



# Collaborative Management for Chinook Conservation: Partnership between Coquille Indian Tribe and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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# ODFW/CIT Partnership



## OFWC/ODFW and CIT Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for cooperative management

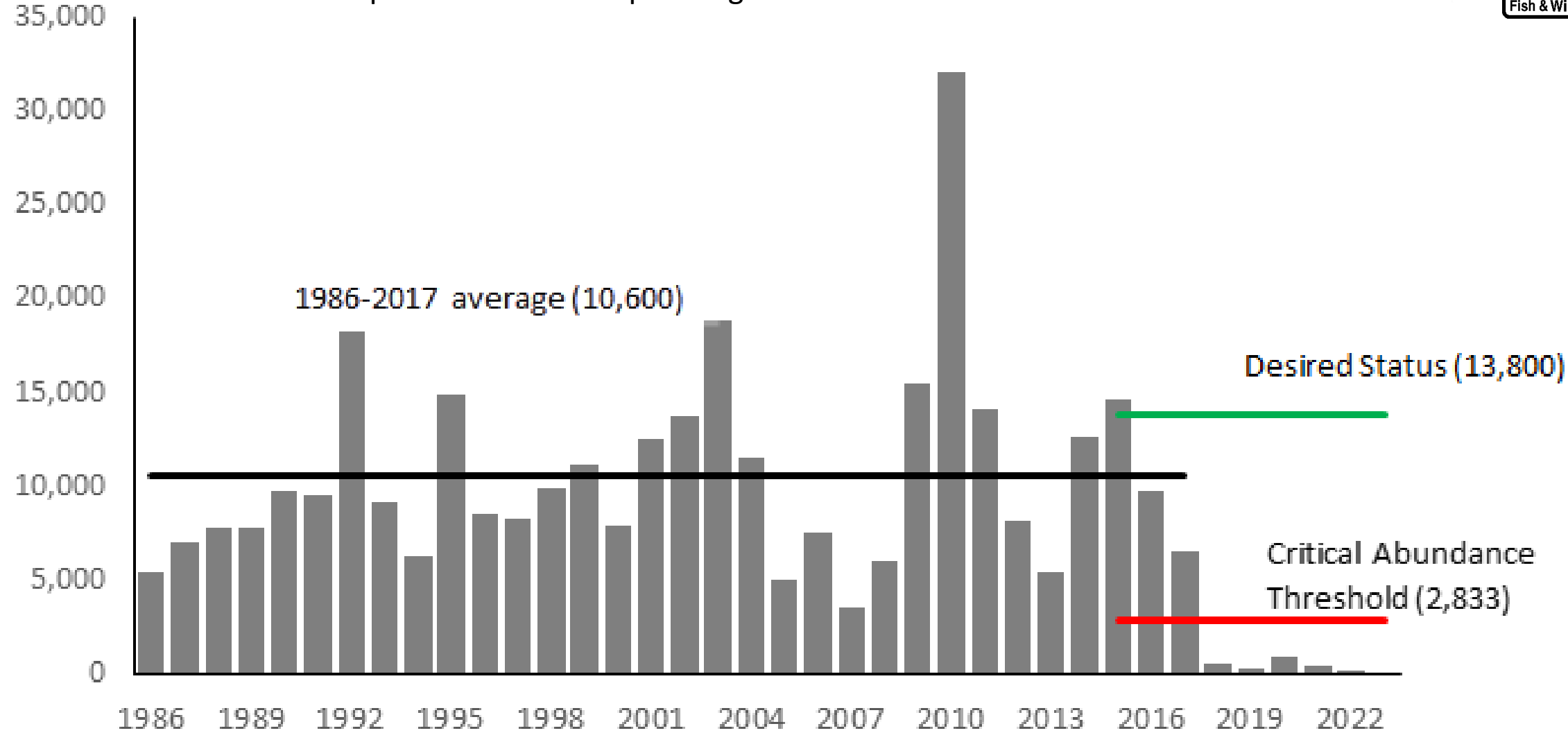
“The Parties will coordinate the use of their respective authorities, expertise, and influence as regulatory or voluntary opportunities are presented to protect, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife habitat in the geographic scope of this Agreement.”

### Implementation:

- Annual Meeting to identify issues and opportunities
- Coordination on pursuit of funding for fish and wildlife management
- Sharing data and information



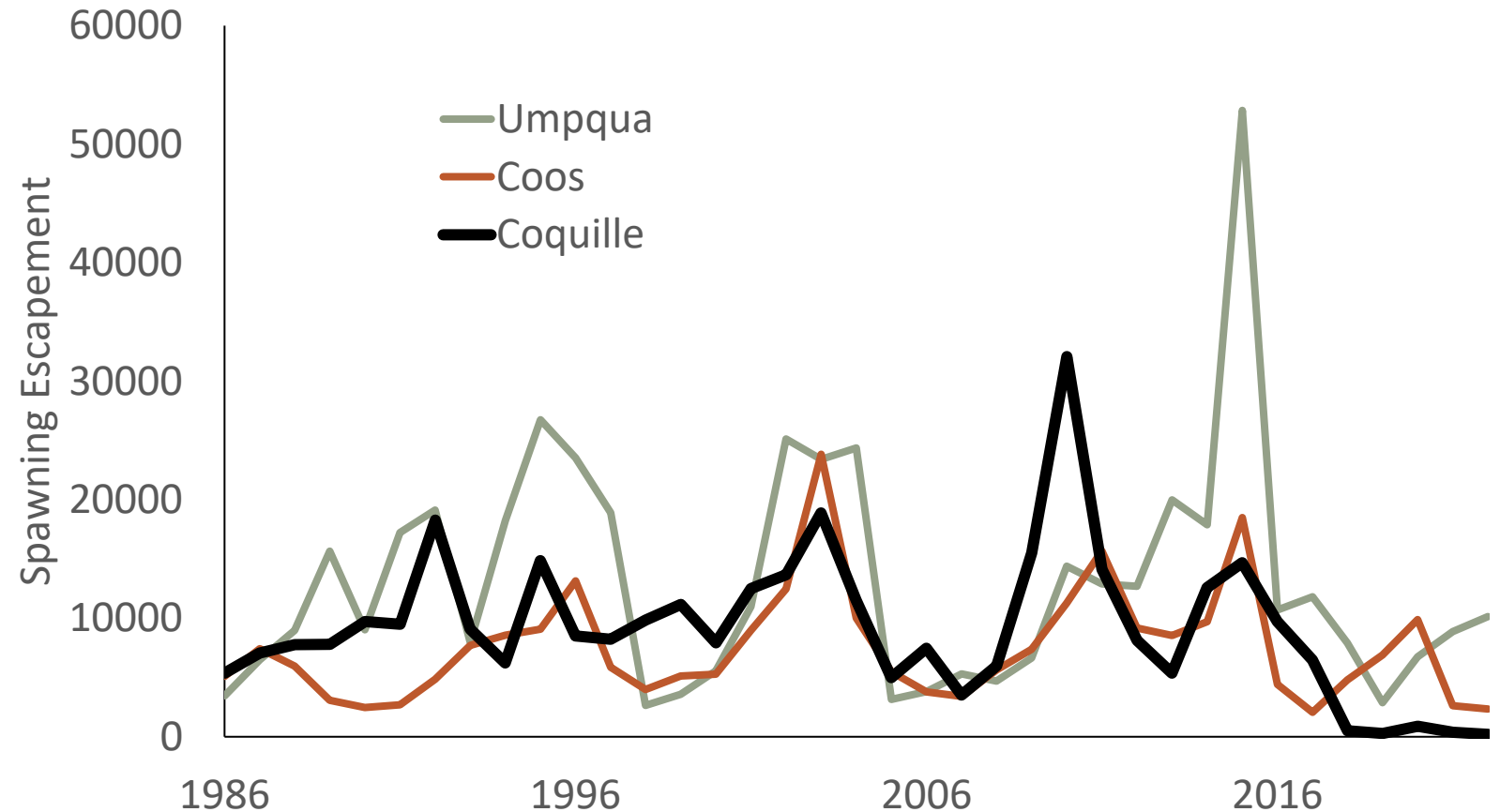
Coquille Fall Chinook Spawning Abundance 1986-2021



# Coquille Specific Decline



- General 2016 decline in coastwide fall Chinook - assoc. with poor ocean conditions/drought.
- “Lower low” in Coquille and no subsequent increase.

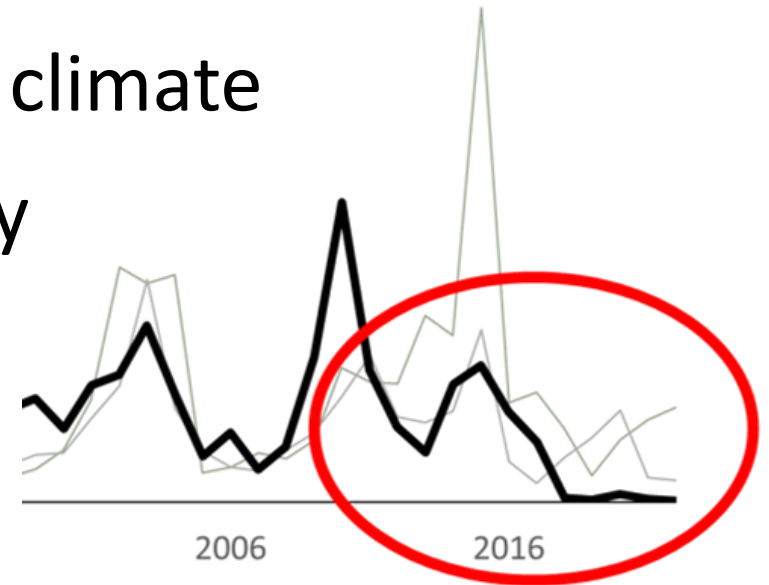


# POSSIBLE Limiting factors reviewed



ODFW assessment in 2020 evaluated:

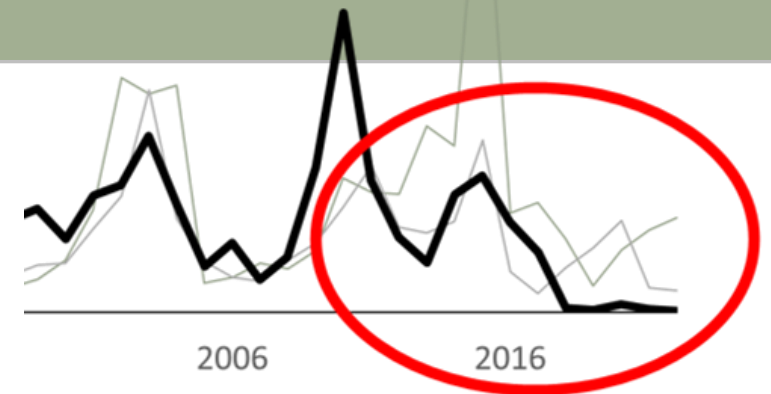
- Ocean conditions
- Predation
- Environmental factors – temperature, flow, climate
- Environmental factors – habitat productivity
- Hatchery interactions
- Disease



# Conclusions



The primary cause of the decline of Coquille fall Chinook is likely ***predation by non-native fish***. The impacts are further exacerbated by environmental factors in freshwater and the ocean



# Recommended actions



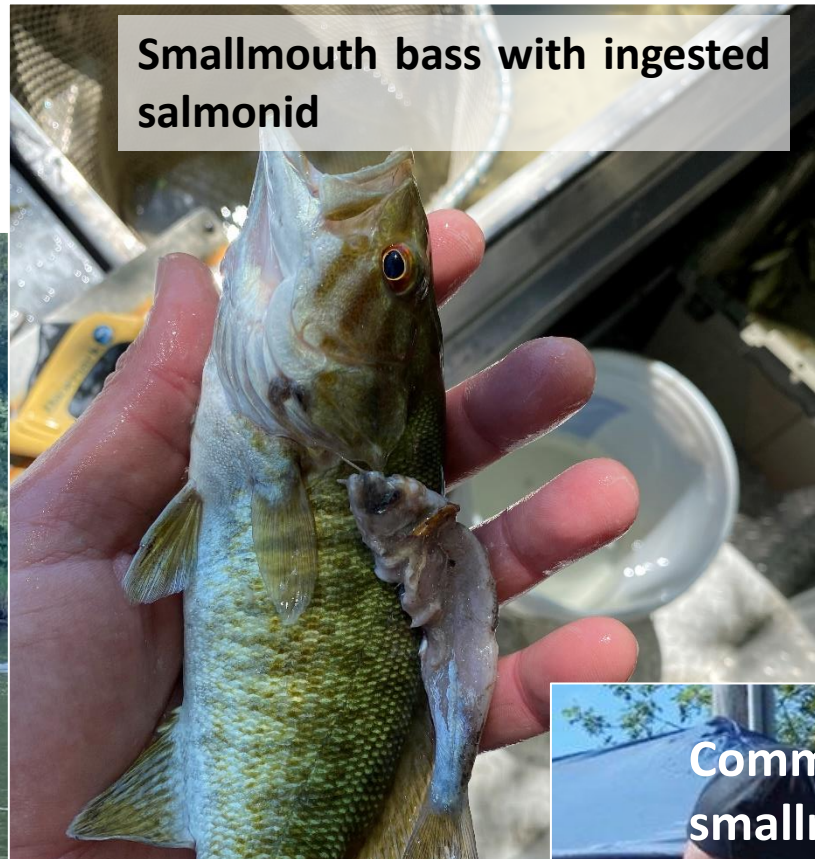
- Address predation
- Improve temperature monitoring/modeling, prioritize aquatic habitat for restoration
- Improve understanding of effects of environmental conditions
- Conservative fishery management
- Consider use of conservation hatchery as an emergency measure



# Predation



Electrofishing for smallmouth bass



Smallmouth bass with ingested salmonid



Liberalized  
harvest rules for  
smallmouth bass



Recreational spearfishing for  
smallmouth bass



Community volunteer checking in  
smallmouth bass at derby



# Habitat



## CIT

- >\$8M for Coquille Basin restoration work from 2000-2021; 24 fish barriers removed; 135 miles of stream habitat assessment/planning

## ODFW

- Winter Lake (407 ac, 6 mi of tidal channel), technical participation in numerous projects
- Funded 3 fish passage projects with drought funding.
- Intensive fish monitoring for effectiveness at restoration sites.





# Fisheries and Hatchery

## Fisheries

- Complete salmon fishery closure (2021 and 2022).
- Closure to harvest of naturally-produced fall Chinook 2020, reduced bag limit 2019.

## Hatchery

- No wild broodstock for hatchery harvest augmentation program when below Critical Abundance.
- Implementation of a Coquille Fall Chinook Conservation hatchery program – brood collection fall 2022.



**Coquille Indian Tribe, ODFW, and community volunteers working at CIT's Lampa Creek site**



**Lampa Cr. net pen testing**



**Volunteers assisting with brood collection, 2021**



# Population at very high risk



- Habitat improvements and reducing predation will take time to accrue population benefits.
- Population remains at very high risk until limiting factors are addressed.
- Conservation hatchery program is a “lifeboat” for the wild population while actions on limiting factors are underway.





# Conservation Hatchery Program Operational Plan

- All wild broodstock
- 100% marking of smolts
- Spawning protocols to maximize genetic diversity
- Acclimate smolts in upper areas of basin
- Rearing and releases structured to minimize predation by non-native fish
- Monitoring and evaluation to inform adaptive management





# Questions?