

Review on Existing King Salmon Stocks of Concern and Overview of Sheep Creek and Goose Creek Action Plan for King Salmon Stocks of Management Concern

Tom Vania
Regional Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

Tim Baker
Regional Management Biologist
Division of Commercial Fisheries



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

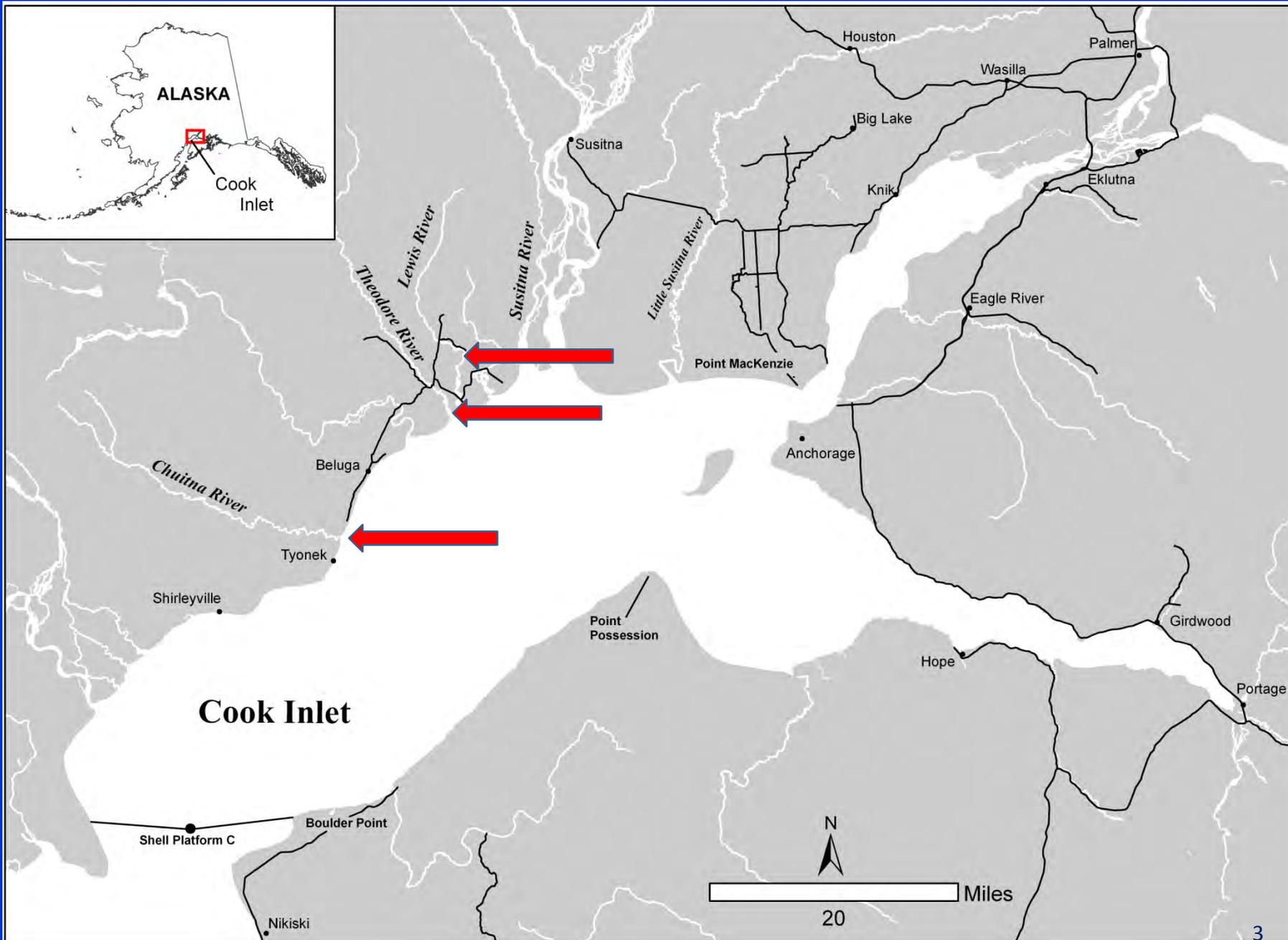
Overview

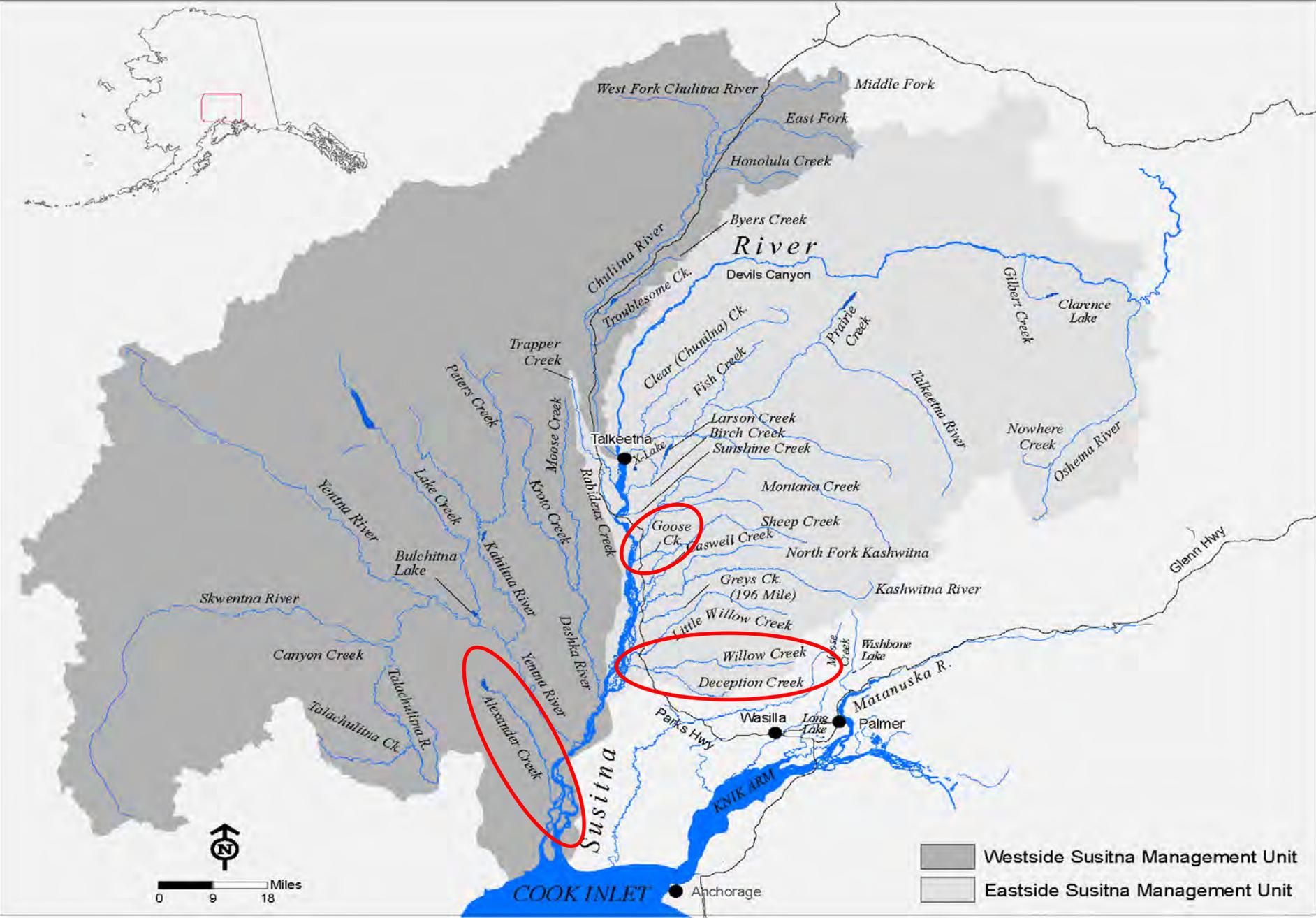
- 6 King Salmon Stocks

Theodore, Lewis, Chuitna – Management Concern
Alexander – Management Concern
Willow and Goose – Yield Concern

- Sheep Creek and Goose Creek Action Plan
(RC 4, Tab 2)

- Describe locations
- Review escapement and harvest
- Outline potential options





Westside Susitna Management Unit
 Eastside Susitna Management Unit

Review of Existing Stocks Since 2011 Designation

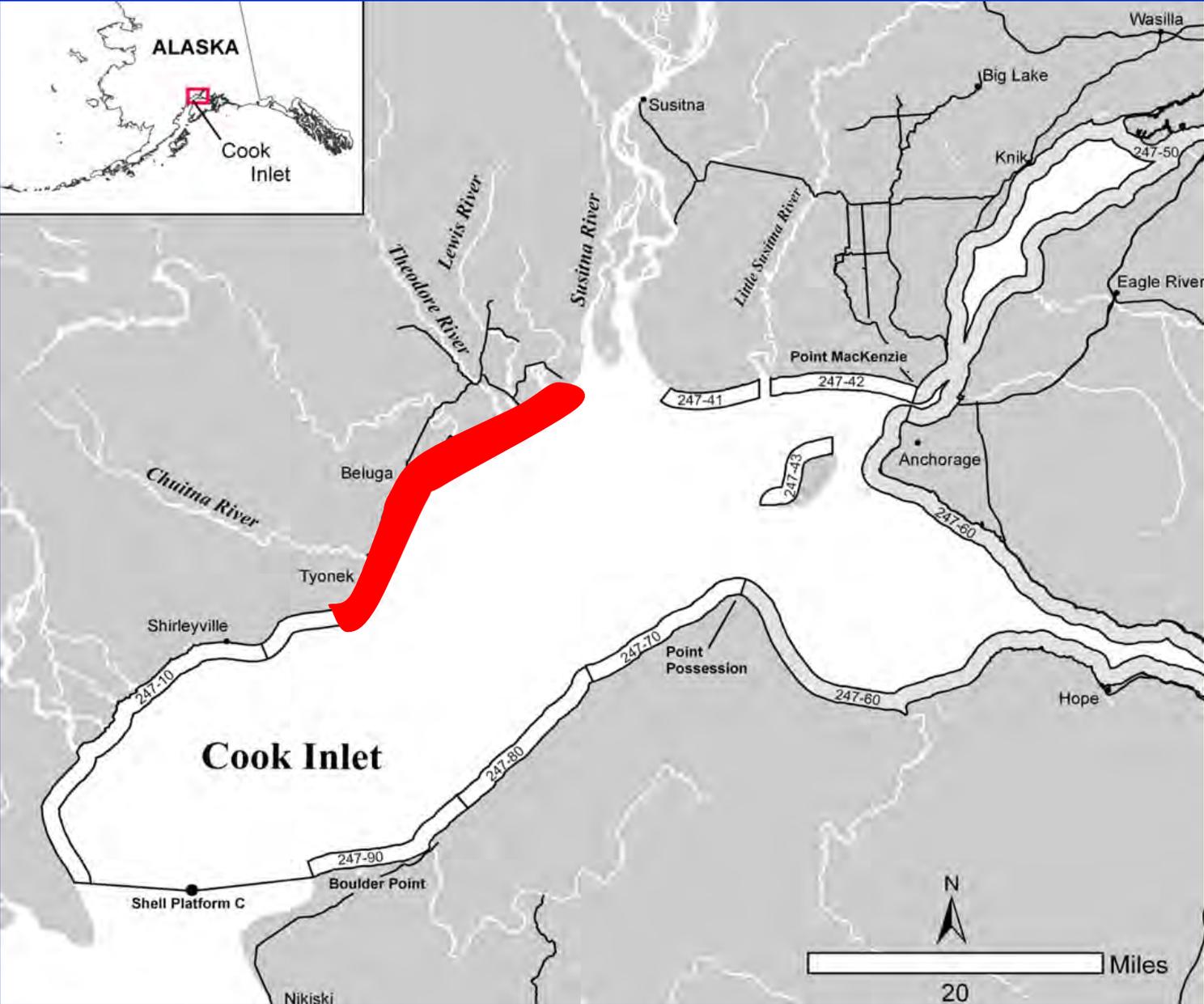
Escapement

Drainage	Escapement Goal	2011	2012	2013
Theodore River	500 – 1,700	327	179	476
Lewis River	250 – 800	92	107	61
Chuitna River	1,200 – 2,900	719	502	1,690
Alexander Creek	2,100 – 2,900	343	181	588
Goose Creek	250 – 650	80	57	62
Willow Creek	1,600 – 2,800	1,061	756	1,752

Management Actions Taken

- 2011 – Regulatory Changes
 - Reduced area open to commercial fishing

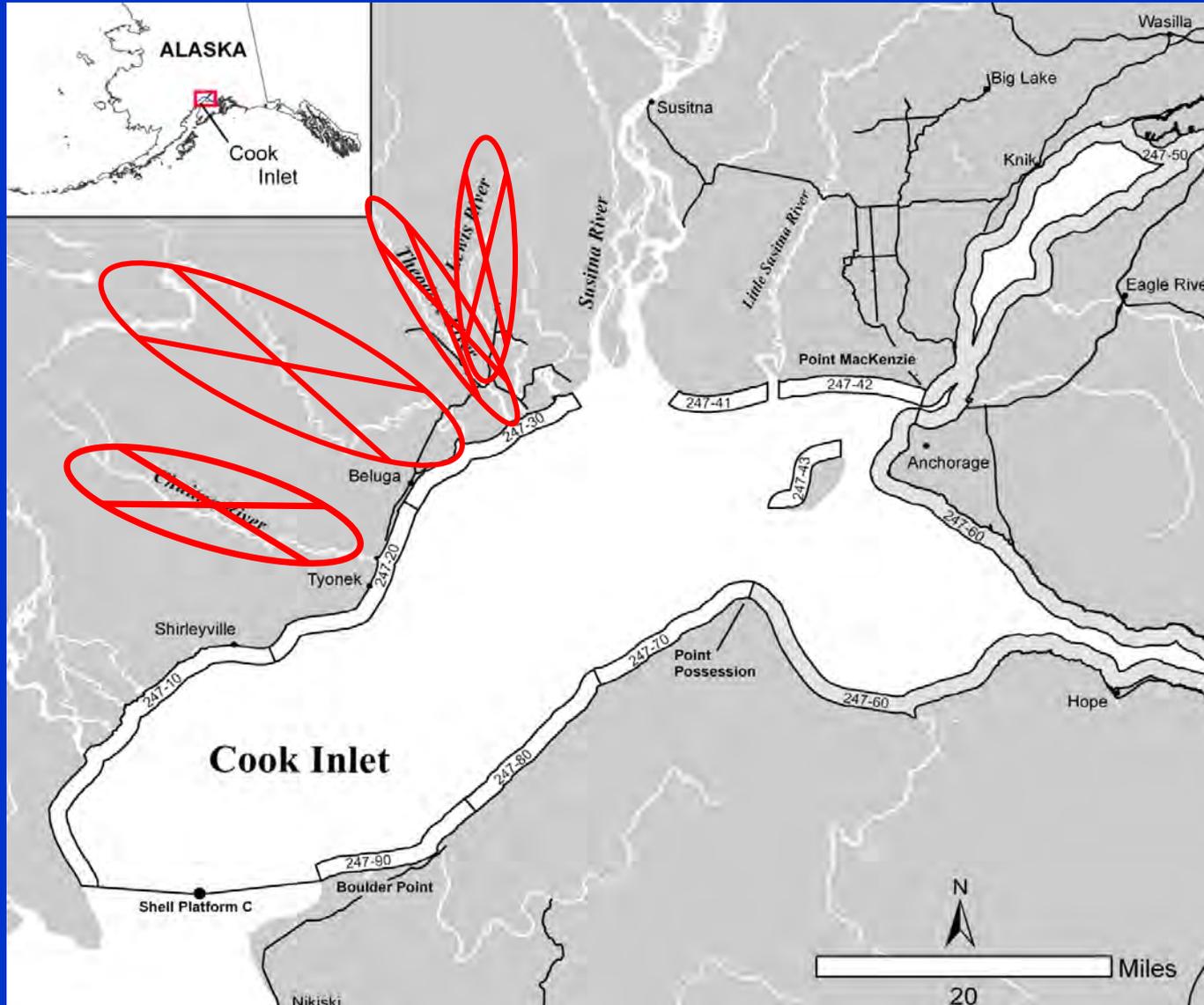
Waters Closed to Commercial Fishing



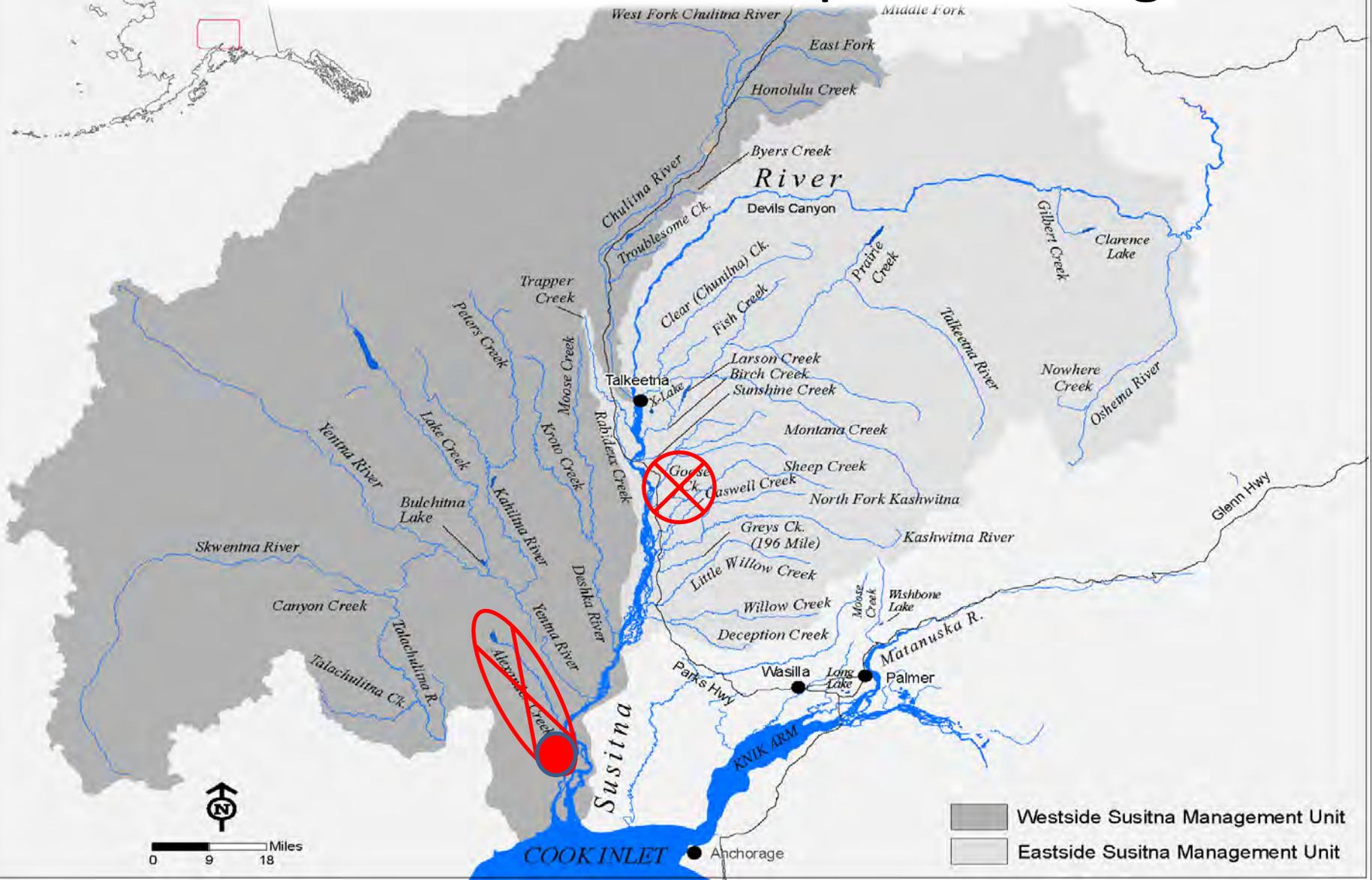
Management Actions Taken

- 2011 – Regulatory Changes
 - Reduced area open to commercial fishing
 - Closed rivers to sport fishing

Waters Closed to Sport Fishing

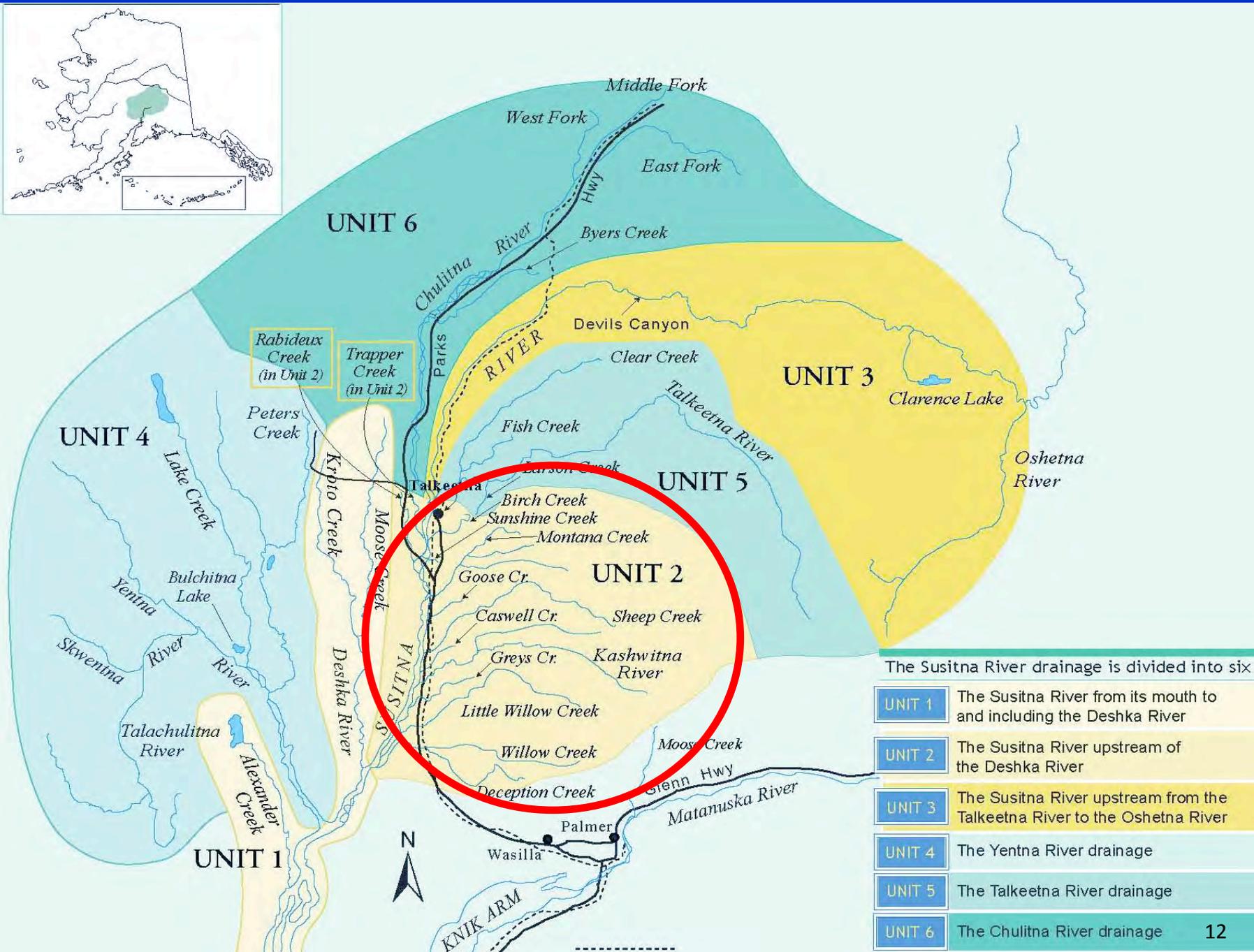


Waters Closed to Sport Fishing



Management Actions Taken

- 2011 – Regulatory Changes
 - Reduced area open to commercial fishing
 - Closed rivers to sport fishing
 - Reduced sport fishing season and daily hours on Parks Highway streams



The Susitna River drainage is divided into six

- UNIT 1** The Susitna River from its mouth to and including the Deshka River
- UNIT 2** The Susitna River upstream of the Deshka River
- UNIT 3** The Susitna River upstream from the Talkeetna River to the Oshetna River
- UNIT 4** The Yentna River drainage
- UNIT 5** The Talkeetna River drainage
- UNIT 6** The Chulitna River drainage

Management Actions Taken

- 2012 – Preseason Emergency Order Actions
 - Reduced hours and periods for commercial fishing
 - ✓ 6 hour periods instead of 12 hour periods
 - Reduced annual limit for sport fishing
 - ✓ 2 instead of 5 king salmon for Susitna River drainage
 - Restricted gear for sport fishing
 - ✓ Unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure area-wide (except for the Deshka River)
 - Prohibited retention in selected areas
 - ✓ Catch-and-release only for Unit 2 streams

Management Actions Taken

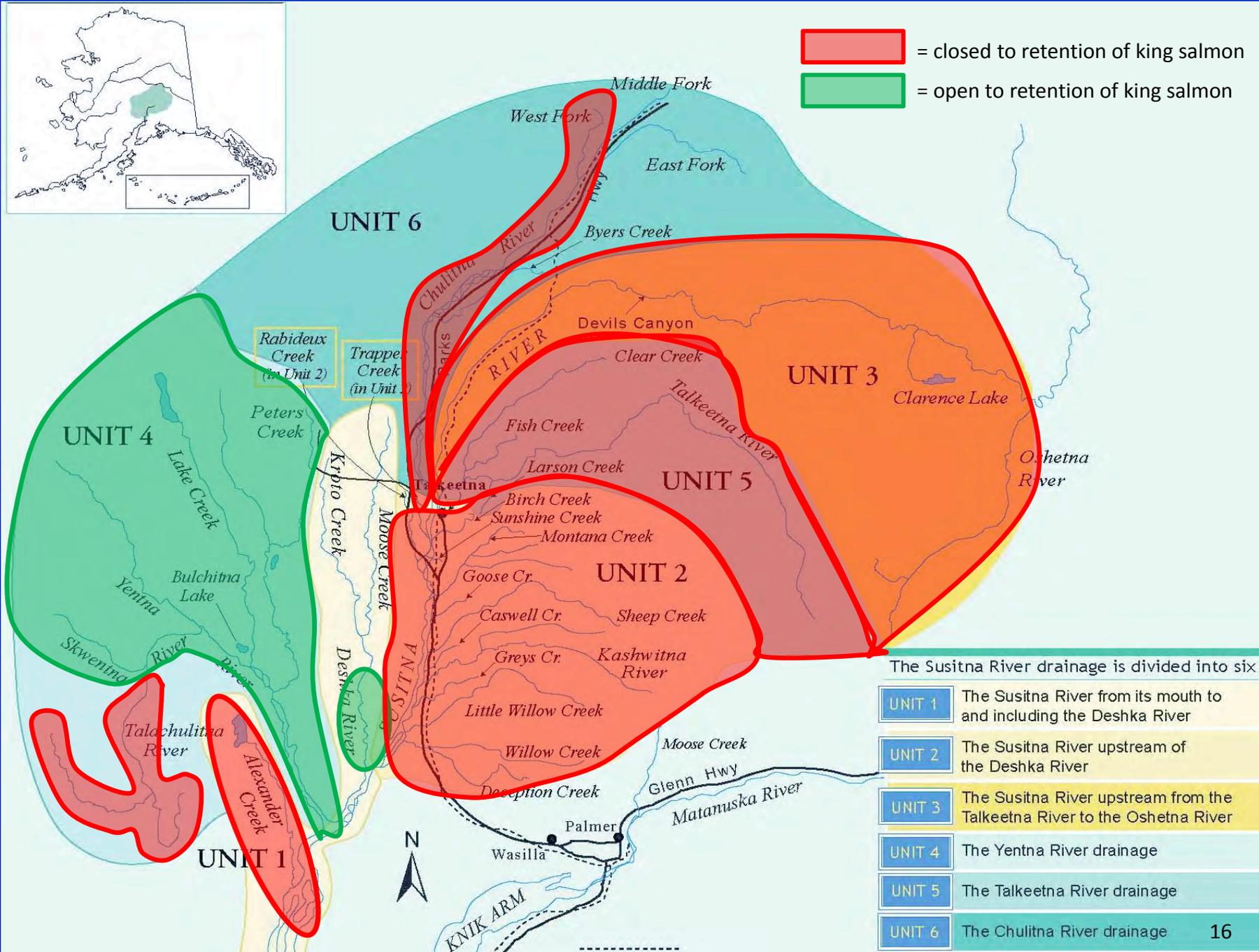
- 2012 – Inseason Emergency Order Actions
 - Bait prohibited in Deshka River June 20
 - Closed entire Susitna River drainage to king salmon fishing beginning June 25
 - Closed 1st regular commercial fishing period in general season (June 25)

Management Actions Taken

- 2013 – Preseason Emergency Order Actions
 - Reduced hours and periods for commercial fishing
 - ✓ 6 hour periods instead of 12 hour periods
 - ✓ 1st regular period in king season (May 27) closed
 - Reduced annual limit for sport fishing
 - ✓ 2 instead of 5 king salmon
 - Restricted gear for sport fishing
 - ✓ Unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure area-wide (including the Deshka River)
 - Non-retention expanded to more areas
 - ✓ Catch-and-release only for Units 1, 2, 3, 5, Talachulitna River and Chulitna River



= closed to retention of king salmon
 = open to retention of king salmon



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Management Actions Taken

- 2013 – Preseason Emergency Order Actions
 - Reduced hours and periods for commercial fishing
 - ✓ 6 hour periods instead of 12 hour periods
 - ✓ 1st regular period in king season (May 27) closed
 - Reduced annual limit for sport fishing
 - ✓ 2 instead of 5 king salmon
 - Restricted gear for sport fishing
 - ✓ Unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure area-wide (including the Deshka River)
 - Prohibited retention in selected areas
 - ✓ Catch-and-release only for Units 1, 2, 3, 5, Talachulitna River and Chulitna River
 - Harvest allowed in Deshka River and Yentna River drainage
 - ✓ Limited days open to harvest for sport fishing in Yentna River drainage
 - Stop fishing after harvesting a king salmon

King Salmon Harvest Reductions

- 2011
 - Commercial harvest 2,187 = 38% reduction
 - ❖ Average harvest = 3,500 (2005-2008)
 - Susitna drainage sport harvest 8,624 = 66% reduction
 - ❖ Average harvest = 25,000 (1999-2007)
- 2012
 - Commercial harvest 1,030 = 71% reduction
 - Susitna drainage sport harvest 2,728 = 89% reduction
- 2013
 - Commercial harvest 1,134 = 68% reduction
 - Estimated Susitna drainage sport harvest 3,400 = 87% reduction

Research Implemented since 2011

- Improved King Salmon Genetic Baseline
 - 9 reporting groups within Cook Inlet
- New King Salmon Weirs
 - Theodore River, Lewis River, Montana Creek
- Susitna King Salmon Radio Telemetry
 - Spawner location and distribution
 - Abundance estimate for mainstem
- Alexander Pike removal
 - 12,000 northern pike removed
 - Increased juvenile abundance and rearing areas
 - New adult salmon weir in 2014

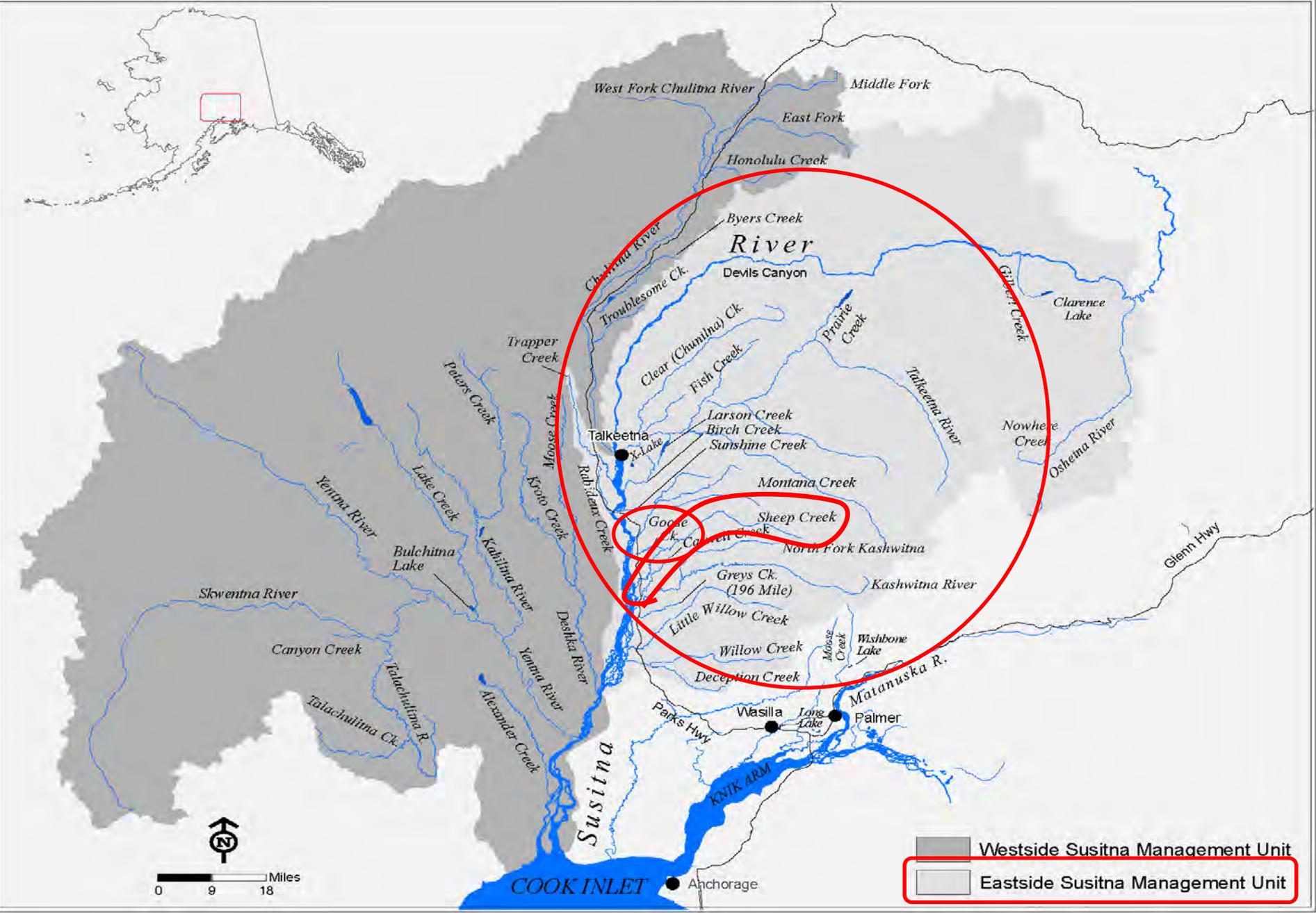


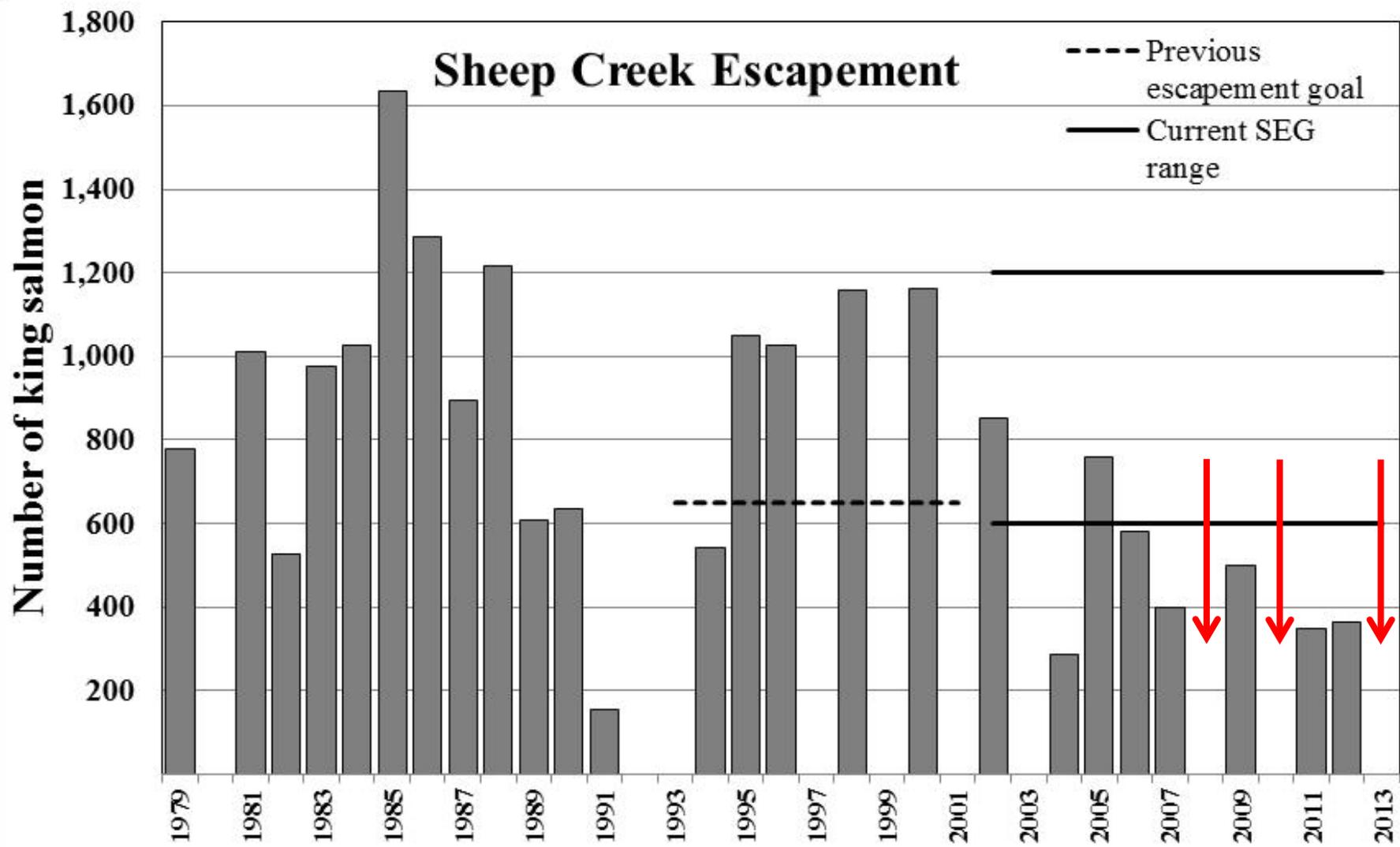
Sheep Creek and Action Plan



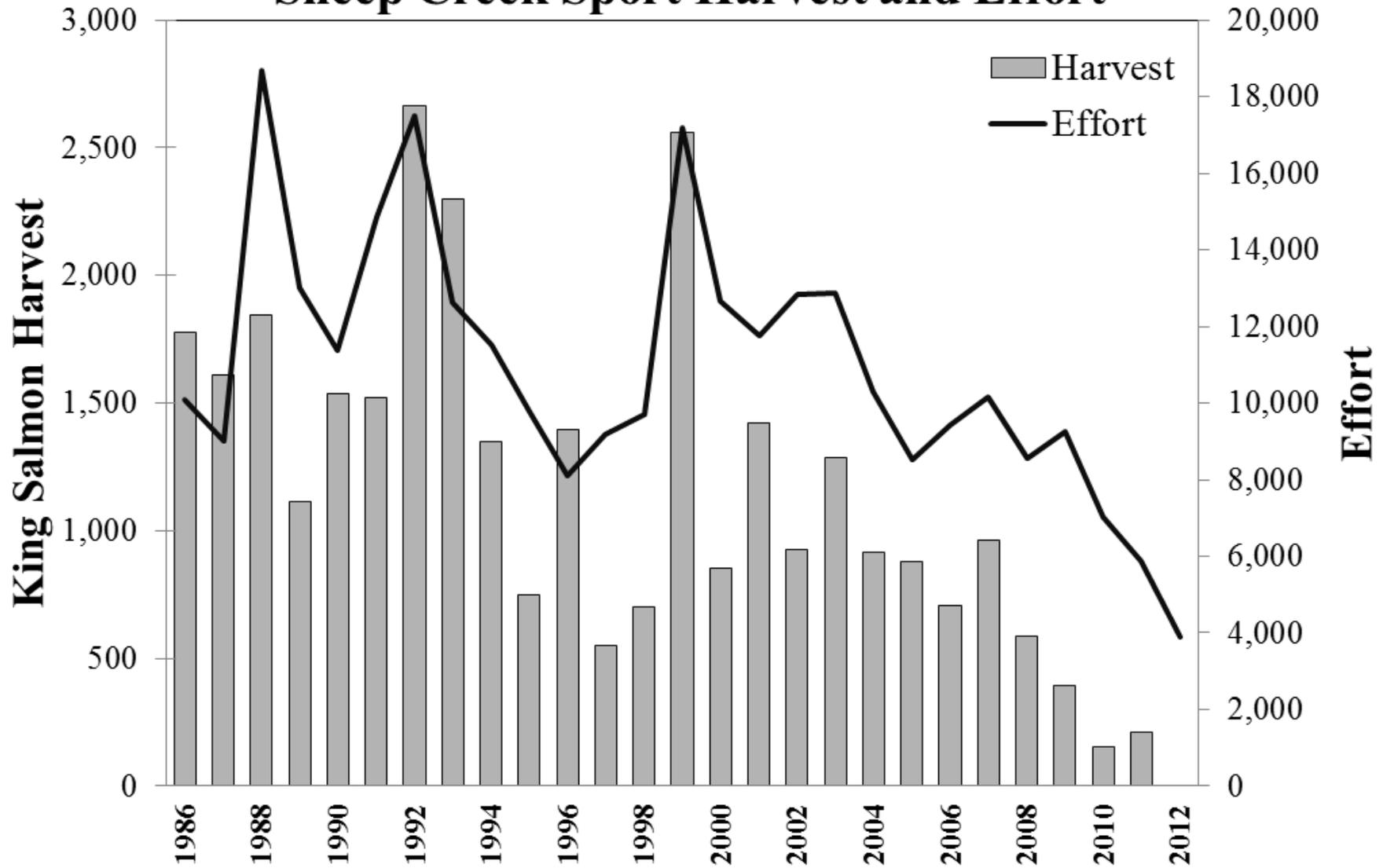
Goose Creek (RC4, Tab 2)

- Describe locations.
- Review escapement and harvest.
- Outline potential options.

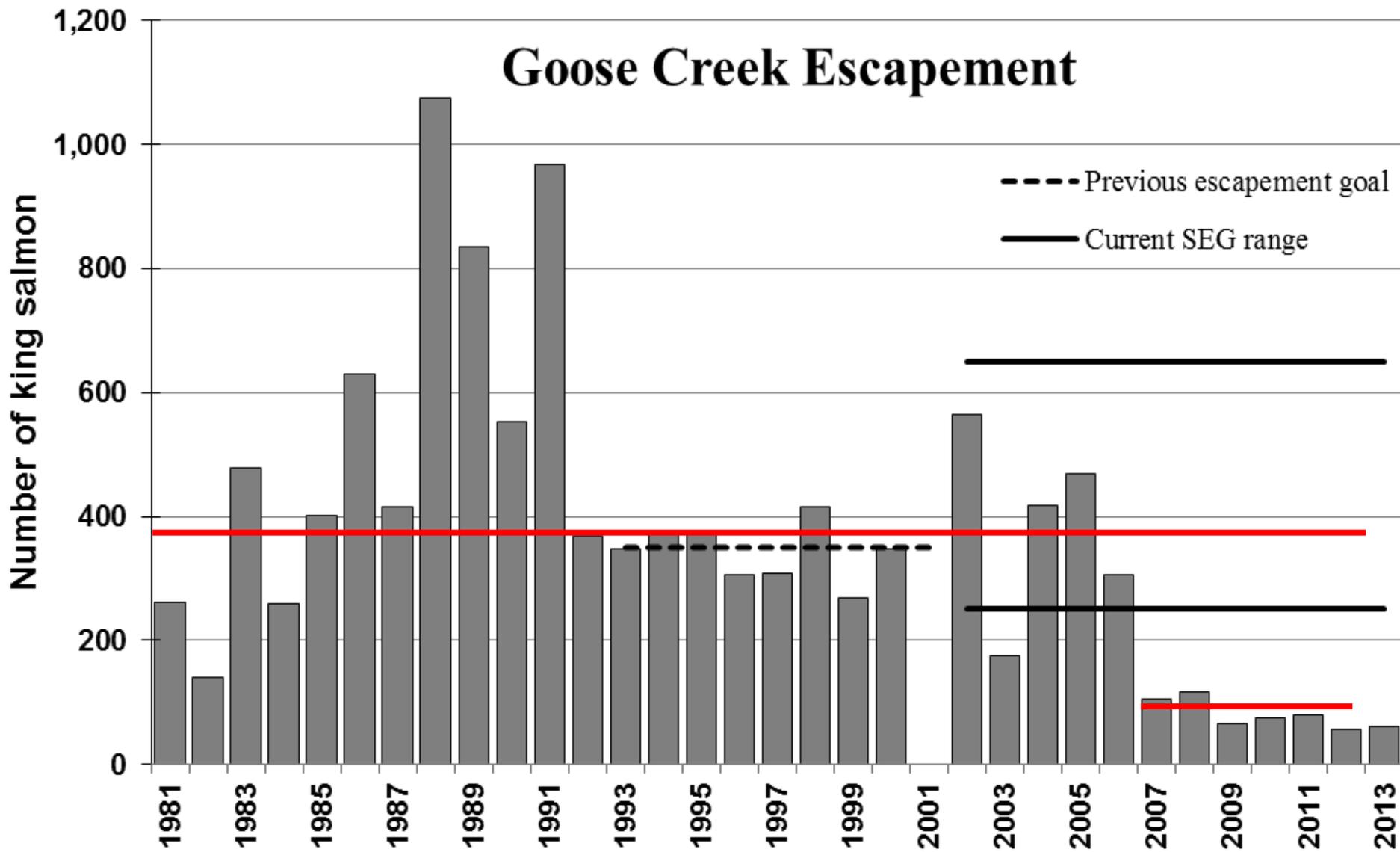




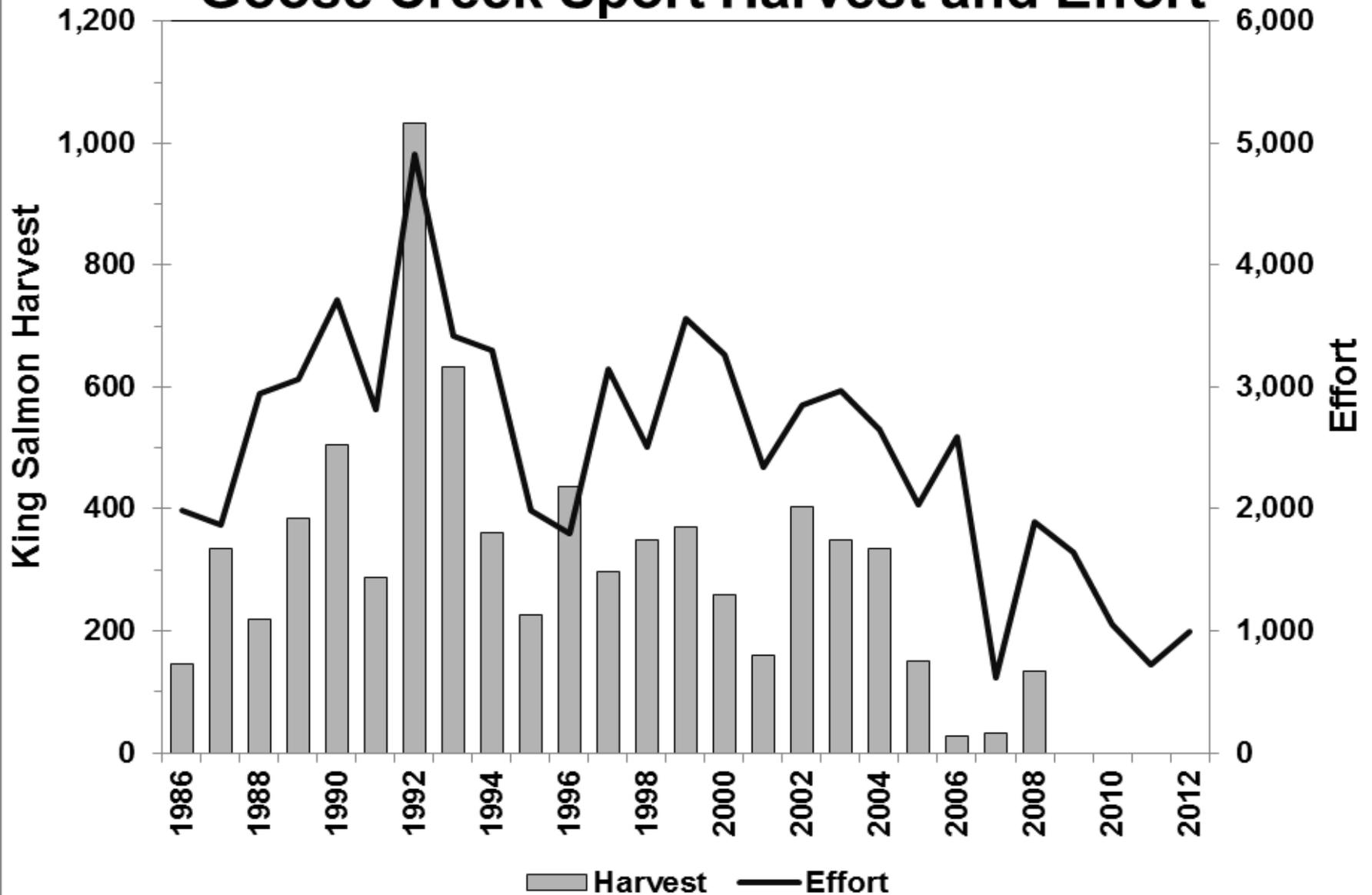
Sheep Creek Sport Harvest and Effort



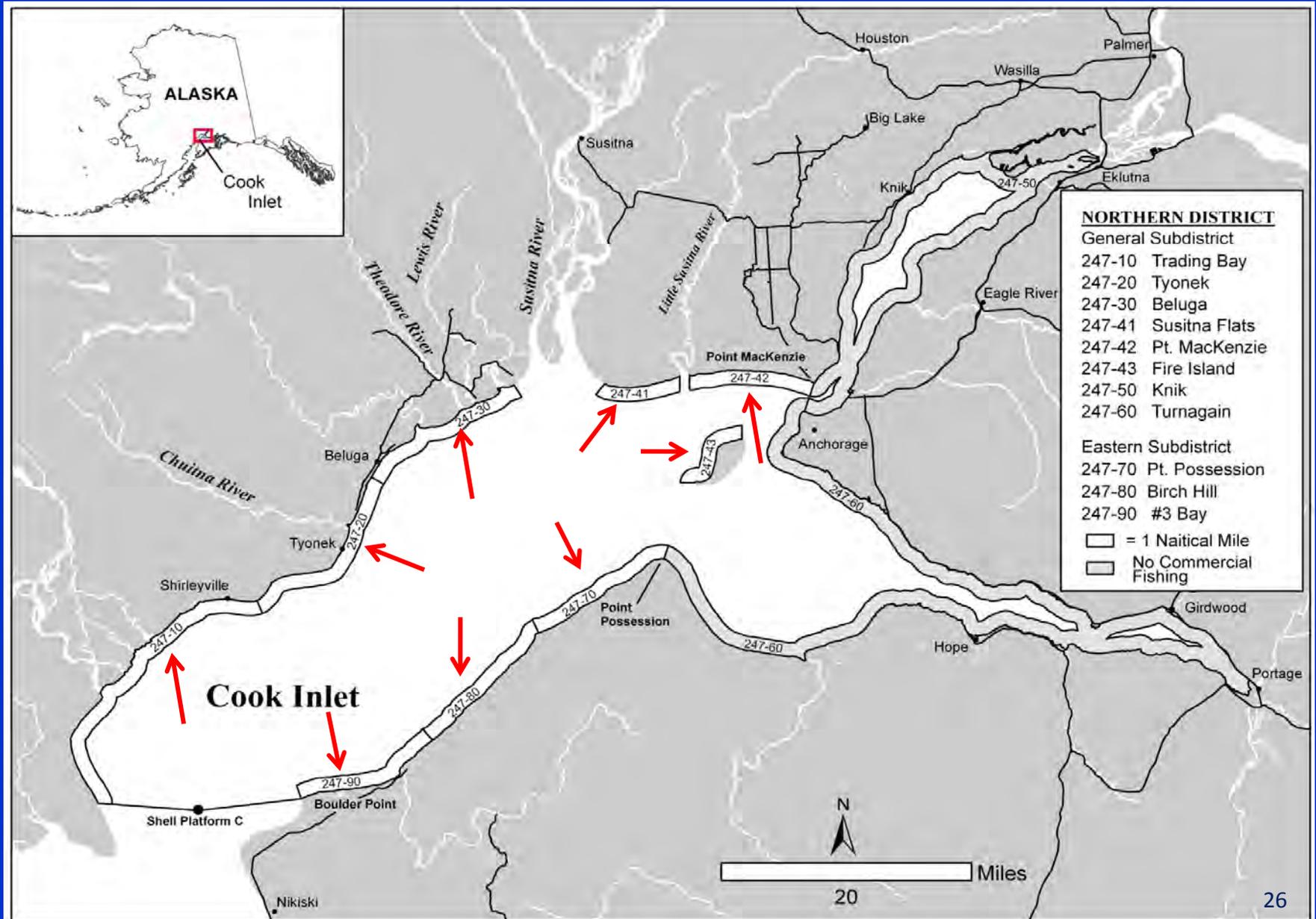
Goose Creek Escapement



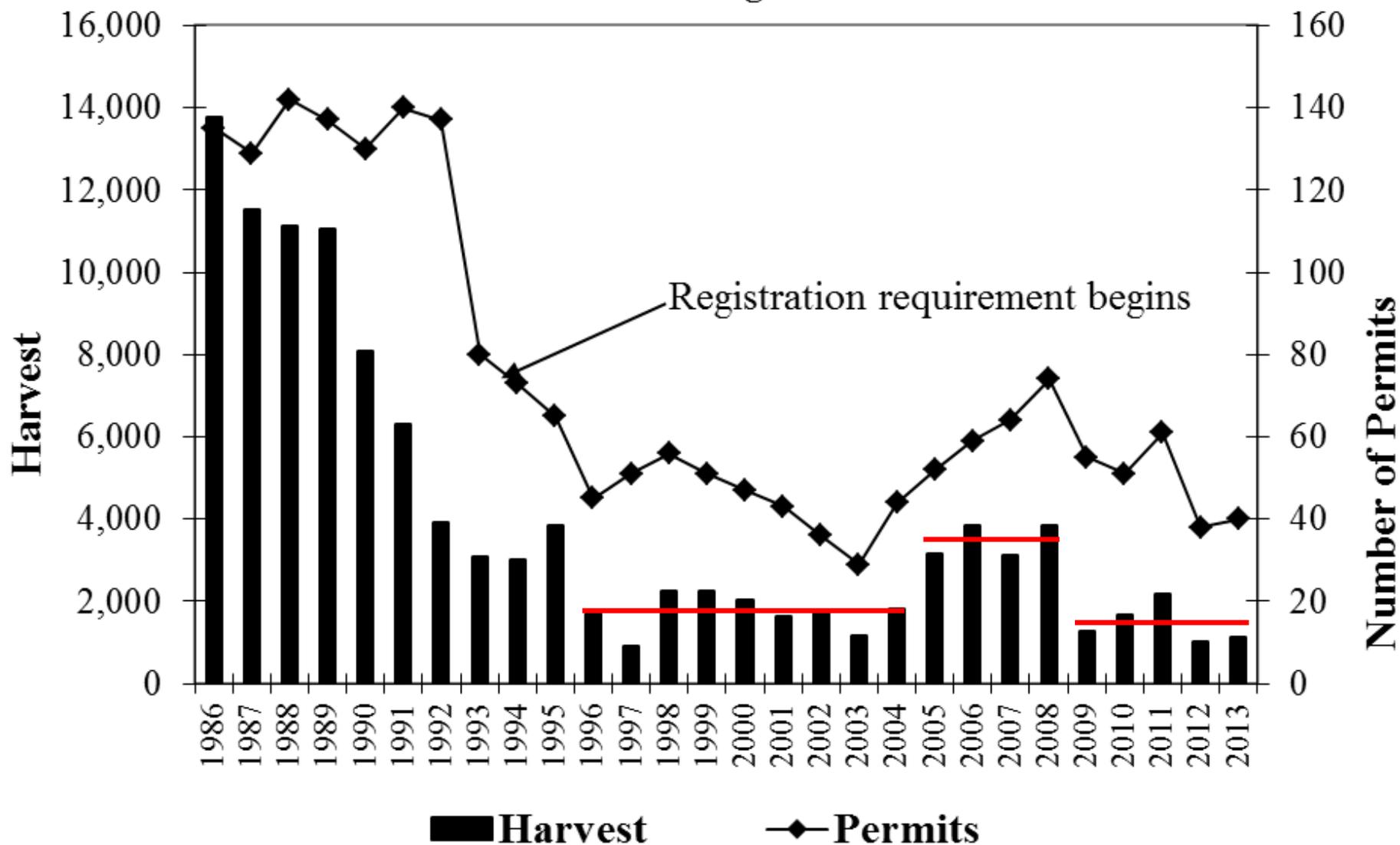
Goose Creek Sport Harvest and Effort



Northern District Commercial Fishery Statistical Harvest Areas



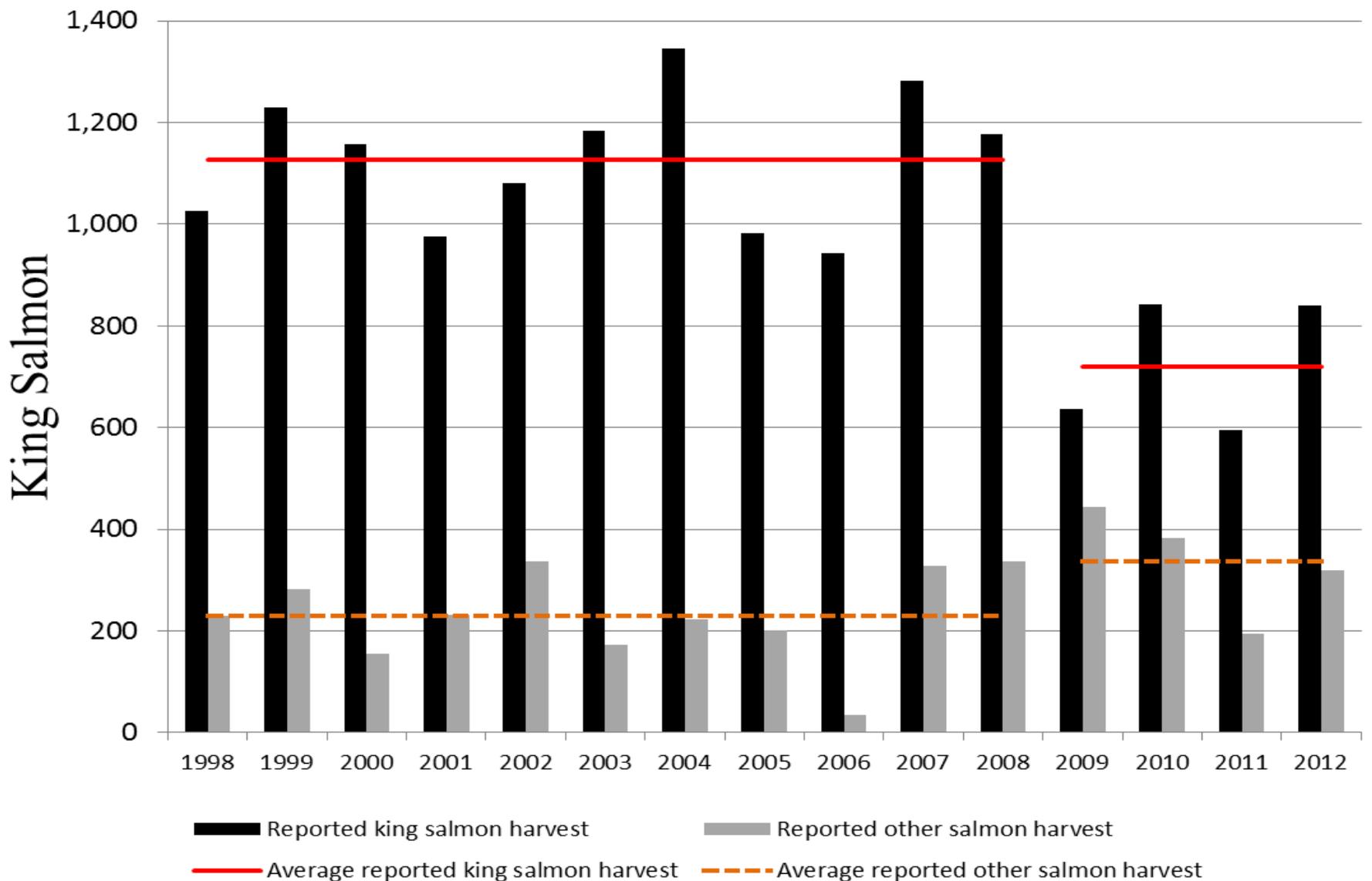
Northern District Directed King Salmon Harvest



Tyonek Subsistence Harvest Locations



Tyonek Subdistrict Subsistence Harvest



Actions and Options

- Potential management actions are allocative.
- Goal of Plan = Rebuild runs to achieve SEG
- 3 actions with various options listed to achieve goal
- Objective of actions = Reduce harvest
 - Sport Fishery
 - Commercial Fishery
 - Subsistence Fishery

Action # 1 – Sport Fishery

Objective = Reduce sport harvest of king salmon

- Option A – Status Quo
 - Continue to use department EO authority
- Option B – Restrict to nonretention
- Option C – Reduce season
- Option D – Reduce annual harvest limit
- Option E – Close fishery

Action # 2 – Commercial Fishery

Objective = Reduce harvest

- Option A – Status Quo
 - Continue to use department EO authority
- Option B – Reduce Hours
 - Fewer than 12 hours in length
- Option C – Reduce Periods
 - Fewer than 4–5 periods
- Option D – Close Specific Areas
 - Westside vs. Eastside Stat Areas
- Option E – Close Entire Northern District

Action # 3 – Subsistence Fishery

Objective = Reduce harvest

- Option A – Reduce Hours
 - Fewer than 16 hours in length
- Option B – Reduce Periods
 - Fewer than 13–15 periods

Questions?

