

2A94-15

1994 BRISTOL BAY STAFF MEETING MINUTES

March 8-10, 1994
Anchorage Regional Office
Anchorage, Alaska

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Regional Information Report¹ No. 2A94-15

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Division of Commercial Fisheries Management and Development
Central Region
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Anchorage, Alaska 99518

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¹Contribution 94-15 from the Bristol Bay area. The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished divisional reports. These reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterpreted data. To accommodate need for up-to-date information, reports in this series may contain preliminary data.

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ASSIGNMENTS

All fishery managers: Pass along information to board attenders (Russell) about the chum status in each district, prior to the meeting.

All Bristol Bay Staff: please be advised that 3.5 inch disks are now the standard, and no more 5.25 inch will be allowed.

Jeff Skrade:

1. Send Bev. Cross information on UAF meeting in Dillingham with Associate Dean Tyler re. student interns.
2. Request the donation of a spare auto-rotator for the Portage Creek sonar project from a private source outside the department. Need approximately \$14,000 (9,000 for 1 rotator, and 5,000 for a set of controls).
3. Seek options for the old bunkhouse building. Possibly surplus for the materials within a required date, and require gravel placement on the pad for parking boats etc. Will work with Juneau on it.
4. Notify Bob King that the KDLG evening salmon report is toast!

Tom Brookover:

1. Will do the 1994 season end summary for the Togiak herring fishery.
2. Will follow up on P/Seine holding time with the Department of Law.
3. Will review the Kulukak sockeye escapement goal with help from Bev. and Linda.
4. Plan to budget for one new skiff each year for the next three years to replace the old boats on the west side tower projects.
5. Call Herman or Ellen in Juneau to order fish tickets for the Dillingham office needs.
6. Will check on a vehicle via a short term wet rental for Dillingham.

rite-in-the-rain labels for herring samples.

Bev. Cross:

1. Will schedule a meeting with the affected players to discuss Kathy's involvement in the salmon fishery.
2. Needs to complete action item two from her 1993 assignments. (Hope you know what it was Bev., because I do not).
3. Will provide Sport Fish with the information on the chinook salmon escapement goal review.
4. Will put together an escapement goal workshop for late September or early October. (Be sure to get your vacation/hunting plans to her early)!
5. Provide copies of the new operational plans for the False Pass and Port Moller test fisheries to: 1 Dillingham, 1 King Salmon, 1 Barry, 1 John Hilsinger, and 1 to Ken Florey.
6. Will check on a short term wet rental for an additional vehicle for King Salmon.
7. Work with Tom to put \$ values on possible coho projects for special funding through BIA via Bering Sea Fishermen.
8. Get? (can't read it Bev) non-perm request for Portage Creek and test fish. One memo for each.
9. Put paperwork in now for and FB II for Jim Miller.

Dennis Haanpaa:

1. Will procure a F&W Tech. III PCN for Dave Voska's upgrade (Portage Creek staff), and contact Jim Miller.
2. Will check on a Department promotional register to fill the vacant FB III, (Jeff's position). Commissioner's approval will be required, but no new positions are involved.
3. Will revisit the fish ticket system and assign personnel to do the editing after the new staff are hired and onboard.
4. Will modify R. Russell's proposal regarding subsistence fishing in the commercial districts in May and October to include all five districts in Bristol Bay.
5. Meet with west side staff to sort out seasonal PCN problems/needs.
6. (Editors Note!) **Will call Juneau every morning to check on the status of Skrade's PDQ, GGU/SU upgrade!**

Ken Florey:

1. Will check with Sport Fish to see if Barry Stratton could help out in the event that additional bodies are needed this summer.
2. Will bring up the % of Bristol Bay forecasted catch in regard to the False pass fishery at the March Board meeting. The idea being to get the Department out of the allocation problem with the forecast.
3. Will check on Wood River smolt CIP money.
4. Follow up with Kevin Delaney about putting in a place holder proposal regarding a Nushagak coho plan. (Ken please call Tom Brookover about the Nushagak Advisory Committee plan status first).
5. Will check on the availability of Ellen Simpson to help Tom Brookover with aerial surveys inseason, and/or help train his new assistant.

Richard Russell: Will take the lead on Bristol Bay chums at the Board meeting.

Linda Brannian: Will speak with Virginia Shook about adjusting her LWOP time, and institutionalizing (that's what my note said) some of her duties.

Wayne Prigge: Needs to check out TR's and air charters to fly river and fishery surveys, vs seat fares and the new travel agent ruling.

John Hilsinger: Will check with headquarters about submitting a proposal concerning herring quality, and managing the fishery for industry processing capacity.

Tom Brookover wins the grand prize with 11 assignments. Enjoy! 74 days and counting.
Cheers, Jeff.

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Attendees: Ken Florey, Dennis Haanpaa, John Hilsinger, James Brady, Linda Brannian, Steve Fried, Tom Brookover, Richard Russell, Jeff Regnart, Jeff Skrade, Barry Stratton, Kathy Rowell, Bev Cross, Wes Bucher, Mark Reynolds, Drew Crawford, Jim Miller, Wes Ghormley, Vidar Wespestad, Paul Larson, Capt. Rich Graham, Wayne Prigge, Karen Saunders, Kelly Hepler, and Tina Cuning.

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Appointment of Chairman - Ken Florey.
- B. Assignment of Recorder - Jeff Skrade/Bev Cross.
- C. Agenda Review/Additions/Deletions.

ATTACHMENT 1 was the agenda, and provides an outline of the issues and topics discussed during the meeting. Some additional topics were added in the appropriate location within the outline and they include:

- II. B. 5. Other funding sources.
- II. E. 1. Board of Fisheries proposals.
- III.A. 8. Capelin.
- III.B. 3. b. Kulukak goals/chum "goals".
- IV. D. Biometrics software.
- IV. E. USF&W Service plans.

II. REGIONAL ISSUES

A. Administrative Issues

- 1. Status of reorganization (Comm. Fish/F.R.E.D.) - Should be operational by fall of 1994. Mostly FRED people are affected.
- 2. Status of Fifth Region - Still being considered, and John Hilsinger has been assigned

3. New plans for False Pass (West of Peninsula fishery) - Bev will send the new Port Moller plans to the field staff, which evidently describes the possible activity.

B. Budget

1. FY '94 Pre-Audit - "Looks like the \$ will be 'what we asked for'". However, there are still concerns about potential deficits, especially in the test fish fund now that the price of fish is so low.

2. Update on funding for Naknek and Ugashik smolt - Naknek is funded by the Park Service, and in the second year of a two year package. Ugashik is much more tentative, but the staff were told by Ken Florey to "proceed with the assumption that it will be funded". (See Appendix 2 - Drew Crawford's notes concerning the status of the two projects)

3. New Dillingham Office Update - The renovation of the old ASHA building is now completed, and Wildlife Conservation, Boards, and Subsistence will be moving in soon. (See Appendix 3 - Tom Brookover's notes for a more complete review of the project).

4. CIP Update - To our knowledge, there are none in for Bristol Bay at this time.

5. Other Funding Sources - Some special funds may be available for coho work through a BIA grant to the Bering Sea Fisherman's Association, and Ken Florey will contact Dan Albrect sp? to discuss priorities. (See Tom Brookover's notes about this issue - Appendix 4).

C. Personnel

1. Seasonal hiring practices - March 15 the clearing house process opens and registers will be available after that. A memo requesting a waiver to the hiring freeze will be required for each seasonal. The paperwork may be cut down by writing one memo for multiple jobs on one PCN and the same job on one project.

2. PDQ Update - The FB III upgrade from GGU to the SU will be considered on a case by case basis. An updated PDQ should be sent in with each evaluation as they become due. The staff are aware of the short time line on Skrade's and will request that it be put on a fast track.

3. FB I overtime status - Wayne Prigge informs us that all FB I's are now overtime eligible, so project leaders should schedule and budget accordingly.

4. Permanent staff requirements and recruitment plans - Several of the Bristol Bay staff are eligible for retirement or will be soon: Richard Russell, Jeff Skrade, and Ken Florey. Skrade's tentative retirement date is June 1 and there are several options about how that position may be filled, one being via a promotional register. It is unlikely that if a Dillingham FB II vacancy occurs, that it will be filled prior to the season. Additional staff support may be

provided in season by Dennis Haanpaa, and possibly Ellen Simpson. The potential transfer of Barry Stratton to Sport Fish would leave the research staff short handed, but Barry may still be able to help for a time mid season, and Kathy Rowell may also come to King Salmon to assist with salmon.

5. CFEC role and the 48 hour transfer program - CFEC staff will be in Dillingham from June 6-10 and then in King Salmon. They will not be in Dillingham prior to herring, as they were out during Beaver Roundup. (See memo from Chris Kelly outlining the specifics of their plans - Appendix 5).

D. Meeting Schedule and Attendance

1. BOF Meeting (March 14-24) - Session 3 - 3/21 is when Bristol Bay is scheduled. Four issues will require advance preparation by the Bay staff: The AYK chum issue (Richard Russell will take the lead), the Egegik 110 line, the Naknek River set net question, and the Nushagak subsistence proposal (an issue paper has already been completed).

2. BB Fishery Conference - King Salmon 3/24-27 - Tom Brookover will attend from Dillingham and present the outlook for Nushagak and Togiak, as well as participate as a panelist on a group discussing freshwater fisheries and whitefish. Note! As of 3/21 it appears that the majority of the staff who had planned to attend will be involved in the Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage, and Tom Brookover may be the sole participant from the Department.

E. Board of Fisheries Proposals - Regulation proposals (staff) are due in Juneau on March 25 for review, so they will be due in Anchorage on March 18.

III. PROGRAM REVIEW

A. Herring - 1994 Season

1. 1994 Program

a. Operation headquarters - will be at Togiak Fisheries again this season. Bids were sent out to three individuals, and theirs was lowest. A D.O. was completed on 2/23 and sent to TFI. With the radio tower pad still in place from last season, camp set up should be fairly minimal. The sampling tent floor may have been moved and could require some work to make it operational.

b. Housing and eating facilities - will be provided similar to 1993

c. Aerial surveys - In 1994 39 hours of helo time, and 50 hours of fixed wing time will be available. The intent will be for Jeff Regnart to take the lead, and Tom Brookover to spend more time in the office coordinating the test fishery, and monitoring the overall operation. (See Appendix 6 for more detail).

d. Sampling program - Will be conducted similar to 1993. A marine VHF radio will be provided in the sampling tent so that Ms. Rowell can pursue them, but coordination is needed with the office staff to avoid the duplication of requests to individual processors.

e. Work force, visiting personnel - Virginia Shook may be available to help Dawn in Dillingham for a period of time. Linda Brannian will discuss her spring work schedule with her. If Jeff Skrade does not go to the field, he will also be available to help in the office. Sport Fish (Minard) has volunteered to ask Helen Jones FOA to work a five day week during the extremely busy period, to assist with the phones and office traffic. On the grounds, the crew will be similar to the 1993 season, with a few additions. Cindy Anderson will plan to participate at Togiak again, and may be asked to help with a specific project. Bev Cross will finally make her debut at the State's largest herring fishery. Dennis Haanpaa will provide assistance, and if possible, Paul Larson from headquarters will come to observe.

2. Forecast, outlook, markets, harvest - with the large preseason forecast, and a reported improvement in the market, the level of fishing effort is expected to increase in 1994. A processor survey by Brookover revealed that there will also be an increase in processing capacity, but it was qualified by the success of the Department to spread the fishery out over time. (See Appendix 8 for forecast specifics and more detail.)

3. Inseason reporting of survey and harvest data - FAX messages will be sent to Dillingham with status updates, and they will be forwarded via E-Mail and FAX to Department and industry people.

4. Fish Ticket program - Brad Palach will edit the tickets as they become available from the processors, and send them on for key punching. There are problems with the historical data base because early runs were finalized but corrections were not made in the fish ticket system and the numbers can not be reconciled. Since 1990 the runs are accurate and that data can be used to break out the gill net and purse seine catch by year. A new format for the herring appendix tables is needed so that the catch by gear is identified.

5. Management options to slow the fishery - There is growing concern among fishermen about the apparent shift of authority from the Department to the industry in regard to when we open the fishery. John Hilsinger will confer with headquarters about submitting a staff proposal that would address the quality issue, and how managing for quality (limiting the fishery to match processing capacity) could have allocative overtones, and needs a public review before the Board. Several options about slowing the fishery were discussed, such as early fishing (before the bulk of the biomass is mature), fishing after the peak of spawning, time restrictions, area restrictions, and using a poorer tide stage which would limit the visibility. All of those issues have a down side, but all will be considered by the manager on the grounds and factored into situation at the time and in consideration of the fleet size.

6. Board of Fish proposals - there may be two in regard to herring for this Board cycle: P/S holding time and a revision of the threshold biomass.

a. Holding time for herring in purse seines - has the potential to result in a major waste of the resource, and needs to be addressed. Tom will contact the AG's office and research the issue with them, and follow up with a proposal if it is a viable option.

b. Reevaluation of threshold levels - Kathy and Fritz are working on this issue and will submit a proposal within the required time frame, if it looks appropriate.

7. Fish and Wildlife protection herring enforcement plans for 1994 - Capt. Rich Graham when asked about holding time for purse seines replied that he was unsure, but felt they could cite under wanton waste, as described by AG Lance Nelson in 1993. For herring enforcement, he said we could expect roughly the same operation as last season. The only complication might be the fact that the P/V Woldstad is in the ship yard and may not be back in time. If that is the case, they would send one of the T-boats as a replacement. Skrade pointed out the communication problem in 1993 when the vessel left for Security Cove before it was needed. To combat the communications problems, Capt. Graham intends to assign an overall commander to lead their (F&WP) operation from Togiak to Norton Sound. That person is likely to be Sgt. Roy Vanderpool, who will be stationed at Togiak Cannery or aboard the vessel. In addition, they plan to have a super cub stationed at Togiak Cannery and a small helicopter.

8. Capelin - Mr. Namenko, a Russian scientist will be arriving soon on an exchange program and will be holding in Anchorage for several hours awaiting his transport to Seattle, should one of the staff wish to look him up to confer while he is here. He rumored to Vidar Wespestad of 800 gram herring (30 centimeters in length) in Peter the Great Bay in Russia off of Sakhalin Island.

At least 3-4 companies have expressed interest in harvesting capelin at Togiak this spring, due to the good prices resulting from a poor return in Norway and eastern Canada. The last harvest at Togiak was in 1984 when 1,300 tons were landed. Small fish size seems to be a limiting factor on developing a viable capelin fishery at Togiak. However a small amount taken in 1993 reportedly brought \$1,000 per ton. Presently we have no biomass data on capelin, but it appears to be down from the large numbers present in the late 1970's and early 80's. The only guidance that we have for dealing with a fishery is a Board directive (not a regulation) that deals with the covert harvest of herring under the guise of harvesting capelin. It is possible that the criteria for new and developing fishery, or a high impact emerging fishery may apply here. Vidar advised that capelin are a primary food source for marine mammals and birds that are declining, so there may be resistance against developing a fishery. In the late 1970's, Louis Barton estimated that there may be 300,000 tons of capelin in the area. Skrade advised that a CFEC permit is required to harvest them, and that a small mesh purse seine is needed to catch them. The number of available nets may help to slow development in 1994. Florey advised that we may need to close by E.O. if a large effort occurs, to allow us time to get organized. We need to examine the current regulations concerning purse seine vs herring purse seine.

Vidar Wespestad gave a presentation on his work with timing of the peak of herring

spawning. Based on the air temperatures at Cape Newenham, Dillingham, and Port Heiden in April, his model appears to be able to predict the peak of spawning within four days in a worst case scenario, and often it was accurate within one day. The relationship appears to work best on the first fifteen days of April, but he is also looking at March as well. (Editors Note! Vidar called Dillingham 3/22 and just became aware that there is an automatic weather sensing device (AWOS) at Togiak, and we are trying to get that data for him. He gave Tom Brookover his equations and will also send us his spreadsheets so that the calculations can be done here using the most current data.) He plans to look at total temperature units over the winter and also the temperature vs maturity (proximity to peak of spawning).

Tom Brookover will do the 1994 season summary for Togiak herring.

Paul Larson - There may be a request for foreign processing in the Bering Sea and they (HQ) are surveying the industry to find out their intentions by district. The processor survey may include salmon as well, and be done on an annual basis.

B. Salmon - 1994 Season

1. Management

a. Togiak - Chinook have been on the decline since 1985, with a slight increase in 1992 and 1993. However, there is no indication that a large run will occur in 1994. The two week closure in late June the past three seasons has reduced the rate of exploitation by 15-16%. Tom's plan is to try to achieve the escapement goal for four consecutive years, and then consider a commercial fishery again. Until that occurs, the two week closure appears to be the only option to increase the escapement. It appears that the sport effort on chinook is stable, due mainly to the restriction on the number of commercial operators allowed on the refuge.

There is the potential for a weak sockeye run, due to the low parent year escapement. Tom may fish harder after the chinook closure to level the rate of escapement. The percent of the harvest by local fishermen may be less due to the two week closure, and that issue is being discussed in detail at public meetings. However, there doesn't appear to be an easy answer to the problem, given the shortage of chinook.

The 1990 chum run was the lowest in the past 20 years, and it will produce most of the return of that species in 1994. Therefore, we expect a low return again this season. In 1992 Togiak had the second largest pink salmon number ever recorded, so the potential is there for a good return. There has never been a directed pink fishery at Togiak and with volume of pinks available in other areas, it is unlikely that there will be a demand for them in 1994. Coho are not expected to be strong in Togiak this year as only one-half of the escapement goal was met in the parent year.

i. Togiak management plan - the Board denied the agenda change request to discuss it in March of 1994, so it will not be considered until the January 1995 meeting.

b. Nushagak

i. Chinook salmon management - The chinook forecast has an allowable surplus of approximately 42,000 after subtracting out escapement needs, subsistence, etc. That would allow for potentially 3-5 openings, from June 6 to about June 25. The subsistence fishery will be closely monitored as an indication of escapement, and we will attempt to send the office/maintenance crew up early to set up camp to facilitate counting as early as possible.

ii. Coho salmon management - Coho are expected to be scarce in Nushagak this season. The forecast is low, the recent trend is down, the sibling return in 1993 was very low (none were found in the escapement samples), and the return per spawner has been poor in recent years. Richard Russell feels that the poor returns are the result of a high seas problem and not in the freshwater because coho numbers are low in many coastal areas. After reviewing the data, Bev Cross feels that the coho escapement goal of 90-100,000 is very appropriate. Tom is concerned about the coho management plan that is currently in press, because we assumed that we could estimate run size earlier than is actually possible. In 1993, it was August 5 before we "knew" what the size of the coho run was. Tom plans to close the fishery until further notice when it becomes evident that coho numbers are significant in the catch, perhaps when it reached approximately 5,000. If at a later time it is documented that the run is larger than expected, a commercial fishery would be reconsidered. Kelly Hepler of Sport Fish reported that their division plans to start out with some reduction in the beginning, either a reduced bag limit, or catch and release.

iii. Pink salmon management - There was no sonar estimate of the pink salmon escapement in 1992, so we have no idea what might return in 1994. Reports from hunters and sport fishermen on the Nushagak River that fall, suggests that a "fair to good" escapement may have occurred.

iv. The sockeye forecast is above average for the Nushagak District and Tom anticipates starting the district test fishery on June 20-24. Plans short openings 7-10 hours, and some early fishing in Igushik Section. He may tie some additional time in Igushik on the back of the chinook openings.

c. Naknek-Kvichak - Jeff Regnart discussed the sockeye forecast, and gave a brief recap of the 1993 season. He plans a 4-day per week fishing schedule prior to the E.O. period, with evaluation, and possibly a 3-day per week schedule after the E.O. period. His plan inseason is to fish the district harder than in recent years. He may reduce ebb fishing - 8 hours vs 10 hour periods if he is forced to go Naknek section only. The fleet will be advised they are on short notice more of the time, to avoid large hits in the escapement. The Kvichak goal will be 8,000,000, and he will try to hold to that number in anticipation of the peak in 1995 and implications for Lake Clark as a large escapement in that system can be detrimental on a pre peak year. He would not consider going into the Naknek special harvest area until it was projected that the Kvichak escapement would not reach 6 million.

d. Egegik - Richard Russell qualified his remarks with the fact that the March 1994 Board meeting could change things. 1994 is the largest forecast ever for the Egegik District 18.8 million, with a 1 million escapement goal. Richard plans 4-day per week fishing on June 1, with small mesh gear. After 9:00 a.m. on June 16, he is advising the fleet that the first fishing period could occur at any time. Fishermen should plan to react quickly as there could be short notice openings. Richard is presently conducting a mail survey of all Egegik set net fishermen to determine the impact of fishing less of the ebb. He is considering 6-7 hour periods vs 9 hours, which was the shortest period to date. He is also concerned about chum salmon escapement and wants some window openings later in July to try and improve it. In 1993 he saw 2,500 in a main spawning stream, which was blocked by a beaver day at the time. He felt the fish did get over later though.

e. Ugashik - Barry Stratton described the forecast 5.6 million with a 4.9 million catch, which would be the third largest in the history of the fishery. He plans a 4-day per week fishing schedule prior to the E.O. period. However, if the chinook catch and fishing effort is up, then it may have to be reduced. There may be some problems in Ugashik this season as some of the buyers have left and some set netters are looking for markets. There is a test fishery planned after the beginning of the E.O. period, and he may consider some early fishing on the pool of salmon that often hold and mill outside the river mouth before going up. There is no historic escapement data on coho, and he intends to use CPUE to manage that fishery.

Dennis Haanpaa informed the staff that the Department of Law advises us that outlook papers can be considered management plans, and we could be held to task in court by them, so be generic on them.

The 1994 Bristol Bay Salmon Outlook is due on April 15, and Skrade has been assigned the task of assembling it. The pieces should be to him by April 1 for collation.

2. Research

a. Kvichak, Egegik, Naknek, and Ugashik Smolt - All are expected to operate in 1994, so the research staff will be stretched to accomplish the work. (Refer to Appendix 2 for specifics on funding sources). Kvichak smolt, no major changes planned. Naknek smolt will run from May 15 to June 17, and is funded (\$25,000) by the park service. Egegik smolt will cut back on their dates a bit due to budget problems last year, and Bev has it scheduled so that they will not be required to work any overtime. Ugashik smolt funding is uncertain, but Ken Florey will check on the CIP funds from Wood River in 1993 budget. Florey told the staff to "plan on running the project, and we will do it if at all possible".

b. Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik, river test fish - Drew Crawford will take the lead and be assisted by Wes Ghormley. Bev Cross anticipates a reorganization of the research staff, with the likelihood that Barry will be leaving. Kvichak test will run from June 22 to July 2. Wes Ghormley will be heavily involved in the fish haul flights. Egegik test will run from June 16 until it is no longer needed in July. Plan a program similar to last year with multiple sets early

and two per tide later in the project. Ugashik test will start June 16 or 17 and be fishing by the start of the E.O. period on June 23. It is a particularly important program because there are no other early indicators of fish movement. Ugashik skiff needs welding by Mark Reynolds, and is stored in Roland Briggs' warehouse.

c. Eastside catch sampling/scale aging - Bev plans to spend most of her time in King Salmon working with Drew. Expect a similar program as 1993. The same scale agers are returning this season. The district test fish crew will assist when they are not busy. In 1994 more care needs to be used concerning the origin of the samples, as problems occurred last season with some of the data. Kathy Rowell may be needed to help with salmon, and Bev Cross and the staff will meet with her on Friday, March 10 to discuss it.

d. Stock I.D. studies - Bev Cross will take the lead on the test fish stock identification. The plan this year is to prioritize the sampling in the middle bluff area.

e. East side stock I.D. summary report - Is partially completed, but Ugashik has not been tested yet (but looks like 1992) (See Appendix 9). Naknek section catch has averaged 42% Kvichak for all the years that they have samples (7-8 yrs.). Middle Bluff samples are not worked up yet, but Wes Ghormley is on staff now.

f. Nushagak sonar - Jim Miller will take the lead, but will be stationed in Dillingham. The comm fish staff will assist with camp set up in early June to get the gear counting ASAP. Jim will hire an additional seasonal to take his place in camp. They plan a similar operation to 1993 with six seasonal's, four on sonar, and two drifters. At this time they are trying to reclass Dave Voska to a F&W Tech III. Dennis Haanpaa will provide a PCN for the upgrade

Dennis Haanpaa will check on a Department promotional register to fill Skrade's pending vacant PCN. Commissioner's approval will be needed, but it can be done because no new positions are involved.

A spare autorotator is needed for the Portage Creek sonar project. The two existing units are leaking, and have needed several repairs. If one or two new units could be procured, the old ones could be used as spares. Skrade will contact Robin and others to see if one might be donated to the Department with funding from some fishermen's group. Approximately \$14,000 would be needed, 9,000 for the unit, and 5,000 for the controls.

g. West side catch sampling - Jim Miller will supervise. At this time we expect the same three individuals to return with June 19-20 EOD. We anticipate sharing their duties in exchange for their help on the district test program. Tom Brookover reports that a UAJ student has requested 20 GSI coho samples. He will refer the request to the genetics lab.

h. Igushik river test fish - Jim Miller will supervise. Mark Reynolds and Brad will help with the camp deployment via the Orca. At this time one of the two crewmembers is planning to return. Their EOD will be June 16.

Barry Stratton may be able to assist with the eastside research program during the transition this season. Ken Florey will check with Sport Fish.

i. Nushagak catch apportionment - Tom Brookover has formally requested that the research and biometrics staff explore the possibility of apportioning the commercial catch using the zero-check fish. Bev is having trouble getting it done with her other report commitments, but Bev, Linda Brannian, and Steve Fried will attempt to accomplish it this spring.

j. Nushagak, Mulchatna, Nuyakuk escapement sampling - Tom expressed interest in doing it, but due to a lack of funds it appears that it won't be possible. Mac Minard has agreed to fund aerial surveys for chinook, so we will get some distribution information on sockeye in 1994.

3. Escapement Goal review for Headquarters - Steve Fried is almost finished with the project, and most of the Bristol Bay goals have been resolved. However, some of the other areas are still pending. There are over 100 escapement goals in Region II, and some cannot be documented as to source.

a. Togiak Chinook goal and others - Bev has done the evaluation, and it appears that a goal of 10,000 is correct. (See Appendix 10 for details of her analysis).

b. Kulukak goal/chum goals - Tom Brookover was assigned the task of reviewing the Kulukak goal, with help from Bev and Linda. Some of the staff felt it was incorrect and unwise to refer to a chum salmon "goal" since we cannot manage for that species. On the Nushagak River we simply say the optimum production appears to come from a chum salmon escapement of approximately 350,000.

Steve Fried will check on Limnological work to see if some could be scheduled for the larger lakes in Bristol Bay.

4. Fish and Wildlife Protection Plans - salmon enforcement for 1994 will be a replica of 1993, which was an increase over 1992. During the 3.5 week program a total of 535 citations were issued, a record number. Some of the 1992 cases are still being adjudicated, and many of 1993 are still pending. F&WP plan another operation in Togiak in 1994, and have gotten several letters from village residents requesting their presence. Their agency was disappointed in the fines and penalties awarded in 1993, and the legislature has a senate bill pending that addresses second offenses on fish and wildlife cases which would raise fines from \$3-6 and from \$6-12,000 on a second offense. A third time offender would be out of the fishery forever, but that has never been used yet. A new wording would change may to will. F&WP is attempting to get more help from the Department of Law to pursue cases to completion. In addition, they plan for the P/V Polaris to be stationed at False Pass for that fishery this season.

Capt. Graham felt that in the case of an emergency transfer that the original district of registration would still be in effect. Suggested we issue a new blue card, but it list the

original district to start. Nushagak enforcement will be similar to 1993. Ed Painter will go to Sport Fish work, but will be replaced. Indications are that the F&WP budget is improving. Capt. Graham is moving his office to 4th avenue. He is now at 4th and A, next to the Holiday Inn.

C. Reports (status)

1. Herring reports - Forecast reports are done and complete. The 1988 C&E has been sent to Bob Wilbur. 1989-90-91 and 92 are in press and may be consolidated. Kathy is working on the 1993 C&E at this time and hopes to have it done before the 1994 season.

2. Salmon reports

a. Management

i. Name new editor for AMR - Jeff Regnart is now the new editor of the Bristol Bay Annual Management Report. Regnart will deal with Ellen Simpson in headquarters about processor data, such as case pack etc.. It may already be compiled there and we can omit it from our tables/final reports.

ii. Format changes to AMR - Skrade suggested that the staff consider changing the format of the Appendix Tables to one that shows the escapement, the harvest by the different user groups, and includes the current year separate from the averages. (See Appendix 11).

b. Research - The 1993 smolt and test fish reports are completed. Ms. Cross is within five days of completing the 1993 forecast report. The stock I.D. report is unfinished, but Jim and Bev are working on it or will soon. The 1993 Nushagak Sonar report is almost completed, and the 1993 C&E is in press, with Drew Crawford working on it. The C&E will be an RIR this year.

D. Maintenance

1. Outboard motors, status - We need to continue to surplus old engines and bring 1-2 new ones on line each year. We currently have approximately 100 outboard motors in Bristol Bay and about 60 are in use each year.

2. Boats, status - Many of the tower project boats are old and in poor shape, and will need to be replaced. Ken Florey told the staff to plan to budget for three new skiffs per year (approximately \$10,000) each preaudit until they are replaced.

3. Dillingham complex - Jeff Skrade was assigned to seek out options as to what can be done with the existing bunkhouse. We will have to work with Juneau and perhaps it can be put out for bid, to be removed (hopefully for the value of the materials), and a gravel pad put down for a storage area.

4. King Salmon complex - Is hooked up to the sewer system now and all appears to be OK. They are presently surplusng two old quonset buildings. Health and Social Services may put a trailer on Fish and Game property near PenAir. Richard Russell noted that several cases of MS have been diagnosed on people who have lived or presently are living on the complex area. That fact has been reported to the State Epidemiologist.

5. Field Camps - We plan to do some gravel work at the Wood River camp on the turn around and in front of the storage cabin. The tower camps all need a good cleanup and the grass and brush cut near the buildings. It improves fire safety, and visibility for bears. DOT is reportedly transferring the buildings at Igiugig to Fish and Game. However, the facilities have some problems and are in need of repair.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. District registration cards, ordering, mailing, etc. - The cards will be mailed out of Anchorage this year. They are currently being printed, and will have a heavier perforation this year, so hopefully they won't separate in the mail.

B. Salmon Fish Ticket status and needs - The 1994 fish tickets are close to completion (85-90%) and a run will be sent to the managers soon for a final proofing. Linda Brannian will check with Virginia Shook about adjusting her LWOP and institutionalizing some of her duties. Dennis Haanpaa will revisit the fish ticket system for a possible re-assignment of the editing duties when the new staff is hired. Tom Brookover will call Herman or Ellen in Juneau to order fish tickets for the Dillingham office needs.

C. Elimination of the 9:00 p.m. evening report - After a brief discussion, the staff voted unanimously to terminate the KDLG evening report. The shortage of staff during the evening hours, the volume of transfers at that time, and the frequent urgency to announce openings to the fishing fleet, all contributed to the decision.

All Bristol Bay staff in Region II, be advised that the new standard for all reports/correspondence, etc. will be on 3.5 inch computer disks only.

D. Biometrics software - (your editor has no notes on this item).

E. US Fish and Wildlife Service plans - The Feds plan to use the Egegik cabin to run a creel census this season and will keep the towers up and count coho salmon for an undetermined amount of time.

In 1994 our district test boats will be paid \$1.50 per fish, and \$150.00 per tide.

Staff positions and Board issues - At the March 1994 meeting, there will be two oral reports: Richard Russell will give his issue statement re. Egegik, and Barry Stratton will give a stock I.D. report. Nushagak subsistence (an issue paper is completed), and Kvichak set net,

will be staff comments only.

Regulation proposals are due in Juneau on March 25, so the field staff proposal must be in to the Anchorage office for review on March 18.

Dennis Haanpaa will modify Richard Russell's subsistence proposal to allow fishing four days per week in May and October, to include all districts in Bristol Bay.

Ken Florey will bring up the issue of using the percent of the Bristol Bay forecast to determine the False Pass allocation at the March Board meeting. The idea being to ultimately get Fish and Game out of the allocation problem with the forecast.

When Vidar Wespestad of National Marine Fisheries Service gave his presentation, he also passed out a one page letter concerning their plans to collect yellow fin sole, and a request for help in that endeavor (Appendix 12).

Early in the staff meeting, Tina Cuning with Wildlife Conservation spoke to us concerning legislation about several subsistence issues. Her talk is described in (Appendix 13).

BRISTOL BAY STAFF MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 8-9-10, 1994
ANCHORAGE ADF&G OFFICE
ANCHORAGE, AK

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Appointment of Chairman
- B. Assignment of Recorder(s)
- C. Agenda Review/Additions/Deletions

II. REGIONAL ISSUES

- A. Administrative Issues
 - 1. Status of the reorganization (Comm. Fish/F.R.E.D)
 - 2. Status of the Fifth Region
 - 3. New Plans for False Pass i.e. Port Moller Test Fishery (Skrade)
- B. Budget
 - 1. FY '94 Pre-Audit
 - 2. Update on funding for Naknek and Ugashik smolt Projects (Crawford)
 - 3. New Dillingham Office Update (Brookover)
 - 4. CIP Update
- C. Personnel
 - 1. Seasonal hiring practices
 - 2. PDQ Update(Prigge)
 - 3. FBI Overtime status update(Prigge)
 - 4. Permanent staff retirements and recruitment plans
 - 5. CFEC role and the 48hr transfer program (Kelly)
- D. Meeting Schedule and Attendance
 - 1. BOF Meeting (March 14-24)
 - 2. BB Fishery Conference - King Salmon

III. PROGRAM REVIEW

- A. Herring - 1994 Season
 - 1. 94 Program (Brookover/Rowell)
 - a. Operation headquarters
 - b. Housing and eating facilities
 - c. Aerial surveys (Fix wing/helo split, fuel etc)
 - d. Sampling program
 - e. Work force, visiting personal
 - 2. Forecast, outlook, markets, harvest?
 - 3. In-season reporting of survey and harvest data

4. Fish Ticket program (Rowell)
5. Management options to slow the fishery (Skrade)
6. Board of Fish proposals
 - a. Holding time of P/S sets
 - b. Reevaluation of threshold levels
7. Fish and Wildlife protection plans

B. Salmon - 1994 Season

1. Management
 - a. Togiak (Brookover)
 - i. Togiak management plan
 - b. Nushagak (Brookover)
 - i. Chinook salmon management
 - ii. Coho salmon management
 - iii. Pink salmon management
 - iv. Igushik Section
 - c. Naknek-Kvichak (Regnart)
 - d. Egegik (Russell)
 - e. Ugashik (Stratton)
2. Research
 - a. Kvichak, Egegik, Naknek, Ugashik smolt (Crawford)
 - b. Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik river test fish (Crawford)
 - c. Eastside catch sampling/scale aging (Cross/Rowell)
 - d. Stock I.D. studies (Cross)
 - e. East side stock I.D. summary report (Cross)
 - f. Nushagak sonar (Miller)
 - g. Westside catch sampling (Miller)
 - h. Igushik river test fish (Miller)
 - i. Nushagak catch aportionment (Brookover)
 - j. Nushagak, Mulchatna, Nuyakuk escapement sampling (Brookover)
3. Escapement Goal review for Headquarters (Fried)
 - a. Togiak Chinook goal and others (Skrade)
4. Fish and Wildlife Protection plans

C. Reports (status)

1. Herring reports
2. Salmon reports
 - a. Management
 - i. Name new editor to AMR
 - iii. Format changes to AMR (Skrade)
 - b. Research
3. Other

D. Maintenance

1. Outboard motors, status

2. Boats, status
3. Dillingham complex
4. King Salmon complex
5. Field Camps

IV. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. District registration cards, ordering, mailing etc.
- B. Salmon Fish Ticket status and needs
- C. Elimination of 9 p.m. KDLG evening report (Skrade)

DISTRIBUTION:

Koenings
Clasby
Larson
Eggers
Florey
Haanpaa
Fried
Hilsinger
Brady
Brannian
Crawford
Cross
Stratton
Rowell
Regnart
Miller
Shook
Skrade
Brookover
Russell
Ghormley
Prigge
Saunders
Gamble
Delaney
Hepler
Westward Region
Kelly, Chris - CFEC
Capt. Graham - FWP

BRISTOL BAY STAFF MEETING NOTES - March 8-10, 1994

II. REGIONAL ISSUES

B. Budget

2. Update on funding for Naknek and Ugashik Smolt Projects (Crawford)**Ugashik River Smolt Project**

1. Prior to the 1993 field season the city of Pilot Point indicated that they did not intend to renew their Cooperative Agreement (COOP-93-029) with ADF&G to fund the Ugashik River Smolt Project in 1994. Preliminary results of the 1993 Ugashik River Smolt study were mailed to Pilot Point's Mayor, Gust Grieben, on December 3, 1993. The original agreement terminated on December 31, 1993.
2. A project description and budget summary was mailed to Borough Manger, Glen Vernon on December 16, 1993 in hopes of obtaining FY94 Ugashik Smolt funding (\$44.9 K) from the Lake and Peninsula Borough that was to meet shortly after the new year.
3. Richard Russell attended the Lake and Peninsula Borough meeting on February 1 and submitted a request for borough funds for Ugashik Smolt in 1994. He reported that our request had been referred to the borough's Fisheries Committee and it didn't appear to be going anywhere fast because Glen Vernon, the chief supporter of Ugashik Smolt submitted his resignation at this meeting.
4. Lake and Peninsula Borough, Fisheries Committee - meet in late February and passed a resolution to give ADF&G \$20 K to help fund the Ugashik River smolt project in 1994, if ADF&G can secure matching funds.
5. Following discussions of Ugashik River Smolt funding problems at the Bristol Bay salmon task force meeting by management staff, Kim Rice of the Egegik Set Netters Association handed Barry Stratton a \$500.00 check for the project. This check was made out to the ADF&G and Barry turned it in to Wayne Prigge for processing.
6. On March 4, Bev Cross sent letters to the following individuals and inquired if their respective organizations would be interested in funding the balance needed (\$20 K) to operate the Ugashik River Smolt Project in 1994:

Dave Harrison
3707 E. Northern Lights, #202
Anchorage, AK 99503

Reidar Solberg
AIFMA
P.O. Box 60131
Seattle, WA 98160

7. Bev is also looking into the current status of the Wood River CIP monies and if there might be a possibility of using this money for Ugashik Smolt.

Naknek River Smolt Project

1. Cooperative Agreement CA 9700-3-9018 between the National Park Service (NPS) and ADF&G to document the 1991 brood year sockeye salmon emigrating in 1993 and 1994 from the Naknek River.
2. The preliminary analysis of the 1993 Naknek River smolt data was completed and sent to Ross Kavanagh, Regional Fisheries Biologist, NPS/Anchorage on November 12, 1993.
3. As of January 19, 1993, Betty Able (CFMD/Admin HDQ/Juneau) had not received any 1994 funds from NPS for Naknek River Smolt. Therefore I called Ross Kavanagh (NPS/Anchorage) and asked him about the status of the Naknek River smolt project for 1994. He said he'd just received the 1994 funds (\$25 K) for Naknek Smolt and he expected to begin processing the necessary paper work to transfer the monies to ADF&G soon.
4. A first draft copy of the TFR entitled "*Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon Smolt Studies for 1993*" was mailed to Ross Kavanagh (NPS/Anchorage). The report was provided the NPS information and I also invited them to provide review comments on the Naknek River sections.
5. Jan Gamble's current FY94 ledger balance report for the NPS Naknek River Smolt Project (11034571) shows an all line balance of \$2291.14. Betty Able confirmed that these monies which weren't expended in FY93 are available to spend in FY94.
6. Therefore I prepared a budget summary and proposed project operations scenerio for the 1994 Naknek River smolt project based on total expected operating funds of \$27,291.00. This total includes the current FY94 Naknek Smolt balance (\$2,291) plus the anticipated FY94 NPS appropriation (\$25,000). The 1994 Naknek Smolt proposed calls for a 3-person crew (2-ADF&G FTII's plus 1-NPS Tech) working from May 15 to June 17, 1994 (34 days). With the present budget we can count smolt for 27 days (1200 hours 5/19 to 1159 hours 6/14) in 1994. An average of 76% of all historical smolt counts (1982-1986 plus 1993) were made between the proposed 1994 operating dates.

BRISTOL BAY STAFF MEETING

II B. 3. New Dillingham Office Update

Bkgrnd Alaska Disabilities Act prompted inspections and renovations of state buildings in all departments, to bring buildings into compliance with the act.

Early '92 - Local staff began outlining current staff structure and existing office situation to Ernie Greek and Elmer Sorenson. Much discussion on future office options lead to the preferred alternative of combining offices into one location. Current CF/SF site was not felt to be acceptable due to lack of parking space.

Early '93 - Elmer was moving to renovate ASHA building with ADA funds and CIP money, and money RSA's from DOT. Intent was to add a wing to accomodate CF and SF staff when additional money became available. Tentative renovation target date was Christmas '93.

Fall '93 - Additional money became available to add wing to ASHA building. At this point local staff revisited the ASHA renovation floor plan. The intent was to change the floor plan to accomodate all the needs of the combined staff, excluding only office space. The attached wing would house office space primarily for CF/SF staff. See Bosworth memo (12-17-93) for final layout. Phone system needs were submitted to Elmer at the same time (see Sorenson memo 12-17-93).

Status: The ASHA building renovation is now in the final stages. Elmer Sorenson completed the final inspection February 14. He provided the contractor with a list of minor corrections to make before considering the project complete, and left the final check up to Mark. At that time, the building will be habitable, except for the lack of a phone system.

The Dillingham staff of Boards, Subsistence and wildlife Conservation are considering moving into the new building sometime in March, using their current phone system and existing furniture.

Outlook: Per phone conv w/ Ernie Greek, he and Elmer were to prioritize building projects around March 1. He thinks the money is secure for Dlg, but they are under time/work constraints. He suspects that the Dlg office will be high on the priorities. The soonest possible finish on the wing would be early fall.

Summary: Having office staff in one combined location will have several benefits:

1. easier access to and by the public - less confusion.
2. better communication/efficiency among office staff.
3. less duplication - overall reduction in operating costs and duplication of service.

Among the minuses:

1. relearning the office environment - assign certain office duties/costs by division.

2. physical proximity to warehouse/bunkhouse and town - further from the mainstream; seasonal work; vehicle availability.
4. moving - will take some time
5. public awareness/confusion over new location.
6. what to do with existing office.

Other: The Bunkhouse needs need prioritized among area staff. According to Ernie, money may be available for a bunkhouse, i.e. renovation of the existing office.

SF contributions to maintenance costs

Agenda Change

II. B. Budget

5. Potential funding sources

Background: Bering Sea Fisherman Association money may be available for coho research in Bristol Bay. Their source is an FY 94 add-on to Wildlife and Parks Programs for Alaska totaling \$800,000. Apparently they have two directives: upgrade salmon restoration and hatchery enhancement facilities, and salmon monitoring and research programs. See BSFA letter.

Protocol for accepting money from outside sources.

Potential research priorities?

Extending Nushagak sonar season

Continuing Wood River Tower

Migration studies/Tagging

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA

TO: Ken Florey
Regional Supervisor
CFMD Region II
Anchorage

DATE: March 7, 1994

FILE NO:

FROM: Chris Kelly *CK*
Licensing Project Leader
Commercial Fisheries Entry
Commission

TELEPHONE NO: 789-6150

SUBJECT: Bristol Bay Staff
Meeting - CFEC
Plans

By FAX

Ken, I don't expect to be in Anchorage tomorrow, so I wanted to give you a general idea of the Commission's plans for the Bay this summer and the status of the district registration program.

We plan to provide service on essentially the same schedule as last year. Tentatively, the Dillingham office will be staffed the week of June 6 - 10, and King Salmon June 13 - July 15.

There are some changes which impact the district registration system. All of the Commission's licensing functions have been moved off the mainframe and are now on a local area network at CFEC in Juneau. This transition has been a few years in planning and implementation and has required that every program used in the licensing system be rewritten. We are still finding "bugs" on a regular basis and fine-tuning will undoubtedly continue for quite a while. The Bristol Bay district registration programs have not been rewritten. In fact, to operate the field offices at all we will now be running all of our licensing applications on the LAN via modem.

The old licensing system, including the district registration program, is still accessible on the mainframe in the field offices. The problem is that the data is no longer "live". I believe our data processing section is currently backing data off the LAN onto the mainframe on a weekly basis, meaning that licensing data may be a week out of date. During the salmon season, they could back it off more often, say every night, but there could still be some discrepancies between the "real" data and what would show up on the lists we give FWP.

For instance, if someone came in and reregistered to a different vessel, a district registration list run that same day would still show him on the "old" vessel - the "new" vessel would not show up on a registration list until the next day. Of course we would still be able to look up the "live" data on the current licensing system which would be running on the LAN. Another possible discrepancy could occur when a permit is emergency transferred because the transferee's name would not show up on registration lists until the day after the transfer.

I wouldn't expect this to be a problem until late June when FWP starts getting registration lists on a more regular basis, and even then it's hard to say whether it would really be a "big" problem. But since district registration is a Fish and Game requirement, it's really for the management biologists and the FWP officers to decide whether this sounds workable. If the consensus is that it's not, the department will have to develop a new district registration system because CFEC's programmers have too many irons in the fire right now to take on an additional project. (Of course, our people in the field offices would still be glad to assist with district registration as time allows.)

There is another issue we have discussed here at CFEC which might be appropriately addressed at the staff meeting. This has to do with persons who receive permits by emergency transfer and whether or not they may file a blue card to register for a new district, even if the permit was previously registered for a different district by the actual permit holder. CFEC maintains that they cannot, and that interpreting it differently conflicts with the intent of the regulation and opens the door to emergency transfer fraud and abuse on a large scale. We have actually had a few inquiries from persons wondering if their permits can change districts without a waiting period if they get an emergency transfer. I'm aware that some others interpret this regulation differently and I think that this needs to be clarified.

5 AAC 06.370(a) states that each Bristol Bay commercial salmon drift gillnet permit holder shall register himself or herself and the vessel for a district before taking salmon. In CFEC's view, an emergency transferee is NOT a "permit holder" in the same sense as the owner of the permit. If the permit holder has already registered himself and his permit for a district, the transferee is merely continuing the operation of that permit and should have to wait 48 hours if he wants to change it to a different district. Of course, if the permit holder has not registered for a district at the time of the emergency transfer, the transferee would do the initial district registration (blue card).

If the Department takes the position that emergency transferees can change districts without any waiting period, and this becomes known among the fleet, we can expect to see a significant increase in emergency transfer requests submitted solely for this purpose. Personally, I can't imagine that anyone would view that as a positive development for the fishery. I don't know if this has ever been discussed by all those involved with the district registration process or if it's just come up in regard to isolated incidents, but I think it would be a good idea to reach a consensus one way or the other.

I hope I've explained this in a way that makes sense! If there are any questions please give me a call. I'd also be glad to talk with all of you during the meeting if you want to contact me then. I assume there will be someone from the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection attending the staff meeting so that they will be informed of these developments. If not, please let me know and I will provide them with a copy of this memo. Once again, I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the meeting in person this time.

c. Aerial Survey (Fix wing/helo split, fuel etc)

Overview: 1989-92 survey program - 110 hours of flying time for herring. Included 6 hours ferry time and 10 hours for point estimates/test fishing, leaving 94 hours for surveying/sampling.

1993 - Helo time reduced to 45 hours, including 6 hours for ferry time. Due to a lack of processing capacity, test fishing was not anticipated. Approximately 25 hours of fixed wing time was included in the budget, for a total time of 64 hours for aerial surveys and sample deliveries.

Two problems in 1993, due (at least partly) to the decrease in flying time:

1. surveys discontinued prematurely. The biomass observed on the last survey totaled nearly 30,000 tons on May 4 - the last day of a full survey. Prior to last year the shortest survey "season" was 25 days in duration (1987); 1993 duration was 14 days. The lack of available survey time played a role in leaving the fishery closed for the season.

2. difficulty obtaining catch and escapement samples. Problems with deliveries were at least partially responsible for delaying inseason age composition estimates and sufficient sample sizes for post-season analysis.

Status: 1994 - helo time remains the same as in 1993 (45 hours total). Subtracting ferry time, 39 hours are available for surveys, sampling, and test fishing. Breakdown: 33.0 hrs to 3201; 12.5 hrs to 3221. 50 hours of fixed wing time were included in the pre-audit exclusively on 3201. Total flying time of 89 hours dedicated to herring.

Soloy and Pen Air have agreed to provide air charter. Both have also agreed to locate at TFI during the season, given a guarantee of 4 hours of flight time per day.

The increase of roughly 20 hours will help broaden the duration of the surveys. The additional fixed wing time will be put towards aerial surveys, in effect freeing helo time for sample deliveries and surveying.

Fuel: 16 drums of JET-A remain at TFI from last year, and an additional 20 were ordered. Breakdown: 12 drums -3231, 2 drums -4561, 6 drums -3221. Pen Air will supply their own fuel.

Note: Herring Test Fish (3221) was used to fund \$7,800 of helo time and fuel this year.

Other: Survey duties - Regnart should now take lead in technical biomass surveys. I'll still need to fly occasionally for management purposes.

Approximate number of samples collected by date in the Togiak herring fishery, 1988–1993.

Number of Samples from Non-selective Gear by Year						
Month Date	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
4 26 1						144
4 27 2						504
4 28 3						160
4 29 4						1,146
4 30 5						59
5 1 6						793
5 2 7						1,363
5 3 8		9	1			596
5 4 9	36	4	1			1,018
5 5 10	6	5				960
5 6 11	5	206	46	150		120
5 7 12		68	53	31		
5 8 13	2	161		80		314
5 9 14	52	499	1,534	399		
5 10 15		271	90	1,271		
5 11 16	51	580	102	329		
5 12 17	119	1,152	361	1,234	3	
5 13 18	329	1,014	325	99		
5 14 19	207	218	152	298		
5 15 20	61		112	516	1	
5 16 21	350	89	20	285	68	
5 17 22	778	43		111	200	
5 18 23	80	241	322	361	522	
5 19 24	402	552	318	189	599	
5 20 25	173	370	164	324	256	
5 21 26	288	236	83	306		
5 22 27	490	111	127		2,183	
5 23 28	376	85	266		376	
5 24 29	108				317	
5 25 30	39				211	
5 26 31					269	
Total	3,952	5,914	4,077	5,983	5,005	7,033

Table 1. Samples collected from purse seine gear for revision of the biomass estimate and estimation of the biomass age composition.

	Date	Fishing Section					Total Samples
		Kulukak	Nunavachak	Togiak	Hagemeister Point	Cape Newenham	
Samples	4/24	0	0	0	0		
Biomass Estimate		x	x	x	x	--	--
Samples	4/25	0	0	0	0		
Biomass Estimate		x	x	x	x	--	--
Samples	4/26	0	0	0	0	0	
Biomass Estimate Peak		x	x	x	x	x	--
Samples	4/27			518			518
Biomass Estimate		x	x	--	--	--	--
Samples	4/28	0	127	0	0	0	127
Biomass Estimate		x	x	x	x	x	--
Samples	4/29	0	203	0	387	197	154
Biomass Estimate		x	x	x	x	x	x
Samples	4/30	0	0	0	53	0	53
Biomass Estimate		x	x	x	x	x	--
Samples	5/01	0	163	0	261	30	454
Biomass Estimate		x	x	x	x	--	--
Samples	5/02	289	398		361		1,048
Biomass Estimate		--	--	--	--	--	--
Samples	5/03	0	202	0	0	0	0
Biomass Estimate		x	x	x	x	x	x
Samples	5/04	227	235	54	325	84	925
Biomass Estimate 2nd Peak		x	x	x	x	--	--
Samples	5/05	384	480	270	444	91	1,669
Biomass Estimate		x	x	--	--	--	--
Samples	5/06	0	0	0	0		
Biomass Estimate		x	x	x	x	--	--
Samples	5/07-8	0	0	387 ^a			387
Biomass Estimate		x	x	--	--	--	--
Sample Total							6,324

^a Samples from variable mesh gill net and test purse seine.

Table 2. Samples collected from gill net harvest periods for estimation of the age composition of the commercial harvest. Dates and areas harvest occurred are denoted with an x.

	Date	Fishing Secion		Total Gillnet Catch (tons)
		Kulukak	Nunavachak	
Samples Period	4/29	x	236	705
Samples Period	4/30	x	0	991
Samples Period	5/02	x	338	338
Samples Period	5/03	x	0	82
Samples Period	5/04	x	318	617
Samples Period	5/06	x	361	102
Samples Period	5/07	x	0	615
Samples Period	5/09	x	0	115
			0	
Total			1,253	3,565

Table 3. Samples collected from purse seine gear for estimation of the age composition of the commercial harvest.

	Date	Area			Pyrite	Cape	Total	
		Kulukak	Nunavach	Togiak ^a	Hagemeiste	Newen		
Samples Period	4/27	0 x	0 x	387			387	
Samples Period	4/28		128 x	0 x	0 x		128	
Samples Period	4/29	0 x	203 x	0 x	387 x	197 x	154 x	941
Samples Period	4/30		163 x	0 x	53 x	0 x	0 x	216
Samples Period	5/01		0 x	0 x	261 x	30 x	0 x	291
Samples Period	5/02	289 x	398 x		361 x	0 x		1048
Samples Period	5/03	384 x	202 x		262 x	0 x		848
Samples Period	5/04	227 x	235 x	54 x	325 x	84 x		925
Samples period	5/05		480 x	0 x	444 x	91 x		1015

^a Quiqmy River or Anchor Point area

Age Composition determined by length frequency from herring collected from the second purse seine opening, 4 May, 1993.

Age Group	Location									
	Picnic Beach (3 sets)		Tongue Point (3 sets)		Estus to Oosik (1 set)		Pyrite Point (1 set)		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Age 4 and younger	43	17	1	1	3	6	1	1	48	8
Age 5-6	156	63	82	45	17	33	24	28	279	49
Age 7-8	48	19	78	43	21	41	35	40	182	32
Age 9 and older	1	0.4	22	12	10	20	27	31	60	11
	248	100	183	100	51	100	87	100	569	100

*Most of the young fish observed @ Tongue Pt.
 from beach area as a
 result of the 4 sets*

Age composition, as determined by length frequencies, of samples collected from commercial purse seine fishing periods 28 April through 1 May 1993, and the 5 May commercial purse seine fishing period.

Age Group	28 April– 1 May		5 May	
	Number	%	Number	%
4 and younger	36	1	4	1
age 5–6	588	21	157	45
age 7–8	994	36	153	44
9 and older	1177	42	33	10
Total	2795	100	347	100
Mean Length (mm)	289		269	
Mean Weight (g)	339		not complete	

d. Sampling program

Wanted by managers daily (and cumulative) by age and sex: See PWS example

- Number of fish
- Percent of fish
- Mean Length (w/ STD)
- Mean Age (w/ STD)

To what extent can this be obtained inseason

- based on samples grouped for the district
- based on samples, apportioned by area
- * based on samples, weighted by biomass in each area

Current problems with obtaining regular daily age composition, due to:

1. Retrieving (adequate) samples in a timely manner

- coordination/communication among staff
- clarify sampling objectives
- describe what we are going to ask of industry
- assign duties, e.g. who will contact companies
- follow thru

help time priorities

2. Work loads of the sampling crew

Obtained average size info from companies on a regular basis in 1993, for the first time

How good does avg size (g) indicate age comp - mean/median age

Table 2. Harvest allocation of the 1994 forecasted Pacific Herring spawning in Togiak District, Bristol Bay.

	Biomass (Short Tons)	Harvest (Short Tons)
Total Forecasted Biomass:	142,497	
Exploitation (0-20%) @ 20% for Total Allowable harvest:		28,499
Togiak Spawn-on-kelp (fixed allocation)		1,500
Remaining Allowable Harvest:		26,999
Dutch Harbor Food/Bait @ 7.0% : (7.0% of remaining allocation)		1,890
Remaining Allowable Harvest for Togiak District Sac Roe Fishery 0%		25,109
Purse Seine allocation 75.0%		18,832
Gill net allocation 25.0%		6,277
Total Togiak Sac Roe harvest:		25,109

III. Program Review. A. Herring 1994 Season

2. Forecast, outlook, markets, harvest.

Forecast - large - similar to '92 harvest and potential '93 harvest

Anticipated capacities (see February processor poll)

daily - up from last year by 25%

season expectations are also up, but the quality of the estimates is low.

several companies want all they can get

some companies want over 10 days worth of fish

others are drawing a line on the amount they will take

estimate of 22,500 tons is "loose"

highest specified amount in last 5 years, but increase is at least partially due to processors knowledge of departments intent to spread harvest out. In a 1-shot opening situation, companies would have estimated less.

companies estimated 18,300 as a desired harvest in 1992; actual take: 25,800. Difference: 41%

Potential fleet

Companies limited their fleet size in 1993 for the first time in the fishery.

Most again limiting the fleet size this year, although some have said that they may by from their "B" fleets and/or additional boats.

Company limitations may reduce the potential harvest of the fleet somewhat, but the effective fleet will probably still be fair sized, and boats without a market will likely be on the grounds.

Based on the poll, the gillnet fleet looks like it will be hardest hit by the fleet reductions (only 180 with a market confirmed).

Seine: Assuming large harvest potential, somewhat limited capacity, and potentially large seine fleet:

multiple openings, beginning as early as possible

time and area restrictions

volunteer roe test fishing, at least for the first opening

watching for holding boats - get counts (6 hours?) after opening

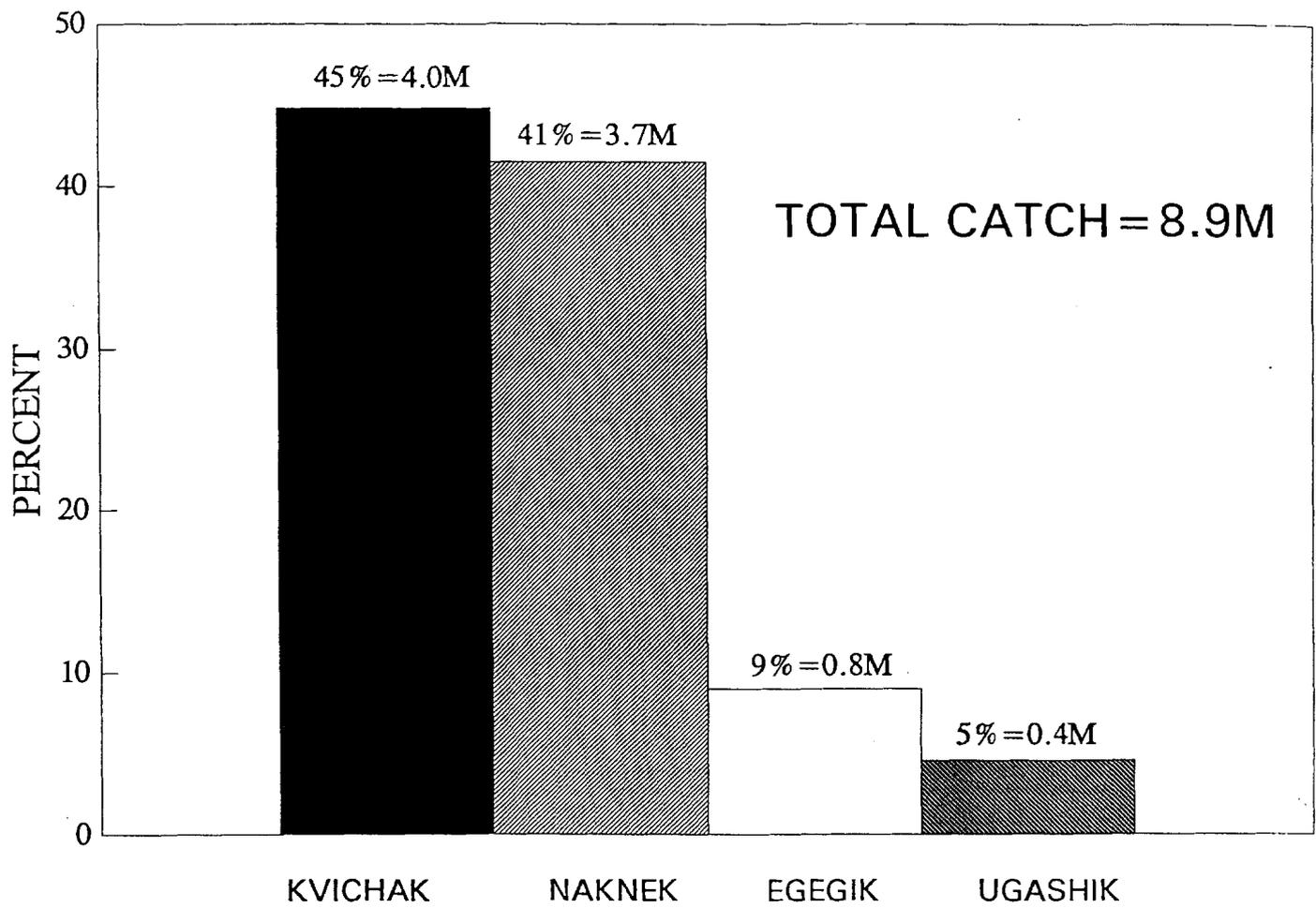
Gillnet: Assuming large harvest, limited (possibly very much so) capacity, restricted effort, and potential for boats without a market:

caution on the front side

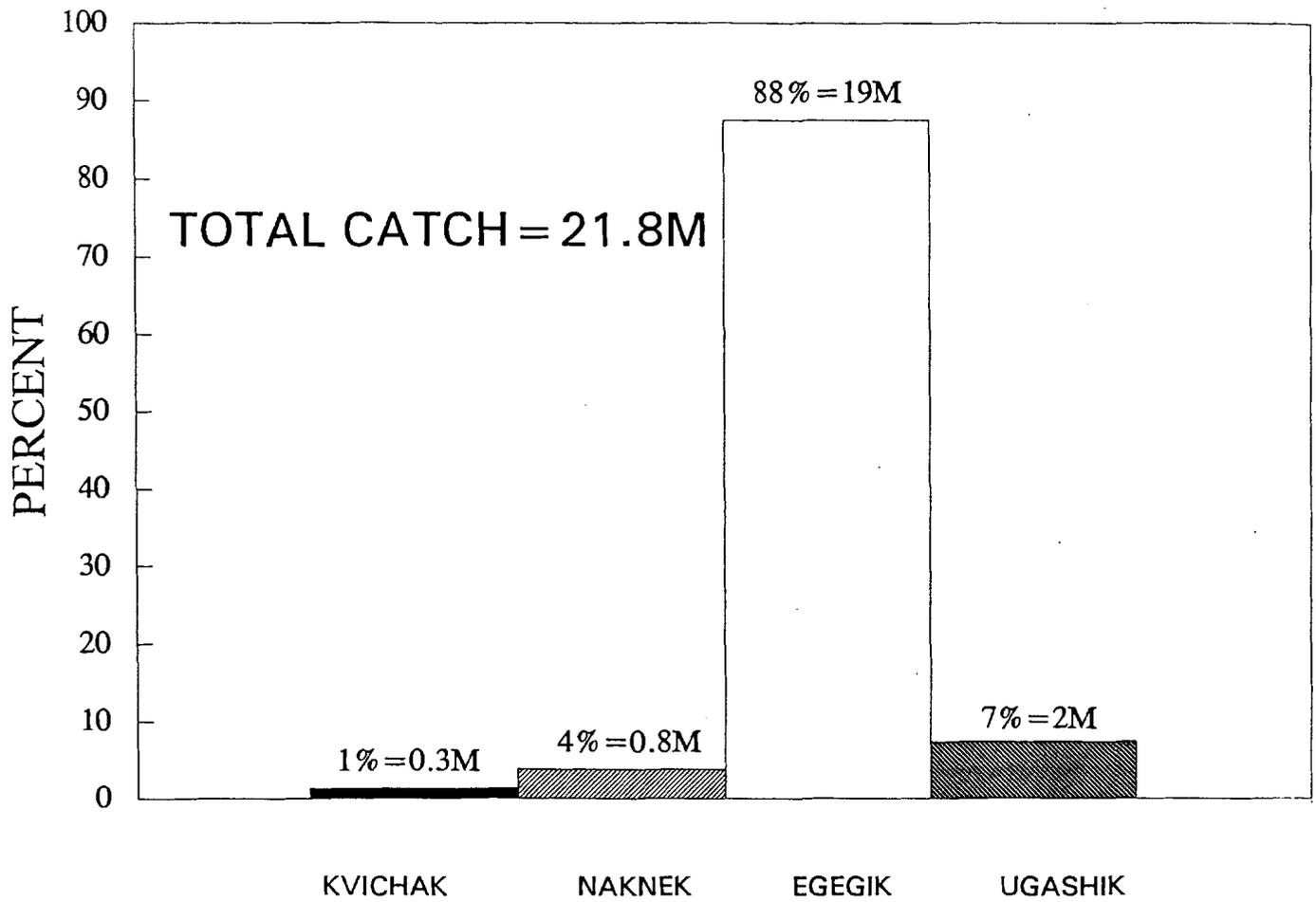
watch for waste, recovery comparison w/ test fish results
intensive volunteer test fishing
time and area - only areas holding high recoveries

Issue: holding purse seine fish to ripen. The stage is set for this to occur this year (early fishing, large potential effort, limited capacity, and the precedent was set in '92).

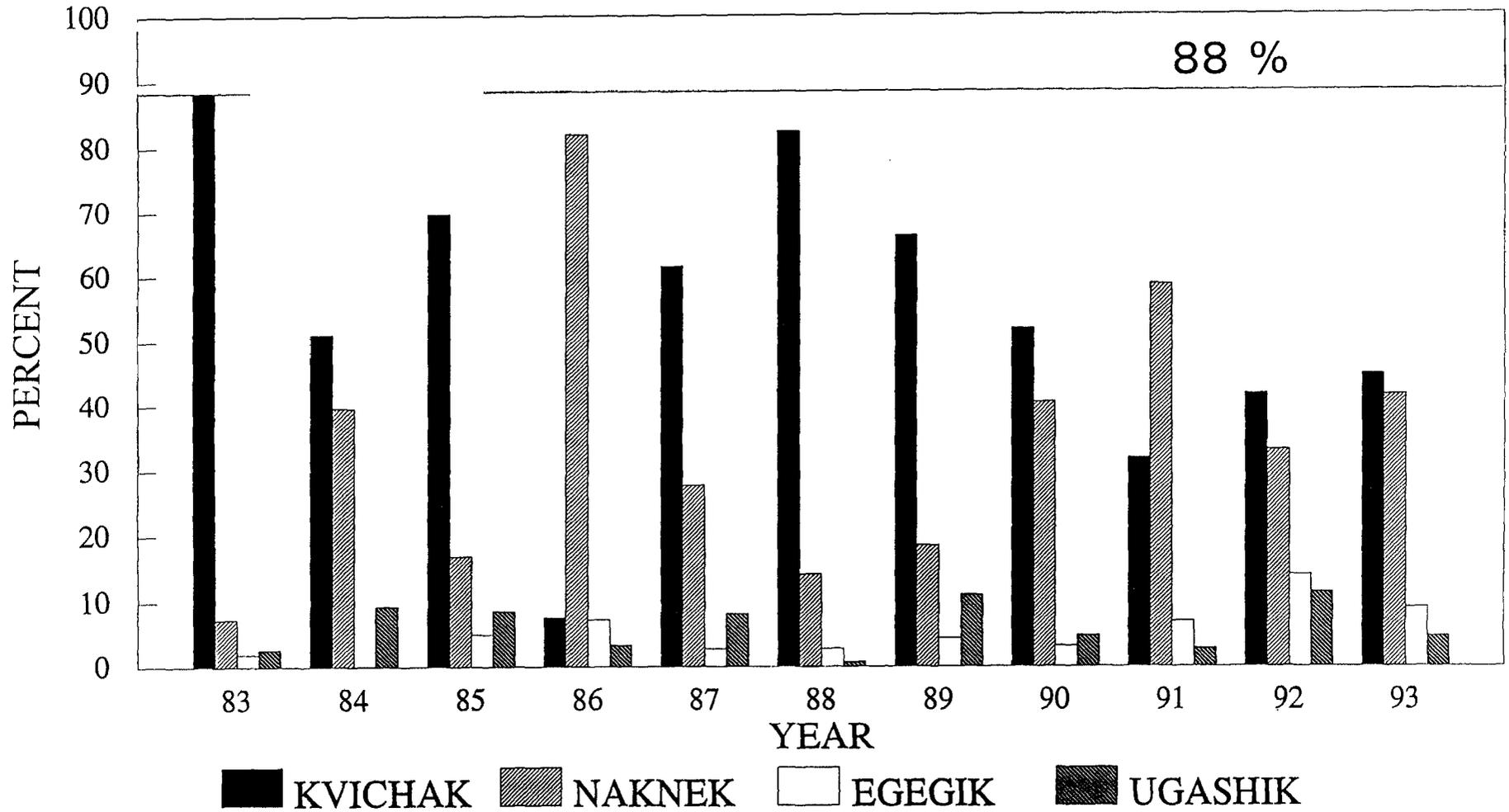
1993 NAKNEK-KVICHAK DISTRICT SOCKEYE CATCH COMPOSITION



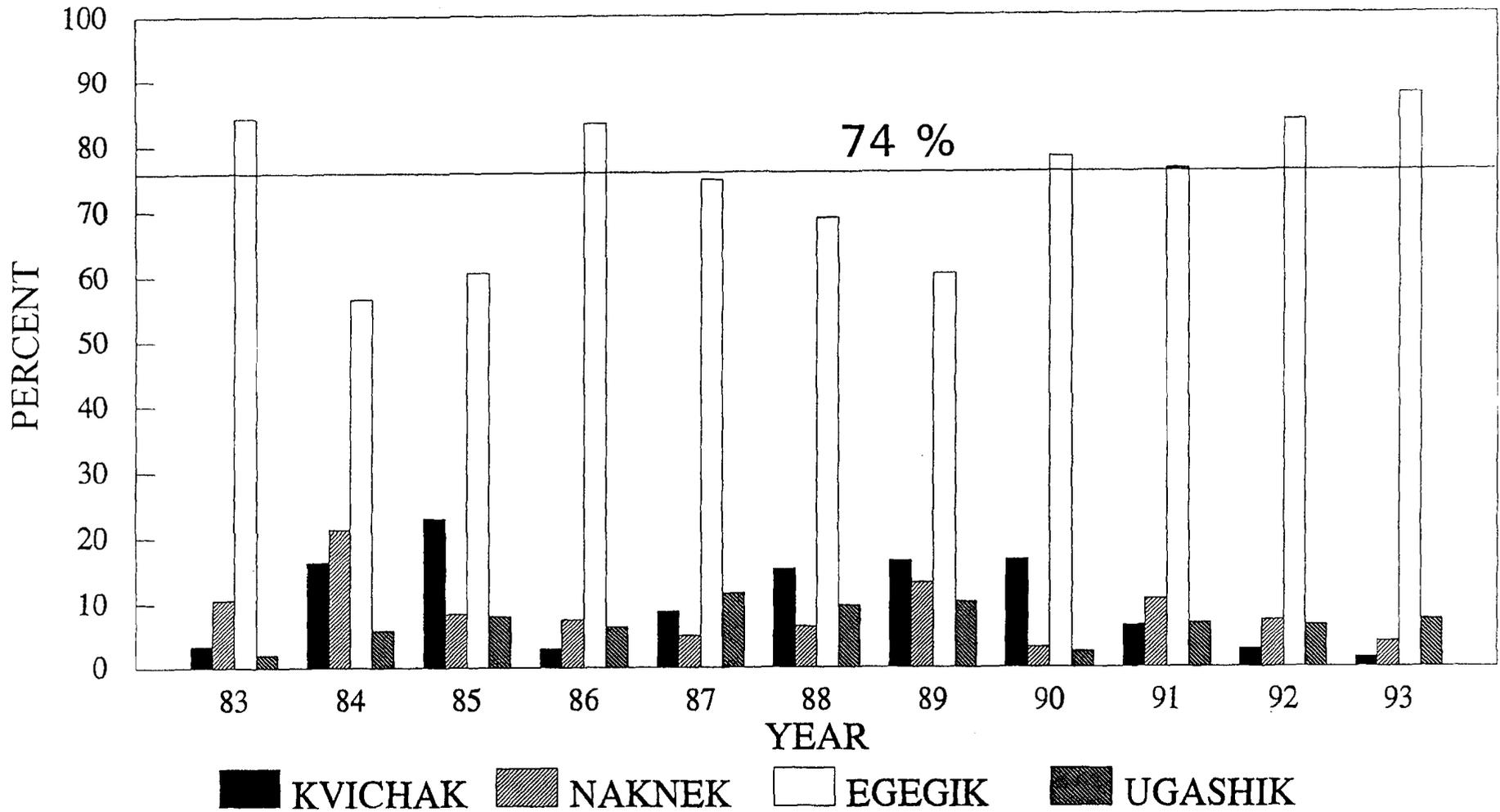
1993 EGEDIK DISTRICT SOCKEYE CATCH COMPOSITION



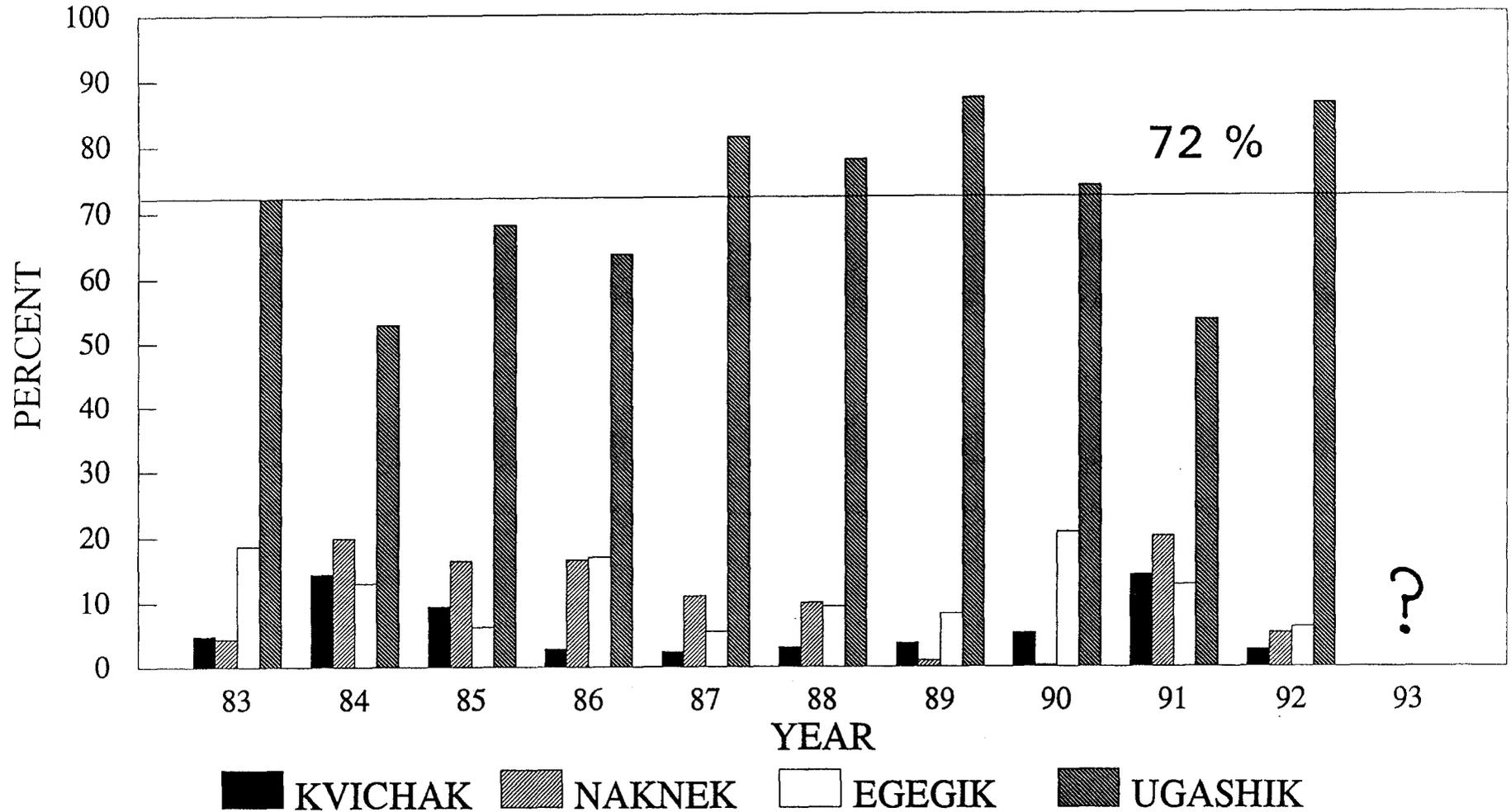
1983-93 NAKNEK-KVICHAK SOCKEYE CATCH COMPOSITION



1983-93 EGEGIK SOCKEYE CATCH COMPOSITION



1983-92 UGASHIK SOCKEYE CATCH COMPOSITION



SUMMARY OF TOGIAK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON

80-93 TOTAL RUN AVG = 28,000 (80-85 avg=38,000; 87-93 avg=19,000)

80-93 ESCAPEMENT AVG=9,400 (80-85 avg=12,000; 87-93 avg=7,500)

HAVE BROOD YEAR INFORMATION 80-87 (not very much for 7-yr-old fish)

BY 80-87 AVG R/S = 1.87

TOTAL RTN BY 80-87 = 18,400

ESC GOAL BASED ON 80-87 AVG R/S AND TOTAL RTN = 9,800

Not much information to establish relationship between #spawners and R/S

Relationship between BY 80-87 #spawners and LN(R/S) significant only because of 1984.

Table . Commercial, subsistence, and sport harvests and escapements of chinook salmon from Togiak River, 1980-93.

Year		0.2	1.1	0.3	1.2	2.1	0.4	1.3	2.2	0.5	1.4	2.3	0.6	1.5	2.4	1.6	2.5	Total
1980	Commercial	0	0	0	2,172	0	0	4,344	0	0	3,039	0	0	434	869	0	0	10,858
	Subsistence	0	0	0	180	0	0	360	0	0	252	0	0	36	72	0	0	900
	Sport	0	0	0	7	0	0	14	0	0	10	0	0	1	3	0	0	34
	Spawners	0	0	0	1,609	0	0	3,219	0	0	2,252	0	0	322	644	0	0	8,046
	Total	0	0	0	3,967	0	0	7,937	0	0	5,552	0	0	793	1,587	0	0	19,837
1981	Commercial	0	0	0	8,472	0	0	6,150	348	0	7,426	116	0	232	0	0	0	22,744
	Subsistence	0	0	0	149	0	0	108	6	0	131	2	0	4	0	0	0	400
	Sport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Spawners	0	0	0	4,632	0	0	3,362	190	0	4,060	63	0	127	0	0	0	12,435
	Total	0	0	0	13,253	0	0	9,621	544	0	11,617	181	0	363	0	0	0	35,579
1982	Commercial	0	481	60	3,122	0	0	17,886	239	0	8,701	1,321	0	1,139	659	0	0	33,607
	Subsistence	0	6	1	37	0	0	213	3	0	104	16	0	14	8	0	0	400
	Sport	0	3	0	21	0	0	122	2	0	61	8	0	8	5	0	0	231
	Spawners	0	97	0	632	0	0	3,600	49	0	1,801	231	0	243	134	12	0	6,800
	Total	0	587	61	3,813	0	0	21,821	292	0	10,666	1,578	0	1,405	805	13	0	41,038
1983	Commercial	0	0	0	9,014	0	0	4,430	0	0	21,137	0	0	1,088	0	0	0	35,669
	Subsistence	0	0	0	177	0	0	87	0	0	416	0	0	21	0	0	0	700
	Sport	0	0	0	7	0	0	65	0	0	449	0	0	11	4	0	0	535
	Spawners	0	0	0	147	0	0	1,326	0	0	9,208	0	0	221	74	0	0	10,975
	Total	0	0	0	9,345	0	0	5,907	0	0	31,209	0	0	1,341	77	0	0	47,879
1984	Commercial	0	0	0	1,406	36	0	8,943	0	0	7,466	0	0	2,108	0	0	0	19,958
	Subsistence	0	0	0	42	1	0	269	0	0	224	0	0	63	0	0	0	600
	Sport	0	0	0	3	0	0	21	0	0	17	0	0	5	0	0	0	46
	Spawners	0	0	0	1,344	34	0	8,552	0	0	7,140	0	0	2,015	0	0	0	19,085
	Total	0	0	0	2,794	71	0	17,785	0	0	14,848	0	0	4,191	0	0	0	39,689
1985	Commercial	0	63	0	6,586	0	0	4,161	0	0	18,759	0	0	3,542	0	0	0	33,110
	Subsistence	0	1	0	119	0	0	75	0	0	340	0	0	64	0	0	0	600
	Sport	0	2	0	184	0	0	116	0	0	524	0	0	99	0	0	0	925
	Spawners	0	23	0	2,389	0	0	1,510	0	0	6,804	0	0	1,286	0	0	0	12,010
	Total	0	89	0	9,278	0	0	5,862	0	0	26,427	0	0	4,990	0	0	0	46,645
1986	Commercial	0	0	0	2,965	0	0	7,955	163	0	2,674	587	0	1,468	195	33	228	16,267
	Subsistence	0	0	0	128	0	0	342	7	0	115	25	0	63	8	1	10	700
	Sport	0	0	0	113	0	0	302	6	0	102	22	0	56	7	1	9	618
	Spawners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	3,206	0	0	8,599	176	0	2,891	635	0	1,587	211	35	246	17,585

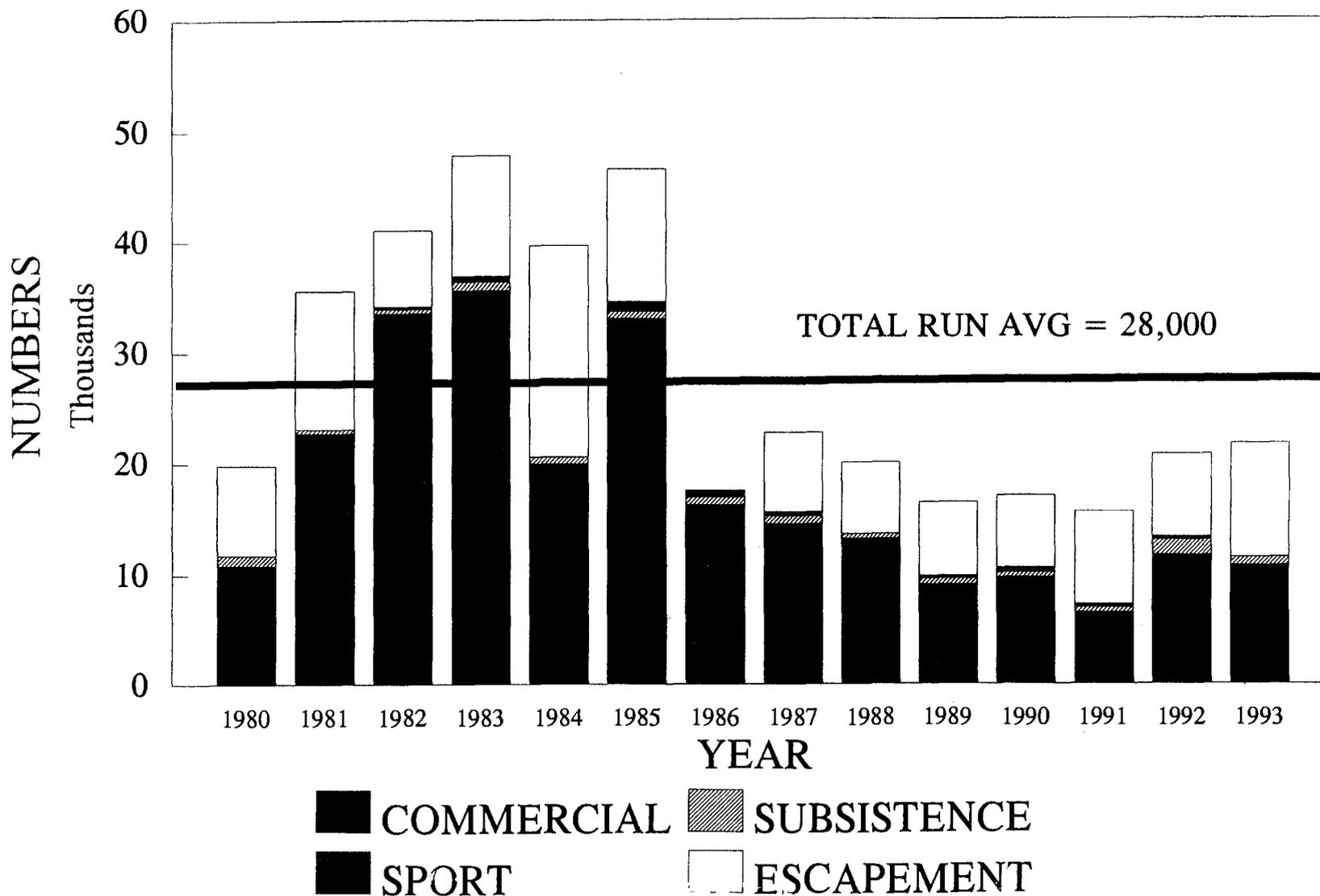
Appendix 10C

Table . Commercial, subsistence, and sport harvests and escapements of chinook salmon from Togiak River, 1980-93.

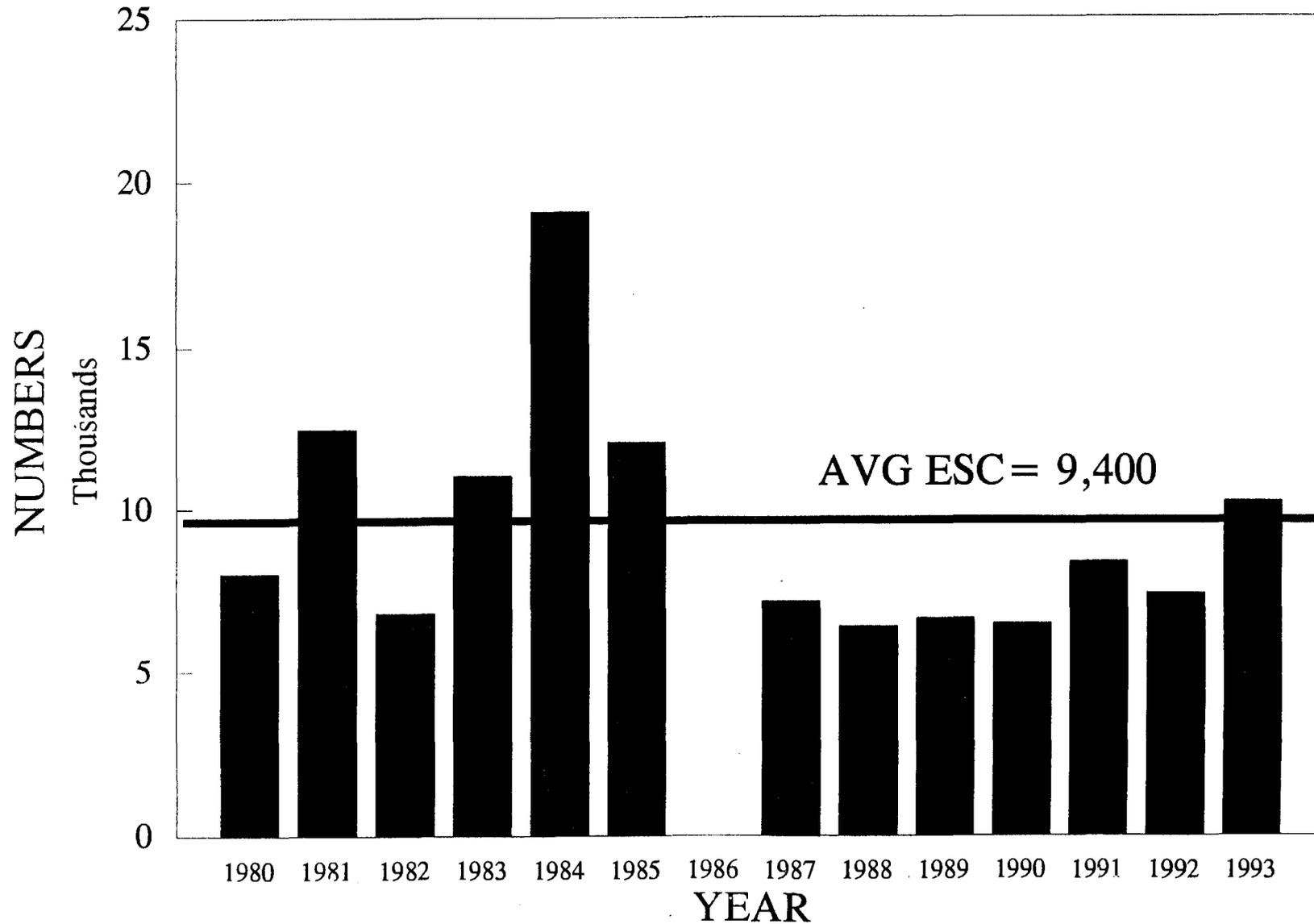
Year		0.2	1.1	0.3	1.2	2.1	0.4	1.3	2.2	0.5	1.4	2.3	0.6	1.5	2.4	1.6	2.5	Total	
1987	Commercial	0	0	26	1,019	0	0	3,726	0	0	9,436	0	0	322	26	0	0	14,555	
	Subsistence	0	0	1	49	0	0	179	0	0	454	0	0	15	1	0	0	700	
	Sport	0	0	1	24	0	0	87	0	0	219	0	0	7	1	0	0	338	
	Spawners	0	0	13	502	0	0	1,836	0	0	4,648	0	0	158	13	0	0	0	7,170
	Total	0	0	41	1,593	0	0	5,827	0	0	14,757	0	0	503	41	0	0	0	22,763
1988	Commercial	0	85	0	3,329	0	0	3,808	0	0	5,080	0	0	903	0	0	0	13,205	
	Subsistence	0	3	0	108	0	0	124	0	0	165	0	0	29	0	0	0	429	
	Sport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Spawners	0	41	0	1,611	0	0	1,843	0	0	2,458	0	0	437	0	0	0	0	6,390
	Total	0	128	0	5,048	0	0	5,775	0	0	7,703	0	0	1,370	0	0	0	0	20,024
1989	Commercial	0	0	0	614	0	0	2,861	0	0	5,213	0	0	360	0	0	0	9,049	
	Subsistence	0	0	0	37	0	0	174	0	0	317	0	0	22	0	0	0	551	
	Sport	0	0	0	16	0	0	74	0	0	135	0	0	9	0	0	0	234	
	Spawners	0	0	0	451	0	0	2,100	0	0	3,828	0	0	264	0	0	0	0	6,640
	Total	0	0	0	1,119	0	0	5,209	0	0	9,491	0	0	656	0	0	0	0	16,474
1990	Commercial	0	0	0	3,114	0	0	2,083	0	0	3,877	0	0	577	0	0	0	9,651	
	Subsistence	0	0	0	155	0	0	104	0	0	193	0	0	29	0	0	0	480	
	Sport	0	19	0	114	0	0	76	0	0	210	0	0	25	0	0	0	445	
	Spawners	0	0	0	2,089	0	0	1,397	0	0	2,601	0	0	387	0	0	0	0	6,475
	Total	0	19	0	5,473	0	0	3,660	0	0	6,880	0	0	1,018	0	0	0	0	17,051
1991	Commercial	0	12	0	2,313	0	0	2,736	0	0	1,125	0	0	286	0	0	0	6,472	
	Subsistence	0	1	0	168	0	0	199	0	0	82	0	0	21	0	0	0	470	
	Sport	0	1	0	102	0	0	120	0	0	49	0	0	13	0	0	0	284	
	Spawners	0	16	0	2,995	0	0	3,542	0	0	1,456	0	0	370	0	0	0	0	8,380
	Total	0	30	0	5,578	0	0	6,597	0	0	2,712	0	0	690	0	0	0	0	15,606
1992	Commercial	0	60	0	4,501	0	0	3,901	0	0	2,942	0	0	360	0	0	0	11,764	
	Subsistence	0	7	0	521	0	0	451	0	0	340	0	0	42	0	0	0	1,361	
	Sport	0	1	0	104	0	0	90	0	0	68	0	0	8	0	0	0	271	
	Spawners	0	38	0	2,835	0	0	2,457	0	0	1,853	0	0	227	0	0	0	0	7,410
	Total	0	106	0	7,960	0	0	6,899	0	0	5,204	0	0	637	0	0	0	0	20,806
1993	Commercial	0	0	0	2,549	0	0	3,748	0	0	4,134	0	0	338	0	0	0	10,769	
	Subsistence	0	0	0	177	0	0	261	0	0	288	0	0	24	0	0	0	749	
	Sport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Spawners	0	0	0	2,417	0	0	3,553	0	0	3,920	0	0	321	0	0	0	0	10,210
	Total	0	0	0	5,143	0	0	7,561	0	0	8,341	0	0	682	0	0	0	0	21,728

1/ Age compositions for 1980-82 and 1984-89 and 1991-93 were only available for the commercial catch. For these years age compositions for subsistence, sport, and spawners was assumed to be the same as For 1983 age composition was available from spawning populations which was also used for sport fish harvest. For 1990 age composition was available for sport harvest.

TOGIAC RIVER CHINOOK SALMON CATCH AND ESCAPEMENT



TOGIAK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON ESCAPEMENT



Appendix 10F

Table . Togiak River chinook salmon return by brood year.

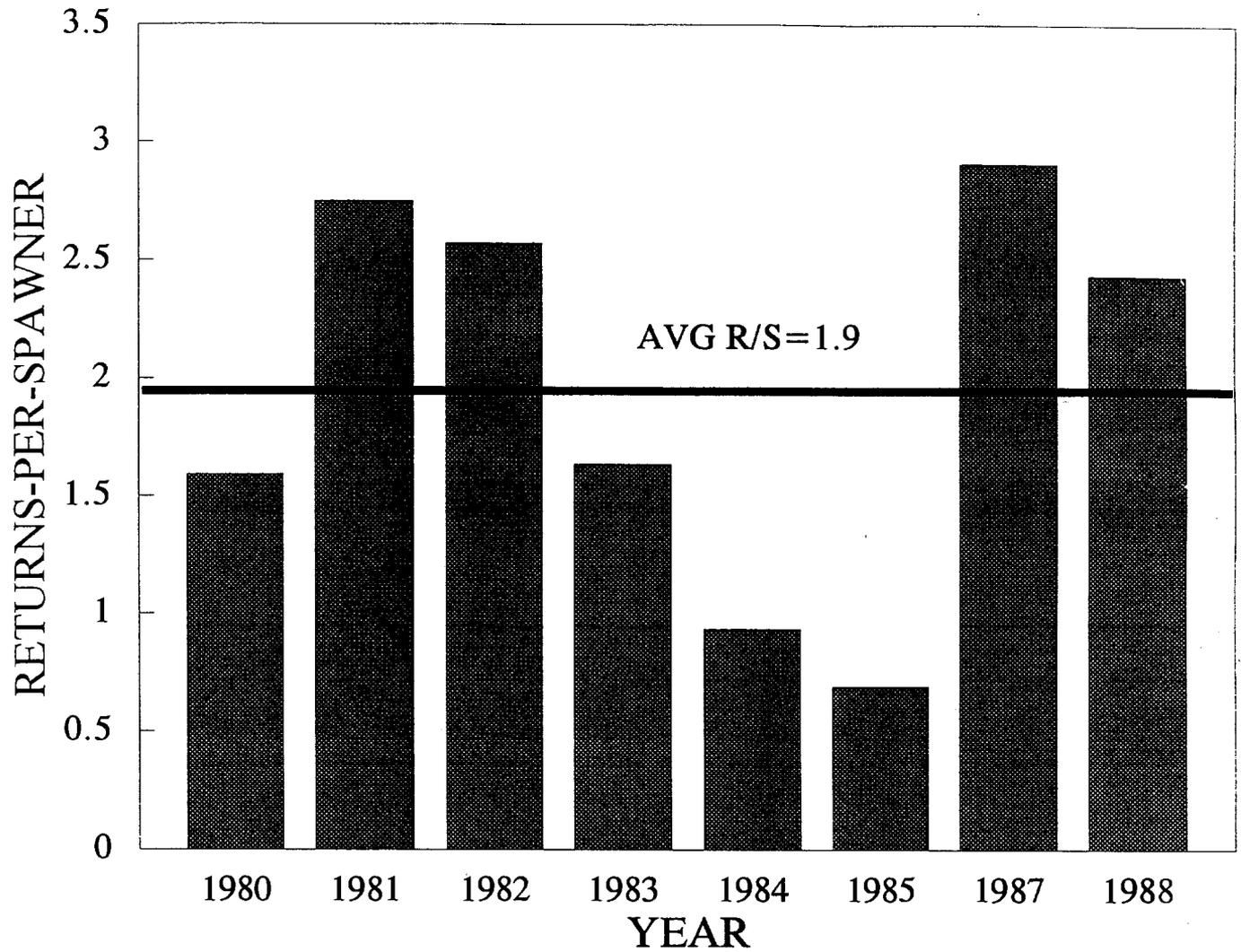
BROOD YEAR	SPAWNERS	1.1	0.3	1.2	2.1	1.3	2.2	1.4	2.3	1.5	2.4	1.6	2.5	TOTAL	R/S
1972															
1973										793	1,587			2,380	
1974								5,552		363		13		5,928	
1975						7,937		11,617	181	1,405	805			21,945	
1976				3,967		9,821	544	10,666	1,576	1,341	77			27,792	
1977				13,253		21,821	292	31,209		4,191				70,766	
1978			61	3,813		5,907		14,848		4,990		35	246	29,900	
1979		587		9,345		17,785		26,427		1,587	211			55,942	
1980	8,045			2,794	71	5,862		2,891	635	503	41			12,797	1.59
1981	12,435			9,278		8,599	176	14,757		1,370				34,180	2.75
1982	6,800	89		3,206		5,827		7,703		656				17,481	2.57
1983	10,975		41	1,593		5,775		9,491		1,018				17,918	1.63
1984	19,085			5,048		5,209		6,880		690				17,827	0.93
1985	12,010	128		1,119		3,660		2,712		637				8,256	0.69
1986				5,473		6,597		5,204		682				17,956	
1987	7,170	19		5,578		6,899		8,341						20,837	2.91
1988	6,390	30		7,960		7,561								15,551	
1989	6,640	106		5,143										5,249	
1990	6,475													0	
1991	8,380													0	
1992	7,410													0	
1993	10,210													0	
AVG	9,387			5,541		8,504		11,307		1,445				18,407	1.87

AVG R/S = 1.867

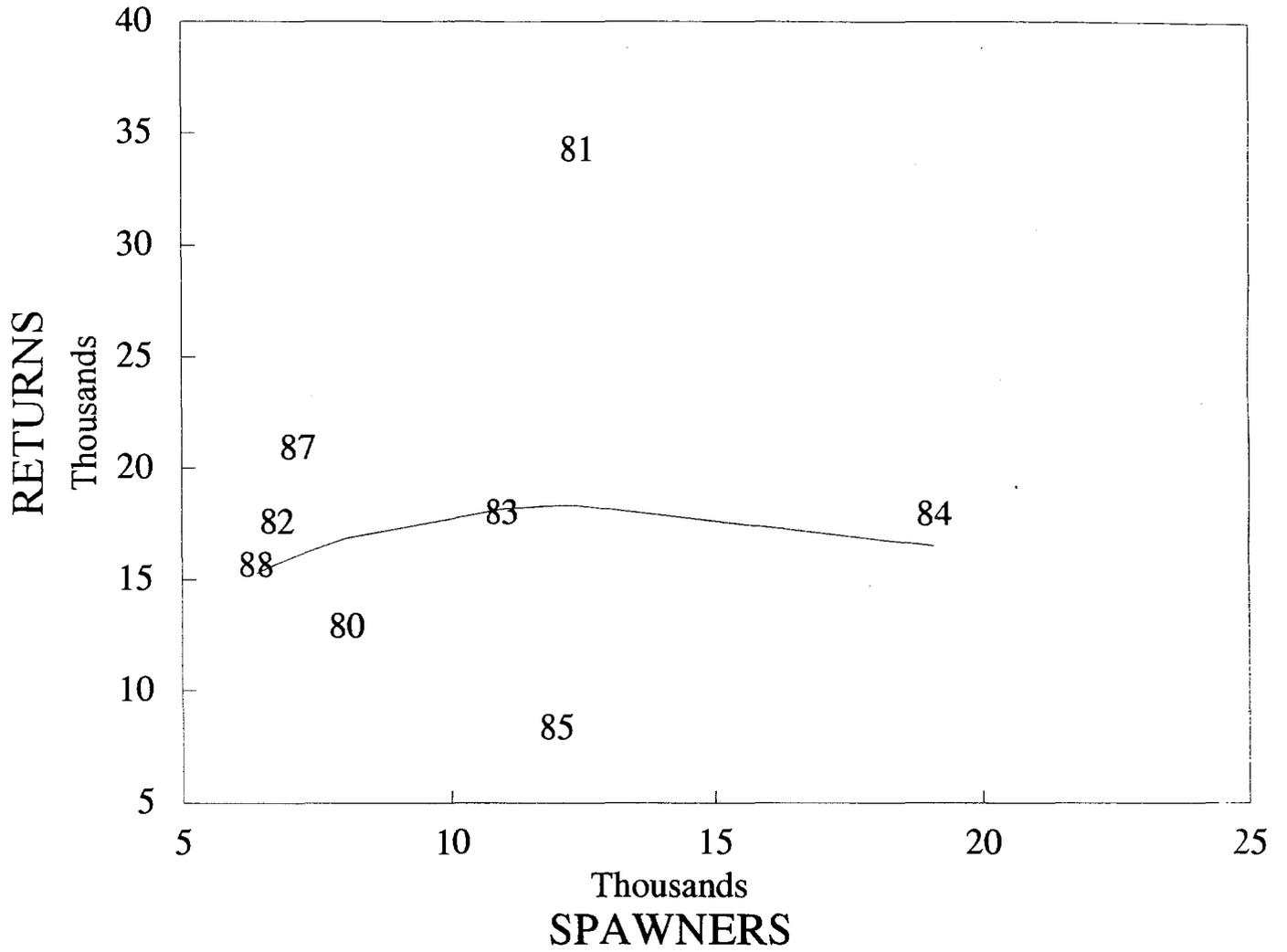
AVG RTN BY 80-88 = 18,407

ESC GOAL BASED ON BY 80-87 AVG RTN AND AVG R/S 9,858

TOGIAK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON RETURNS-PER-SPAWNER



TOGIAK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON



— PREDICTED FROM LINEAR RICKER

- (SAMPLE) -

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Table 4. Coho salmon commercial, subsistence, and sport harvest plus escapement for the Nushagak drainage, 1971 to 1993.

Year	Harvest							
	Commercial ^a	Subsistence ^b	Sport ^c			Total	Escapement ^d	Total Run
			Nush	Mul	Total			
1971	8,036	2,300				10,336		
1972	3,654	1,000				4,654		
1973	28,709	2,200				30,909		
1974	12,569	4,700				17,269		
1975	7,342	4,300				11,642		
1976	6,778	2,100				8,878		
1977	52,562	4,500	65	90	155	57,217		
1978	44,740	2,500	126	113	239	47,479		
1979	129,607	5,200	212	0	212	135,019		
1980	147,726	5,100	379	129	508	153,334	232,000	385,334
1981	220,290	8,700	216	173	389	229,379	180,000	409,379
1982	349,669	8,900	451	52	503	359,072	234,000	593,072
1983	81,338	5,200	849	524	1,373	87,911	51,000	138,911
1984	260,310	8,100	399	37	436	268,846	171,000	439,846
1985	20,230	6,100	0	130	130	26,460	89,500	115,960
1986	68,568	9,400	934	496	1,430	79,398	42,772	122,170
1987	13,263	6,200	595	0	595	20,058	20,220	40,278
1988	52,698	5,223	124	371	495	58,416	131,101	189,517
1989	77,077	8,679	1,586	364	1,950	87,706	84,707	172,413
1990	7,733	5,919	331	95	426	14,078	162,853	176,931
1991	5,574	10,784	415	437	852	17,210	41,153	58,363
1992	84,898	7,103	445	275	720	92,721		
All Years								
Average	76,517	5,646	445	205	651	82,813	120,026	202,839
Percent	92%	7%			1%			
1988 to 1992								
5 Yr Avg	45,596	7,542	580	308	889	54,026	104,954	158,980
Percent	84%	14%			2%			
1993								
Percent	71%	27%			2%			

^a 1989-1993 estimates are preliminary.

^b 1993 estimates are preliminary.

^c 1993 estimates are preliminary.

^d Escapement is estimated by sonar at Portage Creek.

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center is emphasizing studies on the flatfish resources of the eastern Bering Sea. Among our areas of interest is the migrational behavior of yellowfin sole. We know from previous studies that the vast majority of the yellowfin migrate from wintering grounds near the shelf edge to summer feeding and spawning grounds in inner Bristol Bay and Kuskokwim Bay. Our annual groundfish trawl survey in summer is able to determine the distribution of the majority of the population at that time. However, we are unable to sample the shallow waters where we believe many of the juveniles are located. Since we are only able to sample in summer, we are also unaware of what age groups of the population take part in the migration and what ages winter over in the bays.

As a first step in our studies, we would like to determine how the age distribution varies from very shallow water near the beach to waters of about 10 fathoms during the late spring-early summer period. We would like to collect samples with a small (12 ft) plumb staff beam trawl that has been used successfully by other researchers for very small flatfish. Although the trawl could be hauled by hand with difficulty, the work would go much faster with a crab block or small winch.

Although we know spawning occurs in the Togiak area and there is undoubtedly some settlement of juveniles, we also feel a major portion of the settlement occurs in Kuskokwim Bay. If at all possible we would like to do some collecting in that area.

We would be collecting small yellowfin for measurement and collection of otoliths for ageing. There is evidence that the chemical structure of otoliths varies with the temperature at the time a layer is deposited. We are looking into the possibility of sampling the otoliths with a micro-probe for analysis. If we could determine the temperature regime across parts of the otolith, we may be able to tell if the fish stayed in the inshore waters or migrated to the shelf edge.

Due to severe budget cuts we would appreciate any help you could give us with logistics. We are unable to mount any effort this year but hope to try next spring. We will be developing the gear this year and collecting information on how best to carry out the logistics for next spring. If you have any questions, please discuss them with Vidar Wespestad or call me at (206) 526-4143.

Many Thanks,

Gary Walters
Research Biologist
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
RACE Division, Bldg 4
BIN C15700
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

In 1990, the Federal Subsistence Board passed fishery regulations for the Yukon River and other navigable waters. The State of Alaska sued the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture for intruding in the state's authority to manage fish and wildlife and for extending into the state's waters. The case is commonly called "**The Babbitt case**" but is combined with the Katie John case and jointly managed with 7 other cases.

"**Count III**" of the Babbitt case is often called "**the Who issue**": The State of Alaska sued that the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) does not give authority to the federal agencies to regulate harvests of fish and wildlife in Alaska. That authority belongs solely to the State. The federal agencies have land management authority to close federal public land but not to regulate seasons, bag limits, etc. Also ANILCA Title VIII authorizes Federal Court, not federal agencies, to determine whether individuals received their preference for subsistence opportunities on federal public lands.

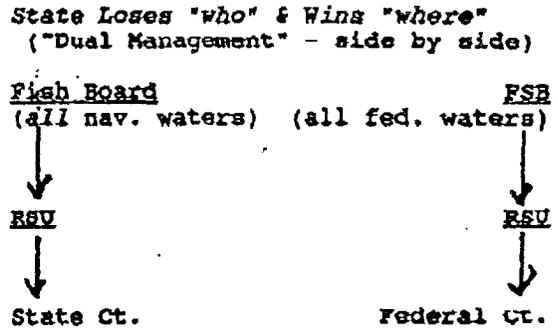
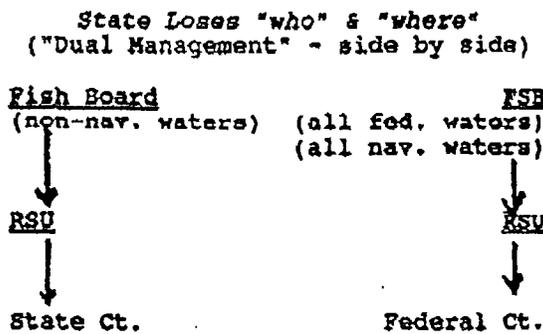
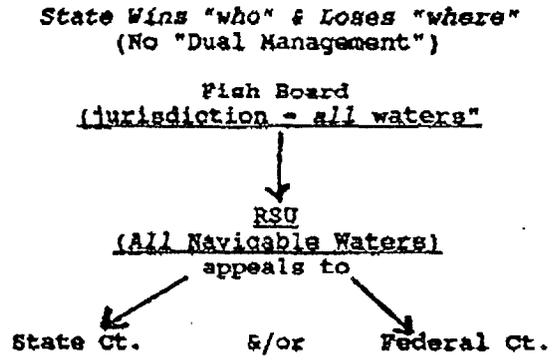
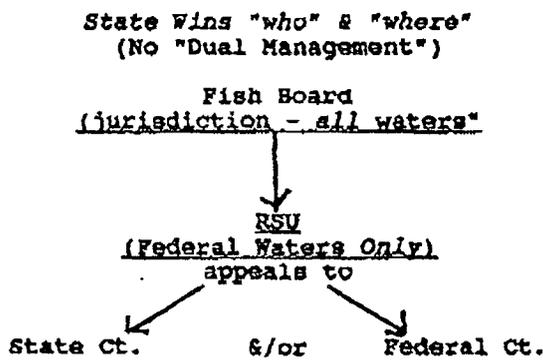
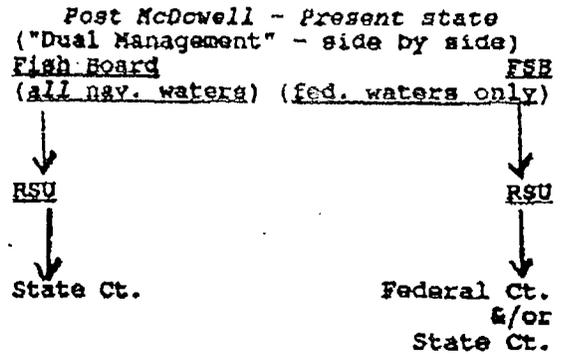
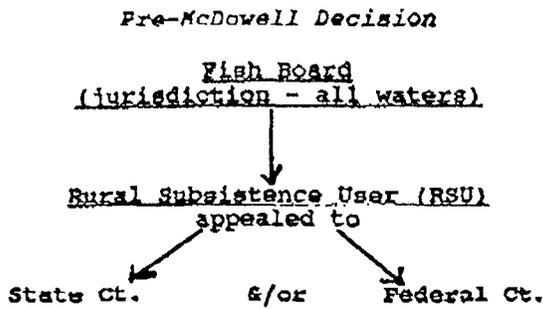
Judge Holland agreed with the state in a November 1993 preliminary ruling: Congress specifically confirmed only the state has authority to regulate harvest of fish and wildlife AND the Federal Court has oversight to assure the subsistence preference on federal public lands, not the federal agencies.

"**The Where issue**" arises in the Katie John v. Unites States case, which sues the federal government to provide a subsistence fishery in a State navigable river. Both the "feds" and State argue that the ANILCA definition of "Federal public lands" excludes state waters, thus ANILCA Title VIII only applies to federal public lands. Judge Holland combined the "Katie John" case with the Babbitt case. (Recently the Secretary of Interior announced the regulations would be changed to add state waters.)

In January 1994, Judge Holland gave a preliminary ruling agreeing with "Katie John": federal public lands include the state's navigable waters and waters offshore 3 miles, thus the ANILCA Title VIII subsistence priority (and thus Federal Court oversight) must be applied to the state's fisheries. Oral arguments are scheduled for February 4 but may be postponed.

What do these rulings mean? Judge Holland will issue final rulings which will undoubtedly be appealed. If unchanged, they mean:

- 1) only the State has authority to regulate harvests; i.e., the Federal Subsistence Board has no authority to regulate;
- 2) the Federal District Court will determine whether aggrieved individuals have received their preference for subsistence opportunities on federal public lands;
- 3) the ANILCA Title VIII federal subsistence priority will apply to all fisheries thereby subjecting sport, commercial, and personal use fisheries to Federal Court intervention. In contrast, if the federal preference doesn't include navigable waters, the state court would review and defer to agency decisions in allocating uses which assure a subsistence preference; and
- 4) the federal government will extend control over activities in state waters, such as fisheries operations, mining, etc.



ALASKA v. HARBITT - "WHO" - proposed order issued late November

The State of Alaska filed this case in April 1992 against the Departments of Interior and Agriculture. The State is NOT asking that the subsistence preference be eliminated.

There are two main issues in this case distinct from the Katie John case:

- * Do the Departments of Interior & Agriculture have authority to set seasons, bag limits, & means on federal public lands?
- Who enforces the federal subsistence right?

The State's position is:

- * Only the State - as the unified manager - sets seasons, bag limits, and means - even on federal lands.
- The Federal District Court enforces the federal subsistence right for individual rural residents.

Holland's preliminary ruling is that the State's position is correct.

Implication - "Dual management" is eliminated. Management returned to State. No need for any legislative action nor any need to change Alaska's Constitution.

KATIE JOHN v. U.S. - "WHERE" - proposed order issued January - oral argument February 4

Katie John & other parties sued U.S. in 1990. The State was joined in 1991.

There is one main issue in this case:

- * Does the federal subsistence right apply off federal lands to all Alaska's navigable waters?

The State's position is:

- * The federal subsistence right only applies to federal lands and does not apply in navigable waters.

Holland's preliminary ruling is that the State's position is wrong.

Implication - The Federal Court will review the complaints of rural subsistence users. No legislative action or change to Alaska's Constitution will affect this ruling.

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