Upper Columbia & Snake Rivers North of Falcon 2022 Salmon & Steelhead Seasons

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Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

Outline

- Welcome
- NOF/PFMC Schedule & Commenting
- Harvest Management Jurisdictions
- Forecast & Returns
- 2021 Fishery Summaries
- 2022 Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

NOF/PFMC Schedule

Meetings held virtually

- March 4: Forecast
- March 8-14: Pacific Fishery Management Council #1
  - Develops ocean fishing options
- March 15: Columbia River #1 (Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 at Pasco)
- March 16: Puget Sound, Coast, Ocean #1
- March 30: Puget Sound, Coast, Ocean #2
- April 1: Columbia River #2 (Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 at Pasco)
- April 6-13: Pacific Fishery Management Council #2
  - Finalize seasons

https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-input

Select Language | Translation limitations and disclaimer

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Home | Species & Habitats | Fishing & Shellfishing | Hunting | Licenses & Permits | Places to go

Fishing & Shellfishing / Managing fish populations / North of Falcon / Public input

Fishing & Shellfishing

- Fishing regulations
- Shellfishing regulations
- Places to go fishing
- Fishing and stocking reports
- Fishing & shellfishing basics
- **Managing fish populations**
- Tribal fishing
- Commercial fishing
- Fishing events

Public input

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking public comment on proposed rules for this year's recreational and commercial salmon fishing seasons. For more information, visit the current rule-making activity webpage.

Recreational fisheries

The department is considering amending current recreational fishing rules resulting from stakeholder recommendations made during the 2022 North of Falcon process.

There are several other agencies involved in this rule making in association with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council season setting process including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) Fisheries division (National Marine Fisheries Service). These agencies, as well as WDFW, all provide input and/or take part in the PFMC/North of Falcon season-setting meeting.

Documents

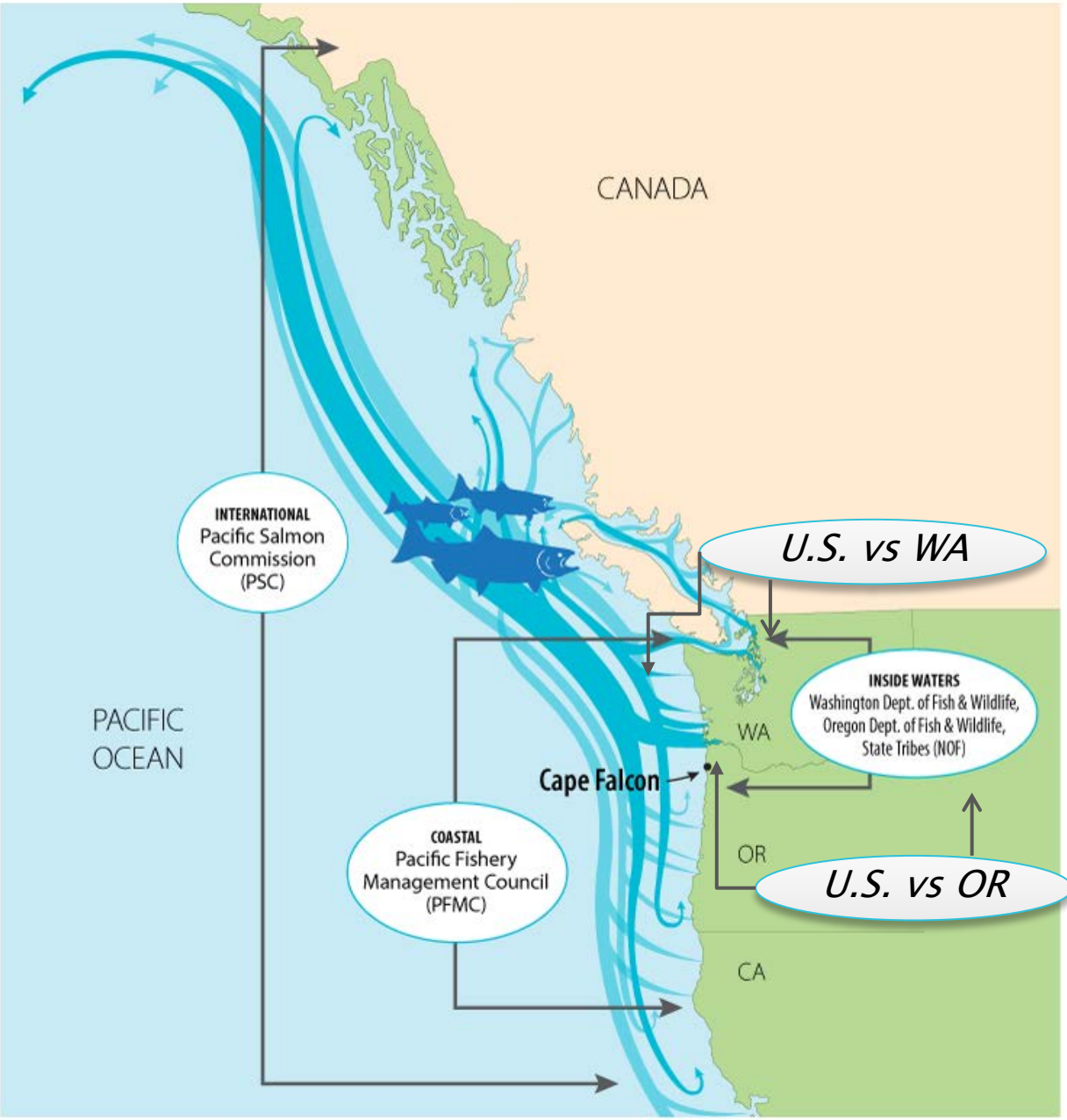
- **CR-101** – filed as WSR 22-03-088 on Jan. 18, 2022

Public comments

To submit comments on this proposal, please visit the North of Falcon Public Engagement Page or use the form below. Select a specific area where you'd like to provide input, or enter general comments by selecting "Statewide seasons and general comments."

Harvest Management Jurisdiction

- Fishery managers weigh factors when developing salmon seasons, including:
  - Endangered Species Act (ESA) constraints
  - Commission policy
  - Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations
  - Tribal co-management: treaty tribes manage their own fisheries, sharing data and harvest with the state
  - Extensive monitoring and evaluation of fisheries statewide



Jurisdictions

- **Pacific Salmon Treaty**: U.S. and Canada agreement to carry out their fisheries and enhancement programs on transboundary salmon stocks to prevent over-fishing and ensure equal benefits of salmon originating in their waters. Governed by the Pacific Salmon Commission comprised of representatives from Canada, AK, CA, ID, OR, and WA.

- **Pacific Fishery Management Council**: One of eight fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council has jurisdiction over the U.S. West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (3-200 miles offshore) and manages commercial, recreational and tribal fisheries for about 119 species of salmon, groundfish, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species in Federal waters.

Jurisdictions

- ***U.S. v Washington***: Commonly known as the Boldt Decision. A court decision that reaffirmed the reserved right of WA Treaty Tribes to harvest salmon and steelhead alongside the state as co-managers. Covers inland marine (e.g., Puget Sound) and freshwater lakes/rivers. Direct tie to the PFMC for setting seasons.

- ***U.S. v Oregon***: A federal court proceeding issued in 1969 that enforces the fishing rights of Columbia River treaty tribes (Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Warm Springs). The associated management plan details salmon and steelhead allocations between treaty and non-treaty fishers. *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (2018-2027) provides treaty/non-treaty allocations and ESA limits.

Jurisdictions

- Other:
  - **WDFW & ODFW Policies**-Columbia River policies that detail non-treaty salmon allocations between recreational and commercial and lower and upper river fisheries.
  - **Wanapum Band RCW**-WA state law established in 1939 requiring the state to reserve an allocation of salmon to the Wanapum Band for C&S purposes.
  - **WDFW-CCT Share Agreement**-A formal agreement between WDFW and CCT that reserves an allocation of salmon and steelhead to the Colville Confederated Tribes for C&S purposes.
  - **ESA**-Due to the year-round presence of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead (juveniles+adults), WDFW must have federal government coverage to conduct fisheries. Allowable ESA impacts provide 'no jeopardy' to recovering stocks. Several permits throughout Columbia River do have creel survey requirements.

Salmon Indicators: Bad -> Fair -> Good

	Ecosystem Indicators	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
		Year																							
Basin-scale physical indices	PDO (Sum Dec-March)	21	7	3	15	8	23	14	19	16	11	5	1	18	4	2	9	12	24	22	20	13	17	10	6
	PDO (Sum May-Sept)	12	5	7	6	13	19	18	20	14	16	2	11	8	4	1	9	22	24	23	17	15	21	10	3
	ONI (Average Jan-June)	23	1	1	8	15	17	16	19	9	13	3	12	20	5	7	9	11	21	24	14	6	22	18	4
Regional physical indices	SST NDBC buoys (°C; May-Sept)	19	7	9	5	6	13	24	14	2	16	1	12	3	8	10	18	22	21	20	15	17	23	11	4
	Upper 20 m T (°C; Nov-Mar)	23	13	10	12	7	17	18	15	14	6	1	11	20	5	4	9	3	24	22	21	16	19	2	8
	Upper 20 m T (°C; May-Sept)	16	11	13	4	1	3	24	20	9	10	2	6	17	8	7	18	22	19	14	12	15	23	21	5
	Deep temperature (°C; May-Sept)	23	7	9	5	1	11	13	17	12	6	2	8	15	10	4	16	22	21	14	19	20	18	24	3
	Deep salinity (May-Sept)	23	4	12	5	6	19	20	13	8	2	3	17	21	15	16	14	24	18	10	9	7	11	22	1
Regional biological indices	Copepod richness anom. (no. species; May-Sept)	22	2	1	9	8	17	16	21	18	12	10	11	20	5	7	3	13	23	24	19	15	14	6	4
	N. copepod biomass anom. (mg C m^{-3}; May-Sept)	22	17	13	14	6	19	16	23	18	15	9	12	11	3	5	7	8	20	24	21	10	4	2	1
	S. copepod biomass anom. (mg C m^{-3}; May-Sept)	24	2	6	5	3	16	18	23	15	12	1	8	19	11	9	7	13	21	22	20	14	17	10	4
	Biological transition (day of year)	21	13	8	3	11	17	14	22	16	4	1	2	19	5	12	6	6	23	23	20	15	17	8	10
	Nearshore Ichthyoplankton Log(mg C 1,000 m^{-3}; Jan-Mar)	19	3	13	7	1	23	24	17	10	19	3	15	2	9	5	12	21	16	17	14	11	22	8	6
	Nearshore & offshore Ichthyoplankton community index (PCO axis 1 scores; Jan-Mar)	11	6	5	8	10	13	18	22	2	15	3	12	16	4	1	7	9	20	23	24	19	21	17	14
	Chinook salmon juvenile catches Log(no. km^{-2}; June)	21	3	7	19	6	10	17	23	14	12	1	8	5	15	2	4	9	16	20	24	18	13	22	11
	Coho salmon juvenile catches Log(no. km^{-2}; June)	22	11	19	5	7	6	21	23	17	2	4	8	9	18	13	1	10	16	15	24	3	14	20	12
	Mean of ranks	20.1	7.0	8.5	8.1	6.8	15.2	18.2	19.4	12.1	10.7	3.2	9.6	13.9	8.1	6.6	9.3	14.2	20.4	19.8	18.3	13.4	17.3	13.2	6.0
	Rank of the mean rank	23	5	8	7	4	17	19	21	12	11	1	10	15	6	3	9	16	24	22	20	14	18	13	2

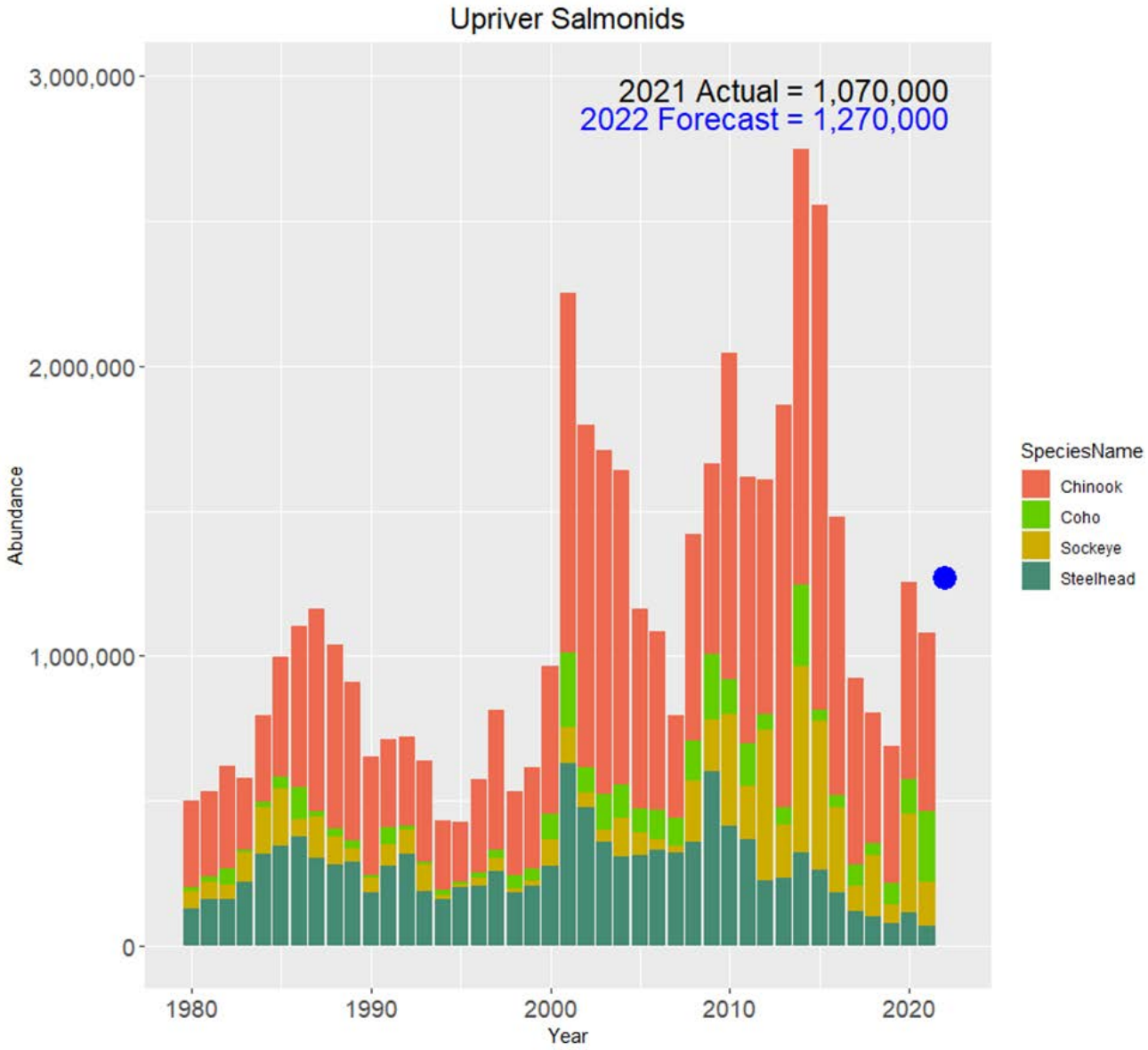
Physical indicators (PDO, El Niño, SST, Salinity) among best

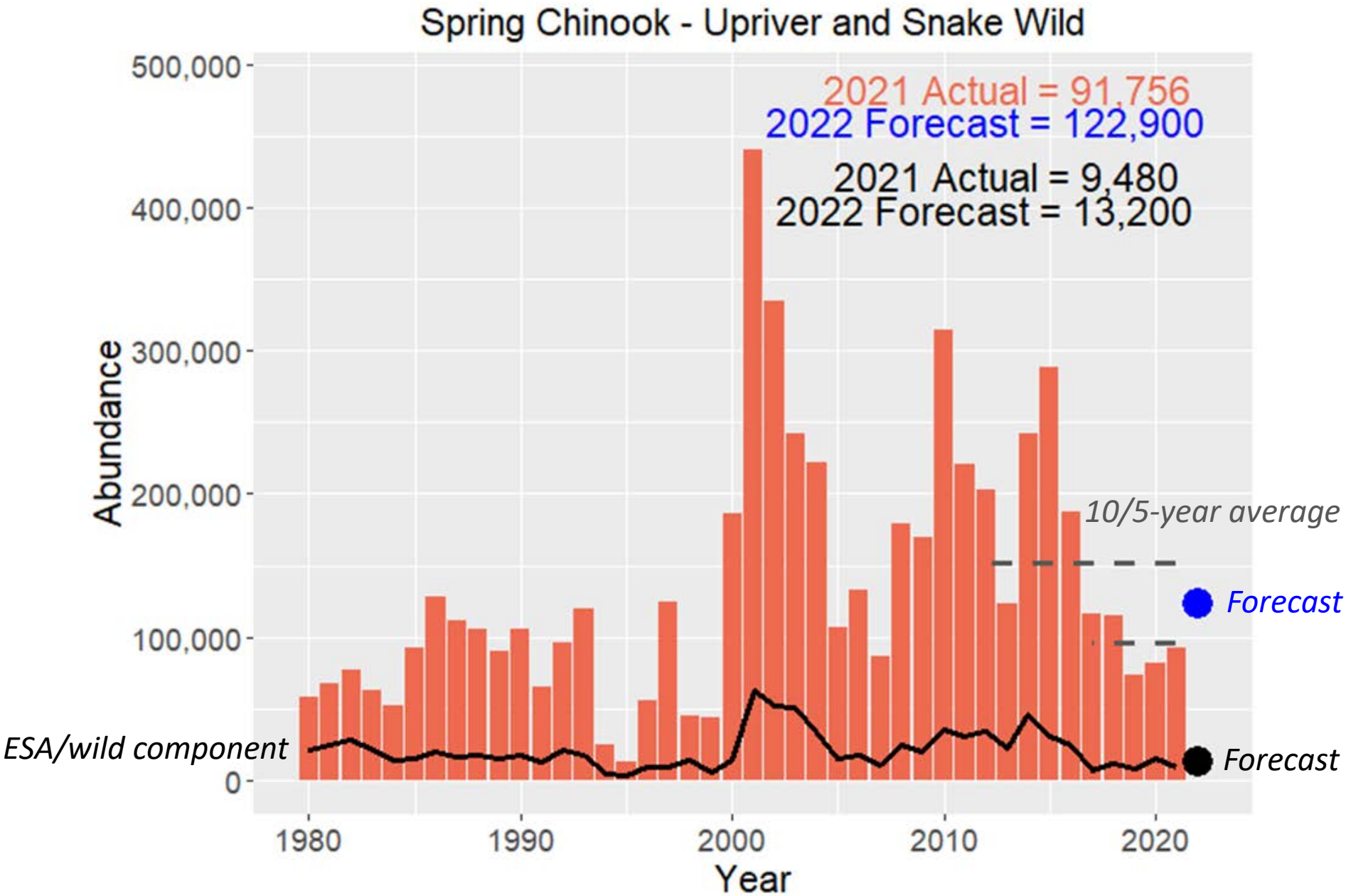
Biological indicators (e.g., prey) trended well in 2021

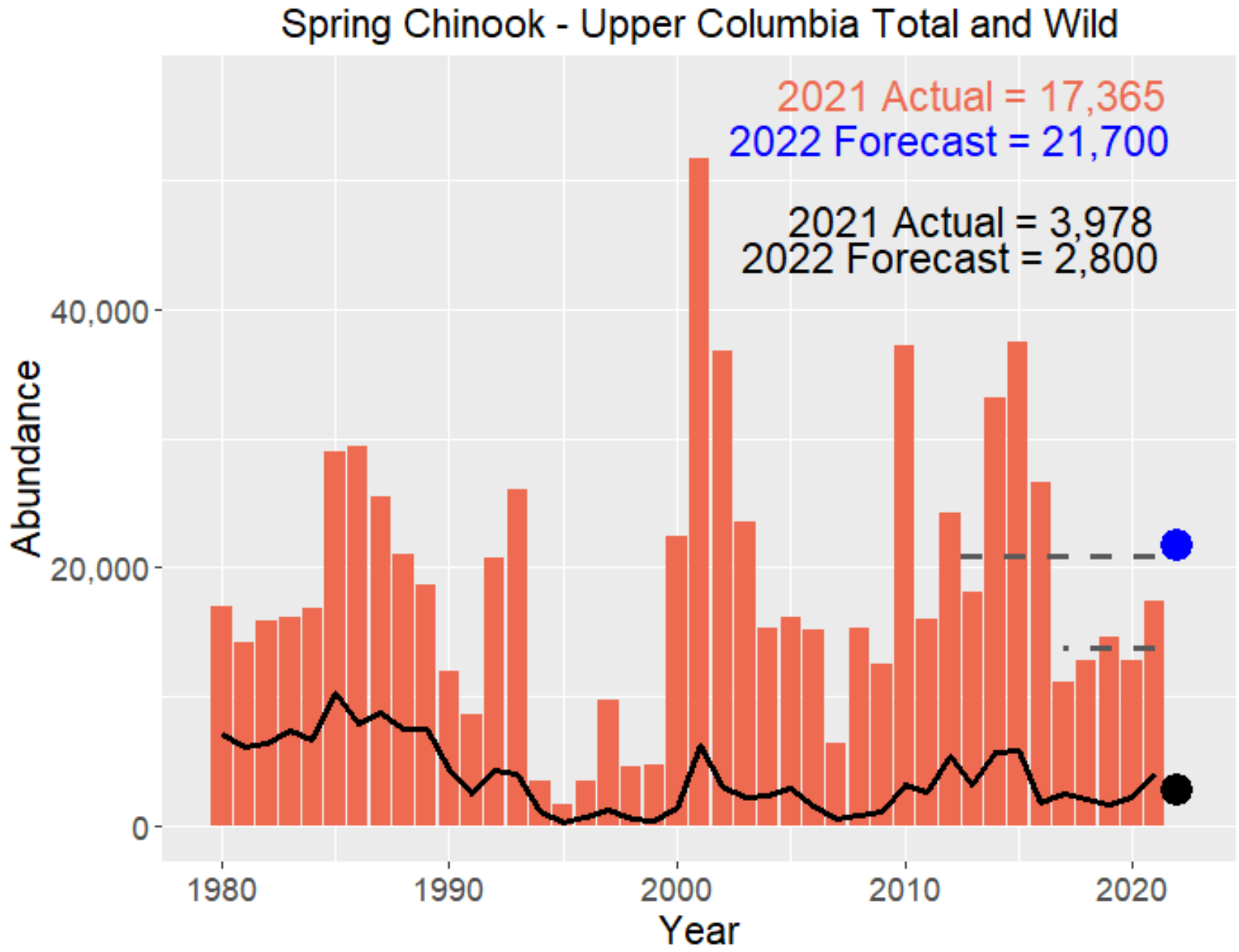
2021 = Ranked 2nd out of 24 years

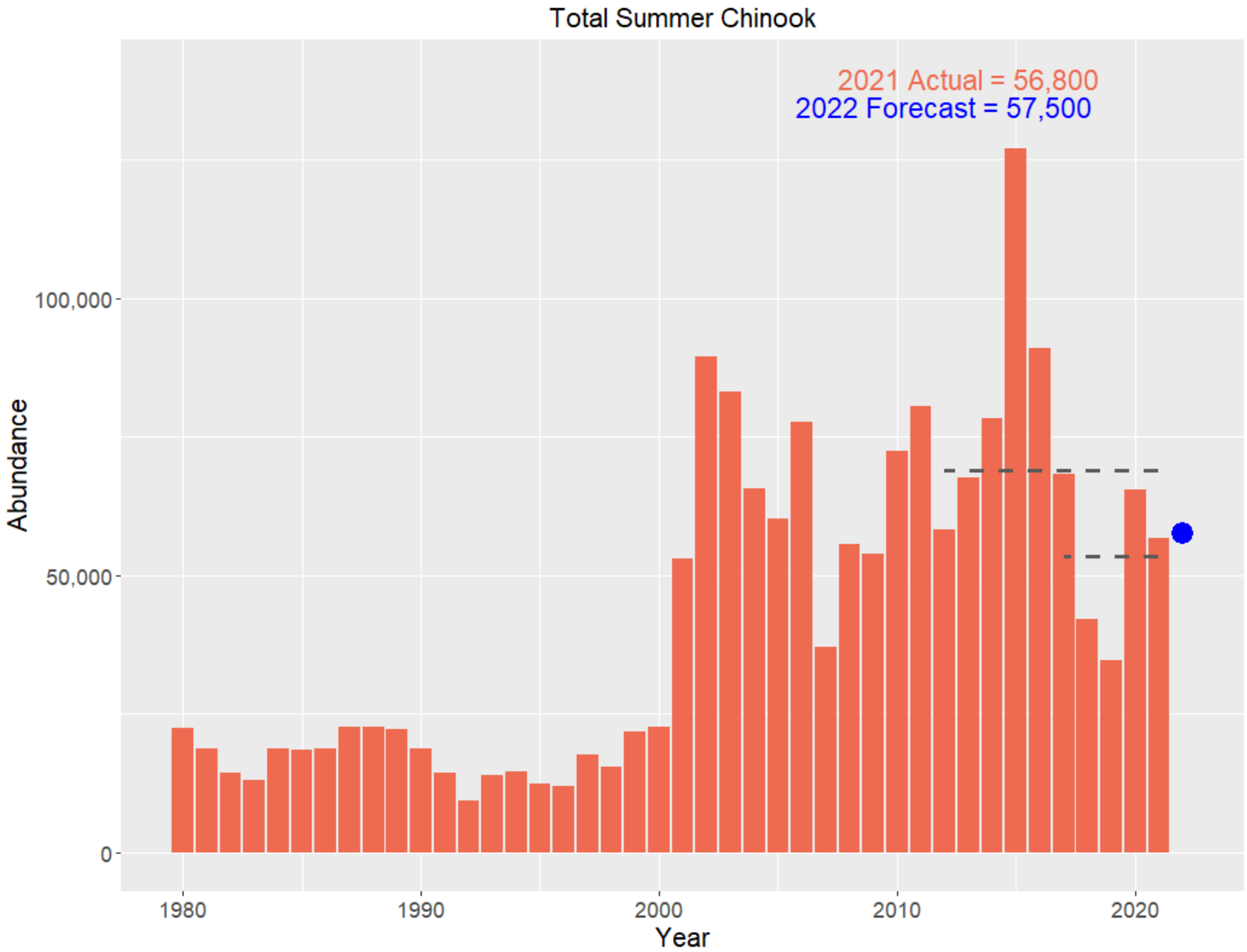
www.nwfsc.noaa.gov

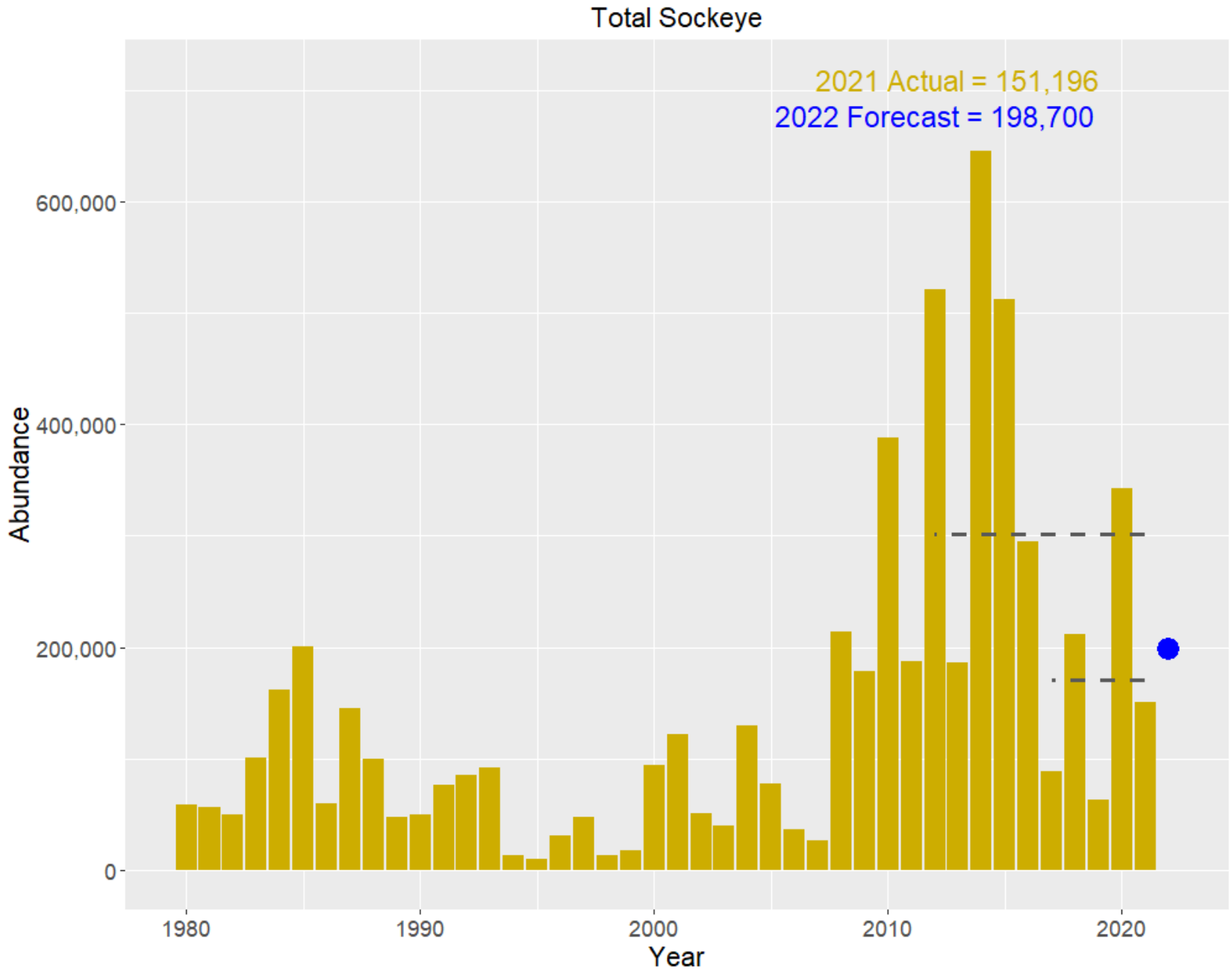
Forecasts & Returns

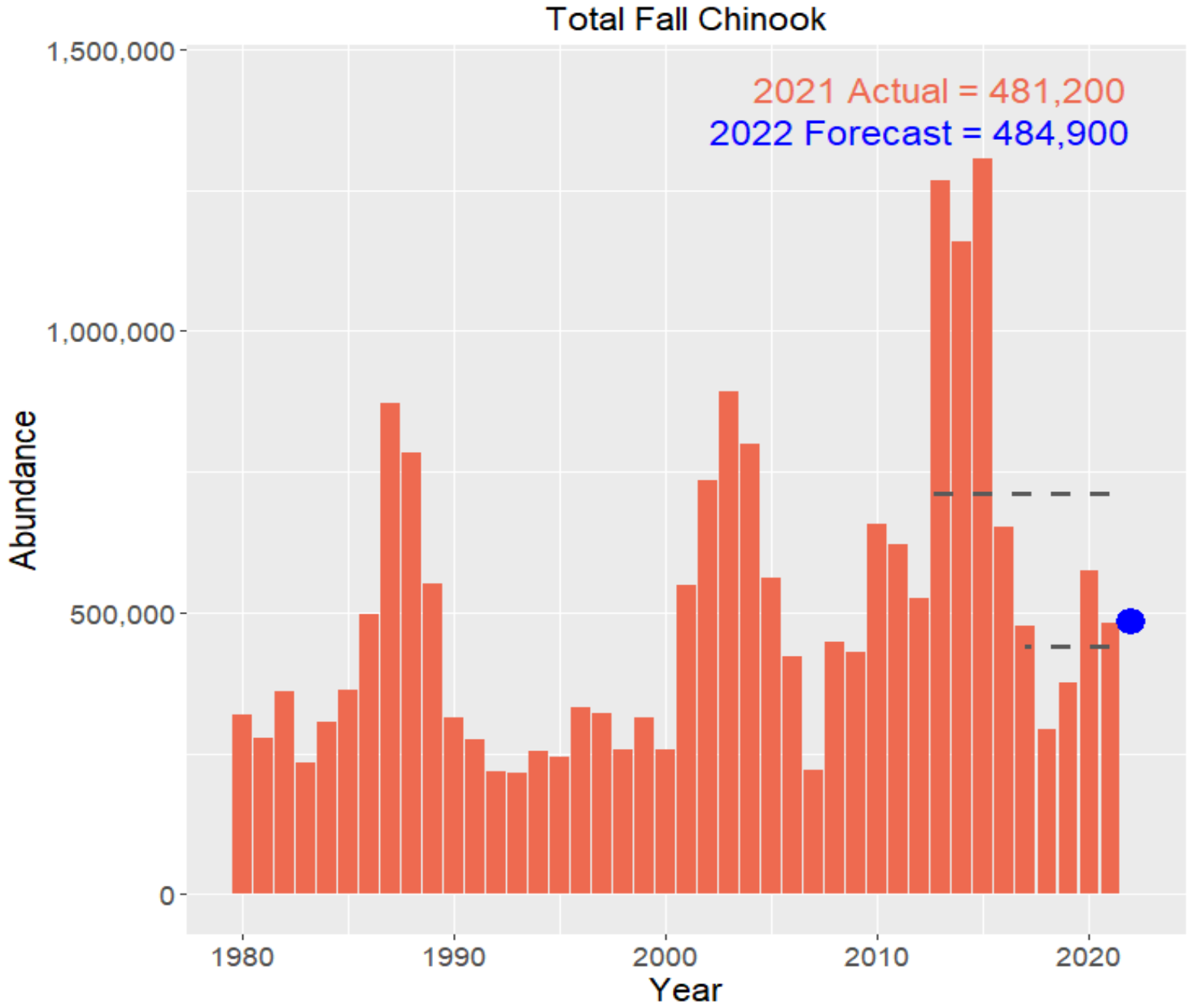



Spring Chinook - Upriver and Snake Wild
2021 Actual = 91,756
2022 Forecast = 122,900
2021 Actual = 9,480
2022 Forecast = 13,200
10/5-year average
Forecast
Forecast
ESA/wild component
Abundance
500,000
400,000
300,000
200,000
100,000
0
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year

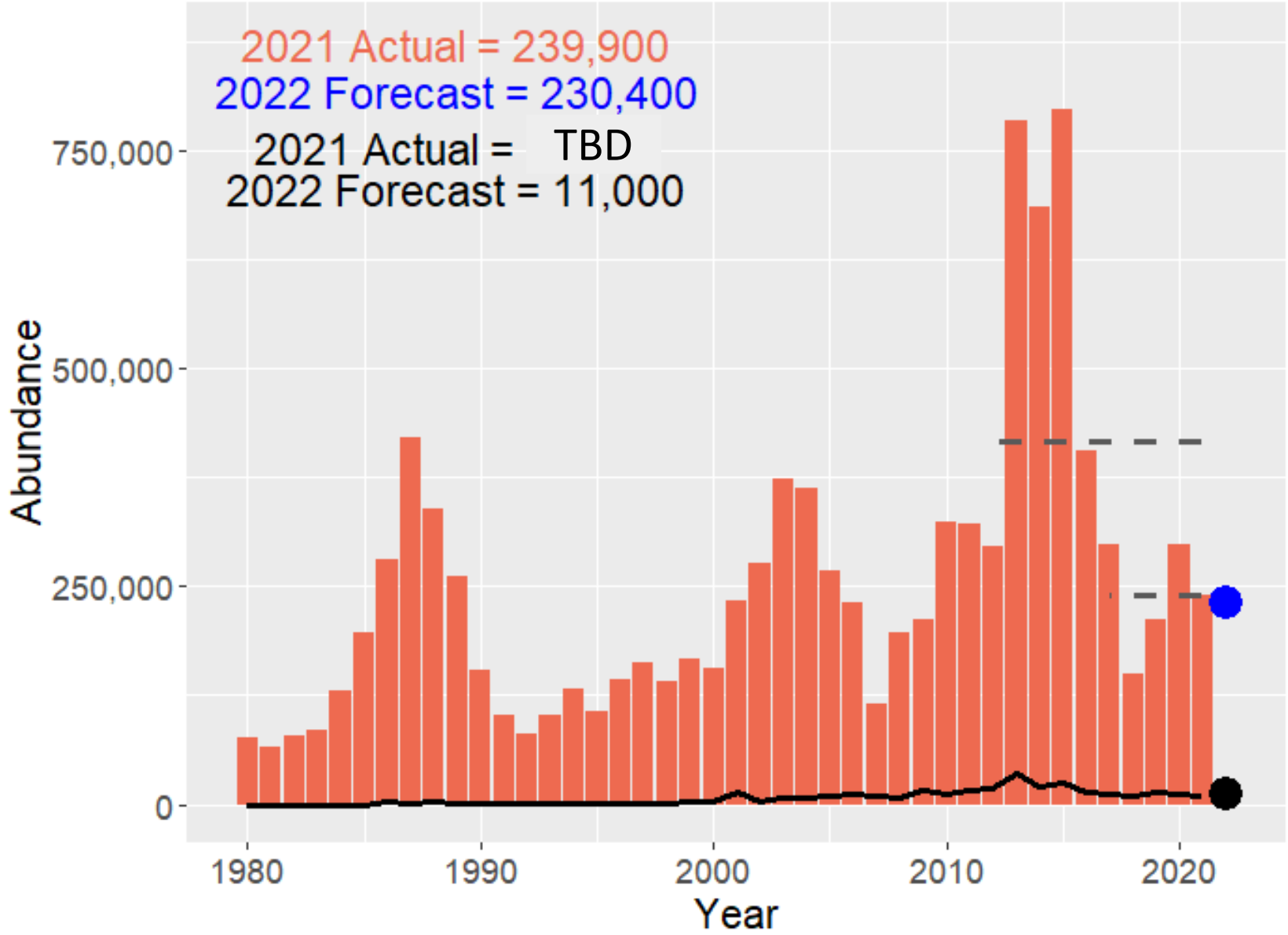

Spring Chinook - Upper Columbia Total and Wild
2021 Actual = 17,365
2022 Forecast = 21,700
2021 Actual = 3,978
2022 Forecast = 2,800
Abundance
40,000
20,000
0
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year

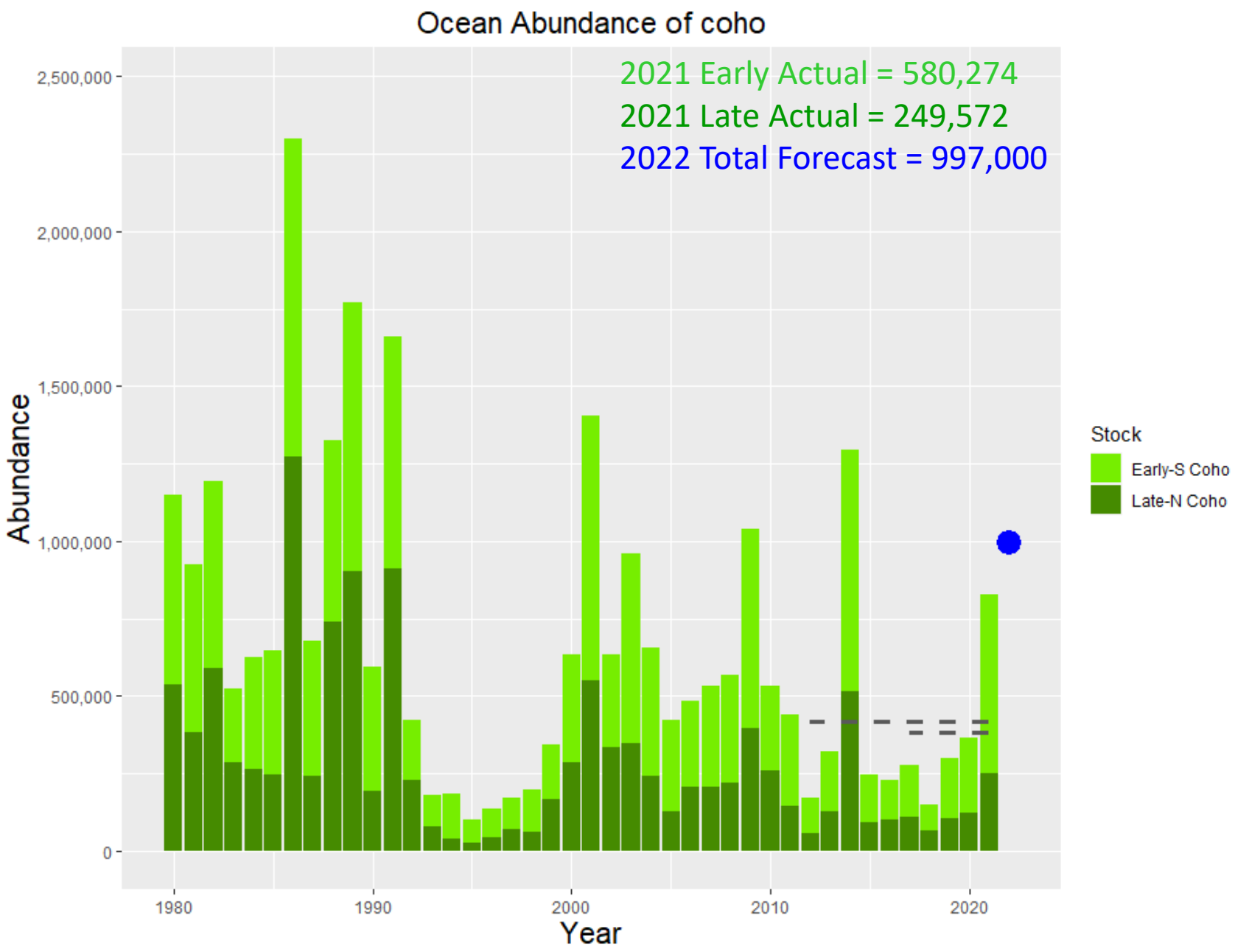

Total Summer Chinook
2021 Actual = 56,800
2022 Forecast = 57,500
Abundance
100,000
50,000
0
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year

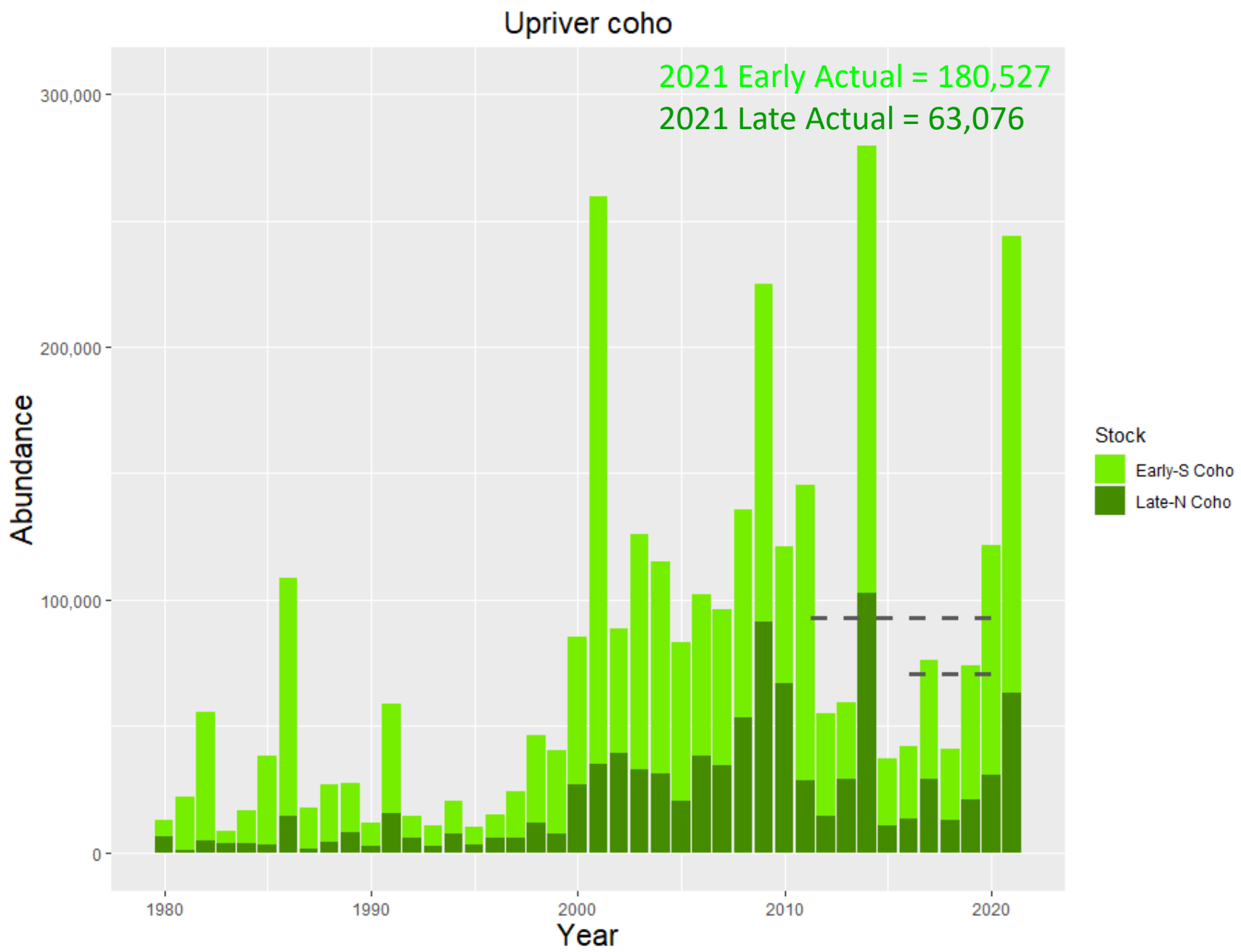

Total Sockeye
2021 Actual = 151,196
2022 Forecast = 198,700
Abundance
600,000
400,000
200,000
0
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year

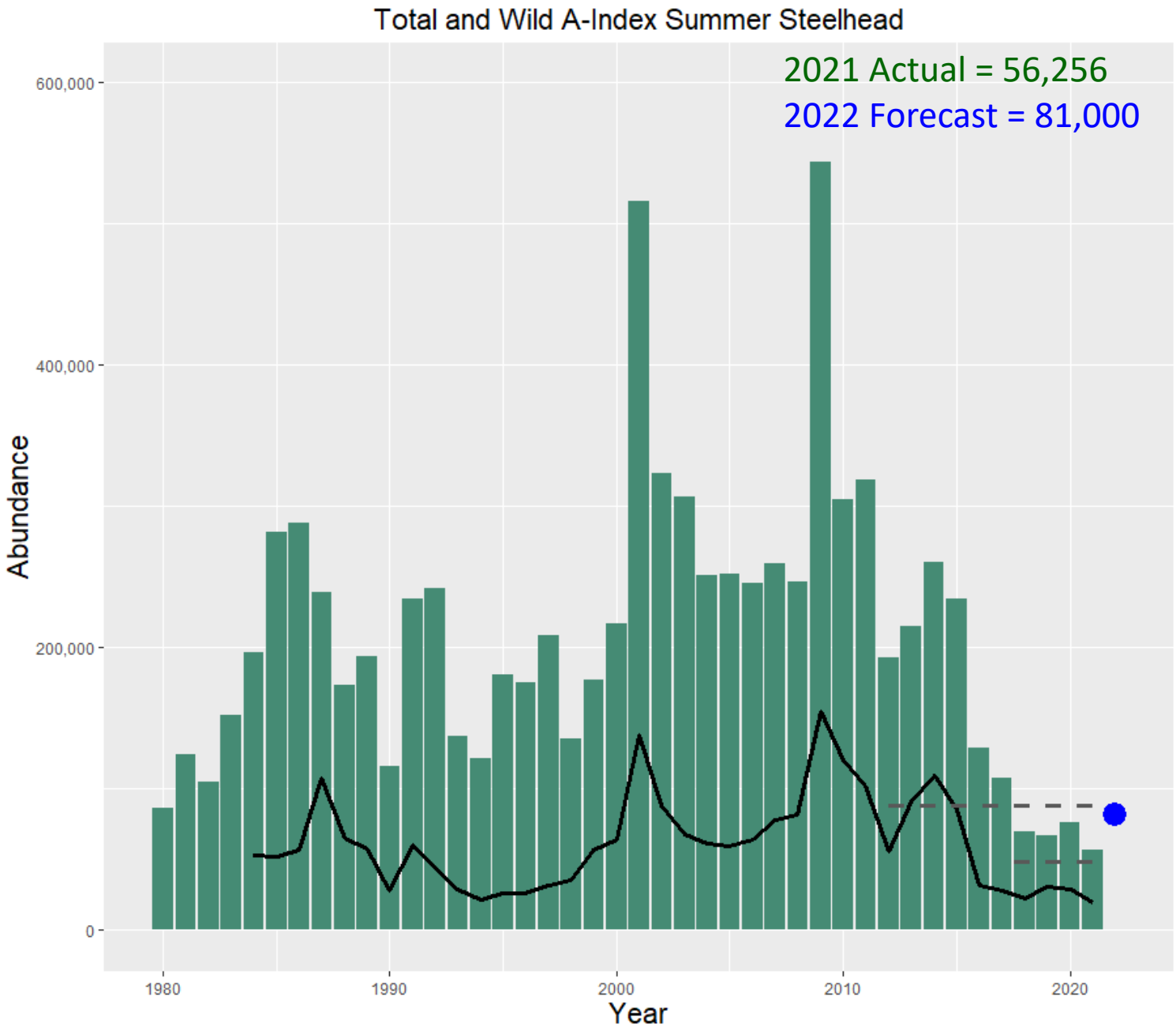

Total Fall Chinook
2021 Actual = 481,200
2022 Forecast = 484,900
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0
Abundance
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year

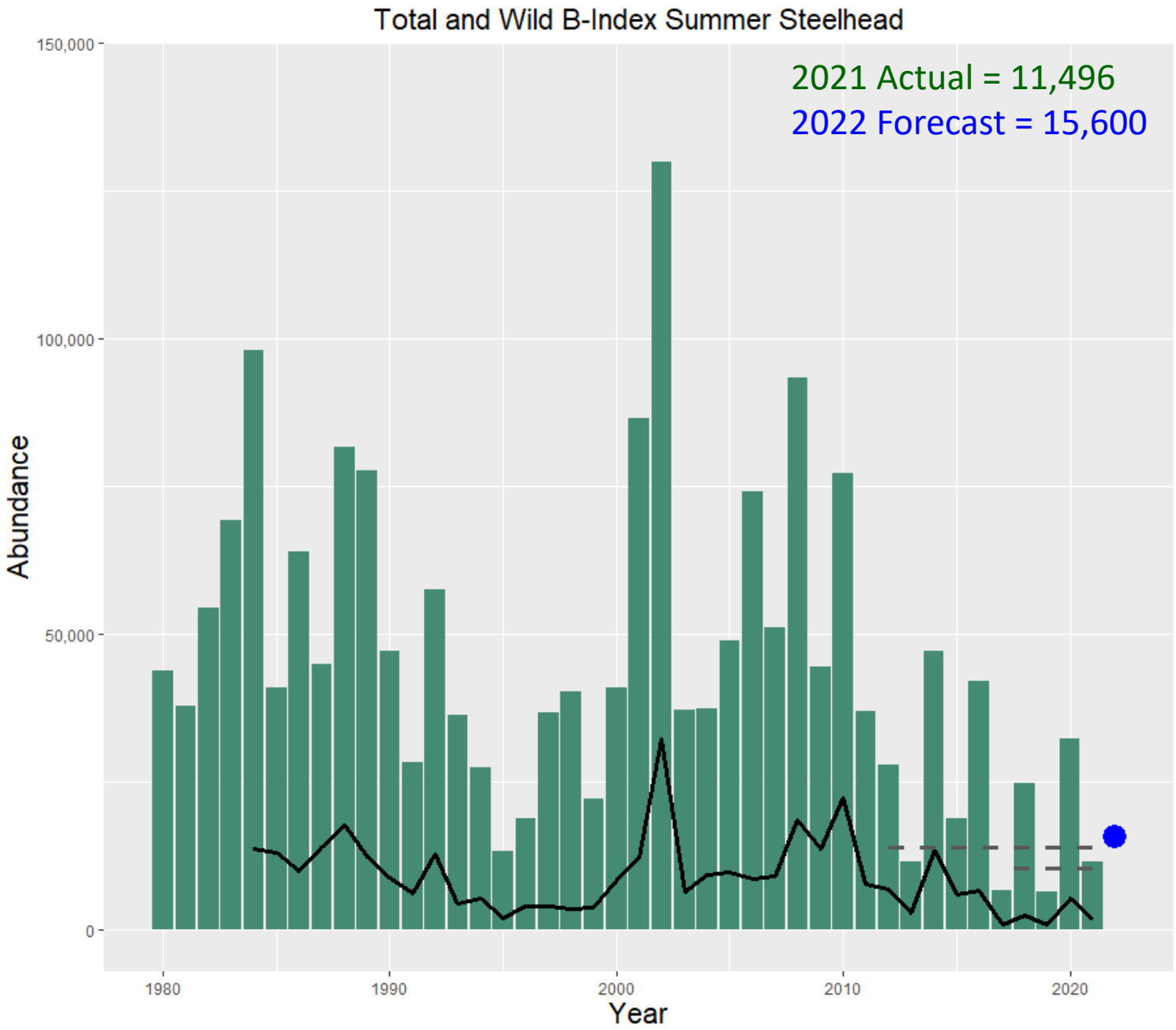
Fall Chinook - URB and Snake Wild




Ocean Abundance of coho
2021 Early Actual = 580,274
2021 Late Actual = 249,572
2022 Total Forecast = 997,000
Abundance
2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year
Stock
Early-S Coho
Late-N Coho


Upriver coho
2021 Early Actual = 180,527
2021 Late Actual = 63,076
300,000
200,000
100,000
0
Abundance
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year
Stock
Early-S Coho
Late-N Coho


Total and Wild A-Index Summer Steelhead
2021 Actual = 56,256
2022 Forecast = 81,000
Abundance
600,000
400,000
200,000
0
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year


Total and Wild B-Index Summer Steelhead
2021 Actual = 11,496
2022 Forecast = 15,600
Abundance
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year

2021 Fishery Summaries

Stock	Area	Season
Upriver Spring Chinook	1. Yakima 2. Snake 3. Icicle	1. Closed 2. Open 7 days between May 4-Jun 6 3. May 22-Jun 30
UCR Summer Chinook	1. Hanford Reach 2. PRD to RID 3. RID to WED 4. WED to Brewster Br. 5. Brewster Br. To CJD 6. Wenatchee River 7. Entiat River 8. Chelan River 9. Okanogan/Similkameen Rivers	1. Jun 16-Aug 15 2. Jul 1-Aug 31 3. Jul 1-Oct 15 4. Jul 16-Sep 30 5. Jul 1-Oct 15 6. Aug 1-Sep 30 7. Jul 16-Sep 30 8. Jul 16-Oct 15 9. Jul 1-Sep 15 or Oct 15
Sockeye	1. Hanford Reach 2. PRD to WAD 3. WAD to WED 4. WED to Brewster Br. 5. Brewster Br. To CJD	1. Jun 16-Jul 19 2. Jul 1-Jul 19 3. Jul 1-Jul 19 4. Jul 16-Jul 19 5. Jul 1-Jul 19
Upriver Summer Steelhead	1. Hanford Reach 2. Snake 3. Upper Columbia	1. Closed 2. Before Sept. 3—Open; Sept. 3-Mar 31 Lower mainstem and tribs closed 3. Closed
URB Fall Chinook	1. Hanford Reach 2. Snake 3. PRD to RID	1. Aug 16-Oct 15/31 2. Aug 18-Oct 31 3. Sep 1-Oct 15

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

- Mixed bag of forecasts.

Stock	Forecast	Comments
Upriver Spring Chinook	122,900	81% of 10-year average; Snake (73,400), Yakima (4,700), Icicle (~2,600)
Upper Columbia Summer Chinook	57,500	83% of 10-yr avg; 29,000 escapement goal to Col. River mouth
Upriver Bright Fall Chinook	230,400	55% of 10-yr avg; Hanford Reach (90,700, ~50% wild); Snake River (40,425)
Upriver Summer Steelhead	Total: 96,600 A-index: 81,000 B-index: 15,600	Total (59% of 10-yr avg), A-index (58% of 10-yr avg), B-index (68% of 10-yr avg), B-index wild (1,900; 44% 10-yr avg)

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Stock	Forecast	Comments
Sockeye	198,700	87% of 10-year average; Okanogan (175,700), Lake Wenatchee (19,200)

Mainstem CR Sockeye Quotas:

- Lake Wenatchee forecast is below the escapement goal of 23,000 fish
- WDFW-Colville Tribe harvest share agreement for sockeye
- Allowable non-treaty harvest quota of 13,449 sockeye for run sizes between 150,000 to 200,000
- Pre-season quotas by area:
  - CR mouth to Hwy 395 Bridge: closed
  - Hwy 395 Bridge to PRD: 2,500 (18.6%)
  - PRD to CJD: 10,949 (81.4%)
- Adjust quotas up or down in-season based off run size updates
- WDFW will monitor harvest closely
- Season may close suddenly by emergency rule
- Anglers should check WDFW website routinely for updates

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Below Bonneville

- Spring Chinook: Improved forecast for lower and upriver stocks. Pre-update fishery open through April 6.
- Summer Chinook: Anticipate fishing opportunity.
- Sockeye: Directed fishery closed.
- Fall Chinook: Lower river hatchery 'tules' are expected to limit fisheries. Managed in-season. Planning to reserve sufficient impacts to remain open for coho in Buoy 10.
- Coho: Forecast large enough to afford harvest opportunity. Most harvest occurs in Buoy 10.
- Upriver summer steelhead: Closures with very limited harvest opportunity due to low forecasts similar to recent year regulations.
- Other: Barbless hooks required.

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Bonneville upstream to Hwy 395 at Pasco

- Spring Chinook: April 1 through May 5.
  - Wind/Drano open w/ 1 adult limit until further notice, with Klickitat open on April 1. Check pamphlet for additional rules.
- Summer Chinook: Anticipate fishing opportunity.
- Sockeye: Directed fishery closed.
- Fall Chinook: Standard fishery is expected to occur, and managed in-season.
- Coho: Forecast large enough to afford harvest opportunity.
- Upriver summer steelhead: Closures with very limited harvest opportunity due to low forecasts similar to recent year regulations.
- Other: Barbless hooks required downstream of OR/WA state line.

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 3 (Columbia River from Highway 395 to Priest Rapids Dam & Yakima River)

Spring Chinook:

Yakima River

- Preseason forecast 4,680 adult chinook including 2,840 Cle Elum Hatchery
- Two sections: Hwy 240 (Richland) -SR 241 (Sunnyside) & Hwy 223 (Union Gap) - Roza Diversion
- Will monitor in-season for openers in May
- Fishery would open by emergency regulation

Summer Chinook & Sockeye:

Hwy 395 to I-182:

- Closed except for bank fishery at Columbia Point
- June 16 – July 15

I-182 to Priest Rapids Dam: June 16-August 15

- Daily limit 6 salmon.
- Up to 2 adults may be retained.
- Release wild adult chinook.
- Use of two poles is permitted with endorsement.
- Barbed hooks allowed.

Fishery managed on sockeye quota

- Pre-season quota: 2,500 sockeye
- Adjust quotas up or down in-season based on run updates
- Season may close early by emergency regulation if quota is met.
- Anglers should check WDFW website routinely for updates

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 3 (continued)

Fall Chinook:

Yakima River:

- Closed pre-season
- Pre-season forecast for 2,500 adult chinook
- Will be monitored in-season for potential fishery

Hanford Reach: Forecast 90,702 adults (46,400 wild + 44,300 hatchery)

- Daily limit 6 salmon. Up to 2 adults may be retained. Coho & Chinook.
- Use of two poles is permitted with endorsement. Barbed hooks allowed.
- Second year of adult coho returns to Ringold Springs Hatchery.
- Hwy 395 Br. To Old Hanford townsite powerline crossing
  - August 16 to December 31 (extended for RSH coho fishery)
- Old Hanford townsite powerline crossing to Priest Rapids Dam,
  - August 16 to October 15

Ringold Steelhead:

- Open from I-182 (Richland) upstream to the Hanford Townsite powerline crossing
- Open October 1 - March 31, bank only April 1-15
- Daily limit 2 hatchery steelhead, Ringold Spring Hatchery only. RSH steelhead are adipose clipped and right ventral fin clipped
- Sport harvest and adult return will be monitored in-season.
- Potential for early closure

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Spring Chinook:
  - Icicle River closed pre-season
  - Improved forecast of ~2,600 adults
  - If forecast holds up, open via emergency rule

- Mainstem CR Summer Chinook & Sockeye Seasons:
  - Seasons will be listed in the 2022-2023 Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet
    - Check sport fishing rules pamphlet for complete details
  - Daily limit 6 salmon. Minimum size 12". No more than 2 adult hatchery chinook and no more than 2 sockeye. Release wild adult chinook and coho
  - Use of two poles permitted with endorsement and barbed hooks allowed
  - PRD-RID: Jul 1-Aug 31
  - RID-WED: Jul 1-Oct 15
  - WED-Brewster Bridge: Jul 16-Sept 30
  - Brewster Bridge-CJD: Jul 1-Oct 15

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (continued)

- Sockeye Quotas:
  - PRD to CJD: 10,949 (81.4%)
  - Adjust quotas up or down in-season based off run size updates
  - WDFW will monitor harvest closely
  - WDFW may consider shorter seasons to start
  - Season may close suddenly by emergency rules
  - Anglers should check WDFW website routinely for updates
  - Interested in angler's thoughts on fishing boundaries (e.g., PRD-CJD, above RRD only, Brewster Pool only, etc.)

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (continued)

- Tributary Summer Chinook Seasons:
  - Seasons will be listed in the 2022-2023 Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet
    - Check sport fishing rules pamphlet for complete details
  - Daily limit 6 salmon. Minimum size 12". No more than 2 adult hatchery chinook. Release wild adult chinook, sockeye, and coho.
    - Except for Entiat River (see below)
  - Wenatchee River: Aug 1-Sep 30 (night closure and selective gear rules, but bait allowed)
  - Entiat River: Jul 16-Sep 30; Daily limit 6 chinook. Minimum size 12". Release all salmon other than chinook. (night closure and barbed hooks allowed)
  - Chelan River: Jul 16-Oct 15 (night closure and barbed hooks allowed)
  - Okanogan River:
    - Mouth to Hwy 97 Bridge: Jul 1-Oct 15 (night closure, anti-snagging rule, & two poles allowed with endorsement)
    - Hwy 97 Bridge to Malott Bridge: Jul 1-Oct 15 (night closure and anti-snagging rule)
    - Upstream of Malott Bridge: Jul 1-Sep 15 (night closure and anti-snagging rule)
  - Similkameen River: Jul 1-Sep 15 (night closure and anti-snagging rule)

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (continued)

- Lake Wenatchee Sockeye Season:
  - TBD
  - Pre-season forecast of 19,200 is 68.6% of the minimum 28,000 (23,000 escapement goal + 5,000 for harvest) preferred to open a season
  - Monitor the run in-season
  - Open by emergency rule if appropriate

- Fall Chinook Seasons:
  - Seasons will be listed in the 2022-2023 Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet
    - Check sport fishing rules pamphlet for complete details
  - Daily limit 6 salmon. Minimum size 12". No more than 2 adult chinook. Release all other salmon other than chinook.
  - Use of two poles permitted with endorsement and barbed hooks allowed
  - PRD-RID: Sep 1-Oct 15

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (continued)

- Coho Seasons:
  - TBD
  - Based off run size over PRD
  - Opened by emergency rule if appropriate

- Steelhead Seasons:
  - TBD
  - Based off run size over PRD
  - Opened by emergency rule if appropriate

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 1 (Snake River Basin)

- Spring Chinook: Plan to open Little Goose and Ice Harbor areas for two days/week
  - Estimate opening the first week in May under emergency rule depending on run timing
  - While harvest allocation is slightly better, we do not anticipate opening on weekend days
  - Daily limit 6 salmon, only one adult may be retained
- Fall Chinook:
  - Clarkston area upstream
    - August 18th-October 31 under emergency rule
    - Daily limit of three adult Chinook no limit on jacks
  - Below Lower Granite
    - We are reviewing options for fisheries below Lower Granite that may provide a non-selective fishery option.

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 1 (Snake River Basin)

- Steelhead: Expect emergency rules for 2022/2023 season.
  - WDFW will evaluate Steelhead returns at Bonneville Dam and adjust seasons through emergency rules.
  - Seasons could include reduce limits, size restrictions or area closures.

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Summer Steelhead:

- 2017, 2019-2021 fishery limitations were primarily based on low B-run forecasts, with 2020 and 2021 also focused on A-run. Fisheries were structured with block closure to be protective of fish as they progressed upstream.
  - Record low returns in 2021 (since 1938)
  - Limited additional restrictions were available in-season due to the precautionary approach implemented through NOF.
- Continued low A-run and B-run forecasts, with only 1,900 wild B-run fish expected to return during 2021.
  - Similar to 2021 preseason concerns.

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Proposed Season Structure for 2022:

- Rolling block closures (e.g., 2017, 2019-2021) from mouth of the Columbia beginning in August continuing upstream. Consideration for the mainstem to remain closed for the most to the run (~July-March in some areas). Night closure.
- Tributary mouths (e.g., Drano Lake) will be closed similarly to the mainstem rolling block closure early summer to fishing for steelhead (no catch and release). Night closure.
- Expect no open fishing or abbreviated seasons on the Snake River and tributaries.
- Do not expect to fish the upper Columbia River and tributaries above Priest Rapids Dam.
- Abbreviated harvest limits in areas that are open (e.g.,1 fish). If actual return is lower than anticipated there may be only catch and release opportunity offered (e.g., mainstem Snake River above Clarkston).

Comments can submitted here: https://wdfw.wa.gov/nof

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