

Angler and Public Opinion of Coastal Fisheries and Wild Fish Conservation (Who should we believe?)

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My Presentation

- Background
- Overview of public and angler surveys
- Highlights of survey results
- Comparison to public stakeholder process
- How we dealt with differences in opinions

Fisheries Management 101

- Agencies tasked with providing harvest opportunities while also conserving natural populations
- Opportunities and conservation based on the desires of the customers
- Public processes used to gauge the desires of the customers
- Those that participate influence the decisions

ODFW's Coastal Multi-Species Plan (CMP)

- ODFW developing a management and conservation plan – 9th in 10 years
- Six species/runs along the Oregon Coast from Cape Blanco to Seaside
- The Plan will guide management of hatcheries and harvest
- Traditional Stakeholder Team participation utilized to gauge public desires/garner public support
- Funds approved to conduct public and angler opinion surveys to inform planning process

Coastal Planning Area

Oregon Coastal Basins

- Necanicum Rv
- Nehalem Rv - includes:
 - Nehalem Bay
 - NF Nehalem Rv
 - Salmonberry Rv
- Tillamook Basin - includes:
 - Tillamook Bay
 - Miami Rv
 - Kilchis Rv
 - Wilson Rv
 - Trask Rv
 - Tillamook Rv
- Nestucca Rv - includes:
 - Nestucca Bay
 - Little Nestucca Rv
- Salmon Rv
- Siletz Rv - includes:
 - Siletz Bay
 - Drift Cr
- Yaquina Rv - includes:
 - Yaquina Bay
 - Big Elk Cr
- Alsea Rv - includes:
 - Alsea Bay
 - Drift Cr
- Yachats Rv Aggregate - includes:
 - Cummins Cr
 - Tenmile Cr
 - Rock/Big/Cape creeks
- Siuslaw Rv - includes:
 - Siuslaw Bay
 - Lake Cr
- Lower Umpqua Rv (Reedsport to Elkton) - includes:
 - Umpqua Bay
 - Smith Rv
- Middle Umpqua Rv (Elkton to forks)
- N Umpqua Rv
- S Umpqua Rv
- Tenmile Lk/Cr
- Coos Basin - includes:
 - Coos Bay
 - Millicoma Rv
 - SF Coos Rv
- Coquille Rv - includes:
 - Coquille Bay
 - NF Coquille Rv
 - EF Coquille Rv
 - Middle Fork Coquille Rv
 - SF Coquille Rv
- Floras Cr/New Rv
- Sixes Rv
- Elk Rv

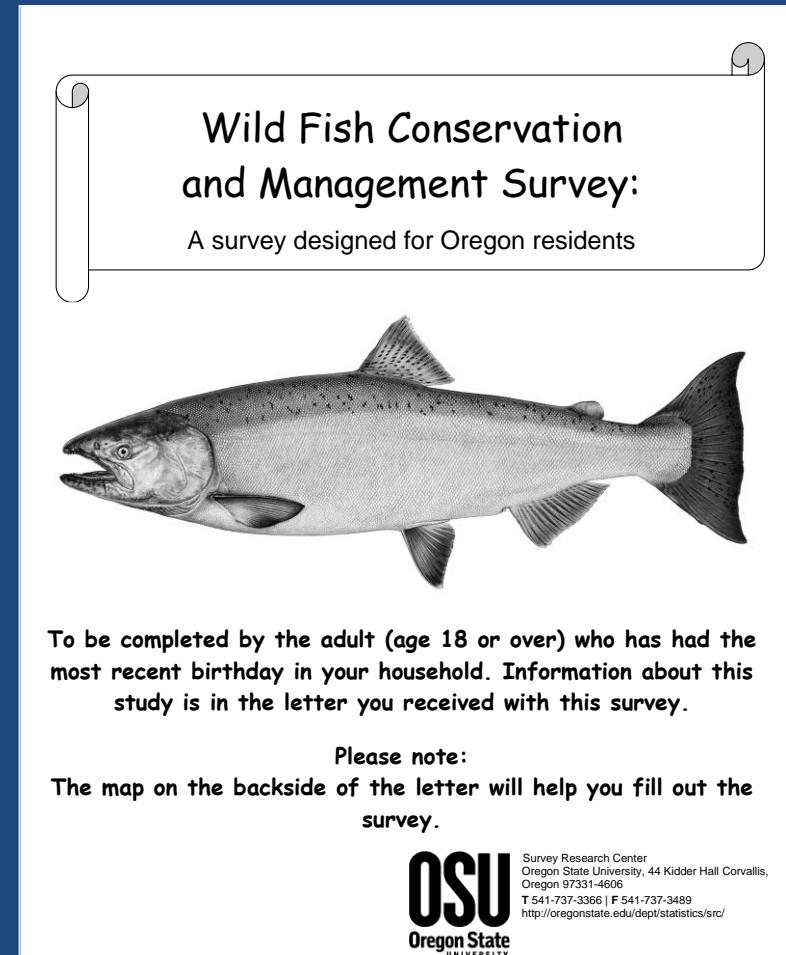


Public and Angler Opinion Surveys

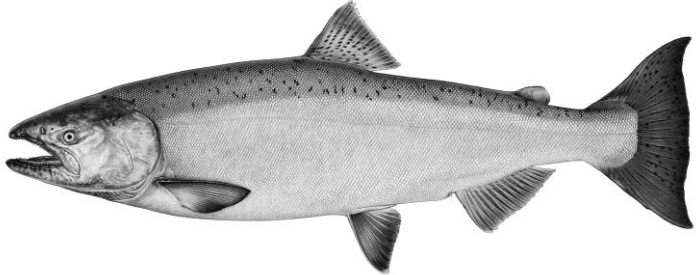
- Contracted with OSU Survey Research Center
- Surveyed only public and anglers west of the Cascade crest
- Surveyed 1,500 general public (no angling license in 2012)
- Surveyed 6,000 anglers who purchased harvest tag in 2012
- Sampled distinct regions equally to discern regional differences

General Public Survey

- 750 4-page surveys (14 questions) sent to residents in 2 regions (Coast & Valley)
- 31% response rate divided equally between regions



**Wild Fish Conservation
and Management Survey:**
A survey designed for Oregon residents



To be completed by the adult (age 18 or over) who has had the most recent birthday in your household. Information about this study is in the letter you received with this survey.

Please note:
The map on the backside of the letter will help you fill out the survey.

OSU
Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Survey Research Center
Oregon State University, 44 Kidder Hall Corvallis,
Oregon 97331-4606
T 541-737-3366 | F 541-737-3489
<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/statistics/src/>

Angler Survey

Angling in Oregon:

A survey designed to understand anglers' opinions about fishing in Oregon

Please note: You will need the map on the backside of the letter to fill out the survey.

Q1. How many years have you lived in Oregon?

_____ Years lived in Oregon

The questions that follow ask about your recreational fishing experiences. Please do not include shellfishing when answering these questions.

Q2. How many years have you fished recreationally in Oregon?

_____ Years fished recreationally in Oregon

Q3. Did you fish recreationally in Oregon anytime in the last year from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012? (After selecting your answer, follow arrow to next question)

- ₁ No, have not fished in Oregon during this time → Go to Question 7 on page 2
₂ Yes, have fished in Oregon during this time

Q4. Approximately how many total days did you fish recreationally in Oregon from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012?

- ₁ 1 to 5 days ₂ 6 to 10 days ₃ 11 to 15 days ₄ 16 to 20 days
₅ 21 to 25 days ₆ 26 to 30 days ₇ Over 30 days

Q5. Thinking about your overall recreational fishing effort in Oregon only, what percent of your time from January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 did you fish in each of the 5 areas listed? (Your total should = 100%).

a. Pacific Ocean	<input type="text"/>	%
b. Coastal basins (bays & rivers, not ocean)	<input type="text"/>	%
c. Columbia River	<input type="text"/>	%
d. Willamette Valley and Cascades	<input type="text"/>	%
e. East of Cascades	<input type="text"/>	%
TOTAL =	100	%

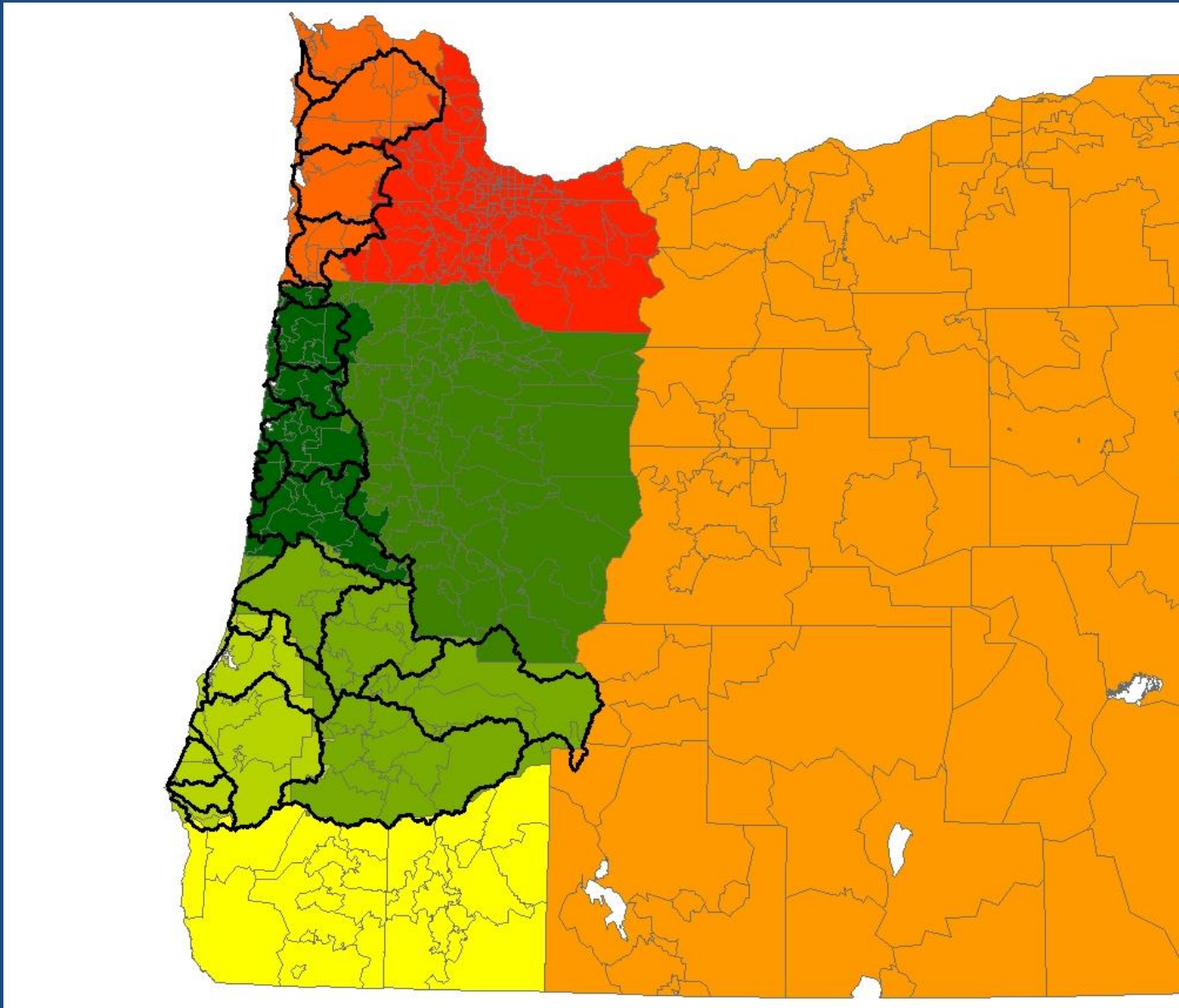


Q6. Thinking about your overall recreational fishing effort in inland waters of Oregon (bays & rivers, not ocean) only, what percent of your time from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 was spent fishing for warmwater fish (e.g., bass, crappie) and what percent was spent fishing for coldwater fish (e.g., salmon, trout)? (Your total should = 100%).

a. Warmwater	<input type="text"/>	%
b. Coldwater	<input type="text"/>	%
TOTAL =	100	%

- 857 8-page surveys (35 questions) sent to anglers in 7 regions
- ½ sent paper survey, ½ sent link to online survey
- 41% overall response rate with slight variation by region

Coastal Planning Area and Surveyed Regions

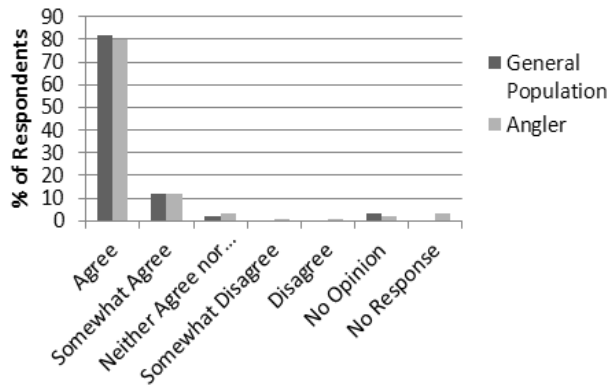


Survey Results

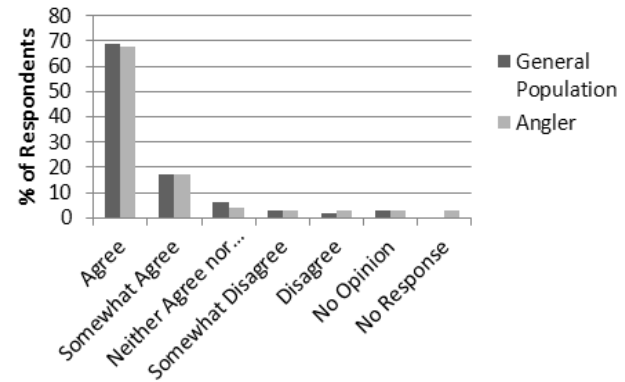
Common Question Results

Management of coastal wild salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout should...

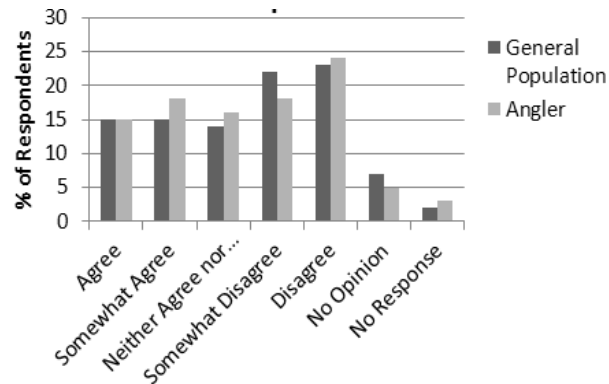
a)...aim for healthy populations



b)...provide harvest when won't risk health



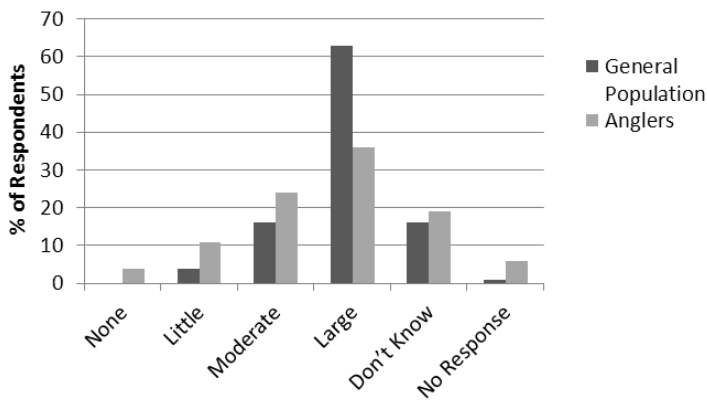
f)...not limit agriculture, forestry, or development



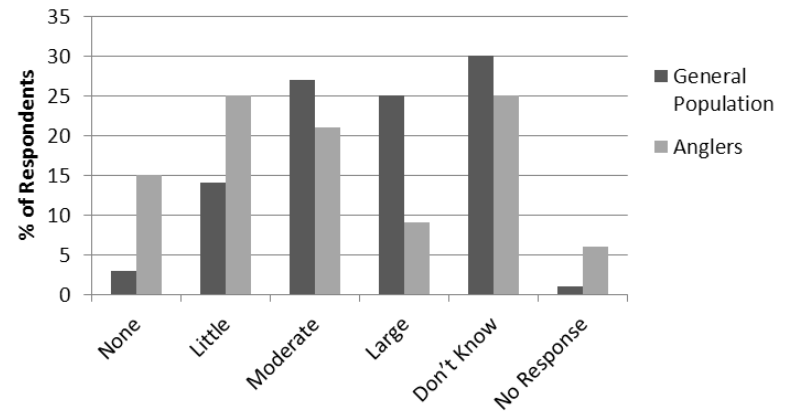
Common Questions cont'd

How much of an impact do you think the following have on the overall health of coastal fish?

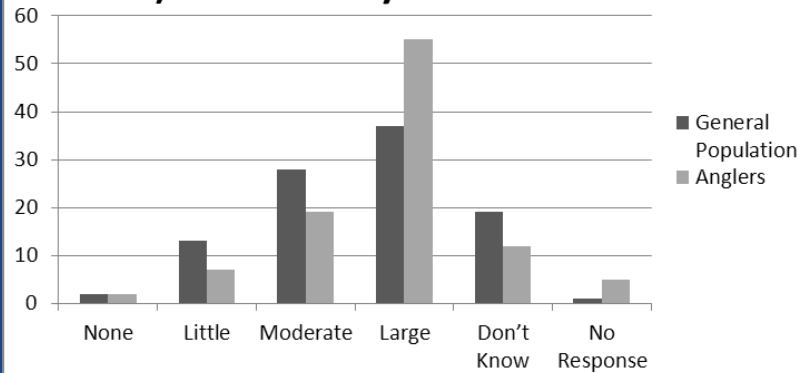
d) Habitat changes in freshwater



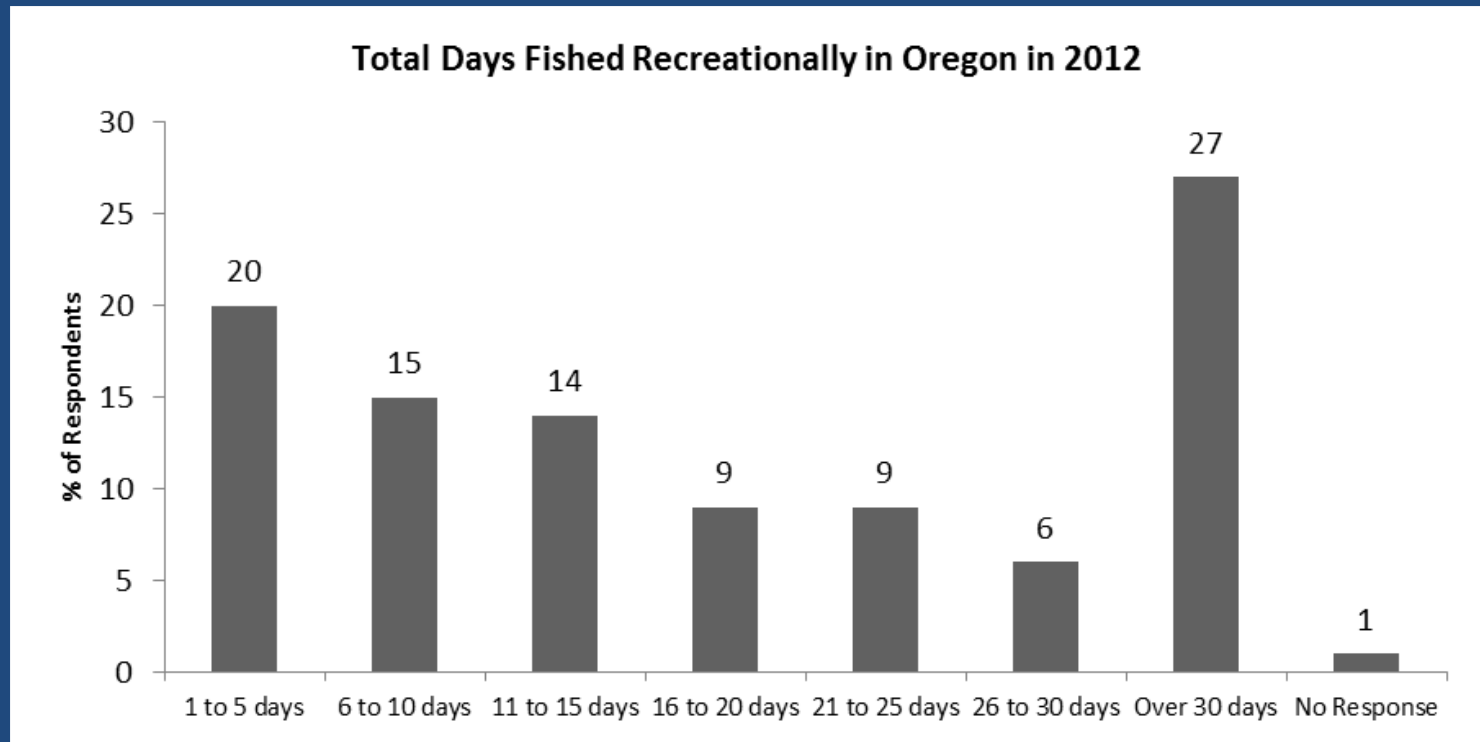
f) Hatchery fish interactions



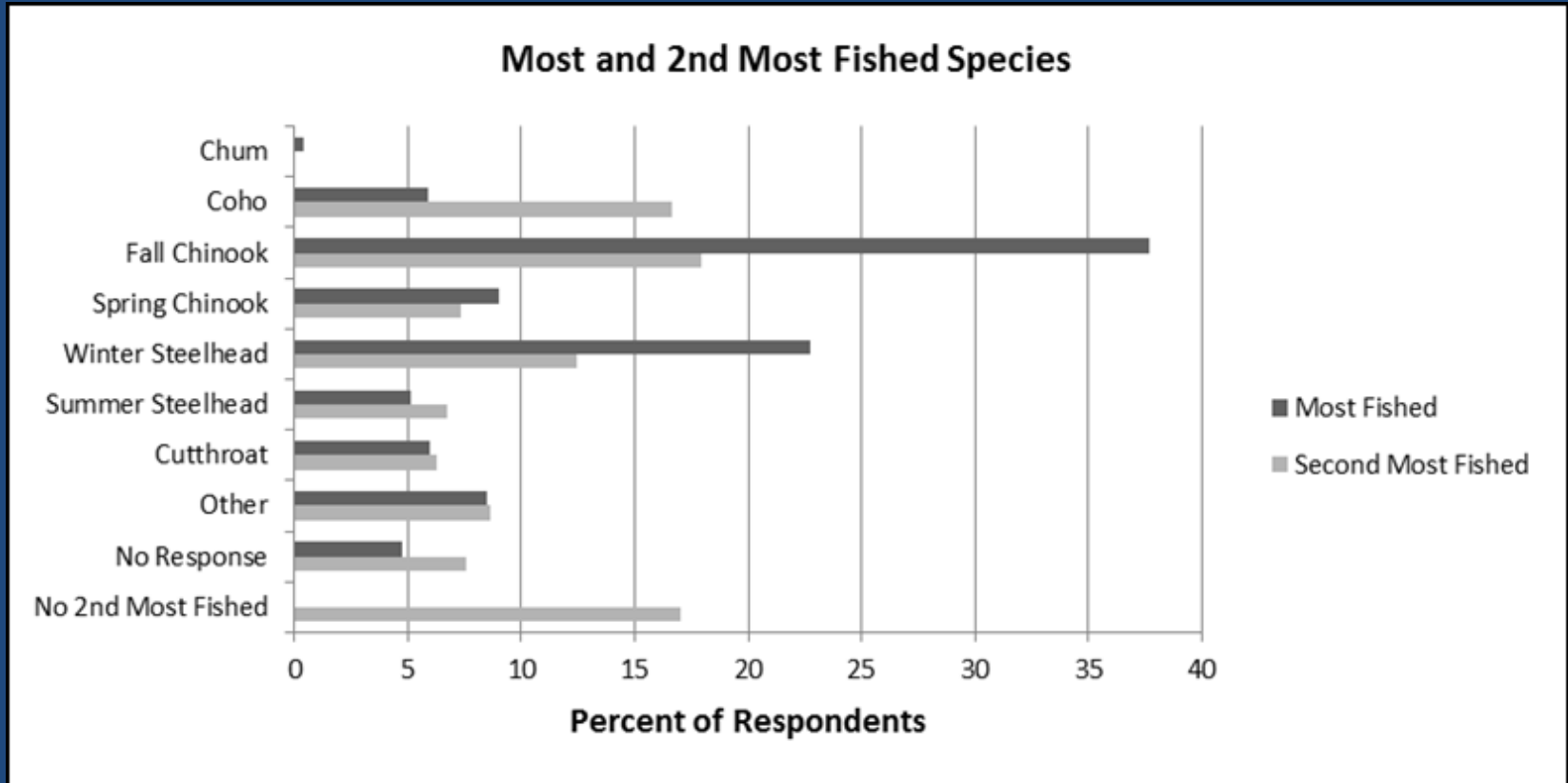
i) Predation by seals or sea lions



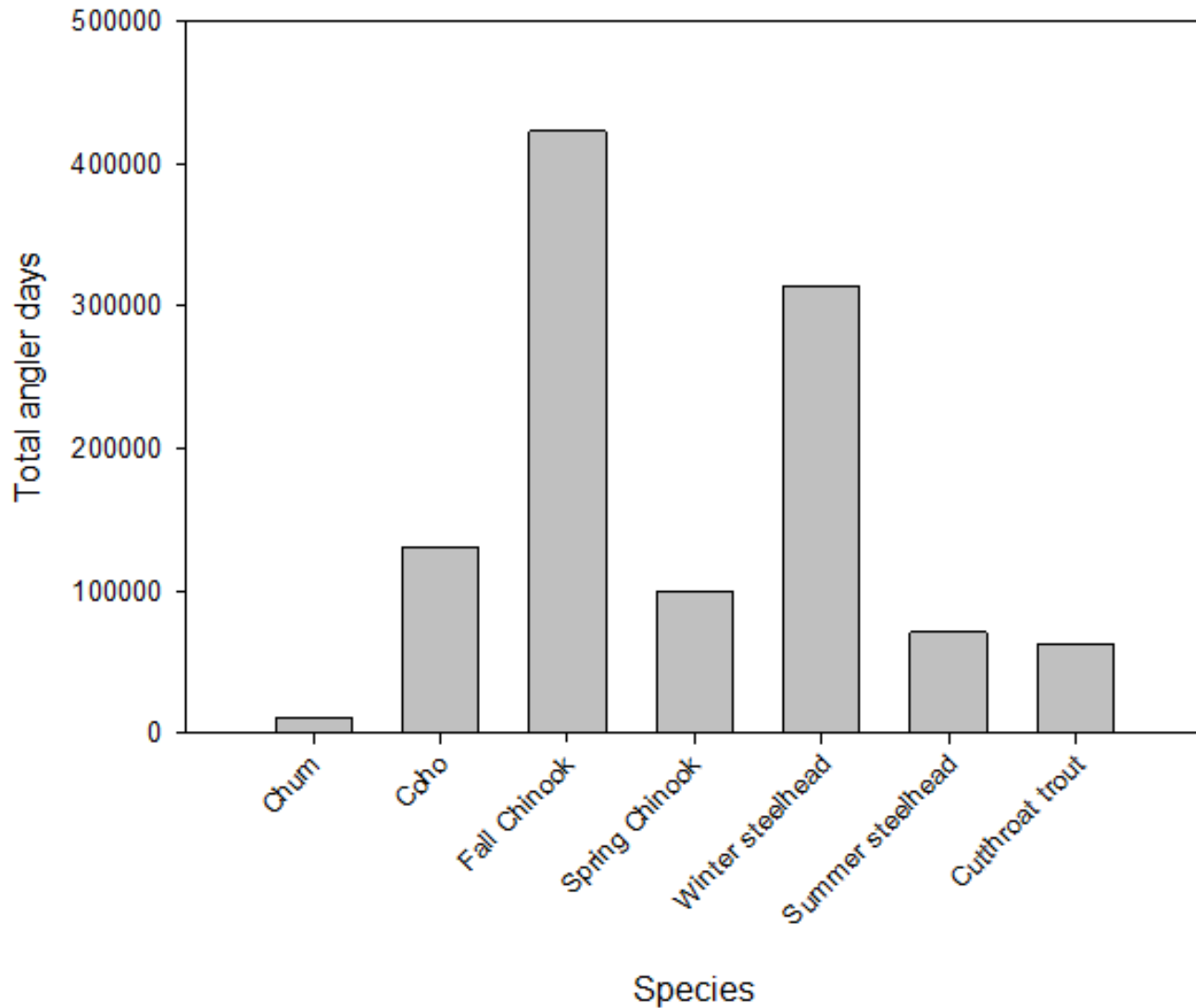
Angler Survey Results



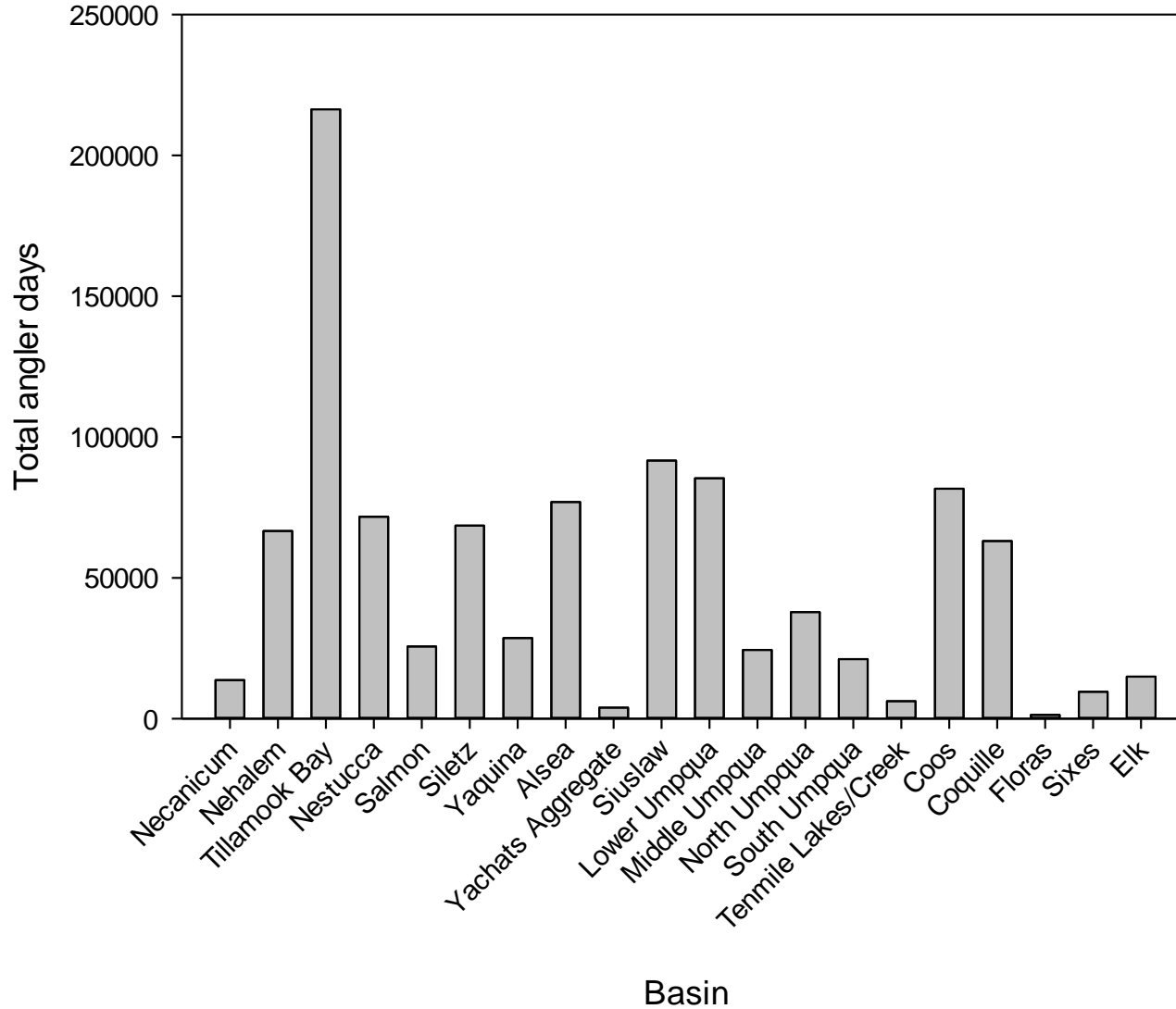
Angler Survey Results



Angler Survey Results



Angler Survey Results



CMP Stakeholder Process

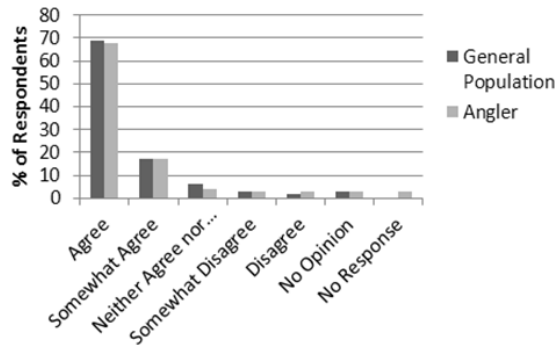
- Four Stakeholder Teams recruited (by stratum)
- Included representatives of interest groups
(watershed councils, conservation groups, STEP groups, guides, angler groups, commercial fishers, resource producers, local governments, Native American tribes, and the public-at-large)
- Provided straw-man of potential actions for consideration
- Met three times to seek consensus on proposed actions to move forward in a Public Draft

Stakeholder Opinion Vs. Survey Results

- Stakeholders not asked identical questions
- Stakeholder opinion based on meeting discussions
- Stakeholder and survey agreement that management should seek healthy populations
- Also agreement on limiting factors
- Disagreement regarding wild winter steelhead harvest

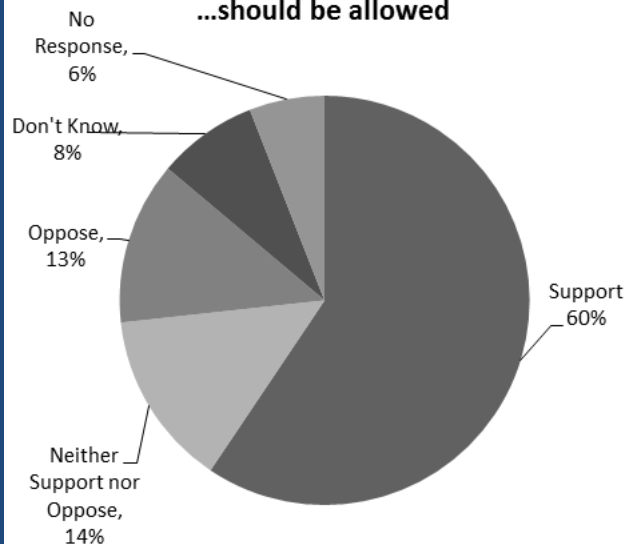
Wild Winter Steelhead Harvest

b)...provide harvest when won't risk health



- Majority of general population and anglers support harvest of wild fish
- Majority of anglers support wild winter steelhead harvest
- Stakeholder teams resistant to wild winter steelhead proposals

...should be allowed



So What Did We Do??

- ODFW initially proposed 9 wild winter steelhead fisheries
- Stakeholder opposition led to a 2nd proposal of 7 fisheries
- After meeting again, a majority of stakeholders supported 3 wild winter steelhead fisheries being proposed in the Public Draft of the CMP

Next Steps in CMP Process

- Public meetings have been held
- Not a lot of support for wild steelhead fisheries (except where they haven't been proposed)
- CMP will be revised to incorporate public comments
- CMP goes before OFWC this spring/summer
- OFWC has final say on what will be in CMP
- Survey results will be shared
- Public testimony will be heard

Do Surveys Help Management?

Yes and No

Yes

- Allows the “unrepresented” to be heard
- Better understanding of how resources are used
- Can “test drive” ideas

No

- Survey results easier to ignore than screaming people

The Elephant in the Room

- State agencies have legislatively approved budgets
- All constituents don't have equal footing
- Science and survey statistics don't always prevail

?s