



SUBSISTENCE OVERVIEW

PRESENTATION TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA - FEBRUARY 18, 2026



Lauren Sill and Greg Russell
RC 3 Tab 2



ADF&G DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

Mission Scientifically gather, quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.

C&T Customary and traditional uses

ANS Amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence



Local researcher assistant training, Akutan



Ethnographic interview, Chignik Lake



ADF&G SUBSISTENCE RESEARCH

 Quantitative and qualitative research

 Most projects are partnerships

 Research guided by ethical principles

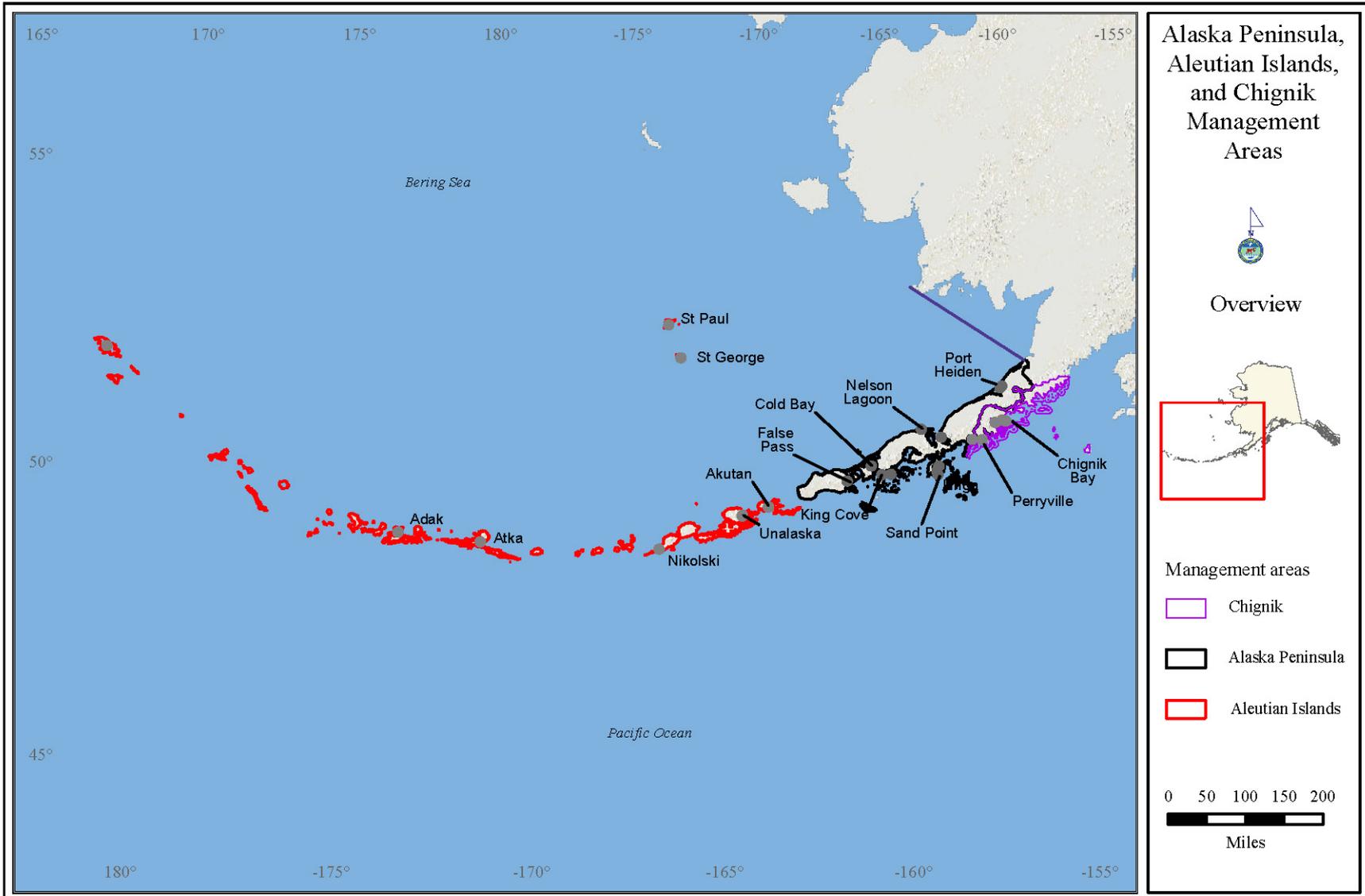
 Participation is voluntary and confidential

 Community review of draft data

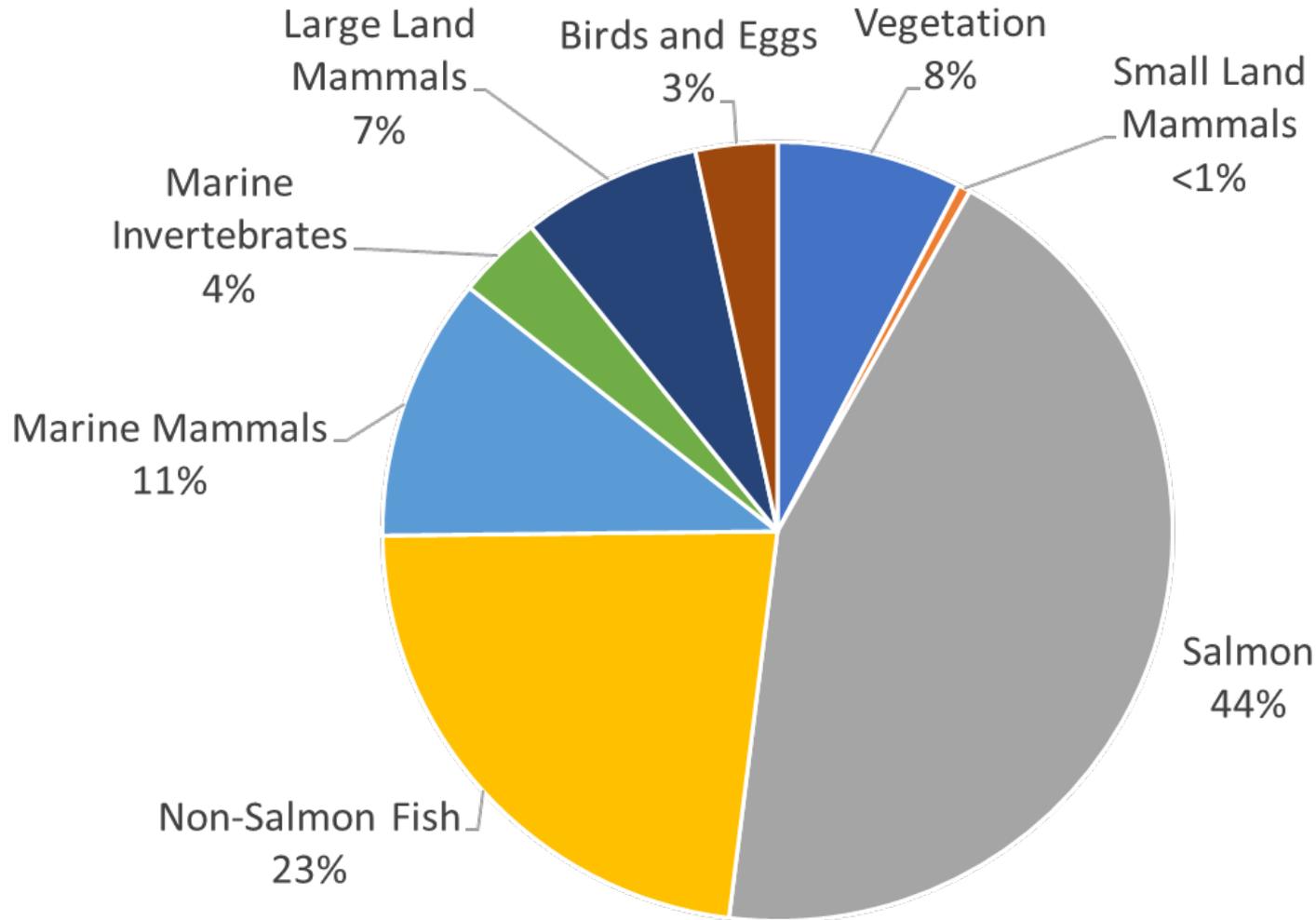


Community scoping meeting, Perryville

AREA OVERVIEW



HARVEST COMPOSITION 1987-2024



CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE

C&T findings by area

Chignik Area:

- Salmon and finfish other than salmon

Alaska Peninsula Area:

- Halibut and all other finfish (includes salmon)

Aleutian Island Area:

- Halibut and all other finfish (includes salmon)

Processing salmon, Chignik Lagoon



ANS DETERMINATIONS - SALMON

Chignik Area

Perryville and Western Districts

- 1,400 – 2,600 coho salmon
- 1,400 – 2,600 salmon, other than coho salmon

Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts

- 2,900 – 5,400 early-run sockeye salmon
- 3,200 – 6,000 late-run sockeye salmon
- 100 – 150 king salmon
- 400 – 700 salmon, other than sockeye and king salmon;

Alaska Peninsula Area

- 34,000 – 56,000 salmon

Aleutians Islands Area

- 13,500 – 23,000 salmon

Harvested salmon, Perryville



SUBSISTENCE SALMON REGULATIONS

Gear

- Drift gillnets, set gillnets, seines

Seasons

- No closed season (except Unalaska)
- Commercial permit holder restrictions

Permits

- Required: Chignik Area, AK Peninsula Area, Unalaska, and Adak

Limits

- 250 salmon, with exceptions (Unalaska and Adak)

Closed Waters

Federal regulations



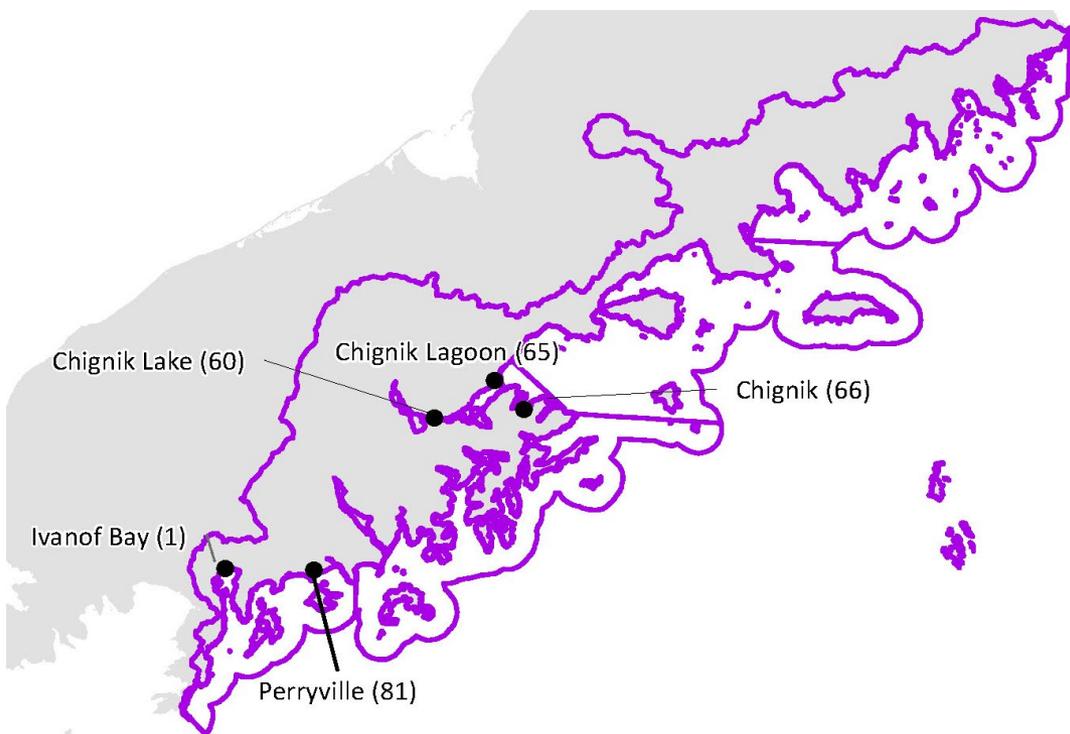
Seining, Chignik Lake



Setting a gillnet, Unalaska



CMA OVERVIEW



Demographics

- 5 communities
- Highly seasonal population
- Declining human population

Economy

- Commercial fishing
- Local involvement in subsistence and commercial fisheries

Community changes

- Youth involvement
- Shift away from fish camps
- Commercial fisheries participation

Note In the above map, community populations are provided in parentheses

ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

Consistent salmon **harvest goals**

Early-run sockeye:

- Prior to commercial activity
- Favorable weather
- Chignik lagoon and lake
- Seines and gillnets

Late-run sockeye:

- Summer through winter
- Dry in cooler weather
- Redfish
- Chignik Lagoon, Lake, and River; Clark River, Home Creek

Kings: home pack or rod and reel

Preservation: smoked, frozen, salted, canned, dried, kippered

Participation factors:

- Sociocultural
- Economic
- Environmental

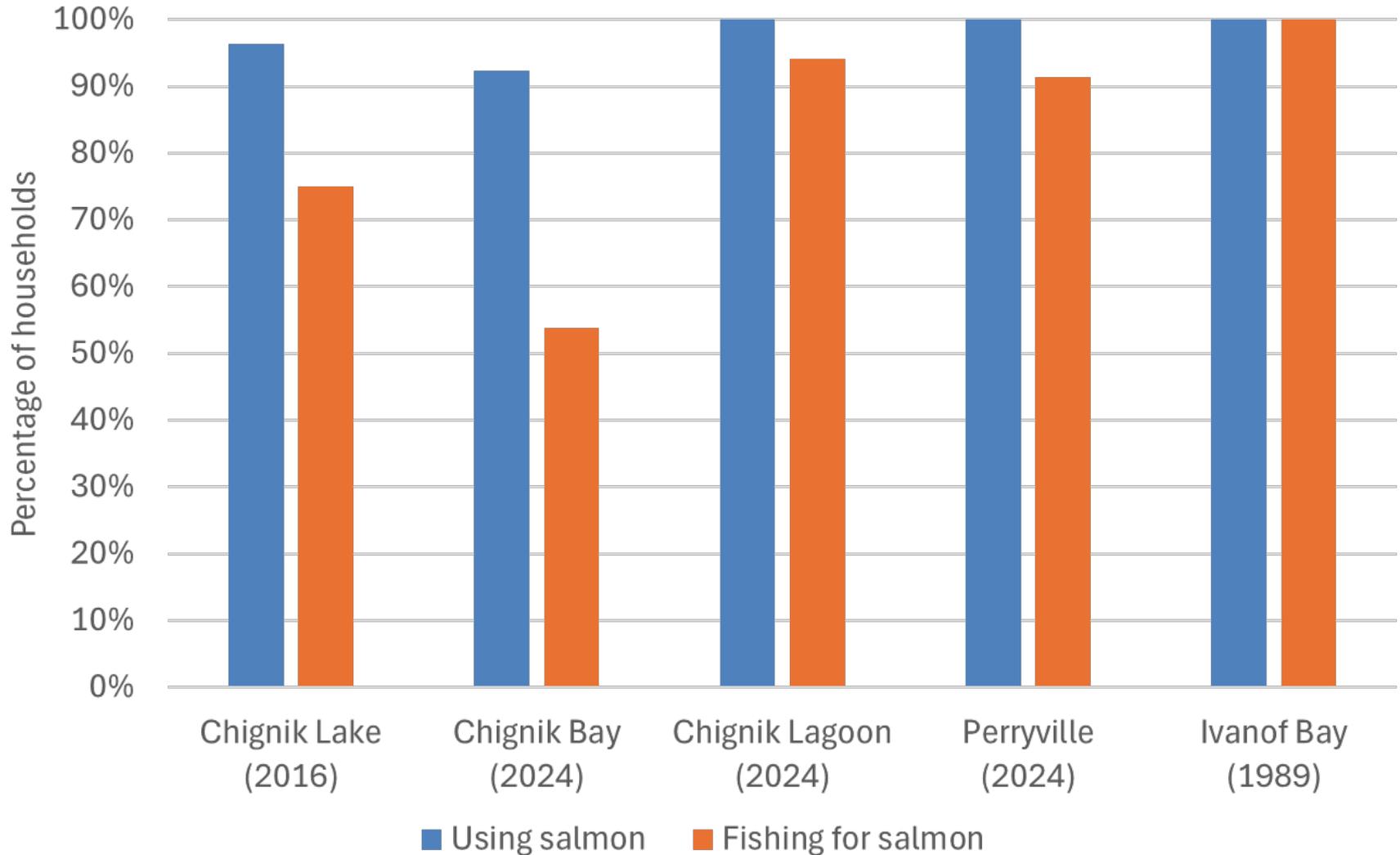


Jarred salmon, Chignik Lake

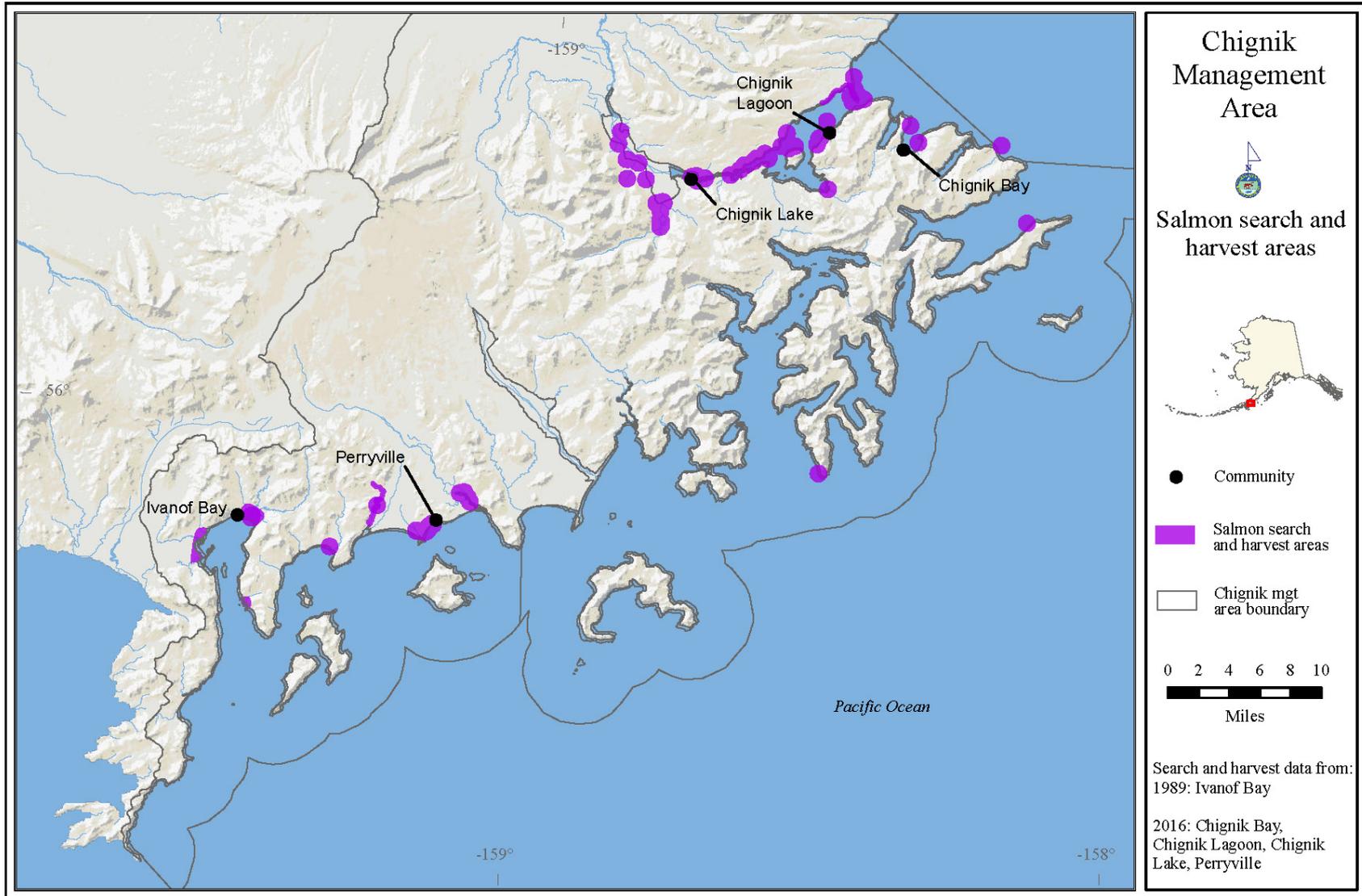


Processing salmon, Chignik Lagoon

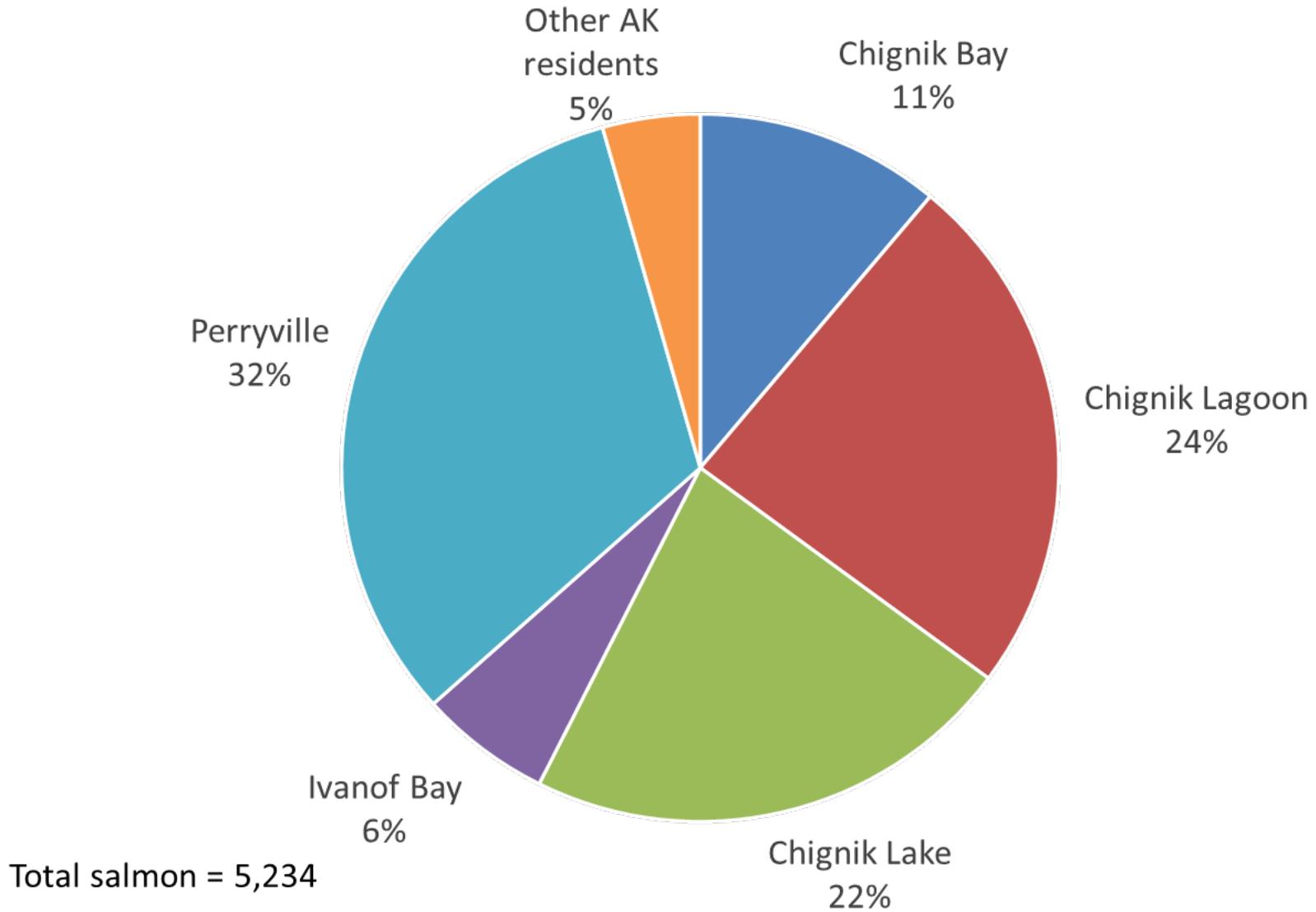
HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION



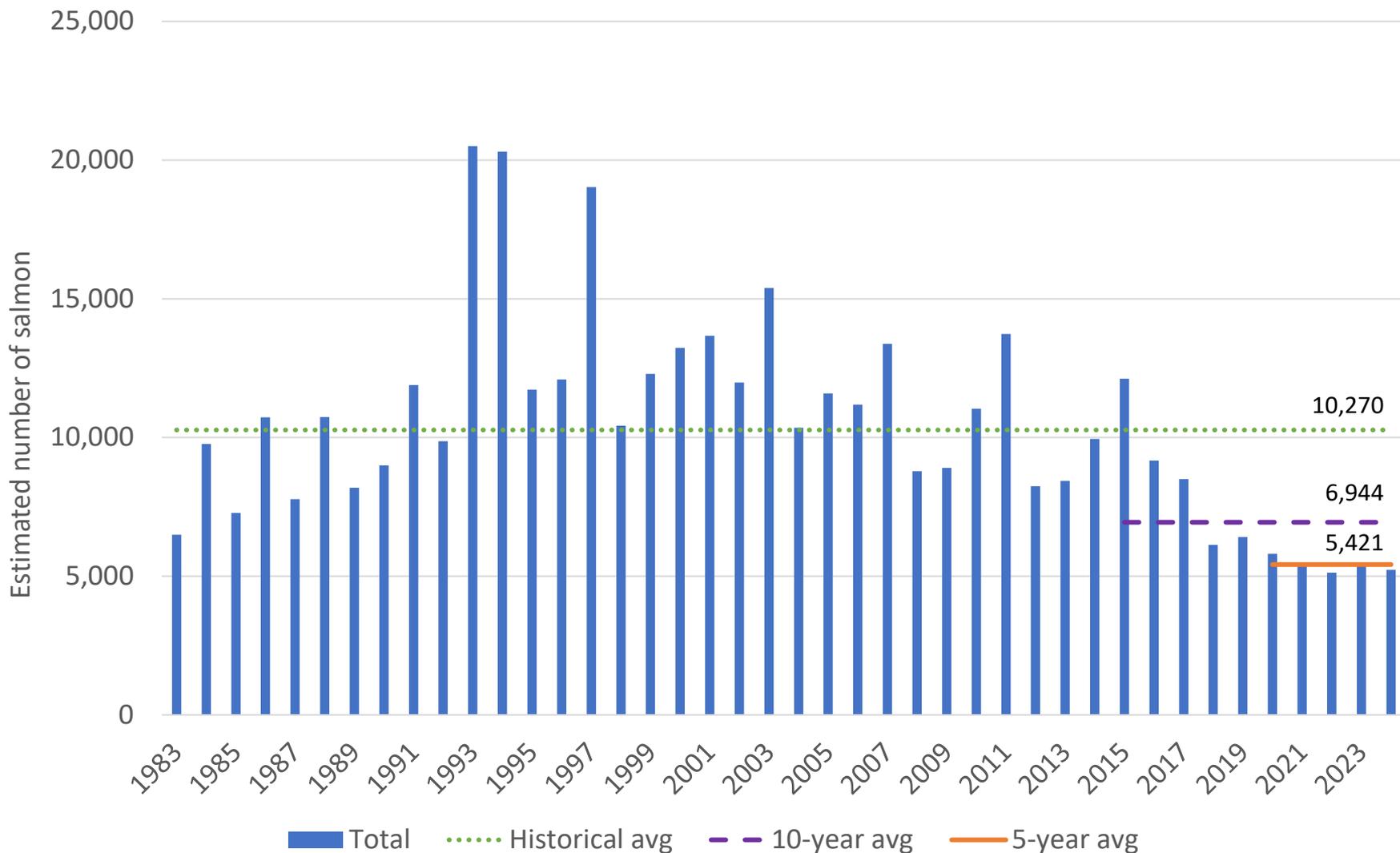
SALMON FISHING AREAS



SALMON HARVEST BY RESIDENCE, 2024

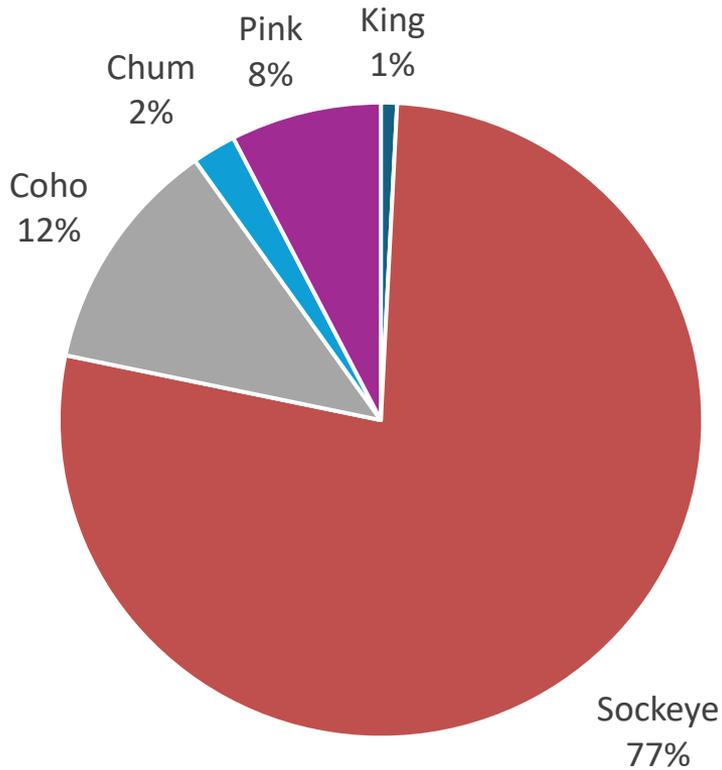


ESTIMATED SALMON HARVEST

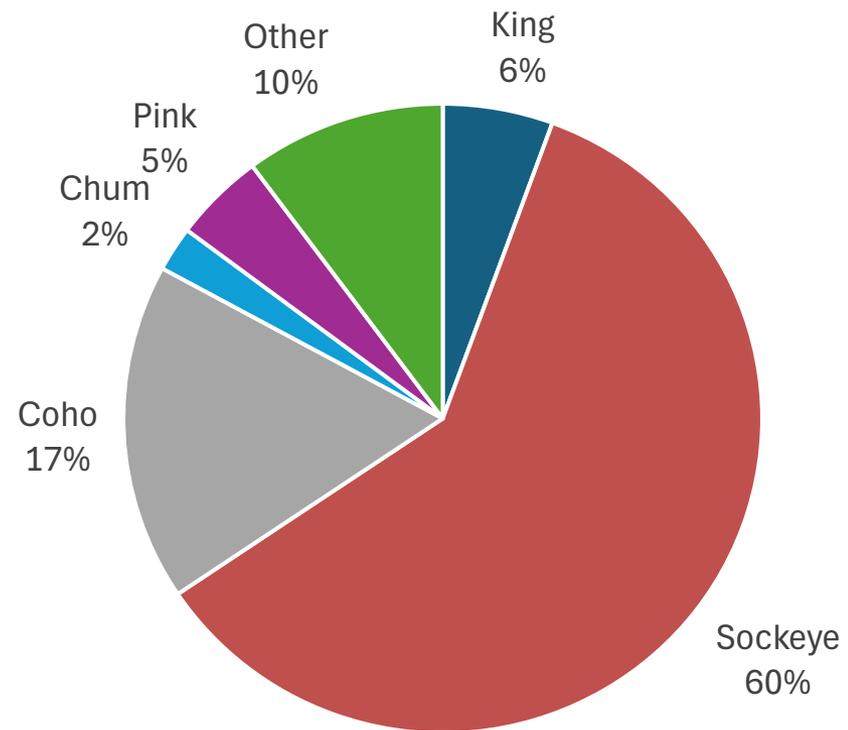


SALMON HARVEST COMPOSITION

**Subsistence Permits
1977–2024**



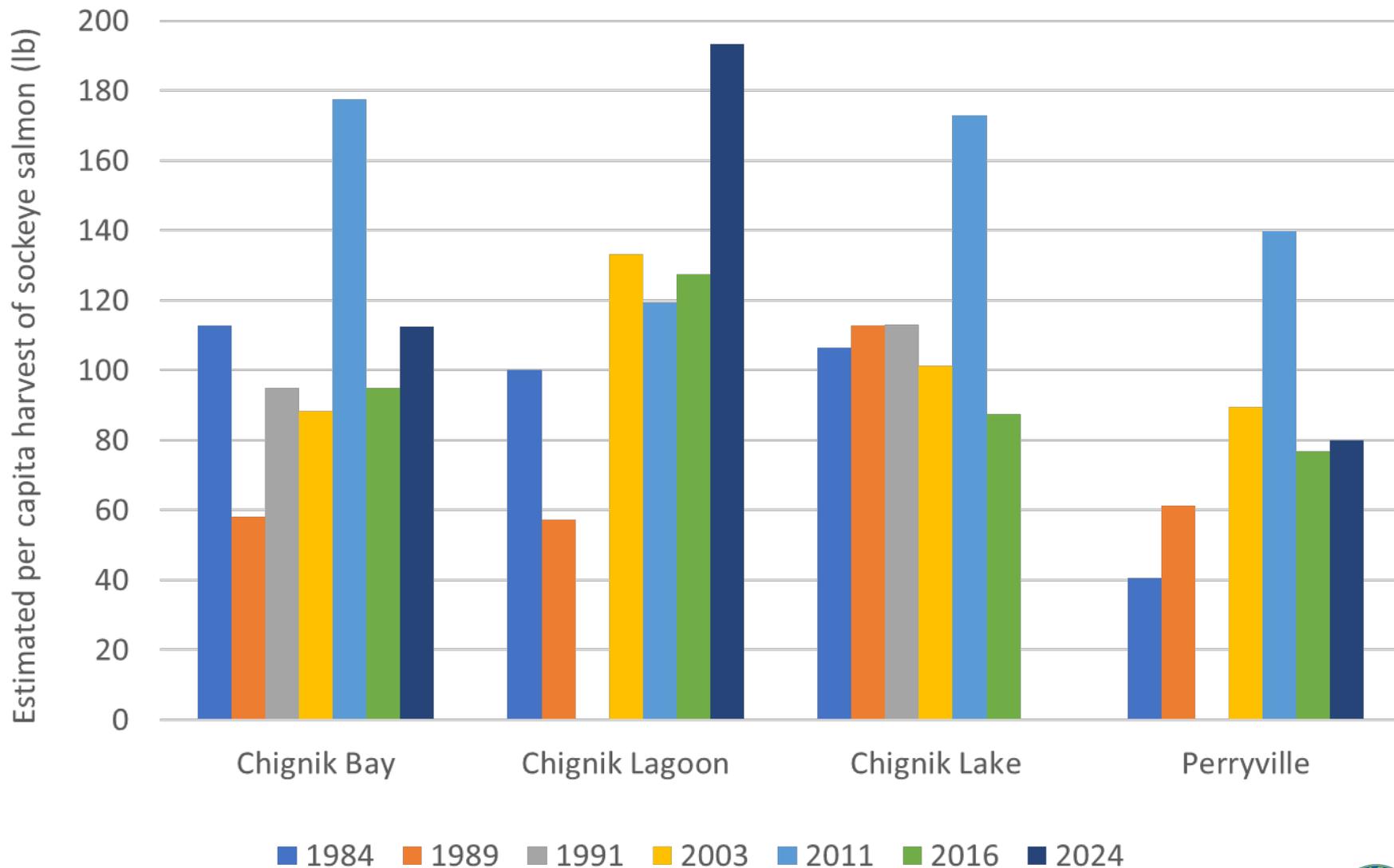
**Household surveys
1984–2024**



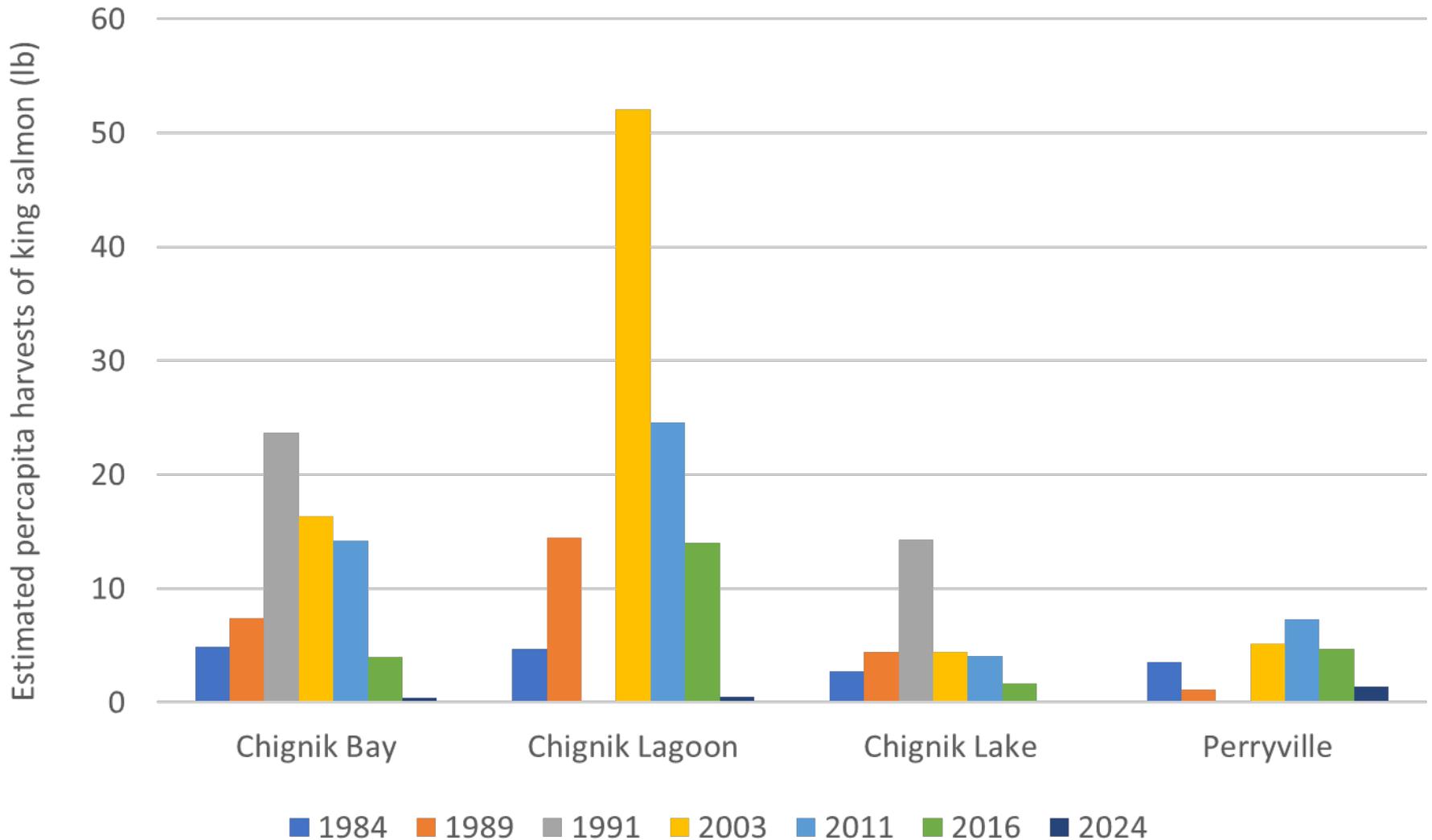
Note "Other" salmon mostly comprises spawned out salmon



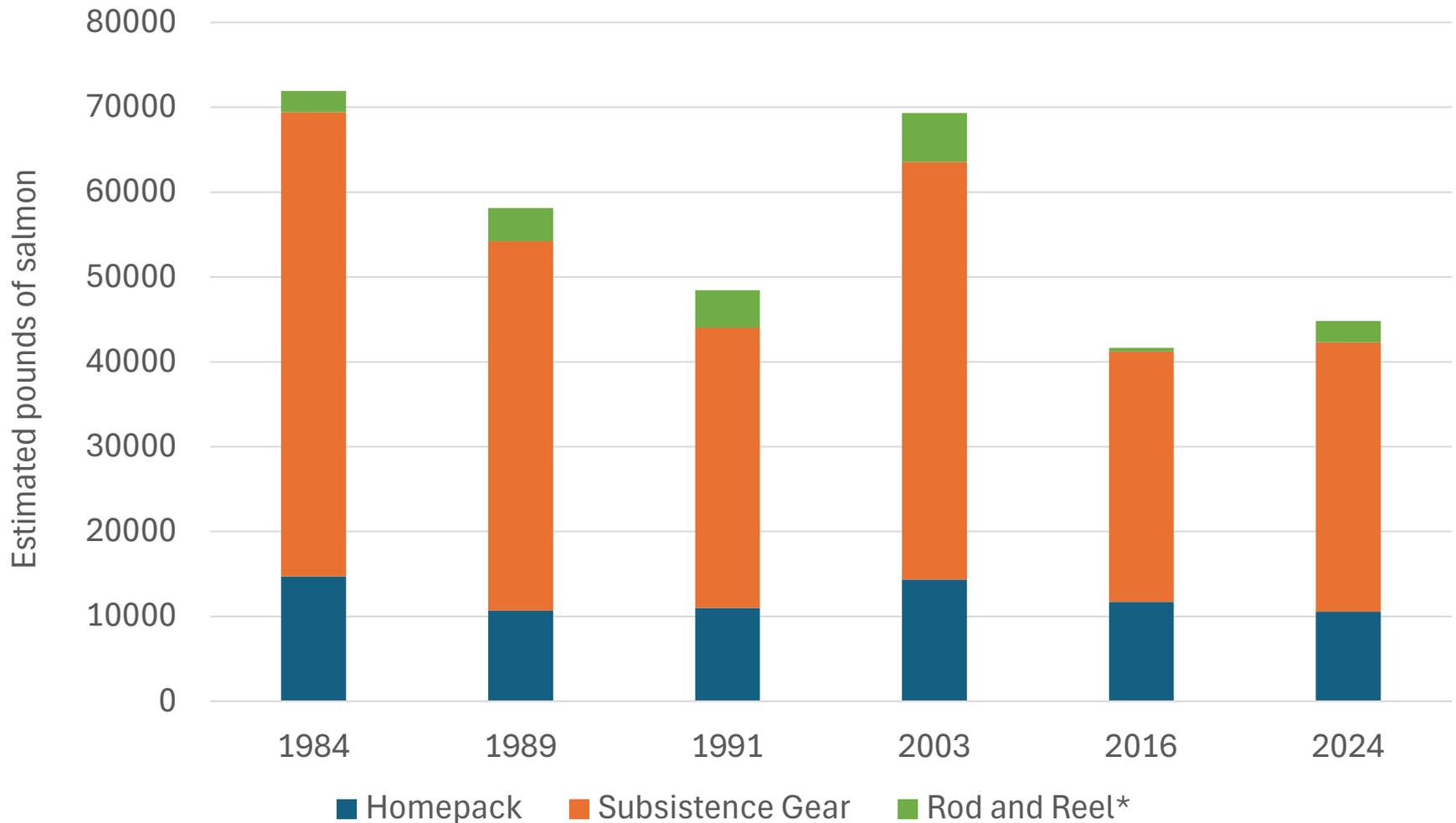
SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST



KING SALMON HARVEST



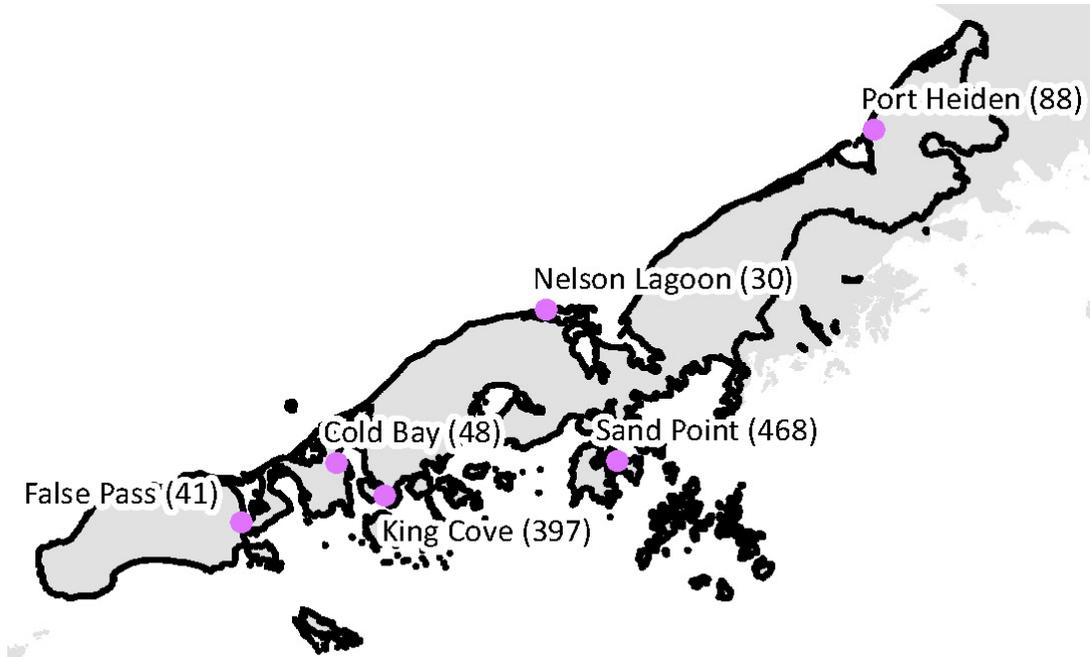
HARVEST BY GEAR TYPE



* Includes rod and reel under federal subsistence regulations



ALASKA PENINSULA AREA OVERVIEW



Demographics

- 6 communities
- Transient component
- Stable or declining population

Economy

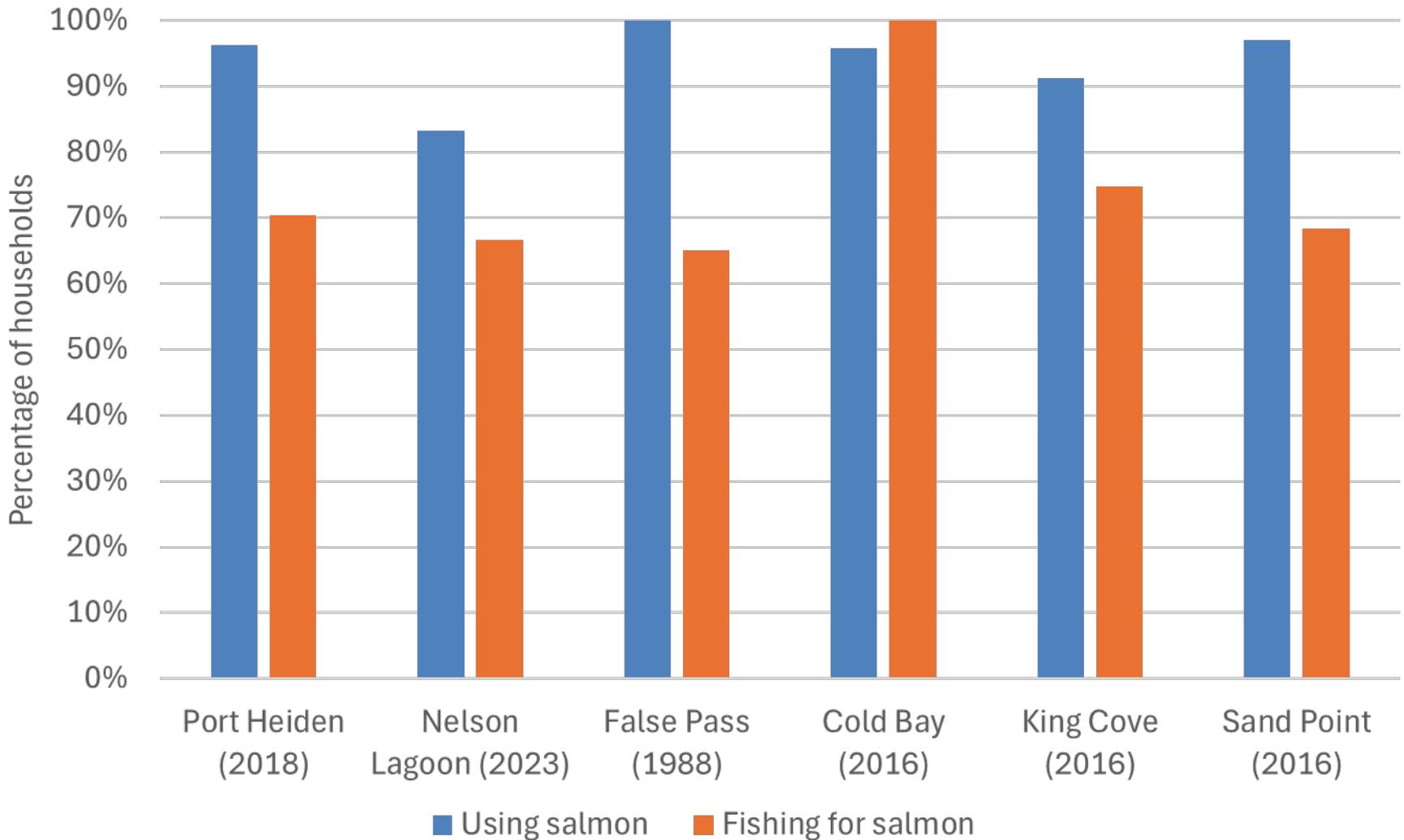
- Commercial fishing
- South AK Pen fishery
- Shore-based processing facilities

Ethnographic

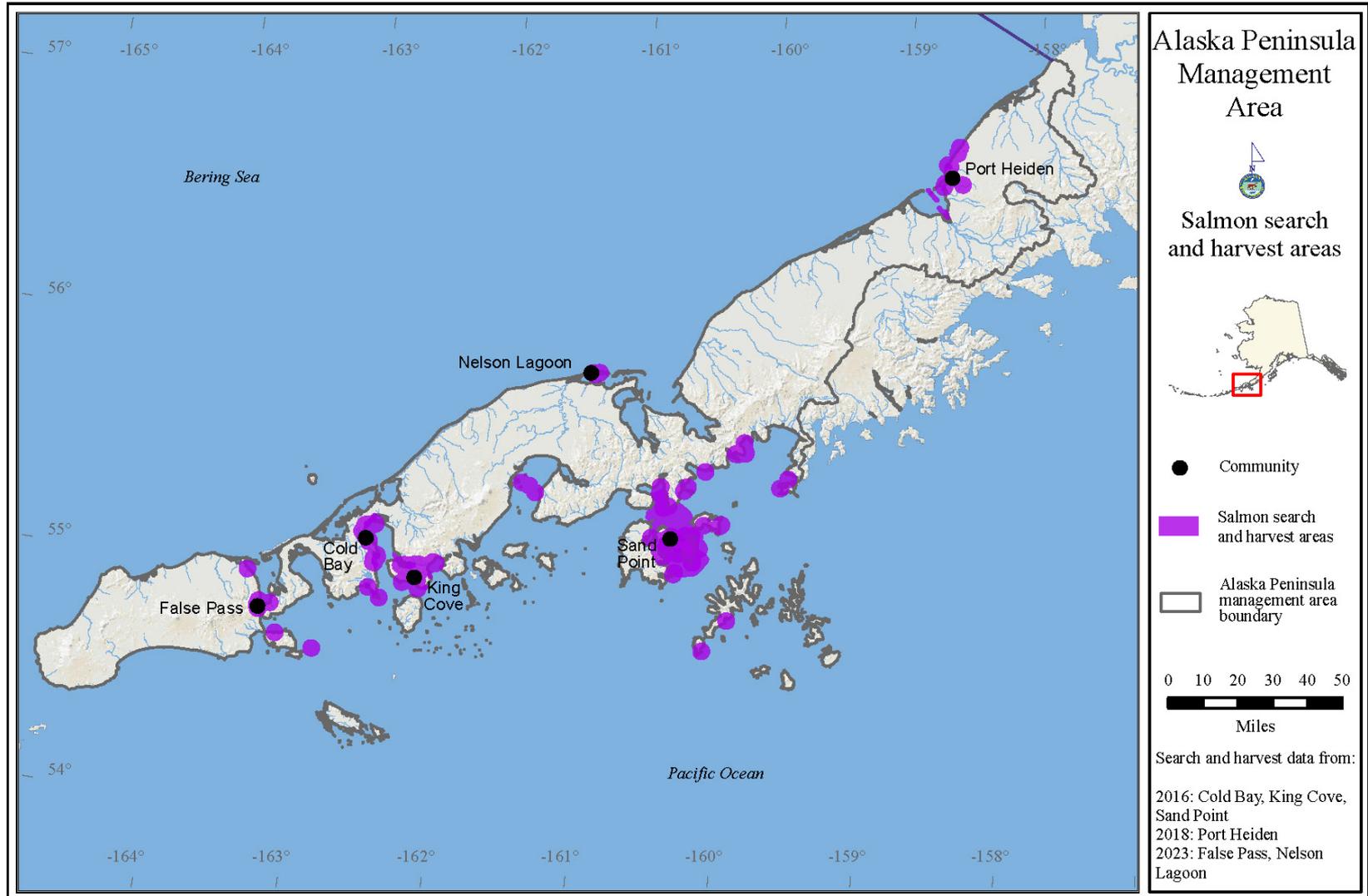
- Homepack
- Subsistence participation
- Sharing
- Set gill nets, beach seine, rod and reel

Note In the above map, community populations are provided in parentheses

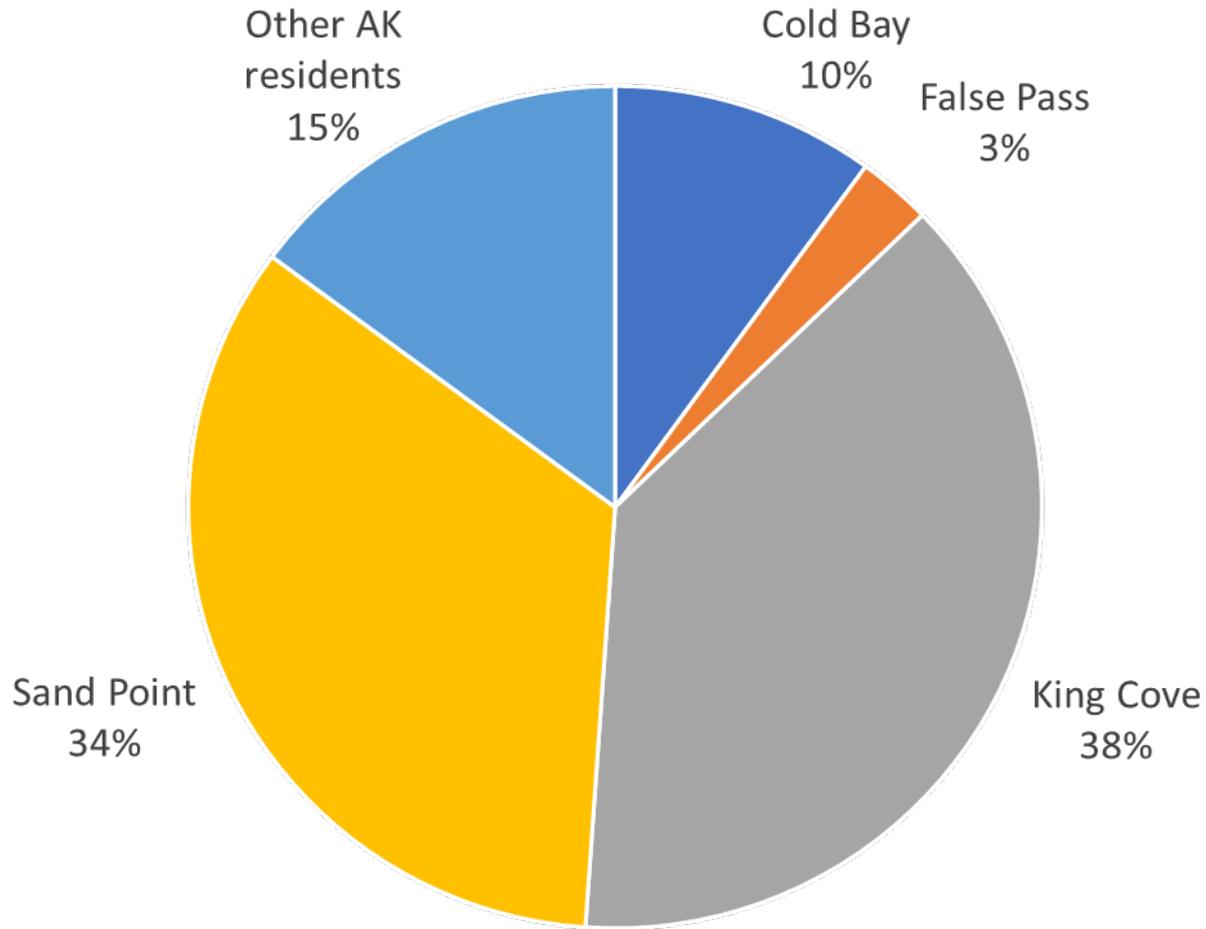
HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION



SALMON FISHING AREAS



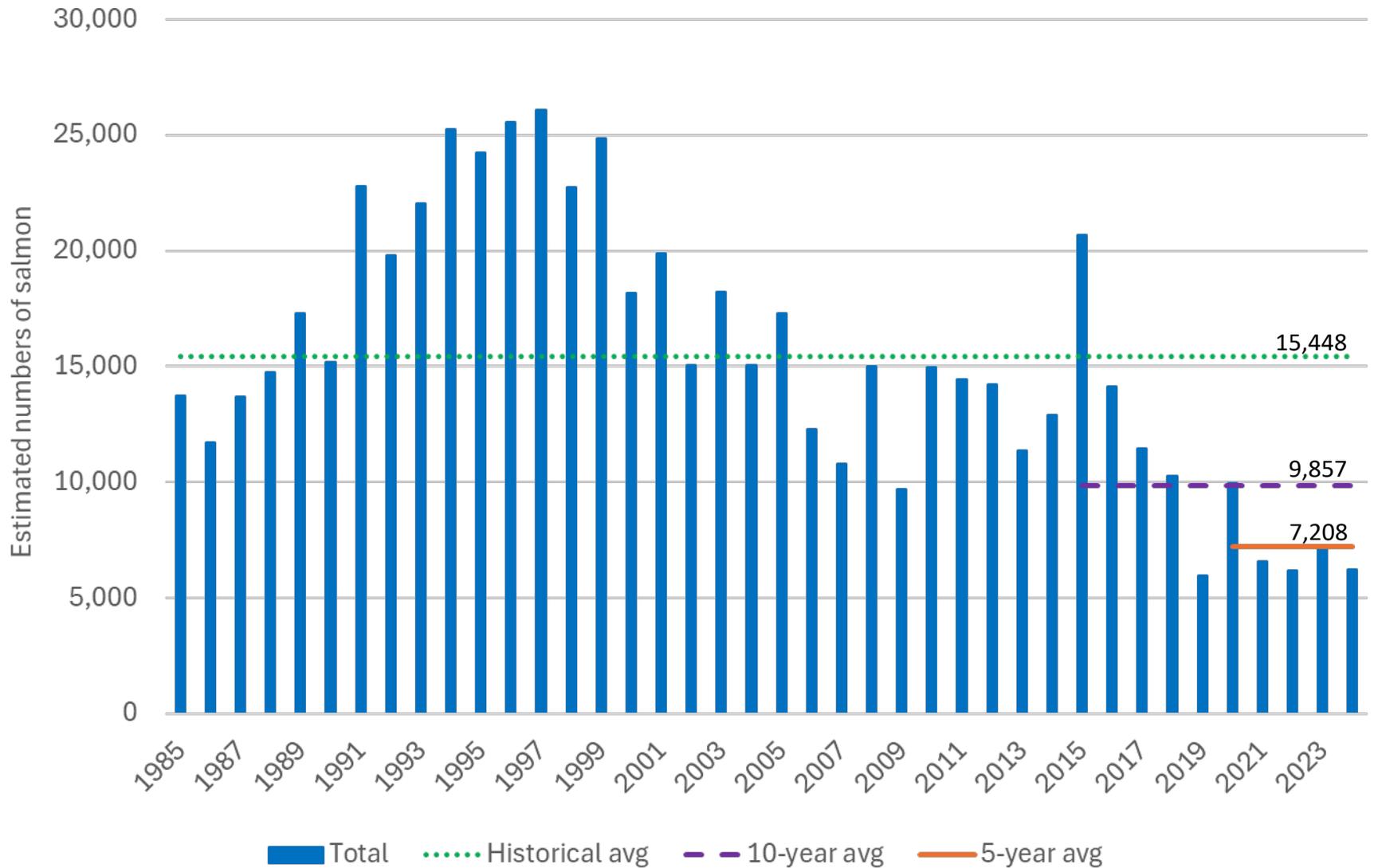
SALMON HARVEST BY RESIDENCE, 2024



Total salmon harvest = 6,230 fish

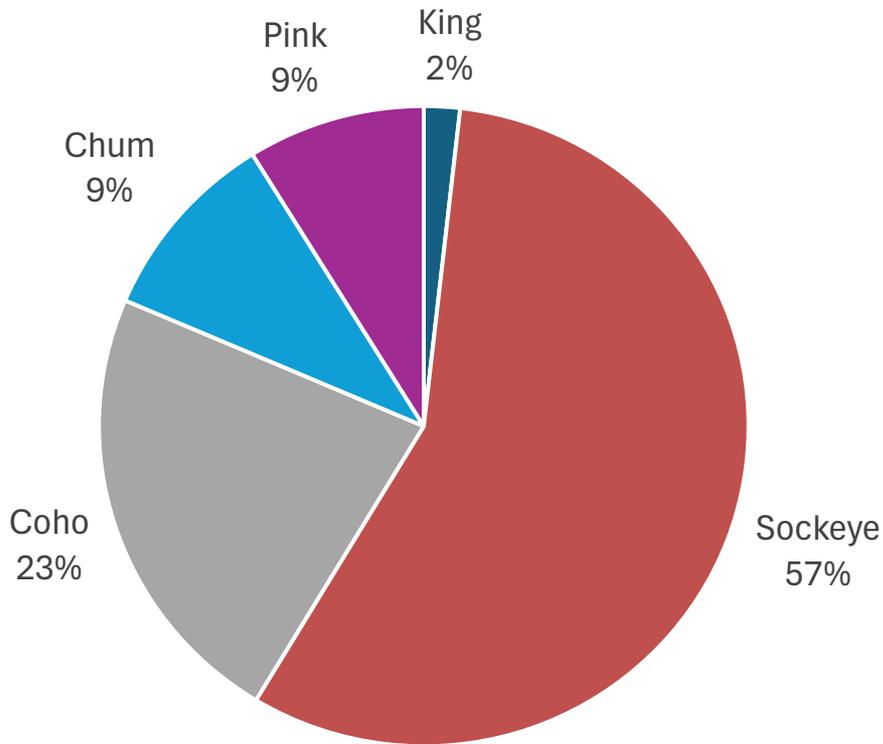


ESTIMATED SALMON HARVEST

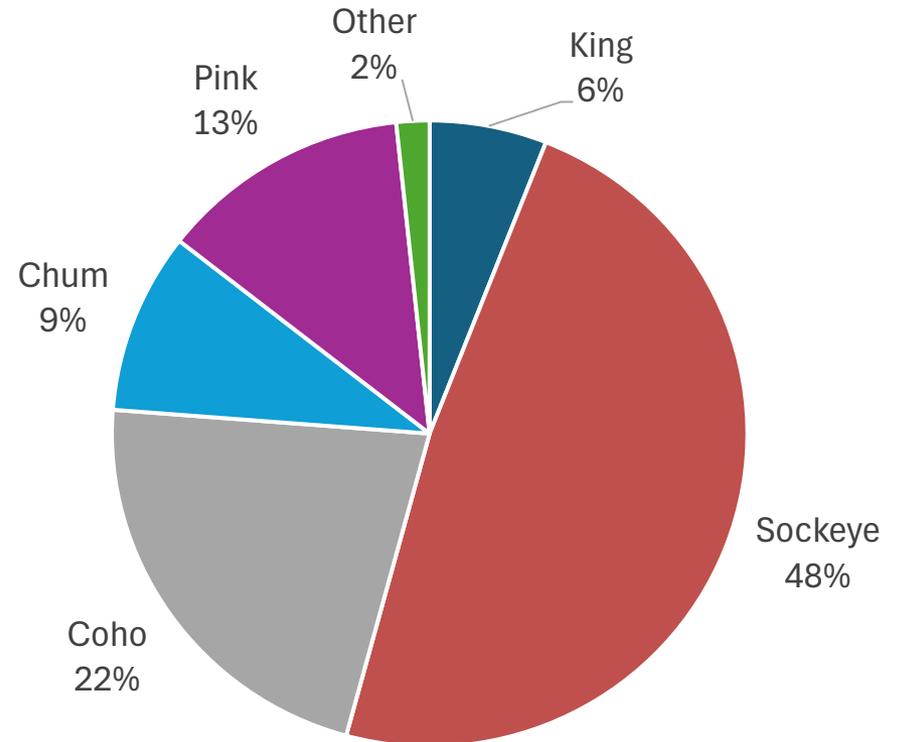


SALMON HARVEST COMPOSITION

**Subsistence Permits
1985–2024**



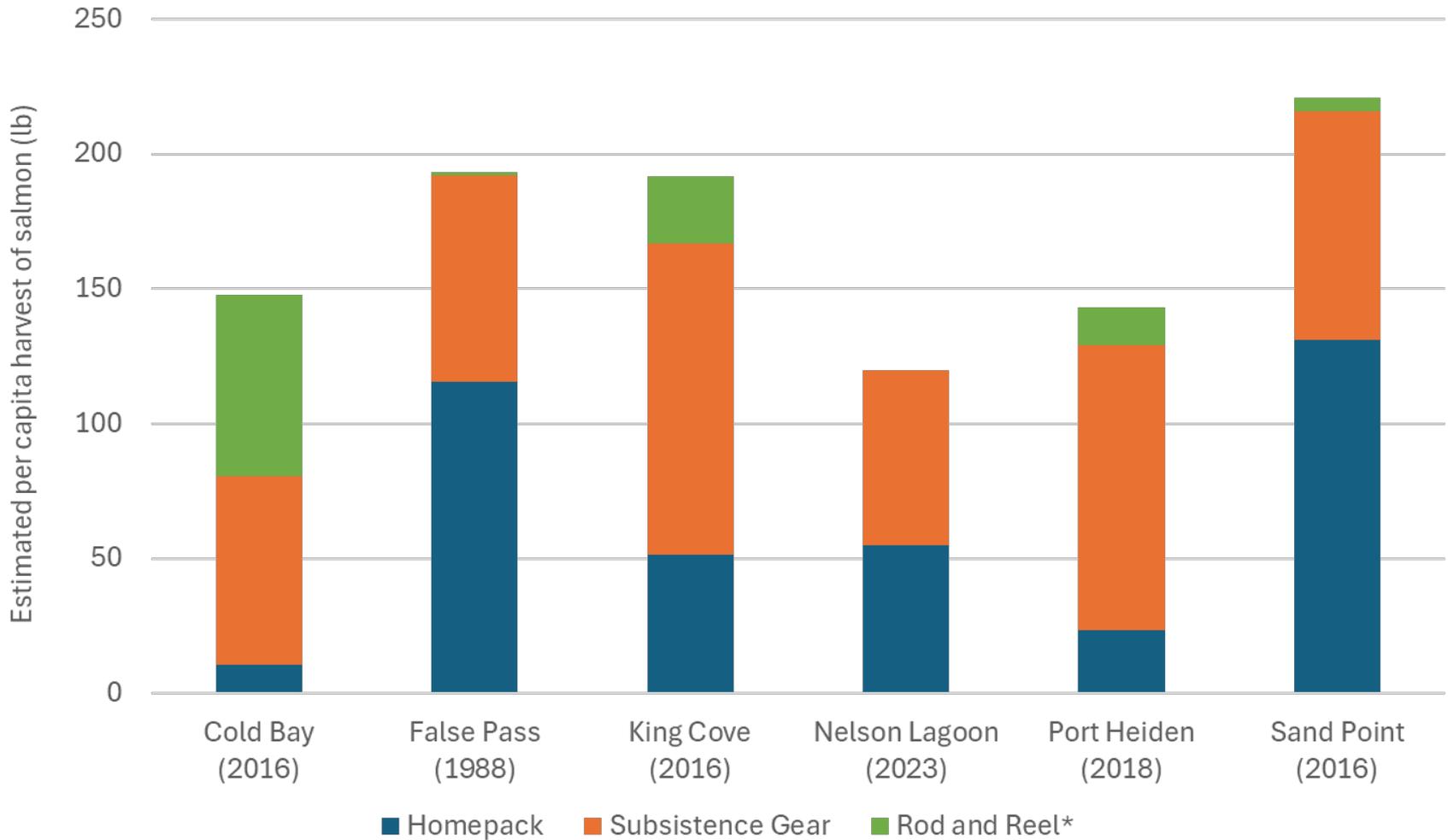
**Household surveys
1987–2023**



Note "Other" salmon mostly comprises spawned out salmon



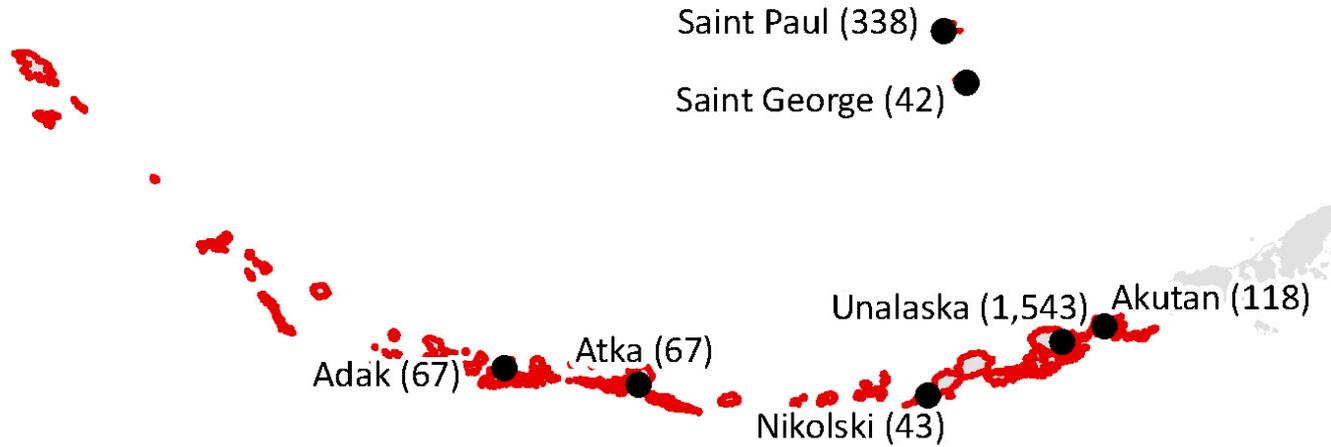
SALMON HARVEST BY GEAR TYPE



* Includes rod and reel under federal subsistence regulations



ALEUTIAN ISLAND AREA OVERVIEW



Demographics

- 7 communities
- Seasonal
- Transient

Economy

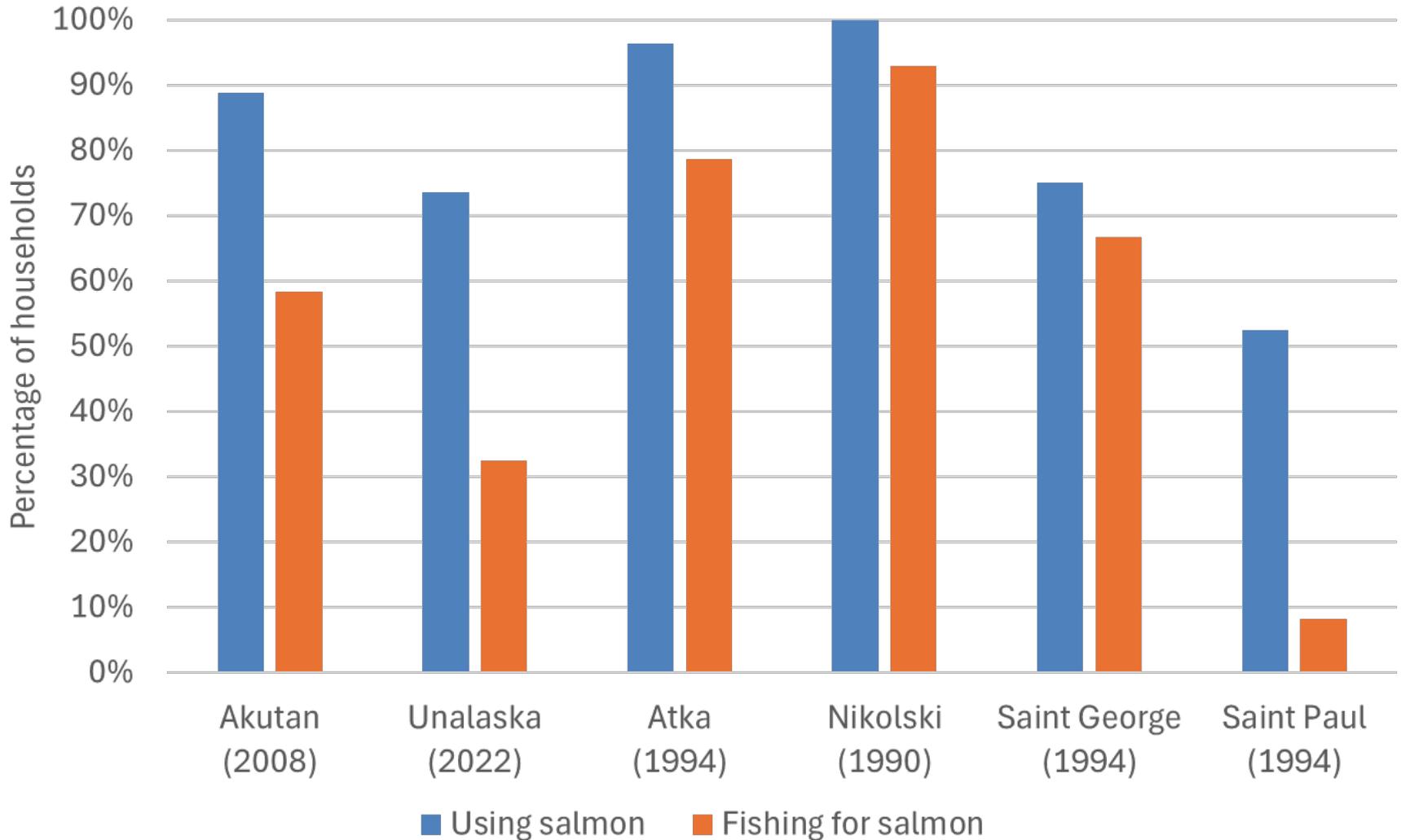
- Commercial fishing

Ethnographic - Unalaska

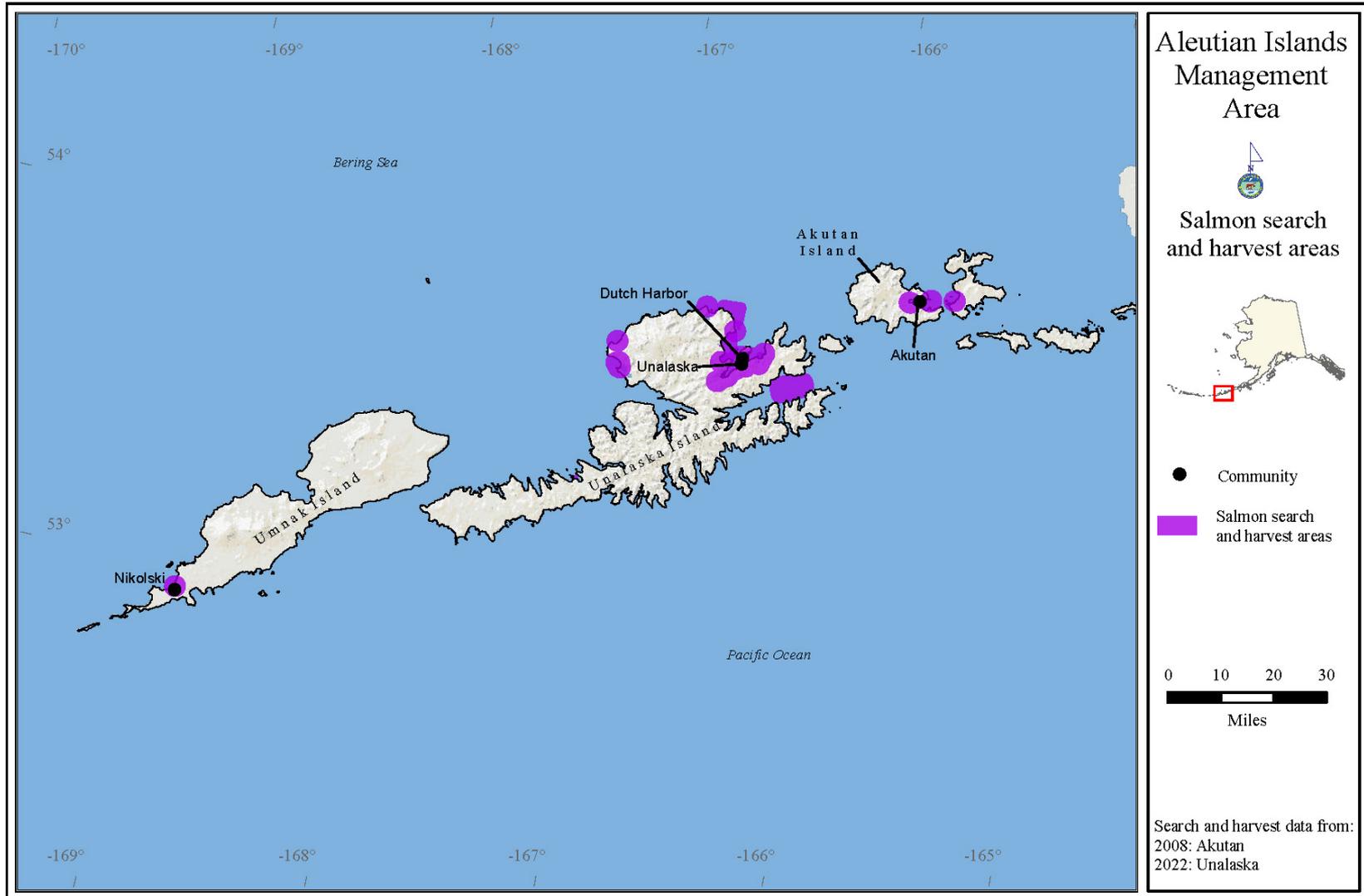
- Importance of salmon
- Permit system
- Localized pressure

Note In the above map, community populations are provided in parentheses

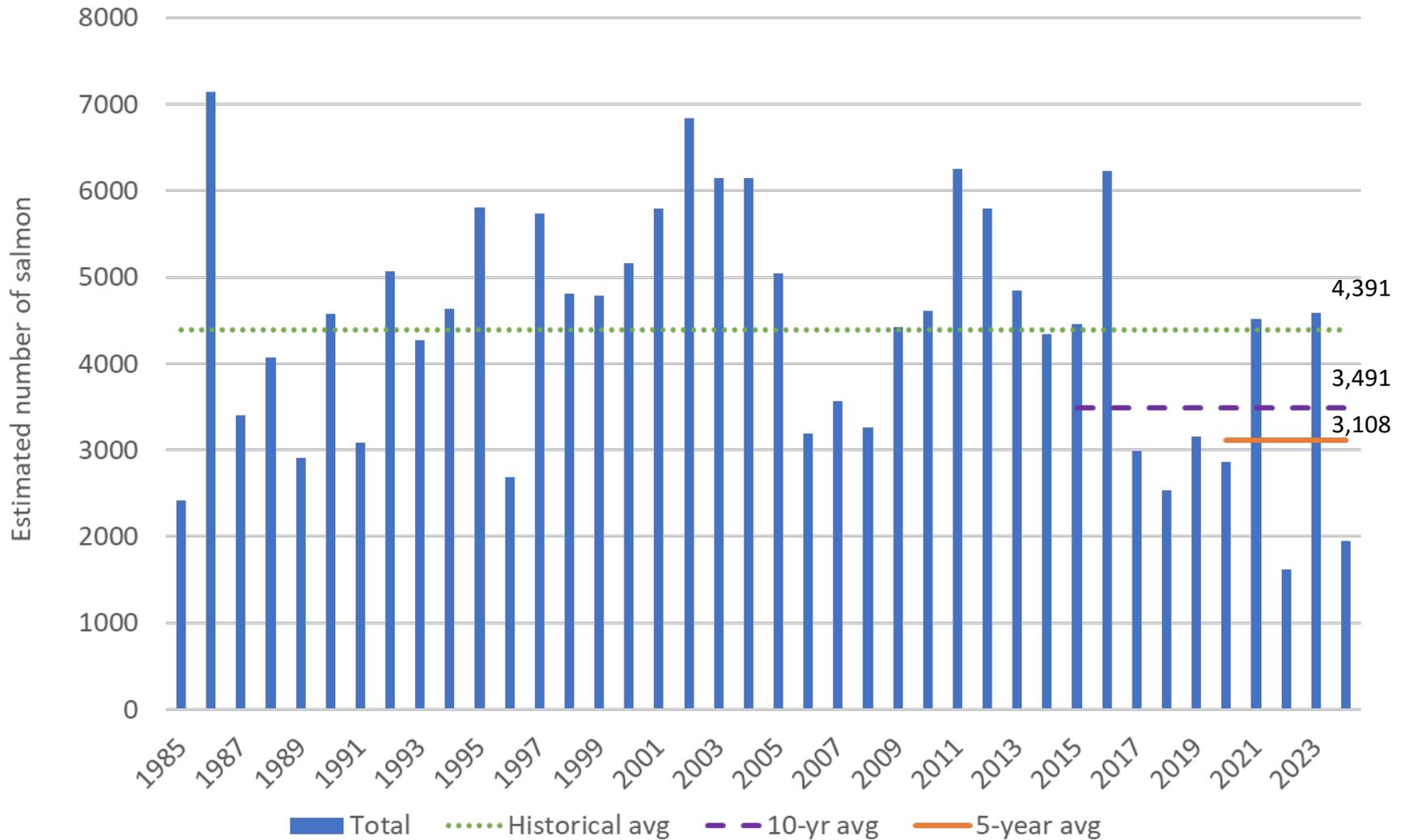
HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION - SALMON



SALMON FISHING AREAS

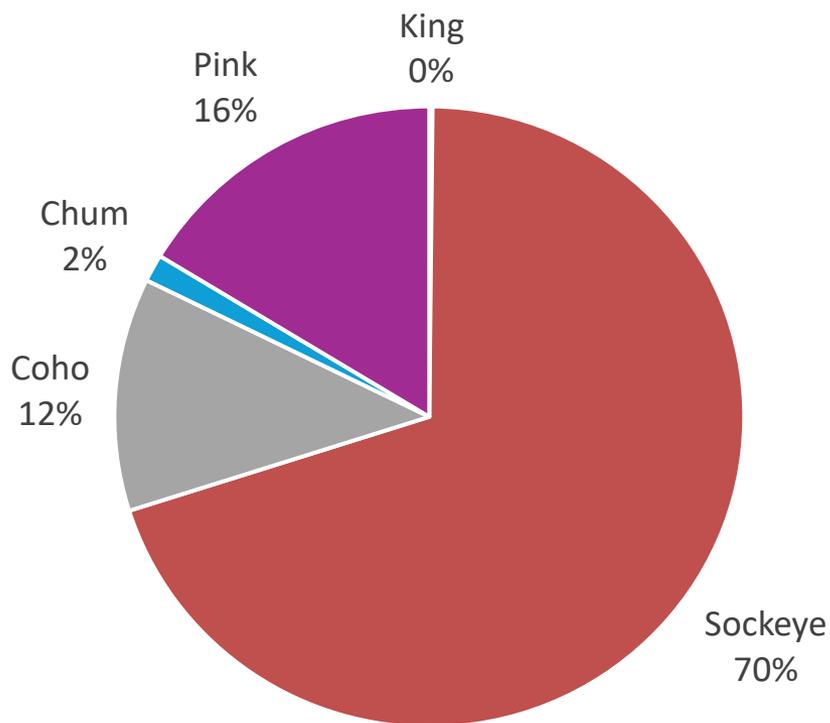


ESTIMATED SALMON HARVEST - UNALASKA

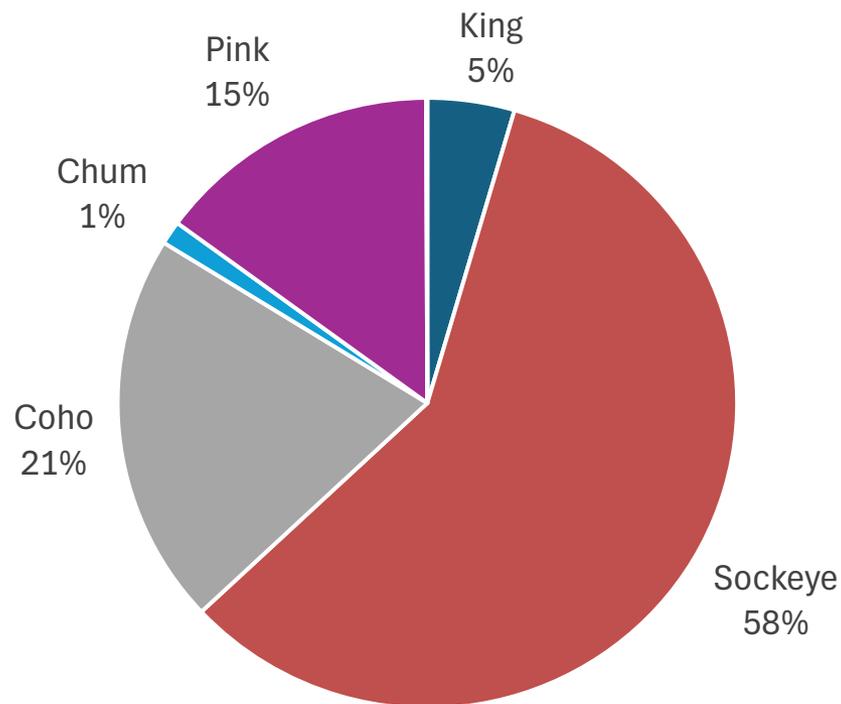


SALMON HARVEST COMPOSITION - UNALASKA

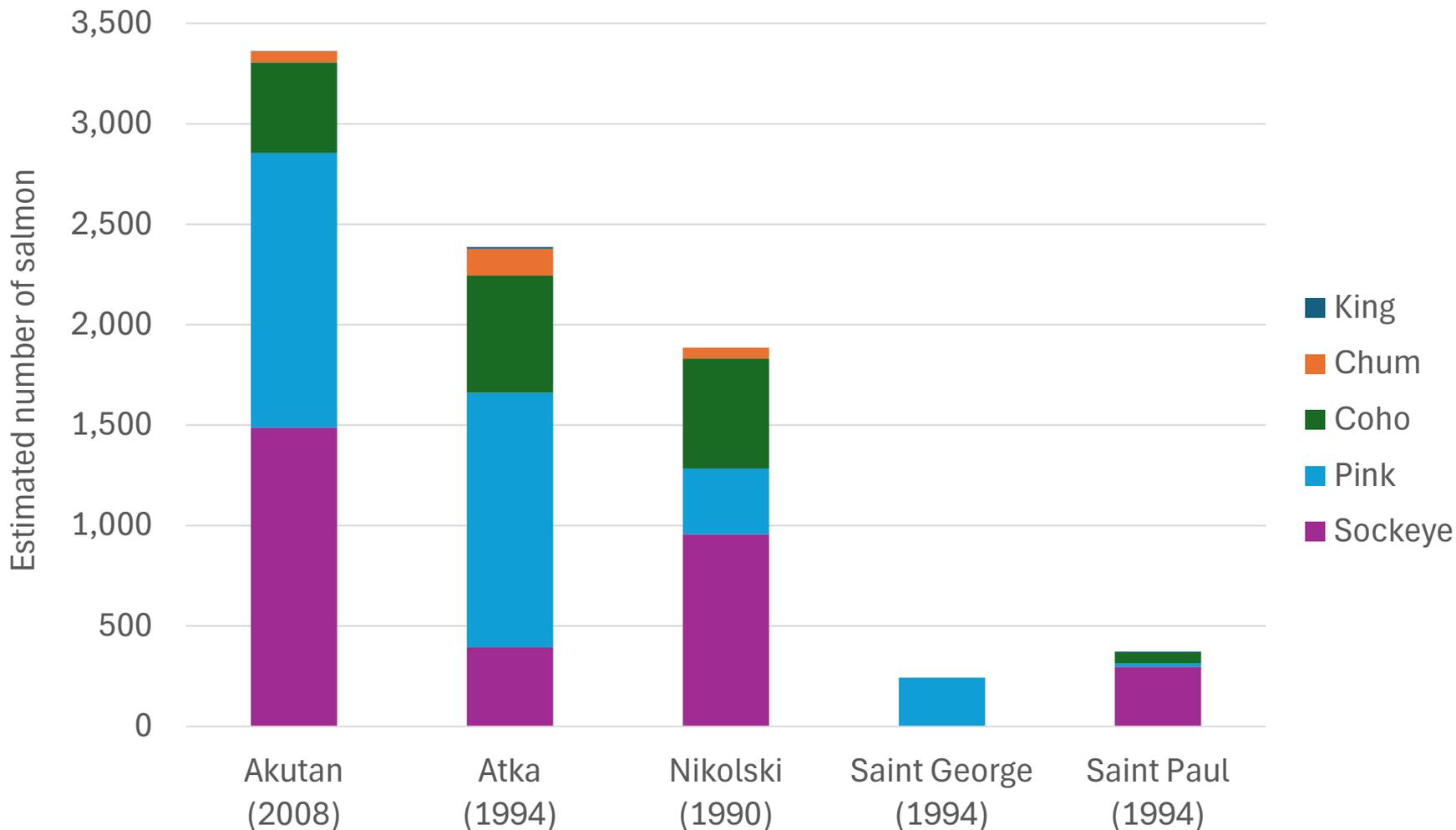
**Subsistence Permits
1985–2024**



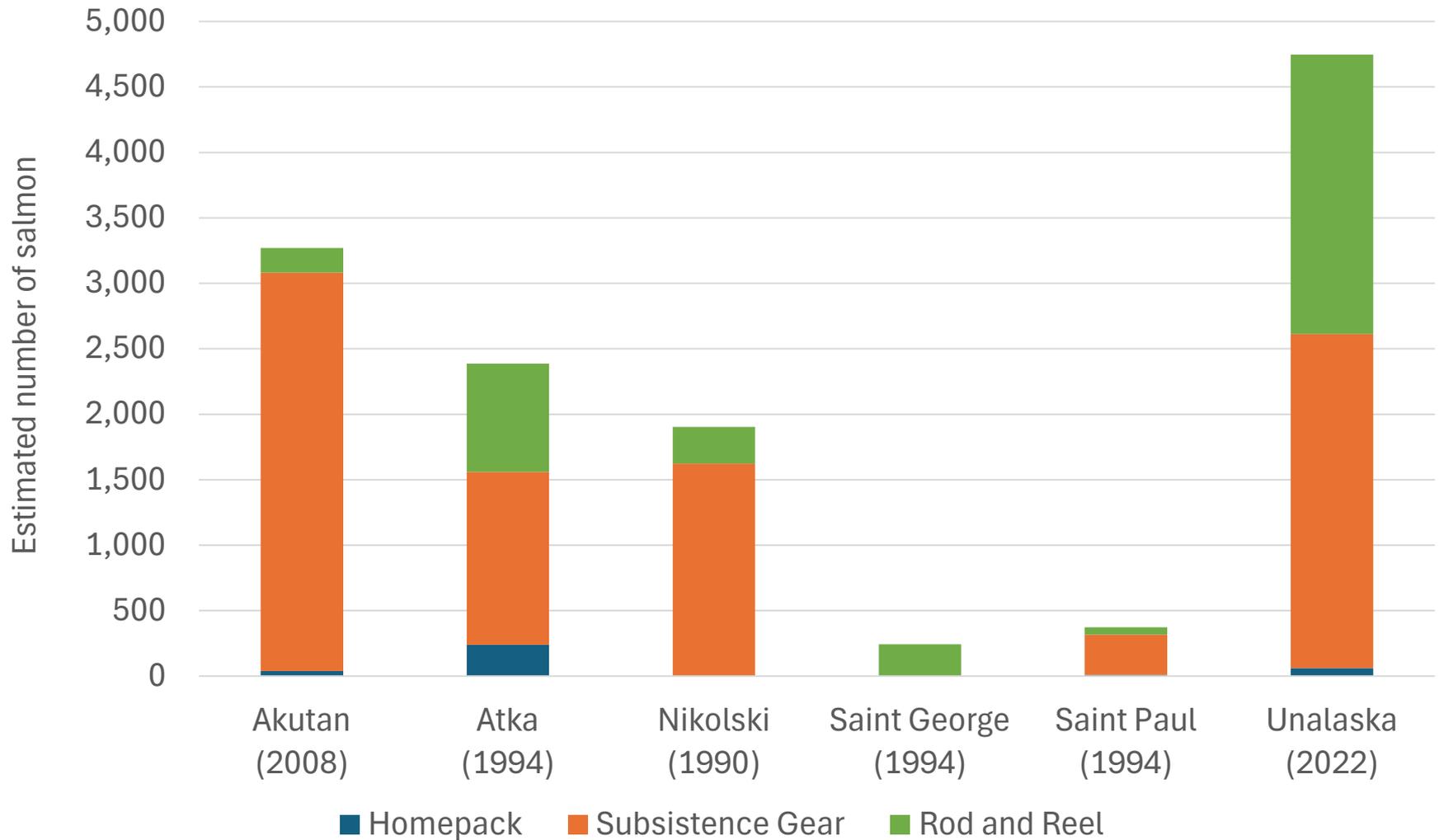
**Household surveys
2022**



ESTIMATED SALMON HARVEST

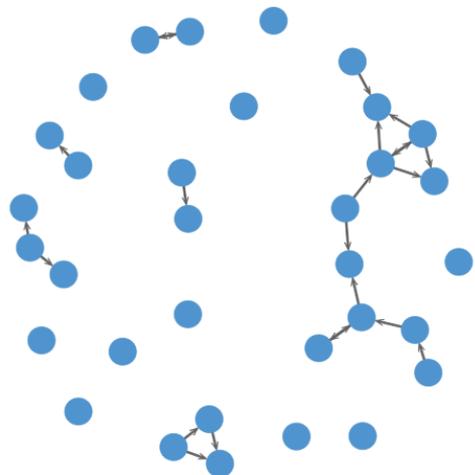


SALMON HARVEST BY GEAR TYPE

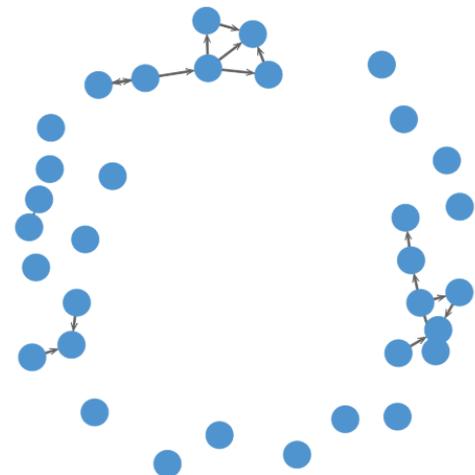


SALMON SHARING NETWORKS

Harvesting

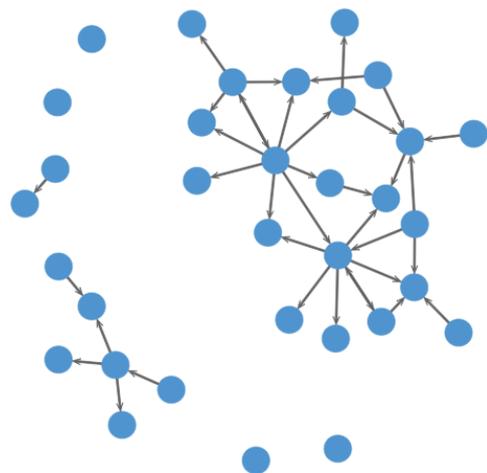


Processing

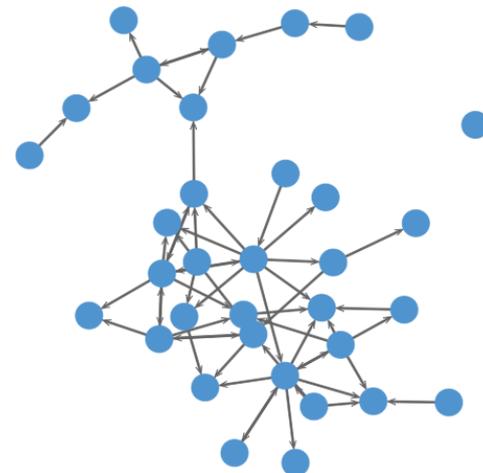


Chignik Lake

Sharing

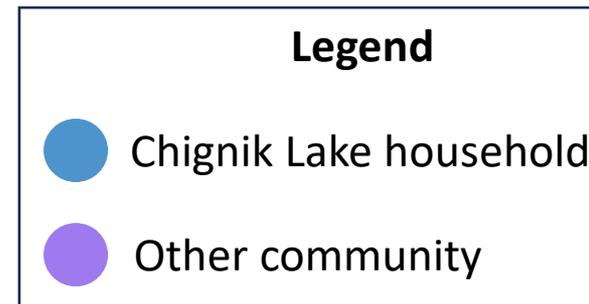
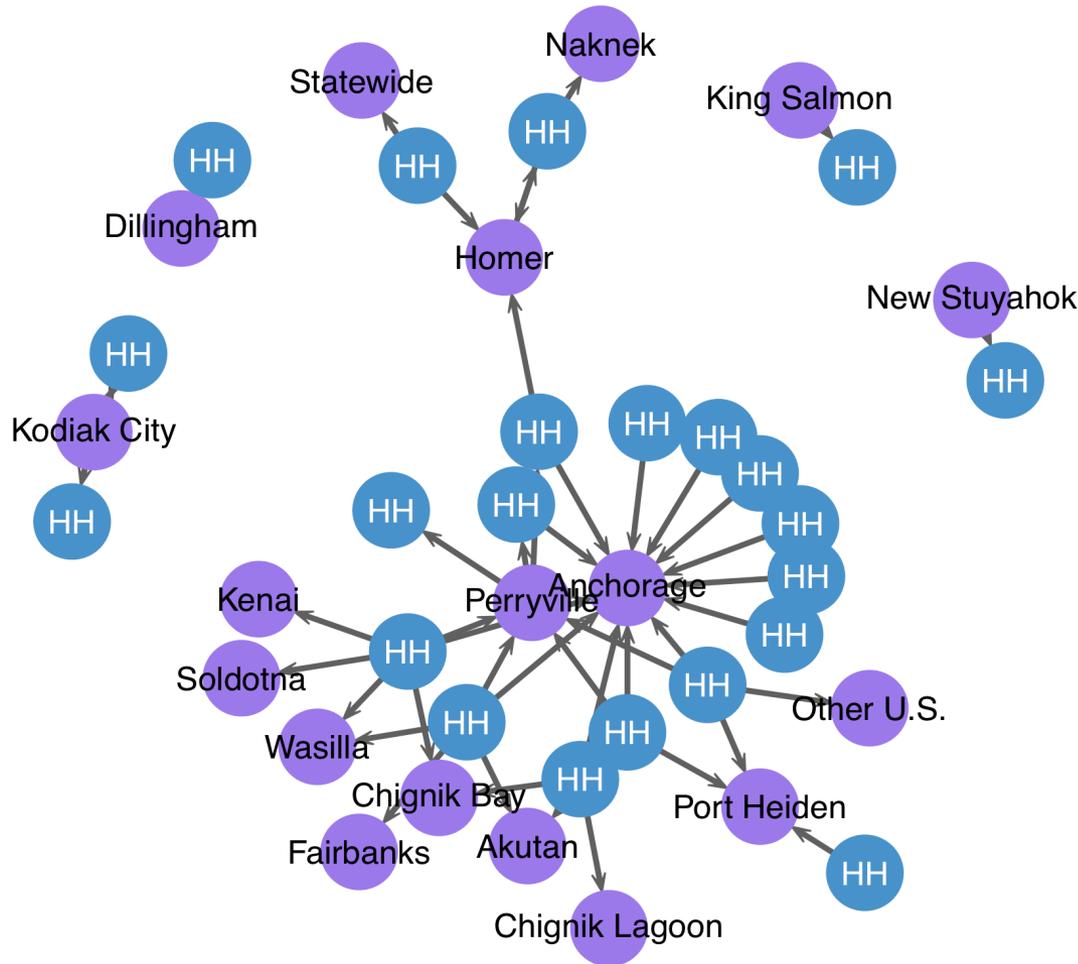


Combined



SALMON SHARING NETWORKS

Chignik Lake: Other Community Network



SUMMARY

WHAT

- Declining salmon harvests
- Sockeye salmon largest component
- Multiple gear types used

WHO

- Regional population declining
- Seasonal/transient component
- Local subsistence fisheries

HOW

- Sharing of labor and harvests
- Engagement in commercial and subsistence fishing
- Local harvesting areas

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Community Subsistence Harvest Information System

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/>

Division Technical Paper Series

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications>



Perryville

