

Alaska Department of Fish & Game Overview



House Resources Committee

Mission Statement

- Based upon the Alaska State Constitution (Article 8) and Alaska Statutes (Title 16)
 - To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their uses and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

ADF&G Core Services

- **Harvest Management**: provide opportunity to utilize fish and wildlife resources
- **Stock Assessment**: Ensure sustainability and harvestable surplus of fish and wildlife resources
- **Customer Service**: Provide information to all customers
- **Public Involvement**: Involve the public in management of fish and wildlife resources
- **State Sovereignty**: Protect the state's sovereignty to manage fish and wildlife resources
- **Habitat Protection**: Protect important fish and wildlife habitat during permit and project review

Commissioner's Office

Responsibilities

- North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Pacific Salmon Commission
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
- Federal Subsistence Board
- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
- Pacific Flyway Council
- North Slope Science Initiative
- Alaska Ocean Observing System
- North Pacific Research Board
- UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Advisory Council
- Polar Bear Range States
- US-Russia Treaty on Polar Bears
- Fisheries Excellence Committee of the Rasmuson Foundation
- UA-F Sea Grant Advisory Council
- International Porcupine Caribou Research Board
- Bering Sea Fisheries Advisory Board

Divisions of ADF&G

Division of Commercial Fisheries

Division of Sport Fish

Division of Wildlife Conservation

Division of Subsistence

Division of Habitat

Division of Administrative Services

Boards Support Section

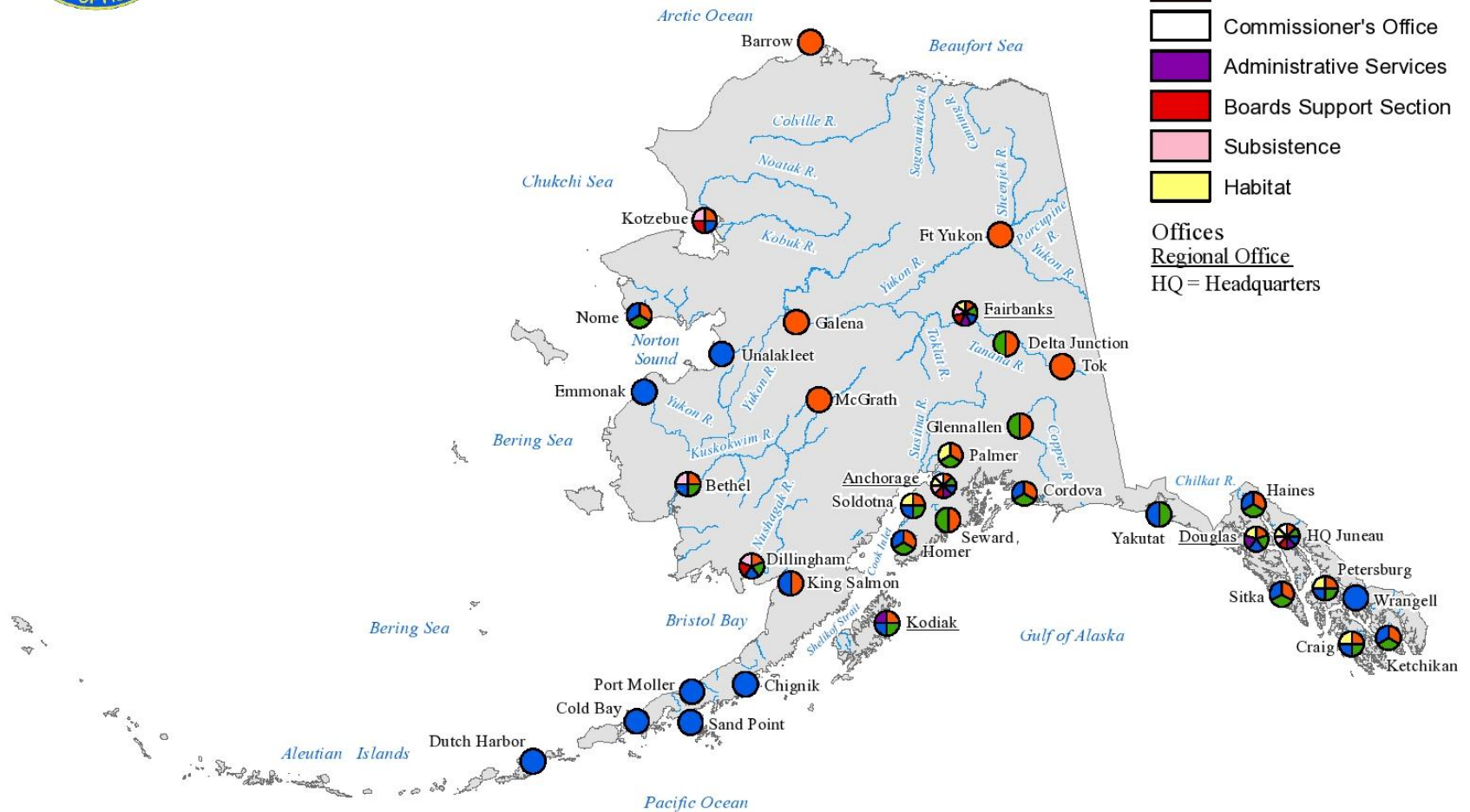


Alaska Department of Fish and Game Regional and Area Offices

 ADF&G Divisions

-  Commercial Fisheries
-  Sport Fish
-  Wildlife Conservation
-  Commissioner's Office
-  Administrative Services
-  Boards Support Section
-  Subsistence
-  Habitat

Offices
Regional Office
 HQ = Headquarters

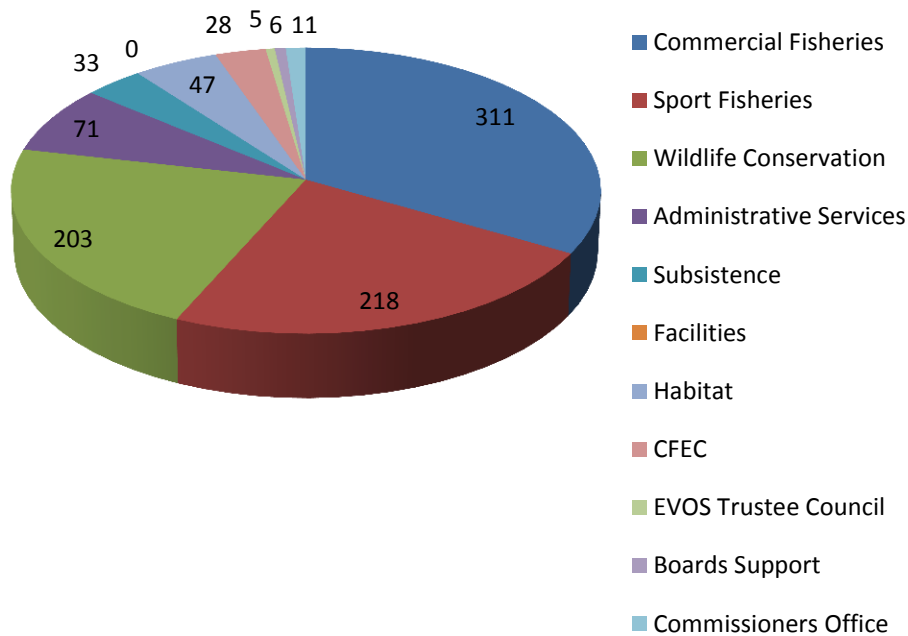


0 100 200 300 400 500 Miles

FY14 Positions

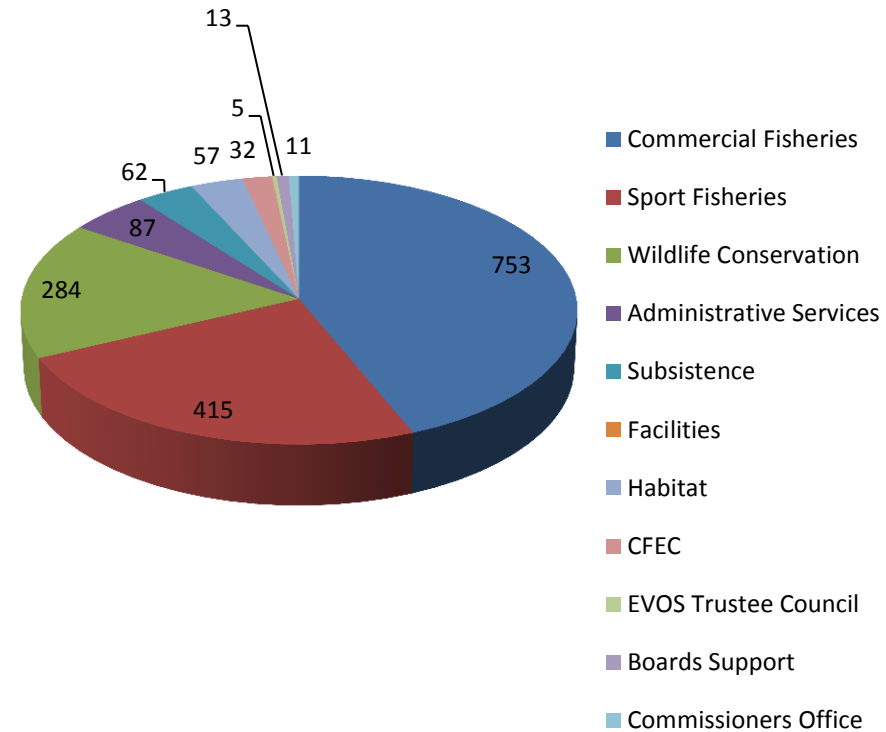
FY2014 Full-Time Positions

(933)



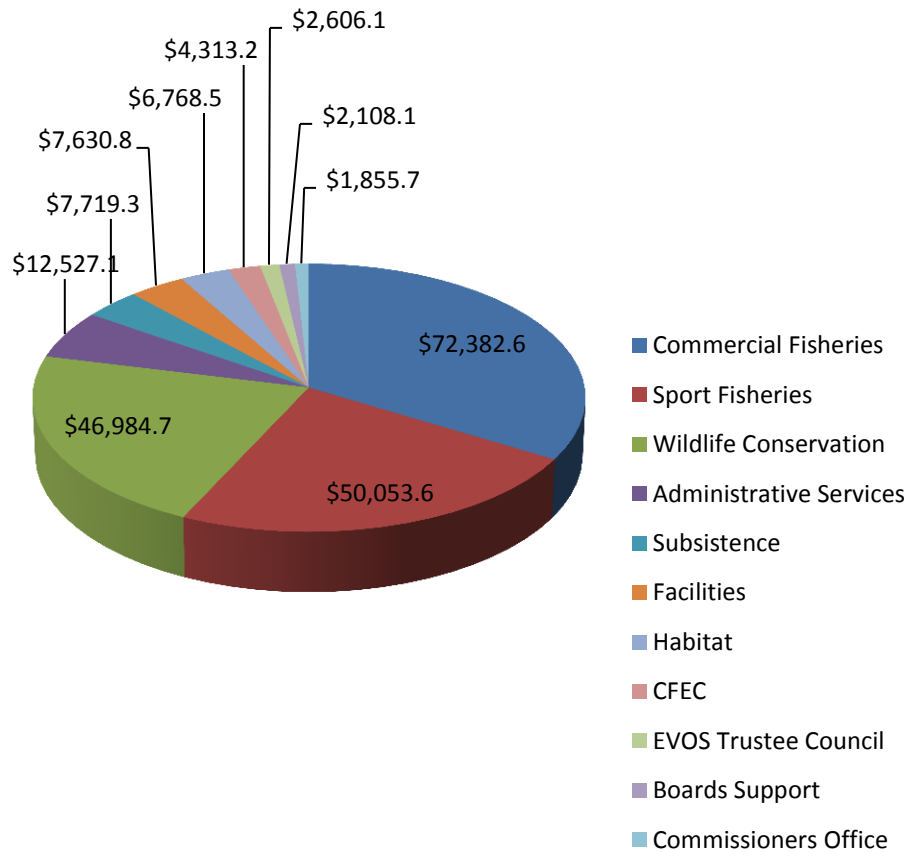
FY2014 Total Positions

(1,719)

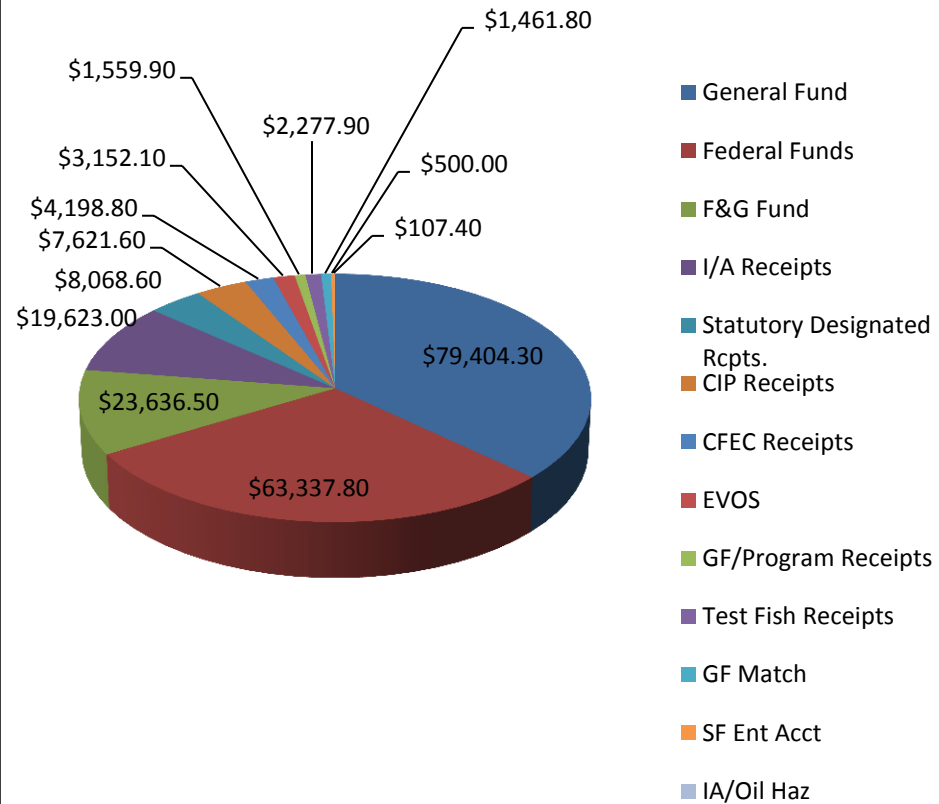


FY14 Budget

FY2014 Budget By Division



FY2014 Budget By Fund Source



Major Accomplishments in 2012

Improvements to Salmon Research

Intensive Management

Subsistence Harvest Surveys

Habitat Permitting

Sport Fish Hatchery Production

Issues and Challenges

Chinook Salmon Abundance and Productivity

Increased Fishing and Economic Opportunities

State Sovereignty and Endangered Species Issues

Incremental Reductions in Salmon Research

Licensing Modernization

Contacts

Commissioner Cora Campbell

- 465-4100

Legislative Liaison Ben Mulligan

- 465-6137

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Brooks

- 465-6138

Division of Commercial Fisheries



Jeff Regnart
Director

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries

Mission

Manage, protect, rehabilitate, enhance, and develop the fisheries and aquatic plant resources in the interest of the economy and general well being of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle and subject to allocations established through public regulatory processes.

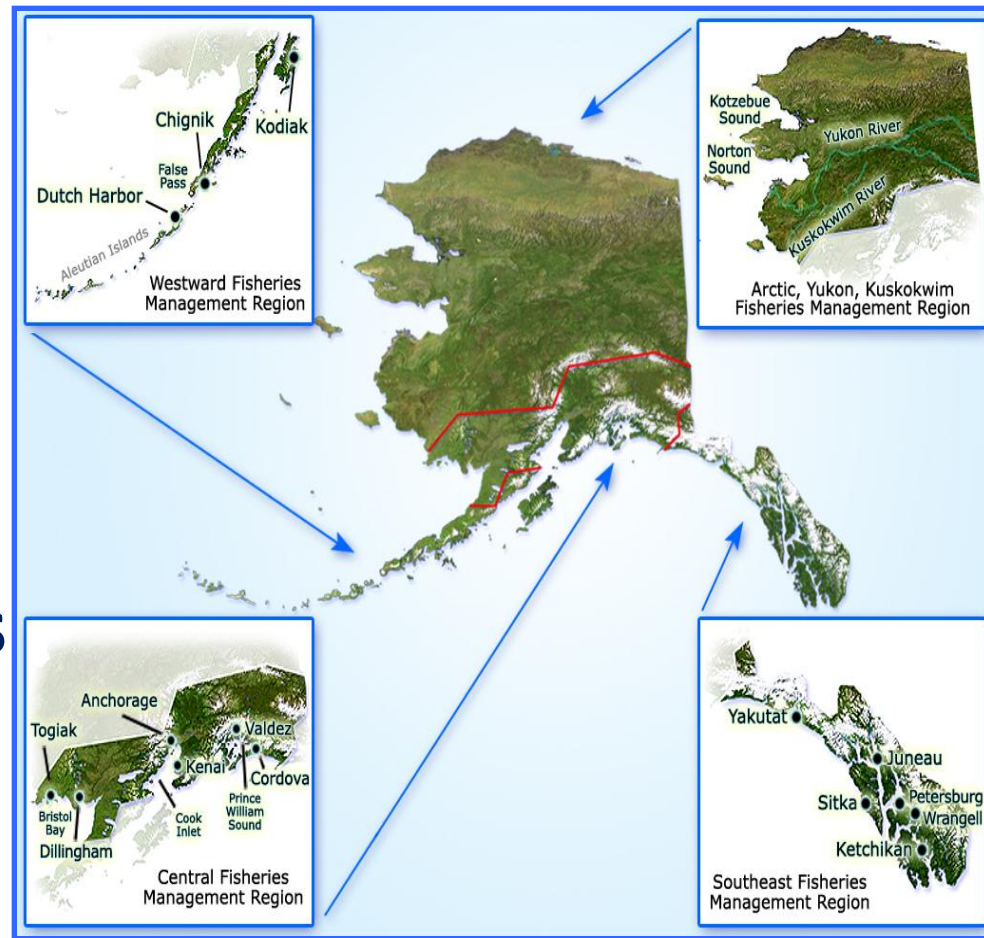
Division of Commercial Fisheries

Primary Responsibilities

- **Manage commercial, personal use, and subsistence fisheries within state waters.**
- **Manage shellfish and some groundfish species, under delegation from the federal government, out to 200 miles.**
- **Conduct applied research on Alaska's aquatic resources.**
- **Plan and permit salmon hatcheries and mariculture operations.**
- **Negotiate fishing agreements subject to the Pacific Salmon Treaty and Alaska-Yukon Treaty.**
- **Coordinate with federal and international fisheries management agencies.**

Organizational Overview

- 311 permanent staff with 439 seasonal staff;
\$72 million budget
- Five Regions
- 20 permanent offices
- 84 seasonal offices /
field camps
- 6 large research vessels



Division of Commercial Fisheries

Core Services

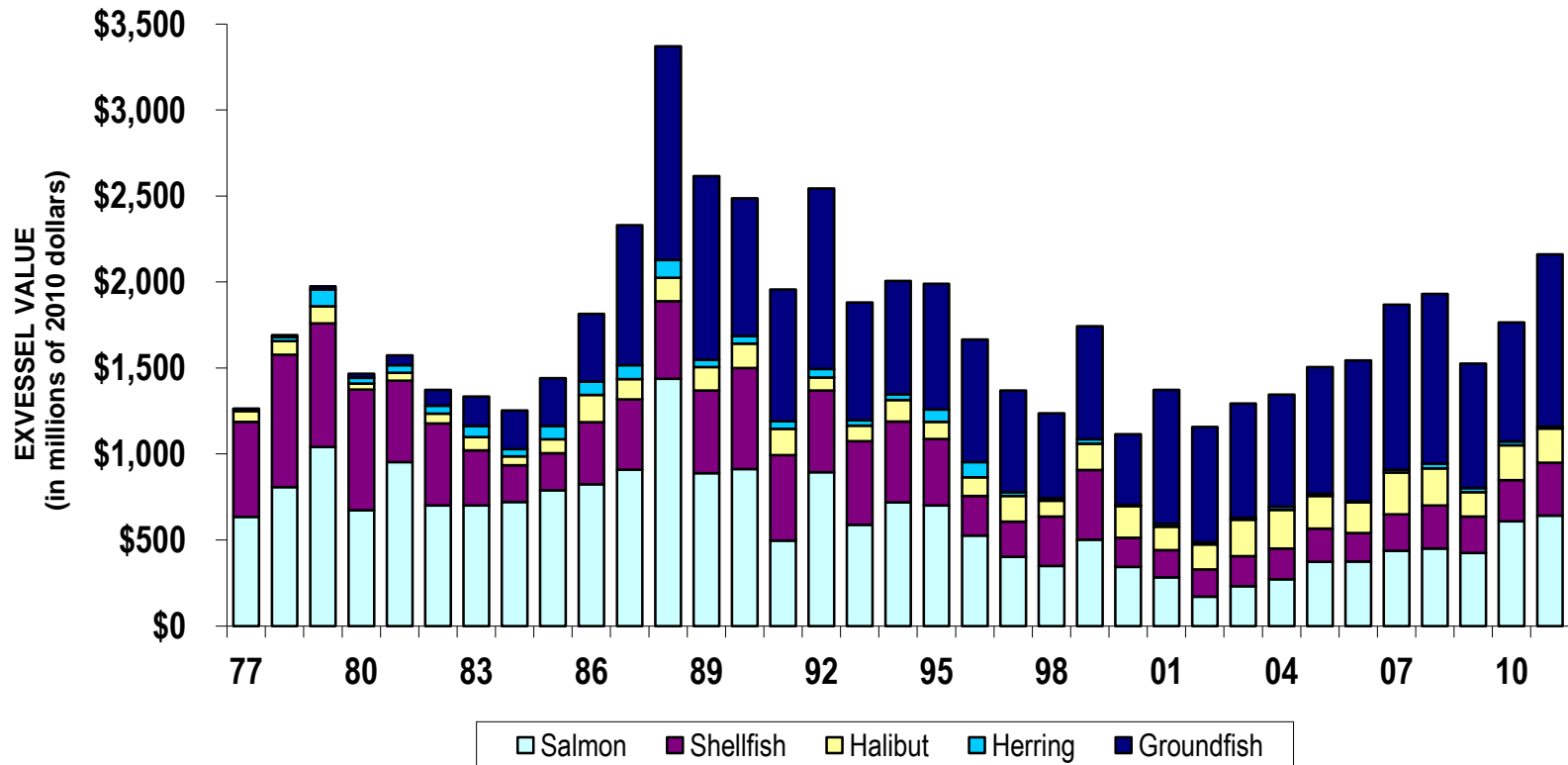
- **Harvest Management**
- **Stock Assessment and Applied Research**
- **Aquaculture Permitting**
- **Information Services and Public Participation**

Economic Impact of Seafood Industry on Alaska's Economy

- **Alaska supports one of the most productive commercial fishing economies in the world.**
- **In 2011, total landings were worth over \$1.9 billion.**
- **Alaska accounted for 95 percent of all 2011 salmon landings in the U.S; worth \$659 million to harvesters.**
- **Alaska is the number one fishing state in the nation, harvesting over 50% of all fish harvested commercially.**
- **Nearly 37,500 permit holders and crew fished in 2010.**
- **Another 21,650 were employed processing Alaskan harvests.**
- **Seafood industry pays more in taxes to state general fund than any other industry except oil and gas.**

Exvessel Value of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries

Exvessel Value of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries: 1977-2011
(Adjusted for Inflation)



Divisional Highlights of 2012

Chinook Salmon Abundance and Productivity

Increased Fishing and Economic Opportunities

Completion of Major Salmon Research Projects

Reductions in Salmon Management Tools

Wild and Hatchery Salmon Interactions



Thank you!
Questions?

Division of Sport Fish



Charles O. Swanton
Director

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Mission

The mission of the Division of Sport Fish is to protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources.

Organizational Overview

- One of 6 Divisions within ADF&G
- 415 authorized positions
- \$50 million budget
- Headquarters Juneau and 3 Regional Offices
 - Anchorage, Douglas, and Fairbanks
 - 22 Management Area Offices from Ketchikan to Nome.

Core Functions

- **Fisheries Management**
- **Fisheries Research**
- **Fisheries Enhancement**
- **Angler Access**
- **Information and Education Services**
- **Habitat**
- **Workforce Support**

Division Highlights

- Chinook Salmon Abundance and Productivity
- Improvements to Salmon Research
- Operational Costs and Fund Sources
- Invasive Species
- Sport Fish Hatcheries

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Thank you.

Questions?



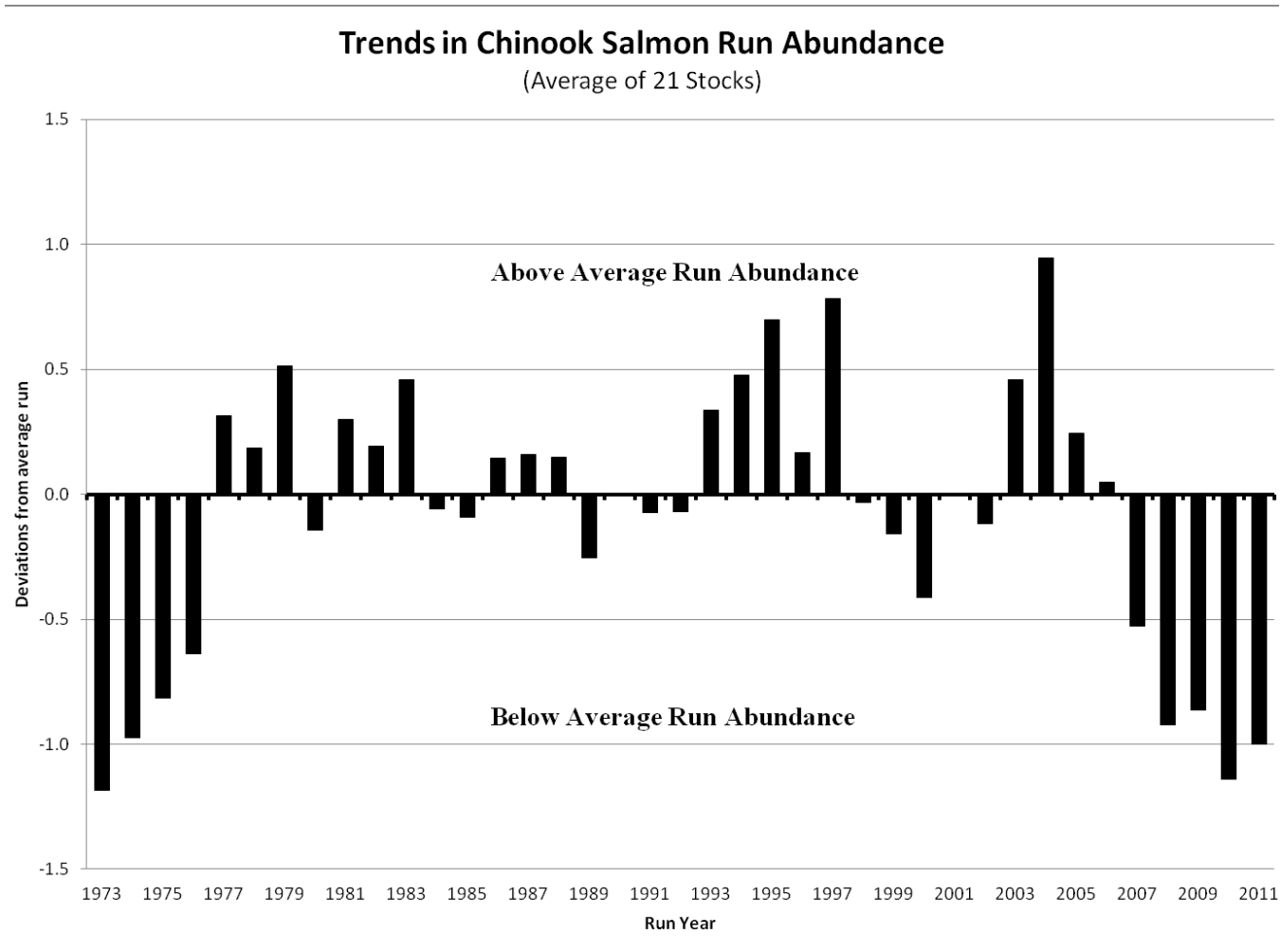
Chinook Salmon Abundance and Productivity

Research and Management Issues

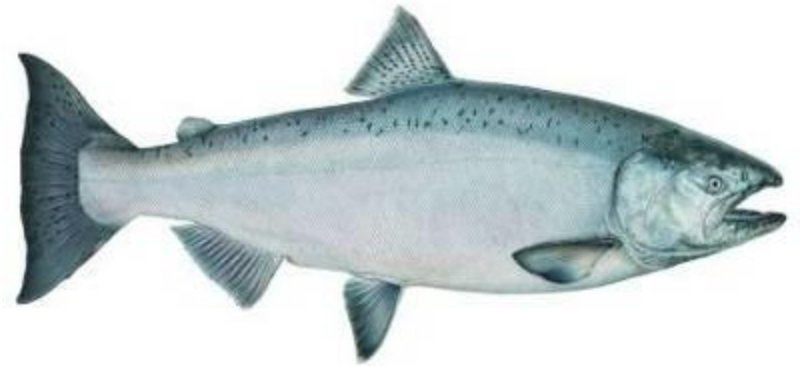
Alaska Department of Fish & Game



Chinook salmon stocks have been in a period of low production statewide since 2007.



- Management actions to ensure spawning escapements created economic and social hardships to all user groups.
- Current knowledge does not allow for complete understanding of causes of productivity declines.





- Chinook salmon are critically important to the economic and social well being of Alaskans.
- These fish are major drivers of commercial, subsistence, and sport economic activity throughout the state.

Federal Disaster Declaration

- July 14, 2012 – Request for federal disaster declaration from the US Dept. of Commerce – Yukon and Kuskokwim.
- August 16, 2012 – Request for federal disaster declaration from US Dept. of Commerce – Cook Inlet.
- On September 12, 2012, the request was granted for all three regions, authorizing federal assistance under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Determination provides basis for Congress to appropriate disaster relief funding.

Goal: Improve Chinook salmon stock assessment statewide so that management can provide better opportunities for sustainable harvests, even during times of low productivity.

- Prepared a Chinook Salmon Gap Analysis
- Solicited stakeholder input through a public Chinook Salmon Science Symposium
- Using stakeholder input, drafted a long term Chinook Salmon Research Plan



Chinook Salmon Research Plan

- 12 Indicator Stocks
 - Unuk, Stikine, Taku, Chilkat
 - Copper, Kenai, Susitna
 - Karluk
 - Chignik
 - Nushagak
 - Yukon and Kuskokwim



Chinook Salmon Research Plan

- Stock-specific and fishery-based projects
 - adult escapement and stock-specific harvests
 - juvenile Chinook salmon abundance during the smolt stage
- Local and traditional knowledge studies
- Nearshore marine studies
- Life history process studies



FY 2014 Capital Budget Request

- \$10 million request is the first component of a five-year, \$30 million proposal.
- Includes adult and juvenile assessment work on 12 indicator river systems.
- Includes other research work including genetics and biometrics.
- Includes local and traditional knowledge (LTK) and subsistence harvest studies.

Management and Enhancement

- *Management*
 - Preserve sustainable fishing opportunity for Chinook salmon and provide additional access to alternate species
 - Emergency Order authority
 - Alaska Board of Fisheries
- *Enhancement*
 - Identify and evaluate additional Chinook salmon enhancement opportunities
 - Statewide Stocking Plan
 - New enhancement options

Questions?



Division of Wildlife Conservation



Doug Vincent-Lang

Director

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

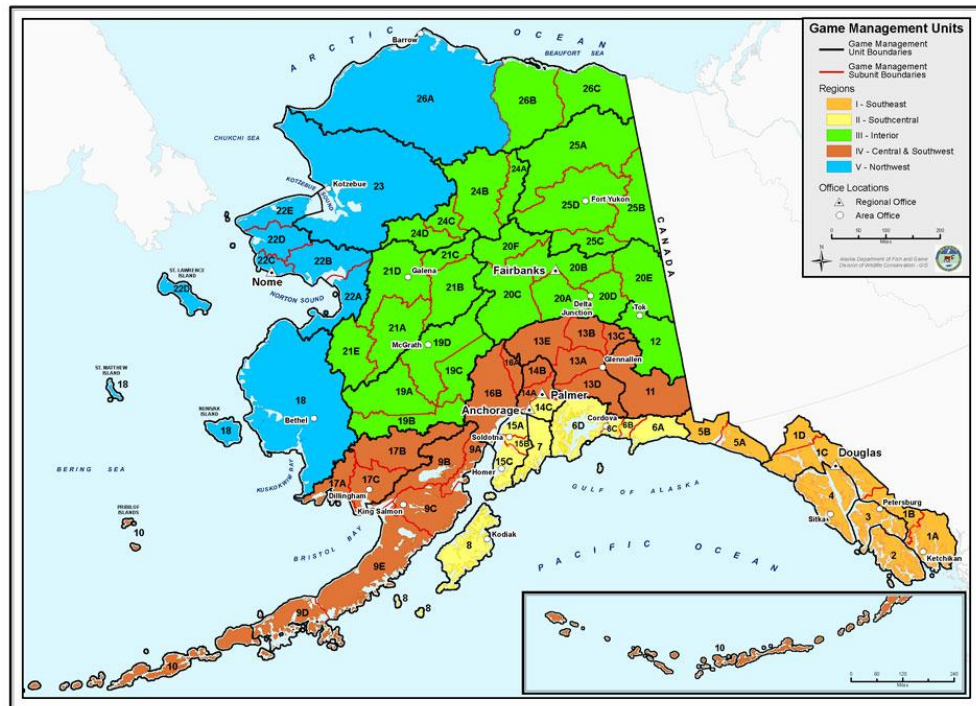
DWC Mission

*To conserve and enhance
Alaska's wildlife and habitats and
provide for a wide range of
public uses and benefits.*

*Responsible for the management
of Alaska's wildlife resources.*

Organizational Overview

- One of 6 Divisions within ADF&G
- 330 authorized positions; a \$45 million budget
- Five Regions
 - Regional Supervisors
 - Management & Research Coordinators
 - Area Biologists
 - I&E Programs



Core Service Overview

- **Surveys and Inventories of Big Game**
- **Harvest Assessment**
- **Wildlife Research**
- **Intensive Management**
- **ESA Oversight**
- **Special Areas Program**
- **Education and Outreach Program**
- **Wildlife Diversity Program**
- **Wildlife Viewing Program**

Intensive Management

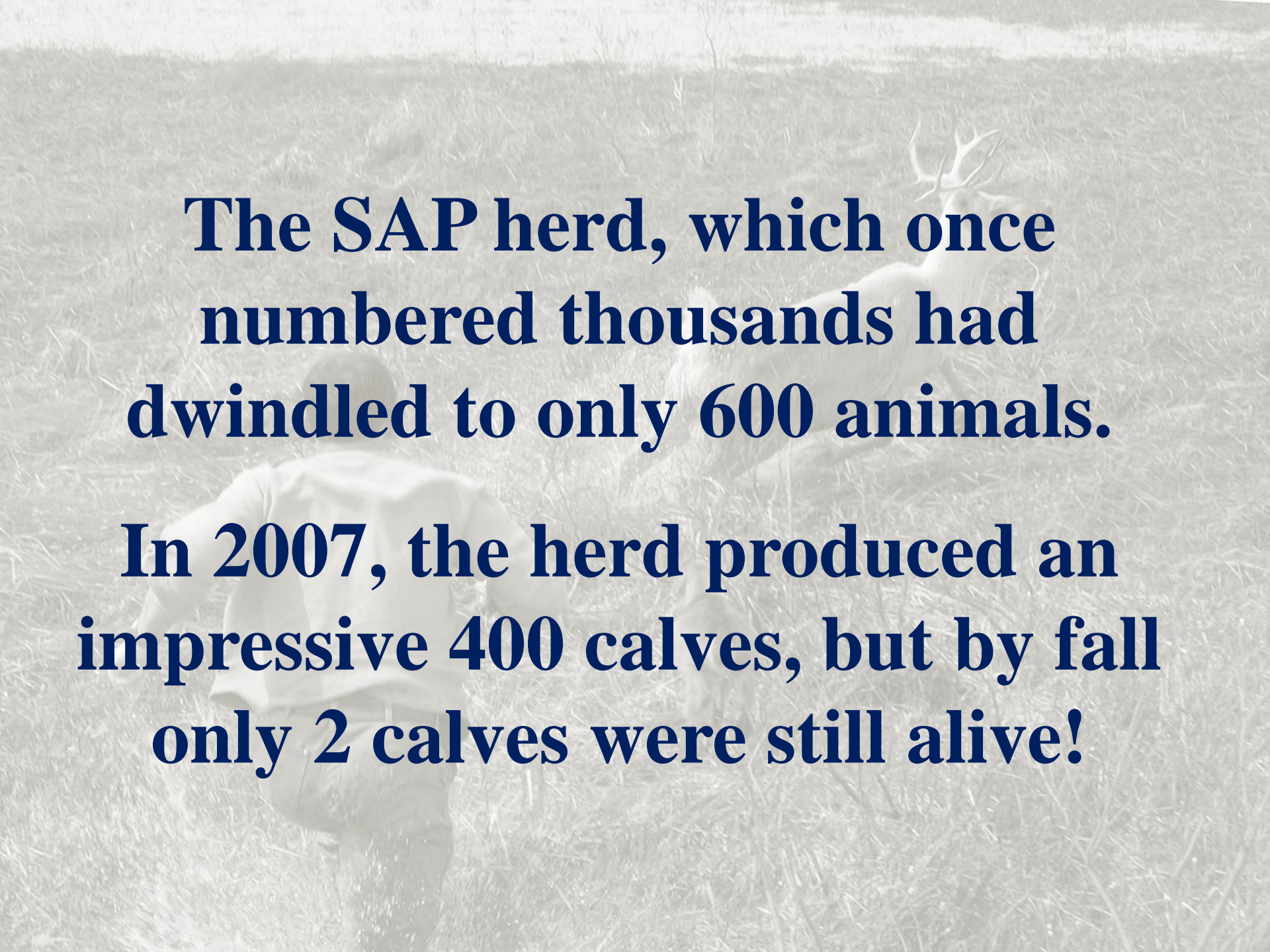
- **Established in Alaska Statute**
- **Guided by an award winning protocol**
- **Includes Habitat and Predators**
- **Involves Less than 15% of the State**
- **Each IM Area Has a Specific Plan**
- **Specific Objectives/Measures**
- **Reevaluated Periodically**

Intensive Management Areas

1. Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, 25C (Upper Yukon/Tanana)
2. Unit 13
3. Unit 16
4. Unit 19A
5. Unit 19D
6. Unit 20A (expired, not active)
7. Unit 20D (expired, not active)
8. Unit 9D (Southern Alaska Peninsula)
9. Unit 10 (Unimak) (not active)
10. Units 9C, 9E (Northern Alaska Peninsula)
11. Unit 21E (not active)
12. Units 9B, 17B, 17C, 19A, 19B (Mulchatna)
13. Unit 15A (not active)
14. Unit 15C (not active)
15. Unit 24B
16. Unit 26B (This is non-intensive management but it is predator management.)

**Southern Alaska Peninsula (SAP)
Caribou Herd is a recent example of
how effective responsible predator
management can be.**



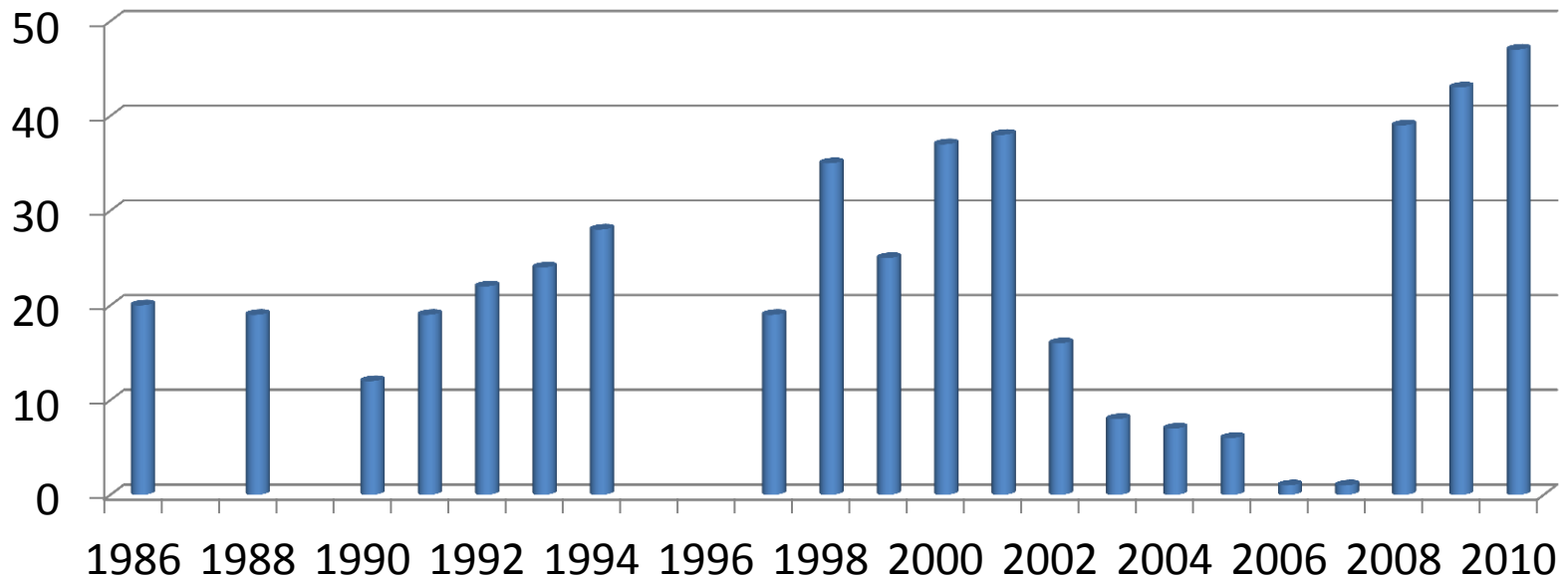


**The SAP herd, which once
numbered thousands had
dwindled to only 600 animals.**

**In 2007, the herd produced an
impressive 400 calves, but by fall
only 2 calves were still alive!**

Not surprisingly, after removing less than 50 wolves over 3 years, the calf recruitment increased by 100 fold, and the herd size increased by 50%

Calves:100 Cows



Habitat Manipulation

The Division is also actively managing habitat with the goal to manage for abundance and increased opportunity.

We have programs on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Mat-Su Valley.

We are also working with DNR, Forestry to include wildlife considerations into their wildfire management.

ESA Oversight

The Division has the lead on federal and state ESA issues.

We provide comments on proposed federal ESA actions.

We provide support to state legal challenges

We participate in efforts to reform the ESA.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Intensive Management implementation**
 - **Adoption of the Intensive Management Protocol (won a major national award)**
- **Increased baseline stock assessment of big game populations**
- **Unit 26B muskoxen**
- **Management of the Porcupine and Forty Mile Caribou Herds**
- **ESA coordination and challenge**
- **Leaders in waterfowl management**
- **New research policy**
- **Development of a GIS program**
- **Focus on hunter heritage/recruitment**

Challenges

- **Federal Intrusions into State Management Authorities**
- **Federal ESA Listings**
- **Continued Provision of Yield as Demand Increases**
- **Informing Resource Development Decisions**
- **Urban Human/Wildlife Conflicts**
- **Hunter Recruitment/Wildlife Heritage**

Thank you.

Questions?

DIVISION OF HABITAT

Overview



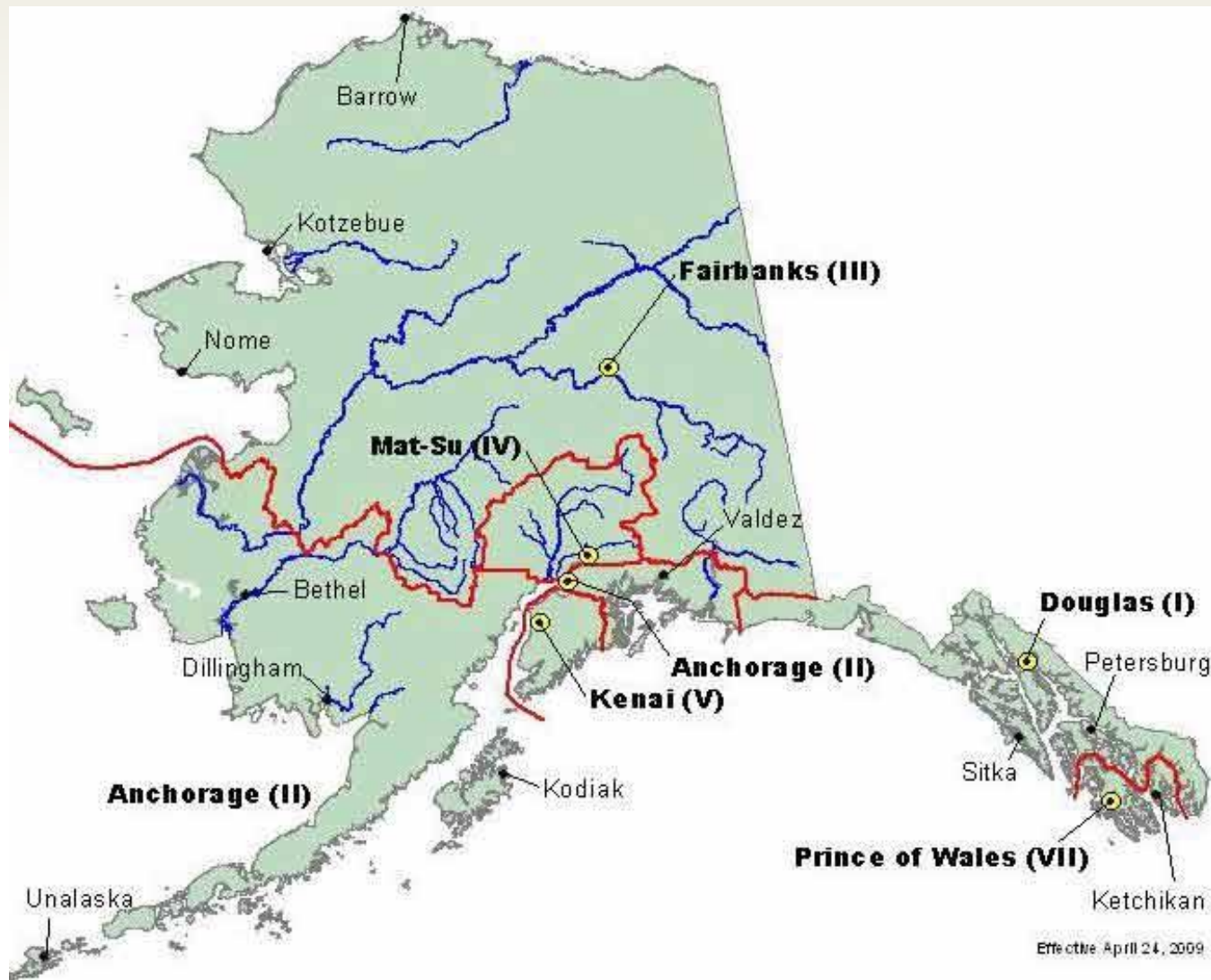
Randy Bates
Director

Division History

- Anadromous fish habitat and fish passage responsibilities legislated shortly after statehood.
- Over the years, 32 refuges, critical habitat areas and sanctuaries were also established.
- Functions initially distributed throughout Department.
- “Sections” created in Sport Fish (Access Section), Comm. Fish (Water Rights), and Game Divisions (Lands).
- 1969-70, the above sections were consolidated into the “Habitat Section.”
- Division responsibilities expanded in late 1970s-early 1980s when state and federal planning efforts escalated.
- Habitat granted “Division” status in 1981.
- In 2003, Habitat was moved to DNR, and renamed the “Office of Habitat Management and Permitting.”
- In 2008, Habitat was moved back to ADF&G, and re-established as the “Habitat Division.”
- The Habitat Division currently has 57 positions located in 3 Regional Offices, 3 Area Offices, the State Pipeline Coordinator’s Office, and ADF&G Headquarters.



Sockeye Salmon, Steep Creek, Juneau



Habitat Offices in Anchorage, Craig, Douglas, Fairbanks, Juneau, Palmer, and Soldotna

Division Mission Statement



To protect Alaska's valuable fish & wildlife resources and their habitats as Alaska's population and economy continue to expand

Statutory Authorities

- AS 16.05.841
Fish Passage
- AS 16.05.871
Fish Habitat
- AS 16.20
Legislatively
Designated Special
Areas



McNeil River State Game Sanctuary

Habitat's Core Services

- Review applications and issue permits for activities in anadromous waterbodies, fish-bearing waters, and legislatively designated Special Areas (Title 16); provide expertise to protect important fish and wildlife habitat; monitor authorized projects and conduct compliance actions.
- Maintain and revise the Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes.
- Manage Alaska's Special Areas in accordance with legislative guidelines; prepare and update management plans for these areas.
- Review proposed timber harvest activities; conduct field inspections; work cooperatively with timber operators and other governmental agencies.
- Review development projects (e.g., oil and gas, hard-rock mining, roads, T16 elements of hydropower projects).
- Conduct applied research to develop methods and means to minimize impacts of development projects on fish and wildlife resources.

Protecting Alaska's valuable fish and wildlife resources and their habitats during resource development activities

In FY12,

- 99.7% of all developers were in compliance with issued Fish Habitat and Special Area permits
- Average number of days to complete a Fish Habitat Permit review was 7.1 days; 10.0 for a Special Area Permit



Stream revetment and pipeline

Project Example – Ivan River Reserve Pit Cleanup



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF HABITAT
Headquarters Office

PO Box 115526
802 3rd Street
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Main: 907.465.2747
Fax: 907.465.2066

January 10, 2013

George Cowie
Chevron Environmental Management Company
Resolution Plaza
1029 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 150
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Cowie:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Habitat would like to thank and commend Chevron Environmental Management Company for your recent efforts to rehabilitate the reserve pit located adjacent to the Ivan River Pad within the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge. Other than the planned revegetation of the area (which will occur during the spring of 2013), this work fulfilled the corrective action plan for closure.

Extensive research was completed over the last several years and the project was well thought out and implemented. Approximately 10,500 cubic yards of material were excavated from the pit and transported to a facility in Oregon via barge for proper disposal. A similar amount of gravel fill was transported in from an off-refuge location and replaced within the pit. This work took place over approximately four months during the summer and fall of 2012 with little impact to refuge resources or users.

The completion of this long-standing project required a substantial commitment on Chevron's part. We appreciate Chevron's willingness to work with the ADF&G towards successful completion of this project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (907) 465-3176 or randy.bates@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Randy Bates
Director

cc: Cora Campbell, Commissioner, ADF&G
Al Ott, Operations Manager, ADF&G, Habitat
Mike Belhe, Area Manager, ADF&G, Habitat

Project Example – Northern Rail Extension Project





Questions?

ADF&G Division of Subsistence Research Update 2013



Presented by
H. Nelson, Director,
January 2013



Learning to cut fish, Newhalen,
June 2007.

Division Mission

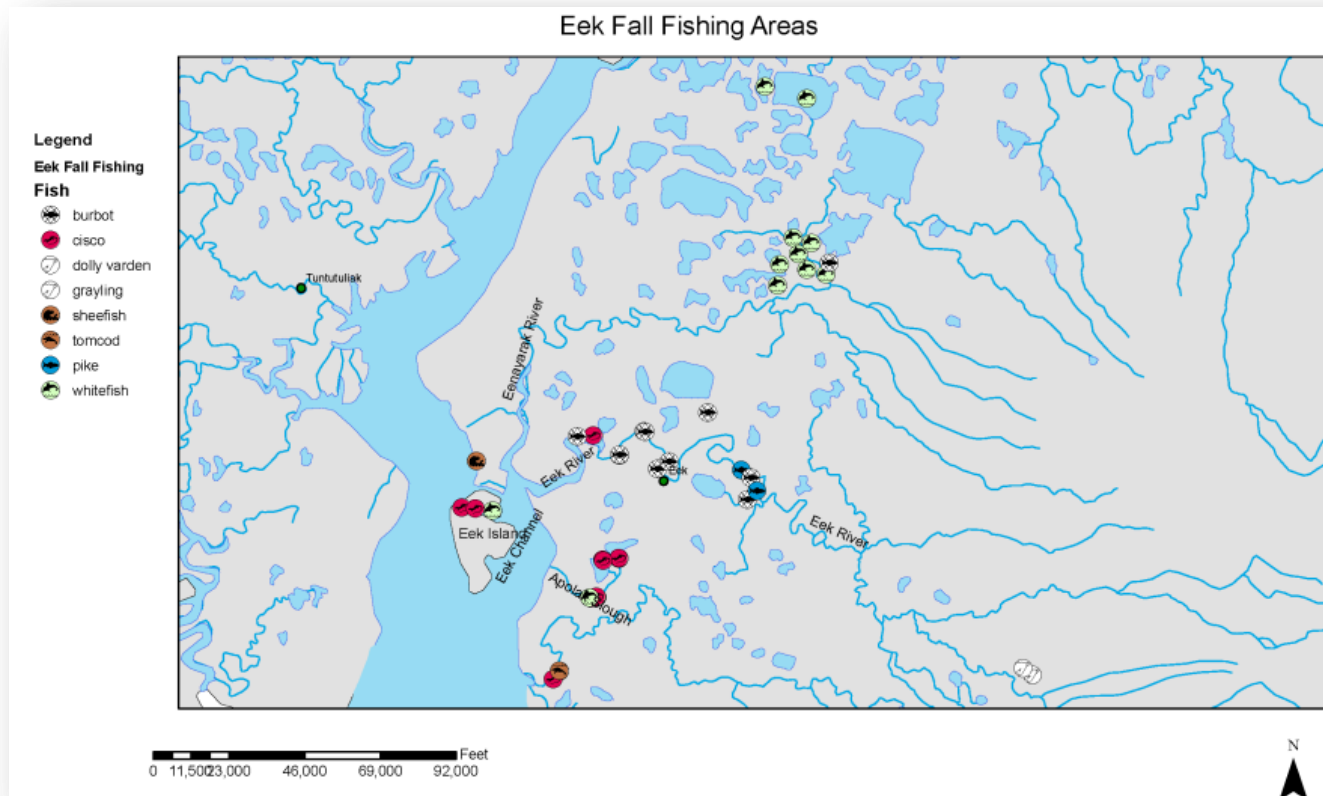
- To scientifically quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife uses
 - Systematic human dimensions research:
 - Systematic data analysis and reporting
 - High ethical standards :
 - Extensive community involvement
 - Confidentiality



Subsistence migratory bird survey work, Emmonak, 2009.

Division Core Services

- Research and publish
- Provide information for customary and traditional use determinations



Research Update

- Alaska Pipeline Project
 - Comprehensive survey in 12 Eastern Interior communities
- Donlin Gold LLC
 - Comprehensive surveys in 22 Kuskokwim River communities
- Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH)
 - Annual monitoring program in communities that rely on this herd

Split fish drying at
a fish camp near
Nondalton
July 2007.



Research Update

- Will provide ANS options for Mulchatna caribou herd
- Completed comprehensive surveys in 11 communities since March 2011
- Coordinated with DWC regarding Copper Basin community subsistence hunts (GMUs 11 and 13)

Research Update

- Conducting harvest surveys regarding Lower Kuskokwim Area big game taken by Bethel residents
- Propose comprehensive surveys for 10 additional communities
- Conducted surveys regarding LTK for seals in Iliamna Lake
 - Data analysis for this project is in progress

Division Key Challenges



A Nondalton family prepares birds, 2008.

- Salmon harvest database accessibility, and web-interface—for public, managers, and boards
- Monitoring and reporting of Alaska subsistence salmon fisheries
- Assessment and evaluation of fish harvests and trends
- Technical and scientific reporting and database integration