

Summary of Minto Flats Northern Pike Sport and Subsistence Fisheries

RC 3, Tab 15





Minto Flats Northern Pike Sport Fishery Proposals

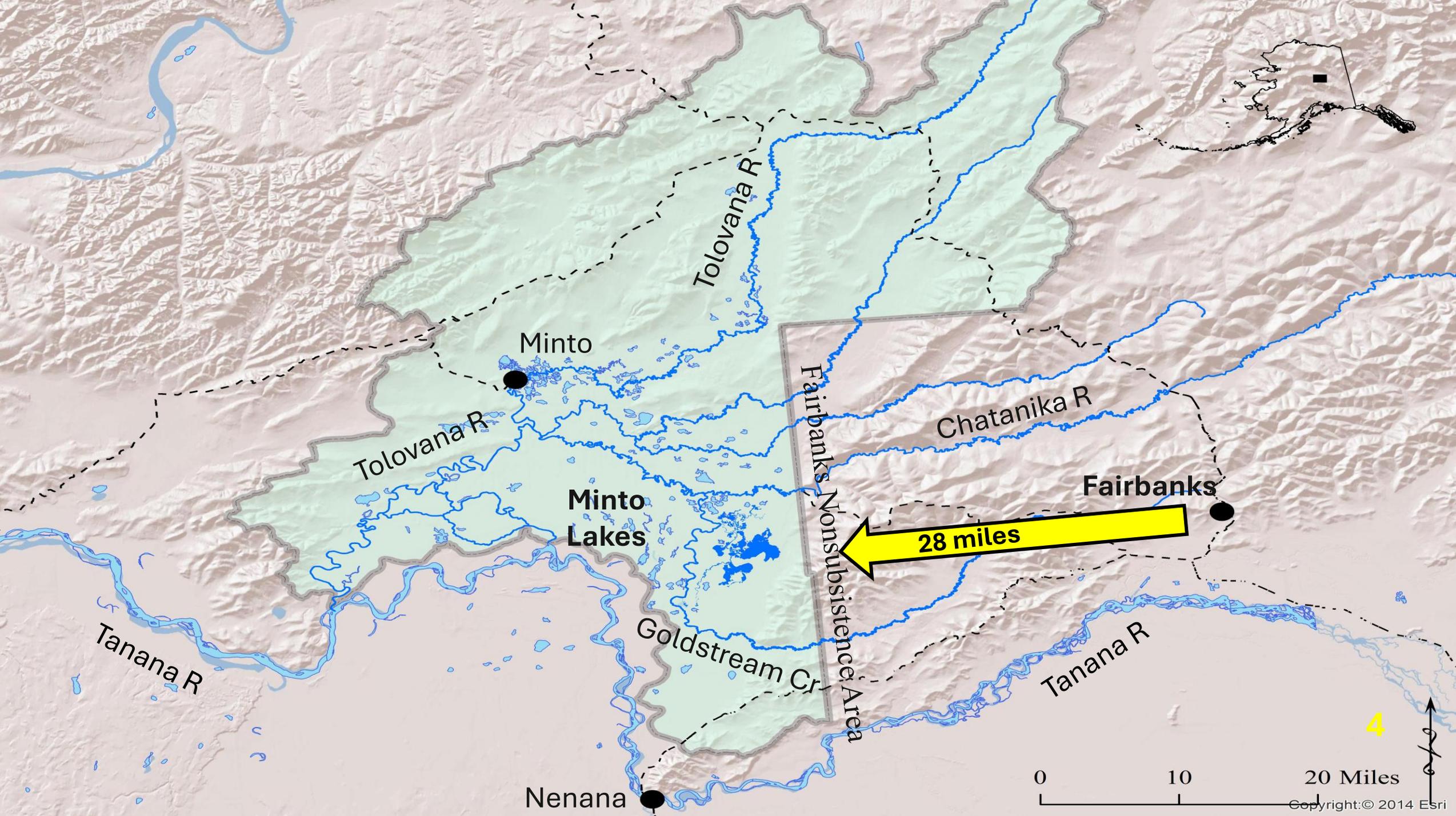
Proposals 18, 19, and 20

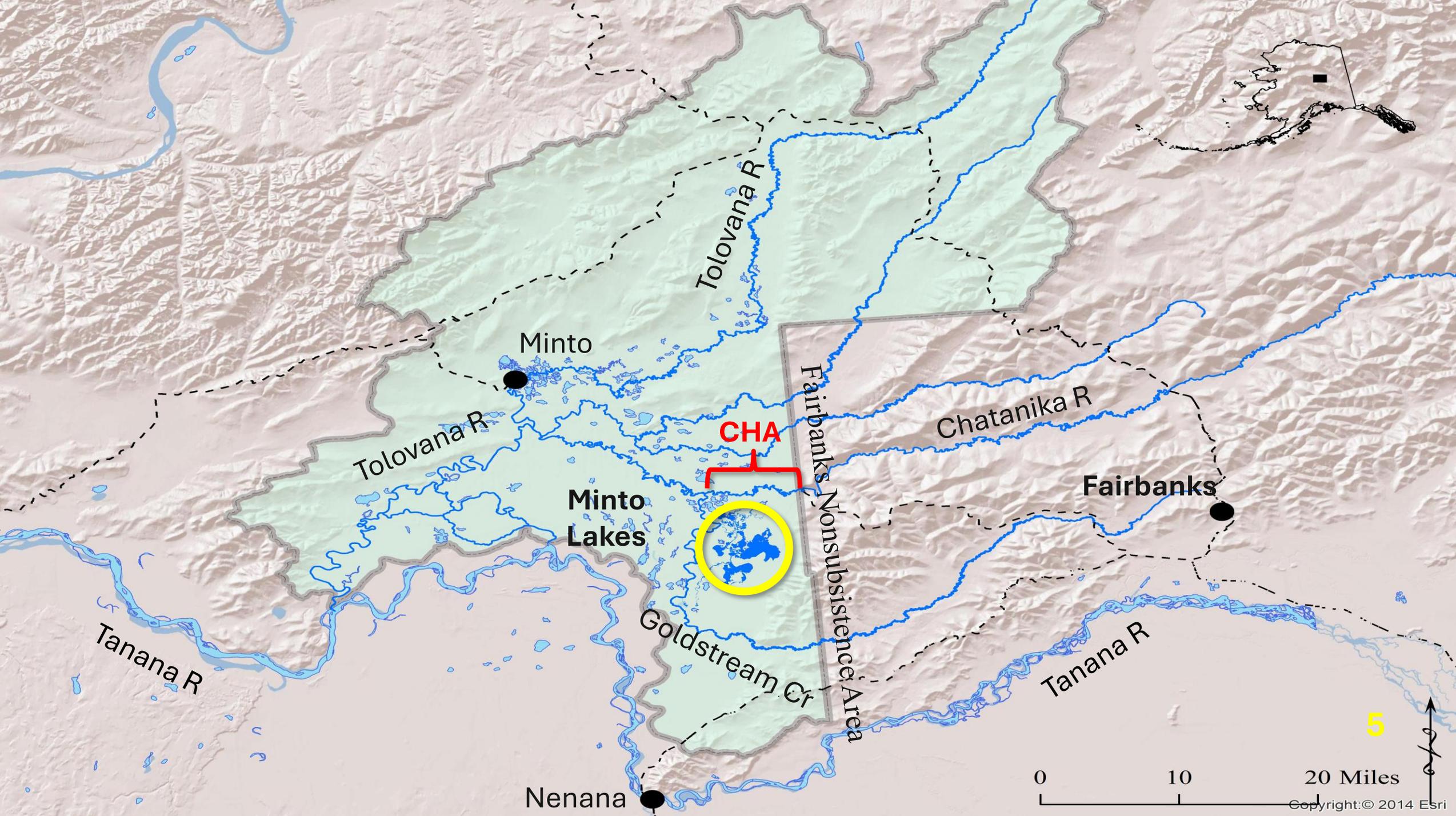
Modify the Minto Flats Northern Pike Sportfish
Management Plan

Summary of Minto Flats Northern Pike Sport and Subsistence Fisheries

- Minto Flats Area
- Sport and Subsistence Fisheries
- Sport and Subsistence Management Plans
- Northern Pike
 - Biology
 - Seasonal Habitats and Migrations
 - Stock Assessments
- Participation and Harvest
 - Subsistence
 - Sport fish







Tolovana R

Minto

Tolovana R

CHA

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area

Chatanika R

Minto Lakes

Fairbanks

Goldstream Cr

Tanana R

Tanana R

Nenana

0 10 20 Miles

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5



Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plans for Sport and Subsistence

- Established 1998
- 5 AAC 74.044 Sport
- 5 AAC 01.244 Subsistence
- Purpose of Plans is to provide the department with guidance for managing these stocks
 - *For sustained yield*
 - *Provide reasonable opportunity for the sportfish and priority subsistence fisheries.*

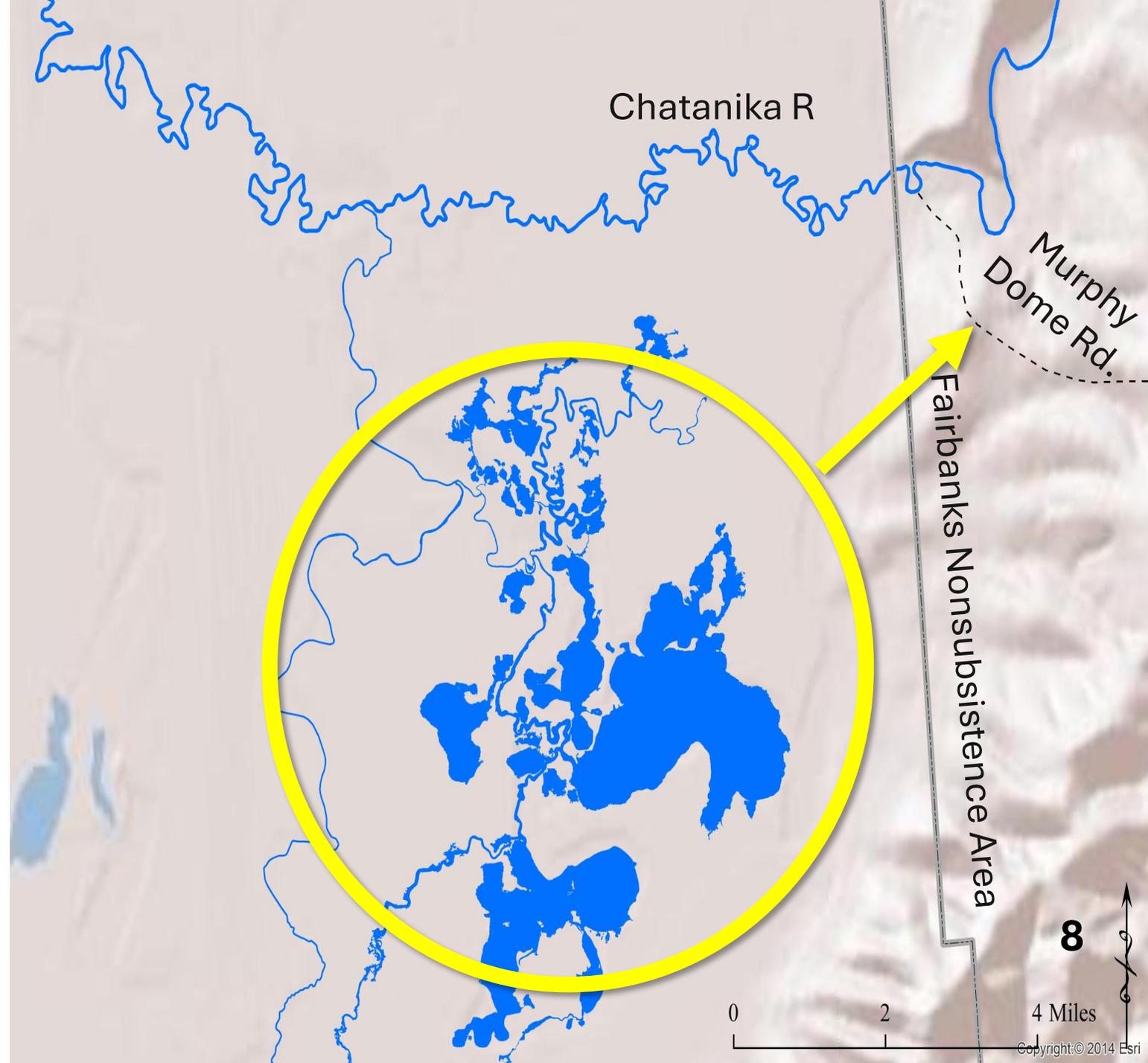
Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plans for Sport and Subsistence

- **For both plans:** Harvest may not exceed 20% annual exploitation of the population. Exploitation by all users is evaluated by
 - Post season subsistence reports
 - Weekly CHA subsistence reports
 - Sportfish Statewide Harvest Survey
 - Estimates of Abundance of the CHA population
- Specific regulations and management triggers for sport and subsistence plans



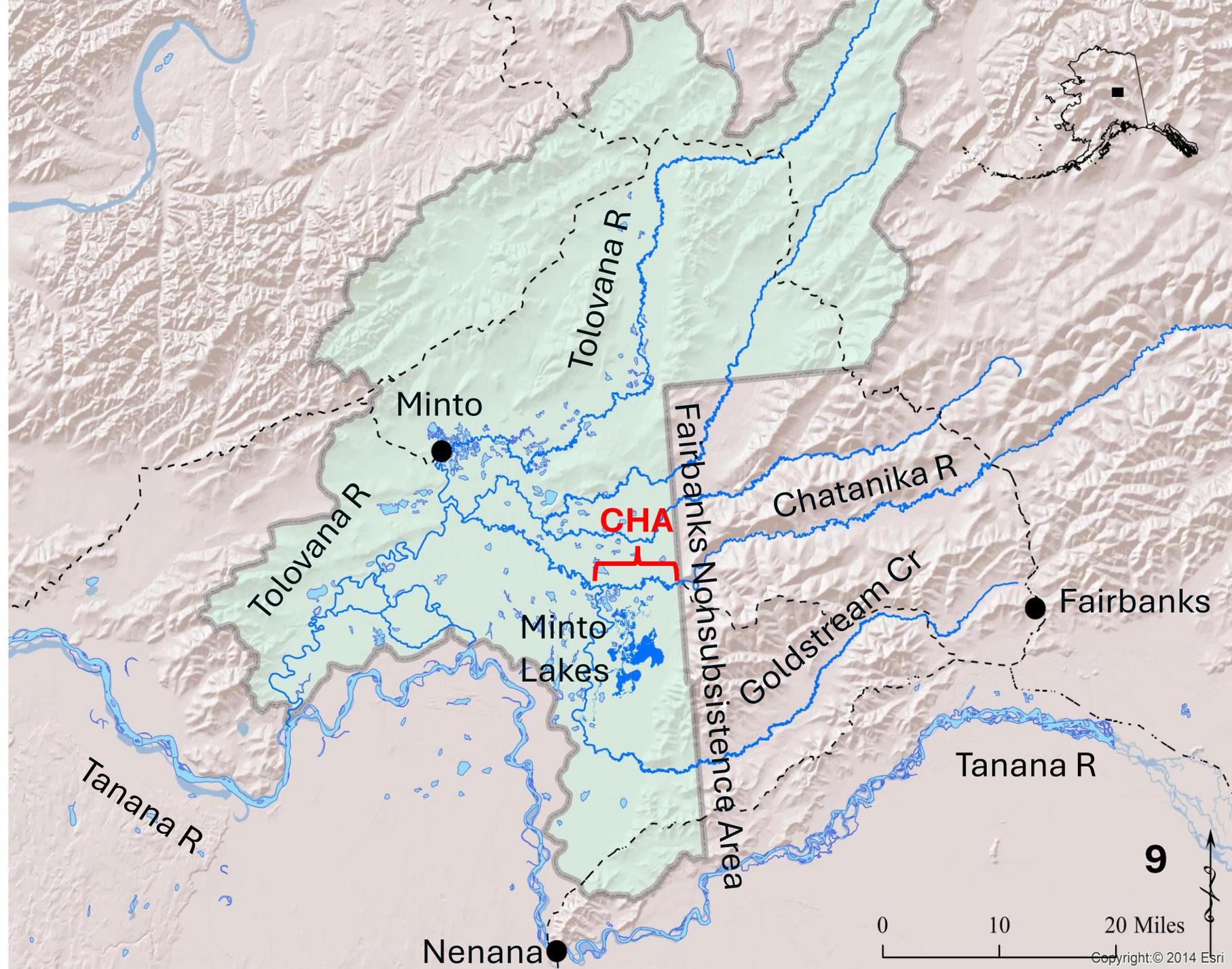
Sport Fishery Overview

- Primary fishing area: Minto Lakes
- Primary access: Murphy Dome Road
- Anglers are Alaska Residents, Non-Residents,
- A few guiding operations
- **Regulations**
- Daily bag & possession 5 pike, only 1 \geq 30 inches
- Open June 1–October 14



Subsistence Fishery Overview

- Alaska Residents only
- A household permit required beginning in 1988
- Subsistence fishing for northern pike is allowed throughout all the flowing waters and lakes of the Minto Flats
- The CHA is a popular winter fishery
- CHA specific regulations



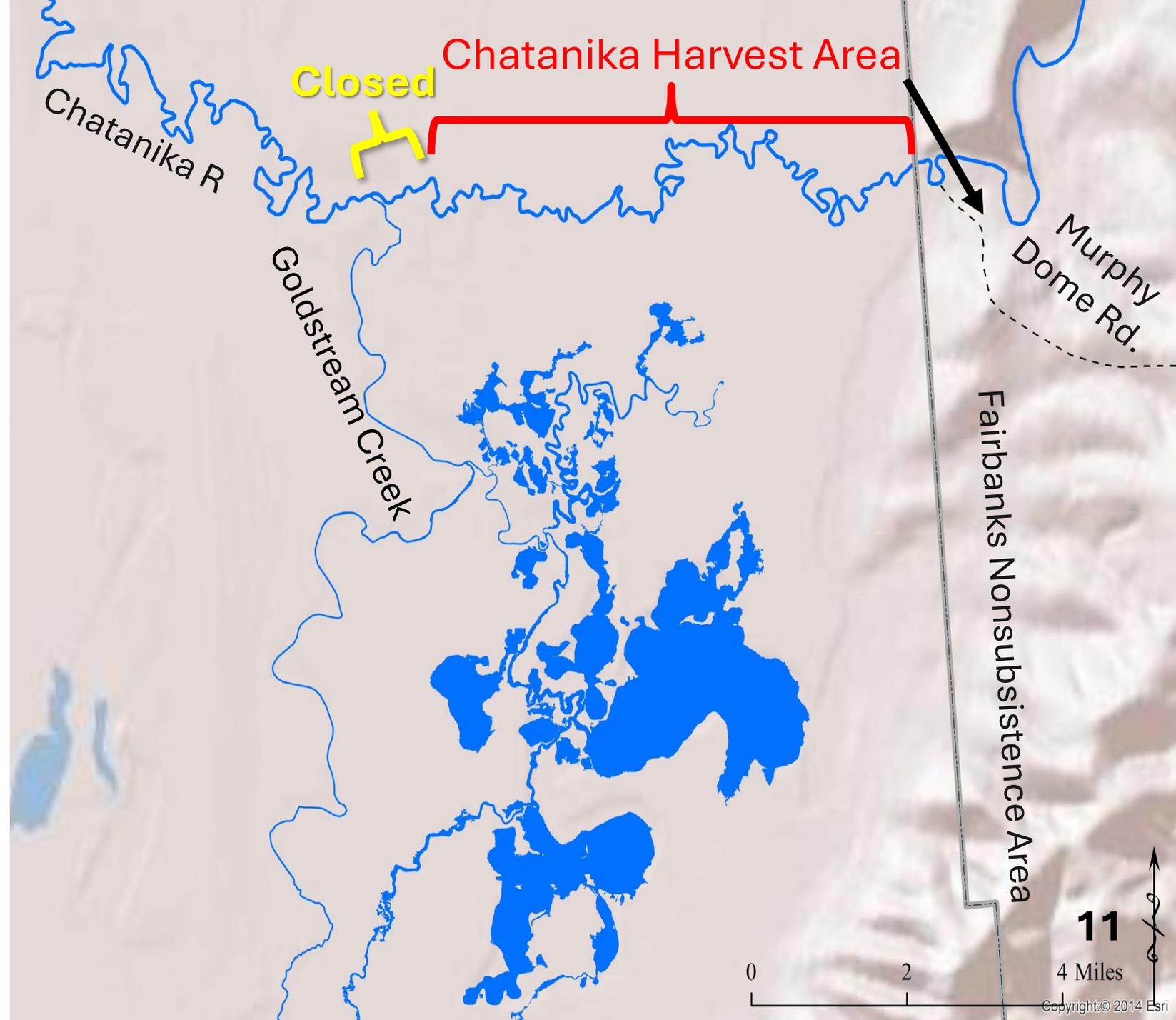
Subsistence Fishery Overview

- **Regulations in Minto Flats (excluding CHA):**
 - Open fishing season year round
 - Gillnets allowed only April 15 through October 14
 - Hook-and-line attached to rod allowed only when ice fishing
 - No harvest limits



Subsistence Fishery Overview

- Chatanika Harvest Area (CHA)
- 13 miles of the Chatanika River
 - From the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Boundary to 1-mile upstream of Goldstream Creek mouth
- 1 mile of the Chatanika River immediately upstream of Goldstream Creek mouth is closed to subsistence ice fishing for northern pike.





Subsistence Fishery Overview

- **Regulations specific to winter CHA fishery:**
 - Daily harvest limit: 10 pike, only 2 fish \geq 30 inches
 - Possession limit: 20 pike, only 4 fish \geq 30 inches
 - Weekly catch report required
 - Single hooks only
 - Bait is allowed

Chatanika R

Chatanika Harvest Area



Harvest of 750 fish in CHA =

Management Triggers



Reduction in Sport Fish bag limit: **from**
5 fish, 1 \geq 30"
to
2 fish, 1 \geq 30"

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area



13

4 Miles



Chatanika R

Chatanika Harvest Area

Management Triggers

Harvest of 1,500 fish in CHA
= Closure of CHA
subsistence fishery for
remainder of ice-covered
period.

Sport Fish bag limit:
remains
2 fish, 1 \geq 30"

Minto Flats excluding CHA:
remains
Open and harvest
unrestricted

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area

2

14
4 Miles

How are the management plans implemented ?

- Pike Biology and behavior
- Stock Assessments
- Participation and Harvest



Northern Pike Biology Overview

- Northern pike are long-lived
 - Sexual maturity at 2–4 years old = 16-20”
 - 30” = 4-8 years old
 - 40” = 12-16 years old



Northern Pike Biology Overview

- In interior Alaska all northern pike ≥ 30 " are female
 - Up to 300,000 eggs from the largest females
 - 30" northern pike females have 4x the eggs of 18" fish
 - Female northern pike are more susceptible to angling through the ice

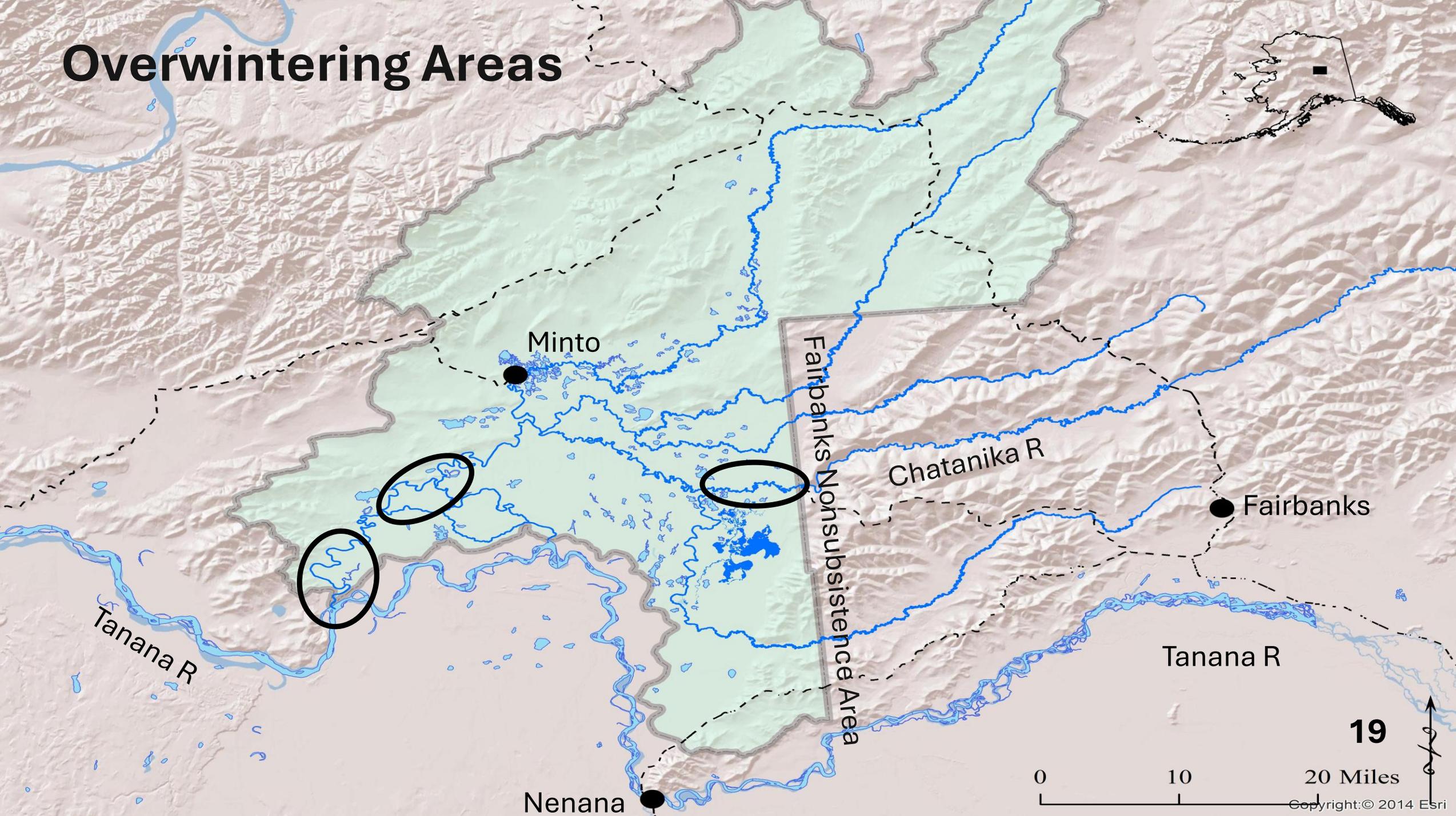


30 Inch Regulation

Biology



Overwintering Areas



Minto

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area

Chatanika R

Fairbanks

Tanana R

Tanana R

Nenana

0 10 20 Miles

19

Chatanika R

Chatanika Harvest Area

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area

Minto Lakes

Minto Lakes northern pike are a discrete stock that overwinters almost exclusively in the CHA.



20

4 Miles

Stock Assessment Overview

- **Mark-recapture experiments and length composition of the Chatanika Harvest Area**
 - **March 2025**
 - $\geq 24'' = 15,779$
 - $\geq 30'' = 3,618$
 - **March 2018**
 - $\geq 24'' = 14,675$
 - $\geq 30'' = 3,207$

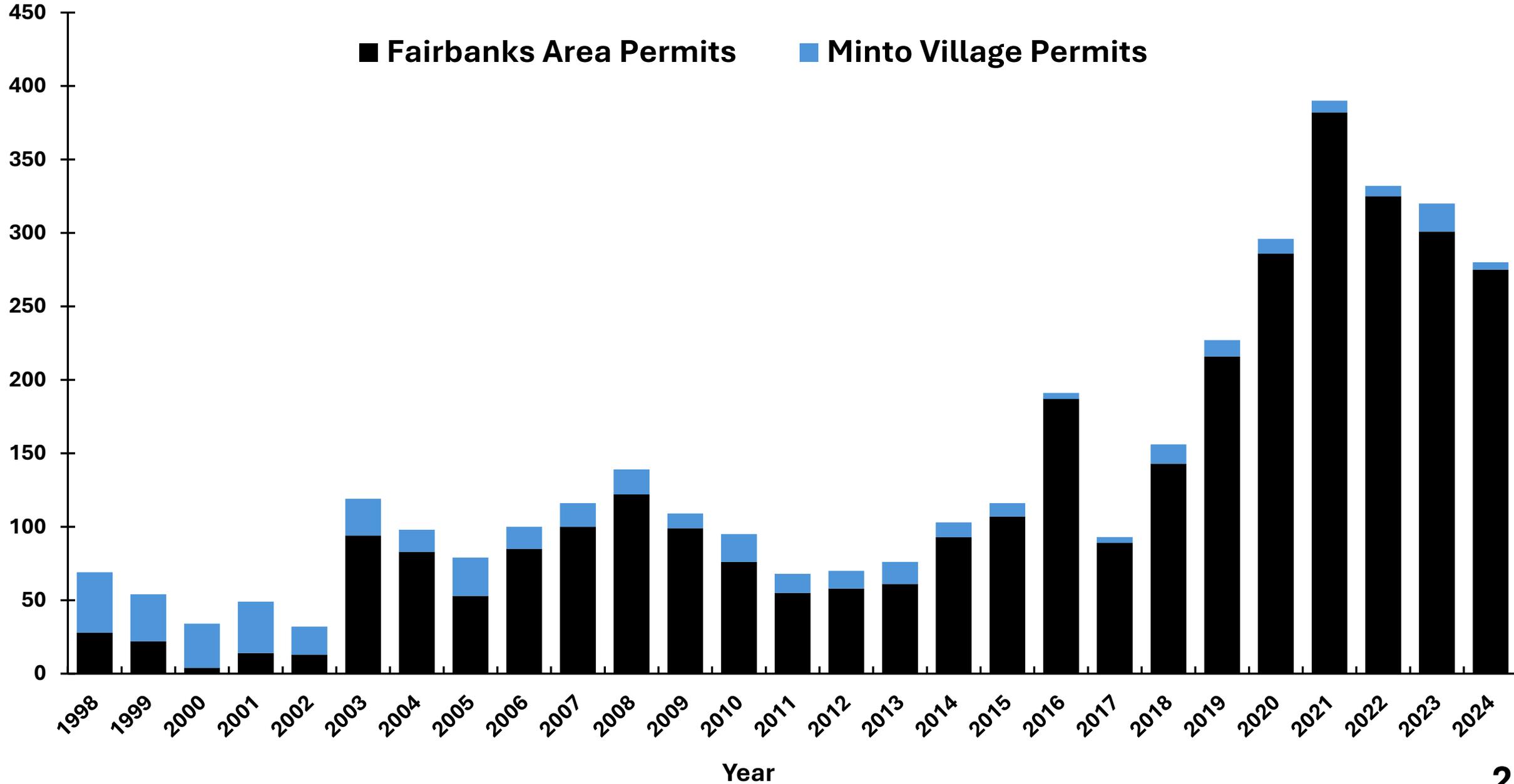




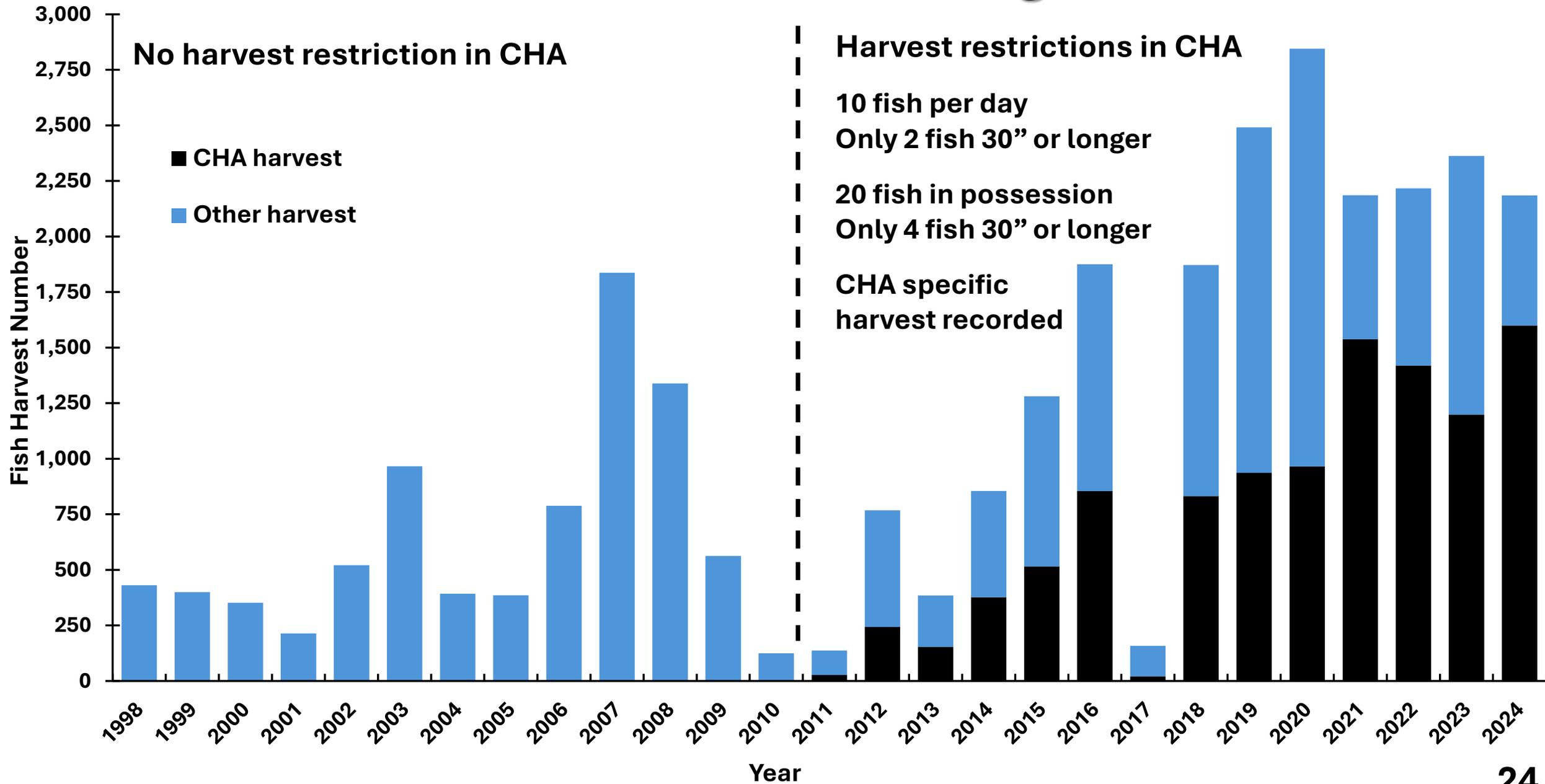
Participation and Harvest

- Sport Fish
- Subsistence

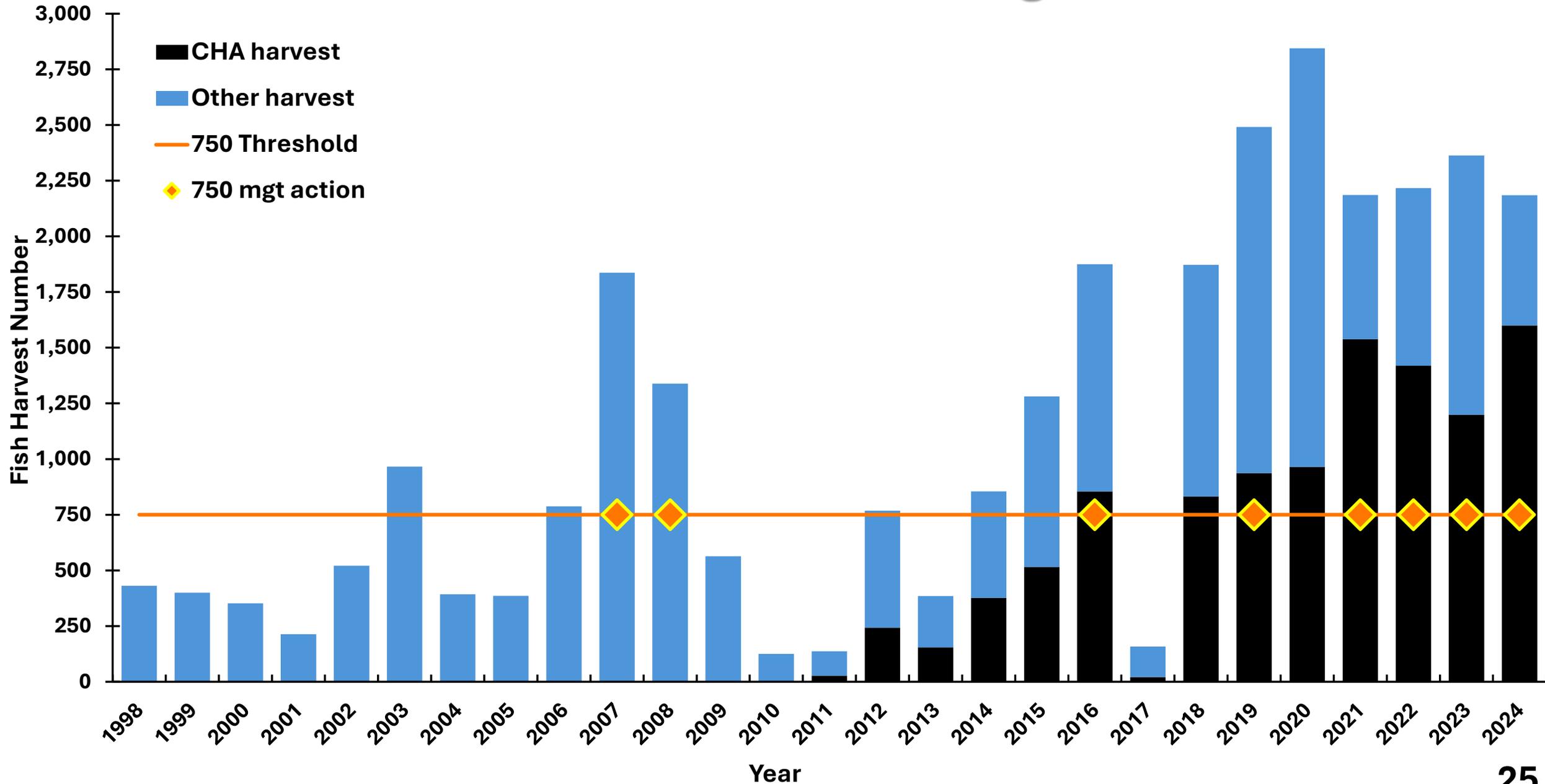
Subsistence Participation



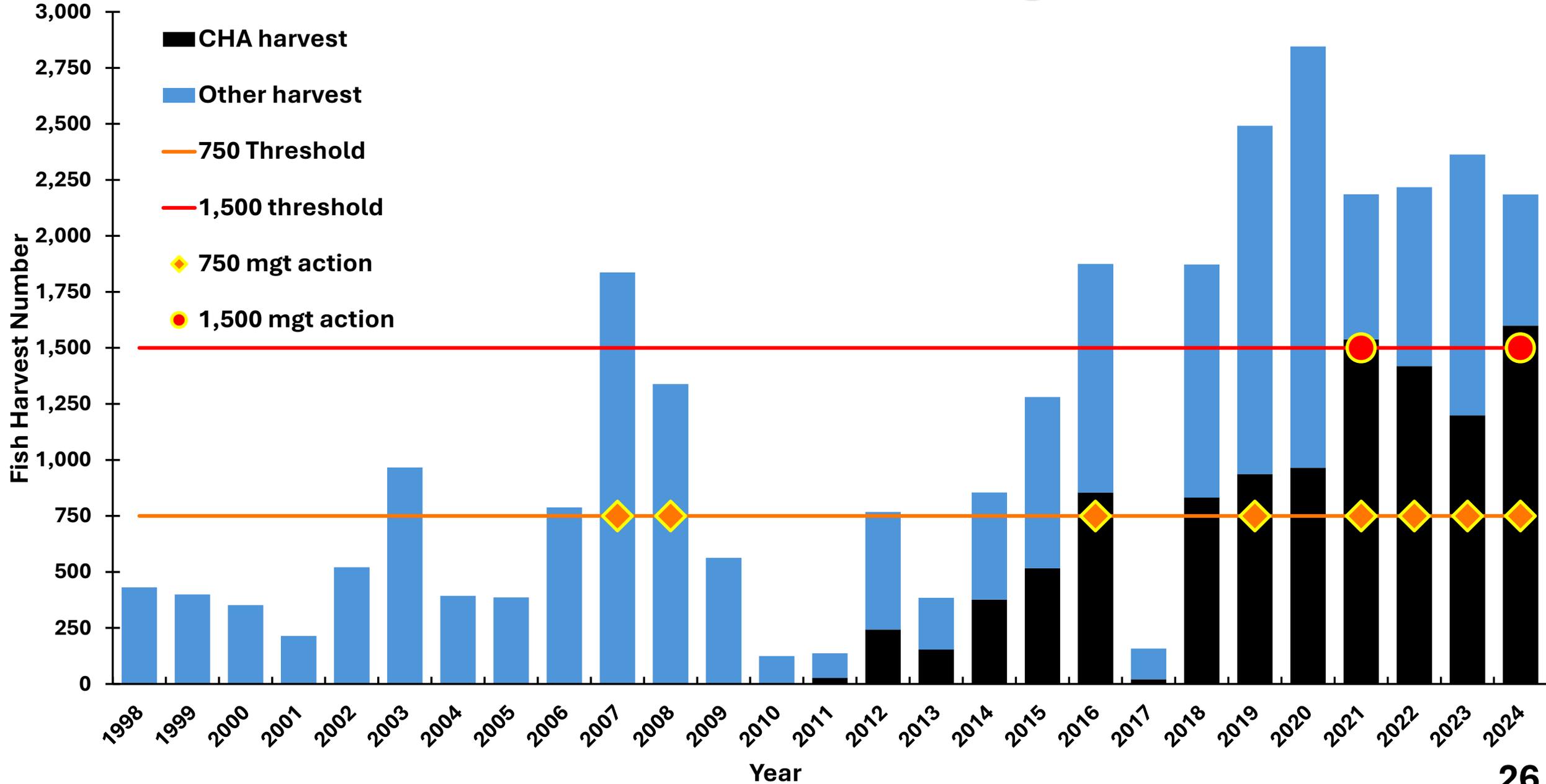
Subsistence Harvest and CHA Management Actions



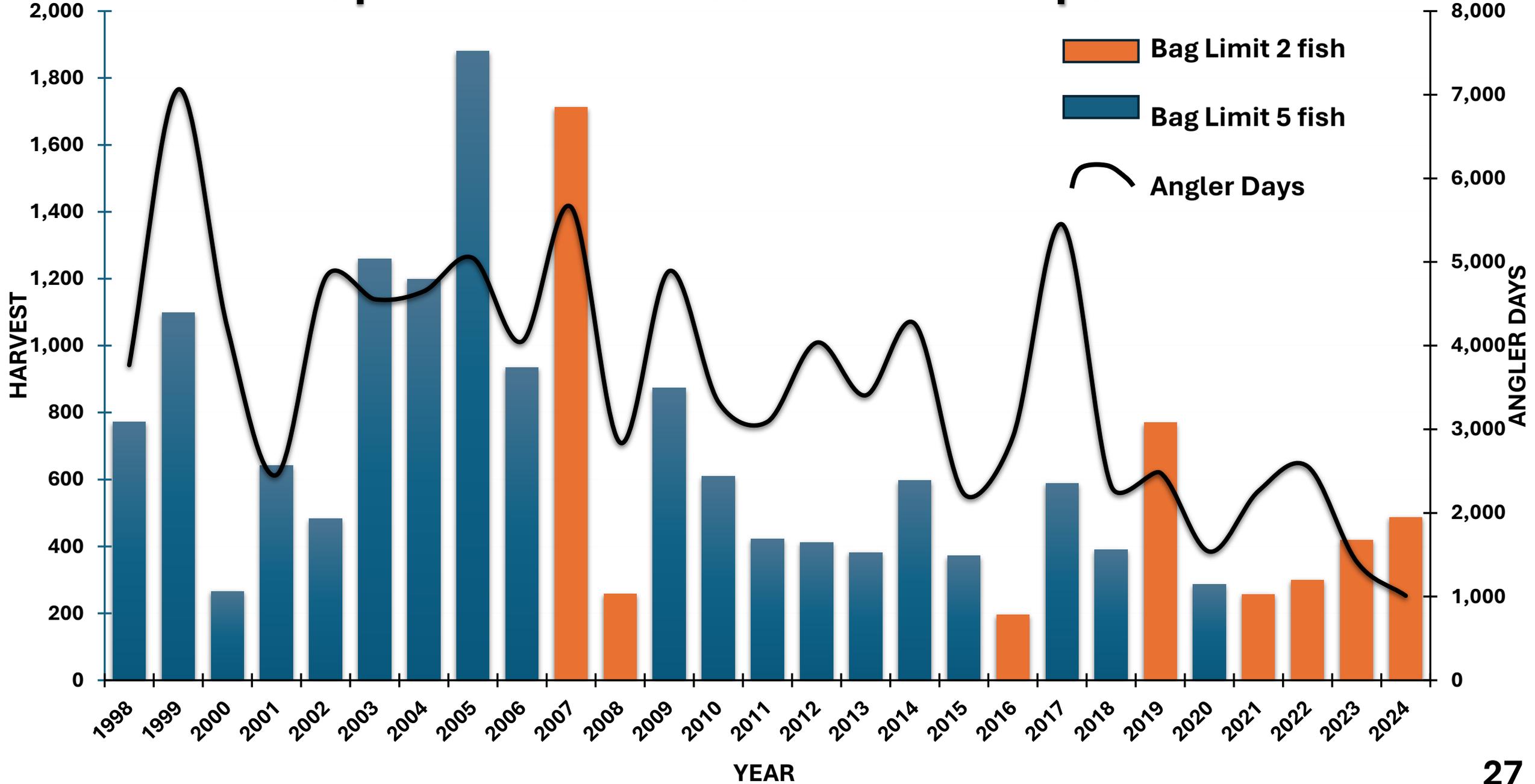
Subsistence Harvest and CHA Management Actions



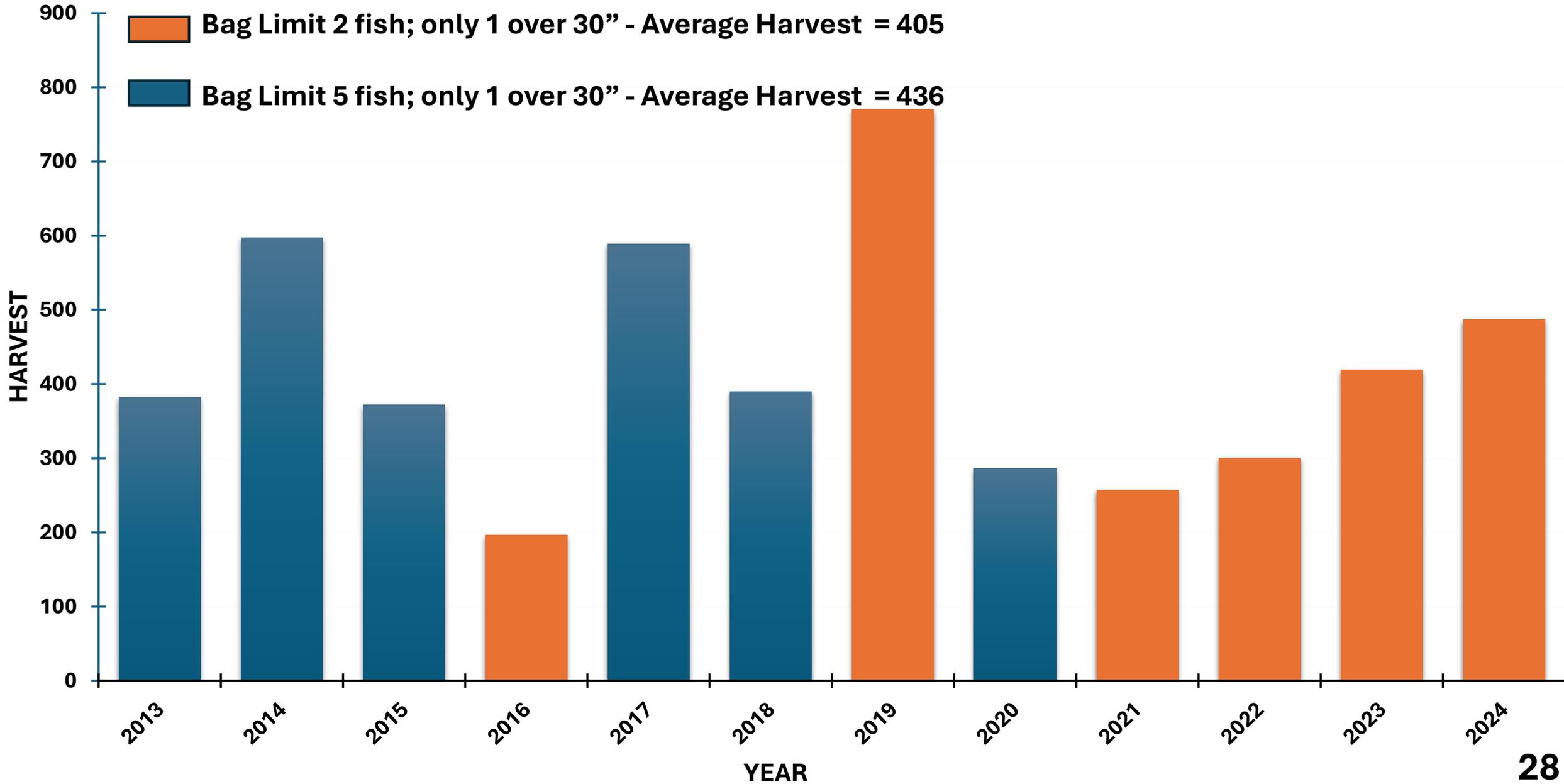
Subsistence Harvest and CHA Management Actions



Sport Fish Harvest and Participation



Effect of Sportfish Bag Limit Reduction



Proposals

18, 19, 20

- **3 proposals modify the sportfish management plan**
- All proposals seek to eliminate sportfish bag limit reduction
- 1 proposal adds a geographical component to the plan
- 2 of the proposals extend open season





Questions ?