



SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

March 16-18, 2021



SOUTHEAST SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Via Teleconference and Videoconference

March 16 – 18, 2021

convening at 9:00 a.m. daily

AUDIO: By TELECONFERENCE ONLY - call the toll free number: **1-866-560-5984**, then when prompted enter the passcode: **12960066**

VIDEO: Call **1-800-478-1456** or **1-907-351-0081** for the link to **Microsoft Teams videoconference** (VIDEO ONLY: **for audio, call conference line above**)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your concerns and knowledge. Time limits may be set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep the meeting on schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: These are estimated times and the agenda is subject to change. Contact staff for the current schedule. Evening sessions are at the call of the chair.

AGENDA

*Asterisk identifies action item.

- 1. Invocation**
- 2. Call to Order** (*Chair*)
- 3. Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (*Secretary*).....
- 4. Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 5. Review and Adopt Agenda*** (*Chair*)
- 6. Election of Officers***
 - Chair (*DFO*)
 - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
 - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** (*Chair*)
- 8. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)
- 10. Old Business** (*Chair*)

- a. Unit 2 Wolf Status (USFS, ADFG).....
- b. State Board of Fisheries Proposals.....
- c. Update on NPS individual C&T determinations.....

11. New Business (Chair)

- a. Southeast Federal Subsistence Fisheries & Wildlife Harvest Update.....
- b. Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals*.....
- c. Council Charter Review*.....
- d. Review and approve FY2020 Annual Report*.....

12. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations

US Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA – Forest Service

- a. Special Actions

- b. Project Updates: Central Tongass, South Revilla, Twin Mountain II Timber Sale

- c. Hecla Greens Creek Tailing Expansion Update

Bureau of Land Management

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Office of Subsistence Management

National Park Service

13. Future Meeting Dates*

Confirm Fall 2021 meeting date and location (Oct. 19-21, 2021, in Craig).....

Select Winter 2022 meeting date and location.....

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (Chair)

Please note that the audio portion of this meeting will be by teleconference only. 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

Speakers and presentations can be seen through Microsoft Teams videoconference platform. Call 1-800-478-1456 or 1-907-351-0081 for the website link. No download is required.

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for special accommodation needs to DeAnna Perry, 907-209-7817, deanna.perry@usda.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY) {this number might change}, by close of business on March 10, 2021.

DRAFT

REGION 1
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Appointed <i>Term Expires</i>	Member Name and Community
1	2019	VACANT
2	2004 2022	Frank G. Wright Jr. Hoonah Secretary
3	2019	VACANT
4	2000 2022	Michael A. Douville Craig
5	2019	VACANT
6	2020	VACANT
7	2020	VACANT
8	2020	VACANT Previous Chair
9	2021	VACANT
10	2018 2021	Harold Robbins Yakutat
11	2020	VACANT
12	2018 2021	Larry Bemis, Jr. Yakutat
13	2009 2021	Cathy A. Needham Juneau Vice-Chair

SOUTHEAST SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Via tele-video conference

October 20-22, 2020

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment

The meeting was called to order Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at approximately 9:00 a.m. Council members Frank Wright, Jr., Michael Douville, Robert Schroeder, Albert Howard, Donald Hernandez, Harold Robbins, John Yeager, Larry Bemis, Jr., and Cathy Needham were present. Council member, Ronald Leighton, resigned over the summer, and the Council has four vacant seats. A quorum was established with nine of nine seated Council members participating by phone/video.

Attendees:

By Teleconference or Videoconference

- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Anchorage: **Sue Detwiler, Tom Kron, Lisa Maas, Greg Risdahl, Orville Lind, Pippa Kenner, George Pappas**
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Juneau: **Wayne Owen, DeAnna Perry, Melinda Hernandez-Burke, Jacob Musselwhite, Nathan Stenson, Jessica Warmbrodt**; Washington, D.C.: Michael Ielmini; Sitka: **Terry Suminski, Justin Koller**; Yakutat: **Susan Oehlers**; Cordova: **Marci Johnson**
- Ketchikan Indian Community: **Keenan Sanderson**
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Anchorage: **Pat Petrivelli**
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Anchorage: **Carol Damberg**
- National Park Service (NPS), Anchorage: Dr. **Joshua Ream**
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Anchorage: **Mark Burch, Lauren Sill**
- Members of the Public: **Patty Phillips, Kathy Hanson, Michael Kampnich, Tava Guilory, Sally Schlichting, Paulette Moreno**

Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Howard, to adopt the agenda as a guide with the addition of “National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Changes - Updates” under “Forest Service – Agency Reports.” The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Yeager, seconded by Mr. Schroeder, to approve the winter 2020 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports

Frank Wright of Hoonah reported that there were no COVID-19 cases reported in his community and that the community has a good COVID-19 plan in place. Fish prices were low this year. This was the first time, as a fisherman who has seined for 60+ years, that he did not even put his seine in the water. The first opening of Dungeness Crab was good – probably because of lower sea otter populations. Due to COVID-19, cruise ships did not employ local people; however, the new cruise ship dock was constructed. Hoonah Indian Association has helped distribute fish that is donated to the community – Southeast communities are helping each other. The community remains concerned about the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking (AKRR) issue and the lack of explanation/justification for building roads.

Michael Douville of Craig reported that wild fish as well as hatchery fish are not returning. There is a pending Endangered Species Act petition for wolves on Prince of Wales (POW) Island. Locals call into question the manner used to obtain an accurate wolf population estimate (using same place/methods every year; DNA results from hair may be inaccurate as not all wolves roll on the hair boards; and agencies not utilizing local knowledge and experience.) Deer season is slow and jittery deer are difficult to hunt.

Robert Schroeder of Juneau reported that harvests in the area aren't as good as in years past: deer hunting is more challenging and Coho Salmon and halibut fishing were not as successful. Sockeye and King Salmon fishing were good off the road system. He is concerned about lawlessness on the part of the Federal Government: failure to fully seat the 13-member Southeast Regional Advisory Council recently with no explanation for vacant seats; failure to follow Alaska National Interest Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section .810 requirements with respect to the process during the proposed Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process; and changes in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which greatly reduce public participation in the management of public lands. He is concerned about the decrease in the amount of field studies and research on subsistence in recent years, resulting in the Council operating and making decisions on a thinner objective database. There is a clear need for performing select studies on subsistence and for including traditional ecological knowledge in analyses. He recognized that the Council supported the Organized Village of Kake's recent special action for an additional hunt to provide food for the community. For several years, the work of the Council has managed to provide a reasonable amount of protection for subsistence users and ensure that subsistence ways of life continue.

Albert Howard of Angoon reported that the impact of COVID-19 has created a lot of stress within the community. Approximately 80 percent of Angoon residents are unemployed. Pink Salmon were small this year, and his attempts at getting Sockeye Salmon were challenging. He has concerns about the many issues impacting Angoon (which no one considers when making regulations) and he is concerned about the local, long-term knowledge that was lost recently when two Council members were not reappointed to the Council. Bear attacks have increased and bears are eating at the kelp line, indicating there is a lack of salmon for them to eat. Deer are harder to harvest, but the community hopes that deer will sustain them through winter. He is concerned about the Hecla Greens Creek proposed tailings expansion and water contamination at Hawk Inlet. Seiners are struggling as very large vessels come in and continuously fish, unlike in the past – the boats were smaller and fishing had to stop when boats were full. The community

is concerned about food uncertainty, especially during this pandemic. They recognize that other people have a significant impact on the food resources and their ability to obtain them. There is a discrepancy in conservation of species when Bering Sea harvesters can throw away 30 to 40 thousand pounds of King Salmon, but an Angoon local person can be put in jail and lose his boat for catching one salmon.

Harold Robbins of Yakutat reported that the normal storms across the Gulf made fish catches pretty limited this season. There was a reasonable King Salmon run in the Situk and Alsek rivers but this wasn't reflected well because of the weather conditions involved. Moose season has been quite aggressive and the west side of the Dangerous River area has closed with a harvest of 30+ animals. The east side is still open (for harvest of another 10 moose). There is a heavy migration of waterfowl, especially snow geese in the Dry Bay area, and he'd like to explore the possibility of harvesting more than just the standard goose limit.

John Yeager of Wrangell reported that just about every industry in his community was affected due to COVID-19. The community did well with protocols and necessary actions to limit exposure to the virus. A normal Sockeye fishery took place on the Stikine River. Due to the wet summer, it was a bad year for berries in the area. He suspects that the moose harvest will be substantially lower in the number of bulls shot off the Stikine River this year. There isn't a lot of harvest of deer yet – they are seeing a lot of does and not many bucks. The community is hunkering down and rallying together to help each other out during these times of hardship caused by the virus.

Larry Bemis, Jr. of Yakutat reported that herring was slow in the spring and, due to the cold, spawning occurred in unusual areas which caused people to travel farther to harvest. It was not an average return, but most harvesters were still able to catch herring and some people also collected eggs. The community helped contain COVID-19 by utilizing a lot of local testing opportunities when positive cases were first detected. The Sockeye run was slow and although the escapement goal was met, the return was not normal. King Salmon met the lower end of the escapement goal. Silver Salmon returns were average for commercial and sportfishing. The bag limit was increased for some fish species, which made it good for those that came to harvest. There were quite a few sportfishermen in the fall. There is a huge community concern about State proposals regarding manning nets.. Many people are disturbed to see the impact and the lack of transparency regarding the harvest of timber by the local Corporations. A lot of land has been cleared, and as a result, wolves, bear, and deer have been misplaced from their previous areas of cover.

Cathy Needham of Juneau reported that she has been living on POW since March. She continues to work with Tribes across the region to address their concerns with the roadless (AKRR) issue. Despite numerous efforts, Tribal authority and knowledge was not used to help guide the process. Tribes that signed on as cooperating agencies all uniformly pulled out of the process after the Final Environmental Impact Statement was released, as they did not feel that their hard work and efforts affected any change in the Department of Agriculture's decisions. She also reported that three Council members presented the Council's comments on the AKRR with Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Office of Management and Budget (OIRA/OMB). There is currently a "Homelands Petition" by the Tribes to restart the rulemaking process for land stewardship on the Tongass National Forest.

Her observations on POW included working closely with biologists to address Sockeye Salmon concerns on a number of systems in southern Southeast. Hetta Lake had the third lowest return, and most of the fish seemed to be four or five year old fish. She did not observe many subsistence fishing efforts on the Hetta, Eek, or Kasook systems. For conservation of the species, the community had voluntarily delayed their harvest of salmon and were upset when the commercial fishery opened to harvest those salmon. There were no further openings this season due to low volume/biomass of Sockeye in Cordova Bay. Hydaburg reported 182 Sockeye Salmon harvested for the entire season. They received Bristol Bay Sockeye brokered partially by the Trollers' Association. It was an amazing bog cranberry year.

Donald Hernandez of Point Baker reported that as a 39-year veteran gillnetter, this is the worst commercial fishing season he's ever seen. The Sockeye Salmon catch was exceptionally low. The commercial fishing time in the area was reduced to let enough fish get through for successful subsistence fishing. Coho Salmon fishing was very poor in the fall except for a one/two week time period when the Stikine River fish transited through their area. King and Chum Salmon fishing were very weak and the hatcheries did not do very well. Factors for these circumstances include changes in climate and ocean conditions and the immediate consequences of poor fish runs will be felt by subsistence users.

Mr. Hernandez also provided the Chair's report, advising the Council of his attendance in the Kake food security, special action meeting held by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board), his participation on the presentation of testimony to OIRA/OMB on AKRR, and his attendance of deer summit planning meetings for the Unit 2 deer issue. He reminded the Council of his letter to the Tongass Forest Supervisor addressing comment deadlines on upcoming timber sales and projects.

Service Awards

Tom Kron, OSM, congratulated two Council members for reaching milestone length-of-service anniversaries: Michael Douville has served for 20 years and John Yeager has served for 10 years. These men have made numerous, significant contributions to the extraordinary work performed by this Council.

Old Business

805(c) Report

805(c) Report: This report, which outlines the actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) on issues for the Southeast Region, was printed in the meeting books. Council took no further action.

Unit 2 Deer

Tom Schumacher, Southeast Regional Supervisor, ADF&G, provided an update on the status of deer in Game Management Unit 2 based on limited data (as a result of COVID-19). Although the Council hoped to learn the population estimate for wolves in Unit 2 (as this predator impacts deer harvest), Mr.

Schumacher advised that the State and the Forest Service have not yet reached a conclusion on the management of the upcoming wolf hunting/trapping season, and so he could not release the population estimate at this time. He also provided information on the current Endangered Species Act petition which requests that the Southeast Alaska wolves be designated as a distinct population segment. Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, also reported on the Forest Service involvement with wolf management. The Council asked several questions and provided comments to Mr. Schumacher and Mr. Stewart on this highly controversial matter.

Board of Fish Proposals

The Council has submitted five proposals to the State Board of Fish (BOF) for this cycle. Amended Motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Bemis to send two Council members to the BOF meeting in April to present the Council's support on its five proposals, and to possibly provide comments on others. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion by Ms. Needham, seconded by Mr. Yeager, to submit a request letter to OSM to release funding for two Council members to travel to the BOF 2021 meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

The Council began discussion on additional Alaska BOF proposals: Nos. 93, 126, 127, 129, 130, 134, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 161, 170, 177, 210, and 234.

Motion by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Wright, to adopt the list of preliminary comments on the Alaska BOF proposals as a product of the Council for further discussion at its next meeting.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote with one Council member absent for this vote.

New Business

Terry Suminski, USFS, provided a Federal Subsistence Fisheries Update for the Southeast Region to the Council, including results from the Sockeye escapement monitoring project from the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews

Regional:

FCR21-22: Closure of herring harvest in the Makhnati Island Federal public waters in Sitka Sound, except by Federally qualified subsistence users

Motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Howard, to maintain status quo of the closure.

The Council has heard testimony for years that people are having a hard time meeting their subsistence needs/harvest goals for herring, and it is widely known that herring numbers have been decimated throughout Southeast Alaska. It is recognized that the harvest of row on kelp and branches in Sitka is culturally important and is a significant symbol of indigenous strength and wealth. The closure has been beneficial to subsistence users, and the closure is still necessary to provide some protection of the resource while providing the opportunity to continue subsistence uses. The closure is consistent with

explicit wording and the intent of ANILCA under which the RAC makes its recommendations. The closure is also consistent with fish and wildlife management principles and is not a detriment to other uses.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote with one Council member absent for this vote.

2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Ms. Pippa Kenner, OSM, and Terry Suminski, USFS, presented the Council with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) Priority Information Needs (PINs) information. The Council reviewed its PINs list from 2018 as a starting point for discussion.

Motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Yeager, to establish a working group to discuss regional needs and present information and recommendations to the Council for official action later in the meeting.

Working group members: Frank Wright, Harold Robbins, Albert Howard, Cathy Needham; Support staff: Terry Suminski and Justin Koller (USFS), and Pippa Kenner (OSM).

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Working group member, Cathy Needham, informed the whole Council of the working group's meeting and the resulting recommended PINs list.

Motion by Ms. Needham, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the working group's recommendations for PINs and to forward the list to OSM on behalf of the Council.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote with one Council member absent for the vote.

Identifying Issues for FY2020 Annual Report

The Council identified the following topics for inclusion into the FY-19 Annual Report:

- Council Vacancies – seats not filled during last appointment cycle; review charter language
- ANILCA Responsibilities
 - Subsistence hearings are not being conducted pursuant to established process
- Federal Agency Decision Making Levels limit local manager input/involvement
- Staff Support Request
 - Need better attendance and participation by staff biologists (particularly local biologists) at Council meetings to aid Council's discussion on issues affecting a certain geographical area
 - Need staff and resources to conduct surveys/studies in inclement weather – need current data
- ANILCA Section .805 information to the Board for Southeast communities
- Protecting Subsistence Resources
 - concern that creating commercial fisheries on subsistence resources negatively impacts subsistence users
- Access to Subsistence Resources
 - elevate access issue: Community of Hoonah denied historical access to Glacier Bay
 - reasonable access to resources in emergencies

Motion by Mr. Howard, seconded by Ms. Needham, to draft the annual report with the items offered by the Council. The motion passed on a unanimous vote with one Council member absent for the vote.

Proposed Review Processes for NPS Individual C&T Use Determinations

Dr. Joshua Ream, NPS, presented the Council with proposed changes to the NPS individual customary and traditional (C&T) use determinations review process and requested the Council's opinion on the changes.

Motion by Ms. Needham, seconded by Mr. Yeager, to support the recommended changes to the individual NPS C&T process guidelines.

The motion failed on a unanimous vote with one Council member absent for the vote.

The Council felt that the current process for determining Individual C&T determinations is working and does not need to be changed. The area available for individual C&T permits in the Southeast is limited; however, the Council was concerned that this may create an ability for the National Park Service to take land use out of the jurisdiction of the Board. Currently, the Regional Advisory Councils and the Board play roles in determining who has customary and traditional use in national parks and the Council is concerned that if this delegation of authority goes through, that responsibility and opportunity to provide input would cease. There is also a concern that if the delegation of authority is granted to the NPS Alaska Regional Director, this would narrow authority and reduce advisory capacity. The Council does not wish to see access to subsistence areas denied and subsistence activities further limited or eliminated in national park areas for Federally qualified subsistence users.

Status Updates on Forest Service Projects on the Tongass National Forest

Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor of the Tongass National Forest, USFS, provided updates on the following Forest Service projects and fielded questions by the Council:

- Twin Mountain II Timber Sale – old growth and young growth timber harvest in Staney and Red Bay areas of Prince of Wales Island
- Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis Project – overview of 2021 planned projects
- South Revilla Integrated Project - Notice of Availability: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released; two public meetings, one subsistence hearing being held
- Central Tongass Project – expecting Supplemental EIS to be published in March 2021
- Hecla Greens Creek Mine (plan submitted to expand existing tailings storage facility) – Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS published on October 9, 2020; virtual public meetings
- Alaska Roadless Rulemaking – Final EIS released September 25, 2020; Record of Decision expected after October 25 (30 days after FEIS release)

Correspondence

The Council took action to send letters regarding the following issues:

- Twin Mountain II Timber Sale – scoping comments to USFS

Motion by Ms. Needham, seconded by Mr. Howard; motion passed on a unanimous vote with one Council member absent for the vote.

- Hecla Greens Creek Tailings Expansion – water quality comments, request to replicate 1980s baseline study

Motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Howard; motion passed 7 yays, 1 abstention, and 1 Council member absent for the vote.

- Authorization Letter to OSM for Council Chair to provide timely responses on behalf of Council when comment periods expire prior to Council meetings

Motion by Ms. Needham, seconded by Mr. Howard; motion passed on a unanimous vote with one Council member absent for the vote.

- ANILCA procedures, Subsistence Hearing Requirement comments to USFS (vote by Council covered in vote for Authorization letter, above)
- Council appreciation letter to FSB for its decision on the recent Organized Village of Kake food security special action

Motion by Mr. Schroeder, seconded by Ms. Needham; motion passed on a unanimous vote with one Council member absent for the vote.

- Request for funding to OSM to send Council member to Alaska BOF meeting (previously mentioned)

Agency Reports:

- Tom Kron, Acting Council Coordination Division Chief, presented the OSM program updates and Sue Detwiler, new Assistant Regional Director for OSM introduced herself to the Council
- Terry Suminski, Tongass National Forest Subsistence Program Leader, presented the summary of special actions taken to-date
- Lauren McChesney, Regional Environmental Coordinator, USFS, presented updates on changes to the National Environmental Policy Act
- Lauren Sill, Subsistence Resource Specialist for Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Douglas), presented an update on the activities of the Division

Future Meeting Dates:

Winter 2021 meeting to be held March 16-18, 2021, in Sitka

Fall 2021 meeting to be held October 19-21, 2021, in Craig

DeAnna Perry, Designated Federal Officer
USDA Forest Service

_____ Chair
Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its winter 2021 meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

A more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript, and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call DeAnna Perry at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-209-7817, email deanna.perry@usda.gov.

DRAFT



NEWS RELEASE



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Eddie Grasser, Director, Wildlife Conservation
ADF&G; www.adfg.alaska.gov

Tongass National Forest

Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor
Scot Shuler, District Ranger
US Forest Service; www.fs.usda.gov/tongass/

For Immediate Release

November 6, 2020

Contacts:

ADF&G, Tom Schumacher
Regional Supervisor, (907) 465-4359, tom.schumacher@alaska.gov

U.S. Forest Service, Paul Robbins Jr.
Public Affairs Officer, (907) 228-6201, paul.robbins@usda.gov

State and Federal Subsistence 2020 GMU 2 Wolf Harvest Season Closure Date Announced

CRAIG, Alaska – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), announce that the fall 2020 State and Federal hunting and trapping seasons for wolf in Game Management Unit 2 (GMU 2) (referred to as Unit 2 in the Federal Subsistence Regulations) will close at 11:59 pm December 5, 2020.

On Monday, October 26, 2020 ADF&G and the USFS issued a joint news release announcing a proposed fall 2020 wolf hunting and trapping season closure date. The agencies held a public meeting and hearing on October 29. Nearly 100 people were on the call and managers heard testimony from over 30 people.

Since the public meeting, ADF&G and USFS biologists and leadership have again reviewed population and harvest data related to GMU 2 wolves and deer, anecdotal information about wolf recruitment and likely current wolf abundance, probable wolf trapper interest and effort, and determined that a season closure date of Saturday, December 5, 2020 will maintain the fall population within the objective range (150-200 wolves) established to ensure sustainability of the population. Because the federal wolf hunting season was closed on September 1 and re-opened on October 31, the December 5 season closure date will allow federally qualified subsistence users 36 days of wolf hunting opportunity on federally managed lands in GMU 2. The state wolf hunting season, which opens on December 1, will be open for five days. Wolf trappers operating under State or Federal Subsistence regulations will have 21 days of trapping opportunity throughout GMU 2.

State and Federal managers expect the December 5 season closure date will result in sustainable level of harvest. This harvest management decision is consistent with ADF&G's GMU 2 Wolf Harvest Management Plan.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Although current regulations require wolves harvested in GMU 2 to be sealed within 30 days of the close of the season, State and Federal managers ask hunters and trappers to promptly seal all wolves. Doing so will allow managers to track harvest and ensure it remains sustainable. State and Federal managers also ask trappers to record the exact date (mm/dd/year) and reasonably precise location (drainage, bay, small island name) where individual wolves were harvested and to report that information for each wolf at sealing. Providing more precise harvest data will enable ADF&G to produce more precise population estimates.

The fall 2020 GMU 2 wolf hunting and trapping seasons for Federally qualified subsistence users on Federal lands will open on October 31 and November 15, respectively. State wolf trapping season in GMU 2 opens on November 15 and the state wolf hunting season opens on December 1. All State and Federal wolf harvest seasons in GMU 2 will close on December 5, 2020.

Please call the ADF&G Ketchikan area office at 907-225-2475 for more information. For more information from the U.S. Forest Service, please call District Ranger Scot Shuler at 907-826-1600. Maps of Federal lands within GMU 2 are available at Forest Service offices. Maps and additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the web at; <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm>.

-end-



ADF&G • Boards Support Section

www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 2020/2021 Cycle Tentative Meeting Schedule

Prince William Sound Finfish and Shellfish (except shrimp); Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish; Statewide All Shellfish (including Prince William Sound shrimp, excluding all other Prince William Sound shellfish, Southeast, and Yakutat)

REVISED PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Friday, April 24, 2020

Meeting Dates	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
October 15–16, 2020 [2 days]	Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	Via videoconference	September 30, 2020
March 4, 2021 [1 day]	Hatchery Committee	Anchorage Egan Civic Center	February 18, 2021
March 5-10, 2021 [6 days]	Statewide All Shellfish (Except Prince William Sound, Southeast and Yakutat) and Prince William Sound Shrimp only	Anchorage Egan Civic Center	February 18, 2021
March 30-April 5, 2021 [6 days]	Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish and Shellfish (Except shrimp)	Cordova The Cordova Center	March 16, 2021
April 17-29, 2021 [13 days]	Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish	Ketchikan Ted Ferry Civic Center	April 2, 2021

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 13, 2020 [60 days prior to fall worksession]
Rev. October 20, 2020

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
Subsistence Resource Commission

P.O. Box 439
Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy.
Copper Center, AK 99573

October 27, 2020

Märit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
c/o ADF&G Boards Support Section
ATTN: Board of Game Comments
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Comments on 2020-2021 Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals for Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish

Dear Ms. Carlson-Van Dort:

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) met by teleconference on October 5 and 6, 2020. The commission is a federal advisory committee that represents subsistence users of federal lands within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. At this meeting, the SRC reviewed the Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals being considered during 2020-2021 meeting cycle and would like to provide the following comments.

PROPOSAL 126: Repeal net tending requirement in Yakutat Bay

PROPOSAL 127: Repeal net tending requirement in Yakutat Bay

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission unanimously supported Proposal 126 and Proposal 127. The new net tending requirement has put an undue hardship on subsistence users. There is no data demonstrating that subsistence users are the sole reason that the number of Chinook salmon entering streams is declining.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Stevens
Chair

cc: NPS Alaska Regional Director
Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Chair: Daniel Stevens; Members: Mike Christenson, Sam Demmert, Sue Entsminger, Don Horrell, Suzanne McCarthy, Kaleb Rowland, and Gloria Stickwan

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

Comparison of Current and Proposed Review Processes for National Park Service Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations

Step in process	Current Process	Proposed Process
Application window	Narrow window during call for regulatory proposals every two years	Open continuously
Application review	Proposals may be invalidated if incomplete or 13.440 permit is needed	NPS staff work with applicant if information is missing or 13.440 permit is needed
Proposal analysis	Follows standard format for C&T proposals using 8 factors. Prepared by OSM staff in combination with NPS staff	Follows standard format for C&T proposals using 8 factors. Prepared NPS staff.
Advisory committee review	Federal subsistence Regional Advisory Council	National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission
Decisionmaker	Federal Subsistence Board at annual regulatory meeting	NPS Alaska Regional Director
Decision timeline	Fixed schedule -- at annual regulatory meeting	Flexible schedule -- following receipt of SRC recommendation

Subsistence Harvest and Escapement Southeast Alaska Region



District 1 Eulachon Monitoring - 2019

- Site visit to Carrol Inlet March 6
- On-site monitoring at Unuk and Eulachon Rivers March 19 - April 1
- Aerial monitoring throughout the area - March 12, March 21, April 1
- Eulachon only observed on the Unuk/Eulachon Rivers



Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

District 1 Eulachon Monitoring - 2020

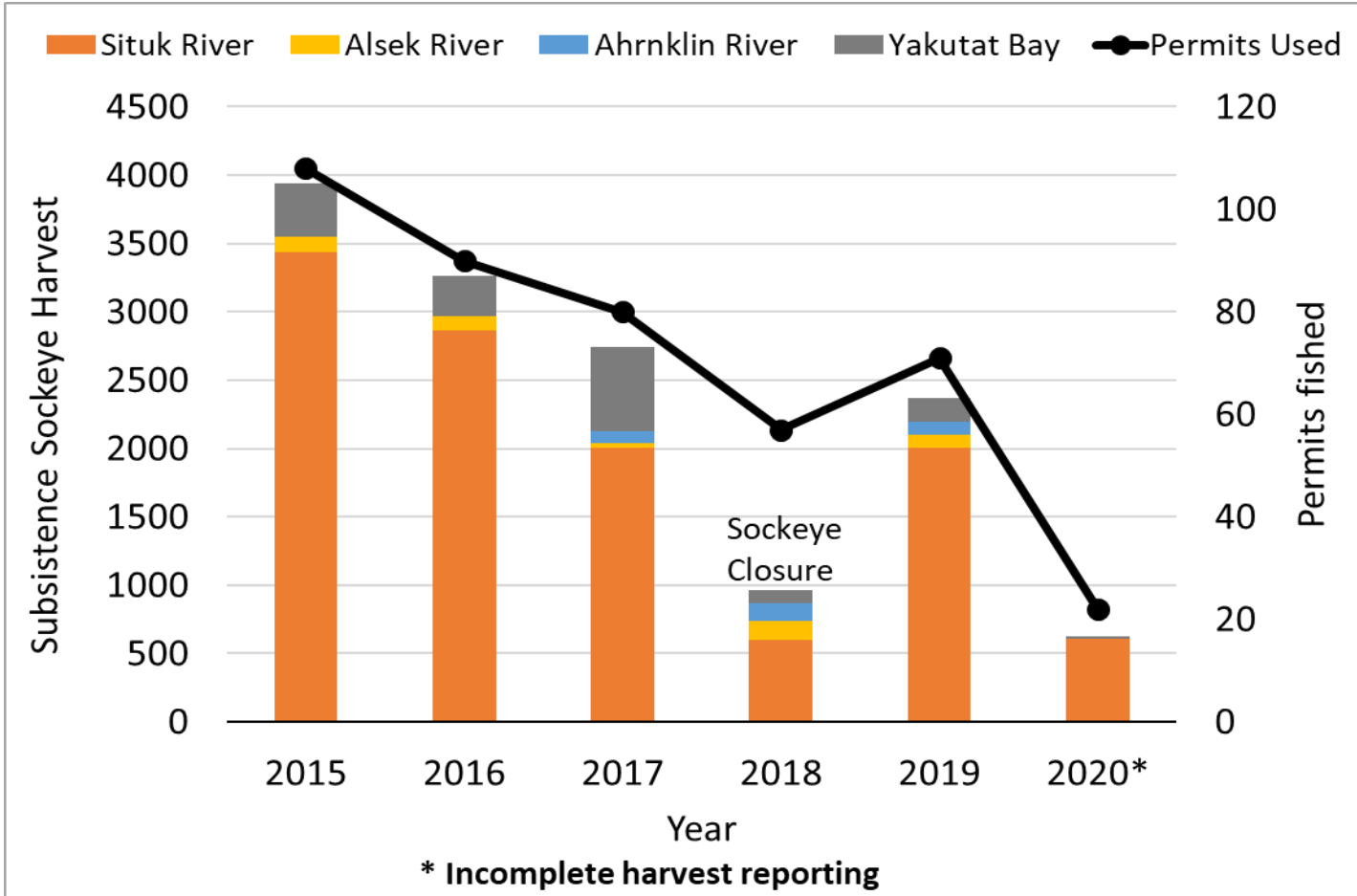
- Two aerial surveys as of March 19
- No on-site monitoring due to access difficulties
- Two small schools observed in Upper Landing Slough on the Unuk River



Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee Meeting



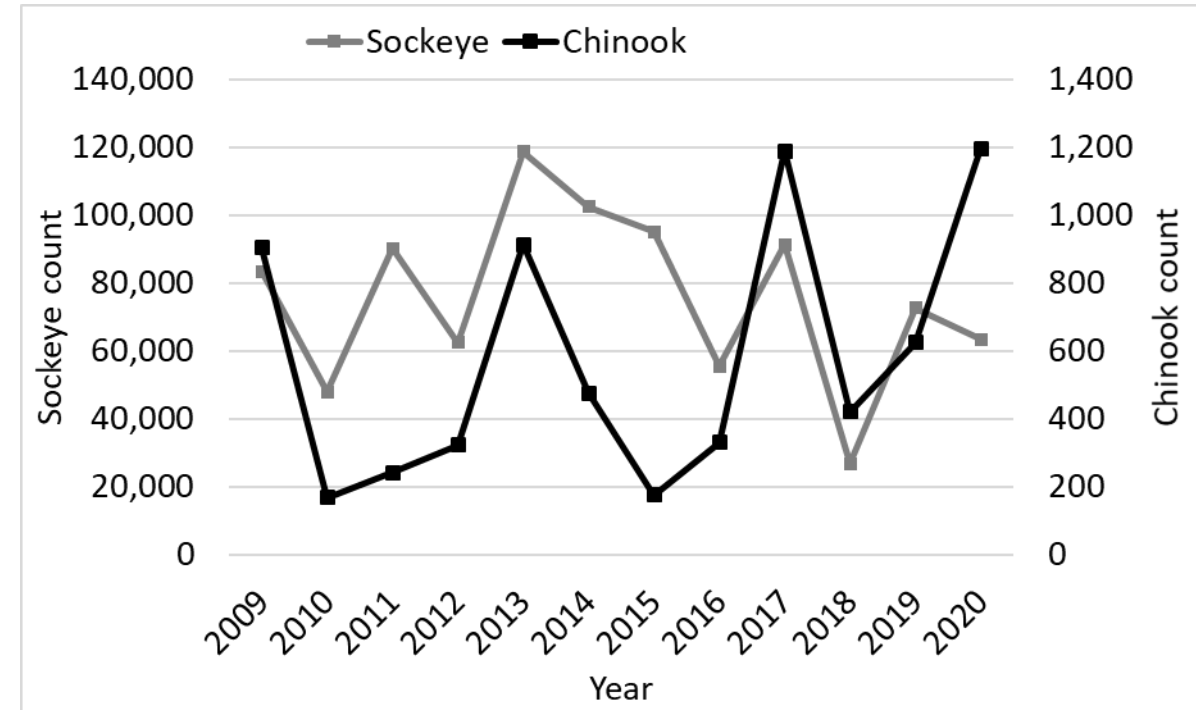
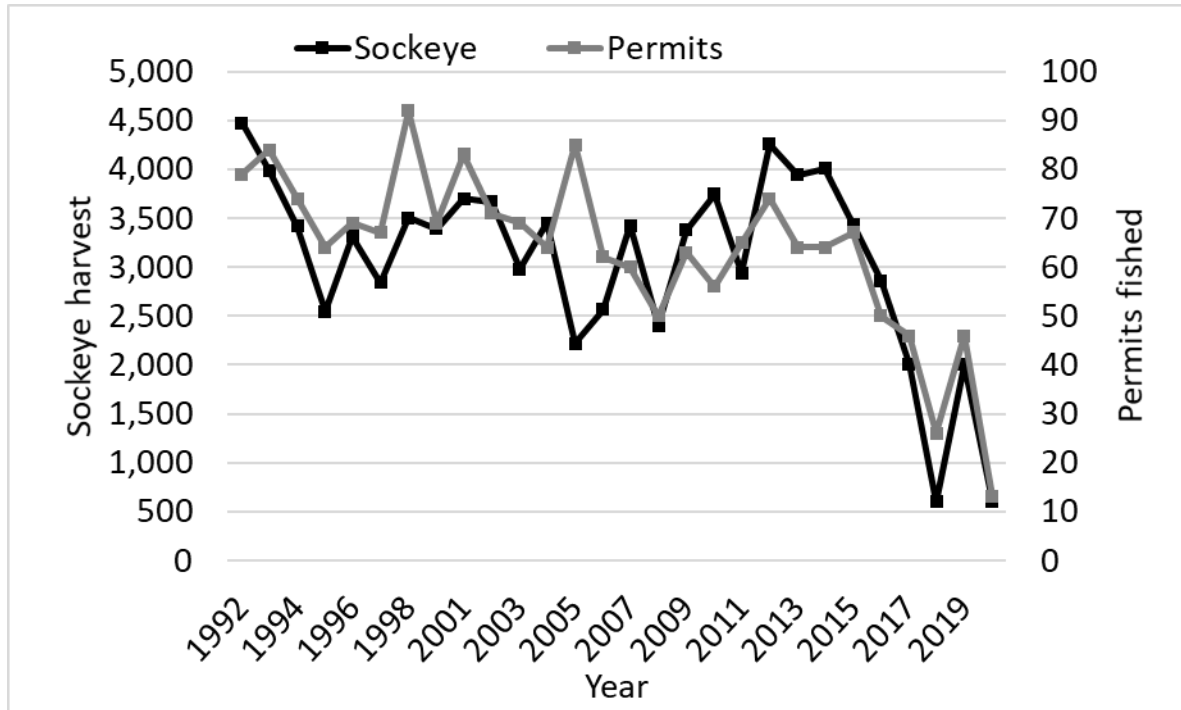
Yakutat Salmon



- No active FRMP projects
- Situk River is largest producer, Yakutat Bay also important, esp. for Chinook
- Situk Chinook closures for the past decade due to poor returns, Sockeye closure in 2018
- Sockeye harvest and effort declining in marine waters, possibly due to effects of Chinook closure during overlapping run timing



Sitku River Salmon

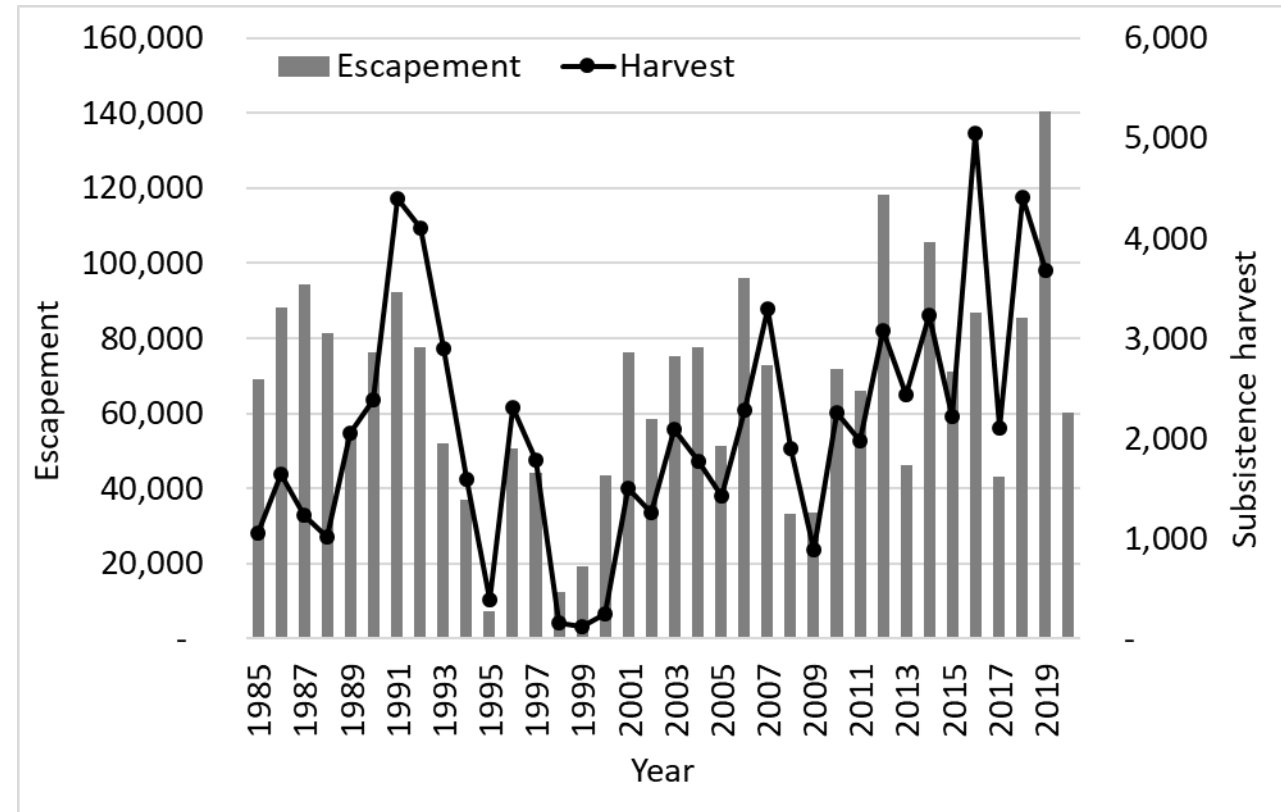
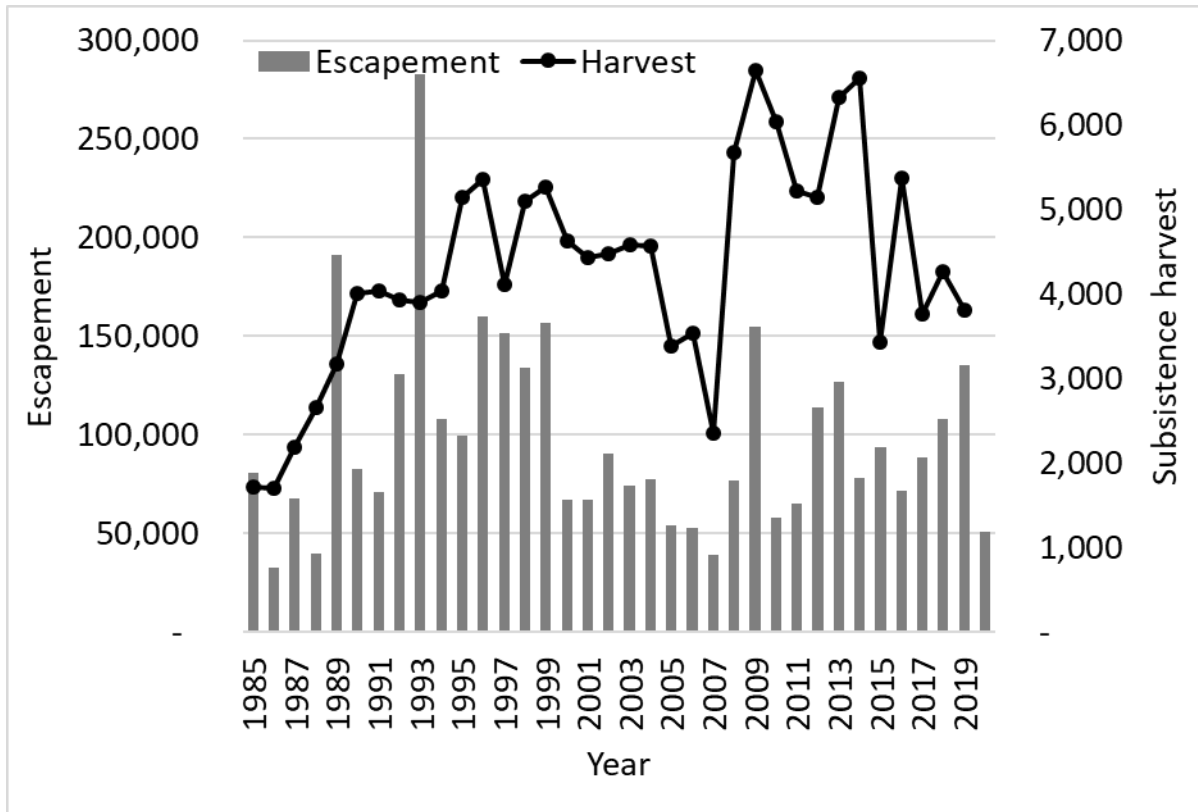


- Situk Sockeye harvest and effort have been relatively stable for 20+ years, before declining over the past few years.

- Sockeye counts have generally met escapement goals, with notable exception of 2018.
- Chinook counts have met minimum goal 6 times in past 12 years.



Haines/Upper Lynn Canal



Chilkat

Chilkoot

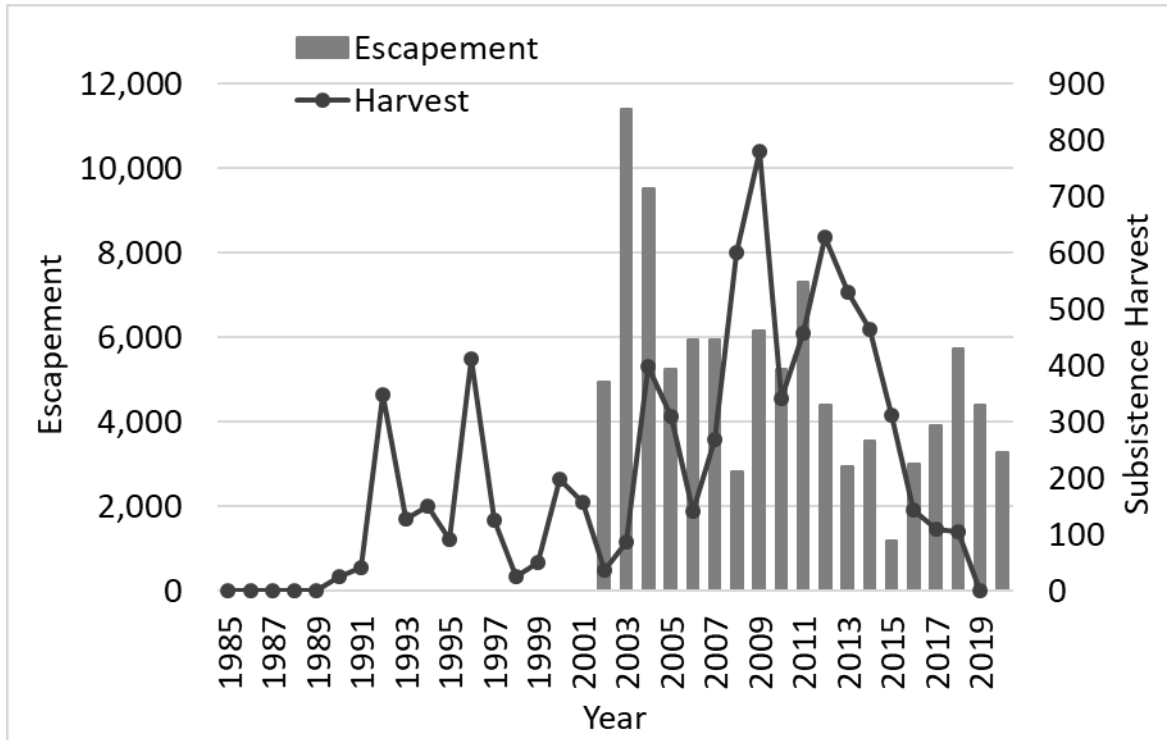


Hoonah/Icy Straits

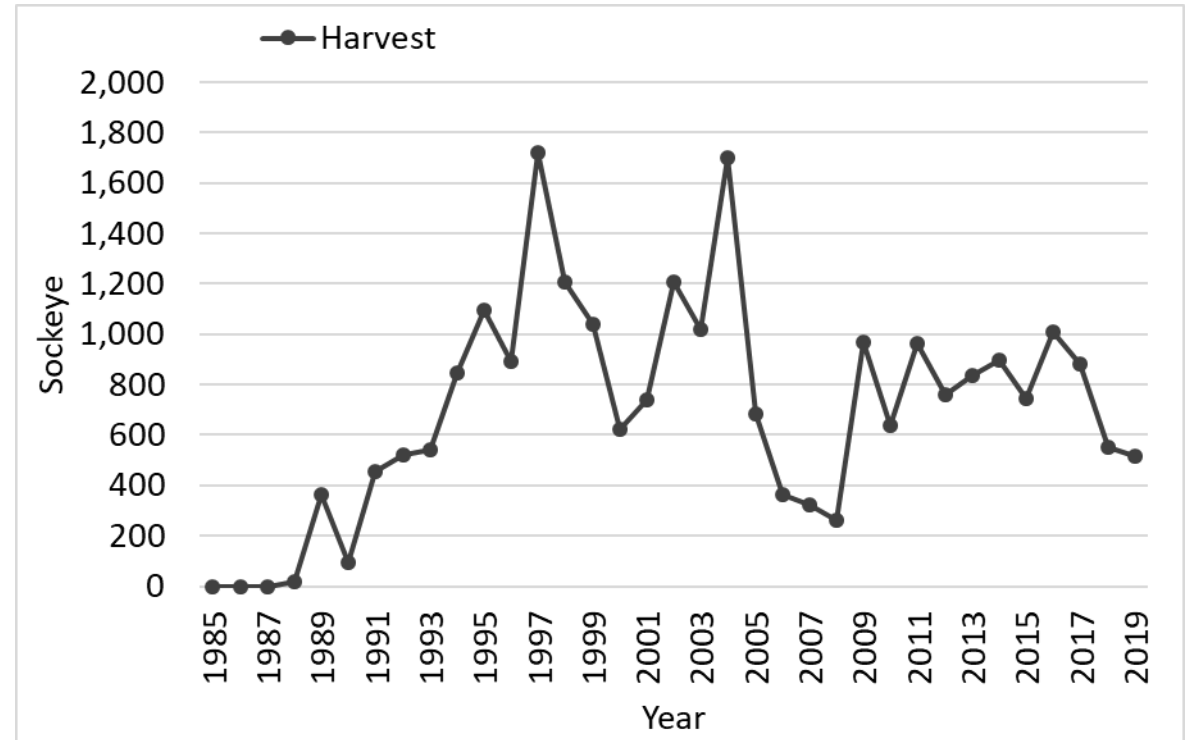


- Active FRMP project at Neva Lake (Excursion Inlet)
 - Improved escapements over past few years (5yr average 4,063)
 - Harvest lower due to reduced limits (approx. 125/year, down from 450)
 - Recent Sockeye closure to non-rural users
- Hoktaheen harvest relatively stable

Hoonah Area Systems



Neva



Hoktaheen

Angoon

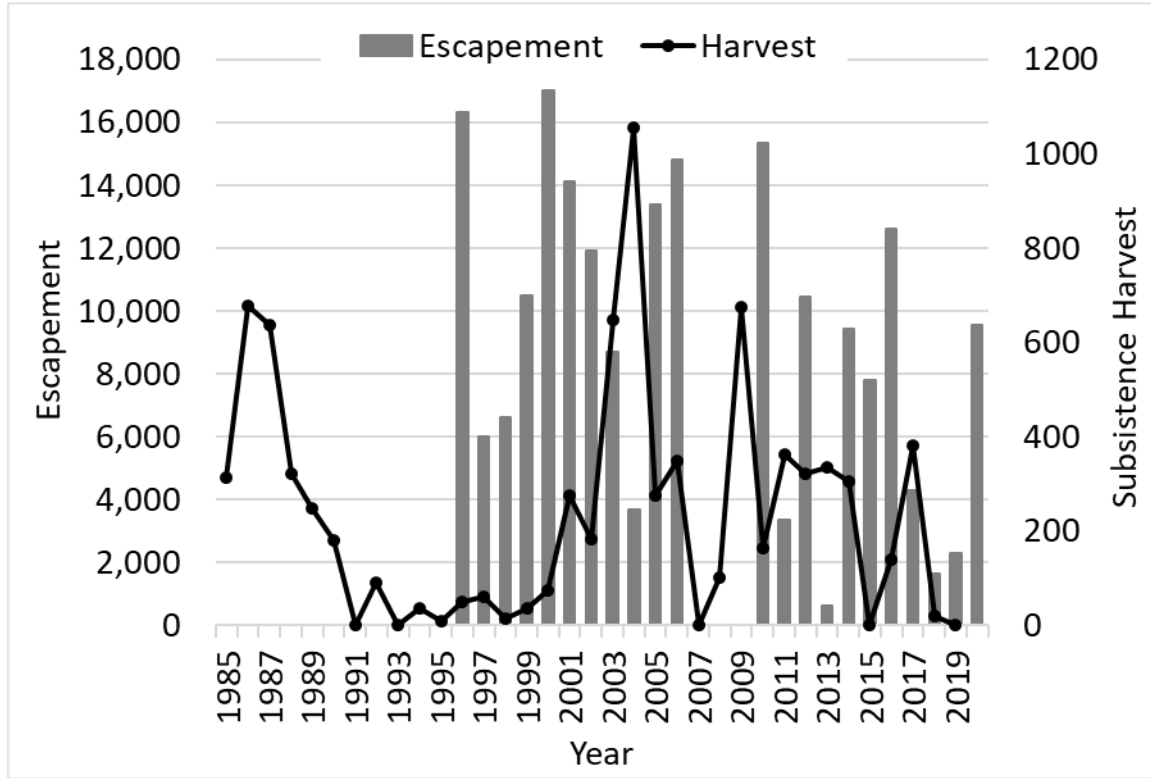


➤ Active FRMP project at Sitkoh Lake

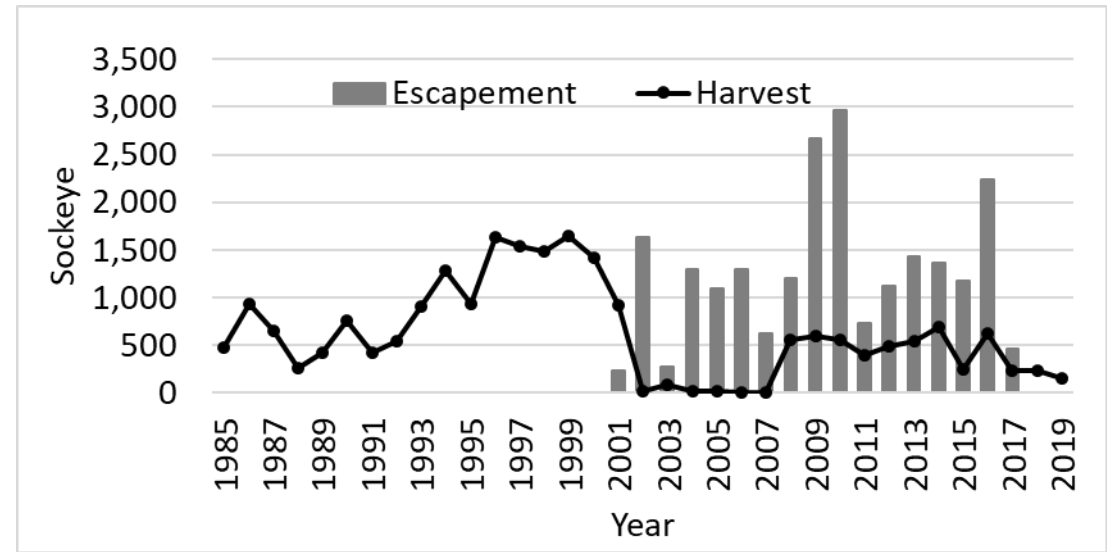
- Escapement rebounding after very low escapements 2017-2019 (approx. 2,000 compared to 8-12,000)
- Discontinued projects at Kook Lake and Kanalku Lake (ended 2017)

➤ Increased effort and catch at Lake Eva/Hanus Bay

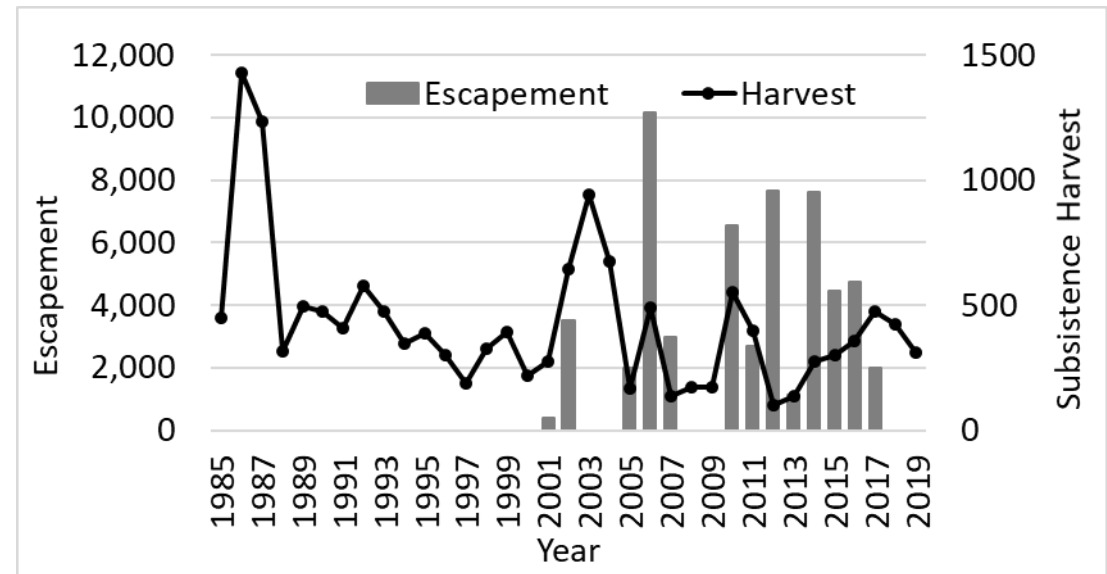
Angoon Area Systems



Sitkoh



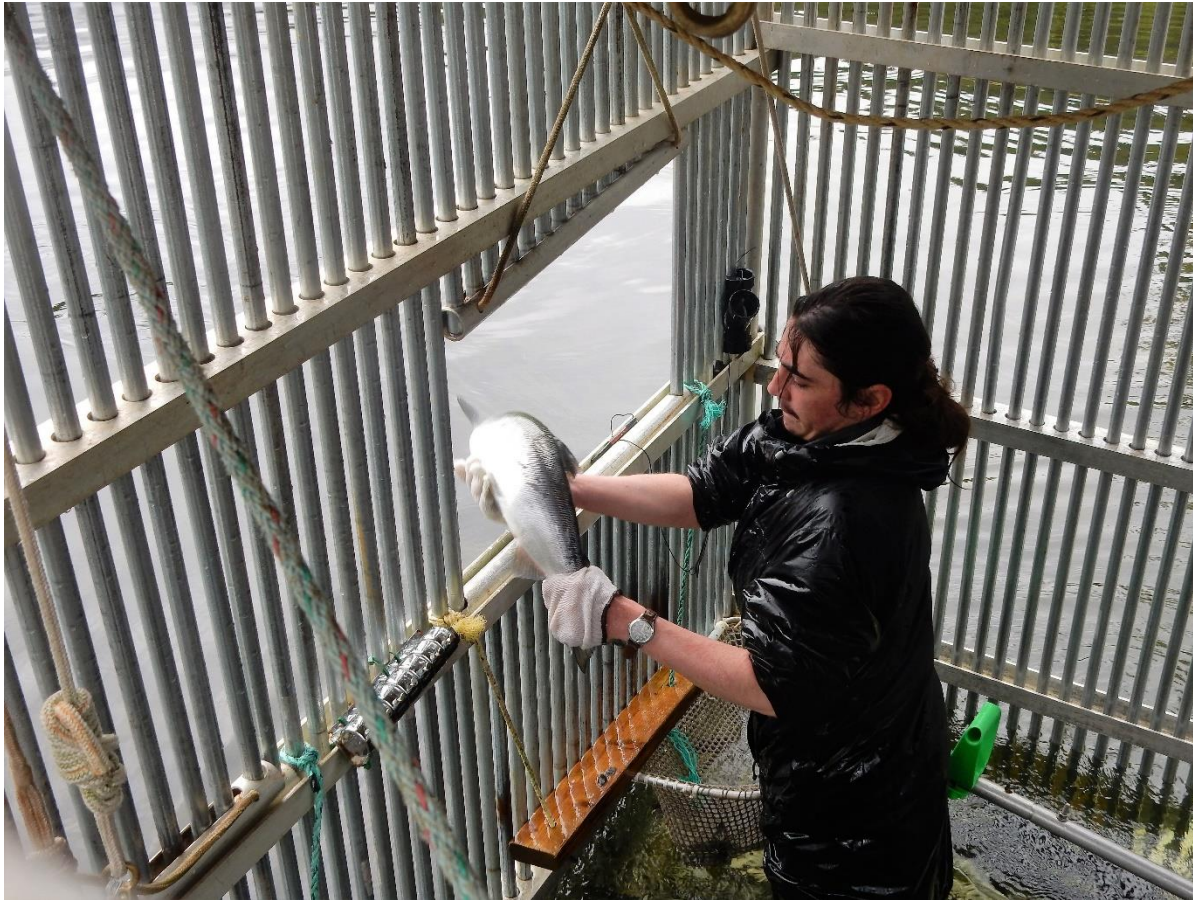
Kanalku



Kook

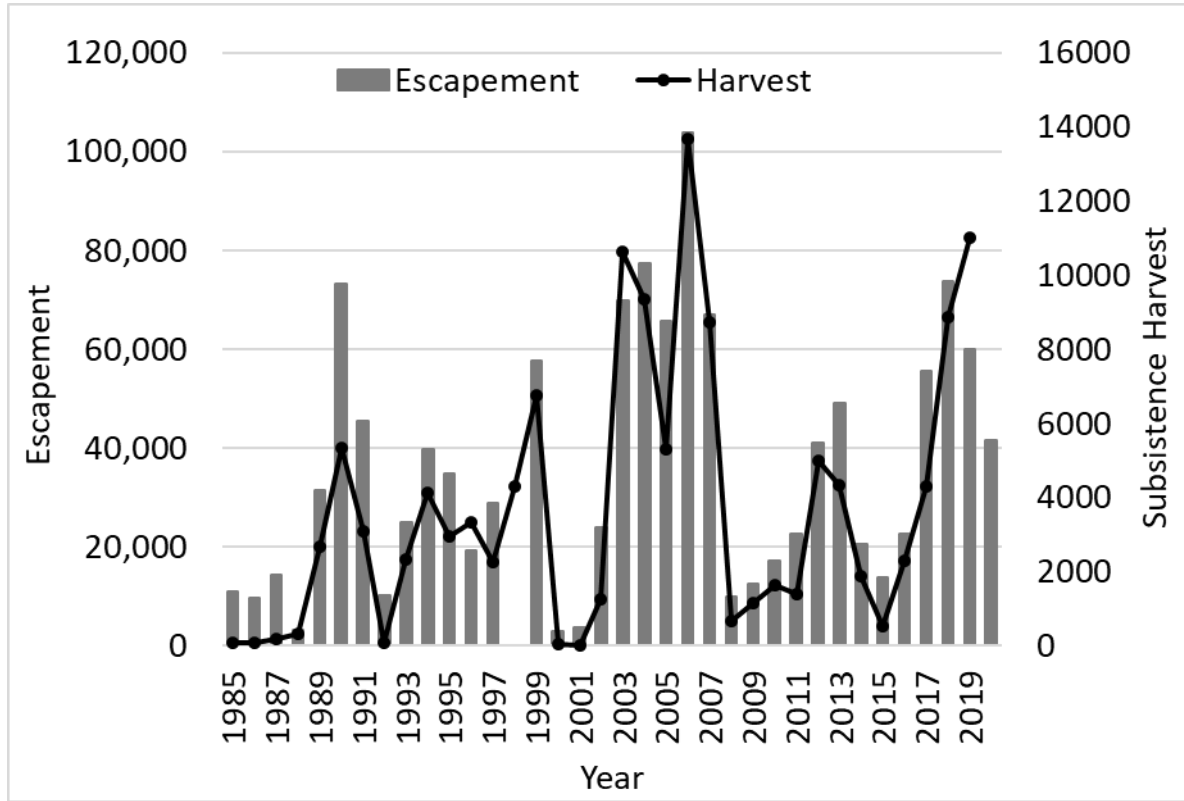


Sitka

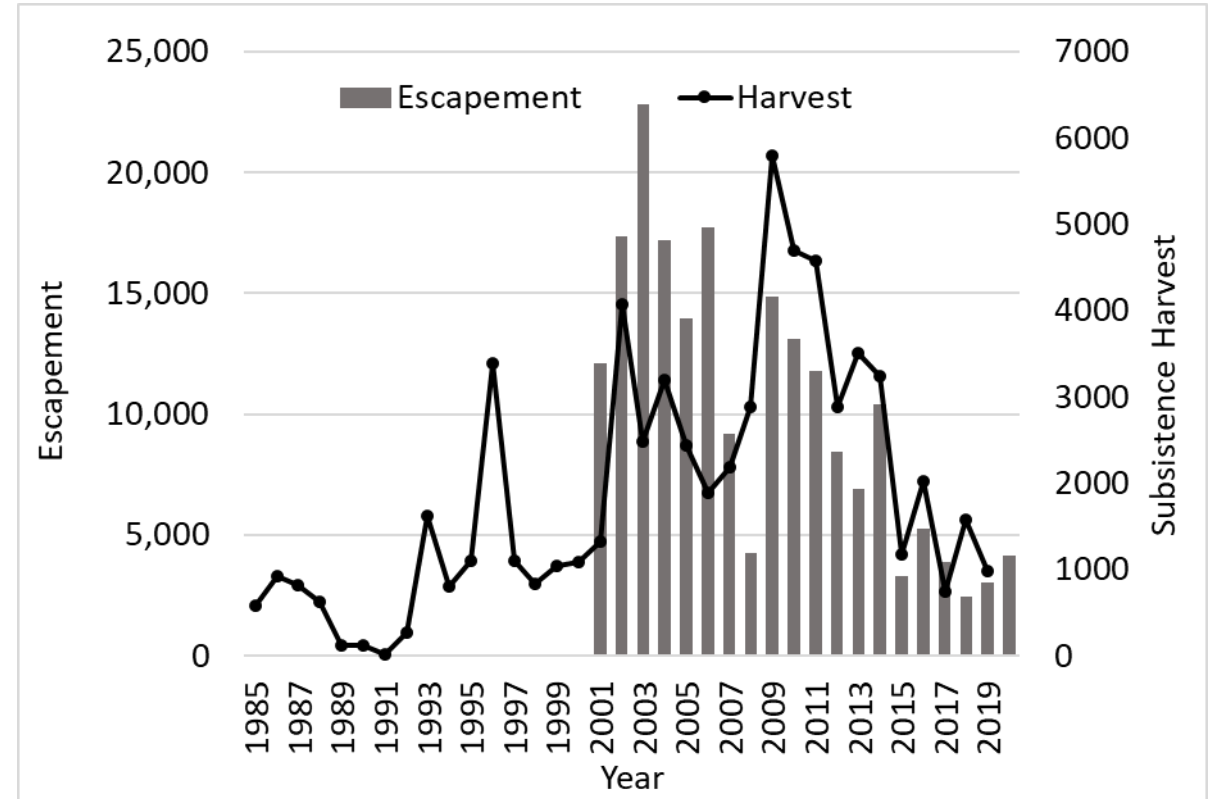


- Active FRMP project at Klag Bay
 - Poor escapement = effort shifted to other systems
 - Low water flows delay run
- Redoubt Lake monitoring
 - Strong recent returns, increased harvest and effort
- Other systems used
 - Redfish Bay and Necker Bay

Sitka Area Systems



Redoubt



Klag

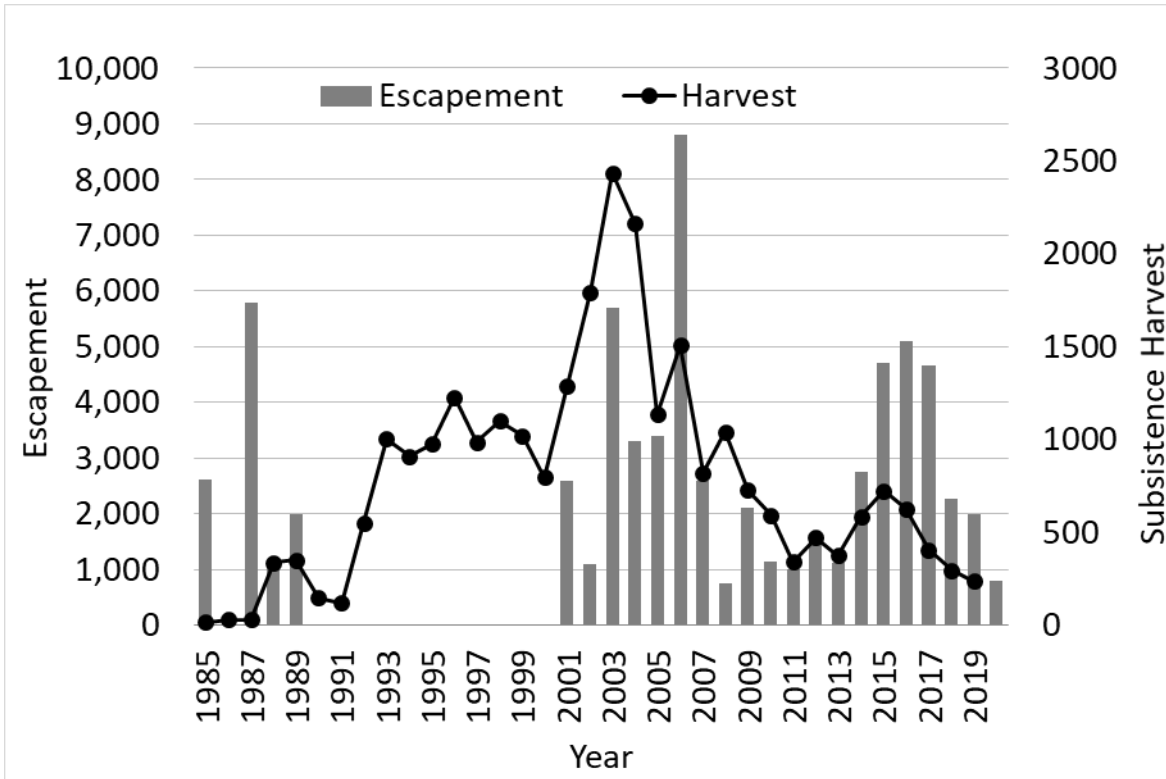


Kake

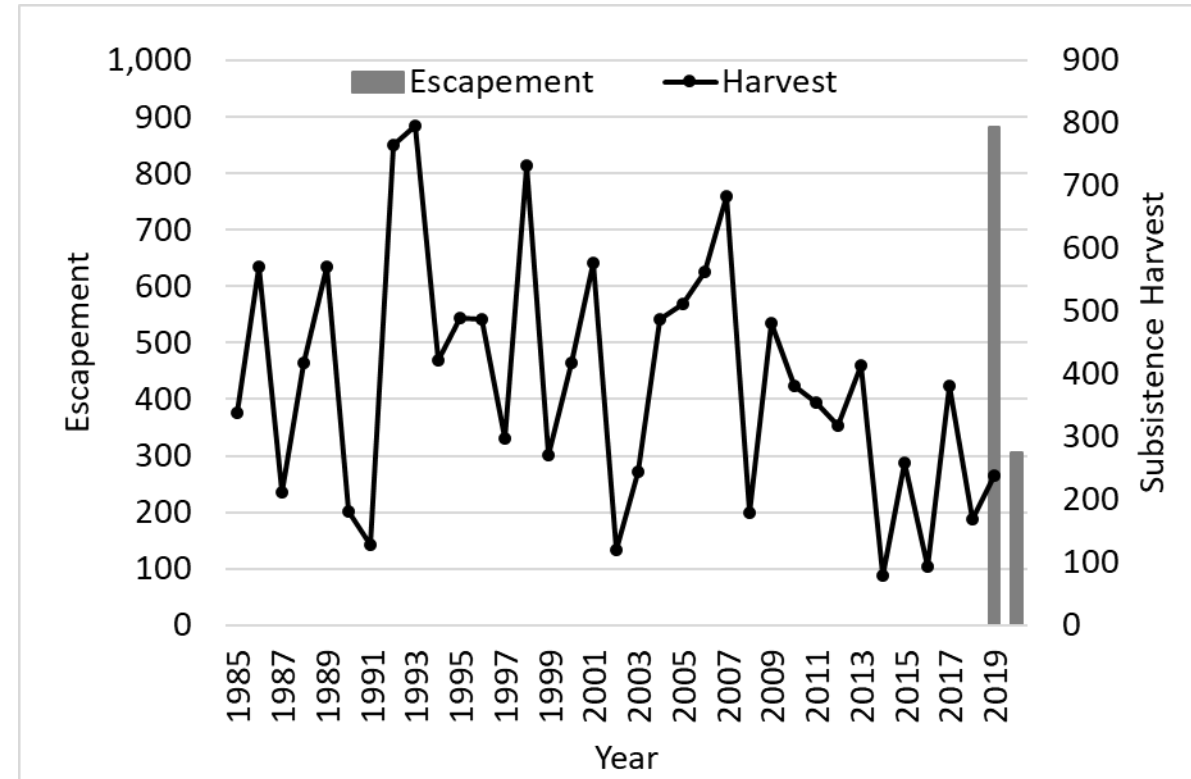


- Falls Lake and Gut Bay – active
 - Strong returns at Falls Lake from 2015-2017 with low returns recently
 - Low water inhibited escapement in 2019, especially at Falls Lake
- Other systems
 - Kutlaku/Pillar Bay
 - Alecks Creek/Tebenkof Bay

Kake Area Systems



Falls Lake



Gut Bay



Petersburg/Wrangell



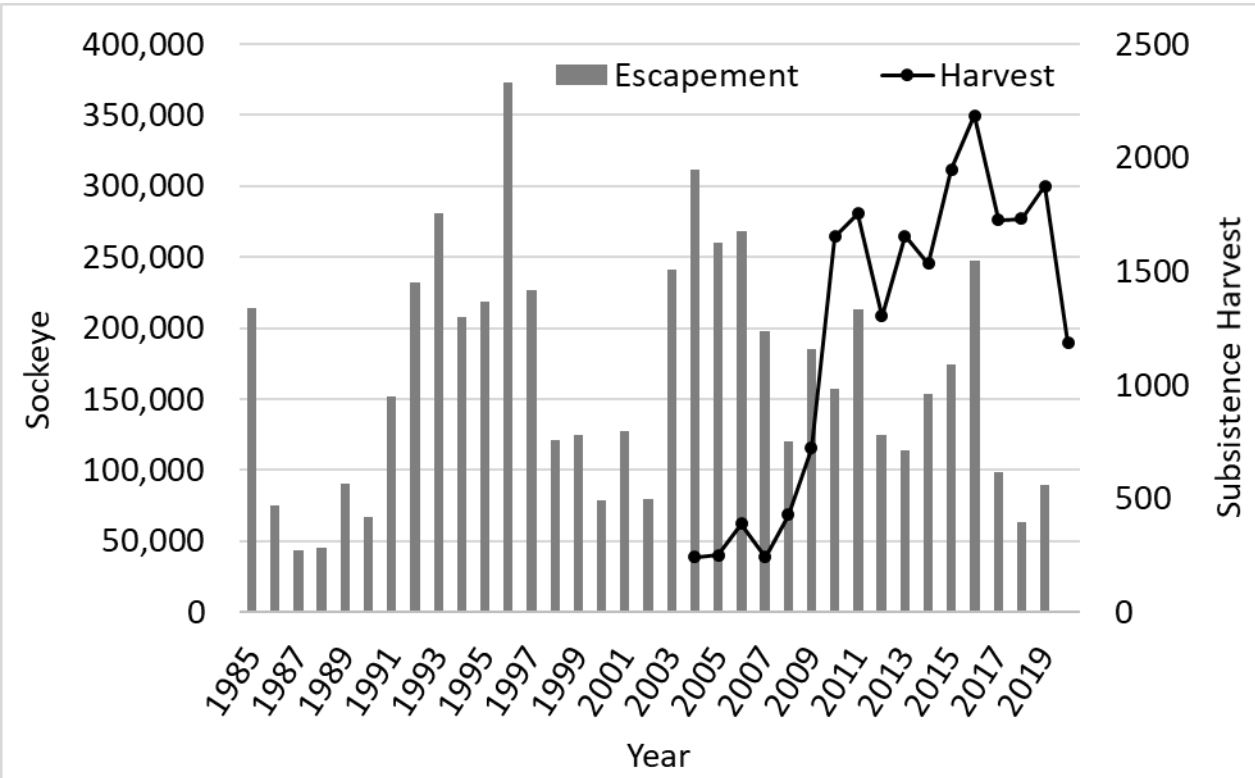
➤ Stikine River

- Primary subsistence salmon system for PSG and WRG
- Subsistence Chinook fishery remains closed
- Low Sockeye return in 2019, stronger forecast for 2020
- High water made fishing very difficult in 2020

➤ Other Systems

- Kah Sheets River- Small harvest
- Mill Creek/Thoms Creek

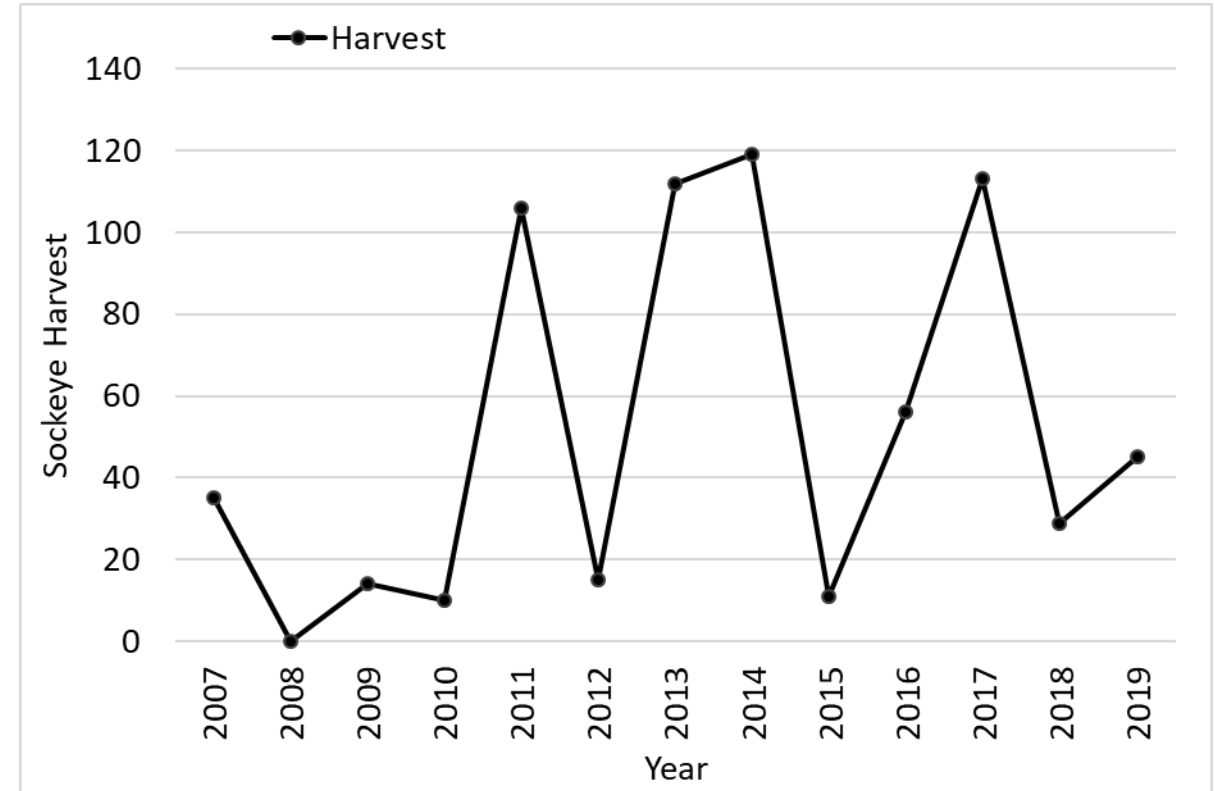
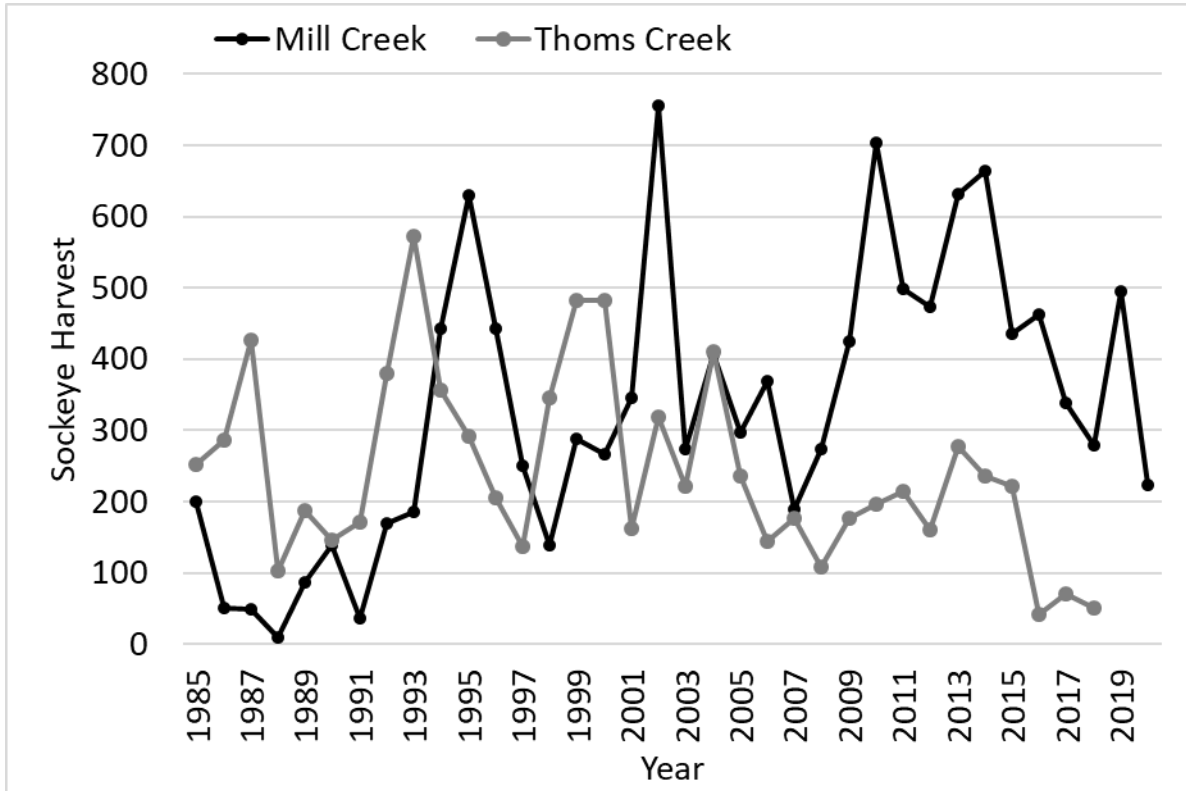
Petersburg/Wrangell Area Systems



Stikine



Petersburg/Wrangell- Smaller Systems



Mill Creek
Thoms Creek

Kah Sheets

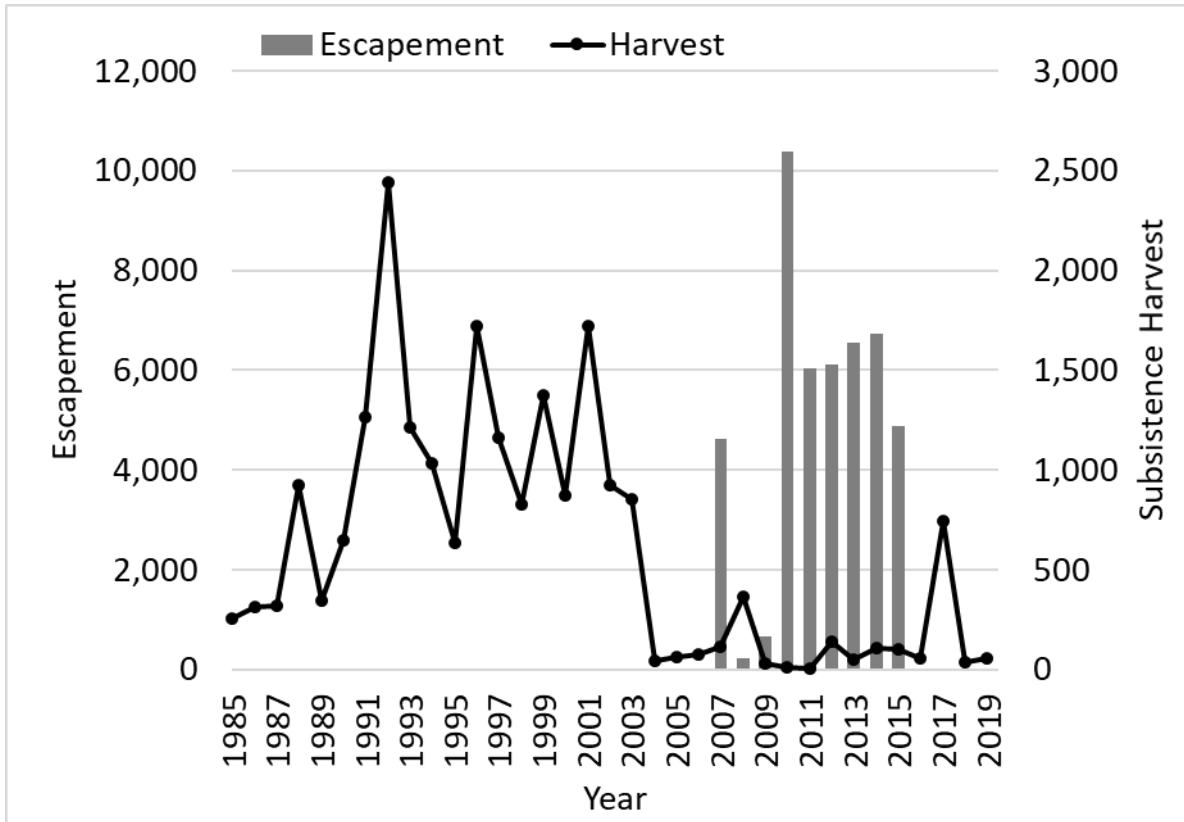


Prince of Wales Island

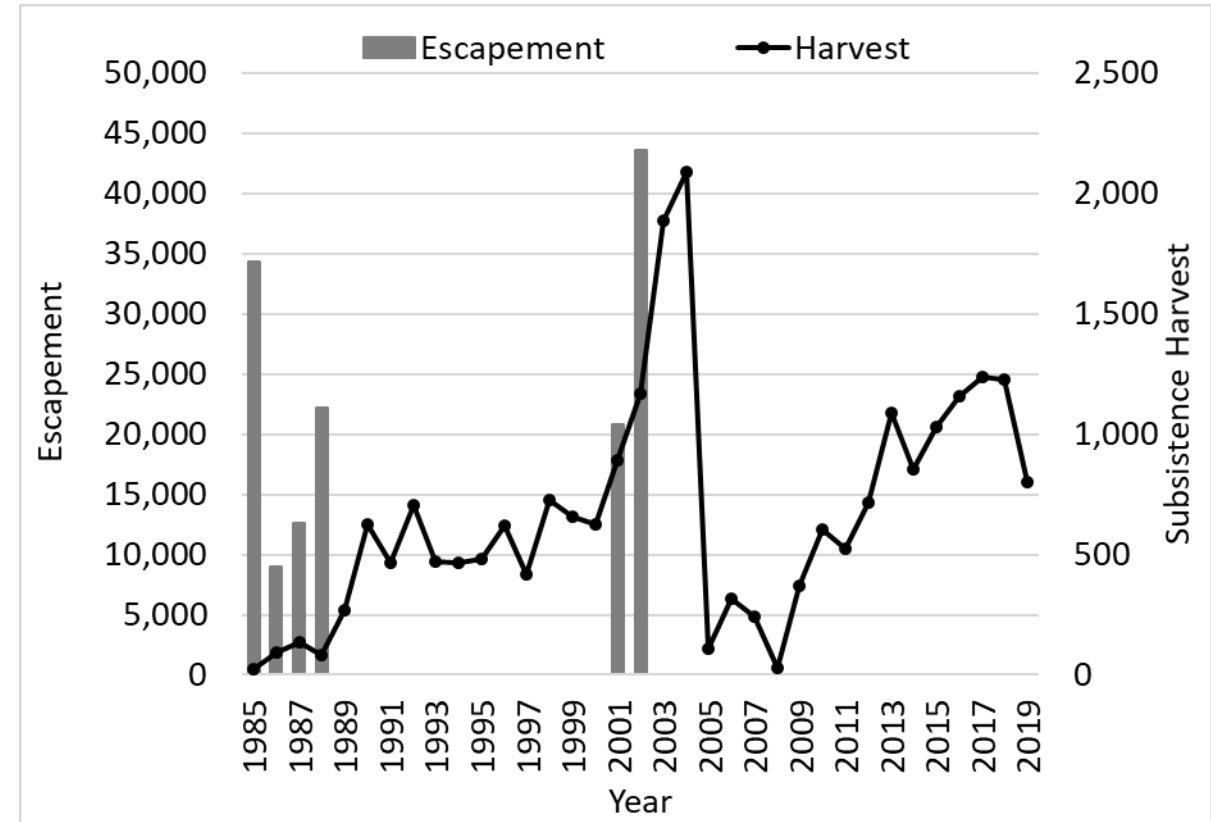


- Two active FRMP projects
 - Hetta and Eek
- Klawock River weir
- Past projects
 - Karta River and Hatchery Creek
- Sockeye harvest is down everywhere except Salmon Bay

Prince of Wales Island - North



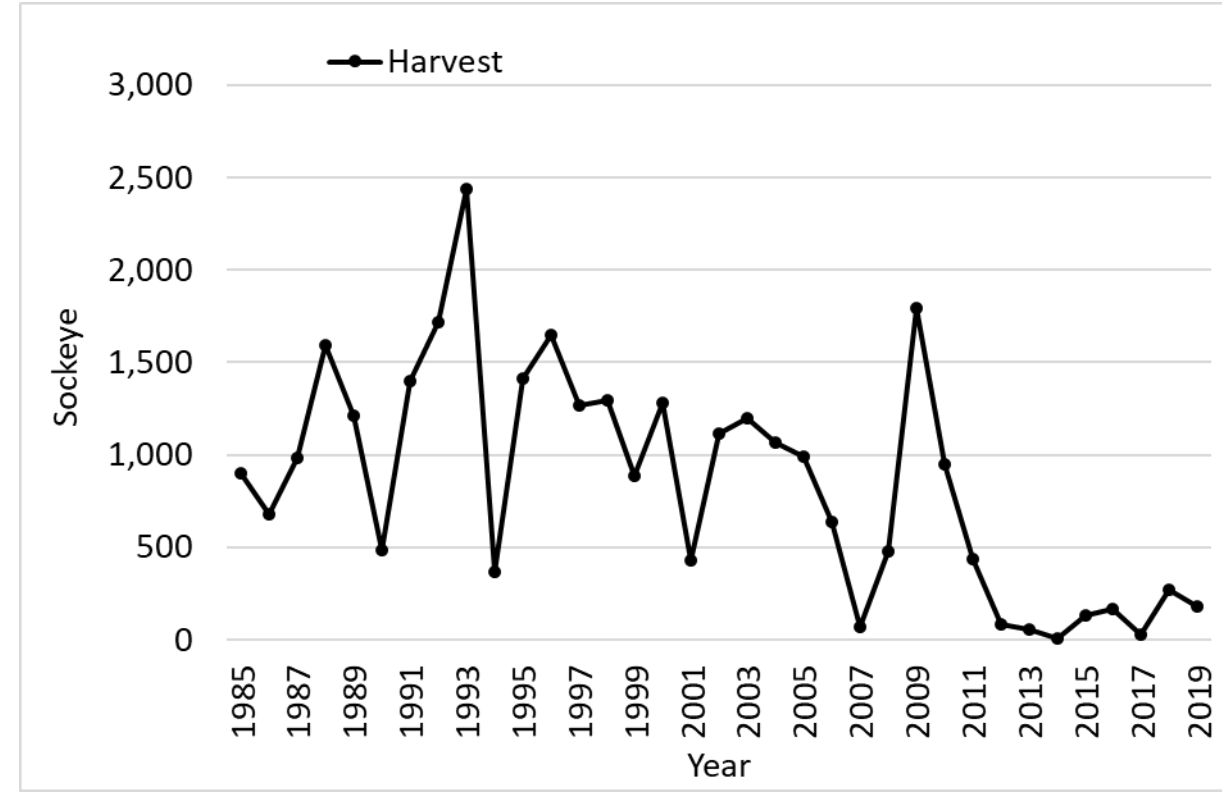
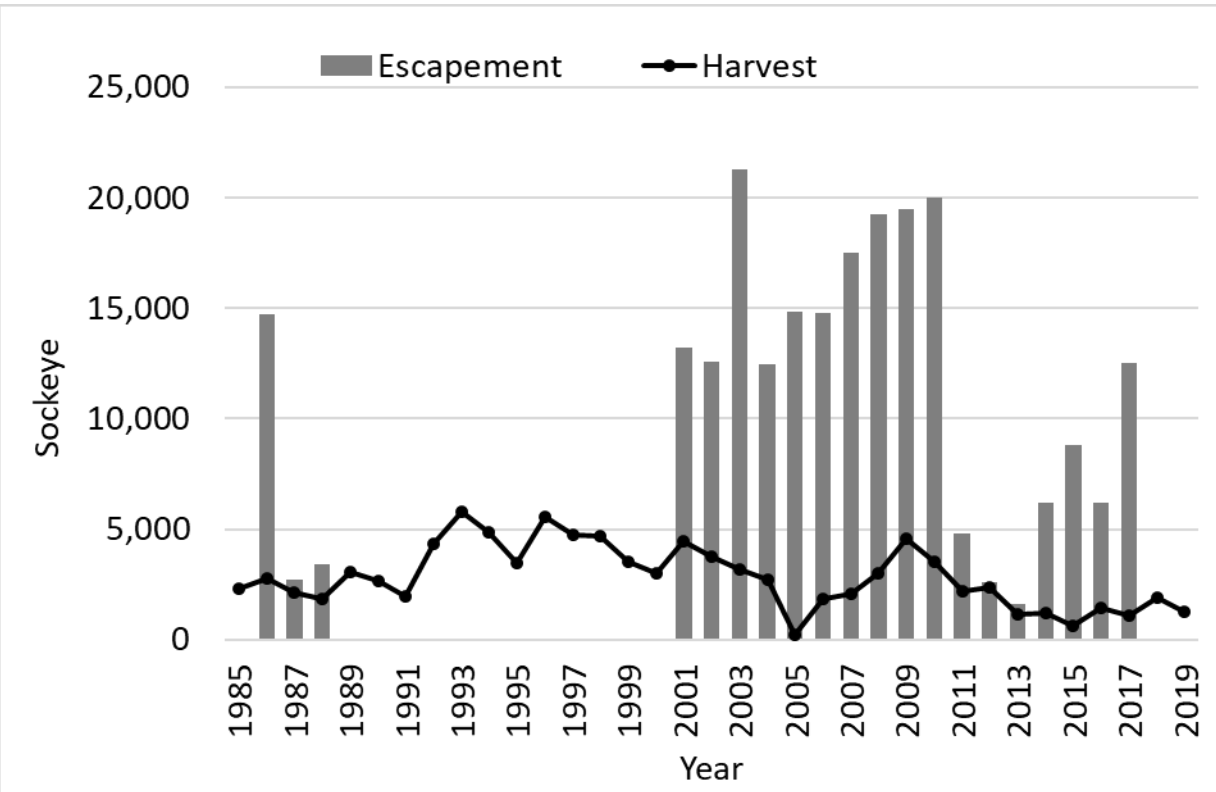
Hatchery Creek



Salmon Bay



Prince of Wales Island - West

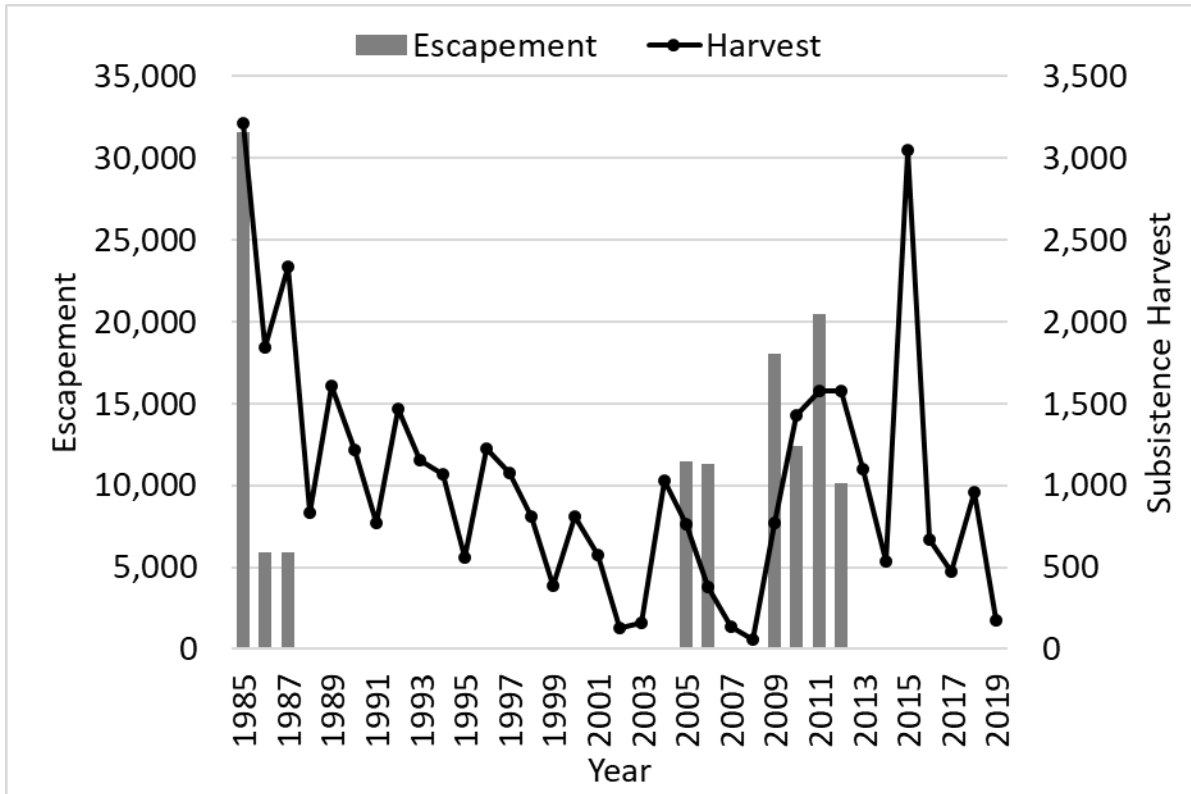


Klawock

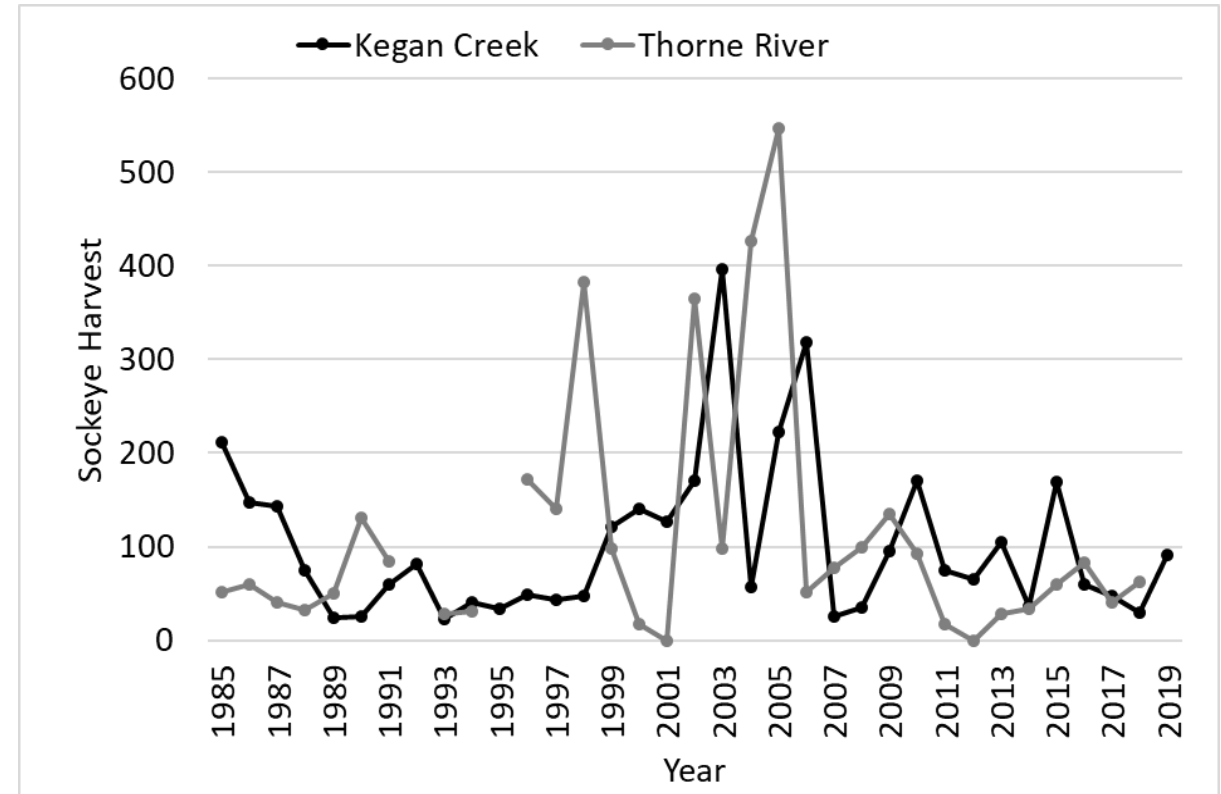
Sarkar



Prince of Wales Island - East



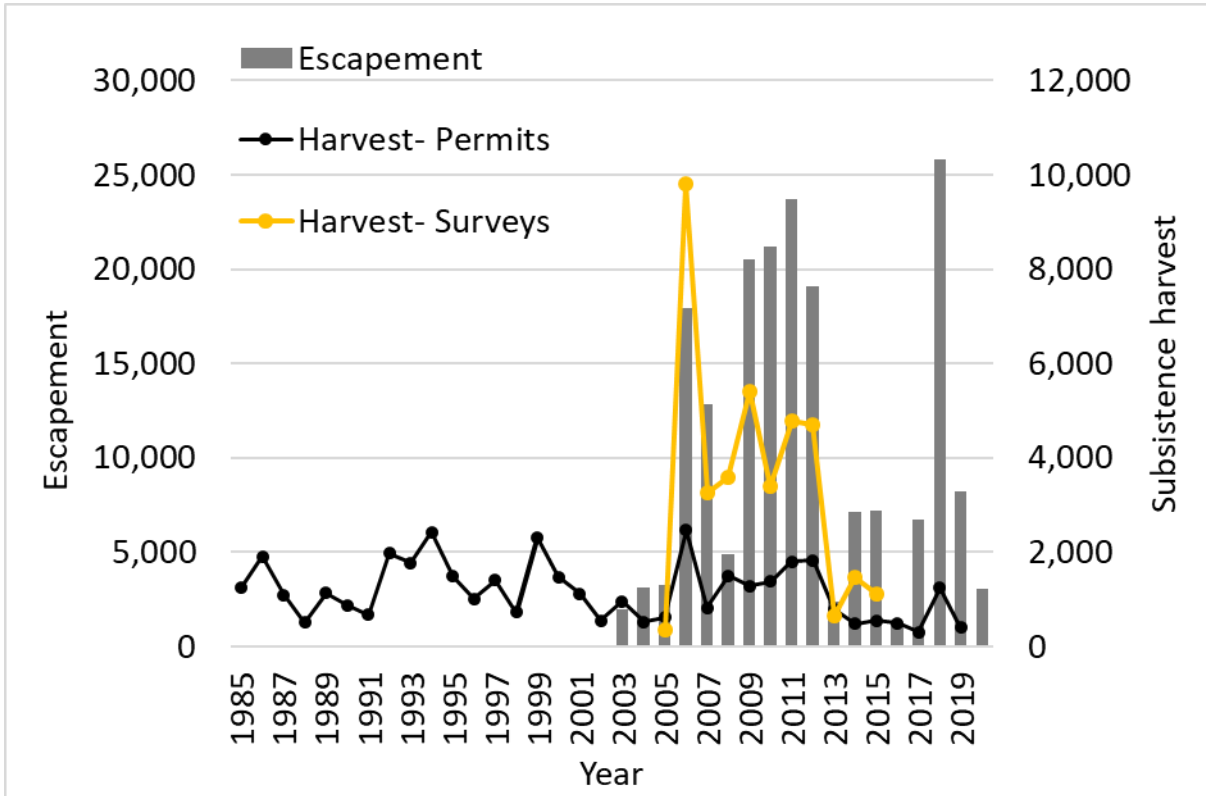
Karta



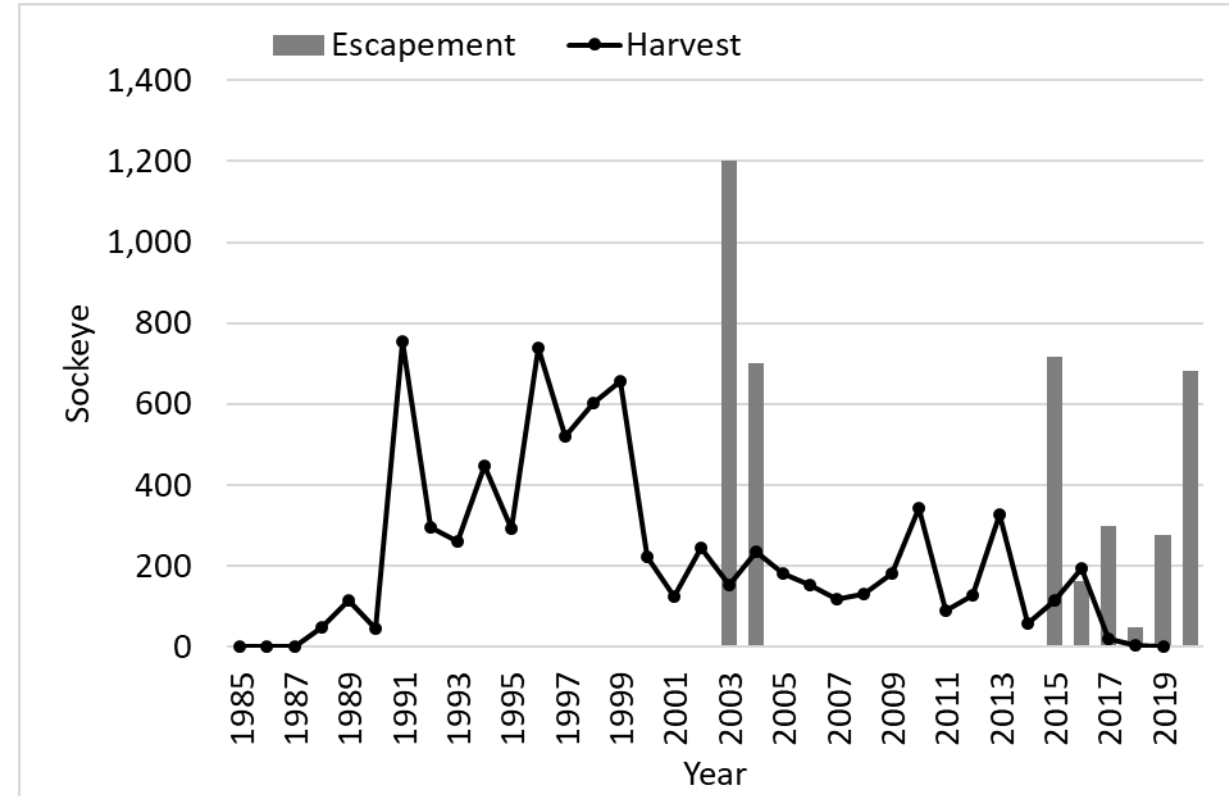
Kegan/Thorne



Prince of Wales Island - South



Hetta



Eek



Recent Management Actions

- Situk River – ADFG weir
 - Chinook closure
 - Chinook opening (July 22–30)
- Stikine River – ADFG escapement forecasts
 - Chinook closure
 - 2019 in-season Sockeye closure
- District 1 Eulachon – On-site and aerial - USFS
 - Ongoing closures due to low abundance



Active FRMP Sockeye Monitoring →2021

- Neva - Escapement
- Sitkoh - Escapement
- Klag - Escapement and harvest
- Falls - Escapement and harvest
- Gut Bay - Escapement and harvest
- Hetta - Escapement and harvest
- Eek - Escapement and harvest



Summary

- Many important subsistence sockeye locations
- Escapement and harvest are variable
- Some effort shifting to more productive locations



Wildlife Harvest Summary

**Southeast Alaska Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council
March 2021**

Sitka Black-tailed Deer

(from State Harvest Reports)

	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5
2000-2011 Ave.	672	2792	628	4940	27
2012	809	3696	537	6092	19
2013	905	3677	476	6791	23
2014	677	3931	505	4714	17
2015	859	4243	717	6492	13
2016	863	3534	778	7192	21
2017	973	2433	618	5258	13
2018	991	2079	601	5219	15
2019	1184	1952	863	5969	17
2012-2019 Ave.	908	3193	637	5966	17

Black Bear

(from sealing records)

	U1	U2	U3	U5
2000-2012 Ave.	243	361	225	17
2013	151	110	118	11
2014	162	154	117	8
2015	233	146	111	3
2016	165	147	184	14
2017	208	174	205	3
2018	221	188	226	5
2019	207	117	115	6
2013-2019 Ave.	192	148	154	7

Brown Bear

(from sealing records)

SE Wildlife Harvest Summary

	U1	U3	U4	U5
2000-2012 Ave.	45	1	170	31
2013	25	1	121	14
2014	36	1	124	24
2015	27	--	119	8
2016	30	1	135	10
2017	37	1	136	9
2018	37	--	167	19
2019	26	1	53	6
2013-2019 Ave.	31	1	122	13

Moose

(registration permit)

	U1	U3	U5
2000-2012 Ave.	141	42	41
2013	110	55	36
2014	110	57	49
2015	120	67	70
2016	114	80	53
2017	131	77	63
2018	106	77	57
2019	123	91	67
2020	131	115	69
2013-2020 Ave.	118	77	58

Mt Goat

(registration permit)

	U1	U4	U5
2000-2012 Ave.	111	42	4
2013	114	20	1
2014	126	16	--
2015	115	23	1
2016	141	25	1
2017	115	28	--
2018	134	30	--
2019	113	38	3
2020	126	35	2
2013-2020 Ave.	123	27	2

Wolf

(hunting & trapping sealing data)

	U1	U2	U3	U4*	U5
2000-2012 Ave.	57	45	55	--	7
2013	58	57	92	--	4
2014	63	31	62	--	8
2015	56	7	63	4	17
2016	87	30	59	2	--
2017	79	64	21	3	4
2018	56	46	36	2	6
2019	90	164	52	0	5
2013-2019 Ave.	70	57	55	2	7

Unit 4 harvest from Pleasant Island near Gustavus

Elk

(draw or registration permit)

	U3 (Etolin)
2000-2012 Ave.	9
2013	4
2014	5
2015	7
2016	5
2017	9
2018	7
2019	7
2020	5
2013-2020 Ave	6

Wolverine

(sealing data)

	U1	U3	U5
2000-2012 Ave.	18	2	--
2013	25	3	3
2014	14	--	--
2015	13	--	2
2016	19	--	--
2017	26	3	--
2018	27	--	--
2019	12	--	--
2013-2019 Ave.	19	1	1

Federal permits available

Moose

FM0101 Unit 1A

DM0107 Unit 1C Berners Bay

Mt Goat

FG0103 Units 1A & 1B –allows for harvest of a 2nd goat.

FG0504 Unit 5A

FG0507 Unit 5B

Brown Bear

FB0401 Unit 4

FB0501 Unit 5

Designated Hunter

FWDESG

Deer

FD0204 Hydaburg Culture Camp - *up to 6 deer may be harvested for camp.*

FD0403 Dog Point Culture Camp - *typically one deer per camp, with up to 7 camps per year.*

CE0206 Kasaan Culture Camp - *up to 6 deer may be harvested for camp.*



**Other (includes:
Edna Bay, Gustavus,
Kake, Klukwan,
Saxman, and Whale
Pass)
1%**

**Yakutat
1%**

**Coffman Cove
0.4%**

**Excursion Inlet
1%**

**Haines
2%**

**Hollis
1%**

**Hoonah
2%**

**Hydaburg
0.4%**

**Kasaan
1%**

**Klawock
3%**

**Metlakatla
0.4%**

**Naukatla
1%**

**Thorne Bay
2%**

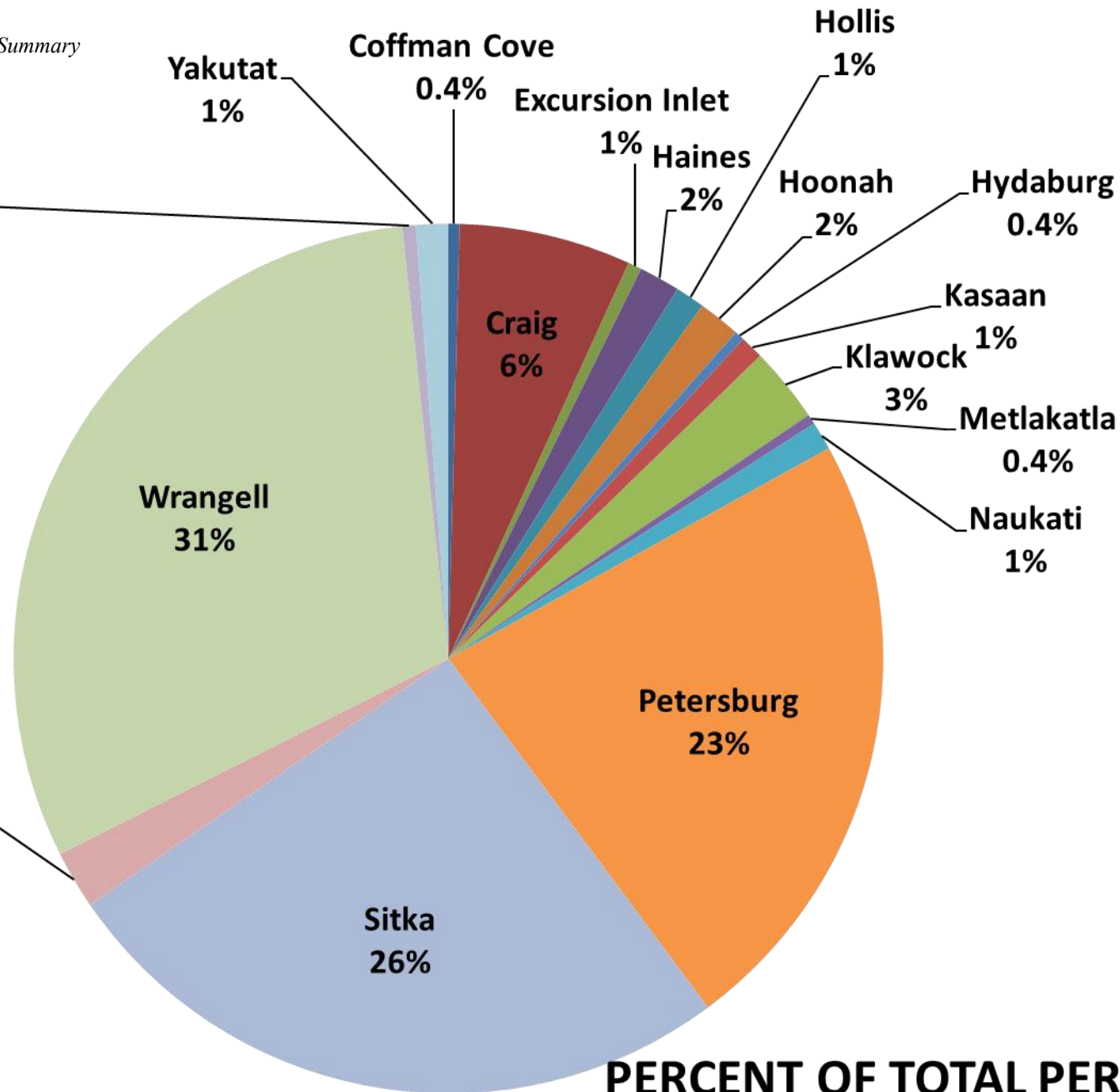
**Wrangell
31%**

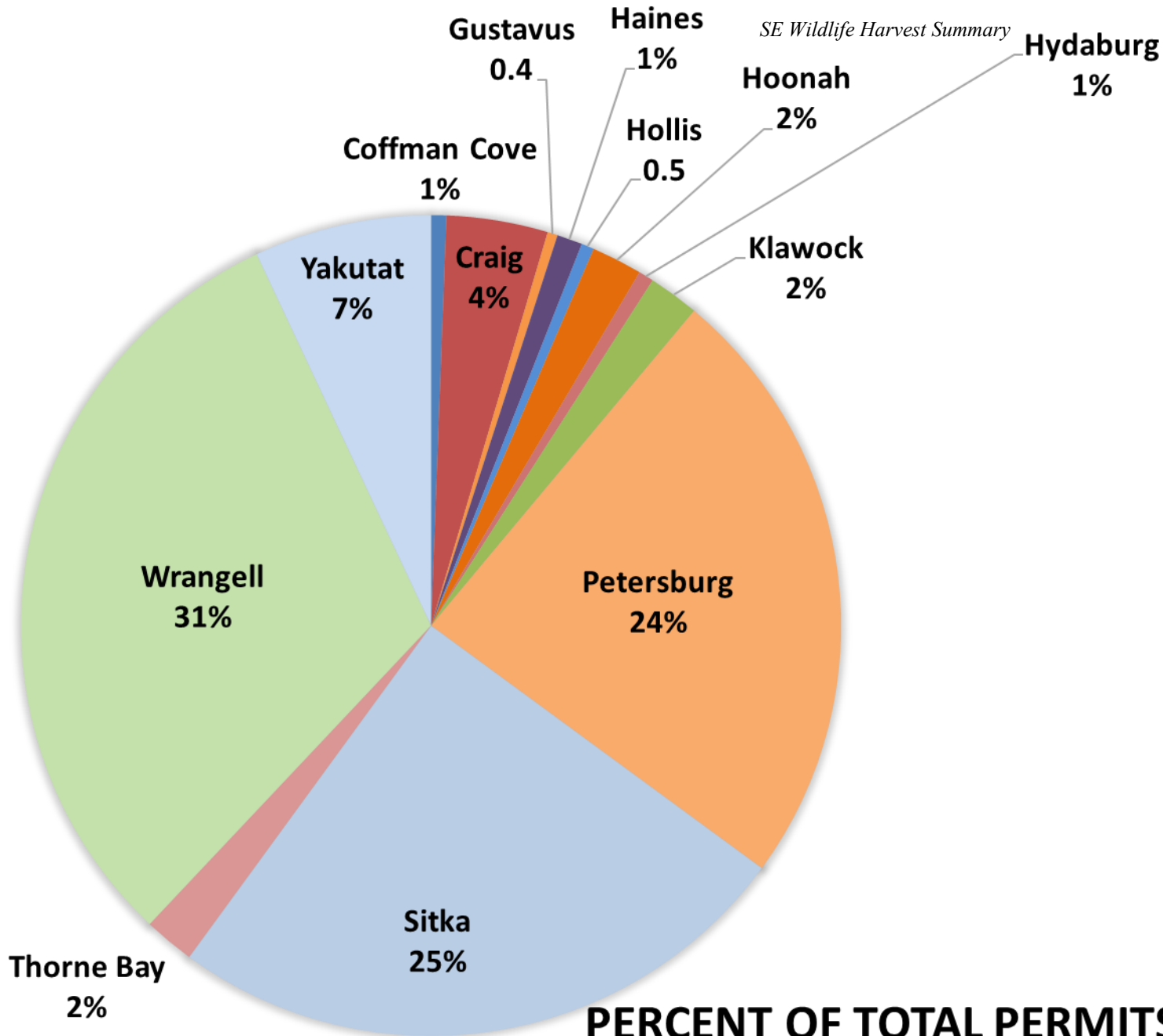
**Craig
6%**

**Petersburg
23%**

**Sitka
26%**

**PERCENT OF TOTAL PERMITS
BY COMMUNITY 2000-2012**





**PERCENT OF TOTAL PERMITS
BY COMMUNITY 2013-2020**

Unit 1A moose

(FM0101)

	Permits Issued	Permits Hunted	Harvest
2003-2013 Ave.	6	4	2
2014	8	5	1
2015	7	5	2
2016	10	7	--
2017	12	8	--
2018	5	5	1
2019	7	6	1
2020	4	3	1
2014-2020 Ave.	8	6	1

Unit 1A/1B Goat →

(FG0103) – Allows for harvest of a second goat

Unit 5A/5B Goat ↓

(FG0504 & FG0507)

	Permits Issued	Permits Hunted	Harvest
2012	5	3	--
2013	1	--	--
2014	--	--	--
2015	1	--	--
2016	--	--	--
2017	1	--	--
2018 & 2019	--	--	--
2020	1	1	--

	Unit 5A/5B Issued	Unit 5A/5B Hunted	Unit 5A/5B Harvest
2014	3/2	1/0	--
2015	3/1	1/0	--
2016	1/2	--	--
2017	1/0	--	--
2018	3/0	2/0	1/0
2019	4/0	1/0	1/0
2020	2/0	0/0	0/0

Unit 5 Brown Bear

(FB0501)

	Permits Issued	Permits Hunted	Harvest
2001-2012 Ave.	4	2	1
2013	3	2	--
2014	4	1	--
2015	3	1	--
2016	3	1	--
2017	3	1	--
2018	6	1	--
2019	5	3	1
2020	3	0	--
2013-2020 Ave	4	1	--

Designated Hunting

(FWDESG – Southeast/Yakutat)

	Permits Issued	Permits Hunting Deer	Deer Harvest	Permits Hunting Moose	Moose Harvest
2003-2012 Average	220	152	239	4	2
2013	249	96	247	6	3
2014	273	95	261	13	9
2015	337	147	390	16	9
2016	318	136	438	7	5
2017	275	90	220	4	8
2018	255	84	232	5	--
2019	263	100	313	7	5
2013-2019 Average	281	107	300	8	7

Designated hunting deer harvest by community

(FWDESG – Southeast/Yakutat area)

	2003-2012 Average	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2013-2019 Average
COFFMAN COVE	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CRAIG	16	17	7	23	7	6	3	6	10
EDNA BAY	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
GUSTAVUS	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
HAINES	6	--	2	4		1		--	2
HOLLIS	7					3	8	--	6
HOONAH	7	3	--	8	8	1	--	--	5
HYDABURG	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
KASAAN	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
KLAWOCK	6	4	34	45	24	3	14	18	20
METLAKATLA	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NAUKATI BAY	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
PETERSBURG	31	26	27	35	77	36	27	37	38
SAXMAN	1	3	--	3	4	6	--	--	4
SITKA	78	115	96	169	184	77	93	144	125
THORNE BAY	7	12	9	23	15	4	11	11	12
WHALE PASS	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
⁶⁰ WRANGELL	56	74	80	80	118	78	80	97	87



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

Contact: Regulatory Affairs Division Chief
(907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456
subsistence@fws.gov

How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

Alaska residents and subsistence users are an integral part of the Federal regulatory process. Any person or group can submit proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations, comment on proposals, or testify at meetings. By becoming involved in the process, subsistence users assist with effective management of subsistence activities and ensure consideration of traditional and local knowledge in subsistence management decisions. Subsistence users also provide valuable wildlife harvest information.

A call for proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing regulations is issued in January of even-numbered years and odd-numbered years for wildlife. The period during which proposals are accepted is no less than 30 calendar days. Proposals must be submitted in writing within this time frame.

You may propose changes to Federal subsistence season dates, harvest limits, methods and means of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations.

What your proposal should contain:

There is no form to submit your proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations. Include the following information in your proposal submission (you may submit as many as you like):

- Your name and contact information (address, phone, fax, or E-mail address)
- Your organization (if applicable).
- What regulations you wish to change. Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state, “new regulation.”
- Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations.
- Explain why this regulation change should be made.
- You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) in evaluating the proposed change.

You may submit your proposals by:

1. By mail or hand delivery to:
Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121
Anchorage, AK 99503
2. At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting (A schedule will be published in the Federal Register and be announced statewide, bi-annually, prior to the meeting cycles)
3. On the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>

Submit a separate proposal for each proposed change; however, do not submit the same proposal by different accepted methods listed above. To cite which regulation(s) you want to change, you may reference [50 CFR 100](#) or [36 CFR 242](#) or the proposed regulations published in the Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. All proposals and comments, including personal information, are posted on the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

For the proposal processing timeline and additional information contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456/ (907) 786-3888 or go to <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/proposal/submit.cfm>.

How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:

1. Once a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is received by the Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) validates the proposal, assigns a proposal number and lead analyst.
2. The proposals are compiled into a book for statewide distribution and posted online at the Program website. The proposals are also sent out the applicable Councils and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) for review. The period during which comments are accepted is no less than 45 calendar days. Comments must be submitted within this time frame.
3. The lead analyst works with appropriate agencies and proponents to develop an analysis on the proposal.
4. The analysis is sent to the Councils, ADF&G and the ISC for comments and recommendations to the Board. The public is welcome and encouraged to provide comments directly to the Councils and the Board at their meetings. The final analysis contains all of the comments and recommendations received by interested/affected parties. This packet of information is then presented to the Board for action.
5. The decision to adopt, adopt with modification, defer or reject the proposal is then made by the Board. The public is provided the opportunity to provide comment directly to the Board prior to the Board's final decision.
6. The final rule is published in the Federal Register and a public regulations booklet is created and distributed statewide and on the Program's website.

A step-by-step guide to submitting your proposal on www.regulations.gov:

1. Connect to www.regulations.gov – there is no password or username required.
2. In the white space provided in the large blue box, type in the document number listed in the news release or available on the program webpage, (for example: FWS-R7-SM2014-0062) and select the light blue “Search” button to the right.

3. Search results will populate and may have more than one result. Make sure the Proposed Rule you select is by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and **not** by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).
4. Select the proposed rule and in the upper right select the blue box that says, “Comment Now!”
5. Enter your comments in the “Comment” box.
6. Upload your files by selecting “Choose files” (this is optional).
7. Enter your first and last name in the spaces provided.
8. Select the appropriate checkbox stating whether or not you are providing the information directly or submitting on behalf of a third party.
9. Fill out the contact information in the drop down section as requested.
10. Select, “Continue.” You will be given an opportunity to review your submission.
11. If everything appears correct, click the box at the bottom that states, “I read and understand the statement above,” and select the box, “Submit Comment.” A receipt will be provided to you. Keep this as proof of submission.
12. If everything does not appear as you would like it to, select, “Edit” to make any necessary changes and then go through the previous step again to “Submit Comment.”

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you’d like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov. Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

**Department of the Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)) Title VIII, and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the Region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the Region.
4. **Description of Duties.** Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:
 - a. Recommend the initiation, review, and evaluation of proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decision-making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region;
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region;

- (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs; and
 - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
- e. Appoint one member to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with section 808 of the ANILCA.
- f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
- g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
- h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
- i. Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary's Orders, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
 - (2) Policies and programs that:
 - (a) increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focus on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;
 - (b) expand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service lands in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;e
 - (c) increase energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; and
 - (d) create greater collaboration with States, Tribes, and/or Territories.
- j. Provide recommendations for implementation of the regulatory reform initiatives and policies specified in section 2 of Executive Order 13777: Reducing

Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs; Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review, as amended; and section 6 of Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:

Identifying regulations for repeal, replacement, or modification considering, at a minimum, those regulations that:

- (1) eliminate jobs, or inhibit job creation;
- (2) are outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective;
- (3) impose costs that exceed benefits;
- (4) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with regulatory reform initiative and policies;
- (5) rely, in part or in whole, on data or methods that are not publicly available or insufficiently transparent to meet the standard for reproducibility; or
- (6) derive from or implement Executive Orders or other Presidential and Secretarial directives that have been subsequently rescinded or substantially modified.

All current and future Executive Orders, Secretary's Orders, and Secretarial Memos should be included for discussion and recommendations as they are released. At the conclusion of each meeting or shortly thereafter, provide a detailed recommendation meeting report, including meeting minutes, to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$195,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.15 Federal staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director – Subsistence, Region 11, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:

- (a) Approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings;
- (b) Prepare and approve all meeting agendas;
- (c) Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings;
- (d) Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest; and
- (e) Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.

10. **Duration.** Continuing.

11. **Termination.** The Council will be inactive 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

Thirteen members who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are residents of the region represented by the Council.

To ensure that each Council represents a diversity of interests, the Federal Subsistence Board in their nomination recommendations to the Secretary will strive to ensure that nine of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the region and four of the members (30 percent) represent commercial and sport interests within the region. The portion of membership representing commercial and sport interests must include, where possible, at least one representative from the sport community and one representative from the commercial community.

The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members based on the recommendations from the Federal Subsistence Board and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

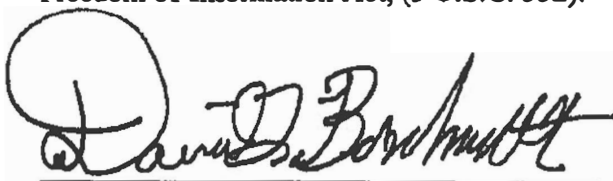
Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Alternate members may be appointed to the Council to fill vacancies if they occur out of cycle. An alternate member must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending the meeting as a representative. The term for an appointed alternate member will be the same as the term of the member whose vacancy is being filled.

Council members will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for a 1-year term.

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under section 5703 of title 5 of the United States Code.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any Council or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFOs approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records must be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, (5 U.S.C. 552).



Secretary of the Interior

DEC 12 2019

Date Signed

DEC 13 2019

Date Filed

ANNUAL REPORTS

Background

ANILCA established the Annual Reports as the way to bring regional subsistence uses and needs to the Secretaries' attention. The Secretaries delegated this responsibility to the Board. Section 805(c) deference includes matters brought forward in the Annual Report.

The Annual Report provides the Councils an opportunity to address the directors of each of the four Department of Interior agencies and the Department of Agriculture Forest Service in their capacity as members of the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board is required to discuss and reply to each issue in every Annual Report and to take action when within the Board's authority. In many cases, if the issue is outside of the Board's authority, the Board will provide information to the Council on how to contact personnel at the correct agency. As agency directors, the Board members have authority to implement most of the actions which would effect the changes recommended by the Councils, even those not covered in Section 805(c). The Councils are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Report Content

Both Title VIII Section 805 and 50 CFR §100.11 (Subpart B of the regulations) describe what may be contained in an Annual Report from the councils to the Board. This description includes issues that are not generally addressed by the normal regulatory process:

- an identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region;
- an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations from the public lands within the region;
- a recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs related to the public lands; and
- recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.

Please avoid filler or fluff language that does not specifically raise an issue of concern or information to the Board.

Report Clarity

In order for the Board to adequately respond to each Council's annual report, it is important for the annual report itself to state issues clearly.

- If addressing an existing Board policy, Councils should please state whether there is something unclear about the policy, if there is uncertainty about the reason for the policy, or if the Council needs information on how the policy is applied.
- Council members should discuss in detail at Council meetings the issues for the annual report and assist the Council Coordinator in understanding and stating the issues clearly.

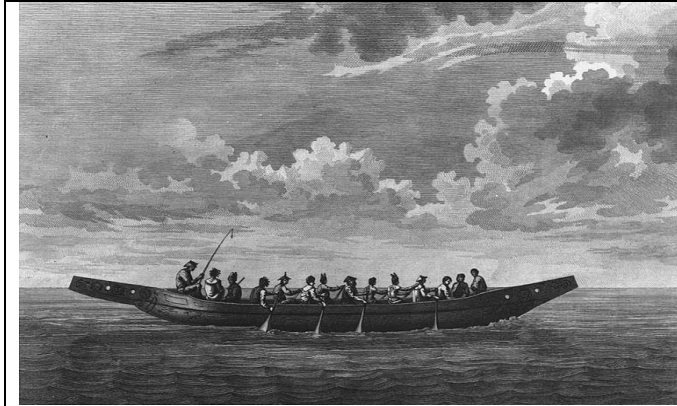
- Council Coordinators and OSM staff should assist the Council members during the meeting in ensuring that the issue is stated clearly.

Thus, if the Councils can be clear about their issues of concern and ensure that the Council Coordinator is relaying them sufficiently, then the Board and OSM staff will endeavor to provide as concise and responsive of a reply as is possible.

Report Format

While no particular format is necessary for the Annual Reports, the report must clearly state the following for each item the Council wants the Board to address:

1. Numbering of the issues,
2. A description of each issue,
3. Whether the Council seeks Board action on the matter and, if so, what action the Council recommends, and
4. As much evidence or explanation as necessary to support the Council's request or statements relating to the item of interest.



***Southeast Alaska
Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council***

**Cathy Needham, Acting Chair OR
Don Hernandez, Chair**

**c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199**

RAC/SE2xxx.DP

Mr. Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) submits this FY-2020 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) under the provisions of Section 805(a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting via tele/video conference on October 20-22, 2020, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. The Council approved this annual report at its virtual winter 2021 meeting. The Council wishes to share information and voice concerns dealing with the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Southeast Alaska Region.

1. Information Sharing

a. Public participation provided for in ANILCA

The Council has been concerned with certain public processes over the last few years, specifically during the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking (AKRR), and it has spent a substantial amount of time advocating for the requirements set forth in the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and ANILCA be followed. The Council wrote several letters to the USDA-Forest Service (Forest Service) to provide public comment on various stages of AKRR (with copies sent to Board members) and would like to take this opportunity to remind the Board of its attempts to ensure opportunities for public participation during the process. The Council addressed these concerns:

Chair Anthony Christianson & Board Members

- Timing of public comment periods
- The conduct of subsistence (810) hearings
- The obstacles during the rulemaking process that prevent optimum public participation
- Participation by local Tribes offering expertise and knowledge of impacts within their traditional territories was disregarded

The Council appreciates that the Board helped convey these concerns to the Secretary of Agriculture. In addition to letters, three members also requested and provided testimony at a hearing on this matter before the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. A copy of that testimony is attached for the Board's reference. The Council is dedicated to supporting subsistence users in Southeast by expressing concerns when appropriate and helping the public voice be heard.

b. Restrictions on Federally Qualified Subsistence Users

The Council is concerned about Federal fishing proposals that suggest more restrictions than those that exist under State regulations. The Council appreciates that this Board follows the requirements in ANILCA which provide a preference for harvest opportunity to the Federally qualified subsistence user and that the Board acknowledges that subsistence regulations cannot be more restrictive than other regulated uses of the resource. The Council continues to support the Board in its decisions on the taking of fish and wildlife and is confident that the Board will continue to preserve the Federally qualified subsistence users' priority and protect those users in the future from being the sole group burdened with sacrificing any harvest to conserve fish or wildlife species.

c. Lack of Current Data

The Council must receive relevant and current information to make appropriate recommendations to the Board. Without current data, the Council is handicapped in making educated decisions. The Council is concerned that some recent analyses feature years-old data and it would like reassurance that the most up-to-date research is being explored for these analyses. The Council requests that all agencies involved in preparing analyses for proposals ensure that the latest scientific data and studies available are being used.

d. Individual National Park Service (NPS) Customary and Traditional Use Process

The Council appreciates that this Board deferred its action on the proposed delegation of authority to NPS in determining Individual Customary and Traditional uses to allow the Regional Advisory Councils provide input on this matter. The Council received information on this proposed process at its fall 2020.

The Council felt that the current process for determining Individual Customary and Traditional (C&T) Use Determinations is working and does not need to be changed. The area available for individual C&T permits in the Southeast is limited; however, the Council is concerned that this may create an ability for the National Park Service to take land use out of the jurisdiction of the Board. Currently, the Regional Advisory Councils

Chair Anthony Christianson & Board Members

and the Board play a role for the approval of customary and traditional use in national parks. If the delegation of authority is granted to the NPS (Alaska Regional Director), the Council is concerned that this would narrow authority and reduce advisory capacity. The Council does not wish to see access to subsistence areas denied and subsistence activities further limited or eliminated in national park areas for Federally qualified subsistence users.

2. Council supports the community of Hoonah's ability to access Glacier Bay

During the Council's discussion on the proposed delegation of authority to NPS (Individual Customary and Traditional uses) issue, additional discussion took place on the concerns for land management in Glacier Bay. Access to the Glacier Bay National Park's (Park) resources for subsistence purposes has been prevented. The local residents are denied the ability to harvest gull eggs or gumboots, individually, in Glacier Bay. In addition, there are no longer any goat or seal subsistence harvests allowed. Many cannot partake in these activities because they cannot produce the required documents showing their use of the land even though many have done so for their entire lives. These activities are a cultural and traditional use of the resources and the Council would like to explore options available to provide access to subsistence users. The Council would like to know what mechanisms are in place or that could be initiated to provide a subsistence opportunity to harvest resources in Glacier Bay.

Additionally, some subsistence gathering opportunities are prevented by the current regulations that restrict firearms in the Park. Firearms are necessary for subsistence users to harvest and gather in bear-dense areas. Subsistence users no longer utilize some of the most productive areas in Glacier Bay because they are prohibited from carrying firearms for their safety and protection.

The Council supports the community of Hoonah's ability to access Glacier Bay for harvest of subsistence resources. For the Tlingit people, this denial of performing customary and traditional activities in their traditional territory is like diminishing or removing the Huna Tlingit identity. The Council would like to assist the Hoonah community in retaining their cultural identity and asks the Board to identify options for that purpose that the Council may pursue or share with the Hoonah community. It would also ask for a comprehensive presentation on the permitted subsistence activities in Glacier Bay at a future meeting.

3. Council Vacancies

The Council is extremely disappointed in the decrease of seated Council members in recent years. These vacancies detract from the ability of the Council to perform its work effectively. The Council requests a thorough, substantial reason as to the lack of appointments to Regional Advisory Councils these last few years and further requests a legal analysis on same.

There are currently eight vacancies on this 13-member Council. Four recent vacancies occurred on December 2, 2020, when incumbent appointments expired. The Council reiterates its concern for the loss of crucial representation across the Southeast Region as noted in its last Annual

Chair Anthony Christianson & Board Members

Report. This lack of appropriate diversity on the Council creates challenges for the Council members who must often make decisions affecting areas and groups in the absence of a local member who can best represent the citizenry of his or her community. The Council continues to be concerned with the Executive Order on Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees, dated June 14, 2019, and the impacts of this Executive Order on the Program and Regional Advisory Councils.

All vacant seats must be filled for the Council to function properly and efficiently. Applicants to Regional Advisory Councils in this program are screened and vetted with specific criteria to ensure that well-informed residents of the regions are seated on the Councils. Successful members have significant knowledge of ANILCA, regional experience with a wide range of subsistence resources, and many also share their traditional ecological knowledge during deliberations of issues affecting subsistence resources. Experienced members with institutional knowledge of subsistence uses in their local area are important to fully comprehend issues that arise (or need to be re-addressed). The Program is suffering from the loss of useful knowledge and the role it plays in assisting Councils with their recommendations on resource management. Further, vacant seats on any Regional Advisory Council is contrary to the Program's objectives.

In its 2019 Annual Report Reply on the Council vacancy subject, the Board encouraged the Council to "expand its outreach effort in its communities and throughout the Region to attract a wider pool of applicants, if the Council wishes to see all seats filled." The Council does not believe that outreach is the issue. Twelve applications were received to fill 7 vacancies for the December, 2019 appointments and 10 applications were received to fill 8 vacant seats for the December, 2020 appointments. In the last two years, only one applicant was found to be ineligible for Council membership, yet four seats remained unfilled with the December 2019 appointments. ***may expand this language depending on 2020 appointments***

The Council respectfully makes a second request that the Board send a letter to the Secretaries advising them of: the substantial impacts these Council membership reductions have on the work of the Councils; that these Councils are provided for under ANILCA; and that a lack of representation on the Councils is detrimental to the intent of ANILCA. Further, the Council requests a legal analysis of the failure to appoint Council members to the subsistence Regional Advisory Councils for the last three years and for a determination of any violation(s) of FACA or ANILCA.

4. Staff Support For Regional Advisory Council Meetings

This Council has expressed its concern regarding the limited participation by staff in its annual report to the Board for the last two years. The Council has routinely experienced negative impacts on its ability to effectively conduct its business because of the absence of in-person participation by staff. The Council would like a commitment to have its previous level of staff support restored. Due to the complexity of land management in Southeast, especially given the amount of Forest Service projects that have the propensity to substantially impact subsistence resources, it is imperative that the biologists situated in areas of interest, be permitted to attend meetings and fully engage with Council members.

Chair Anthony Christianson & Board Members

The Council understands the need for virtual meetings at present, due to COVID-19, but would like to express its frustration for the lack of in-person support these past few years. Some area biologists have not been able to participate or even listen to the RAC meetings. The Council has customarily relied on local biologists in the past for their insight and knowledge of species and land uses. During the meetings and through individual conversations with these biologists, Council members receive important, detailed information upon which it relies on to recommend the best solutions to problems facing subsistence users. The strength of the program's support is how staff understand the people, places, and animals of their local areas and share that knowledge with the Council.

This Council tackles a large volume of information at each meeting and the Council was most effective when it received **in-person** assistance. When all staff are in the room, they can quickly delegate crucial tasks to one another while the Council discusses issues. For instance, it is key to have someone help navigate regulations while another staff member presents information to the Council and another staff member is capturing notes and follow-up requests, and maybe yet another is looking at State regulations for comparison purposes. This coordination of real-time support is invaluable to the Council and this level of service is very important to efficiently conduct business. Therefore, the Council respectfully asks that the quantity of in-person staff support at its meetings (when conditions allow) be restored to at or near a level experienced prior to 2017 to ensure that the Council meets its obligations to provide well-informed recommendations.

5. Reasonable access to resources in emergency

The Council would like to be advised of the status of the current 'food security special action request' protocol which was developed in 2020 to process requests from communities attempting to meet difficulties in securing local food resources. It is understood that the steps previously used to process these requests are, or have been, modified. It is important to know what options are available for relief, should another food security emergency take place in the future.

In addition, the Council would like to be informed:

- a. **What options are available for allowing access to resources in a reasonable manner in times of emergency?** When an emergency is declared, reasonable access should be granted to local subsistence resources to tackle the issues created from an uncertainty of available food and to make food security a priority.
- b. **Is there a mechanism available or that can be created that would go into gear when an emergency is declared for subsistence users who don't have access to substantial food resources?** A defined method should be in place that would be available to subsistence users to provide timely access to resources in rural communities where the population does not have access to grocery store food sources. In Southeast, if ferries stop running between islands, the communities are plunged into a dire situation to obtain food. There should be a quicker procedure than the current special action request process to provide timely relief.

Chair Anthony Christianson & Board Members

6. Status of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Southeast

Pursuant to ANILCA Title VIII Section 805, this Council recognizes the importance of providing the Board with regional information so that it can make informed regulatory decisions. This Council hereby continues to routinely report on the status of fish and wildlife populations and the harvests within the region by enclosing the reported harvest of subsistence resources in southeast Alaska.

(will attach harvest presentations)

The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council appreciates the Board's attention to these matters. The Council spends a significant amount of time identifying and discussing matters affecting subsistence resources and appreciates the opportunity to provide input for the Board's business. The Council looks forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users of the Southeast Alaska Region. If you have questions about this report, please contact me via DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator with the Forest Service, at 907-209-7817, or deanna.perry@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Cathy Needham
Acting Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Members
Sue Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Deputy Assistance Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Kron, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor,
Office of Subsistence Management
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

Summary of Federal Subsistence Special Actions

Southeastern Alaska and Yakutat Areas

2020 Calendar Year

Special Action Number	Area & Species Affected	Summary of Action	Authorized By
FSA 13-EU-01-20	District 1 Eulachon	Closed the District 1 Eulachon fishery from March 1 through April 29, 2020.	USFS Ketchikan District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
FSA 13-KS-02-20	District 8 Chinook Salmon	Closed the Stikine River Chinook Salmon fishery from May 15 through June 20, 2020.	USFS Wrangell District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
FSA 12-KS-01-20	Yakutat Area Chinook Salmon	Closed the Situk River Chinook Salmon fishery from June 1 through July 30, 2020.	USFS Yakutat District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
FSA 12-KS-02-20	Yakutat Area Chinook Salmon	Reopened the Situk River Chinook Salmon fishery July 22, 2020.	USFS Yakutat District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA19-14	Unit 3 Moose/Deer	Allowed a community harvest for food security of 2 bull moose and 5 male deer for Kake from June 24 through August 22, 2020.	USFS Petersburg District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 13-MG-03-20	Unit 5A, Yakutat Area Mountain Goat	Closed that portion of Unit 5A beginning on the west shore of Harlequin Lake and the western edge of Yakutat Glacier; then west of Harlequin Lake and Yakutat Glacier to Yakutat Bay and Disenchantment Bay; and south of Russell and Nunatak Fjords to mountain goat harvest from August 1 through Jan. 31, 2020.	USFS Yakutat District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 13-MG-01-20	Unit 4, Baranof Island Mountain Goat	Closed the South Baranof and Lisa Creek Zones to mountain goat harvest from August 1 through December 31, 2020.	USFS Sitka District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 13-MG-02-20	Unit 4, Baranof Island Mountain Goat	Closed the Bear Mountain and Cold Storage Zones to mountain goat harvest from September 11, through December 31, 2020.	USFS Sitka District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA20-08	Unit 2 Wolf	Delayed the opening of the wolf hunting season to October 3, 2020.	USFS Prince of Wales Island District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 13-MG-04-20	Unit 4, Baranof Island Mountain Goat	Closed the Indian River and Rosenberg Lake Zones to mountain goat harvest from September 20, through December 31, 2020.	USFS Sitka District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board

WSA 13-MG-05-20	Unit 4, Baranof Island Mountain Goat	Closed the Clarence Kramer Zone to mountain goat harvest from October 5, through December 31, 2020.	USFS Sitka District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 13-MG-06-20	Unit 4, Baranof Island Mountain Goat	Closed the Upper Blue Lake Zone to mountain goat harvest from October 12, through December 31, 2020.	USFS Sitka District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 13-BD-07-20	Unit 3 Deer	Extended the deer season in on Mitkof, Woewodski, Butterworth Islands and that portion of Kupreanof Island on the Lindenberg Peninsula east of Portage Bay - Duncan Canal Portage through Nov. 7, 2020 with a harvest limit of 1 buck and revised the harvest limit from antlered deer to buck in the remainder of Unit 3 due to administrative delays in the Federal Rule Making Process.	USFS Petersburg District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 12-MO-04-20	Unit 5A, Yakutat Area Moose	Closed the moose season in that portion of Unit 5A west of the Dangerous River, except the Nunatak Bench from October 13 through November 15, 2020.	USFS Yakutat District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 13-WO-08-20	Unit 2 Wolf	Set the Unit 2 Wolf trapping season from November 15, 2020 through December 5, 2020 and closed the wolf hunting season on Dec. 5 2020. Also required Wolves to be sealed within 30 days of the end of the season.	USFS Prince of Wales Island District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 13-MG-09-20	Unit 4, Baranof Island Mountain Goat	Closed the Mount Katlian Zone to mountain goat harvest from December 18, through December 31, 2020.	USFS Sitka District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board
WSA 12-MO-05-20	Unit 5A, Yakutat Area Moose	Closed the moose season in that portion of Unit 5A East of the Dangerous River, except the Nunatak Bench from October 29 through November 15, 2020.	USFS Yakutat District Ranger via authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board

Fall 2021 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated 11/4/2020

Due to travel budget limitations placed by Department of the Interior on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Subsistence Management, the dates and locations of these meetings will be subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 15	Aug. 8 Window Opens	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 13
Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20
Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Sep. 1	Sep. 2	Sep. 3	Sep. 4
Sep. 5	Sep. 6 Labor Day Holiday	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9	Sep. 10	Sep. 11
Sep. 12	Sep. 13	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 16	Sep. 17	Sep. 18
Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Sep. 21	Sep. 22	Sep. 23	Sep. 24	Sep. 25
Sep. 26	Sep. 27	Sep. 28	Sep. 29	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2
	KA - Unalaska					
Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9
				EIRAC - Fairbanks		
			YKD			
Oct. 10	Oct. 11 Columbus Day Holiday	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16
			WIRAC - Anchorage			
			SC - Anchorage			
Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23
		SEA - Craig				
		EIRAC - alternate dates				
Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30
		SPRAC - Nome				
			BBRAC - Dilligham			
Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5 Window Closes	Nov. 6
	NWARAC - Kotzebue					

Winter 2022 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated 12/8/2020

Due to travel budget limitations placed by Department of the Interior on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Subsistence Management, the dates and locations of these meetings will be subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb. 6</i>	<i>Feb. 7 Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 8</i>	<i>Feb. 9</i>	<i>Feb. 10</i>	<i>Feb. 11</i>	<i>Feb. 12</i>
<i>Feb. 13</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>	<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i>	<i>Feb. 19</i>
<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>Feb. 21 PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY</i>	<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Feb. 23</i>	<i>Feb. 24</i>	<i>Feb. 25</i>	<i>Feb. 26</i>
<i>Feb. 27</i>	<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Mar. 1</i>	<i>Mar. 2</i>	<i>Mar. 3</i>	<i>Mar. 4</i>	<i>Mar. 5</i>
<i>Mar. 6</i>	<i>Mar. 7</i>	<i>Mar. 8</i>	<i>Mar. 9</i>	<i>Mar. 10</i>	<i>Mar. 11</i>	<i>Mar. 12</i>
<i>Mar. 13</i>	<i>Mar. 14</i>	<i>Mar. 15</i>	<i>Mar. 16</i>	<i>Mar. 17</i>	<i>Mar. 18</i>	<i>Mar. 19</i>
<i>Mar. 20</i>	<i>Mar. 21</i>	<i>Mar. 22</i>	<i>Mar. 23</i>	<i>Mar. 24</i>	<i>Mar. 25 Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 26</i>

Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) recognizes the value of the Regional Advisory Councils' role in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Board realizes that the Councils must interact with fish and wildlife resource agencies, organizations, and the public as part of their official duties, and that this interaction may include correspondence. Since the beginning of the Federal Subsistence Program, Regional Advisory Councils have prepared correspondence to entities other than the Board. Informally, Councils were asked to provide drafts of correspondence to the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) for review prior to mailing. Recently, the Board was asked to clarify its position regarding Council correspondence. This policy is intended to formalize guidance from the Board to the Regional Advisory Councils in preparing correspondence.

The Board is mindful of its obligation to provide the Regional Advisory Councils with clear operating guidelines and policies, and has approved the correspondence policy set out below. The intent of the Regional Advisory Council correspondence policy is to ensure that Councils are able to correspond appropriately with other entities. In addition, the correspondence policy will assist Councils in directing their concerns to others most effectively and forestall any breach of department policy.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII required the creation of Alaska's Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to serve as advisors to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to provide meaningful local participation in the management of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. Within the framework of Title VIII and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Congress assigned specific powers and duties to the Regional Advisory Councils. These are also reflected in the Councils' charters. (*Reference: ANILCA Title VIII §805, §808, and §810; Implementing regulations for Title VIII, 50 CFR 100 __.11 and 36 CFR 242 __.11; Implementing regulations for FACA, 41 CFR Part 102-3.70 and 3.75*)

The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture created the Federal Subsistence Board and delegated to it the responsibility for managing fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. The Board was also given the duty of establishing rules and procedures for the operation of the Regional Advisory Councils. The Office of Subsistence Management was established within the Federal Subsistence Management Program's lead agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to administer the Program. (*Reference: 36 CFR Part 242 and 50 CFR Part 100 Subparts C and D*)

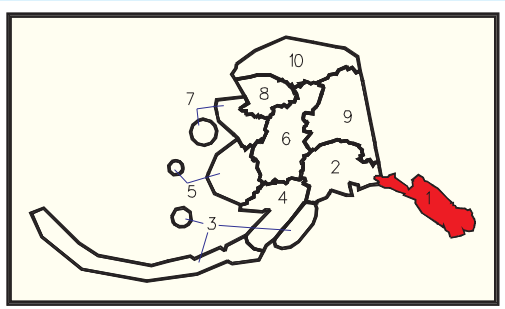
Policy

1. The subject matter of Council correspondence shall be limited to matters over which the Council has authority under §805(a)(3), §808, §810 of Title VIII, Subpart B §____.11(c) of regulation, and as described in the Council charters.
2. Councils may, and are encouraged to, correspond directly with the Board. The Councils are advisors to the Board.
3. Councils are urged to also make use of the annual report process to bring matters to the Board's attention.

4. As a general rule, Councils discuss and agree upon proposed correspondence during a public meeting. Occasionally, a Council chair may be requested to write a letter when it is not feasible to wait until a public Council meeting. In such cases, the content of the letter shall be limited to the known position of the Council as discussed in previous Council meetings.
5. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8 of this policy, Councils will transmit all correspondence to the Assistant Regional Director (ARD) of OSM for review prior to mailing. This includes, but is not limited to, letters of support, resolutions, letters offering comment or recommendations, and any other correspondence to any government agency or any tribal or private organization or individual.
 - a. Recognizing that such correspondence is the result of an official Council action and may be urgent, the ARD will respond in a timely manner.
 - b. Modifications identified as necessary by the ARD will be discussed with the Council chair. Councils will make the modifications before sending out the correspondence.
6. Councils may submit written comments requested by Federal land management agencies under ANILCA §810 or requested by regional Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) under §808 directly to the requesting agency. Section 808 correspondence includes comments and information solicited by the SRCs and notification of appointment by the Council to an SRC.
7. Councils may submit proposed regulatory changes or written comments regarding proposed regulatory changes affecting subsistence uses within their regions to the Alaska Board of Fisheries or the Alaska Board of Game directly. A copy of any comments or proposals will be forwarded to the ARD when the original is submitted.
8. Administrative correspondence such as letters of appreciation, requests for agency reports at Council meetings, and cover letters for meeting agendas will go through the Council's regional coordinator to the appropriate OSM division chief for review.
9. Councils will submit copies of all correspondence generated by and received by them to OSM to be filed in the administrative record system.
10. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8, Councils or individual Council members acting on behalf of or as representative of the Council may not, through correspondence or any other means of communication, attempt to persuade any elected or appointed political officials, any government agency, or any tribal or private organization or individual to take a particular action on an issue. This does not prohibit Council members from acting in their capacity as private citizens or through other organizations with which they are affiliated.

Approved by the Federal Subsistence Board on June 15, 2004.

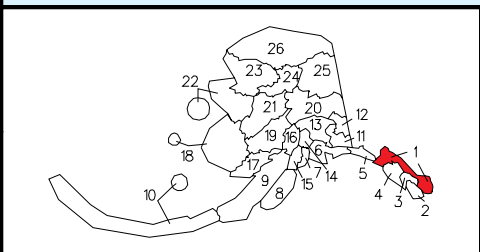
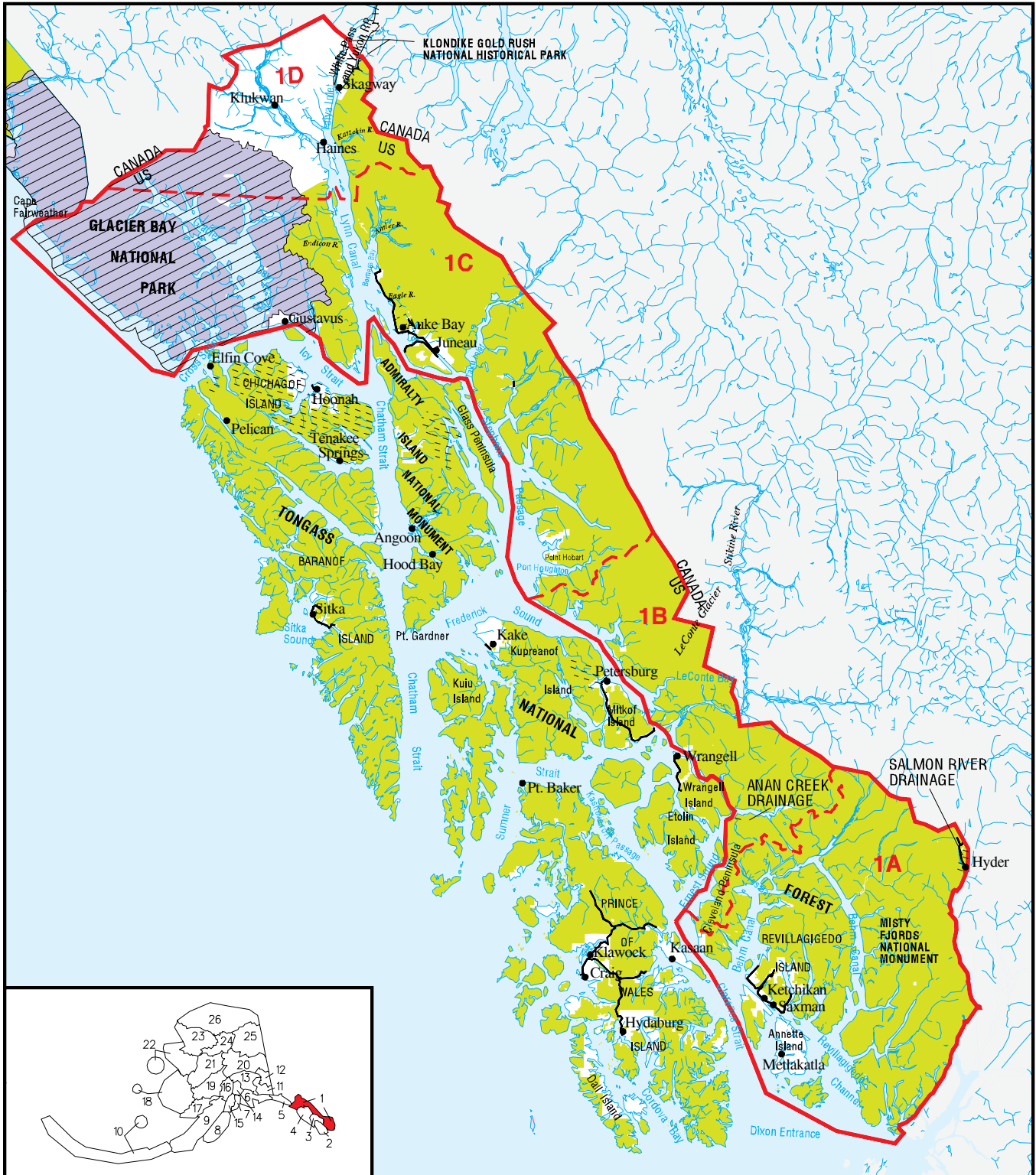
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Region 1

Southeast

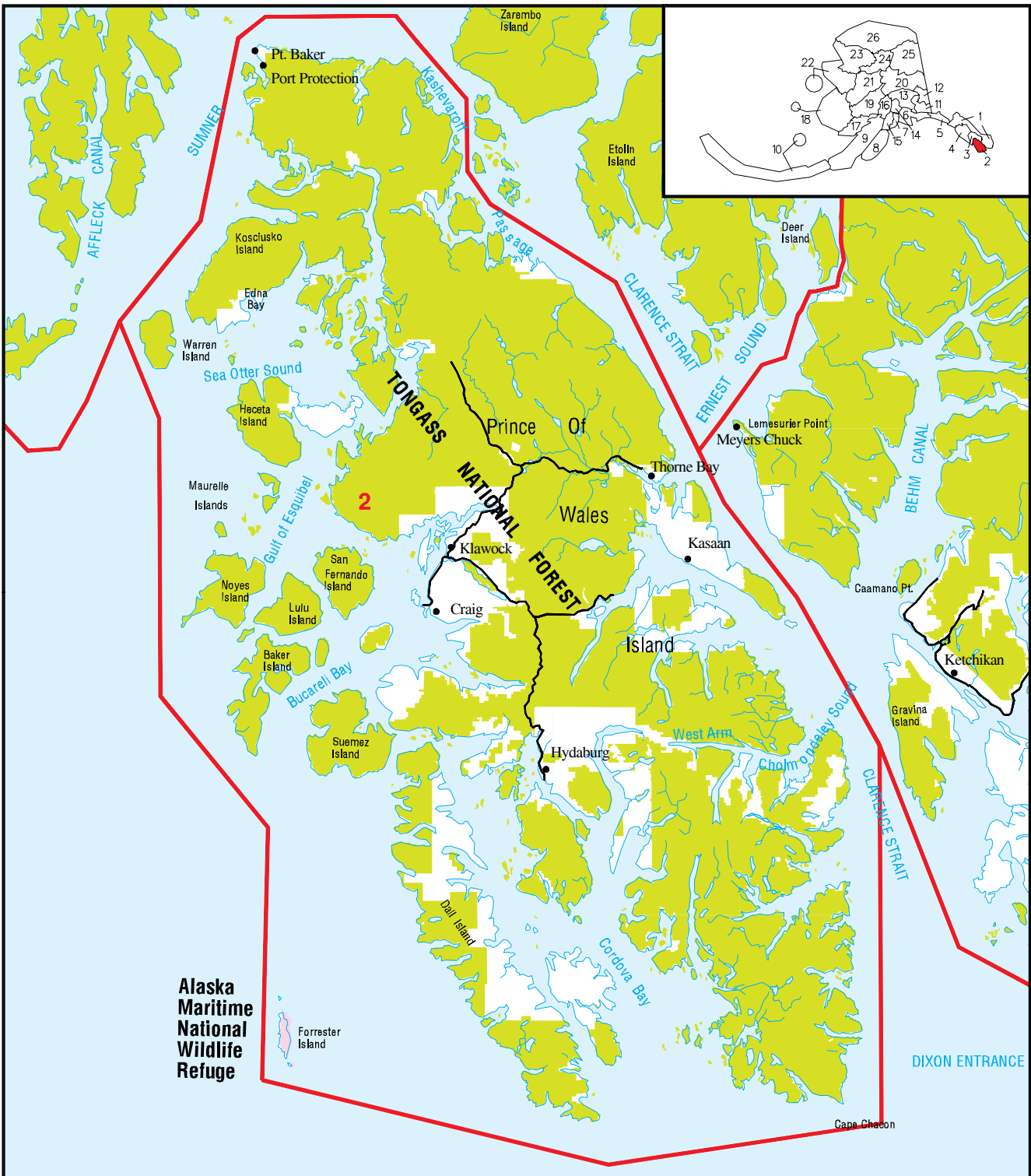
- Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use**
- FWS Administered Land
 - NPS Administered Park
 - NPS Admin'd Preserve
 - BLM Administered Land
 - USFS Administered Land
 - Selected - Not Conveyed
 - Closed to Subsistence
 - Special Management Areas
 - Region Boundaries
 - Game Management Units



Unit 1
Southeast Region

Southeast Mainland

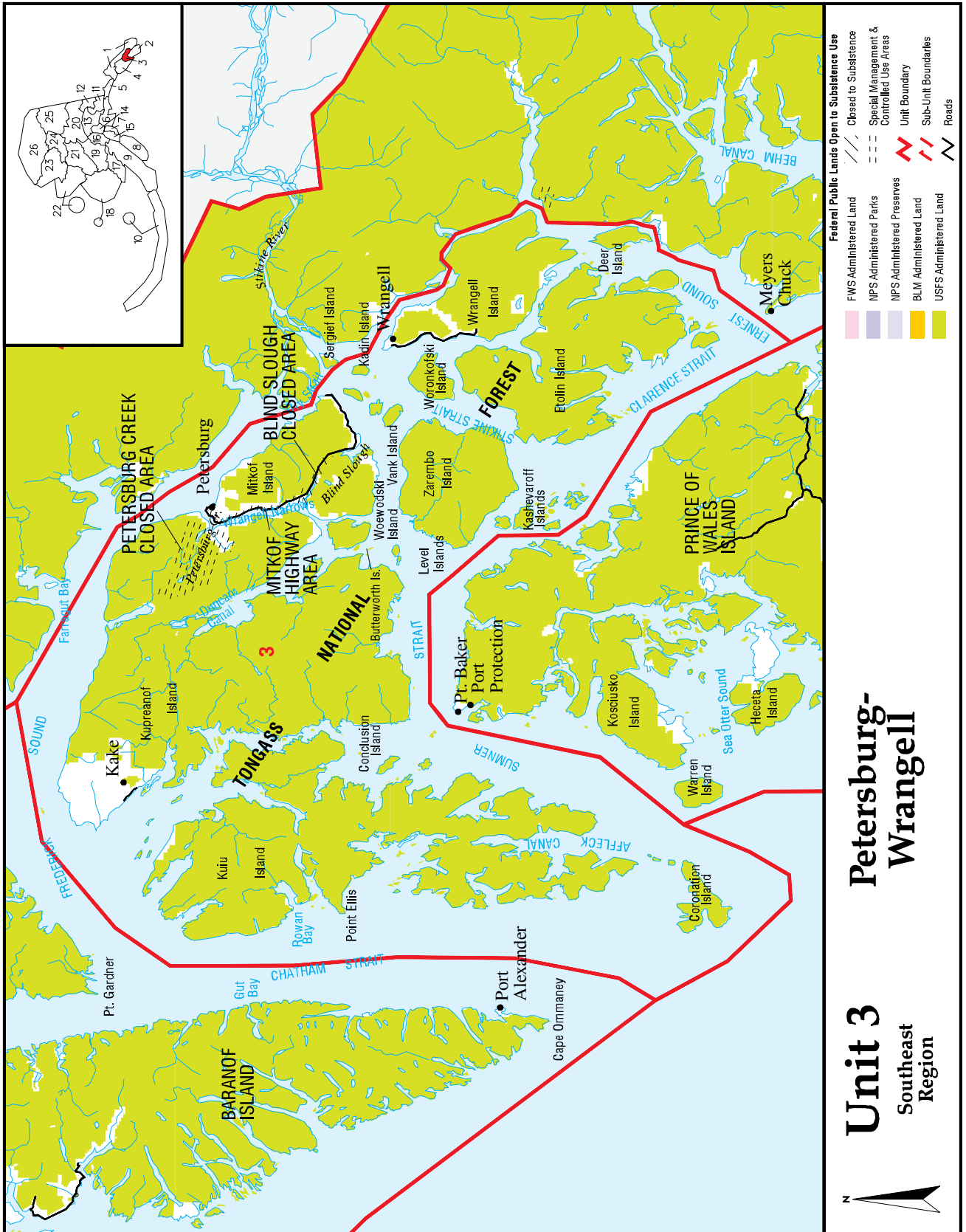
Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use	
FWS Administered Land	Closed to Subsistence
NPS Administered Parks	Special Management & Controlled Use Areas
NPS Administered Preserves	Unit Boundary
BLM Administered Land	Sub-Unit Boundaries
USFS Administered Land	Roads

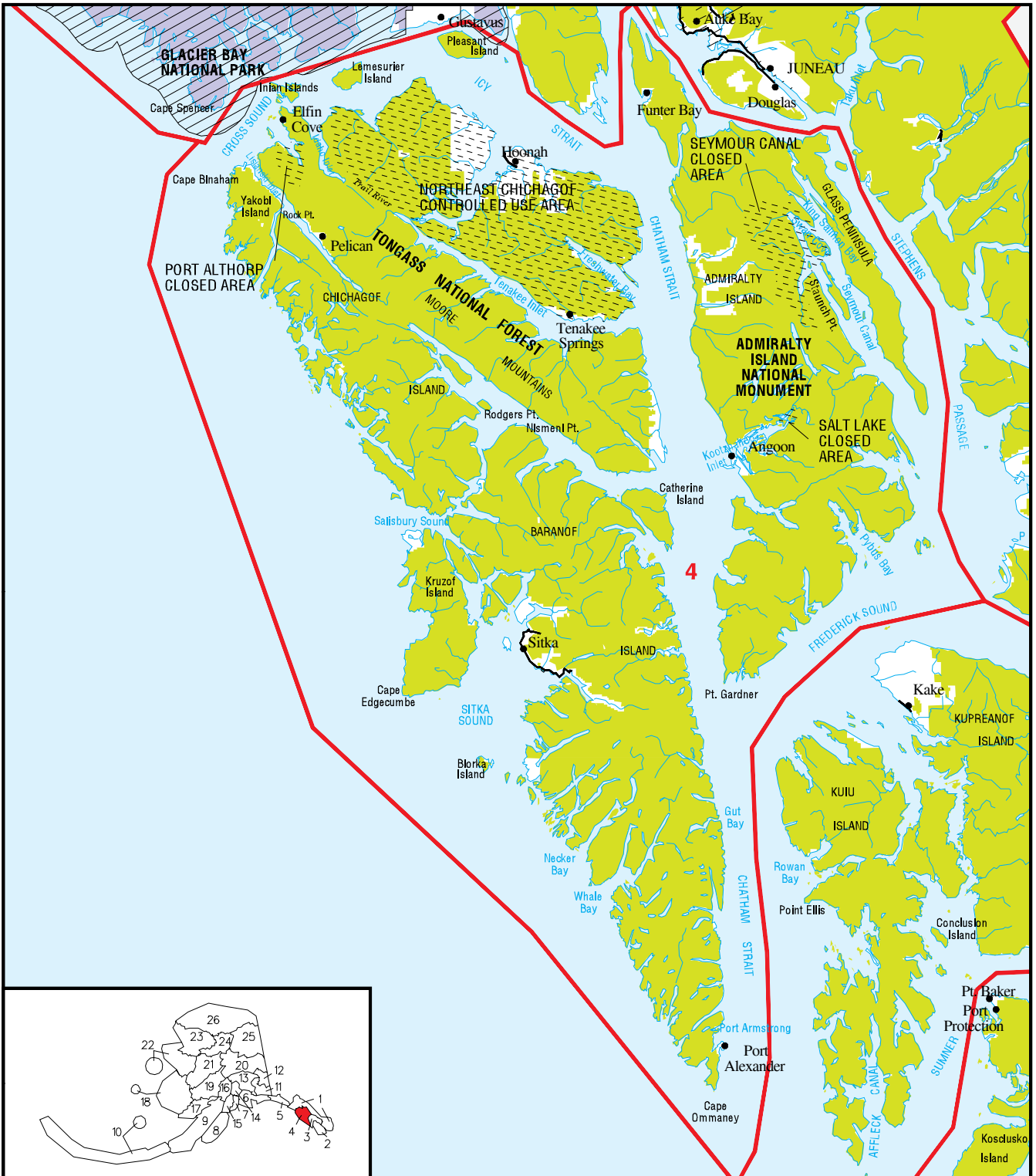


Unit 2
Southeast Region

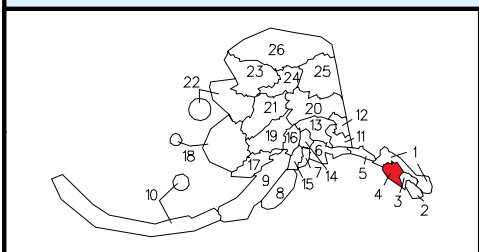
Prince Of Wales Island

- Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use**
- FWS Administered Land
 - NPS Administered Parks
 - NPS Administered Preserves
 - BLM Administered Land
 - USFS Administered Land
 - Closed to Subsistence
 - Special Management & Controlled Use Areas
 - Unit Boundary
 - Sub-Unit Boundaries
 - Roads





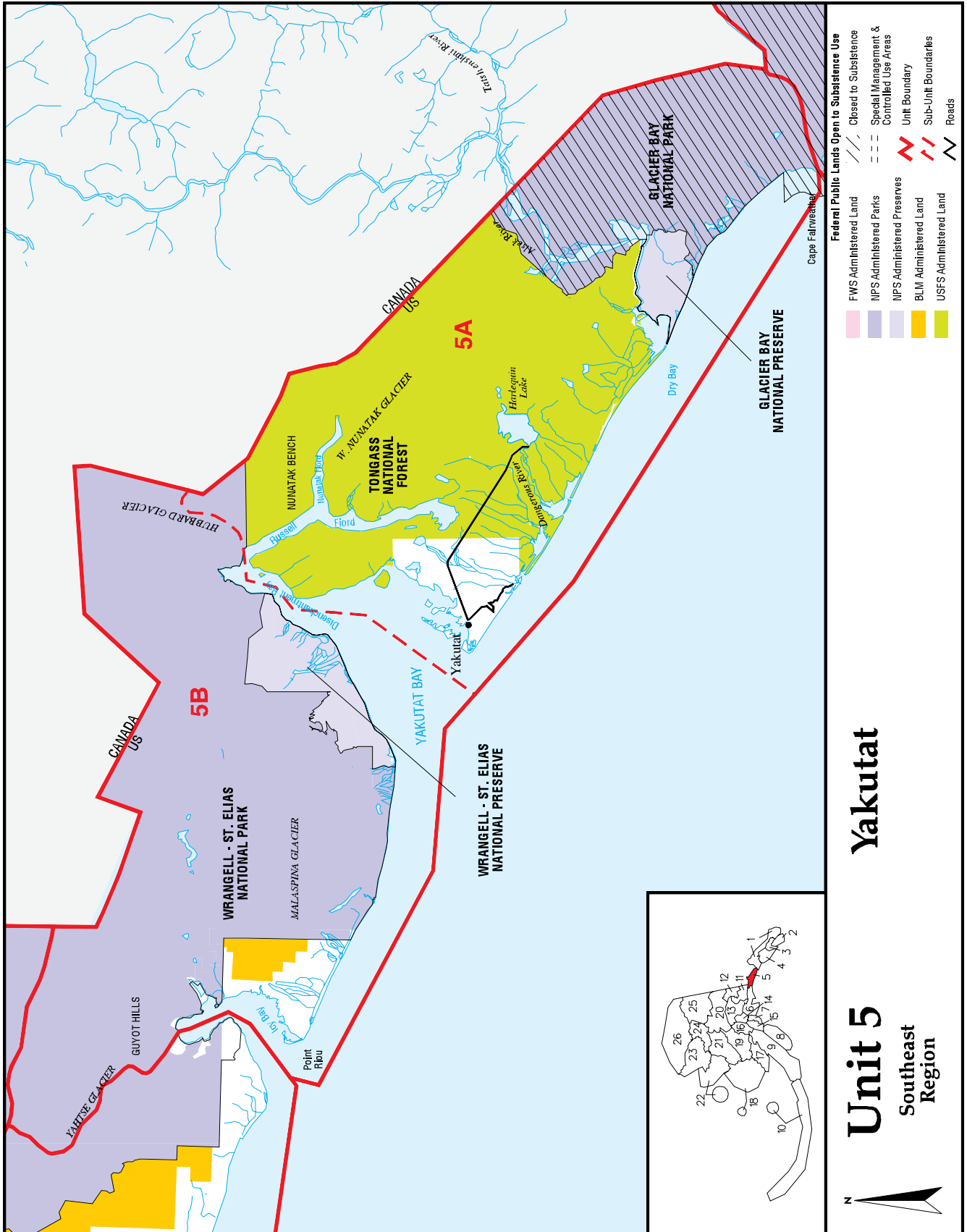
4



Unit 4
Southeast Region

Admiralty-Baranof-Chichagof Islands

Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use	
	FWS Administered Land
	NPS Administered Parks
	NPS Administered Preserves
	BLM Administered Land
	USFS Administered Land
	Closed to Subsistence
	Special Management & Controlled Use Areas
	Unit Boundary
	Sub-Unit Boundaries
	Roads

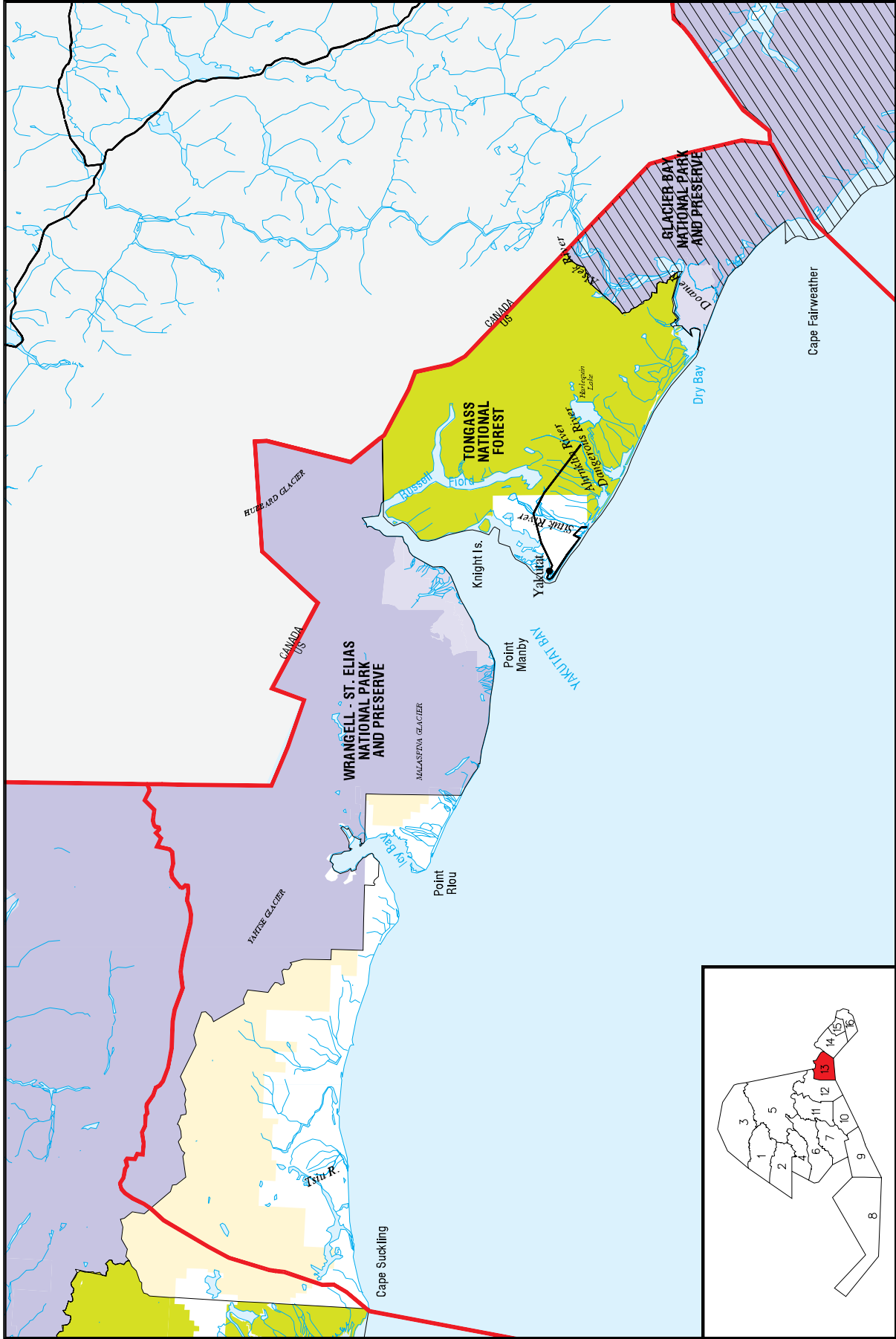


- Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use**
- /// Closed to Subsistence
 - Special Management & Controlled Use Areas
 - Unit Boundary
 - Sub-Unit Boundaries
 - Roads
- Federal Public Land**
- FWS Administered Land
 - NPS Administered Parks
 - NPS Administered Preserves
 - BLM Administered Land
 - USFS Administered Land

Yakutat

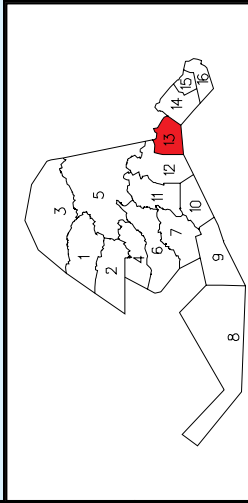
Unit 5 Southeast Region



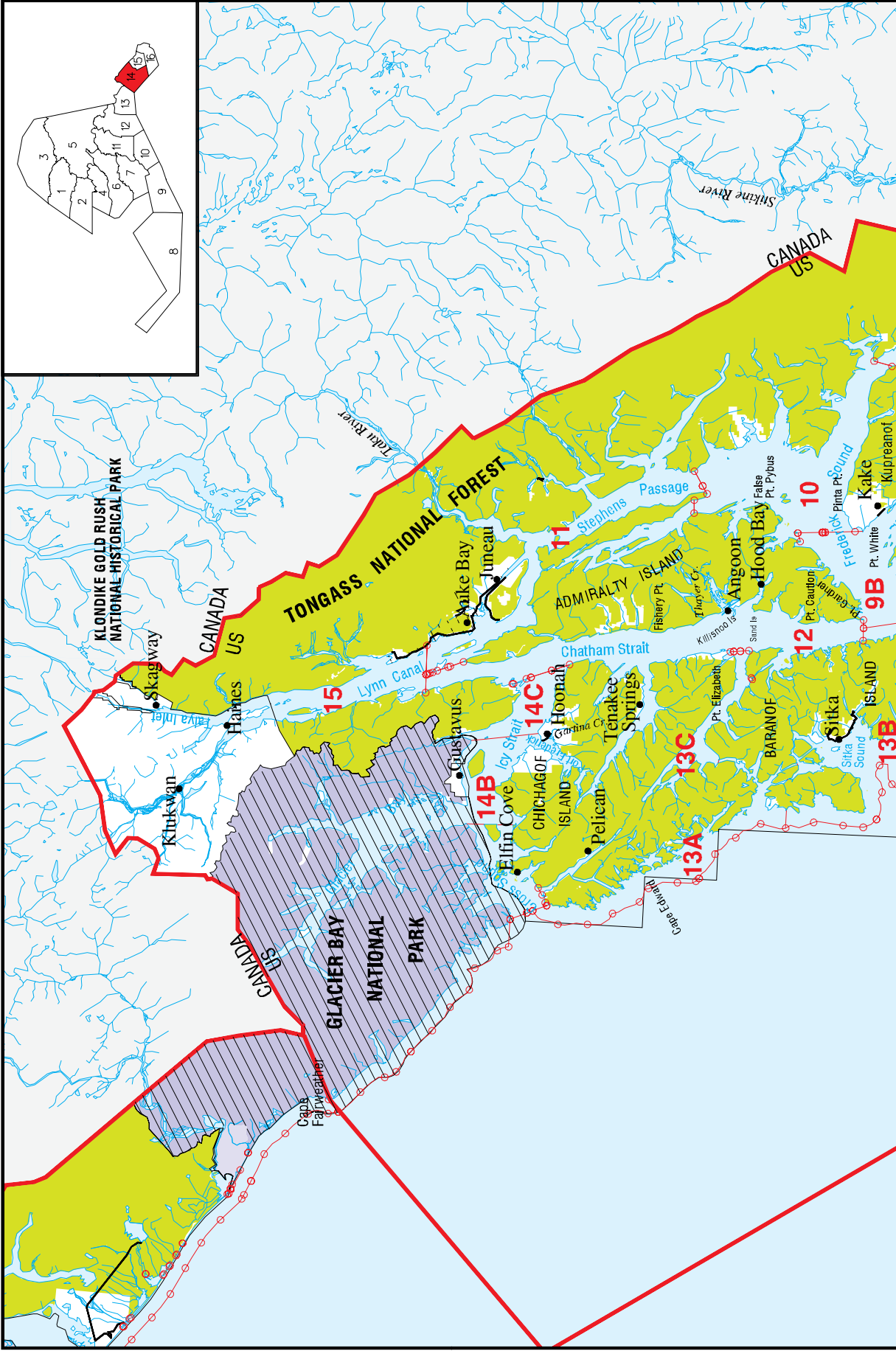


Yakutat Area

Map 13



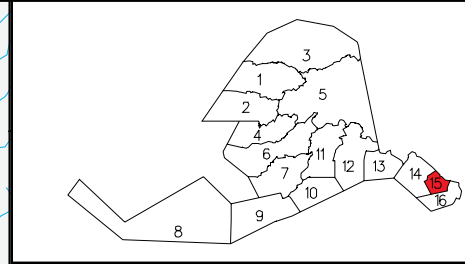
- USFS Administered Land
- FWS Administered Land
- NPS Administered Parks
- NPS Administered Preserves
- BLM Administered Land
- BLM Non-navigable Waters Only
- Closed to Subsistence
- Roads
- Area Boundary
- Federal Boundary



Map 14

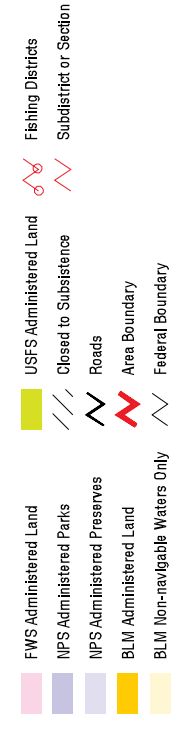
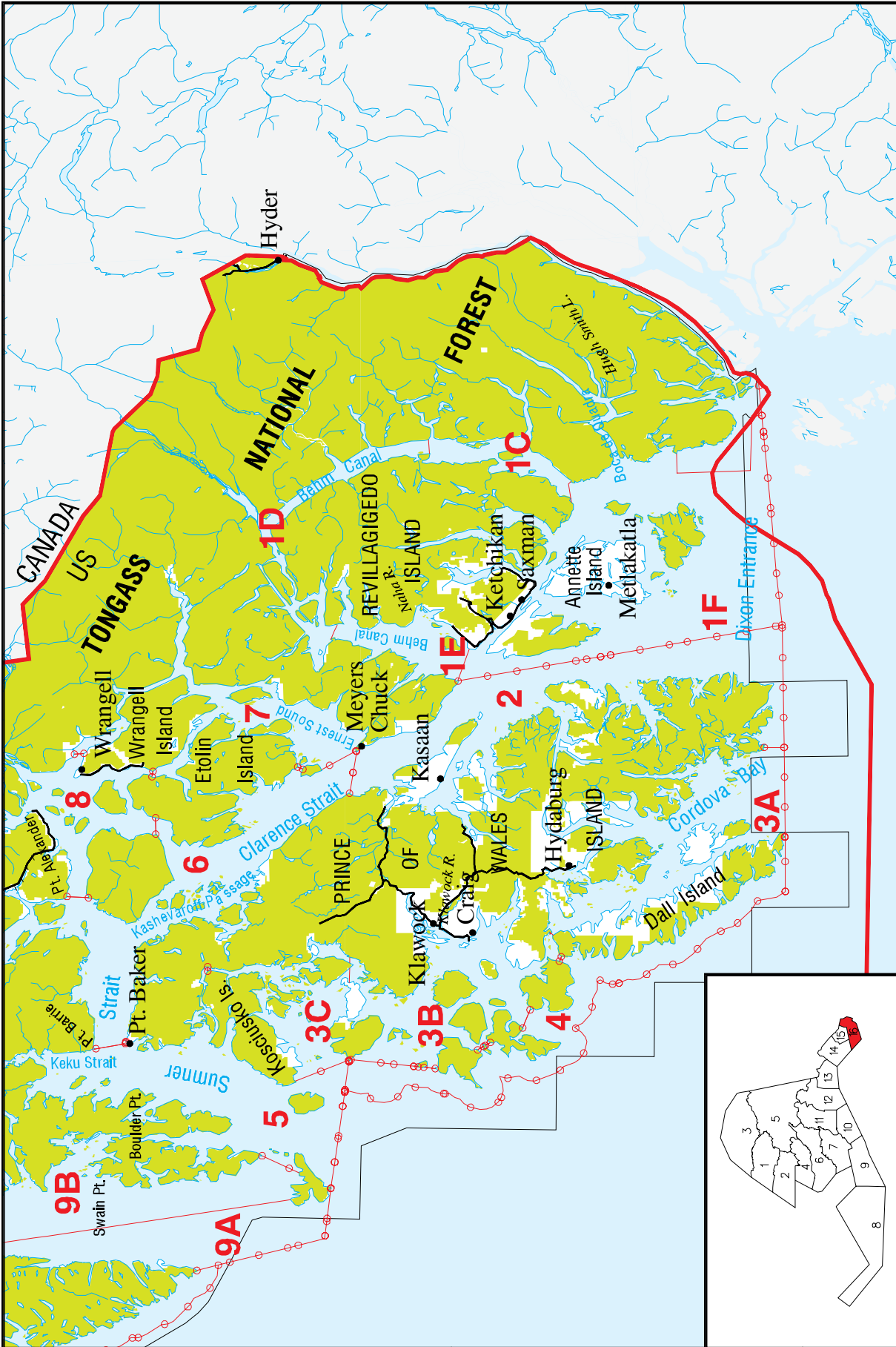
Southeastern Alaska Area

- USFS Administered Land
- FWS Administered Land
- NPS Administered Parks
- NPS Administered Preserves
- BLM Administered Land
- BLM Non-navigable Waters Only
- Closed to Subsistence
- Roads
- Area Boundary
- Federal Boundary
- Fishing Districts
- Subdistrict or Section



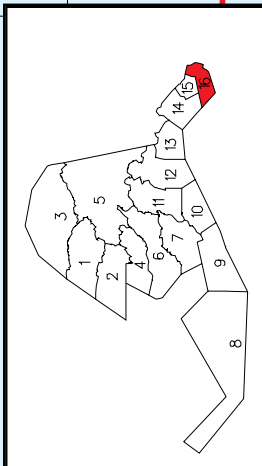
Map 15 Southeastern Alaska Area

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| FWS Administered Land | USFS Administered Land | Fishing Districts |
| NPS Administered Parks | Closed to Subsistence | Subdistrict or Section |
| NPS Administered Preserves | Roads | |
| BLM Administered Land | Area Boundary | |
| BLM Non-navigable Waters Only | Federal Boundary | |



Southeastern Alaska Area

Map 16



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