

Subsistence Harvest of Herring Eggs in Sitka Sound



2022 Herring preseason meeting
March xx, 2022

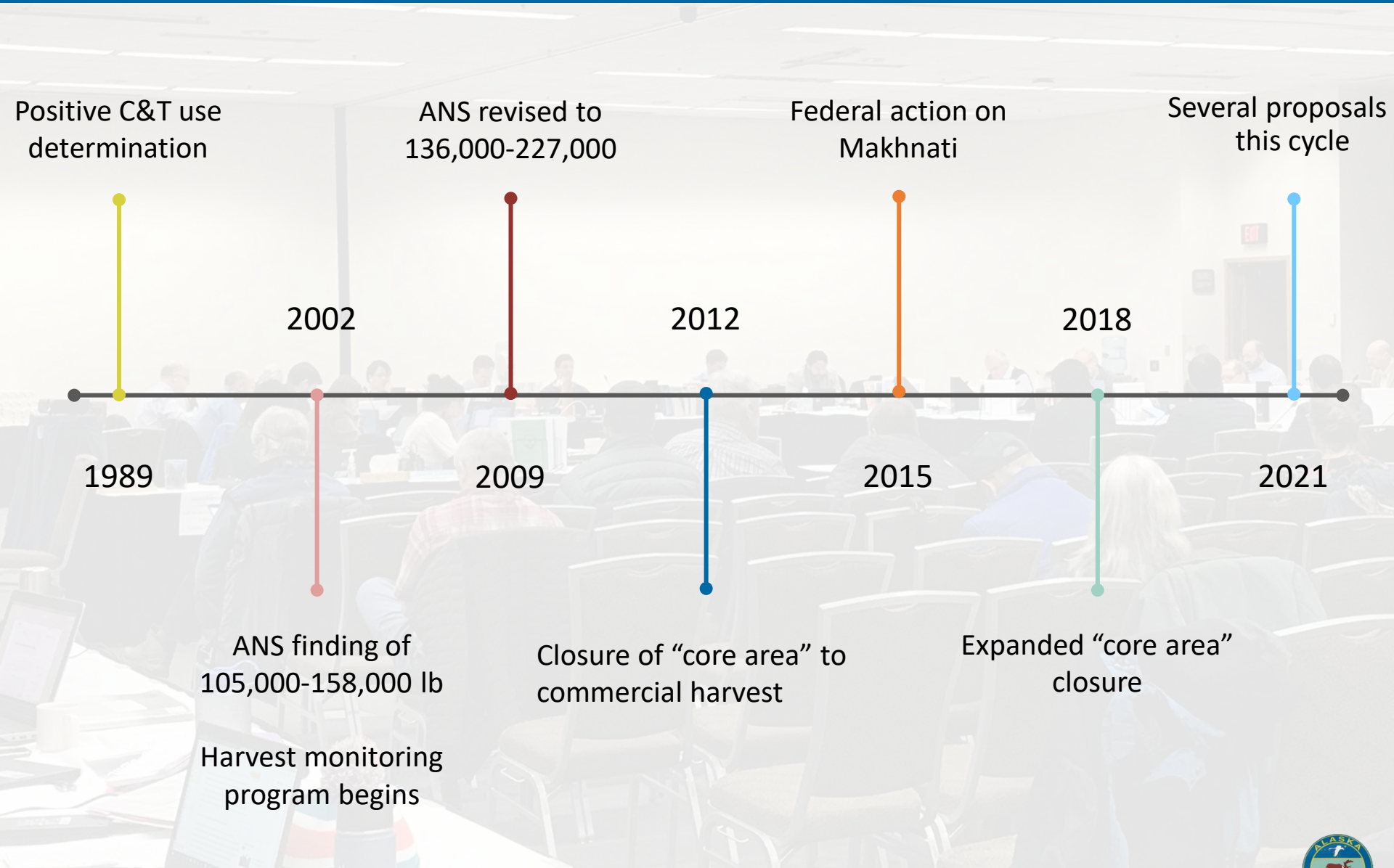
Lauren Sill
Division of Subsistence
Alaska Department of Fish and Game



- Regulatory history
- Harvest assessment program
- 2021 survey results
- 2022 survey planning



Board of Fisheries actions



Harvest Monitoring Program

HERRING EGG SUBSISTENCE HARVEST SURVEY SITKA, ALASKA 2019

This survey is used to estimate subsistence harvests of herring eggs from Sitka Sound and to describe community subsistence economies. We will publish a summary report which will be available to all households in your community. We share this information with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. We work with the Federal Regional Advisory Councils and with local Fish and Game Advisory Committees to better manage subsistence, and to implement federal and state subsistence priorities.

This project is guided by the research principles adopted by the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1993. We will NOT identify your household. We will NOT use this information for enforcement. Participation in this survey is voluntary. Even if you agree to be surveyed, you may stop at any time.

HOUSEHOLD ID:		
COMMUNITY ID:	Sitka	313
INTERVIEWER:		
INTERVIEW DATE:		
DATA CODED BY:		
DATA ENTERED BY:		
SUPERVISOR:		

- To conduct in-person interviews with households who harvest herring spawn.
- To produce estimates of the total pounds of herring spawn harvested on hemlock branches, Macrocystis kelp, hair seaweed and “other” substrates; and,
- To identify locations where herring spawn are harvested.



COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

RESOURCE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA
429 KATLIAN STREET
SITKA, AK 99835

907-747-7188

DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE
ALASKA DEPT OF FISH & GAME
802 3RD STREET
JUNEAU, AK 99801

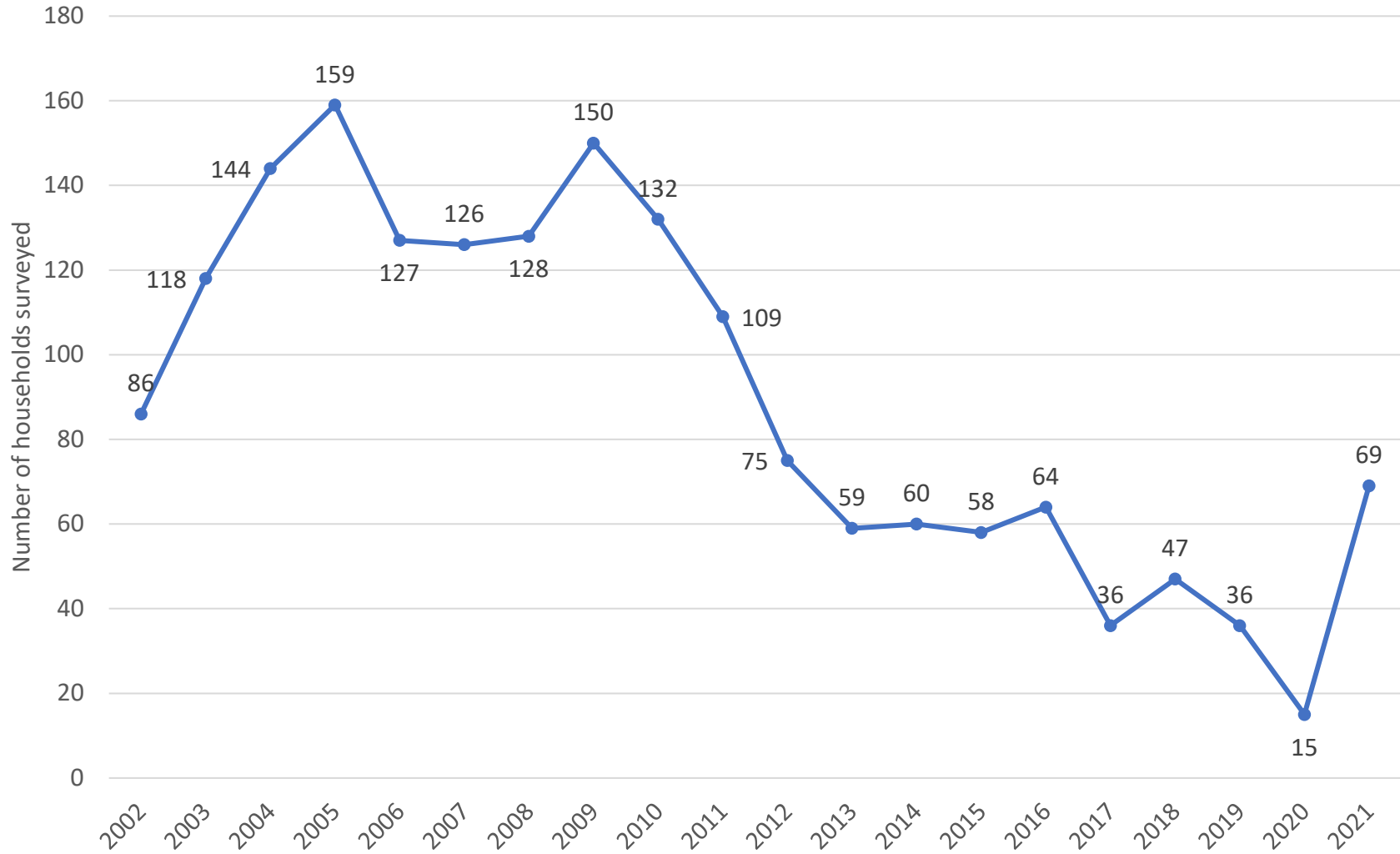
907-465-3617



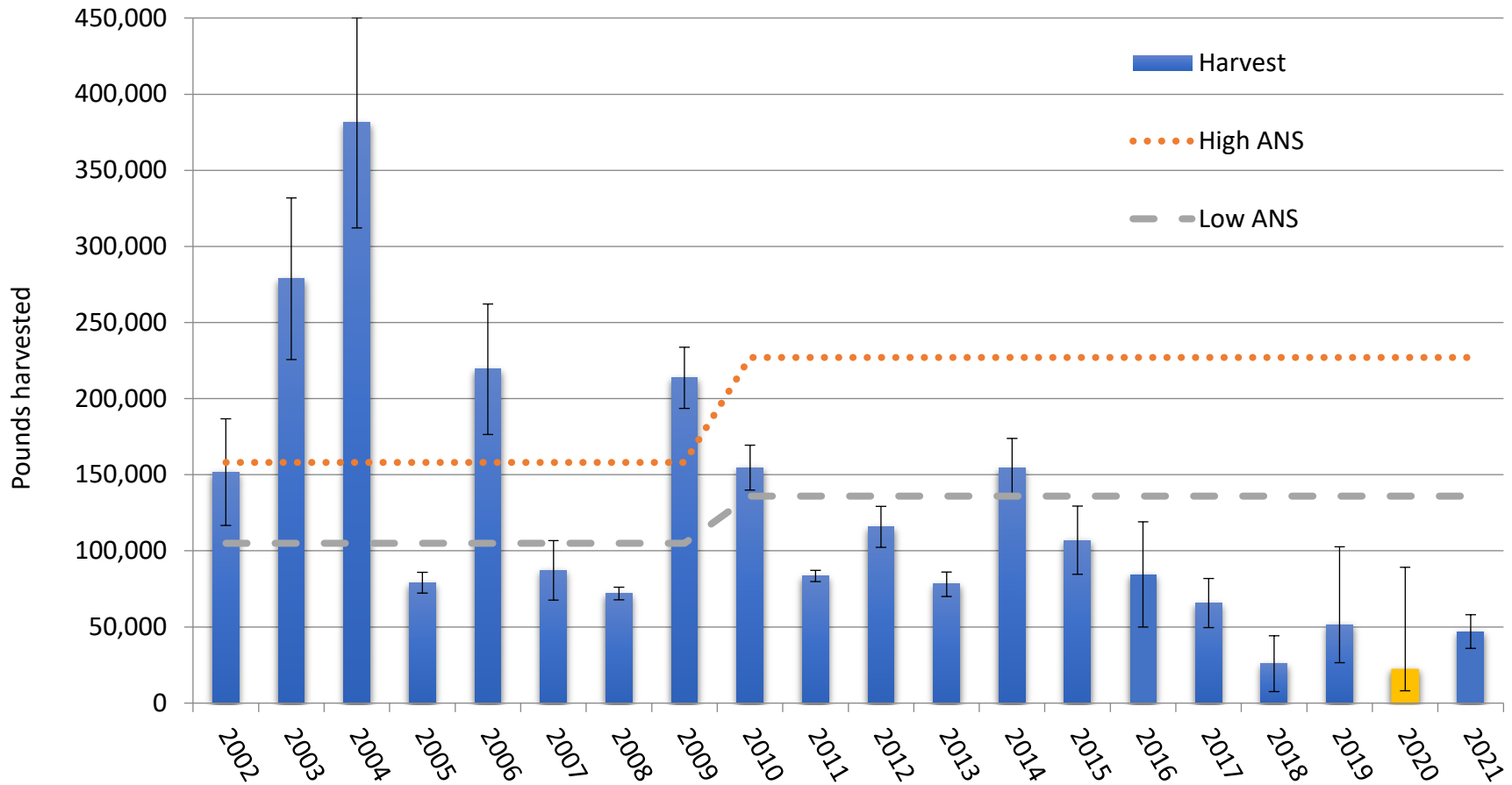
- Determining harvest weights
 - STA and the department work together to develop a set of conversion factors.
 - Apply to most common types of containers.
 - Average weights developed through multiple measurements.



Survey Sample Achievement



Estimated Harvest

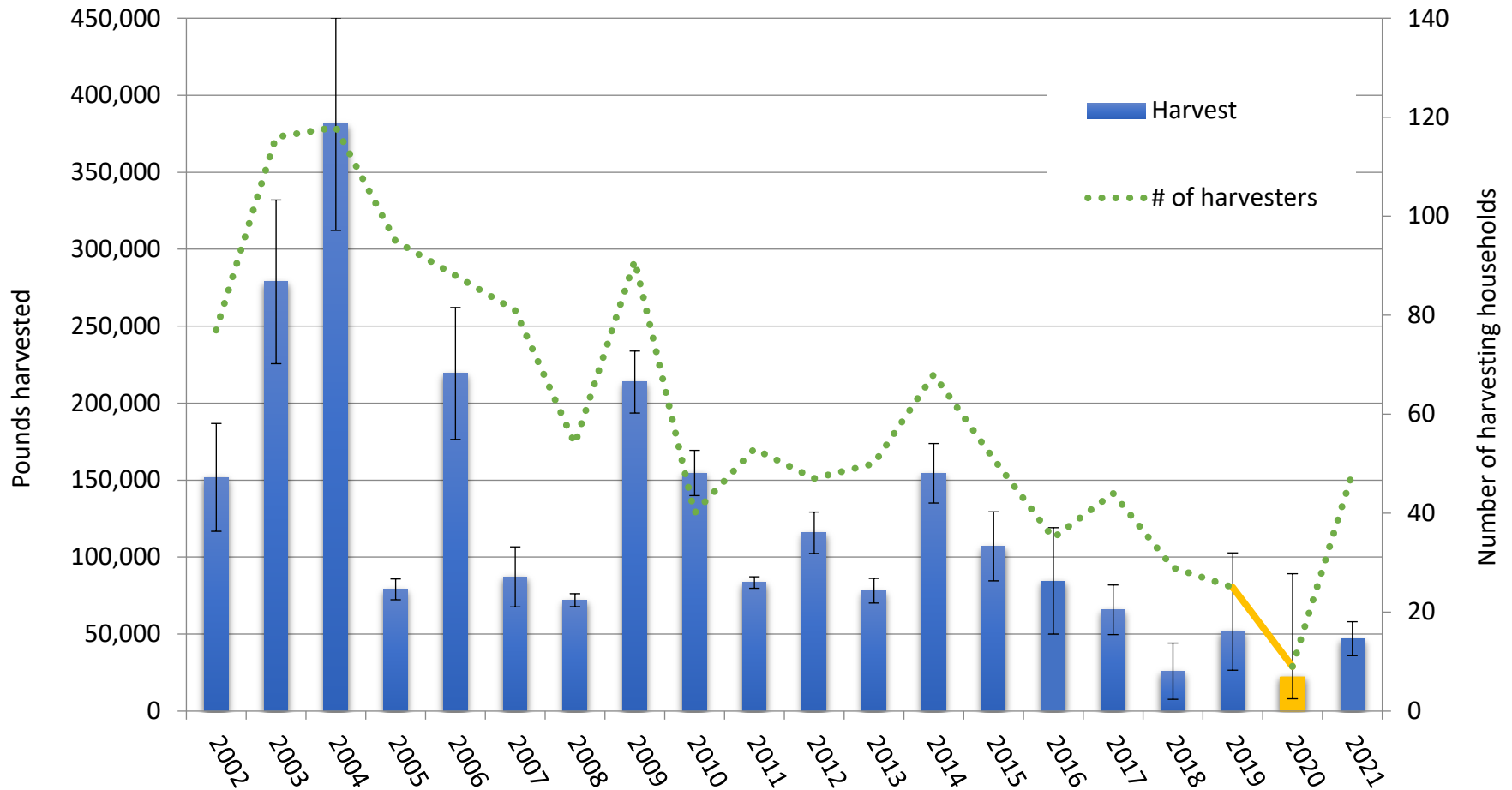


Note The 2020 harvest is shown in yellow to reflect an atypical harvest year, perhaps due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total pounds useable weight and amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) of herring spawn on all substrates in Sitka Sound, 2002–2021.



Harvest Effort



Note The 2020 harvest is shown in yellow to reflect an atypical harvest year, perhaps due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total pounds useable weight and number of subsistence harvesters in Sitka Sound, 2002–2021.

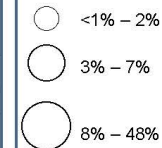


Harvest Locations 2021

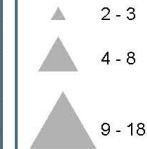
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Percent of harvest amount



Number of Respondents



----- Sitka Road System

Source: Sitka Tribe of Alaska and ADF&G Division of Subsistence household surveys. Technical Paper No. 486: The subsistence harvest of Pacific herring spawn in Sitka Sound, Alaska, 2021

Note: Harvest locations depicted in this map are general and do not represent exact harvest locations. Not all respondents shared harvest amounts per location. Percentages reflect portion of total reported harvest by respondents who answered the question.



Harvest Locations, 2011-2020

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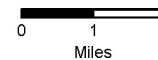


Number of respondents

- 1 - 4
- 5 - 11
- 12 - 18
- 19 - 28
- 64 - 85

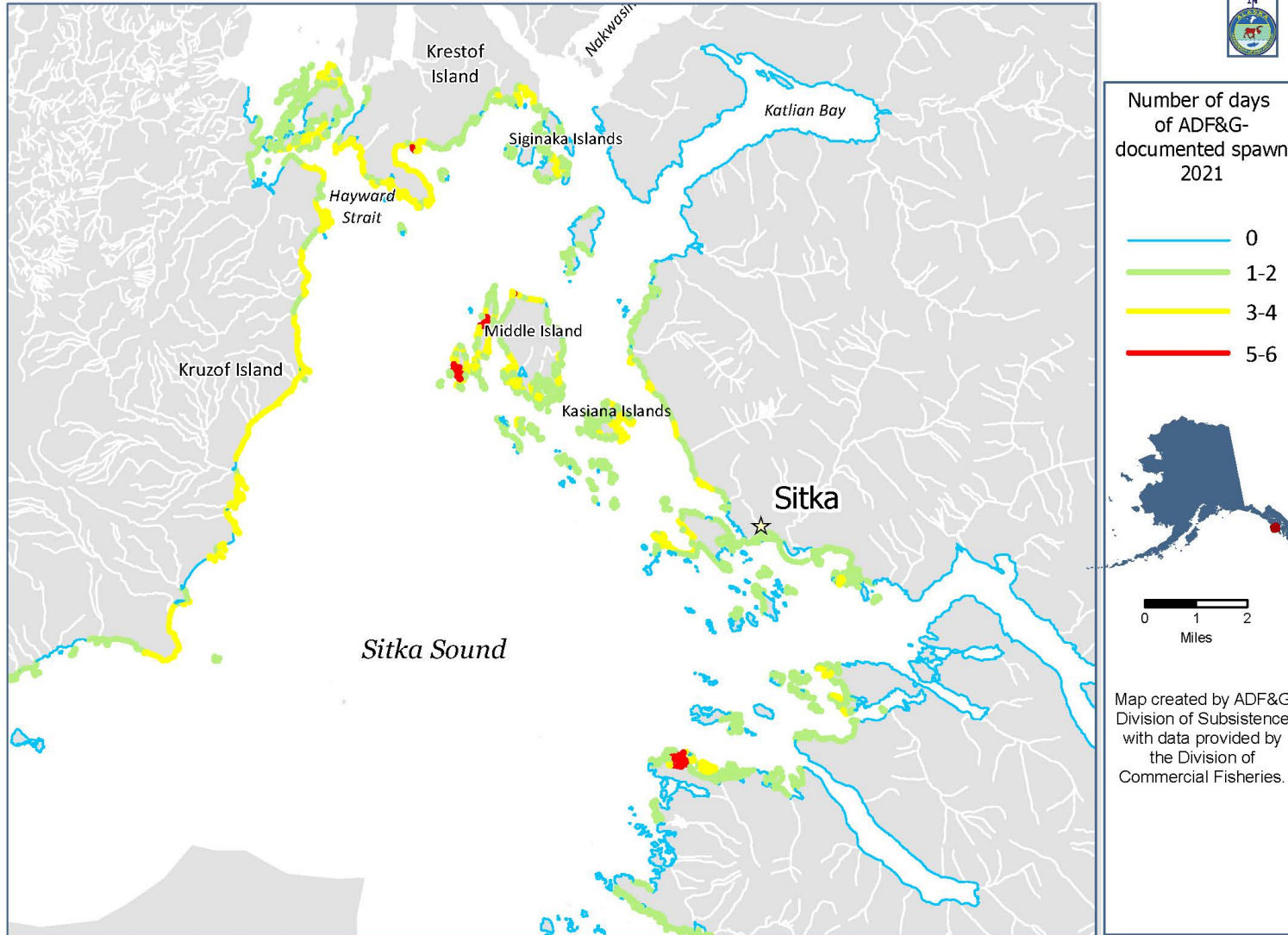
Source: Sitka Tribe of Alaska and ADF&G Division of Subsistence household surveys.

Note: Harvest locations depicted in this map are general and do not represent exact harvest locations. Not all respondents shared harvest location.

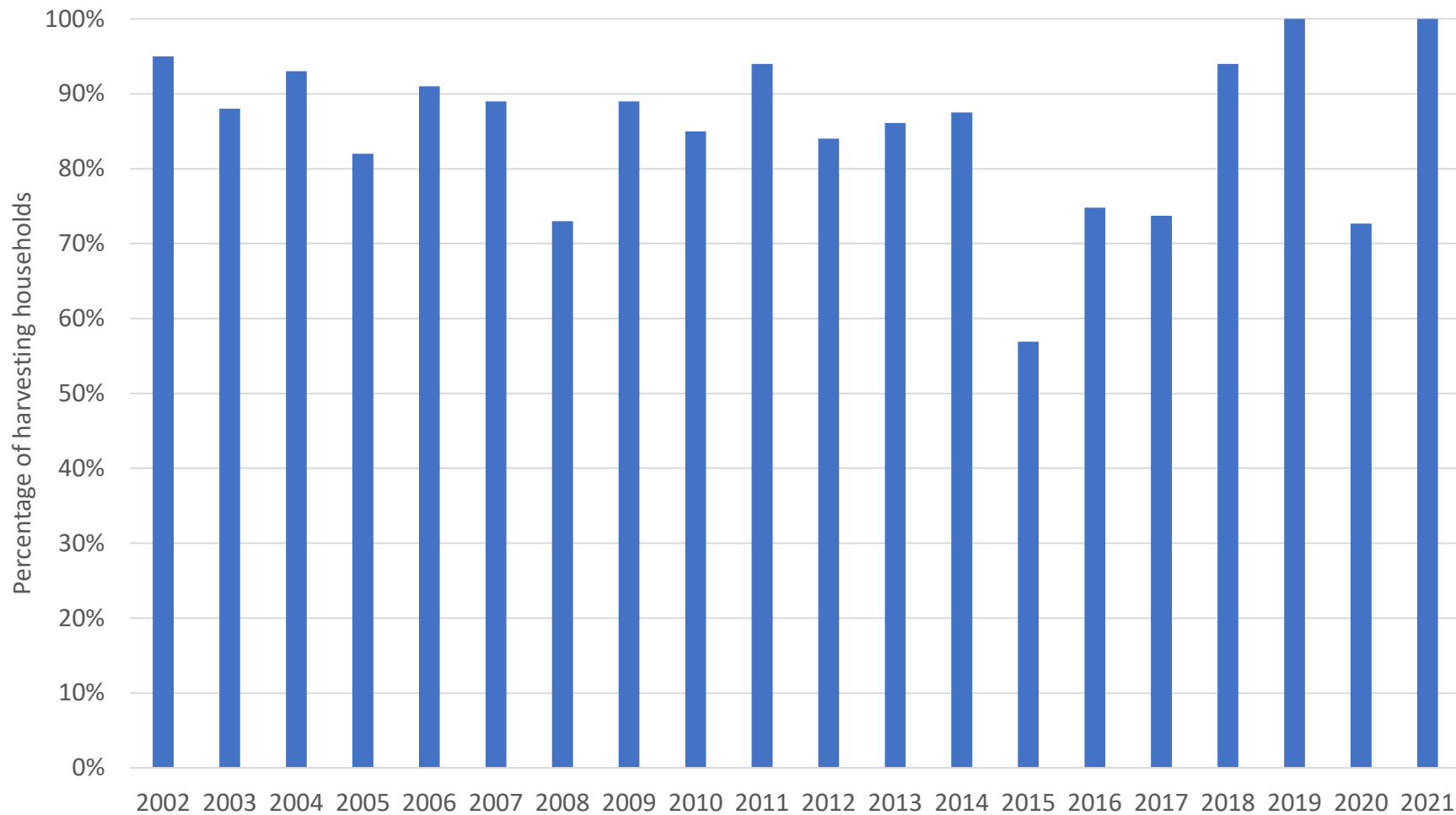


Spawning Days, 2021

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Sharing Herring Eggs



Percent of harvesting households giving away herring eggs, 2002-2021



Sharing Herring Eggs

Region	# of households
Southeast	128
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	16
Mat-Su	13
Bristol Bay	3
Prince William Sound	2
Aleutians	3
Interior	9
Kenai Peninsula	7
Arctic	18
Outside Alaska	13

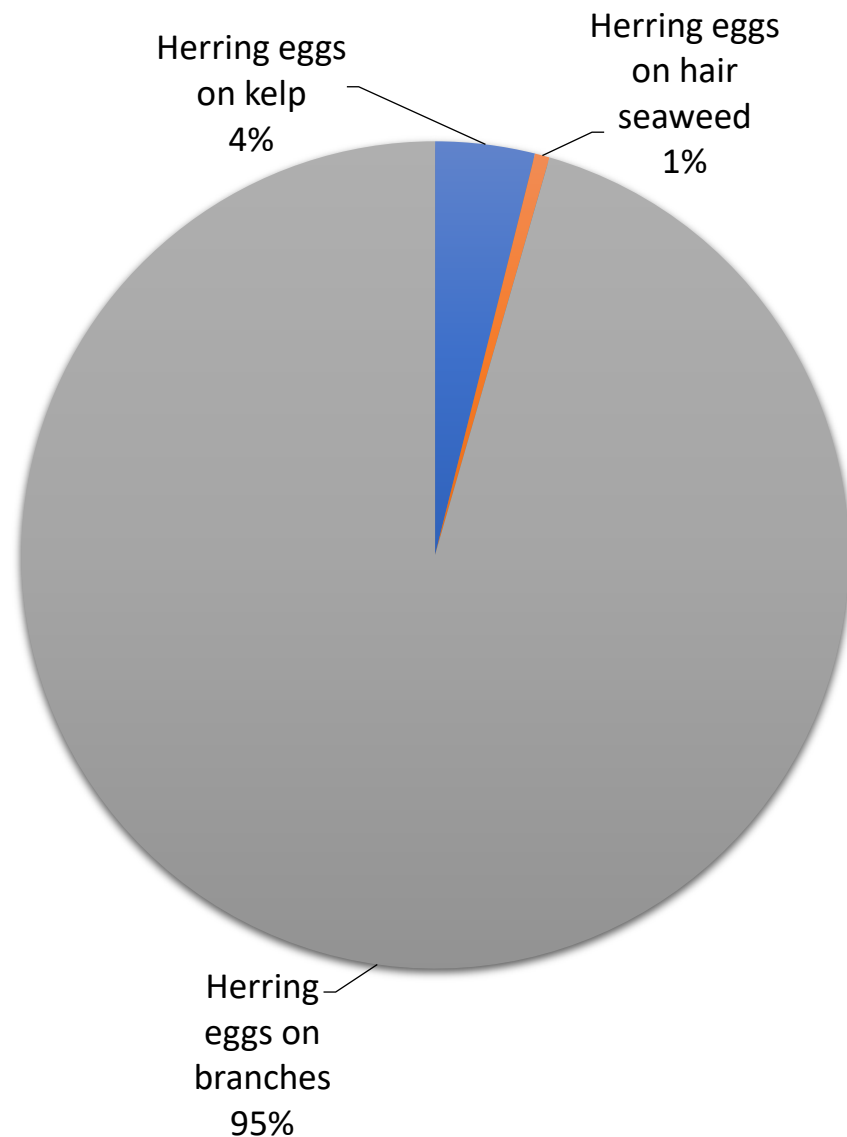
Herring Spawn Harvest by Substrate

	Total pounds
Herring spawn - all types	46,950

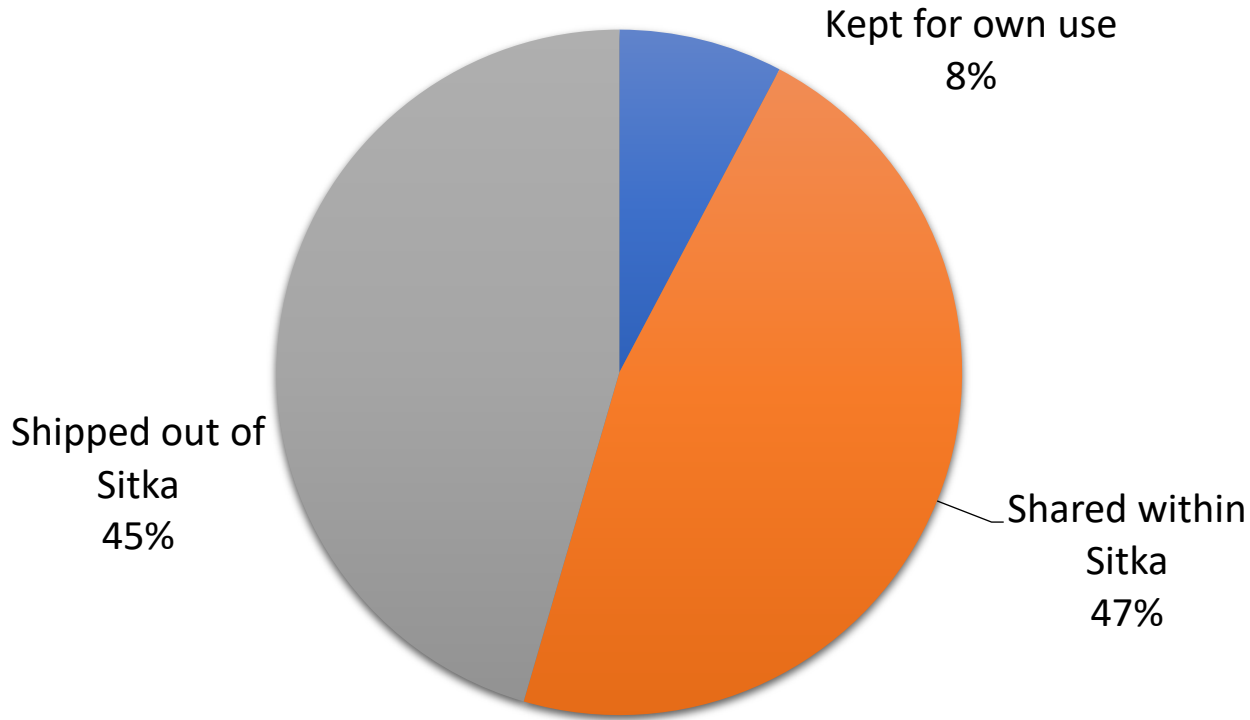
Herring spawn on hemlock branches 44,854

Herring spawn on kelp	1,823
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Herring spawn, hair seaweed 272



Distribution of Harvest



	Kept for own use	Shared within Sitka	Shipped out of Sitka
Herring spawn - all types	8%	47%	45%
Herring spawn on hemlock branches	7%	46%	47%
Herring spawn on kelp	20%	59%	21%
Herring spawn, hair seaweed	30%	61%	9%



What size vessel did households use to harvest herring spawn in 2021?

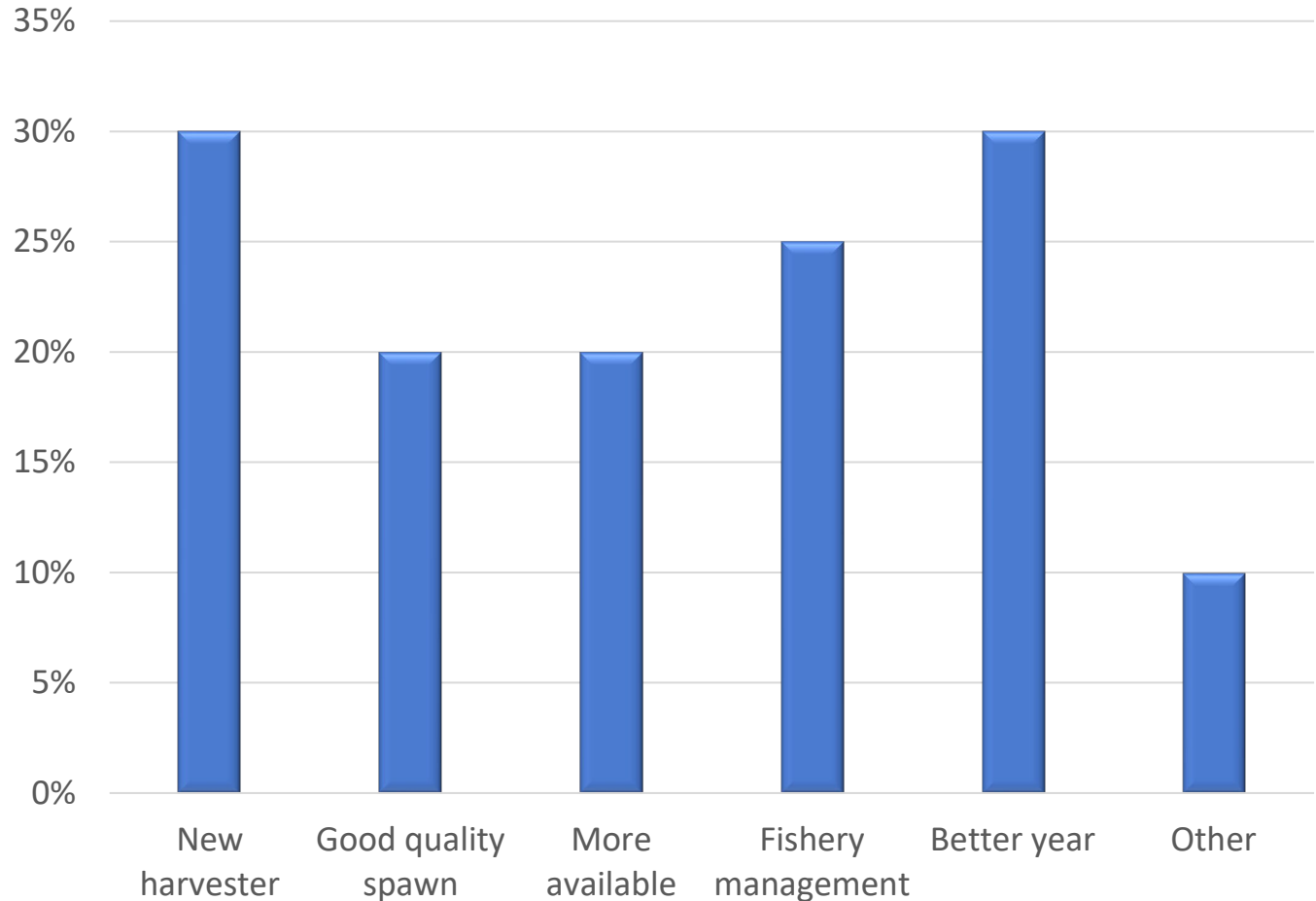
Number of households responding	less than 20 feet	20 - 24 feet	Over 24 feet	Commercial vessel	Other	No boat used - harvested from shore
38	45%	40%	8%	11%	3%	0%

Number of households that harvesting households usually harvest for, 2021

Number of households responding	One	Two to five	Six to ten	Eleven to fifty	Fifty-one to one hundred	Over one hundred
32	9%	22%	28%	13%	10%	19%

Assessments

Q: Why do you feel your harvest was better in 2021 than in recent years? (n=20)



Project timeline

- 2022 project
- April through June: Harvester surveys
- June through September: Data analysis
- October through November: Report writing
- December 2022: Report publication

