

Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy



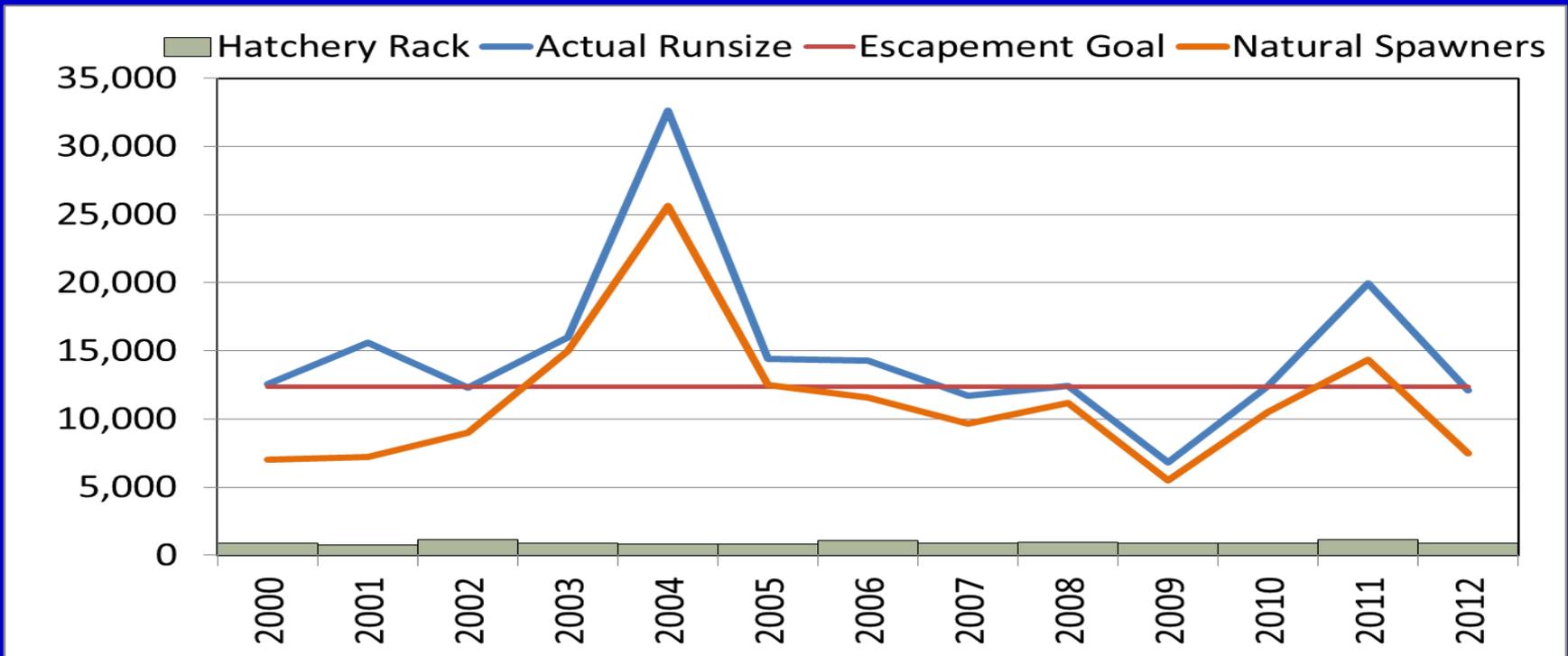
Ron Warren - Fish Program
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
February 8, 2014

Presentation Outline

- **Set Context – What are the challenges to improving Grays Harbor basin fisheries?**
- **Define Purpose - What are the primary objectives of the draft policy?**
- **Summarize Public Process & Comments**
- **Review Policy Provisions – What are the implications of key policy provisions?**

Challenges to Improving Chehalis Fisheries

Chehalis Fall Chinook



Challenges to Improving Chehalis Fisheries

Chehalis Fall Chinook

- **Primarily Wild Stock**
 - ~8% return of hatchery origin
- **Degraded Habitat**
 - ~68% reduction in production potential
- **Substantial Harvest in Alaska & Canada**
 - 48% harvest rate in northern fisheries
 - Limited harvest for Washington

Challenges to Improving Chehalis Fisheries

➤ Multiple Management Entities & Stakeholders

- Pacific Salmon Commission
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Chehalis Tribe
- WDFW
- Commercial
- Recreational
- Estuary, lower river, upper river



Challenges to Improving Chehalis Fisheries

➤ Multiple Management Entities & Stakeholders

	2013 Projected Distribution	%
Alaska & Canada*	13,968	48%
Quinault Indian Nation	1,384	5%
Chehalis Tribe	229	1%
WDFW-Managed Commercial	171	1%
Marine Recreational	530	2%
Freshwater Recreational	454	2%
Spawners	12,364	42%

*Projected from 2001-2005 brood years

Conservation

Spawner objectives for Grays Harbor salmon are not routinely achieved

Stock	# of times goal achieved (last 5 years)
Chehalis Spring Chinook	2
Chehalis Fall Chinook	1
Humptulips Fall Chinook	4
Chehalis Coho	5
Humptulips Coho	1
Grays Harbor Chum	3

Summary of Public Process

Advisory Group Meetings

(Oct. 21 & 28, Nov. 13 & 18, 2013 and Jan. 13, 2013)

5

Public Workshops

(Nov. 1 & 26, 2013 and Jan. 15, 2014)

3

Fish and Wildlife Commission Meetings

(Nov. 9, 2013; Dec. 7, 2013, and Jan. 11, 2014)

3

Public Comment

- **verbal testimony**

45

(during FWC meetings Dec. 7, 2013 & Jan. 11, 2014)

- **written testimony**

374

(comment periods Dec. 10, 2013 – Jan. 9, 2014 & Jan. 16-31, 2014)

Categories of Public Comment

- **Allocation (318)**
- **Conservation (64)**
- **Language (33)**
- **Economic value (22)**
- **Accountability (19)**
- **Sound Science (13)**
- **Other (17)**
 - including: **Gear Conflict (5), Grays Harbor Control Zone (5), Hatchery production (4), Habitat (1), Marine mammals (1), Nutrient Enhancement (1)**

Policy Purpose

- **Advance conservation and restoration of wild salmon**
- **Where consistent with conservation objective:**
 - **Maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the of the fishing industry**
 - **Provide outdoor recreational experiences and a fair distribution of fishing opportunities**
- **Improve technical rigor of fishery management**
- **Enhance transparency & information sharing**

What Does Policy Do?

- **Builds on foundation of statewide guidance of Hatchery and Fishery Reform policy**
- **Recognizes that innovation and adaptive management necessary to achieve the stated purpose of the policy**
- **Sets general management direction for the Department**

Key Policy Provisions

- **Enhance Conservation Focus**
- **Reduce Gear Conflict**
- **Clarify Sharing of Impacts**

Enhance Conservation Focus

Adaptive Management Principle 1

Limit the catch of WDFW-managed fisheries to a maximum of 5% of the adult return if spawning goals for wild salmon are not met in three out of the previous five years.

Enhance Conservation Focus

Implication - Adaptive Management Principle 1

Stocks that would have triggered 5% limit on harvest rate in 2013:

- **Chehalis Spring Chinook (<5% projected harvest rate)**
- **Chehalis Fall Chinook (9.1% projected harvest rate)**
- **Humptulips Coho (11.6% projected harvest rate)**

Reduce Gear Conflict

Principle 8

Structure seasons, when possible, so that anglers have at least three consecutive days of fishing per week with no commercial fisheries in progress.

Reduce Gear Conflict

Implication – Principle 8

From 2009 through 2012, a WDFW-managed commercial fishery would not have been possible in:

- **28% of weeks in Area 2A/D**
- **42% of weeks in Area 2C**

Reduce Gear Conflict

Implication – Principle 8

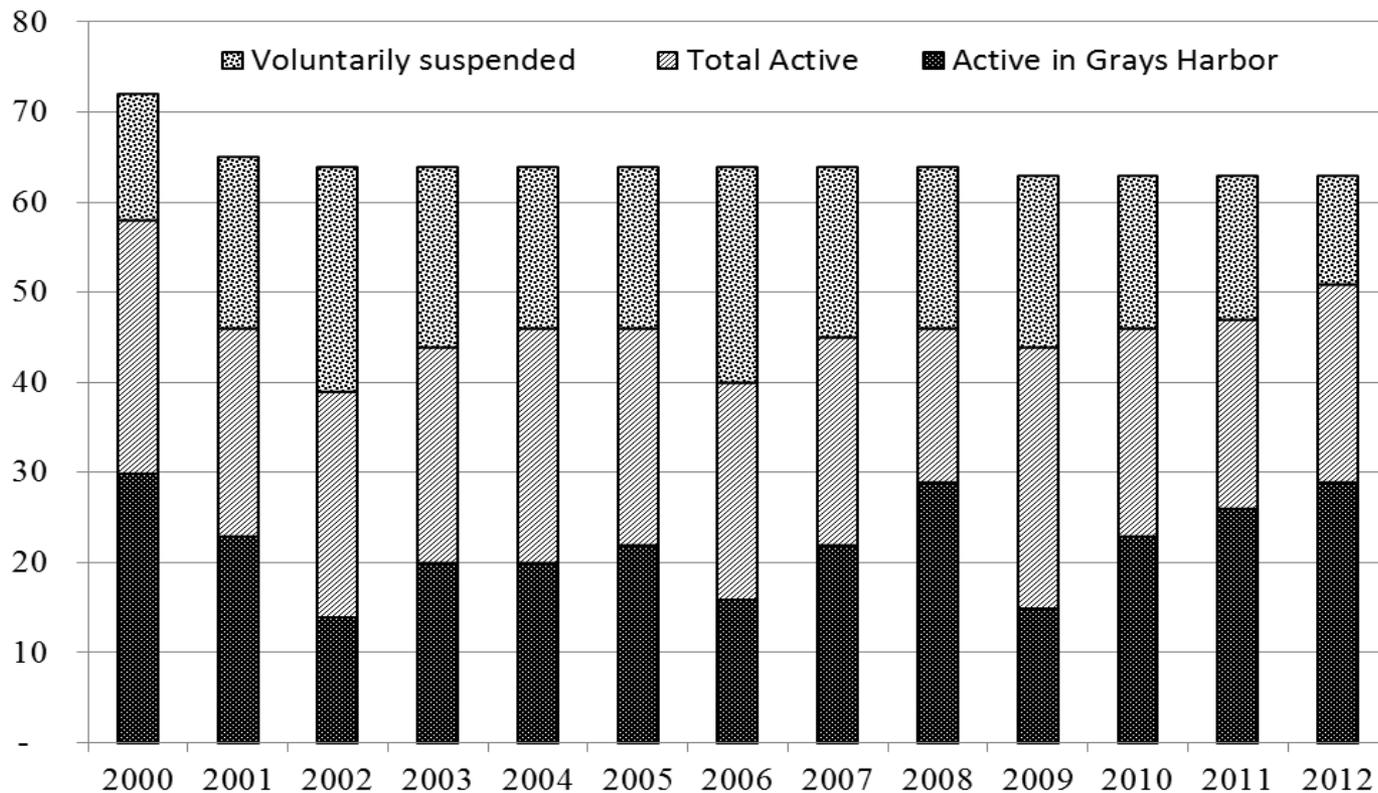
Average # of days available per week (2009-2012)
– without fishing in-common

Week	2A/2D	2C
40	3.5	1.5
41	2.7	1.5
42	1.0	0.0
43	2.3	2.5
44	4.0	3.8
45	4.0	4.0
46	2.5	1.0
47	1.0	1.0
48	0.0	0.0

Clarify Sharing of Impacts

Context - Commercial Fishery

Grays Harbor Columbia River Salmon Gill Net licenses 2000-2012

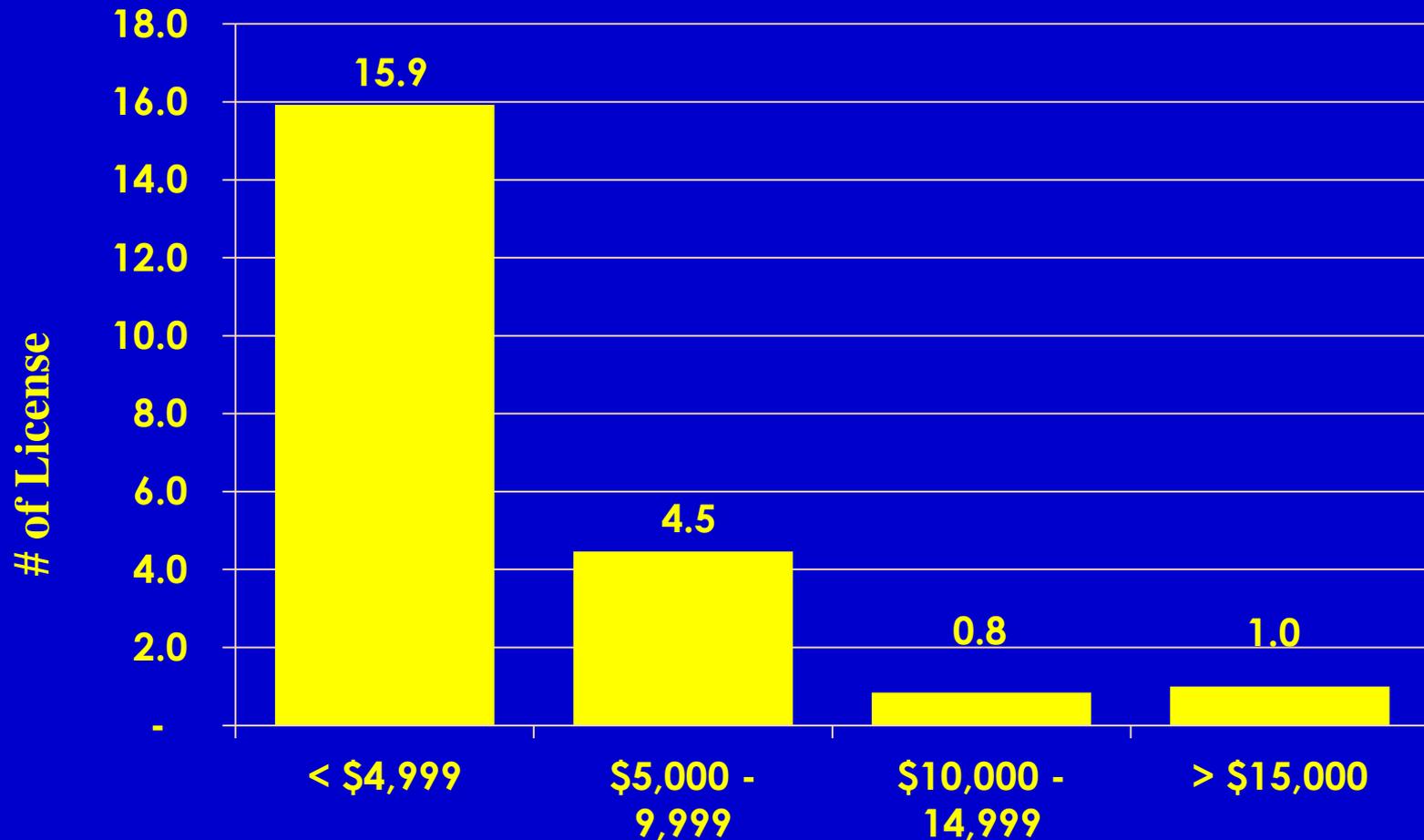


Clarify Sharing of Impacts

Context - Commercial Fishery

Year	Chinook	Chum	Coho	Grand Total
2000	\$ 33,496	\$ 2,295	\$ 32,383	\$ 68,174
2001	\$ 51,639	\$ 376	\$ 12,630	\$ 64,646
2002	\$ 823	\$ 9,958	\$ 24,171	\$ 34,953
2003	\$ 1,875	\$ 12,232	\$ 46,306	\$ 60,414
2004	\$ 3,595	\$ 12,584	\$ 69,712	\$ 85,891
2005	\$ 2,386	\$ 3,795	\$ 44,693	\$ 50,874
2006	\$ 0	\$ 66	\$ 10,570	\$ 10,636
2007	\$ 38,231	\$ 566	\$ 30,986	\$ 69,783
2008	\$ 51,958	\$ 1,403	\$ 152,379	\$ 205,740
2009	\$ 49,007	\$ 0	\$ 7,824	\$ 56,831
2010	\$ 49,074	\$ 0	\$ 66,199	\$ 115,273
2011	\$ 77,462	\$ 29,019	\$ 57,223	\$ 163,705
2012	\$ 53,528	\$ 6,237	\$ 157,785	\$ 217,550
Average	\$ 31,775	\$ 6,041	\$ 54,835	\$ 92,652

Average Annual Distribution of Grays Harbor Salmon Gillnet Ex-Vessel Value for 2000 - 2012



Economic Value of the Recreational Fishery 2000 - 2012

You cannot compare this recreational value
with the commercial ex-vessel values

Average Chinook and Coho Catch	Average Angler Trips	Economic Impact/Trip	Average Economic Impact
12,298	51,245	\$58.55	\$1,449,731

TCW Economics. 2008. Economic analysis of the non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries in Washington State. Sacramento, CA. With technical assistance from The Research Group, Corvallis, OR.

Clarify Sharing of Impacts

Fall Chinook Principle 2

Fishery management objectives, in priority order, are:

- 1) Achieve spawner goals.**
- 2) Provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities.**
- 3) Limit commercial fishery impacts to the incidental harvest of fall Chinook during fisheries directed at other species.**

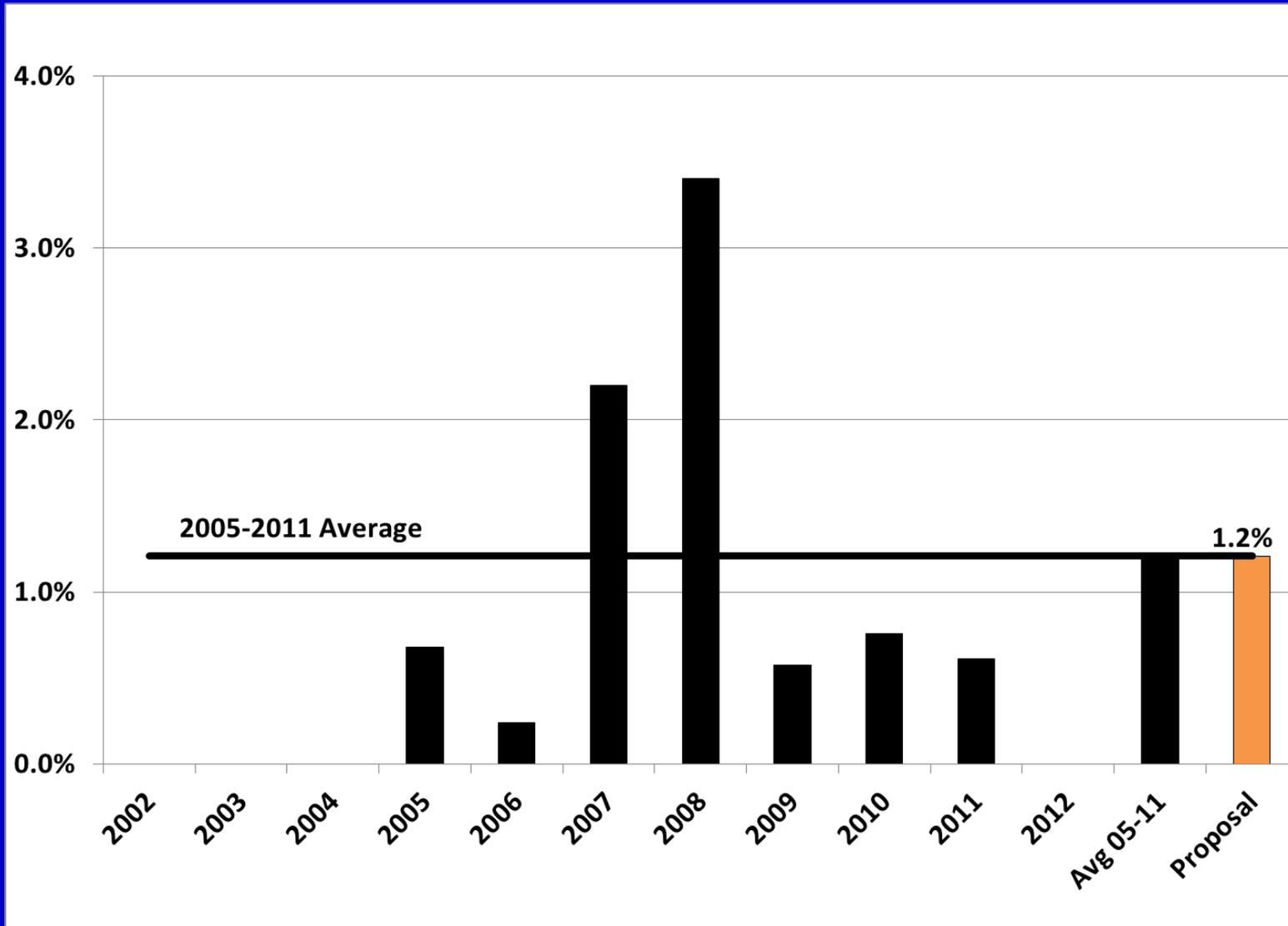
Clarify Sharing of Impacts

Fall Chinook Principle 3

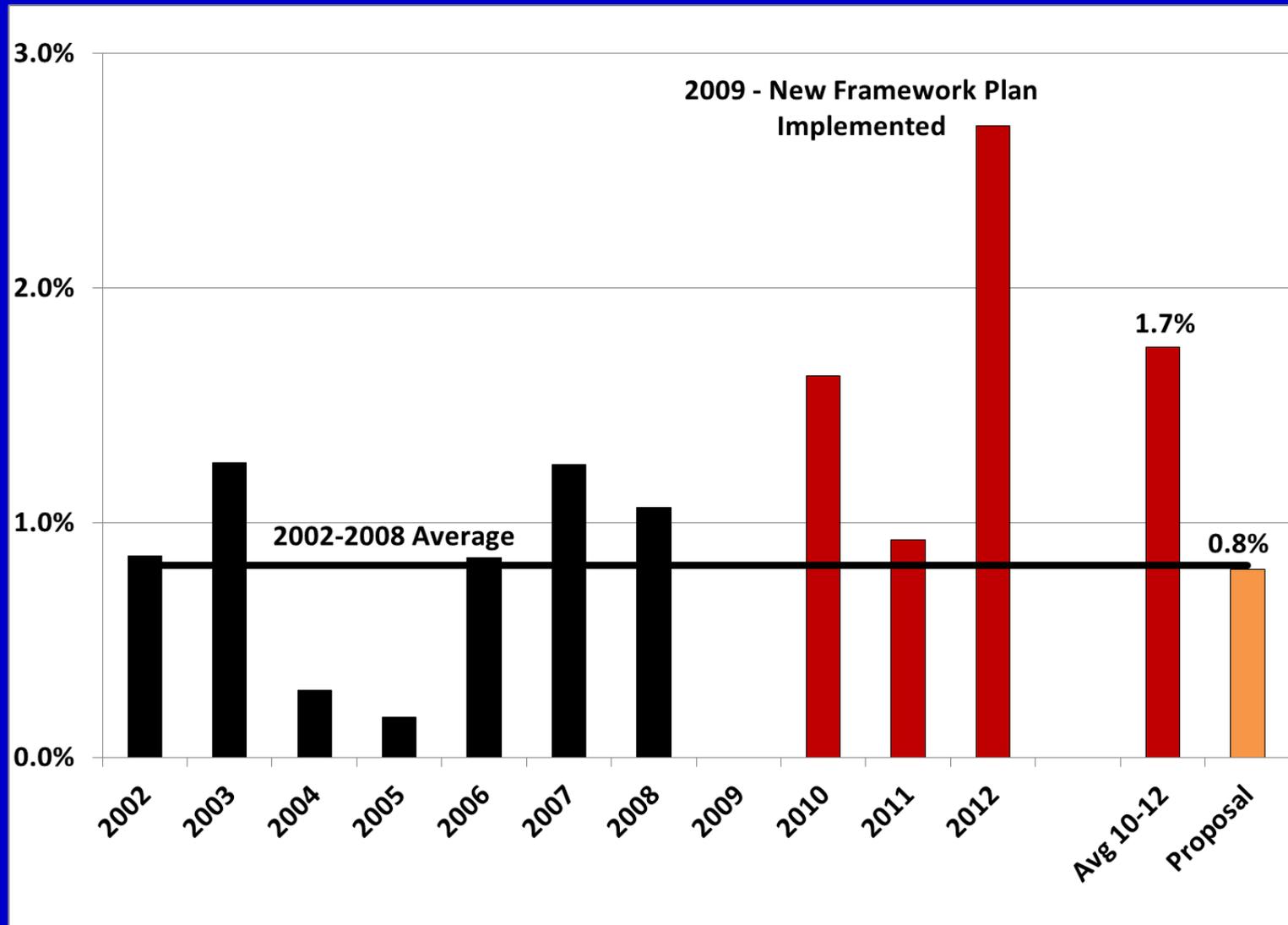
Maintain WDFW-managed commercial fisheries for coho and chum salmon, but limit incidental impacts:

- **1.2% - Humptulips fall Chinook Area 2C**
- **0.8% - Chehalis fall Chinook Area 2A/B/D**

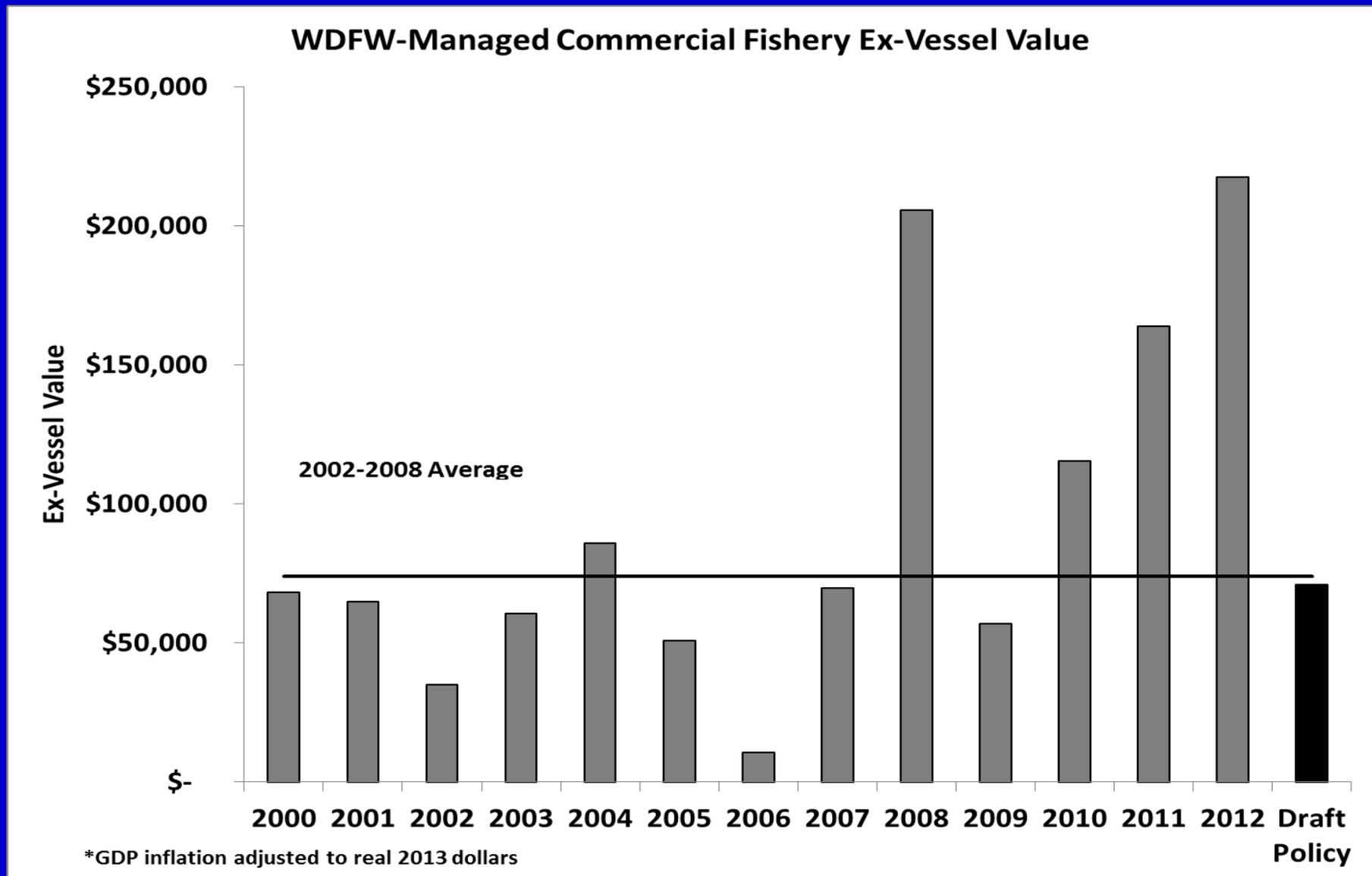
Humptulips Chinook Impact Rates Area 2C Weeks 40 - 48



Chehalis Chinook Impact Rates Areas 2A/2B/2D Weeks 40-48



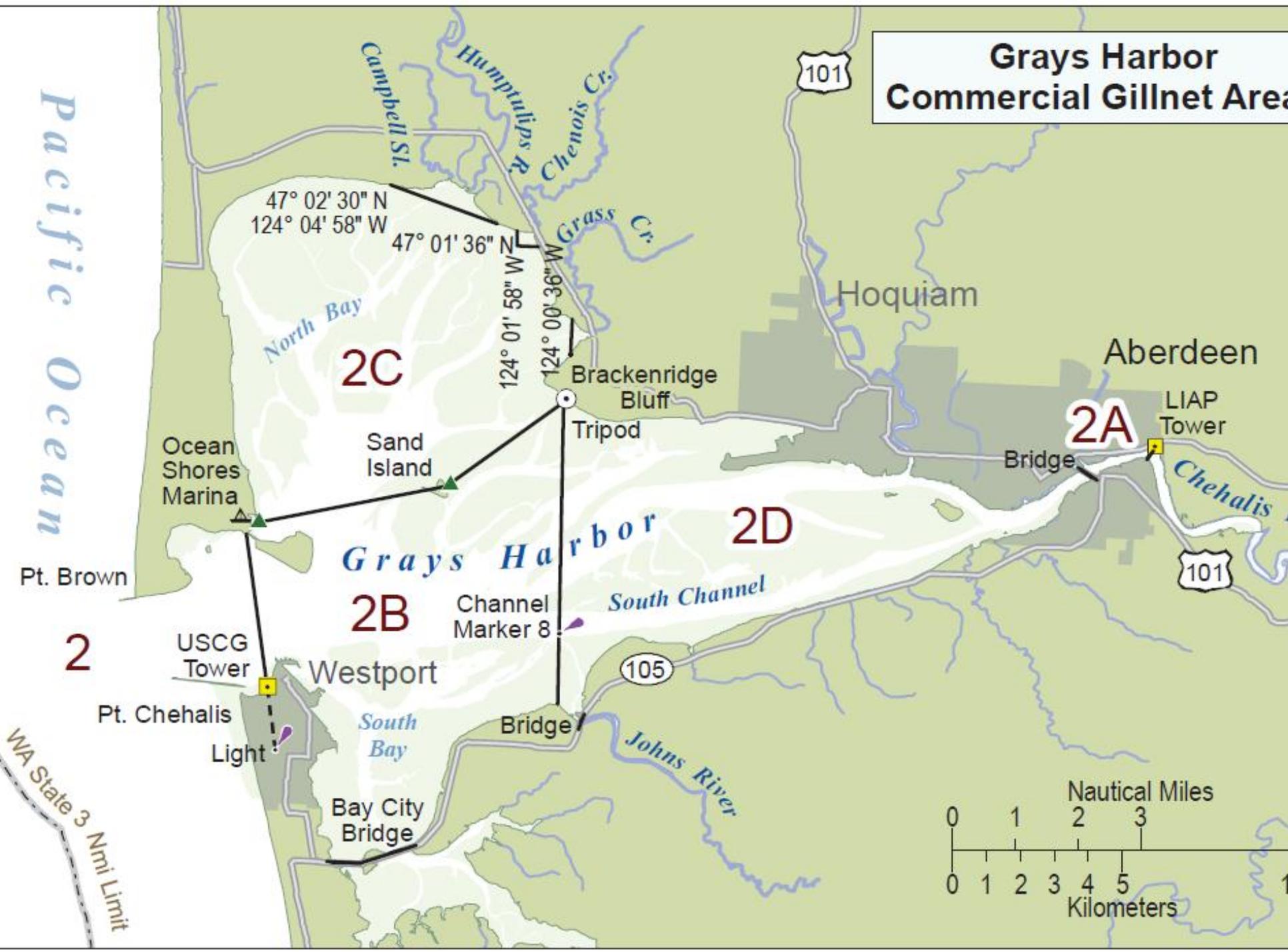
Implication – Fall Chinook Principles 2 & 3



Key Policy Provisions

- **Enhance Conservation Focus**
- **Reduce Gear Conflict**
- **Clarify Sharing of Impacts**

Grays Harbor Commercial Gillnet Area



Pacific Ocean

2C

2A

2B

2D

2

Grays Harbor

South Channel

Johns River

Chehalis

North Bay

South Bay

Hoquiam

Aberdeen

Ocean Shores Marina

Sand Island

Brackenridge Bluff

Tripod

Bridge

LIAP Tower

USCG Tower

Westport

Channel Marker 8

Bridge

Bay City Bridge

Pt. Chehalis Light

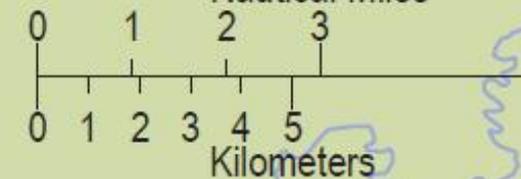
Pt. Brown

101

101

105

Nautical Miles



Kilometers

WA State 3 Nmi Limit