



The Nez Perce Tribe and its Fisheries



"Our fate and the fate of the fish are linked."

Dan Landeen and Allen Pinkham, *Salmon and His People*



Nez Perce Treaty Fishing Rights And Fish Harvest

1855 Walla Walla Treaty Council

- Governor Stevens assures Chief Looking Glass:
" ...Looking Glass knows that he can catch fish at any of the fishing stations
- Rivers within Nez Perce Country contained the "best fisheries on the Snake River"



Nez Perce Treaty of 1855

The exclusive right of taking fish in all the streams where running through or bordering said reservation is further secured to said Indians; as also the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places in common with citizens of the Territory... (12 Stats. 957, Article 3). Treaty of 1855.



Reality of Reduced Fish Runs & Fish Harvest

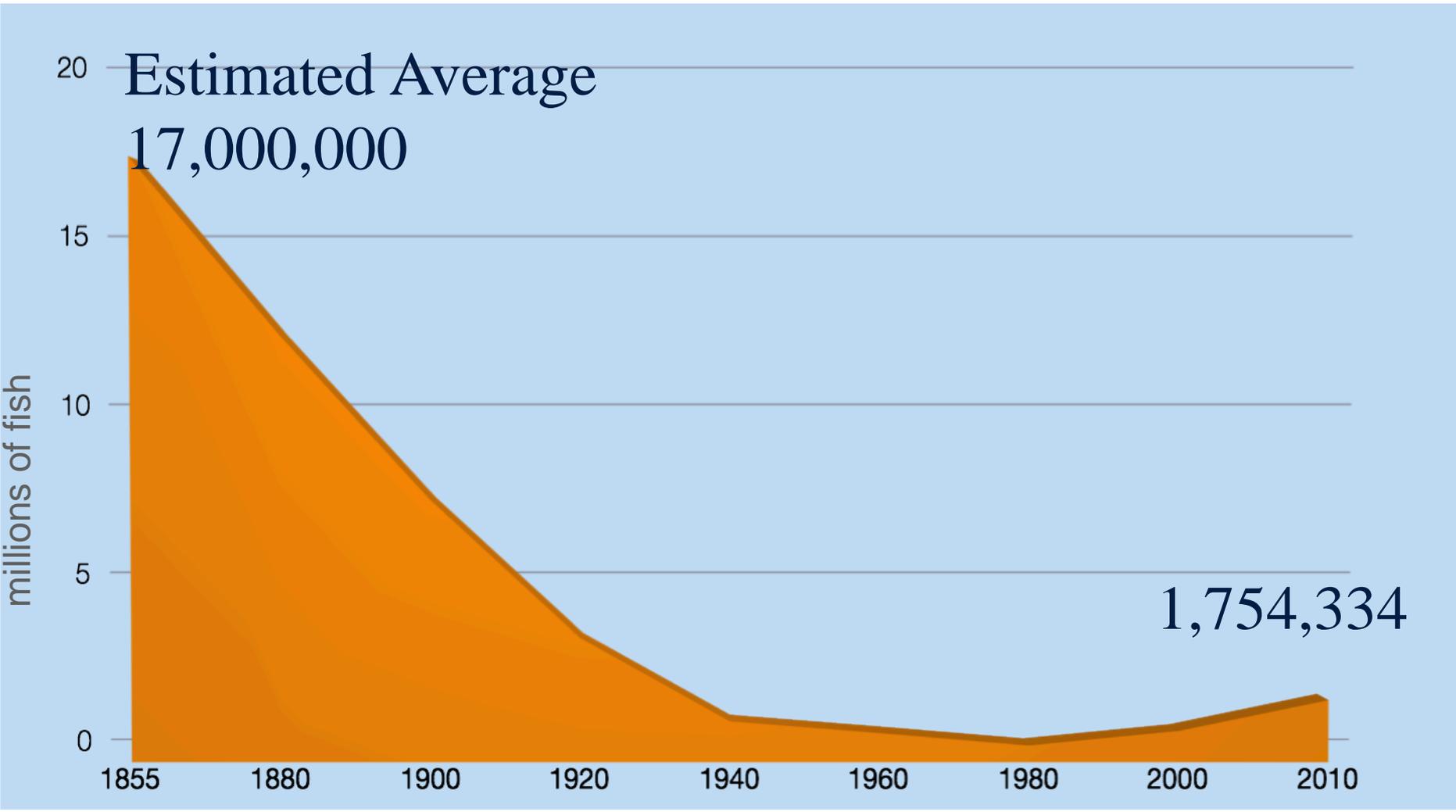


Changes in NPT Fish Consumption

- Tribal contemporary fish consumption is fraction of what it was historically
- This in part due to decline in fish abundance and productivity
- Tribal harvest activities have been affected by changes in fish abundance, changes in geographic area where fish return to, and wide range of challenges or conflicts that affect our ability to catch fish

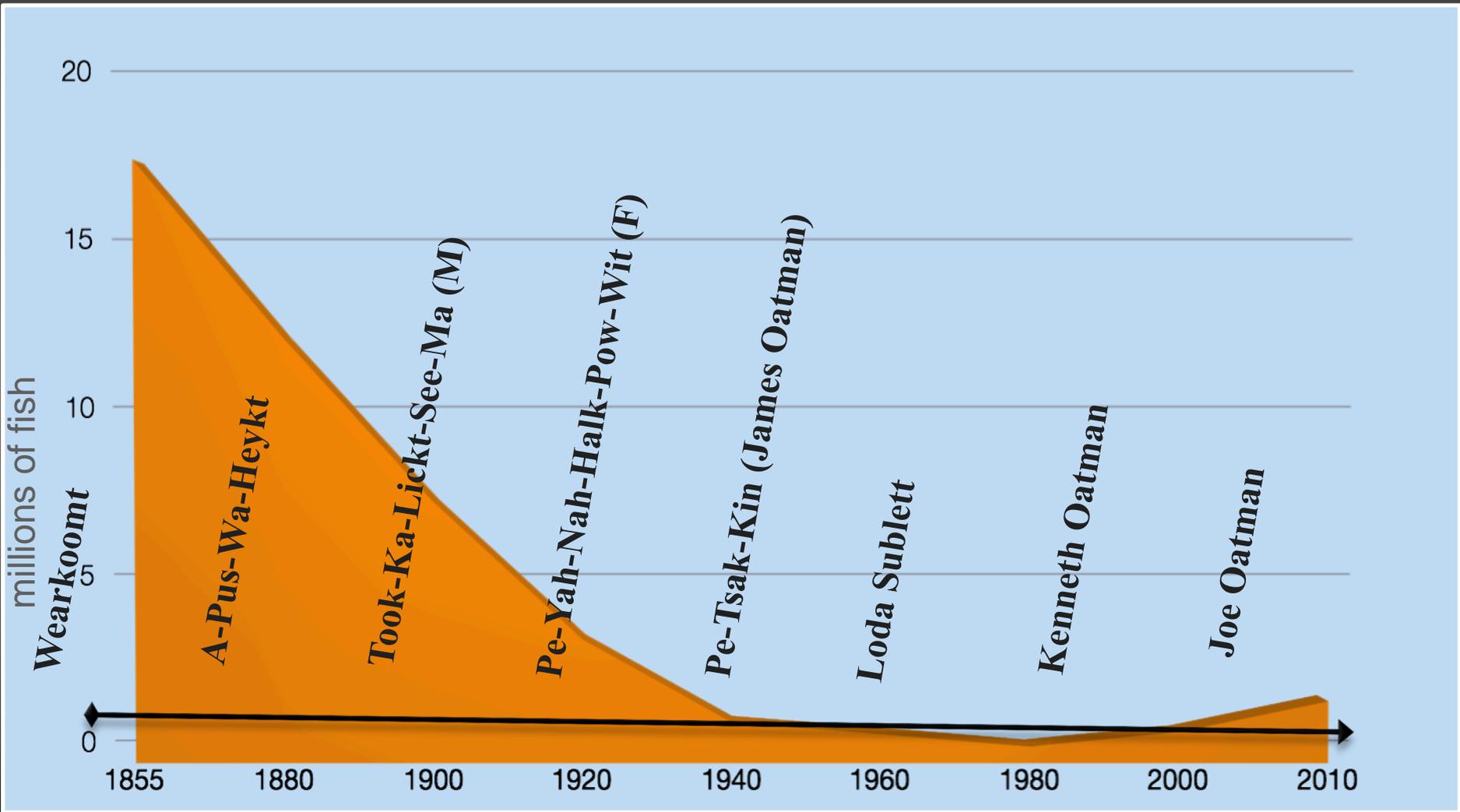
Salmon Decline

Returning Columbia River salmon (chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho)



Salmon Decline

Returning Columbia River salmon (chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho)



Northwest Power & Conservation Council - Info on Fish Consumption

- Council is to “protect, mitigate and enhance” fish and wildlife affected by the dams
- NPCC provided some information concerning aboriginal use of fish for Nez Perce
 - 6,000 tribal members
 - Fish constituted “a considerable part of the food supply”
 - 300 lbs. per capita - June to October (from Walker 1967)
 - Fish species: sockeye, chinook, steelhead, cutthroat trout
- Also included “Magnitude of Aboriginal Catch in Columbia Basin Before 1850”
- (Source: Compilation of Information on Salmon and Steelhead Losses in Columbia River Basin, 1986)

Table 10 - Estimates of population and annual salmonid consumption for Columbia Basin tribal groups prior to arrival of Euroamericans (circa 1780).

<u>Native Groups</u>	<u>Population</u>	X	<u>Estimated Annual Consumption</u>	
			<u>Per Capita (lbs.)</u>	<u>Total by Groups (lbs.)</u>
Chinook	22,000		400	8,800,000
Tlatskanai	1,600		365	584,000
Kalapuya	3,000		100	300,000
Cowlitz ²	1,200		365	438,000
Klickitat, Yakima, Wanapum, Palus	11,200		400	4,480,000
Tenino, Umatilla, Walla Walla	2,900		500	1,450,000
Cayuse	500		365	182,500
Wenatchi, Sinkiuse, Peskwaus, Methow, Nespelem, Sanpoil, Colville (part)	3,500		500	1,750,000
Wenatchee-Spokane group (part)	2,400		500	1,200,000
Kalispel, Coeur d'Alene				
Pend d'Oreille, Flathead	2,800		100	280,000
Okanogon, Lakes	2,200		500	1,100,000
Kutenai	1,200		300	360,000
Nez Perce	4,000		300	1,200,000
Bannock, North Paiute, North Shoshoni	<u>3,000</u>		50	<u>150,000</u>
TOTALS	61,500			22,274,500

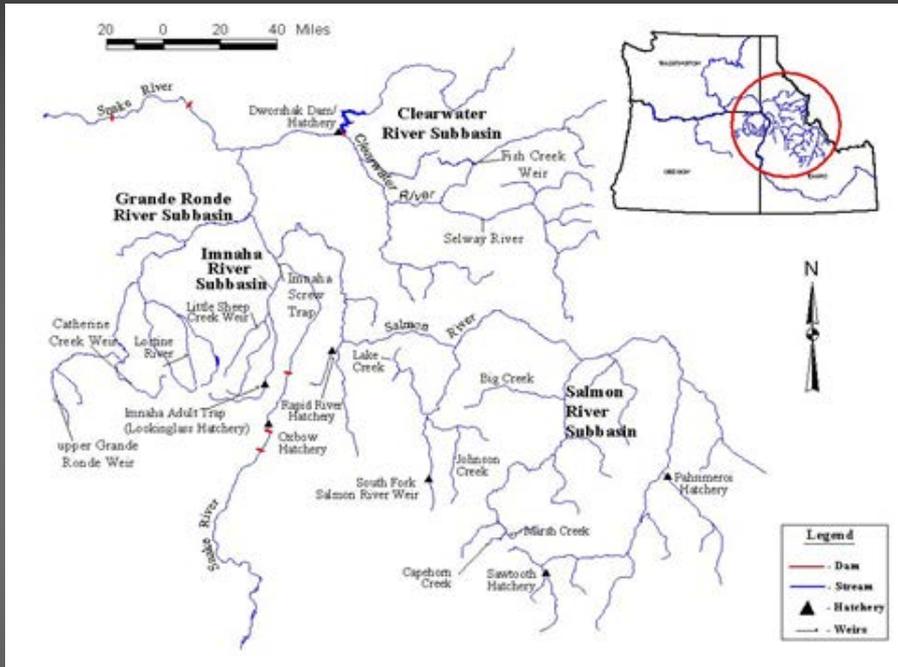
Table 11 - Annual salmonid catch estimates¹ by tribal groups using migration calorie loss and waste factors.

<u>Native Groups</u>	<u>Hewes' Per Capita (lbs.)</u>	<u>Migration Calorie Loss Factor</u>	<u>Per Capita Consumption Adjusted for Calorie Loss (lbs.)</u>	<u>Waste Factor</u>	<u>Per Capita Catch (lbs.)</u>	<u>Estimated Total Catch (lbs.)</u>
Chinook	500	.94	532	0.8	665	14,630,000
Tlatskanai	365	.97	376	0.8	470	752,000
Kalapuya	100	.49	204	0.8	255	765,000
Cowlitz	250	.50	500	0.8	625	750,000
Klickitat, Yakima, Wanapum, Palus	400	.58	690	0.8	863	9,665,600
Tenino, Umatilla, Walla Walla	500	.84	595	0.8	744	2,157,600
Cayuse	365	.81	451	0.8	564	282,000
Wenatchi, Sinkiuse, Peskwaus, Methow, Nespelem, Sanpoil, Colville (part)	500	.64	781	0.8	976	3,416,000
Wenatchi-Spokane group (part)	500	.66	758	0.8	948	2,275,200
Kalispel, Coeur d'Alene, Pend d'Orielle, Flathead	100	.57	175	0.8	219	613,200
Okanogon, Lakes	400	.40	1,000	0.8	1,250	2,750,000
Kutenai	150	.39	385	0.8	481	577,200
Nez Perce	300	.58	517	0.8	646	2,584,000
Bannock, N. Paiute N. Shoshoni	50	.35	143	0.8	179	537,000
			TOTAL			41,754,800 ²

¹Note that the tribal groups listed do not necessarily represent the same groupings of present day tribes with the same or similar names.

²Approximately 4.5 to 5.6 million fish (see Table 31).

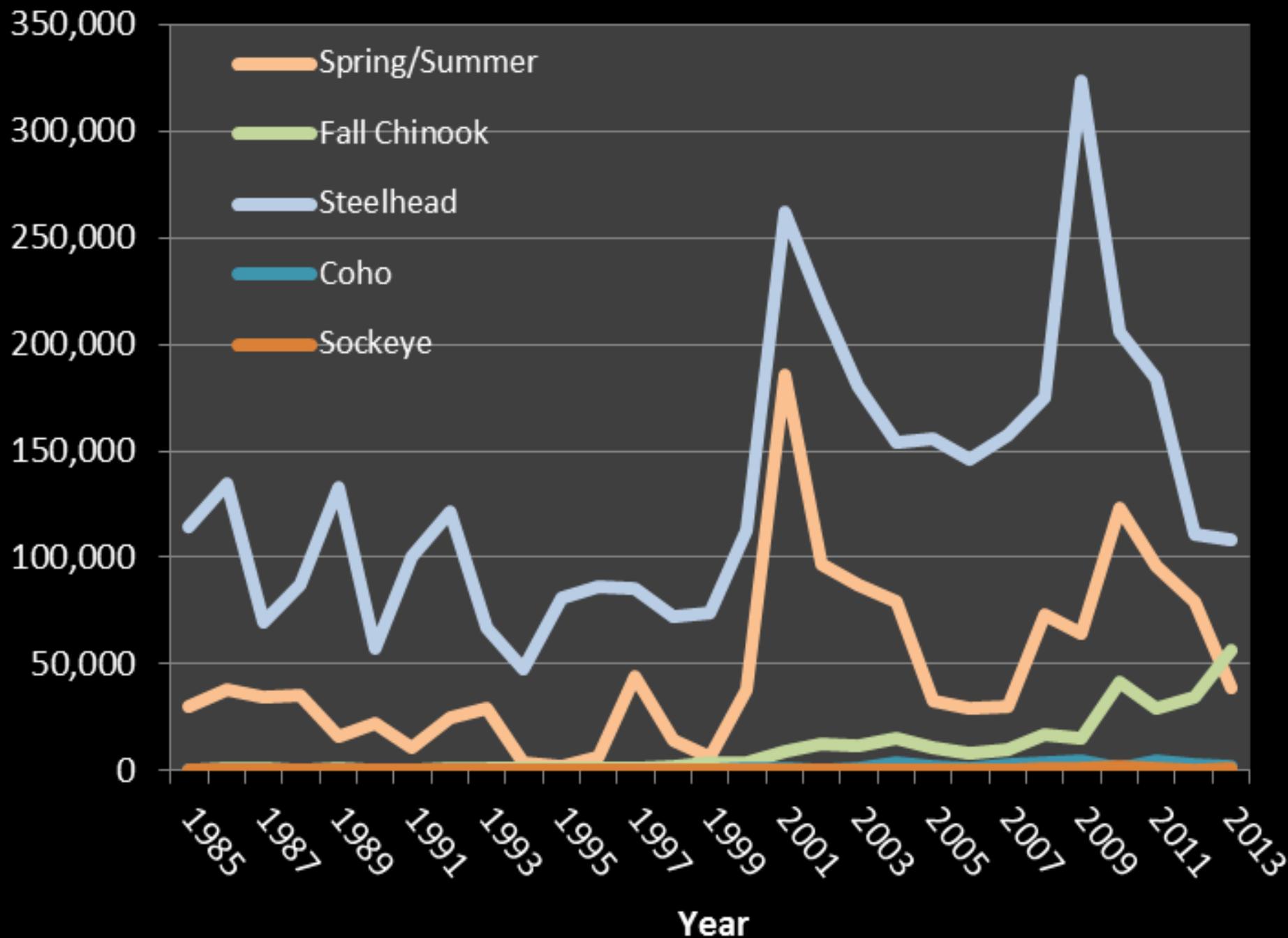
Fish Populations



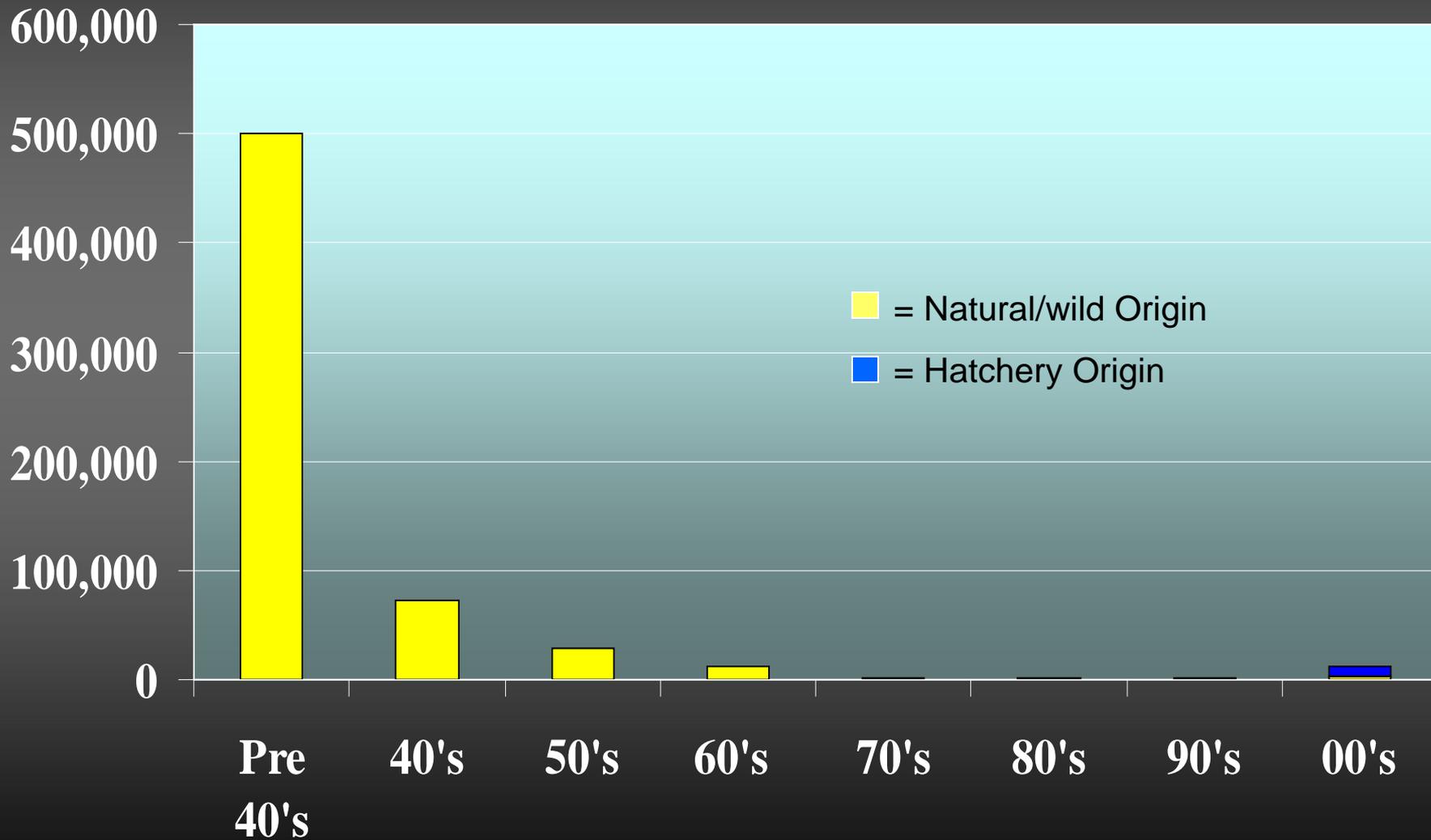
- 32 spring/summer Chinook populations (Clearwater extirpated/reintroduced)
- 1 fall Chinook population
- 24 steelhead populations
- 1 sockeye population
- Coho - extirpated/reintroduced
- Lamprey - life support

All Snake River Salmon and Steelhead populations
ESA Listed ... or *extirpated*

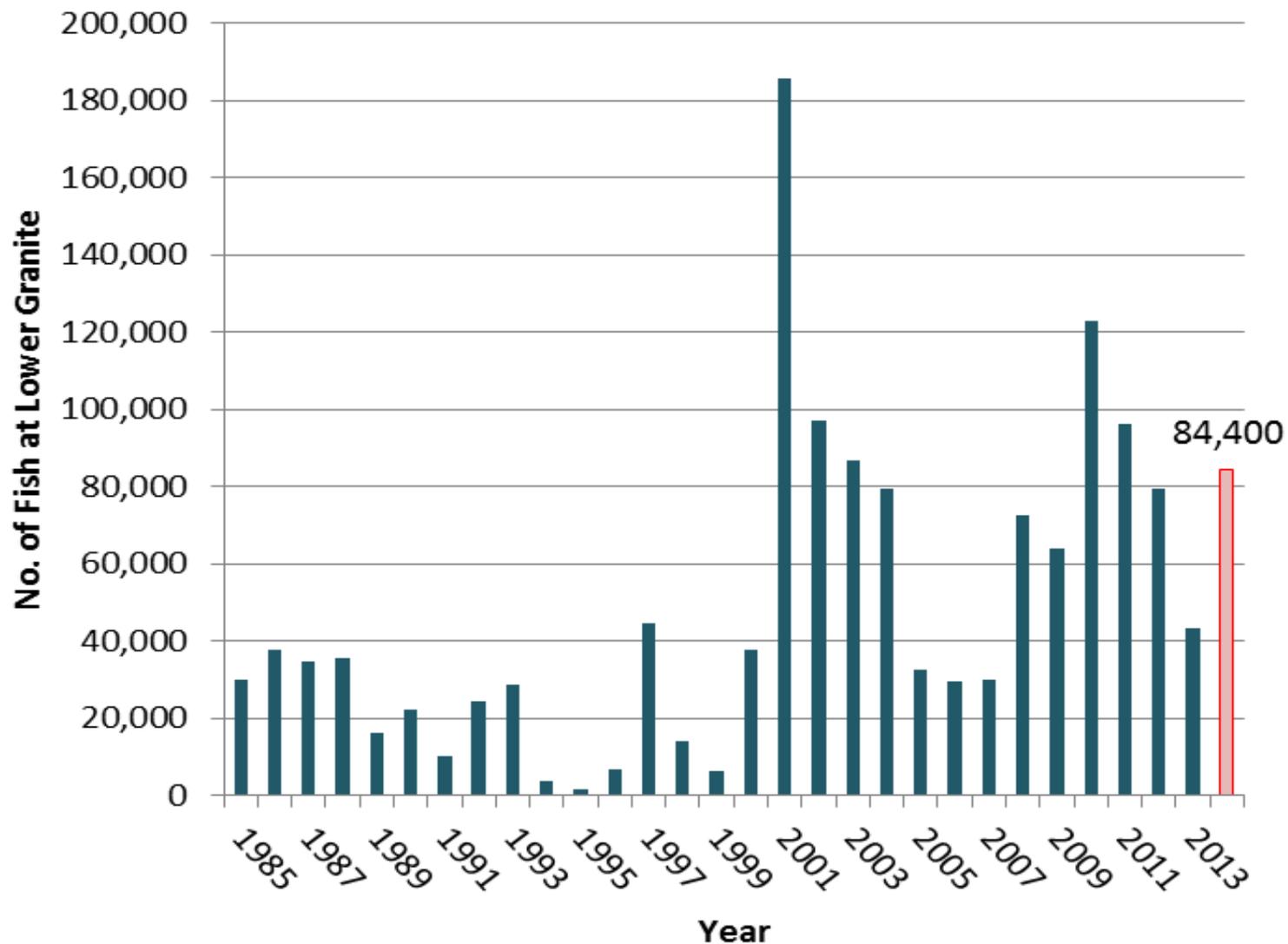
No. of Fish



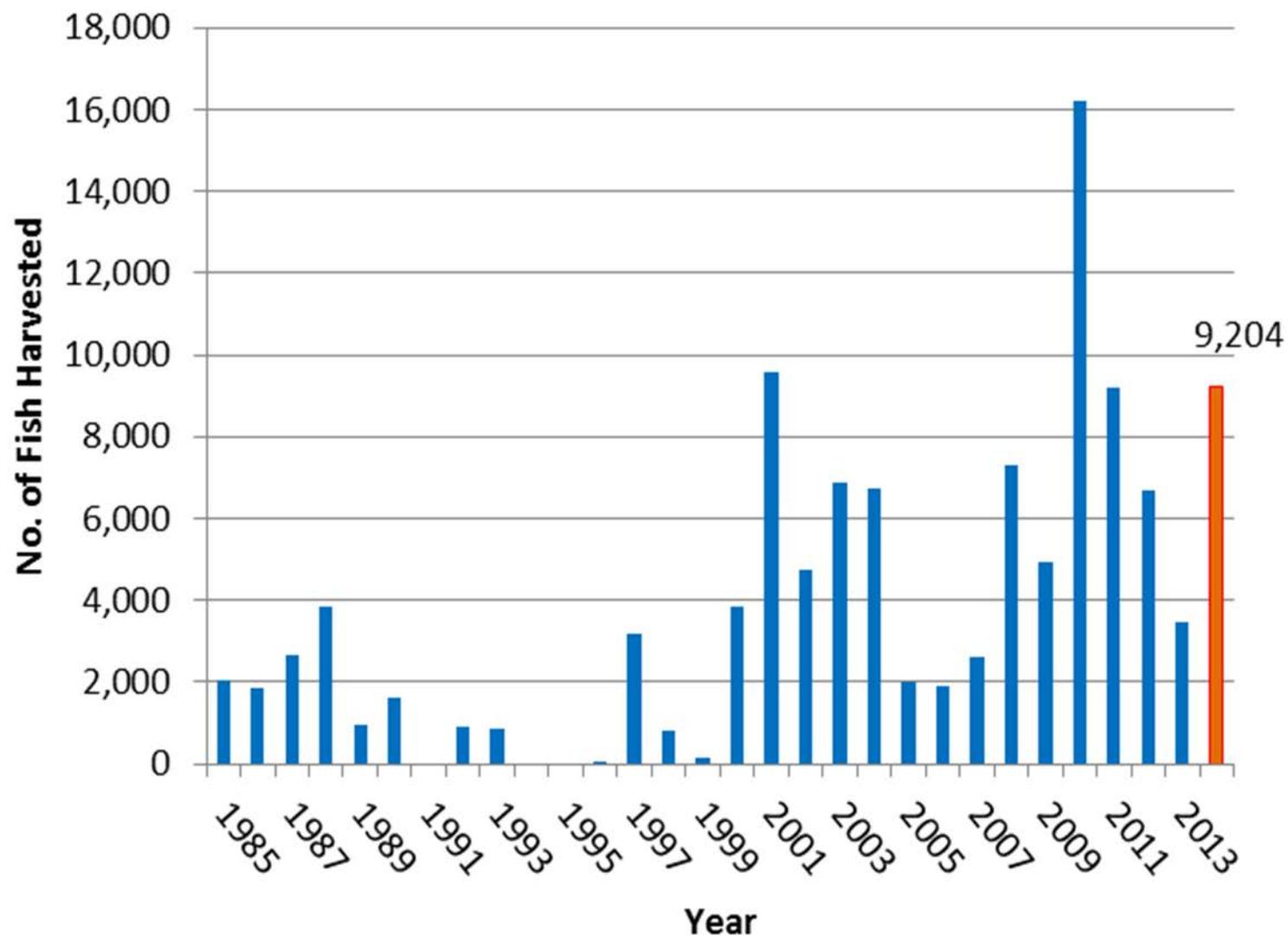
Average Fall Chinook Adult Returns to Snake River Basin by Decade



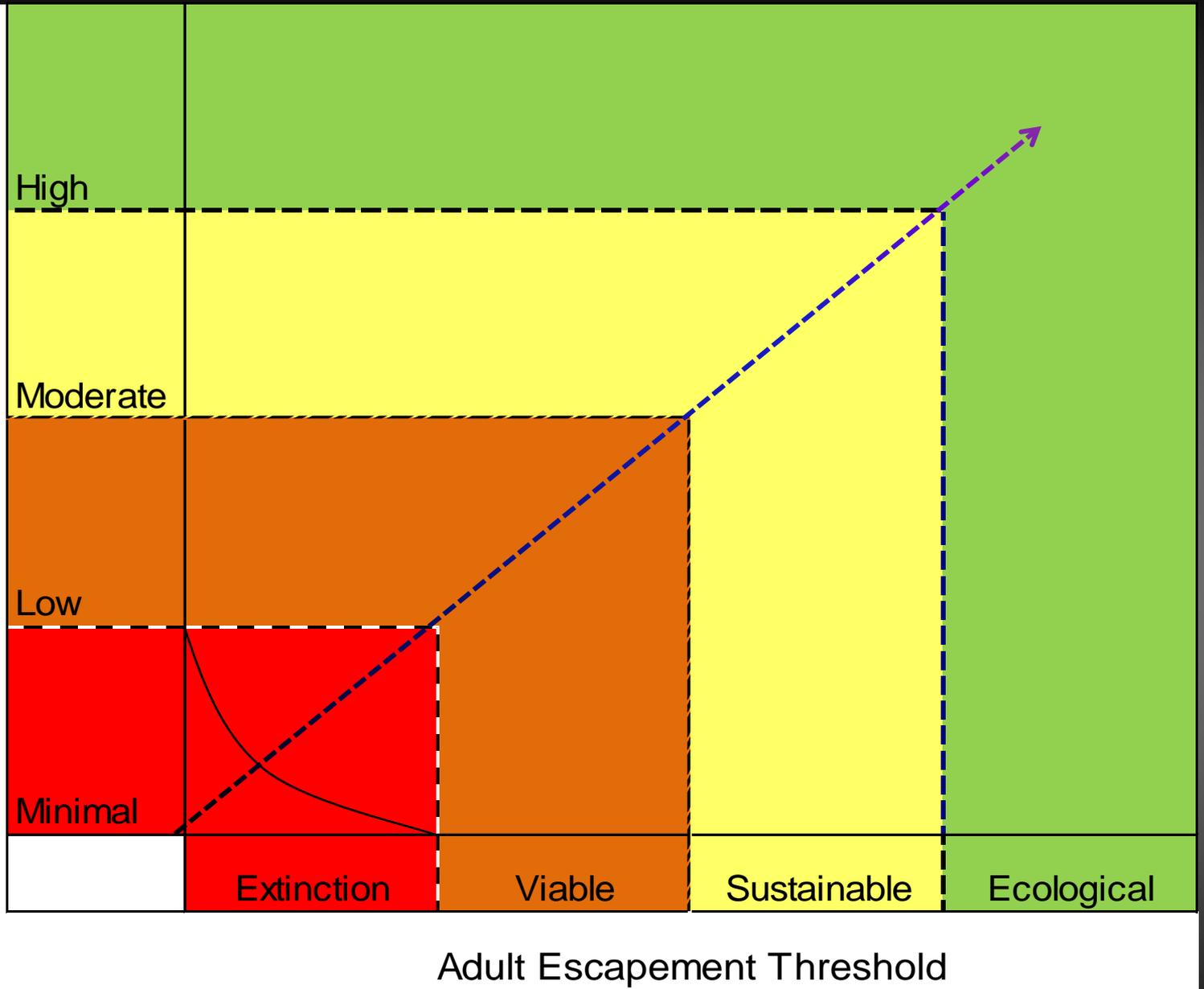
SR Total SP/SU Chinook Returns



NPT Chinook Harvest



Magnitude of Tribal Harvest



(Source: DFRM 2013-2028 Management Plan, 2014)