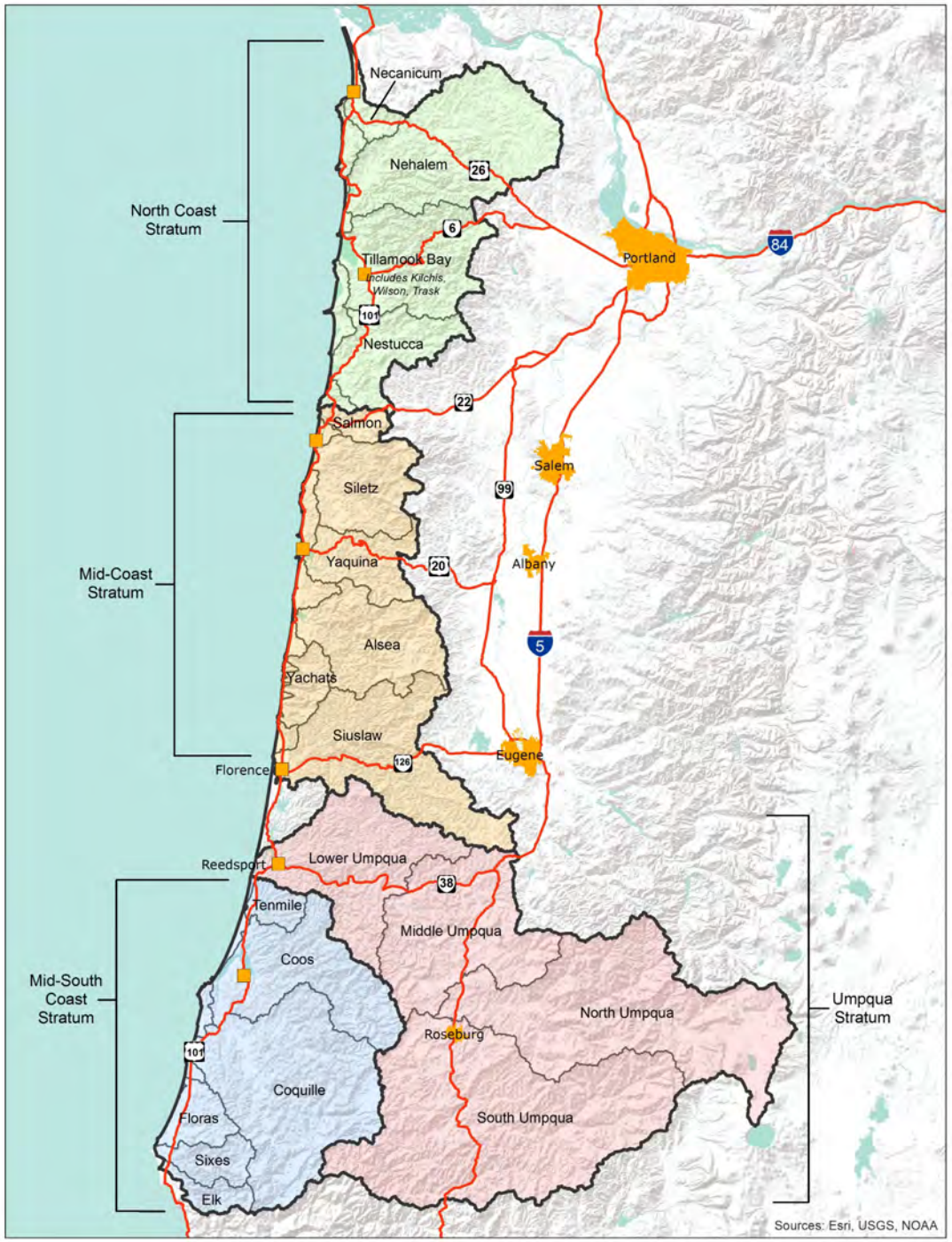
Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) Implementation Update

Exhibit D

September 17, 2021

CMP

- Coastal watersheds from Necanicum to Elk
- 6 Species Management Units (SMUs)
  - Chinook salmon
  - Spring Chinook salmon
  - Chum Salmon
  - Winter Steelhead
  - Summer Steelhead
  - Cutthroat Trout
- Approved by the Commission in June 2014



SMU Status

Current Status					
Strong	Strong-Guarded	Sensitive-Vulnerable	Sensitive-Critical	Threatened	Endangered
	• **Chinook Salmon** • **Winter Steelhead** • **Cutthroat Trout**	• **Spring Chinook** • **Summer Steelhead**	• **Chum Salmon**		

Desired Status

- Improve all SMUs
- Increase abundance
- Climate change resilience

Highest Priorities

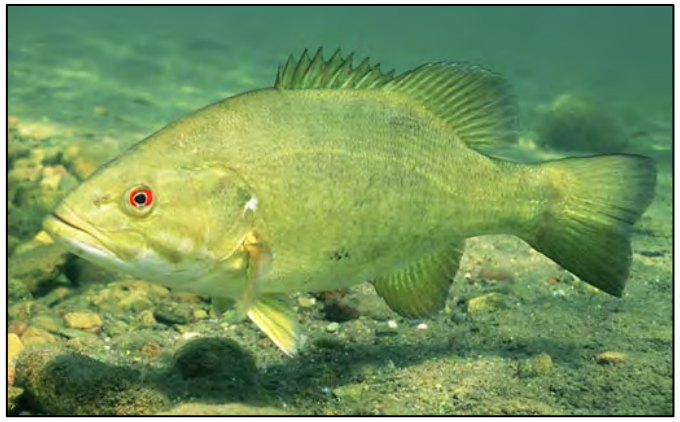
- Elk River fall-run Chinook
- South Umpqua spring Chinook
- Chum Salmon SMU

Management Strategy and Action Implementation

Hatchery Fish

Fishing/Harvest

Research and Monitoring



Predation

Habitat

<u>Key concepts</u>

- "Portfolio" approach
- Adaptive management
- Diversity and resilience

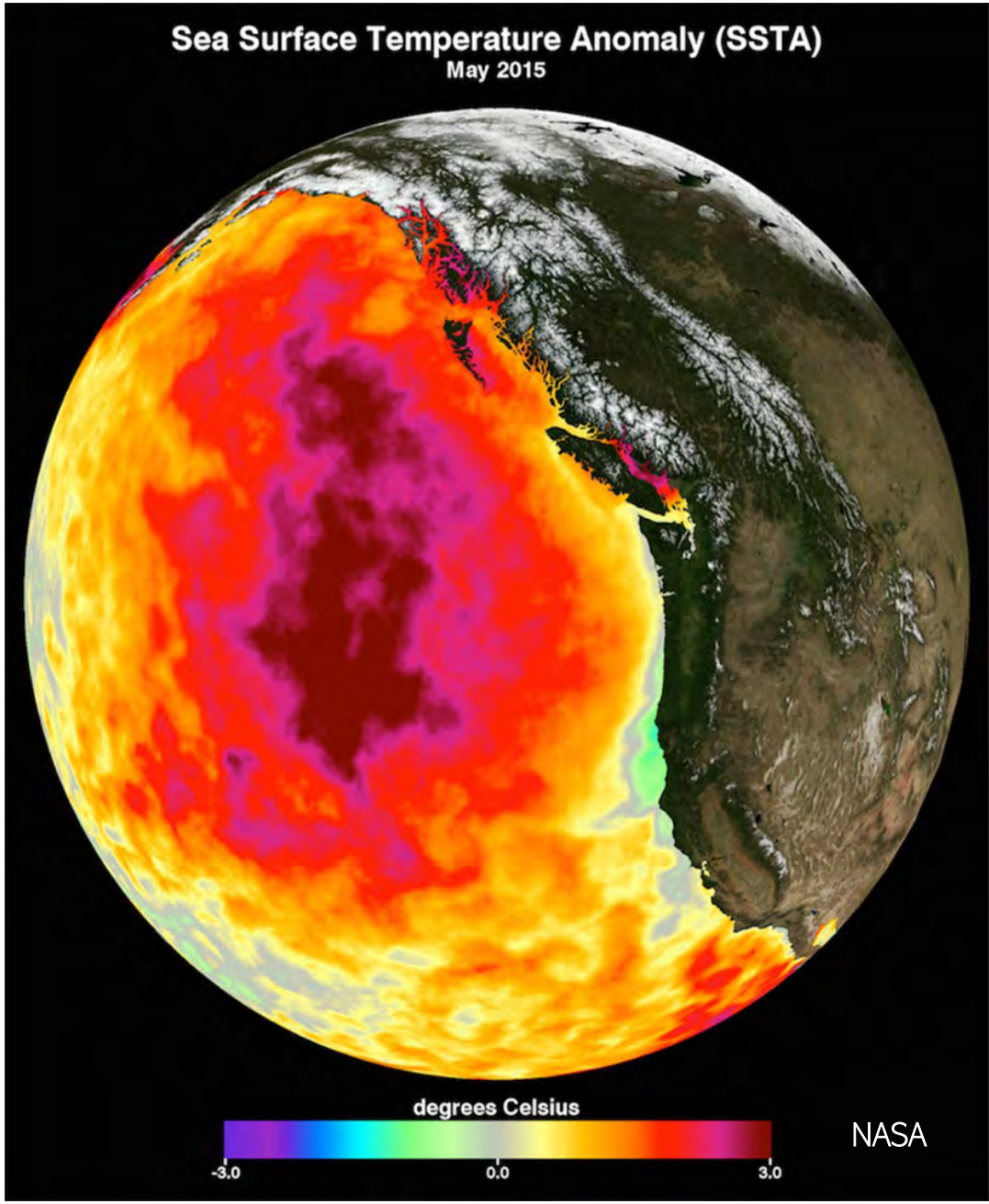
Environmental Context for Implementation

Marine

- Poor conditions in 2015-2017, 2019
- Fair conditions in 2018 & 2020

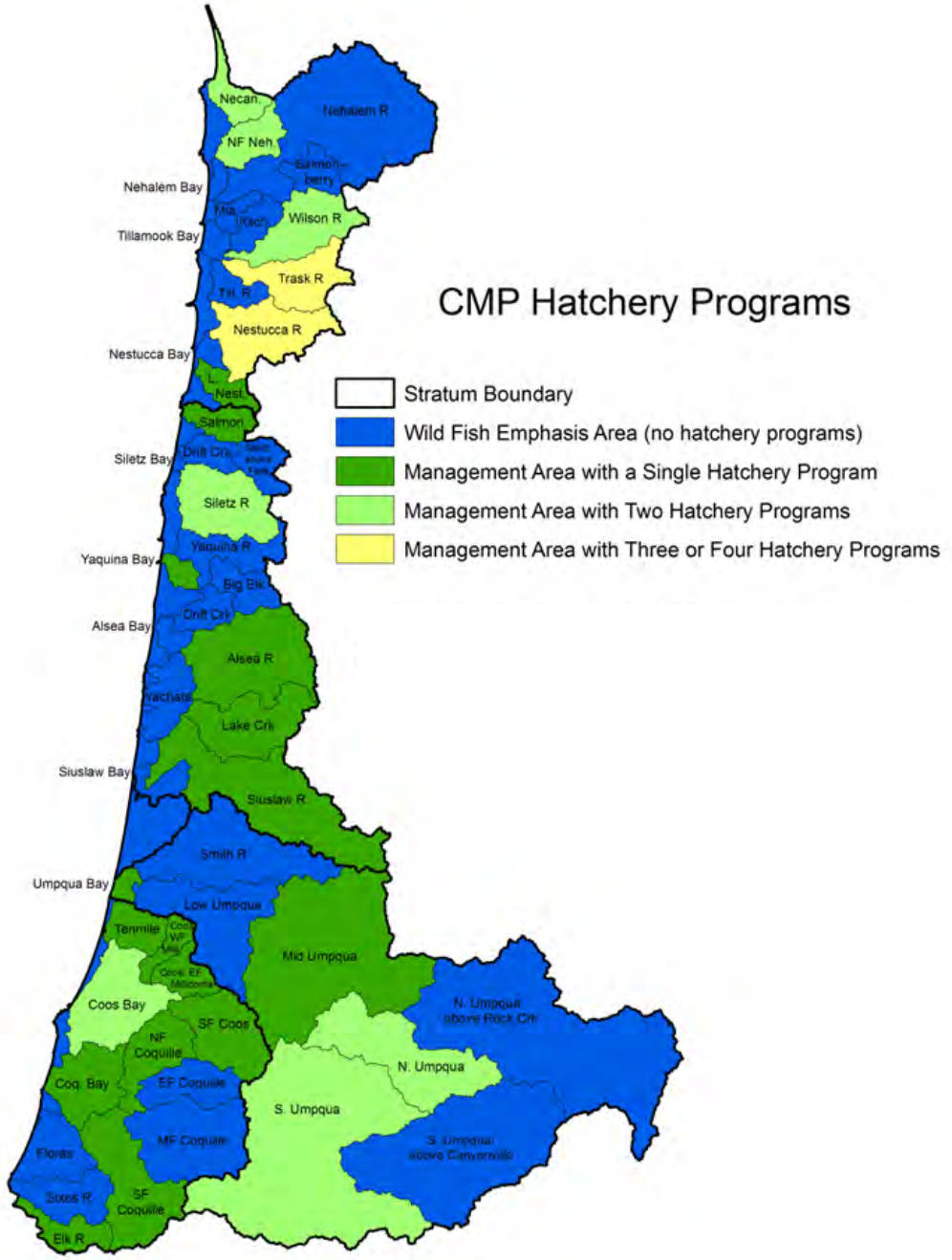
Freshwater

- Severe drought in 2015 and 2021
- Very low flows in fall 2019



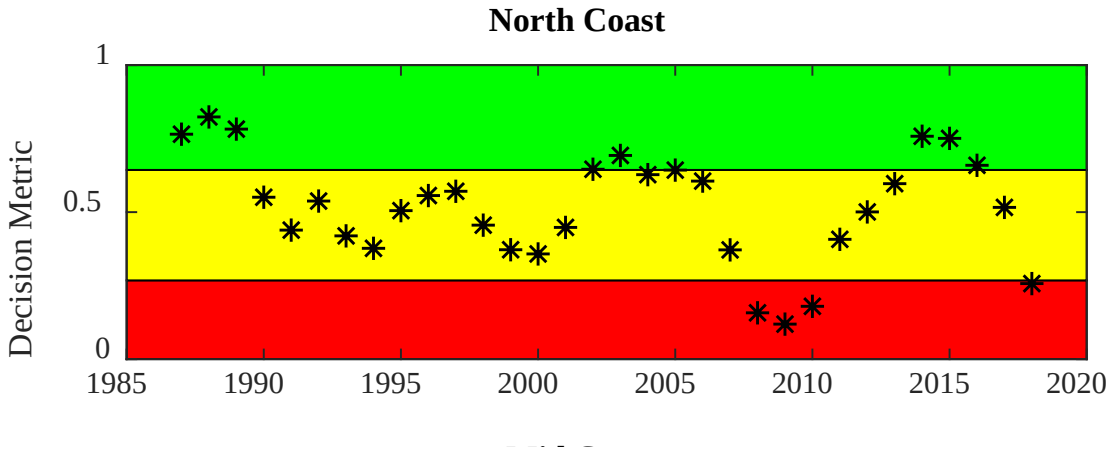
Hatchery Fish Actions

- Release changes in 19 programs
- Smolt releases consistent with plan targets
- Developed *Hatchery Program Summaries*
- Program-specific actions to reduce straying
- Research, monitoring, and evaluation to inform additional actions



Fishing/Harvest Actions

- Regulation changes to protect early-run component of Chinook populations
- Chinook Salmon Harvest Sliding Scale
  - Adjusts bag limits with cycles of abundance
  - Triggered bag limit reductions and conservation closures in 2019 & 2020
  - Additional adaptive management actions to reduce risk from harvest
- New winter steelhead harvest opportunity in 3 management areas



Predation Actions

- Avian Predation Program monitoring cormorant abundance and studying impacts on salmon and steelhead
- Avian hazing efforts in Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Alsea, Siuslaw, Coos, and Coquille estuaries
- Removed bag limits for smallmouth bass in Umpqua and Coquille; coastwide for striped bass
- Outreach to avoid illegal introductions of non-native fish

Habitat Actions

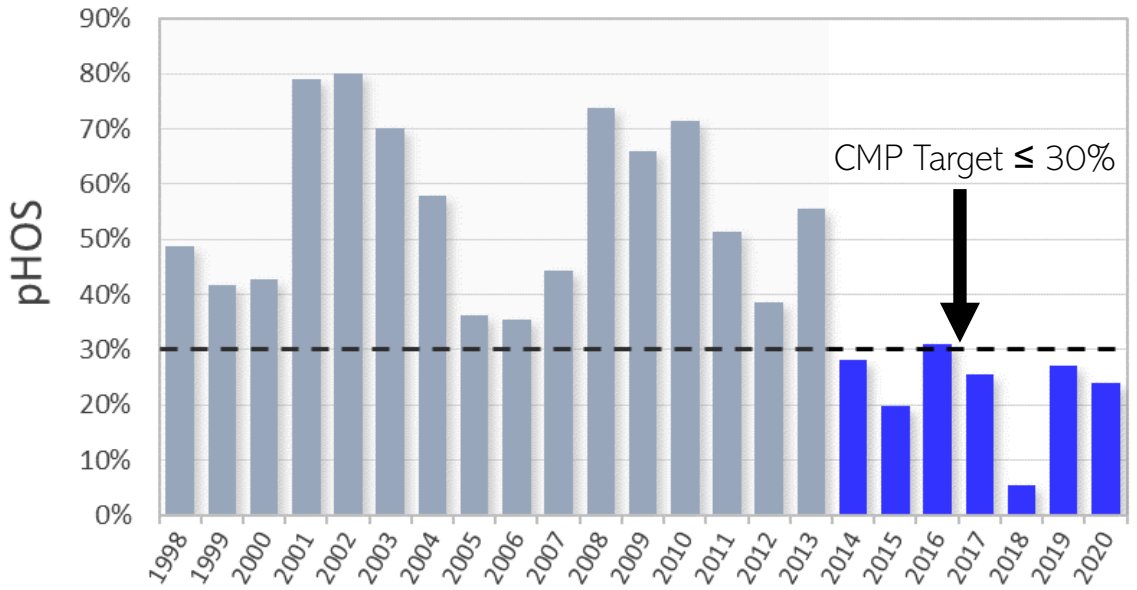
- **Key to achieving plan goals and increasing climate change resilience**
- Habitat restoration occurring at multiple spatial scales throughout SMU
- Major estuary restoration projects in Tillamook, Yaquina, and Coquille basins
- Habitat protection and restoration prioritization in development by ODFW
- ODFW leadership to align actions

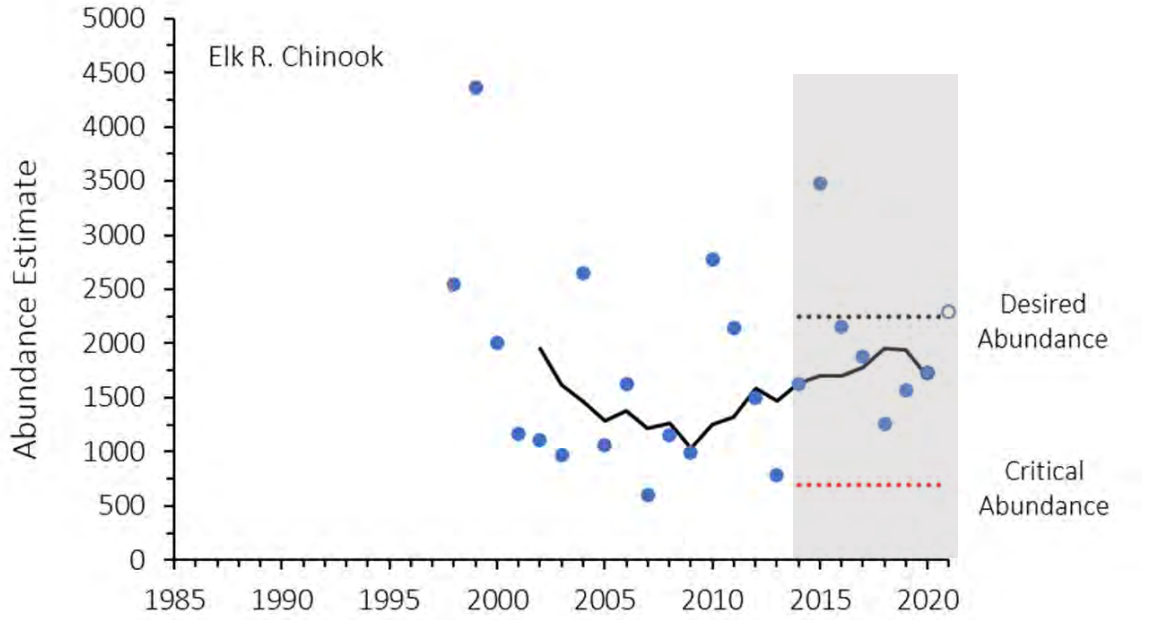
Research and Monitoring

- Ongoing monitoring for all 6 SMUs
- Focused monitoring in management areas with wild steelhead harvest opportunity
- Developed *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*
- <u>Research</u>
  - Elk R. Chinook – spawner distribution and behavior
  - Elk R. Chinook – olfactory imprinting and homing
  - Angler-assisted broodstock collection
  - Chum salmon population structure
  - Chinook salmon run timing and genetic markers
  - Emerging adaptive management needs

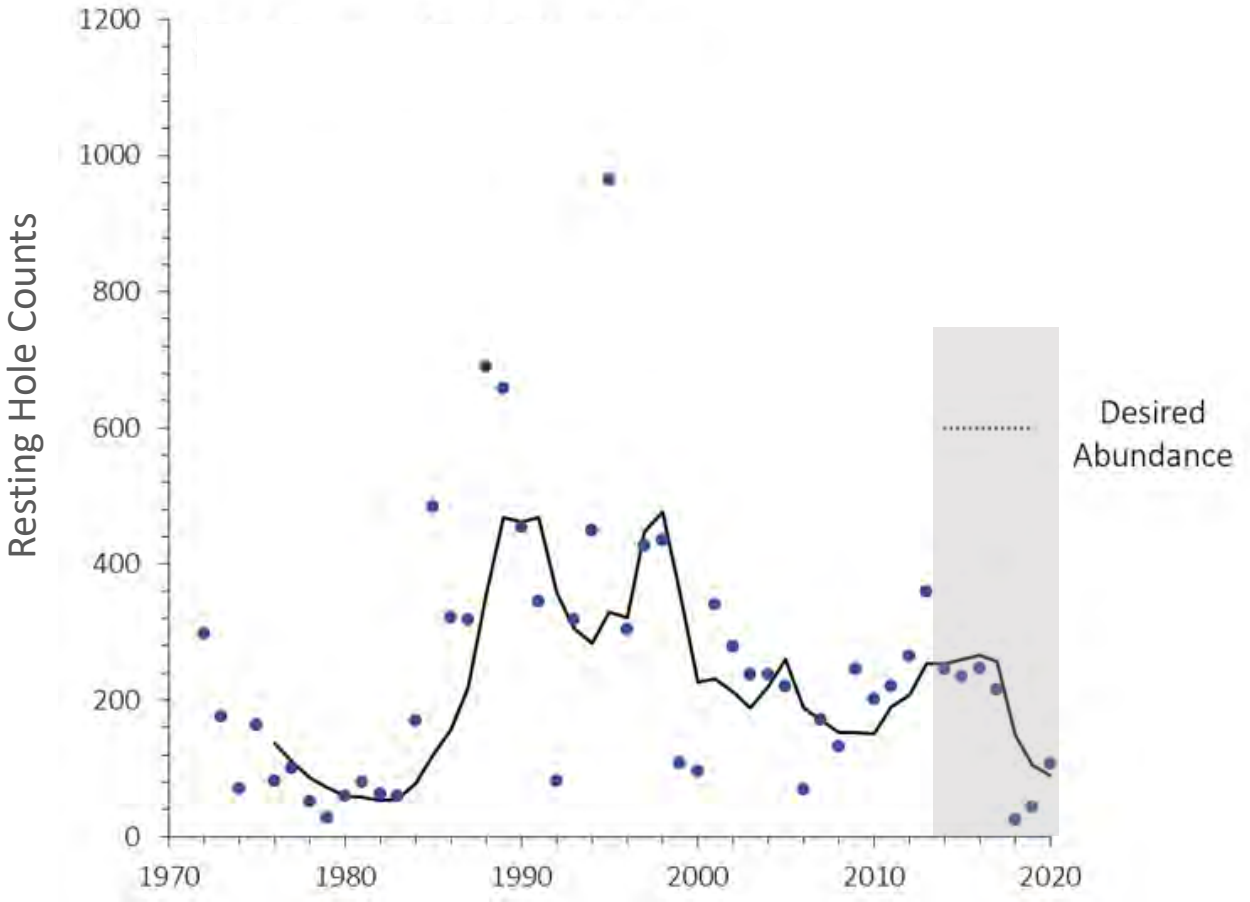
Plan Priority – Elk River Chinook

- 2019 re-assessment confirmed non-viable status
- pHOS reduction goal met through multiple actions
- Wild spawner abundance well above critical abundance threshold
- Sliding scale bag limit reduction in 2019; mark-selective fishery in 2020
- Habitat restoration planning and actions
- Research projects to inform management



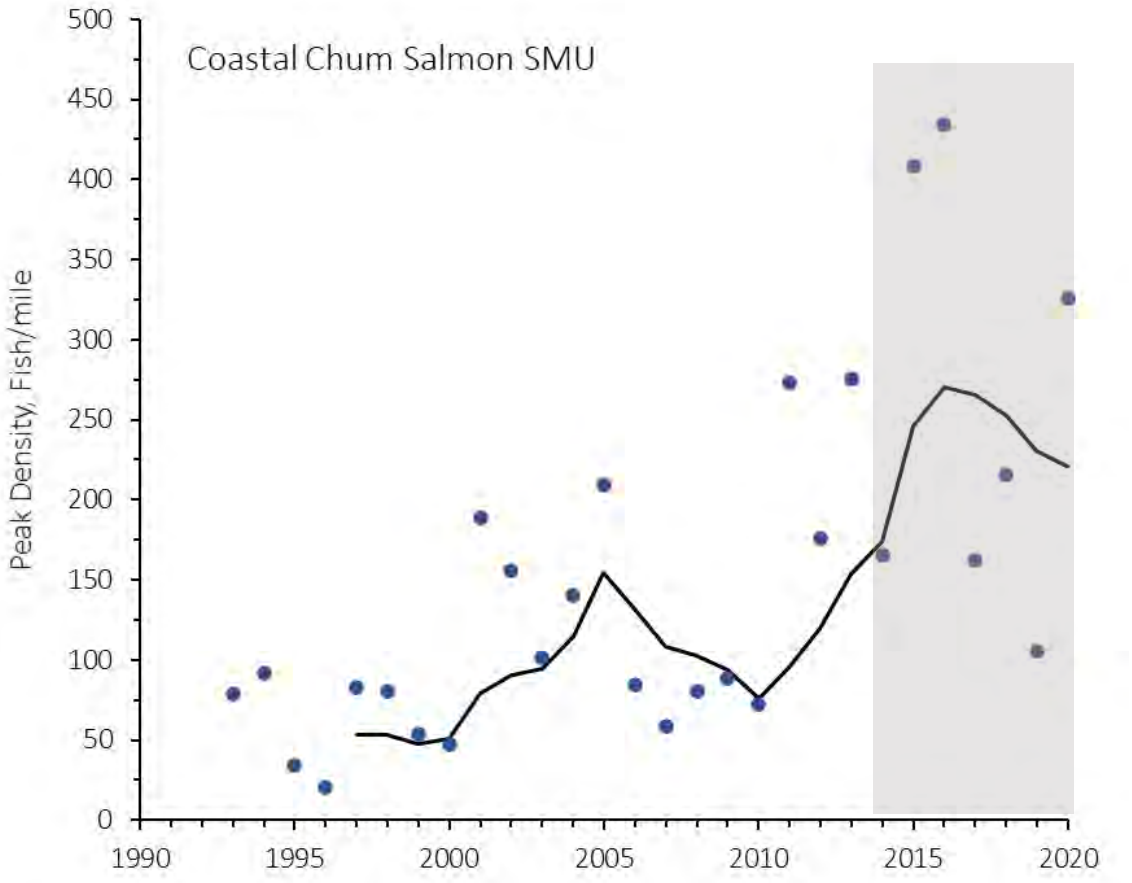


Plan Priority – South Umpqua Spring Chinook



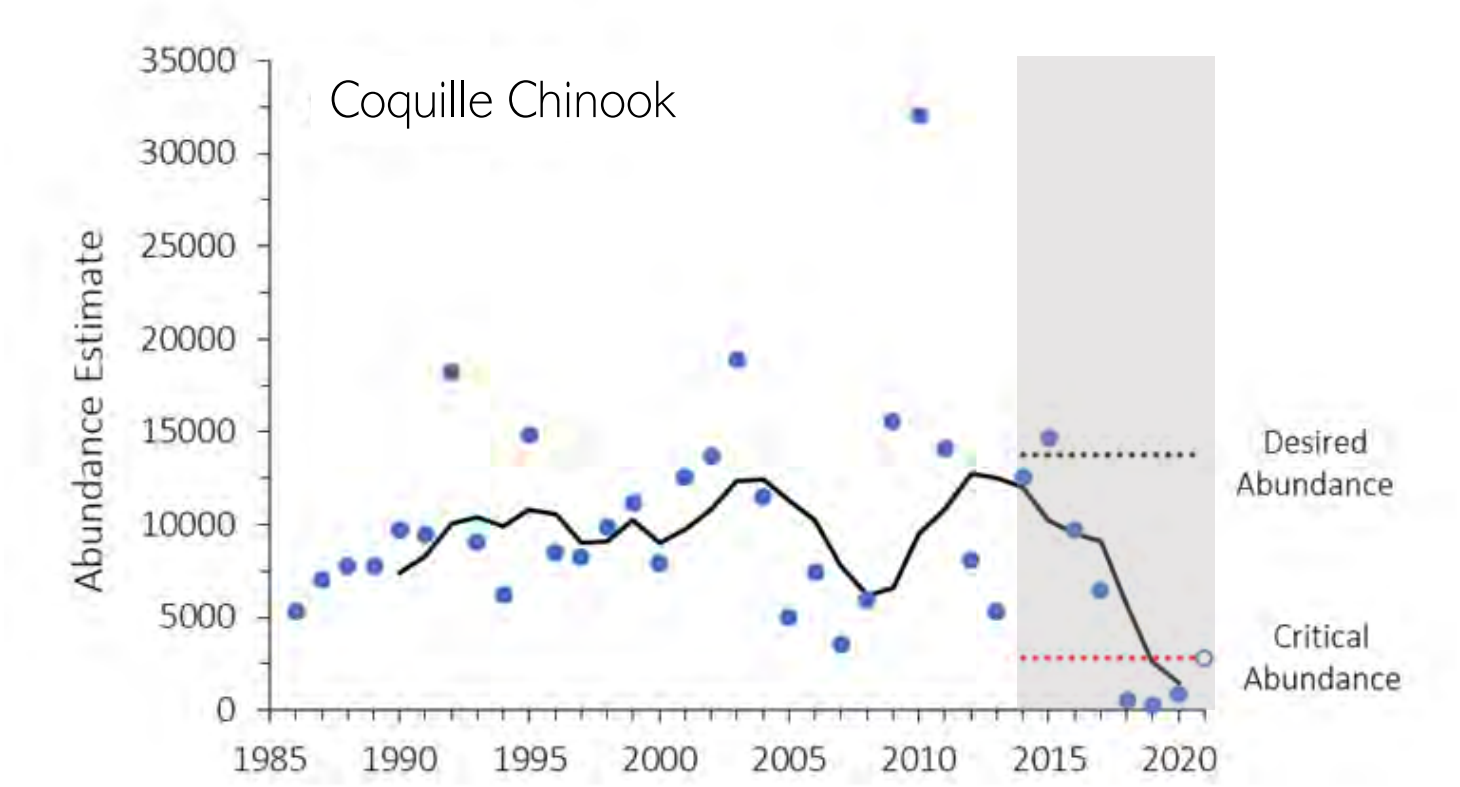
- Mark-selective mainstem fishery in 2020 and 2021
- Developing Umpqua harvest sliding scale; critical abundance for South Umpqua
- Work Group to address limiting factors
- Ladder improvements at S. Umpqua Falls

Plan Priority – Chum Salmon SMU



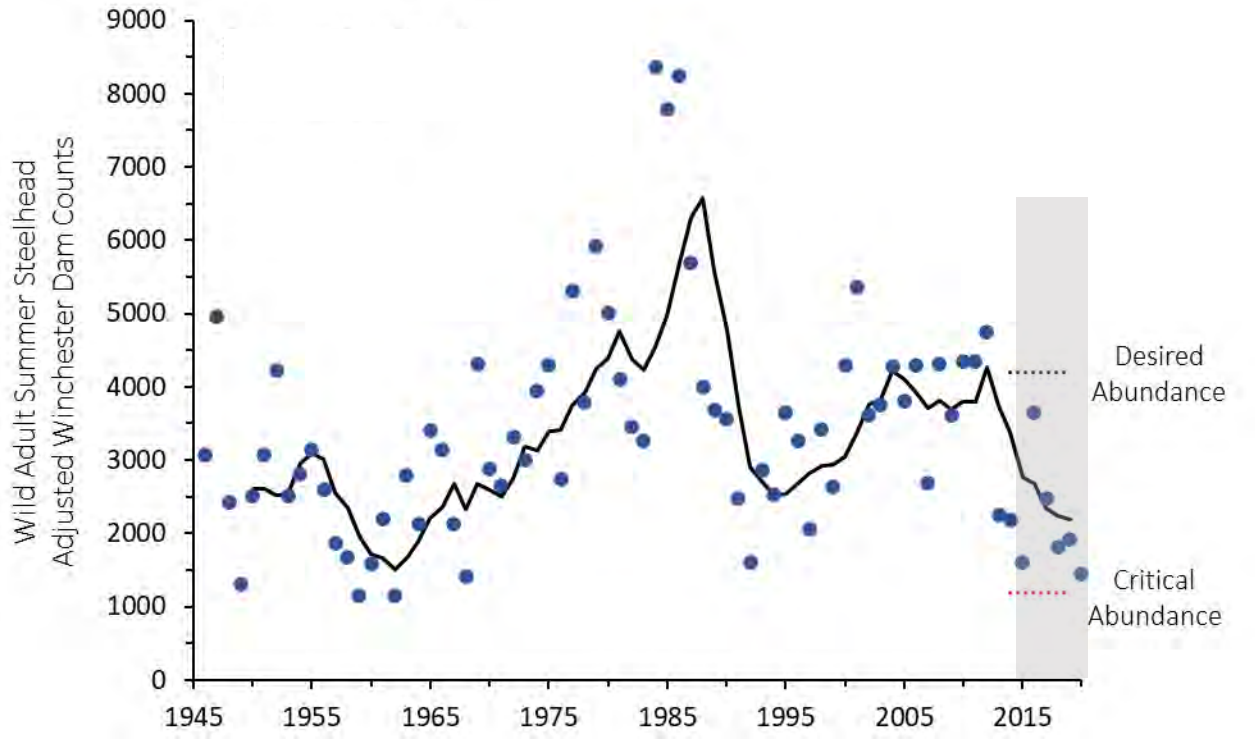
- Expanded spawner abundance monitoring
- Age structure analysis
- Research on population structure with State Fisheries Genomics Lab
- Research and monitoring will inform Chum Restoration Strategy

Emerging Priority – Coquille Chinook



- Fishery restrictions
- Assess & reduce bass predation
- Hatchery release changes
- Extensive coordination

Emerging Priority – North Umpqua Summer Steelhead



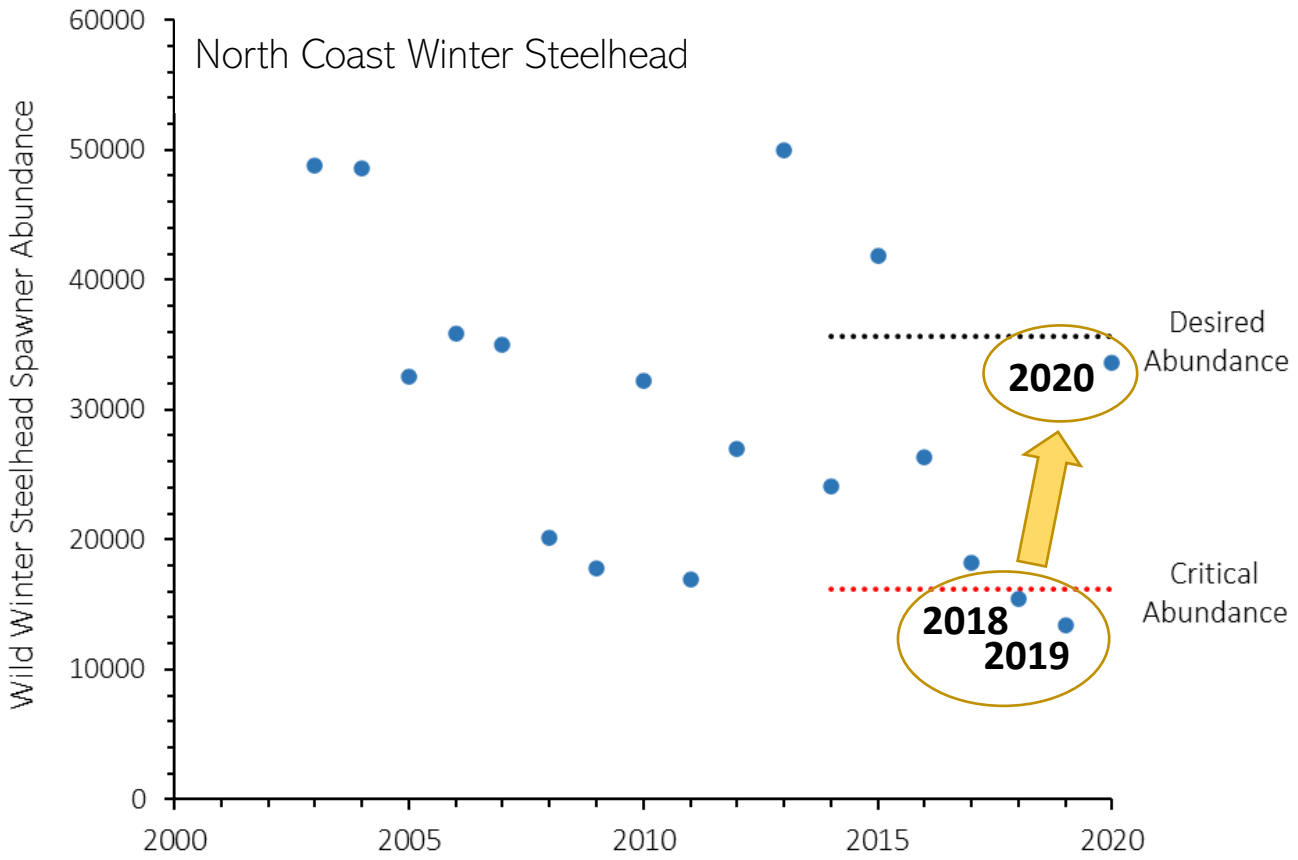
Recent low runs have been expected and are consistent with lows in historical record BUT

- Likely historic low in 2021
- Pattern of fire in basin
  - Spawning strongholds are only **unburnt** area remaining

Focus on identifying possible causal factors and taking adaptive action

Overall Resilience

- For periods of poor conditions, success depends on resilience
- Most populations have exhibited resilience during the past 6 years



Summary

- Recent returns reflect challenging environmental conditions; signs of improvement in 2020
- Significant implementation progress for plan actions in all management categories
- Plan implementation and adaptive management responsive to downturn
- ODFW will continue adaptive management efforts already underway and respond to additional needs
- Climate change considerations integral to plan implementation
- 12-yr plan assessment will begin in 2026

Questions?