



The commercial fishing industry has a stake in the health of Mat-Su salmon.



Thousands of jobs.

Hundreds of millions of dollars to the southcentral economy.



*A Watershed Perspective on
Salmon Production
in the Mat-Su Basin*

June, 2013



United
Cook Inlet
Drift Association

Annual Report

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

1960

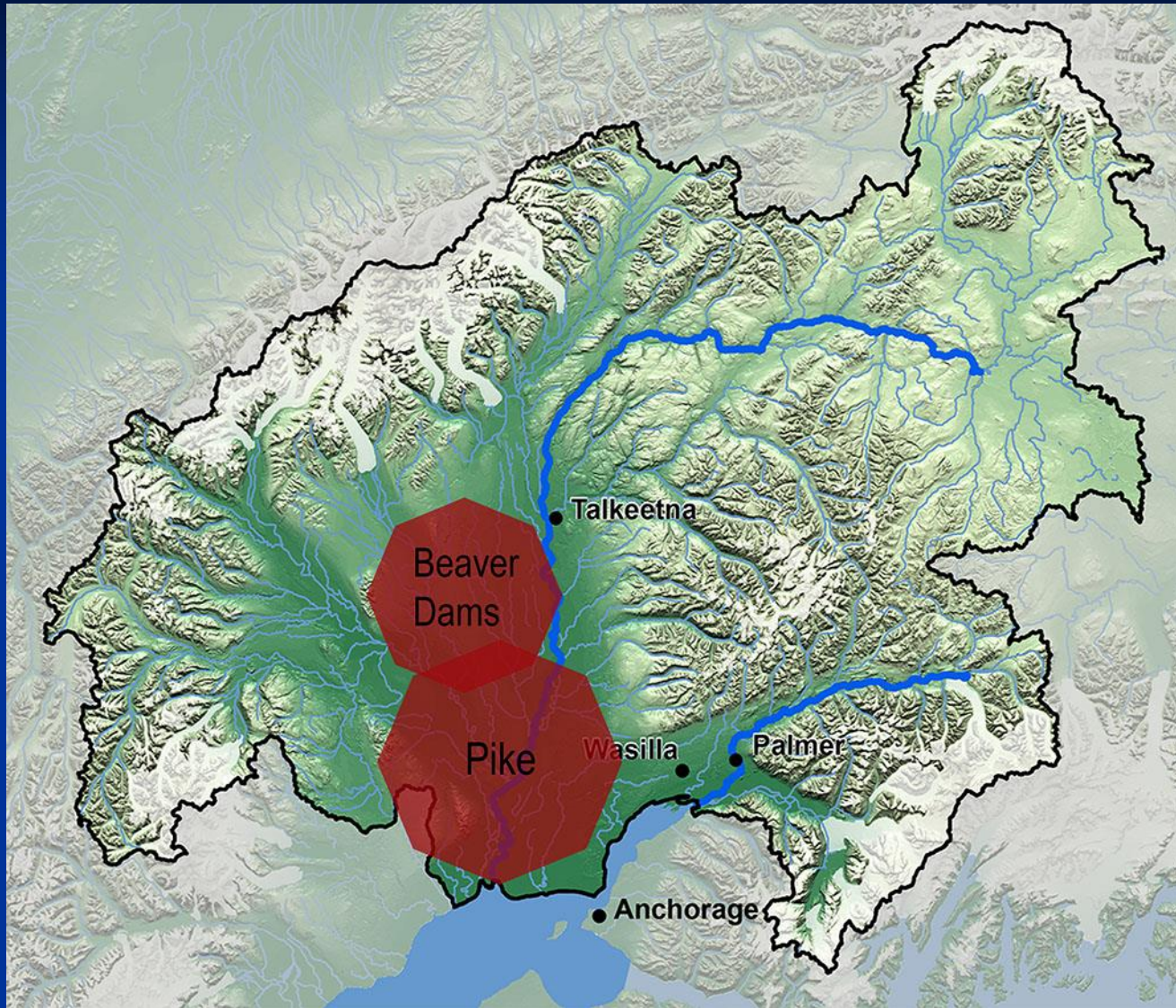
“No simple solution is in sight for the beaver dam problem in Cook Inlet. It appears that the only way to handle it is to continue putting a crew into problem areas each season to remove dams so fish can get through, with no special attempt to destroy the beaver.” (page 38)

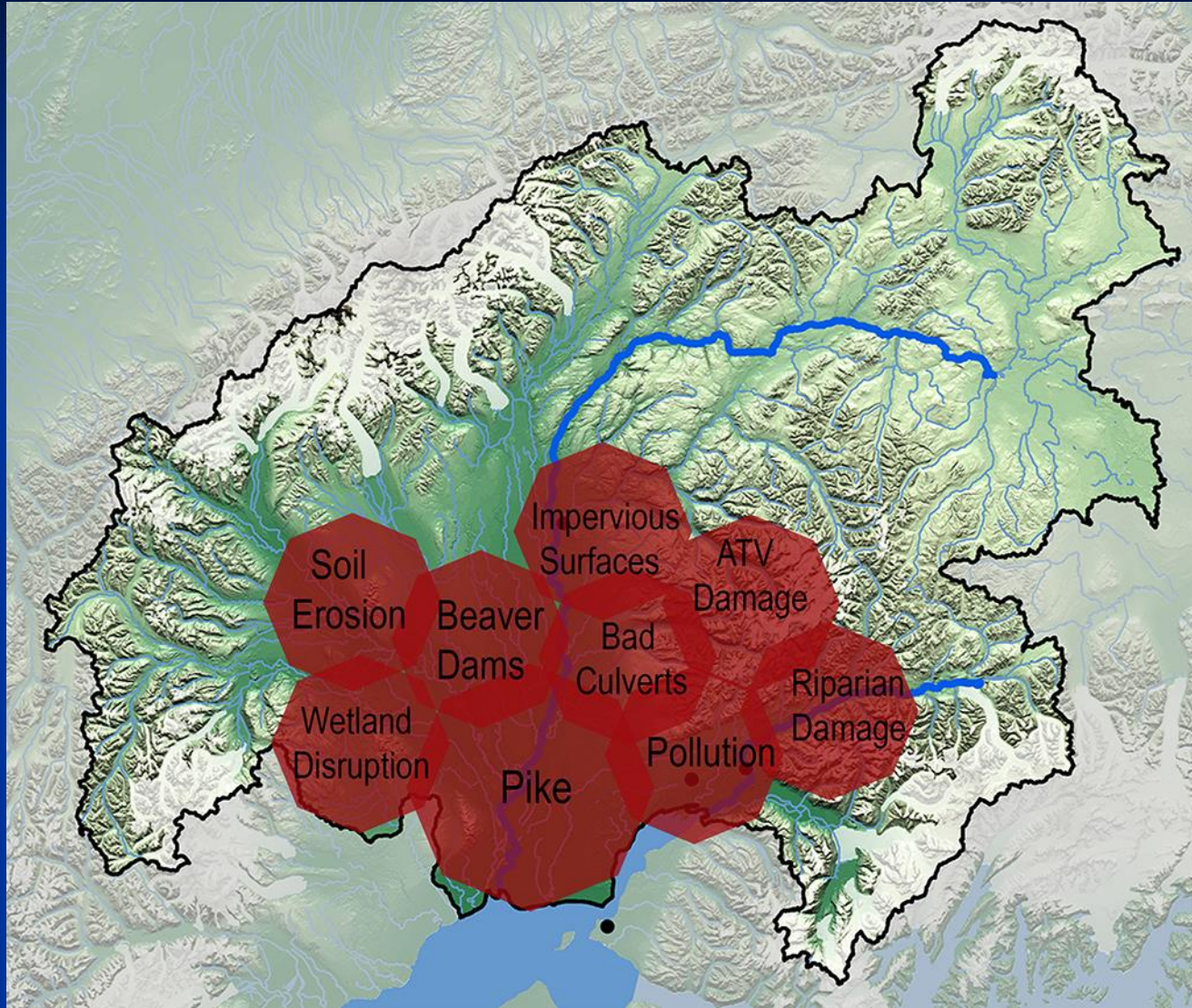
1999

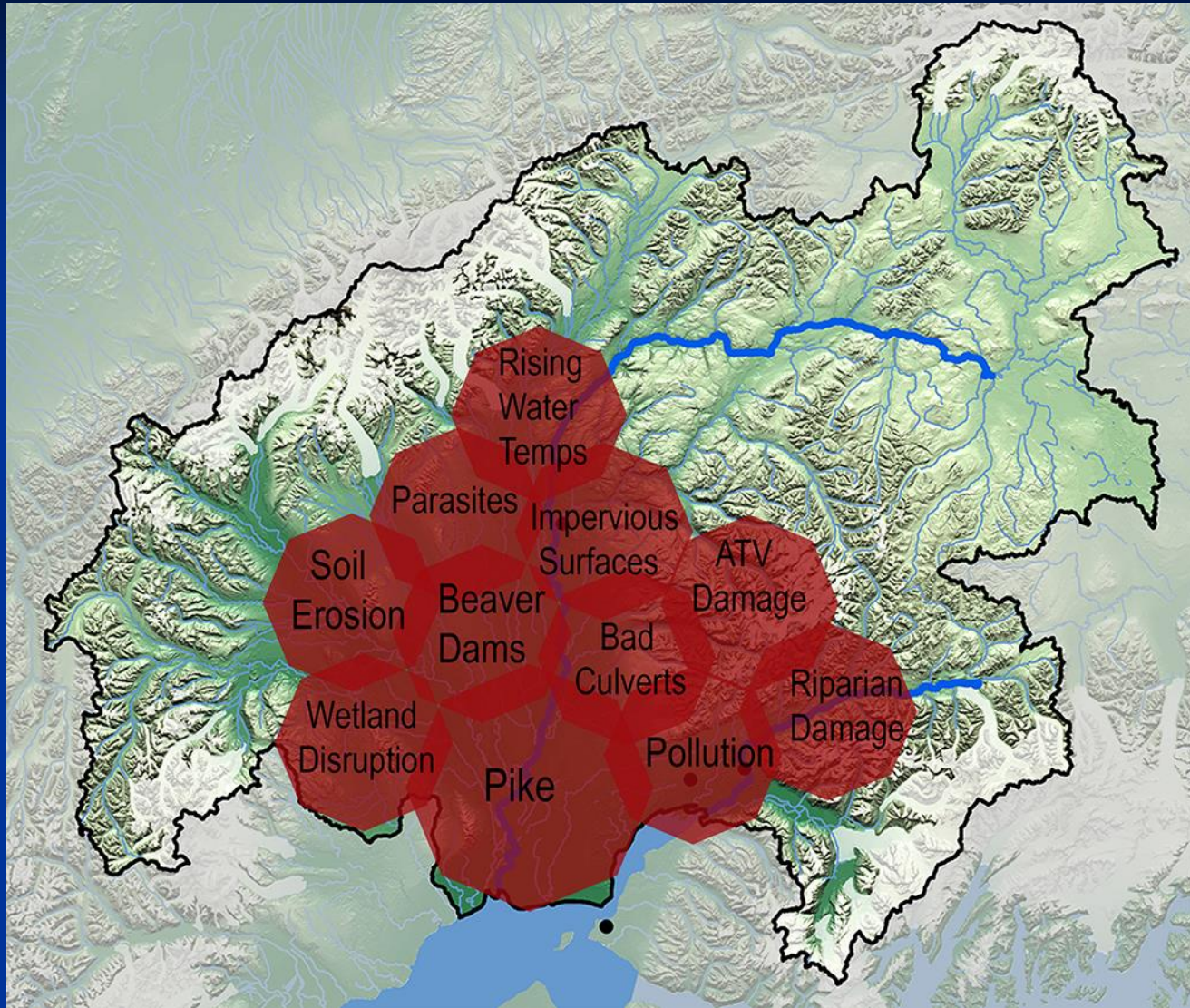
Rutz, D.S, Movements, food availability and stomach contents of northern pike in selected Susitna River drainages 1996-1997.
ADF&G Fishery Data Series 99-5.

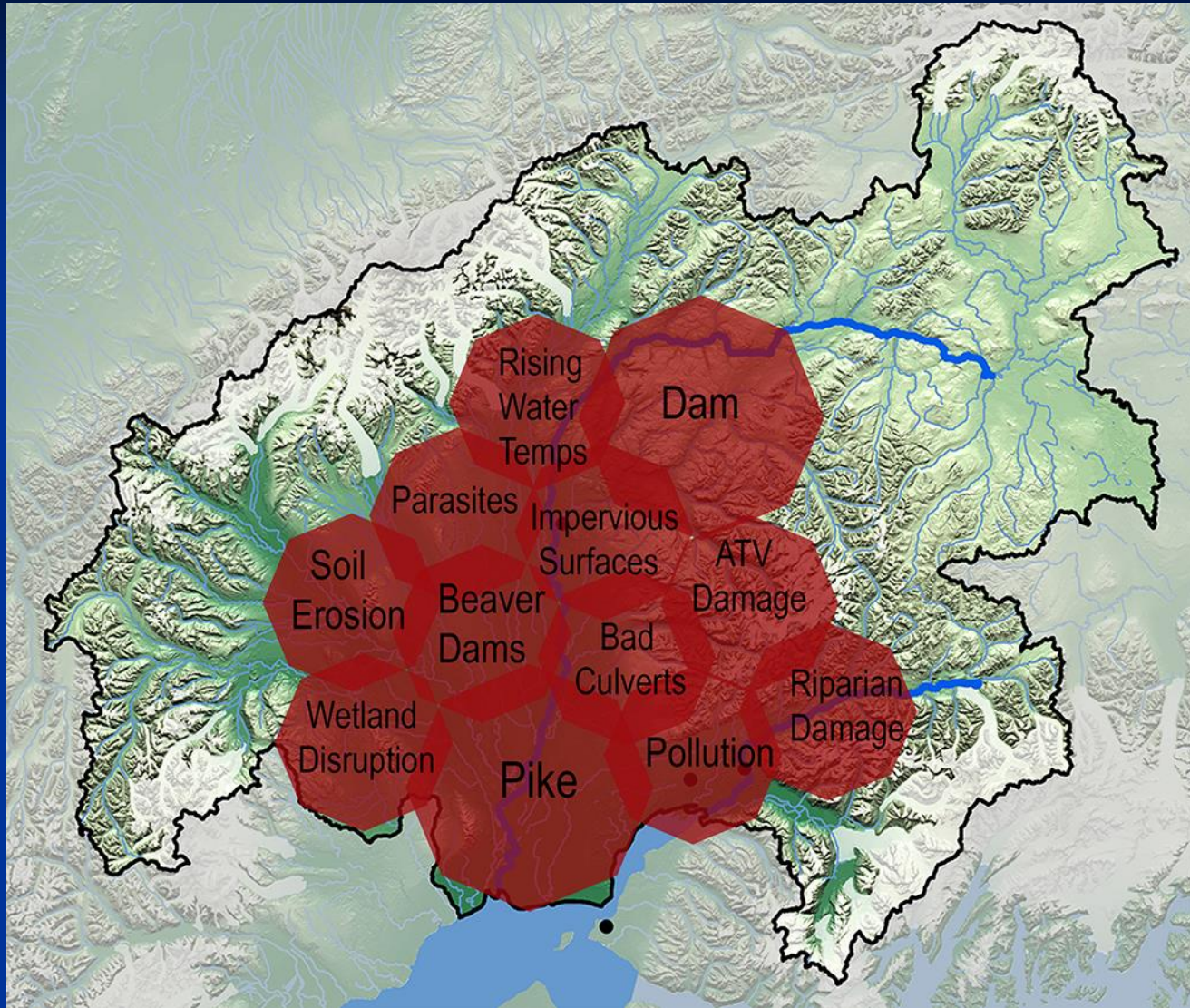
“Given the immense size of the Susitna River drainage and the vast range of northern pike expansion, it is probable that northern pike predation may result in a severe, yet unquantifiable, loss of salmonid production within individual tributaries. However, if we focus our effort on major problem areas identified below, we believe a successful northern pike removal program will be effective in reducing predation on selected salmonid populations.”

“Eradication efforts have been inadequate given the magnitude and the consequences of the proliferation of pike.”









Salmon stocks in Cook Inlet are not adapted to predation by invasive Northern pike.



Whiskey, Chelatna and Alexander Lakes



Consequences of Misdirection

- Long-standing threats to freshwater salmon production were not mitigated.

Consequences of Misdirection

- Freshwater fisheries management has been lacking, e.g. counting methodologies don't work, sockeye production in entire lakes has been wiped out by pike but escapement goals have not reflected those changes, leading to adverse density-dependent effects in the systems that can still produce sockeye.

Consequences of Misdirection

- Realistic salmon habitat protection requires that residents and policymakers change their understanding and attitude about land use and development that impacts habitat. Bringing about this change will be much harder since they've been told for decades that the problem is somewhere else.

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2011

“...unless the impacts from pike predation and beaver dams can be significantly reduced, the total sockeye salmon production in the Susitna River drainage will continue to suffer, regardless of the amount of restrictions placed on commercial fisheries.” (Page 32)

With limited resources, the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association has worked to mitigate beaver dams, eradicate invasive northern pike and restore damaged habitat.



Working together we can grow more salmon for everyone.

The image features a solid blue background. In the lower right quadrant, there are several overlapping, wavy, light blue lines that create a sense of movement and depth, resembling ripples in water or stylized waves.

Working together we can grow more salmon for everyone.

Thank You