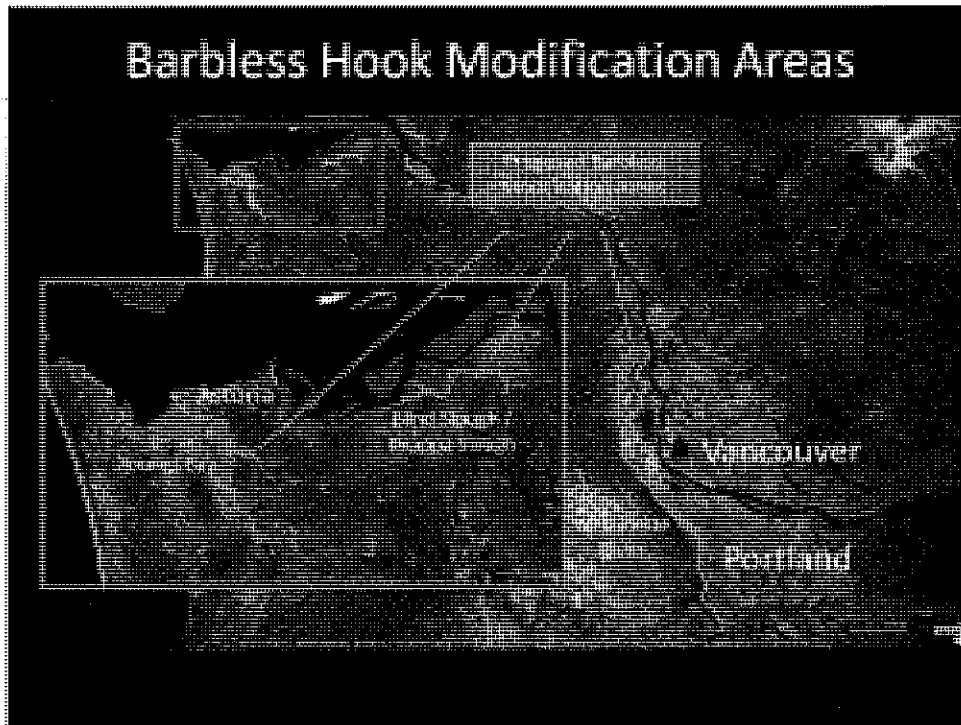


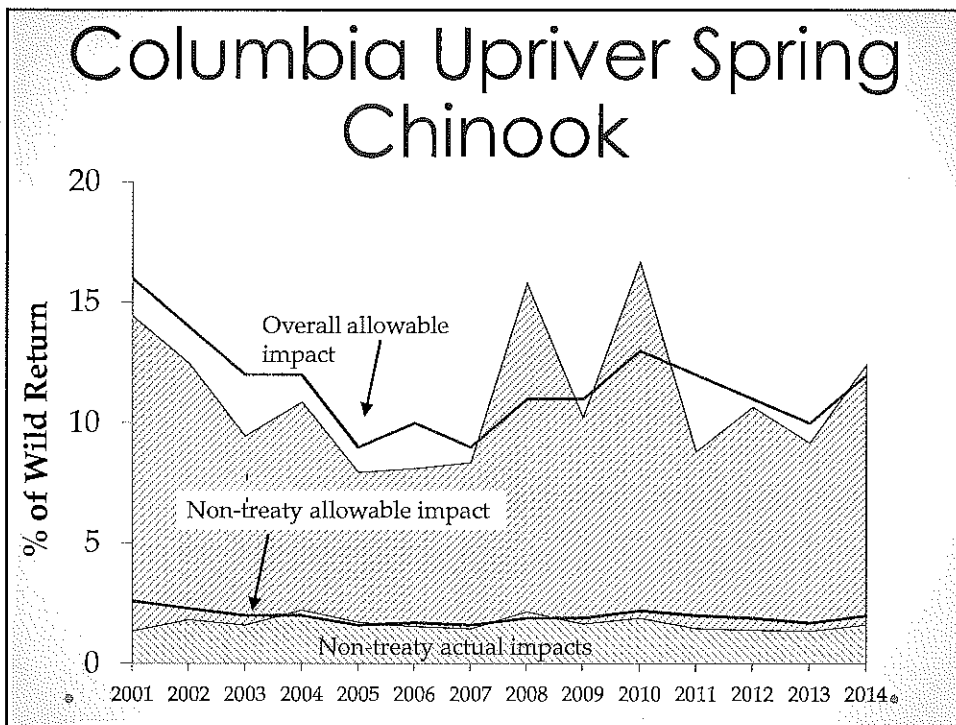
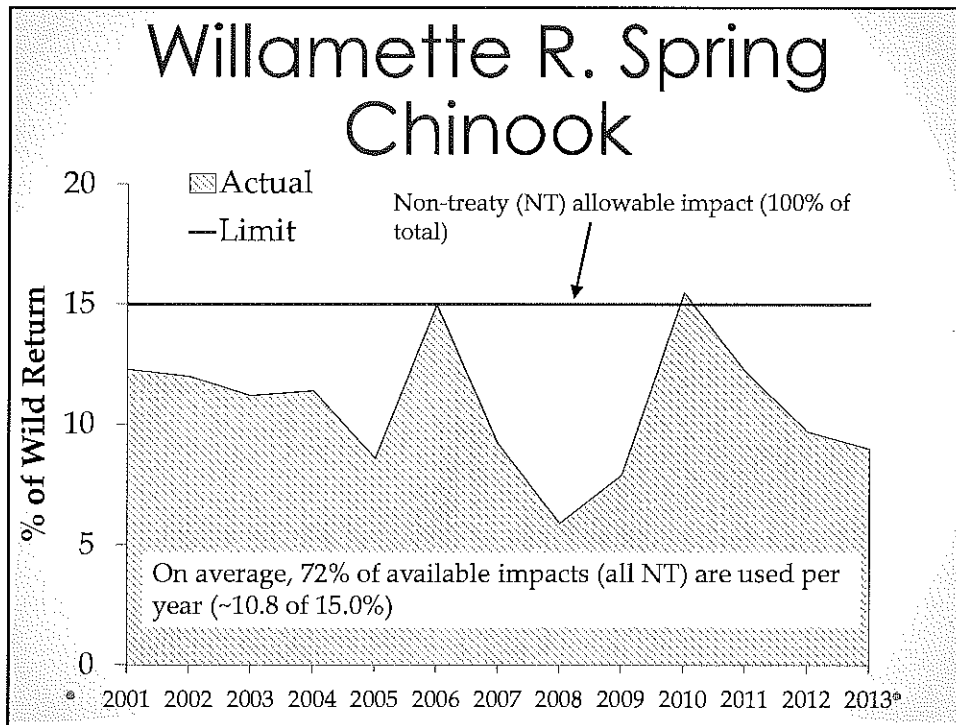
Background

- The Commission adopted rules requiring barbless hooks when angling for salmon, steelhead, and trout in the mainstem Columbia River, the lower Willamette River, and in Select Area fisheries.
 - Effective January 1, 2013.
 - Promote easier removal of hooks and quicker release.



Background

- Since adoption, anglers have questioned the benefit of barbless hooks for the lower Willamette River and Select Area fisheries:
 - Both fisheries have high mark rates for spring Chinook.
 - Hatchery fish should be harvested and kept off spawning grounds.
 - Barbless hooks result in fewer landed fish.
 - Frustrated with barbless hook requirement in light of growing sea lion predation.



Willamette R. Spring Chinook

Lindsay et. al. 2004. estimated survival of hooked and released Chinook in Willamette River using common recreational gears.

- All tested gears used barbed hooks.
- 12.2% mortality estimate based on study results and gear types used in the fishery.
- Hook placement was the primary determinant of survival.

Release Mortality Rates

- Lower Willamette spring Chinook – 12.2%
- Mainstem Columbia
 - Spring Chinook and steelhead – 10%
 - Summer Chinook – 15%
- Select Area spring Chinook – 10%
- Not adjusted for barbless hook requirement

- Fall Mainstem Columbia and Buoy 10.
 - Chinook and Coho – 19%
 - Both adjusted down 2% for barbless hook requirement

Pinniped Predation

- Anglers report more fish are being lost to sea lions, especially in lower Willamette, causing frustration.
- Agency observations support angler reports.
- No estimates are available for river-wide take of salmon/steelhead or take from anglers lines.
- Abundance of pinnipeds is increasing.

Select Area Recreational

- Annual spring Chinook harvest since 2000 is ~310 fish.
- Mark rate is very high (~94%).
- Average unmarked mortalities very low (~2 fish).
 - Most catch occurs in Columbia Zone.
 - Blind/Knappa sloughs remain barbless.
- Proposal would affect Youngs Bay (inside of Hwy 101 Bridge), and lower Gnat Creek.

Summary

- Allowance for barbed hooks in these areas may increase angler harvest of hatchery-produced fish.
- No change to calculated ESA impacts.
 - Already well below limits with barbed hooks.
- More positive overall angling experience.
- Potential benefit to less experienced/youth anglers.
- Lower Willamette (86%) and Select Area (94%) have high hatchery fish presence.
- No change to Mainstem Columbia regulations.

Recommendation

- Adopt rules allowing use of barbed hooks in Oregon Select Areas in the NW Zone and the lower Willamette River per draft OARs shown in Attachment 3.