

2009 Columbia River Returns and 2010 Columbia River Forecasts



*Presented by Bill Tweit
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
March 2010*

Columbia River

- 2009 returns and 2010 forecasts
 - Upriver Spring Chinook
 - Upper Columbia Summer Chinook
 - Sockeye
 - Upriver Summer Steelhead
 - Fall Chinook and coho
- 2009 fisheries - treaty and non-treaty
- 2010 fishery expectations

2009 Summary

- Nearly 2.2 million adult salmonids entered the Columbia River in 2009
- 60% destined for areas above Bonneville Dam
 - Upriver Spring Chinook slightly less than average
 - Upper Columbia Summer Chinook average return
 - Sockeye – 2 times average, strong SR component
 - Upriver Summer Steelhead – 2 times average
 - Upriver Fall Chinook – strong bright component
 - Coho –Strong return, 3 times average @ BON
- Record setting jack returns for some stocks
- Strong returns to Snake River

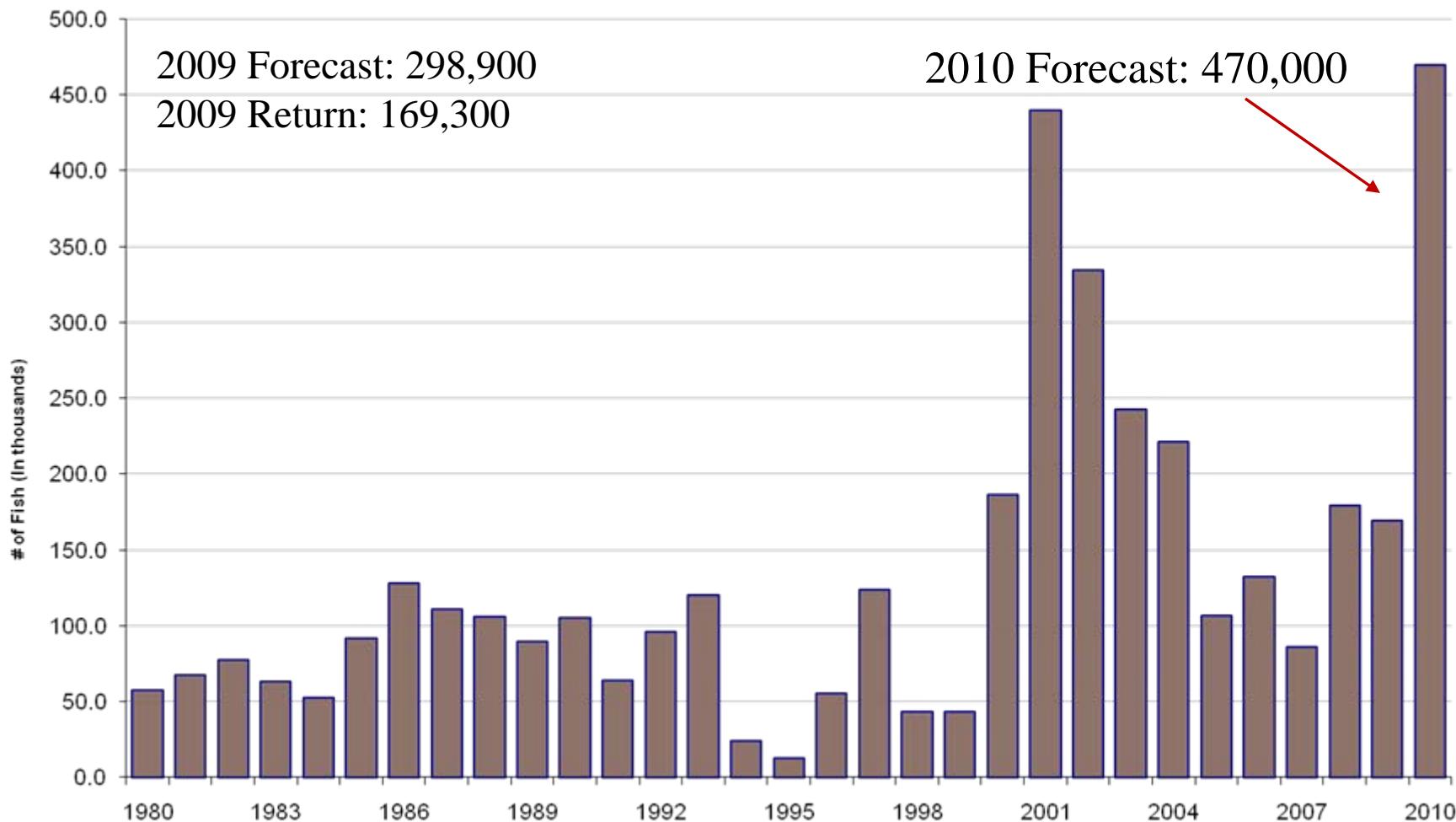
2010 Columbia River Forecasts

- Over 2.2 million adult salmonids forecasted
- 75% destined for areas above Bonneville Dam
- Record upriver spring Chinook
- Strong forecasts for wild SR and UPC spring Chinook
- Strong upper Columbia Summer Chinook return
- Strong Sockeye return
- Average (~400K) upriver Summer Steelhead return?
- Strong fall Chinook, especially upriver components
- Average coho abundance

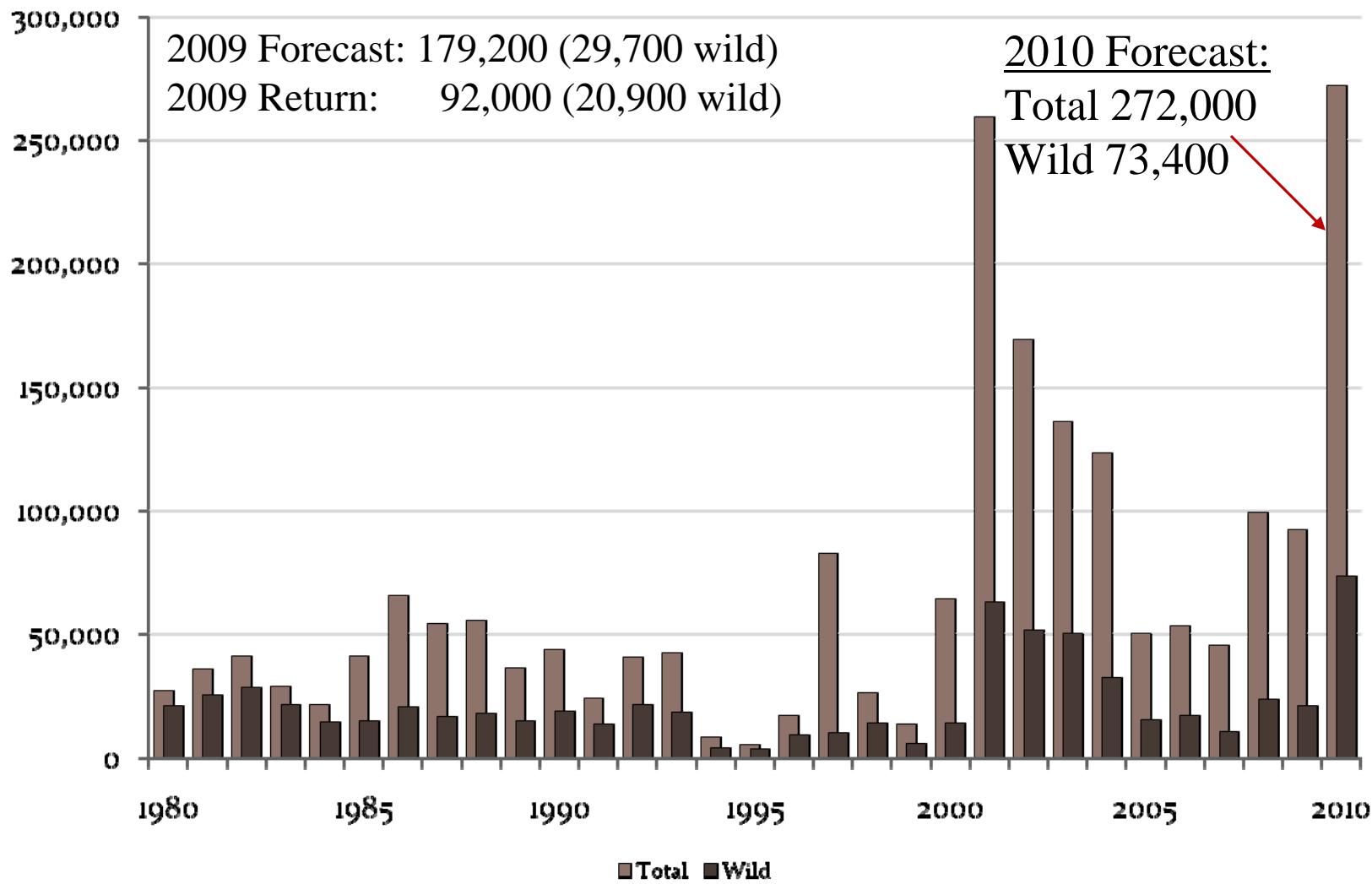
Forecast Methodology

- Upriver spring Chinook forecast typically derived from cohort analysis
- High jack counts in 2009 and a large margin of forecast error in 2008 and 2009
- TAC reviewed several alternative models, including those that considered ocean conditions, cohort ratios, even sablefish survival.
- No one model clearly proved to be the heir apparent
 - TAC averaged the output of the seven most reasonable models (range 366,000 to 528,000 age 4 fish)

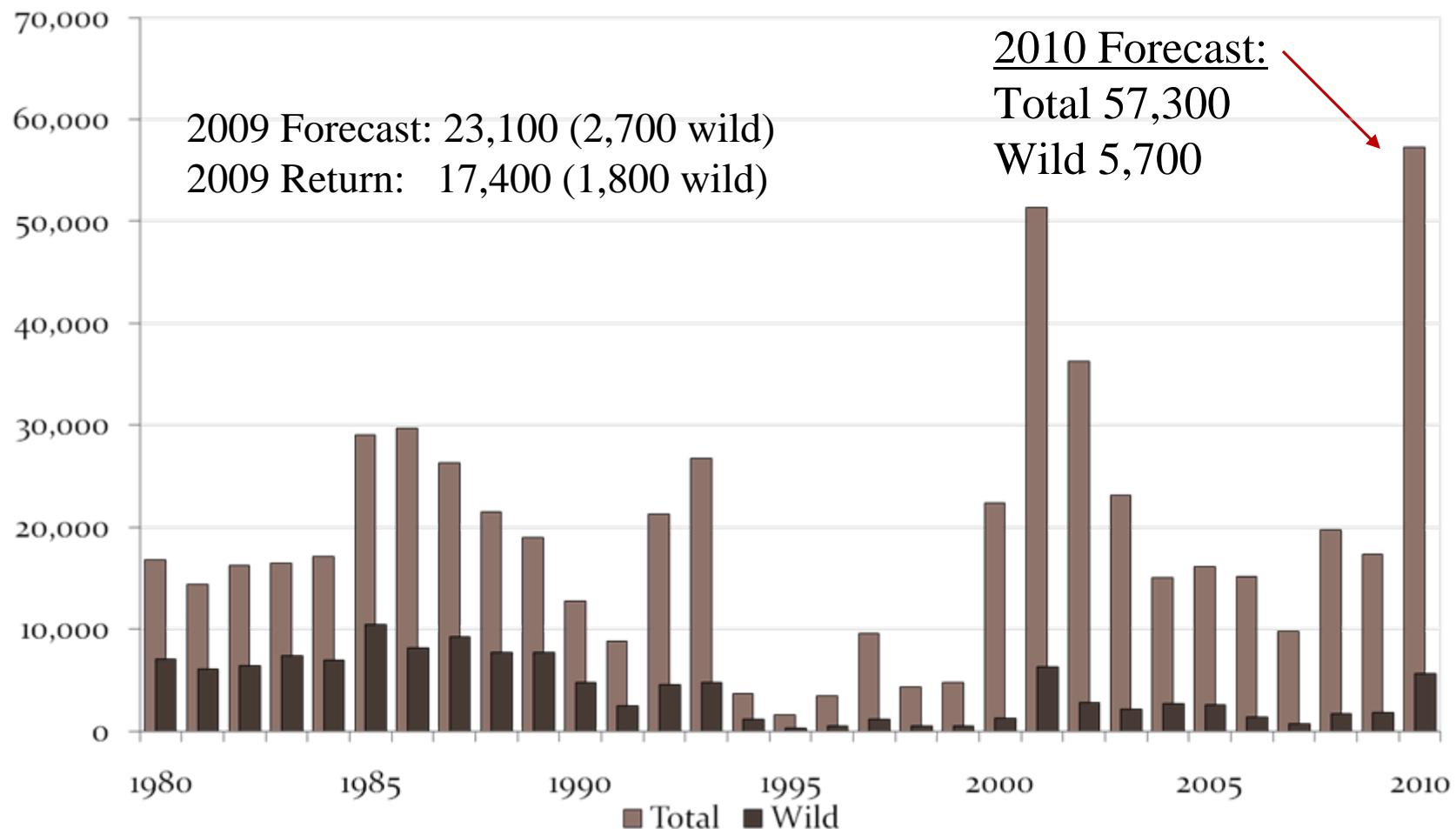
Upriver Spring Chinook



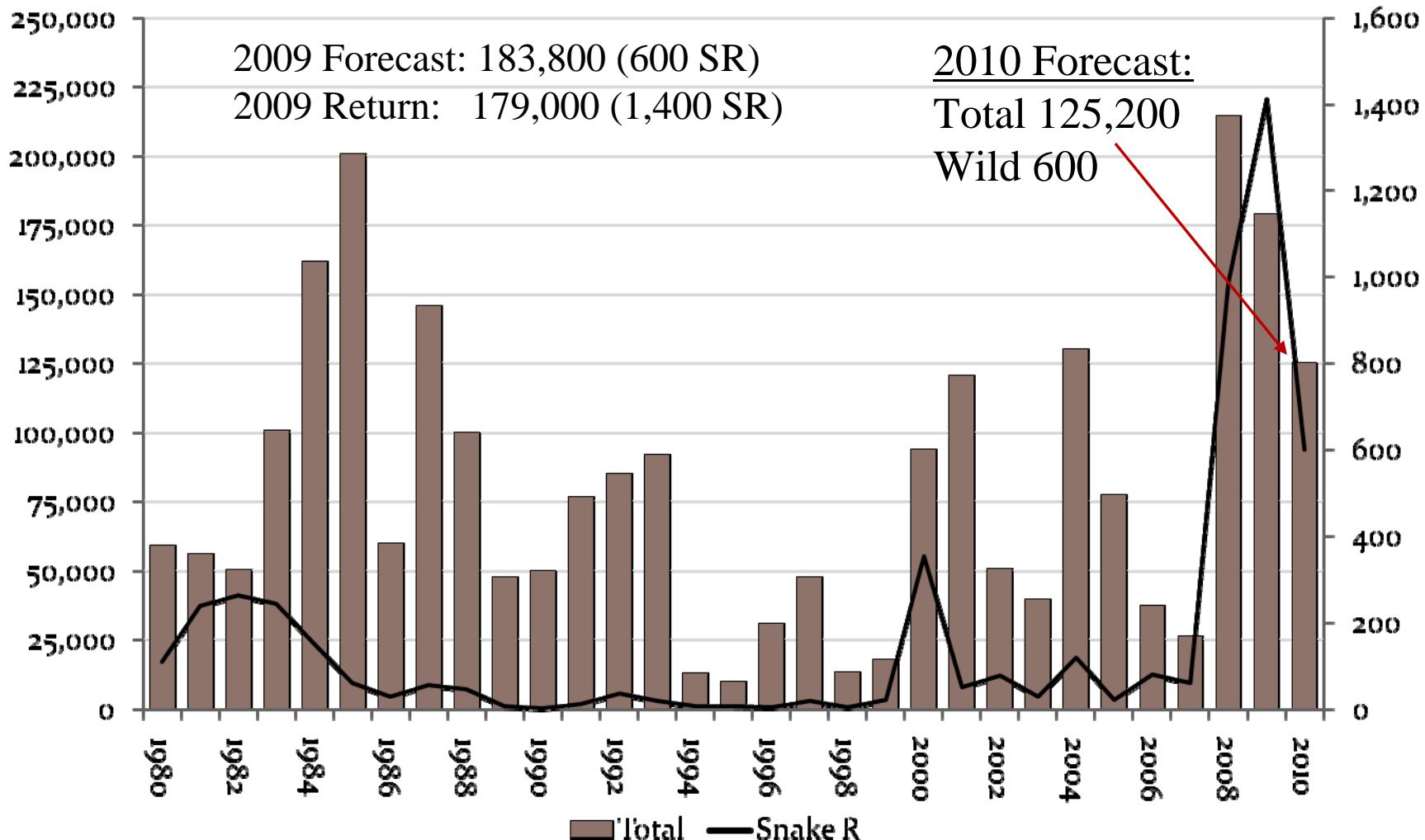
Snake River Spring/Summer



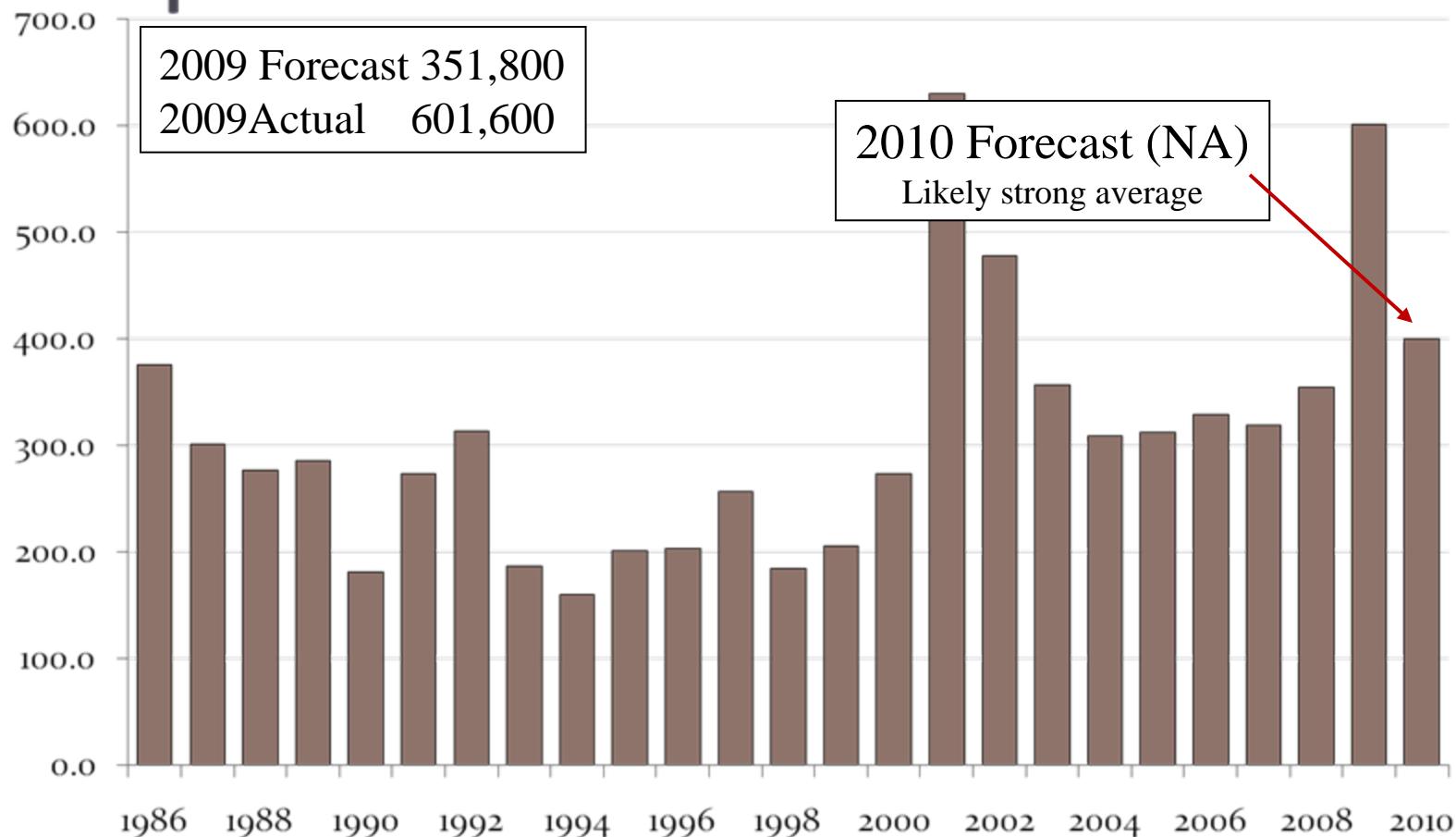
Upper Columbia Spring Chinook



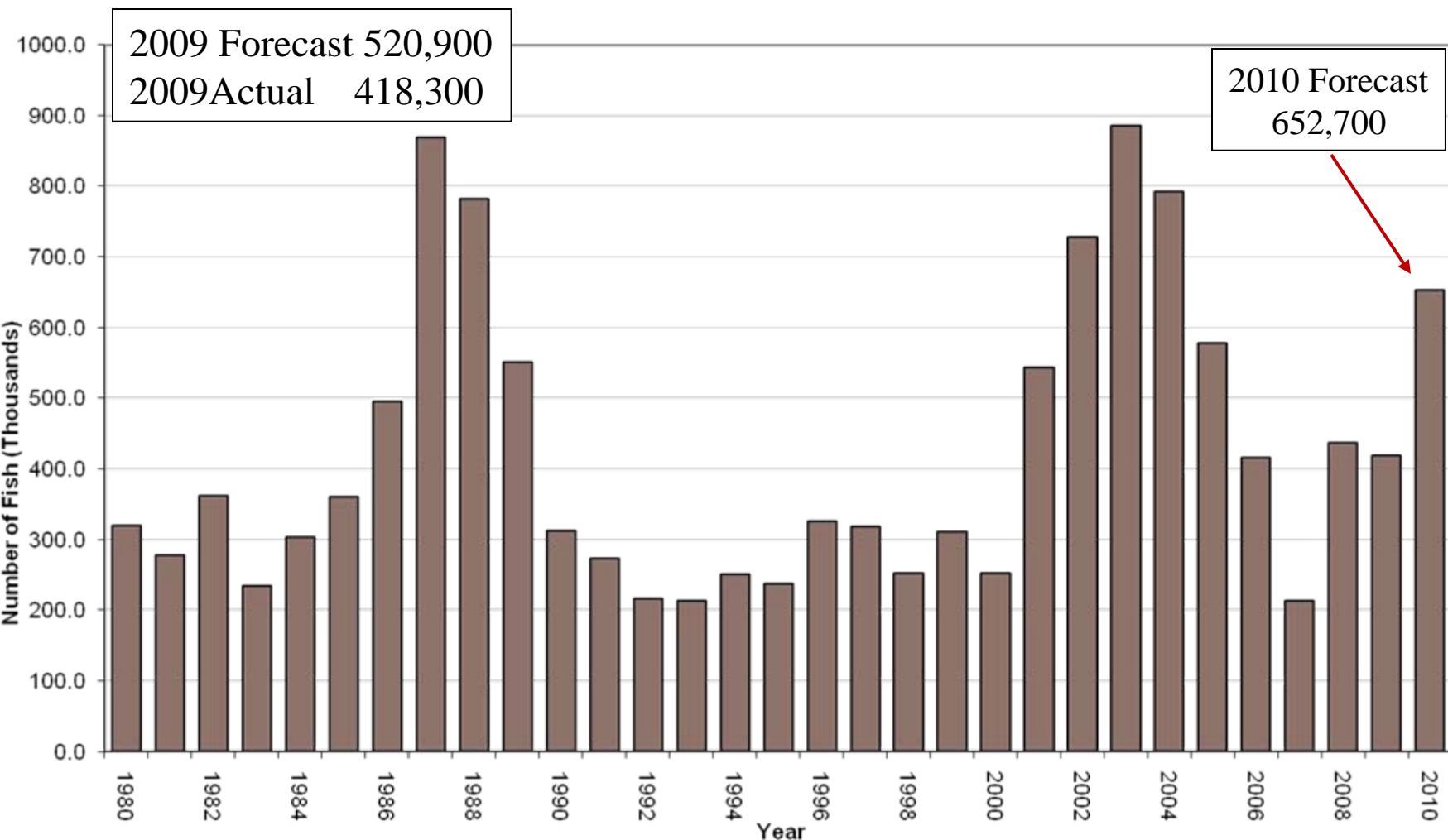
Sockeye



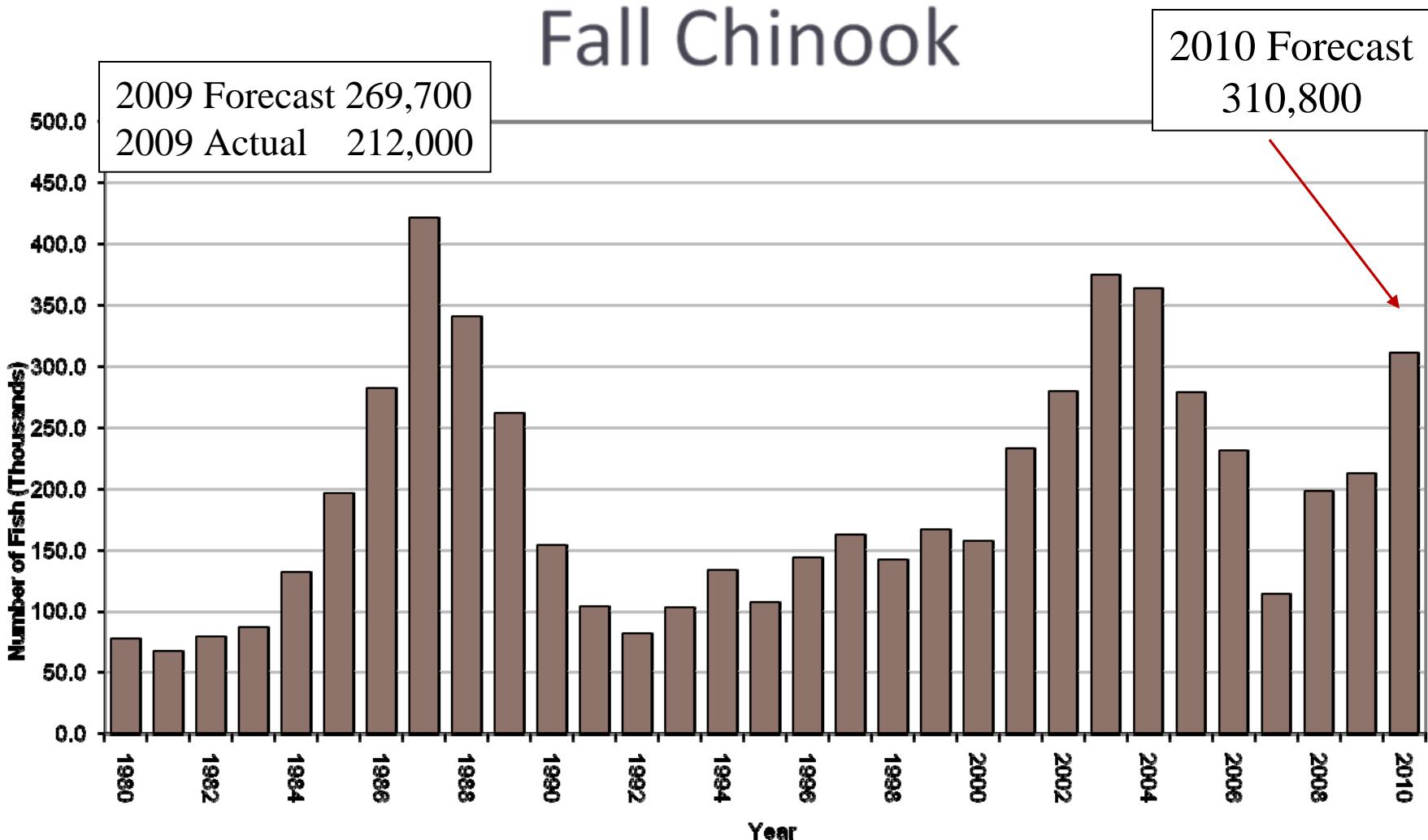
Upriver Summer Steelhead



Total Fall Chinook

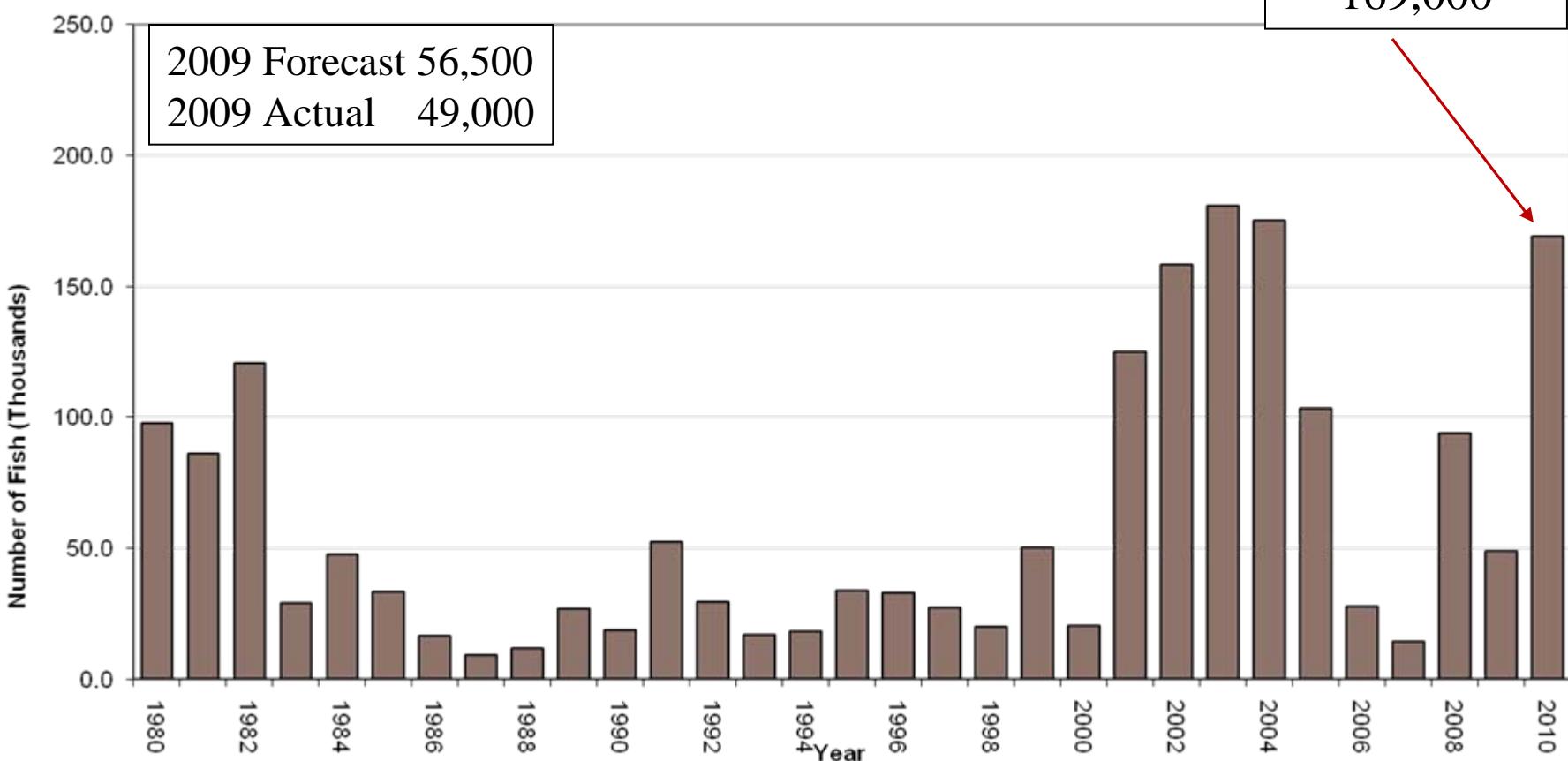


Upriver Bright (URB) Fall Chinook



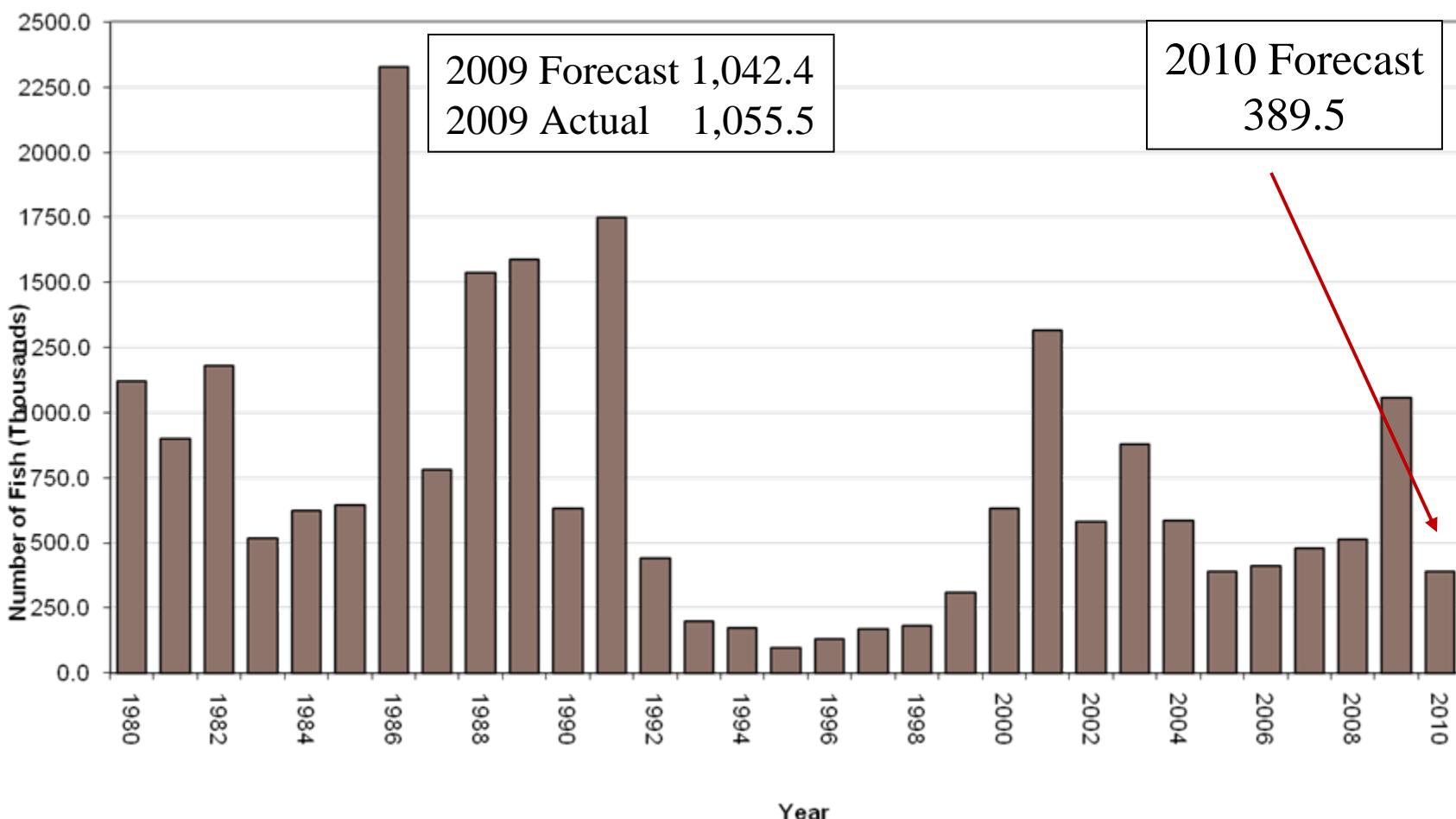
Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) Fall Chinook

2010 Forecast
169,000



Columbia River Coho

Ocean Abundance



2009 Non-Treaty Fisheries

- Upriver spring Chinook – 21,000 hatchery fish kept
 - ESA mortalities: 371 wild Upper Columbia or Snake River
 - Impact 1.7% compared to 2.0% ESA limit
- Sockeye – No direct fisheries
 - 1,100 fish harvested, 9 fish Snake river origin
 - Impact 0.6%, compared to 1% ESA limit
- Upriver Summer Steelhead- 26,000 hatchery fish kept
 - ESA mortalities: <200 Group B fish
 - Impacts estimated at 1.23% compared to 2% ESA limit
 - Estimates preliminary
- Summer Chinook – 9,500 fish kept
 - Harvest 80% of allocation

2009 Non Treaty Fisheries

- Recreational fisheries above Bonneville Dam
 - Zone 6/ Ringold area spring Chinook - 300 kept
 - Snake River- spring/summer Chinook - 500 kept
 - BON-PRD summer Chinook – 200 kept
 - > PRD summer Chinook - 3,200 kept
- Colville tribal – 1,000 summer Chinook
- Wanapum tribal – 185 summer Chinook

2009 Treaty Fisheries

- Spring Chinook – 13,100 from C&S permit/platform
 - No commercial gillnet season
- Summer Chinook – 11,400 from commercial and C&S
- Sockeye – 10,400 fish from commercial and C&S
- Steelhead – 1,100 from winter/spring. No fall data yet
- US v Oregon obligation met. Impacts within ESA limit

2010 Fishery Expectations

- Non-Treaty Spring Chinook
 - Fisheries operating under 40% buffered runsize
 - Recreational fisheries underway in Columbia River
 - Commercial fisheries anticipated in March
- Treaty Spring Chinook
 - C&S permit likely begin earlier than normal
 - High likelihood of commercial gillnet fishing periods
- Summer Chinook – harvestable fish available
- Fall Chinook – NOF underway, positive forecasts

