



Division of Subsistence, ADF&G, Review of Research Program

Alaska Board of
Fisheries
Anchorage, AK
March 2012



RC 3 Tab 6

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Statutory Duties

- AS 16.05.094 lists 7 “duties”
- These fall into 3 categories:
 1. Research and data compilation (duties 1 & 2): investigate “all aspects of the role of subsistence hunting and fishing in the lives of residents of the state”; quantify harvests
 2. Data reporting and education (duty 3)
 3. Application of study findings: regulatory boards, management plans (duties 4, 5, 6, & 7)

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The division's "Mission Statement"

"To scientifically quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska fish and wildlife resources."



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The division's "Core Services"



1. Research, quantify, and provide the resulting information to the public about customary and traditional uses by Alaskans of fish and wildlife resources.
2. Provide scientifically-based information for fisheries and wildlife management programs; and to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game for their use in evaluating reasonable opportunities for customary and traditional uses.

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Funding and Staffing



- 3 primary funding sources: state general fund, federal sources, and statutory designated program receipts.
- 36 permanent staff in 5 year-round offices.

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Strategic Research Plan

- Strategic planning process begun June 2007
- Purpose: establish priorities for research consistent with funding and staffing levels
- Identified 15 research goals connected to primary duties, including, among others:
 - continue community baseline studies;
 - develop and maintain time series harvest data;
 - investigate special topics;
 - improve access to reports and databases; and
 - participate fully in BOG and BOF process.
- Implementation: through GF increments, RSAs
- Public review draft = Special Publication 2008-06

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Types of research projects



- Community baseline studies (focus on one year)
- Special topic research
- Local and Traditional Knowledge
- Harvest monitoring (multi-year)

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Research Methods



- Household surveys, either “comprehensive” or focused on certain resources (e.g., “big game” or “nonsalmon fish”)
- Mapping of harvest areas
- Key respondent interviewing
- Participant observation
- Harvest monitoring and assessments
- Other sources of information

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Steps: how a project is implemented

1. Finalize study plan/research design
2. Obtain community approvals
3. Finalize survey instrument & other protocols
4. Set sampling goals: census or random
5. Train local researchers
6. Obtain informed consent & conduct interviews
7. Conduct data analysis: estimated totals
8. Obtain community and other reviews
9. Publish findings in technical paper series

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Methods: Introducing a project in Togiak



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Methods: Local assistant orientation in Noatak



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Methods: Administration of survey in Emmonak



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Methods: Mapping harvest areas



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Methods: Participant Observation: Cutting Fish at Nondalton



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Methods: Key respondent interviewing in Nondalton



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Key respondents: preparing subsistence foods



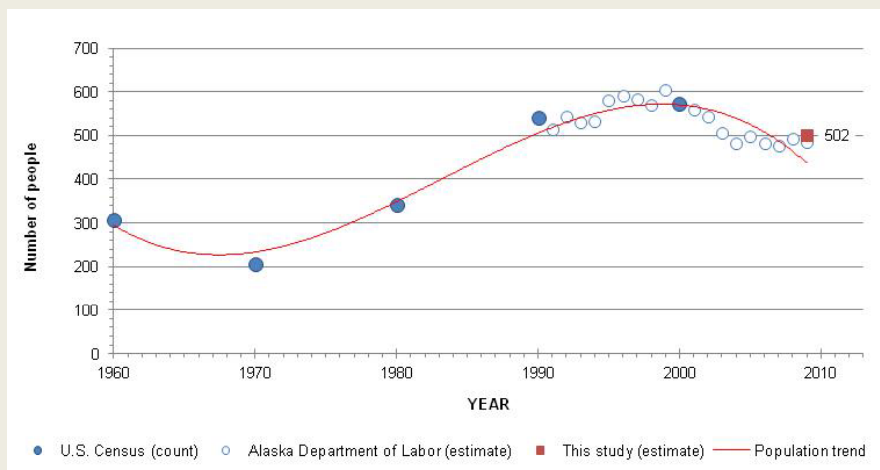
Topics in a comprehensive survey



- Demography
- Harvests and uses: using, attempting, harvesting, sharing; harvest amounts; locations of harvests
- Sources of cash (jobs and other)
- Open-ended evaluations of subsistence uses
- Food security and health impact assessment
- Networks
- Ethnographic component: timing, trends, issues

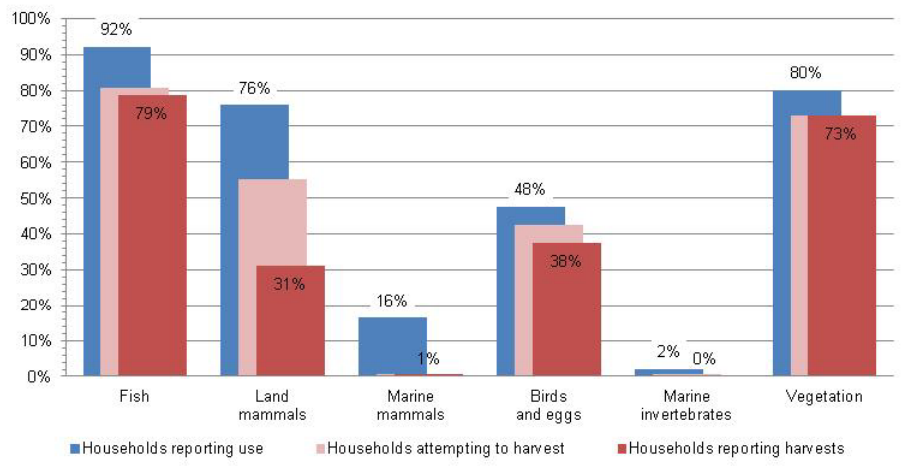
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Selected “Typical” Findings: Aniak Population History



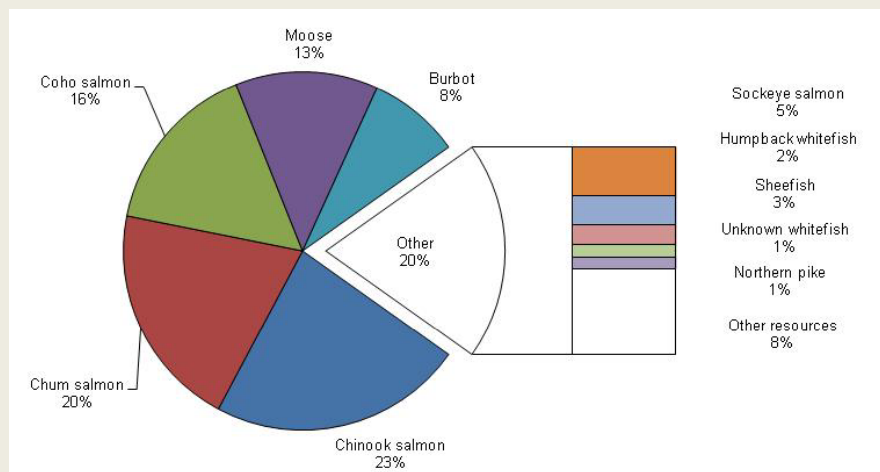
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Results: Aniak: % of households using, attempting, and harvesting resources



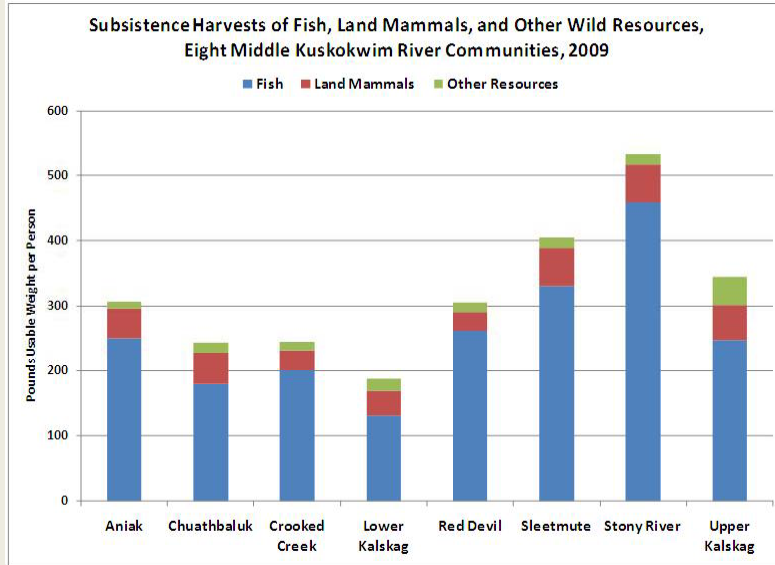
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Results: Aniak's "Top Ten" Resources Harvested



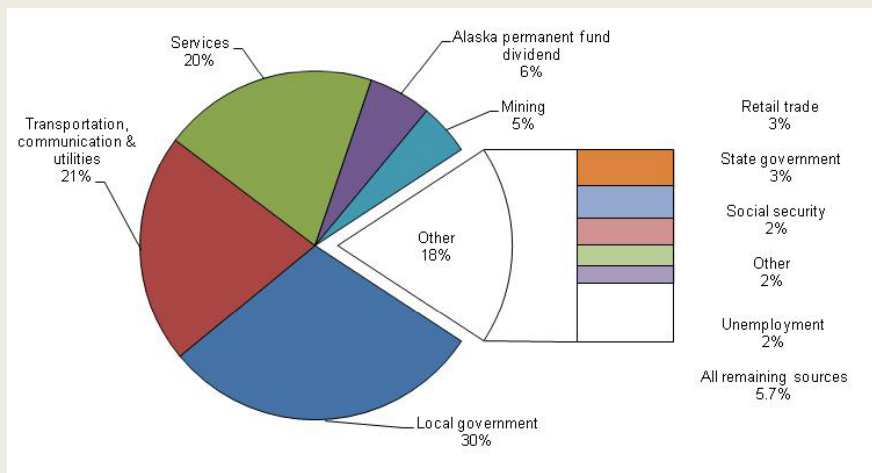
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Results: Donlin study communities: pounds usable weight per person



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Results: Aniak: Sources of Cash



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Reporting Results

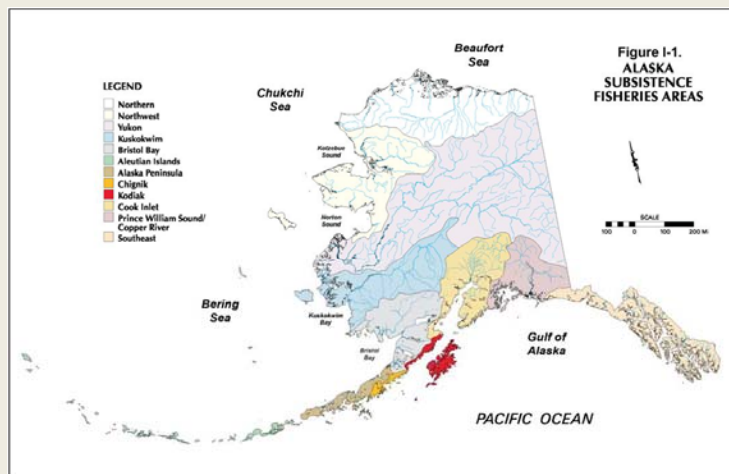


- Technical Paper Series: about 343 titles
- Special Publications (e.g., board reports)
- Community Subsistence Information System or "CSIS"
- Alaska Subsistence Fisheries Database and annual report
- Other short communications

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Annual Subsistence Fisheries Report

- Draws from all annual harvest monitoring programs
- Organized in data base by management area and by community
- Part of the *Technical Paper Series*



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CSIS Coverage

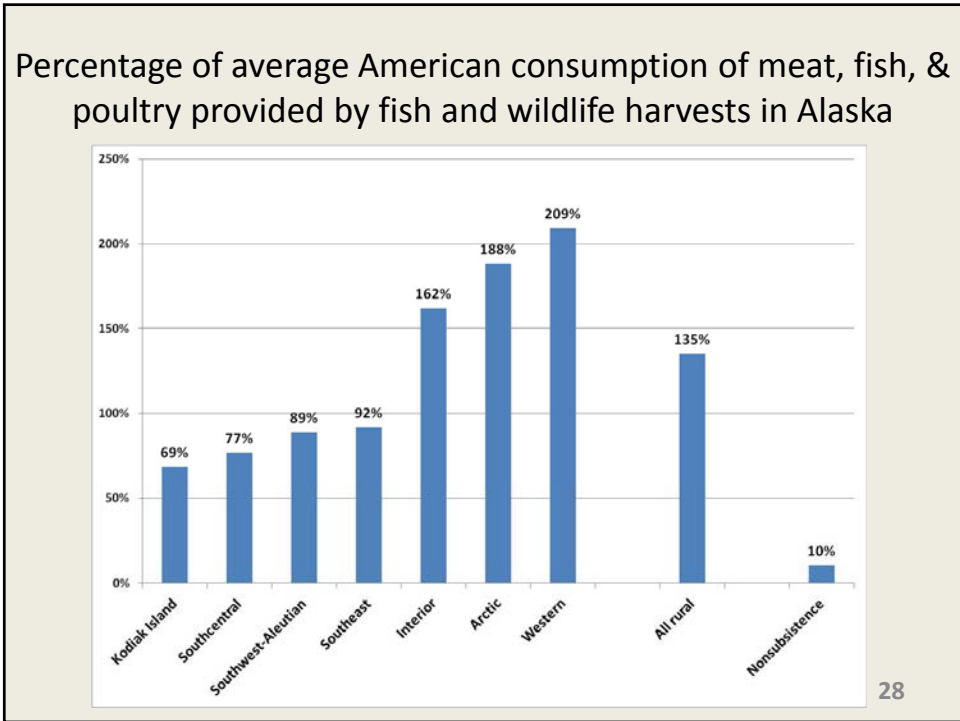
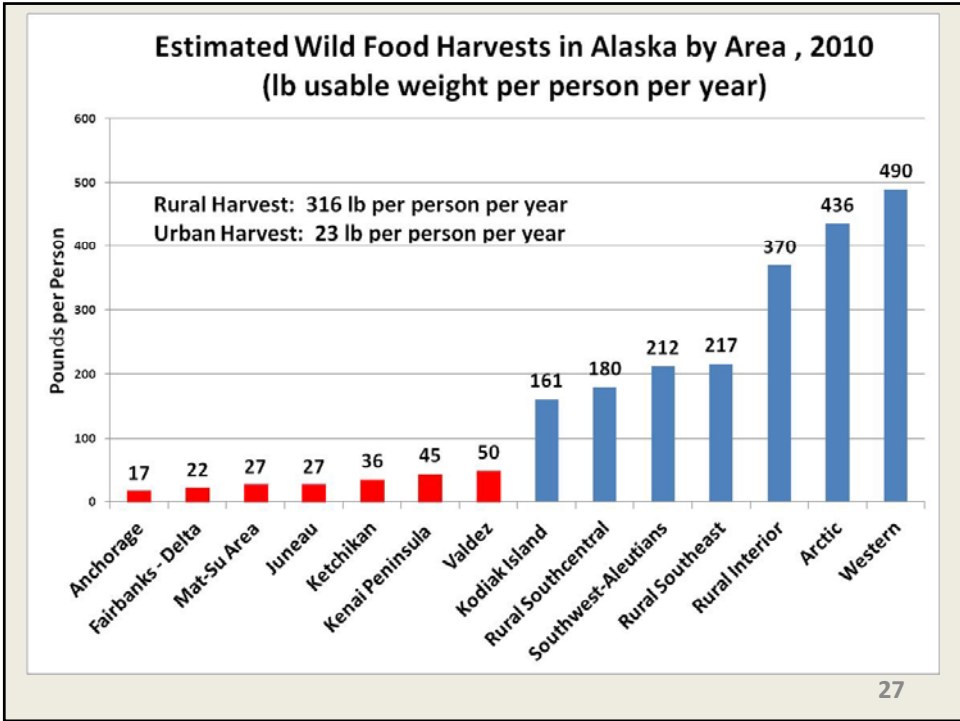
- CSIS = Community Subsistence Information System
- U.S. Census: 355 named communities in Alaska
- 86 in nonsubsistence areas, 269 in “rural” areas
- Of 263 rural places with a population and not a military base or industrial area, data in CSIS for 196 places (75%)
- Number of data sets in CSIS = 366 (35 more pending) (community/year combinations)
- Number of communities, data 20 years or more old = 36%
- Development of Index Community approach

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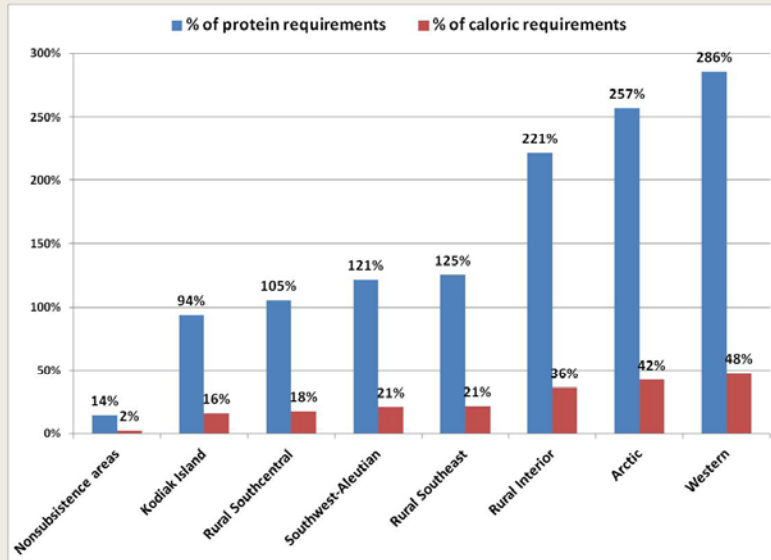
Some “Big Picture” Findings

- What are total harvest quantities in different areas of the state?
- What is the nutritional contribution of this harvest?
- What is the composition of the harvest by resource category?
- Who harvests fish and game? – harvests by category of use
- Subsistence in Alaska: A Year 2010 Update

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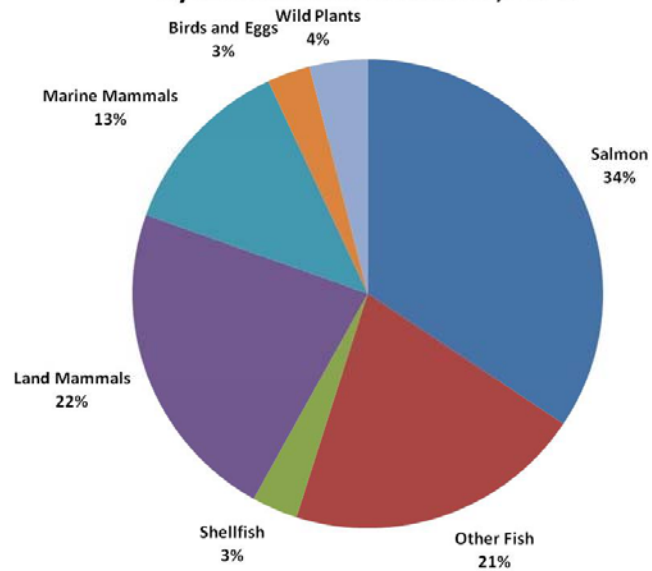


Nutritional value of fish and wildlife harvests

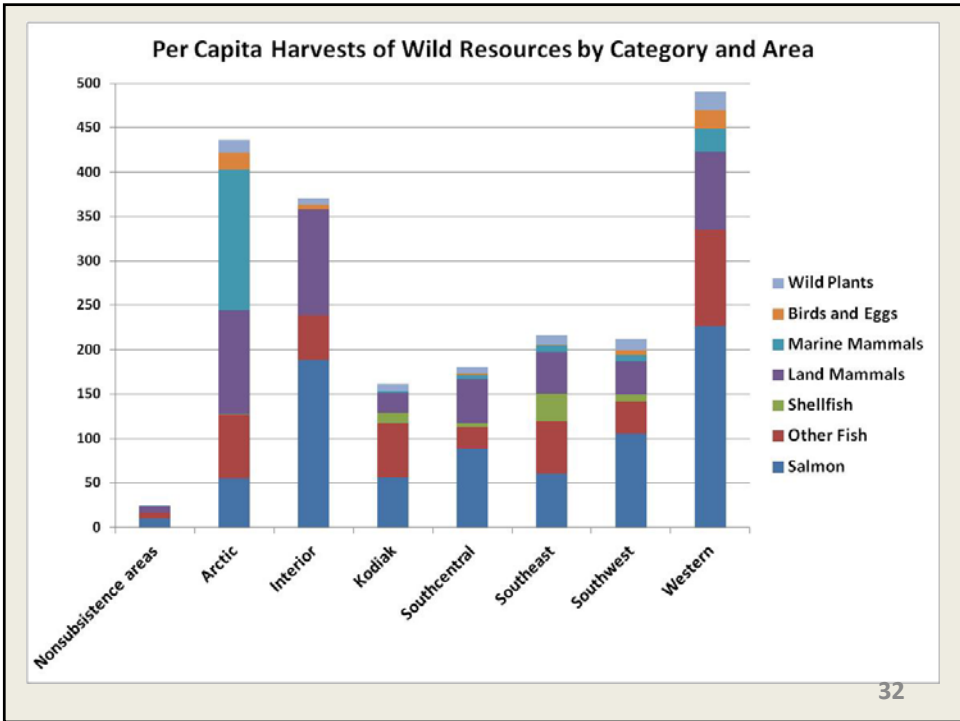
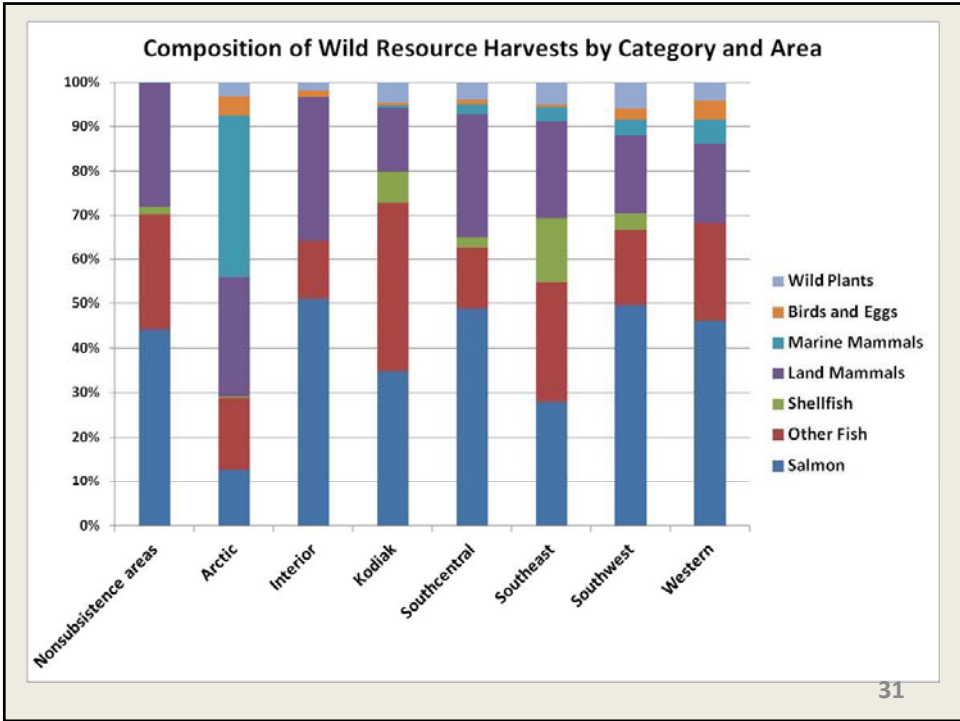


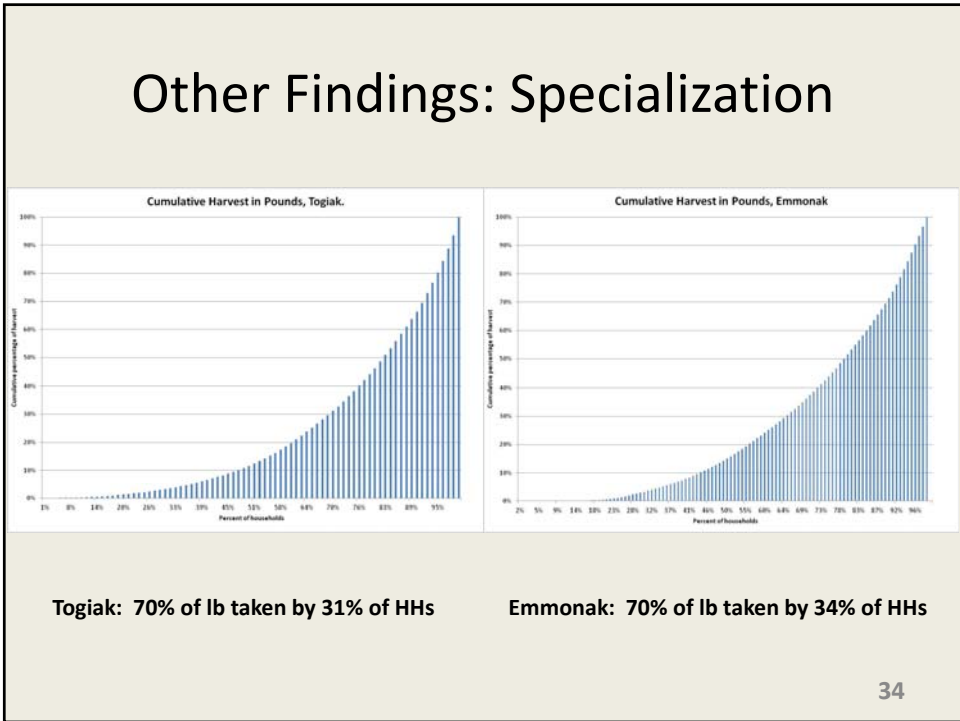
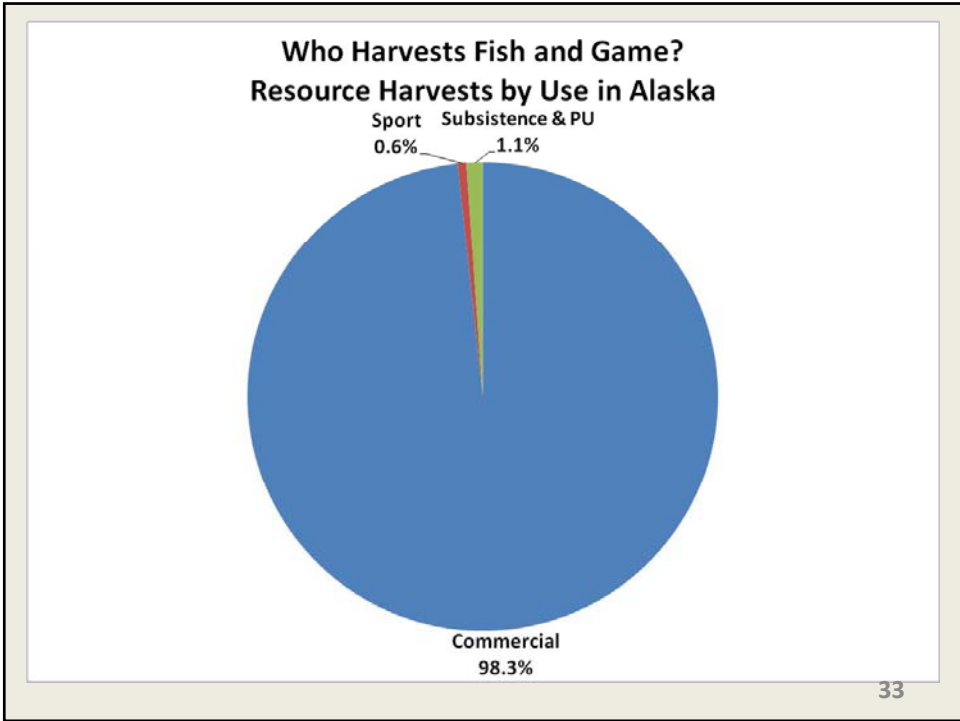
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Composition of Subsistence Harvest by Rural Alaska Residents, 2010



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Applications of study findings



- Obligations at Board of Game and Board of Fisheries
- C&T Determinations
- ANS Findings
- Regulations that provide reasonable opportunity
- Obligations to Joint Board: nonsubsistence area findings
- Informing resource development projects
- Other applications

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Questions?

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