

STATUS OF STEELHEAD IN ALASKA



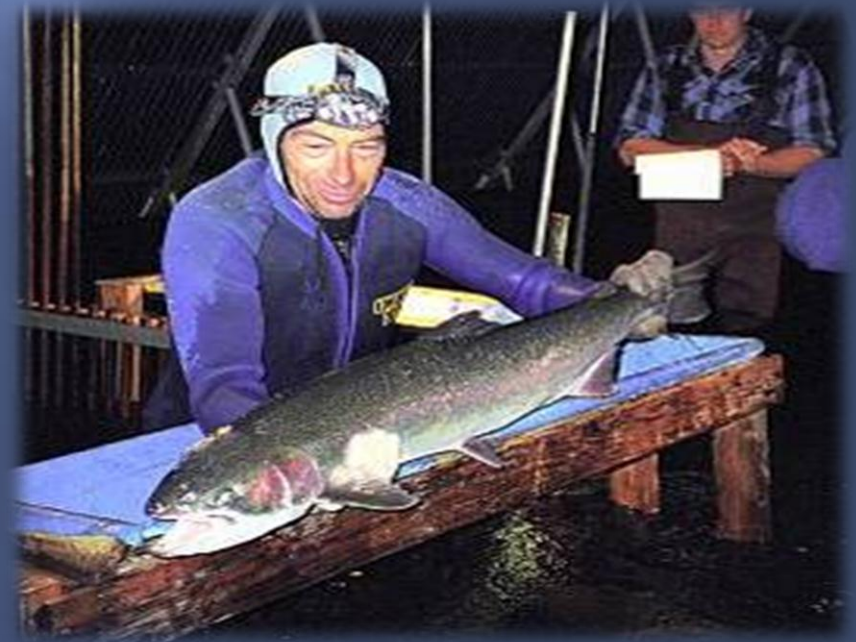
Bob Chadwick
SE Alaska Regional Management Coordinator
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fisheries



Presentation Topics

- Distribution
- Fisheries

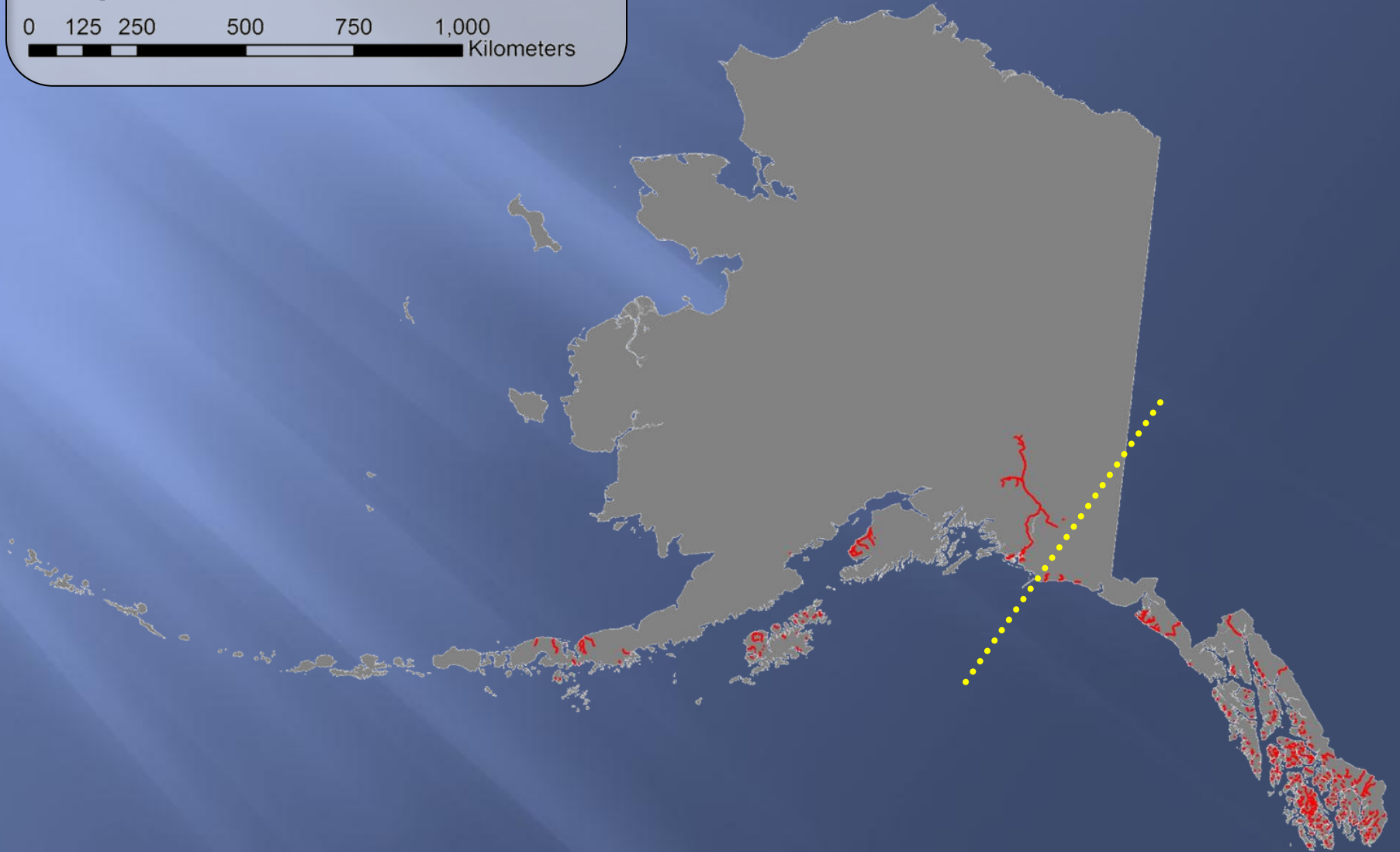
- Monitoring Data
- Concerns and conclusions

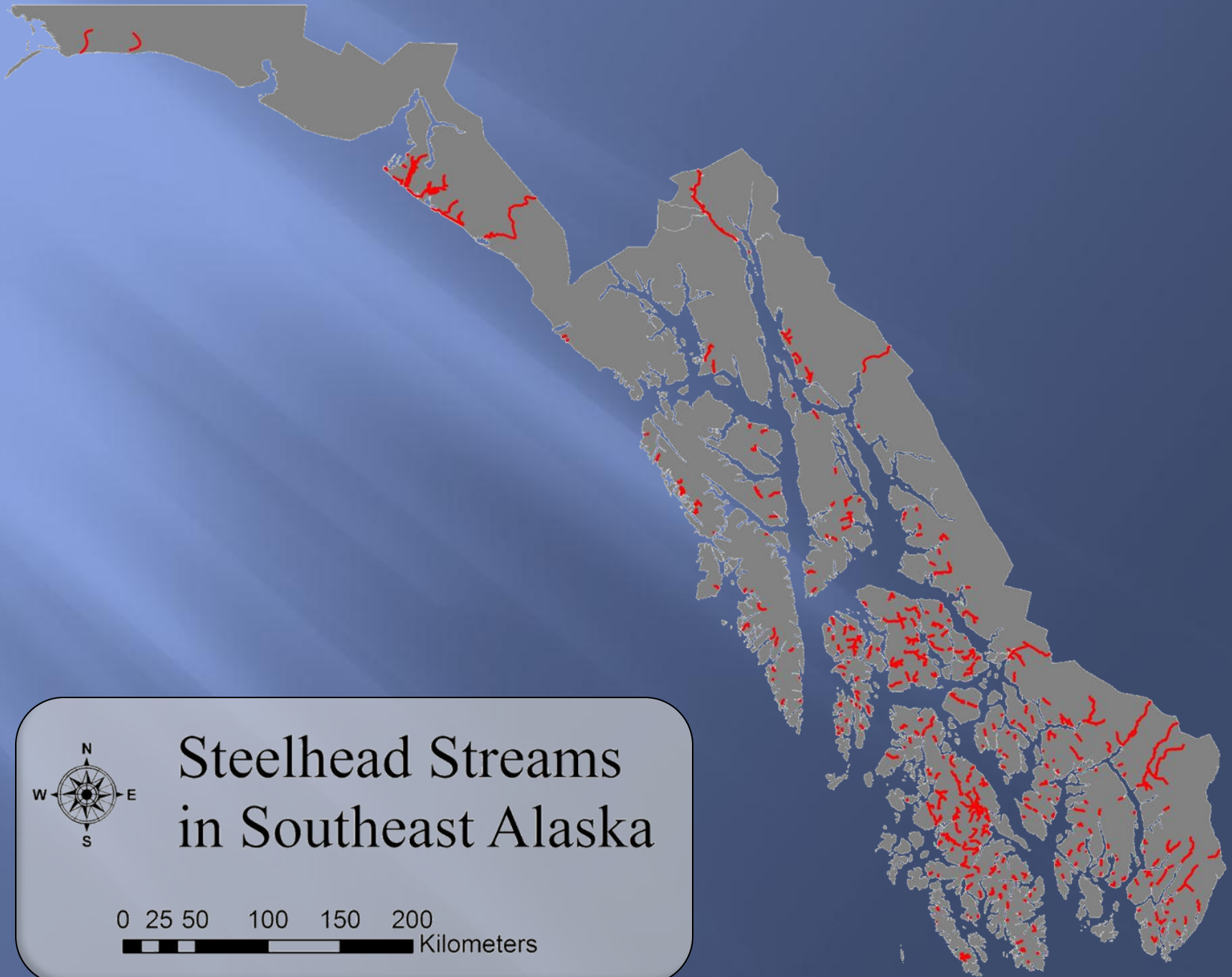


Steelhead Streams in Alaska



0 125 250 500 750 1,000
Kilometers





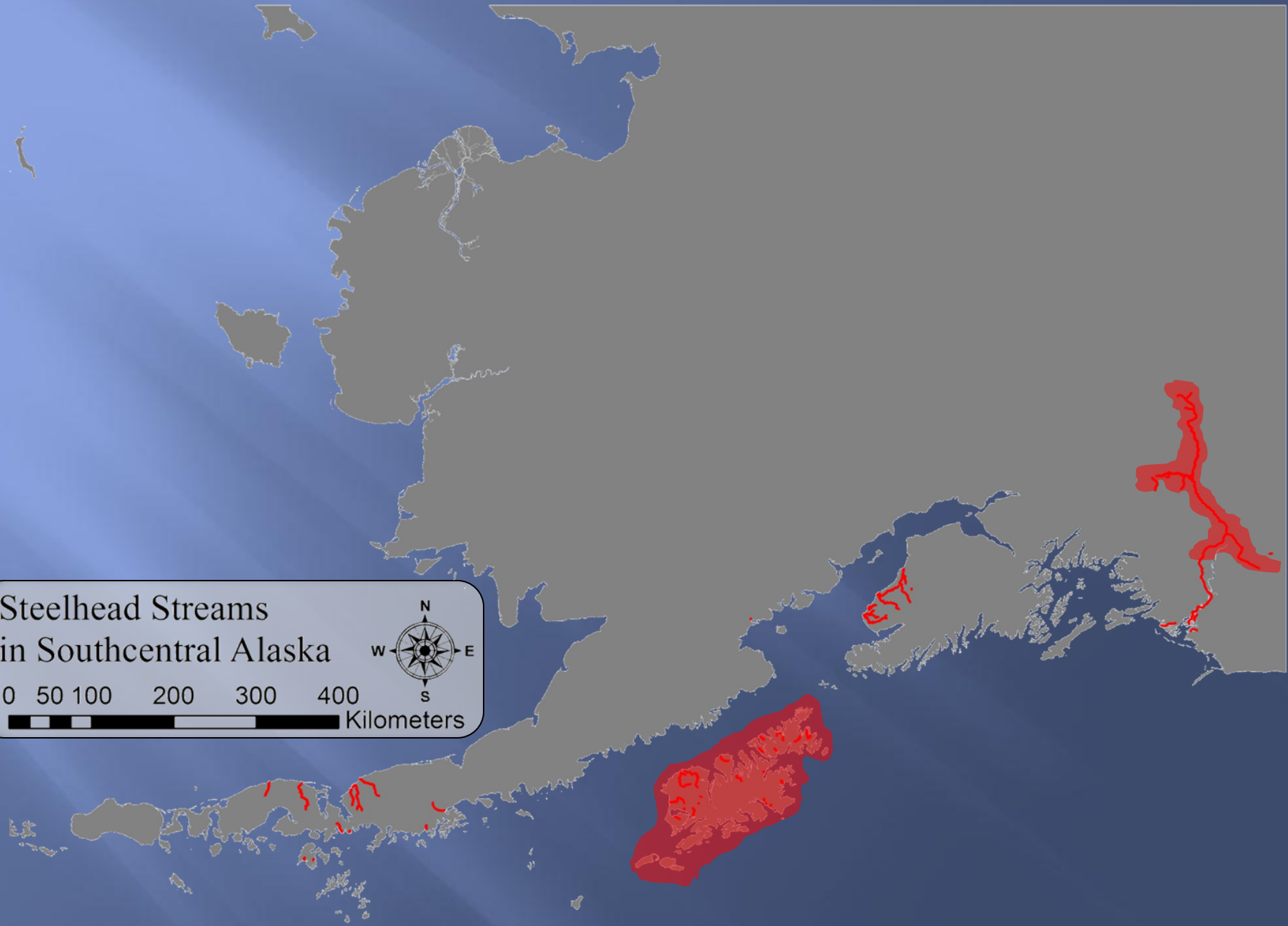
Steelhead Streams in Southeast Alaska



Steelhead Streams in Southcentral Alaska

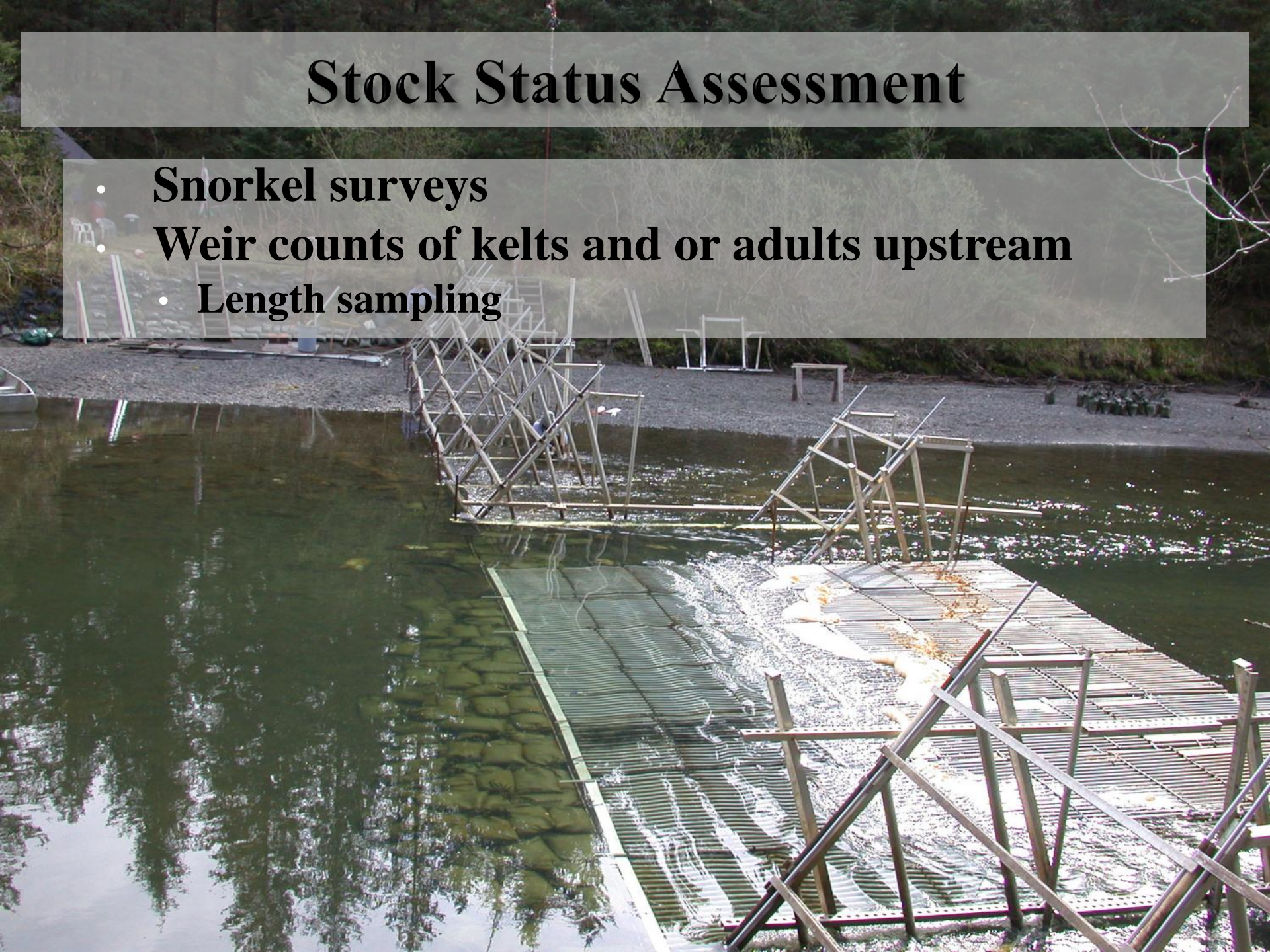


0 50 100 200 300 400
Kilometers



Stock Status Assessment

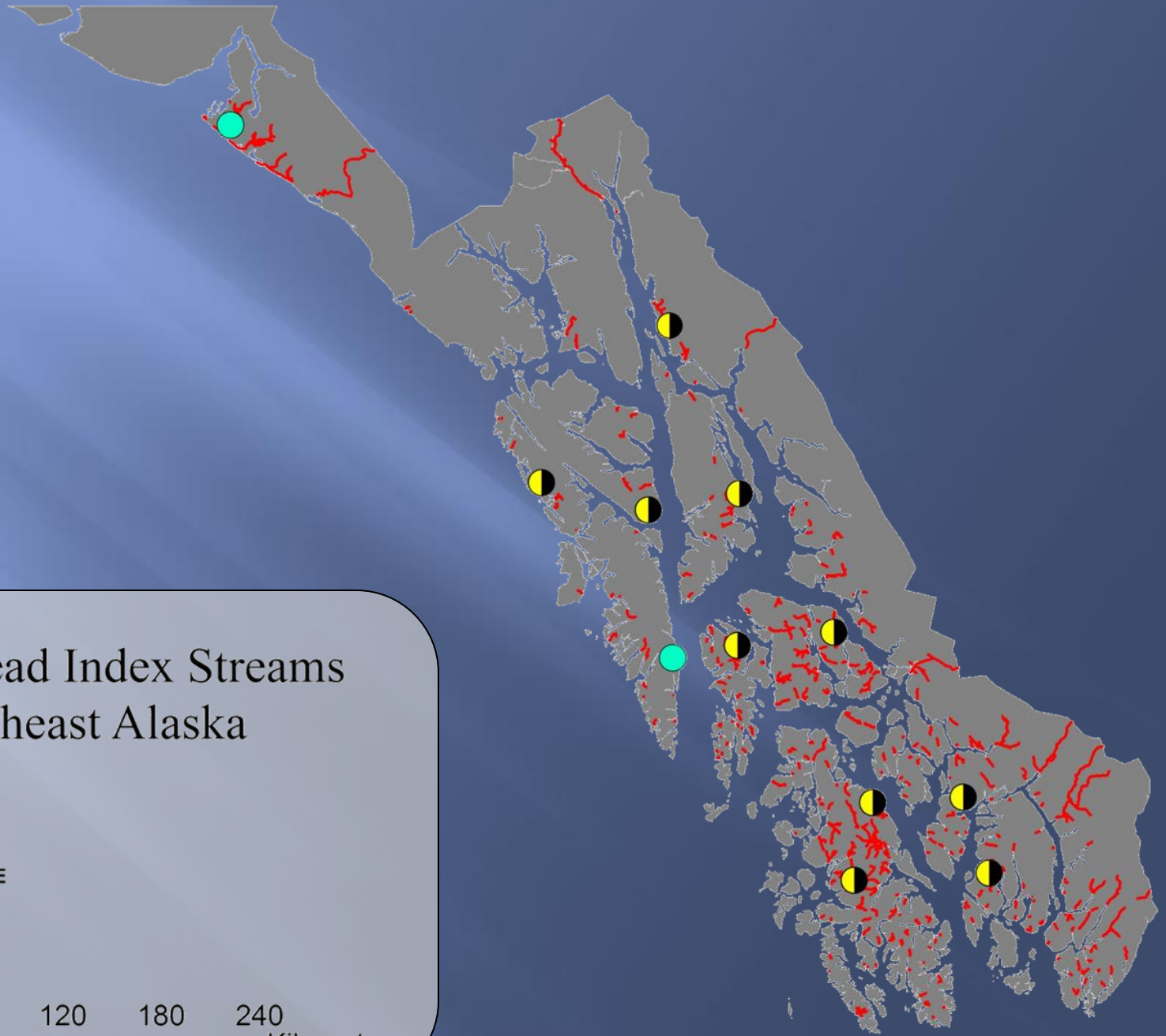
- Snorkel surveys
- Weir counts of kelts and or adults upstream
- Length sampling

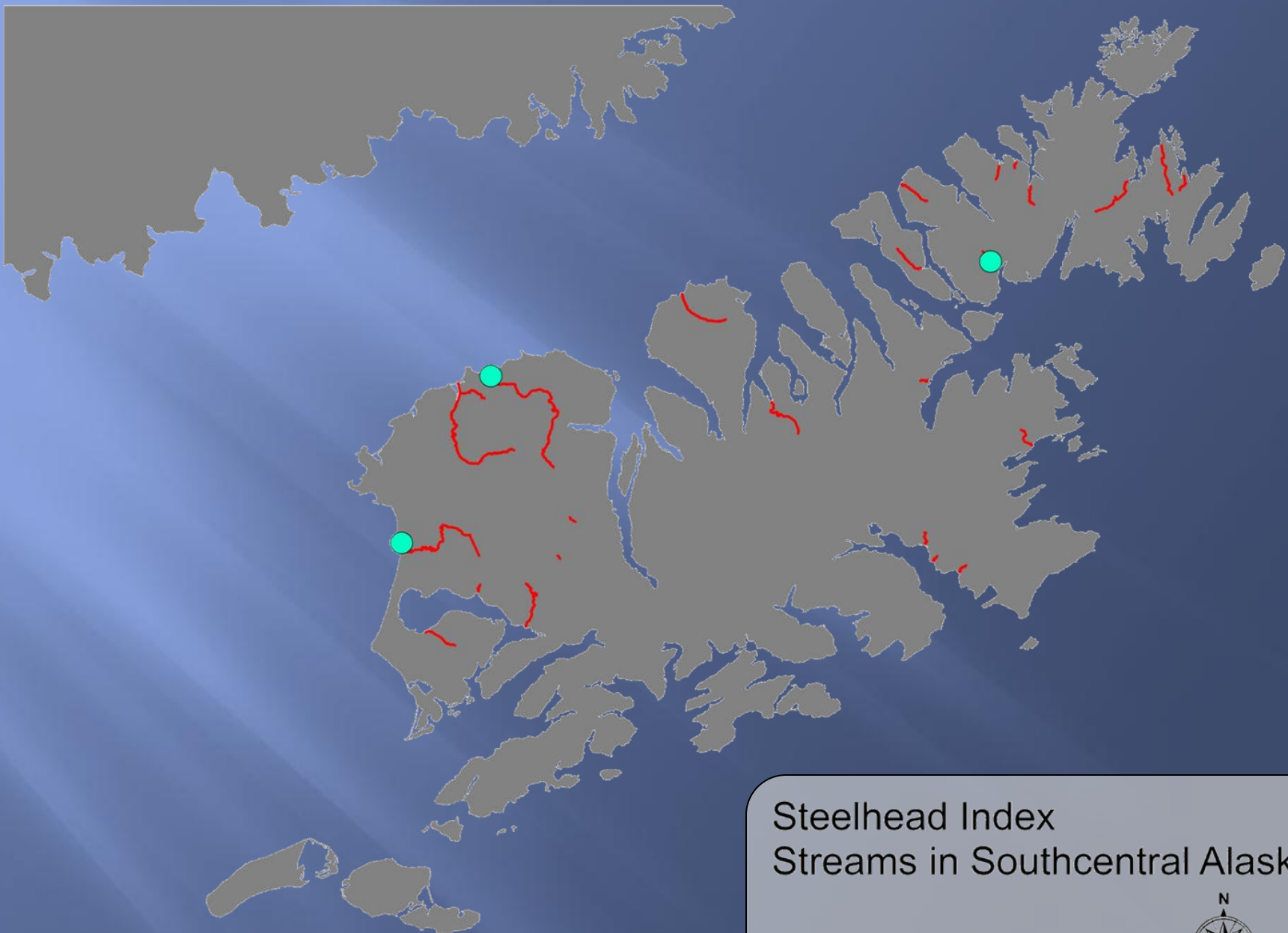


Steelhead Index Streams in Southeast Alaska

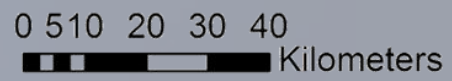


0 30 60 120 180 240
Kilometers





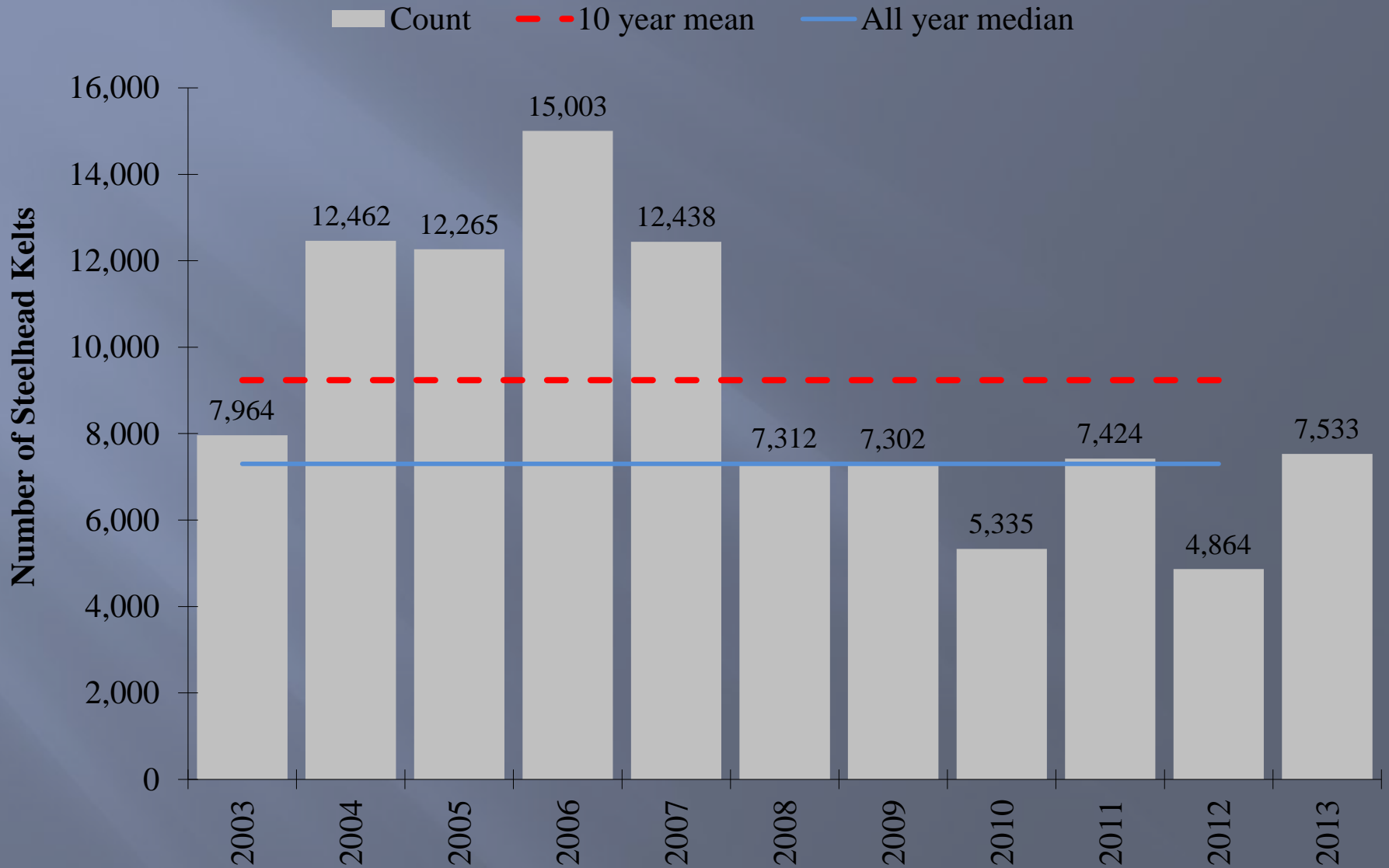
Steelhead Index Streams in Southcentral Alaska



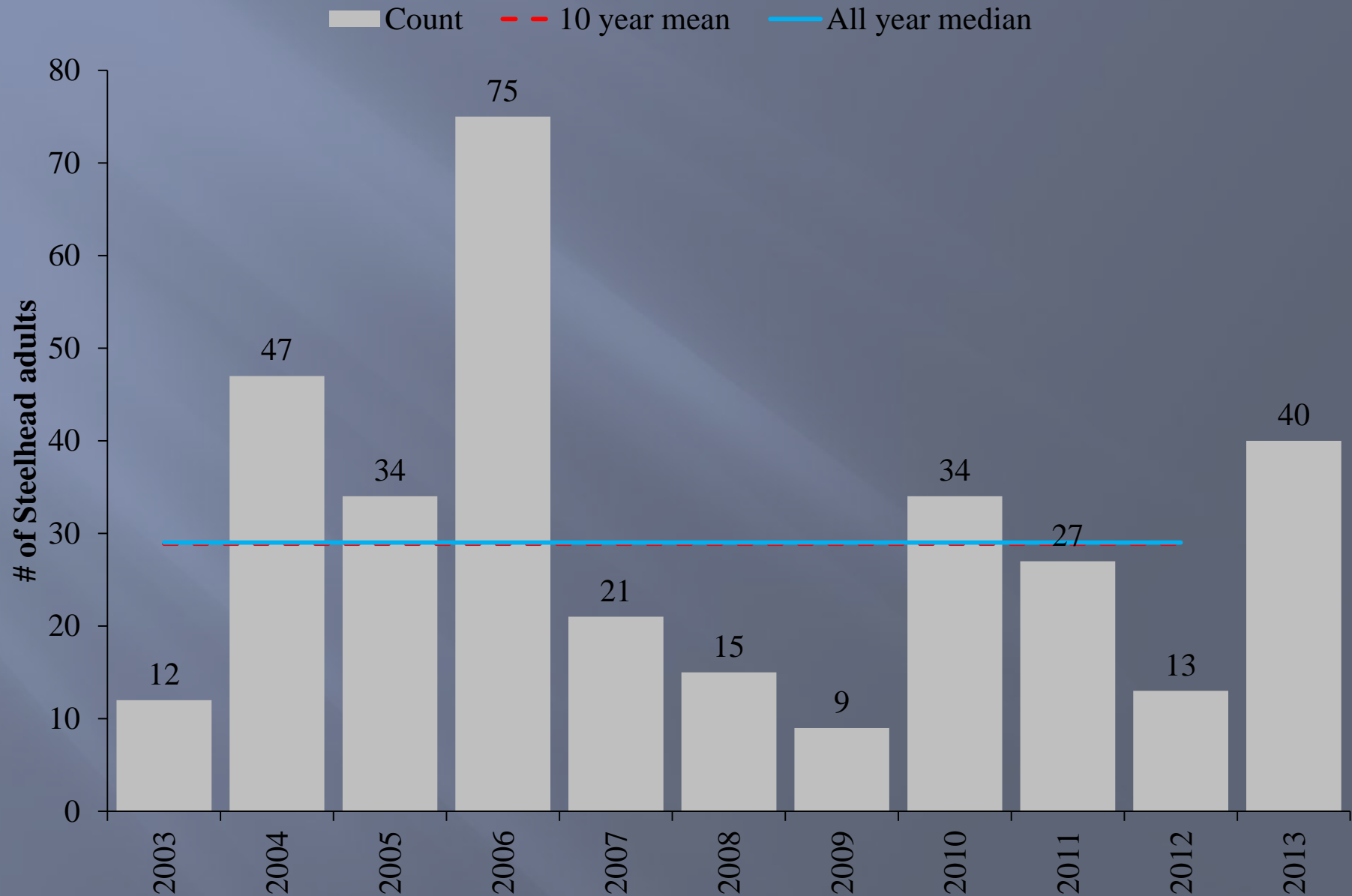
Weir Counts



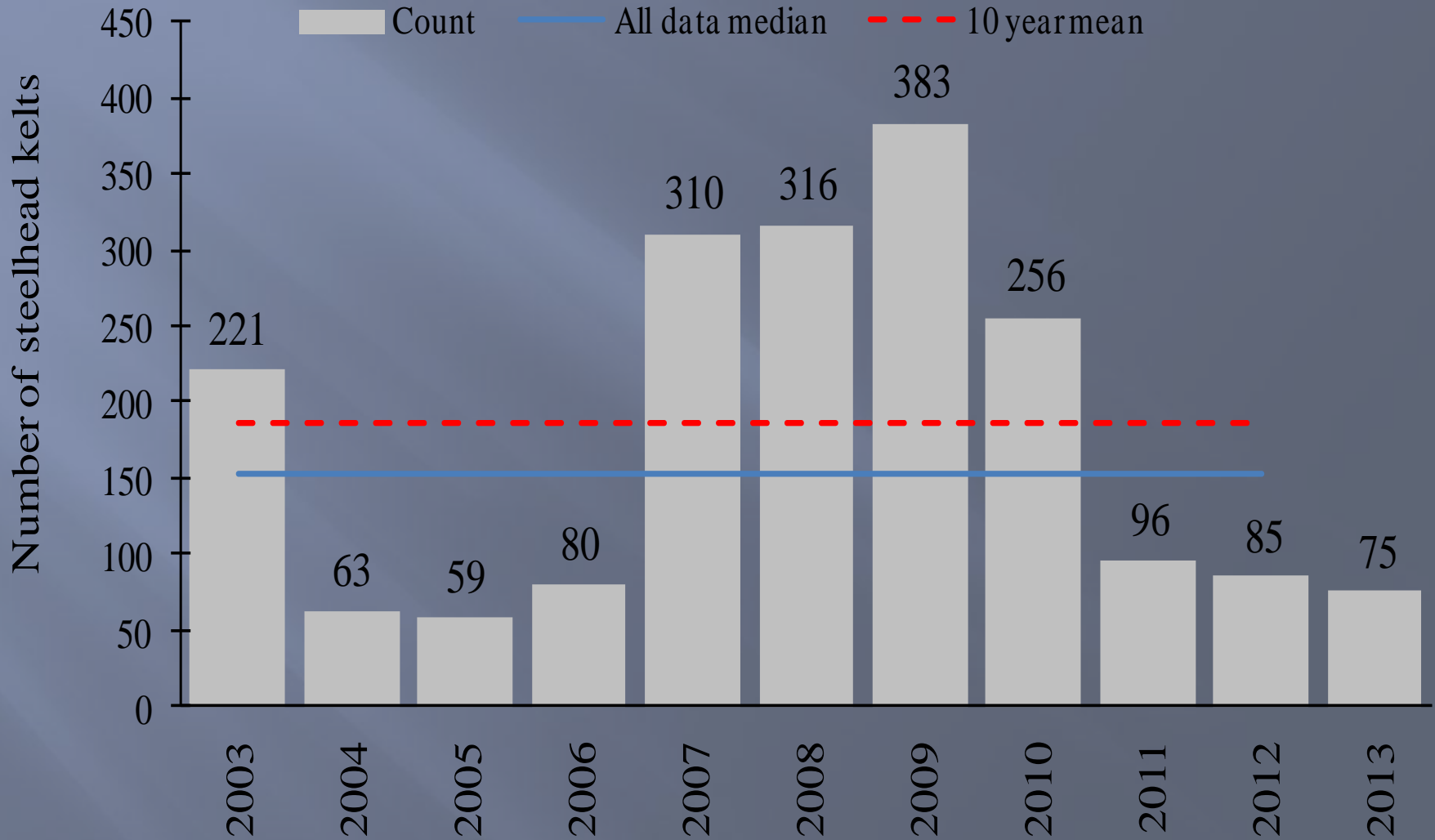
Situk River Weir Counts – Southeast Alaska



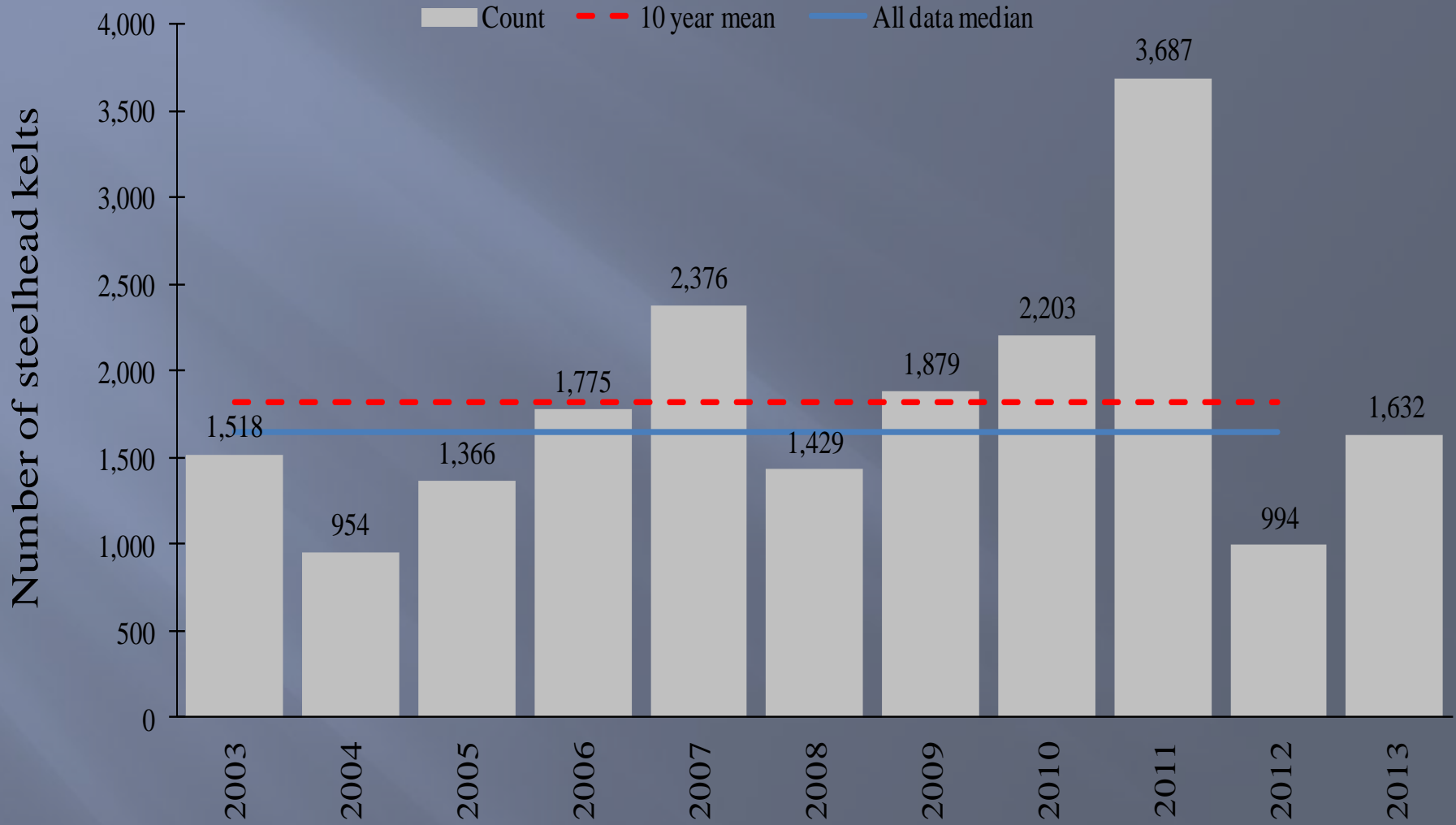
Sashin Creek Weir Counts – Southeast Alaska



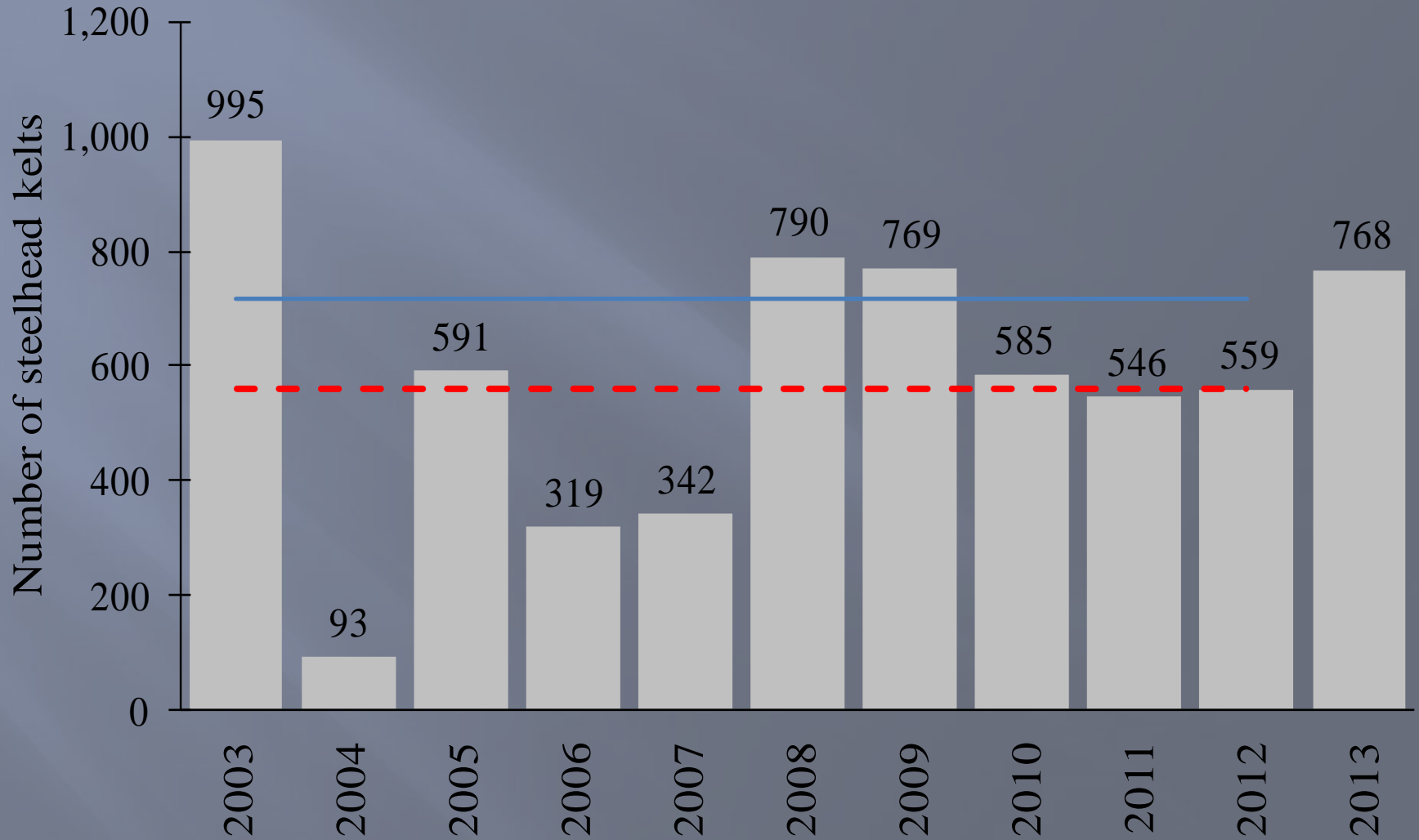
Litnik Weir Counts – Kodiak Area



Karluk Weir Counts – Kodiak Area



Ayakulik Weir Counts – Kodiak Area



Types of fishery harvest

- **Sport Fish**
- **Subsistence**
- **Commercial – non target**

Sport Fishery Regulations

- **Southcentral Alaska**

Harvest Limit: 1 per day, 2 annually (> 20 inches)

Spawning area closures

Winter closures

Kodiak Road Zone: C&R

Trout: 2 per day (11-16) in combination with cutthroat

- **Southeast Alaska**

Harvest Limit: 1 per day, 2 annually (> 36 inches)

Catch and release

Spawning area closures

Trout: 2 per day (11-22) in combination with cutthroat

- **Upper Copper River**

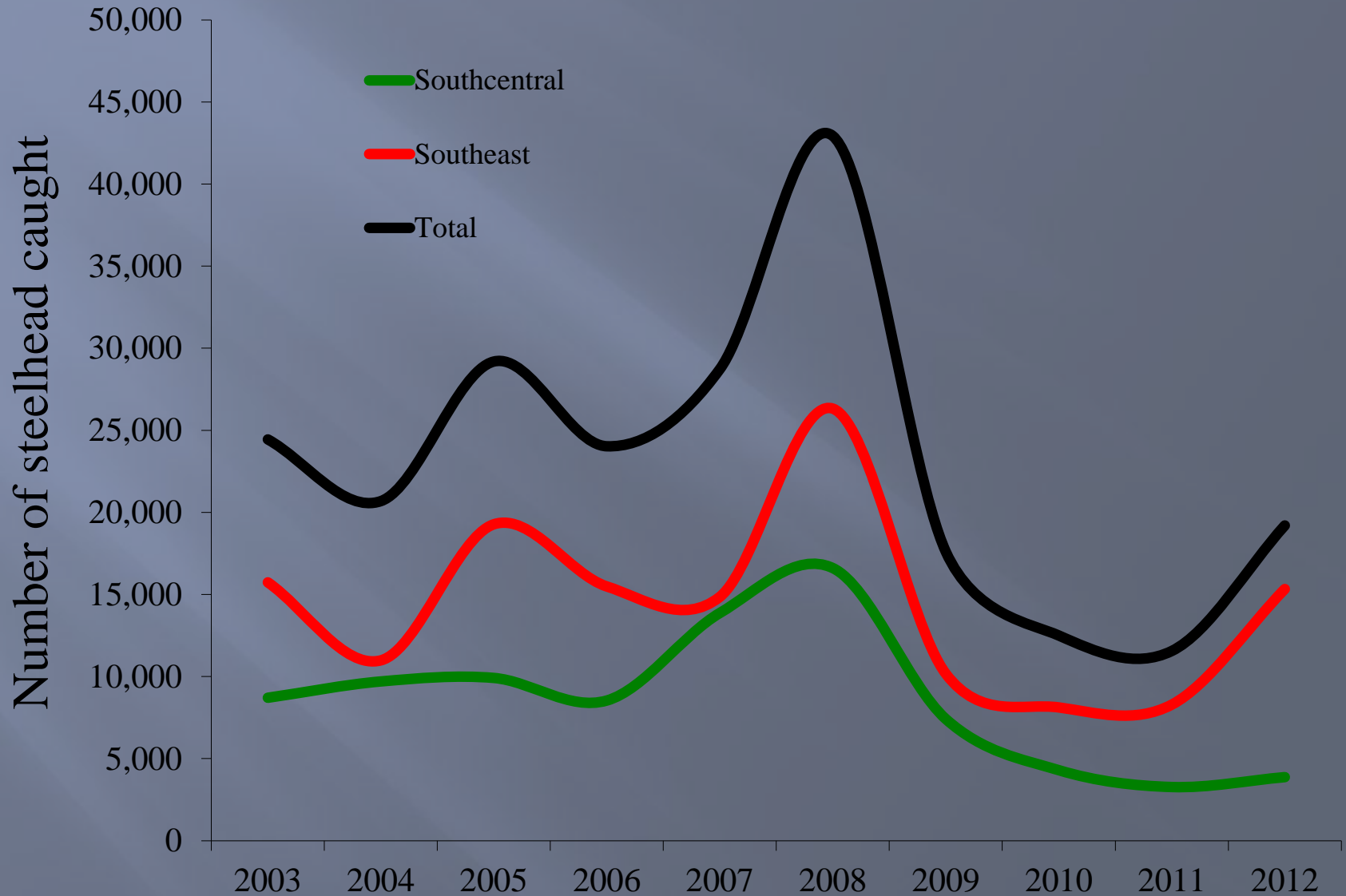
2 per day, 1 > 20 in.

Catch and release

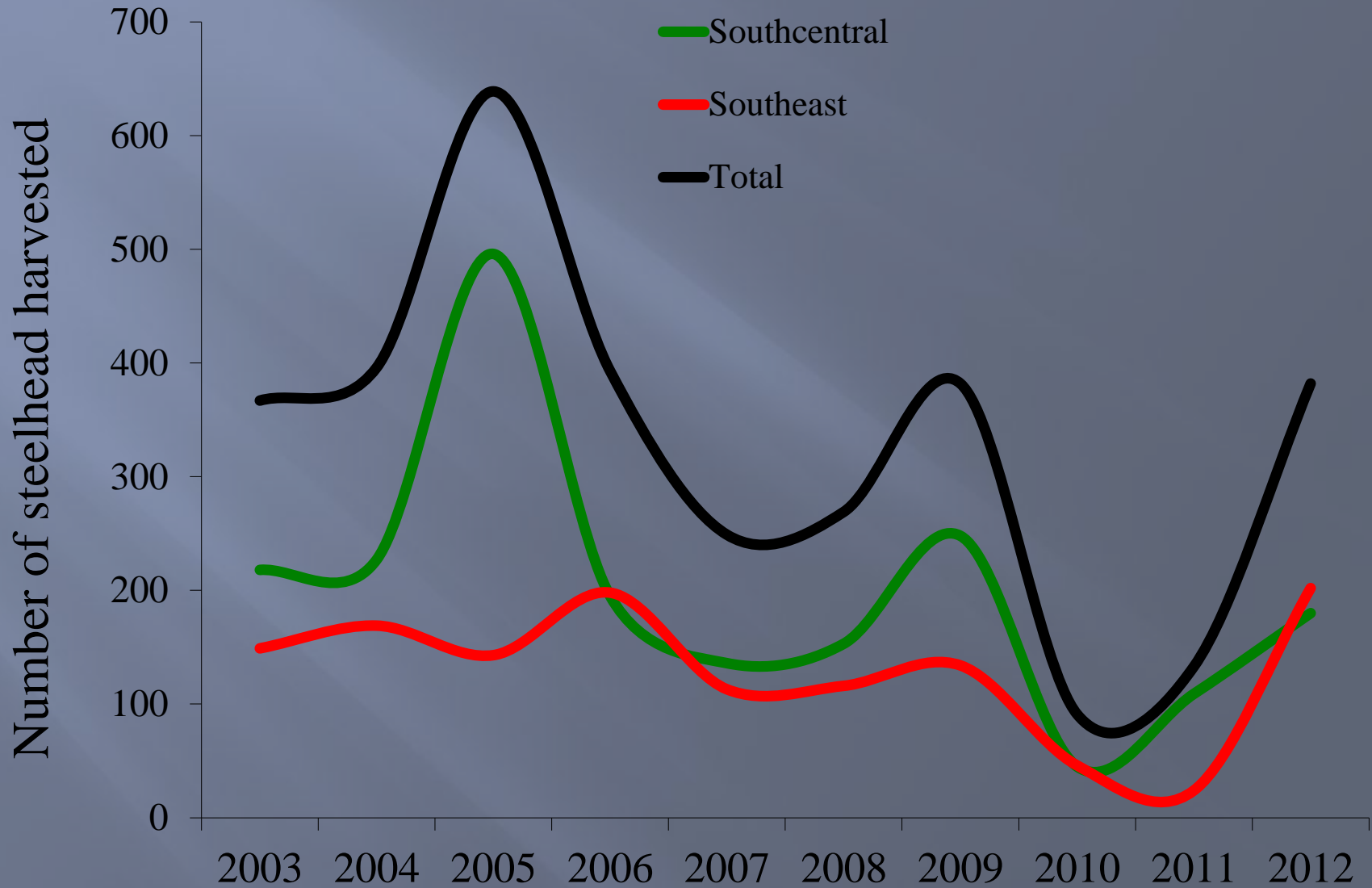
Spawning closures



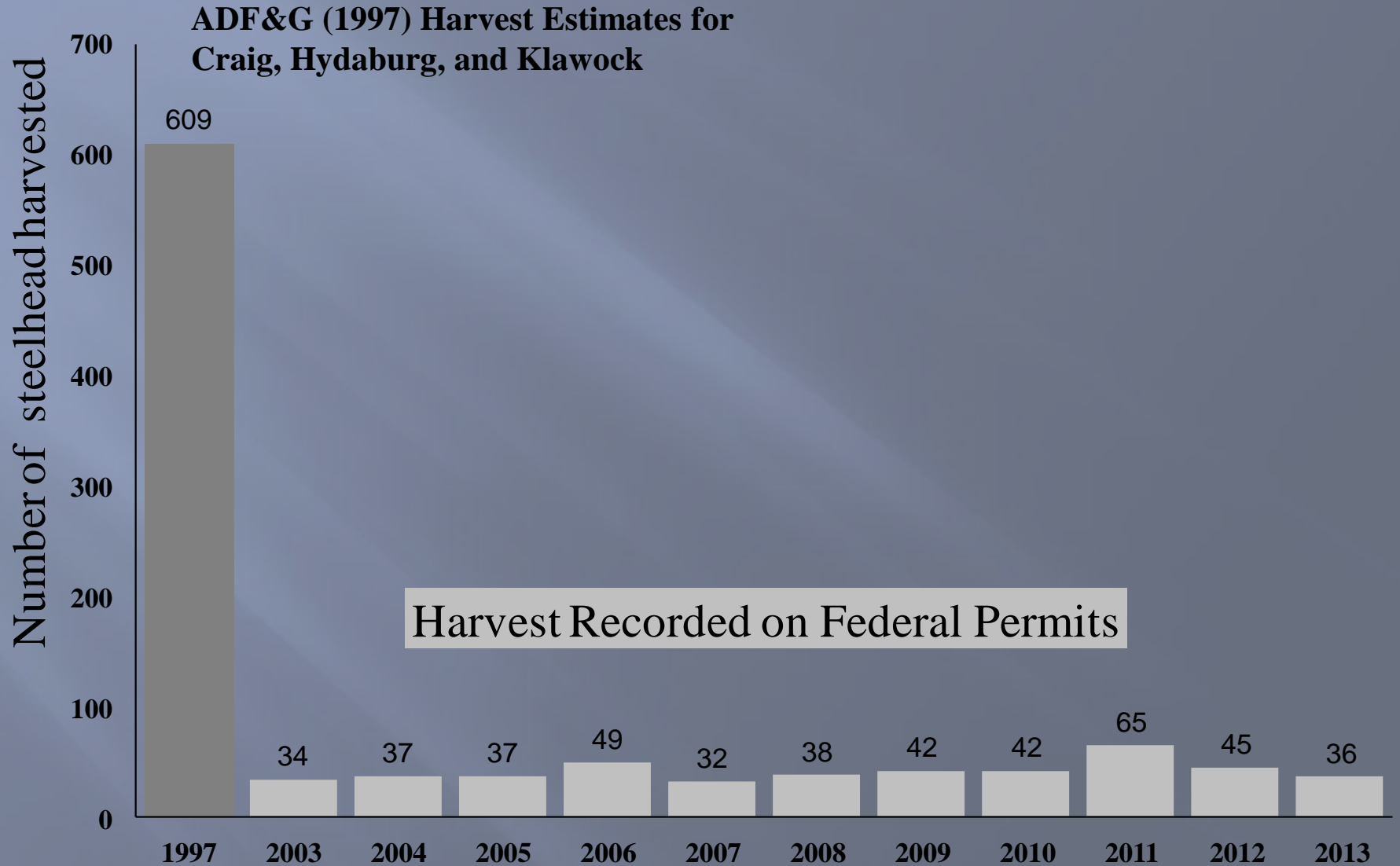
Statewide Catch Survey; Angling Catch



Statewide Harvest Survey; Angling Harvest

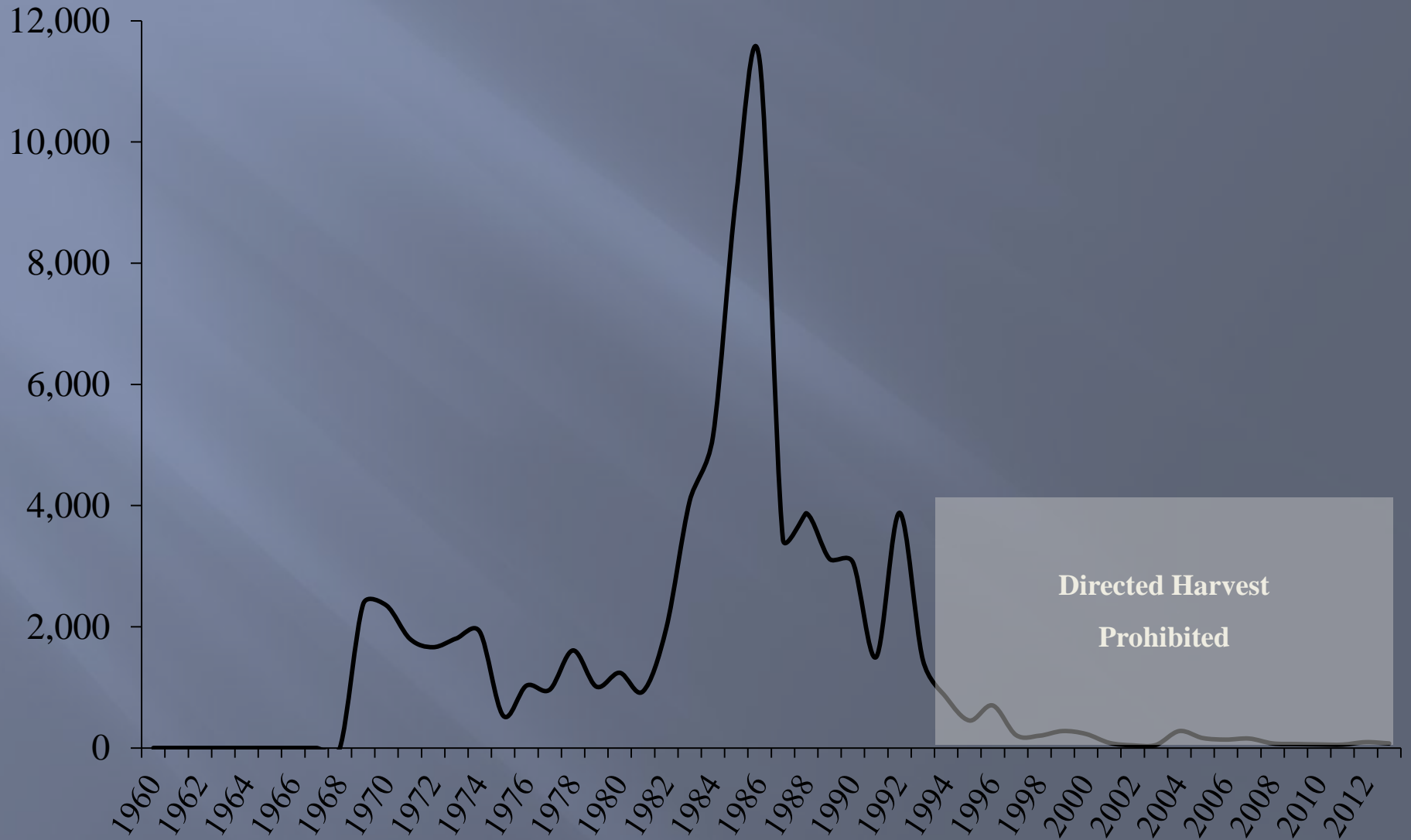


Subsistence Harvest





Commercial Steelhead Harvest in Southeast Alaska



Management Issues:

Habitat Degradation

- **Roads**
- **Hydroelectric Projects**
- **Timber Harvest Management**
- **Situk Glacial flood**

Undocumented harvest in commercial and subsistence fisheries

Angler expectation

Future management directions



- Stock status data needed
- Continue long term datasets
- Survey unknown streams
- **Manage conservatively**
 - Trout management plan
 - Protection of habitat
 - Maintain size and age attributes



Conclusion:

- **Current conservative regulations provide for sustainability of steelhead stocks while allowing for a productive sport fishery.**
 - Harvests remain low.
 - Size attributes remain within normal variation where assessed.
 - Current abundances of steelhead in the assessed streams of Alaska appear to be within normal variation
 - SE streams have remained near average, while SC streams have been more variable but experienced recent above average counts .
- **Sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, and maintenance of current stock attributes remains the primary focus.**

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THE END