

Upper Cook Inlet Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Overview

Davin Holen
Jim Fall

Division of Subsistence
Alaska Department of Fish and Game



Oral Report: RC 4 – Tab 8
Written Report: RC 4 – Tab 5

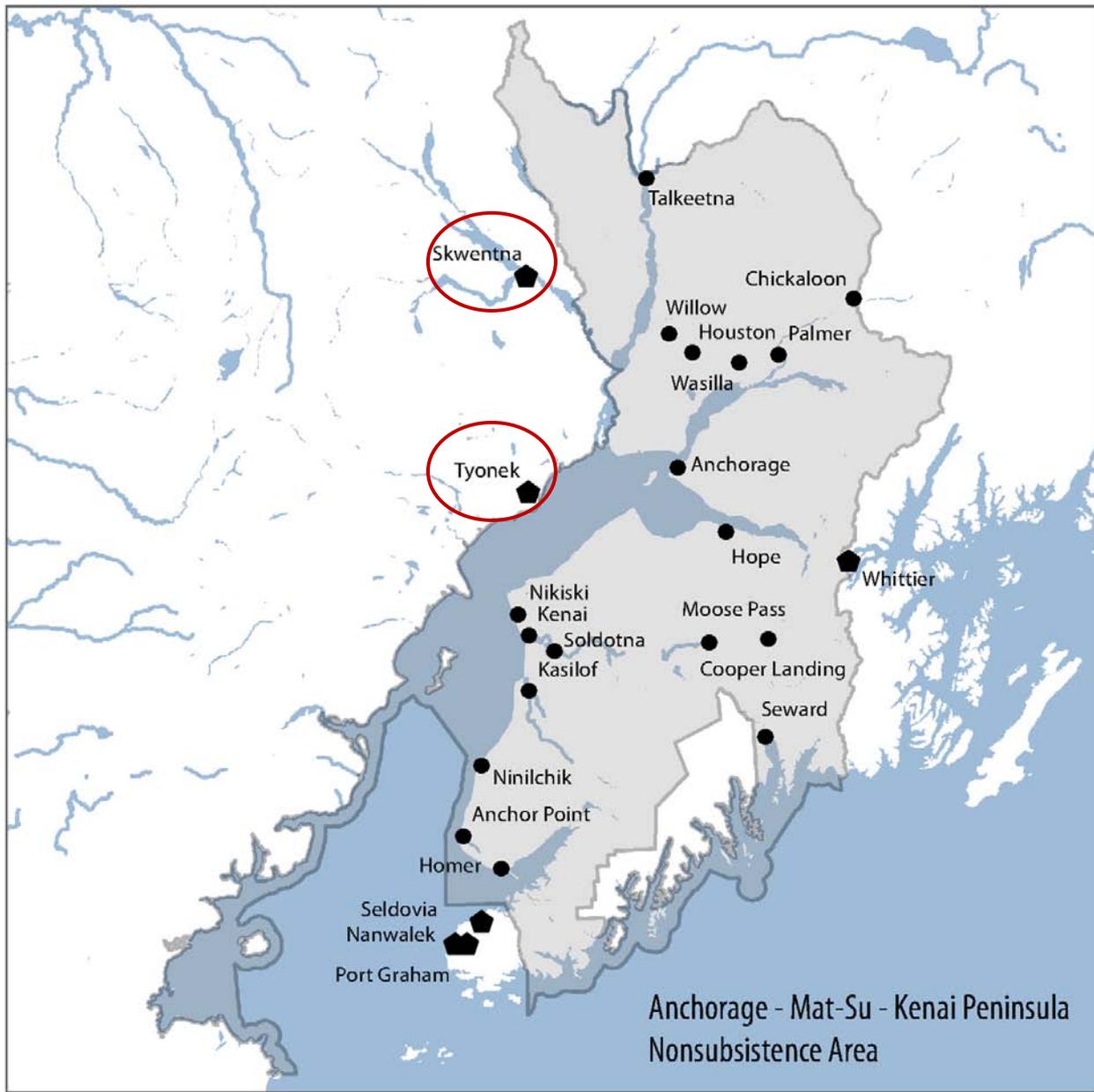
Teaching the next generation to pick the net,
near Robert's Creek, 2004
Photograph by Davin Holen



Purpose of Presentation

1. Review Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) subsistence salmon regulatory history.
2. Summarize harvest data from Yentna River and Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence salmon harvest permits.
3. Provide research results of Tyonek subsistence salmon fishing and use patterns.
4. Briefly review proposals 102, 103, and 270.





Anchorage - Mat-Su - Kenai Peninsula
Nonsubsistence Area



Yentna River:

Customary and Traditional Uses (C&T) and Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)

1988 Negative C&T finding.

1996 Affirmed negative C&T finding.
Established personal use fishery.

1997 *Payton et al. v. State:*

Alaska Supreme Court instructed board to review finding, especially requirement to transmit knowledge within families and requirement to process as Alaska Natives processed.

1998 Positive C&T finding for Yentna River salmon.
Personal use fish wheel fishery became subsistence fishery.
No ANS established; fishery closes by EO if more than 2,500 salmon are taken.



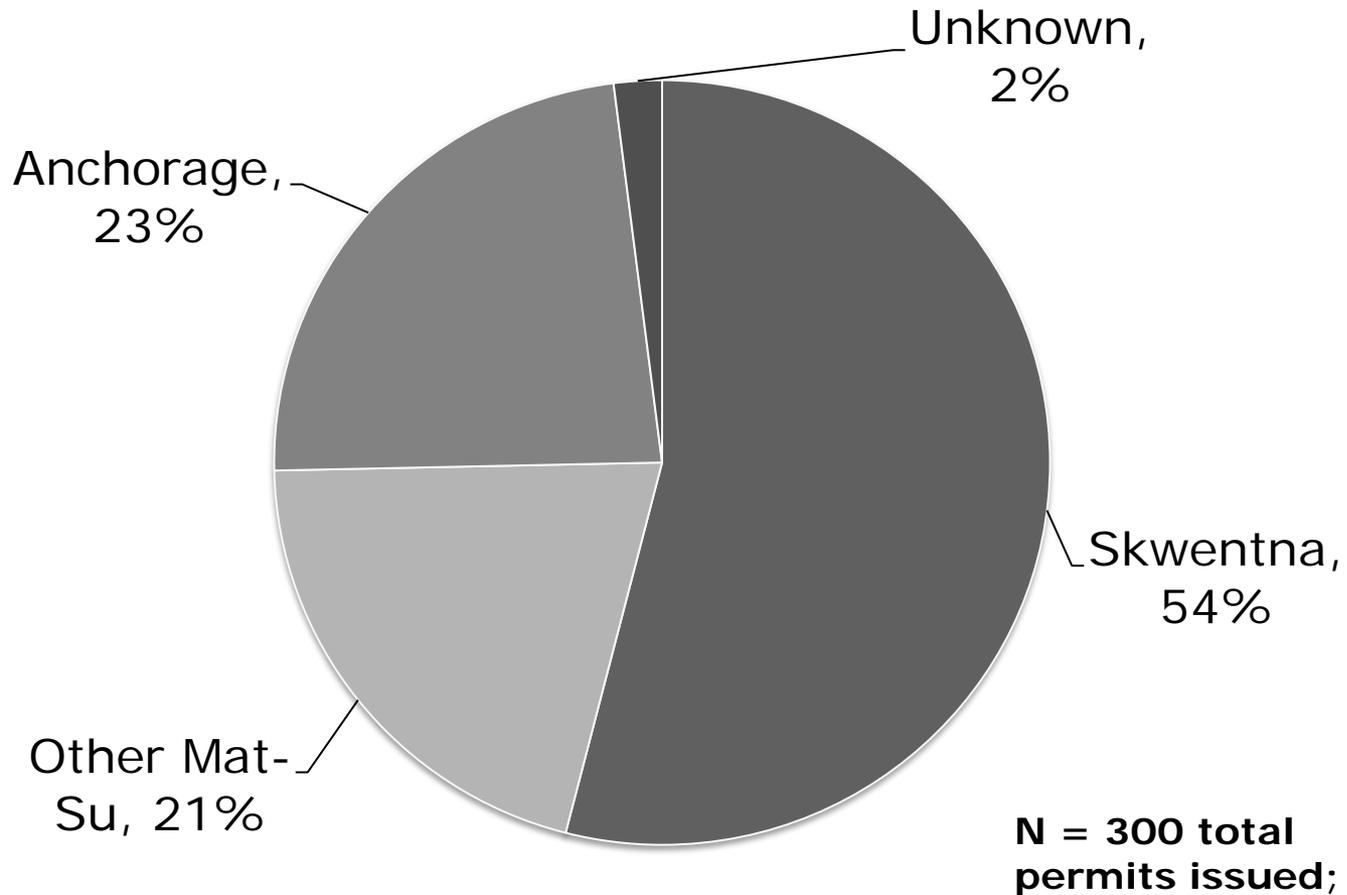
Yentna River: *Regulations*

- Mainstem Yentna River from confluence of Martin Creek upstream to confluence of Skwentna River.
- Fish wheel only, equipped with a live box, marking requirements. Must be present while wheel is in operation.
- Open July 15—July 31 for three 16-hour periods per week.
- Permit required, issued at Palmer ADF&G office.
- Limit = 25 for head of household plus 10 for each additional household member.
- Fishery closes by EO to ensure no more than 2,500 salmon are harvested.
- No king salmon or rainbow trout may be retained.



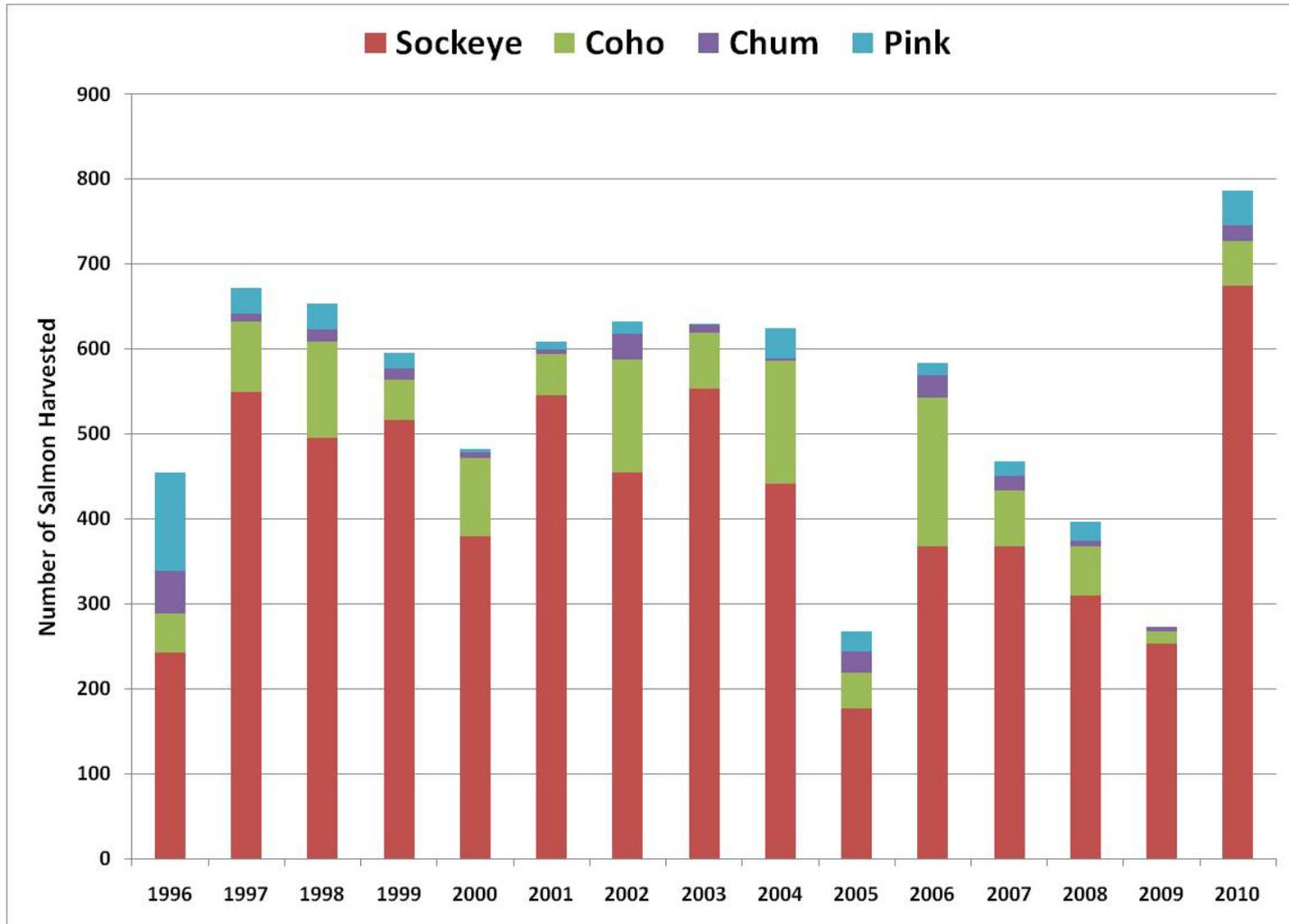
Yentna River: *Permit Data*

Residency of permit holders, 1996–2010



Yentna River: *Permit Data*

Salmon harvests, 1996–2010



Tyonek Subdistrict:

Customary and Traditional Uses (C&T) and Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)

- 1980** Superior Court ruling in *Village of Tyonek et al. v. Alaska Board of Fisheries*. Subsistence king salmon fishery reopened.
- 1981** Positive C&T finding.
- 1992** Positive C&T finding affirmed.
Administrative establishment of ANS based on reported harvests from 1980—1992.
- 750–2,750 king salmon.
 - 100–275 sockeye salmon.
 - 50–100 chum salmon.
 - 50–100 pink salmon.
 - 100–375 coho salmon.



Tyonek Subdistrict: *Regulations*

- Tyonek Subdistrict: one mile south of Chuitna River to easternmost tip of Granite Point; within mean lower low tide.
- Setnet only
 - No larger than 10 fathoms, 6 inch mesh, 45 mesh depth.
 - Marking and setback requirements; prohibited in fresh water.
 - No operation of subsistence and commercial nets at same time.
 - Must be present while setnet is in operation.
- Two part season
 - Early season (king salmon) open May 15—June 15 for three 16-hour periods per week.
 - Late season (other salmon) open June 16—October 15 for one 12-hour period per week.



Tyonek Subdistrict: *Regulations and Permit Data*

- Permit required, issued at Anchorage AD&FG office and Native Village of Tyonek office.
- Limit = 25 for head of household plus 10 for each additional household member. Permit holder can harvest 70 additional king salmon.
- If 4,200 king salmon are harvested, early season closes and late season does not open until July 1.

2010 TYONEK SALMON SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERMIT #TE-____
TYONEK SUBDISTRICT ONLY

Head of Household (print)		
<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>M.I.</u>
<u>DEPENDENTS</u>		
<u>ADDRESS</u>		<u>COMMUNITY</u>
<u>PERMITTEE SIGNATURE</u>		<u>DATE</u>
<u>ISSUING OFFICER</u>		<u>DATE</u>

HOUSEHOLD ALLOWABLE CATCH: KING SALMON 70 OTHER SALMON: _____
PLEASE RECORD NUMBER OF FISH CAUGHT
INDICATE DAYS FISHED, EVEN IF NO FISH CAUGHT
FISHED [] DID NOT FISH []
REGULATIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

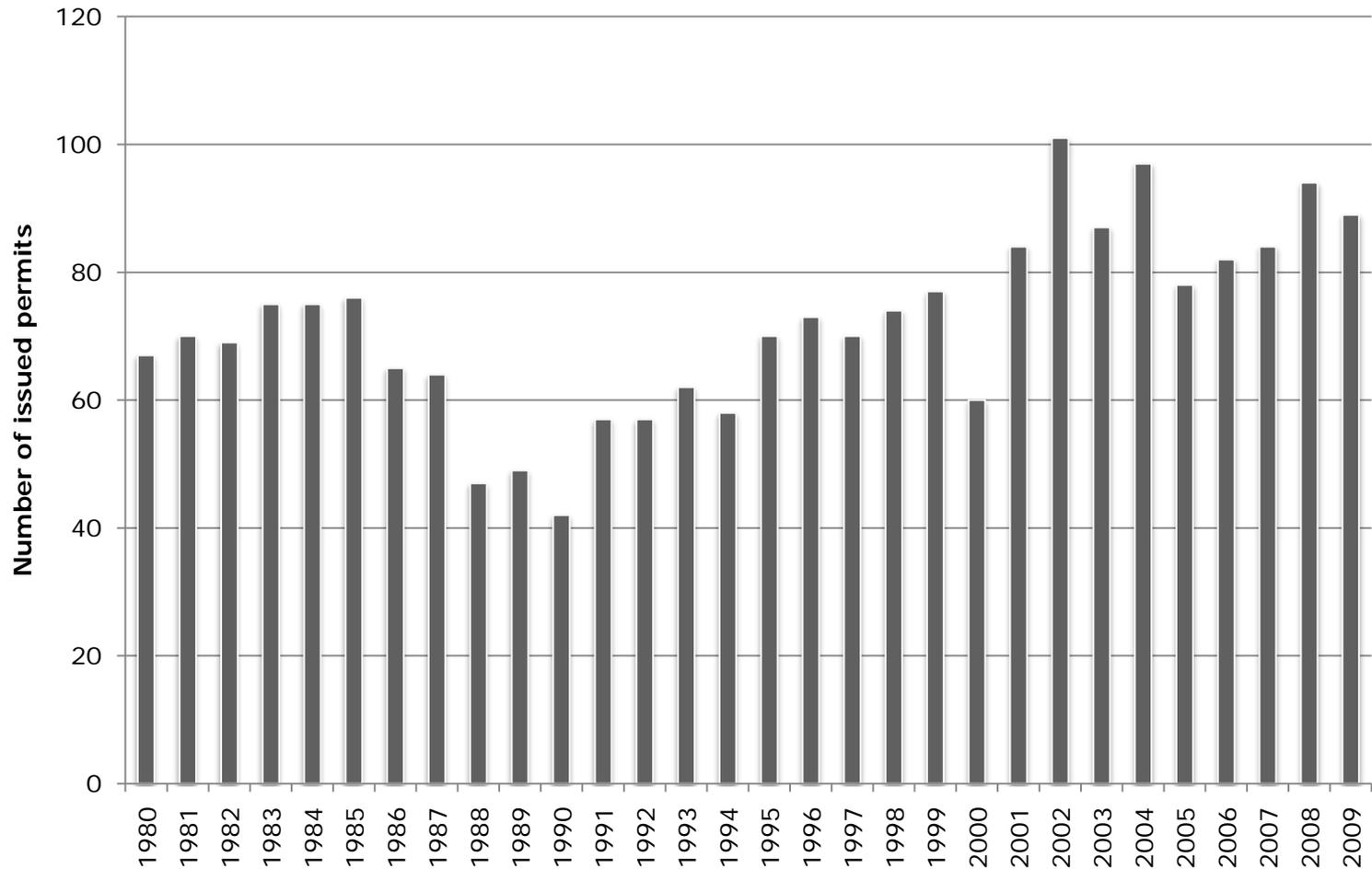
SEASON DATES		KING	RED	PINK	CHUM	SILVER	OTHER	TOTAL
4:00 AM to 8:00 PM	May 18							
	May 20							
	May 21							
	May 25							
	May 27							
	May 28							
	June 1							
	June 3							
	June 4							
	June 8							
	June 10							
	June 11							
	June 15							
	6:00AM to 6:00PM	June 19						
June 26								
TOTAL								

Please return this permit by July 10, 2010 to: Davin Holen, Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518. The permit may also be turned in at the Tyonek Village office. You can also call in results of your fishing season to (907) 267-2353. Please give your name and permit number when you call.



Tyonek Subdistrict: *Permit Data*

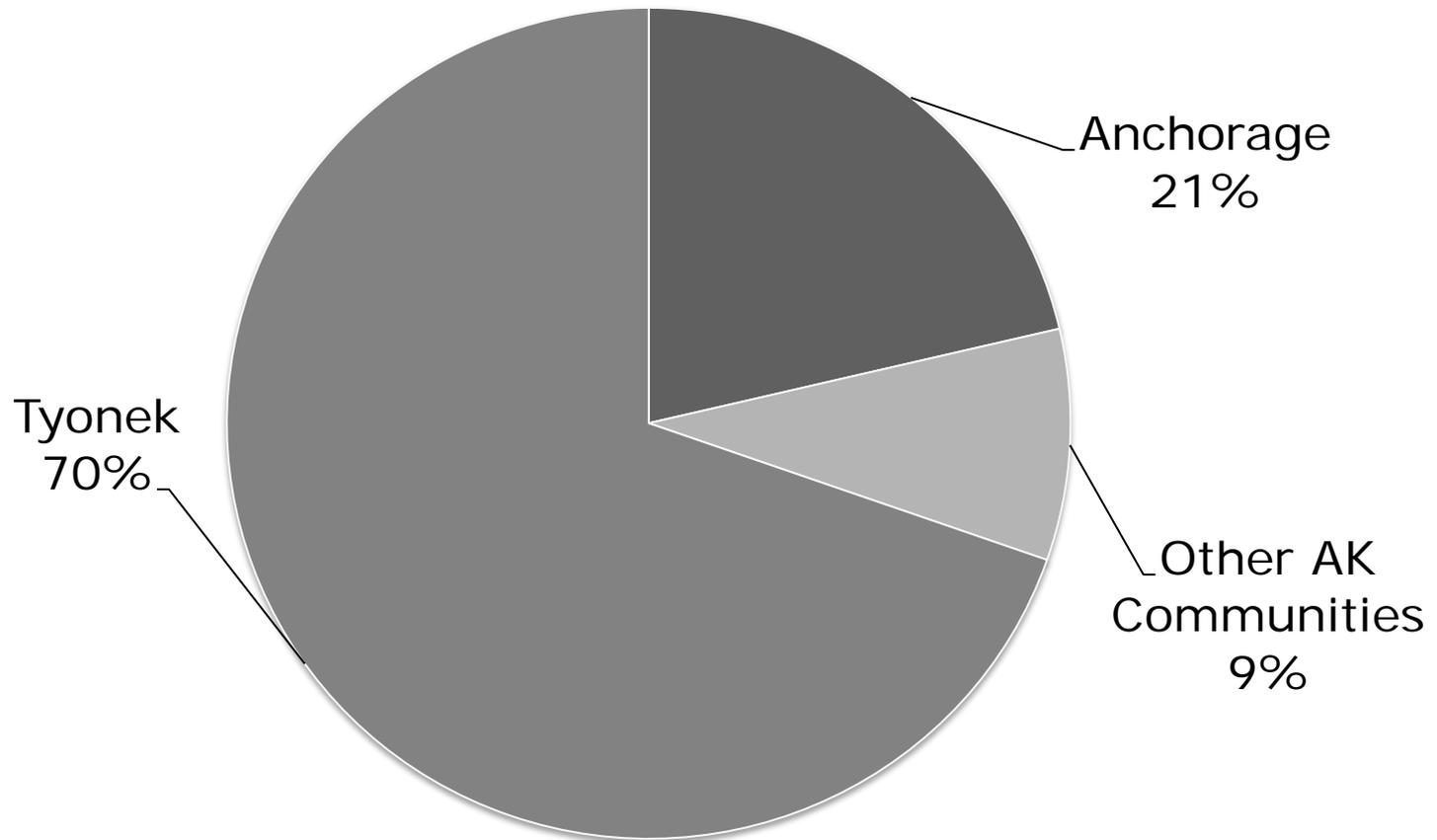
Number of permits issued 1980—2009



Tyonek Subdistrict: *Permit Data*

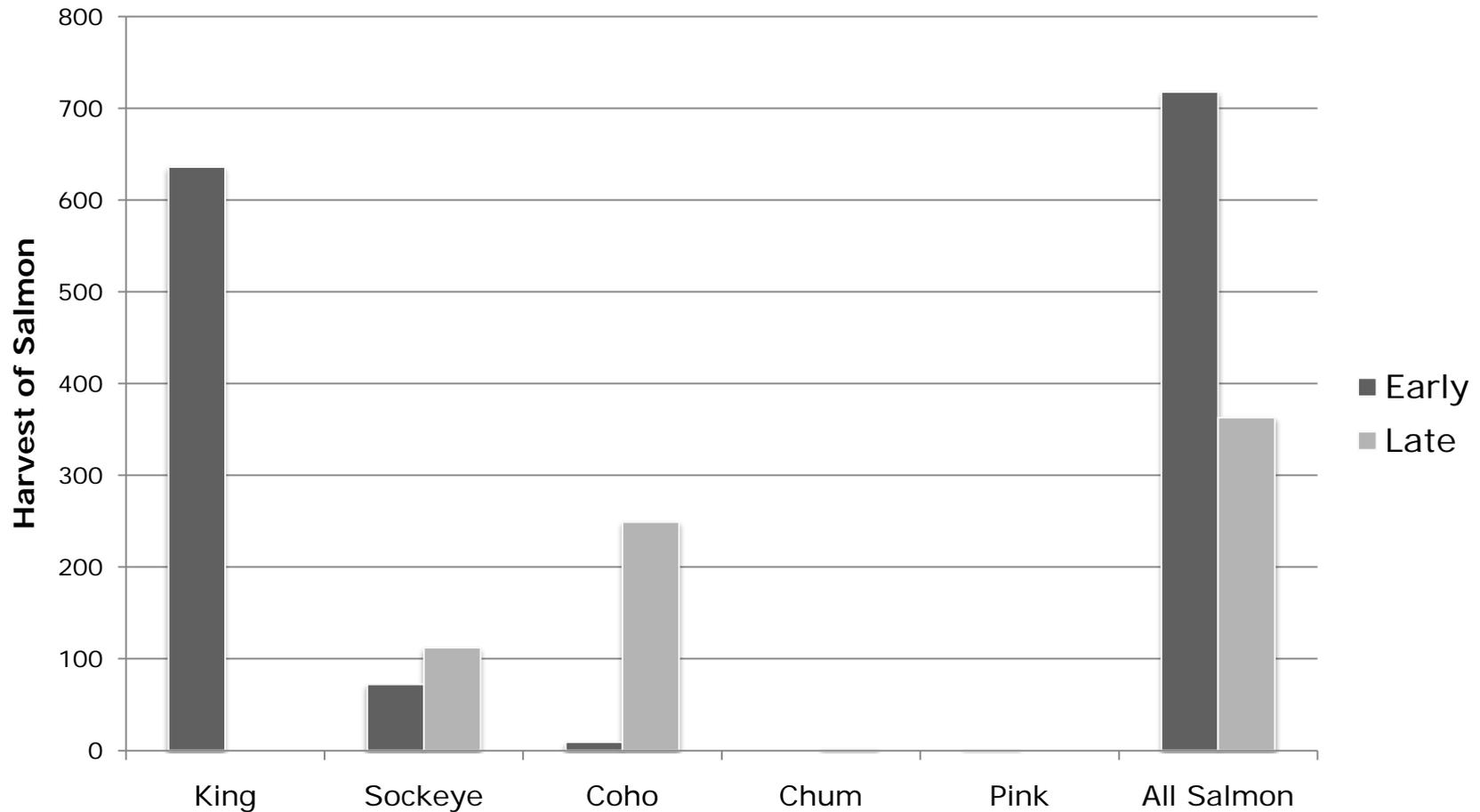
Subsistence Salmon Harvest Estimates, 2009

**Residency of permit holders in 2009, Tyonek
Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery**



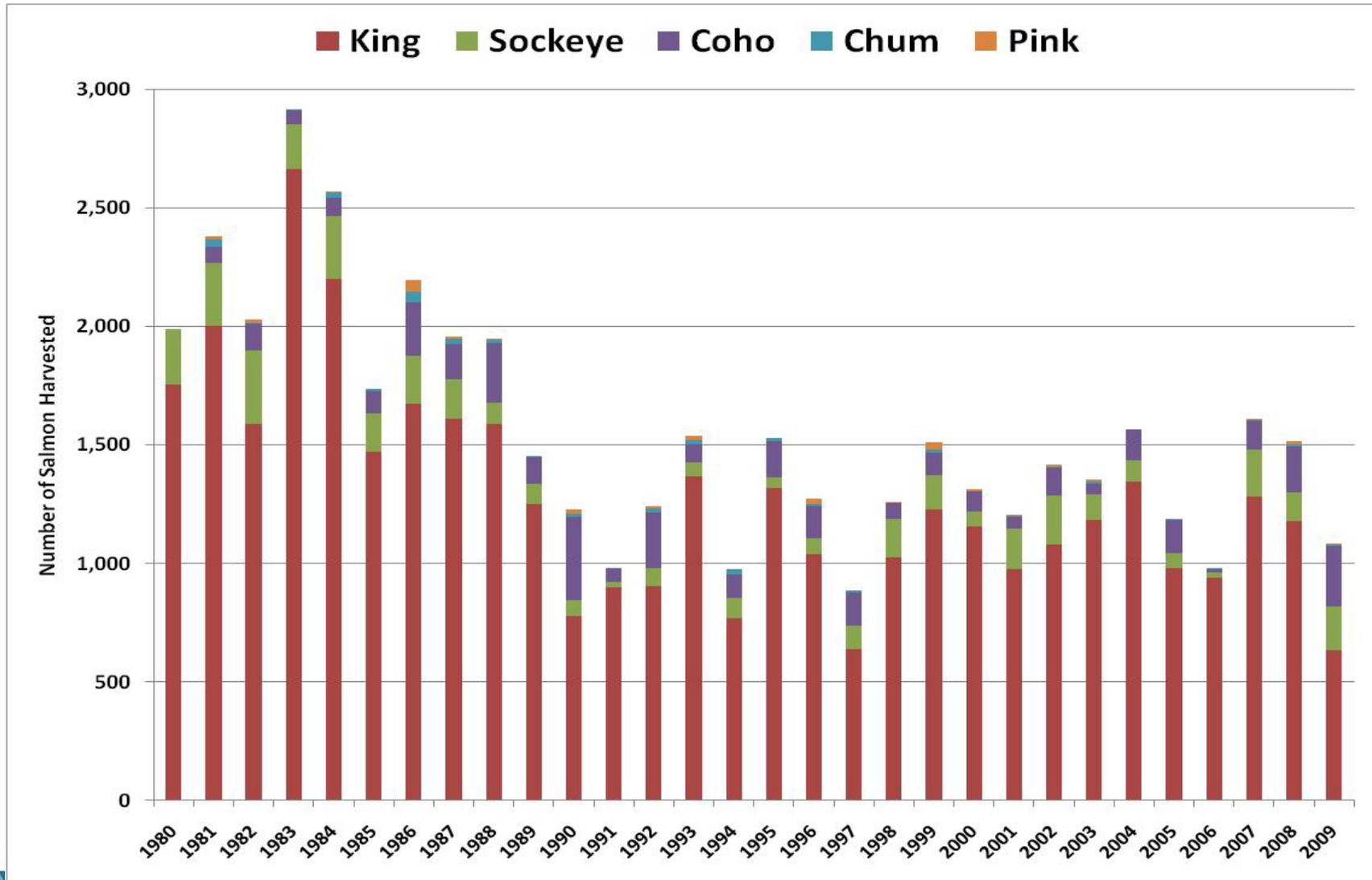
Tyonek Subdistrict: *Permit Data*

Subsistence Salmon Harvest Estimates by Season, 2009



Tyonek Subdistrict: *Permit Data*

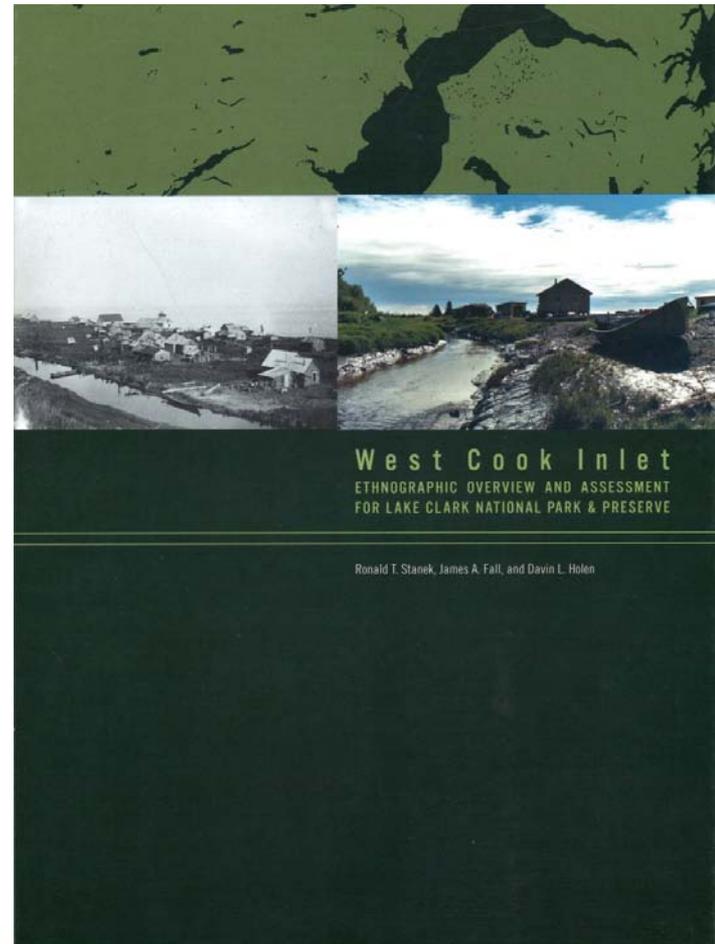
Harvest of salmon over time



Research: *Tyonek 2004–2006*

Methods:

- Archival research.
- Key respondent interviews.
- Photograph collections.
- Participant observation.

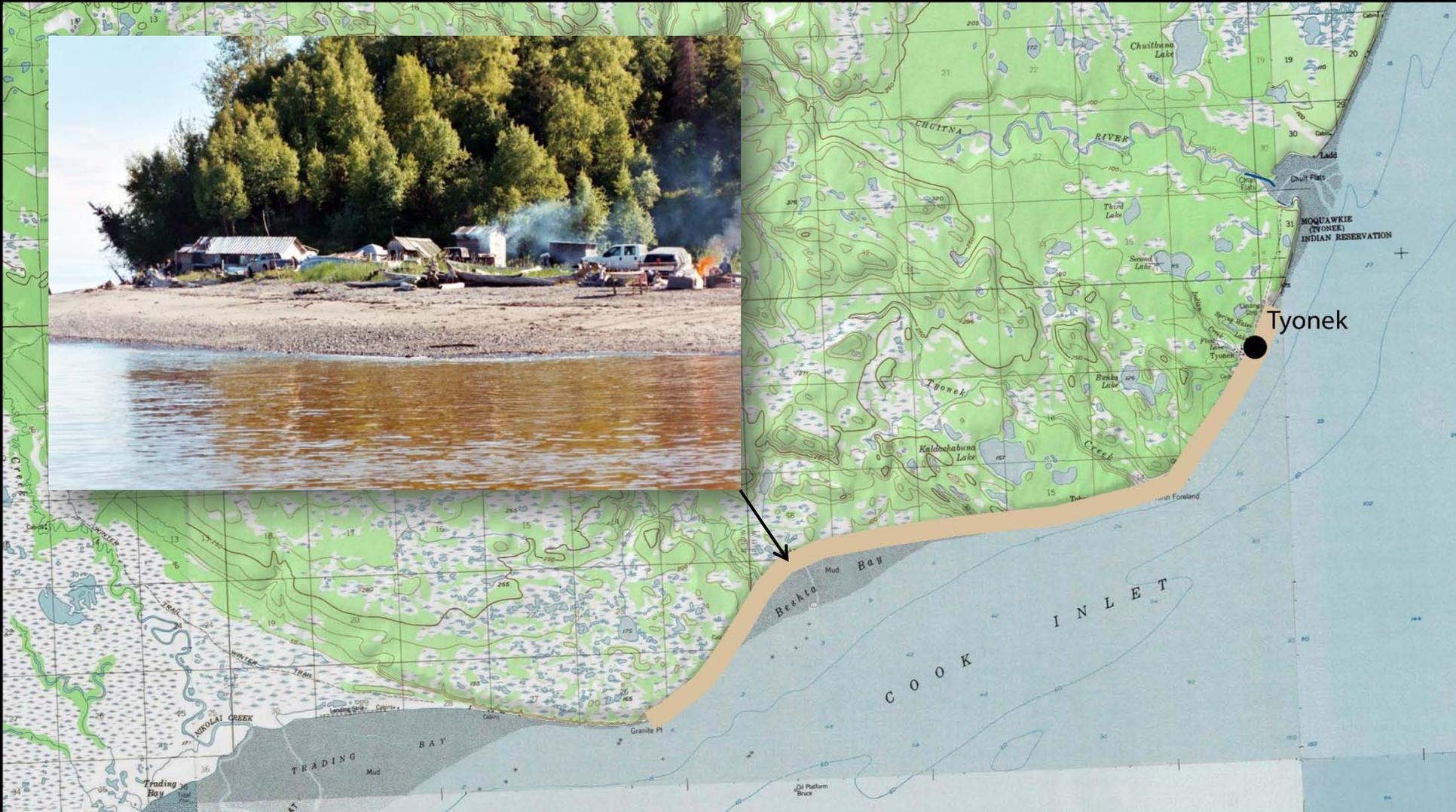


Research: *Tyonek 2004–2006*



Commercial fishing at Old Tyonek, 2005
Photograph by Davin Holen





Research: *Tyonek 2004–2006*

*Robert's Creek, 2004
Photograph by Davin Holen*



Research and Regulations: *Tyonek*

Subsistence Fishery 1983 and 2004



Photograph by Ron Stanek, 1983

Set gillnets, not exceeding 10 fathoms in length (5 AAC 01.570).



Photograph by Davin Holen, 2004



Research: *Tyonek 2004–2006*



Photograph by Davin Holen, 2004



Research: *Tyonek 2004–2006*



Photograph by Davin Holen, 2004



Research: Tyonek 2004–2006



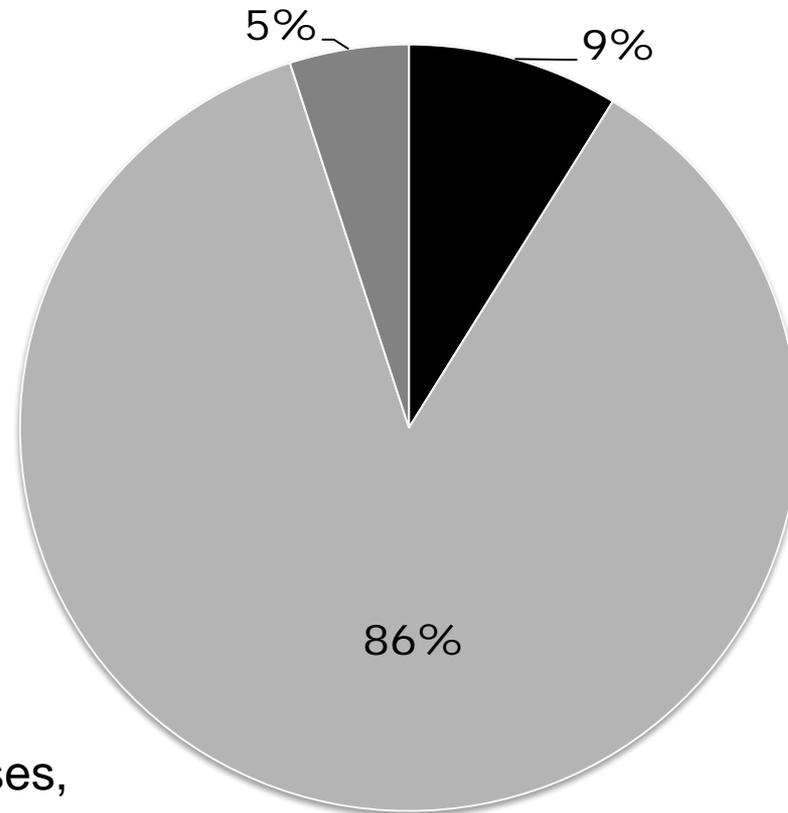
Photographs by Davin Holen, 2004



Research: *Tyonek*

2006 Baseline Harvest Assessment Survey

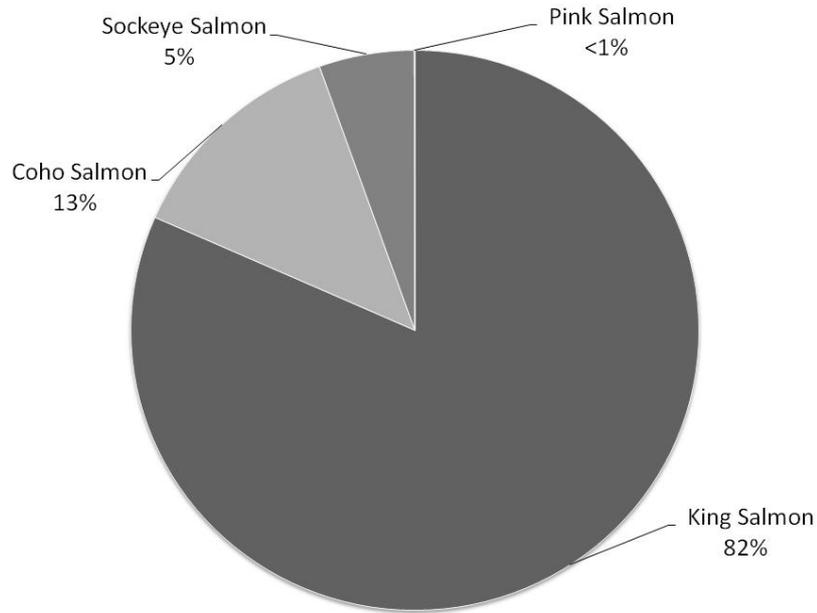
- Removed from commercial harvest
- Subsistence setnet fishery harvest
- Sport rod and reel harvest



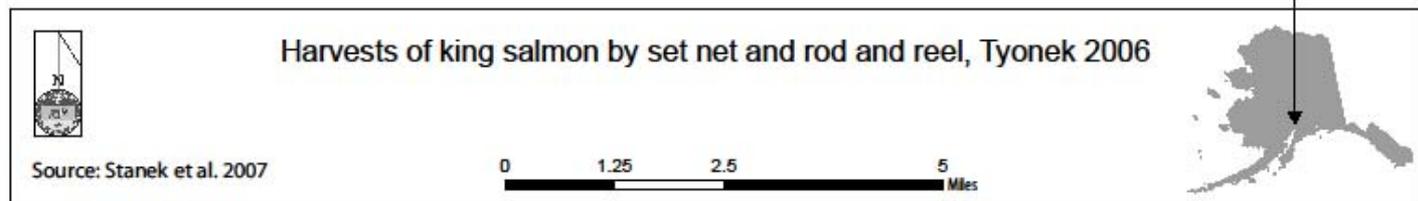
Harvest of king salmon for home uses,
Tyonek, 2006.



Harvest of salmon by residents of Tyonek, 2005-2006
Subsistence setnet and sport rod and reel fisheries



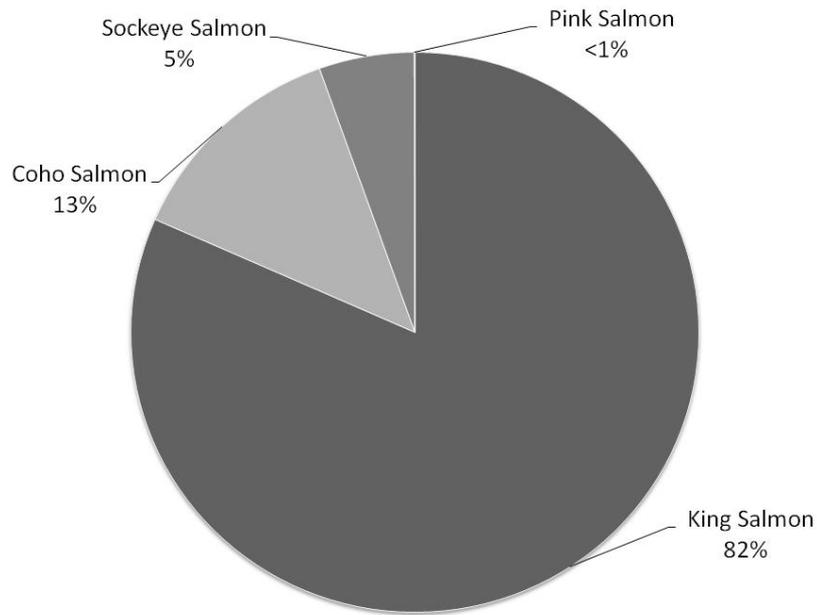
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Research:
*Tyonek 2004–
 2006*



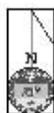
Harvest of salmon by residents of Tyonek, 2005-2006
Subsistence setnet and sport rod and reel fisheries



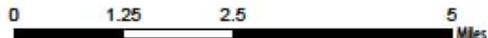
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Harvests of coho salmon by set net and rod and reel, Tyonek 2005-2006



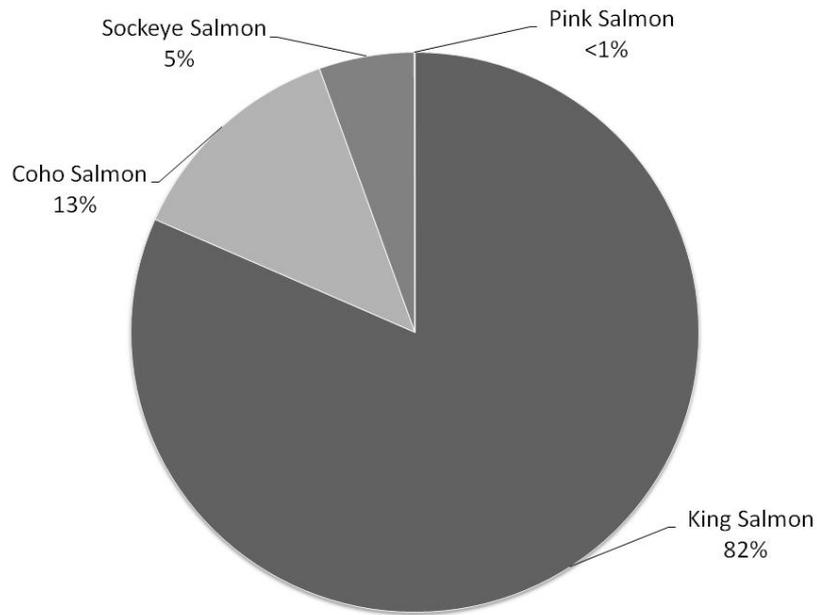
Source: Staneck et al. 2007



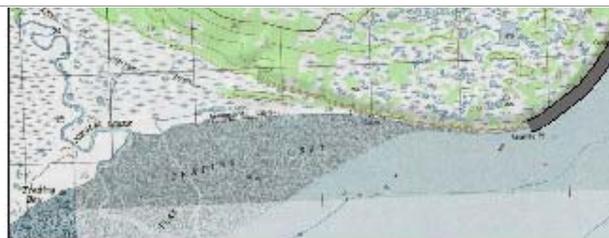
Research:
Tyonek 2004–2006



Harvest of salmon by residents of Tyonek, 2005-2006
Subsistence setnet and sport rod and reel fisheries

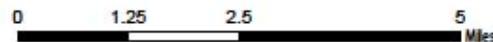


- ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



Harvests of sockeye salmon by set net and rod and reel, Tyonek 2006

Source: Stanek et al. 2007



Research:
Tyonek 2004–2006



Summary: *Tyonek*

Importance of King Salmon

1. King salmon arrive early—few other resources, including other salmon, are available; traditional food supplies are low.
2. King salmon provide more food per time or energy unit spent than other salmon.
3. King salmon are processed into specific traditional products, such as *balik* (strips) and backbones; these products at Tyonek are not made from other species.
4. Survey respondents say king salmon are rich in fat and oil.
5. Traditional knowledge and skills for king salmon fishing, processing, and uses continue to present-day.



Proposal: *Yentna Fishery*

Proposal 103

This proposal would:

1. Review positive C&T finding;
2. If positive C&T finding not repealed, reduce harvest from 2,500 salmon to 500 salmon; mandate that first 500 salmon caught be harvested.

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocative aspects;

OPPOSED to hindering recognized preference for subsistence users to harvest fish.



Proposals: *Tyonek Fishery*

Proposal 102

This proposal would:

1. Increase mesh size from 6 inches to 8 1/2 inches.
2. Decrease net depth from 45 meshes to 29 meshes.

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocative aspects;

OPPOSED to increasing harvest potential on Chuitna, Lewis, and Theodore river king salmon stocks, which have been recommended as a stock of management or yield concern.



Proposals: *Tyonek Fishery*

Portion of Proposal 270

The portion of this proposal that may affect the Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery would:

1. Reduce open season by approximately 10 days by changing opening date from May 1 to June 1;
2. Reduce open periods from 3 days per week to 1 day per week;
3. Increase the net length by 40 feet; clarify only 1 net per household.

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocative aspects;

SUPPORTS addressing biological aspects through development of action plan for Alexander Creek king salmon.



Conclusions

- Yentna River: no new ethnographic information regarding C&T uses of salmon.
- Tyonek Subdistrict: ethnographic studies from 2004–2006 suggest C&T use patterns found in the 1980s persist to present day.
- Tyonek Subdistrict: king salmon are major component of wild food harvests.



Questions?



Tyonek Creek, Old Tyonek Village fish camp
Photograph by Davin Holen, 2004

