

COOK INLET SALMON FMP AMENDMENT: INITIAL REVIEW

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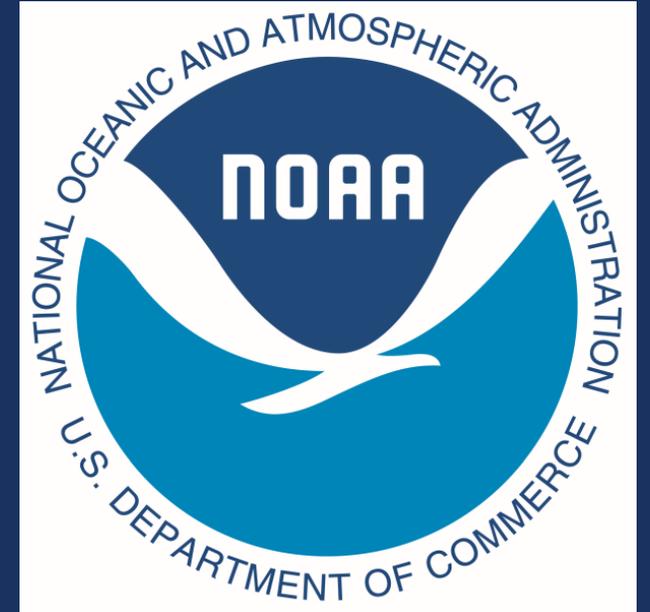
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12/9/2022

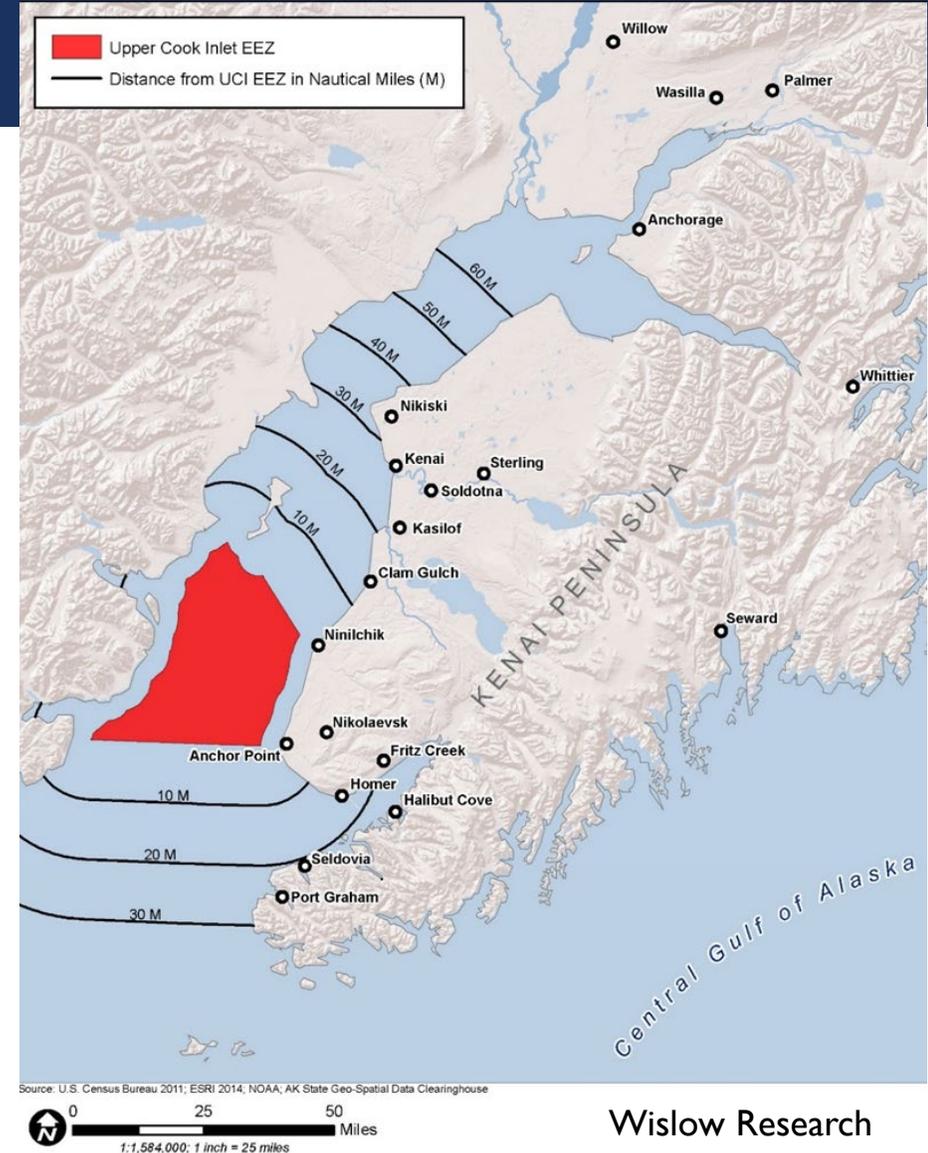


Patrick Dixon Fine Art Photography



INITIAL REVIEW

- Amend the Salmon FMP and Federal regulations to include the upper Cook Inlet EEZ salmon fishery
- Action memo
- Analysis
- Public comment



ACTION HISTORY AND UPDATES

- The Cook Inlet EEZ was excluded from the Salmon FMP
- *UCIDA et al., v. NMFS* held that the Cook Inlet EEZ must be included
- Council worked on this from 2017 to 2020
- Recommended closure to commercial salmon fishing in Dec. 2020
- Implemented as Amendment 14 (86 FR 60568, November 3, 2021)



ACTION HISTORY AND UPDATES

- Amendment 14 was challenged
- Vacated in June 2022
 - Inconsistent with MSA to the extent it relied on State management to achieve FMP goals, no Fed. management to achieve OY
 - Should have also included recreational fishery in the Cook Inlet EEZ
- A new amendment must be prepared
- **May 1, 2024 deadline to implement amendment**
 - Requires Council final action by April 2023
 - NMFS rulemaking takes ~1 year



THIS MEETING AND NEXT STEPS

- Review analysis and proposed revisions to alternatives and options
 - Adjust alternatives as needed
 - Preliminary preferred alternative may be identified
-
- Adopted updates will then be analyzed for SSC review and final action



PURPOSE AND NEED (PG. 6)

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage salmon fishing in the Federal waters of upper Cook Inlet. Federal management must be consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including the required provisions for an FMP specified in section 303(a). This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the 2016 Ninth Circuit decision and the recent summary judgment opinion of the Alaska District Court in UCIDA et al. v. NMFS.



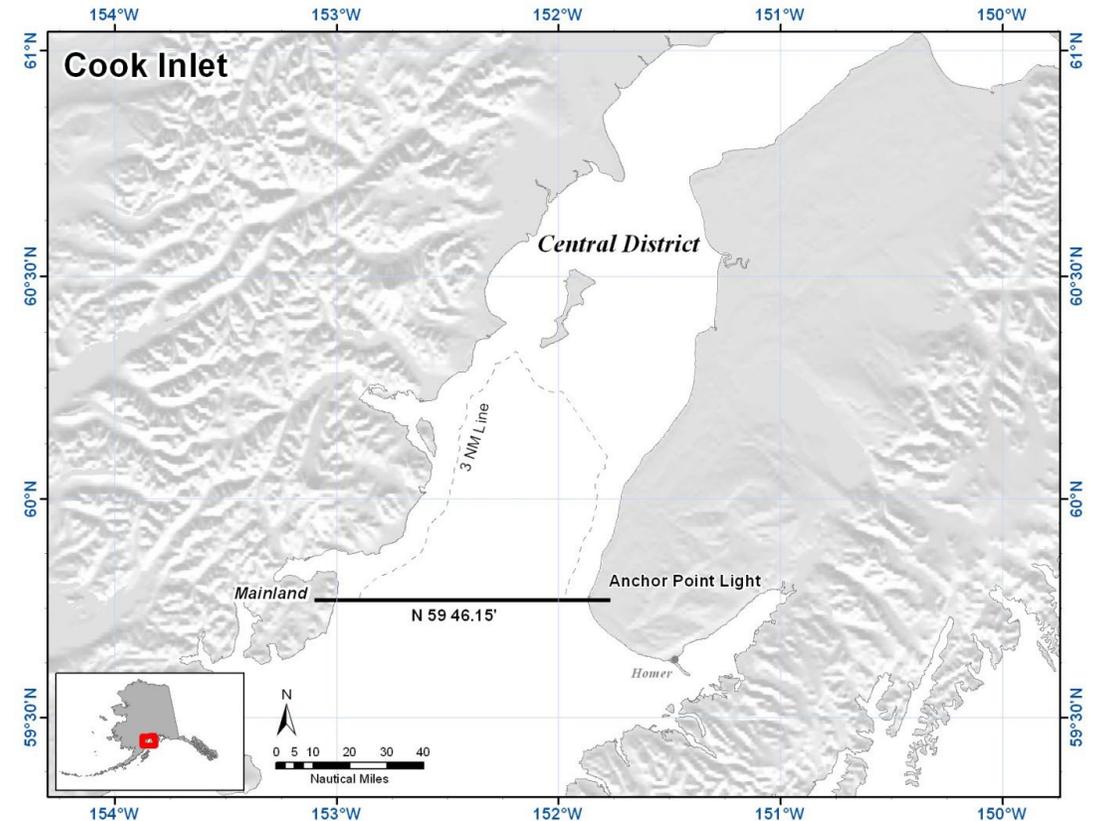
NINTH CIRCUIT DECISION

- “The North Pacific Council has jurisdiction over the federal waters of Cook Inlet.”
- “But, the federal government cannot delegate management of the fishery to a State without a plan, because a Council is **required to develop FMPs for fisheries within its jurisdiction** requiring management and then to manage those fisheries “through” those plans.”
- “The Magnuson-Stevens Act unambiguously requires a Council to create an FMP for each fishery under its authority that requires conservation and management.”



ALTERNATIVES (PG. 7)

- **Alternative 1: No Action.***
- **Alternative 2: Federal management of the EEZ with specific management measures delegated to the State.**
- **Alternative 3: Federal management of the EEZ without delegation.**
- **Alternative 4: Federal management of the EEZ, closed to commercial salmon fishing.***



*Not viable, not modified



ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT MOVED FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS (2.7, PG. 123)

- Cook Inlet Salmon Committee, stakeholders worked 2018 to 2020
- Final amendment recommendation (1.4.1, pg. 46)
- Delegated management that extended Federal management into State waters

- The Council did not adopt this alternative because:
 - Outside of Council/NMFS jurisdiction
 - Outside of action scope



WALKTHROUGH OF ALTERNATIVES

- Summary of key elements
- Options previously before the Council
- New possible variations on options before the Council



ADDITIONS TO THE ALTERNATIVES (PG. 7-8)

- **Recreational fishery management** (Alt 2 and Alt 3)
- Possible variation for a joint SSC/Peer Review process (Alt 2)
- Possible variation for annual process streamlining (Alt 2 and Alt 3)
- Possible variation for a fixed commercial fishery closure date (Alt 3)
- Possible variation for optimum yield (Alt 3)



ALTERNATIVE I – NO ACTION / STATUS QUO (2.3, PG. 69)

- No changes to existing management of the fishery
 - not in FMP, management deferred to the State
- **Not viable**



ALTERNATIVE 2 – DELEGATED MANAGEMENT (2.4, PG. 75)

- Delegates specific management authorities to the State
- Specific Federal management responsibilities
- Regular Council management cycle
- The State carries out inseason management
- Process for Federal oversight and review
- Applicable only to the EEZ
- $\frac{3}{4}$ majority Council vote required, State must accept



ALTERNATIVE 2 – DELEGATED MANAGEMENT

- **Management measures delegated to the State**



ALTERNATIVE 2 – MANAGEMENT MEASURES DELEGATED TO THE STATE

- Escapement Goals
- Fishing Seasons
- Closed Waters
- Management Area, District, Subdistrict
- Legal Gear (drift net configuration)
- Inseason Management
- Limited Entry Permits
- Recordkeeping and Reporting
- **Recreational Management**
- **Recreational Bag Limits**
- Other

(2.4.3, pg. 80)



ALTERNATIVE 2 – DELEGATED MANAGEMENT

- Recreational management and bag limits
- Could not be different for AK residents and non-residents
- Account for removals in SDC
- Standardized bycatch reporting methodology
 - creel surveys
 - statewide harvest survey
 - charter logbooks



ALTERNATIVE 2 – FEDERAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- **Federal management measures**



ALTERNATIVE 2 – FEDERAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Status Determination Criteria
- Annual Catch Limits
- Accountability Measures
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Recordkeeping and Reporting
- Standardized Bycatch Reporting
- Legal Gear (drift gillnet)

(2.4.2, pg. 79)



FEDERAL MANAGEMENT TERMS

- Status Determination Criteria (SDC)
 - Overfishing – fishing mortality rate too high
 - Overfished – stock too small
 - Overfishing limit (OFL)
 - Acceptable biological catch (ABC)
- Annual Catch Limits (ACL)
- Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

“reference points” or “harvest specifications”



ALTERNATIVE 2 – FEDERAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- **Options before the Council for Federal management measures**



ALTERNATIVE 2 – OPTIONS AND ELEMENTS

If the Council selects Alternative 2, it will need to specify:

- Monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting (2.4.8, pg. 95)
 - Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP), Federal Logbook, Fish ticket or eLandings reporting – *OR* – additional measures
 - Full retention of groundfish – *OR* – No retention of groundfish



ALTERNATIVE 2 – POSSIBLE VARIATION

- Annual process for determining the status of stocks (2.4.7, pg. 91)
 - Salmon Plan Team and SSC review – *OR* – **Peer Review Process with periodic SSC review**



ALTERNATIVE 2 – POSSIBLE VARIATION

- Annual process for determining the status of stocks (2.4.7, pg. 91)
 - Salmon Plan Team and SSC review – *OR* – **Peer Review Process with periodic SSC review**
- Under the MSA, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and/or a Peer Review process must evaluate the scientific information used to manage the fishery
- Peer Review leverages existing State processes with routine SSC (Federal) review of scientific information
- SSC review only applicable to Federal reference points for the EEZ fishery



ALTERNATIVE 2 – POSSIBLE VARIATION (2.4.7, PG. 94)

- Evaluate other options to streamline the annual process (2.4.7, pg. 94)
- In development
- These could include
 - A multi-year plan to establish harvest specifications
 - A multi-year plan to evaluate overfishing status
 - Alternative approach to establishing ACLs
 - Delegating additional authority to the State



ALTERNATIVE 2 PROCESS

Preseason

- **State**
 - Forecasts of salmon runs
 - Reg. restrictions, timing of openings in place
- **Federal (April Council Mtg.)**
 - Preseason OFL/ABC/ACL



Postseason

- **State**
 - Annual management reports
 - Final run, harvest, escapements
 - Escapement goal review
- **Federal (April Council Mtg.)**
 - Postseason OFL/ABC/ACL
 - Accountability Measures
 - Management report or SAFE

Inseason (June to Sept.)

- **State**
 - Monitor escapement
 - Monitor harvest
 - Adjust times/areas of openings



ALTERNATIVE 3 – FEDERAL MANAGEMENT (2.5, PG. 103)

- Direct management of EEZ by NMFS & Council
- Annual Council process, Salmon Plan Team (SDC, ACL, SAFE report)
- EEZ TAC set by Council for commercial fishery
- EEZ bag limits set by Council for recreational fishery
- EEZ harvest reduced if State harvests increase
- Annual EEZ fishery expected, but EEZ could be closed for conservation or management concerns (2.5.3, pg. 106)
- Applicable only to the EEZ



ALTERNATIVE 3 – FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

- **Options before the Council for Federal management measures**



ALTERNATIVE 3 – OPTIONS AND ELEMENTS

If the Council selects Alternative 3, it will need to specify:

- Commercial monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting (2.5.7, pg. 112)
 - FFP, Federal Logbook, VMS, eLandings reporting – *OR* – additional measures
 - Full retention of groundfish – *OR* – no retention of groundfish



ALTERNATIVE 3 – OPTIONS AND ELEMENTS

- Commercial fishing season (2.5.11, pg. 115)
 - Consistent with State – *OR* – independent Federal salmon season
- Commercial closed areas (2.5.11, pg. 116)
 - Adopt State closed areas – *OR* – Federal closed areas – *OR* – no closed areas
- Management Area, District, Subdistrict, Section, and Stat Areas (2.5.11, pg. 116)
 - Use State areas with EEZ reference – *OR* – Adopt Federal areas



ALTERNATIVE 3 – OPTIONS AND ELEMENTS

- Legal drift gillnet gear configuration (pg. 116)
 - Consistent with State – OR – define configuration
- Commercial limited entry (pg. 118)*
 - FFP to participate – OR – FFP and intent to develop a limited entry program

* a CFEC S03H permit would still be required to land fish in AK



ALTERNATIVE 3 – UPDATES



ALTERNATIVE 3 – UPDATES

- Recreational fishery salmon bag limits* (2.5.9, pg. 113)
 - Consistent with State – *OR* – define configuration
- Monitoring, recordkeeping, reporting (SBRM) (2.5.7.2 & 2.5.8, pg. 113)
 - creel surveys
 - statewide harvest survey
 - charter logbooks

*management and enforcement considerations with adjacent State waters



ALTERNATIVE 3 – POSSIBLE VARIATION

- Commercial fishing periods (pg. 115)
 - Concurrent with State fisheries* – *OR* – non-concurrent with adjacent State fisheries
 - **Fix a commercial fishery season closure date of July 15**
 - EEZ would close when TAC is reached or on July 15

* Would require additional monitoring measures and coordination with the State



ALTERNATIVE 3 – POSSIBLE VARIATION

- Optimum Yield (2.5.5, pg. 109)
 - Cook Inlet EEZ salmon harvest within escapement goal ranges – *OR* – **Within range of sum ACLs established for the Cook Inlet EEZ fishery**



ALTERNATIVE 3 – POSSIBLE VARIATION

- Evaluate other options to streamline the annual process (2.5.6, pg. 111)
- In development
- These could include
 - A multi-year plan to establish harvest specification
 - A multi-year plan to evaluate overfishing status
 - Alternative approach to establishing ACLs



ALTERNATIVE 3 PROCESS

Preseason

- **State**
 - Forecasts of salmon runs
 - Reg. restrictions, timing of openings in place
 - **Federal TAC, fishing periods known***
- **Federal (Feb. & Apr. Council mtgs.)**
 - Preseason ACL
 - Harvest Specs/TAC
 - Recreational bag limits



Postseason

- **State**
 - Annual management reports
 - Final run, harvest, escapements
 - Escapement goal review
- **Federal (Feb. & Apr. Council mtgs.)**
 - Postseason ACL (SDC)
 - Accountability Measures
 - SAFE

Inseason (June to Sept.)

- **State**
 - Monitor escapement
 - Monitor harvest
 - Adjust times/areas of openings
- **Federal**
 - EEZ catch monitoring
 - EEZ closure



ALTERNATIVE 4 – COOK INLET EEZ CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING (2.6, PG. 104)

- Would apply West Area prohibition on commercial fishing to the Cook Inlet EEZ
- Cook Inlet EEZ closed to commercial salmon fishing
- Commercial salmon fishing would continue in State waters where State management processes continue without Federal involvement
- **Not viable**



ALTERNATIVE COMPARISONS (PG. 11-20)

	Alternative 1 Status Quo	Alternative 2 Delegated Mgmt.	Alternative 3 NMFS Mgmt.	Alternative 4 EEZ Closure
Regular Council Process? (harvest specs)	No	Yes, 1 meeting per year	Yes, 2 meetings per year	No
EEZ Inseason Managers	ADFG	ADFG	NMFS	n/a
State/EEZ catch apportionment	BoF	BoF, within MSA & FMP criteria	Responsive to State management	n/a
CFEC Permit Req'd?	Yes	Yes	Yes, if landing in AK	n/a
Fishing across EEZ boundary?	Yes	Yes	No	No



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (3, PG. 134)

- Updated Section 3.1.1 with most recent years of escapement
 - Tables 3-2 and 3-2
 - Kenai late-run Chinook below escapement goals 2019 to 2021
- Updated Section 3.1.2 with proposed SDC with most recent years
 - Tables 3-5 to 3-12
 - Coho exceeded ACL and overfishing threshold in 2021



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (3, PG. 134)

- No significant impacts expected to the affected environment.
- New possible variations not yet analyzed
 - Recreational saltwater fishery harvests <0.25% of Cook Inlet salmon
 - Commercial fishing period option may alter State/EEZ harvests, but within range of existing Alt 3 analysis
 - Other variations administrative in nature



OVERVIEW OF THE RIR (SECTION 4, PG. 196 – 343)

- Section 4.1 (pg. 196): **Statutory Authority**—no revisions planned unless directed
- Section 4.2 (pg. 197): **Purpose and Need**—no revisions planned unless directed
- Section 4.3 (pg. 197): **Alternatives**—alternatives listed have not yet been updated to reflect proposed changes
- Section 4.4 (pg. 197): **Methodology**—minor revisions are planned
- Section 4.5 (pg. 198): **Salmon Fisheries Utilizing the EEZ**—revised to include both the Drift Gillnet Fishery and Saltwater Sport Fishery
- Section 4.6 (pg. 291): **Other Potentially Affected Fisheries**—will be updated to include data through 2021
- Section 4.7: (pg. 305) **Analysis of Impacts**—will be updated
- Appendix 14: **Community Fisheries Engagement Indices**—updated



FIGURE 4-I. AVERAGE HARVEST PERCENTAGES IN THE UCI SALMON DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY BY DATE AND SPECIES, 2009–2021 (PG. 202)

- Figure is updated in the slide but has not yet been added to the draft report.
- Gray vertical lines show the last day of the month.
- Black vertical lines show the 15th day of the month.
- On average by July 15:
 - 68% of Chinook harvested
 - 39% of Sockeye harvested
 - 28% of Chum harvested
 - 22% of Pinks harvested
 - 14% of Coho harvested

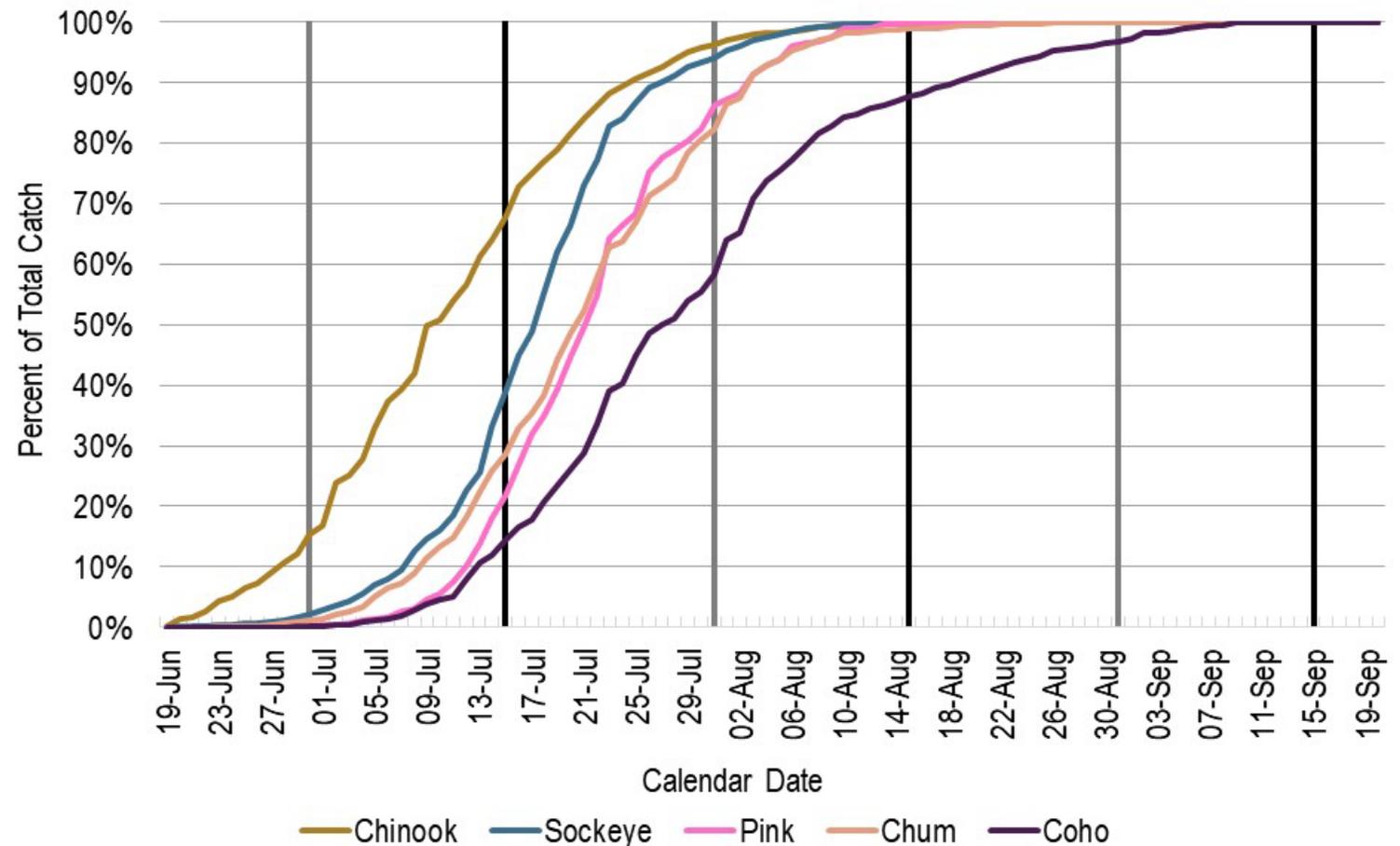


TABLE 4- I. EARLIEST, LATEST AND AVERAGE DATES OF HARVEST IN THE UCI SALMON DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY BY SPECIES AND SELECTED HARVEST PERCENTAGES, 2009–2021 (PG. 203)

- Table is updated in this slide but has not yet been updated in the draft report.
- Three rows for each species showing earliest, latest, and the average day the harvest percentages shown were attained between 2009–2021

Species	Day	25% of Harvest	50% of Harvest	75% of Harvest	100% of Harvest
Chinook	Earliest	June 25, 2019	July 5, 2018	July 9, 2018	August 6, 2012
Chinook	Average	July 3	July 11	July 17	August 23
Chinook	Latest	July 9, 2020	July 16, 2012	July 25, 2019	September 9, 2017
Sockeye	Earliest	July 5, 2018	July 12, 2018	July 16, 2018	August 31, 2012
Sockeye	Average	July 12	July 17	July 22	September 10
Sockeye	Latest	July 20, 2015	July 26, 2021	August 2, 2021	September 20, 2017
Chum	Earliest	July 5, 2018	July 10, 2018	July 13, 2018	September 1, 2011
Chum	Average	July 14	July 20	July 26	September 11
Chum	Latest	July 22, 2011	July 29, 2019	August 3, 2017	September 20, 2017
Pink	Earliest	July 9, 2019	July 14, 2015	July 18, 2016	August 26, 2013
Pink	Average	July 16	July 19	July 25	September 5
Pink	Latest	July 21, 2011 & 2012 & 2020	July 27, 2020	August 3, 2020	September 16, 2016
Coho	Earliest	July 12, 2018	July 22, 2010 & 2014	July 24, 2018	September 1, 2011
Coho	Average	July 20	July 28	August 4	September 11
Coho	Latest	August 1, 2017	August 17, 2020	August 22, 2020	September 20, 2017

FIGURE 4-5. HARVEST (IN NUMBERS OF FISH) IN THE UCI SALMON DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY BY SPECIES, 1966–2021. (PAGE 209)

- 3 years don't indicate a trend
- 2020 appears to be an anomaly
 - 2020 had the lowest total harvest (651,610 fish)
 - 2020 had the highest percentage of pinks (45%)
 - 2020 had the lowest percentage of sockeye harvest (44%) since 1981 (38%).
- 2019 and 2021 were more typical with respect to species mix
- Species are mis-labeled in the draft:
 - Re-label Pink Salmon to Chum Salmon
 - Re-label Chum Salmon to Coho Salmon
 - Re-label Coho Salmon to Pink Salmon

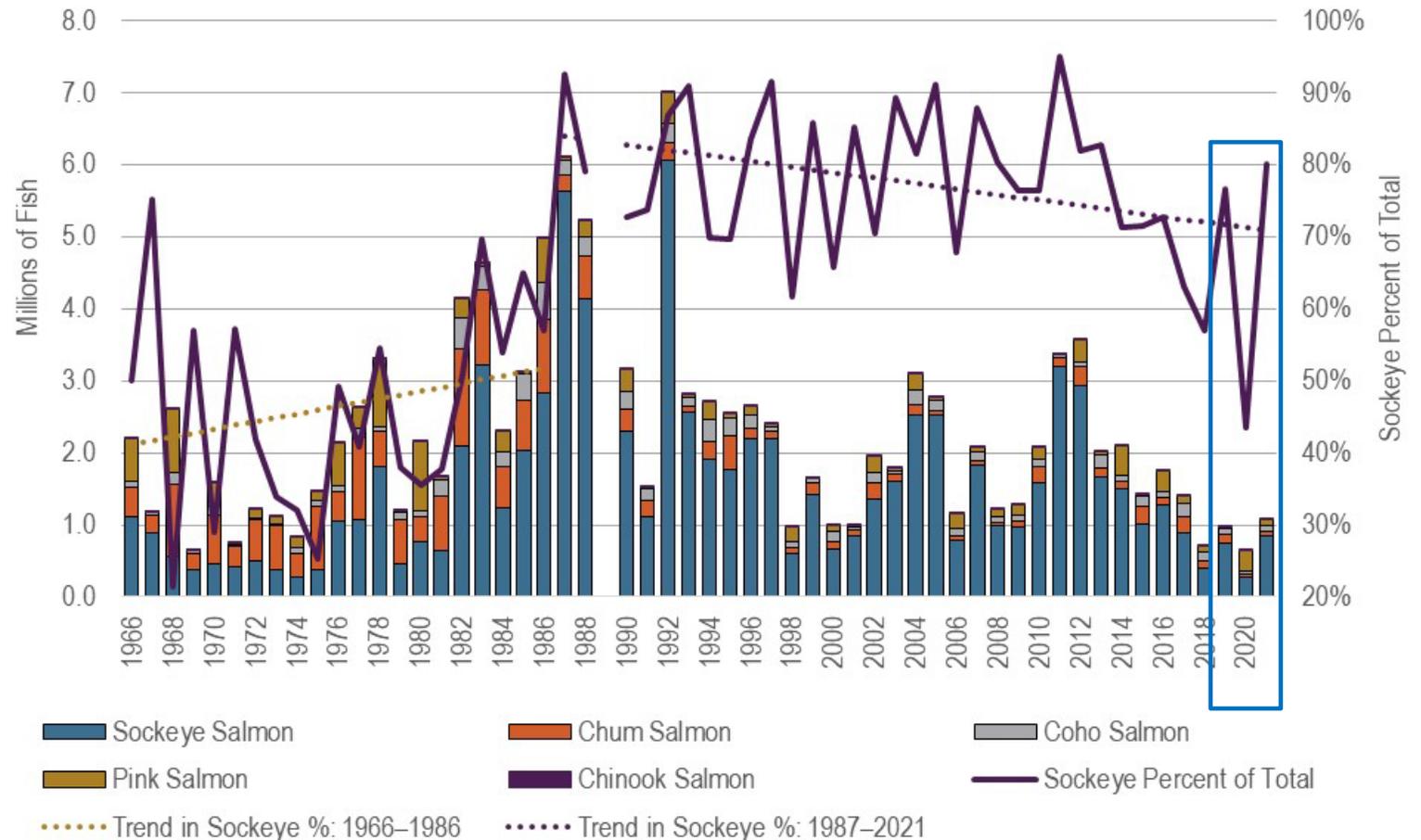


FIGURE ES-1. EXCERPT SHOWING THE EEZ IN UPPER COOK INLET (PG. 4) FIGURE 4-3. UCI DRIFT GILLNET STATISTICAL AREAS (PG. 206)

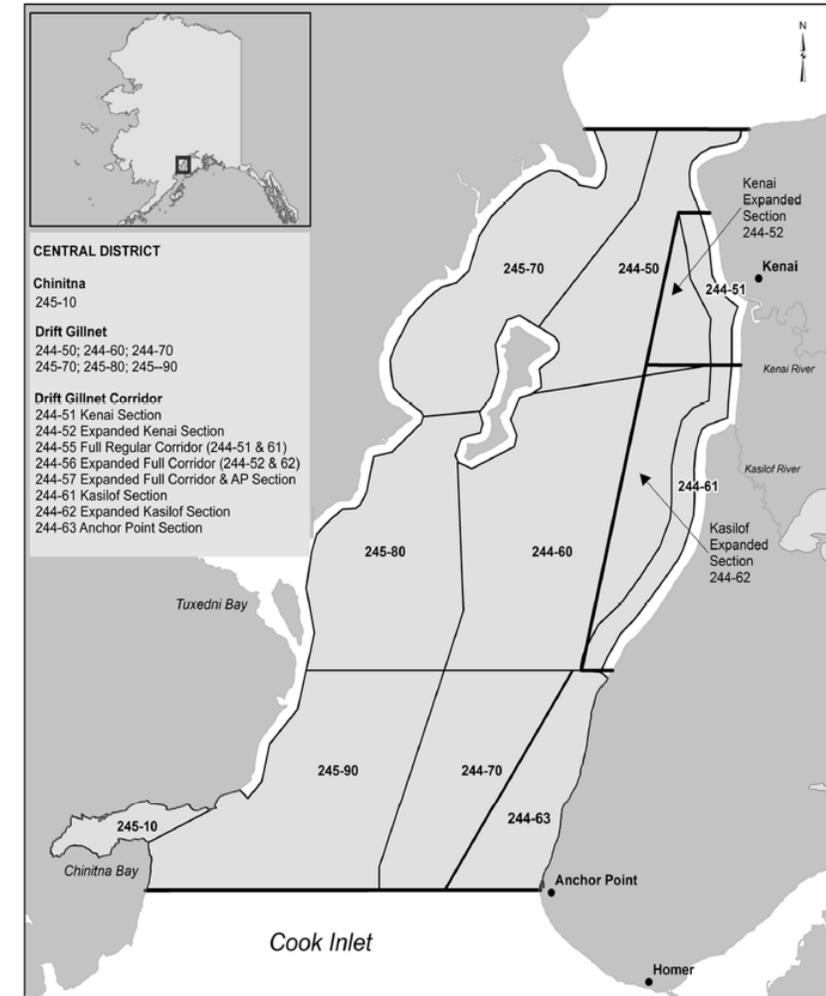
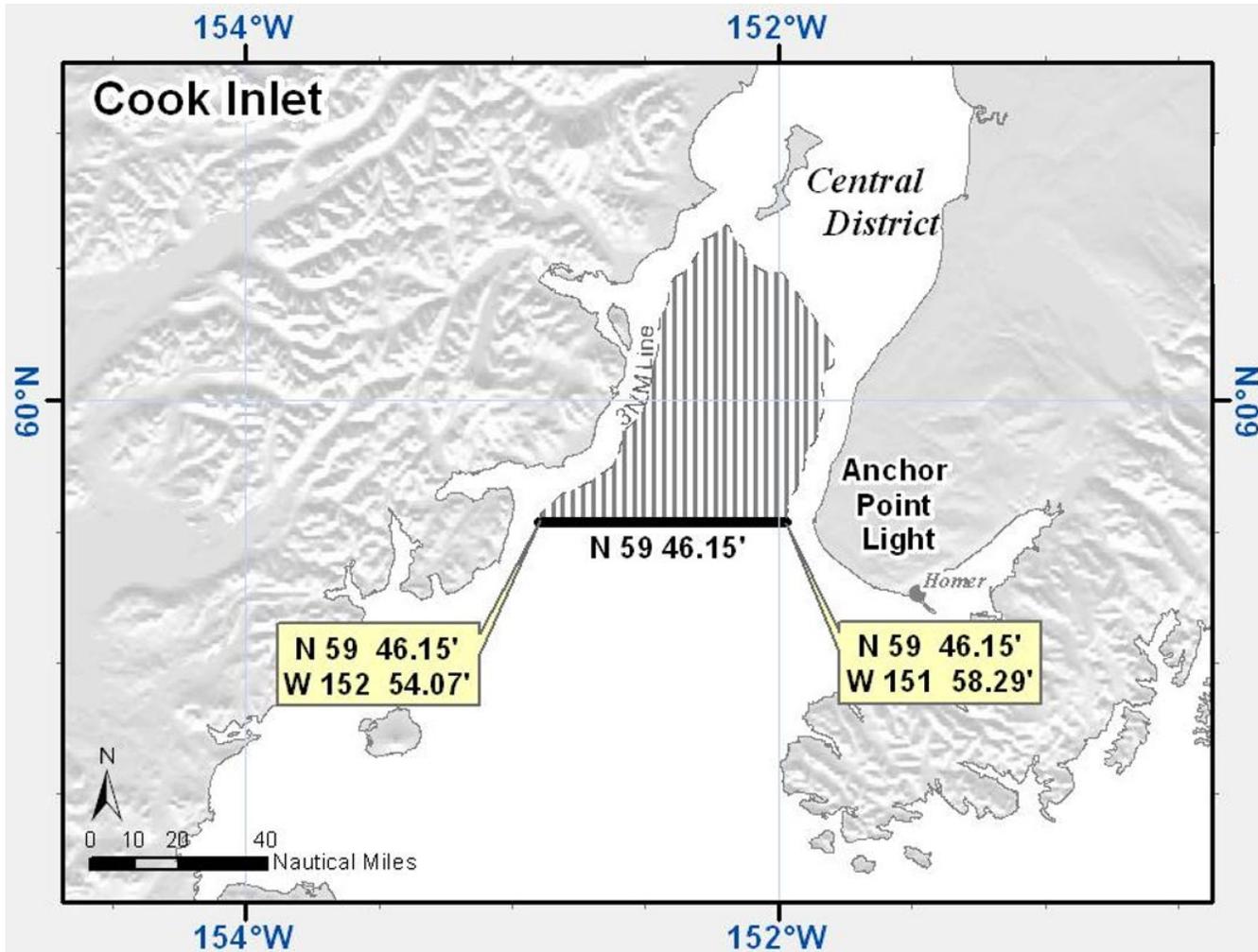


FIGURE 4-9. APPROXIMATE PERCENT OF TOTAL SALMON HARVESTS (IN POUNDS) IN THE UCI SALMON DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY INSIDE THE EEZ, 1999–2021. (PG. 213)

- Figure is incorrect in the published draft
 - Data for 2019 are missing
- Blue outline shows the complete set of updated data.
 - EEZ Percentage 2020 was the lowest recorded (18.5%)
- The overall percentage harvested in the EEZ has been declining since 1999.
 - Average since 1999 = 47.2%
 - Average 2007–2014 = 52.4%
 - Average since 2015 = 41.0%

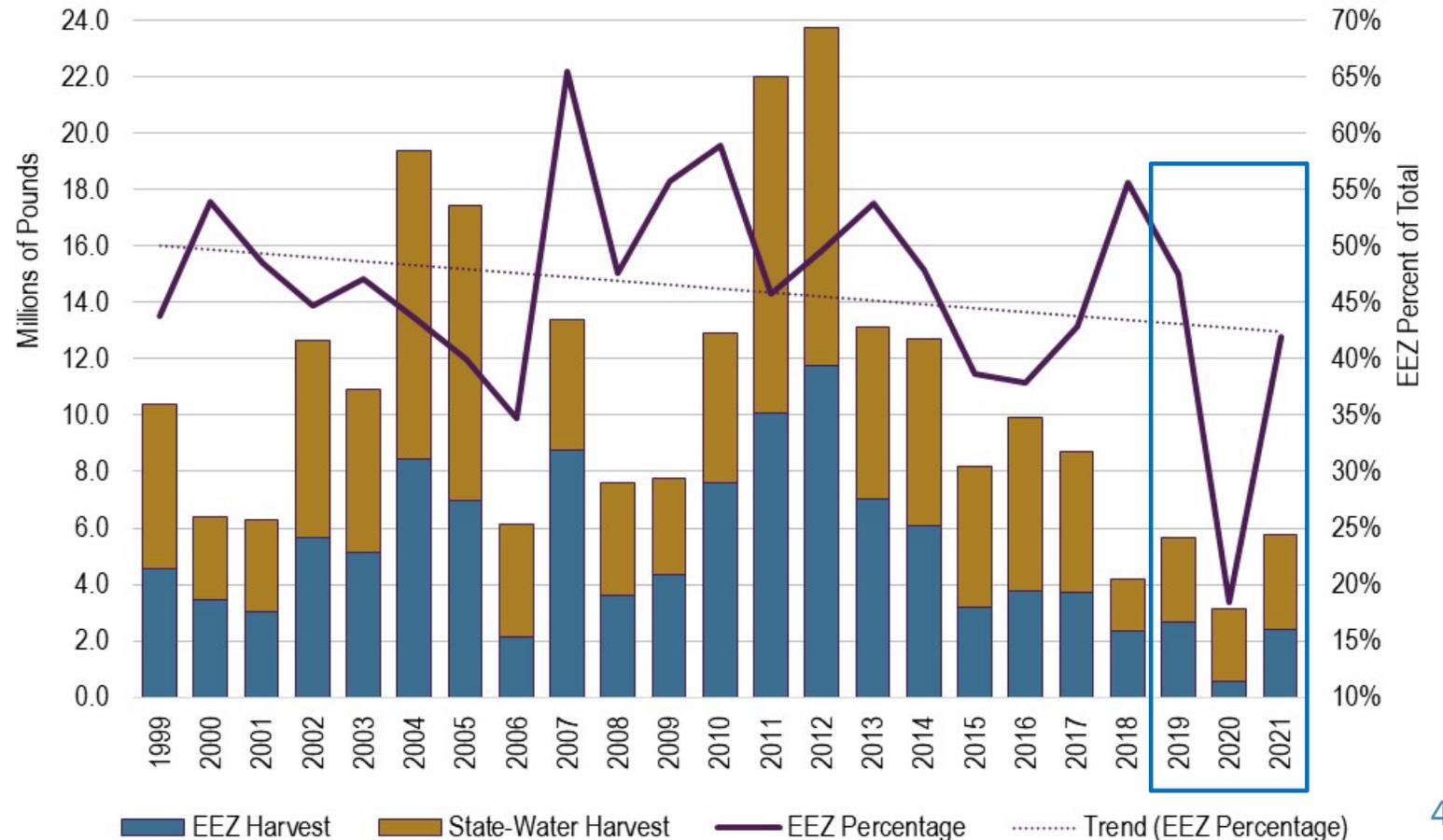


FIGURE 4-13. NUMBER OF ACTIVE S03H PERMITS BY RESIDENT TYPE, 1975–2021. (PG. 218)

- Blue outline shows the updated data.
- The number of active permits in 2020 (364) and 2021(343) were the lowest since the beginning of limit entry.
- Residents as a percent of total active permits were the highest since 1975 in 2020 at 77.2%
 - 2021 saw a slightly lower level (76.4%)—2nd highest percentage

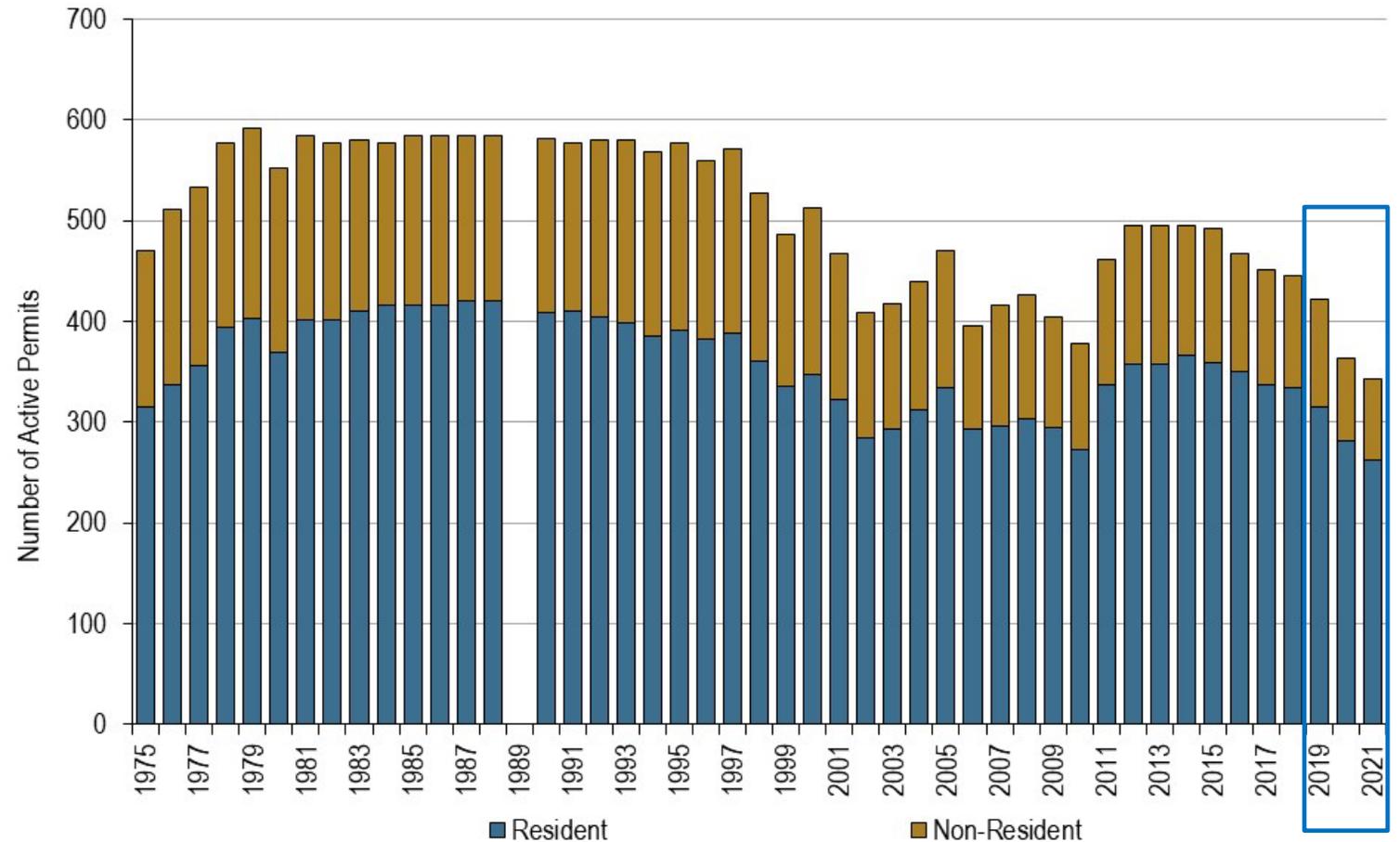


FIGURE 4-21. AVERAGE ANNUAL EX-VESSEL PRICE (INFLATION ADJUSTED) OF SALMON HARVESTED IN UPPER COOK INLET SALMON FISHERIES BY SPECIES, 1975–2021. (PG. 227)

- Blue outline shows the updated data.
- Compared to inflation adjusted prices from 2009–2018 average prices from 2019–2021 were:
 - 23% higher for Chinook
 - 8% lower for Sockeye
 - 1% lower for Coho
 - 8% lower for Chum
 - 10% lower for Pinks

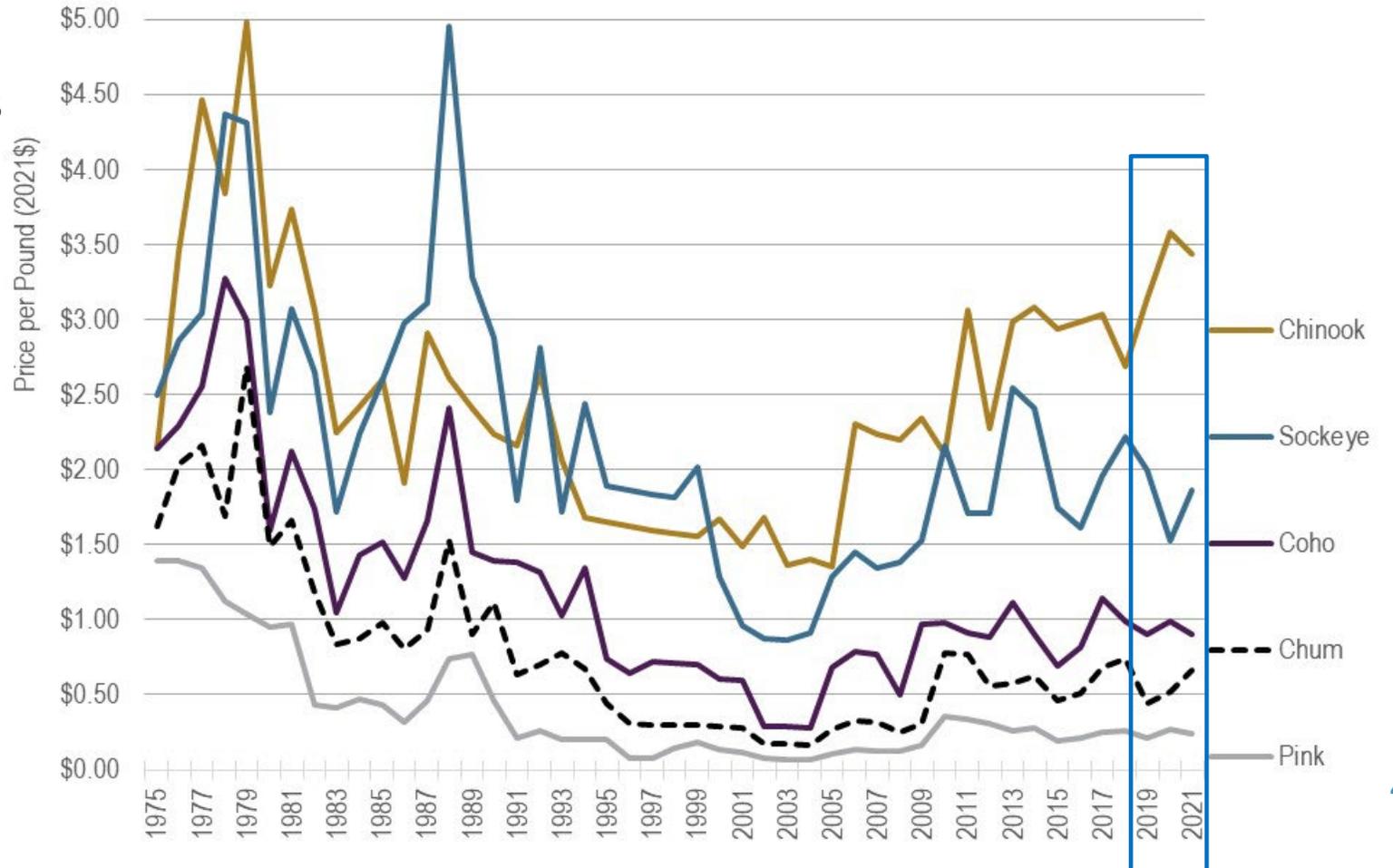
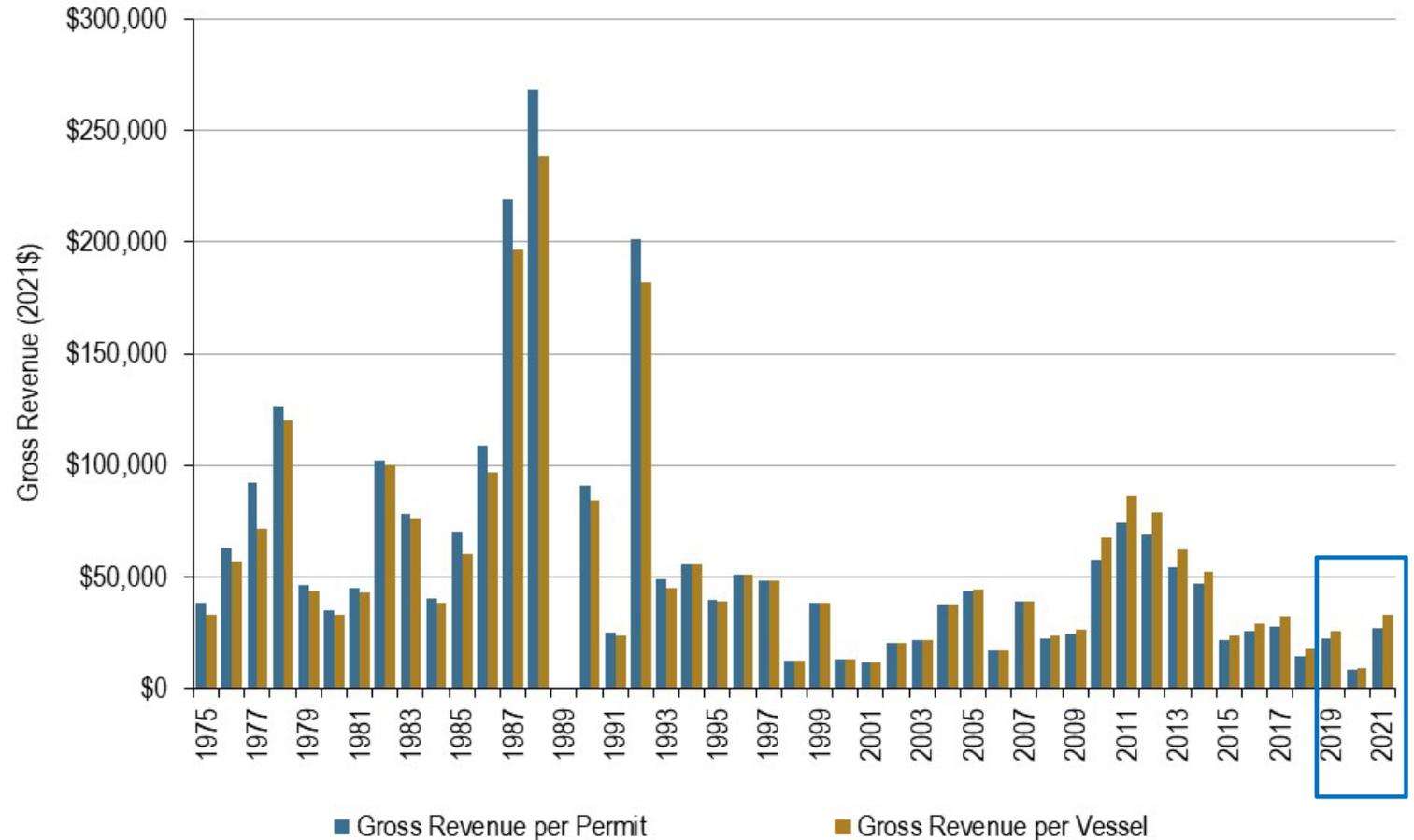


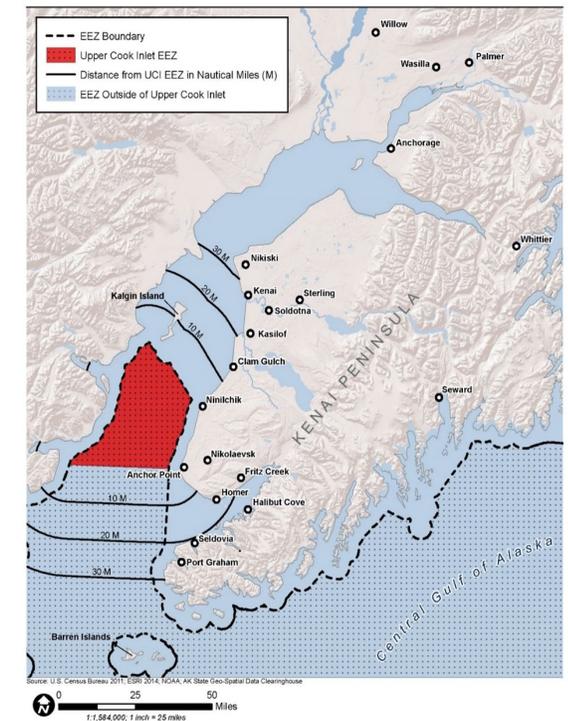
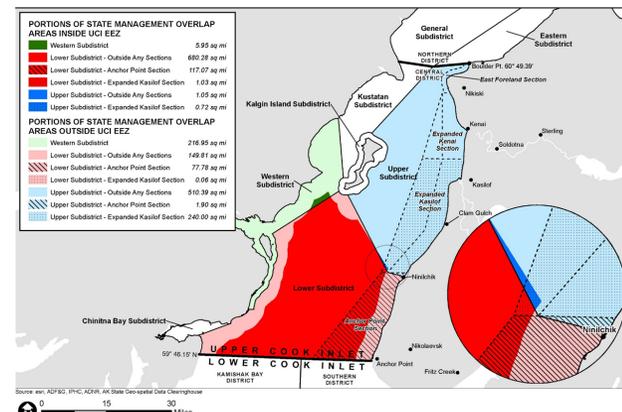
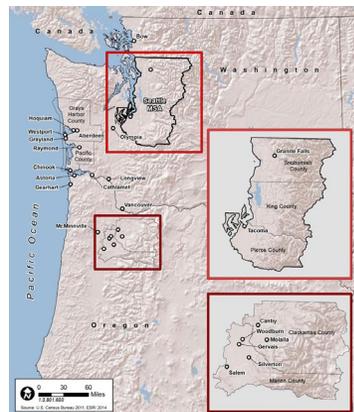
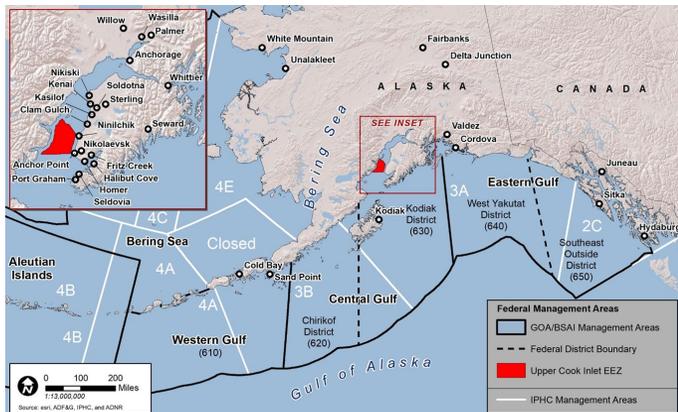
FIGURE 4-22. GROSS REVENUE (INFLATION ADJUSTED) PER ACTIVE PERMIT AND VESSEL IN THE UCI SALMON DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY, 1975–2021 (PG. 228)

- Blue outline shows the updated data.
- Revenue is adjusted for inflation to 2021\$
- Average revenues in 2020 were the lowest since limited entry began in 1975.
- Average revenues in 2019 and 2021 were comparable to average revenue since 2004 if the high revenue years from 2010–2014 are excluded.



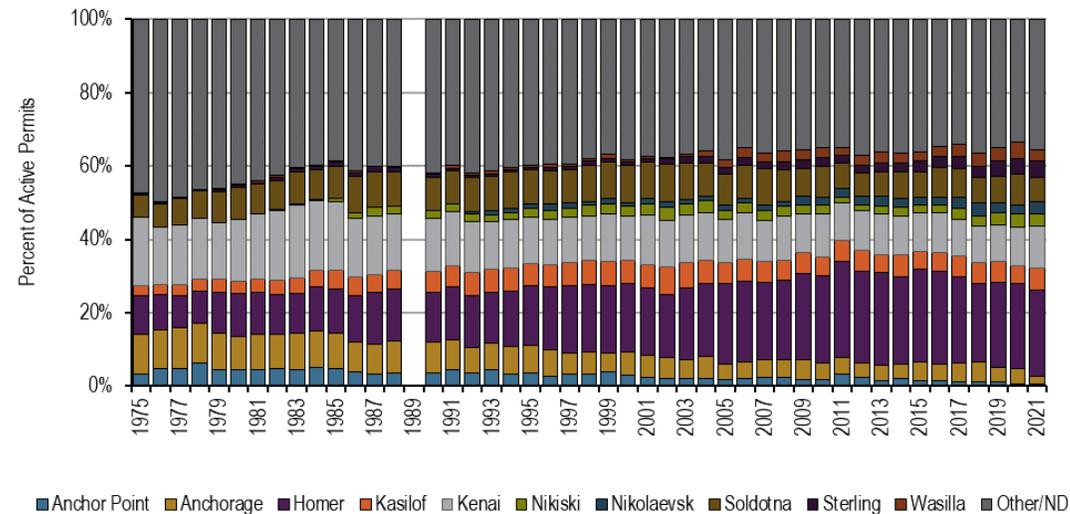
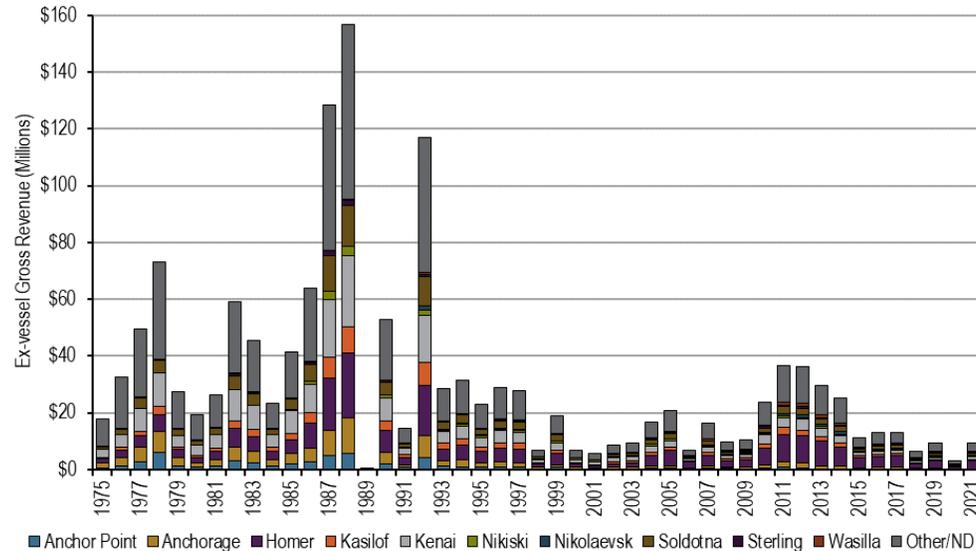
UPDATES TO SECTION 4.5.1.5: FISHING COMMUNITIES (PG. 239)

- Maps, figures, tables, and text have been updated based on the inclusion of 2019-2021 quantitative fisheries data
 - Maps of geographic footprint of participation
 - Alaska and Pacific Northwest communities (Figures 4-32 and 4-33, Pg. 241-242)
 - Proximity to Upper Cook Inlet EEZ (Figures 4-34 and 4-35, Pg. 243-244)



UPDATES TO SECTION 4.5.1.5: FISHING COMMUNITIES (CONT.)

- Maps, figures, tables, and text have been updated based on the inclusion of 2019-2021 quantitative fisheries data (cont.)
- Figures illustrating trends 1970s-present (Figures 4-36 through 4-39, Pg. 245-247)



UPDATES TO SECTION 4.5.1.5: FISHING COMMUNITIES (CONT.)

- Maps, figures, tables, and text have been updated based on the inclusion of 2019-2021 quantitative fisheries data (cont.)
 - Quantitative indicators of fishery engagement and dependency 2009-2021 (Pg. 248-256)
 - Participating catcher vessel counts by community by year (Table 4-14)
 - Ex-vessel gross revenue from the UCI salmon drift gillnet fishery by community by year (Table 4-15)
 - Annual average ex-vessel gross revenue diversity by community for vessels participating in the UCI salmon drift gillnet fishery, including EEZ/State waters split (Table 4-16)
 - Annual average ex-vessel gross revenue diversity by community for overall community fleet (all gear, area, and species fisheries), including EEZ/State waters split (Table 4-17)
 - Analogous information has been presented for:
 - Shore-based processors (Tables 4-18 through 4-21, Pg. 257-261)
 - S03H permit holders (Tables 4-21 through 4-23, Pg. 262-263)



UPDATES TO SECTION 4.5.1.5: FISHING COMMUNITIES (CONT.)

- Revenue information has been adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars
- Alaska community demographic indicators updated with 2020 decennial census data (Table 4-24, Pg. 264)
 - Total population, Alaska Native residents, minority residents, residents living in group quarters
 - Per capita, median household, and median family income; low-income residents as percent of total population
- Alaska community institutional indicators updated with 2020 decennial census data (Table 4-24, Pg. 265)
 - Type of municipal government, ANCSA regional and village corporation affiliation, and federally recognized Tribe and Tribal government



UPDATES TO SECTION 4.5.1.5: FISHING COMMUNITIES (CONT.)

- Principal components factor analysis has been similarly updated (Table 4-26, Pg. 266 and Appendix 14).
- Minor updates and edits (e.g., addition of new NOAA Fisheries Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO) data) have been made to Community Characterizations discussion (Section 4.5.1.5.3.3, Pg. 268-273)
- Fishery related tax revenue updated with 2019-2021 data (Tables 4-27 through 4-32, Pg. 274-280 and Figure 4-40, Pg. 281)



UPDATES TO SECTION 4.5.1.5: FISHING COMMUNITIES (CONT.)

- Following updates, there are no obvious differences in overall patterns of community engagement or dependency compared to those described in the previous analysis reviewed by the Council.
- However, data now include: (1) the early pandemic years and (2) an historically low volume and value year with the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet federal fishery disaster.



SECTION 4.5.1.5: FISHING COMMUNITIES REMAINING TASKS

- Two primary fishing community related tasks remain to be completed in the next version of the RIR:
 - Addition of community related information relevant to the existing conditions description of saltwater sportfishing in the EEZ.
 - Analysis of the potential community impacts of Alternatives 2 and 3 (including those associated with saltwater sportfishing in the EEZ).



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE SALTWATER SPORT FISHERY IN THE UPPER COOK INLET THAT WILL BE ADDED TO THE RIR

- The Saltwater Sport Fishery has been elevated to a directly affected fishery
- Section 4.5.2 (beginning on page 288) is dedicated to the Saltwater Sport Fishery
- Additional information on management and management areas will be developed
- Additional information on participation and harvests will be added including:
 - Counts of guided/charter operator that have provided trips in the UCI saltwater sport fishery
 - Number of Residents and Non-Residents that have participated in the UCI saltwater sport fishery including break-outs of information for guided trips and non-guided trips.
 - Estimates of the numbers of salmon by species that have been landed in the fishery.
 - Estimates of the numbers of salmon by species that were harvested in the EEZ.



OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPATION AND HARVEST REPORT IN THE UCI SALTWATER SPORT FISHERY

- As with the UCI Drift Gillnet Fishery reporting areas do not differentiate between State and Federal waters
- The map shows Salmon Sport Fishing Statistical Areas for charter operators.
- Non-guided vessel-based sport fishing data in the UCI uses the Statewide Harvest Survey in the following areas:
 - Upper Cook Inlet north of Bluff Point and Chinitna Points, including saltwaters by Anchor River, Whiskey Gulch, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River

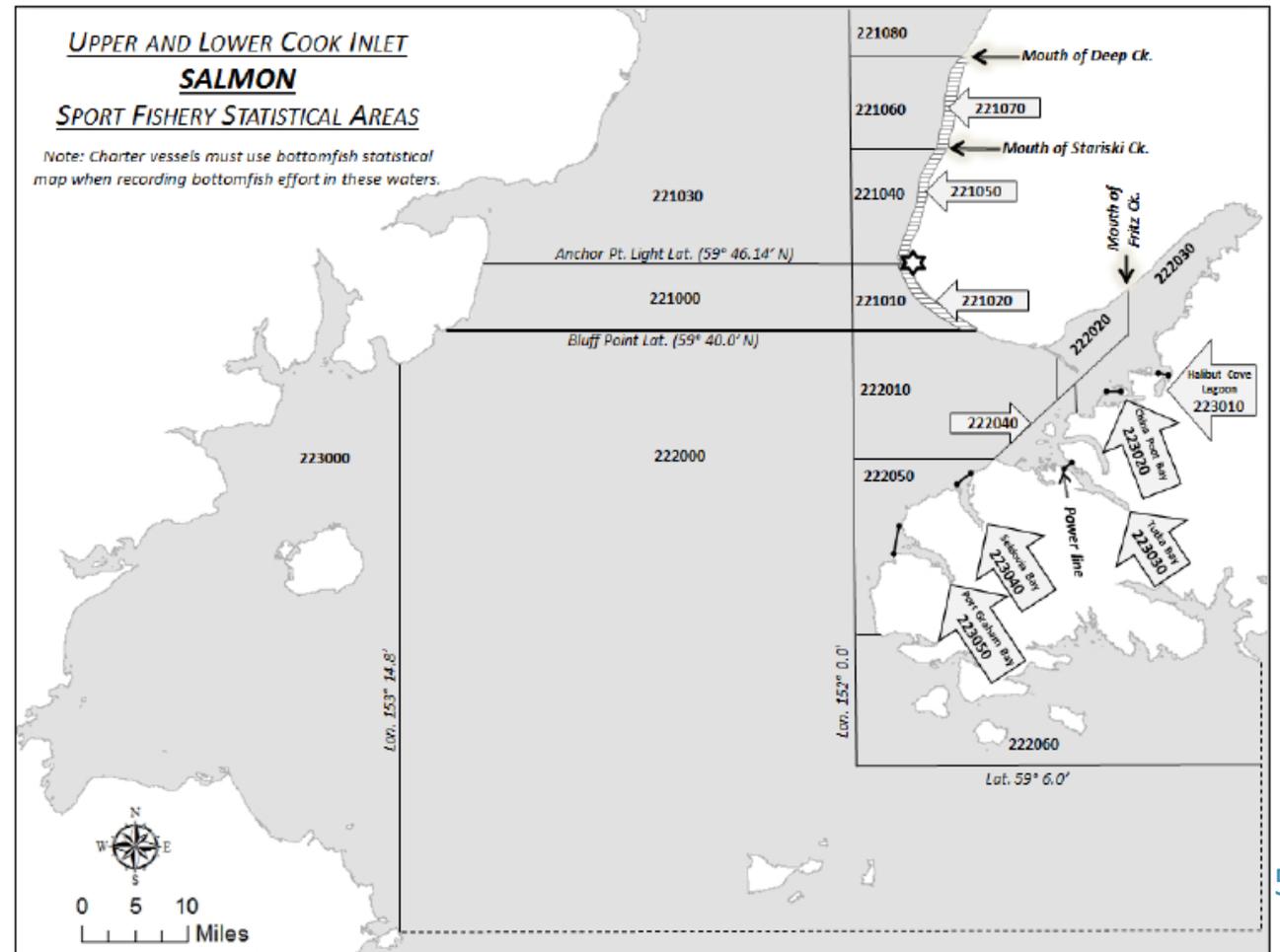


FIGURE 4-45. UPPER BOUND ESTIMATE OF SALMON HARVEST (IN NUMBERS OF FISH) IN UPPER COOK INLET SALTWATER SPORT SALMON FISHERIES BY SPECIES, 1999–2021. (PG. 289)

- All data have been updated from the 2021 Secretarial Review document.
- Changes for years 1999-2018 are extremely minor if any.
- Estimates include harvests from Bluff Point north and thus represent an overestimate of actual UCI saltwater harvests.
- The Bluff Point line is ≈ 6.25 nm south of the Anchor Point line.
- Total saltwater sport harvest from 1999–2021 is $\approx 0.6\%$ of UCI drift gillnet harvest.

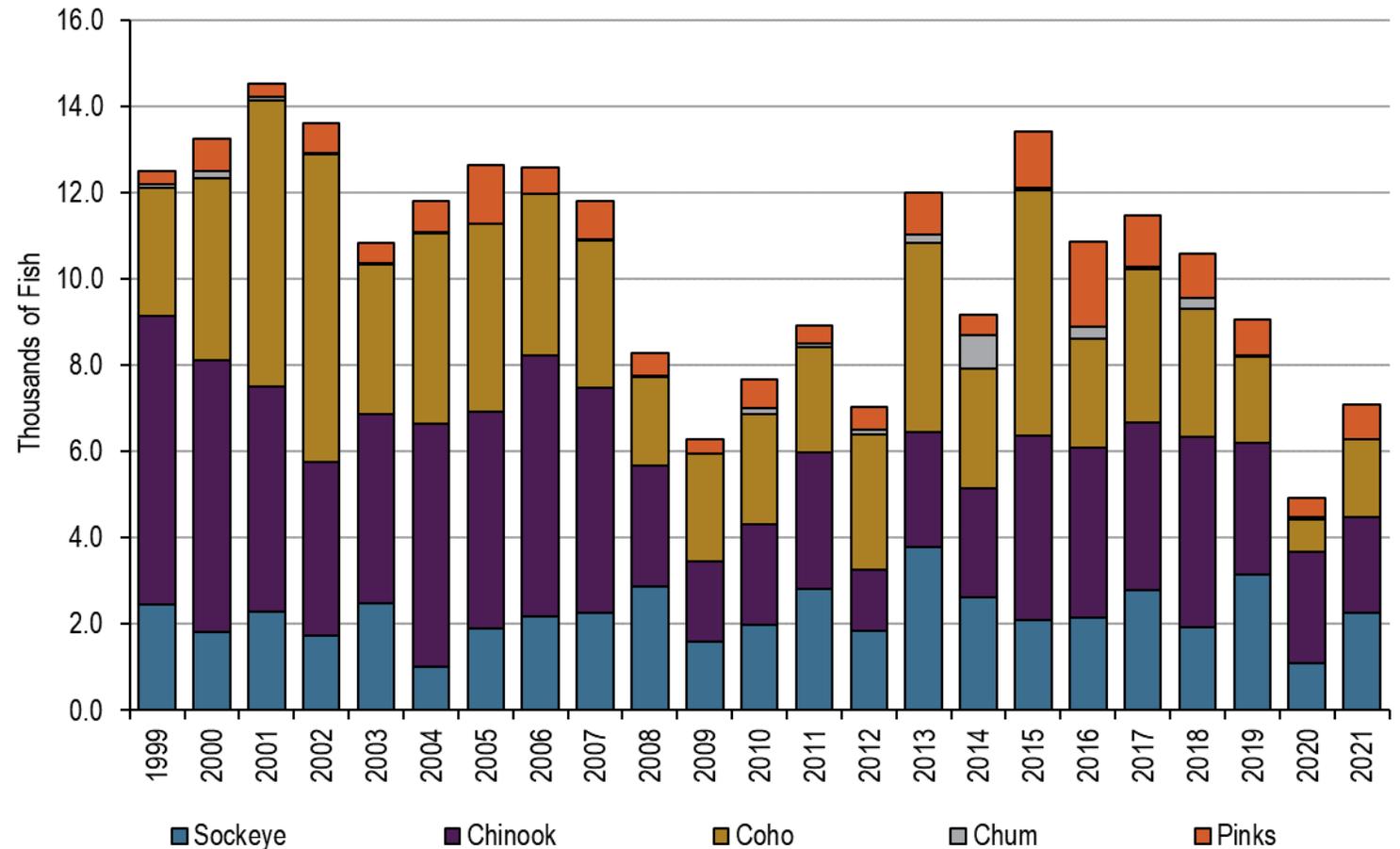


FIGURE 4-47. APPROXIMATE PERCENT OF SALMON HARVESTS (IN NUMBERS OF FISH) IN THE UPPER COOK INLET SALTWATER SPORT SALMON FISHERY INSIDE THE EEZ BY SPECIES, 2004–2018. (PG. 291)

■ Estimates of EEZ percent are derived from saltwater charter logbook data by ADF&G.

■ Averages from 2004–2011

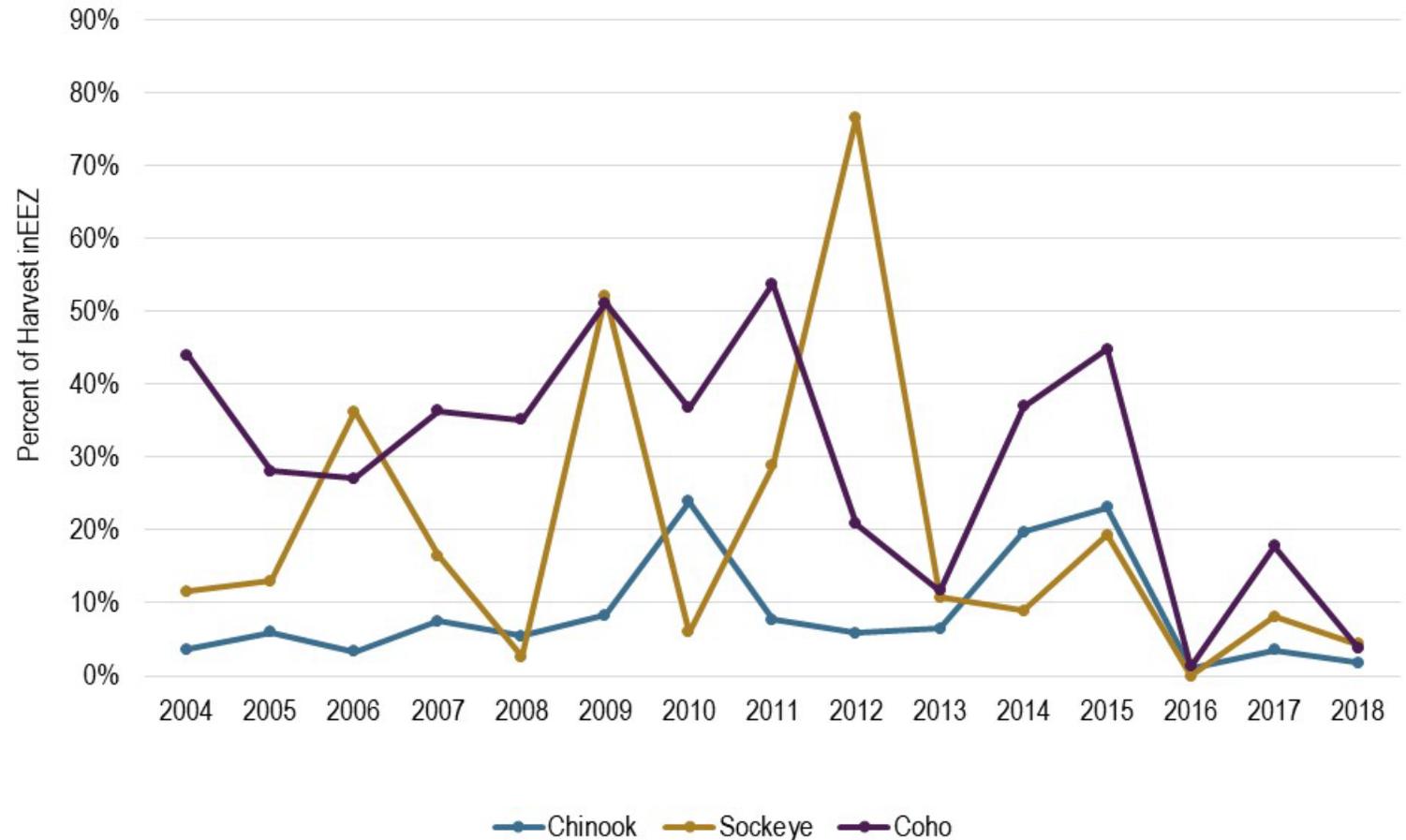
■ Chinook	8.2%
■ Coho	39.0%
■ Sockeye	20.8%

■ Averages from 2012–2018

■ Chinook	8.8%
■ Coho	19.6%
■ Sockeye	18.3%

■ Averages from 2004–2018

■ Chinook	7.6%
■ Coho	31.0%
■ Sockeye	19.9%



IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE I (PG. 306)

- Alternative I would not change State management of the UCI salmon drift gillnet fishery in either Federal or State waters
- Harvest levels will likely fluctuate from year to year due to the inherent annual variability in salmon runs (Figure 4-5, pg. 209)
- **Not viable**



IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 2 (PG. 306)

- Annual Council process
- If no post-season ACLs are exceeded and no overfishing is occurring then harvests are not expected to differ from Alternative 1
- If ACLs are exceeded or overfishing is occurring, the Council would request the State to take remedial measures
- Requests for Federal review and oversight
- Participants need an FFP and logbook



IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 3 (PG. 307)

- Annual Council process
- Forecast based TACs set conservatively to account for increased uncertainty
- EEZ closed when a TAC is reached or at scheduled date
- Possible annual EEZ closure
- Likely lower harvest levels for the UCI drift gillnet fleet on average, increases in State waters salmon harvests
- Participants need an FFP, logbook, and VMS



IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 4 (PG. 309)

- No commercial fishing in the Cook Inlet EEZ
 - EEZ harvests summarized in 4.5.1.2.3 (pg. 211), EEZ revenue in Table 4-33 (pg. 309)
- Salmon potentially available to all State water fisheries
- Reduced drift gillnet fleet harvest, increases to other groups
- Potentially some reduction in overall Cook Inlet salmon harvest
- Impacts dependent on amount of compensatory effort and State management response
- **Not viable**



QUESTIONS?

- **Workgroup staff available for questions** – Doug Duncan (NMFS), Marcus Hartley (Northern Economics), Mike Downs (Wislow Research)



Thank you



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