

ALASKA FISHING

(Pink) Salmon in Haines
Grayling in Fairbanks

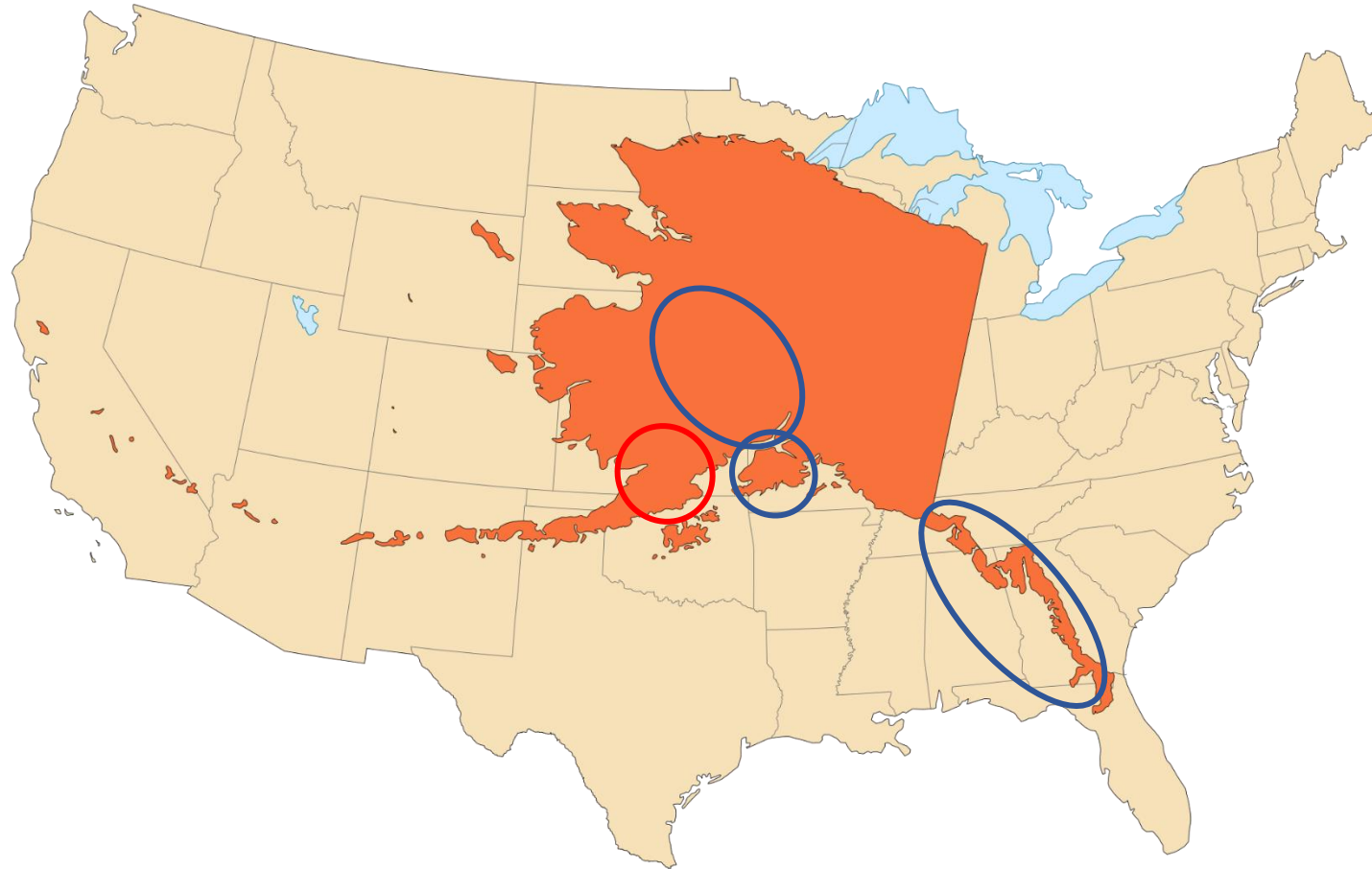
Saying . . . “I’m fishing in Alaska next week . . .”



Is like saying . . .

. . . “I’m fishing in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, northern California, Oregon, and Washington next week.”

Saying . . . “I’m fishing in Alaska next week . . .”



Interior (Anchorage to Fairbanks)

Kenai Peninsula

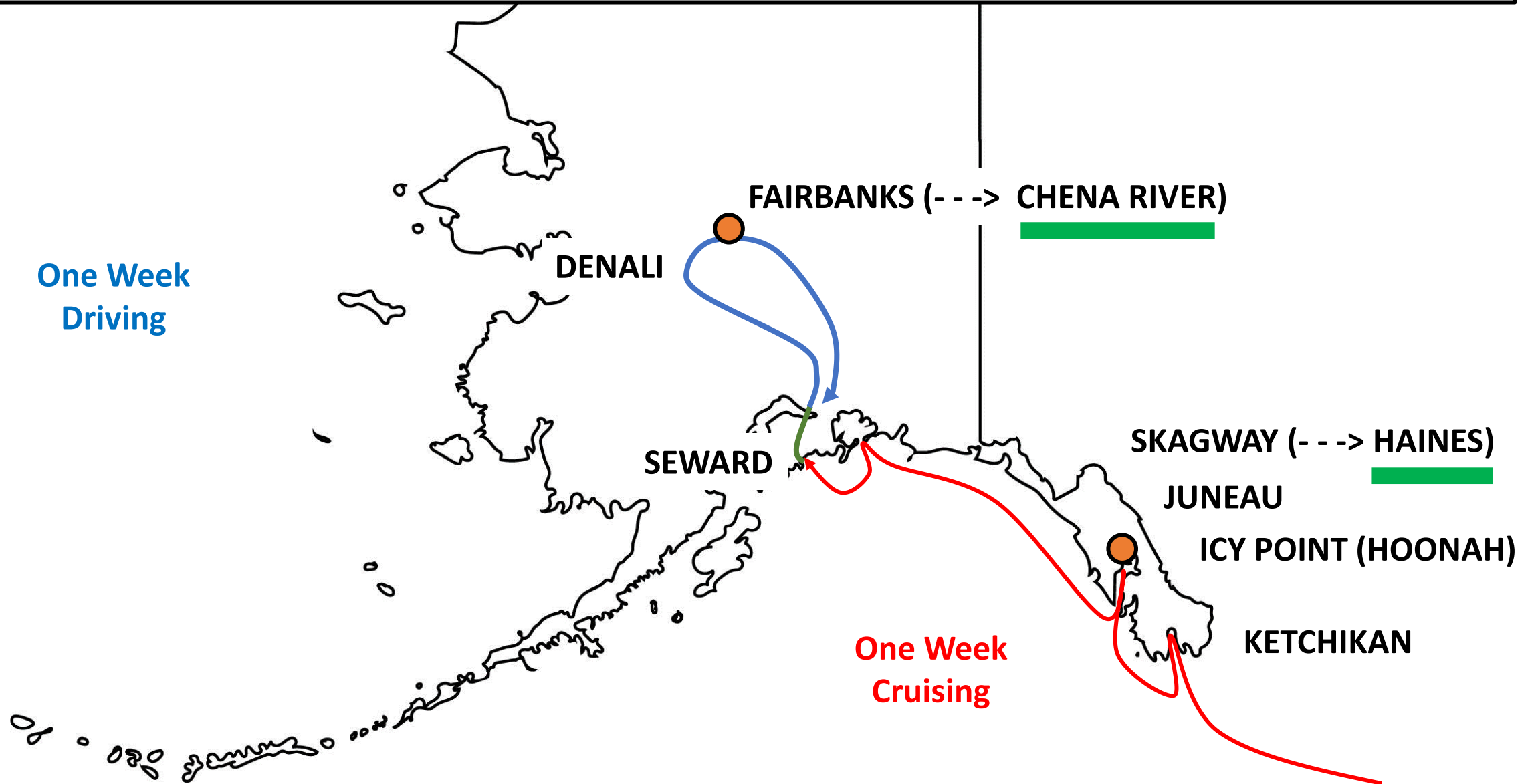
Southeast (Inward Passage)

Katmai Area

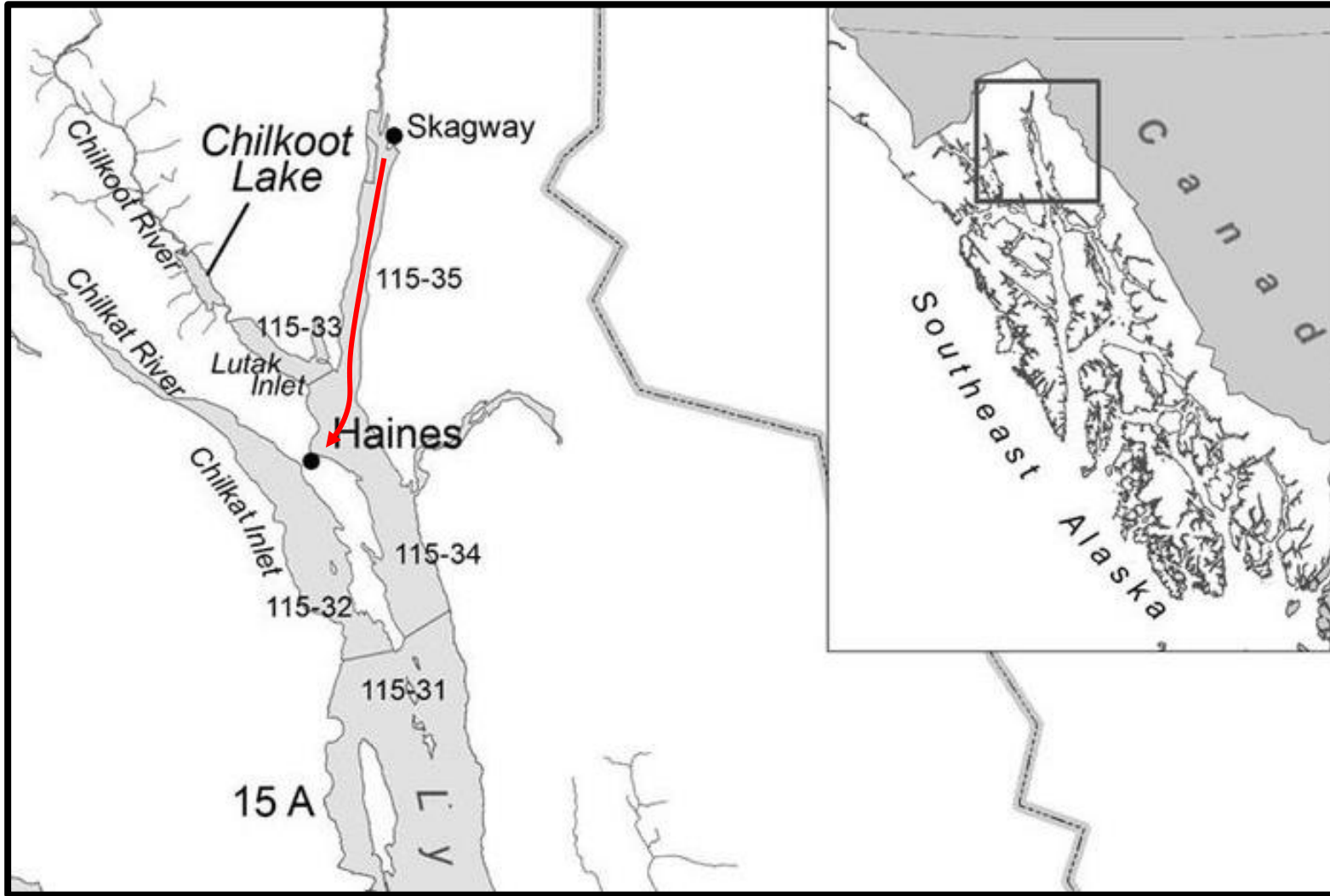
Is like saying . . .

. . . “I’m fishing in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, northern California, Oregon, and Washington next week.”

A Cruising, Sight-seeing, Hiking Trip with a Little Fishing



Skagway - - - -> Haines (Chilkoot River)



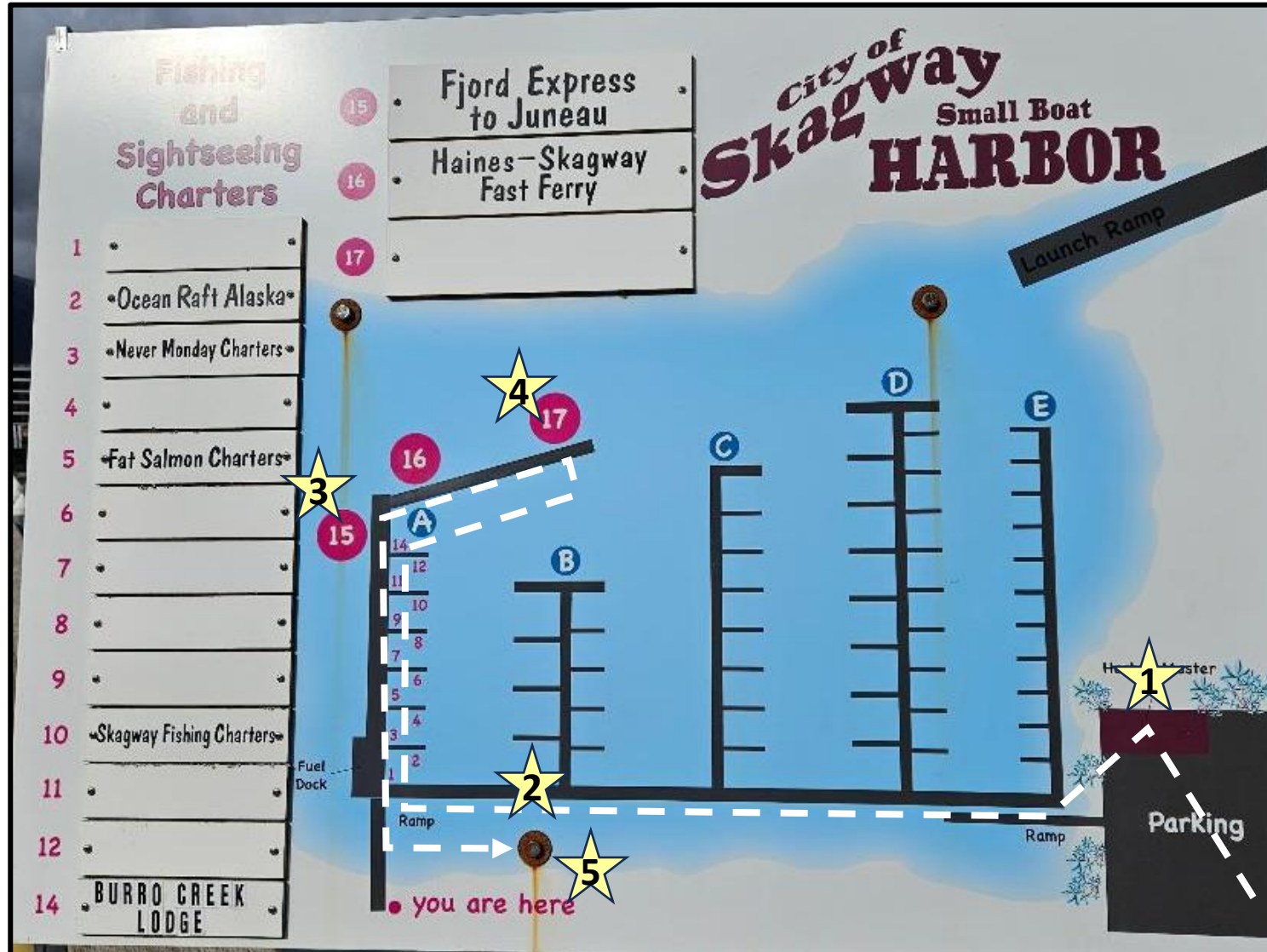
Getting There is Half the Fun

Wander Around The Docks
looking for the Ferry

Debark Cruise Ship



Getting There is Half the Fun



After 30 minutes of aimless Wandering:

- 1 - Swallow male pride and allow wife to ask for directions
- 2 - Find correct dock (& only sign)
- 3 - Try to board wrong boat
- 4 - Find right boat
- 5 - Be redirected to line up point

Getting There is Half the Fun

Fast (?) Ferry to Haines



Getting There is Half the Fun



Guide met us at ferry dock gangway just as planned

Guide car to Stream



*** cracked windshield = a guide you can trust**

Haines (Chilkoot River)



Haines (Chilkoot River)

Target Species



Pink Salmon



Dolly Varden

Gear



8 wt rod / reel combination

7-8' leader (30 lbs fluoro) w/ heavy tippet

Sink tip lines and 2-3 split shot

Flies



Clouser like (hair, synthetic, dumbbell eyes)

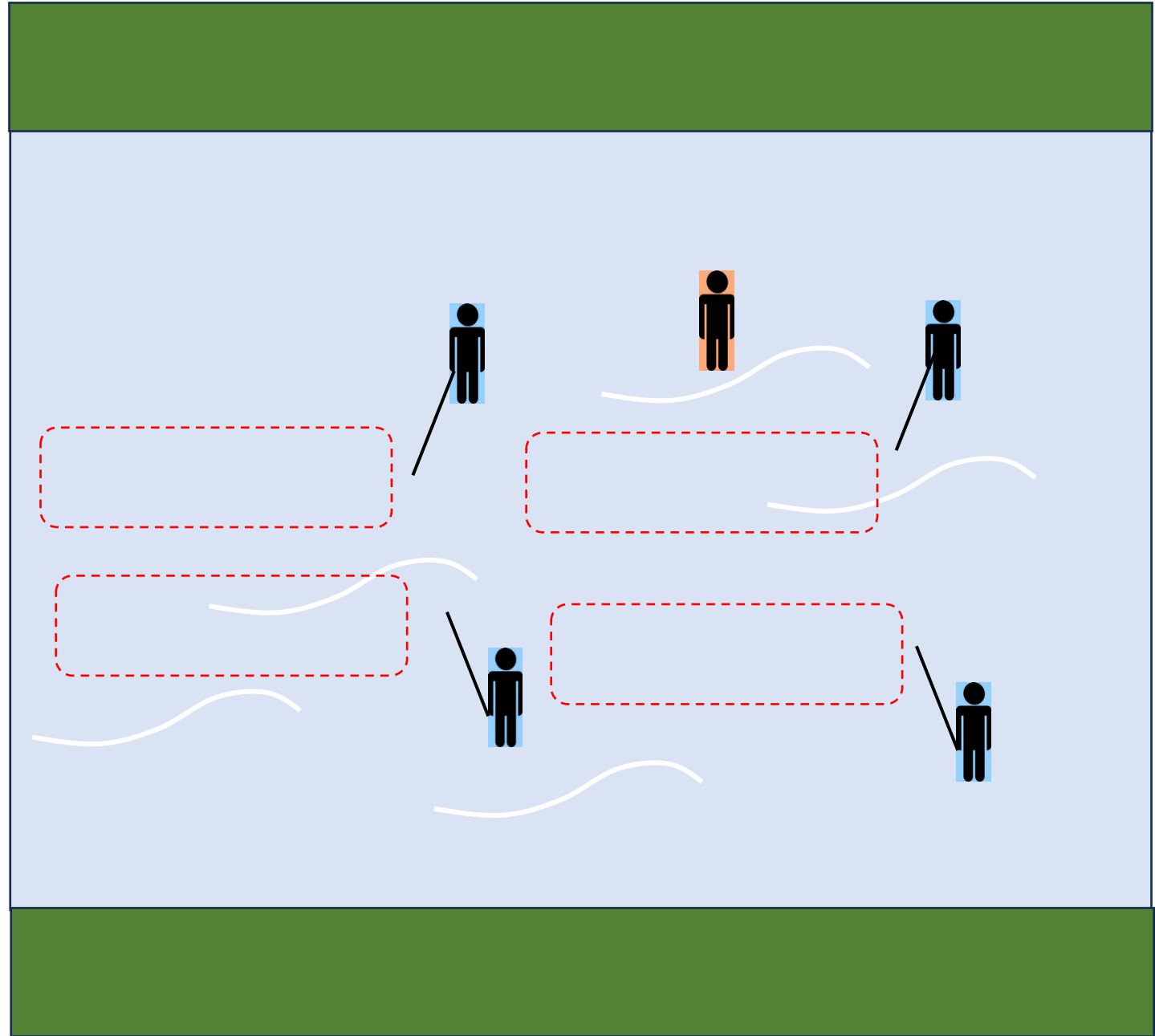
Purple or Pink / On salmon hooks

(stinger egg for dollies – 5 minutes)

Haines (Chilkoot River)

'Social' Fishing

- 4 anglers in box configuration
- fish designated lane
- if it works, it's not dumb
 - - ~ 40 fish in an hour
- 2 practical reasons
 - - guide distance to net fish
 - - the 10-50-100 rule



The Other Reason ?

The Alaska Wilderness

10 – 50 – 100

Rule

The Alaska Wilderness 10 – 50 – 100 Rule

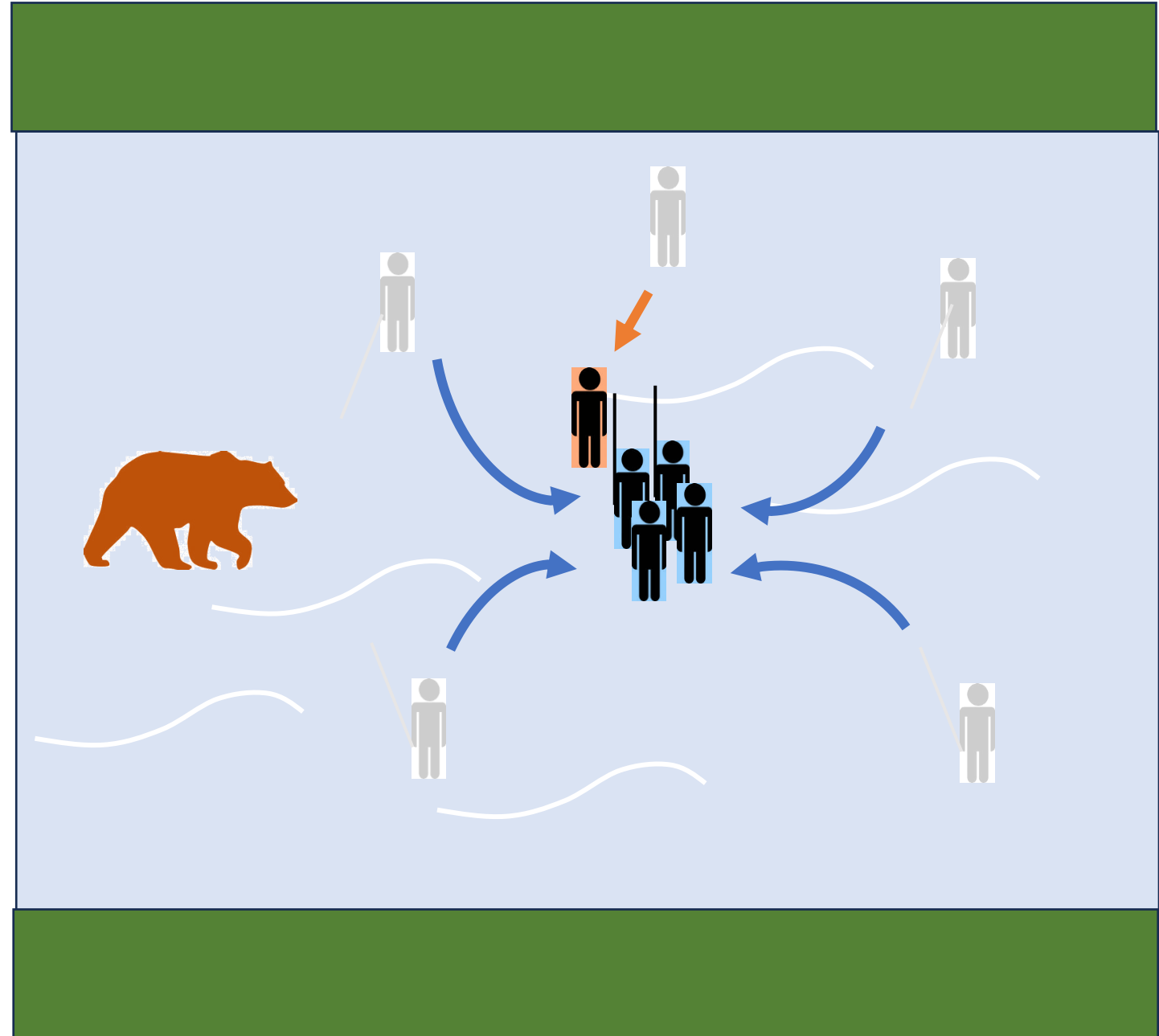
If you're out in the woods:

- 10% chance you'll encounter a bear**
 - 50% chance you'll see a bear**
 - 100% chance a bear will see you**

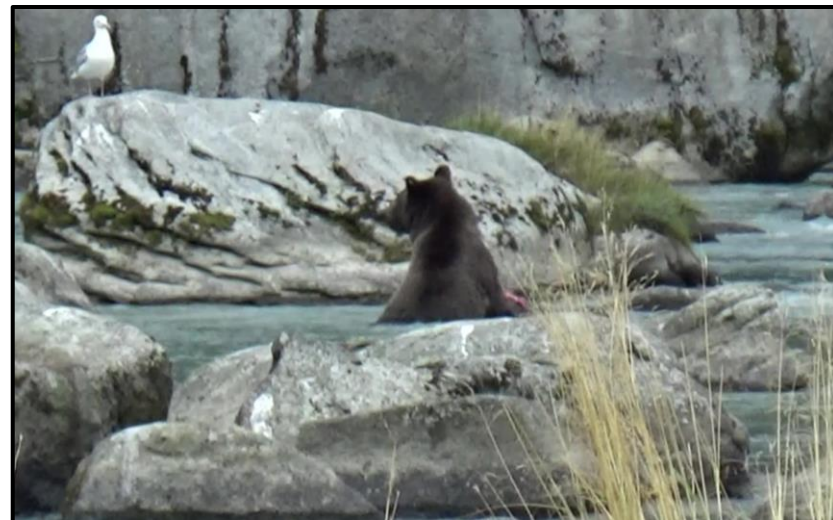
Haines (Chilkoot River)

'Social' Fishing Box

- collapse the box if the furrries visit
- strength in numbers



Haines (Chilkoot River) – A Worthwhile Interruption

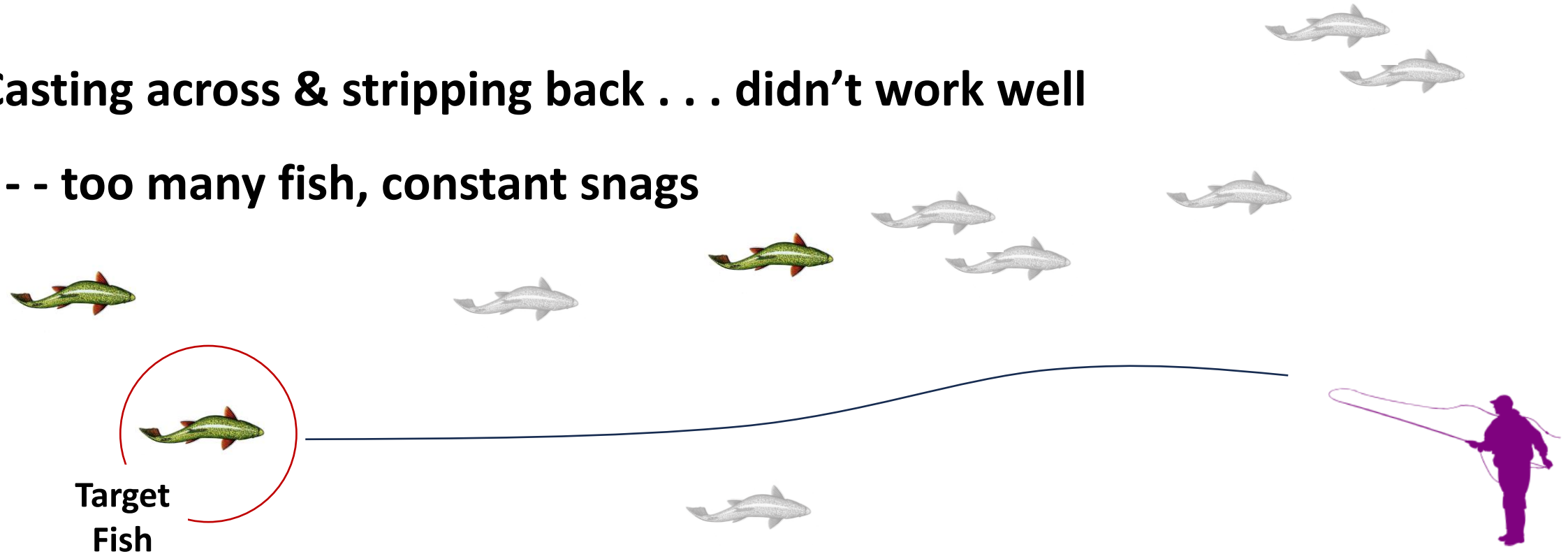


Haines (Chilkoot River)

'Fluttering' Streamers

Casting across & stripping back . . . didn't work well

- - - too many fish, constant snags



Cast straight downstream

- - - mend line left & right, slight strips, "flutter" streamer

Haines (Chilkoot River)



NEXT - - - CHASING GRAYLING



GRAYLING OVERVIEW

European & Arctic

Large dorsal fin

Blue / purple / green
iridescent colors

13" Avg / 30" Record



Fluvial (river), Lacustine (lake),
Potamodromous (from lake to river to spawn)

GRAYLING RANGE

NATIVE: ALASKA & NW CANADA

NORTHERN MONTANA (MAYBE)

ACROSS NORTHERN EUROPE

WILD (RE-INTRODUCED):

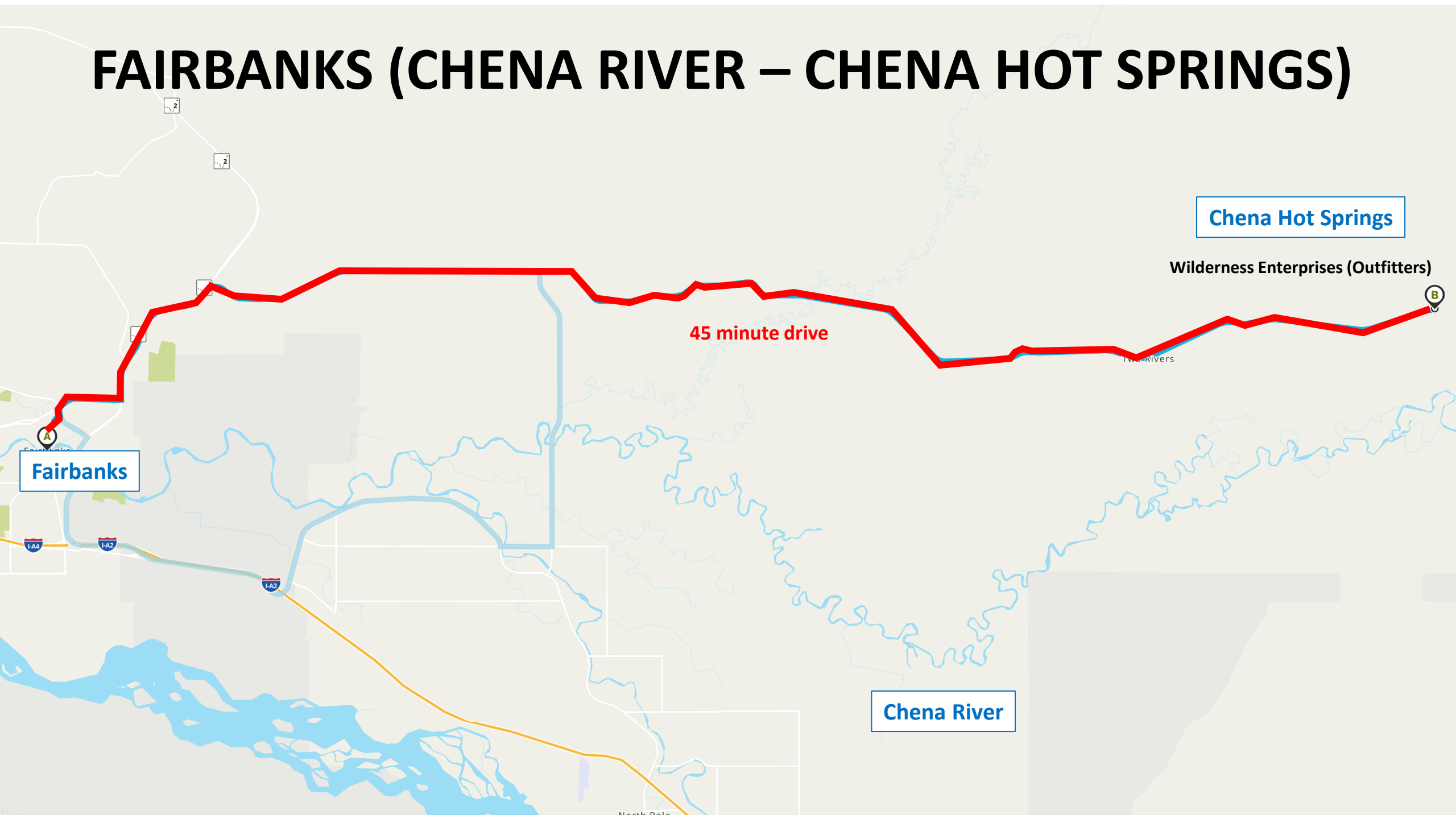
- MONTANA, WYOMING, IDAHO *

- WASHINGTON, OREGON (SELECT SPOTS)

EFFORTS TO RE-ESTABLISH IN MICHIGAN



FAIRBANKS (CHENA RIVER – CHENA HOT SPRINGS)



Chena Hot Springs

Wilderness Enterprises (Outfitters)

45 minute drive

Fairbanks

Chena River

Chena River – An Interesting Angling Experience



A Rocky Start

- Late to shop
- Raft needed to be readied
- Initially brought spin gear vs fly gear (40 minute delay)

An Interesting Float

- Clear, shallow water – but fast
- Top level fly rods (sage) – but short 3 wt's
- Two small fly boxes (~20 flies); No net
- Left fish to find fish



In Fairness: Moose Season

- Summer (fishing) staff gone
- Overseeing fly-in hunts (guides / packers / clients)
- **Only outfitter willing to fish** (very up front about focus)

Chena River – An Interesting Angling Experience



It Worked Out in the End

- We caught fish
- Beautiful River & Wilderness (saw no other people)
- Great 'Alaska Outfitter' Stories
 - - Bear attack survivor
 - - Missing guide murder mystery
- Discounted Rate
- Wish we'd brought our own gear



Chena River

Guided: 12 September

46 - 55 degrees, Partly Cloudy, Water Clear, Fast Flow, Sand & River Rock Bottom



Float & Wade



Grayling

Size:

8-10" average, 14" largest

Reward Factors:

Unique look (sail, eyes, & colors)

Hot Patterns:



Nymphs (rainbow warriors)

Other comments: Fewer fish during entire float than in previous single hours

No top water action

Variety of factors: Water flow, late start, limited rigging options

SHOW VIDEO

2024 – One Week (DIY) Fishing Trip ?

Getting There



To Anchorage



To King Salmon



To Katmai
(Brooks Camp)

3 days
Katmai



Brooks Camp



Guided



Non-Guided



Sight-seeing

3 days
Interior



Rental Van / SUV



Cabins
or Camp



Kenai (guided) or
Talkeetna (no guide)



Denali Area
Fish or Sight-see

Predicated on Brooks River campsite availability

Cost (4 anglers): \$2500 + each (Flights - \$1500; Guides - \$400; Car/Gas - \$200; lodging - \$400; meals - TBD)