

Yaa Khusgé Yaaw Woogoo: The Knowledge of Herring

Presented by:

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Prepared by:

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Outline

- Historical use
- Traditional knowledge
- Modern fisheries management
- What all the fuss is about
- Where we go with new information

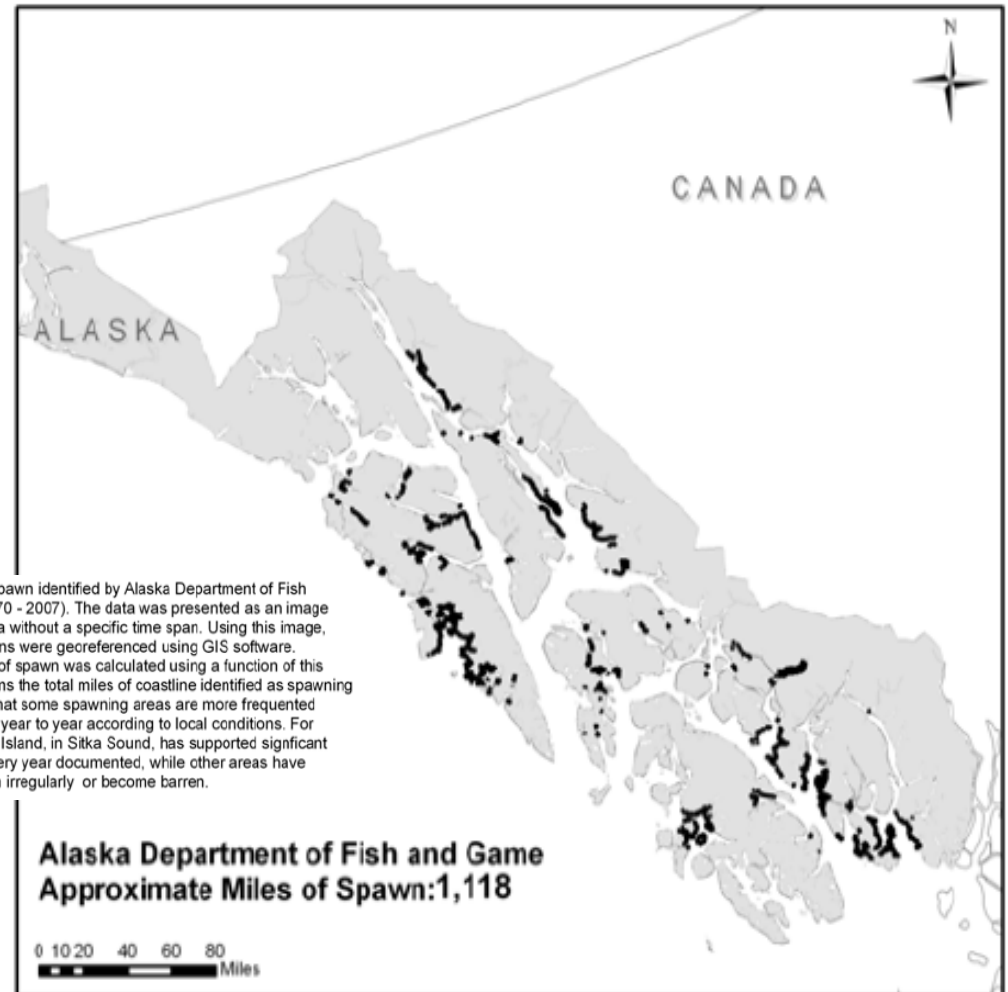


Herring is our way of life...

- Tlingit people in Southeast Alaska harvested herring and herring eggs for thousands of years
- Herring were eaten fresh, dried, smoked, rendered to oil, and used as bait
- Roe harvest methods included hemlock boughs, *Macrocystis* kelp, eelgrass, and hair seaweed (néé)
- Historically dried, eaten fresh, or mixed with fat
- Harvested and traded throughout Southeast Alaska

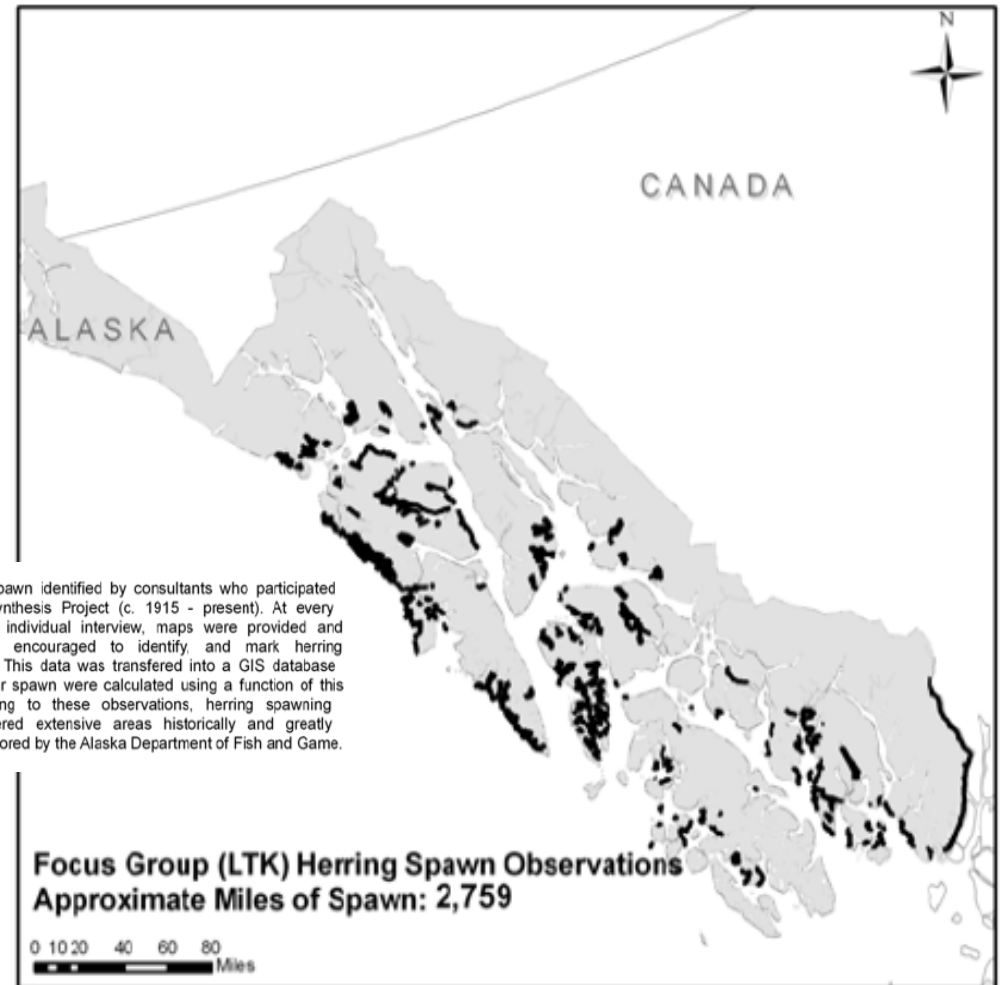
Traditional Knowledge

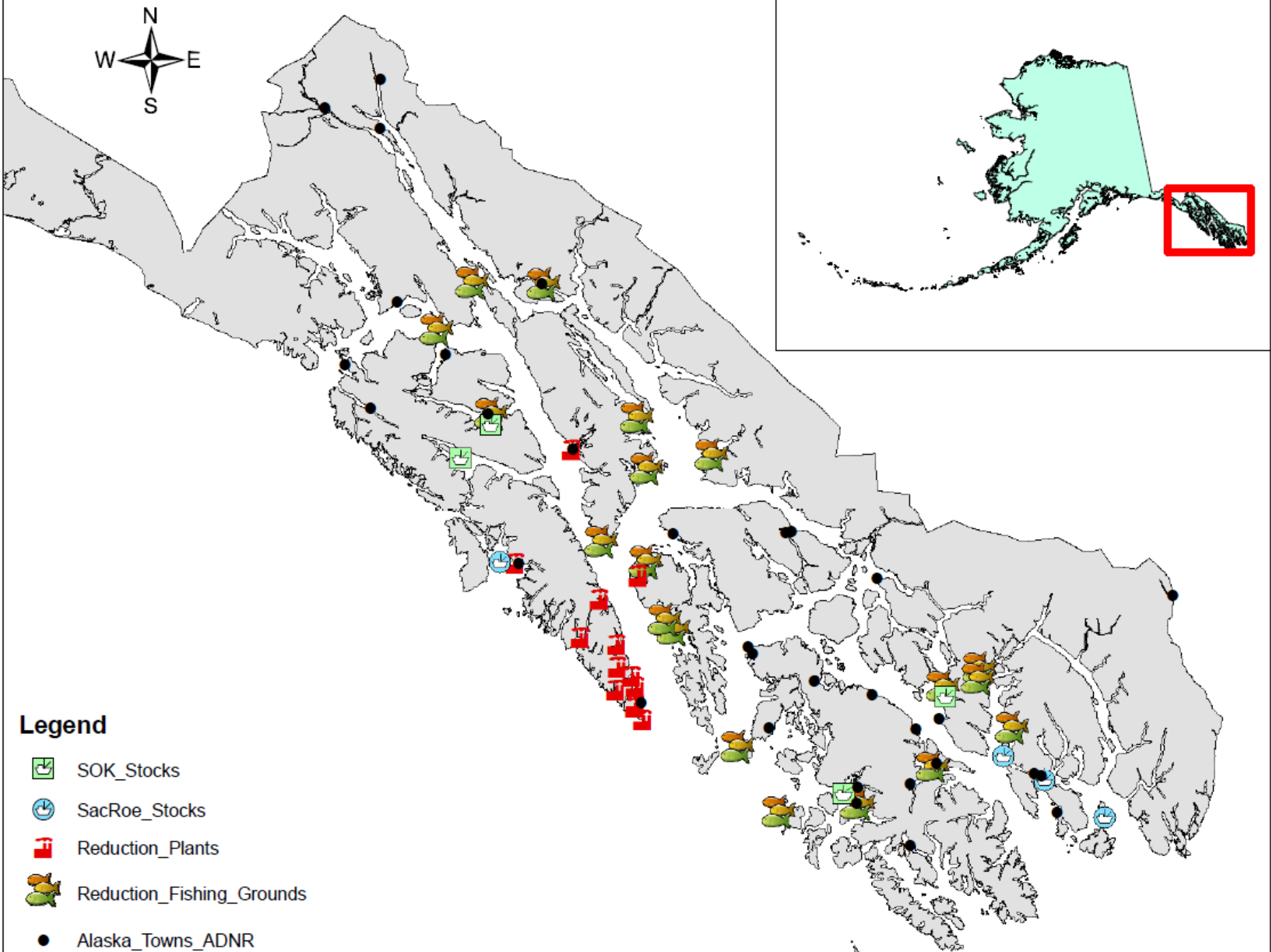
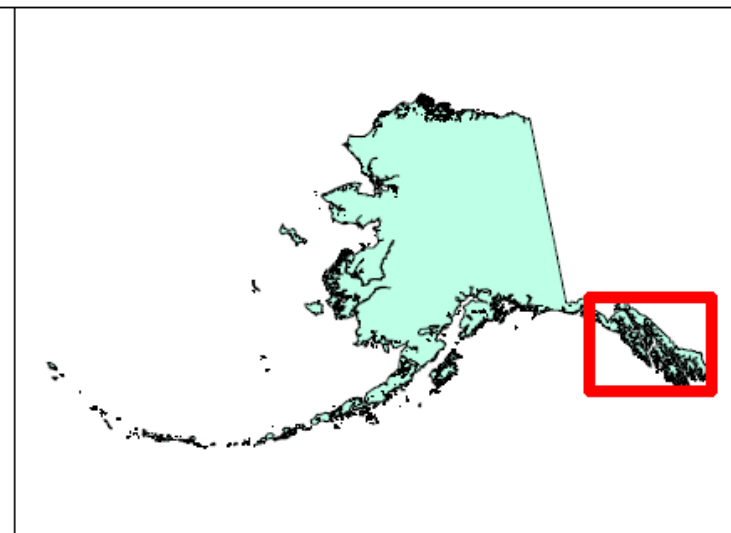
- Documentation of herring bones in shell middens from 10,000 plus years ago throughout Southeast Alaska (McKechnie et al., 2014)
- Spawning observations throughout Southeast Alaska by Elders (Thornton et al., 2010)



Traditional Knowledge

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Legend

-  SOK_Stocks
-  SacRoe_Stocks
-  Reduction_Plants
-  Reduction_Fishing_Grounds
-  Alaska_Towns_ADNR

Modern Fisheries Management

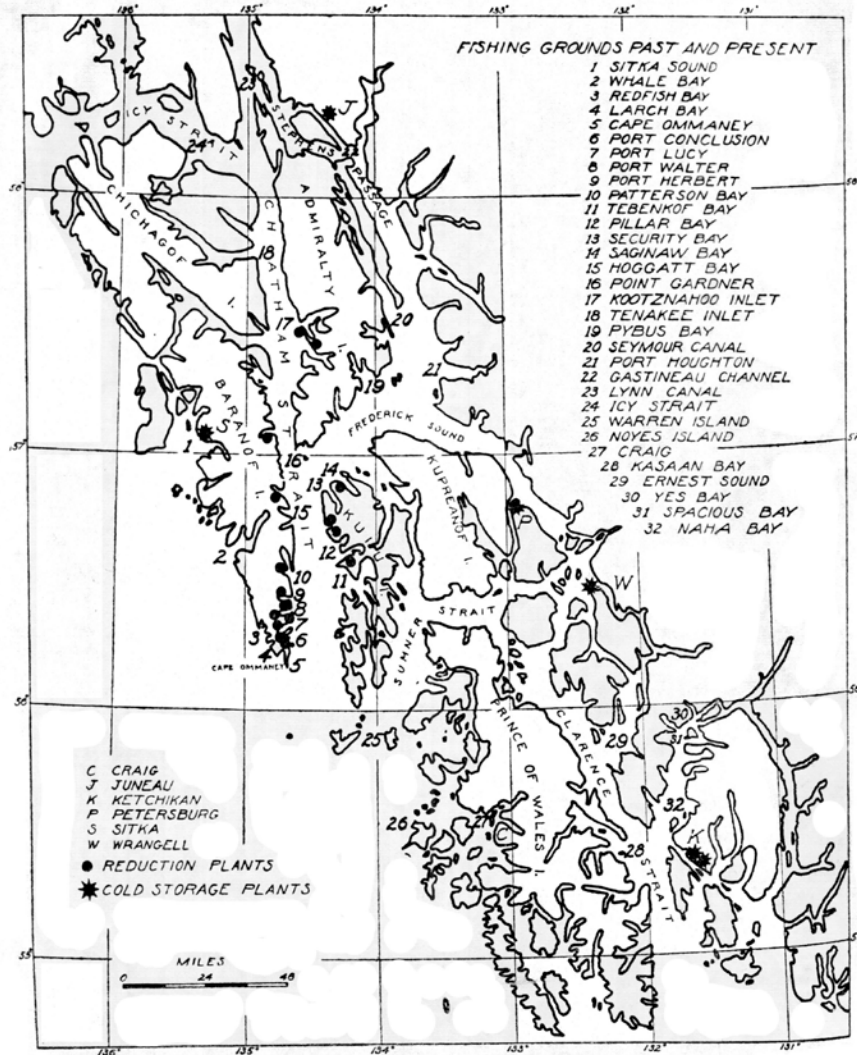


FIGURE 7.—Southeastern Alaska, showing the herring plants and the fishing grounds

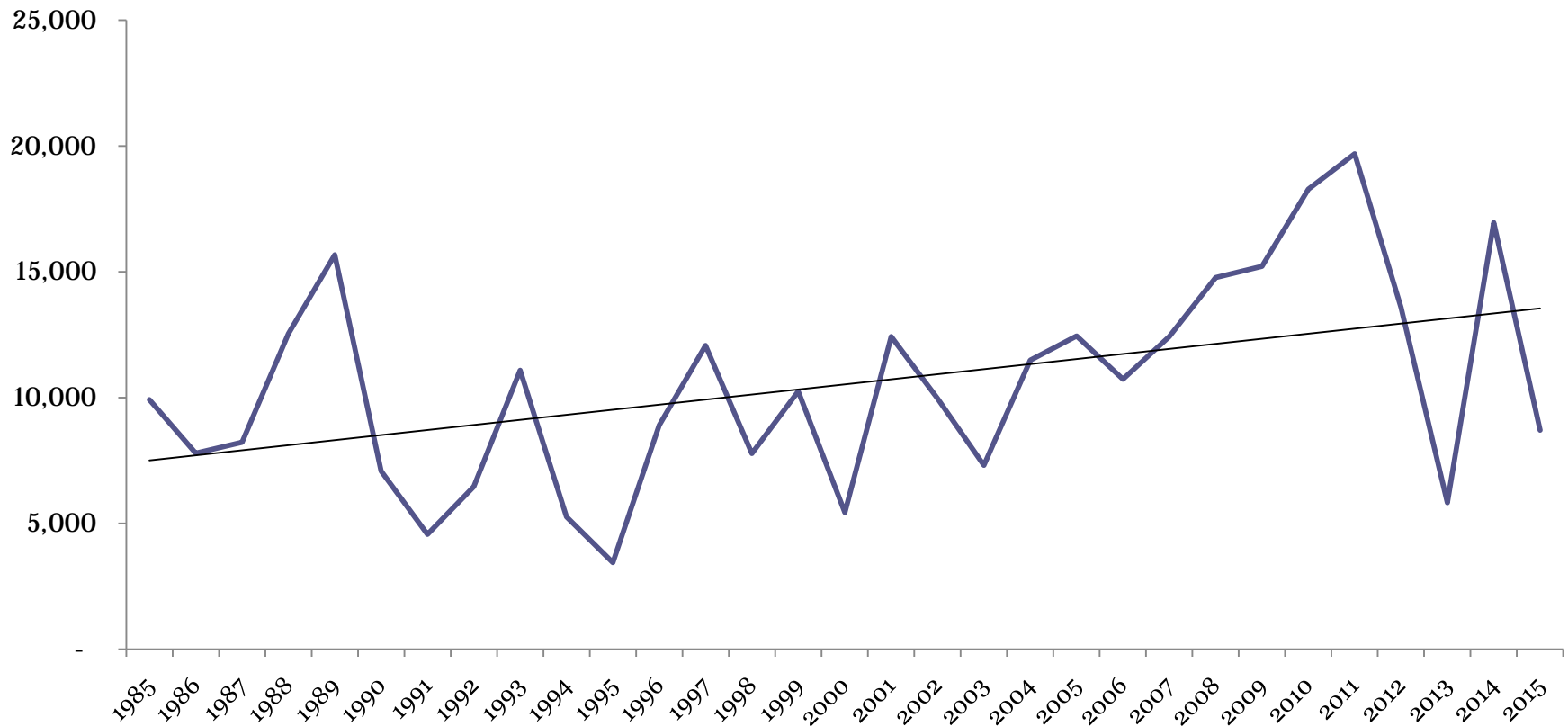
- Reduction fisheries, 1882-1966 throughout SE
- Catches ranging between 1,520 tons and 78,778 tons

Modern Fisheries Management

- Sac-roe (1971-present) and spawn-on-kelp (1990-present) fisheries
- 11 stocks in SE at beginning of fisheries
- 6 sac-roe fisheries, gillnet and purse seine
 - Only Sitka open in 2015
- 4 spawn-on-kelp fisheries, open and closed pounds
 - Only Craig/Klawock open in 2015
- All closed stocks had biomasses below their thresholds

Modern Fisheries Management

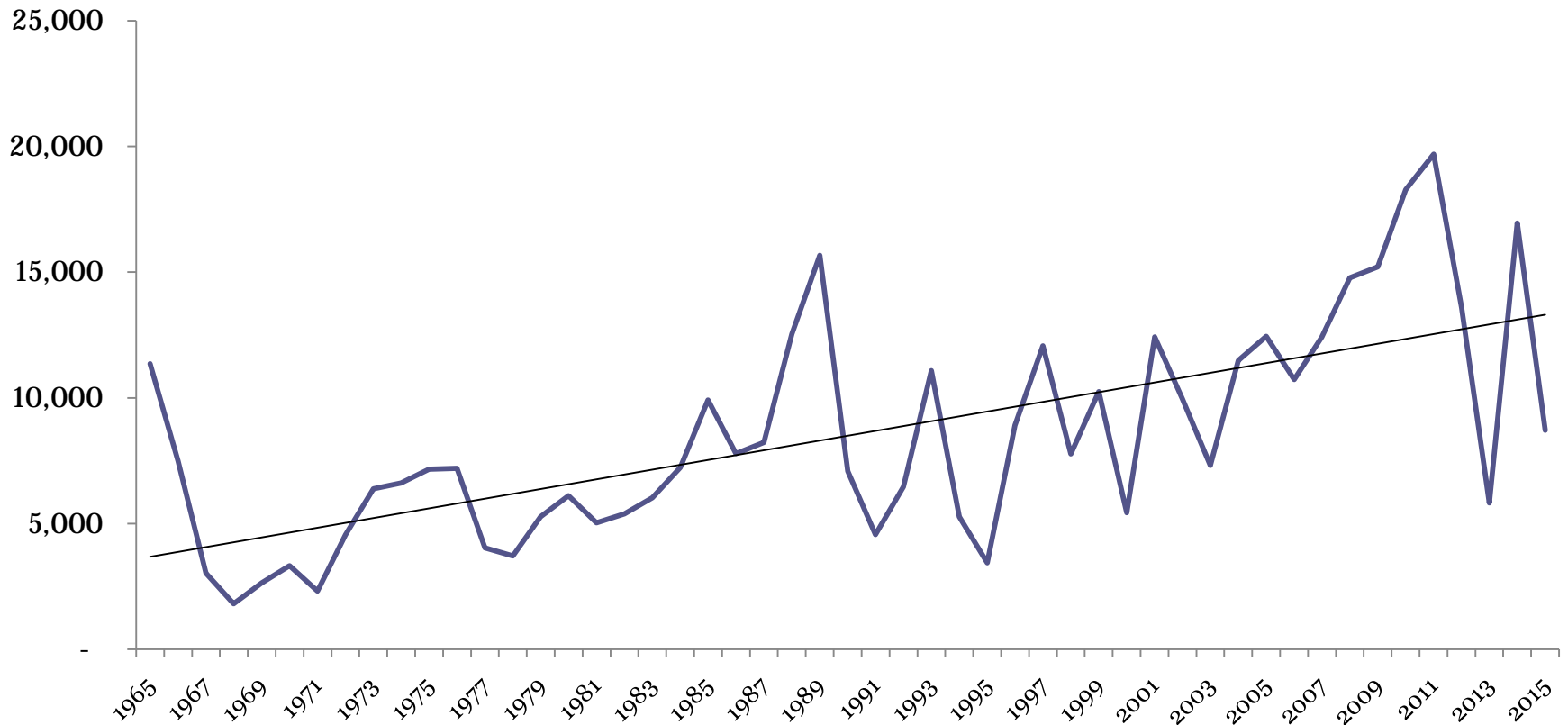
All Fisheries, 1985-2015



Includes bait, sac-roe, and spawn-on-kelp fisheries

Modern Fisheries Management

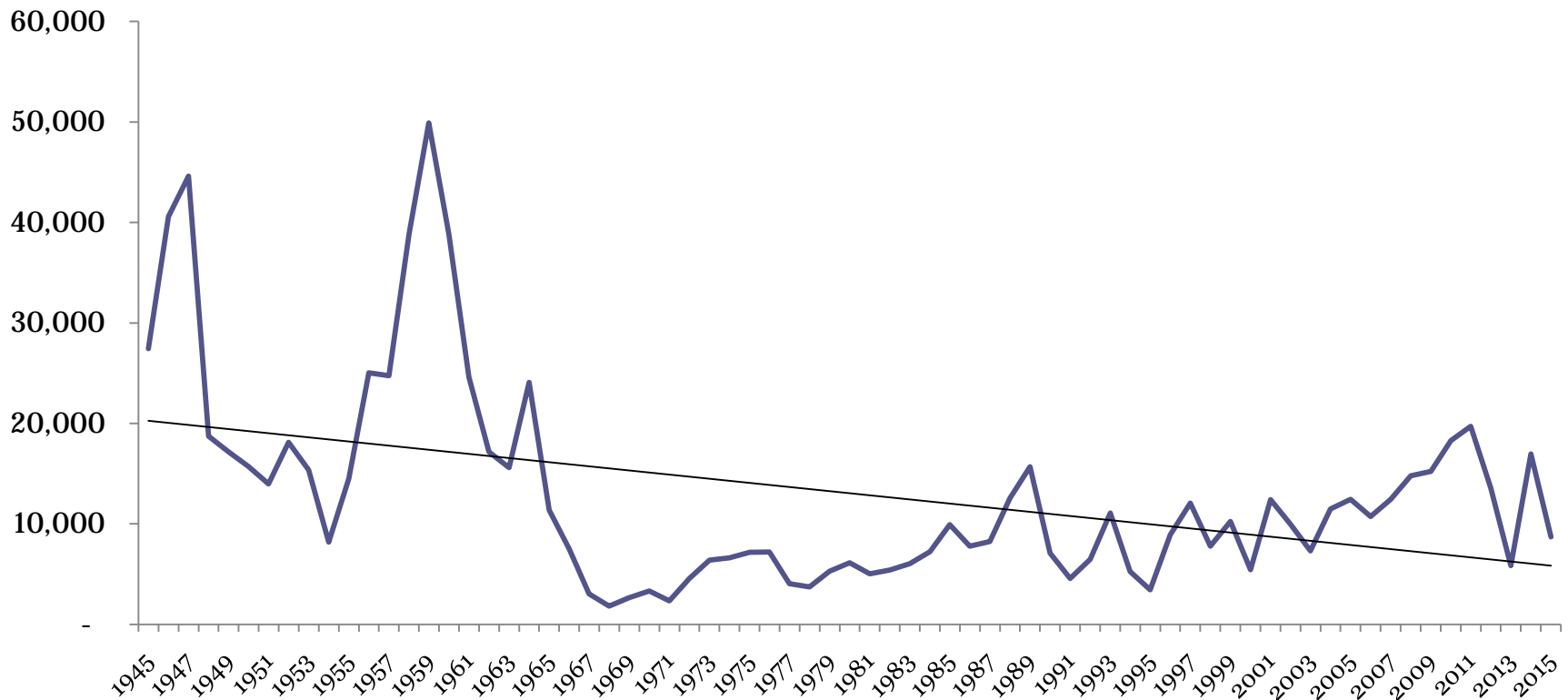
All Fisheries, 1965-2015



Includes bait, sac-roe, spawn-on-kelp, and reduction fisheries

Modern Fisheries Management

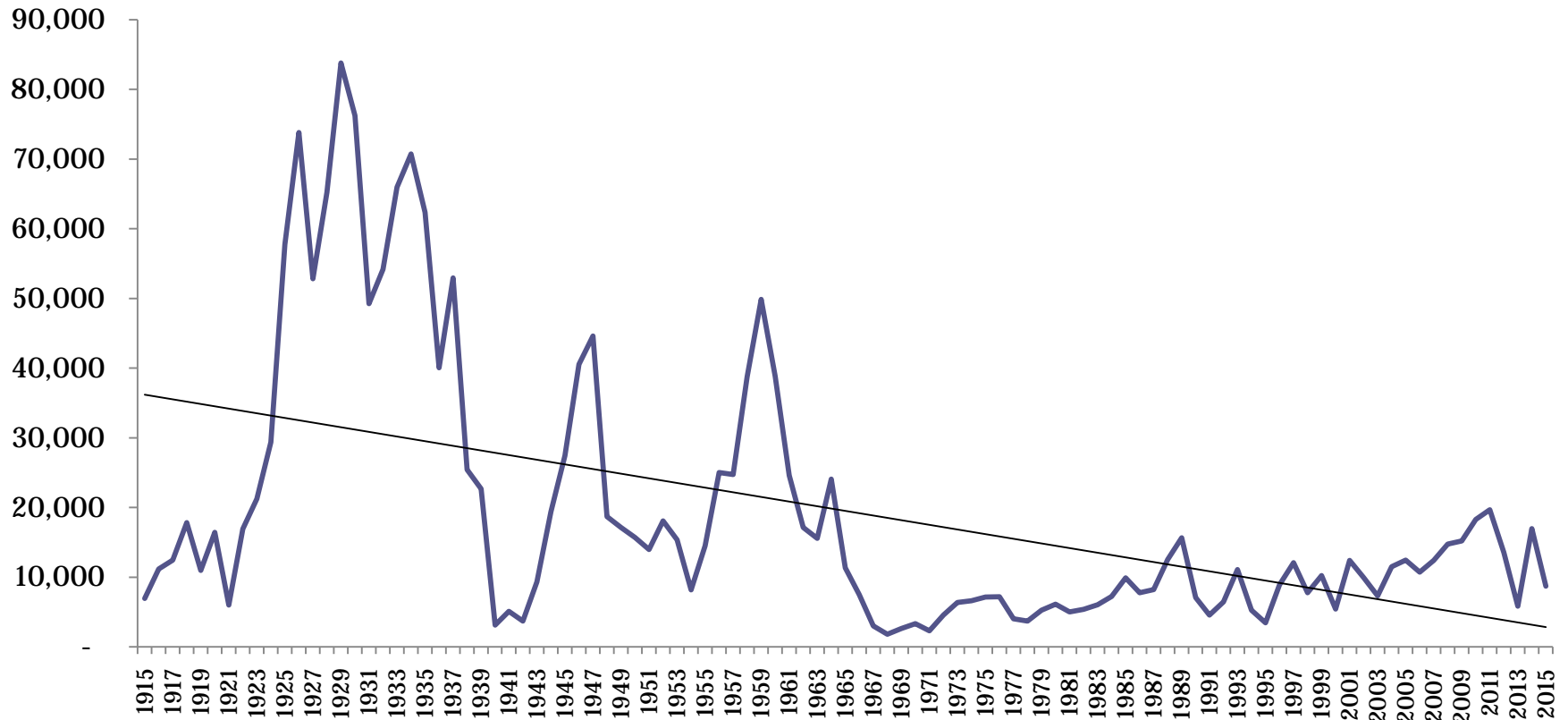
All Fisheries, 1945-2015



Includes bait, sac-roe, spawn-on-kelp, food, and reduction fisheries

Modern Fisheries Management

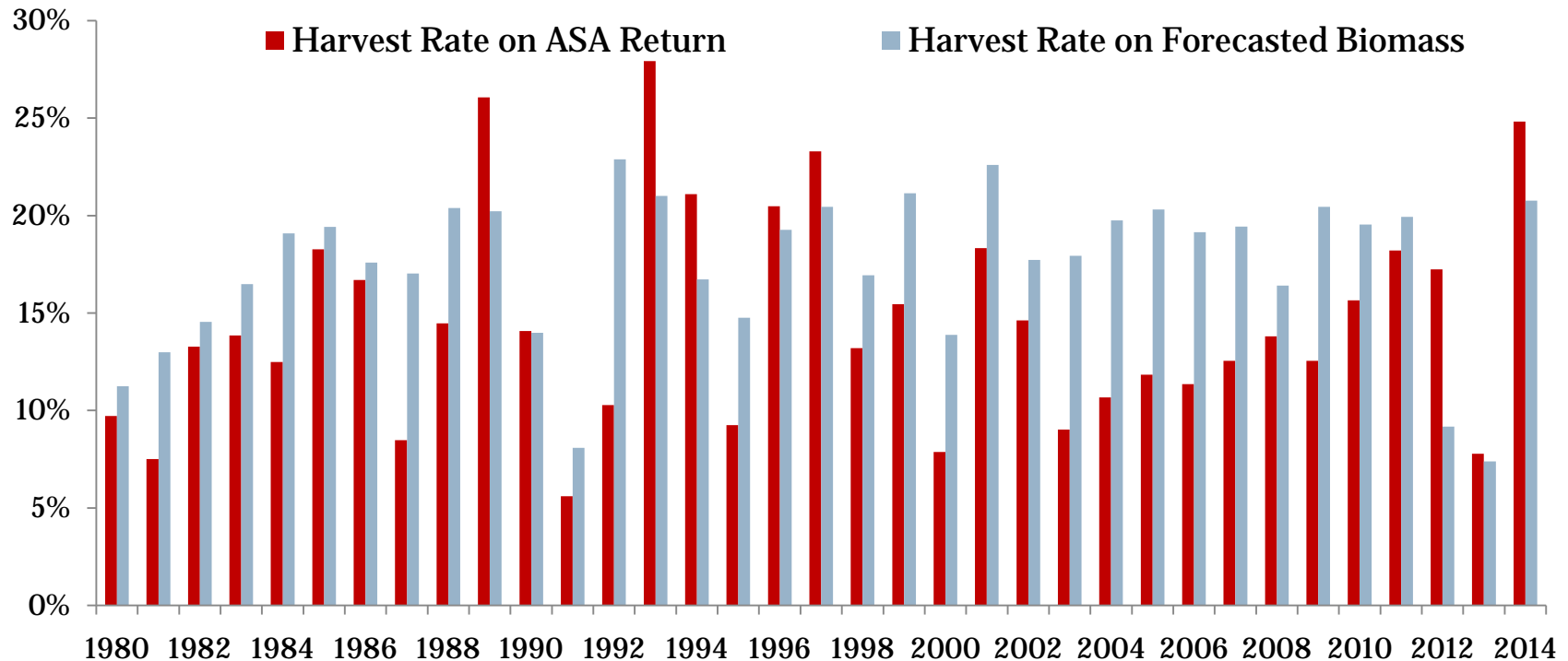
All Fisheries, 1915-2015



Includes bait, sac-roe, spawn-on-kelp, food, and reduction fisheries

Modern Fisheries Management

- Model error
- Closed areas
- Poor market conditions
- Reduction in consumption
- Fish meal



Data compiled from ADF&G reports

Sitka Tribe Actions

- **Regulatory**
 - Board of Fisheries, Federal Subsistence Board
- **Informational**
 - Public Service Announcements, Newsletter Articles, Letters to the Editor, Videos, Articles
- **Educational**
 - Sitka Herring Festival, Yaa Khusgé Yaaw Woogoo Camp, School Events
- **Research**
 - Stock Fidelity, Subsistence Harvest Surveys, Harvest Monitoring



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Easter Eggs

Jessica Gill, Sitka Tribe of Alaska fisheries biologist, weighs herring egg branches as they're unloaded this afternoon at the city work dock. It was the last load of branches collected by the tribe to distribute to tribal members.

This year more than 10,000 pounds was collected, a record amount. The Sitka Herring Festival Community potluck will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday at Centennial Hall. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Where Do We Go Now?

- **Contribute to OMF's Herring Summit**
- **More regulatory action**
- **Herring transplant studies**
- **Sharing traditional knowledge**
- **Northwest Coast Tribal Herring Alliance**
- **Talk with herring consumers**



Gunalchéesh
Háw'aa
'Doyackshin
ʔuušćakšičʔick
Chet kw'enmantumiyap

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