

**Bruce A. Measure**  
Chair  
Montana

**Rhonda Whiting**  
Montana

**W. Bill Booth**  
Idaho

**James A. Yost**  
Idaho



**Dick Wallace**  
Vice-Chair  
Washington

**Tom Karier**  
Washington

**Bill Bradbury**  
Oregon

**Joan M. Dukes**  
Oregon

March 31, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Council Members**

**FROM: Tony Grover**

**SUBJECT: Presentation on Selective Harvest in the Lower Columbia and Estuary: Guy Norman, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.**

WDFW hatcheries on the Lower Columbia River produce Chinook and coho that are the mainstay for coastal and lower river recreational and commercial fisheries. However, mixed in with these hatchery fish are many stocks that are listed under the Endangered Species Act and need protection from harvest. The economy of many communities benefit greatly from the sport and commercial fisheries. Therefore, to maintain fisheries in this area, it is highly desirable to develop a means to harvest hatchery fish with minimal impact to the wild stock.

In 2009, WDFW initiated a commercial selective gear implementation project in the lower Columbia River testing a purse seine, beach seine and trap net.

This program has been expanded in 2010 to include five purse seines, six beach seines and two trap nets. The test fisheries for chinook and coho salmon ran through October.

WDFW received \$1.9 million from the National Marine Fisheries Service to conduct the gear trials. As in the 2009 pilot project, all fish captured in the gear tests were released back into lower Columbia River.

Guy will present details on the results of the 2010 project.

---

w:\tg\ww\guy norman sel harvest april 2011 mtg.docx



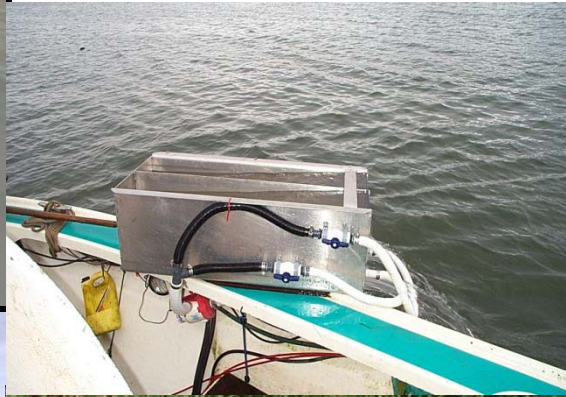
*Washington  
Department of*  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

# Alternative Gear Implementation Project

**Guy Norman**  
WDFW Regional Director

Photo by Wild Fish Conservancy

# *Ensure Fisheries Are Sustainable and Managed Consistent With ALL-H Recovery Efforts*



# Non-Treaty Columbia River Fisheries and ESA

- Harvest BIOP Conservation Levels
- Manage for Fishery Survival in All-H Comprehensive Analysis
- Fishery monitoring to Ensure Conservation Effectiveness
- Fishery Strategy to Assist Hatchery Reform

# *U.S. v. OREGON*

## HARVEST MANAGEMENT FOCUS

- Ensure Harvest Biop Conservation Levels are Met
- Compliance with Court Ordered Treaty Indian and Non-Indian Harvest Sharing



# FCRPS BIOLOGICAL OPINION

- Evaluate Methods to Develop or Expand Use of Selective Fishing
- Evaluate Post Release Mortality for Selective Fisheries
- Fishery Conservation Effectiveness Program



# Commercial Fishery Strategy

- Meet Wild Fish Conservation Objectives
- Increase Harvest of Hatchery Salmon
- Expand Selective Fishery Tools
- Industry Support and Opportunity
- Maintain Economic Viability



# 2010 Federal Funding

TOTAL: 1.9 million

PCSRF and Mitchell Act





# 2010 Alternative Gear Project

## Gear:

- Purse Seines (6)
- Beach seines (5)
- Trap Nets (2)

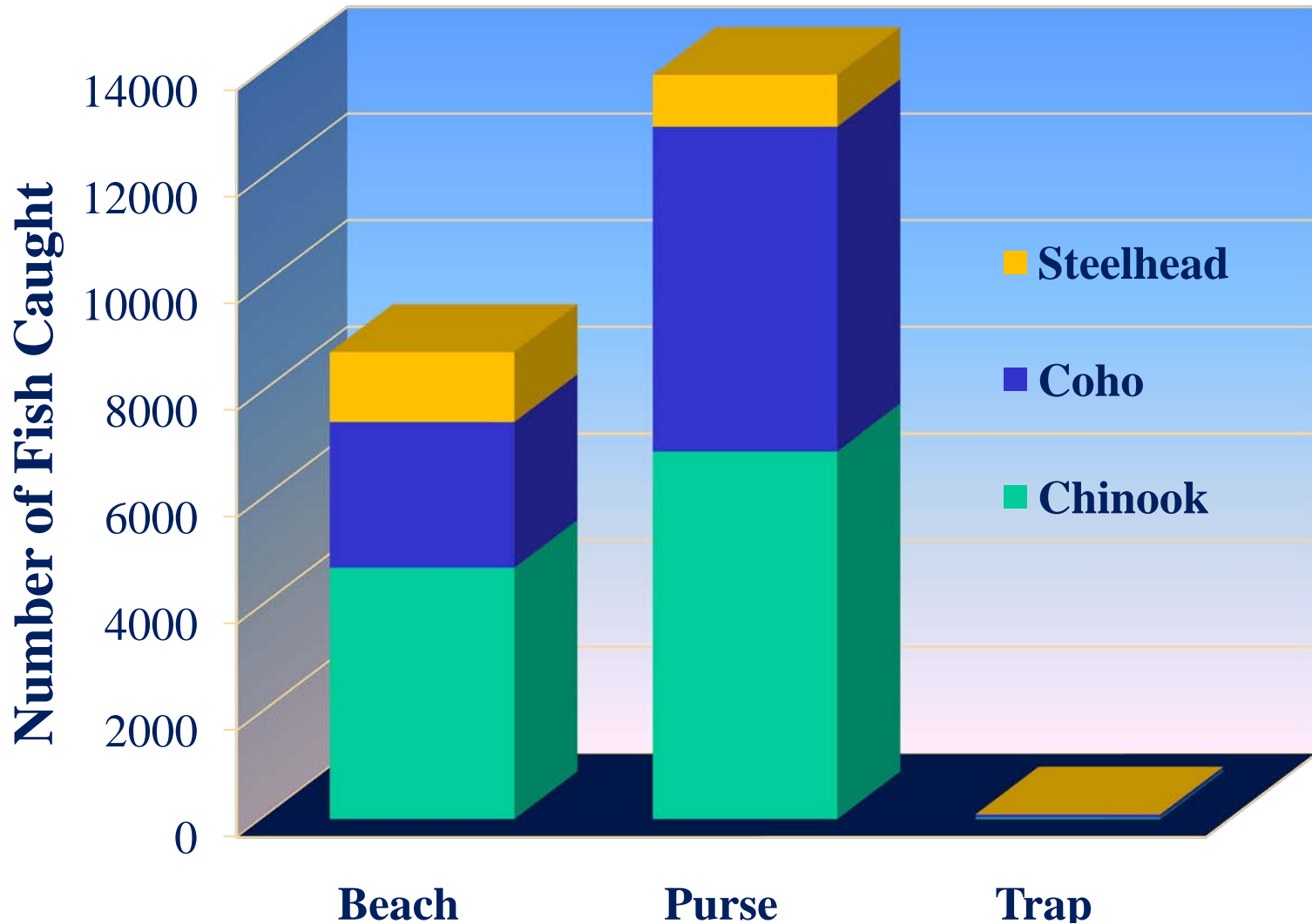
Species: Chinook and Coho

## When:

- 30 days per fisher
- Mid Aug. through late Oct.



# 2010 Total Catch by Gear Type



# 2010 Mortality Data

## Test Fishery :

- Excellent condition
  - Small jacks wedged
- 0.12% immediate
  - 29 out of 22,856



## Mortality Study:

- Lack of suitable locations
- High otter predation
  - 66 out of 327 (20%)

# 2011 Funding

## Test Fishery :

- 1.4 million
  - PCSRF
  - Mitchell Act

## Mortality Study:

- 850k
- Project Proposal to ISRP
- F&W Program and/or NOAA Funding
- Add Participants With Additional Funding



# 2011 Mortality Studies

## Long Term:

- Tag just below Bonneville Dam
- Recoveries at Bonneville and upstream
- 1,000 tags per species per gear type

## Short Term:

- Random sample from test fishery
  - Longview and Cathlamet
- Hold 24-48 hours



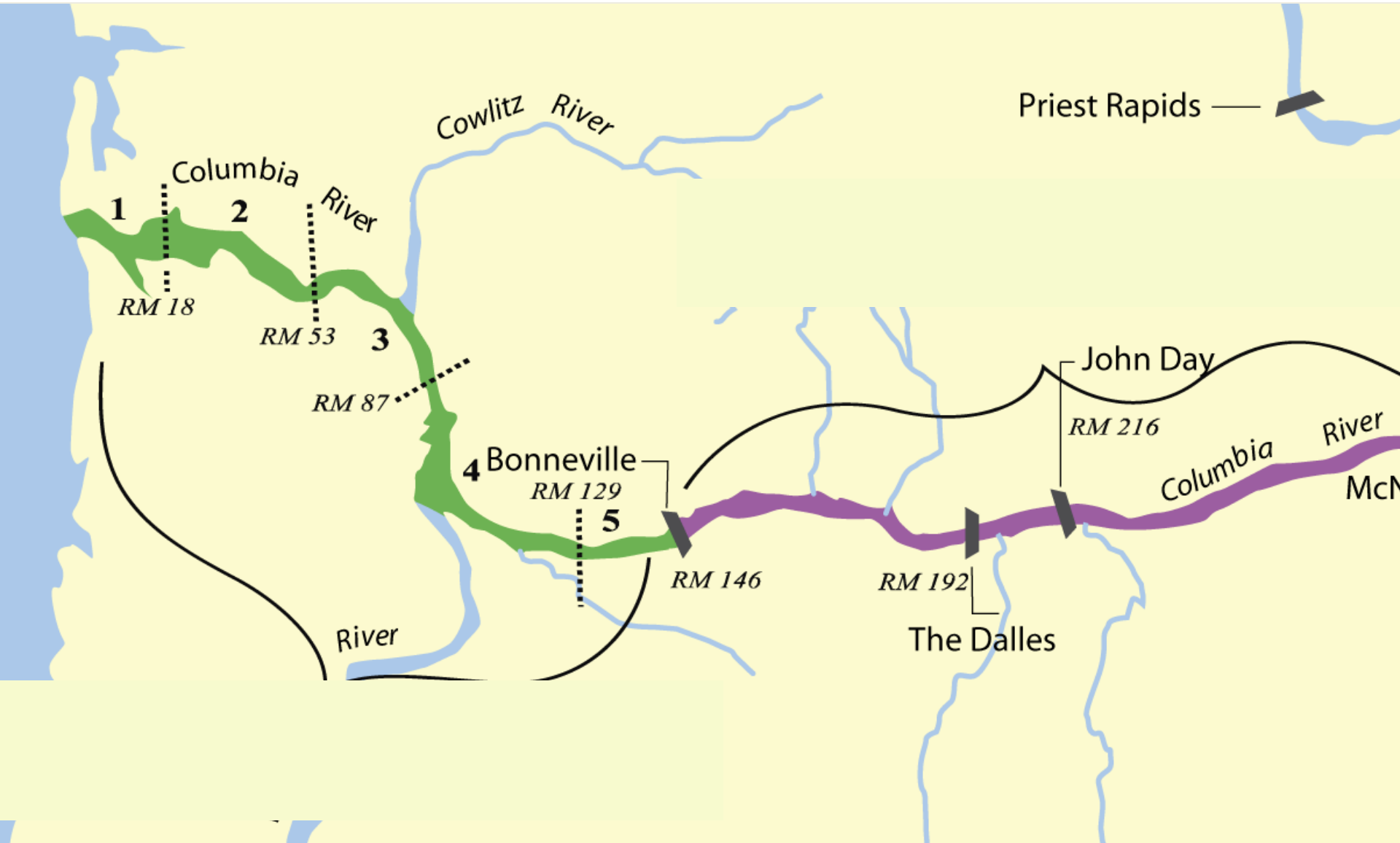
# 2011 Project Participants

- 35 Applications
- Current Budget For 16 Fishers
- Test With 6 Purse and 6 Beach Seines
- Mortality Study With 2 Purse and 2 Beach Seines
- Add 6 Fishers IF F&W



Program Were To Fund Mortality Study

# Location of Fishers



# 2012 Project PLANNING

- Continue Gear Test
- Continue Long-Term Mortality Study
- Increase Industry Participation
- Acquire Funding- No Federal Funding Secured



Photo by Wild Fish Conservancy



# DESIRED OUTCOME

Data Sufficient to Account for Harvest of all Species  
Scientifically Sound Release Mortality Accountability  
Opportunity for Columbia River Licensed Fishers to Participate  
Implement Alternative Gear Fishery By 2013



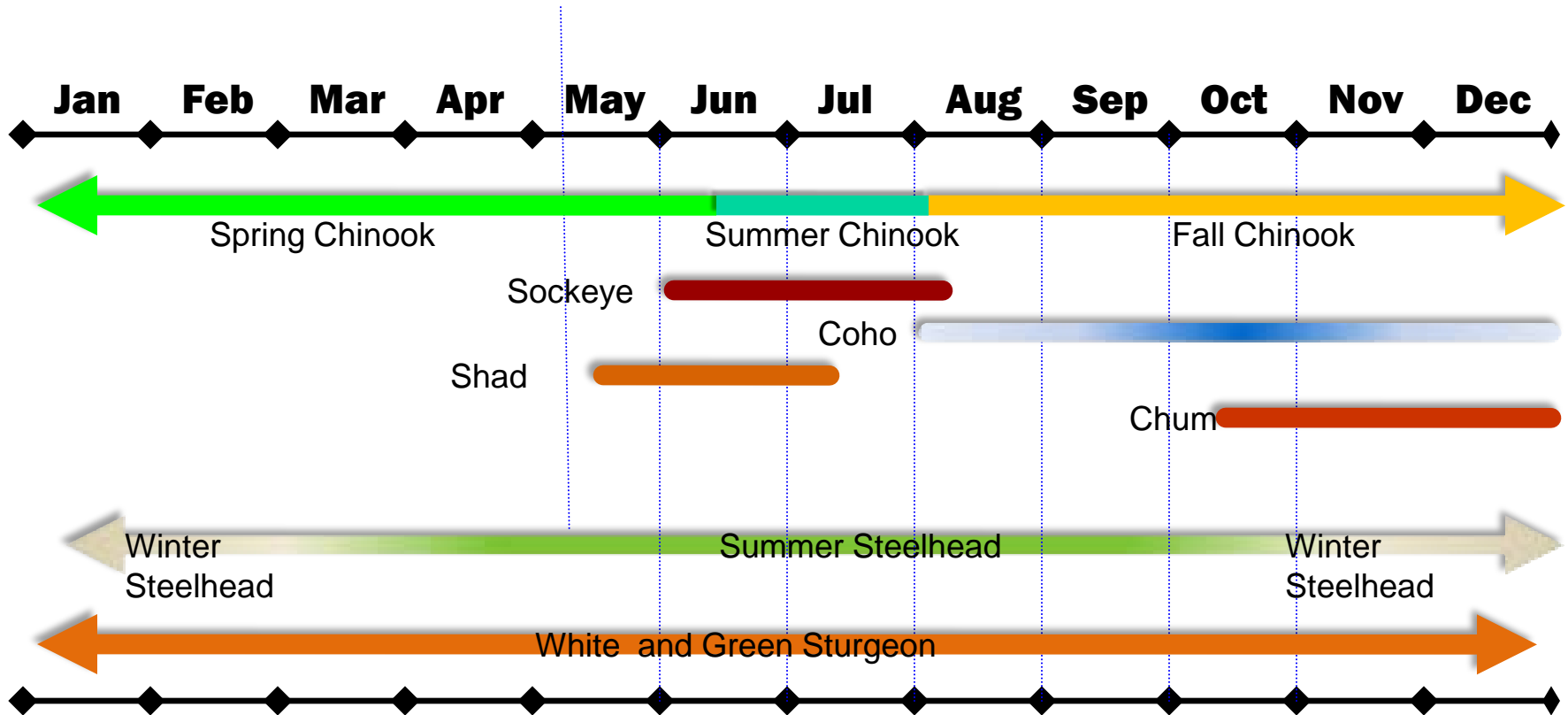
6/12/2010

WDFW 2011-13 Outlook

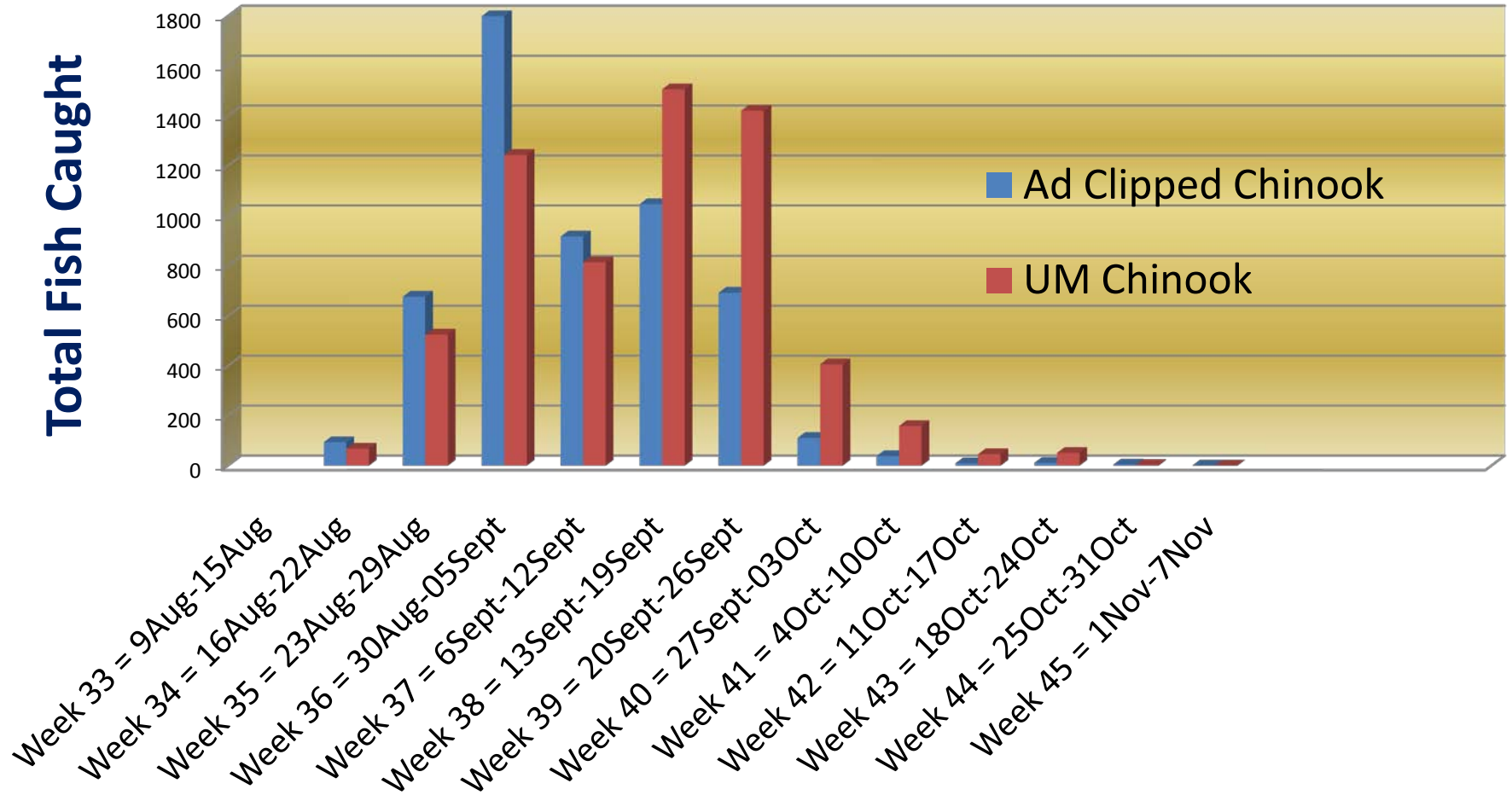
Photos by Wild Fish Conservancy

# Columbia River

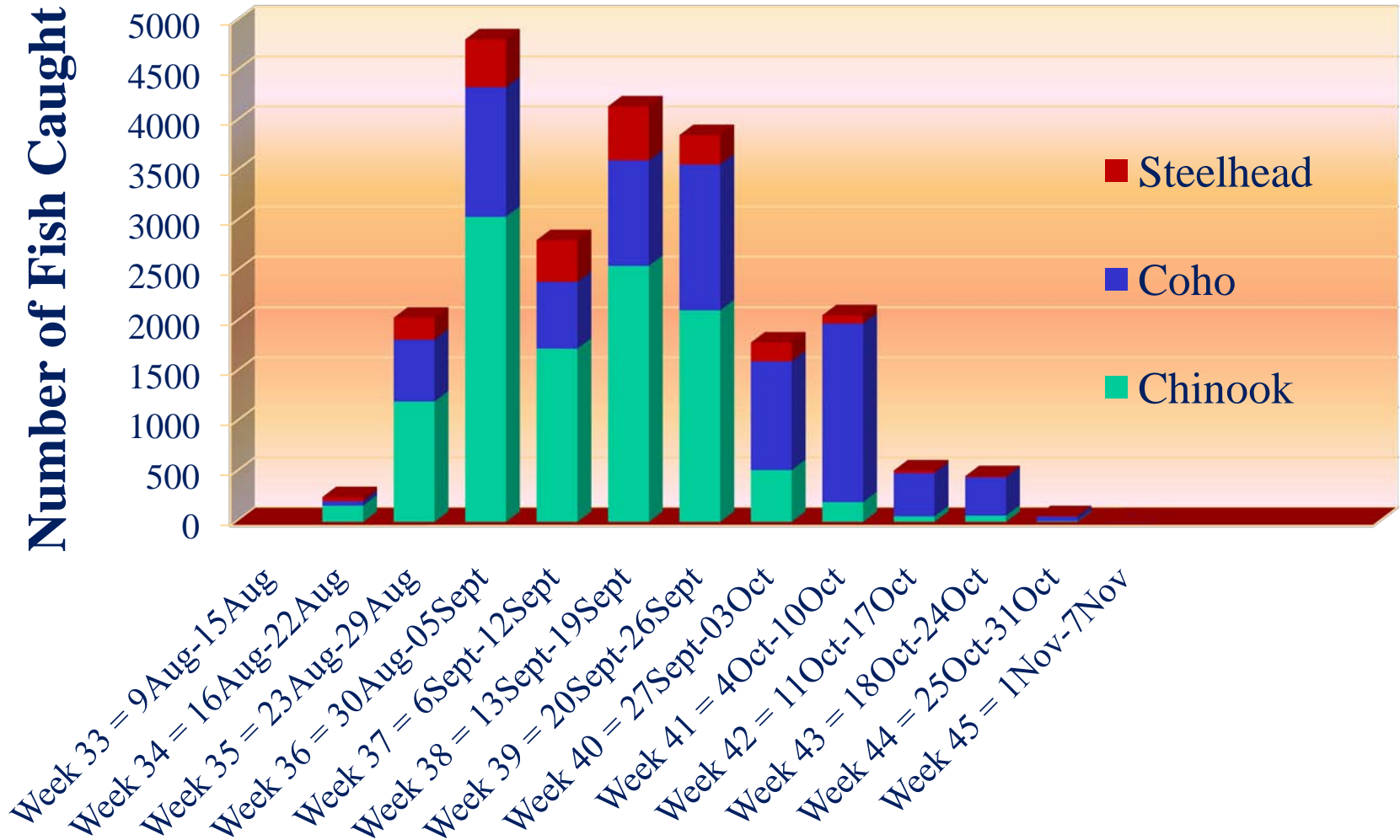
## Annual presence of management species



# 2010 Chinook Mark Rate by Week



# 2010 Catch Rate by Week



# 2010 Project Catch Summary

<b>Gear Type</b>	<b>Fishing Days</b>	<b>Catch Per Day</b>	<b>Total Catch</b>
Purse Seine	151	0-350 Chin 0-357 coho	6,862 Chinook 6,023 coho 983 steelhead
Beach Seine	181	0-400 Chin 0-142 coho	4,902 Chinook 2,705 coho 1,327 steelhead
Trap Net	60	0-8 Chin 0-7 coho	19 Chinook 46 coho 2 steelhead