

Agenda Item 11

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASONS Rule Briefing, Public Hearing and Rule Action

WAC 232-28-436

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASONS

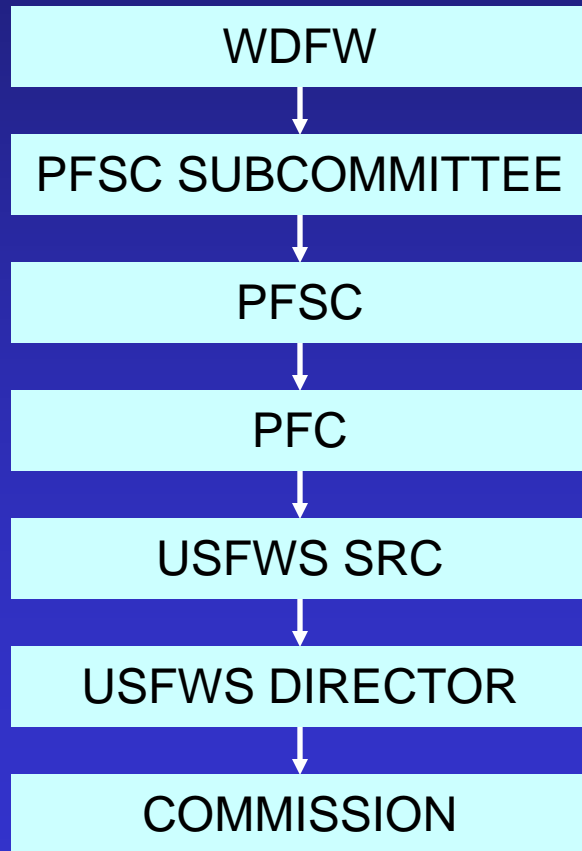
Rule Briefing, Public Hearing and Rule Action

- **USFWS Authority: Federal Framework**
 - Earliest opening, latest closing date
 - Maximum limits, season length
 - Shooting hours
- **State Discretion: WAC**
 - Can be more restrictive but not more liberal
 - Season timing, split seasons, zones

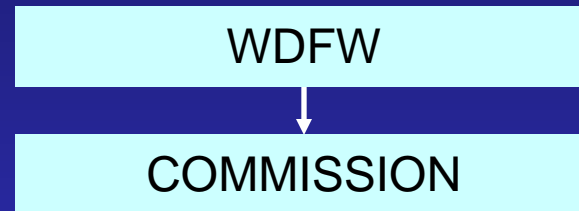


Steps in Approval of Migratory Bird Seasons

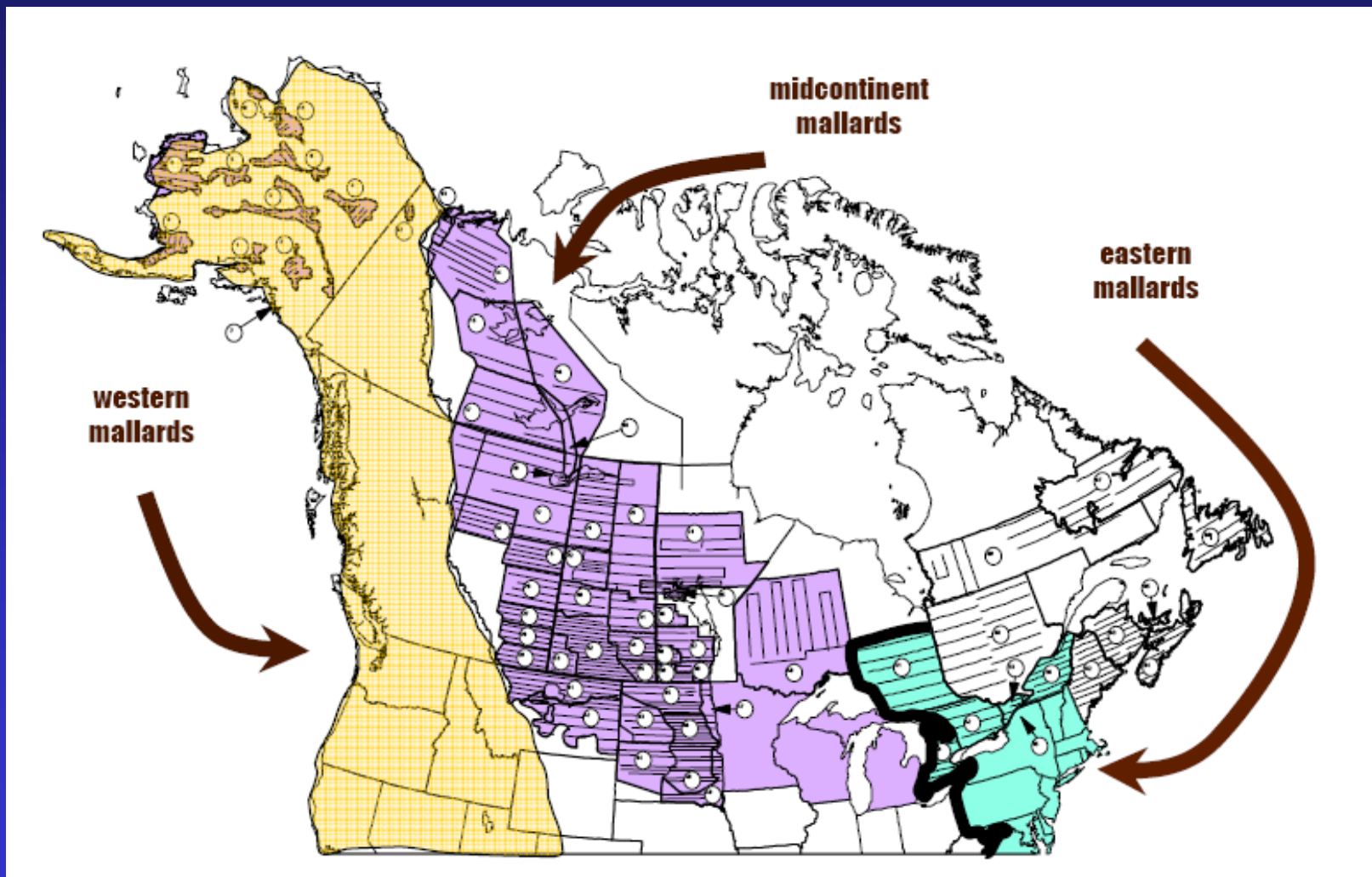
FRAMEWORK CHANGES



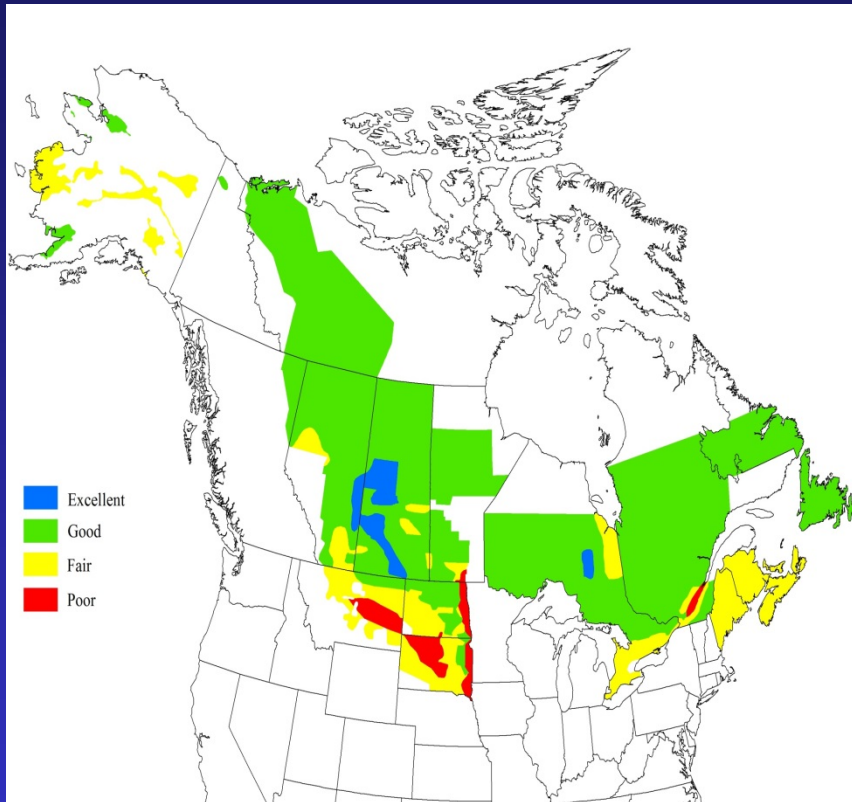
NON-FRAMEWORK CHANGES



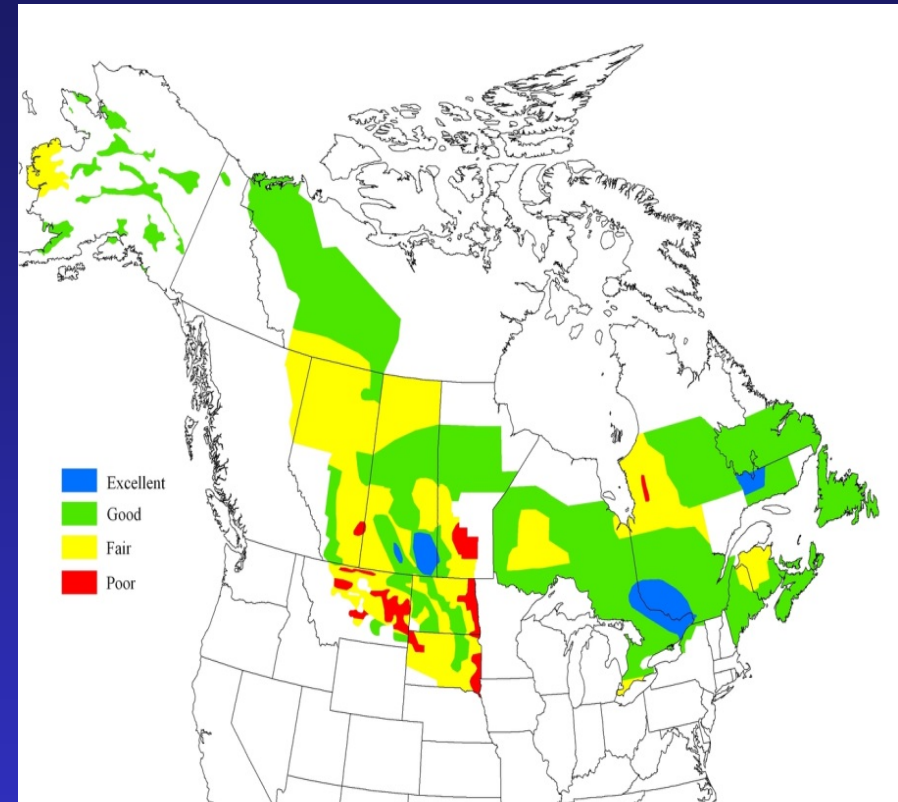
N. American Mallard Stocks



N. American Habitat Conditions



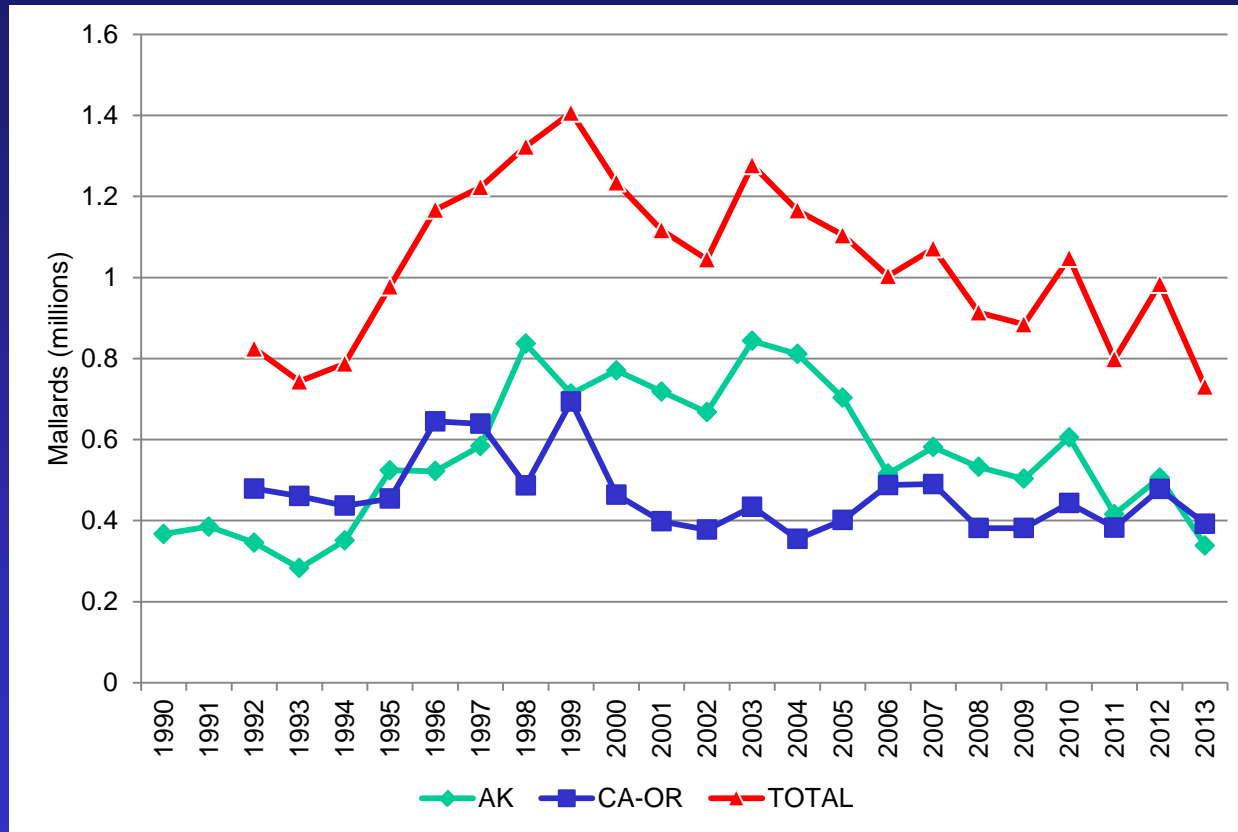
2013



2012

- 2012: A record breeding year for N. American ducks
- 2013: Better conditions in Alberta, worse in Alaska
 - Total ducks -6% vs. 2012, +33% vs. LTA

2013 Western Mallard Trends



- AK mallards -33% from 2012, -42% LTA
- Total mallards (AK, OR, CA) -26% from 2012, -31% LTA

2012-13 Western Mallard Regulatory Prescription

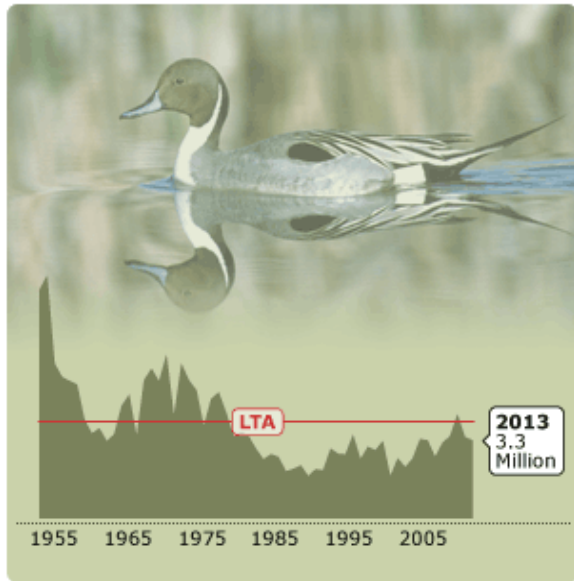
CA-OR BPOP ^b	Alaska BPOP ^b										
	0	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.4	0.45	≥0.5
0	C	C	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.05	C	C	R	R	R	R	M	L	L	L	L
0.10	C	R	R	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.15	R	R	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.20	M	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.25	L	R	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.30	L	R	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.35	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.40	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.45	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.50	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
≥0.55	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

^a C = closed season, R = restrictive, M = moderate, L = liberal.

^b Estimated number of mallards (in millions) for Alaska (WBPHS strata 1-12) and in California-Oregon.

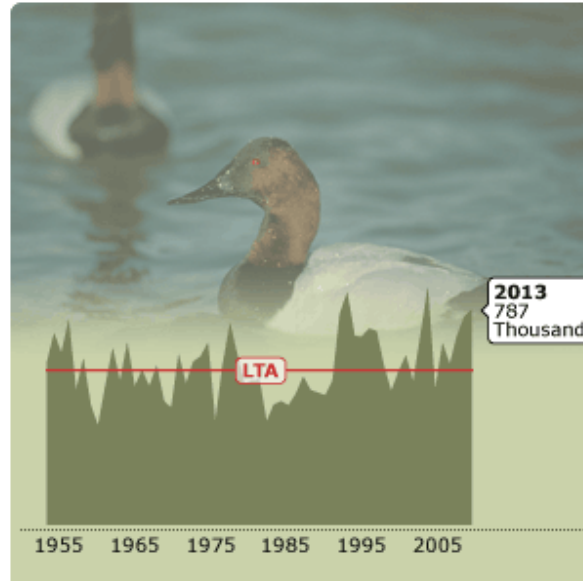
2013-14: Liberal Season

Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup



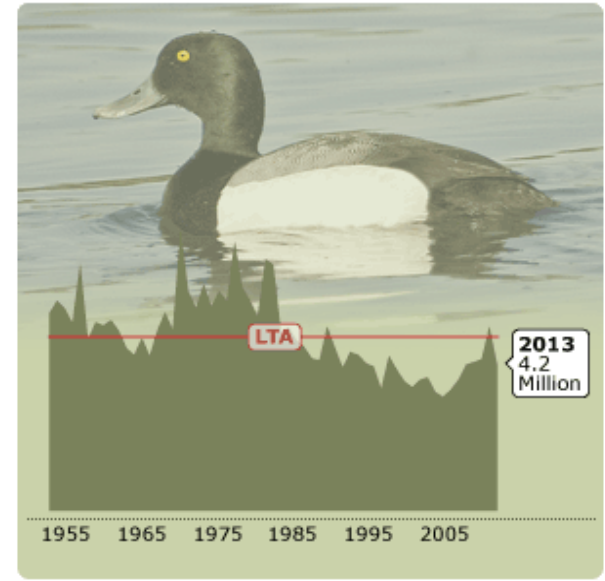
Pintail

- -14% 2012
- -17% LTA



Canvasback

- +4% 2012
- +37% LTA



Scaup

- -20% 2012
- -17% LTA

2013-14 Duck Season Proposals

- **Proposed general duck season dates and limits adjusted from last year**
 - **107 days**
 - 2 day youth hunt
 - 105 day general season
 - **86 day scaup season**
 - **7 ducks, to include not more than:**
 - 2 hen mallard, 2 pintail
 - 2 redhead, **2 canvasback, 3 scaup**
 - W. WA: 2 scoter, 2 long-tail, 2 goldeneye, 1 harlequin
 - **3X possession limit, including coot**

WDFW Sea Duck Management

- Improved monitoring of Puget Sound sea duck populations since 1991.
- Daily bag limits reduced in 1998 (7 → 4 scoter, long-tailed duck, and harlequin).
- Further restricted in 2004 to one harlequin duck per season; mandatory report.
- Harvest strategy completed in 2010. Daily bag limits reduced (4 → 2 for scoter, long-tailed duck; 7 → 2 for goldeneye).
- Harvest strategy revised 2013.

WDFW Sea Duck Management

The Sea Ducks

Family *Anatidae*, Tribe *Mergini*

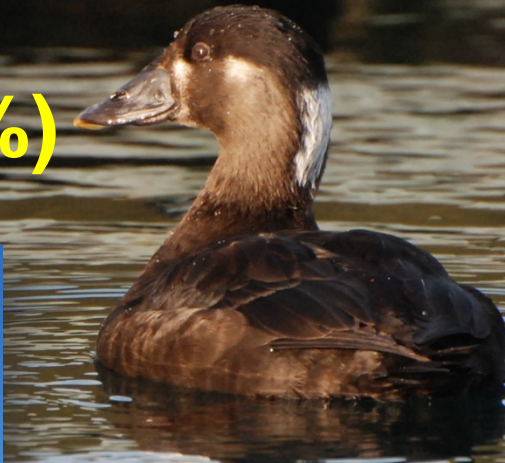
- 19 species, mostly found at northern latitudes
- 11 species common to Puget Sound

The Sea Ducks

Family *Anatidae*, Tribe *Mergini*

Melanitta

- Surf Scoter (80%)



The Sea Ducks

Family *Anatidae*, Tribe *Mergini*

Melanitta

- White-winged Scoter (19%)



The Sea Ducks

Family *Anatidae*, Tribe *Mergini*

Melanitta

- **Black Scoter (1%)**



The Sea Ducks

Family *Anatidae*, Tribe *Mergini*

- *Bucephala*
 - Goldeneye
 - Common (78%)
 - Barrow's (22%)
 - Bufflehead



The Sea Ducks

Family *Anatidae*, Tribe *Mergini*

- *Clangula* – Long-tailed Duck



The Sea Ducks

Family *Anatidae*, Tribe *Mergini*

- *Histrionicus* – Harlequin Duck



The Sea Ducks

Family *Anatidae*, Tribe *Mergini*
Mergansers

- Hooded Merganser (*Laphodytes cucullatus*)
- Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser americanus*)
- Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

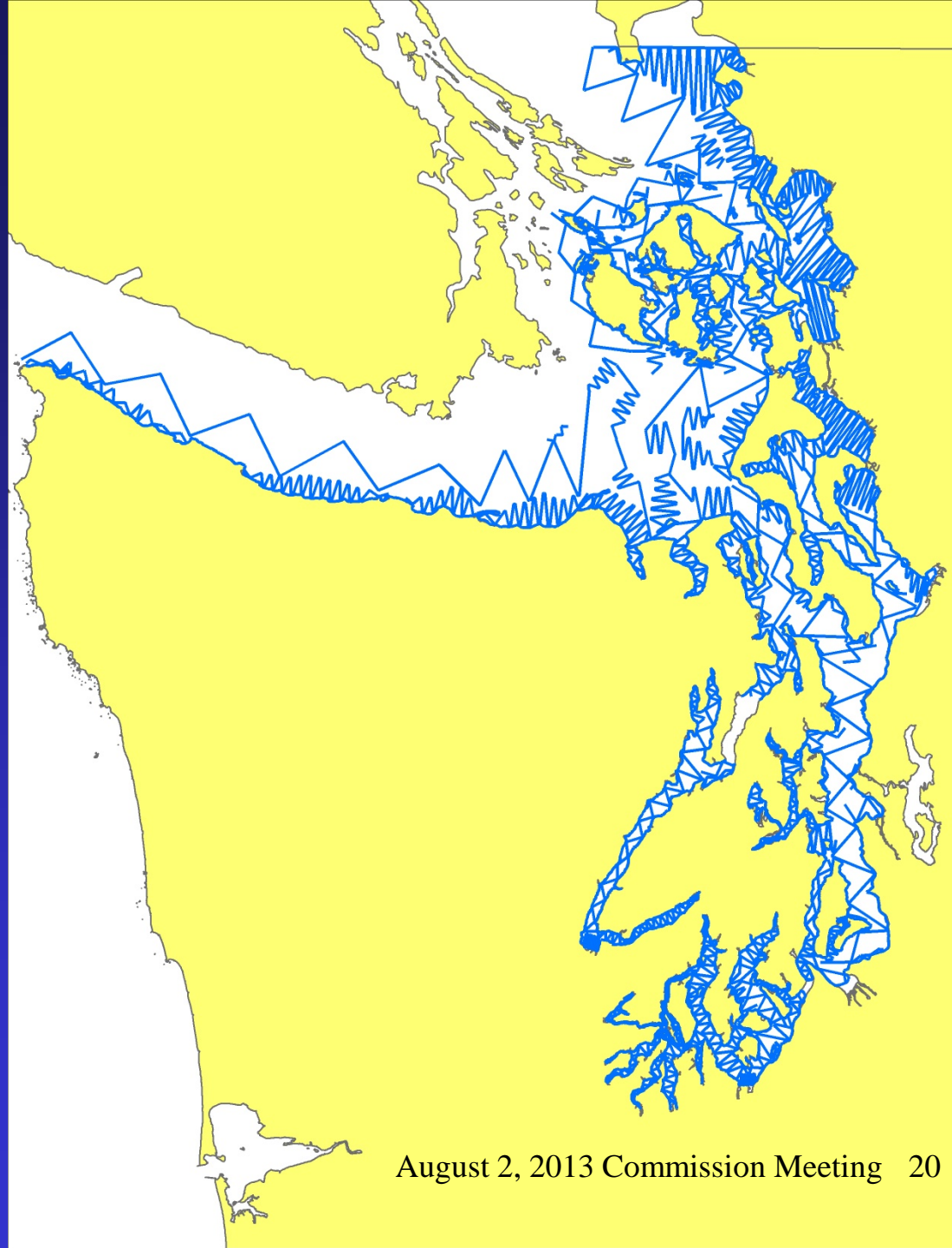


WDFW Sea Duck Management

- Information about sea ducks lags far behind that of other duck species.
- Sea ducks have high adult survival, low productivity, strong fidelity of breeding adults to use areas.
- Limited capability to compensate for hunting mortality and harvest should be considered completely additive to natural mortality.

Winter Survey Coverage

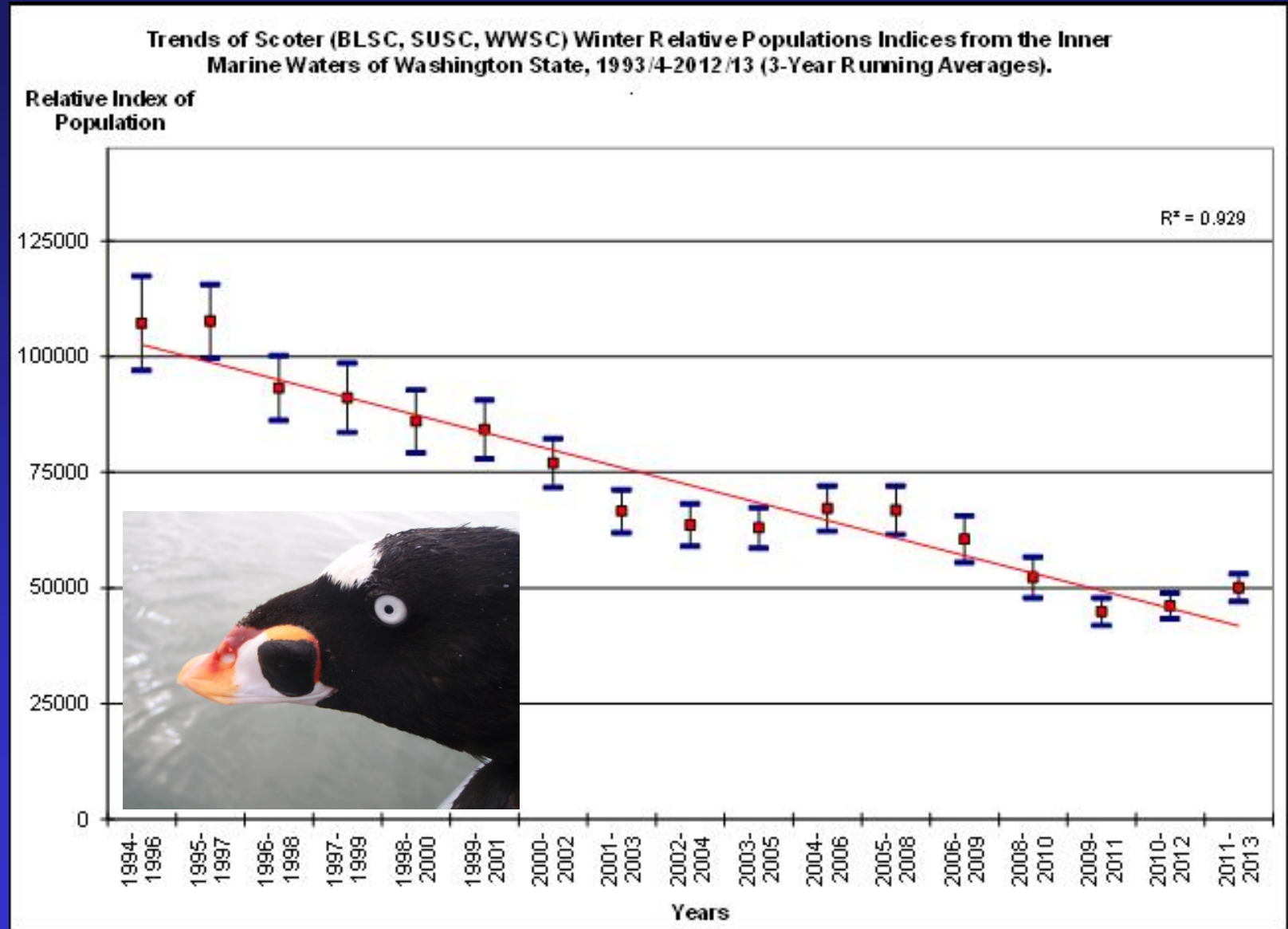
- 6,780 KM
- Transects repeated annually
- Same survey crew since 1999



Trends in Population Indexes

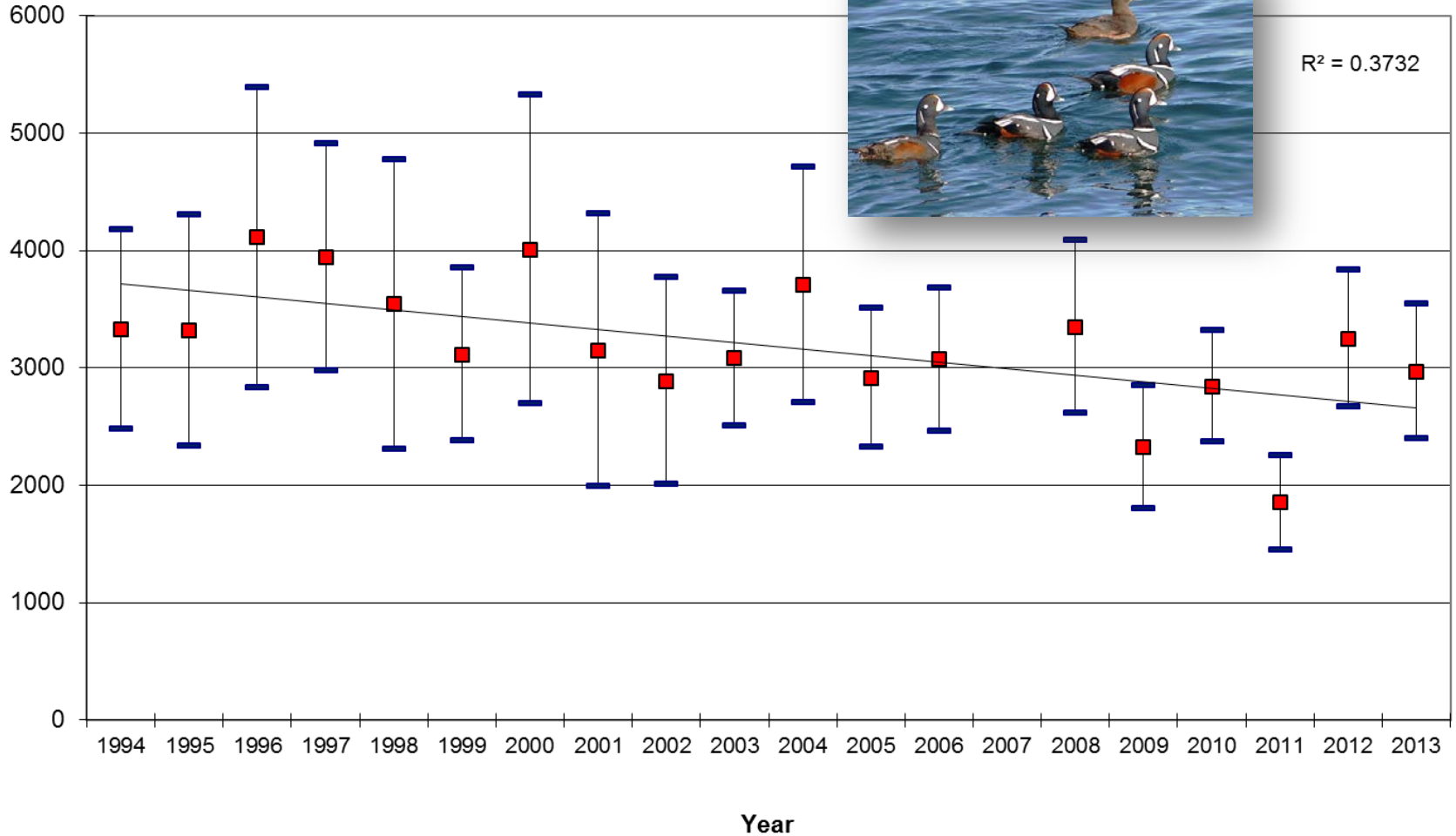
- We calculate indexes, not absolute population estimates
- We are in the process of calculating visibility correction factors, through grant from SDJV
- We have high confidence in the trends reported
- Trends reported are three-year running averages

Scoters – Winter Population Trends



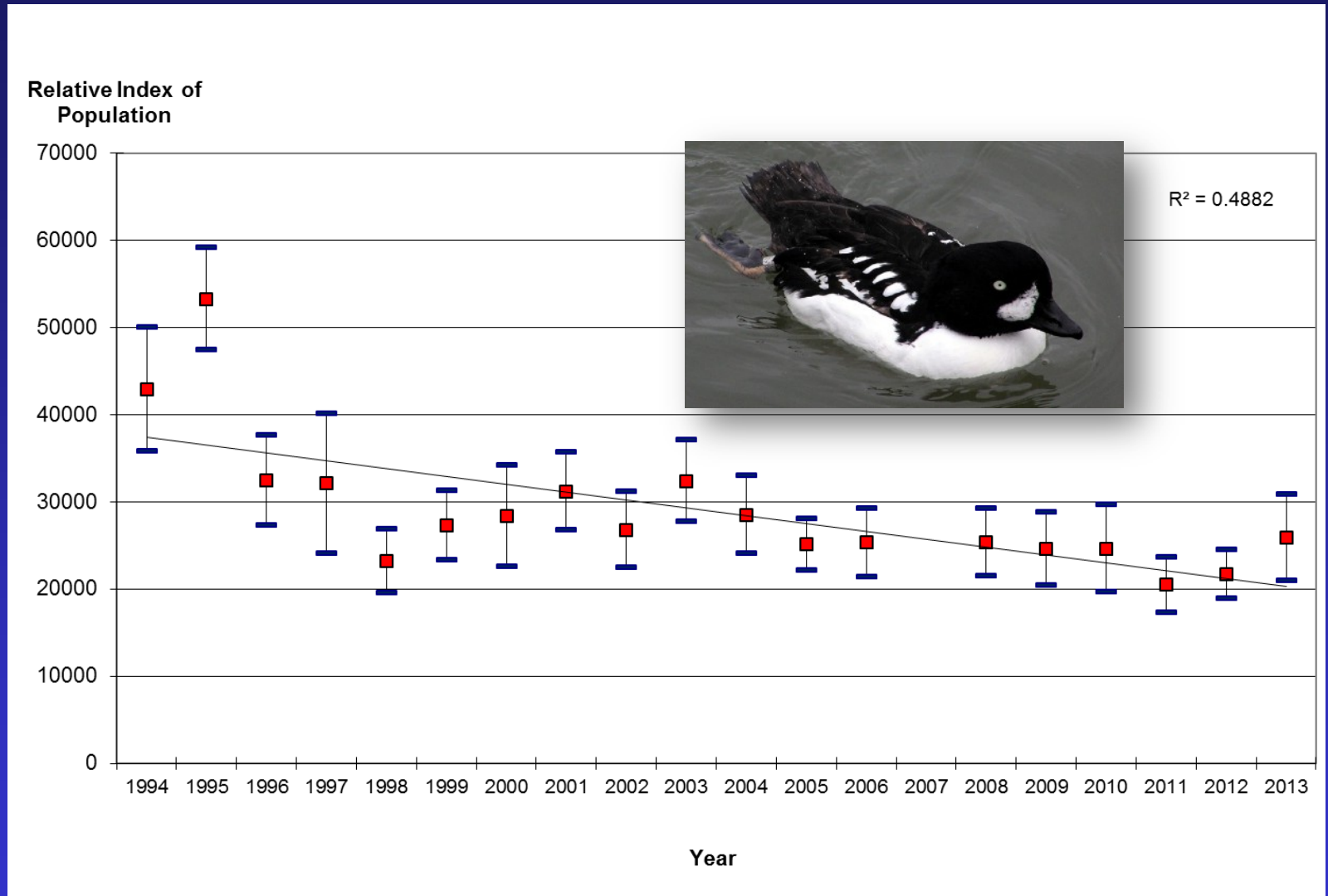
Harlequin Duck – Winter Population Trends

Relative Index of Population

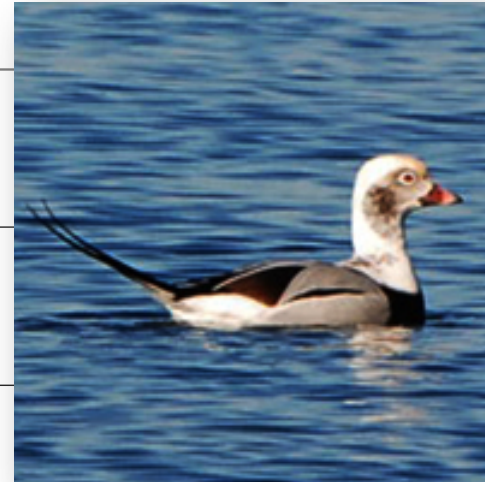
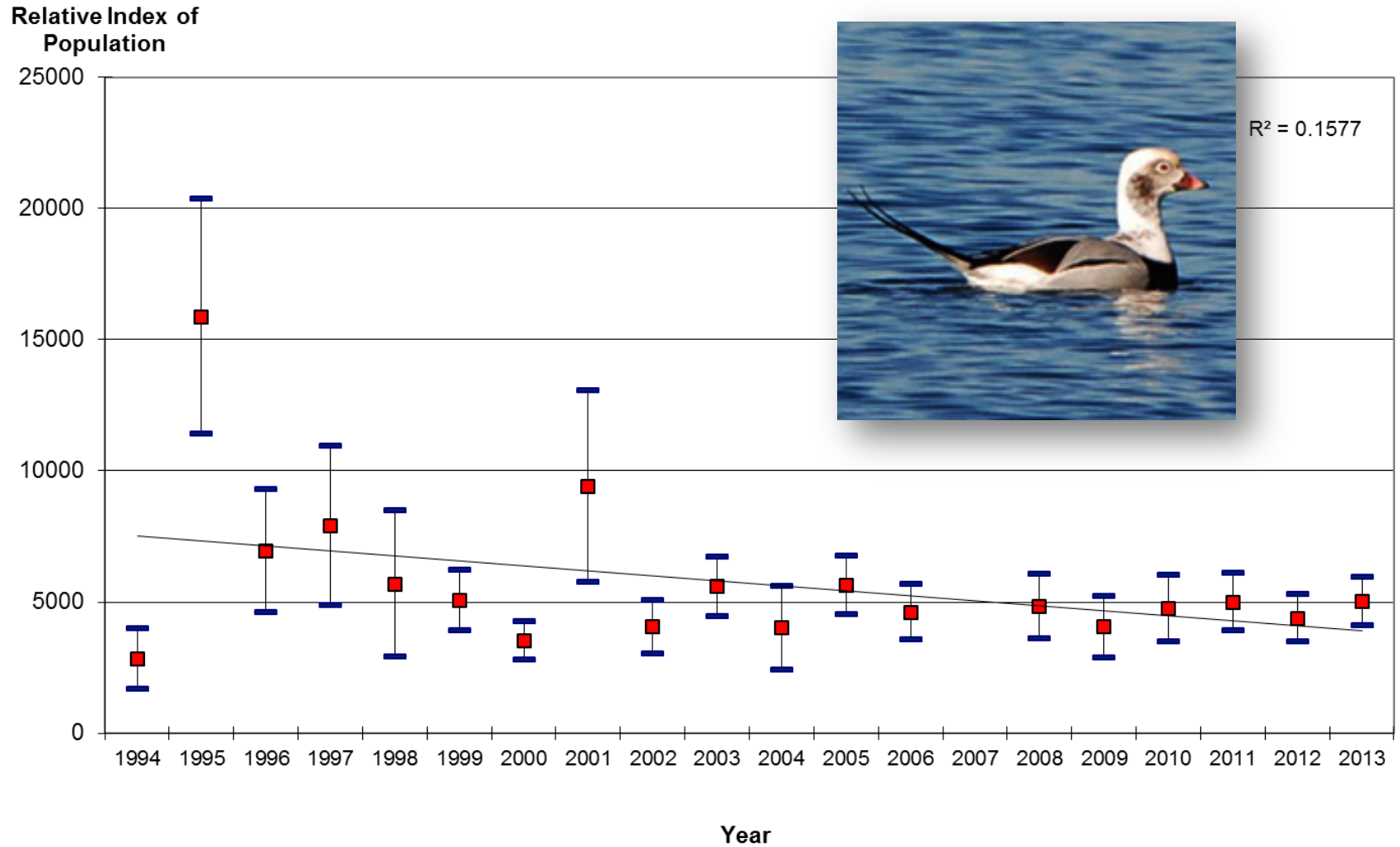


$R^2 = 0.3732$

Goldeneyes – Winter Population Trends



Long-tailed Duck – Winter Population Trends

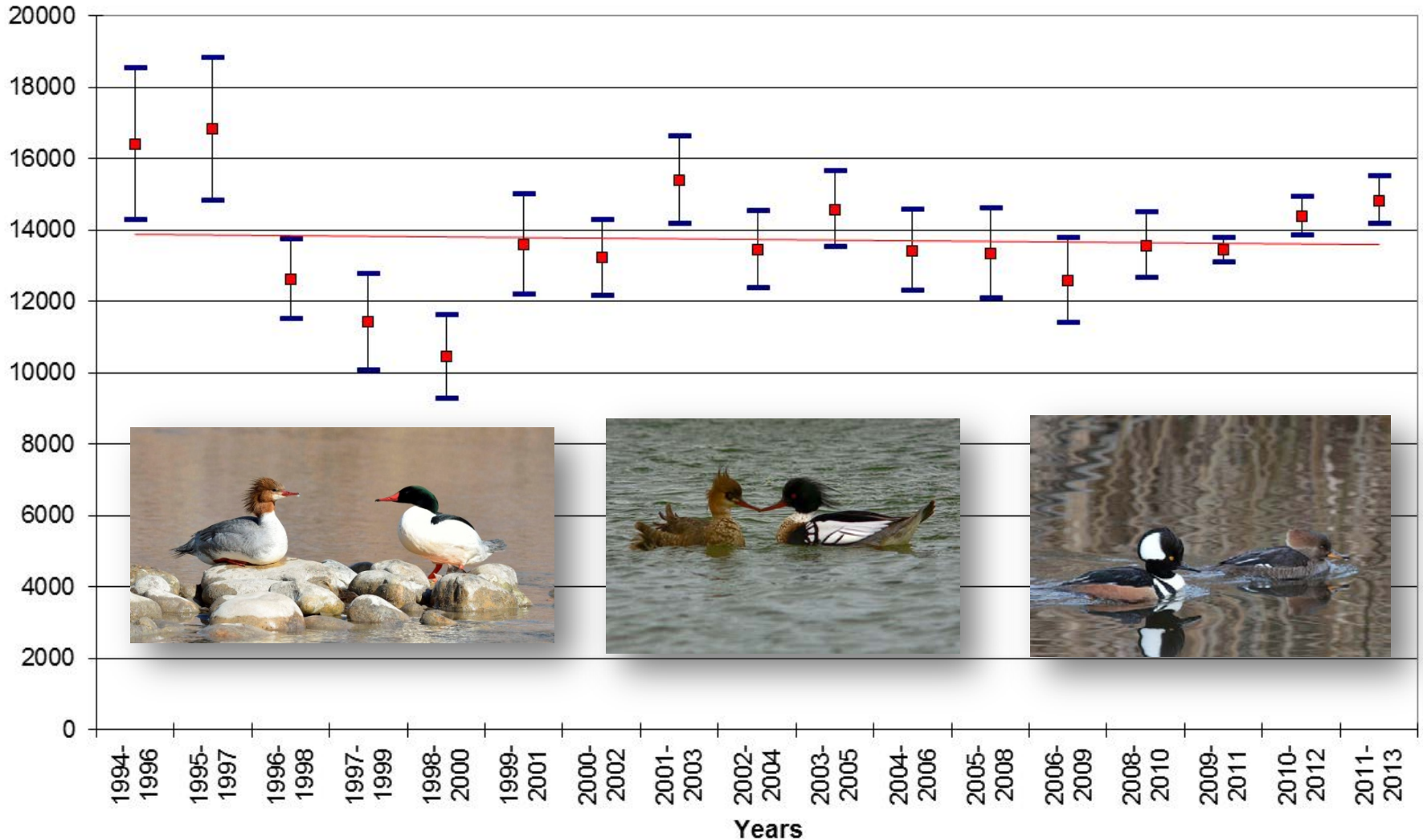


Mergansers – Winter Population Trends

Winter Trends in Three-Year Running Averages of Merganser Populations from the Inner Marine Waters of Washington State, 1993/4-2012-13.

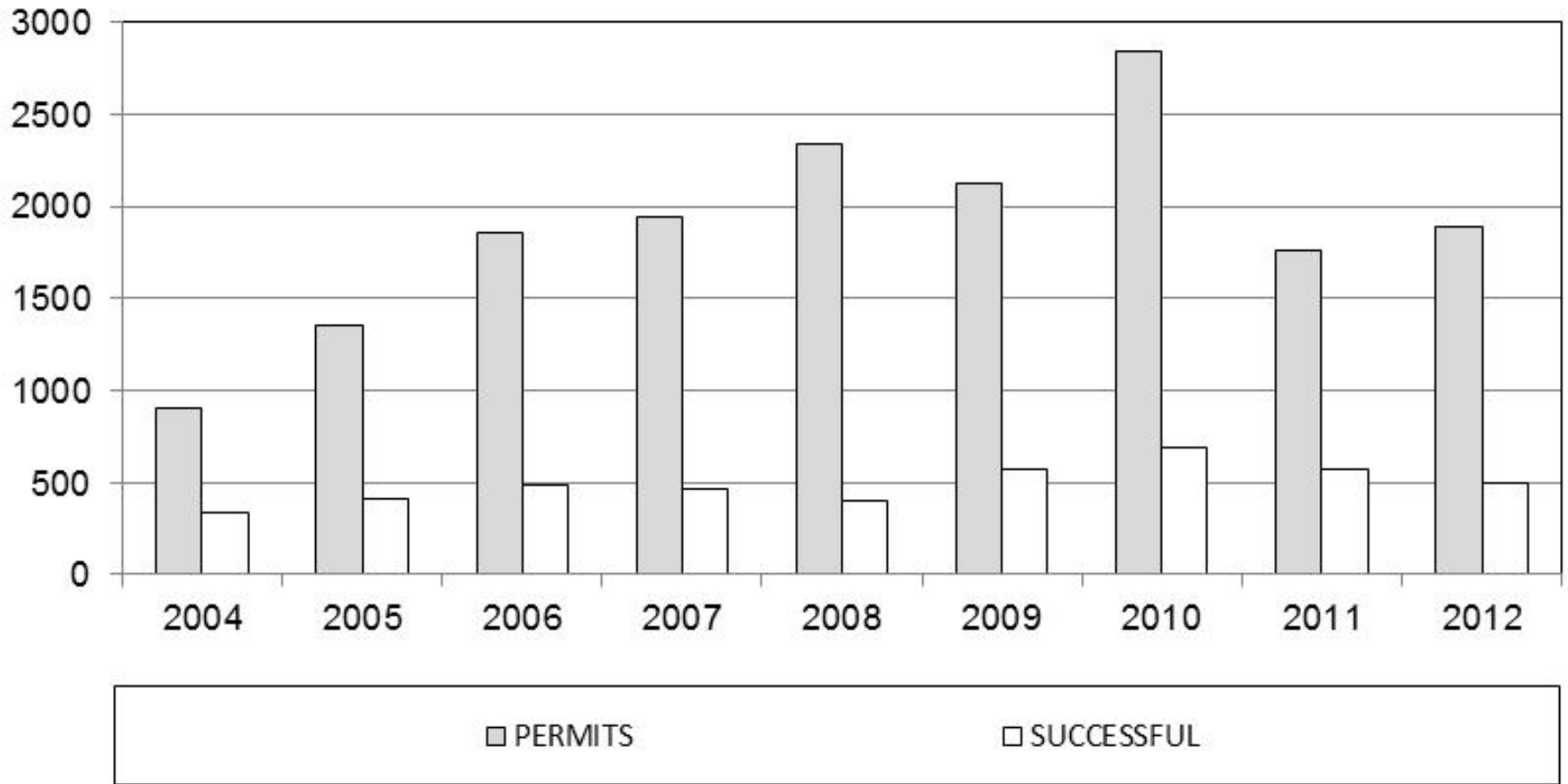
$R^2 = 0.0026$

Estimated Population



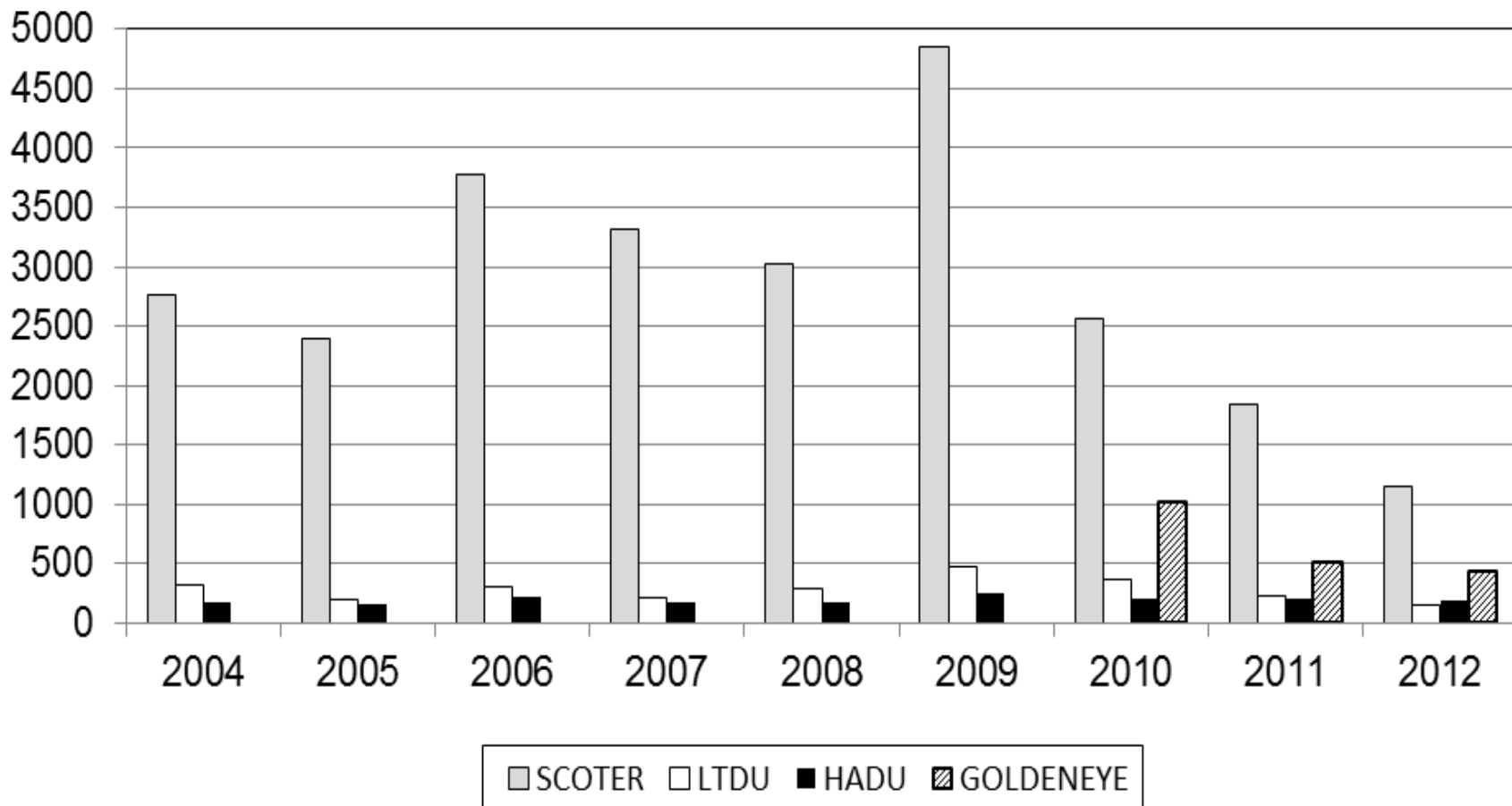
Sea Duck Hunter Trends

W WA SEA DUCK HUNTERS



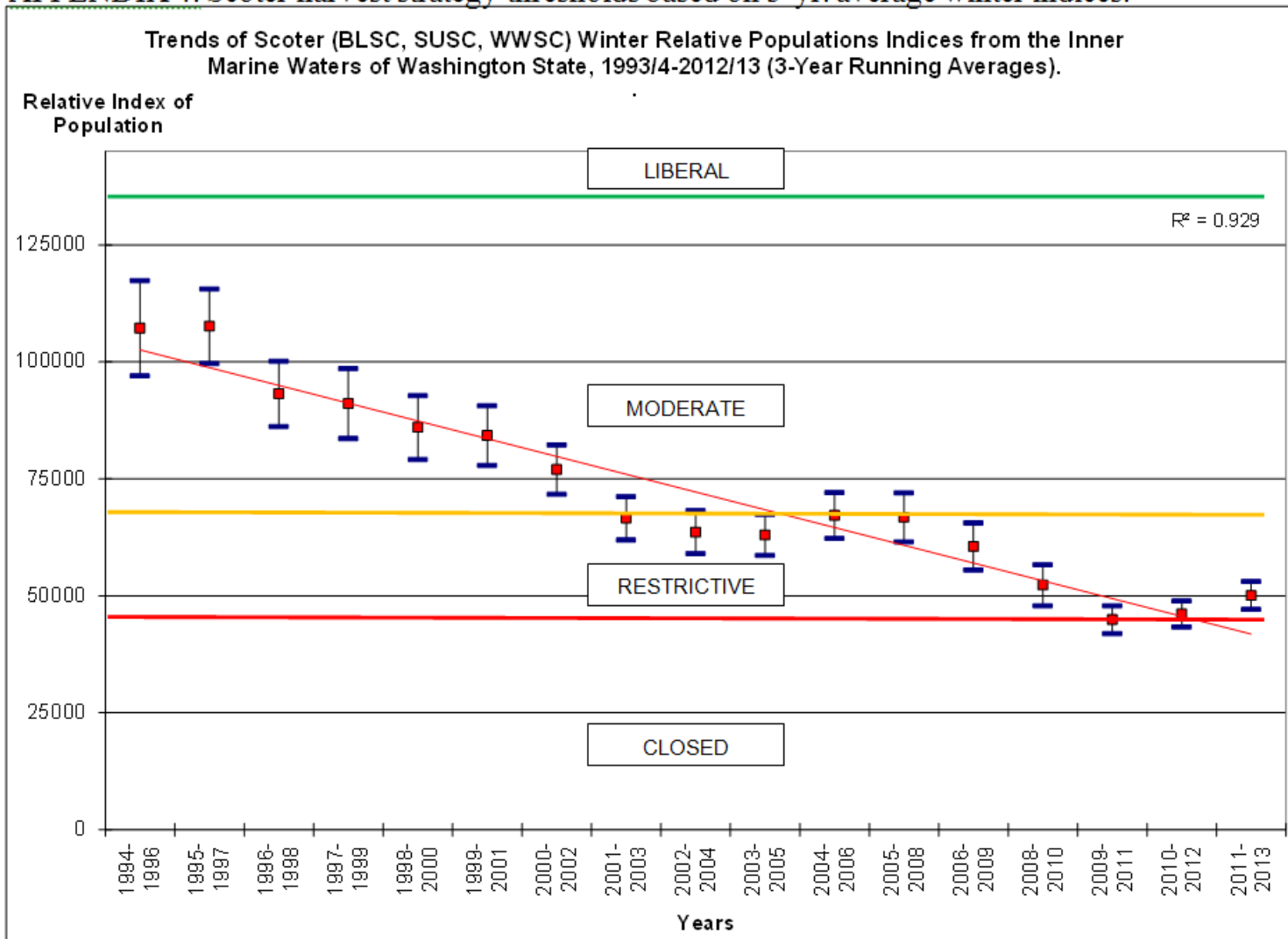
Sea Duck Harvest Trends

W WA SEA DUCK HARVEST



Revised W WA Scoter Harvest Strategy

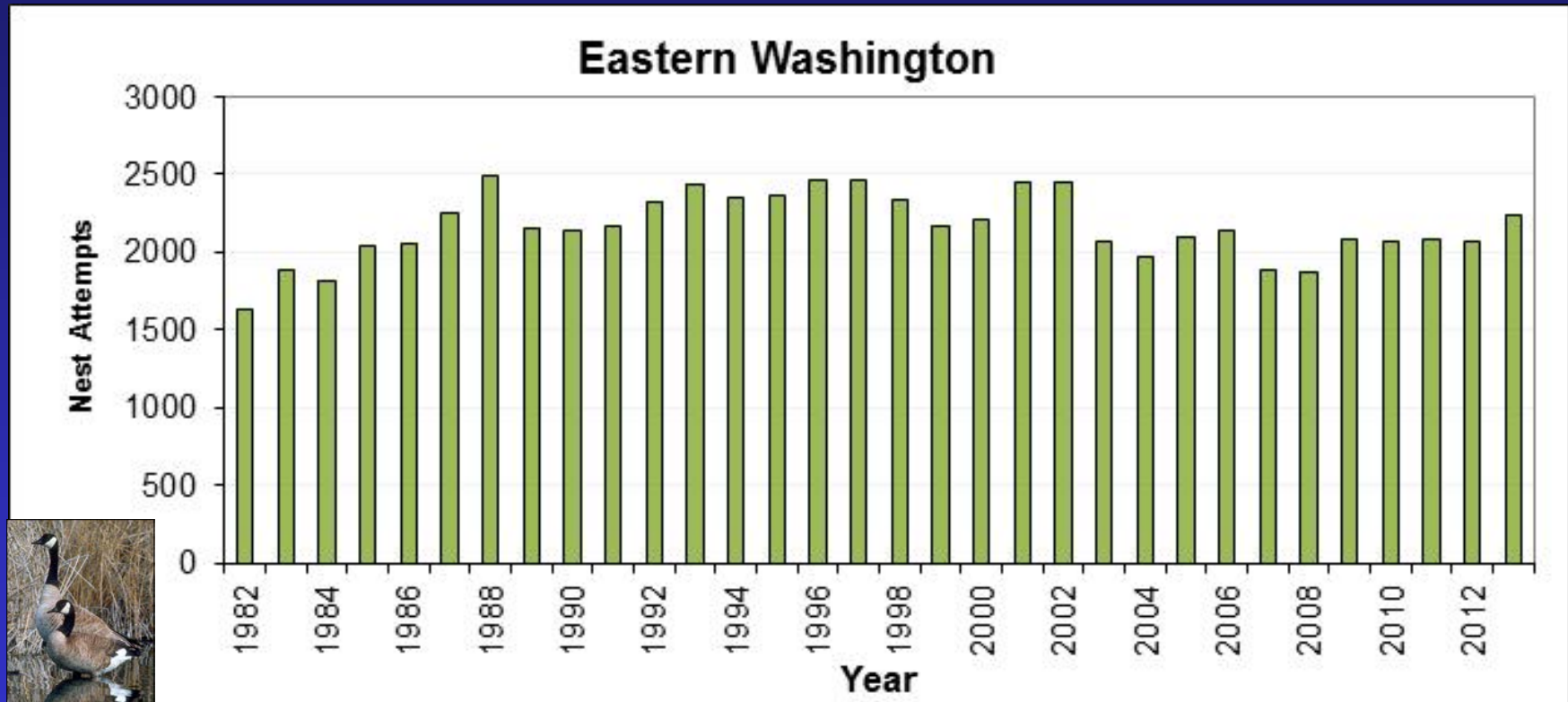
APPENDIX 4. Scoter harvest strategy thresholds based on 3-yr. average winter indices.



Goose Population Status 2013

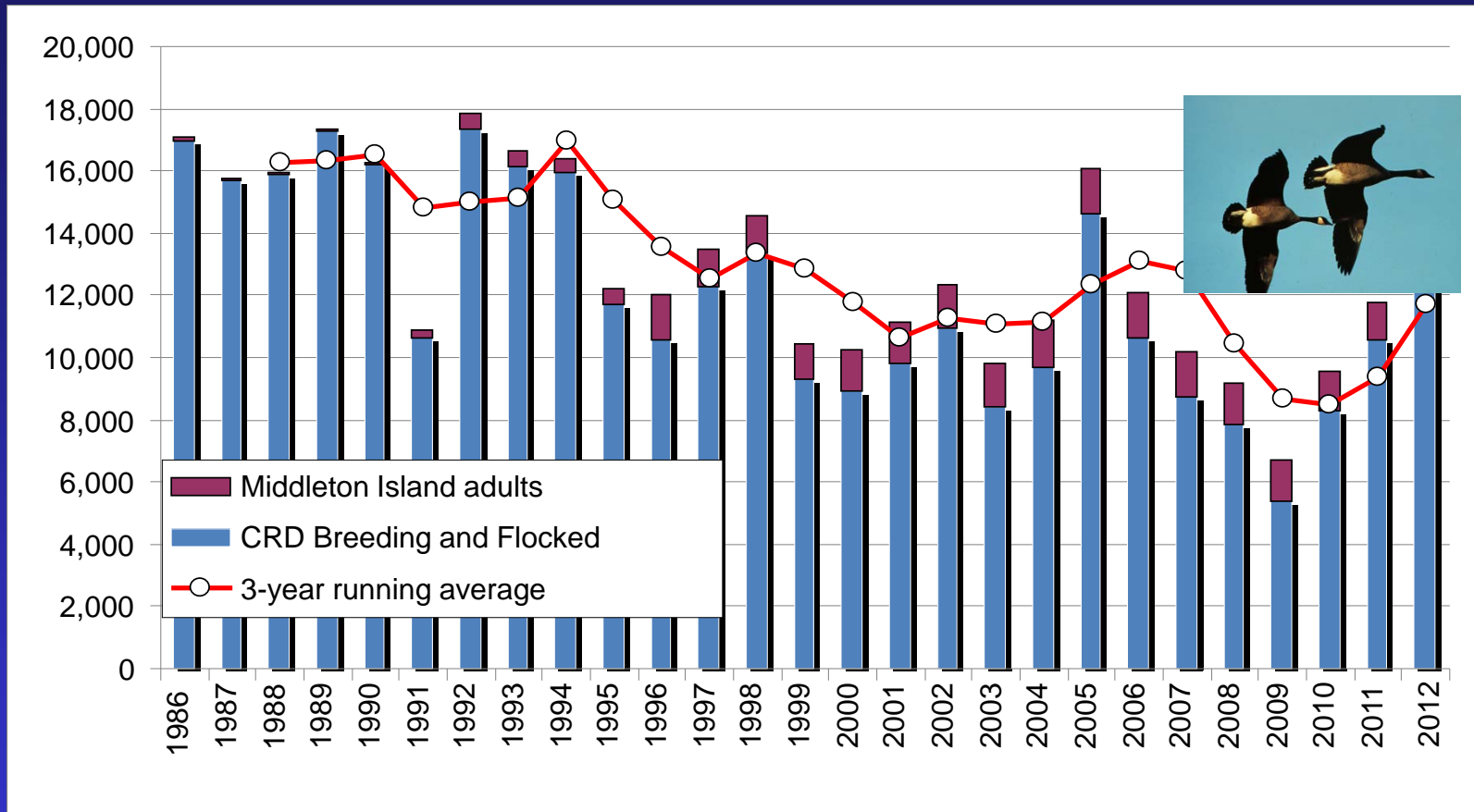


Eastern WA Canada Goose Nest Trends



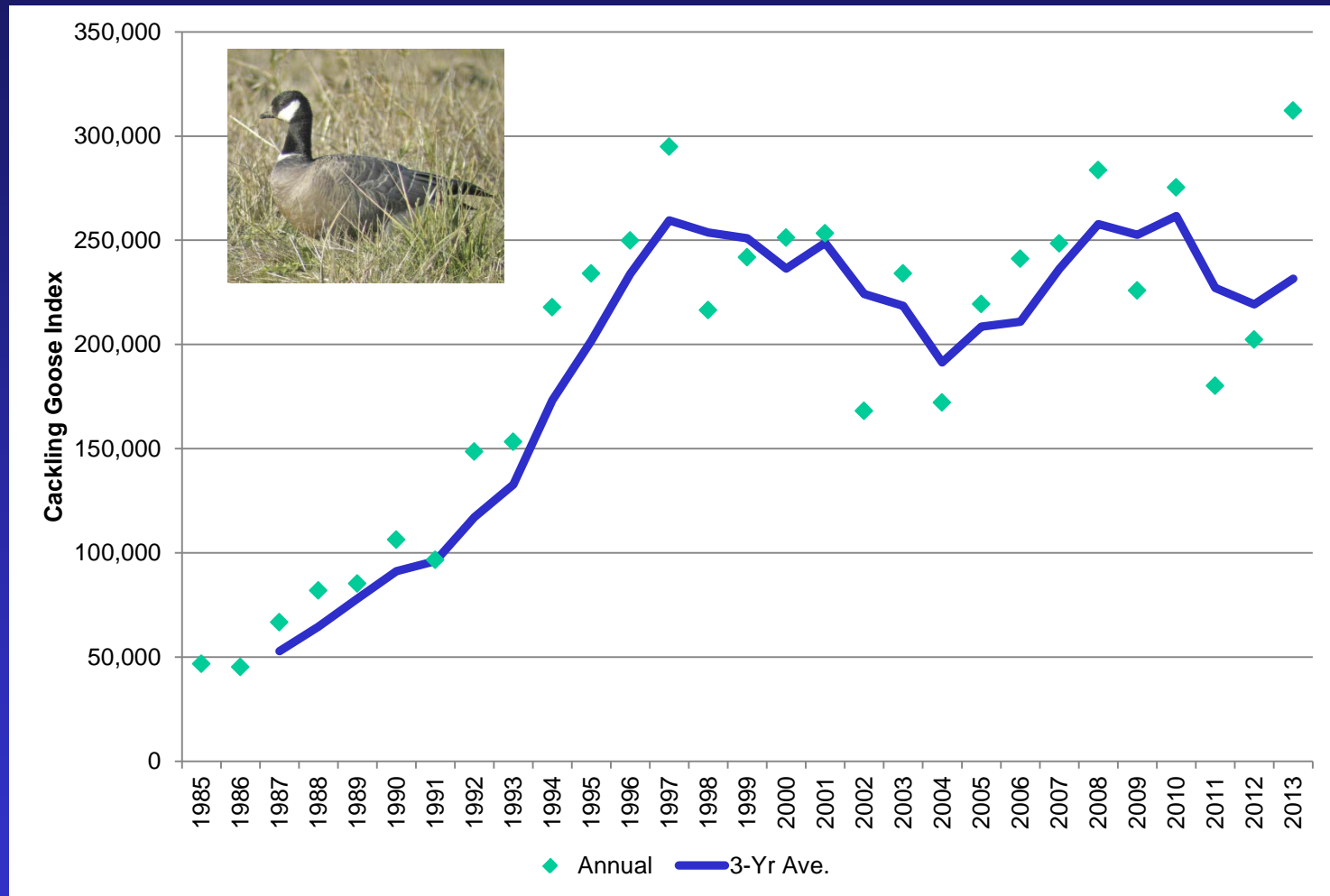
- 2013 survey = 2,238; 2011-13 ave. = 2,131
- September seasons set in April

Dusky Canada Goose Breeding Trends



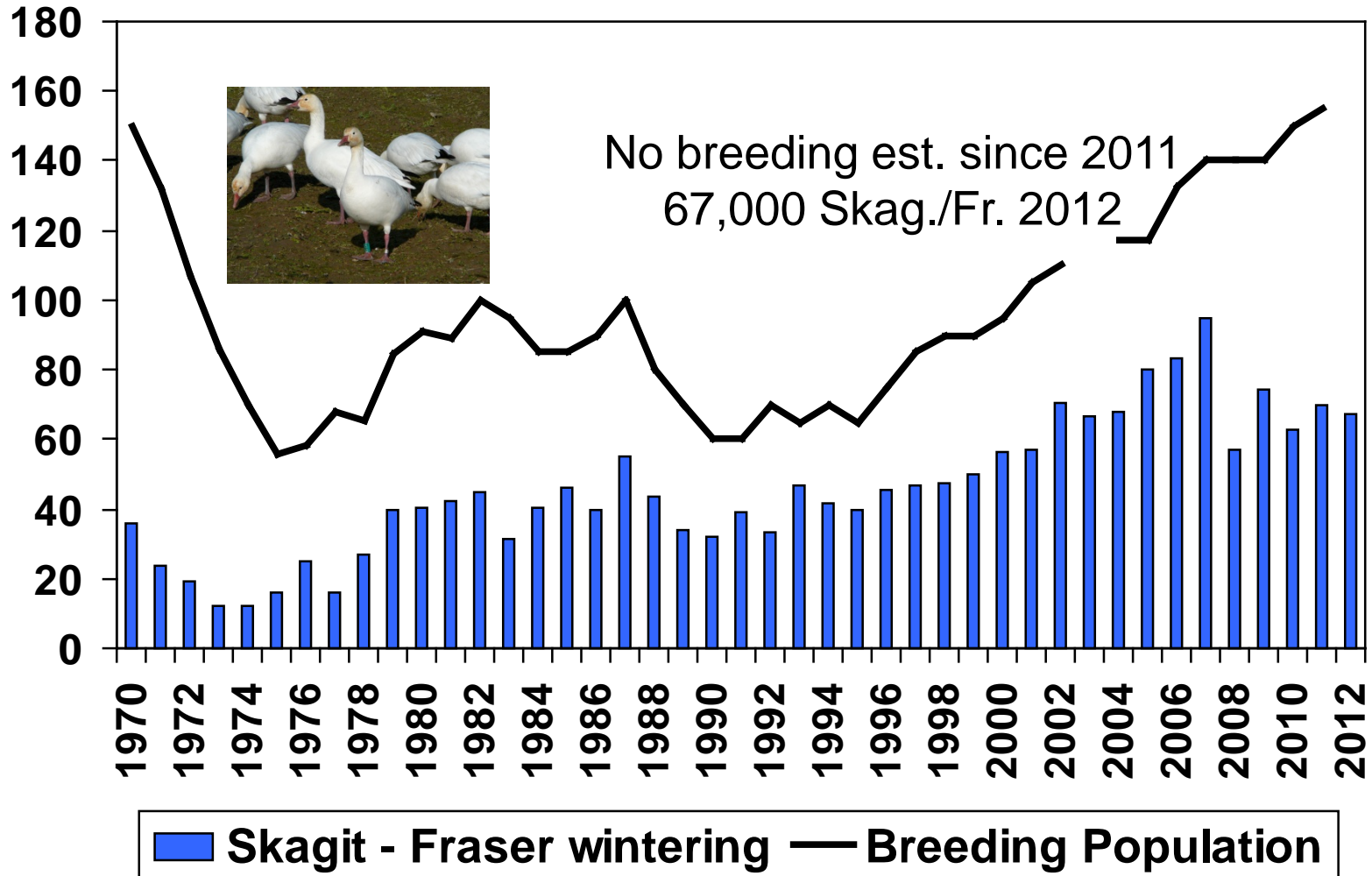
- 2013 survey not completed; 2010-12 ave. = 11,663
- Quotas remain at 2012-13 levels

Cackling Goose Fall Trends

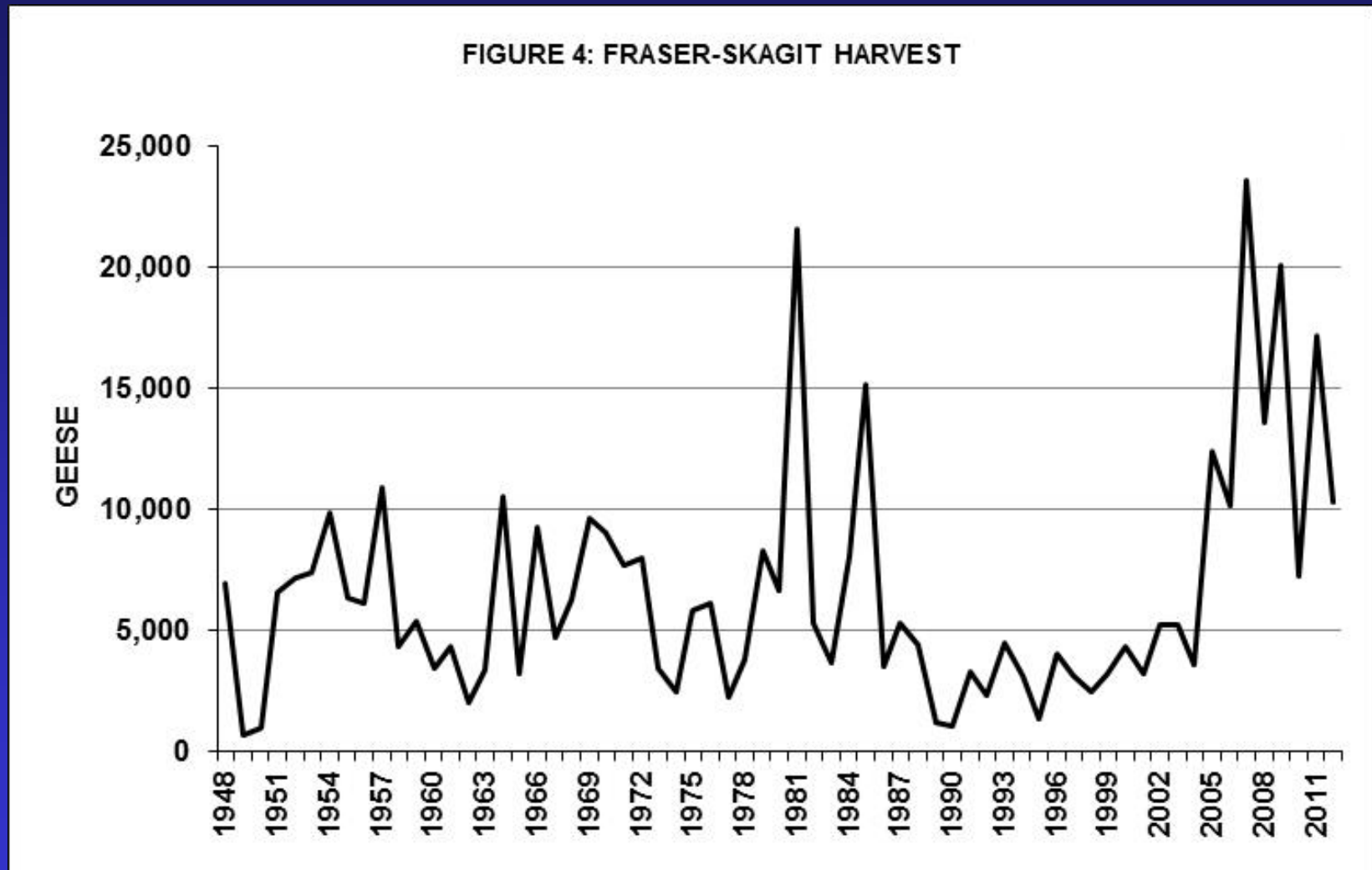


- 2013 estimate = 312,220; 2011-13 ave. = 231,590

Wrangel Island Snow Goose Trends

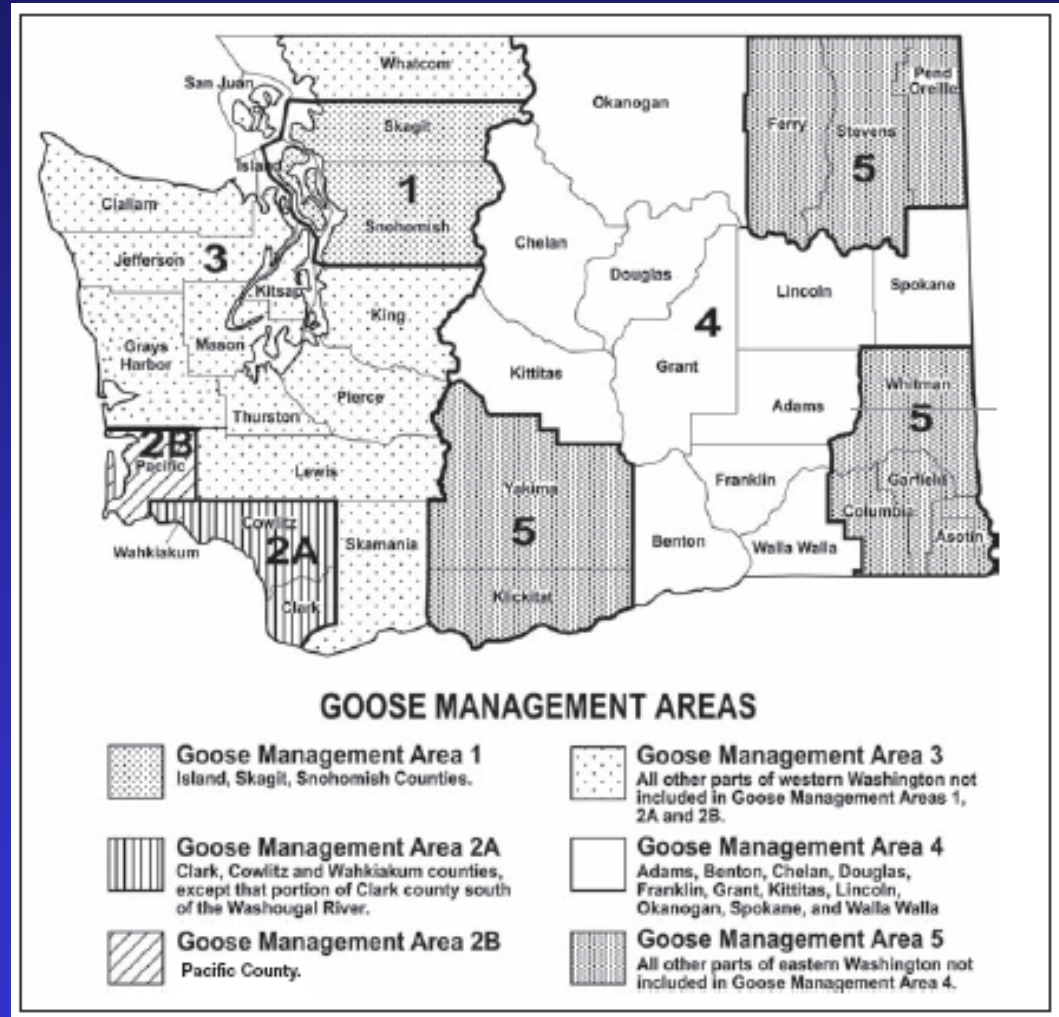


Wrangel Island Snow Goose Harvest Trends



2013-14 Goose Season Proposals

- Season dates and limits similar to last year
- 3X possession limit except for duskys



Recommended Adjustments

- Some noted during presentation
- pp. 15-16 in notebook

QUESTIONS?



RCW 77.32.070

Information required from license applicants — Reports on taking/effort to harvest fish, shellfish, and wildlife — Administrative penalty.

(2) The commission may, by rule, set an administrative penalty for failure to comply with rules requiring the reporting of taking or effort to harvest wildlife. The commission may also adopt rules requiring hunters who have not reported for the previous license year to complete a report and pay the assessed administrative penalty before a new hunting license is issued.

(a) The total administrative penalty per hunter set by the commission must not exceed ten dollars.

WAC 232-28-299 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

- (1) All hunters purchasing a hunting license must report their hunting activity for deer, elk, bear, or turkey.
 - (a) Hunters must report hunting activity, for each tag and permit acquired, by January 31 or within 10 days after the close of an eligible hunt, whichever date is later.
 - (b) Reports must be made using the department's designated automated telephone hunter reporting system (toll free) or internet hunter reporting system.
 - (c) Any hunter not reporting, for each tag and permit acquired, by the reporting deadline will be in noncompliance of reporting requirements.
 - (d) Compliance will be credited for each transport tag and permit acquired.
- (2) As an incentive for prompt reporting, all hunters who report by midnight January 10 or within 10 days after the last day of their permit hunt will be entered into a drawing for special deer and elk incentive permits. To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must report their hunting activity for each transport tag and permit acquired.
- (3) Hunters who have not reported hunting activity by the reporting deadline for deer, elk, bear, or turkey tags and permits acquired the previous year will be required to pay a \$10 penalty before a new license that includes deer, elk, bear, or turkey tags will be issued. A hunter may only be penalized a maximum of \$10 during a license year.