



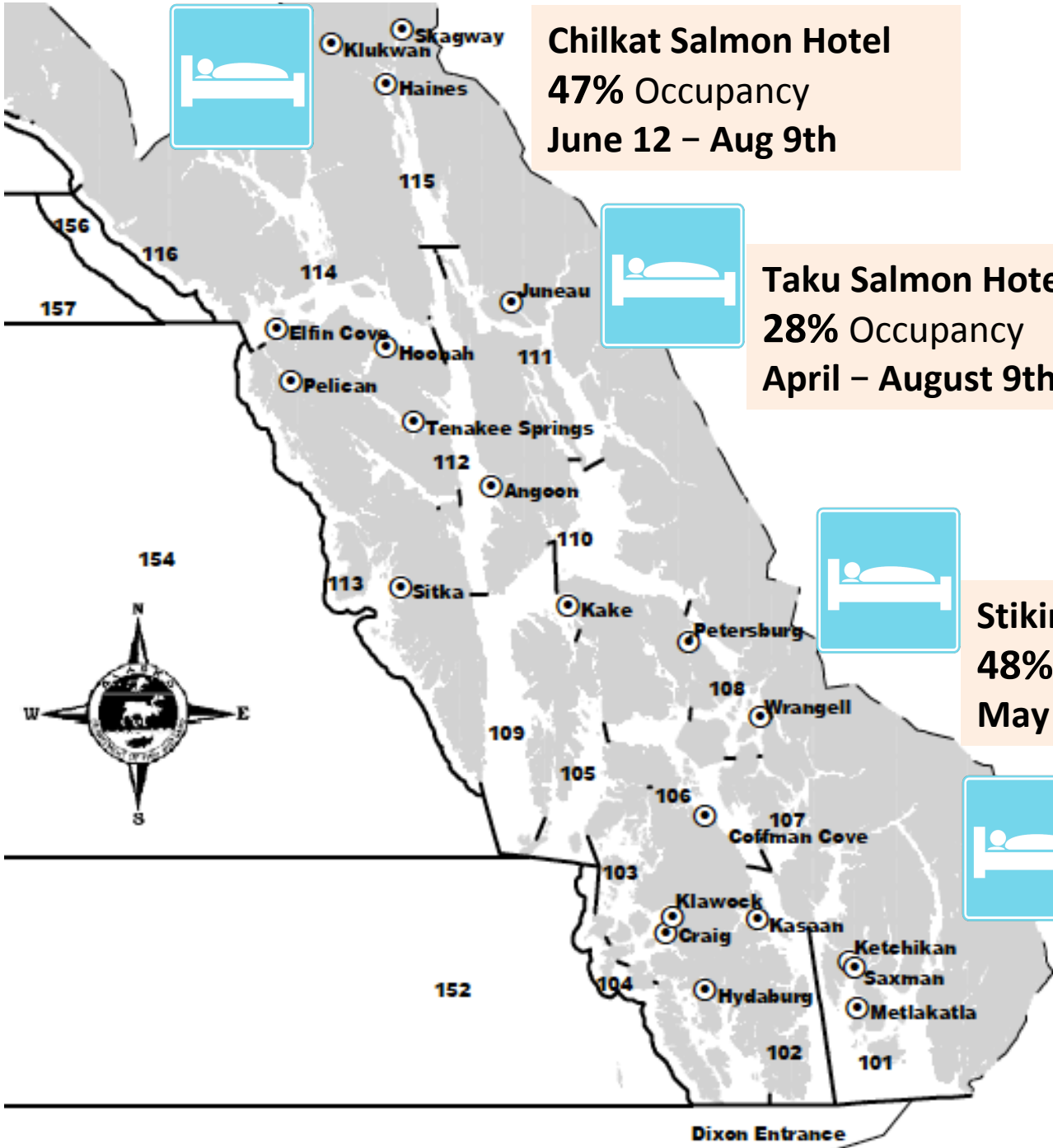
Fisheries Closures

“Too many vacancies at the salmon hotels”

Deborah Lyons

Chinook Futures Coalition

2017
VACANCIES



Chilkat Salmon Hotel
47% Occupancy
June 12 – Aug 9th

Taku Salmon Hotel
28% Occupancy
April – August 9th

Stikine Salmon Hotel
48% Occupancy
May – June 9th

Unuk Salmon Hotel
43% Occupancy
June 11 – Aug 14th



- October of 2017 - The Unuk, Chilkat, and King Salmon Rivers were found to be “Stocks of Concern” under the Alaska State Board of Fisheries Policy for Sustainable Salmon Management”
- January 2018 - Action Plans were developed that will carry restrictions on fisheries into the future...
- These actions will also improve escapements to the Taku and Stikine Rivers.
- ADFG is telling us, “The fisheries are not causing the problem, but they can help the solution.”

2018 Actions to Conserve Chilkat, Unuk, Taku, and Stikine River King Salmon

Seine: Reduce open area near Chilkat five weeks, In area 15-A mesh restrictions, close ½ area, night closures. In 15-C mesh restriction two weeks, limit to 2 days in postage stamp, Limit Time + Area Vanderbilt Reef night closures. Boat Harbor THA open. Close Neets Bay THA 6 days, Region wide non-retention and live release by EO
Gillnet: District 11 area closure Taku Inlet, 11-C close by EO, night closures 111-31 and 11C, mesh restrictions

Troll: Time and area closures in 15-A, 15-C and 12-B, 11-B, 11-C, 11D. Remain closed May-June. Delay Spring Troll opening from May 1 to June 15, Homeshore, South Passage, Cross Sound. Reduce opening times for Pt. Sophia/Hawk Inlet from 7 to 3 days/wk. in May. Limit Pt. Althorp and Lisianski days/wk. Limit Chatham to 4 days from 7 until June. Close Tebenkof Bay spring Troll. Close Spring Troll region wide May 29-June 14 (option). **To protect Unuk Winter Troll will close March 15 instead of April 30th, all waters. (SIX WEEKS)** Spring Troll May and June limited to THA's waters in close proximity to hatchery release sites and areas identified as having low proportion of SEAK KS. Summer – Status quo 70% on July 1 and 30% in August.

2018 Actions to Conserve Chilkat, Unuk, Taku, and Stikine River King Salmon

Sport: District 15-A April 15-December 31 no retention, 15-b and 15-C April 15 – June 14 no retention. Chilkat Inlet north April 15-June 30 closed to KS fishing. District 12-B, April 15-June 14 no retention of KS. District 11-A, 11-B and 11-C April 15-June 14 no retention, 11-D Closed to KS fishing April 15 – June 30. DIPAC THA KS surplus to broodstock 2 KS/day no size limit , no annual limit June 15 – August 31. For Unuk: N and NW Behm Canal closed to salmon fishing. W. Behm Canal April 1-August 14 no retention KS, SE Behm Canal and S. Revilla Channel April 1 – August 14 no retention. Remainder Ketchikan April 1-August 14 1 KS bag, NR limit 3. Herring Bay THA June 1-July 31 bag 6 KS no size or annual limit. Neets Bay 1 KS bag 3 annual.

Subsistence – Reduce time and area first 5 weeks Lynn Canal and Chilkat River KS FMP. Open Chilkat river by EO June 1-14, close Chilkat River June 15 – July 31, except Haines Hiway Mile 19 limit to 4 days/wk. Chilkat Inlet close by EO until July 22.

Personal Use – Yes Bay and Unuk River non retention by EO

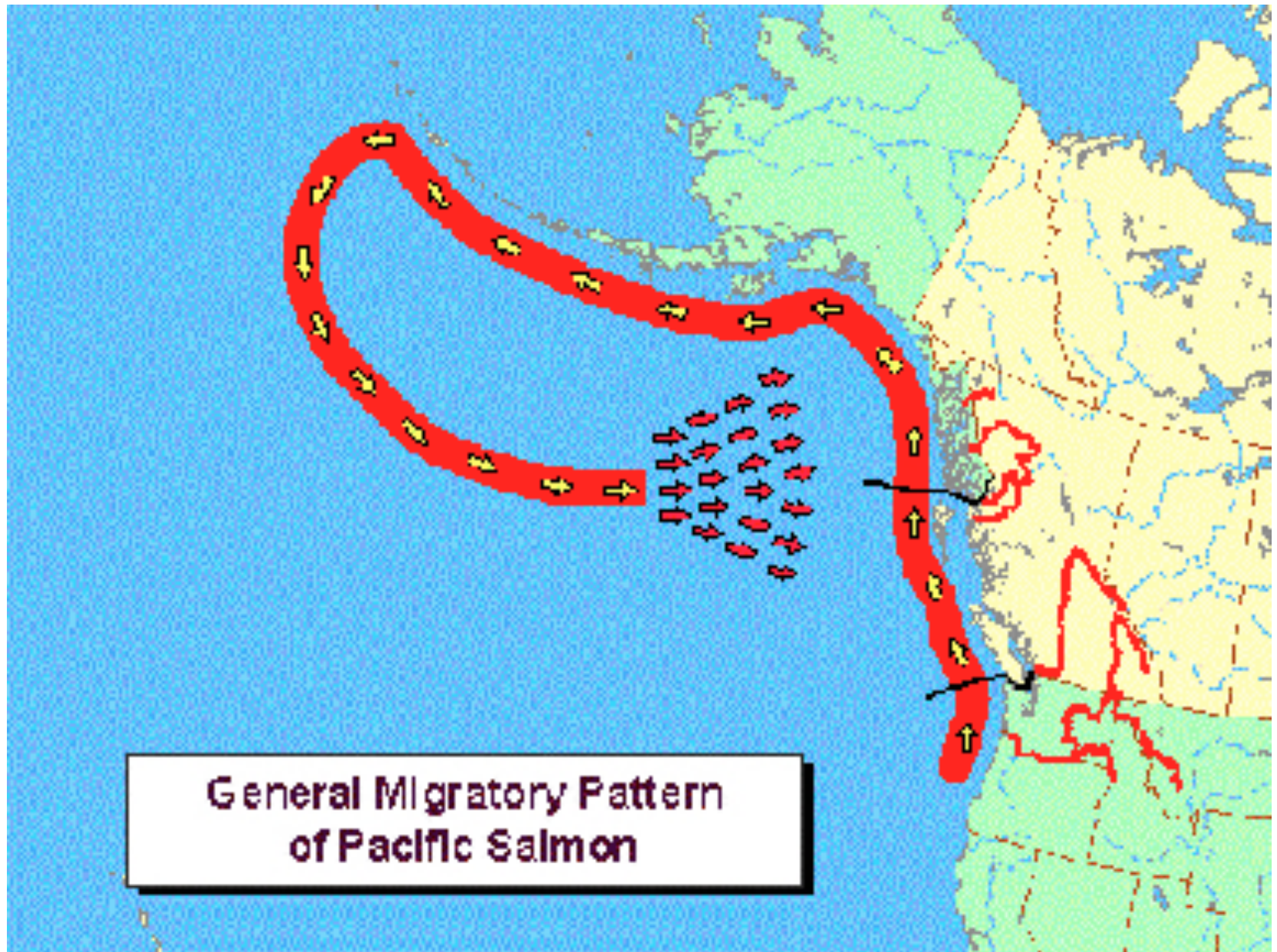
2018 Local Salmon Derbies

Juneau Area – “For the second year in a row, the Annual Spring King Salmon Derby has been canceled, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska announced Friday. The move comes in response to the Board of Fishery’s decision this week to bar fishermen from retaining king salmon April 15-June 14 in the Juneau area, a restriction put in place to protect struggling king salmon stocks on the Taku, Chilkat and King Salmon rivers.”

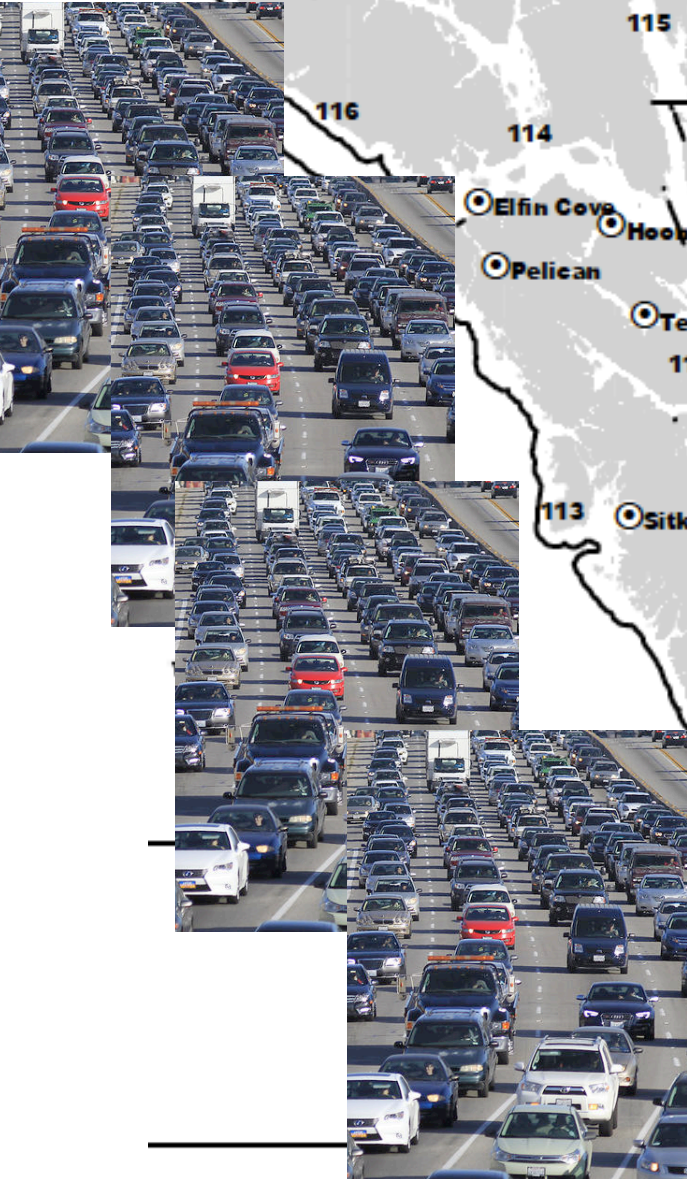
Petersburg – “The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce board voted Thursday, February 1 to cancel the four-day event this year. The measure is meant to protect kings returning to the Stikine River near Wrangell.”

Wrangell - “Will limit openings to five weekends. Wrangell has the longest salmon derby in Southeast Alaska, lasting a whole month.”

Ketchikan – “ CHARR King Salmon Derby Committee decided to skip the derby that traditionally starts on the Memorial Day weekend Citing concerns of declining Chinook salmon stocks throughout Southeast, . They’ll hold a silver salmon contest later in the summer, instead.”



**General Migratory Pattern
of Pacific Salmon**



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June 12 – Aug 9th



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April – August 9th



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48% Occupancy

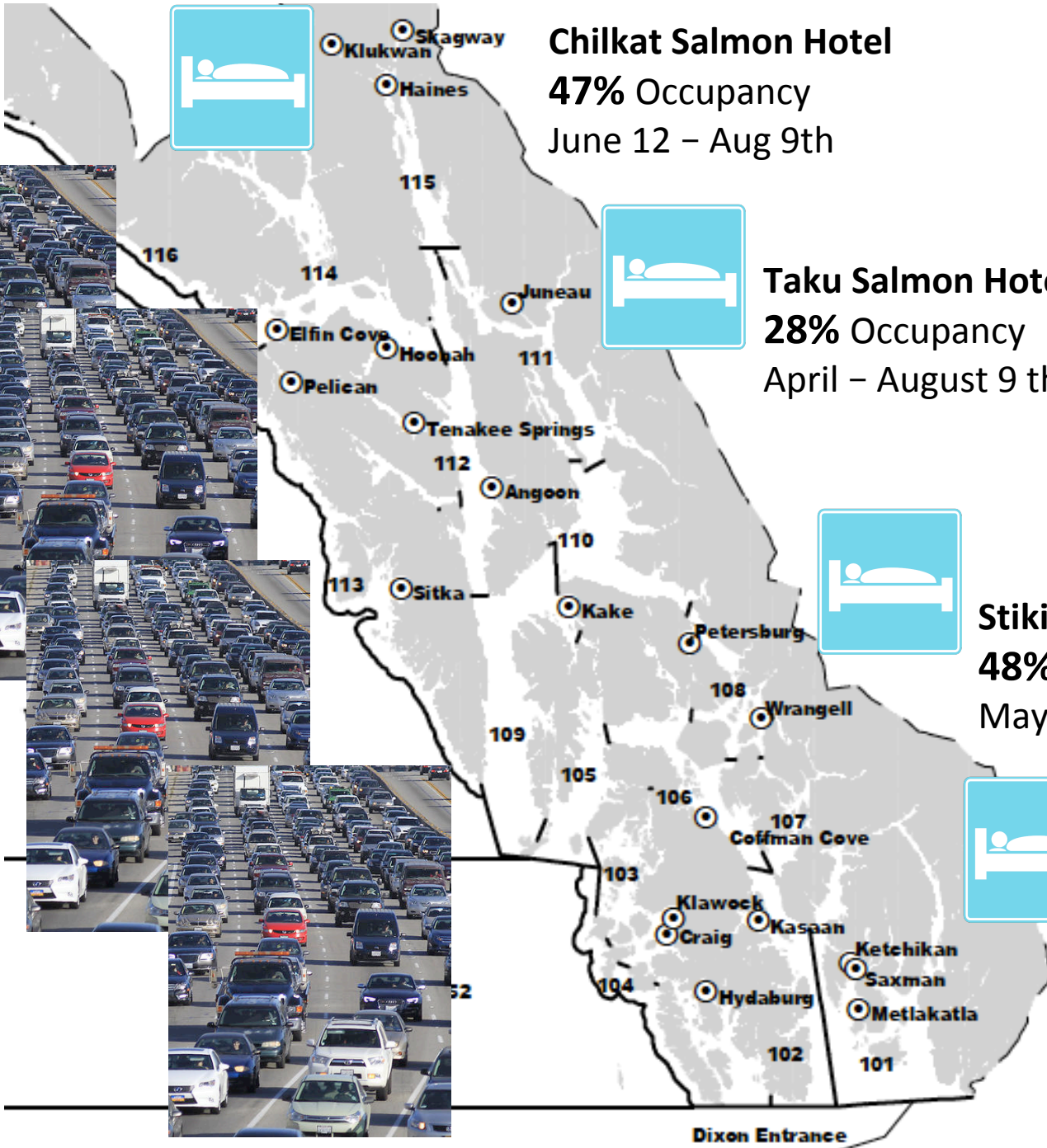
May – June 9th



Unuk Salmon Hotel

43% Occupancy

June 11 – Aug 14th



Goal of the 1985 Treaty: Rebuild King Salmon

How to do that?

- The fisheries harvesting very mixed stocks of salmon headed elsewhere, will reduce their harvests compared to historic levels.
- The fisheries close to the salmon hotels will be managed to get the optimum number of salmon into the Honeymoon Suites.

**EVERY TIME ALASKA HAS COME TO THE TABLE FOR TREATY NEGOTIATIONS
THE STATE HAS LOST HARVEST OPPORTUNITY**

**1979-1982 Historic Average Chinook Catch
333,655**



**1985 -1995
22% Reduction
263,000**



**1996
30%-35%-40%-45% reductions**



**1999
35%-40%-45% reductions**



**2009
49%-55%-63% reductions**



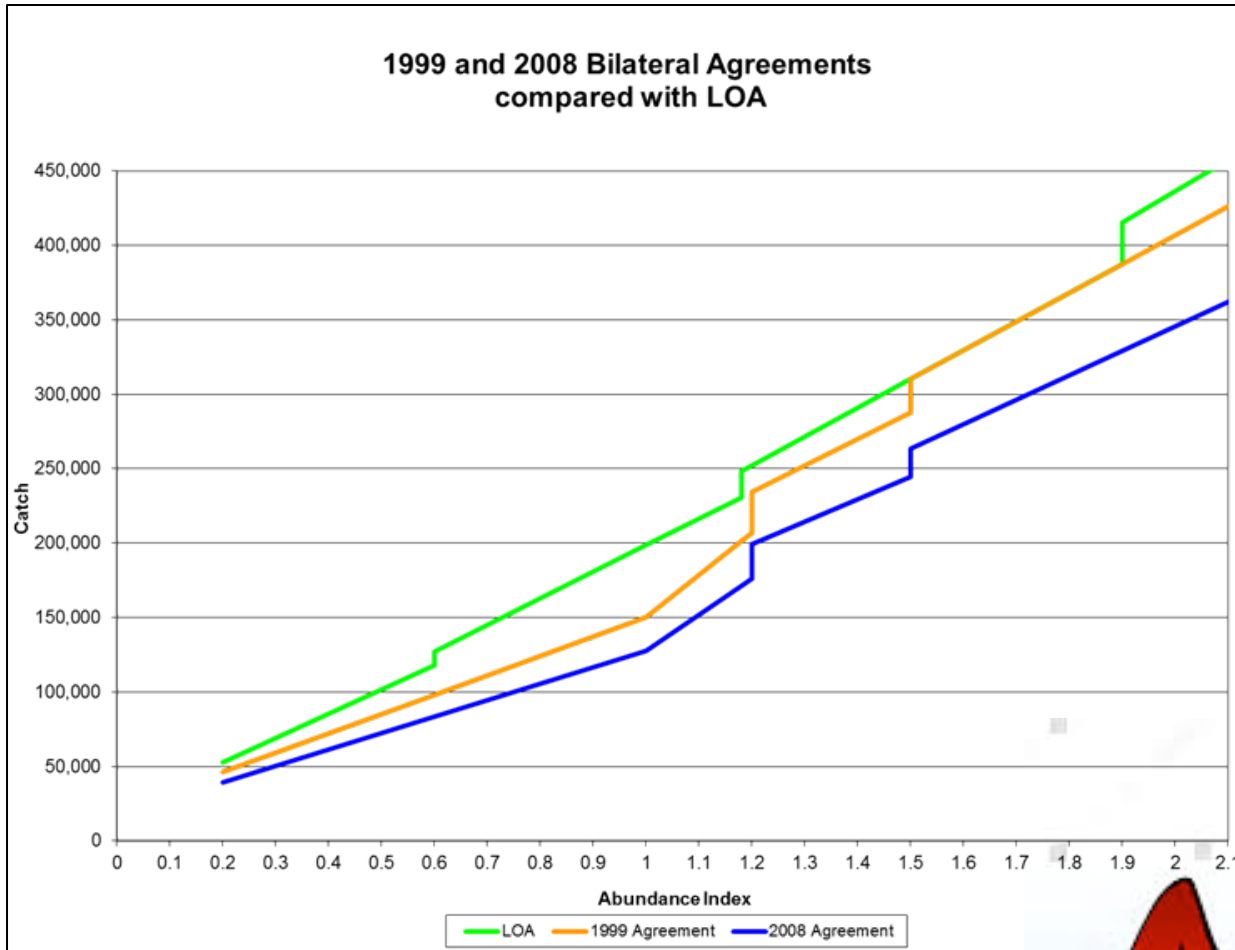
“Alaskans are terrible negotiators”

Chinook Rebuilding Program - Harvest rate reductions to limit catch

1979-1982
Historic
Average
333,655

1985-1995
22%
Reduction

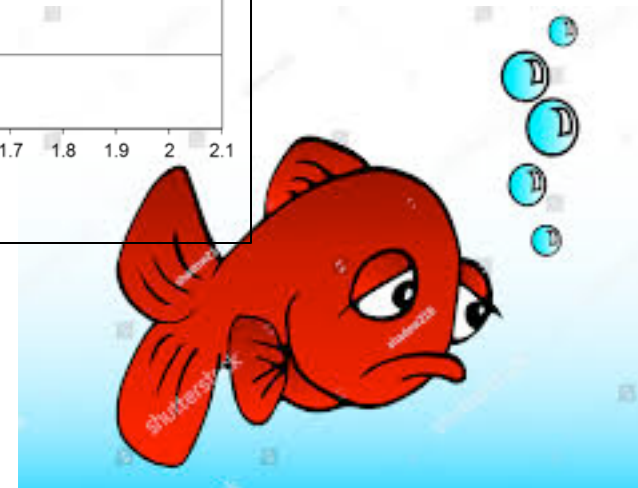
1985-1995
Catch ceiling
263,000



1996 LOA
30%-35%-40%-45%

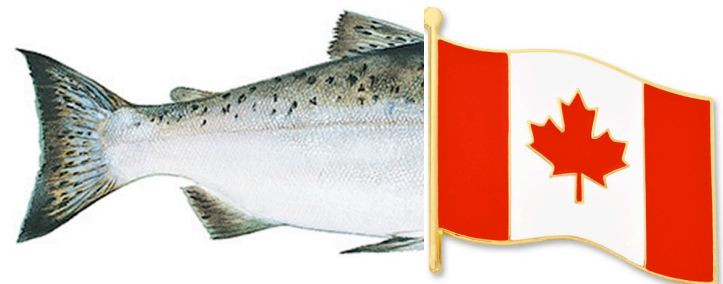
1999 Agreement
35%-40%-45%

2009 Agreement
49%-55%-63%



Example: 2017 Treaty allocation to Alaska

- **2017** Abundance of Chinook salmon is estimated to be 1.27. **Twenty seven percent above** what it was at the time the Treaty was signed.
- **51%** of the Alaska's historic harvest share is all that allowed, under the current agreement.
- The **49%** of our historic harvest is going to Canada and Washington . Thirty three years after the Treaty was signed.



The 2017 Spring Troll Closure really Conserved Alaskan Stocks

- On May 29th with very little prior notice ADFG issued an Emergency Order to close the Spring Troll fisheries region wide.
- No data analyzing the effects of the region wide closure was provided.
- ADF&G realized some areas could be opened while still passing fish to the SEAK Salmon Hotels.
- If the possibility of region wide closures had been discussed at the Spring port meetings industry would have been more prepared.
- Fishermen, Aquaculture Associations, Processors, saw the need for conservation closures.
- They pushed back with their own data analysis.

The 2018 Action plans provide opportunity while still saving fish by using a scalpel - rather than a sledgehammer.

The 2017 August closure did not provide conservation benefits to Alaskan stocks

- Chinook fisheries restrictions in August did not provide any measurable benefit to Southeast Alaska Chinook.
 - These SEAK Stocks **were already in the Honeymoon Suites** at the time of the closure.
- **The Pacific Salmon Commission did not request or expect Alaska to take a further reduction in harvest.**
 - The 2017 harvest reduction for Alaska was 49%. That was Alaska's contribution to salmon stocks managed by others.

Just how expensive was this mistake?

- **There was no measurable conservation benefit to Southeast Alaska King Salmon.**
 - The best estimate of SE Alaska Chinook saved by the August closure is 280 Chinook of all year classes. The closure increased spawning escapement of local runs by approximately **160 fish**.
- **The August closure caused unnecessary financial loss to fishing families and Processors.**
 - 31,000 Chinook went unharvested as a result of poor decision-making.
 - First Ex-vessel value approximately \$2,820,000.
 - First Wholesale value \$3,800,000.
- **The actions made in haste, without proper public notice, were disruptive.**
 - No justification, supported by actual fisheries data, was given at the time of the decision.
 - Cancellation of the August Summer Troll fishery caused processors to default on orders for Wild Alaska King Salmon.
- **Closure of the Summer Troll Fishery violated the State Management Plans**
 - The actions taken citing the Pacific Salmon Treaty Authority were not justified and undermined the State's Management Responsibility.

Closing thoughts

**Restrictions to
meet spawning
escapements in
Southeast
Alaska**

**Loss of Harvest
Share to the
Pacific Salmon
Treaty**



Resolution in support of the protection of commercial fisheries by advocating for stable regulatory regimes at state and federal levels, and to retain access to fisheries resources”;

Whereas, public notices made by ADF&G for 2017 closures of spring and summer commercial fisheries were unexpected and made with little to no advance notice, and resulted in destabilization of the seafood business environment due to the unplanned loss of product to markets, disruption to processor production plans, and the lost opportunity to harvest Chinook stocks worth millions of dollars to Southeast fishermen and the communities that depend on them, and

Whereas, data justifying these decisions were not made available prior to or at the time of these management actions therefore industry could not appeal the basis of the decisions, and, because of the time involved, the possibility of reopening fisheries closed in error was delayed or precluded, and

Whereas, the 2017 Southeast Alaska catch limit of 209,000 Chinook established by the Pacific Salmon Commission process is only 51% of the State’s historic harvest share under a Chinook rebuilding program begun in 1985, and represents the loss of millions of dollars in revenue and benefits that have been reallocated to Canada, Washington and Oregon at the expense of the Southeast Alaska economy, and

Whereas, some of the management actions of 2017 were incorrectly justified as obligations under the International Pacific Salmon Treaty and circumvented the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries process, causing members of the Southeast seafood economy to question why the State of Alaska would interpret this international agreement in a manner that weakens the State’s regulatory authority.

Therefore be it resolved that members of the Southeast Conference in order to protect commercial fisheries by advocating for stable regulatory regimes at state and federal levels and to retain access to resources, recommends that:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner develop and make available verifiable data in justification for emergency order actions taken in-season and that the ADFG provide the highest level of communication possible through annual, or more frequent meetings between processors and fishermen to review how the management plans and action plans will be applied, and that the Department and public work together to anticipate seasonal challenges and to develop a regional coordinated response, and

Through the Office of the Governor, exhort the Treaty Commissioner and industry appointees to the PSC to work to regain Chinook harvest share that is warranted to the State through the Chinook rebuilding program, and,

To zealously guard the State of Alaska’s management authority, to maintain the legislatively-mandated Board of Fisheries process and return the day-to-day management of Southeast fisheries to the authority of the ADG&G.

