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Alaska Region



ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

Co-management: Status and Updates on Laaqudan - Northern fur seals

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Outline

- Fur Seal Co-management: Pribilof Islands
- Co-management Today: St. Paul
- Highlighted Projects
 - Timing of Departure
 - VHF disturbance/Emigration
 - Marine Debris/Entanglement
 - Subsistence Use/Sampling Opportunities
- Summary and Questions



Fur Seal Co-management: Pribilof Islands

- **“co-management”** on the Pribilof Islands predates the MMPA 1994 amendments = including Alaska Natives in NMFS research and monitoring
- 1994 amendments to MMPA established opportunity to Alaska Native Organizations to “Co-manage” subsistence use of marine mammals
- **“Co-management”** agreements signed between NMFS and:
 - Aleut Community of St. Paul Island in 2000
 - Traditional Council of St. George Island in 2001



Co-management Today: St. Paul Island

- ECO implements numerous research and management programs locally, including Co-management with NMFS
- Amended Co-Management Agreement signed Jan 2020; Co-Management Plan; Regular formal and informal meetings
- Annual Alaska Native Co-Management Funding Program fund co-management program on St. Paul and St. George

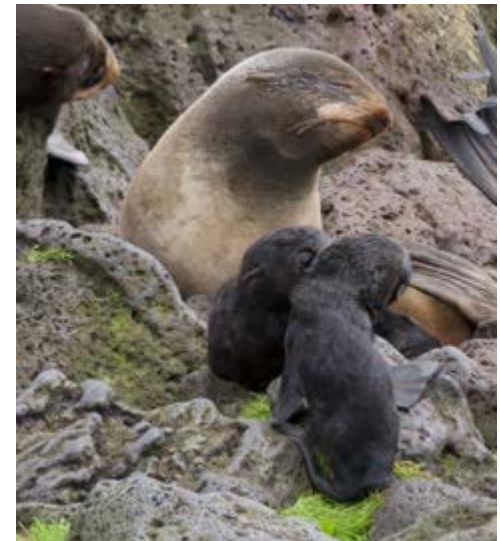
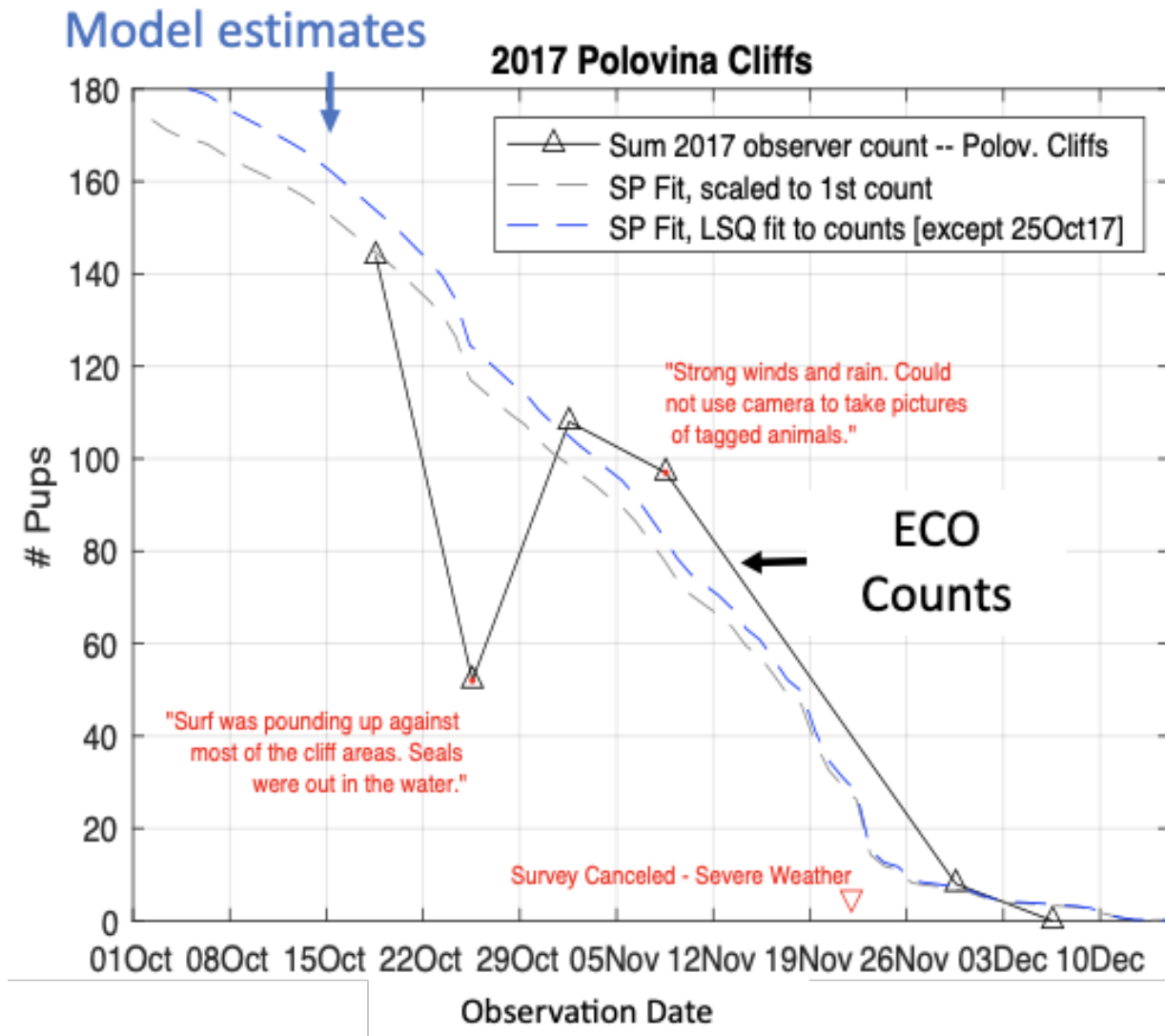


Highlighted Projects

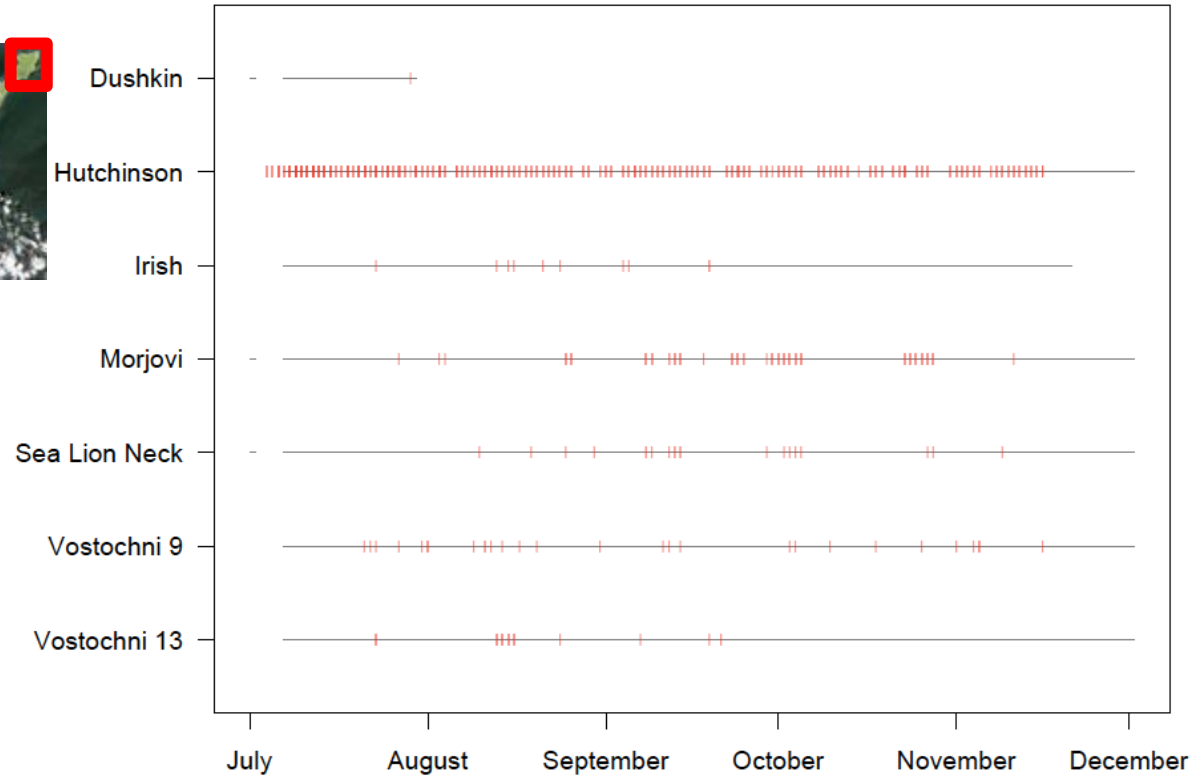
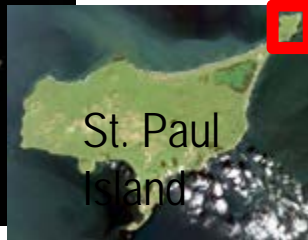
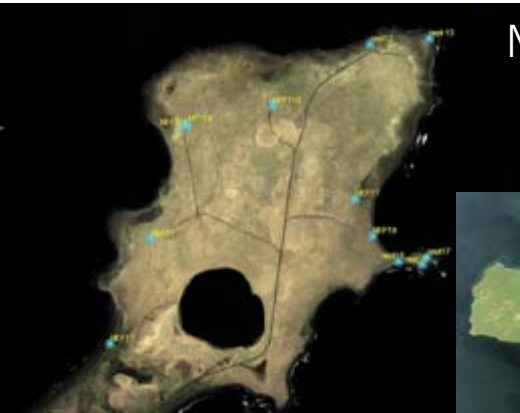
- Departure of female and pup northern fur seals
- Marine Debris clean-ups/ Disentangling northern fur seals (St. Paul and St. George)
- VHF Study to investigate human disturbance
- Collecting length-at-age of subsistence harvested seals
- (Other work not discussed here)



Timing of Departure of fur seals

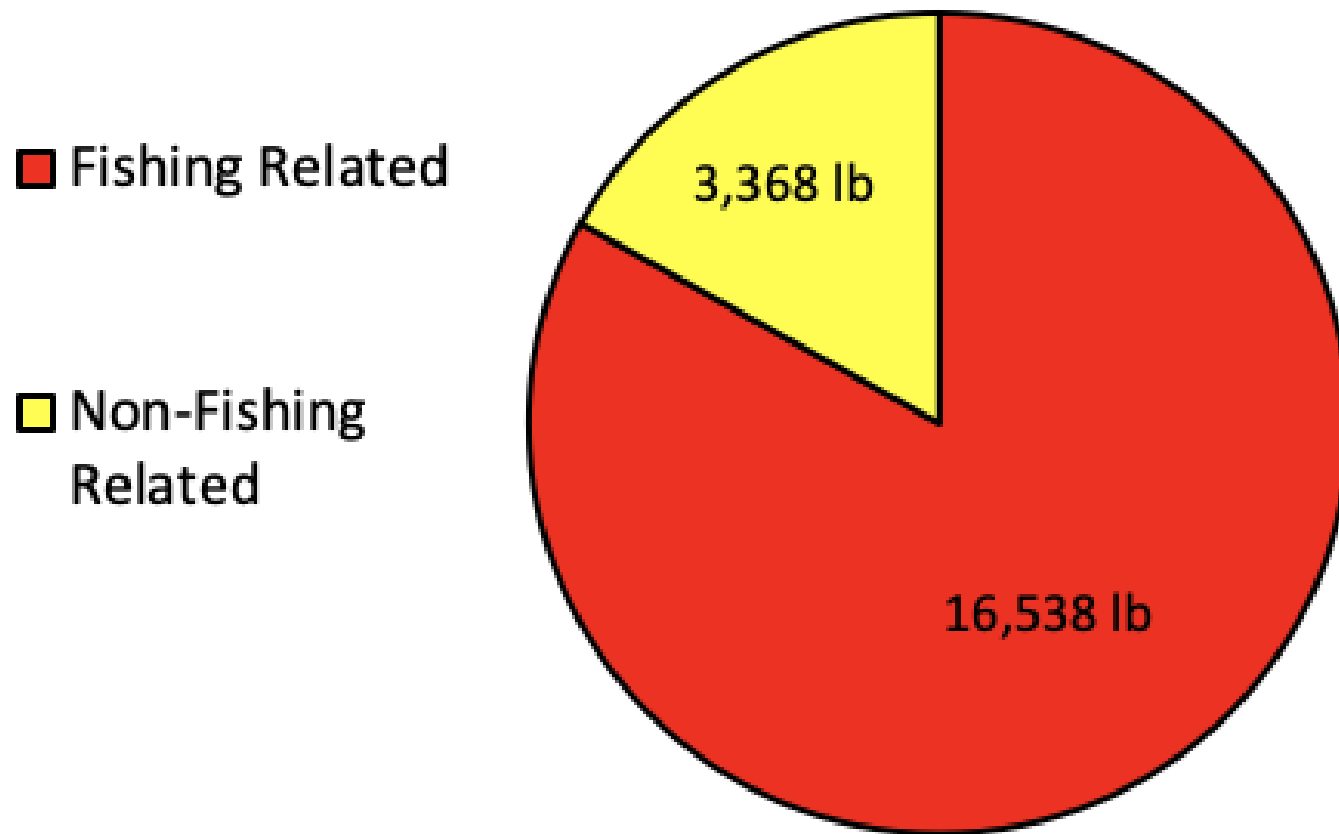


VHF Study on Disturbance/Emigration

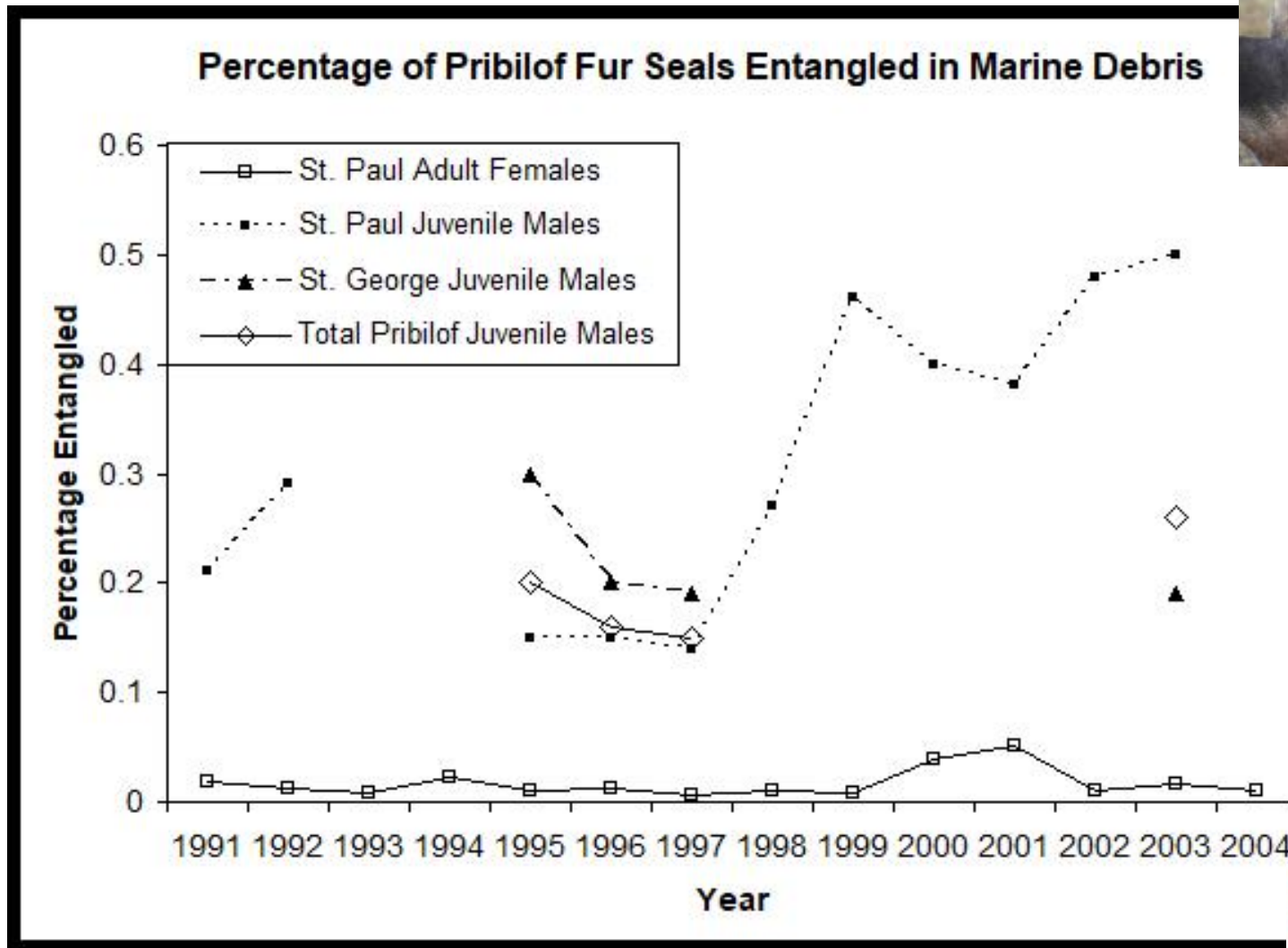


Marine Debris/ Entanglement

2019 Debris Composition



Marine Debris/ Entanglement

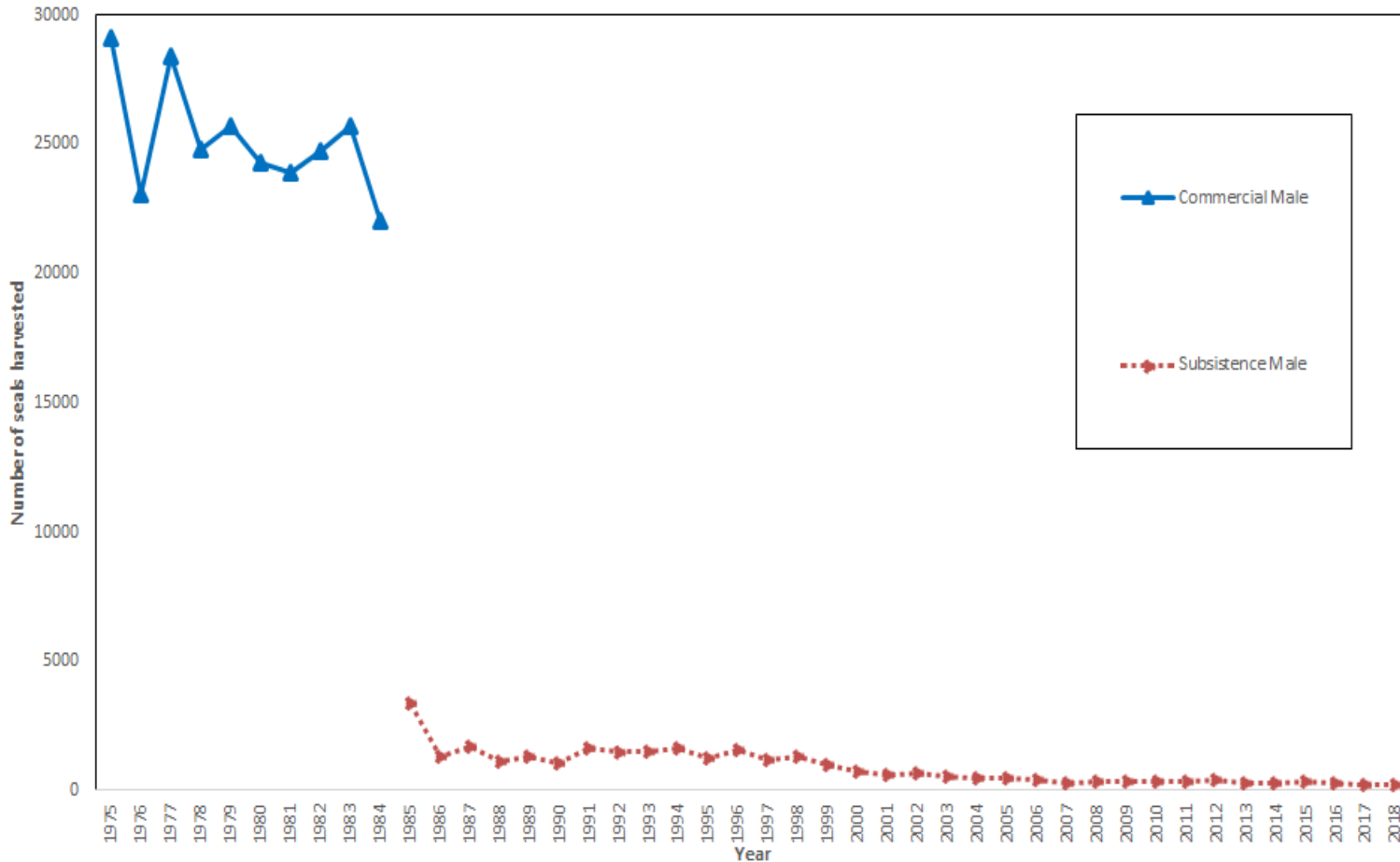


Marine Debris/ Entanglement

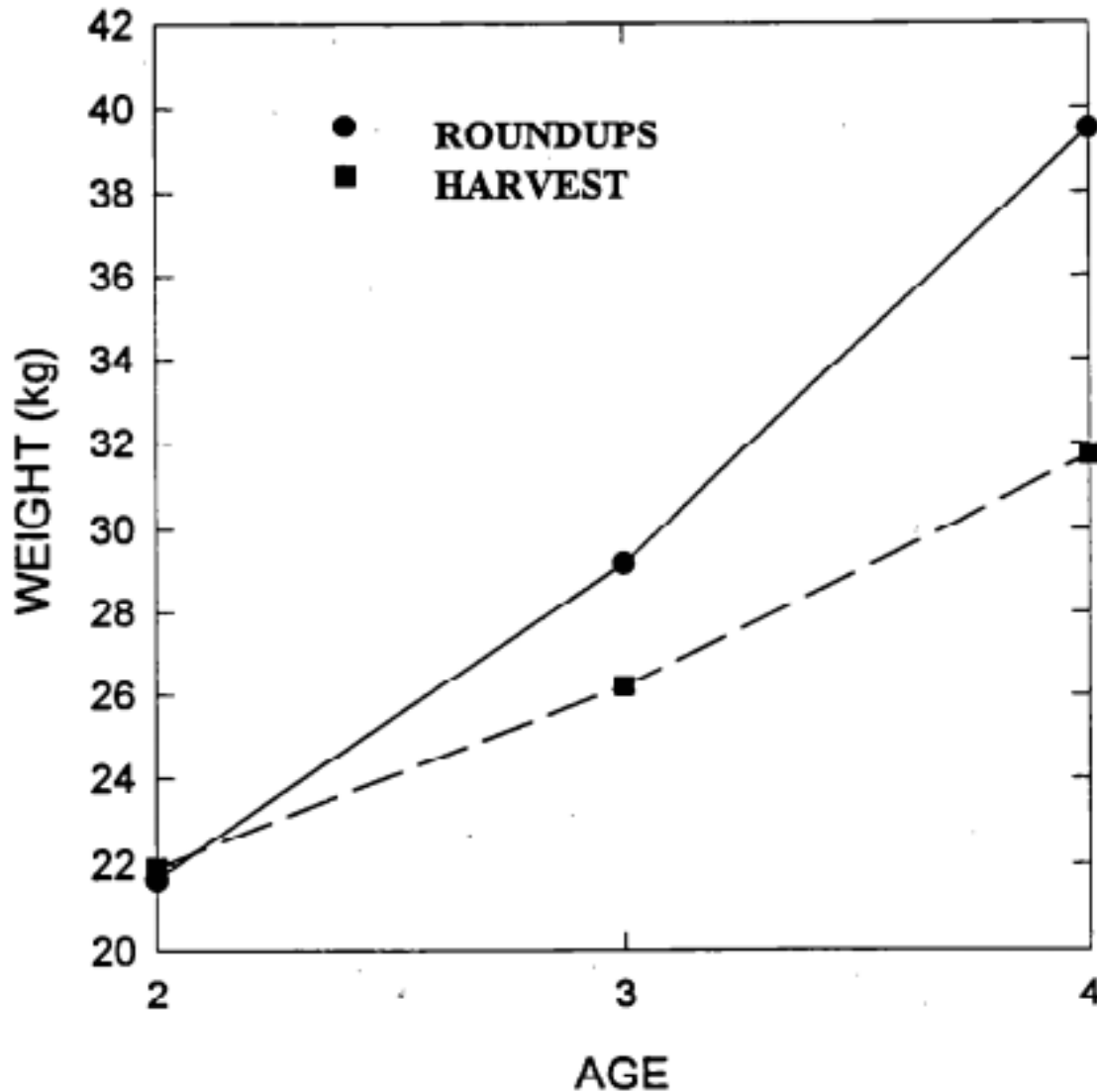


Subsistence Use/Sampling Opportunity

Harvest of Northern Fur Seals on St. Paul Island, Alaska

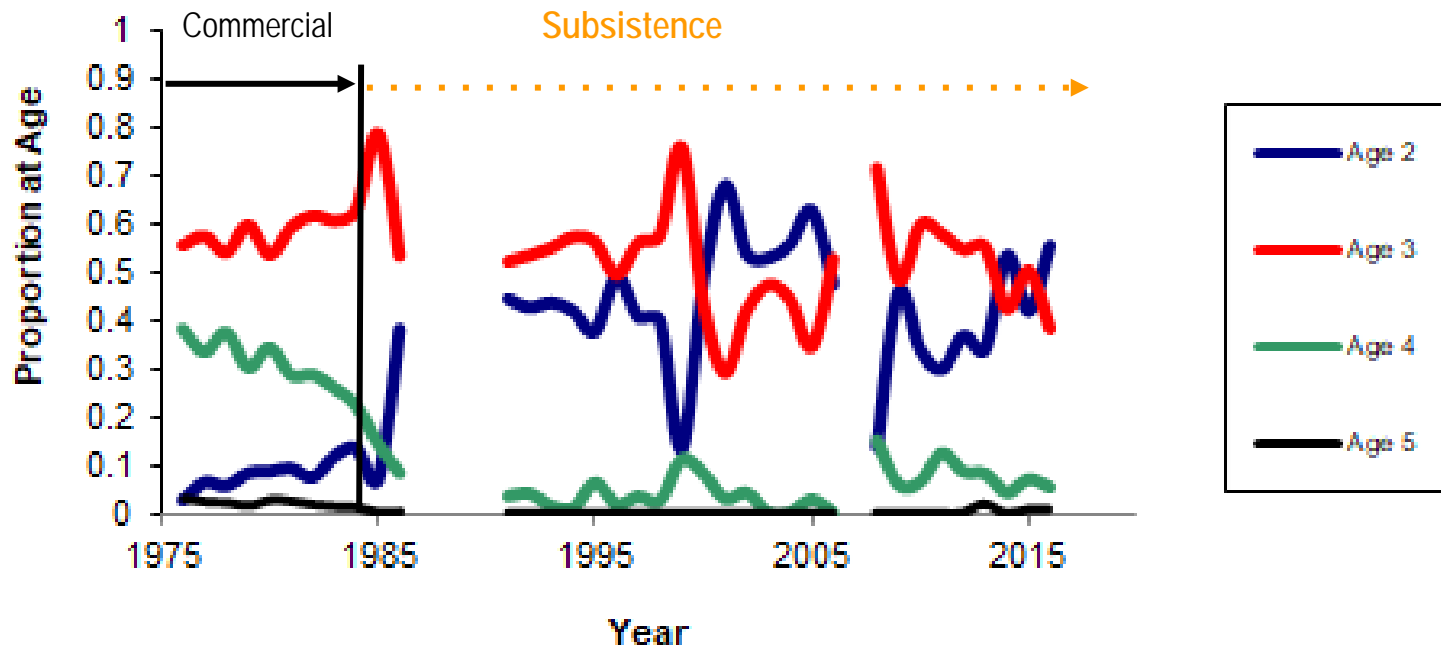


Weight-at-Age of Subsistence Harvest

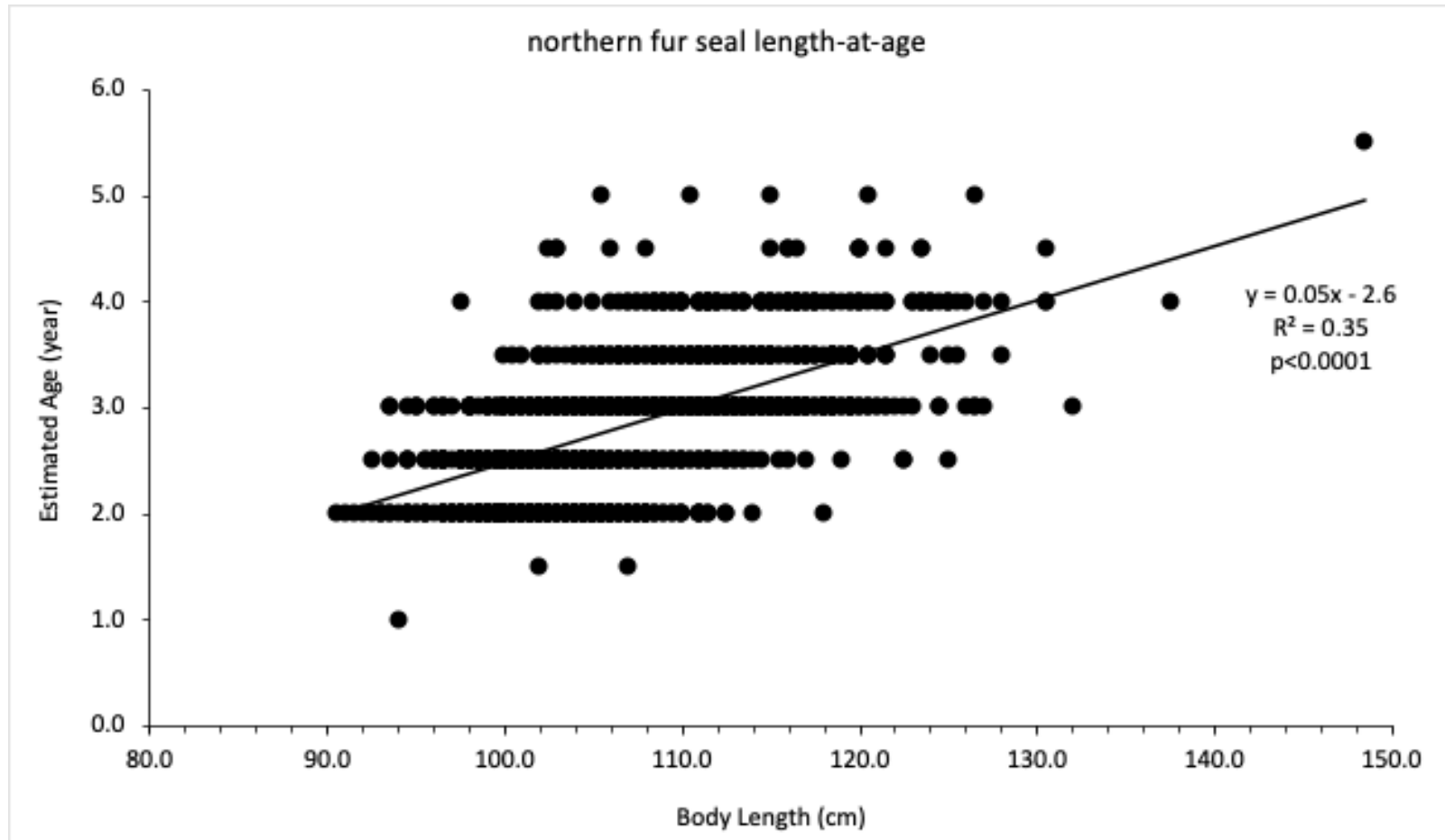


Age Composition of Harvested Seals

St. Paul Male Harvest



Subsistence Use/Sampling Opportunity



Summary/ Take Away Messages

- Effective co-management takes consistent communication
- Departure data (local) and modeling efforts (agency) = informative synergies
- Entanglement rates don't appear significant at population level; ***do not know*** effects of large debris/ at sea entanglements
- VHF Study - example of a new project made possible through continued improvement to co-management relationship
- Length-at-age = long-term data set, but bias may hamper use in broader studies; highlights need to continually evaluate data



Txichin Qağaasakuqing – Thank you

Questions?

