

Overview of Bristol Bay Subsistence Fisheries



Salmon hanging in Twin Hills

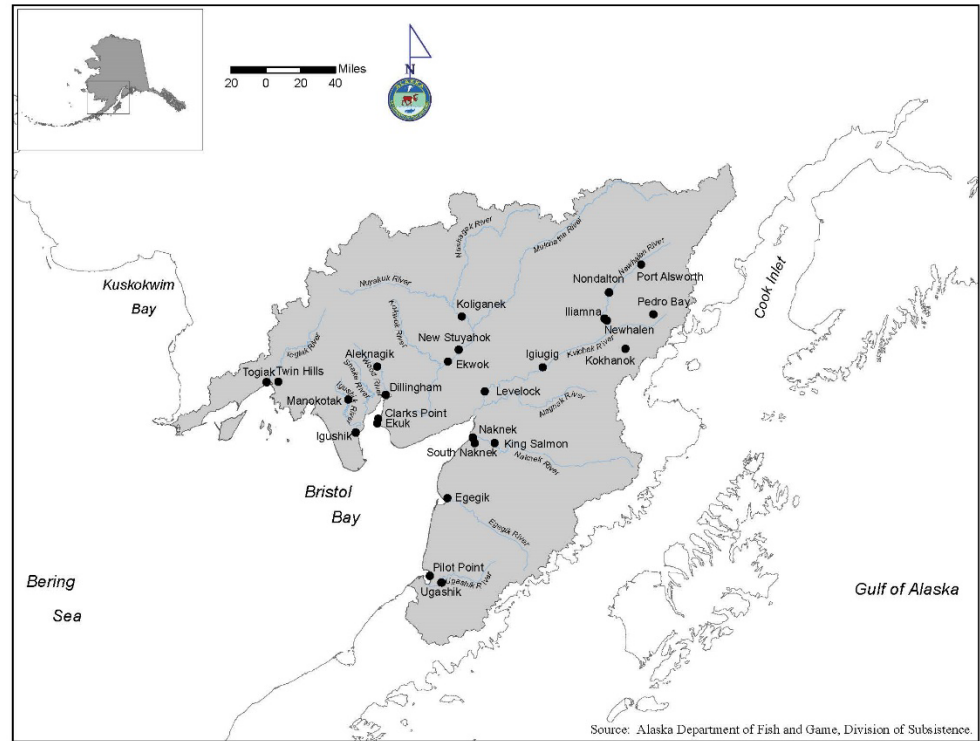


RC3, Tab 6
Board of Fisheries, Anchorage, Alaska
November 29 - December 3, 2022

Division of Subsistence
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Purpose of Presentation

- **General overview of Bristol Bay subsistence fisheries**
 - Customary & traditional use findings (C&T) & amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS)
 - Harvest information by salmon species, area of residence, & district
- **Background information for proposals 15 & 16:**
 - 15: Fishwheels in Ugashik area
 - 16: Naknek River subsistence permits



Bristol Bay Subsistence Fishery Background

■ Positive C&T findings:

- All finfish in Bristol Bay Area
 - Original 1982 for Naknek/Kvichak
 - Amended 1987 for Nushagak
 - Herring spawn on kelp in Togiak District (1987)

■ ANS:


- Amount of harvestable surplus reasonably necessary for providing reasonable opportunity for normally diligent participant to harvest fish
- 157,000–172,171 salmon in entire Bristol Bay Area (1993), including 55,000–65,000 Kvichak River sockeye salmon (excluding Alagnak; 2001)
- 250,000 usable pounds finfish other than salmon
- 4,100–12,700 usable pounds Togiak herring spawn on kelp



Data Sources: The Permit Program

– Permit program

- Annual estimates from returned subsistence permits & community postseason household surveys
- Permits available online and in communities
- Number of salmon by species, date & location of harvest
- Expanded to account for non-returned permits

 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
2022 Bristol Bay Subsistence Salmon
Fishery Permit

This permit is valid through
December 31st, 2022

Permit Number _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____ Driver's License # _____ State _____
E-Mail Address _____

Names of other household members authorized to fish this permit:

Drainage to be fished: _____
Other _____
Primary fishing location (specific): _____

Permit holders are responsible to verify allowed gear-types and fathoms of net permitted for the area they intend to fish. Click this link for the regulations:
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.Subsistence>

Gear type you will be using: _____ Other _____

I understand that I am applying for a subsistence fishing permit for my household in accordance with current regulations and hereby swear the information contained on this application is a true statement as witnessed by my signature below; and that I have been an Alaska resident for the last calendar year.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

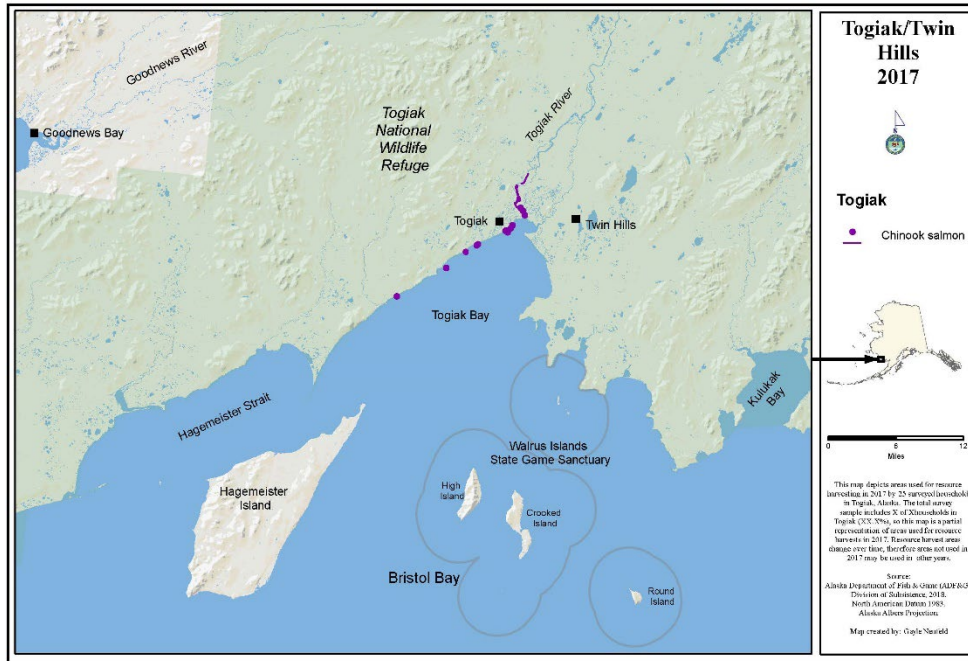
1. Fish caught for subsistence use may not be sold or allowed to enter commercial use.
2. An accurate record of fish taken under authority of this permit must be returned to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game when the permit expires. Failure to return subsistence catch records is grounds for denial of future permit privileges.
3. Commercially-caught salmon may also be utilized for subsistence purposes and must be reported on the back of this form as well as on a Commercial Fish Ticket.

Return form to:
Division of Subsistence, ADF&G, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518 Fax: 907-267-2450
or email difg.sub.permits@alaska.gov
or online at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/>



Data Sources: Research

- Household surveys and harvest and use mapping
- Key respondent interviews & participant observation



Example of spatial data

Subsistence Harvest Assessment and Biological Sampling of Chinook Salmon in the Togiak River Drainage - 2016

HARVESTS: SALMON HOUSEHOLD ID

1. Do you or members of your household own a net for harvesting salmon? Y N

2. Do you or members of your household own a boat? Y N

if YES, is that boat used for commercial fishing? Y N

1. Do you or members of your household USUALLY fish for salmon for subsistence, personal use, or sport? Y N

2. During the last year (between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015), did you, or members of your household USE or TRY TO HARVEST salmon? Y N

IF the answer to QUESTION 2 is NO, to the NEXT PAGE.

IF the answer is YES, continue on this page ...

During the last year,¹ did you or members of your household...

A ... use² _____?

B ...receive _____ from another HH or community

C ...give _____ to another HH or community?

D ...try³ to harvest _____?

E ...actually harvest any _____?

Please estimate how many salmon ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD got during the last year. How many were harvested with _____

INCLUDE salmon that members of this household gave away, ate fresh, fed to dogs, lost to spoilage, or got by helping others. If fishing with or helping others, report ONLY THIS HOUSEHOLD'S share of the harvest. DO NOT INCLUDE catch and release fish or retained commercial harvests.

Read names below in blanks above	A USE	B REC	C GIVE	D TRY	E HAR	DIP NET	GILL NET OR SEINE	TROLL GEAR	ROD & REEL ³	OTHER GEAR (specify type)	Units ⁴	
(number harvested by each gear type)												
CHINOOK SALMON	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			/	IND
113000000												
COHO SALMON	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			/	IND
112000000												
SOCKEYE SALMON	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			/	IND
115000000												
CHUM SALMON	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			/	IND
111000000												
PINK SALMON	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			/	IND
114000000												
SALMON (UNKNOWN)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			/	IND
119000000												
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			/	IND

SALMON: 04 TOGIAK: 345

¹ "LAST YEAR" means between JANUARY 1, 2016, to DECEMBER 31, 2016.

² "USE" includes harvesting, processing, eeling, trading, feeding to dogs, etc. "TRY" includes looking, hunting, fishing, or any attempt to get.

³ "ROD AND REEL" includes fish caught in open water with a hook and a line attached to a rod or a pole. "Jugging through the ice is 'ice fishing'."

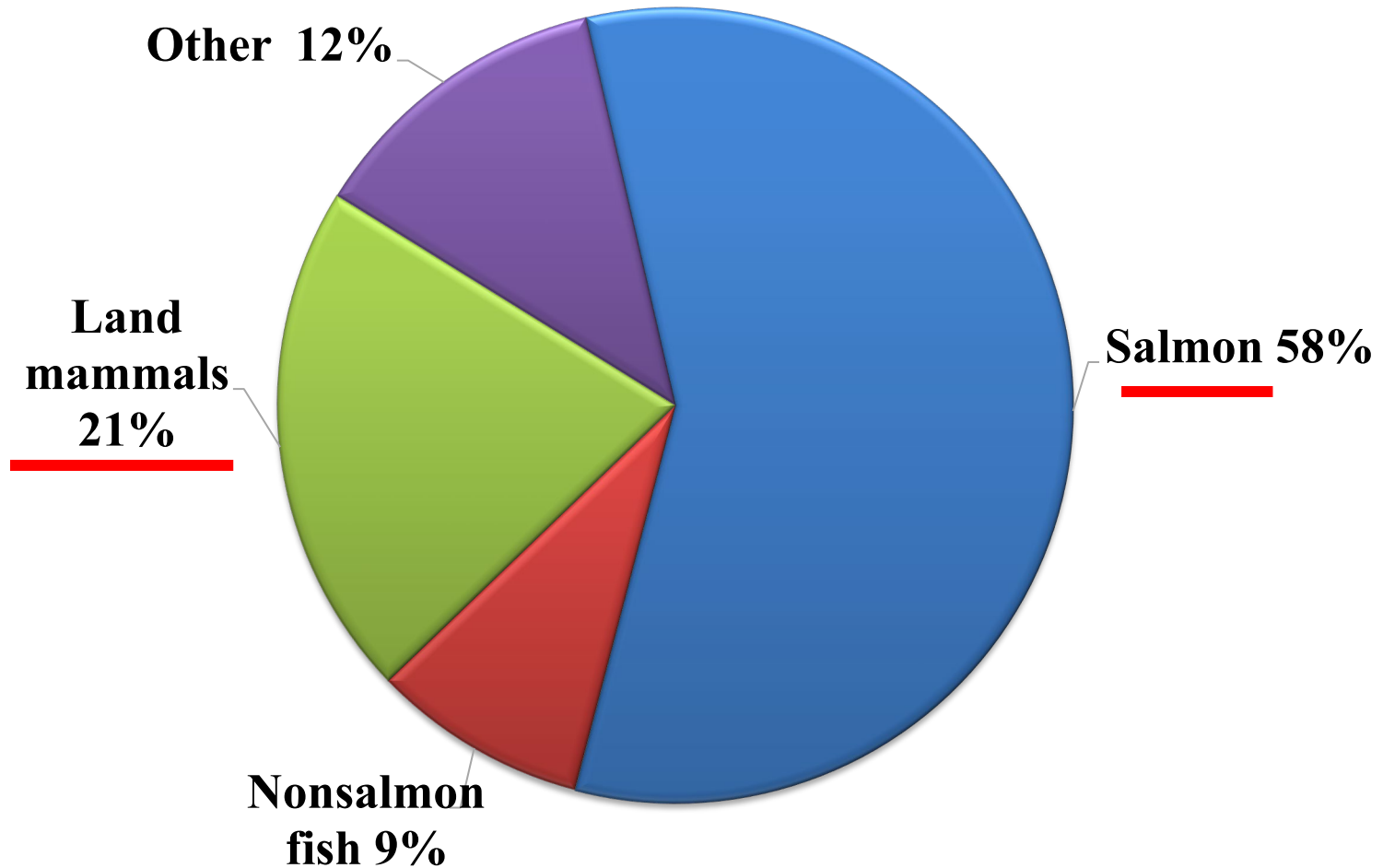
⁴ UNITS will differ by species and situation. Units may be pounds (lb), individuals (ind), portions of individuals (1/4), buckets, sacks, tubs, etc.

Example of survey page

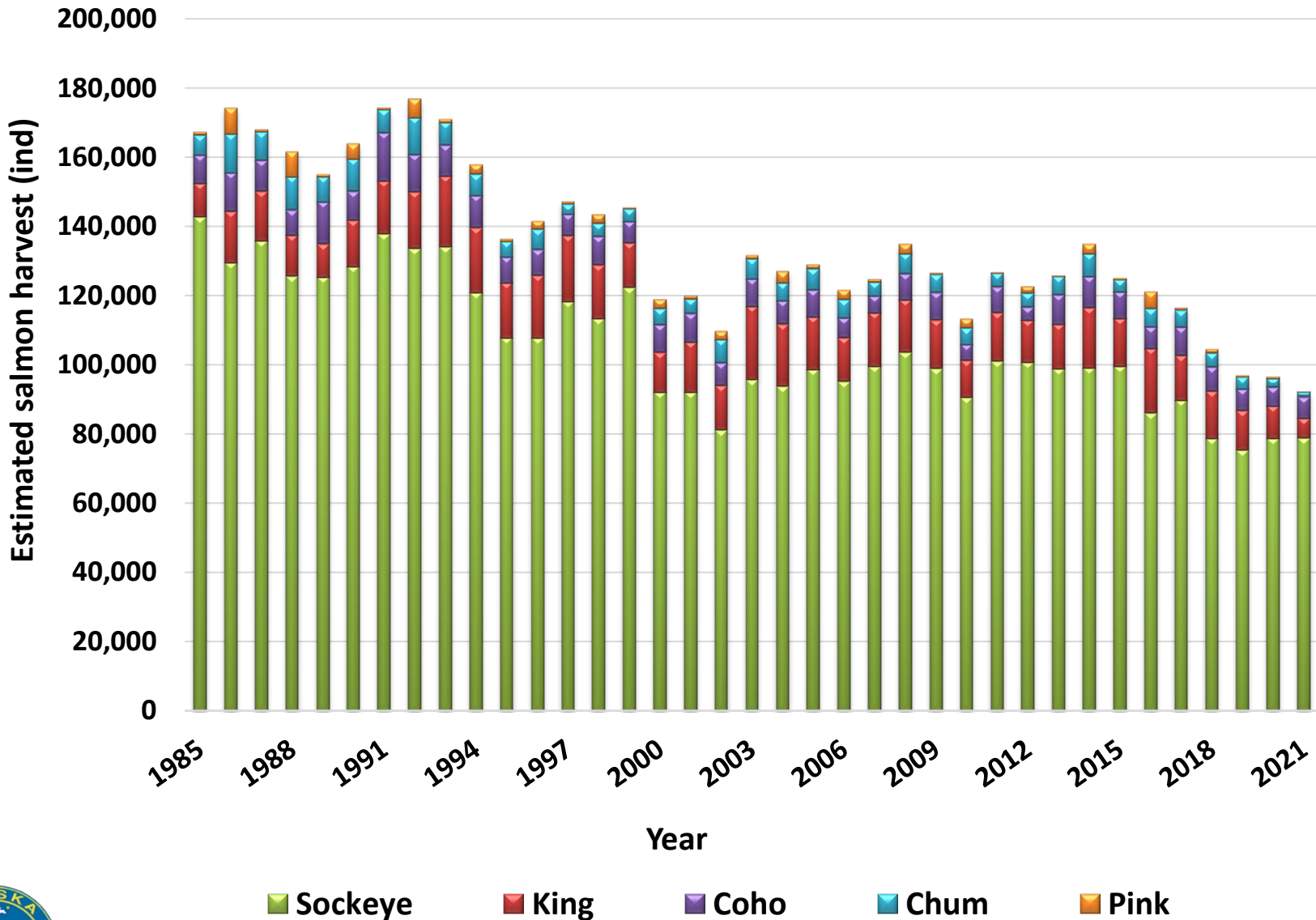


General Bristol Bay Subsistence Overview

Composition of wild food harvests, Bristol Bay Area



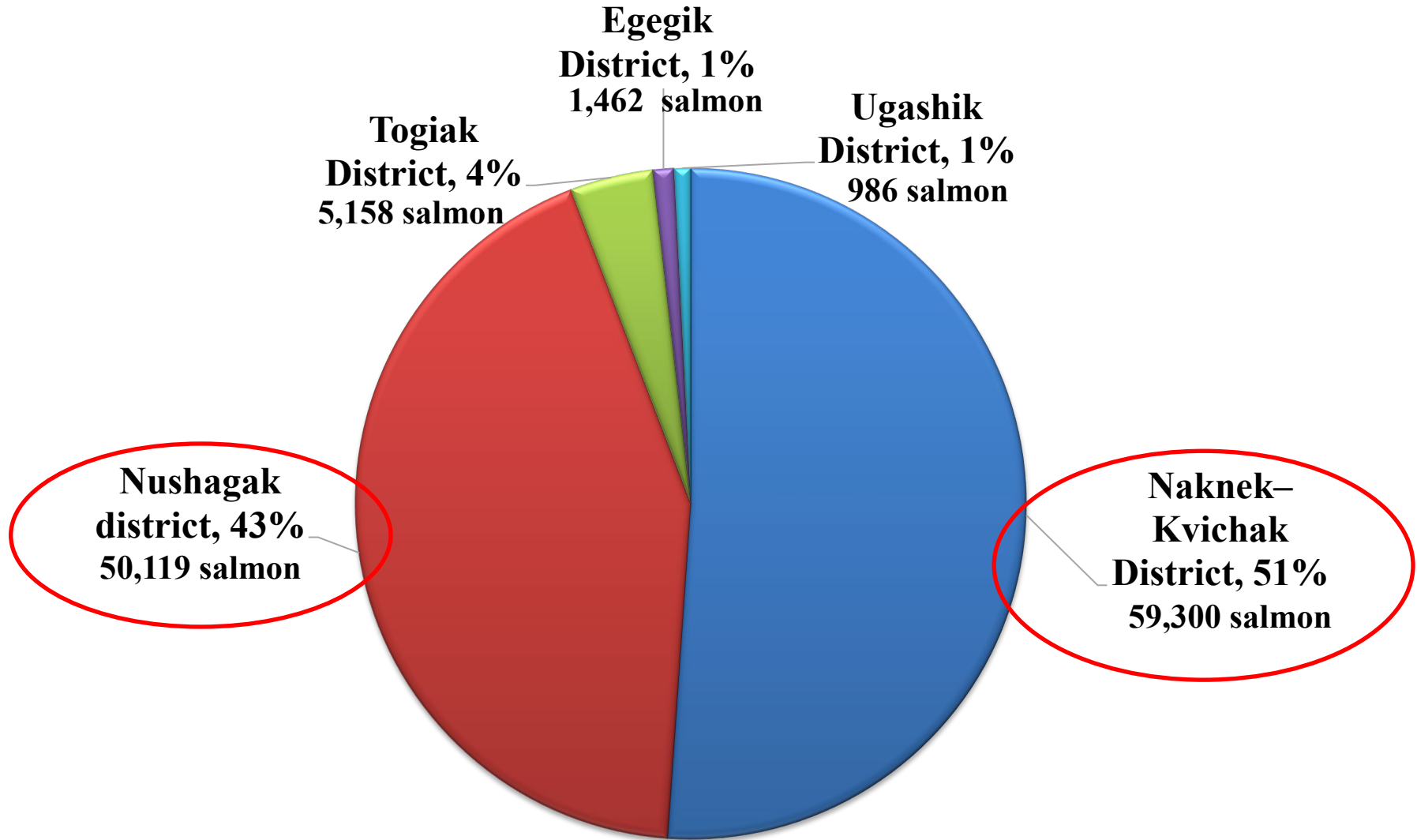
Estimated subsistence salmon harvests by species, 1985–2021



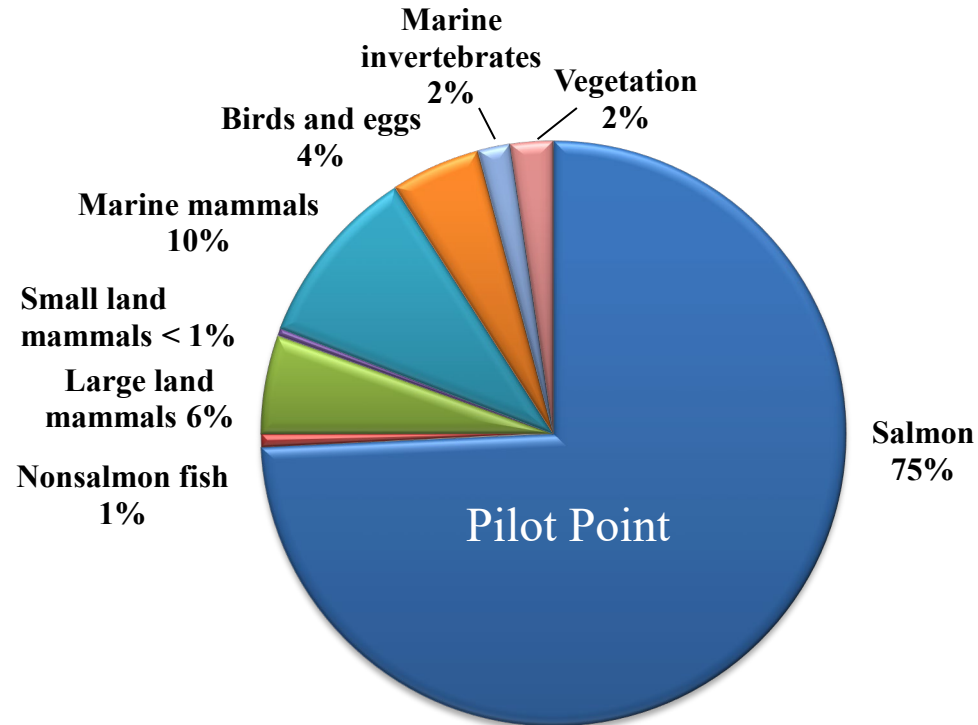
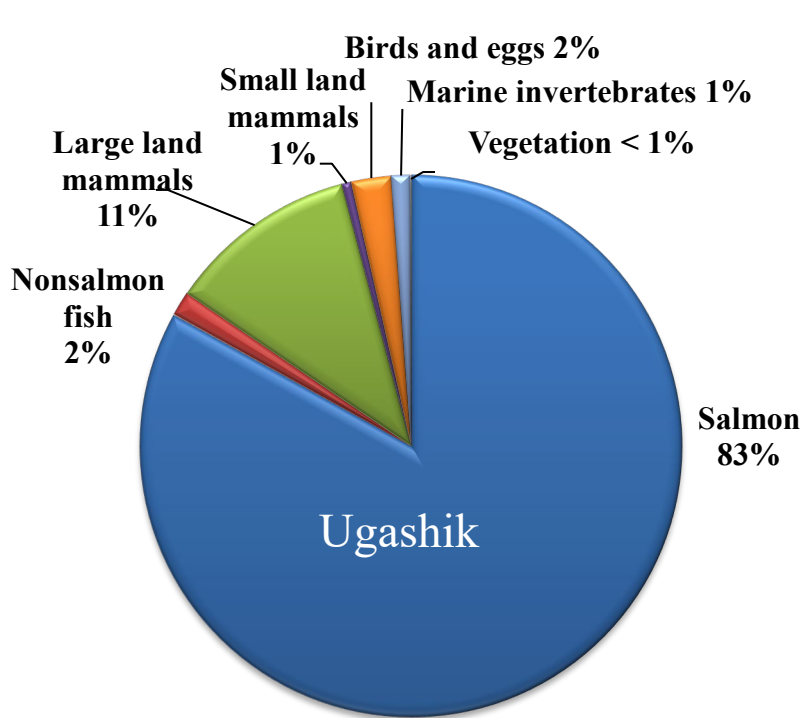
Data from 2021 are still preliminary and may change as more permits are returned.



Estimated Bristol Bay subsistence salmon harvest by district, 2011–2020



Composition of wild food harvests 2014

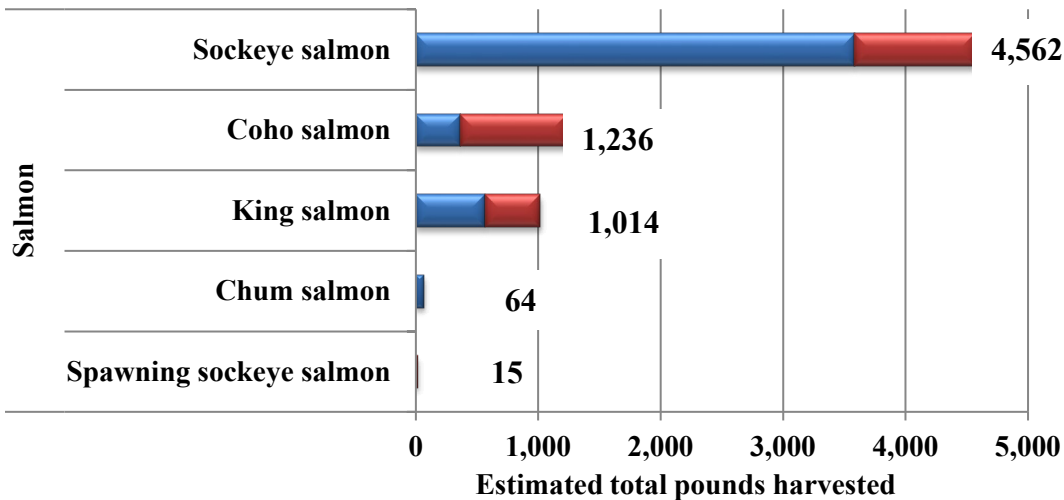


Year	Permits						
	Issued	Sockeye	King	Chum	Pink	Coho	Total
5-year average (2016–2020)	15	821	57	9	6	140	1,033
10-year average (2011–2020)	16	767	45	9	3	161	986
Historical Average (1985–2020)	22	1,180	57	33	18	283	1,571

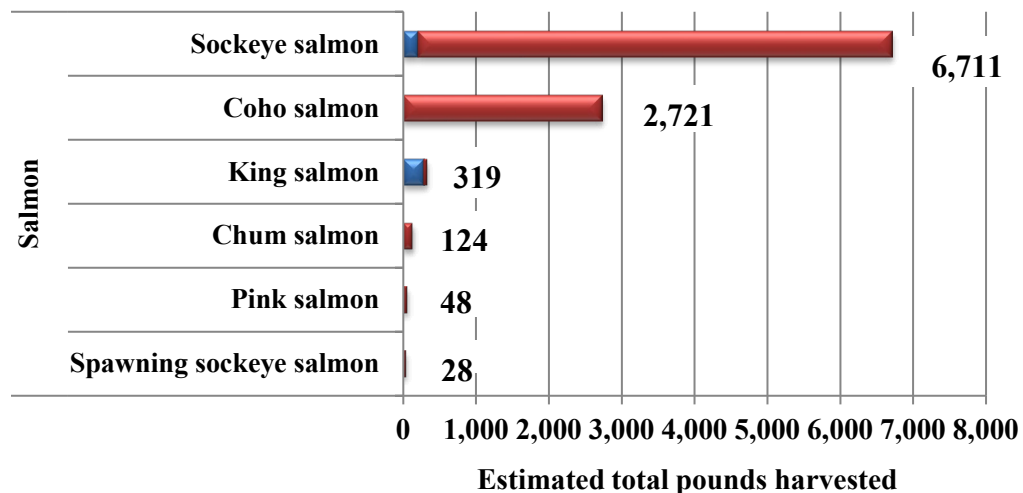


Estimated harvest of salmon weight by gear type 2014

Ugashik



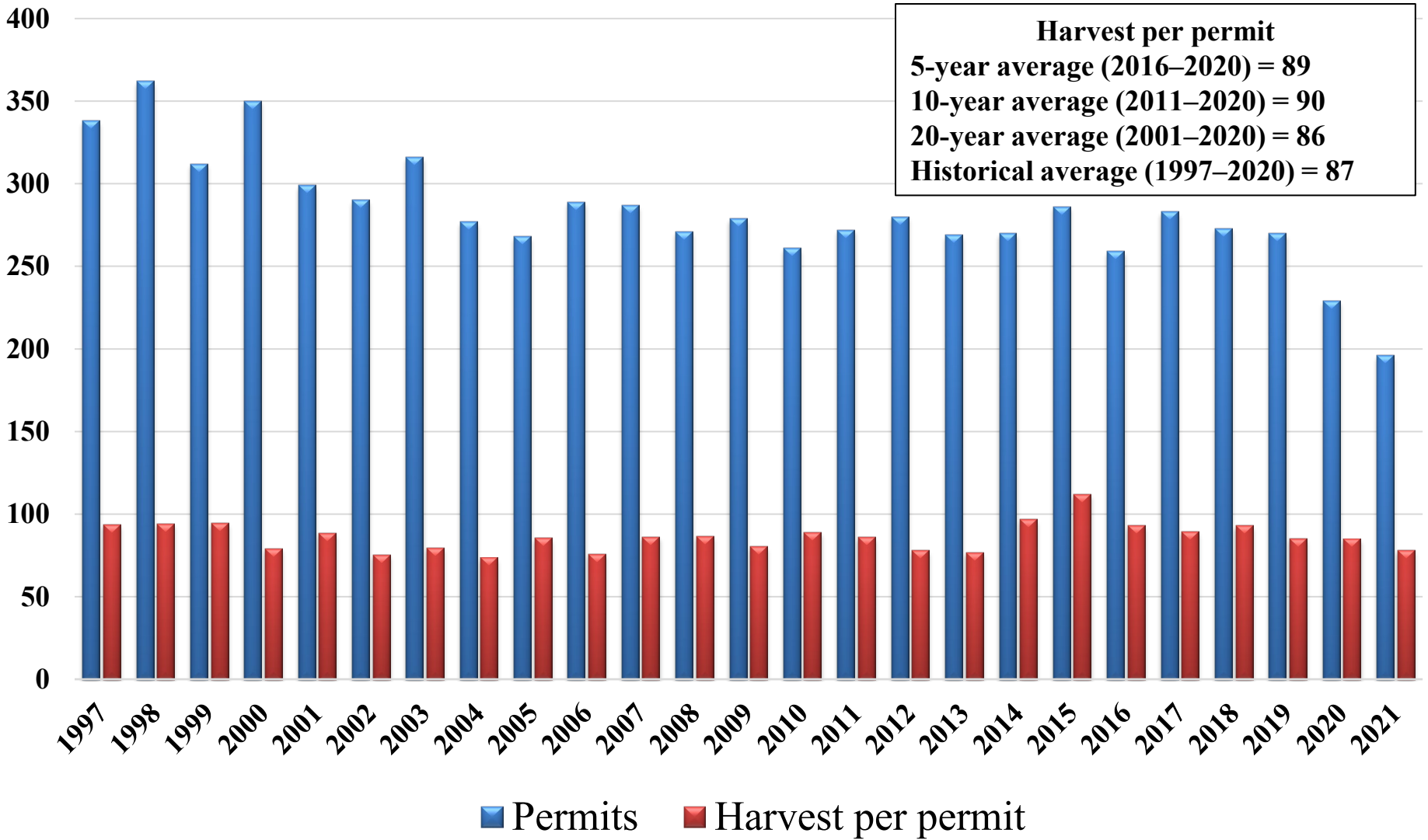
Pilot Point



■ Removed from commercial catch ■ Set Gill Net



Number of permits issued and harvest per permit Naknek River drainage, 1997–2021



Data from 2021 are still preliminary and may change as more permits are returned.

Number of subsistence permits issued, Naknek River drainage

Number of permits issued

Year	King Salmon	Naknek	South Naknek	Local residents	Other Alaska residents ^a
5-year average (2016–2020)	71	84	16	171	92
10-year average (2011–2020)	74	90	18	182	87
Historical average (1997–2020)	82	98	26	206	82

Source ADF&G Division of Subsistence, ASFDB 2021 (ADF&G 2021)

Note Harvests are extrapolated for all permits issued, based on those returned.

a. Subsistence harvests by non-Naknek River residents.



Estimated number of salmon harvested per subsistence permits issued Naknek River drainage

Year	Estimated salmon per permit				
	King Salmon	Naknek	South Naknek	Local residents	Other Alaska residents ^a
5-year average (2016–2020)	77	113	70	94	80
10-year average (2011–2020)	77	114	74	95	77
Historical average (1997–2020)	74	113	76	93	70

Source ADF&G Division of Subsistence, ASFDB 2021 (ADF&G 2021)

Note Harvests are extrapolated for all permits issued, based on those returned.

a. Subsistence harvests by non-Naknek River residents.



Conclusions & Acknowledgements



King strips hanging in Togiak



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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Questions?

Division of Subsistence Contacts:

Lisa Olson
Subsistence Operations Manager
lisa.olson@alaska.gov
907-267-2545

Caroline Brown
Statewide Research Director
caroline.brown@alaska.gov
907-459-7317

Robin Dublin
Southern Region Program Manager
robin.dublin@alaska.gov
907-267-2807

Bronwyn Jones
Subsistence Resource Specialist III
Bronwyn.jones@alaska.gov
907-267-2178

