

Overview of groundfish fisheries management in the Bering Sea



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Main points

1. Historical timeline
2. Major fisheries and Total Allowable Catch
3. Seasons
4. Closure areas and prohibited species limits.
5. Prohibited species bycatch.
6. Annual species catch by area.

NMFS Alaska Region and Alaska Fisheries Science Center online data sources.

- NMFS Alaska Region main page: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/>.
- Groundfish fisheries news, outlook, reports and catch statistics with links to regulations: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/default.htm>.
- Catch statistics, 1991 – 2005: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/catchstats.htm>. Links in each year include detailed catch statistics, annual harvest specifications, status of fisheries (including closures), and halibut IFQ and CDQ reports.
- Information on specific management programs on the main page include: American Fisheries Act (AFA), Community Development Quota (CDQ), open-access groundfish fisheries, and crab management.
- Fishery regulations are available at the following link: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/regs/summary.htm>.
- In-season management Annual reports, 2002 – 2004: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/inseason/2004report.pdf>.
- Stock assessment reports: <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/stocks/assessments.htm>
- Observer database spatial displays: <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/observers/dataspatial/dataspatial.htm>

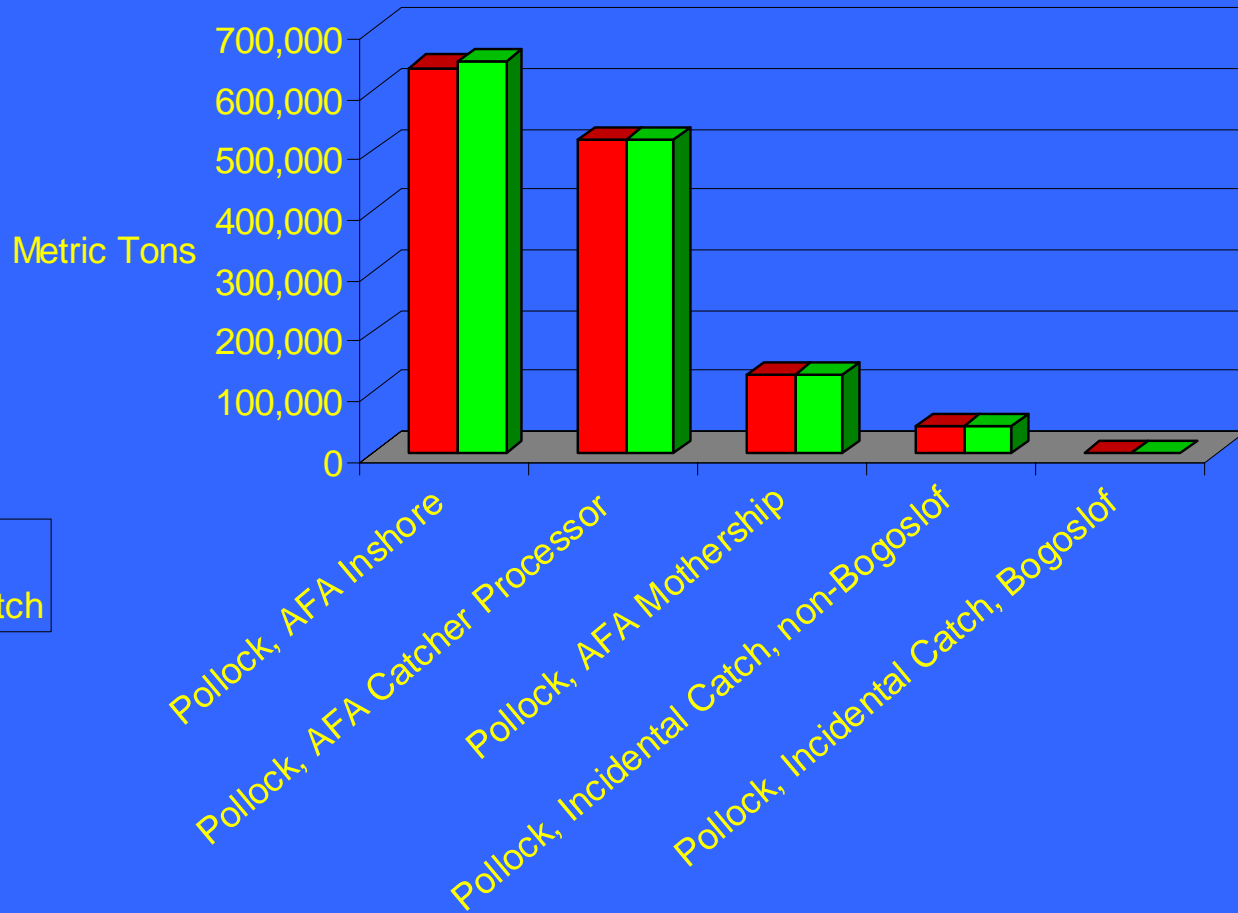
Brief timeline of groundfish management measures in the Bering Sea

- Mid-1950's – 1990 - Foreign and joint-venture fisheries were dominant.
- 1976 - The Magnuson Fishery Conservation Act was enacted and gave management of the EEZ (3 – 200 miles) to the US.
- 1990 – Fleet composed entirely of domestic vessels.
- 1991 – Herring Savings Areas established.
- 1992 – Steller sea lion buffers established, Western Alaska CDQ program (pollock) begun.
- 1993 – Sablefish IFQ.
- 1995 – Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Area, Chum Salmon Savings Area, Chinook Salmon Savings Area.
- 1996 - Red King Crab Savings Area.
- 1997 – Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Closure Area, LLP program.
- 1998 - Multi-species CDQ.
- 1999 – American Fisheries Act.
- 2003 – Steller sea lion protection measures.

Groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea

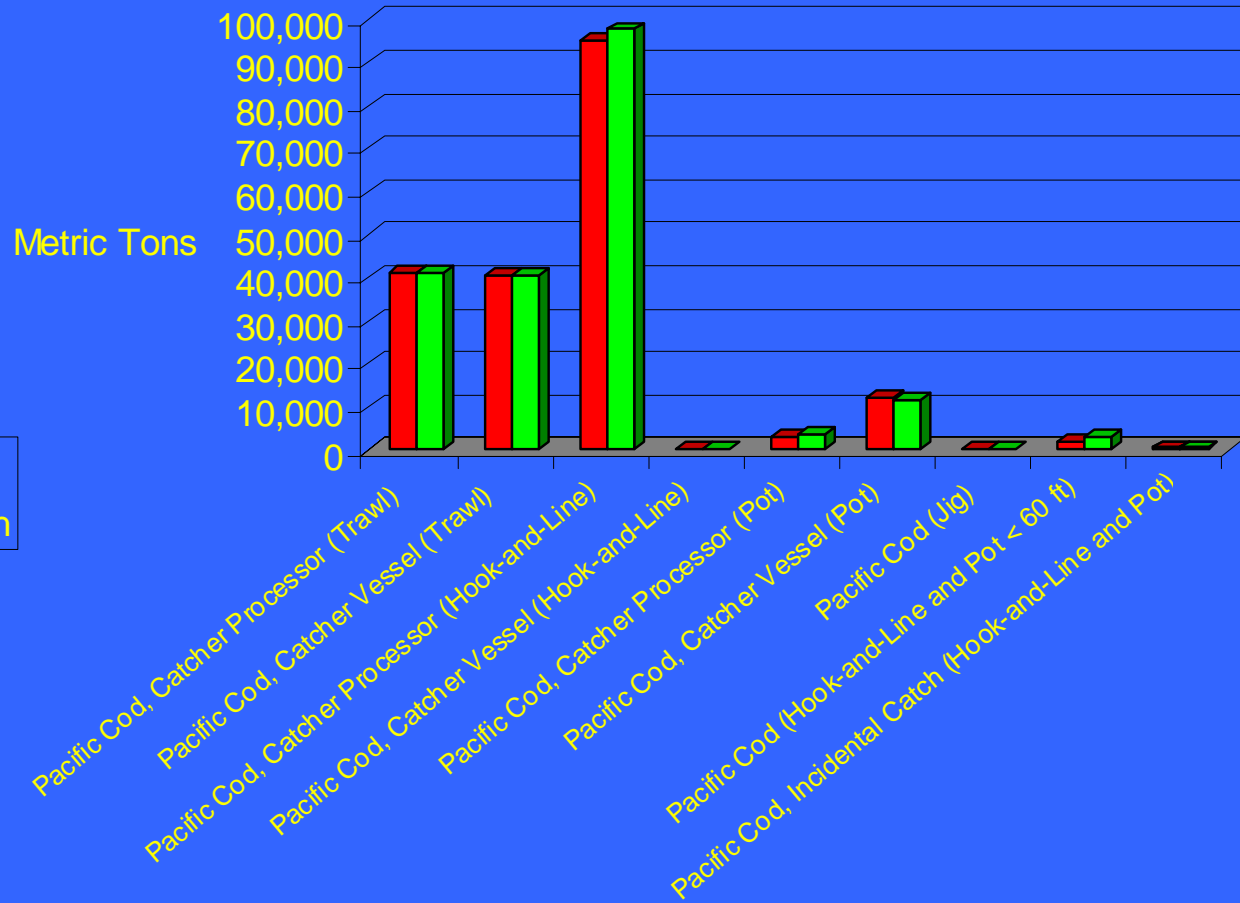
- Pollock directed fishery – pelagic trawl only on AFA certified vessels. Includes Catcher/Processor (CP), mothership, and shoreside coop allocations.
- Pacific cod fishery – Jig, Hook & Line CP, Hook & Line Catcher Vessel(CV), Pot CP, Pot CV, Fixed gear CV < 60', Trawl CP, Trawl CV.
- Sablefish – Hook & Line and Pot; Trawl (as bycatch).
- Non-gear specific (primarily trawl) – Greenland turbot, Atka mackerel, Pacific Ocean perch, Alaska plaice, Arrowtooth flounder, Flathead sole, Northern rockfish, Rougheyeye rockfish, Shortraker Rockfish, Rocksole, Yellowfin sole, Other flatfish, Other rockfish, Squid, Other species.
- CDQ fisheries (10% of total pollock, 7.5% other species).

Pollock allowable catch and harvest, 2004

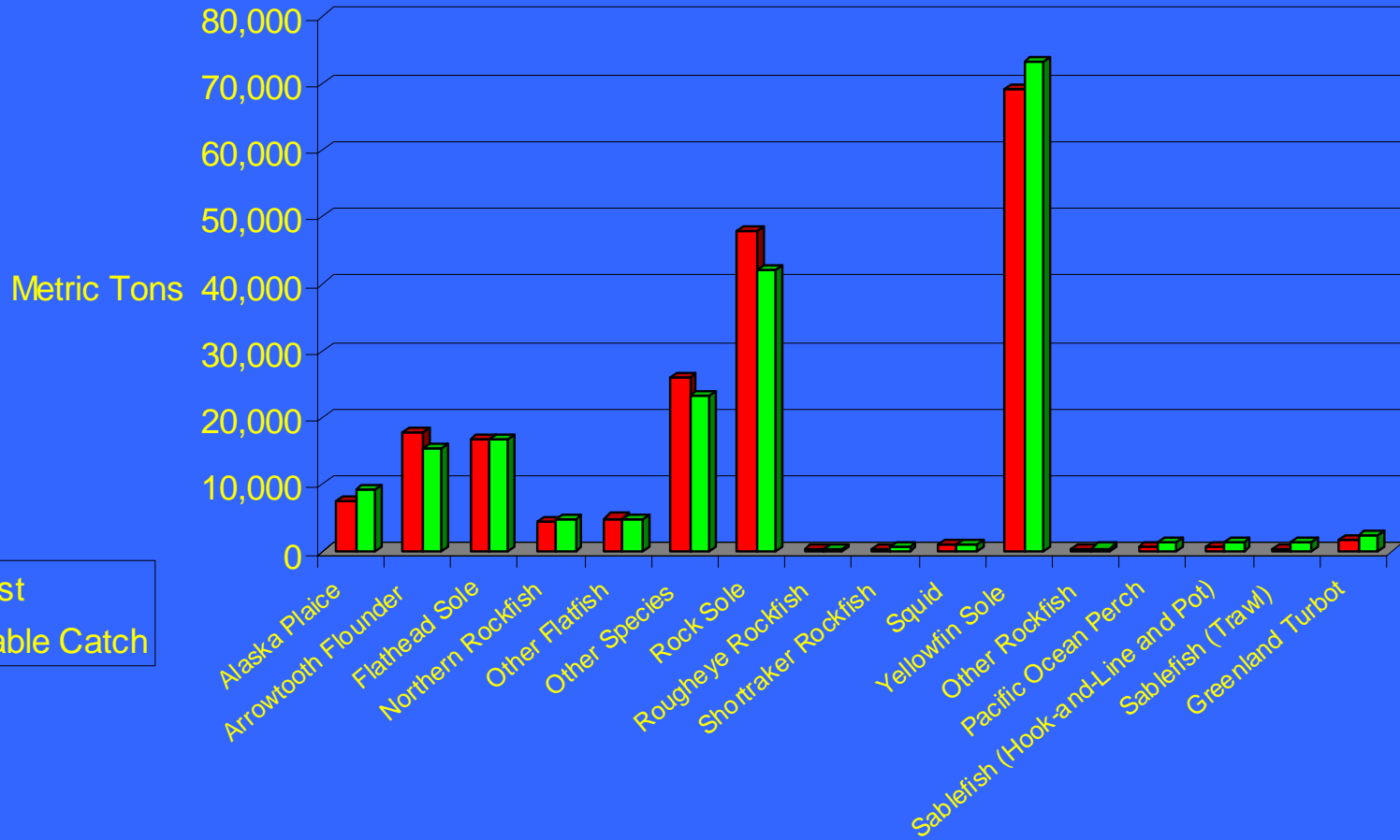


■ Harvest
■ Allowable Catch

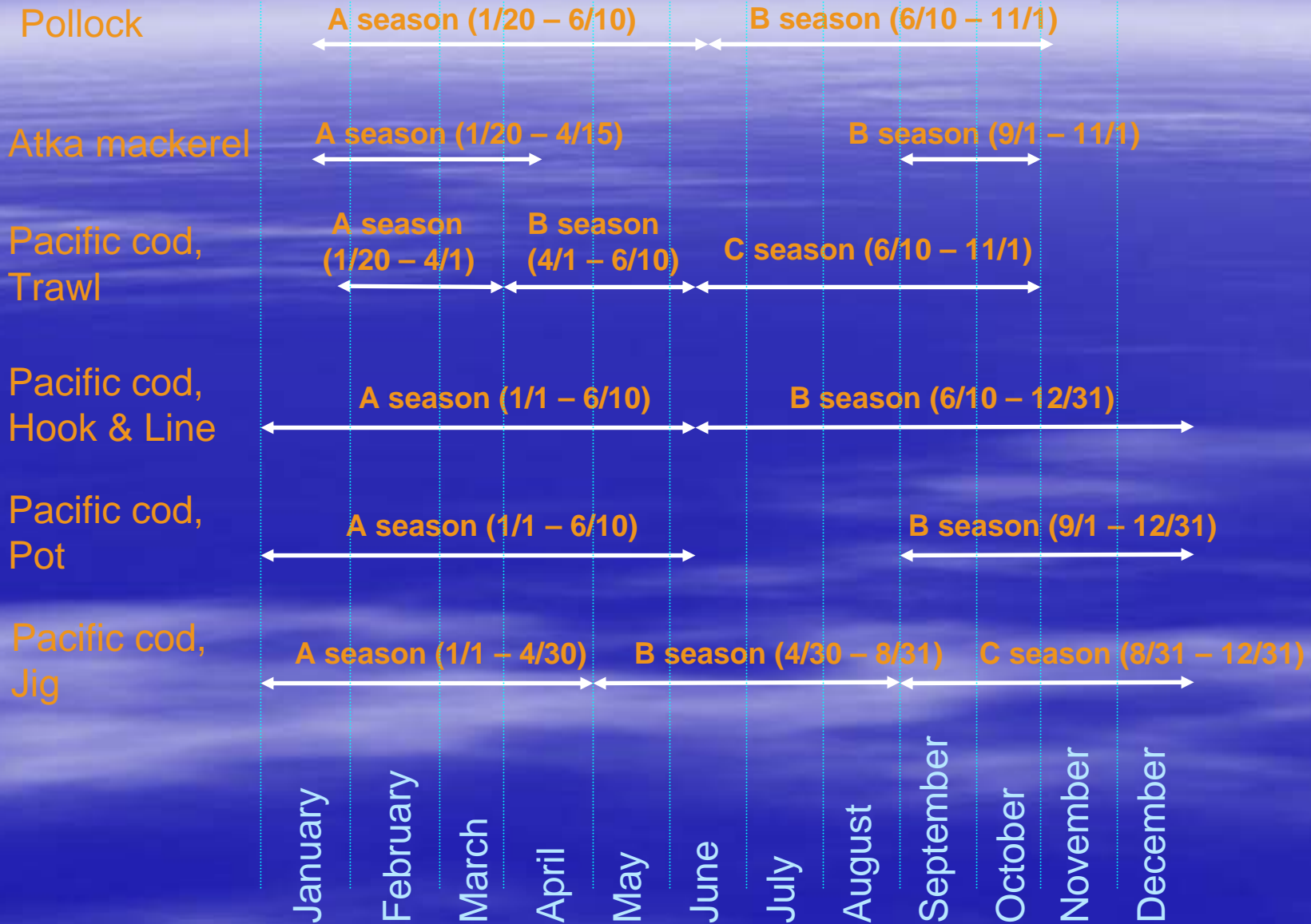
Pacific cod allowable catch and harvest, 2004



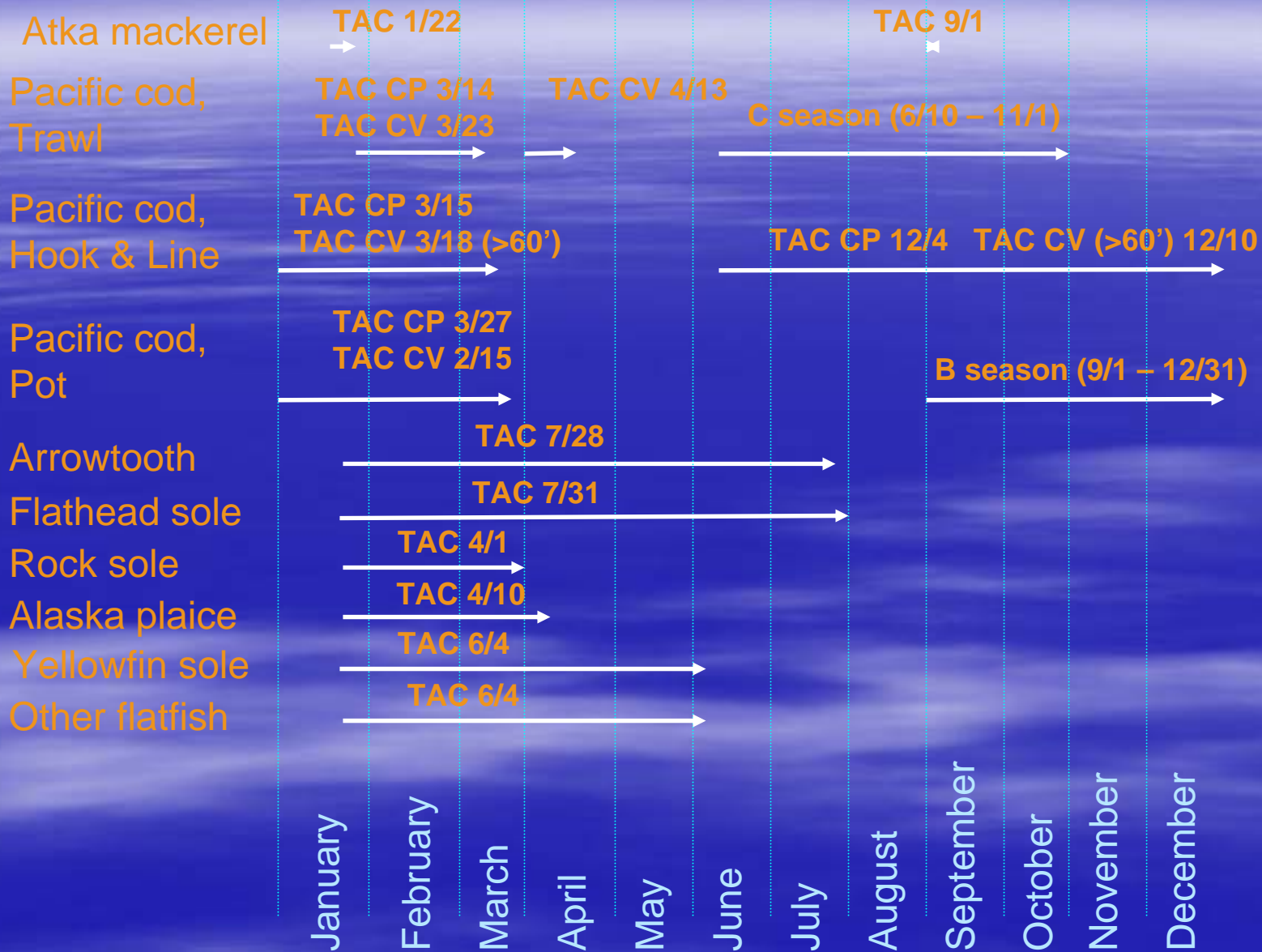
Other groundfish allowable catch and harvest, 2004



Seasonal fisheries in the Bering Sea (2004 seasons as example).



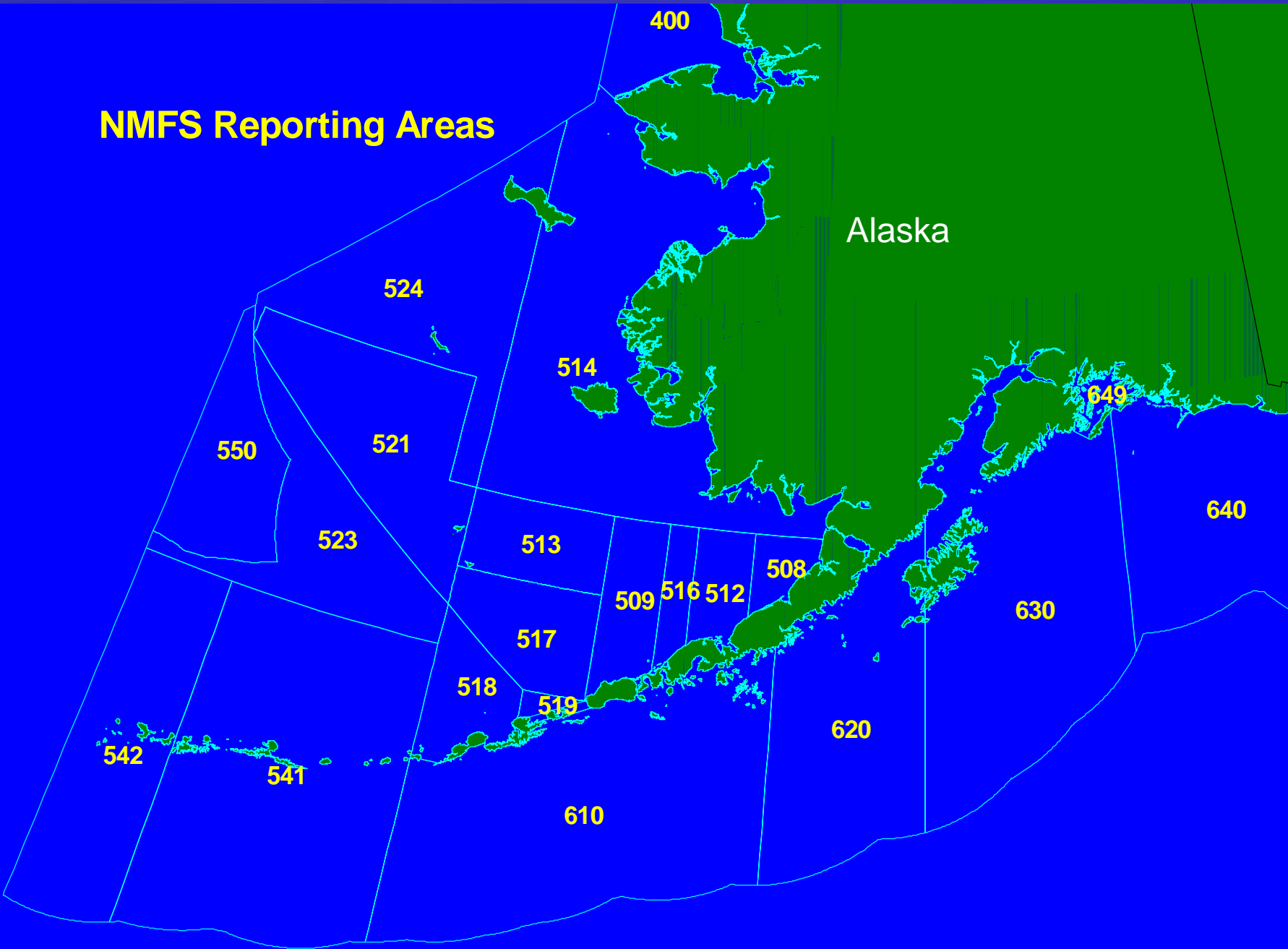
Total Allowable Catch (TAC) fishery closures in the Bering Sea (examples from 2004).



Prohibited species fishery closures in the Bering Sea (examples from 2004).



NMFS Reporting Areas



Alaska

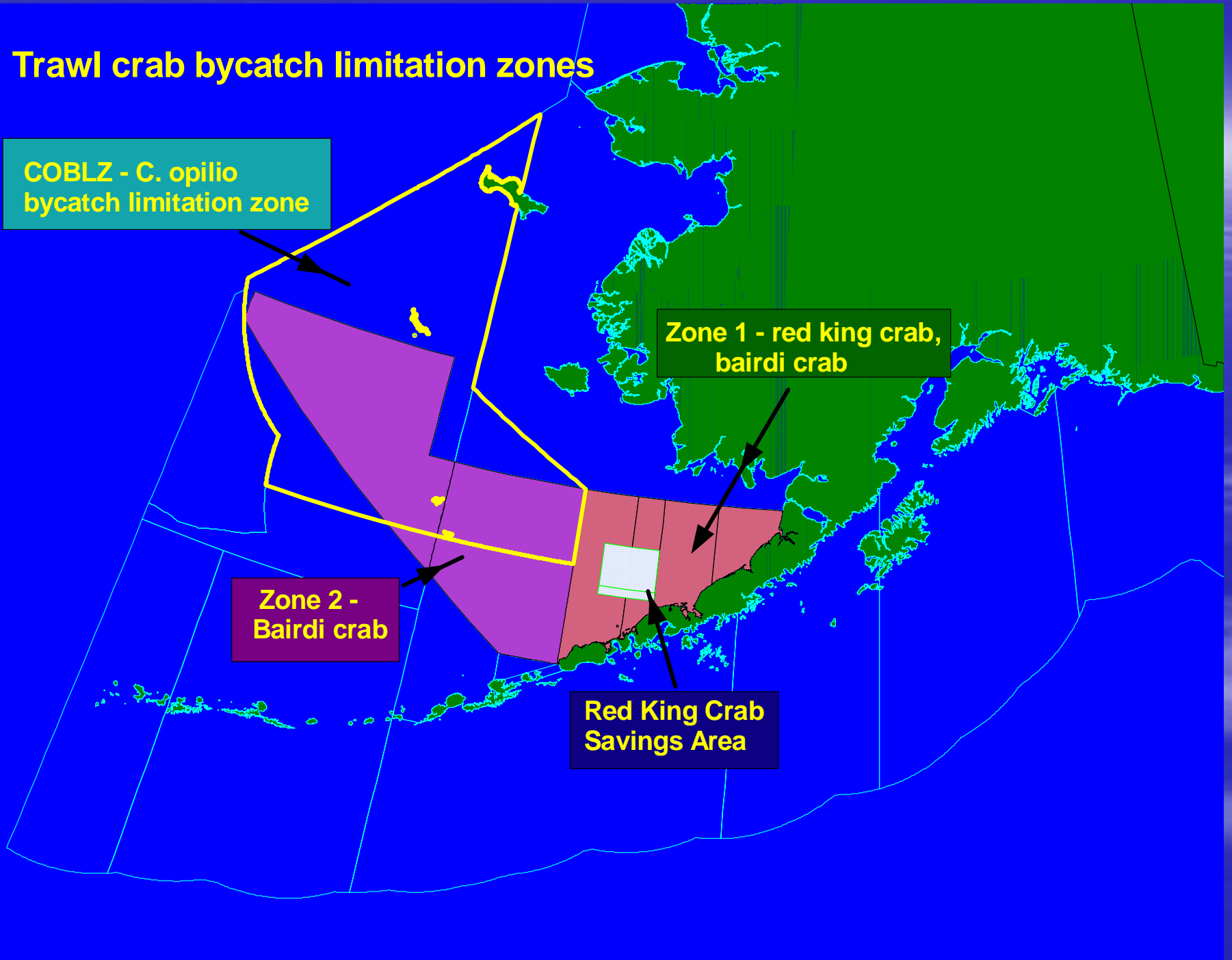
Trawl crab bycatch limitation zones

COBLZ - *C. opilio*
bycatch limitation zone

Zone 1 - red king crab,
bairdi crab

Zone 2 -
Bairdi crab

Red King Crab
Savings Area




Crab Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits, 2004 (further allocated by target fishery under these limits).

- Zone 1, Red king crab bycatch by trawlers – limit = 182,225 crab.
- Zone 1, *C. bairdi* (Tanner) crab bycatch by trawlers – limit = 906,500 crab.
- Zone 2, *C. bairdi* (Tanner) crab bycatch by trawlers – limit = 2,747,250 crab.
- COBLZ, *C. opilio* (Snow) crab bycatch by trawlers – limit = 4,023,750 crab.

Trawling limitation areas



**Pribilof Island Area
Habitat Conservation Zone
Closed to trawling**

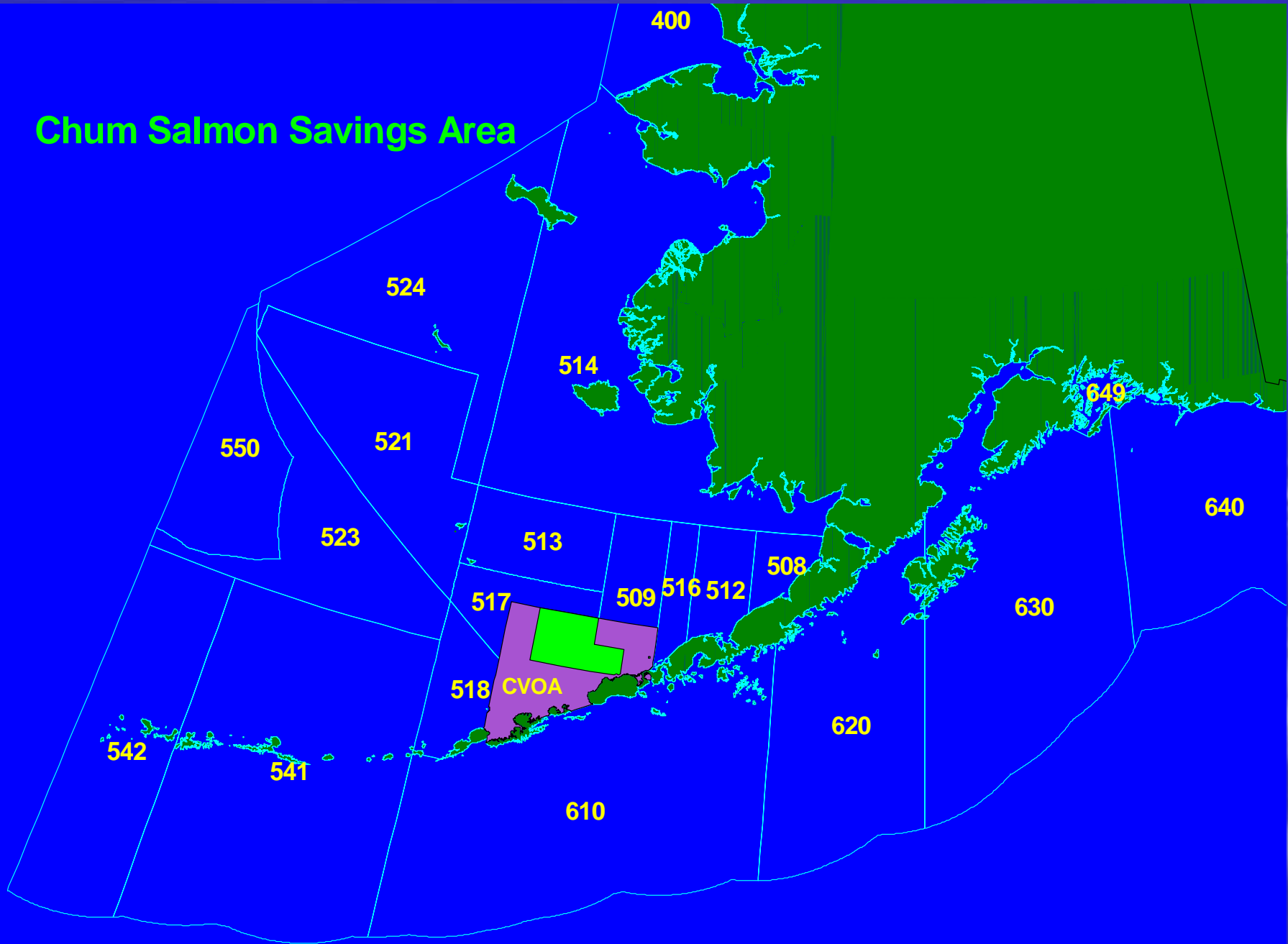


**Nearshore Bristol Bay
Trawl Closure Area
Closed to trawling**



**Steller lion conservation area (SCA)
Trawling harvest limitations**

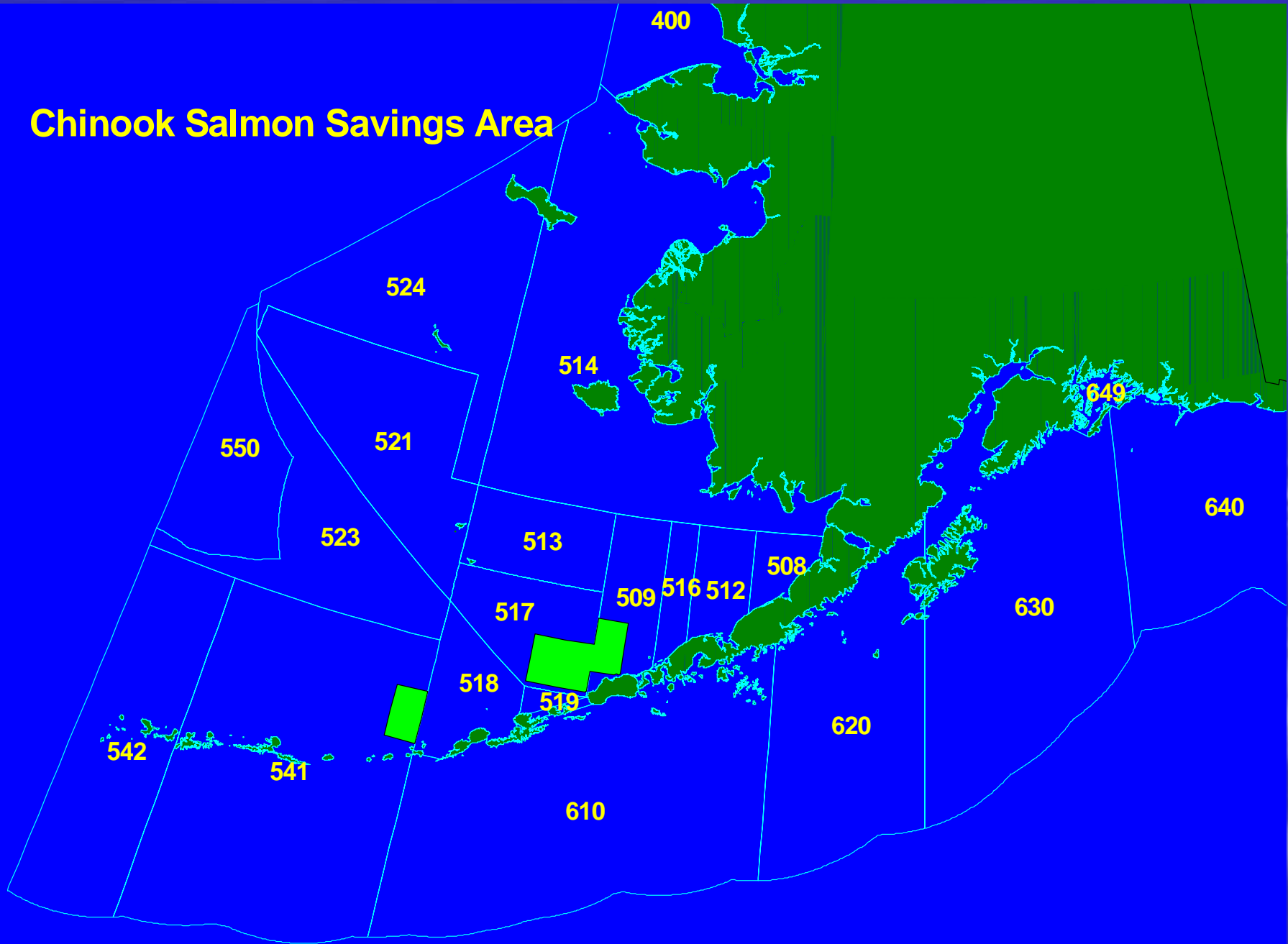
Chum Salmon Savings Area



Chum salmon Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits established for 2005.

- Chum Salmon Savings Area is closed to trawling August 1 – August 31 annually.
- Other salmon bycaught in the Catcher Vessel Operational Area (CVOA) by trawlers between August 15 and October 14 count toward closure.
- Limit of 42,000 fish will close the Chum Salmon Savings Area.

Chinook Salmon Savings Area



Chinook salmon Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits established for 2005.

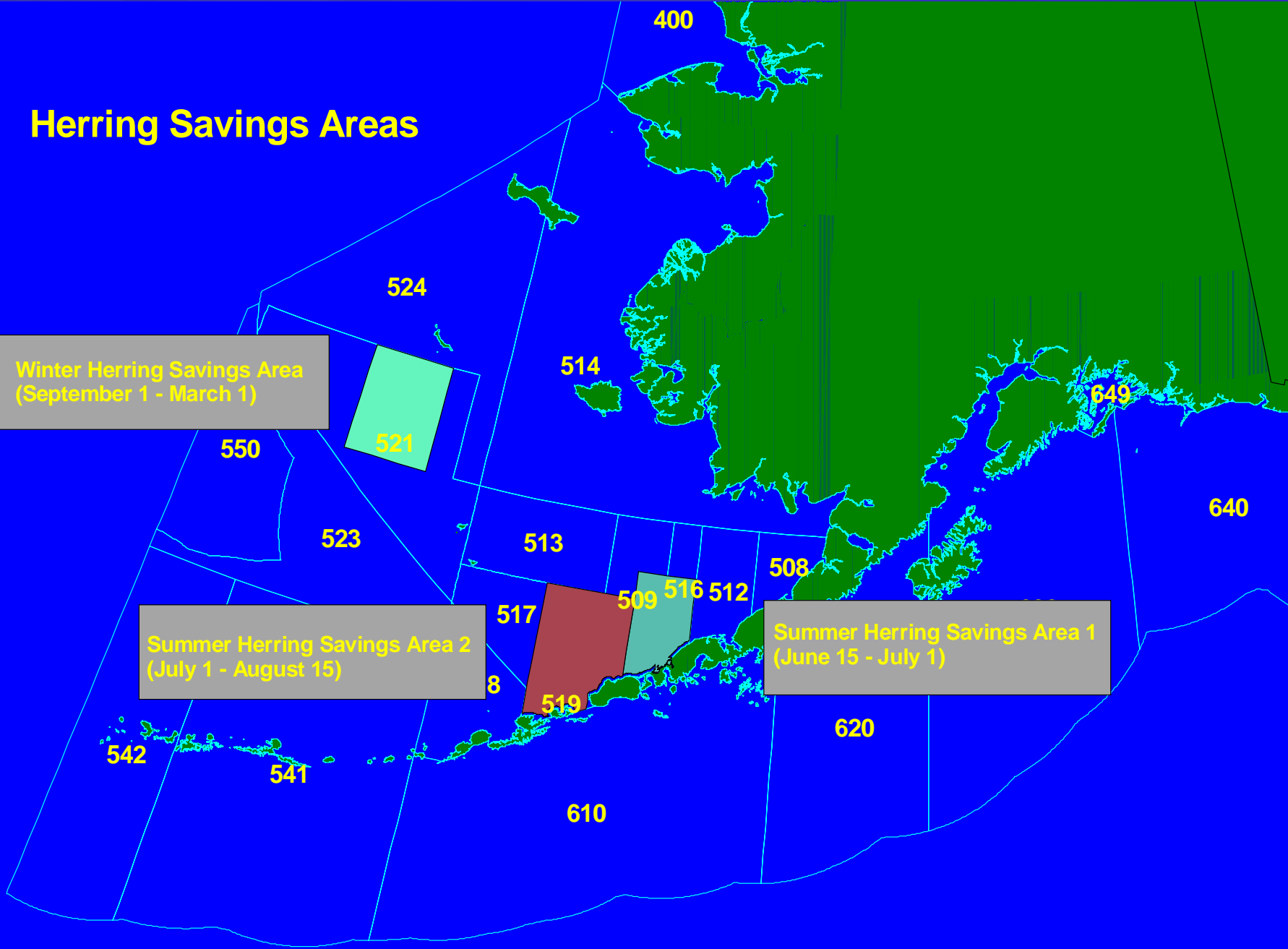
- Applies to chinook salmon bycaught by pelagic trawl vessels.
- Limit of 29,000 chinook closes the Chinook Salmon Savings Area, January 1 – April 15 and September 1 – December 31.

Herring Savings Areas

Winter Herring Savings Area
(September 1 - March 1)

Summer Herring Savings Area 2
(July 1 - August 15)

Summer Herring Savings Area 1
(June 15 - July 1)



Herring Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits established for 2005.

- Applies to trawl vessels and is apportioned by target fishery.
- Bycatch limit is 1,876 MT (based on 1% of EBS biomass).
- Closes the Herring Savings Areas on a seasonal rotating basis.

Halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits established for 2005.

- Bering Sea-wide closure upon reaching limit.
- Limits are apportioned by fishery/fishery group and season.
- Halibut bycatch by trawlers limit = 3,400 MT. Apportioned by target fishery.
- Halibut bycatch by other gear limit = 833 MT. Apportioned by target fishery.

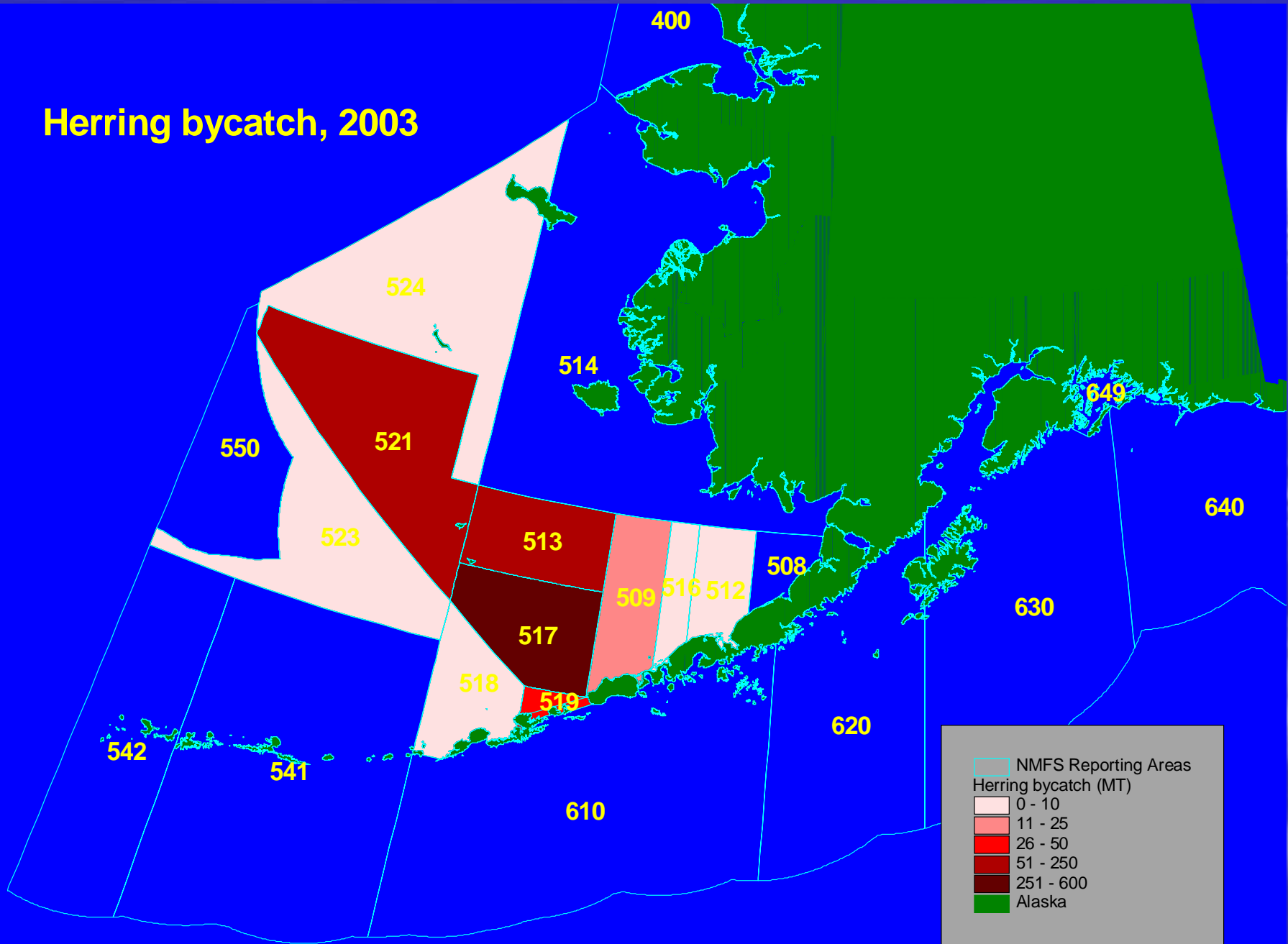
Prohibited species bycatch in
Bering Sea trawl fisheries, 2003
– 2004.

Herring

Chinook salmon

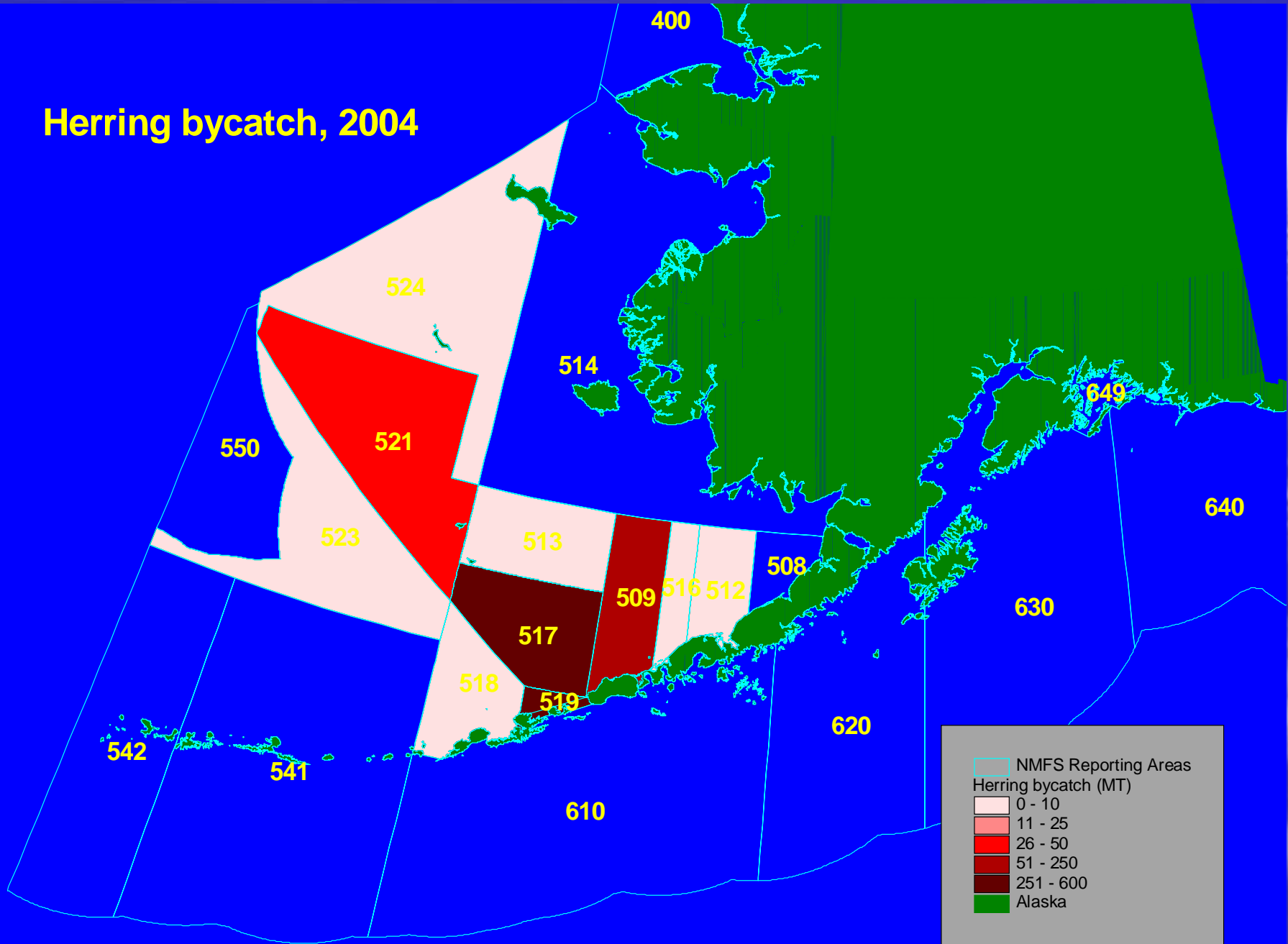
Non-chinook (chum) salmon

Herring bycatch, 2003



Total = 895 MT

Herring bycatch, 2004

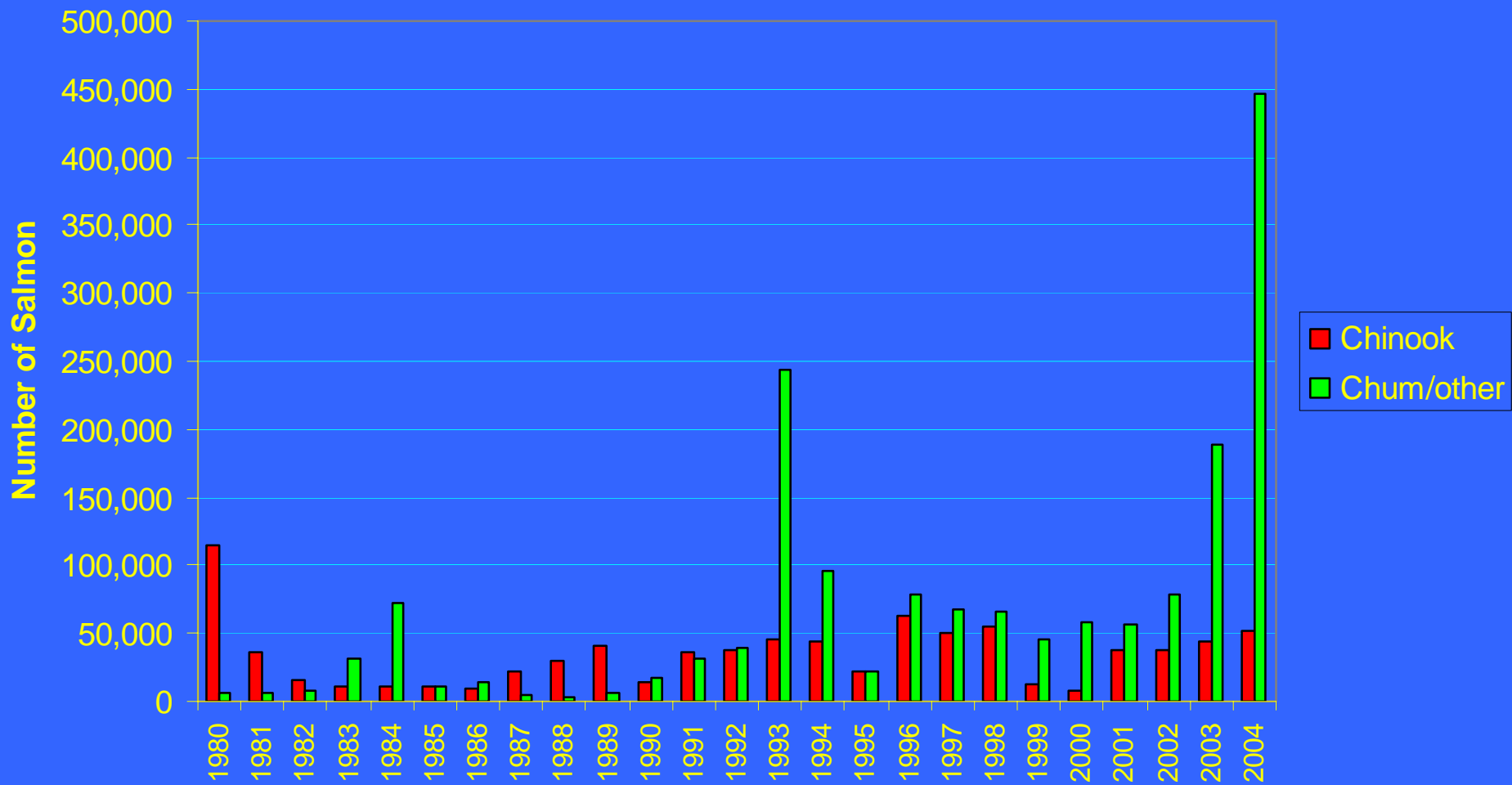


NMFS Reporting Areas
Herring bycatch (MT)

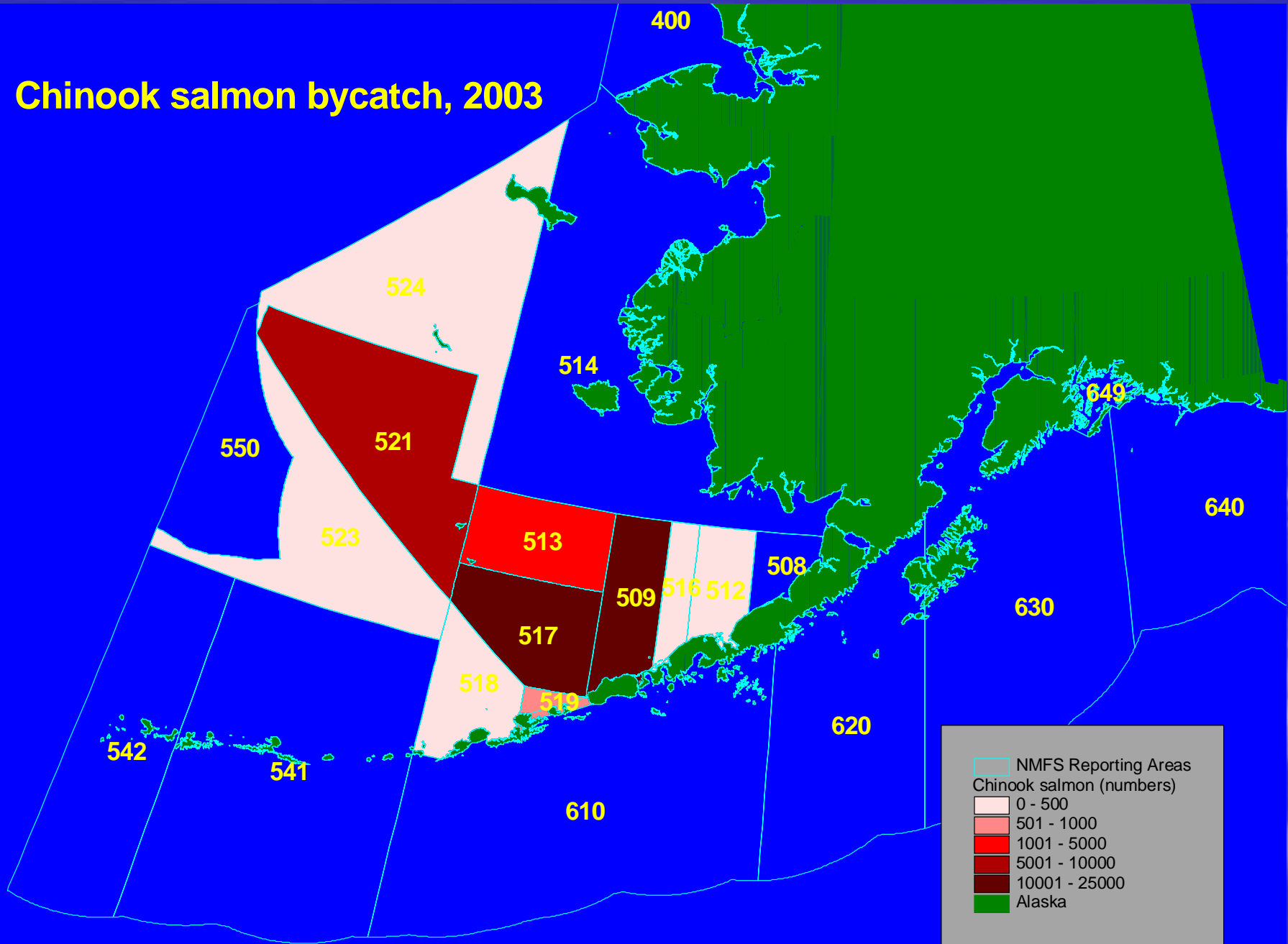
- 0 - 10
- 11 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 250
- 251 - 600
- Alaska

Total = 965 MT

Salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea, 1990 - 2004

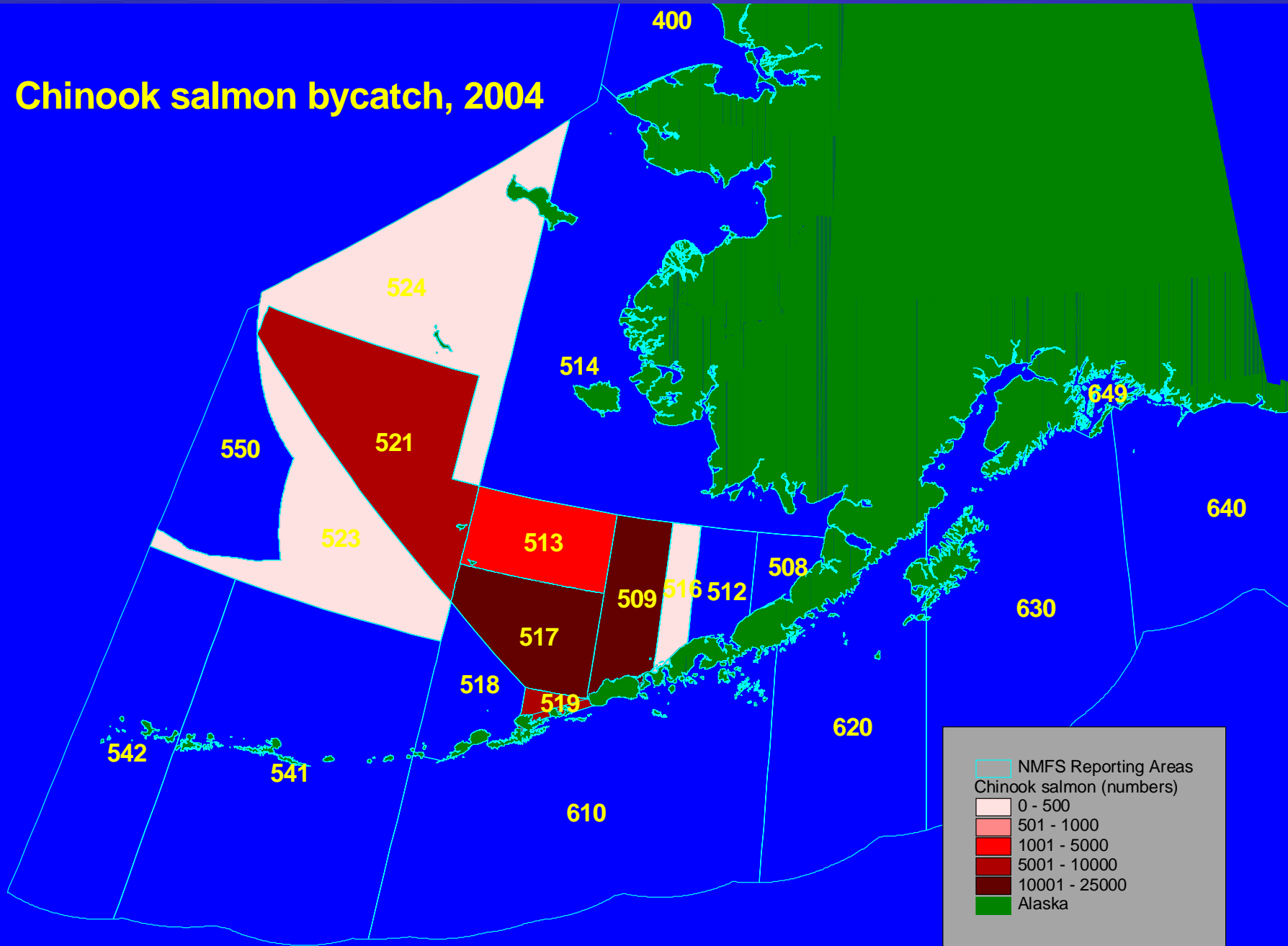


Chinook salmon bycatch, 2003



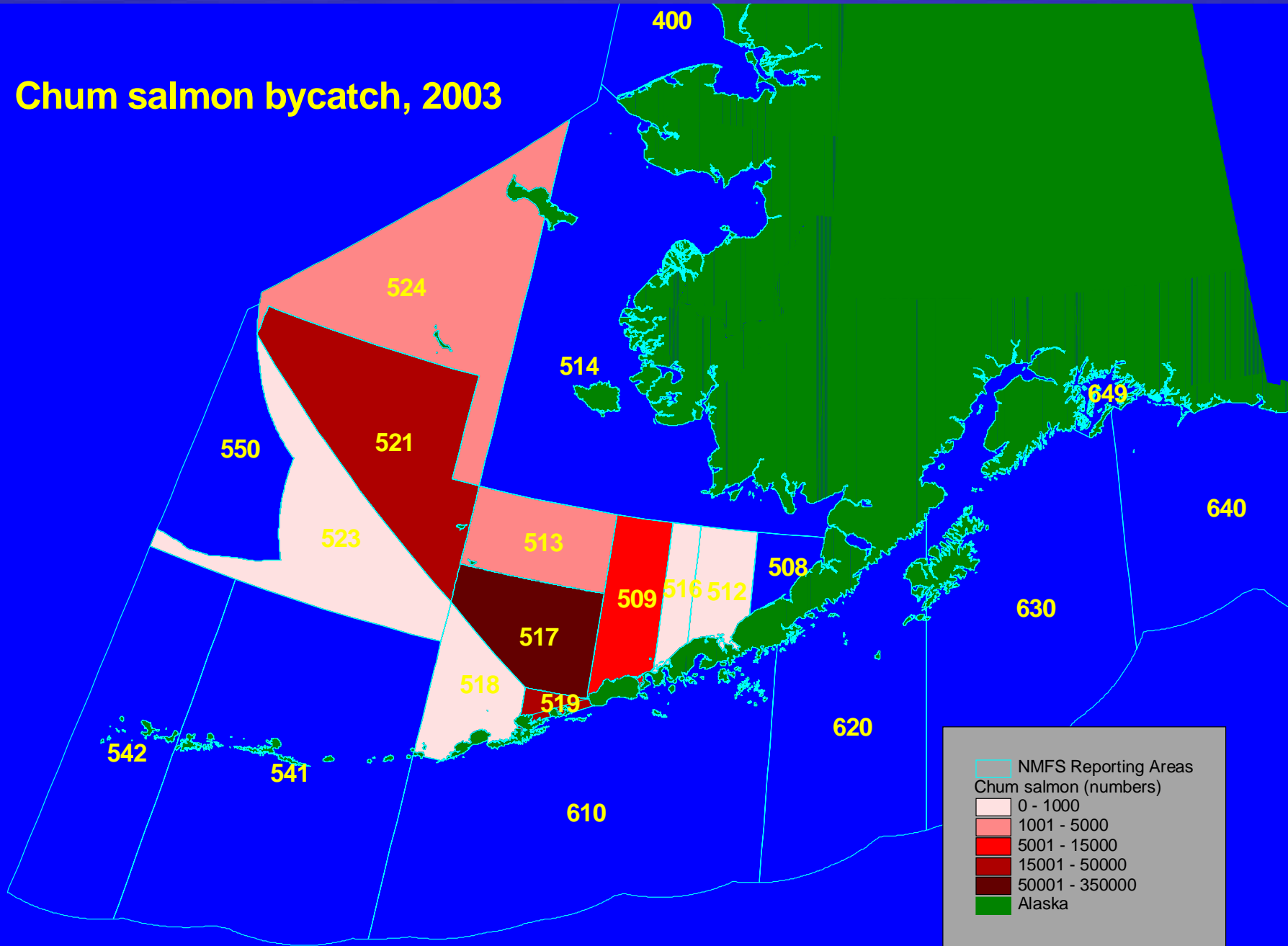
Total = 43,479 fish

Chinook salmon bycatch, 2004



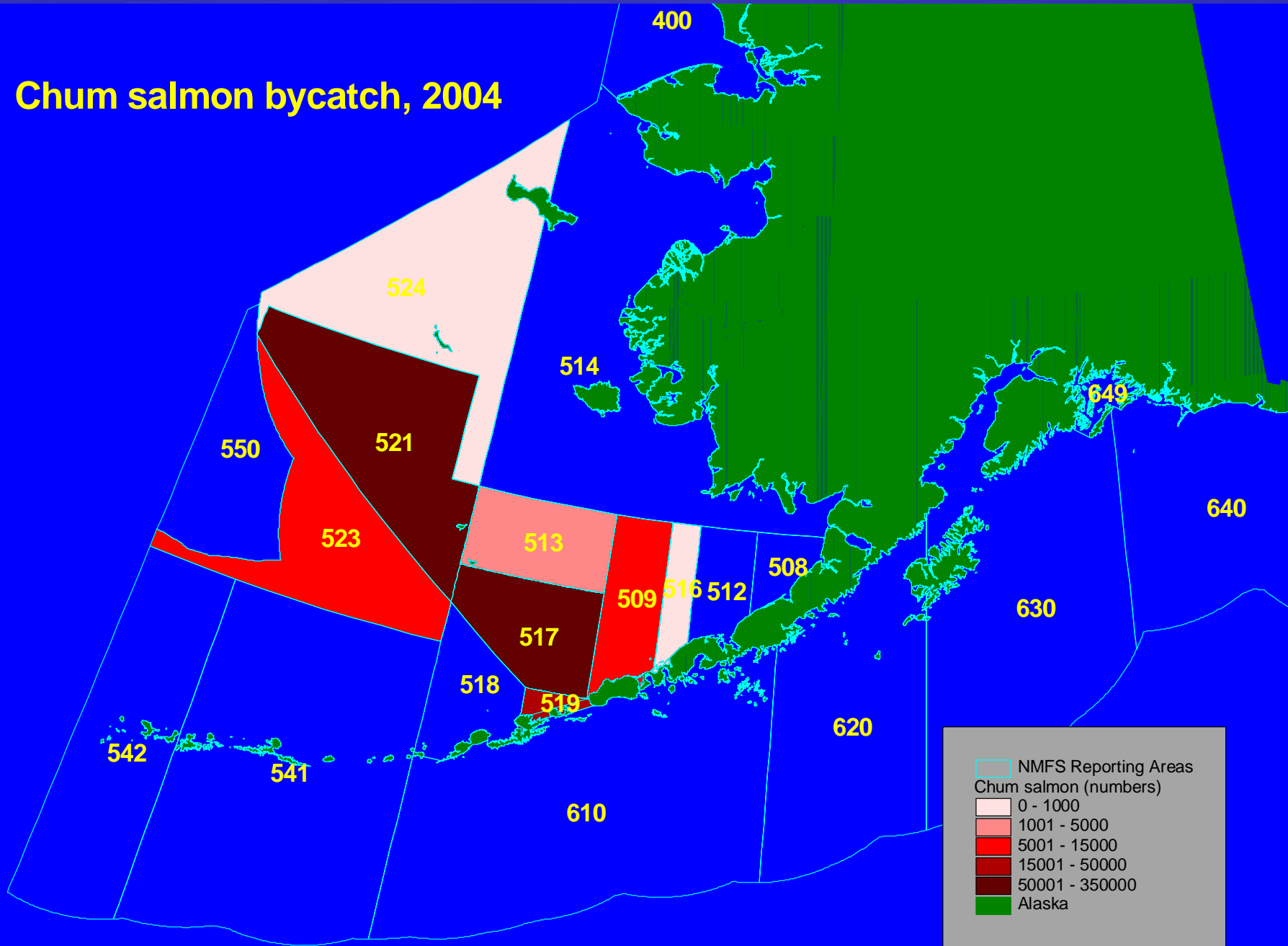
Total = 50,469 fish

Chum salmon bycatch, 2003



Total = 184,859 fish

Chum salmon bycatch, 2004



Total = 434,655 fish