

Ned'u'ten Fisheries Lake Babine Nation

•Ned'u'ten Fisheries Activities

- Stock Assessment**
- Stream Assessments**
- Access Monitoring**
- Training (Capacity Development)**
- Other Activities**
- ESSR Commercial Fishery**

Sockeye Stock Assessment

- 1. Focus on wild tributaries – 15-18 streams**
- 2. Babine Fence**
- 3. Channels (Pinkut and Fulton)**

Access Monitoring

- **Ensure that fish can make it to their spawning grounds**
- **Check all creeks for beaver dams, log jams or dried up creek mouths**

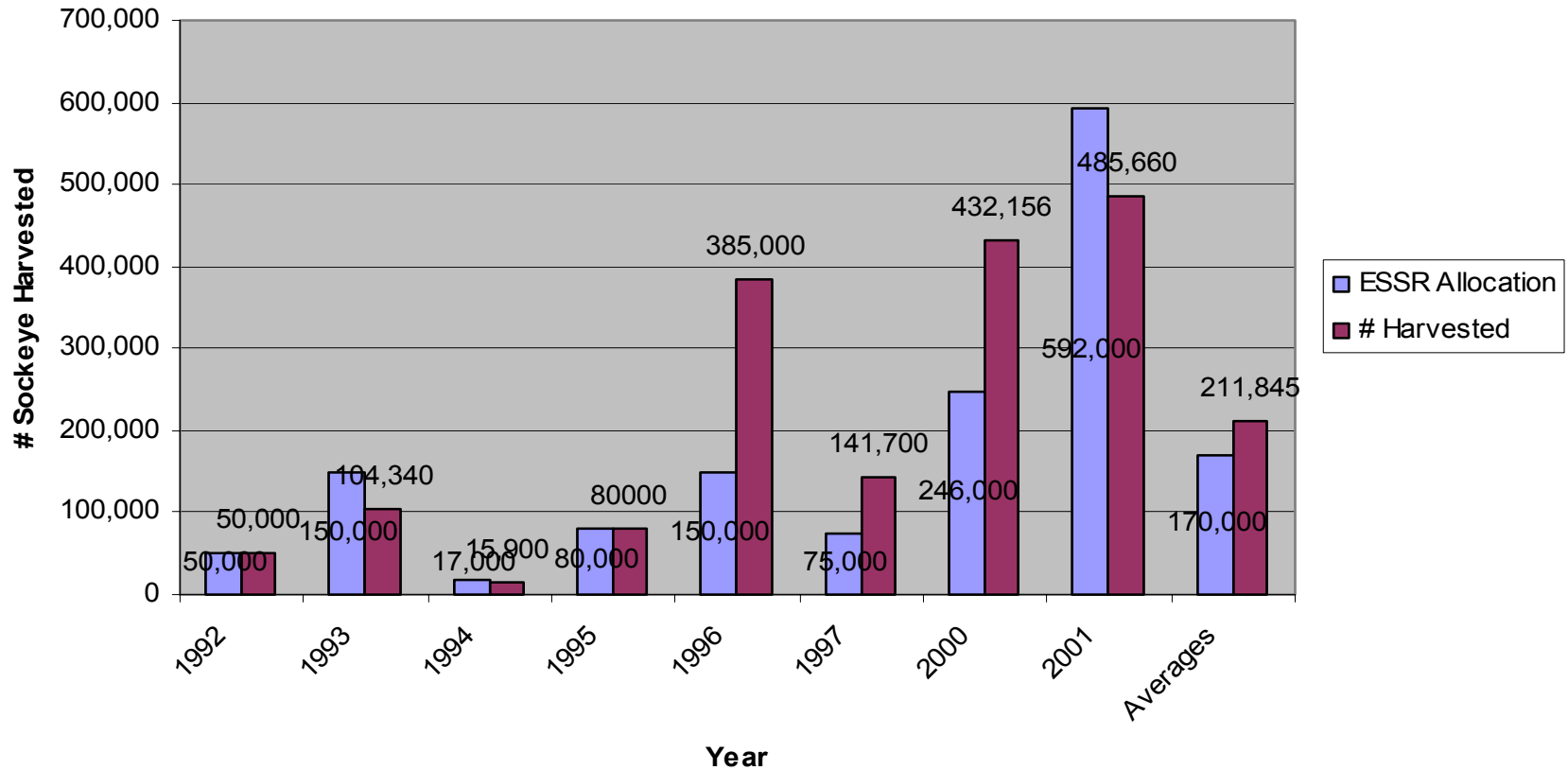
Habitat Assessment/Monitoring

- **Monitor every creek's physical characteristics including habitat conditions and water chemistry.**
- **Established permanent monitoring stations to track habitat over time**
- **Nechako Plateau – beetle issues**

ESSR Harvesting

- Pinkut and Fulton

LBN Commercial Sockeye Harvests 1992-2001



2005 Babine Sockeye Story

Not worth phoning home about!!

- **Wild tribes combined 50,000**
- **On average ~ 35% of 2001 brood year**
- **Total escapement through Babine Fence
708,000**
- **Remainder; Pinkut, Fulton, Babine late**
- **Will be assessing 3 cycles of information
over the winter**

Babine Counting Fence (Adult)

- 1. Longest running escapement project**
- 2. Essential sockeye management tool – in-season and pre-season, calibration**
- 3. Operated according to an MOU developed in 2002 between DFO and LBN**
- 4. MOU targets increasing capacity development in local community with increasing proportion of seasonal employment benefits flowing to the local community**

Babine Out-Migration (Juvenile)

- 1. Out migration of juvenile sockeye and other species from Babine Lake was previously monitored**
- 2. Allows monitoring of lake productivity and juvenile production – identification of capacity limitations**
- 3. Allows development of improved stock-recruit relationship**
- 4. Funding was lost for this program in 2001**

Improving Run-Size Forecasting

- 1. Should be maximizing the use of forecasting and assessment tools as conditions change at an increasing rate**
- 2. Out-migrant program is a key component of available forecasting tools**
- 3. LBN will be pursuing funding in partnership with DFO**
- 4. Will be seeking support from other sectors**

ESSR Commercial Fishery

- **Began harvesting in 1993**
- **3 harvest sites – Babine River, Fulton River, Pinkut Creek**
- **Employment has gone from 30 people in 1993 to 200 people in 2001**
- **LBN commercially harvests more ESSR salmon than any other First Nation in B.C.**

Stock Assessment

Three Crews (situated in Fort Babine, Tachet, Woyenne) of three personnel each

Walk spawning creek that flows into Babine Lake every 10-12 days and count adult spawners

Compile counts and enter into DFO database

These counts in combination with fence and spawning channel counts provide an estimate of total Babine sockeye escapement

...keeps us appraised of other issues and potential impacts related to resource use within the territory.

Of Note: Apparent issue related to the fishery is the potential for bear-angler conflict and the lack of knowledge and respect that many of the anglers possessed for this type of conflict.

Results

Average hourly effort observed in the fishery in the survey area was 24.4 and 2.3 rods/hour in August and September survey periods, respectively.

Expanded estimates of the total sport effort applied and resulting harvest of sockeye within the survey area in August were 12,096.6 rod hours and 4,476 sockeye, respectively.

Total estimated effort during the September survey period was 942.7 rod hours. Only a single coho was reported to be captured during the duration of the survey.

After sockeye, most commonly captured species in the fishery were chinook, rainbow trout, dolly varden, pink and steelhead. Only rainbow trout and dolly varden char were observed to be harvested.

Results

- **Approximately 20 streams were quantitatively assessed with the depletion method described above.**
- **Numerous other streams were surveyed visually but possessed too little water to allow for a quantitative survey.**
- **Juvenile coho were observed in virtually all streams surveyed with the exception of a few.**
- **One of the highest densities of juvenile coho, suggesting many spawning adults, was seen in the Sutherland River.**