

Out of sight, out of mind? The unrealized devastation from invasive northern pike.



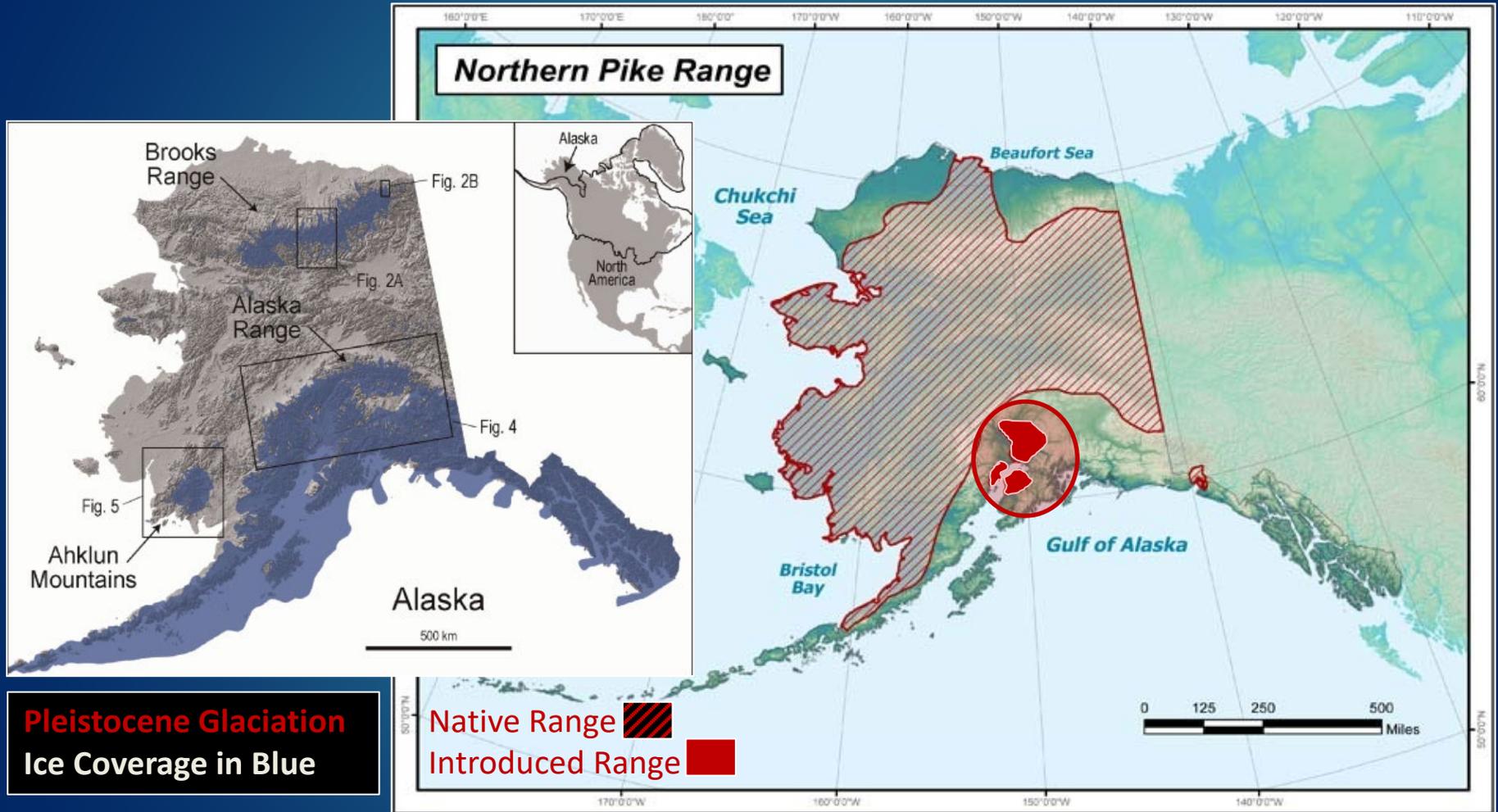
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Sport Fish Division



Northern Pike Range in Alaska



Glacial ice and the Alaska Range were geologic barriers to natural pike establishment in Southcentral Alaska.

Ecological Effects

- Heavy predation on juvenile salmon and trout
 - Extirpated in some areas



Pike →

~~Salmonids~~ → ~~Sticklebacks~~ / ~~Sculpins, etc.~~ → Invertebrates →

Pike Population Stunts



Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC) – The catalog of waters important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fishes

Classification of AWC waters

Category 1

Pike present, not believed to be causing noticeable impacts to anadromous fish

Category 2

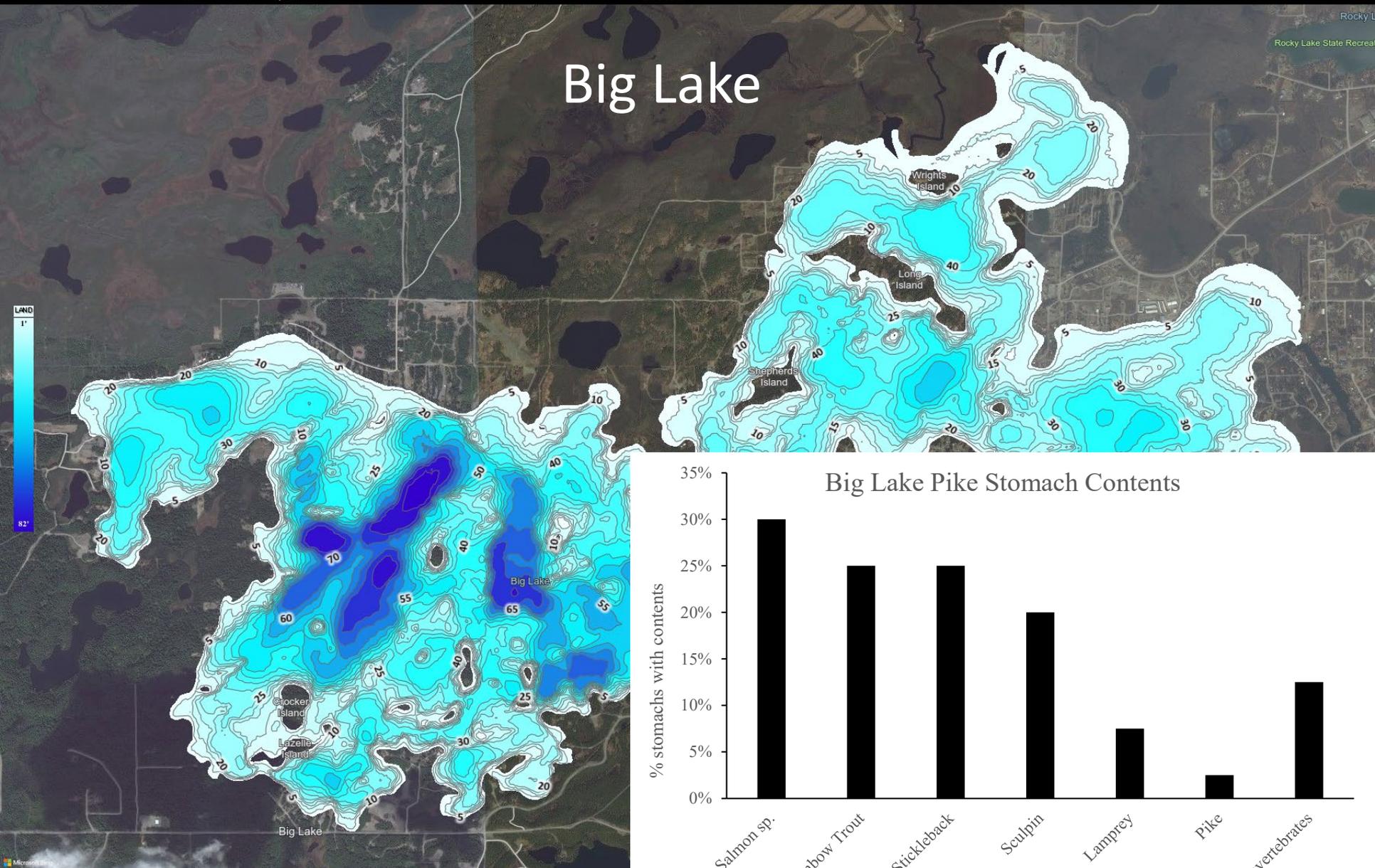
Pike are causing moderate/severe impacts to anadromous fish

Category 3

Waterbody no longer functions as anadromous habitat due to pike predation

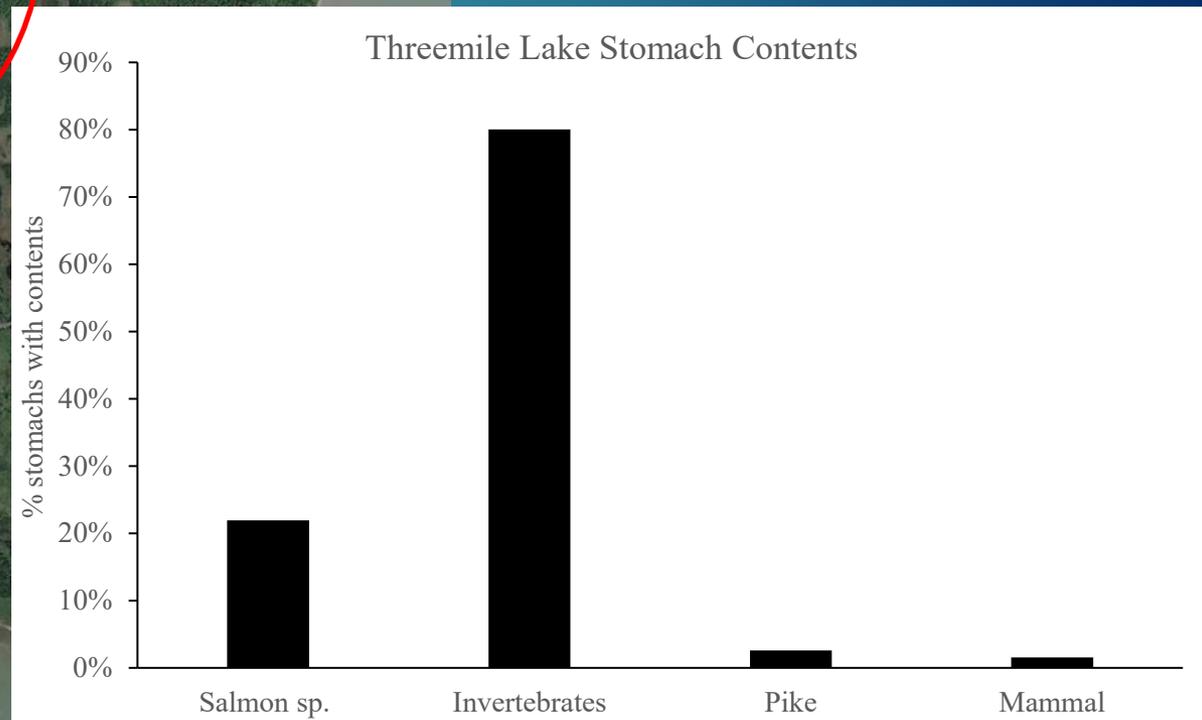
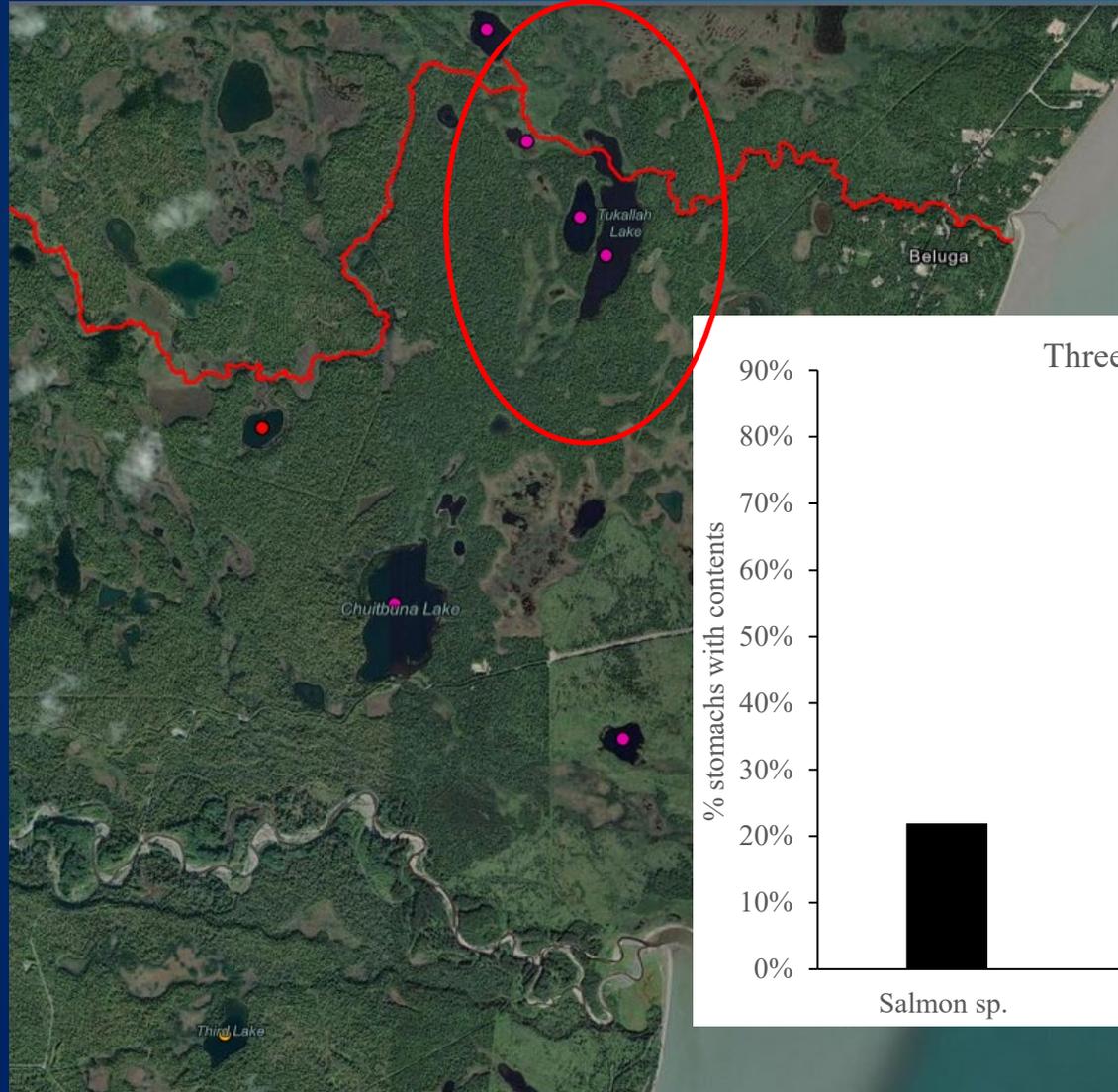
Category 1

Big Lake

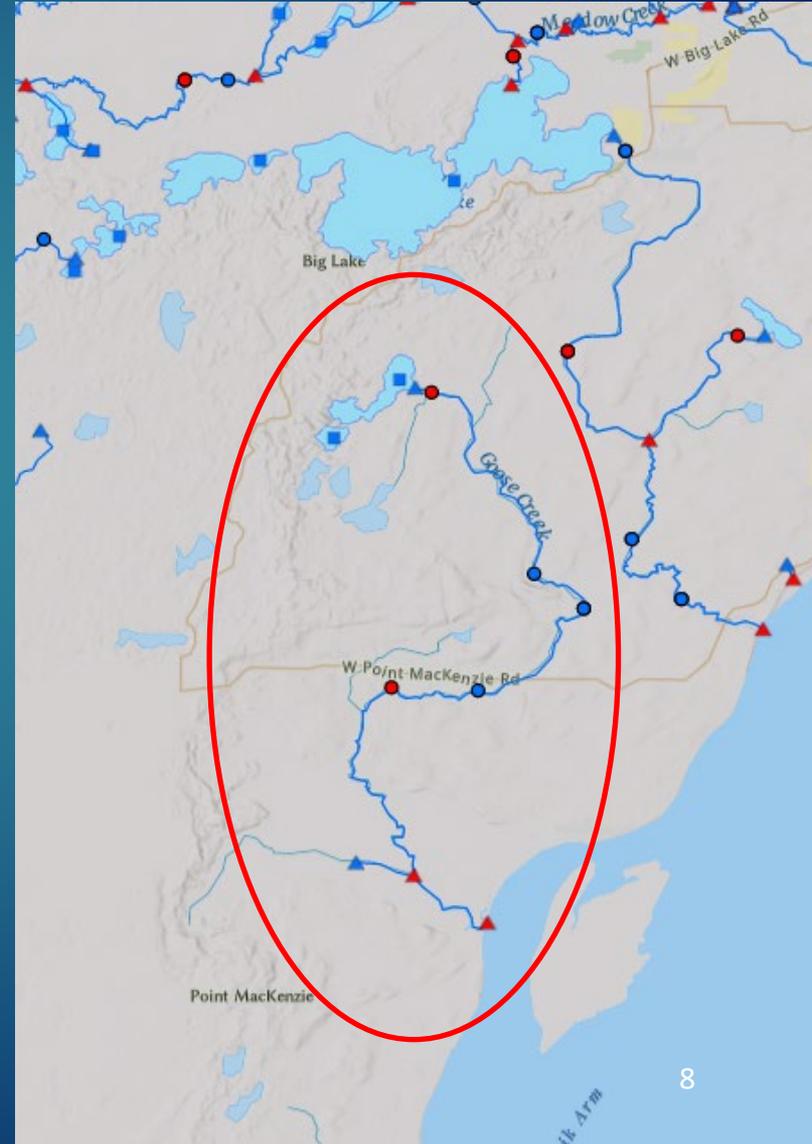
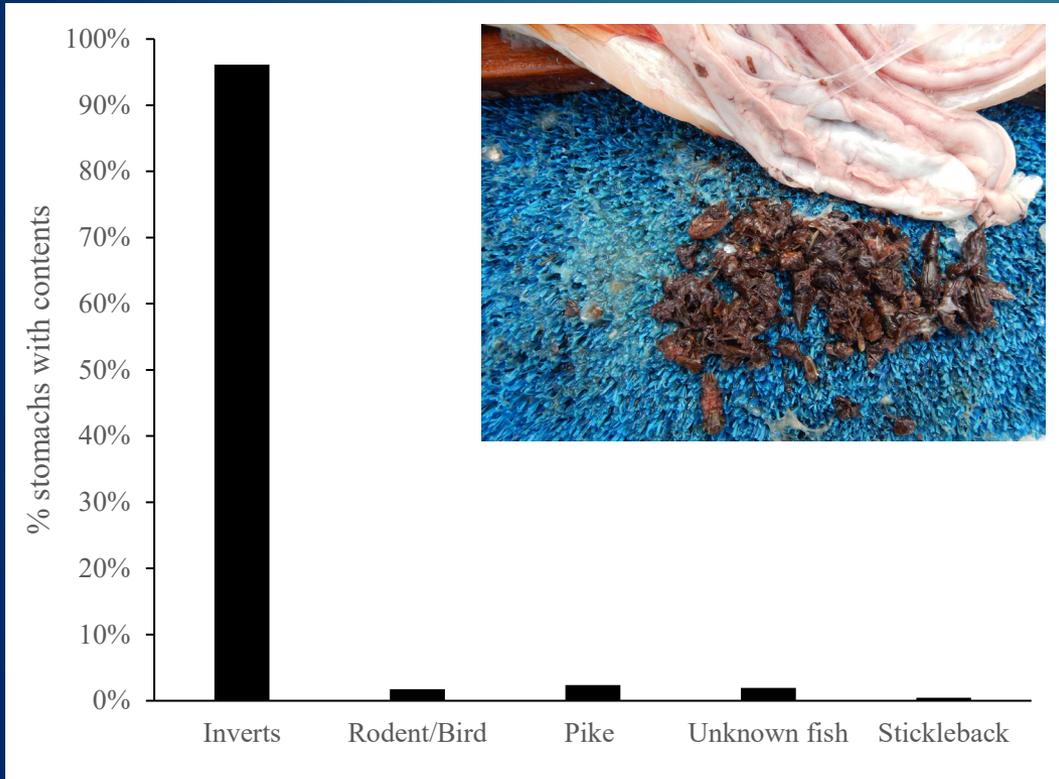


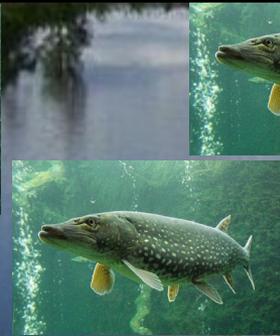
Category 2

Threemile Lake



Category 3 Stephan Lake







Pt. Mac Railway Extension

Pear Lake

2010 sampling
79 juv coho
in 4 traps

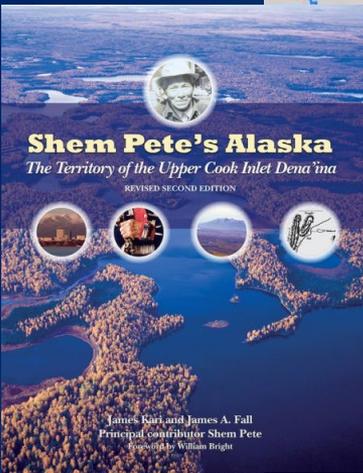
2010 sampling
414 juv coho
in 4 traps

2024 sampling
0 juv coho
in 4 traps

Minimum of 35%, potentially 58% Little Su drainage lake habitat destroyed
Another 21% severely impacted

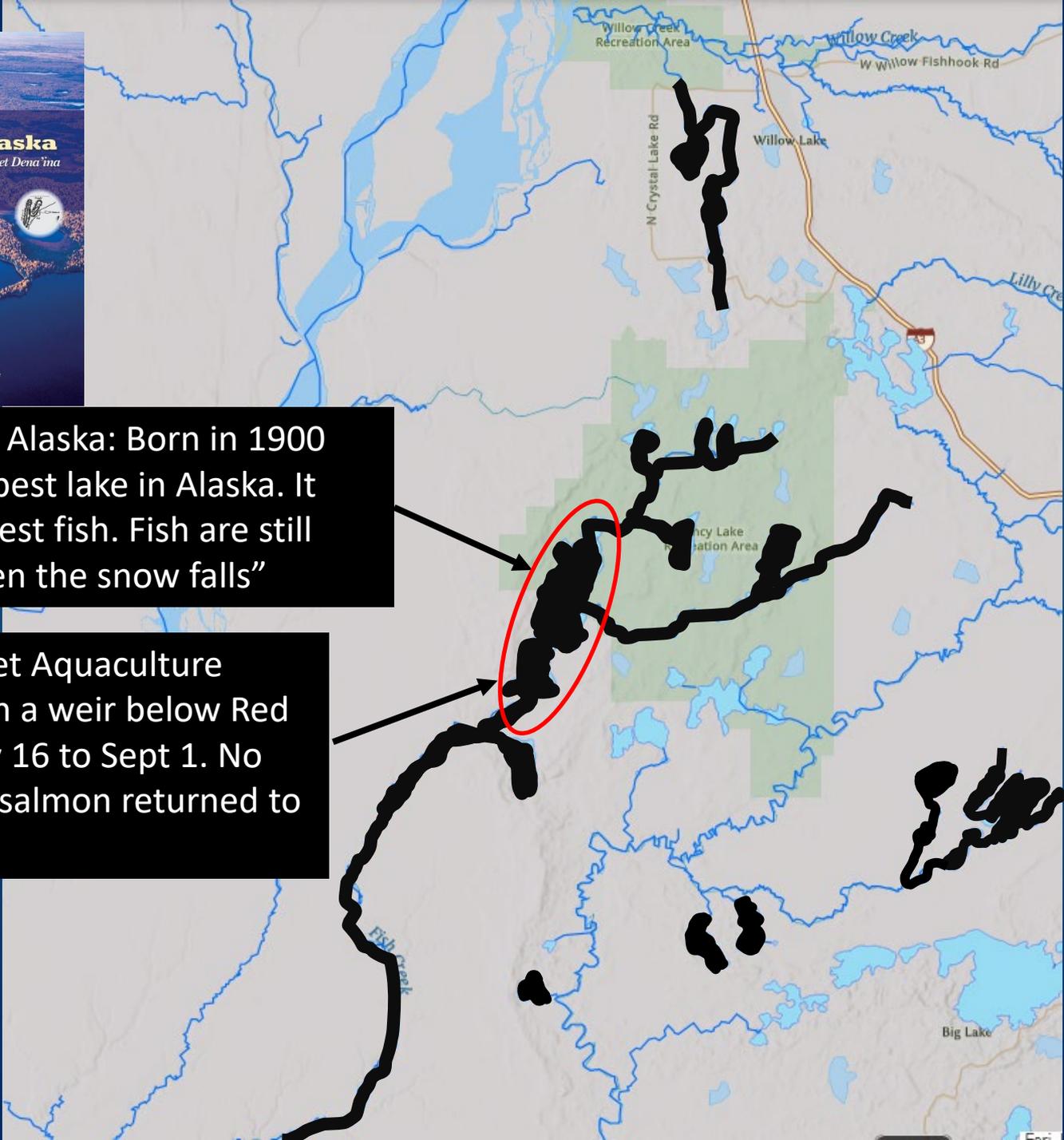


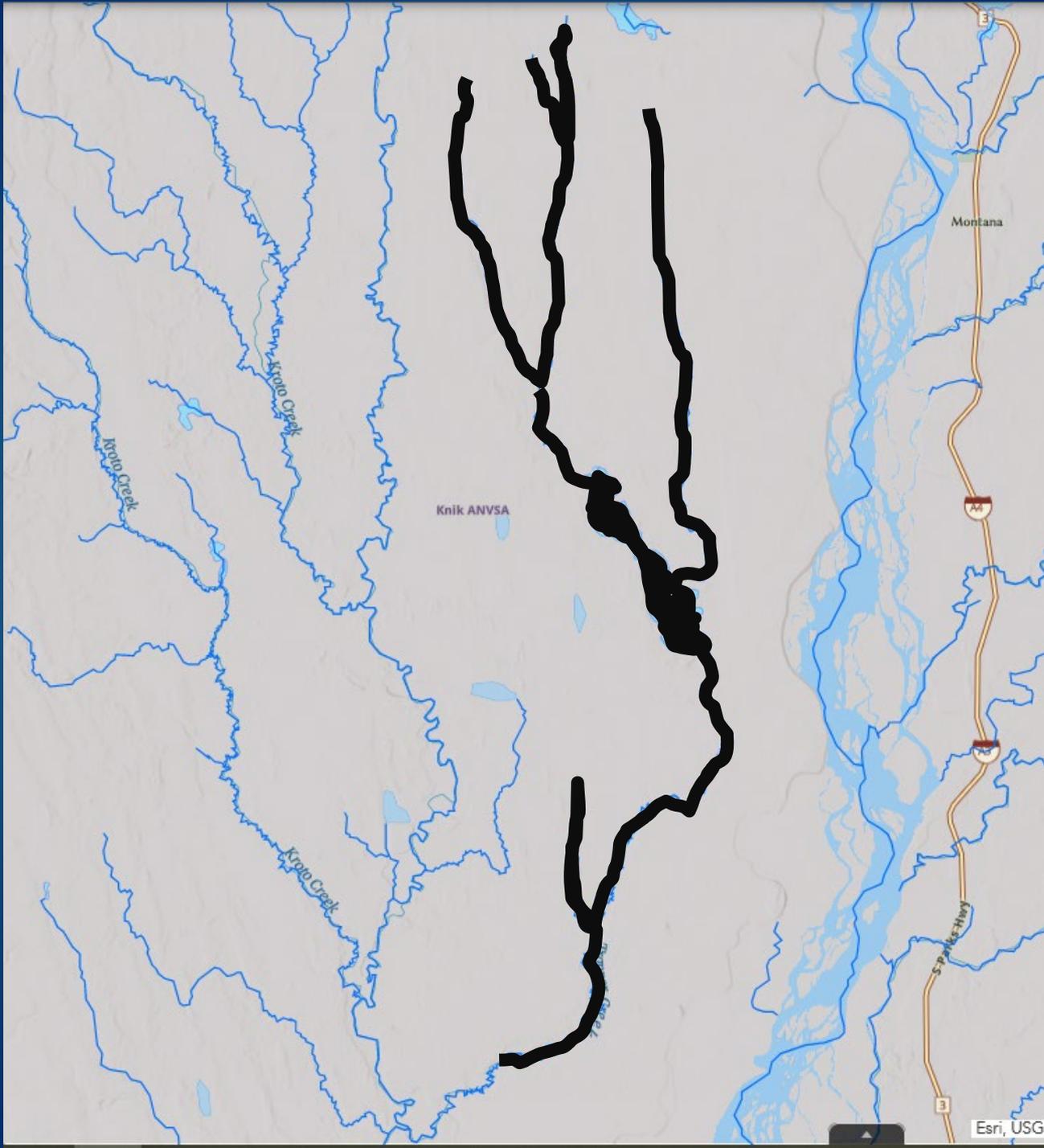
2020 sampling
Counted 39 salmon in 50 pike stomachs

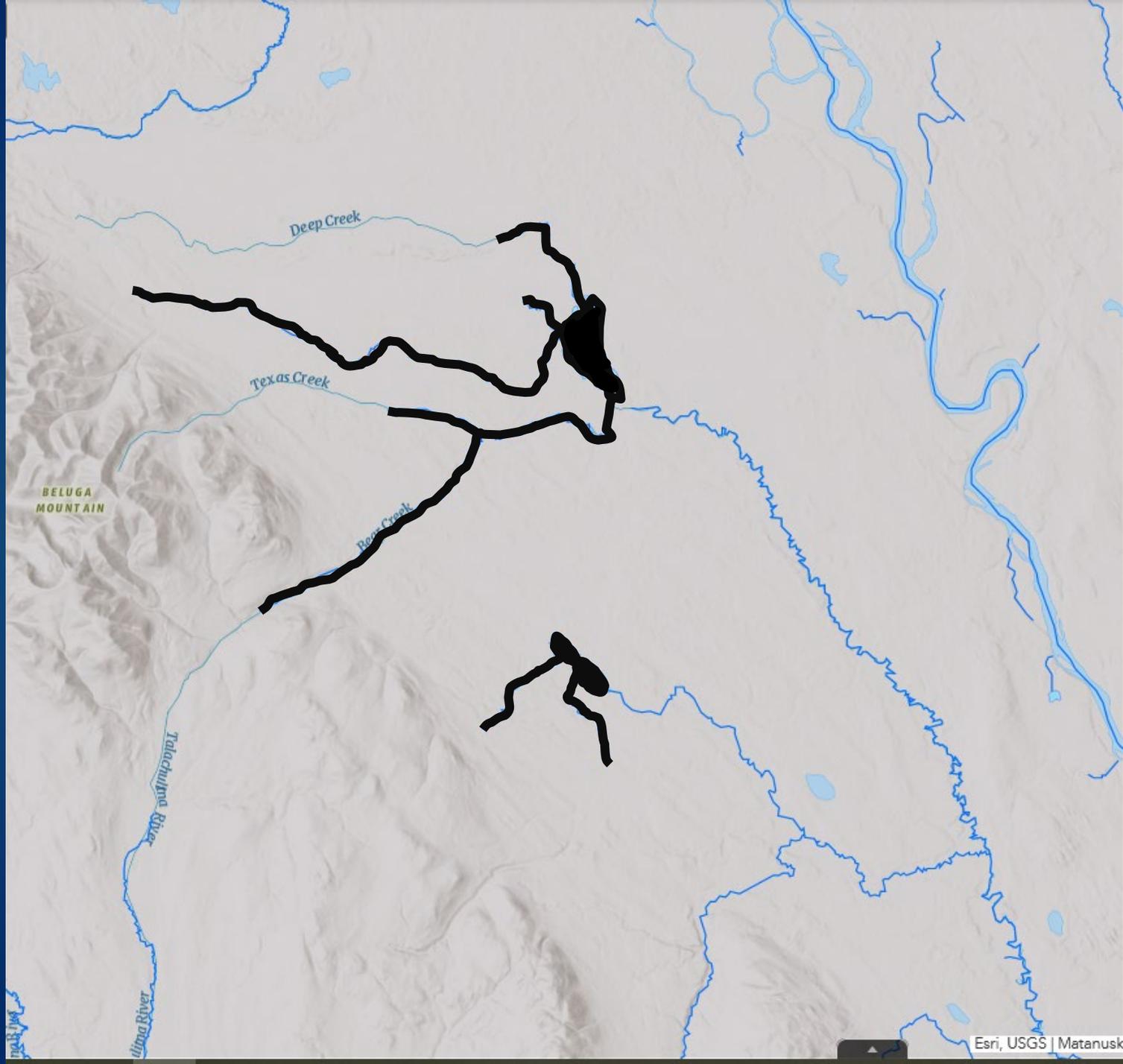


Shem Pete's Alaska: Born in 1900
"That's the best lake in Alaska. It has the biggest fish. Fish are still running when the snow falls"

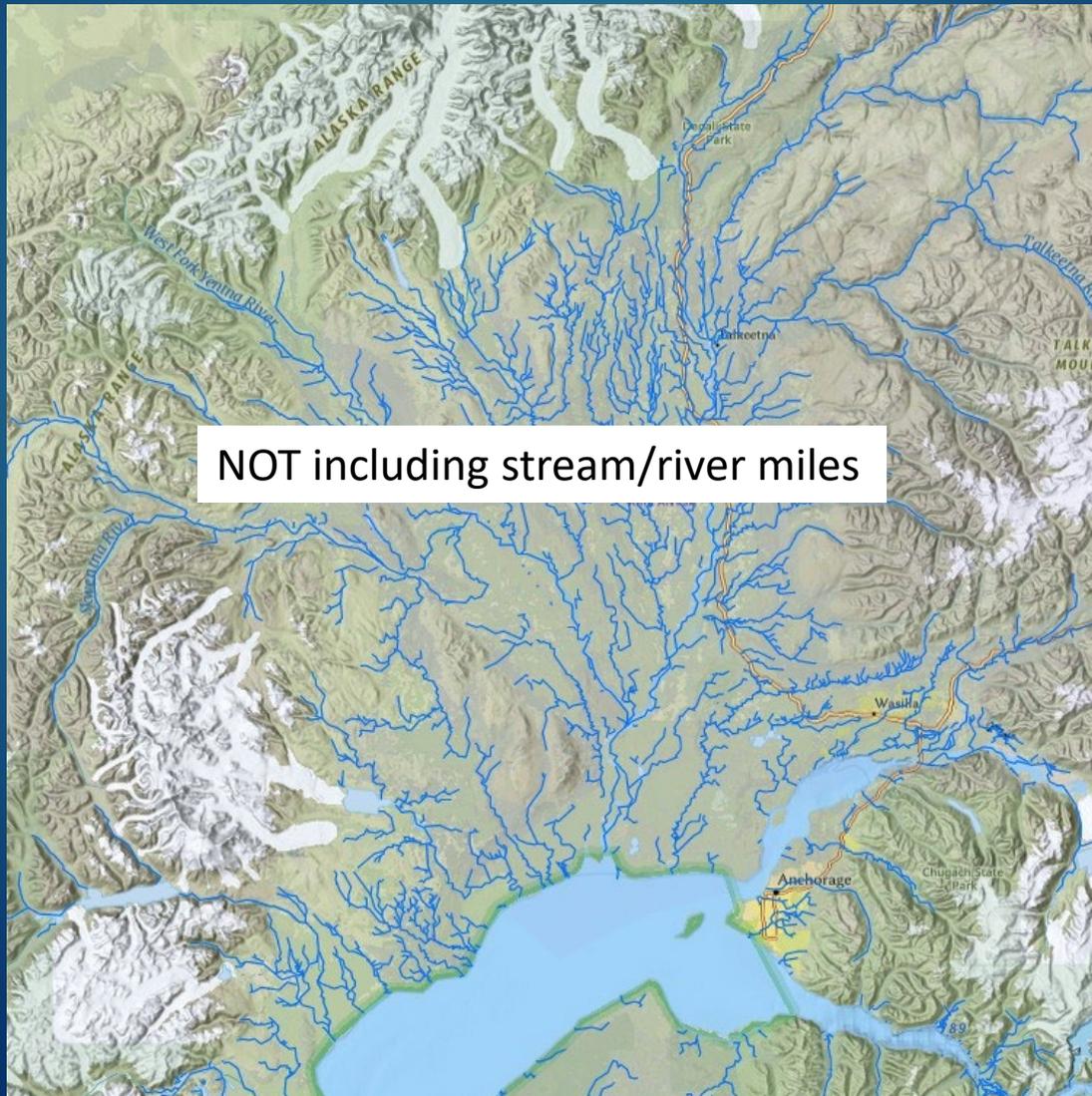
2009 Cook Inlet Aquaculture association ran a weir below Red Shirt from July 16 to Sept 1. No adult sockeye salmon returned to Red Shirt.







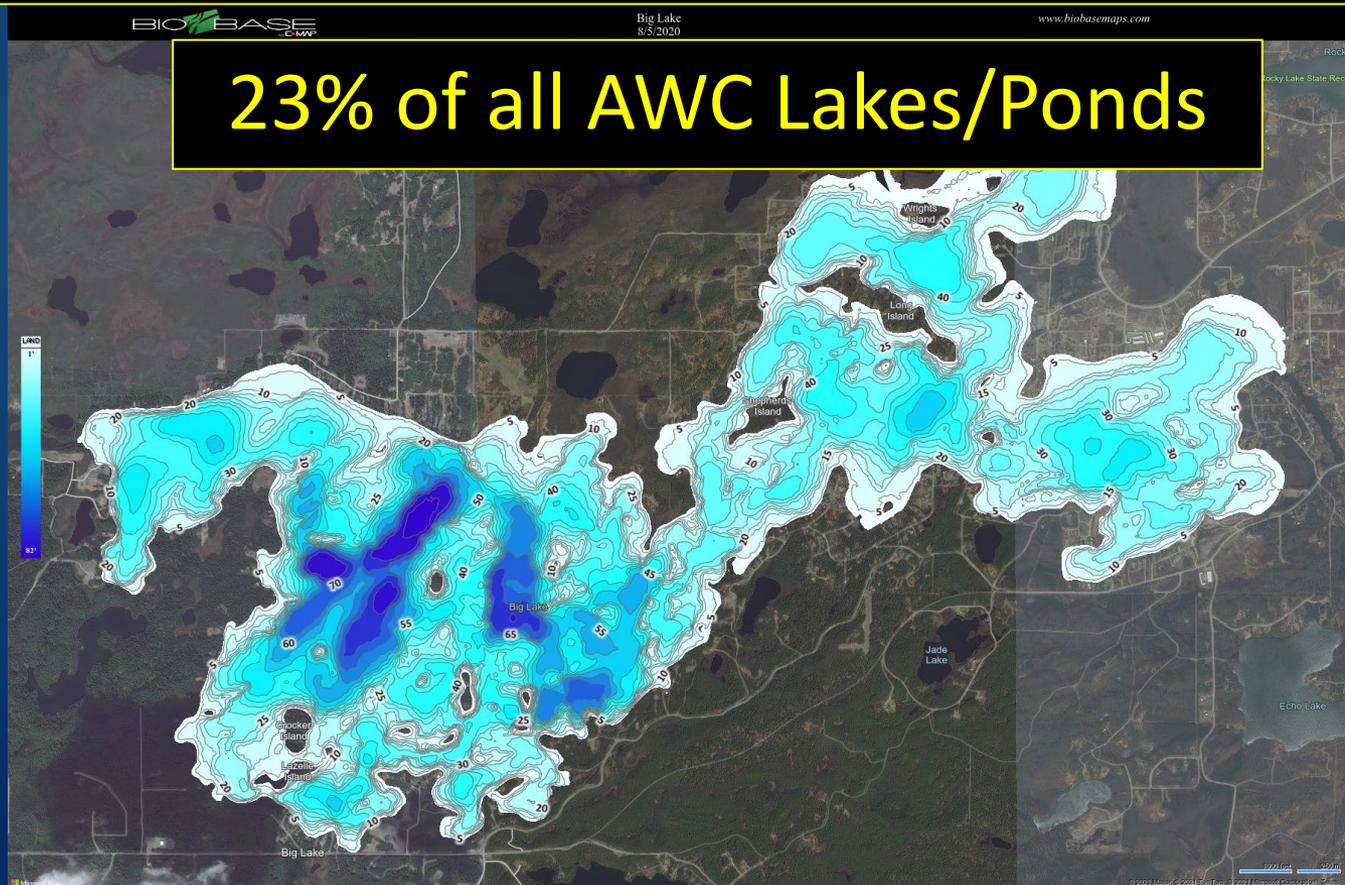
Total: 216 Anadromous Lakes/Ponds in
Mat-Su adding up to 31,820 surface acres



Category 1

Anadromous Lakes/Ponds Pike Occupy

8 waterbodies totaling 7,344 surface acres



Category 2

Anadromous Lakes/Ponds Pike

Moderately/Severely Impact

15 waterbodies totaling 4,287 surface acres

13% of all AWC Lakes/Ponds



Category 3

Anadromous Lakes/Ponds Pike have
Completely Destroyed

41 waterbodies totaling 8,133 surface acres

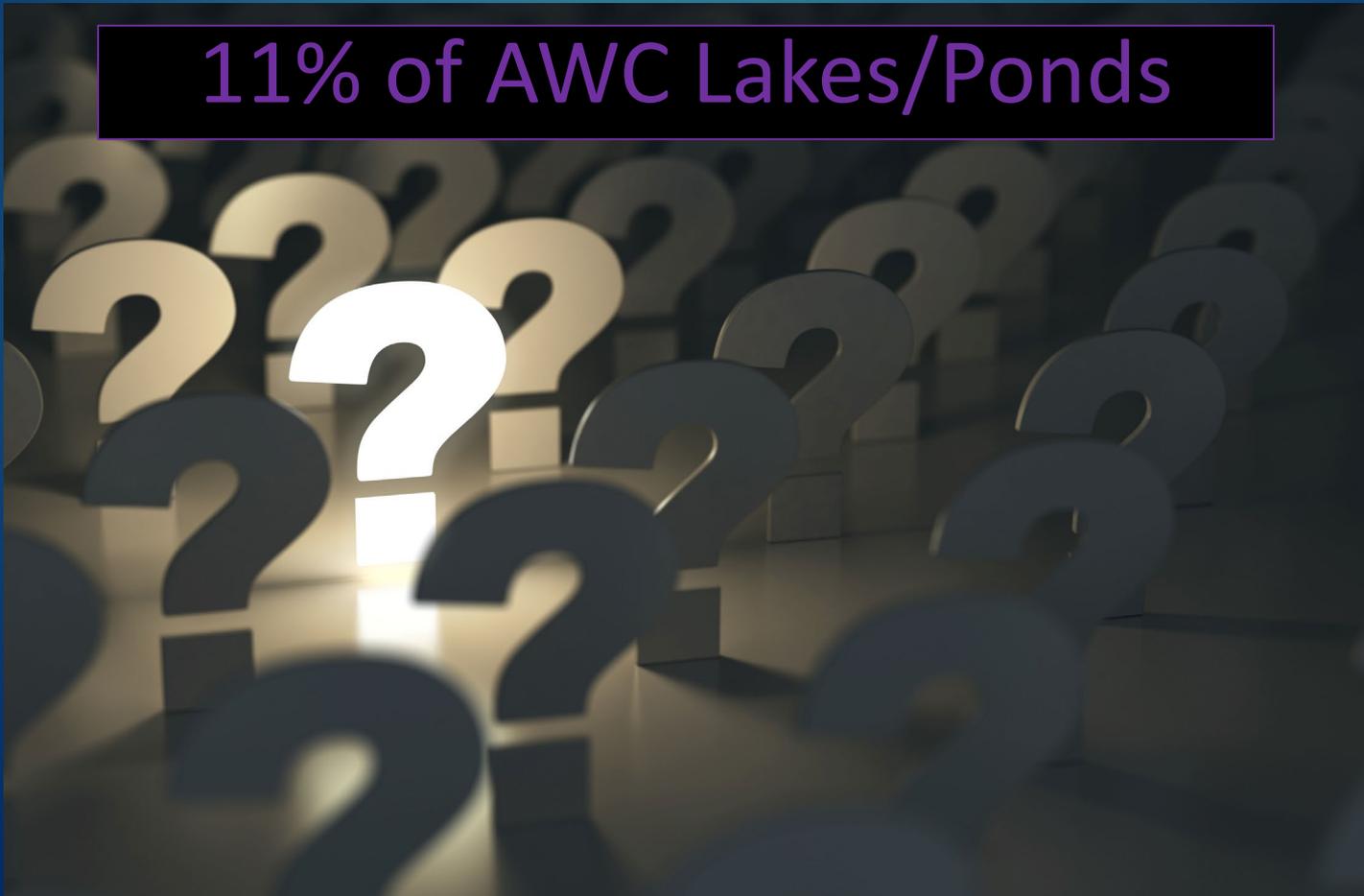
26% of all AWC Lakes/Ponds



Maybe/Probable Pike Waters

59 waterbodies totaling 3,586 surface acres

11% of AWC Lakes/Ponds



Summary

- Category 1: 23%
 - Category 2: 13%
 - Category 3: 26%
 - Possible pike presence: 11%
 - Pike free: 27%
-
- 39% 62% 73%

This is a MINIMUM-Doesn't include stream/rivers

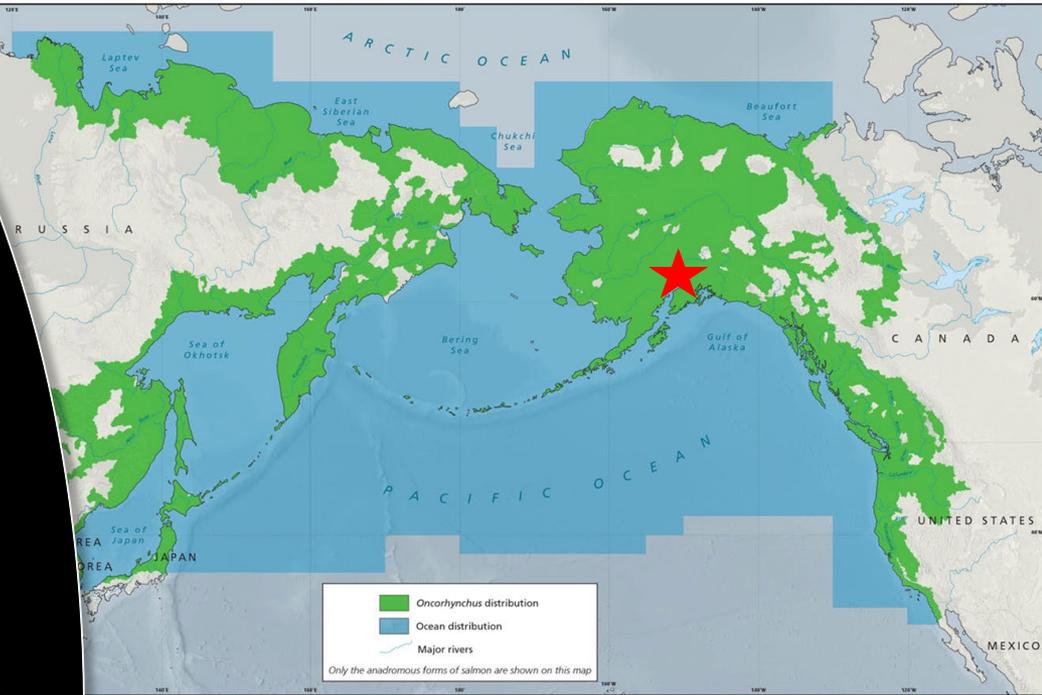
This number is GROWING every year. It can get MUCH worse

Waters only transition in one direction (1 to 2 to 3) without human intervention.

Does not include non-anadromous waters (resident species)

So what's the solution??

- Larger conversation...starts with awareness
- Decide how serious are we going to get
 - Do we value wild salmon and salmon habitat as much as we say?
 - Get strategic, get creative, get aggressive
 - Currently resource limited but with additional resources, partnerships, cooperations, and capacity there is a path forward.



Thank You

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New pike management plan!!!

