

# Prince William Sound Commercial Salmon Management Overview



A Report to the Alaska Board  
of Fisheries; December 2021  
Division of Commercial Fisheries

Heather Scannell  
Oral Report: RC 3 ; Tab 9  
Written Report: RC 3; Tab 4

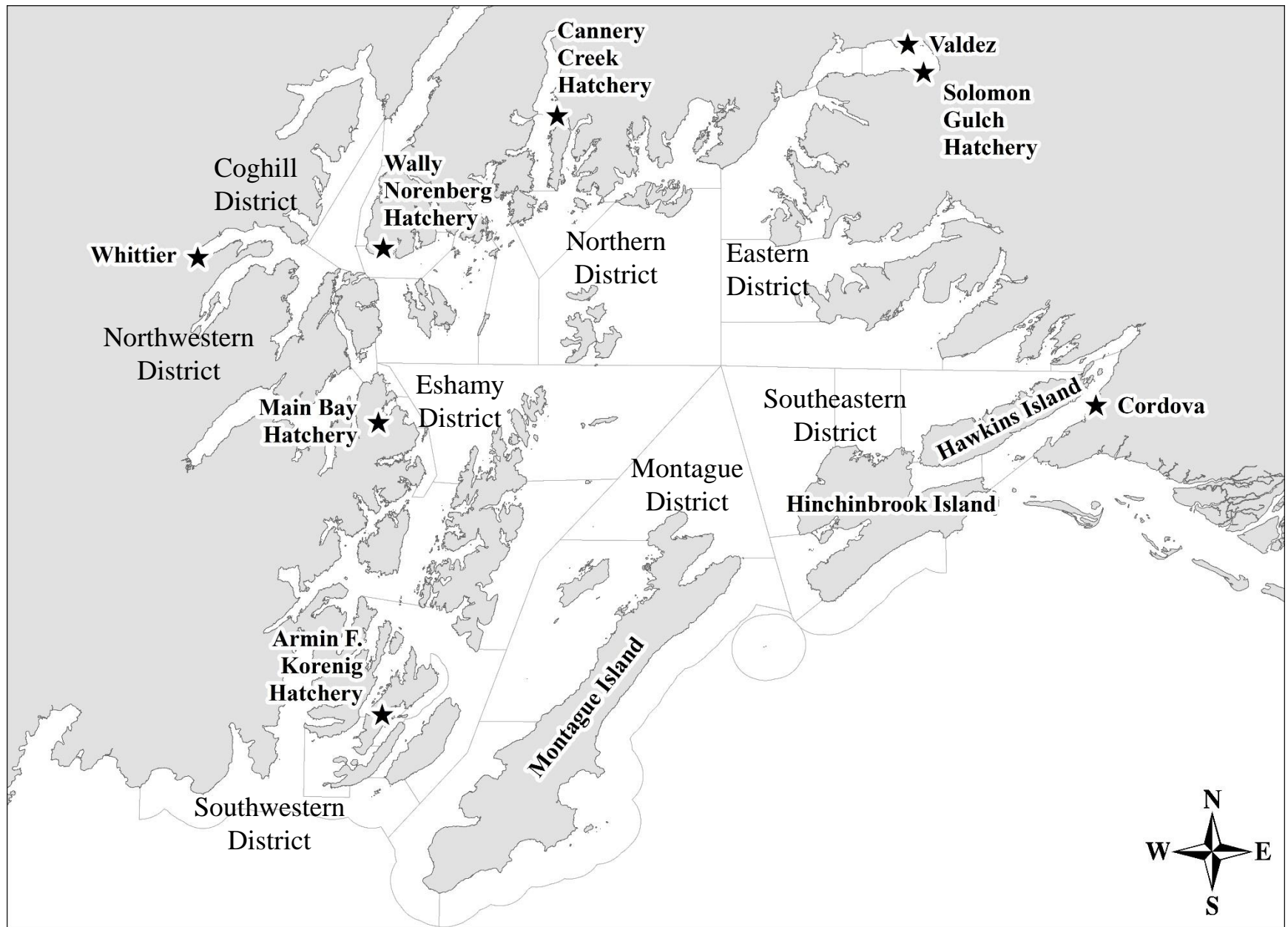


# Presentation Outline

- PWS Overview
- PWS Salmon Management
- Fisheries Assessment Tools
- 2018-2020 Season  
Summaries

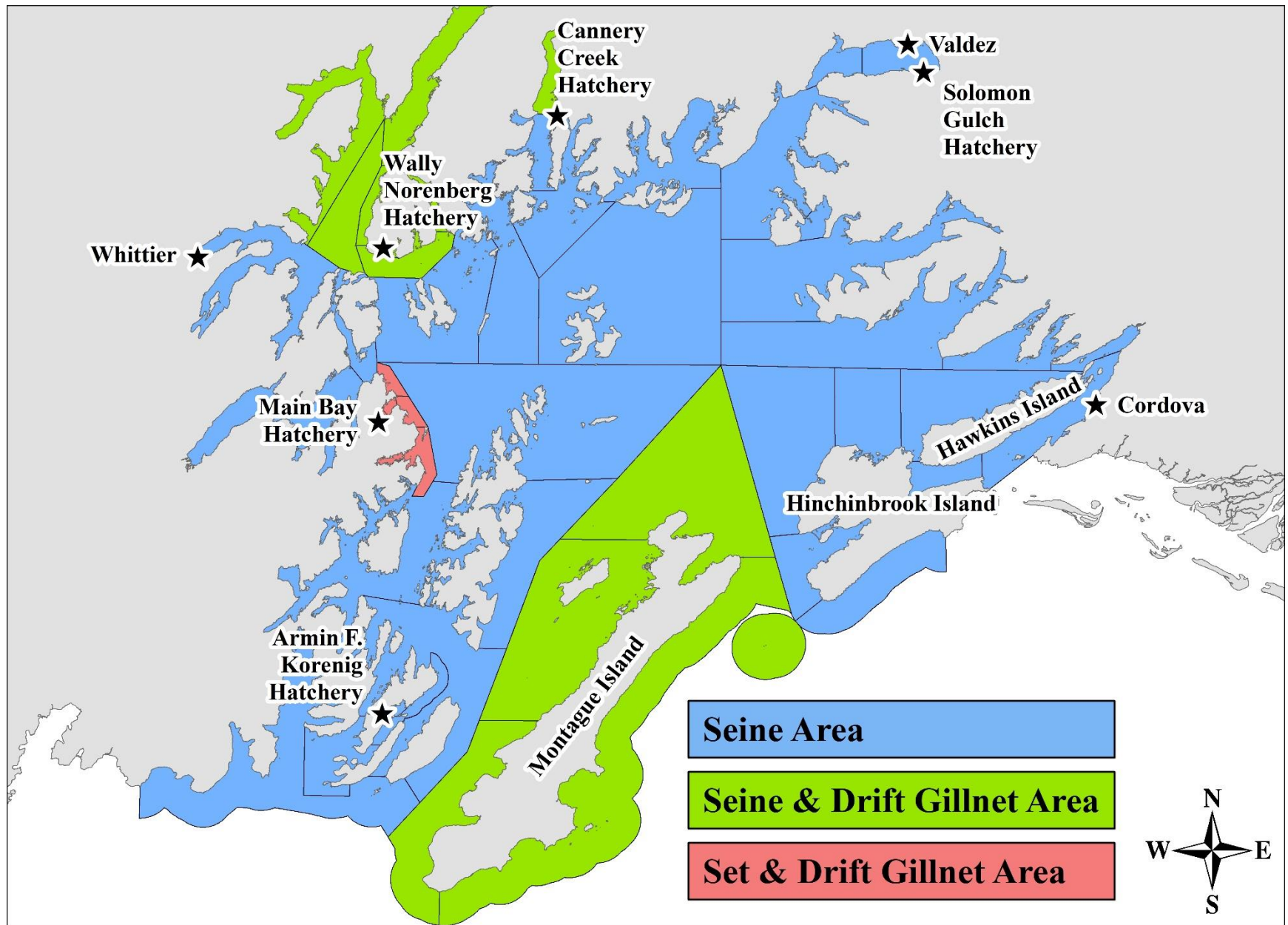


# PWS Salmon Districts



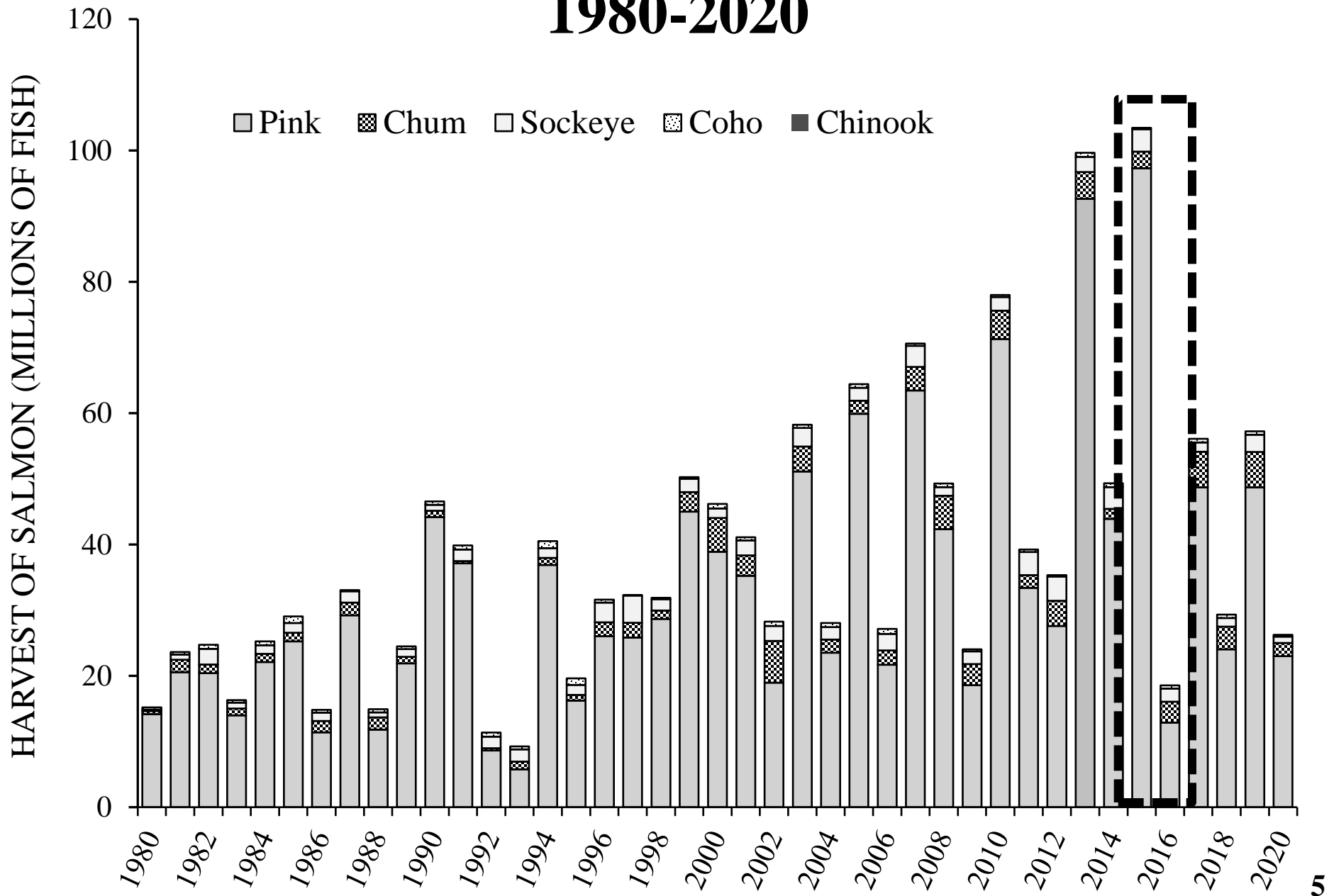


# Purse Seine and Drift/Set Gillnet Areas of PWS

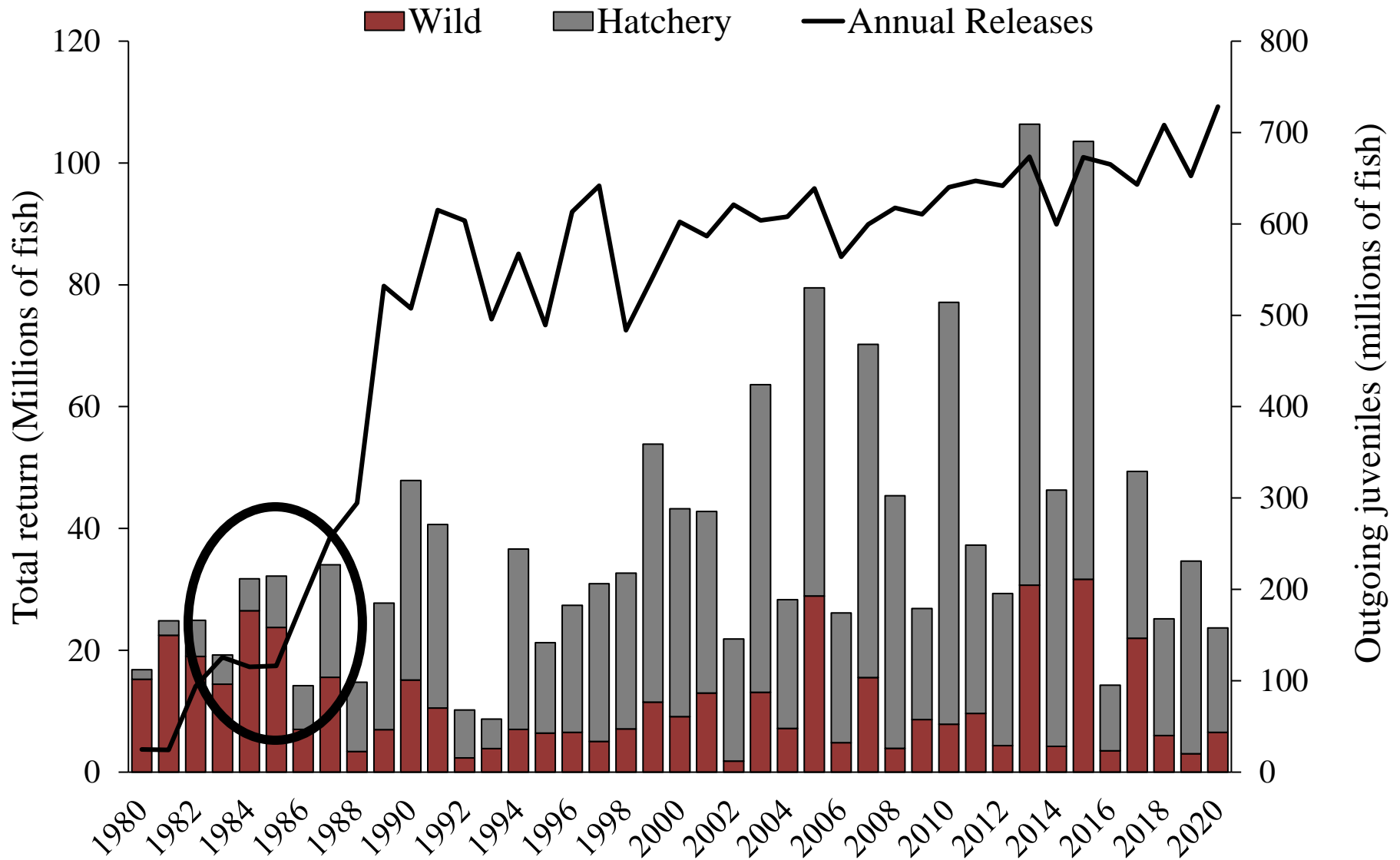


# PWS Commercial Salmon Harvests

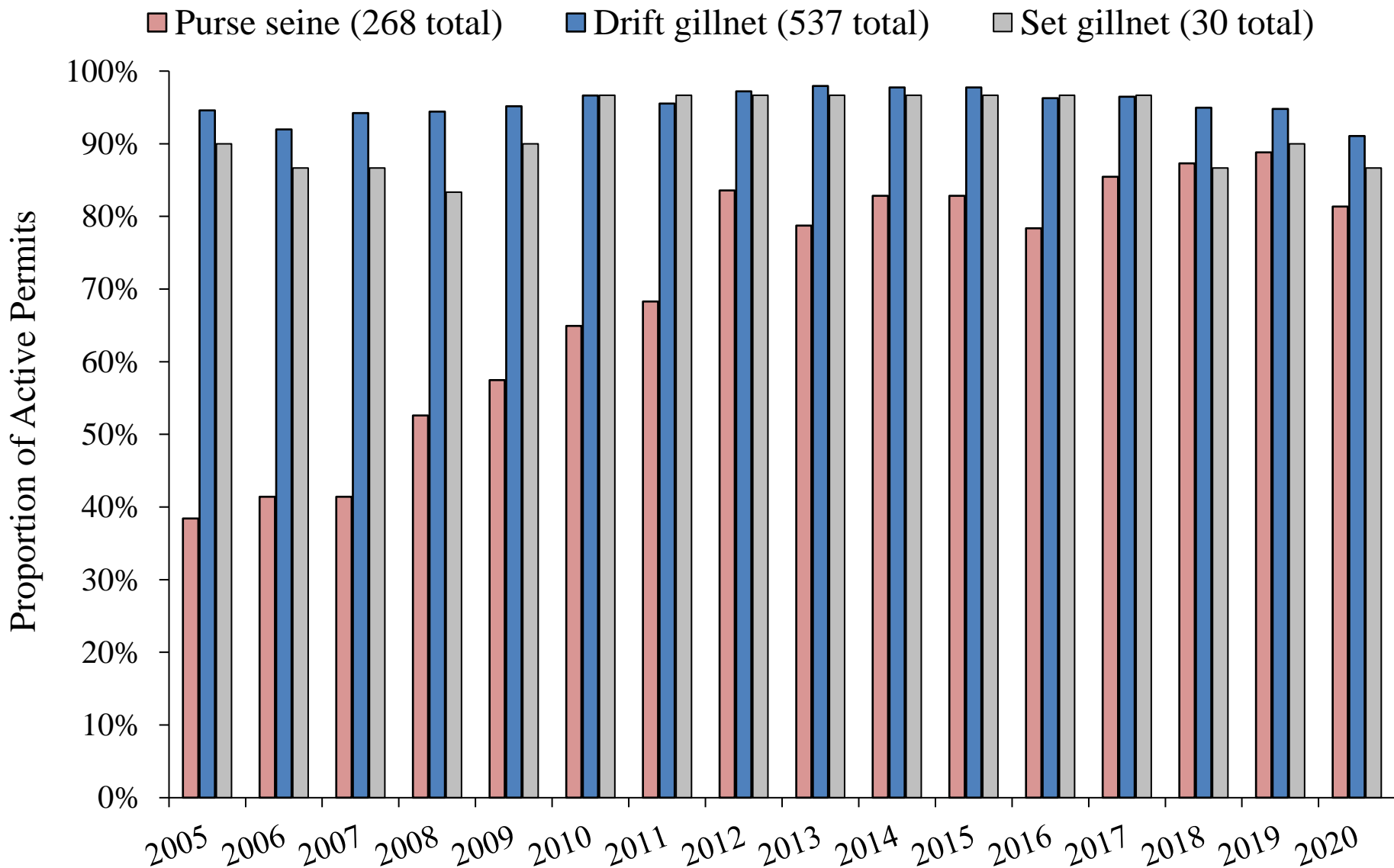
## 1980-2020



# Pink Salmon Stock Composition 1980-2020



# Permits Fished (2005-2020)



# PWS Fisheries Management

- Time and area to ensure:
  - Wild stock escapement
    - Regulatory closed waters
    - Salmon Harvest Task Force Markers
  - Hatchery cost recovery and broodstock
    - Daily recommendations from hatchery operators
    - Hatchery subdistricts, THAs and SHAs
  - Fleet focused on surplus
    - Fish quality
    - Disperse effort





# Prince William Sound Management and Allocation Plan

- Reduce conflict by providing a fair & reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among 3 gear groups.
- Maintain historical balances among user groups while acknowledging developments that have occurred since implementation (1991).

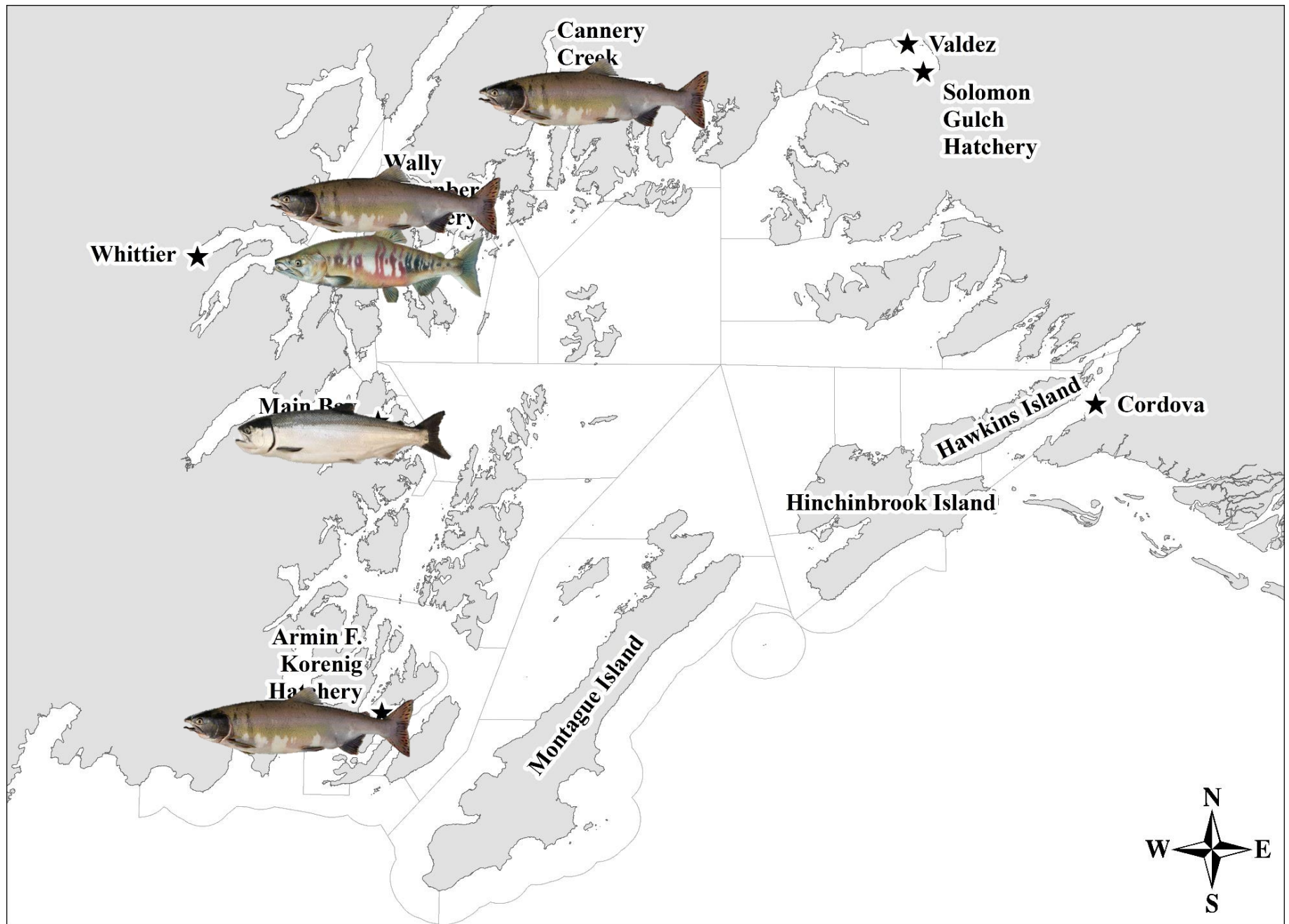


# Prince William Sound Management and Allocation Plan: Mechanisms

- Time and area restrictions consistent with fish species and gear group.
  - Western PWS corridor.
    - Chum/sockeye timing for drift gillnet vs. pink timing for seine fleet.

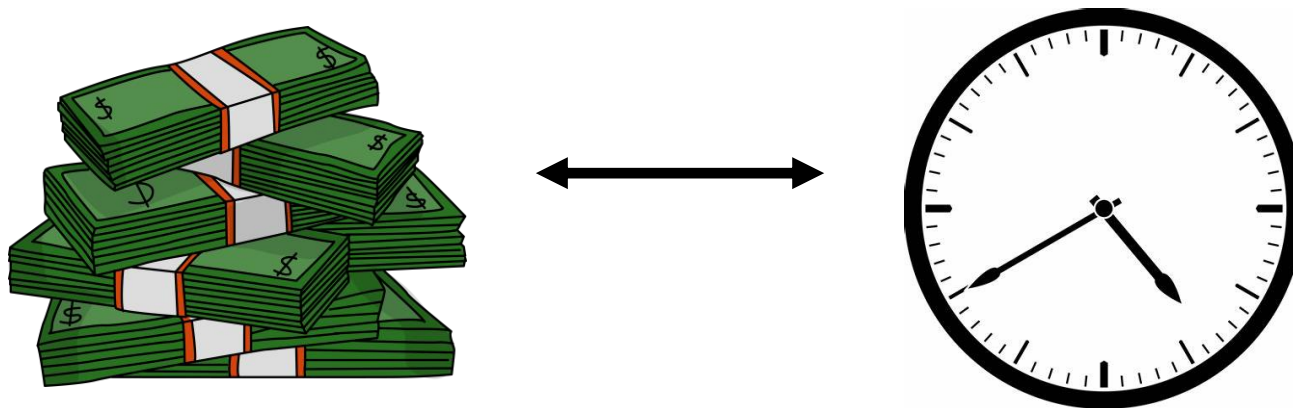


Time →





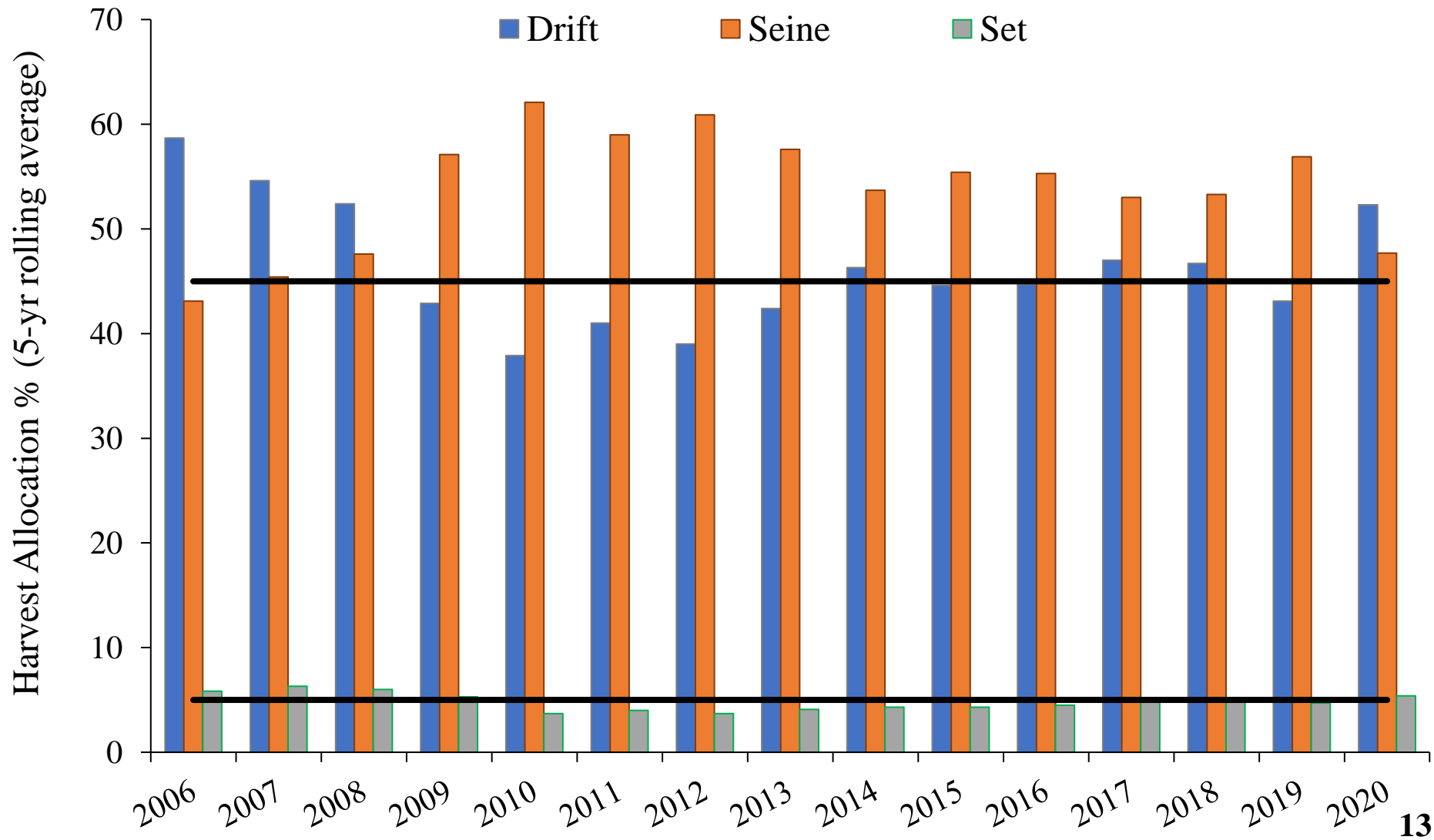
# Prince William Sound Management and Allocation Plan: Mechanisms



- Exclusive access to specific enhanced salmon stocks based on harvest value inequity.
  - Port Chalmers (drift gillnet) – Esther Subdistrict (purse seine).
  - Set gillnet and drift gillnet inequity in Eshamy District is mitigated via time restrictions.

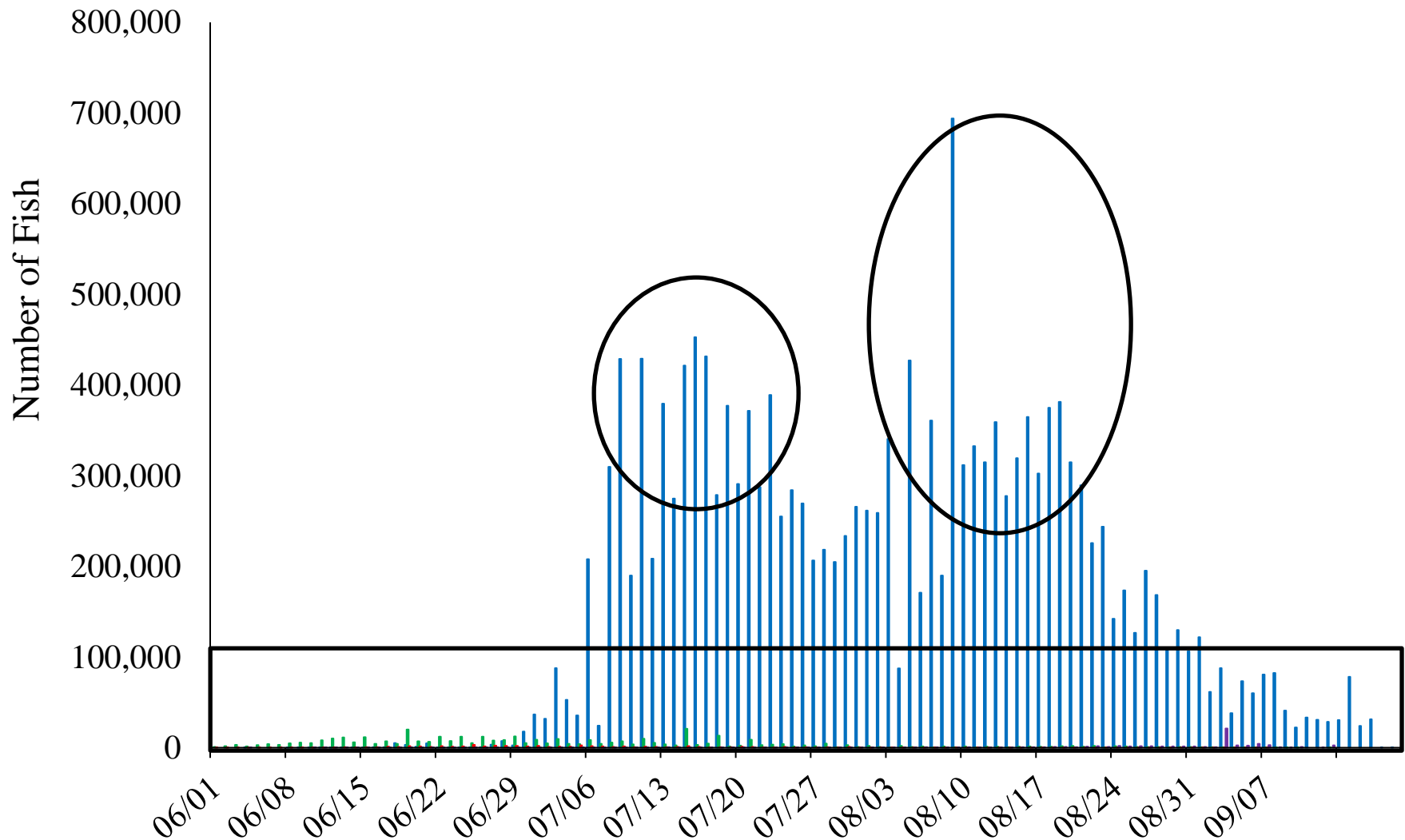
# Allocation Calculation

**Reminder:** Only PWSAC stocks are used in the calculation, wild stocks, including the Copper and Bering River Districts, and VFDA stocks are not included. Calculation uses a 5-year rolling average with adjustments made the year following the calculation.



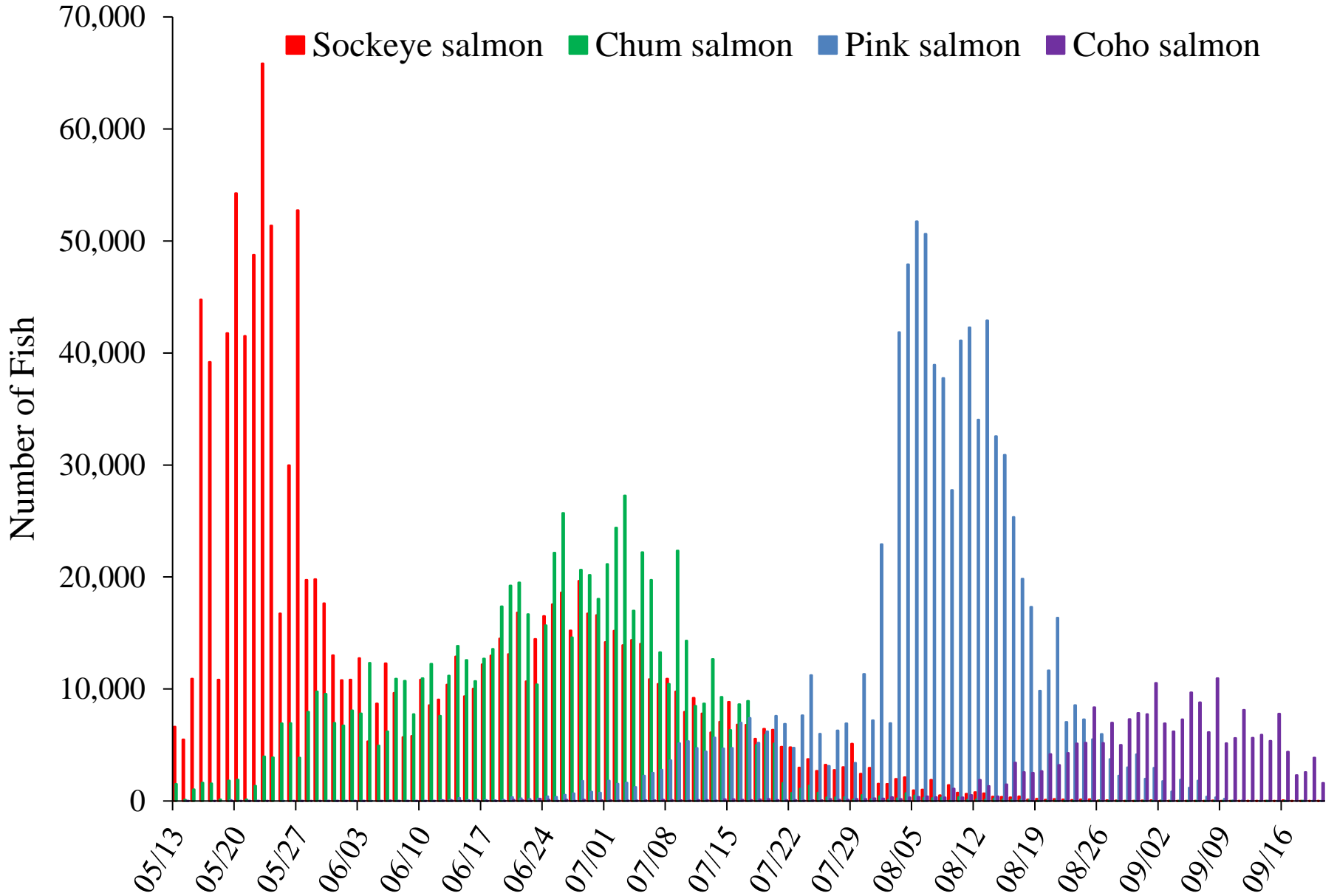
# Average Daily Purse Seine Salmon Harvest for PWS 2010-2020

■ Pink salmon ■ Chum salmon ■ Sockeye salmon ■ Coho salmon

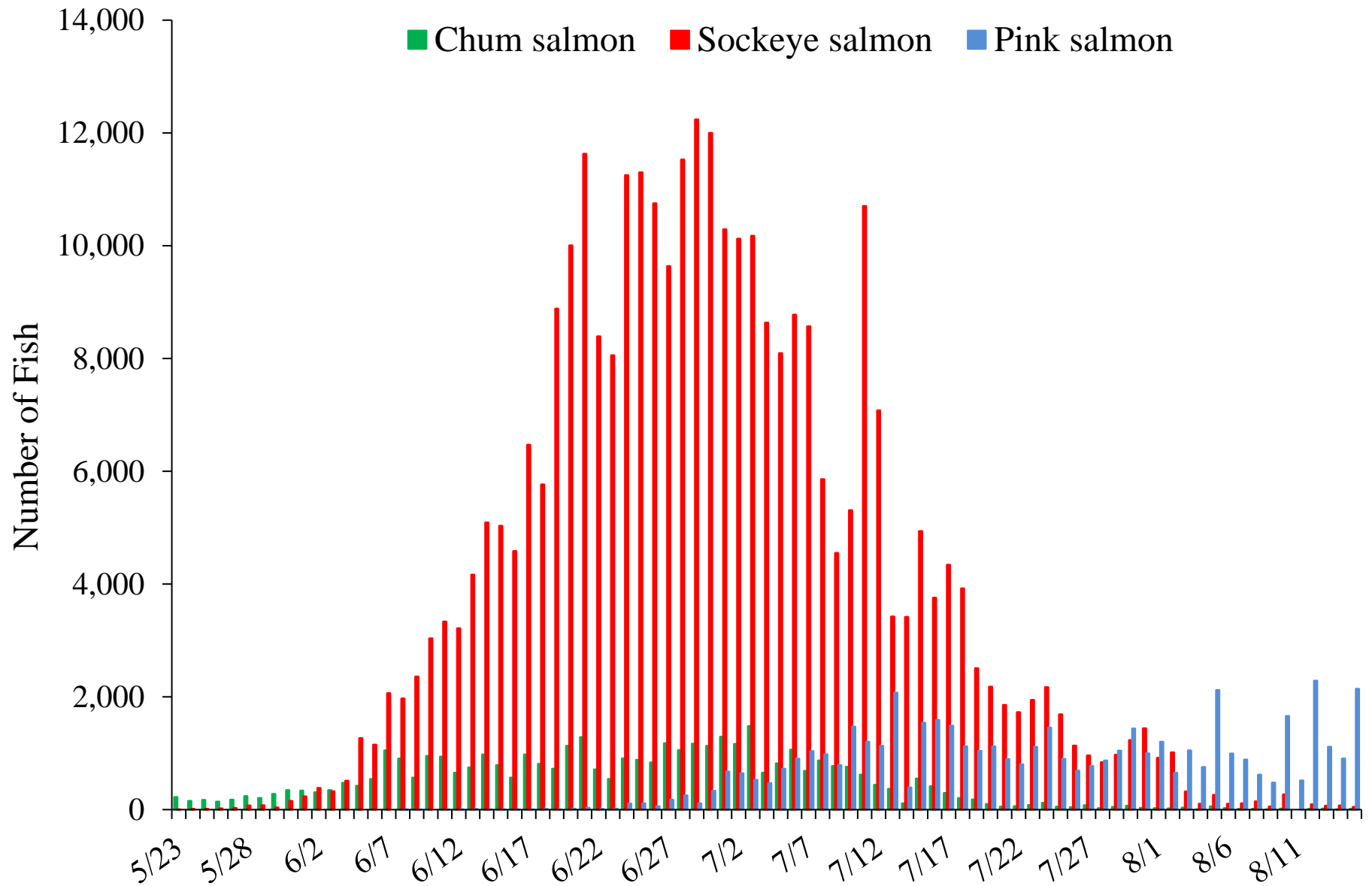




# Average Daily Drift Gillnet Salmon Harvest for PWS/Copper River 2010-2020



# Average Daily Set Gillnet Salmon Harvest for PWS 2010-2020



# Fishery Assessment Tools

- Escapement Monitoring
  - Coghill and Eshamy weirs & aerial surveys
- Sampling for Age, Sex, Length
- Otolith recovery for composition of harvest
- Daily harvest reporting



**FISH & GAME**  
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME  
GENERAL SALMON TICKET

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

ADF&G Amended Ticket  
Initial or Sign **A11 094655**

ADF&G NO.  
12345

Vessel Name **F/V Compass Rose**

Fishery **SALMON DRIFT PWS**

Name **JANE FISHER**

Permit Number **S03E 54321 K 12345**

2101 V 98765 G 80

Tender ADF&G No. **76543**

Date Landed **06/17/21** Date Caught **06/17/21**

Proc. Code **F12233 7 2021**

Company **ALASKA CANNERY CO**

Area Caught **Port Wells**  
(Nearest bay or headland)

STATISTICAL AREA  
Stat. Area **223-12** %

Salmon - Deliv. Code is required. See Ticket Book Cover for instructions.

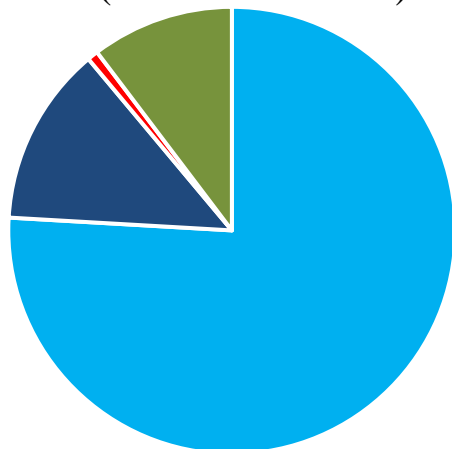
SPECIES	CODE	DELIV. CODE	NO. OF FISH	POUNDS	PRICE	AMOUNT
Kings	410	03	1	12		
Reds	420	03	27	162		
Cohos	430					
Pinks	440	03	274	1,127		
Chums	450					

Salmon Roe and Other Species - Species Code and Deliv. Code required.



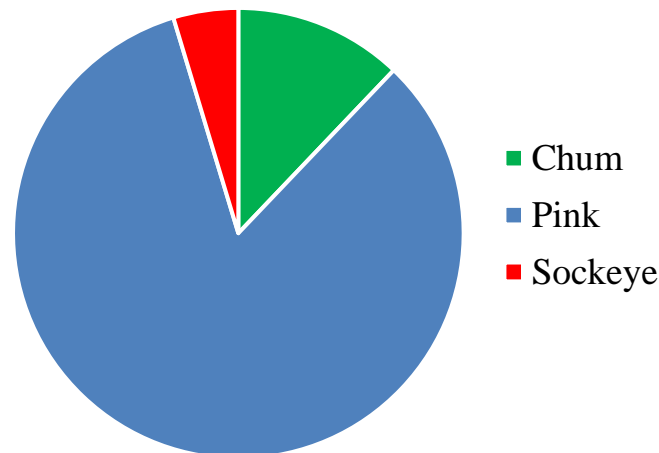
# 2018 Commercial Fishing Season

Harvest by Gear Group  
(27.3 million fish)



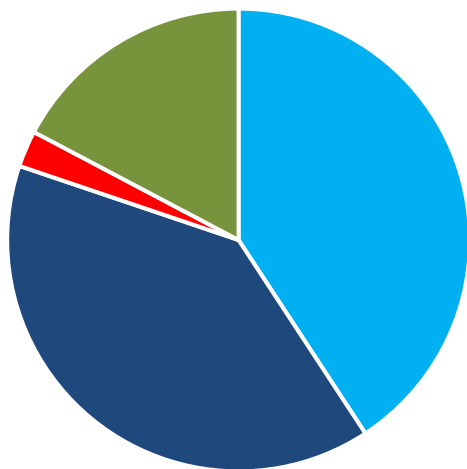
■ Purse seine  
■ Drift gillnet  
■ Set gillnet  
■ Hatchery

Harvest by Species



■ Chum  
■ Pink  
■ Sockeye

Harvest Value by Gear Group  
(\$94.4 million)

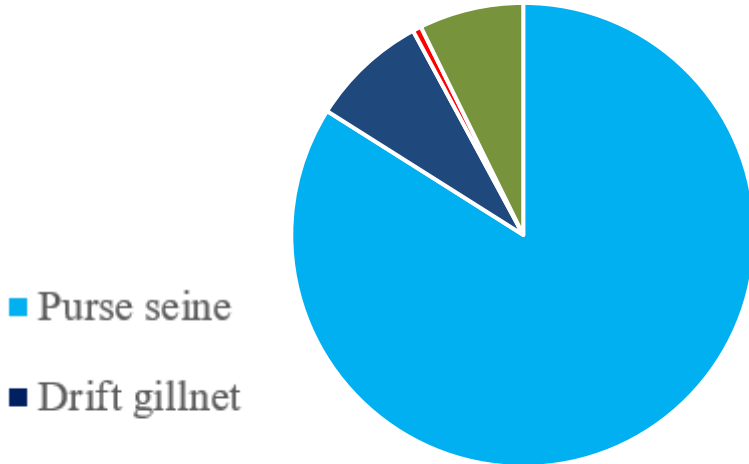


## Highlights

- Gillnet and purse seine harvest and exvessel value below average.
- Pink salmon escapement made in all 8 districts.
- Chum salmon escapement made in 3 out of 5 districts.

# 2019 Commercial Fishing Season

Harvest by Gear Group  
(53 million fish)



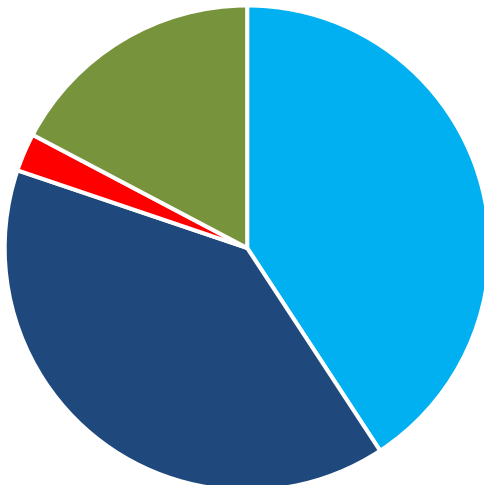
■ Purse seine

■ Drift gillnet

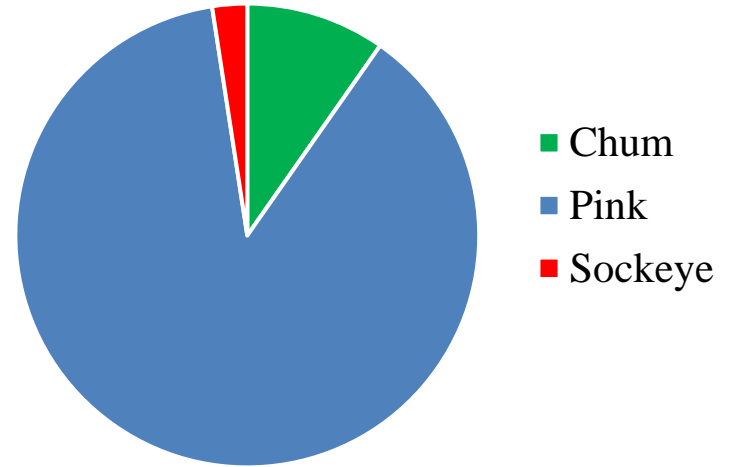
■ Set gillnet

■ Hatchery

Harvest Value by Gear Group  
(\$94.4 million)



Harvest by Species



■ Chum

■ Pink

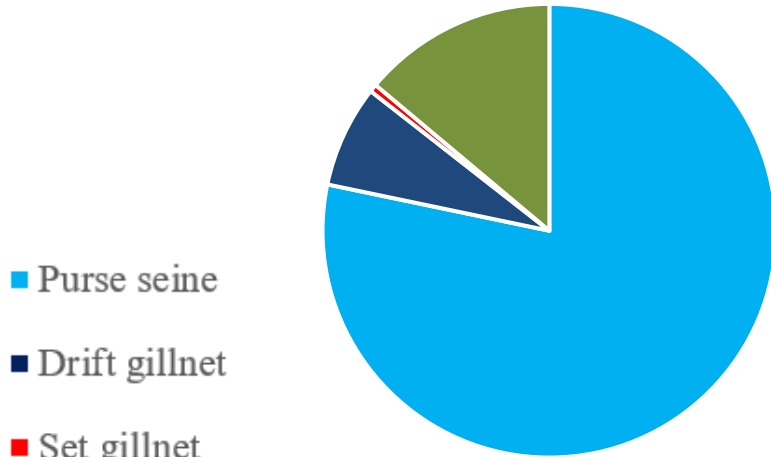
■ Sockeye

## Highlights

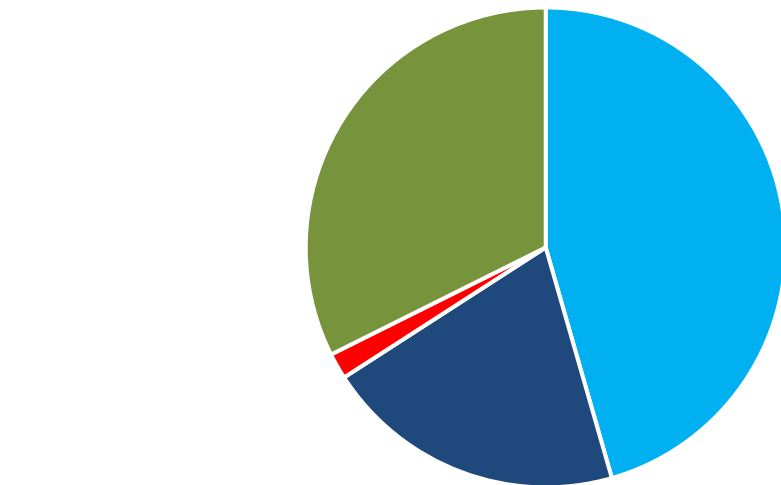
- Gillnet harvest and exvessel were average.
- Purse seine odd-year harvest slightly below average.
  - Significant drought impacted purse seine season, led to conservative management.
- Pink salmon escapement made in 5 of 8 districts.
- Chum salmon escapement made in 1 out of 5 districts.

# 2020 Commercial Fishing Season

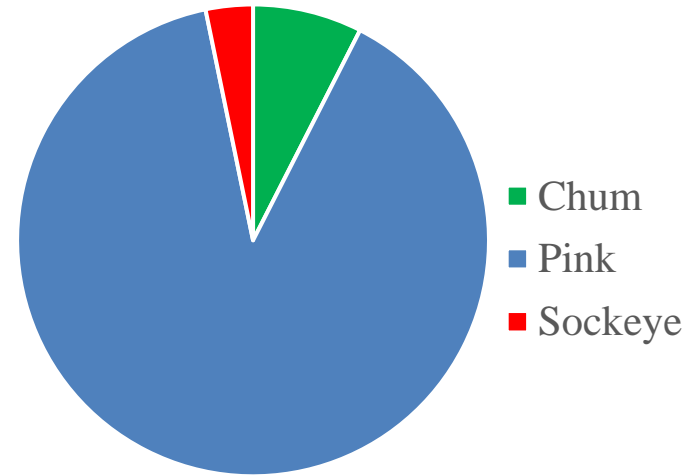
Harvest by Gear Group  
(24 million fish)



Harvest Value by Gear Group  
(\$50.8 million)



Harvest by Species



## Highlights

- Gillnet harvest and exvessel values at historic lows.
- Purse seine even-year harvest below average.
- Pink salmon escapement made in all 8 districts.
- Chum salmon escapement made in 3 out of 5 districts.





# Acknowledgments

- ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Staff
- Jeremy Botz
- Jenni Morella
- Kyle Gatt
- Matt Nemeth
- Bert Lewis