

The Pacific Salmon Treaty

David Bedford

Deputy Commissioner, ADF&G

Commissioner, Pacific Salmon Commission

History

- U.S. and Canada entered into the Pacific Salmon Treaty in 1985 to conserve and allocate harvest of salmon stocks migrating through the waters of both countries.
- Treaty addresses stocks and fisheries from Cape Falcon, Oregon to Cape Suckling, Alaska
- Treaty signed after more than two decades of increasingly intense negotiation
- After series of disputes in the 1990's between the U.S. and Canada and among U.S. interests, ten year agreement signed in 1999.

Decision making

- Consensus of U.S and Canada required to take action
- U.S. decision making authority vested with commissioners for states (AK, WA, OR) and Pacific Northwest tribes instead of the federal commissioners
- Advisory Panels of Stakeholders
 - Northern Panel
 - Transboundary River Panel

Principles

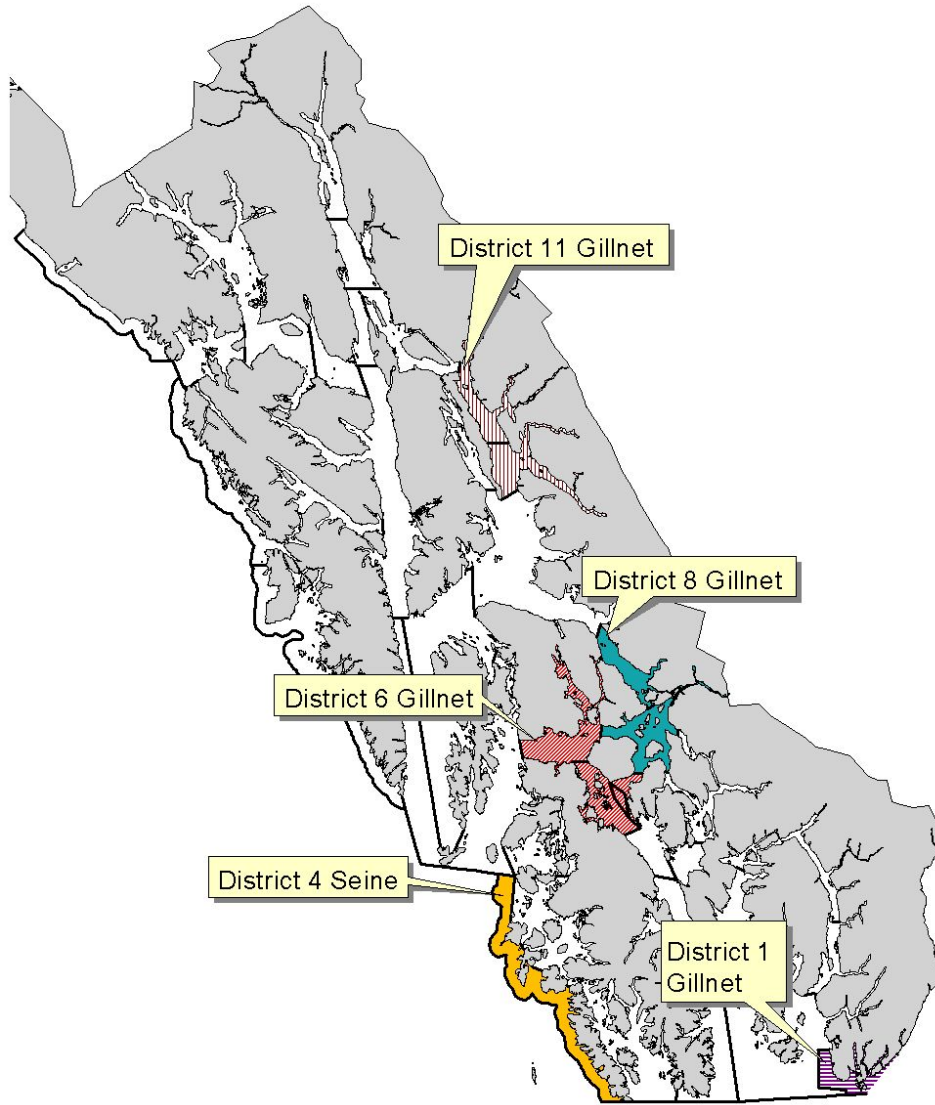
- Conservation
- Fair sharing
- Policy considerations
 - Preserve to extent possible the authority of the Board of Fisheries to allocate and develop management plans
 - Involve affected constituents in the negotiations
 - Base negotiations on sound science

Scope of the Agreement

- Fishing arrangements for relevant fisheries
- A no jeopardy biological opinion under the endangered species act
- Stipulations preventing the extension of Washington treaty fishing rights into Alaska

Southeast Alaska Fisheries Covered by the Agreements

- Drift Gillnet
 - Taku/Snettisham (District 111 Transboundary)
 - Stikine (District 108 Transboundary)
 - Prince of Wales (District 106 Transboundary)
 - Tree Point (District 101 Northern Boundary)
- Set Gillnet
 - Alsek River (Transboundary)
- Purse Seine
 - Noyes Island (District 104 Northern Boundary)
- Troll and Sport
 - Chinook Quota (Chinook)
 - Dixon Entrance Coho Trigger (Attachment B)



Chinook Migratory Patterns

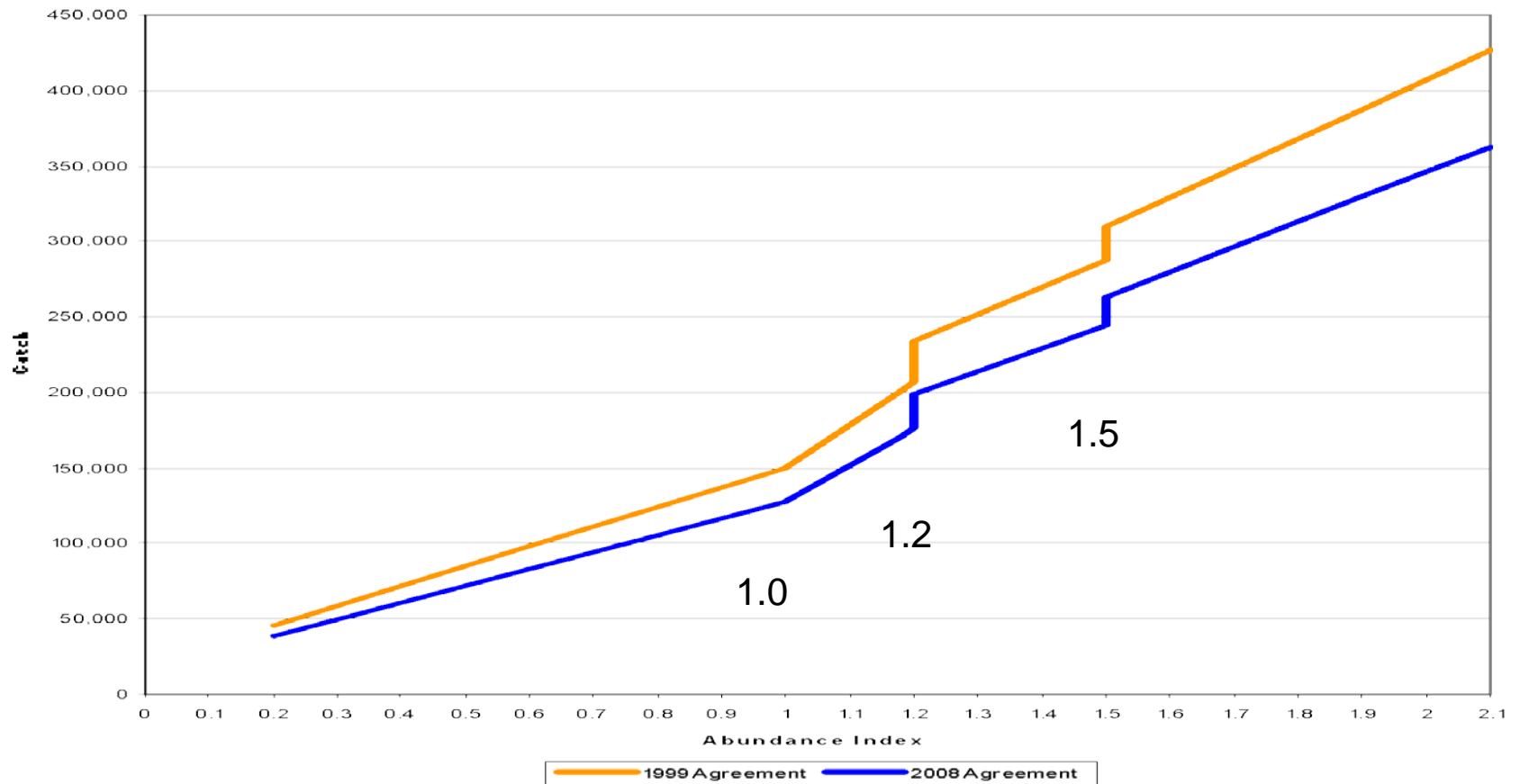


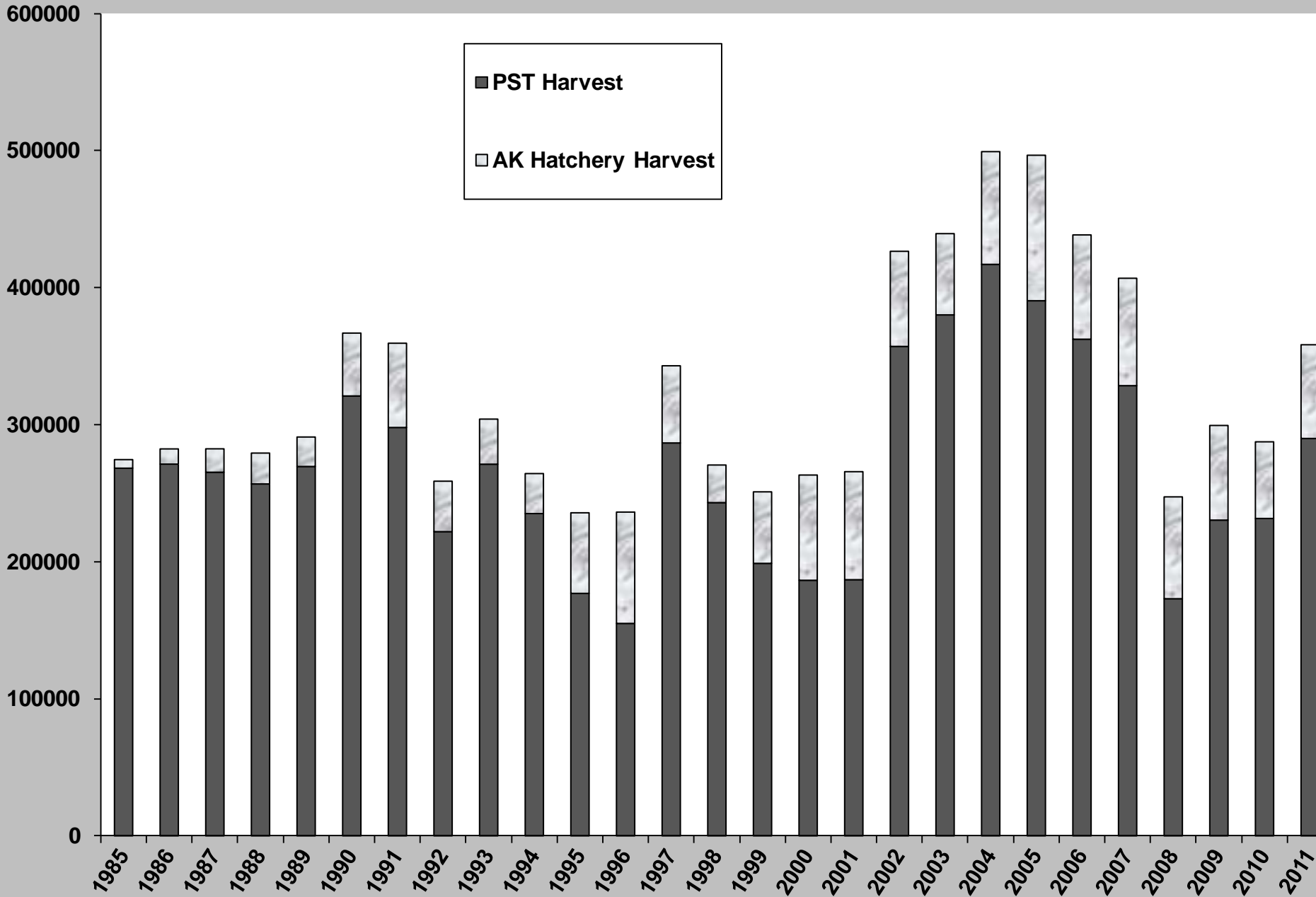
Chinook Salmon

- Treaty goal is to achieve escapements that will produce maximum sustained yield or meet other biologically-based escapement goals
- Aggregate abundance-based approach for ocean fisheries including SEAK
 - Management based on preseason forecast of abundance developed by the bilateral Chinook Technical Committee.
- SEAK takes harvest of enhanced Chinook which do not count toward the treaty allocation.

SEAK Chinook Allocation 2009-18

Allowable All-Gear Treaty Chinook Catch in Southeast Alaska versus the Abundance Index for the 1999 and 2008 Bilateral PST Agreements





Chinook Salmon: Outstanding Issues

- Total mortality management
- 5 year review in 2014 evaluating whether the 2009 fishery reductions are needed
- Assessment by NOAA of the effect of Chinook salmon fisheries on listed Southern Resident Killer Whales