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March 4, 2014

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Tony Grover, Director  
Fish and Wildlife Division

**SUBJECT:** NOAA Life cycle mode

Dr. Rich Zabel, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, will update the Council on developments toward a full life cycle model of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin. The Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BiOp), the [2009 Adaptive Management Implementation Plan](#) calls for expanded life cycle modeling to support conservation planning and implementation as well as early-warning and contingency triggers.

The most recent status review for the runs addressed in the FCRPS BiOp is available at [http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/assets/25/1730\\_01312012\\_150050\\_SRUpdateSal&SteelheadTM113WebFinal.pdf](http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/assets/25/1730_01312012_150050_SRUpdateSal&SteelheadTM113WebFinal.pdf)

The goal of this group is to expand, update, and incorporate recent data into new or existing models of salmon and steelhead life cycles.

Effects that will be incorporated into the models include:

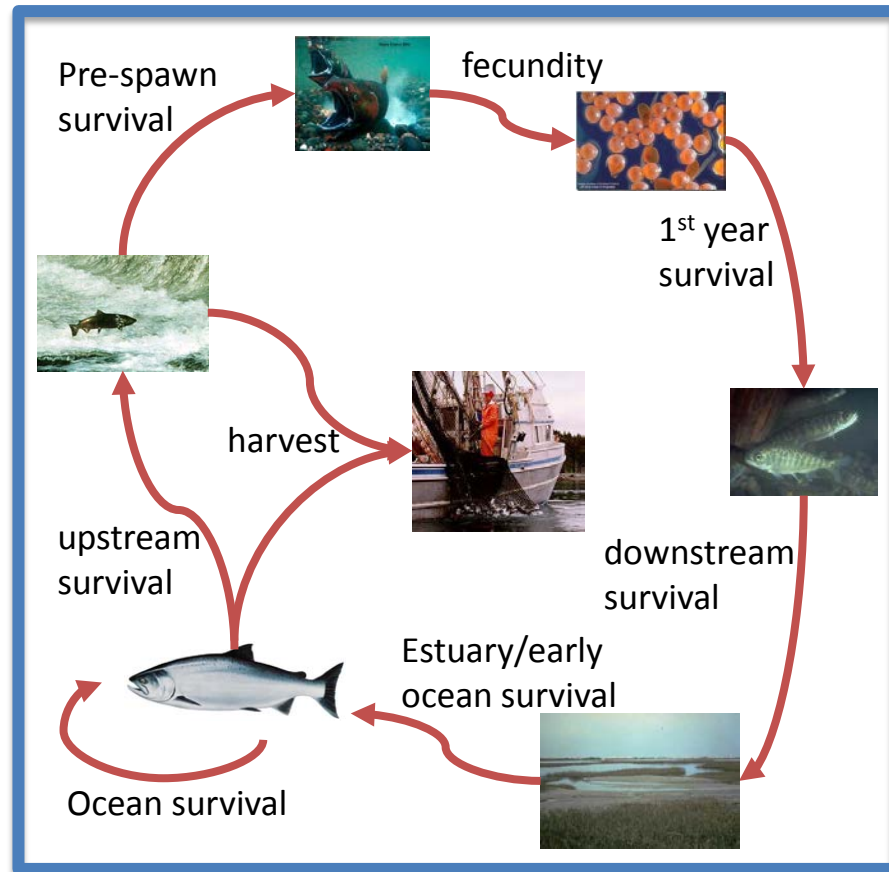
- [Freshwater Habitat Relationships](#)
- Hydro Actions — Recent improvements and alternative future scenarios
- Estuary/Ocean
  - Estuary Actions — Survival into estuary and ocean based on JSATS studies and potential decreases in avian predation
  - Ocean Conditions — Updated ocean survival analysis (Snake River spring/summer Chinook, Upper Columbia spring Chinook, Mid-Columbia steelhead, Snake River steelhead)
- [Spatial Analyses](#)

- Hatchery Effects

Documents:

- [Report to ISAB June 2013: Life-Cycle models of salmonid populations in the interior Columbia River Basin](#)
- [ISAB Report: REVIEW OF LIFE-CYCLE MODELS OF SALMONID POPULATIONS IN THE INTERIOR COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN \(JUNE 28, 2013 DRAFT"\)](#)

# Life-Cycle Modeling of Columbia River Basin Salmonid Populations: Translating Mitigation Actions into Population Viability Metrics



- 1) Background
- 2) Overview of Life Cycle Modeling
- 3) Examples from AMIP group
- 4) ISAB Review

# **Recovery and Management Options for Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon in the Columbia River Basin**

**Peter Kareiva,<sup>1</sup> Michelle Marvier,<sup>2</sup> Michelle McClure<sup>1\*</sup>**

[www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org) SCIENCE VOL 290 3 NOVEMBER 2000

2000

# **The Interplay between Climate Variability and Density Dependence in the Population Viability of Chinook Salmon**

**RICHARD W. ZABEL,\* MARK D. SCHEUERELL, MICHELLE M. McCLURE, AND JOHN G. WILLIAMS**

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montlake Boulevard East, Seattle, WA 98112, U.S.A.

**Conservation Biology Volume 20, No. 1, 190–200**

2006

Assessing the Impact of Environmental Conditions and  
Hydropower on Population Productivity for Interior Columbia  
River Stream-type Chinook and Steelhead Populations

Interior Columbia Technical Recovery Team and R. W. Zabel

2007

# Adaptive Management Implementation Plan (AMIP)

2010-2013

# Adaptive Management Implementation Plan (AMIP)

## Life Cycle Model:

- GOAL: Assess benefit of mitigation actions across the life cycle
- Collaboration of small working groups

## New Areas of Focus:

- ◎ More Populations  
Dynamic Database

## New Areas of Focus:

- ◎ More Populations
- ◎ Effects of Habitat actions  
Development of “sub-modules”

## New Areas of Focus:

- ◎ More Populations
- ◎ Effects of Habitat actions
- ◎ Link to monitoring activities
  - Identify key information and data gaps

## New Areas of Focus:

- ◎ More Populations
- ◎ Effects of Habitat actions
- ◎ Link to monitoring activities
- ◎ Hatchery impacts on wild populations  
long-term datasets

## New Areas of Focus:

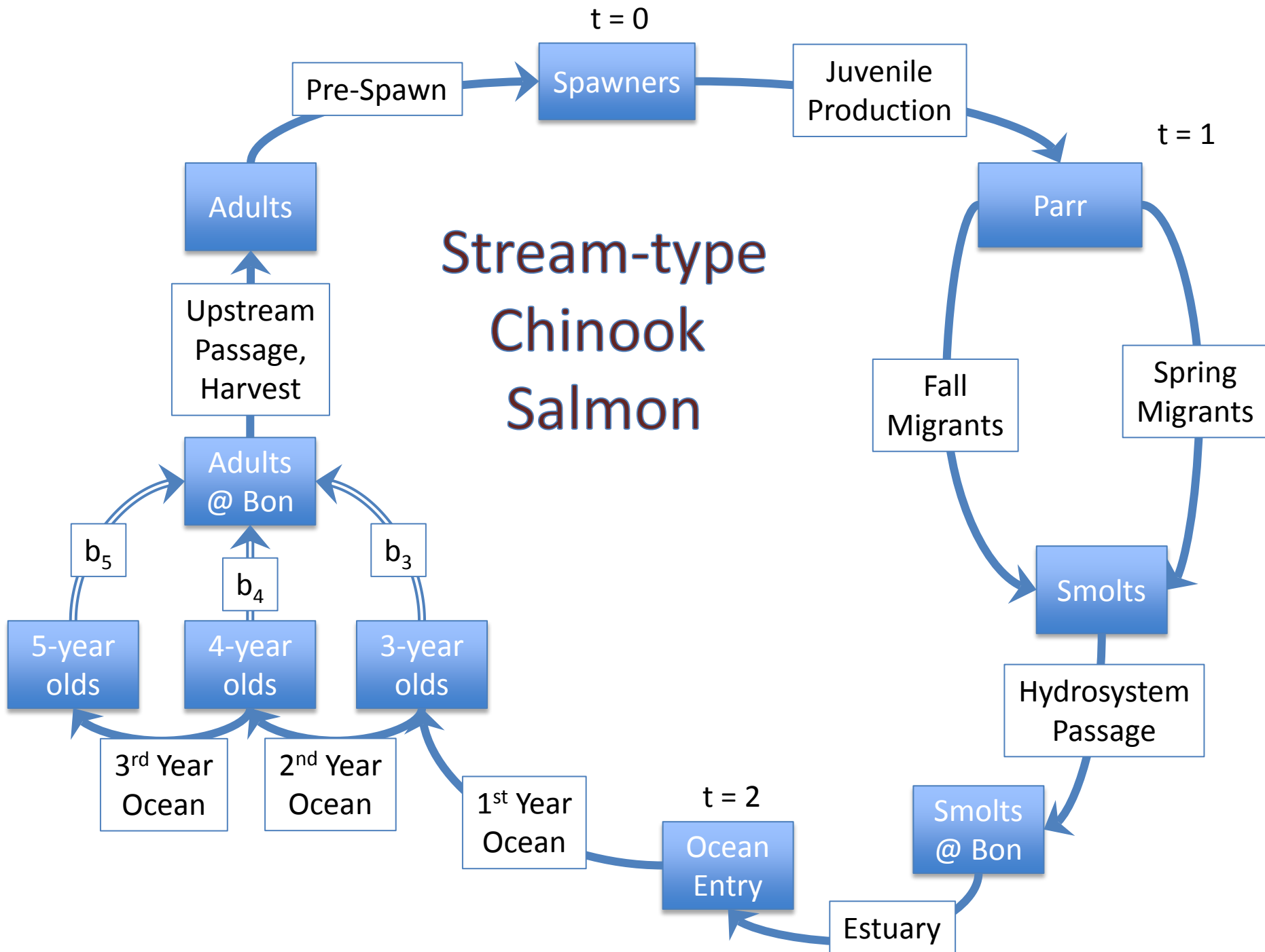
- ⦿ More Populations
- ⦿ Effects of Habitat actions
- ⦿ Link to monitoring activities
- ⦿ Hatchery impacts on wild populations
- ⦿ Spatial Patterns
  - Identify isolated populations
  - Meta-population modeling

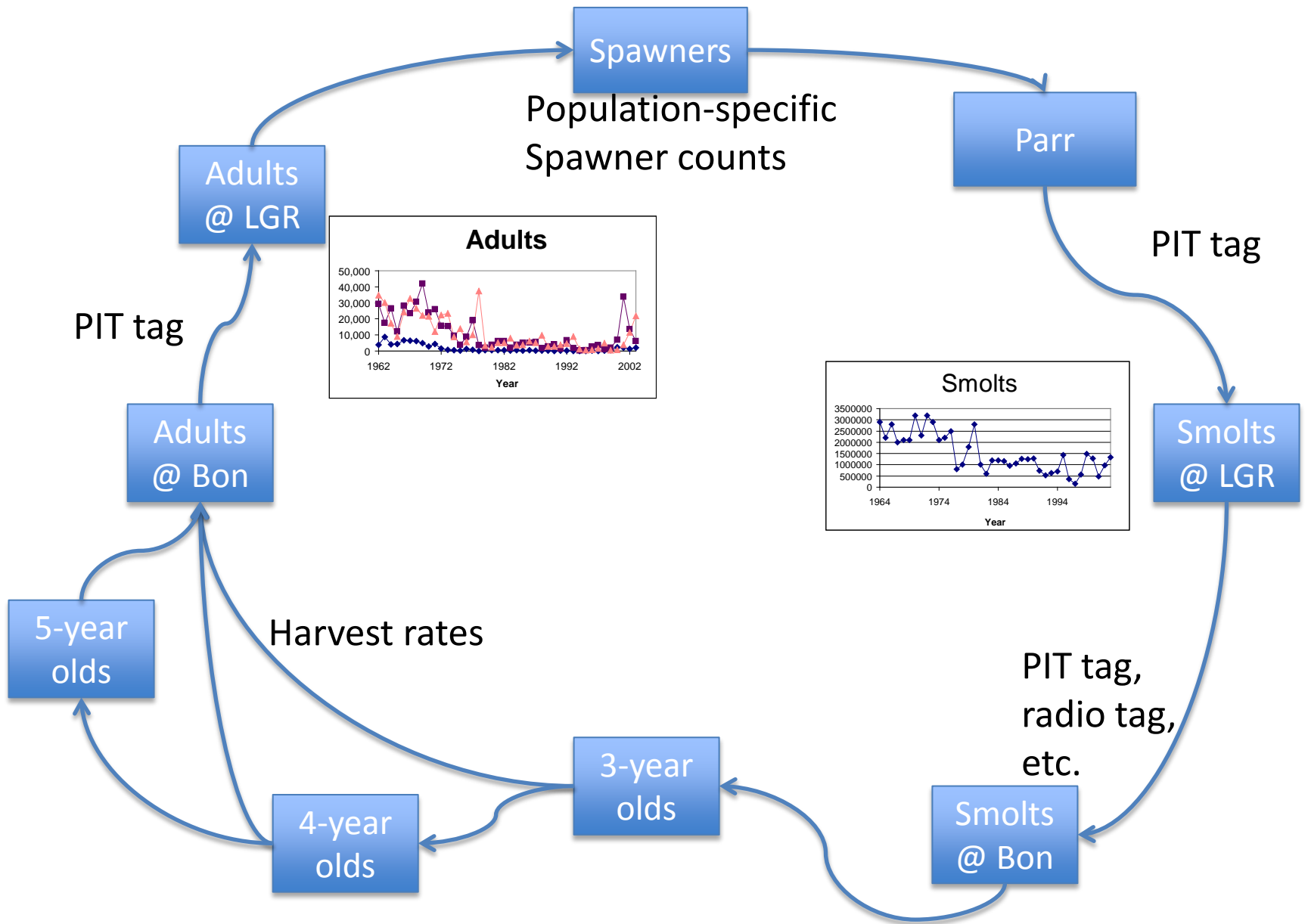
## New Areas of Focus:

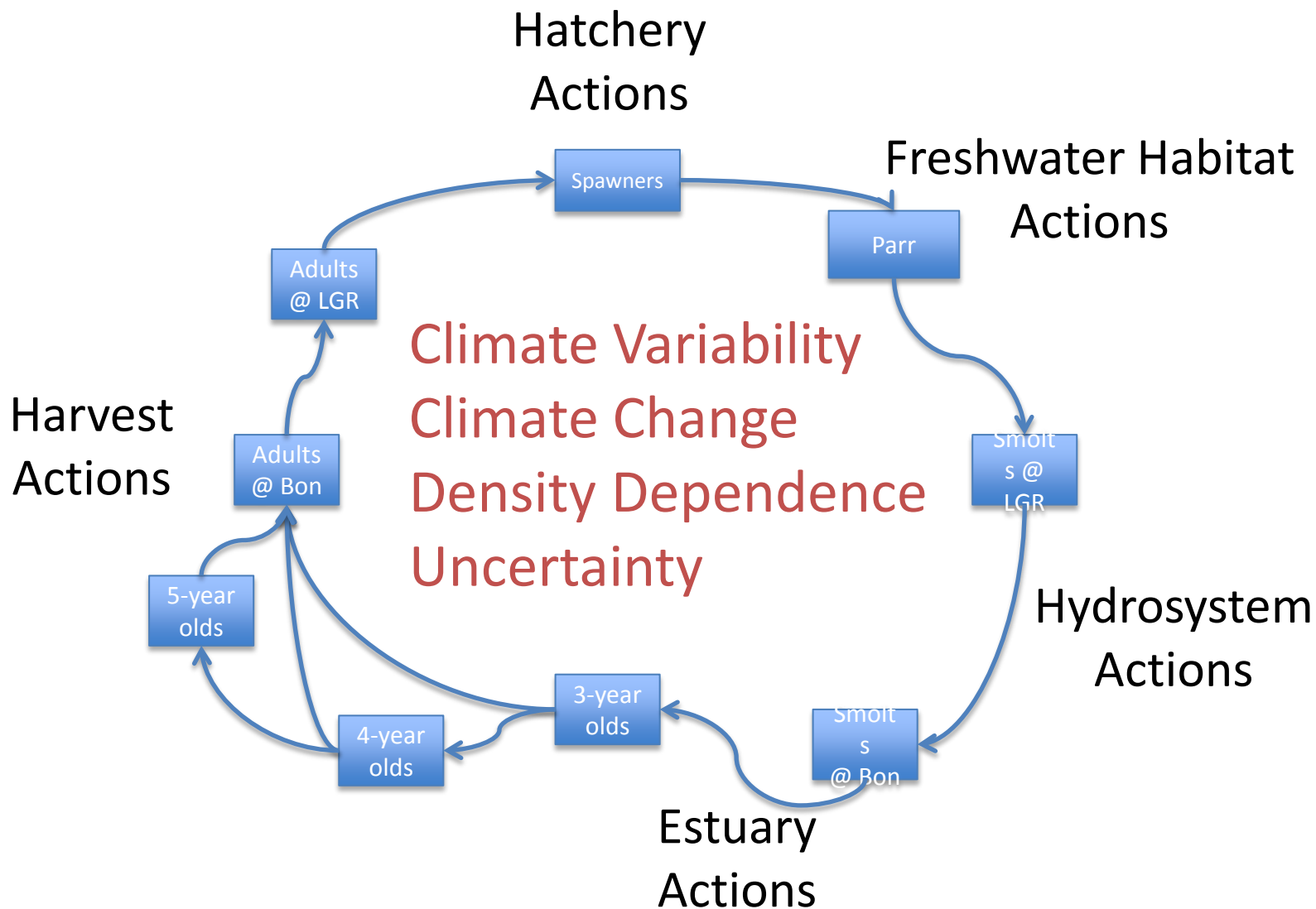
- ⦿ More Populations
- ⦿ Effects of Habitat actions
- ⦿ Link to monitoring activities
- ⦿ Hatchery impacts on wild populations
- ⦿ Spatial Patterns
- ⦿ Complex life histories  
e.g. Snake R fall Chinook  
steelhead/rainbow

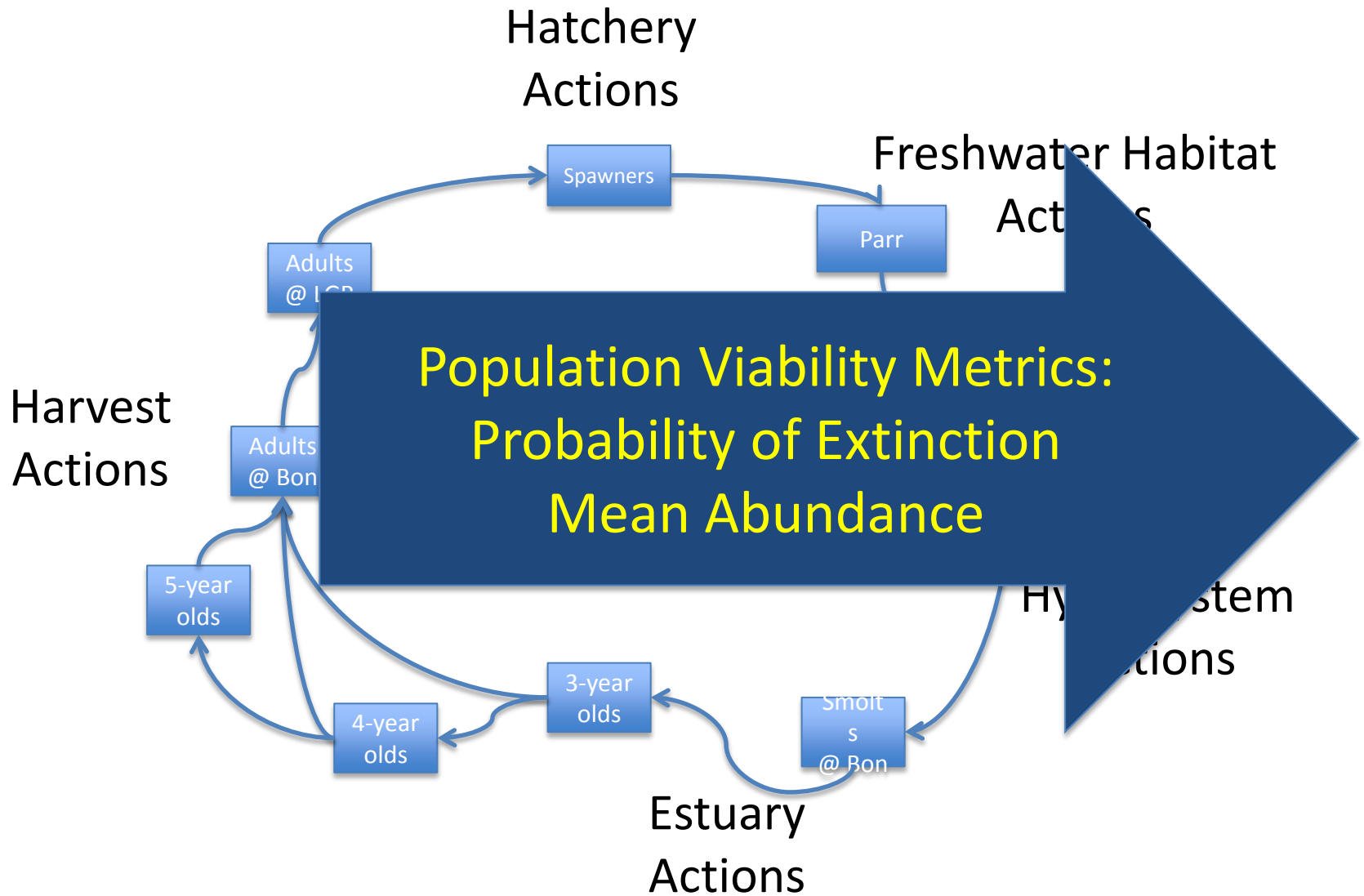
Rich Zabel (NOAA Fisheries, NWFSC)  
Tom Cooney (NOAA Fisheries, NWFSC)  
Chris Jordan (NOAA Fisheries, NWFSC)  
Richard W. Carmichael (ODFW)  
Brian C. Jonasson (ODFW)  
Edwin Sedell (ODFW)  
Timothy L. Hoffnagle (ODFW)  
Robert B Lessard (CRITFC)  
Casey Justice (CRITFC)  
Jeff Jorgensen (NOAA Fisheries)  
Andrew Murdoch (WDFW)  
Jeremy Cram (WDFW)  
Charlie Paulsen (PEC)  
Lisa G. Crozier (NWFSC)  
Neala Kendall (WDFW)  
William P. Connor (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

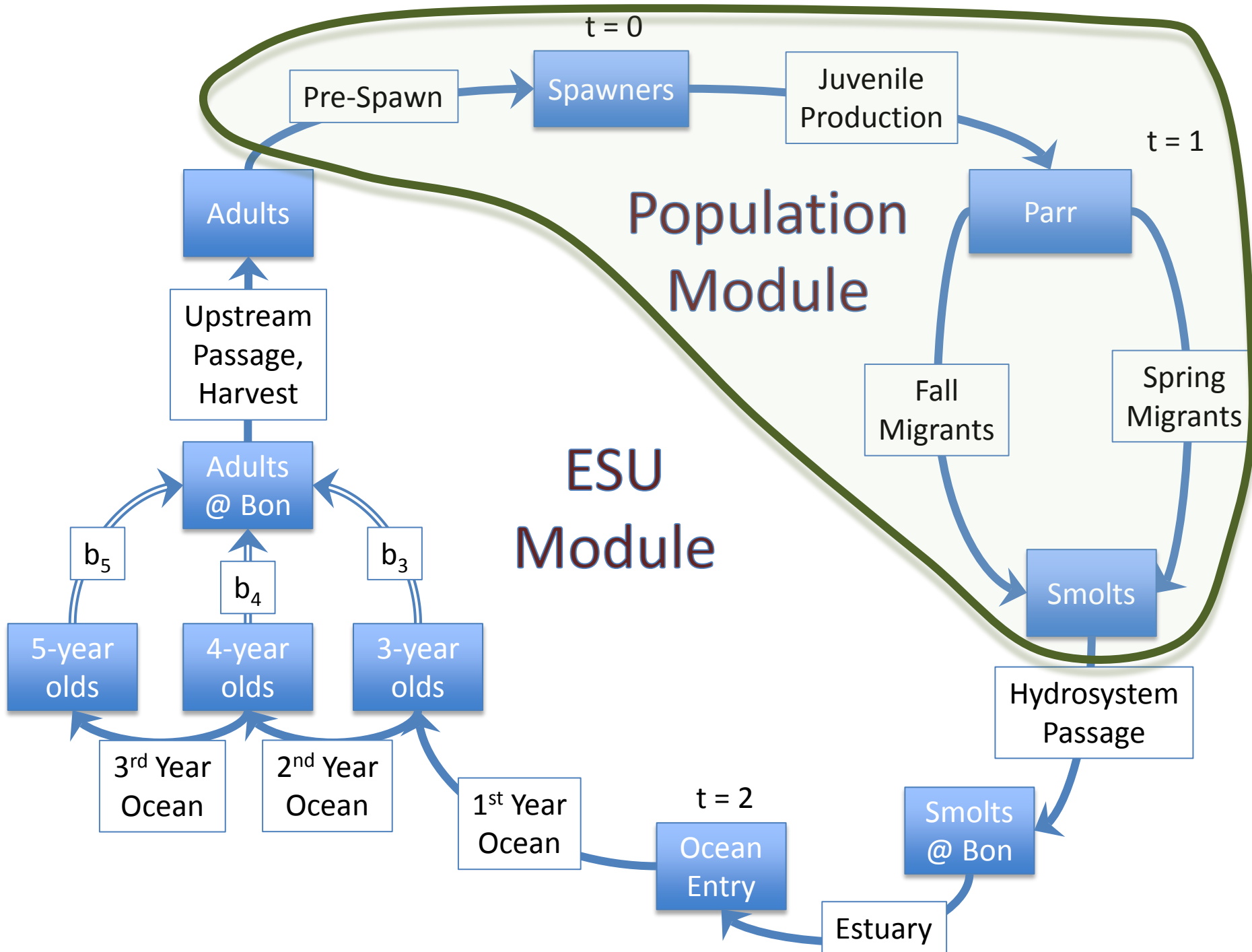
Ian Courter (Cramer Fish Sciences)  
Chris Frederiksen (Yakama Nation)  
Chris Beasley (Quantitative Consultants, Inc.)  
Jody White (Quantitative Consultants, Inc.)  
Matt Nahorniak (South Fork Research, Inc.)  
William Young (Nez Perce Tribe)  
Russell Perry and Kenneth F. Tiffan (USGS)  
Michael Newsom (USBR)  
Ryan Bellmore (USGS)  
Charlie Snow (WDFW)  
Alex Fremier (U of Idaho)  
Aimee H. Fullerton (NOAA Fisheries, NWFSC)  
Mark D. Scheuerell (NOAA Fisheries, NWFSC)  
Eric R. Buhle (NOAA Fisheries, NWFSC)

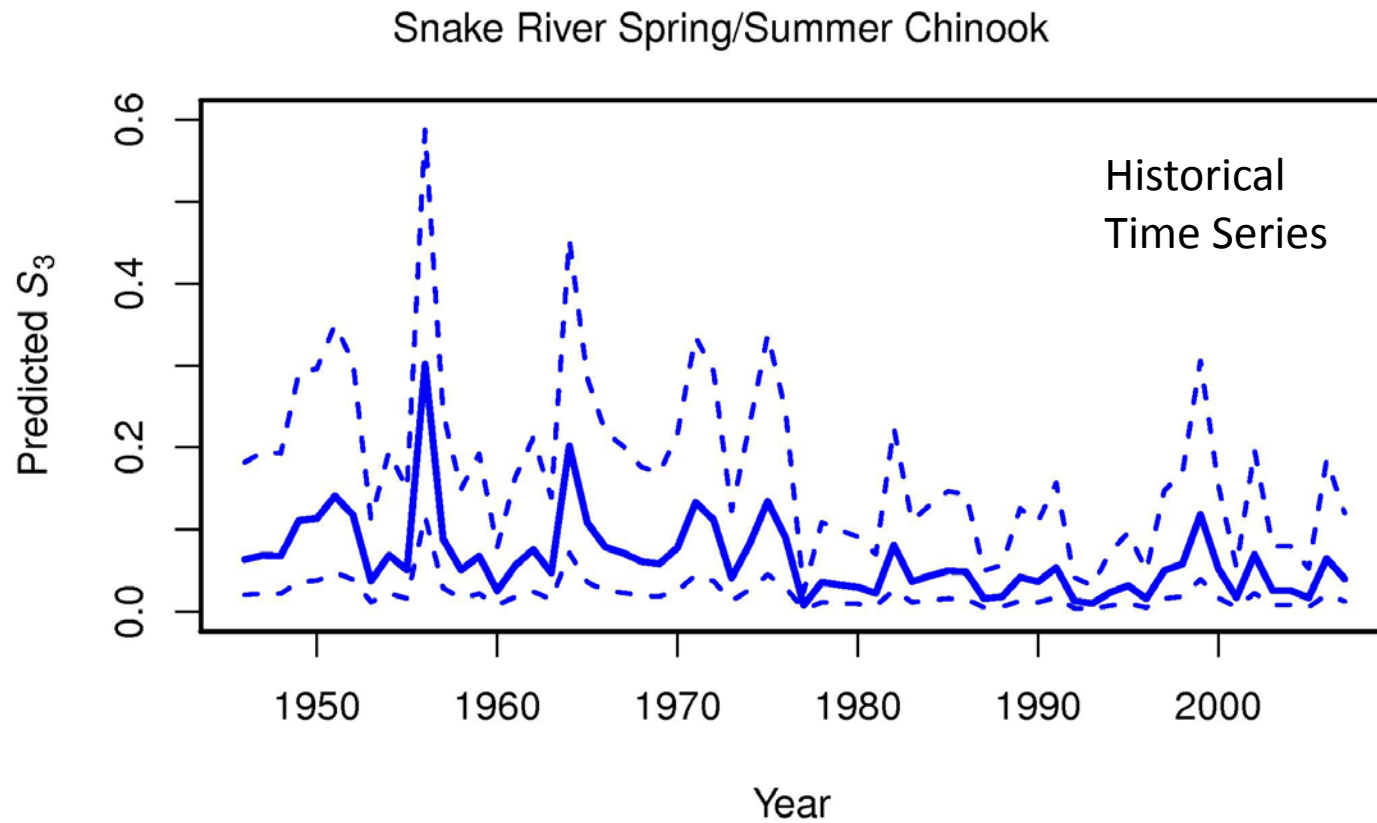






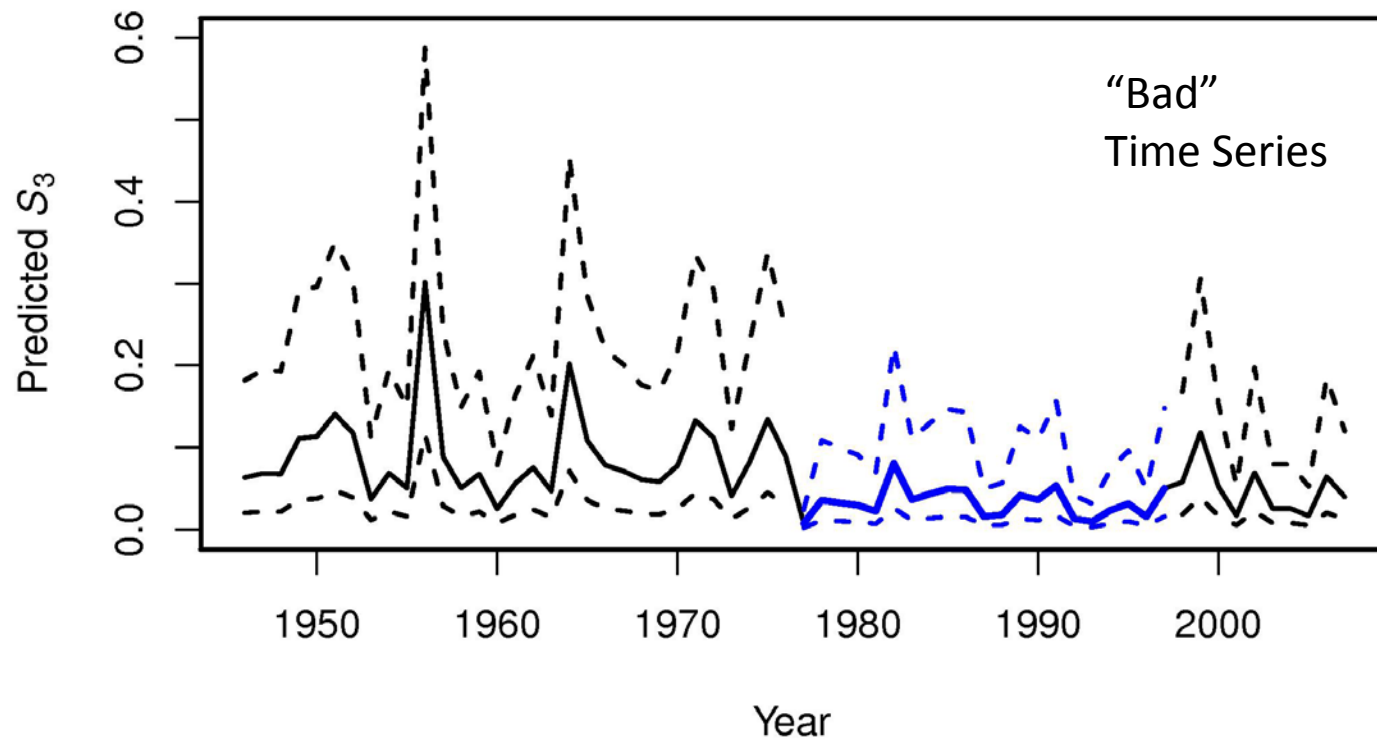


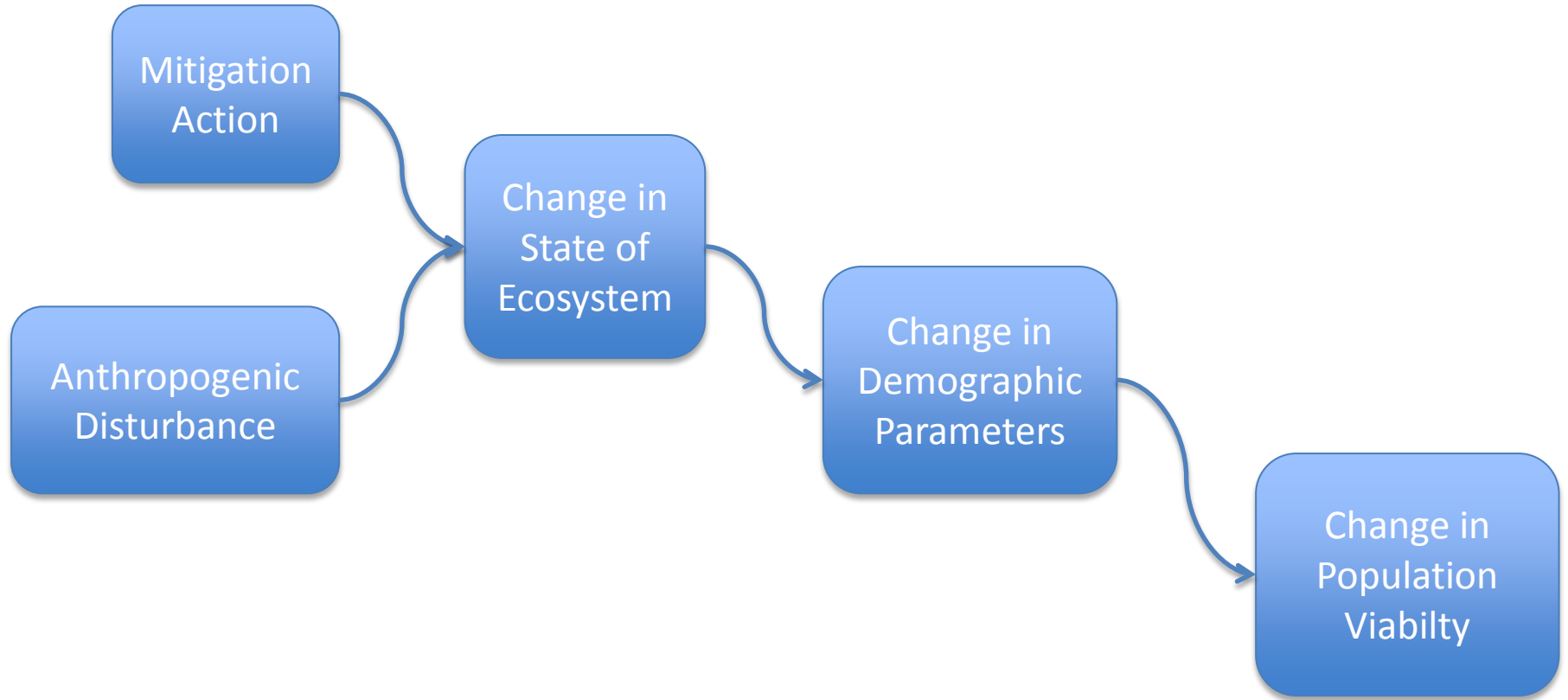


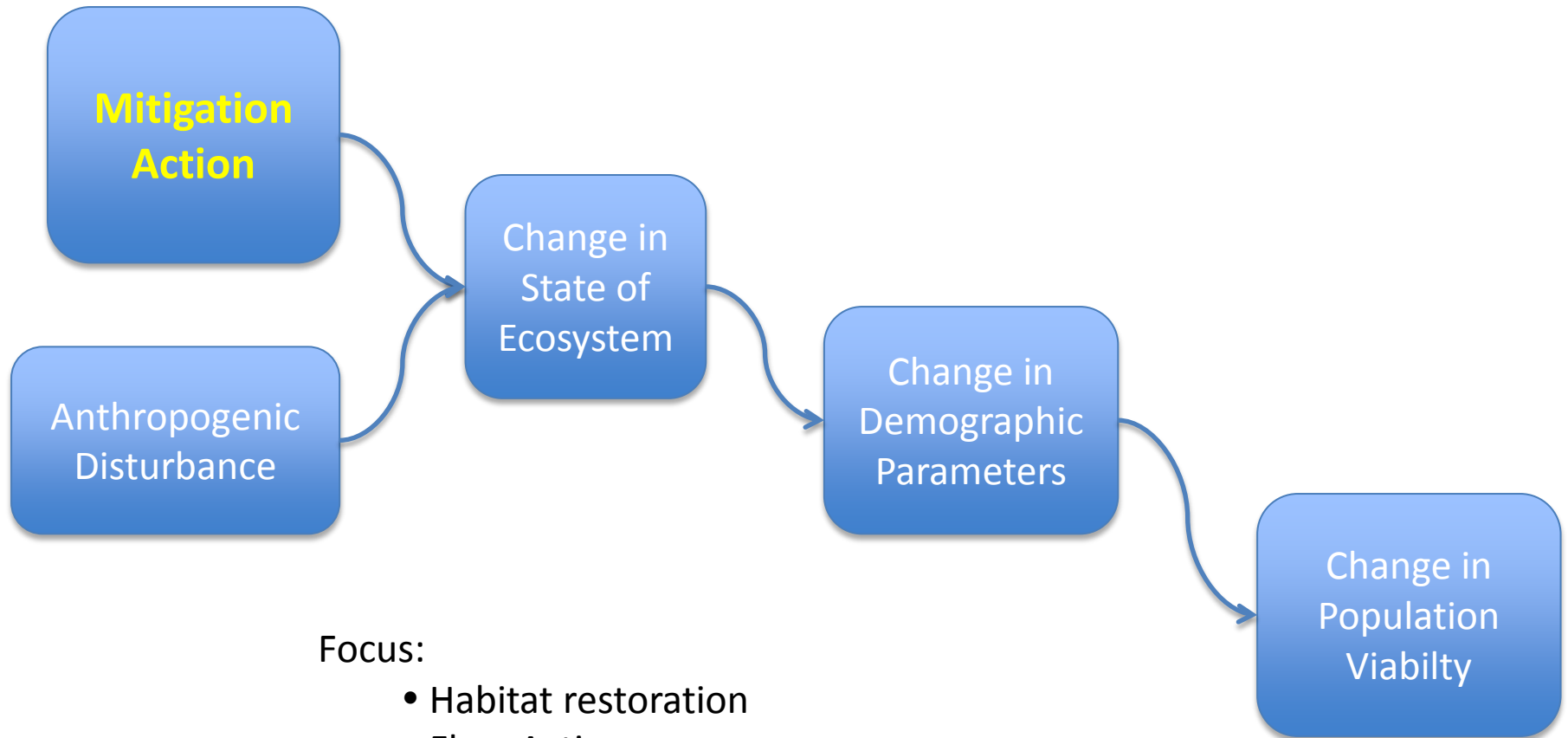


Ocean survival related to PDO, upwelling and water travel time

# Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook





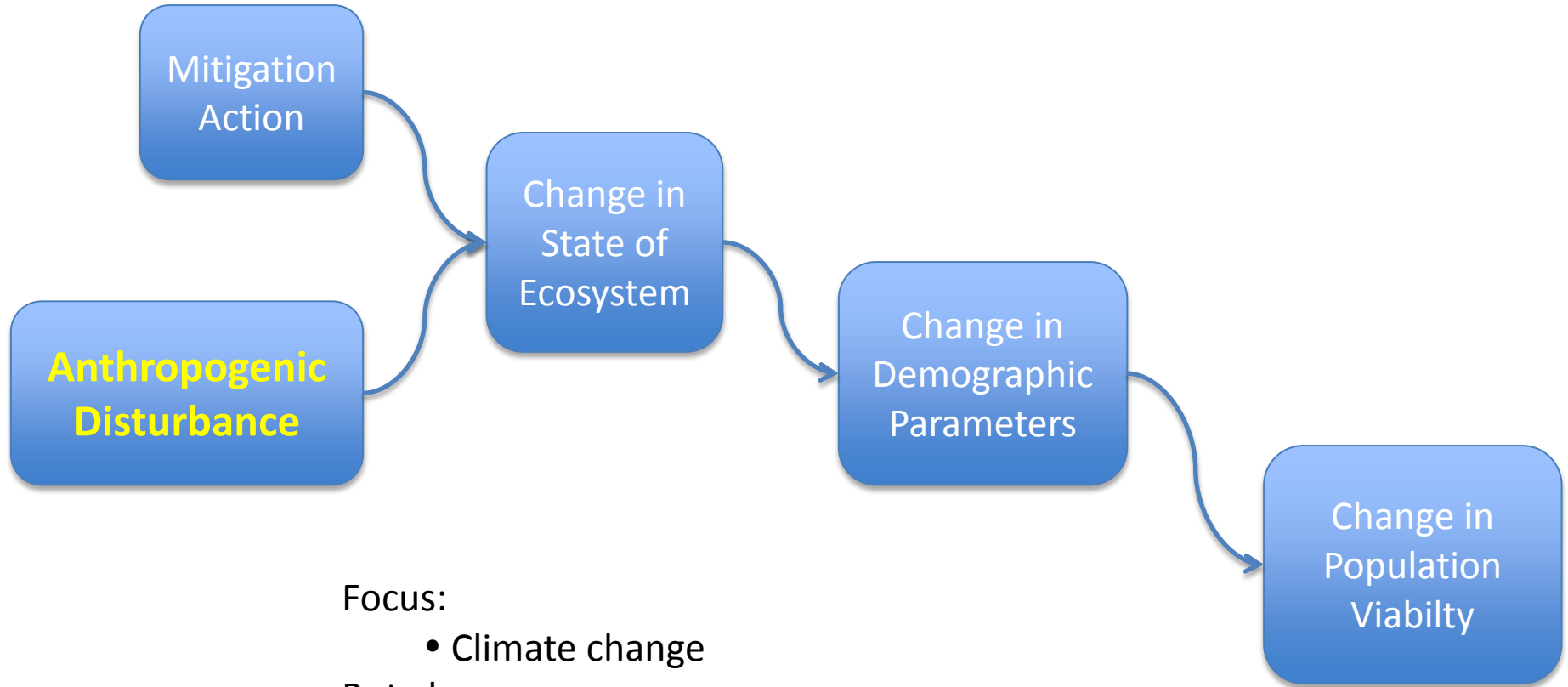


Focus:

- Habitat restoration
- Flow Actions

But also:

- Harvest reduction
- Hatchery actions
- Hydro Actions

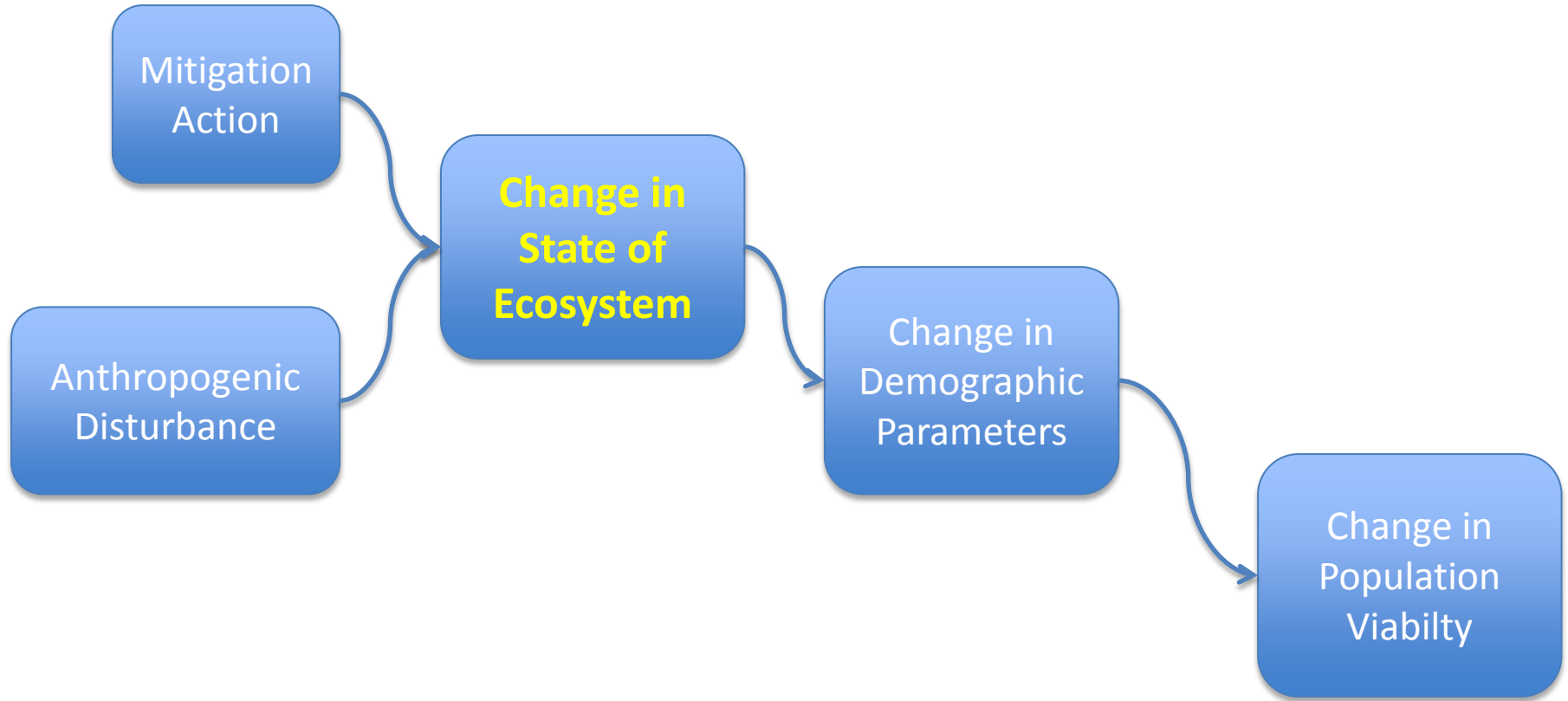


Focus:

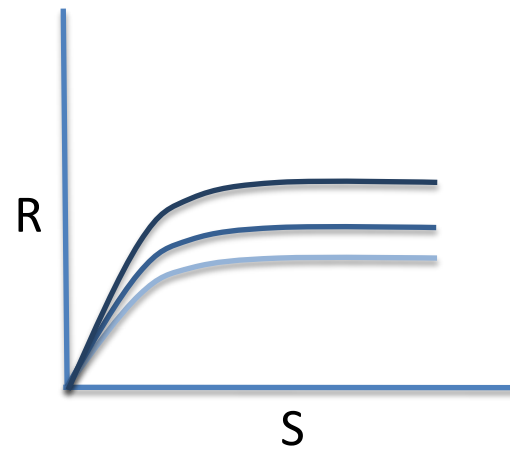
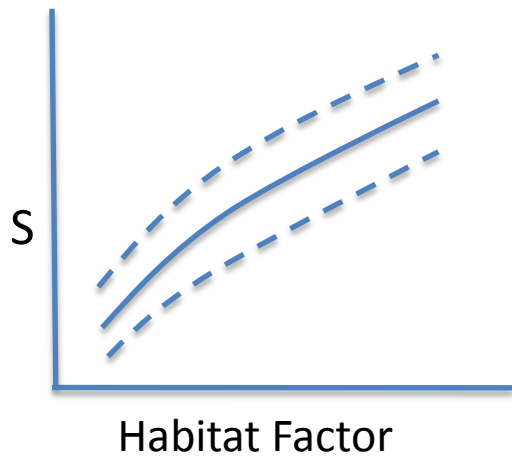
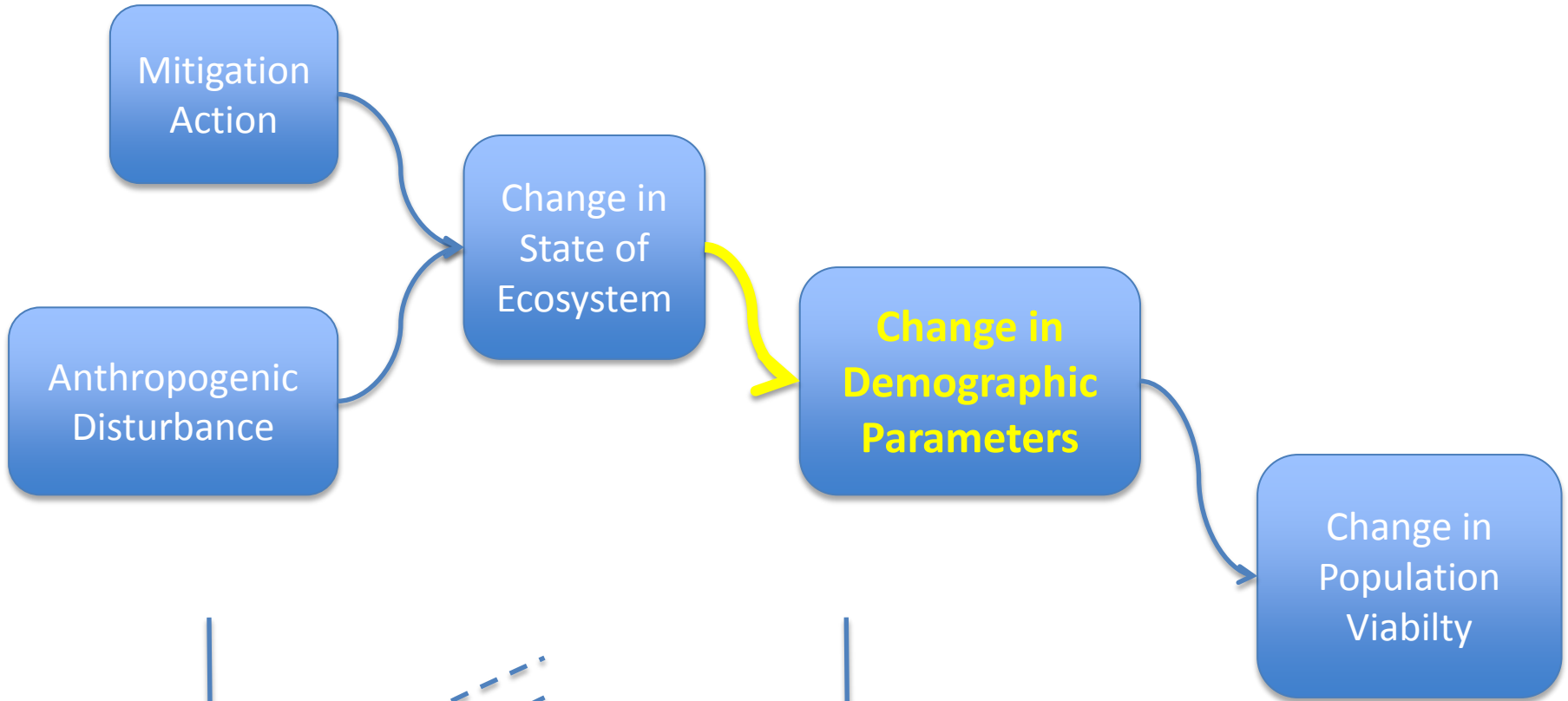
- Climate change

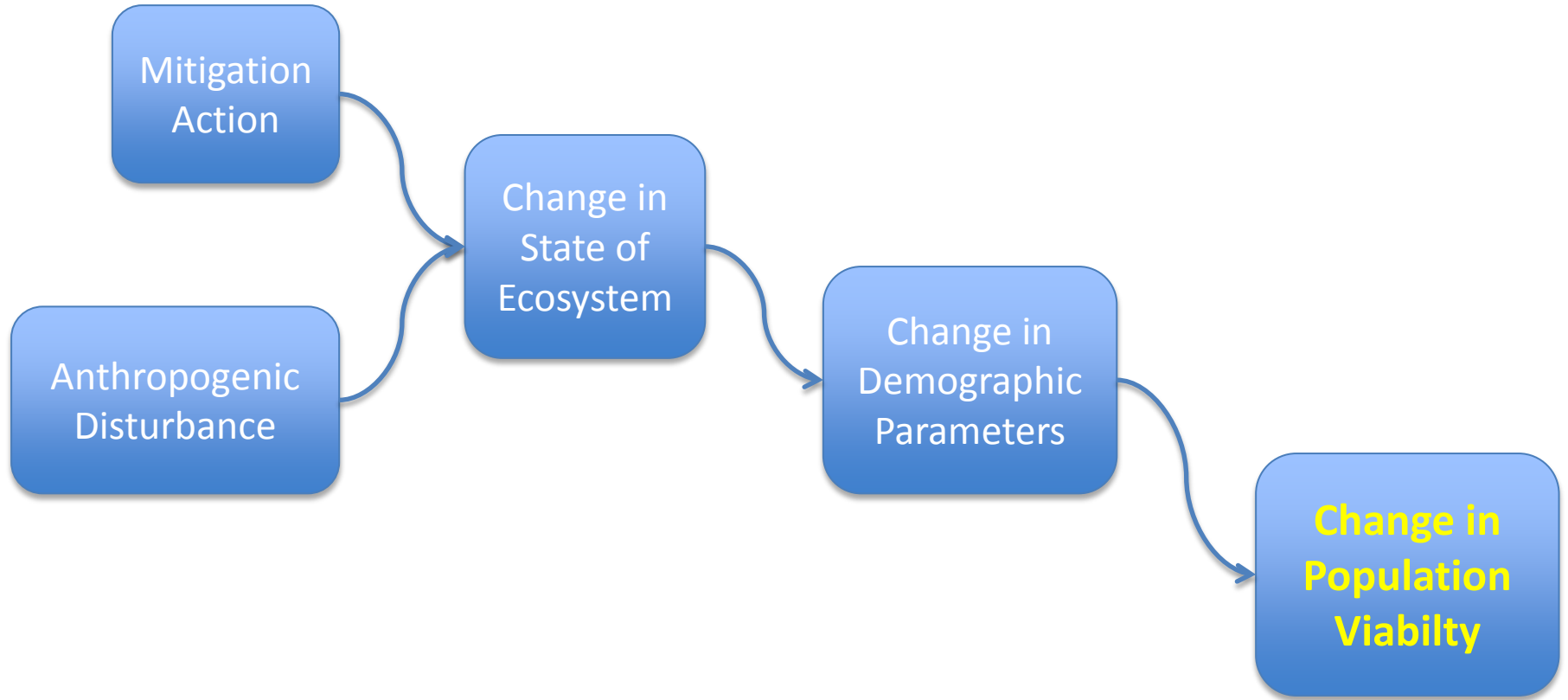
But also:

- Other habitat impacts (e.g. invasive spp.)



- Changes in river flows, temperatures
- Habitat
- Nutrients, community composition?
- pollutants?

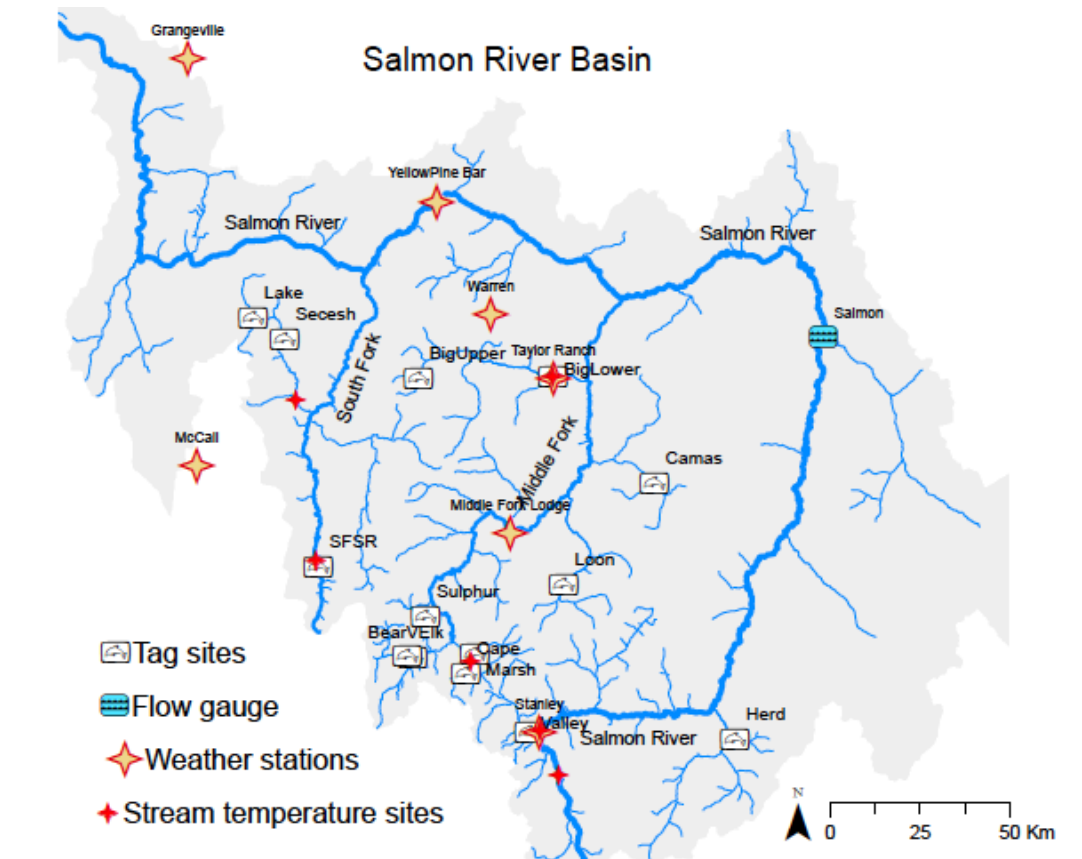




Probability of Extinction  
Long Term Abundance  
Productivity

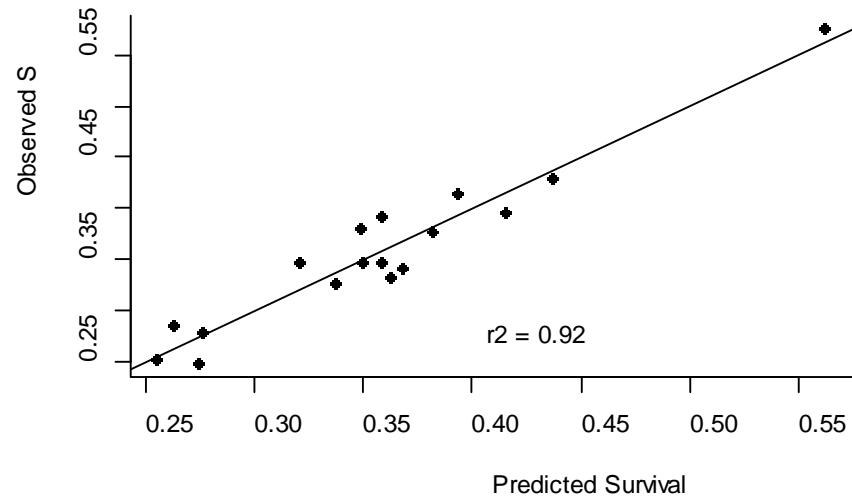
## 2.4: Population responses of spring/summer Chinook salmon to projected changes in stream flow and temperature in the Salmon River Basin, Idaho

Lisa G. Crozier (NWFSC) and Richard W. Zabel (NWFSC)



# Updated analyses of parr to smolt survival: Environmental effects are important

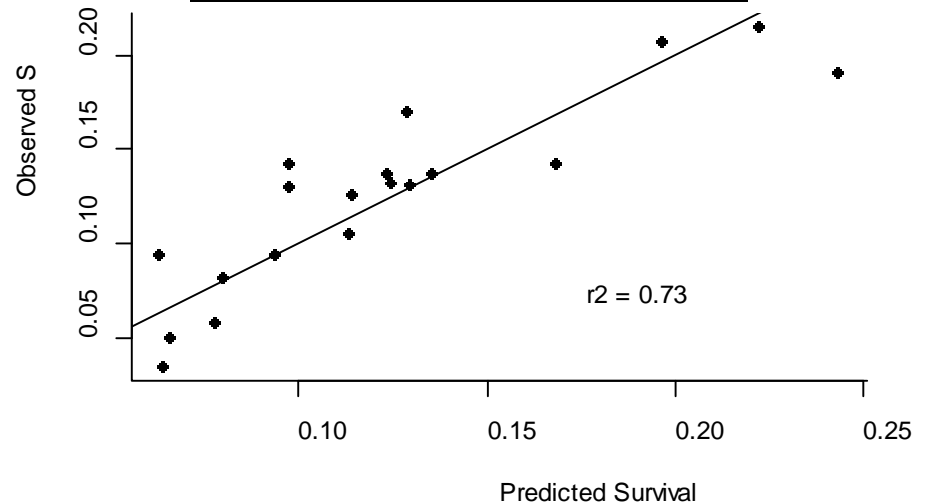
Survival~Flow+Fish Length



Marsh, Cape Horn, Bear Valley, Elk, Camas

Lake, Secesh River, South Fork, Valley Creek

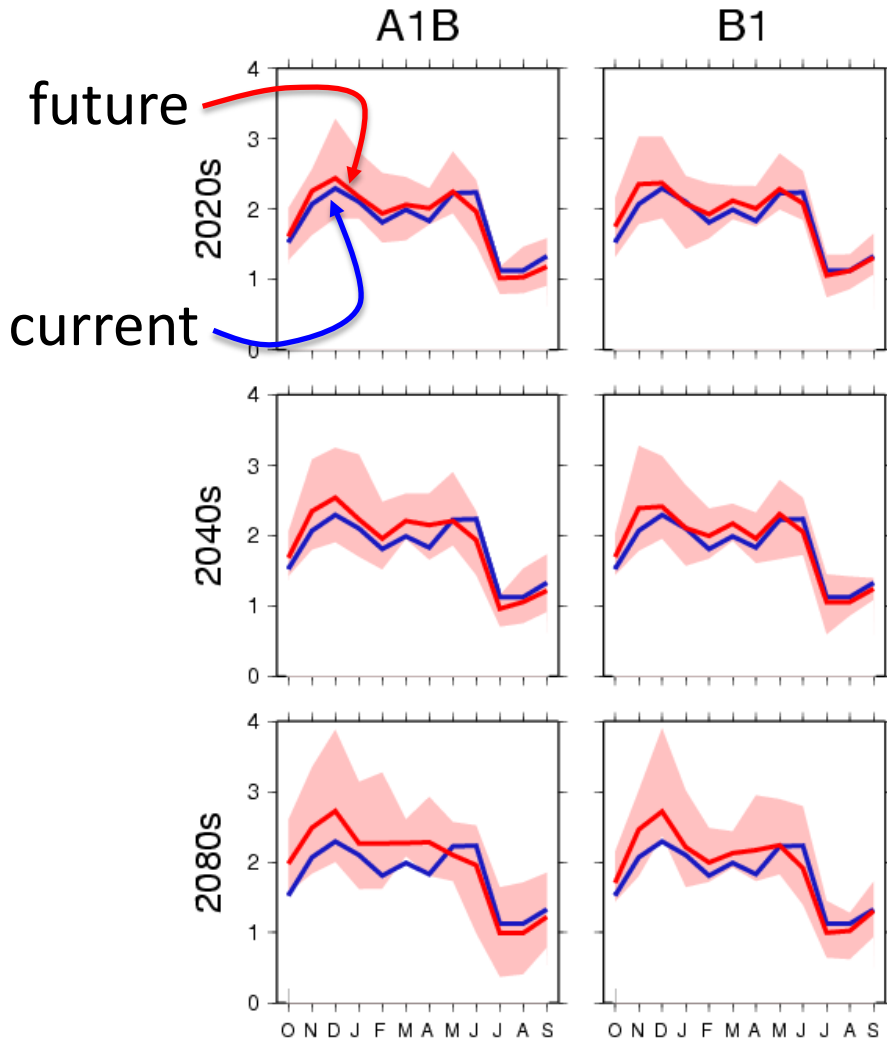
Survival~Flow+Fish Length



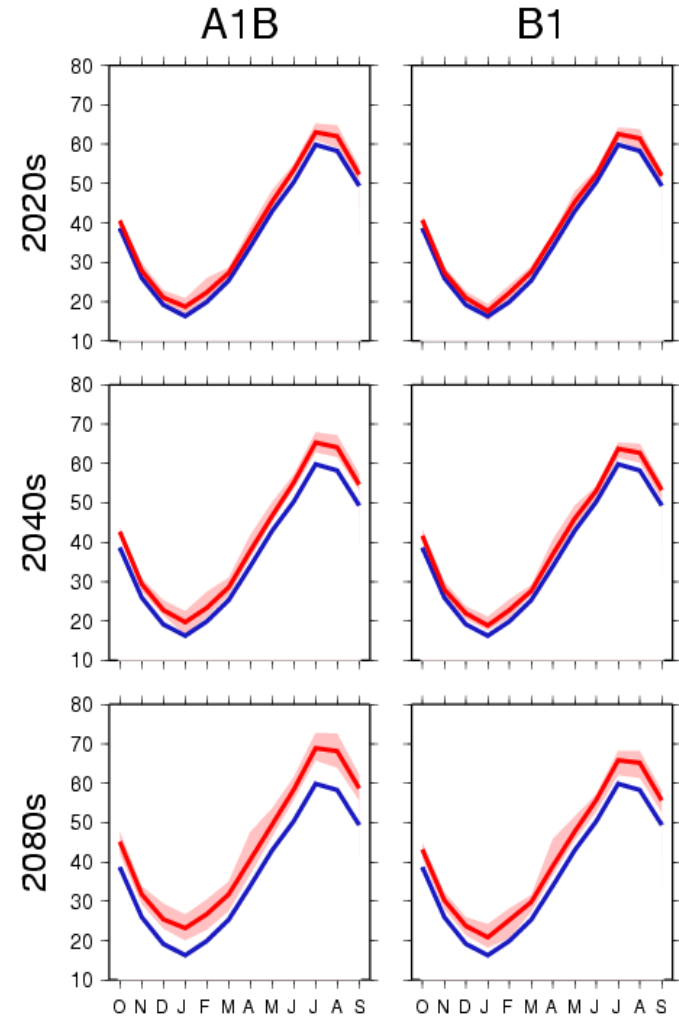
# IPCC Climate scenarios

Hybrid delta scenarios

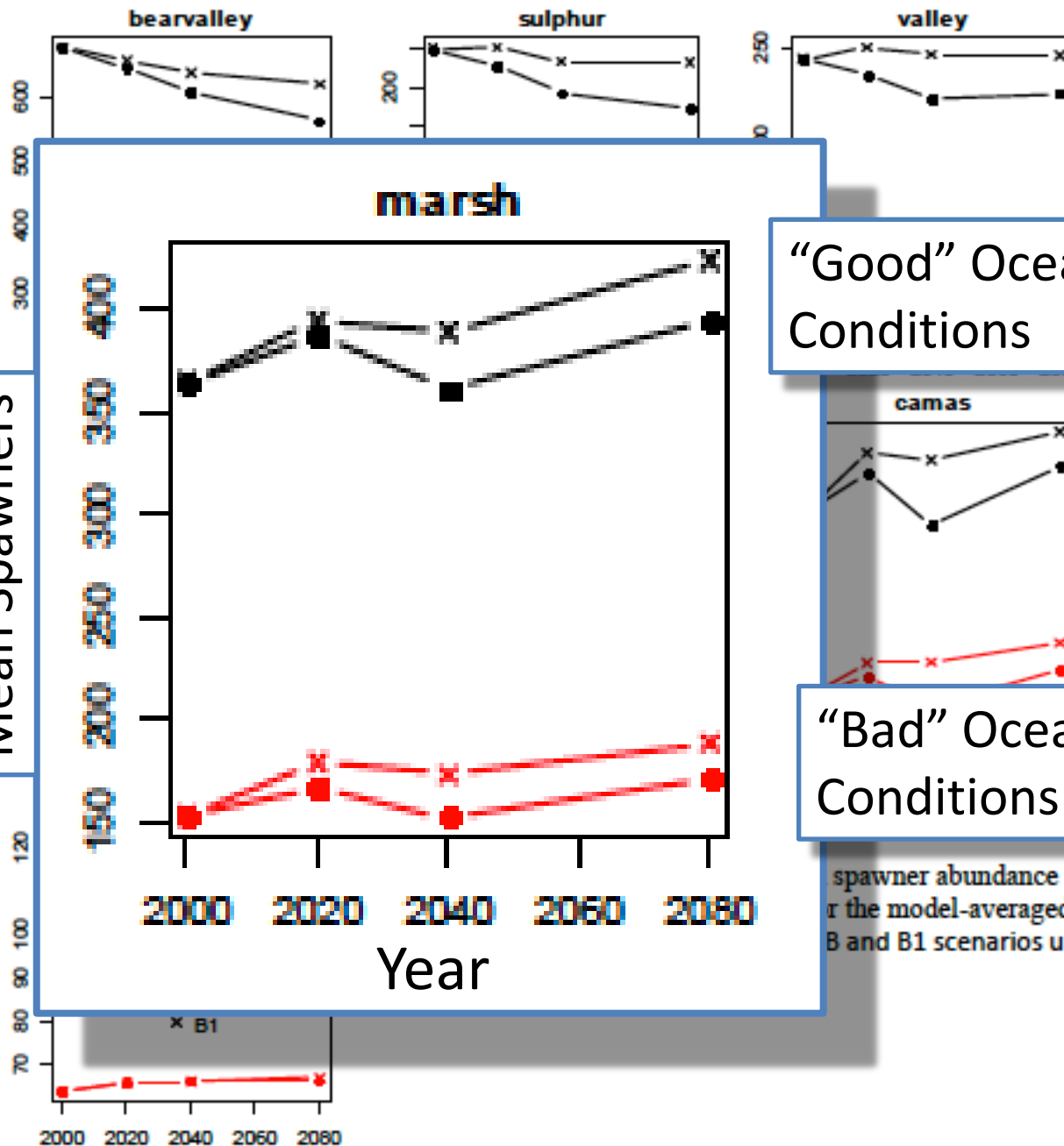
*precipitation (in):*



*average temperature (F):*



Mean Spawners



"Good" Ocean Conditions

"Bad" Ocean Conditions

spawner abundance under  
r the model-averaged  
B and B1 scenarios under

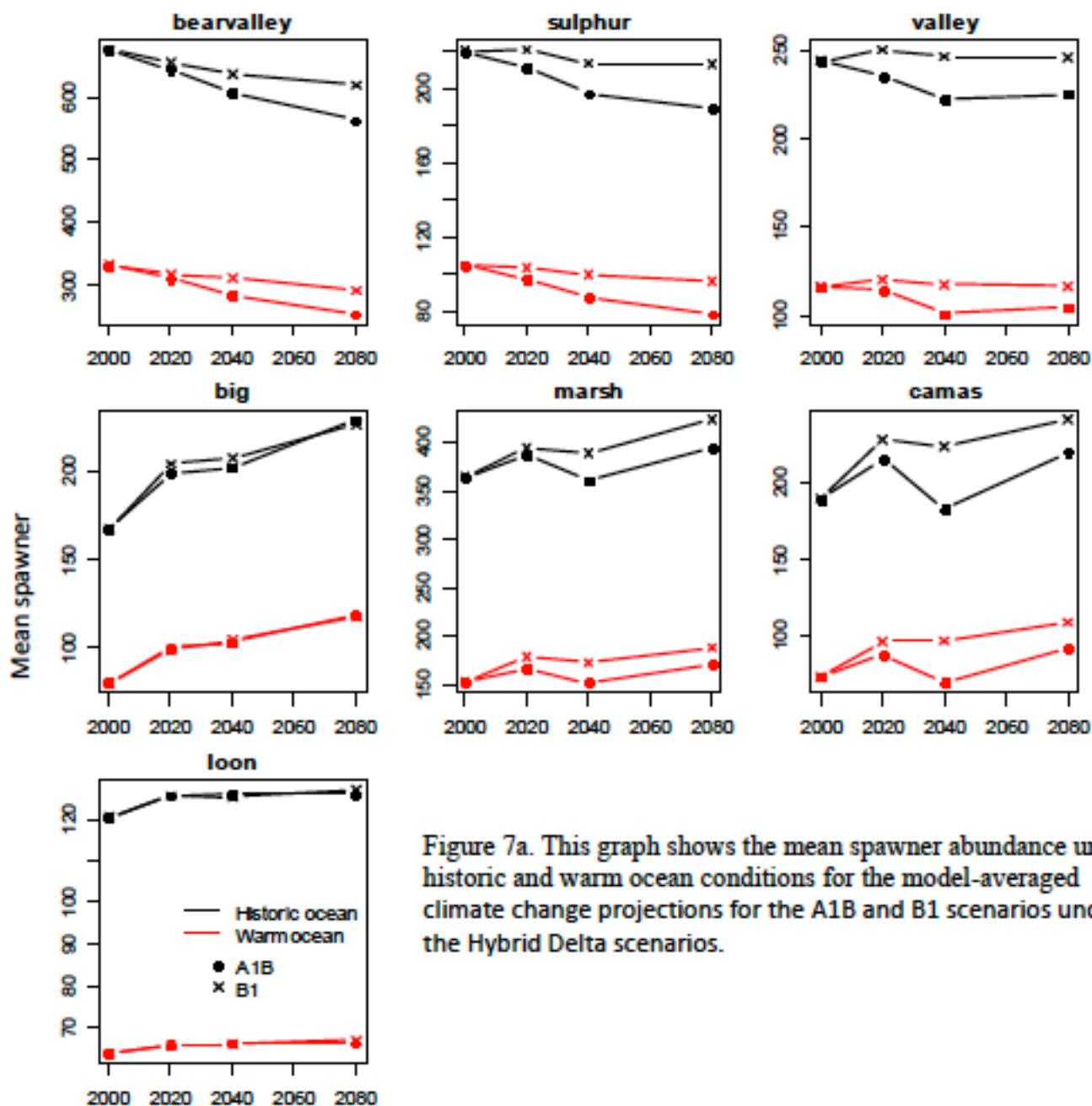
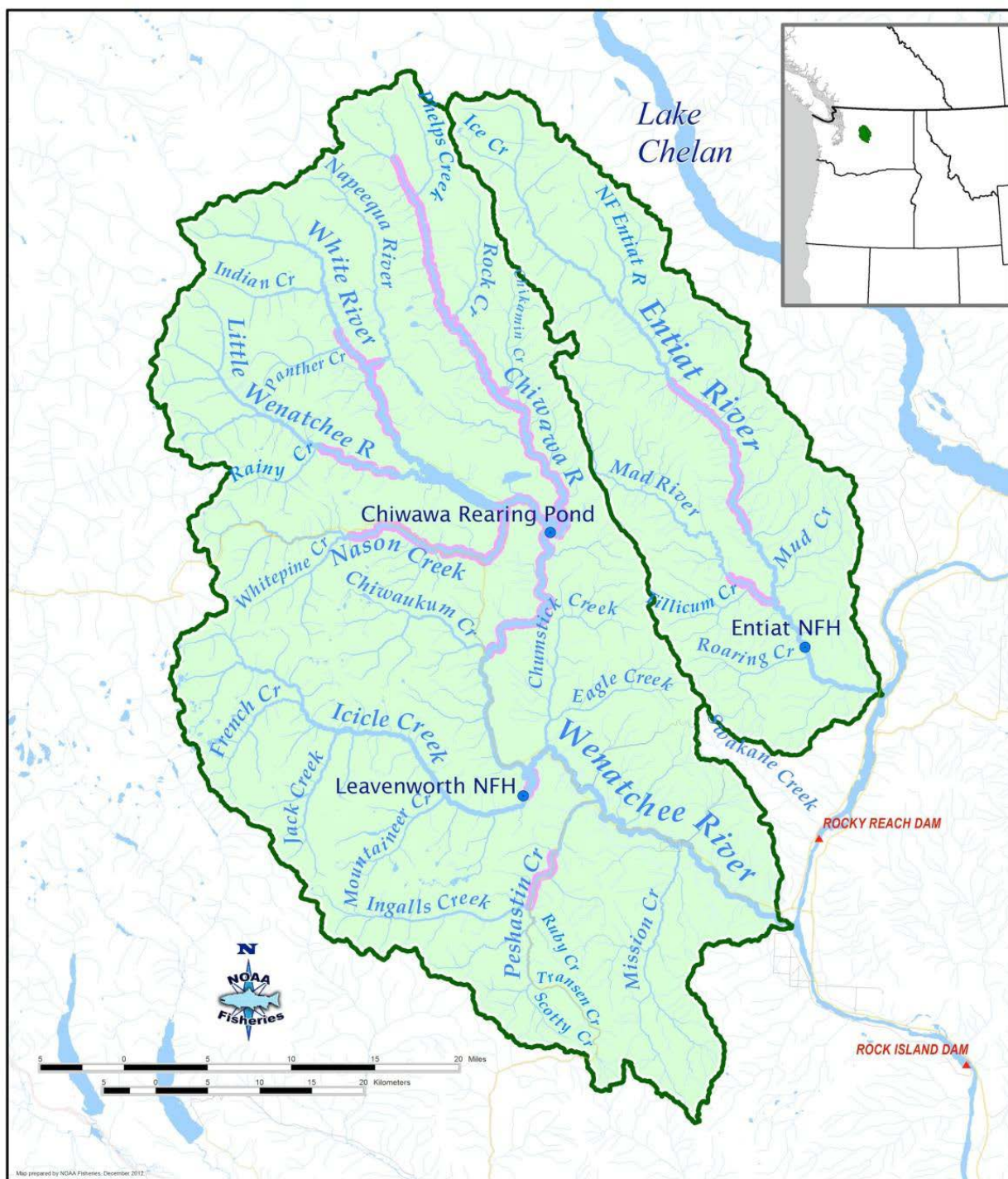


Figure 7a. This graph shows the mean spawner abundance under historic and warm ocean conditions for the model-averaged climate change projections for the A1B and B1 scenarios under the Hybrid Delta scenarios.

### **2.3: Upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon**

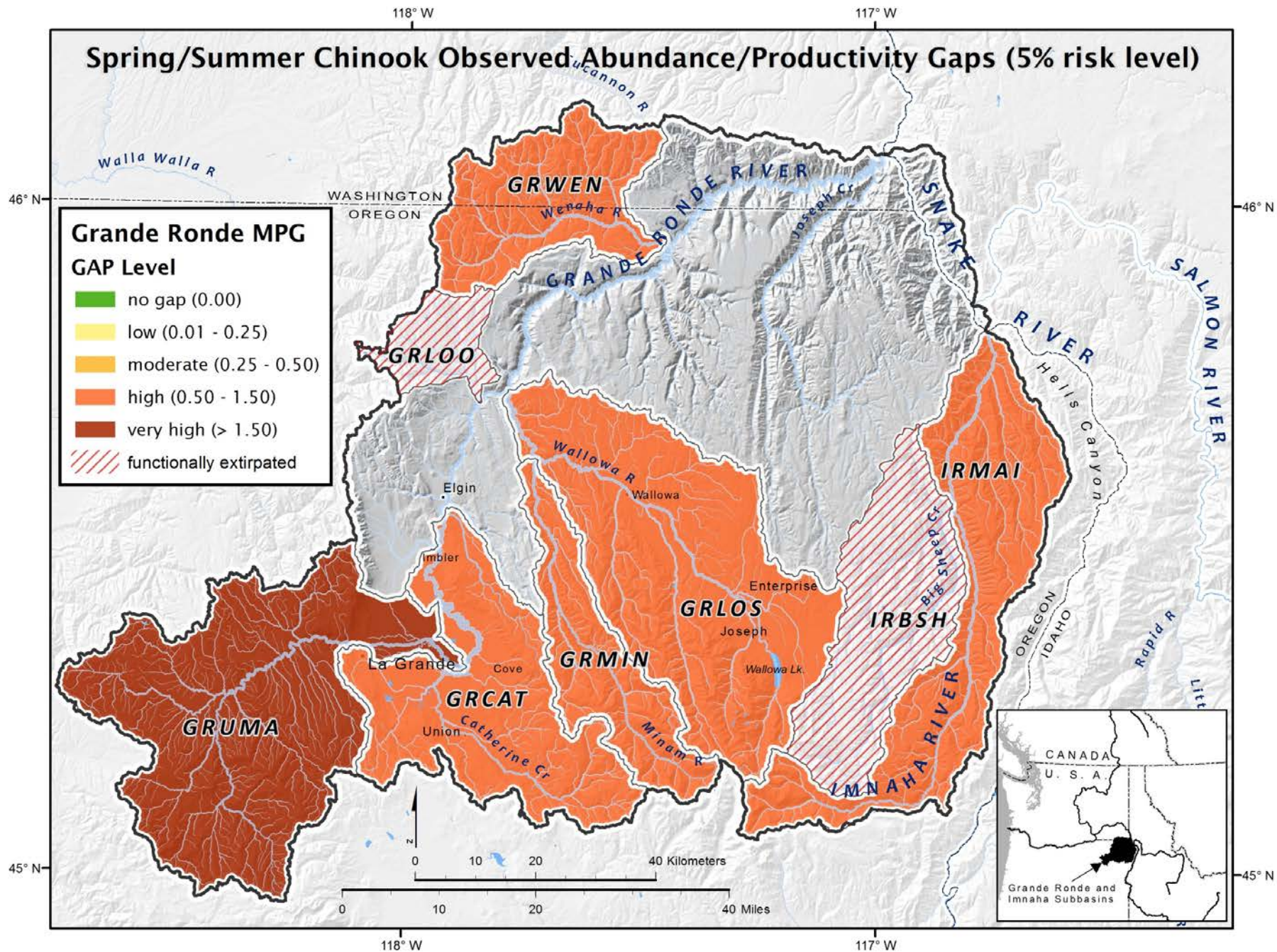
Jeff Jorgensen (NOAA Fisheries), Andrew Murdoch (WDFW), Jeremy Cram (WDFW), Charlie Paulsen (Paulsen Environmental Consulting), Tom Cooney (NOAA Fisheries), Rich Zabel (NOAA Fisheries), Chris Jordan (NOAA Fisheries)



Location	Actions
Upper Wenatchee River	Riparian plantings for bank stabilization, connection to floodplain and/or oxbows, large wood enhancement
Chiwawa River	Culvert replacements, brook trout control, nutrient additions
Nason Creek	Floodplain restoration (plantings), increase large wood complexes, side- & off-channel reconnections, improved fish passage, nutrient additions
Little Wenatchee River	Reduce fine sediments (riparian restoration), restore riparian/floodplain function (road decommissioning, riparian plantings), nutrient additions
White River	Riparian restoration, nutrient additions

## **2.1: Grande Ronde Spring Chinook Population Models**

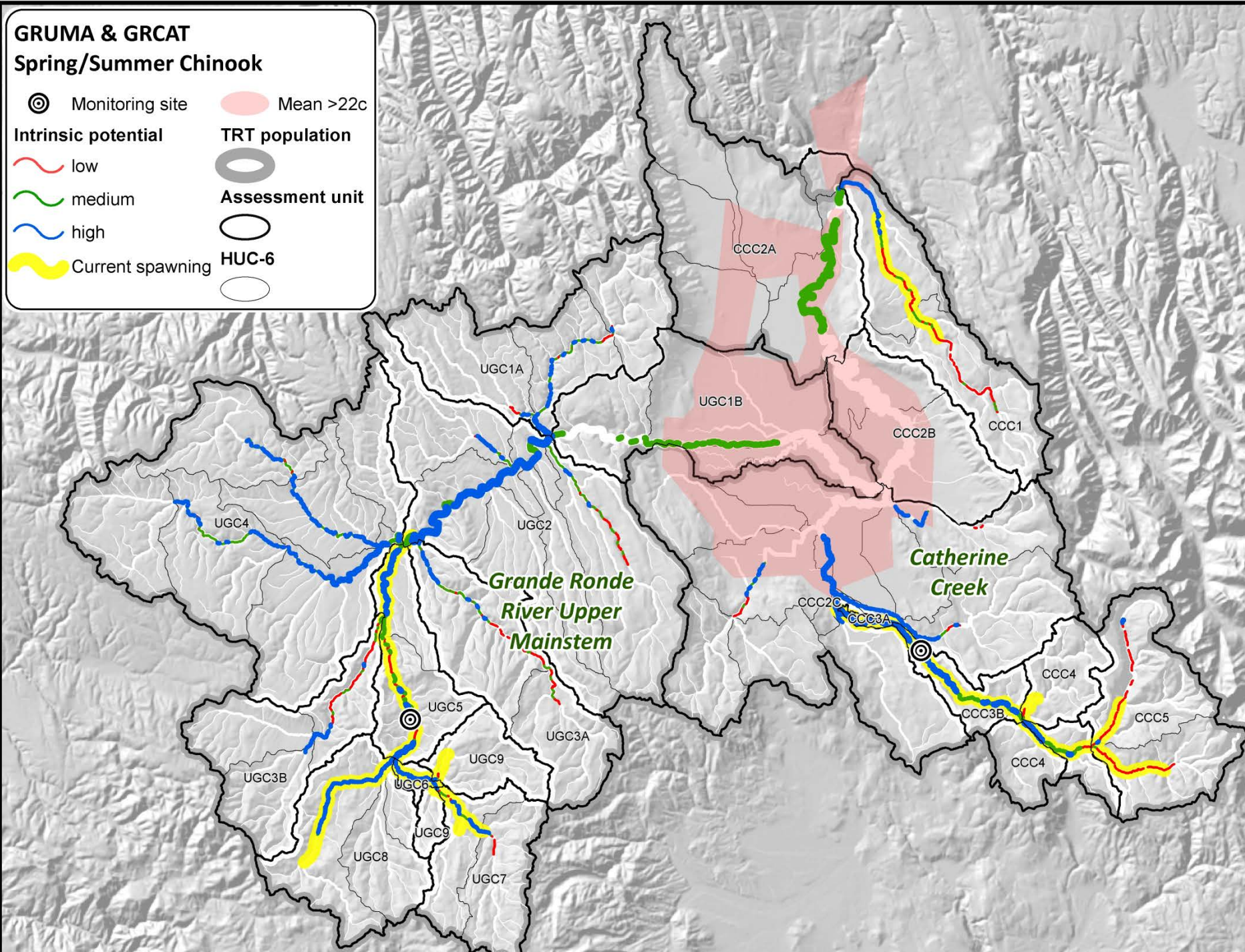
Thomas D. Cooney (NWFSC), Richard W. Carmichael (ODFW), Brian C. Jonasson (ODFW), Edwin Sedell (ODFW) & Timothy L. Hoffnagle (ODFW)



# GRUMA & GRCAT

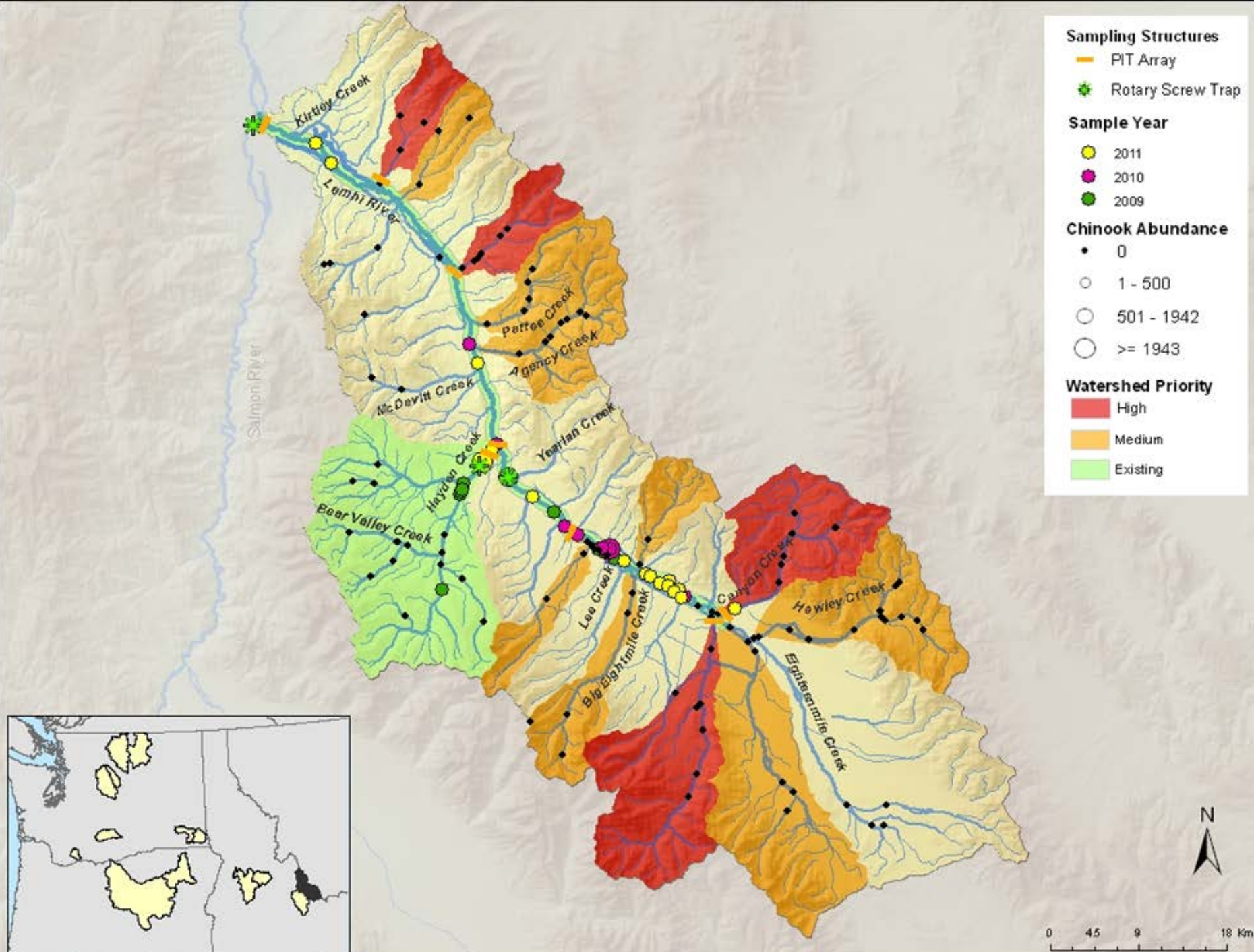
## Spring/Summer Chinook

- Monitoring site
- Mean >22c
- Intrinsic potential
  - low
  - medium
  - high
- TRT population
- Assessment unit
- HUC-6
- Current spawning

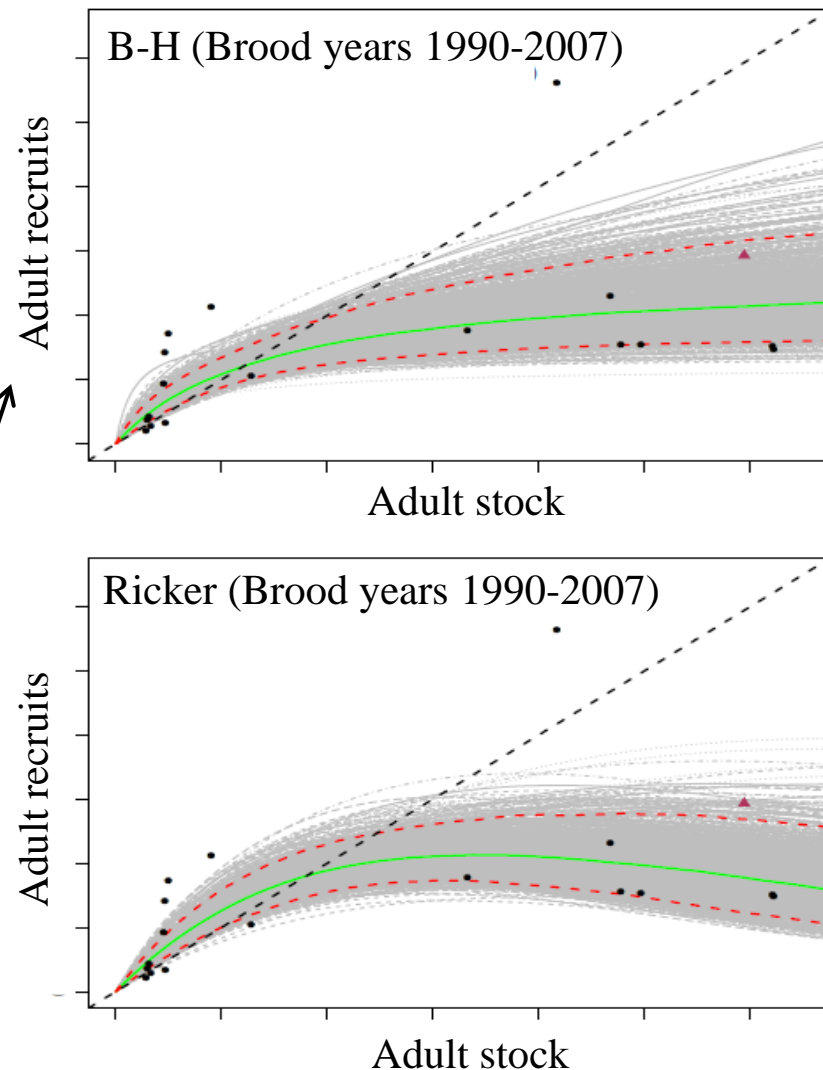
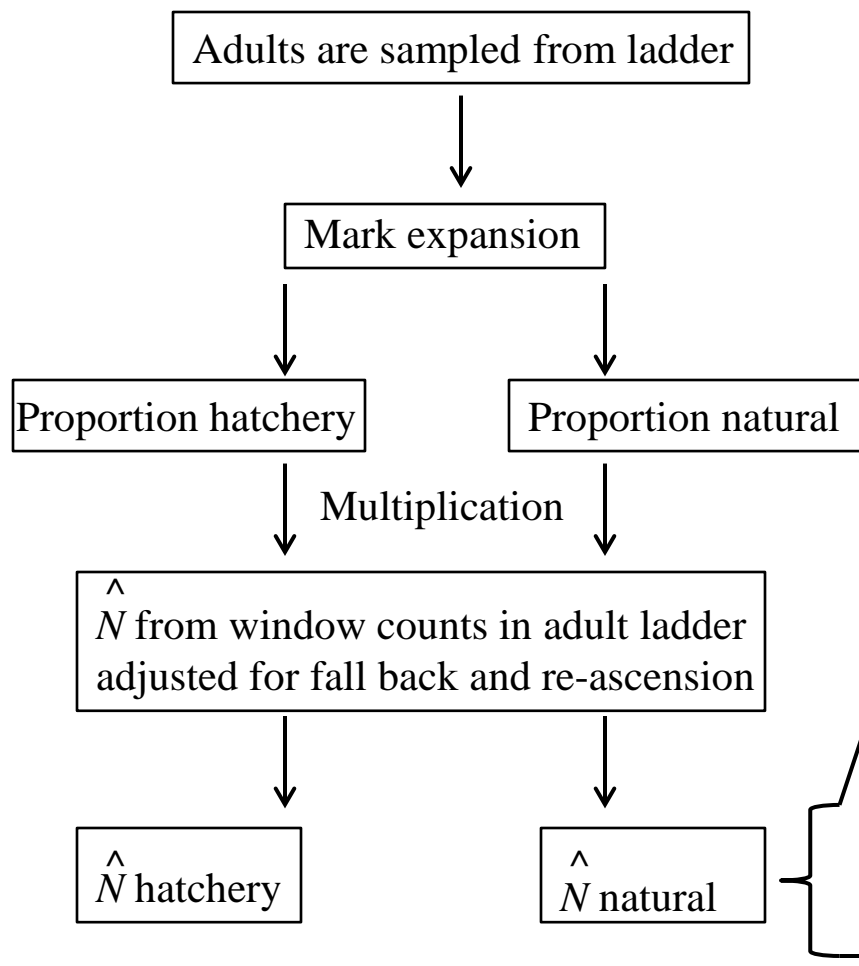


## **2.2: Salmon Subbasin Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project Watershed Model – Lemhi River**

Chris Beasley (Quantitative Consultants, Inc.), Jody White (Quantitative Consultants, Inc.), Chris Jordan (NOAA Fisheries), Matt Nahorniak (South Fork Research, Inc.)



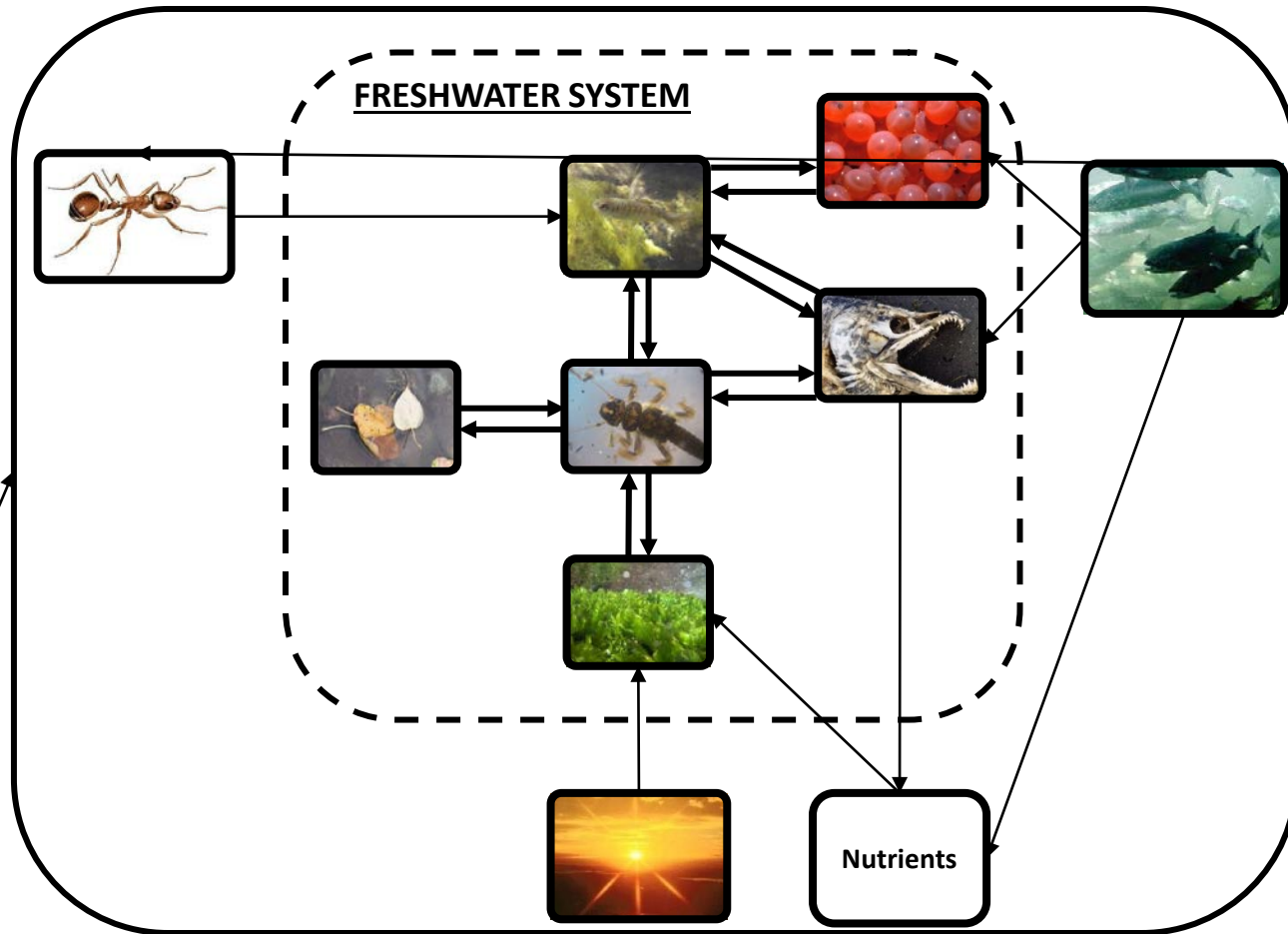
# ESTIMATING ANNUAL PASSAGE ABUNDANCE\* AT LOWER GRANITE FOR NATURAL ADULTS AND PRELIMINARY STOCK-RECRUITMENT ANALYSES



\*Conceptual diagram with details in report

# The Trophic Productivity Model: Incorporating Food Webs into the Life Cycle

Ryan Bellmore (USGS), Michael Newsom (BOR) & Alex Fremier (U. of Idaho)



**Riparian Conditions**

**Physical Conditions**

# Interior Columbia River basin populations

Neala Kendall (WDFW), Rich Zabel (NOAA Fisheries)

- Rapid River (Little Salmon River)
- Potlatch River
- Catherine Creek
- Umatilla River
- Toppenish Creek
- Naches River
- Satus Creek
- Upper Yakima River



Photo: John McMillan

Survival with  
50% reduction in  
bird predation:

% Survival  
Improvement

Yearling Chinook

0.776

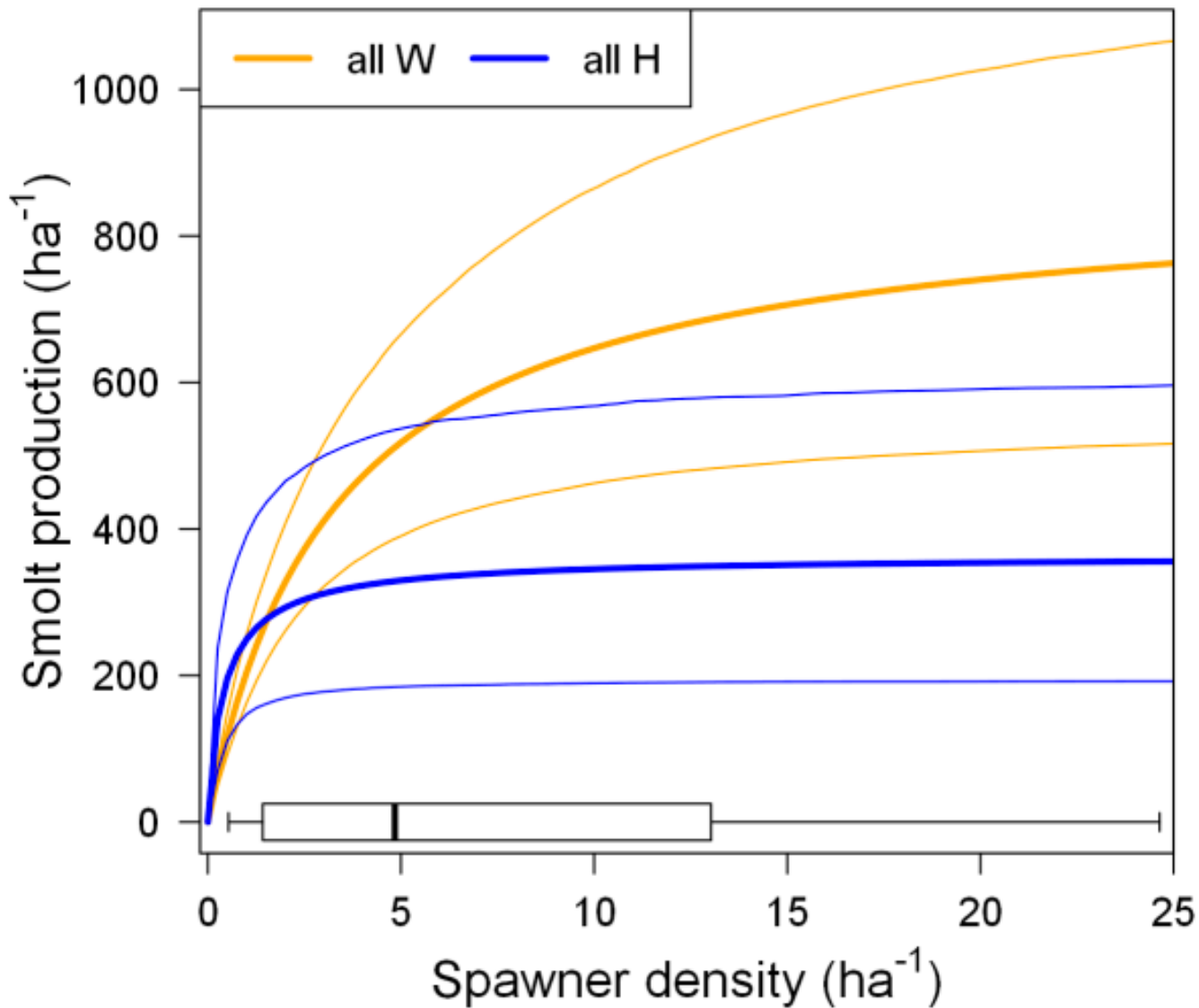
1.8 %

Steelhead

0.625

10.6 %

# Hatchery-Wild Interactions



## Hydrosystem survival improvements

### Snake River spring/summer Chinook

Year	$s_I$	$p_T$	$D$	$s_d$
2005	0.48	0.93	1.070	1.01
2006	0.57	0.66	0.470	0.50
2007	0.60	0.21	0.800	0.64
2008	0.66	0.46	0.820	0.73
2009	0.56	0.42	0.650	0.59
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.574</b>	<b>0.536</b>	<b>0.762</b>	<b>0.693</b>
Previous	0.472	0.8	0.466	0.460

### Snake River steelhead

Year	$s_I$	$p_T$	$D$	$s_d$
2005	0.27	0.93	1.300	1.20
2006	0.58	0.65	0.520	0.53
2007	0.38	0.4	1.200	0.70
2008	0.49	0.41	0.600	0.53
2009	0.7	0.45	0.950	0.80
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.484</b>	<b>0.568</b>	<b>0.914</b>	<b>0.754</b>
Previous	0.268	0.838	0.783	0.686

## Hydrosystem survival improvements

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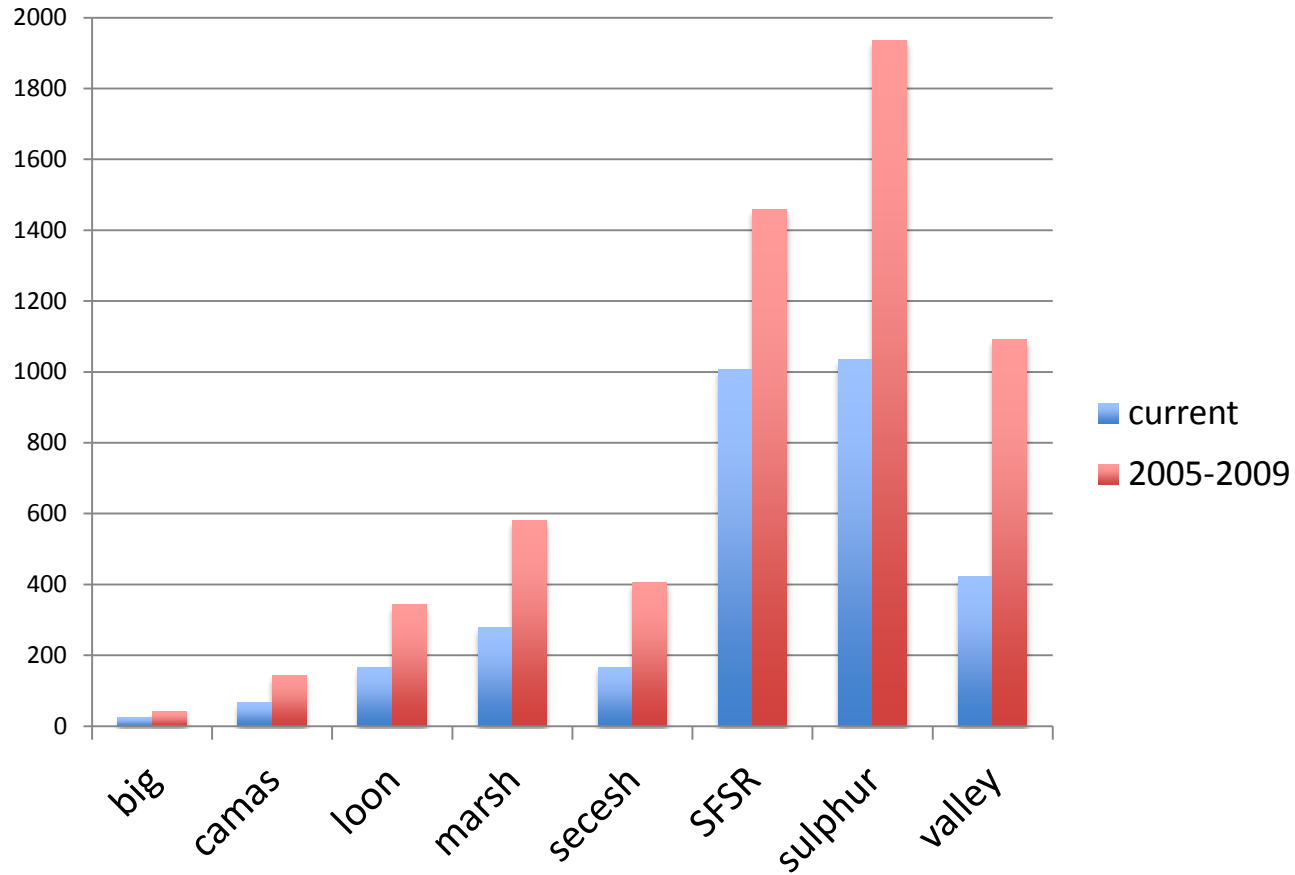
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Previous	0.268	0.838	0.783	0.686

New Data from CSS 2012

## Hydrosystem survival improvements

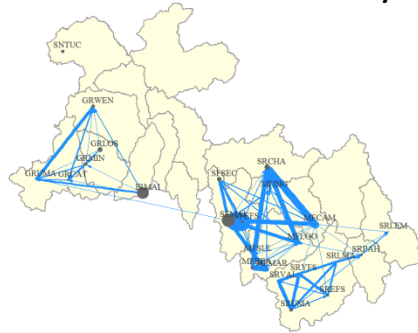
Median  
Spawners  
At 25 years



H: Historical



R1: Increased hatchery



C1: Decreased hatchery



E: Existing



R2: Reduced source



C2: Improved source



R3: Increased mortality



C3: Improved sink



→ Edges (dispersal)  
● Nodes (populations)

## ISAB Review: General Comments

Life-cycle models represent a means to test or explore these hypotheses while also examining sensitivity of uncertain parameters or measurements on desired outcomes. Information from life-cycle models **can help with prioritizing restoration efforts.**

## ISAB Review: Collaboration

The ISAB **encourages broader collaborations with the Watershed Program** in NOAA Fisheries and other experts on the freshwater ecology of salmon to develop quantitative fish/habitat relationships that could be incorporated within the life-cycle models.

## ISAB Review: Hatchery Impacts

Chapter 4 describes a novel modeling approach for investigating the likely effects of hatchery supplementation on wild salmon population dynamics. The ISAB commends the extensive use of existing data here and in many of the other models.

We anticipate that this effort will be significant in informing policy and management in the Columbia Basin.

## ISAB Review: Estuary Ocean

The ocean model builds upon some earlier efforts on factors affecting Chinook and steelhead survival at sea, but it is likely that additional effort could refine and **improve these relationships by considering additional variables examined by NOAA Fisheries ocean researchers.**

## ISAB Review: Additional Factors

Two key factors not addressed, and that may slow salmon recovery, are the widespread proliferation of **nonnative species** and continued use and discharge of toxic chemicals in the subbasins. The ISAB encourages NOAA Fisheries scientists address nonnative species and toxic chemicals in subsequent life-cycle models.

## ISAB Review: Summary

The incorporation of quantitative fish/habitat functional relations in tributaries and the estuary remains a key challenge

Although significant challenges remain, building life-cycle models is an effective means for identifying data needs. These data needs should be fulfilled whenever possible. The ISAB looks forward to seeing further progress on this important endeavor in the near future.