

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Fisheries Overview

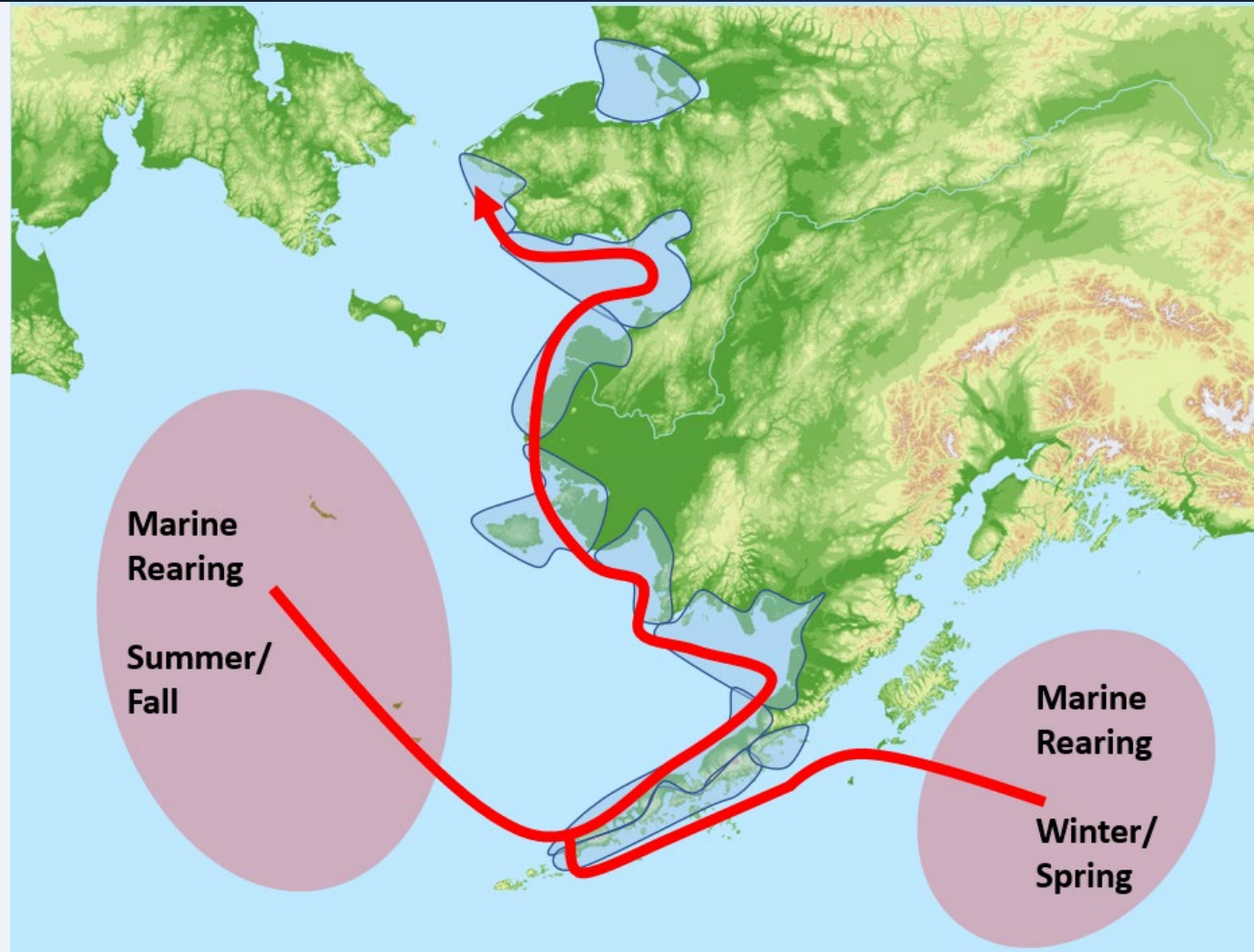
Senate Resources Committee

April 28, 2023

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang



Coastal Western Alaska Chum Salmon Marine Life History



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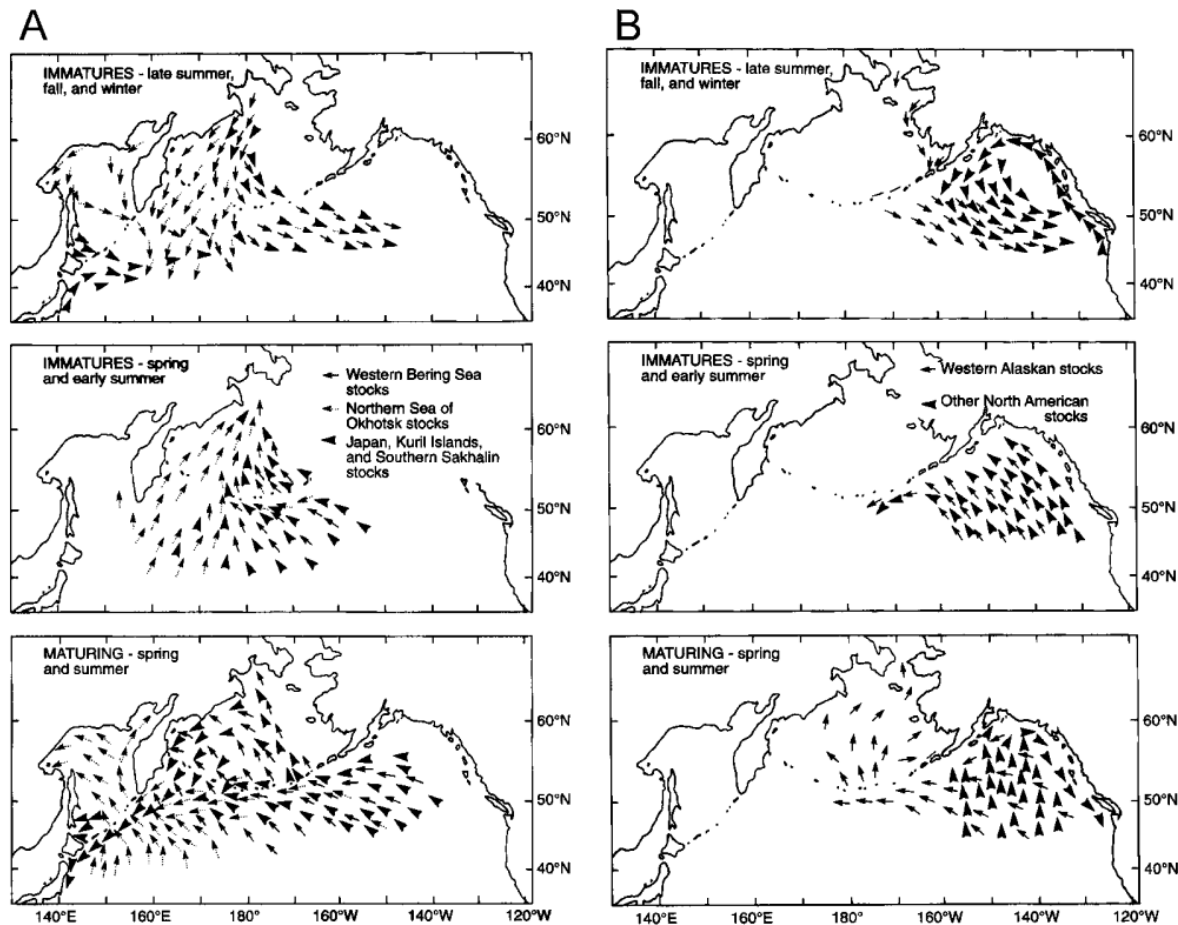
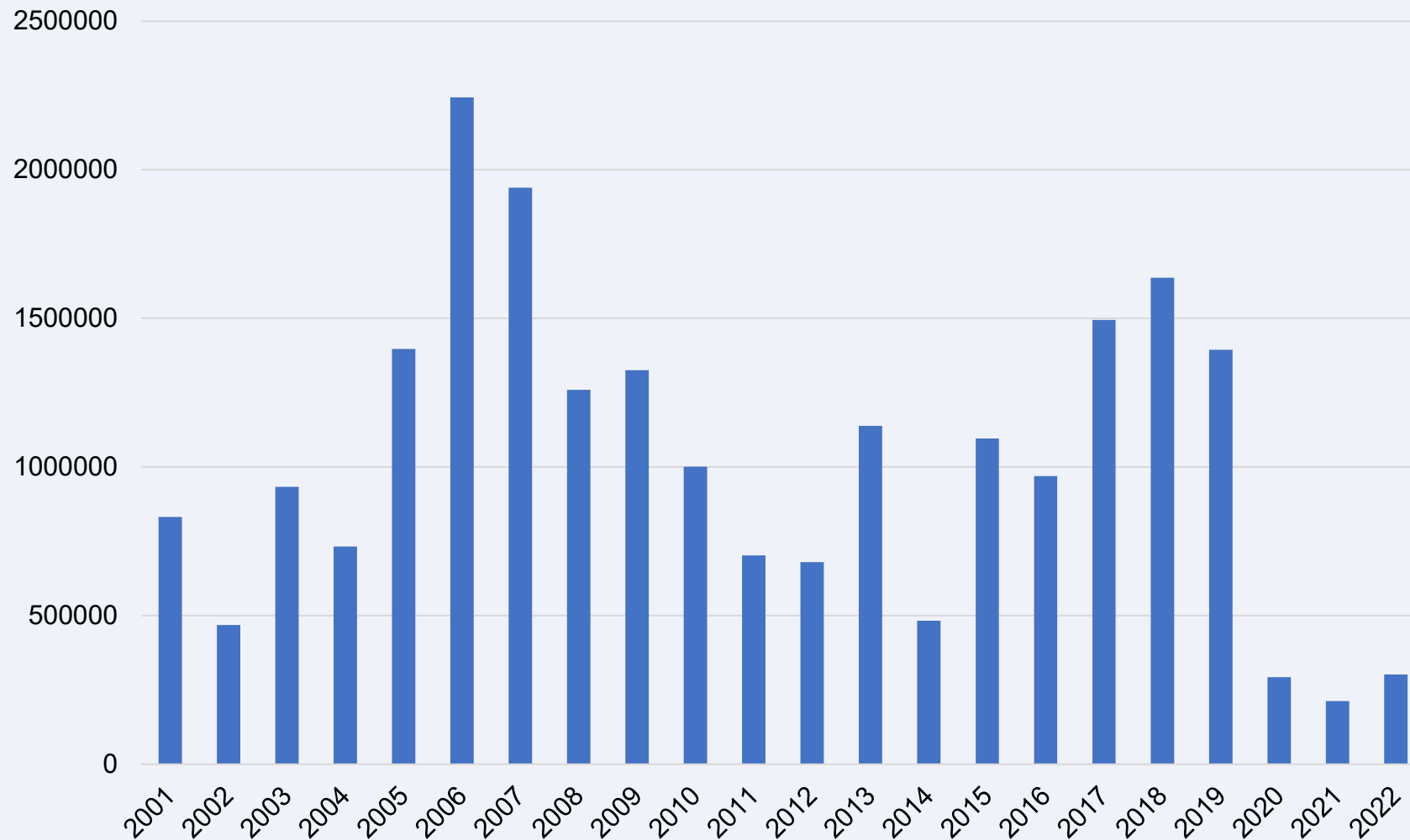
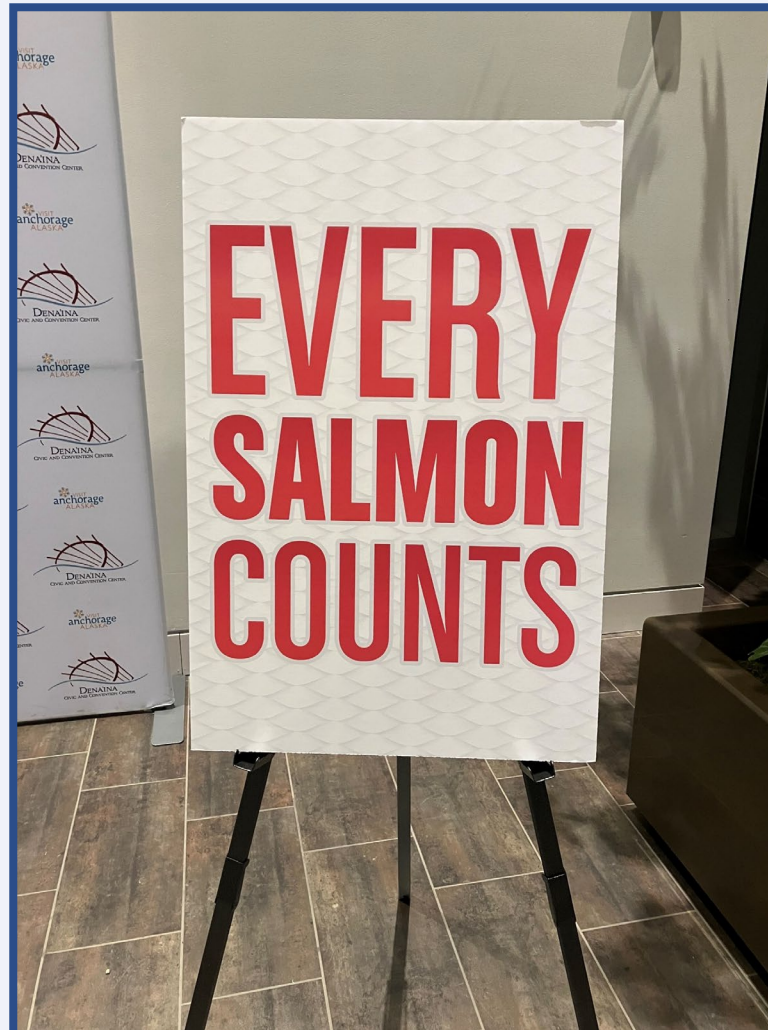


Figure 1. Migration routes of chum salmon in the North Pacific based on studies conducted by NMFS.² (A) Asian chum salmon, (B) North American chum salmon.

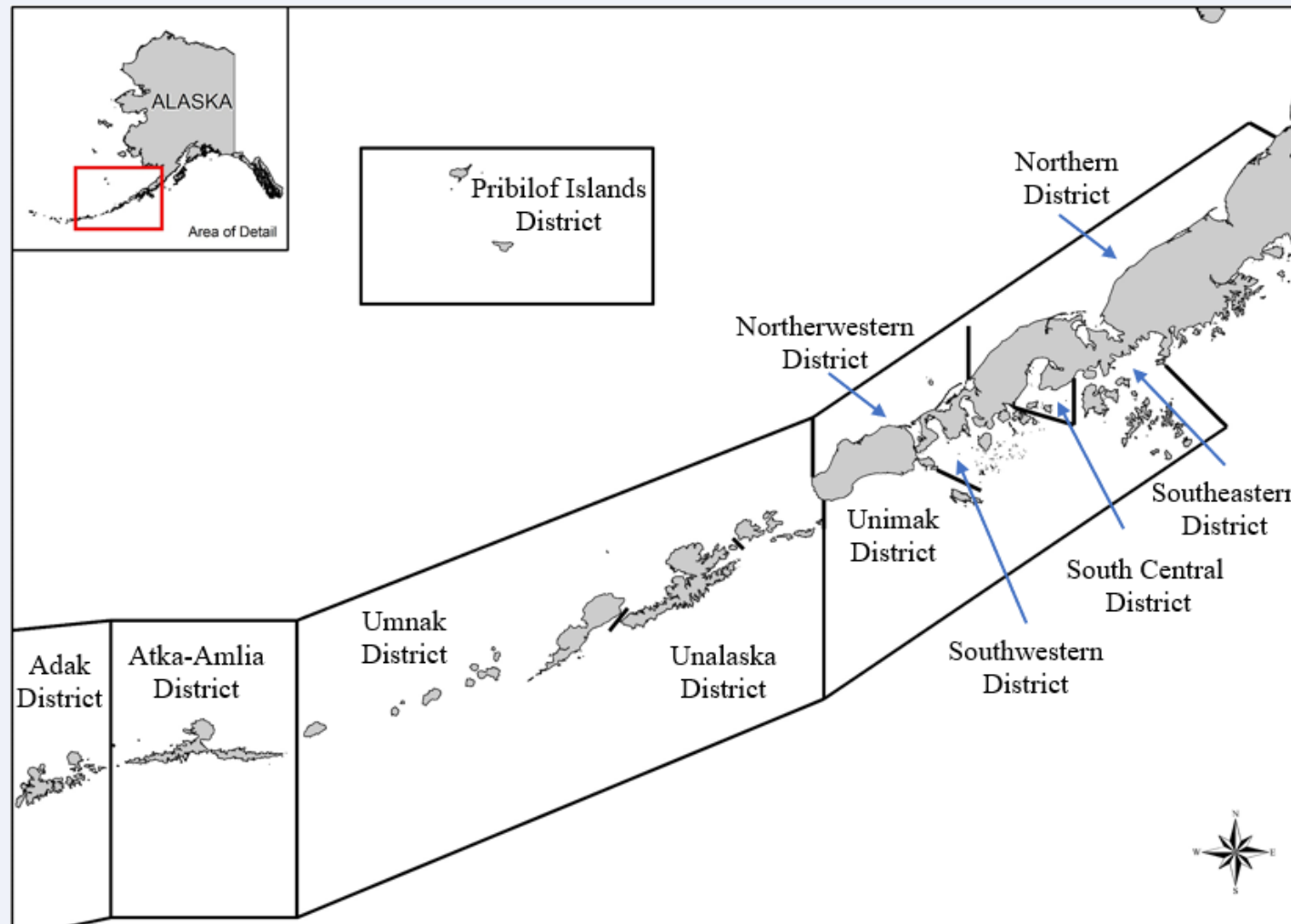
Bristol Bay Chum Salmon Harvests



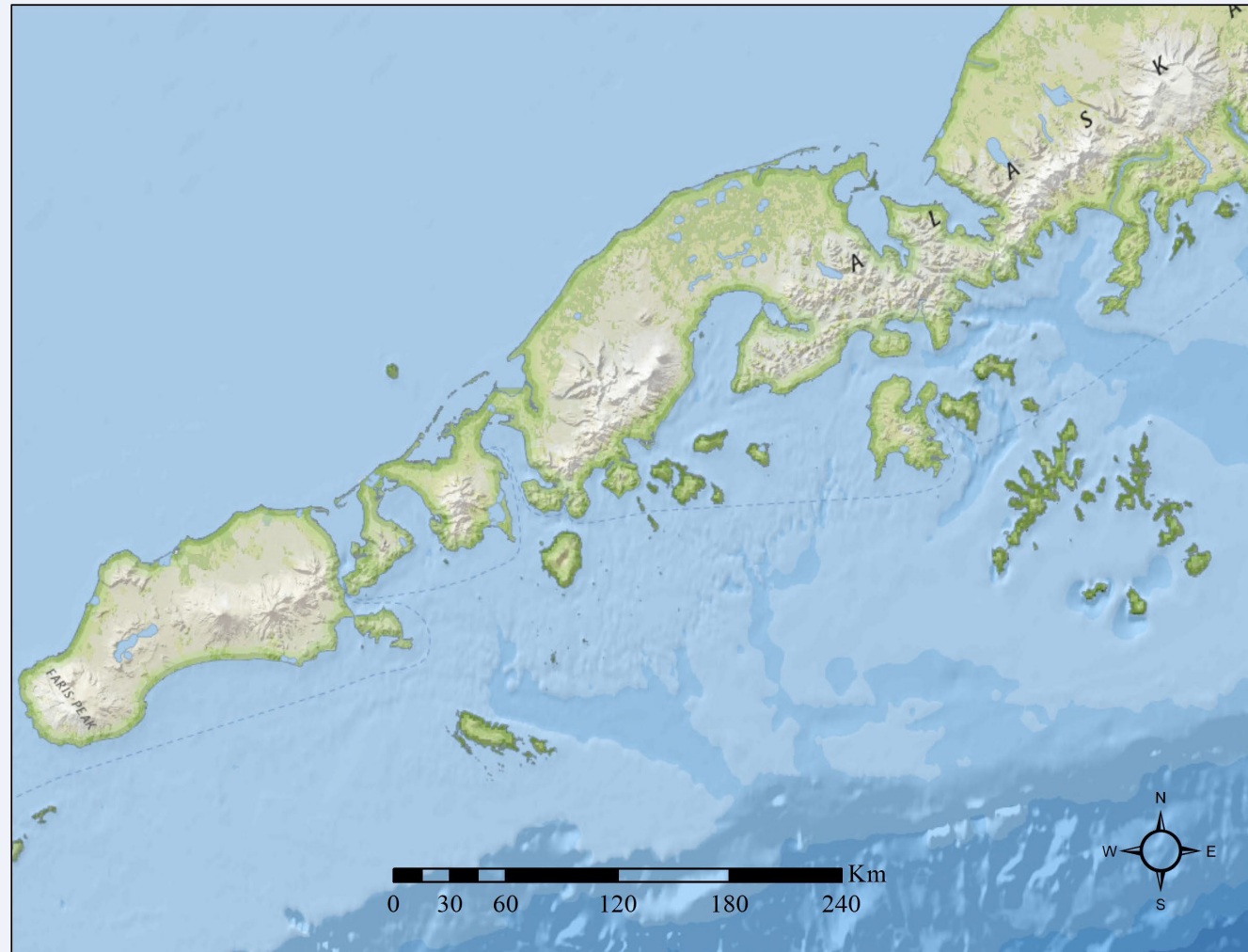
Every Salmon Counts



Area M Geography

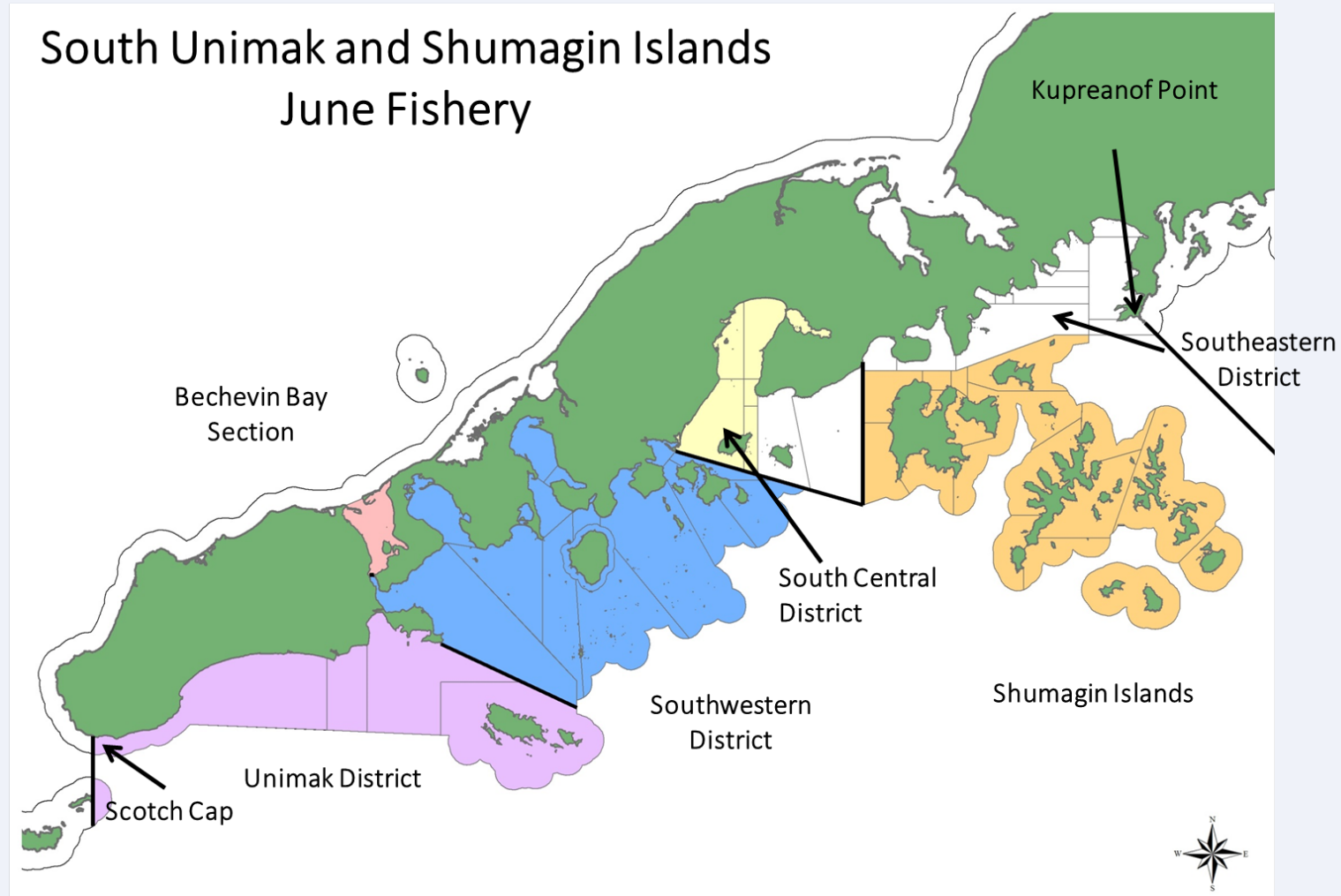


South Alaska Peninsula Geography

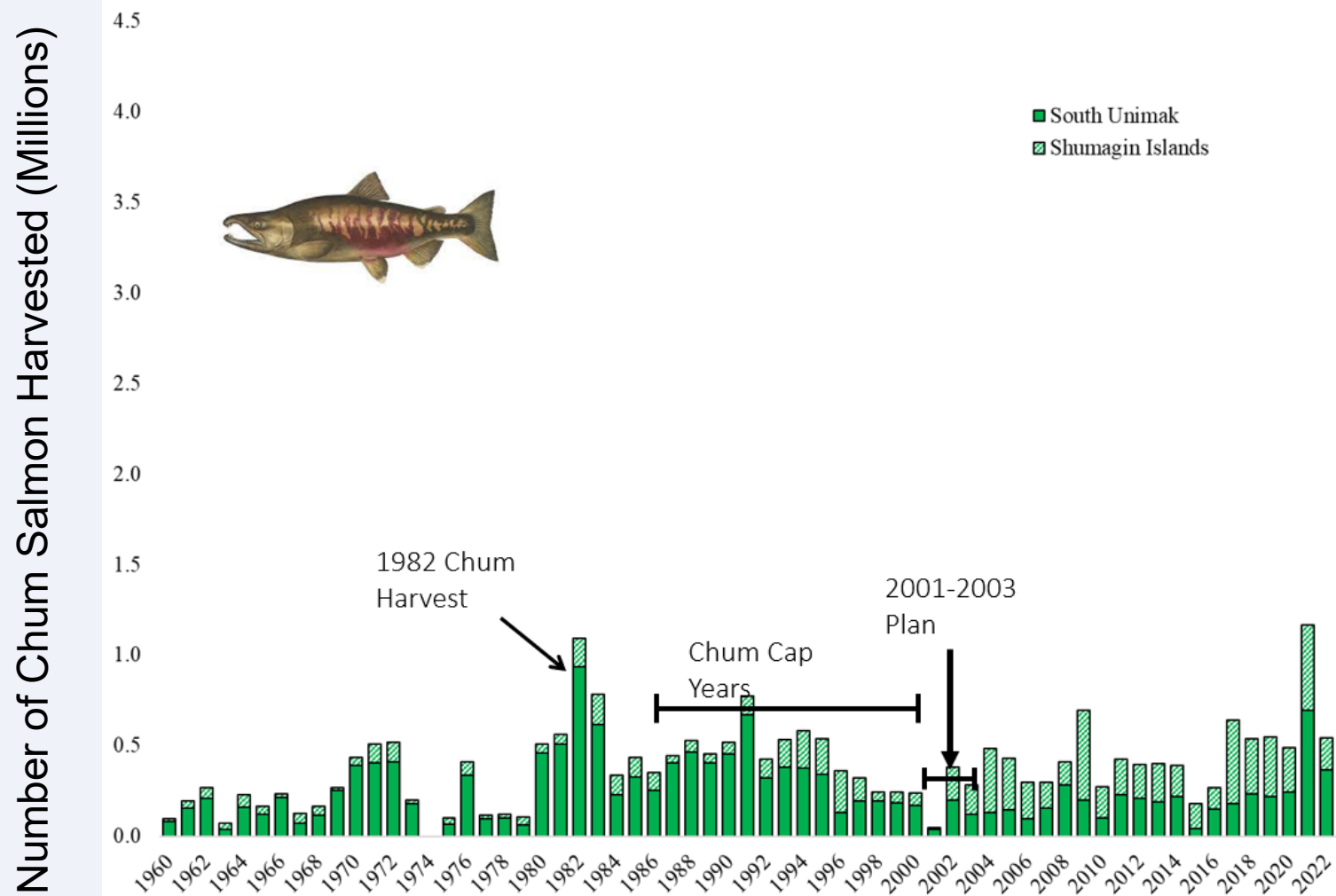




South Alaska Peninsula Fishing Districts



South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery Chum Harvests





South Alaska Peninsula Chum Harvests

➔ **Total 2022 South Pen Harvest: 817,279 chum**

- 78% of 10-year average

➔ **June: 544,137 (67% of total South Peninsula)**

- Majority in June Unimak Seine (321,875 – 40% of total)
- Groups > 5%: Asia (315,162 – 58%), CWAK (96,466 – 18%) and East of Kodiak (72,812 – 13%)

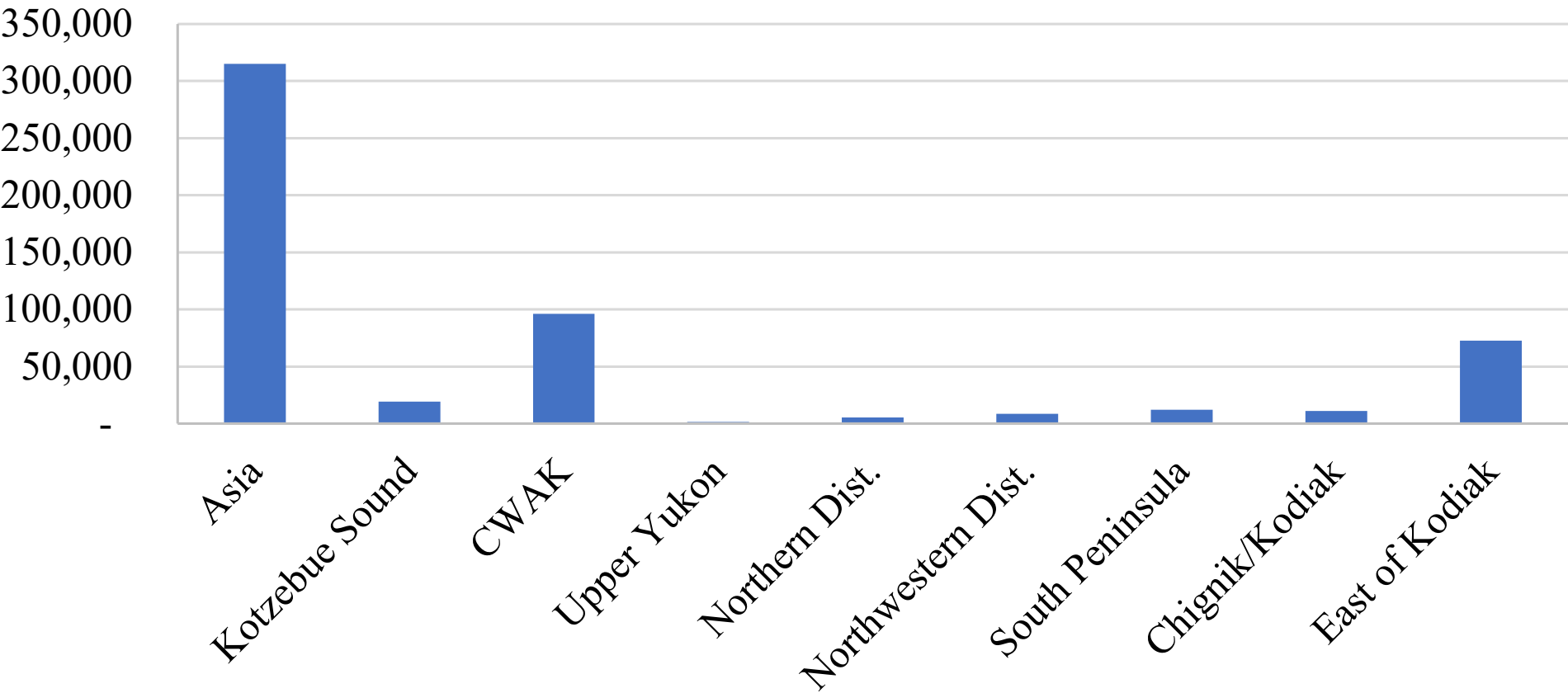
➔ **Post-June: 270,142 (33% of total South Peninsula)**

- Majority in July SE/SC Seine (126,102 – 15% of total)
- Groups > 5%: South Peninsula (95,237 – 35%), East of Kodiak (65,242 – 24%), Chignik/Kodiak (60,864 – 23%), and Asia (30,674 – 11%)



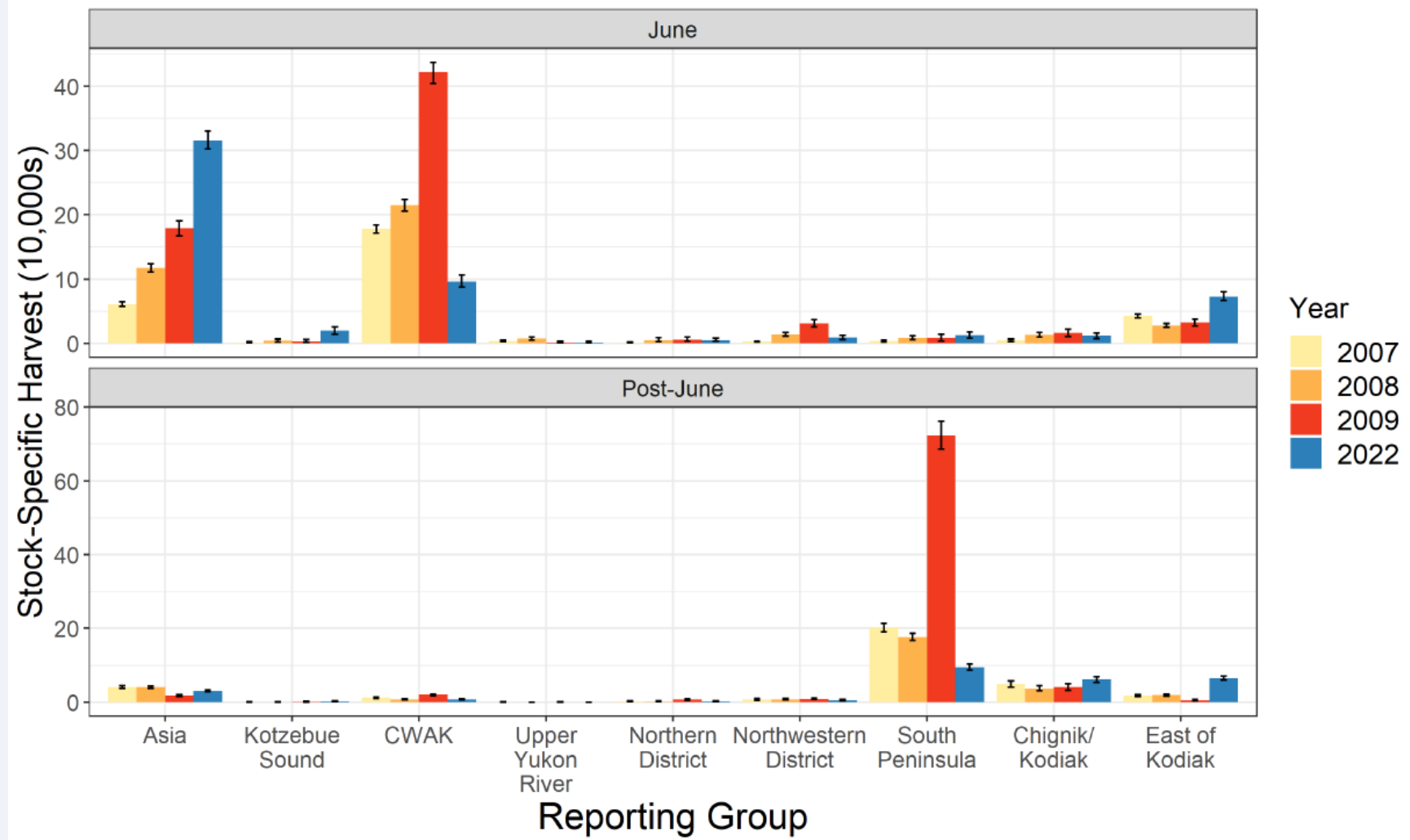
2022 Chum Harvests by Stock Group

Reporting group-specific chum salmon harvest estimates from 2022 South Peninsula Fishery





Historic Chum Harvests by Stock Group



South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery Regulatory History



- **1960's to mid-1970's fishing periods 4.5 to 7 days per week**
- **Mid-1970's to mid-1980's fishing depended on strength of forecasted Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run**
 - Establishment of guideline harvest levels (GHLs) based on average historic catches
- **1984–1986 fishing time limited to 96 hours per week and no more than 72 consecutive hours to allow “escapement windows”**

South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery Regulatory History (Continued...)



➡ **1986–2001 Bristol Bay GHLs and chum salmon caps**

- Caps ranged from 350,000 chum salmon to 900,000 chum salmon with a variety of methods to calculate cap from hard caps, % of sockeye harvest, to “floating cap”

➡ **2004-2022 set fishing periods or fishing “windows” established**

- Various changes to windows over previous BOF cycles
- 2016 establishment of “Dolgoi Island” area to manage for Chignik-bound sockeye salmon
- 2022 RC 104 implemented a 50% reduction for purse seine gear

South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery Economic Importance



Sand Point, King Cove, Cold Bay, and False Pass: June fishery 2013–2022 averages

- 40% of exvessel value of South Alaska Peninsula fisheries
- 24% of exvessel value of entire Area M fisheries
- Total exvessel value for June fishery average = \$9,651,682

Department of Revenue estimated revenue reductions for FY2024

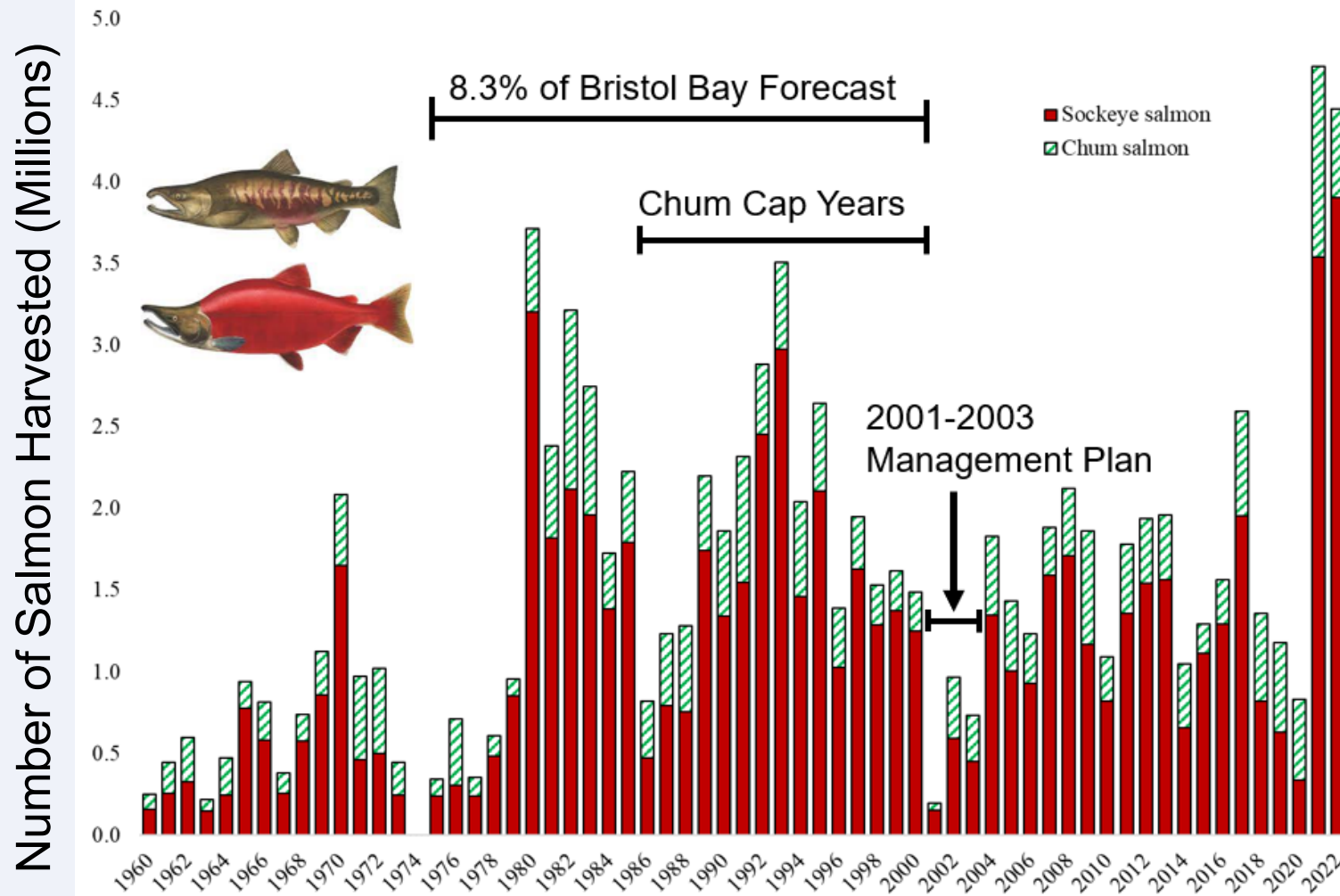
- Fishery Business Tax \$(622.40)
 - \$(311.2) UGF
 - \$(311.2) DGF – Shared Tax
- Seafood Marketing Assessment \$(91.80)
 - \$(91.8) Other – Statutory Designated Program Receipts

Proposal 140 Calendar



June 2023 Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Proposed fishing times for seine and drift						
Current Fishing Periods						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		6 a.m. 10 p.m.	Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)			6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours		6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours	
Open 88 hours				Open 88 hours		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours			6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours	
		6 a.m. 10 p.m.	Open 88 hours			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours		6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. 10 p.m. 16 hours			
Open 88 hours						

South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery Chum & Sockeye Harvests



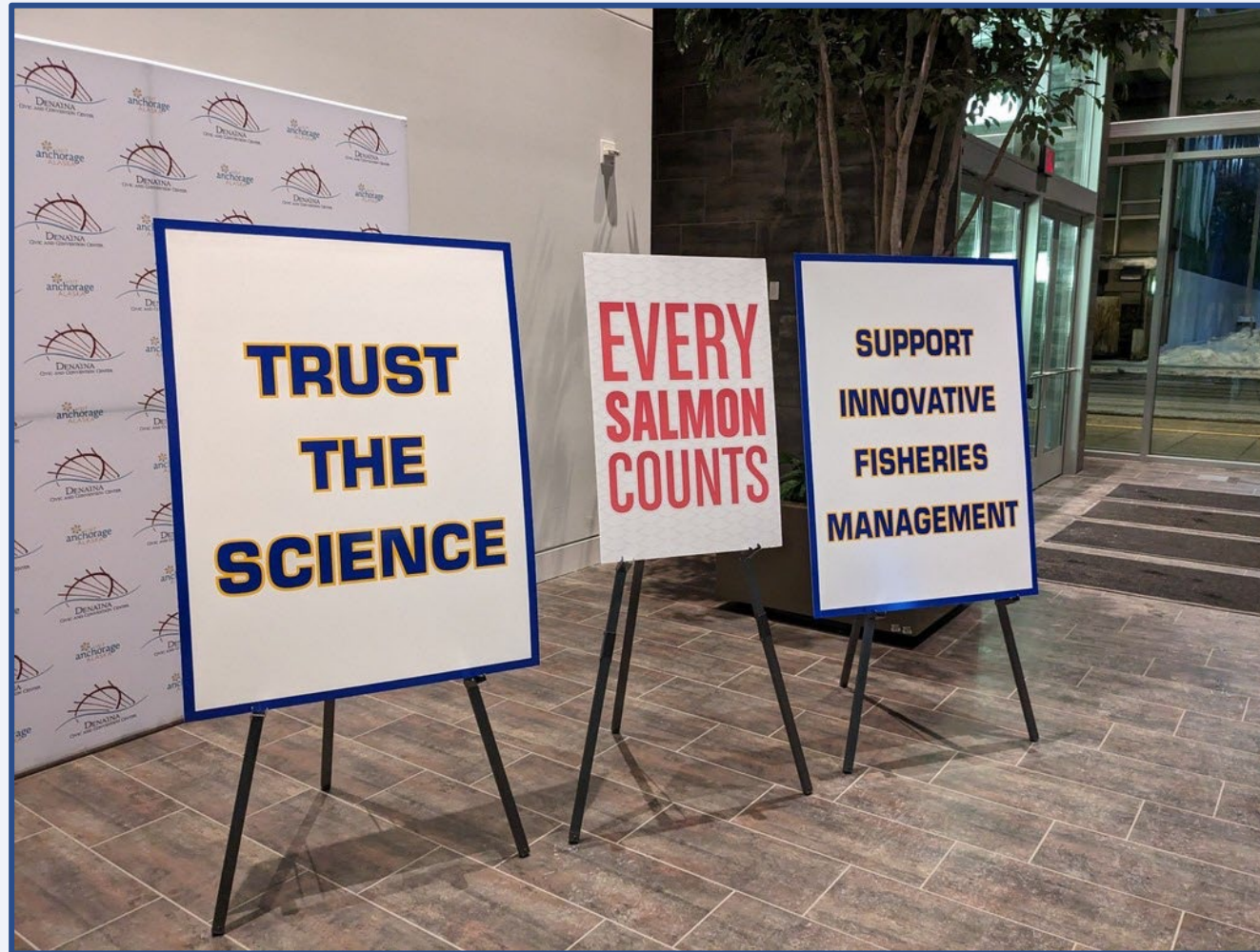
Note: Low harvest in 2001 was due to price dispute and fisherman strike in June

Adopted Fishing Calendar

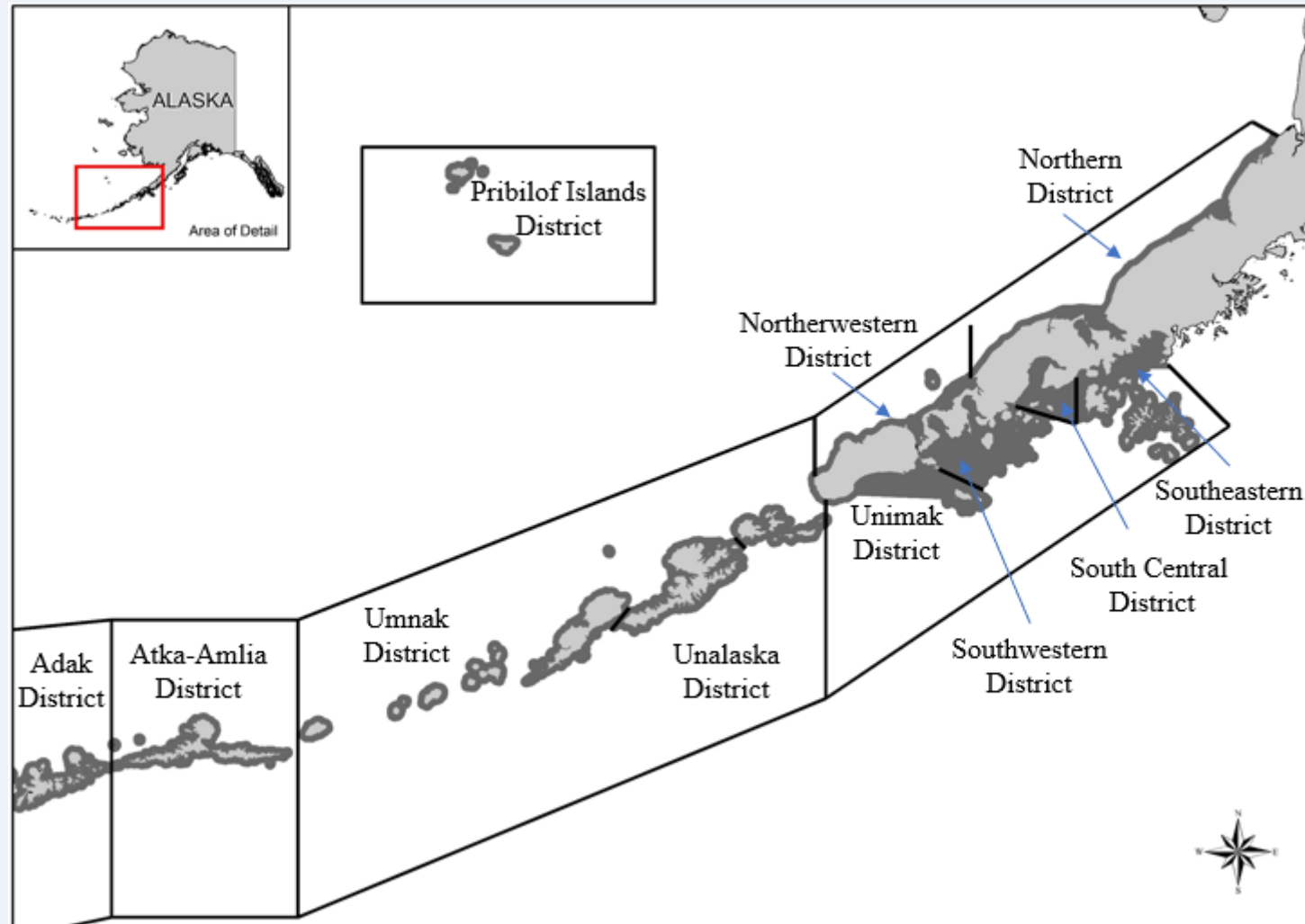


June 2023 Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Seine gear fishing periods						
Set and drift gillnet gear fishing periods						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		6 a.m.	Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)			6 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Open 68 hours		2 a.m.	76 hr closure		6 a.m.	Open 66 hours
Open 88 hours		10 p.m.		6 a.m.	Open 88 hours	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	32 hr closure		Open 88 hours			32 hr closure
	300,000 chum trigger evaluation point	6 a.m.	Open 88 hours			450,000 chum trigger evaluation point
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m.	Open 88 hours					
	Open 88 hours					

Compromise Solutions



SB 128 Closures



SB 128 Closures



- ➔ **Close all Area M sections and districts to commercial salmon fishing from June 10 through June 30**
 - Minimal impact to Aleutians as it is escapement-based for pink salmon in mid-July to early-August
- ➔ **Northern District is escapement-based management for sockeye salmon in June with local harvest opportunities**
 - Four weirs and aerial surveys measure escapement abundance and run-timing
 - Chum salmon harvest in June is minor compared to South Peninsula:
20 yr. average = 2,494 chum salmon and recent 5 yr. average = 979 chum salmon
- ➔ **Northwestern District in June is escapement-based management for sockeye salmon**
- ➔ **June economically important to Area M communities of Sand Point, King Cove, Cold Bay, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, and Port Heiden**
 - June harvest over past 5 years has contributed 11% to 55% of the total Area M exvessel value

Questions?

A photograph of a person standing in the back of a small aluminum boat on a large body of water. The person is wearing a dark hooded jacket, a bright yellow-green safety vest, and orange pants. They are looking out over the water towards a distant shoreline with a line of trees. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The water is calm with some small ripples. A line of buoys or floats is visible in the distance.

THANK YOU!

Contact Information



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