

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

House Special Committee on Fisheries

Fisheries Overview



February 3, 2015

The Constitution of the State of Alaska

Article 8 – Natural Resources

§ 4. Sustained Yield

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

The Alaska Statutes

Title 16. FISH AND GAME

Sec. 16.05.020. Functions of commissioner.

(2) manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state;

Mission Statement

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

▶ **Management**

- Provide hunting and fishing opportunities, protect state's rights to manage its fish and wildlife resources, protect and improve habitat and access.

▶ **Stock Assessment and Research**

- Ensure sustainability and harvestable surplus, improve assessment and research capabilities, invest in new technologies, anticipate changing conditions.

▶ **Customer Service and Public Involvement**


- Make improvements to information and education services, the Boards and other regulatory processes, licensing and permitting.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Organizational Chart



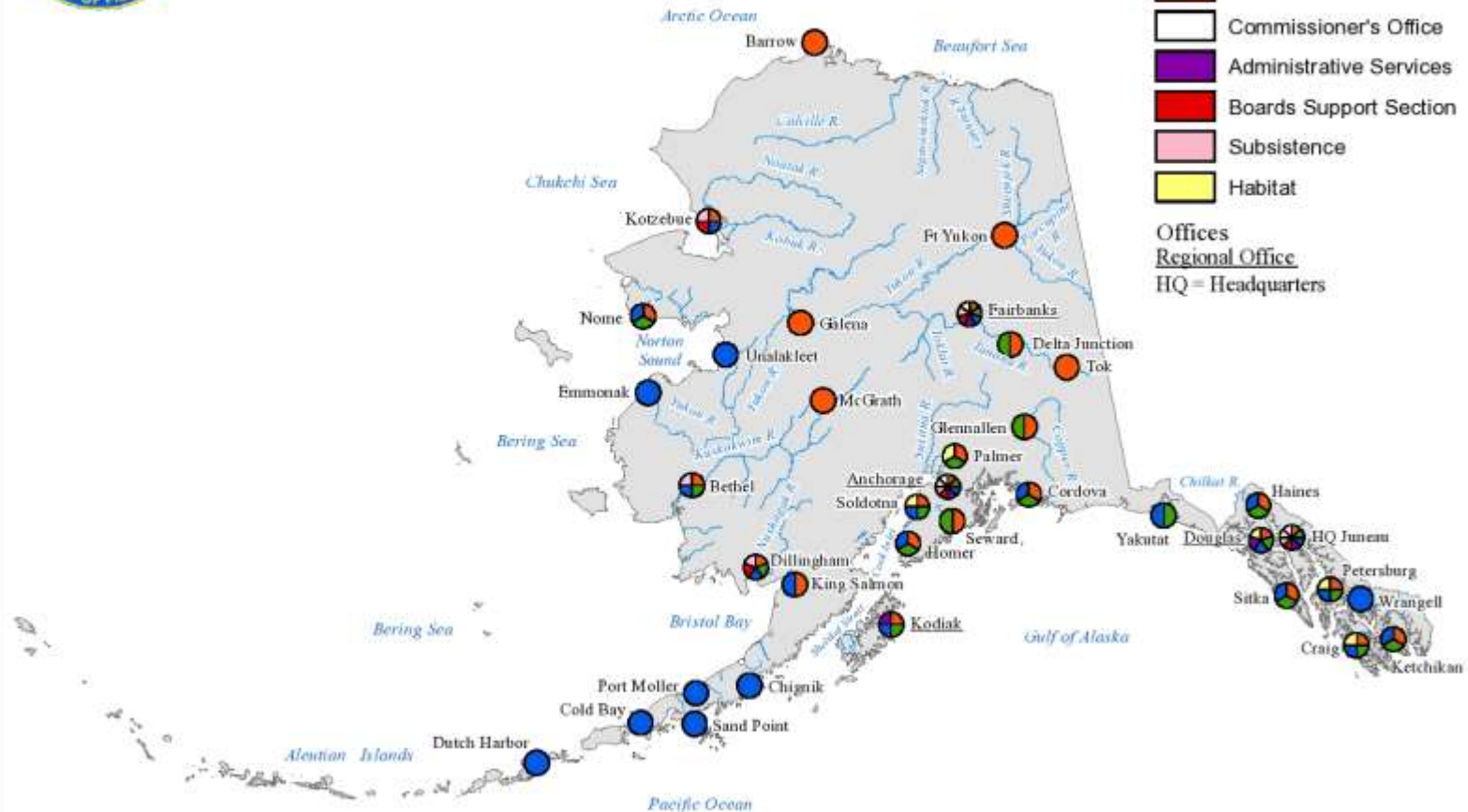


Alaska Department of Fish and Game Regional and Area Offices

 ADF&G Divisions

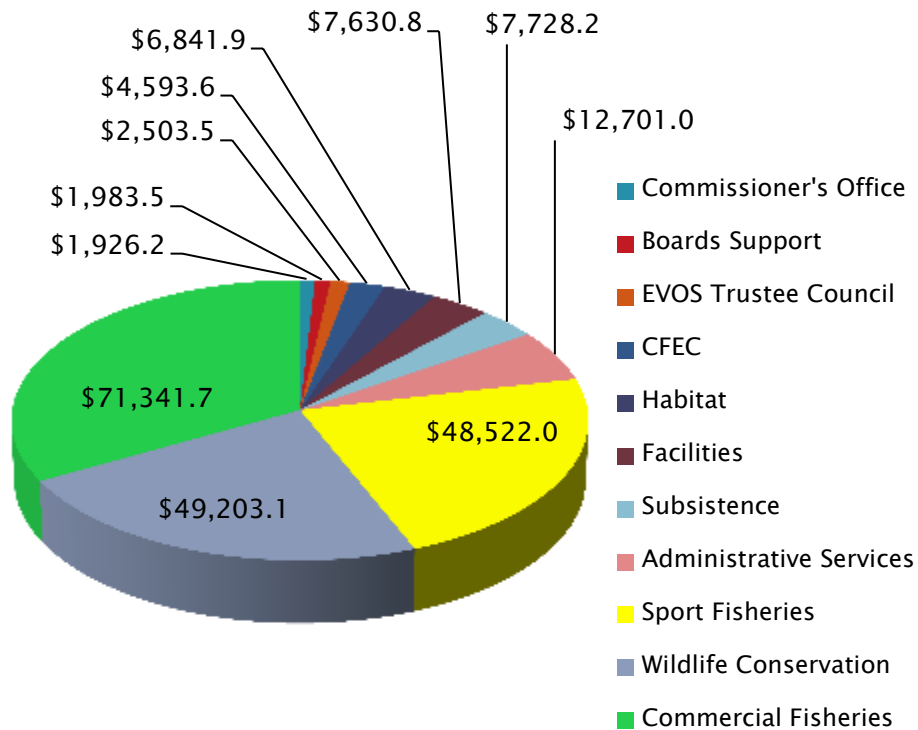
-  Commercial Fisheries
-  Sport Fish
-  Wildlife Conservation
-  Commissioner's Office
-  Administrative Services
-  Boards Support Section
-  Subsistence
-  Habitat

Offices
Regional Office
 HQ = Headquarters

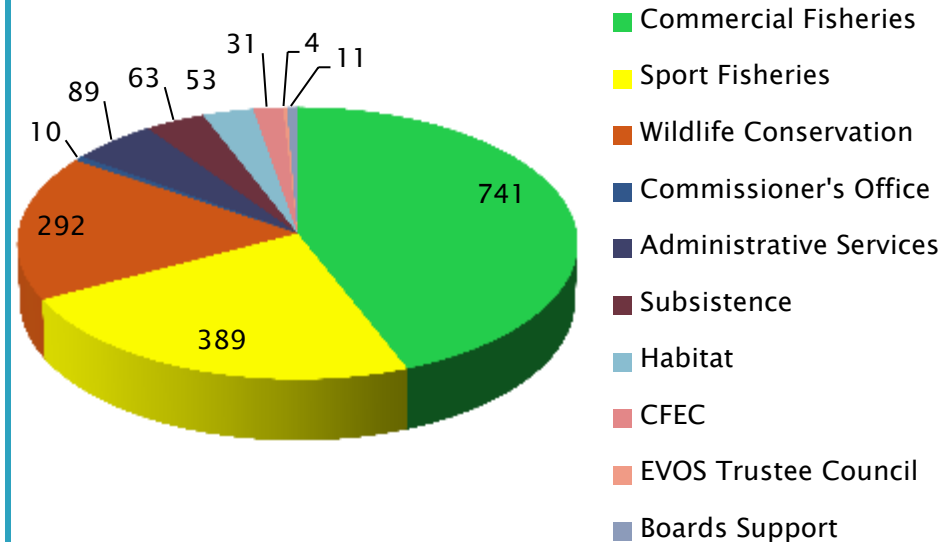


FY2016 Budget and Positions

FY2016 Budget By Division



FY2016 Total Positions (1,683)



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
- ▶ North Slope Science Initiative
- ▶ Alaska Ocean Observing System
- ▶ North Pacific Research Board
- ▶ UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Advisory Council
- ▶ Fisheries Excellence Committee of the Rasmuson Foundation
- ▶ UA-F Sea Grant Advisory Council
- ▶ Bering Sea Fisheries Advisory Board

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

- ▶ One of eight regional councils established by the Magnuson Stevens Act.
- ▶ Made up of industry and user group representatives and agency representatives.
 - Six voting members from Alaska and five from Washington and Oregon
- ▶ Manages fisheries within the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska.
 - Species managed include cod, pollock, flatfish, mackerel, sablefish, and rockfish.
- ▶ Many critical issues currently being deliberated



The Pacific Salmon Treaty

Deputy Commissioner Charles Swanton



Background

The U.S. and Canada entered into the Pacific Salmon Treaty in 1985 to conserve and allocate salmon harvests of inter-jurisdictional fish.

The agreement took two decades of negotiations and was signed amid developing conservation problems, particularly for Chinook salmon stocks.

Issues in the 1985 Negotiations

- ▶ Chinook salmon
 - ~ 80% of harvests in Southeast Alaska (SEAK) historic (>100 years) Chinook fishery is comprised of fish originating in Canada or the Pacific Northwest.
 - High levels of interception of Pacific Northwest fish in Canadian Chinook and coho fisheries.
- ▶ Fraser River interception by Washington fishermen.
- ▶ Boldt decision recognizing treaty fishing rights for Pacific Northwest Stevens–Palmer treaty tribes.
- ▶ Canadian fisheries actively harvested on southern stocks and transboundary river stocks to spur agreement.

Treaty Principles

- ▶ Prevent overfishing
- ▶ Provide for optimum production
- ▶ Fair sharing (the equity principle)
- ▶ Avoid undue disruption of existing fisheries

Scope of the Treaty



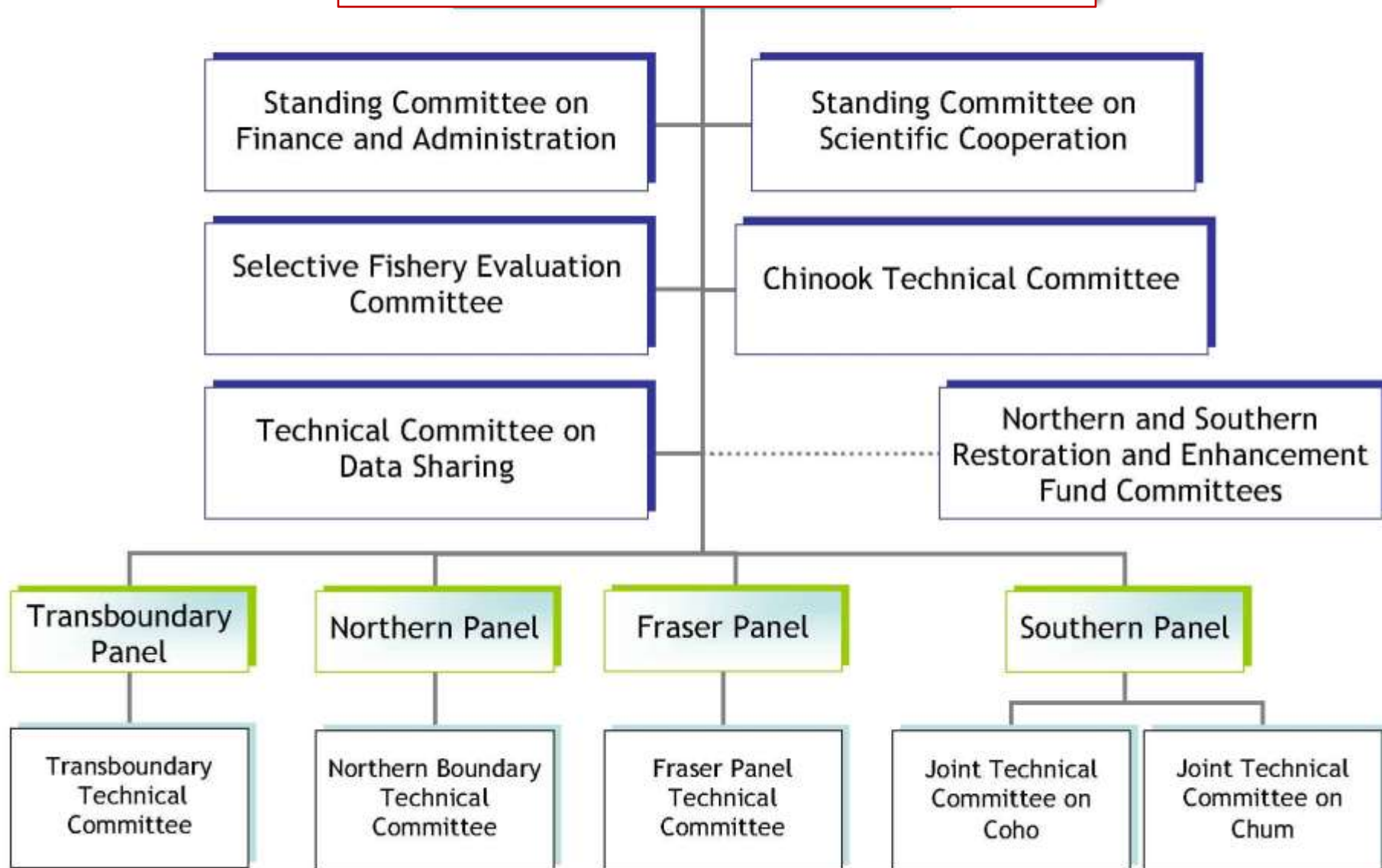
- Stocks and fisheries from Cape Falcon (Oregon) to Cape Suckling (Alaska) = 1,276 linear miles
- Treaty creates national obligations
- Unique because U.S. states and PNW treaty Indian tribes negotiate the fishery provisions
- The states and tribes are responsible for conducting programs that attempt to fulfill treaty/national obligations

Chinook Migratory Patterns



Pacific Salmon Commission

4 U.S. and 4 Canadian Commissioners



Decision Making

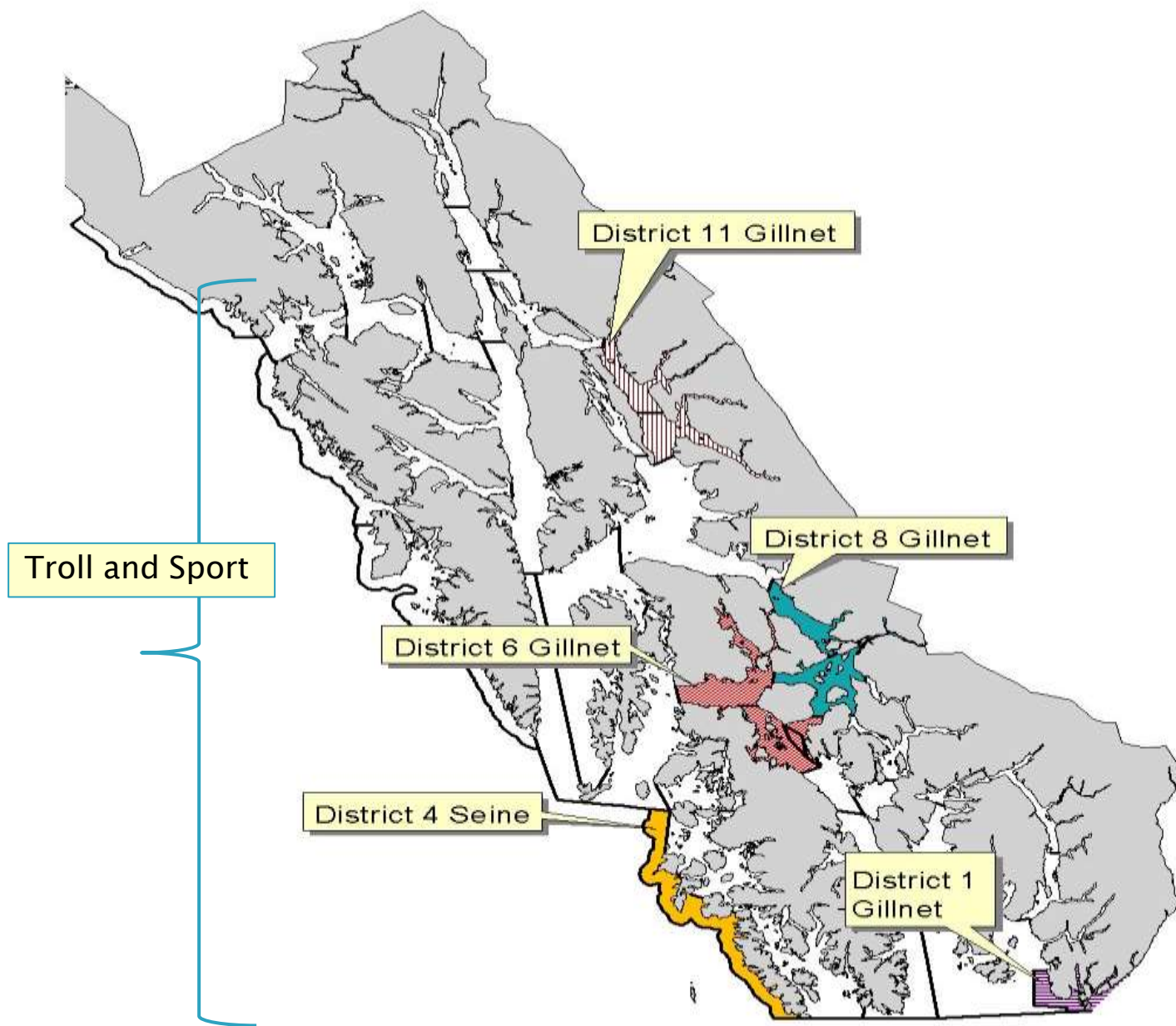
- ▶ **Consensus of US and Canada required to recommend action to Parties.**
- ▶ **U.S. decision making requires consensus.**
- ▶ **Authority is vested with commissioners for states (AK, WA/OR) and Pacific Northwest tribes with each state and tribal commissioner having a vote.**
 - The federal commissioner is nonvoting; WA/OR have one vote.
- ▶ **Advisory Panels of Stakeholders**
 - Northern Panel
 - Transboundary Panel
 - Southern and Fraser River Panels

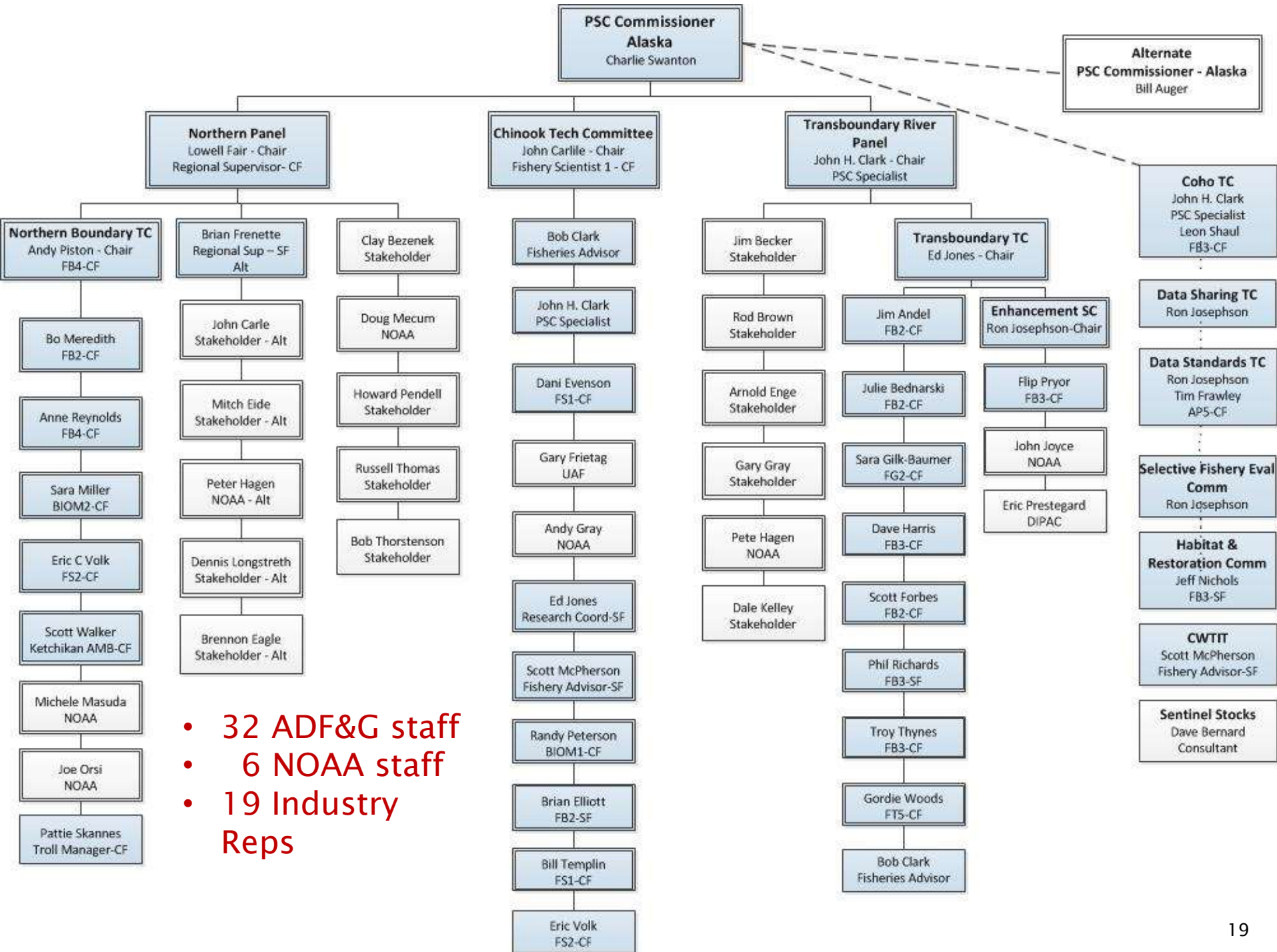
Southeast Alaska Fisheries

under the PST

- ▶ **Drift Gillnet**
 - Taku/Snettisham
 - Stikine
 - Tree Point
- ▶ **Set Gillnet**
 - Alsek River
- ▶ **Troll and Sport**
 - Chinook Quota
 - Dixon Entrance Coho Trigger
- ▶ **Purse Seine**
 - District 104

2014 Ex-Vessel Value for Southeast = \$150.0 M







Questions?

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Sport Fish



**Thomas Brookover
Acting Director**

February 3, 2015

2015 HOUSE FISHERIES OVERVIEW



Mission

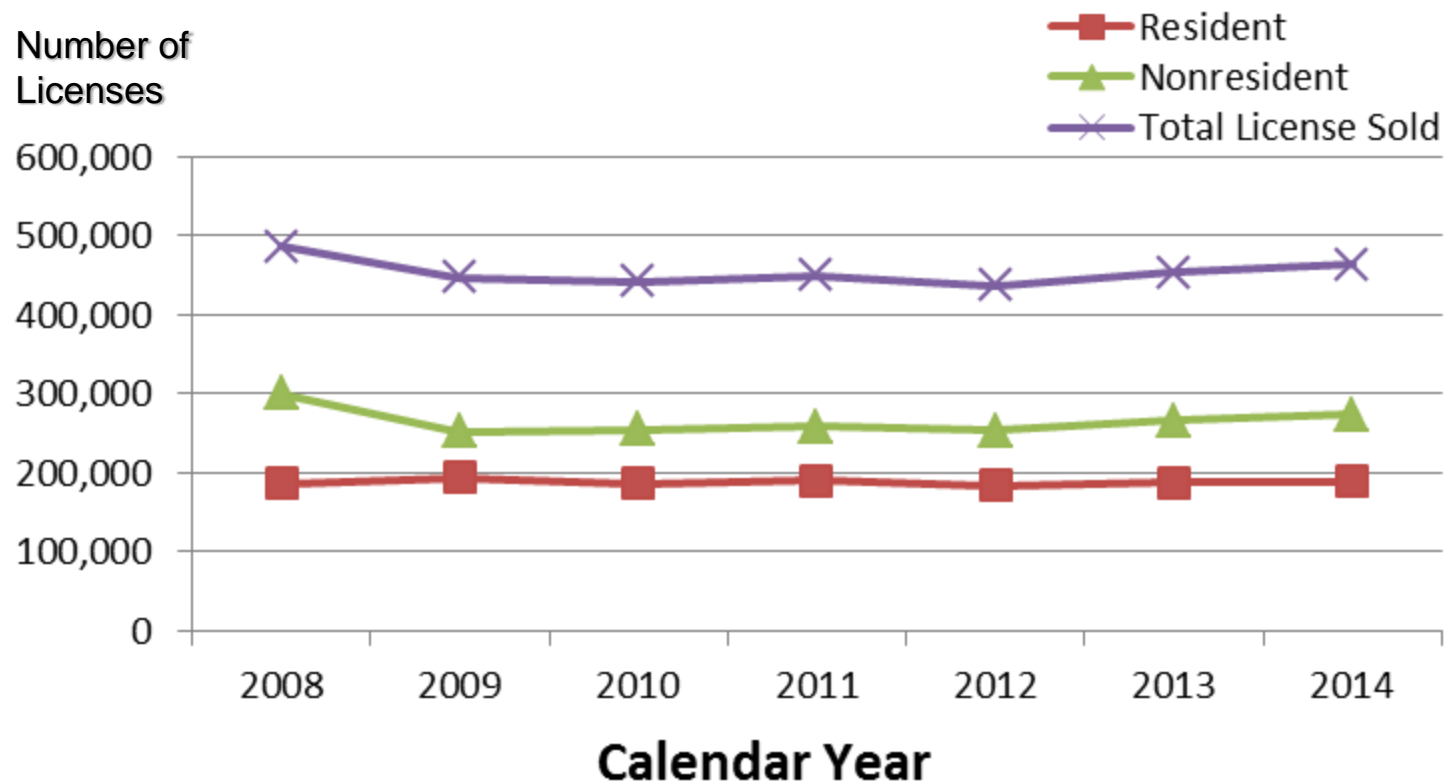
To protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources.





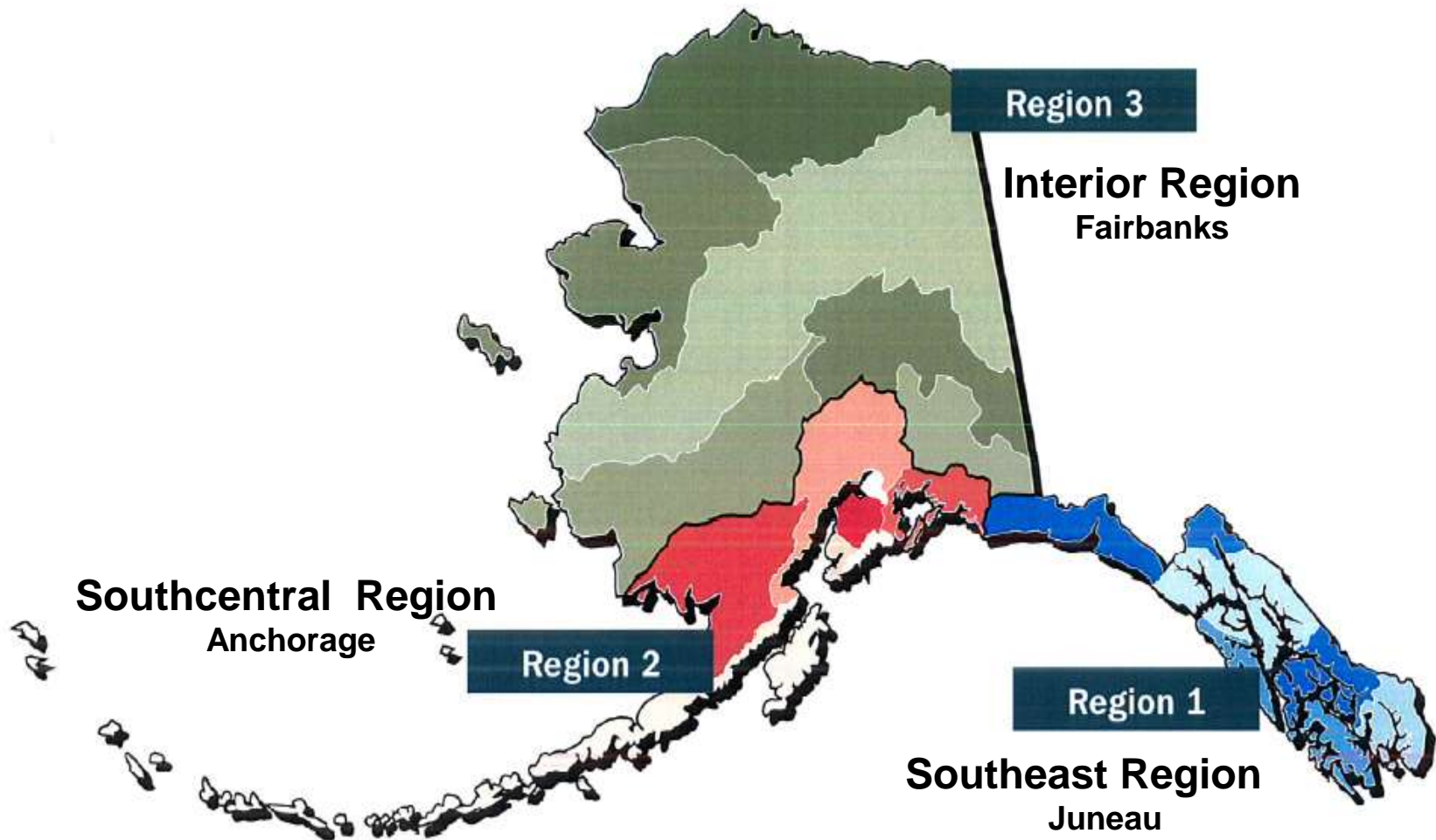


Sales of Fishing Licenses





Division of Sport Fish Management Regions

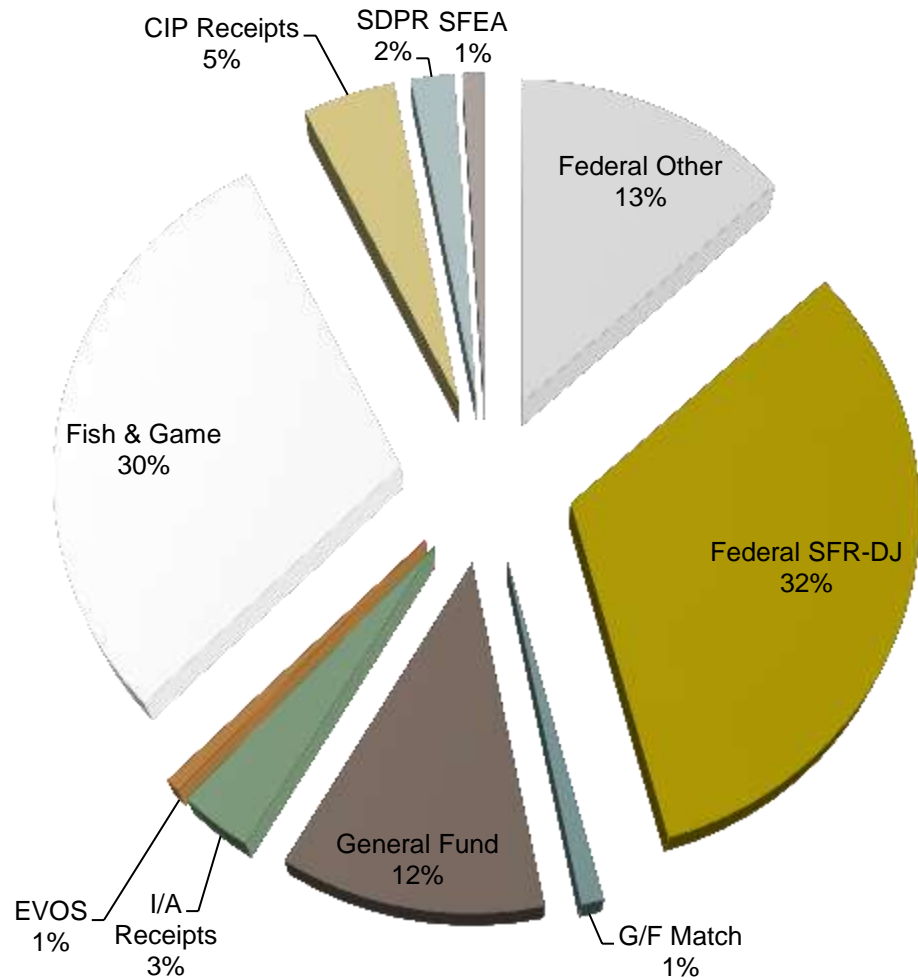


Division of Sport Fish Funding Sources

\$48,522.0 Million Budget

The federal Sport Fish Restoration – Dingell Johnson funds and Fish and Game funds make up 62% of the divisions Budget.

FY16 Operating Budget Request by Funding Source



Division of Sport Fish

Strategic Plan





Fisheries Management

Manage Alaska's recreational fisheries for sustained yield and recreational angler satisfaction funded on an area-based management system.





Fisheries Research

Management of Alaska recreational fisheries is based on sound scientific practices and objective-based research.



Fisheries Enhancement

Increase angler opportunities by producing and releasing anadromous (Chinook and coho salmon) and resident species into local streams, lakes and marine waters.





Angler Access

The recreational boating and access program manages federal grant projects that develop or maintain a range of infrastructure such as boat docks, boat ramps and other amenities.





Information and Education

Provides information specific to fisheries management, research, and sport fishing opportunities.

Education programs are directed at recruiting and retaining recreational anglers of all ages.





Fish Habitat

Directed at protecting and restoring fish habitats for the benefit of fish and current and future recreational anglers.





Accomplishments in Management & Research

Inseason
Management

Revised regulation
summary booklets

New research
projects





Accomplishments in Enhancement

Completed transition
from Ft. Richardson
to WJH

Increased Interior
production

Crystal Lake
Hatchery Rebuild

Fishery Centers





Accomplishments in Access

False Island Mooring
Float



Hoonah Boat Ramp

SE Fish Cleaning
Facilities



Bings Landing Dock

Cooper Landing Ramp

Birch Creek Launch

Wrangell & Haines
pumpouts





Accomplishments for Habitat

2,400' of riverbank
rehabilitated

192 miles added to
AWC

11.9 miles improved
for fish passage

20 Reservation of
water applications
submitted





Reduced Our Footprint

FY08 \$47.3 Million

245 Fulltime
216 Part-Time
19 Non-Permanent

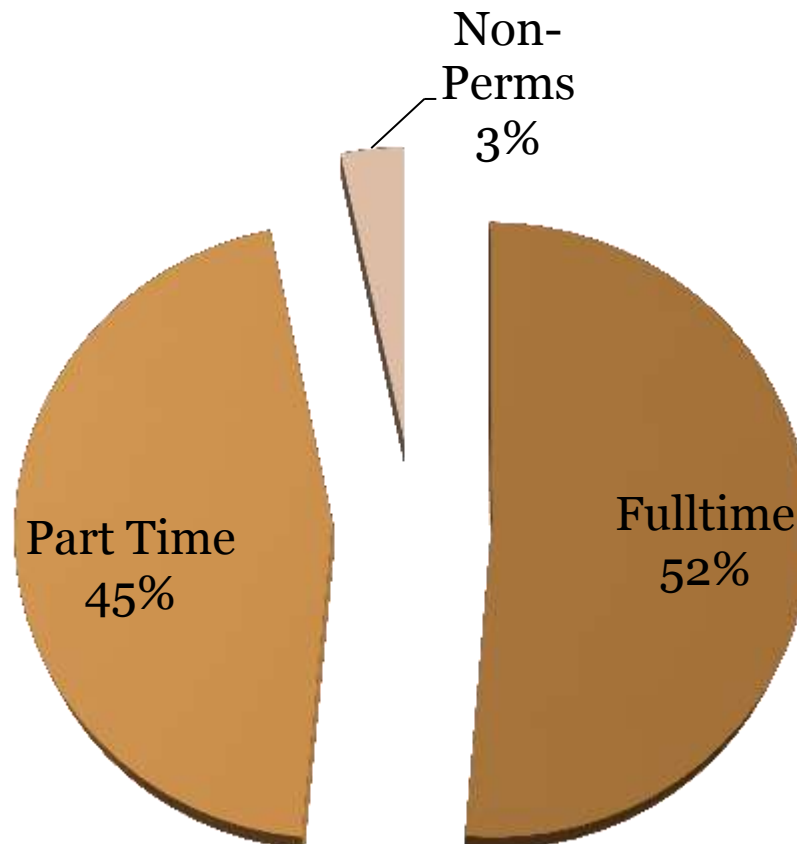
FY16 \$48.5 Million

200 Fulltime
176 Part-Time
13 Non-Permanent

Since 2008 - Reduced 91 Positions and \$599.6K of administrative staff costs

45 Fulltime
40 Part-Time
6 Non-Permanent

FY16 Division of Sport Fish Workforce



Moving Forward

- Sport Fish Strategic Plan Update
- Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Transition
- Develop Electronic Reporting
 - Charter logbook
 - Marine creel data
- Electronic Permitting and Reporting
 - Personal use fisheries in 2015
- Auke Bay & Homer Harbor

Challenges

- Fluctuating revenues
- Low Chinook salmon abundance
- Invasive Species
- Fishery Center Completion

Thank you



Questions?

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

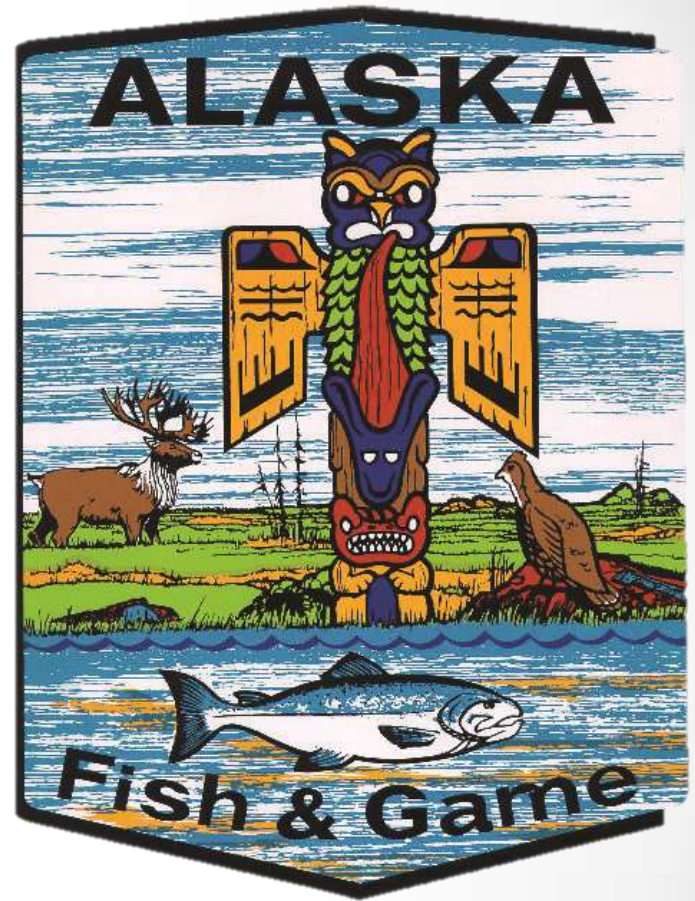
Division of Commercial Fisheries



Director Jeff Regnart

Division of Commercial Fisheries

Manage subsistence, commercial, and personal use fisheries in the interest of the economy and general well being of the citizens of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principal, and subject to allocations through public regulatory processes



Division of Commercial Fisheries

Primary Responsibilities

- Manage subsistence, commercial, and personal use fisheries within state waters
- Manage shellfish species and some groundfish 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

Division of Commercial Fisheries

Core Services

- Harvest management
- Stock assessment and applied research
- Aquaculture permitting
- Customer service and public involvement



Harvest Management

- Supporting the Board of Fisheries in establishing regulations and management plans
- Opening and closing fishing areas and setting fishing times
- Collecting harvest and biological data



Harvest Management Components

Inseason Management

- Employ a cadre of fisheries managers proximate to the fisheries
- Managers have broad authority to open and close fisheries

Applied Science

- To ensure that management of Alaska's fisheries is consistent with the sustained yield principle

Southeast Alaska Salmon Seine Fishing



Crab Fishing in the Bering Sea



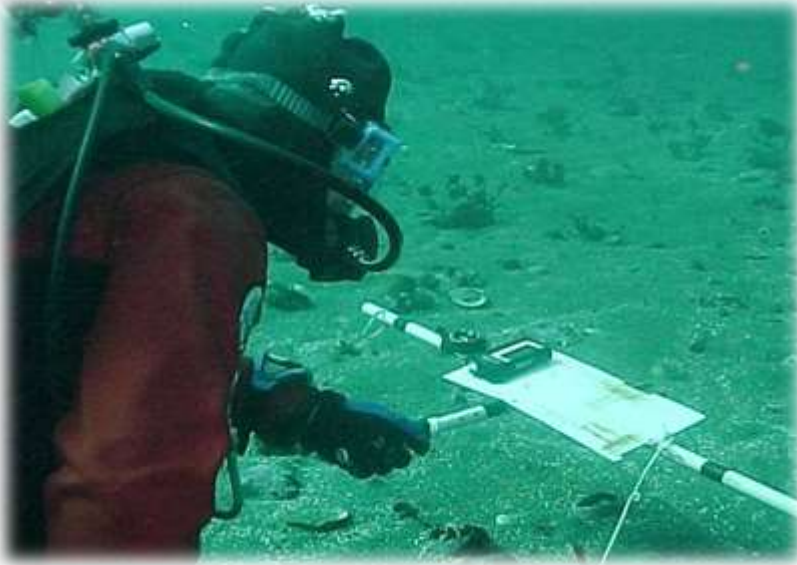
Stock Assessment and Applied Research

- Salmon Escapement Enumeration:
 - Weirs, towers, sonar, foot/aerial surveys
- Estimate juvenile salmon production
- Groundfish and shellfish surveys
- Herring spawn deposition and hydroacoustic surveys
- Aerial surveys for herring
- Dive surveys
- Biological, genetic, coded-wire tag sampling

Salmon Enumeration and Sampling



Examples of Stock Assessments

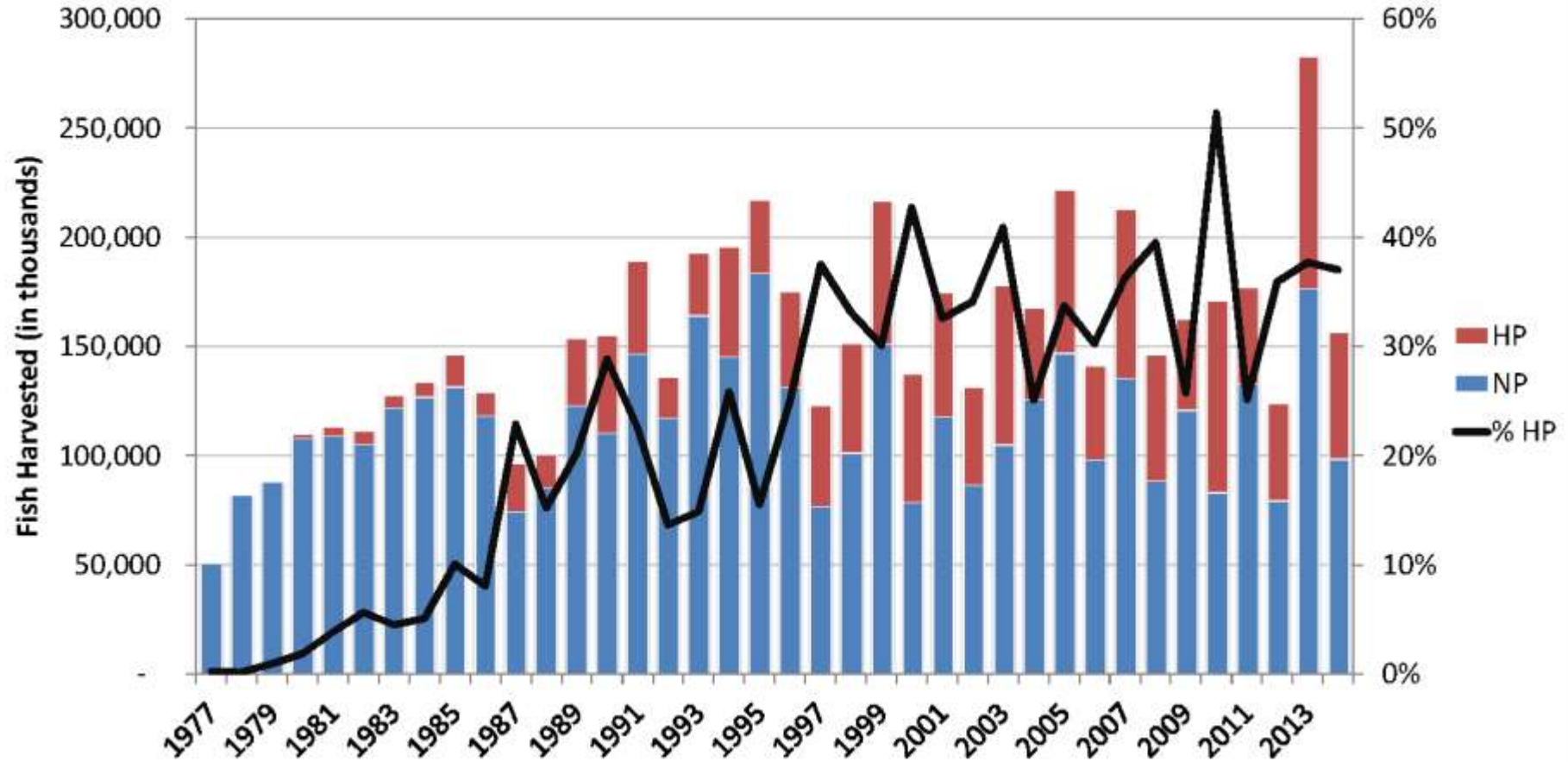


Aquaculture Permitting



- **29 salmon hatcheries**
- **2 shellfish hatcheries**
- **68 shellfish farms**
- **8 shellfish nurseries**

Commercial Salmon Harvests



Hatchery/Wild Research Project

- Department partnered with hatchery operators to study interactions of hatchery stocks with wild stocks
- CIP funding and industry funding
- Long-term project will yield better salmon research and enhance our partnership with industry

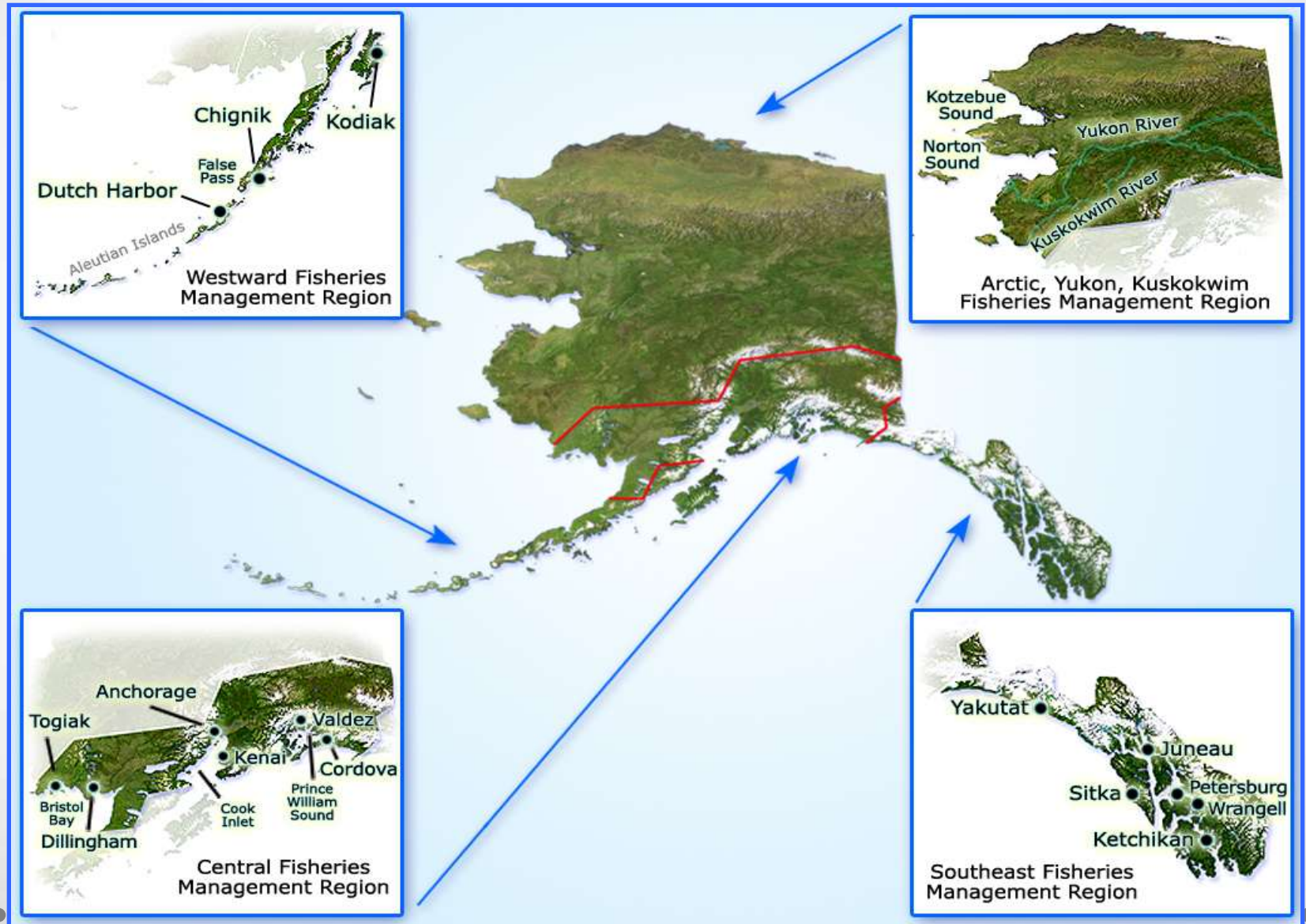


Laboratory Services

- Pathology Laboratory
- Coded Wire Tag and Otolith Aging Laboratory
- Genetic Stock Identification Laboratory



Fisheries Management Regions



Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim Highlights



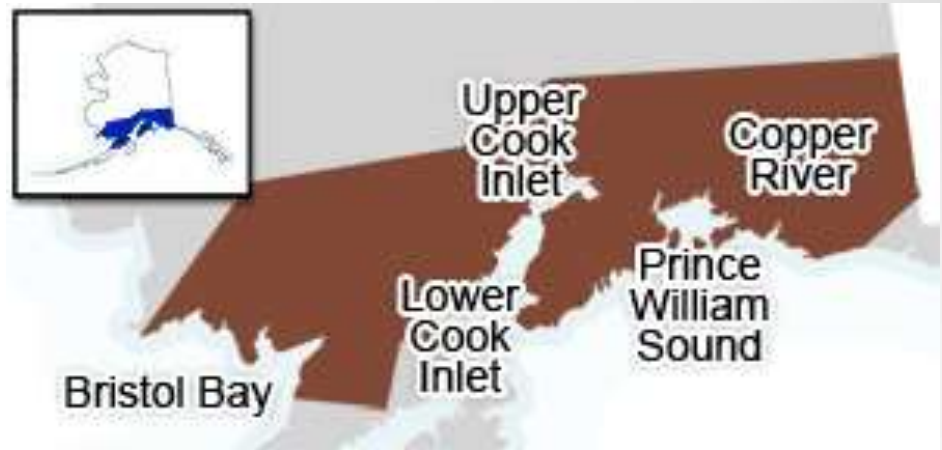
- 2014 **Yukon** Chinook salmon run was better than forecast.
- 2014 was the second season during which **dip net** gear was successfully used to harvest surplus chum salmon on the **Yukon River** while allowing for release of Chinook salmon.
- The 2014 **Kotzebue** commercial chum salmon harvest was the 2nd largest harvest on record in Kotzebue.
- **Norton Sound's** strong salmon harvest was the area's best since 1998.
- **Norton Sound's** 2014 red king crab fishery had an exvessel value of \$1.96 million.

Westward Region Highlights



- Westward Region includes Kodiak, Chignik, the Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands areas and is home to the largest crab and groundfish fisheries in Alaska.
- In 2014 nearly 60 million pounds of Pacific cod were harvested in state waters fisheries.
- The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery harvested nearly 10 million pounds with a preliminary exvessel value of \$61 million.

Central Region Highlights



- The all species Bristol Bay harvest value of \$196.6 million was Alaska's most valuable salmon fishery in 2014.
- The Prince William Sound pink salmon harvest was 36.8 million fish.

Southeast Region Highlights



- The 2014 Southeast Summer Dungeness crab season was the most successful in recent history with a total fishery value of \$12.2 million.
- The Southeast Alaska pink salmon harvest was better than expected with a harvest of 31 million fish.

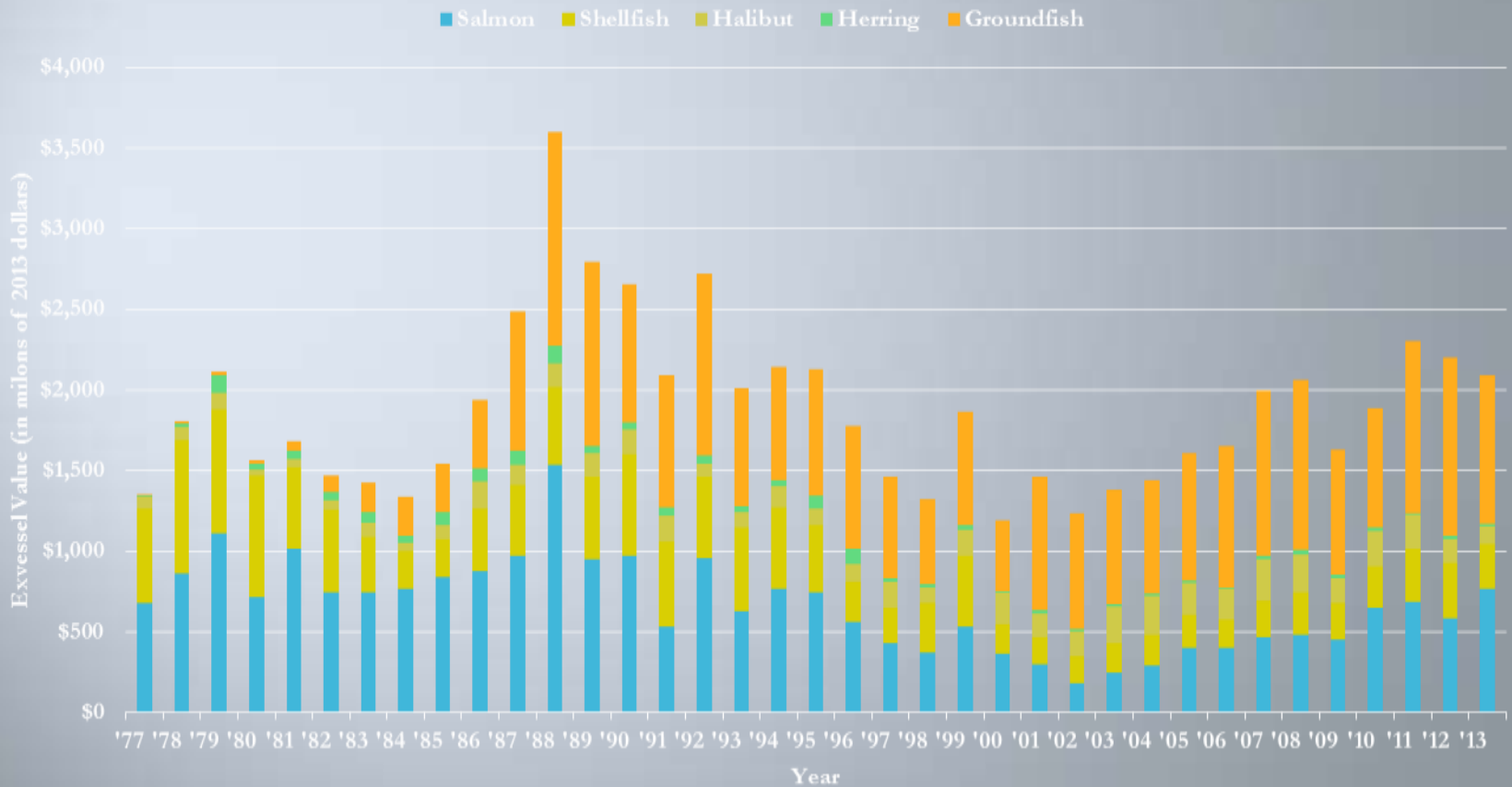
Economic Impact of Seafood Industry on Alaska's Economy in 2011

(Source: McDowell Group 2013)

- Generated 63,100 Alaskan jobs in seafood harvesting, processing sectors, and support industries
- Approximately 41,530 of these employees were Alaskan residents
- Generated \$1.73 billion in direct payments to labor with \$1.28 billion going to Alaska residents
- Generated total seafood sales of \$4.6 billion.

Exvessel Value of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries

Inflation Adjusted Exvessel Value of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries, 1977 - 2013



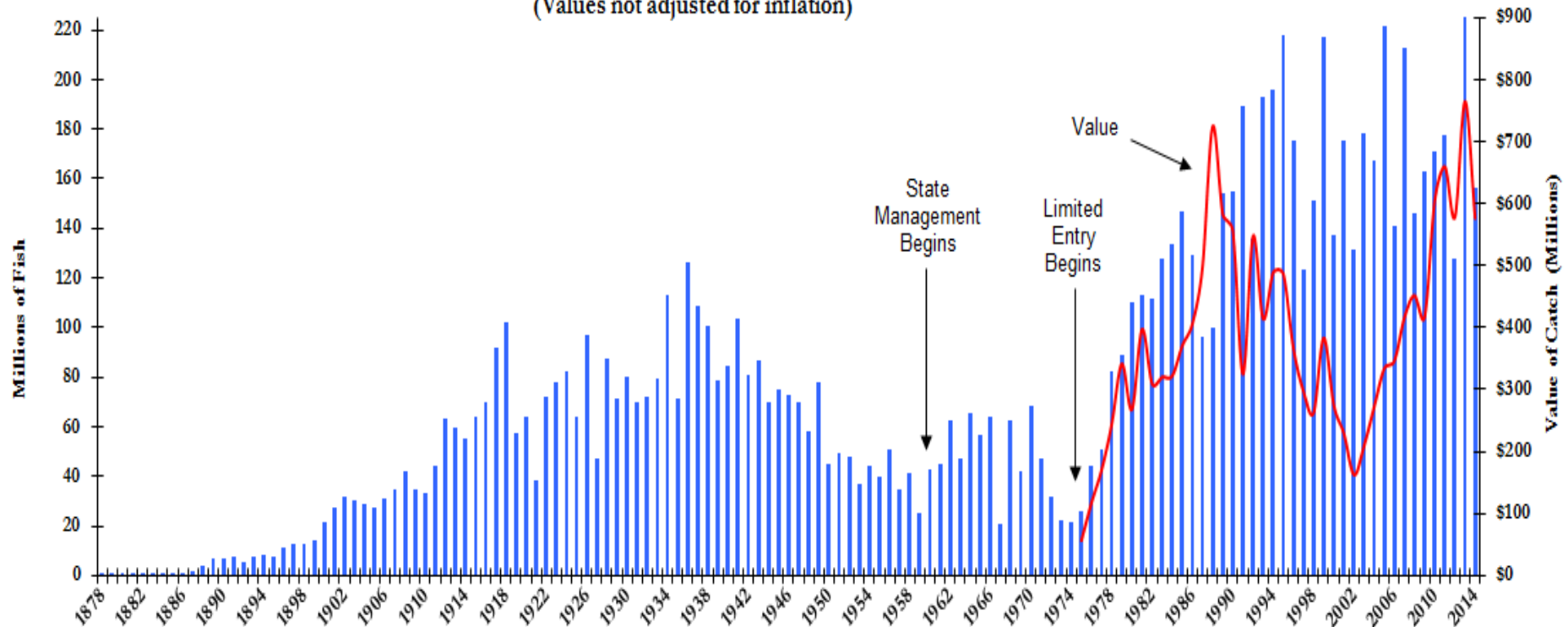
1878 – 2014

Alaska Salmon Catches and Value

Alaska Commercial Salmon Catches & Value 1878-2014*

All Species combined

(Values not adjusted for inflation)



*2014 values preliminary

Permanent and Seasonal Staff

FY2016



Bristol Bay Staff in front of helicopter

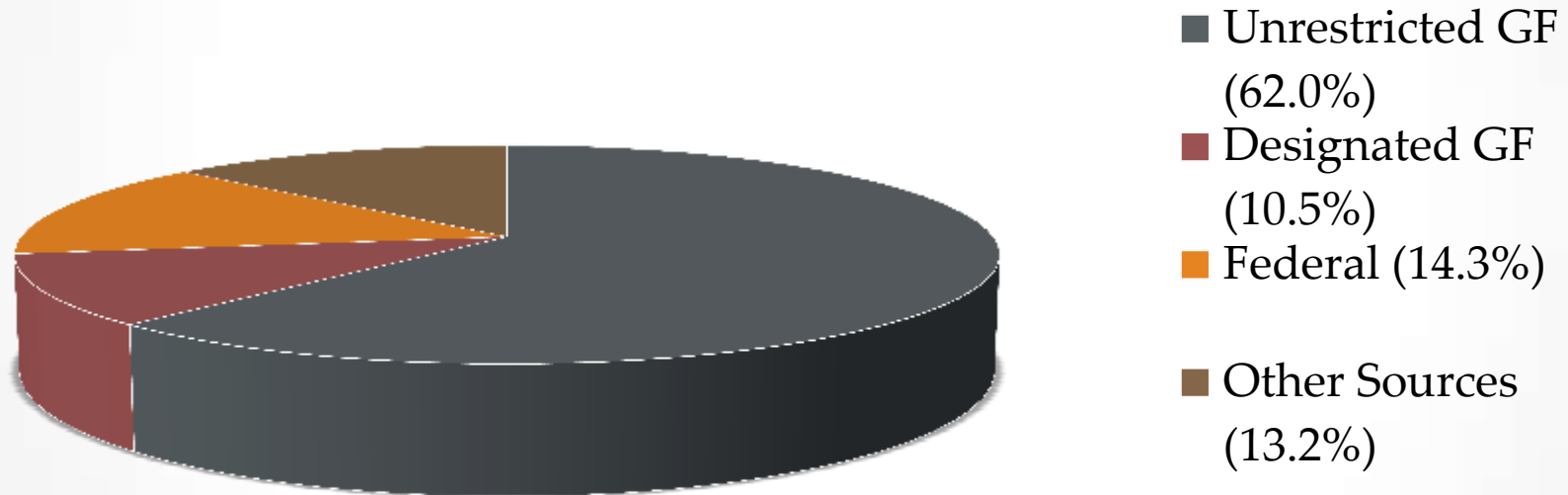
- 308 permanent staff
- 433 seasonal staff
- 20 permanent offices
- 84 seasonal offices/field camps

vessels

FY 2016 Budget Request

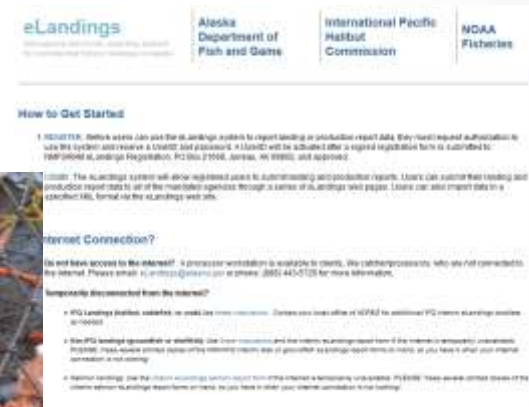
Total Request = \$71,341.7

(in thousands)



Highlights from 2014

- Strong Salmon Harvests
- Increased Crab Harvests
- Advancements in Information Technology



Fiscal Challenges

- Fewer stock assessment and research projects
- Greater uncertainty in population estimates, trends, and forecasts
- In some cases, more conservative management will be needed
- Limited ability to support new fisheries





Thank you!
Questions?

