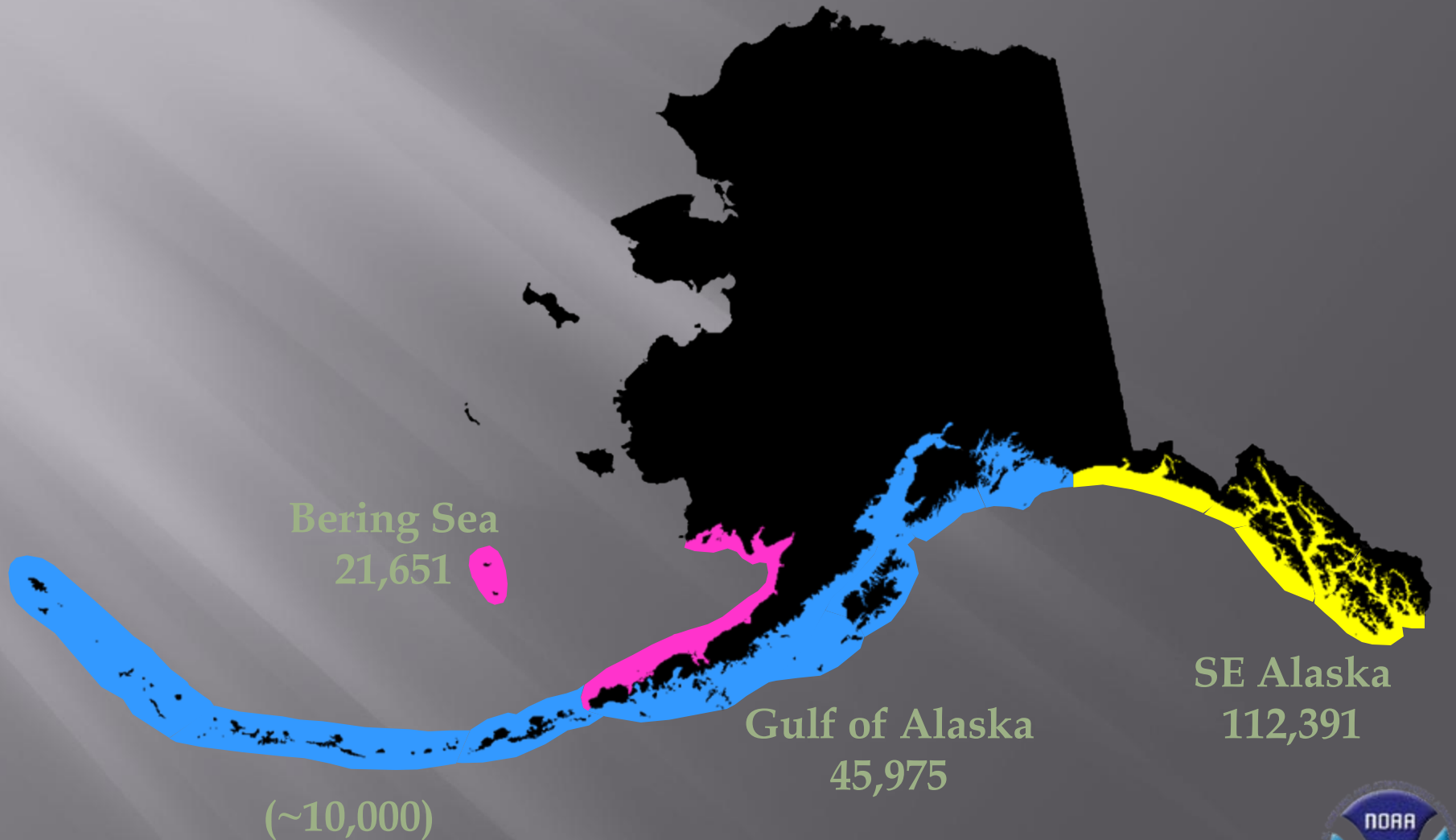


ALASKA NATIVE HARBOR SEAL COMMISSION'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Monica Riedel, CEO/Executive Director,
ANHSC

Draft 2006 Stock Assessment



Conclusions:

- Co-management Agreement allowed for equal decision making by both NMFS and ANHSC
- A key to the success of this partnership is to incorporate the spirit and intent of co-management by building trust and by establishing close cooperation and communication between the two Parties and their constituents.
- Shared decision-making shall be through consensus, based on mutual respect and understanding of each Party's cultural perspective.
- Scientific data on genetic delineation of stocks was thoroughly explained in layman's terms
- Ample time was allowed to process and distribute information to Tribes and hunters

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Co-Management Authorizations

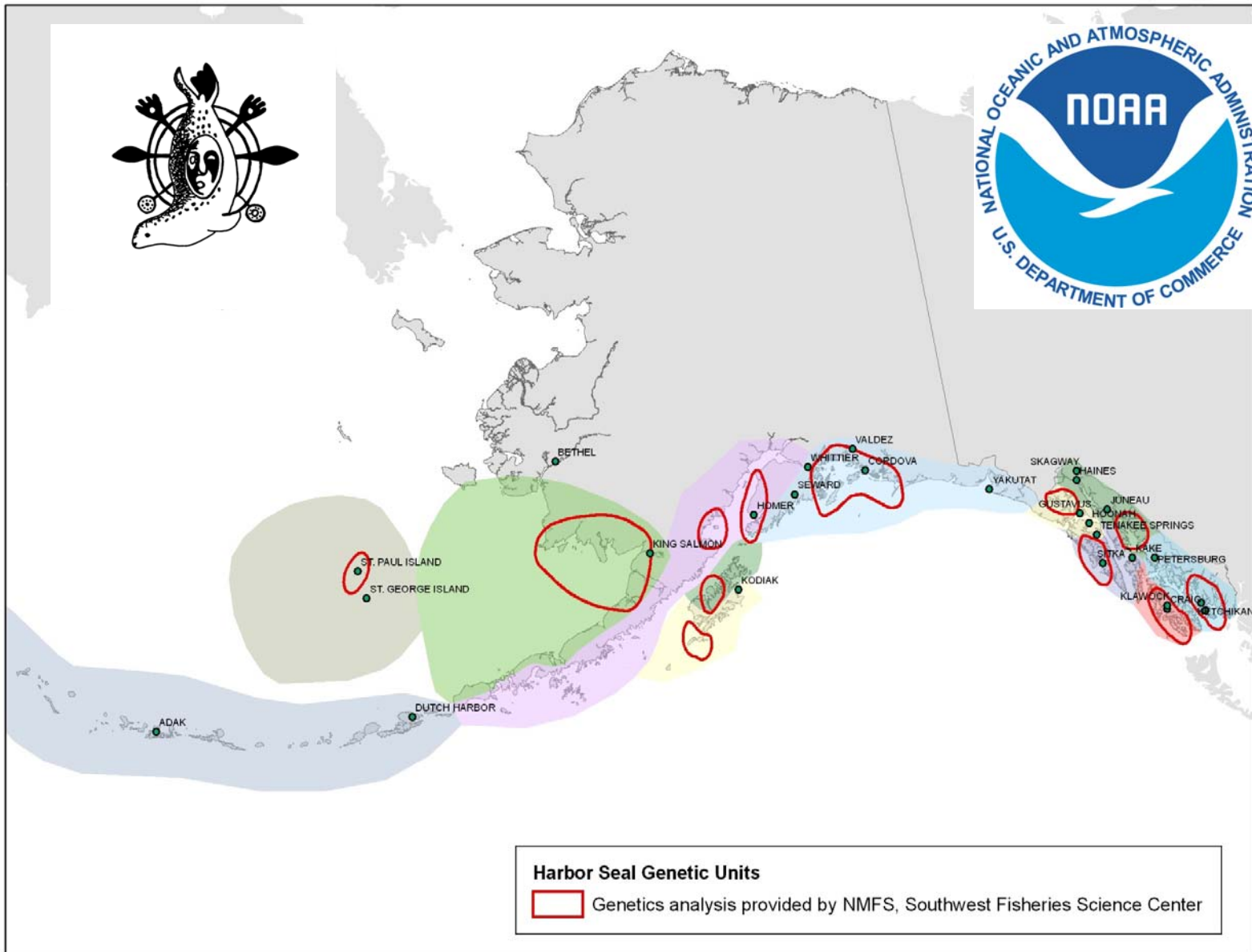
- ▣ Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior has the authority to regulate and manage all marine mammals. They are authorized under Sec 119 of the MMPA to co-manage the subsistence harvest of Marine Mammals with Alaska Natives.
- ▣ Alaska Native Organizations are Tribally authorized to enter into co-management agreements with the appropriate Federal Agency.

ANHSC/NMFS Co-Management Agreement was signed in 1999

- ▣ ANHSC and NMFS followed the principals outlined in:
- ▣ “Establishing Principals, Policies and Protocols for Co-management” developed in 1995 by RurAL CAP, AFN, and AITC
- ▣ “Memorandum of Agreement for Negotiation of Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 119 Agreements” in August of 1997 also referred to as the “Umbrella Agreement”.

Proactive management through the ANHSC/NMFS Sec 119 Agreement

- ▣ “prior to listing as strategic or depleted under the MMPA and/or as threatened or endangered under the ESA) the Parties agree that the Co-management Committee shall:
 - ▣ Consult and recommend about a possible need to list;
 - ▣ Consult and recommend about management strategies to avoid a possible listing;
 - ▣ After listing, consult and recommend about possible regulations; and
 - ▣ After listing, consult and recommend about possible arrangements for ensuring compliance and enforcement.”



Proposed new management stock structure for Alaska harbor seals as drafted by the ANHSC-NMFS co-management committee on September 29, 2005. We respectfully request your input on this proposed stock structure.

ANHSC's Biosampling Program Contributed to collection of genetic data

- ▣ With funding from EVOS, biosampling subsistence harvested seals became an educational program for hunters and youth in the spill impacted area.
- ▣ Hunters became directly involved in the collection of the genetic data used to determine stock structure. They also were involved in co-management committee meetings where scientific analysis was shared.

A seal is a seal

- ▣ Tlingit and Haida Resolution opposing delineation of harbor seal stocks
- ▣ During the March 2008 co-management committee meeting, representatives from South East discussed adding a clause to any federal register notice stating that the stock delineation would not affect the subsistence harvest of harbor seals without consultation with Tribes that may be affected.



CENTRAL COUNCIL
tlingit and haida indian tribes of alaska
ANDREW P HOPE BUILDING
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801-9983

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Seventy-Second Annual General Assembly
April 18-21, 2007

Resolution GA/ 07-18

Title: Opposition to the National Marine Fisheries Service DNA Genetics Classification of Harbor Seals in Alaska

By: Tlingit and Haida's of the City & Borough of Juneau

WHEREAS, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 26,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, Central Council is founded upon our tribal members aboriginal subsistence customs and traditions; and

WHEREAS, our Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian ancestors have passed on generations of traditional knowledge regarding our subsistence fish and game; and

WHEREAS, our Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people of today have always harvested fish and game according to our needs and Native protocols; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service is taking research and legal measures to further define harbor seal stocks with DNA genetic identification that will be used to determine the harvestability of harbor seal stocks in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, harbor seals in certain Southeast Alaska waters will and can be defined as threatened or endangered if DNA identification is used as a management tool; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Second General Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska convened in Wrangell, Alaska on April 18-21, 2007, that the Central Council on behalf of its members opposes any further DNA genetics research of harbor seals in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NMFS will notify central Council of measures taken to discontinue this research and form of marine mammal classification; and

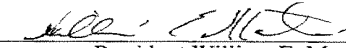
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Central council will notify our State Governor and our Congressional Delegation to not support this type research and management tool; and

GA Resolution 07-18

Page 2

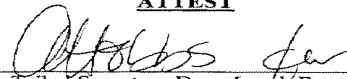
ADOPTED this 21st day of April 2007, by the Seventy-Second General Assembly of
Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President William E. Martin

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Dana Leask Ruaro

Genetic Review

- ▣ In December 2004, NOAA, NMFS and the ANHSC through their joint Harbor Seal Co-Management Committee, made available the results of an independent scientific peer review of: O'Corry-Crowe, G. M., K.K. Martien and B.L.Taylor. 2003. The analysis of population genetic structure in Alaskan harbor seals, *Phoca vitulina*, as a framework for the identification of management stocks. Administrative Report LLJ-03-08. Southwest Fisheries Center, 8604 La Jolla, CA

Stock Assessment Report

Revised 51/153/20069

HARBOR SEAL (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*):

Southeast Alaska Stock

- NOTE - ~~March~~ January 20079: NMFS has new genetic information on harbor seals in Alaska which indicates that the current division of Alaskan harbor seals into the Southeast Alaska, Gulf of Alaska, and Bering Sea stocks needs to be reassessed. NMFS, in cooperation with our partners in the Alaskan Native community, is evaluating the new genetic information and hopes to make a joint recommendation regarding stock structure in 20089. In the interim, new information on harbor seal abundance, mortality levels, and trends is provided within this report. A complete revision of the harbor seal stock assessments will be postponed until new stocks are defined.

Ongoing Proactive Activities

- ▣ ANHSC participates with NMFS, ASLC, ADF&G Wildlife and Conservation, and NMML to compile and review on-going harbor seal research projects.
- ▣ In 2003 NMFS organized a meeting of the participants with a goal of coordinating and collaborating on statewide harbor seal research. The group meets annually to update the plan.

Positive Outcomes

- ▣ In March 2008 the NMFS led Harbor Seal Research Plan underwent a ranking exercise
- ▣ Out of 56 harbor seal projects statewide, the top two projects that were identified by the group of researchers were the ANHSC biosampling program and the ANHSC harvest data program
- ▣ Co-management works, research projects need to be coordinated, and in times of fiscal downturns, we need to prioritize research based on management needs



M. Riedel, AFE: Feb 5, 2009