

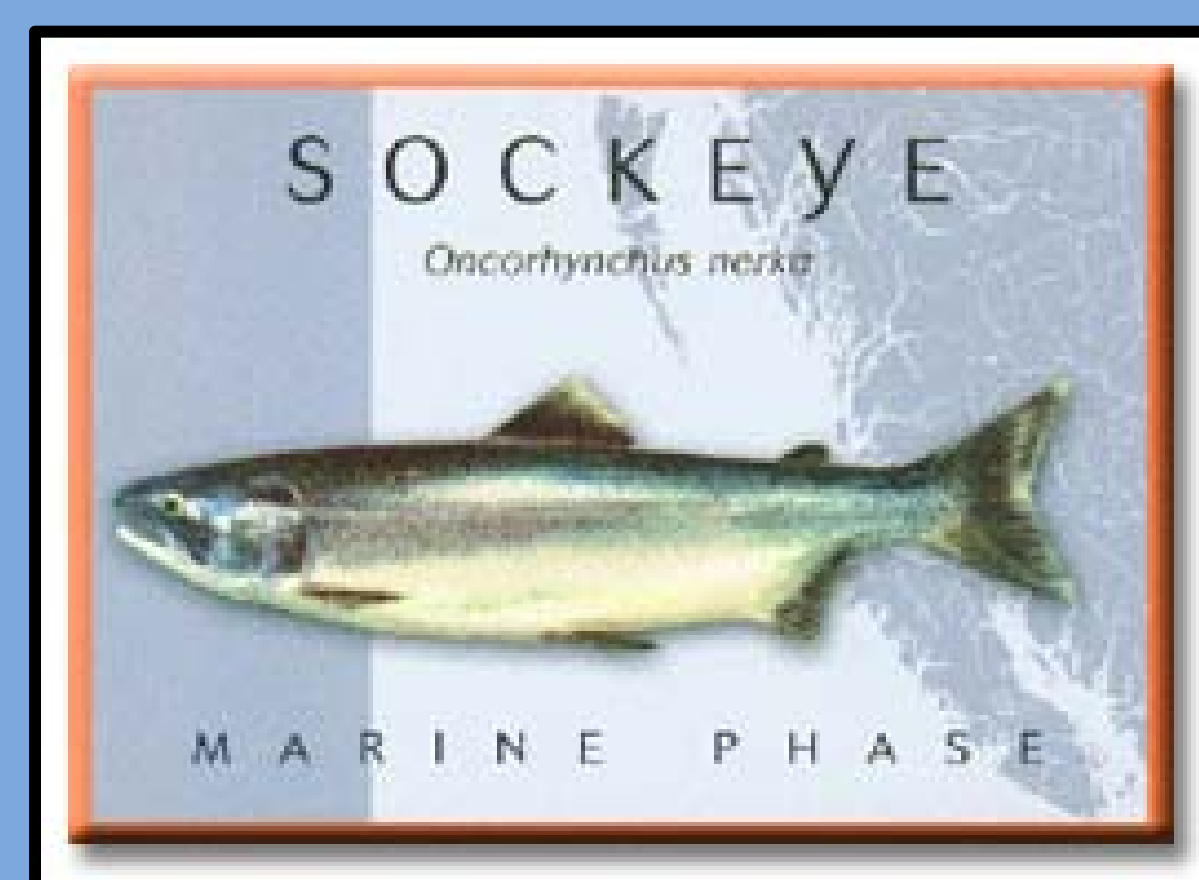
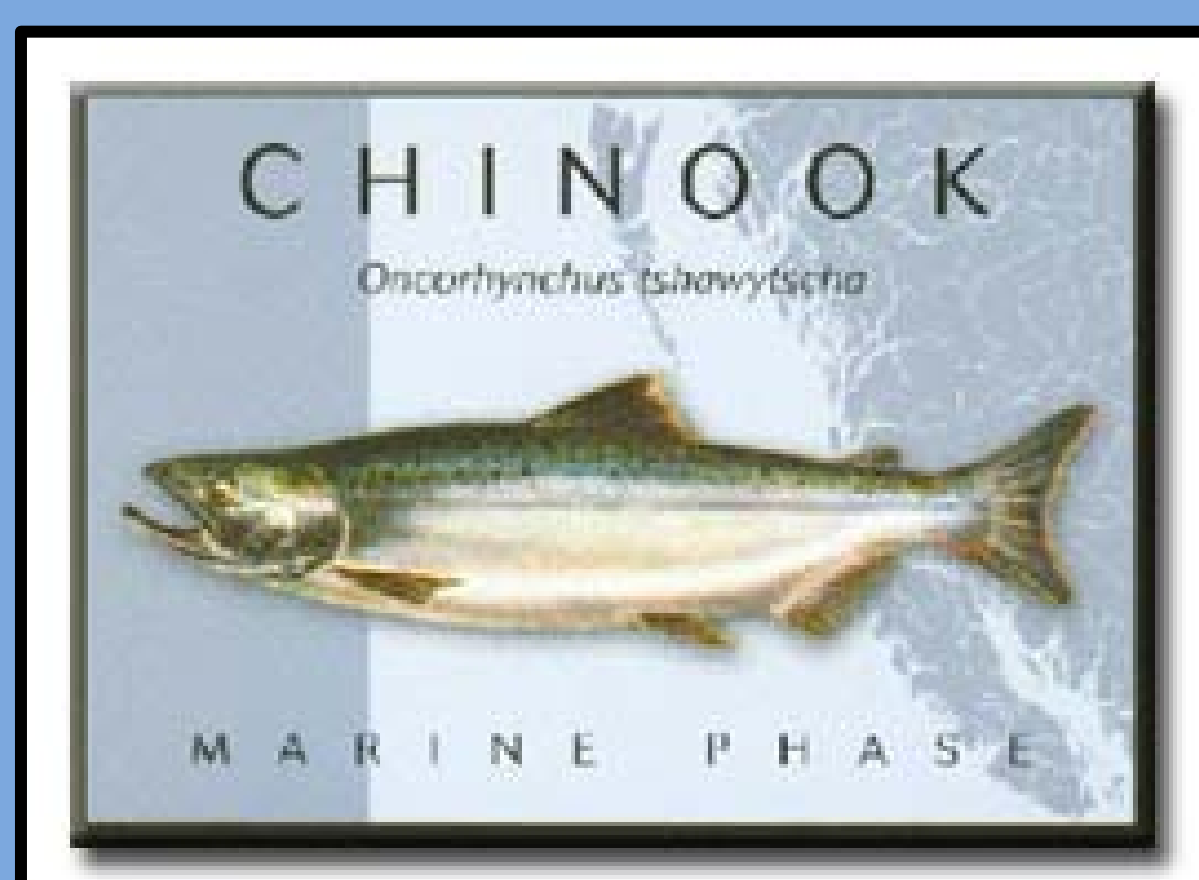


Salmon Bycatch in the Federally Managed Alaska Groundfish Fisheries

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Overview

- All salmon are *prohibited species* and must be avoided while fishing for groundfish in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.
- Salmon are a *prohibited species* because after escapement goals have been met, salmon harvests are fully utilized by subsistence, commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries.
- Pollock fisheries catch the majority of salmon bycatch.
 - ~95 % of salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea
 - ~75 % of salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska
- Chum salmon bycatch highest in Bering Sea
- Chinook salmon bycatch highest in Gulf of Alaska
- Very low bycatch amounts of pink, coho, and sockeye salmon
- For more information, visit the NMFS Alaska Region website at alaskafisheries.noaa.gov



Tools to Control Salmon Bycatch

Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) Limits

Limit the number of salmon that may be caught in a fishery.

- Chum salmon PSC limits
 - Bering Sea pollock fishery
- Chinook salmon PSC limits
 - Bering Sea pollock fishery
 - Proposed for the Gulf of Alaska pollock fisheries

Chum Salmon Savings Area

Closes a specific area in the Bering Sea from 8/1 – 8/31 and once the chum salmon PSC limit is reached.

Performance-based Standards

Fishermen work together to avoid salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea by using existing catch share programs.

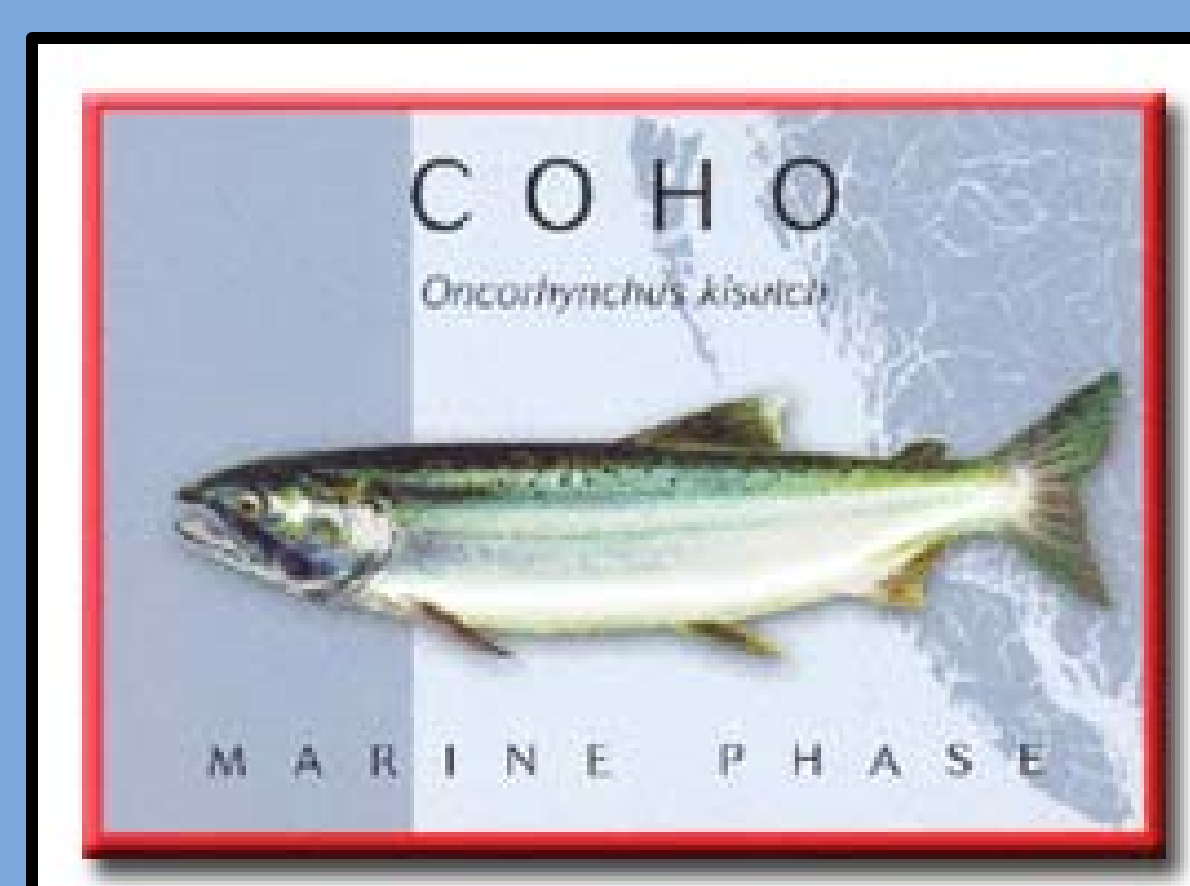
- Chum salmon intercooperative agreement
 - Voluntary rolling hotspot system that moves vessels away from areas with high bycatch
- Chinook salmon incentive plan agreements
 - Incentives for vessels to avoid bycatch that establish rewards for bycatch avoidance and penalties for failure to avoid bycatch

Salmon Excluder Device

- Allow salmon escapement from pollock trawl nets.

Considering new measures to minimize bycatch of

- Chum salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery
- Chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska non-pollock groundfish fisheries



Observing and Sampling Salmon Bycatch

Extensive observer coverage and coordination with NOAA research programs gives high quality information on salmon bycatch.

- Observers collect scientific data and biological samples.
- Salmon samples used for genetic stock composition and coded-wire tag analyses inform management decisions and help to understand impacts of bycatch on salmon stocks.
- Salmon must be discarded after scientific data or biological samples are collected, unless donated to the *Prohibited Species Donation Program*.

Bering Sea

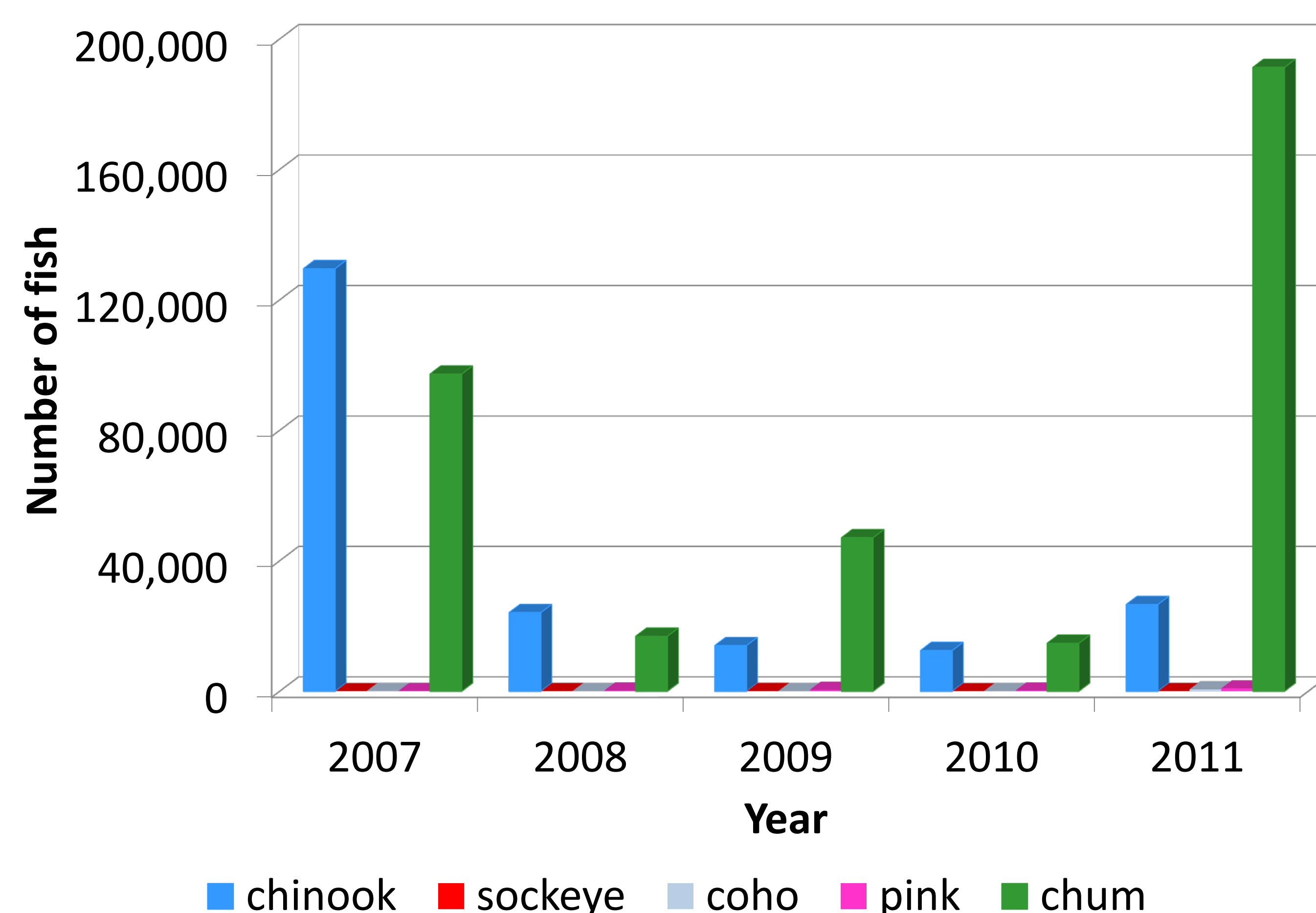
- 100% observer coverage in pollock fishery
- Count every salmon taken in the pollock fishery
- Catch monitoring and control plans at processors

Gulf of Alaska

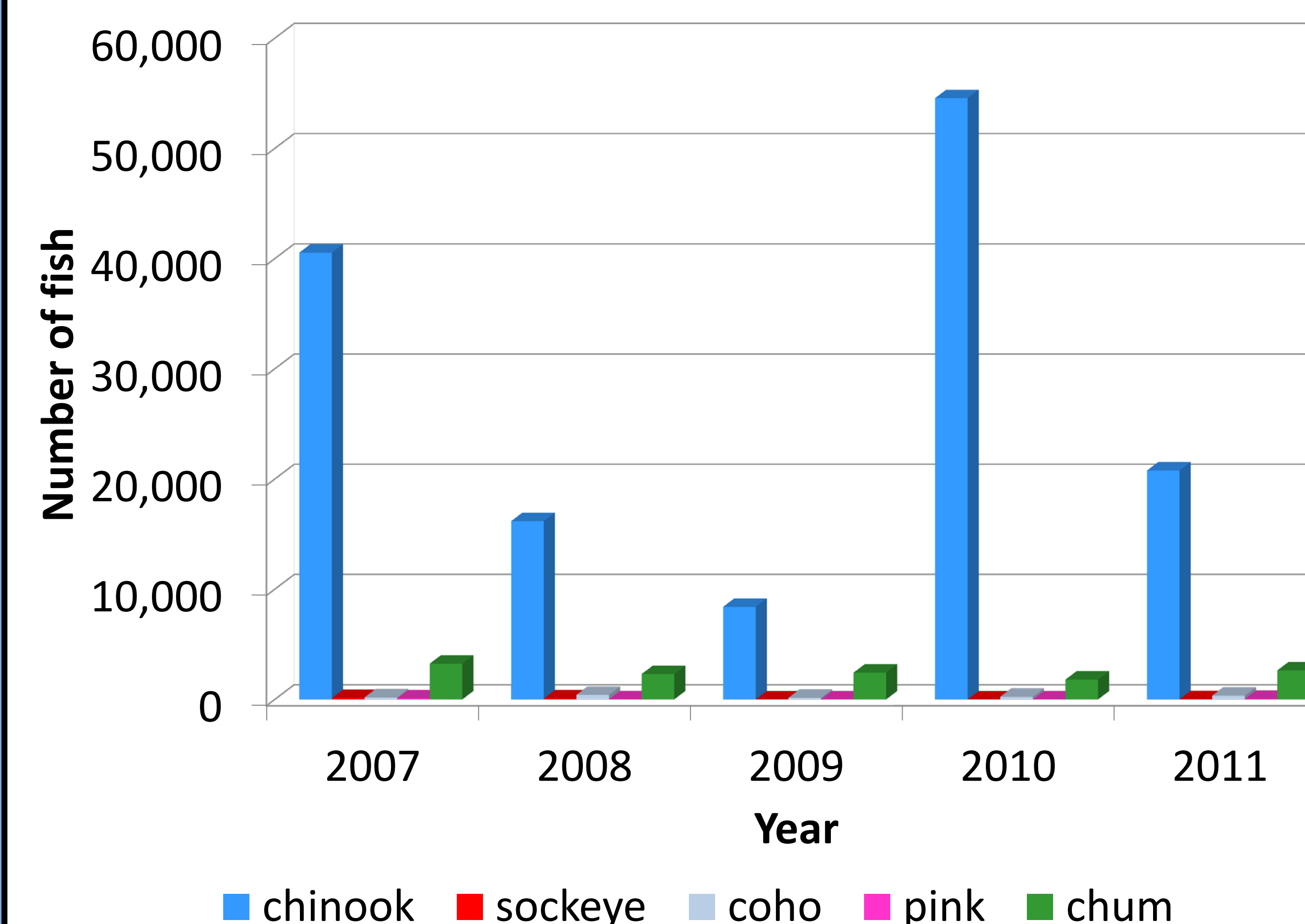
- Observer coverage with plans to expand coverage in 2013



Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch Estimates



Gulf of Alaska Salmon Bycatch Estimates



Average Salmon Bycatch Estimates (2007-2011)

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
BSAI	41,344	27	133	320	73,416
GOA	28,088	43	256	27	2,477

Sources: Salmon bycatch estimates – NMFS AK Region Catch Accounting System
Salmon pictures – Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada