

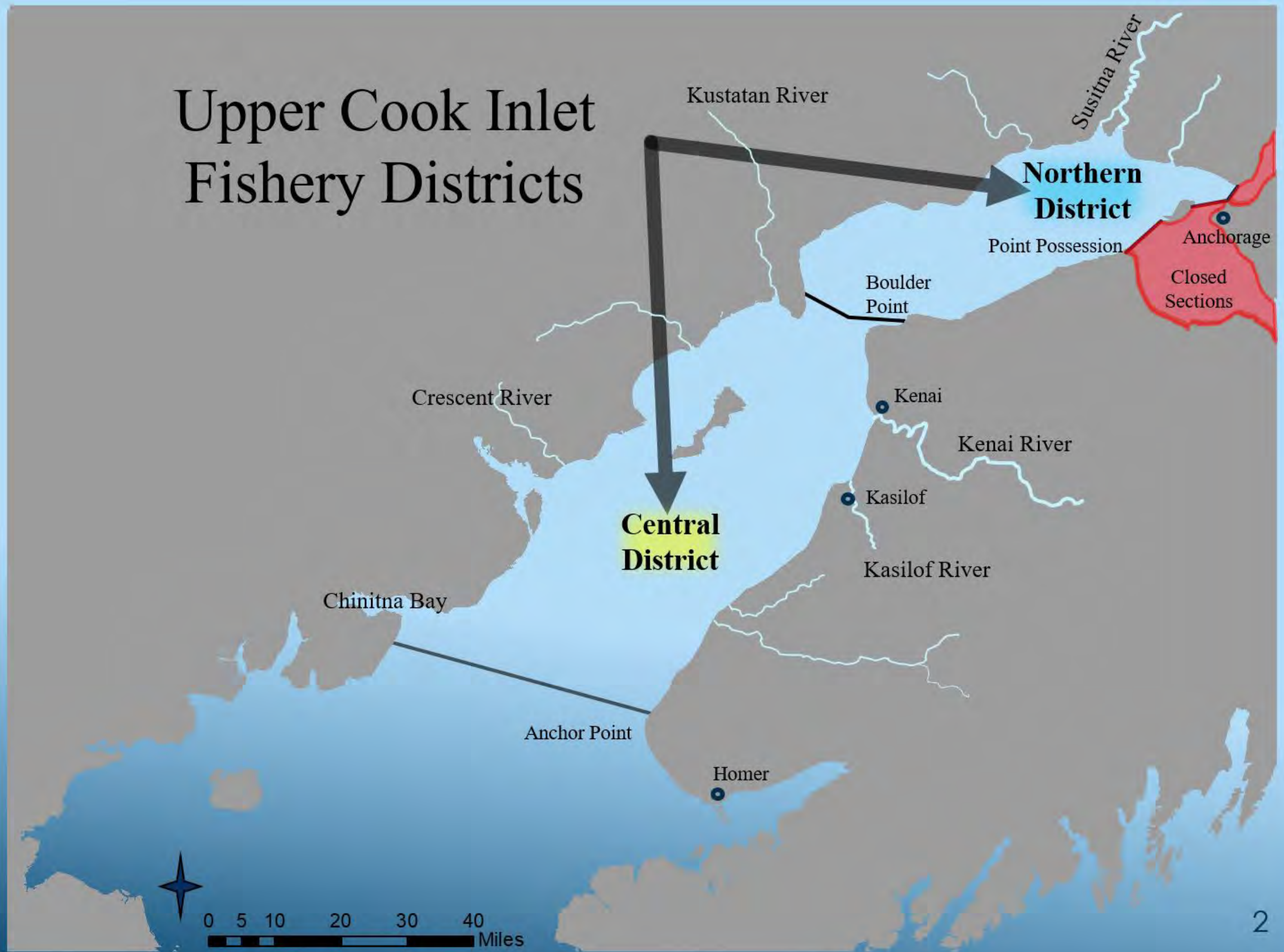
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REPORT UPPER COOK INLET

REPORT TO THE **ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**
FEBRUARY 2024

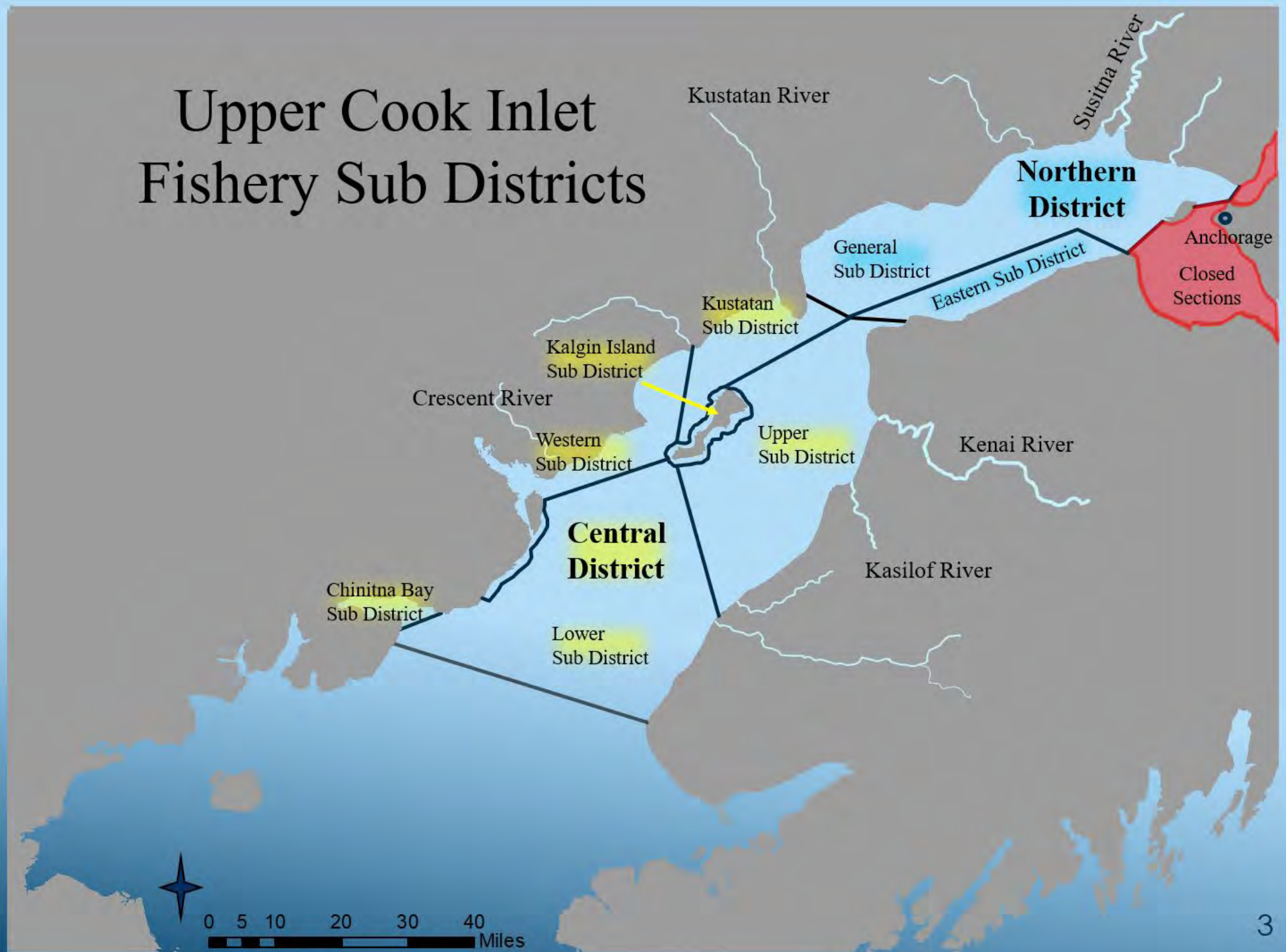


Colton Lipka
Area Management Biologist for UCI Commercial Fisheries
ADF&G

Upper Cook Inlet Fishery Districts



Upper Cook Inlet Fishery Sub Districts

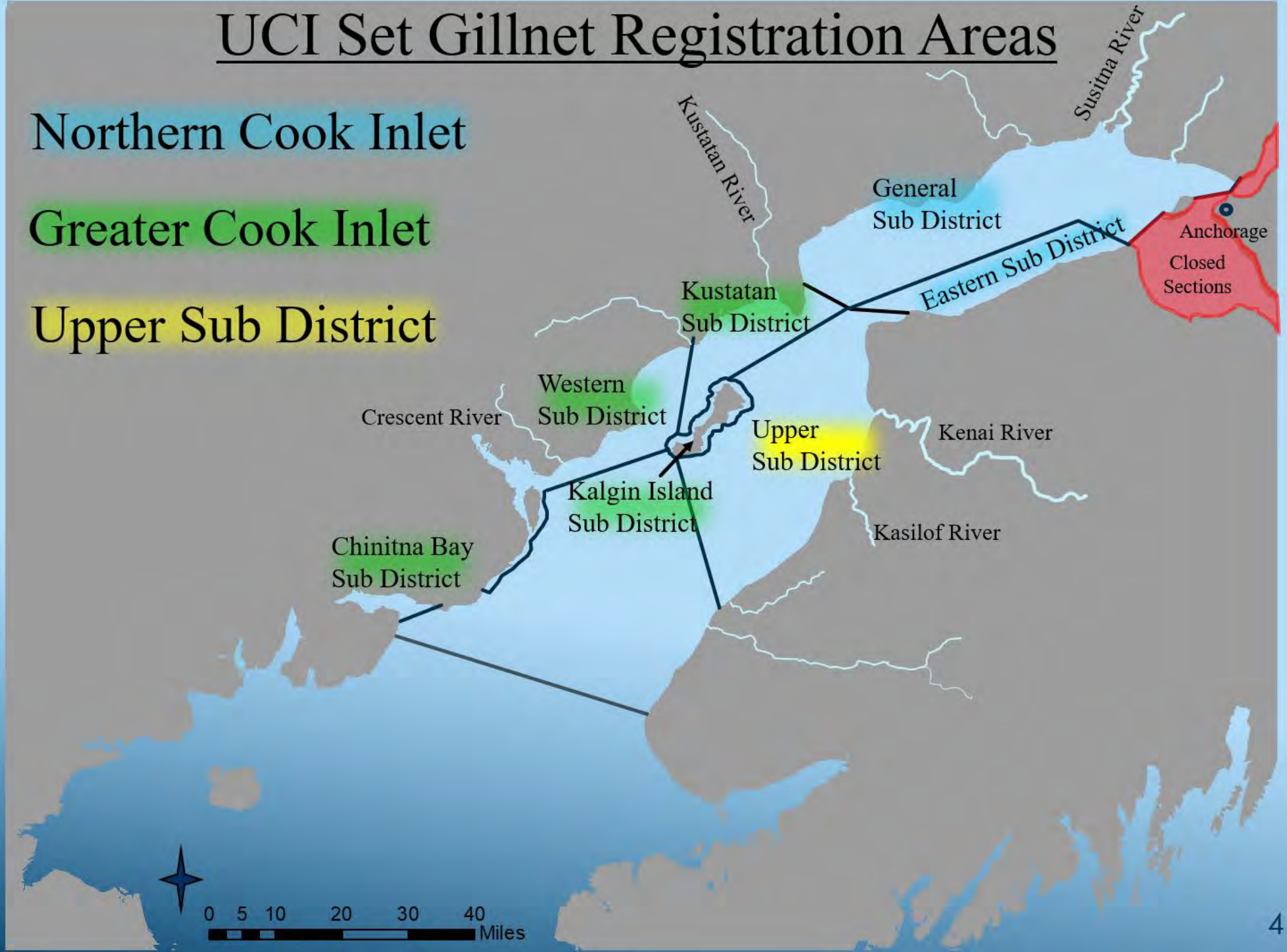


UCI Set Gillnet Registration Areas

Northern Cook Inlet

Greater Cook Inlet

Upper Sub District



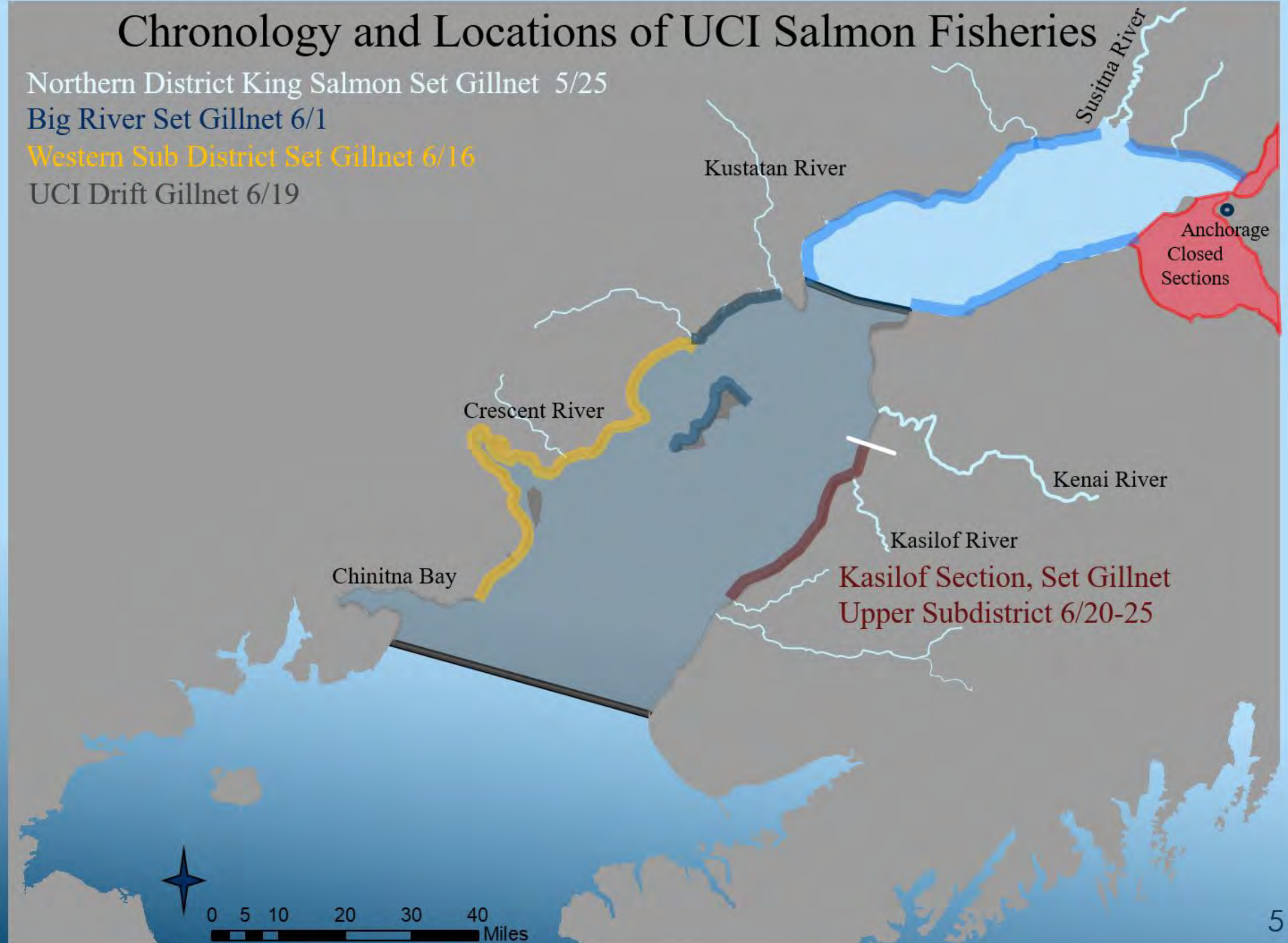
Chronology and Locations of UCI Salmon Fisheries

Northern District King Salmon Set Gillnet 5/25

Big River Set Gillnet 6/1

Western Sub District Set Gillnet 6/16

UCI Drift Gillnet 6/19

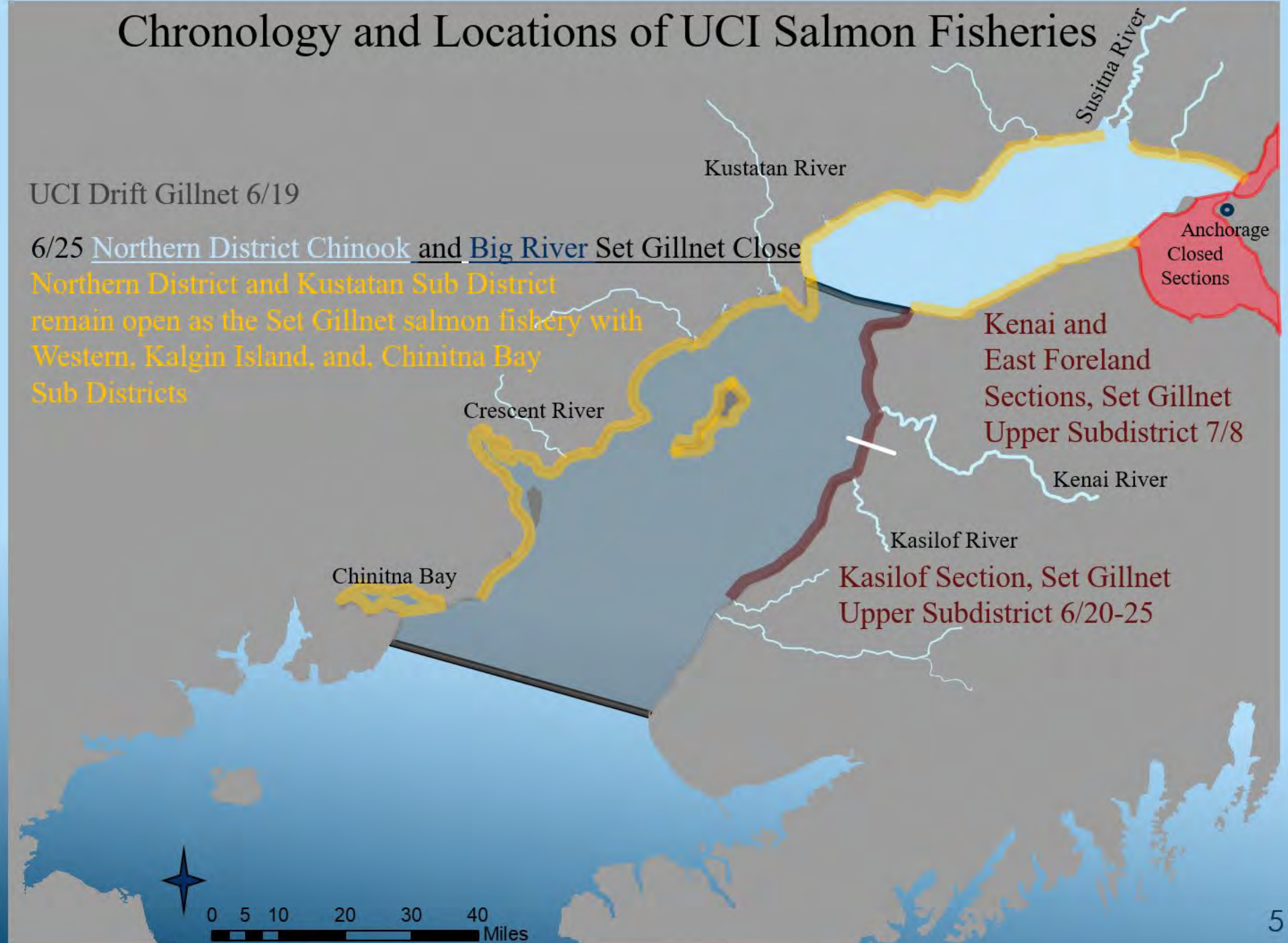


Chronology and Locations of UCI Salmon Fisheries

UCI Drift Gillnet 6/19

6/25 Northern District Chinook and Big River Set Gillnet Close

Northern District and Kustatan Sub District remain open as the Set Gillnet salmon fishery with Western, Kalgin Island, and, Chinitna Bay Sub Districts

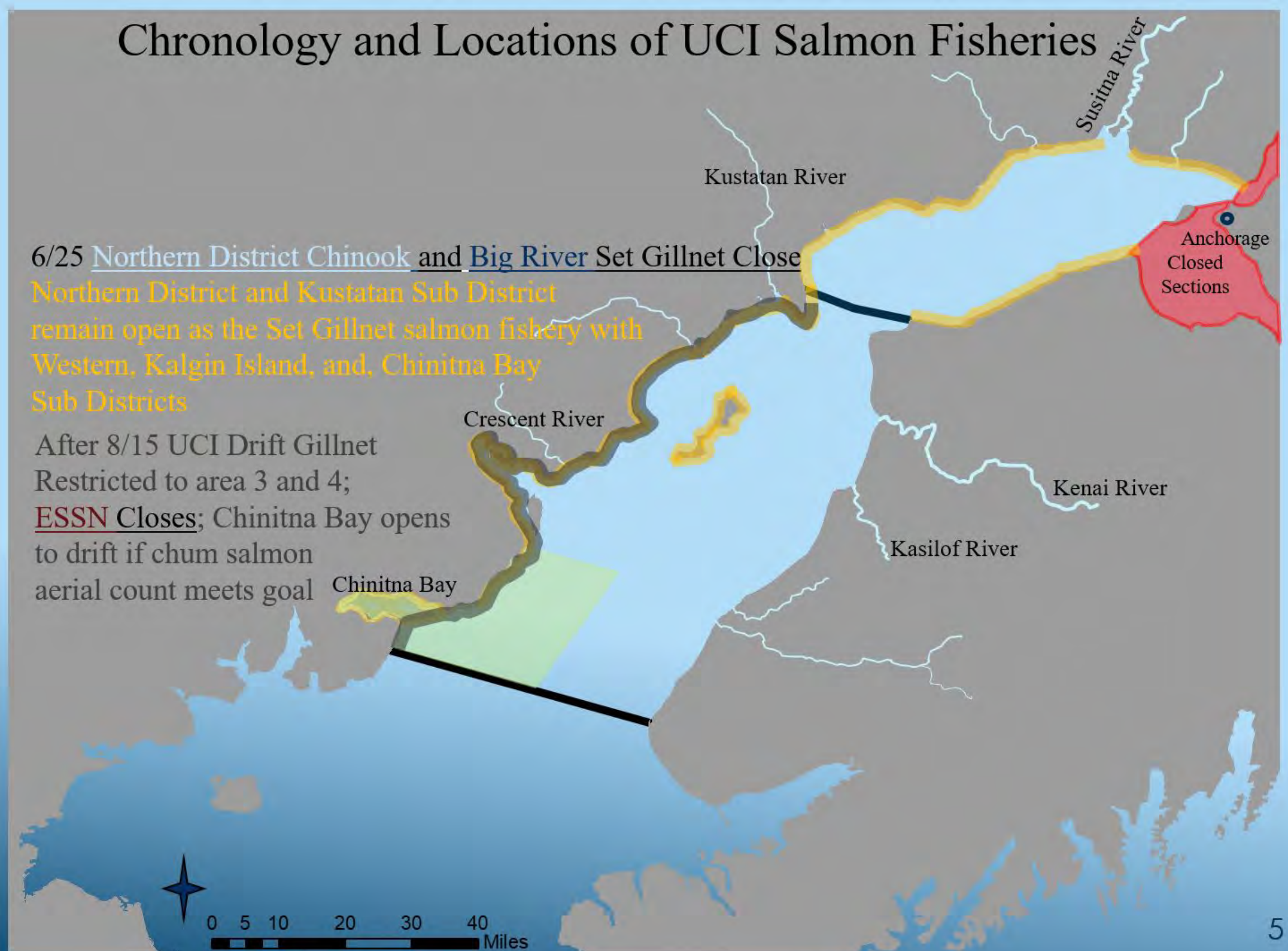


Chronology and Locations of UCI Salmon Fisheries

6/25 Northern District Chinook and Big River Set Gillnet Close

Northern District and Kustatan Sub District remain open as the Set Gillnet salmon fishery with Western, Kalgin Island, and, Chinitna Bay Sub Districts

After 8/15 UCI Drift Gillnet Restricted to area 3 and 4;
ESSN Closes; Chinitna Bay opens to drift if chum salmon aerial count meets goal



CFEC PERMITS AND LEGAL GEAR

▶ **731 active set gillnet permits in Cook Inlet**

- ▶ 672 renewed permits to fish in UCI in 2023
- ▶ 85% of active set net permits are owned by Alaskan residents
- ▶ One person may own and operate 2 setnet permits (Dual permits)

▶ **566 registered drift gillnet permits in UCI**

- ▶ 356 permits reported fishing in 2023
- ▶ 75% of active drift gillnet permits are owned by Alaskan residents
- ▶ D-Boat
 - ▶ Two permit holders may fish on one vessel or one person may hold two permits and fish the same vessel.

Management Plans Concerning Commercial Fisheries Management in UCI

1. Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan
2. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Plan
3. Northern District Salmon Management Plan
4. Kenai River Late Run King Salmon Management Plan
5. Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan
6. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan
7. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan
8. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan
9. Big River Salmon Management Plan
10. Packers Creek Salmon Management Plan
11. Central District Herring Management Plan
12. Cook Inlet Smelt Management Plan

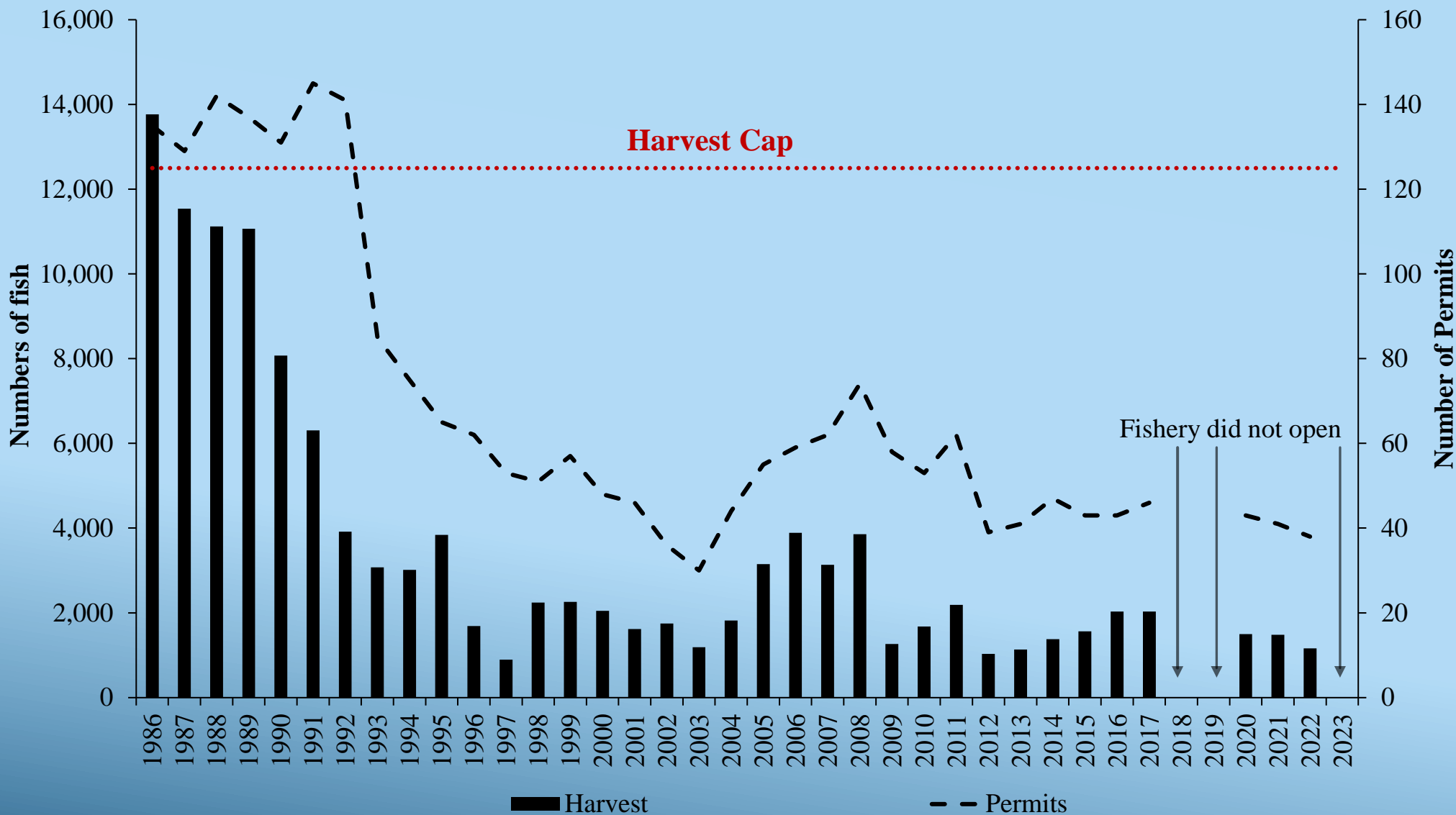
Northern District King Salmon Management Plan

The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide guidelines to the department.

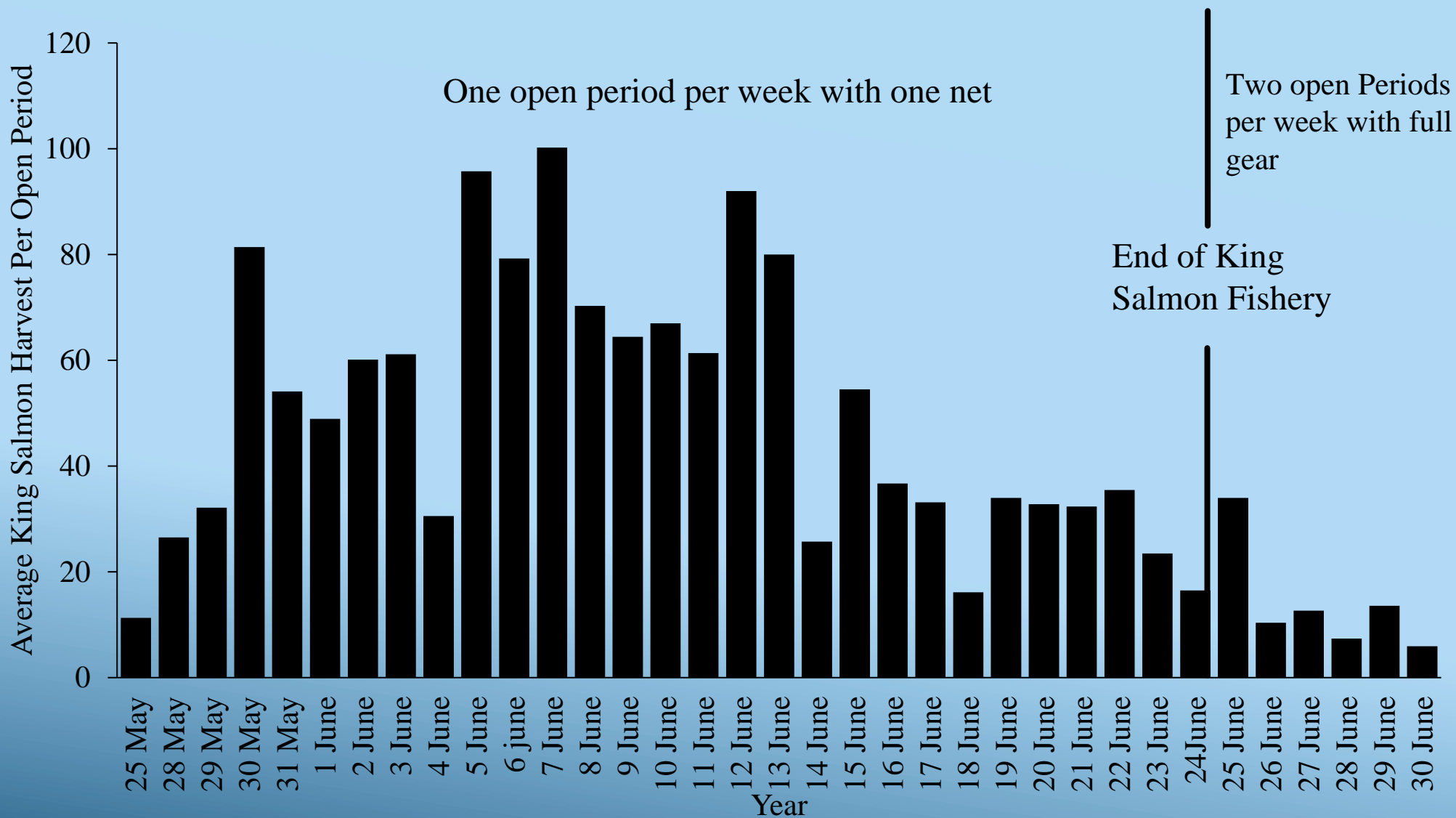


Northern District King Salmon Harvests

Directed King Salmon Fishery



Average King Salmon Harvest Per Open Period for Northern District; 2009-17 & 2020-22

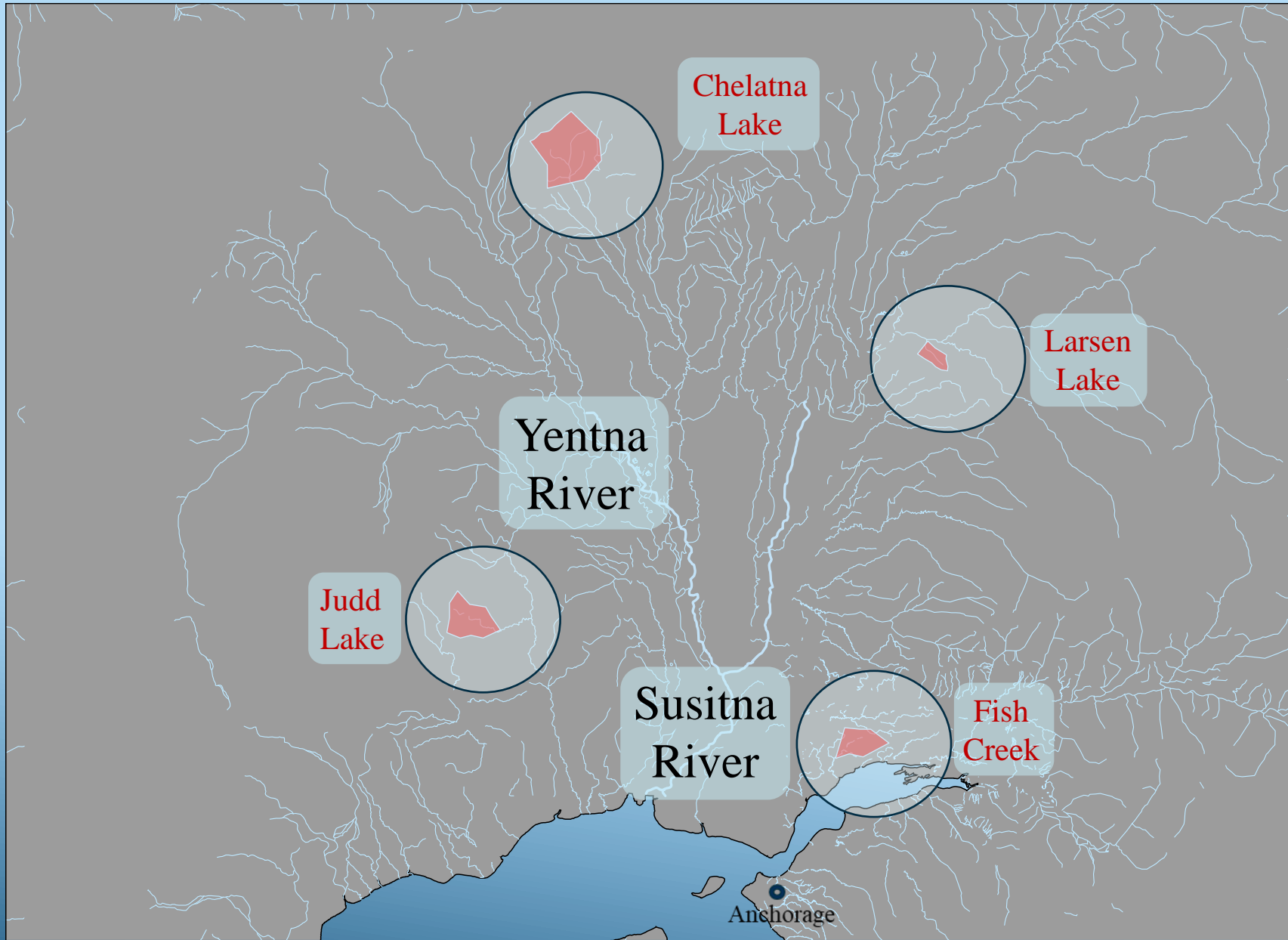


Northern District Salmon Management Plan

This plan directs the department to manage chum, pink, and sockeye salmon primarily for commercial uses, but also states the purpose of the plan is to minimize the harvest of coho salmon bound for the Northern District.

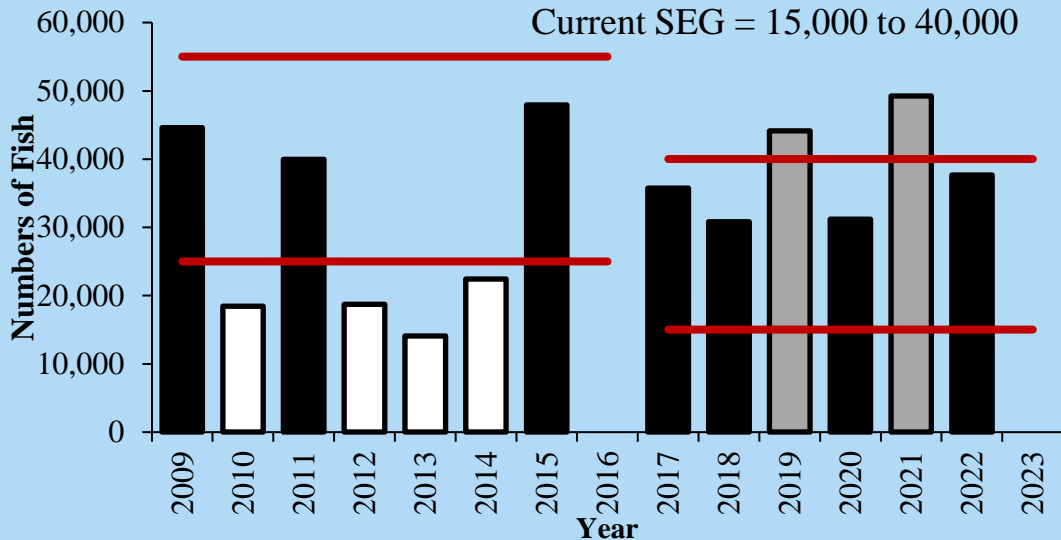


Northern District Sockeye Salmon Assessment Projects



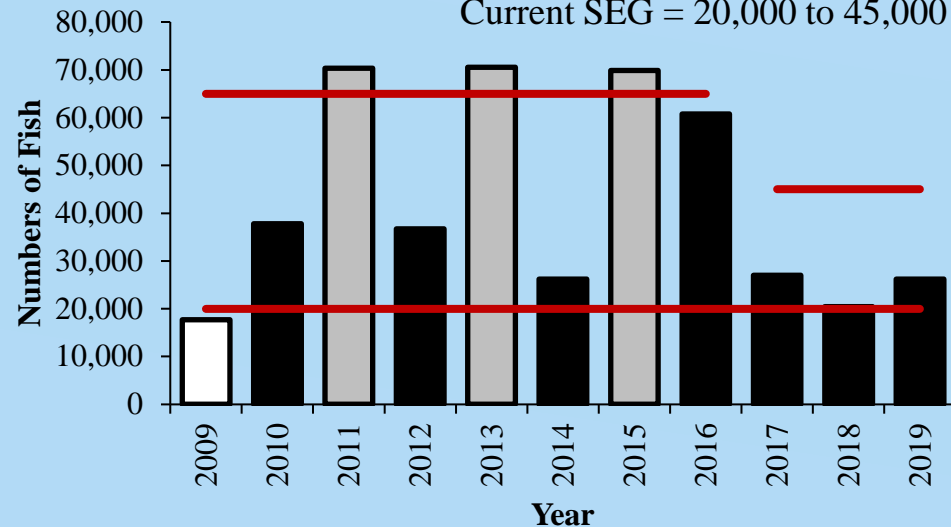
Judd Lake

Current SEG = 15,000 to 40,000



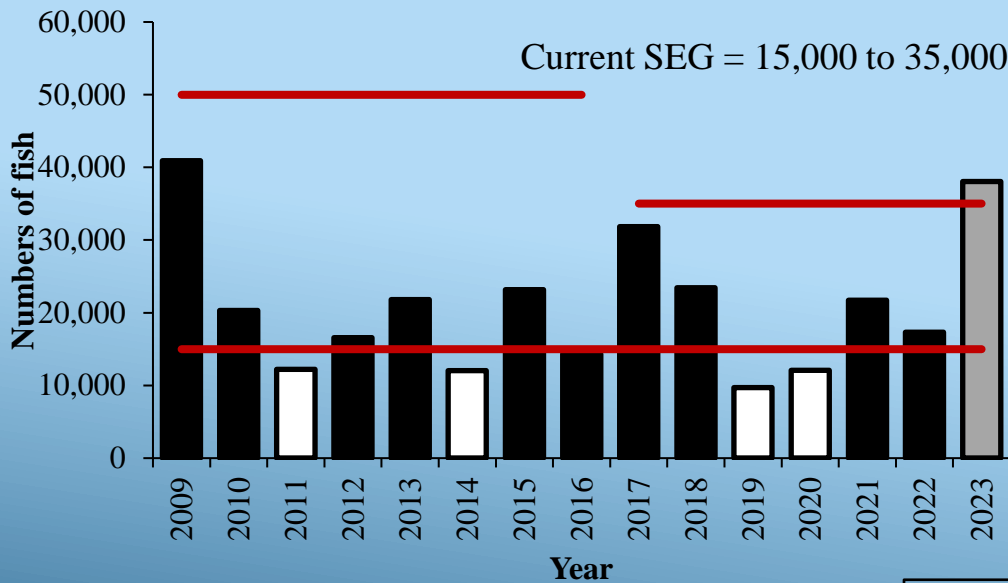
Chelatna Lake

Current SEG = 20,000 to 45,000



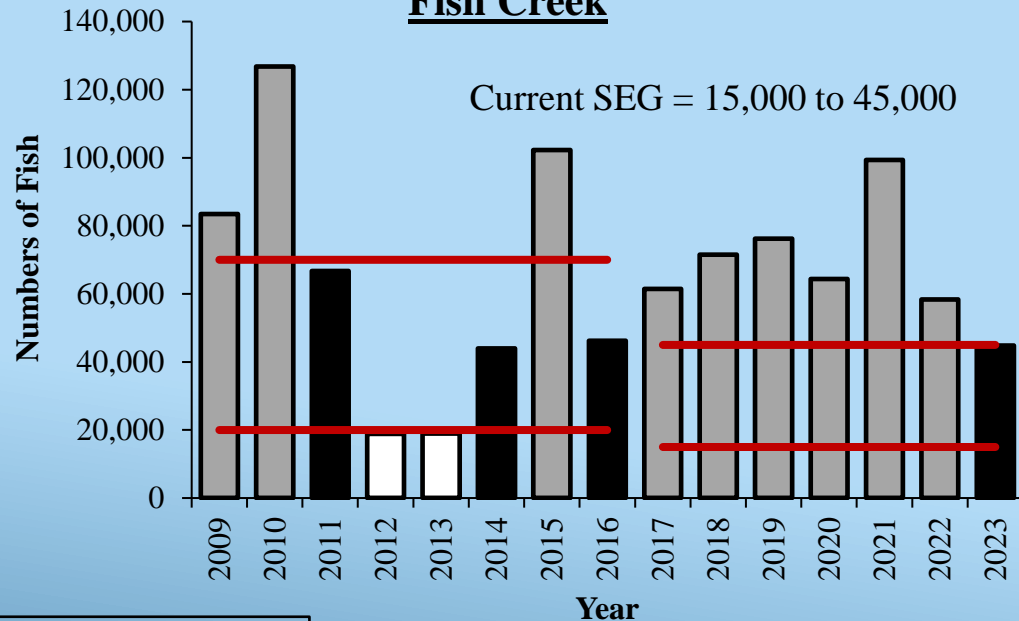
Larson Lake

Current SEG = 15,000 to 35,000






Fish Creek

Current SEG = 15,000 to 45,000



Bar color legend

-  = goal not met
-  = goal met
-  = goal exceeded



KASILOF RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

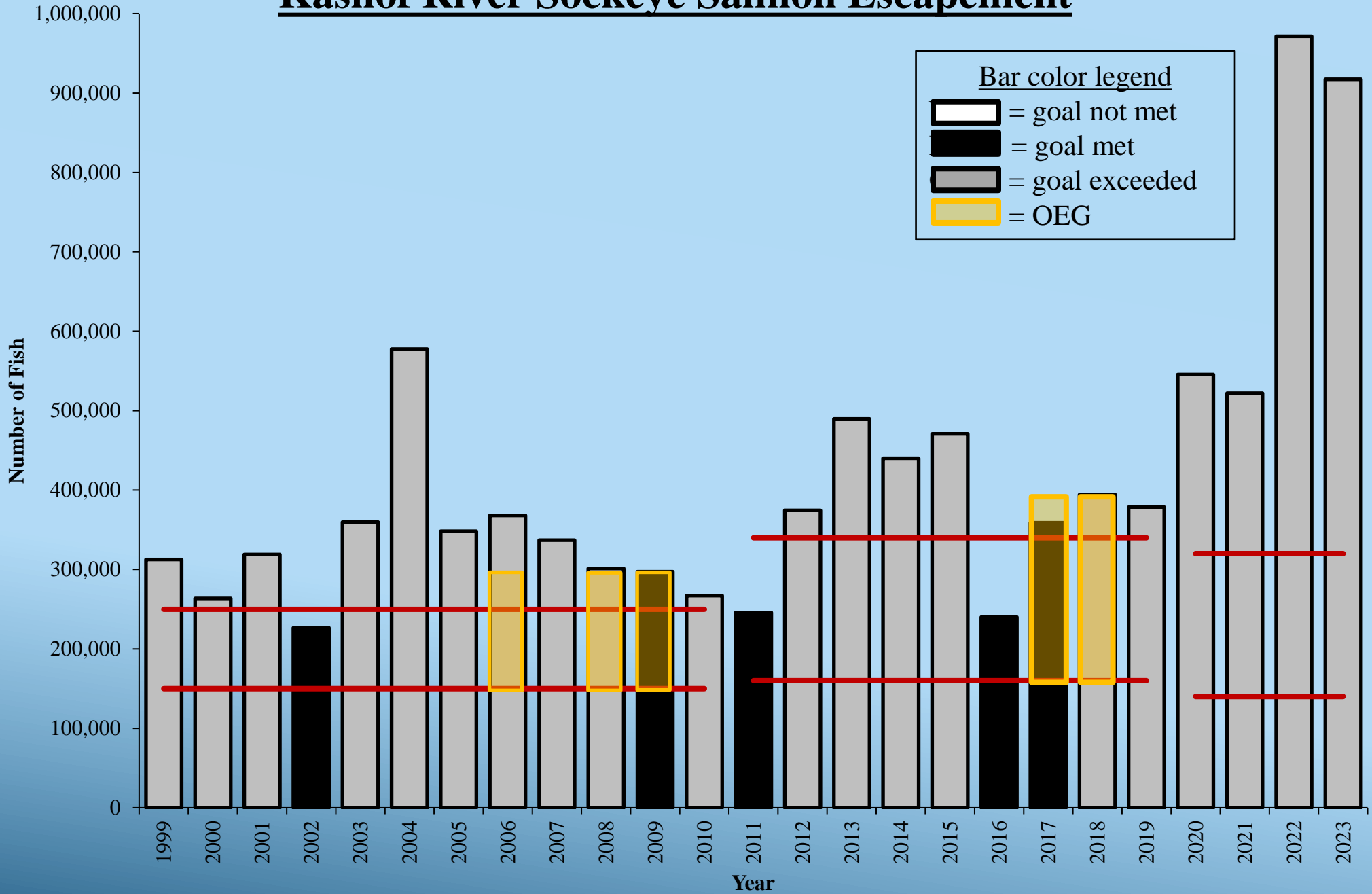
Provides direction to the department for management of Kasilof River sockeye salmon from June 20 through July 7.

KENAI RIVER LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

States that the department shall manage Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance, while minimizing the harvest of Northern Dist. coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon.

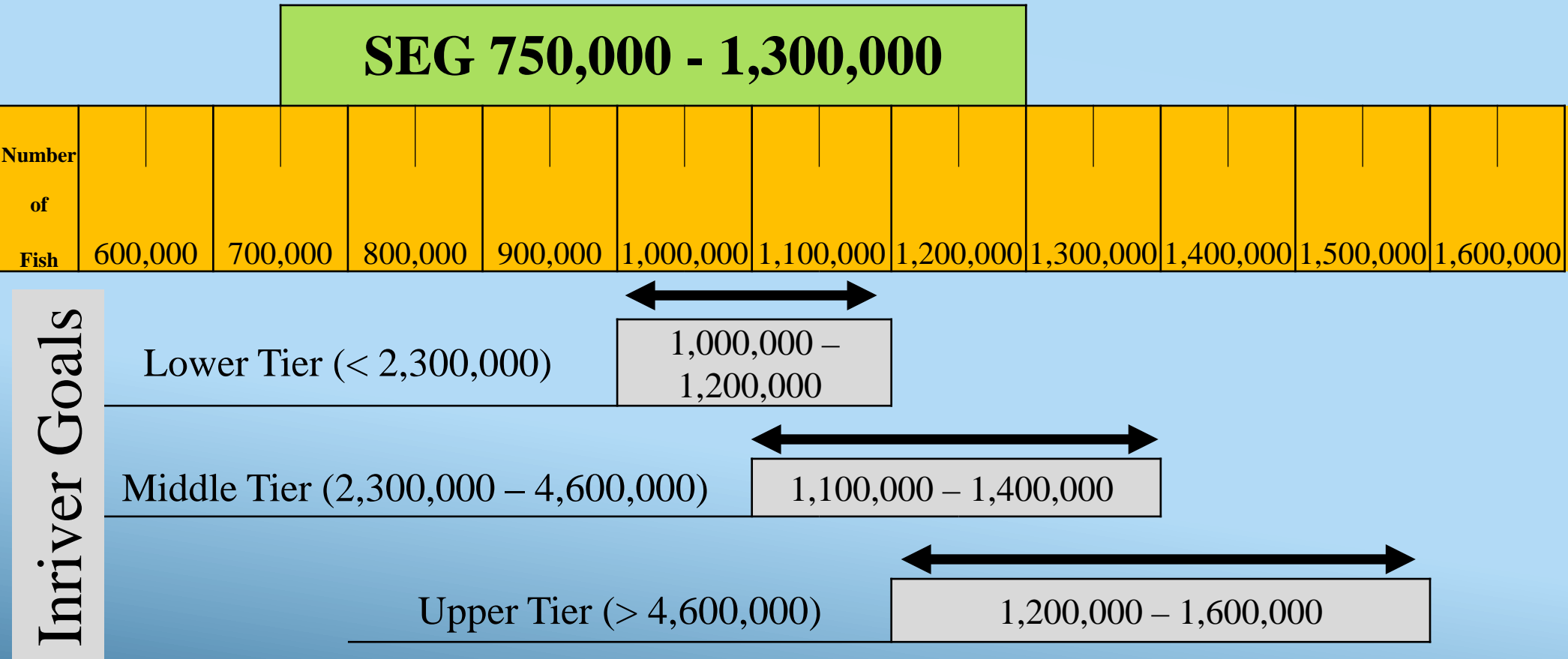


Kasilof River Sockeye Salmon Escapement

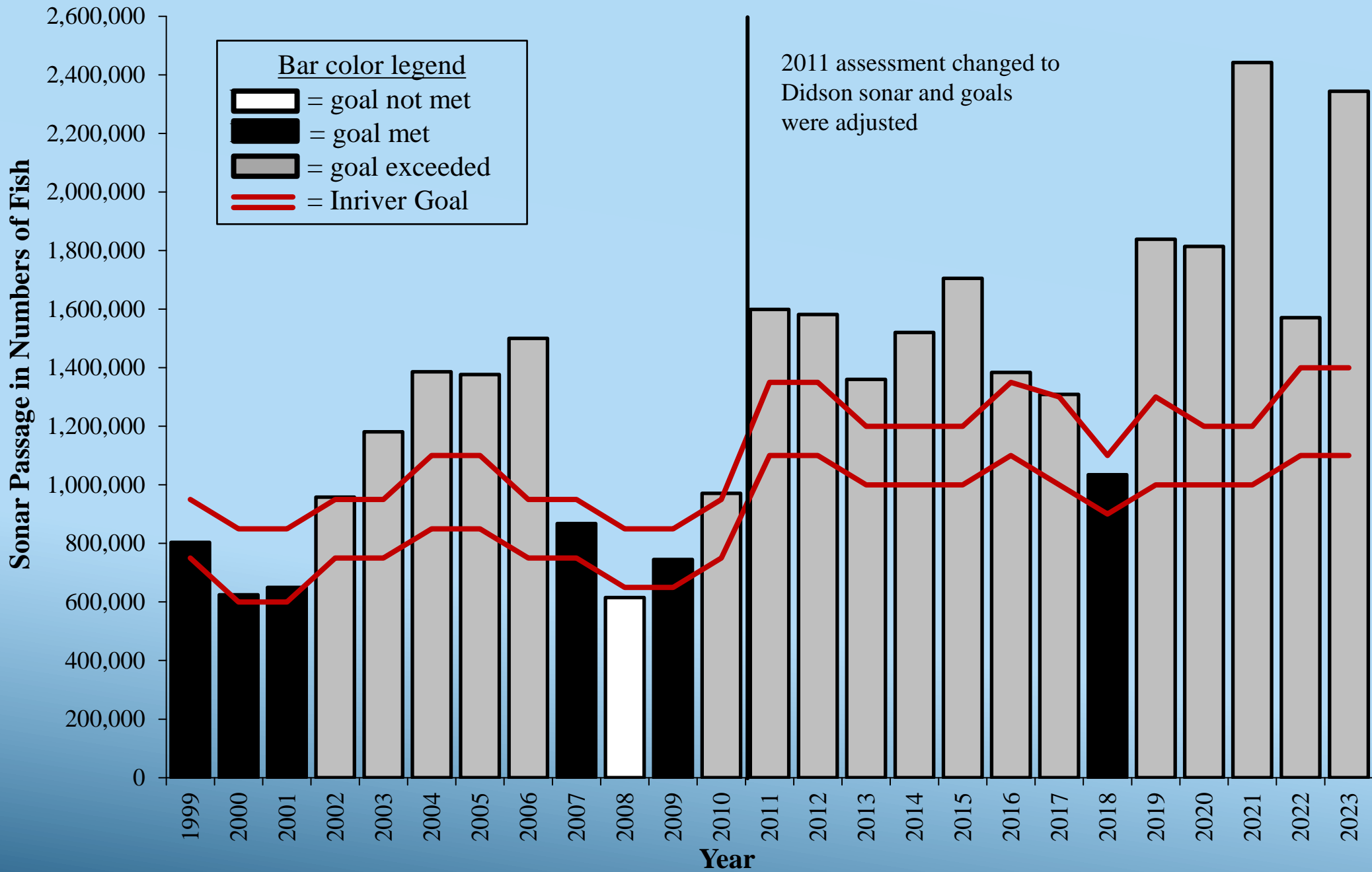


Kenai River Sockeye Salmon

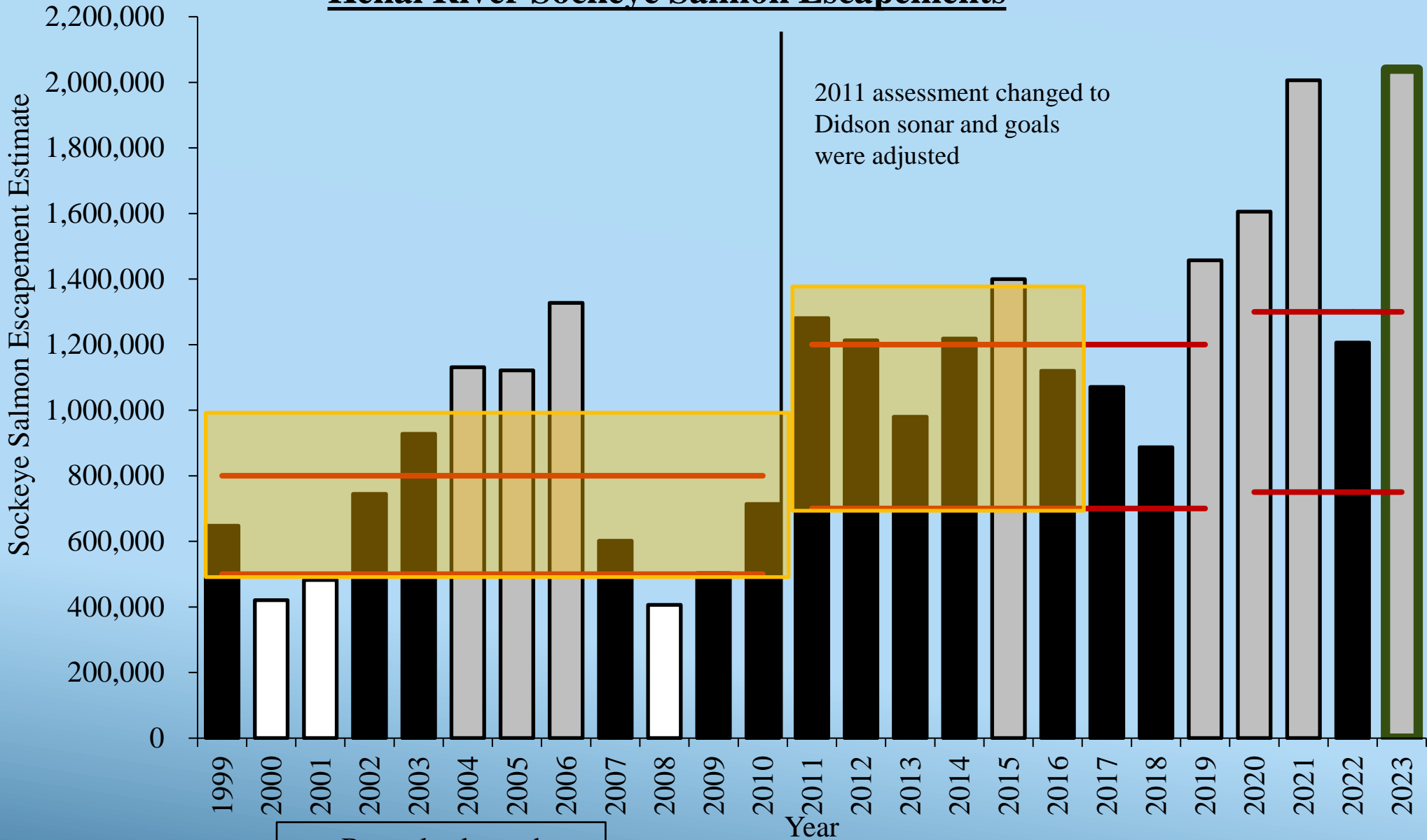
Management Objectives



Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Sonar Passage & Inriver Goals



Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Escapements

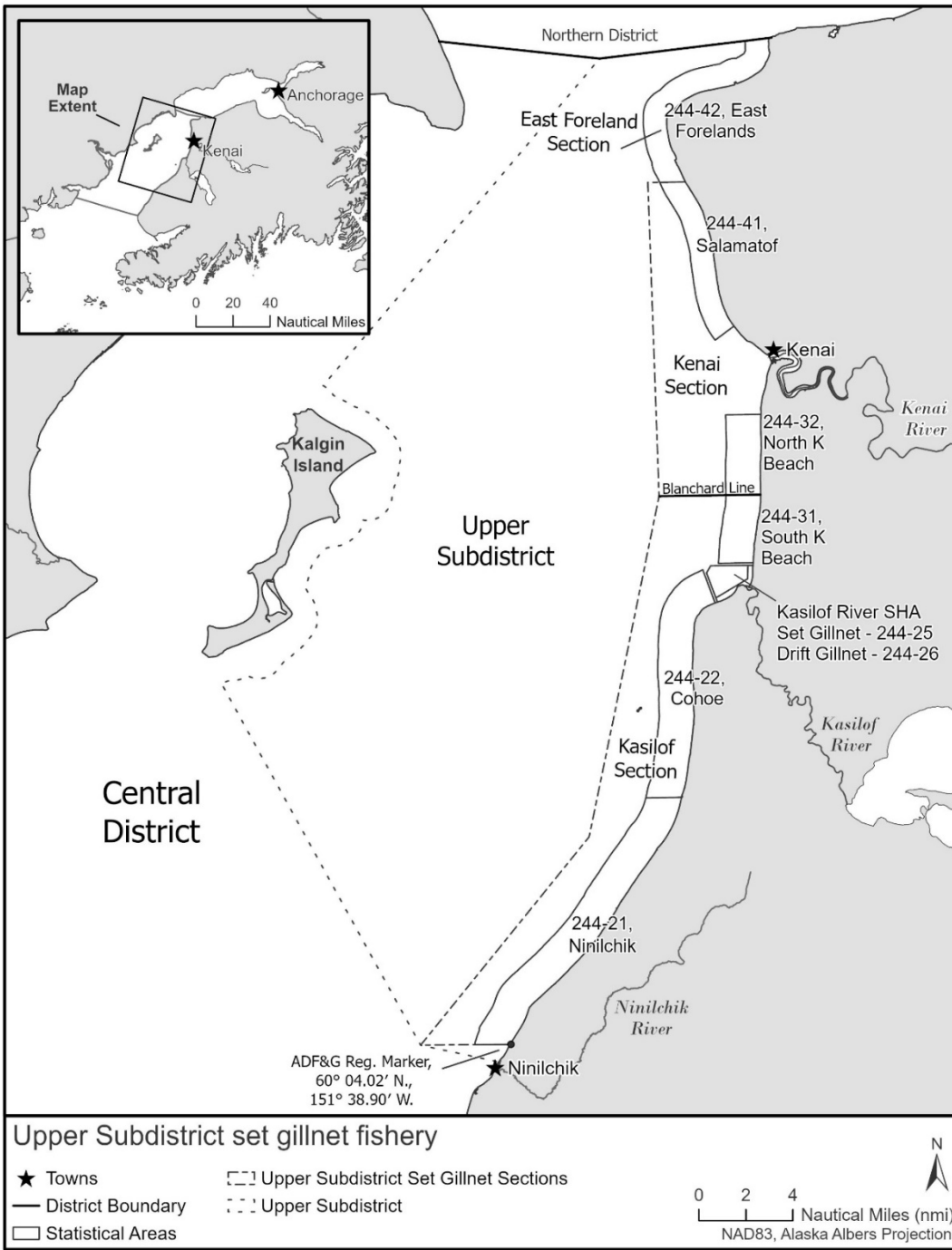


Bar color legend

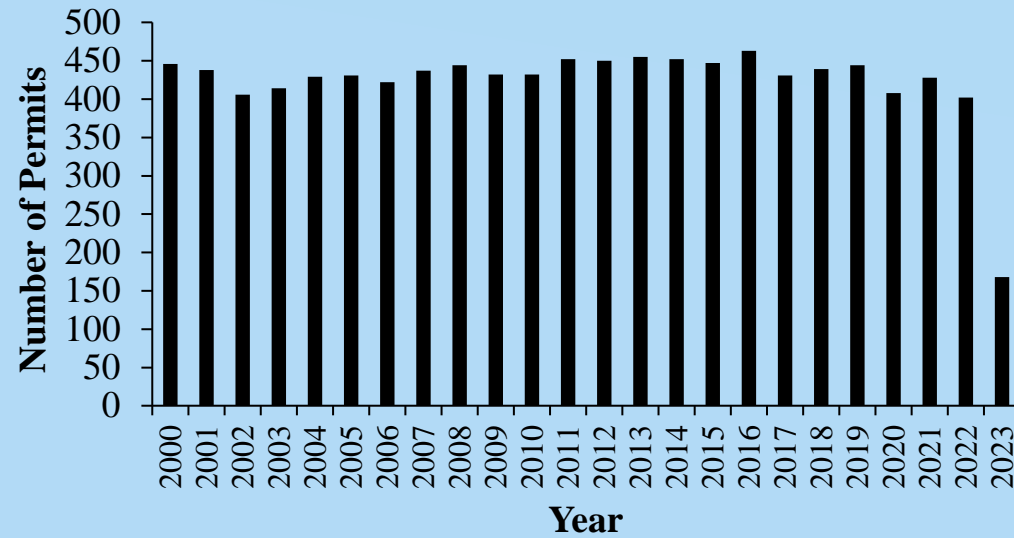
- = goal not met
- = goal met
- = goal exceeded
- = OEG

2023 escapement is preliminary and estimated based on 10-year average sport harvest above sonar (304,140 fish)

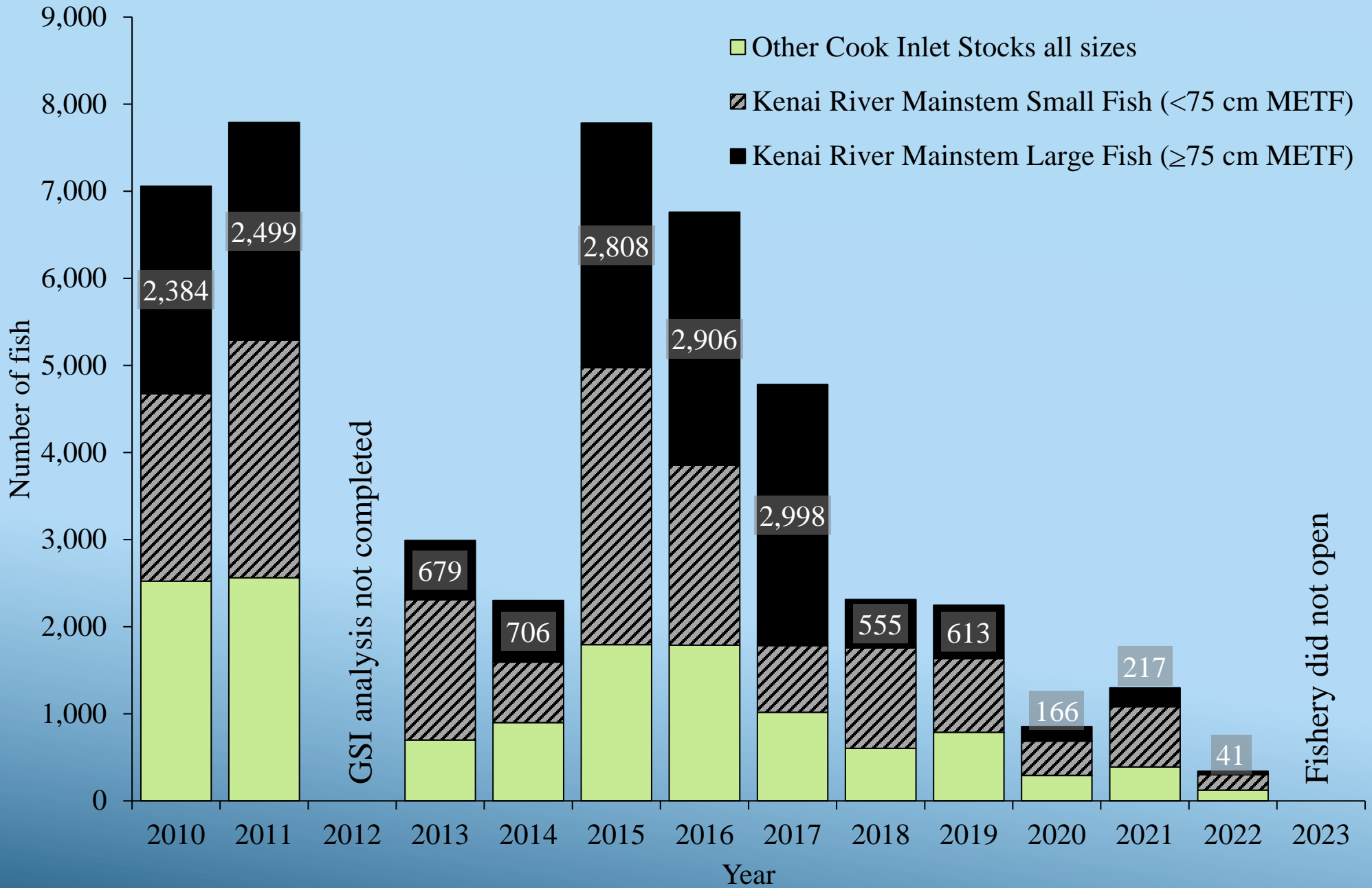
Upper Subdistrict Set Gillnet: The Eastside Setnet Fishery (ESSN)



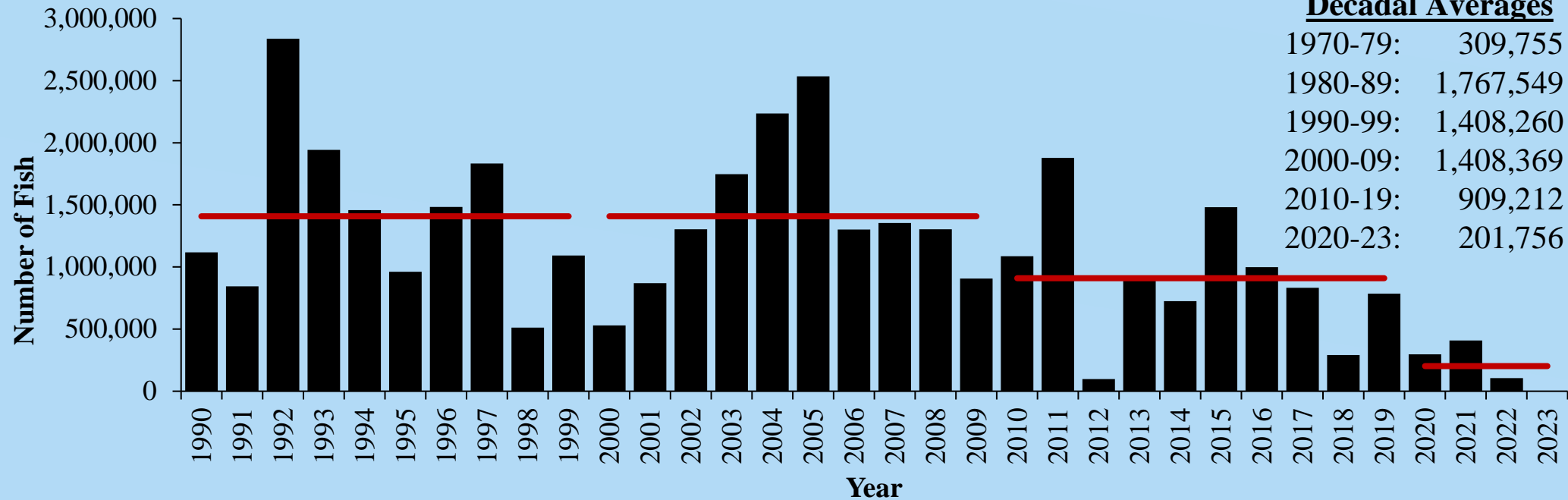
ESSN Participation, 1999-2023



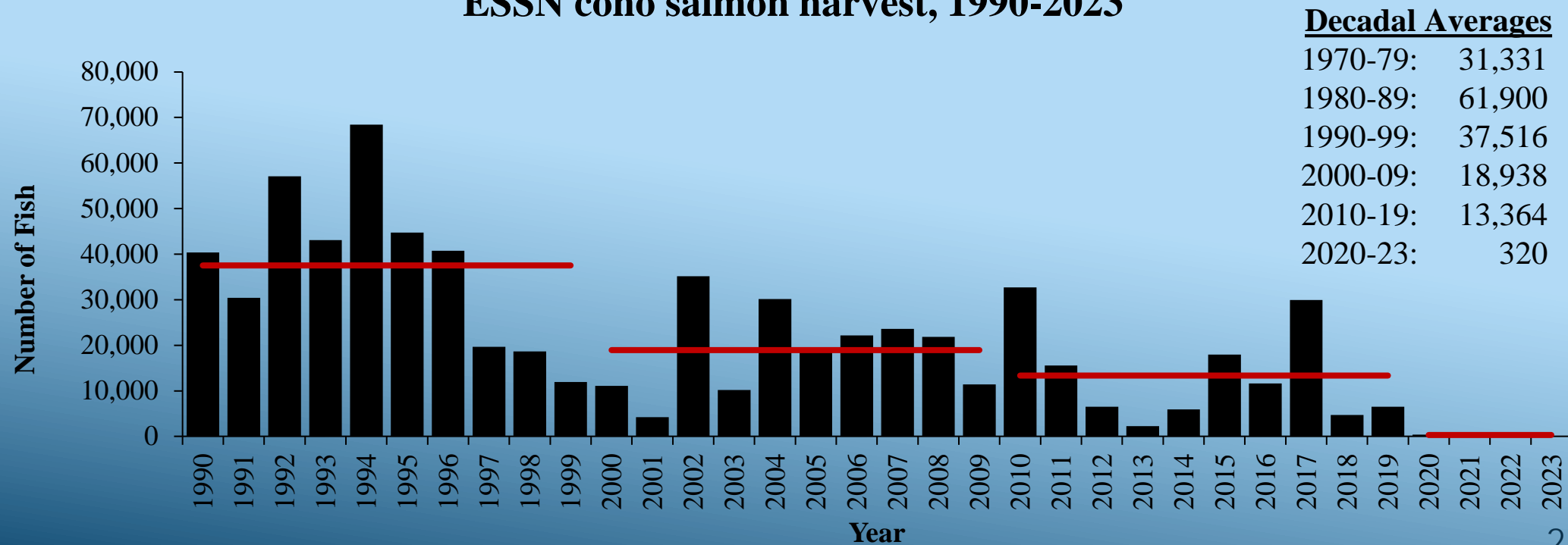
Stock Origin of ESSN King Salmon Harvest



ESSN sockeye salmon harvest, 1990-2023



ESSN coho salmon harvest, 1990-2023

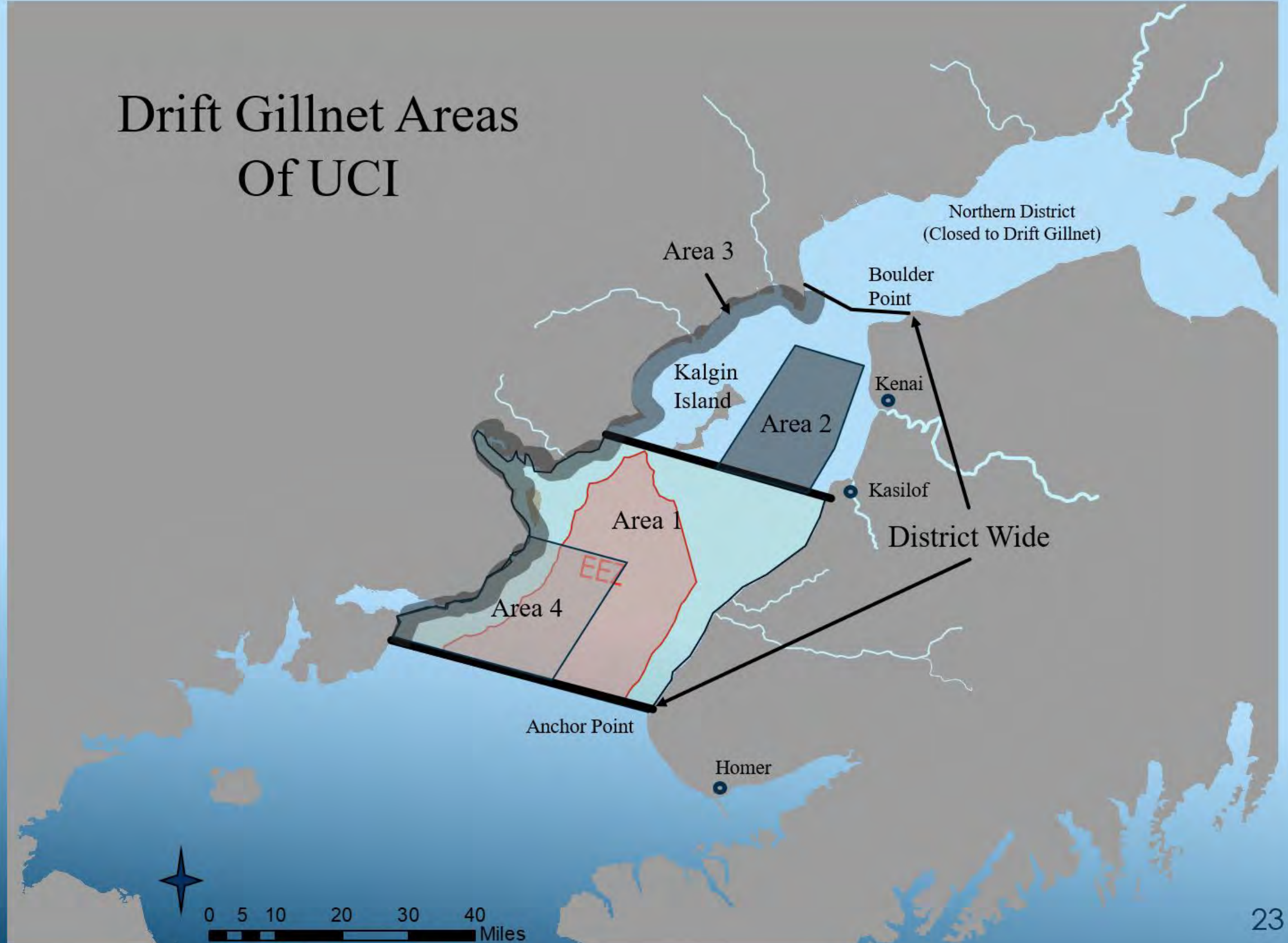


Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan

States that the department shall manage the drift gillnet fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these stocks.



Drift Gillnet Areas Of UCI



Drift Gillnet Sections of UCI



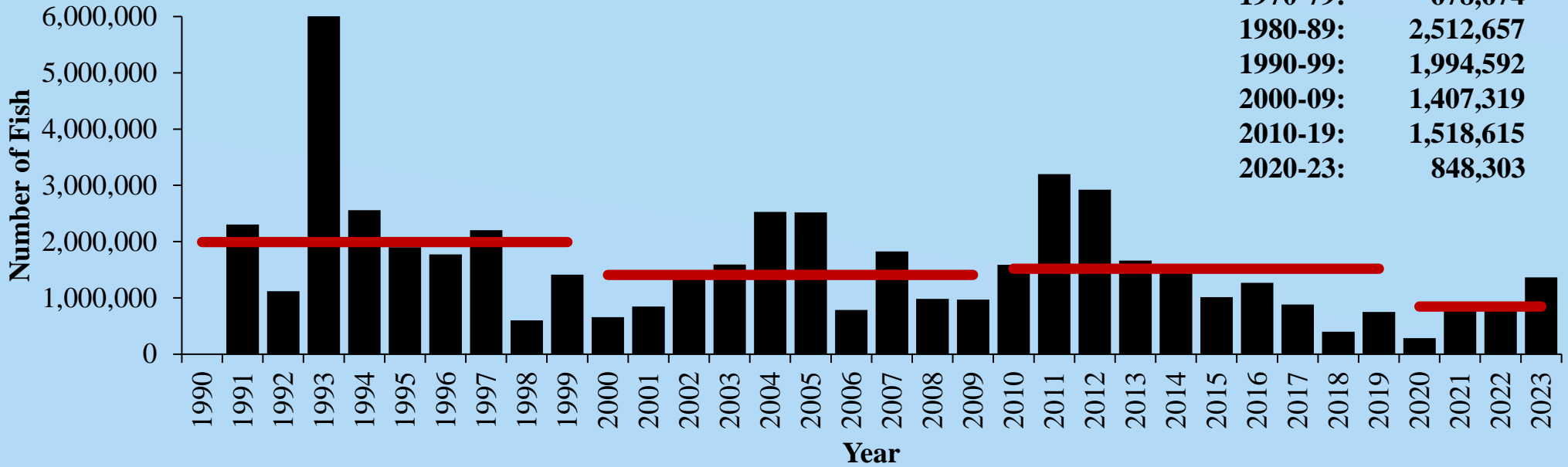
Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan

1. Season opens to district wide periods on third Monday in June, or June 19.
2. From July 9-15:
 - Regular periods restricted to Drift Area 1 & Expanded Ken/Kas Sections
 - Additional time in Expanded Ken/Kas Sections only
 - On Kenai sockeye salmon runs > 2.3, option for a 3rd Area 1 period
3. From July 16-31: Restrictions triggered by Kenai River sockeye run size.
 - < 2.3 million: All fishing is restricted to Expanded Ken/Kas or AP Sections
 - 2.3 – 4.6 million: One period/week restricted to one or all the following: Drift Area 1; Expanded Ken/Kas and AP Sections, Remaining period and all other fishing time is restricted to Expanded Ken/Kas and AP Sections.
 - > 4.6 million: One period/week may be fished district-wide.
 - All other fishing time is restricted to Expanded Ken/Kas and AP Sections
4. From August 1-15:
 - Regular periods restricted to Drift Area 1, Expanded Ken/Kas & Anchor Point Sections
 - Additional time in Expanded Ken/Kas & AP Sections only
 - After August 1, if less than 1% of the total drift gillnet sockeye harvest is taken for two consecutive periods or if the ESSN is closed under its 1% rule than weekly regular periods are restricted to areas 3 and 4.
5. After August 15: all periods are restricted to area 3 or 4.

Drift Gillnet sockeye salmon harvest, 1990-2023

Decadal Averages

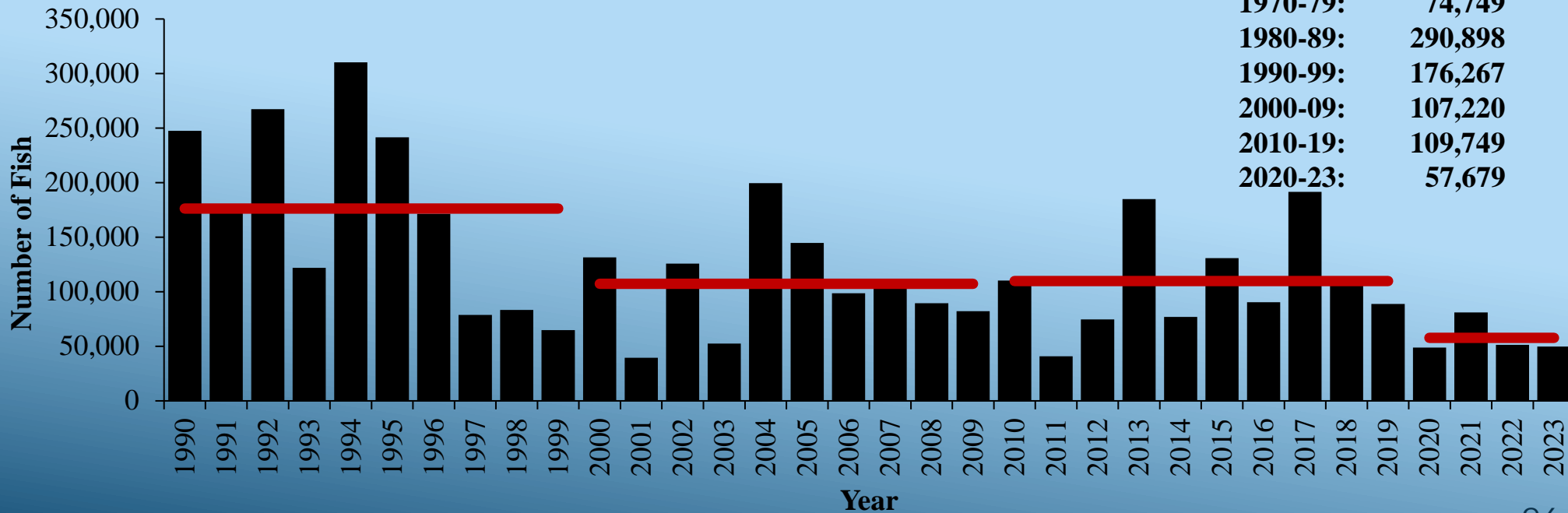
1970-79:	678,674
1980-89:	2,512,657
1990-99:	1,994,592
2000-09:	1,407,319
2010-19:	1,518,615
2020-23:	848,303



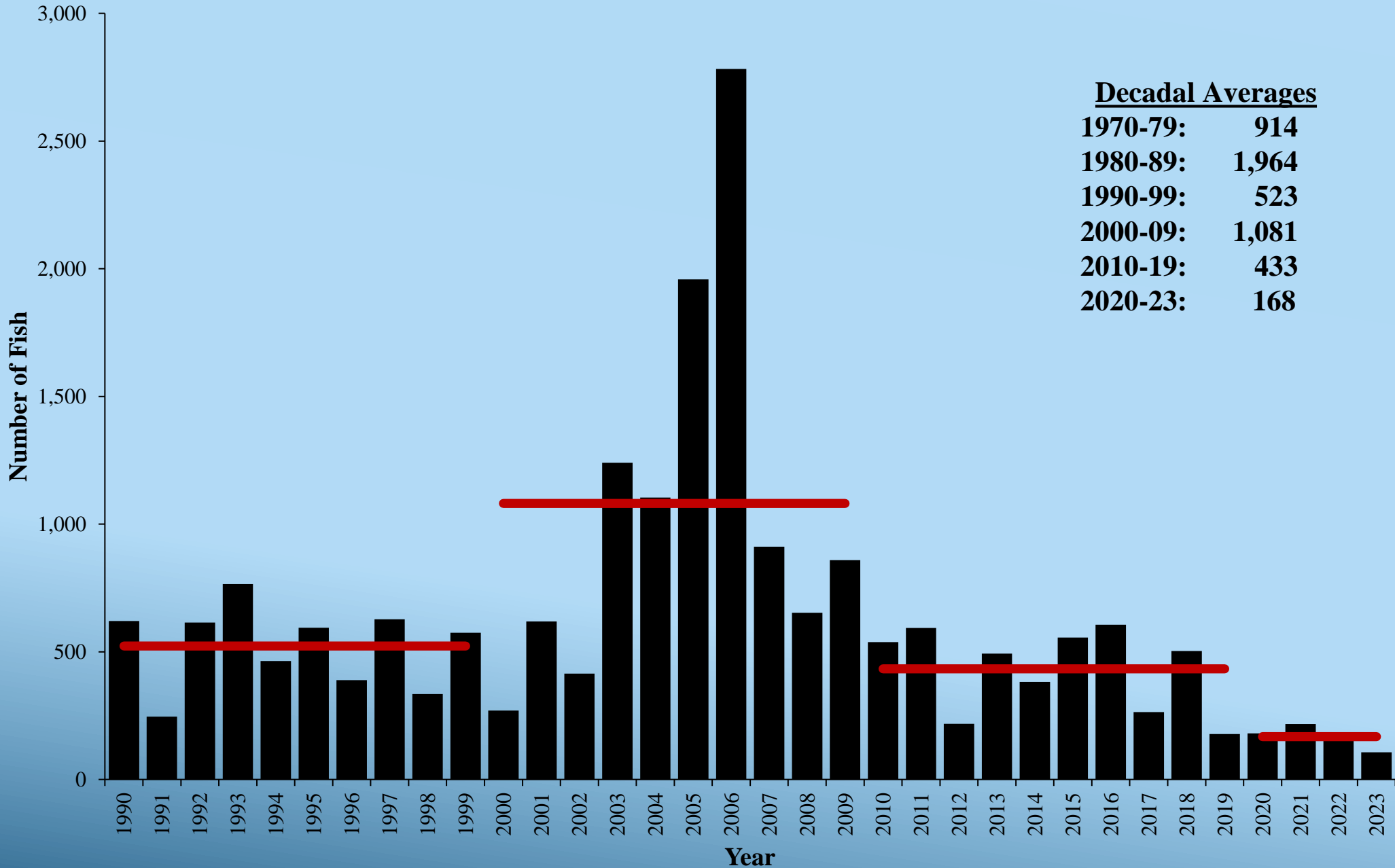
Drift Gillnet coho salmon harvest, 1990-2023

Decadal Averages

1970-79:	74,749
1980-89:	290,898
1990-99:	176,267
2000-09:	107,220
2010-19:	109,749
2020-23:	57,679



Drift Gillnet king salmon harvest, 1990-2023



UCI Commercial Sockeye Salmon Harvest, 1990-2023

DECADAL AVERAGES

1970-79: 1.1 million

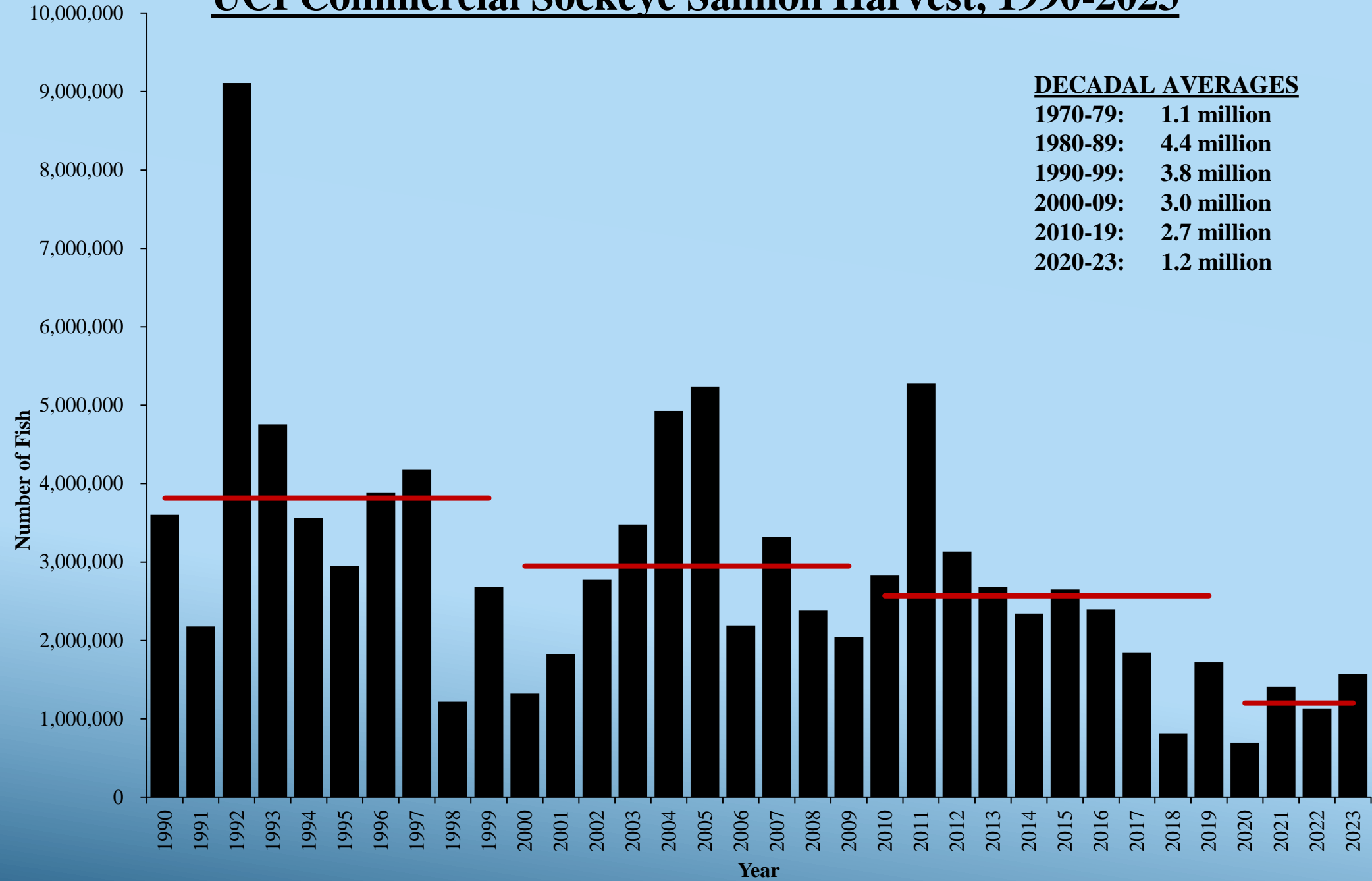
1980-89: 4.4 million

1990-99: 3.8 million

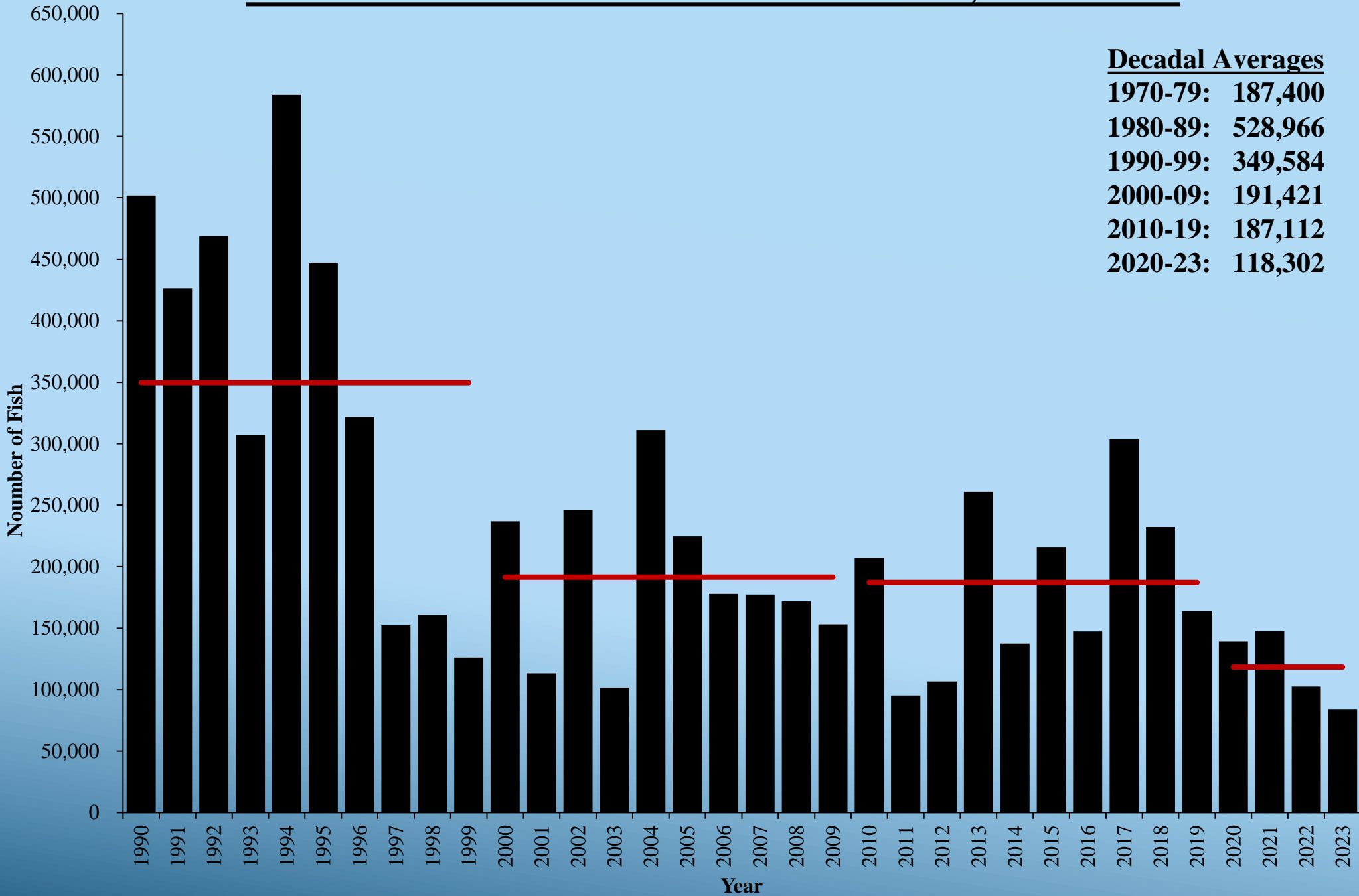
2000-09: 3.0 million

2010-19: 2.7 million

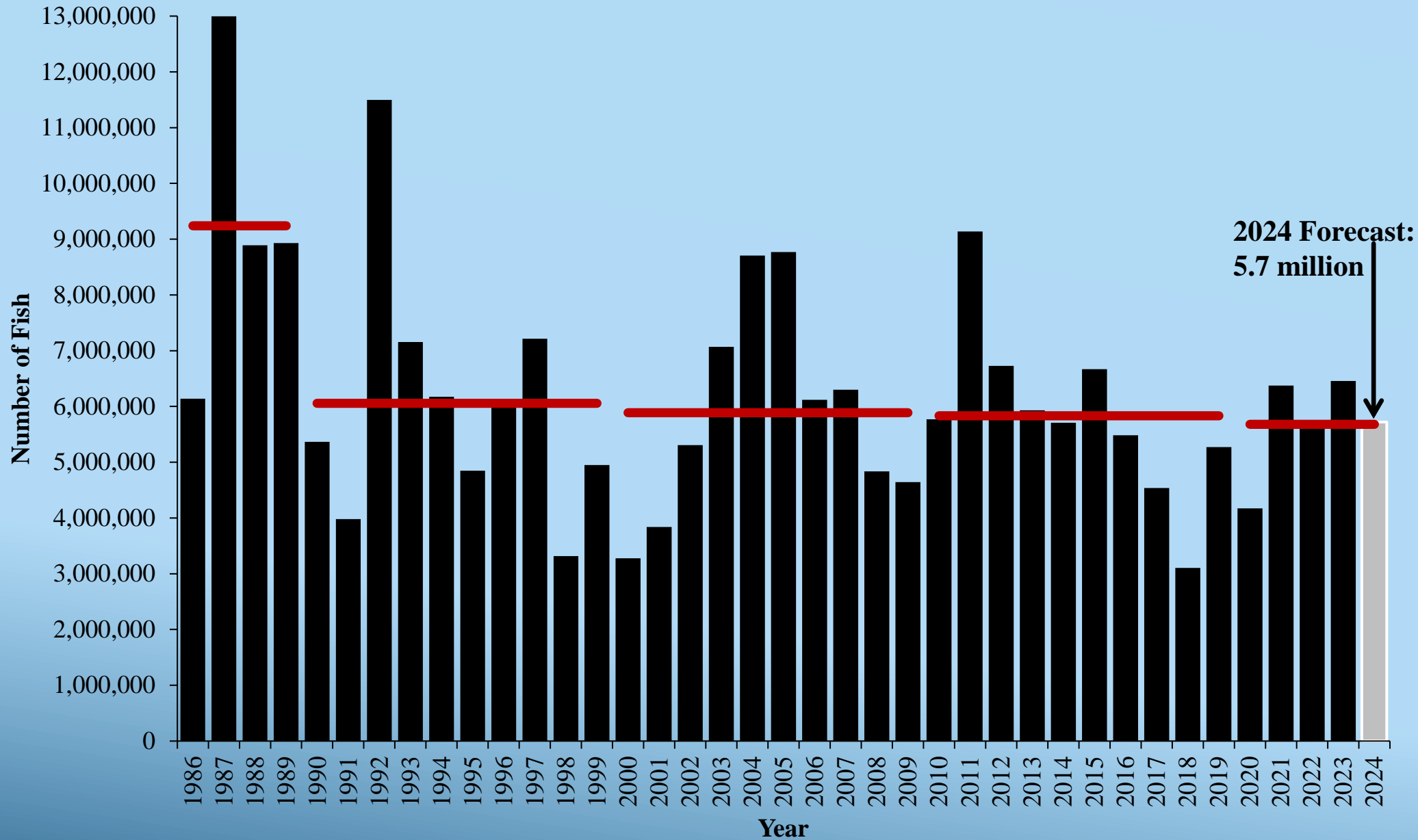
2020-23: 1.2 million



UCI Commercial Coho Salmon Harvest, 1990–2023



UCI Sockeye Salmon Total Runs with 2024 Forecast



QUESTIONS?



ND sockeye salmon harvest, 1990-2023

Decadal Averages

1970-79: 70,414

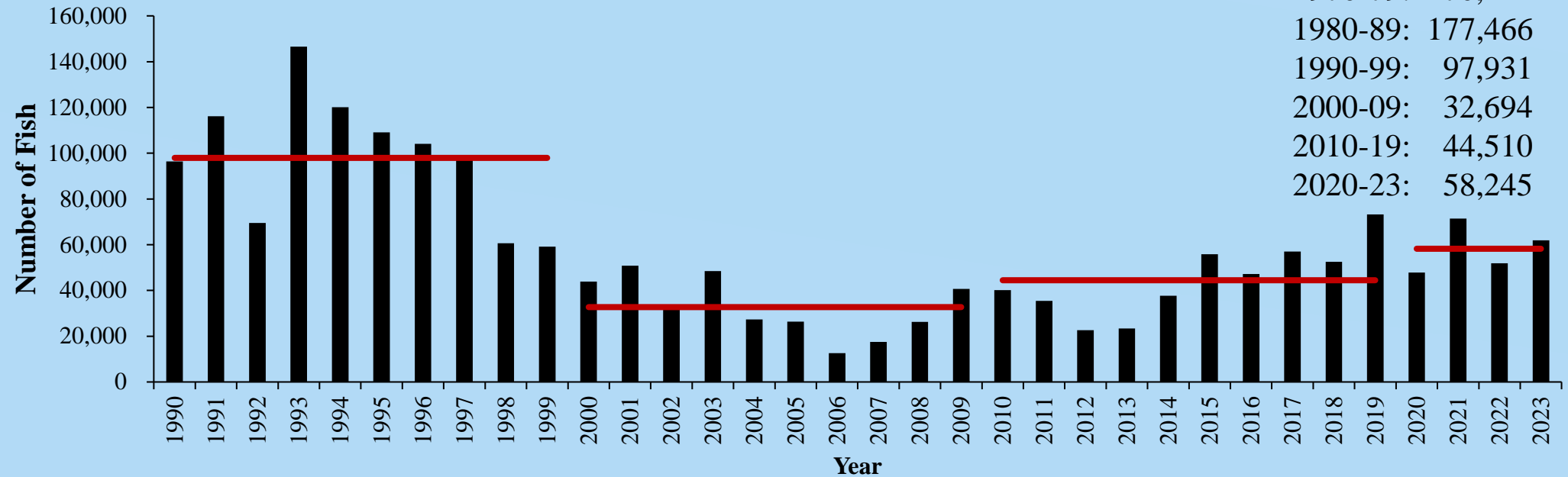
1980-89: 177,466

1990-99: 97,931

2000-09: 32,694

2010-19: 44,510

2020-23: 58,245



ND coho salmon harvest, 1990-2023

Decadal Averages

1970-79: 38,683

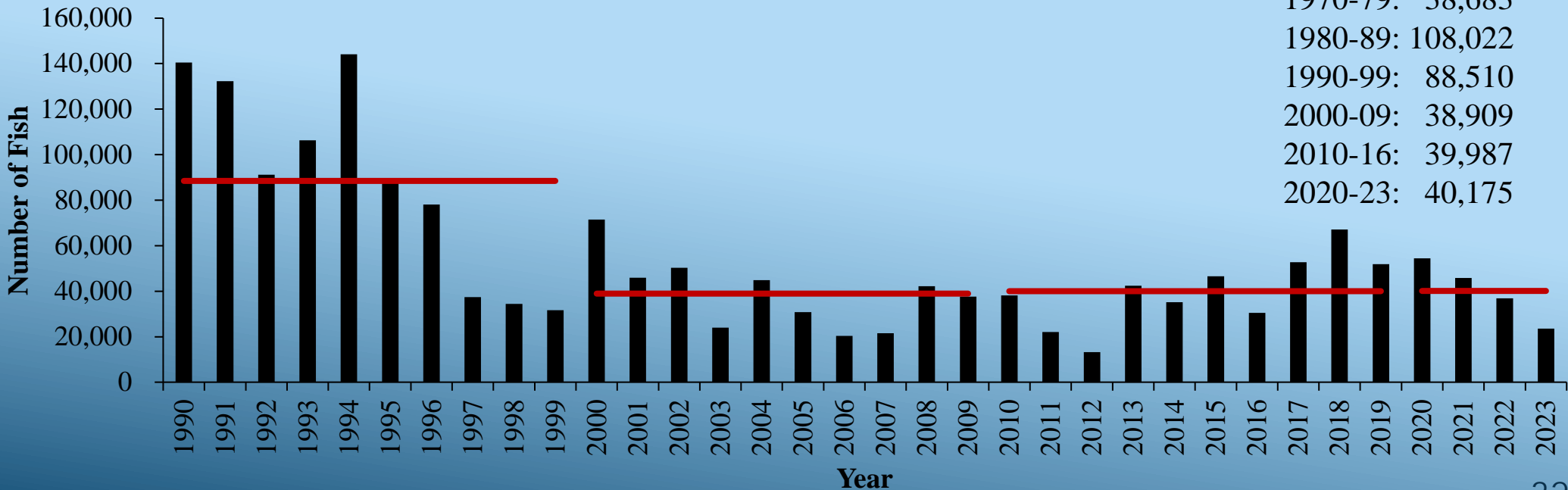
1980-89: 108,022

1990-99: 88,510

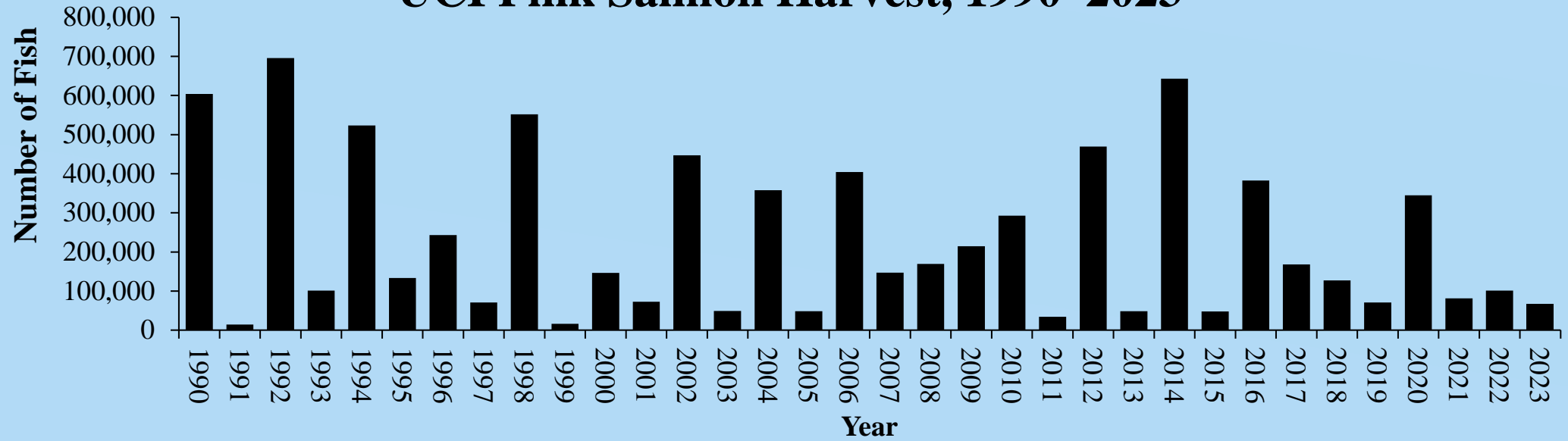
2000-09: 38,909

2010-16: 39,987

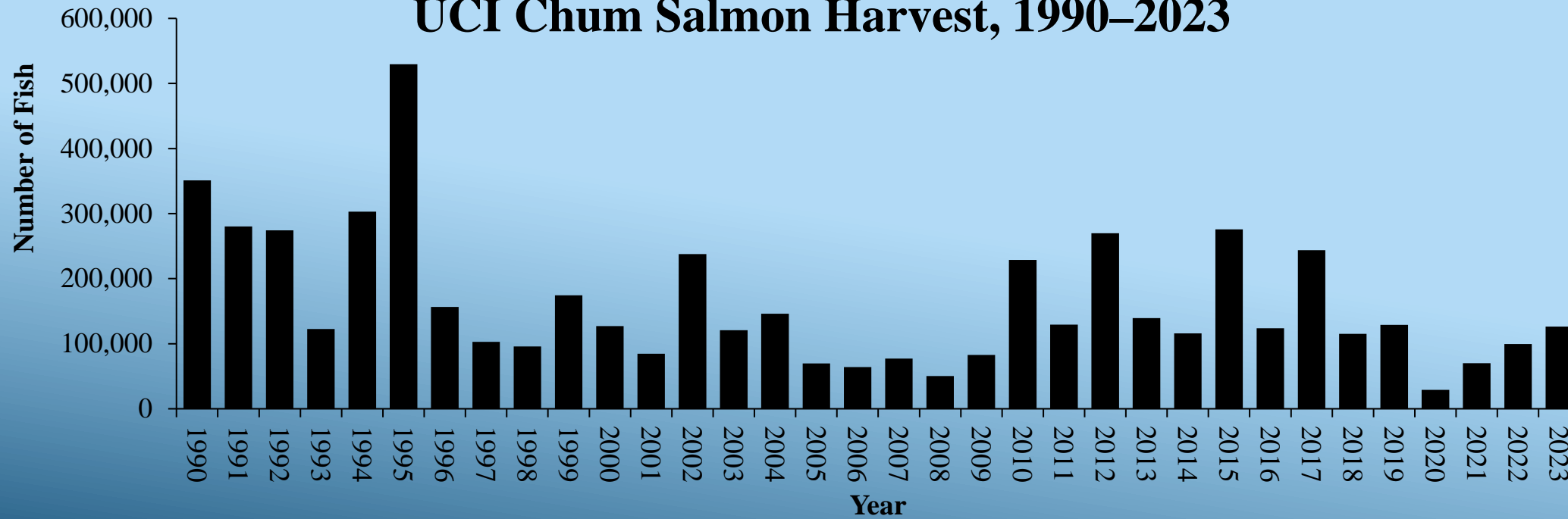
2020-23: 40,175









UCI Pink Salmon Harvest, 1990–2023










UCI Chum Salmon Harvest, 1990–2023



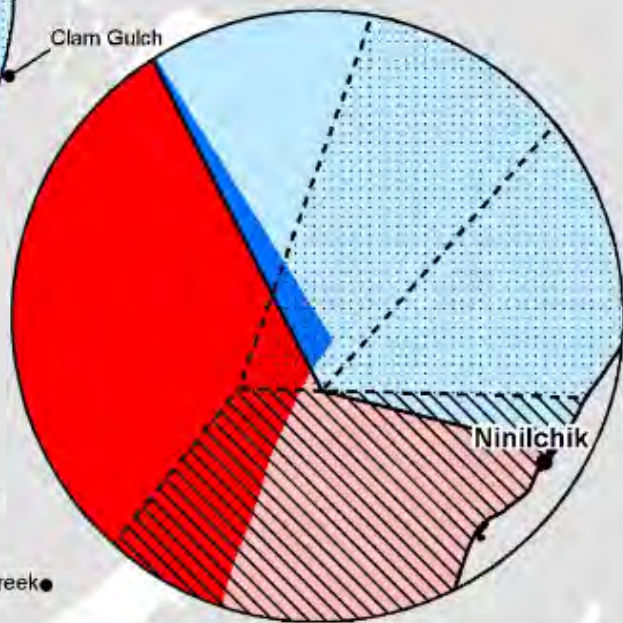
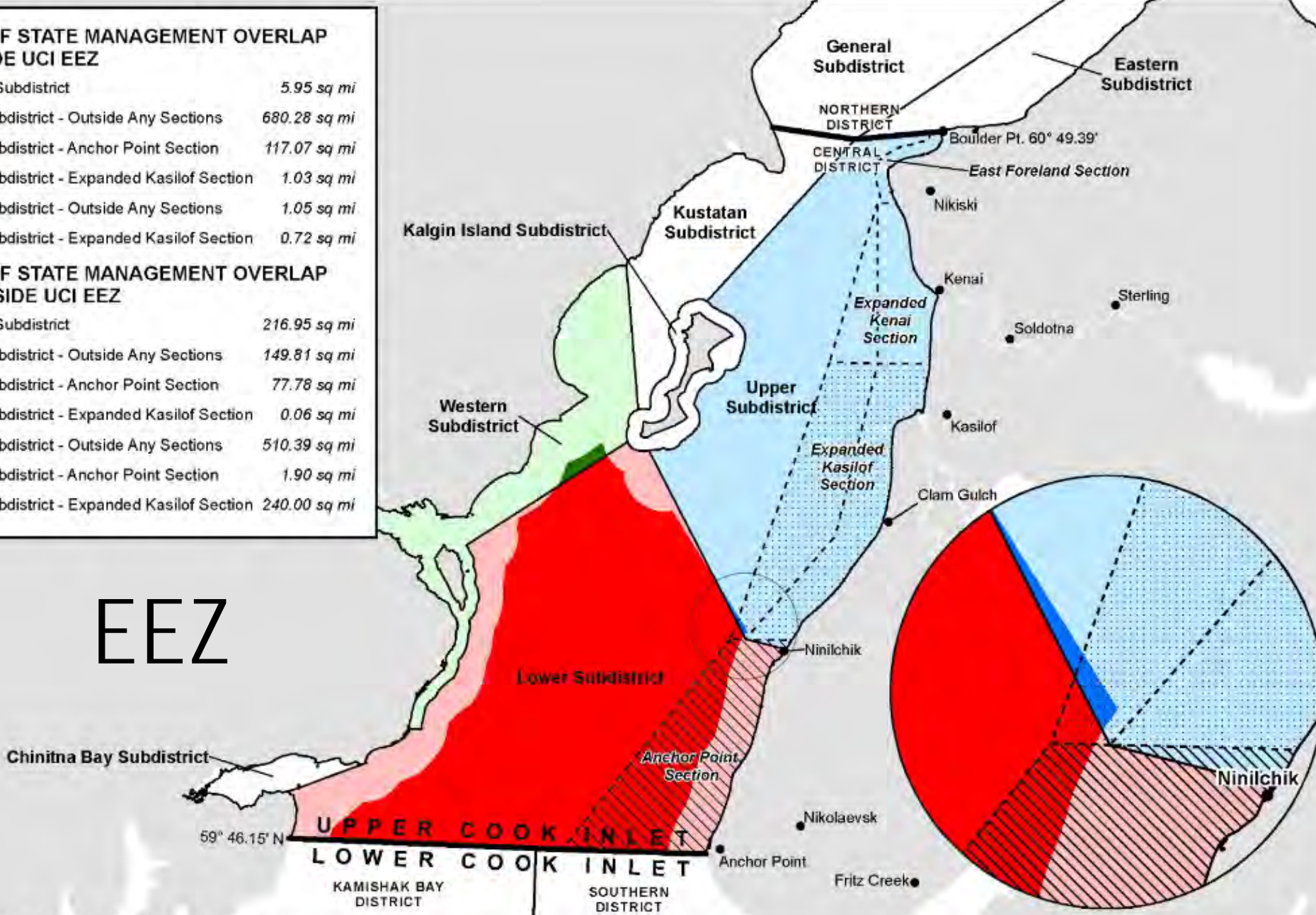
PORTIONS OF STATE MANAGEMENT OVERLAP AREAS INSIDE UCI EEZ

	Western Subdistrict	5.95 sq mi
	Lower Subdistrict - Outside Any Sections	680.28 sq mi
	Lower Subdistrict - Anchor Point Section	117.07 sq mi
	Lower Subdistrict - Expanded Kasilof Section	1.03 sq mi
	Upper Subdistrict - Outside Any Sections	1.05 sq mi
	Upper Subdistrict - Expanded Kasilof Section	0.72 sq mi

PORTIONS OF STATE MANAGEMENT OVERLAP AREAS OUTSIDE UCI EEZ

	Western Subdistrict	216.95 sq mi
	Lower Subdistrict - Outside Any Sections	149.81 sq mi
	Lower Subdistrict - Anchor Point Section	77.78 sq mi
	Lower Subdistrict - Expanded Kasilof Section	0.06 sq mi
	Upper Subdistrict - Outside Any Sections	510.39 sq mi
	Upper Subdistrict - Anchor Point Section	1.90 sq mi
	Upper Subdistrict - Expanded Kasilof Section	240.00 sq mi

EEZ



Source: esri, ADF&G, IPHC, ADNR, AK State Geo-spatial Data Clearinghouse

E: Southeast Corner: 60° 20.43' N., 151° 28.55' W.

Drift Gillnet Area 3: * within 1 nmi of mean lower low water (zero edge); statistical areas delineated at mean high water
Point on West Foreland: 60° 42.70' N., 151° 42.30' W.

Drift Gillnet Area 4:
A: Southwest Corner: 59° 46.15' N., 153° 00.20' W.
B: Northwest Corner: 59° 04.70' N., 152° 34.74' W.
C: Northeast Corner: 59° 04.70' N., 153° 09.90' W.
D: Southeast Corner: 59° 46.15' N., 153° 18.62' W.



- Legend**
- UCI salmon regulatory and reference points
 - * ADF&G Assessment projects
 - ▲ UCI Offshore test fishery stations
 - NOAA 3 Nautical Mile (nmi) line
 - UCI Offshore test fishery line
 - UCI salmon district lines
 - Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
 - Susitna River drainage basin
 - Drift Gillnet Areas (5 AAC 21.53 (g))
 - Drift Gillnet Area 1
 - Drift Gillnet Area 2
 - Drift Gillnet Area 3
 - Drift Gillnet Area 4

