



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Pacific Halibut Subsistence Report

DATE: 14 DECEMBER 2018

CONTRACTING PARTY: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AGENCY:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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FISHERY SECTOR

Subsistence

IPHC REGULATORY AREAS

IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3, and 4 (USA: Alaska)

DISCUSSION

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) estimates subsistence Pacific halibut harvests in Alaska under contract to NOAA Fisheries. These estimates, and the surveys on which they are based, are funded for completion every other year. The most recent survey and estimate were for subsistence fishing in 2016, and those results were presented at the 94th IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) in January 2018. The next estimate will be based on a survey of subsistence fishing during 2018. The ADFG analysis of that survey will be completed during 2019, and presented at the 96th IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) in January 2020.

The material included in [Appendix I](#) is the most recent estimate of subsistence fishing in Alaska (from 2016), which was presented at the 94th IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) as paper [IPHC-2018-AM094-AR15](#).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2019-AM095-AR15, which provided a copy of the most recent subsistence report from ADFG for the Commission's consideration.

APPENDICES

[Appendix I](#): Subsistence Harvests of Pacific Halibut in Alaska, 2016.



Appendix I
Subsistence Harvests of Pacific Halibut in Alaska, 2016

Subsistence Harvests of Pacific Halibut in Alaska, 2016



**Division of Subsistence
Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

**Presentation to the
International Pacific Halibut Commission**

**Portland, OR
January 2018**

**Project funded through a grant from the
National Marine Fisheries Service:
No. NA16NMF4370166**

For the full study findings, see:

Fall, James A. and David Koster. 2018. Subsistence Harvests of Pacific Halibut in Alaska, 2016. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 436. Anchorage.

Project Background

- New subsistence regulations in effect May 2003
- 118 communities and 123 tribes eligible, plus residents of designated rural areas
- Registration requirement (SHARC)
- Regulations have provision for collecting harvest data
- This report covers the 12th year of the harvest assessment program (harvests in 2016)
- Due to funding constraints, the project did not document 2013 or 2015 harvests and will not document 2017 harvests
- If funding available, could continue for 2018

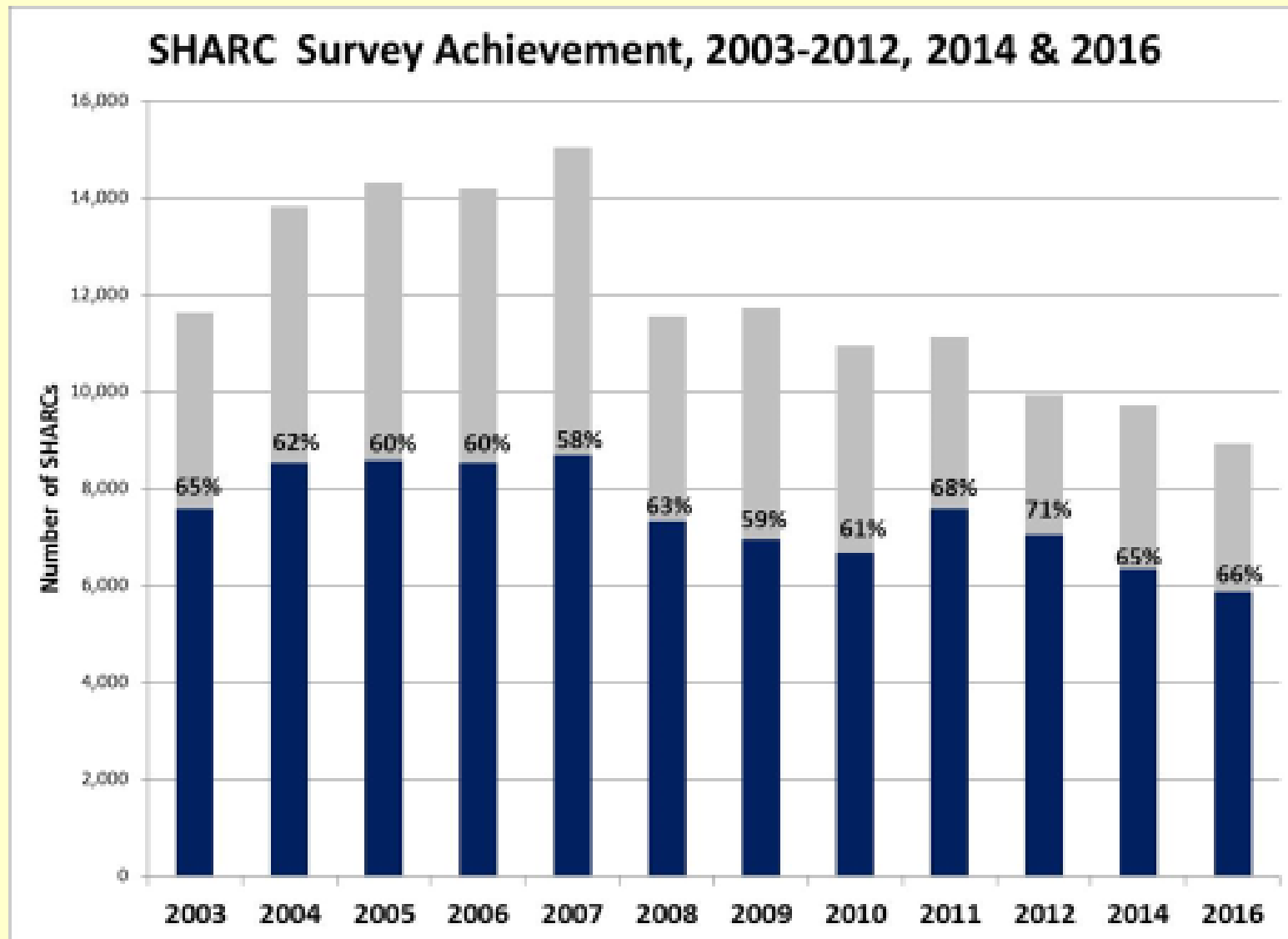
Methods

- Mailed survey is primary data collection method; response voluntary
- Mailed to all persons holding SHARCs during 2016: 8,779
- Three rounds of mailings
- Supplemented by contacts & interviews in 5 communities in southeast and western AK
- Harvests of some non-SHARC holders (146) included in estimates
- Total target group = 8,925 potential fishers

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Sample Achievement for 2016

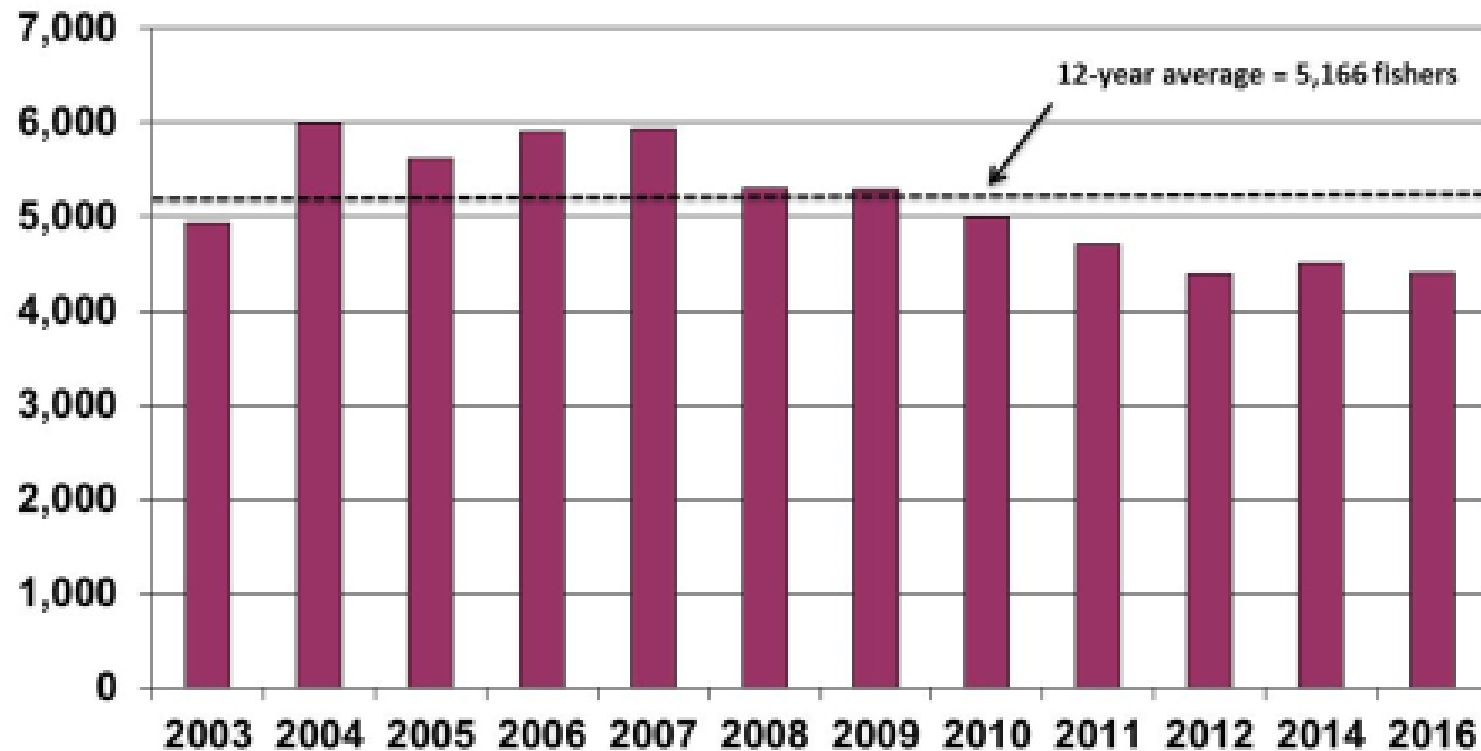
- **5,862 surveys returned**, of 8,925 potential fishers
- **Sampling fraction of 66%**
- **High rates of return** achieved in most larger communities with the most SHARCs issued



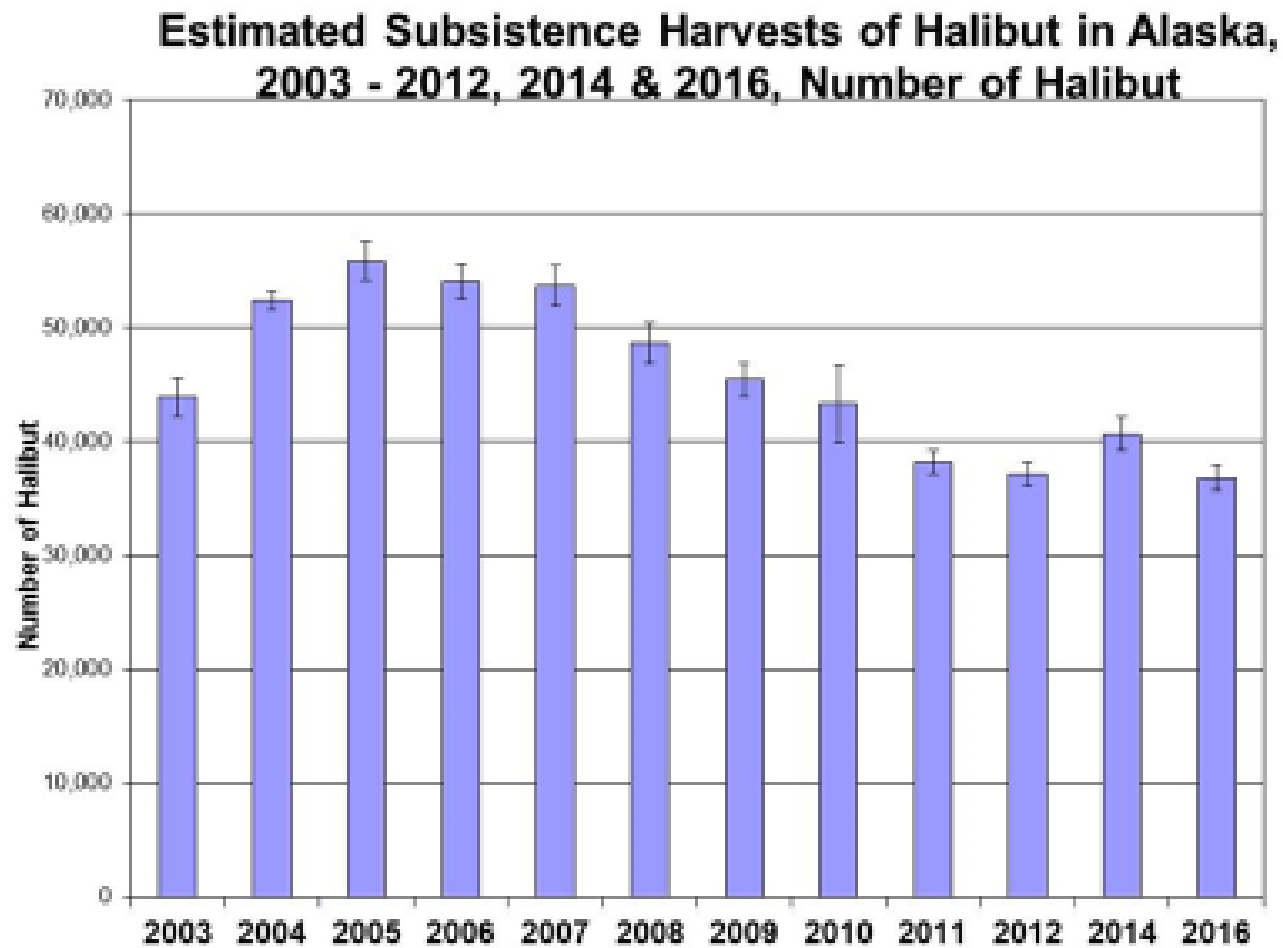
Study Findings: Halibut 2016

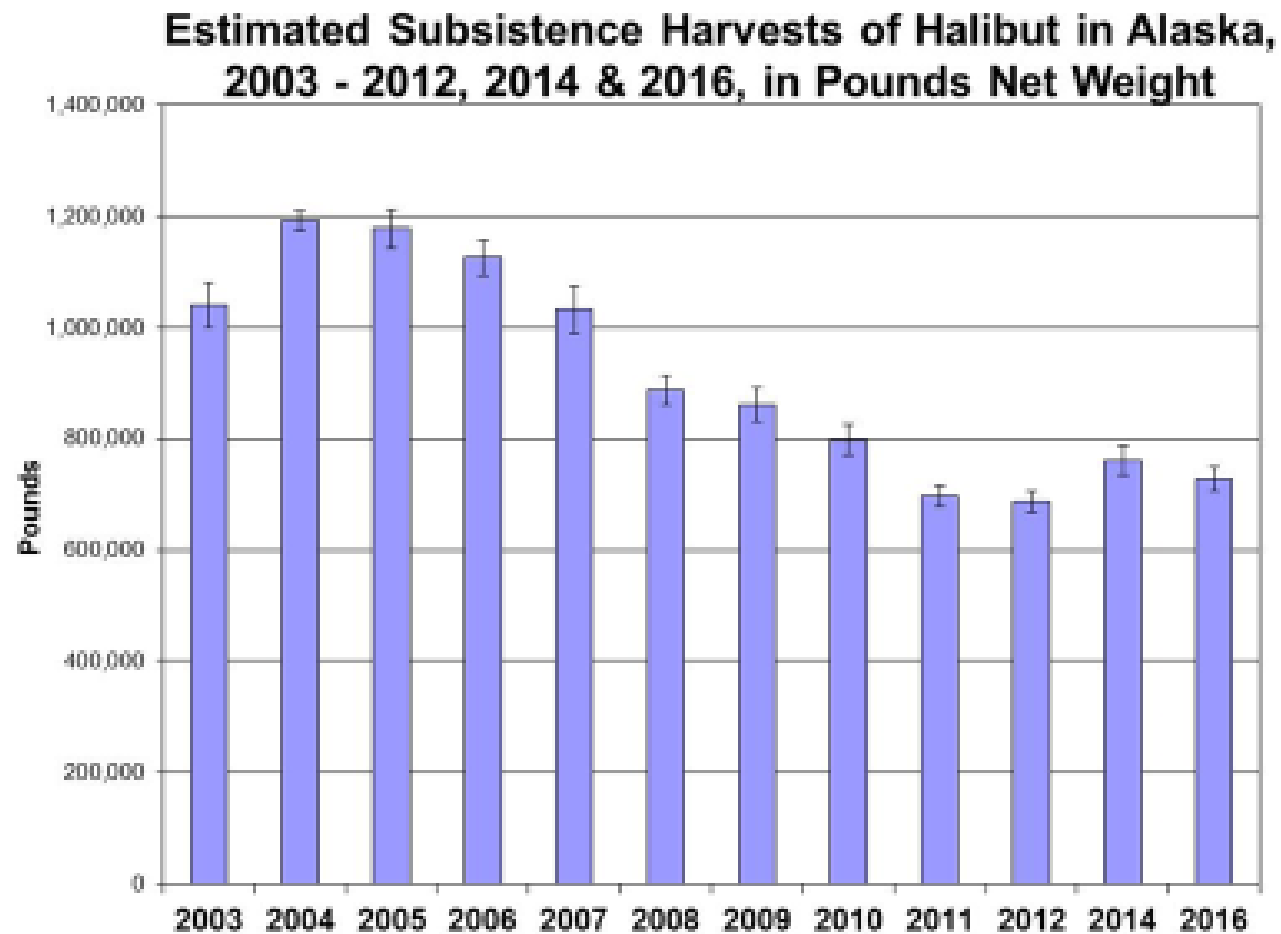
- Estimated number of **subsistence fishers = 4,408**
- Estimated subsistence harvest = **36,815 halibut**
- Estimated subsistence harvest = **727,178 lbs** net weight (= 75% of round weight) (19.8 lbs/fish)
- **60% of harvest occurred in Area 2C** (SE Alaska), 31% in Area 3A (SC Alaska), & 6% in Area 4E (East Bering Sea Coast)
- 75% of harvest taken with setline gear; 25% with hand-operated gear

Estimated Number of Individuals Subsistence Fishing for Halibut in Alaska, 2003-2012 , 2014 & 2016

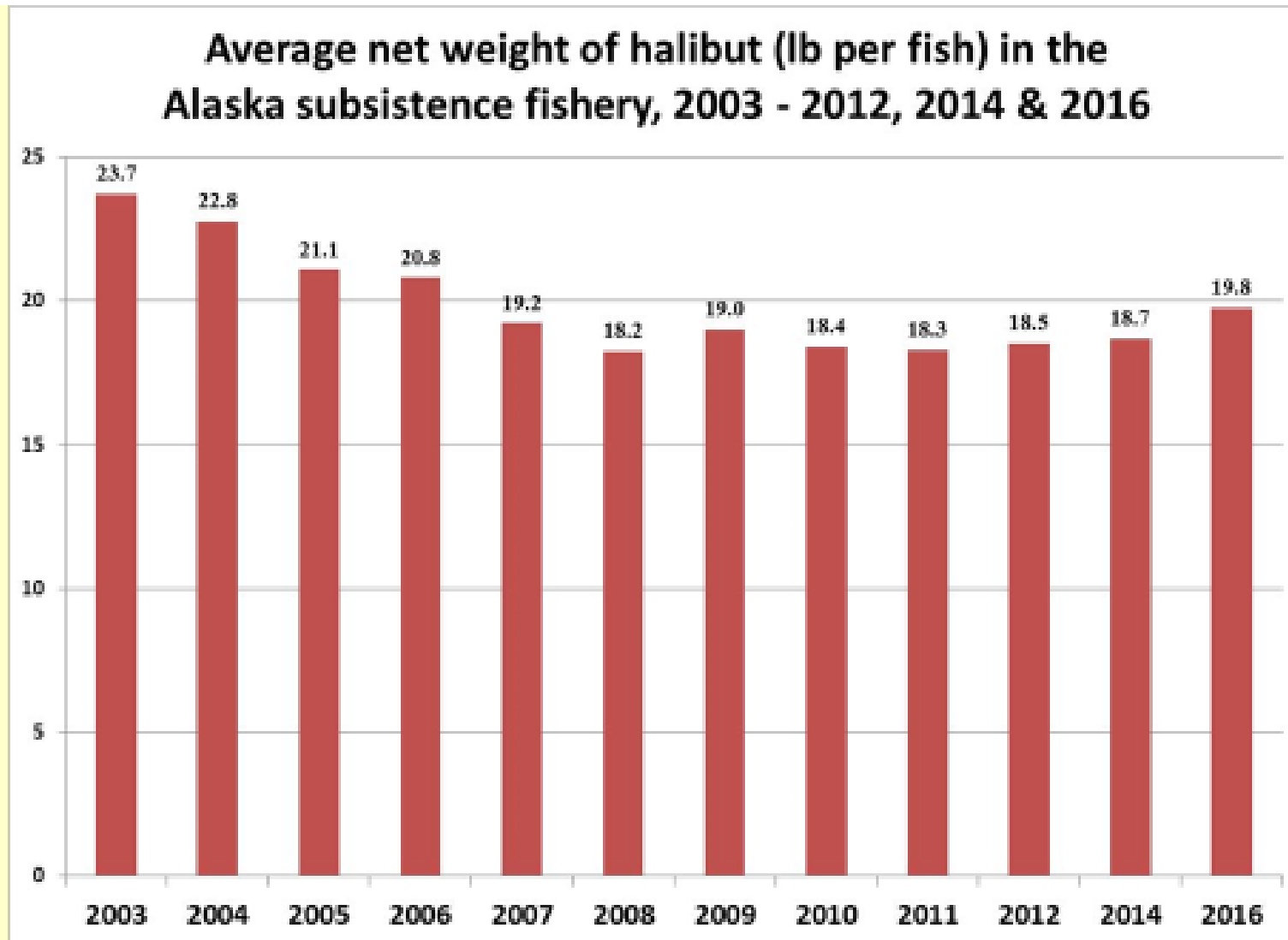


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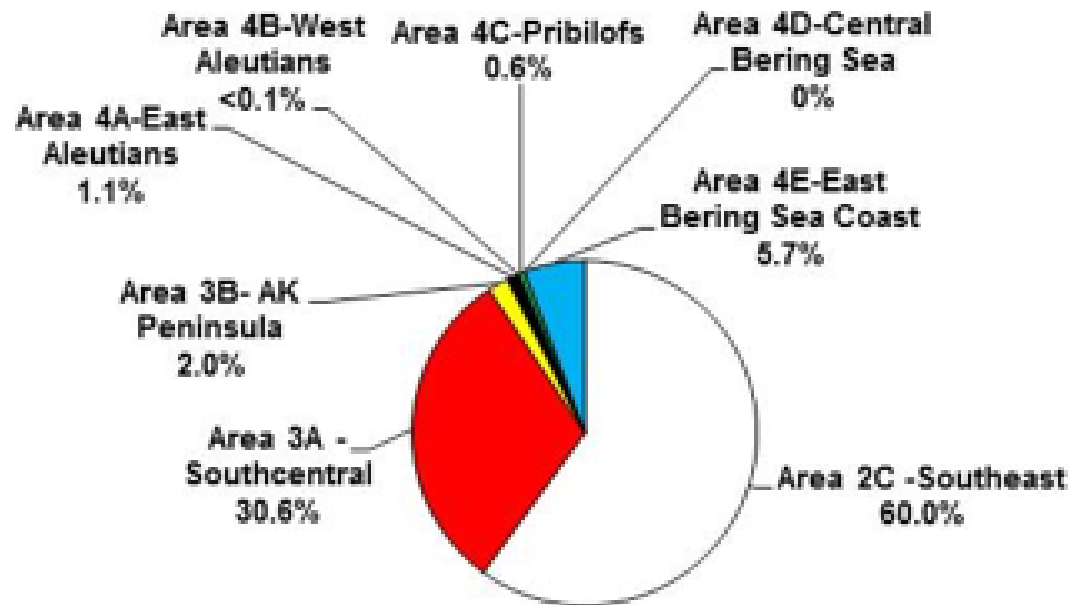


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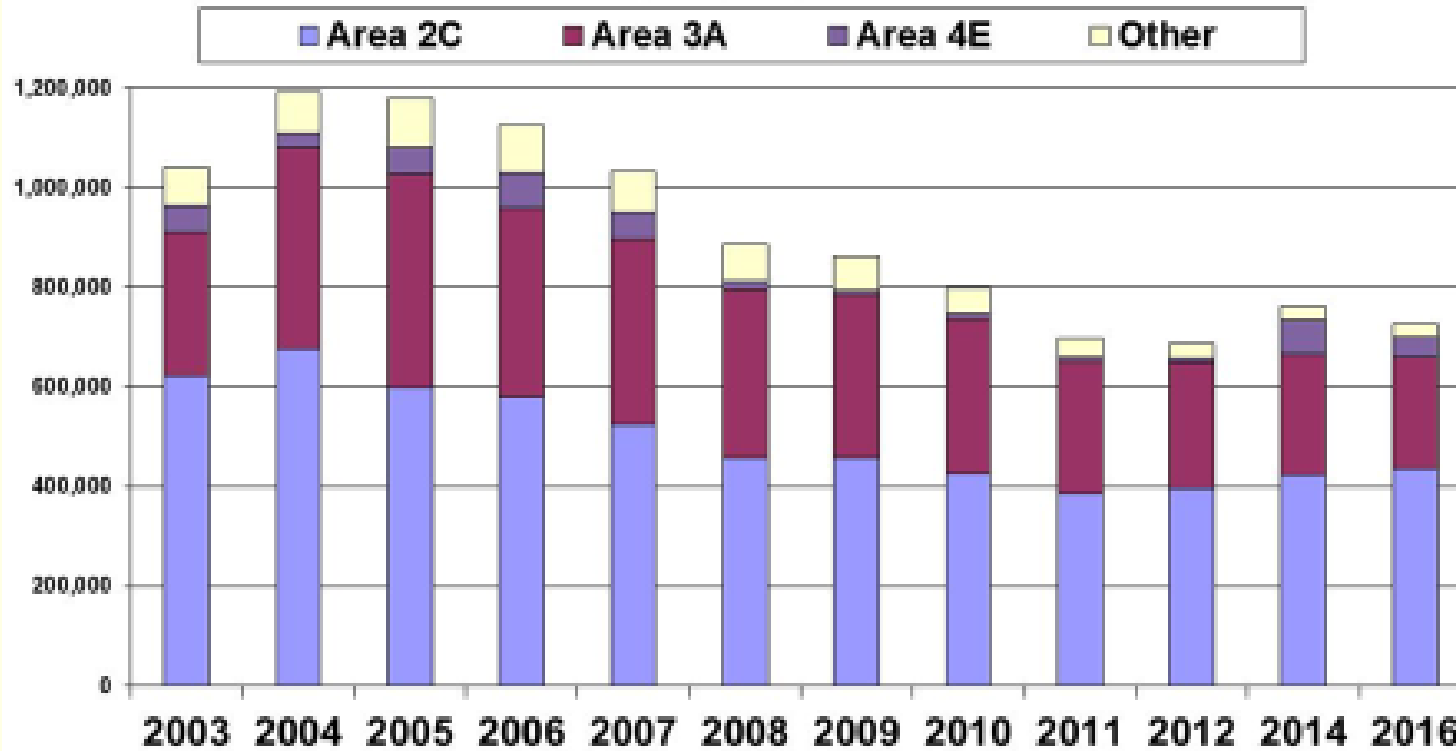
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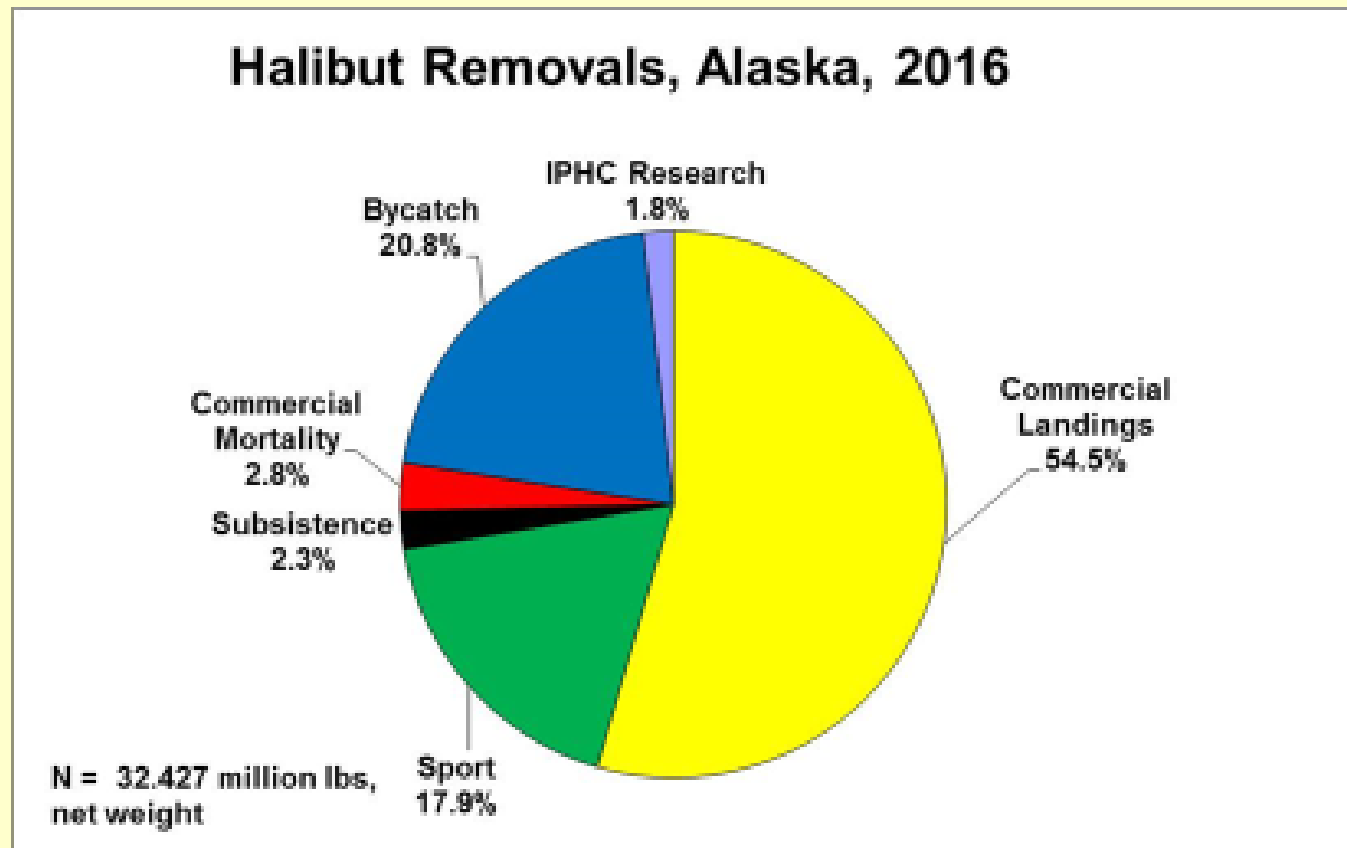
**Percentage of Subsistence Halibut Harvest
by Regulatory Area Fished, 2016**



N= 727,178 pounds net weight

Estimated Subsistence Harvests of Halibut in Alaska, 2003 - 2012, 2014 & 2016 (lbs net weight), by Area





- Subsistence harvests by area ranged from 6.4% in Area 2C to 0.4% in Area 3B

Conclusions: Harvest Survey, 2016

- Overall, 2016 harvest survey was a success: good response rates and overall reliable harvest estimates
- Can discern some general patterns in the fishery since the new regulations came into effect
- Reasons for overall decline in harvests likely complex and require further investigation
- Concerns about nonrenewal of SHARCs, especially in certain regulatory areas
- Need to supplement mailed SHARC survey with in-person survey in portions of Area 4
- Recommendation to continue harvest monitoring

For More Information

- Division of Subsistence Website:
www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us and go to publications for final report
- Or: call us at 907-465-4147, or 465-3617, or 267-2353
- Or write: ADF&G, Division of Subsistence, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK, 99518
- Or contact NMFS at: 1-800-304-4846 (option 2) or www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/subsistence/halibut.htm