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January 8, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Update on Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Steve Williams, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; Eric McOmie and John Skidmore, Bonneville Power Administration.

Summary: Steve, Eric and John will provide an update on the Northern Pikeminnow Management Program which is a basin-wide program to reduce salmonid predation by northern pikeminnow through angler harvest.

Background: The Northern Pikeminnow Management Program is a project that harvests larger piscivorous northern pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*). It was started in 1991 to reduce predation on juvenile salmonids during their out-migration from natal streams. Studies in John Day Reservoir prior to 1990 predicted that predation could be reduced up to 50% if 10-20% of the predatory sized northern pikeminnow were removed each year. The current sport reward fishery for northern pikeminnow runs each year from May to September. Anglers can harvest fish from the mouth of the Columbia up to Priest Rapids dam and up the Snake River to Hells Canyon dam. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission oversees the technical, contractual and fiscal portions of the program. It utilizes its member states of Washington and Oregon to help implement the program. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife provides exploitation estimates and the biological evaluations of the program. Washington Department of

Fish and Wildlife oversees the implementation of the fishery and manages the check stations.

More Info: [Project #1990-0077-00, Development of Systemwide Predator Control](#)

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 predatory size Northern Pikeminnow could result in up to a 50% reduction in predation on salmonids.

Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

Program Area

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



Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

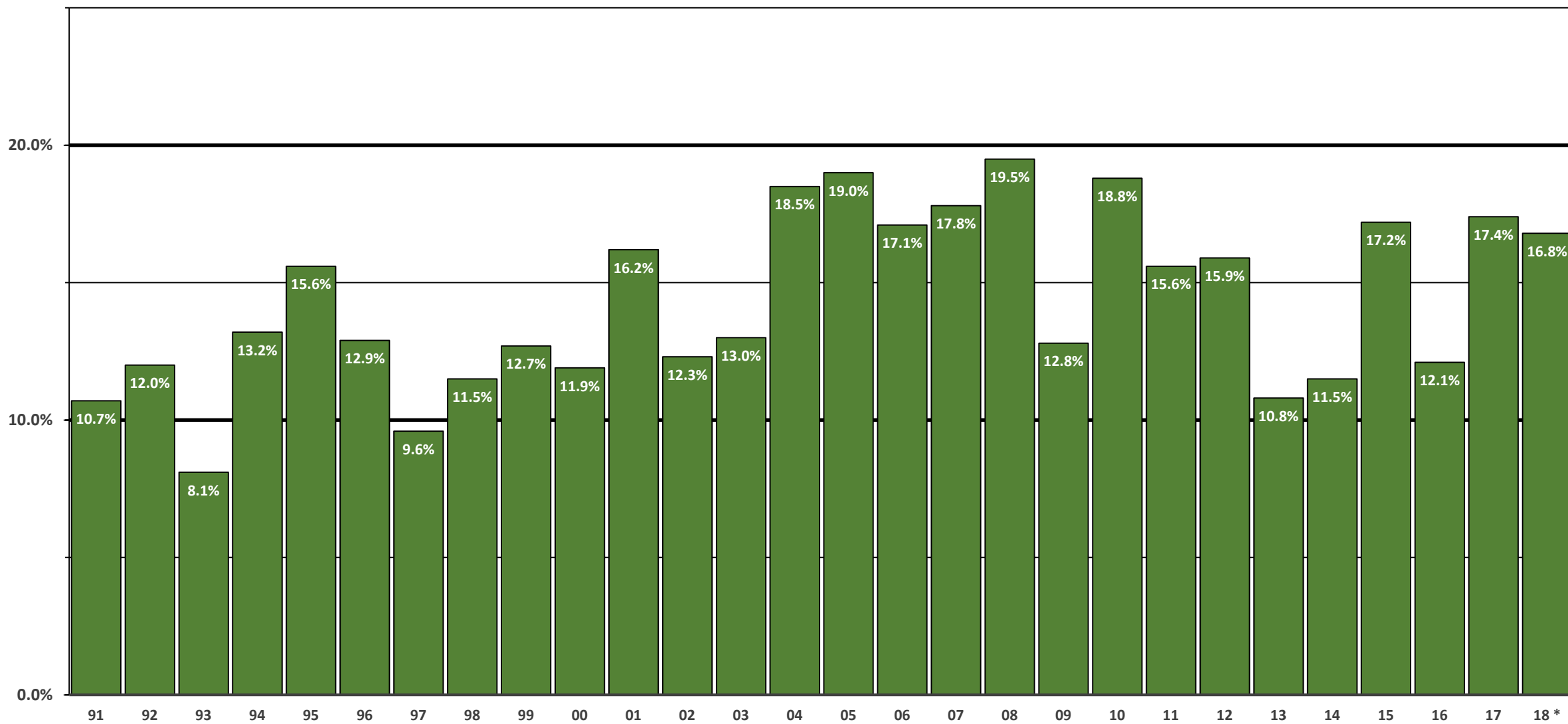
- A Tiered Approach To Sport-Reward Payments
- 1-25=\$5/Fish 25-200=\$6/Fish 201-up=\$8/Fish
- Specially Tagged Northern Pikeminnow Worth \$500 Each.



Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program

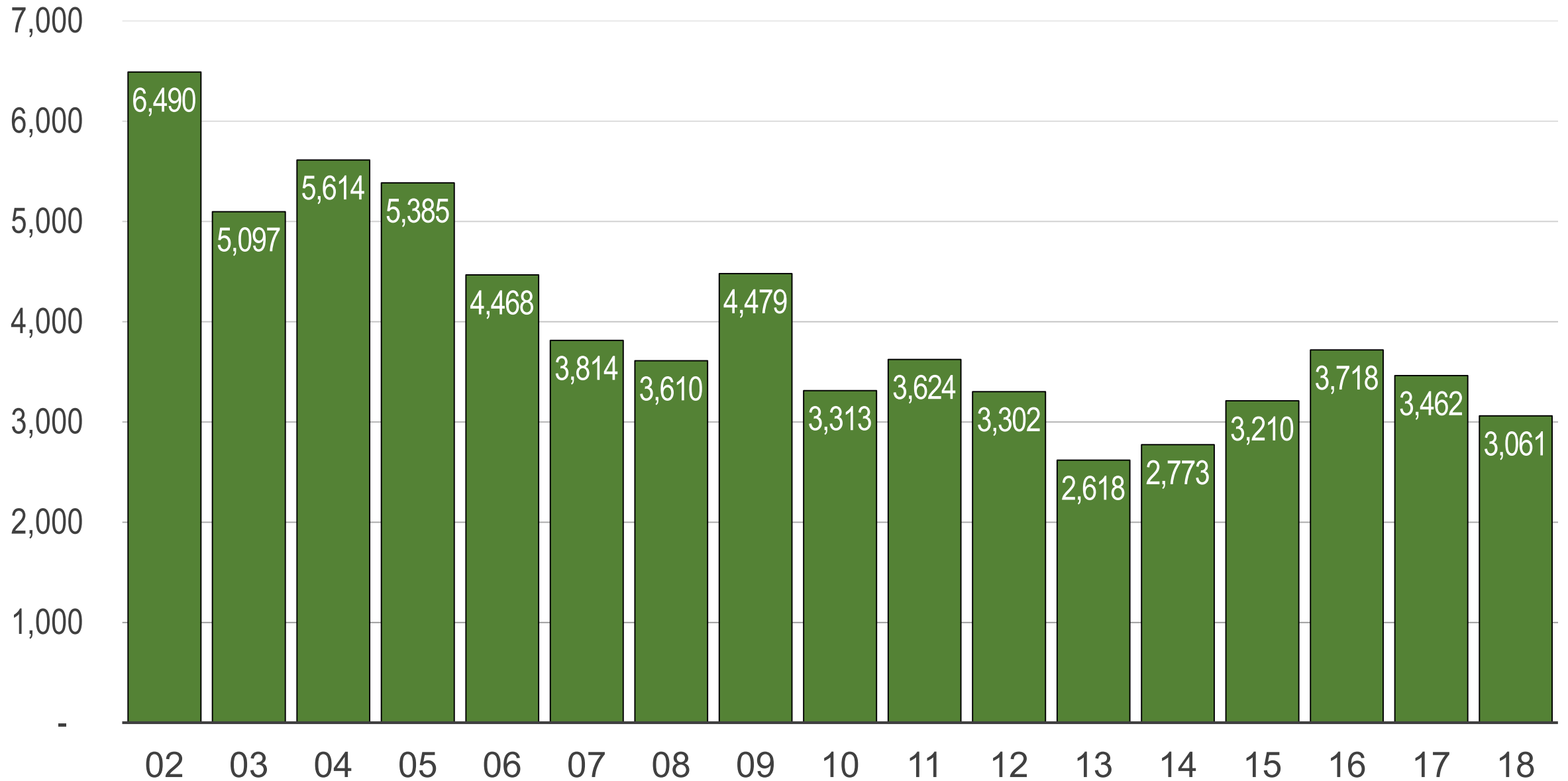
- A Shared Partnership
- ODFW – Biological Monitoring and Evaluation
- WDFW – On-The-Ground Oversight and Fishery Administration
- PSMFC – Overall Program Administration and Payment

Exploitation Rates (1991-2018)

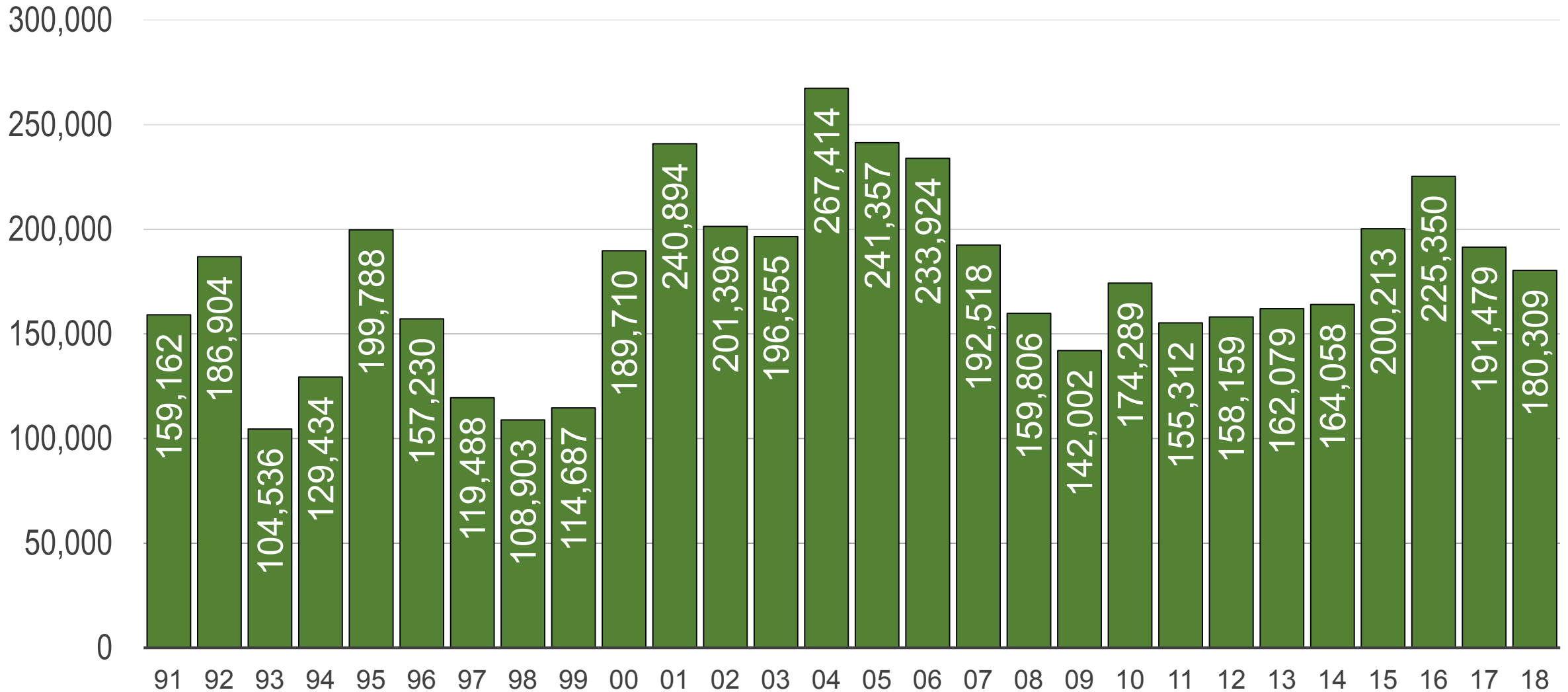


* Preliminary

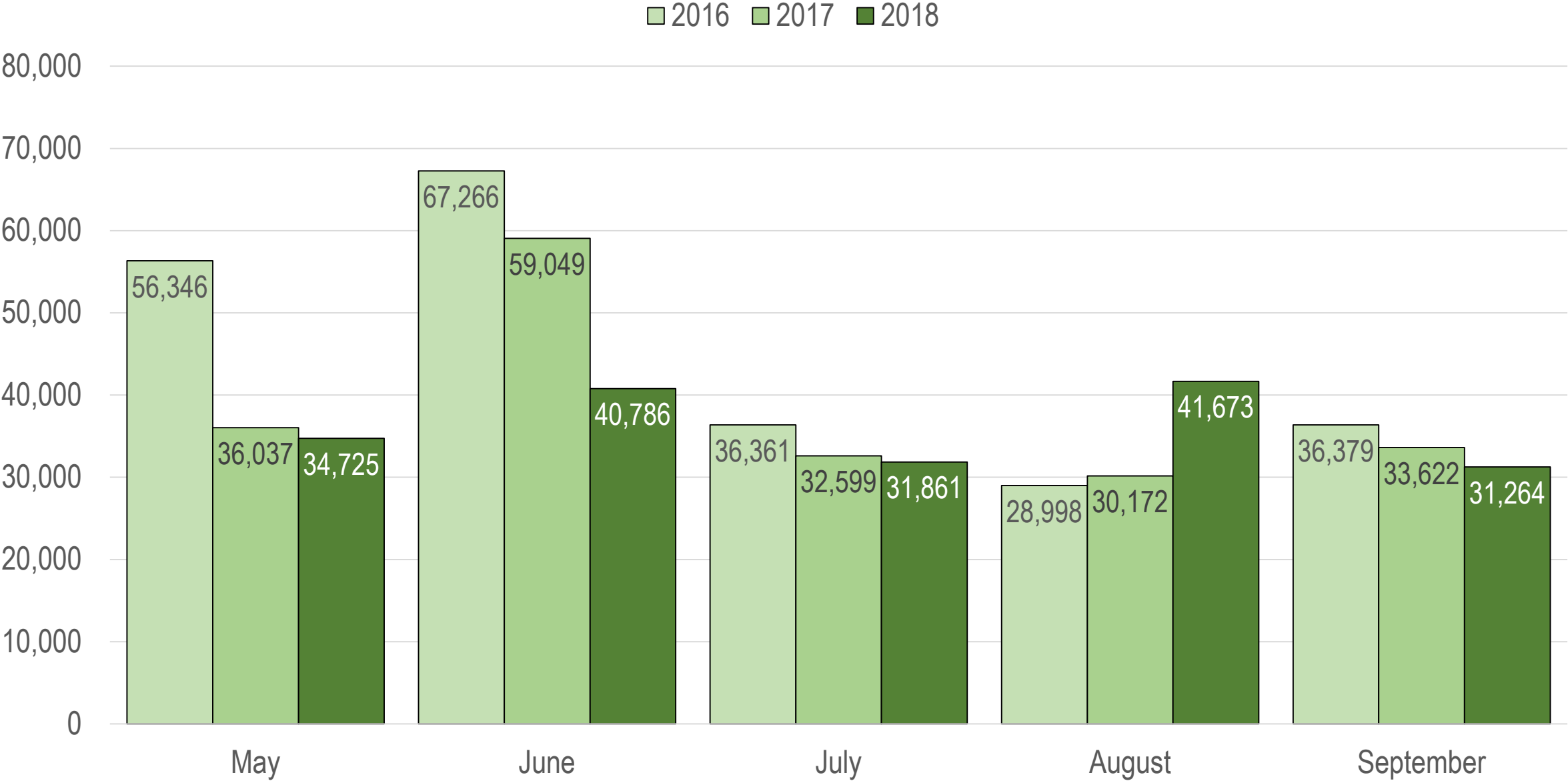
Individual Angler Registrations (2002 - 2018)



Total Sport Reward Catch (Numbers of Fish) 1991 - 2018



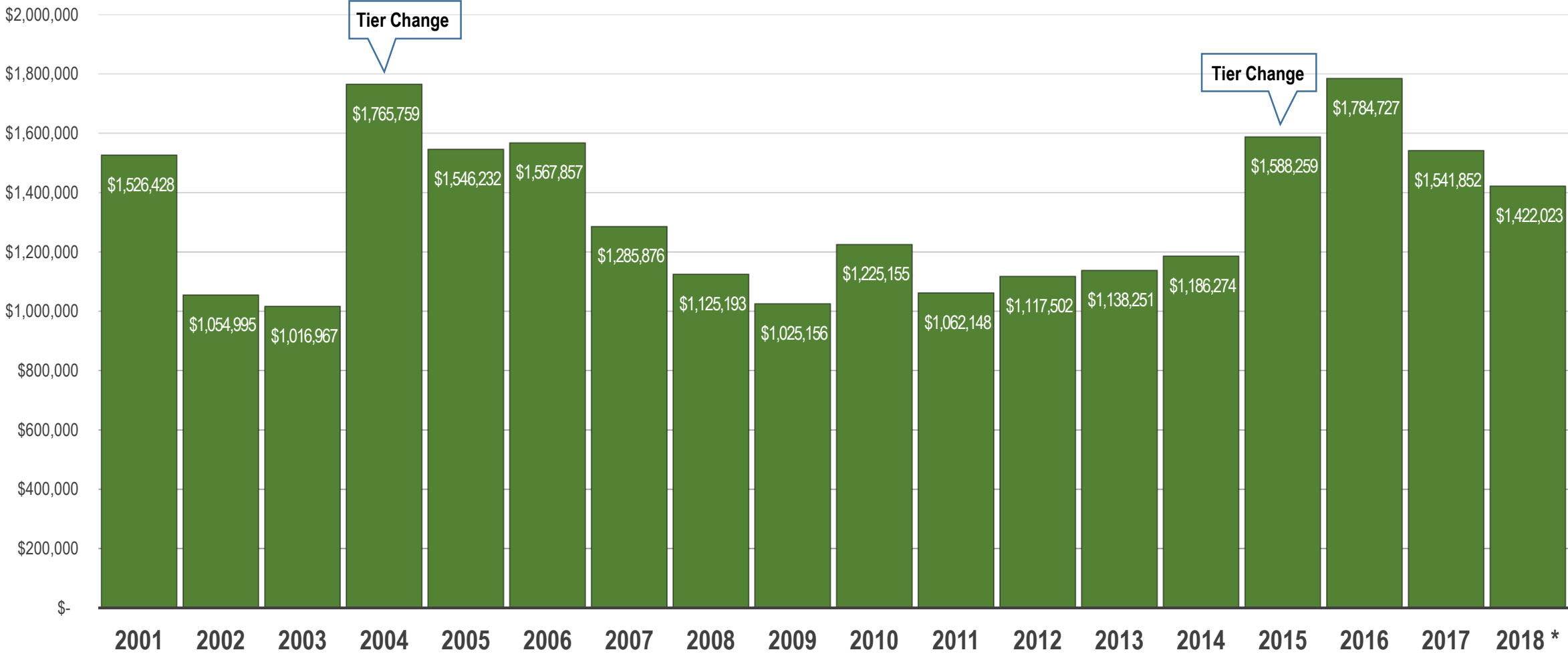
Monthly Catch (2016 - 2018)



Sport Reward Expenditures* (2001-2018)

* Preliminary

■ Expenditures



Northern Pike vs. Northern Pikeminnow

Northern Pike



Northern Pikeminnow



Northern Pike vs. Northern Pikeminnow



Current Distribution of Northern Pike in Washington & Idaho

