

Subsistence Harvests of Pacific Halibut in Alaska, 2014



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

**Presentation to the
North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

**Anchorage, AK
December 2015**

1

**Project funded through a grant from the
National Marine Fisheries Service:
No. NA14NMF4370115**

For the full study findings, see:

Fall, James A. and Terri Lemons. 2016. Subsistence Harvests of Pacific Halibut in Alaska, 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 414. Juneau.

2

Project Background

- New subsistence regulations in effect May 2003
- 118 communities and 123 tribes eligible, plus residents of designated rural areas
- Registration requirement (SHARC)
- Regulations have provision for collecting harvest data
- This report covers the 11th year of the harvest assessment program (harvests in 2014)
- Due to funding constraints, the project did not document 2013 harvests and will not document 2015 harvests
- If funding available, could continue for 2016

3

Methods

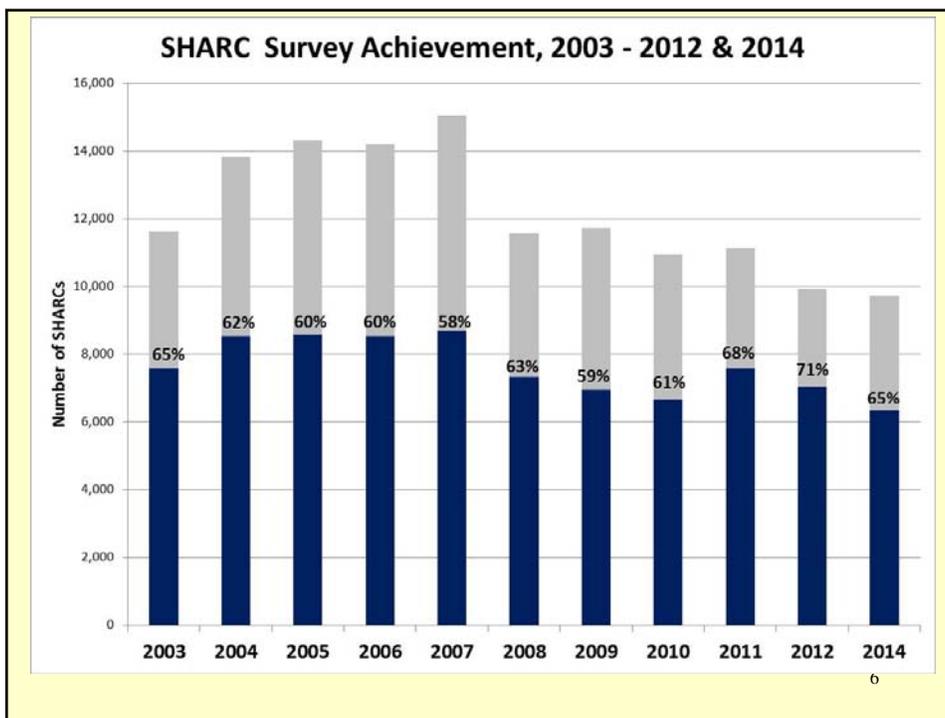
- Mailed survey is primary data collection method; response voluntary
- Mailed to all persons holding SHARCs during 2014: 9,474
- Three rounds of mailings
- Supplemented by contacts & interviews in 6 communities in southeast and western AK
- Harvests of some non-SHARC holders (245) included in estimates
- Total target group = 9,719 potential fishers

4

Sample Achievement for 2014

- **6,336 surveys returned**, of 9,719 potential fishers
- **Sampling fraction of 65%**
- **High rates of return** achieved in most larger communities with the most SHARCs issued

5

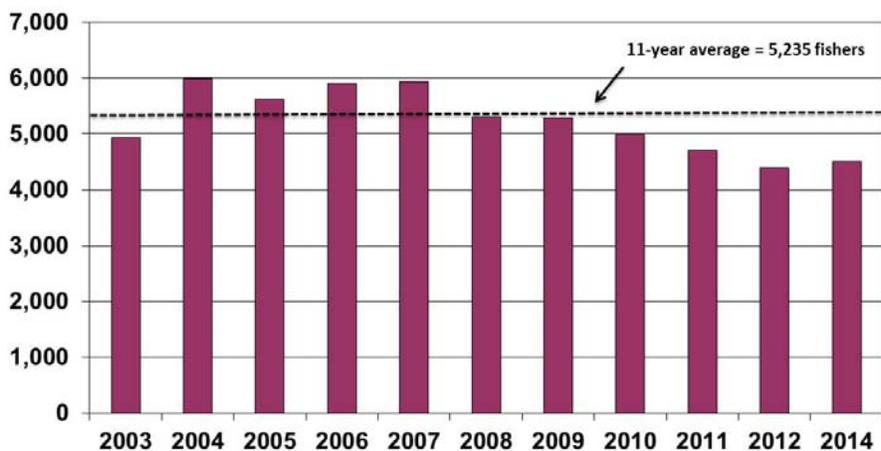


Study Findings: Halibut 2014

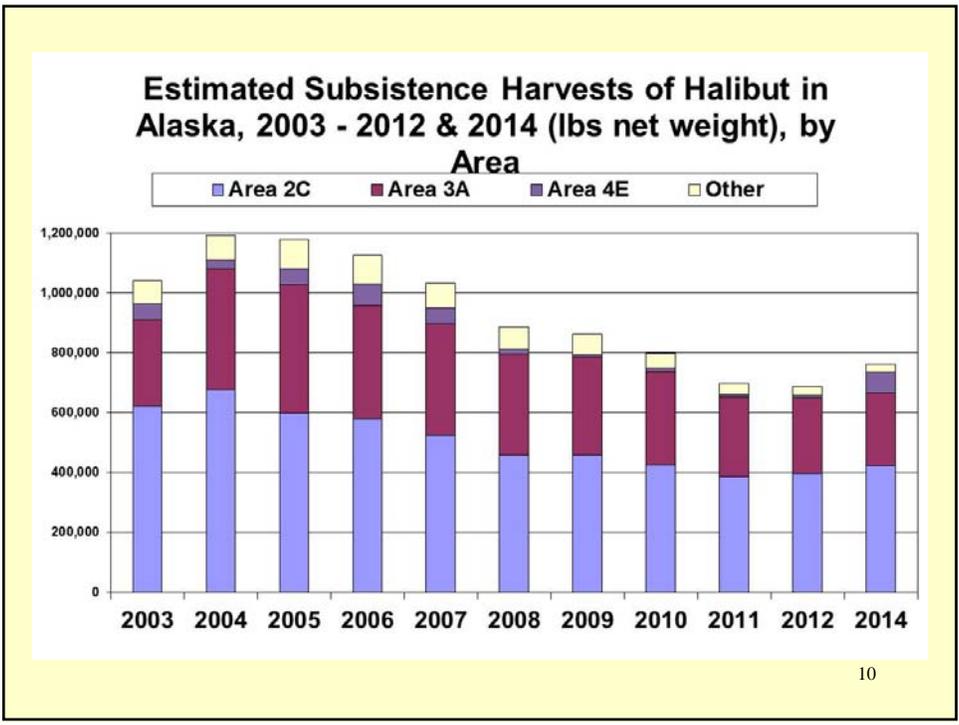
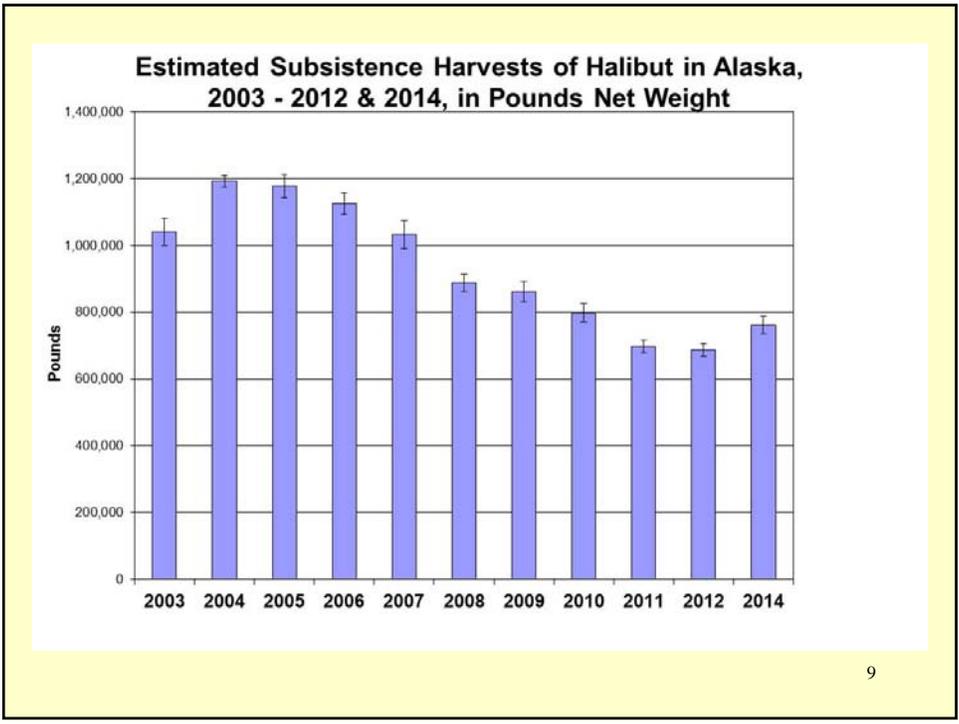
- Estimated number of **subsistence fishers = 4,506**
- Estimated subsistence harvest = **40,698 halibut**
- Estimated subsistence harvest = **760,469 lbs** net weight (= 75% of round weight) (18.7 lbs/fish)
- **56% of harvest occurred in Area 2C** (SE Alaska), 32% in Area 3A (SC Alaska), & 9% in Area 4E (East Bering Sea Coast)
- 71% of harvest taken with setline gear; 29% with hand-operated gear

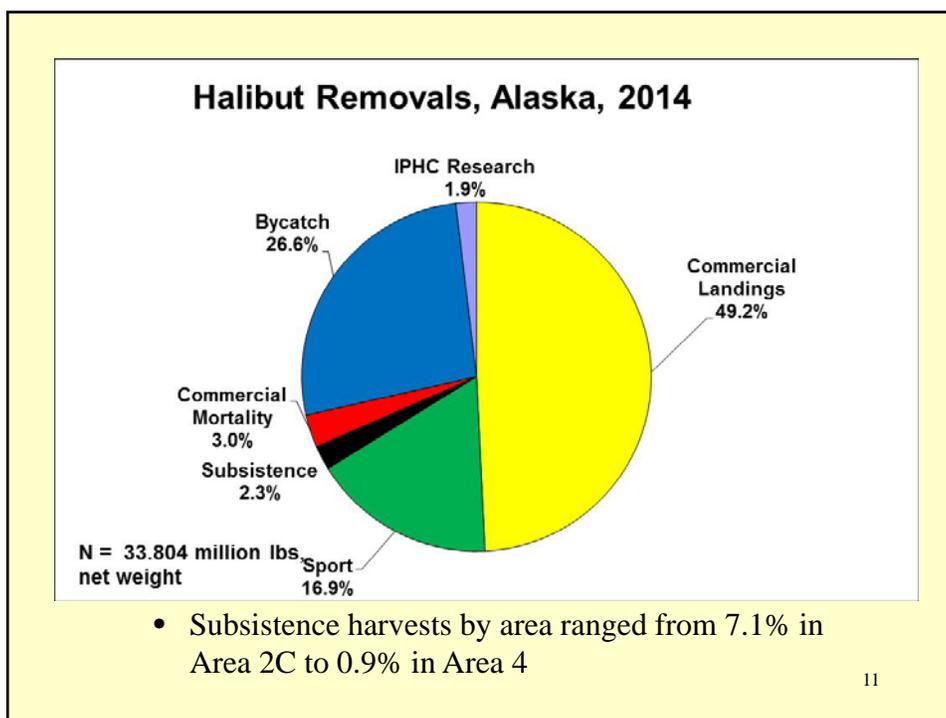
7

Estimated Number of Individuals Subsistence Fishing for Halibut in Alaska, 2003-2012 & 2014



8





Conclusions: Harvest Survey, 2014

- Overall, 2014 harvest survey was a success: good response rates and overall reliable harvest estimates
- Can discern some general patterns in the fishery since the new regulations came into effect
- Reasons for overall decline in harvests likely complex and require further investigation
- Concerns about nonrenewal of SHARCs, especially in certain regulatory areas
- Need to supplement mailed SHARC survey with in-person survey in portions of Area 4
- Recommendation to continue harvest monitoring

For More Information

- Division of Subsistence Website:
www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us and go to publications for draft final report
- Or: call us at 907-465-4147, or 465-3617, or 267-2353
- Or write: ADF&G, Division of Subsistence, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK, 99518
- Or contact NMFS at: 1-800-304-4846 (option 2) or www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/subsistence/halibut.htm