**Background:**

The 2013 Alaska pink salmon harvest was the largest in state history!

- The magnitude of this pink salmon harvest was 692 M lbs: 28% more biomass than in any other year.
- Of the >1 billion pounds of commercial salmon landings in Alaska, pink salmon comprised 66%, and was worth 40% ($277 M) of the total resource value.

**Questions:**

1. Were ocean conditions favorable for Alaska pink salmon in 2012?
2. Did other salmon species and life history stages (jacks or immatures) respond to 2012 ocean conditions?
3. What type of next-generation forecasting tools can be developed to improve pre-season forecasts?

**Ocean conditions in 2012 were equally favorable to both wild and hatchery pink salmon stocks...**

...suggesting freshwater conditions in 2012 were not a limiting factor 2013 returns

**Summary:**

- The record 2013 pink salmon harvest in Alaska was the highest biomass landed for any Alaska commercial fish species in the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem.
- Both wild and hatchery stocks of pink salmon across the GOA returned strong in 2013, suggesting large scale, favorable freshwater and ocean conditions.
- All pre-season forecast models underestimated pink salmon harvest in 2013: are we missing a later ocean ecosystem indicator?
- Pink salmon may be an ecological indicator of a future production increase for Chinook salmon.