

Review of Northern Cook Inlet King Salmon Stocks of Concern

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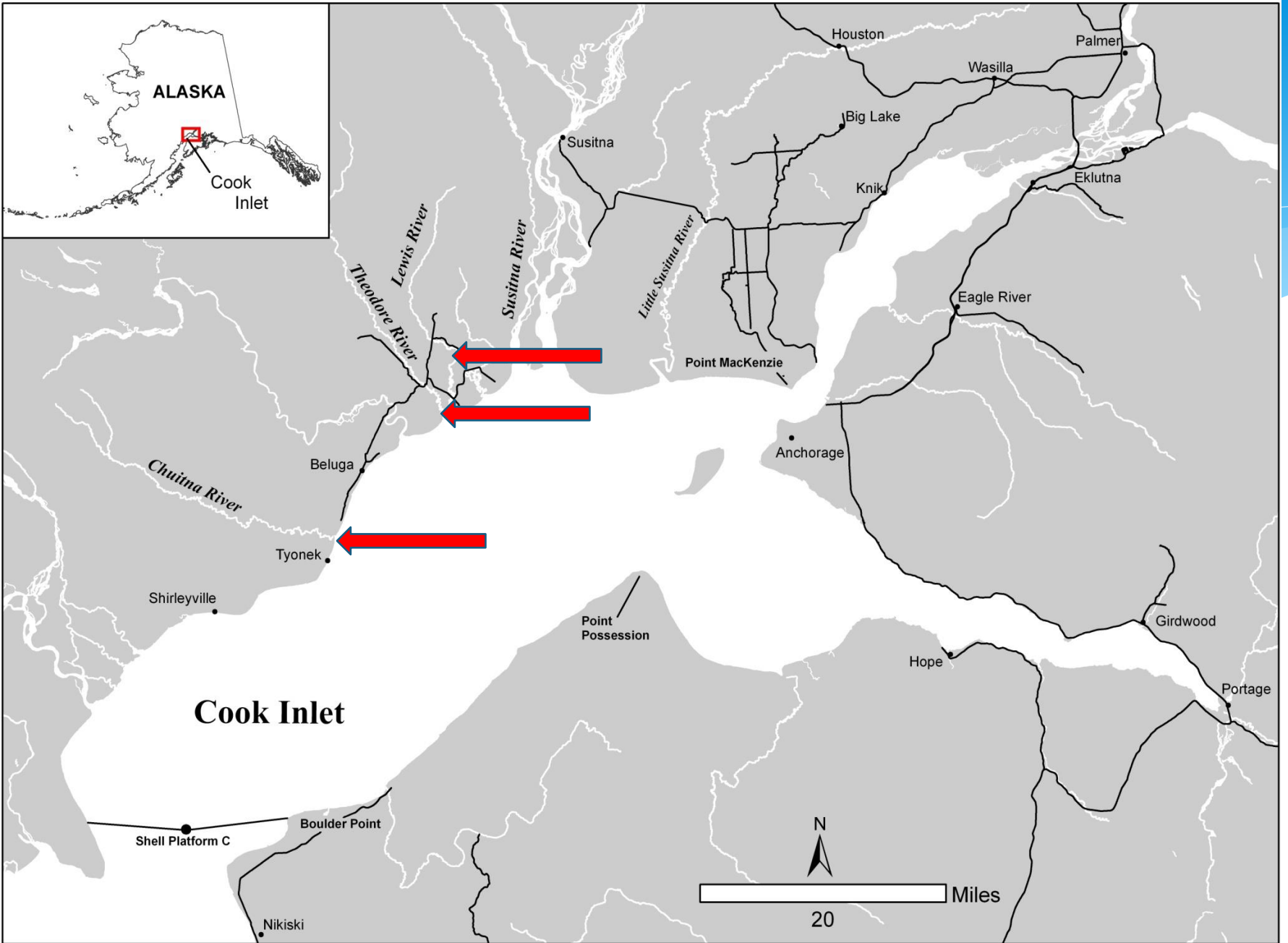
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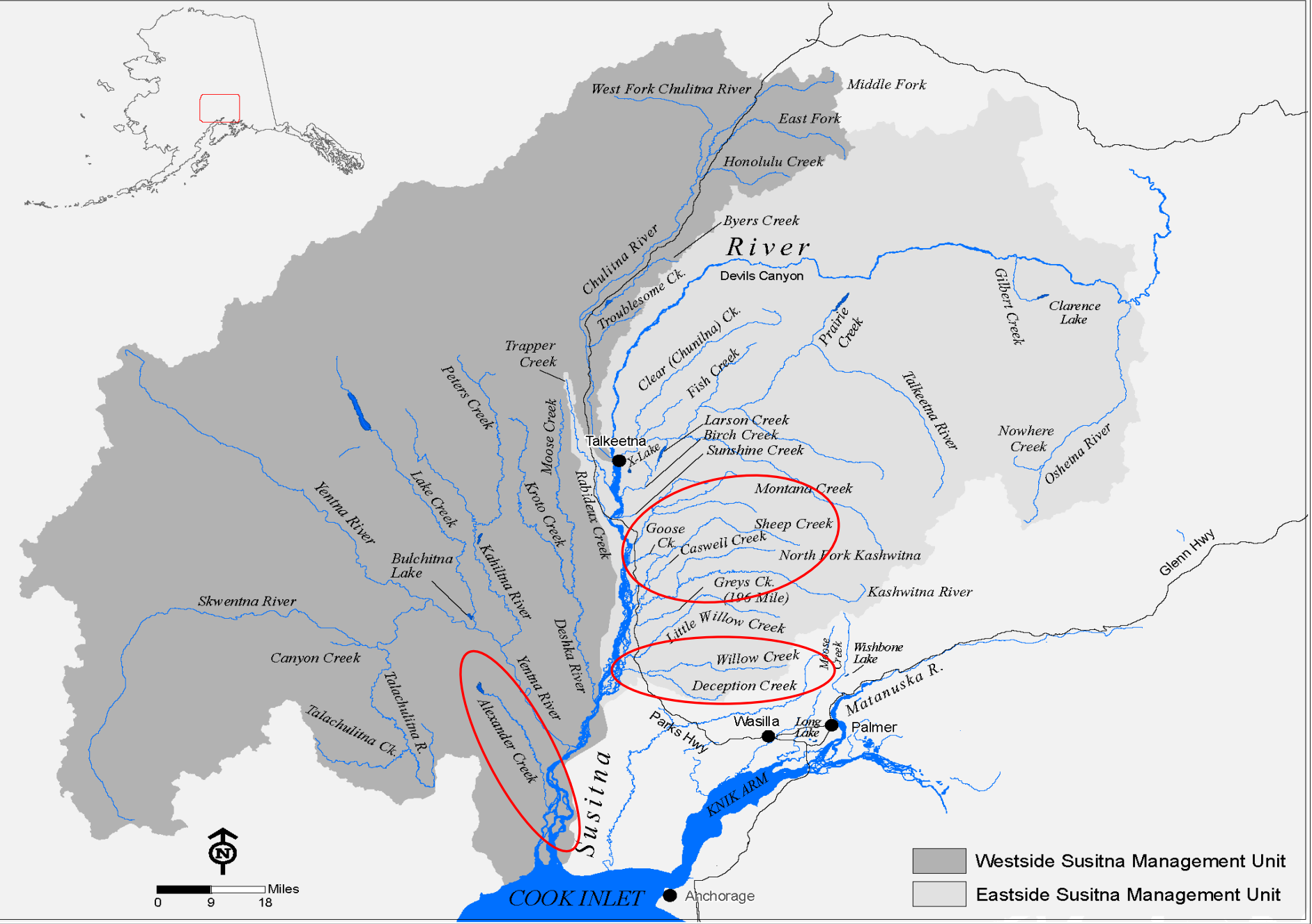
Overview

- **7 King Salmon Stocks**

Theodore, Lewis, Chuitna

Alexander, Willow, Goose, Sheep





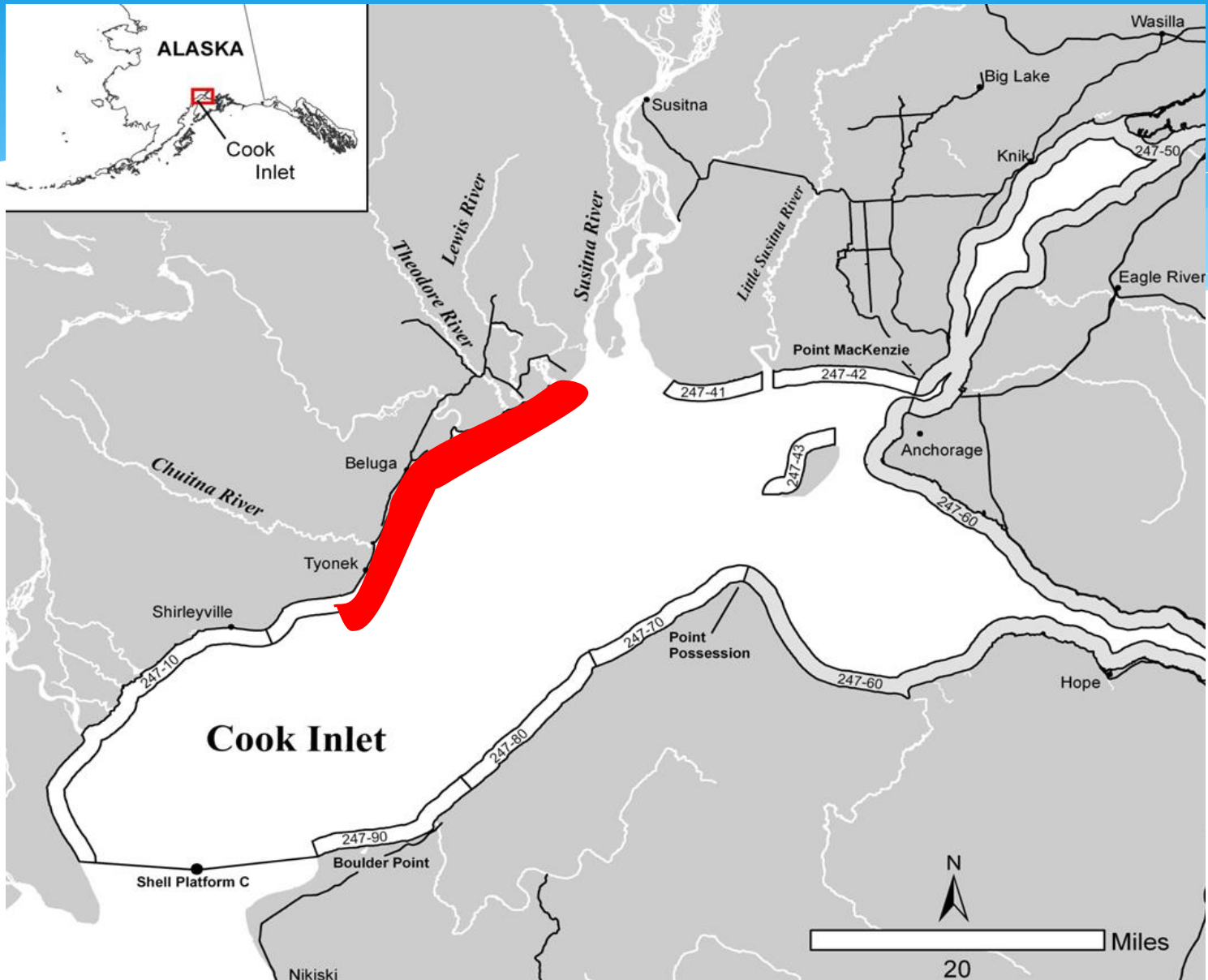
Escapements of Stocks of Concern

Drainage	Esc. Goal	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Theodore River	500 – 1,700	327	179	476	312	426	68
Lewis River	250 – 800	92	107	61	61	5	0
Chuitna River	1,200 – 2,900	719	502	1,690	1,398	1,965	1,372
Alexander Creek	2,100 – 2,900	343	181	588	911	1,117	754
Willow Creek	1,600 – 2,800	1,061	756	1,752	1,335	2,046	1,814
Goose Creek	250 – 650	80	57	62	232	NS	NS
Sheep Creek	600 – 1,200	350	363	NS	262	NS	NS

Management Actions

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

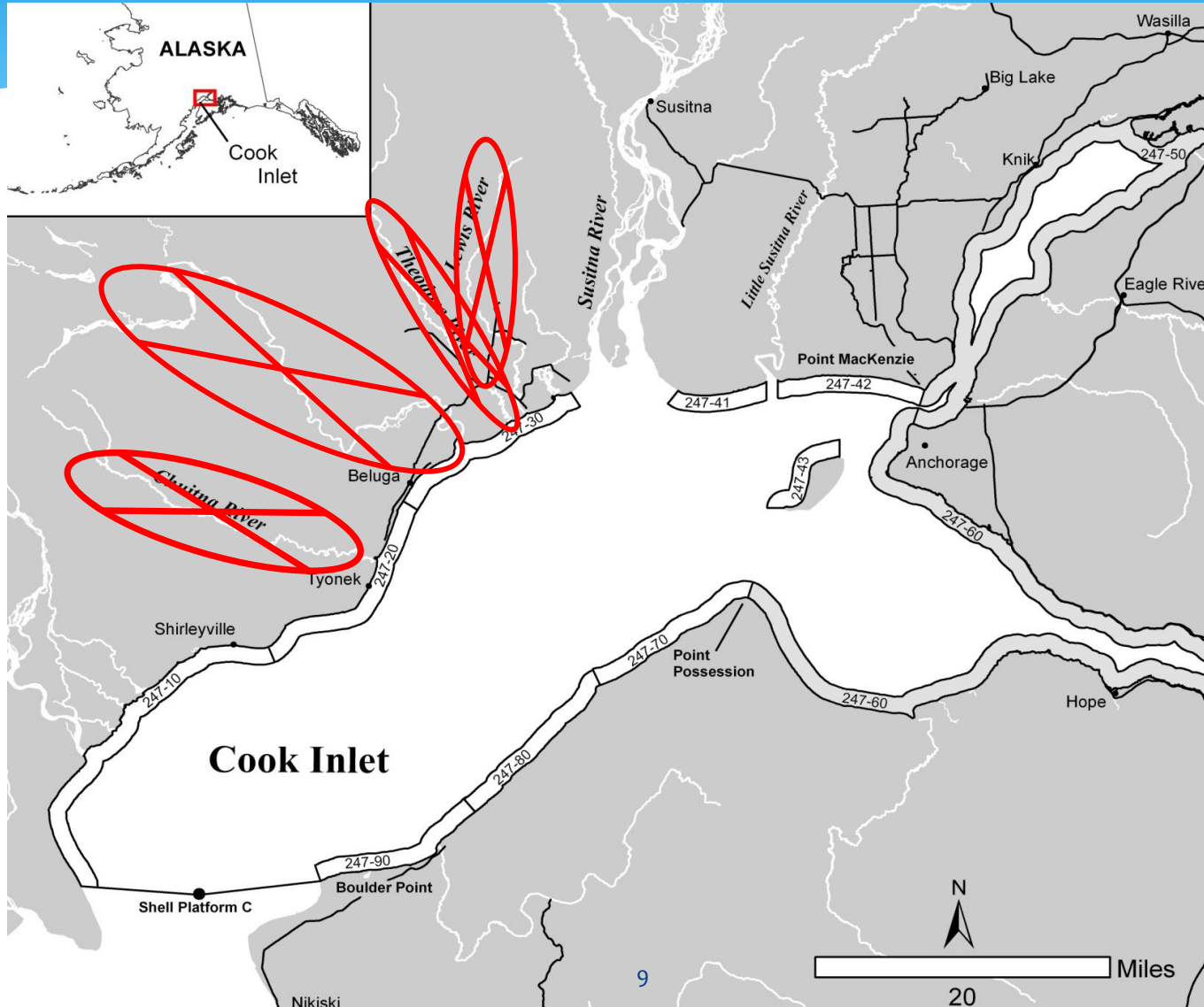
Waters Closed to Commercial Fishing



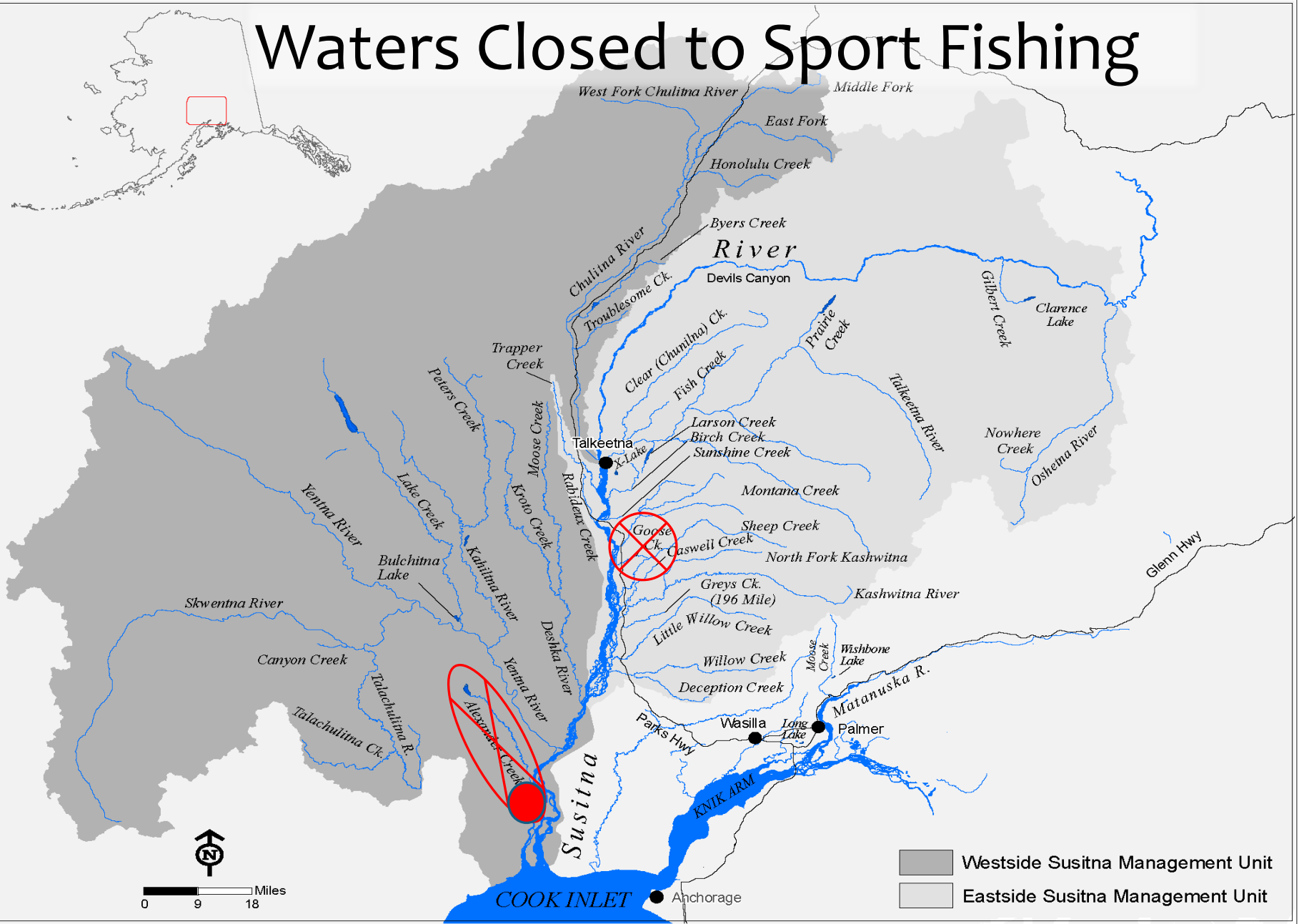
Management Actions

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

Waters Closed to Sport Fishing

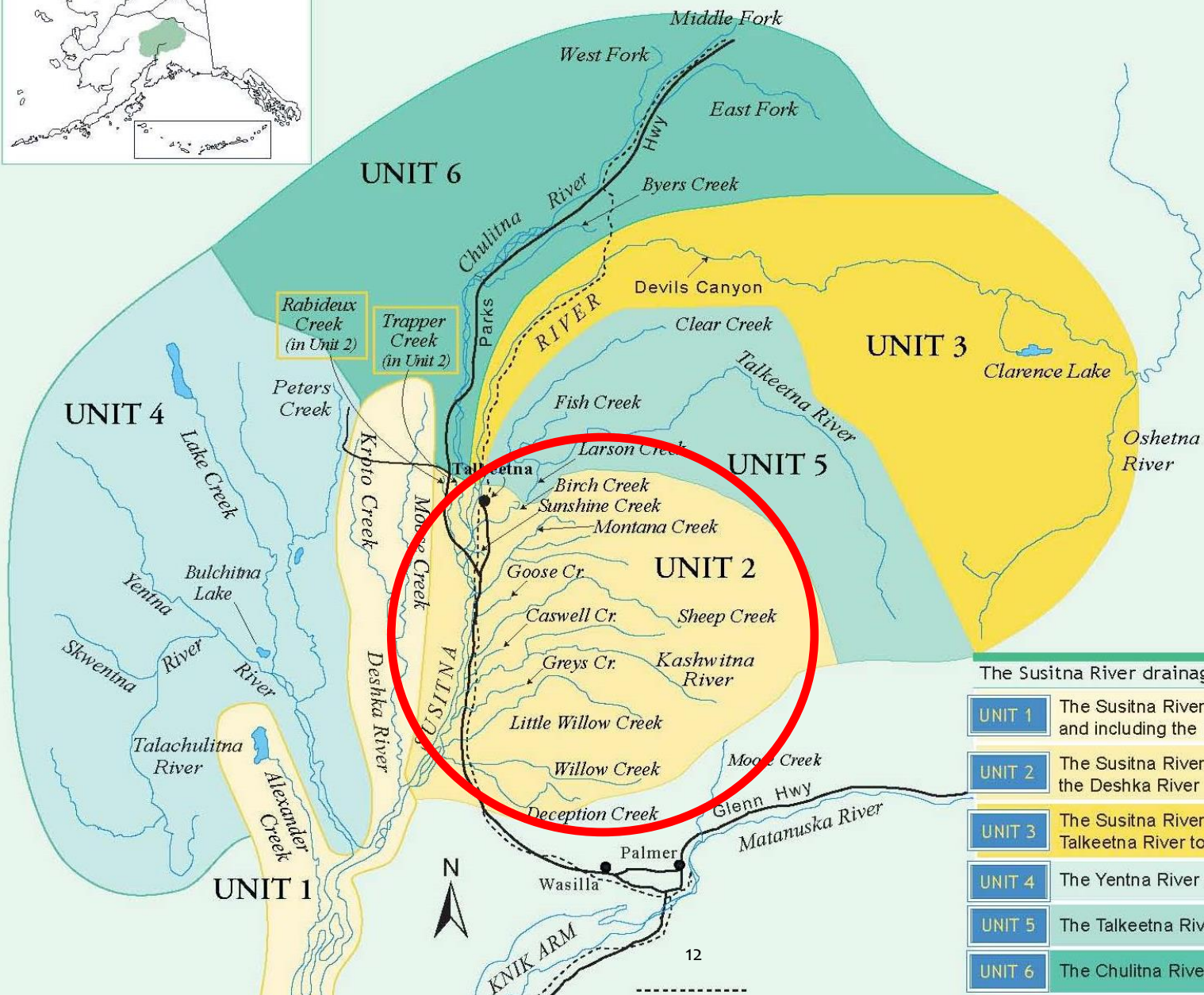
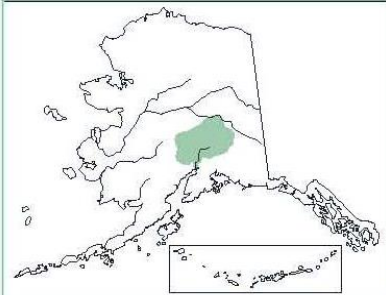


Waters Closed to Sport Fishing



Management Actions

- * 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

* **2013–2015 Preseason Emergency Order Actions**

- An annual limit of two kings over 20 inches in length applied area-wide
- Unbaited single hook artificial lure only area-wide, except Eklutna
- Units 2, 3, 5, 6 and Talachulitna River catch-and-release only during times specified in regulation
- Unit 4- harvest restricted to Fridays-Mondays (4 days); catch-and-release only Tuesdays-Thursdays (3 days)
- Little Susitna- harvest restricted to Saturdays-Mondays (3 days); catch-and-release only Tuesdays-Fridays (4 days)

Management Actions

* 2013–2015 Inseason Emergency Order Actions

- **2013-** bait reinstated June 29 on Deshka River.
- **2014-** Little Susitna returned to 7 days harvest per week July 4; bait reinstated Deshka River June 14.
- **2015-** bait reinstated June 13 on Deshka River; Little Susitna returned to 7 days harvest per week June 19; annual limit restored to 5 kings on Little Susitna and Deshka only June 27; bait allowed Little Susitna July 3.

Management Actions

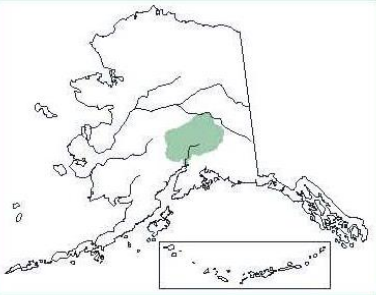
* **2016 Preseason Emergency Order Actions**

- Reduced hours and periods for first commercial fishing period
 - 6 hour instead of 12 hour
- 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

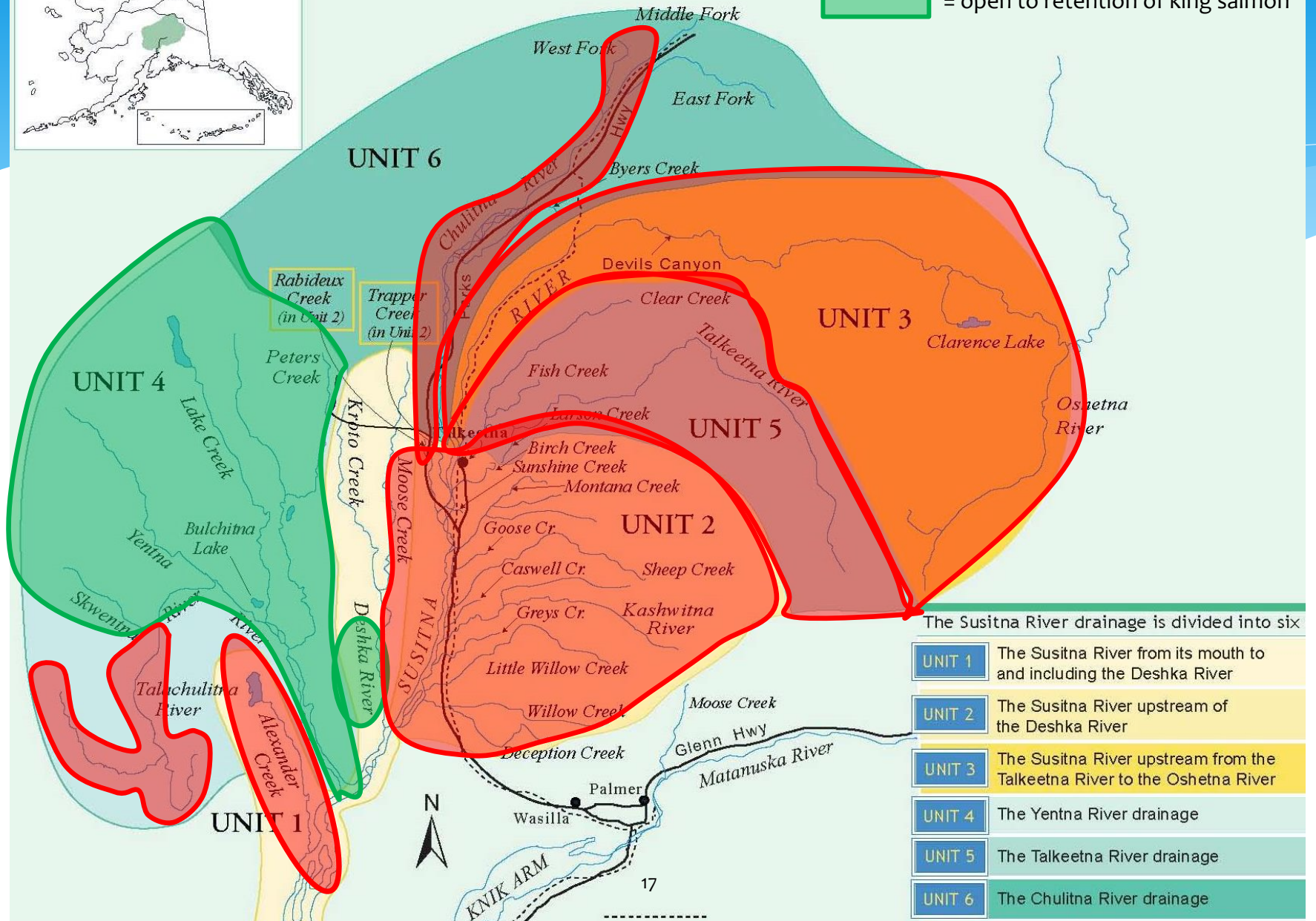
Management Actions

* **2016 Inseason Emergency Order Actions**

- Annual limit restored to 5 kings on Deshka June 11
- Little Susitna returned to 7 days harvest per week and annual limit restored to 5 kings June 28
- Bait allowed Little Susitna July 6



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



King Salmon Harvest Reductions

* High run years 1999-2006 harvest average

CF Average Harvest

2,211

SF Average Harvest

25,564

	Comm Fish		Sport Fish	
	Harvest	Reduction	Harvest	Reduction
2011	2,187	1%	8,624	66%
2012	1,030	53%	2,728	89%
2013	1,134	49%	2,445	90%
2014	1,377	38%	2,049	92%
2015	1,560	29%	3,877	85%

King Salmon Harvest Reductions

* Low run years 2009-2011 harvest average

CF Average Harvest

1,709

SF Average Harvest

8,629

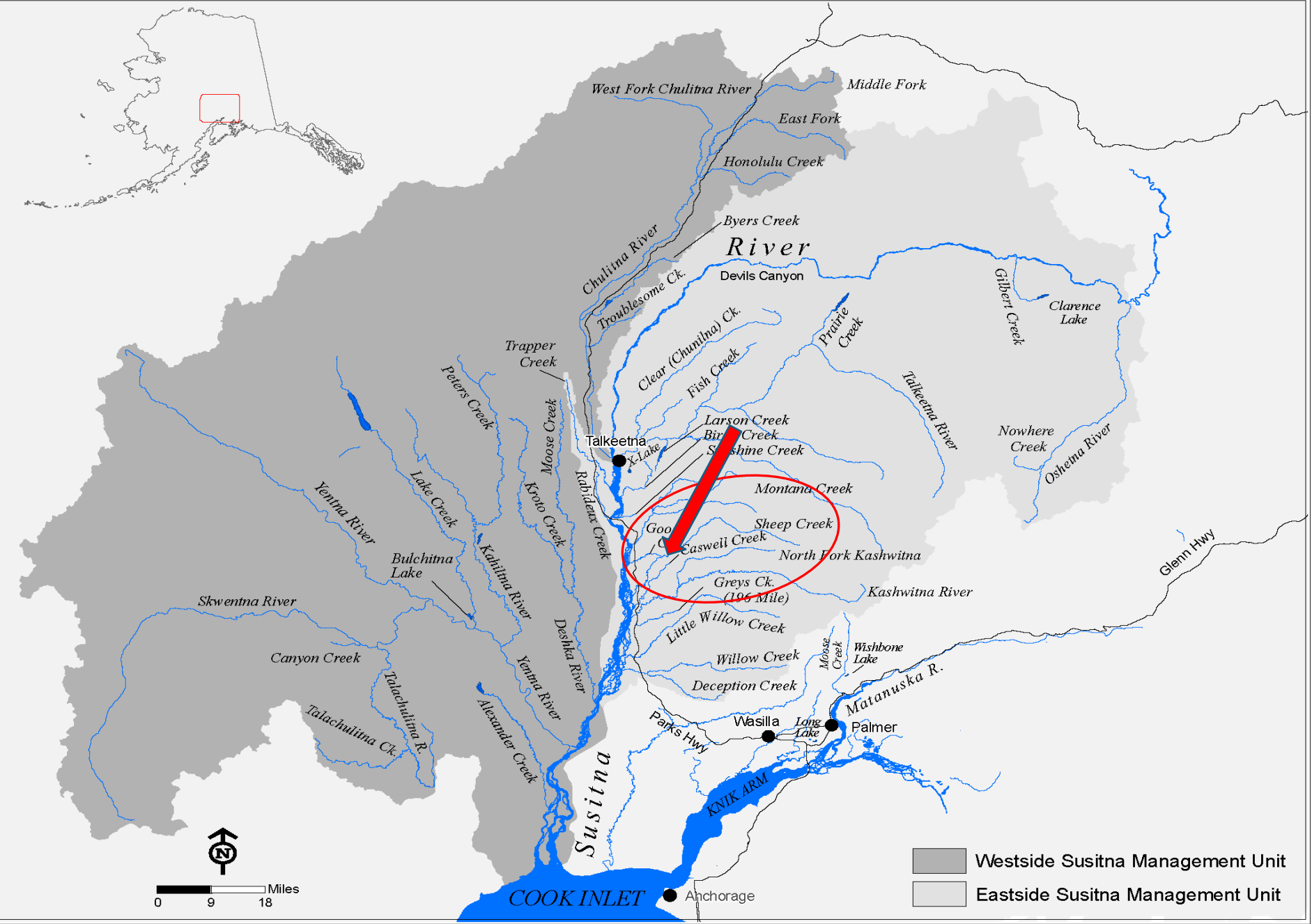
	Comm Fish		Sport Fish	
	Harvest	Reduction	Harvest	Reduction
2012	1,030	30%	2,728	68%
2013	1,134	34%	2,445	72%
2014	1,377	19%	2,049	76%
2015	1,560	9%	3,877	55%

Research Implemented since 2011

- * Improved King Salmon Genetic Baseline
- * King Salmon Weirs
 - Theodore River, Lewis River, Montana Creek
- * Susitna King Salmon Tagging
 - Spawner location and distribution
- * Abundance estimate for mainstem
- * Alexander Pike suppression
 - 18,000 northern pike removed
 - Increased juvenile abundance and rearing areas
 - Adult salmon weir

Sheep Creek and Goose Creek Update

- * Sheep designated SOC in 2014
- * Action Plan
 - Goal of Plan = Rebuild runs to achieve SEG
 - Objective of actions = Reduce harvest
 - Sport Fishery
 - Commercial Fishery
 - Subsistence Fishery



Sport Fish Harvest

Year	Willow Creek	Sheep Creek	Goose Creek	Total
1999	4,988	2,558	371	16,767
2000	3,782	851	258	11,373
2001	4,573	1,420	160	13,146
2002	3,591	928	403	10,598
2003	3,922	1,284	350	9,329
2004	2,818	914	335	8,345
2005	2,466	878	150	8,428
2006	2,141	707	27	7,339
2007	2,258	964	31	8,337
2008	1,101	589	134	5,834
2009	499	393	0	3,462
2010	218	153	0	2,274
2011	282	213	0	2,326
2012	13	0	0	147
2013	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0
	57	23	5	

Summary

- * 7 King Salmon Stocks
 - Theodore, Lewis, Chuitna
 - Alexander, Willow, Goose, Sheep
- * Regulatory Changes
- * Preseason and Inseason Emergency Orders
- * Research
- * Reductions in Harvest
- * Department Recommendation
 - * No additional action

Questions?

