

AN OVERVIEW OF SPORT FISHERIES IN THE ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM REGION

Presented by:

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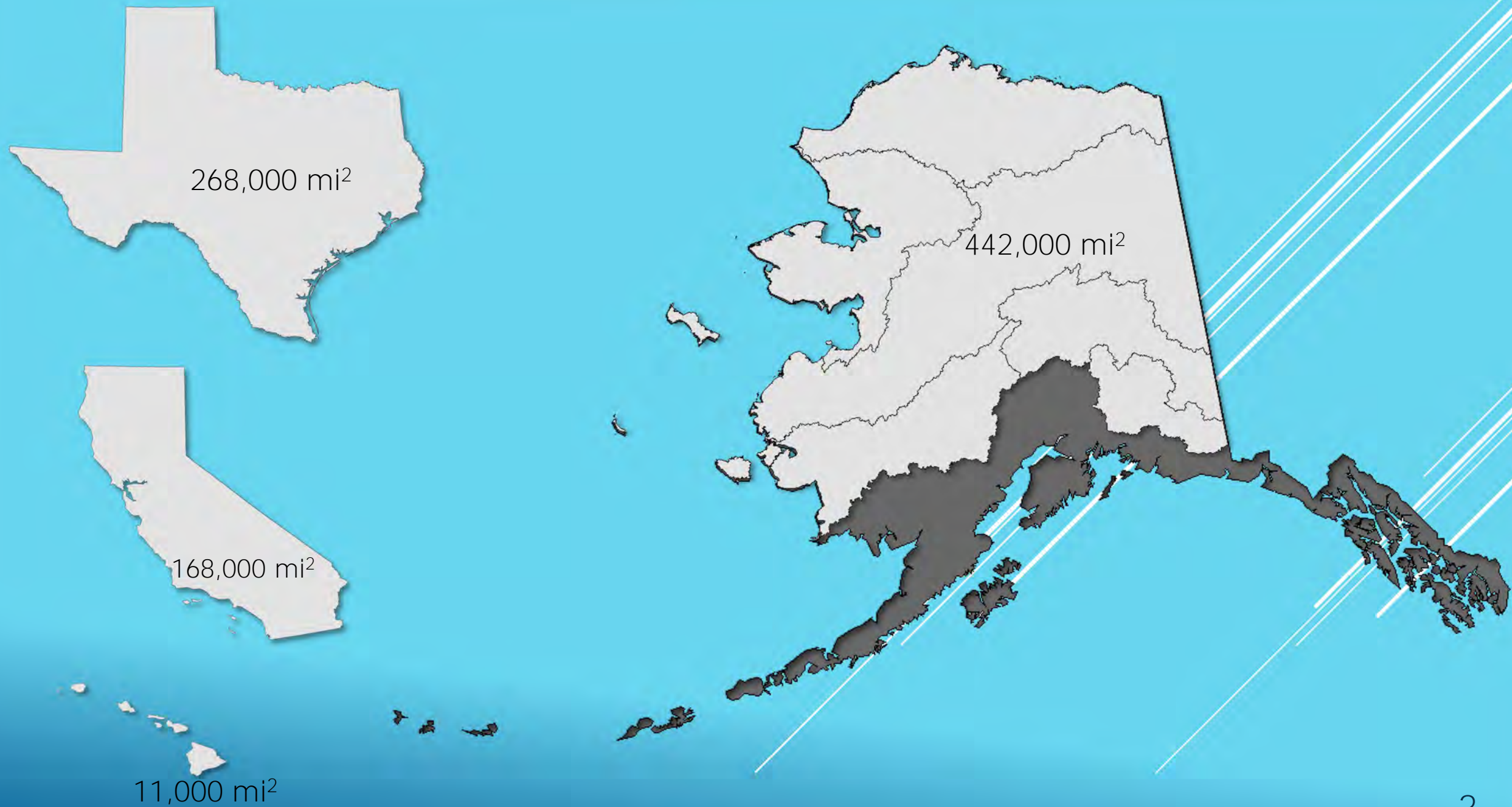
ADF&G, Sport Fish Division

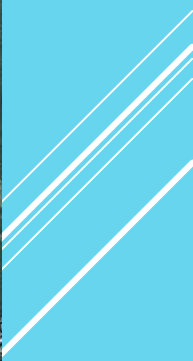


INTRODUCTION

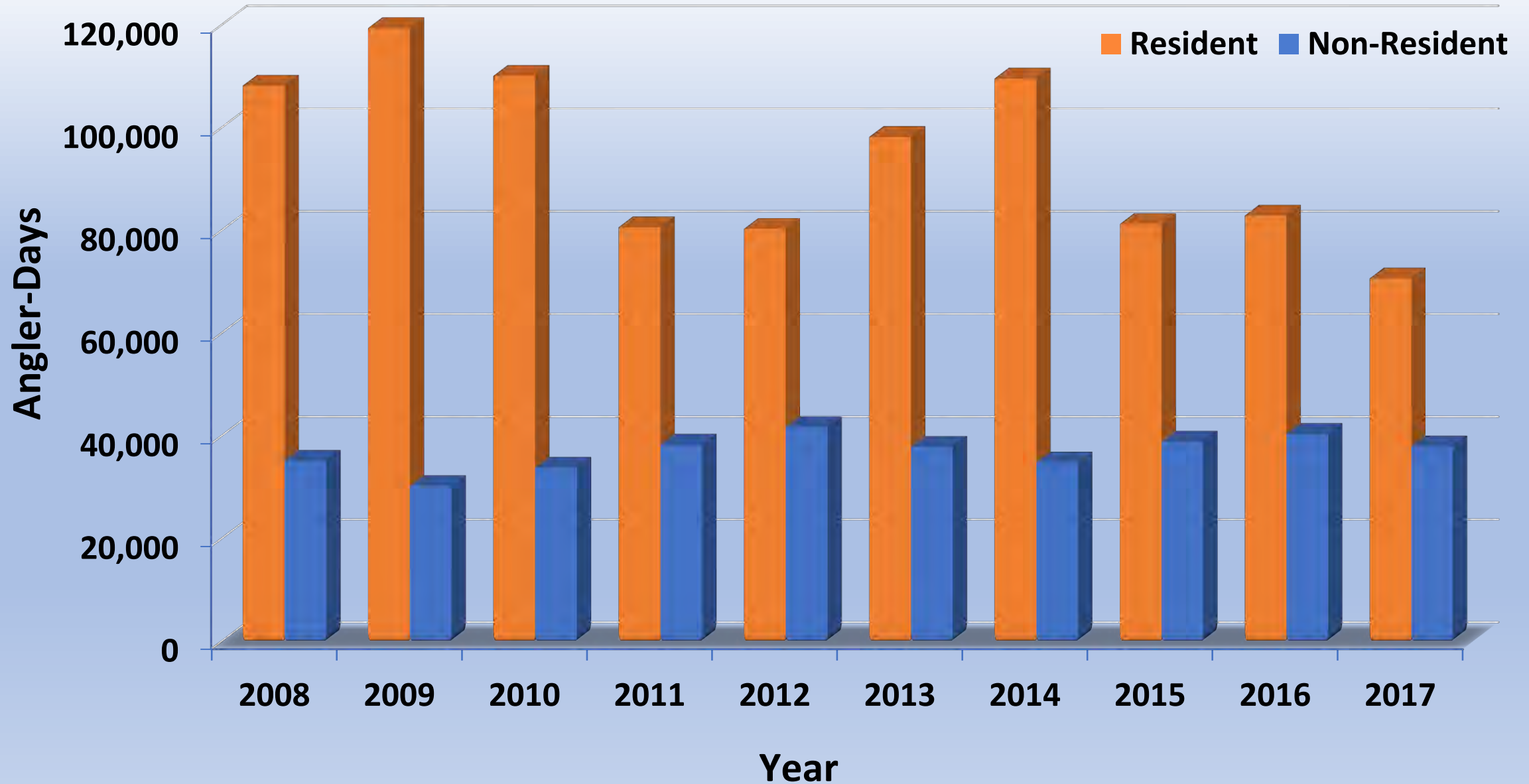
- ▶ Describe the AYK Region and the five Management Areas
- ▶ Describe demographics of AYK sport fisheries
 - ▶ Geographic size
 - ▶ Fishing effort
 - ▶ Stocked waters program
- ▶ Highlight popular and unique fisheries
- ▶ Reference BOF proposals by Area







Sport Fishing Effort in AYK Region by Residency, 2008-2017



STOCKED WATERS PROGRAM



STOCKED WATERS PROGRAM



- 46,000 square foot facility
- **Contains (8) 30' tanks, (20) 10' tanks and (4) 5' tanks**

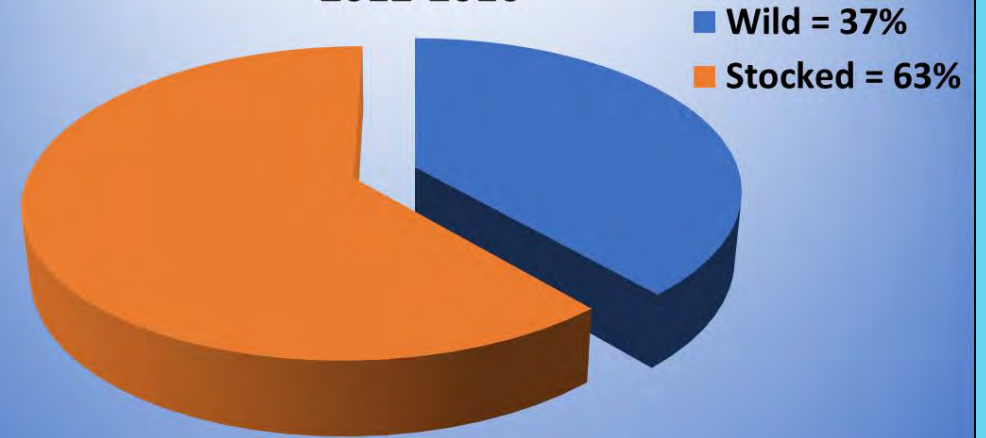
- Maximum capacity of 250,000 catchable-size fish and 735,000 fingerling-size fish



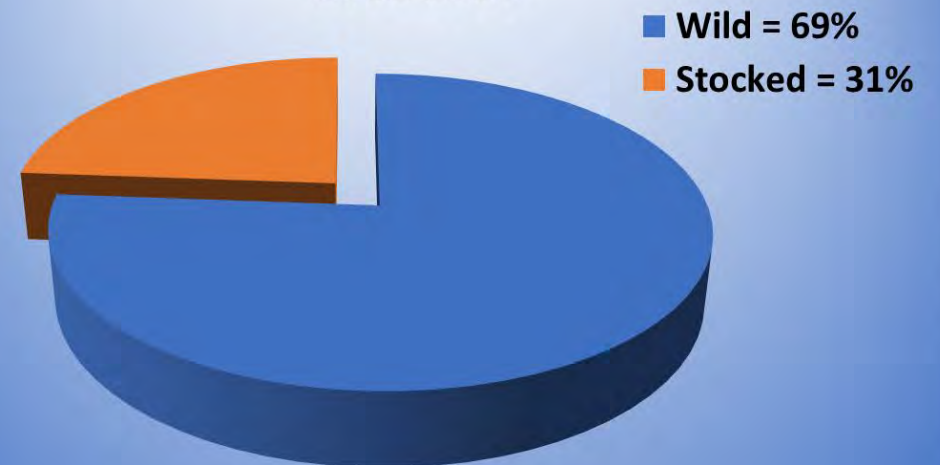
IMPACT OF STOCKED WATERS PROGRAM TO AREA FISHERIES

- ▶ 120 roadside and remote stocked lakes in the Region
- ▶ Recently, guiding operations have started to focus more on stocked waters
- ▶ These lakes function to provide diverse angling opportunities, shift pressure from wild stocks, and provide harvest alternatives

**Harvest in the Tanana Management Area,
2012-2016**



**Catch in the Tanana Management Area,
2012-2016**



HIGHLIGHTS OF POPULAR AND UNIQUE SPORT FISHERIES IN THE AYK REGION

► *Hope you enjoy it!*

"START VIDEO"
Button



2018 AYK SPORTFISH PROPOSALS

- ▶ 16 proposals for Tanana Management Area
 - ▶ 4 northern pike
 - ▶ 3 Arctic grayling
 - ▶ 3 stocked waters
 - ▶ 2 lake trout
 - ▶ 2 non-salmon
 - ▶ 1 king salmon
 - ▶ 1 rainbow trout
- ▶ 5 proposals for Kuskokwim Management Area
 - ▶ 2 king salmon
 - ▶ 2 methods and means
 - ▶ 1 all-species



MINTO FLATS NORTHERN PIKE

- ▶ Large wetland complex west of Fairbanks, supports the largest sport fishery for northern pike in the Region
- ▶ Sport and subsistence fisheries are managed under the subsistence and sport Minto Flats Northern Pike Management plans (5 AAC 01.244 and 5 AAC 74.044)
- ▶ Proposal 78 addresses gear types used in Minto Flats northern pike sport fishery



FIELDING LAKE LAKE TROUT

- ▶ Located in the Delta River drainage, supports popular roadside lake trout fishery
- ▶ Catches average 360/yr, harvests 44/yr
- ▶ **Current bag and possession limit of 1 fish \geq 26 inches**
- ▶ Sustained yield estimate = 81 lake trout per **year \geq 26 inches**
- ▶ Proposal 70 – allow for harvest of 1 fish/day under 28 inches
- ▶ Proposal 71- remove minimum size restriction for harvest



TANANA DRAINAGE ARCTIC GRAYLING

- ▶ Roadside Arctic grayling fisheries very popular
- ▶ Chena, Delta Clearwater, and Chatanika rivers 3 of largest fisheries
- ▶ All three have different regulations:
 - ▶ Chatanika River open to 5 fish/day, no size limit, and no closed seasons
 - ▶ Chena River is catch-and-release only
 - ▶ **Delta Clearwater River is open to 1 fish/day \leq 12 inches, June 1 – December 31 only**
- ▶ Proposal 72 – Catch-and-release only for Chatanika River
- ▶ Proposal 73 – Allow harvest in Chena River and Piledriver Slough
- ▶ Proposal 74 – Remove closed season in Delta Clearwater River



TANANA DRAINAGE NORTHERN PIKE

- Chisana River drainage
 - Located in the Tanana Drainage near Canada border
 - Catches and harvests very low, access limited
 - Proposal 75 - repeal current regulation, and revert to **background of 5/day, only one fish \geq 30 inches**
- Volkmar Lake
 - Remote but close to Delta Junction and Fort Greely
 - Catches average 235 fish/yr, harvests 25 fish/yr
 - Proposal 76 - remove spawning closure (Apr 20 – Jun 1)
- Little Harding Lake
 - Roadside lake near Fairbanks, next to Harding Lake
 - Pike eradicated in 1976 to develop rainbow trout fishery
 - Proposal 77 - open Little Harding Lake to pike fishing



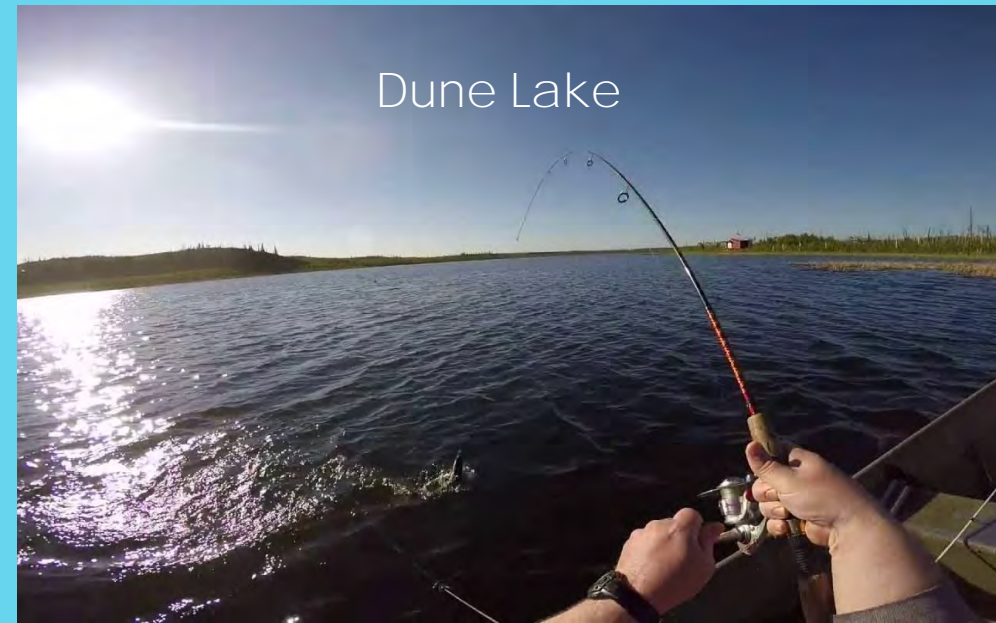
TANANA DRAINAGE STOCKED WATERS

Dune and Koole Lakes

- ▶ Dune Lake located 26 air miles south west of Nenana
- ▶ Koole Lake located 52 air miles south east of Fairbanks
- ▶ Access by plane or snowmachine only
- ▶ Stocked with Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, and coho salmon

Management

- ▶ Both lakes managed under the conservative management bag limits (5 fish/day in combination, **only one fish ≥ 18 inches**)
- ▶ Proposals 79 and 80 - move lakes to regional management (10 salmon, and 5 other fish, of all **stocked species combined, only one fish ≥ 18 inches**)



OTHER TANANA DRAINAGE SALMON FISHERIES

- ▶ In the Tanana River drainage, the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is an aggregate of 3 fish/day
- ▶ Average annual harvest are 500 coho and 125 chum salmon drainagewide
- ▶ In some streams, both coho and chum salmon can be caught on the same day
- ▶ Proposal 81 would remove the aggregate daily harvest limit for other salmon in the Tanana Drainage



TOKLAT RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES

- ▶ Glacier-fed stream that flows north into the Kantishna River
- ▶ Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Plan implemented in 1993
- ▶ Seasonal sport and subsistence fishing closure (August 15-May 15) adopted to protect chum salmon stocks
- ▶ In 2007, BOF determined Yukon River fall chum salmon no longer a yield concern
- ▶ Proposals 82 and 83 would remove fishing closure period and allow for sport and subsistence fishing year-round for all species in Toklat River drainage



KUSKOKWIM RIVER DRAINAGE KING SALMON

- ▶ Due to poor returns, preseason or inseason restrictions have been made to the subsistence fishery since 2012
- ▶ In addition, sport fishery for king salmon has been closed by EO annually since 2012
- ▶ Proposal 118 would close king salmon sport fishery by regulation drainagewide whenever subsistence and/or commercial fishery is closed to king salmon harvest
- ▶ Proposal 119 would close king salmon sport fishery by regulation on the Aniak River above Doestock Creek only by regulation whenever subsistence fishery is closed to king salmon harvest



KUSKOKWIM AREA SALMON AND NONSALMON

- ▶ Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, and Aniak rivers all popular with guides and outfitters as a raft trip sport fishery
- ▶ Proposal 120 would close sport fishing and rafting on the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, and Kisaralik rivers from May 31 to October 31 in times of salmon conservation
- ▶ Proposal 121 would limit the number of days per week that sport fishing guides can work in the Aniak River drainage



KUSKOKWIM AREA METHODS AND MEANS

- ▶ Concern by locals that sport fishers are leaving discarded carcasses on the shore near fish camps
- ▶ Has been an ongoing complaint particularly in the Kwethluk, Kisaralik, and Kasigluk river drainages
- ▶ Proposal 122 would require non-utilized parts of a salmon carcass (e.g., tail and viscera) to be retained





Questions?