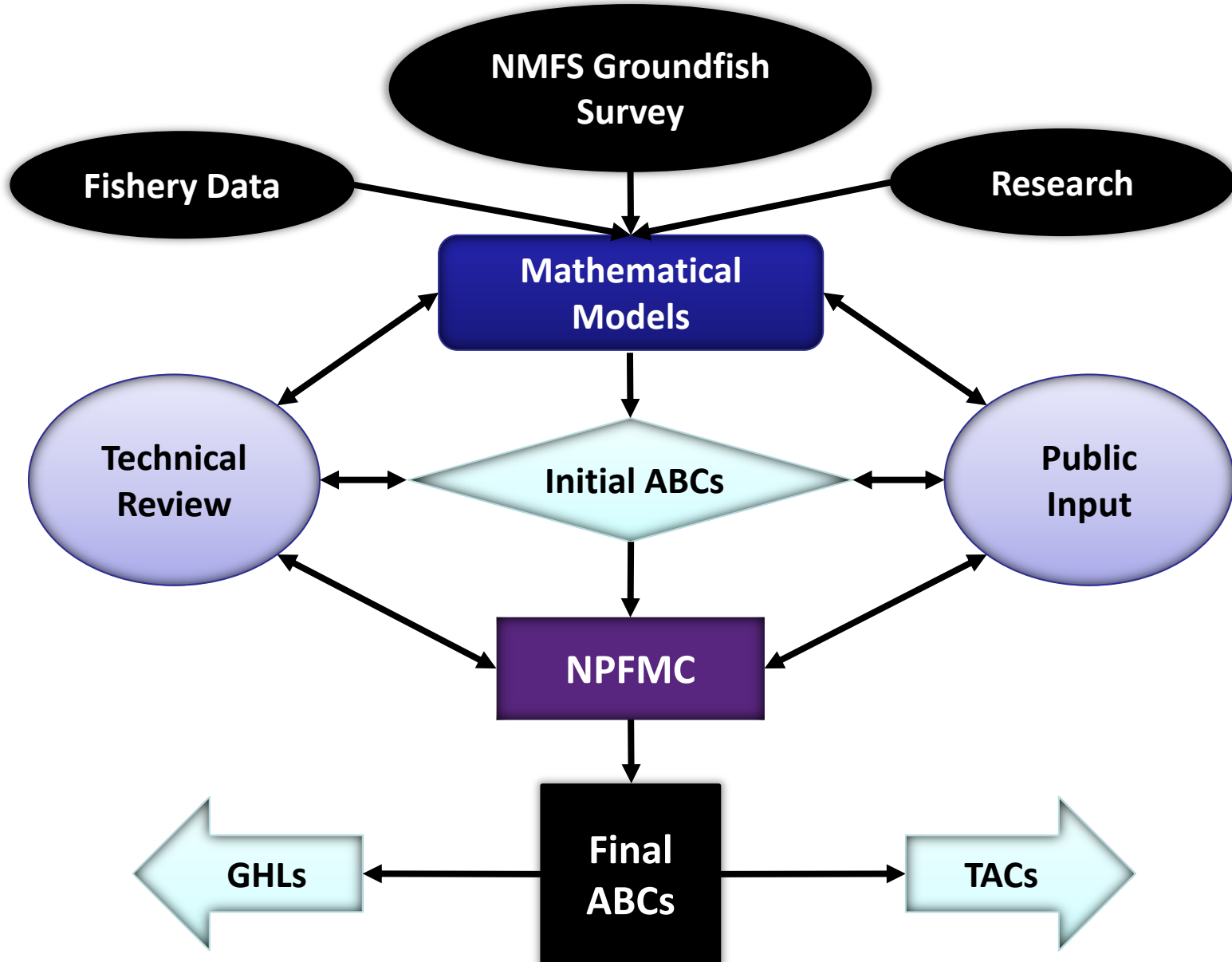


General Fishery Types



- **Federal:** Federal waters (3–200 nmi) guided by NPFMC process. Harvest deducted from federal TAC.
- **Parallel:** State waters (0–3 nmi) concurrent with adjacent federal fishery and generally adopt federal regulations and management measures as guided by the Board of Fisheries process. Harvest deducted from federal TAC.
- **State-Waters (GHL):** State waters (0–3 nmi) guided by the board process. Harvest deducted from state GHL.

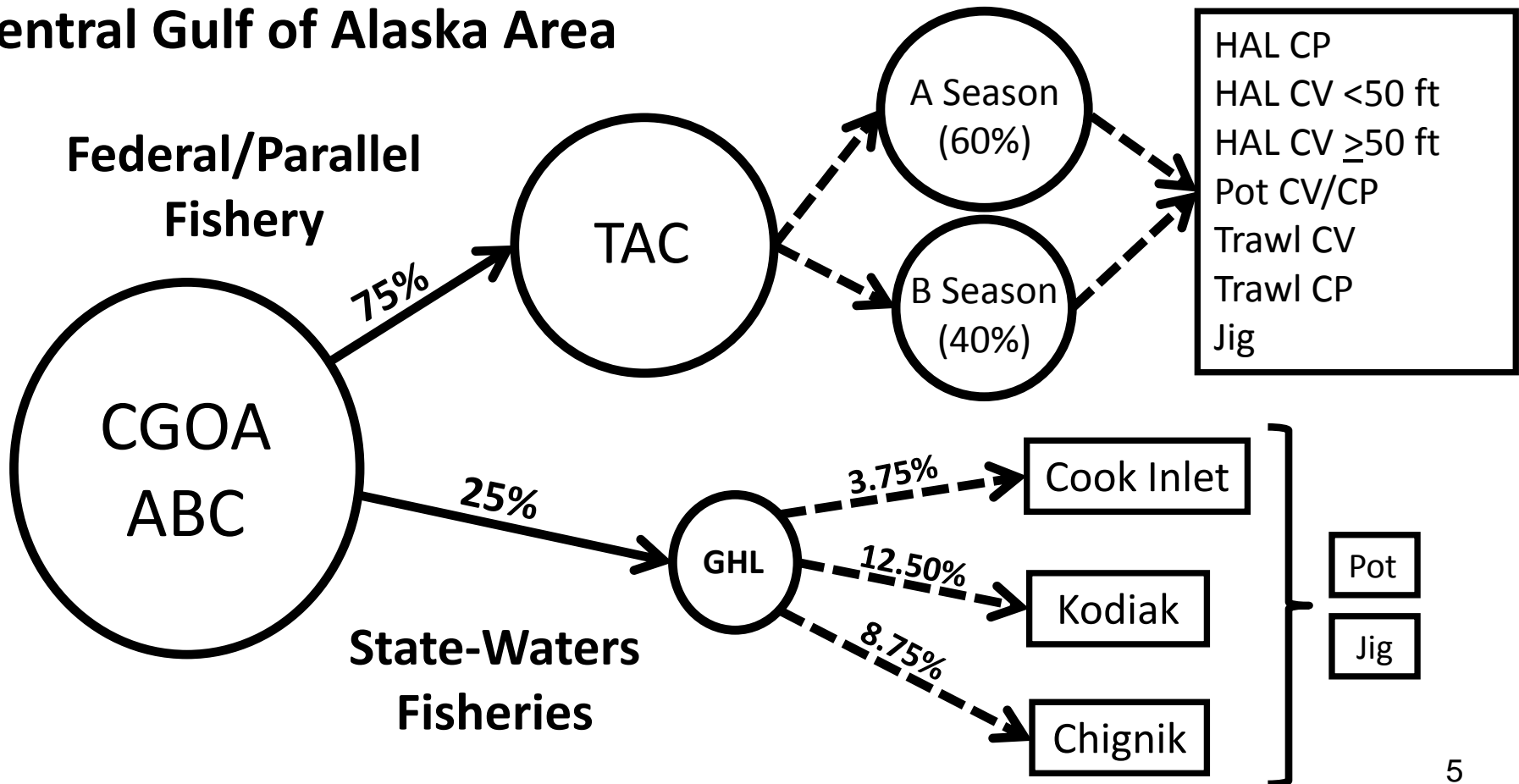
Stock Assessment Process



Harvest Limits

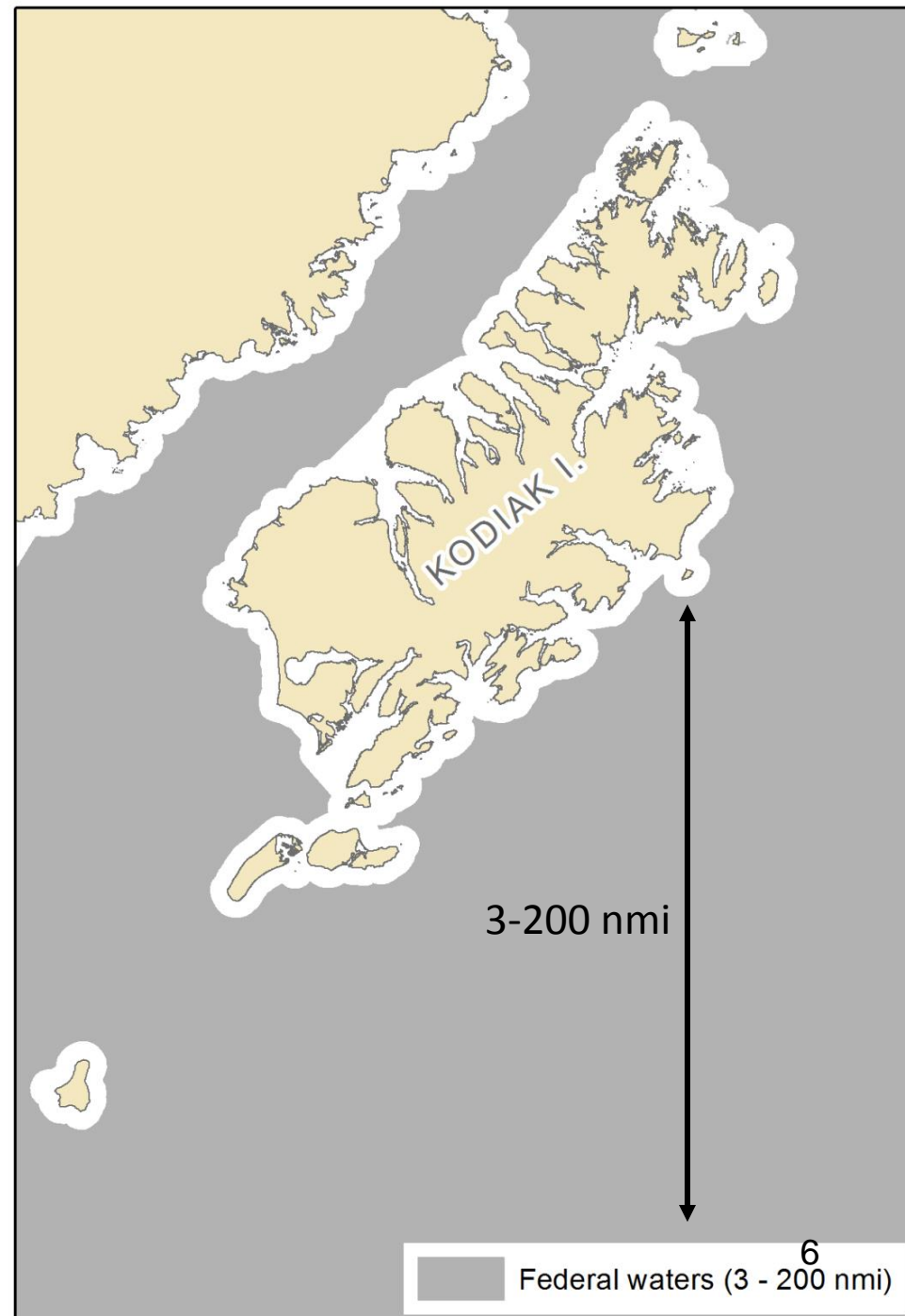
- **ABC** - Acceptable Biological Catch (Federal: EGOA, CGOA, WGOA, BS, AI)
- **TAC** - Total Allowable Catch (Federal/Parallel Fisheries)
- **GHL** - Guideline Harvest Level (State-Waters Fisheries)

Central Gulf of Alaska Area



Federal Pacific Cod Fishery

- Federal waters 3–200 nmi: CGOA, WGOA, BSAI
- Harvest limit (TAC) based on fixed % of Pacific cod ABC
- Gear sectors: trawl, longline, pot and jig gear (CV and CP)
- A and B seasons (Jan 1 and Sept 1)
- No gear limits, vessel length limited to 125 ft (GOA)
- Limited access (FFP and LLP required)
- Steller sea lion (SSL) protection measures (no fishing zones and VMS)
- Observer requirements



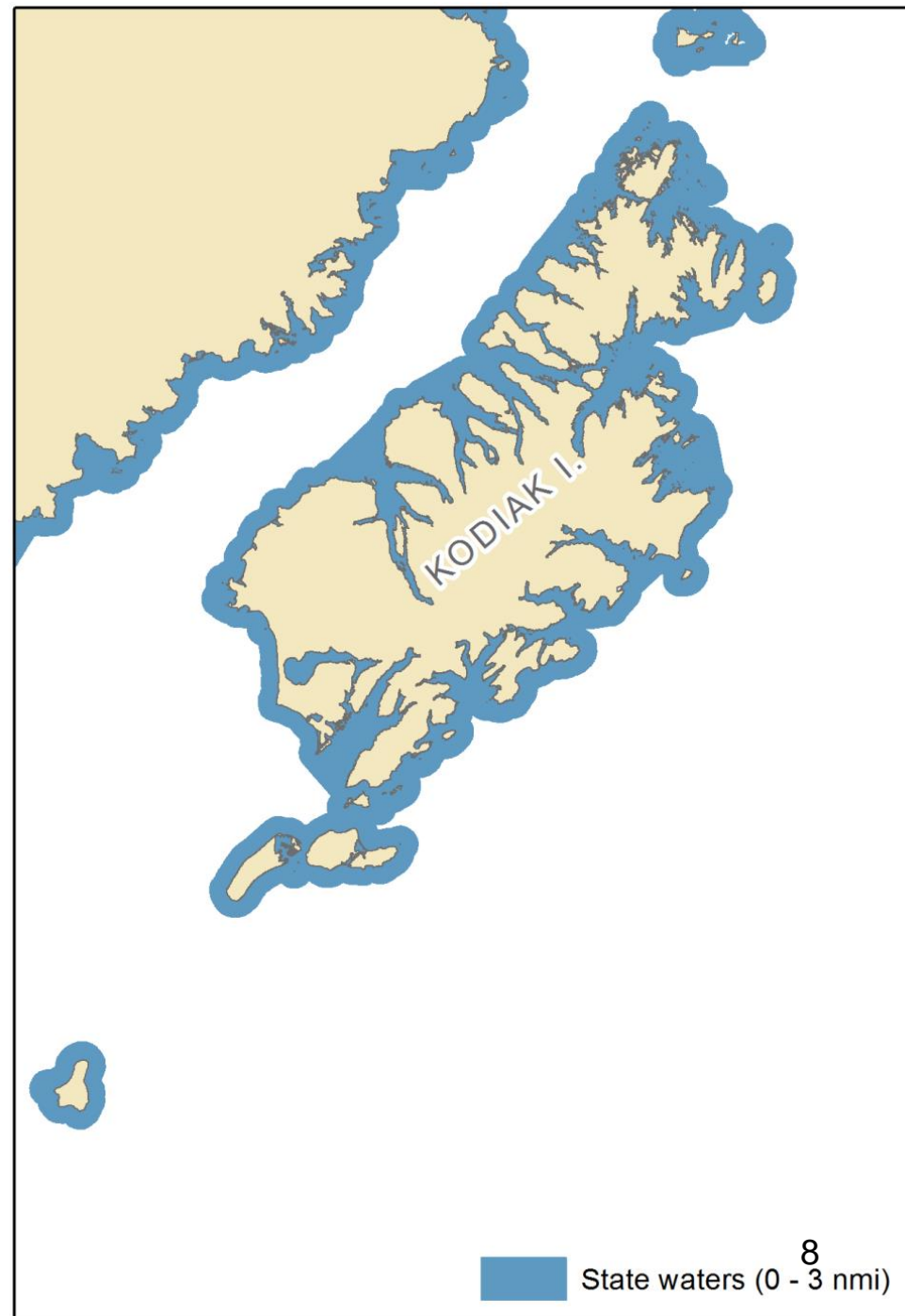
Parallel Pacific Cod Fishery

- State waters 0–3 nmi, CGOA, WGOA, BSAI
- Opened concurrent to federal fishery by state EO
- Shared TAC with federal fishery
- Gear sectors: trawl, longline, pot and jig gear (bottom trawl restrictions)
- A and B seasons (Jan 1 and Sept 1)
- No gear limits, some vessel length restrictions
- Open access (FFP/LLP not required)
- Most SSL protection measures
- Observer requirements only for federally permitted vessels

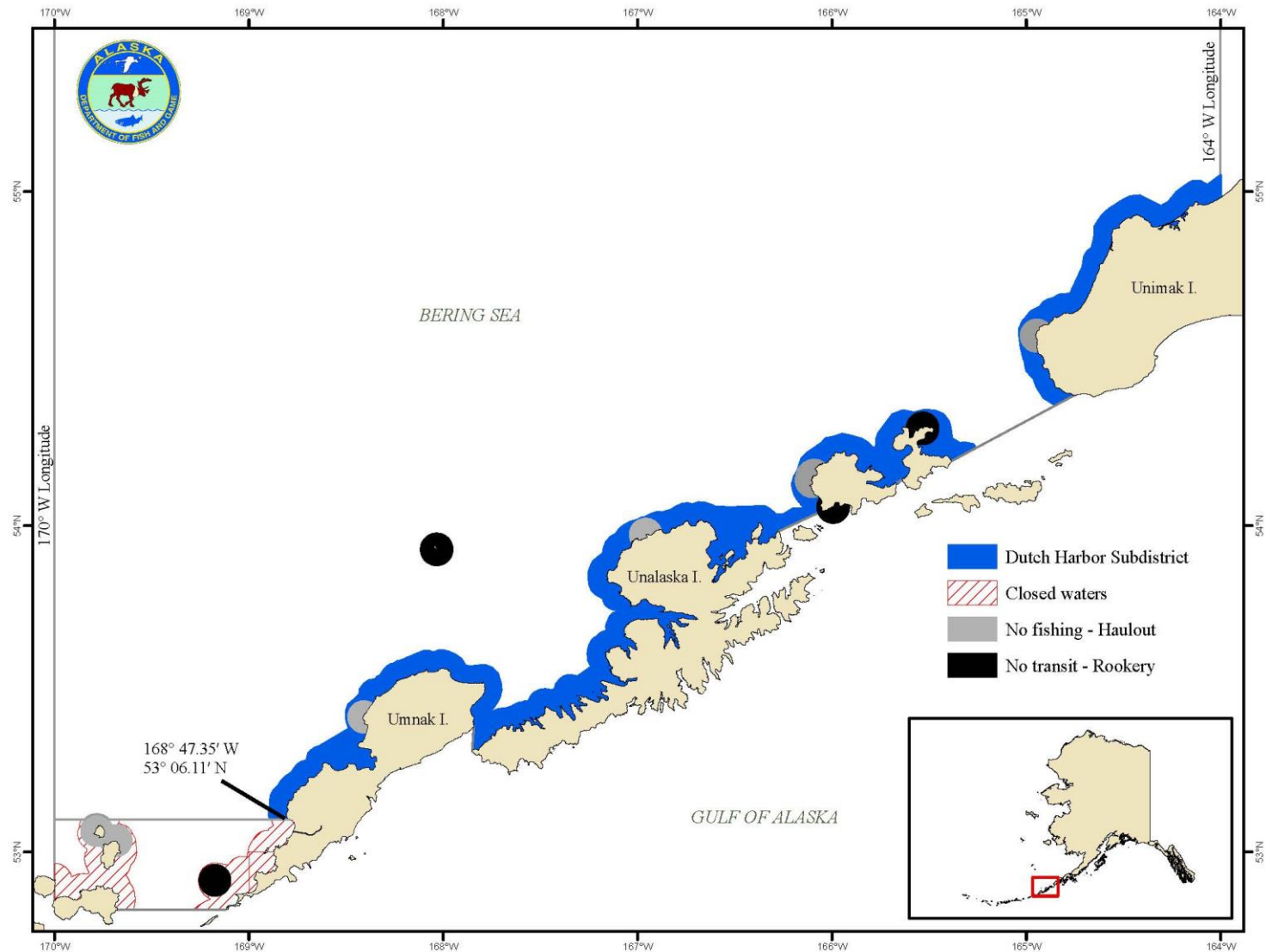


State-Waters Pacific Cod Fishery

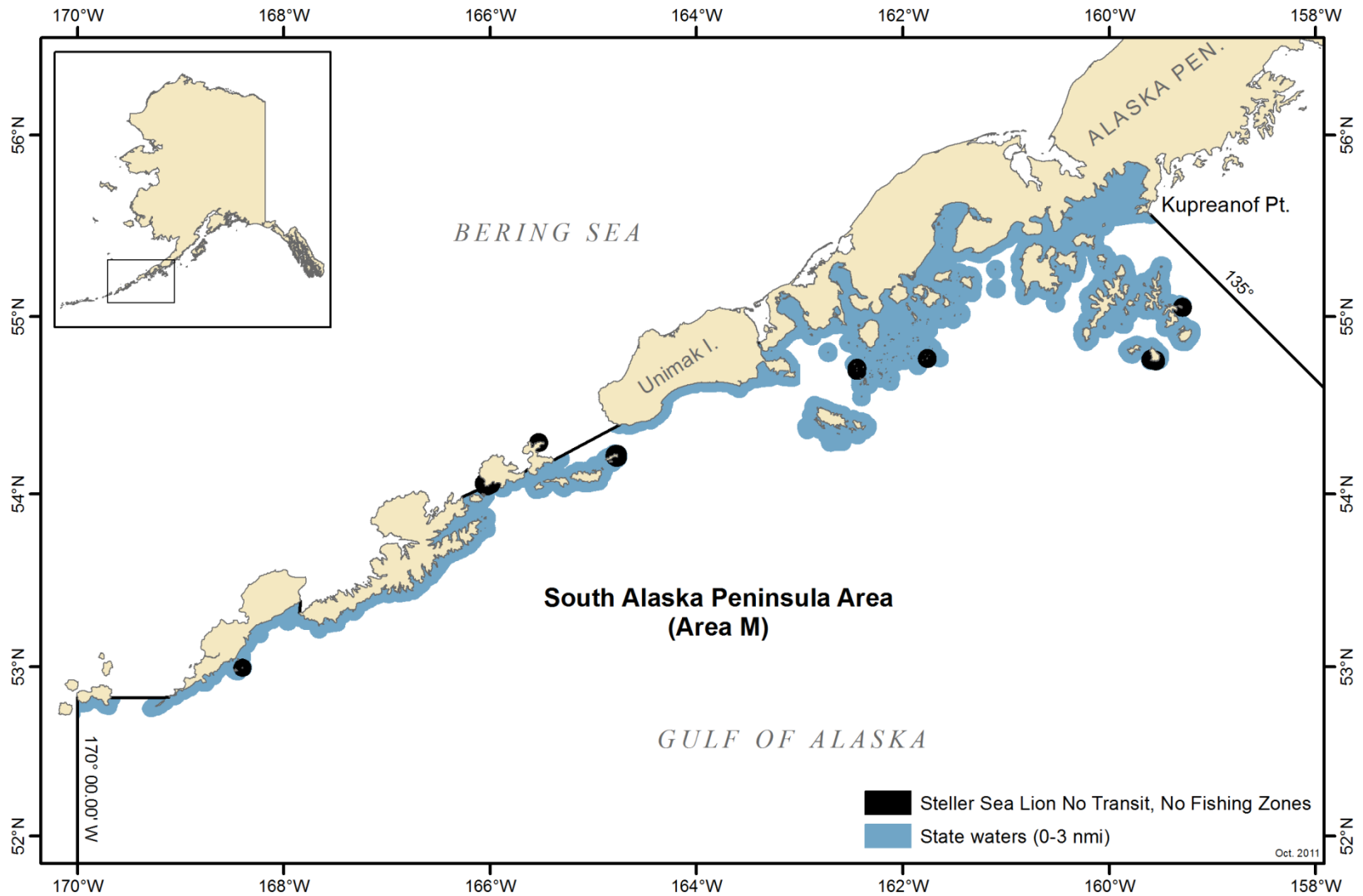
- State waters 0–3 nmi
- Harvest limits (GHL) based on % of federal Pacific cod ABCs
- Seasons open after federal/parallel fisheries close
- Pot and jig gear (longline - PWS; longline and trawl - Aleutian Is.)
- Gear limited to 60 pots or 5 jig machines
- Some vessel length limits
(58 ft maximum Chignik, S. Peninsula, Dutch Harbor)
- Open access - registration exclusivity
(nonexclusive, exclusive, superexclusive)
- SSL rookery protection
- No observer requirements



Dutch Harbor Subdistrict



South Alaska Peninsula Area



Description of Dutch Harbor Subdistrict and South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Fisheries

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict

- GHL: 6.4% of Bering Sea Pacific cod ABC (36 million lb in 2016);
- 58' vessel size limit;
- Pot gear only;
- 24 vessels in 2016;
- Established in 2013.

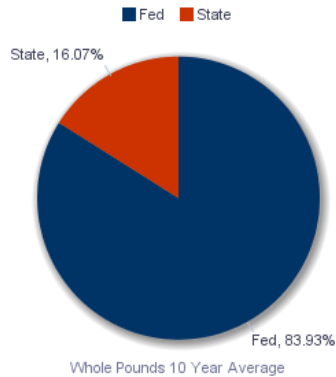
South Alaska Peninsula

- GHL: 30% of WGOA Pacific cod ABC (27 million lb in 2016);
- GHL split 85% pot gear and 15% jig gear;
- 58' vessel size limit;
- 55 vessels in 2016.

Comparison of State and Federal Waters Harvests CGOA and WGOA, 2007 - 2016

Walleye pollock

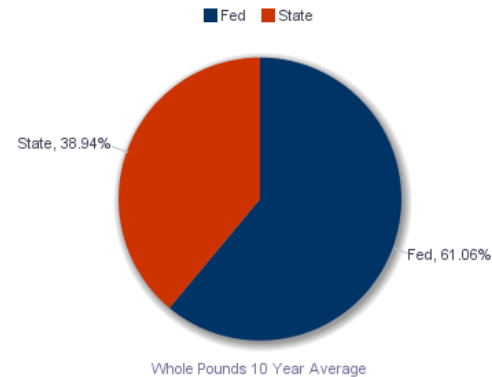
Whole Pounds 10 Year Average



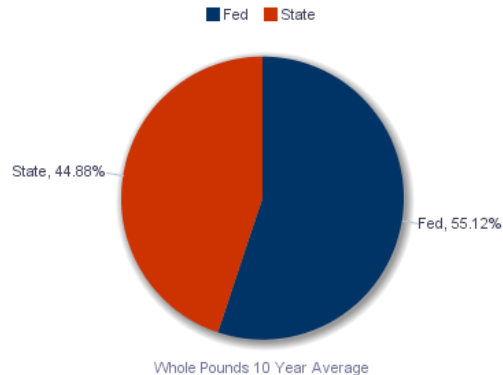
CGOA

Pacific cod

Whole Pounds 10 Year Average

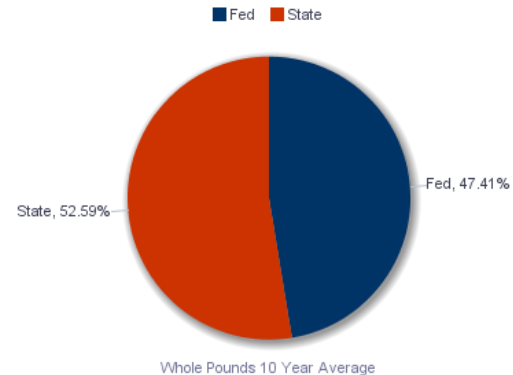


Whole Pounds 10 Year Average



WGOA

Whole Pounds 10 Year Average



Other State Waters Groundfish Fisheries

- Rockfish and lingcod across the Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands;
- Walleye pollock in Prince William Sound
- Sablefish in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, and Aleutian Islands;
- Sablefish IFQ is not recognized in state waters, thus state waters sablefish fisheries have been created in areas where some sablefish harvest traditionally occurred from 0 – 3 nm from shore;

Big-Picture Comparison of Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska Federal Groundfish Fisheries

Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands

- Limited by 2.0 million mt cap
- Pollock: 1.345 million mt
- Pacific cod: 223,704 mt
- Yellowfin Sole: 154,000 mt

Management

- Pollock/flatfish: LLP, Catch share (AFA, Am 80)
- Cod/Yellowfin Sole: LLP, 'Open Access'
- CDQ program allocated 7.5% to 10.7% of TAC

Gulf of Alaska

- Limited by 800,000 mt cap
- Pollock: 208,595 mt
- Arrowtooth: 103,300 mt
- Pacific cod: 64,442 mt
- Total GOA allowable harvest: 535,863 mt

Management

- Pollock/cod/flatfish: LLP, 'Open Access'
- Rockfish: LLP, catch share

Federal Groundfish Fishery Key Points

- Over 40 species or species complexes managed off Alaska;
- Many are managed under a limited access or quota share-type program;
- State has authority to manage a handful of species in EEZ;
- Greater proportion of catch processed at sea by floating or catcher processors than in state managed fisheries;
- Observer coverage requirements;
- Total catch accounting;
- Centralized rather than area-specific management;
- Prohibited species management, e.g. halibut, salmon, crab.

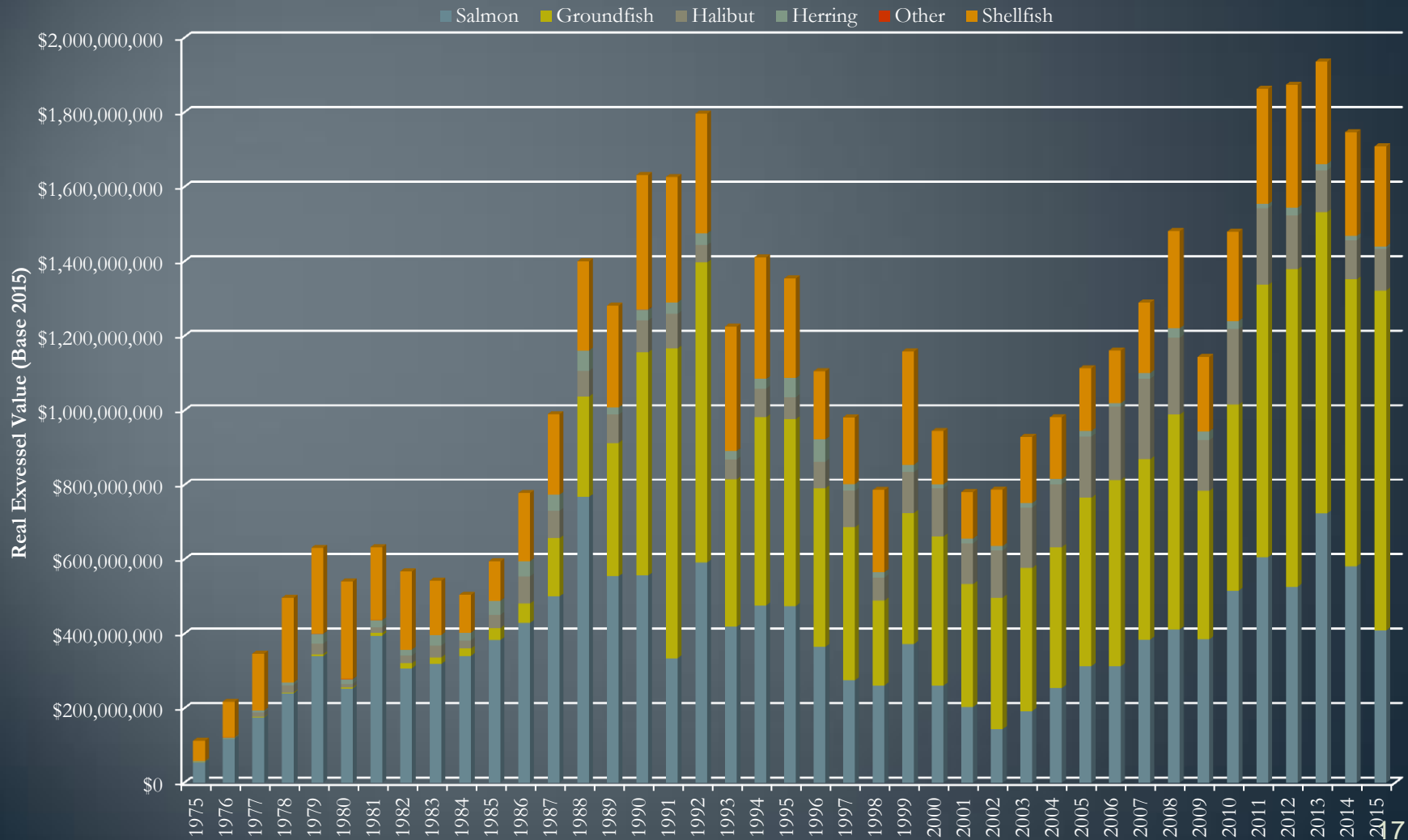
Groundfish Fishery Management Summary

- 2 management jurisdictions (federal/state)
- 3 'types' of groundfish fisheries
 - **Federal**: All federal oversight, nearly all limited access
 - **Parallel**: State oversight with federal overlap
 - **State-Waters**: All state oversight, all open access except several sablefish fisheries

**Each groundfish fishery is unique
and highly dynamic
ABCs shared across all 3 fishery types**



Exvessel Value of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries 1975-2015

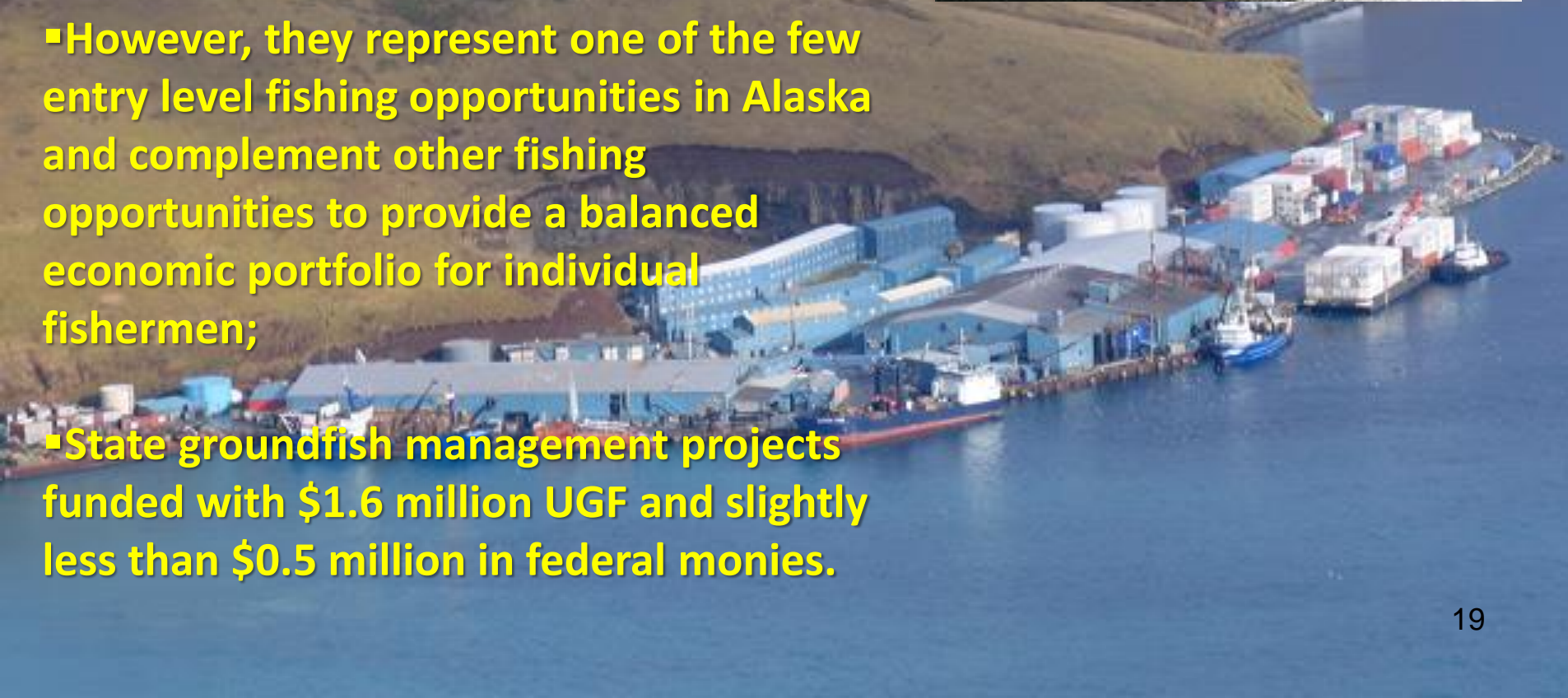


Groundfish Economic Highlights

- Groundfish fisheries represent 80% of Alaska's total commercial fishery harvest volume, 52% of total exvessel value (2015), and 52% of the nations' total seafood harvest volume (2014);
- Walleye pollock landings typically comprise 40-50% of total Alaska seafood harvest volume and around one third of total first wholesale value;
- Groundfish fisheries provided approximately 1,100 seafood harvesting jobs in 2015 and provide a source of year-round work for seafood processors, especially in communities such as Kodiak and Unalaska where many processing workers are Alaska residents.

State-Waters Key Points

- State waters groundfish fisheries account for a relatively small fraction of total groundfish landings and value ~less than \$50 million annually;
- However, they represent one of the few entry level fishing opportunities in Alaska and complement other fishing opportunities to provide a balanced economic portfolio for individual fishermen;
- State groundfish management projects funded with \$1.6 million UGF and slightly less than \$0.5 million in federal monies.



BSAI Crab Fishery Management Structure

- Federal Fishery Management Plan (FMP) establishes State/Federal cooperative management;
- Subject to Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) National Standards;
- FMP Management Measures:
 - Category 1: Fixed in the FMP and require an FMP amendment to change (through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council). e.g. limited access;
 - Category 2: Framework-type measures that the state can change following criteria set out in the FMP, e.g. harvest limits;
 - Category 3: Measures that are neither rigidly specified nor frameworked in the FMP; at the discretion of the State, e.g. state observer coverage.

FMP Crab Stocks



Red king crab –

- Norton Sound,
- Pribilof Islands,
- Bristol Bay,
- Aleutian Islands west of 171° W. long.

Blue king crab –

- Saint Matthew &
- Pribilof Islands

Golden king crab –

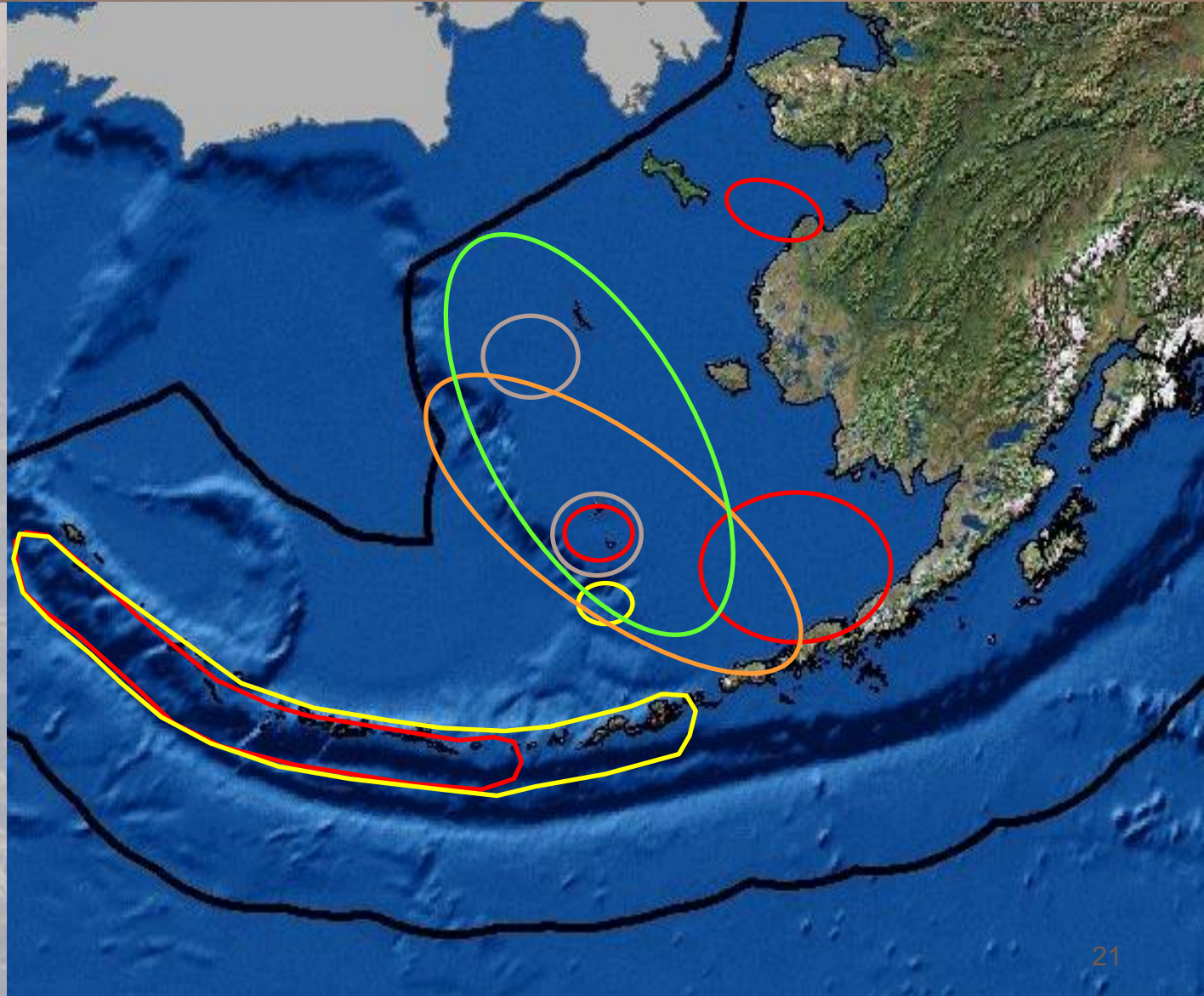
- Pribilof Islands &
- Aleutian Islands

Tanner (*bairdi*) crab

- Bering Sea

Snow (*opilio*) crab –

- Bering Sea

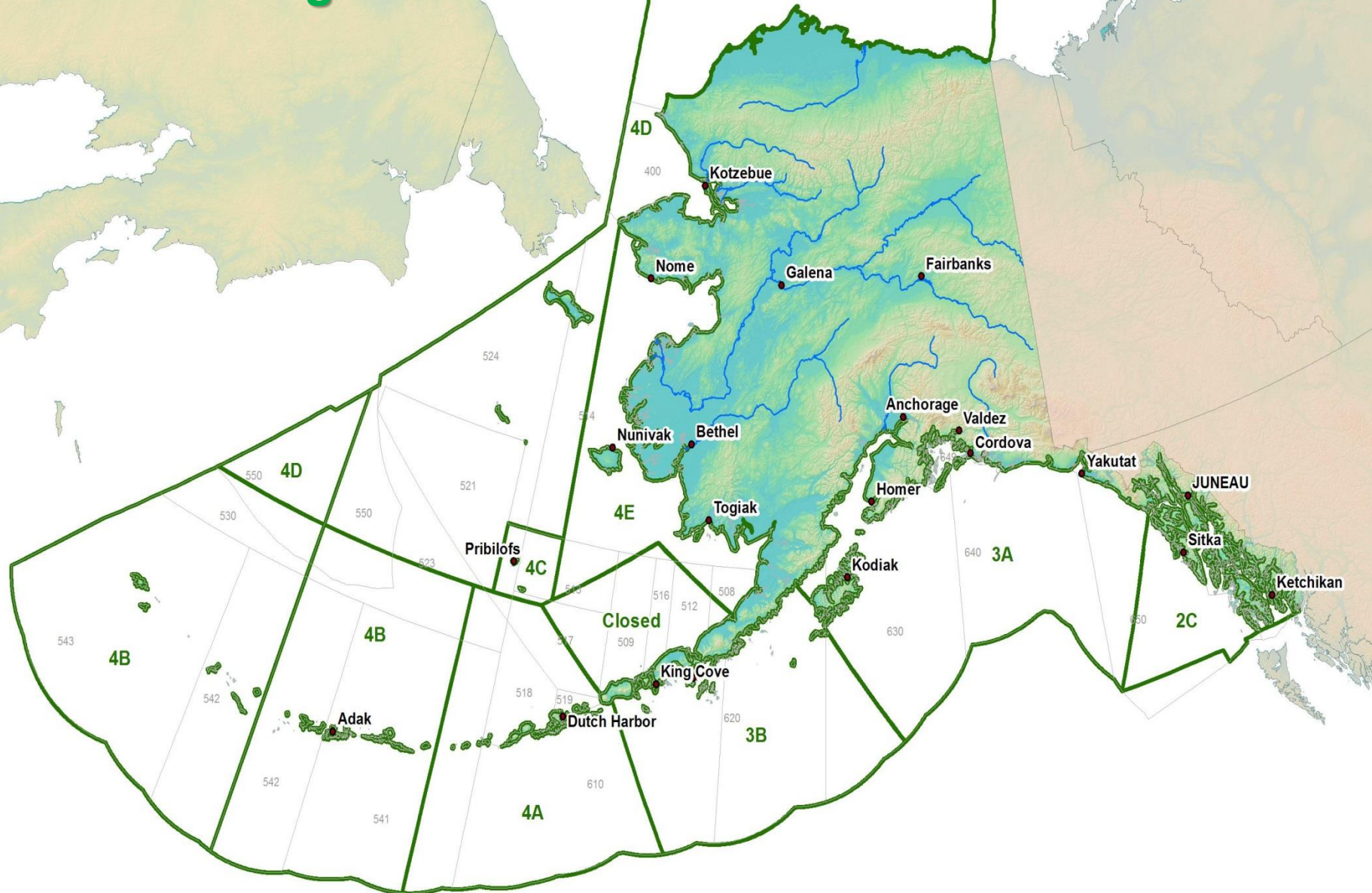




BSAI Crab Fishery Key Points

- Managed under quota share program with QS issued to vessel owners, vessel operators, and processors, CDQ program allocated 10% of TAC;
- Currently less than 80 vessels participating, down from around 250 a decade ago. Fishery supports around 600 crab harvesting jobs;
- BSAI crab fisheries currently generate around \$250 million in exvessel revenue;
- Over 70% of BSAI crab fishery CFEC permit holders are nonresidents (2015), slight decrease in Alaska resident participation post-rationalization;
- State receives over \$1 million from the federal government for BSAI crab management.

Halibut Management Areas



Pacific Halibut Fishery Key Points

- **Management of the resource shared between United States and Canada;**
- **International Pacific Halibut Commission conducts research, estimates biomass, and establishes catch limits;**
- **North Pacific Fishery Management Council allocates harvest and adopts management measures;**
- **State monitors and collects data on sport fisheries and conducts enforcement activities.**

Questions?

