

# ADF&G STAFF ORAL PRESENTATION ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA AREA  
SPORT FISHERY REGULATORY PROPOSALS  
January 28-February 9, 2024



## Southeast Alaska King Salmon Sport Fishery RC 3 - Tab 26

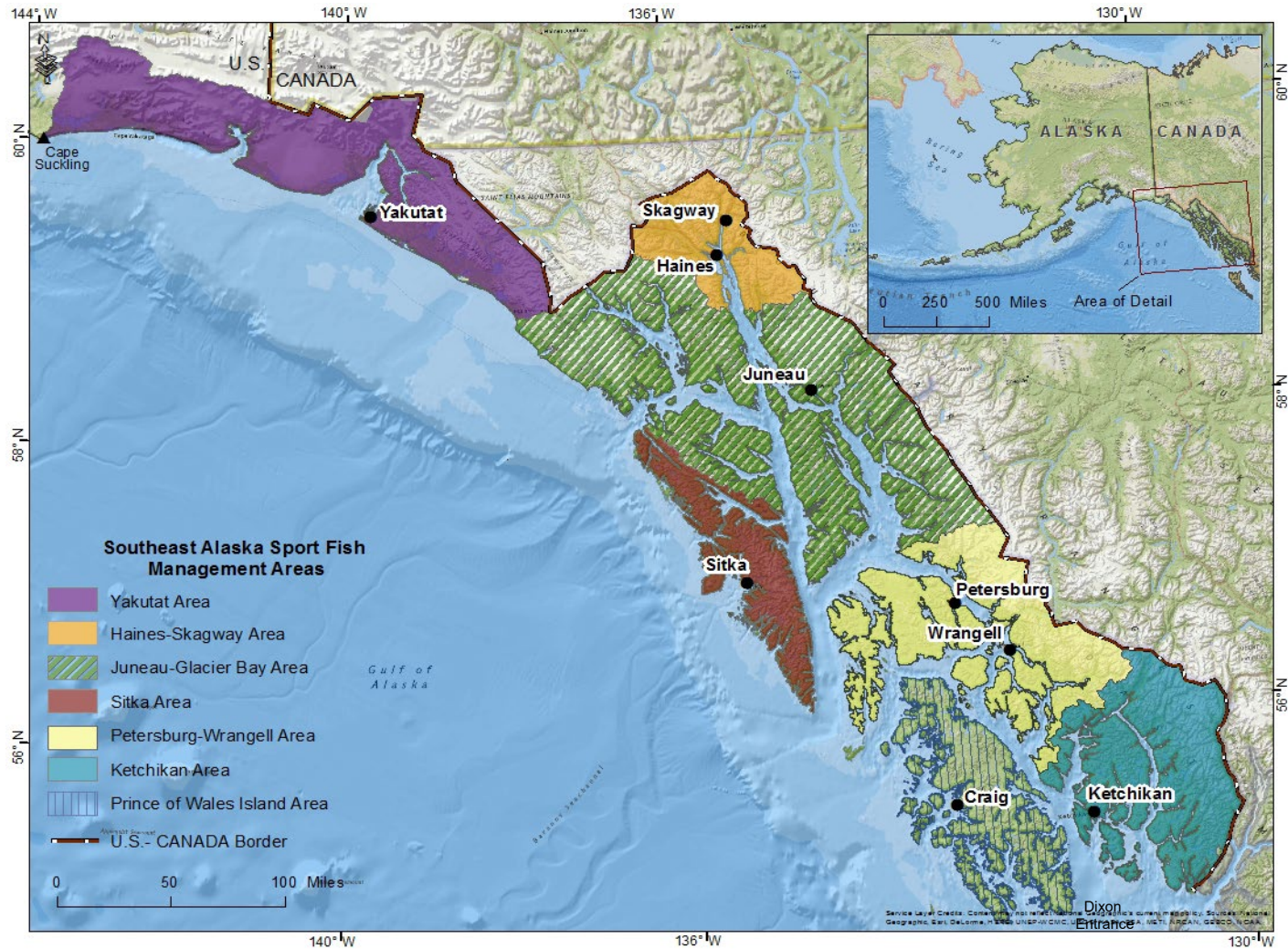
Patrick Fowler  
Southeast Alaska Management Coordinator  
Division of Sport Fish, Southeast Region

# Presentation Outline

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- Overview of Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery management
- Current harvest and effort trends
- History of the management plan
- Topics on the agenda for this meeting

# Southeast Alaska



# Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management

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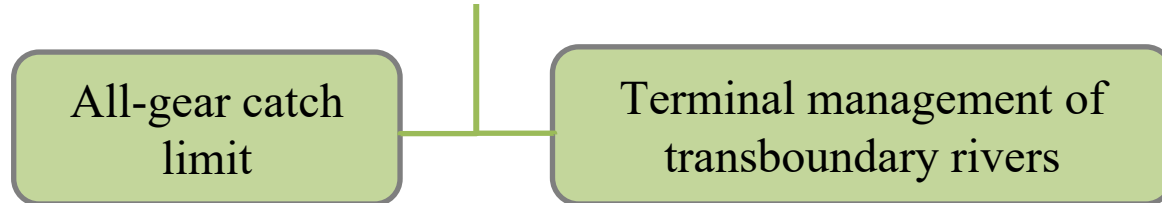
Sustainable  
Wild Stock



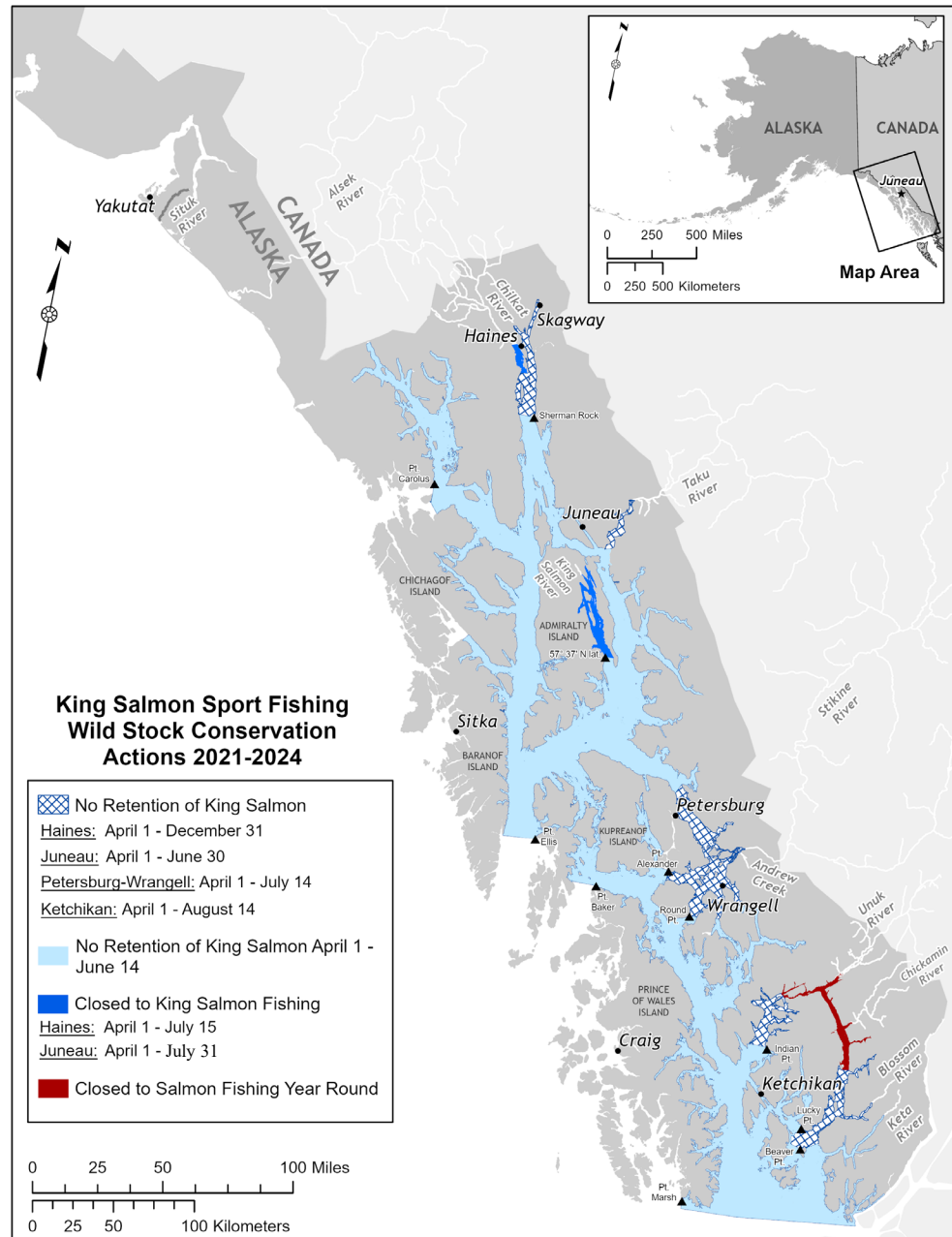
Comply with  
Pacific Salmon  
Treaty



Hatchery  
Opportunity

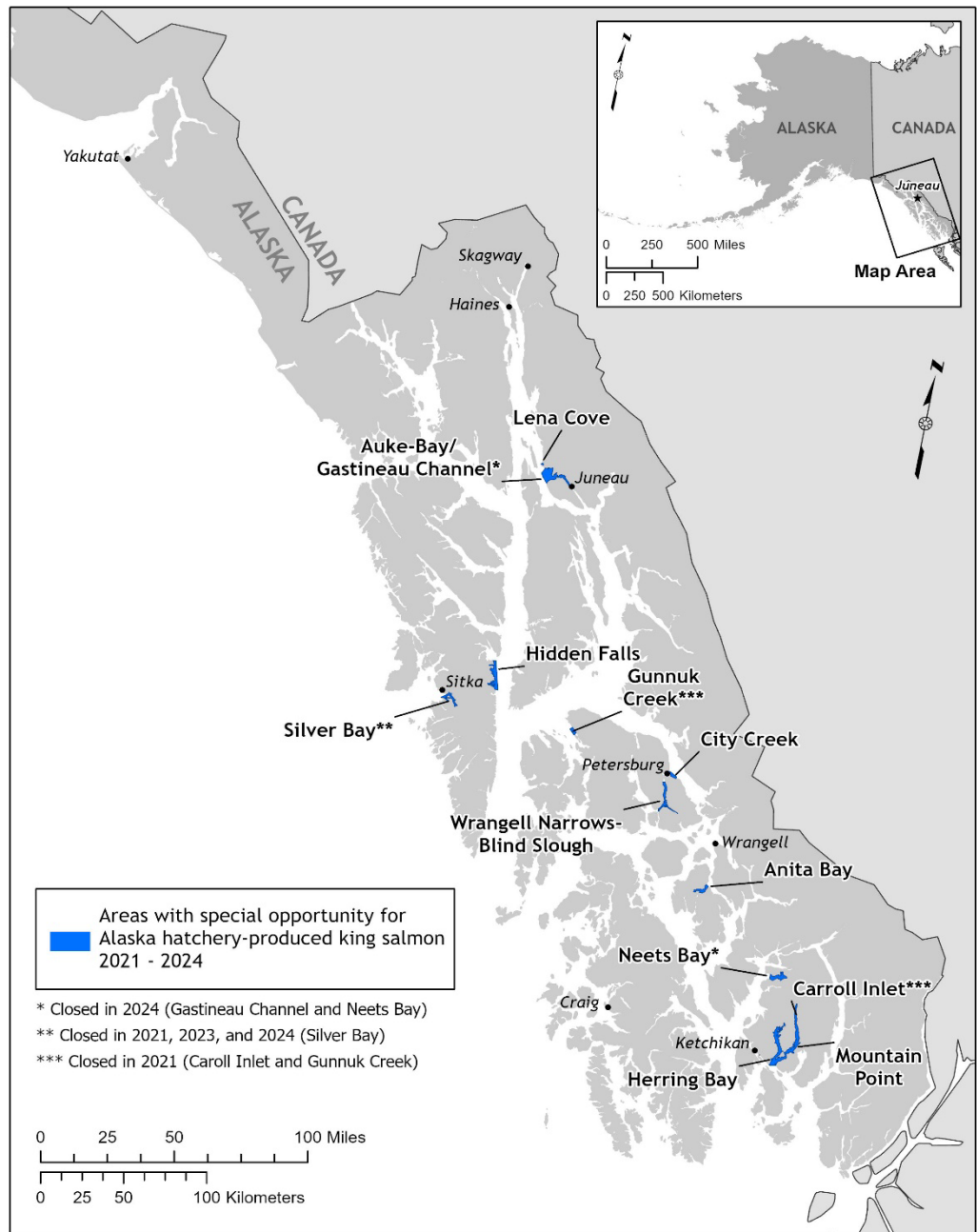


# King Salmon Sport Regulations: Conservation Measures



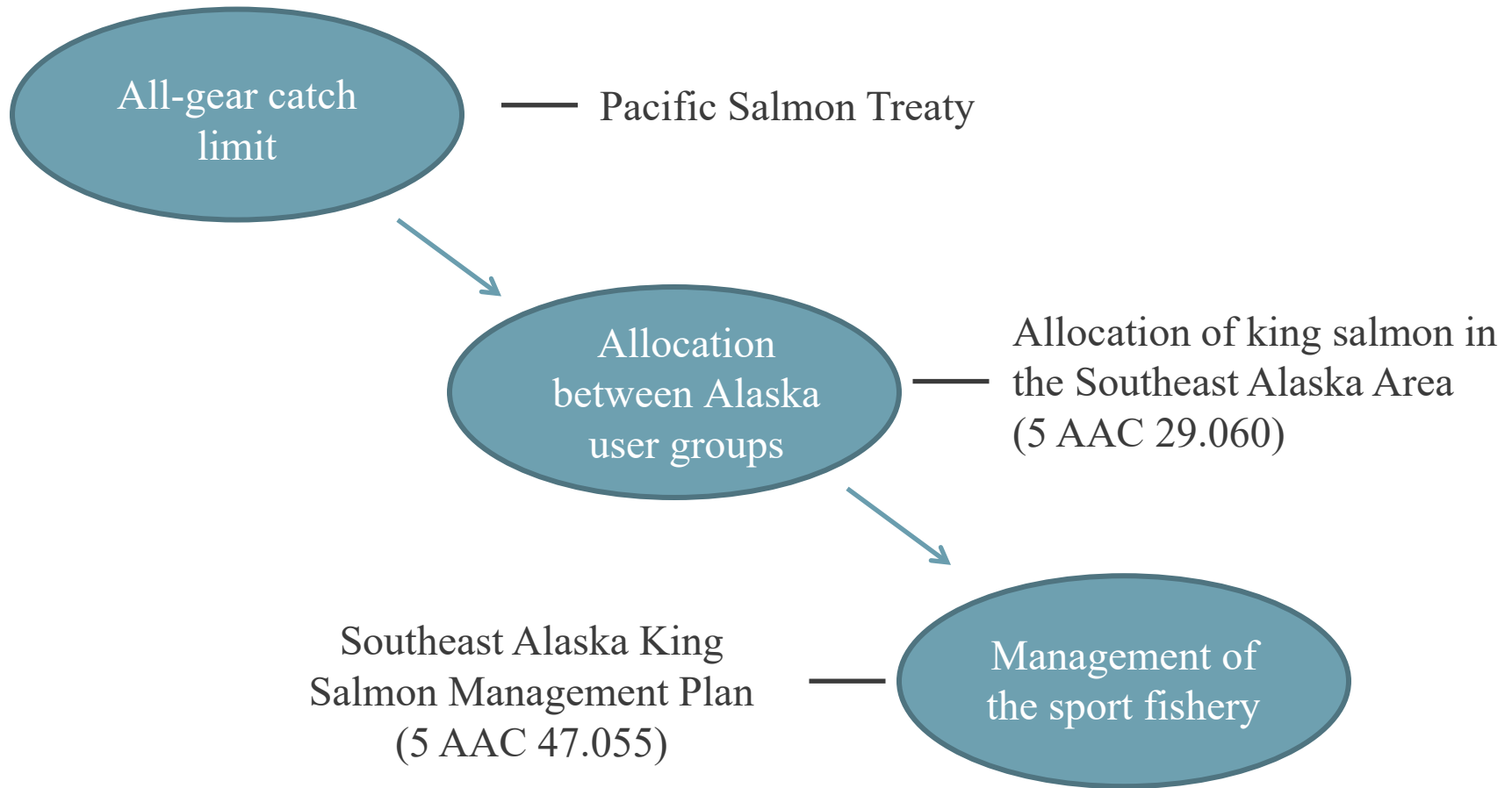
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# King Salmon Sport Regulations: Hatchery Opportunity



# King Salmon Allocation and Management

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# Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan – Regulations

<u>Sport Allocation Range</u>	<u>Resident Bag Limit*</u>	<u>Nonresident Regulations (Bag Limit/Annual Limit)</u>			
		<u>Jan 1 - June 30</u>	<u>July 1-7</u>	<u>July 8-15</u>	<u>July 16 - Dec 31</u>
> 69,014	3	1/3	1/2	1/1	
55,421 - 69,014	3	1/3	1/2	1/1	
42,685 - 55,420	2	1/3	1/2	1/1	
34,303 - 42,684	2	1/3	1/2	1/1	
22,328 - 34,302	1	1/3	1/2	1/1	
19,381 - 22,327	1	1/3	1/1		
<19,381	TBD	TBD			

\*Residents do not have an annual limit.



# 2022 King Salmon

(5 AAC 47.055)

## Management Plan Fundamentals

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Designed to achieve an average 20% sport allocation over time,  
not on an annual basis



Decreased sport opportunity at high allocation

Increased sport opportunity at low allocation



Overages or underages in the sport fishery are absorbed by the commercial  
troll fishery

Sport fish management measures are established at the beginning of the  
season and do not change unless needed to avoid exceeding the all-gear  
catch limit.

Established a priority for Alaska residents



Sunset clause established for the 2025 SEAK board meeting

# Additional regulations for Southeast Alaska – King salmon

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- King salmon fishing is closed in fresh waters of Southeast Alaska (except the Yakutat Area).
- Sport fishing may be conducted only by the use of a single line per angler, and not more than six lines may be fished from a vessel.
- The maximum number of fishing lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in sport fishing charter activities is equal to the number of paying clients on board the vessel (not more than six).

# Tools for Estimating Sport Fish Harvest

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## **Statewide Harvest Survey-** mailed survey

- Comprehensive and includes responses from a large number of respondents. However, data not available until one year after the season.



## **Southeast Marine Harvest Creel-** onsite survey

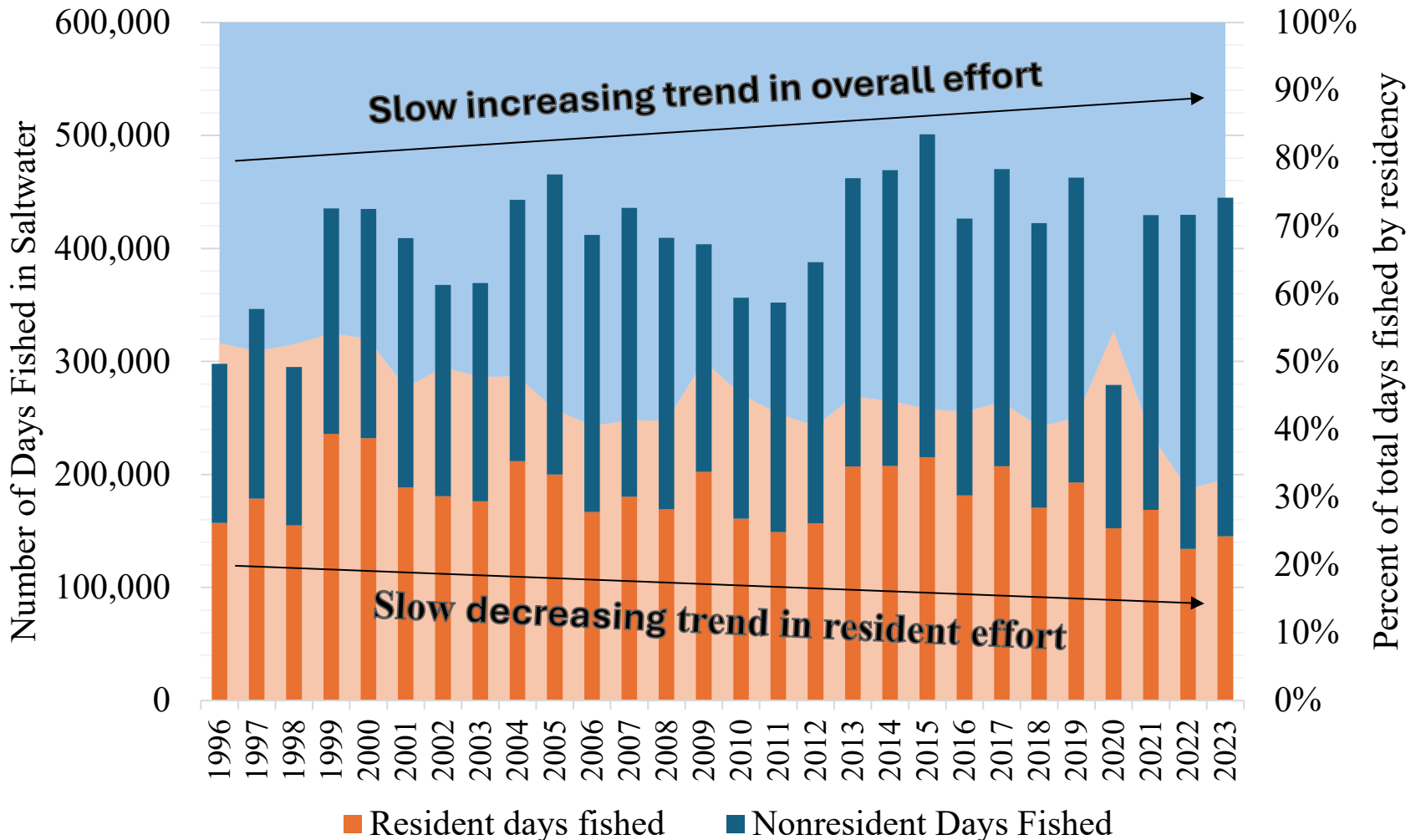
- Provides inseason information and collects biological samples (including CWT's and genetic samples).



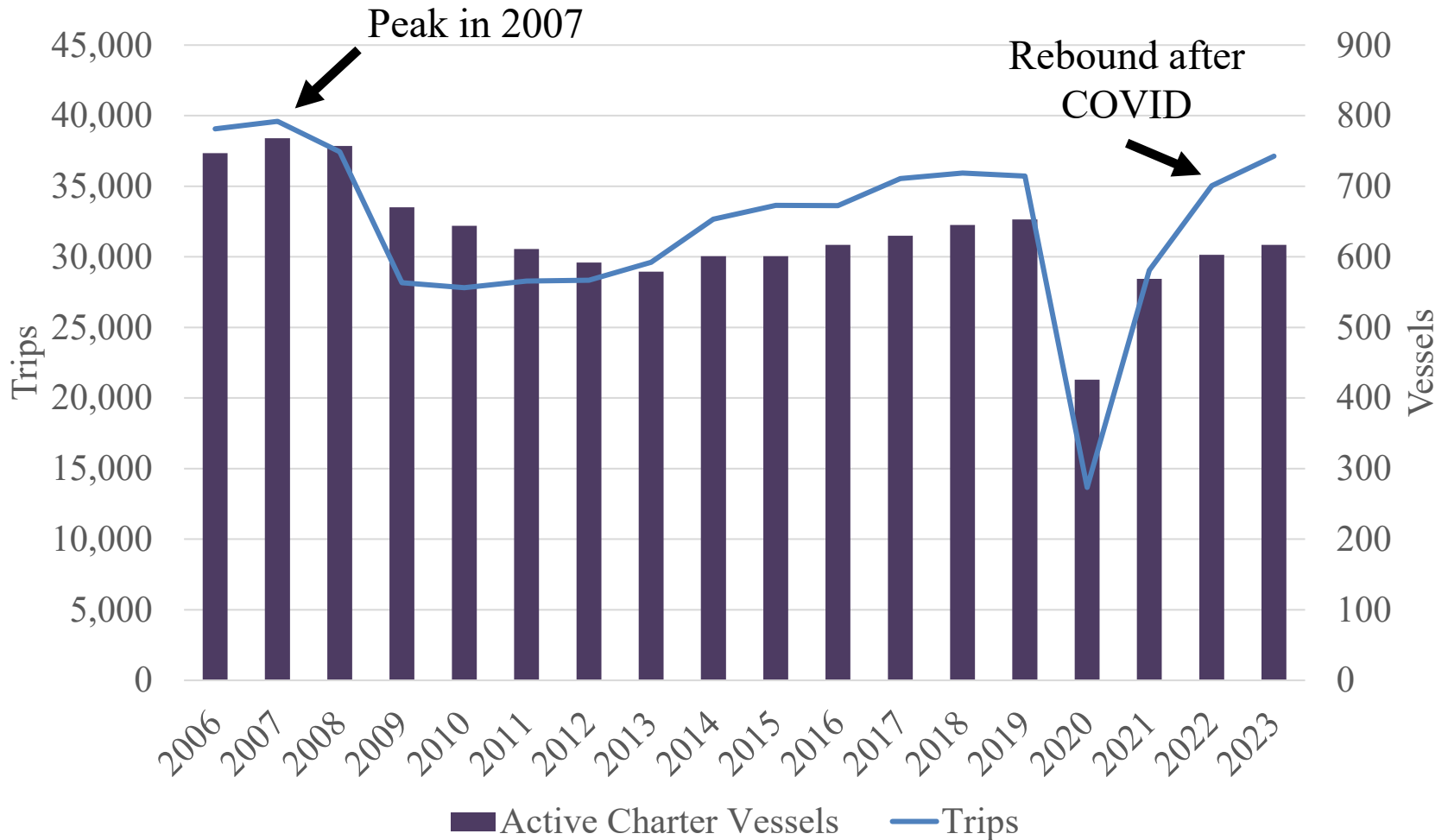
## **Charter Logbook-** census

- Very detailed information recorded for every charter trip.
- Electronic reporting has been mandatory since 2021.

# Regionwide Marine Sport Fishery Effort by Residency – Days Fished (1996-2023)



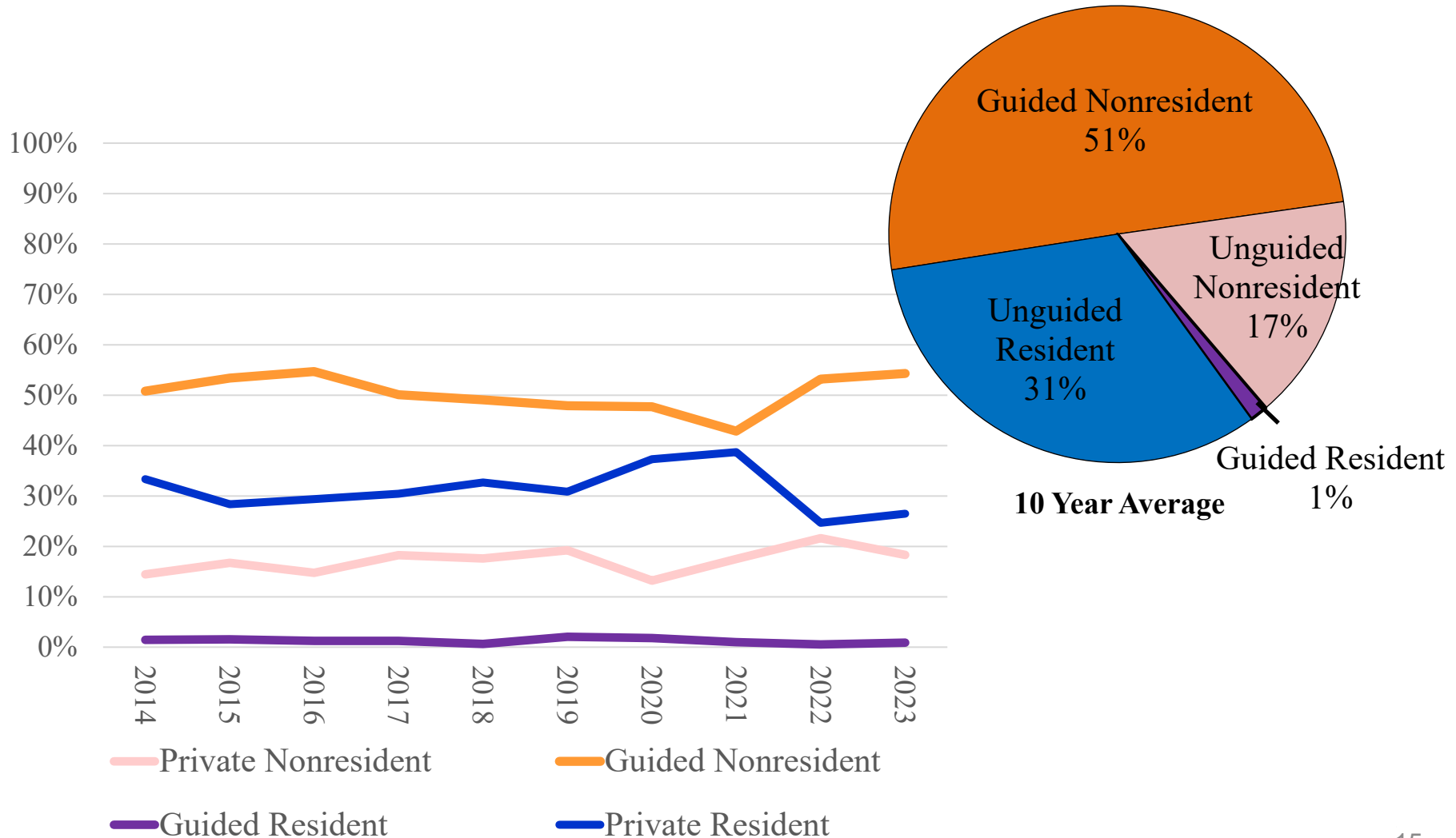
# Patterns in Guided Fishing Sector



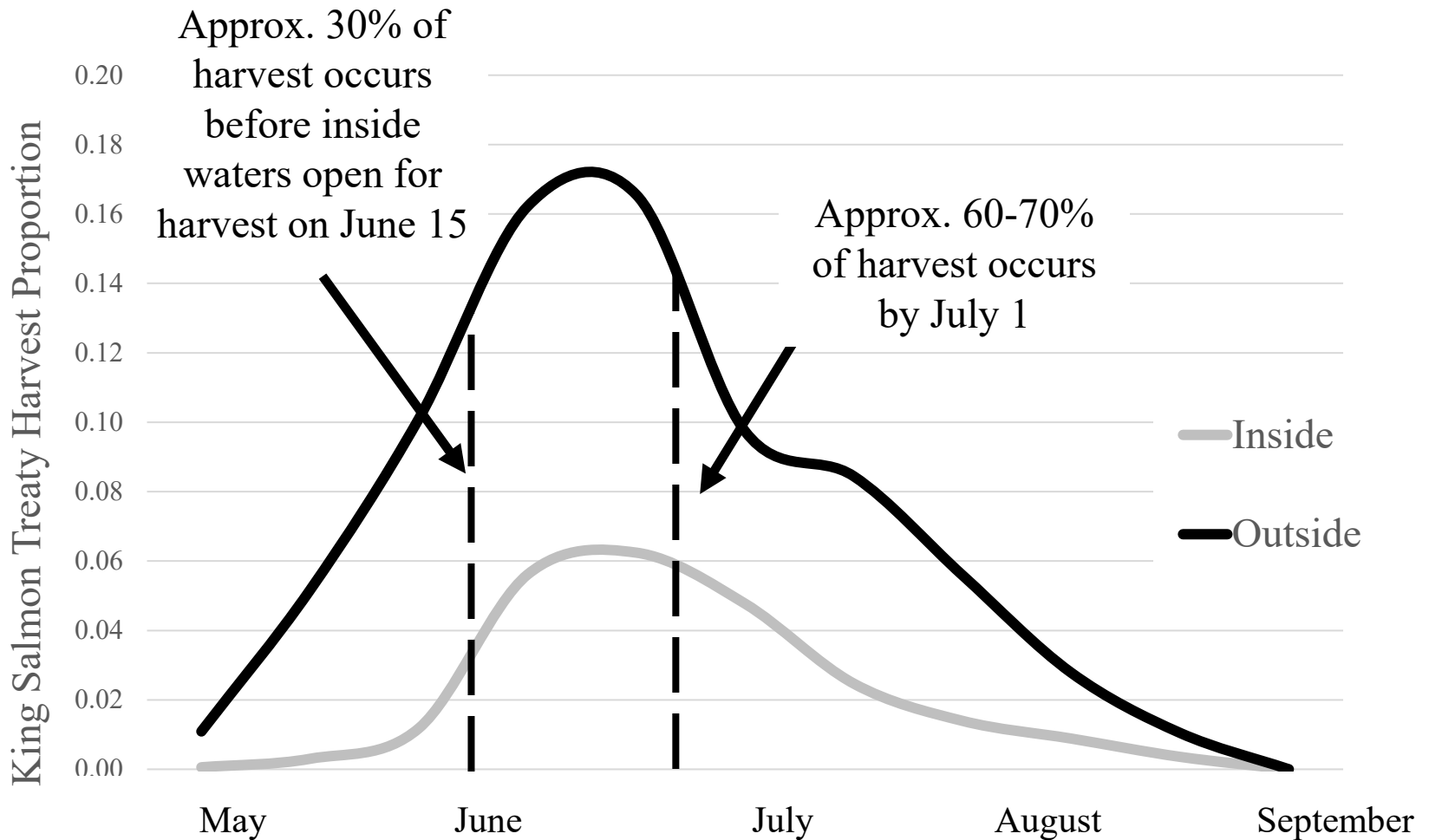
# King Salmon Harvest by Residency



# King Salmon Harvest by Sport Angler Type



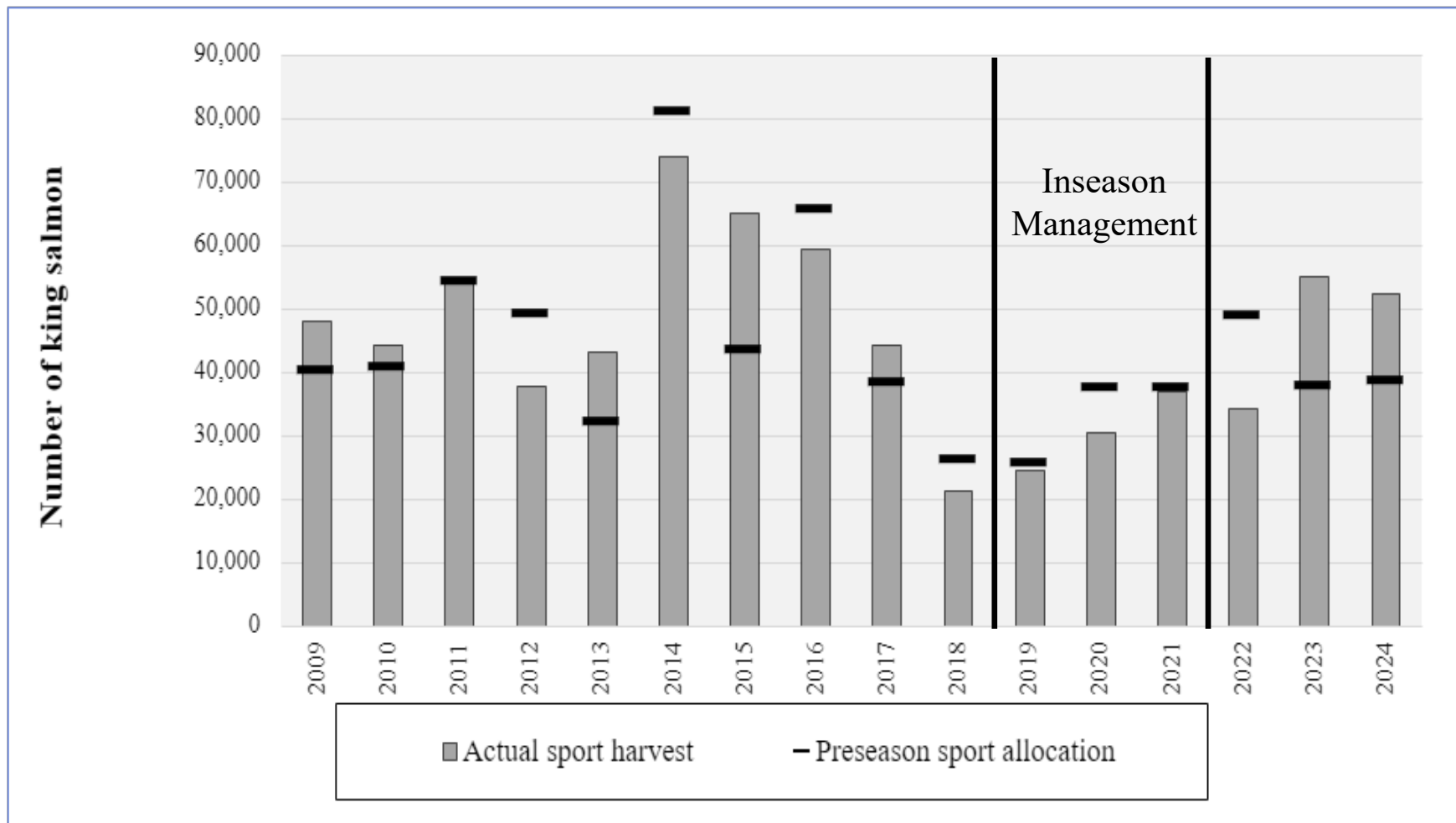
# King Salmon Harvest Timing



Average for years 2017-2024 (excluding 2020)



# King Salmon Management Performance



# King Salmon Management Performance

Year	Preseason catch limit	Troll + sport allocation	Preseason sport allocation	Actual sport harvest	Sport deviation from allocation	
2009	218,800	202,046	40,409	48,120	7,711	<b>Average sport (%) of the combined sport/troll allocation</b>  <b><u>20.7%</u></b>
2010	221,800	204,830	40,966	44,315	3,349	
2011	294,800	272,574	54,515	53,964	-551	
2012	266,800	246,590	49,318	37,722	-11,596	
2013	176,000	162,328	32,466	43,304	10,838	
2014	439,400	406,763	81,353	73,951	-7,402	
2015	237,000	218,936	43,787	65,174	21,387	
2016	355,600	328,997	65,799	59,442	-6,357	
2017	209,700	193,602	38,720	44,125	5,405	
2018	144,500	133,096	26,619	21,243	-5,376	
2019	140,323	129,220	25,844	24,496	-1,396	<b><u>18.1%</u></b> (In-season Management)
2020	205,165	189,393	37,879	30,561	-7,318	
2021	205,165	189,393	37,879	36,935	-944	
2022	266,585	246,391	49,278	34,166	-15,112	<b><u>22.4%</u></b>
2023	206,027	190,193	38,039	55,146	17,107	
2024	207,150	195,179	39,036	52,387	13,351	

# Work for the Board

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Review performance of the management plan to achieve the sport allocation.



Align nonresident/resident regulations in the EEZ (proposals 105-107).



Consider changes to the king salmon management plan and the establishment of a king salmon subsistence fishery (proposals 104, 108-120).



Update or remove sunset clause (proposal 121).



Consider changes to conservation measures (proposals 122-128).

# In a Perfect World...

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- The sport fishery would not exceed the annual allocation.
- Have a stable/predictable sport fishing regulations.
- Allocation would be sufficient to supply the needs for all user groups.

# The Problem is...

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- 1) To prevent exceeding the all-gear catch limit, the sport fishery needs either:

**Allocation sharing agreement**  
to account for overages or  
underages

or

**Inseason adjustments**  
to  
achieve the annual allocation target

- 2) When the allocation is low, closures will be required to keep the sport fishery within allocation.

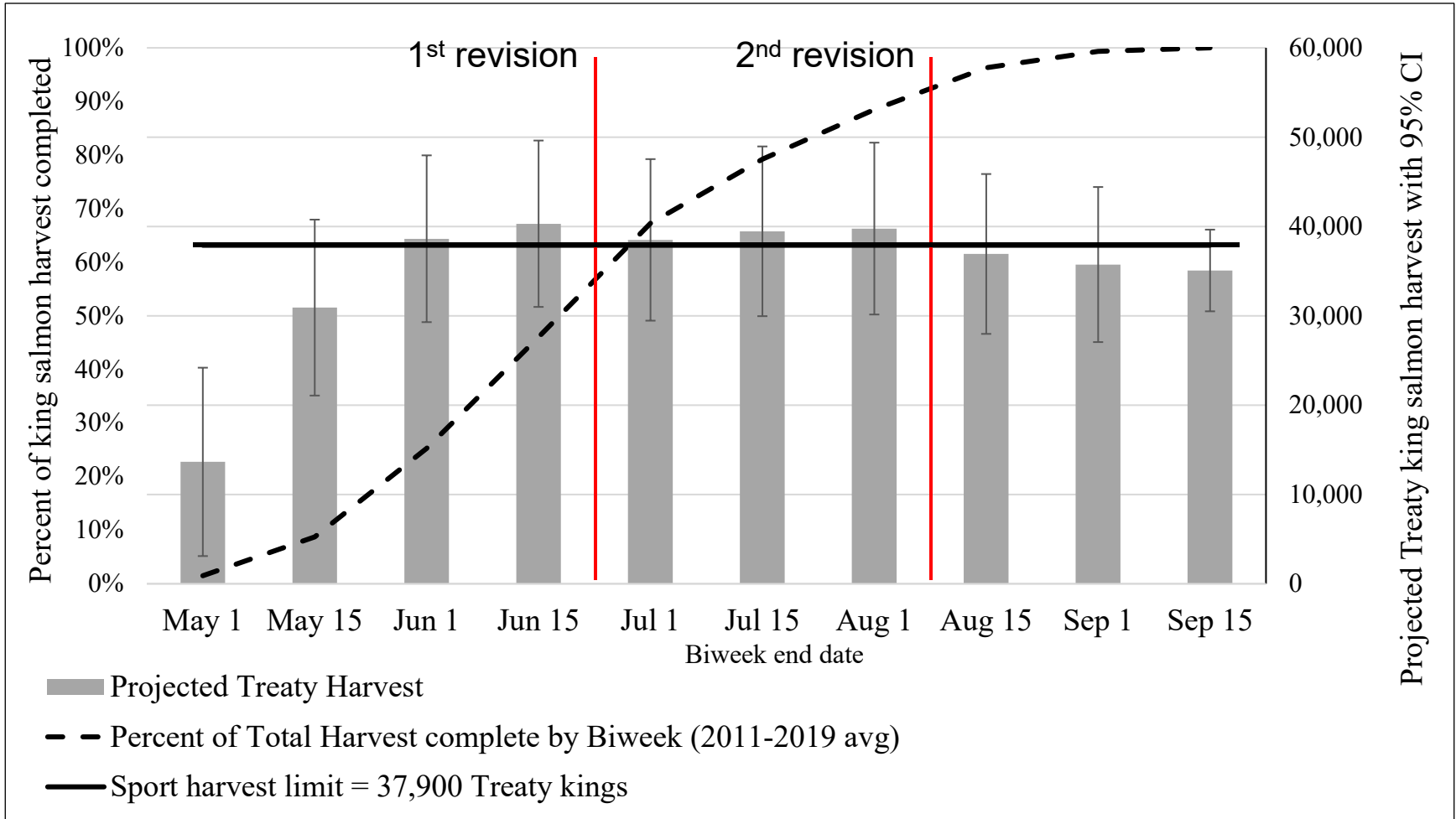
# Inherent Management Challenges

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- Fast pace of the fishery
- Limited precision to achieve a harvest target:
  - Cannot implement a bag/annual limit less than 1
  - Approx. 130,000 individual anglers (permit holders) to communicate changes
  - Limited harvest power to increase harvest during high abundance
- Harvest rates may not align with the All-gear catch limit (we see more fish than the preseason abundance index would suggest)

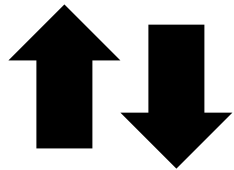
# Explanation of Inseason Management

## 2021 Inseason Projections of Sport Fishery Treaty King Salmon Harvest



# Explanation of Inseason Management

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- Sport fishing effort
- Catch rates
- Alaska hatchery contribution



Inseason revisions to regulations



Conservative management to account  
for error in harvest projections

# Proposals for the King Salmon Management Plan

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- Harvest sharing proposals:
  - 108 (but limit the potential overage in the sport fishery)
  - 112 (but consider 6 years of data)
  - 113 (but also increase sport allocation)
  - 114, 115, 116, 117, 119, 120 (but reduce nonresident opportunity through reduced bag/annual limits or closed time periods)
- Inseason management for allocation proposals:
  - 109, 110, and 111
- No change:
  - 118 and 121



# Department Suggested Revision to Allocation Plan (5 AAC 29.060)

- Department has submitted an RC with amended language for 5 AAC 29.060.
- Current language specifies the Commissioner may transfer any unused allocation to the commercial troll fishery.
- The change would allow the Commissioner to transfer unused allocation to any gear group.
  - Provides flexibility to adjust for an unintended overage in any gear group.
  - Maximizes the benefit to all Alaskan fisheries without exceeding the all-gear catch limit.

# Questions

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