

# Overview of Sport Fisheries in the Lower Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast Management Areas



Mike Booz

Lower Cook Inlet Area Manager  
Division of Sport Fish  
ADF&G Homer Office

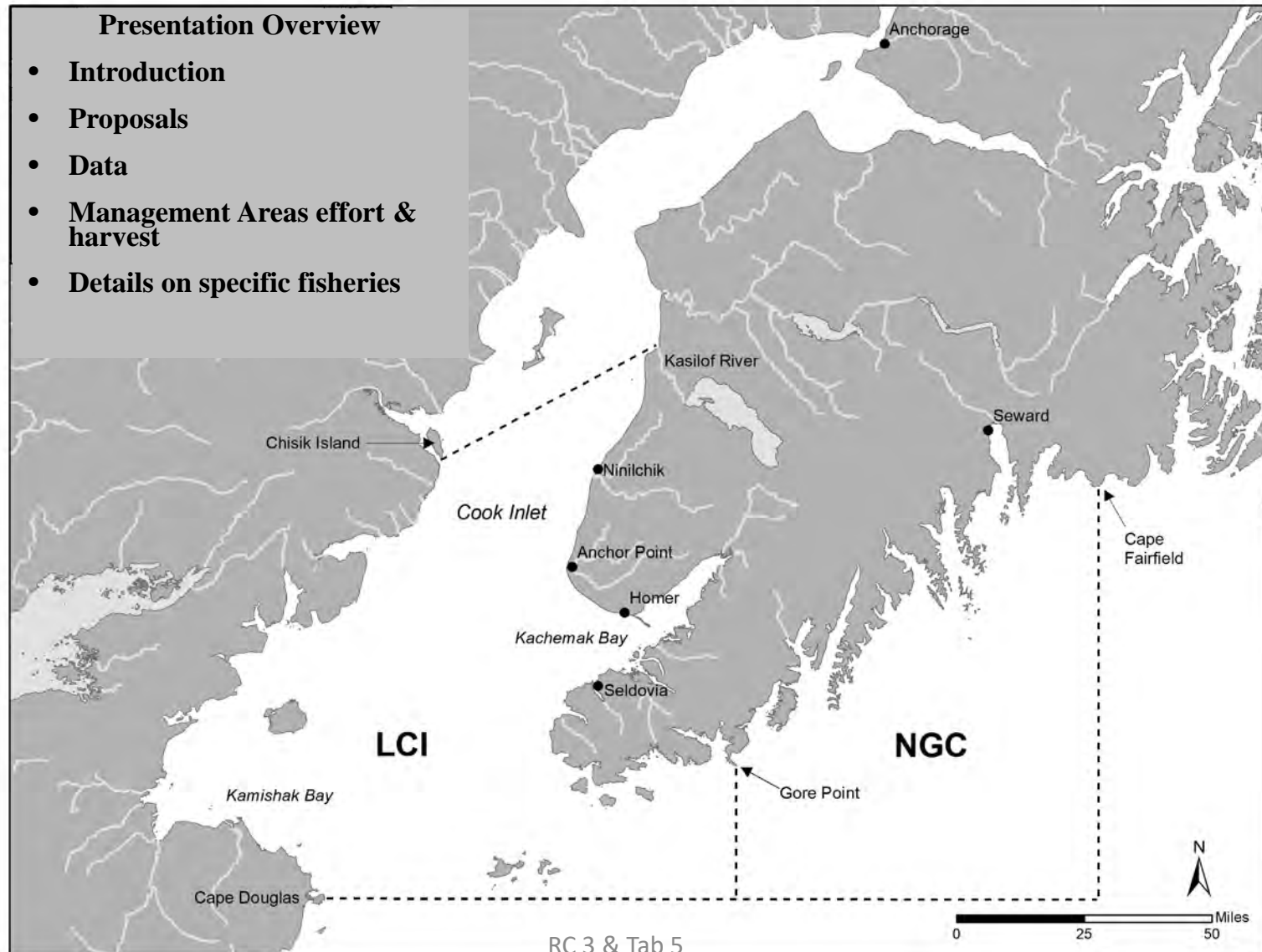
Jay Baumer

ANC/NGC/PWS Area Manager  
&  
Division of Sport Fish  
ADF&G Anchorage Office

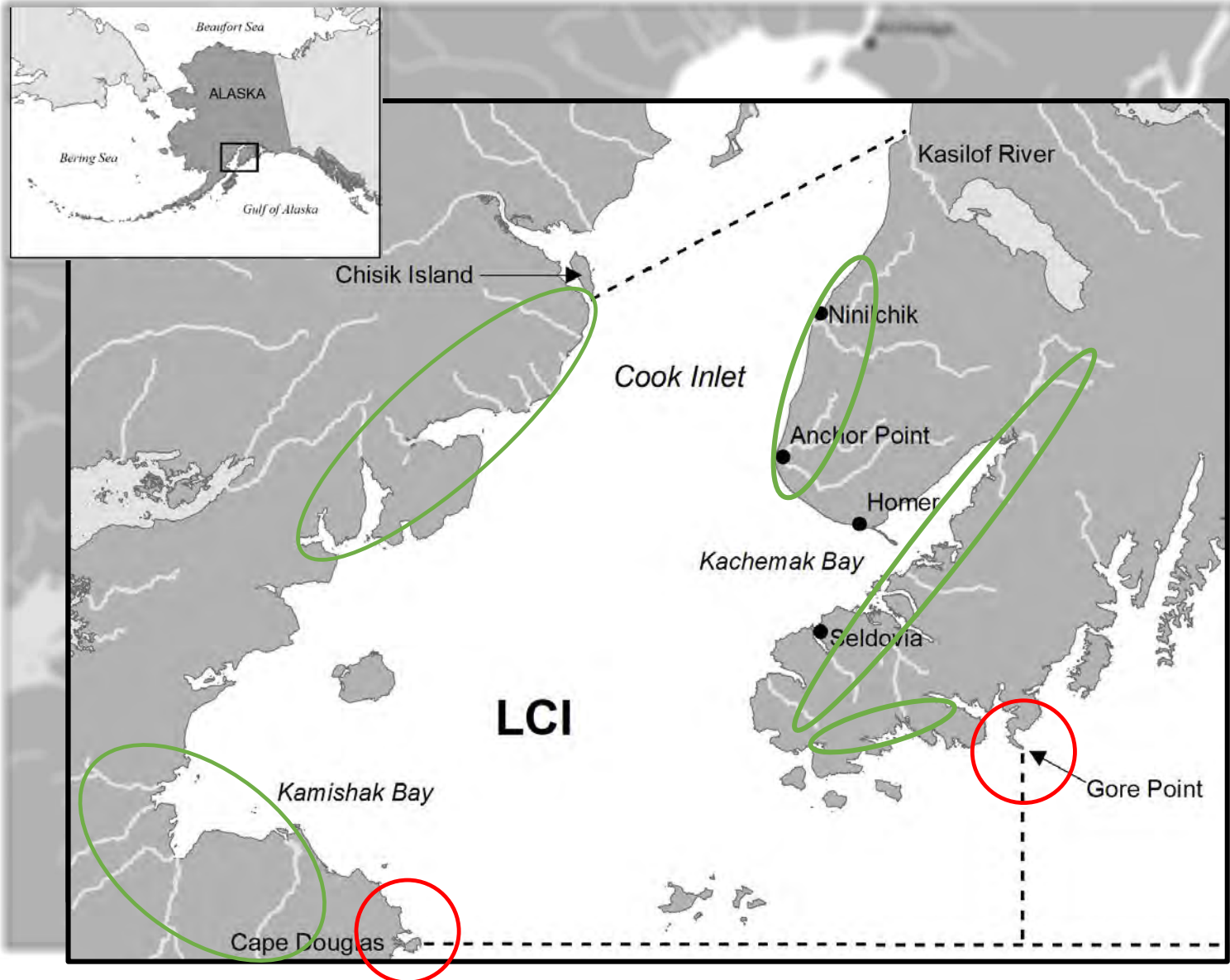
# The Lower Cook Inlet & North Gulf Coast Sport Fish Management Areas

## Presentation Overview

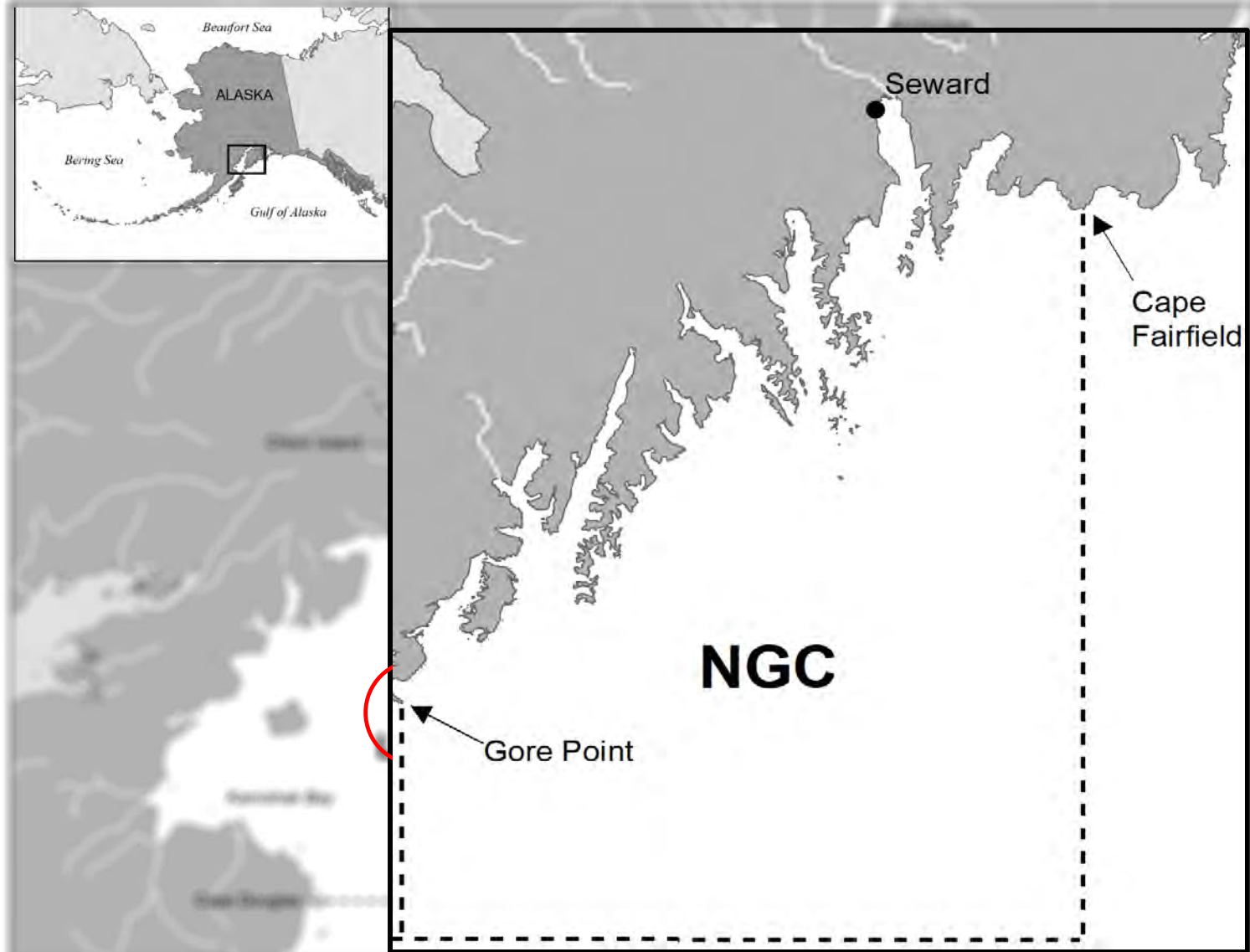
- Introduction
- Proposals
- Data
- Management Areas effort & harvest
- Details on specific fisheries



# The Lower Cook Inlet & North Gulf Coast Sport Fish Management Areas



# The Lower Cook Inlet & North Gulf Coast Sport Fish Management Areas



# LCIMA & NGCMA Sport proposals

## Lower Cook Inlet

### Freshwater-

- Anchor River boundary
- Gear

### Saltwater-

- King salmon
- Lingcod
- Snagging
- Area closure

## North Gulf Coast

### Freshwater-

- Youth fishery

### Saltwater-

- Lingcod



## LCIMA & NGCMA Sport Fisheries not included

- Halibut- IPHC & NPFMC
- Tanner crab- Statewide Tanner & King crab BOF meeting in March 2020
- Razor & Hardshell Clams- Miscellaneous Shellfish BOF meeting in 2021



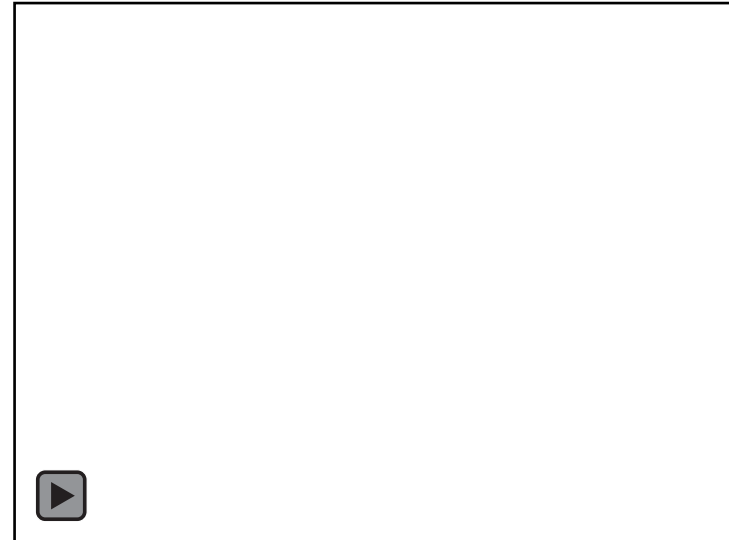
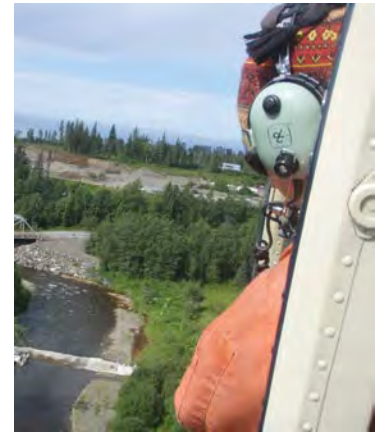
# Sport Fish Data & Monitoring

## Sport Fishery Data

- Effort, catch & harvest data- SWHS, charter logbook
- Sport fisheries angler interview & harvest sampling

## LCIMA Stock Assessment Data

- Salmon escapement monitoring
- Shellfish abundance surveys



# LCIMA & NGCMA Sport Fish Effort

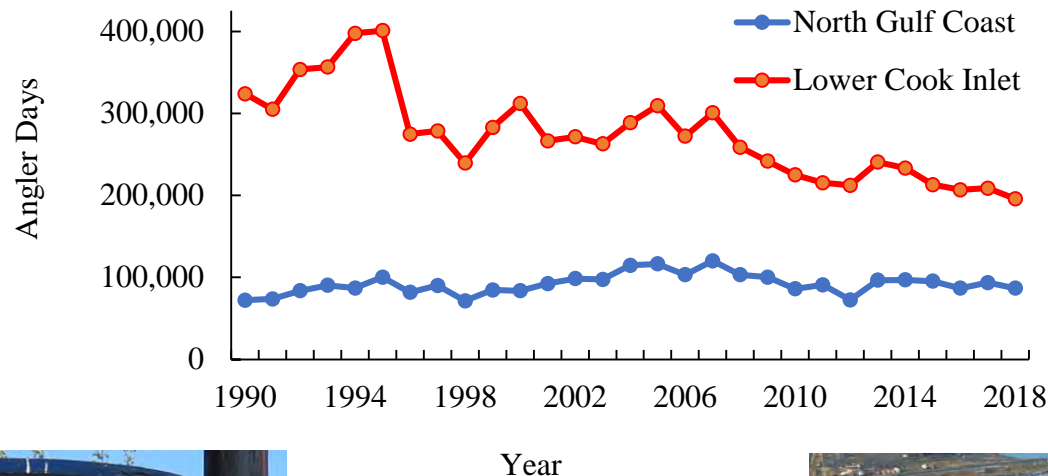
## Lower Cook Inlet

- ~10% of the total sport fishing effort in AK occurs in LCIMA
- ~65% saltwater
- ~70% unguided anglers
- Downward trend

## North Gulf Coast

- ~5% of the total sport fishing effort in AK occurs in LCIMA
- ~98% saltwater
- ~60% unguided anglers
- Stable trend

Total Sport Fish Effort by Management Area



# LCIMA & NGCMA Sport Fishing Harvest Trends

## Lower Cook Inlet

- Halibut primary fish species
- Increased rockfish harvest
- Recent king & coho salmon harvest similar
- Recent SW king salmon harvest 23% of statewide

Lower Cook Inlet Management Area

Averages	Pacific halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish	King salmon	Coho salmon
1990–2008	194,763	2,751	7,376	18,409	31,146
2009–2015	192,295	5,281	19,515	11,444	18,335
2016–2018	163,399	3,090	35,103	19,872	18,540

## North Gulf Coast

- Coho salmon primary fish species
- Increased rockfish harvest
- Recent coho salmon harvest below average
- Recent SW coho salmon harvest 13% of statewide

North Gulf Coast Management Area

Averages	Pacific halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish	King salmon	Coho salmon
1990–2008	34,160	4,993	30,687	3,216	72,992
2009–2015	52,841	6,508	49,757	2,518	77,672
2016–2018	45,802	3,995	59,279	3,556	51,628





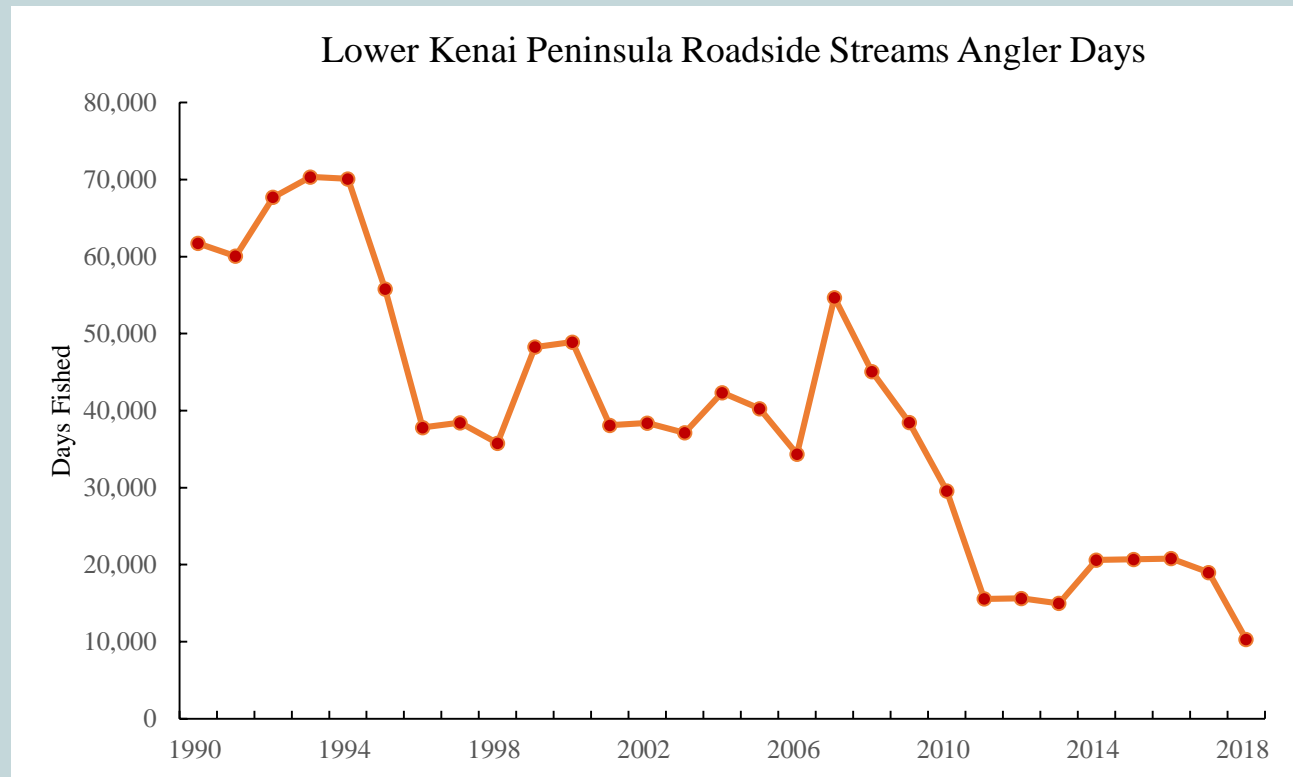
# LCIMA Freshwater Sport Fishing

- Primarily small, wadeable streams
- No stocked lakes
- 13% of effort for LCIMA
- Mostly non-guided, resident anglers
- >90% effort on Lower Kenai Peninsula Roadside streams
- Western Cook Inlet (Coho salmon)
- Kachemak Bay (pink salmon)



# Lower Kenai Peninsula Roadside Streams

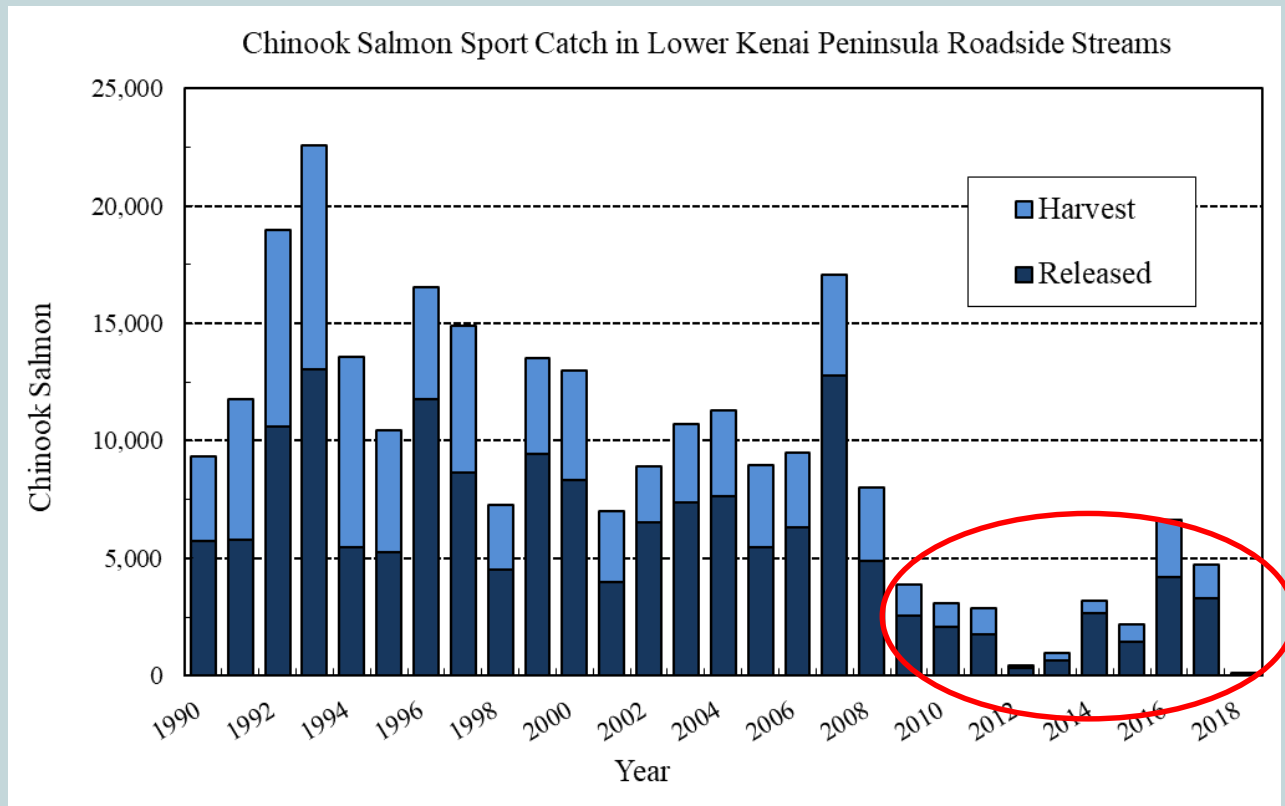
- King and coho salmon, Steelhead, Dolly Varden
- Regulation complexity
- Limited season
- Declining effort
- Coho & Chinook salmon primary harvest
- Steelhead catch stable
- Dolly Varden highest catch

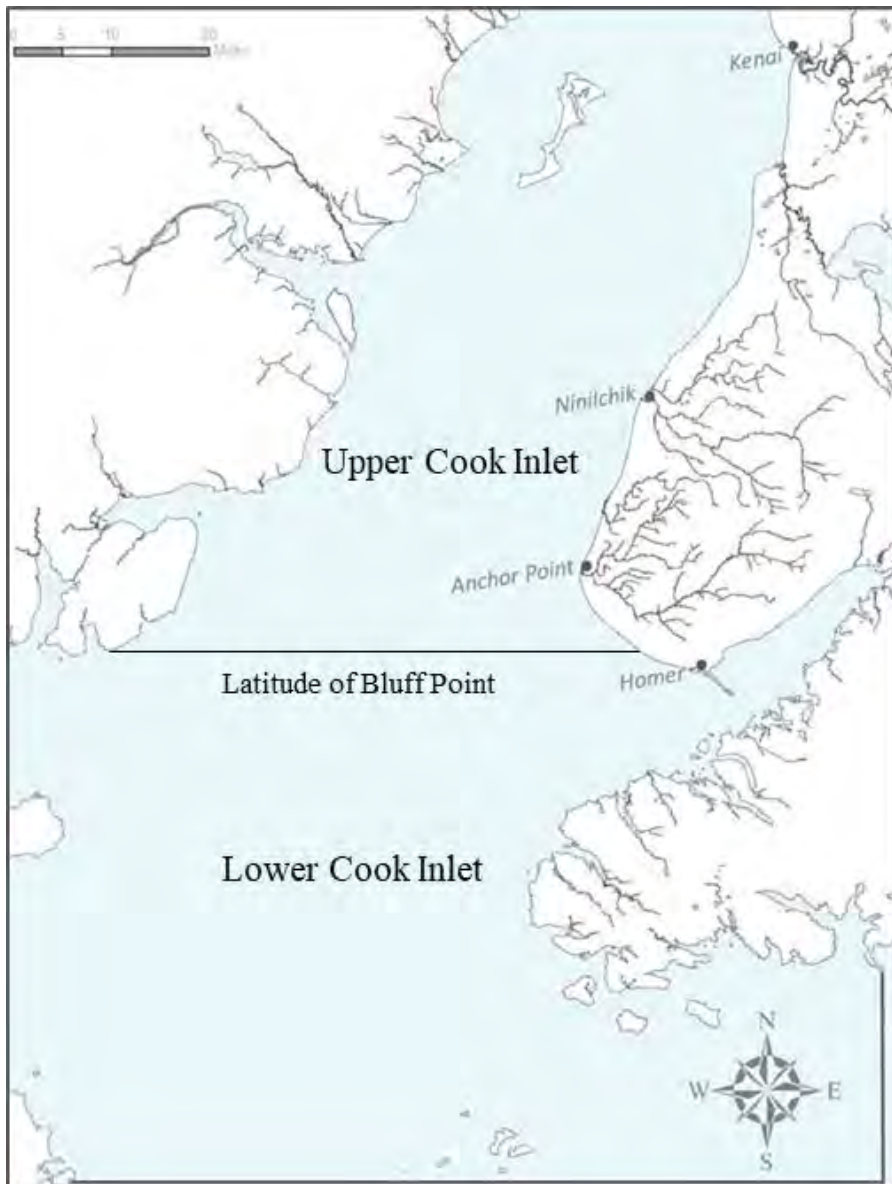


	King salmon		Coho salmon		Steelhead	Dolly Varden	
Averages	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch	Catch	Harvest	Catch
1990–2008	4,669	12,219	6,707	12,241	6,527	1,923	20,201
2009–2015	675	2,317	3,922	6,319	3,627	1,391	19,048
2016–2018	1,338	3,933	2,137	3,561	3,792	673	15,078

# Roadside Stream King Salmon Fisheries

- Limited by season & area
- Differing regulations for each stream
- Ninilchik River also stocked
- Effort & harvest shifts between streams
- Pre-season and in-season management





### Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery

- North of Bluff Pt.
- April-August
- Management plan- GHL 7,500
- Regulatory structure to limit harvest of Cook Inlet stocks
- Inseason management

### Lower Cook Inlet Summer Fishery

- South of Bluff Pt.
- April-August
- No management plan or GHL
- Cook Inlet annual limit

### Winter Fishery

- Entire Cook Inlet
- September-March
- Management plan- GHL 4,500
- No annual limit

# LCIMA Saltwater King Salmon Sport Fisheries



# King Salmon Summer Fisheries Harvest & Stock Composition

## UCI

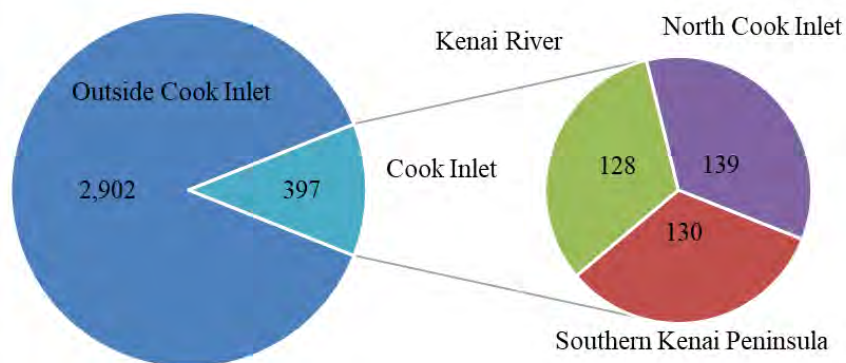
- Recent harvest below historical
- April-June: 70-90% outside CI stocks
- July-Aug: 82-97% outside CI stocks

Averages	UCI Summer			LCI Summer		
	Charter	Non-guided	Total	Charter	Non-guided	Total
2002–2008	2,014	2,506	4,520	2,865	2,386	5,251
2009–2015	1,366	1,164	2,529	2,310	2,380	4,690
2016–2018	1,510	1,788	3,299	3,826	4,631	8,458

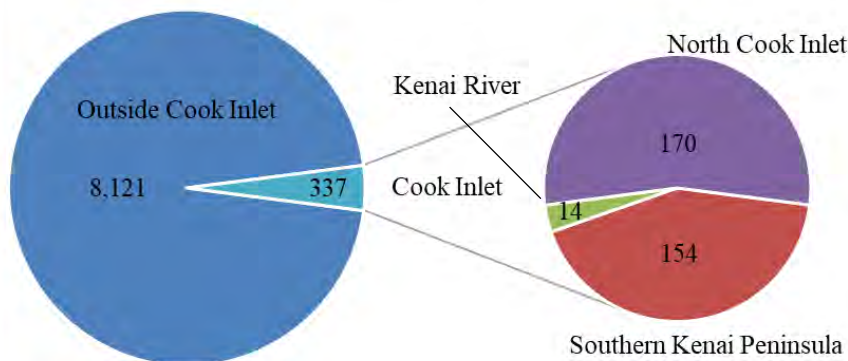
## LCI

- Recent harvest above historical
- 95-99% outside CI stocks

Upper Cook Inlet



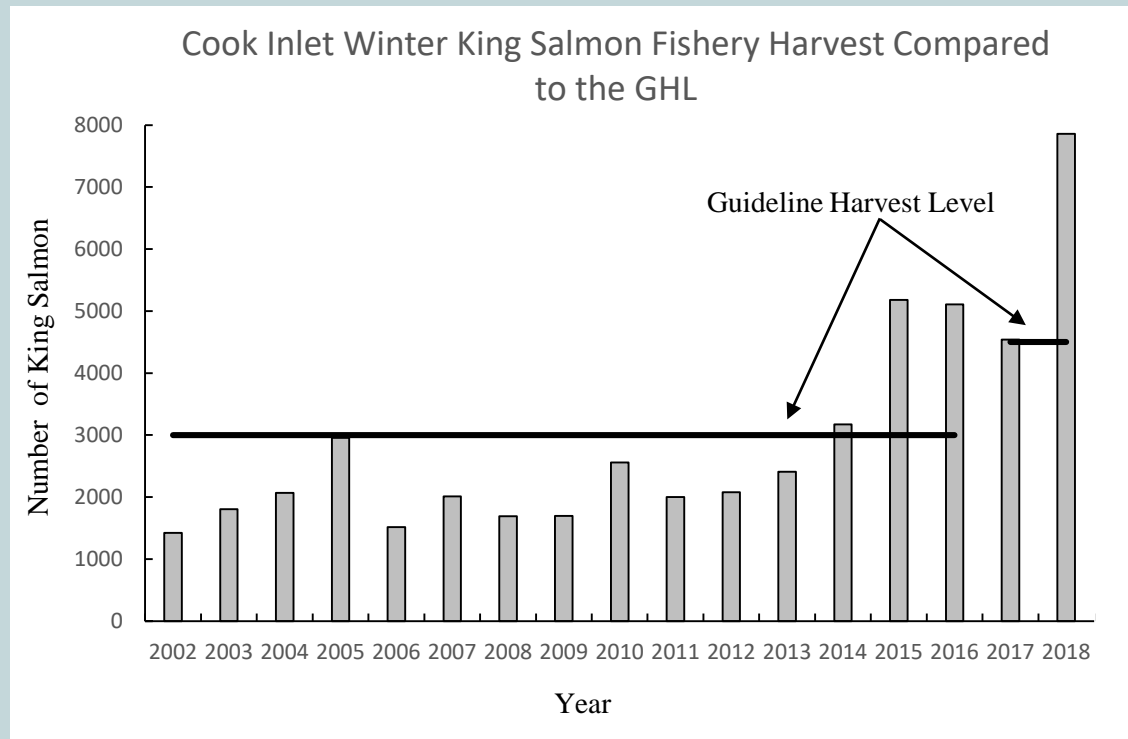
Lower Cook Inlet



# King Salmon Winter Fishery Harvest & Stock Composition



- Expanded in 2016
- ~80% of the harvest is by non-guided anglers
- Harvest composed of 99.8% non-Cook Inlet stocks based on recent genetic study
- No effort data but has likely increased due to more favorable marine weather
- Harvest fluctuates with presence of stocks & increased effort



# LCIMA Enhanced Saltwater Salmon Fisheries

## King salmon- ADF&G

- NDFL- Homer Spit
- Seldovia
- Halibut Cove Lagoon- Discontinued

## Coho salmon-ADF&G

- NDFL- Homer Spit

## Sockeye salmon- CIAA

- China Poot
- Tutka



Homer Spit Harvest & Effort

Averages	King salmon	Coho salmon	Angler days
1990–2008	2,597	7,816	22,492
2009–2015	707	2,050	10,862
2016–2018	828	2,398	13,467





# NGC Enhanced Saltwater Salmon Fisheries

## King salmon

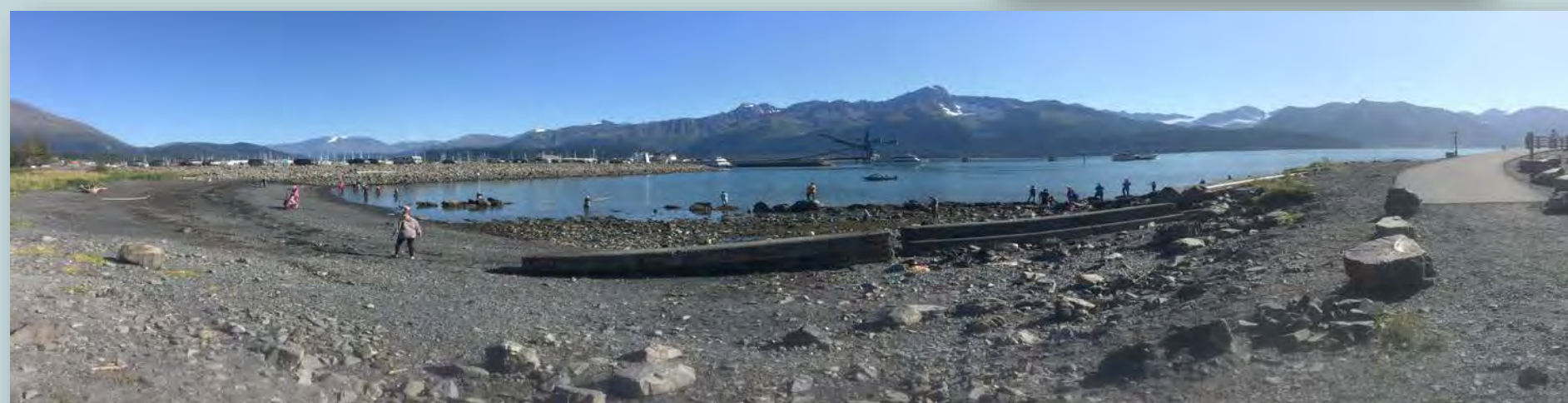
- ADF&G - Seward Lagoon (Smolt)

## Coho salmon

- ADF&G & CIAA - Seward Lagoon (smolt)
- CIAA - Bear Lake (fry and smolt)

## Sockeye salmon

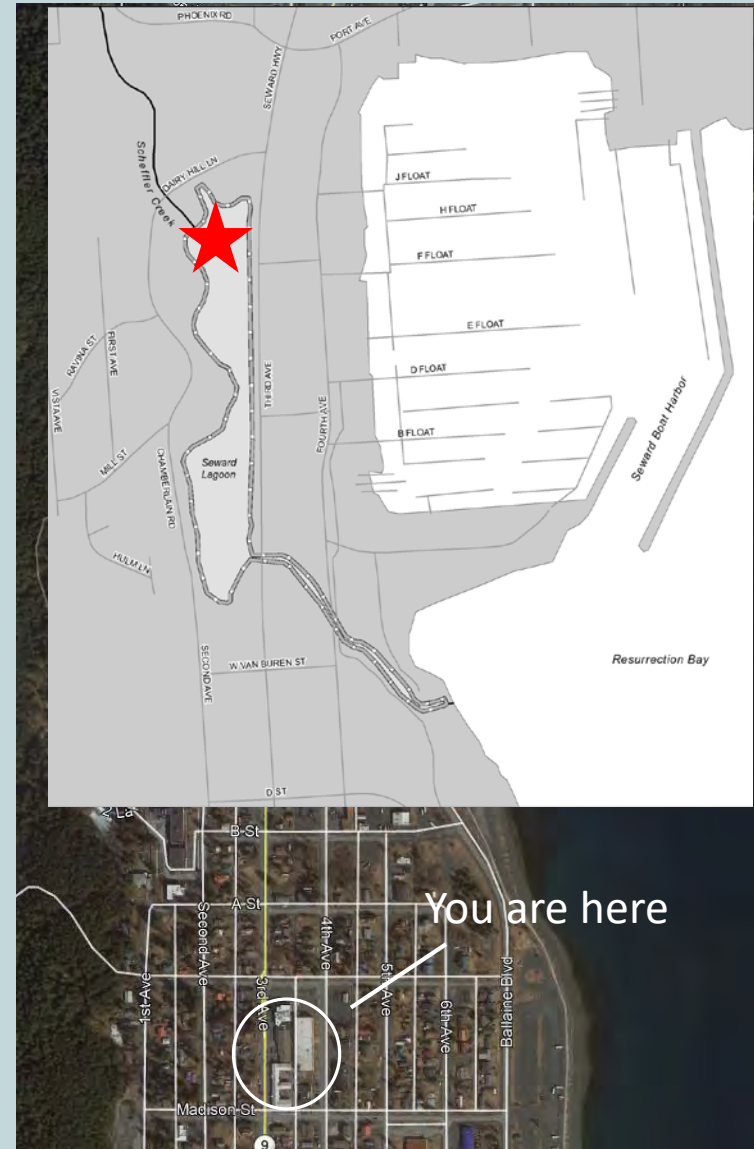
- CIAA - Bear Lake (fry)





# NGC Seward Lagoon Youth Fishery

- King and coho salmon youth fishery.
- Only open to anglers 15 years of age or younger. Remainder of the year closed to salmon fishing.
- Youth fishery includes Seward Lagoon and the entire Outfall stream.
- Snagging is not allowed, and only one hook may be used.



# NGC Seward Lagoon Youth Fishery

- King and coho salmon youth fishery.
- Only open to anglers 15 years of age or younger. Remainder of the year closed to salmon fishing.
- Youth fishery includes Seward Lagoon and the entire Outfall stream.
- Snagging is not allowed, and only one hook may be used.





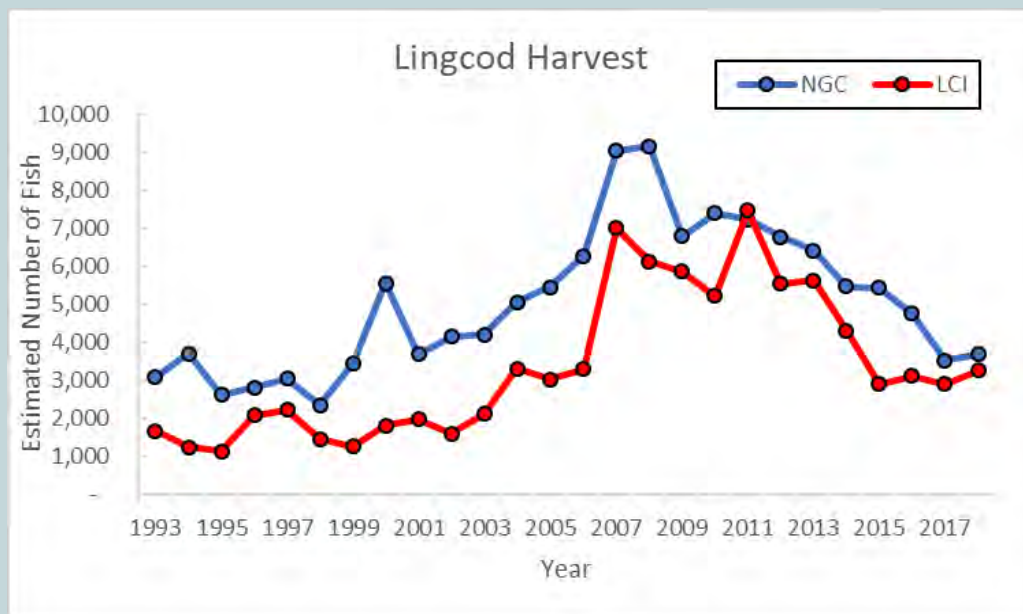
# Lingcod

## Lower Cook Inlet & North Gulf Coast

- Regulations
- Harvest levels
- Harvest break down:
  - Chartered anglers
    - ~72% LCI
    - ~74% NGC



	LCI	NGC		PWS
		Res. Bay	Remainder	
Bag and Possession	2 & 2	Closed	1 & 1	1 & 1
Dates	July 1 - Dec 31			
Size restrictions	At least 35" long with head attached or 28" from tip of tail to front of dorsal fin			



AVERAGE	LCI			NGC		
	Charter	Non-guided	Total	Charter	Non-guided	Total
1996-2008	2,073	802	2,875	2,936	2,009	4,946
2009-2015	3,823	1,458	5,281	4,734	1,773	6,508
2016-2018	2,296	794	3,090	3,281	714	3,995

# Questions?

Additional information available:

Sport Fisheries in the Lower Cook Inlet Management Area, 2017-2018, with Updated for 2016.

Area Management Report for the Sport Fisheries of the North Gulf Coast, 2016 -2018.

Coded Wire Tag Augmented Genetic Mixed Stock Analysis of Chinook salmon Harvested in Cook Inlet Marine Sport Fishery, 2014-2017.