

State of Alaska Marine Managed Areas



State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Fish and Game

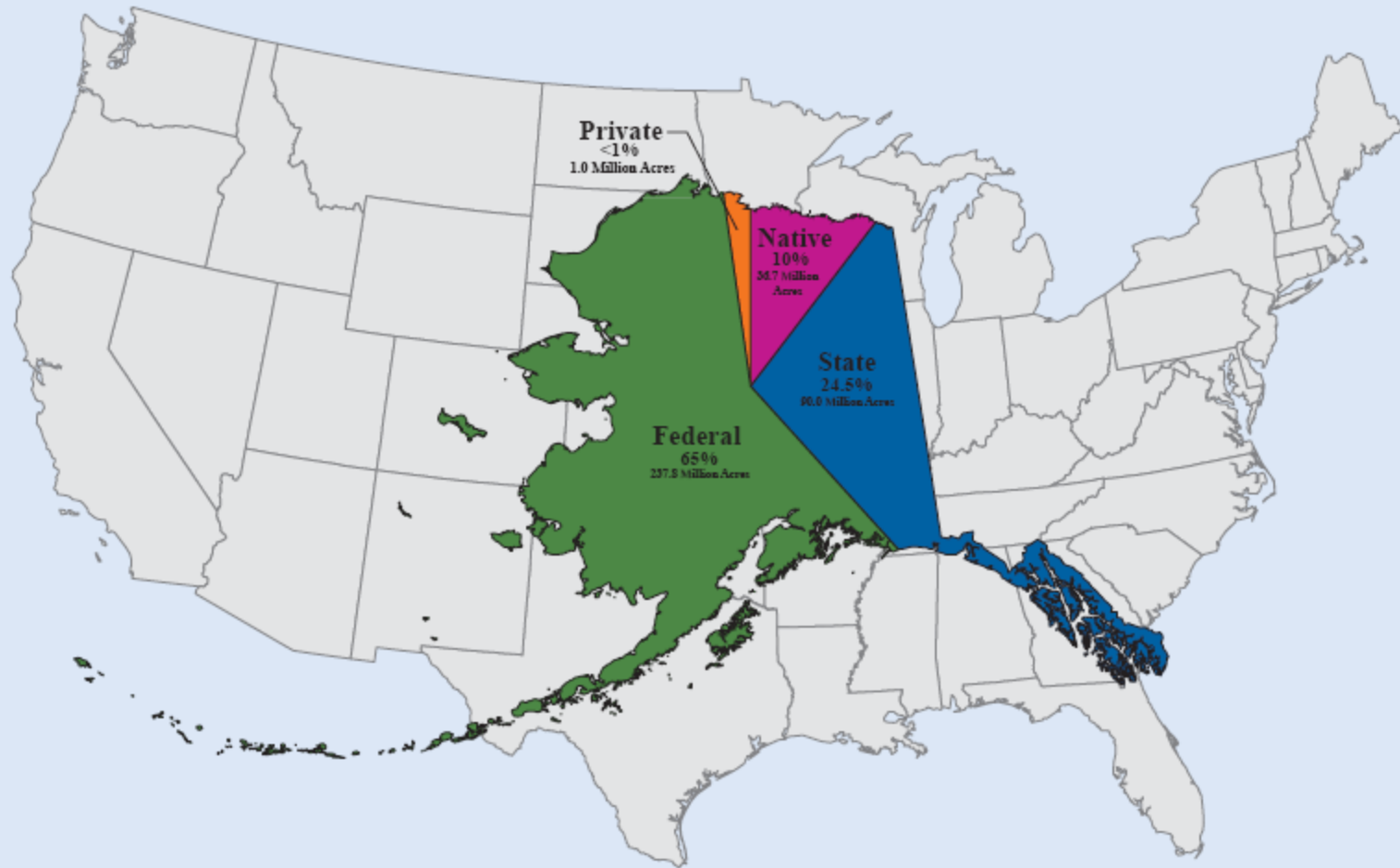


Overview of Alaska's Coastal Resources

- Alaska's shoreline is 44,500 miles long
- More than 60% is owned by the federal government
- More than 40% of Alaska is National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, or National Forest Monuments



WHO OWNS ALASKA?









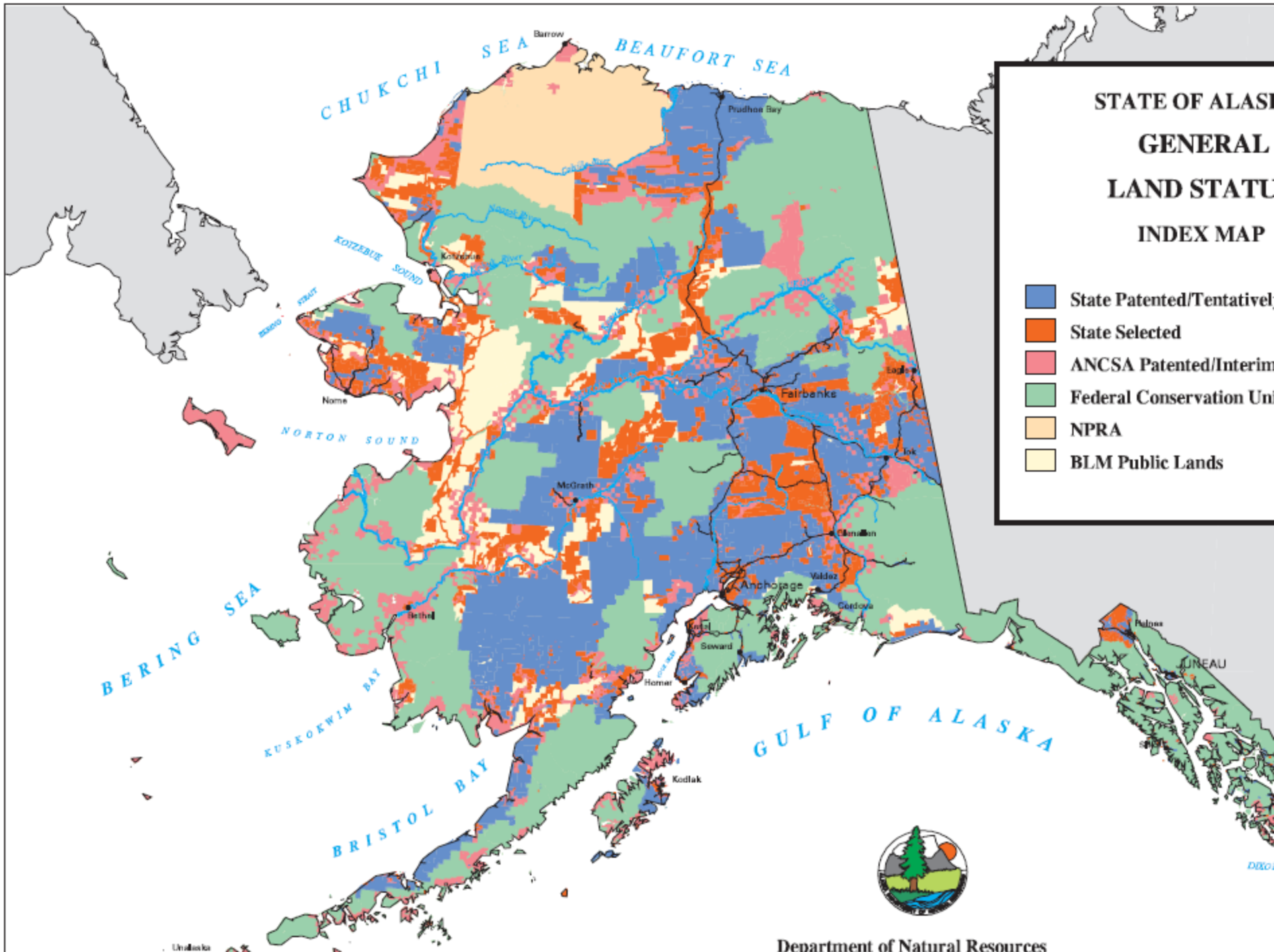
Data Source:
Land ownership percentages from USFS Bureau of
Land Management, October 1999

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Land Records Information Services

November 2005

**STATE OF ALASKA
GENERAL
LAND STATUS
INDEX MAP**

-  State Patented/Tentative
-  State Selected
-  ANCSA Patented/Interim
-  Federal Conservation Units
-  NPRA
-  BLM Public Lands





Importance of Alaska's Ocean and Coastal Resources

- Vibrant fishing industry
 - Ex-Vessel value averages \$1.5 billion annually
 - Almost \$6 billion in economic activity annually
 - Largest private sector employer in Alaska
- Shoreline Transportation – majority of coastal towns are only accessible by plane or boat
- Oil & Gas Development - \$2.2 billion annual royalties to the State of Alaska



State Ownership and Management

- State owns most tidelands and submerged lands along the coast out to the 3 mile territorial limit
- Exceptions are federal lands withdrawn at statehood
- Entire shoreline under the jurisdiction of the ACMP





State Protected Areas

- State Game Refuges
- State Critical Habitat Areas
- State Wildlife Sanctuaries
- State Marine Parks
- Other State Parks that include coastal waters



State of Alaska Marine Managed Areas: Commercial Fishing Restrictions

Types of areas:

- Gear restrictions (examples: trawling, dredging)
- Target species restrictions (example: groundfish)
- Research closures (example: dive fisheries)



State of Alaska Marine Managed Areas: ADF&G Special Areas

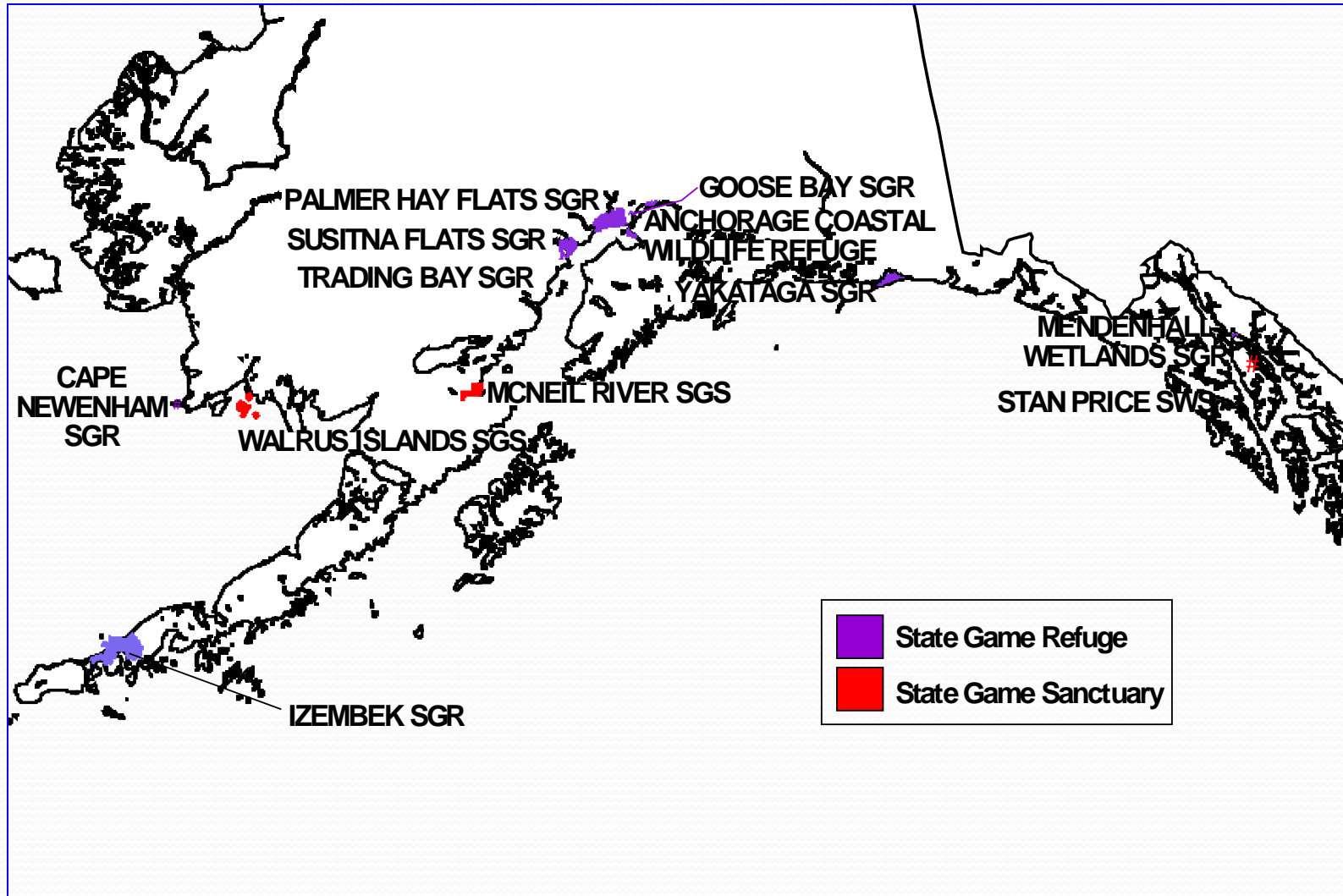
Types:

- Game Refuges
- Game Sanctuaries
- Critical Habitat Areas

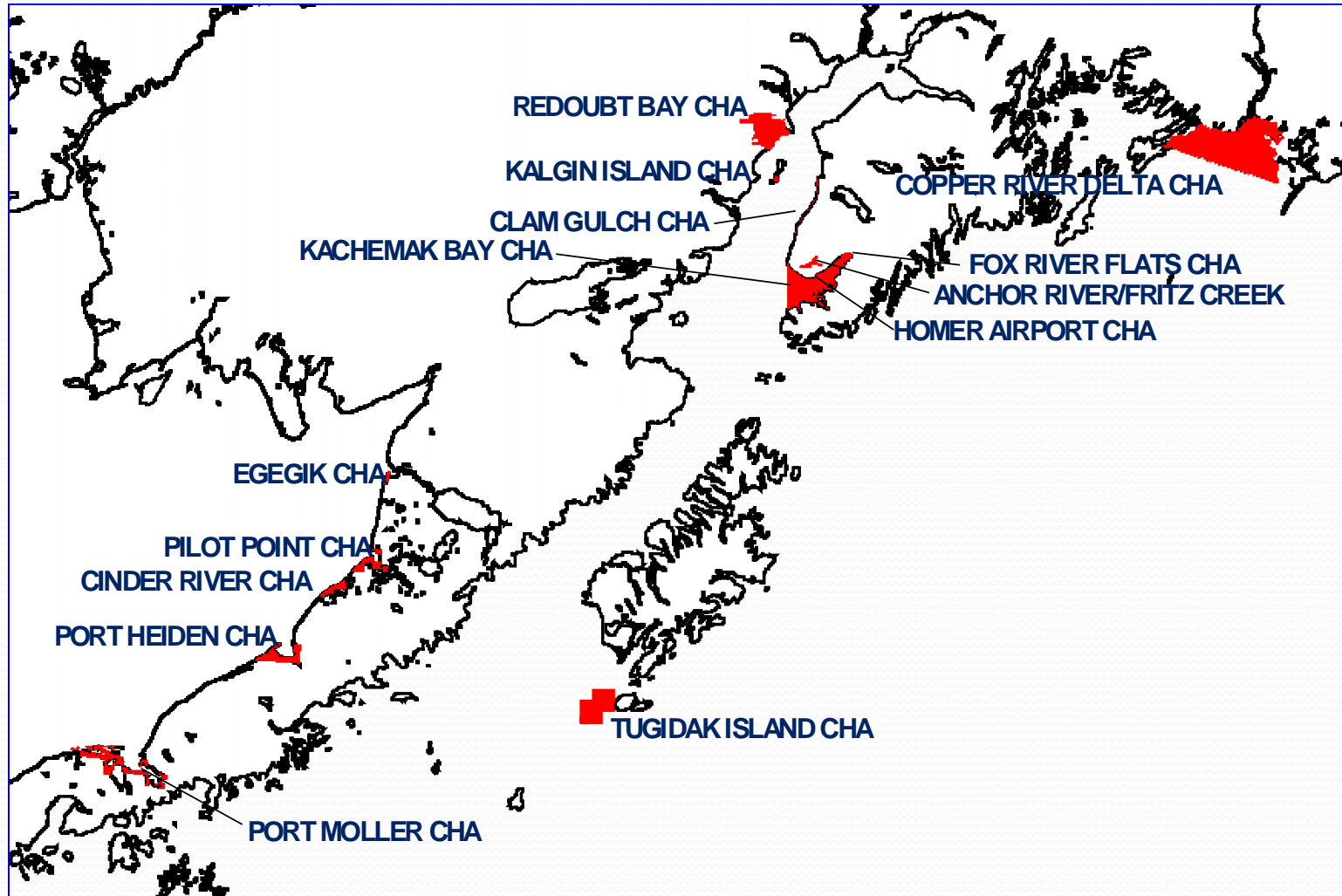
Areas are often small with limited marine habitat
(exceptions include Izembek SGR, Kachemak Bay CHA)



State Game Refuges and Sanctuaries



State Critical Habitat Areas



State of Alaska Marine Managed Areas: Priorities

- Habitat protection
- Sustainable production (subsistence, recreational, and commercial)
- Research to support sustainable production
- Evaluation of existing MMAs

Challenges

- Funding to conduct research and evaluations
- Climate change: fixed boundaries



State of Alaska Marine Managed Areas: Designation Process

Fishery restrictions: Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF)

- Citizen Board, appointed by the Governor
- Proposals may be made by anyone (annual, 3 yr rotation)
- Board deliberates and makes decisions in public
- Board formed an MPA committee in 2001, now disbanded

Special Areas: Alaska Legislature

- Refuges, Sanctuaries, Critical Habitats
- Marine reserves (via BOF: *AS 16.05.251[a][1]*)





Concerns with National MPA System

- Existing State marine managed areas already protected under state law
- State has concerns about potential federal oversight
- MPA designations could impact federal permitting
- NOTE: 3 of the 4 federally designated MPAs appear to include state-owned lands

