

Sport Fishing in Prince William Sound

A Presentation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries
December 2017

Jay Baumer

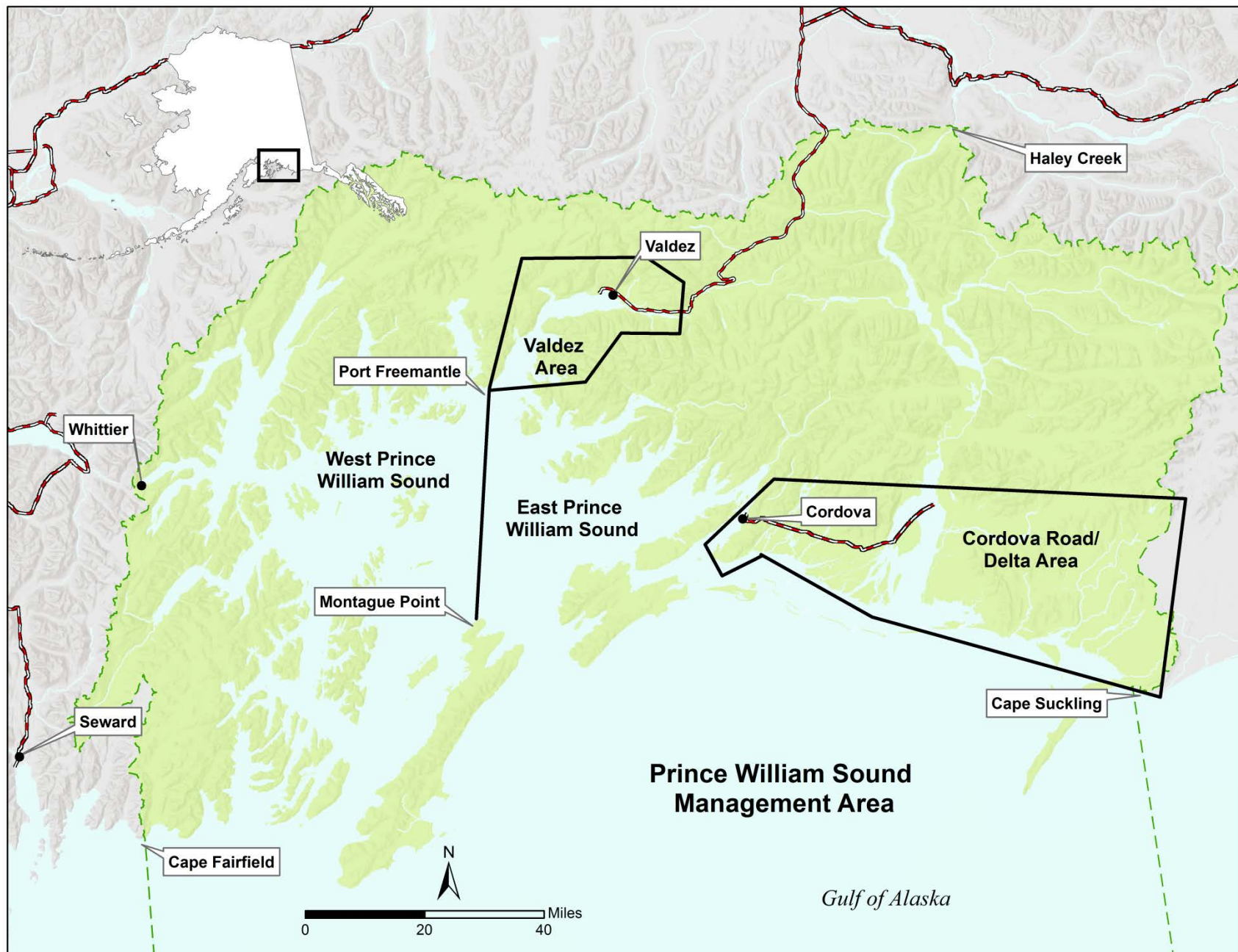
Sport Fish Area Manager
Division of Sport Fish



RC 3, Tab 8

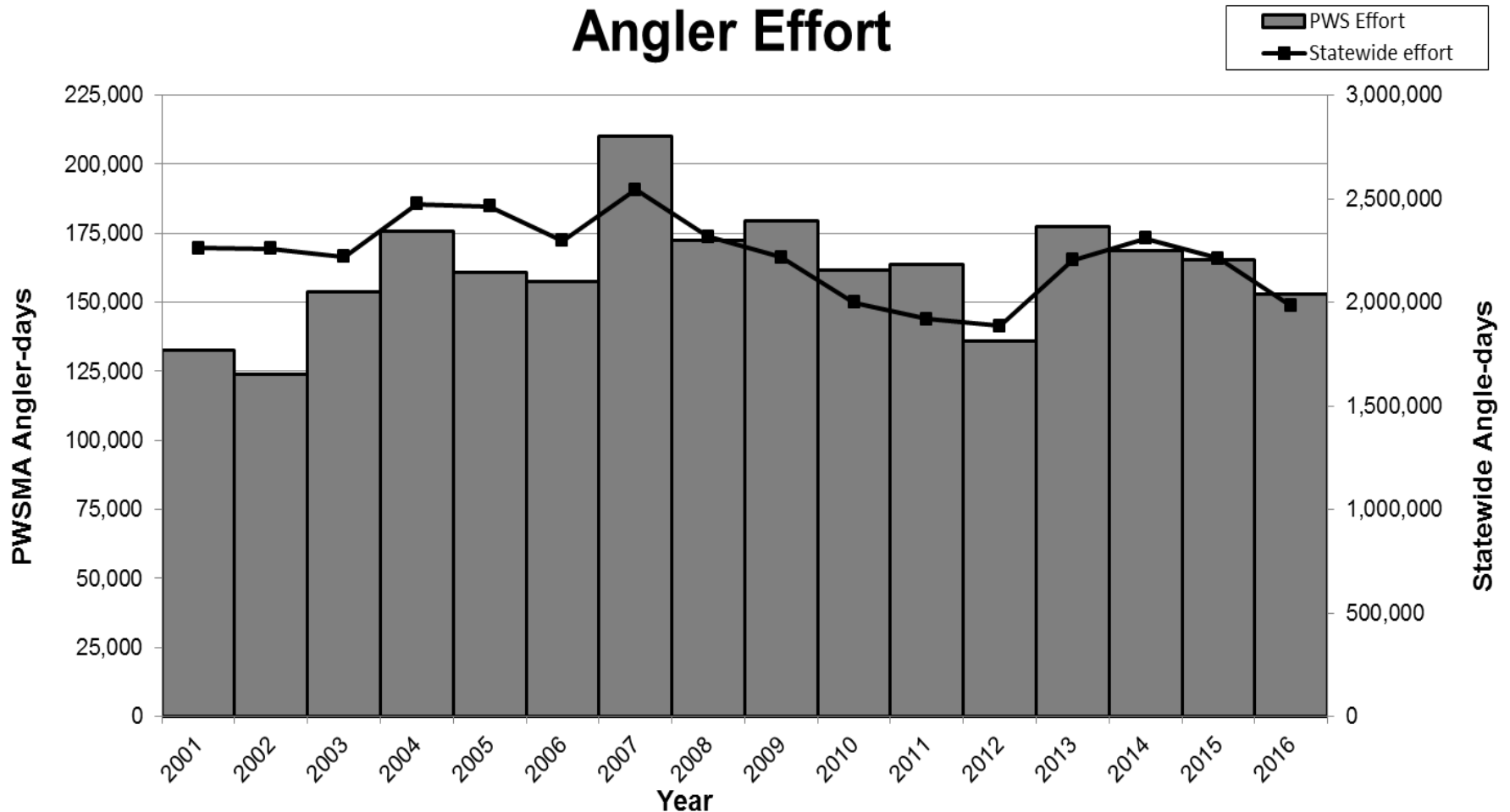
Presentation Roadmap

- Geographical location and access points.
- General description of sport fish users.
- Biological profile for select species.
- Sport fishing effort for select species.
- Brief outline of the specific sport fish BOF proposal.

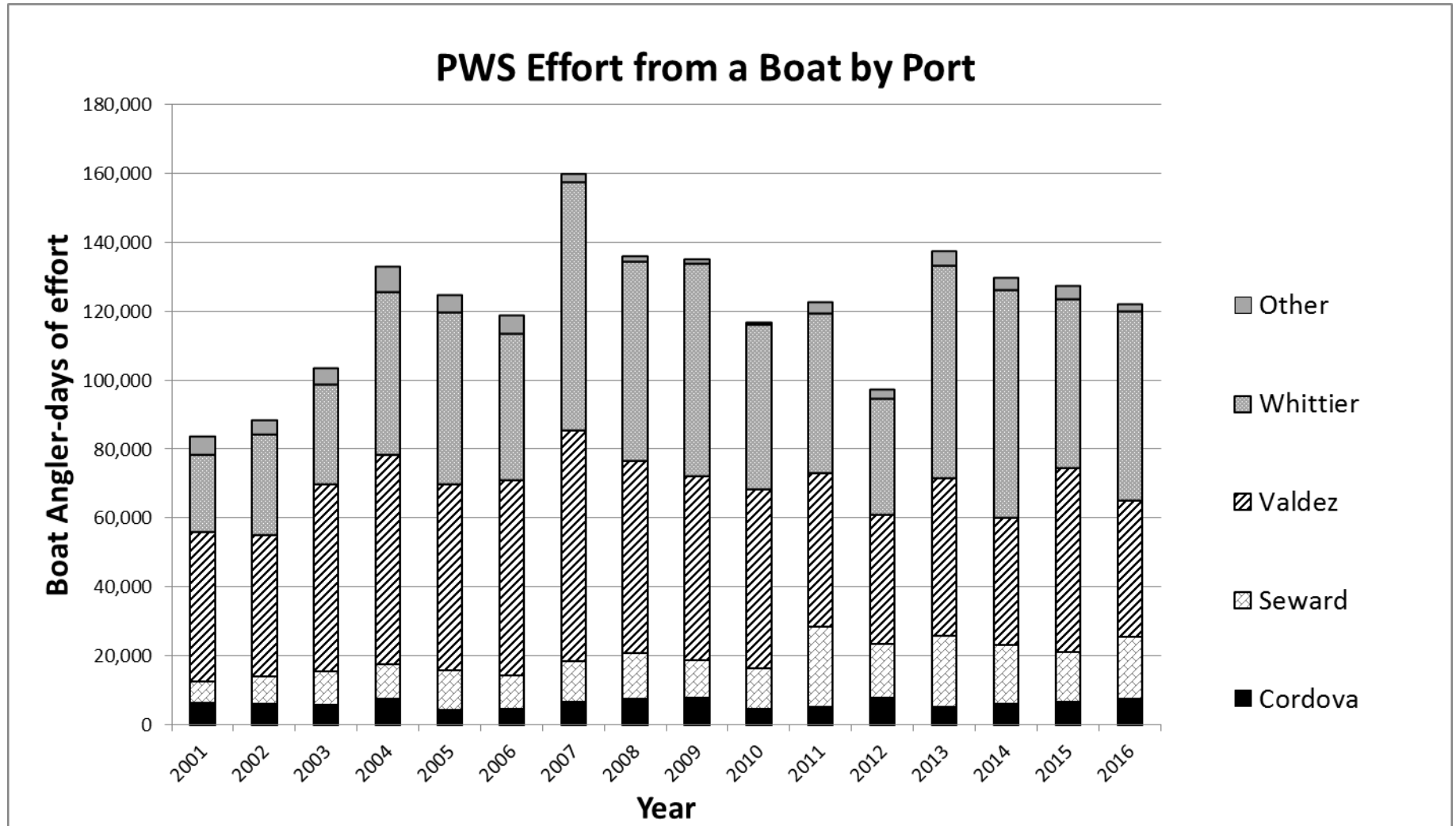


Sport Fishing Effort in PWS

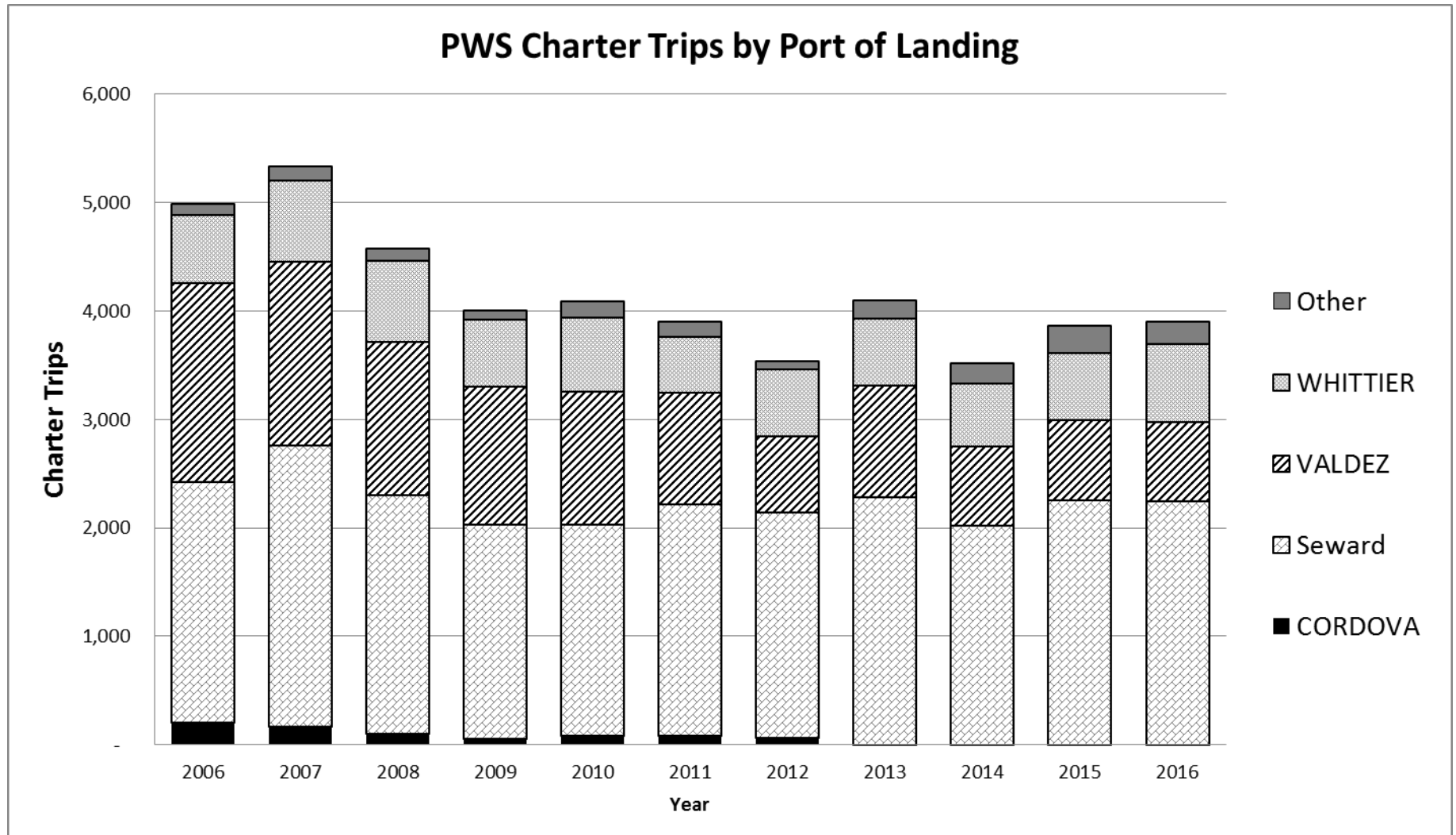
Angler Effort



Sport Fishing Effort from a Boat



Charter Trips in PWS



Species Profile:

Salmon (Coho Salmon)



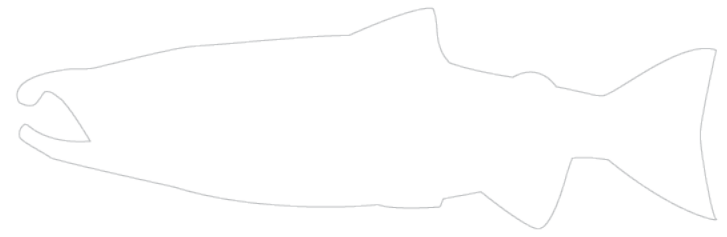
Lingcod



Rockfish



Coho



- Age: 1-2 year in fresh water, just over 1 year in salt water
- Spawning timing: August – November



Coho Salmon



General Regulations:

- 6 per day, 12 in possession; of which only 3 of those fish maybe coho salmon.

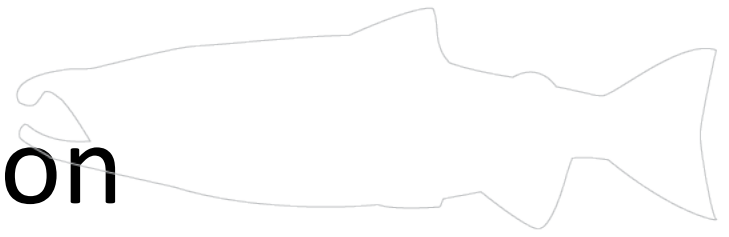
Copper River Delta Highway Streams:

- 3 per day, 3 in possession
- Aug 15-Sept 15: after harvesting a bag limit of coho salmon, a person may not sport fish with bait for the rest of the day in these waters.
- A coho salmon that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the anglers bag limit.

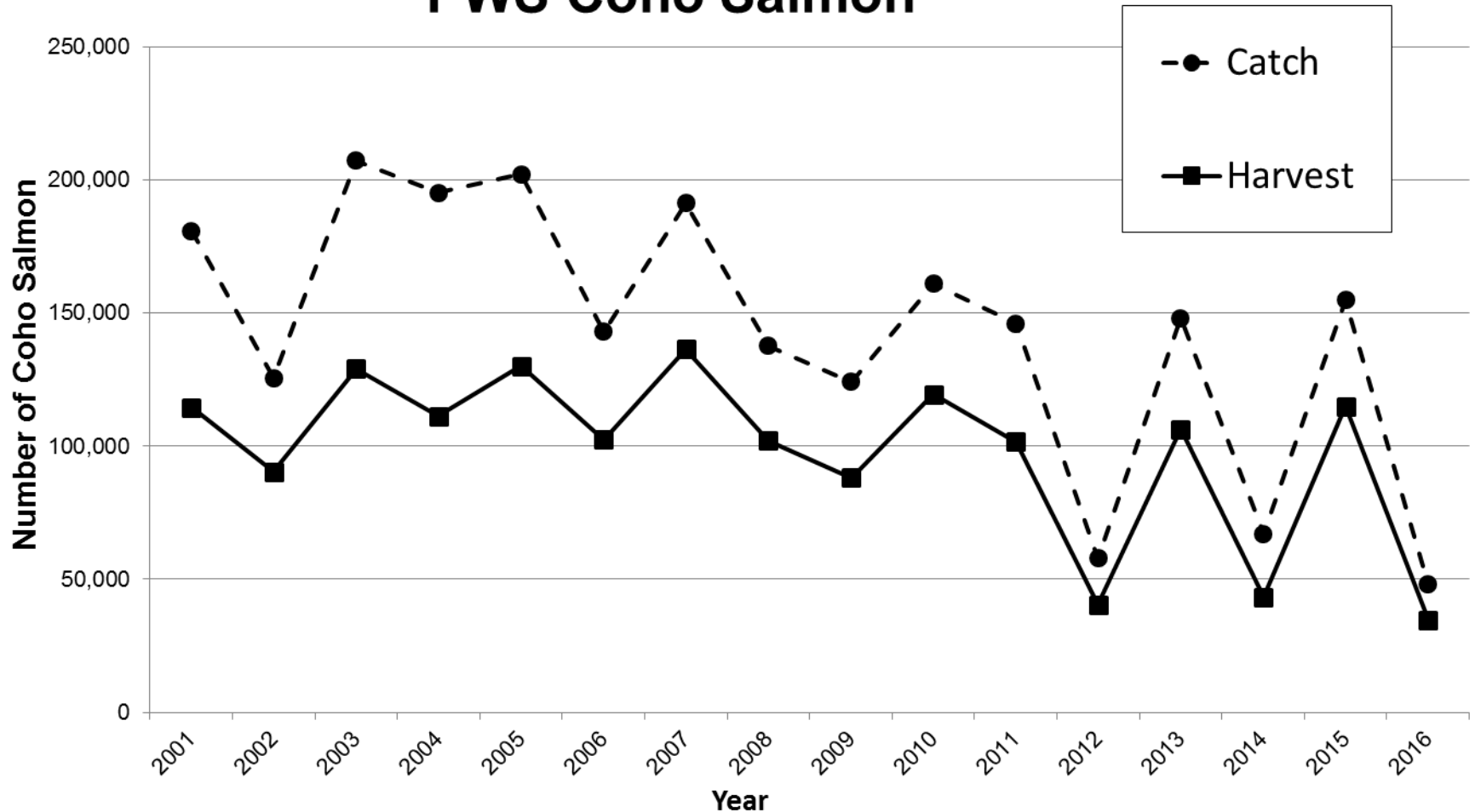
Terminal Harvest areas (Valdez, Cordova, Whittier, and Chenega)

- 6 per day, 12 in possession regardless of species

Coho Salmon



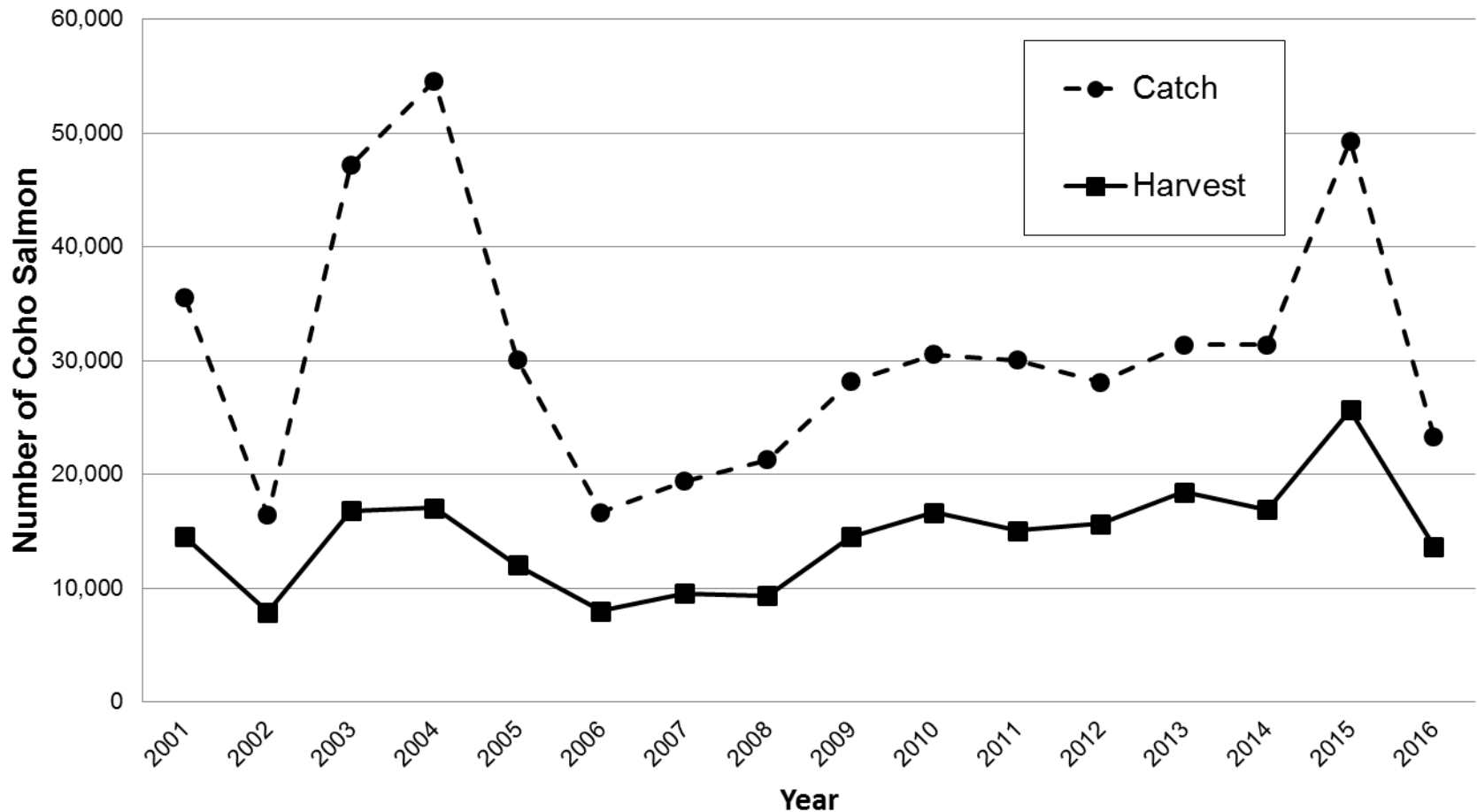
PWS Coho Salmon



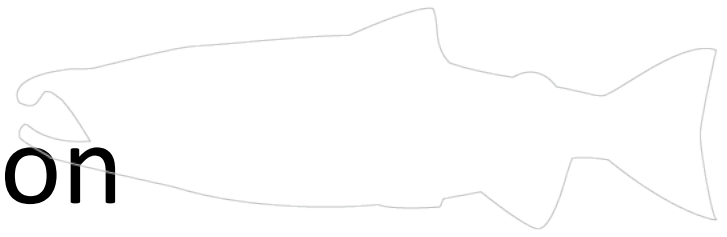
Coho Salmon



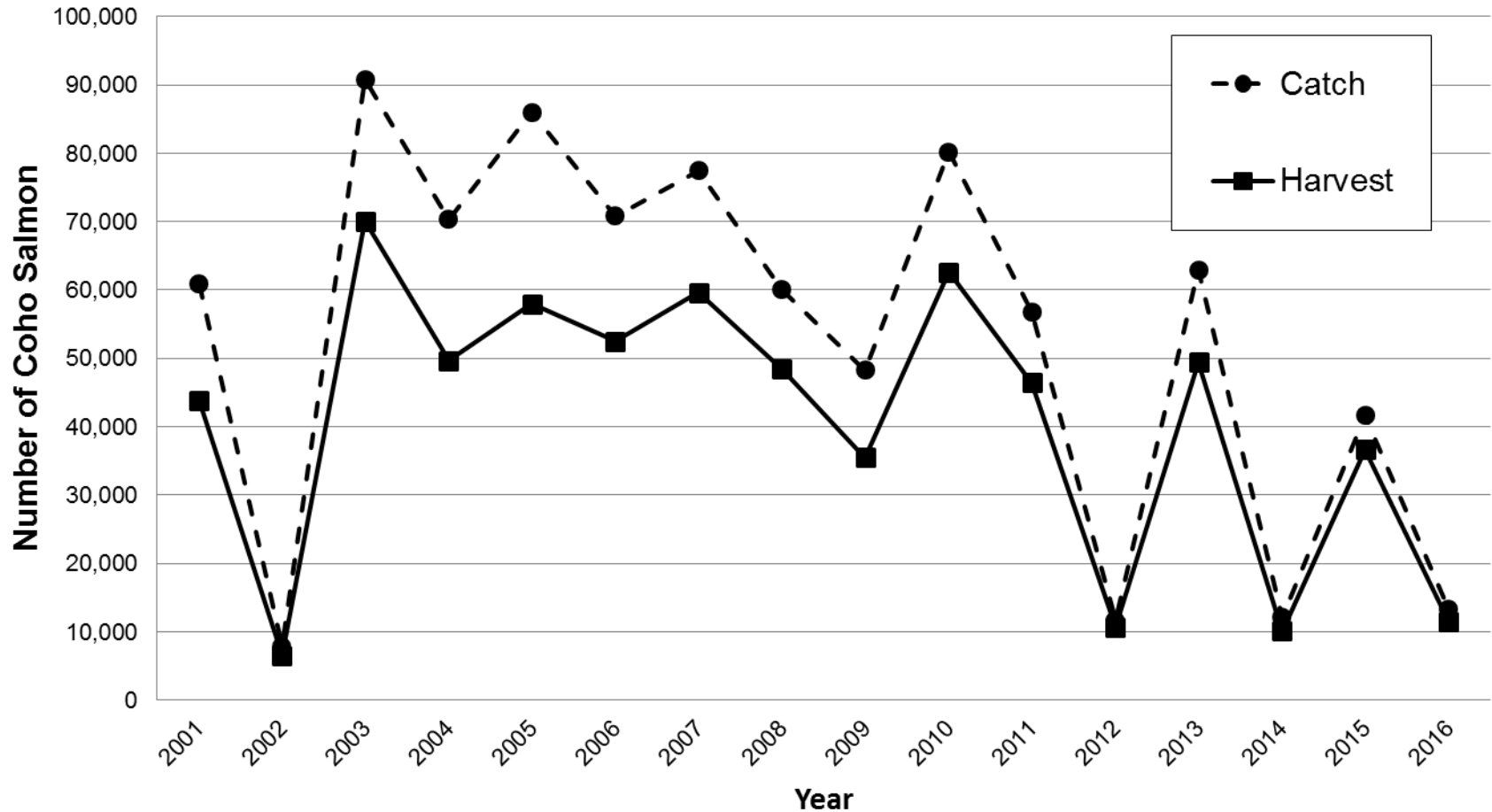
Cordova Road/Delta Coho Salmon



Coho Salmon



Valdez Area Coho Salmon



Lingcod



Average age of harvest is 15 years old.

➤ Habitat:

Rocky reefs from 30-300 ft.

Spawning occurs in the spring and males guard the nest.

➤ Fishing:

Typically caught jigging.



Lingcod

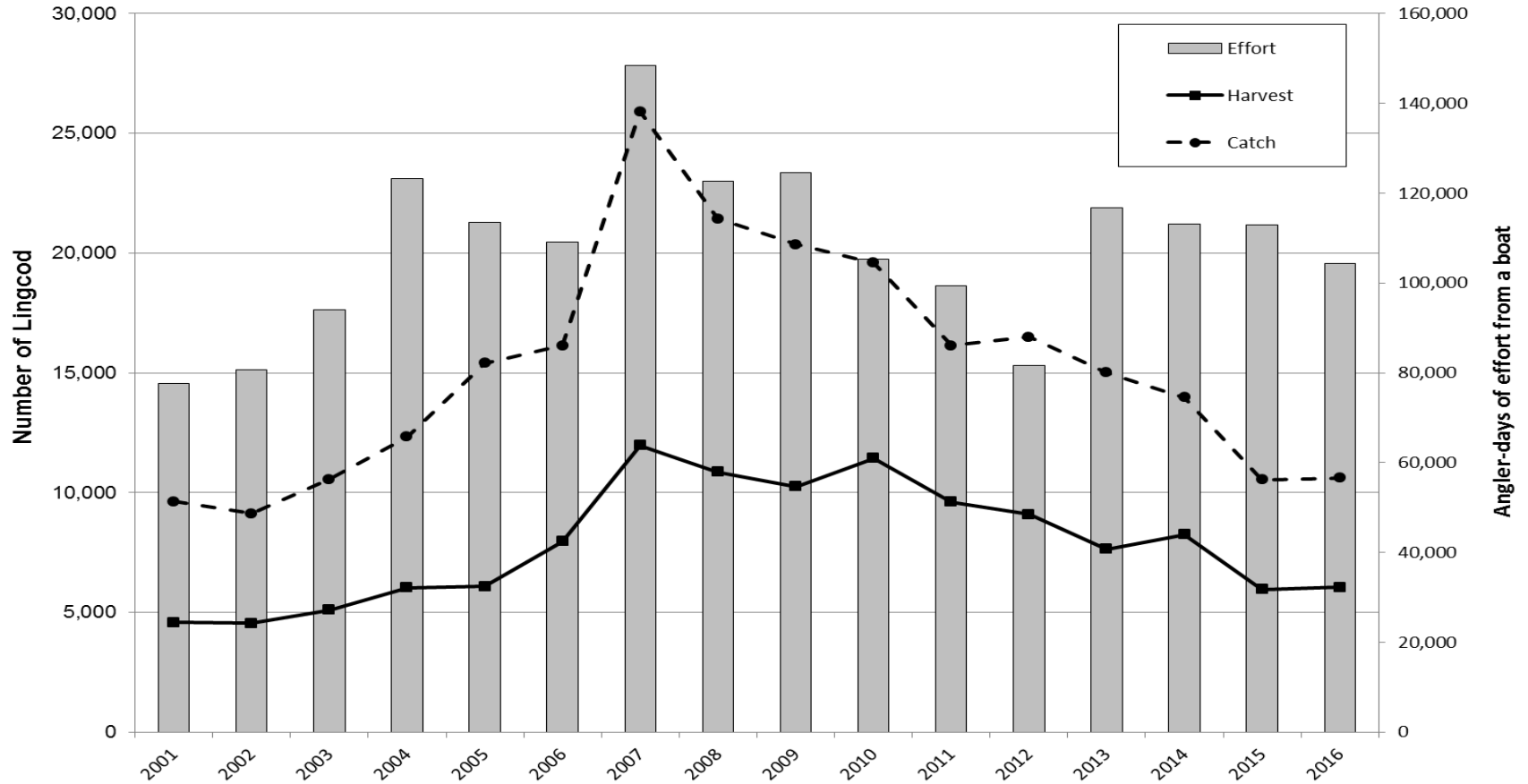


- Season is open from July 1-December 31:
- Minimum length of 35 inches long with head attached, or 28 inches or greater in length with head removed.
- 2 per day, 4 in possession

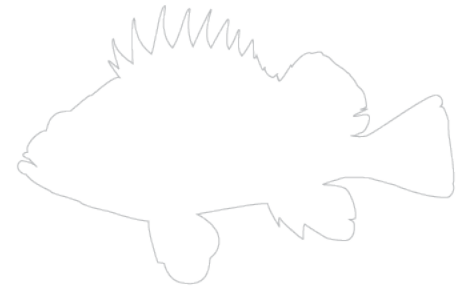
Lingcod



**Prince William Sound Lingcod
Catch and Harvest**



Rockfish



Pelagic (Chapter 75.995)

Most commonly caught species include: Black Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Yellowtail Rockfish, Dark Rockfish



Black Rockfish

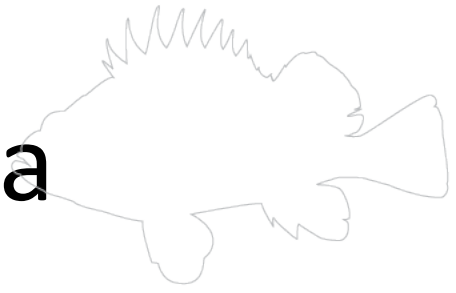
Nonpelagic (Chapter 75.995)

Most commonly caught species include: Yelloweye Rockfish, Quillback Rockfish, Silvergray Rockfish, Copper Rockfish, Tiger Rockfish, China Rockfish.



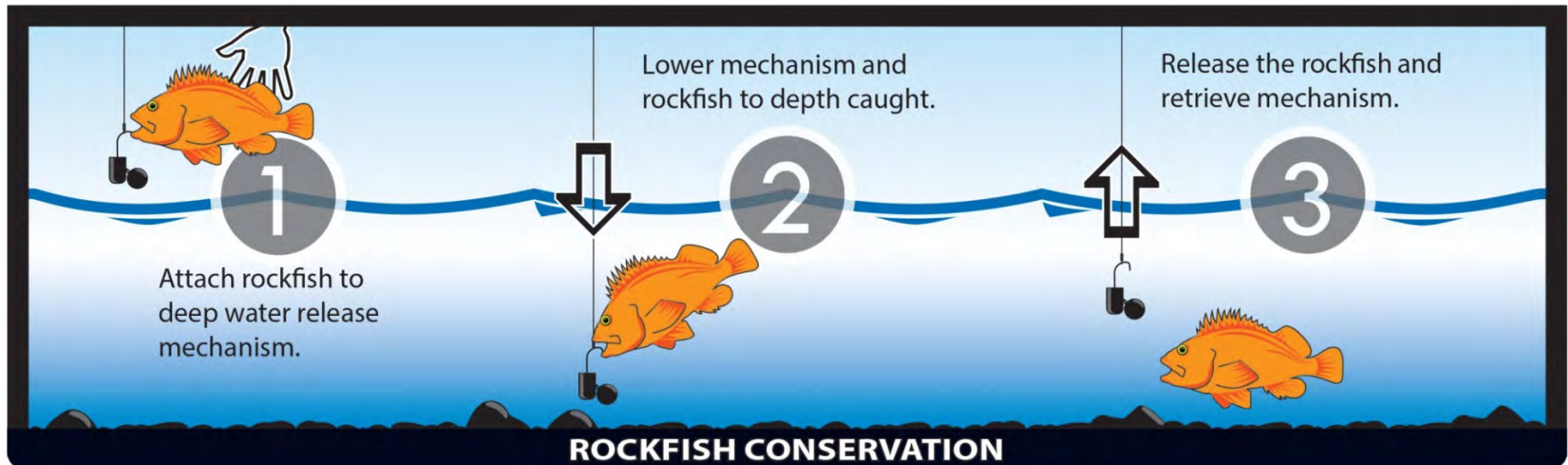
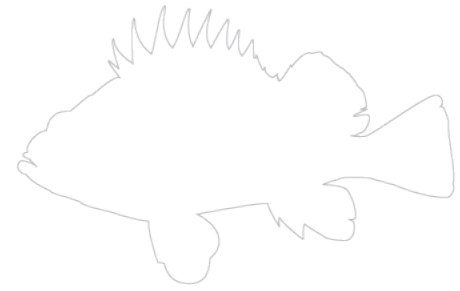
Yelloweye Rockfish

Rockfish - Barotrauma



Rockfish

Deep Water Release



Hochhalter, S. J., and D. J. Reed. 2011. The Effectiveness of Deepwater Release at Improving the Survival of Discarded Yelloweye Rockfish. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 31(5):852-860.

Hochhalter, S. J. 2012. Modeling submergence success of discarded yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) and quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*): toward improved estimation of total fishery removals. *Fisheries Research* 127-128: 142-147.

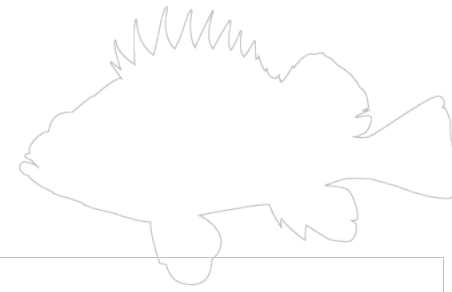
Blain, B. J. and T. M. Sutton. 2016. Reproductive Status and Blood Plasma Indicators of Sex and Gonad Maturation Status for Yelloweye Rockfish Following Barotrauma and Recompression Events. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 145(6):1234-1240.

Rockfish

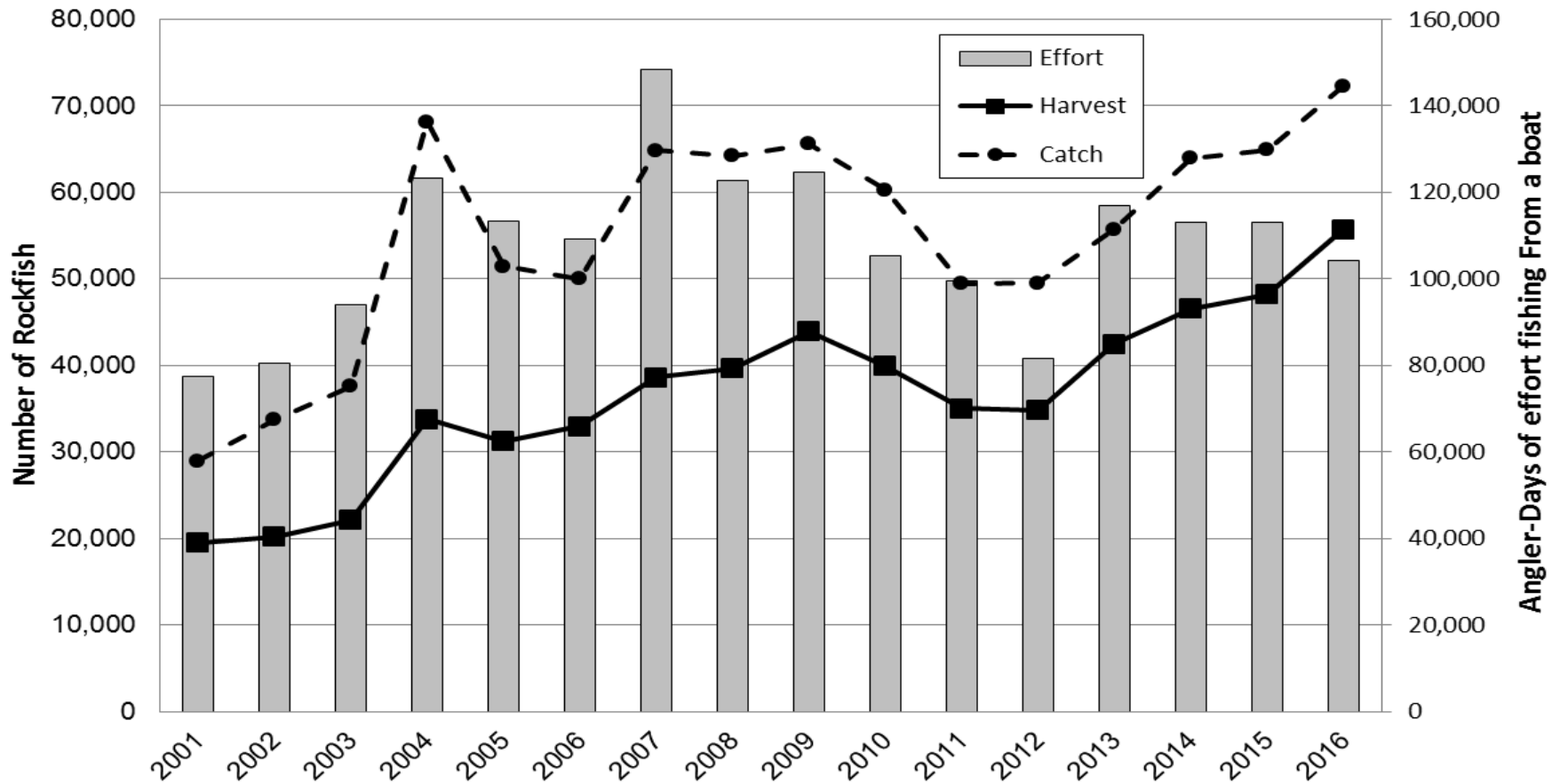


- The first two nonpelagic rockfish caught must be retained.
- May 1 – September 15
4 per day, 8 in possession, only 2 per day, 2 in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish.
- September 16 – April 30
8 per day, 8 in possession, only 2 per day, 2 in possession may be non pelagic.

Rockfish



**Prince William Sound Rockfish
Catch and Harvest**



List of PWS Sport Fish Proposal:

Lingcod

- Proposal #1 – Reduce the daily bag and possession limit for lingcod in PWS area.
- Proposal #2 – Reduce the daily bag and possession limit for lingcod in a portion of the PWS area.

Rockfish

- Proposal #3 – Modify and align bag and possession limits for rockfish in the PWS area.

Salmon

- Proposal #26 – Allow bow fishing for pink and coho salmon in the Valdez terminal harvest area.
- Proposal #27 – Remove a closed water provision for Clear Creek.

This information and more is available in the Sport Fish Area Management Report

Blain-Roth, B., J. Baumer, and S. Meyer. 2017. Sport fisheries in the Prince William Sound Management Area, 2014–2016. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 17-44, Anchorage.



Thank you