

Prince William Sound Commercial Salmon Fisheries 2014 Report to Alaska Board of Fisheries



RC 3

Oral Report Tab 3

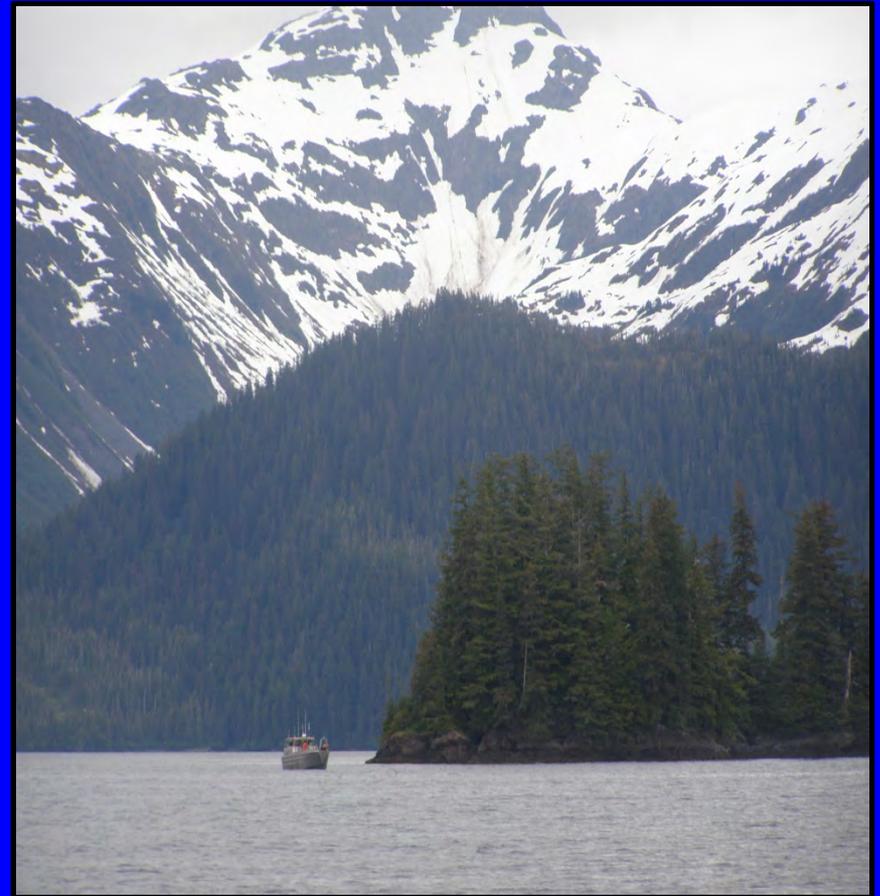
Written Report Tab 7

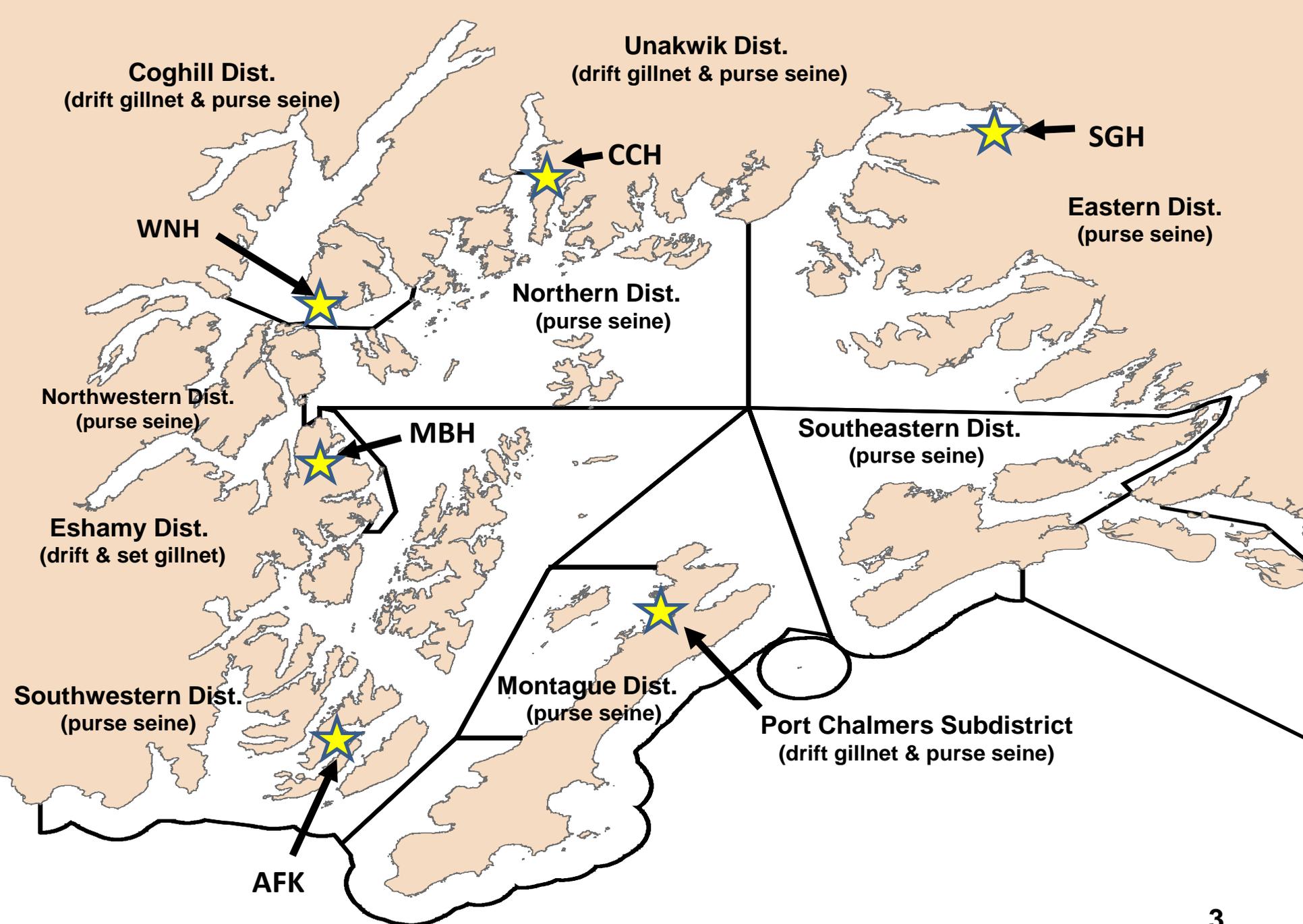
Tommy Sheridan

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Commercial Fisheries Division, Cordova**

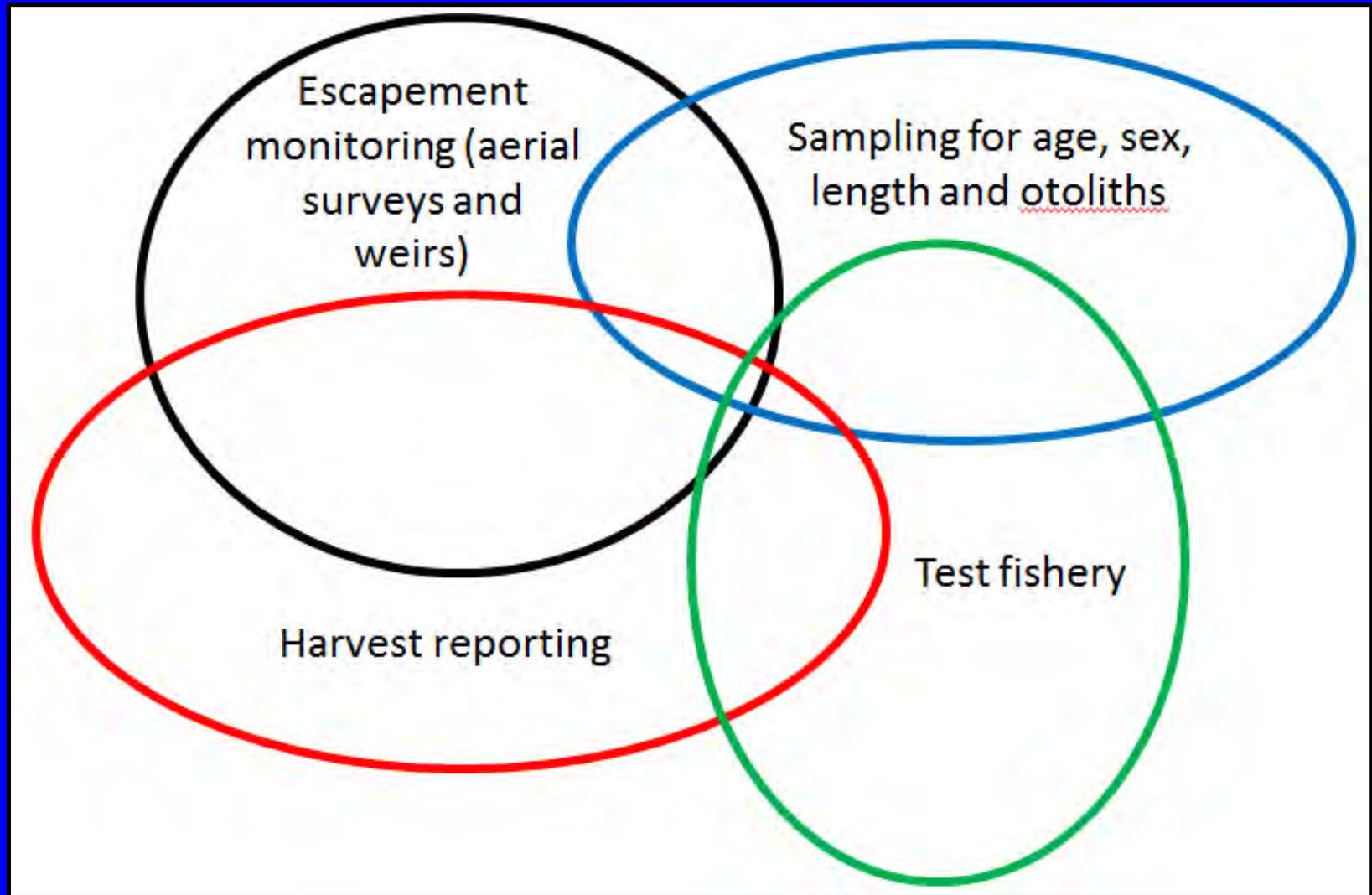
Presentation overview

- PWS salmon overview
- Fishery assessment tools
- Season summaries
- PWS commercial salmon proposals

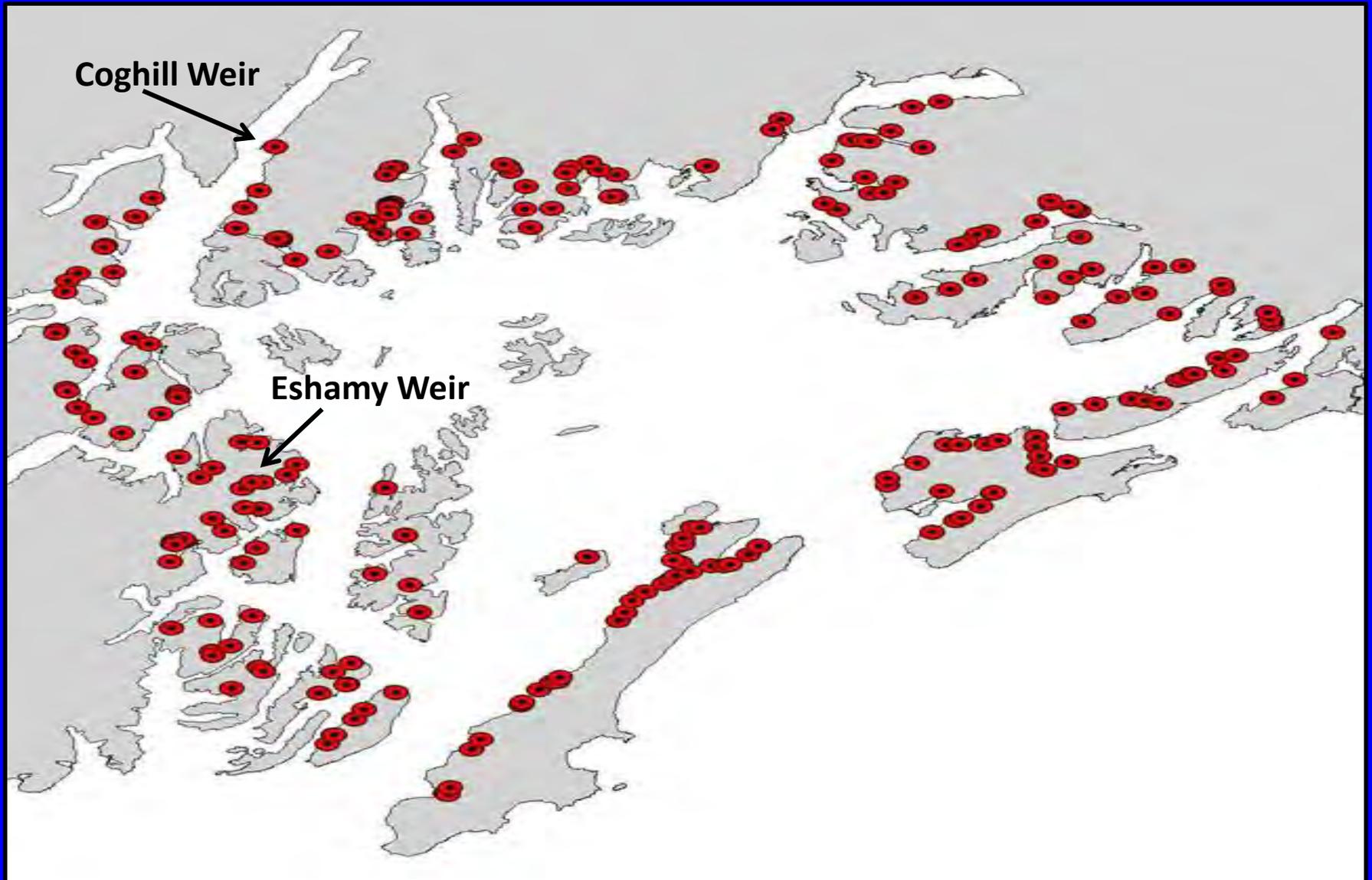




Fishery assessment tools



PWS survey streams and weirs



Prince William Sound aerial surveys



Valdez

Whittier



Cordova

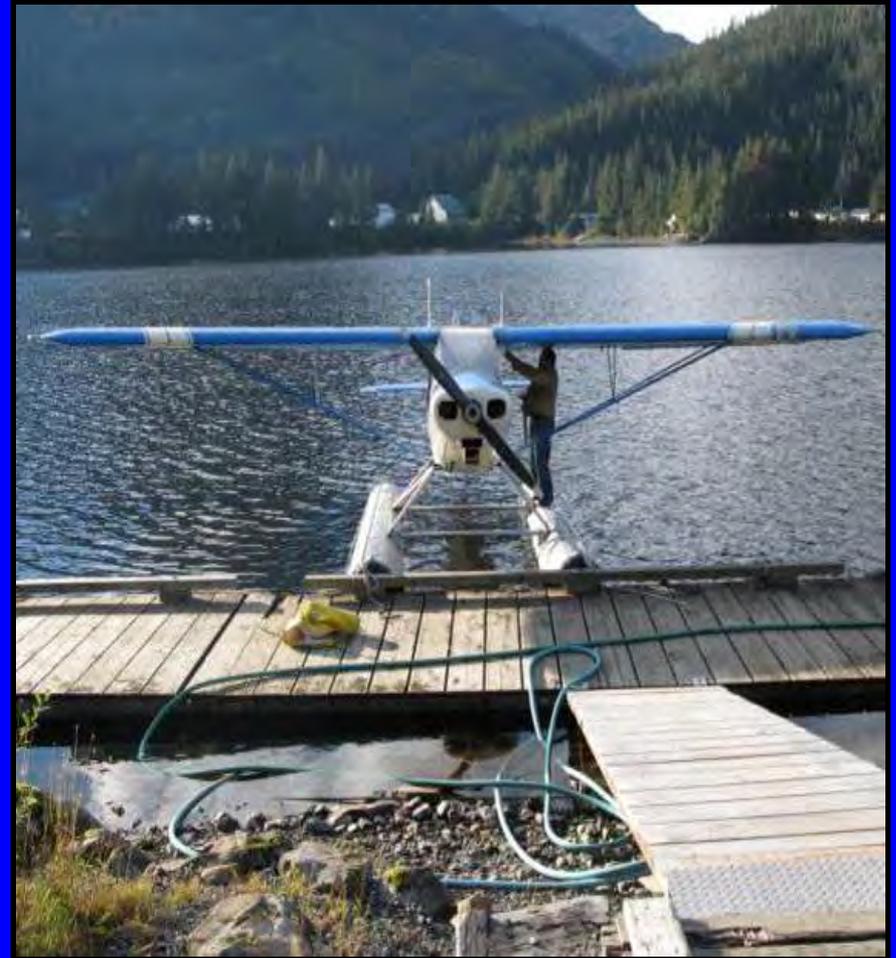


Montague Island

Hinchinbrook Island

Prince William Sound aerial surveys

- Inseason tool, postseason analysis
- Weather can impact quality
- Counts compared to historical averages
- Location and scale of fishing effort also considered
- Same pilot since 1976



Prince William Sound pink salmon escapements 2011–2014

District	2011	2012	2013	2014*
Eastern	<i>ABOVE</i>	WITHIN	ABOVE	WITHIN
Northern/Unakwik	<i>WITHIN</i>	BELOW	ABOVE	BELOW
Coghill	<i>WITHIN</i>	ABOVE	ABOVE	WITHIN
Northwestern	<i>ABOVE</i>	WITHIN	ABOVE	BELOW
Eshamy	<i>BELOW</i>	BELOW	ABOVE	ABOVE
Southwestern	<i>ABOVE</i>	WITHIN	ABOVE	WITHIN
Montague	<i>ABOVE</i>	WITHIN	ABOVE	N/A
Southeastern	<i>ABOVE</i>	WITHIN	ABOVE	WITHIN
PWS total	ABOVE			

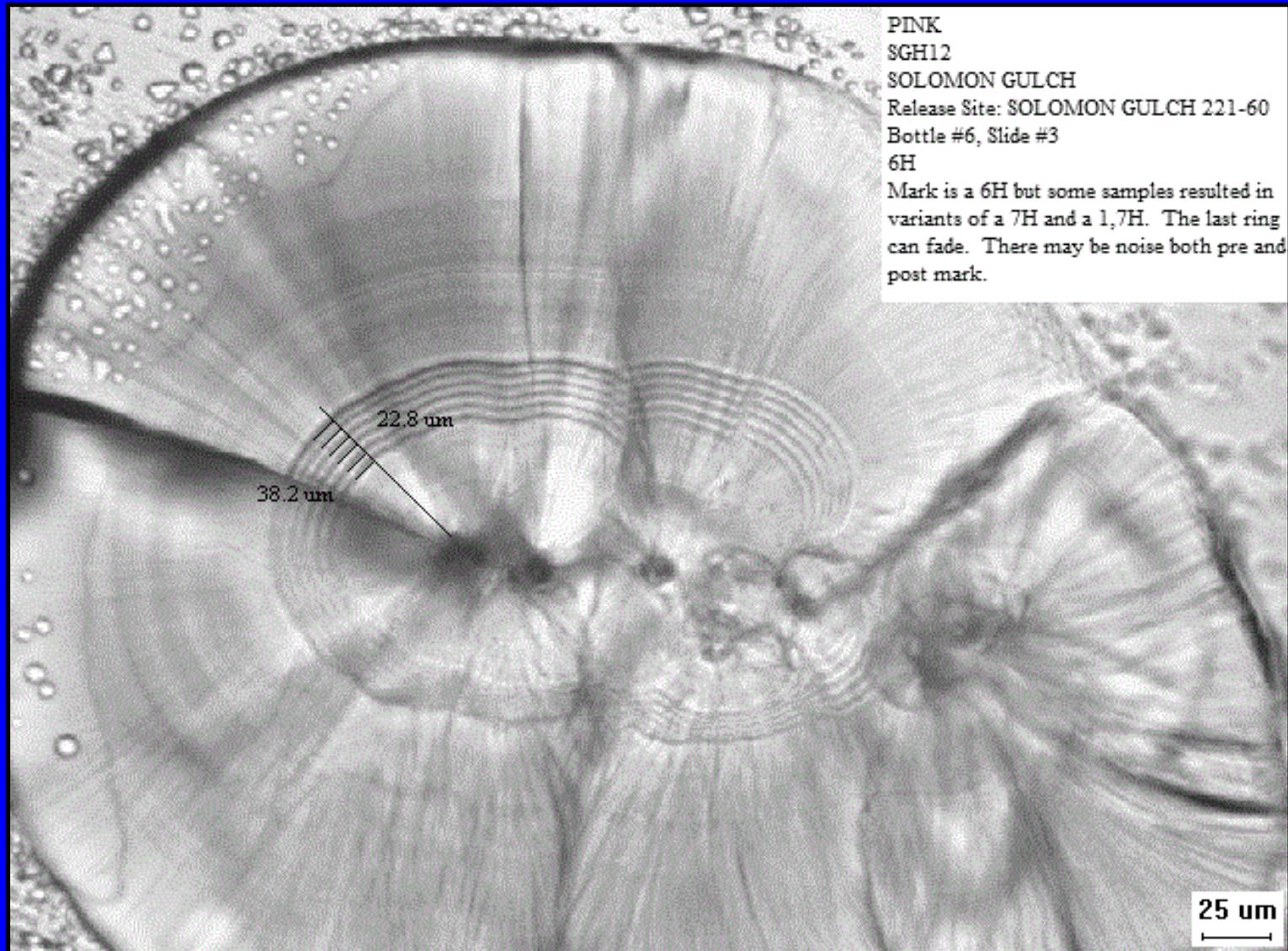
* 2014 values are PRELIMINARY

Southwestern District test fishery

- PWS pink salmon migratory corridor
- Late-July to early August
- Provides run strength info
- Allows management decisions based on stock composition



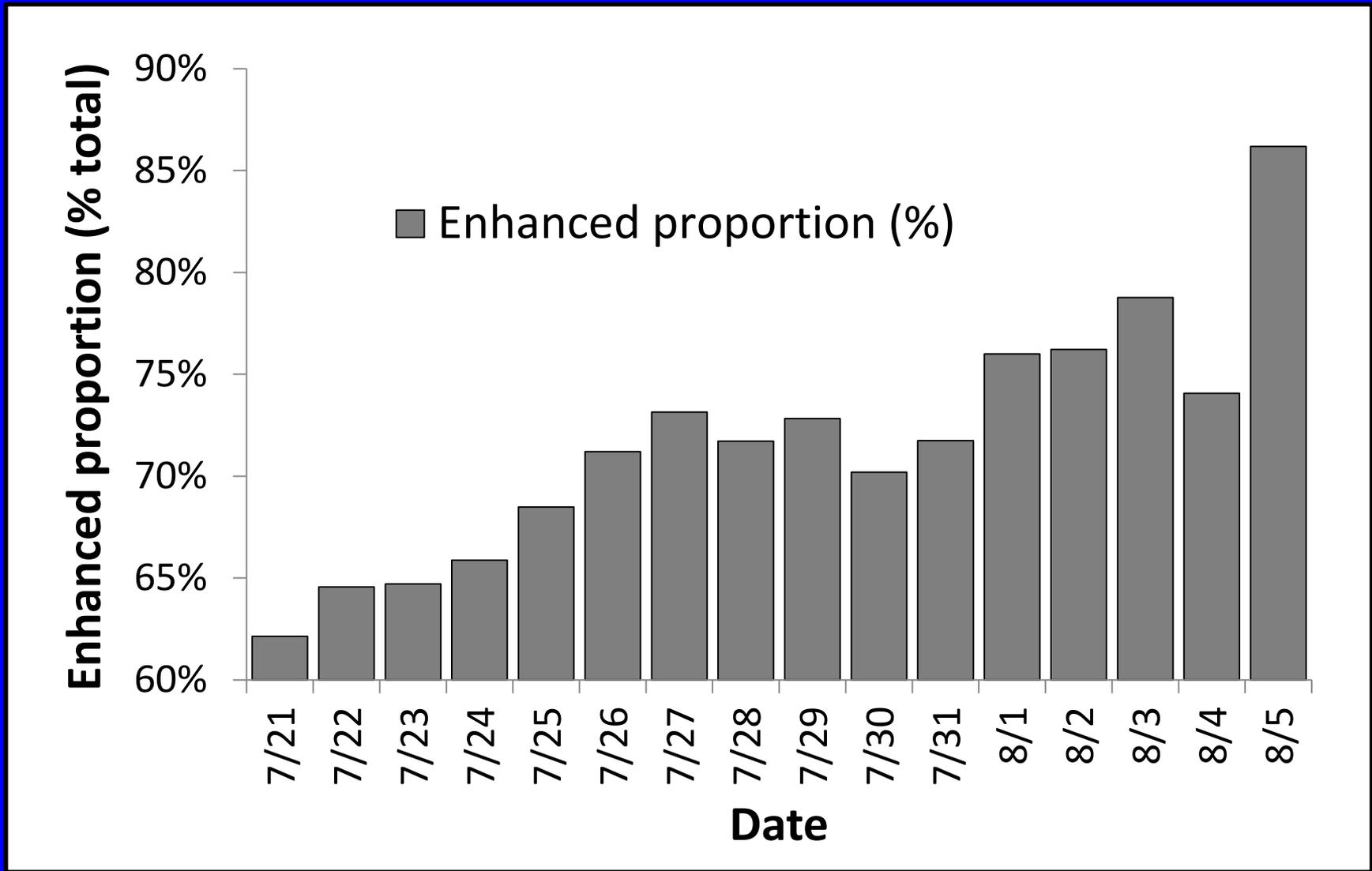
Otolith thermal marks



Otolith thermal marks

- Applied to all hatchery-released salmon
 - unique mark by species and hatchery
- Easily recovered
- Small sample sizes (96 fish) provide stock composition estimates
- Accurate and expedient delivery of information

SW District test fishery, 1997–2014



Total PWS commercial harvest* by gear type and species, 2012

	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Purse seine	186	154,885	22,326	22,804,650	503,996
Drift gillnet	245	1,372,731	7,943	1,228,380	2,836,828
Set gillnet	14	294,632	97	17,311	24,368
Hatchery	9	1,198	2,372	3,531,858	440,941
Total harvest	454	1,823,446	32,738	27,582,199	3,806,133

* Do not include Copper River or Bering River harvests

Total PWS commercial harvest* by gear type and species, 2013

	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Purse seine	775	73,727	221,984	85,925,135	487,464
Drift gillnet	474	432,678	64,947	2,778,574	2,768,389
Set gillnet	59	203,019	360	19,114	42,630
Hatchery	0	9	39,946	4,089,674	761,355
Total harvest	1,308	709,433	327,237	92,812,497	4,059,838

* Do not include Copper River or Bering River harvests

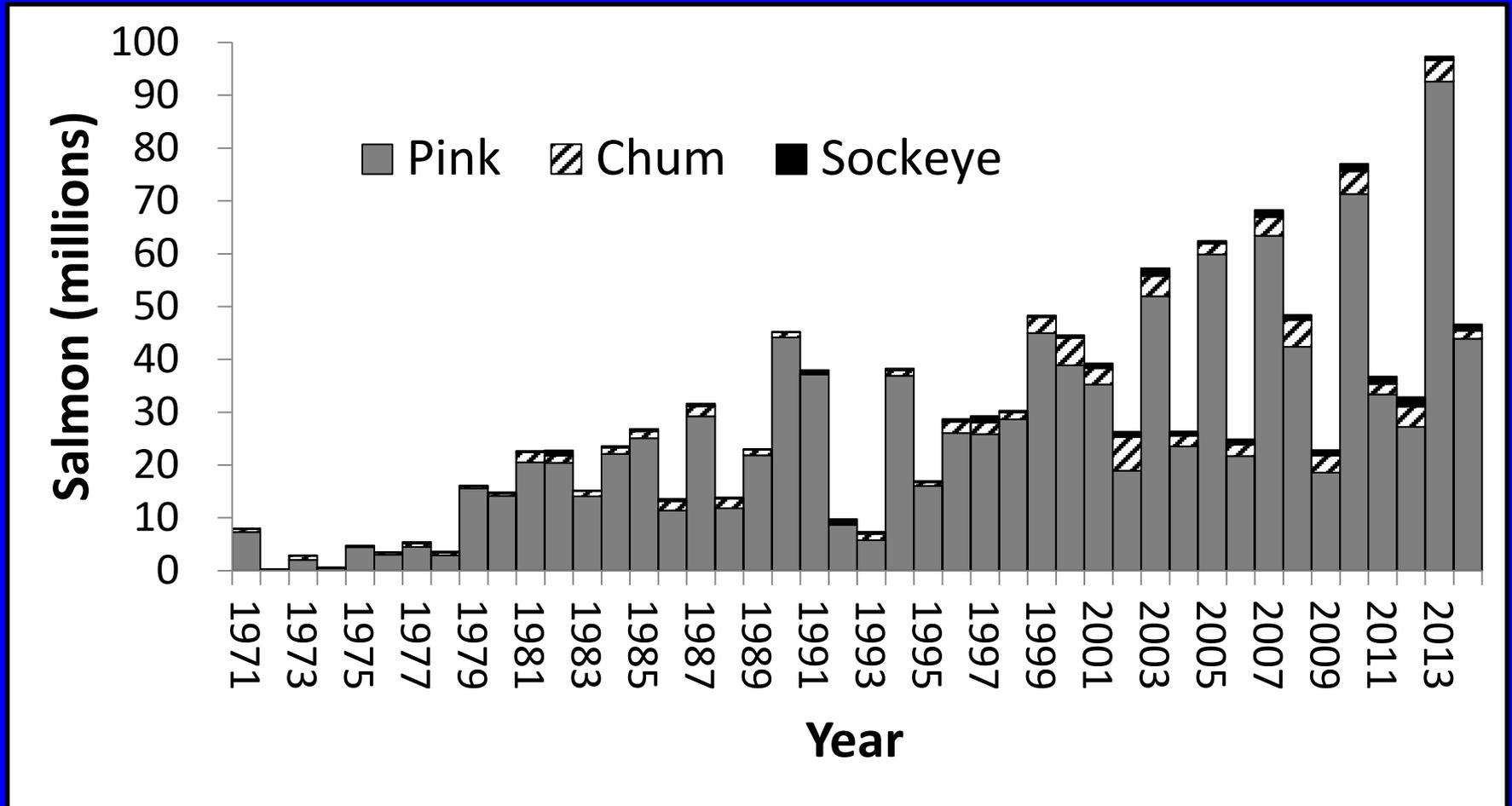
Total PWS commercial harvest* by gear type and species, 2014

	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Purse seine	355	53,127	31,099	36,937,797	347,302
Drift gillnet	114	926,577	140,339	1,404,668	748,460
Set gillnet	22	259,226	65	35,681	20,882
Hatchery	0	12,652	22,084	5,512,474	370,346
Total harvest	491	1,252,073	193,587	43,890,620	1,486,990

* Do not include Copper River or Bering River harvests

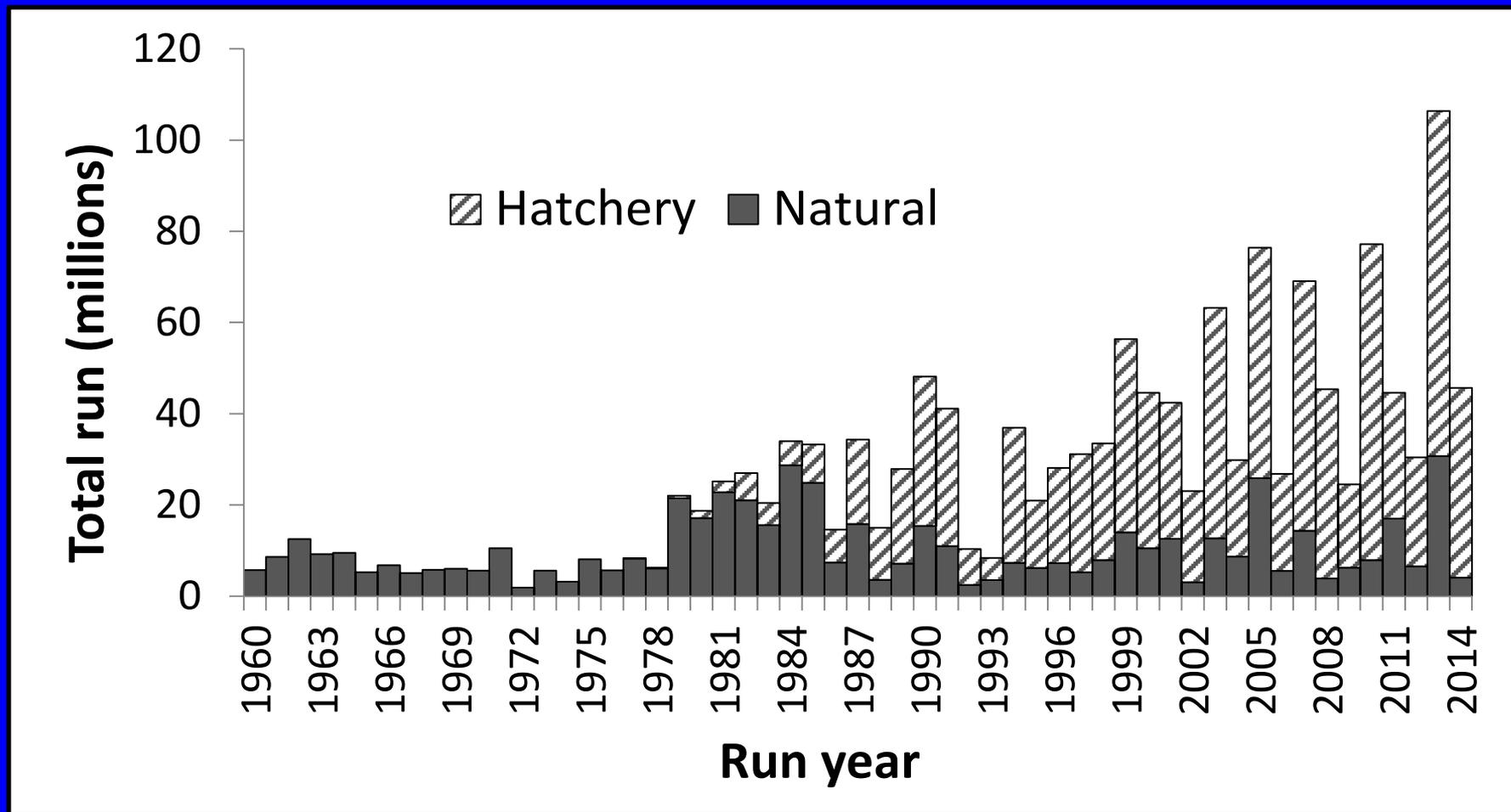
* 2014 numbers are PRELIMINARY

PWS commercial salmon harvests 1971–2014



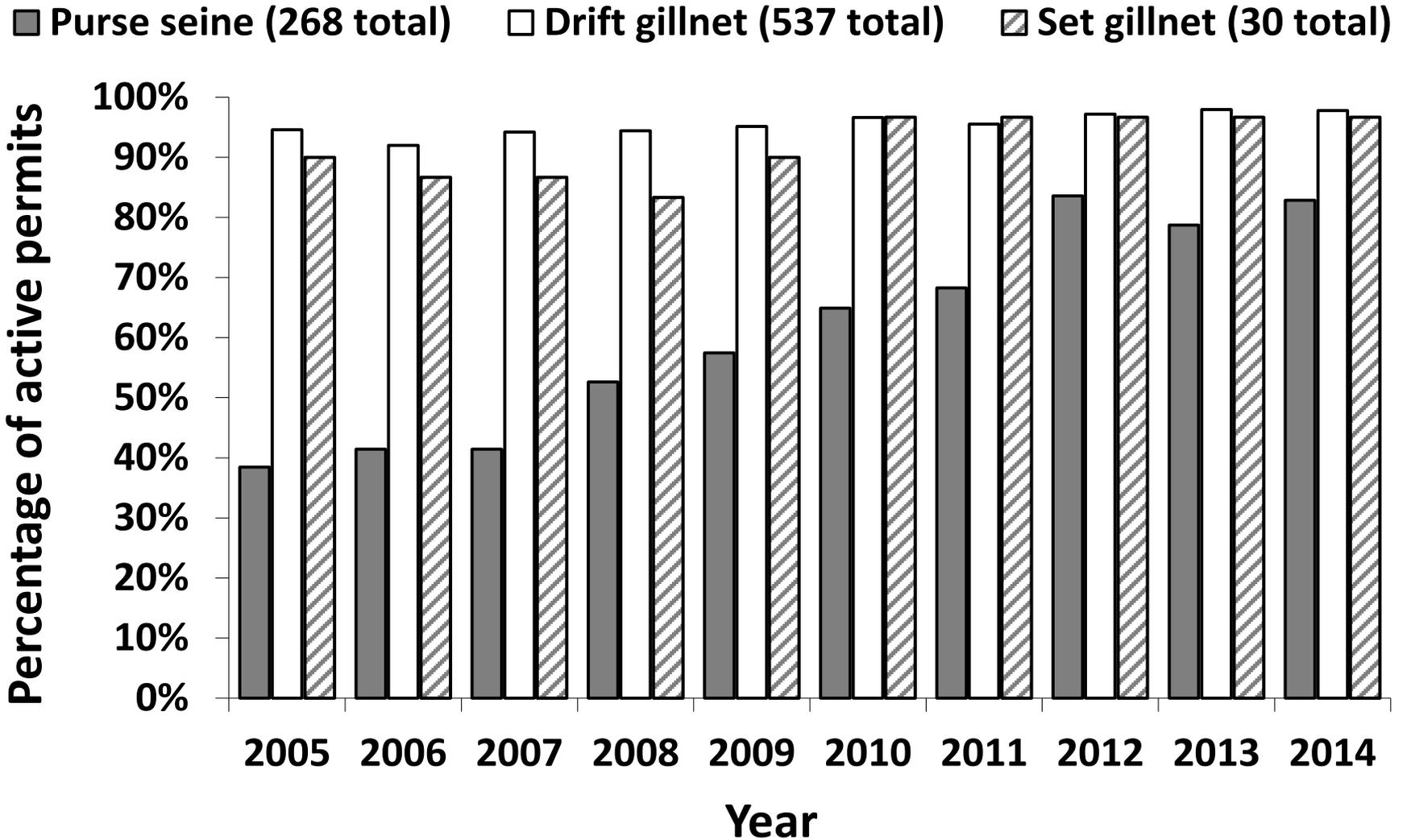
* 2014 numbers are PRELIMINARY

Pink salmon stock composition 1960–2014



* 2014 numbers are PRELIMINARY

Permits fished



* 2014 numbers are PRELIMINARY

Proposals (11)

- Allocation Plan (6 proposals)
 - Proposals 10–11, and 13–16
- Use of aircraft (3 proposals)
 - Proposals 19–21
- Commercial gear specifications (1 proposal)
 - Proposal 17
- Wally Noerenberg Hatchery Management Plan (1 proposal)
 - Proposal 22

Acknowledgments

- ADF&G commercial fisheries staff
- Amanda Wiese
- Jeremy Botz
- Steve Moffitt
- Rich Brenner
- Bert Lewis