

**WDFW**

**COASTAL COMMERCIAL  
DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY**

**Industry Meeting**

***May 3, 2009***

# Purpose and Introductions

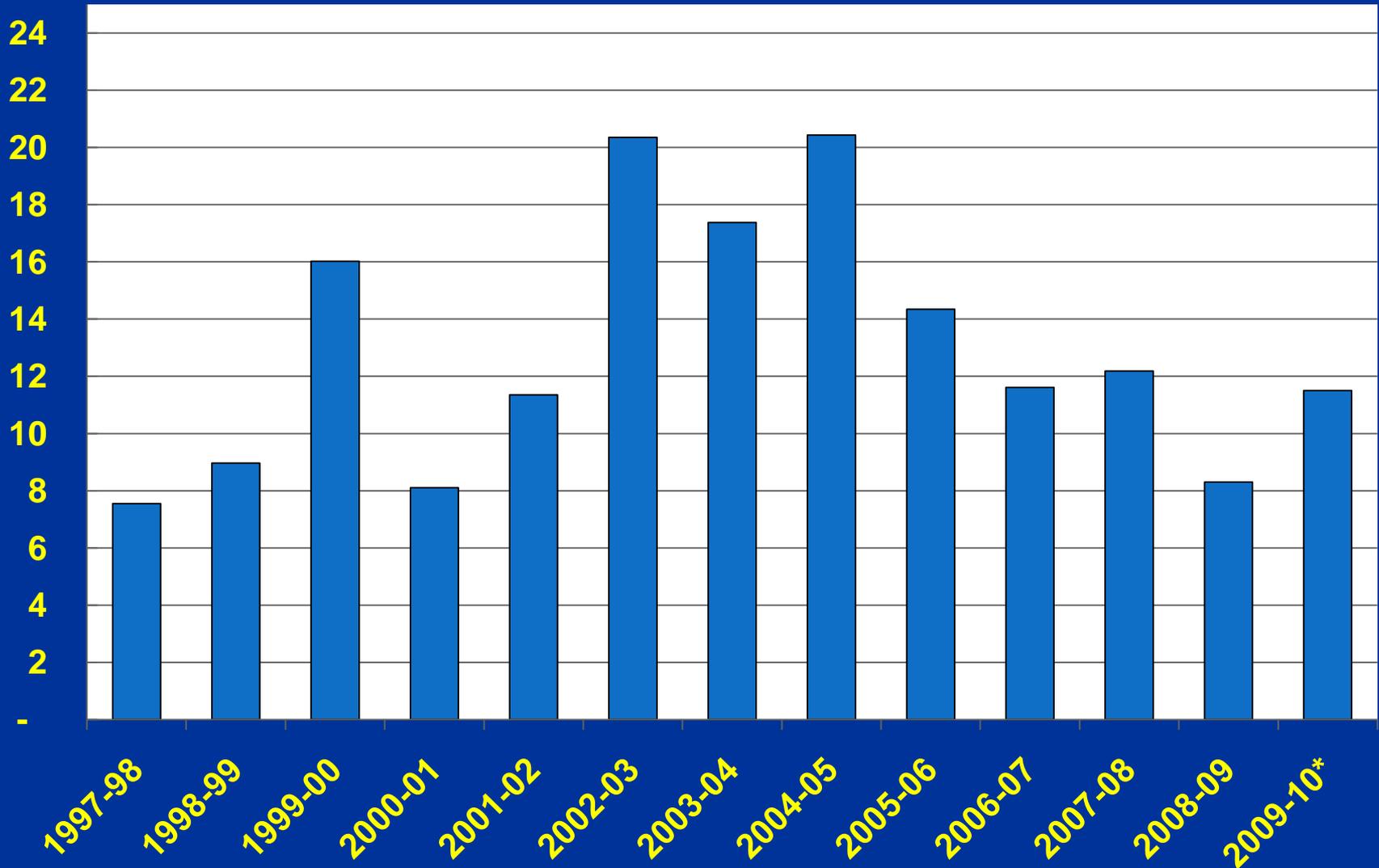
**Purpose:** This meeting has been scheduled to provide a review coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery management issues, the status of ongoing projects, and to discuss issues relative to the current and upcoming season

# Agenda

1. **2009-10 Coastal Dungeness Crab Season Update**
2. **Crab License Buyback – Disaster Declaration**
3. **Derelict Gear Recovery**
4. **Escape Mechanisms**
5. **NOAA “List of Fisheries “ with Marine Mammal Impacts**
6. **Logbooks**
7. **Summer Fishery Management Plan**
8. **State Season Opening Summary**
9. **Review of Two-Year Buoy Tag program**
10. **Other**

# Historical State Catch 1997 to present

Millions of Pounds



Preliminary Data

# 2009-2010 State and Tribal Catch thru Apr. 20

| Catch Area                             | State Landings    | % State    | Tribal landings  | % tribal   | Combined          |
|--|-------------------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 59A-1                                  | 242,991           | 47%        | 279,000          | 53%        | 521,991           |
| 59A-2                                  | 943,735           | 48%        | 1,016,544        | 52%        | 1,960,279         |
| 60A-1                                  | 2,055,379         | 49%        | 2,104,852        | 51%        | 4,160,231         |
| 60B                                    | 42,406            | 85%        | 7,474            | 15%        | 49,880            |
| <i>North of Pt. Chehalis sub-total</i> | <b>3,284,511</b>  | <b>49%</b> | <b>3,407,870</b> | <b>51%</b> | <b>6,692,381</b>  |
| 60A-2                                  | 5,541,793         |            |                  |            | 5,541,793         |
| 60C                                    | 594,137           |            |                  |            | 594,137           |
| 61                                     | 2,071,392         |            |                  |            | 2,071,392         |
| <i>South of Pt. Chehalis Sub-total</i> | <b>8,207,322</b>  |            |                  |            | <b>8,207,322</b>  |
| <b>Washington Total</b>                | <b>11,491,833</b> |            | <b>3,407,870</b> |            | <b>14,899,703</b> |

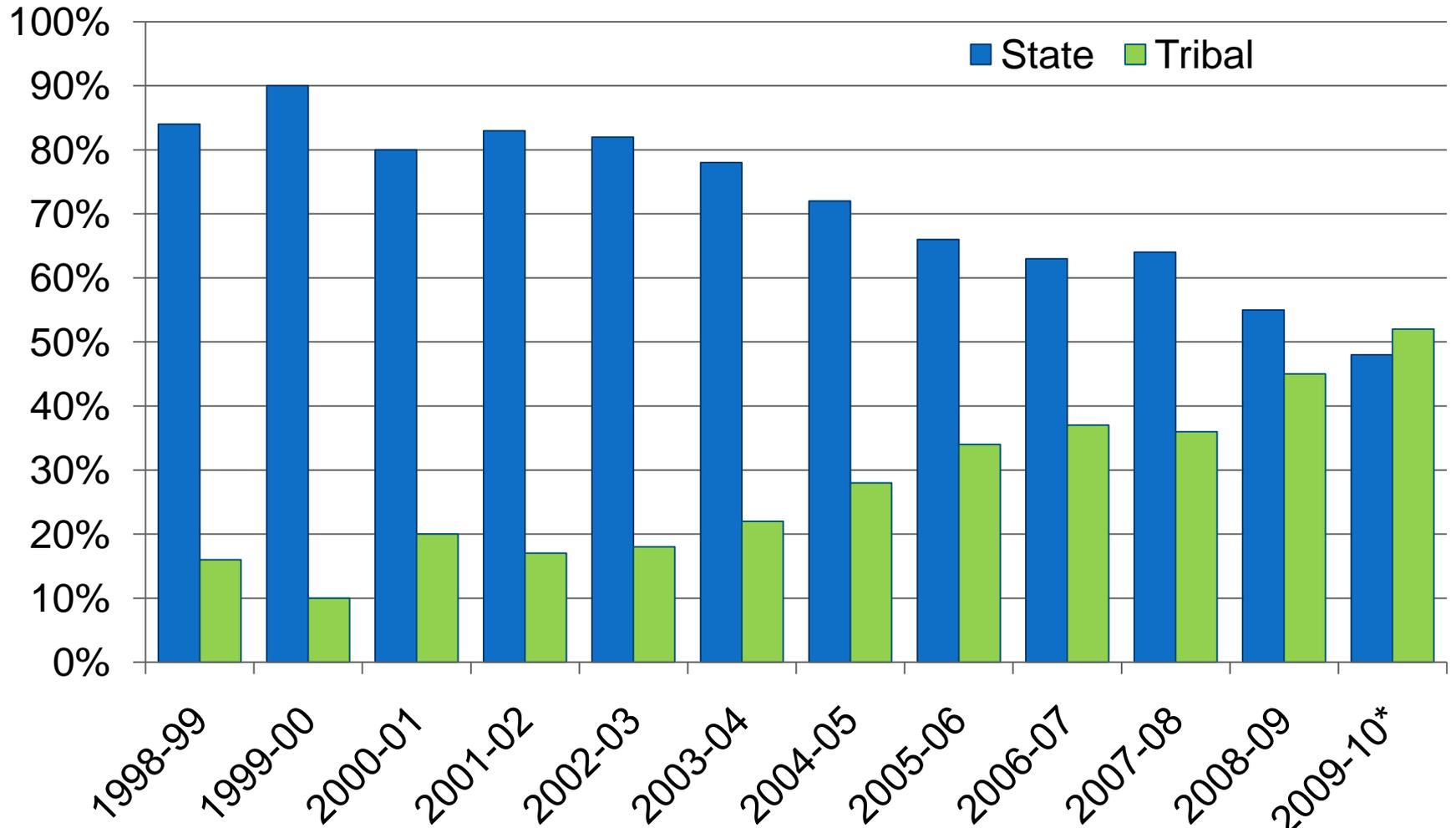
# 2008-2009 State and Tribal Catch – thru Apr. 20

| Catch Area                             | State Landings   | % State    | Tribal landings  | % tribal   | Combined         |
|--|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 59A-1                                  | 72,047           | 32%        | 151,887          | 68%        | 223,934          |
| 59A-2                                  | 332,194          | 41%        | 481,212          | 59%        | 813,406          |
| 60A-1                                  | 1,290,635        | 51%        | 1,254,566        | 49%        | 2,545,201        |
| 60B                                    | 64,834           | 100%       | 0                | 0%         | 35,270           |
| <i>North of Pt. Chehalis sub-total</i> | <b>1,730,146</b> | <b>48%</b> | <b>1,887,665</b> | <b>52%</b> | <b>3,617,811</b> |
| 60A-2                                  | 3,555,889        |            | -                | -          | 3,555,889        |
| 60C                                    | 451,428          |            | -                | -          | 451,428          |
| 61                                     | 1,178,770        |            | -                | -          | 1,178,770        |
| <i>South of Pt. Chehalis Sub-total</i> | <b>5,186,087</b> |            |                  |            | <b>5,186,087</b> |
| <b>Washington Total</b>                | <b>6,916,233</b> |            | <b>1,887,665</b> |            | <b>8,803,898</b> |

# 2008-2009 State and Tribal Catch – season final

| Catch Area                             | State Landings   | % State    | Tribal landings  | % tribal   | Combined          |
|--|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 59A-1                                  | 144,825          | 49%        | 151,887          | 51%        | 296,712           |
| 59A-2                                  | 518,945          | 50%        | 512,763          | 50%        | 1,031,708         |
| 60A-1                                  | 1,702,577        | 56%        | 1,347,022        | 44%        | 3,049,599         |
| 60B                                    | 64,834           | 100%       | 0                | 0%         | 64,834            |
| <i>North of Pt. Chehalis sub-total</i> | <b>2,431,181</b> | <b>55%</b> | <b>2,011,672</b> | <b>45%</b> | <b>4,442,853</b>  |
| 60A-2                                  | 4,169,146        |            | -                | -          | 4,169,146         |
| 60C                                    | 479,537          |            | -                | -          | 479,537           |
| 61                                     | 1,202,773        |            | -                | -          | 1,202,773         |
| <i>South of Pt. Chehalis Sub-total</i> | <b>5,851,456</b> |            |                  |            | <b>5,851,456</b>  |
| <b>Washington Total</b>                | <b>8,282,637</b> |            | <b>2,011,672</b> |            | <b>10,294,309</b> |

# State-Tribal Catch Sharing North of Pt. Chehalis



\* Preliminary Data

# Coastal Crab License Buyback

- **Fishery Disaster Declaration**
  - **Management measures to implement sharing requirements have resulted in significant loss of time and area for state fishers**
  - **Resulting from man-made causes --judicial decision by Judge Rafeedie**
  - **Loss of time and area has resulted in reduced revenues and significant economic impact**

# Stray and Abandoned Crab Pot Recovery

- **WDFW Permitted Crab Pot Recovery Program- Implemented in fall 2009**
  - **Permits allow state licensed crab fishermen to recover crab pots left in the ocean beginning 15 days after the close of the regular season**
  - **Exempts those that are lawfully participating in the program from complying with lost and found property laws so they can keep recovered pots**
  - **Ability to apply for exemption**
  - **RESULTS: In 2009 a total of 10 permits were issued and 381 pots were recovered**

# Stray and Abandoned Crab Pot Recovery

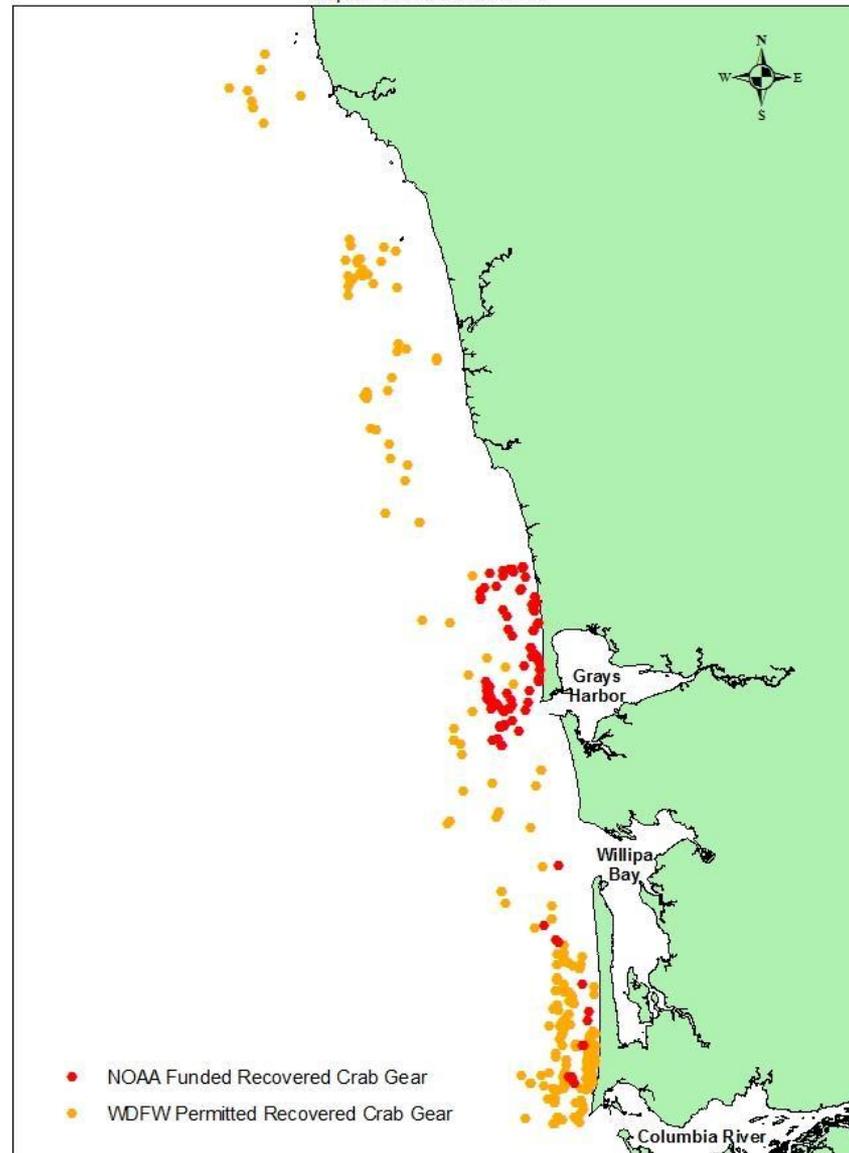
- **NOAA Funded Program through August 2011**
  - **Assess the amount of derelict gear in two specific locations (Grays Harbor and Columbia River)**
  - **Federal funds allow WDFW to hire commercial vessels to recover lost and abandoned crab gear**
  - **RESULTS: Two commercial vessels were hired and a total of 138 pots were recovered, 132 pots were returned to their owners.**

# Stray and Abandoned Crab Pot Recovery

- **Plans for 2010**
  - **Allow WDFW permitted removal at end of 2009-10 season**
  - **Conduct area study with NOAA funds in fall of 2010 and spring of 2011**
  - **Possibly coordinate additional work with ODFW involving ROV under NOAA project**

# NOAA And State Recovered Crab Gear

September/October 2009



# Rule Clarification- Rotten Cotton

WAC 220-52-035

Commercial shellfish pot gear — Escape mechanism required.

It is unlawful to fish for or possess crab, shrimp, or crawfish taken for commercial purposes with shellfish pot gear unless the gear allows for escapement using at least one of the following methods:

(1) Attachment of pot lid hooks or tie down straps with a single strand or loop of untreated cotton twine or other natural fiber no larger than thread size 120 so that the pot lid will open freely if the twine or fiber is broken.

(2) An opening in the pot mesh no less than three inches by five inches which is laced or sewn closed with [ ADD: single strand of] untreated cotton twine or other natural fiber no larger than thread size 120. The opening must be located within the top half of the pot and be unimpeded by the entry tunnels, bait boxes, or any other structures or materials.

# Double Strand of Cotton



# Single Strand of Cotton



# NMFS -List of Fisheries (LOF)

- **The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires NMFS to place all US commercial fisheries into one of three categories based on the level of serious injury and mortality of marine mammals occurring within each fishery**
- **The classification of a fishery on the List of Fisheries (LOF) determines whether participants in that fishery may be required to comply with certain provisions of the MMPA, such as registration, observer coverage and take reduction plan requirements.**

# NMFS - LOF

- **NMFS reexamines the LOF annually and considers new information in the Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports and other relevant sources.**
- **CA and OR crab pot fisheries were upgraded to category II in 2009.**
- **WA avoided upgrade due to no sightings of whales entangled in pot gear and other factors like logbook requirements and significant time on the water by WDFW staff**

# NMFS-LOF

- Two humpback whales entangled with WA crab gear were sighted off Tofino BC in 2008.
- Based on these sightings NMFS will likely recommend that the WA crab fishery be upgraded to Cat. II



# Logbook Program – Why?

**Confirm where fishing activity occurs:**

- **State-Tribal Management**
  - **Catch and Effort**
- **Ocean Resources/ Spatial Planning**
  - **Wind and wave energy projects**
- **Respond to Requests from Other Agencies**
  - **NOAA Marine Mammal Program**

**Tracking lost gear:**

- **Avoid more stringent restrictions**
- **Able to locate concentrations of lost gear to better utilize recovery activities.**

# Washington Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Logbook



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

Vessel \_\_\_\_\_ Crab License # \_\_\_\_\_ Port \_\_\_\_\_  
 Federal # \_\_\_\_\_ Landing Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fish Ticket # \_\_\_\_\_ Fish Ticket # \_\_\_\_\_

| Date | String # | Depth (fm) | Pots Fished | Pots Lost | Soak Time (days) |       | Latitude | Longitude | Number of Crab Retained | Logbook Catch Area | Bait |
|------|----------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|------|
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Under penalty of perjury, I certify that the information contained herein is true and complete.*

Lost Gear Recovered: \_\_\_\_\_

# Washington Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Logbook

Vessel My Crabber II

Crab License # 58123

Port Westport

Federal # 123654

Landing Date 5/3/2010

Fish Ticket # Y123987

Fish Ticket # Y123988



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

| Date | String # | Depth (fm) | Pots Fished | Pots Lost | Soak Time (days) |       | Latitude | Longitude | Number of Crab Retained | Logbook Catch Area | Bait |
|------|----------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|------|
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | Begin |          |           |                         |                    |      |
|      |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |          |           |                         |                    |      |

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**FISH and WILDLIFE**

| Date    | String # | Depth (fm) | Pots Fished | Pots Lost | Soak Time (days) |       | Latitude  | Longitude  | Number of Crab Retained | Logbook Catch Area | <del>Bait</del> |
|---------|----------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 4/25/10 | 1        | 21         | 65          |           | 3                | Begin | 46 15.253 | 124 08.125 | 137                     | 6                  |                 |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 18.100    | 08.996     |                         |                    |                 |
| 4/25/10 | 2        | 19         | 66          |           | 3                | Begin | 20.103    | 09.568     | 232                     | 6                  |                 |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 22.896    | 10.889     |                         |                    |                 |
| 4/25/10 | 3        | 25         | 35          | 3         | 3                | Begin | 23.255    | 09.123     | 100                     | 6                  |                 |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 25.998    | 09.871     |                         |                    |                 |
| 4/26/10 | 4        | 22         | 54          |           | 2                | Begin | 30.100    | 08.147     | 92                      | 6                  |                 |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 34.753    | 09.525     |                         |                    |                 |
| 4/26/10 | 5        | 21         | 52          |           | 2                | Begin | 20.000    | 13.890     | 200                     | 6                  |                 |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 22.821    | 14.000     |                         |                    |                 |
| 4/27/10 | 6        | 18         | 63          |           | 2                | Begin | 25.696    | 12.448     | 166                     | 6                  |                 |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 28.901    | 12.990     |                         |                    |                 |
| 4/28/10 | 7        | 20         | 40          |           | 3                | Begin | 33.144    | 15.476     | 147                     | 6                  |                 |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 32.015    | 16.115     |                         |                    |                 |
| 4/28/10 | 8        | 18         | 55          |           | 3                | Begin | 29.586    | 14.441     | 121                     | 6                  |                 |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 32.117    | 15.663     |                         |                    |                 |

NOTES:

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Lost Gear Recovered:

# Washington Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Logbook

Vessel My Crabber II

Crab License # 58123

Port Westport

Federal # 123654

Landing Date 5/30/2010

Fish Ticket # \_\_\_\_\_

Fish Ticket # Y124000



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

| Date    | String # | Depth (fm) | Pots Fished | Pots Lost | Soak Time (days) |       | Latitude  | Longitude  | Number of Crab Retained | Logbook Catch Area | Bait |
|---------|----------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------|
| 5/25/10 | 4        |            | 65          |           | 5                | Begin |           |            | 120                     |                    |      |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |           |            |                         |                    |      |
| 5/25/10 | 5        |            | 66          |           | 5                | Begin |           |            | 158                     |                    |      |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |           |            |                         |                    |      |
| 5/25/10 | 6        |            | 35          |           | 5                | Begin |           |            | 105                     |                    |      |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |           |            |                         |                    |      |
| 5/26/10 | 1        |            | 54          |           | 4                | Begin |           |            | 105                     |                    |      |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |           |            |                         |                    |      |
| 5/26/10 | 2        |            | 50          | 2         | 4                | Begin |           |            | 161                     |                    |      |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |           |            |                         |                    |      |
| 5/27/10 | 9        | 21         | 63          |           | 2                | Begin | 46 29.005 | 124 10.112 | 137                     | 6                  |      |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 33.223    | 10.808     |                         |                    |      |
| 5/28/10 | 10       | 20         | 40          |           | 2                | Begin | 31.781    | 12.111     | 147                     | 6                  |      |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   | 32.993    | 13.673     |                         |                    |      |
| 5/28/10 | 3        |            | 55          |           | 5                | Begin |           |            | 121                     |                    |      |
|         |          |            |             |           |                  | End   |           |            |                         |                    |      |



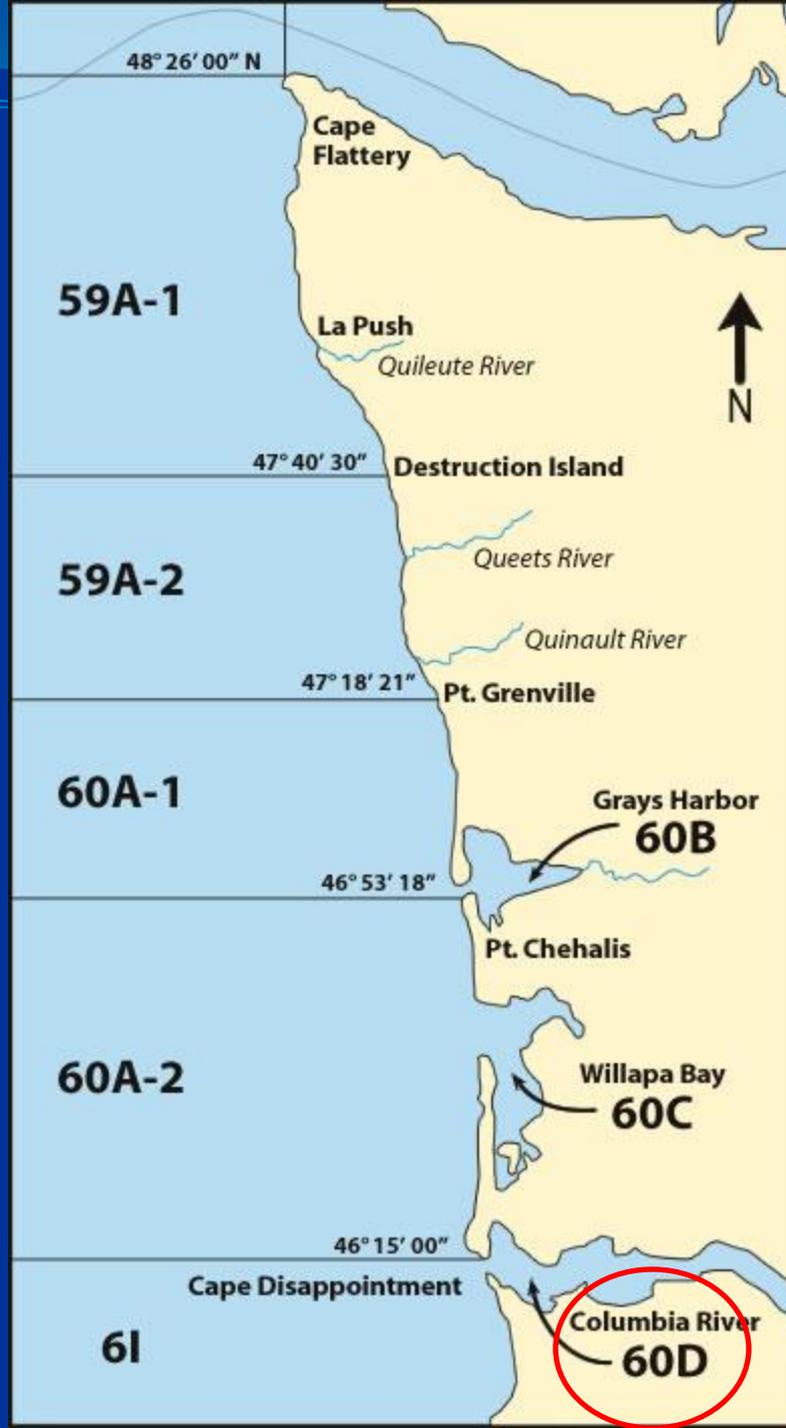
NOTES: Moved sets 7 and 8

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Under penalty of perjury, I certify that the information contained herein is true and complete.*

Lost Gear Recovered:

# Fish Ticket Catch Areas



# 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

- **Summer 2009**
- **Shipboard samples did not indicate softshell issues or a need to implement trip limit**
- **Dock side samples showed some softshelled crab**
- **There were deliveries at one or two buying facilities with significant volumes of softshelled crab**
- **WDFW decided to continue monitoring fishery on shipboard trips and with cannery samples and not to implement trip limit.**
- **In late August significant volumes of crab were being delivered some deliveries showed good crab quality while others were very poor.**

# Summer Fishery Management

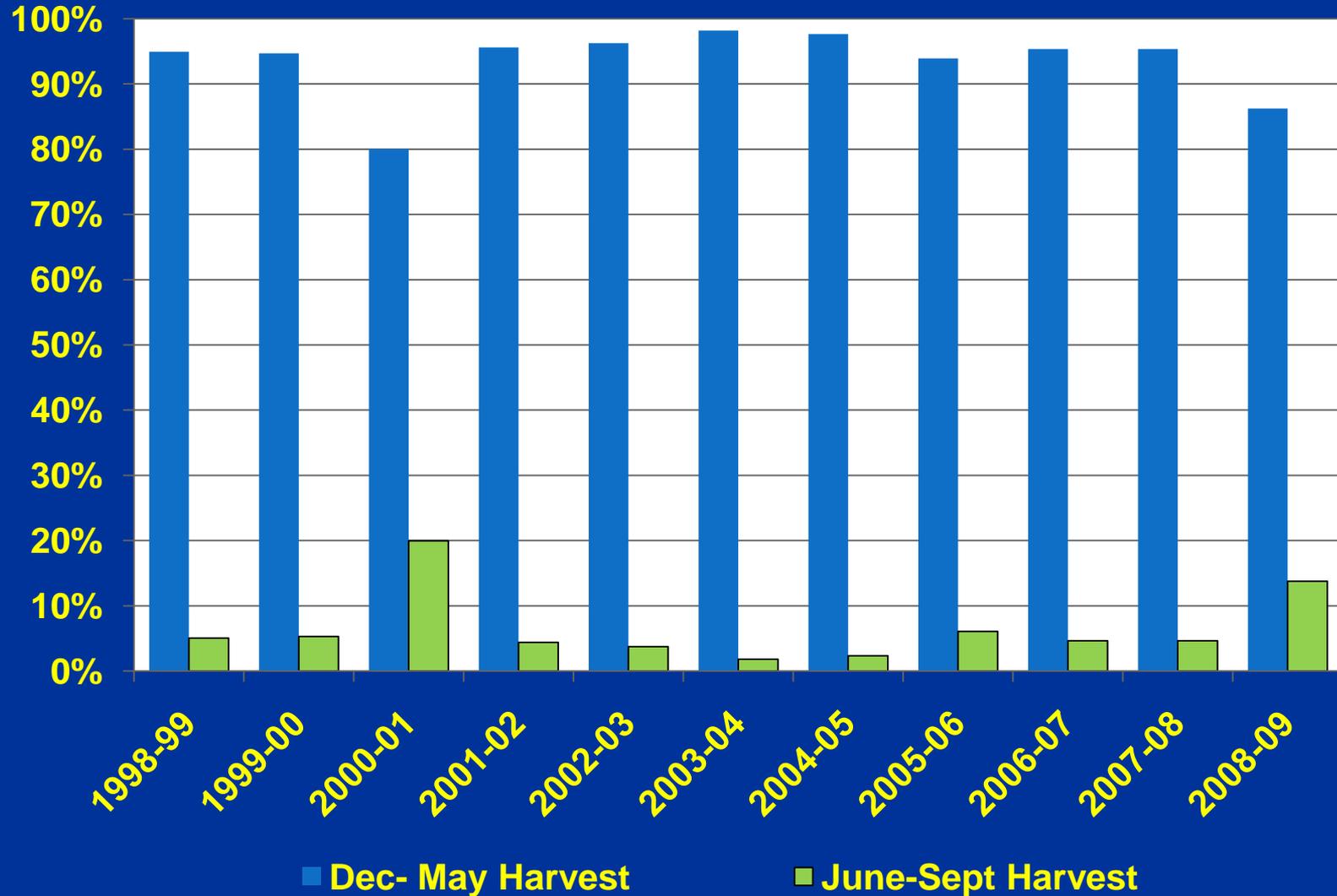
- Dockside crab condition testing showed significant quantities of softshelled crab and a weekly landing limit of 2,500 pounds was implemented on September 1.
- WDFW immediately modified the landing limit to 4,500 pounds per week in recognition of the fact that only two weeks remained in the season and landings are typically larger as crabbers bring pots in at the end of the season

# Summer Fishery Management

- **WDFW will continue to use the summer fishery management plan guidelines to address softshelled crab before the end of the season**
- **The guidelines will be modified to include dockside samples information as an additional data source to inform the decision to implement a weekly landing limit**
- **Other alternative**
  - **Weekly landing limit implemented on a specific date such as August 1, regardless of shell condition, similar to Oregon's rules. Would not require shipboard sampling**

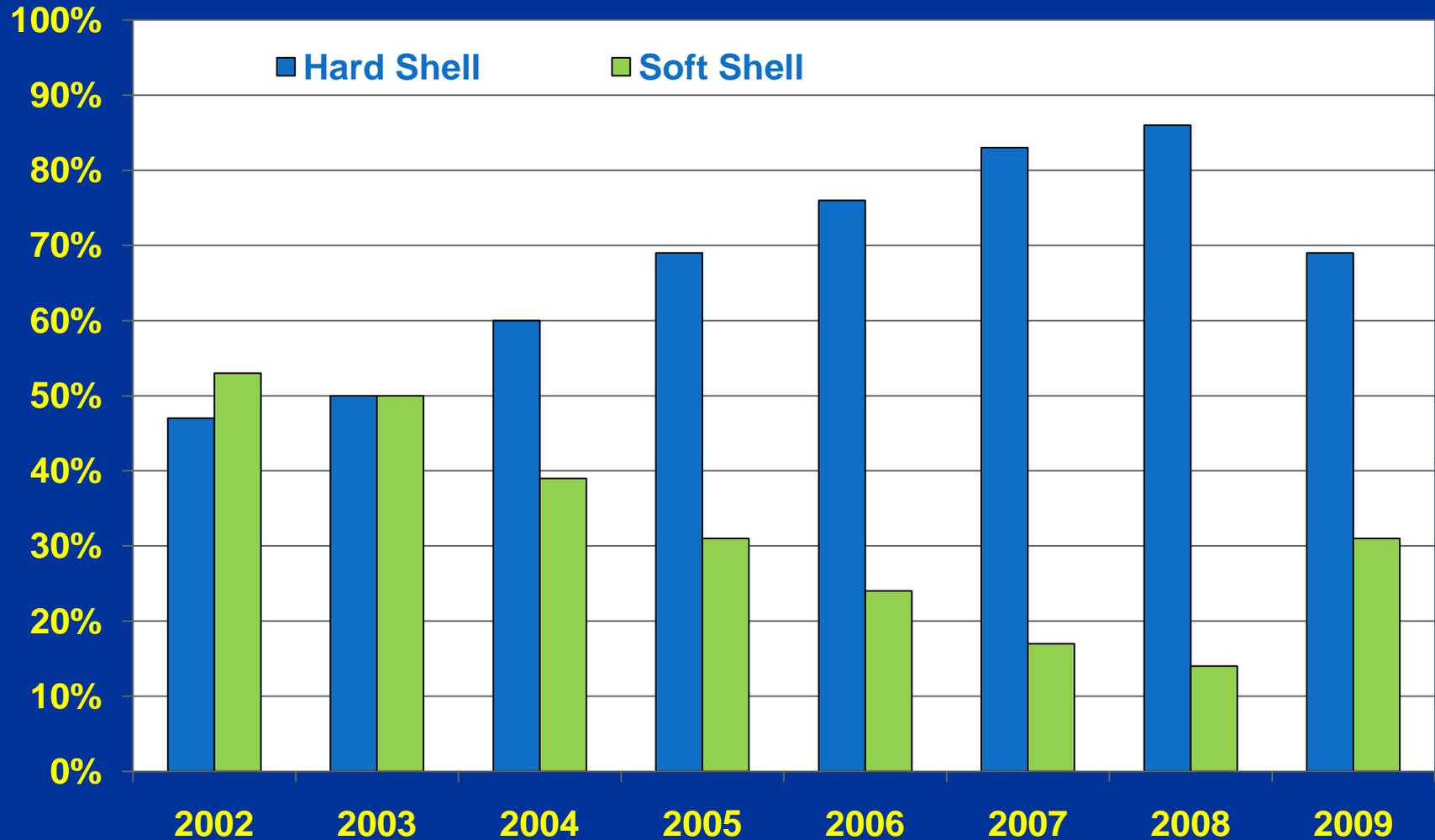
# Summer Fishery Management

% of catch taken in winter vs. summer by season



# Summer Fishery Data

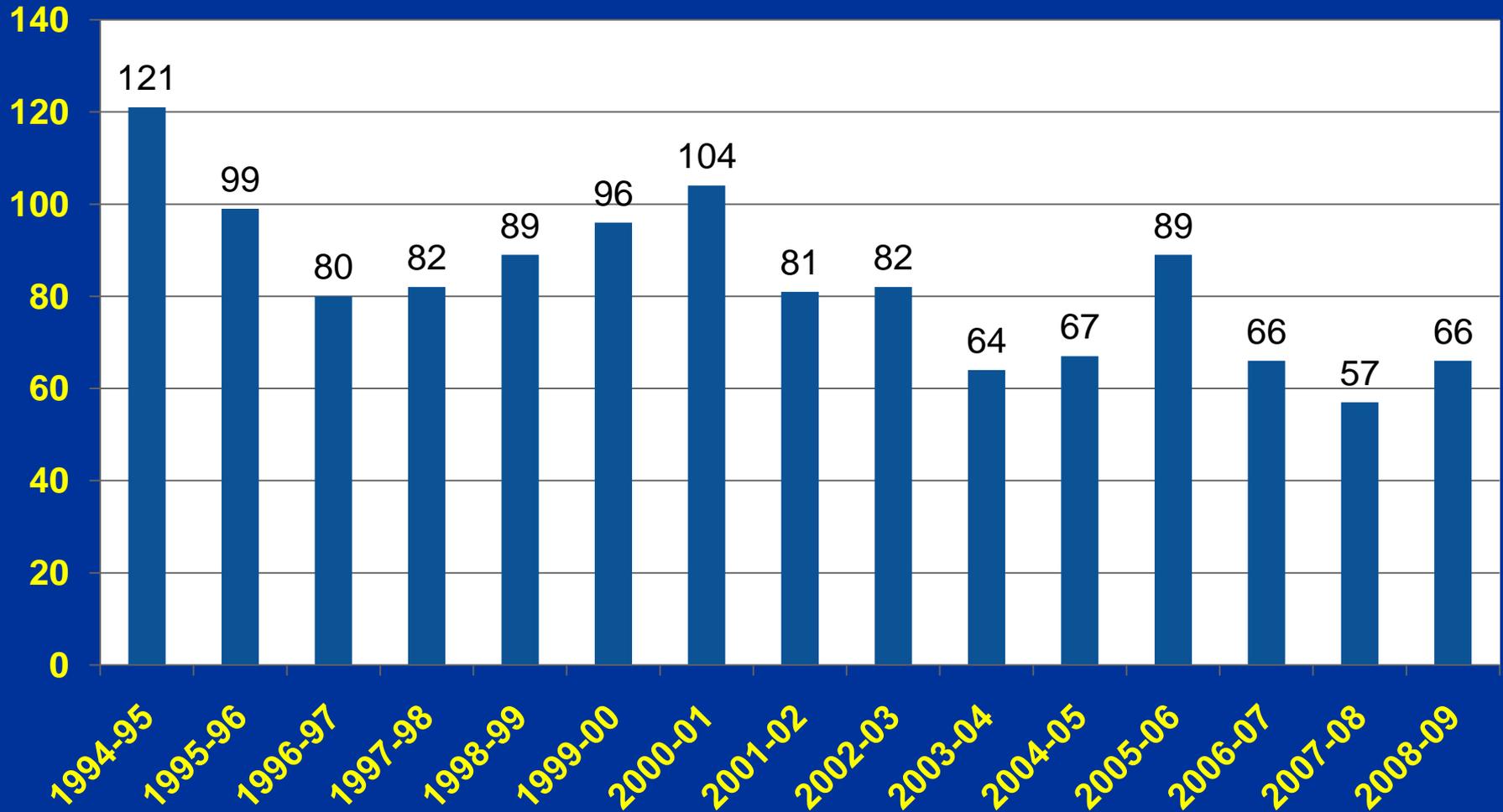
Comparison of soft vs. hard shelled crab sampled\*



\* all shipboard data

# Summer Fishery Data

## Number of Boats Fishing During Summer Period by Season



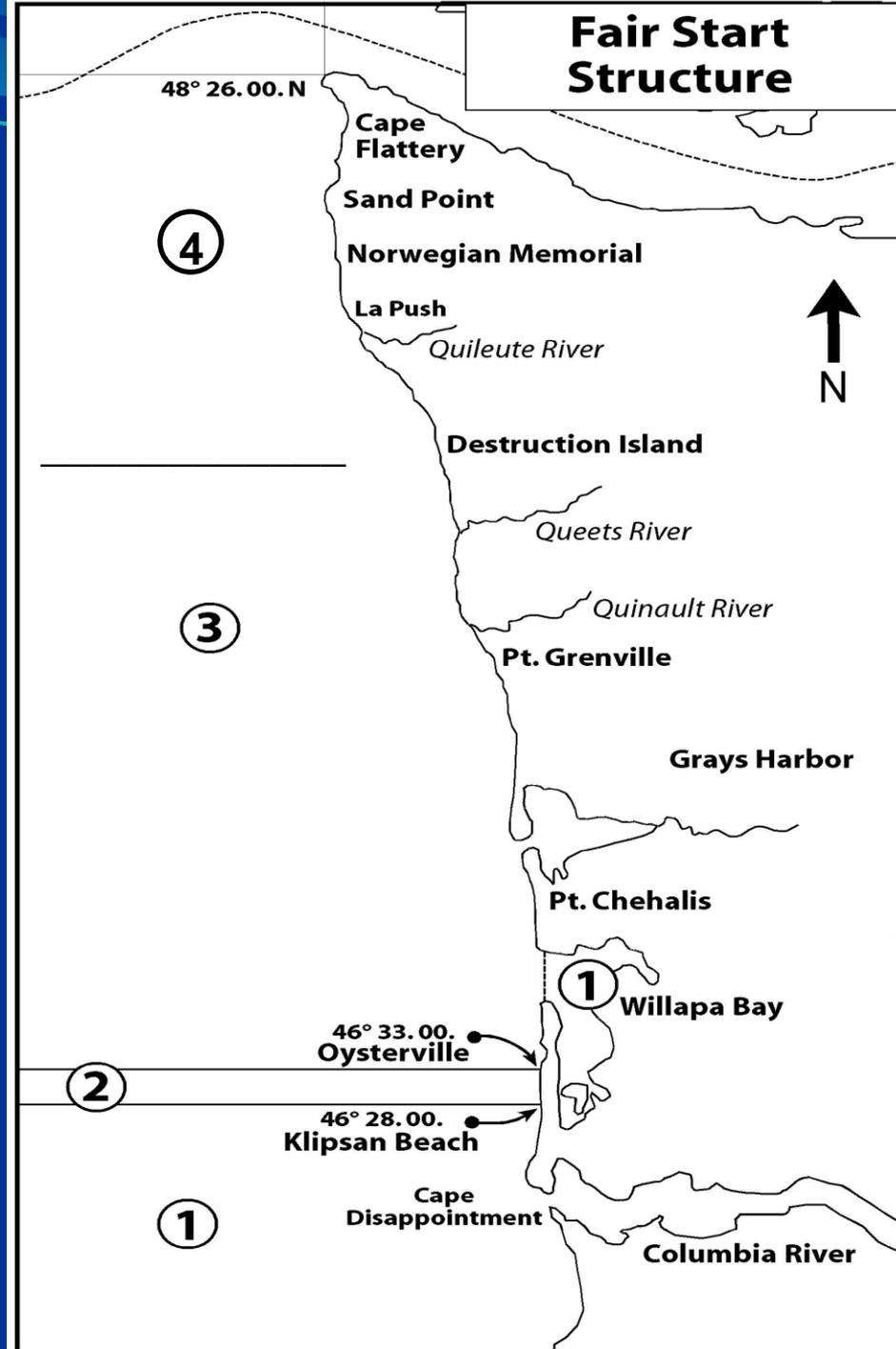
# 2009-10 State Season Opening

- 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.

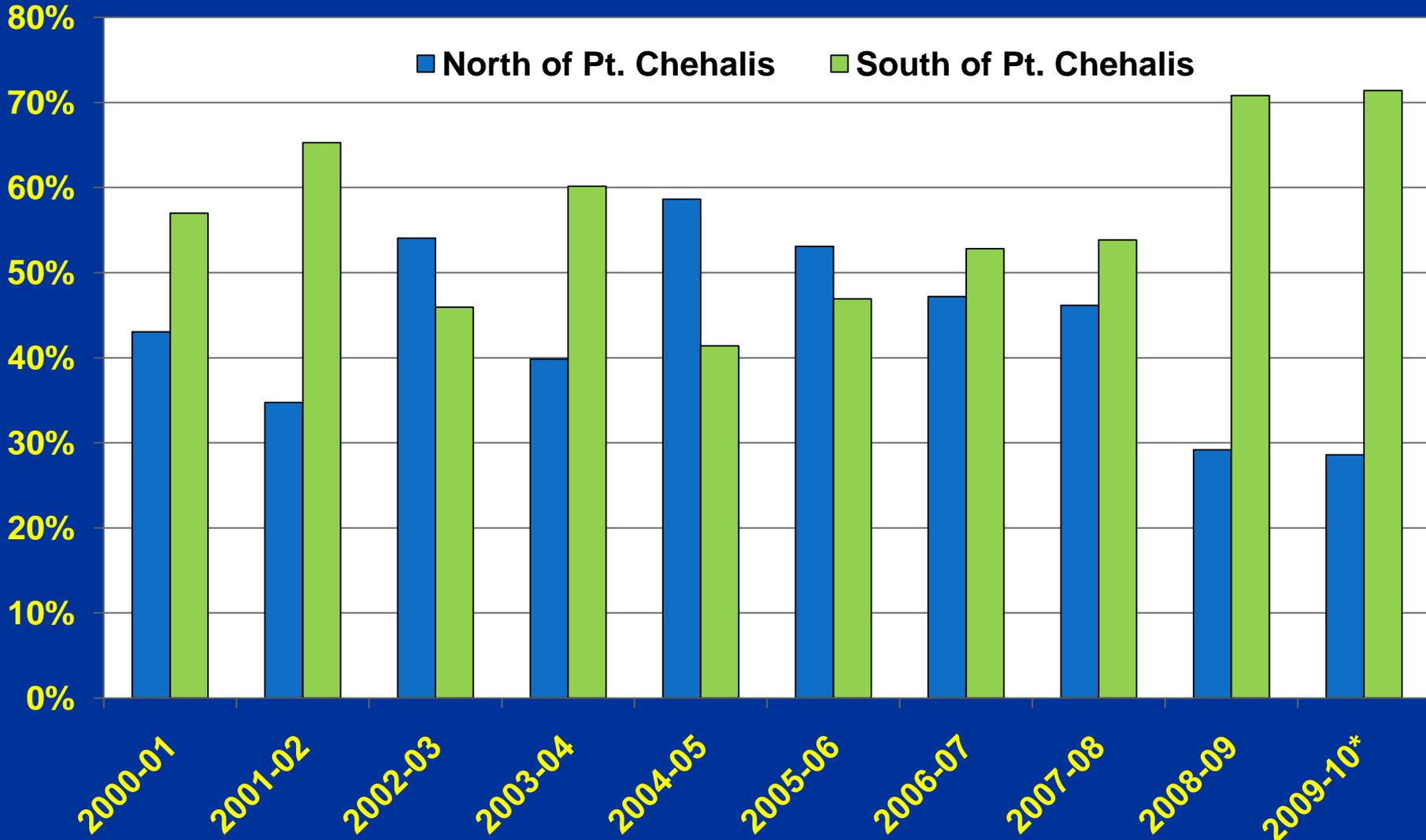
# Fair Start Areas



# Fair Start Structure

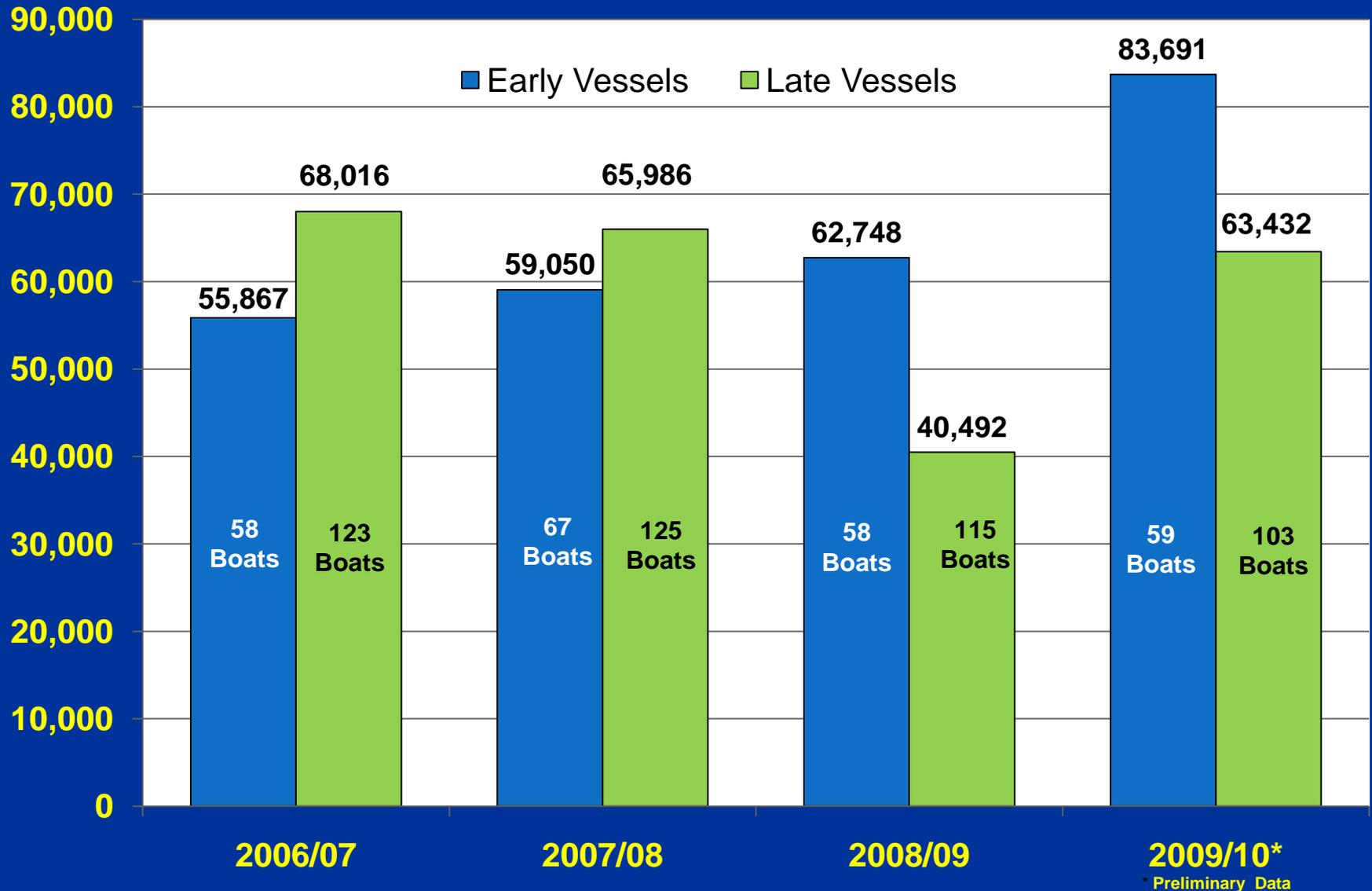
| 2006 Area | 2006 Open | 2006 Delay |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Area 1    | Dec 1     |            |
| Area 2    | Jan 8     | 10 days    |
| Area 3    | Jan 8     | 30 days    |
| Area 4    | Jan 16    | 18 days    |
| 2007 Area | 2007 Open | 2007 Delay |
| Area 1    | Dec 1     |            |
| 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    |
| 2009 Area | 2009 Open | 2009 Delay |
| Area 1    | Dec 1     |            |
| Area 2    | Jan. 2    | 10 days    |
| Area 3    | Jan. 2    | 35 days    |
| Area 4    | Jan 15    | 20 days    |

# Catch Sharing North & South of Pt. Chehalis

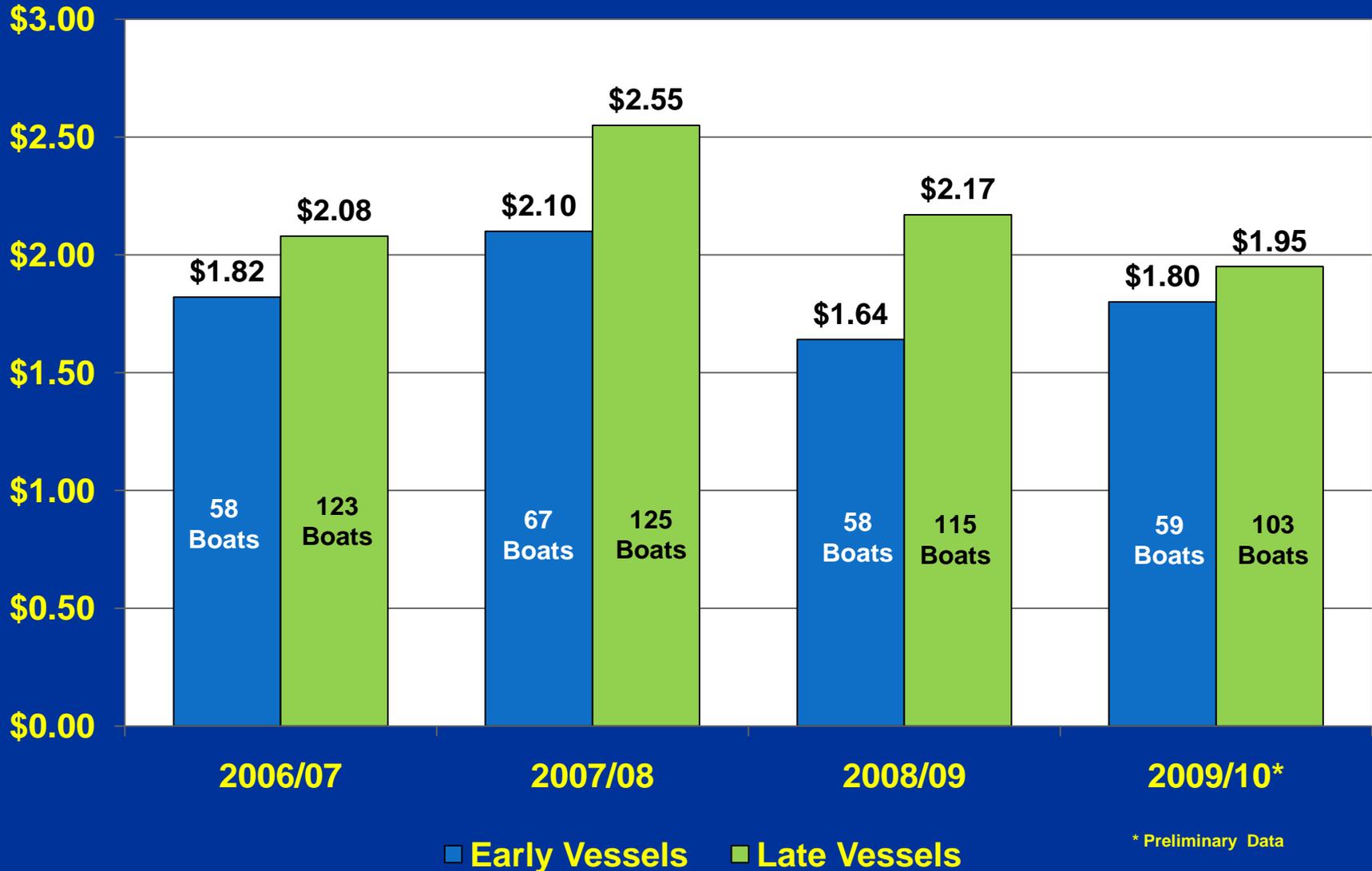


\* Preliminary Data

# Avg. Ibs Landed by Early /Late Boats

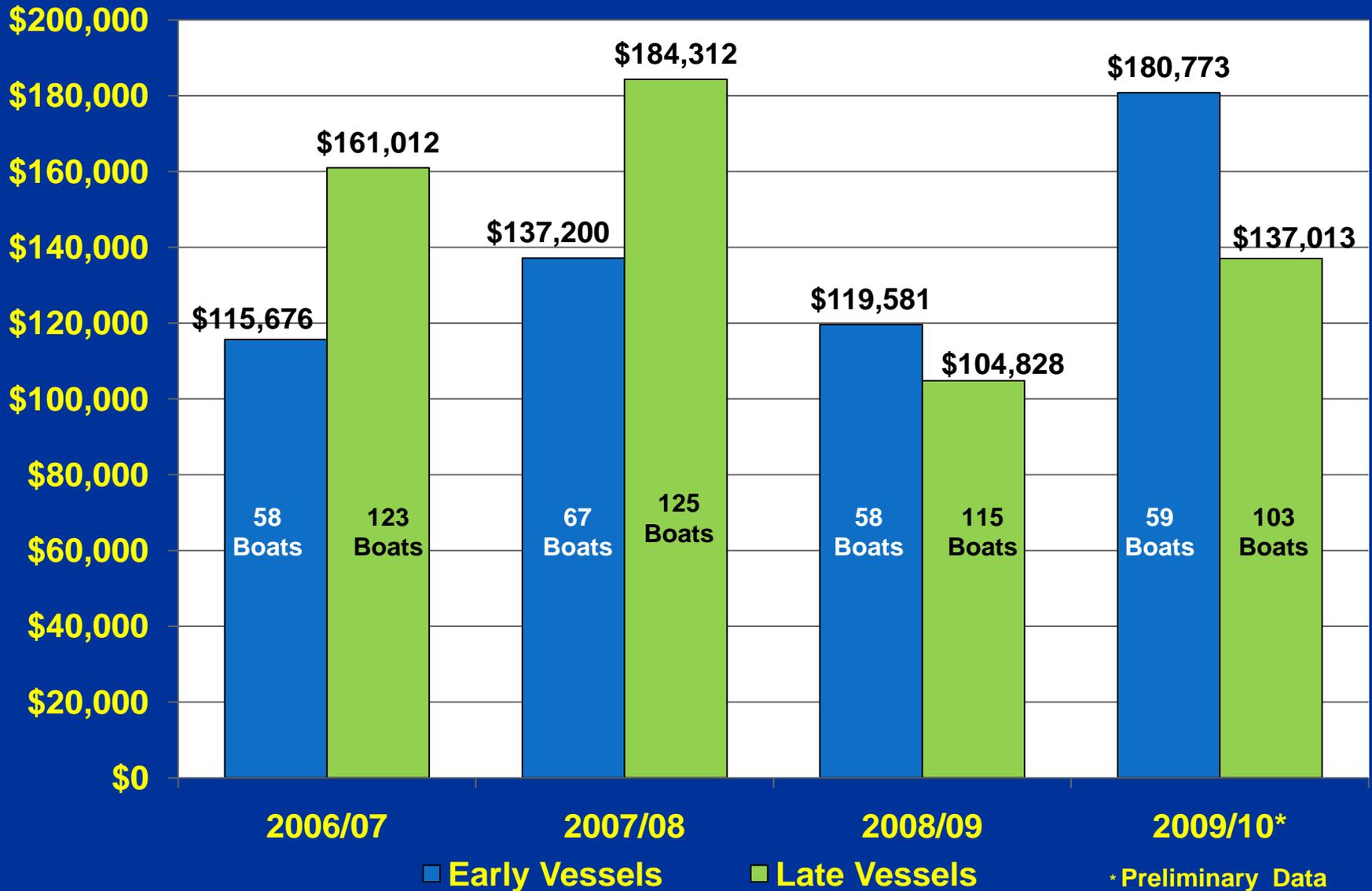


# Avg. Season Opening Price Per Pound Early /Late Boats (1<sup>st</sup> 30 days)



\* Preliminary Data

# Avg. Value Per Boat Per Season Late/Early



# 2-Year Buoy Tag

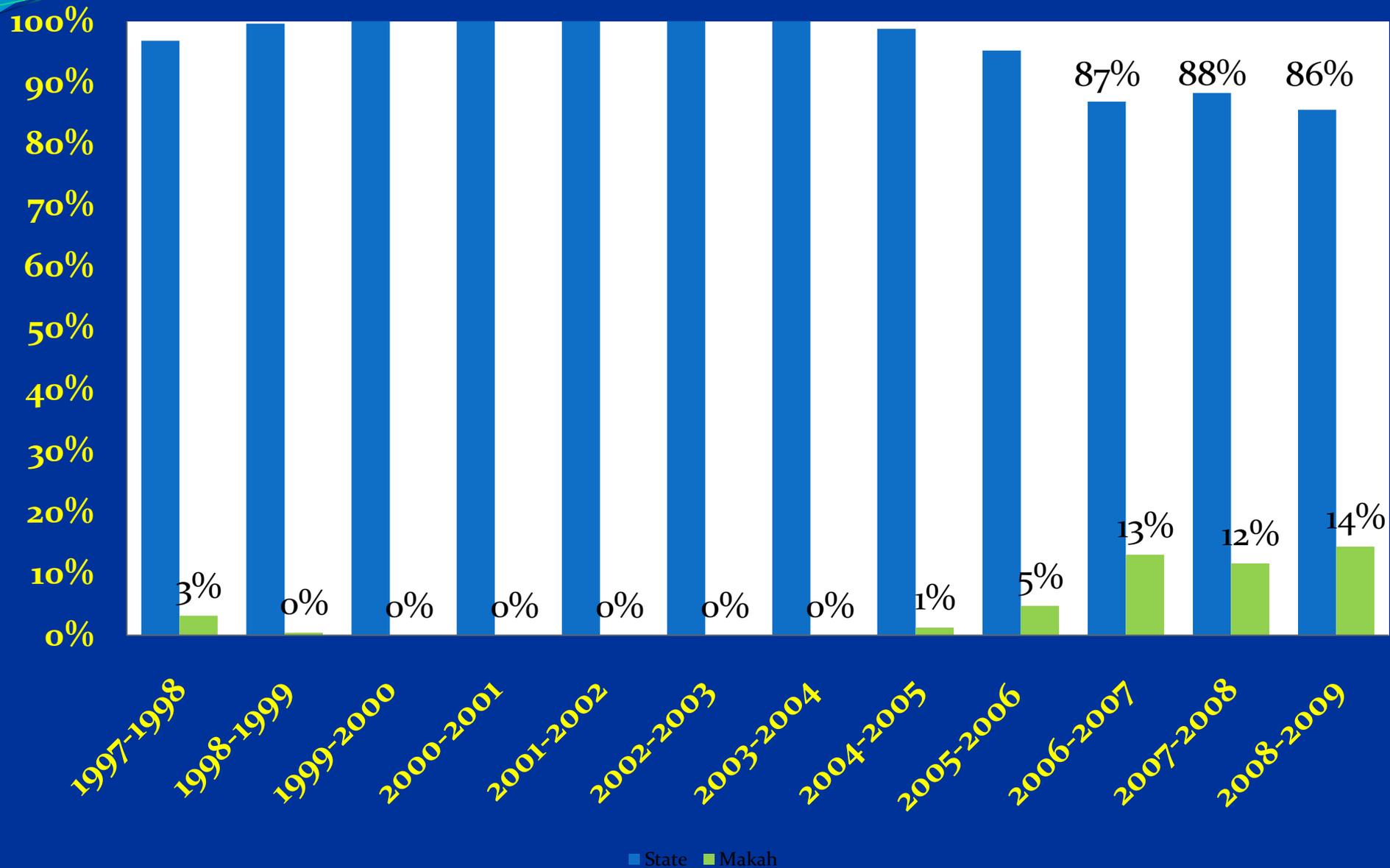
- The green tags issued to start the 2009/10 season are valid for two seasons (through 2010/2011).
- The yellow replacement tags issued for the 2009/2010 are NOT valid for the 2010/2011 season.
- For the start of the 2010/2011 season valid tags are the green tags originally issued to start the 2009/10 season and orange 2<sup>nd</sup> year tags.
- You will need to document your lost green tag numbers and then purchase the number of orange tags needed to bring you up to your pot limit - replacement tags cost \$1.25 each.

# Discussion/other

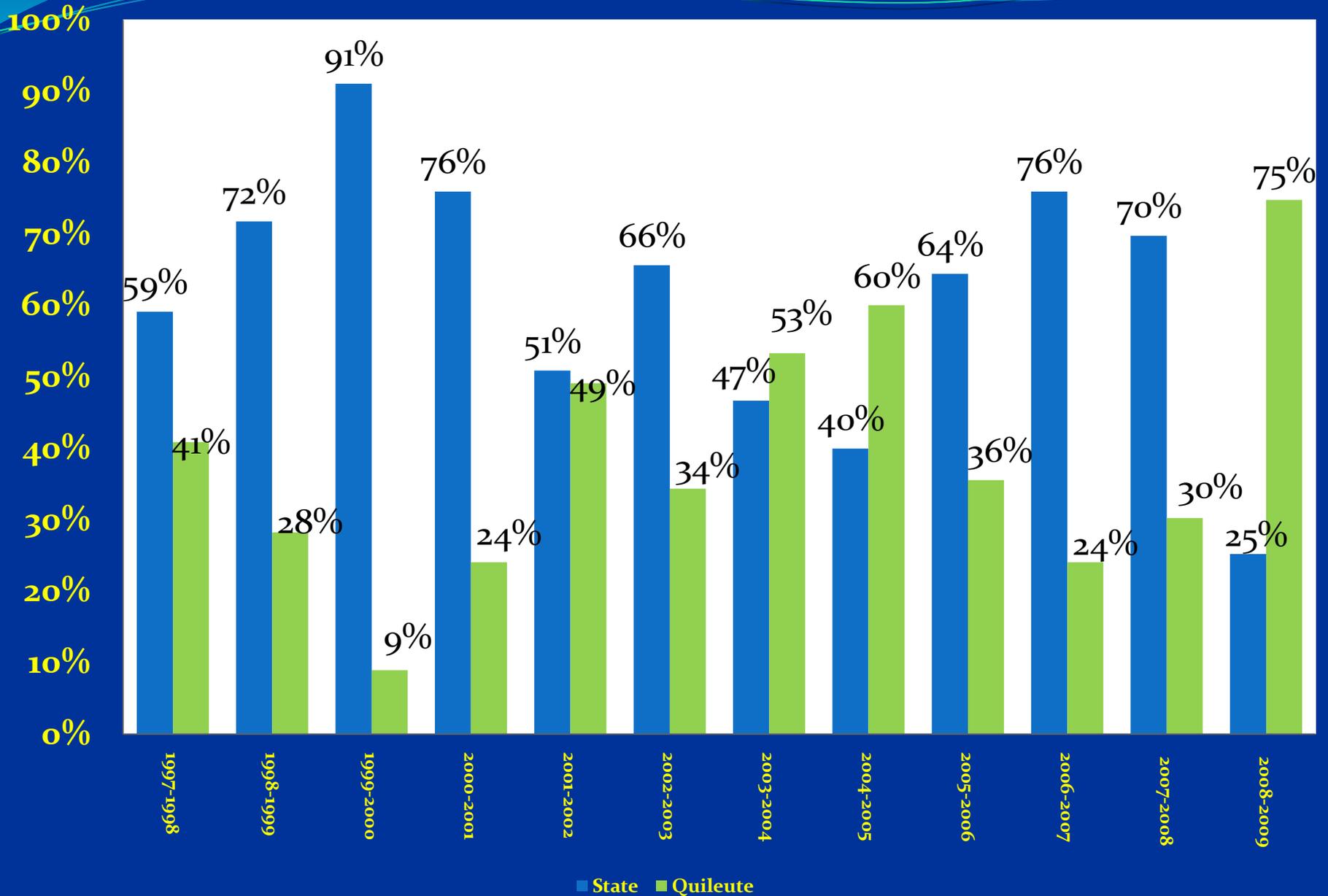
- **2010-2011 Crab Season**
- **Gear Theft Issues**
- **California Dungeness Crab Task Force**
  - **California Dungeness crab Task Force (DCTF) made their final recommendations to the CA Legislature**
  - **Their recommendations include a tiered pot limit program based on California crab landings from Nov 15, 2003 – July 15, 2008**
  - **The Legislature must approve the recommendations, no changes likely for the 2010-11 season**

**Extra slides**

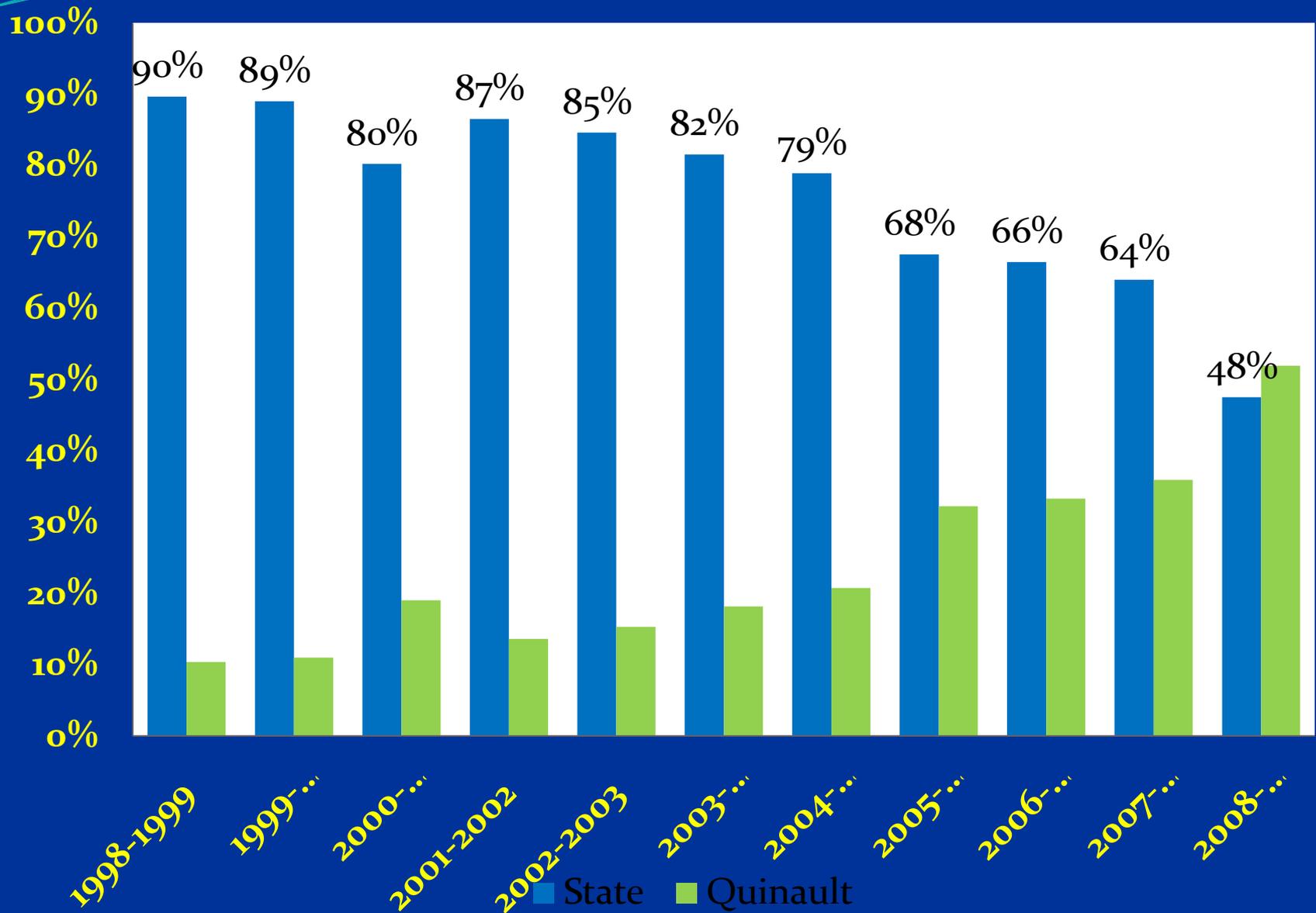
# Catch Sharing: State/Makah



# Catch Sharing: State/Quileute

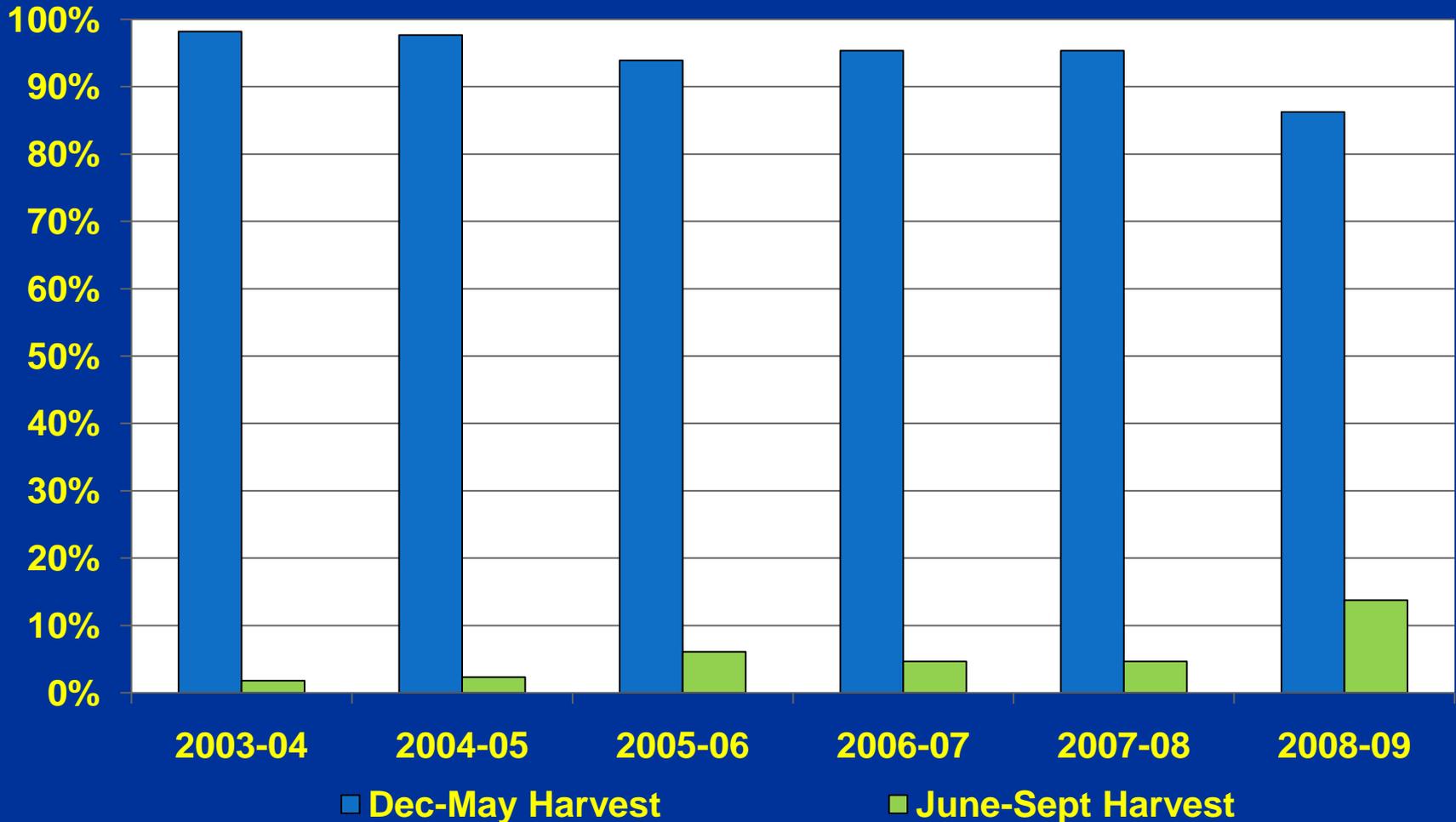


# Catch Sharing: State/Quinault

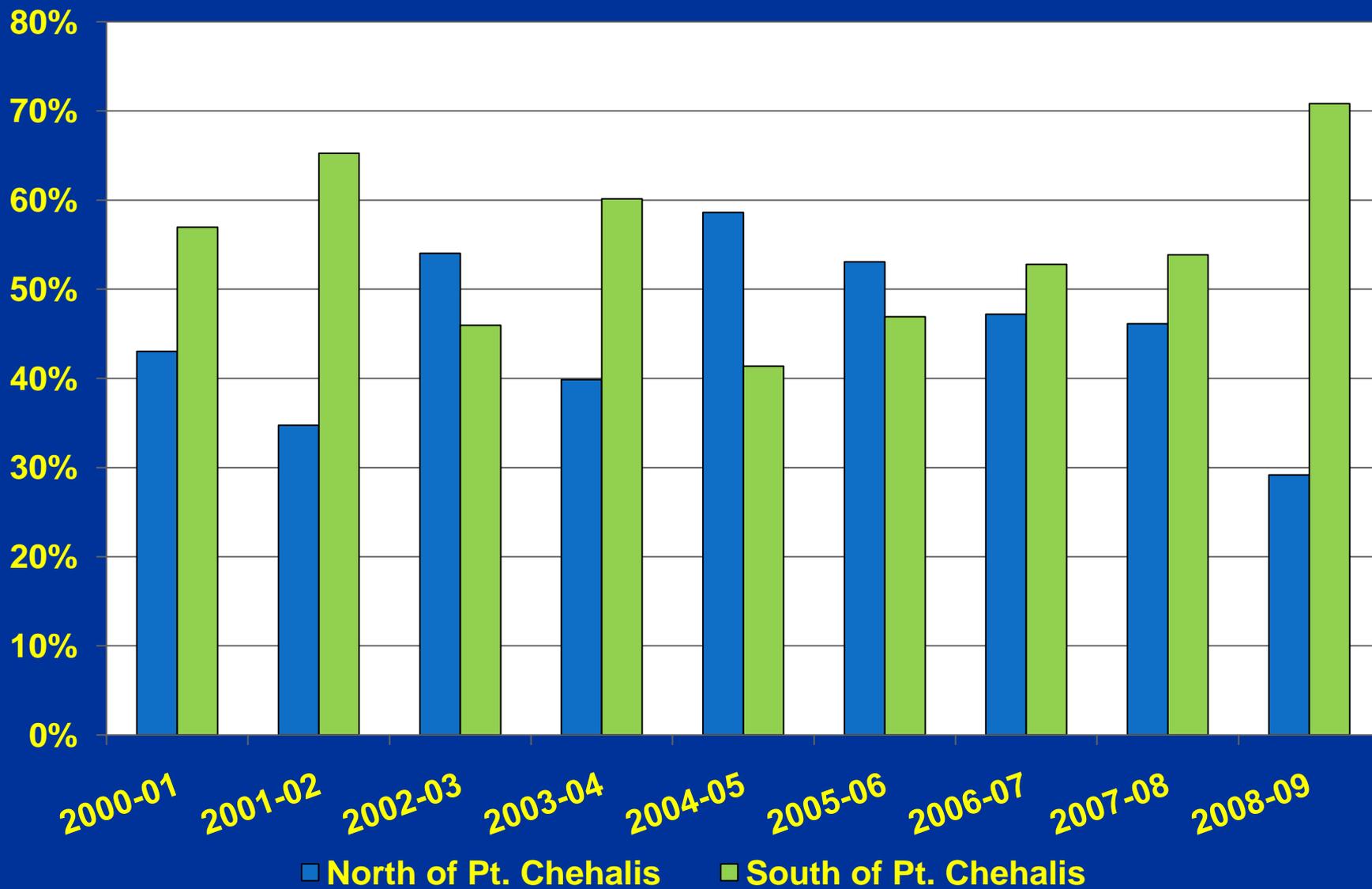


# Summer Fishery Management

% of catch taken in winter vs. summer by season

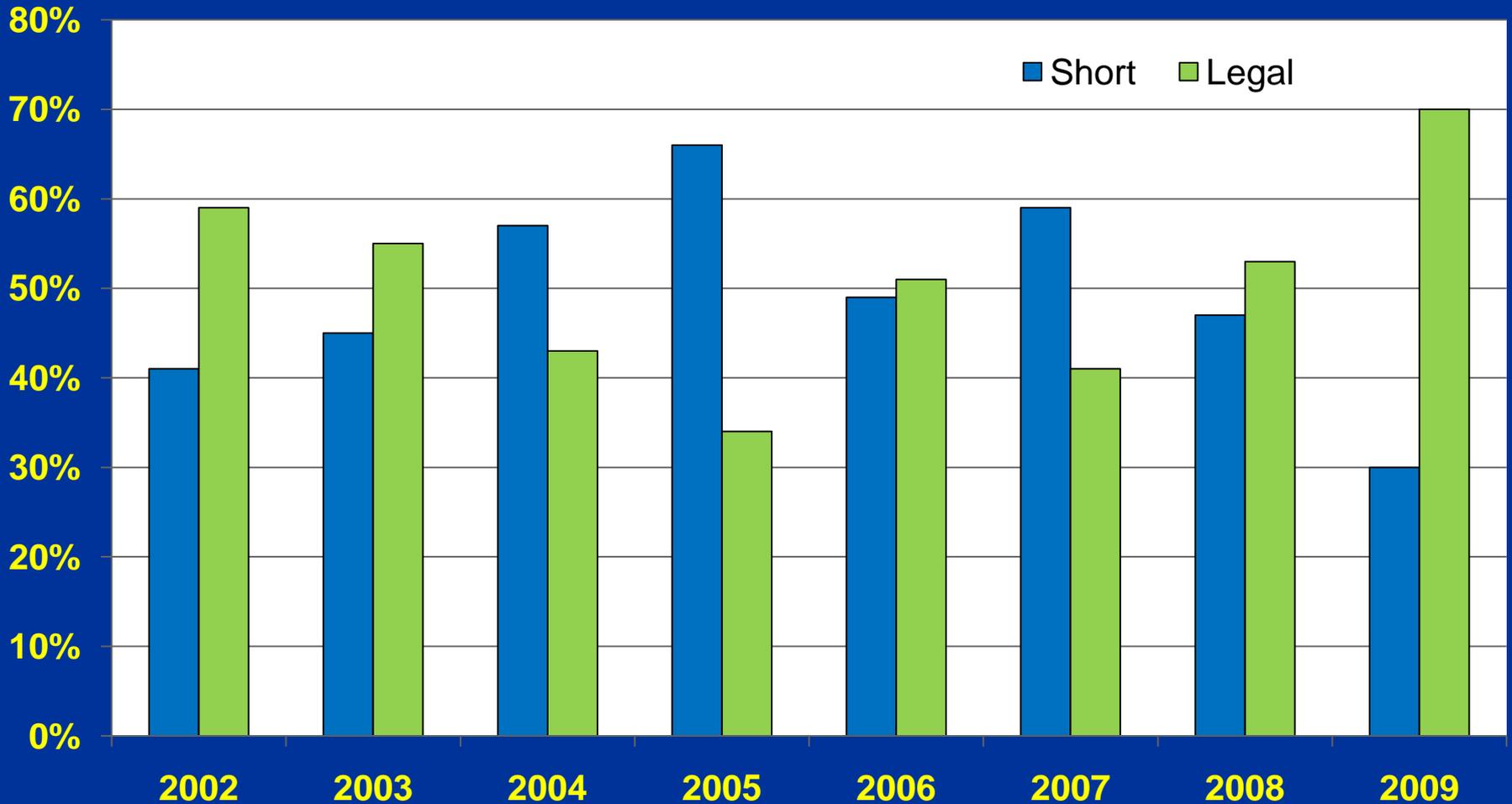


# Catch Sharing North & South of Pt. Chehalis



# Summer Fishery Data

Annual Comparison of legal vs. sublegal crab sampled





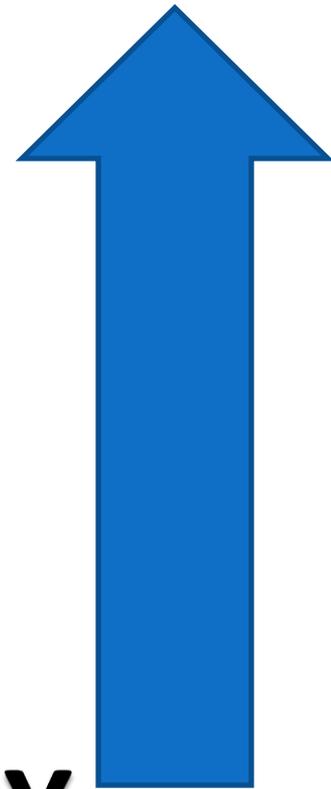
**WDFW**

**COASTAL COMMERCIAL  
DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY**

**Industry Meeting**

**9 am to noon ; *May 3, 2009***

***GH County Commissioners Meeting Room***



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