

Prince William Sound Commercial Salmon Management Overview

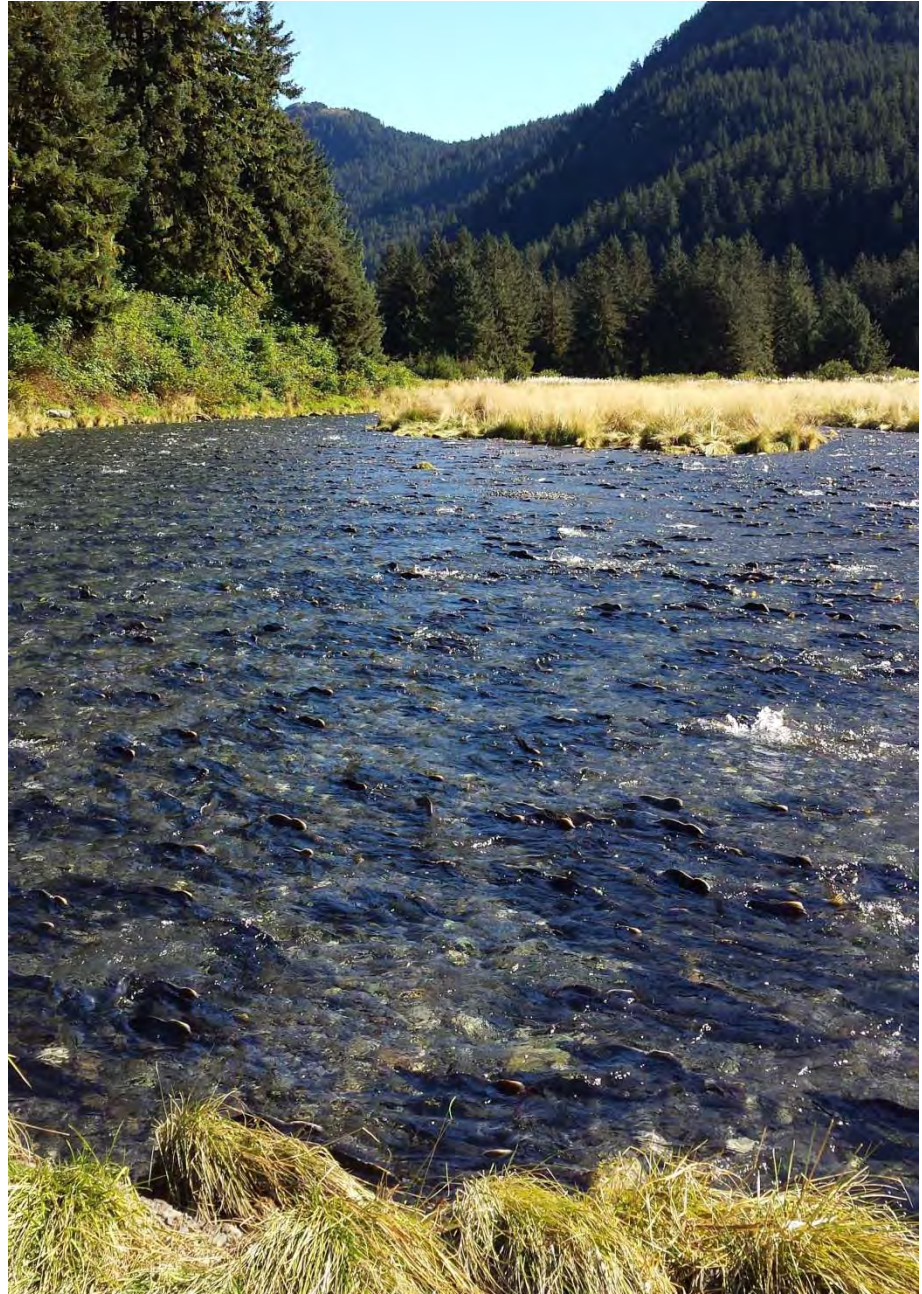


A Report to the Alaska Board
of Fisheries; December 2017
Division of Commercial Fisheries

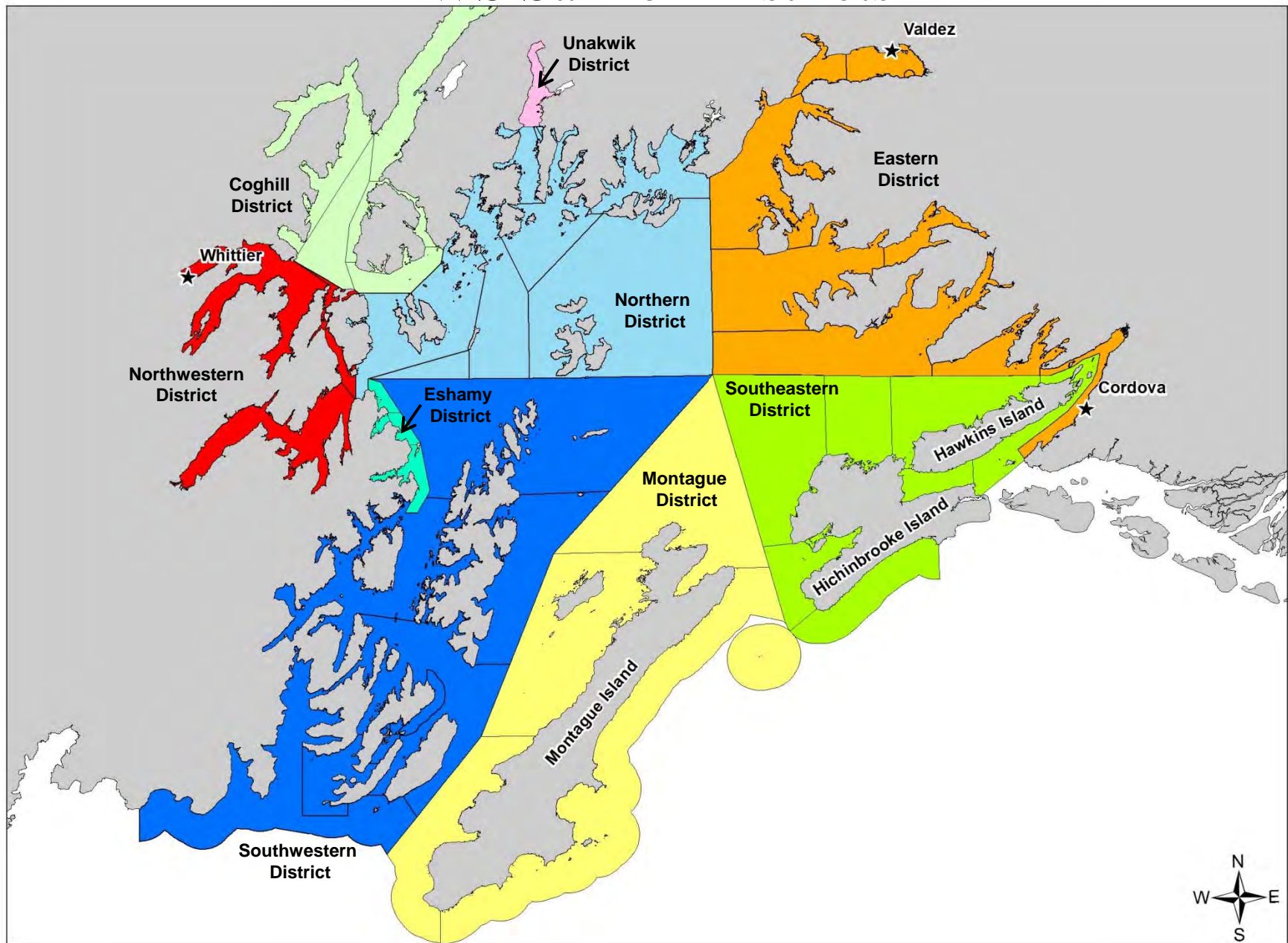
Charles W. Russell
Oral Report: RC 3; Tab 6
Written Report: RC 3; Tab 3

Presentation Outline

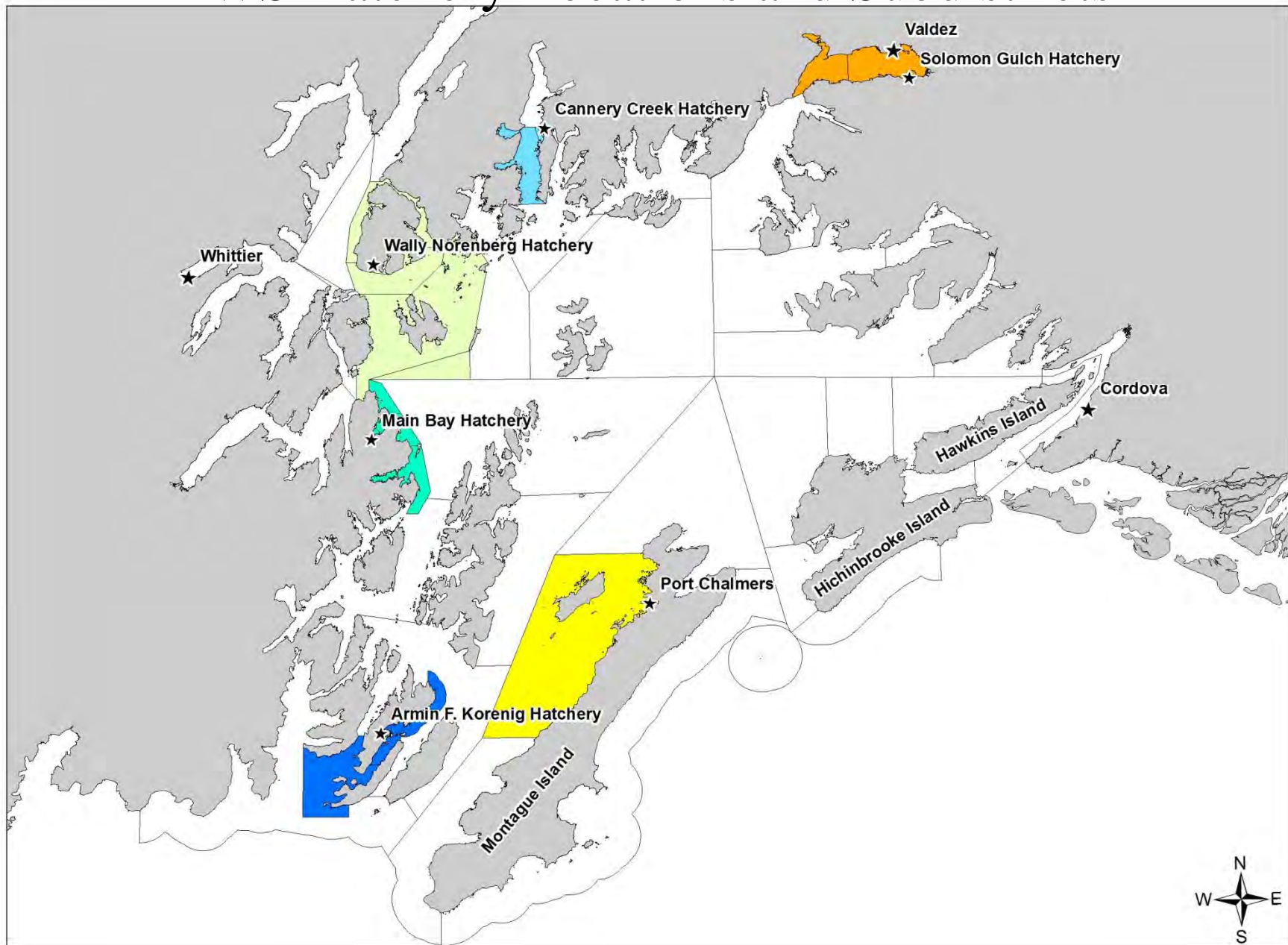
- PWS Overview
- PWS Salmon Management
- Fisheries Assessment Tools
- 2015–2017 Season Summaries
- Overview of PWS Commercial Salmon Proposals



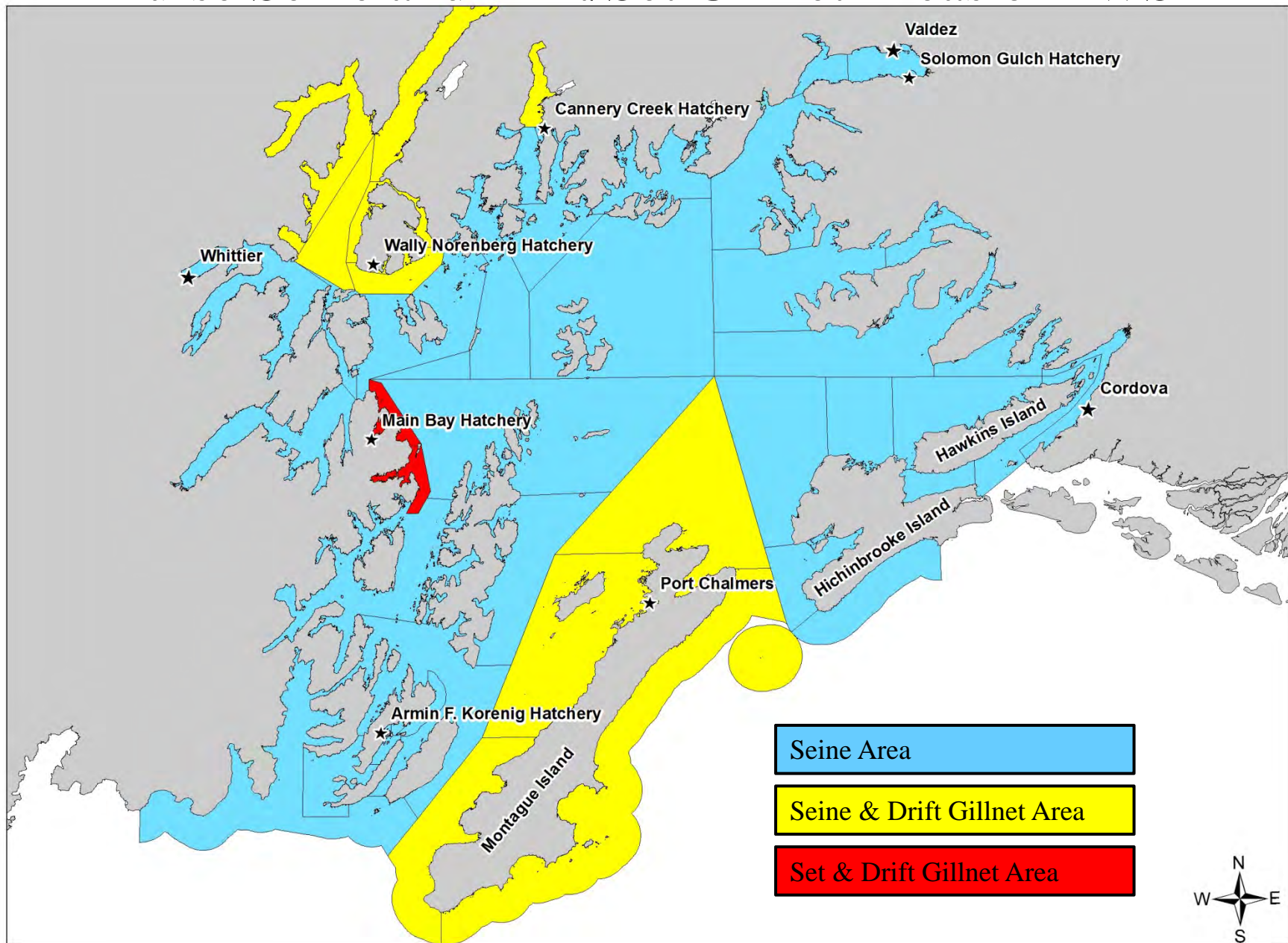
PWS Salmon Districts



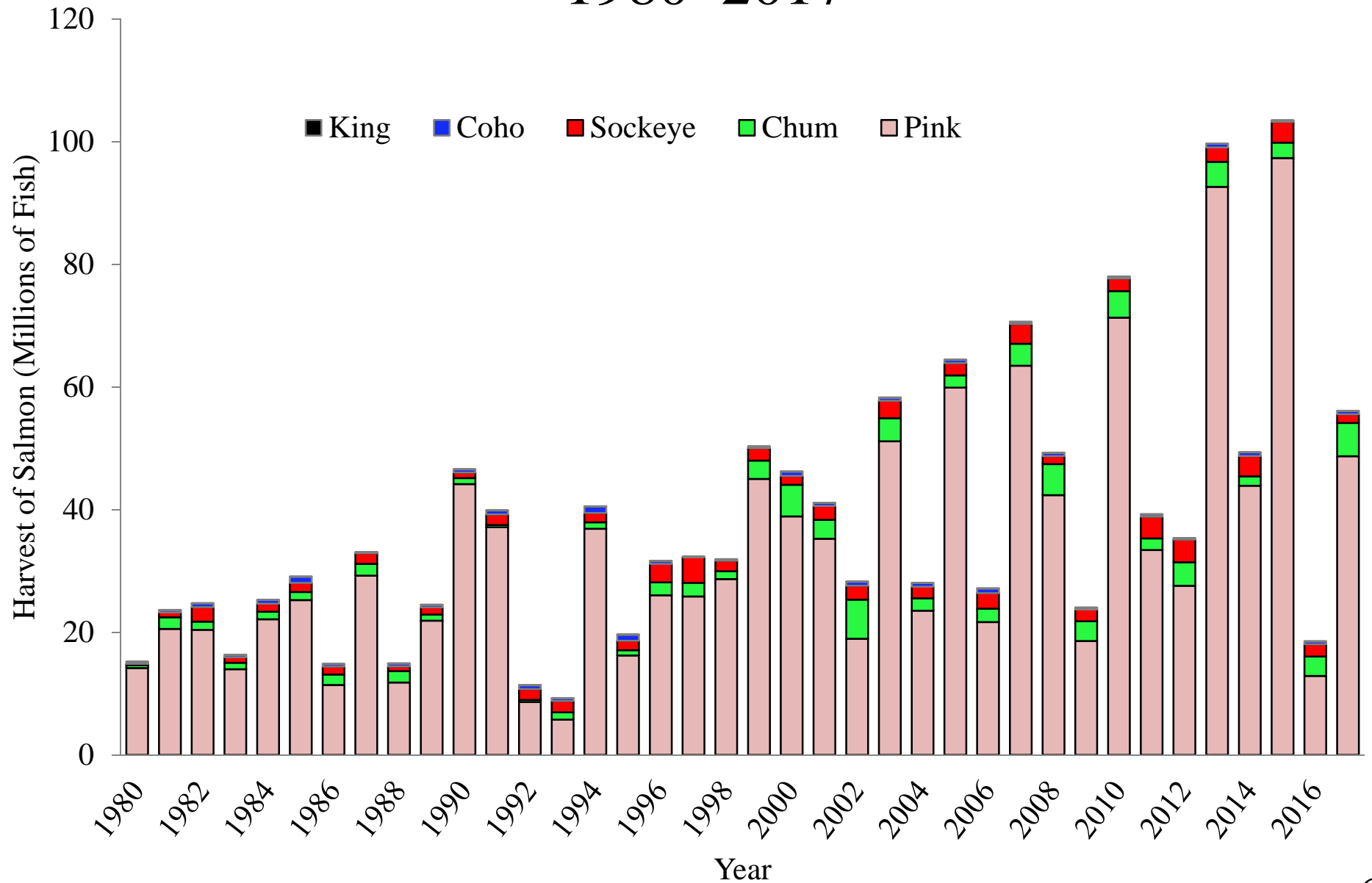
PWS Hatchery Locations and Subdistricts



Purse Seine and Drift/Set Gillnet Areas of PWS

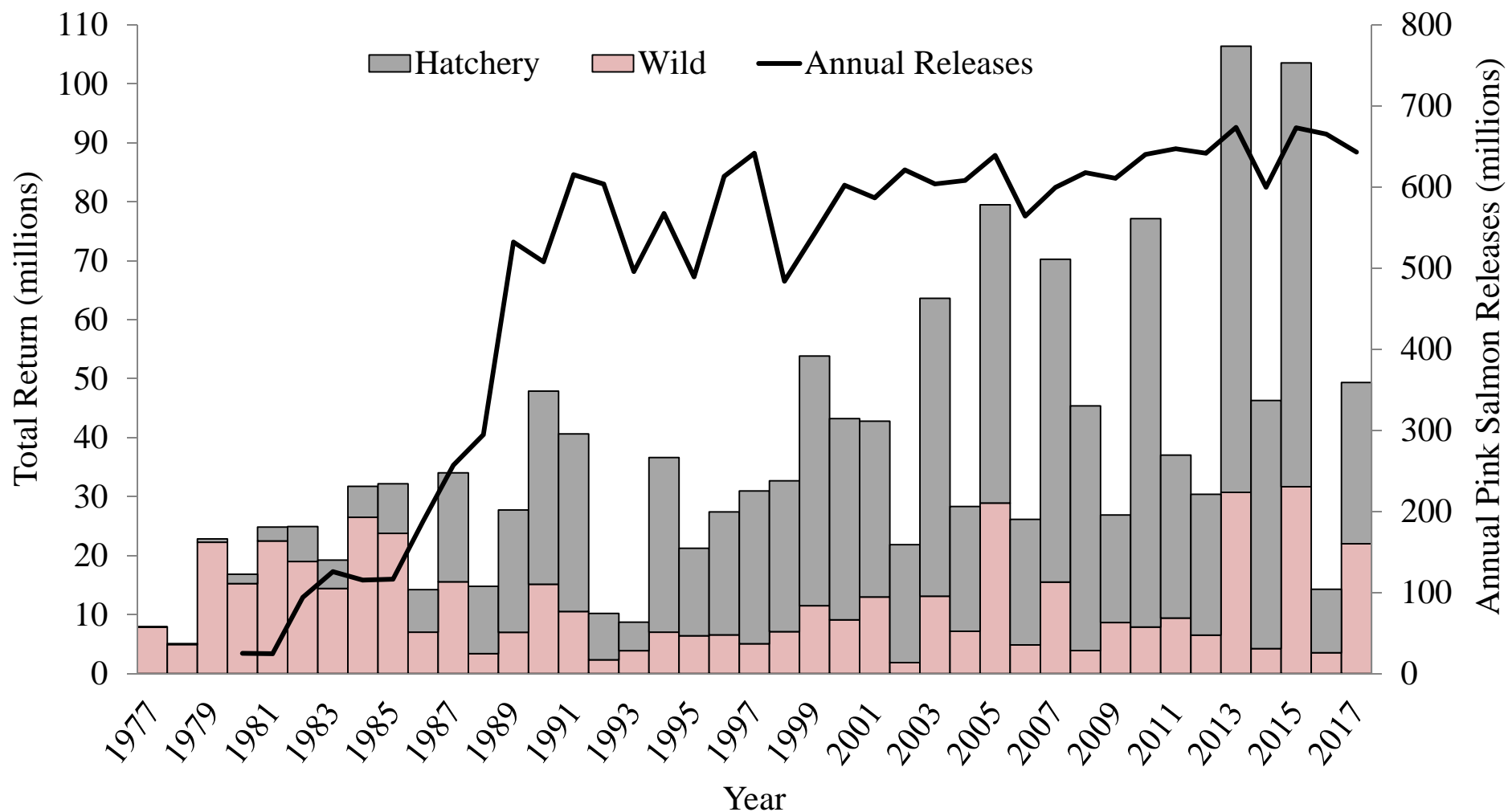


PWS Commercial Salmon Harvests, 1980–2017

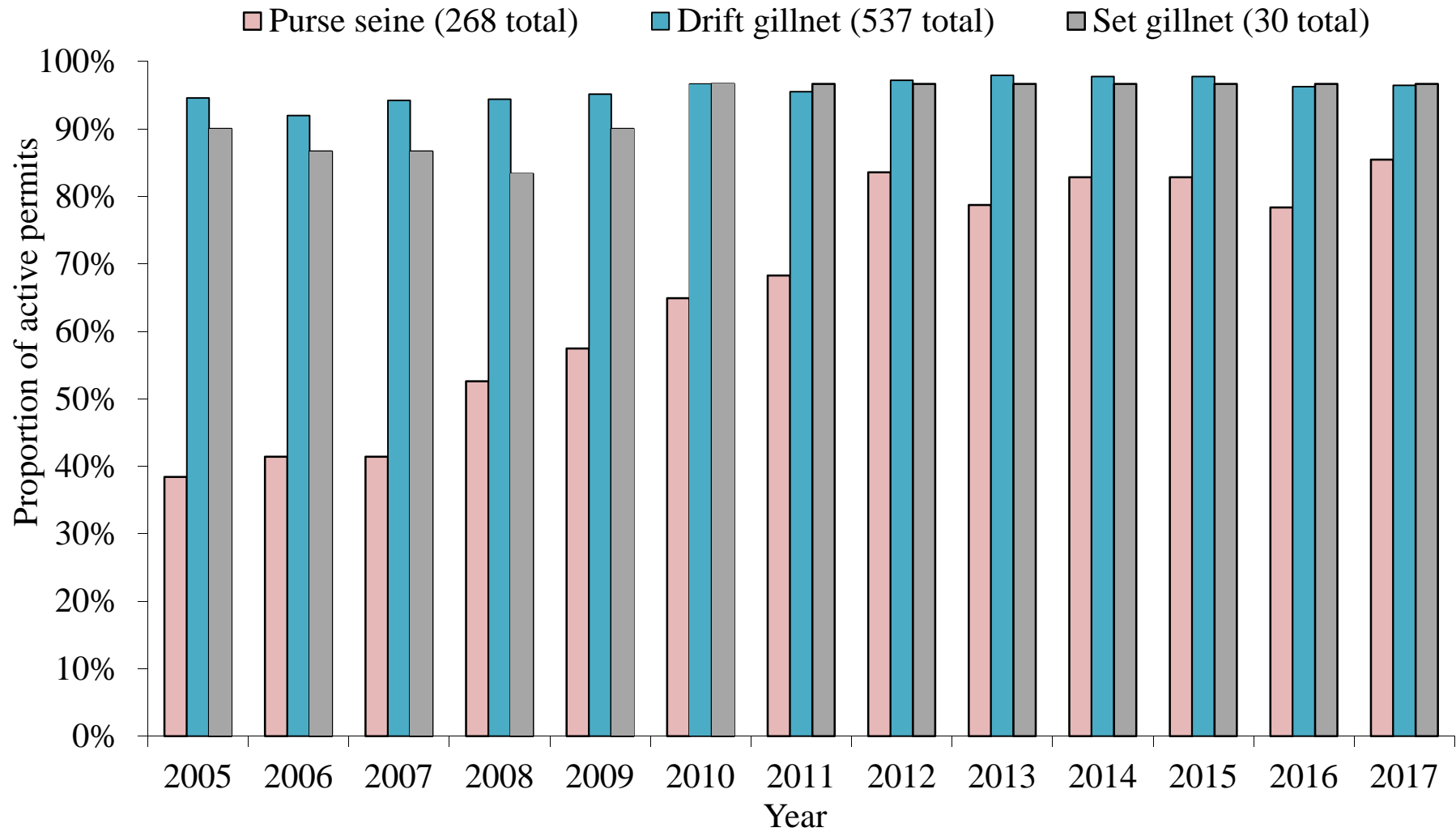


Pink Salmon Stock Composition

1977–2017



Permits Fished, 2005–2017



PWS Fisheries Management

- Manage for sustained yield
- Wild stock escapement
- Hatchery cost recovery and broodstock



Prince William Sound Management and Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370)

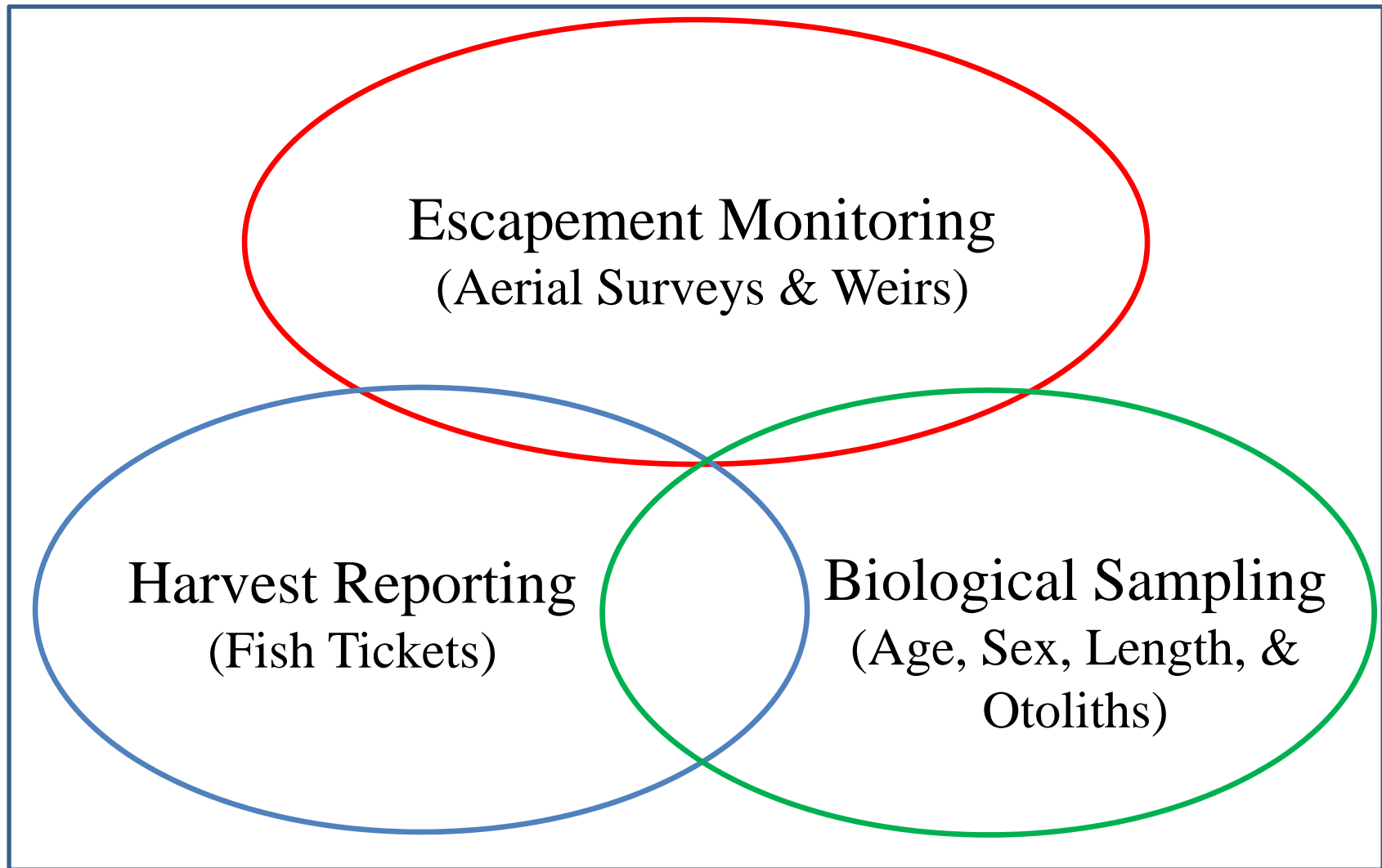
- **Objectives**

- Provide a fair & reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among three gear groups
- Maintaining historical value percentages
- Minimize the effects on wild stocks and traditional fisheries
- Promote quality and reduce congestion

- **Mechanisms**

- Establish time and area for gear groups

Fishery Assessment Tools

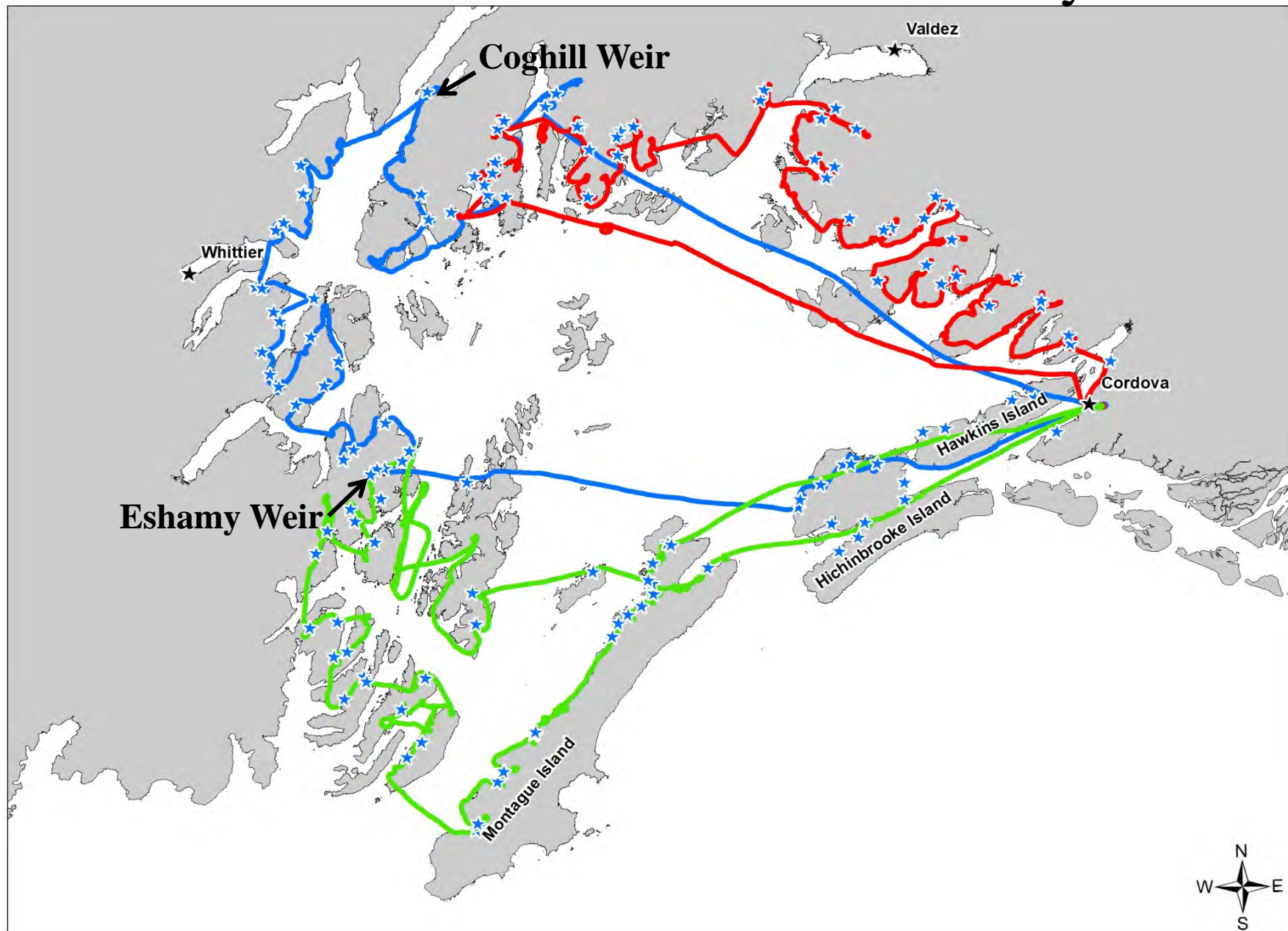


Prince William Sound Aerial Surveys

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



Prince William Sound Aerial Surveys

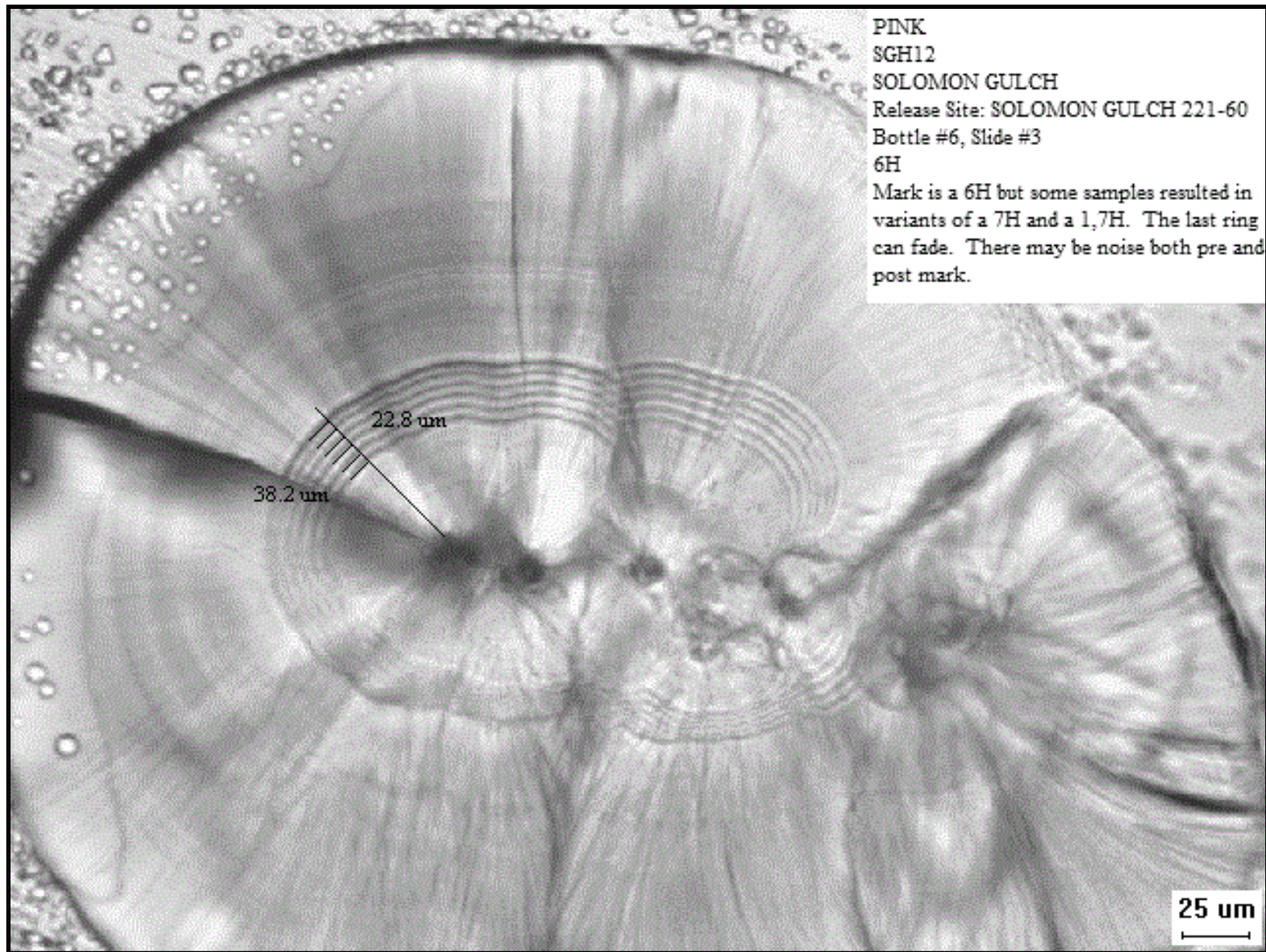


Prince William Sound Pink Salmon Escapements, 2015–2017

District	2015	2016	2017*
Eastern	ABOVE	ABOVE	WITHIN
Northern/Unakwik	ABOVE	WITHIN	ABOVE
Coghill	ABOVE	WITHIN	WITHIN
Northwestern	ABOVE	WITHIN	ABOVE
Eshamy	ABOVE	N/A	BELOW
Southwestern	ABOVE	N/A	ABOVE
Montague	ABOVE	N/A	WITHIN
Southeastern	ABOVE	WITHIN	WITHIN

* 2017 values are PRELIMINARY

Otolith Thermal Marks

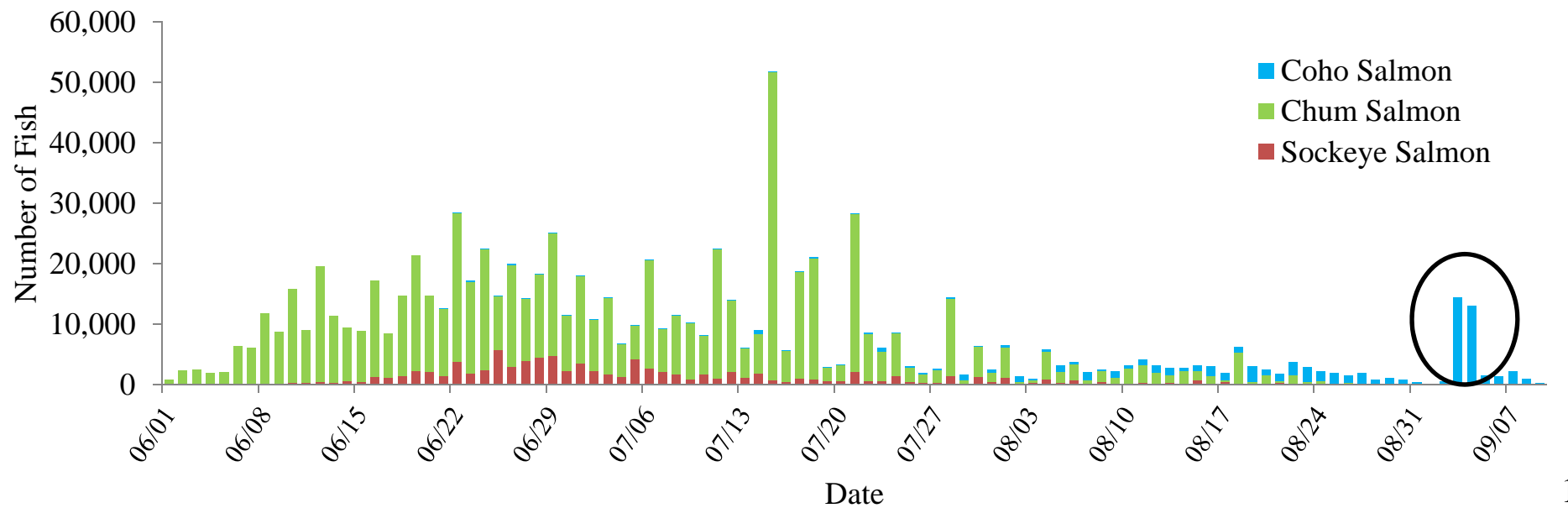
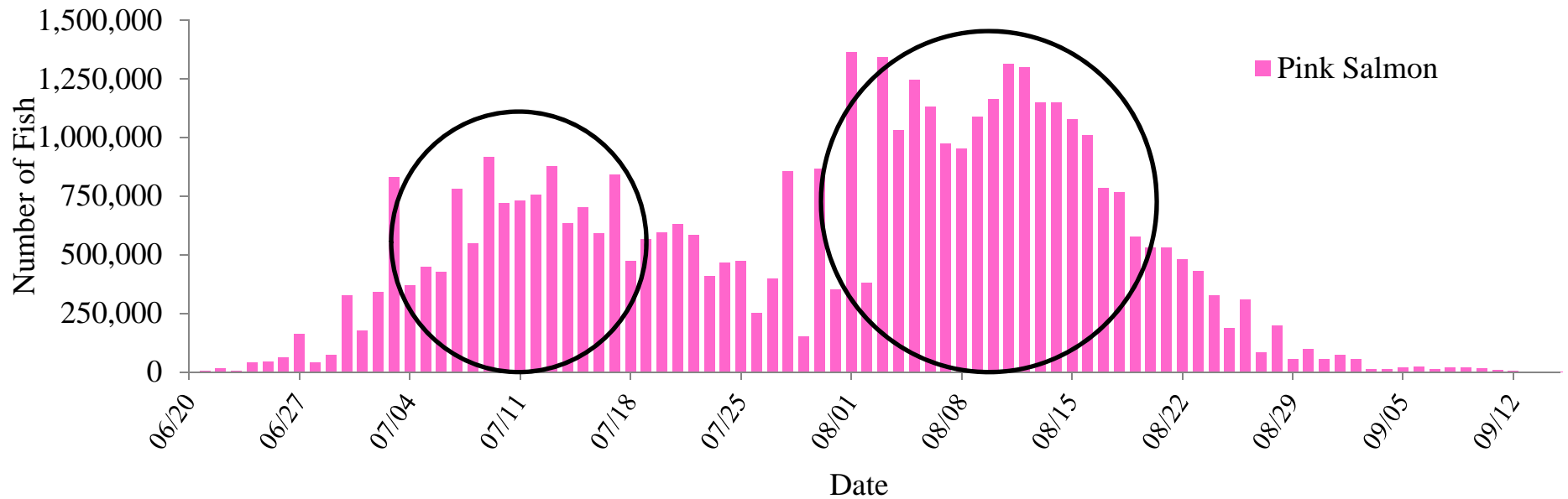


Otolith Thermal Marking

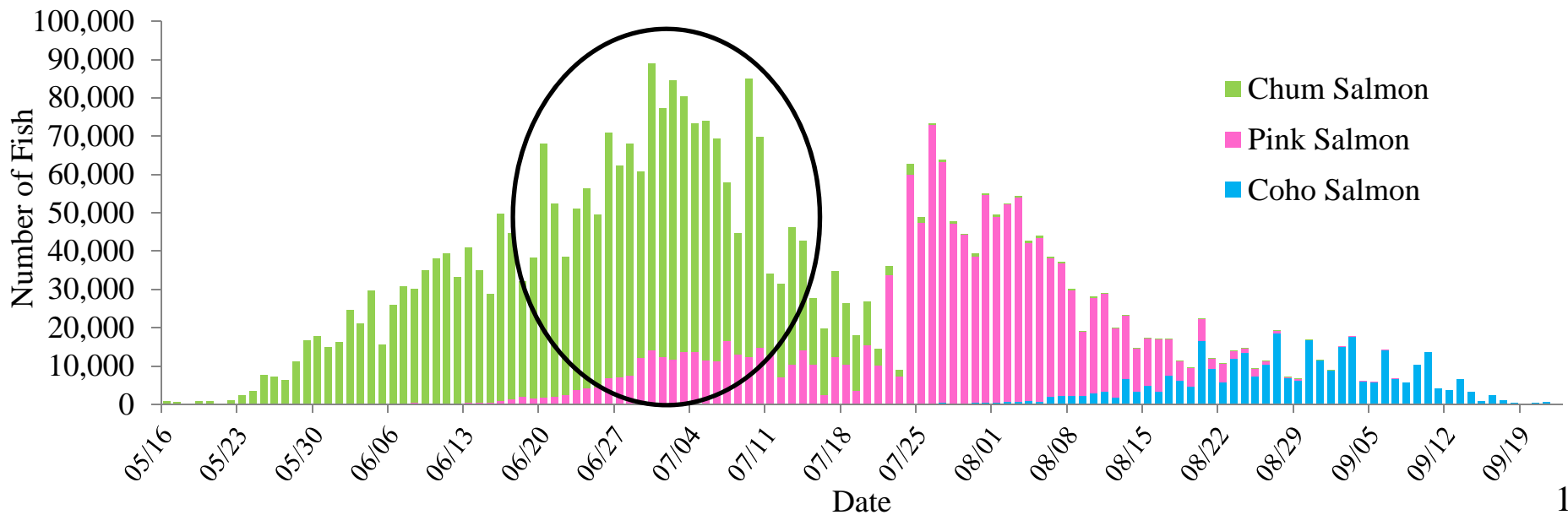
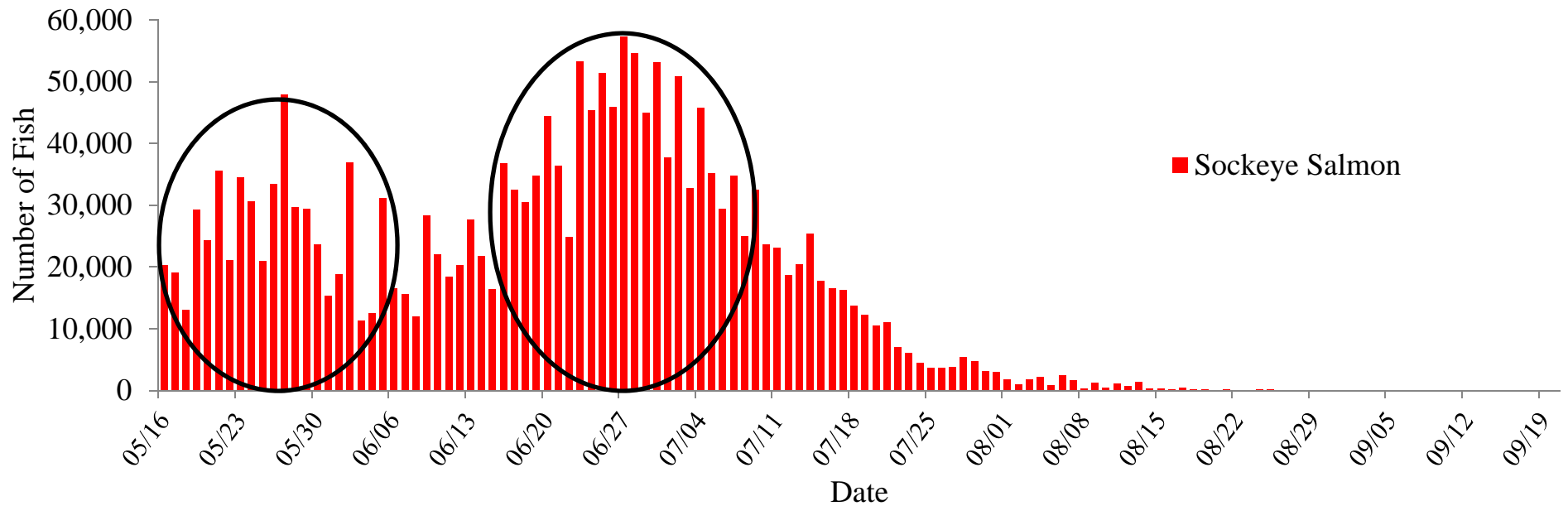
- Applied to all hatchery-released salmon
 - unique mark by species and hatchery
- Easily recovered
- Small sample sizes (96 fish) provide stock composition estimates
- Accurate and expedient delivery of information



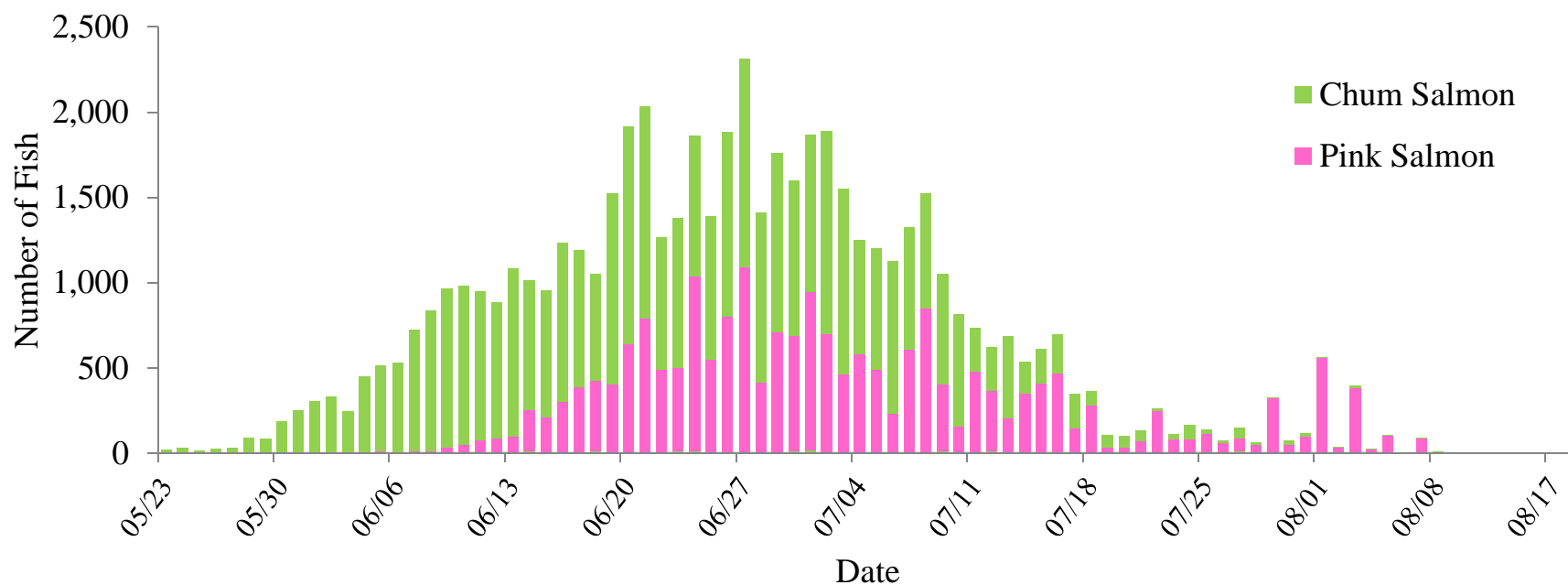
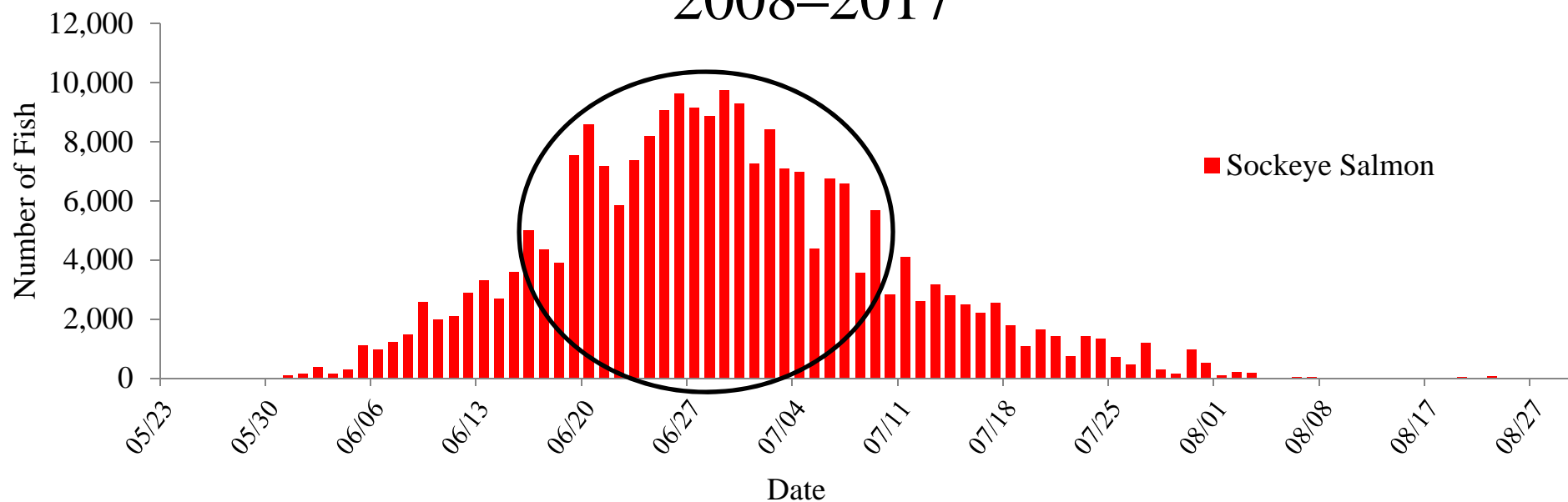
Average Daily Purse Seine Salmon Harvest for PWS, 2008–2017



Average Daily Drift Gillnet Salmon Harvest for PWS/Copper River, 2008–2017



Average Daily Set Gillnet Salmon Harvest for PWS, 2008–2017



PWS commercial harvest by gear type and species, 2015–2017*

Year	Gear Group	Number of Salmon Harvested				
		King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2015						
	Purse seine	497	241,197	44,978	89,112,315	463,459
	Drift gillnet	276	947,815	11,419	892,219	1,032,141
	Set gillnet	61	265,447	839	29,070	21,696
	Hatchery	0	180,516	17,126	7,214,635	979,357
	Total harvest	834	1,634,975	74,362	97,248,239	2,496,653
2016						
	Purse seine	47	64,569	29,243	8,524,839	379,087
	Drift gillnet	209	510,194	380	80,194	1,806,515
	Set gillnet	34	218,013	13	8,011	20,831
	Hatchery	0	42	4,915	4,422,274	958,888
	Total harvest	290	792,818	34,551	13,035,318	3,165,321
2017						
	Purse seine	305	120,644	88,324	42,562,432	2,392,522
	Drift gillnet	163	552,016	18,031	974,868	2,276,883
	Set gillnet	0	181,949	216	37,633	17,583
	Hatchery	0	0	25,263	5,057,144	723,981
	Total harvest	468	854,609	131,834	48,632,077	5,410,969

* Does not include Copper River or Bering River harvests.

PWS Salmon Proposals

- *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan*

Proposals 47–49

- *Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan*

Proposals 42–43

- Fishing districts and boundaries

Proposals 46 and 50–52

- Gear specification changes

Proposals 38–41 and 44–45

An aerial photograph taken from the perspective of someone on a boat, looking down at a large body of water, likely a fjord. The water is dark blue and calm. Several small fishing boats are scattered across the water, each trailing a long, thin, white rope that forms a large, winding pattern. The shoreline is covered in dense green forest. In the bottom right corner, there is a small white buoy with the number '22' on it.

Acknowledgements

- **ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Staff**
- **Stacy Vega**
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- **Bert Lewis**