

# North Coast Coho Stock Assessment 2005

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DFO Stock Assessment

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- Coho Assessment Framework
- Escapement Estimates
- Inseason abundance indicator

# Coho Assessment Framework

- Coho are managed by stock groupings (if known) or by management areas.
- Intermixing of stocks dictates North Coast stock assessment account for Areas 1- 8.
- In-season abundance indicators.
- Estimate stream specific habitat capacity measures.
- Estimate escapement.
- Estimate exploitation rates and marine survival for each stock grouping.

# Coho Abundance Estimates

- Indicator stocks
- Escapement estimates
- CPUE

# Indicator stocks provide estimates for:

- adult escapement
- freshwater survival and production
- marine survival and exploitation rates

*(too early for 2005 numbers)*

Area 2E: Deena

Area 4: Toboggan, Babine,  
Slamgeesh

Area 6: West Arm Creek

# Escapement Estimates

Adult fences: Tlell

Sustut

Upper Bulkley

Mark-recapture: Nass fishwheel

Visual estimates: Areas 1, 2, 5- 8.

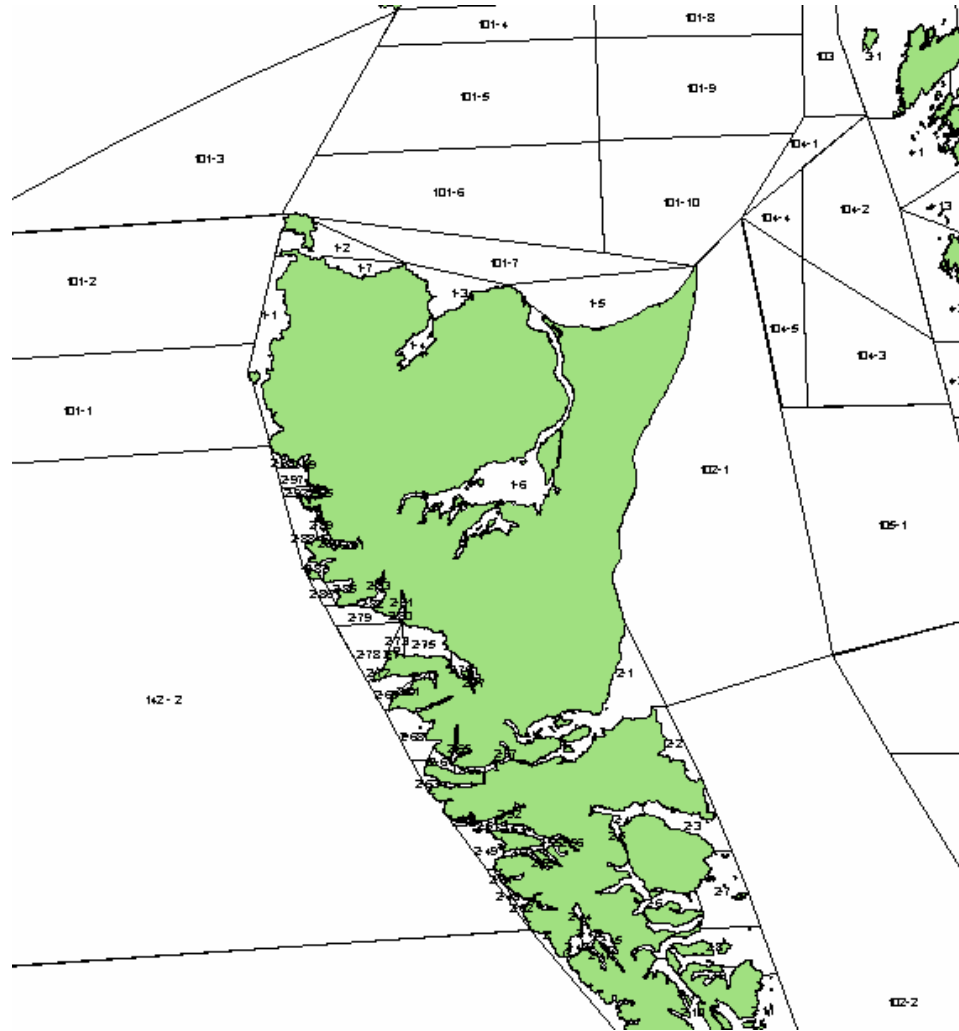
CPUE: Alaskan fisheries

Langara Sport  
fishery

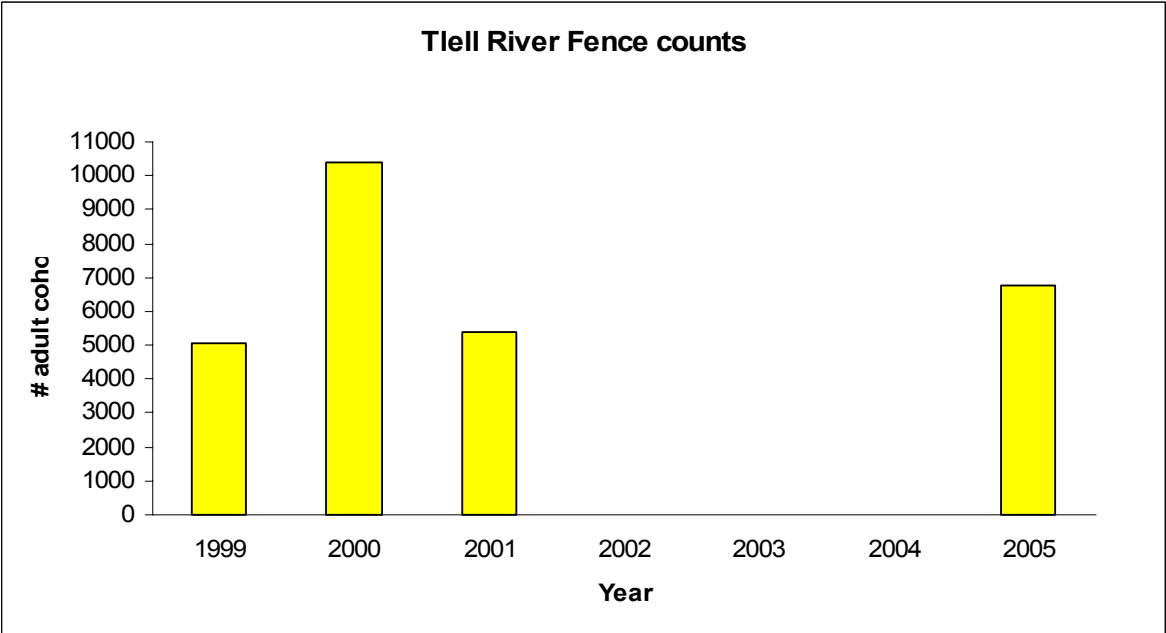
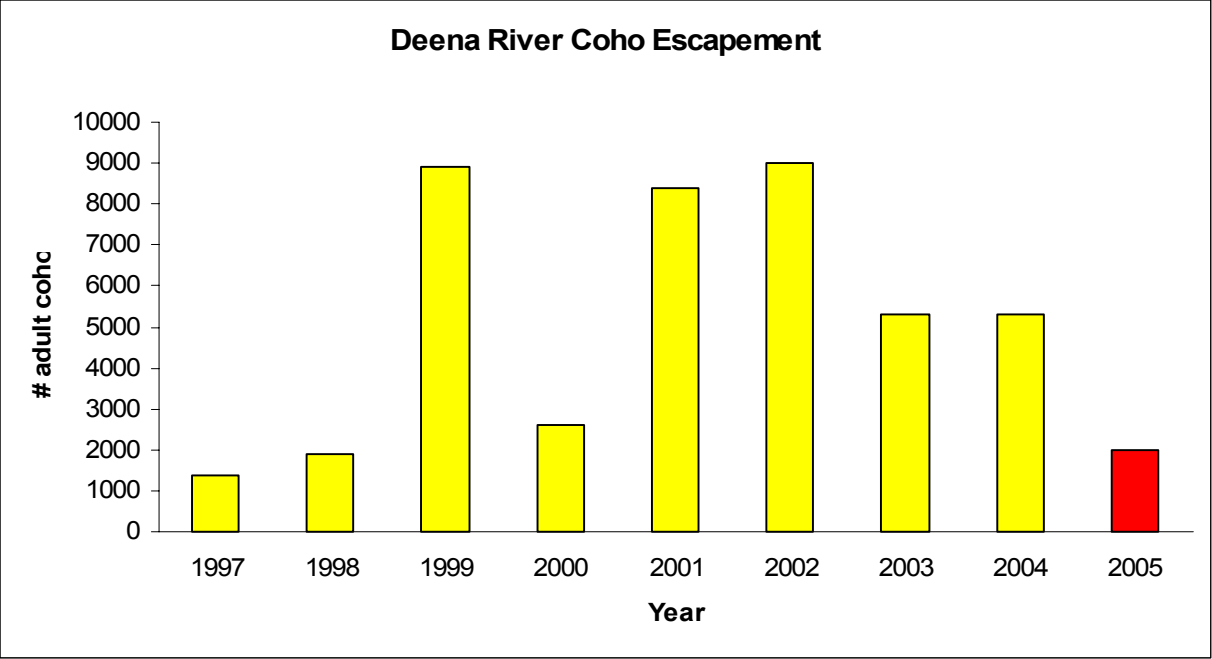
# Coho Stock Status 2005

(presented north to south and coastal to inland)

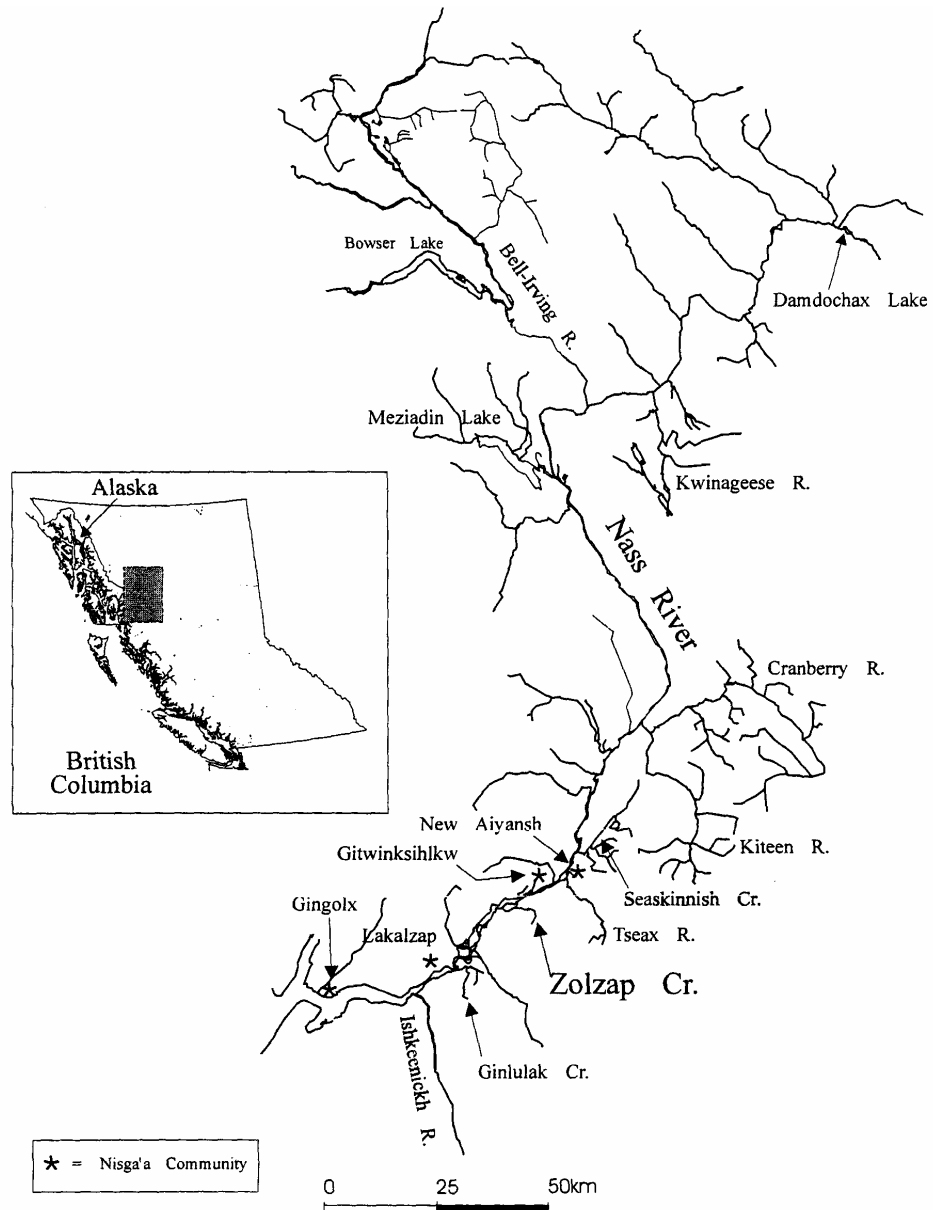
# Areas 1 and 2







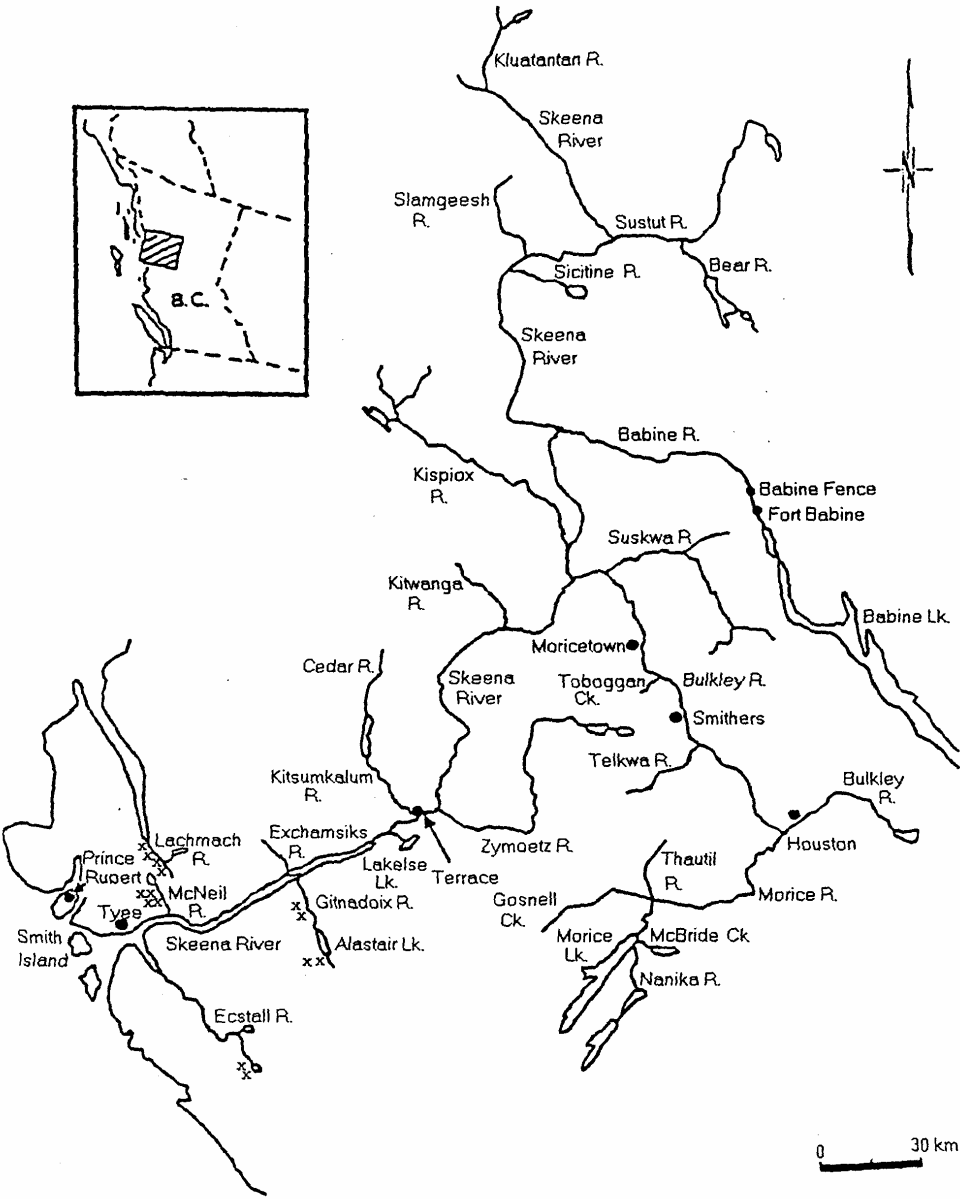
# Area 3



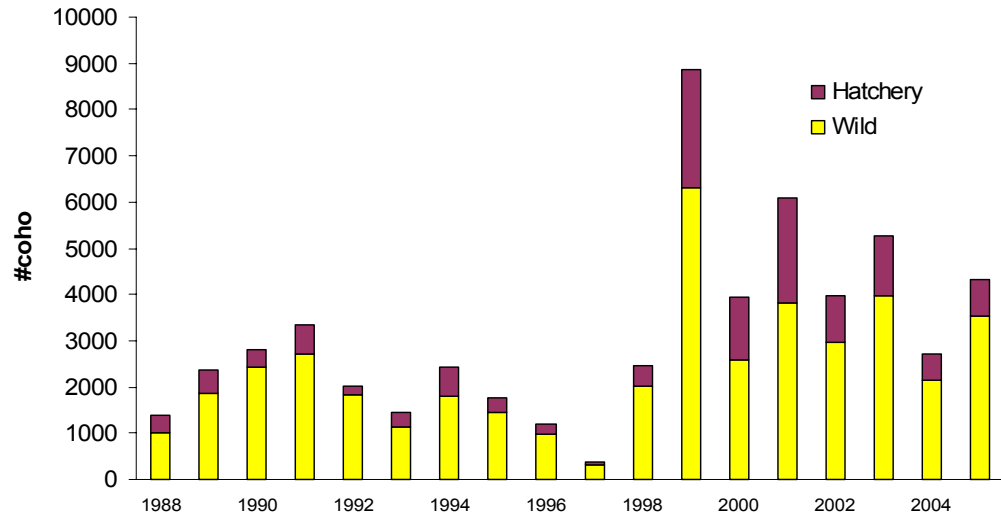
## Nass Coho Production Capacity

Area	Estimated Production Capacity	Enumeration Method	% of capacity					
			2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Coastal</b>	11,000	AUC	80	283	208	398	267	<b>358</b>
<b>Lower Nass</b>	43,000	AUC	34	124	125	146	67	<b>94</b>
<b>Upper Nass</b>	106,000	Fishwheel M/R	67	75	152	64	43	<b>82</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,000</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>105</b>

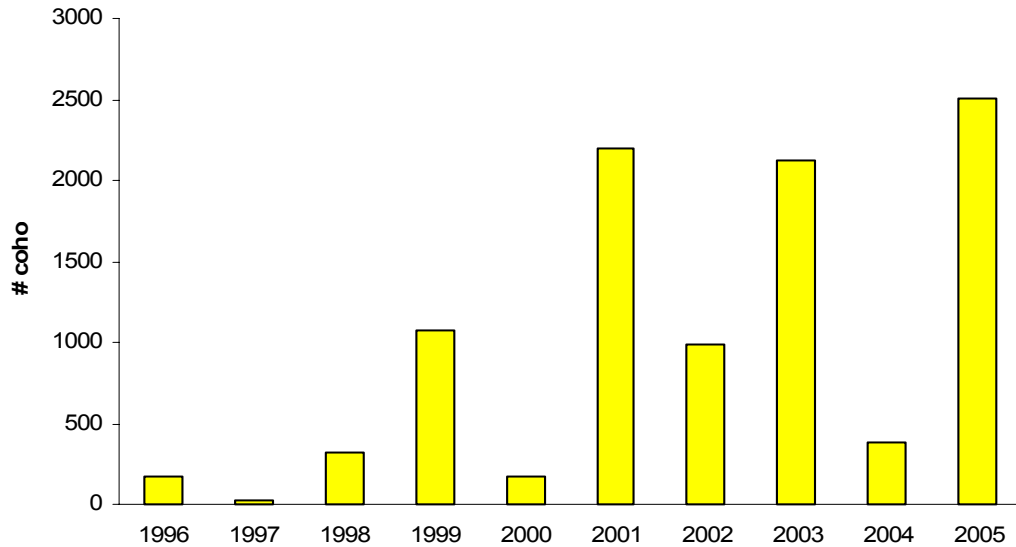
# Skeena River Drainage



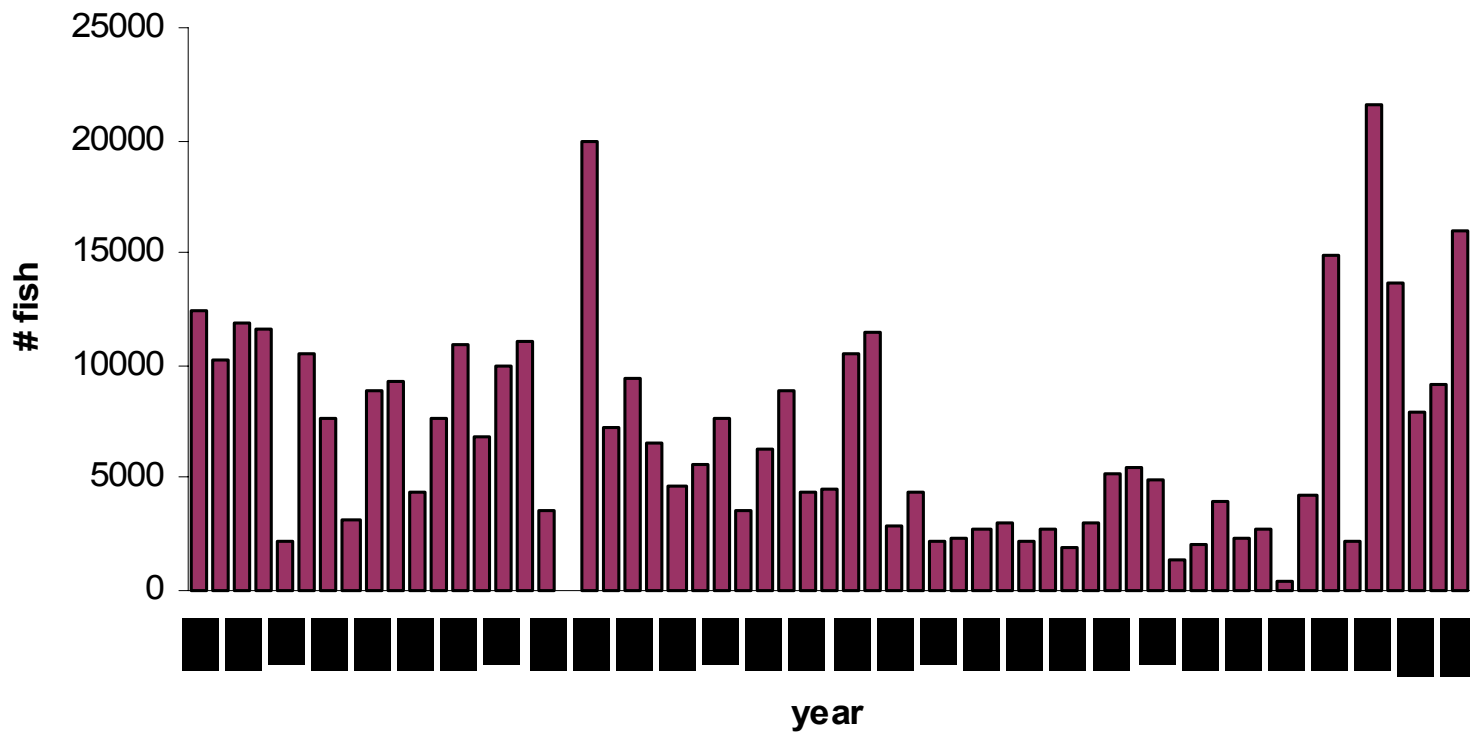
### Toboggan Creek Coho Escapement



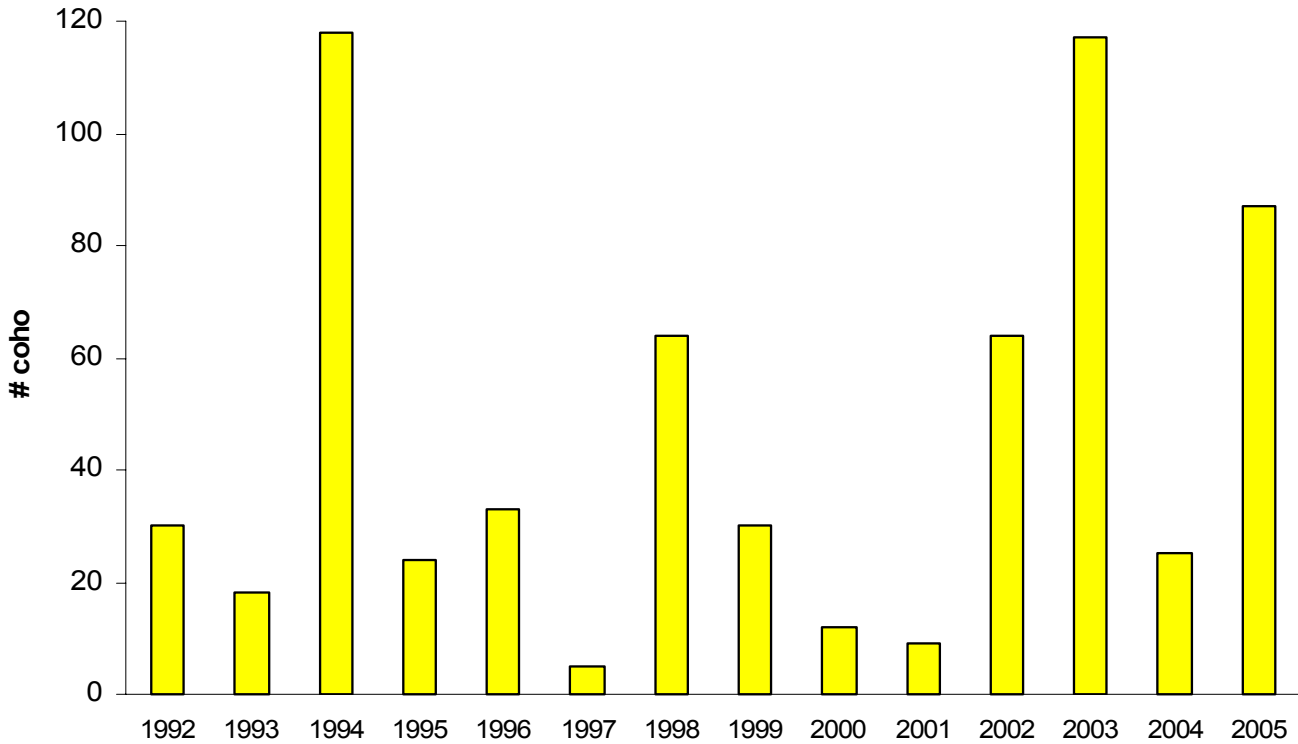
### Upper Bulkley Coho Escapement



### Babine coho escapment 1946-2005

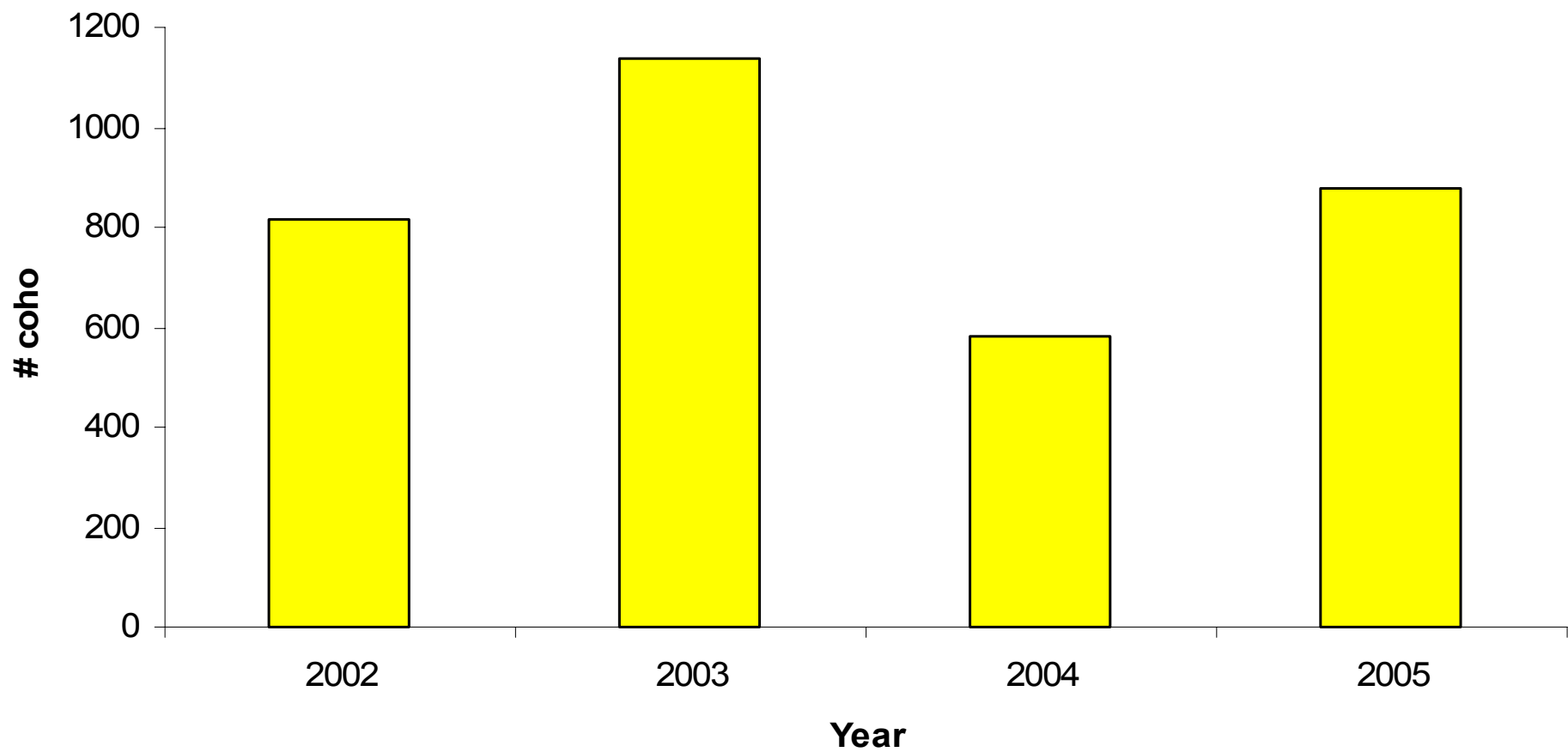


### Sustut Fence Coho Escapement



# Area 6

## West Arm Creek Escapement



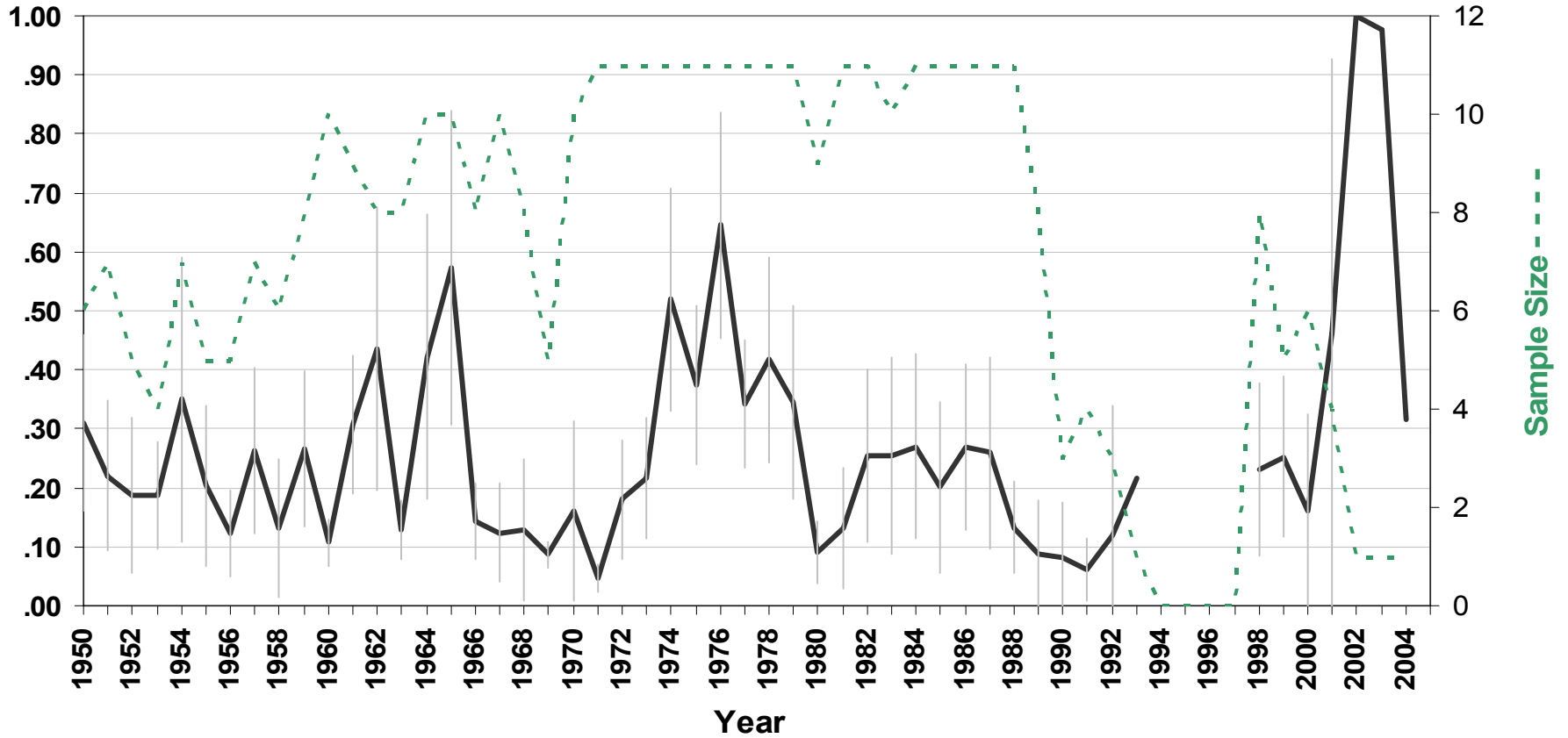


# Conclusion: Fence Counts / AUC / Mark-Recapture

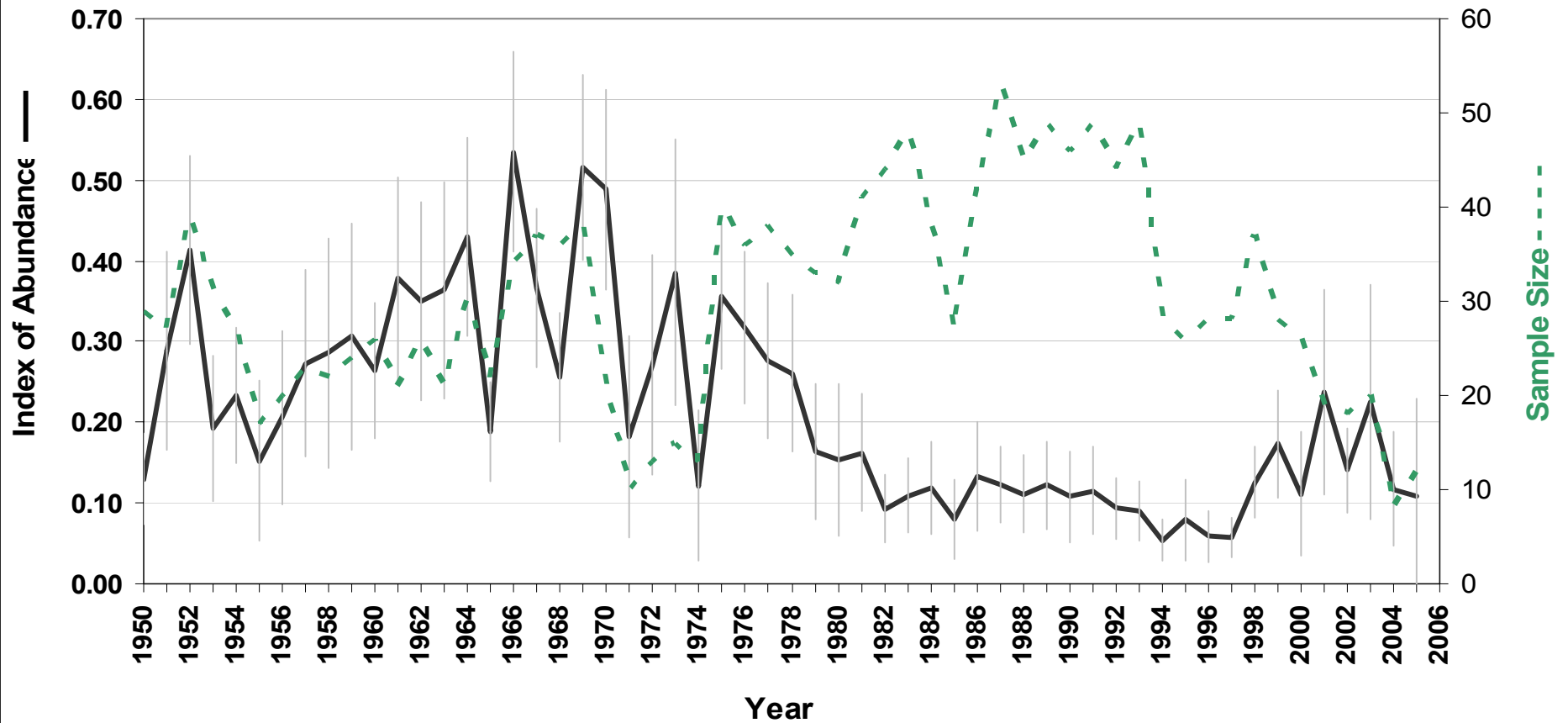
- All systems had increased escapement in 2005 (*except Deena*).
- All of these escapements were higher than their brood year.

# Visual Surveys

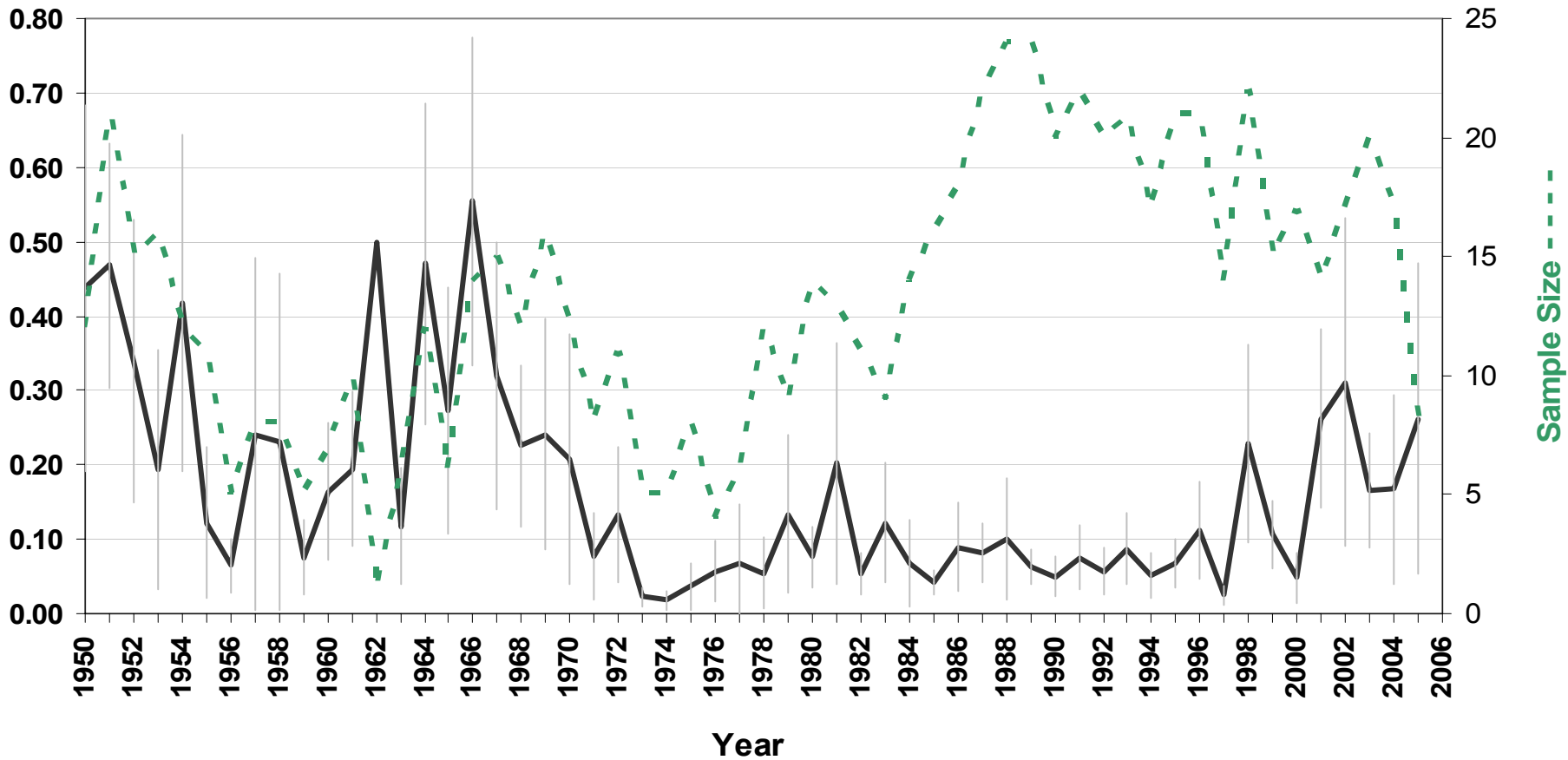
# Annual Index of Abundance - Area 1 Coho Escapement



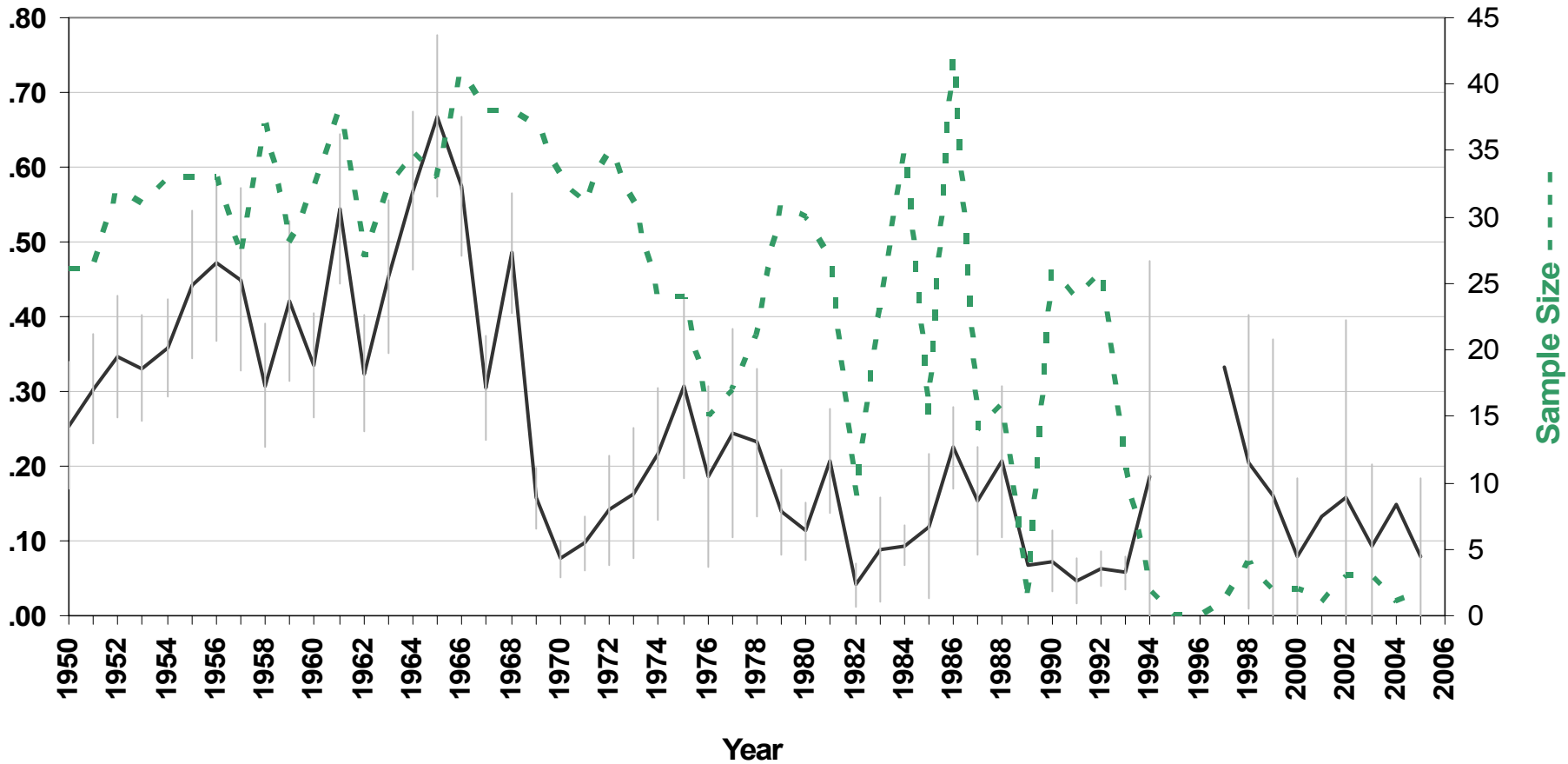
# Annual Index of Abundance - Area 2 East Coho Escapement



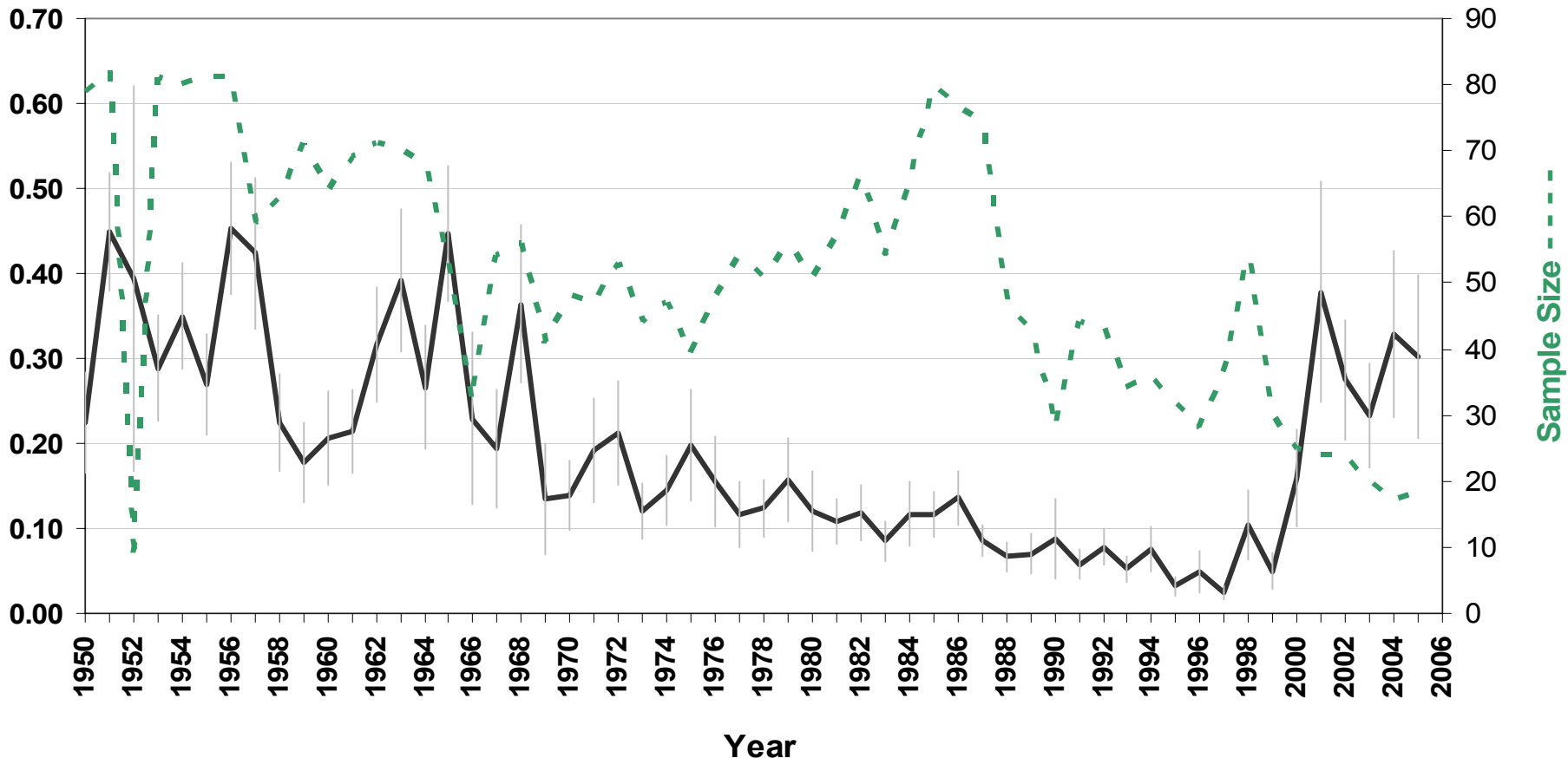
# Annual Index of Abundance - Area 2 West Coho Escapement



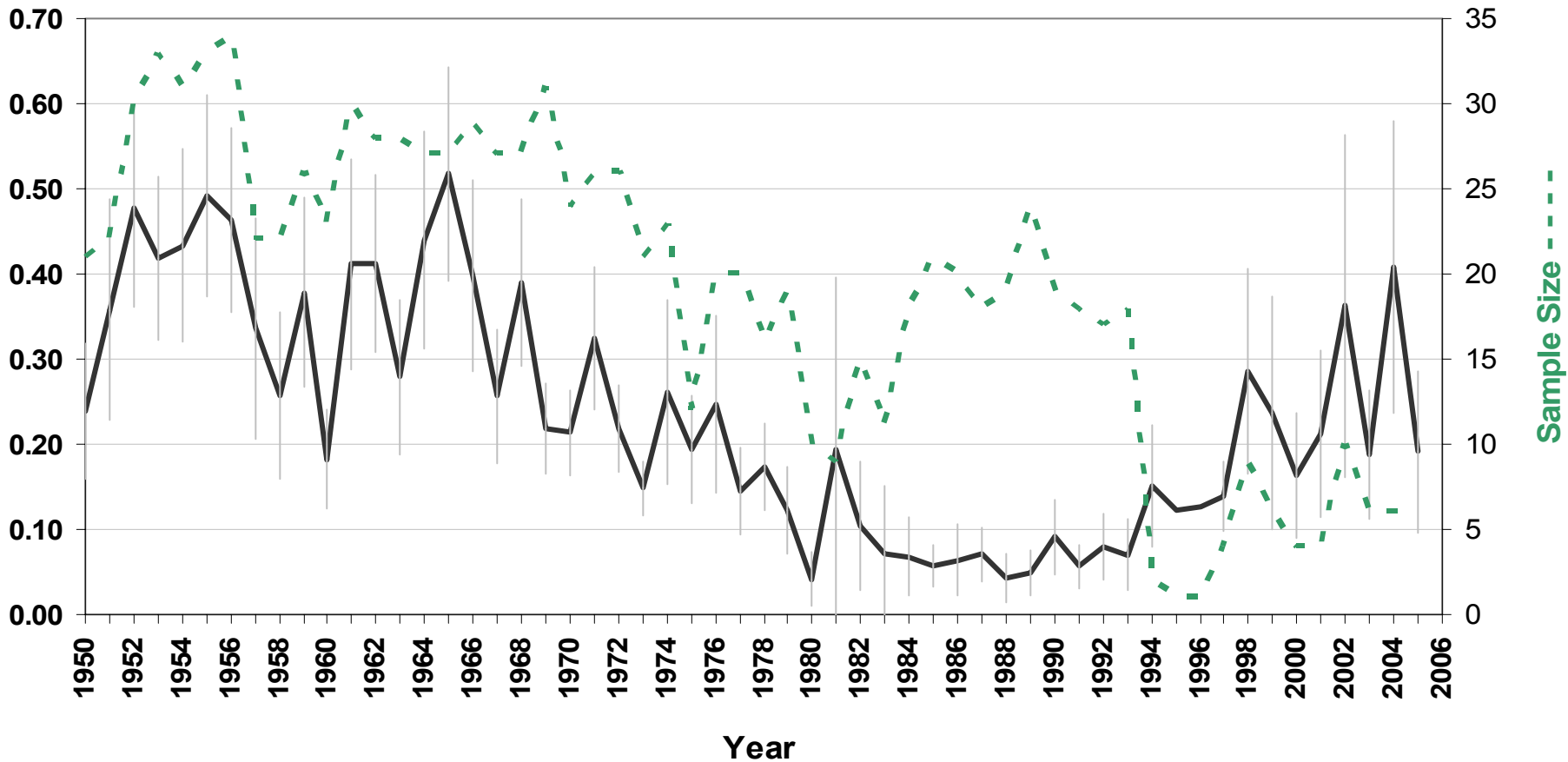
# Annual Index of Abundance - Area 5 Coho Escapement



## Annual Index of Abundance - Area 6 Coho Escapement

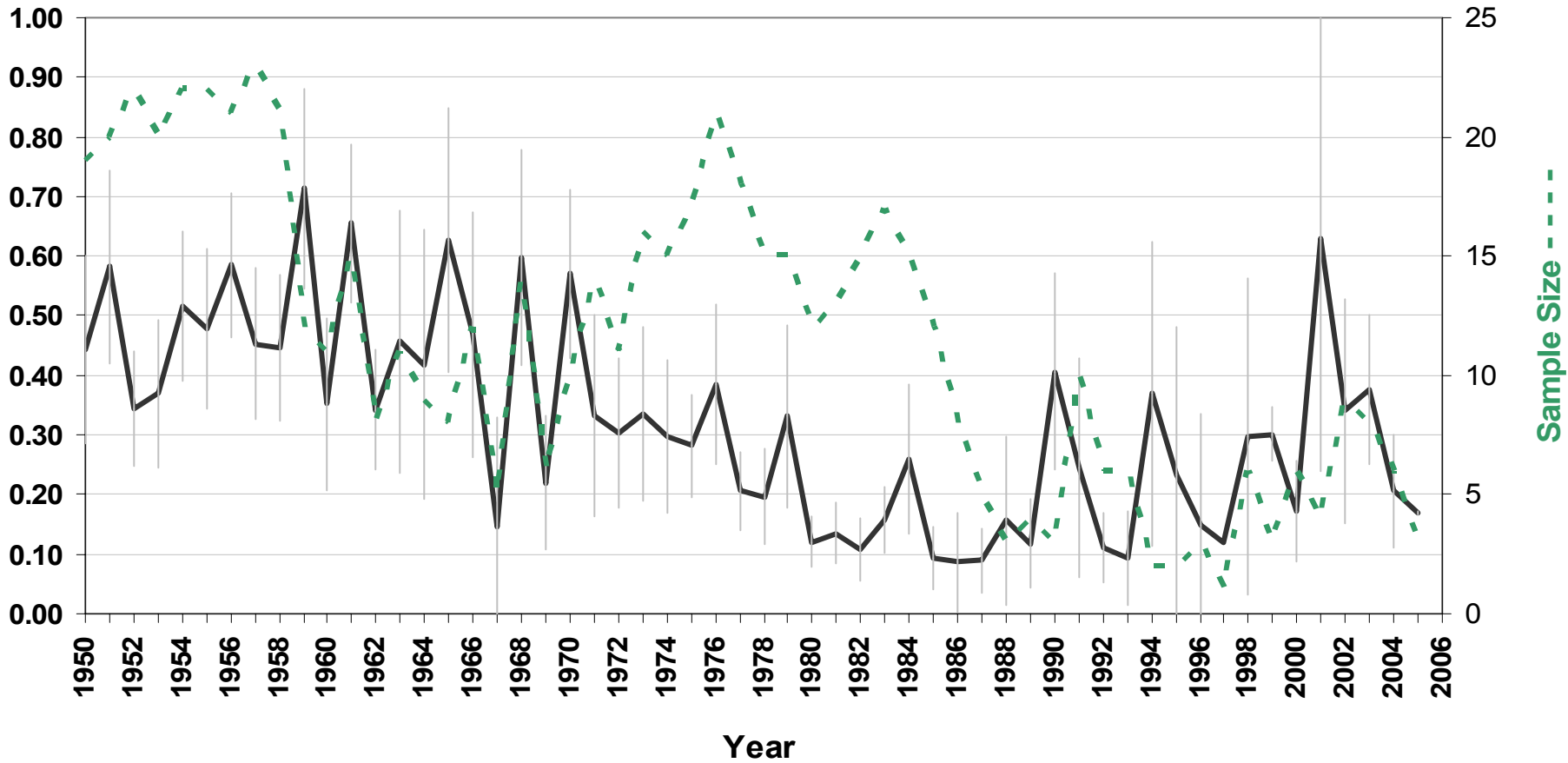


# Annual Index of Abundance - Area 7 Coho Escapement





# Annual Index of Abundance - Area 8 Coho Escapement



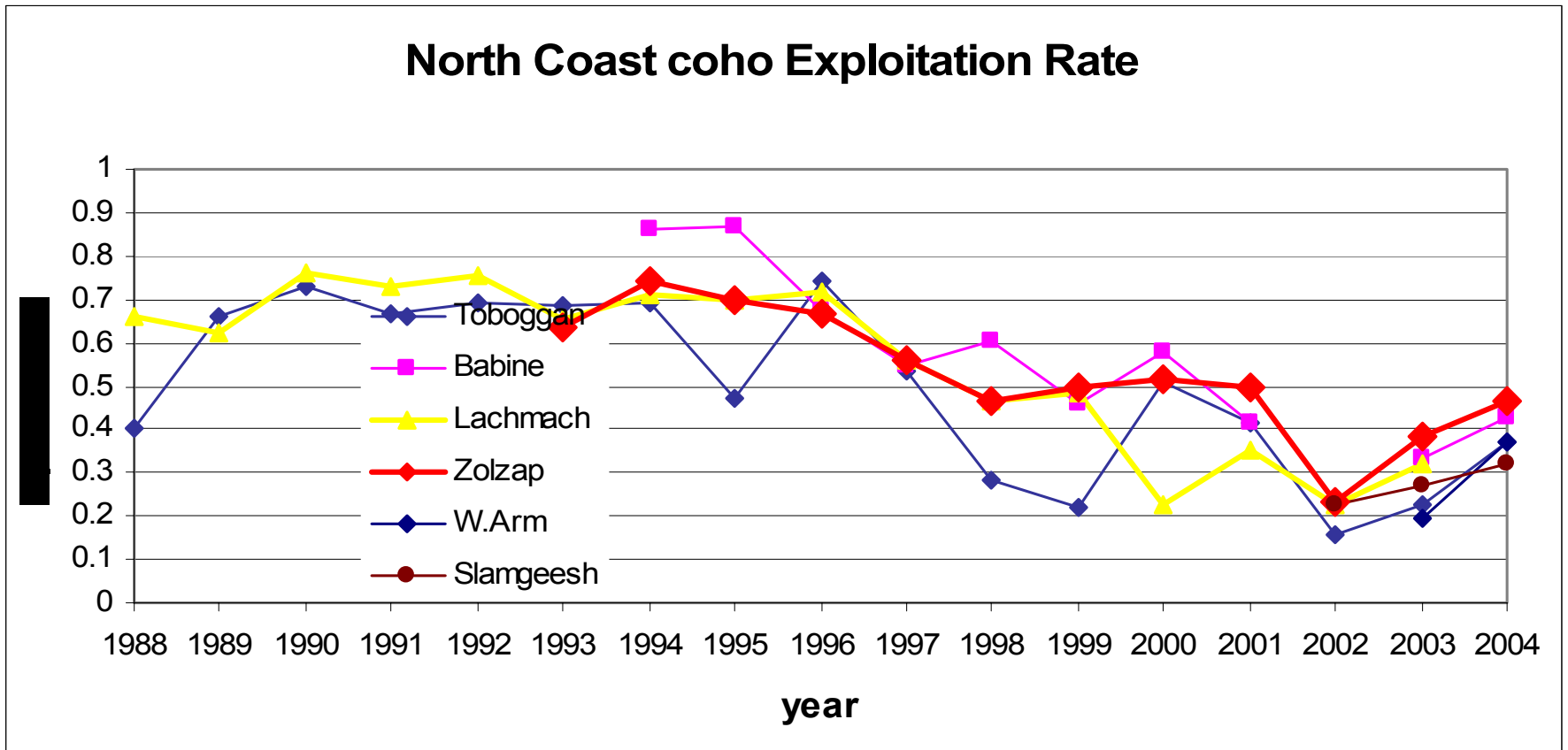
# Visual Estimates

- Considering the quality of data, there is no indication of dramatic changes in escapement.

# Survival and Exploitation

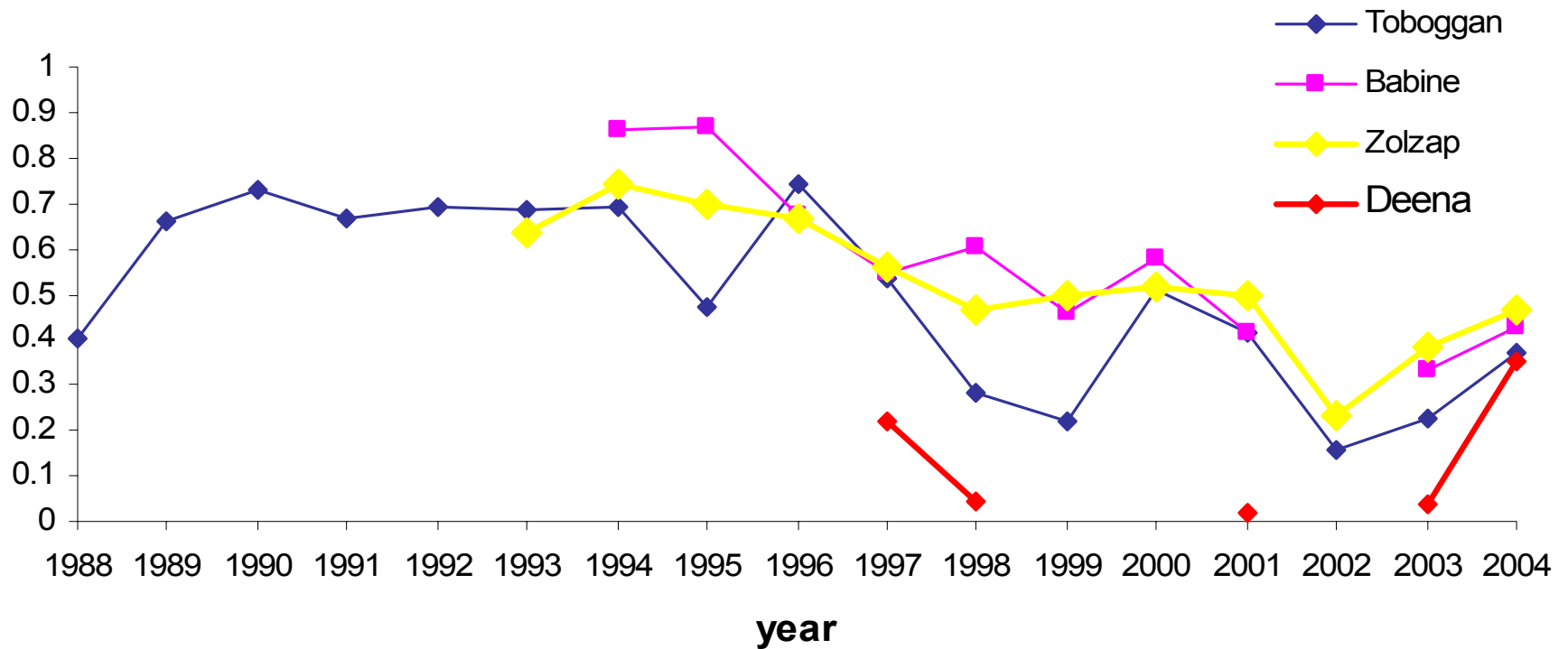
- Do not have data for 2005
- Will present data from 2004
- Include data from QCI

# Coho Exploitation Rate to 2004

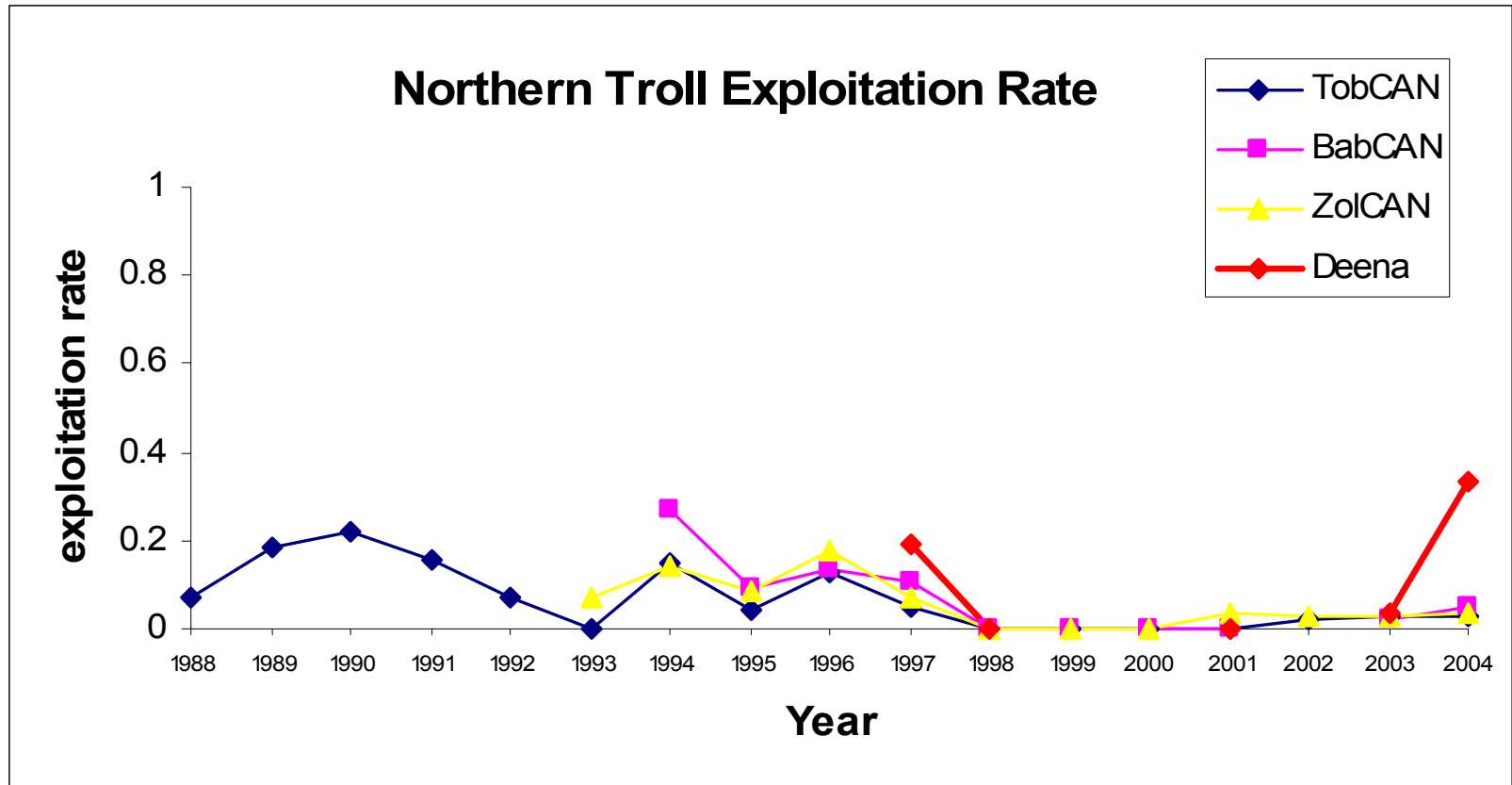


# Deena Total Exploitation to 2004

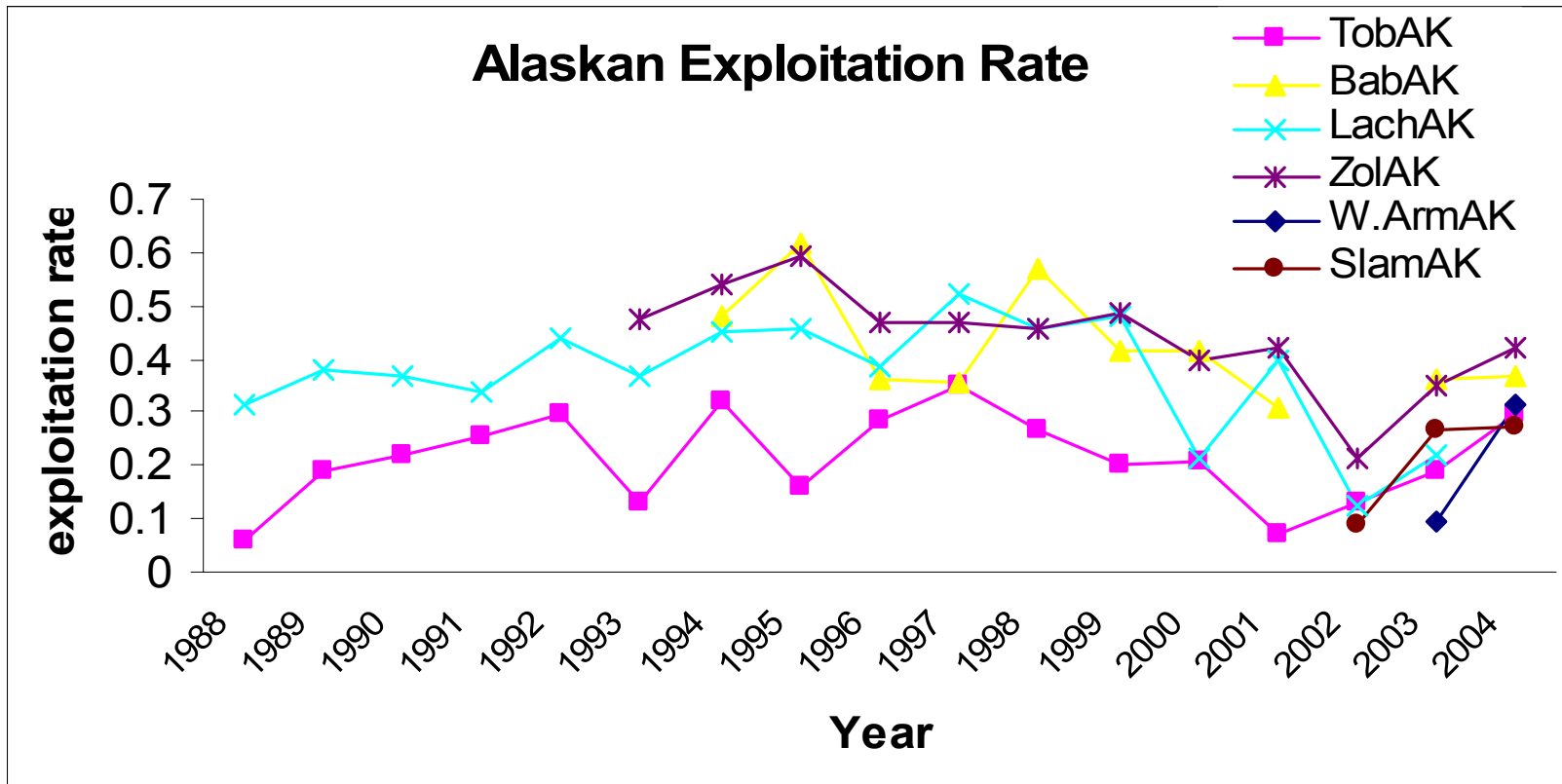
## North Coast coho Exploitation Rate



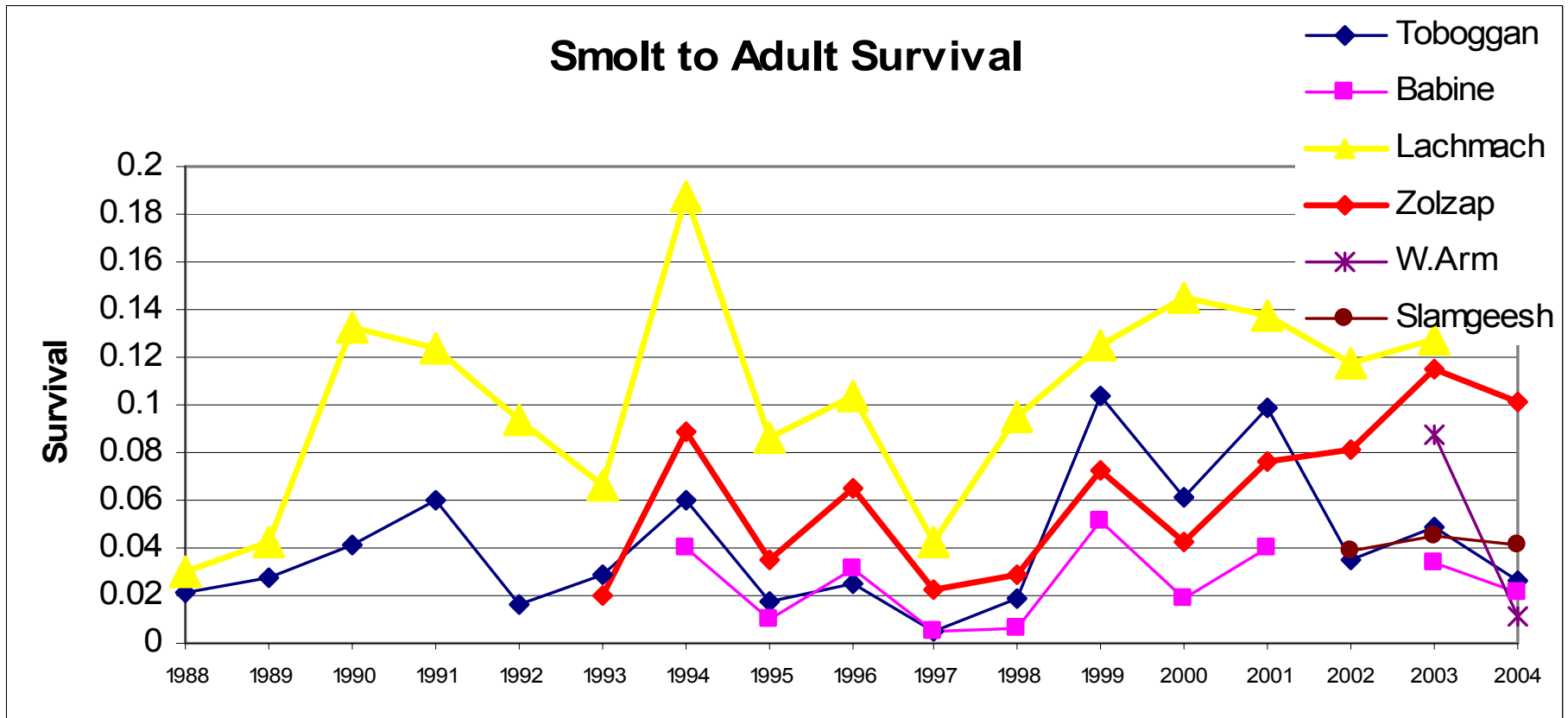
# Deena Northern Troll Exploitation Rate to 2004



# Alaskan Exploitation Rate to 2004



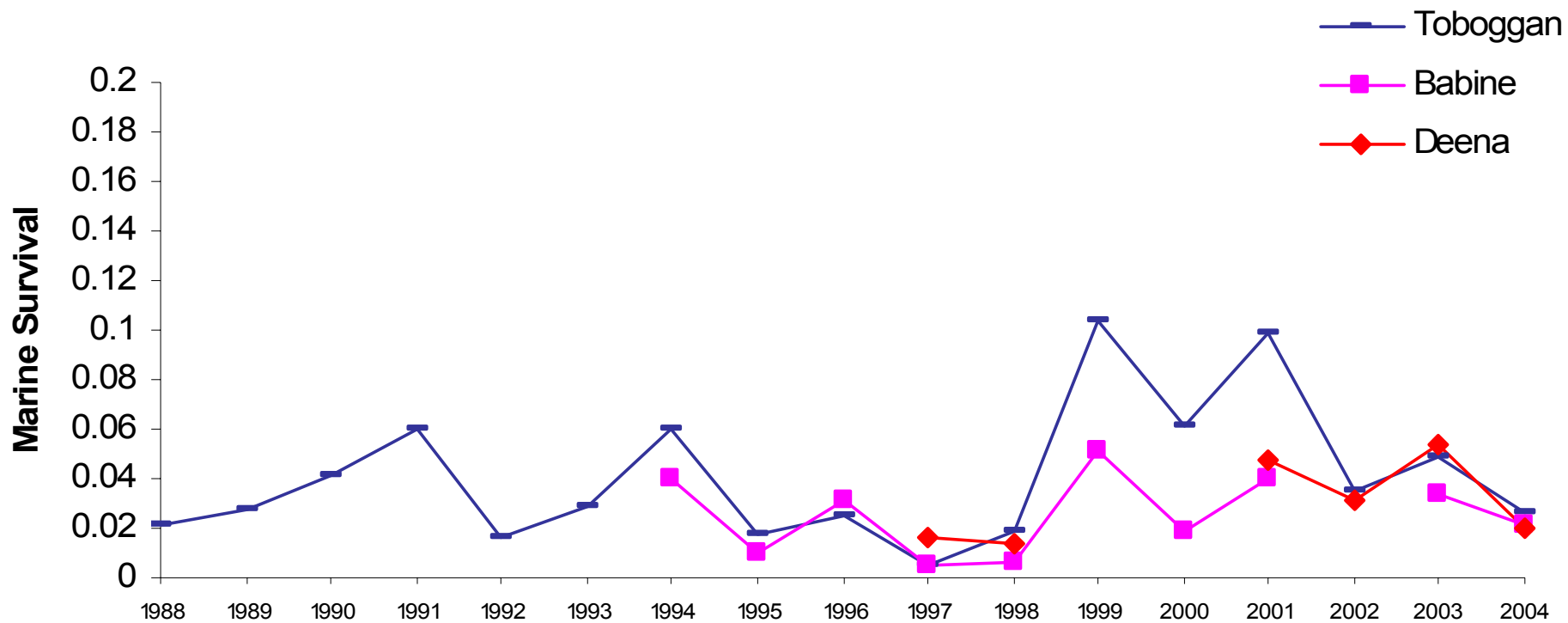
# Marine Survival to 2004





# Deena Marine Survival

## Coho Smolt to Adult Survival



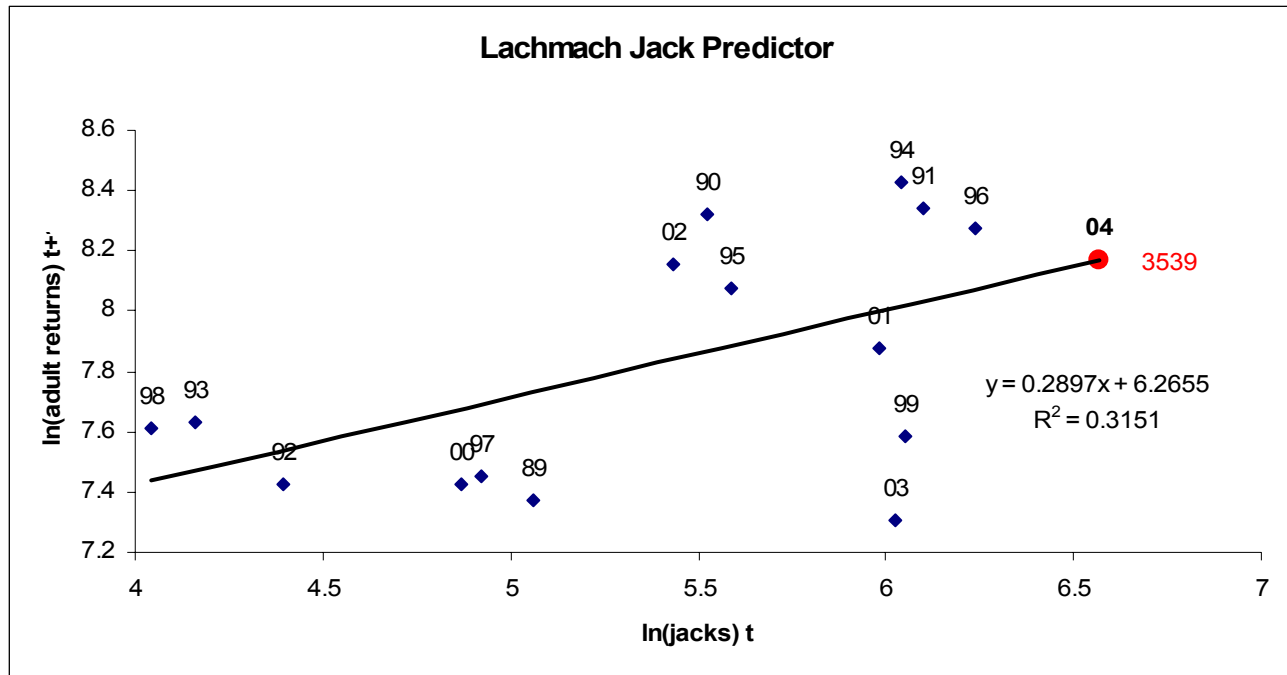
# Problem:

Our estimates of marine survival occur after harvest and escapement.

If marine survival is poor, we can overexploit the weak stocks.

**We need to forecast**

# Lachmach Preseason Forecast



Poor predictive ability; low  $R^2$

Sibling forecast did not predict poor adult returns in 1997

**Pre-season forecasting for coho doesn't work**

# Inseason predictor

- Alaskan troll CPUE

predictive relationship between CPUE  
and marine survival of Canadian North Coast  
indicator stocks

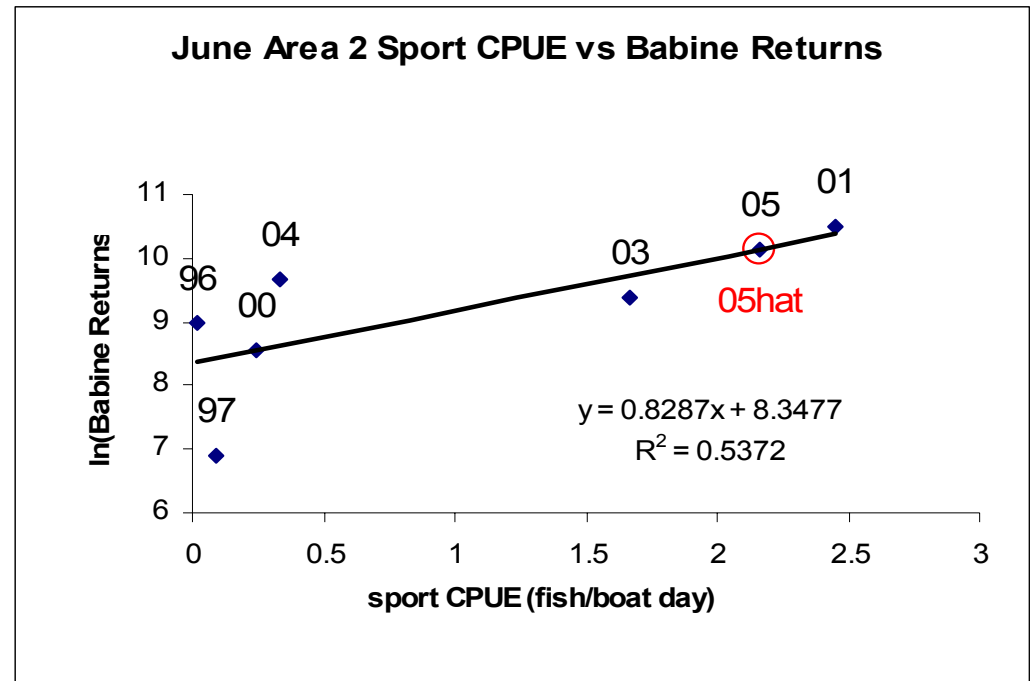
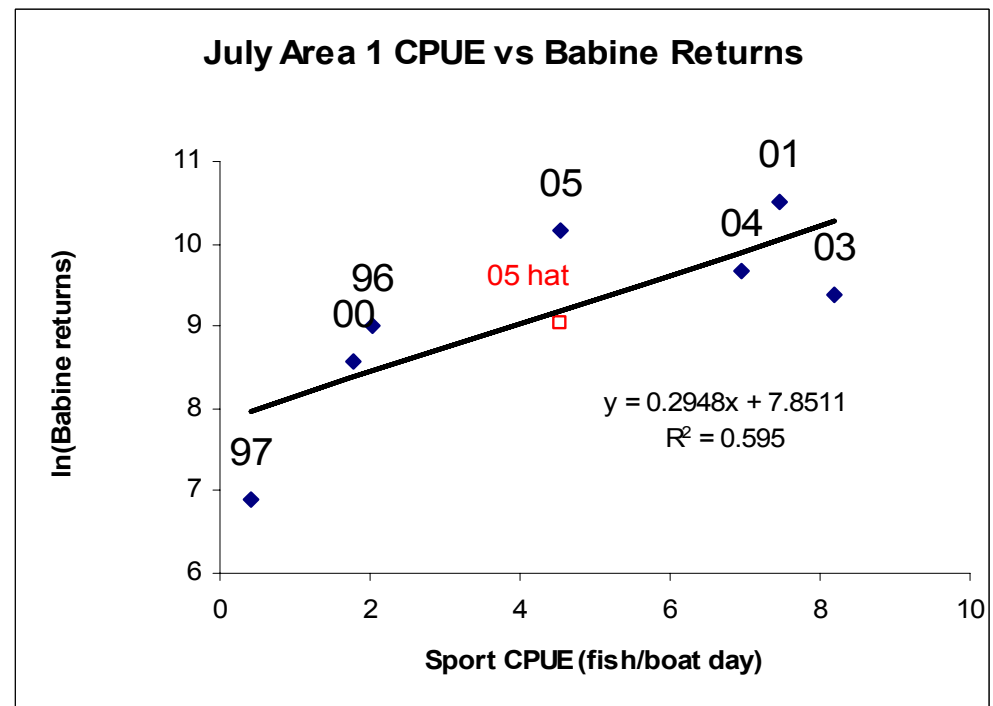
- Haida Fisheries Program Creel Survey

# Inseason abundance

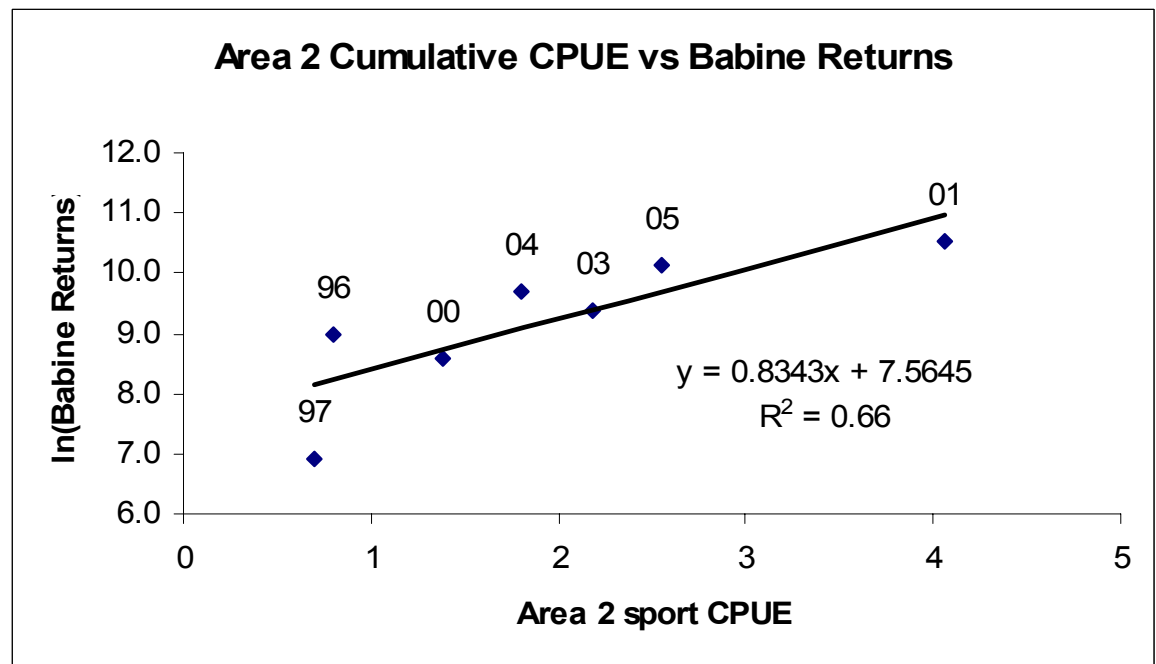
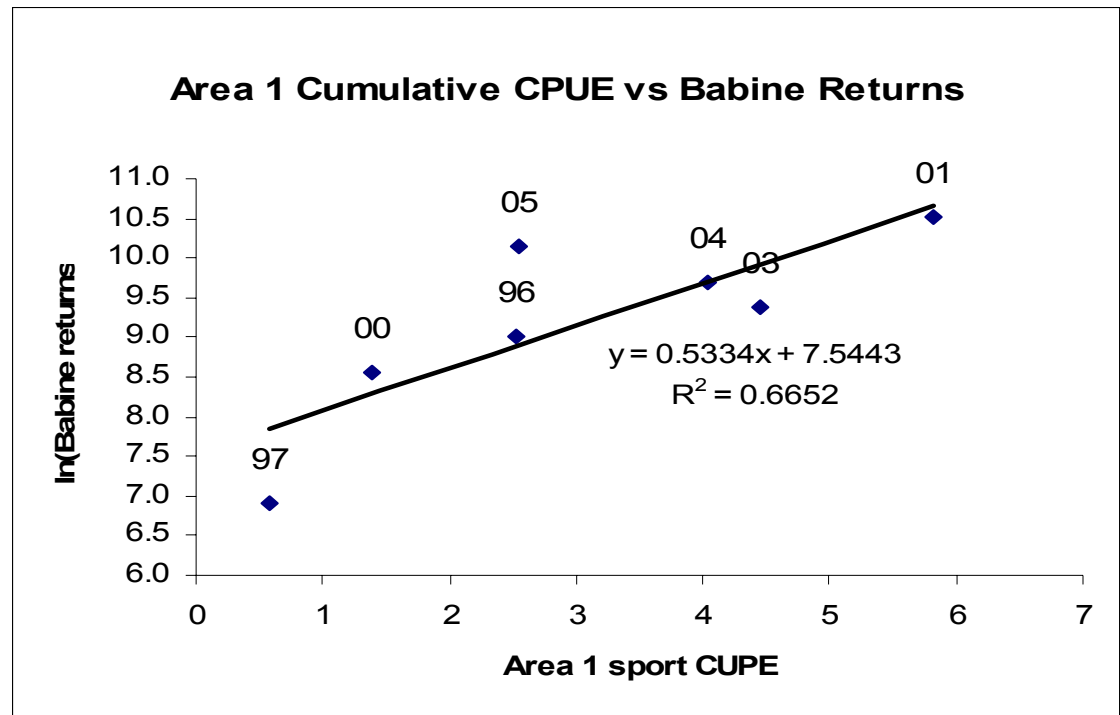
- Coho troll fishery begins in Early August
- Requires fast turnaround from data collection to data analysis.

Data from July Area 1 and June Area 2 provide good predictive power.

Both have meaningful X axes

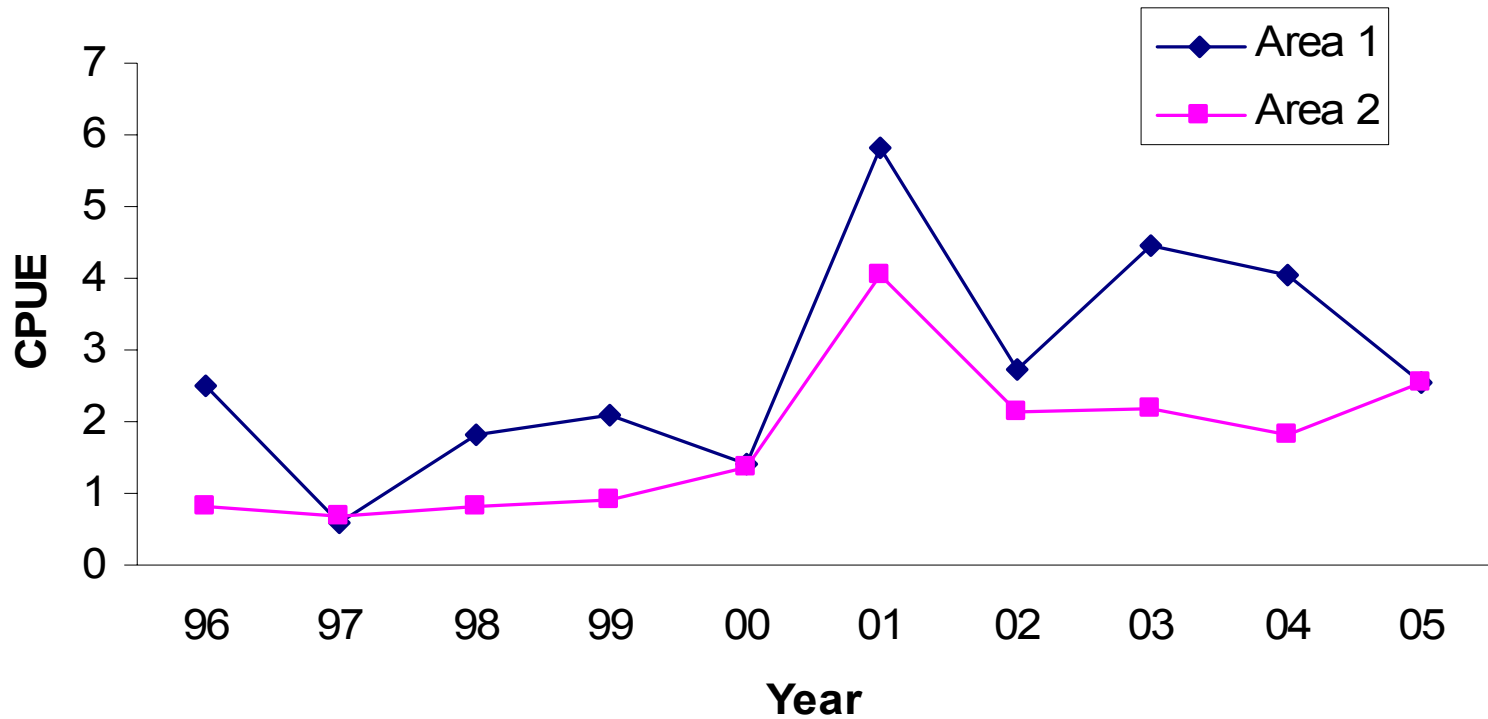


- Cumulative CPUE (June – September) is a very good indicator of Babine coho returns



# QCI Sport CPUE

Cumulative Sport CPUE 1996-2005





# Acknowledgements

Mark Beere MWALP Smithers

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