

Progress Report: Implementation of Columbia River Fish Management and Reform Rules

18 March 2016

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Background

- Joint OR/WA policy adoption 2012
 - OR re-adoption of rules 6/13
- Transition period (2013-2016)
 - Phased allocation shift
 - Mainstem gillnets allowed
 - Enhance off channel fisheries
 - Evaluate/develop alternative mainstem gears & techniques
- SB 830: alt gear authority and budget (\$4M)
- Litigation concluded in June 2015



TRANSITION PERIOD ACTIVITIES UPDATE (2013-2015)

- Phased allocation shifts
- Off-channel enhancements
- Alternative gear evaluations
- 2015 recreational and commercial fisheries
- 2015 angler trips and ex-vessel values

Phased Allocation Shifts

Species/Stock	Transition Period				Long-term
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017+
Spring Chinook	65/35	70/30			80/20
Summer Chinook (<Priest Rapids)	60/40		70/30		unresolved
Sockeye	70/30				80/20
LCR Fall Chinook	≤70/≥30				≤80/≥20
SRW Fall Chinook	≤70/≥30				≤80/≥20
LCN Coho	Priority to Select Area and mainstem Chinook commercial fisheries				Priority to Select Area, mainstem Chinook, and hatchery Coho commercial fisheries
Chum	No retention. Share sufficient to implement Select Area and mainstem commercial fisheries targeting other species				
White Sturgeon	80/20 (when retention allowed)				

2015 Spring Allocations

- Preseason ESA limitation = 1.48% NT on ESA wild upriver Chinook
- ESA impacts allocation policy: 70% recreational, 30% commercial
- Preseason *US v Oregon* catch-balancing limit = 14,800 upriver Chinook (kept plus wild mortalities)

	Preseason	Final	
	ESA Allocation	% of available	% of impact used
Recreational	70%	40%	46%
Commercial	30%	46%	54%
		(14% unused)	

- Impacts shifted to commercial and upriver recreational *after* LCR recreational fisheries fully seeded
- Used 1.908% of 2.2% ESA impacts available
- 25,900 Chinook non treaty mortalities (83%) of 31,200 limit

2015 Summer Allocations

- Not ESA listed
- Allocation policy 70:30 (R:C) of <PRD catch
- Preseason *US v Oregon* catch-balancing limit = 5,500 summer Chinook (kept plus wild mortalities) <PRD

Fishery	Preseason	Final	
	Allocation	% of available	% of used
Recreational	70%	51%	64%
Commercial	30%	29%	36%
		(20% unused)	

- 10,900 Chinook NT mortalities below Priest Rapids Dam (80%) of 13,600 limit
- Full compliance with *US v Oregon*

2015 Fall Allocations

- Multiple listed and limiting stocks
- ESA limitations: 40% tule (8.7% in-river); 15% SRW
- Allocation policy $\leq 70 : \geq 30$ on tule and SRW Chinook (R:C)

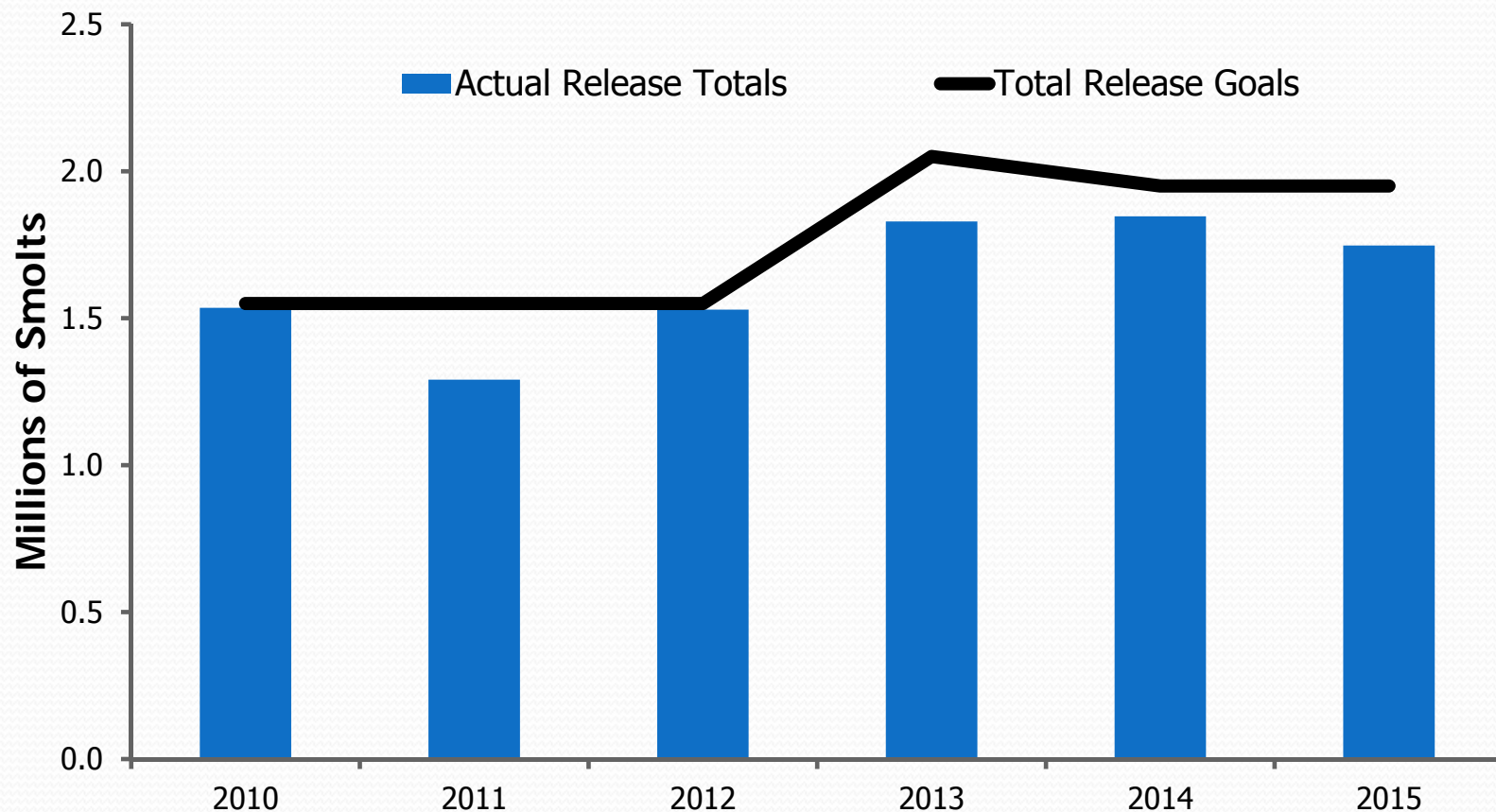
LCN Tule	Preseason	Final	
	ESA Allocation	% of available	% of impact used
Recreational	$\leq 70\%$	50%	61%
Commercial	$\geq 30\%$	33%	39%
SRW/URB			
Recreational	$\leq 70\%$	43%	58%
Commercial	$\geq 30\%$	31%	42%

- Tule = 7.2% in-river ESA; SRW = 11.1% ESA impacts
- Impacts left on table: Tule = 17%; SRW = 26%
- Full compliance with ESA and *US v Oregon*

Off-Channel Enhancements

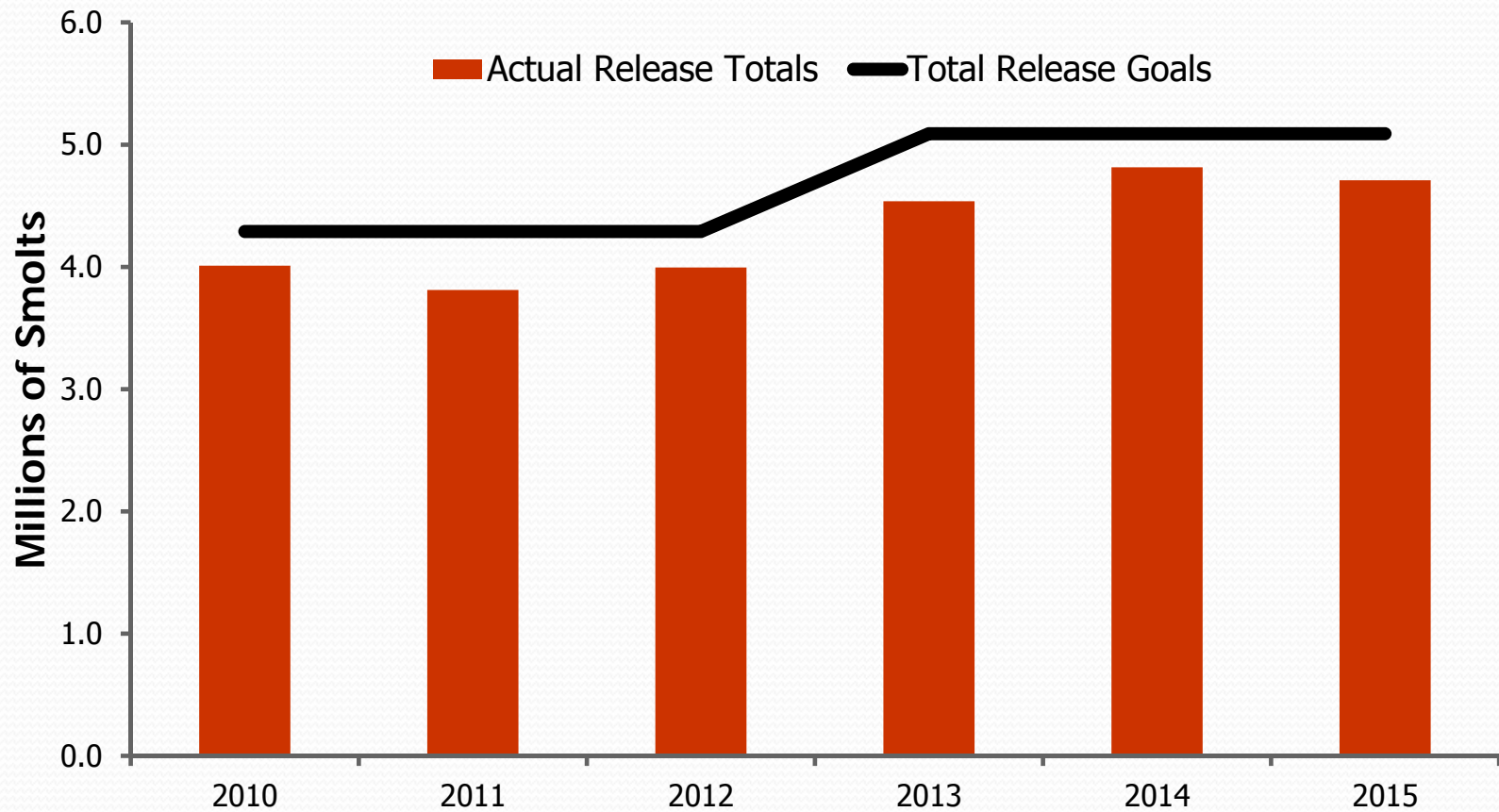
- Enhanced production at existing off-channel sites
- Expanding existing off-channel sites
- New off-channel sites

Off-Channel Enhancements - Increased Spring Chinook Production



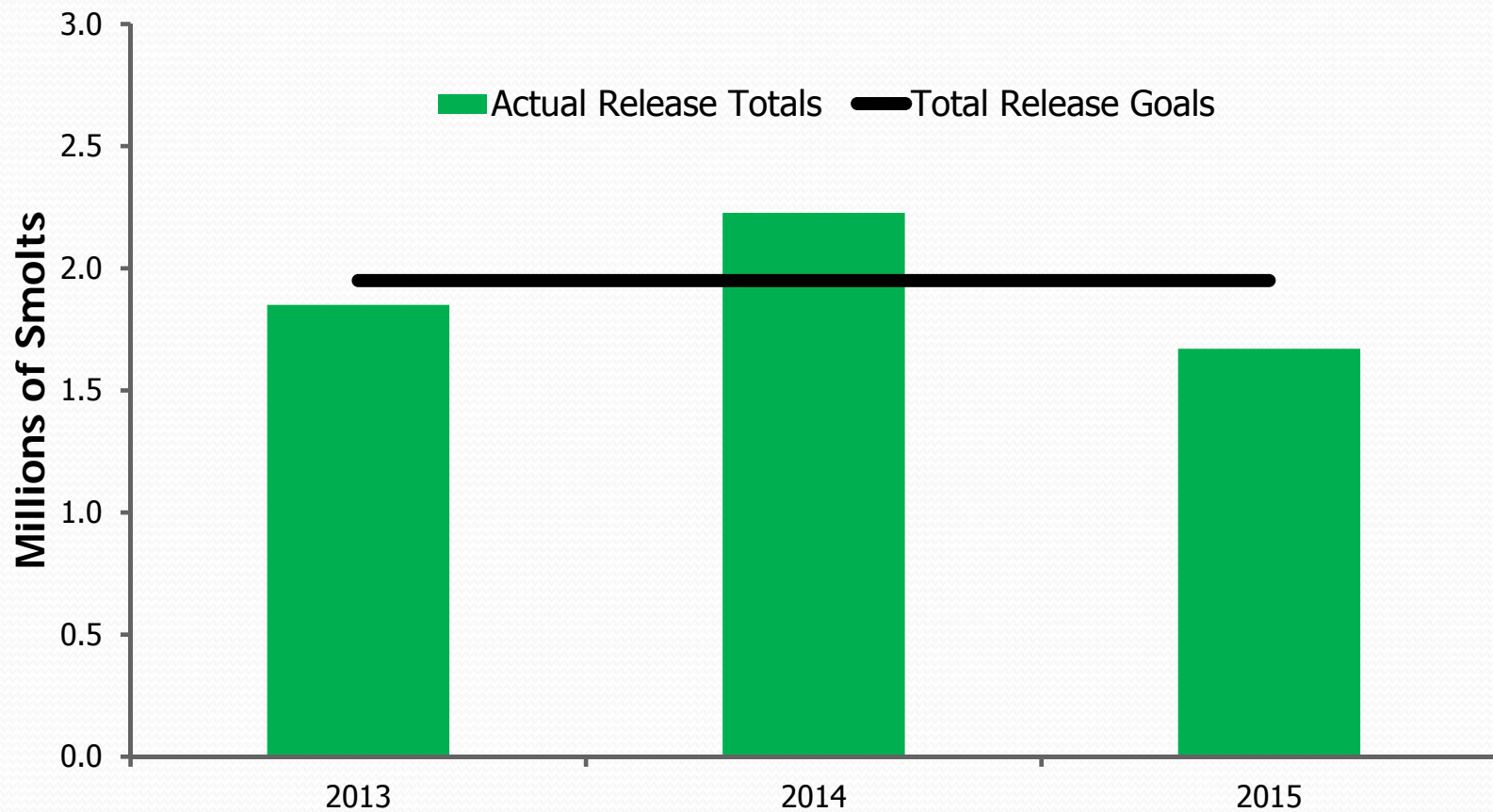
**Spring Chinook Production Goals and Actual Releases in
Select Areas**

Off-Channel Enhancements – Increased Coho Production



Coho Production Goals and Actual Releases in Select Areas

Off-Channel Enhancements – Increased Select Area Bright Production



SAB Production Goals and Actual Releases in Select Areas

Off-Channel Enhancements – Expanded Seasons

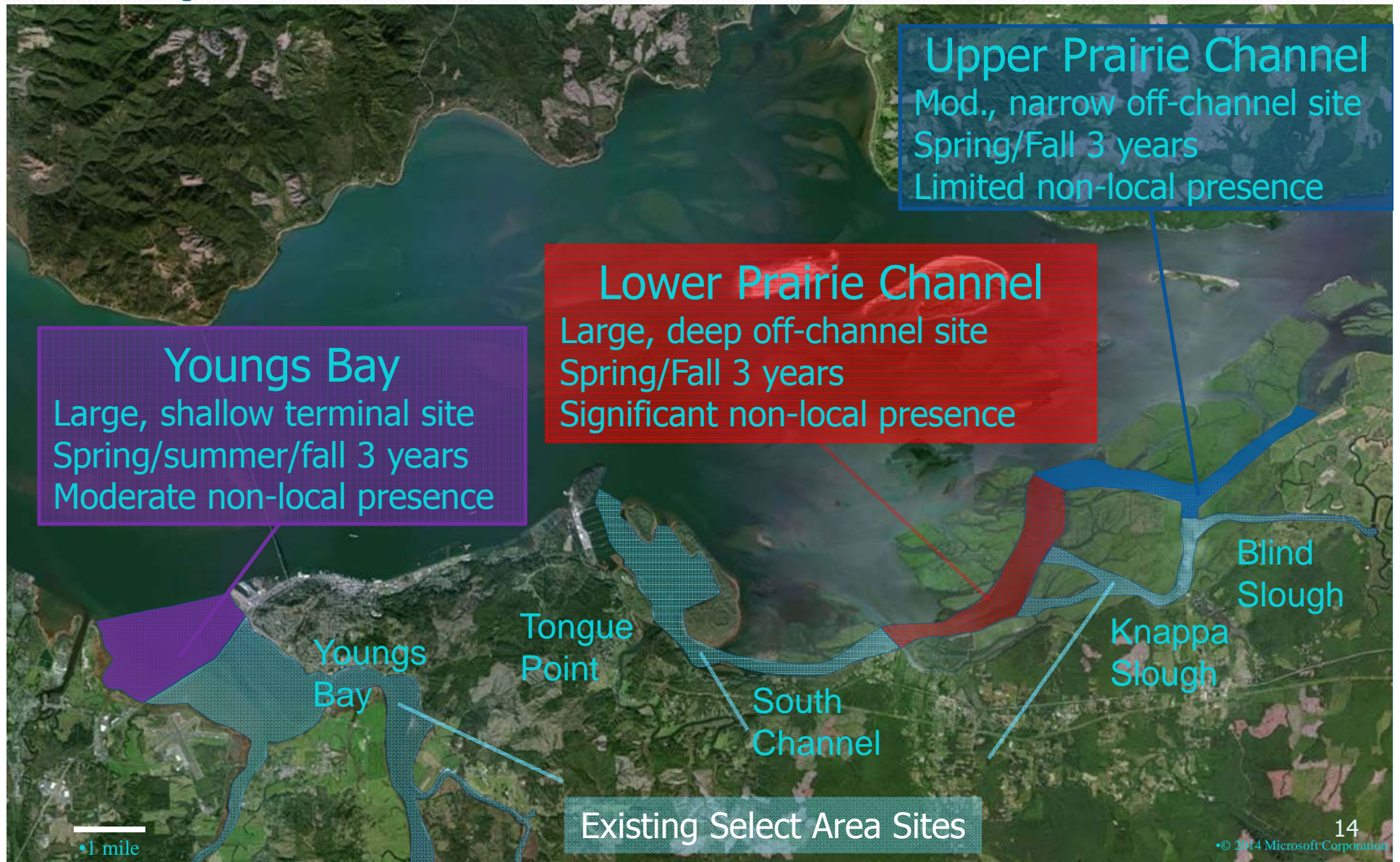
Site	Year	Date Range	Days	Chinook
Tongue Pt./ South Channel	2013	11 Feb – 12 Mar	9	70
	2014	10 Feb – 14 Mar	10	33
	2015	9 Feb – 13 Mar	10	70
Knappa Slough*	2013	11 Feb – 12 Mar	9	37
	2014	10 Feb – 14 Mar	10	25
	2015	9 Feb – 20 Mar	12	10

*Blind Slough already open during these periods, catch for Knappa Slough and Blind Slough is aggregated in 2013 and 2014

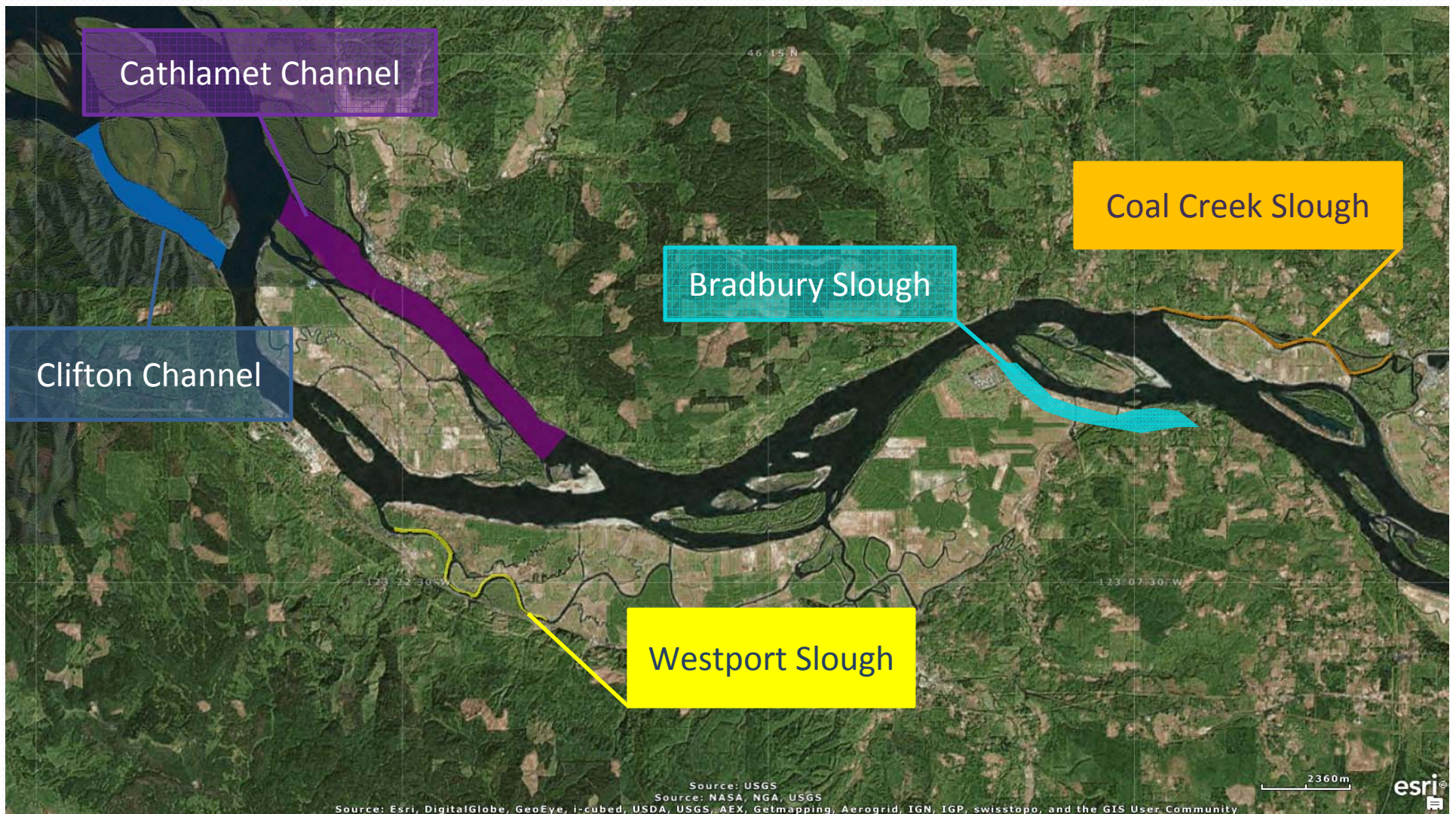
Existing and Potential Select Area Sites



Expanded Areas



Potential New Site Evaluation



Potential New Site Evaluation

Preliminary assessment^a of potential new Select Area fishing sites.

Site	Potential for implementation based on interception of non-local/ESA stocks			Site Characteristics			Rearing Facilities and Conditions				
	Chinook		Coho	Terminal	Imprinting Tributaries	Fishable Area (mi ²)	Existing docks	Adequate depth	Access permission	Facility costs	Water Quality
	UpR CHS/drift	UnM Tule CHF/drift	UnM/drift								
Clifton Channel	Blue	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Green	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Westport Sl.	Green	Blue	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue					
Coal Creek Sl.	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Blue					
Bradbury Sl. ^b	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Blue	Blue	Yellow					

^a Color coding refers to potential for implementation based on each evaluation metric. Green=higher feasibility; yellow=unknown feasibility; blue=lower feasibility.

^b Test fished in 2015 only

Alternative Gear Evaluations

- Can we successfully employ multiple commercial techniques?
- Implementation of pilot alternative gear fisheries.



Fish Wheel



Arrow Net



Hook and Line

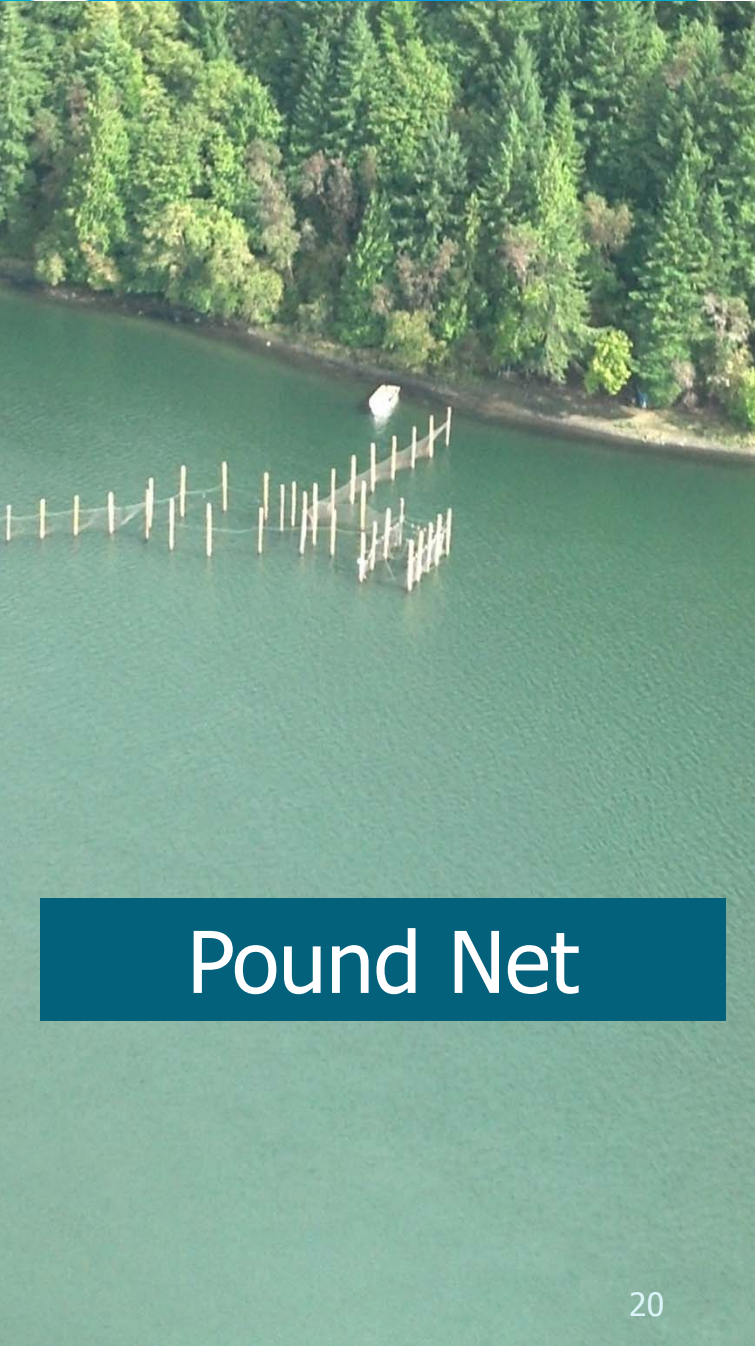


Tributary Weir





In-river Troll



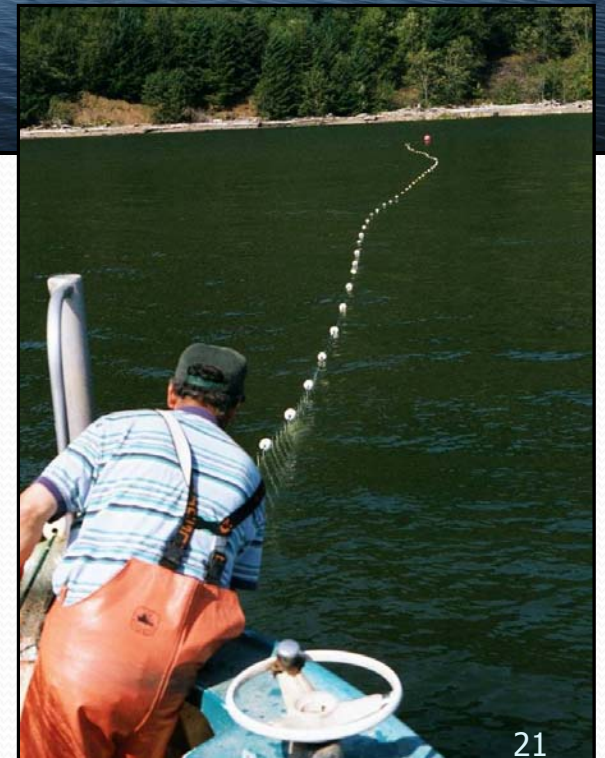
Pound Net



Floating Fish Trap?

Post-release Mortality Studies

- Important topic for gear viability but technically and logistically difficult.
- WDFW seine evaluations 2011-2013; ODFW tangle net evaluations 2013-2016.
 - Difficulties in study design necessitated further actions for both seines and tangle nets



Post-release Mortality - Seines

Gear	Chinook	Coho	Steelhead
Beach Seine	33%	38%	5%
Purse Seine	21%	29%	2%

- Updated TAC seine mortality rates based on revised analysis of post-release mortality studies
- In response to WDFW, TAC recommended that genetic and CWT data be collected from fall Chinook captured by beach and purse seine in Zone 5
 - Preliminary results 173 of 177 CWTs from upriver stocks
 - Genetic analysis pending

Post-release Mortality – Coho Tangle Net

- Initial years (2013-2014) based on WDFW study design.
 - Study design assumptions violated.
- 2015 year 1 of net pen study
- Preliminary Coho mortality rate based on 2015 is 22%
 - Plan to replicate in fall of 2016



2015 Fisheries Review

- 2015 fisheries - within ESA, *U.S. v Oregon* and Commission guidelines; season objective largely met
- Tangle net fishery continued for Coho Salmon
- Seine gear implemented in fall fishery

2015 Spring Review

- Upriver Spring Chinook forecast – 232,500 fish
- Actual return – 289,000 fish; 124% of forecast
- Pre-Run update ESA impacts shared 70/30 sport/commercial

2015 Spring Recreational

Below Bonneville

- 43 d of fishing in Mar/Apr (objective ≥ 45 d)
- 31 d May/Jun
- 151,100 angler days
- 19,600 kept Chinook (all stocks)
- 2 Chinook bag June 2 - 15

Bonneville-OR/WA

- Four-day season extension, No emergency closures
- 9,900 angler days
- 1,600 kept Chinook

2015 Spring Commercial

Mainstem

- 8 MS commercial fishing periods March 31 – June 11
- First 5 openers used tangle nets, last 3 used large mesh gillnets to avoid American Shad
- 6,500 kept Chinook (all stocks)
- Unused allocation shift

Off-Channel (Select Areas)

- 10-19 days (9 February – 31 March); 14-24 days (mid-April to mid-June)
- Used 186% of post-season allocation despite significant reduction in hours and periods
- 11,900 kept Chinook Salmon

2015 Summer Review

- Summer Chinook Salmon forecast – 73,000 adults
- Pre-season allocation 5,500 shared 70/30 sport/commercial
- Actual Chinook return – 126,900 fish; 174% of forecast; post-season allocation 13,500
- Sockeye Salmon forecast – 394,000; 1% ESA limit on Snake River Sockeye
- Actual Sockeye return 512,000; 130% of forecast
 - Recent Sockeye returns largely upper Columbia stocks
 - Significant mainstem and tributary mortality

2015 Summer Recreational

Recreational Fishery Below Bonneville

- Open entire summer period 16 June – 31 July
 - 3 – 31 July able to retain any Chinook; 1 Chinook bag
- 5,900 Chinook, 4,600 hatchery steelhead, and 950 Sockeye harvested; a summer record
- 50,500 angler trips

Recreational Fishery Upstream of Bonneville

- Open 16 June – 31 July (clipped only thru 2 July)
- 750 kept Chinook Salmon

2015 Summer Commercial

Mainstem

- Three fishing periods 17 June – 22 July
- 3,900 kept Chinook; 97% of allocation

Off-Channel (Select Area)

- 7 periods 16 June – 30 July
- 1,800 kept Chinook

2015 Fall Review

- Pre-season forecasts: Fall Chinook – 925,000 (518,000 URBs); 539,600 Coho; 11,700 Wild Group B steelhead
- Actual returns – 1.31 million Chinook (144% of forecast); 171,000 Coho (32% of forecast)
- LCR fall Chinook were limiting for most of season; run size cannot be updated in-season
- Wild Group B steelhead downgraded to 5,200 (44% of forecast); most constraining stock for commercial fisheries

2015 Fall Recreational

Buoy 10

- Chinook 28 days Aug; mark-selective Aug 24-28; Oct 1 –Dec 31. Closed Aug 29 –Sep 30
- Ad-clipped Coho and steelhead Aug –Dec.
- 36,500 kept Chinook, 36,900 kept Coho
- 108,300 angler trips (highest since 2001)

Tongue Point to Warrior Rock - Chinook 45 days in Aug-Sep; mark selective Sep 8-14; Oct 1 – Dec 31. Boat limits allowed.

Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam - Chinook Aug-Dec. Boat limits allowed. All non-MSF.

- Three Chinook allowed upstream of Steamboat Landing.

Tongue Pt. to Bonn : 41,500 kept Chinook, 1,000 kept Coho; 131,400 angler trips. Chinook catch was record for fishery.

Above Bonneville Dam

- Aug-Dec (3 fish). Boat limits allowed. All non-MSF.
- 13,300 kept Chinook (prelim)

2015 Fall Commercial

Mainstem Gill-Net Fishery for Chinook

- 15 periods Aug-Oct; nearly all in Zones 4-5
- Harvest: 77,100 Chinook; 1,000 Coho

Mainstem Gill-Net Fishery for Coho

- Tangle Net – 3 mark selective periods in October
 - Harvest: 960 Coho, 1,850 Chinook (very poor Coho return)
- Gill-net – 2 periods, 12 & 20 October
 - Harvest: 2,200 Coho, 2,250 Chinook
- Directed Coho fisheries are in Zones 1-3
- Coho harvest <10% of pre-season expectations

Off-Channel (Select Area)

- Varied by site: 36-67 days; 4 August – 30 October
- Harvest 18,100 Chinook; 27,400 Coho
- Coho & Chinook harvest 41% and 78% of 5-year average respectively
- Select Area Bright lowest since 2010 despite 11% production increases.

2015 Commercial Seine Fishery

- ESA impacts applied to total commercial; limited to 10% of total commercial impact allocation
- Permits issued to 4 purse and 3 beach seiners (out of 11 applications)
- 23 days 24 August – 30 September, mark-selective, IFQ, 100% observer coverage, Zones 2, 3, upper 4
- Access to IFQ variable amongst fishers
- Mark-rate: 41% Chinook, 44% Coho
- Average Chinook weight 34% less than mainstem gillnet landed catch

OCT 5 2010

2015 Commercial Seine Fishery

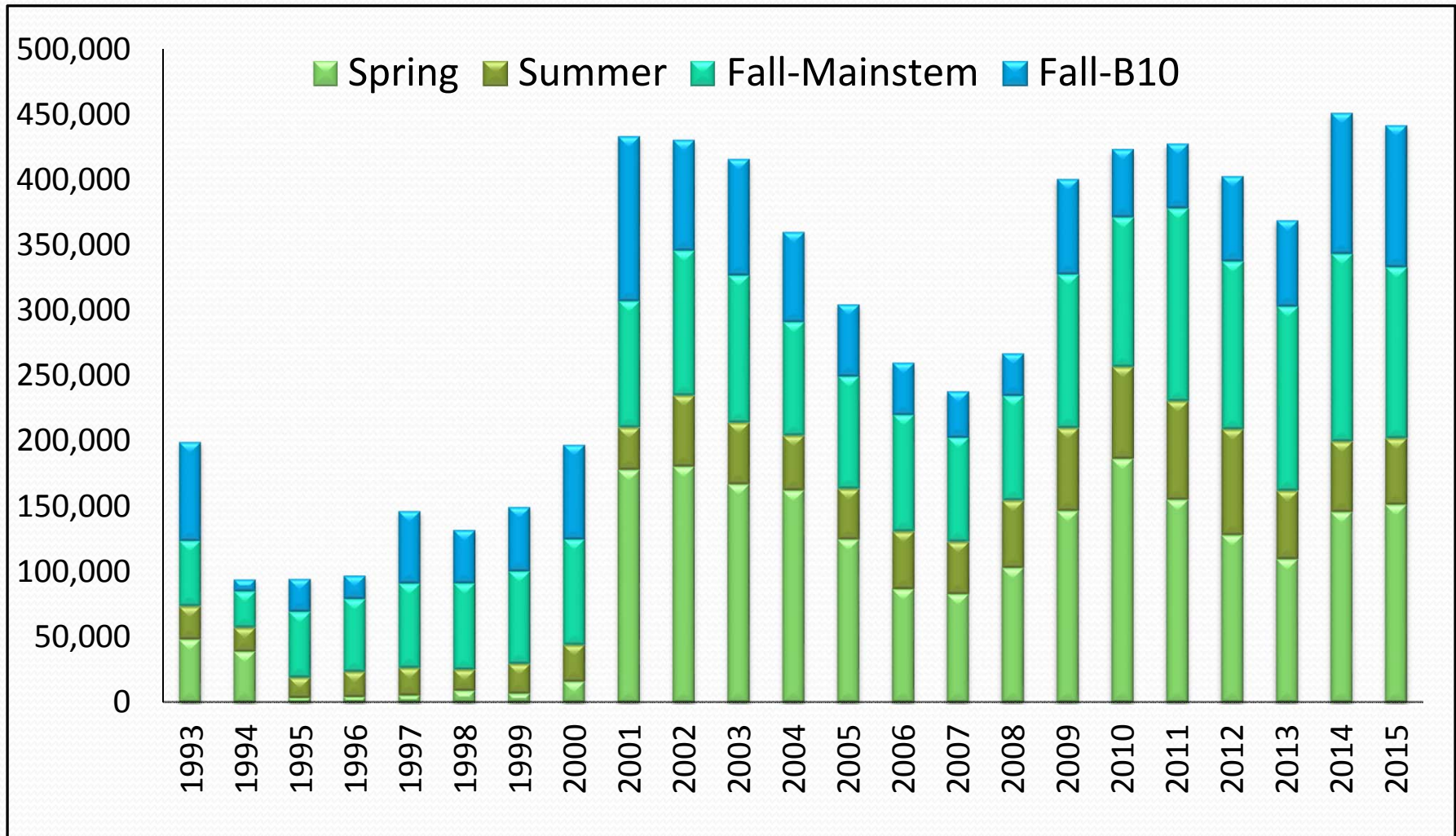
Summary of kept and released catch in 2015 commercial seine fishery.

	Kept				Released				
	<u>Chinook</u>		<u>Coho</u>		<u>Chinook</u>		<u>Coho</u>		Steelhead
	Adult	Jack	Adult	Jack	Adult	Jack	Adult	Jack	
Beach	572	109	55	3	320	24	119	0	221
Purse	2,191	121	509	20	3,602	315	603	20	256
Total	2,763	230	564	23	3,922	339	722	20	477
	3,580 (39.5%)				5,480 (60.5%)				

Economic Assessments

- Total angler trips and ex-vessel landed value
- “Multipliers” can be applied, but are not applied for this presentation.
- Consistent with past approaches

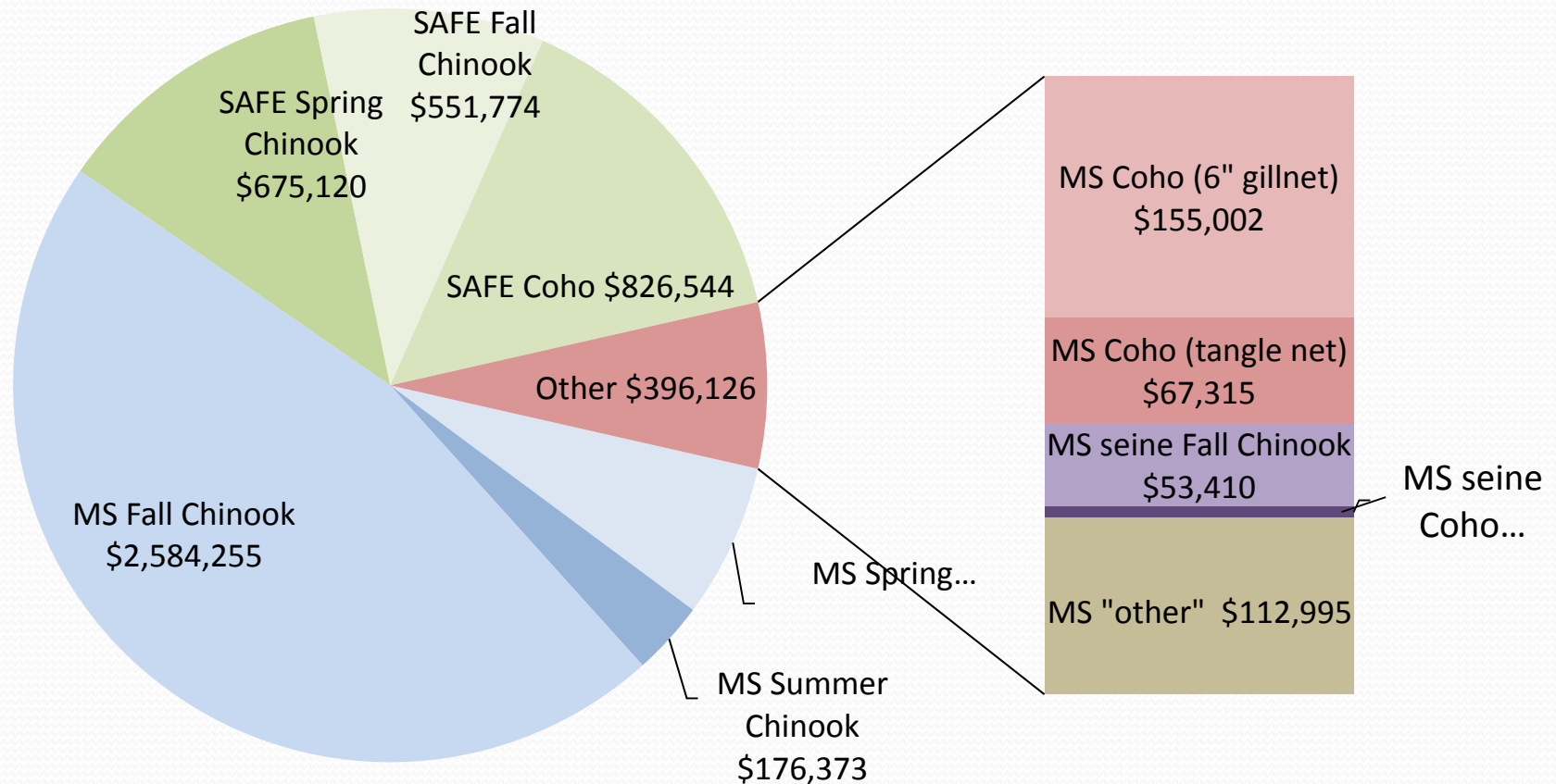
Angler Trips 1993 - 2015



Ex-Vessel Value 2012-2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Mainstem	\$2,043,762	\$3,285,674	\$3,693,268	\$3,472,107
Select Area	\$1,303,897	\$2,096,146	\$2,474,179	\$1,589,991
Total	\$3,347,659	\$5,381,820	\$6,167,447	\$5,062,098

Ex-Vessel Value 2013-2015 (average)



Average ex-vessel value of non-Indian mainstem (MS) and Select Area (SAFE) commercial salmon fisheries in the lower Columbia River, 2013-15.



Conclusions and future plans

- Phased allocation shifts
- Off-channel enhancements
- Alternative gear evaluations
- 2015 recreational and commercial fisheries
- 2015 angler trips and ex-vessel values
- 2016 last year of transition
 - Chinook looks good, Coho does not
 - Plan to come back with final transition report in December or January



QUESTIONS?