

# Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Annual Review

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting



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# Purpose

- Annual review of stock status and fisheries.
  - Commission Policy C-3001 “Lower Columbia Sturgeon Management”



# Outline

- Policy Guidance
- 2018 Fisheries
- Stock status
- Predation rates
- 2019 Fisheries







# Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Distribution

# Policy Guidance: C-3001

- New Policy adopted January 25, 2019.
- “...to provide consistent management guidelines that promote a healthy population and provide sustainable fisheries.”
- Conservation Objectives:
  - Increase abundance of spawning population
  - Manage with a precautionary approach
  - Population monitoring (within available resources)
- Fishery Management Objectives:
  - Quantify impacts of fisheries on sturgeon abundance
  - Consider projected recruitment and mortality sources
  - Monitor and manage fisheries

# Recent Guidance

- Retention prohibited in 2014-2016.
- Work with ODFW staff to manage for a limited White Sturgeon harvest in 2017 and 2018.



# 2018 Retention Fishery Allocation

- Total Catch Guideline: 6,160 fish
- Commercial Fishery: 1,230 fish (20%)
- Sport Fishery: 4,930 fish (80%)
  - CR Estuary: 2,960 fish
  - CR Wauna-Bonneville: 1,230 fish
  - Willamette River: 740 fish (no retention fishery opened)

# 2018 Commercial Fishing Harvest

## Mainstem

- Late August catch: 413 fish

## Select Area

- Spring/Summer catch: 296 fish
- Fall catch: 117 fish

Total Catch: 826 fish

- 67% of the 2018 commercial guideline



# 2018 Sport Fishing Opportunities

## Estuary

- May 14–June 9 (11 d)
- 18,300 angler trips
- Catch: 2,412 fish

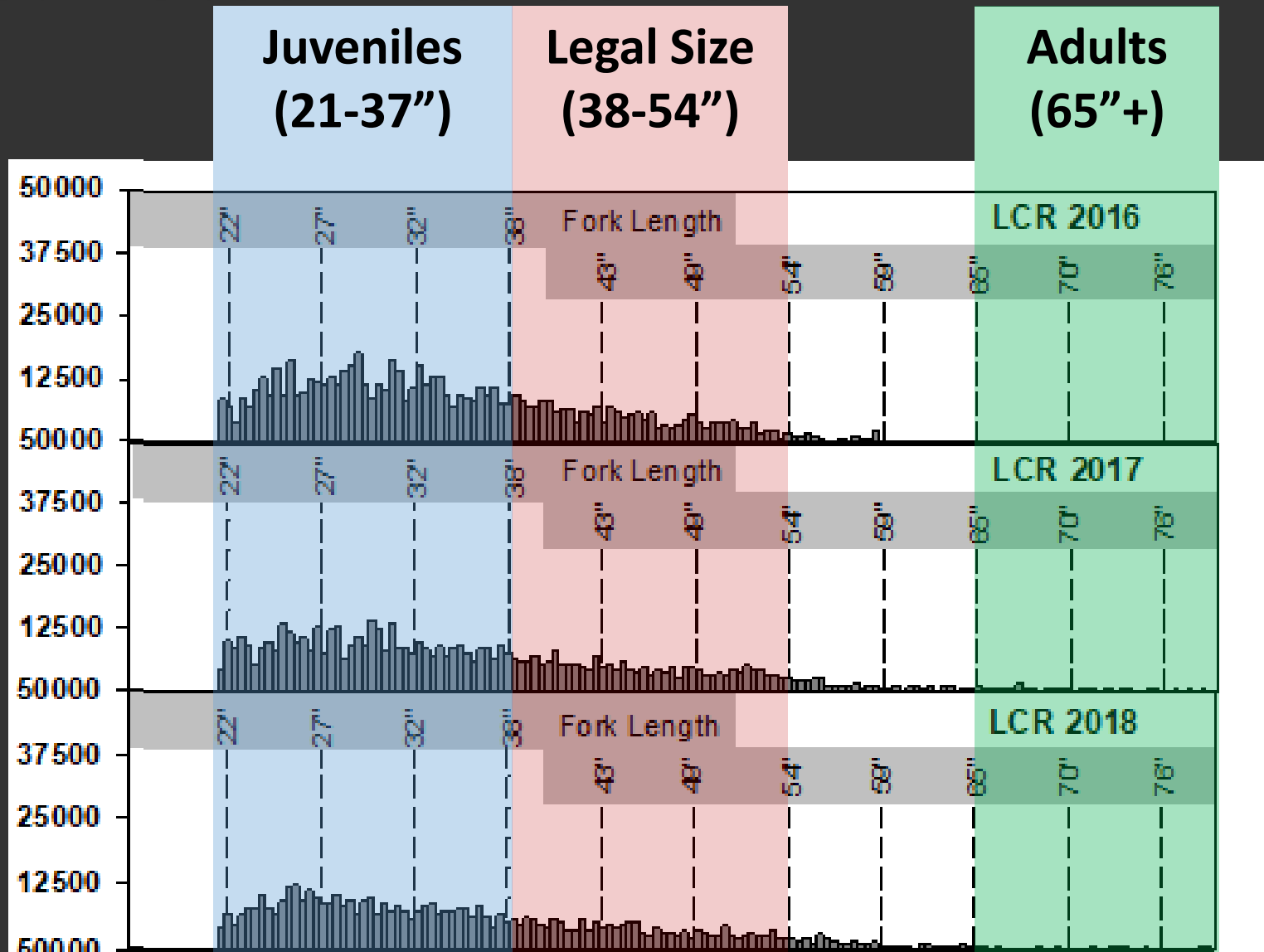
## Wauna to Bonneville

- September 15 & 22 (2 d)
- 11,000 angler trips
- Catch: 1,049 fish

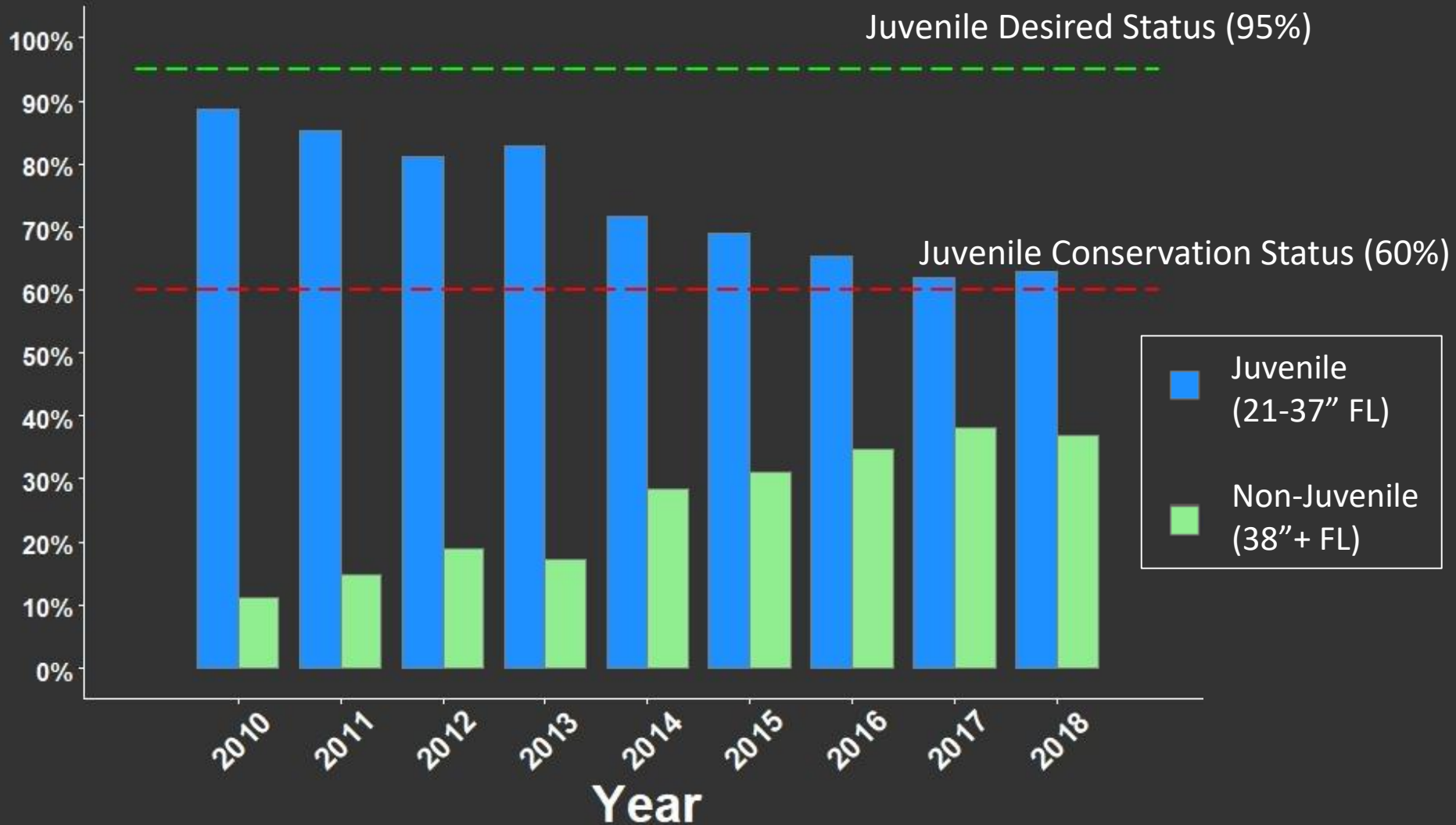
**Total Catch: 3,461 fish**

- 70% of the total sport harvest guideline
- 81% of Lower Columbia harvest guideline
- 31,900 angler trips for retention and catch-and-release fisheries

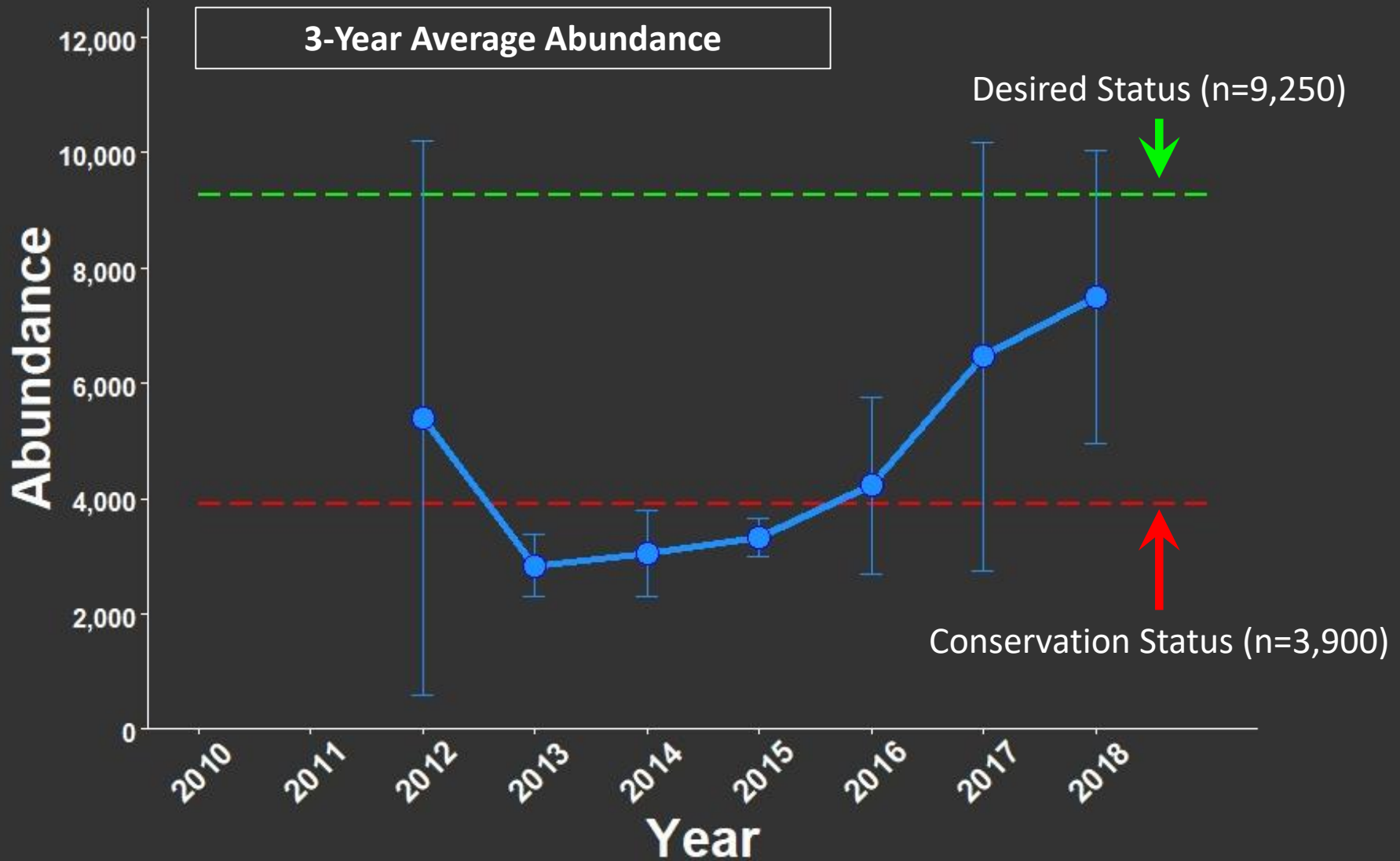
# Estimated Abundance



# Population Composition: 2010–2018

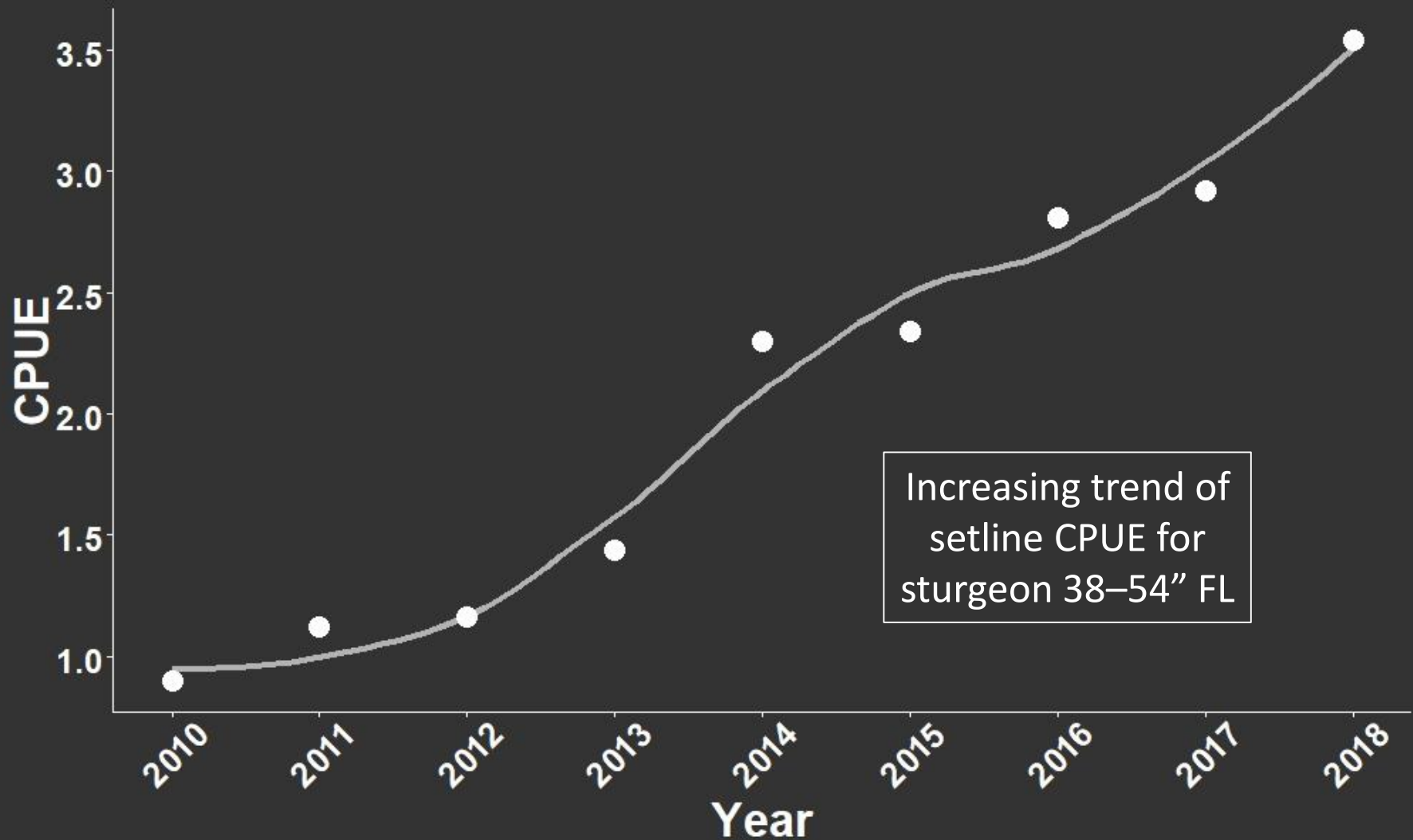


# Adult Abundance Estimates: >65" FL

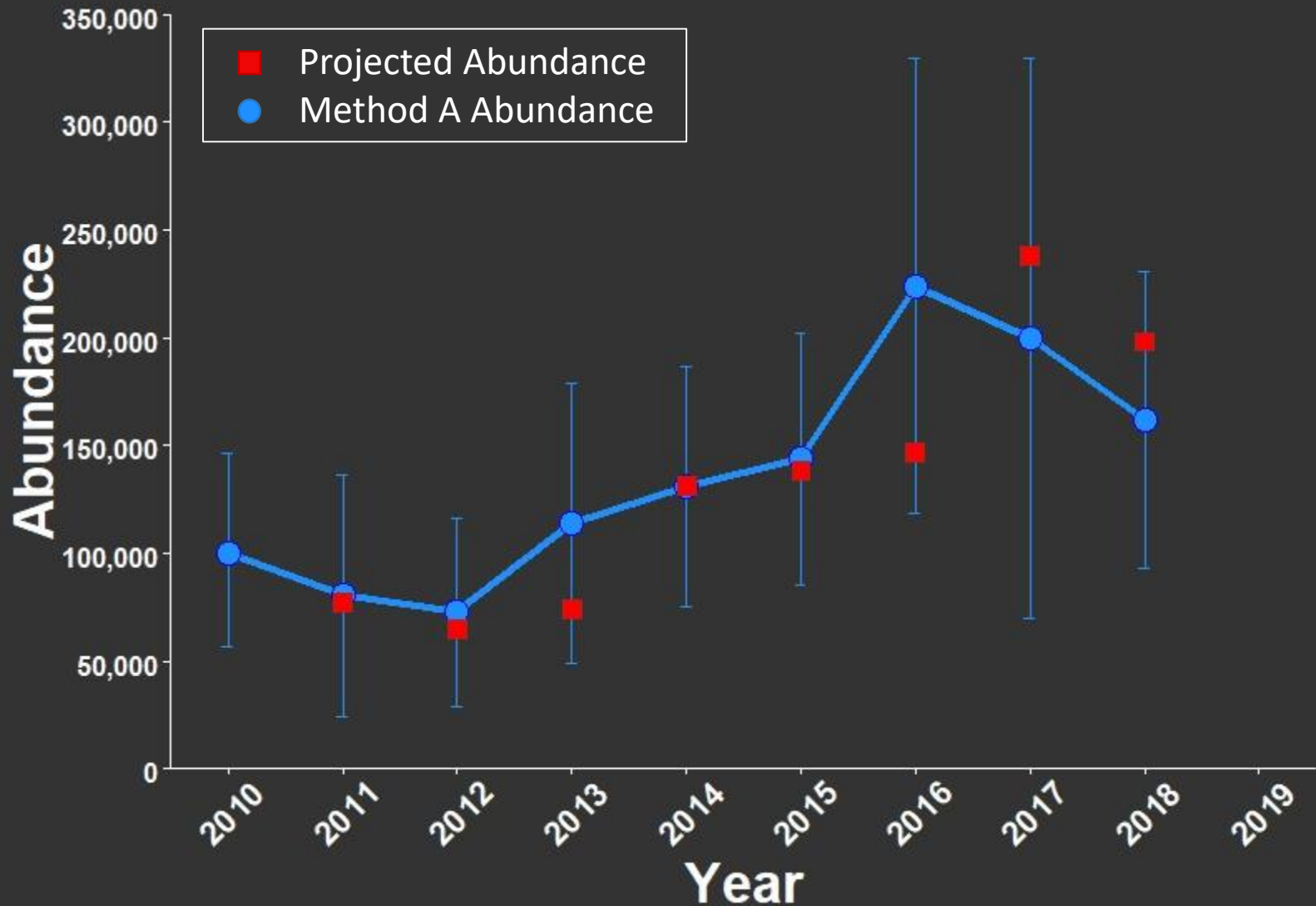




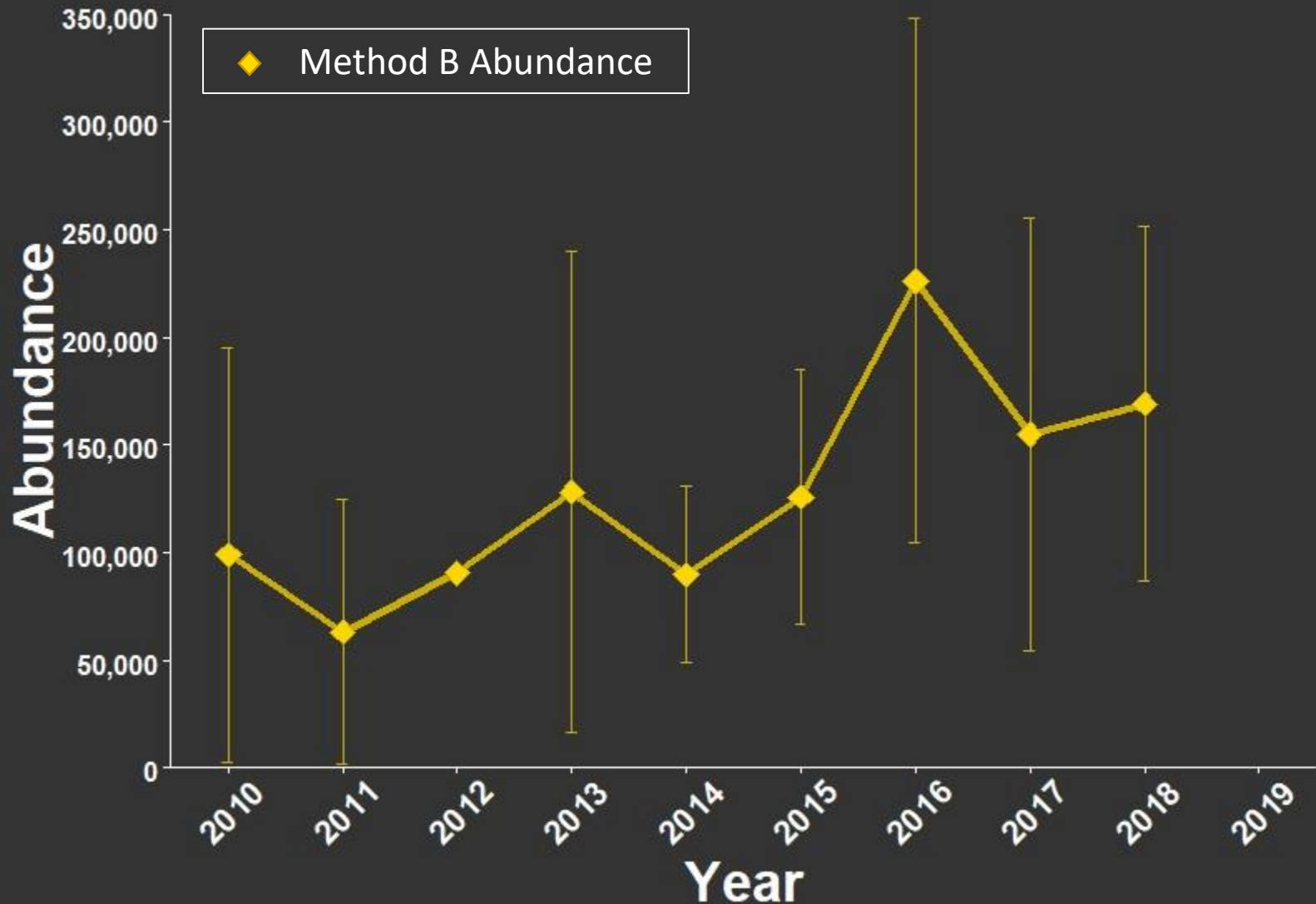
# Legal-Size Setline CPUE: 38–54" FL



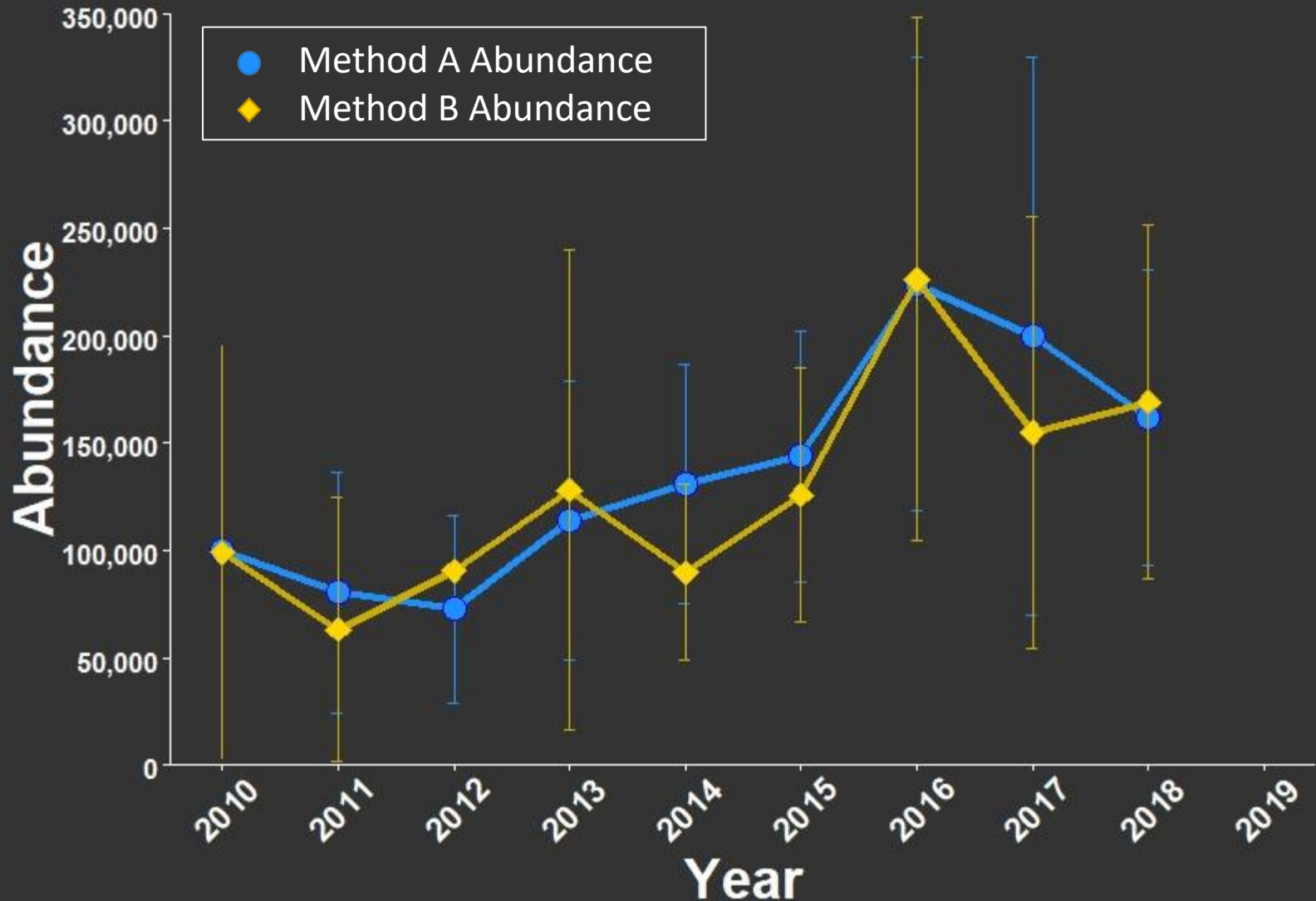
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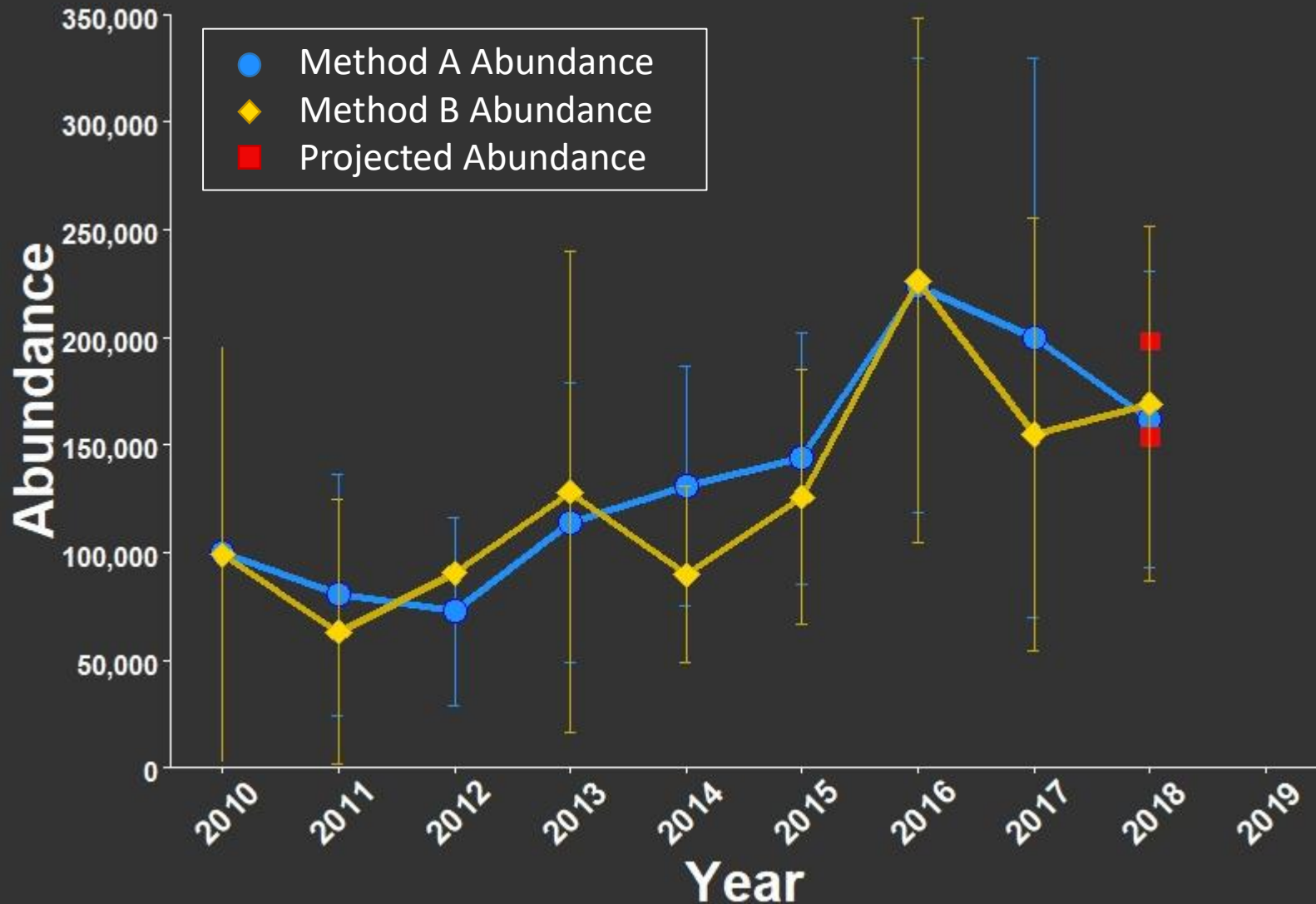


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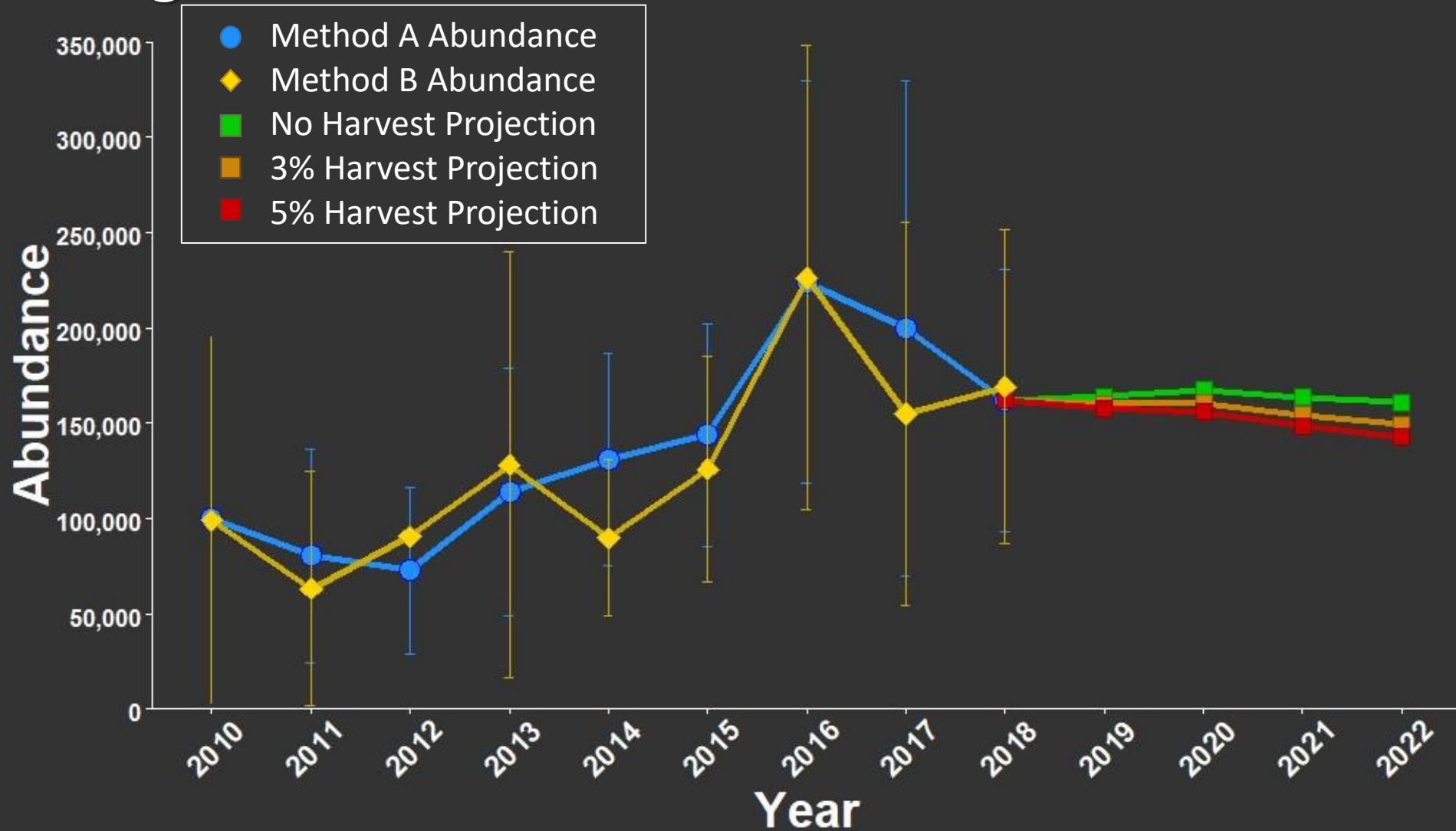




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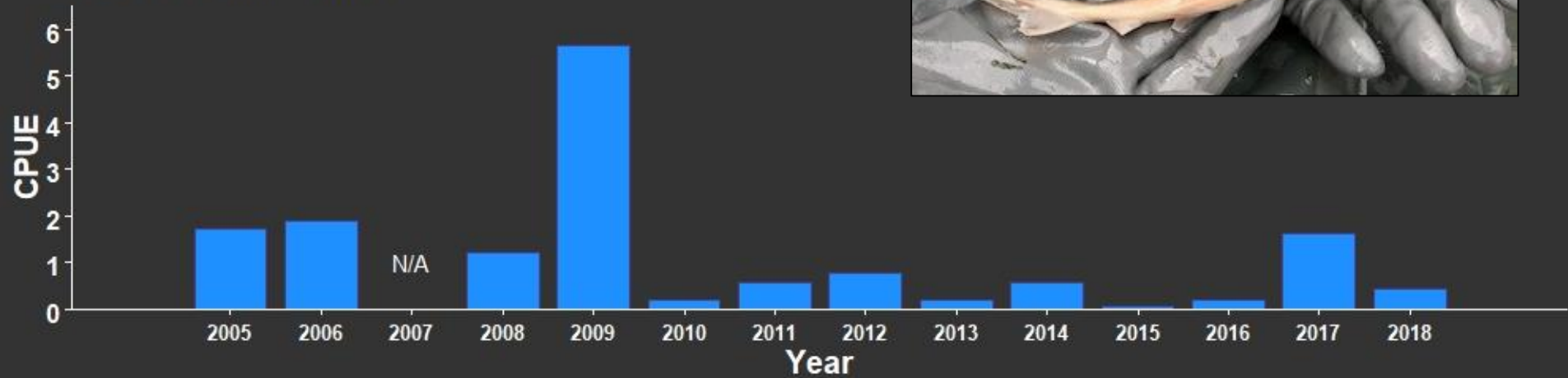
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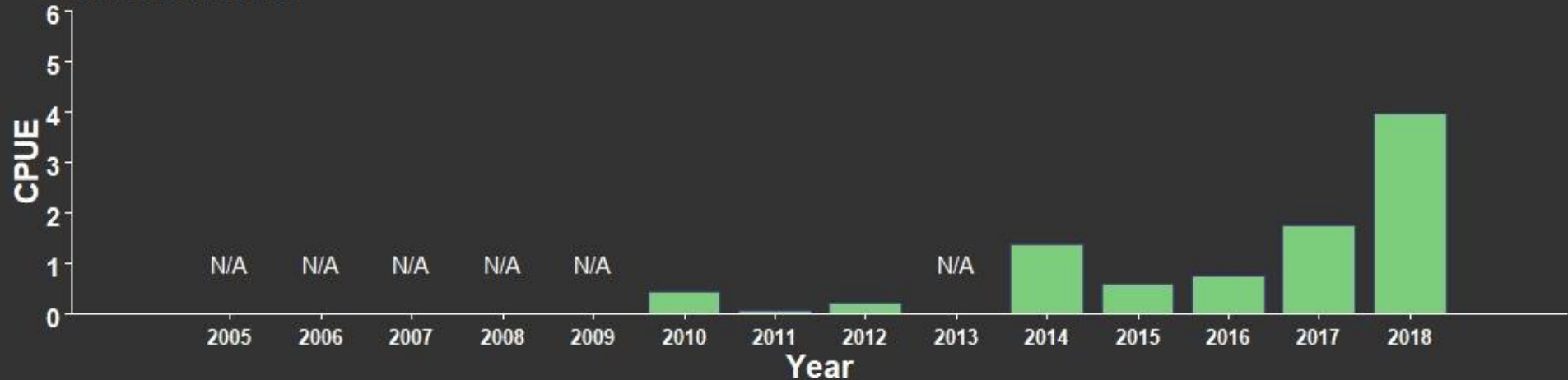
# Age-0 Catch Per Net



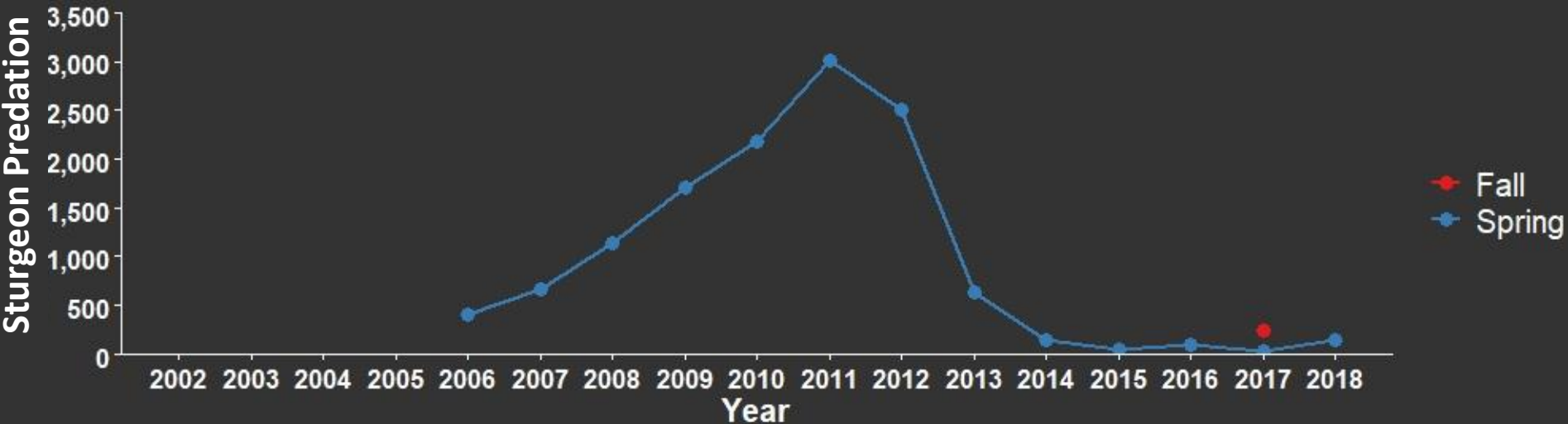
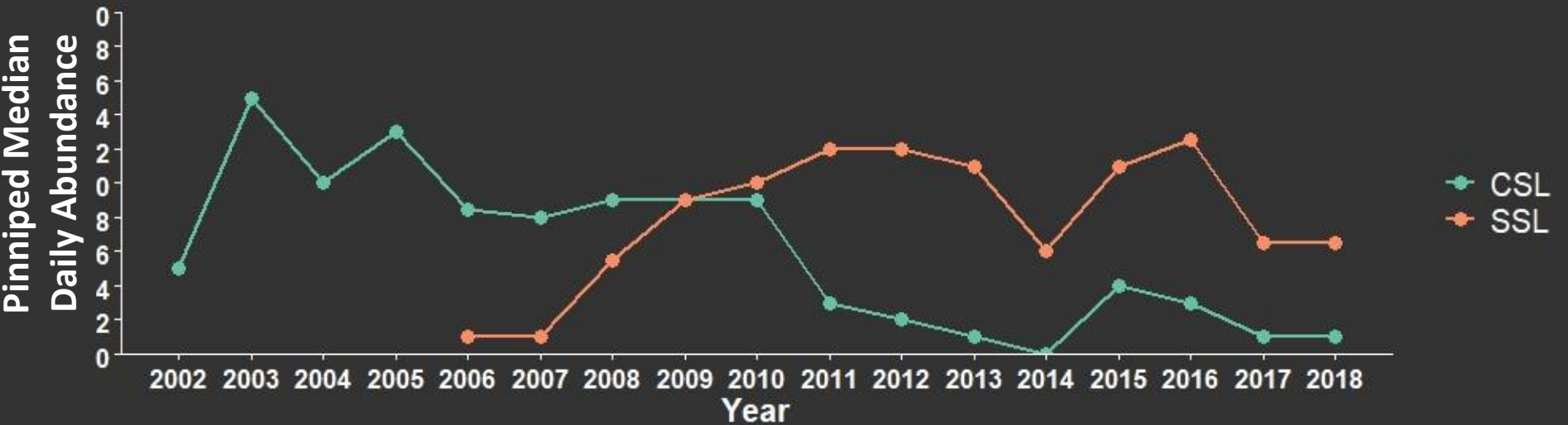
### Lower Columbia River



### Willamette River

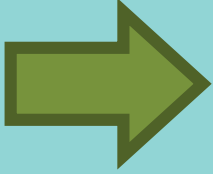
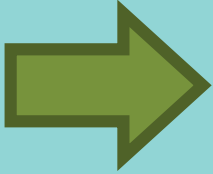



# Pinniped Predation at Bonneville Dam








# 2018 Summary

Metric	N	Interpretation	Brief Summary
<b>Abundance Trends</b> <b>38" – 54" FL</b>	162,182		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19% less than 2017.</li> <li>• 28% less than 2016.</li> <li>• Increasing trend in CPUE setline tagging fisheries.</li> </ul>
<b>Adult</b> <b>(&gt;65" FL)</b>	2018: 6,108  3-yr avg.: 7,493		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trend has leveled out.</li> <li>• 2018 adult abundance average estimate is above conservation status level, but below desired status.</li> </ul>
<b>Population Structure</b>	~63% juvenile		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued low relative abundance of juvenile and sub-legal sized fish indicates productivity issues.</li> </ul>

# 2018 Summary

Metric	N	Interpretation	Brief Summary
<b>Recruitment Index (CPN)</b>	LCR: 0.43 WR: 3.96		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed Results</li> <li>&lt;1 CPN in LCR</li> <li>Highest ever for LWR</li> </ul>
<b>Sea Lion Predation at Bonneville</b>	Spring: 148		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower predation observed than 2011</li> <li>Unknown levels elsewhere in LCR</li> </ul>
<b>LCR Fisheries</b> (retention and catch-and-release)	Estuary: 18,735 angler trips Total: 31,923 angler trips		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation down from pre-closure.</li> <li>Higher participation than during catch-and-release only fisheries.</li> </ul>

# Public Input

- Shared stock status update with Columbia River advisory groups in January.
- Sport advisors generally supported another retention fishery similar to the structure of 2017 and 2018.
- No comments received from commercial advisors.

# Next Steps

- Work with ODFW to develop another short-duration retention fishery, similar to 2017 and 2018.
- Target low harvest rate 3.5-4.5% of actual legal slot.



# Thank you



# Questions?

