

Copper River District Salmon Fisheries, 2014 Report To Alaska Board Of Fisheries



RC 3

Oral Report Tab 4

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Presentation Overview

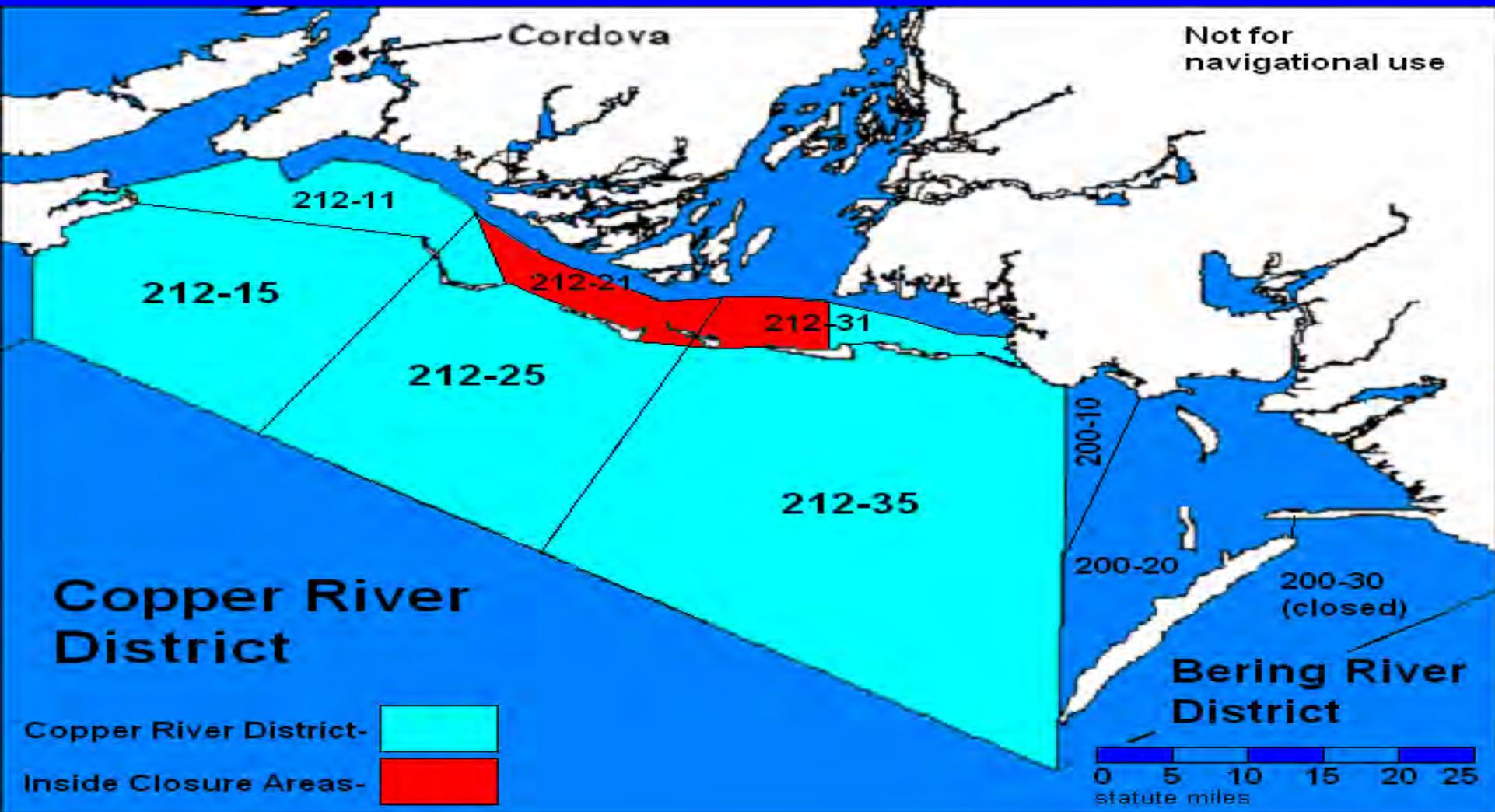
- Copper River Drainage and Commercial Districts Overview
- Fishery Assessment Tools and Methods Summary
- Copper River District Commercial Escapement and Harvest Levels
- Highlights of last three seasons
- Proposals Before the Board

Copper River Drainage



- Extends from Summit Lake to the Gulf of Alaska
- Has 11 major communities within its boundaries
- Encompasses over 24,000 square miles and is Alaska's fifth largest river system

Copper River District



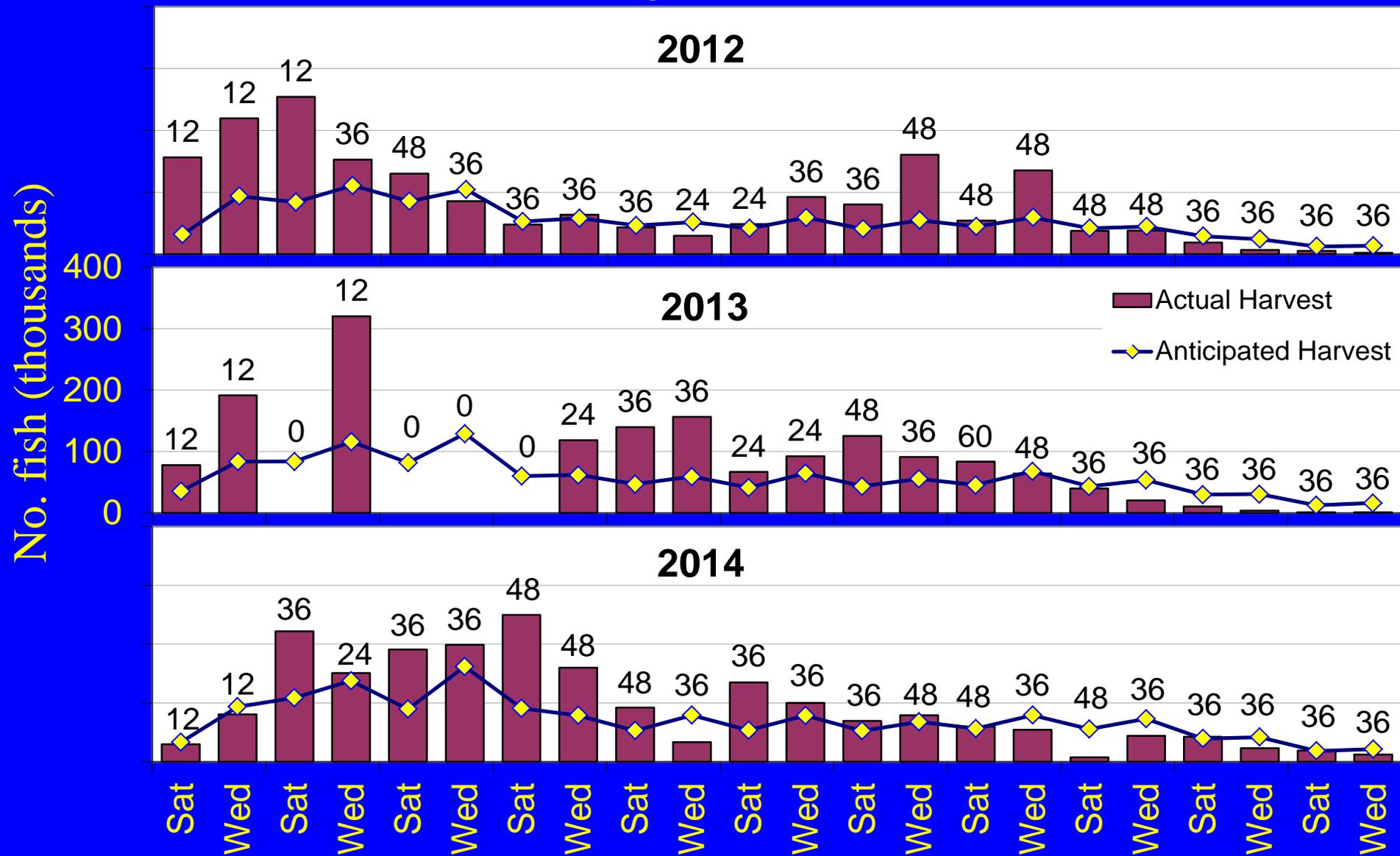
Proposal 45—Repeal mandatory inside-waters closure.

There Are Three Primary Tools Used Inseason to Assess Fisheries in the Copper River District

These are:

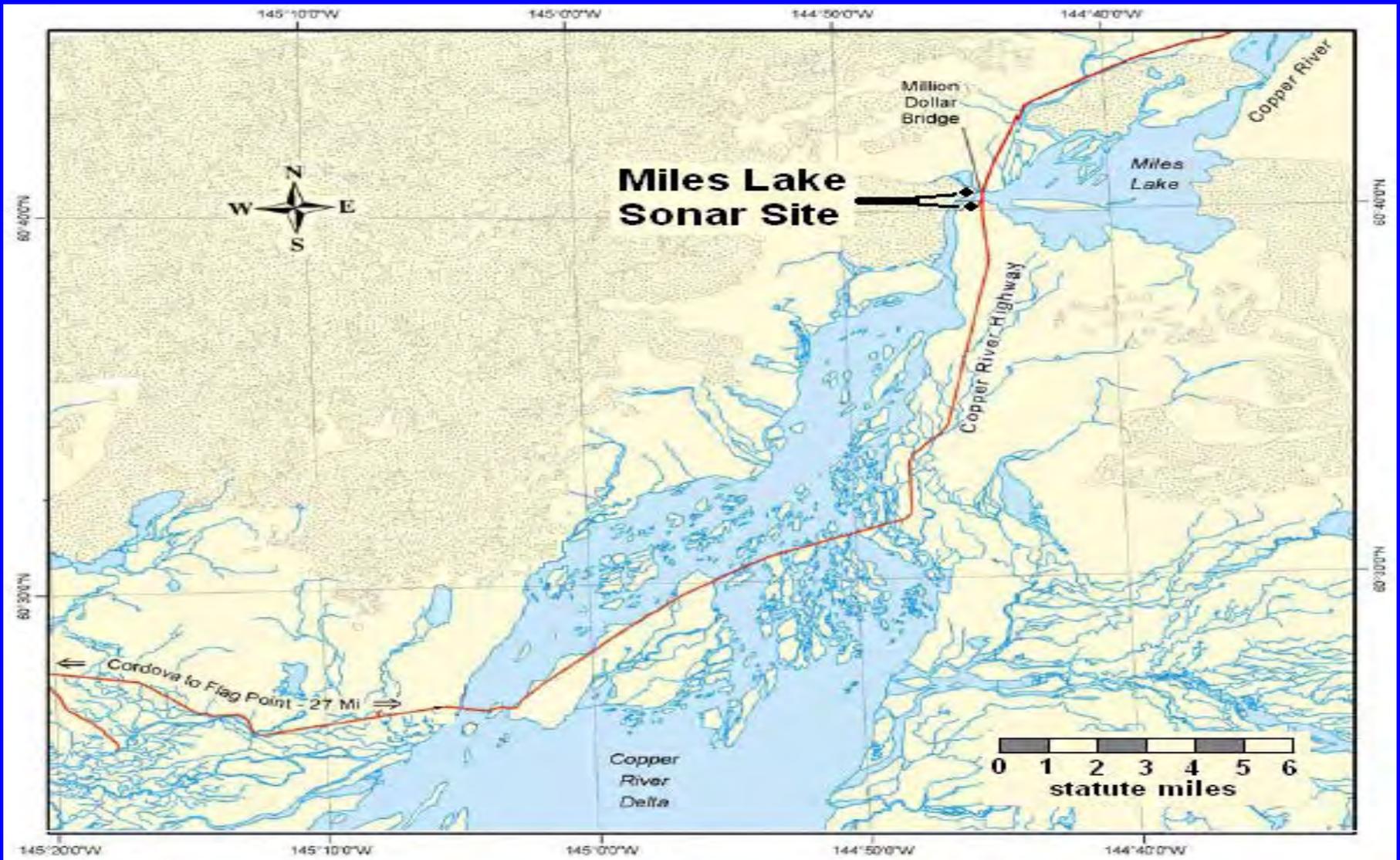
- Abundance and environment based management (early season),**
- Sonar counts from Miles Lake (early to mid season),**
- Aerial survey estimates (mid to late season)**

2012–2014 Abundance Based Management – Sockeye Salmon



*Fishing period duration in hours shown on top of bars in graphs

Miles Lake DIDSON Sonar



Miles Lake Sonar Sites



South Bank

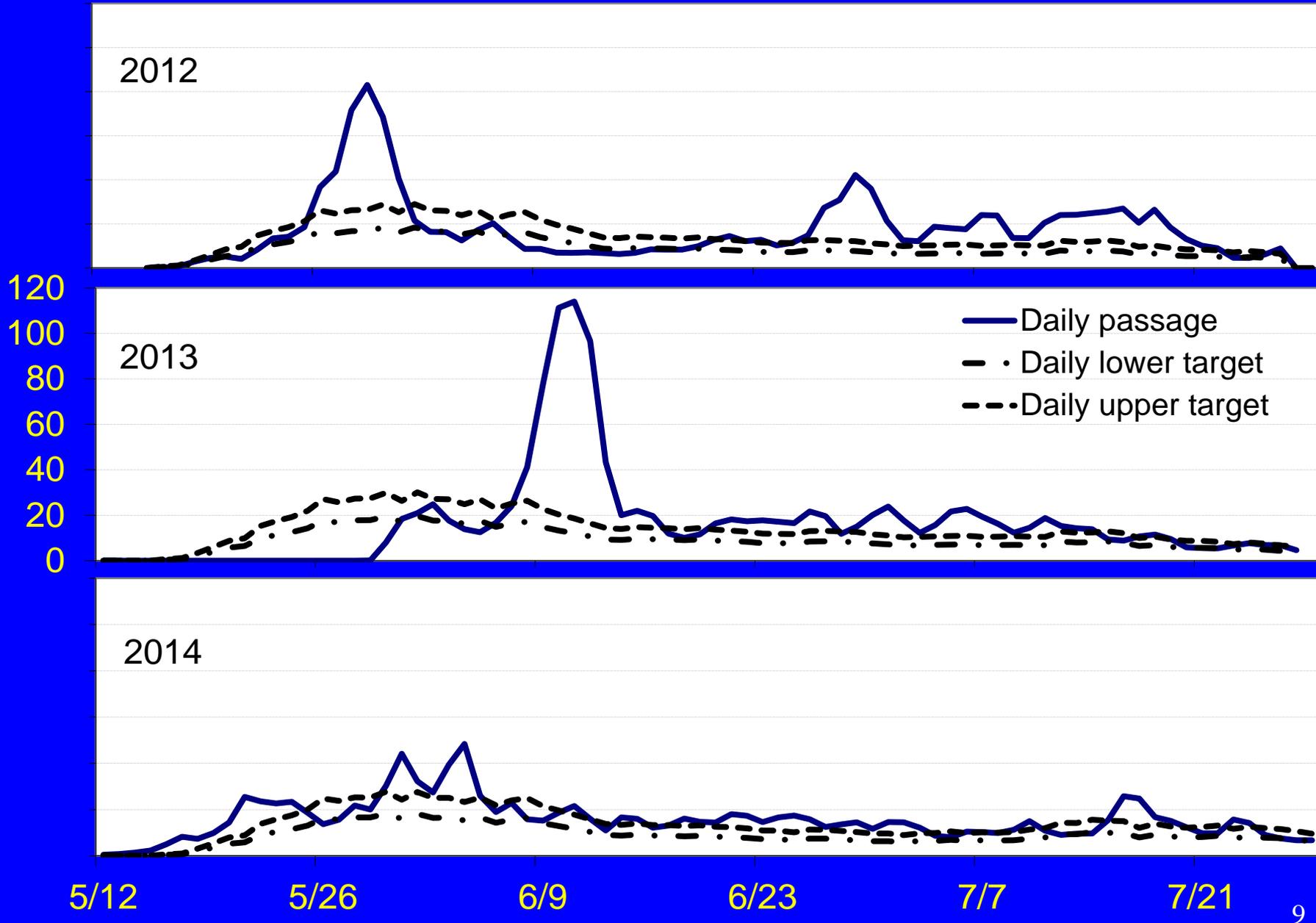


North Bank

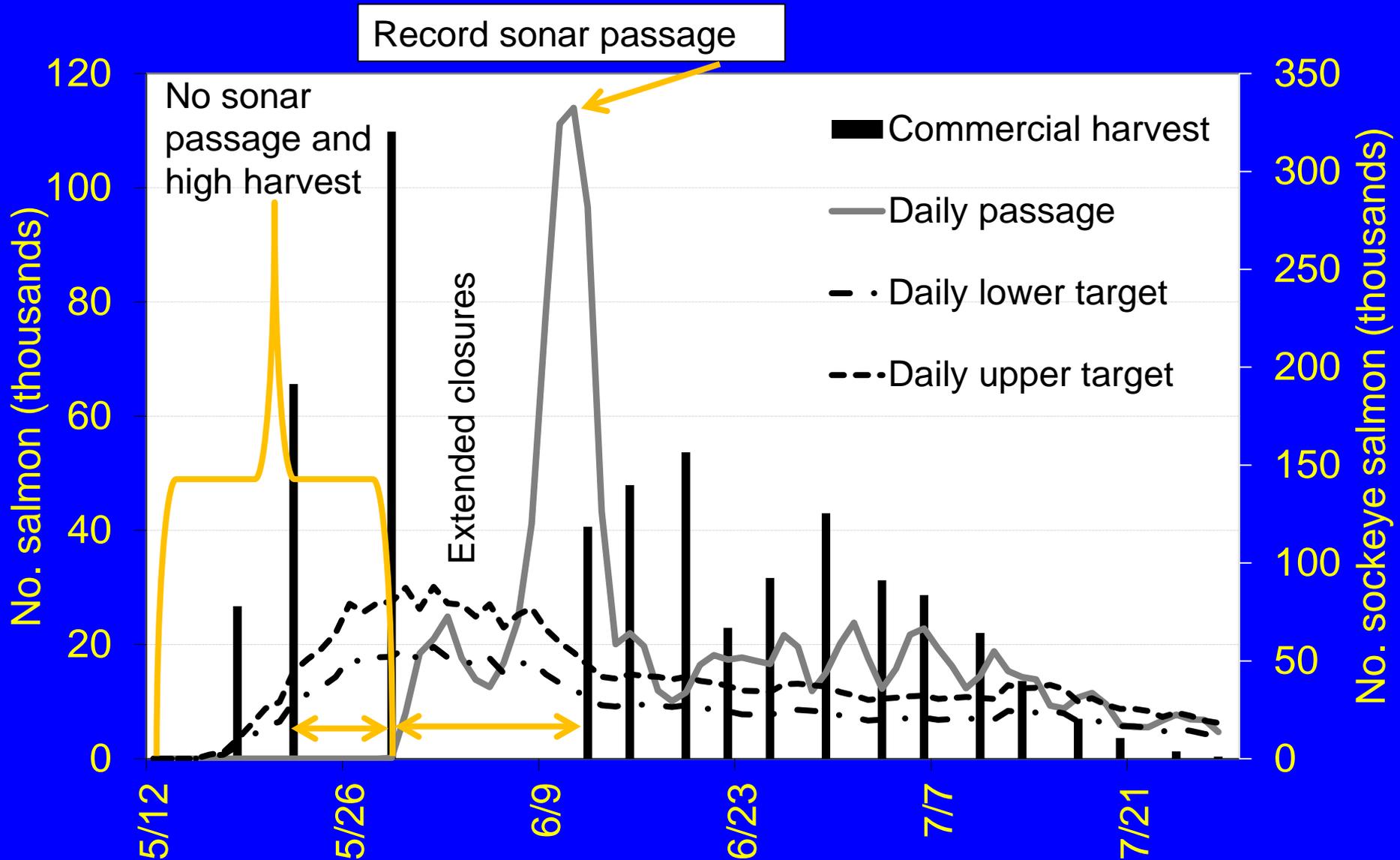


2012–2014 Miles Lake Daily Sonar Numbers

No. salmon (thousands)

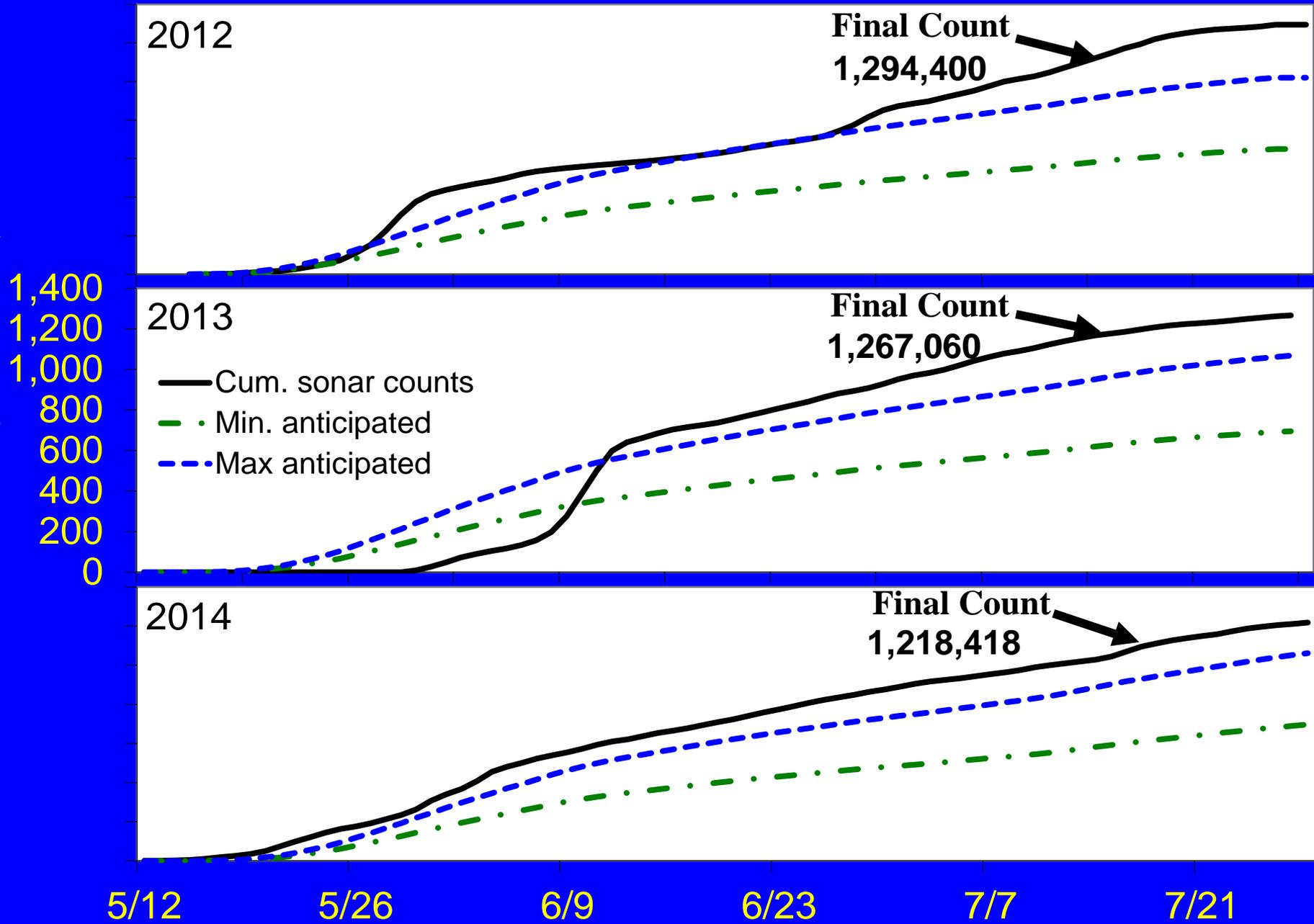


2013 Commercial Harvest VS Sonar Passage



2012–2014 Miles Lake Cumulative Sonar Numbers

No. salmon (thousands)

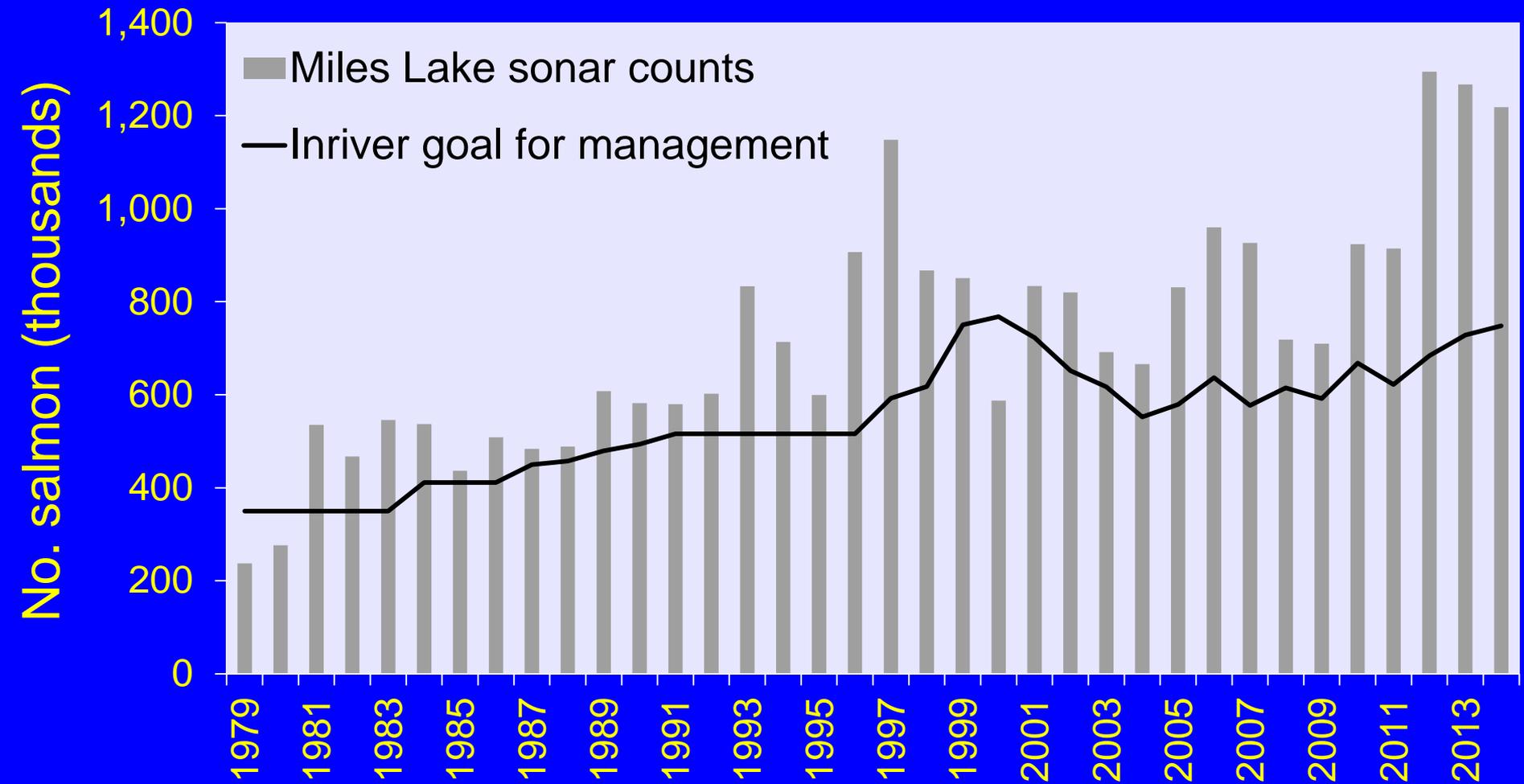


2012–2014 INRIVER SONAR GOAL (Thousands)*

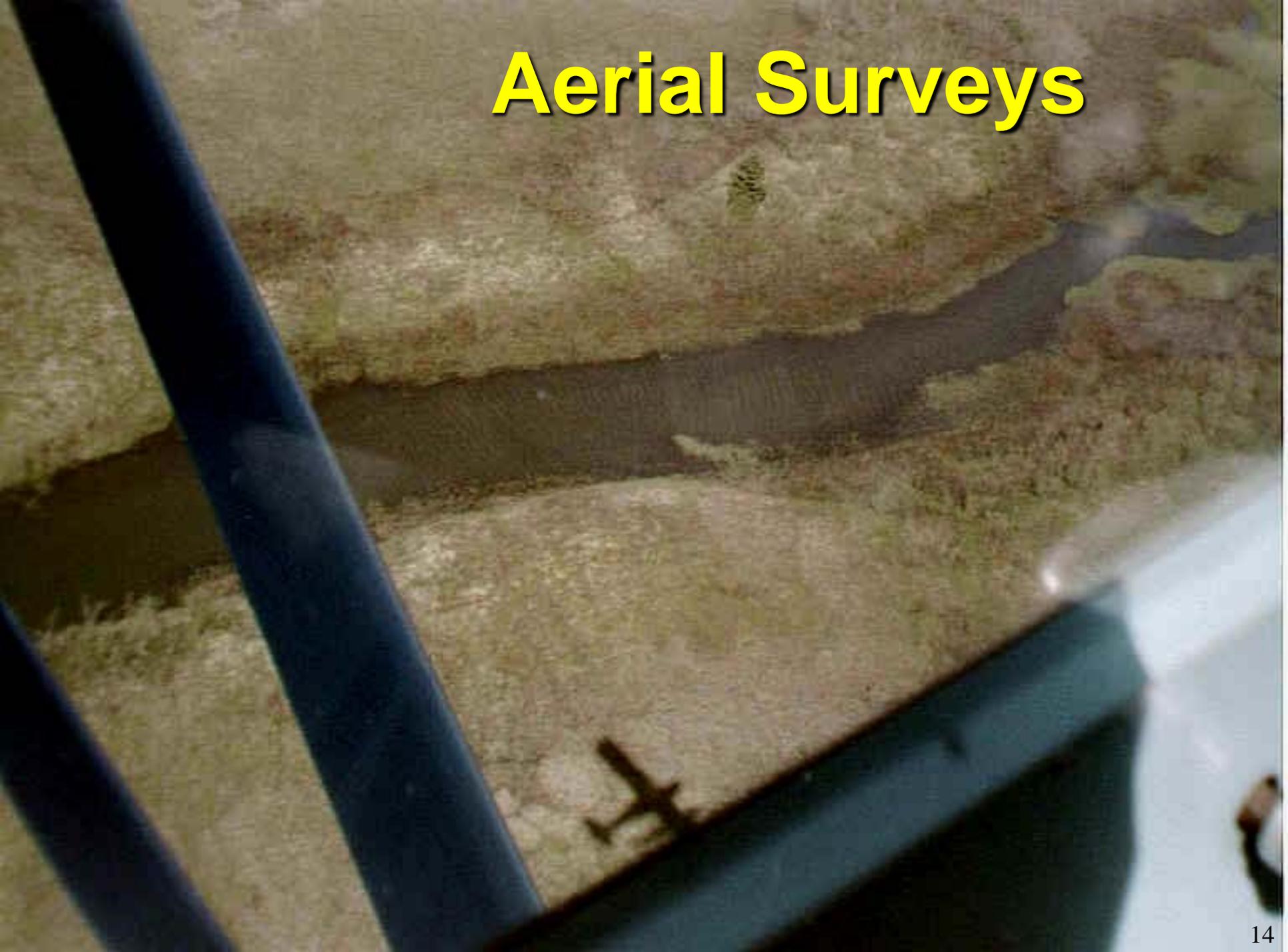
		<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Spawning Esc.	360 Sockeye	360	360	360
	17.5 Other Salmon	17.5	17.5	17.5
Glennallen Sub.	61 – 82.5 Salmon	71	82.5	82.5
Chitina PU	100 – 150 Salmon	120	133	132.5
Sport Fishery	15 Salmon	15	15	15
Hatchery Brood	Estimated Annually	20	20	20
Hatchery Surplus	Estimated Annually	80.5	100.3	120.4
Total	Estimated Annually	684	728	748

*5 AAC 24.360(b)

Sonar counts vs. inriver goal



Aerial Surveys



Delta Aerial Surveys

An aerial photograph showing a wide, dark brown river winding through a lush, green forest. The trees are dense and appear to be a mix of deciduous and coniferous species. The river's surface is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed landscape.

Delta Escapement Goals

- Sockeye salmon: SEG of 55,000-130,000 (17 index systems)
 - Coho salmon: SEG of 32,000-67,000 (21 index systems)

Copper River Escapement and Harvest

- **Sockeye Salmon**
- **King Salmon**
- **Coho Salmon**

Copper River Escapement and Harvest

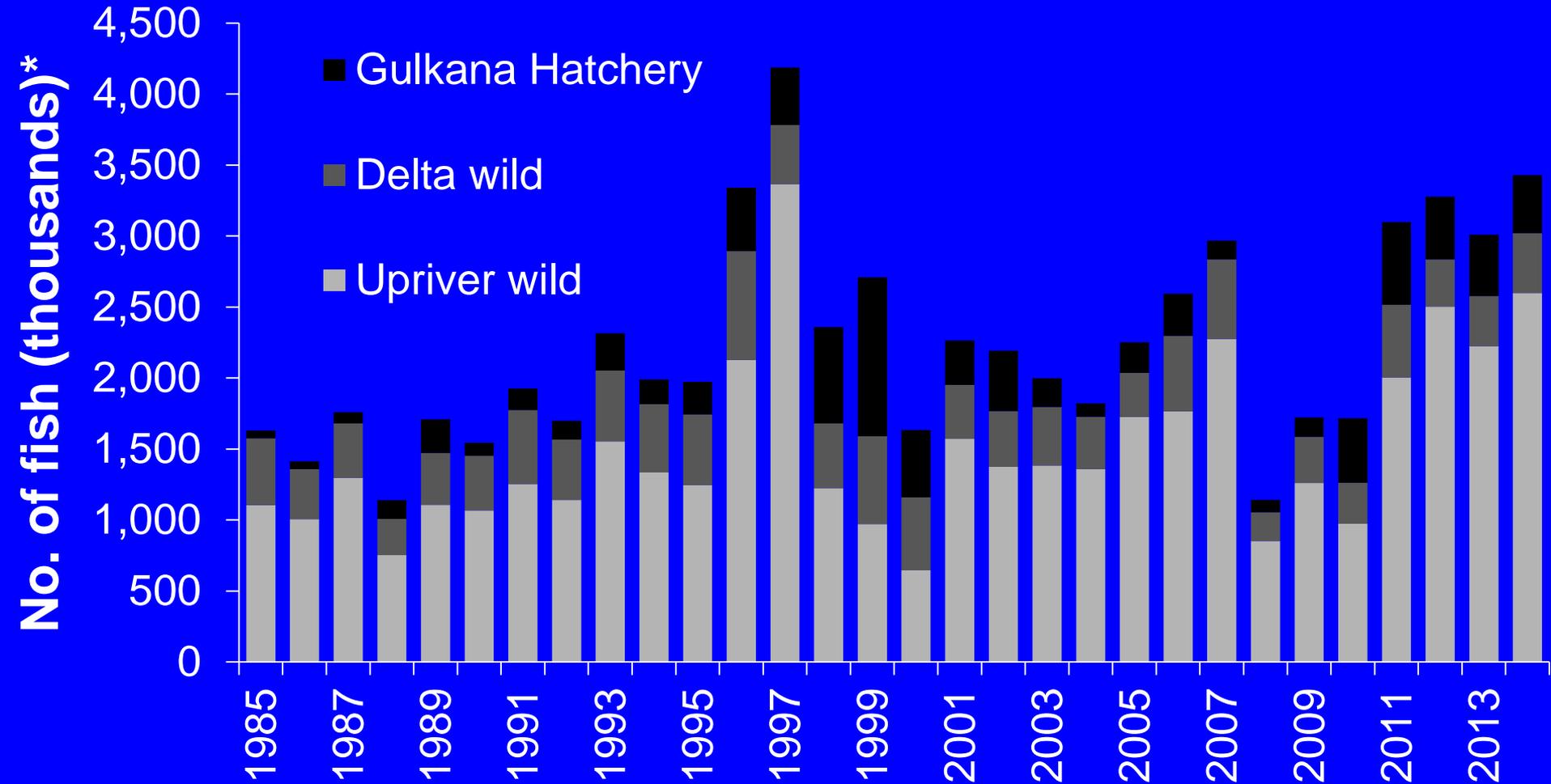


Sockeye Salmon

- Run origin
- Run destination
- Historical run comparison

Copper River Sockeye Salmon

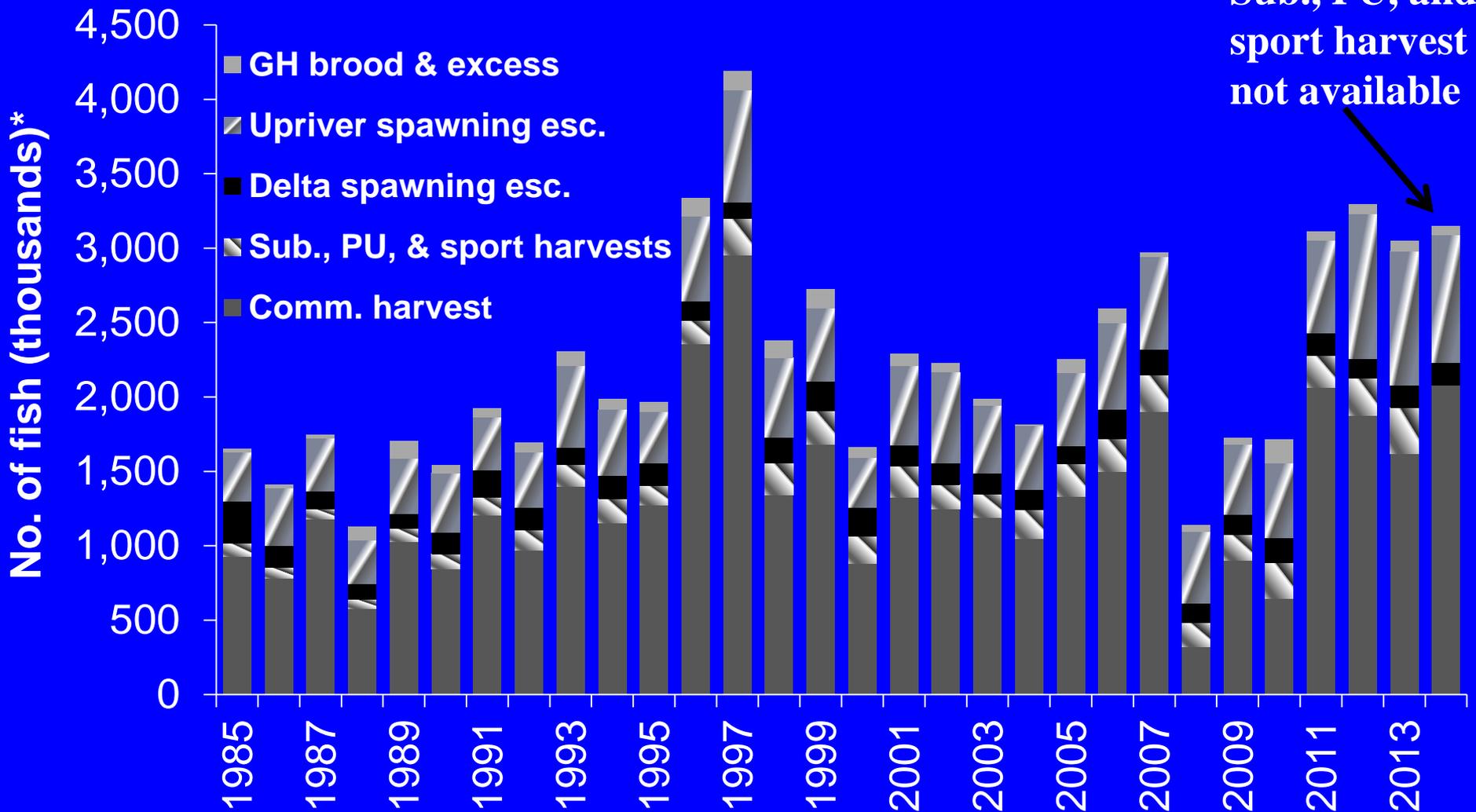
...where do they come from?



* 2014 data are PRELIMINARY

Copper River Sockeye Salmon

...where did they go?



* 2014 data are PRELIMINARY

Copper River Sockeye Salmon: 2012–2014

	Harvest and esc. (thousands of fish)			
	2012	2013	2014	10-yr avg. (02-11)
Comm. harvest	1,875 (57%)	1,608 (53%)	2,068 (61%)	1,212 (57%)
Sub. harvest	98 (3%)	100 (3%)	NA	76 (4%)
PU harvest	127 (4%)	181 (6%)	NA	108 (5%)
Sport harvest	24 (1%)	28 (1%)	NA	12 (1%)
Delta spawning esc.	134 (4%)	151 (5%)	153 (5%)	152 (7%)
Upriver spawning esc.	971 (30%)	901 (30%)	856 (25%)	526 (24%)
GH brood & excess	65 (2%)	72 (2%)	62 (2%)	63 (3%)
Total run	3,294	3,050	3,429	2,153

* 2014 data are PRELIMINARY; percentages represent percent of total annual run.

Copper River Sockeye Salmon: Meeting Escapement Goals

No. of fish (thousands)

	2012	2013	2014	10-year average (2002-2011)
Delta spawning escapement	134	151	153	152
Upriver spawning escapement	971	901	880	526

**Copper River Delta adjusted SEG is
110,000-260,000*.**

Upriver SEG is 360,000-750,000.

*2014 data are PRELIMINARY

and delta esc. and goals were adjusted for observer efficiency

Copper River Escapement and Harvest

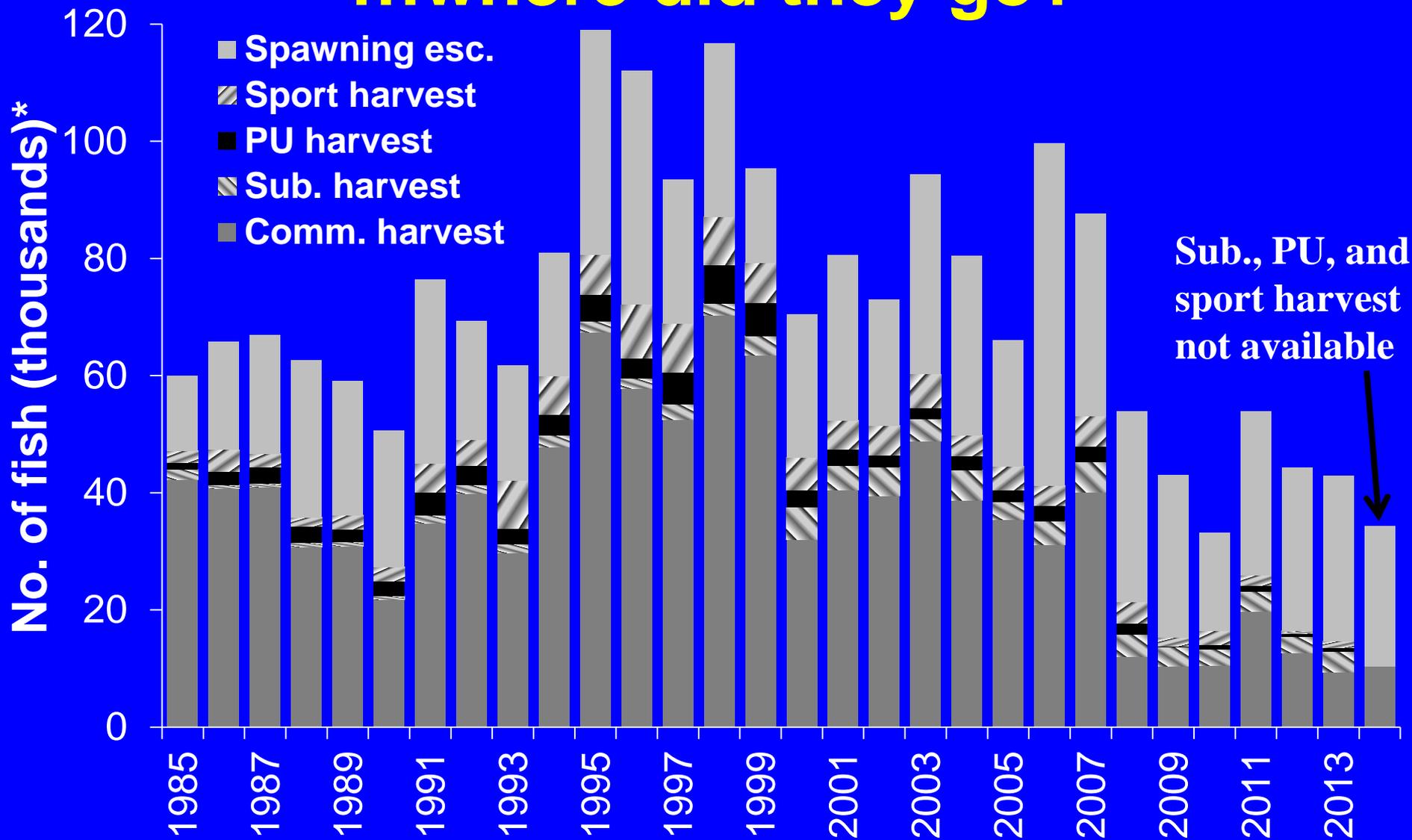


King Salmon

- Run size and user group harvest
- Historical run comparison

Copper River King Salmon

...where did they go?



Sub., PU, and sport harvest not available

* 2014 data are PRELIMINARY

Copper River King Salmon: 2012–2014

Harvest and esc. (thousands of fish)*

	2012	2013	2014	10-year avg. (2002-2011)
Comm. harvest	12 (29%) <i>(56%)</i>	9 (22%) <i>(67%)</i>	10 (27%) <i>(64%)</i>	29 (42%)
Sub. harvest	3 (6%) <i>(29%)</i>	3 (8%) <i>(12%)</i>	NA	4 (6%)
PU harvest	1 (1%) <i>(68%)</i>	1 (2%) <i>(58%)</i>	NA	2 (3%)
Sport harvest	<1 (1%) <i>(87%)</i>	1 (3%) <i>(69%)</i>	NA	4 (5%)
Spawning esc.	28 (63%) <i>(9%)</i>	28 (66%) <i>(8%)</i>	24 (62%) <i>(22%)</i>	31 (45%)
Total run	44 (35%)	43 (37%)	38 (44%)	68

*2014 data are PRELIMINARY; percentages in white represent percent of total annual run and *red/italicized* percentages represent percent below 10-year average.

Copper River King Salmon: Meeting the Escapement Goal

No. of fish (thousands)

	2012	2013	2014*	10-year avg. (2002-2011)
Spawning esc.	28	28	24	31

Copper River King salmon SEG is **24,000 or more**

* 2014 data are PRELIMINARY

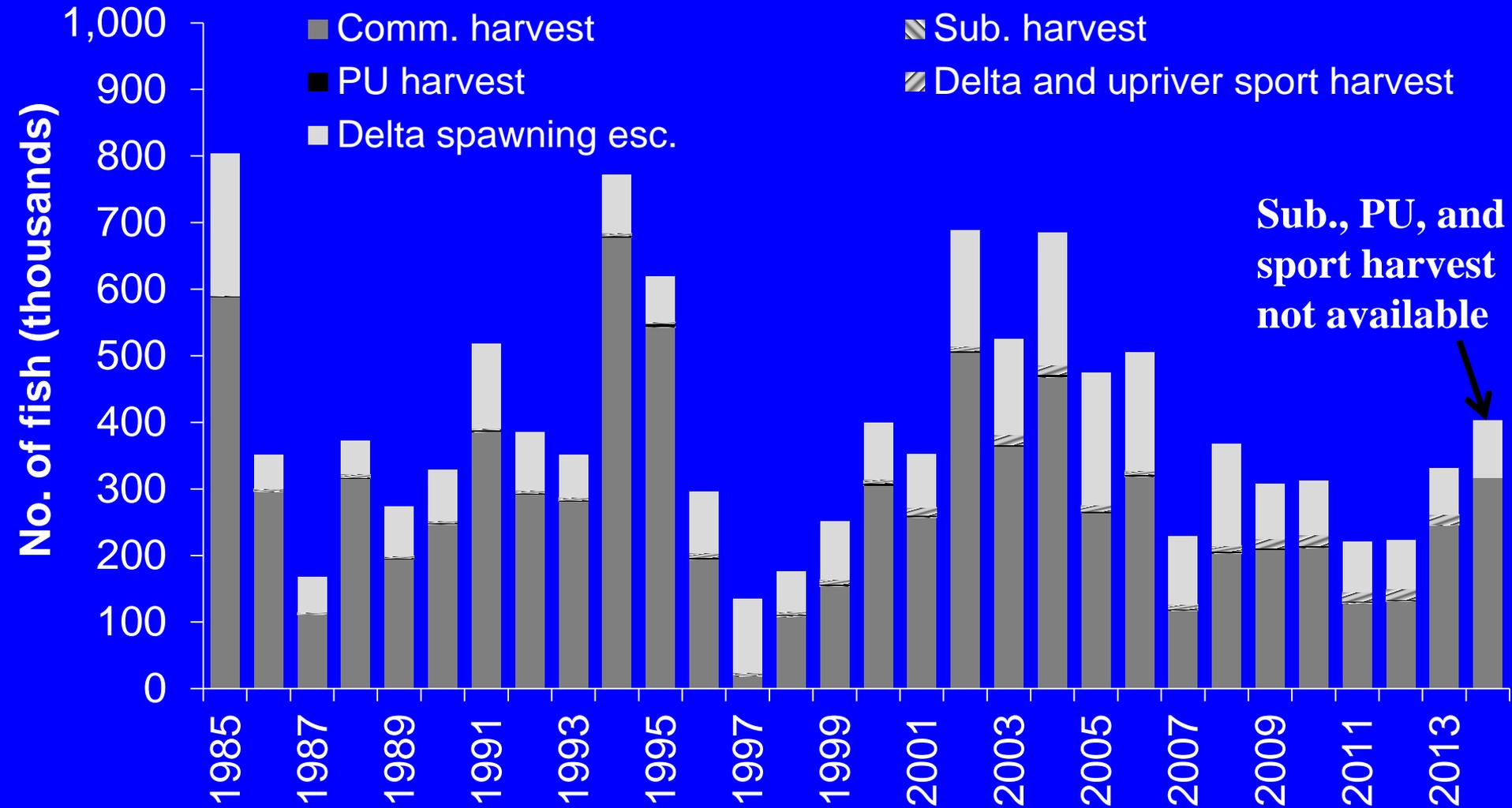
Copper River Escapement and Harvest



Coho Salmon

- Run size and user group harvest
- Historical run comparison

Copper River Coho Salmon...where did they go?



Sub., PU, and sport harvest not available



* 2014 data are PRELIMINARY

Copper River Coho Salmon: 2012–2014 compared with the 10-yr average

	Harvest and esc. (thousands of fish)*			
	2012	2013	2014	10-year avg. (2002-2011)
Comm. harvest	131 (59%)	245 (74%)	316 (76%)	279 (53%)
Sub. harvest	1 (<1%)	<1 (<1%)	NA	1 (<1%)
PU harvest	1 (1%)	<1 (<1%)	NA	2 (1%)
Sport harvest	15 (7%)	15 (5%)	NA	11 (3%)
Spawning esc.	74 (33%)	69 (21%)	86 (21%)	139 (28%)
Total run	223	331	419	432

* 2014 data are PRELIMINARY; percentages represent percent of total annual run.

Copper River Coho Salmon: Meeting the Escapement Goal

No. of fish (thousands)

	2012	2013	2014*	10-yr. avg. (2002-2011)
Spawning escapement	74	69	86	139

Copper River delta adjusted SEG for coho salmon is
64,000-134,000*

*2014 data are PRELIMINARY
and esc. and goal range were adjusted for observer efficiency

PROPOSALS (11)

- Subsistence (3 proposals),
- Allocation Plan (1 proposal),
- Commercial Gear Specifications (2 proposals),
- Fishing Seasons (1 proposal),
- Copper River King Salmon Management Plan (3 proposal),
- Closed waters (1 proposals).

Thank You For Your Time.



Questions or Comments?