



Sport Fish Enhancement Program

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

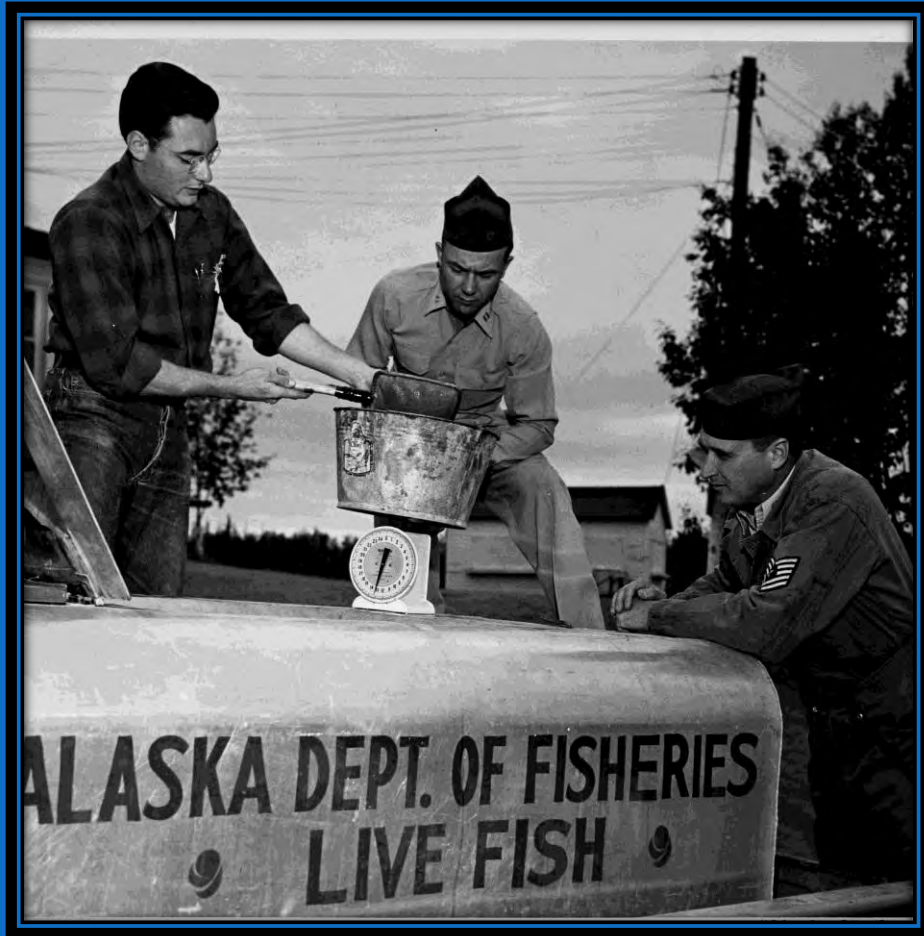
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Hatchery Committee Meeting

October 14th, 2023



SF Enhancement in Alaska



- Sport fish (SF) enhancement in Alaska began in the 1950's with the stocking of rainbow trout
- Create and diversify SF opportunities for anglers
- Protect and improve the State's sport fishery resources



Hatchery Locations

- The Division operates 2 hatcheries, William Jack Hernandez and Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatcheries
- ADF&G funds through cooperative agreements the operation of Crystal Lake (SSRAA) Pillar Creek (KRAA)





Production

- Annually releasing 7.2 million fish (2.3 million PNP)
- SF stocking program consists of smolt stocking (king and coho) and lake stocking
- Species reared: rainbow trout, Arctic char, Arctic grayling, lake trout, king and coho salmon
- Age at release: fingerling, smolt, subcatchable, catchable and brood



Production

- Maximum capacity for most species and life stages
- Stocking plan changes require reallocation of fish
- Lake trout were added in 2020
- Increase of catchable king in 2025

Regulatory Framework

CONSISTENT
WITH PNP
REGULATION
(NO HP, BHMP)

ANNUAL
MANAGEMENT
PLAN (AMP)

ANNUAL
REPORT (AR)

FISH
TRANSPORT
PERMIT (FTP)

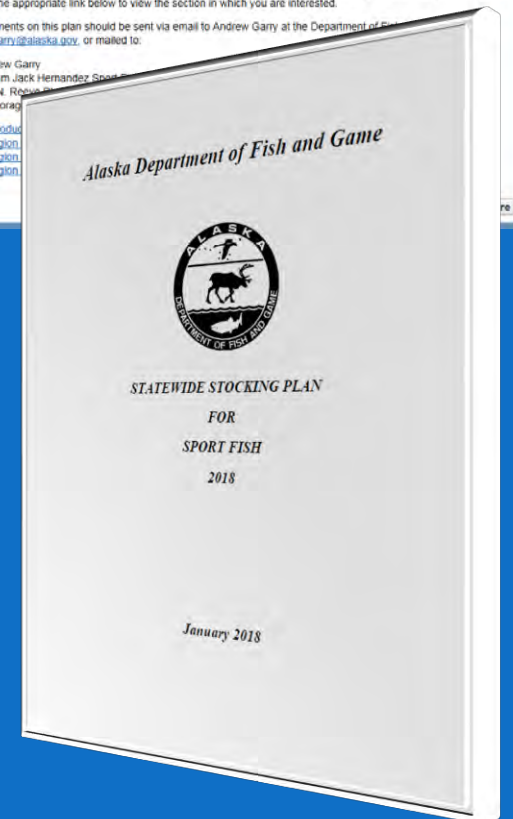
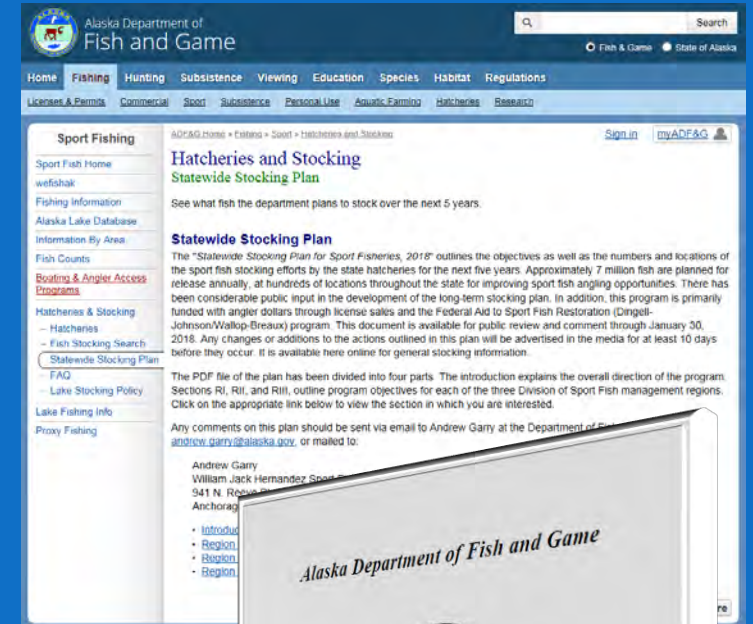
STATE GENETICS
POLICIES

STATE
PATHOLOGY
OVERSITE

STATEWIDE
STOCKING PLAN
FOR SPORT FISH

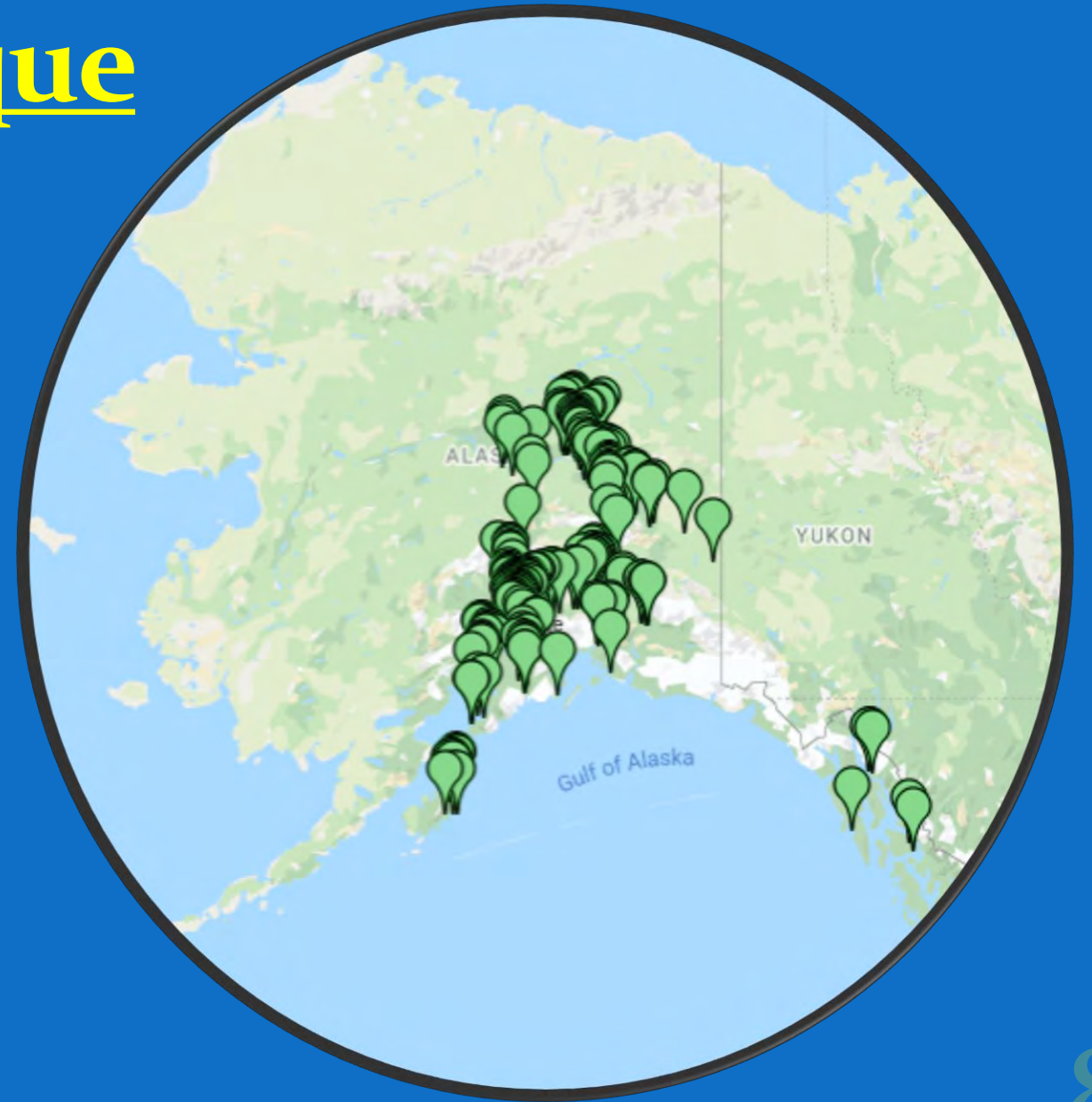
Statewide Stocking Plan

- Outlines Division of Sport Fish Stocking plans for the next 5 years
- Updated and published annually
- Available for public review and comment each year
- Contains the Lake Stocking Policy



What Makes SF Unique

- Statewide
- Diversity of accessible fishing opportunities for sport anglers
- Cooperative agreements with PNPs and SF hatchery production



PNP Supported Stocking

- Cooperative agreements with local PNP hatchery programs
- King, coho and rainbow trout
- PNP hatcheries also support sport fisheries through stocking projects not associated with the SF enhancement program

PNP Co-op Stocking:

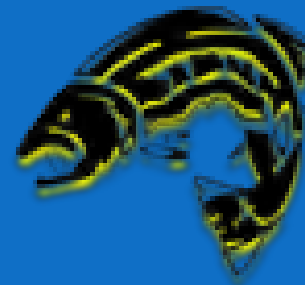
Pillar Creek - KRAA

Macaulay - DIPAC

Crystal Lake - SSRAA

Deer Mountain - SSRAA

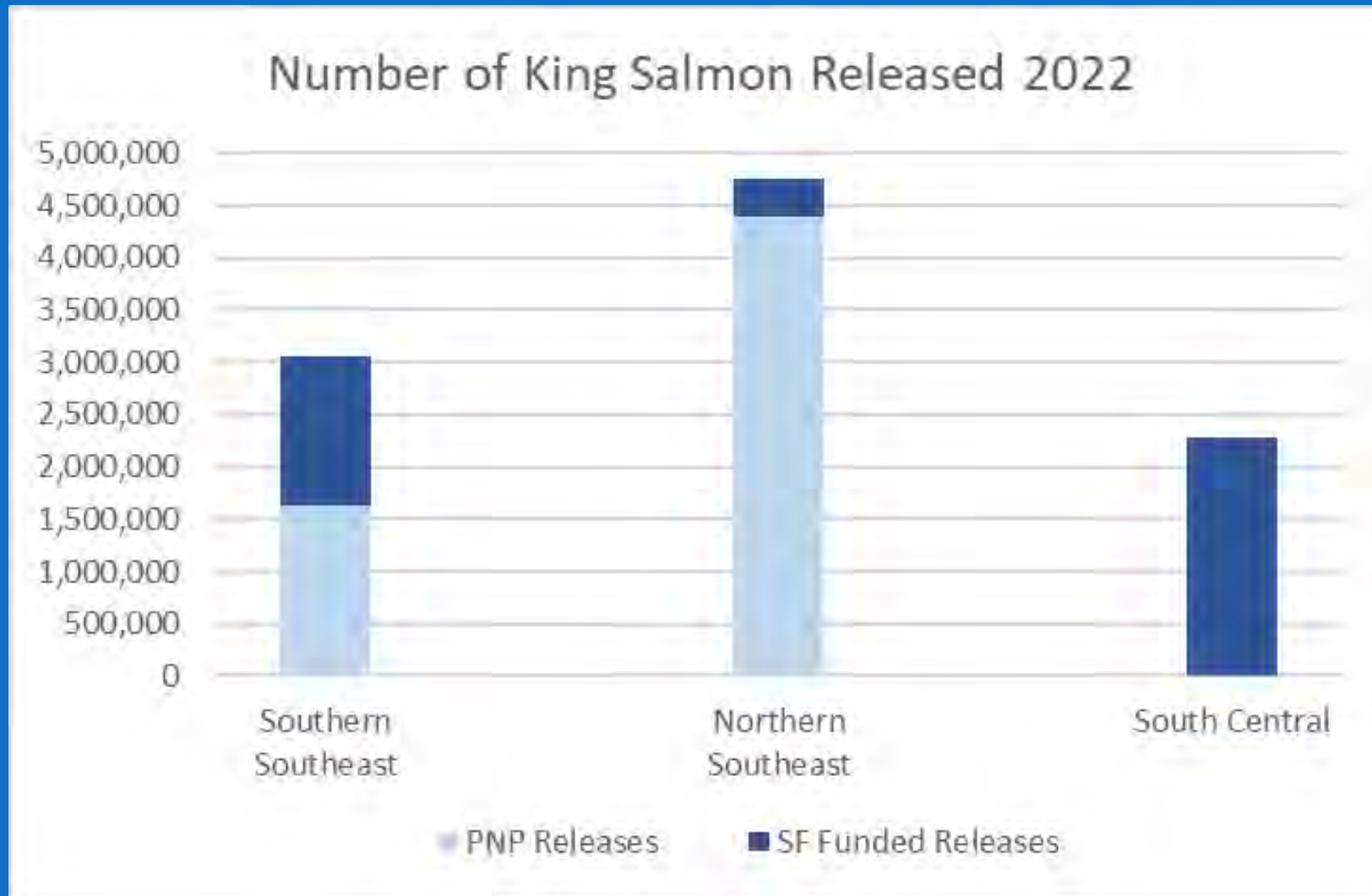
Whitman Lake - SSRAA



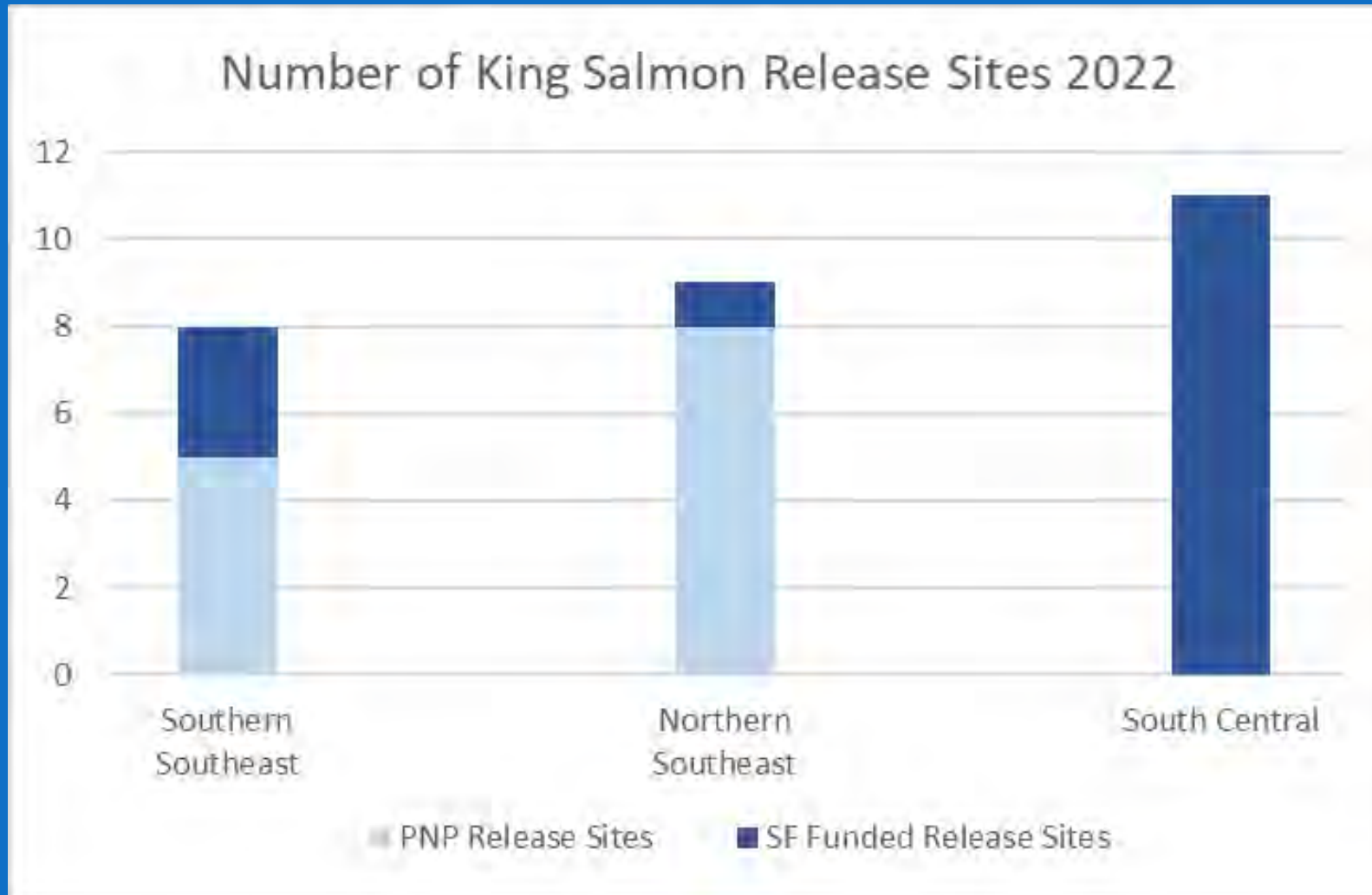
SSRAA

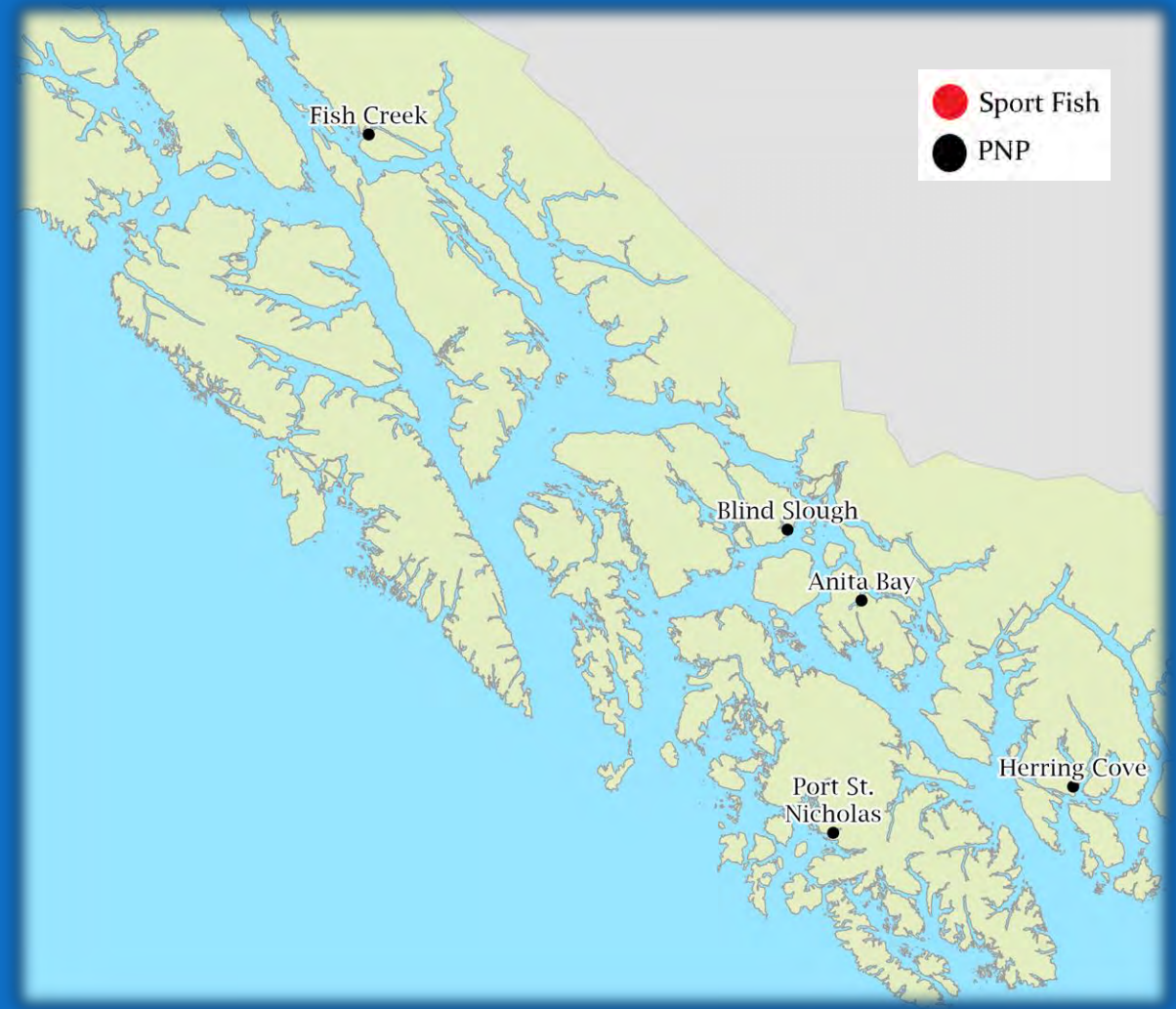


Total Statewide Hatchery King Releases



Statewide Hatchery King Release Sites





- Sport Fish
- PNP

King and Coho SF Funded Release Sites



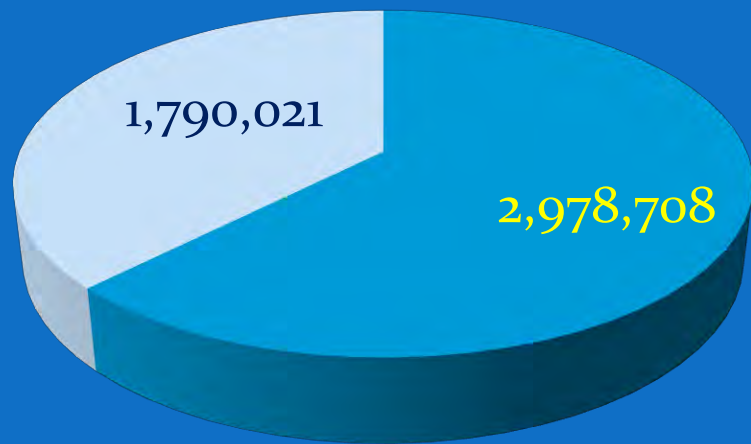
Smolt Production

- WJHSH only smolt SF hatchery
- ~3.0 million king and coho smolt are stocked at 11 sites in Southcentral



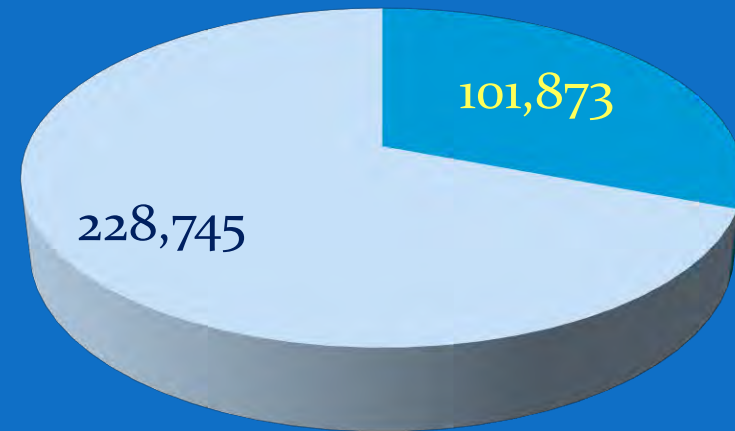
Fish vs Biomass Produced at SF Hatcheries

Total Number of Fish



■ Anadromous ■ Lakes

Total Biomass of Fish (lbs)



■ Anadromous ■ Lakes

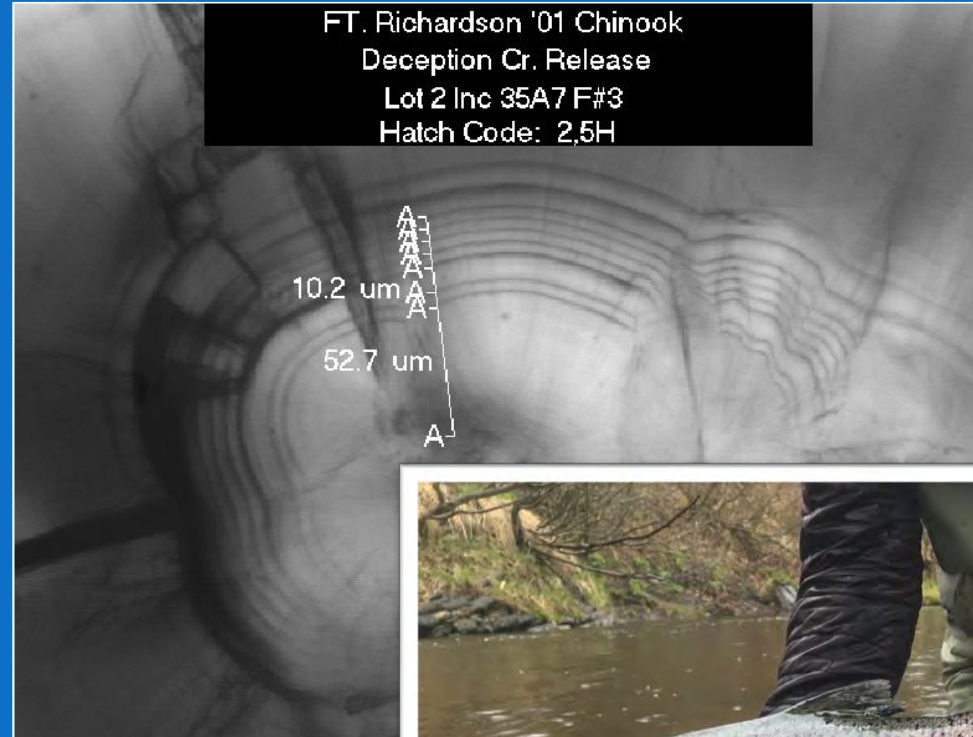
Lake Stocking - Freshwater

- ~1.8 million fish are released into more than 240 freshwater locations
- Viable (diploid) fish can only be stocked into landlocked locations
- Sterile (triploid) fish may be stocked into open or semi open systems. Most SF production is sterile, regardless of release location



Evaluation

- King and coho smolt production is otolith marked
- King smolt released at Crooked Creek and Ninilchik River are adipose fin clipped
- All adult fish spawned for future production are tissue sampled
- Size at release evaluation of Ship Creek king smolt



Management

- Provide harvest opportunity while limiting impact on wild stocks



Management

- Integrated enhancement project using adipose fin clips to target hatchery fish (*Mark-select fisheries*)



Management

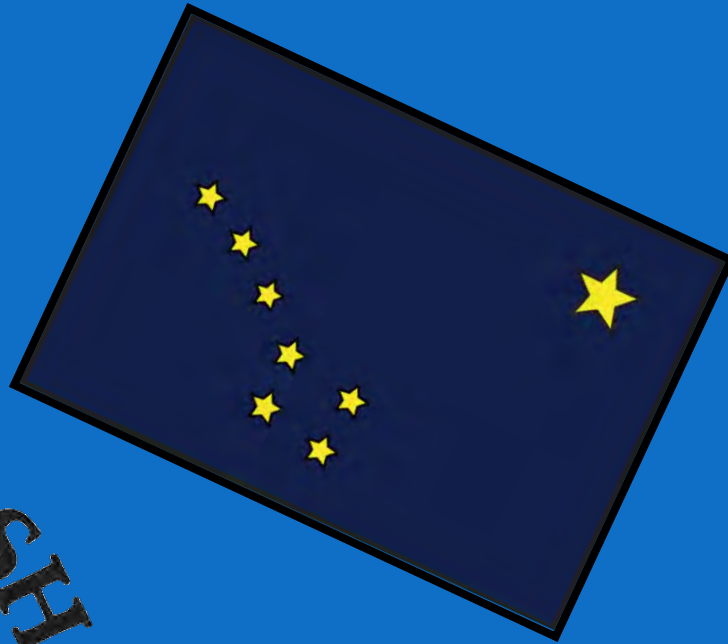
- Allows fishing opportunities during closures on wild stock locations



Management

- Stocking lakes with sterile fish
- Projects are evaluated for benefit





Funding and Impact

- Funding for operation
General Fund, Federal Aid,
License sales
- Annual Program Cost
\$7.2 million
- Average annual Economic
Benefit, \$34 million (2004)
\$55 Million (2023
inflation adjusted)

Review

- Creates and diversifies sport fishing opportunities in Alaska
- Provides economic, recreational, and consumptive benefit

Questions?

