



Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF)– Incorporated 1997 ***Working Together For Healthy Watersheds***

- Who we are
- Key habitat concerns from what we know
- Habitat concerns for what we don't know
- A couple difficult messages to share
- Summary recommendations





Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF)– Incorporated 1997 ***Working Together For Healthy Watersheds***

- 9 member diverse board of directors
- Geography covers entire Kenai Peninsula +
- Non-Allocative with respect to fish
- Offices in Homer and Soldotna – 10 employees





Major Programs

- Education
- Research
- Restoration

Budgets in recent years \$1-3M – biggest variable for us is restoration projects





Priority Concerns

What we think we know

- Invasive Species
- Warming water/ changing flow patterns
- Roads (culverts and runoff)
- Stream and Lakeside Alterations



What we know -

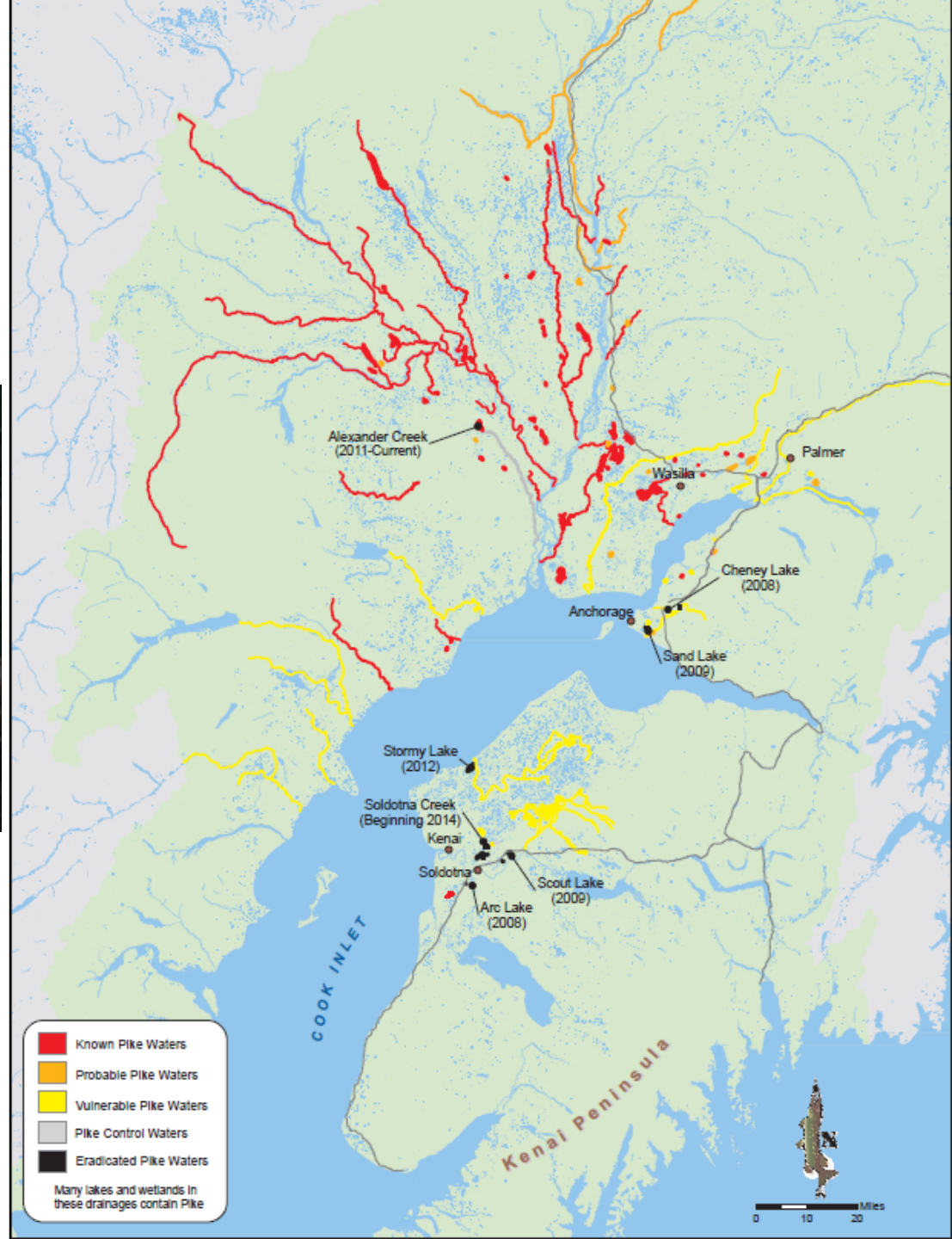
Priority concern #1

Invasive Species



Pike from Deska River

Photo and Map - ADFG



What we know -

Priority concern #3

Culverts block fish, just like small dams

The majority of real problem culverts in the Kenai have been addressed – Except for 5 or 6 on the major highways – ADOT will have to take the lead on these

In the MatSu, there are still lots of secondary roads that can be addressed by ADFG/ Local Govt. / and NGOs





Priority Concerns

What we don't know, but should be learning about

- Everything Kenai River and Tributary Stock Chinook, particularly juvenile behavior
- Physical disturbance from Intensive freshwater fisheries
- Effectiveness of existing riparian buffers





Difficult message #1

Who's in Charge and accountable for the issues of concern for the State?





Difficult message #2

Issues that cut across agencies are often the ones failing to get attention.

Example: Intensive fishing concerns required collective DNR DEC ADFG action. Ultimately required turning to the Federal Govt. to get us going.





Recommendation

More expertise in non-management fisheries decisions

Independent panel without user groups to help set research priorities

Funding our freshwater habitat research needs with sales of fishing licenses can be a conflict of interest leading to resource compromises – watch out for this

