



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

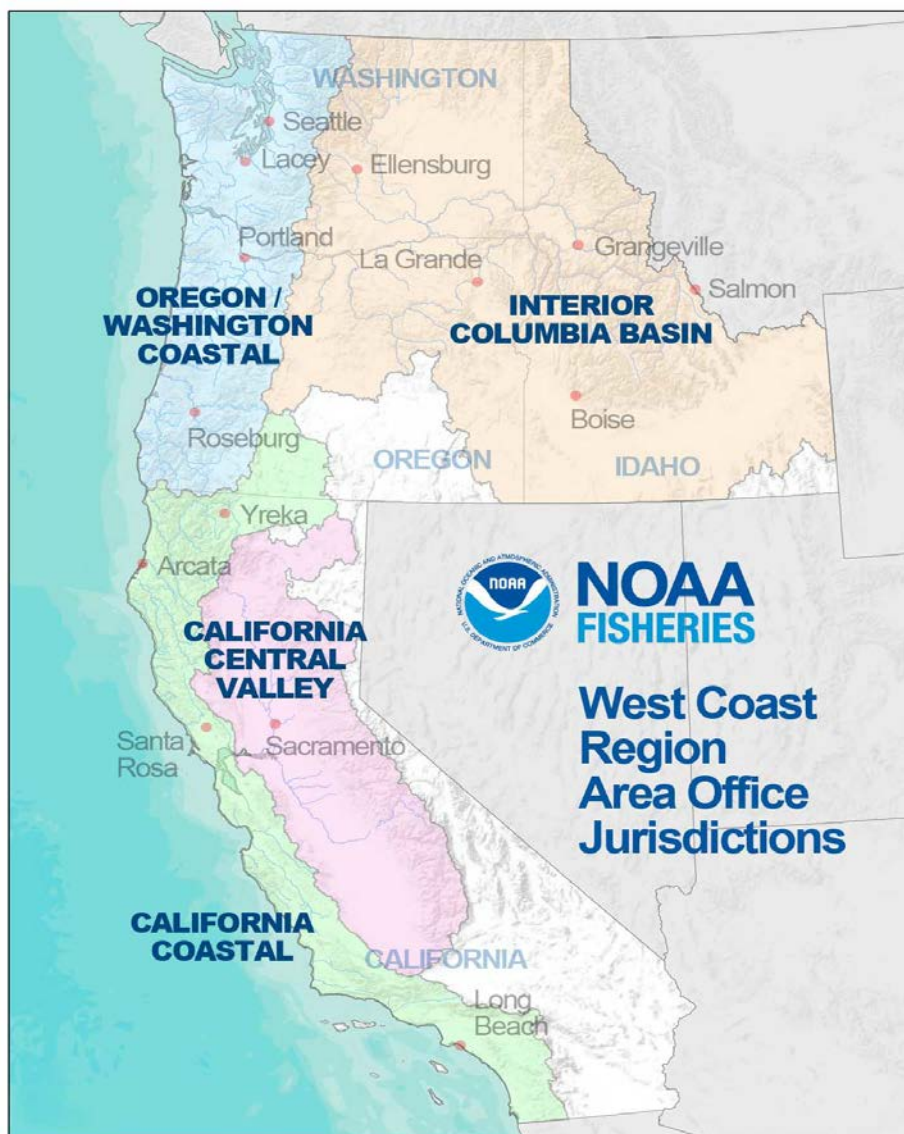
West Coast Region Overview

**Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
September 2016 Meeting**

**Barry Thom
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region**

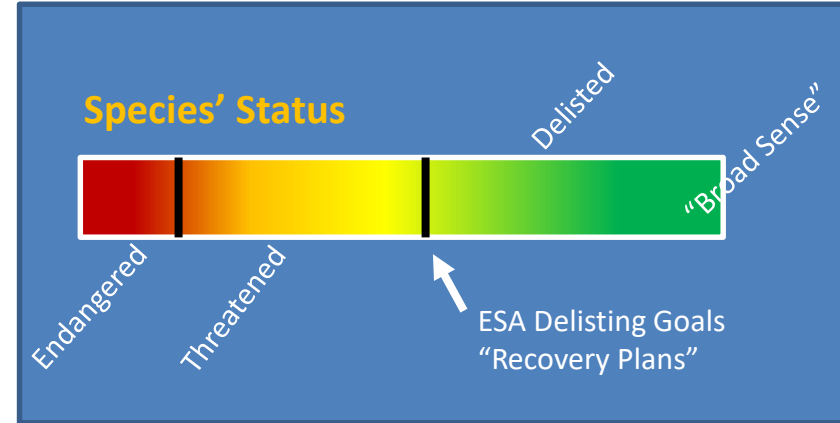
Topics for Discussion

- The status of ESA listed salmon
- Puget Sound
- Columbia Basin
- California
- Hatcheries
- Floodplain Management
- Partnerships
- Species in the Spotlight
- Sea Lions
- Entanglements
- Highly Migratory Species
- Electronic Monitoring
- Groundfish Catch Shares

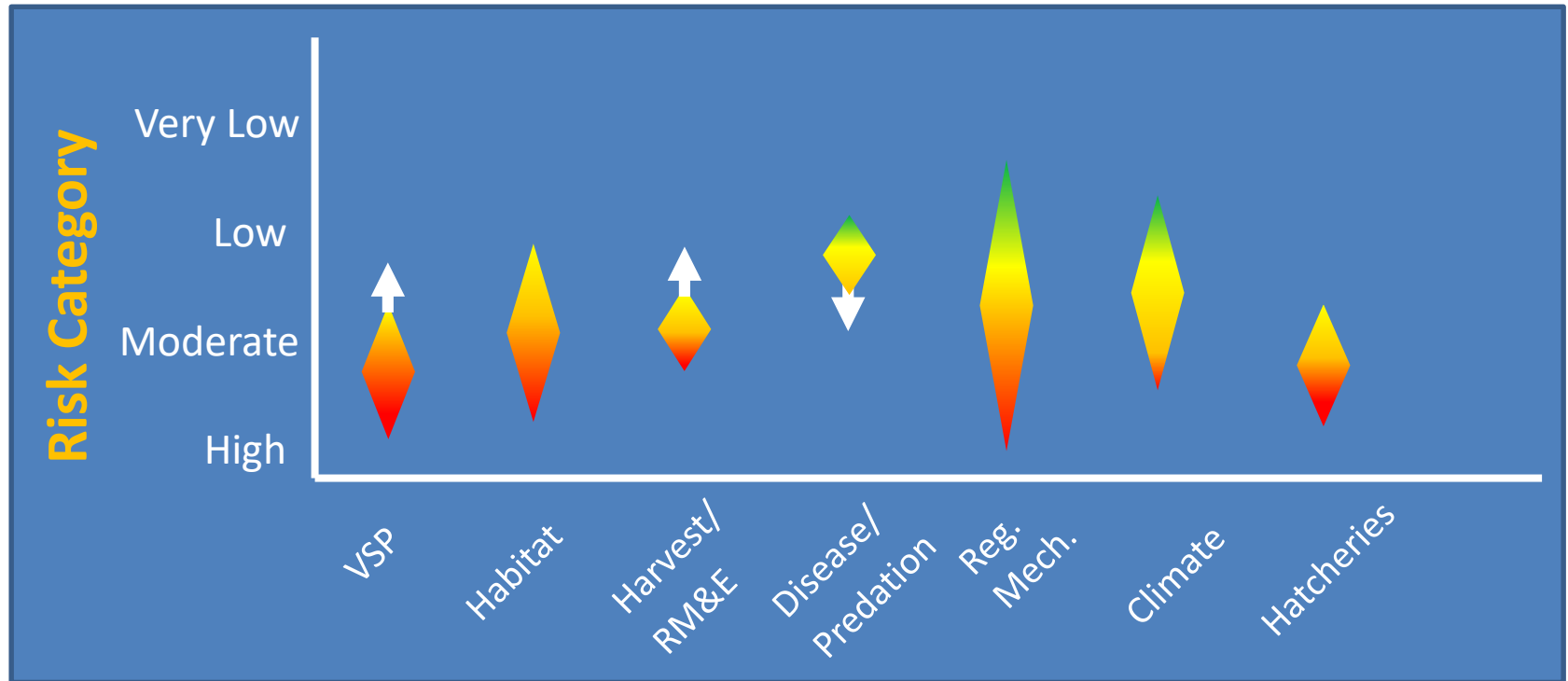


5-yr Salmon Status Reviews:

- Oregon Coast coho, mid-Columbia steelhead, and Hood Canal chum: strong rebound
- Snake River sockeye: newfound promise thanks to broodstock program
- Drought conditions reduced 2015 survival of Sac River winter-run Chinook juveniles to 3%



Ex: Lower Columbia River coho



Puget Sound:

Harvest Management

- Effort continues to be constrained due to low abundance of Chinook and now coho
- Long term Harvest agreement expired in 2013
- Co-managers reached agreement on joint fishing regime in early June; NOAA Fisheries completed ESA review in 3 weeks
- Critical for co-managers to agree on multi-year, joint catch-sharing plan to sustainably manage, protect, and recover Puget Sound salmon stocks

Treaty Rights at Risk

- Initiated by Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Member tribes in July 2010
- Tribal position is that: Federal actions have not done enough to recover listed Chinook; Federal ESA administration imposes heavy hand on Tribal harvest and light touch on habitat protection.
- Federal Response: Federal/Tribal Forum to Address Disputes; Efforts to increase passage at Federal facilities (e.g. Mud Mountain) and strengthen riparian conservation; Coordinated Investment strategy; Corps of Engineers Puget Sound Estuary Restoration Program Chief's Report

Columbia Basin:

Columbia Basin Partnership

- Generate quantitative abundance goals for listed and unlisted stocks to address conservation and harvest aspirations
- Engage stakeholders and sovereigns
- Background workshops occurred in 2016, formal group in January 2017

Federal Columbia River Power System

- Remand issued May 2016, NEPA schedule: 2016 to 2021, Interim BiOp end of 2018, long term BiOp by 2022

U.S. v Oregon Harvest Agreement

- Existing Agreement 2008-2017; NOAA/USFWS issued notice of intent for new environmental impact statement to inform post-2017 agreement



California:

Consultation on CA WaterFix [former Bay Delta Conservation Plan]

- State and Federal fisheries agencies consulting on new water infrastructure project
- Anticipate Final BiOp in March, 2017

Re-initiated Consultation on Operations

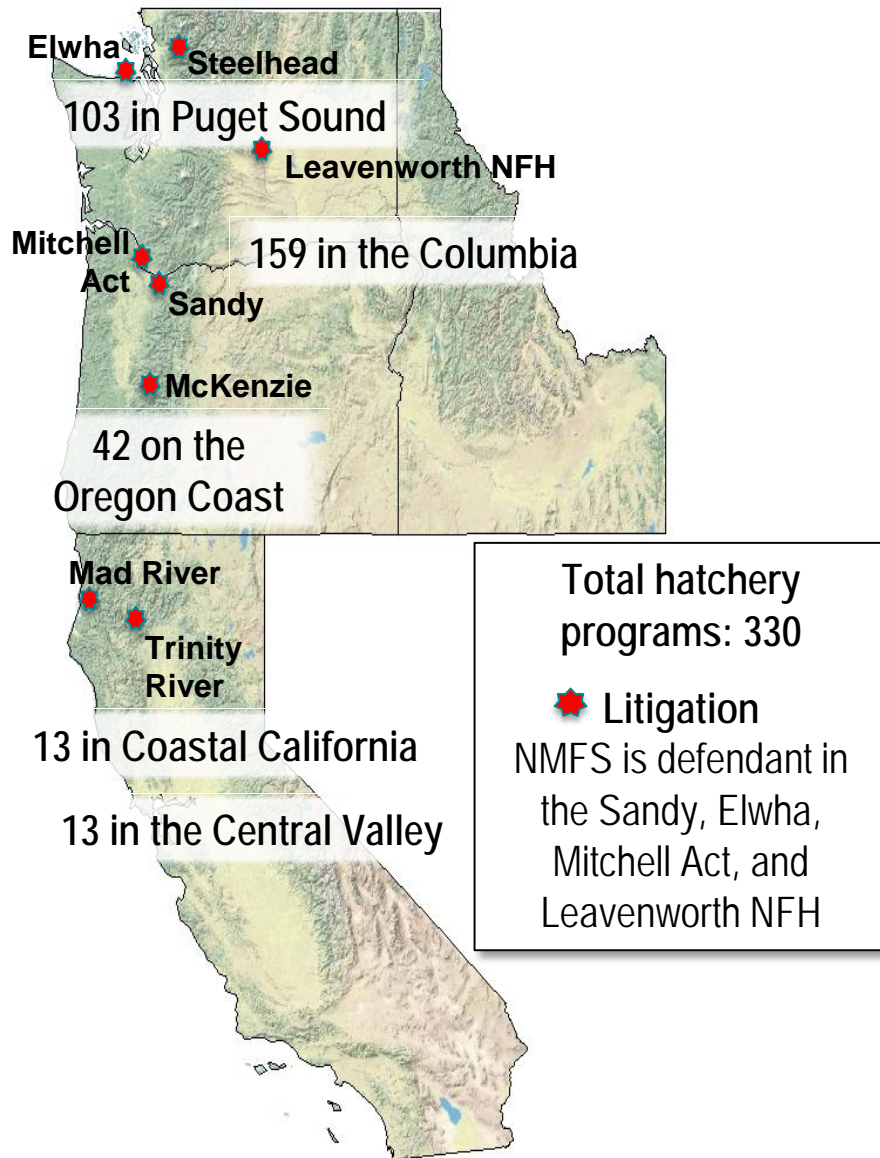
Reclamation requested re-initiation of 2009 BiOp in August 2016 based on:

- new information from multiple years of drought
- recent data demonstrating extremely low abundance of winter-run Chinook
- new scientific information available from ongoing collaborative science

Revised Klamath Basin agreement

- NOAA Fisheries, Dept. of Interior, States, Basin tribes, on and off project users, and NGOs negotiated substitute Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement earlier this spring; focused on dam removal through the Federal Energy Regulatory Process

Hatcheries and the ESA:



- Reform of hatchery programs coastwide is a building block of ESA recovery
- Reforms may alter production levels, affecting harvest opportunities and availability of salmon.
- Active litigation/resources challenge the pace of review
- 62 reviews complete, 184 hatchery genetic management plans (HGMPs) sufficient for formal consultation, 84 insufficient or awaiting submission.

Floodplain Management:



Willamette River flood 1996

- NMFS completed consultation with FEMA on Natl. Flood Insurance Program in W. Washington in 2008
- NMFS completed consultation on Oregon in April 2016 - recommended changes to better protect floodplain habitat and reduce flood risks
- Consultation not begun in CA
- Currently working with FEMA, Oregon, and local governments to make implementation work for communities.

Voluntary Partnerships:

New Regional position focusing on Partnerships

New regulatory assurances for landowners who voluntarily aid in recovery:

- assurance that conservation actions won't restrict property use
- ability to return to baseline conditions at end of agreement
- provide "Net Conservation Benefit" for species

NOAA Fisheries issued 1st Safe Harbor in March, 2016 to allow restoration of Dry Creek (Sonoma County, CA)

First signatory:
Dry Creek Vineyard



Species in the Spotlight:

5-year action plans;
continued focus through
grants and partnerships

5 of 8 species on West Coast:

- White Abalone
- Central California Coast Coho
- Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook
- Southern Resident Killer Whale
- Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle

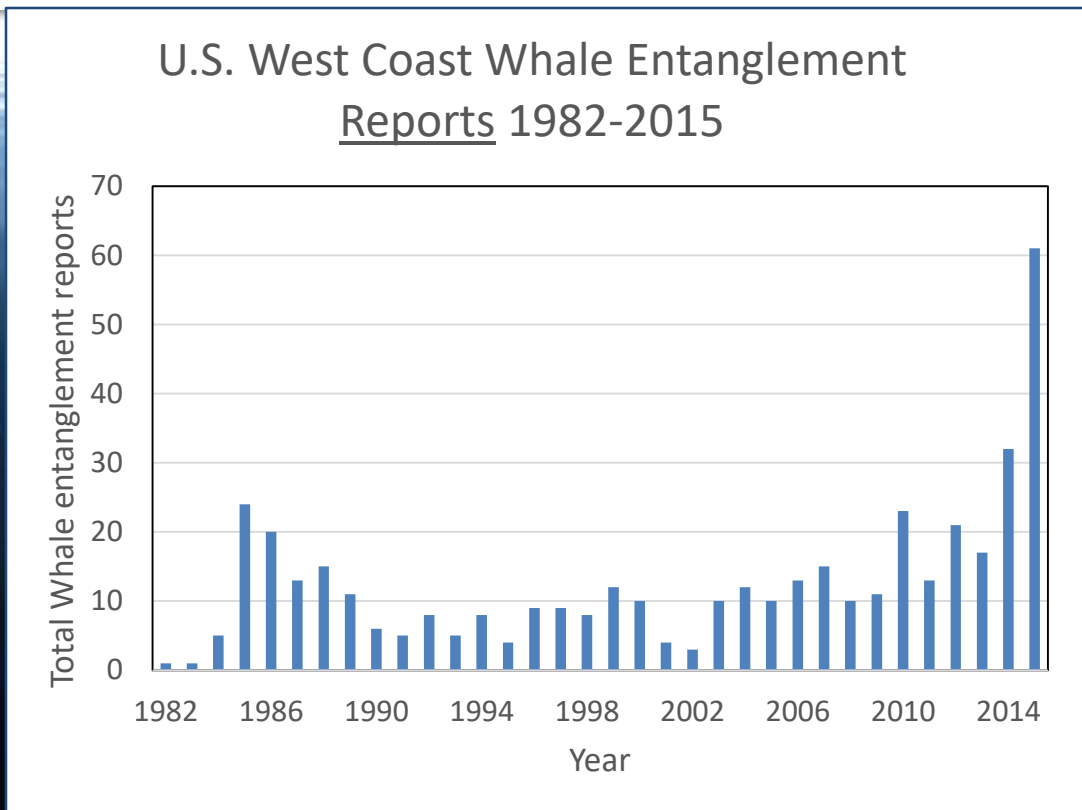


Coastwide Pinniped Management:

- Elevated strandings of California Sea Lion pups observed in Southern CA since 2013
- Male CA Sea Lions ate ~46,000 salmonids within ¼ mile of Bonneville from 2002-2015
- Data suggests much higher mortality of salmon in the Lower Columbia River below Bonneville Dam
- 59 male CA Sea Lions removed last year; States authorizations renewed in 2016



West Coast Whale Entanglements:



- 61 whale entanglements reported in 2015 – highest in 35 years
- Main source of entangling gear from pot and trap fisheries (incl. crab)
- Two new grant awards from NOAA Fisheries Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (one to PSFMC) to seek collaborative solutions

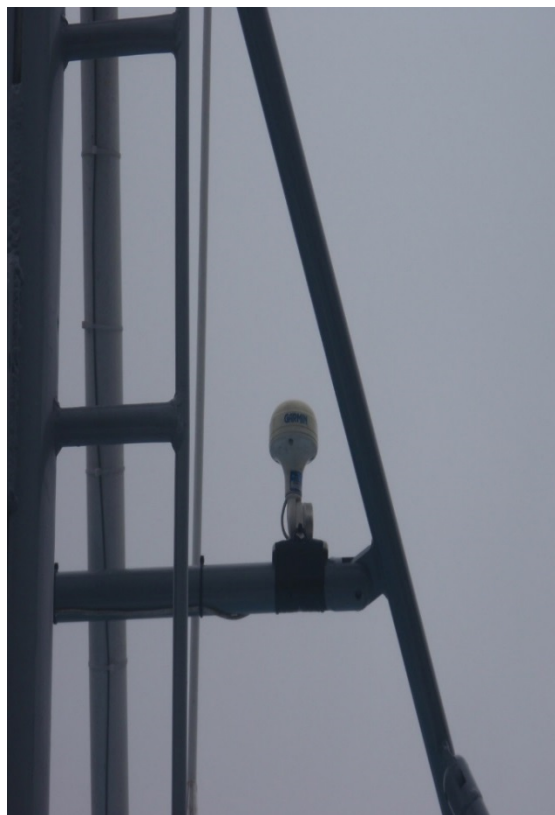
Highly Migratory Species:

- Proposed rule to implement the Council's recommendations for hard caps in the drift gillnet fishery
- Exempted Fishing Permits to explore use of deep set buoy gear for swordfish
- Petition to list Pacific bluefin tuna under the ESA, upcoming status review



Electronic Monitoring:

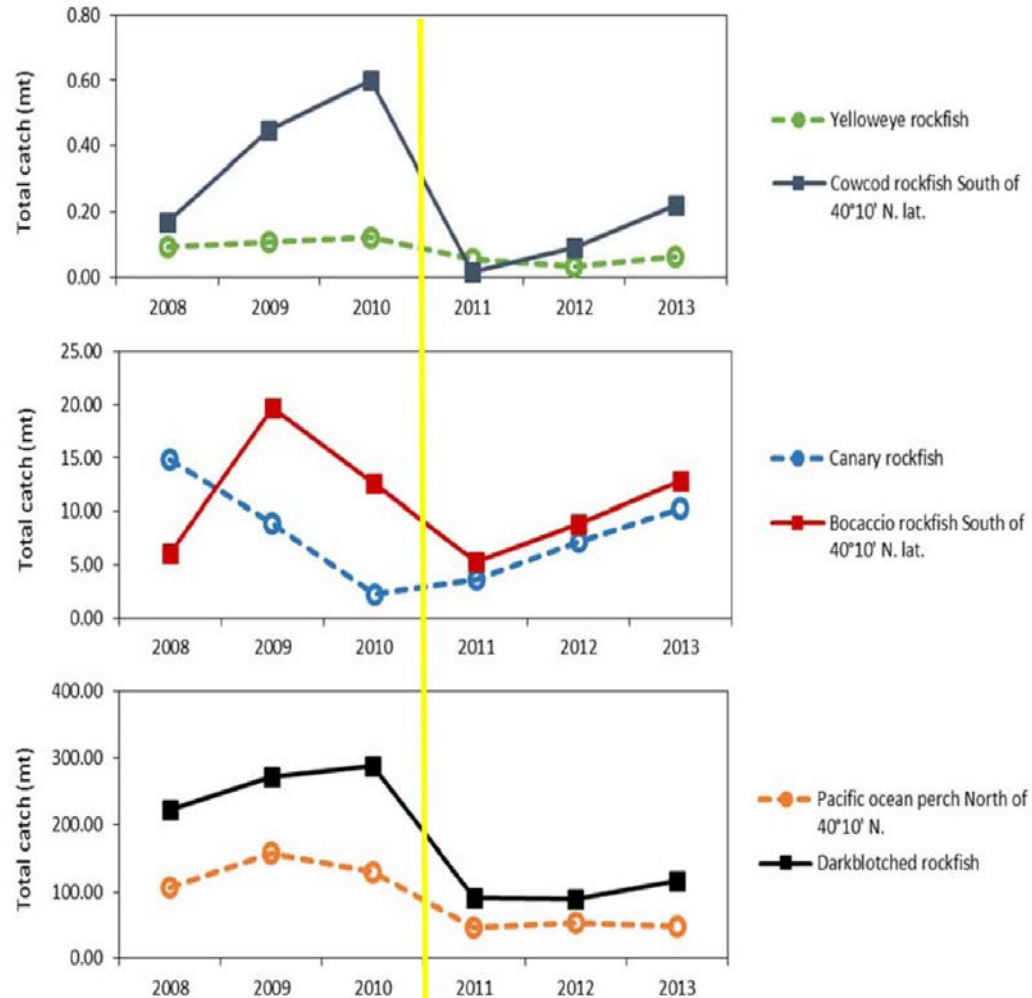
- Proposed EM Regs issued in September, 2016 for midwater trawl vessels in the Pacific whiting fishery and fixed gear vessels in the IFQ fishery
- EM for bottom trawl vessels tentatively scheduled for implementation in 2018



Catch Share Program Review:

- Commencing 5 year program review
- Some noteworthy program successes
 - improved catch of target species
 - reduced bycatch
 - MSC “sustainable” certification
- Challenges remain
 - Getting fish out of the water
 - Observer costs
- Outreach meetings wrapping up; info summary at November PFMC meeting

Total Catch of Rebuilding Species Before and After Catch Shares



QUESTIONS??

