Nonfishing Marine Protected Areas in Alaska: State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries

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ALASKA'S
SPECIAL
AREAS

ADF&G Special Areas

- Game Refuges – 12 Units
- Critical Habitat Areas – 17 Units
- Game Sanctuaries – 3 units

State Game Refuges
AS 16.20. 020.

“. . . to protect and preserve the natural habitat and game population in certain designated areas of the state.”

SLA 1960

Fish and Game

Critical Habitat Areas

AS 16.20.500

"… to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose."

SLA 1972

State Game Sanctuaries

AS 16.20.090 – 16.20.162

“. . . to provide protection . . .”

SLA 1960

Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary

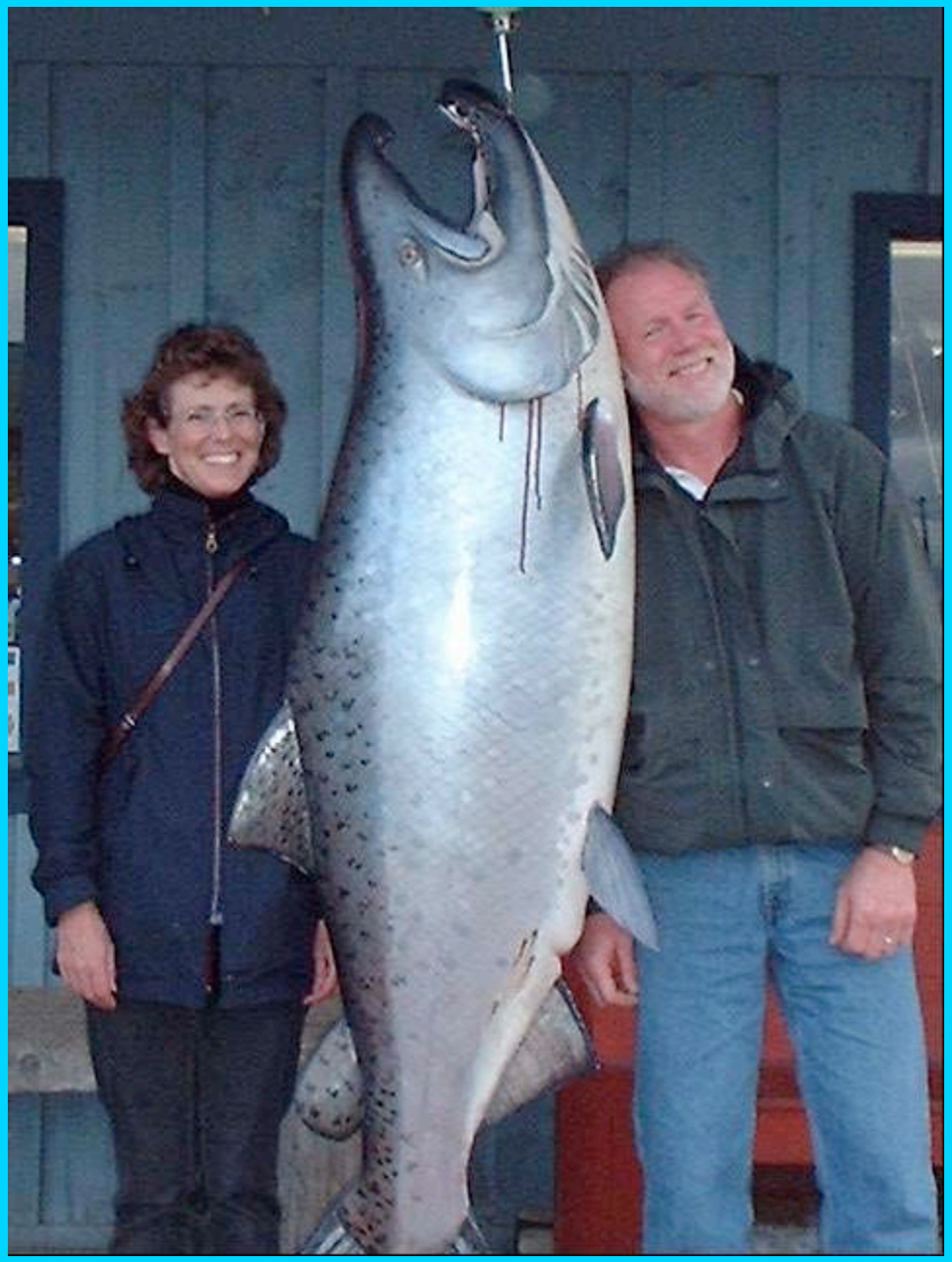
Number of ADF&G Special Areas Established since Statehood, by Decade

1960 – 1969:	4
1970 – 1979:	18
1980 – 1989:	6
1990 – 1999:	4
2000 – present:	0

Izembek State Game Refuge

Chilkat River Critical Habitat Area

Kachemak Bay State Critical Habitat Area



Western Hemisphere Shorebird Network Site and National Estuarine Research Reserve

McNeil River State Game Sanctuary

Indicators of Success

An Engaged Public

State Game Sanctuaries
AS 16.20.090 (b)

"... to protect the walruses and other game on the Walrus Islands."

SLA 1960

“. . . state-owned land, including tide and submerged land, and all land, including tide and submerged land, acquired in the future . . . lying with the parcels . . .”

“. . . state-owned land, including tide and submerged land, and excluding privately owned land . . .”

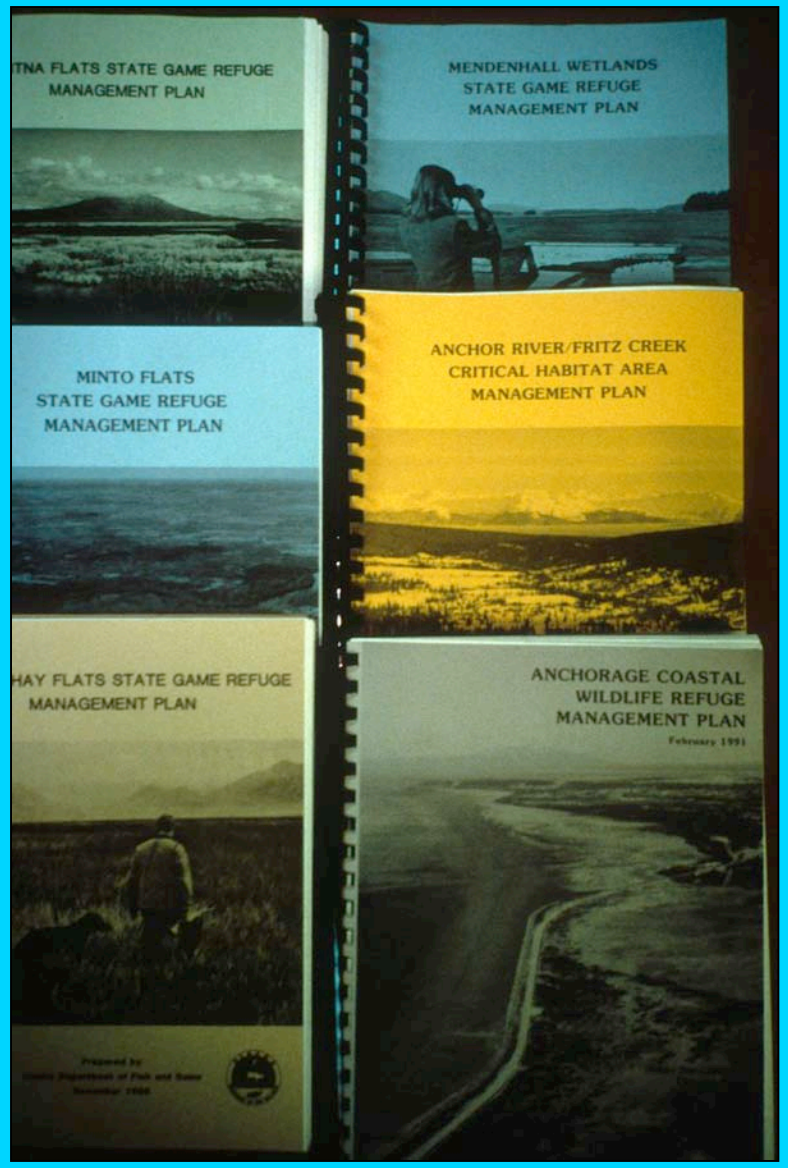
Boundaries

Mendenhall Wetlands
State Game Refuge

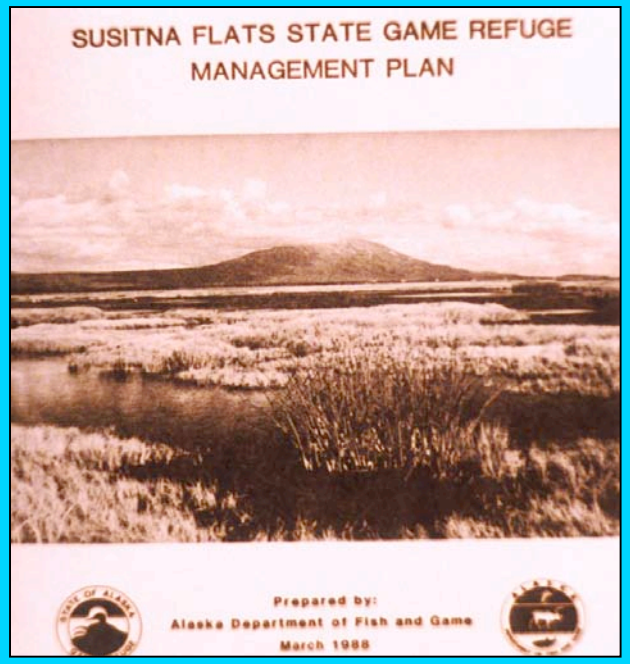
Allowable Uses

“. . . the use and enjoyment of valid rights and interests in mineral claims, including the right of access . . . is protected . . .”

“. . . exploration and development of oil and gas resources shall be permitted when compatible. . .”



Unit Management Plans



SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

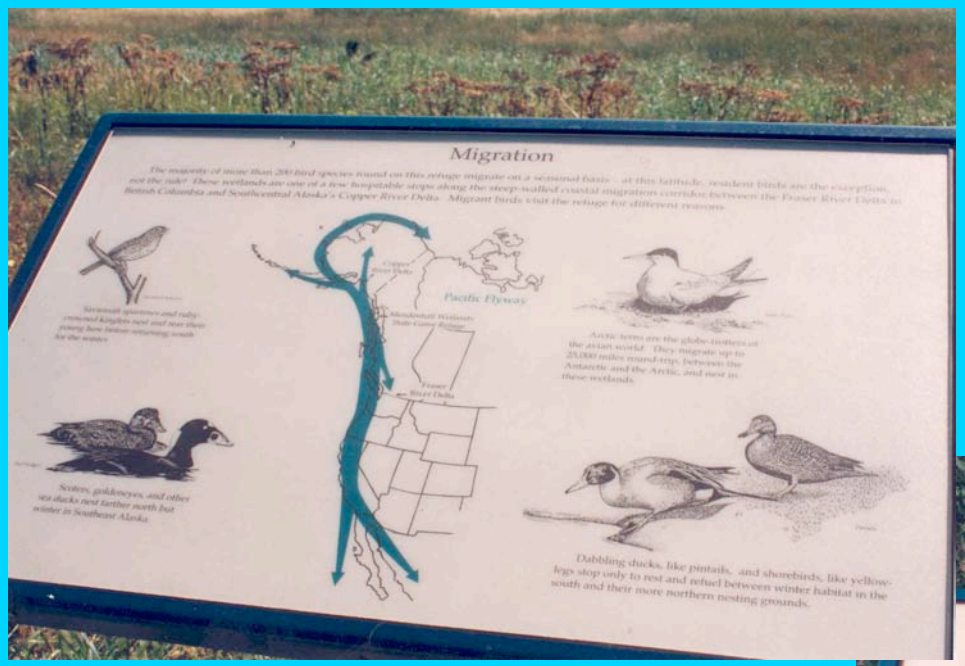
INTRODUCTION	Explanation of public planning process and participants.
GOALS	Maintain fish and wildlife habitat, fish and wildlife populations, and public use of the area.
POLICIES	Guidance for multiple uses and activities.
IMPLEMENTATION	Management tasks.
RESOURCE INVENTORY	Narrative and maps.

Citizen Advisory Groups

Public Education

Mendenhall Wetlands
State Game Refuge, Juneau

Signage



Mendenhall Wetlands
State Game Refuge

Collaboration with Local Governments

Potter Marsh

Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

Juneau International Airport

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge

Access

State - Federal Relationship

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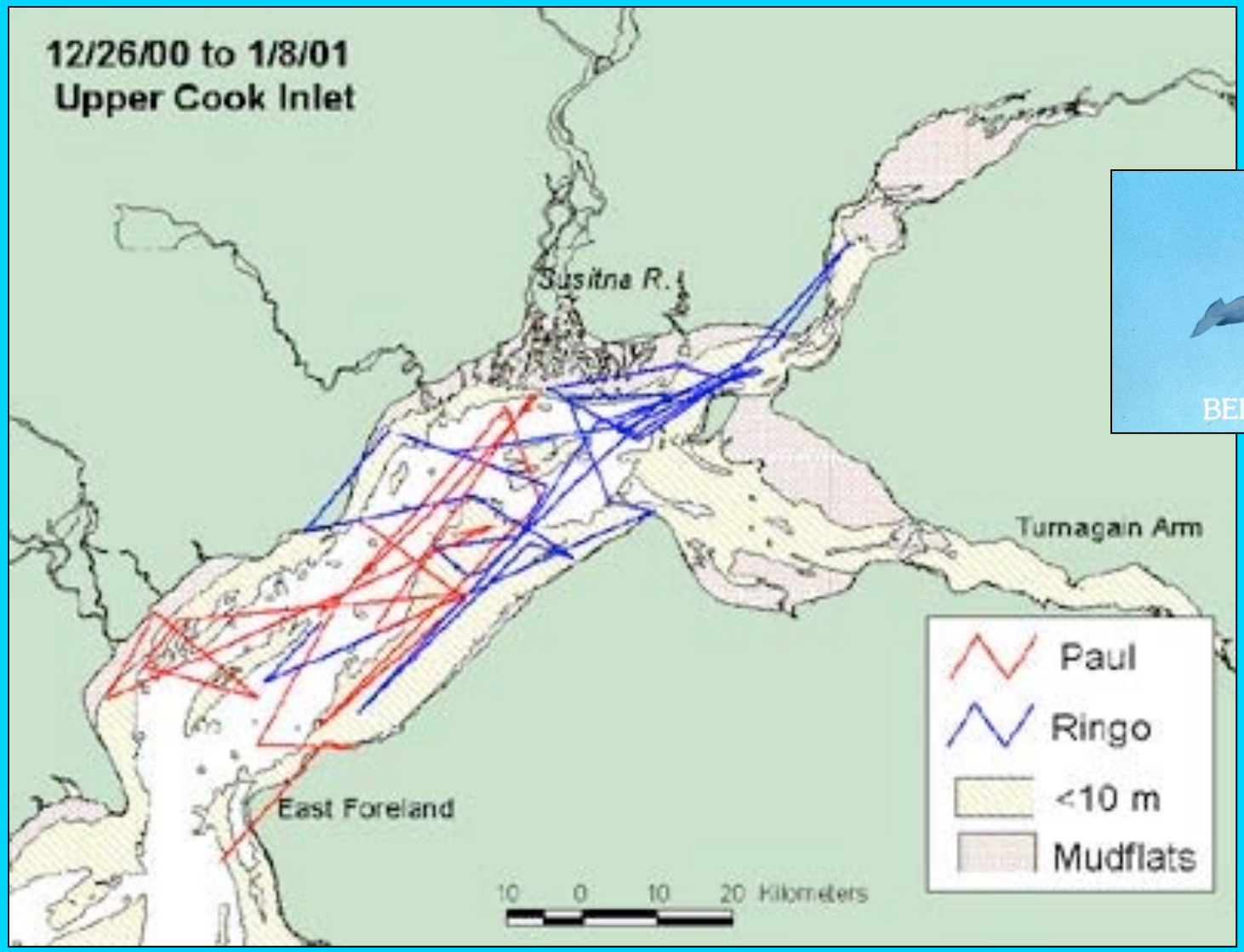
Beluga Whale Movements



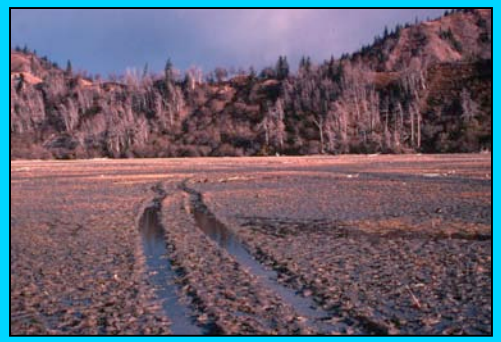
Annual Reporting

Obstacles to Success

Alaska is Big

- Juneau to Anchorage: 571 air miles
- Anchorage to Dillingham: 327 miles
- Anchorage to Cold Bay: 619 air miles
- Anchorage to Kodiak: 252 air miles
- Anchorage to Cordova: 159 air miles

Enforcement is Difficult



Adequate Budget
and
Staffing

The Words We Use

Critical habitat area

Marine protected area

Crucial habitat

Sustainability

Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary

Established: 1960

Size: 162,200 acres

Purpose: To protect the walruses and other game on the Walrus Islands

Includes: State lands and waters

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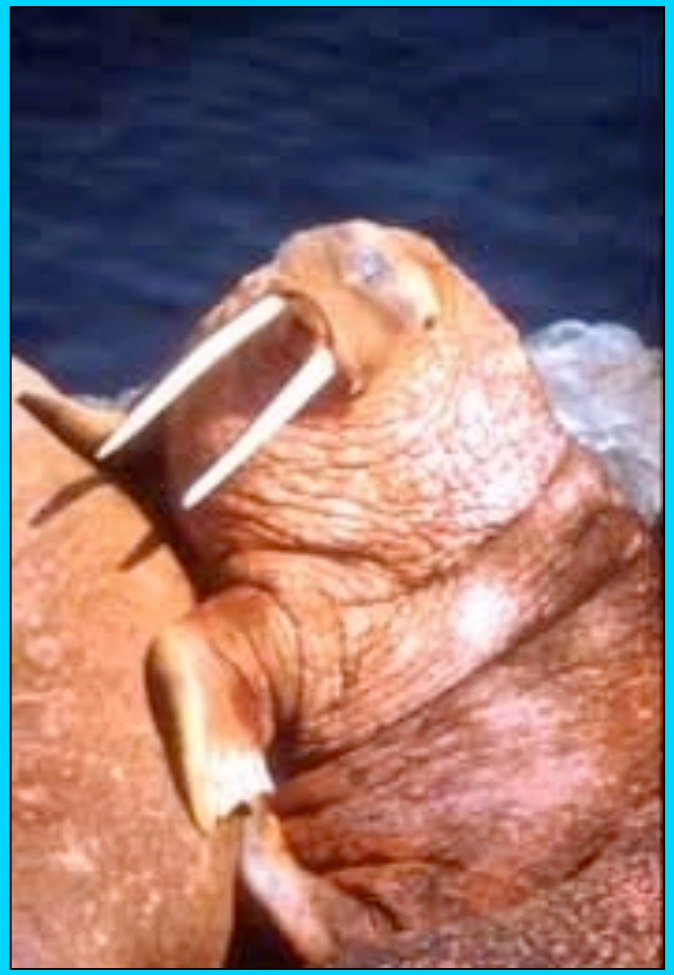

New Initiatives

Cape Seniavin

Izembek State Game Refuge

Established: 1960

Size: 160,600 acres

Purpose: to protect and preserve the natural habitat and game population

Includes: Tidelands and submerged lands

80% of the State's economic production is estimated to occur on or near the coast.

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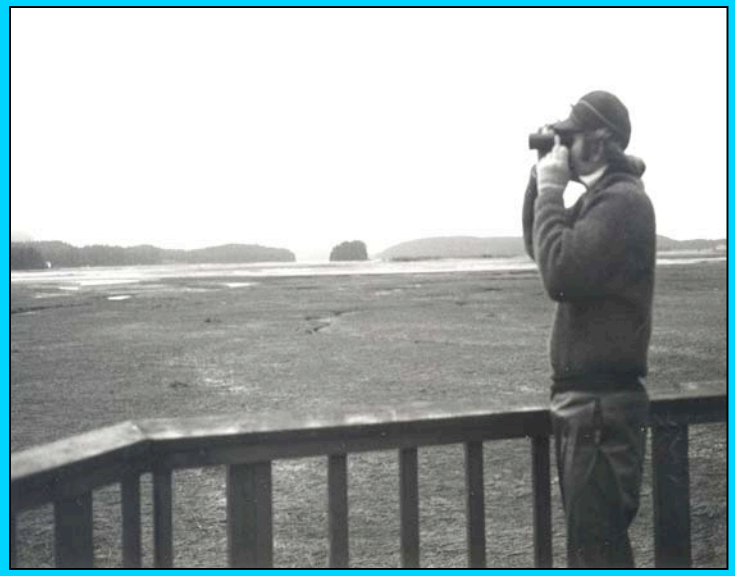

Handouts

- Map of ADF&G Special Areas
- Photo-calendar, Walrus Island State Game Refuge
- Round Island Brochure