



**WDFW**

**COASTAL COMMERCIAL  
DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY**

**Industry Meeting**

***June 9, 2009***

# Purpose and Introductions

**Purpose:** This meeting has been scheduled to provide a review of the most recent coastal commercial Dungeness crab seasons and to discuss issues relative to the management of the fishery

# Agenda

- I. COASTAL CRAB FISHERY OVERVIEW
  - i. WDFW Budget Issues
  - ii. WA License Buyback Report
  - iii. Stray and Abandoned Gear Recovery Program
  - iv. Pre-Season Test Fishery
  - v. Summer Fishery Management

# Agenda cont.

## II. STATE-TRIBAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT

- i. State-Tribal Management and Harvest Sharing
- ii. Season Opening Structure
  - Season opening policy
  - Catch and value summary
  - Stand-down days

# Agenda cont.

III. 2009-2010 Season

i. Status Quo vs. Restructure

IV. Discussion/ other



# 2009-11 BN Operating Budget

# 2009-11 BN Budget Reductions

Dollars in 000's	FTEs	GF-S	Other Funds	Total Funds
Eliminate Aviation Facility	(2.0)	(300)		(300)
Balance To Available Revenue	(37.0)		(5,155)	(5,155)
Reduce Wildlife Management	(18.0)	(2,311)		(2,311)
Oil Spill Account Shortfall	(1.4)		(223)	(223)
Reduce Habitat Protection	(20.0)	(2,100)		(2,100)
Reduce Enforcement Officers	(7.0)	(1,600)		(1,600)
Reduce Outreach and Education	(9.0)	(2,744)		(2,744)
Oper costs for newly acquired lands			243	243
Enhance Rec Shellfish Opportunities			880	880
Business Services Reduction	(12.7)	(3,800)		(3,800)
Salmon Recovery Office		(24)		(24)
Forest Health GFS Reduction	(1.0)	(178)		(178)
General Fund Reductions	(55.0)	(8,100)		(8,100)
Governor-Directed Freeze	(16.5)	(5,204)		(5,204)
Governor-Directed 1% Cut	(4.4)	(1,188)		(1,188)
Actuarial Method Changes-State		(2,136)	(2,052)	(4,188)
<b>Total Reductions</b>	<b>(184.0)</b>	<b>(29,685)</b>	<b>(6,307)</b>	<b>(35,992)</b>

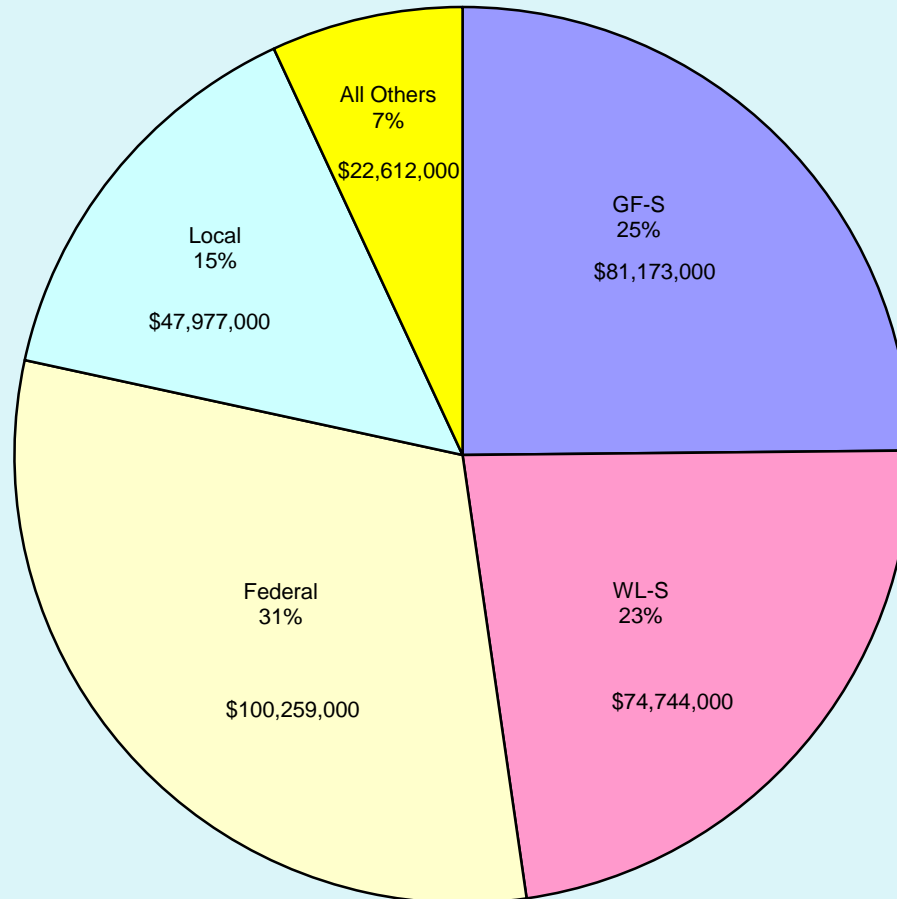
# 2009-11 BN Enacted Operating Budget

Dollars in 000's	FTEs	GF-S	Other Funds	Total Funds
07-09 Expenditure Authority	1,548.9	110,357	237,799	348,156
09-11 Maintenance Level	1,548.3	110,153	242,160	352,313
09-11 Enacted Budget	1,385.6	81,173	245,592	326,765
09-11 Net Reduction	(162.7)	(28,980)	3,432	(25,548)



# Operating Budget – Spending Authority

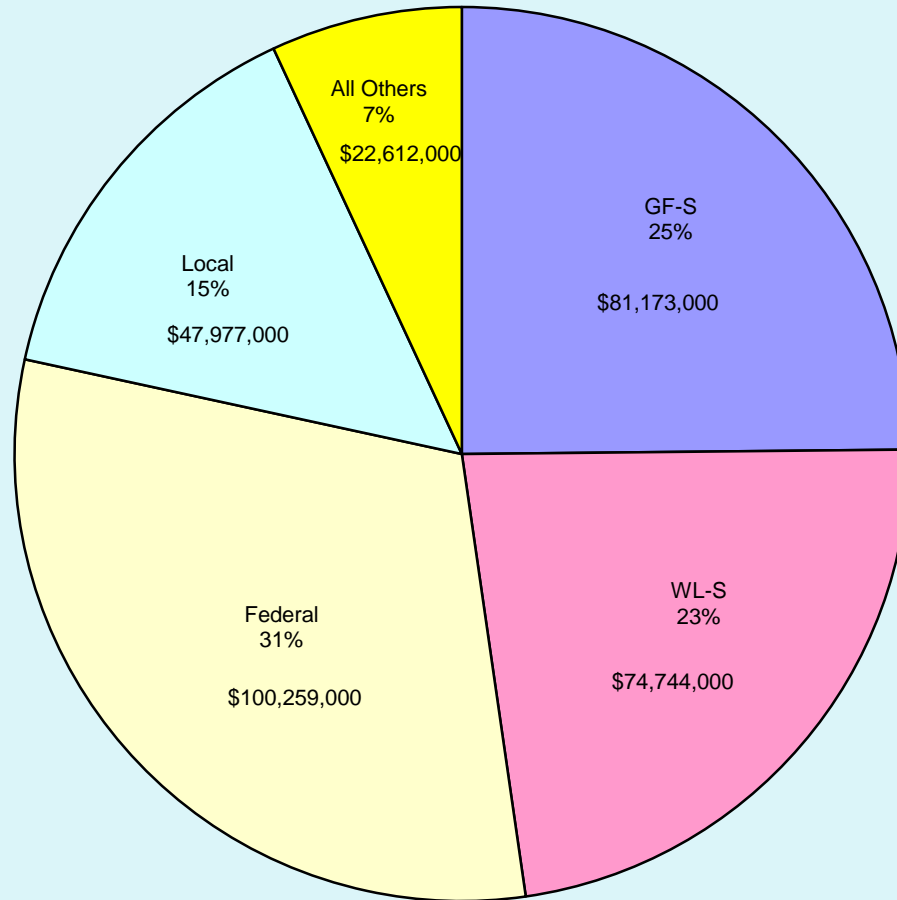
## 2009-11 BN Enacted Budget



**Total Agency Operating Budget by Fund Sources \$326,765,000**

# Operating Budget – Revenue

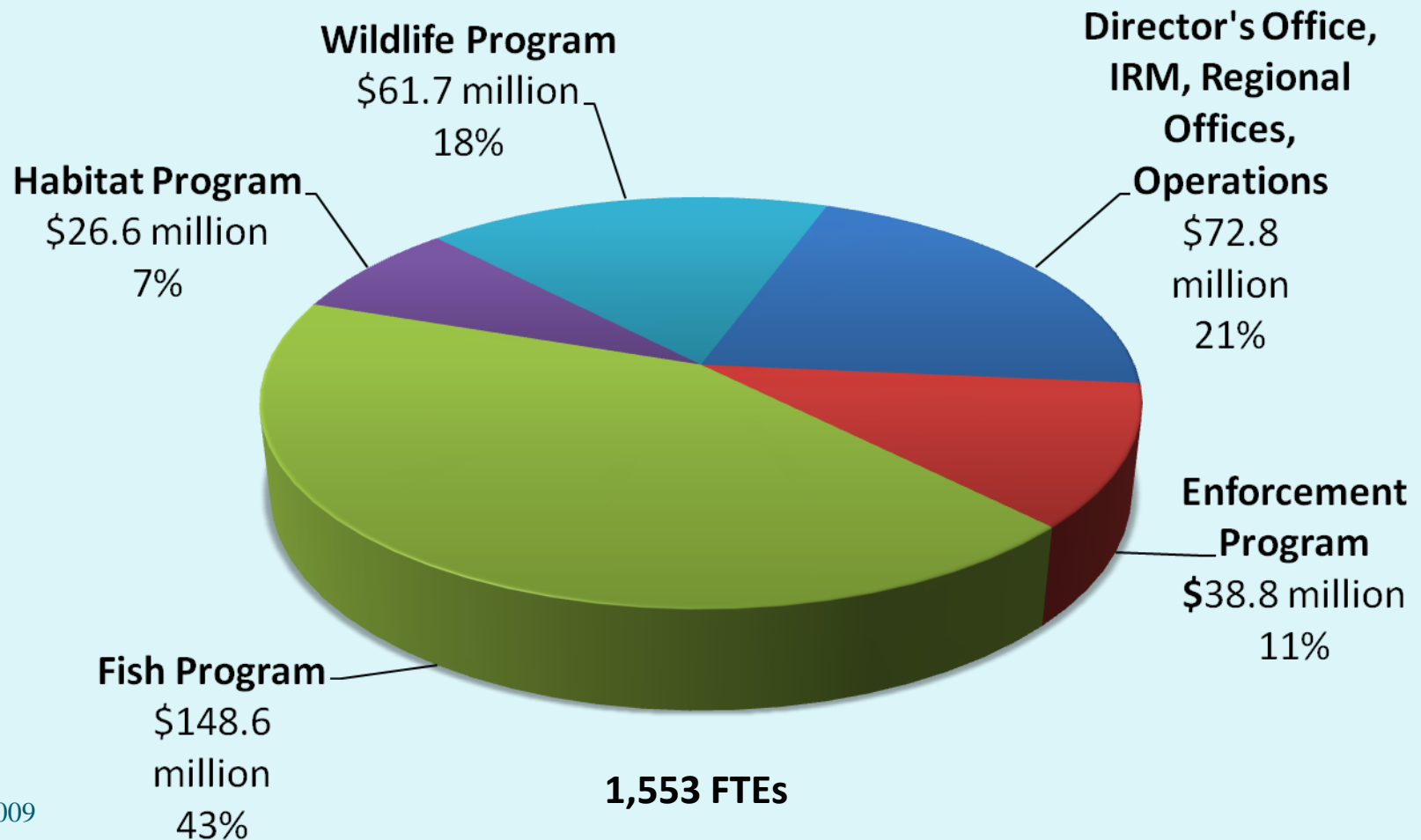
## 2009-11 BN Enacted Budget



**Total Agency Operating Budget Revenue by Fund Sources \$326,765,000**

# Operating Budget – Expenditures

07-09 Operating Budget - \$348.5 million



# 2009-11 BN Revenue Legislations

## **SSB 1778 F&W Title 77 RCW**

## **2009-11 BN Revenue**

### **Restricted Revenues**

Two Pole Endorsement-Hatcheries	\$1,498,959
Big Game and Turkey Raffle-Restricted	\$93,000
WILD Transaction Fee on Western WA Pheasant	\$37,768
WILD Transaction Fee on Two Pole	\$149,895
<b>Total Restricted Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,779,622</b>

### **Non-Restricted Revenues**

10% Surcharge-Non Restricted	\$6,144,657
Foodfish Guide-Non Restricted	\$10,500
Western Pheasant-Non Restricted	\$422,160
Small Game-Non Restricted	(\$45,110)
<b>Total Non Restricted Revenues</b>	<b>\$6,532,207</b>

<b>Total SSB 1778 Revenues</b>	<b>\$8,311,829</b>
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## **ESSB 5421 Salmon and Steelhead Stamps**

## **2009-11 BN Revenue**

In addition to the recreational license fee, an additional \$7.50 fee will be required to fish for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River.

<b>Columbia River Recreational Salmon and Steelhead Pilot Program Acct-Non Approp</b>	<b>\$1,591,890</b>
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# 2009-11 BN Policy Adds

Dollars in 000's	FTEs	GF-S	Other Funds	Total Funds
Employee Health Insurance		604	604	1,208
Fish and Wildlife Title 77 RCW	20.8	(1,062)	9,334	8,272
Colville Partnership Initiative		250		250
Implement Hatchery Reform Actions			294	294
Climate Change Response	0.5	120		120
Electron Dam Fish Passage		50		50
Eastern WA Pheasant Habitat			100	100
Grizzly Bear Outreach Project		150		150
<b>Total Adds</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>10,332</b>	<b>10,444</b>

# WDFW License Buyback Report

- Completed Fall 2008 and submitted to the Washington State Legislature January, 2009
- Complete report available on WDFW web-site
- Final Buyback Program
  - Purchase 80 WA licenses
  - Licenses would be purchased based on the lowest bid
  - No prohibition on future participation
  - 100% federally funded, state administered

# Stray and Abandoned Crab Pot Recovery Program

- NOAA Stimulus Proposal
  - Proposals required project that is “shovel ready” and could be completed over next 18-months
  - WDFW proposal \$2 million for derelict gear removal
  - Utilize coastal commercial crab fishermen and vessels to recover gear
  - Return gear to legal owner or salvage

# Stray and Abandoned Crab Pot Recovery Program cont.

- ESHB 1516
  - Approved by the Legislature in 2009
  - Directs the department to issue crab pot removal permits
  - Permits allow state licensed crab fishermen to recover crab pots left in the ocean beginning 15 days after the close of the regular season
  - Ability to apply for exemption
  - Exempts those that are lawfully participating in the program from complying with lost and found property laws



# Stray and Abandoned Crab Pot Recovery Program cont.

- Draft regulations to implement the program
  - Commission briefing and public hearing July 10, 11
- Permit provisions
  - Specifics of program
    - Track all gear recovered to protect against legitimate theft
    - Violation of provisions would void the permit

# Pre-Season Test Fishery

- Review of test fishery
  - Cost
  - Number of test stations
  - Options for 2009-2010

# Pre-Season Test Fishery

	# tests	Costs (vessel charter )	Revenue (crab sold)	balance
2001	2	\$5,000	\$0	-\$5,000
2002	4	\$10,000	\$0	-\$10,000
2003	3	\$6,000	\$0	-\$6,000
2004	8	\$24,000	\$0	-\$24,000
2005	5	\$20,000	\$0	-\$20,000
2006	3	\$15,000	\$0	-\$15,000
2007	4	\$20,000	\$20,570	\$570
2008	3	\$17,000	\$10,655	-\$6,345

# Summer Fishery Management

- Introduction
- 7-Year Program Review
  - Sampling data
  - Historical catch summer vs. winter

# Summer Fishery Management

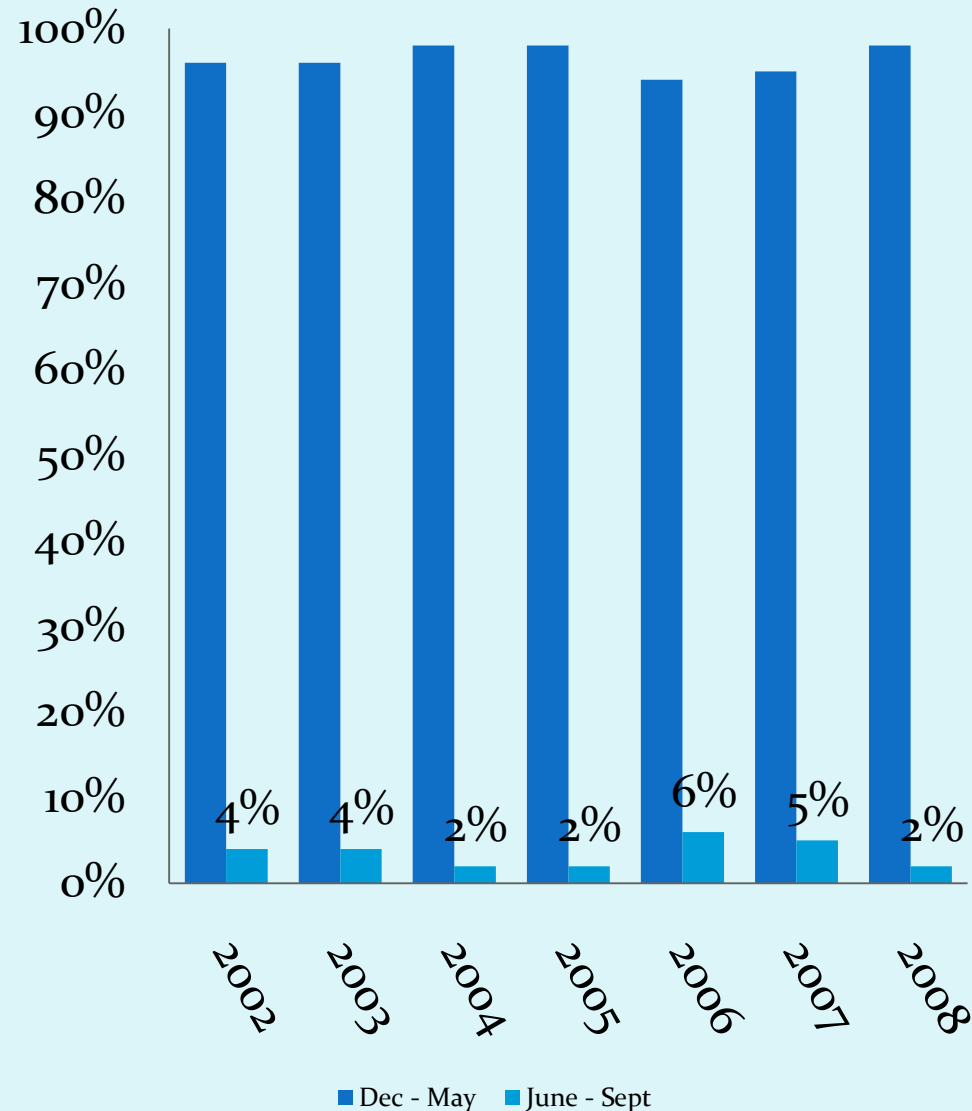
- Development of Summer Fishery Management Plan
  - Prior to 2001, no plan for seasons when molt period occurred prior to close of the commercial fishery
  - In 2001 large volumes of soft-shelled brought in by a few fishermen
  - Management involved emergency meetings with advisors
  - Approach to summer fishery management was to maintain opportunity for some summer fishing with provisions to protect resource if significant numbers of soft crab present prior to Sept. 15

# Summer Fishery Management Plan

- Management period is July 1 – September 15
- The area west of four miles will be closed each year from July 1- September 15.
- Beginning the third week in June, bi-weekly ride along trips to collect shell condition data
- If less than 50% of the male crab sampled are hard-shelled; 2,500 pound weekly landing limit.
- Continue ride along trips
- If shell condition testing shows that 60%-79% of the crabs are hard-shelled; the weekly landing limit will be removed for the balance of the season

# Summer Fishery Management

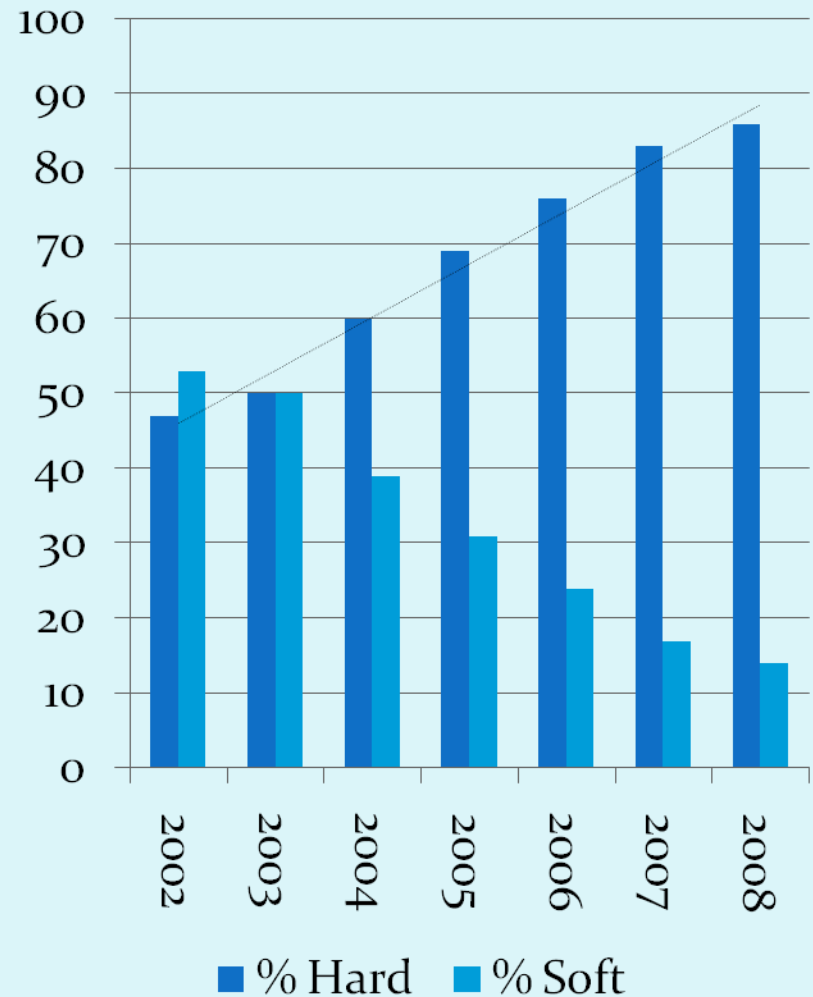
- **Historical Harvest Winter/Summer**
- Since 1991 on average, 7% of the season total is harvested from June-September 15
- Since implementation of the Summer Fishery Management Plan in 2002, the average is 4% or 528,217 pounds of the season harvest



# Summer Fishery Data

## Catch Composition Hard Shelled vs. Soft Shelled

- After 2002, trend toward more hard shell
- 2002: 53% soft shelled
- 2005: 31% soft shelled
- 2008: 14% e soft shelled

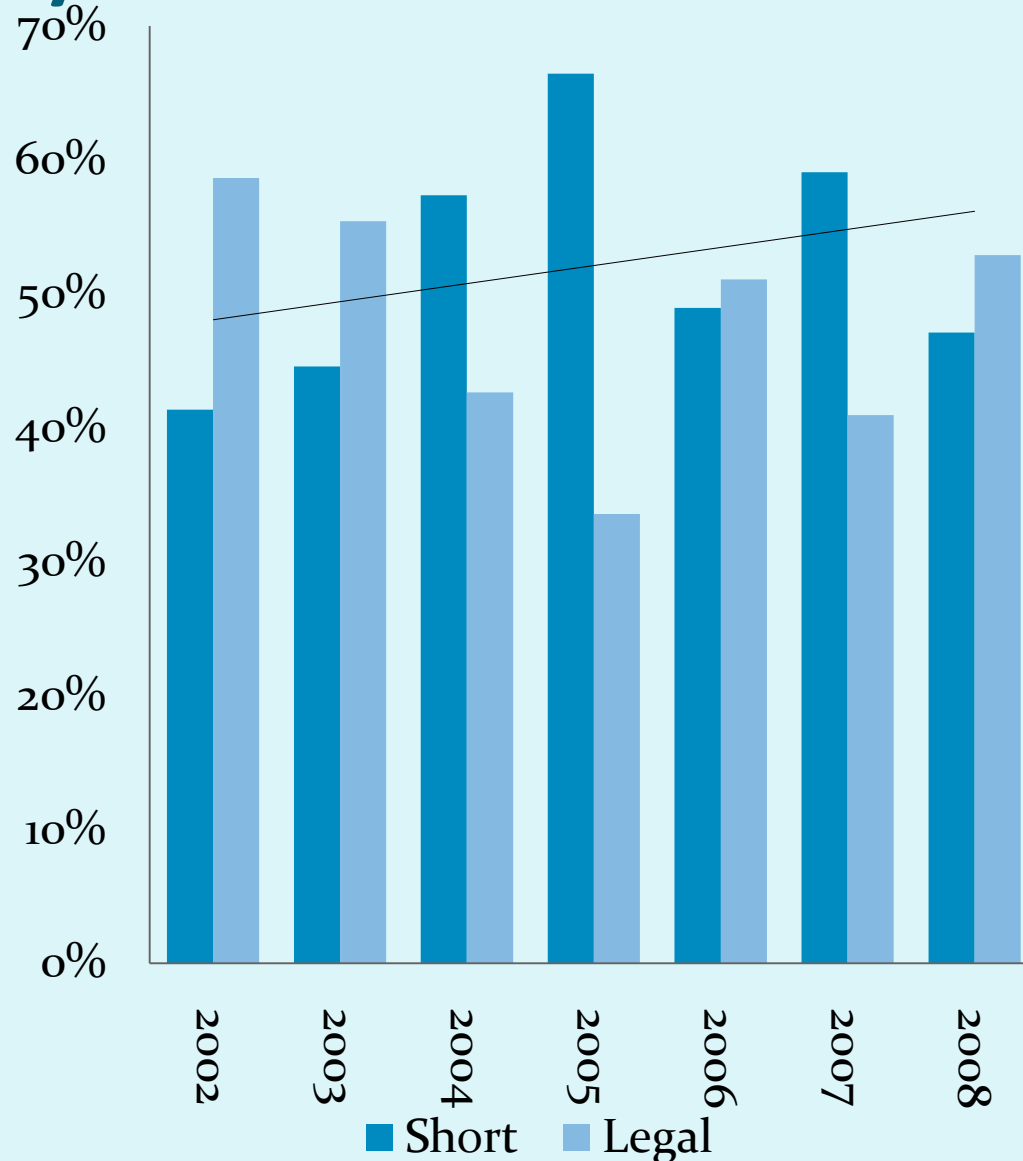




# Summer Fishery Data

## Catch Composition Legal vs. Sublegal

- The majority of crab sampled are  $< 6 \frac{1}{4}$  inches

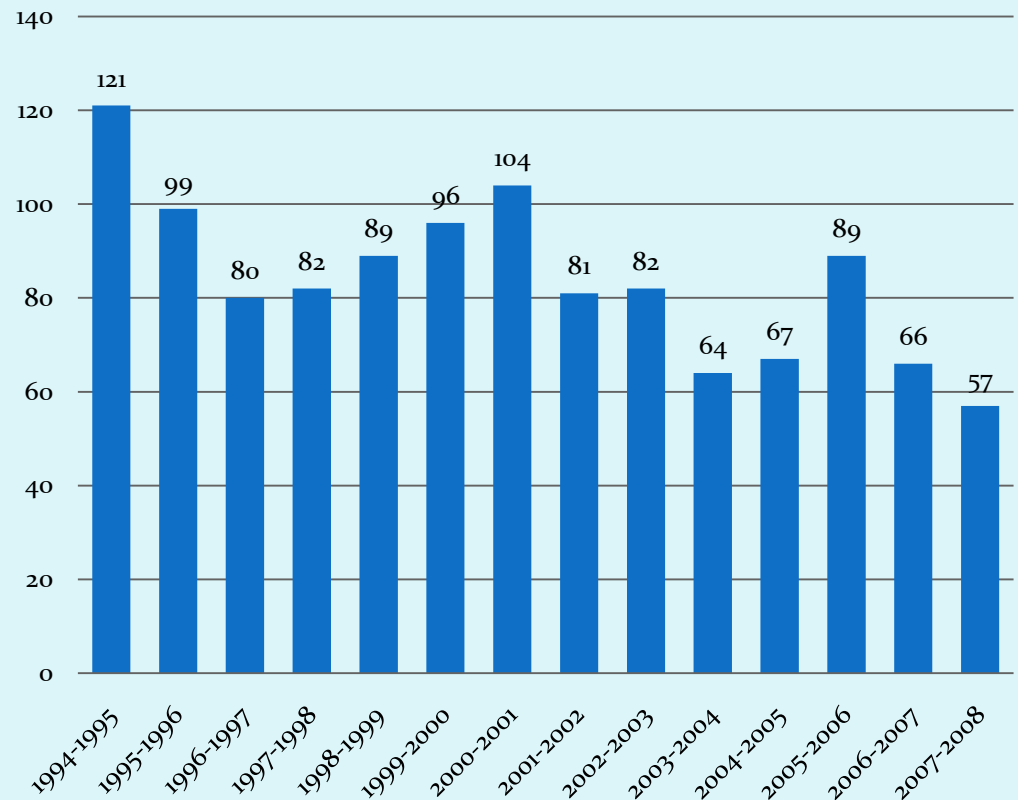


# Summer Fishery Data

## Vessel participation

- 1995: 121 boats participated
- 2002: 81 boats participated
- 2008: 57 boats participated

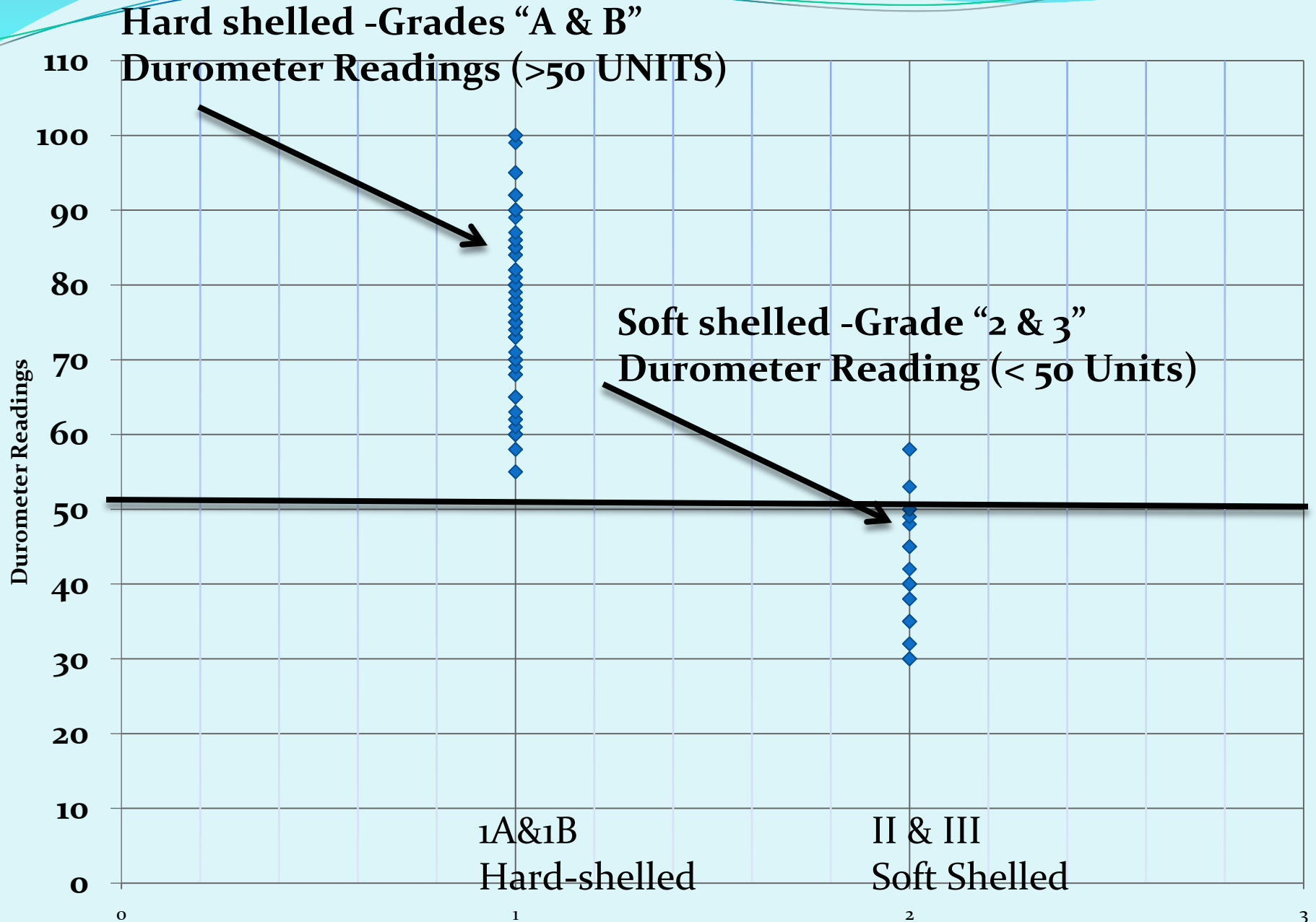
Summer Boats Per Season



# DUROMETER

- Used by DFO-Canada to enforce soft shell regulation
- Less than 60 units is a soft-shelled or illegal crab
- WDFW conducting side-by-side comparison with traditional shell condition sampling during summer fishery monitoring

# Summer Fishery Research: Durometer Testing



# State-Tribal Fishery Management

- Review of state tribal catch
- Season opening structure

# 2008-2009 State and Tribal Catch

Catch Area	State Landings	% State	Tribal landings	% tribal	Combined
59A-1	78,632	28%	198,150	72%	276,782
59A-2	282,414	37%	486,991	63%	769,404
60A-1	1,304,538	50%	1,301,224	50%	2,605,762
60B	38,910	100%	0	0%	38,910
<b>North of Pt. Chehalis Sub-total</b>	<b>1,704,494</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>1,986,365</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>3,690,858</b>
60A-2	3,684,038		-	-	3,684,038
60C	455,756		-	-	455,756
61	1,183,438		-	-	1,183,438
<b>Washington Total</b>	<b>7,041,719</b>		<b>1,986,365</b>		<b>9,028,083</b>

# 2008-09 Landings by Area

•State

•Tribal

78,632 lbs / 198,150 lbs

59A-1

282,414 lbs / 486,991 lbs

59A-2

1,304,538 lbs / 1,301,224 lbs

60A-1

38,910 lbs  
/  
0 lbs

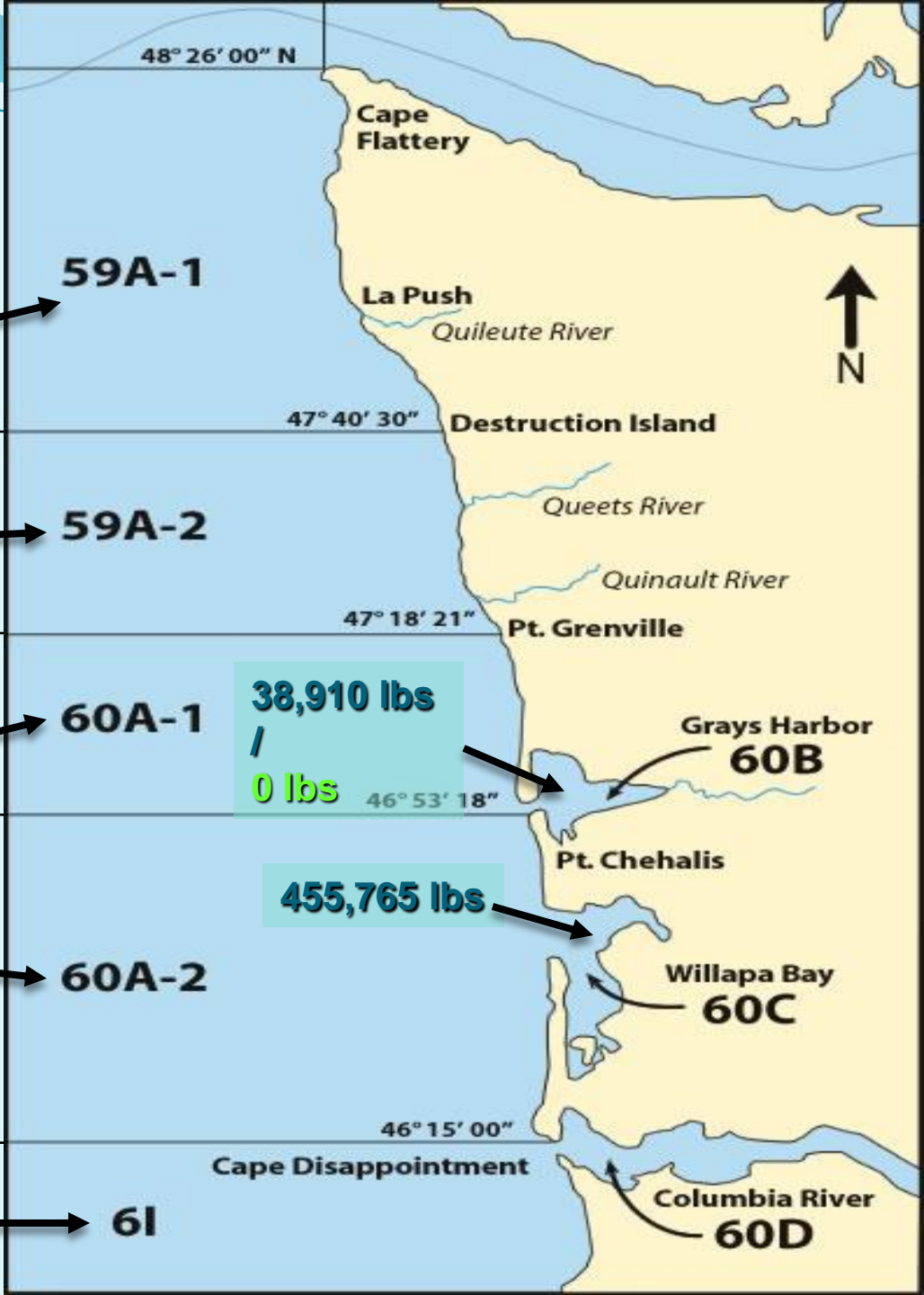
3,684,038 lbs

60A-2

455,765 lbs

1,183,438 lbs

61



Cape Flattery

La Push

Quileute River

47° 40' 30" Destruction Island

Queets River

Quinault River

47° 18' 21" Pt. Grenville

Grays Harbor  
60B

46° 53' 18" Pt. Chehalis

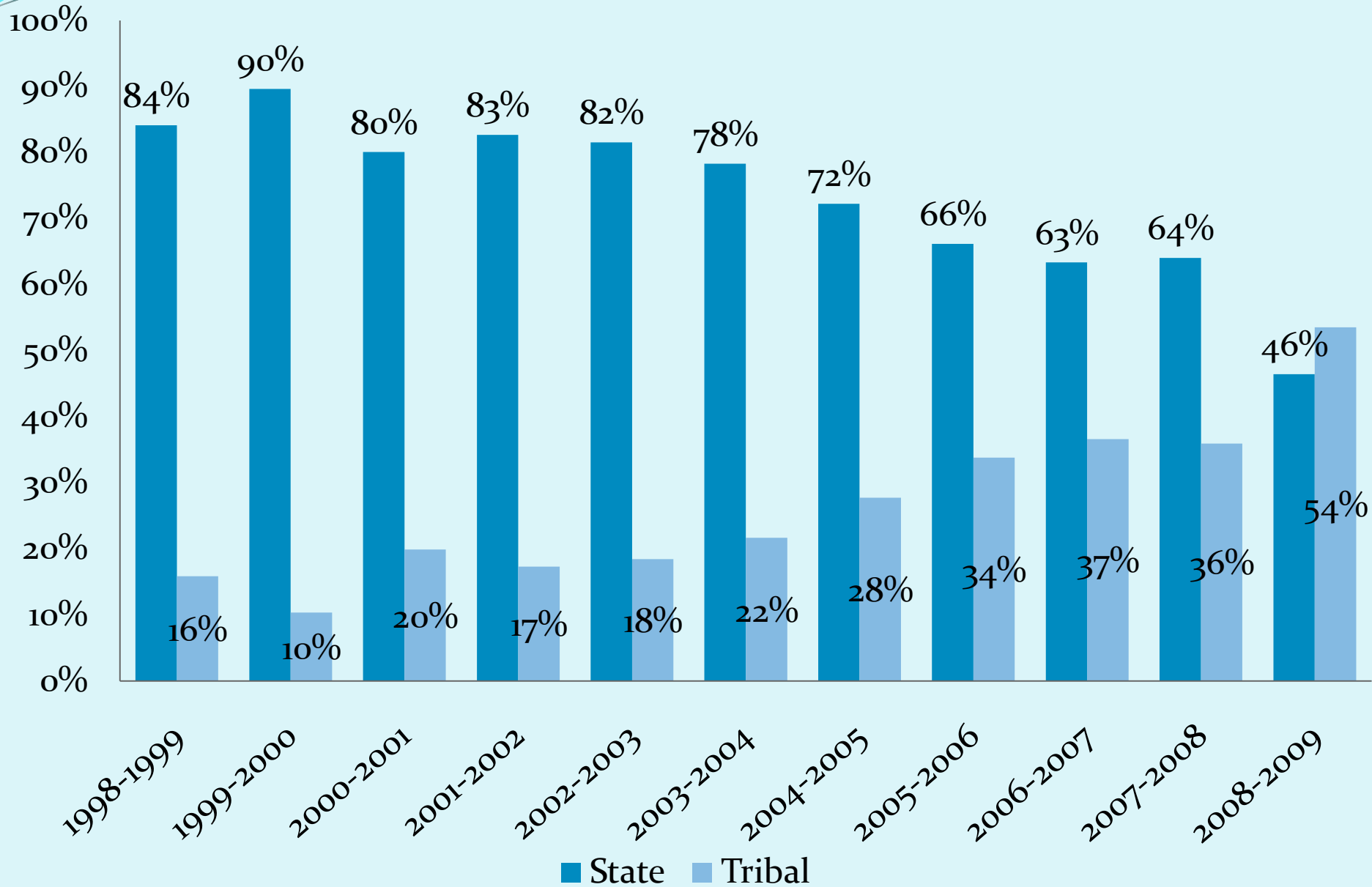
Willapa Bay  
60C

46° 15' 00"

Cape Disappointment

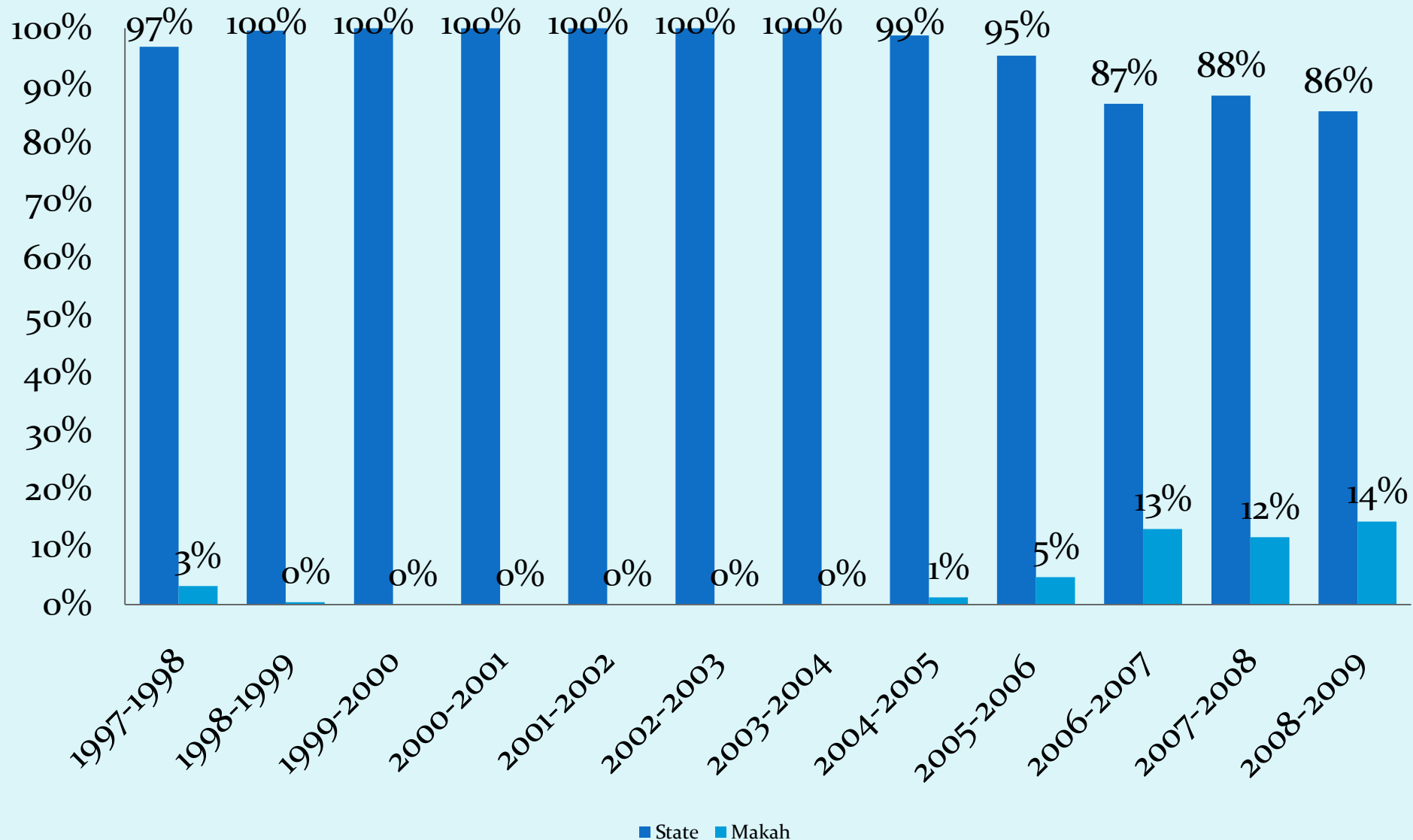
Columbia River  
60D

# State-Tribal Catch Sharing North of Pt. Chehalis

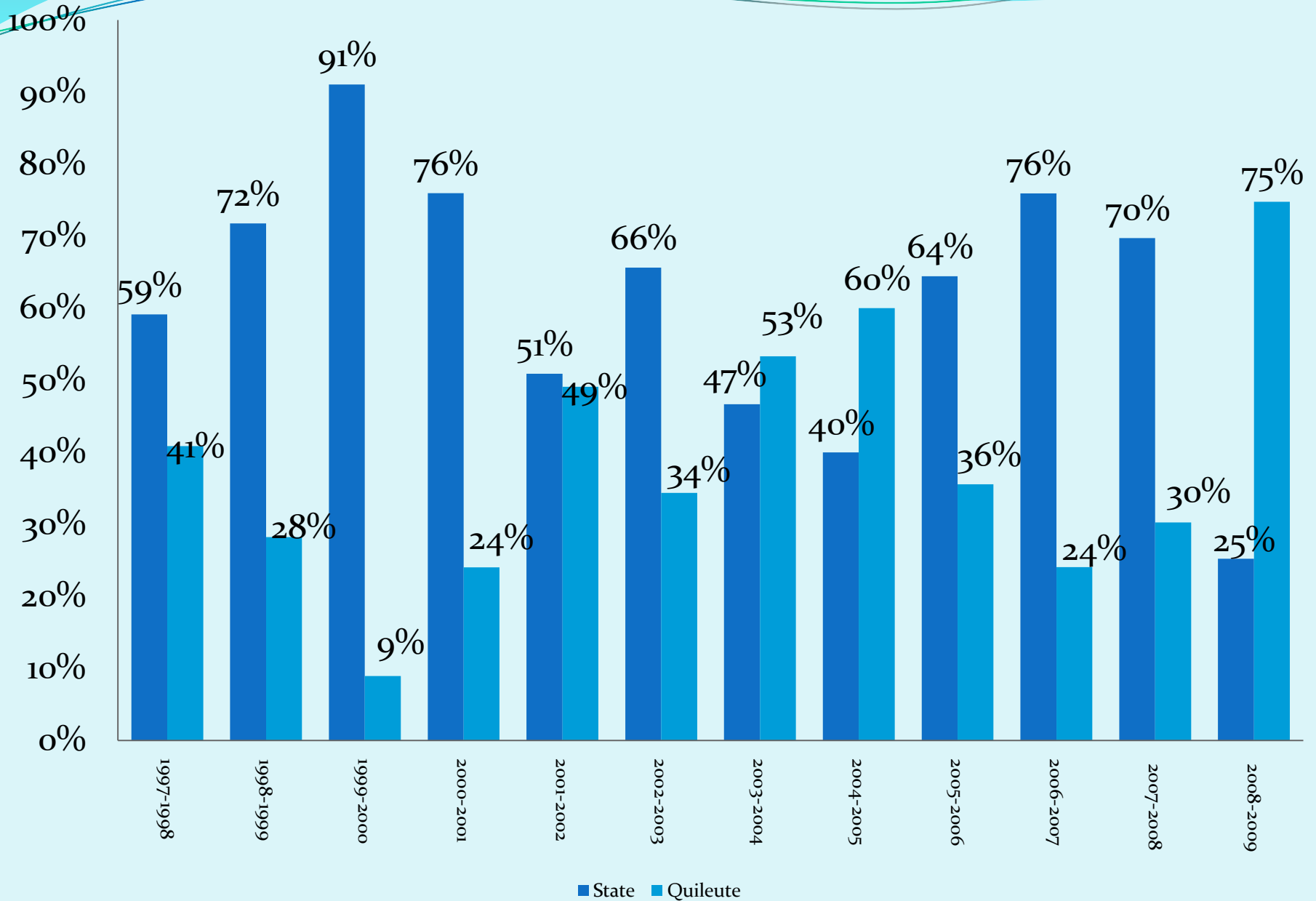




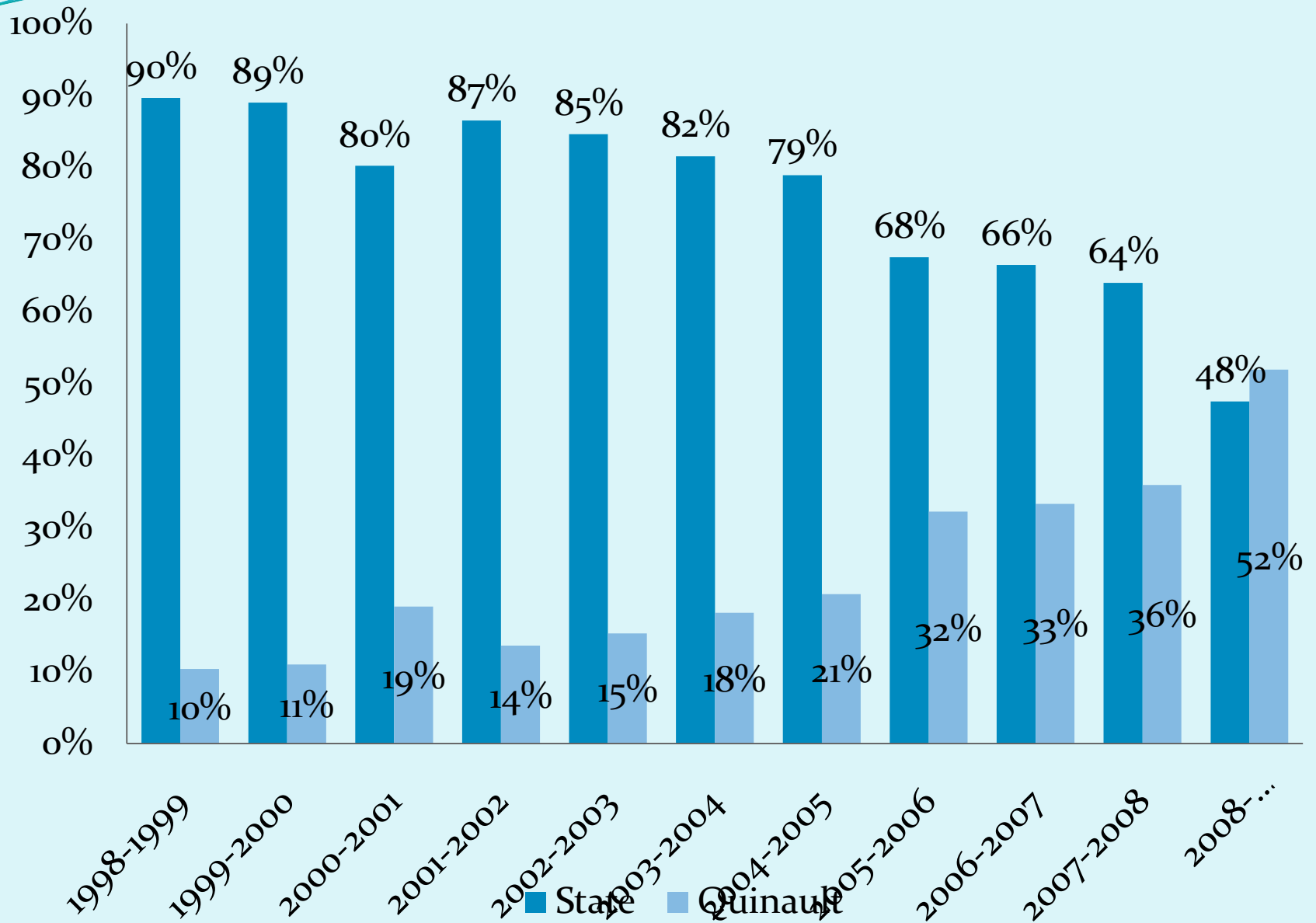
# Catch Sharing: State/Makah



# Catch Sharing: State/Quileute



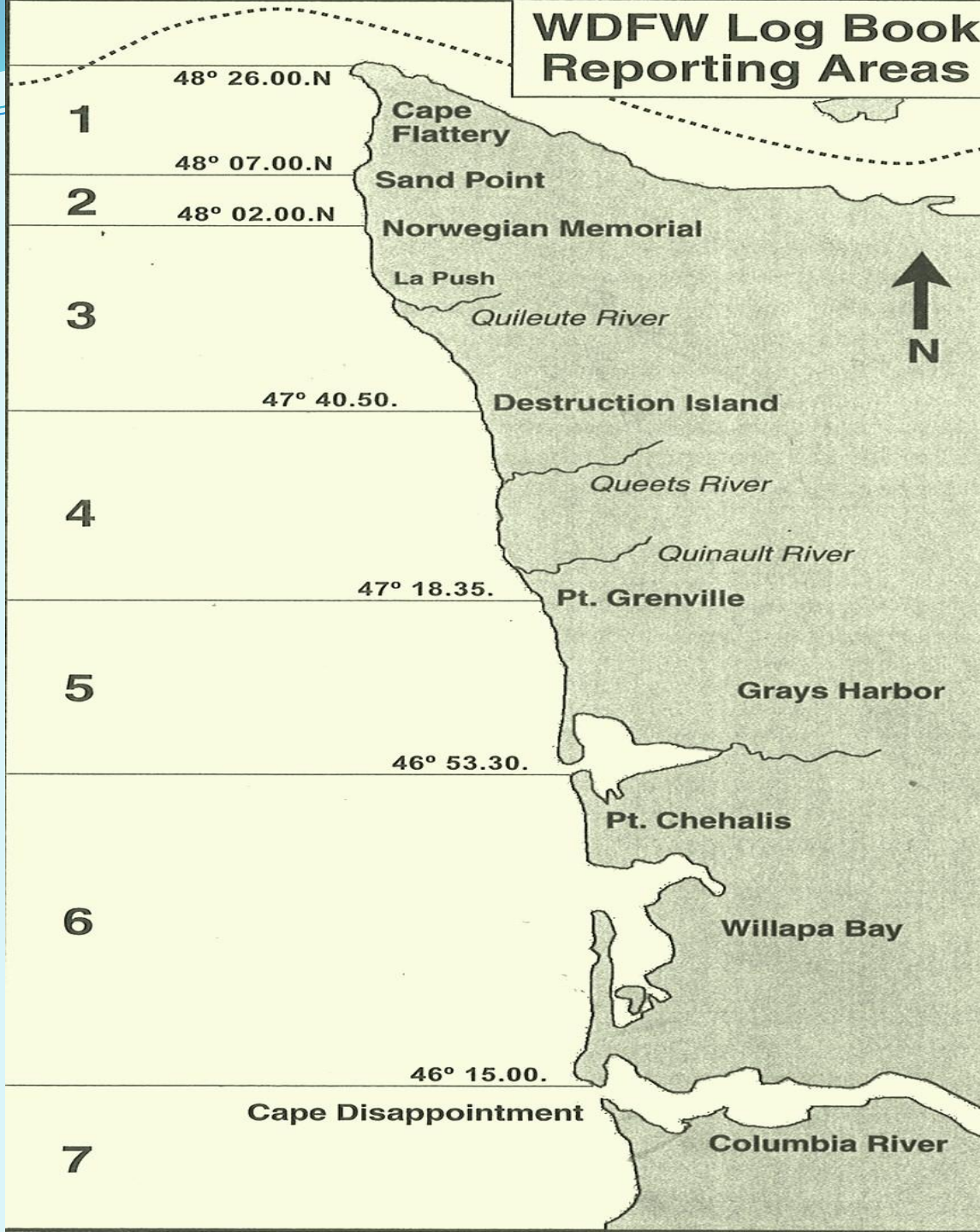
# Catch Sharing: State/Quinault



# Logbook Program

- Third year of program
- Increased understanding of state catch distribution relative to catch area 59A1 and the Makah and Quileute tribes
- Increased compliance of turning logbooks in since inception

# WDFW Log Book Reporting Areas



# Analysis of logbook data for Catch Area 59A1

<b>Logbook Pounds Reported From Catch Area 59A1</b>				
Season	Catch Area 1	Catch Area 2	Catch Area 3	Grand Total
2006-2007	8,330	88,042	662,081	758,453
2007-2008	-	4,818	433,303	438,121
2008-2009	185	602	54,612	55,399
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,515</b>	<b>93,462</b>	<b>1,149,996</b>	<b>1,251,973</b>

<b>Logbook Pounds Reported as Percentage of Catch Per Area</b>				
Season	Catch Area 1	Catch Area 2	Catch Area 3	Grand Total
2006-2007	1%	12%	87%	100%
2007-2008	0%	1%	99%	100%
2008-2009	0%	1%	99%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Logbook Percentage used as Proxy to Estimate Actual Catch</b>				
Season	Catch Area 1	Catch Area 2	Catch Area 3	Grand Total
2006-2007	13,349	141,088	1,060,992	1,215,429
2007-2008	-	10,349	930,703	941,052
2008-2009	263	854	77,515	78,632
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,202</b>	<b>166,855</b>	<b>2,053,056</b>	<b>2,235,113</b>

# Season Opening Structure

- Fair start review
- Results
  - Catch and value
- Ideas for improvement

# Season Opening Structure

- Vessels that fish in the area that opens, prior to the delayed area opening, would be subject to a stand down provision that would prohibit the vessels from fishing in the delayed area for a period of time between 10-60 days from the date the delayed area opened.
- The number of stand down days would be determined in consultation with industry representatives and be based on the objective of achieving a fair harvesting opportunity by all Washington licensed fishers.

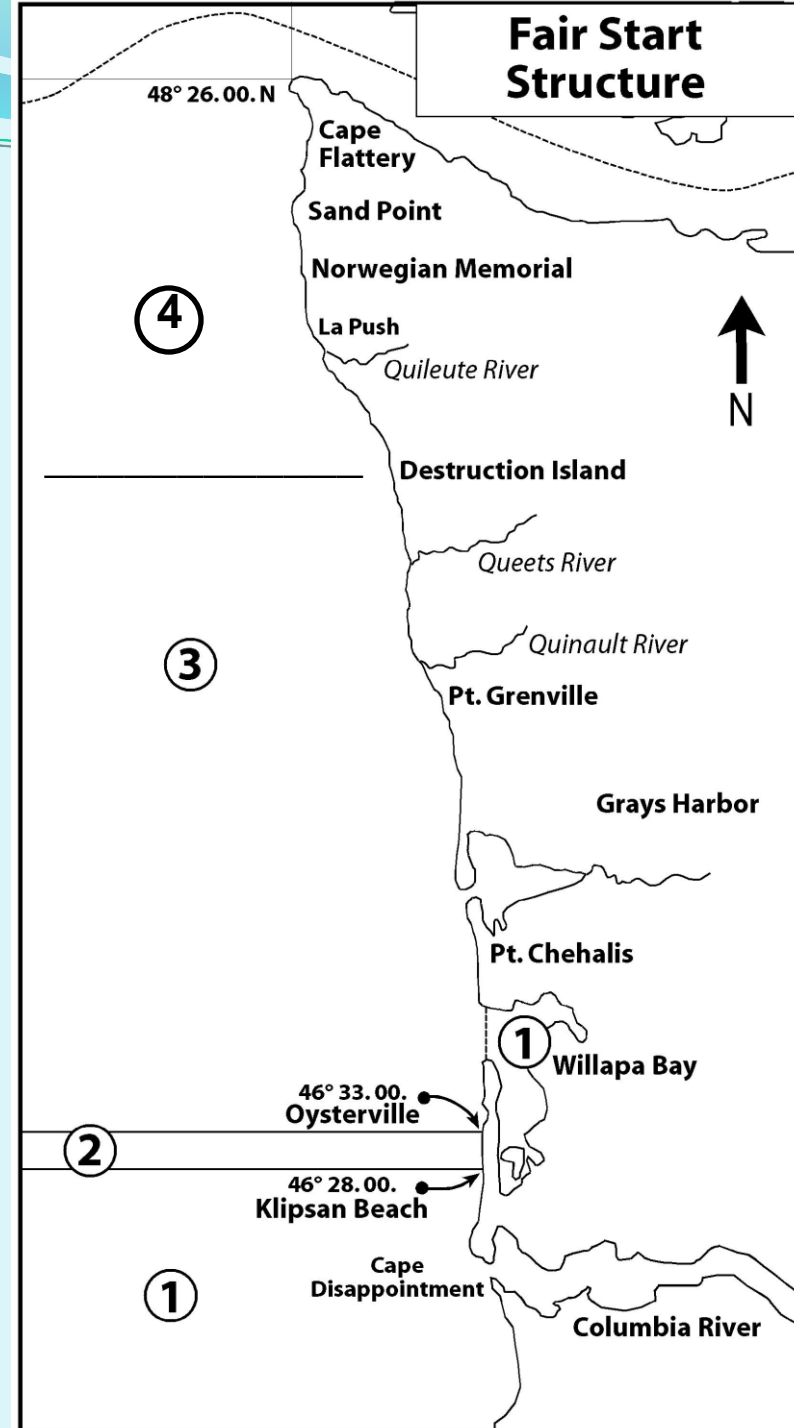


# Fair Start Structure

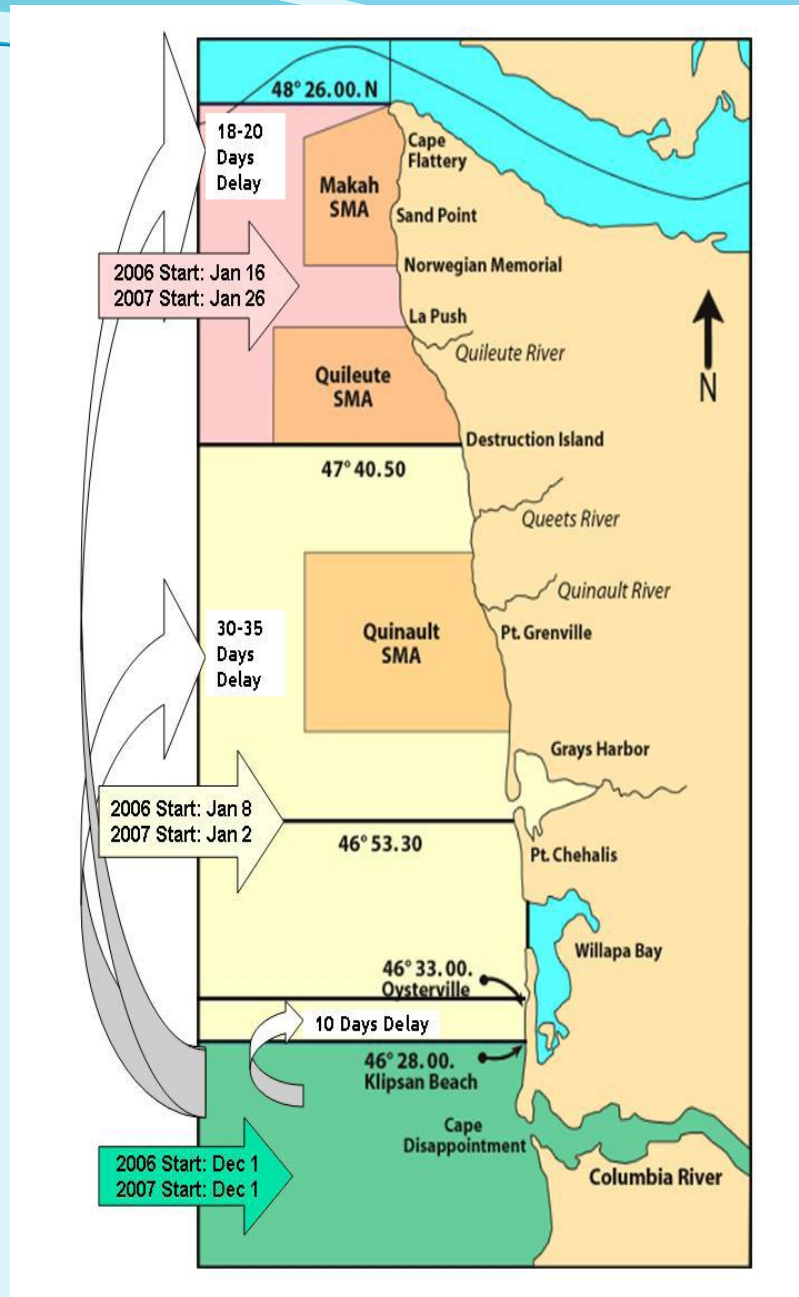
2006 Area	2006 Open	2006 Delay
Area 1	Dec 1	
Area 2	Jan 8	10 days
Area 3	Jan 8	30 days
Area 4	Jan 16	18 days

2007 Area	2007 Open	2006 Delay
Area 1	Dec 1	
Area 2	Jan 2	10 days
Area 3	Jan 2	35 days
Area 4	Jan 26	20 days

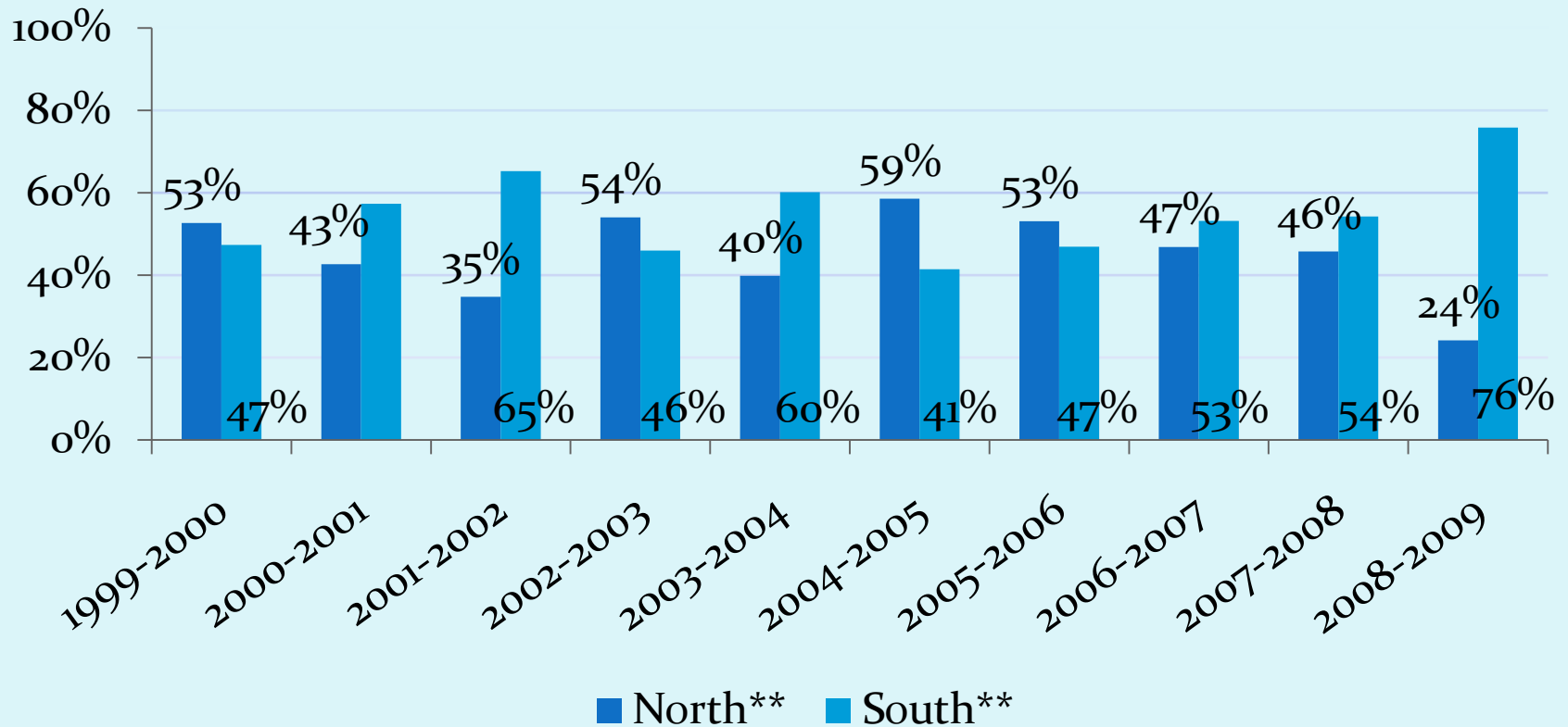
2008 Area	2008 Open	2008 Delay
Area 1	Dec 1	
Area 2	Jan 15	10 days
Area 3	Jan 15	35 days
Area 4	Jan 15	20 days



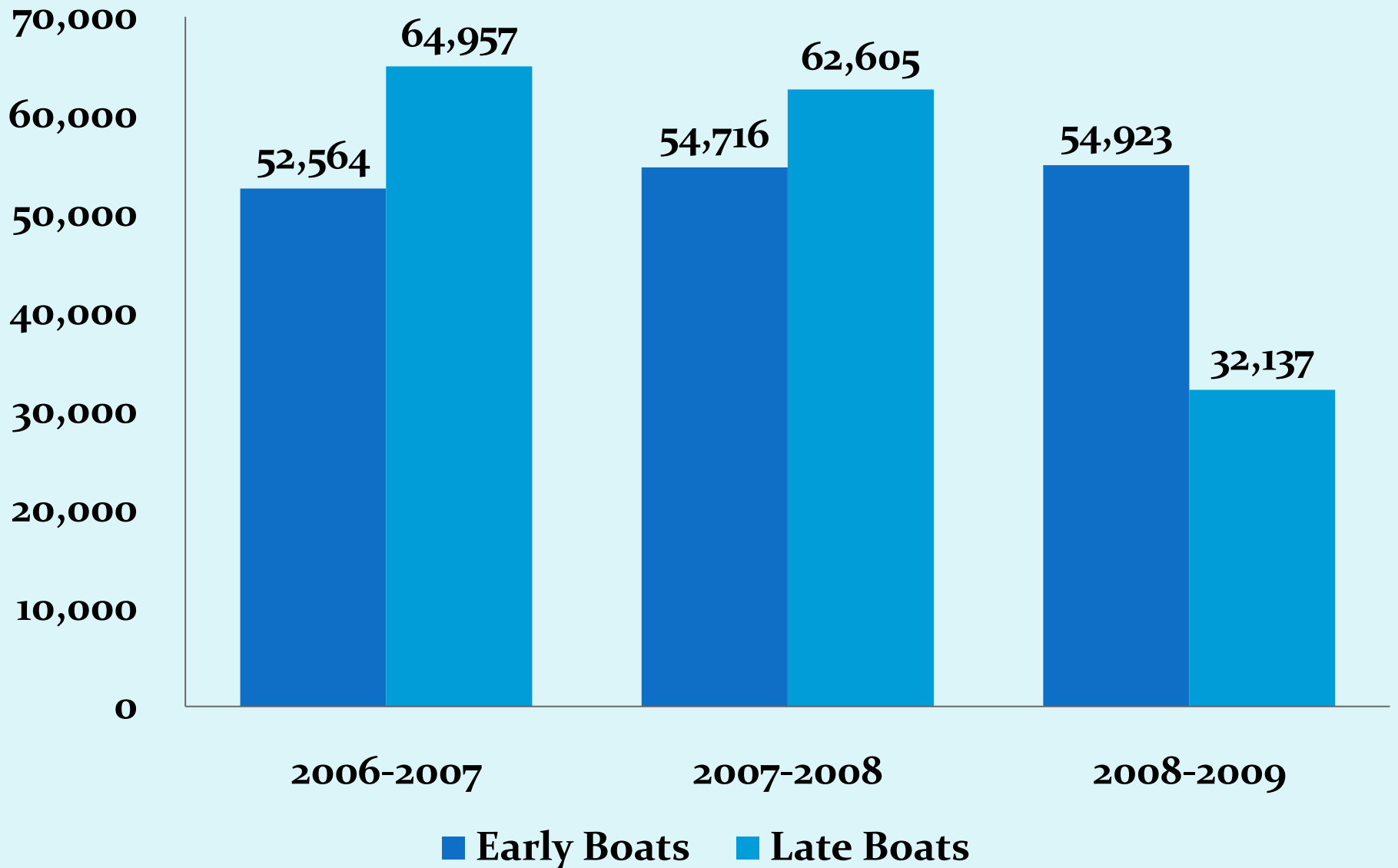
# Fair Start Structure



# Catch Sharing North & South of Pt. Chehalis

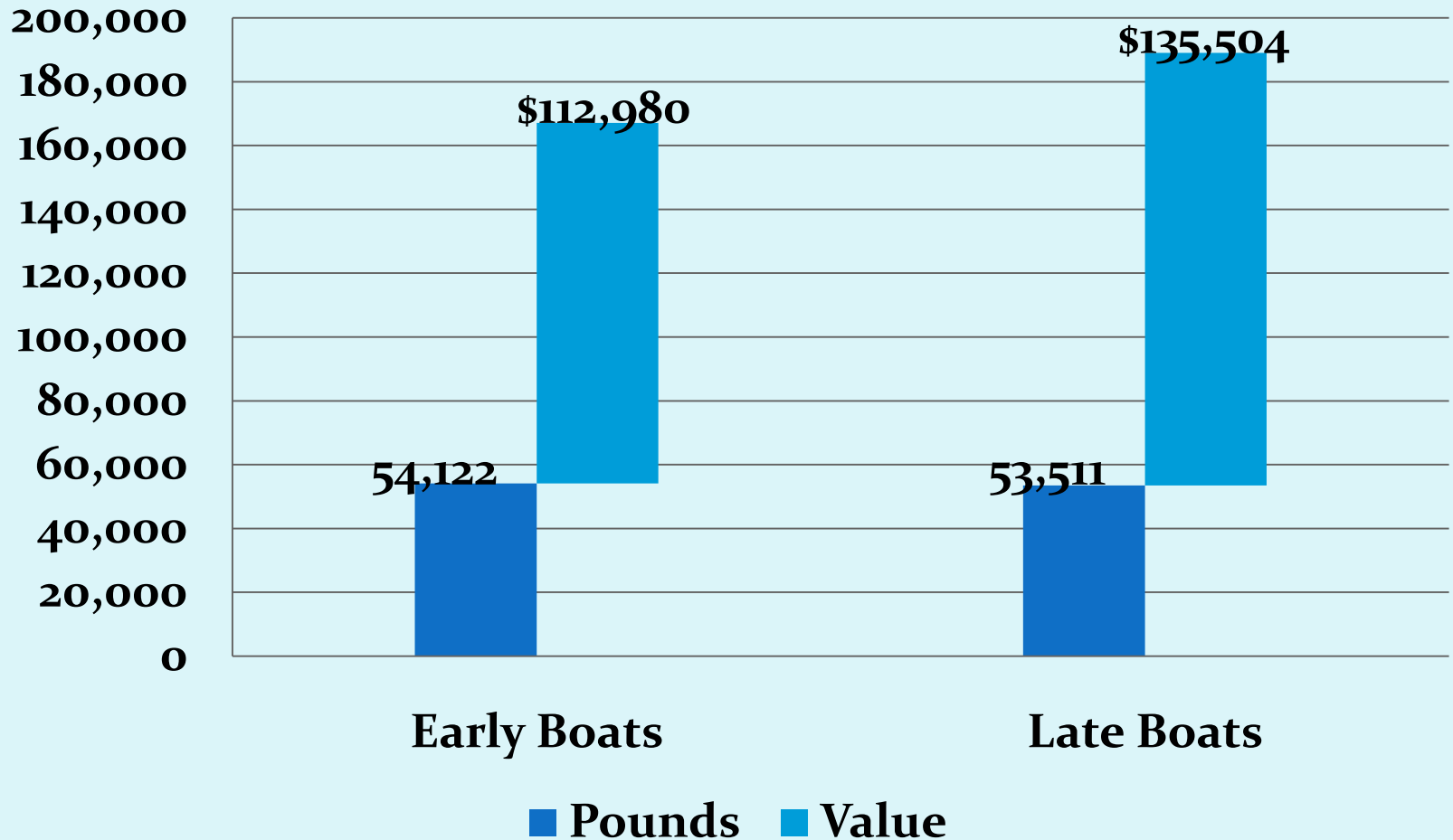


# State Season Opening: Average Pounds Landed by Early /Late Boats

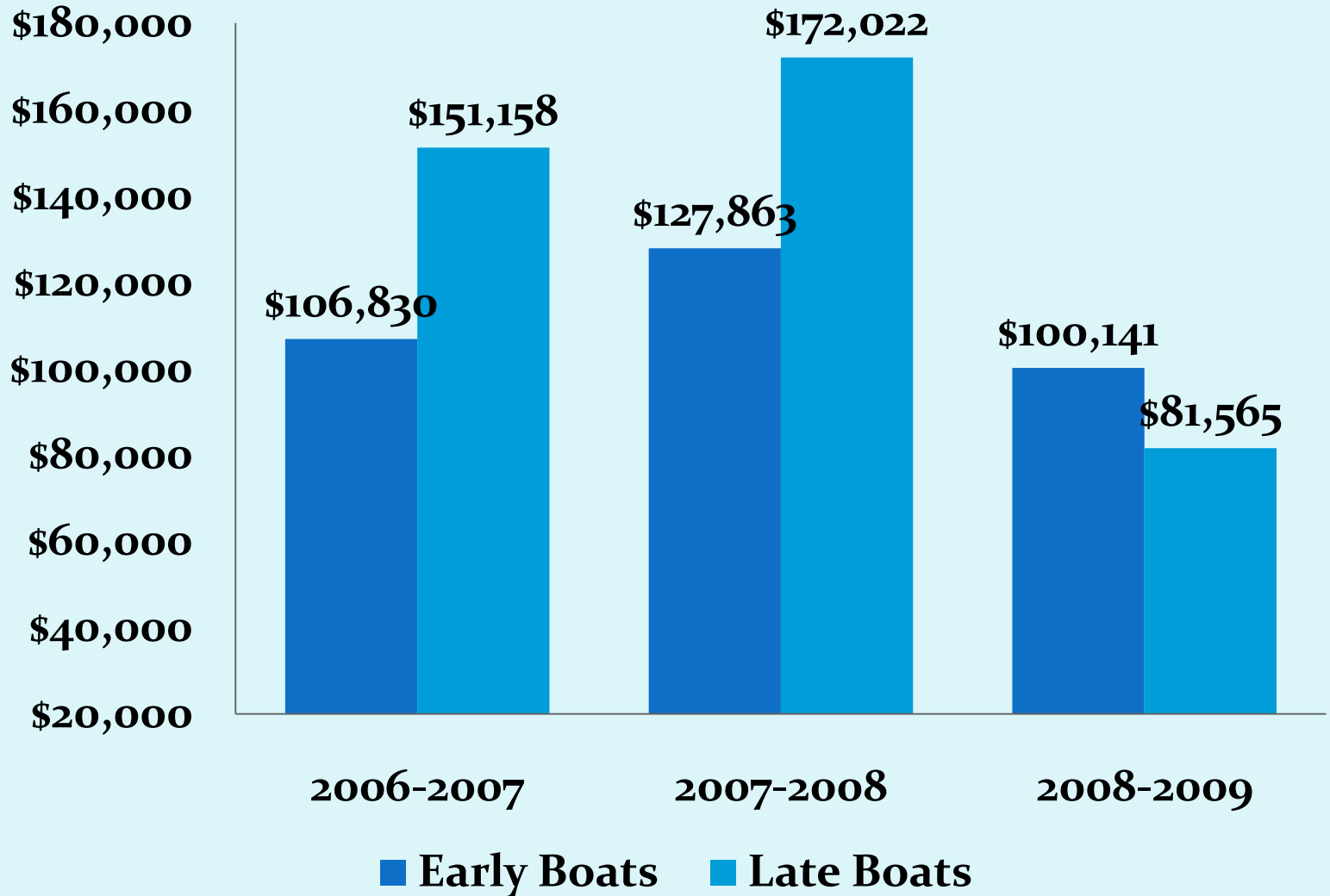


# State Season Opening

## 3-Year Average Pounds and Value Early/Late Boats

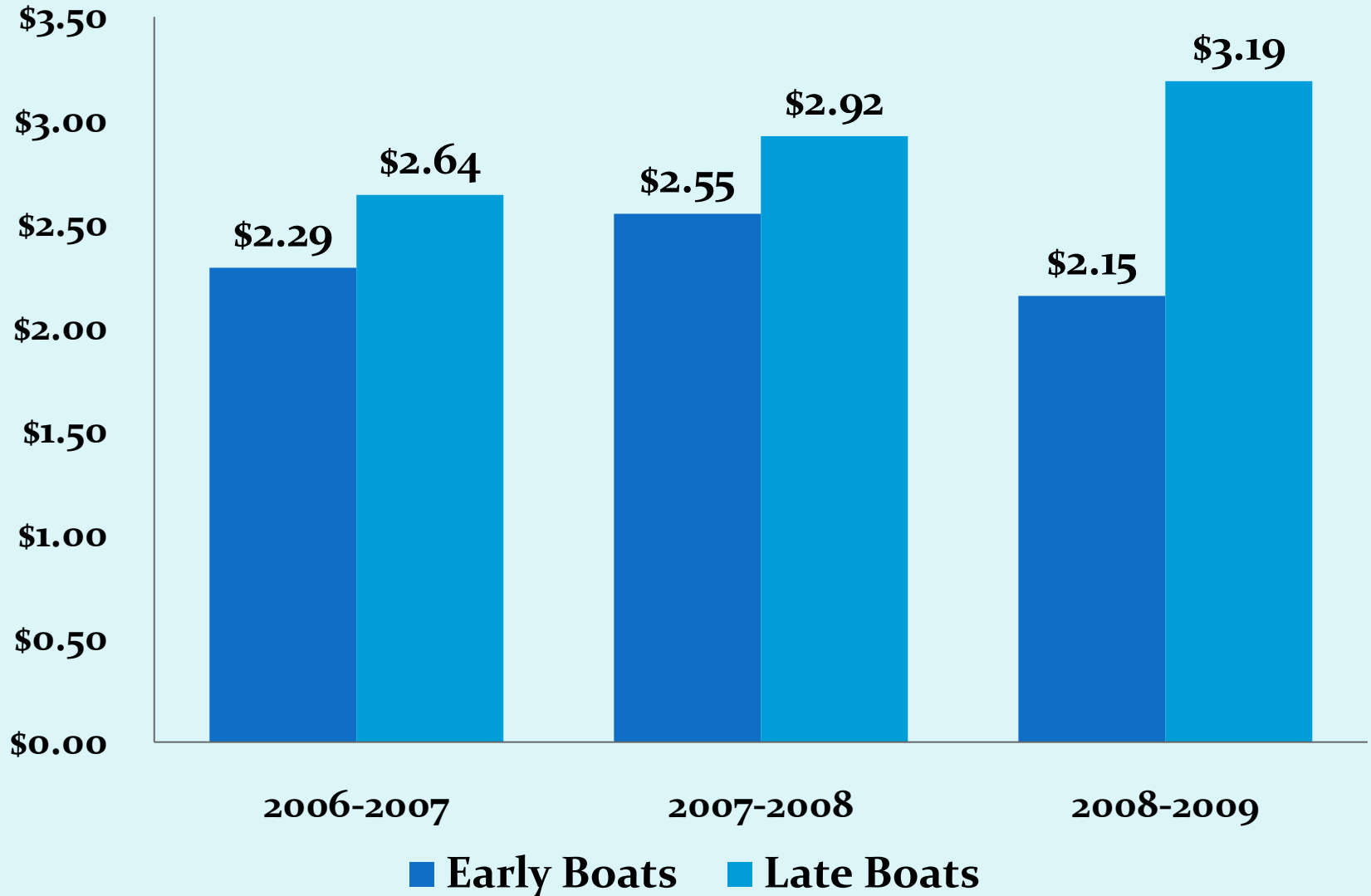


# State Season Opening: Average Value Per Boat Per Season Late/Early



# State Season Opening:

## Average Season Opening Price Per Pound Early /Late Boats



# 2009-2010 Season

- Status Quo vs. Restructure
  - State fishery fair start
  - Tribal fishery head start
    - SMA vs. 50/50 vs. pot limits or ??





Discussion/other