

# Alaska's Salmon Fishery Management - 50 Years of Sustainability -



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Division of Commercial Fisheries**



# Presentation Objectives



- Review the relevant policies and approaches
- Explain key elements of management
- Describe stock status and trends in salmon fisheries, annual harvests, and exvessel values
- Consider some challenges for the future

# Providing for Sustained Yield

## Constitution:

Article VIII, Sec(4). Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

## Statute:

AS 16.05.020(2). The commissioner (of the Department of Fish and Game) shall manage, protect, maintain, improve and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state.

# Providing for Sustained Yield

## Knowledgeable local managers

- Inseason management by emergency order
- Escapement goals or other management objectives designed to sustain yield over the long term
- Subject to little political intervention

# Providing for Sustained Yield

## Alaska Board of Fisheries

- Setting seasons, harvest guidelines, methods and means, regulatory management plans
- Setting policy and direction for the management of the state's fishery resources
- Charged with making allocation decisions

# Providing for Sustained Yield

## Policies and regulations

- Policy for the Management of Mixed-Stock Salmon Fisheries, 5 AAC 39.220
- Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, 5 AAC 39.222
- Policy for Statewide Salmon Escapement Goals, 5 AAC 39.223
- Salmon fishery management plans

# Escapement Goals

## **Biological Escapement Goal (BEG)**

The escapement that provides the greatest potential for maximum sustained yield (MSY)

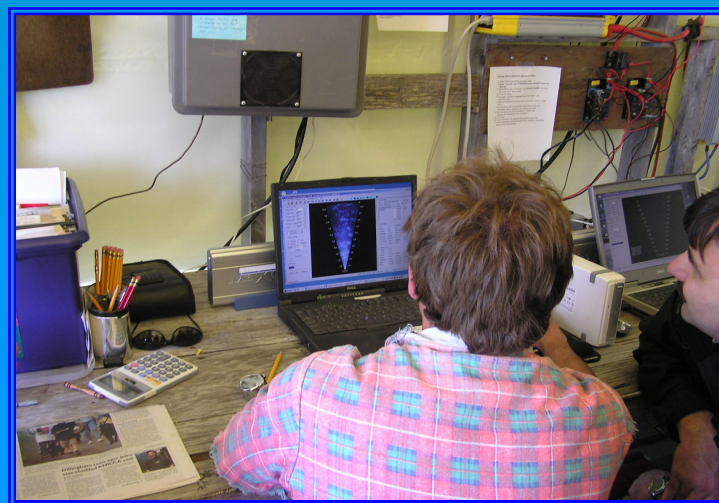
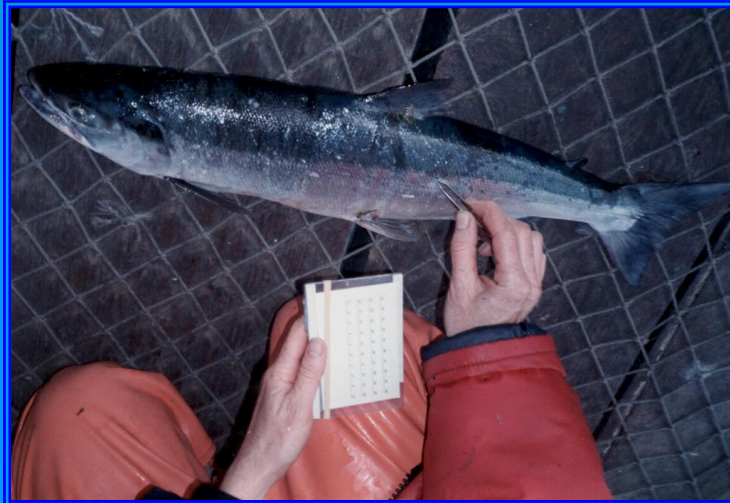
## **Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG)**

A level of escapement, indicated by an index or an escapement estimate, that is known to provide for sustained yield over a 5 to 10 year period, used in situations where a BEG cannot be estimated

## **Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG)**

An escapement objective that considers biological and allocative factors...an OEG “will be sustainable”

# Escapement Enumeration



# Success Meeting Escapement Goals 2001 - 2007

**Ave. number of goals – 279**

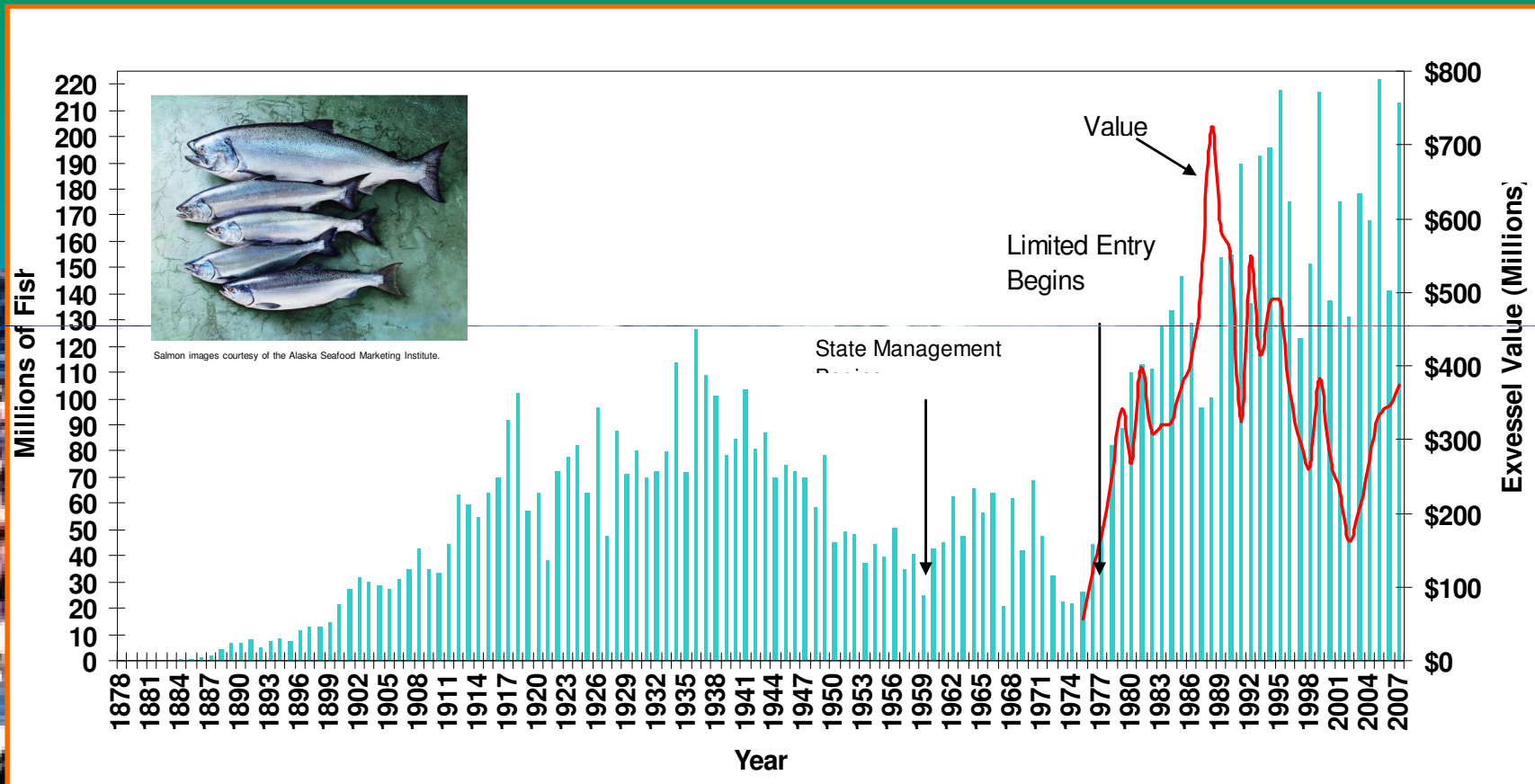
**Ave. number below goal – 39 (14%)**

**Ave. number within goal – 107 (38%)**

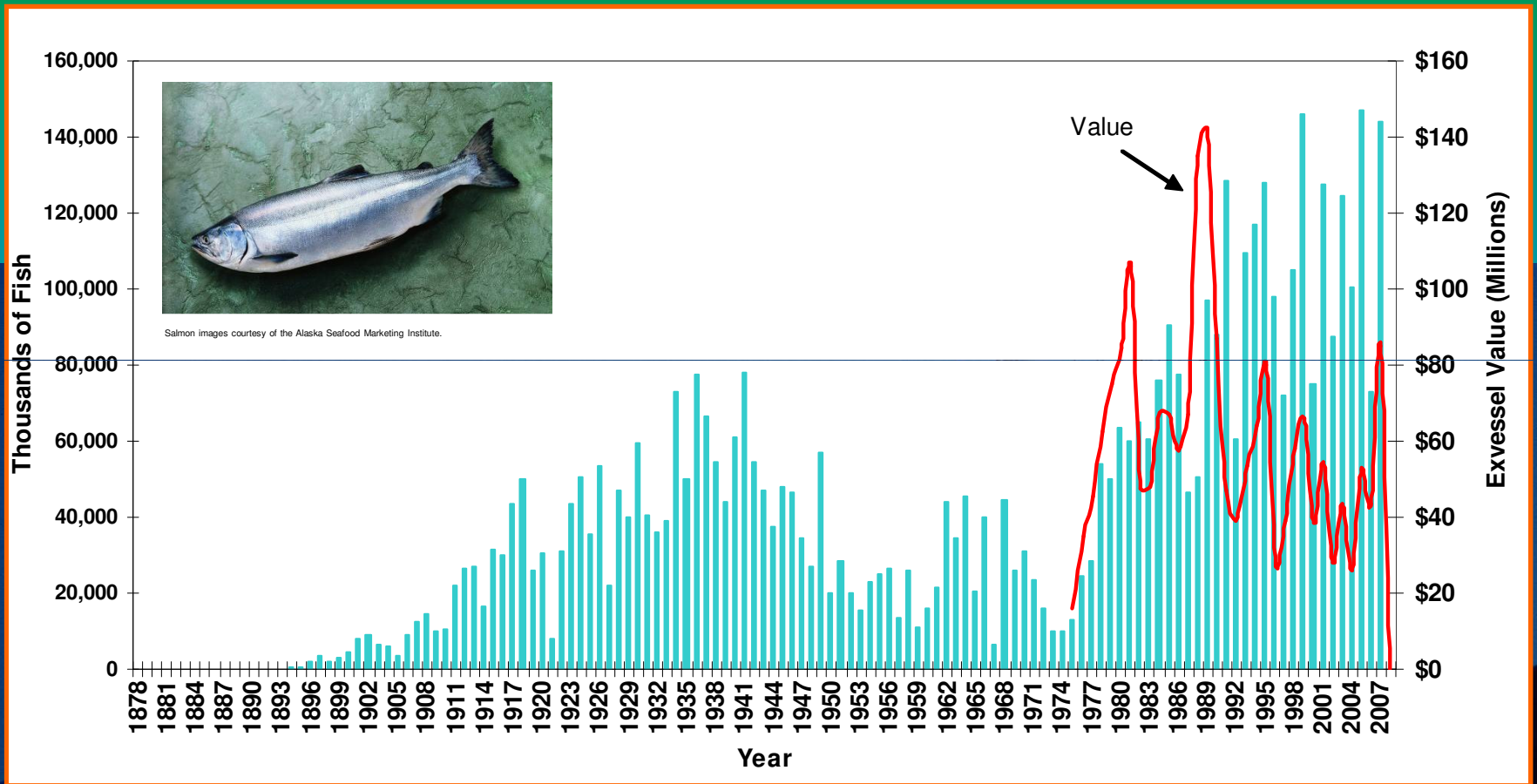
**Ave. number above goal – 133 (48%)**

# Alaska Commercial Salmon Catches and Value 1878-2007

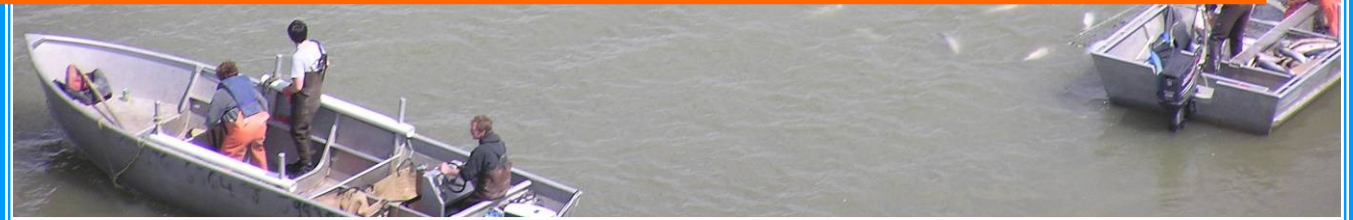
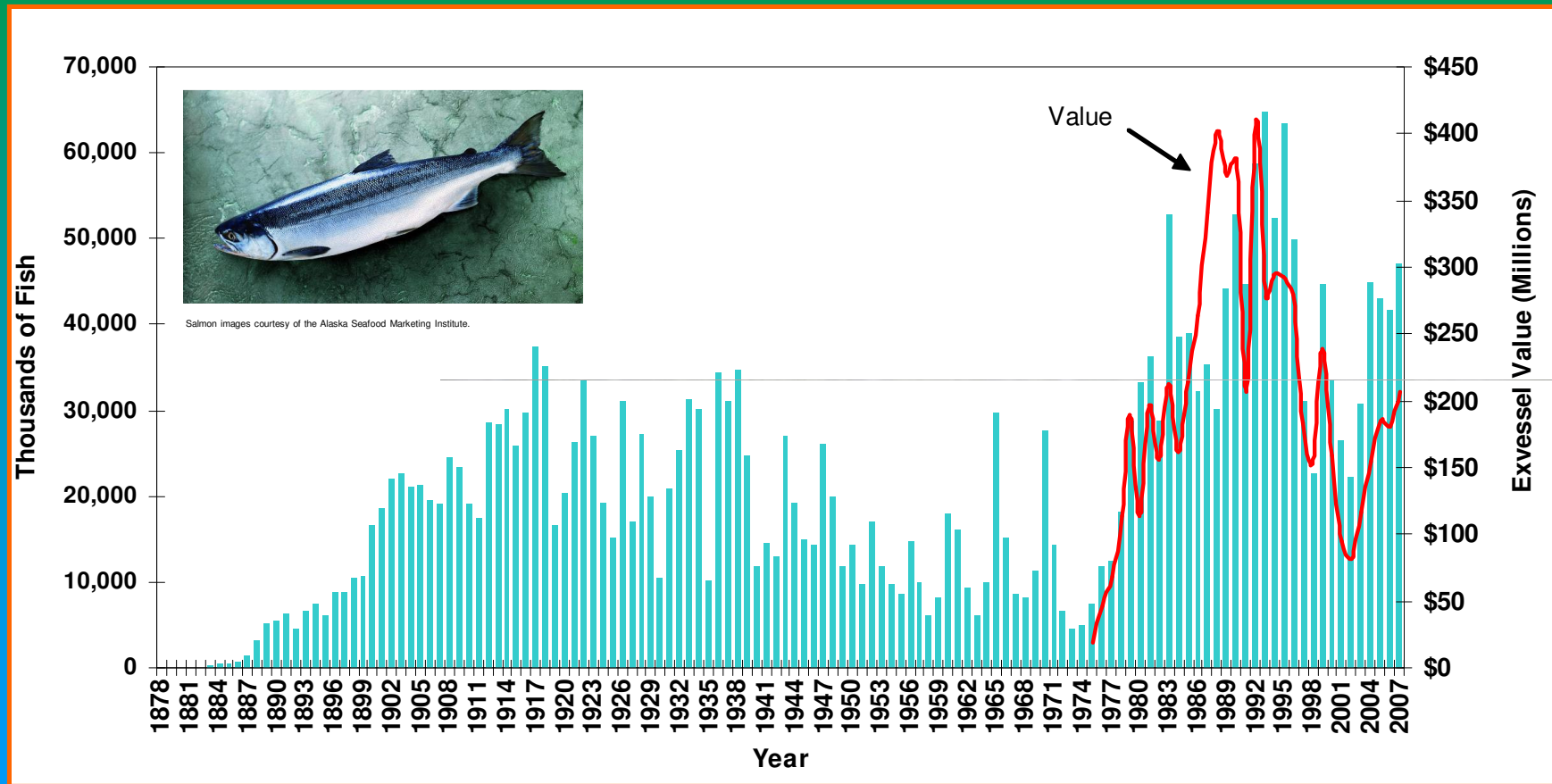
(All species combined)



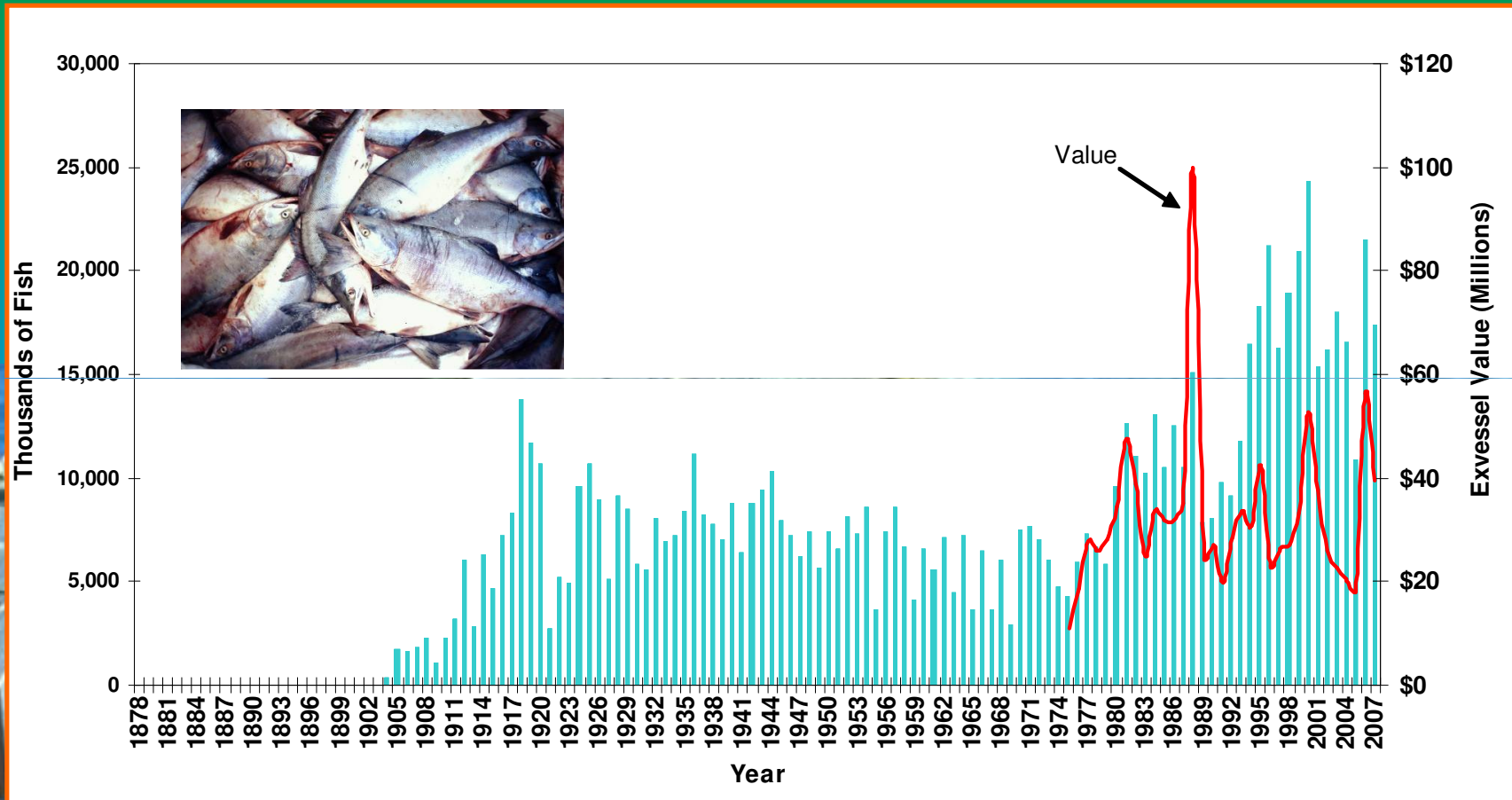
# Alaska Commercial Pink Salmon Catches and Value - 1878-2007



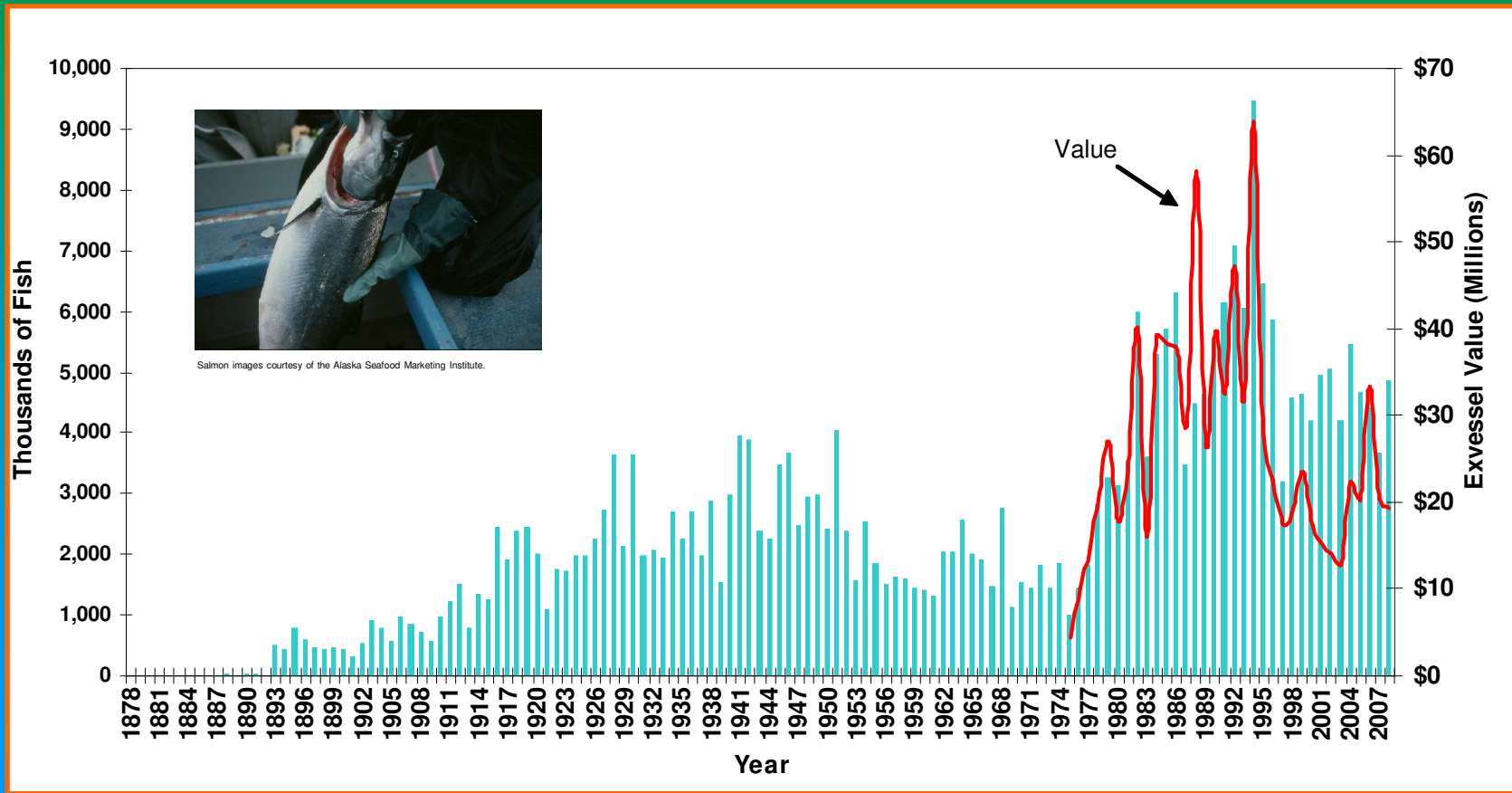
# Alaska Commercial Sockeye Salmon Catches and Value - 1878-2007



# Alaska Commercial Chum Salmon Catches and Value - 1878-2007

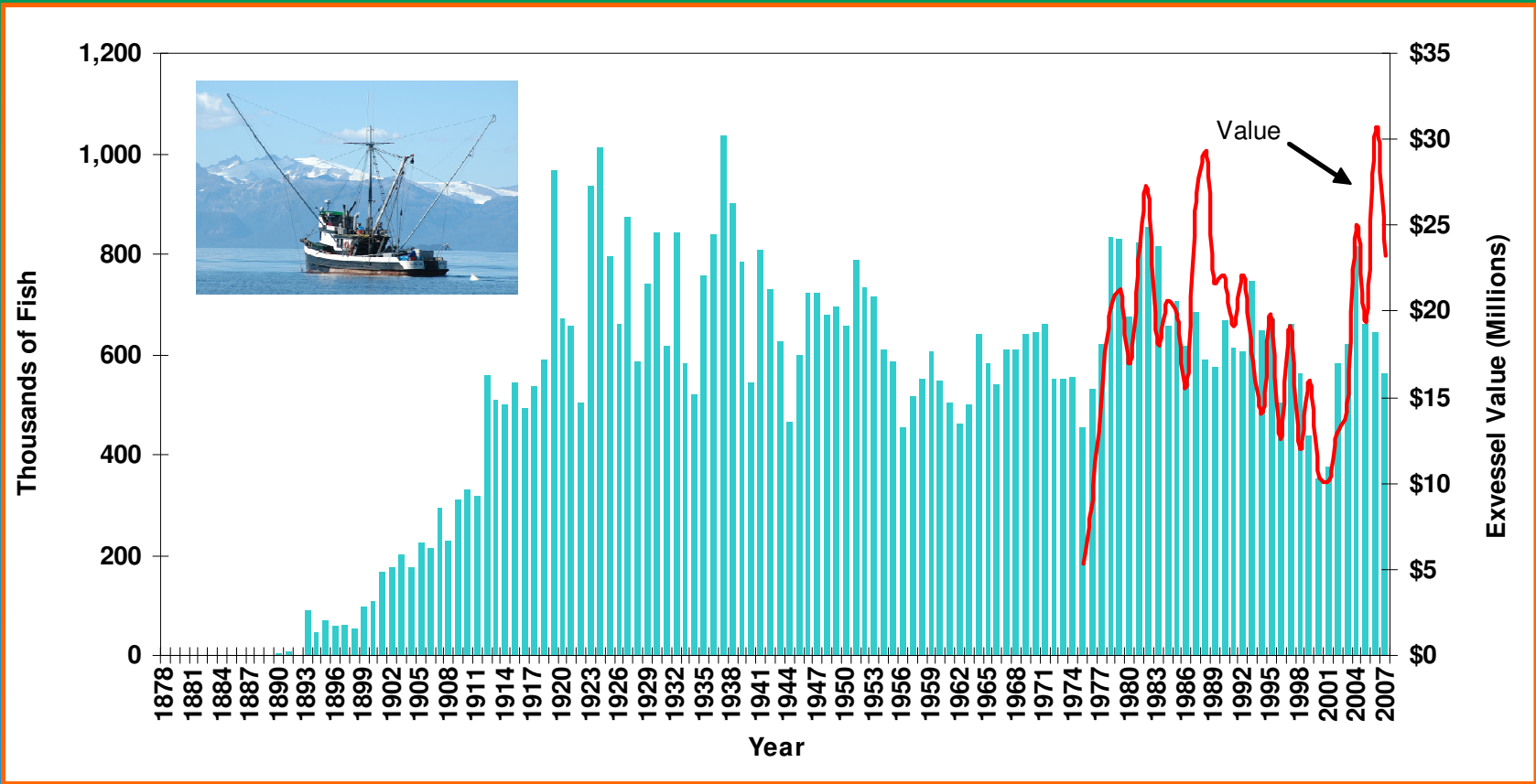


# Alaska Commercial Coho Salmon Catches and Value - 1878-2007



Courtesy of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

# Alaska Commercial Chinook Salmon Catches and Value - 1878-2007



Salmon images courtesy of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

# Challenges for the Future

- **Increasing management complexity**
- **Increasing variability in timing and run size**
- **Dealing with assessment and certification of sustainability**
- **Hatchery and wild stocks**
- **Interest in resource development**

**Thank you. Questions?**

