

# Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Policy Review and Public Input

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

Olympia, Washington

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Fish Program

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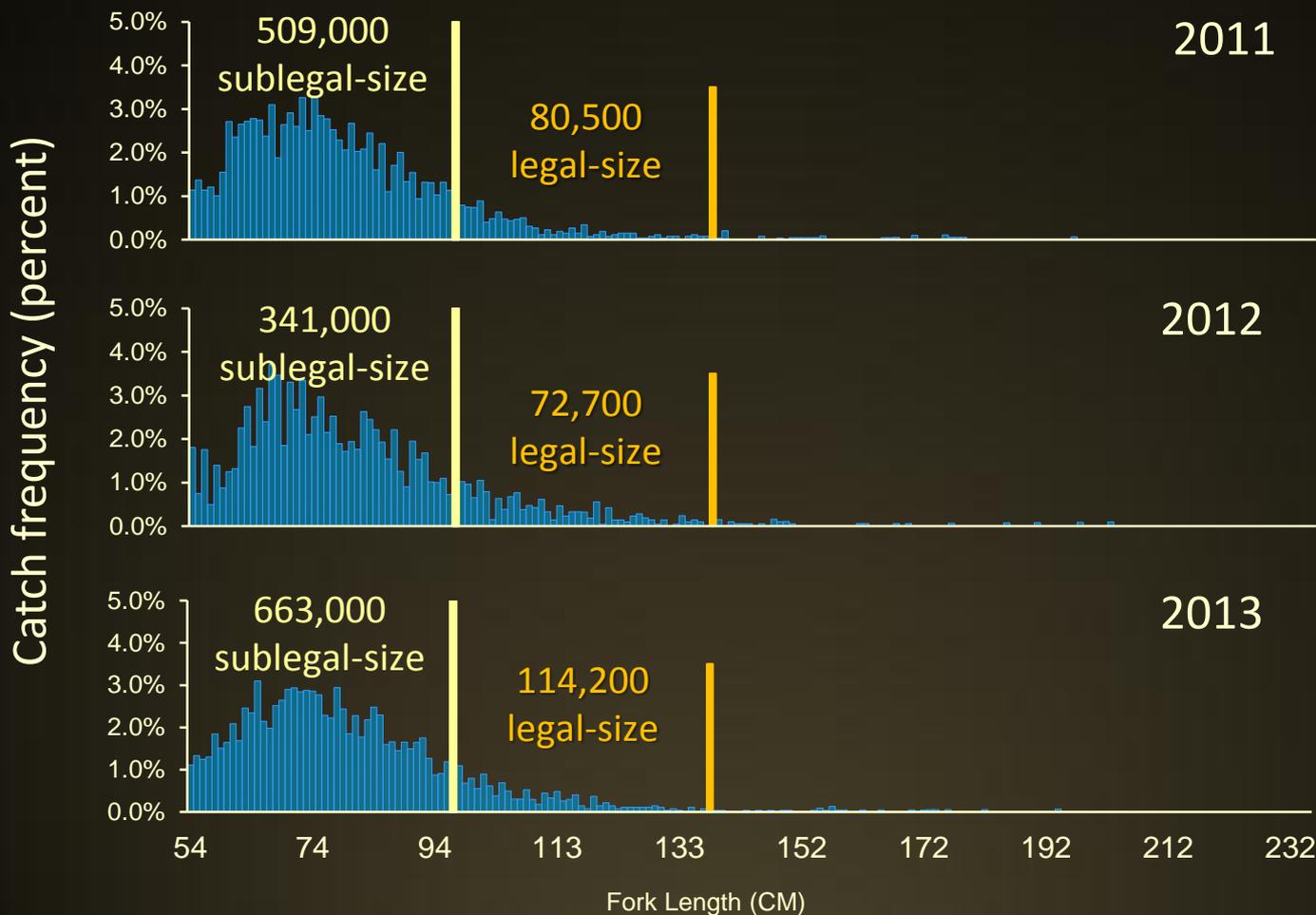
# Purpose

- Review draft revised policy and receive public input
- Current policy expired December 31, 2013
- Draft revised policy includes minor changes – mostly re-organized

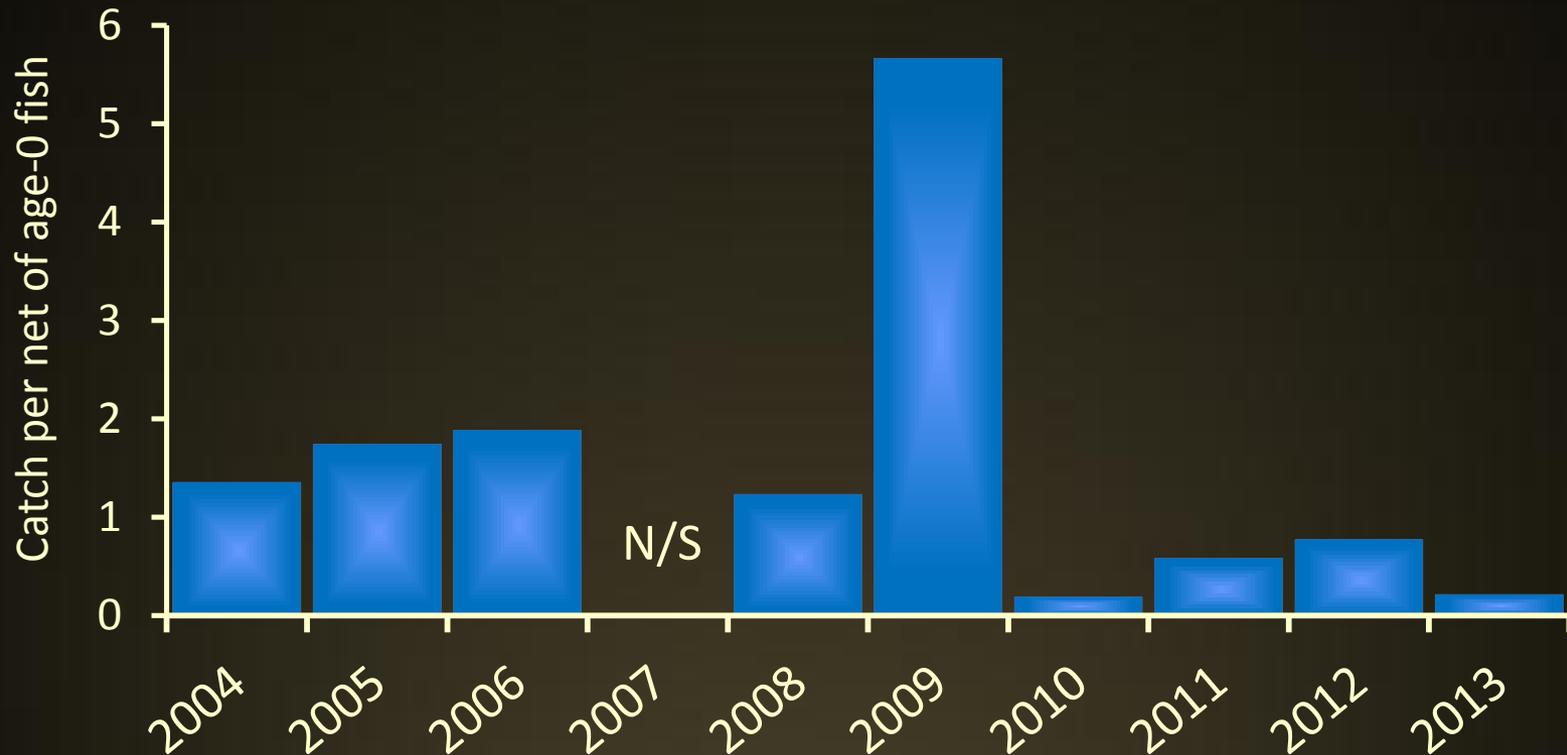
# Annual Review Topics

- Stock status
- Predation rates
- Review in-season management actions
- Accounting of fish left unharvested
- Review of harvest outside lower Columbia River
- By-catch in all fisheries
- Recommended management changes
- Other pertinent information

# Setline Catch-Frequency by Size



# Sub-Yearling Production Index



# Sturgeon Policy – Purpose

- The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for management of the lower Columbia River white sturgeon population and fisheries.

# Sturgeon Policy – Definition and Intent

- The Lower Columbia River white sturgeon population inhabits the waters of the Columbia River and tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam and migrates into ocean and coastal estuaries. The intent of the policy is to provide consistent management guidelines that promote a healthy population.

# Sturgeon Policy – General Policy Statement

- Manage the Lower Columbia River white sturgeon population with conservation and fishery management objectives that are consistent with a healthy population.

# Sturgeon Policy – Policy Guidelines

- Conservation Objectives
- Fishery Management Objectives
- Annual Review
- Delegation of Authority

# Public Input

- No public input on draft policy.
- Comments from public regarding sturgeon fisheries for 2014.
  - About equal support for/against retention fishery

# Other Information

## Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

- Adopted 2-fish annual limit effective May 1, 2013
- Adopted retention prohibition for Columbia River and tributaries below Bonneville Dam and for Oregon coastal estuaries and river systems, effective Jan. 1, 2014
- Both regulations consistent with WDFW

# Thank You



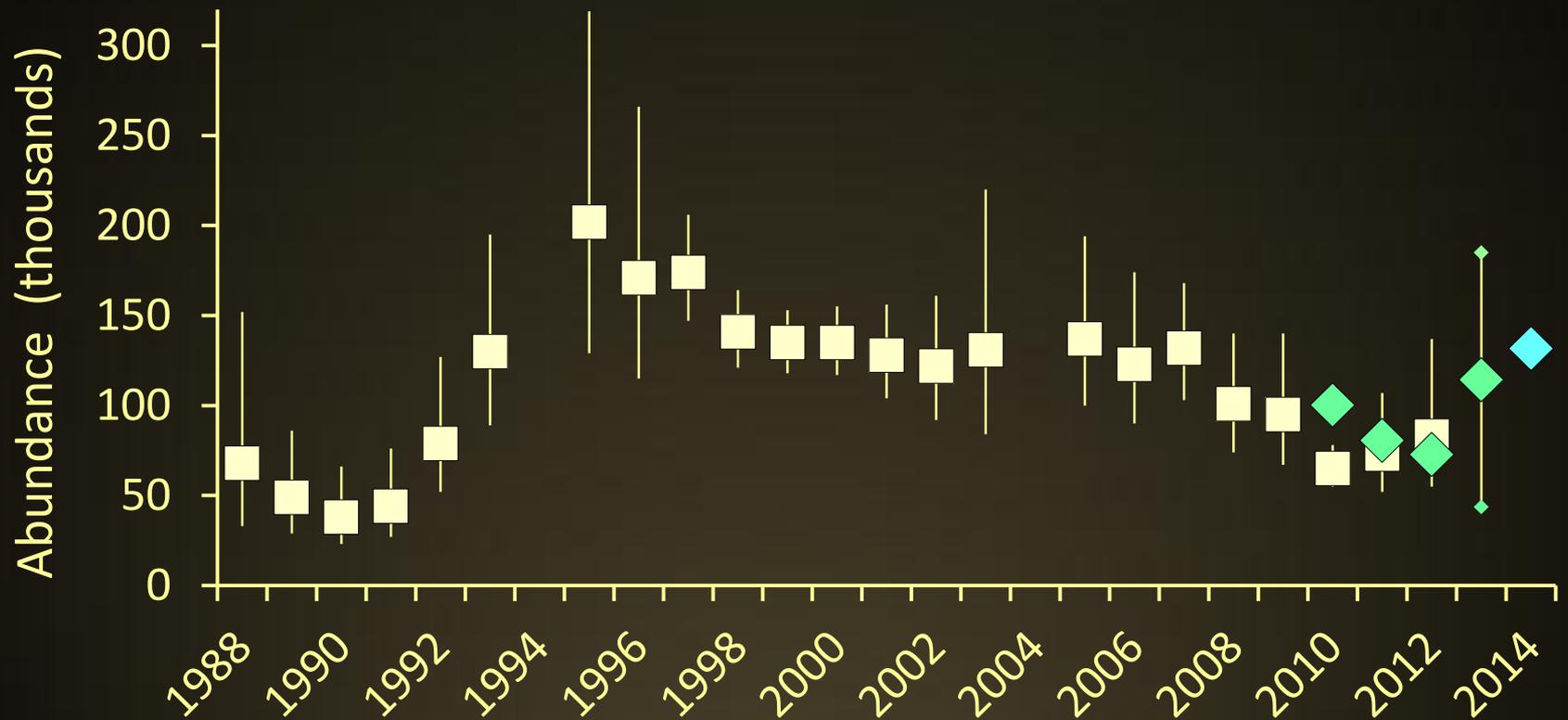


# Abundance Estimates

Year	Historic method legal-size	Setline method			Harvest guideline
		Estimates		Projected legal-size	
		≥82 cm	Legal-size		
2009	95,000	--	--	--	40,000
2010	65,300	322,500	100,200	--	24,000
2011	72,800	210,000	80,500	77,000	17,000
2012	83,400	167,200	72,700	65,000	10,400
2013	--	283,200 <sup>1</sup>	114,200 <sup>1</sup>	74,300	10,105
2014	--	--	--	131,700 <sup>1</sup>	--

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

# Recent Trends in Abundance Legal-Size Fish



# Age Frequency from setlines

