

02/03/15

Overview:

Department  
of Fish &  
Game

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>02-03-15 Overview Department  
of Fish and Game</SUBJECT><COMM>HFSH29</COMM></TARGET>

# 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

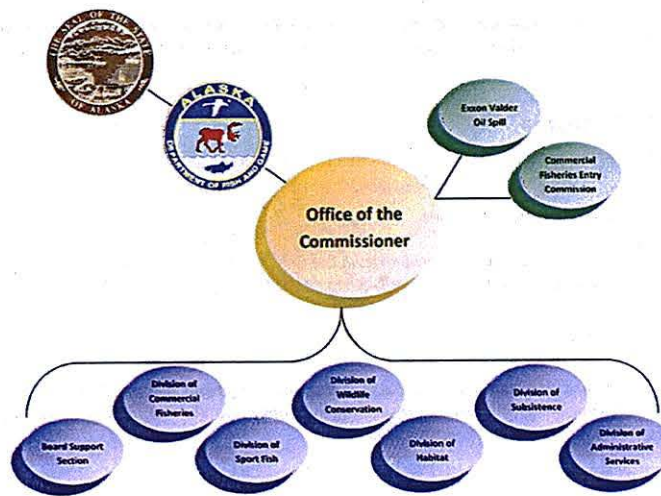
- Ensure sustainability and harvestable surplus, improve assessment and research capabilities, invest in new technologies, anticipate changing conditions.

### ▶ Customer Service and Public Involvement

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

3

## Alaska Department of Fish and Game Organizational Chart



4



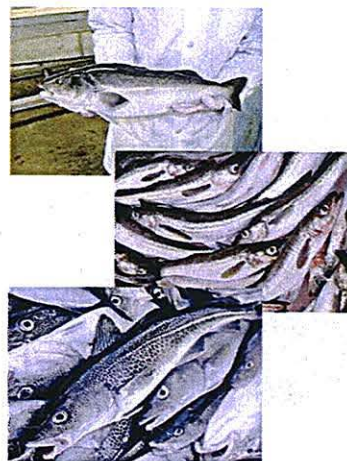
## Commissioner's Office Responsibilities

- › 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

7

## 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



8

# Questions?



9

# The Pacific Salmon Treaty

Deputy Commissioner Charles Swanton



10

## 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.

11

## 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.

12

## Treaty Principles

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

13

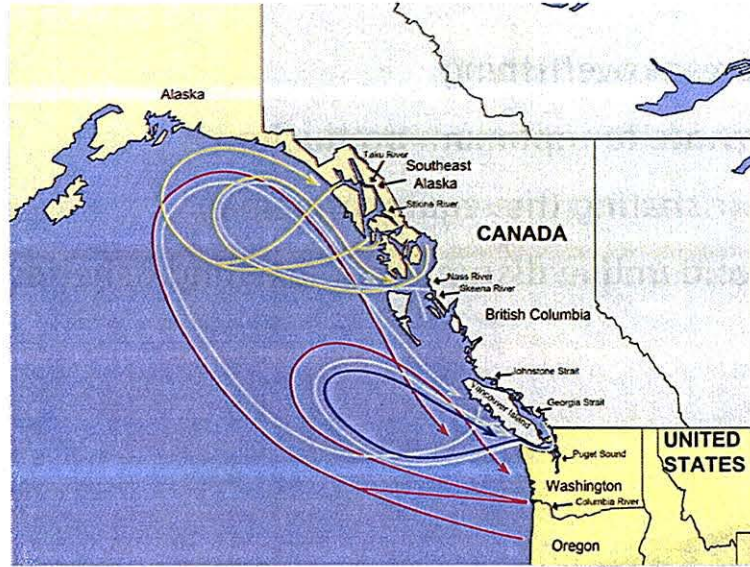
## Scope of the Treaty



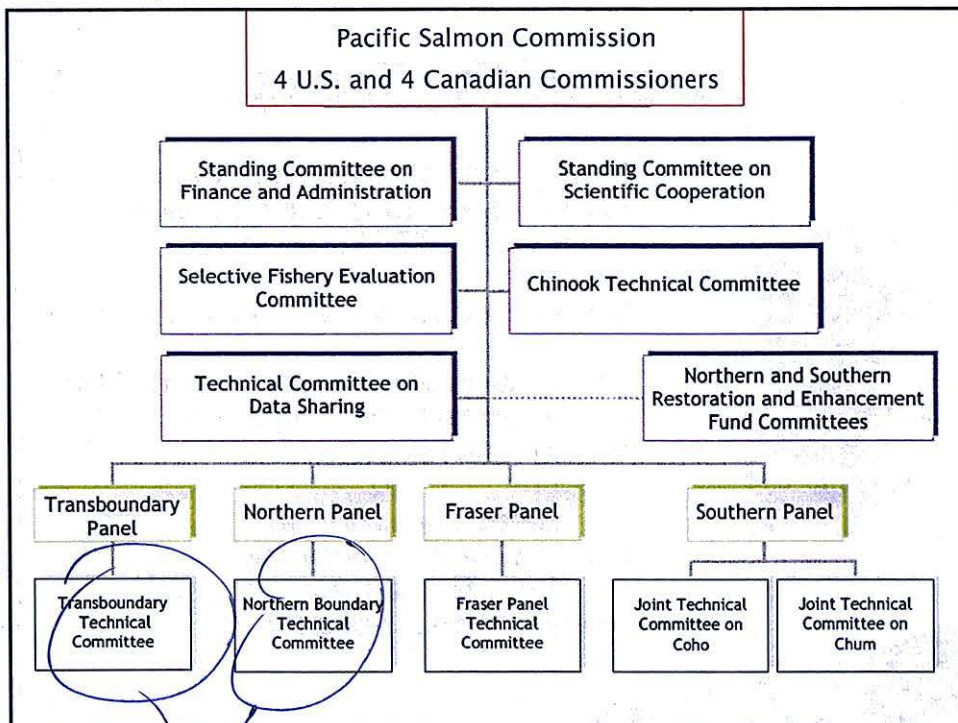
- Stocks and fisheries from Cape Falcon (Oregon) to Cape Suckling (Alaska) = 1,276 linear miles
- Treaty creates national obligations
- Unique because U.S. states and PNW treaty Indian tribes negotiate the fishery provisions
- The states and tribes are responsible for conducting programs that attempt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

14

# Chinook Migratory Patterns



15



AK

## 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

17

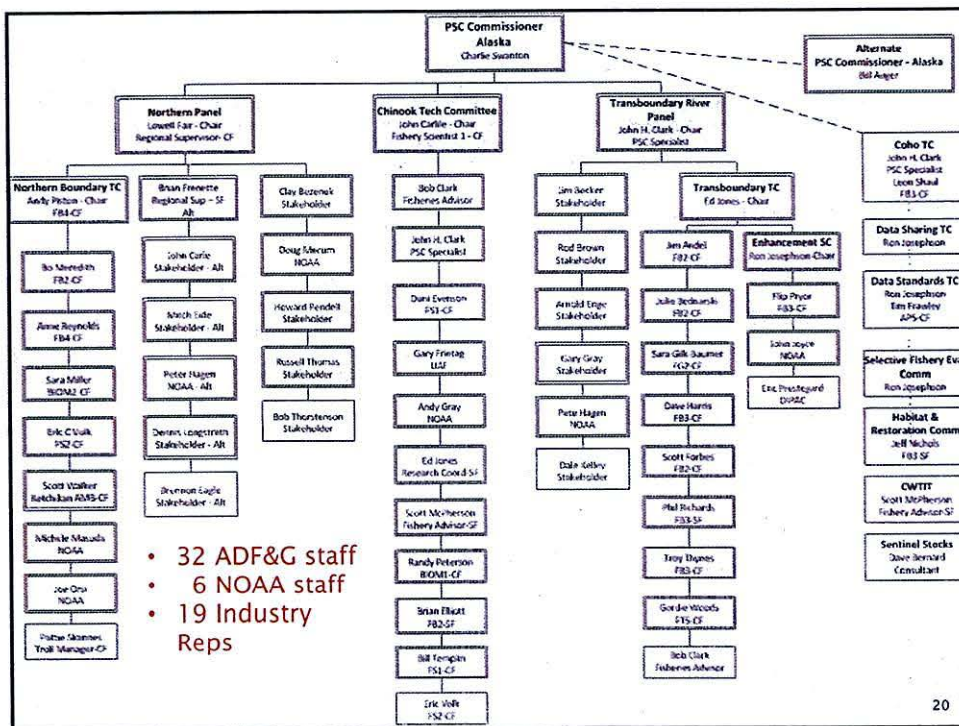
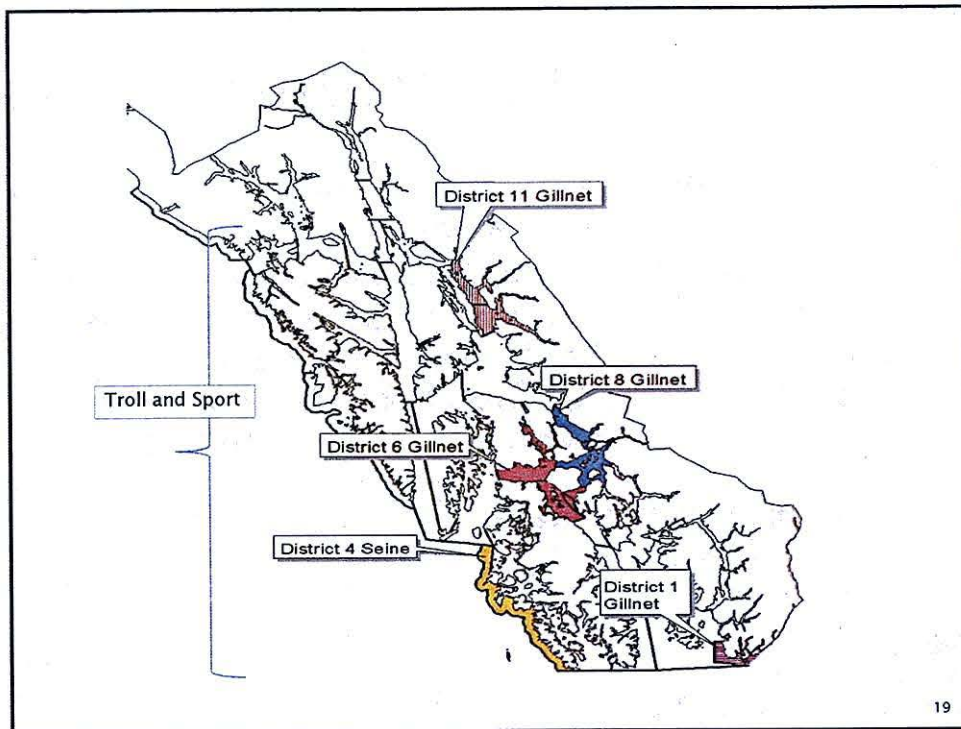
## Southeast Alaska Fisheries

### under the PST

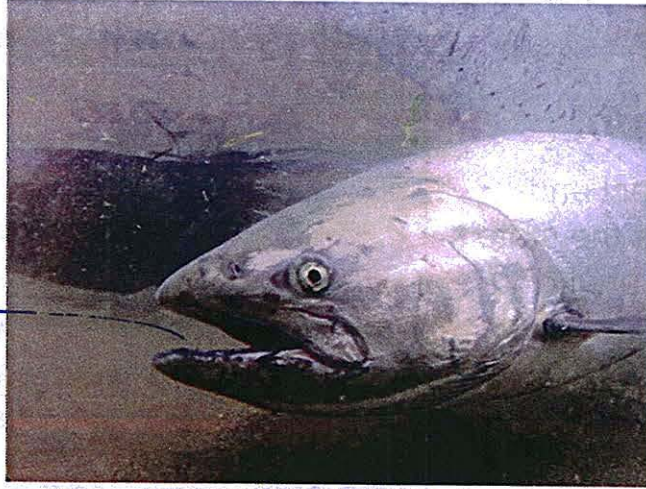
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Drift Gillnet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Taku/Snettisham</li> <li>◦ Stikine</li> <li>◦ Tree Point</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ <b>Set Gillnet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Alsek River</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Troll and Sport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Chinook Quota</li> <li>◦ Dixon Entrance Coho Trigger</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ <b>Purse Seine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ District 104</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|--|

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

18



Huh?



Questions?

21

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
**Division of Sport Fish**



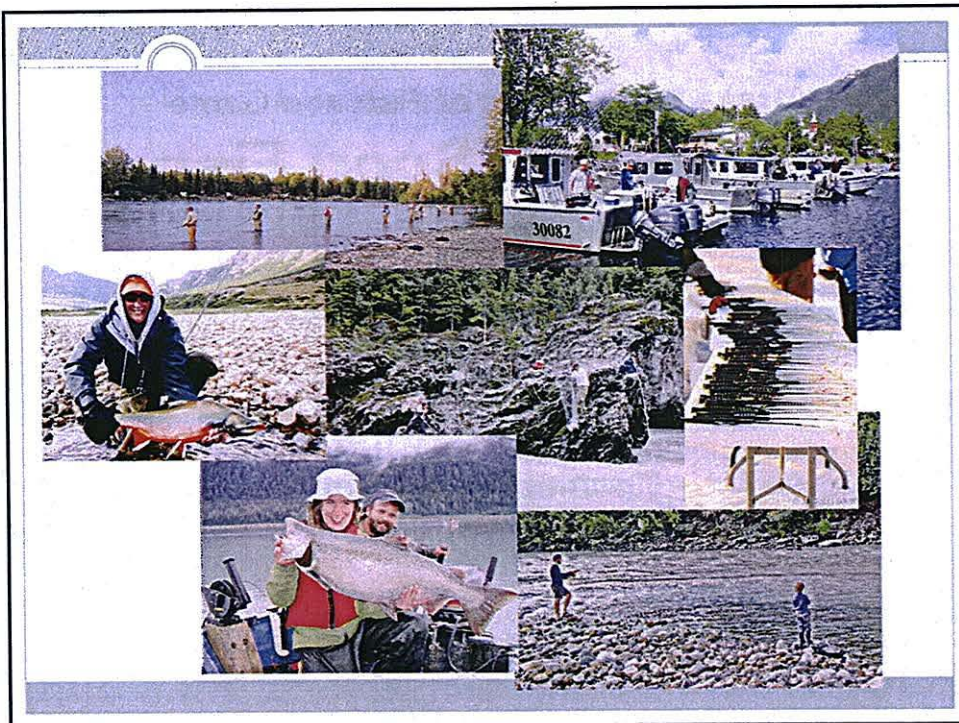
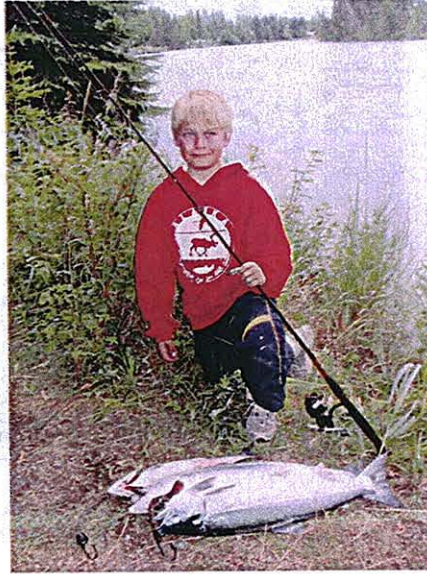
**Thomas Brookover**  
**Acting Director**

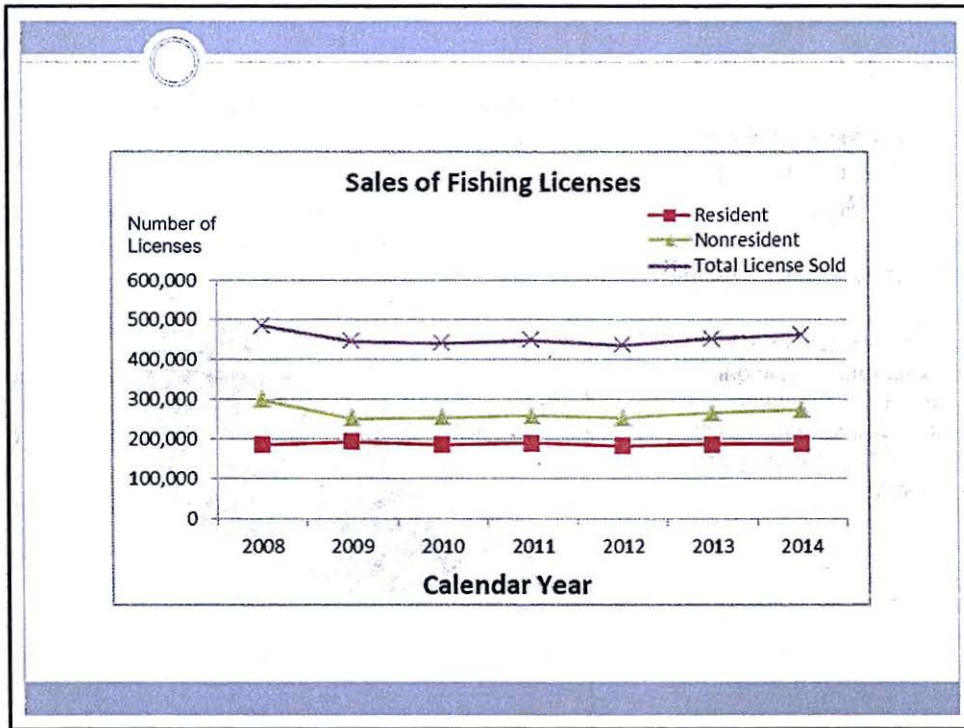
February 3, 2015

**2015 HOUSE FISHERIES OVERVIEW**

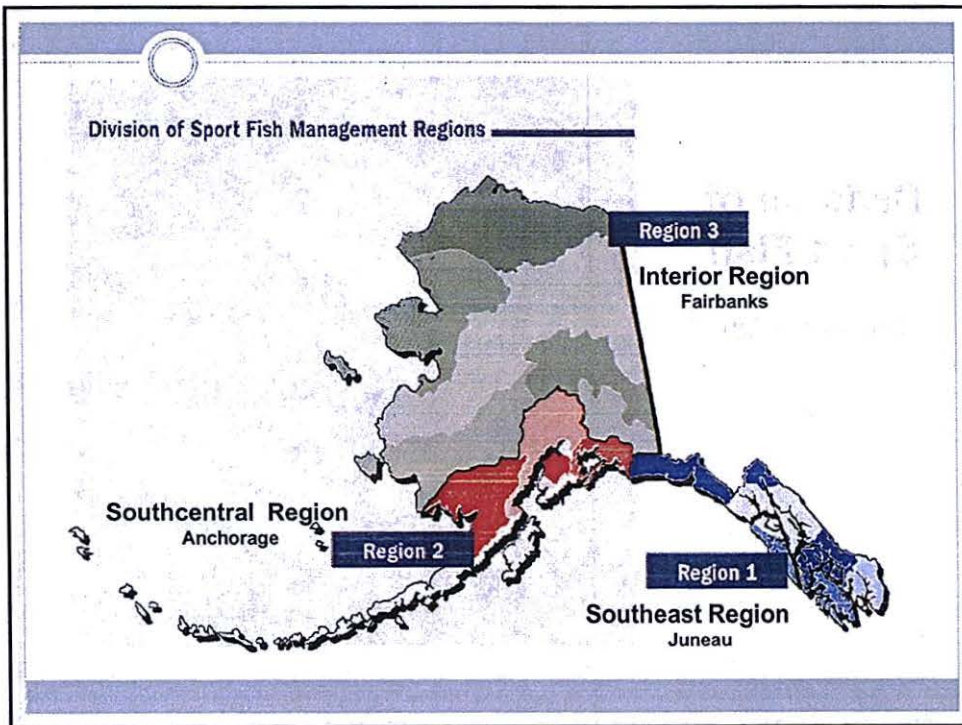
## Mission

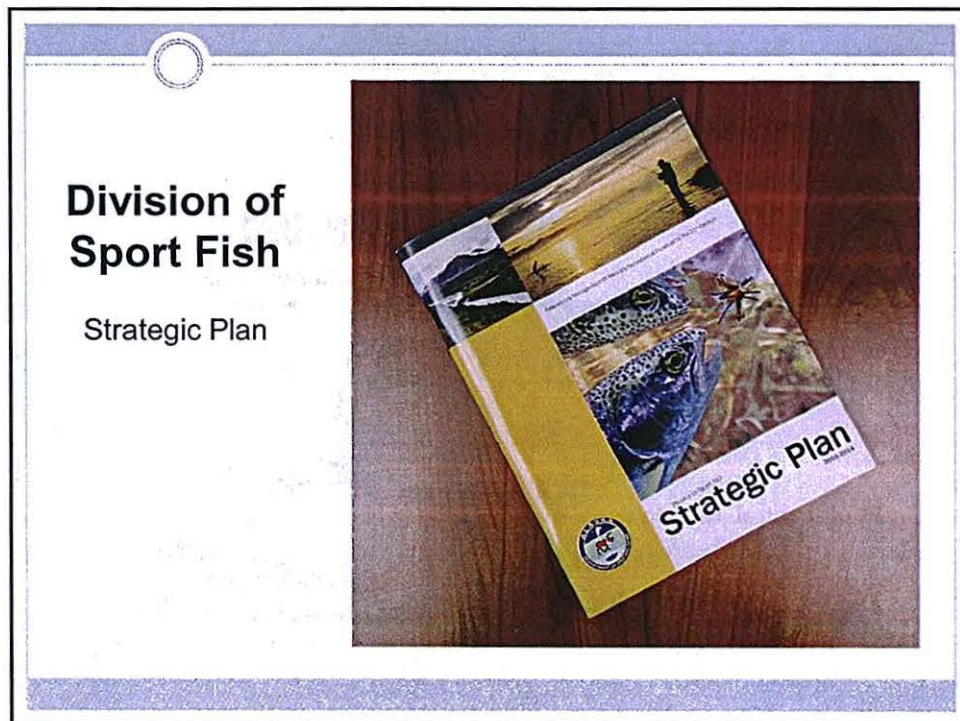
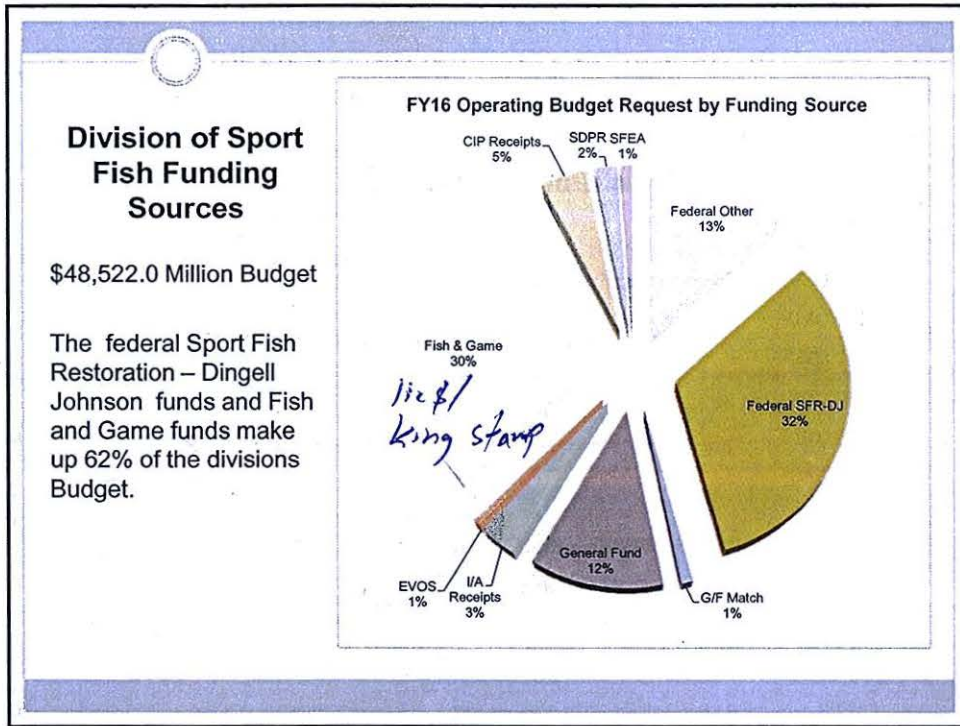
To protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources.





\$1.4 B to state economy





## 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

*(Hatcheries)*

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.



*25% match  
- cap exp.*

## 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



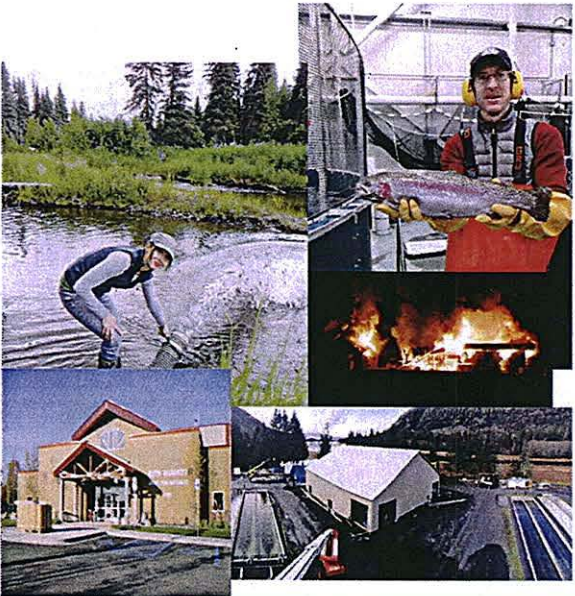
**Accomplishments in Enhancement**

Completed transition from Ft. Richardson to WJH

Increased Interior production

Crystal Lake Hatchery Rebuild

Fishery Centers  
*2014*



**Accomplishments in Access**

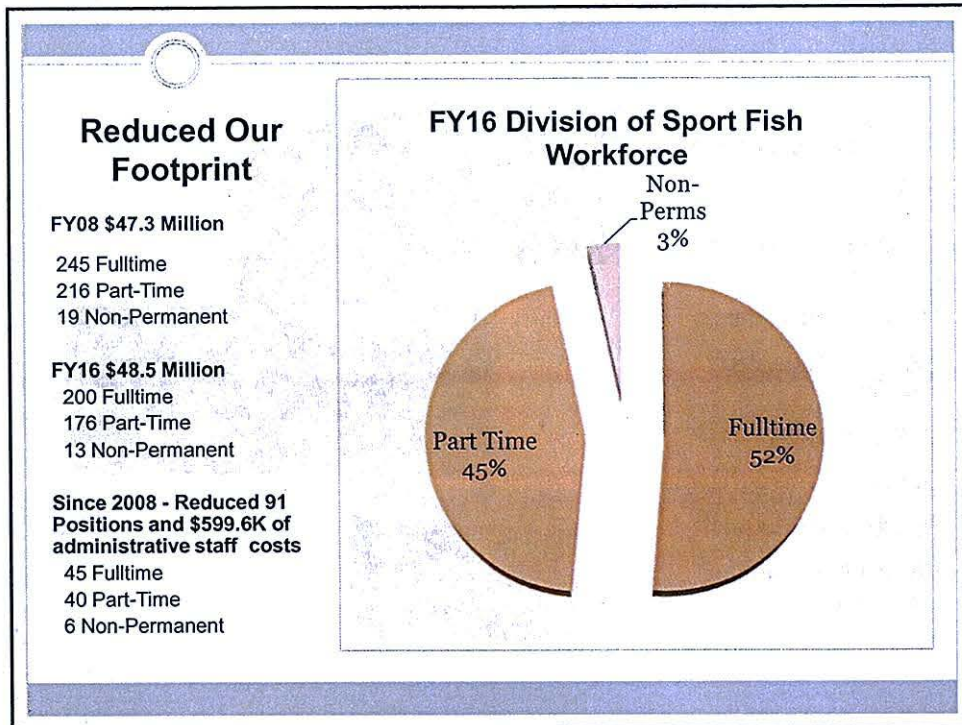
- False Island Mooring Float
- Hoonah Boat Ramp
- SE Fish Cleaning Facilities
- Bings Landing Dock
- Cooper Landing Ramp
- Birch Creek Launch
- Wrangell & Haines pumpouts



**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





## 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 (*pike*)
- Fishery Center Completion (*ANC, Fair*)

**Thank you**



**Questions?**

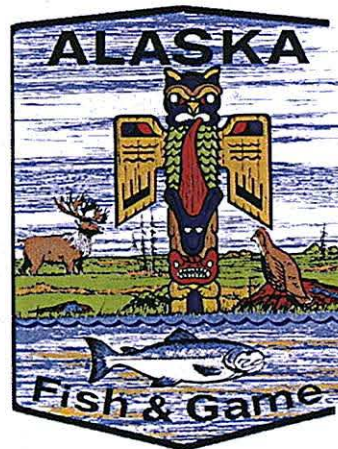
## Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Commercial Fisheries



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 (pu) use fisheries within state waters
- Manage shellfish species and some groundfish out to 200 miles *feel waters*
- 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



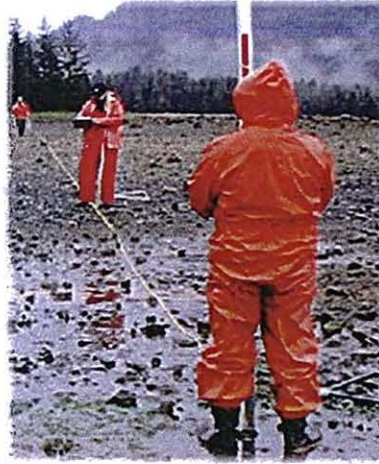
## Stock Assessment and Applied Research

- 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 (*geoducks, urchin, cucres*)
- Biological, genetic, coded-wire tag sampling

## Salmon Enumeration and Sampling



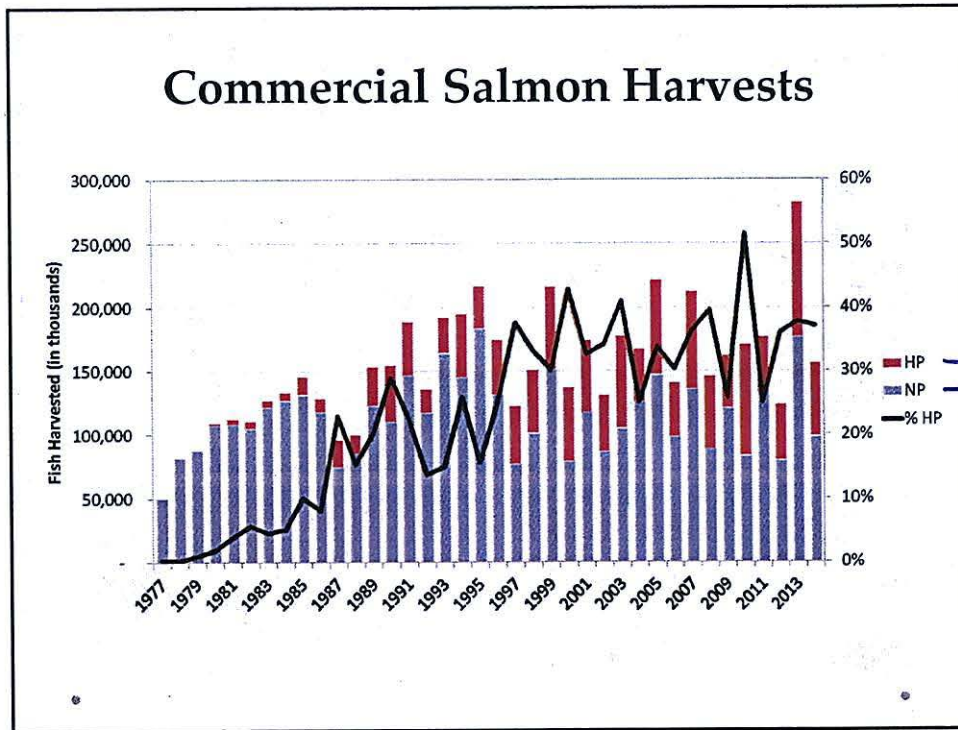
## Examples of Stock Assessments



## Aquaculture Permitting



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



## 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

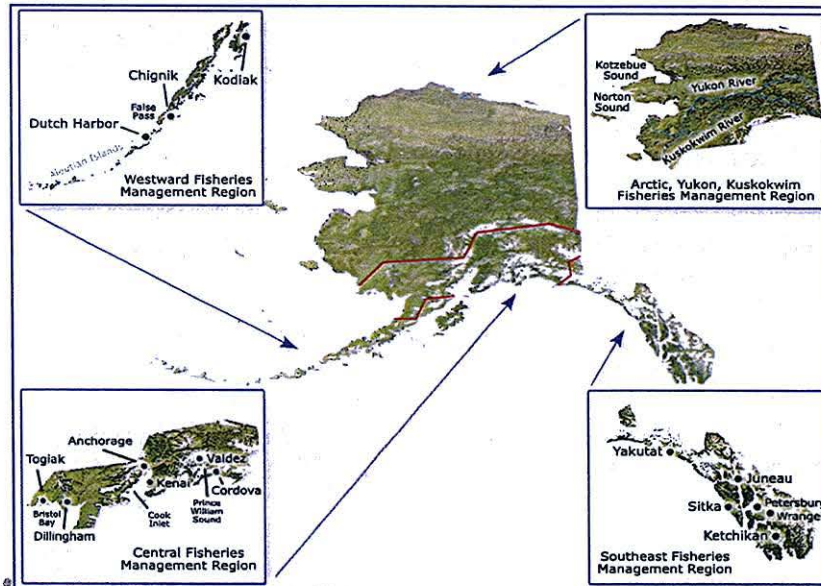


## Laboratory Services

- Pathology Laboratory - *B34 disease*
- Coded Wire Tag and Otolith Aging Laboratory
- Genetic Stock Identification Laboratory



## Fisheries Management Regions



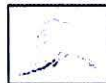
## Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim Highlights



- 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.

*250k chum*

## Westward Region Highlights



Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands

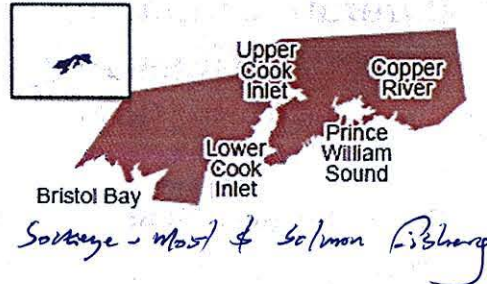


Alaska Peninsula

*(Wab, groundfish)*

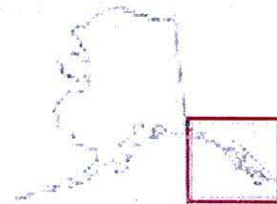
- Westward Region includes Kodiak, Chignik, the Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands areas and is home to the largest crab and groundfish fisheries in Alaska.
- In 2014 nearly 60 million pounds of Pacific cod were harvested in state waters fisheries.
- The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery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



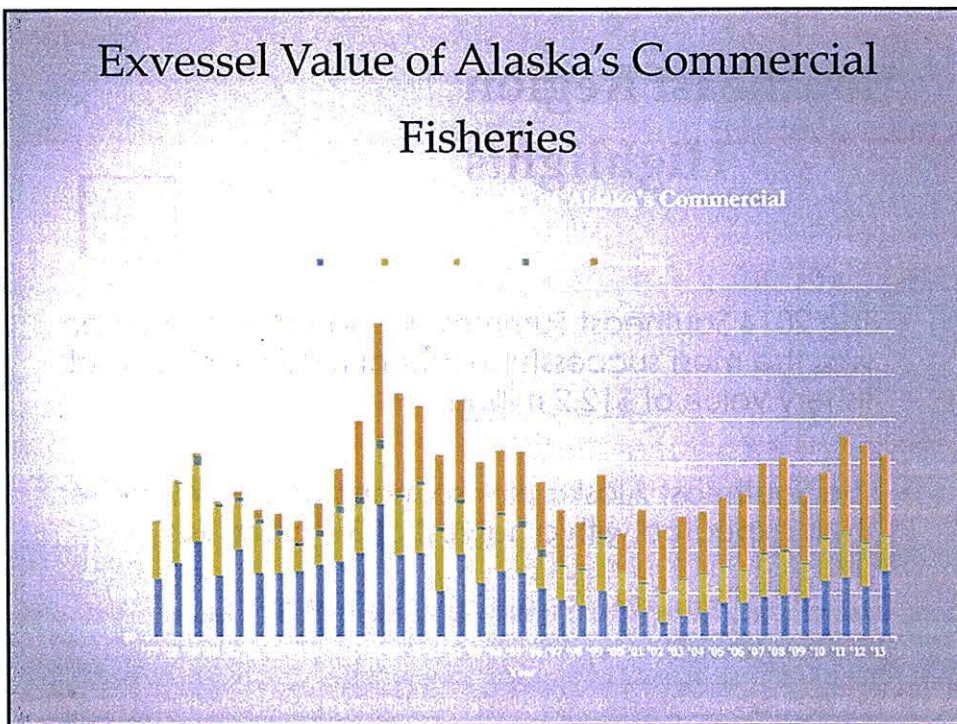
- The 2014 Southeast Summer Dungeness crab season was the most successful in recent history with a total fishery value of \$12.2 million.
- The Southeast Alaska pink salmon harvest was better than expected with a harvest of 31 million fish.

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

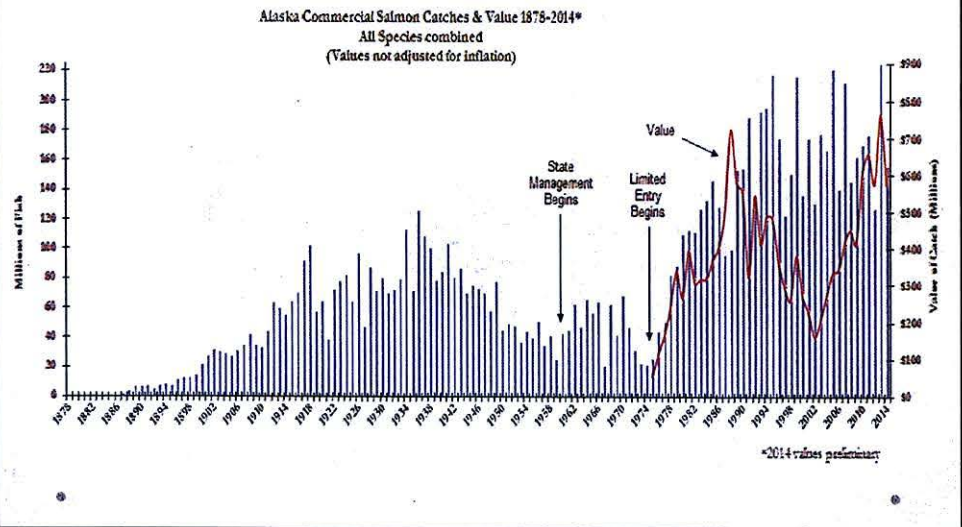
(Source: McDowell Group 2013)

- 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



# 1878 – 2014 Alaska Salmon Catches and Value



## Permanent and Seasonal Staff



FY2016

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

## 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

*Less data conservative mgmt.*

