

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

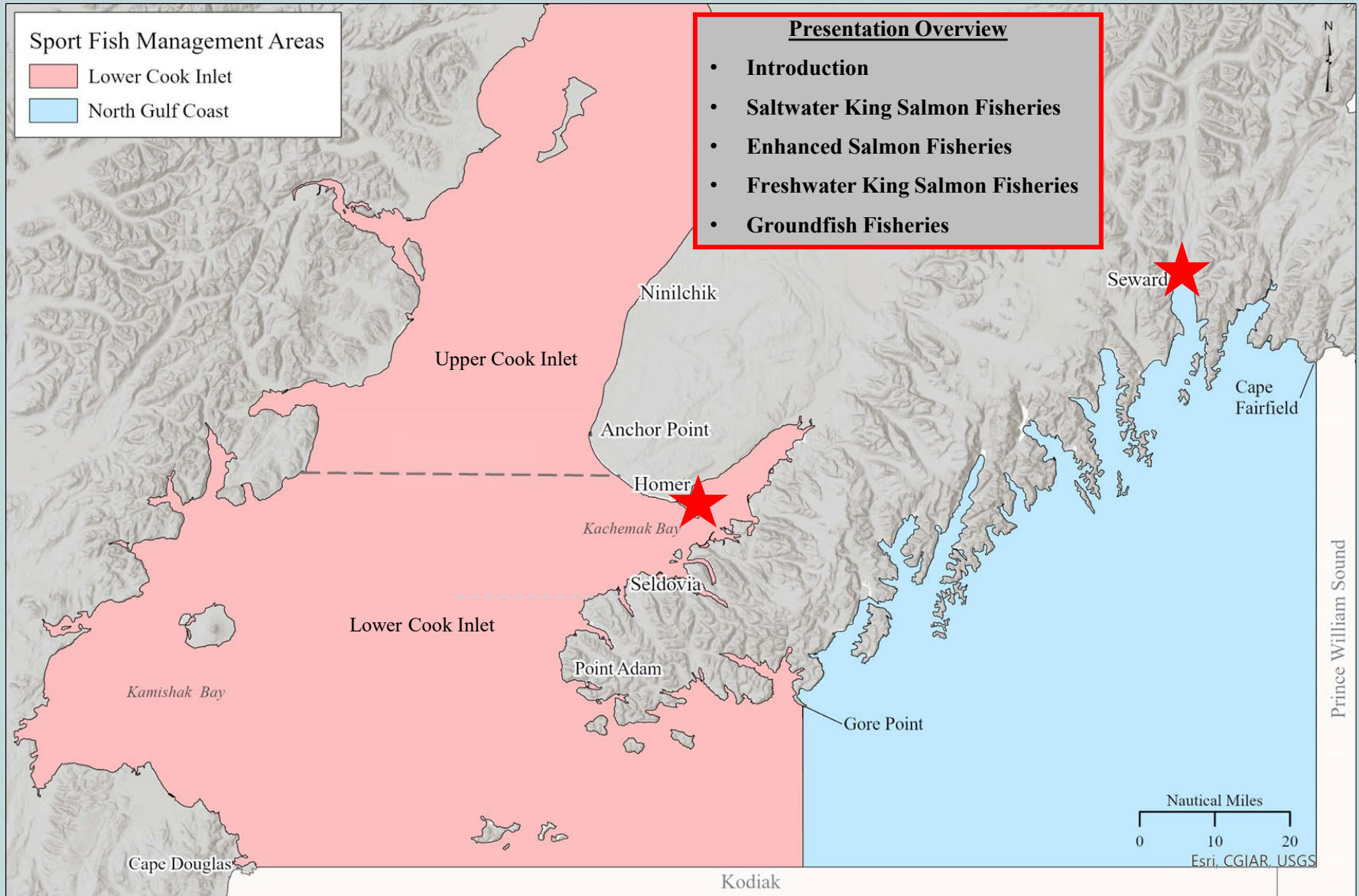


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The Lower Cook Inlet & North Gulf Coast Sport Fish Management Areas



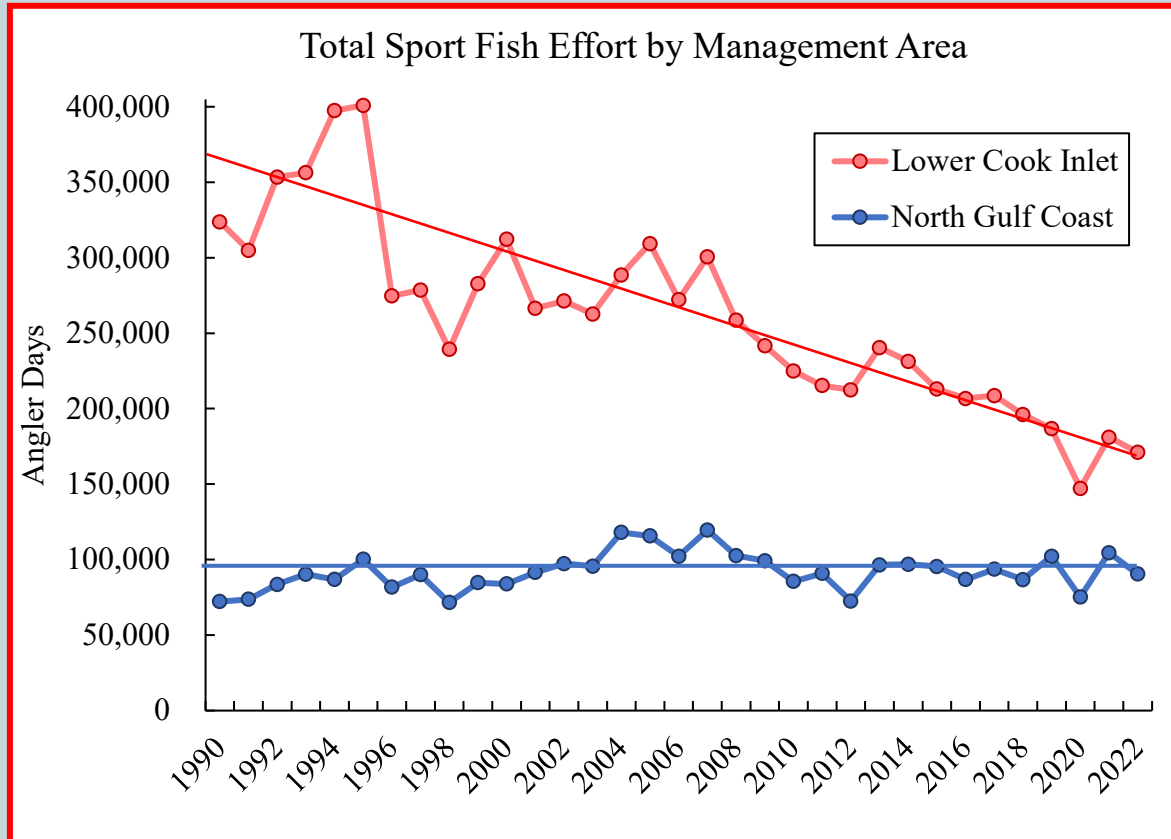
Sport Effort

Lower Cook Inlet

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

North Gulf Coast

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



Sport Harvest

Lower Cook Inlet

- Halibut primary fish species
- Increased rockfish harvest
- Recent king salmon harvest above historical period

Lower Cook Inlet Management Area

Period averages	Pacific halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish	King salmon	Coho salmon
Pre- Halibut CSP					
2006-2013	207,598	4,762	16,654	10,170	12,568
Post Halibut CSP					
2014-2018	169,456	1,249	32,158	17,421	18,536
2019-2022	134,164	1,589	53,623	16,476	13,488



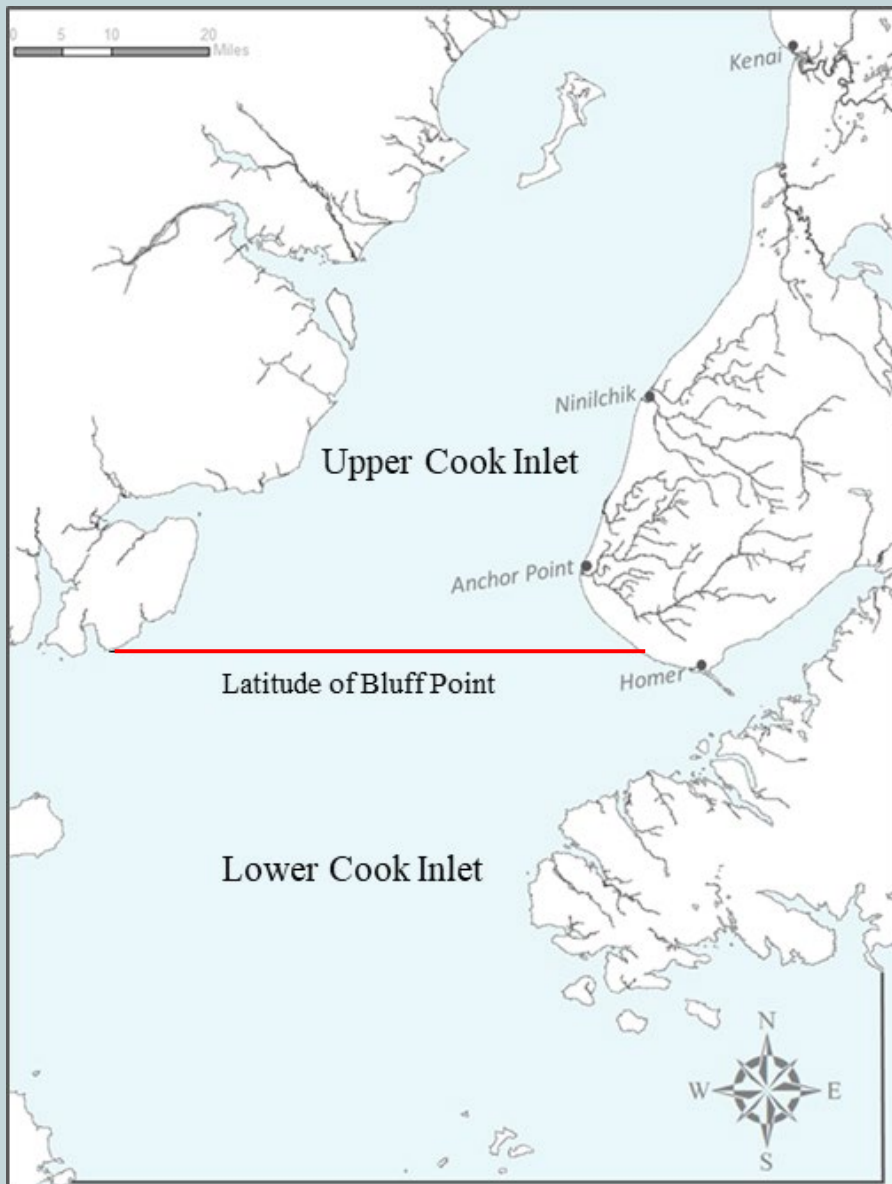
North Gulf Coast

- Coho salmon primary fish species
- Increased rockfish harvest
- Increasing king salmon harvest

North Gulf Coast Management Area

Period averages	Pacific halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish	King salmon	Coho salmon
Pre- Halibut CSP					
2006-2013	33,968	2,881	36,530	3,016	73,416
Post Halibut CSP					
2014-2018	47,933	1,108	44,558	3,407	64,690
2019-2022	34,973	1,227	56,196	5,065	41,930





Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery

- North of Bluff Pt.
- April-August
- Management plan – GHL 7,500
- Included in Kenai River Late Run King Salmon Plan & Action Plan

Lower Cook Inlet Summer Fishery

- South of Bluff Pt.
- April-August
- No management plan or GHL

Winter Fishery

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

Cook Inlet Saltwater King Salmon Sport Fisheries

Summer Fisheries King Salmon Harvest & Stock Composition (Proposals 1-6)

UCI

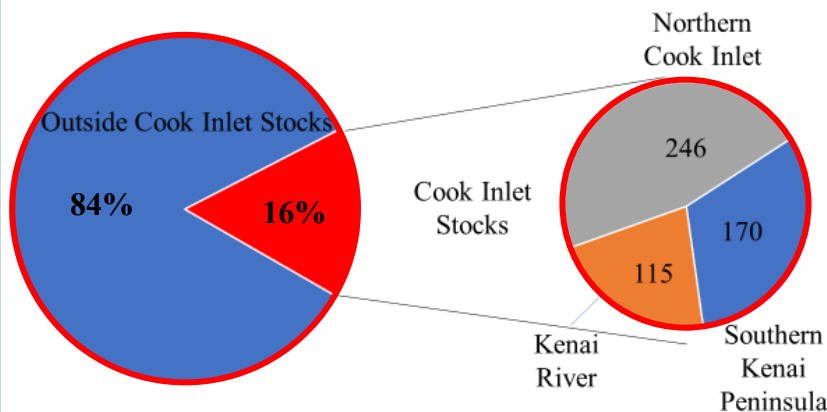
- Harvest declining
- 16% CI stocks

Period averages	UCI Summer	LCI Summer	Combined Summer
2002–2013	3,485	4,397	7,882
2014–2018	3,324	7,700	11,024
2019–2022	1,930	8,308	10,238

LCI

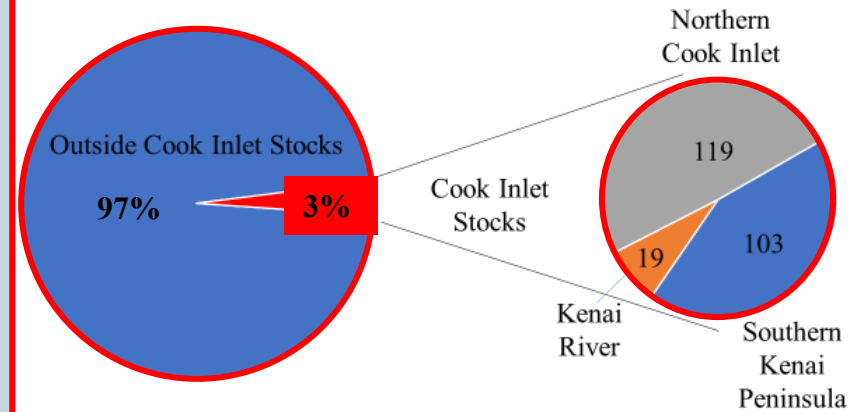
- Harvest increasing
- 3% CI stocks

Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery



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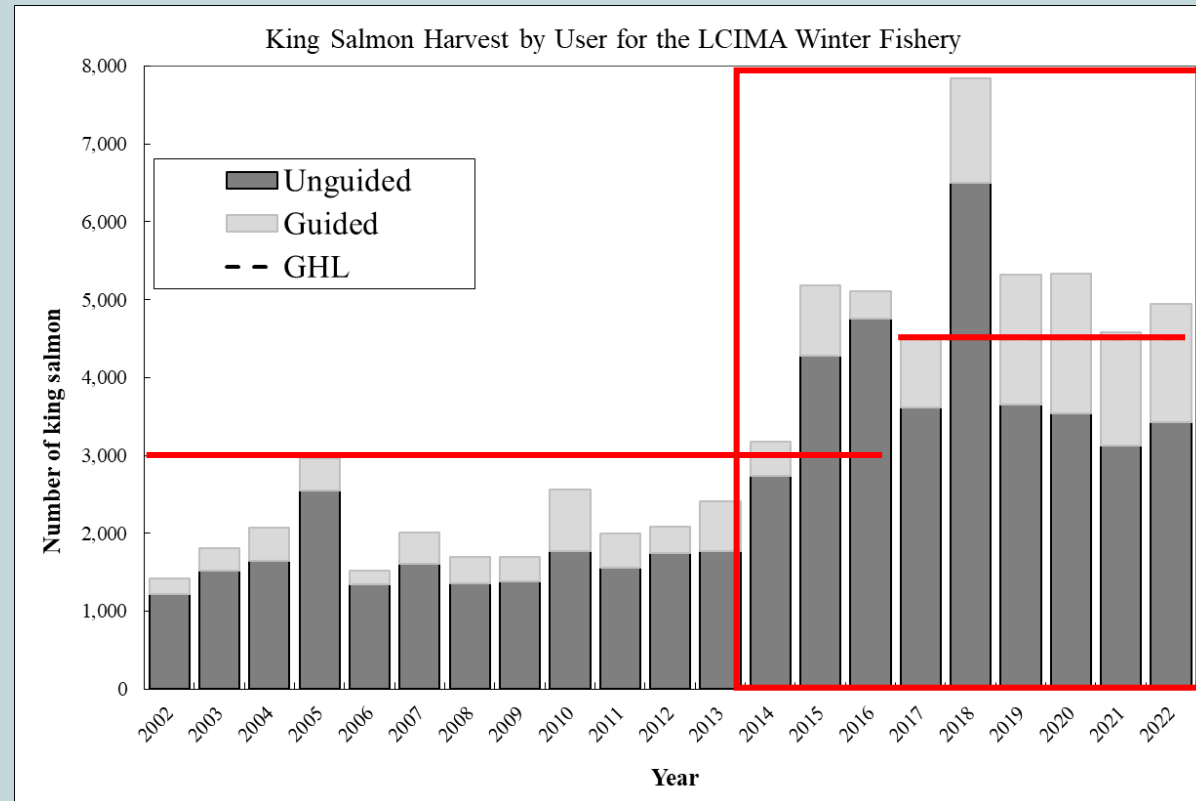
Lower Cook Inlet Summer Fishery



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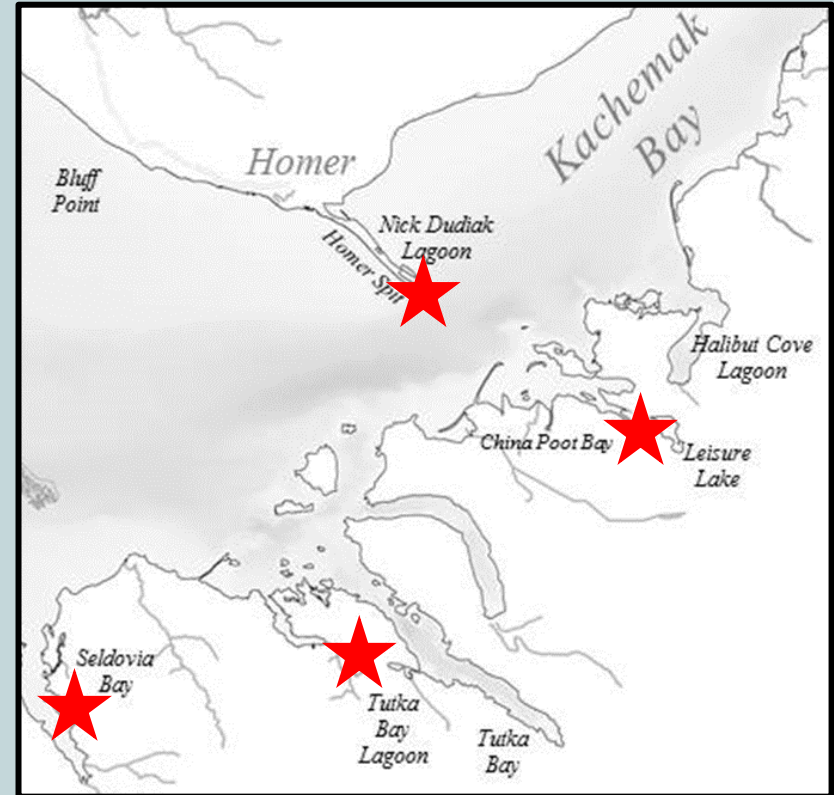
King Salmon Winter Fishery Harvest & Stock Composition (Proposals 9-11)

- Expanded in 2017
- Exceeded GHL last 9 years
- Less than 1% Cook Inlet stocks



LCI Enhanced Saltwater Salmon Fisheries

- Seldovia – King Salmon (ADF&G)
- China Poot – Sockeye Salmon (CIAA)
- Nick Dudiak Lagoon (ADF&G)
- Tutka Lagoon (CIAA)



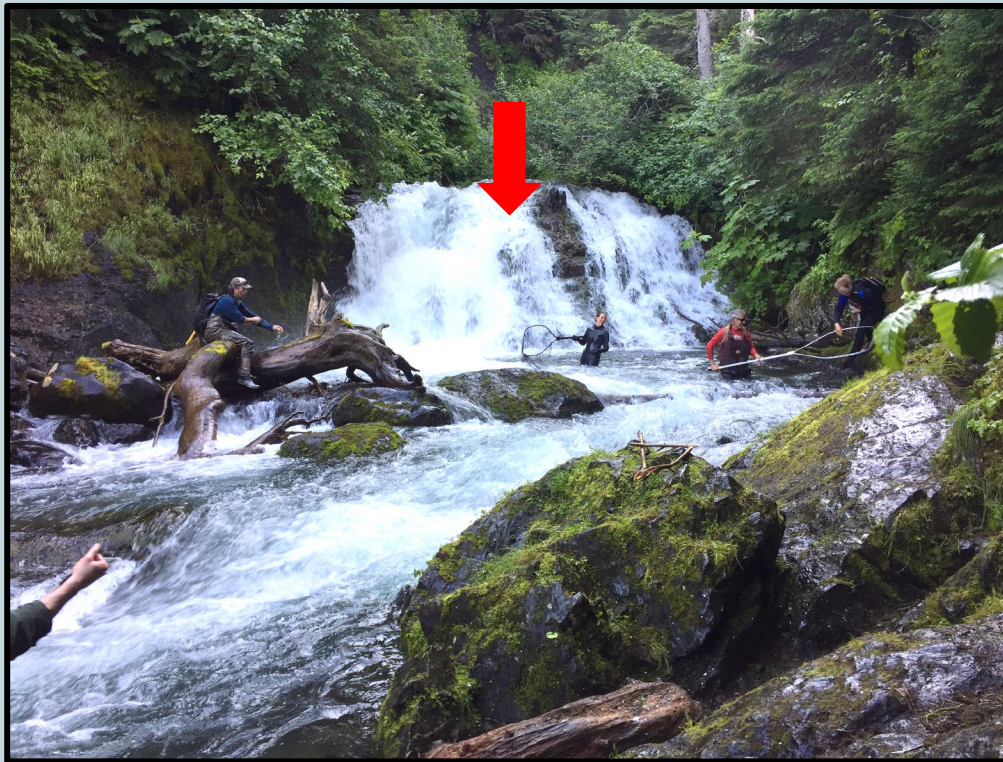
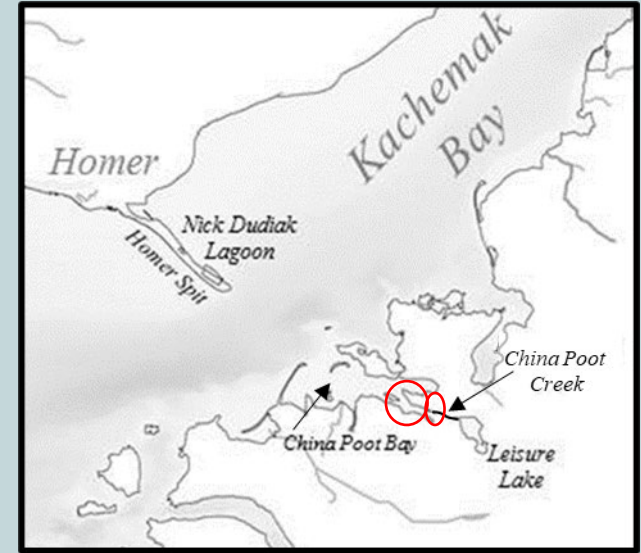
China Poot Enhanced Terminal Sockeye Salmon (Proposals 31-33)

Personal Use Regulations

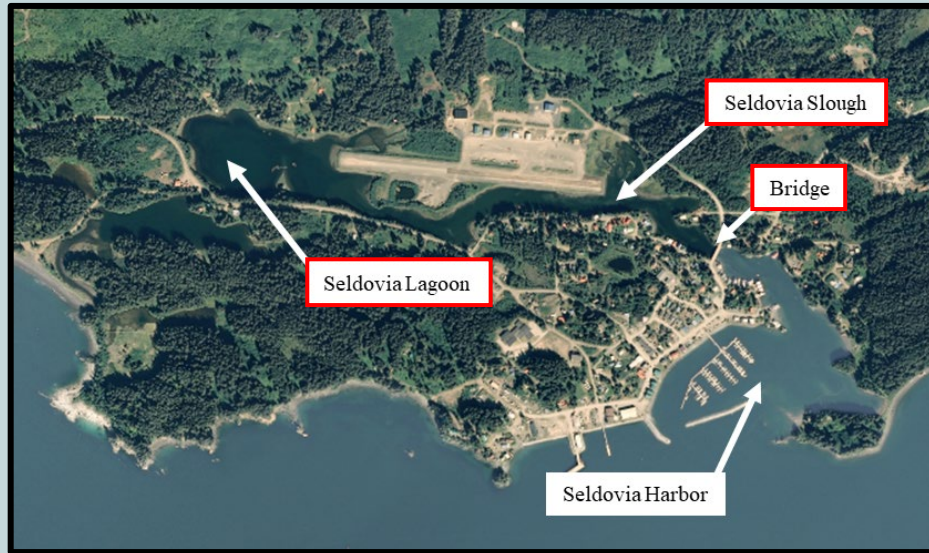
- 6 sockeye salmon per day per person
- No permit, no household or annual limit
- July 1 – August 7

Sport Regulations

- 6 sockeye salmon per day per person
- Open year round (sockeye present in China Poot June-August)

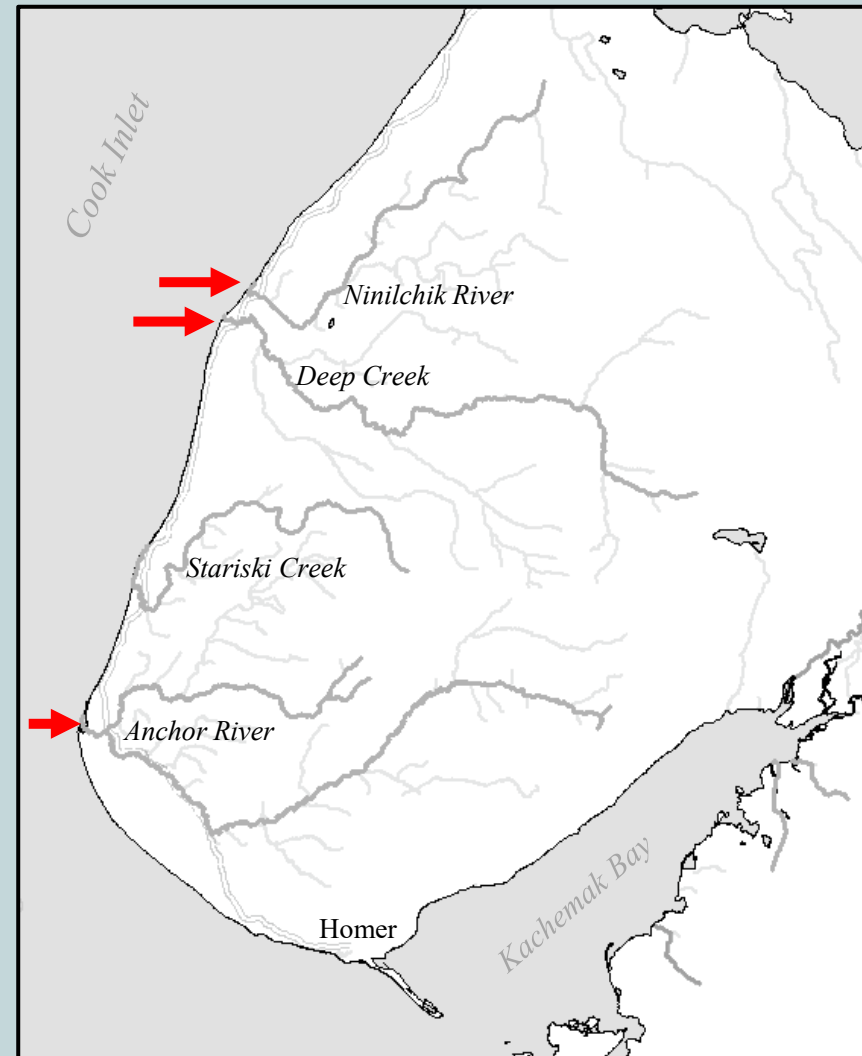


Seldovia Enhanced Terminal King Salmon (Proposals 7 & 8)



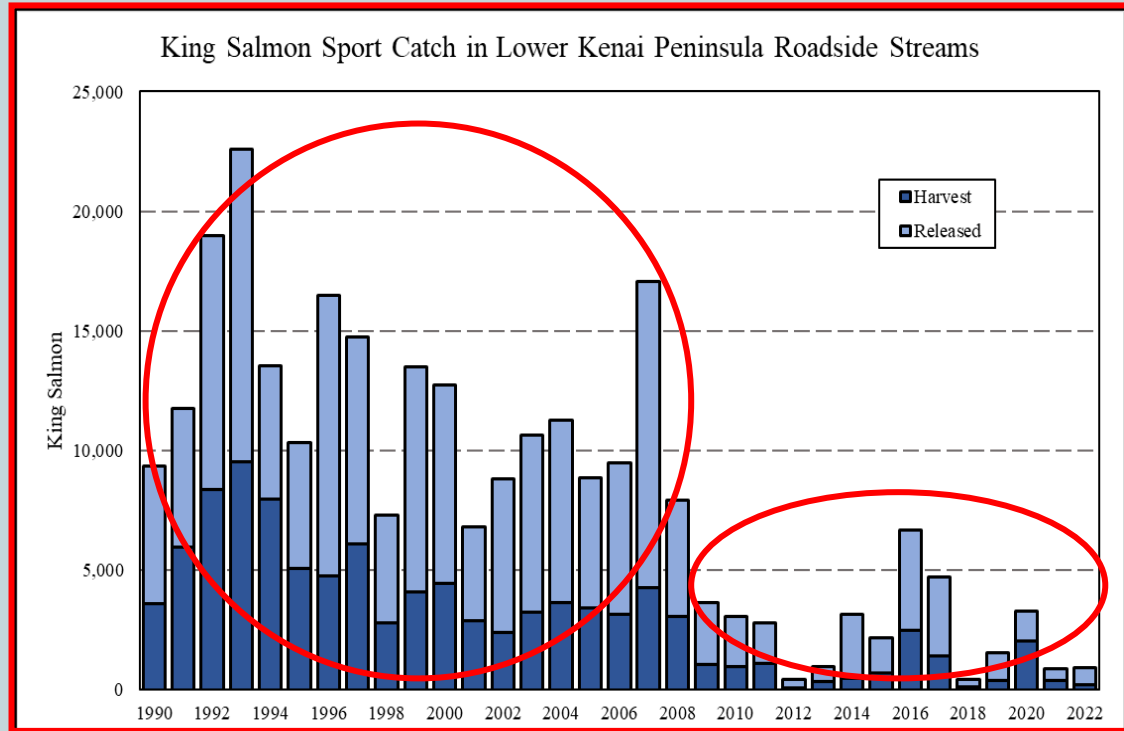
Lower Kenai Peninsula Roadside Streams

- Small, wadable, & road-accessible, mostly nonguided
- King salmon and steelhead most popular, also support coho salmon and Dolly Varden fisheries
- King salmon run size trends similar between the three streams
- Ninilchik River supplemented with hatchery king salmon



Lower Kenai Peninsula Roadside Stream King Salmon Fisheries

- Conservative regulations restricting number of days open to fishing, area, and daily bag and annual limits
- Managed with pre- and in-season EOs to achieve the SEGs on each stream
- Most of the recent annual catch is attributed to hatchery king salmon on the Ninilchik River



Lower Kenai Peninsula Roadside Stream King Salmon Management Plan (Proposal 13)

Pre-Season Management Actions



Anchor River Forecast



Anchor River & Deep Creek



Ninilchik River

In-Season Management Actions



Anchor River Projection



Anchor River & Deep Creek



Ninilchik River Wild and Hatchery Projection



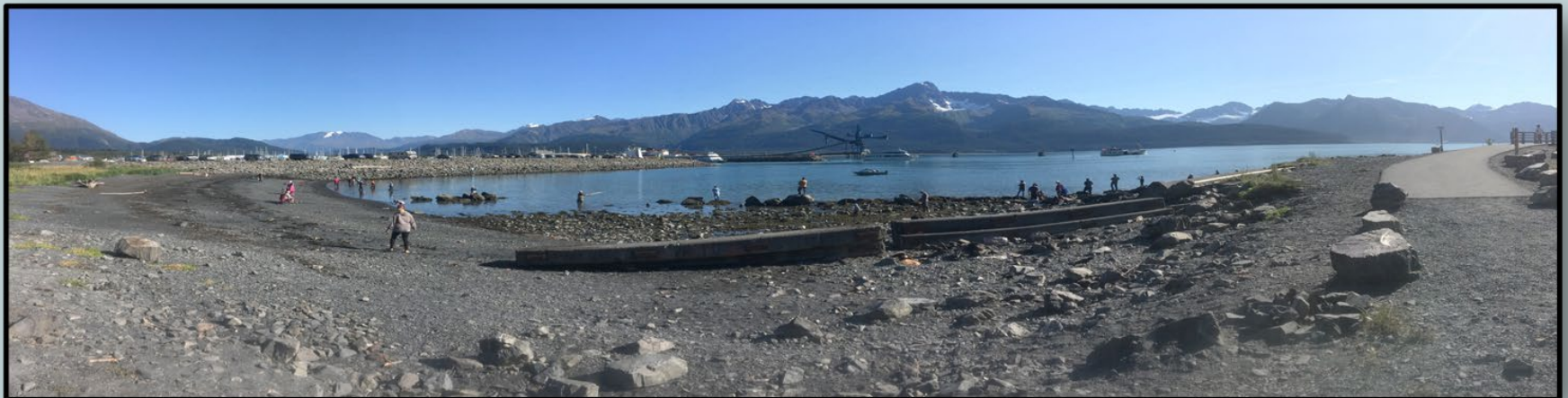
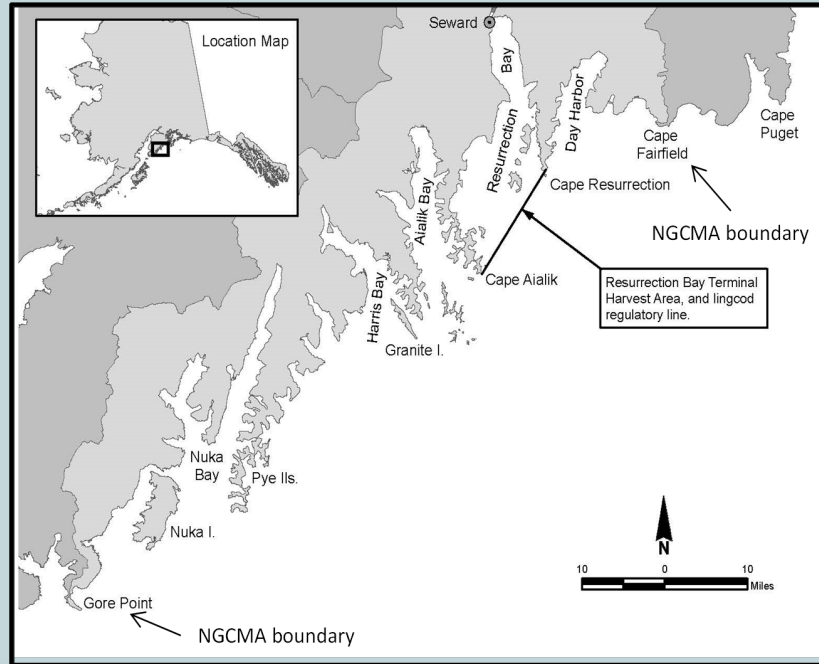
Ninilchik River

Ninilchik Hatchery King Salmon (Proposals 14-17)

- Supplemented since 1988
- 2-3k hatchery fish returning to the Ninilchik River annually since 2019
- Hatchery run size is greater than current fishery harvest and broodstock collection needs
- Excess hatchery fish culled at broodstock collection weir
- NDFL, Seldovia, and Ninilchik River provide consistent opportunity for king salmon fishing

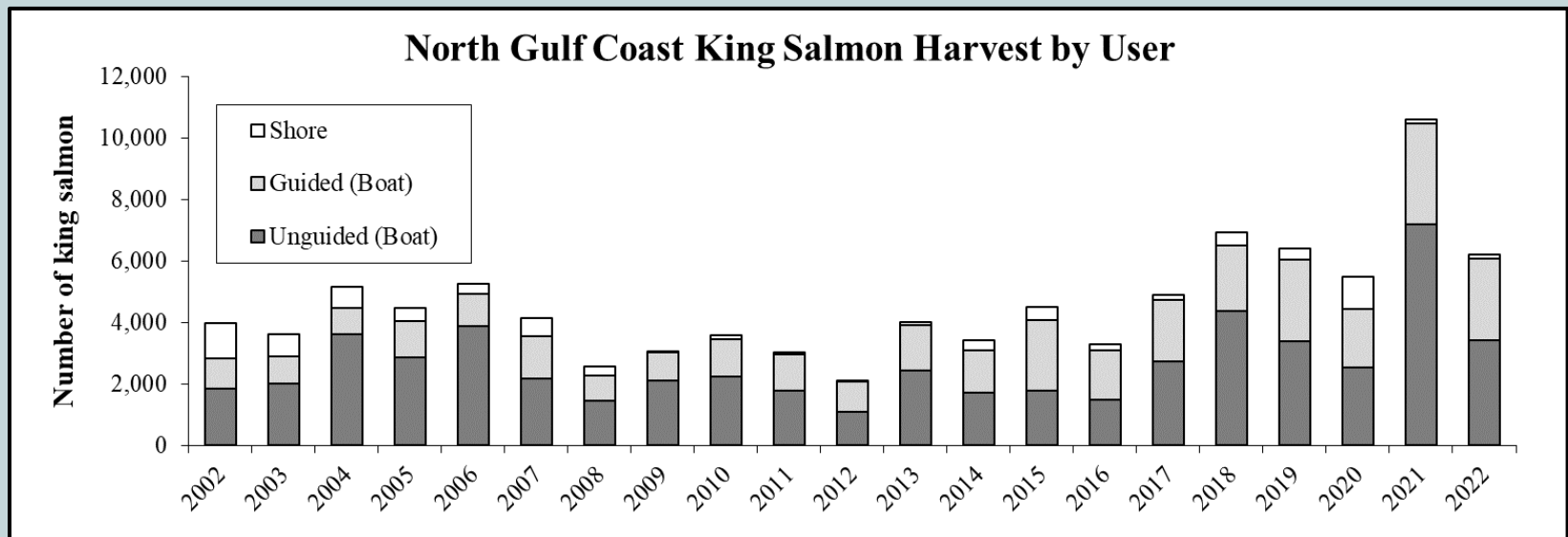


North Gulf Coast Salmon Saltwater Enhanced Fisheries



NGC Saltwater King Salmon Fisheries (Proposal 12)

- Resurrection Bay Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 21.376
- North Gulf Coast King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan 5 AAC 58.065
- Average harvest (2008–2017): 2,500
- Recent 5-year harvest: ~5,000
- No inseason assessment or Emergency Orders



LCI & NGC Groundfish (Proposals 18-24)

- Pacific halibut
- Rockfish
- Lingcod



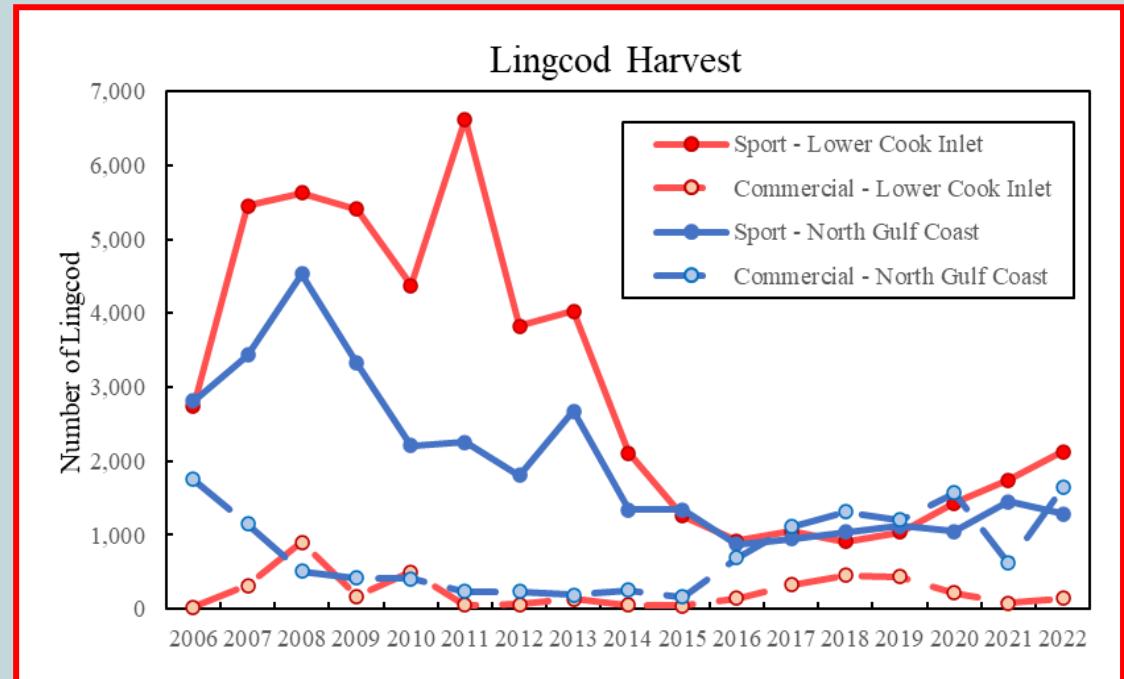
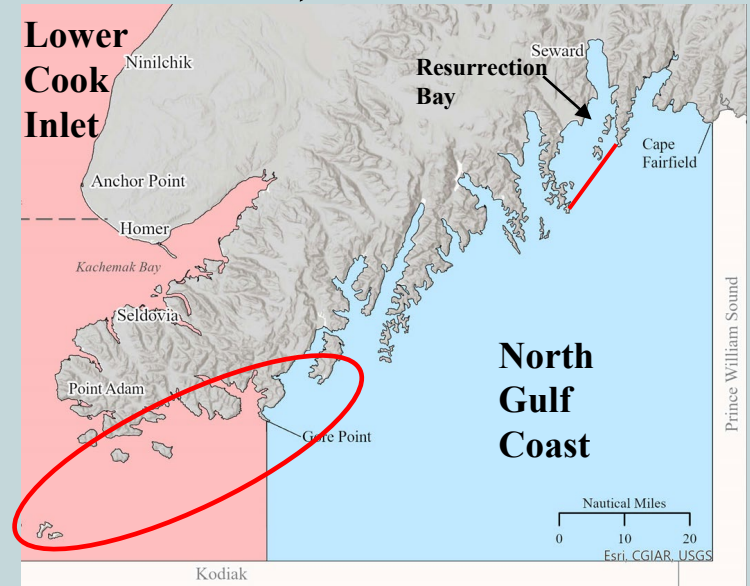
Lingcod (Proposals 23 & 26)

Sport regulatory structure

- Season July 1- Dec. 31
- Minimum size 35"
- Bag limits: 2 Cook Inlet & 1 North Gulf Coast

Sport harvest trends

- Similar trend in both areas
- Increasing since 2019 in Cook Inlet
- No significant changes in size and age data



Questions?

Additional info available:

- Sport Fisheries in the Lower Cook Inlet Management Area, 2022 to Inform the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2023
- Sport Fisheries in the North Gulf Coast Management Area, 2022 to Inform the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2023

