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September 7, 2016

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, Project Implementation Manager

SUBJECT: Council decision on the Urgent BOG request regarding the Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Steve Williams, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) and Dave Roberts, Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville).

Summary: Steve Williams and Dave Roberts will present information and details (see attachment) regarding the BOG request.

Relevance: This suppression effort may address the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program emerging priority #3¹. In addition, due to the non-consensus through BOG and lack of support by Council staff, Bonneville is seeking concurrence from the Council to provide funds to address the anticipated budget shortfall associated with Project # 1990-077-00, *Development of Systemwide Predator Control*.

Workplan: Reviews associated with BOG requests are a sub element of project reviews in the section 2.B. of the workplan tasks.

¹ Emerging priority #3 - Preserve program effectiveness by supporting: (1) expanded management of predators; (2) mapping and determining hotspots for toxic contaminants; and (3) aggressively addressing non-native and invasive species

Background: The August 2016 BOG meeting discussed a \$700,000 request (BOG request #545) from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, which would be used to address a potential shortfall in angler payments for the 2016 season of the Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Fishery. The BOG group was not able to come to consensus and the Council's Fish and Wildlife staffs also opposed supporting the BOG request. The sponsor and BPA staff believe the BOG request is justified and will present information to the Committee and Council to make that justification.

On September 6, 2016 Bonneville informed Council staff that the budget shortfall is currently estimated to be \$350,000. This adjustment is based on the in season catch data analysis through August 31st and other adjustments made by Bonneville and the sponsor.

More Info:

- Change request as received by BOG - <https://www.cbfish.org/ChangeRequest.mvc/Display/545>
- Email to BOG Management Group - <https://nwcouncil.box.com/s/sqe90povz5b8y1kdrdaw79s3eq0ihmow>
- Email from Tony Grover to BOG/Bonneville - <https://nwcouncil.box.com/s/2zrkiupi1kjl9zqdegltut8yvn40i1oq>

Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

- Initiated in 1991
- Objective: Pay recreational anglers to catch and remove pikeminnow to reduce predation on juvenile salmonids
- Based on research by ODFW, 1983 – 1986, in John Day Reservoir
- Research found that pikeminnow accounted for up to 80% of salmonid predation

Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

Conclusion: 10-20% annual exploitation of pikeminnow, 9 inches or larger, could result in up to a 50% reduction in predation on salmonids by Northern pikeminnow.

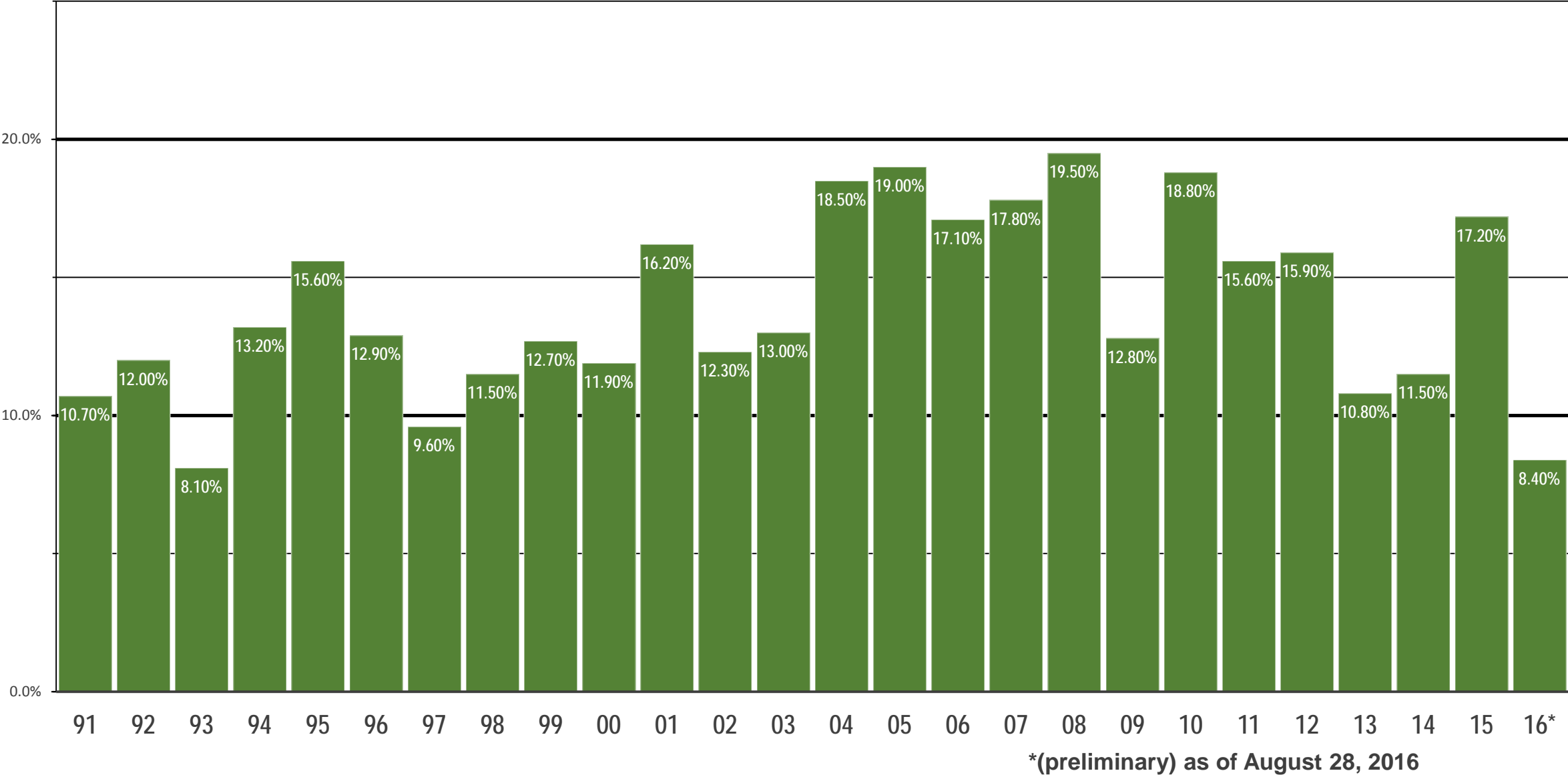
Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

Program Area

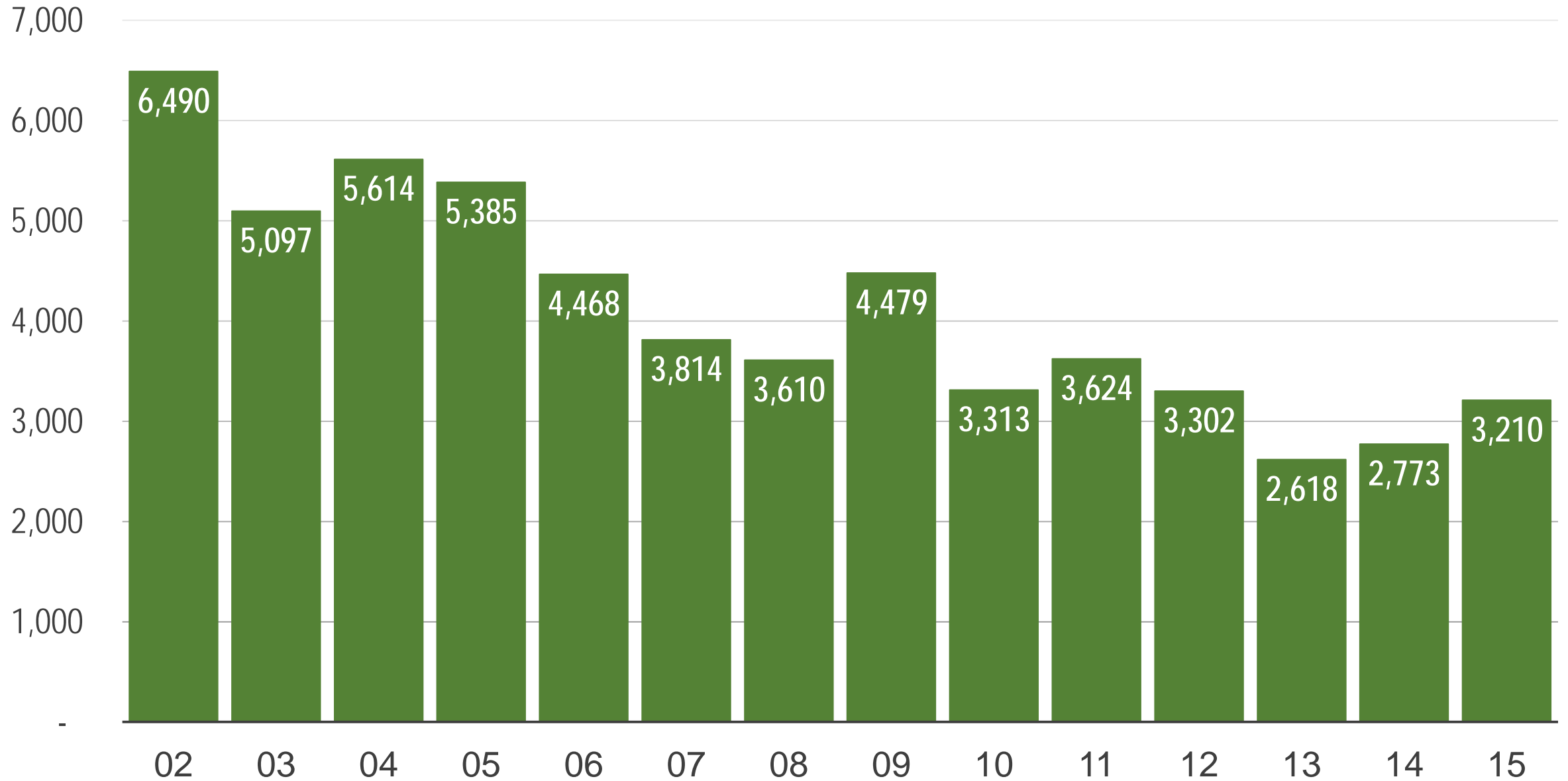
- Mouth to Priest Rapids
- Snake River up to Hells Canyon



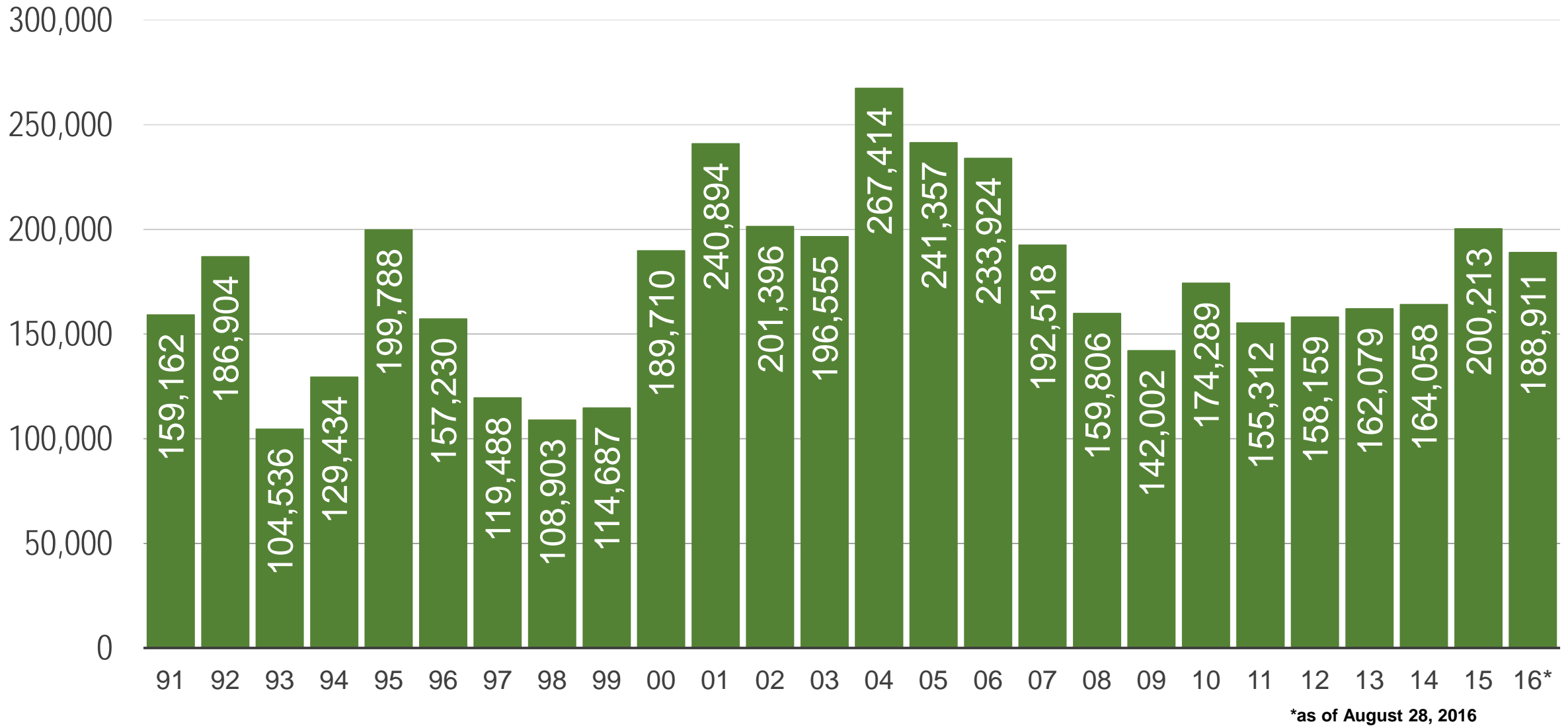
Exploitation Rates (1991-2016)



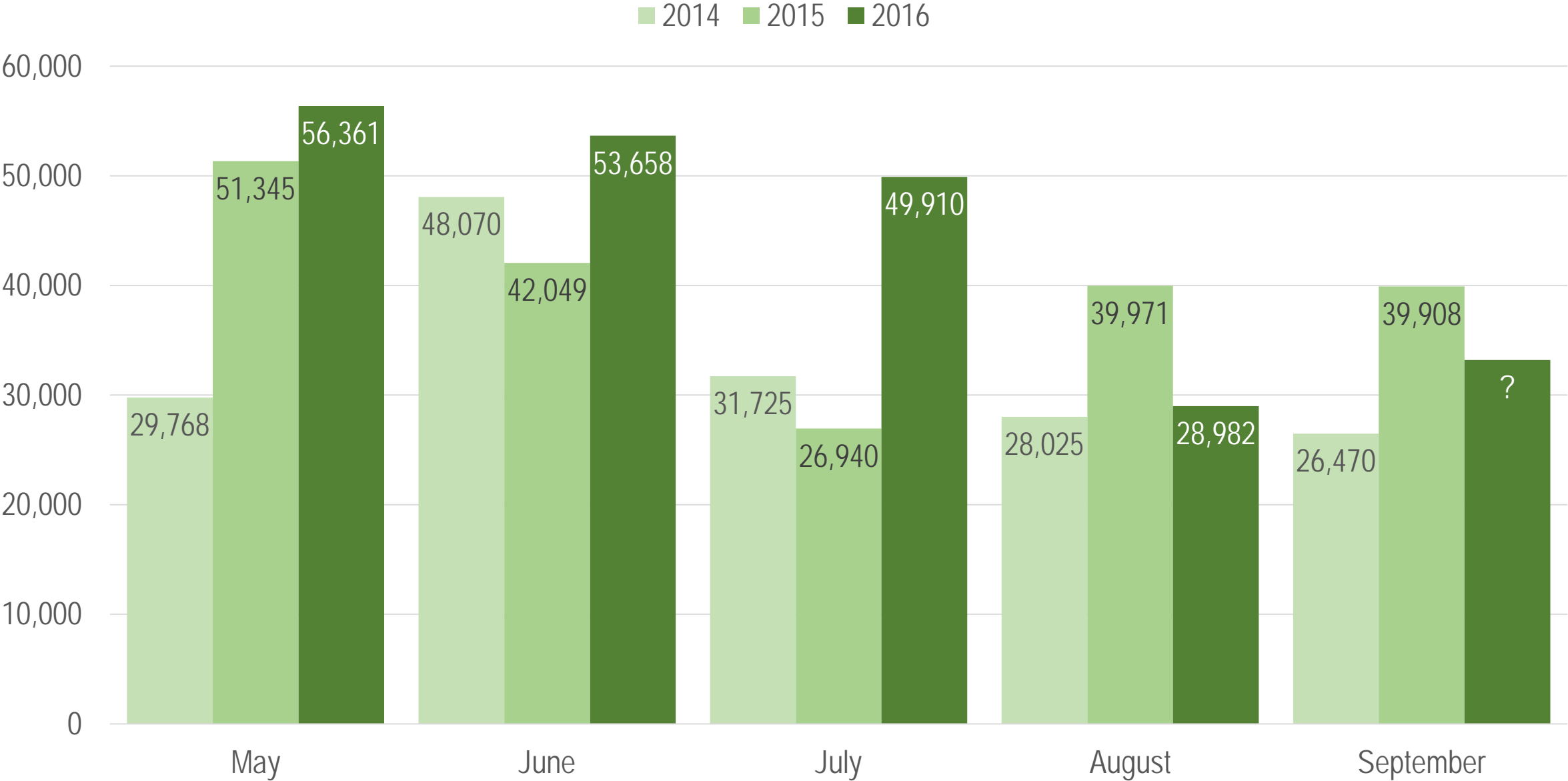
Individual Angler Registrations (2002 - 2015)



Total Sport Reward Catch (Numbers of Fish) 1991 - 2016

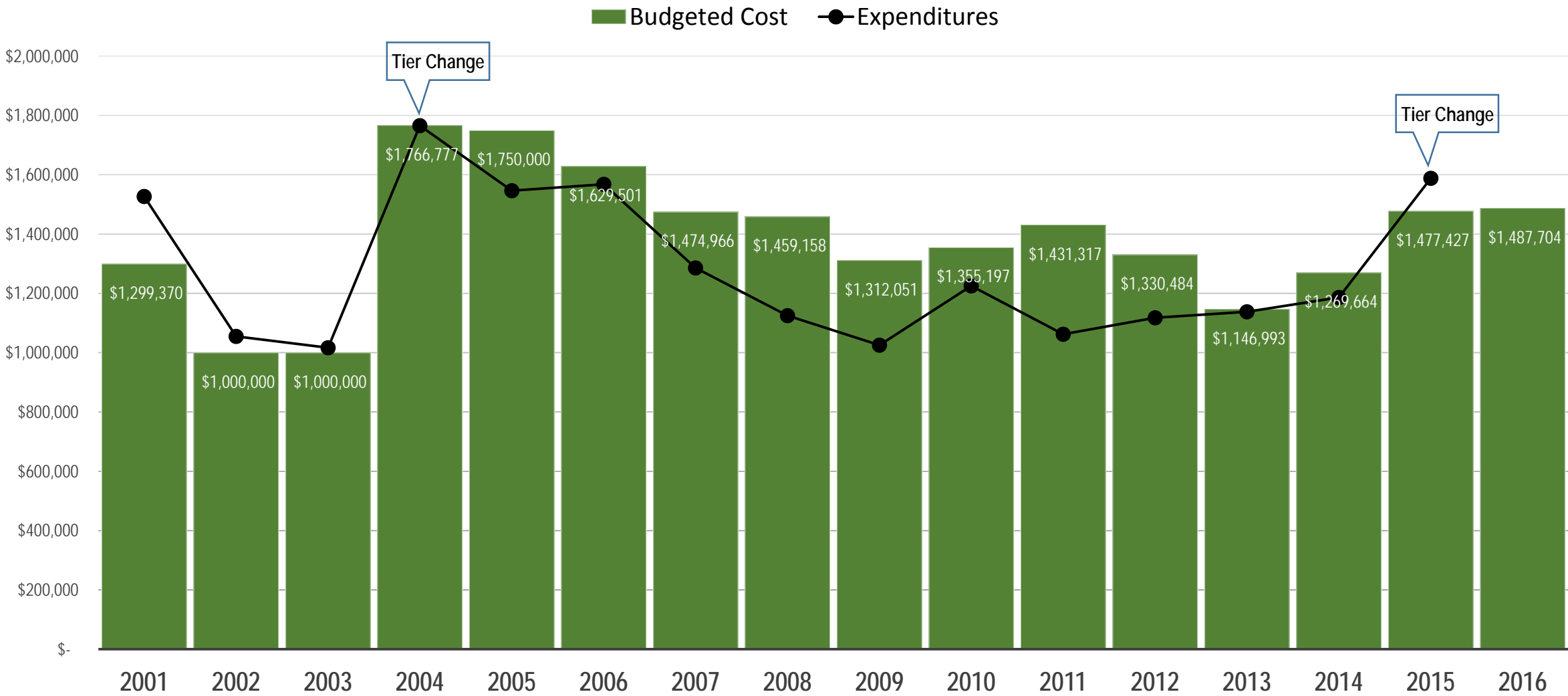


Monthly Catch (2014 - 2016)



Sport Reward Budgeted Cost and Expenditures* (2001-2016)

** as of August 31, 2016*



Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

- Contacted BPA end of June, 2016 (Week 8)
- B.O.G. request prepared in July and presented in August
- Weekly evaluations of catch data to refine estimate of shortfall
- Ended Dam Angling program mid-August; anticipate 50K savings
- Current estimate of \$350,000 needed to cover 2016 Sport Reward payments
- Seeking concurrence from the Council to provide funds to address the anticipated budget shortfall