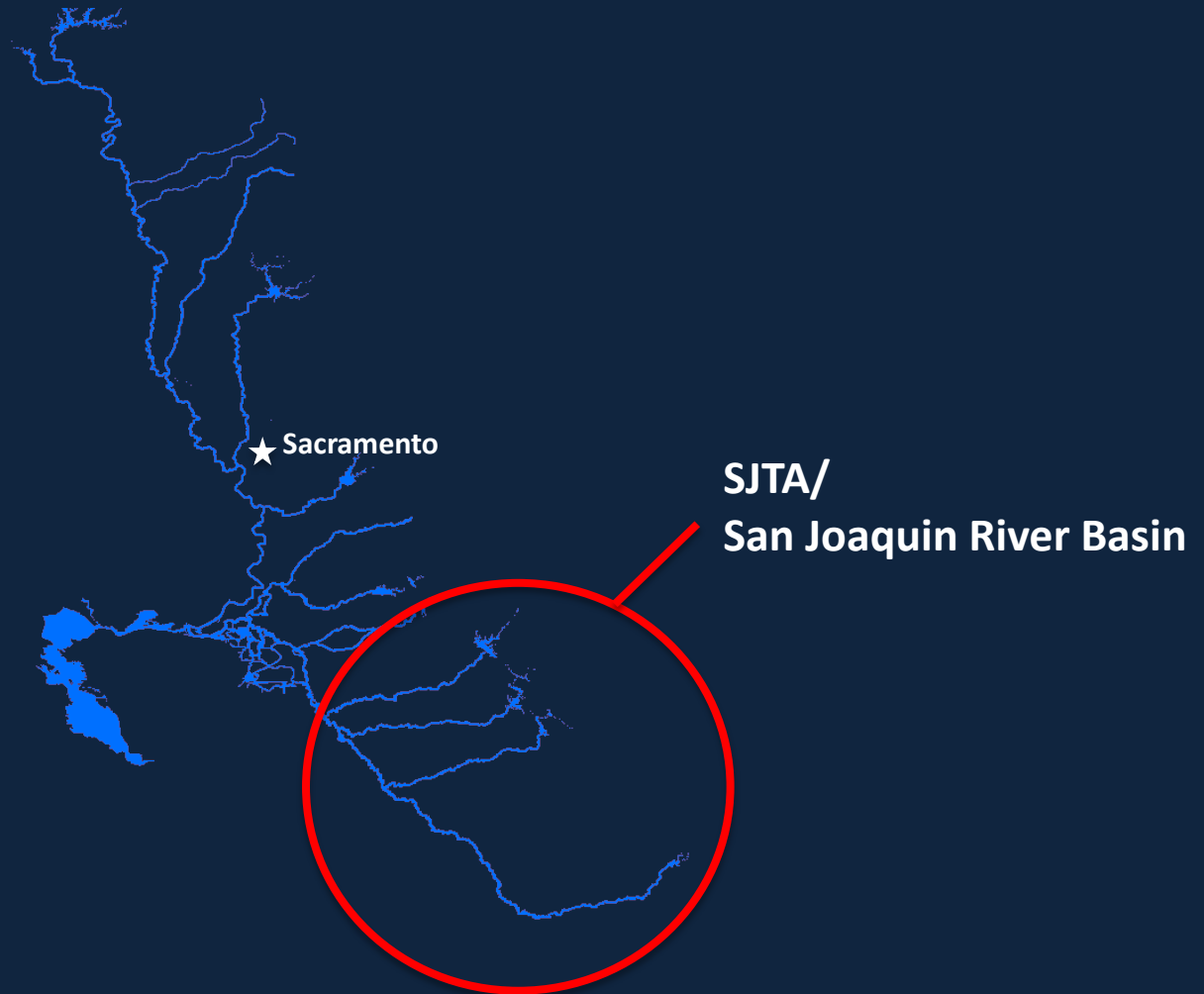


Key Points on Sacramento Index Stock Status and Harvest

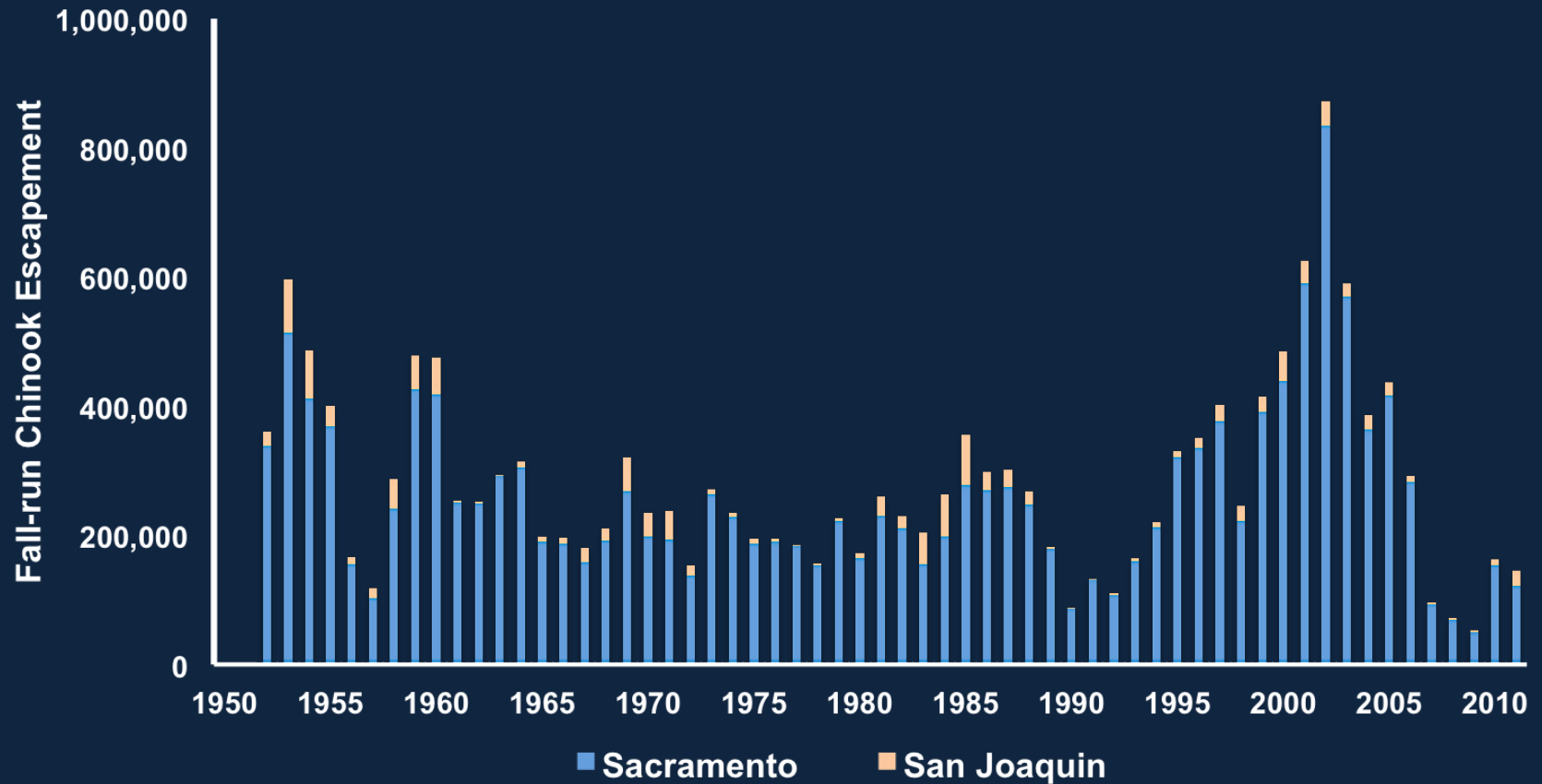
PFMC Meeting, Sacramento CA
March 2-7, 2012

Doug Demko
San Joaquin Tributaries Association
Modesto, California

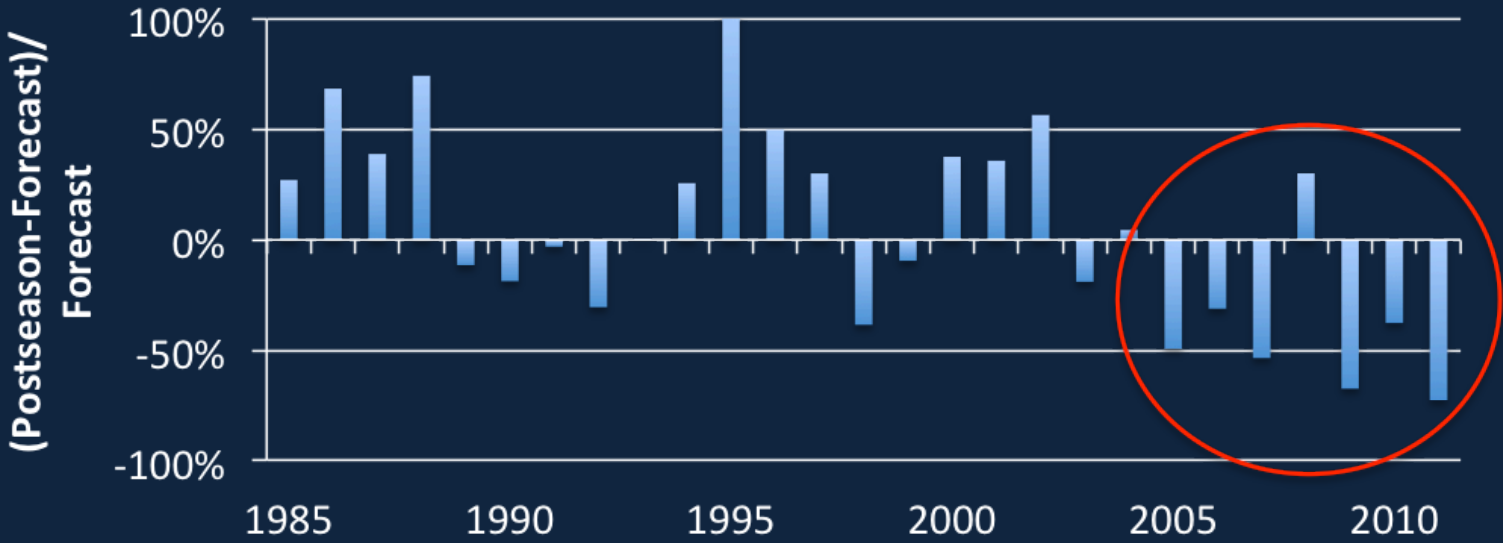
California's Central Valley and San Joaquin Basin



Central Valley fall-run escapement



Ongoing concern with SI prediction and harvest

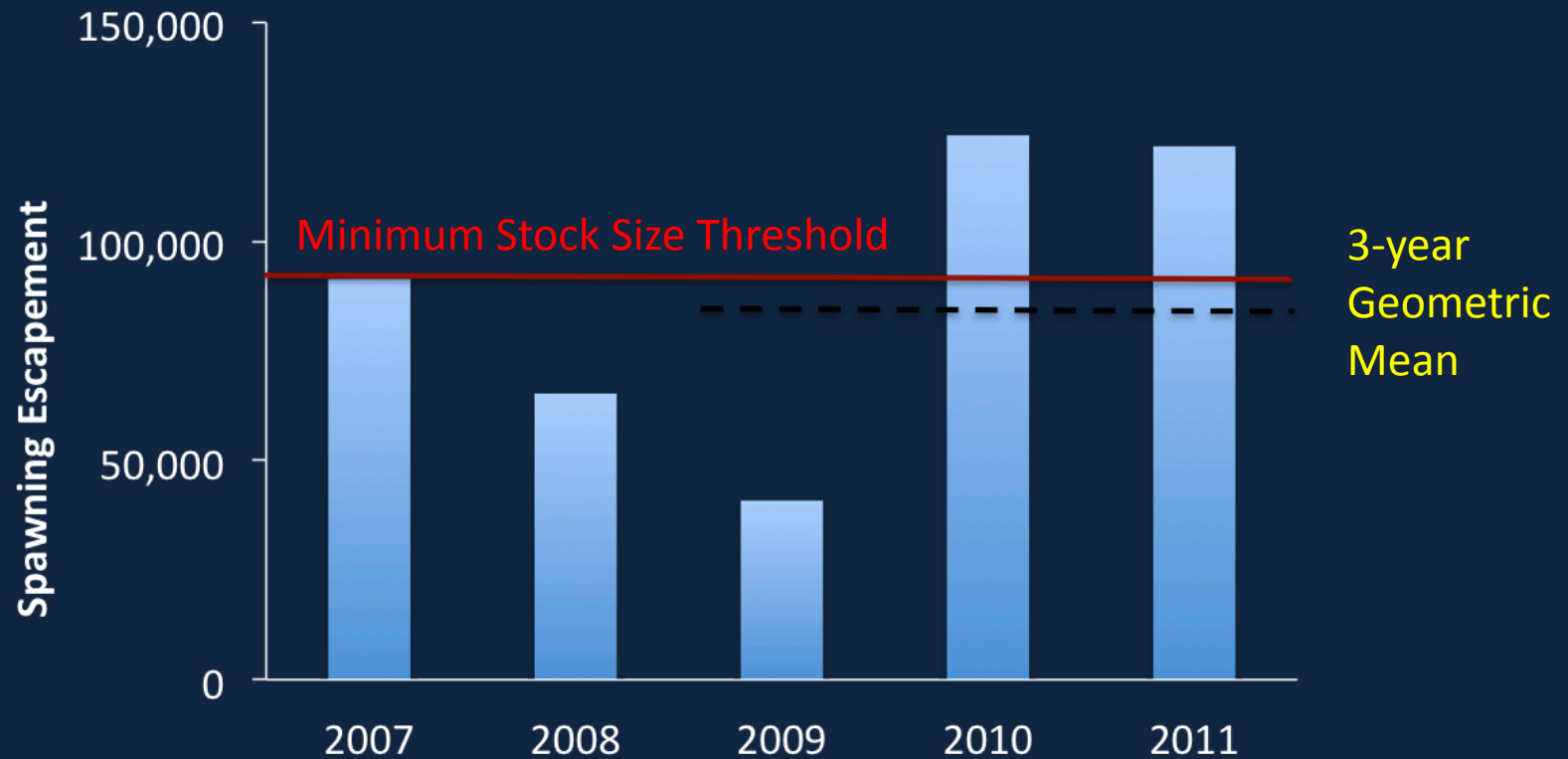


2012 SI pre-season estimate

2012 Pre-season estimated abundance 819k

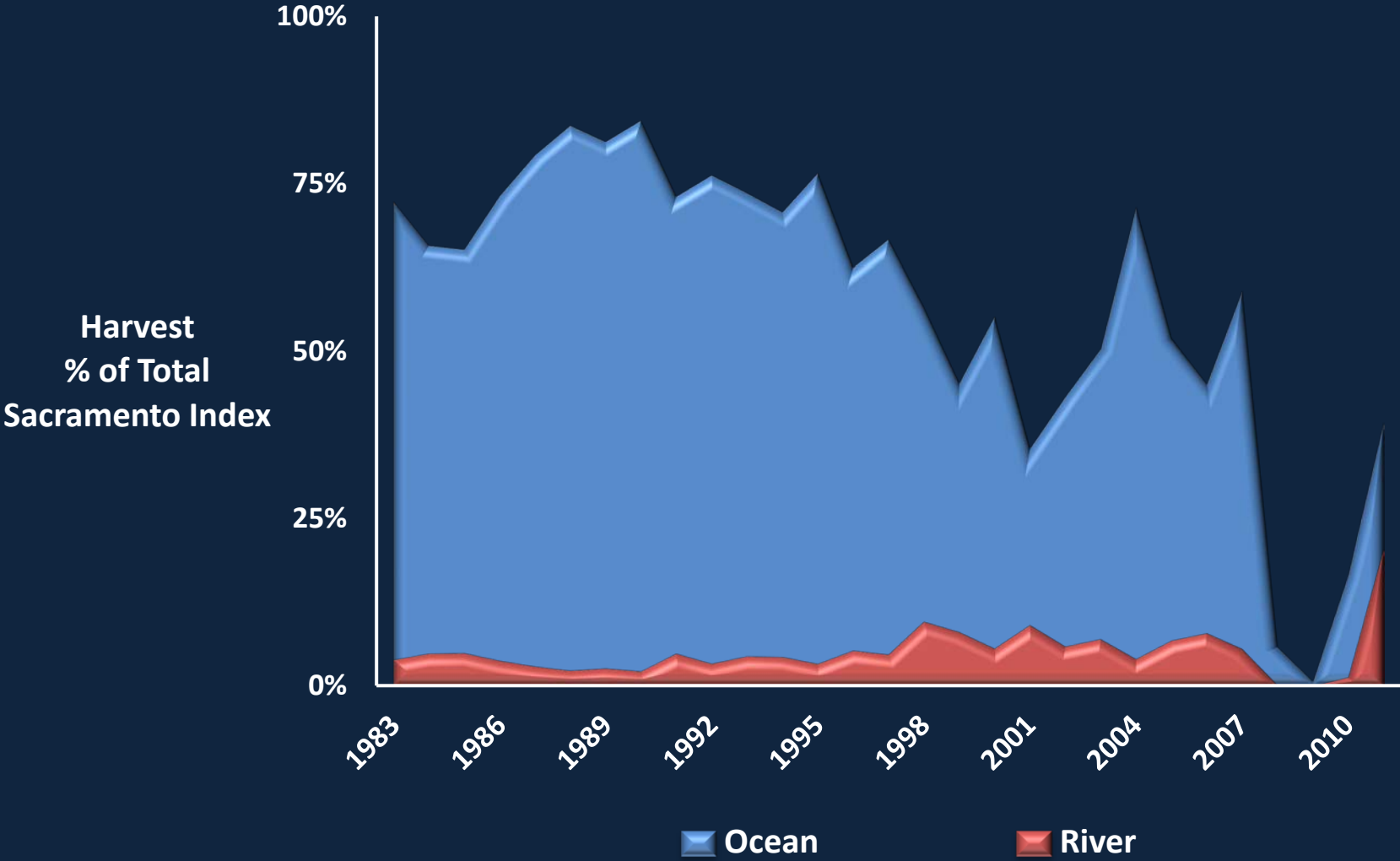
- Based on regression of jack abundance last 3 years
- Using “normal” regression method estimate is 2.2 million
- No upper/lower confidence intervals

SRFC are currently overfished

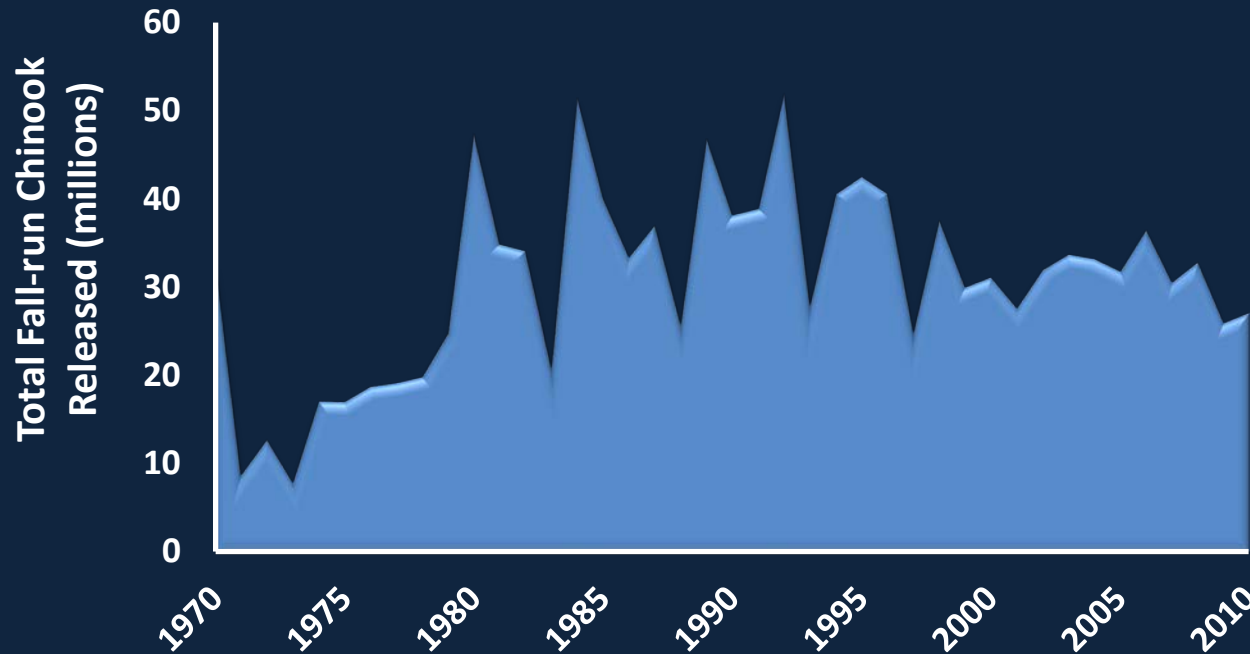


Spawning Escapement for SRFC						
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	3-year Geo Mean	MSST
91,374	65,364	40,873	124,270	121,742	85,195	91,500

Harvest drives need for hatchery production



Central Valley Fall-run hatchery releases and impacts



Despite the long history of hatchery fish production in California, stocking of hatchery fish is still controversial and can negatively affect wild fish through genetic contamination, predation, competition, alteration of migration, mixed-stock harvest, predator attraction, and disease transmission.

Weber and Fausch 2003, Mobrand et al. 2005, ICF Jones & Stokes 2010

High harvest rate inconsistent with California's doubling goal

The preseason reports do not address CVPIA section 3406(b)(1), CA DFG Code section 6902 and the narrative salmon doubling objective or considered whether the proposed alternatives would be consistent with these requirements

The doubling goals are based on natural production* and progress towards meeting them is largely dependent on annual fall-run Chinook returns, which in turn depend on harvest

***Chinook natural production = ocean harvest + inland harvest + estimated escapement (of naturally produced Chinook)**

Indicators of poor stock health

- Hatchery fall-run comprise a large proportion of returns to the SJR basin
- Exceedingly high jack returns, especially in last few years
- Overall decreasing genetic and life history diversity in the CV stock

Summary

- **SI abundance depressed and “overfished”**
 - Harvest has been exceedingly high and has largely been supported by hatchery production, with negative consequences on the resilience of the stock
- **Considerable funding and effort have been spent in California to improve fall-run Chinook escapement in the Central Valley in order to meet CVPIA section 3406(b)(1)**
 - NMFS has not addressed whether increased SRFC ocean harvest would require additional actions to double the natural production of salmon than would have otherwise been required under a No Action Alternative

Recommendation

Sacramento Index will remain in overfished condition for foreseeable future and harvest should be curtailed to prevent further stock declines

Thank You

San Joaquin Tributaries Association
Modesto, California