

# **Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program -- 2017**



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**Alaska Groundfish Data Bank**

# Rockfish Program Background

- Prior to the program in 2007, the rockfish fishery was a very fast 3-week race that occurred in July which directly conflicted with Kodiak's pink salmon fishery.
- Rockfish Pilot Program was a 5-year test program authorized from 2007-2011.
- The Council reauthorized the program (with some modifications) before its sunset due to the success of the program and support by industry. It was re-named the Rockfish Program.
- The RP was authorized for a ten year period (2012 – 2021) and will sunset on Dec 31, 2021 unless the Council again reauthorizes the program.

# Goals of the Rockfish Pilot Program

## Economic benefits to Kodiak

- ✓ Stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes – particularly **May and June**
- ✓ Remove the processing timing conflict with salmon
- ✓ Slow the fishery so more valuable products can be produced



APS Processing crew

# Rockfish Program (RP)

- Implemented beginning May 1, 2012
- Season: May 1 – November 15
- Sixth year of Rockfish Program
- Council begins discussion about the future of the program in October of 2018
- Program sunsets December 2021

# Co-op management

- **Council** sets program objectives.
- **Industry** develops internal rules and agreements to meet those objectives. Industry is responsible for co-op management and staying within allocations.
- **NMFS** oversees harvest and Council objectives
- Annual co-op reporting requirements to **NMFS & Council**
- Fishing plans and cooperative contracts can be amended depending on actual fishing and market conditions.
- Co-op structure builds cooperation amongst harvesters and processors where the entire industry is working together towards common goals.

# Cooperative Fishery Allocations



- **Primary Species:**
  - Pacific Ocean Perch
  - Northern Rockfish
  - Dusky Rockfish
- **Secondary Species:**
  - Sablefish
  - Pacific cod
  - Thornyhead Rockfish
- **Bycatch Cap for Halibut Mortality**
- **Sector Bycatch Cap for Chinook Salmon (as of 2015)**

# Minimal Consolidation

Number of vessels that actually fished CGOA rockfish 2000-2017





# Monitoring Requirements

- **100% observer coverage** for catcher vessels
- Catch Monitor and Control Plan (CMCP) required for shoreside processing plants and a CMCP monitor who monitors offloads.
- Vessels must check in and out of the fishery
- Vessels must carry laptop for observer for faster data turnaround



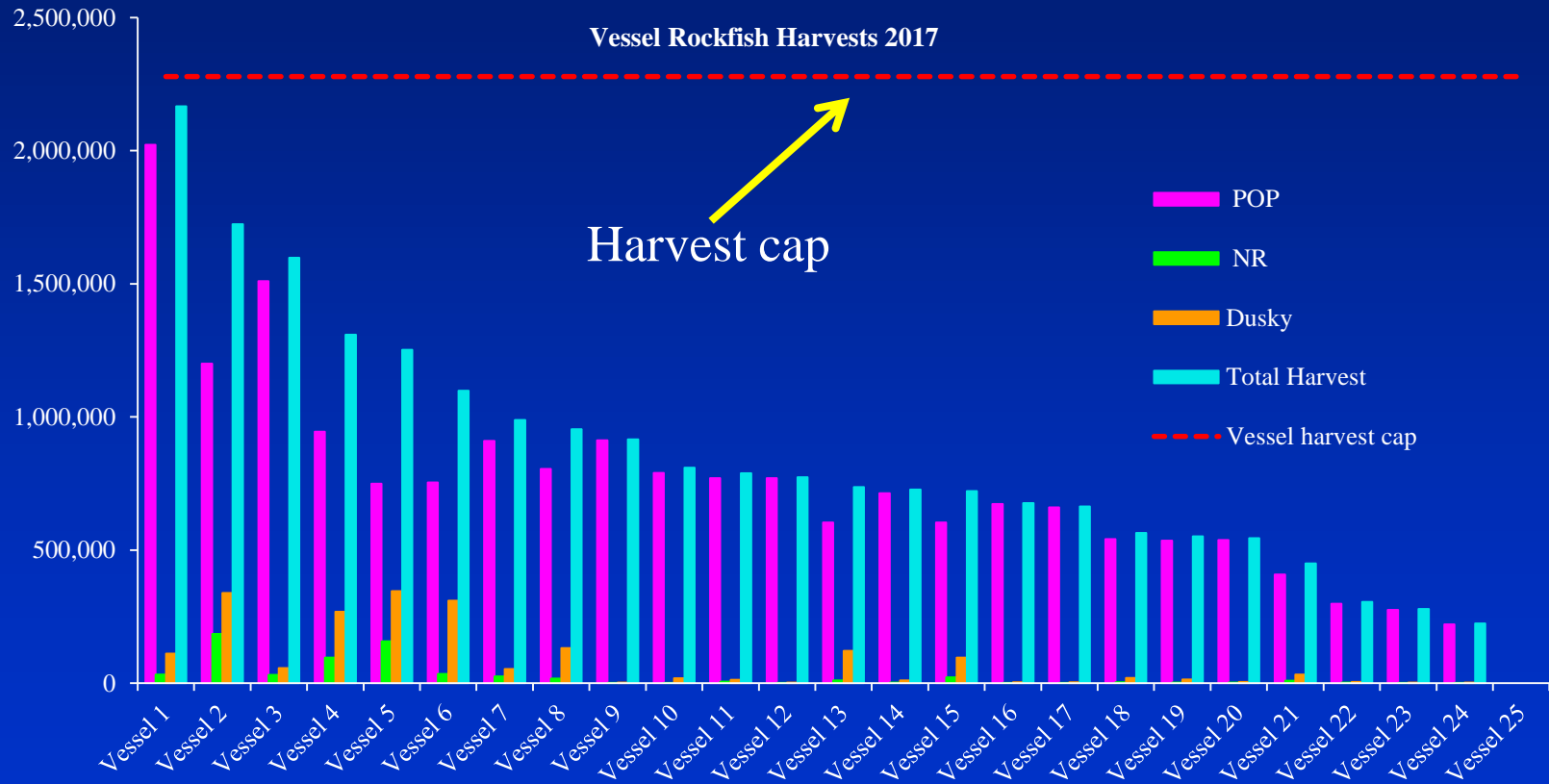


# Community/Social Measures

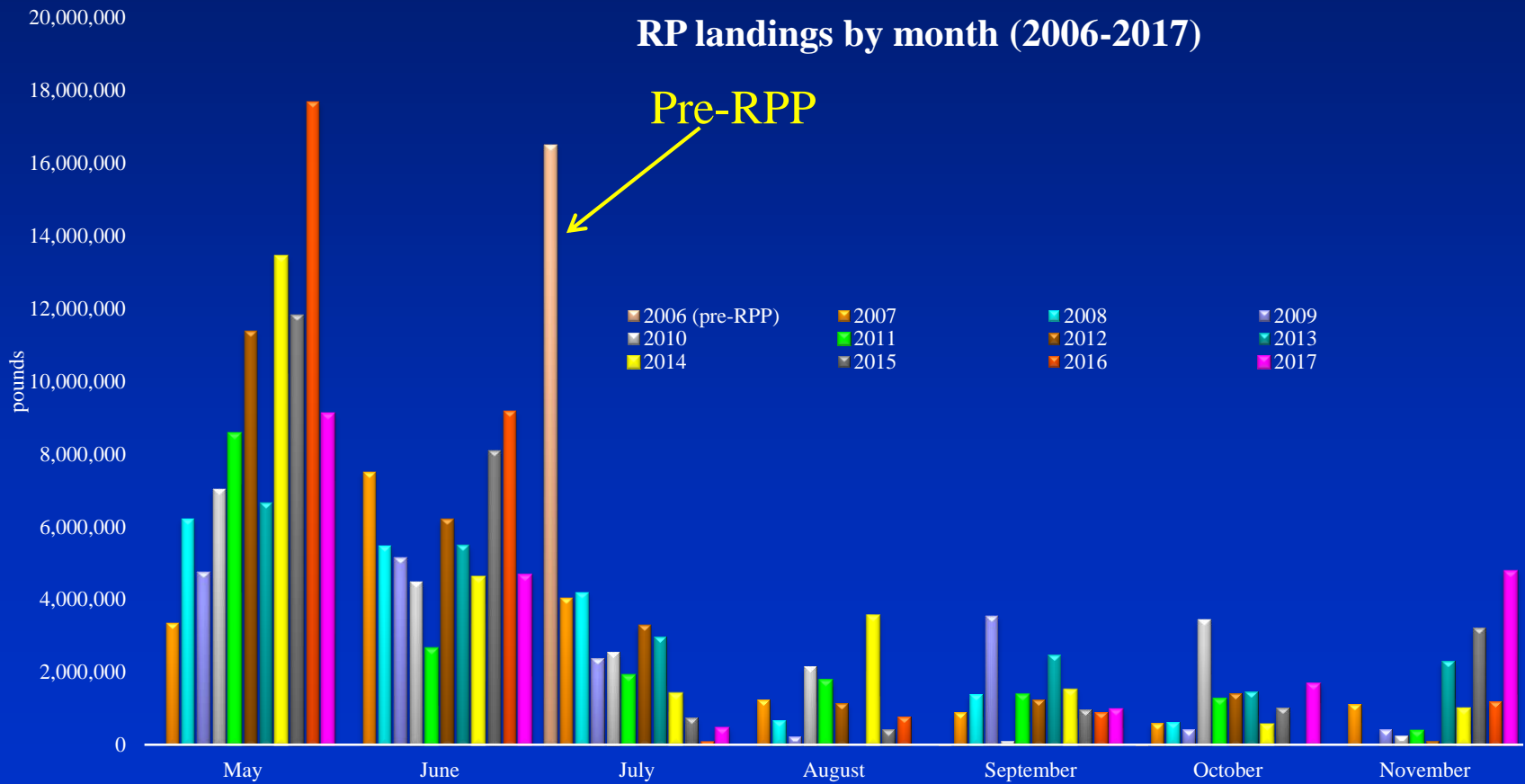
1. **Port Landing Requirement**. Maintains historical landing pattern and protects Kodiak.
2. **Transfers**. No transfers from the CP sector to CV sector.
3. **Ownership cap, Co-op cap, Processor cap, & vessel use cap**. None exceeded.
4. **Cost Recovery Fee**. Maximum 3% of the ex-vessel value (2.04% in 2017).

# 8% Vessel Rockfish harvest cap (2,277,865 lbs in 2017)

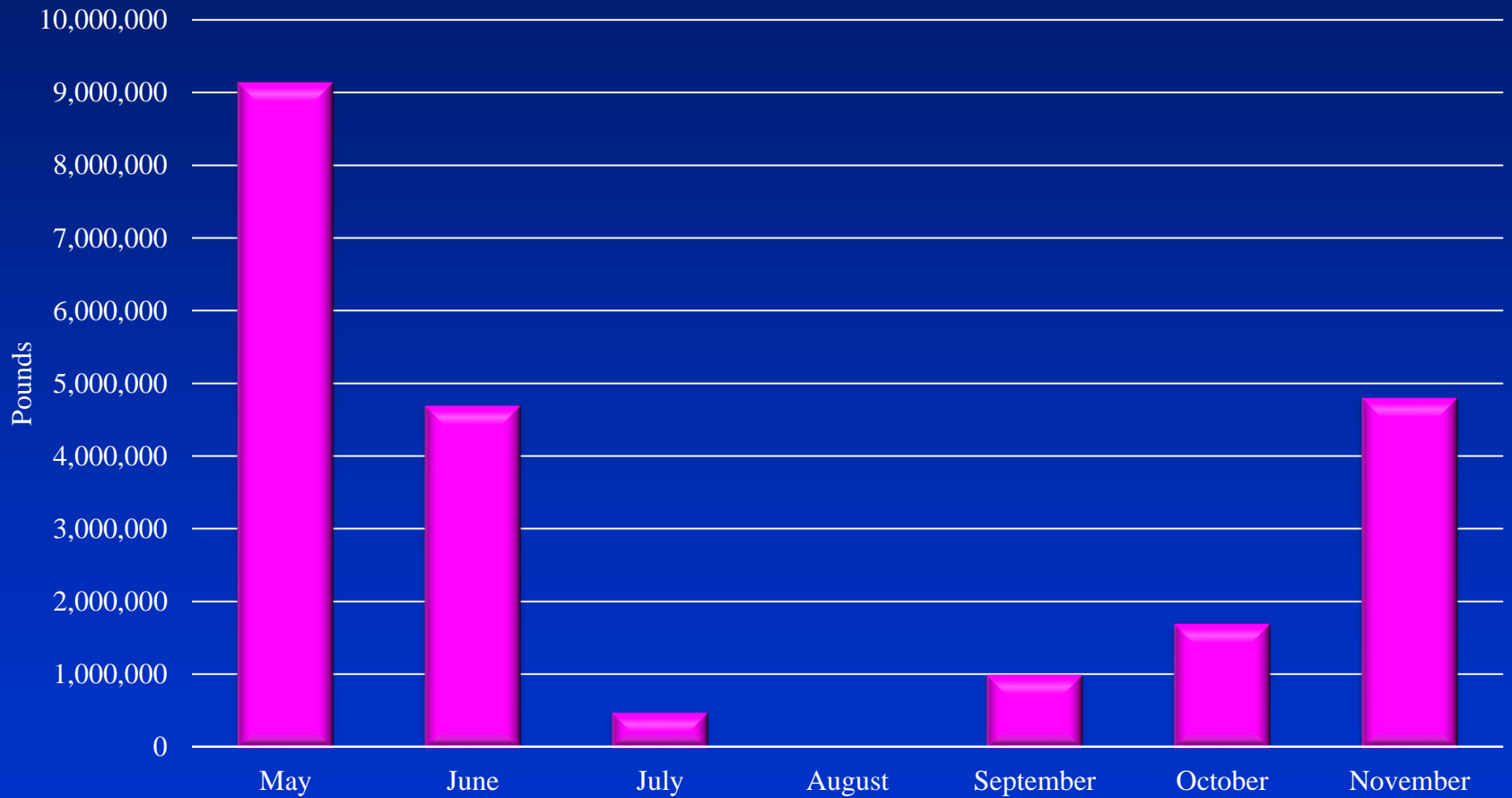
Only one vessel came close to the cap in 2017



# Spread out rockfish program landings & removed conflict with salmon

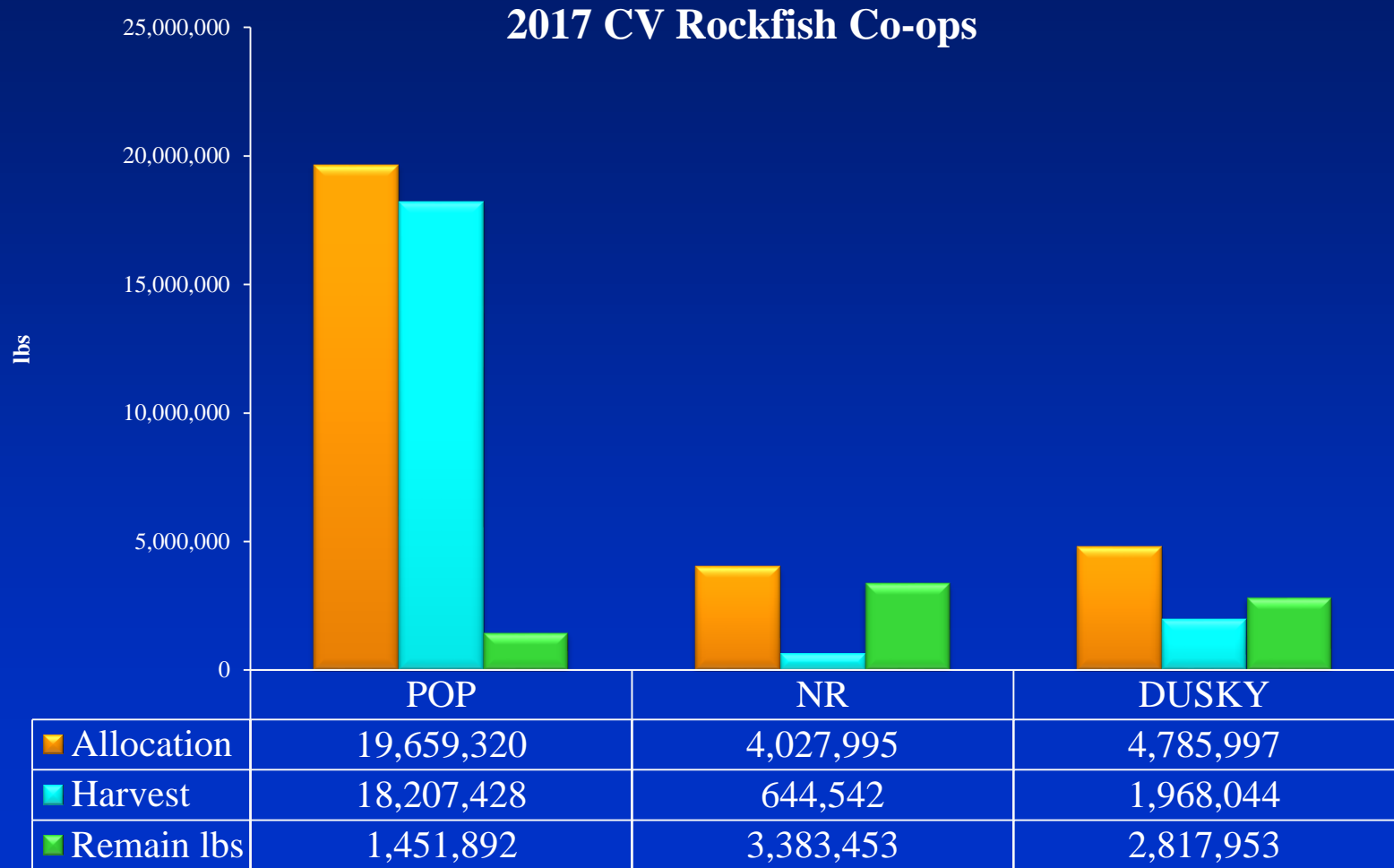


# Landings by Month – 2017 (all Species)



# 2017 CV Rockfish Co-ops

(POP easy to catch compared to Northerns and Dusky)

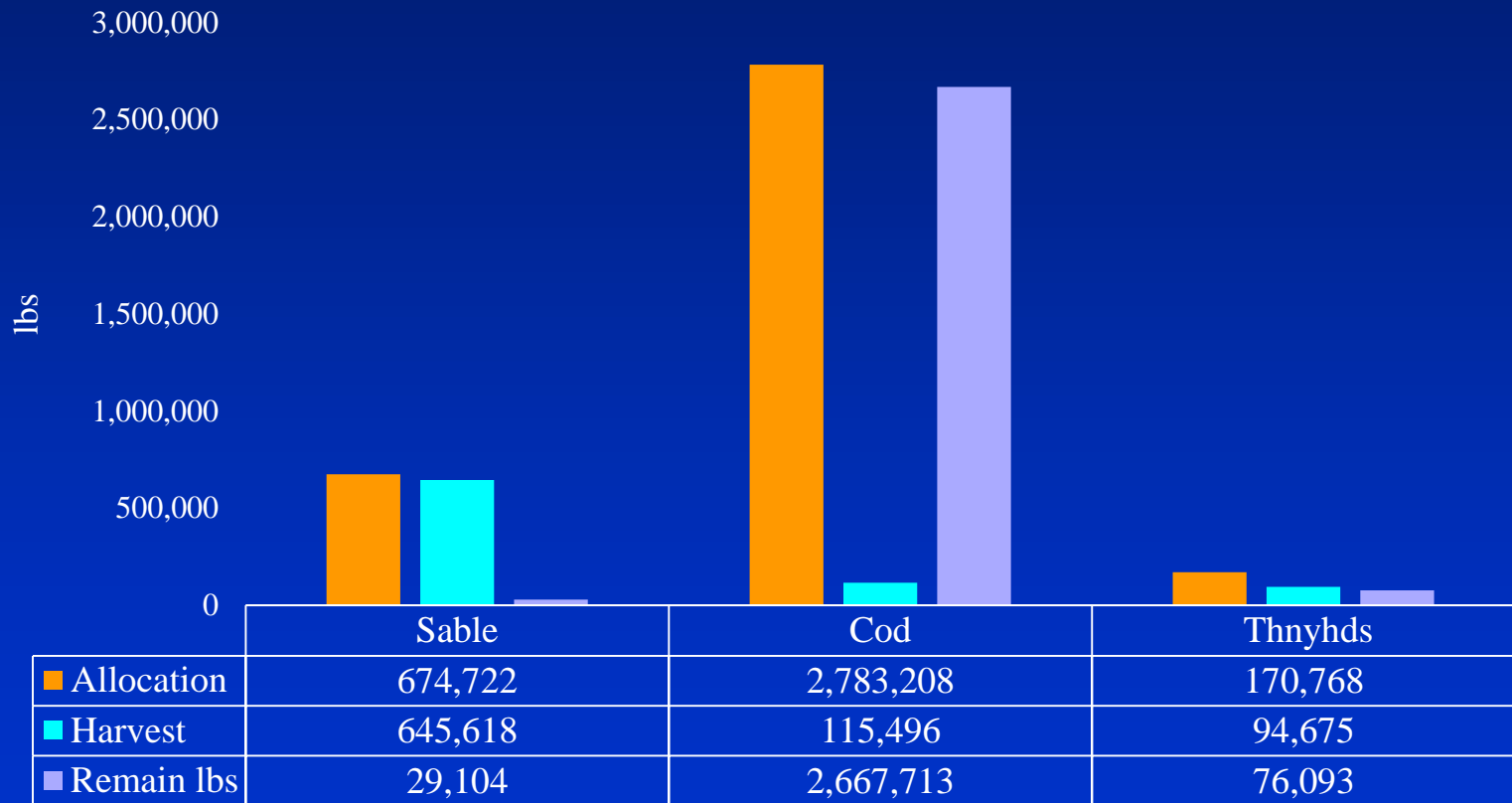




# 2017 CV Rockfish Co-ops:

## Secondary Species

Cod again difficult to find in 2017





# Halibut Bycatch

## Total Annual Halibut Used (CV Coops)



# Rockfish Program Chinook Salmon Bycatch

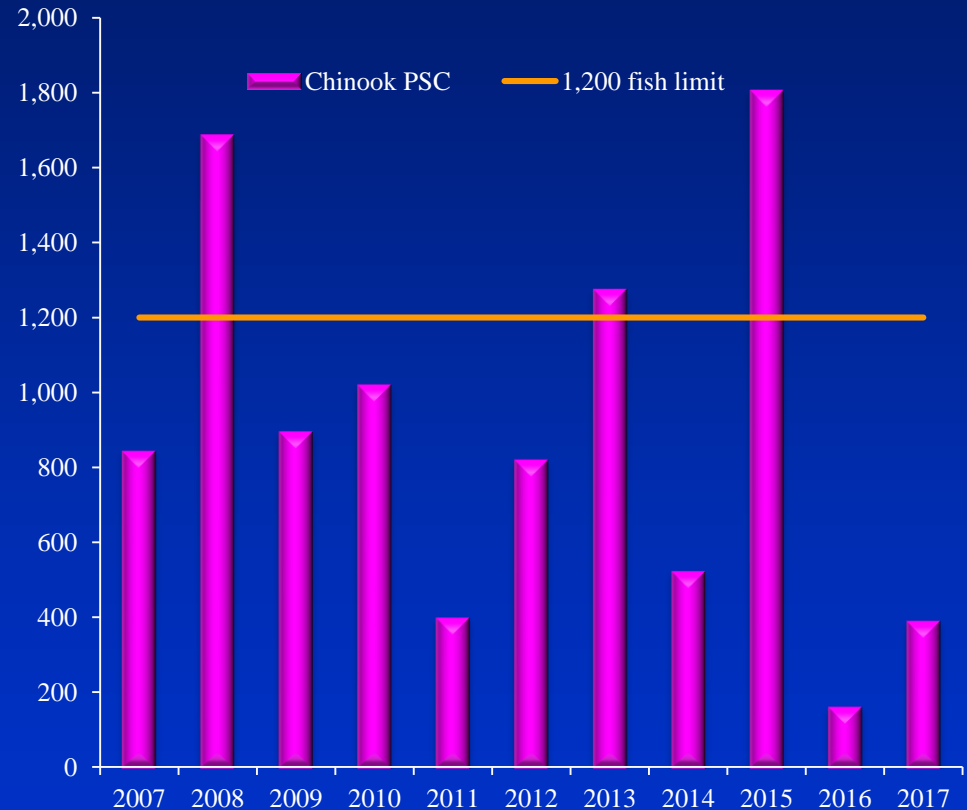
- Amendment 97 became effective January 1, 2015
- Placed a hard cap of 1,200 fish on the CV rockfish program sector
- Estimates are based on at-sea samples, not observer counts at the plant (which is the case for pollock fisheries).
- Allows rollover of the unused Chinook cap to support the CV fall cod/flatfish fisheries.

# 2017 Chinook salmon bycatch avoidance and hot spot reporting:

- “Slow start” to test fishing grounds – each co-op allowed only 1 or 2 vessels fishing at one time at the start of the fishery
- Individual vessel Chinook salmon bycatch standards – enforced by fish ticket counts
- Chinook salmon hotspot reporting
- The Co-op avoidance plan assumes that controlling individual vessel behavior via fish ticket counts will keep the co-op under the sector’s Chinook Cap – which may or may not be true

# PSC: Chinook CV Co-op Catch

Year	Chinook (no.)	Rockfish Harvest (mt)	Rate (No./mt)
2007	840	7,748	0.108
2008	1,683	7,440	0.226
2009	892	6,874	0.130
2010	1,017	7,992	0.127
2011	396	7,071	0.056
2012	817	10,067	0.081
2013	1,271	8,820	0.144
2014	520	10,100	0.051
2015	1,802	10,768	0.167
2016	158	13,026	0.012
2017	387	9,444	0.041
<b>Average</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>9,032</b>	<b>0.098</b>



Source: Steve Whitney, NMFS

RP Cap = 1,200 Chinook Salmon



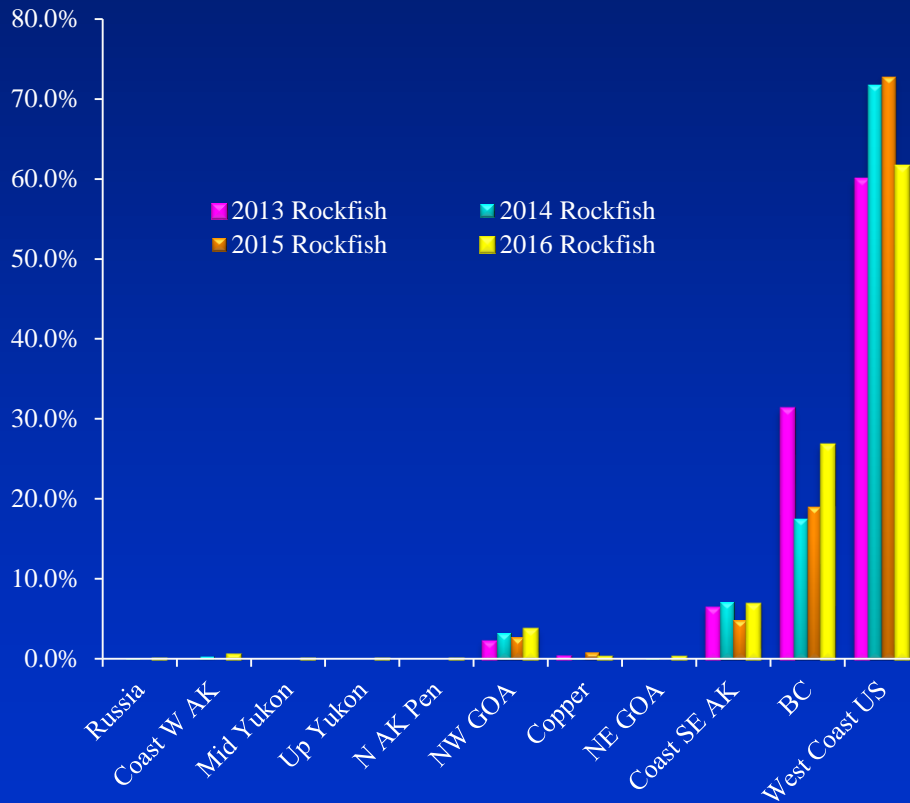
# Cooperative Research: Rockfish Genetics



- Since 2013, the shoreside co-ops have partnered with the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, NMFS Alaska Region and NMFS Genetics Lab in Auke Bay to collect tissue samples and biological data from all Chinook landed in the shoreside rockfish fishery for Stock of Origin analysis. **95.5% of the landed salmon were sampled in 2017** (299 fish).
- All Chinook were examined for the presence or absence of adipose fin clips and Coded Wire Tags (CWT).
- Otoliths also collected for the first time in an attempt to quantify the hatchery component.
- Project funded by the North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation.
- 2017 results available April 2019.
- Project will continue in 2018.

# Cooperative Research: Rockfish Genetics

## 2013-16 Stock of Origin Results (Auke Bay)



Area	2013 Rockfish	2014 Rockfish	2015 Rockfish	2016 Rockfish
No. Samples Processed	2,070	398	635	493
Russia	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Coast W AK	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
Mid Yukon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Up Yukon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
N AK Pen	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NW GOA	2.2%	3.2%	2.7%	3.7%
Copper	0.3%	0.1%	0.8%	0.3%
NE GOA	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%
Coast SE AK	6.4%	7.1%	4.8%	6.9%
BC	31.3%	17.4%	18.9%	26.8%
West Coast US	59.9%	71.7%	72.8%	61.5%
<b>SE, BC, WC combined</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>96.5%</b>	<b>95.1%</b>
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*2017 results expected April 2019*

# NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant

- **\$183,000** NOAA Grant. Field Seasons 2018 and 2019. Starts May 1, 2018
- **Partners:** AGDB, Craig Rose (FishNext Research), NMFS AK Region and NP Observer Program
- **Title:** *Improving Chinook Salmon Bycatch Estimates for the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fleet: Alternatives addressing accuracy, cost, and timeliness*
- **Goal** is to test alternative shore-based sampling methods to monitor and improve estimates of Chinook salmon bycatch in the non-Pollock fisheries.
- Currently, Chinook PSC estimates for the non-pollock fisheries are based on observer at-sea basket samples
- Alternatives include monitoring large samples dockside (up to 50% of the landed catch); salmon census at the plant by observers and/or plant personnel; and sorting and sampling the entire offloaded catch by plant personnel with third party auditing via EM (electronic monitoring)