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# Sustainability of the Alaska Salmon Fishery

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# Alaska salmon: over three decades of sustained harvest above 100M salmon

**Alaska Commercial Salmon Catches & Value 1878-2008**  
All Species combined

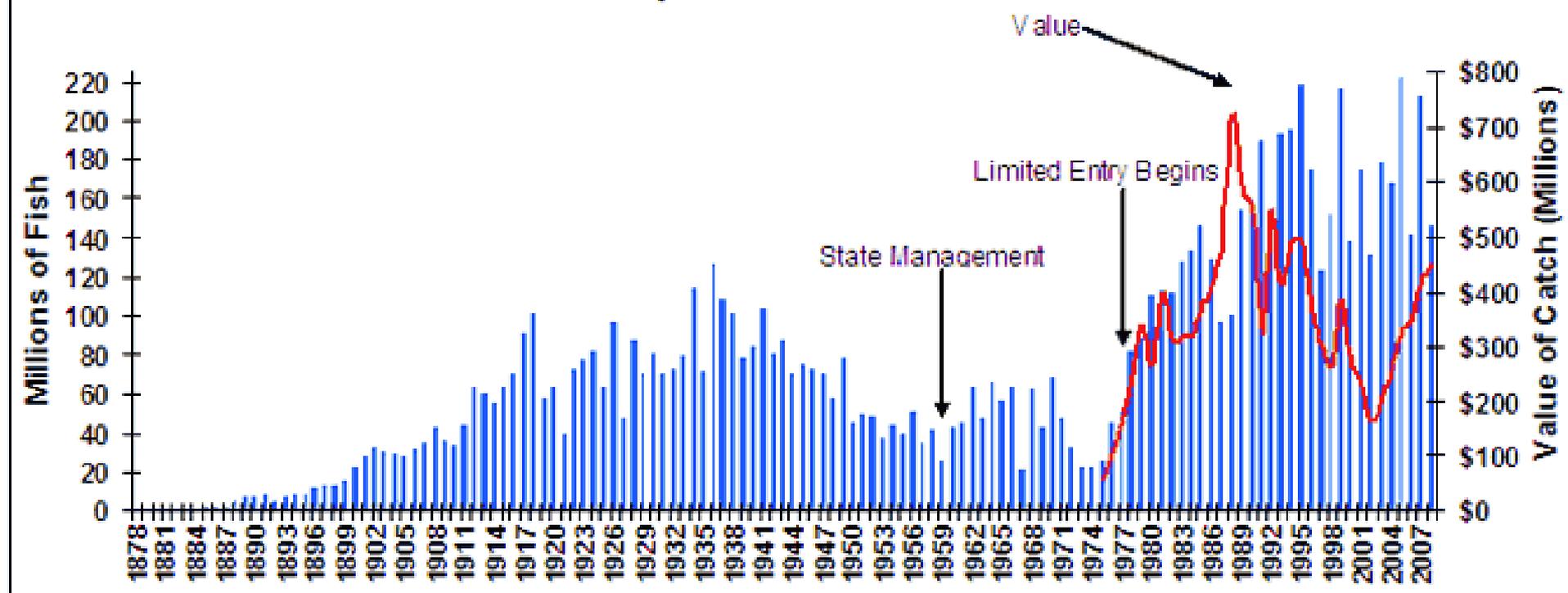
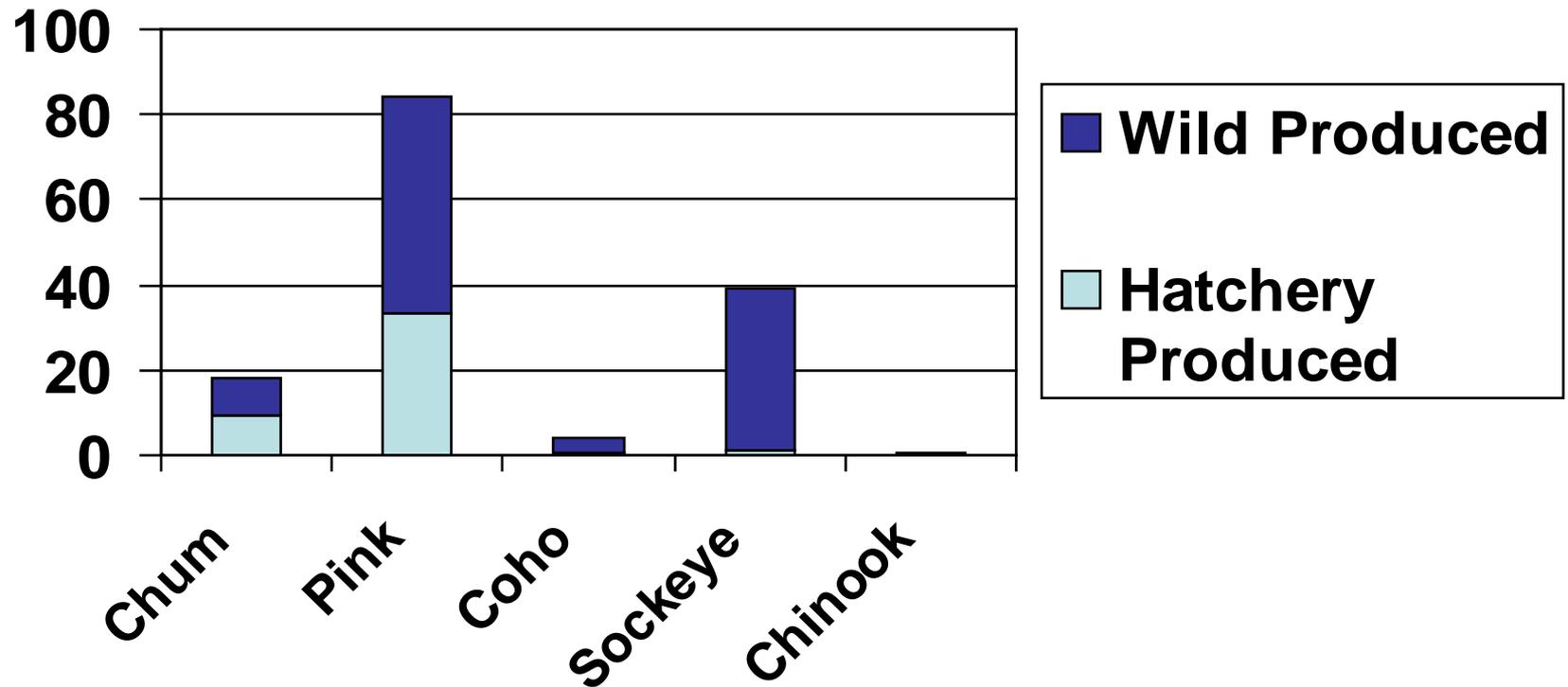


Figure from Alaska Dept of Fish and Game website

# Sustainable fishery relies on both wild and hatchery production

Millions of Salmon Harvested in 2008

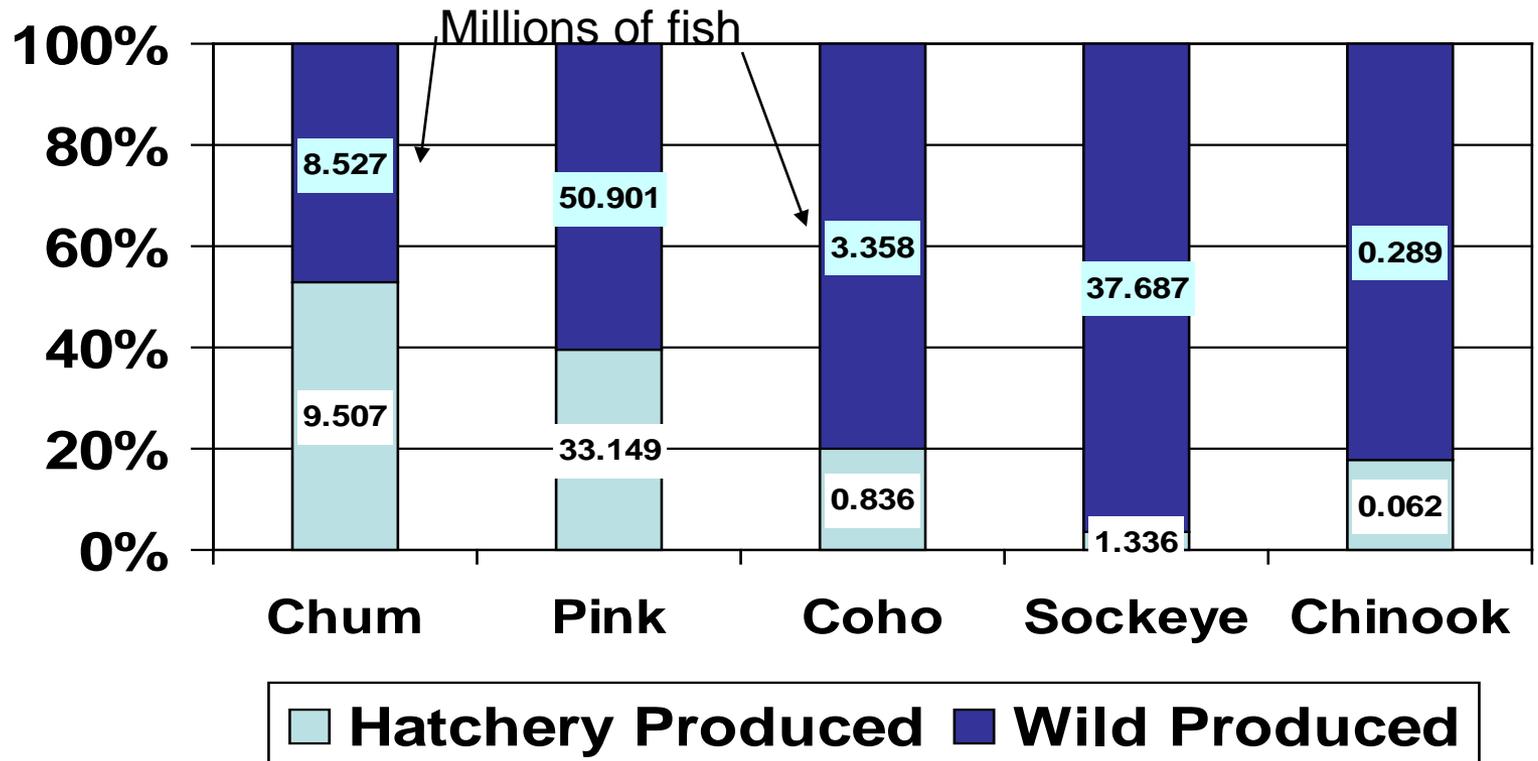


Alaska Dept of Fish & Game data



# Contribution of hatcheries varies by species

## Contribution to Salmon Harvested in 2008





# Eco label: Marine Stewardship Council

- Alaska Salmon one of first certified as Sustainable in 2000
- Certification is renewed every 5 years (Alaska salmon renewed in 2005)
- Requires annual performance audit



# Single Certification for All Alaska Salmon

- Required by Alaska because markets may not discriminate among species, areas
- Application process based on review of 16 'Units'



# Certification Process Involves 'Client' applying to 'Agent' of MSC

- Agent is a private firm
- Client is Alaska Dept of Fish and Game
- MSC has 'Standards' that must be met
- The Agent's Assessment Team uses 'Standards' to establish Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts and requires Report from Client
- The Team scores each Performance Indicator and drafts a report.
- The Team then chooses Peer Reviewers. After Peer Review and Public Comment a Final Report is written with a recommendation for or against Certification. The fishery must obtain a minimum score in each of the 16 Units to get Certification
- The Team also identifies Conditions which the Client is required to satisfy in order to pass the annual audit



# Compliance with MSC has been difficult process

The Recertification Report says: “The general 'Conditions' set for the Alaska salmon fisheries are:

- ADF&G must recognize that MSC standards require regular ... inspections ... on compliance with the 'Conditions' ... ..
- ADF&G must agree by contract to be responsible financially and technically for compliance with required surveillance audits ...
- ADF&G must recognize that MSC standards require a full re-evaluation ... every five years.
- ... ADF&G shall develop an 'Action Plan for Meeting the Condition for Continued Certification' ....



# Alaska Dept of Fish & Game has Withdrawn as Client

- Beneficiary should be Client—not state regulatory agency
- Misguided analysis of fishery (*by MSC*)
- MSC Conditions have limited use



# Some markets require MSC label

- Particularly European markets demand MSC label
- Most domestic markets for Alaska salmon do not require MSC but sustainability is important and MSC label may be required in future



# New Client for Alaska Salmon: Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

- ASMI has made a provisional commitment to assume responsibility as Client
- Decision to be made in December 09

# Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

- Partnership of State of Alaska and seafood industry
- Purpose: develop markets for all seafood harvested in Alaska
- Emphasizes sustainability of Alaska fisheries
- Has its own label





# AMSI's Conditions for Being Client

- Cost must be born by users
- Alaska origin of salmon must be clear
- Do not interfere with fishery management
- One certification for all Alaska salmon
- Reduce administrative burden
- Don't change definition of 'sustainable'
- Recognize Alaska expertise

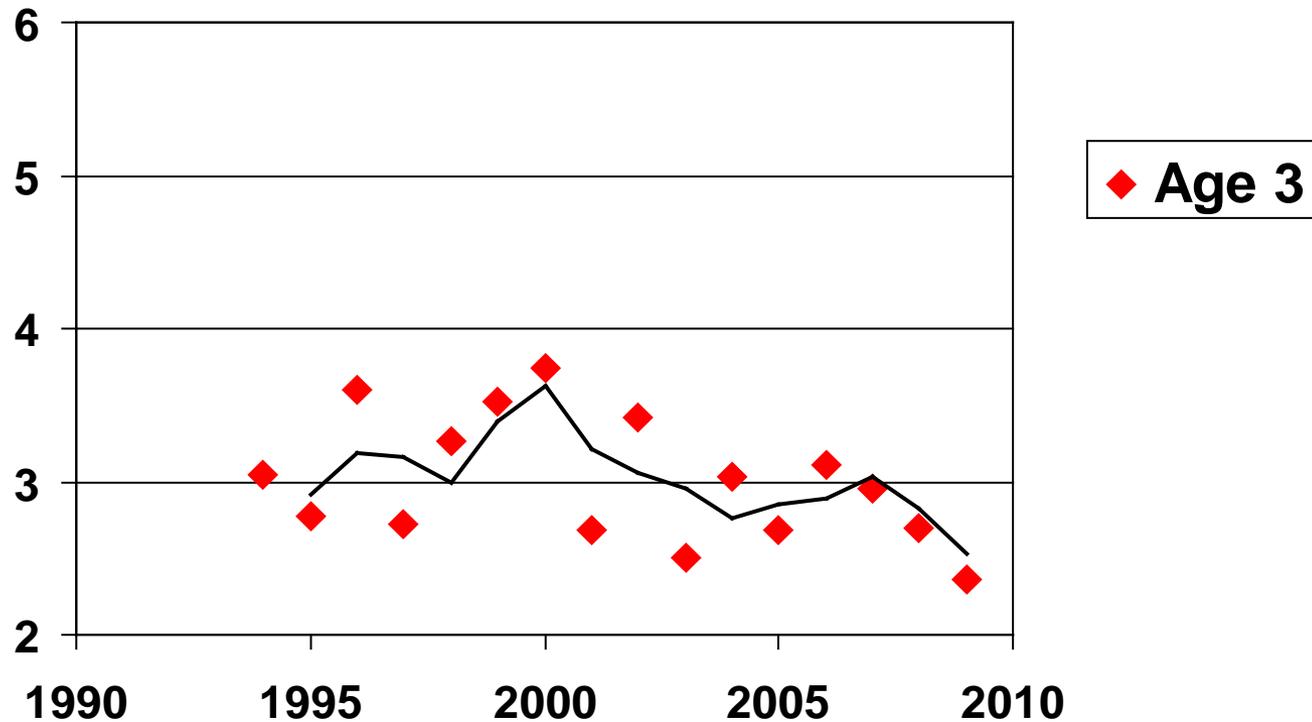




There may be a recent trend toward smaller size

## Size of Chum Salmon Age 3

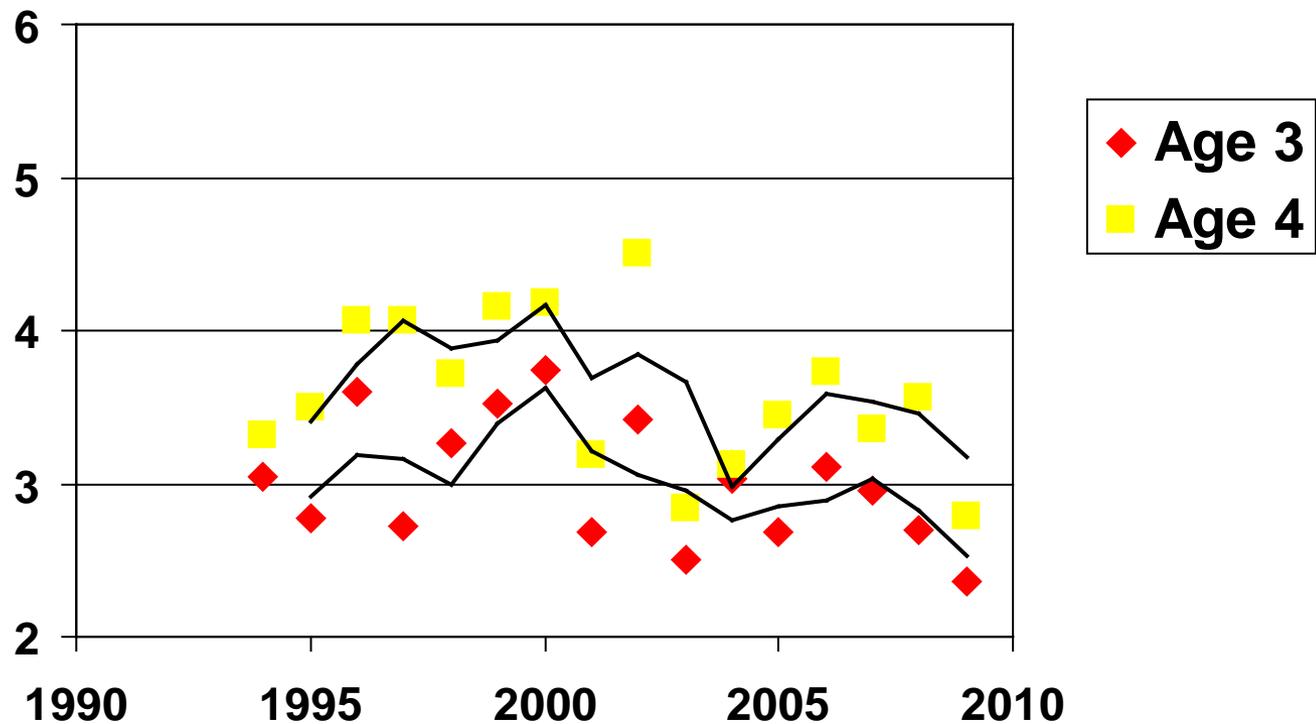
Average Body Weight (lb)



There may be a recent trend toward smaller size

## Chum Salmon Age 3 & 4

Average Body Weight (lb)



There may be a recent trend toward smaller size

## Chum salmon all ages

Average Body Weight (lb)

