



CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE WORKSHEET, Black Bear Unit 15C (portion)

Prepared by:
Division of Subsistence
Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Prepared for:
Alaska Board of Game
Anchorage, Alaska
March 14–19, 2019

Related C&T History

- **1988**
 - C&T worksheet prepared for black bears in this portion of GMU 15C

- **1990, 1991, 1993, & 1994**
 - C&T worksheet updated
 - No review or action occurred at these meetings

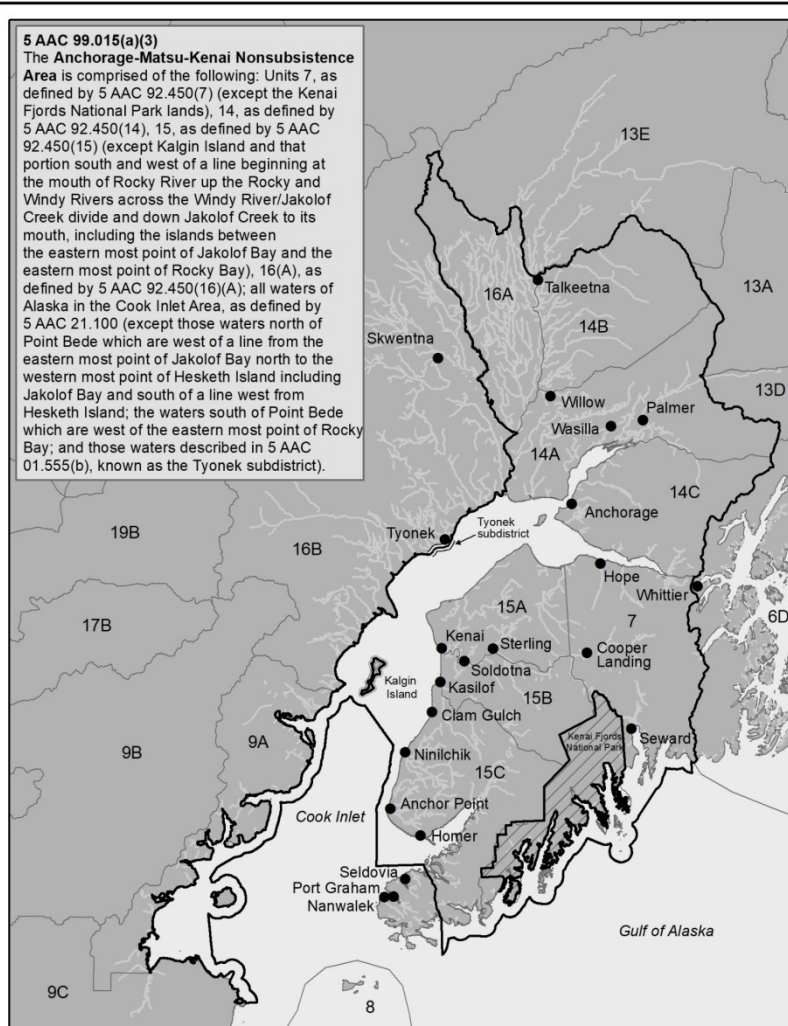
- **Currently**

No C&T finding for a **Portion** of Unit 15C outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area








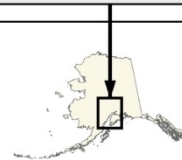
5 AAC 99.015(a)(3)

The **Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area** is comprised of the following: Units 7, as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(7) (except the Kenai Fjords National Park lands), 14, as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(14), 15, as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(15) (except Kalgin Island and that portion south and west of a line beginning at the mouth of Rocky River up the Rocky and Windy Rivers across the Windy River/Jakolof Creek divide and down Jakolof Creek to its mouth, including the islands between the eastern most point of Jakolof Bay and the eastern most point of Rocky Bay), 16(A), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(16)(A); all waters of Alaska in the Cook Inlet Area, as defined by 5 AAC 21.100 (except those waters north of Point Bede which are west of a line from the eastern most point of Jakolof Bay north to the western most point of Hesketh Island including Jakolof Bay and south of a line west from Hesketh Island; the waters south of Point Bede which are west of the eastern most point of Rocky Bay; and those waters described in 5 AAC 01.555(b), known as the Tyonek subdistrict).



Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Use Area

-  Tyonek Subdistrict
-  Nonsubsistence Use Area
-  Game Management Unit
-  Kalgin Island: Open to subsistence use
-  Kenai Fjords Nat'l Pk (closed to all subsistence use)



Criterion 1: Length and consistency of use

- Dena'ina Athabascan and Alutiiq peoples:
 - Hunted black bear for food and raw materials.

- Elders:
 - Note long term use and reliance on black bear.

- Communities:
 - Highly value meat and fat;
 - Consider it about equal to seal in food value.



Criterion 1: Length and Consistency of Use

- Nanwalek residents :
 - 1987: 52% reported using black bear (est. harvest = 6)
 - 1993: 82% reported using black bear (est. harvest = 11)
 - 2003: 64% of reported using black bear (est. harvest = 5)
 - 2014: 18% of reported using black bear (est. harvest = 2)

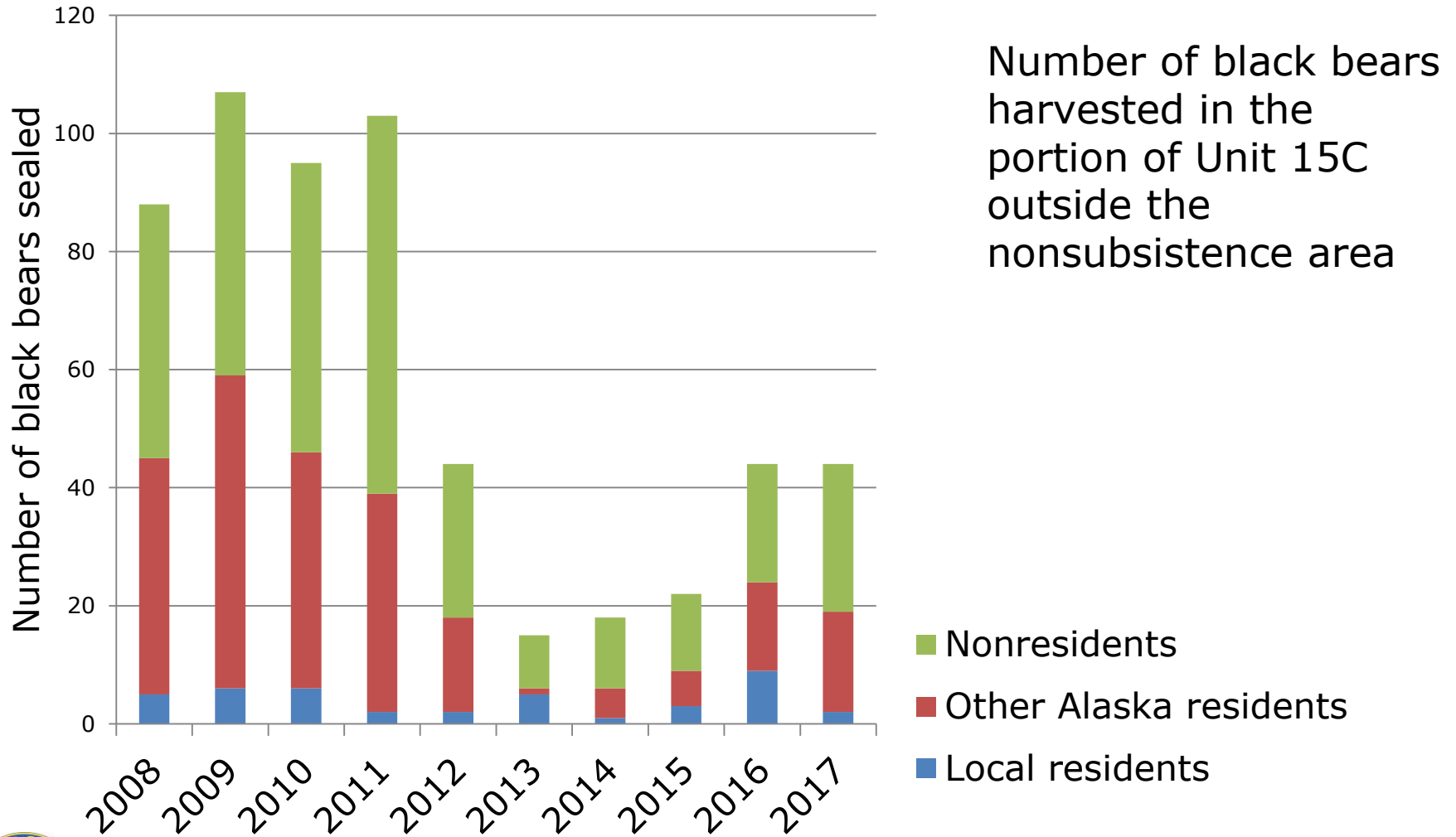
- Port Graham residents:
 - 1987: 9% of reported using black bear (est. harvest = 1)
 - 1991: 43% reported using black bear (est. harvest = 7)
 - 2003: 23% reported using black bear (est. harvest = 6)
 - 2014: 10% reported using black bear (est. harvest = 1)

- Seldovia residents:
 - 1991: 18% reported using black bear (est. harvest = 1)
 - 2014: 21% reported using black bear (est. harvest = 3)

Note: Division of Subsistence comprehensive surveys are not conducted every year in every community.



Criterion 1: Length and Consistency of Use



Criterion 2: Seasonality

No closed seasons for black bear in Unit 15C

- Nanwalek and Port Graham:
 - Early spring and mid to late fall preferred harvest

- 2008–2017:
 - Of the 580 black bears harvested in this portion of 15C by all hunters:
 - 33% taken in fall
 - 67% taken in spring



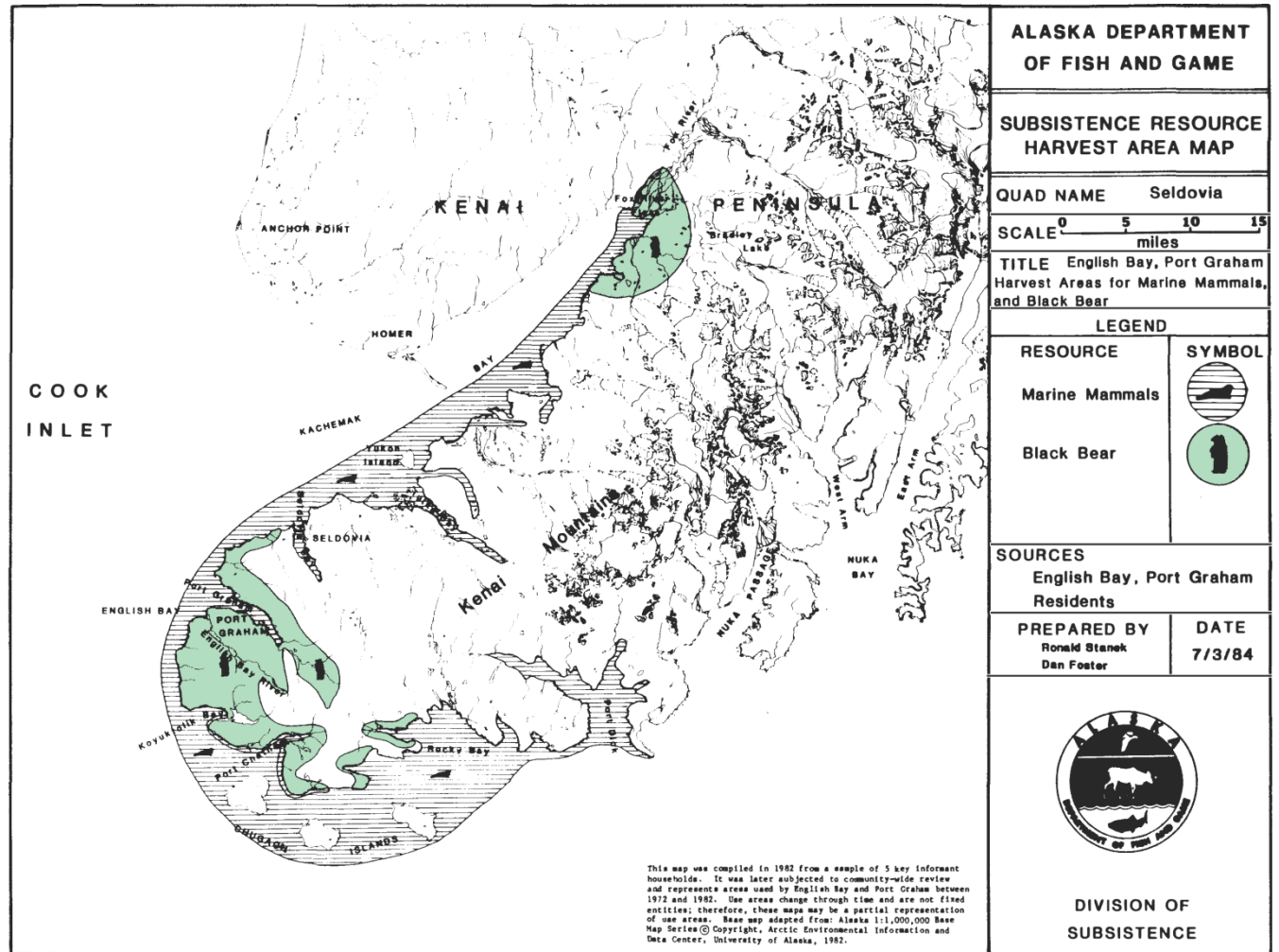
Criterion 3: Efficient Means and Methods of Harvest and Economy of Cost

- Traditionally:
 - Spear and snare
- Early 1980s research:
 - Hunts were community endeavors with multiple people involved for multiple days.
- Currently:
 - Nanwalek and Port Graham use 3 common methods
 - Using skiffs search coastal shorelines;
 - On foot or ATV to known inland bear areas;
 - Opportunistically spot bears in other areas.
- 1973–1993 (sealing records):
 - 15 records of hunters harvesting more than 1 black bear, including
 - 13 records of 2 bears;
 - 2 records of 3 bears.
- 2008–2017 (sealing records):
 - 23 records of a hunter harvesting more than 1 black bear.

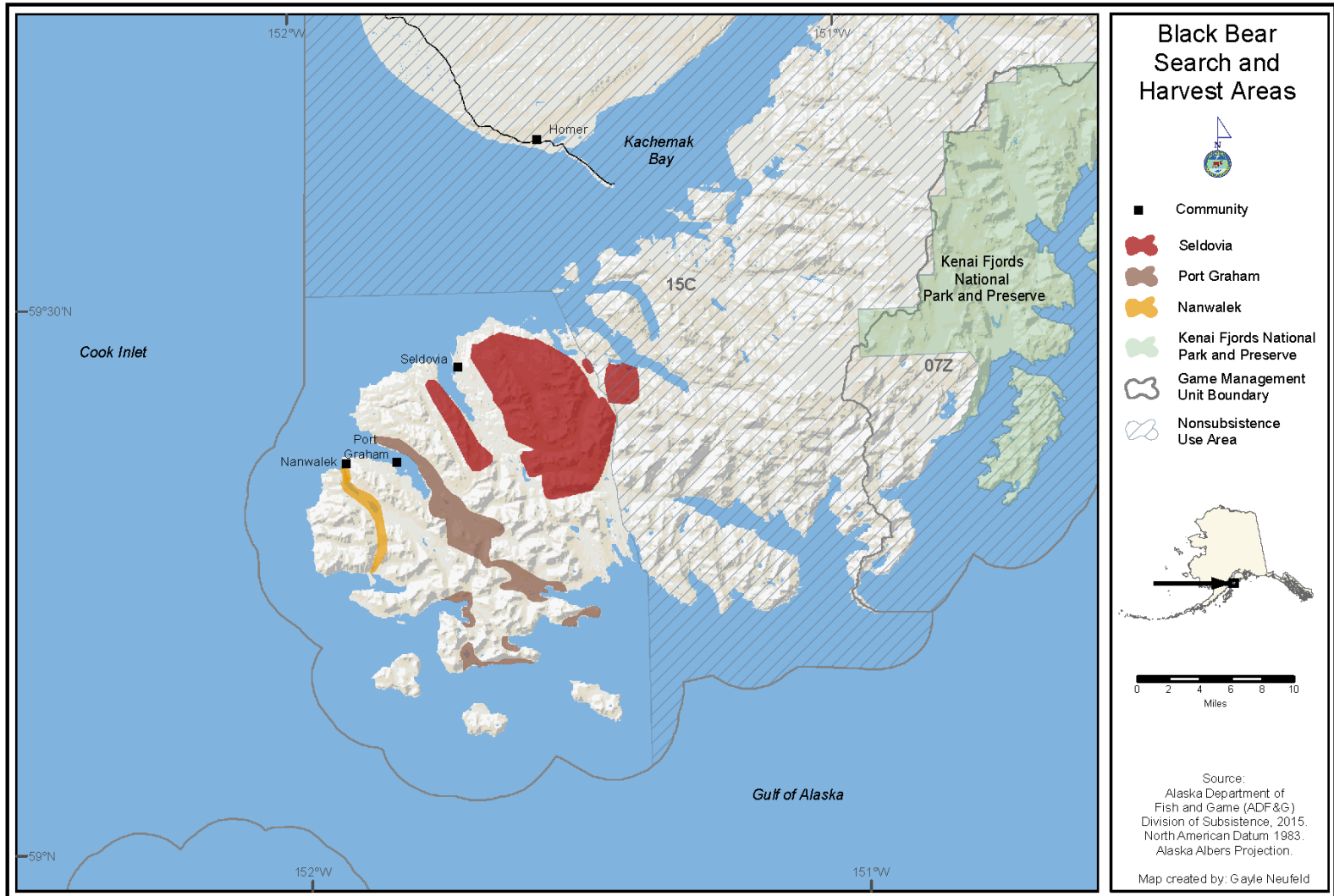


Criterion 4: Geographic Areas

Continued
use of Unit
15C for
black bear
harvest



Criterion 4: Geographic Areas



Criterion 5: Means of Handling, Preparing, Preserving and Storing

- Traditionally:
 - Smoked
 - Dried
 - Salted
 - Eaten fresh
 - Frozen out-of-doors
 - Hides used as mattresses and blankets
- By the 1980s:
 - freezers most common method of storing
- Currently:
 - Most meat is eaten fresh
- Some use of the claws for crafts



Criterion 6: Intergenerational Transmission of Knowledge, Skills, Values, and Lore

- Active oral traditions:
 - Stories about bear hunting.
- Beliefs:
 - Certain parts of the bear should be left where the bear was killed;
 - Placed facing the south.
- Hunting parties from each community:
 - Usually family members.
- Winter traditional den hunt (1990):
 - Meat was widely shared.



Criterion 7: Distribution and Exchange

- Extensive sharing networks:
 - “sharing local resources with neighbors and kin served to satisfy social obligations.”
- Relatively few hunters: meat is widely shared
- Receipt of bear meat:
 - 1990s
 - Nanwalek—about 50% to 70% of households
 - Port Graham—about a third of households
 - Seldovia—15% of sampled households.
 - 2014
 - 14% of Nanwalek households (hhs),
 - 7% of Port Graham hhs received, and
 - 19% of Seldovia hhs received.
 - This may be the result of lower harvest rates in recent years.



Criterion 8:

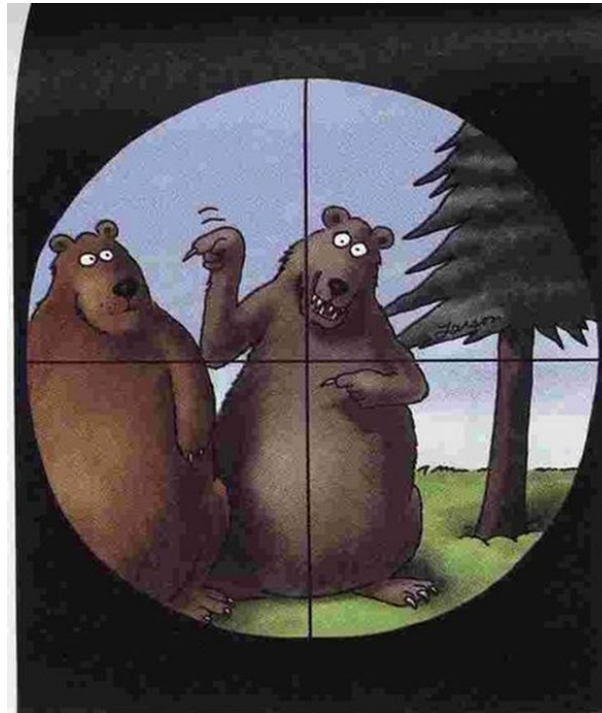
Diversity of Resources in Area; Economic, Cultural, Social, and Nutritional Elements

- Diverse resource use:
 - Salmon
 - Other fish
 - Shellfish
 - Marine mammals
 - Birds
 - Land mammals
 - Wild plants

- Total average harvests (2014):
 - 138 lb per person—Seldovia
 - 218 lb per person—Port Graham
 - 253 lb per person—Nanwalek



Questions?



Presentation of the following slide (ANS Options) is contingent upon the board making a positive C&T finding and requesting ANS information from the Division of Subsistence. The information is not intended to imply any particular board finding.



ANS Options

4 options with 2 suboptions each:

| Option | Point | Range |
|--------|-------|-------|
| A | 36 | 20–60 |
| B | 4 | 2–6 |
| C | 18 | 11–26 |
| D | 49 | 26–80 |

- Based on bear sealing records, harvest surveys, and harvest ticket data.

Note Methods for determining the above options are described in Appendix B of the companion report for this presentation, SP BOG 2019-01, RC 4, Tab 5.

