



The Status and Management of Coastal Cutthroat Trout in Alaska



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Eastside trooper accused of fondling cuts deal

By Jennifer Sullivan

Seattle Times staff reporter

A State Patrol trooper accused of fondling 10 women during pat-down searches on the Eastside is expected to enter a modified guilty plea today to charges that won't require him to serve a lengthy prison sentence.

Trooper Michael Idland, 41, has spent the past 17 months in solitary confinement for his own safety at the King County Jail awaiting trial. He had pleaded not guilty to 11 charges, including extortion and two counts of first-degree custodial sexual misconduct, both felonies. He also is



Trooper Michael Idland, 41, has spent the past 17 months in solitary confinement.

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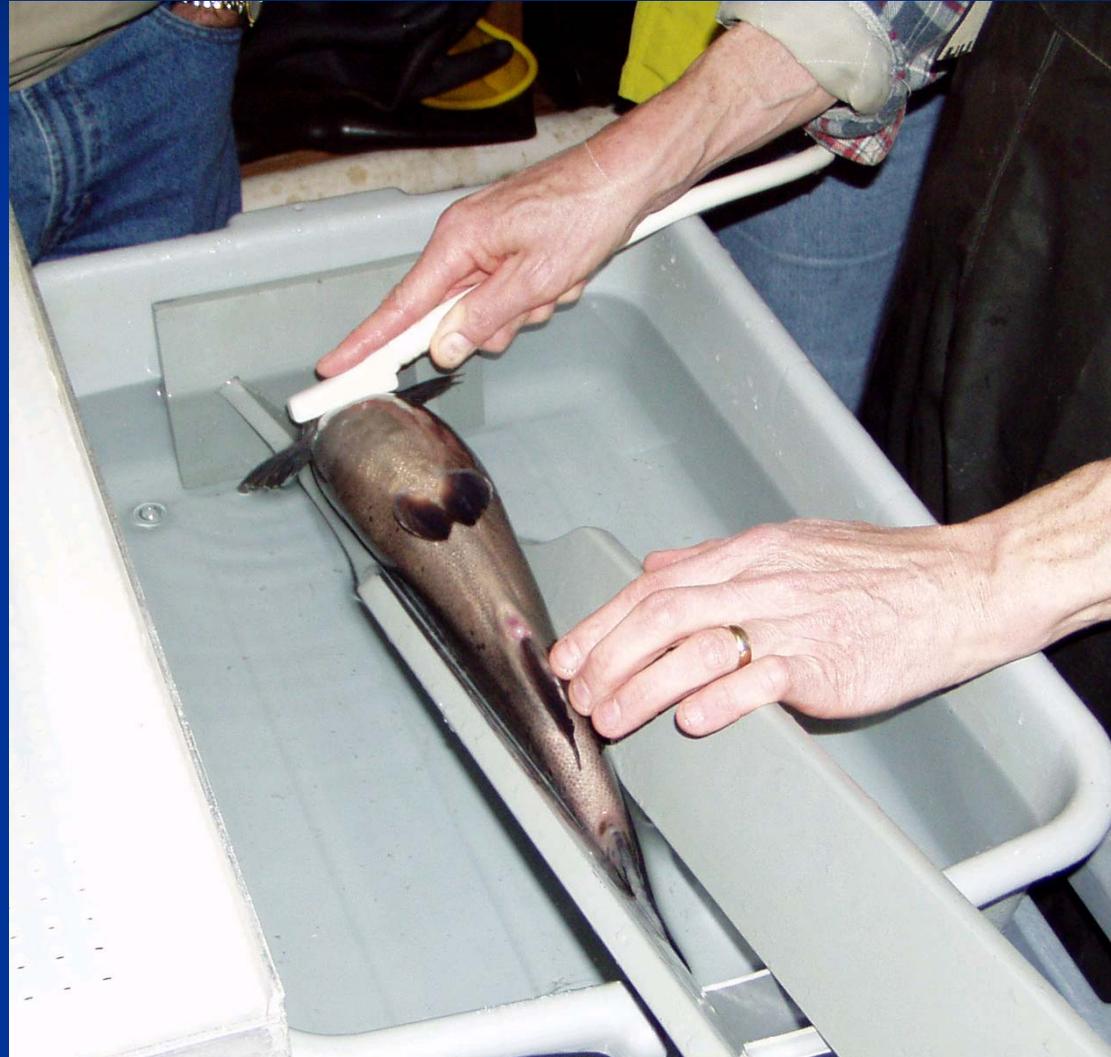
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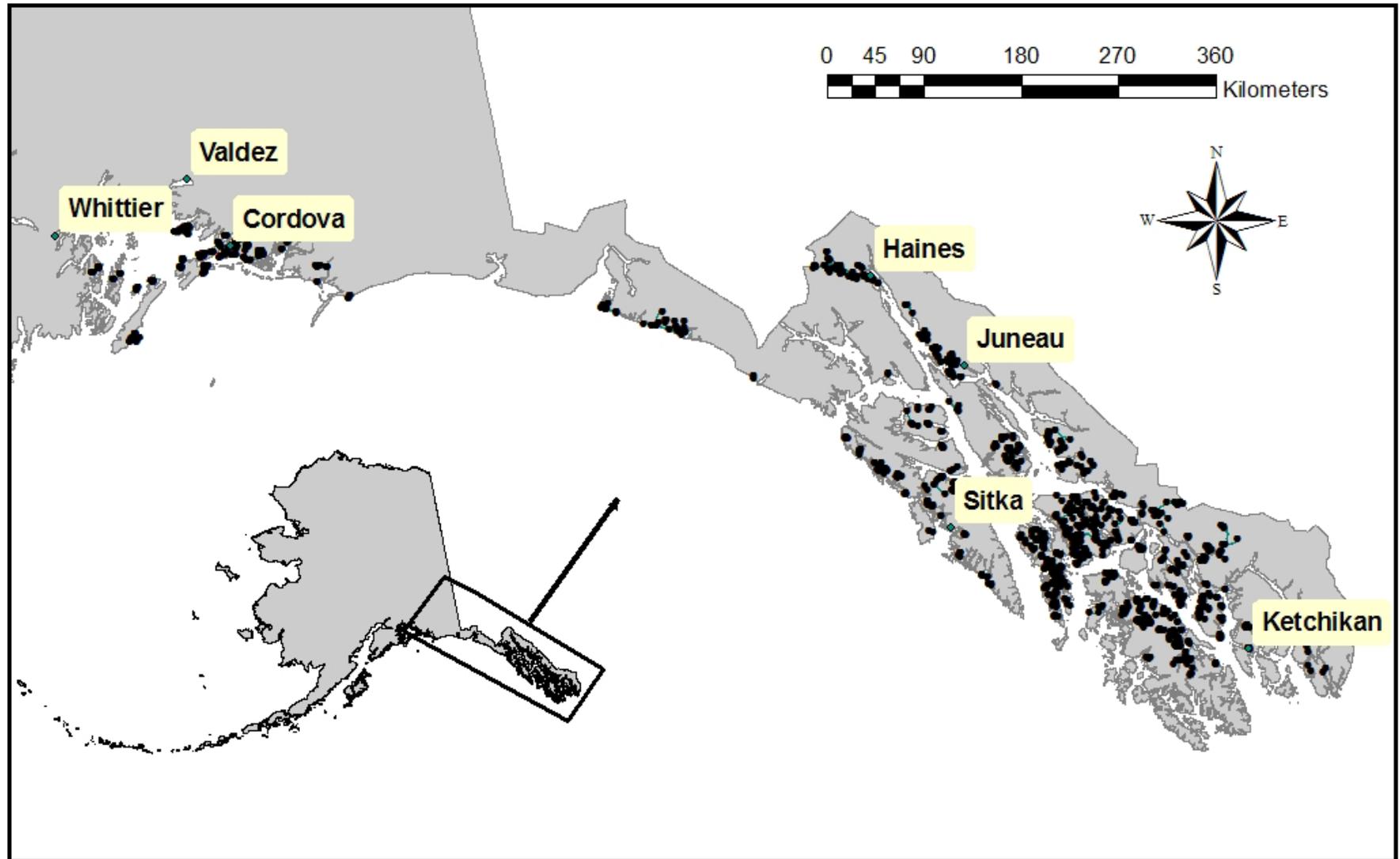
Trust me, I'm a biologist...



Overview

- Distribution and life history
- Management
- Stock status
- Concerns
- Future research

Known Distribution in Alaska



Life History Forms

- Sea-run
- Freshwater forms
 - Riverine
 - Lacustrine
 - Headwater tributaries

Plasticity in life history forms

- Auke Lake near Juneau
 - Sea-run and lacustrine-adfluvial
 - Plasticity in behavior of sea-run fish
 - Extended residency in freshwater
 - Before first emigration
 - Between emigrations
 - Over-wintering in non-successive years

Fisheries management



- Sport Fishery
- Subsistence Fishery

Sport Fishery

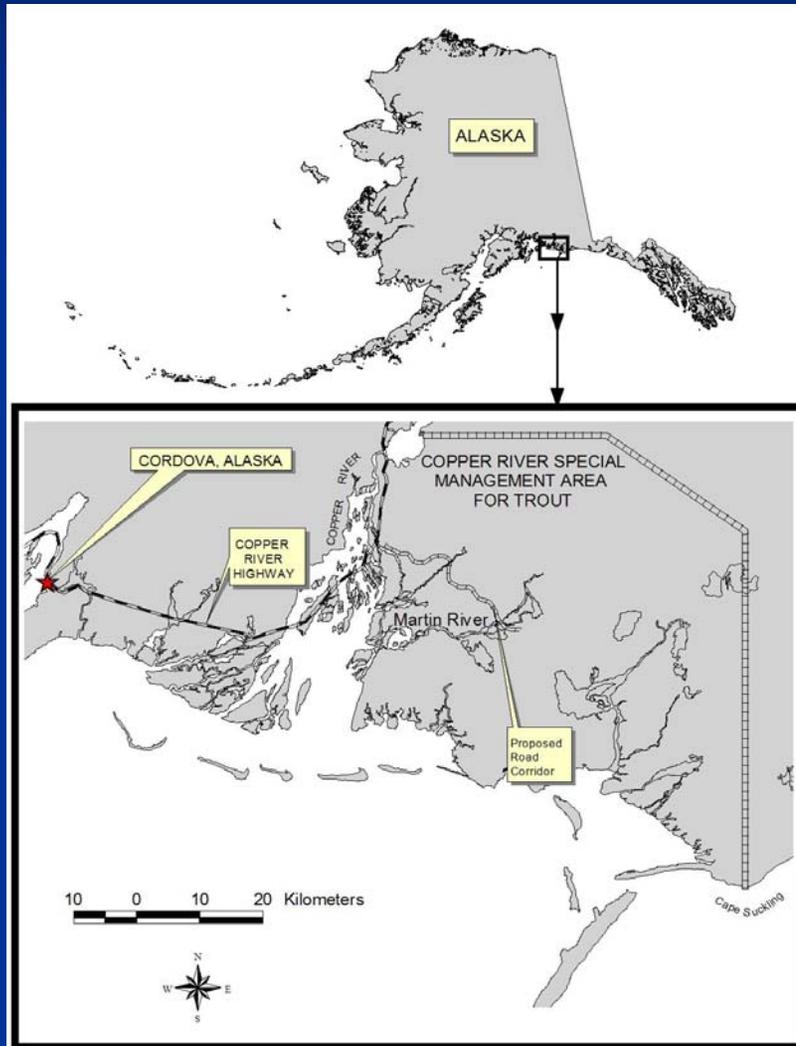


Sport Fishery Regulations



- Rationale: Harding and Jones (2004)
- Minimum Size Limit
- Bait restrictions
- Bag limits
- Seasonal Closure (PWS)

Copper River Special Management Area



- Established in 1999 by Alaska Board of Fish
- Catch and release only

Southeast Subsistence Fishery

- 2000: FSB expands opportunity to 5 systems
- 2005: FSB expands to all of Southeast
 - Permit stipulations

Southeast: Sport and Subsistence Regulations

- Daily bag limit
 - Sport: 2 in most systems
 - Subsistence: 6
- Size limit
 - Sport: 11-inch min, 22-inch max
 - Subsistence: any size

PWS Subsistence Fishery

- Fishery formalized in 2005
- 5 trout per year (household limit of 30 trout)
- Permit stipulations
 - Areas, seasons, and gear types

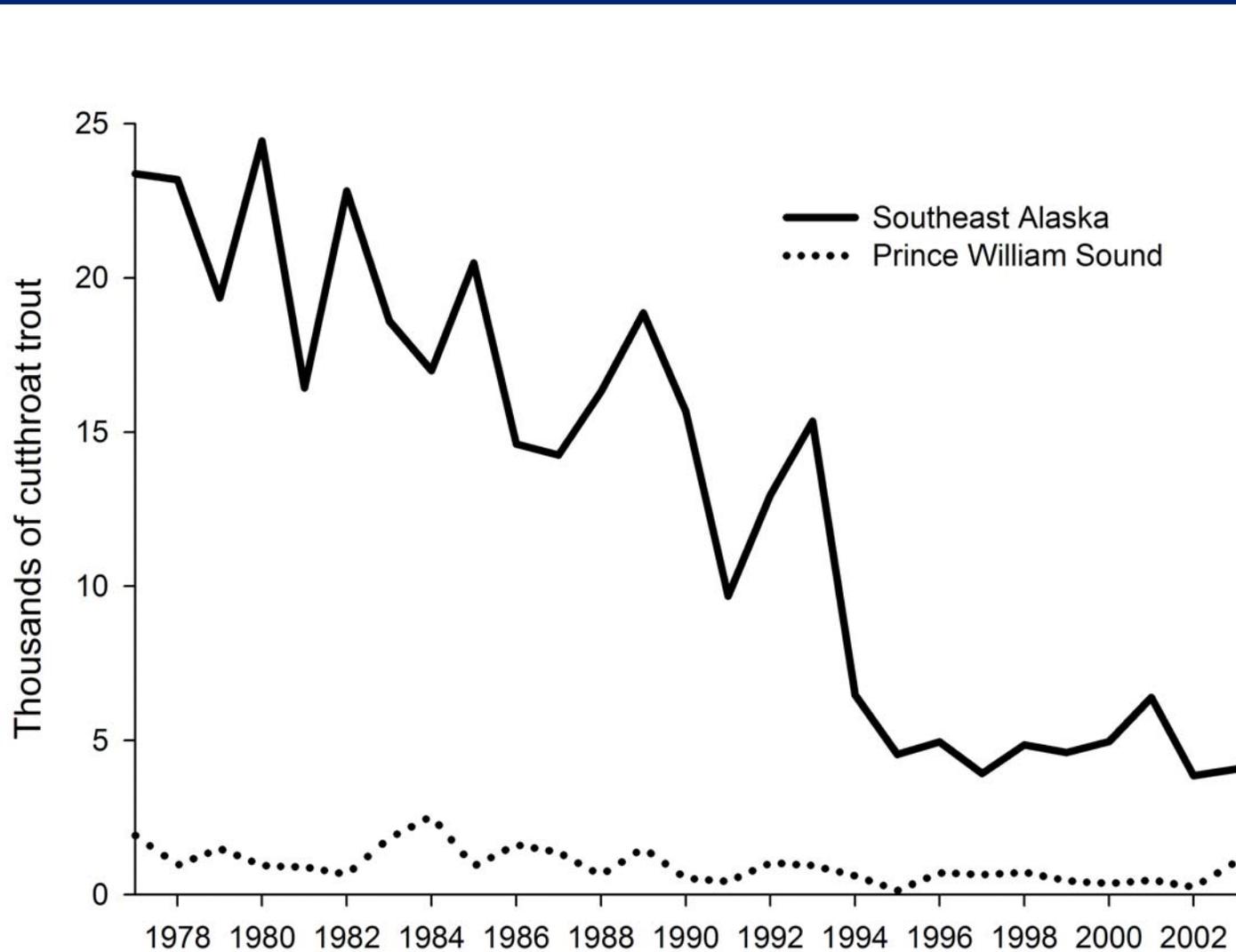
Harvest and Catch

- Sport Estimated based on ADF&G State Wide Harvest Survey (e.g., Walker et al. 2003)
- Subsistence information based on personal communication with USFS

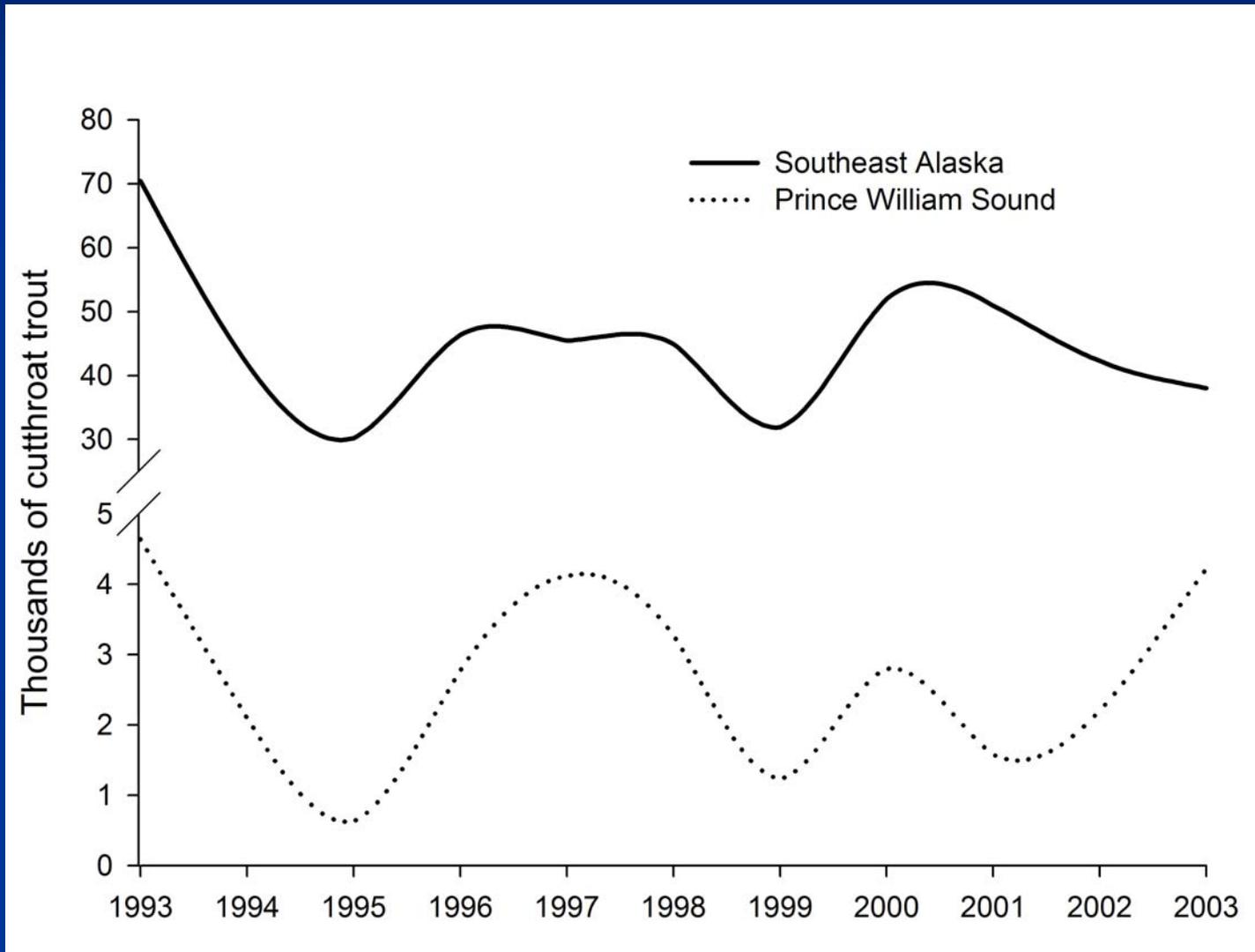
Subsistence Harvest

- Southeast
 - Very low: only 25 fish in 2004
- Not available for PWS – expected to be low

Cutthroat trout caught in Alaska's sport fishery



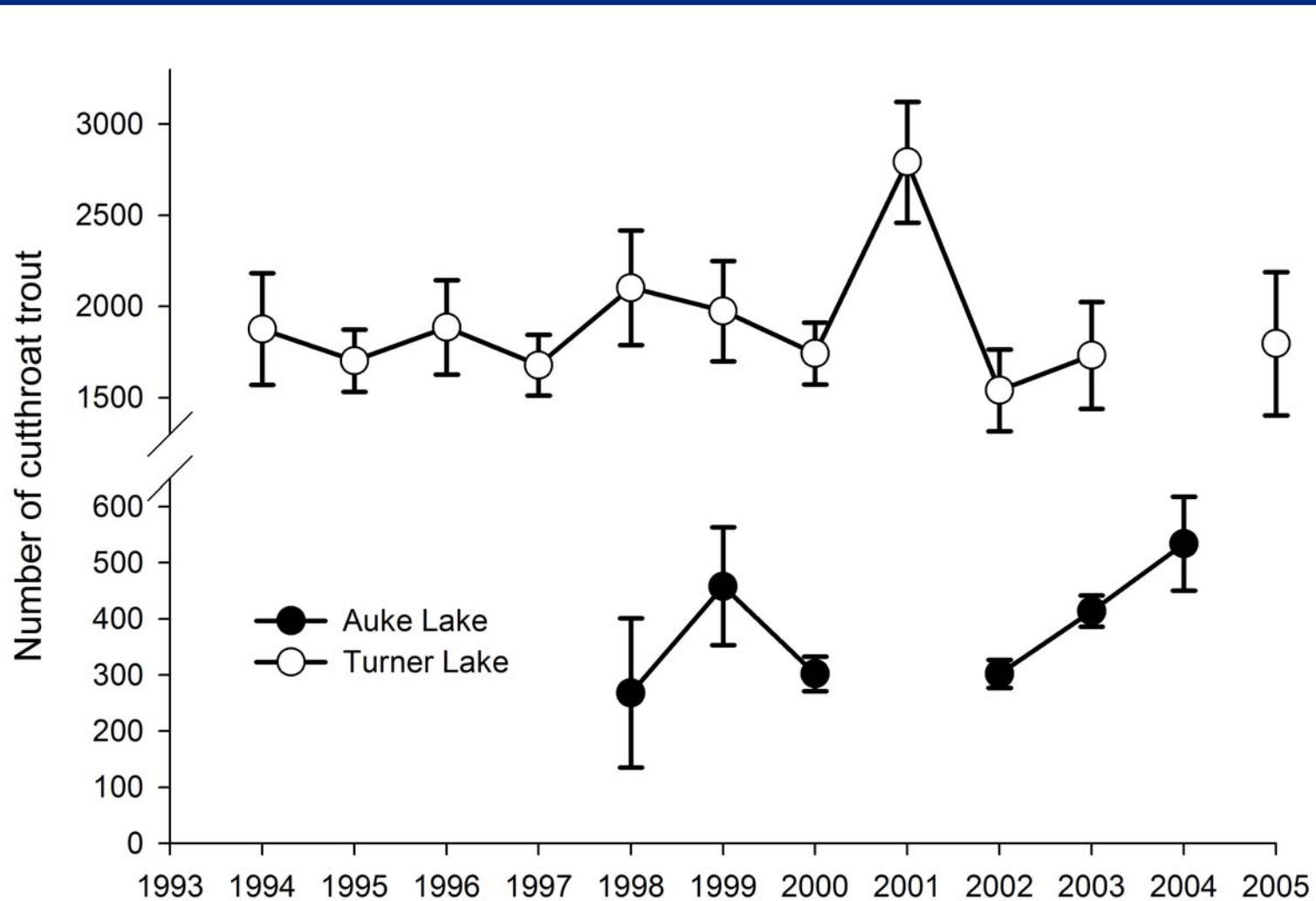
Cutthroat trout harvested in Alaska's sport fishery



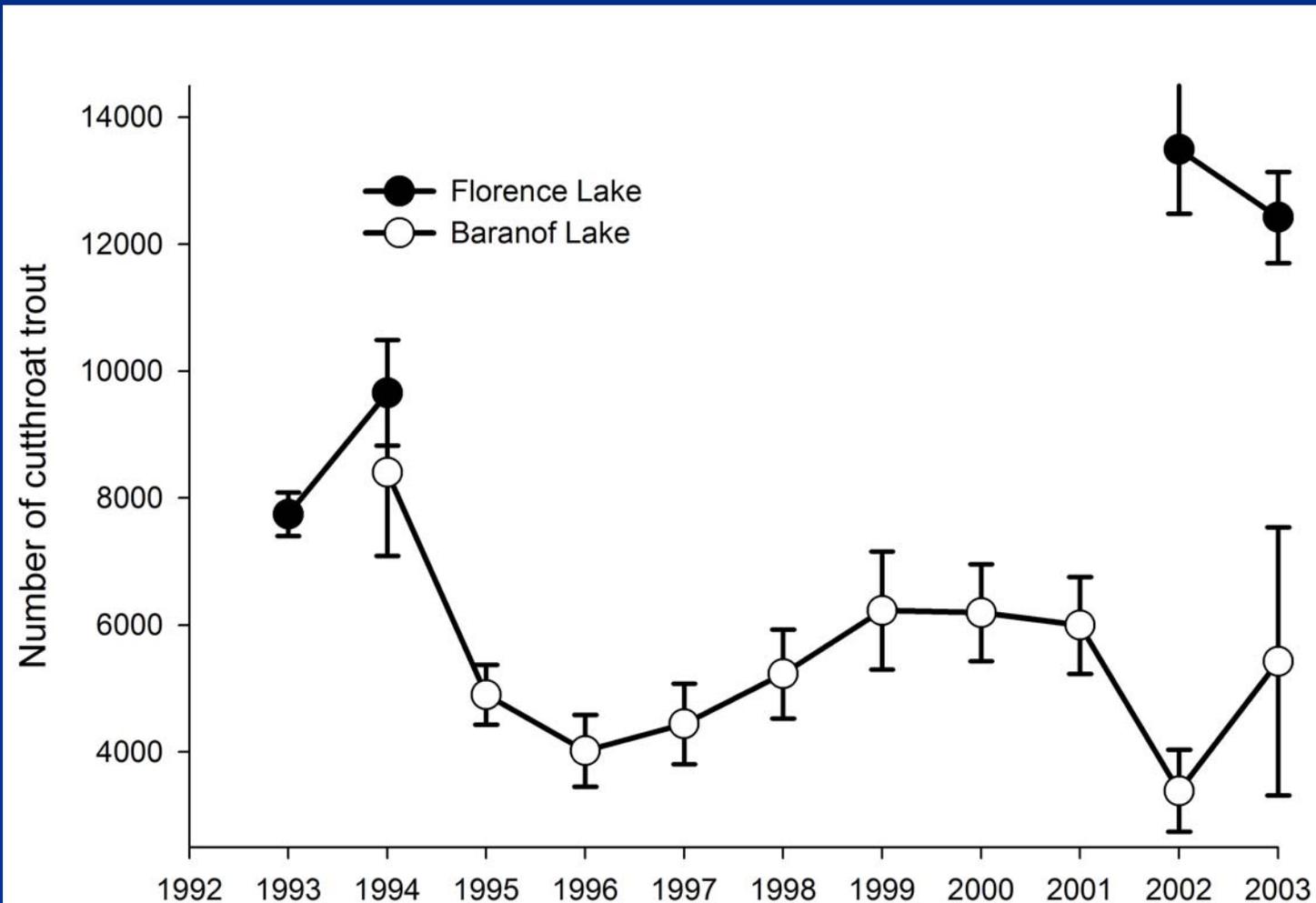
Stock Status

- Trends in abundance available for
 - 4 lacustrine adfluvial populations (Turner Lake, Baranof Lake, Florence Lake, and Auke Lake)
 - 2 sea-run populations (Auke Lake and Jordan Creek)
- Use caution with these estimates!
 - Urban streams: Auke & Jordan
 - Special management

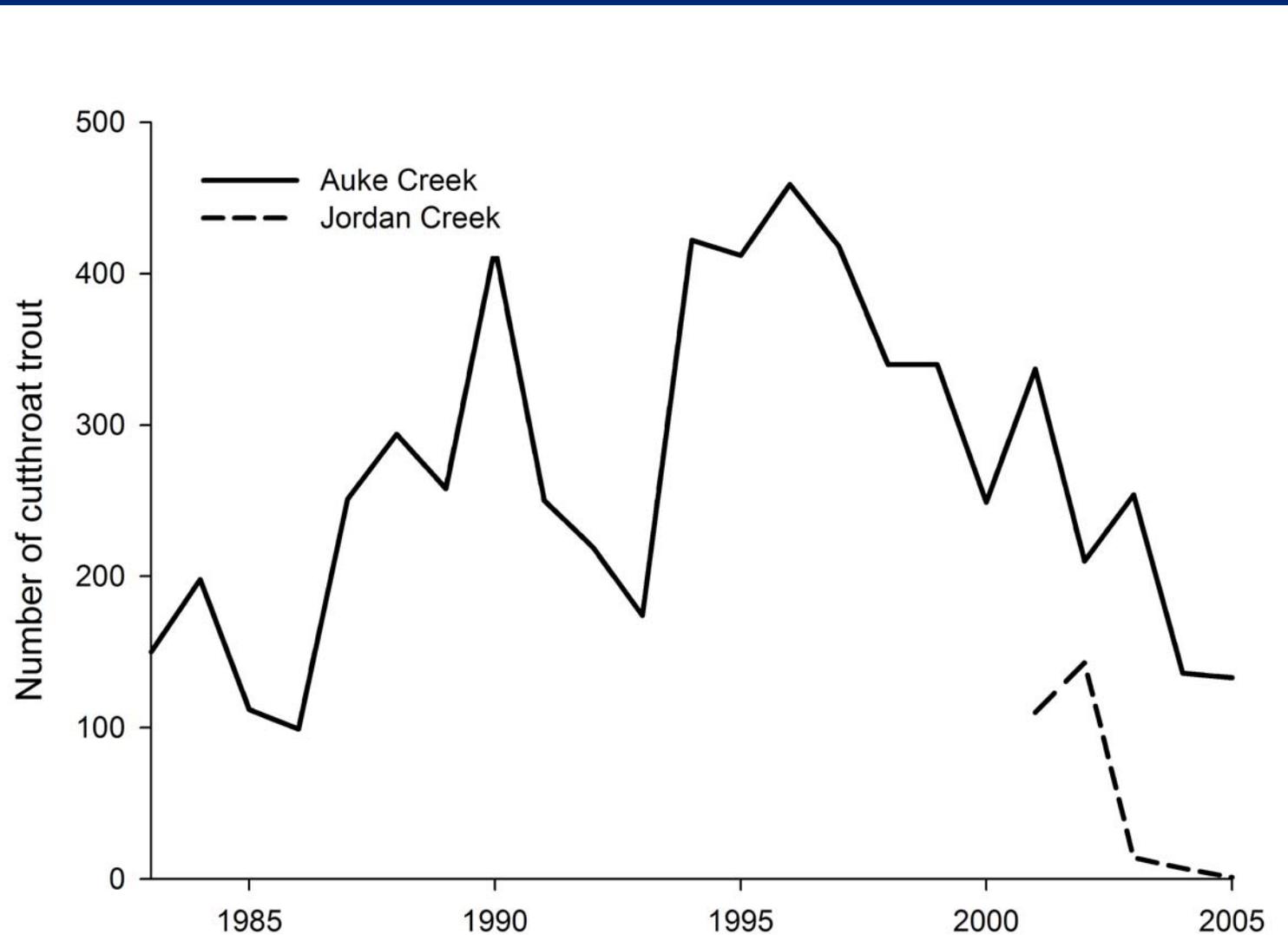
Estimated abundance at Auke and Turner Lakes



Estimated abundance at Florence and Baranof Lakes



Sea-run cutthroat trout emigrating from Auke and Jordan Creeks



Management Concerns

- Juneau streams – why are sea-run populations declining?
- Compliance/enforcement of regulations
- Increased angler effort in PWS

More concerns...

- Subsistence regulations in Southeast
- Lack of population monitoring

Habitat Concerns

- Roads
- Mines
- Timber Harvest
- Hydroelectric projects
- Other water diversions
- Land development

Habitat Concerns: Roads



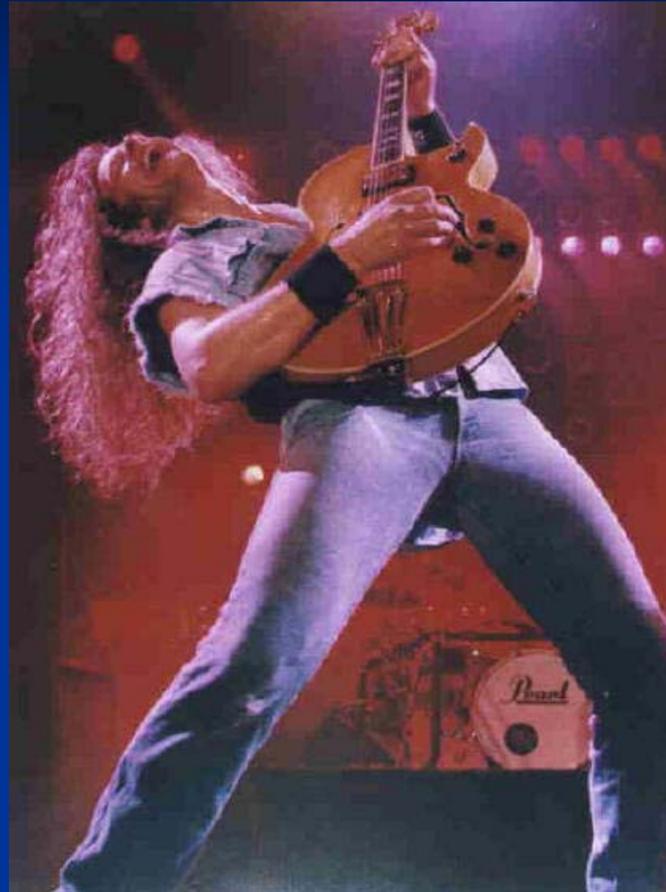
- Flanders et al. (2000): **66%** of culverts across anadromous streams in Tongass NF, and **85%** of culverts crossing resident streams are assumed to be **inadequate for fish passage**

Future Research

- GIS based habitat models (e.g., Kruse and Hubert 1997, Porter et al. 2000)
 - Lake classification
 - Predicting the distribution of cutthroat trout

Closing Thought

*You have to save the habitat,
you have to save the
population - not individual
animals. What you want to
save is the foundation, the
basic infrastructure from
which resources are
produced.*



Ted Nugent

Questions?

