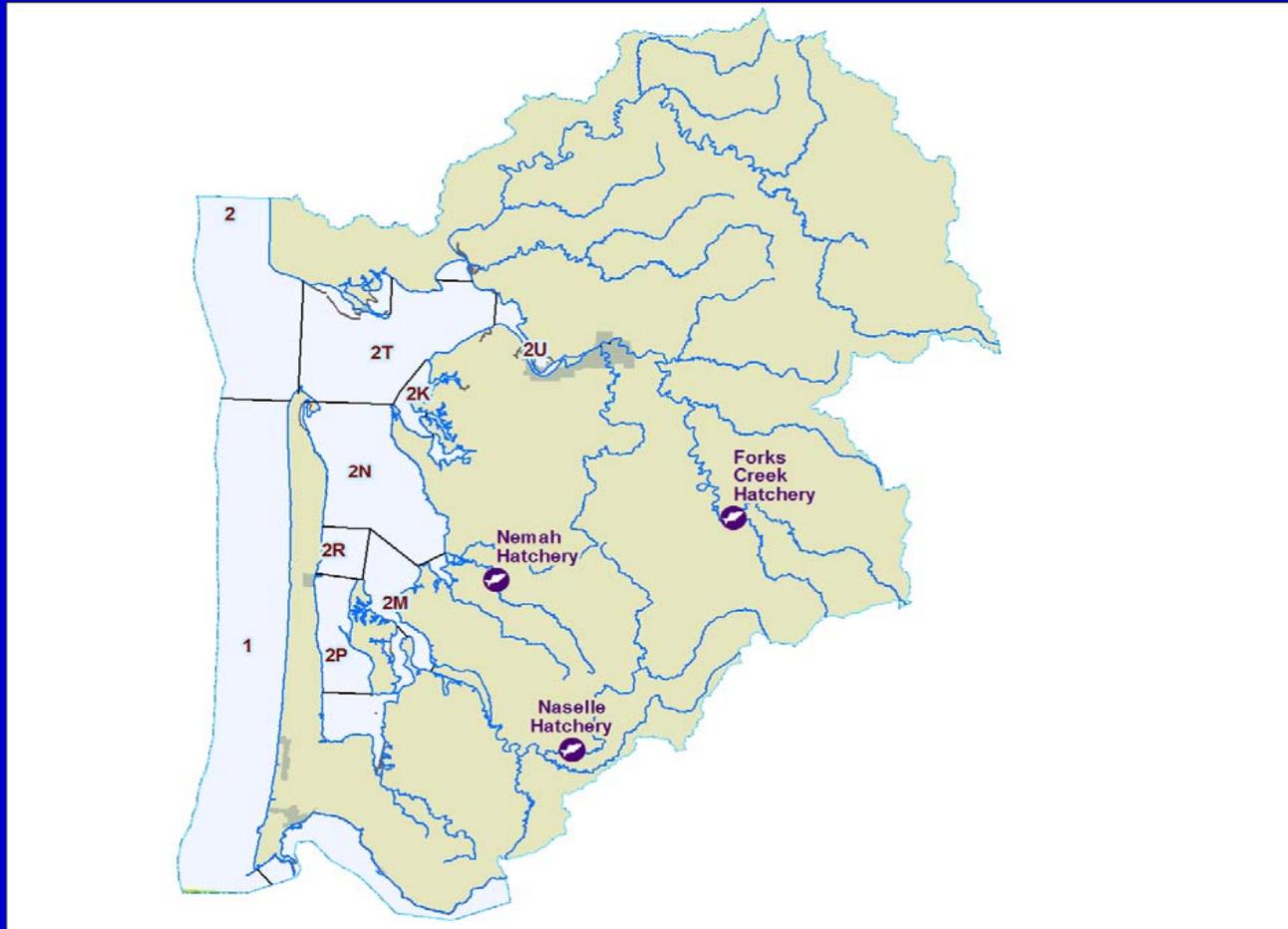


Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy



**Steve Thiesfeld; Region 6 Fish Program Manager
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
December 13, 2014**

Purpose

- Brief FWC on Draft Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy
- Receive public comment
- Seek additional Commission direction
- Seek Commission Approval
 - Release draft policy for public comment
 - Develop additional management option

Presentation Outline

- **Policy Development Schedule**
- **Key Policy Issues**
- **Aspirational Objectives**
- **November Commission Guidance**
- **Key Elements of Draft Policy**
- **Analysis of Options**

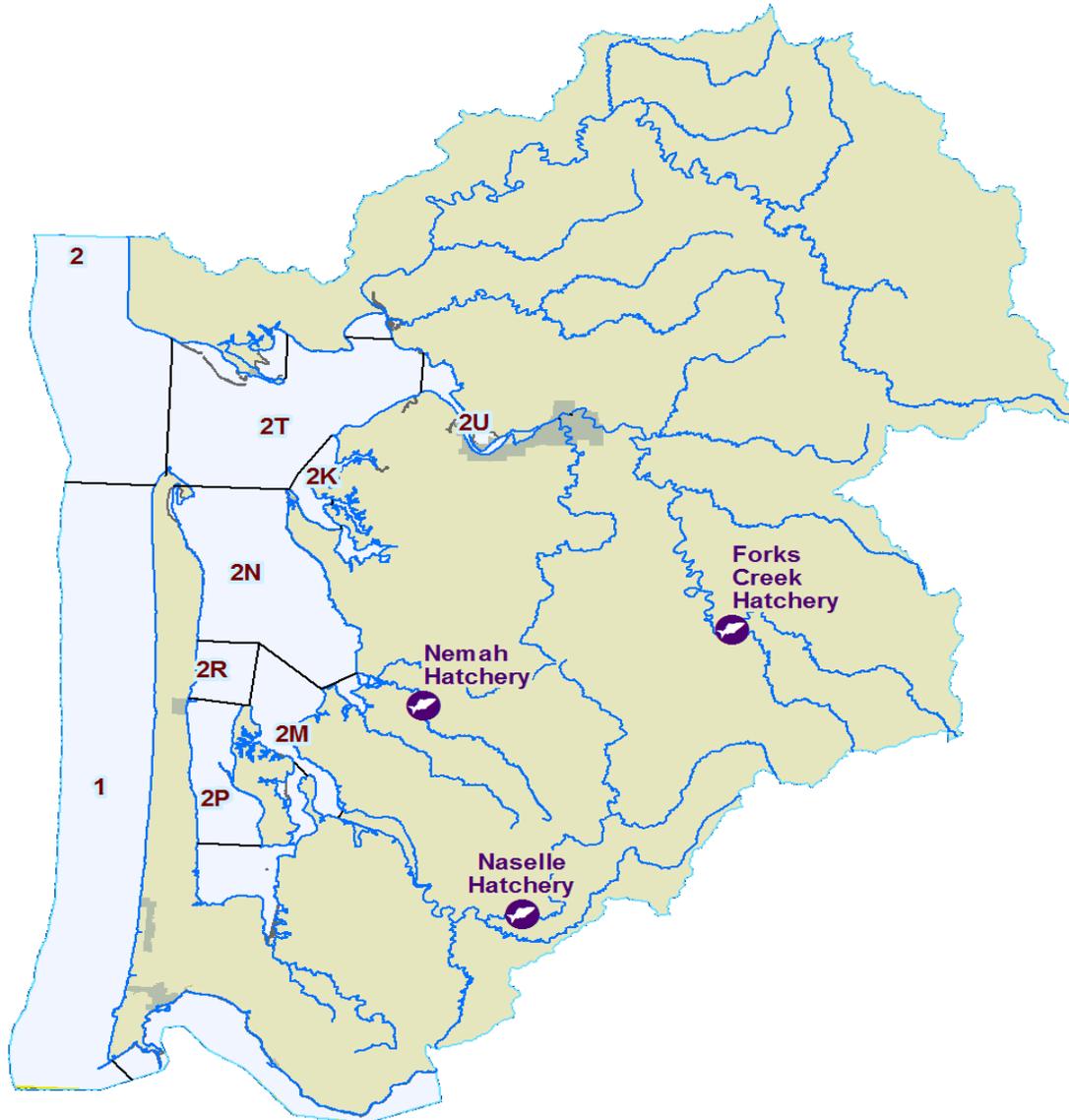
Policy Development Schedule

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

Willapa Bay Basin



Why is a Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy Needed?

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

Willapa Bay Chinook

- **Prior to 2010**
 - Limited information about hatchery versus natural composition
 - Assume high proportion of hatchery-origin spawners in Naselle and Willapa
- **2010 to 2013**
 - Natural-origin spawners declined to ~35% spawner capacity
 - High proportion of hatchery-origin spawners in Naselle and Willapa
 - Not meeting broodstock standards in the Naselle

Aspirational Objectives

Describe suite of outcomes that we will strive to achieve through the development of the policy.

Purpose:

- Inspire the development of innovative strategies
- Promote assessment of trade-offs between options

Are Not:

- Entitlements

All:

- May not be achievable



Aspirational Objectives

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

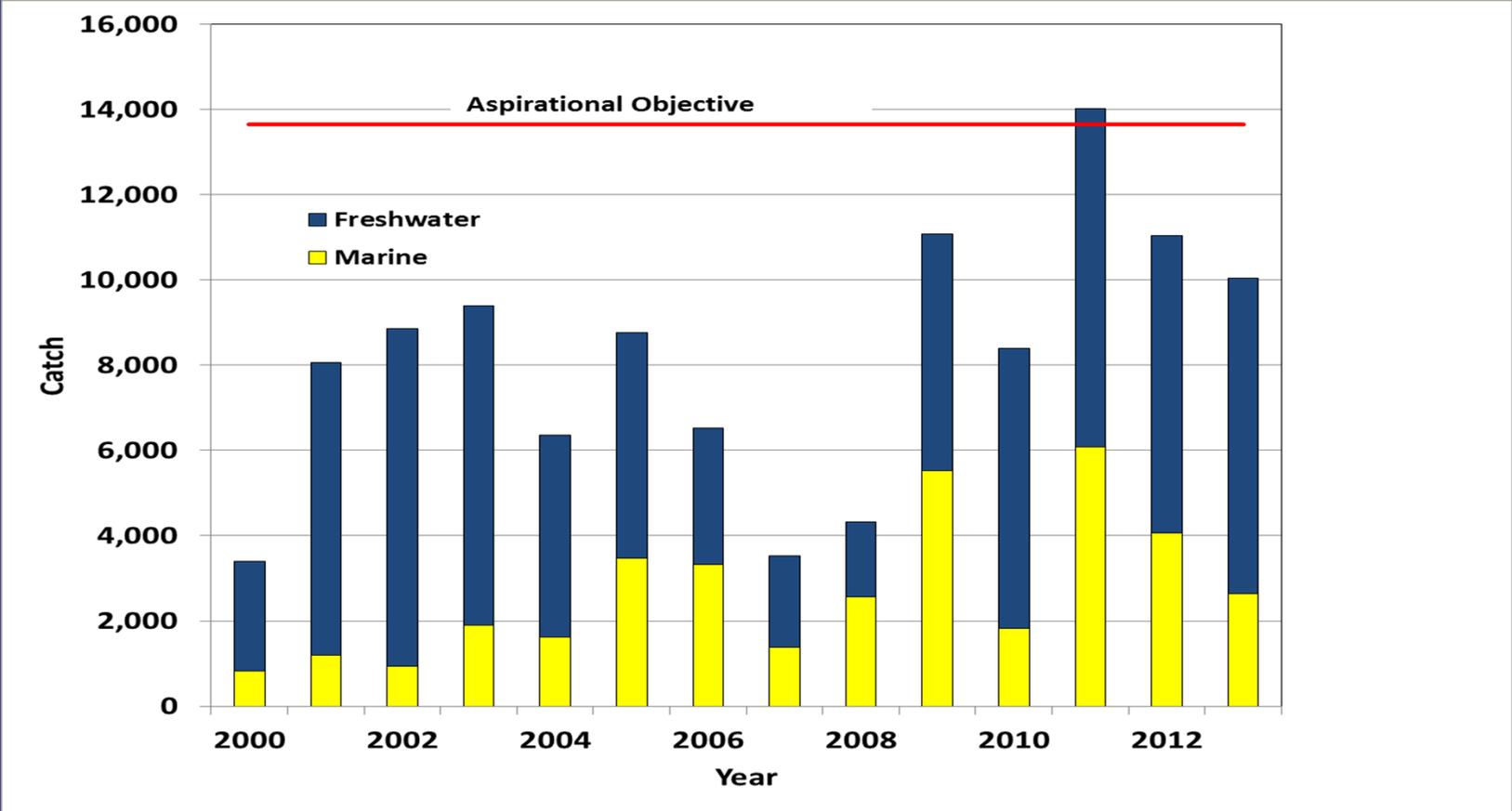
Chum

Spawners: Meet Willapa Bay aggregate spawner goal in 2017
Broodstock Mgmt: Meet watershed-specific HSRG standards



Aspirational Objectives

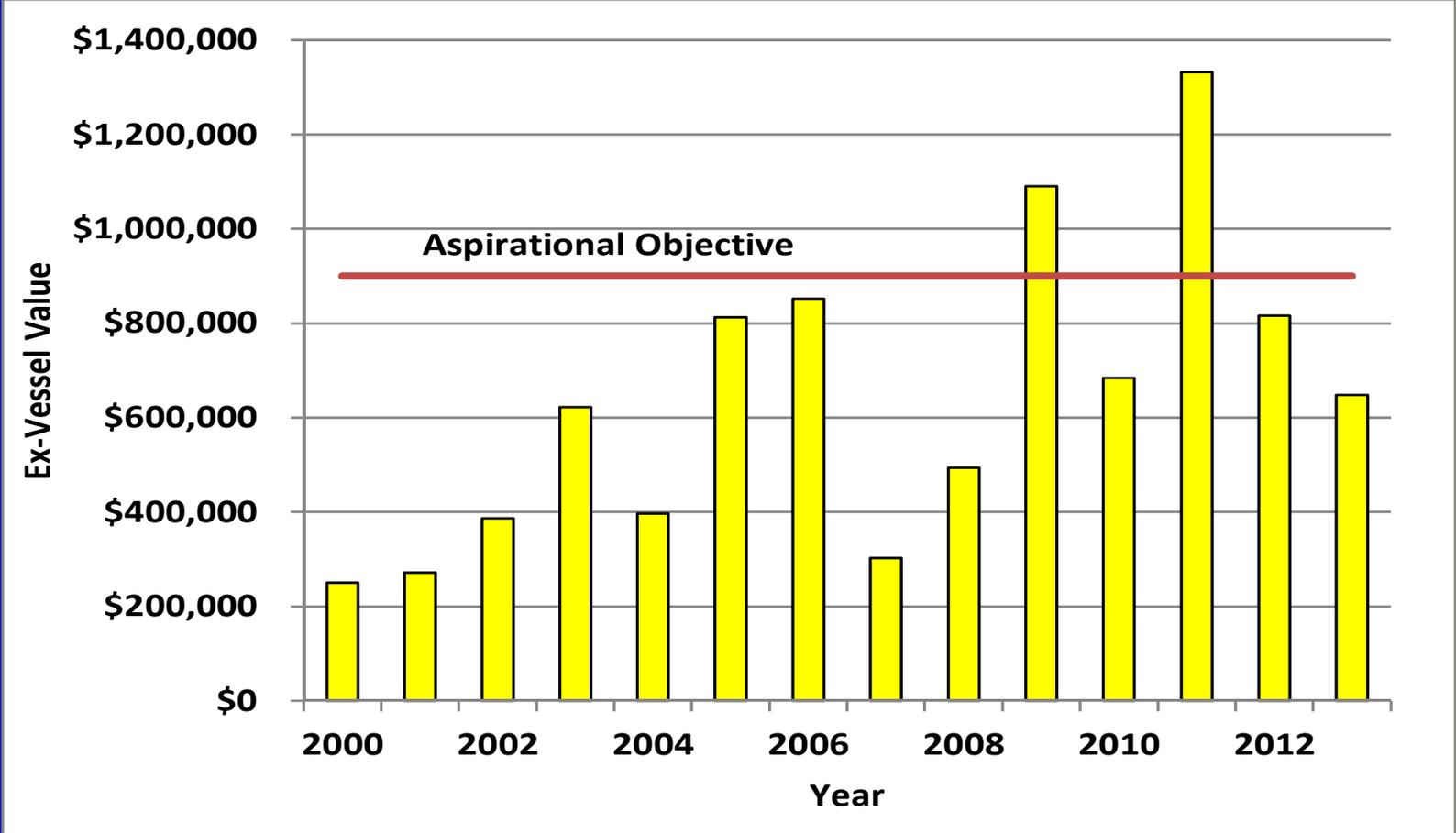
25% increase in catch within 5 years
relative to 2009-2013 average





Aspirational Objectives

\$900,000 - average ex-vessel value



November - Commission Guidance

- Policy Statement & Guiding Principles
- Fishery & Hatchery Management Options
- Sea Ranching

November - 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.**

Key Element - CONSERVATION

- **General Policy Statement**
 - ...achieve the conservation and restoration of wild salmon and steelhead in Willapa Bay and avoid ESA designation of any salmon species.
- **Conservation - Guiding Principles**
 - #1 Manage fisheries consistent with conservation
 - #6 Account for catch and incidental mortality
 - #7 Implement inseason conservation measures
 - #9 Increase technical rigor

Key Element – PUBLIC TRUST

- **General Policy Statement**
 - Improve communication, information sharing, and transparency
- **Guiding Principles**
 - #8 Document and distribute:
 - Management objectives
 - Inseason information
 - #10 Properly implement mark-selective fisheries
- **Adaptive Management**
 - Conduct and distribute annual fishery review

November - 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**

November - Commission Guidance

Fishery & Hatchery Management

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

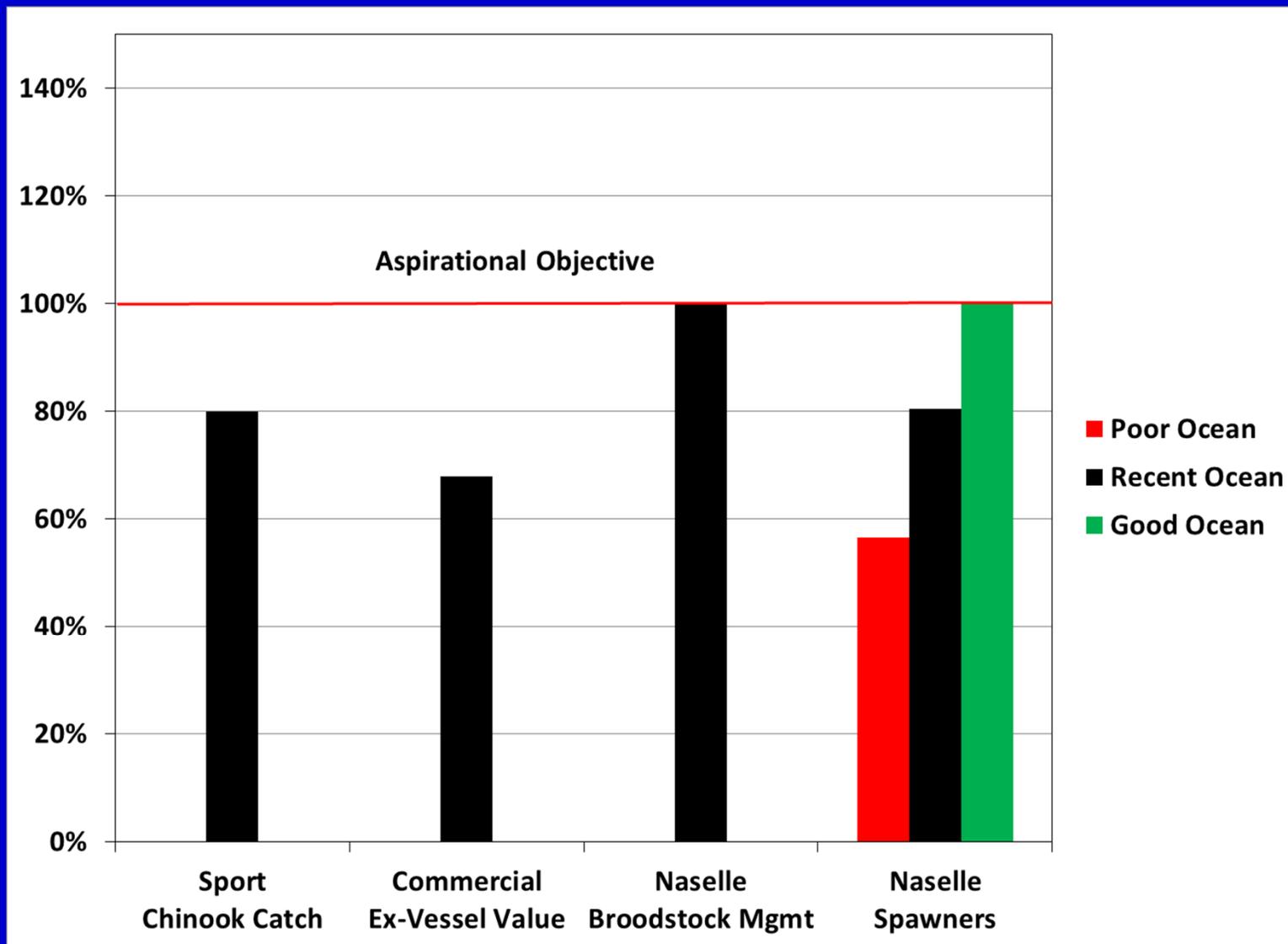
Fishery & Hatchery Options

- **Baseline – Projected 2014 harvest rates**
- **Options 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B – Commission guidance**
 - 1A,1B: No commercial fishery prior to Sept. 15
 - 2A, 2B: Limited commercial fishery after Labor Day
 - A Series: Naselle Primary Chinook population
 - B Series: Willapa Primary Chinook population
- **Option 3 – Recreational Hybrid Proposal**
- **Option 4 – Commercial Proposal**

Evaluation Criteria

- **Recreational Fishery**
 - Chinook catch relative to 25% increase
- **Commercial Fishery**
 - Ex-vessel value relative to \$900,000
- **Conservation**
 - % achievement of broodstock standard (PNI = 0.67)
 - Spawners as % of goal in years 10-15

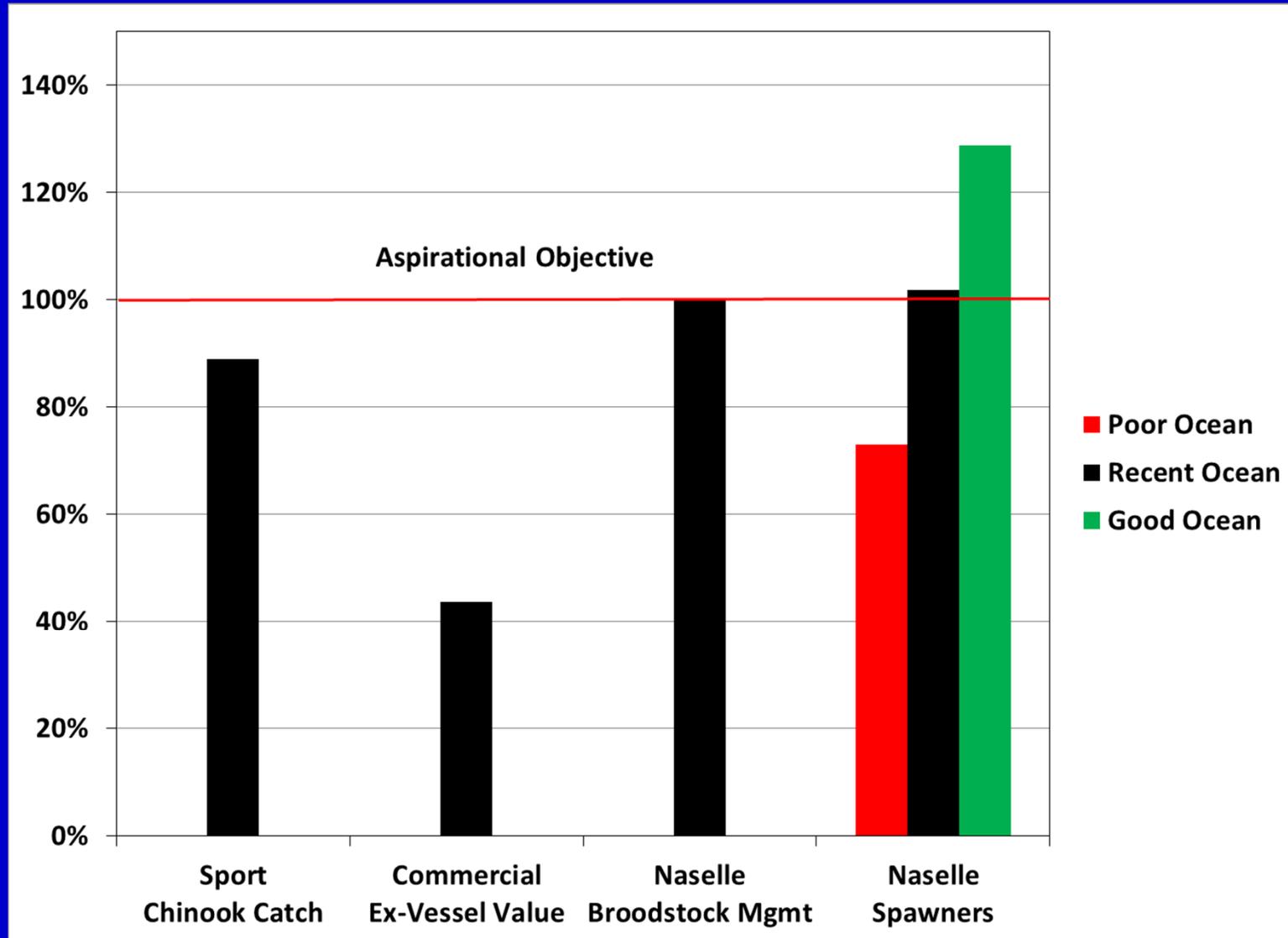
Baseline



Option 1A

- **Most restrictive for Commercial**
 - No fishing prior to Sept. 15
 - Maximum of 2 days per week in areas 2T, 2U for rest of season
- **Maintains Naselle as Primary Chinook population**
- **Maintains current production**

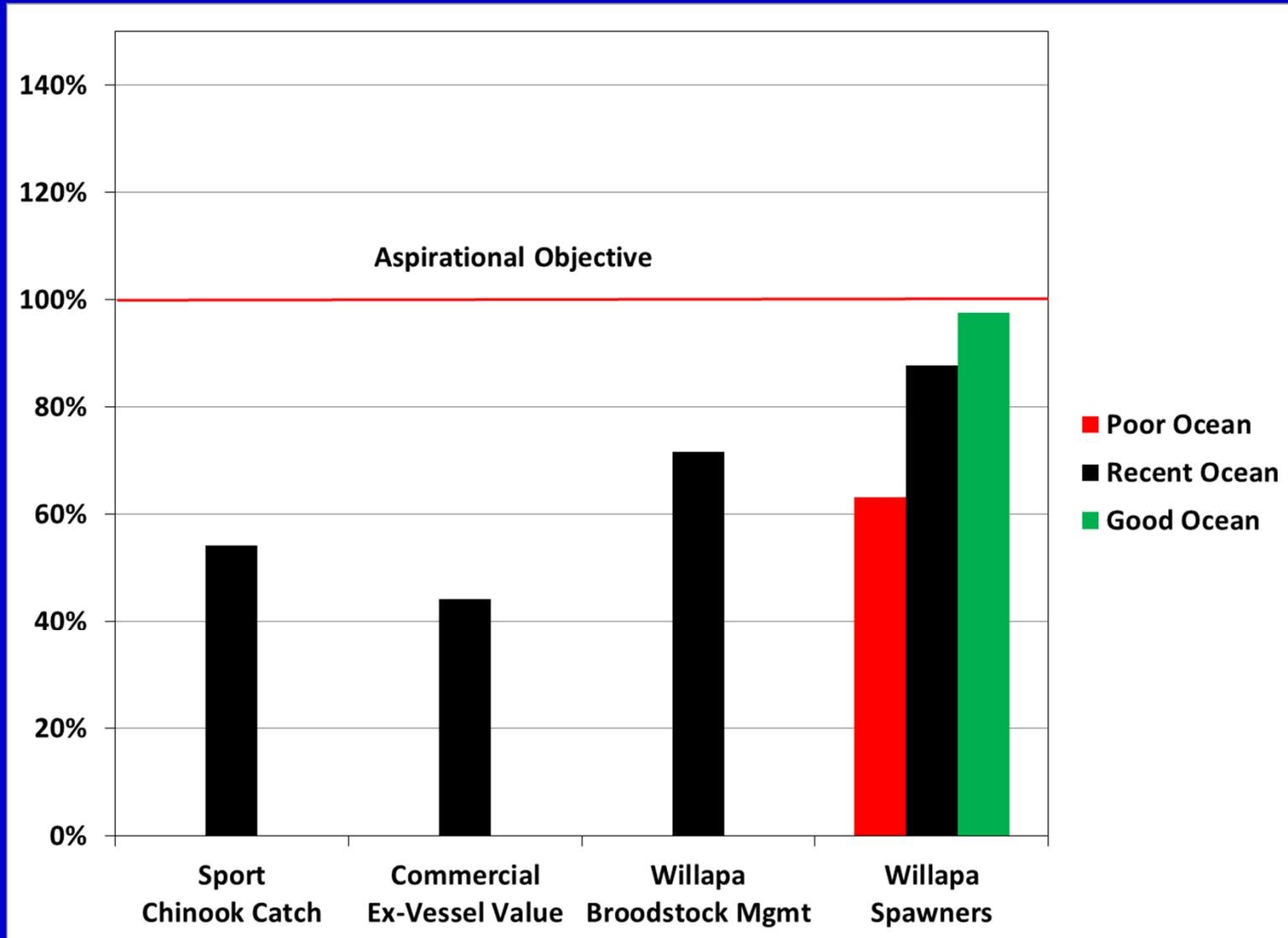
Option 1A



Option 1B

- **Most restrictive for Commercial Fishery**
 - No fishing prior to Sept. 15
 - Maximum of 2 days per week in areas 2T, 2U for rest of season
- **Switches from Naselle to Willapa as Primary Chinook population**
- **Switches Chinook production from Forks Creek to Naselle Hatchery**

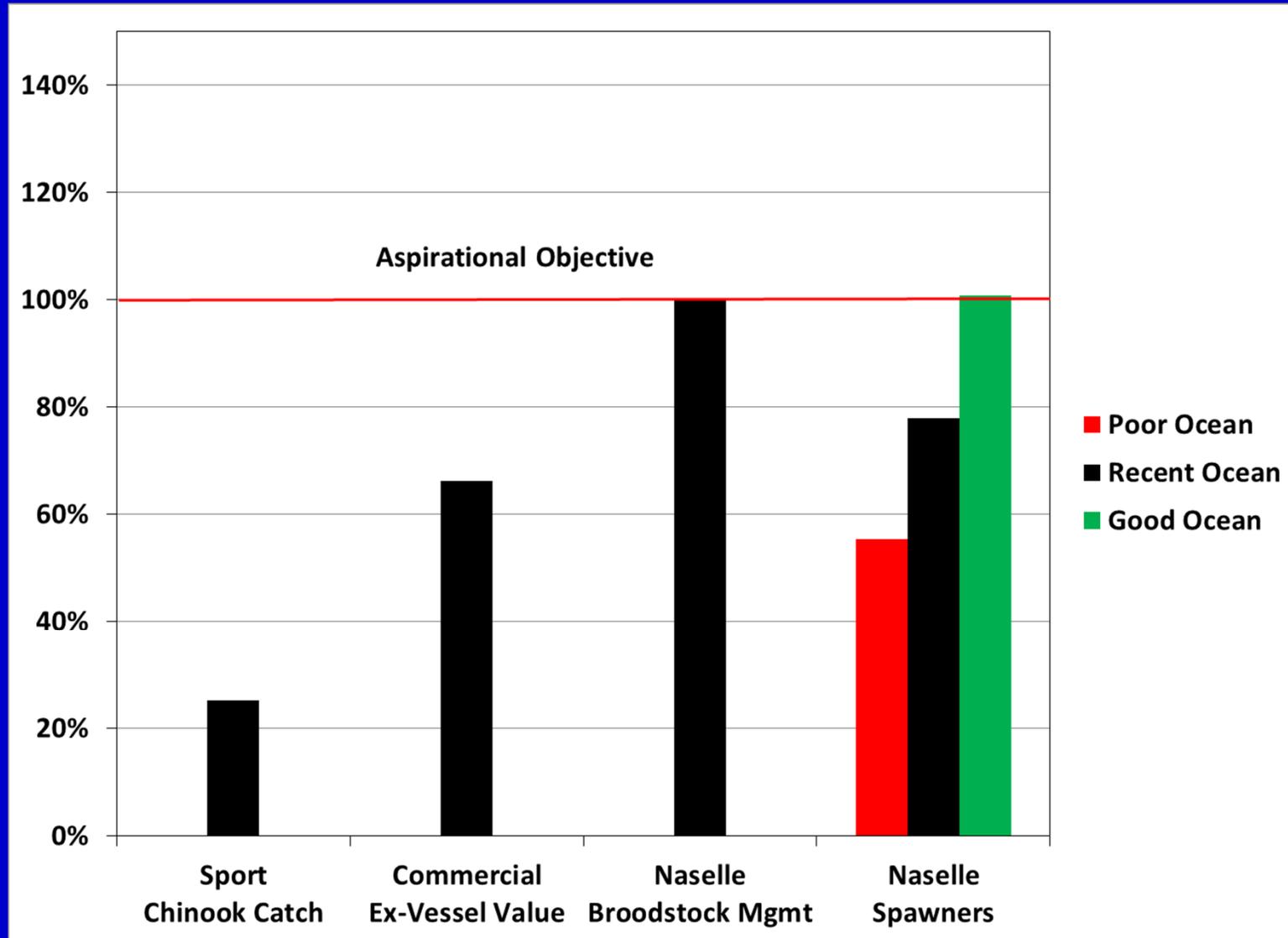
Option 1B



Option 2A

- **Less restrictive for Commercial Fishery**
 - No fishing until after Labor Day
 - Limited to 3 days per week in areas 2M, 2N after Labor Day through Sept. 14
 - Maximum of 3 days per week in areas 2T, 2U beginning Sept. 15
- **Maintains Naselle as Primary population**
- **Reduces Chinook production at Nemah Hatchery to increase Coho and Chum**

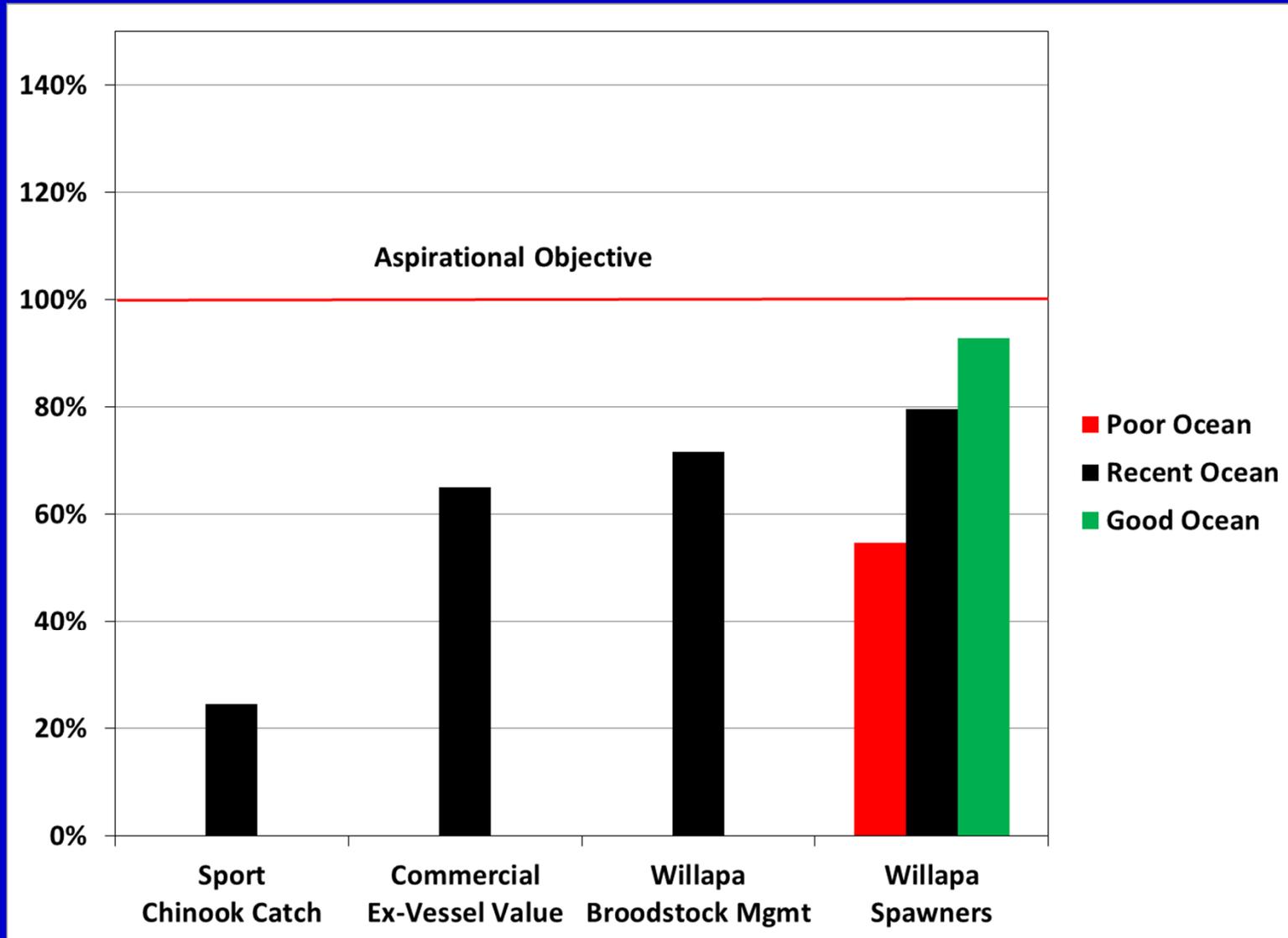
Option 2A



Option 2B

- **Less restrictive for Commercial Fishery**
 - No fishing until after Labor Day
 - Limited to 3 days per week in areas 2M, 2N after Labor Day through Sept. 14
 - Maximum of 3 days per week in areas 2T, 2U beginning Sept. 15
- **Switches from Naselle to Willapa as Primary population**
- **Switches Chinook production from Forks Creek to Naselle Hatchery**
- **Reduces Chinook production at Nemah Hatchery to increase Coho and Chum**

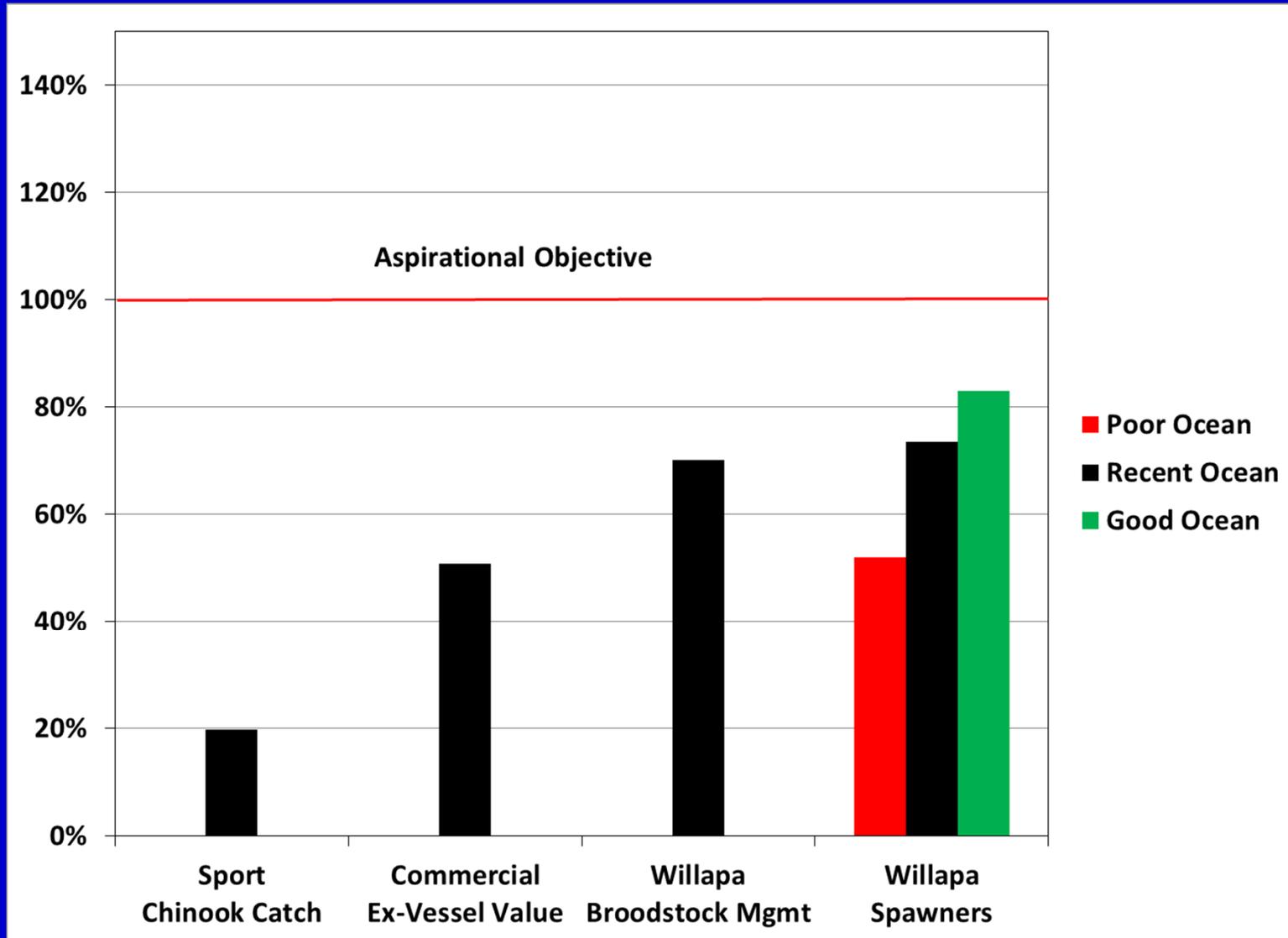
Option 2B



Option 3

- “Recreational Hybrid” Proposal
- Provides early season commercial fishery
 - Areas 2M, 2N: 2 days per week 8/16 through 9/14
- Switches primary stock designation from Naselle to Willapa
- Switches Chinook production from Forks Creek to Naselle Hatchery
- Increases Chum production in RSIs

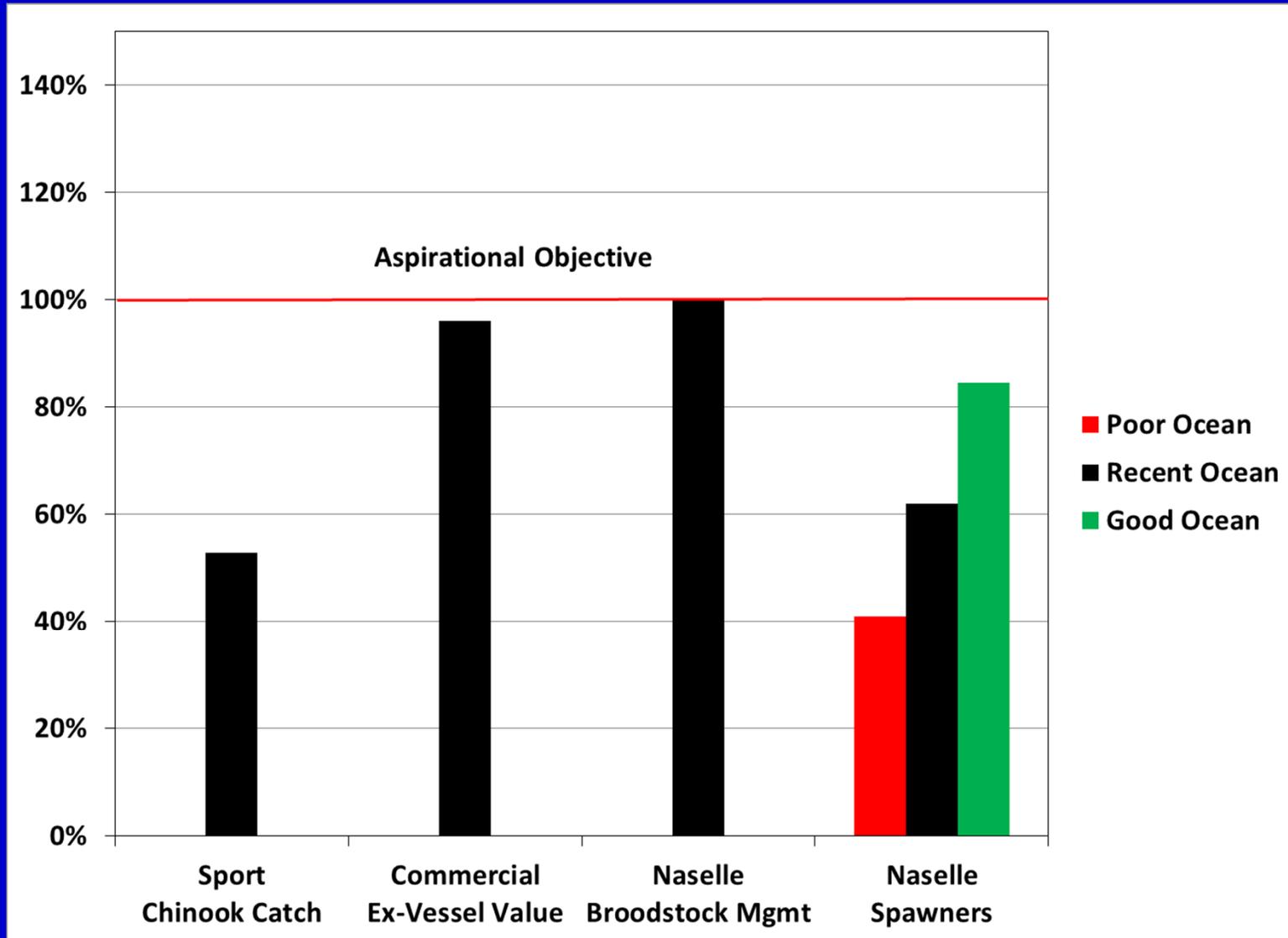
Option 3



Option 4

- **Commercial Proposal**
- **Provides significant commercial opportunity across time and space**
- **Closes large area to protect North River Chinook**
- **Maintains current hatchery production**
- **Maintains Naselle as Primary Chinook population**
- **Codifies gill net release rate at 40%**

Option 4



Options – Key Points

- Aspirational objectives present a significant challenge
- Under “average” ocean productivity, harvest rates must be reduced to achieve Chinook spawning goal for Primary population
- Significant interaction between commercial and recreational fisheries

Next Steps

- Today
 - ✓ Briefing on draft policy & analysis of options
 - Public comment
 - FWC provides additional direction on draft policy
 - Seek FWC approval
 - Release draft policy for public comment
 - Develop additional management option
- Jan - FWC reviews public comment on draft Policy
 - FWC provides additional direction on Policy
- Feb - FWC considers adoption of Policy
- Questions?

