



Canadian-Origin Porcupine River Chum Salmon



2016 Season Summary and 2017 Pre-Season Canadian Management Considerations

Presented to: Yukon River Panel
Whitehorse, Yukon April 3-5 , 2017



Porcupine River Chum Salmon 2016 Canadian Management Strategy

Preseason outlook was for a below average return of 22,000 - 31,000 Fishing Branch River chum salmon.

- Conservative harvest early in the season until in-season estimates could be determined by Porcupine Sonar.
- Communal Licences issued for chum salmon with an allocation of 1,000 (30% of recent harvest).
- Early September estimates at Porcupine sonar indicated a stronger than expected return.
- Following discussion with VGG, Communal licence amended to increase allocation to 2,000 chum salmon.

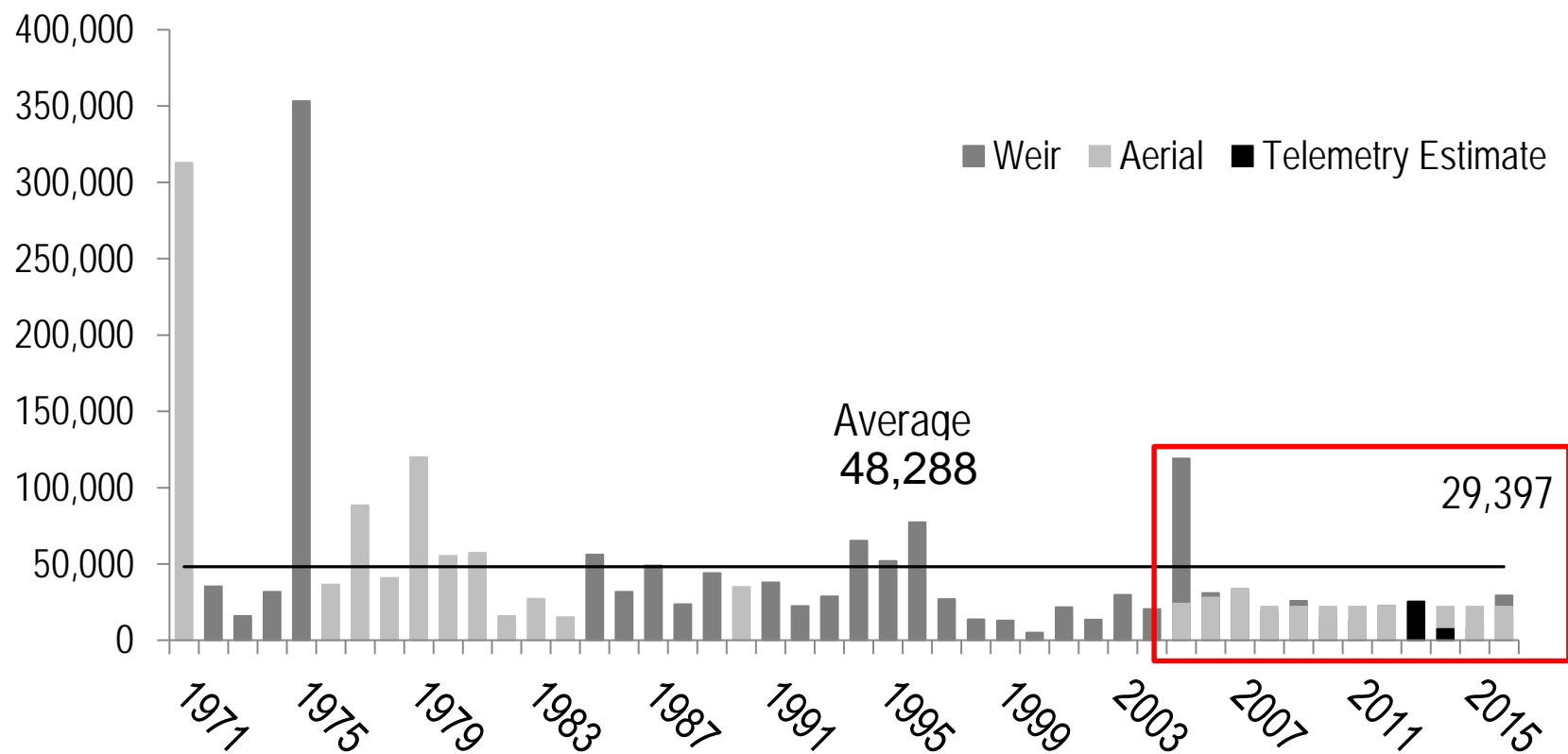


2016 Management Outcome Porcupine River Chum Salmon

Canadian-Origin Run Size	N/A
Fishing Branch (IMEG)	22,000 – 49,000
Porcupine Sonar Passage Estimate	54,395
Canadian Fishery Harvest Above Sonar	3,005
Spawning Escapement (Fishing Branch)	29,397
Spawning Escapement (Porcupine River)	51,390

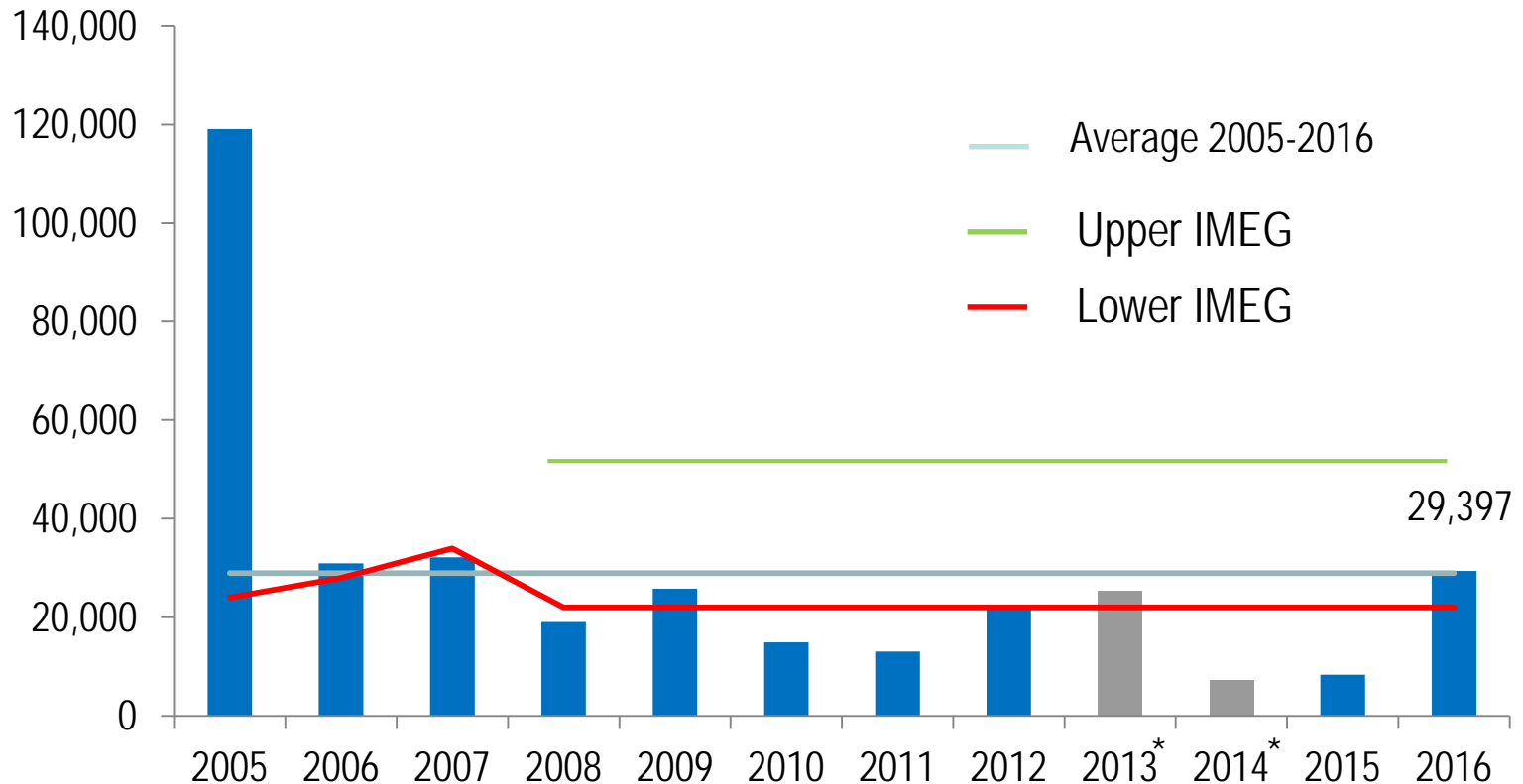


Fishing Branch Chum Salmon Passage at Fishing Branch Weir 1971 - 2016





Fishing Branch Chum Salmon Passage at Fishing Branch Weir 2005 - 2016



*The Fishing Branch weir did not operate in 2013 & 2014; estimates of escapement were derived from telemetry and Porcupine sonar data.



Management Considerations – Porcupine Chum

- Positive outlook for 2017, but outlook for Porcupine has high uncertainty
- Continued concerns with low returns to Fishing Branch River
- Anticipate precautionary approach in the early part of the run with abundance based management applied in-season
- Management discussions in progress



Canadian Harvest Share and Status of Fisheries Within Pre-Season Outlook Range

Outlook (Run size)	Canadian Harvest Share*	Canadian Fishing Branch River Chum
		First Nation
56,000	5,600	Restricted
62,000	8,500	Unrestricted
68,000	10,400	Unrestricted

* estimated by applying Canadian Harvest Share Range for Mainstem Chum 32% (mid-point of the range 29 – 35%) and the midpoint (35,500) of the escapement goal range (22,000-49,000)



Canadian Fishery In-Season Management

- Pre-season forecasts have inherent uncertainty
- Provide rough predictions of anticipated run size
 - e.g., weak, average, strong
- Used to inform likely fishery management measures
 - e.g., no commercial fishery
- Pre-season forecasts inform management strategy until in-season information is available (lower river)
- Canadian fishery management decisions based on in-season information (abundance)



Questions?

