

Nooksack River Stewards : South Fork 2024

The Nooksack River Steward South Fork Program is supported by WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board (Salmon Lead Entity), Whatcom County Public Works, Tomberg Family Foundation, and the Drinking Water Providers Partnership.



Background

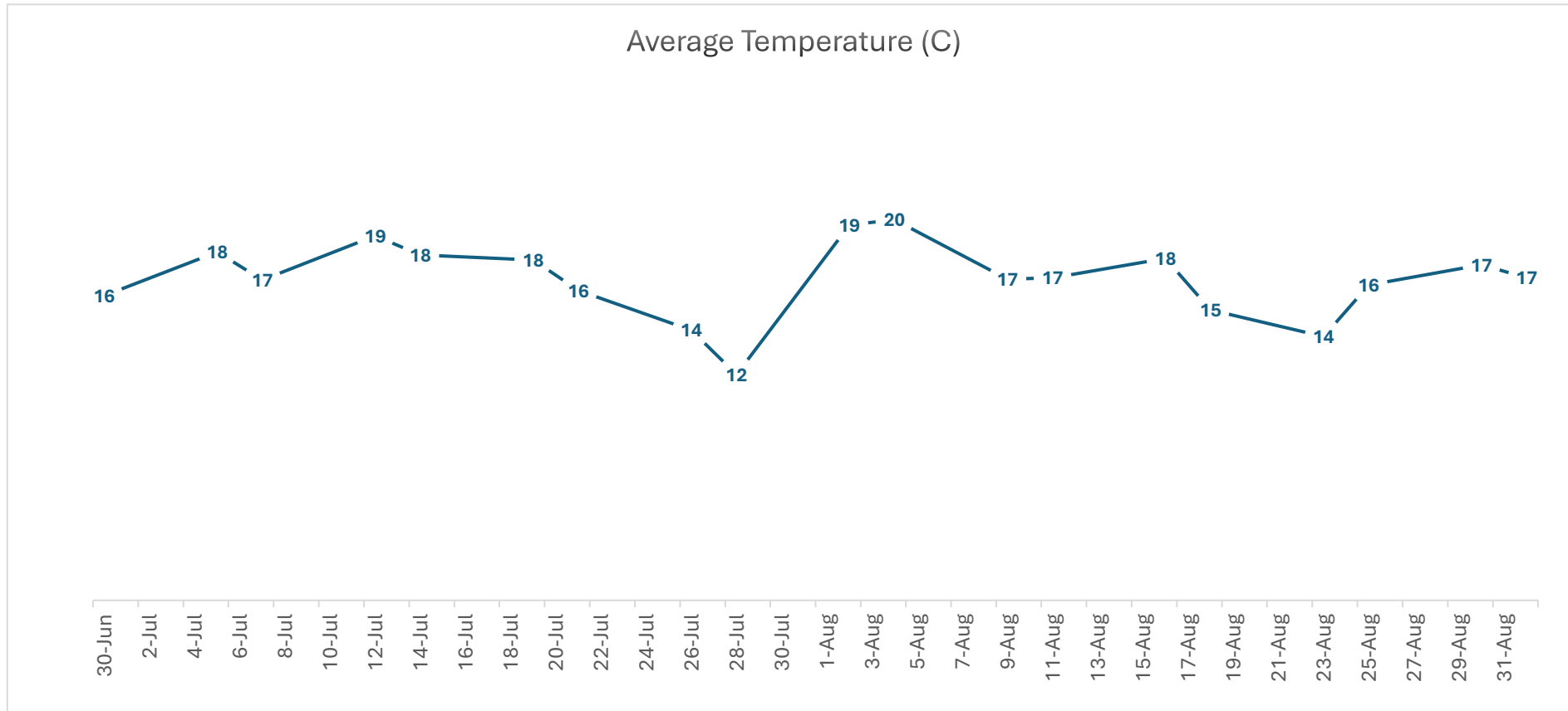
- South Fork Nooksack River
 - Home to threatened Spring Chinook, Steelhead, Bull Trout
 - Low flows and high temperatures
 - High recreation traffic
- 2023 Program
 - Coincided with watercraft closure vote
- 2024 Program Goals
 - Outreach and education
 - Recreator surveying
 - Monitoring and data collection
 - Litter pickup and trash services



2024 Program Results



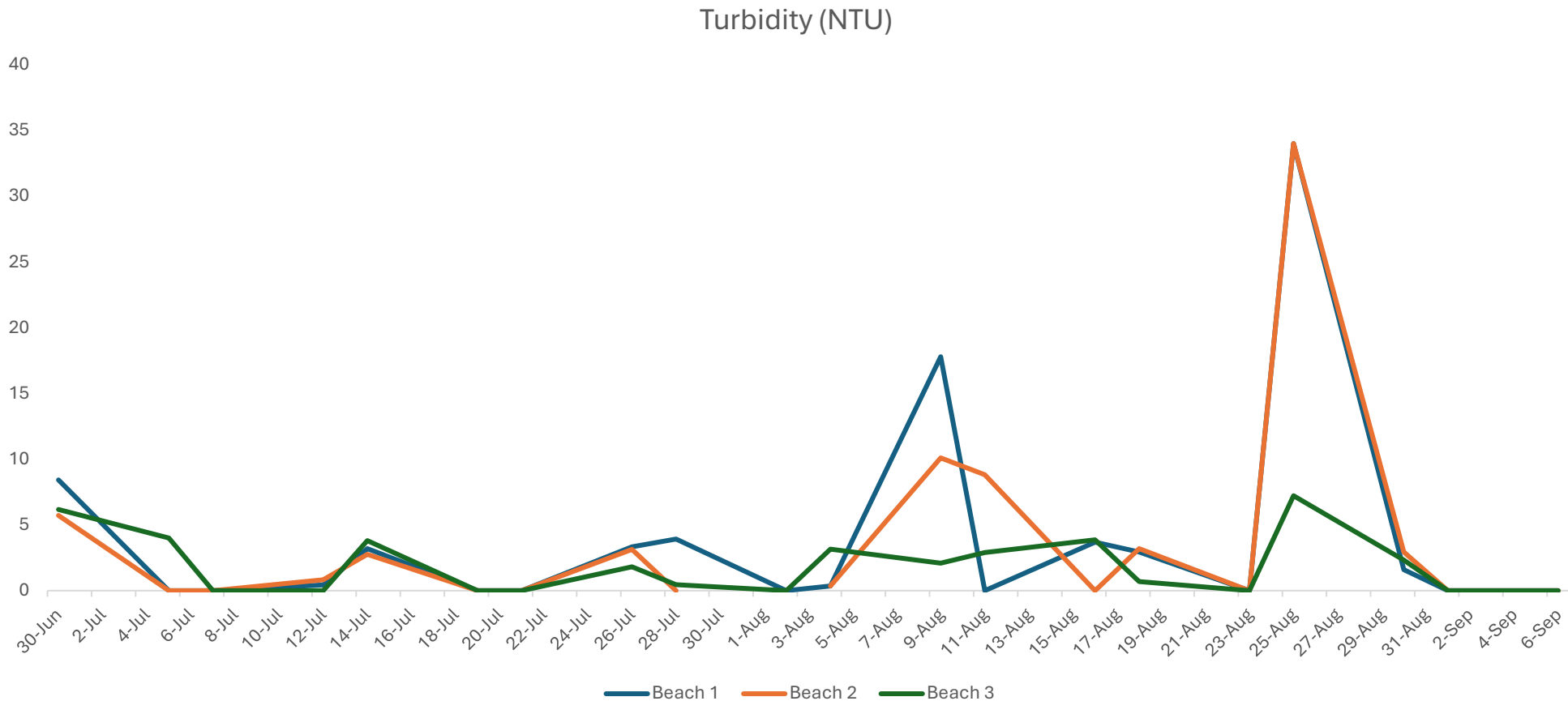
- Water Quality



2024 Program Results



- Water Quality



2024 Program Results



- Wildlife



2024 Program Results



- Other points of interest



2024 Program Results



- Other points of interest



2024 Program Results



- Remote Traffic
 - 518 individuals
 - 586 log jam interactions

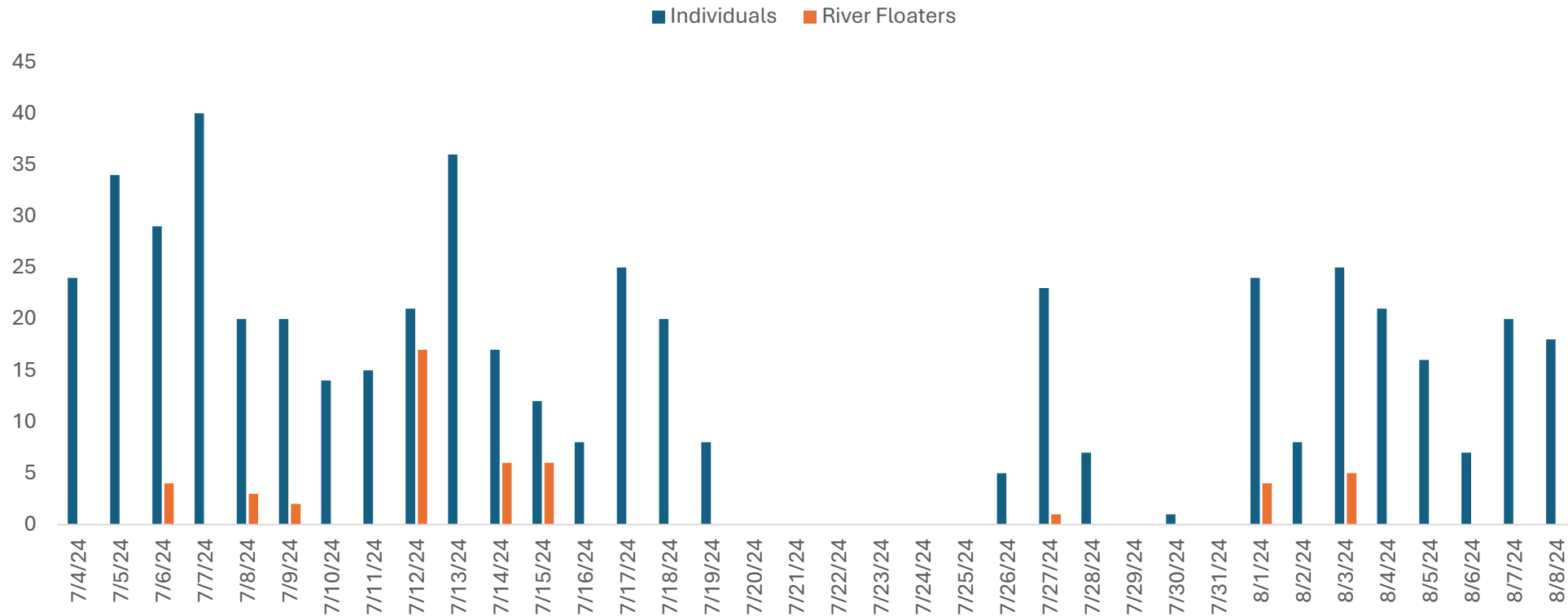


2024 Program Results



- Remote Traffic

2024 Strand Beach Recreator Traffic

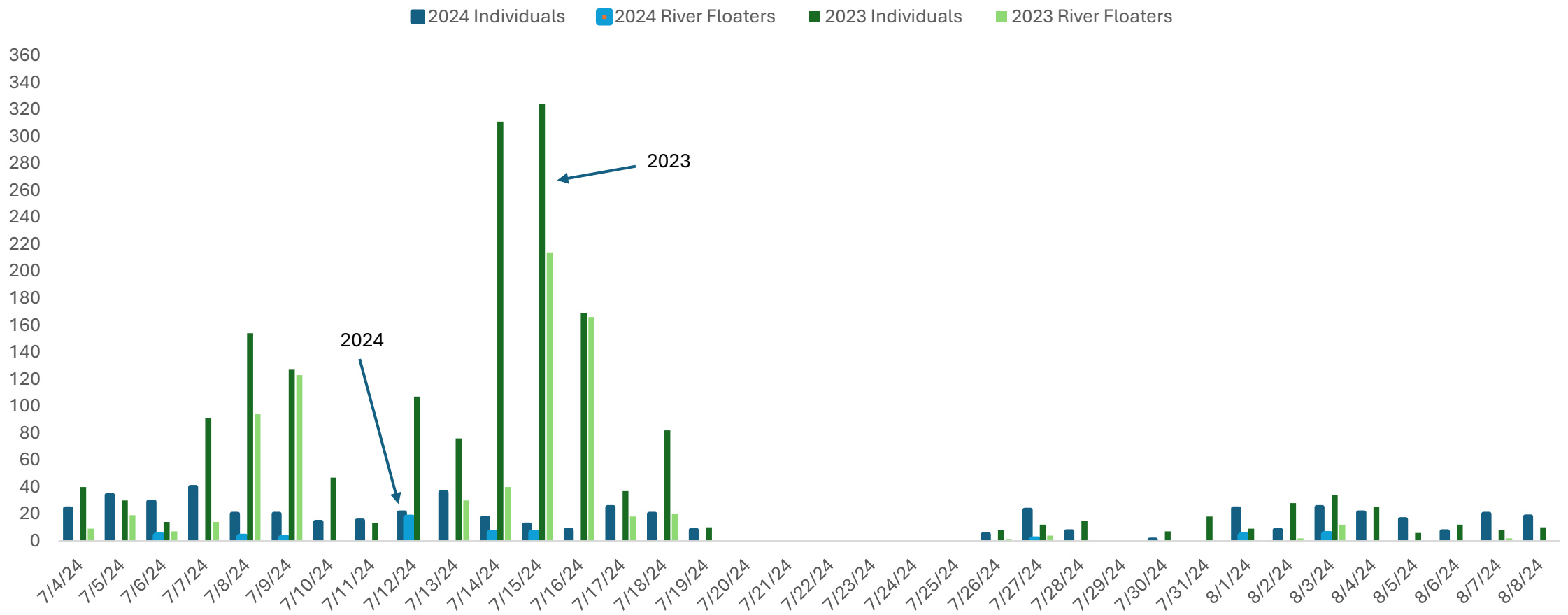




2024 Program Results

- Remote Traffic

Strand Rd Traffic



2024 Program Results



- Trash

Location	Pounds of Trash	Gallons of Trash
Strand Beach	131.62	256
Parking Lot	10.67	10.9
Beach 1	27.25	31.40
Beach 2	11.37	5.5
Beach 3	32.4	26.1
Total	213.31	329.9



2024 Program Results



- In-person Traffic
 - 110 people observed
 - 73 people engaged
 - 35 of those surveyed



2024 Program Results



- Events
 - Guided River Walks
 - Litter Pickups

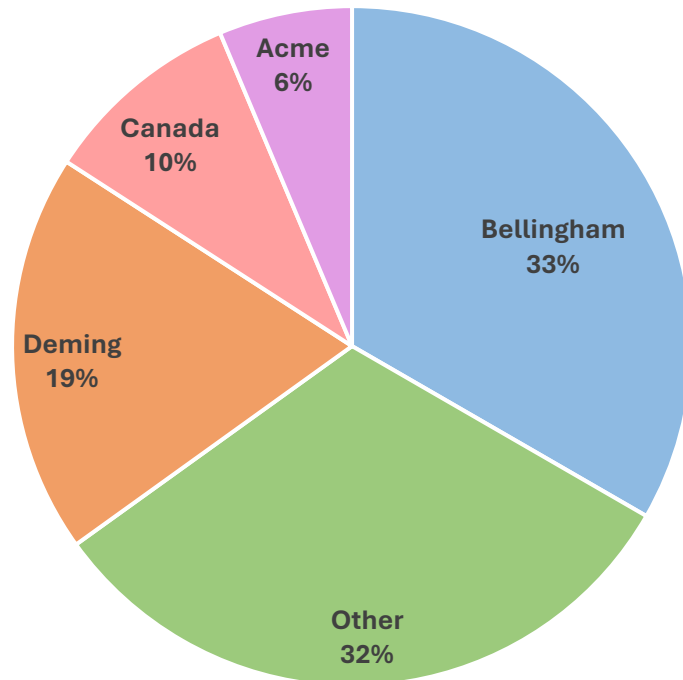


2024 Program Results

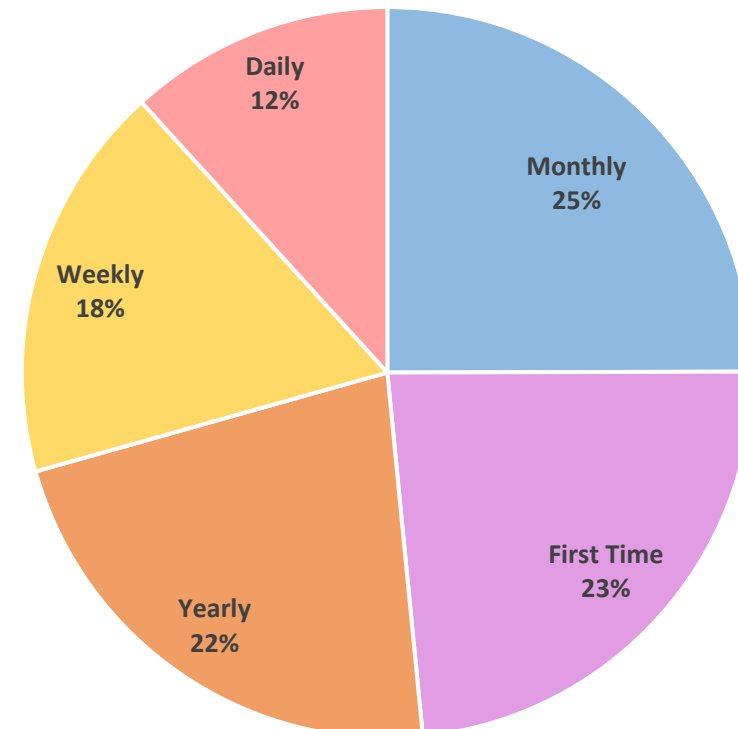


- Survey Results

Where Recreators Live



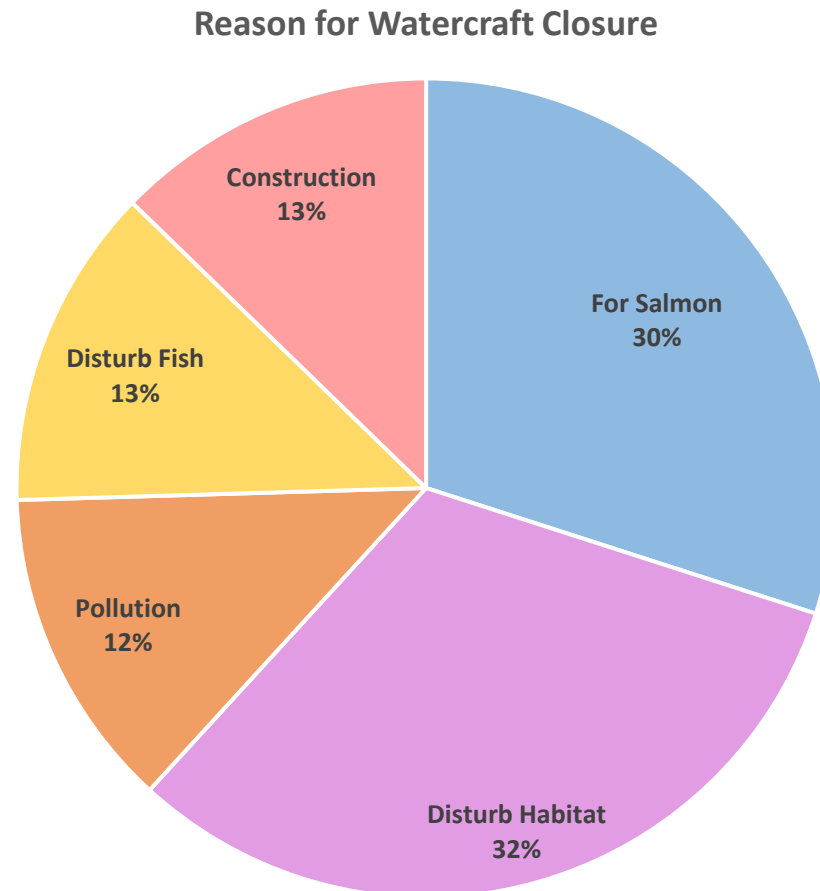
Recreation Frequency



2024 Program Results



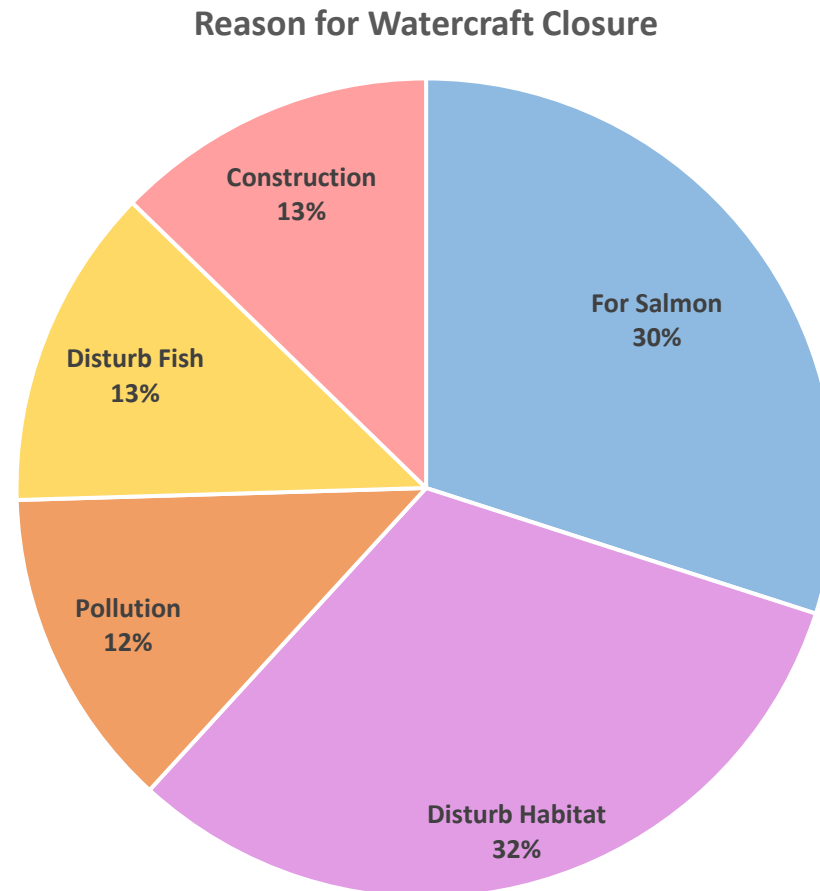
- Survey Results
 - 50% aware of closure



2024 Program Results



- Survey Results
 - 50% aware of closure

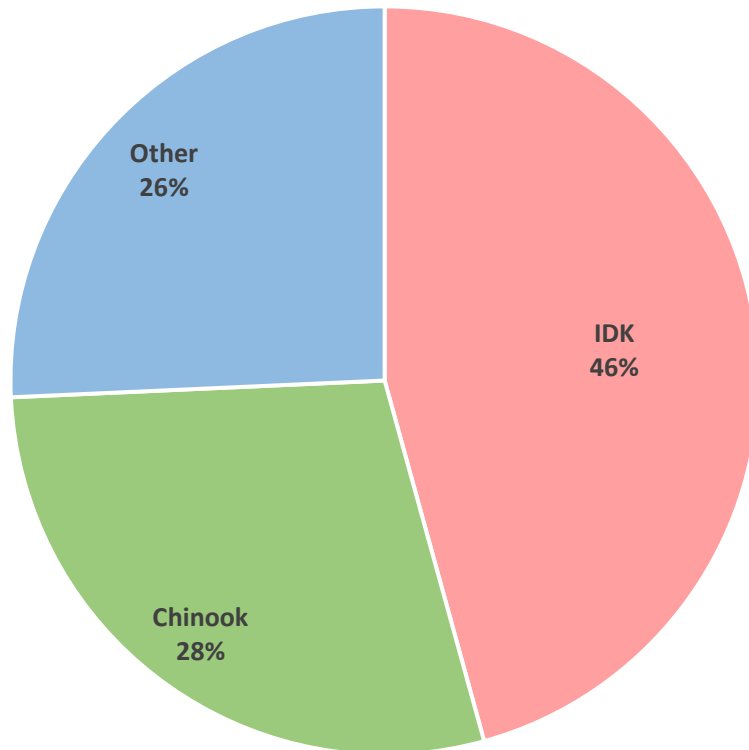


2024 Program Results

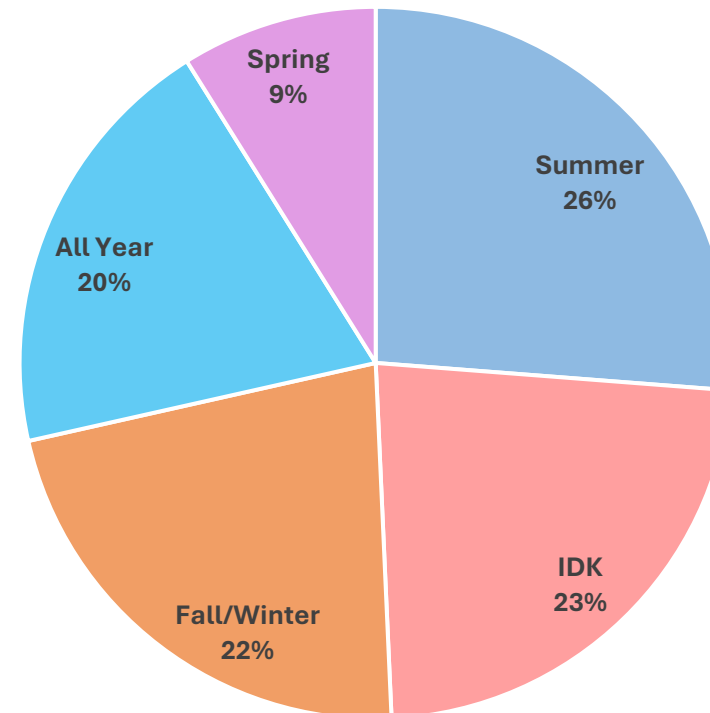


- Survey Results

Type of Salmon in the River



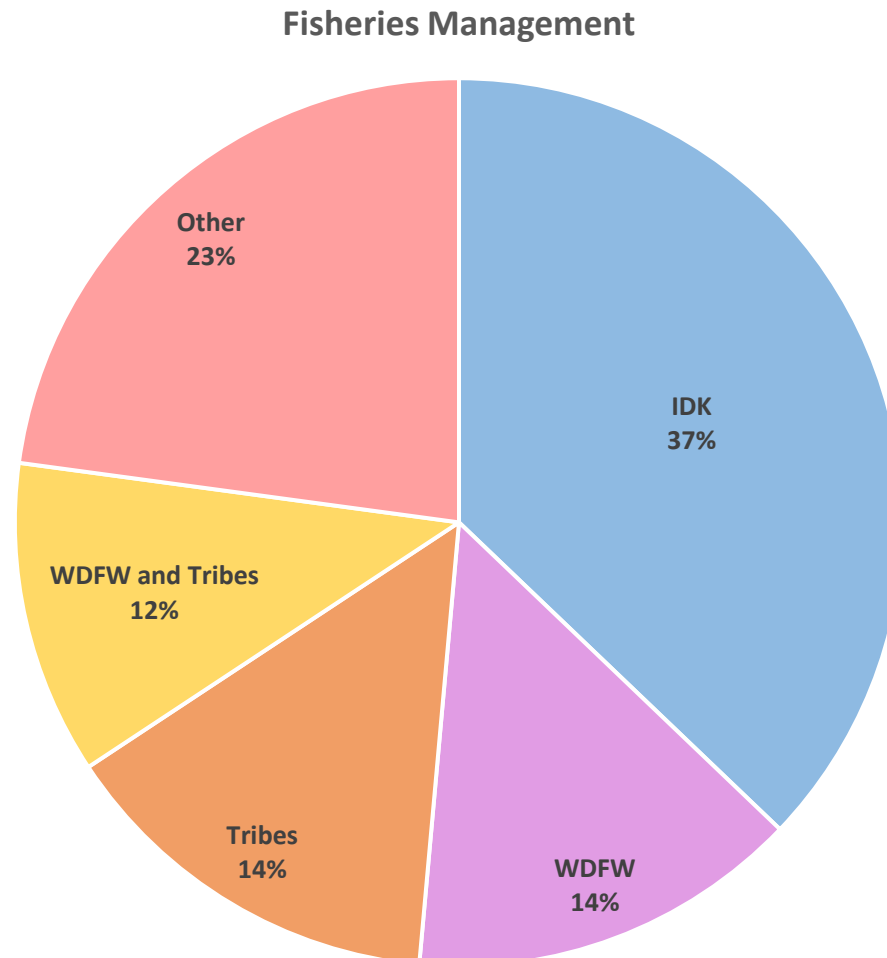
Timing of Salmon



2024 Program Results



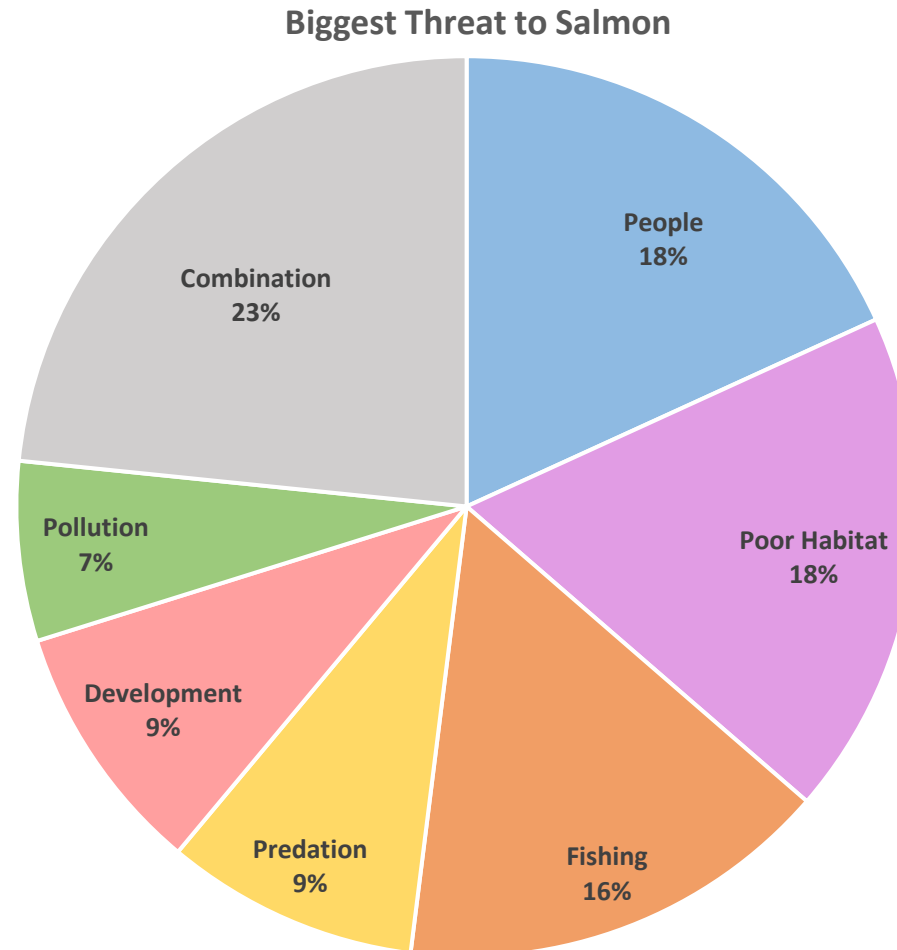
- Survey Results



2024 Program Results



- Survey Results





2024 Program Results

- Survey Results: Common Comments
 - Complaints of traffic/out-of-towners and how the cleanliness of the river has changed
 - Observations of how the river itself has changed
 - Positivity
 - Recreation related observations

2024 Program Results



• Survey Results: Questions

- Which tribes are involved in managing the upper portion of the river?
- Will the watercraft closure ever be lifted?
- Does swimming in the river disturb the fish?
- Does wearing sunscreen pollute the river?
- How big do the salmon get in this river?
- Why is there no fishing?
- How do we help the salmon?
- Are there salmon in this specific spot in the river right now?
- Is fishing open right now on the South Fork?

2024 Program Results: Recommendations

- People use these properties like parks without the services that parks provide.
- Information should be more prominent where possible, including:
 - Salmon information
 - Human impacts
 - Fishing regulations
 - Relevant ordinances (and reasoning)
 - Log jam safety risks
- Trash service
- NSEA continue to run volunteer litter pickup events and support stewardship messaging

