# Fisheries Management Law & Economics Applying Management in Alaska Joel Markis Asst Professor University of Alaska Southeast



**Fisheries Technology** 

#### Outline

Exam 2 Review

- Recap Emerging Management Techniques
- Recap Fisheries Management
- Applying Management to Alaskan Fisheries
- PWS Salmon
- Bering Sea King Crab
- Southeast Sac Roe Herring

#### RECAP

**Emerging Management Techniques** 

- Genetic stock management
- Digital Observer
- Cam Trawl
- HabCam
- Acoustics (Listening)
- Hydroacoustics (Sonar)
- AUV's
- Drones

#### Recap

- Fisheries Management..
- There is a need to manage these public resources due to Tragedy of the commons.
  - Many collapses to point to this
- Management Approaches
  - MSY
  - Quotas
  - Legislation
  - Closures
  - Gear Restrictions
- Fisheries Assessments

#### Recap

- Ecosystem Based Management
  - Reduce bycatch
  - Marine reserves
  - Monitoring of population characteristics
  - Catch share programs
  - Ecologically sustainable yield
  - Market Based Solutions

#### Applying Mgmt concepts to Alaskan Fisheries

- PWS Salmon
- Bering Sea King Crab
- Southeast Sac Roe Herring

### PWS Salon Management

- Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (SSFP; 5AAC 39.222), and....
- Policy for Statewide Salmon Escapement Goals (5 AAC 39.223)
- Both adopted to ensure salmon stocks are conserved, managed, and developed using the sustained yield principle



#### PWS

Nelchina Public Use Area

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

Anchorage

Chugach National Forest

#### **PWS Salon Management**

- Central theme = "to achieve a constant level of Escapement regardless of run strength"
- As information improves, escapement goals improved/developed for increasing sustained harvest levels
- Professional and scientific approach req'd for establishing and changing goals

#### **PWS Salon Management**

- Establish BEGs and SEGs for actively managed stocks
- Establish sustainable escapement threshold (SET) if necessary
- Review goals every BOF cycle
- Escapement goal ranges should allow for uncertainty in...
  - Measurement techniques
  - Variability in assessments of stock size
  - Climate and oceanographic variability
  - Varying abundance of populations within stocks

#### **Escapement Goals**

- Biological Escapement Goal (BEG)
  - The escapement that provides the greatest potential for maximum sustained yield
  - Best Biological information & Scientifically defensible on the basis of available biological information
- Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG)
  - A level of escapement, indicated by an index or an escapement estimate, that is known to provide for sustained yield over a 5 to 10 year period, used in situations where a BEG cannot be estimated due to the absence of a stock specific catch estimate

#### PWS Fisheries Assessment

- Stock Assessments
- Three components of stock assessments:
  - Estimation of escapement
  - Estimation of harvest (also called "catch")
  - Estimation of age composition

#### **Escapement Estimate**

- Best = weirs, towers
- Good = sonar, mark-recapture
- OK = aerial, foot, snorkel surveys





#### Aerial Surveys



#### Estimation of Harvest

 AK waters / species reported using e-Landings or paper fish ticket



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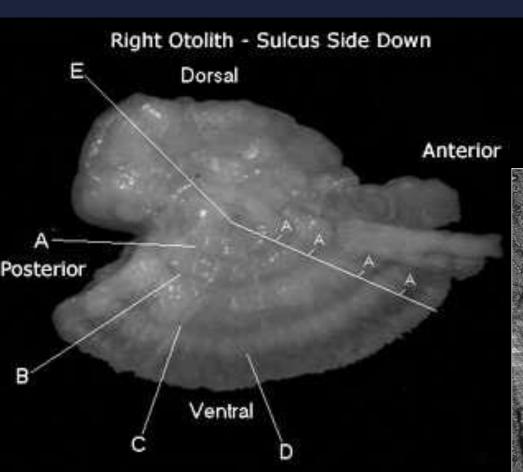
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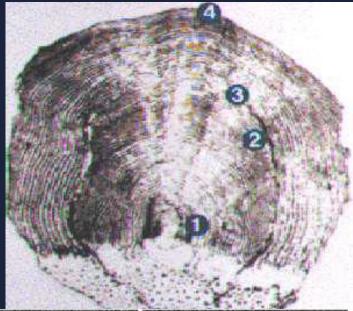
### Est. of age composition

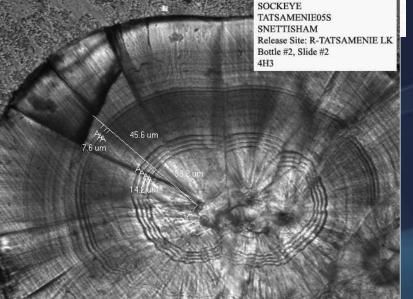
#### Scales and Otoliths

• Thermal Marking / Stock Structure

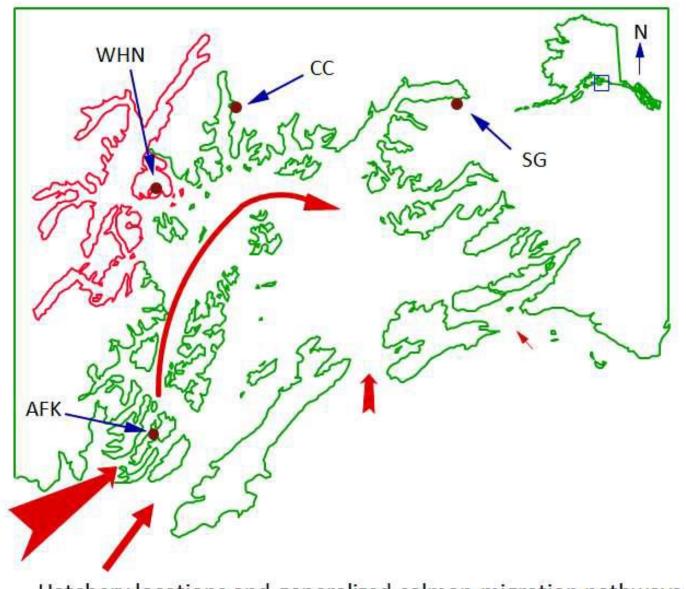








#### Test Fishery



Hatchery locations and generalized salmon migration pathways.

# **Test Fishery**

- Provides quantitative measure of run strength
- Provides sex ratios
- Allows management decisions based on stock composition





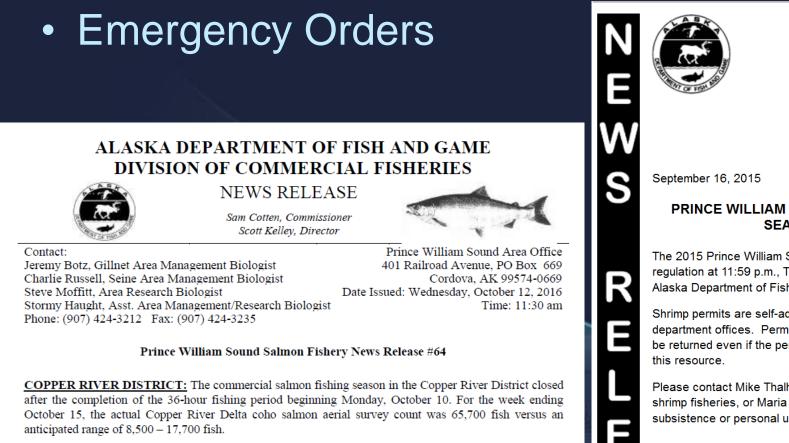
#### Assessment Data

- Estimate escapement, stock structure, and age composition
- Allows managers to set or fine tune Sustainable Escapement Goals (Usually Range)

Table 5.–Spawning escapement goals for Area E salmon stocks, 2014.

	(	Goal	Long-term		Year	Evaluation
Species/stock	Lower	Upper	target <sup>a</sup>	Type <sup>b</sup>	implemented <sup>c</sup>	method
Chinook salmon						
Copper River	24,000	and up	27,000	SEG <sup>d</sup>	2003	Mark-recapture
Coho salmon						
Bering River	13,000	- 33,000		SEG	2003	Aerial surveys
Copper River Delta	32,000	- 67,000		SEG	2003	Aerial surveys
Sockeye salmon						
Bering River	15,000	- 33,000		SEG	2012	Aerial surveys
Upper Copper River <sup>e</sup>	360,000	- 750,000	361,000	SEG	2012	Didson sonar
Copper River Delta <sup>f</sup>	55,000	– 130,000	84,500	SEG	2003	Aerial surveys
Coghill Lake	20,000	- 60,000		SEG	2012	Weir
Eshamy Lake	13,000	- 28,000		BEG	2009	Video

#### In season Management



**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The commercial salmon fishing season in the Bering River District closed after the completion of the 36-hour fishing period beginning Monday, October 10. For the week ending October 8, the actual Bering River Delta coho salmon aerial survey count was 23,400 fish versus an anticipated range of 5,156 – 13,089 fish.

No additional scheduled salmon fisheries announcements are anticipated this season.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Sam Cotten, Commissioner

> DIVISION OF SPORT FISH Tom Brookover, Director

> > Contact:

Mike Thalhauser Area Management Biologist Phone: 907-267-2186

#### PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SPORT, SUBSISTENCE, AND PERSONAL USE SHRIMP SEASONS CLOSED; PERMITS DUE BY OCTOBER 15

The 2015 Prince William Sound (PWS) sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp seasons closed by regulation at 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2015. All PWS shrimp permits must be returned to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game no later than October 15.

Shrimp permits are self-addressed and can be folded, stamped and mailed, or personally delivered to department offices. Permits may also be scanned and emailed to dfg.pws.shrimp@alaska.gov. Permits must be returned even if the permit holder did not fish. The prompt return of all permits is necessary to manage this resource.

Please contact Mike Thalhauser in Anchorage at 267-2186 with any questions regarding the PWS sport shrimp fisheries, or Maria Wessel in Cordova at 424-3212 with any questions regards the PWS subsistence or personal use shrimp fisheries.

#### **PWS Salmon Management**

- Major tenets of the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222)
- Maintain salmon stocks and habitat
  - Regulatory closed waters
  - Anadromous stream closures
- Manage for escapement
- Establish and apply effective management
- Encourage public support and involvement
- Manage conservatively, acknowledge uncertainty

#### PWS Harvest 2016

• 19 million fish (only)

#### • \$58 million

- 2015 104 m fish
  - \$117 million

2015 Alaska Commercial Salmon Harvests and Exvessel Values									
Species	Avg. Wt. (pounds)	Avg. Price per Pound	Number of Fish (thousands)	Lbs. of Fish (thousands)	Est. Value US\$ (thousands)				
Chinook	16.42	\$5.65	24	388	\$2,189				
Sockeye	5.35	\$2.01	3,210	17,183	\$34,593				
Coho	7.43	\$0.66	198	1,469	\$966				
Pink	3.38	\$0.22	98,254	332,085	\$71,913				
Chum	5.38	\$0.61	2,544	13,679	\$8,331				
Totals			104,229	364,802	\$117,990				

2016 Alaska Commercial Salmon Harvests and Exvessel Values										
Species	Avg. Wt. (pounds)	Avg. Price per Pound	Number of Fish (thousands)	Lbs. of Fish (thousands)	Est. Value US\$ (thousands)					
Prince William Sound										
Chinook	17.51	\$6.06	12	209	\$1,268					
Sockeye	5.32	\$2.24	1,937	10,303	\$23, <mark>1</mark> 03					
Coho	9.02	\$1.45	478	4,309	\$6,233					
Pink	3.89	\$0.28	13,269	51,562	\$14,338					
Chum	6.91	\$0.57	3,431	23,712	\$13,629					
Totals			19,127	90,095	\$58,571					

### Recap PWS Salmon

- Fisheries Assessments
- Management Approaches
  - MSY
  - Quotas
  - Legislation
  - Closures
  - Gear Restrictions
- Ecosystem Based Management
  - Reduce bycatch
  - Marine reserves
  - Monitoring of population characteristics
  - Catch share programs
  - Ecologically sustainable yield

#### Self Check

- The escapement that provides the greatest potential for maximum sustained yield refers to
  - Biological Escapement Goal
  - Optimal Escapement Goal
  - Sustainable Escapement Goal
  - Inriver Goal

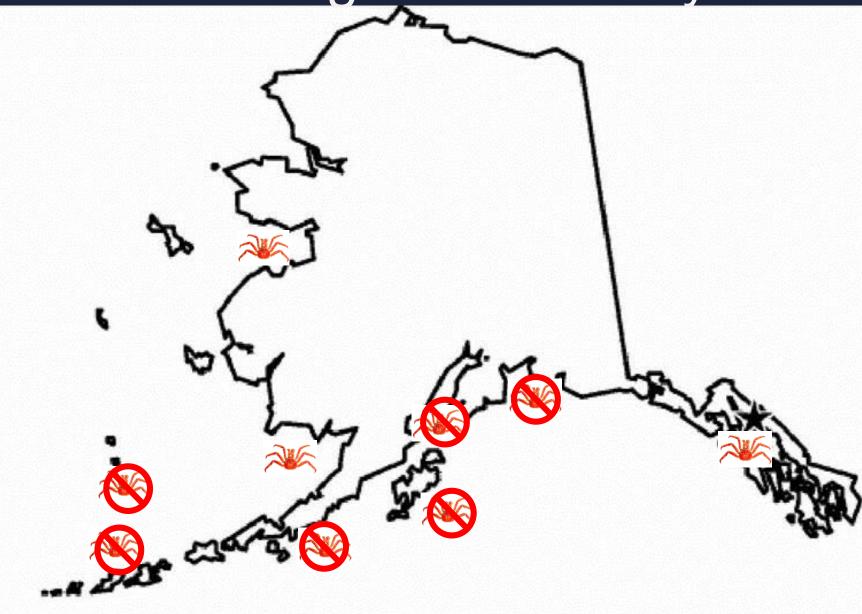
#### In Season Management is achieved using

- Fishery regulations
- Emergency Orders
- Fish & Wildlife Troopers
- Test Fisheries

#### Bering Sea King Crab



#### Red King Crab Fishery



# Bering Sea-Aleutian Island Crab Management

Cooperative management between federal and state agencies

- Federal
  - NPFMC: develops regulations, management plans
  - NMFS: surveys to estimate population abundance, fishery research
- State
  - BOF: makes allocative decisions, establishes policy for management
     ADF&G: implements fishery regulations and harvest strategies

# 3 - S Harvest Strategy

#### Sex - Males only

- Protects eggs in population
- Males can mate with multiple females
- Males are bigger, longer legs

#### **Size** - One molt above maturity

- Ensures opportunity to mate at least once before entering fishery

Season – Avoid biologically sensitive periods

- Molting: vulnerable to handing (deadloss)
- Mating: disrupt fertilization
- Later harvests allows meat to "fill out"

spring/summer

### **Other Mgmt Measures**

- Legal Gear (pot dimensions, mesh sizes, escape holes)
- Permit Requirements
- Reporting Requirements
- Observer Requirements
- Limited Access
- Area Closures (protect habitat, bycatch, etc.)
- Pot Limits, gear modifications (Biodegradable)
- Bycatch Limits

#### Crab Fishery Management

- Reduced harvest rates provide for more conservation, increased stock productivity, less volatile catches, reduced probability of fishery closures, and increased market and price stability.
- Bycatch caps and area closures constrain negative impacts by trawl fleet on crab stocks and habitats.

#### Pre- 2005: Derby Style Fishery

# <u>"Race for crab"</u> - catch crab as quickly as possible to maximize profits

- Led to short seasons (sometimes only days)
- Compromised vessel human and safety
- Forced processors to process crab as quickly as possible
  - Reduced product quality and increased deadloss
- Increased ghost fishing: lost gear
- Reduced ability to precisely monitor Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

 The TAC was sometimes exceeded because in-season monitoring could not keep pace with harvests

#### **Crab Rationalization Program**

Share-based management program (Catch Share)

- Implemented in 2005
- Allocates harvest among users (harvesters, processors, communities)
- Quota shares (QS): captains + vessel owners
- Processor shares (PS): processors
- Community development quotas (CDQ): rural Alaska communities

Minimize negative social and economic impacts by promoting fishery involvement and economic development

#### **Crab Rationalization Program**

Individual allocation quota:

 percentage of the total catch based on historic landings from specific periods (depending on the fishery) Quota Share QS

Fisherman get IFQ (individual fishing quota)

This varies from year to year

Based on quota share and total harvest

 $QS \times TAC = IFQ$ 

#### Effects of Crab Rationalization

- Reduction in fishing effort
  - Fewer vessels in fleet, fewer people with quota shares
  - Increased profits for remaining vessels
- Extended season: greater flexibility in selecting fishing time + location
  - Safer: reduced Coast Guard search and rescue cases
  - Less bycatch: longer soak times allow escapement of small crabs
- Less gear, decreased pot lifts, less ghost fishing
   Better crab conservation

# Effects of Rationalization

Fishermen form cooperatives: improves efficiency

- At end of season fisherman to consolidate remaining shares to single vessel
- Little un-harvested crab: maximizes TAC
- Efficient coordination with processors causes less down time between deliveries for processing crews
- More precise landings

### Socioeconomic Impacts

- Reduction in fleet decreases available jobs in coastal communities
- Restricts ability for young people to enter fishery
- Questions about "fairness"
  - Does limited access privatize a public resource?
- Long-term social impacts
  - Loss of: identity, meaningful lifestyle, connection to the surrounding environment for some individuals

# How do agencies make management decisions?

Stock Assessment Models:

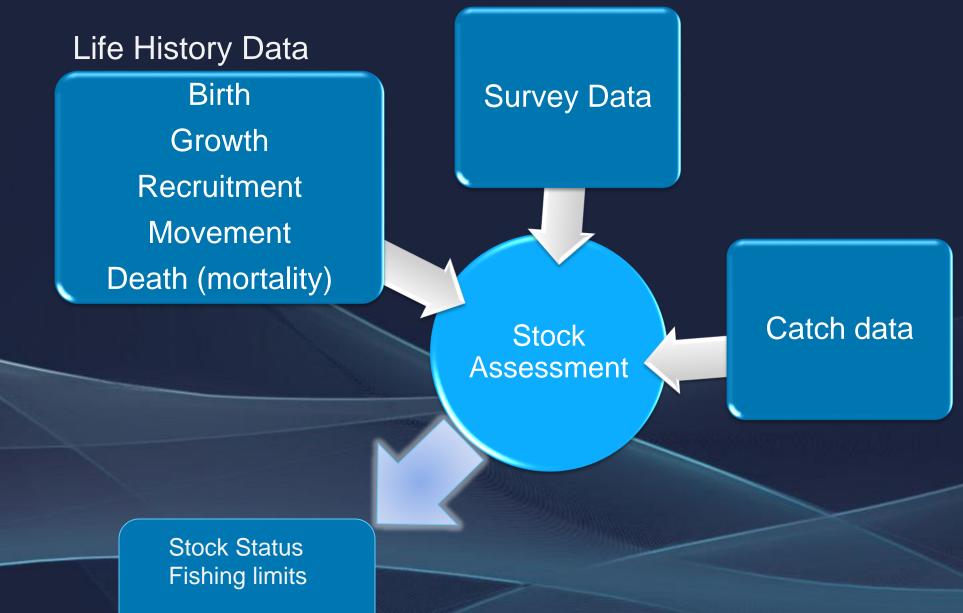
- quantitative predictions about crab populations
- Length-based analysis: reduces uncertainty in annual abundance estimates

MSY: Maximum sustainable Yield

TAC: Total Allowable catch

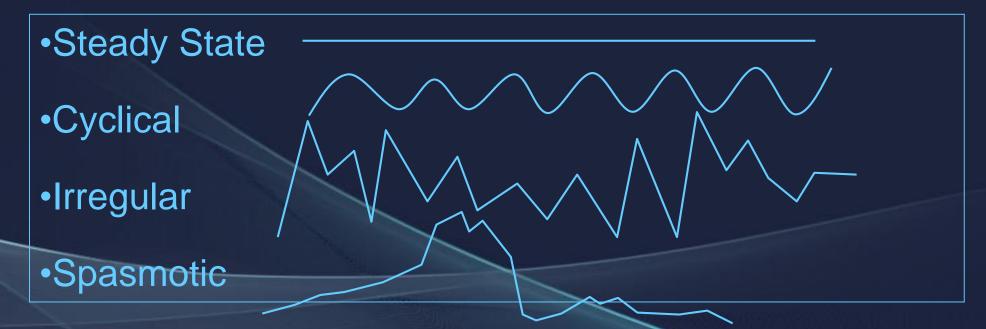
**OFL: Over Fishing Limits** 

#### Abundance Index

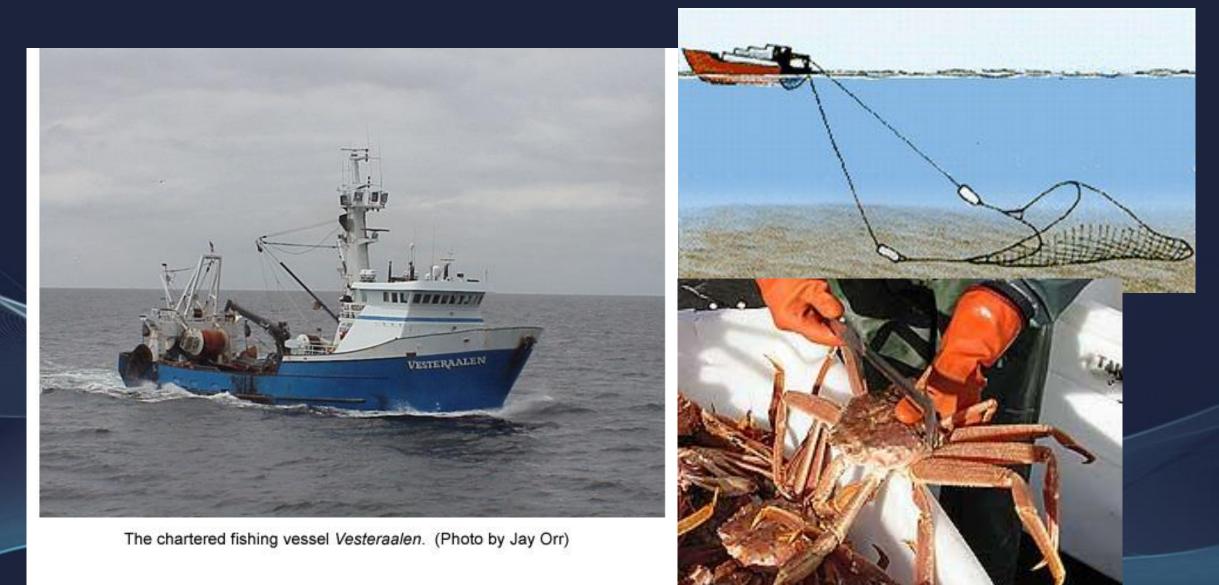


### Stock Assessment

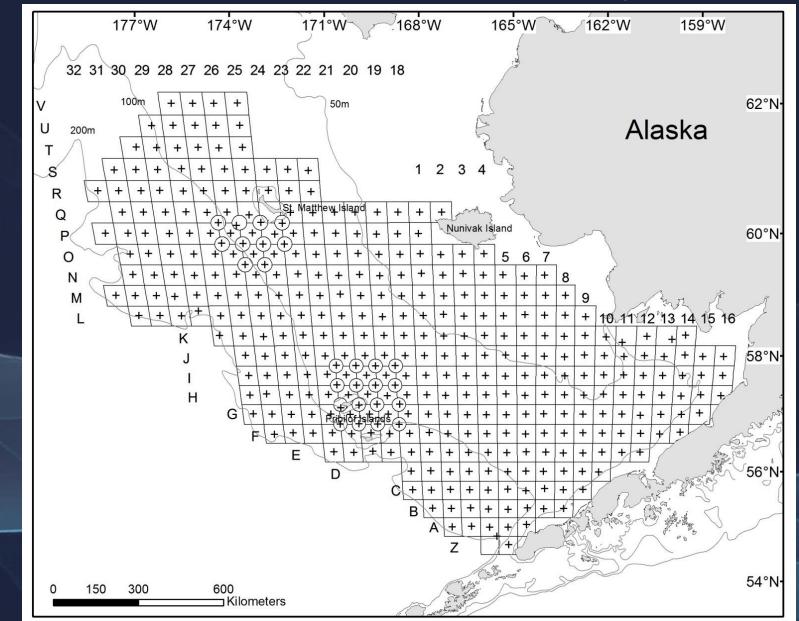
• Population trends over time



# Bottom Trawl Surveys



### NMFS Crab Surveys

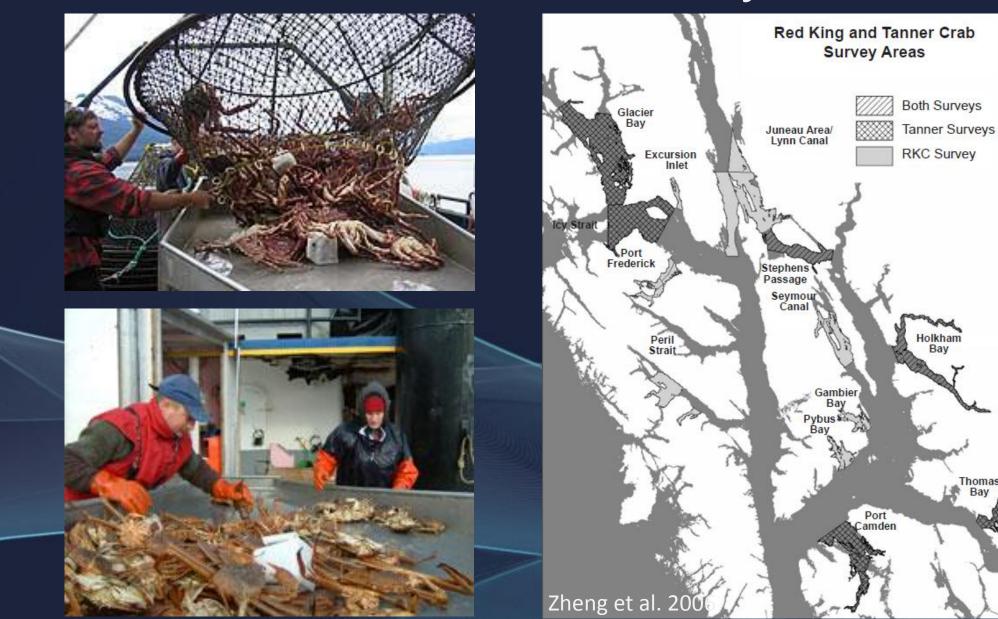








# ADF&G Pot Surveys

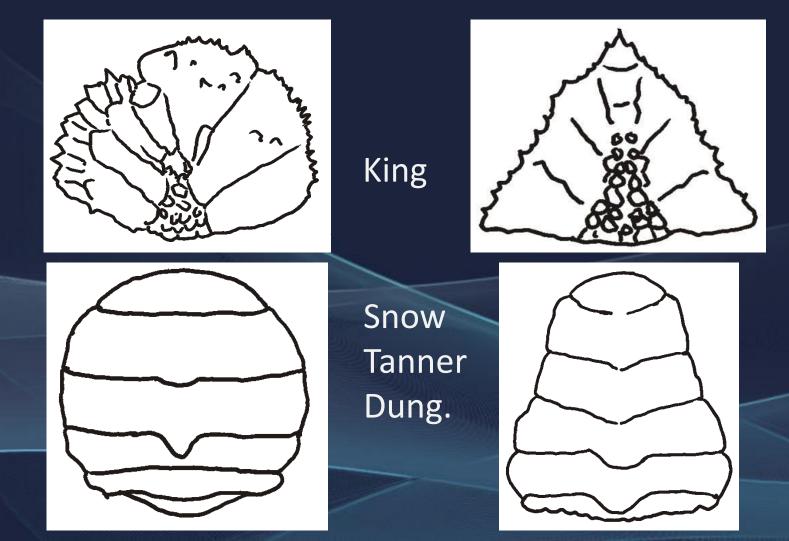


Thomas Bay

### Biological Data Collection: Sex

#### Female

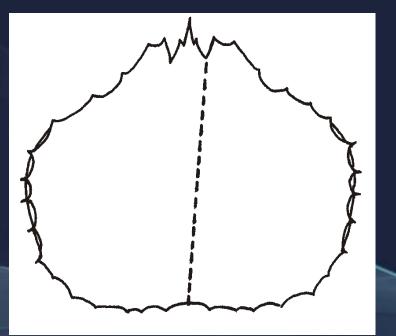
Male

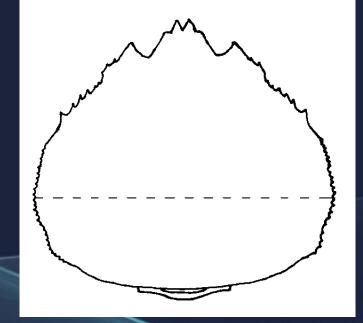


### Biological Data: Size

Carapace length

Carapace width





King crabs

Snow, Tanner, Dungeness

# **Biological Data Collection**

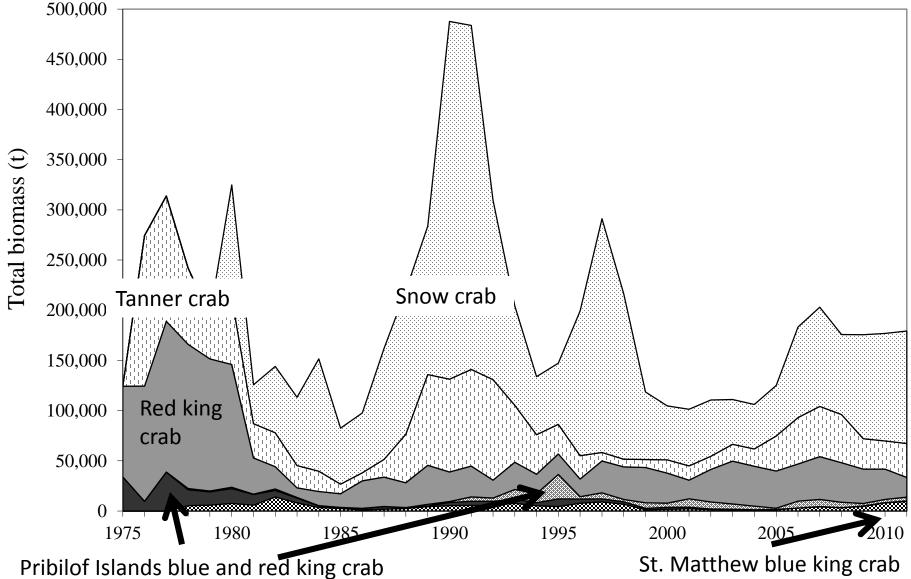
Shell condition: proxy for age

- 0 Molting
- 1 Soft
- 2 Hardshell (new, clean)
- 3 Oldshell (slightly worn)
- 4 Oldshell (worn)
- 5 Very Oldshell

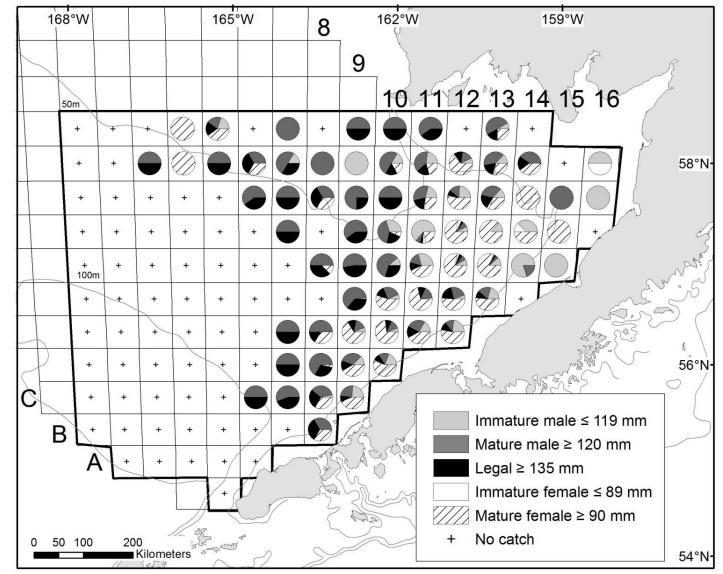




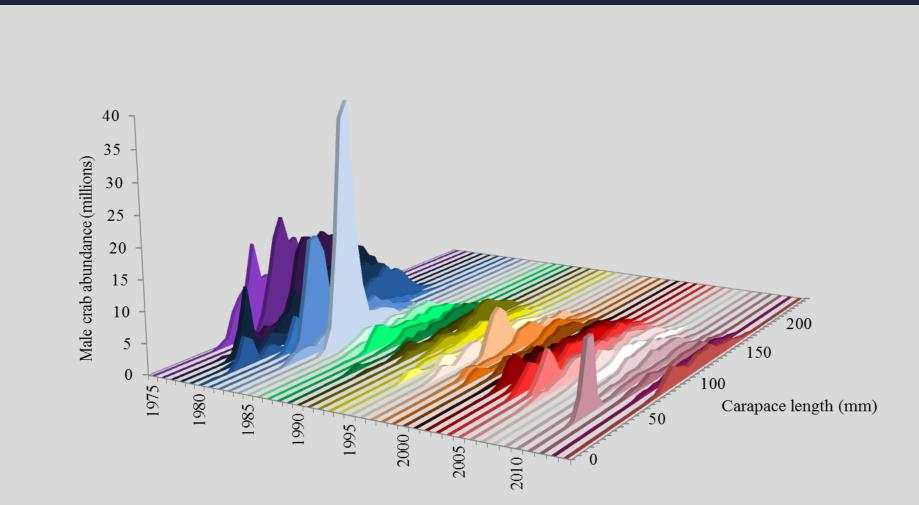
## Eastern Bering Sea Crab Stocks Mature Male Biomass



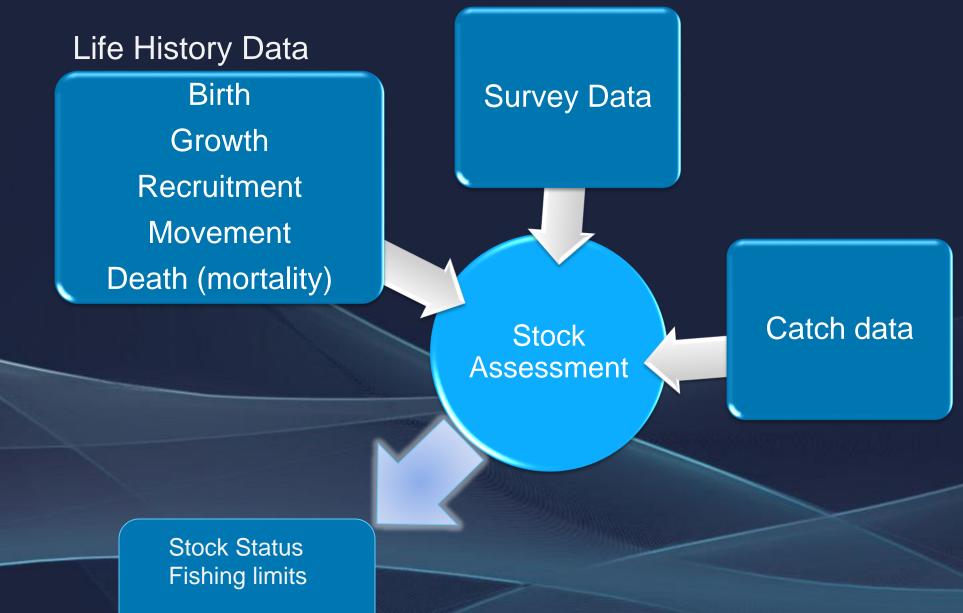
# Spatial Distribution: e.g., Bristol Bay Red King Crab



# Size Distribution: Bristol Bay Red King Crab



#### Abundance Index



# Survey Data

- Estimate abundance, biomass, and size distribution
- Population above critical thresholds?
  - Used as benchmark for harvesting a given stock
  - Exploitation rates then applied to estimate of population abundance to calculate TAC

# Other Data for Stock Assessment Models

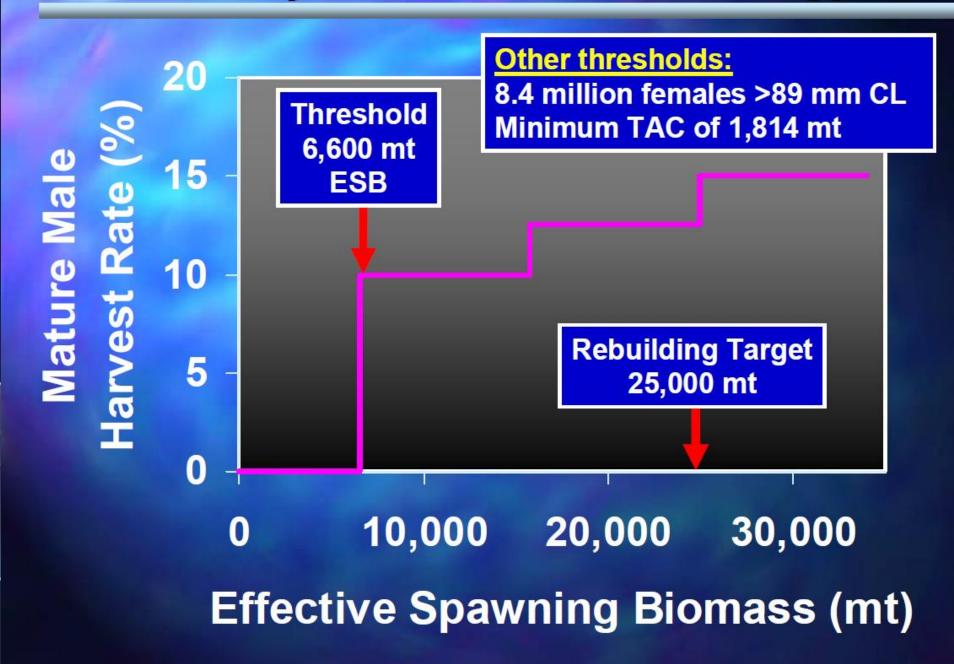
- Observer data: (e.g., size, sex)
- Dockside sampling (e.g., size, shell condition)
- Landings (# crabs, total weight)







### **Bristol Bay RKC Harvest Strategy**



# Recap Bearing Sea Crab

- Fisheries Assessments
- Management Approaches
  - MSY
  - Quotas
  - Legislation
  - Closures
  - Gear Restrictions
- Ecosystem Based Management
  - Reduce bycatch
  - Marine reserves
  - Monitoring of population characteristics
  - Catch share programs
  - Ecologically sustainable yield

### Self Check

- There are currently 9 king crab fisheries in operation in Alaska
  - True
  - False
- The crab indicated on the picture below represents a
  - Male
  - Female



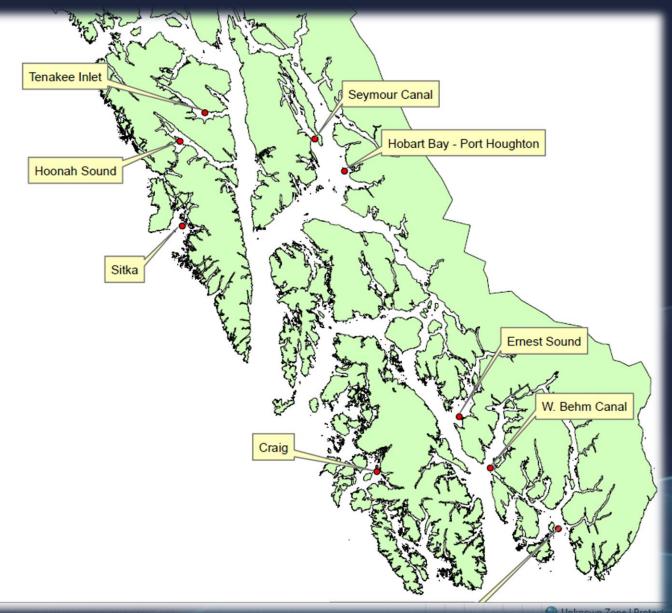
# SE Sac Roe Herring







# SE Herring Fisheries



# Herring Assessments

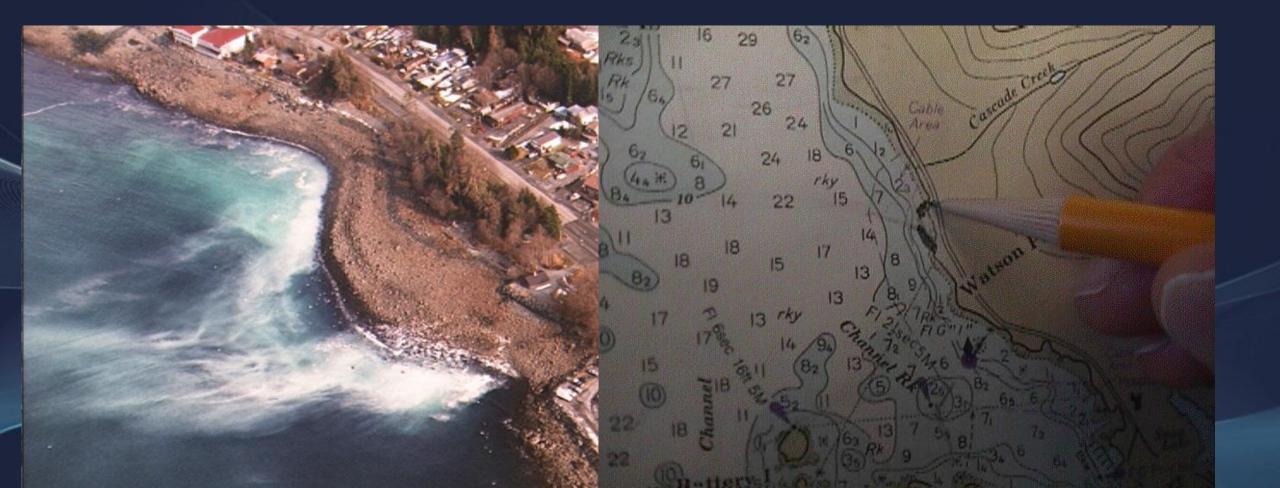
- Aerial Survey of Spawn
- Spawn Deposition Dive Survey (Spawning biomass estimate)
- Samples for AWL
- Cast net samples
- Commercial fishery samples
- Winter test fishery samples
- Other fecundity, juvenile sampling

# Aerial Surveys



# Survey of Spawn

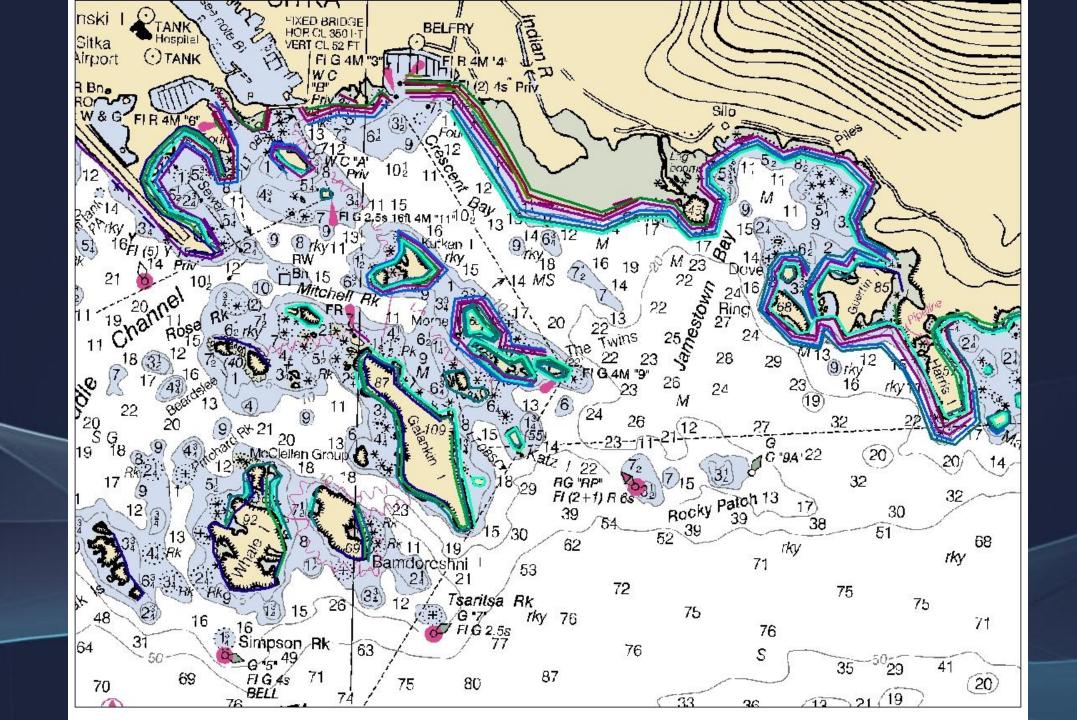
• Fly coastline and record miles of spawn

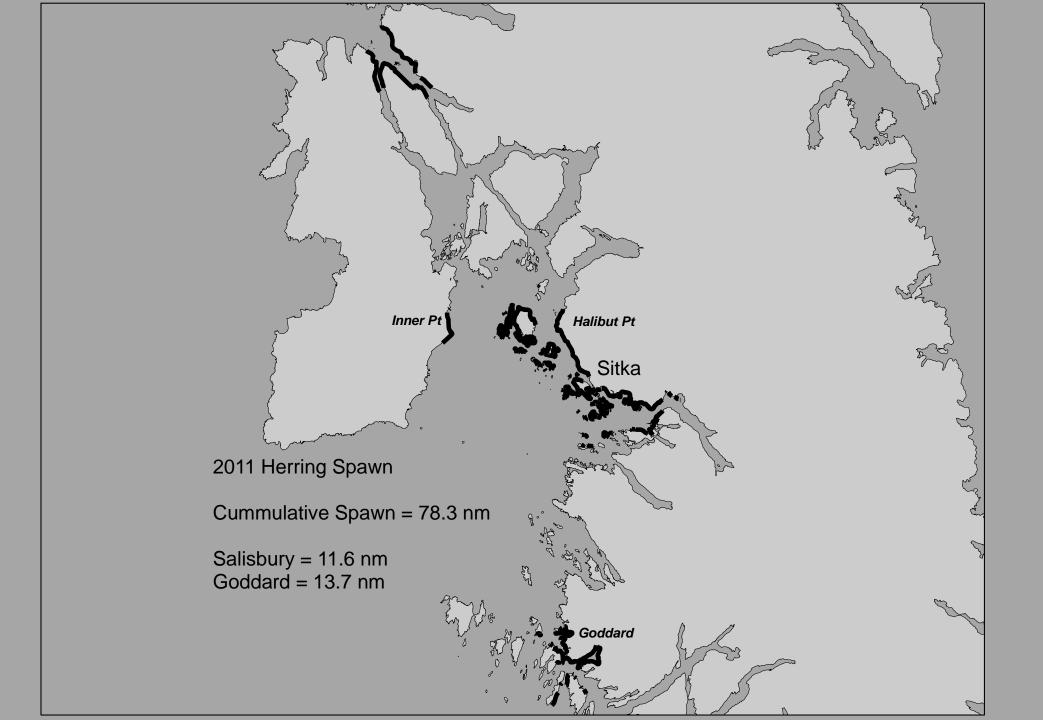


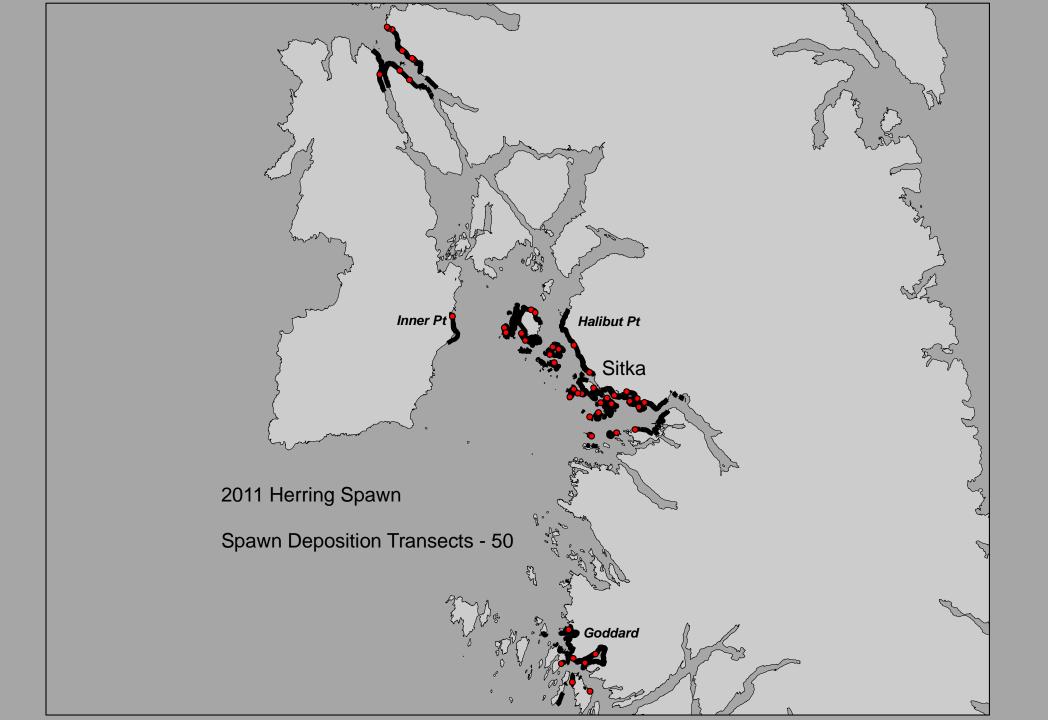
# Herring Spawn









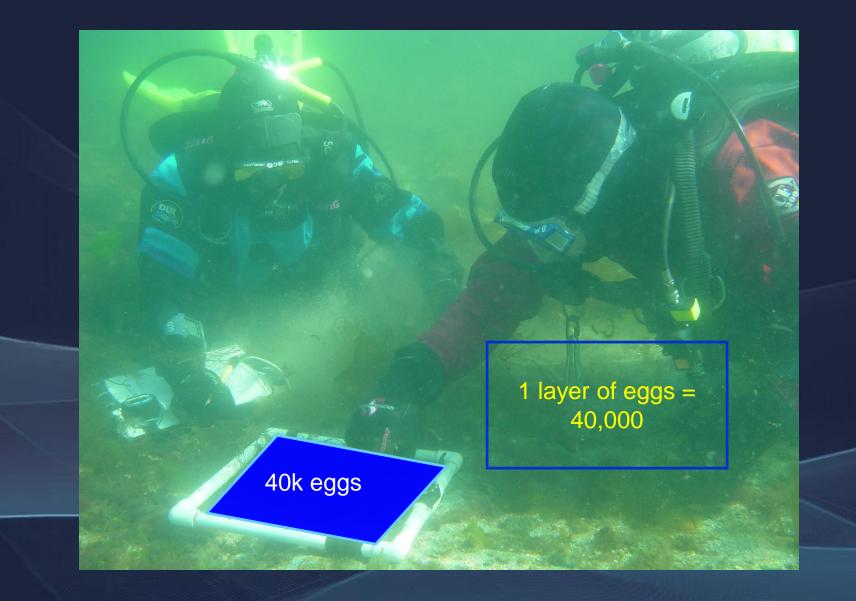




### Intertidal Spawn Survey



#### Dive Team on Transect





5007 97

SW/T

20005

# Herring Spawn

Eel grass

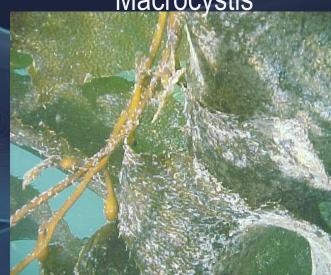


#### Fucus (Popweed)



Macrocystis





#### Spawn Deposition

- Aerial survey mapping length (m)
- Dive Survey
  - Average width of spawn (m)
  - Average Density of eggs (eggs/m<sup>2</sup>)
     Length (m) x width (m) x eggs (eggs/m<sup>2</sup>) = total eggs spawned
  - 10% standard adjustment for egg loss due to predation, etc
  - Use fecundity-weight relationship to convert to number of herring.

#### Cast Net Samples

Samples taken during active spawning over large area
Sample goal: 500 fish

Provides estimate of spawning population age composition

SITKA, AK.

 Samples taken during commercial sac roe fishery from several boats from each opening

ommercial fishery

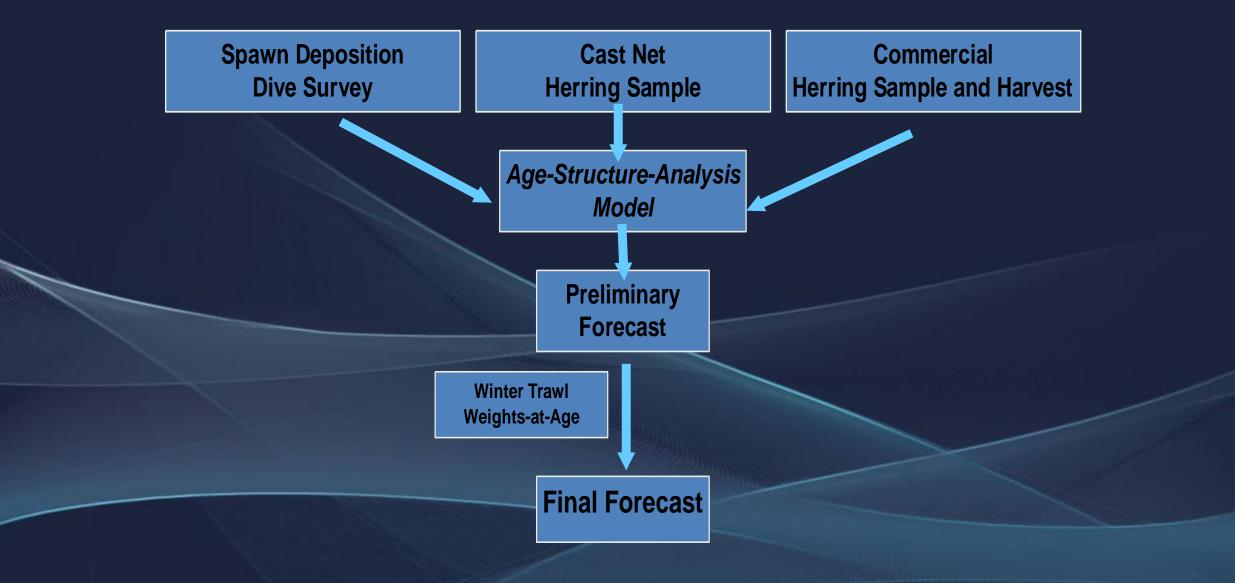
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Lisa dean

**Gaim ples** 

- Sample goal: 500 fish
- Estimates of
  - catch age composition
  - weight at age

## Data Inputs ASA Herring Forecasting Model





Number of herring in population at age in 2011

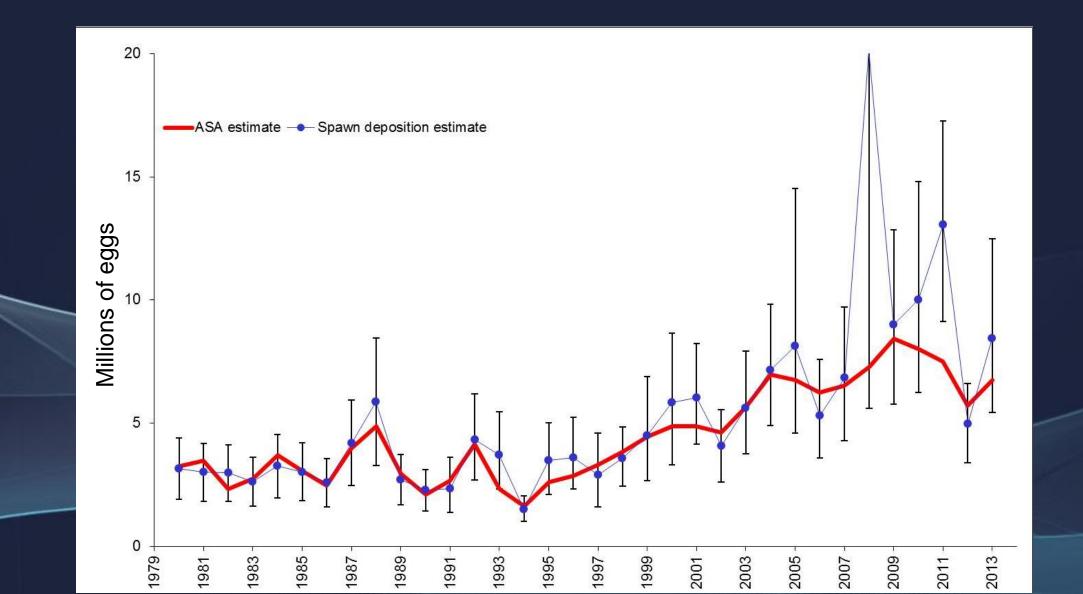
Survival rate = Proportion of herring that survive year 1 to year 2

Age Specific Maturation rate

Recruitment

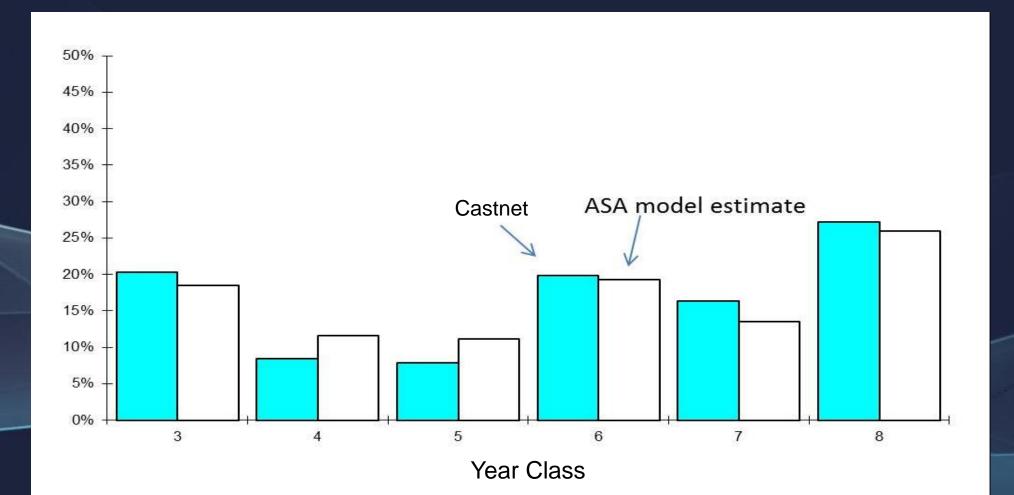


## Herring Egg Estimates



#### Model truthing

Compare castnet age class to ASA Model



Dip netting herring from test set

Need three 10-kg samples

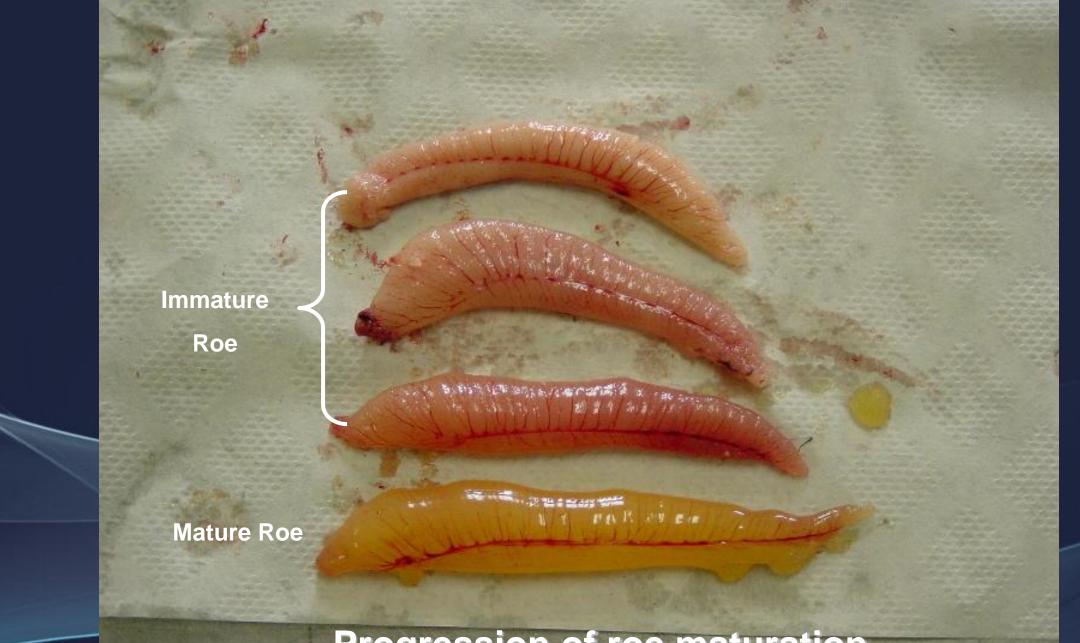
Industry roe technicians working up samples

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**Progression of roe maturation** 

## Regulatory Framework for Sitka Sound Herring

- Limited Entry 48 Permits
- Gear Purse Seine: 200 fms/1700 meshes
- Season and area– Emergency Order
- Sliding Harvest Rate 12-20% from 25,000-45,000 tons. No harvest below 25,000 tons.
- Manage for Sac Roe Recovery of at least 10%
- Mgt Plan for consideration of Subsistence

## Recap SE Sac Roe Herring

- Fisheries Assessments
- Management Approaches
  - MSY
  - Quotas
  - Legislation
  - Closures
  - Gear Restrictions
- Ecosystem Based Management
  - Reduce bycatch
  - Marine reserves
  - Monitoring of population characteristics
  - Catch share programs
  - Ecologically sustainable yield

#### Self Check

- Thee abundance of herring are estimated using multiple survey techniques
  - True
  - False
- Which of the following is NOT used in modeling herring abundances
  - Spawn Deposition
  - Dive Surveys
  - Cast Net Surveys
  - Commercial Harvest Samples
  - Winter Test Fishery
  - All of the above are used in modeling herring abundance

#### Outline

Recap – Emerging Management Techniques Applying Management to Alaskan Fisheries

- PWS Salmon
- Bering Sea King Crab
- Southeast Sac Roe Herring

#### Economics – In 32 Words

 Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keep moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

- Ronald Reagan