

Columbia River Policy Review

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Outline

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Process
 - Timeline
 - Commission Briefings
 - Public Outreach
- ▶ Policy Review
- ▶ Summary
- ▶ Next Steps



Similkameen Chinook

Background

- ▶ Workgroup developed strategies in 2012.
- ▶ Policy adopted in 2013, amended in 2017 and expires in 2023.
- ▶ Three primary objectives: orderly fisheries, conservation and recovery, and economic well-being and stability of sport and commercial fisheries.
- ▶ In recognizing uncertainty, the policy was to depend on continued economic and biological monitoring, and rely on adaptive management.
- ▶ Designed to establish recreational priority for salmon and steelhead in the mainstem Columbia River.

Process

- ▶ **Timeline**
 - Request for comprehensive review in January 2018
 - Review was in the form of 40 questions with the goal of determining the Policy performance
- ▶ **Commission meetings**
 - Including Fish Committee meetings
- ▶ **Public Outreach**
 - Columbia River Advisory Groups/Public

Commission Briefings

- ▶ February 8 Fish Committee – Olympia
- ▶ March Commission and Fish Committee – Wenatchee
 - Kick-off – first review
- ▶ April 12 Fish Committee – Olympia
 - Predation, concurrency, tribal, MSC, buyback, logbooks, management tools
- ▶ June 13 Fish Committee – Olympia
 - Concurrency, management, tribal, recreational, commercial
- ▶ August 9 Fish Committee – Olympia
 - Selective fishing, conservation, allocation, alternative gear, economics
- ▶ September 13 Fish Committee – Olympia
 - Summary review

Public Outreach

- ▶ **Advisor Group/Public Meetings – Ridgefield**
 - **Recreational**
 - March 14, May 15, July 12, September 5
 - **Commercial**
 - March 14, May 15, July 31, September 5
 - **Eastside**
 - July 18
- ▶ **Advisor Group website updated regularly**

Policy Review

- ▶ The review is summarized by major themes
 - Management
 - Recreational
 - Commercial
 - Tribal
 - Allocation
 - Alternative Gear
 - Economics



Upriver Spring Chinook

Management Report Card

Policy Strategy	Implemented
Conservation	Red
New Mark-selective fisheries	Red
Predation	Yellow
Concurrent Regulations	Yellow
Management tools	Green



Coweeman Weir

Recreational Report Card

Policy Strategy	Implemented
Recreational priority	
Barbless hooks	
Exemptions	
Logbooks	



Fishing near Bridgeport

Commercial Report Card

Policy Strategy	Implemented
MSC certification	
Buyback	
New WA SAFE areas	
2017 monitoring	



Commercial Mainstem Fishing

Tribal Report Card

Policy Strategy	Implemented
Colville allocation	
Wanapum subsistence	
<i>US v Oregon</i> tribes	



Colville seine fishery

Allocation Report Card

Policy Strategy	Implemented
Spring Chinook*	
Rec/Commercial	Green
Within sport	Yellow
Summer Chinook	
Rec/Commercial	Green
Below/Above PRD	Green
Fall Chinook	
Tules	Green
Brights	Green

* Catch Balance



Summer Chinook

Alternative Gear Report Card

Policy Strategy	Implemented
Gill nets phase out	Yellow
Alt gear testing	Green
Alt gear performance	Yellow
Seines	Red
Tangle Nets – Coho	Green
Alt gear implementation	Red
Tangle Nets – Coho	Green
Tangle Nets – Spring	Green

*Pound net testing on-going



Purse Seine testing

Economics

- ▶ Economic enhancement was expected to occur due to:
 - Re-allocation of impacts to recreational fishery
 - Increased angler trips and days on water
 - Additional production in SAFE areas
 - Implementation of alternative gear in commercial fishery

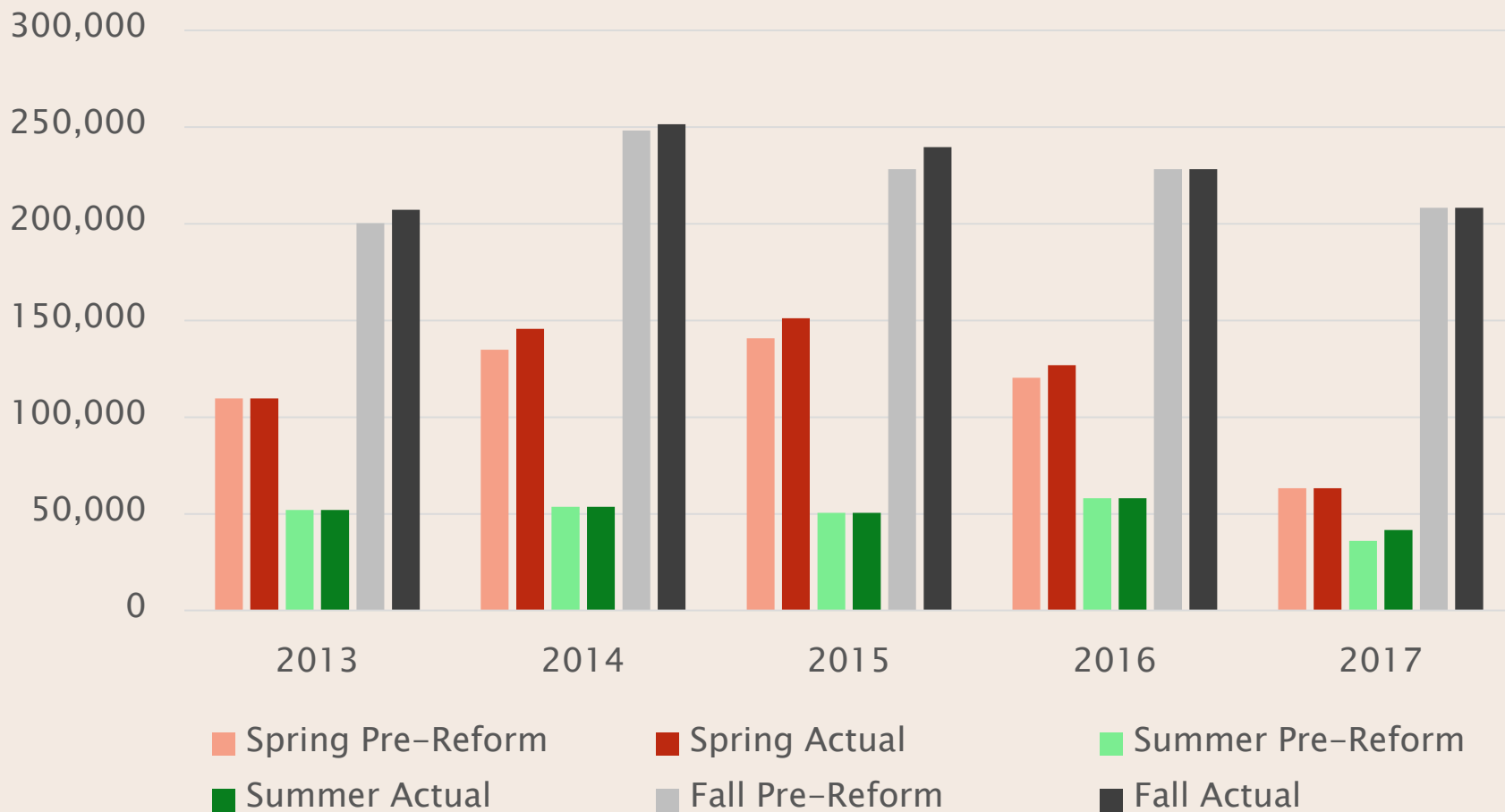


Columbia River Fall Chinook 2018 Seattle Fish Market

Economics Report Card

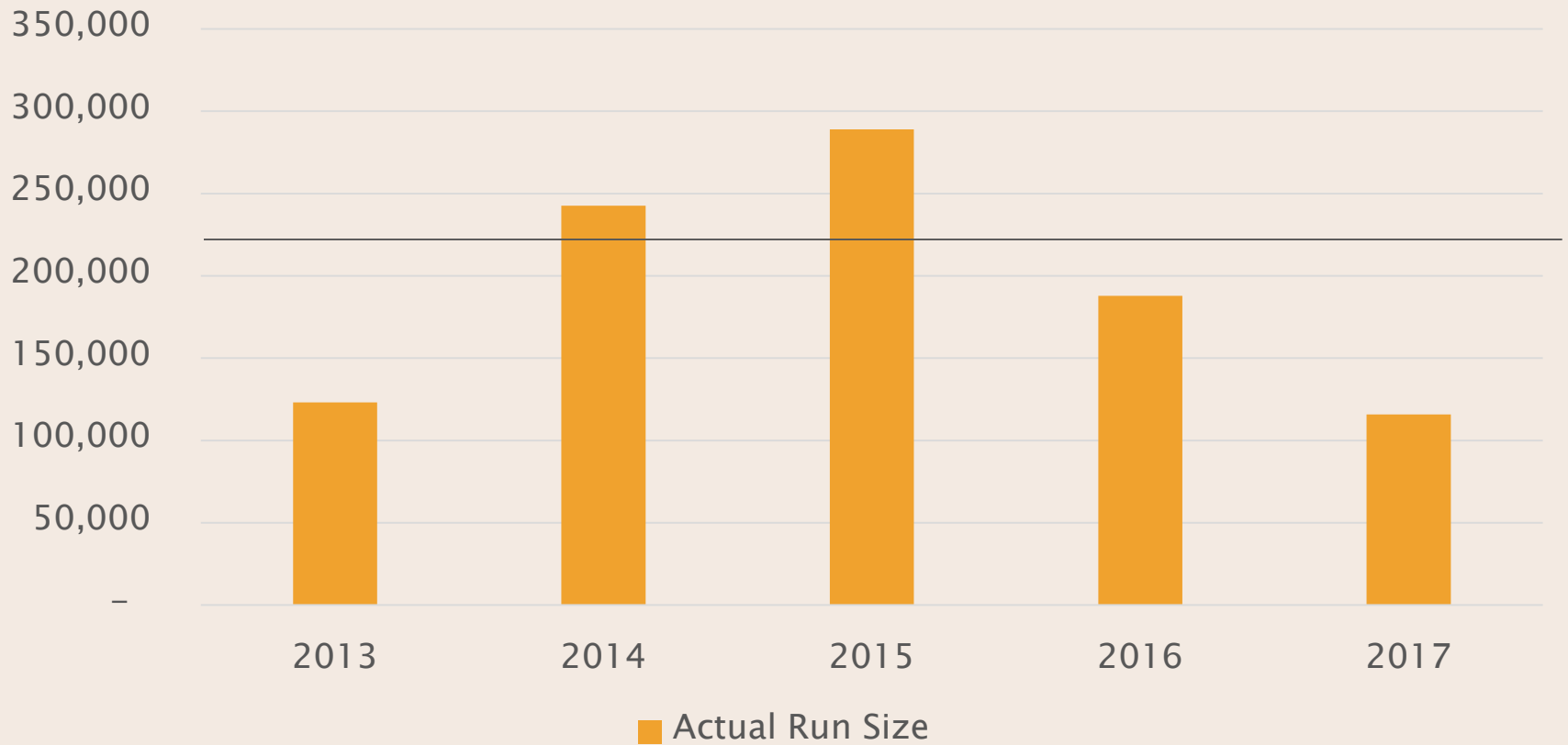
Policy Strategy	Implemented
Enhancements	
Recreational trips/days	Yes
Commercial	No
SAFE	
Increased production	Yes
Expanded areas	Yes
New areas	No
Increased ex-vessel values	Yes
Additional Commercial Opportunity	No
Adaptive management	Yes

Changes in seasonal angler effort due to Policy-related allocation increases for the 2013–2017 lower Columbia recreational fisheries



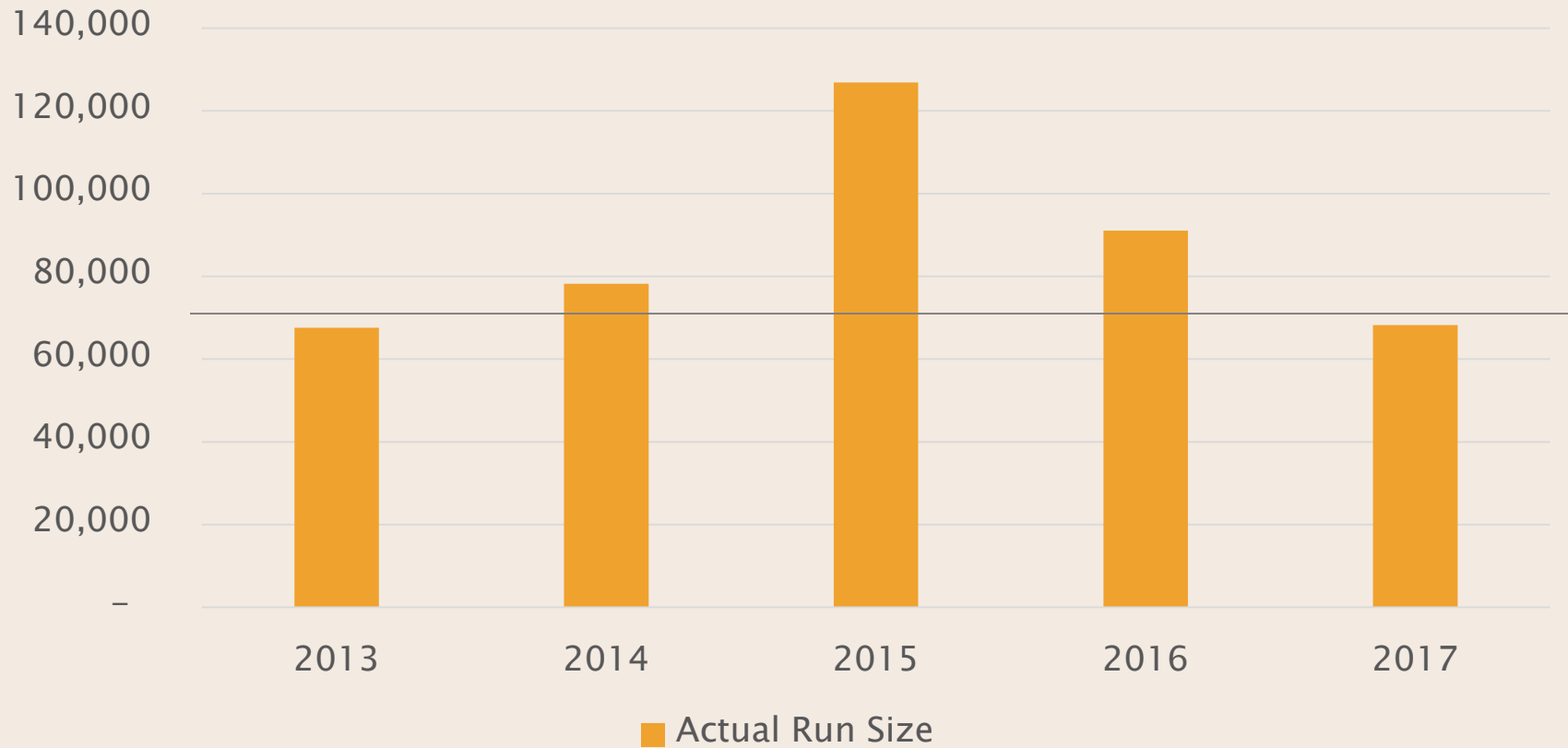
Run Sizes Compared to Expected

Upriver Spring Chinook Run Sizes



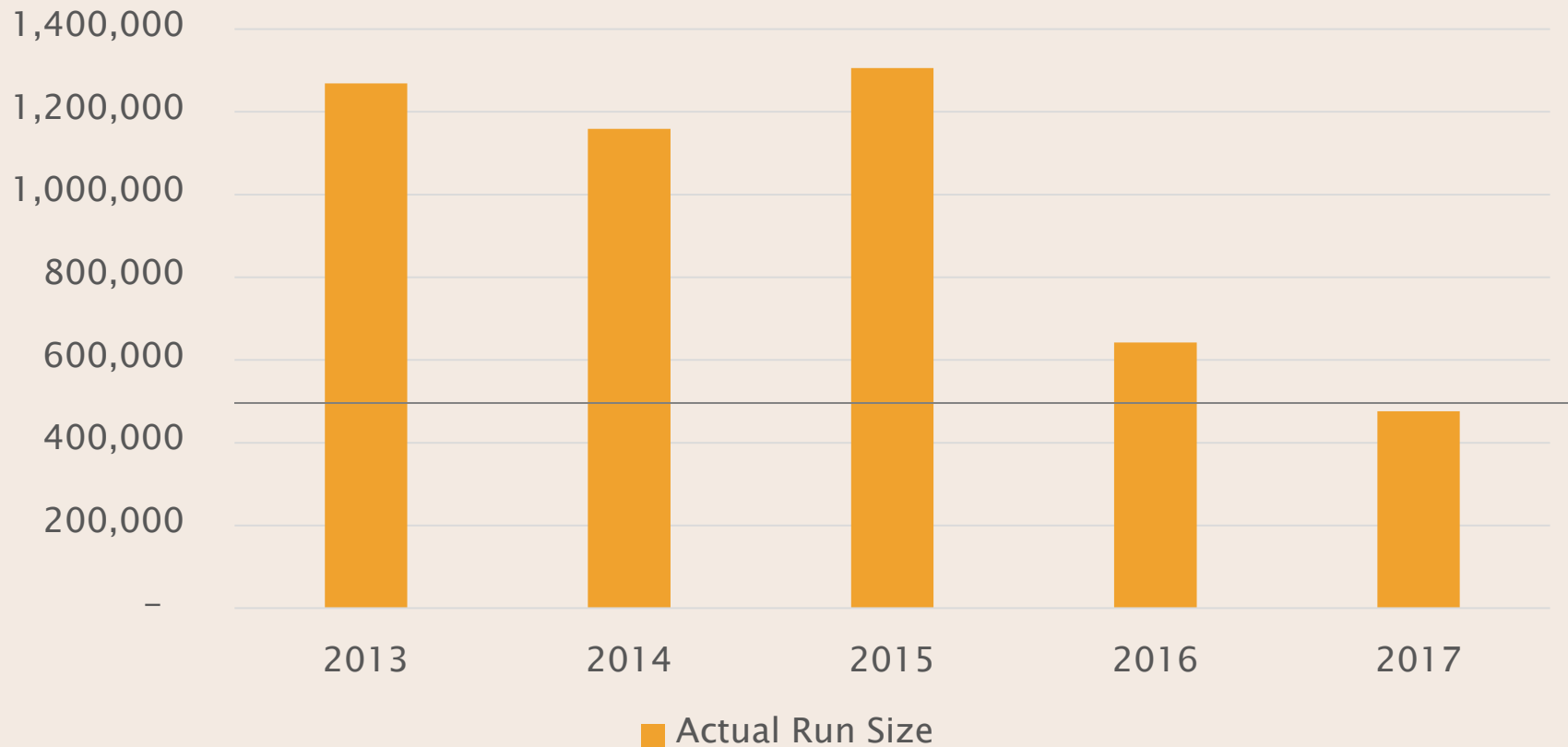
Run Sizes Compared to Expected

Summer Chinook Run Sizes



Run Sizes Compared to Expected

Fall Chinook Run Sizes



Summary

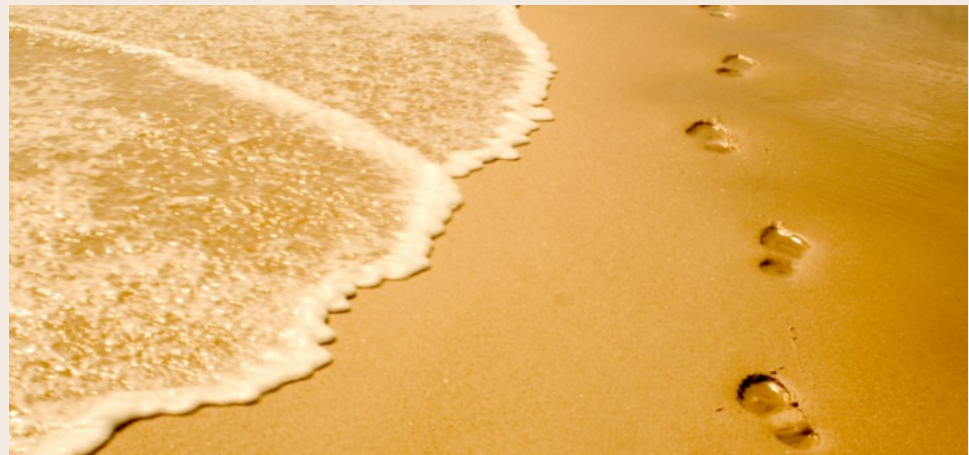
- ▶ Expectations of the policy have not fully been realized for:
 - Commercial SAFE enhancement and alternative gear development have not replaced mainstem fisheries
 - Recreational fisheries have only seen marginal benefits to changes in allocation

Next Steps – Considerations

- ▶ Concurrency with Oregon
- ▶ Sport allocation upriver/lower river
- ▶ Allocation options for sport/commercial
- ▶ Alternative gear expectation for the future
- ▶ Miscellaneous

Next Steps

- ▶ Commission discussion on alternatives, adjustments, ideas, concurrency with OR
- ▶ Final report – October 15, 2018
- ▶ November 1, 2018 – Joint Commission meeting with Oregon



Questions?



Hanford Reach