

Spawning Distribution of Susitna River Chinook Salmon in 2015 and 2016

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Introduction

- Scope of Study
 - Mainstem Susitna River
 - Yentna River
- In season tracking
 - Stationary sites
 - Aerial surveys
- Post season analysis/results



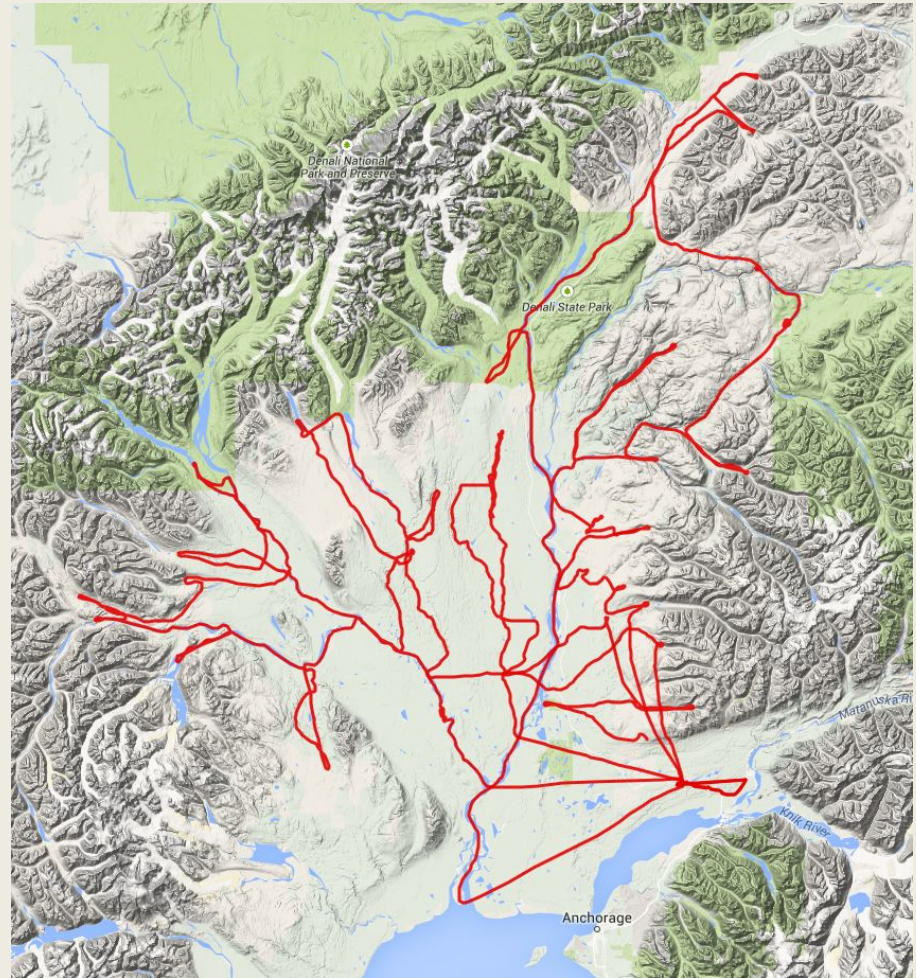
Stationary Tracking Sites

- Operate 24/7
- Two Antenna's
 - Detects upstream and downstream movement
- Bi-weekly site visits
- Reference tags



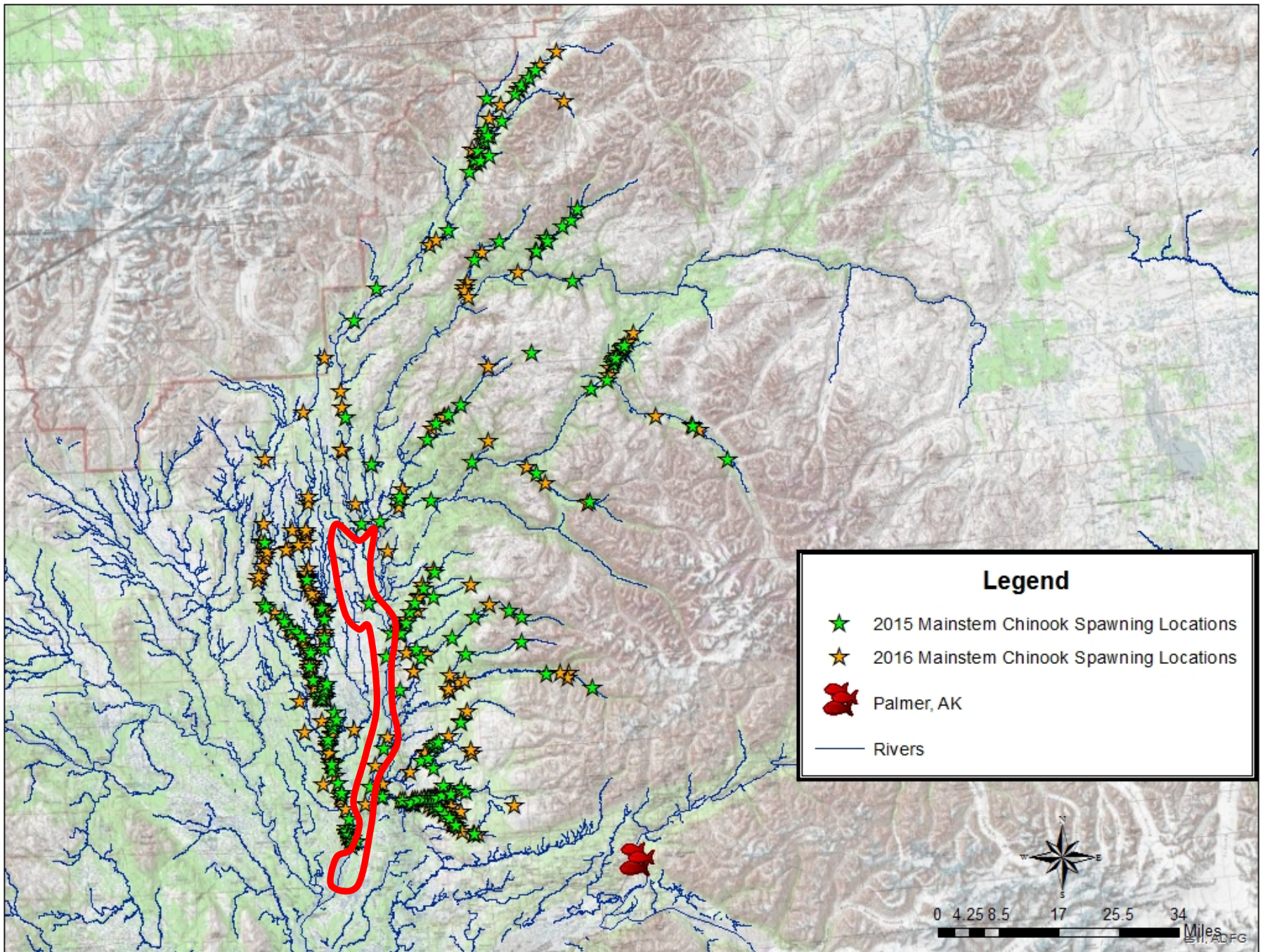
Aerial Tracking Surveys

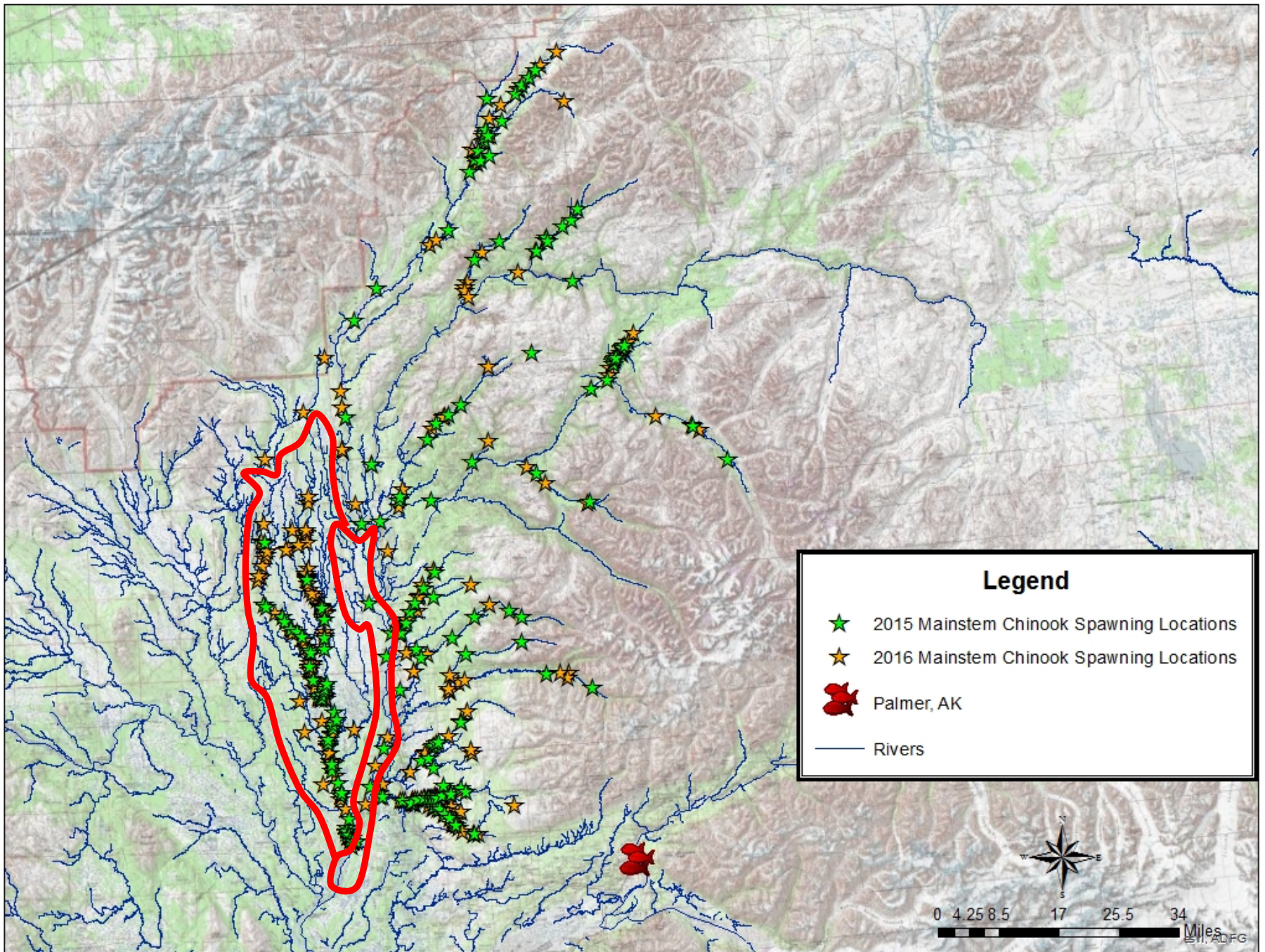
- Dual antennas
- Fixed-wing
- Bi-weekly

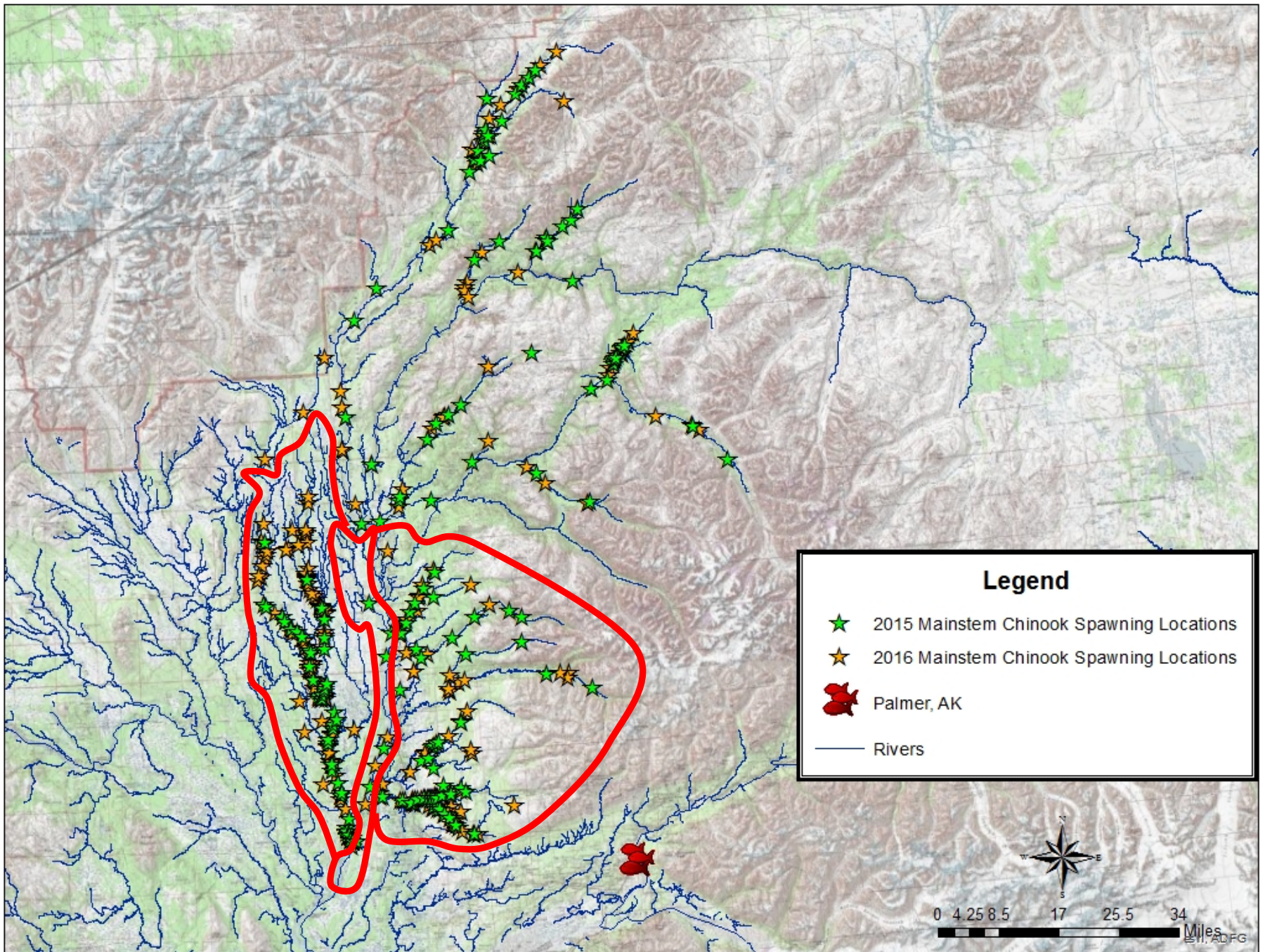


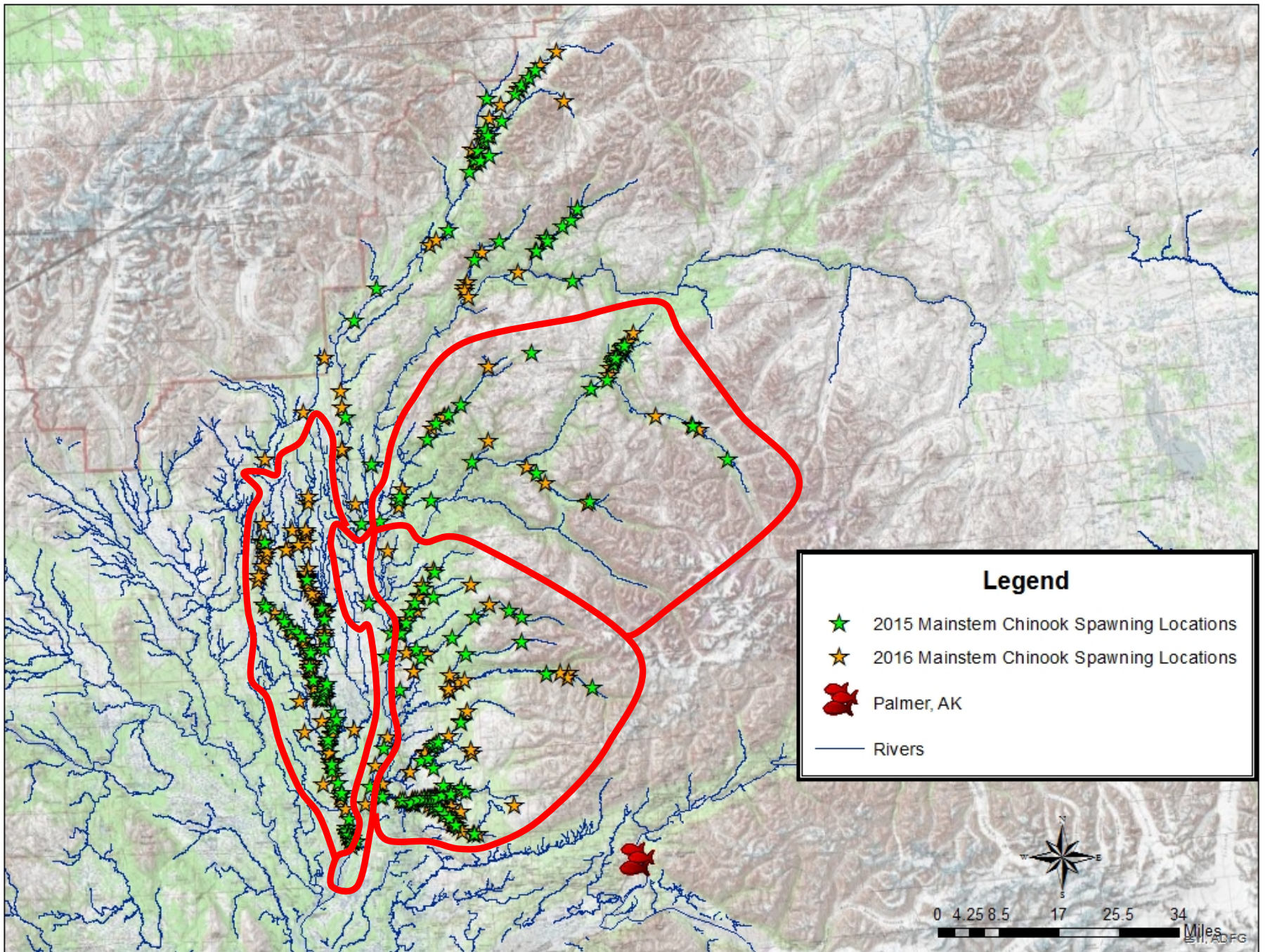
Mainstem Susitna River

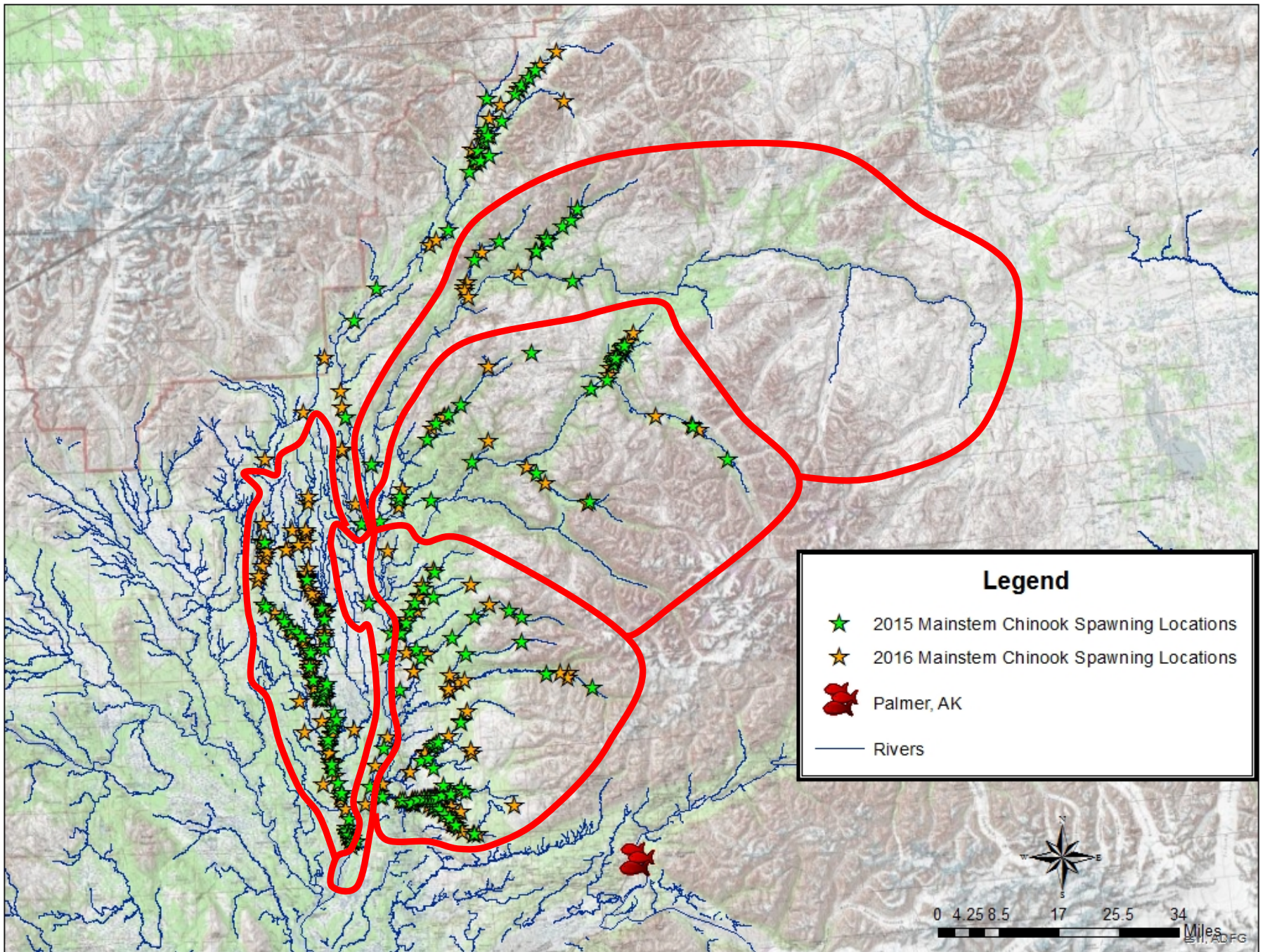
- Mainstem (RM 34) tagging site
 - 2015: 299 Chinook salmon radio-tagged
 - 2016: 297 Chinook salmon radio-tagged
- Seven stationary sites
- Bi-weekly aerial surveys
 - Four in 2015
 - Three in 2016
- Each fish assigned to one of six spawning groups





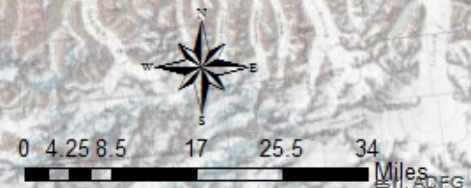


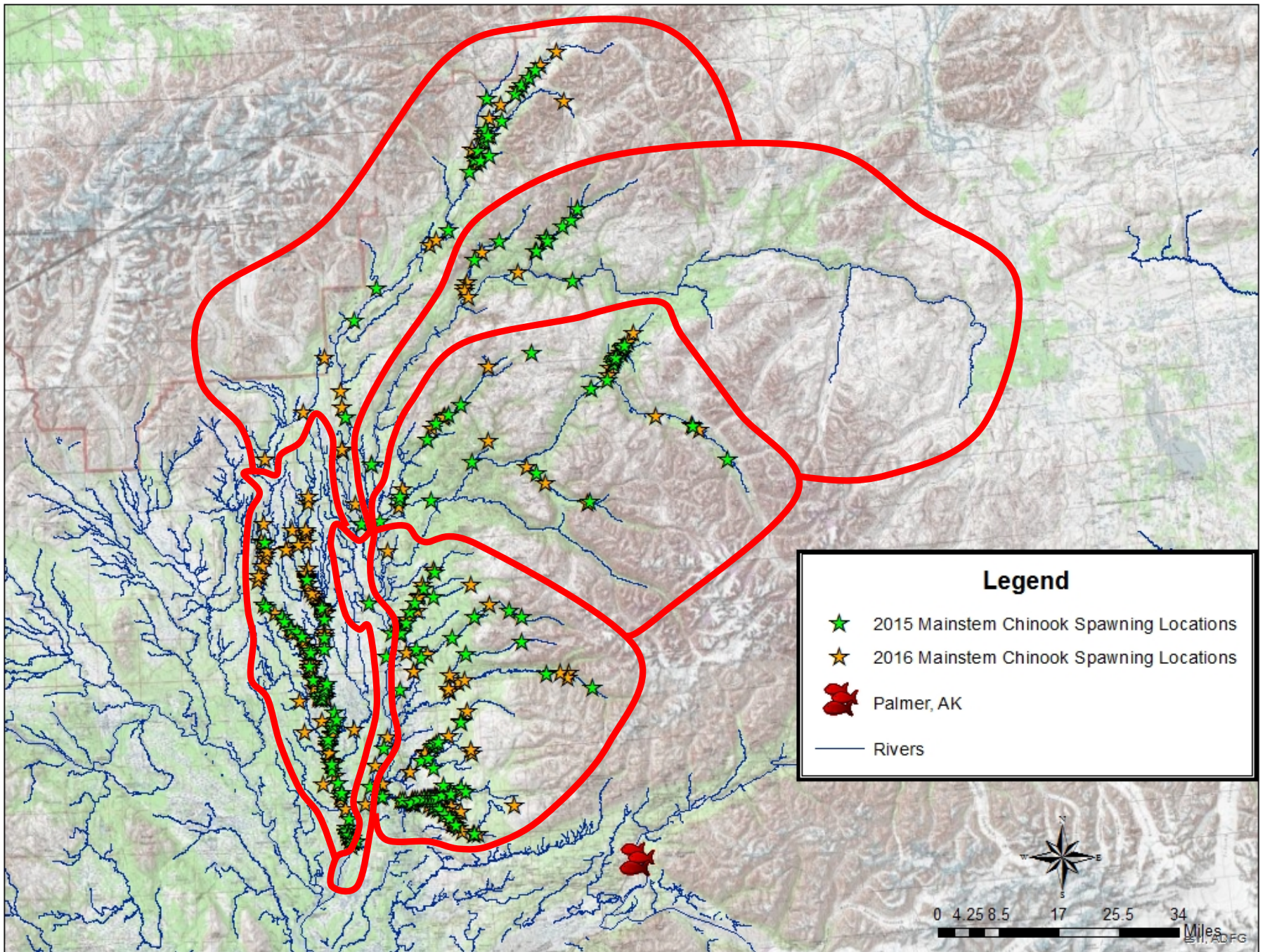




Legend

- ★ 2015 Mainstem Chinook Spawning Locations
- ★ 2016 Mainstem Chinook Spawning Locations
- 🌸 Palmer, AK
- Rivers



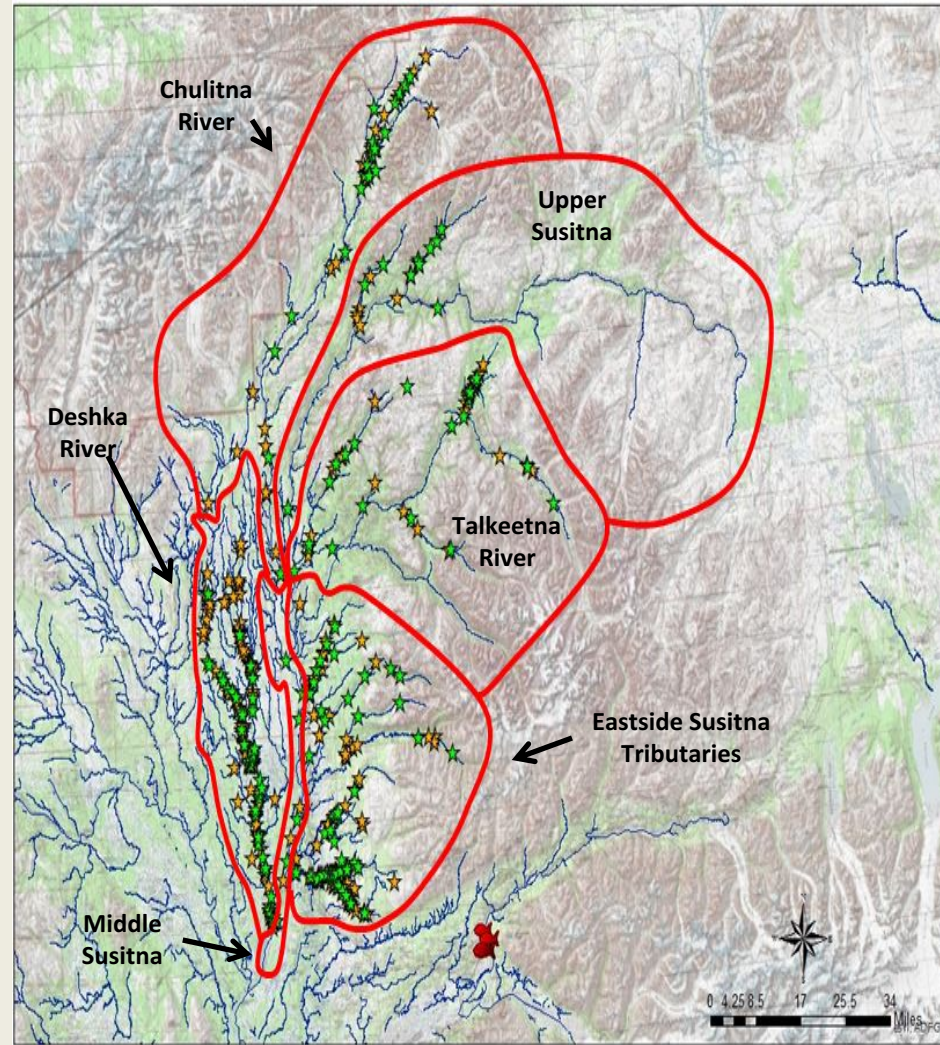
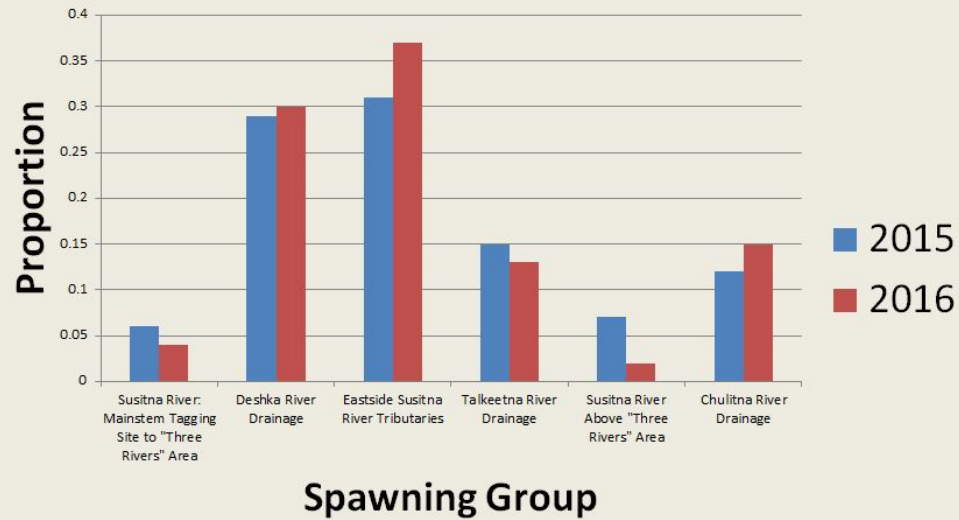


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Proportion of Radio-Tags Assigned to Each "Spawning Group"

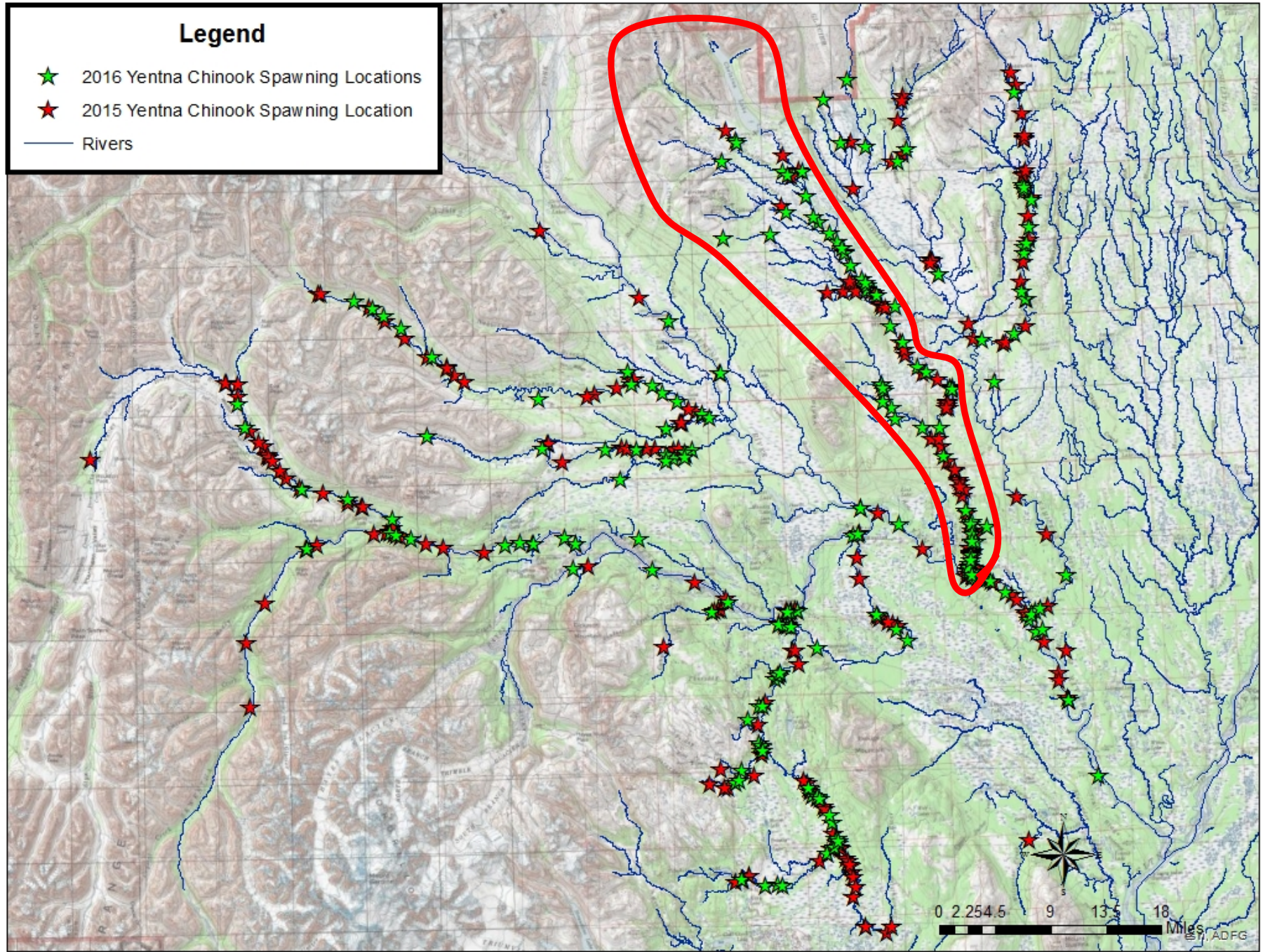


Yentna River

- RM 6 Tagging Site
 - 2015 and 2016: 300 Chinook salmon radio-tagged
- Stationary Sites
 - Three in 2015
 - Five in 2016
- Bi-weekly aerial surveys
 - Four in 2015
 - Three in 2016
- Five major spawning locations

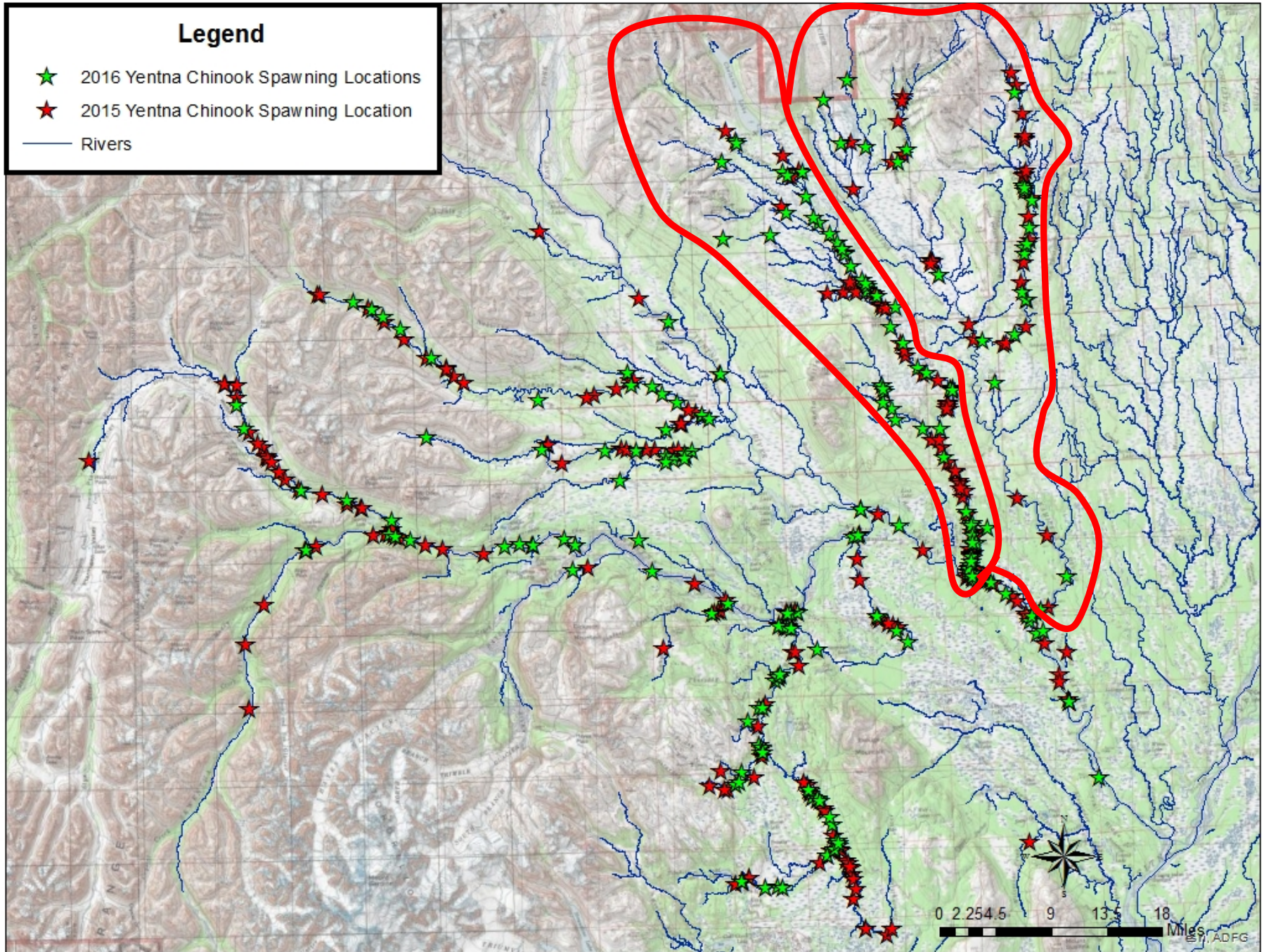
Legend

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- ★ 2015 Yentna Chinook Spawning Location
- Rivers



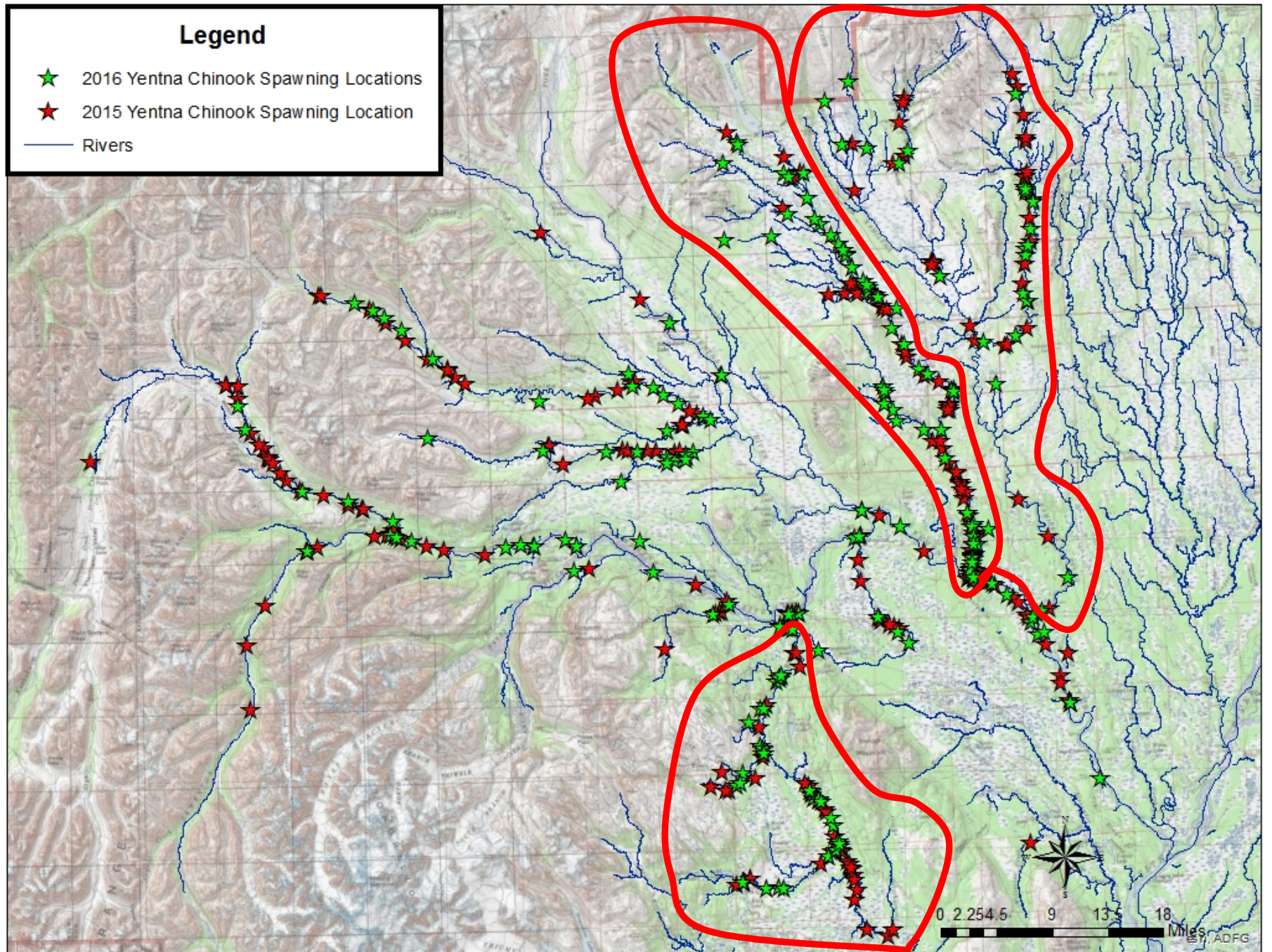
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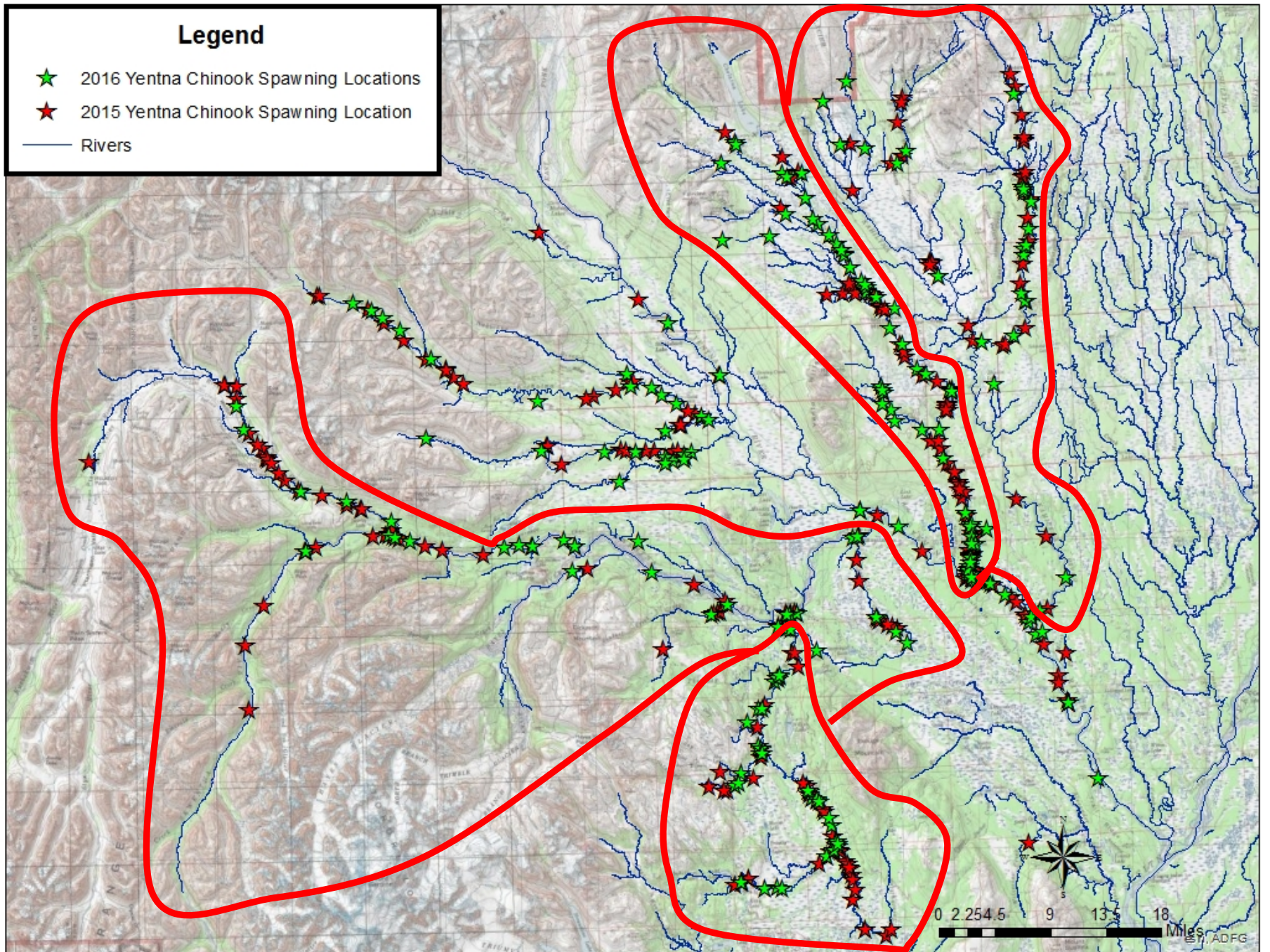
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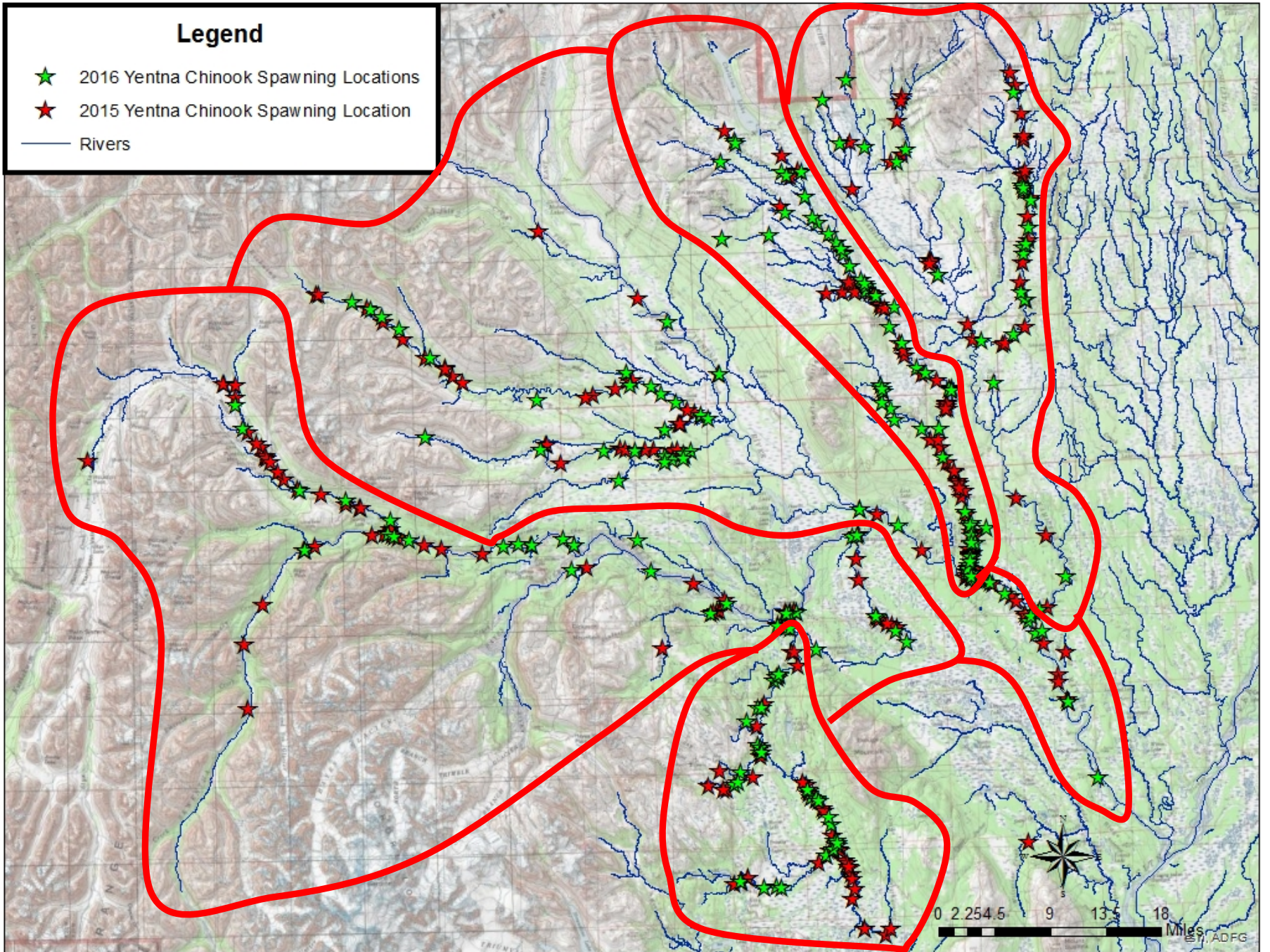
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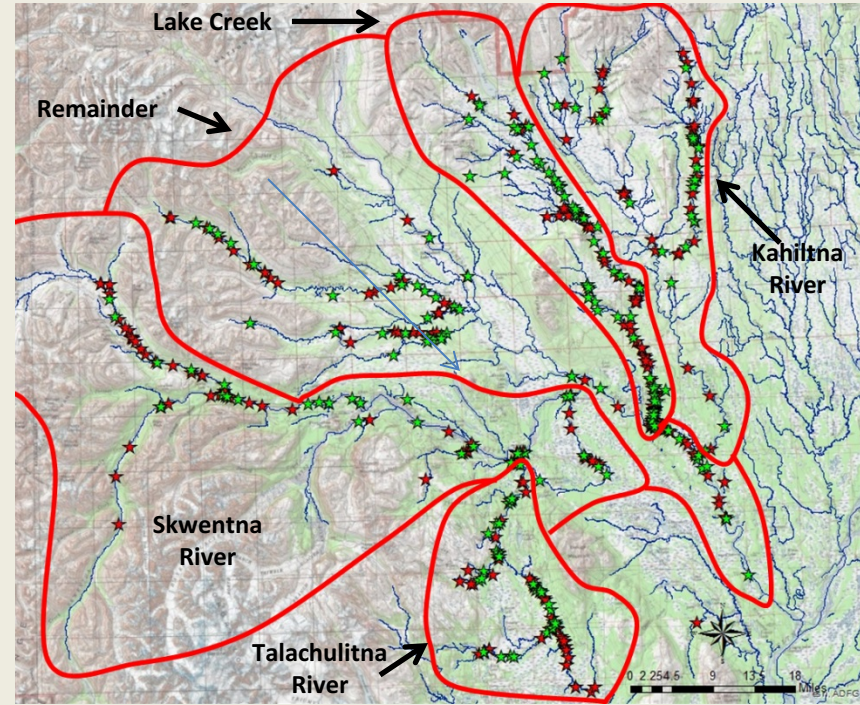
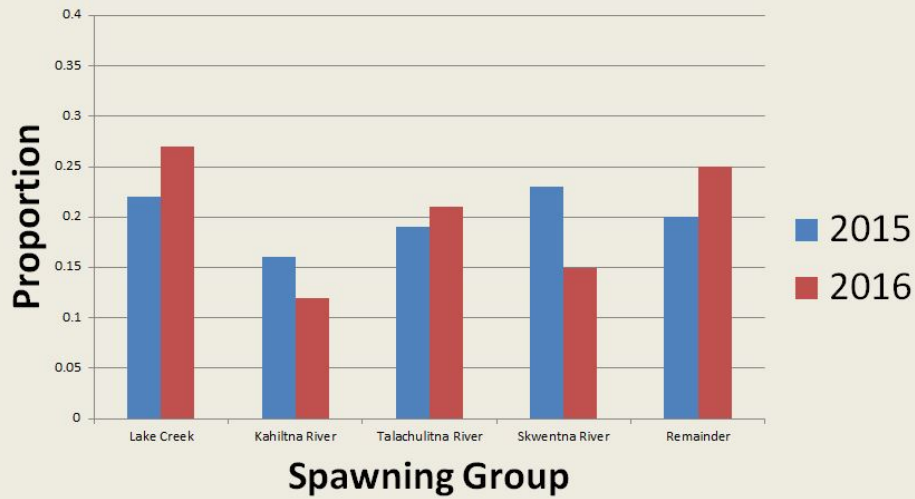


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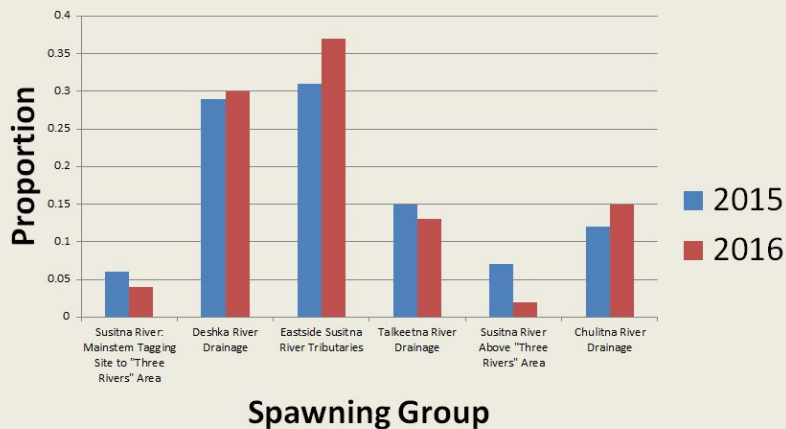
Proportion of Radio-Tags Assigned to Each "Spawning Group"



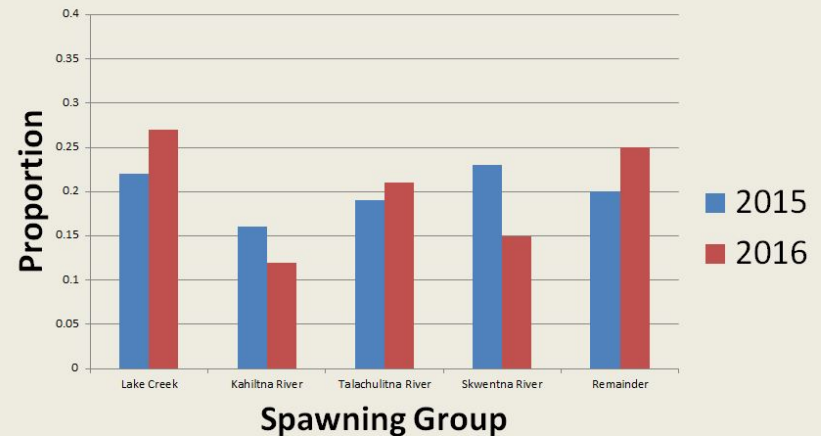
Future?

- Compare proportions that return to Deshka River (and other major tributaries) over the years to see if there is consistency across years
- Use weir and aerial counts from the past to estimate returns

Mainstem Susitna



Yentna



Acknowledgements

- ADFG
 - Palmer Office Staff
 - Anchorage: Gayle Neufeld, Ryan Snow, Skip Repetto
 - Technicians: Jesse Dahms, Tim Wilson, Jim Roll, and Lucas Wright
- Don Glasser-Artic Wings Aviation



Questions?