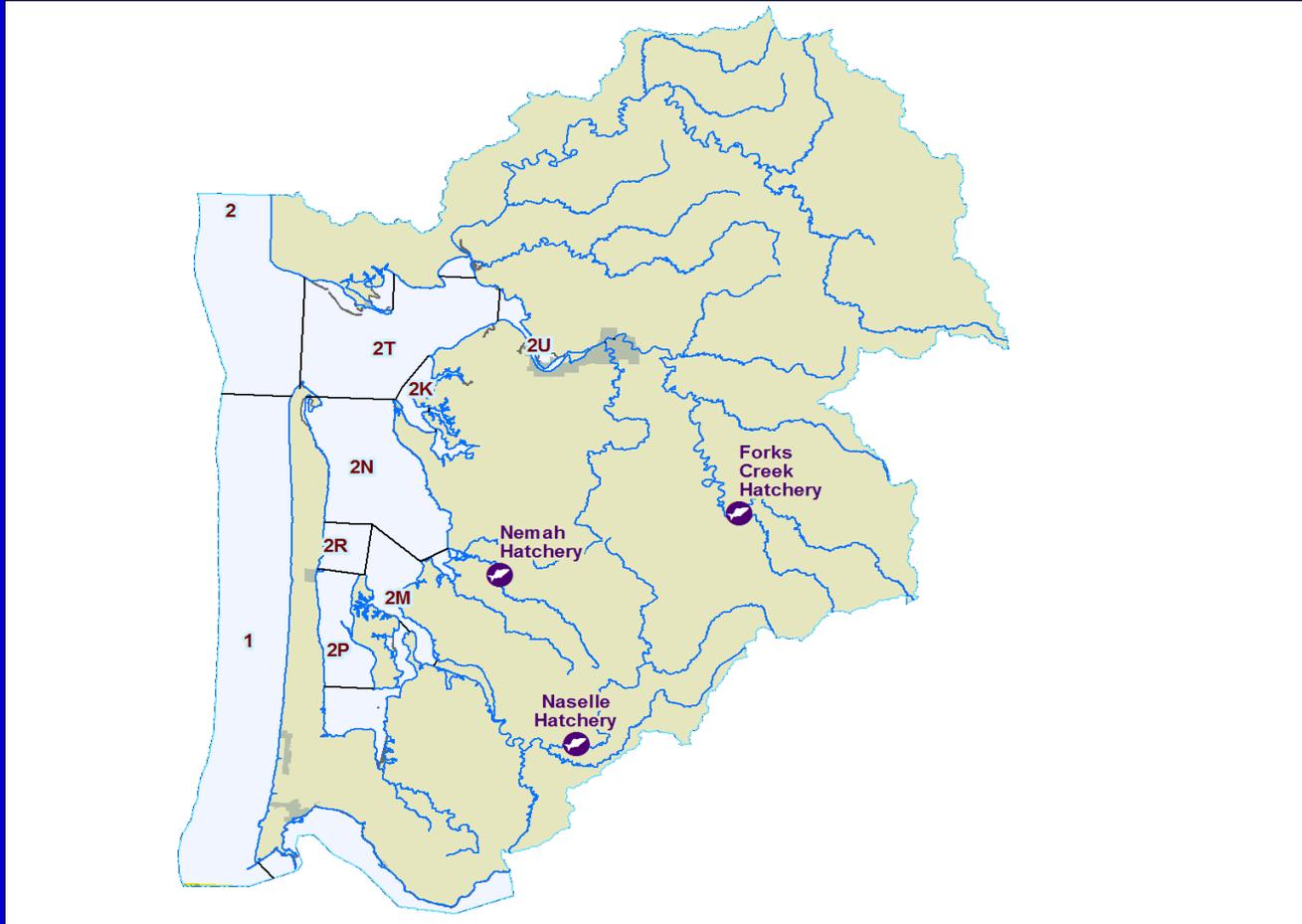




Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy



**Steve Thiesfeld; Region 6 Fish Program Manager
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
February 7, 2015**

Purpose

- **Brief Commission on Draft Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy Process**
- **Report on feedback from public**
- **Seek Commission Input on Policy Enhancements**

Presentation Outline

- **Policy Development Schedule**
- **Key Policy Issues**
- **What were the major points of public comments?**
- **Analysis of comment suggestions**
- **How could the draft policy be improved?**

Policy Development Schedule

- **Nov - FWC reviewed initial Policy sideboards**
- **Dec - FWC briefed on Policy development**
- **Jan - FWC considers draft Policy**
 - **Receives public comment**
 - **Provides additional direction**
 - **Considers 3-week public comment period**
 - **FWC provides additional direction on Policy**
- **Feb - FWC reviews public comment on draft Policy**

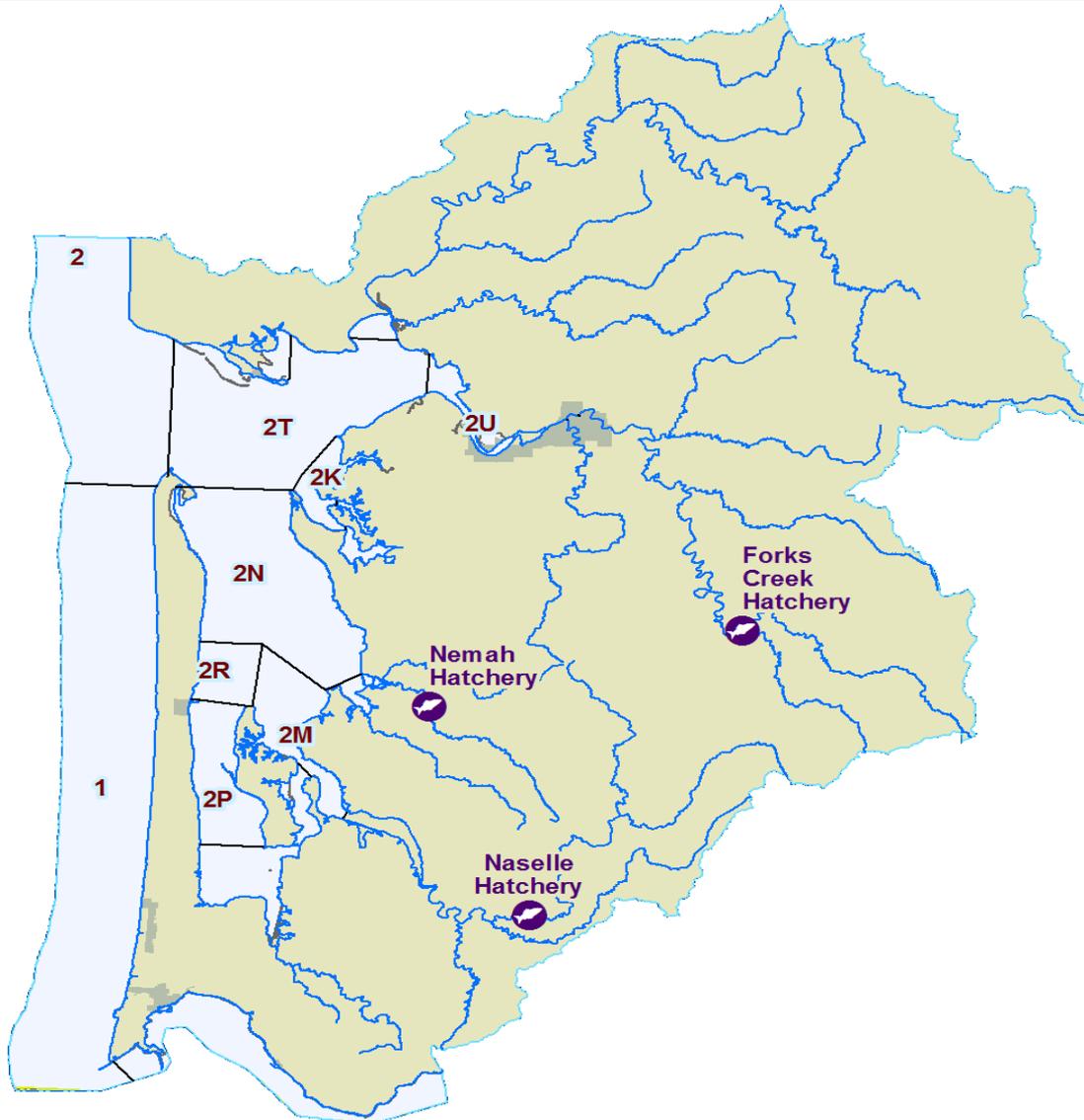
Public Process

- **Oct. 25th Open house**
- **Oct. 27th Ad-hoc committee/public meeting**
- **Nov. 1st Public workshop**
- **Nov. 13th Ad-hoc committee/public meeting**
- **Nov. 20th Ad-hoc committee/public meeting**
- **Dec. 6th Public workshop**
- **Dec. 29th, Public workshop**
- **Jan. 6th, Ad-Hoc committee/public meeting**
- **Jan. 17th, Public workshop**

Mandate and Existing Guidance

- **RCW 77.04.12**
 - **Preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage**
 - **Maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry**
- **2015-17 Budget Policy**
 - **Compare economic benefits in policy and budget decisions**
 - **Promote selective fisheries**
 - **Equitable sharing of the costs of management**

Willapa Bay Basin

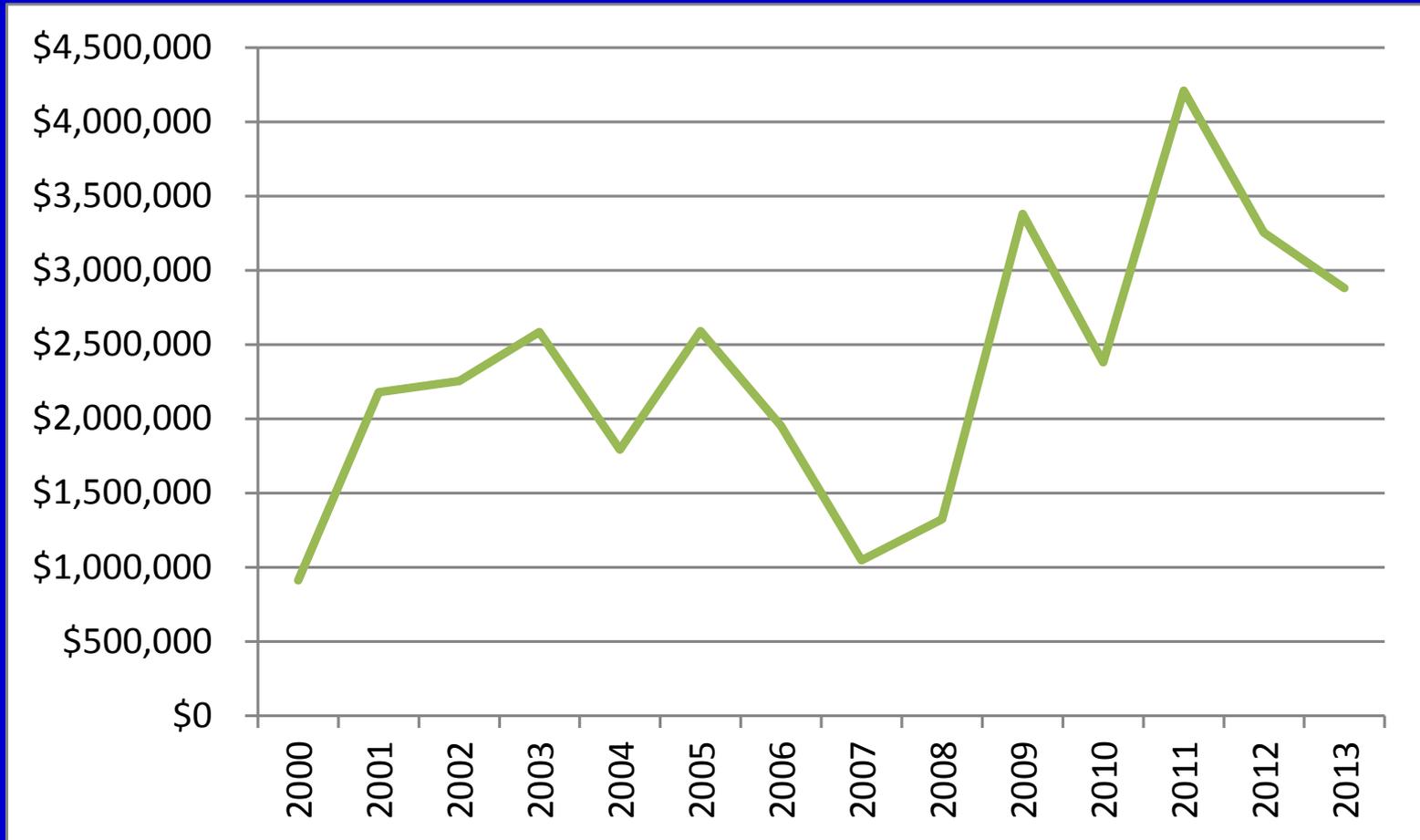


Importance of Commercial Fisheries

Seafood Landings in Pacific County

	2012	2013
Landings (million pounds)	35	53
Ex-Vessel Value	\$38 million	\$77 million
Salmon Ex-Vessel Value	\$815,666	\$647,794
Percent Salmon	2.15%	0.84%

Increasing Recreational Economic Impact

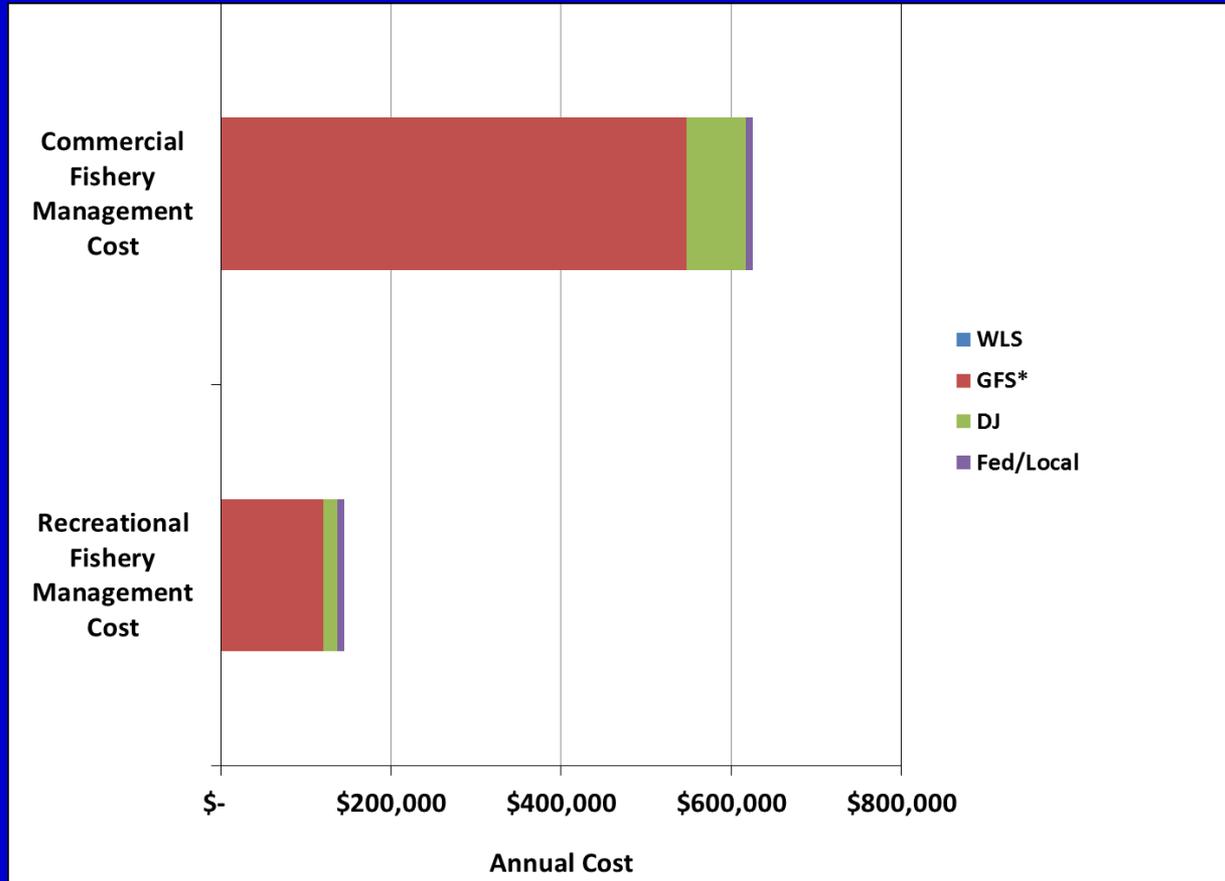


**Gross Domestic Product inflation adjusted; normalized to real 2014 dollars*

- *Economic Impact/trip = \$96.29 Marine, \$63.91 Freshwater (Wegge 2009)*

Cost of Business

- Includes only regional Fish Program expenses
- Excludes CWTs, Fish Tickets, Catch Record Cards, etc.



Why is a Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy Needed?

- **Enhance Conservation Focus**
- **Restore and Maintain Public Trust**
- **Clarify Sharing of Impacts**

Key Issues

- **Conservation - Hatchery Reform**
- **Fishery Challenges**
- **Transparency**
- **Monitoring and Enforcement**
- **In-Season Management**

Aspirational Objectives



Conservation

Chinook

Spawners: Meet Naselle and North spawner goals in 10 years

Broodstock Mgmt: Meet watershed-specific HSRG standards in 10 years

Coho

Spawners: Meet Willapa Bay aggregate spawner goal

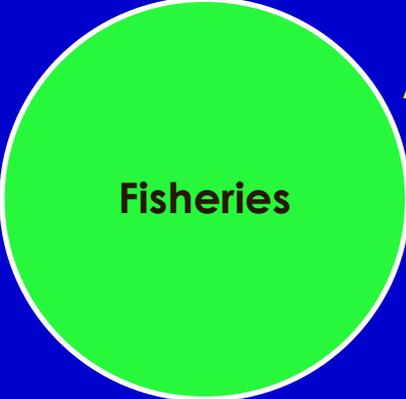
Broodstock Mgmt: Meet watershed-specific HSRG standards

Chum

Spawners: Meet Willapa Bay aggregate spawner goal in 2017

Broodstock Mgmt: Meet watershed-specific HSRG standards

Aspirational Objectives



Fisheries

**Recreational - 25% increase in catch within 5 years
relative to 2009-2013 average**

Commercial - \$900,000 average ex-vessel value

Commission Guidance

Policy Statement & Guiding Principles

- **Implement Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy**
- **Similar language as Grays Harbor Policy for transparency, communication, monitoring, enforcement, and in-season management.**
- **Think long term, recognize there may be short term disruptions, pain, and friction.**

Commission Guidance

Fishery & Hatchery Management

- **Species Priority - Evaluate prioritizing:**
 - Chinook for recreational anglers
 - Coho and Chum for commercial fishers
- **Area Priority - Evaluate prioritizing:**
 - North bay (2T) for recreational anglers
 - South bay for commercial fishers
- **Evaluate switching Primary Chinook population from Naselle to Willapa**

Commission Guidance

Fishery & Hatchery Management

- **Enhance chum production**
 - Remote site incubators
 - On-station production
 - Investigate water re-use systems

Chinook Management

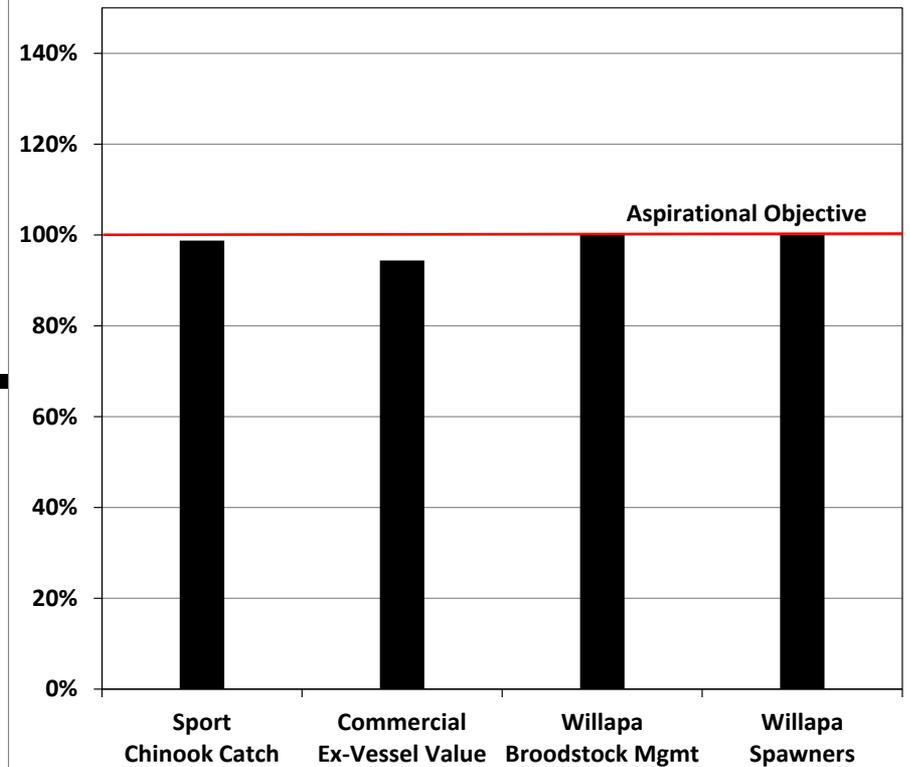
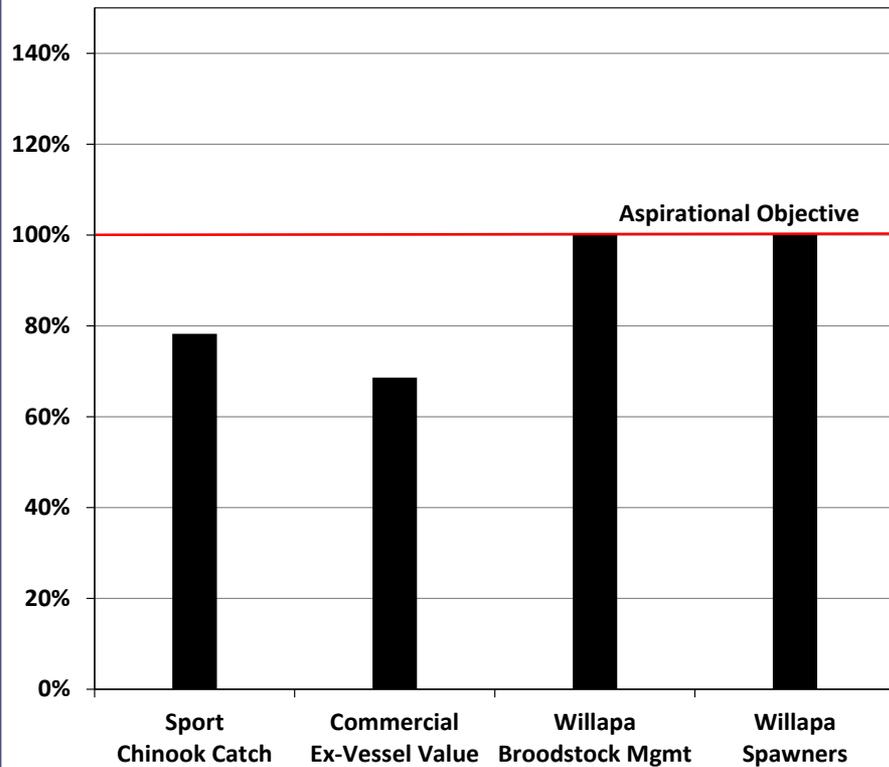
- **Prioritized recreational opportunity for Chinook in areas 2T and 2U through Sept. 15**
- **Provided commercial fisheries from remaining impacts**
- **Transitional fisheries from 2015 to 2017**

Willapa Primary Alternative A

10-15 year rebuilding

Current Production

Increased Production



Evaluated 5 Chinook Options

	A Increased	A Current	B Increased	B Current	C
Primary	Willapa	Willapa	Willapa	Willapa	Naselle
Chinook Production	9.7M	7M	9.7M	7M	7M
Recovery	Aggressive	Aggressive	Rapid	Rapid	Rapid
HR Limit	9.2%	9.2%	14%	14%	13.7%
% of Rec. Obj.	95%	89%	97%	93%	113%
% of Comm. Obj.	95%	95%	98%	91%	114%
Comm. Start 2T & 2U	Sept. 15	Sept. 15	Sept. 15	Sept. 15	Sept. 15
Comm. Start Other areas	After Labor Day	After Labor Day	After Labor Day	After Labor Day	After Labor Day

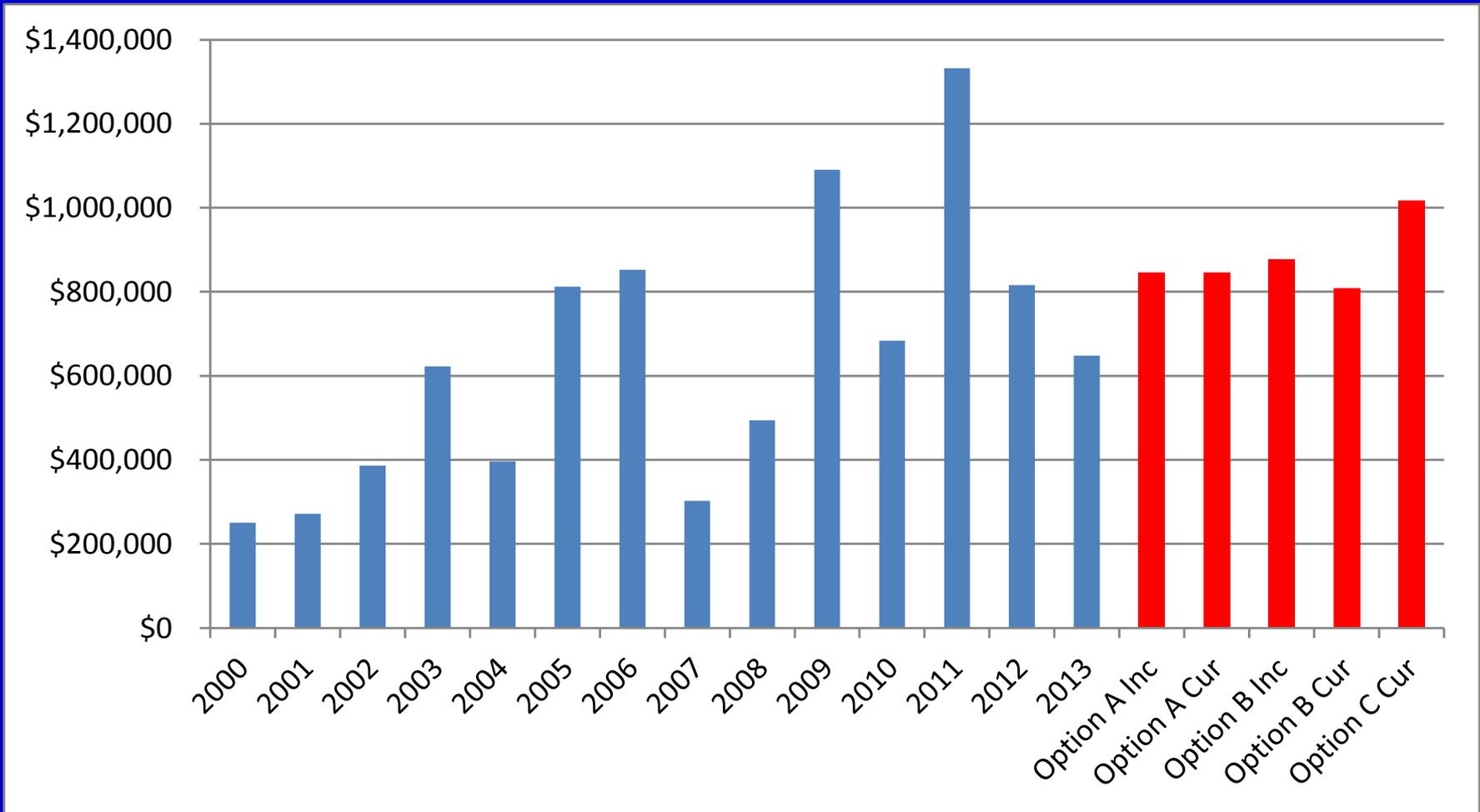
Coho Management

- **Continue to achieve the aggregate spawner goal**
- **Hatchery programs and fisheries managed to achieve broodstock standards**
- **Prioritizes commercial opportunity beginning Sept. 16 through Oct. 14**

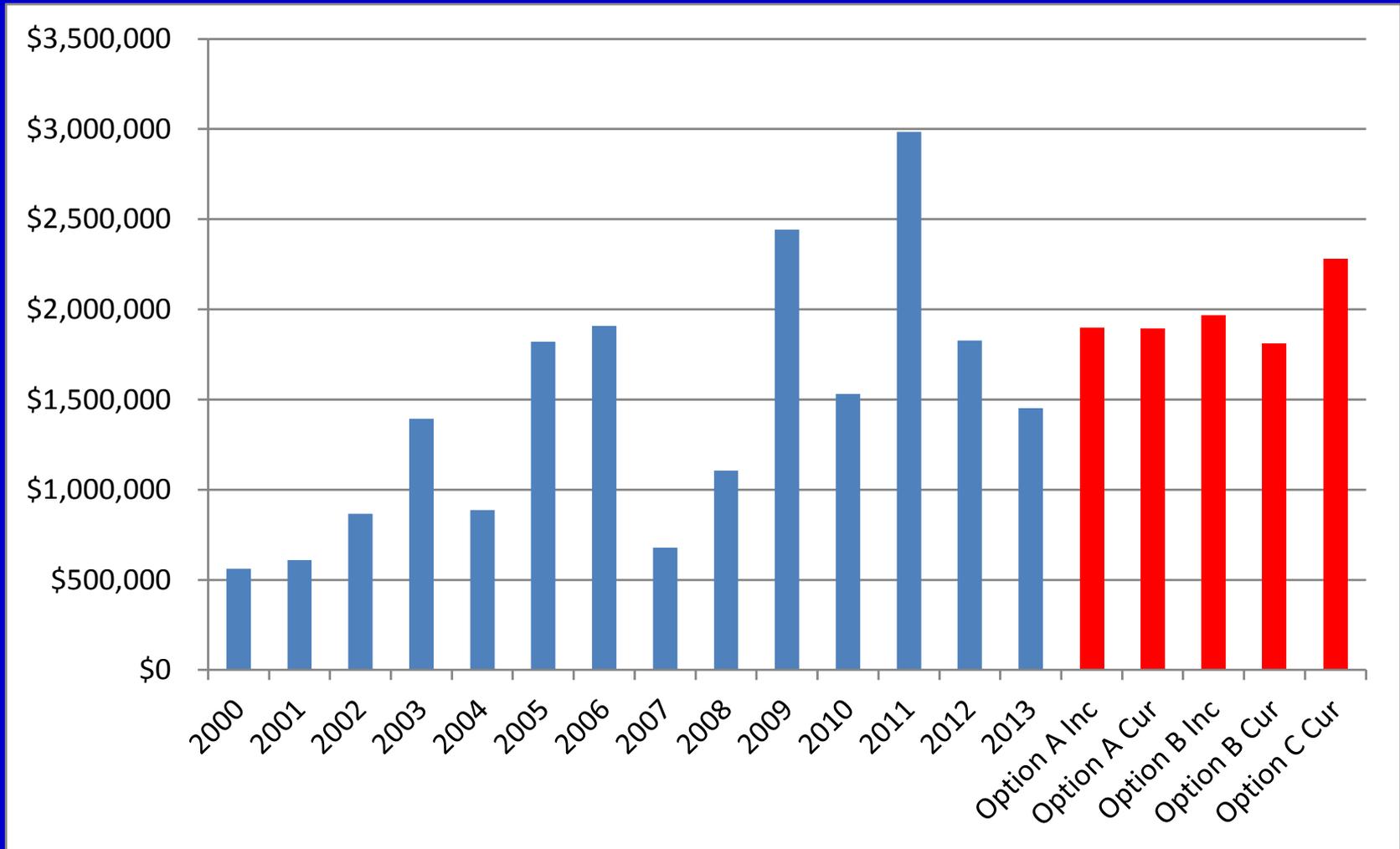
Chum Management

- **Achieve the aggregate spawner goal**
- **No Chum directed fishing and 10% impact limit until the spawner goal is achieved**
- **Prioritizes commercial opportunity beginning Oct. 15 through Oct. 31**
- **Evaluate hatchery Chum enhancement**

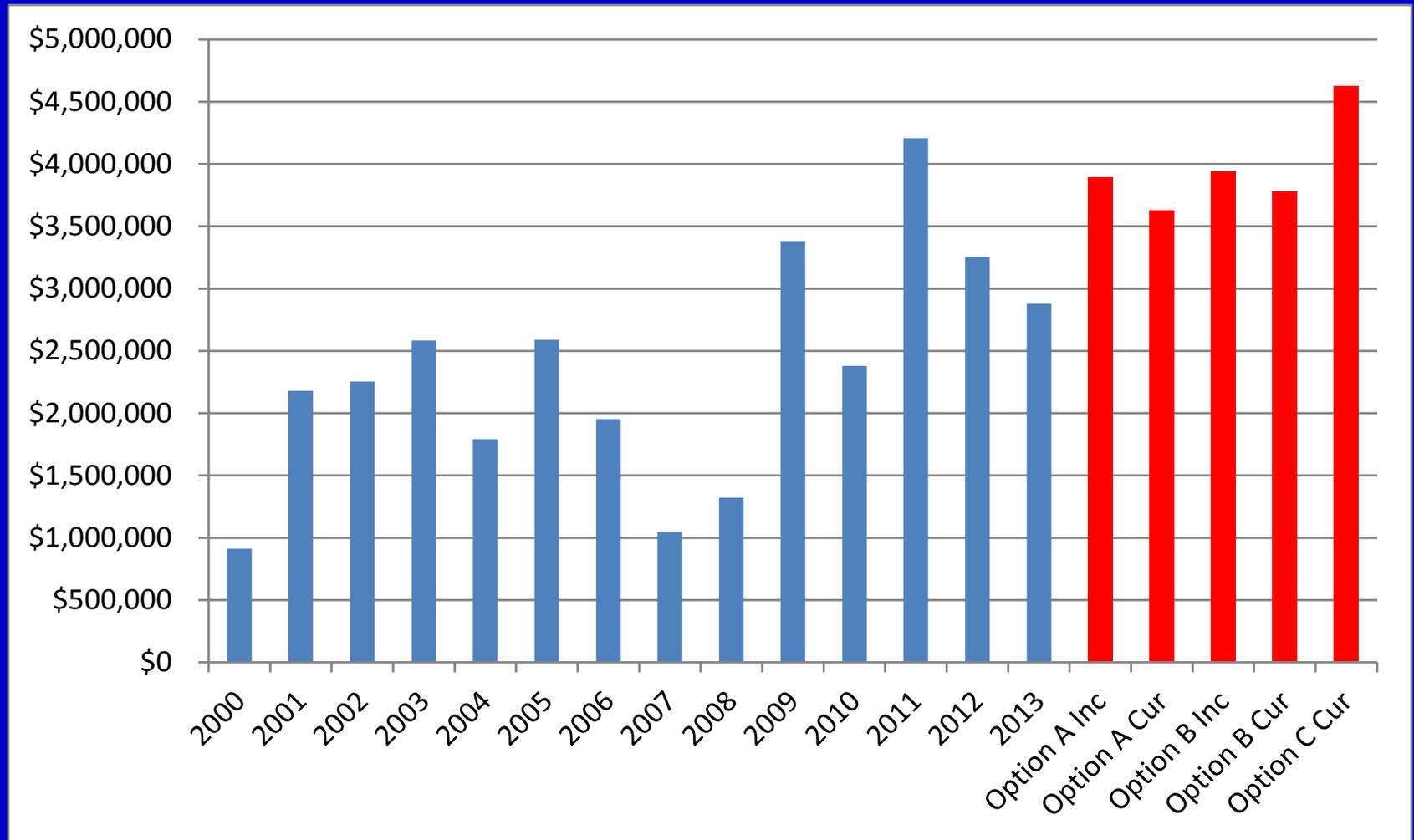
Commercial Ex-Vessel Value



Commercial Economic Impact



Recreational Economic Impact



Draft Policy

- Released draft policy for public review on January 12th.
- Comment period through January 29th

What were the major points of public comment?

- **25 written comments**
 - **Some represented groups**
- **8 public testimony (January meeting)**
- **17 on-line comments**
- **Summarized into 10 categories**

Categories of Public Comment

- **30 – Allocation**
- **18 – Conservation**
- **13 – Liberalize Recreational Regulations**
- **11 – Hatcheries**
- **7 – HSRG Designations**
 - **6 - Willapa Primary, 3 - Naselle Primary**
- **4 – Enforcement/Accountability**
- **3 – Data Rigor**
- **3 – Alternative Fishing Practices**
- **2 – Communication/Transparency**
- **9 – Miscellaneous**

Conservation

- **Did not hear that the proposed Chinook harvest rates were too low or too high**
- **Require in-season management and define actions, up and down**
- **Concern over aggregate management of coho and chum**
- **Protect North River Chinook**

Conservation

- **Increase chum protection**
- **Address habitat needs**
- **Reduce pre-terminal interceptions**

Chinook Population Designation

- **Concern about using 2010 plan stock designations for Chinook**
- **Suggested “contributing” designation for Naselle and Willapa Chinook if not “primary”**

Clarify Sharing of Impacts

- **Support for Commercial Fishery**
 - **Early August (dip-in) fishery critical, chinook provide stability**
 - **Increase harvest on abundant stocks and reduce hatchery surpluses**
 - **Provide additional Chinook opportunity in south**
 - **Recreational opportunities already maxed out**

Clarify Sharing of Impacts

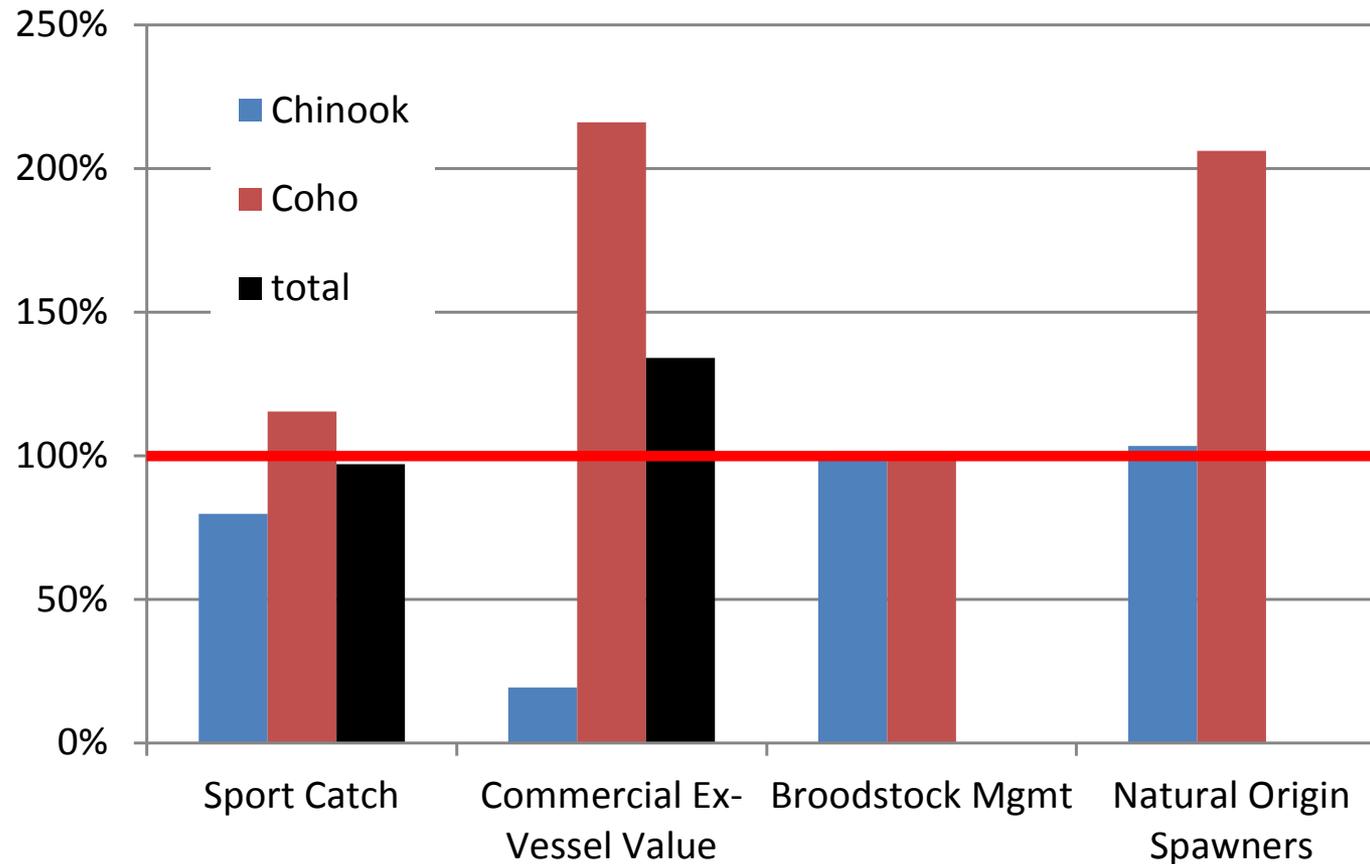
- **Support for Recreational Fishery**
 - Historical sharing has favored commercial, recreational should increased
 - Significant economic value of sport fishery
 - Negative impact of commercial fishing
 - Freshwater fisheries are vulnerable
 - Too many restrictions on recreational fisheries
 - Draft is not explicit enough regarding sharing
 - Alternatively, provide a “full” recreational season

Proposal based on Comments – Population Designations

- **Concern about Chinook population designation**
- **Examine effect of changing from stabilizing to contributing**
- **Increased level of protection**
- **Achieves goals for aggregates**
- **Chinook catch declines for both sectors**

Proposal based on Comments – Population Designations

Naselle Primary & Willapa Contributing

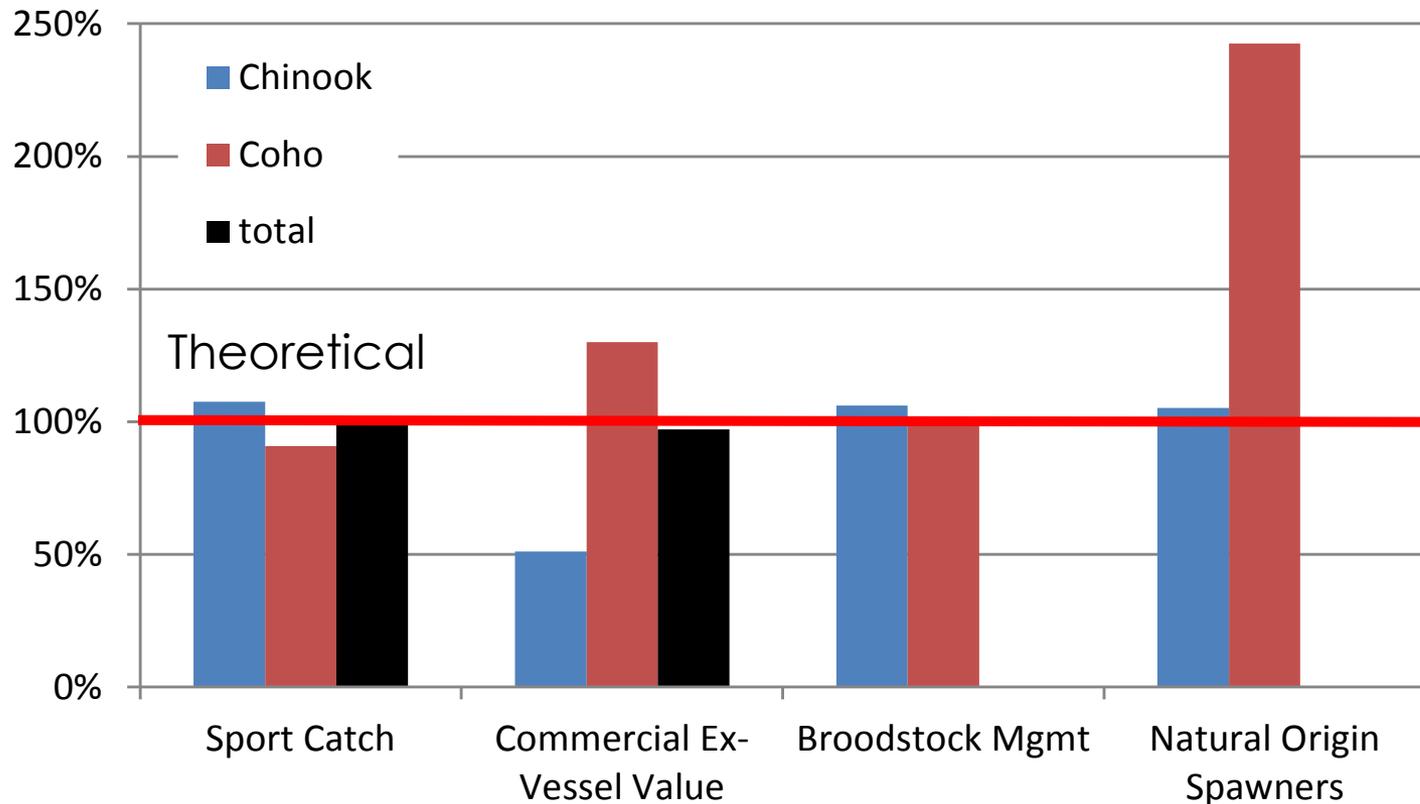


Proposal Based on Comments - Sharing of Impacts (mortalities)

	Natural- Origin Chinook	Natural- Origin Coho	Natural-Origin Chum
Proposed Commercial	50%	70%	90%
Average 2010-14 Preseason Commercial	90%	90%	99%

Proposal Based on Comments - Sharing of Impacts

Fixed Sharing, Willapa Primary, Naselle Stabilizing

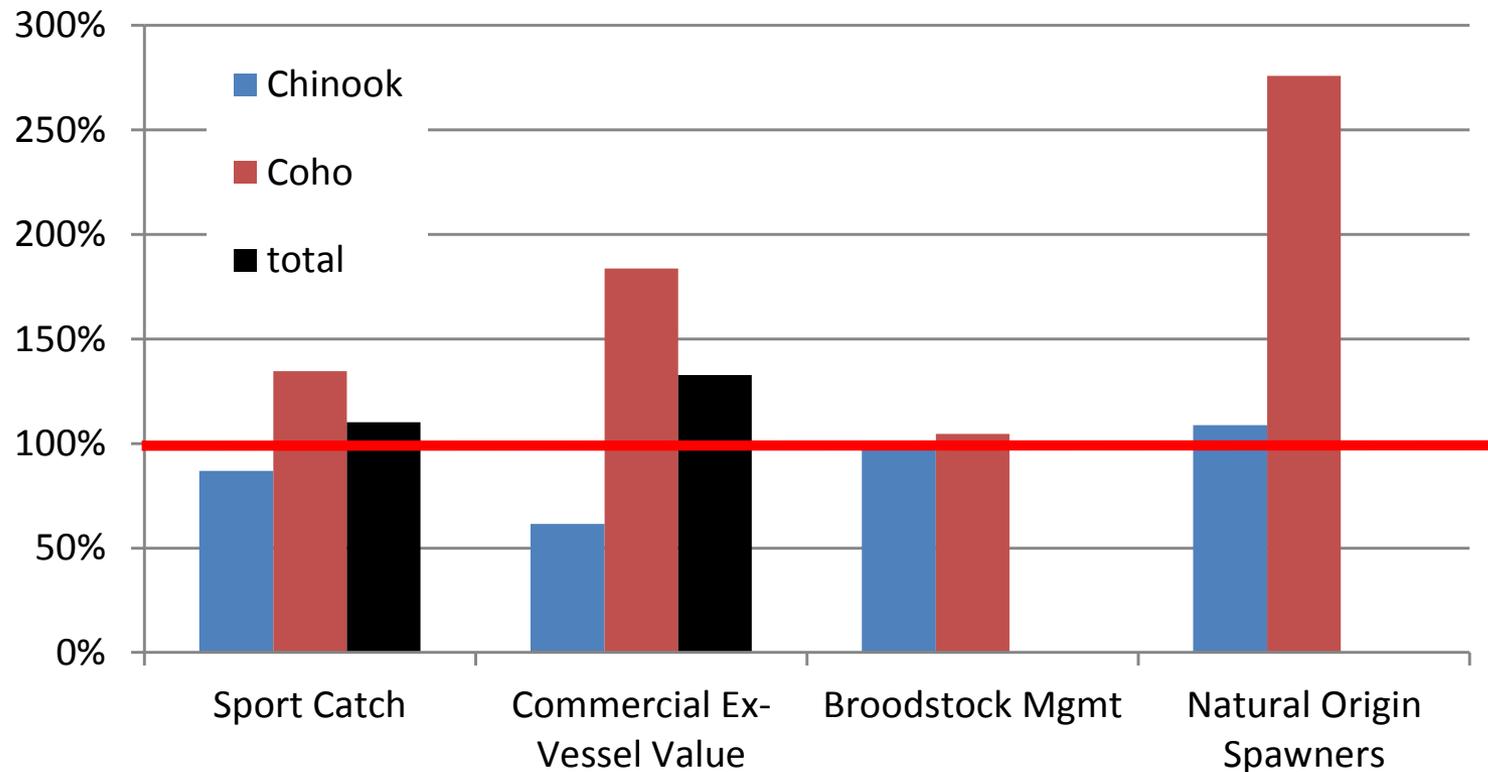


Proposal based on Comments – Early Chinook for Commercial

- **Concern from commercial sector that more early Chinook were needed**
- **Chinook provide stability for fishers**
- **Examined effect of late summer fishery**
- **Achieves goals for aggregates**
- **Chinook catches low for both sectors**
- **Coho catch and aggregate ex-vessel is lower, but still reach objectives**

Proposal Based on Comments – Early Chinook

Willapa Primary, Naselle Stabilizing



How could the draft policy be improved?

- **Narrow primary to Willapa**
- **Narrow recovery period to 4 brood cycles**
- **Refine options for sharing**
 - **Address and define recreational “full fishery”**
 - **Address concerns about early Chinook opportunity for commercial fishers**
- **Address concerns about Chinook population designations**
 - **Explicitly designate**
 - **Provide opportunity for increased protection in future**

Process and Next Steps

- **Jan - Commission reviewed draft Policy**
 - Initial public comment
 - Initiated 3 - week public comment period
- **Feb - Commission reviews public comments**
 - Commission provides additional direction on Policy
 - Draft Policy revised based on direction
 - Additional public comment
- **April? - Commission considers adoption of Policy**

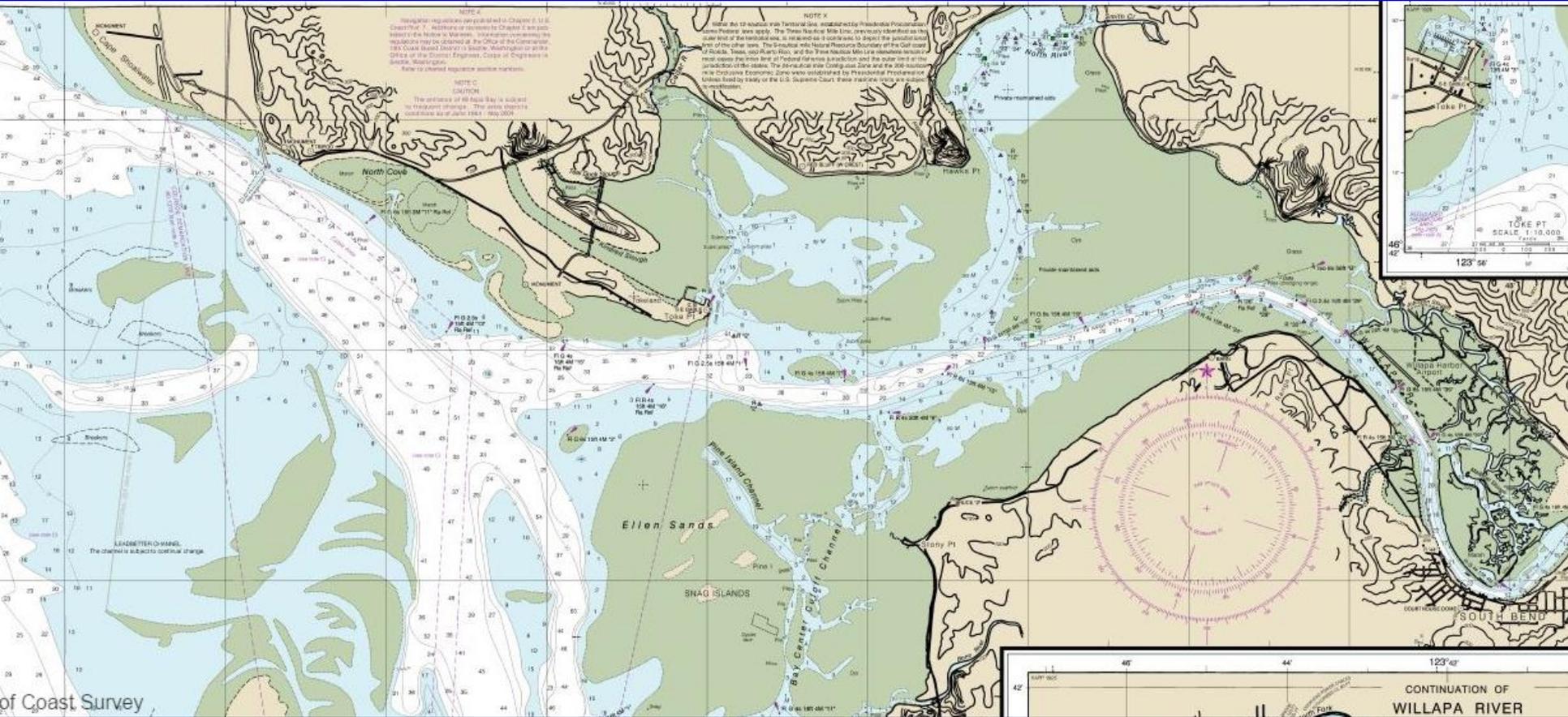
Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy



Questions?

Special Thanks:

**Jim Scott, Chad Herring, Ron Warren,
Mike Scharpf, Barb McClellan, Curt Holt,
Rob Allan, Randy Aho**



of Coast Survey

CONTINUATION OF
 WILLAPA RIVER