

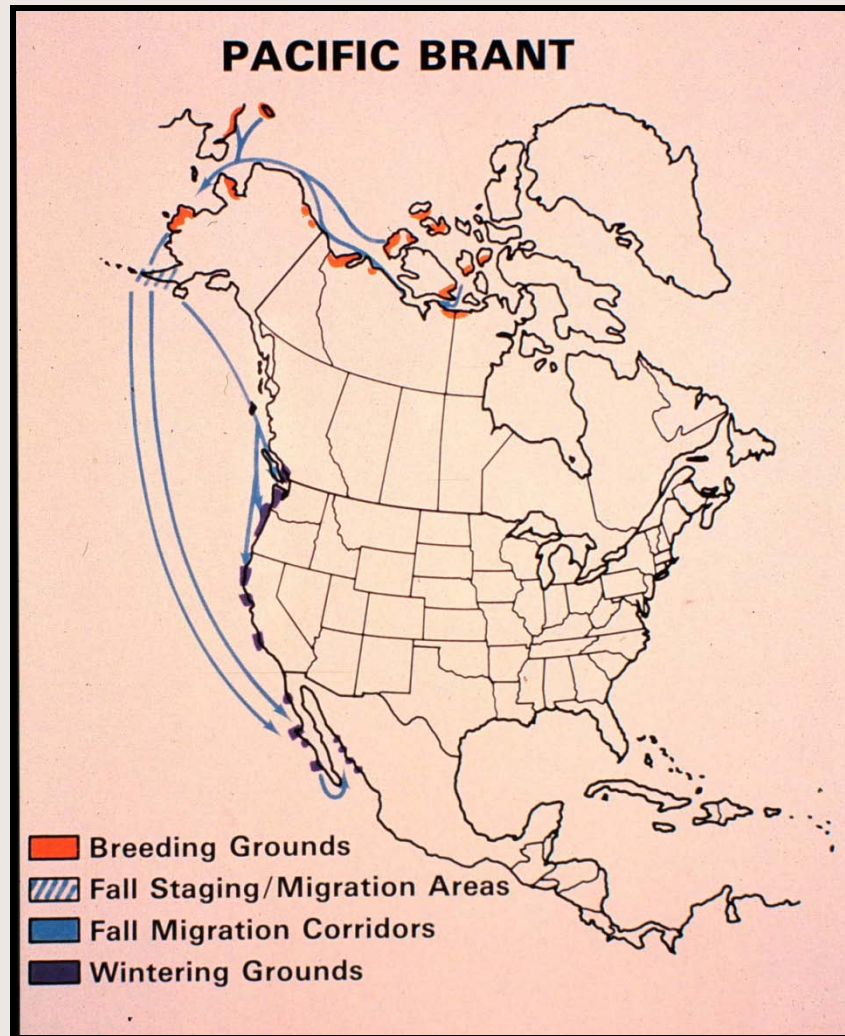
BRANT MANAGEMENT IN WASHINGTON



Don Kraege

WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager

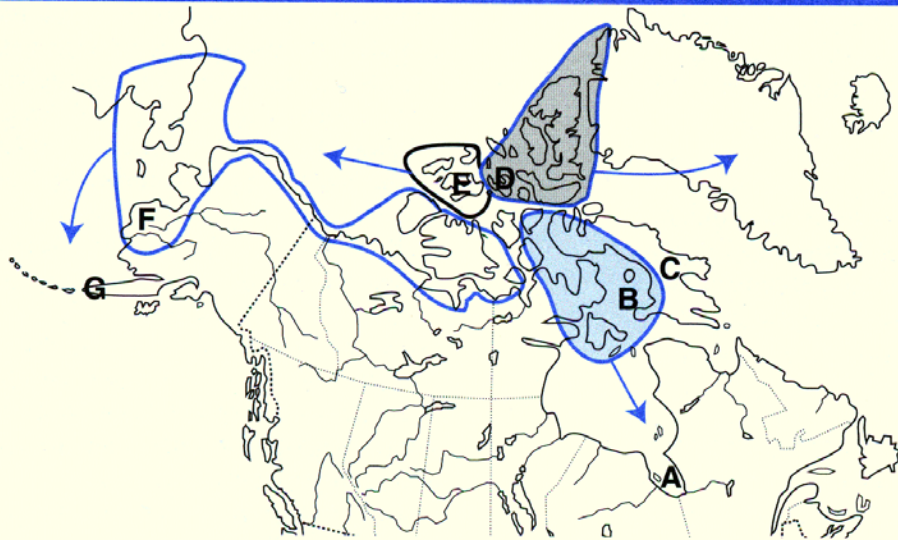
PACIFIC BRANT RANGE



FOUR BRANT "STOCKS"

The American Ornithologists' Union

A. REED, D. H. WARD, D. V. DERKSEN,
AND J. S. SEDINGER

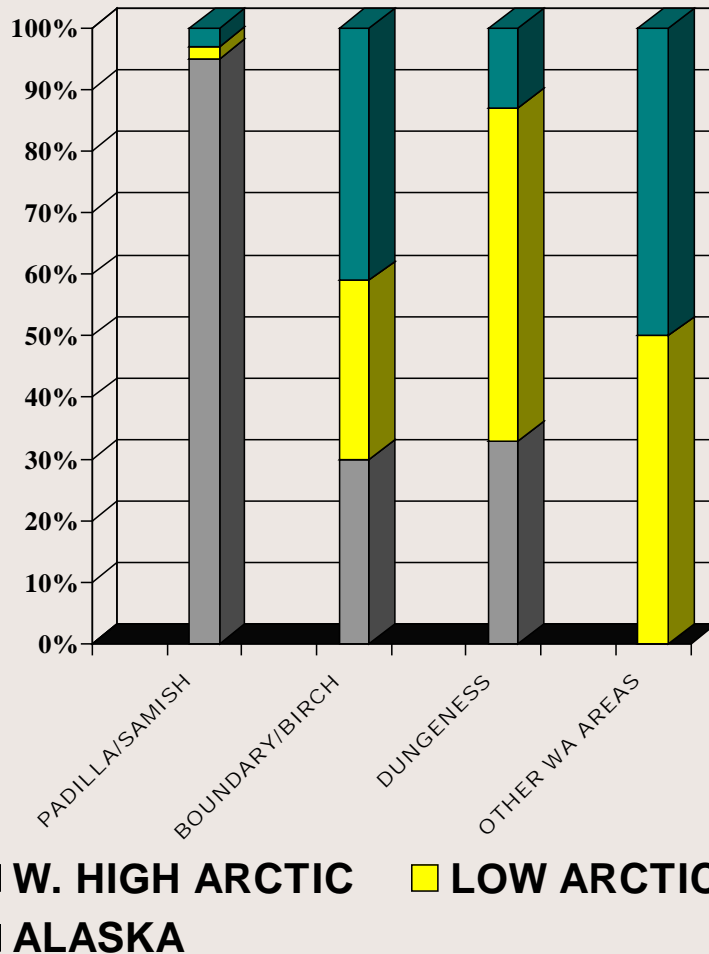


A = James Bay
B = Foxe Basin
C = Baffin I.
D = Bathurst I.
E = Melville I.
F = Y-K Delta
G = Izembek Lagoon

- Atlantic Brant** (*Branta bernicla hrota*).
Breeds around Foxe Basin in eastern low Arctic; winters on Atlantic coast of U.S.
- Eastern High-Arctic Brant** (*B. b. hrota*).
Breeds on islands of eastern high Arctic and on Greenland; migrates via Greenland and Iceland to winter mainly in Ireland.
- Black Brant** (*B. b. nigricans*).
Breeds in central and western low Arctic, in Alaska, and in western Russia; winters along Pacific coast, mainly in Mexico.
- Western High-Arctic Brant** (intermediate between *hrota* and *nigricans*).
Breeds on islands of western high Arctic and winters in Puget Sound, WA.



BREEDING AREAS OF WASHINGTON BRANT

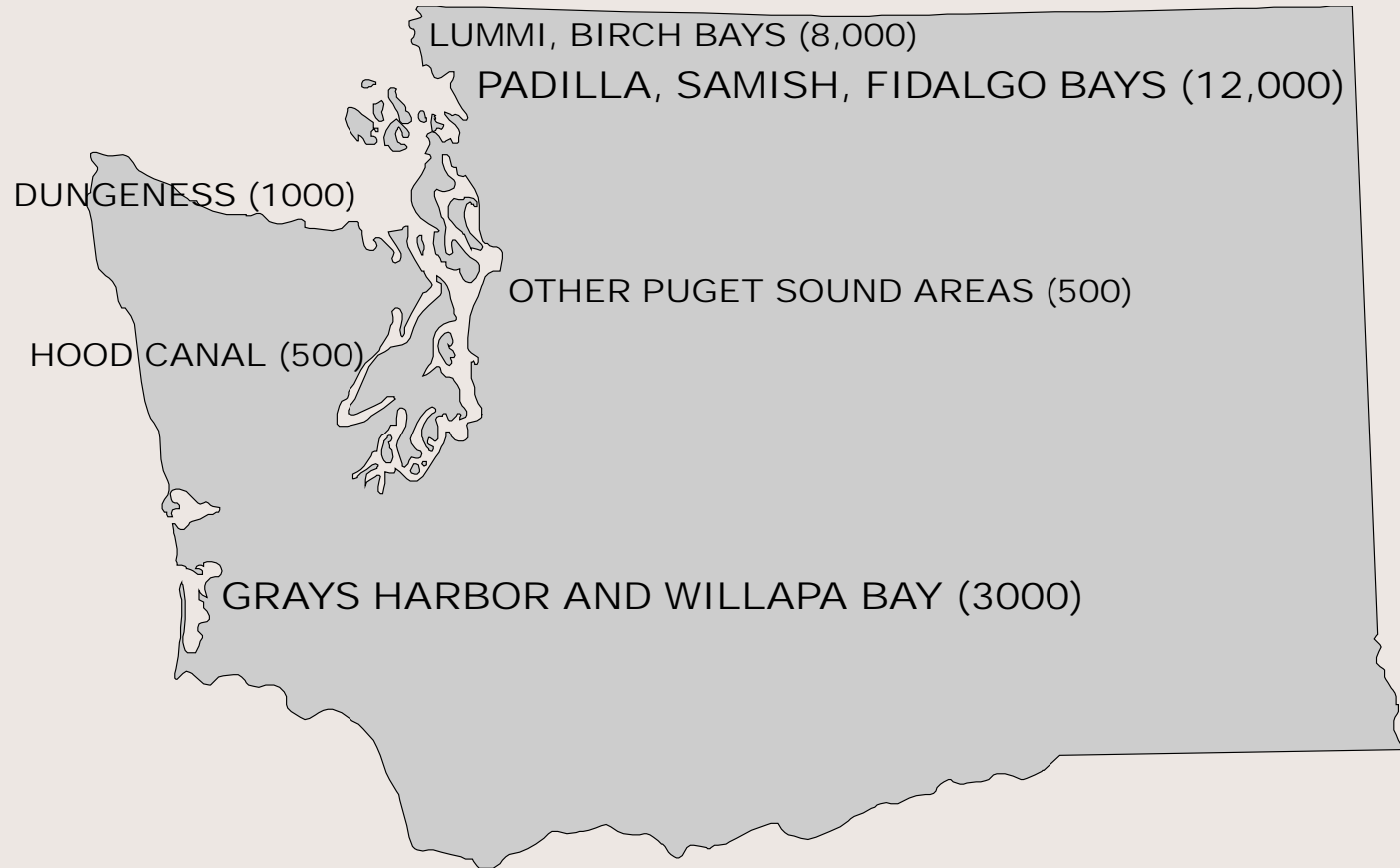


From Reed et al 1989

MANAGEMENT ASPECTS

- ❖ Significant management interest from international wildlife agencies, Pacific Flyway, WDFW
- ❖ Key species in Pacific Coast Joint Venture Strategic Plan for habitat protection
- ❖ Two stocks managed in Pacific Flyway
- ❖ Highly dependent on eelgrass during migration and winter - "sea goose"
- ❖ Populations subject to boom-bust arctic breeding conditions

MAIN BRANT USE AREAS IN WA

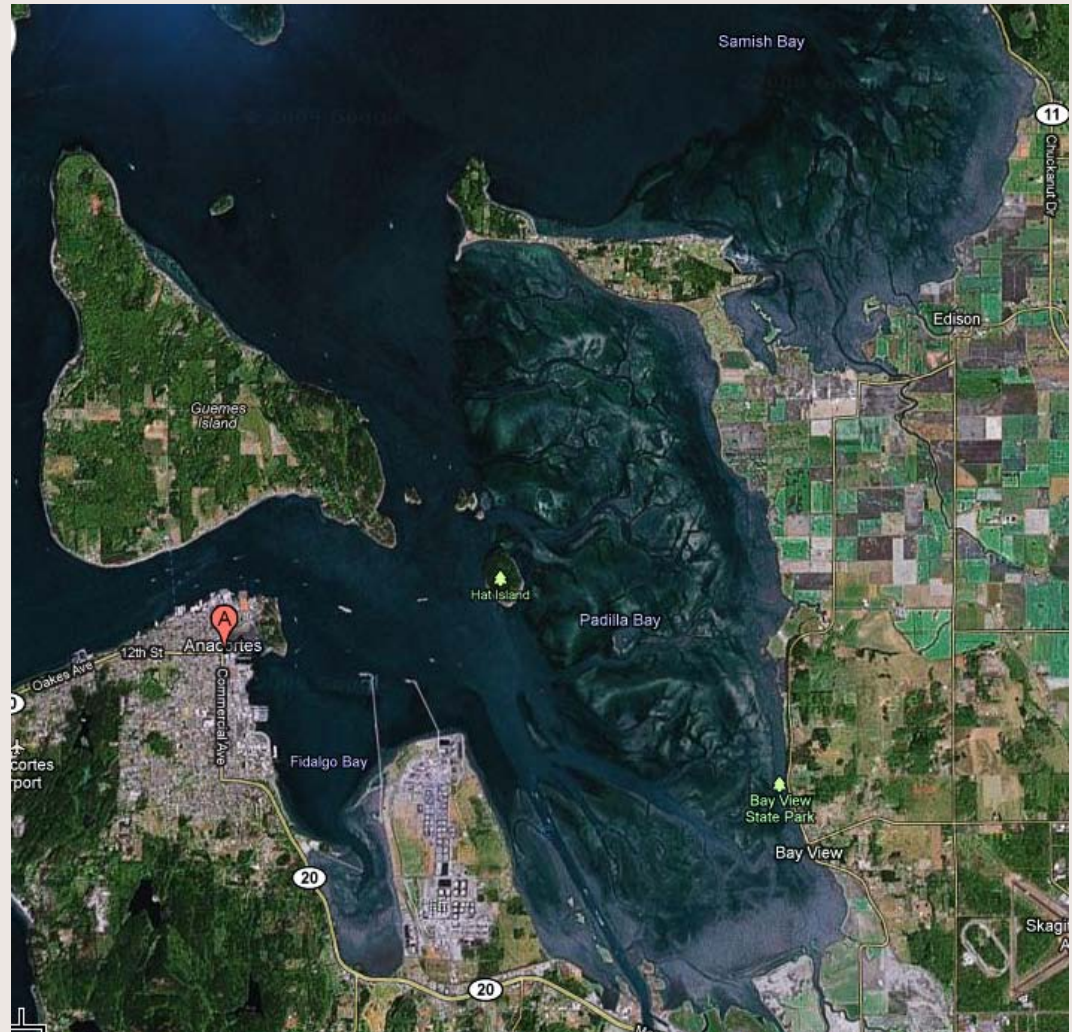


(PACIFIC FLYWAY OBJECTIVES IN PARENTHESES)

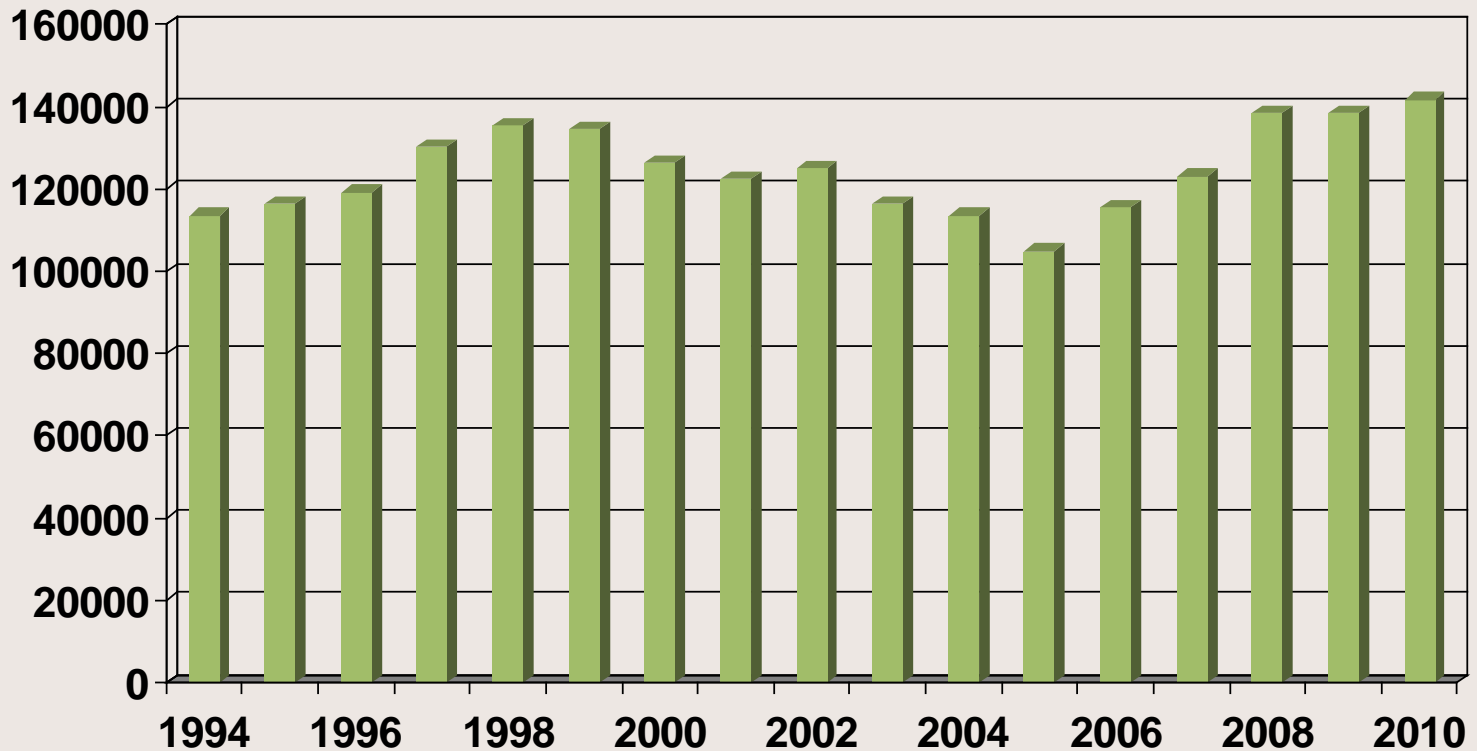
MAIN WINTERING AREA FOR WHA BRANT

PADILLA, SAMISH,
FIDALGO BAYS

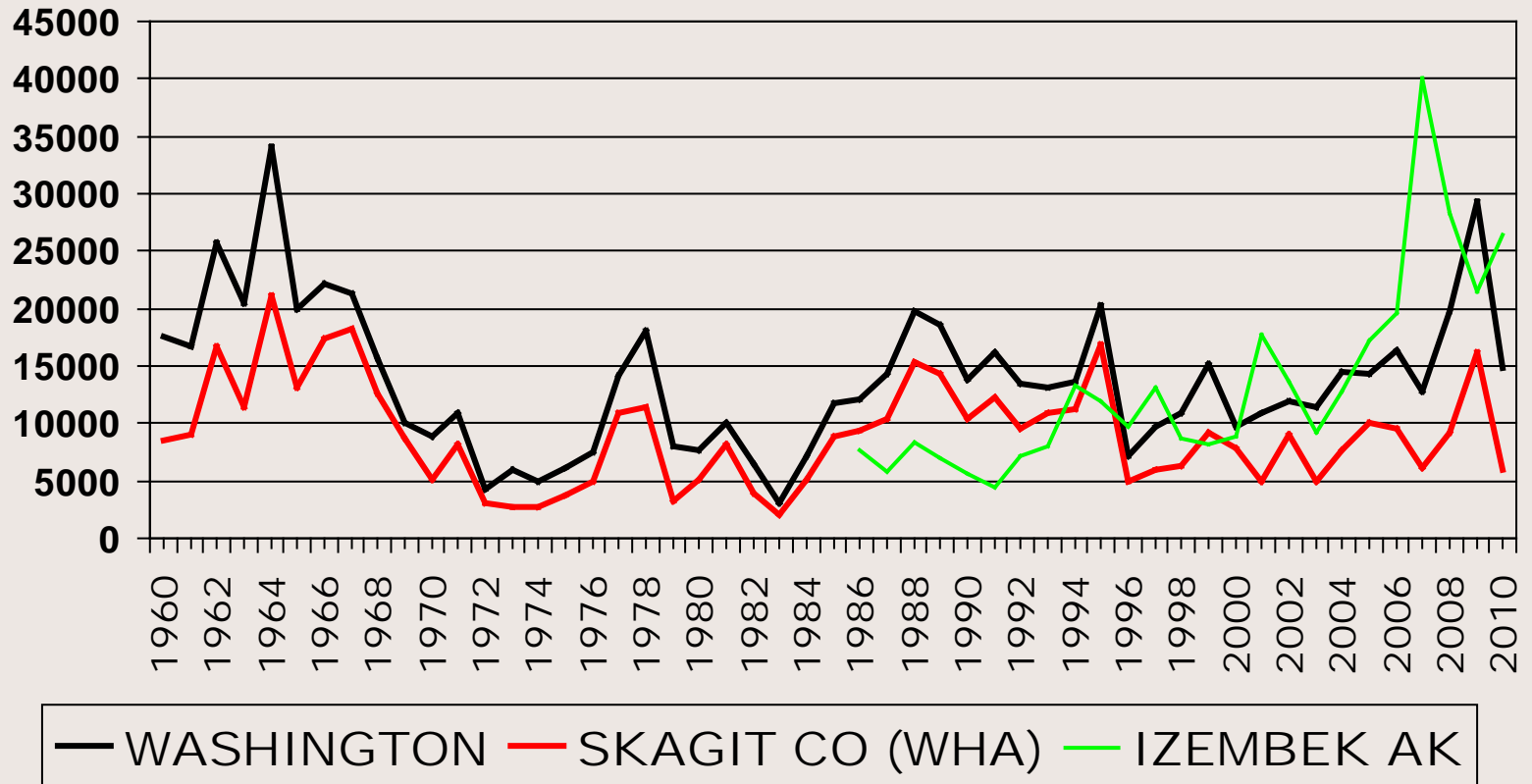
SKAGIT COUNTY



PACIFIC FLYWAY BRANT TRENDS (exc. WHA)



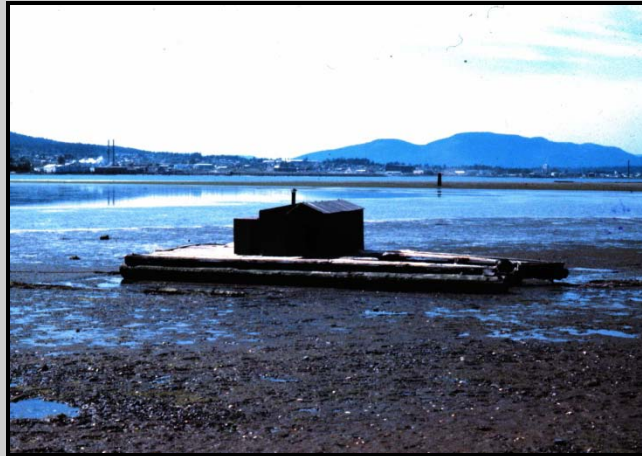
WA & AK BRANT TRENDS



BRANT HUNTING AREAS IN WASHINGTON



SKAGIT CO.
(PADILLA, SAMISH, FIDALGO BAYS)

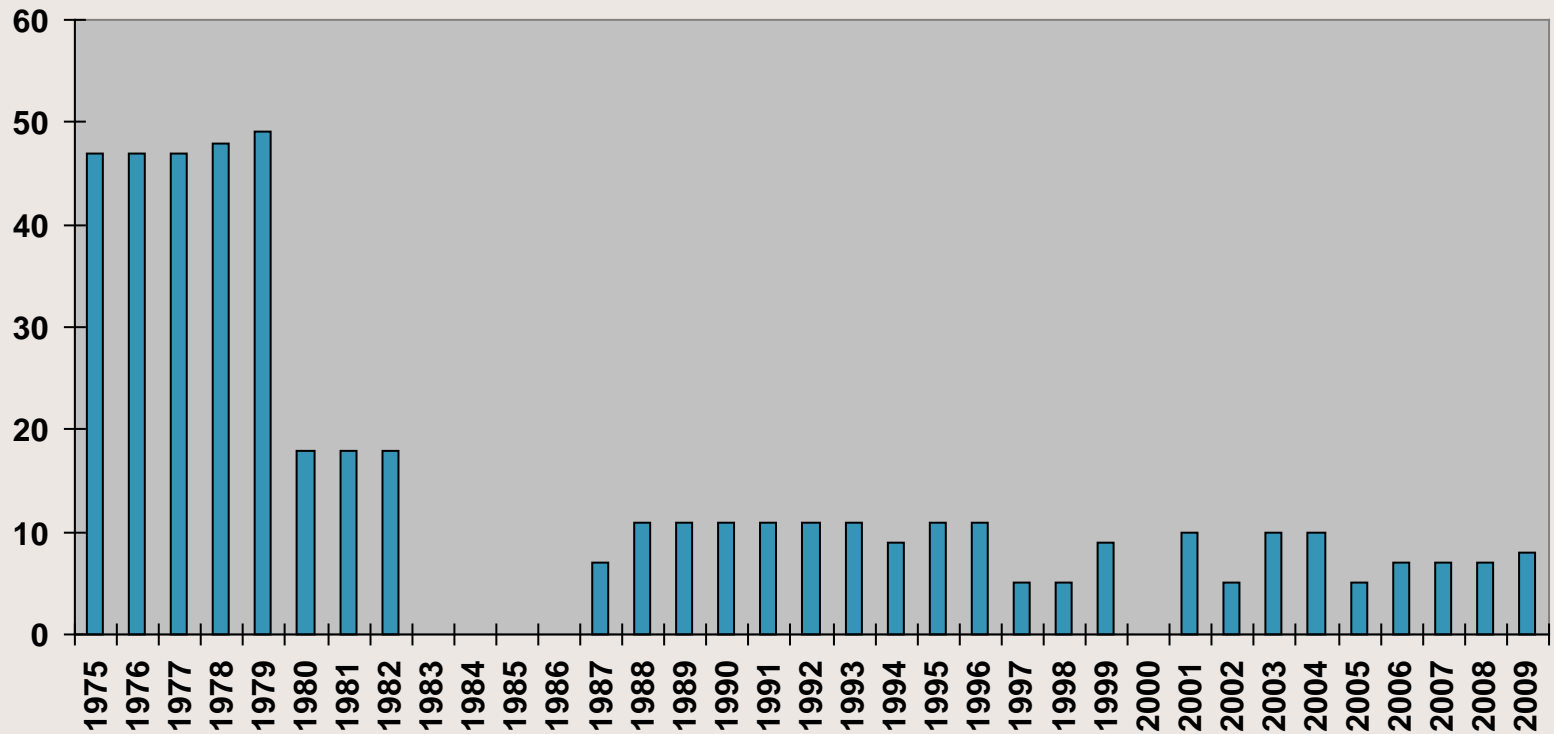


PACIFIC CO. (WILLAPA BAY)

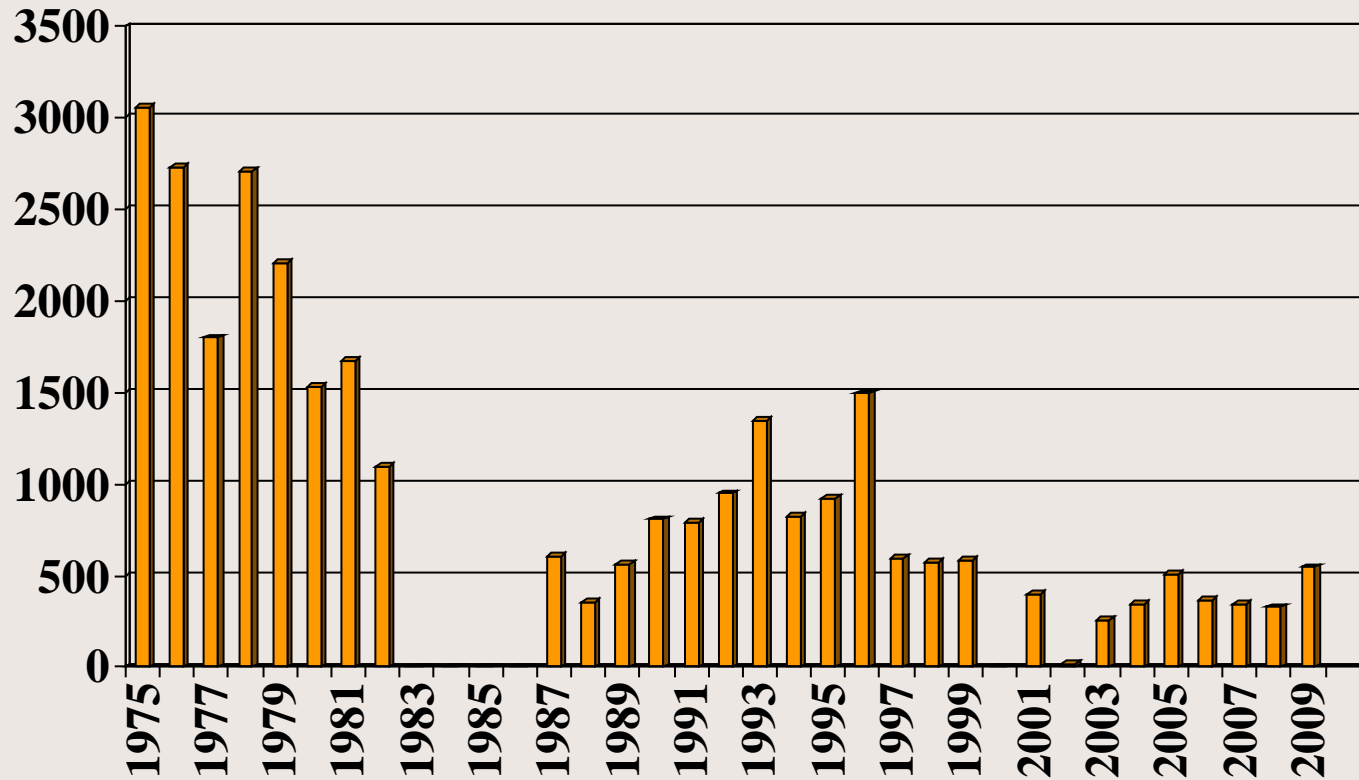
BRANT HARVEST STRATEGY

- ❖ Set seasons to meet objectives in Pacific Flyway plan, WDFW Game Mgmt. Plan
- ❖ Close/restrict Skagit Co. season if winter survey <6000 brant (occurred in 2001 and 2003)
- ❖ Provide restricted season designed to minimize harvest of WHA brant ($<10\%$)
- ❖ No season in an area if less than 1000 brant
- ❖ Obtain precise estimates of harvest through mandatory reporting (since 1990)

SKAGIT COUNTY SEASON DAYS

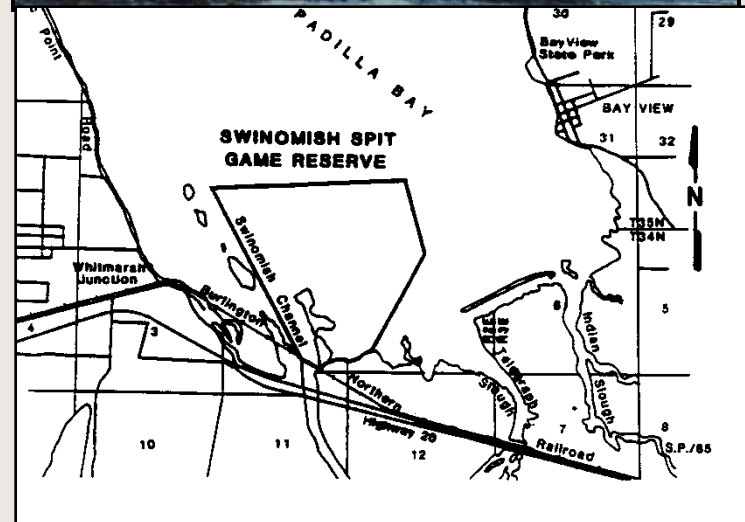


SKAGIT COUNTY BRANT HARVEST



SWINOMISH SPIT GAME RESERVE

- ❖ Enhanced access to grit, used in the digestive process
- ❖ Enhanced access to eelgrass, other food
- ❖ High quality area for resting and preening
- ❖ Shelter from severe weather and hunting pressure



BRANT MANAGEMENT MILESTONES

- ❖ Closed / restrictive seasons in WA - 1980-2010
- ❖ Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan - 1986
- ❖ PCJV - 1991
- ❖ Independent Scientific Peer Review of Padilla Bay Brant Management - 1999
- ❖ Washington Brant Foundation established - 2001
- ❖ First Washington Brant Festival - 2003
- ❖ Pacific Flyway Mgmt. Plan revision (WHA) - 2004

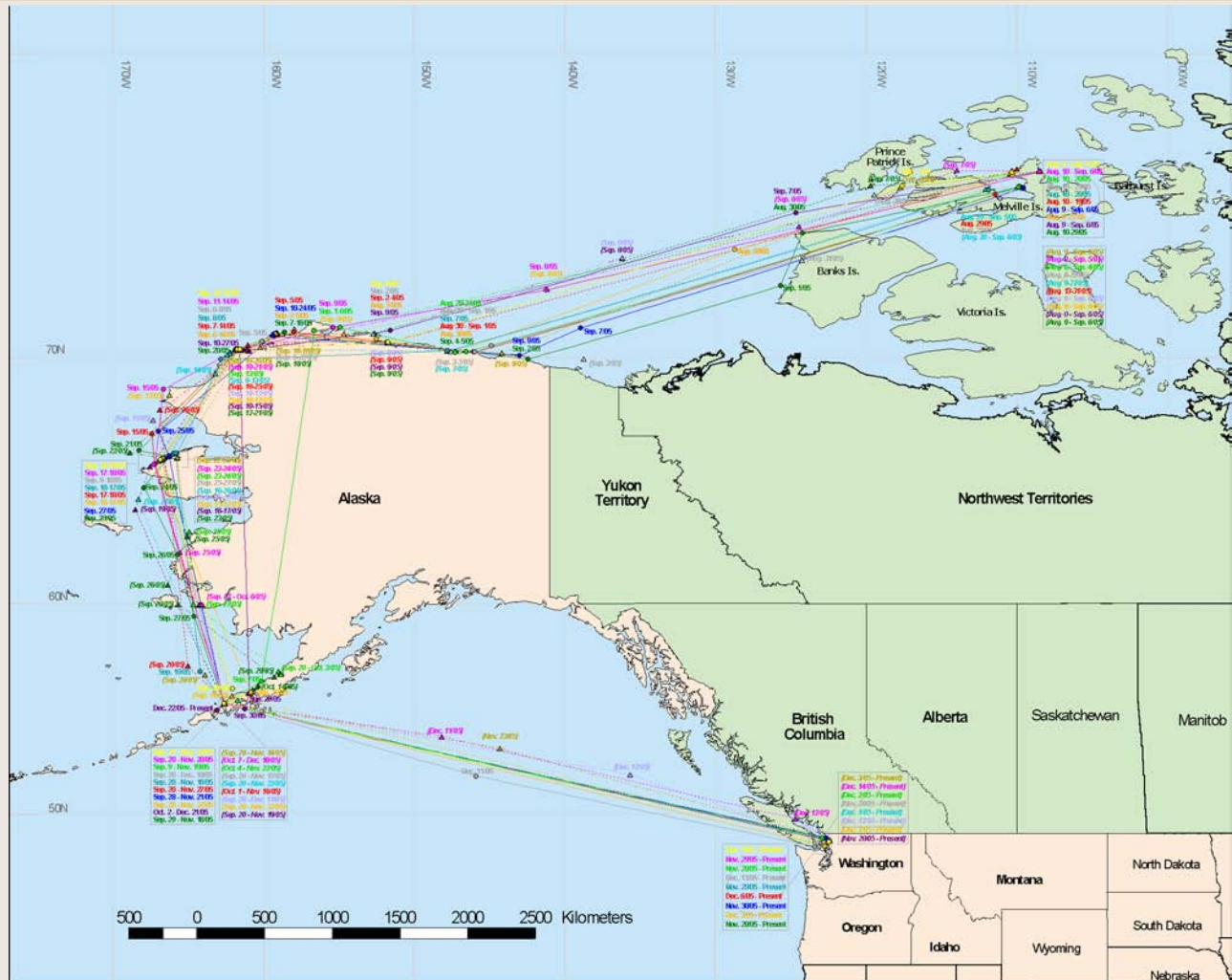


RESEARCH

- ❖ WHA projects coordinated on breeding area by Sean Boyd, Canadian Wildlife Service
- ❖ Banding and color marking on breeding area in 2000, 2002, 2005
- ❖ Genetic /color delineation
- ❖ Satellite telemetry monitoring



RESEARCH



RESEARCH

- ❖ David Ward, USGS Alaska Science Center
 - ❖ Nutritional quality of eelgrass throughout the Pacific Flyway
 - ❖ Brant staging patterns in relation to eelgrass regeneration
 - ❖ Effects of sea level rise on distribution and abundance of eelgrass and brant populations
- ❖ N. American Arctic Goose Conference – Portland, Jan 2011

BRANT MANAGEMENT IN WASHINGTON

SUMMARY



- ❖ Significant management interest from international wildlife agencies, Pacific Flyway
- ❖ Key species in Pacific Coast Joint Venture Strategic Plan for habitat protection
- ❖ Increased WDFW management emphasis