

**Steve Brown, F/V Gideon**  
**President, CAMF**

- Commercial fishermen since 1988
- Fish area M since 1996
- Worked for ADF&G in Kodiak for 8 years
- Fisheries degree from Oregon state



**Mr. Chairman and members of the Board: My name is Steve Brown. I live in Homer. I am president of Concerned Area M Fishermen, which represents drift permit holders on the Alaska Peninsula. CAMF represents about 100 of the 140 drift fishermen in the fleet.**

**First, in the south Peninsula June fishery, the current management plan, which was adopted in 2004, is working well. The June fishery is a low impact fishery, with low harvest rates, and with a simple management plan that is appropriate to the fishery. It doesn't need arbitrary caps and quotas. I urge the Board to reject proposals to change it.**

# South Unimak

waiting for tomorrow's opening



On the North Peninsula, proposals that seek to restrict the fishery are dressed up in the language of conservation, but they are really about allocation.

Who do the returning salmon really belong to?

These proposals are centered on the idea that Area M is catching fish that belong to someone else. It sounds better to cite unfounded biological and conservation concerns than to just say you want the fish the other guy is catching.

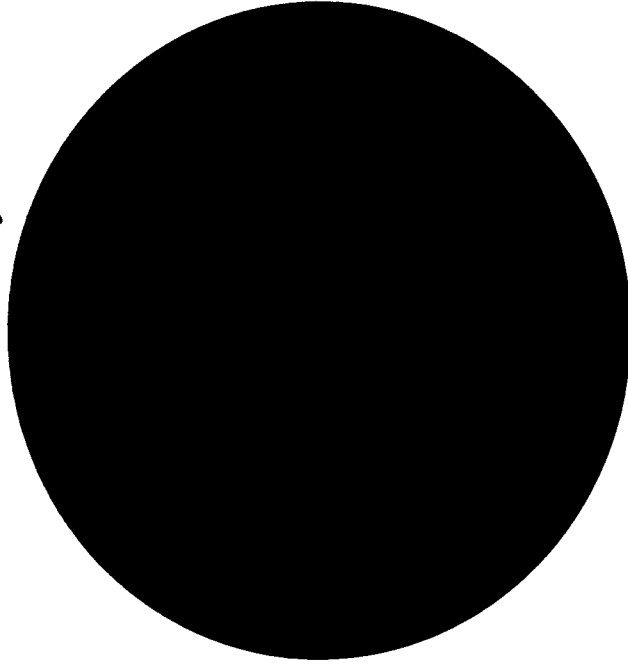
This shows a comparison of a sockeye as it enters the sea compared to the returning adult. The small fish has no market value. All value is gained at sea

Juvenile sockeye and adult

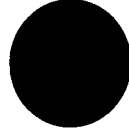


Relative size of Bristol Bay harvest versus North Peninsula,  
before July 31, 2010-2012

Bristol Bay



North Peninsula



Ave harvest=23.8 million

Ave harvest =1.01 million

throughout a migratory pathway that spans hundreds of miles from Bristol Bay.

This resource really belongs to the people of the State of Alaska, and is the Board's job, probably its hardest job, to decide how this resource gets allocated. These are policy considerations, not conservation ones. A limited entry permit entitles the holder to participate in a commercial fishery for a particular area, but you don't get to own the fish out in the ocean. The fish belong to the State.

With 25-50 million sockeye returning annually, Bristol Bay is by far the largest sockeye fishery in the world. The number of Bristol Bay sockeye migrating past is so enormous that I think it is unrealistic to expect

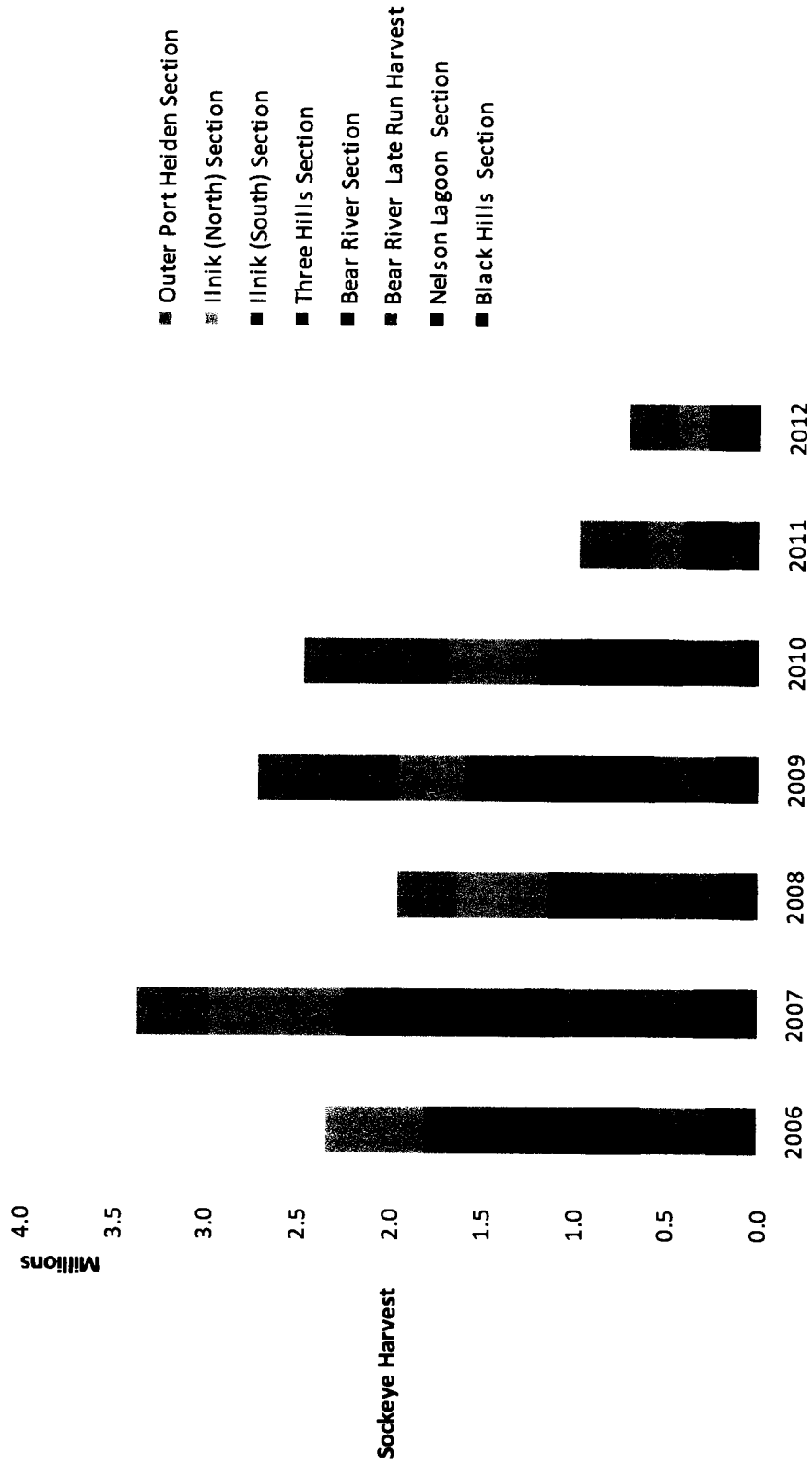
that none of them would show up in the Area M catches. If Alaska's going to have an economically viable fishery on the North Peninsula, I think we have to acknowledge this going to happen.

I ask the Board to look at the relative size of the two fisheries, and to put the harvests and harvest rates of Bristol Bay sockeye caught on the North Peninsula in perspective.

It's been tough on the North Peninsula these past few years. In 2011, our sockeye harvest was the lowest in over 30 years. In 2012, it was even worse. Nobody really expects this summer to be much better. The North Peninsula fishery is like a patient laying on a



# North Peninsula sockeye harvest trend 2006-2012



gurney in the emergency room. It's alive, but barely. I am asking the Board not to take action that makes the fishery worse off than it already is. Thank you.