Conservation of Itou *Hucho perryi*: Challenges and Opportunities

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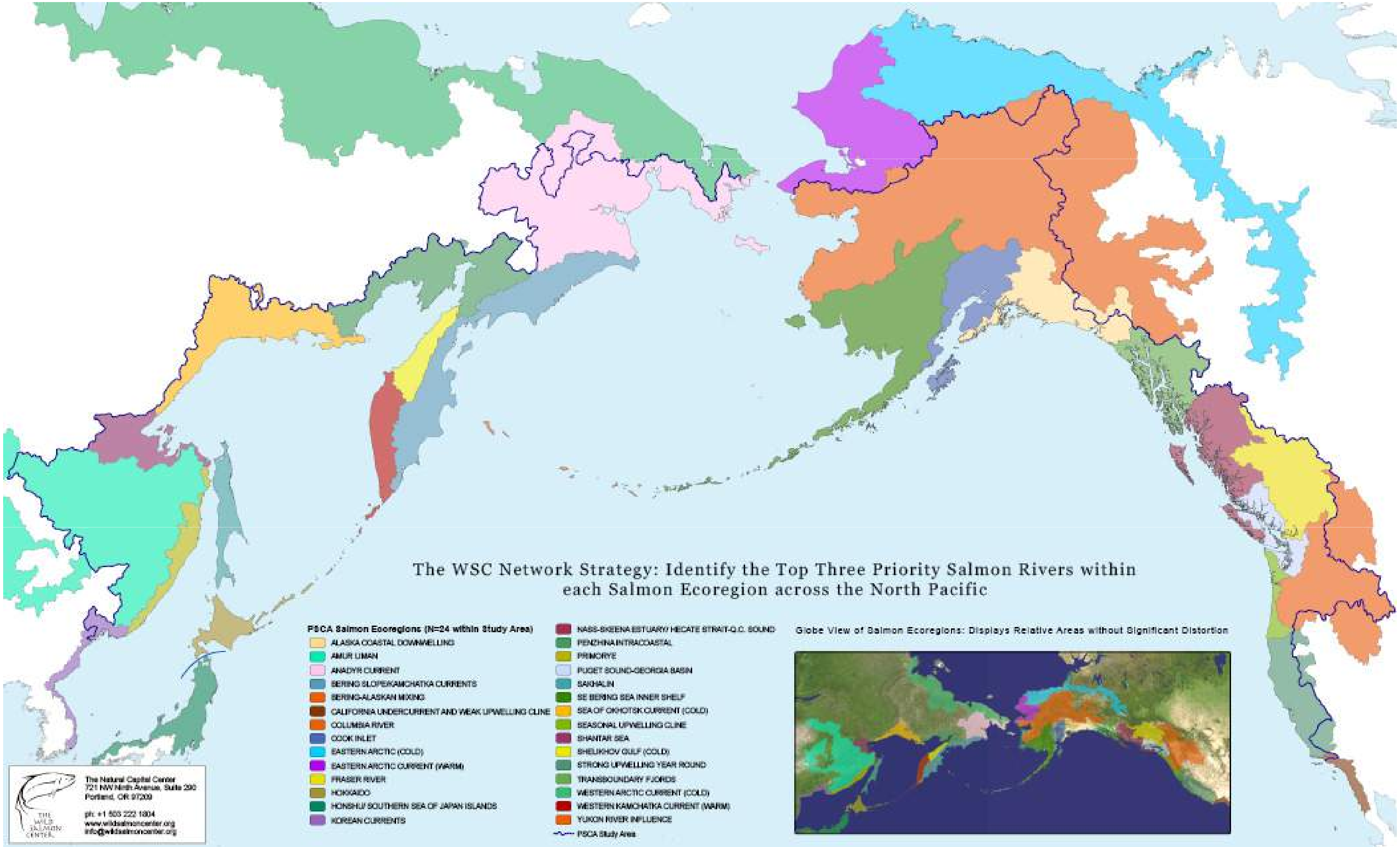
THE WILD SALMON CENTER

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Wild Salmon Center

Identify, understand and protect the best wild salmon ecosystems across the Pacific Rim

Range-wide, Ecoregional Approach

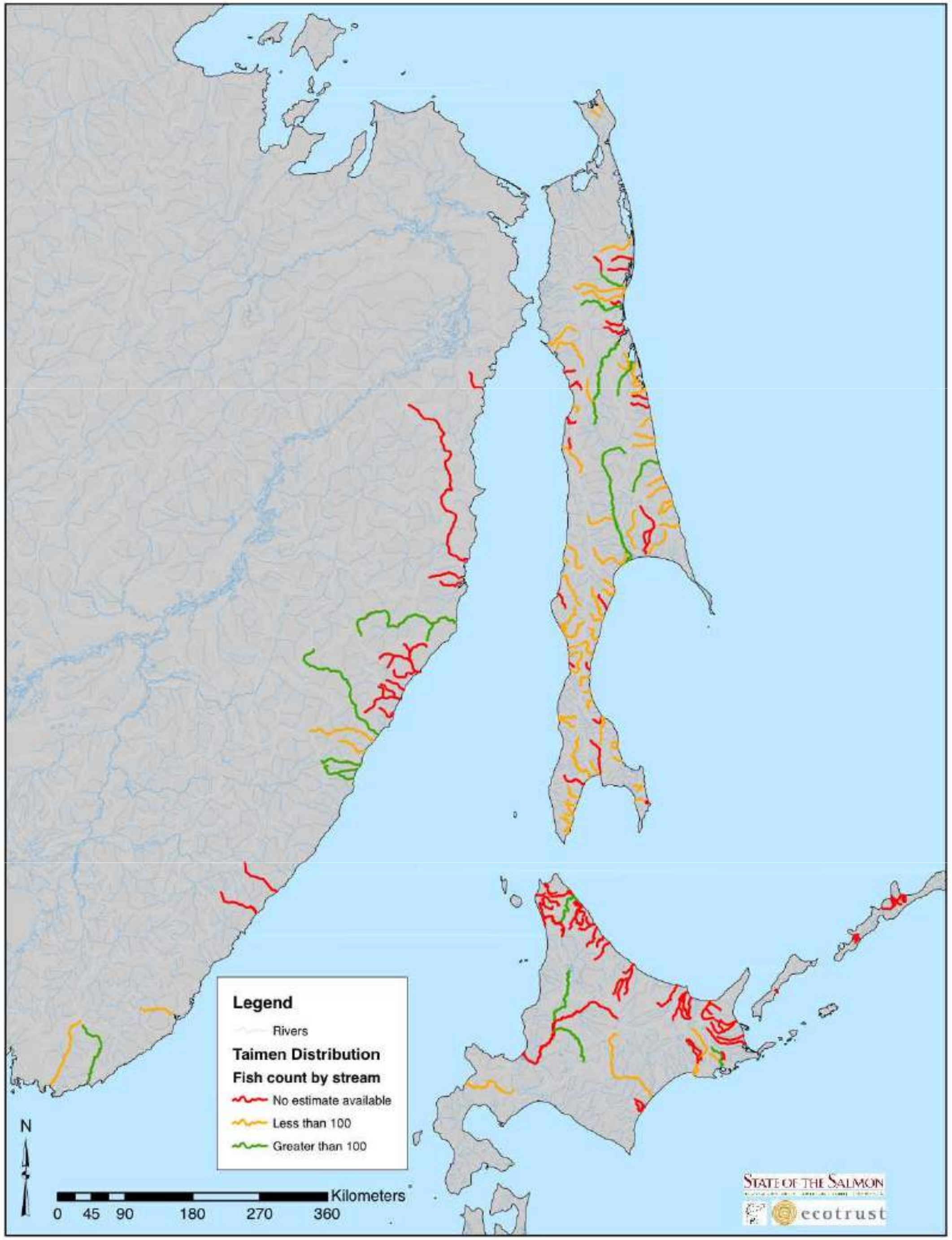


Why is Wild Salmon Center interested in Itou?

- A very unusual, large, ancient salmonid
- It is the “canary in the coal mine”
- Best indicator of river ecosystem health

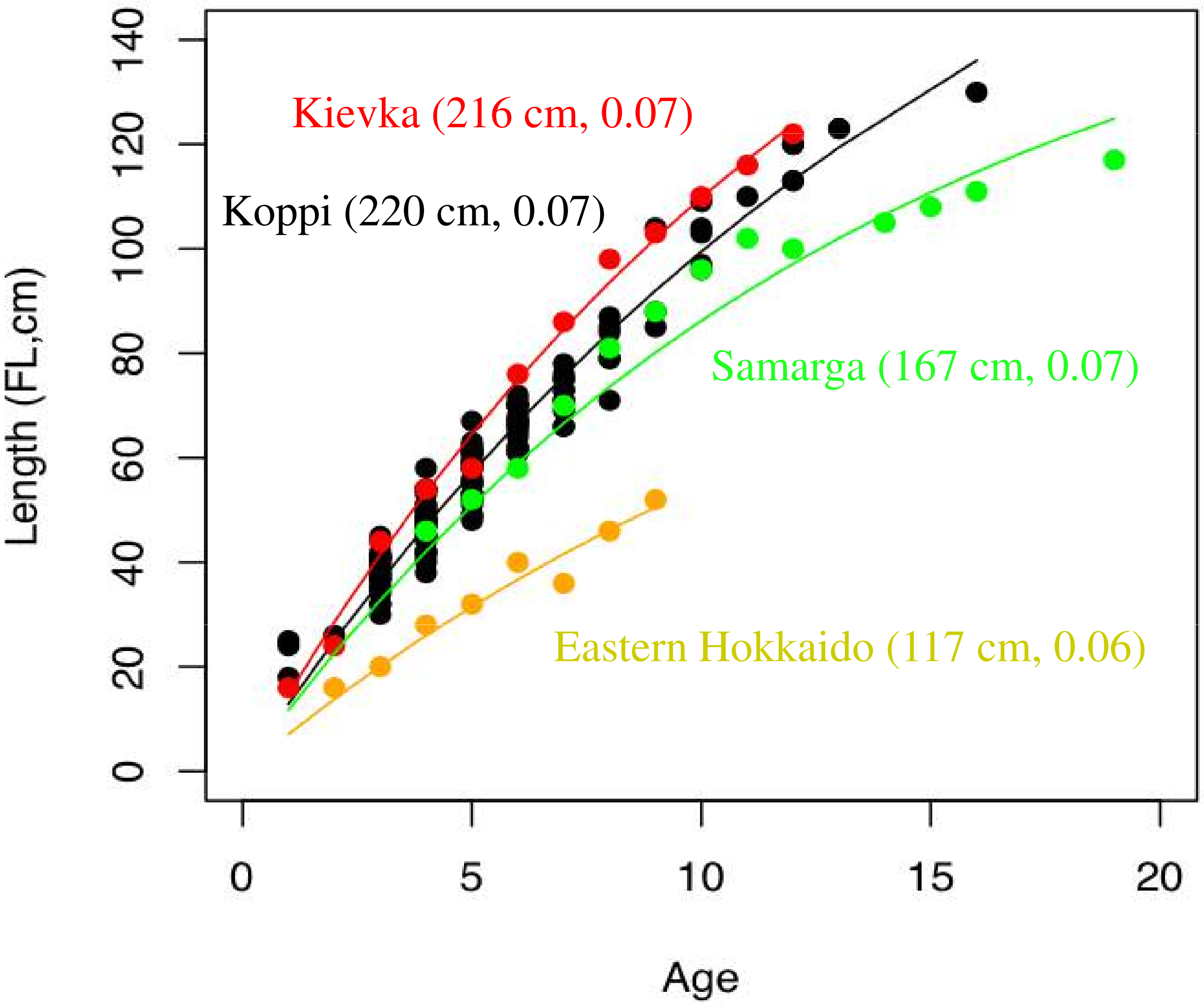
Outline

- Review of IUCN Red List Assessment
- New research efforts
- Importance of conservation planning at international and local scale
- The future of itou

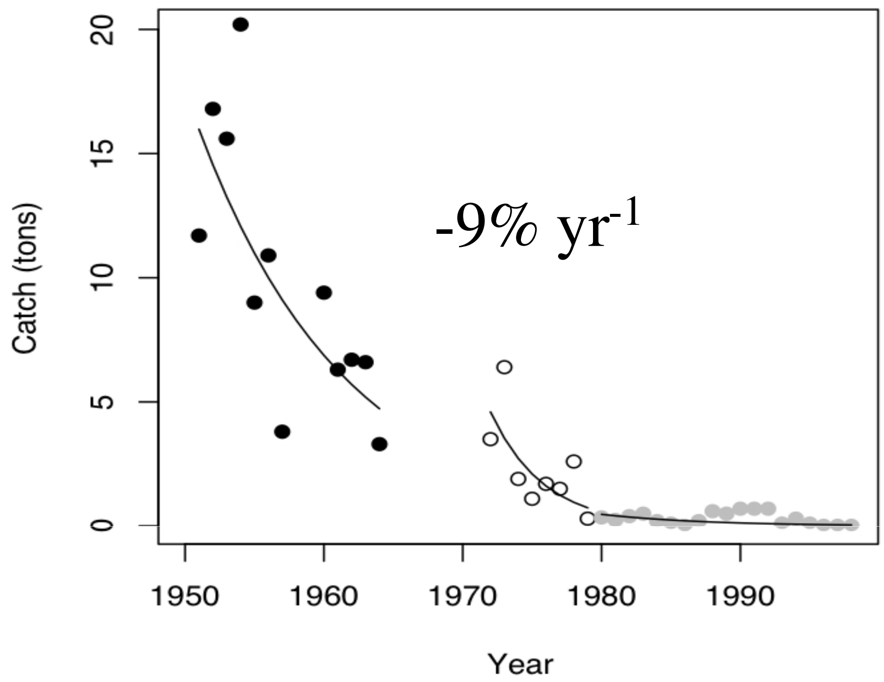


Range and Status
Hucho perryi

Itou:
Slow Growing, Long Lived, Big Fish!



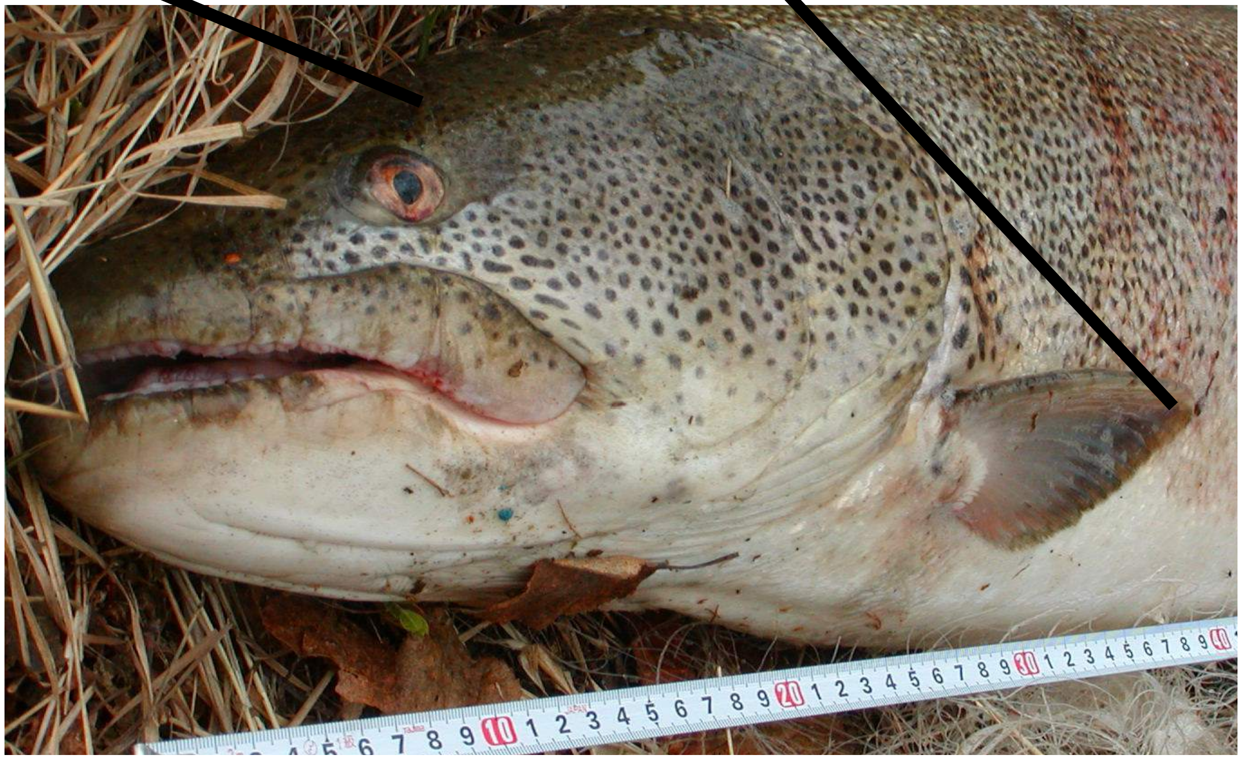
Itou - Bycatch Record in Russia



New Research

Otolith - Migration History

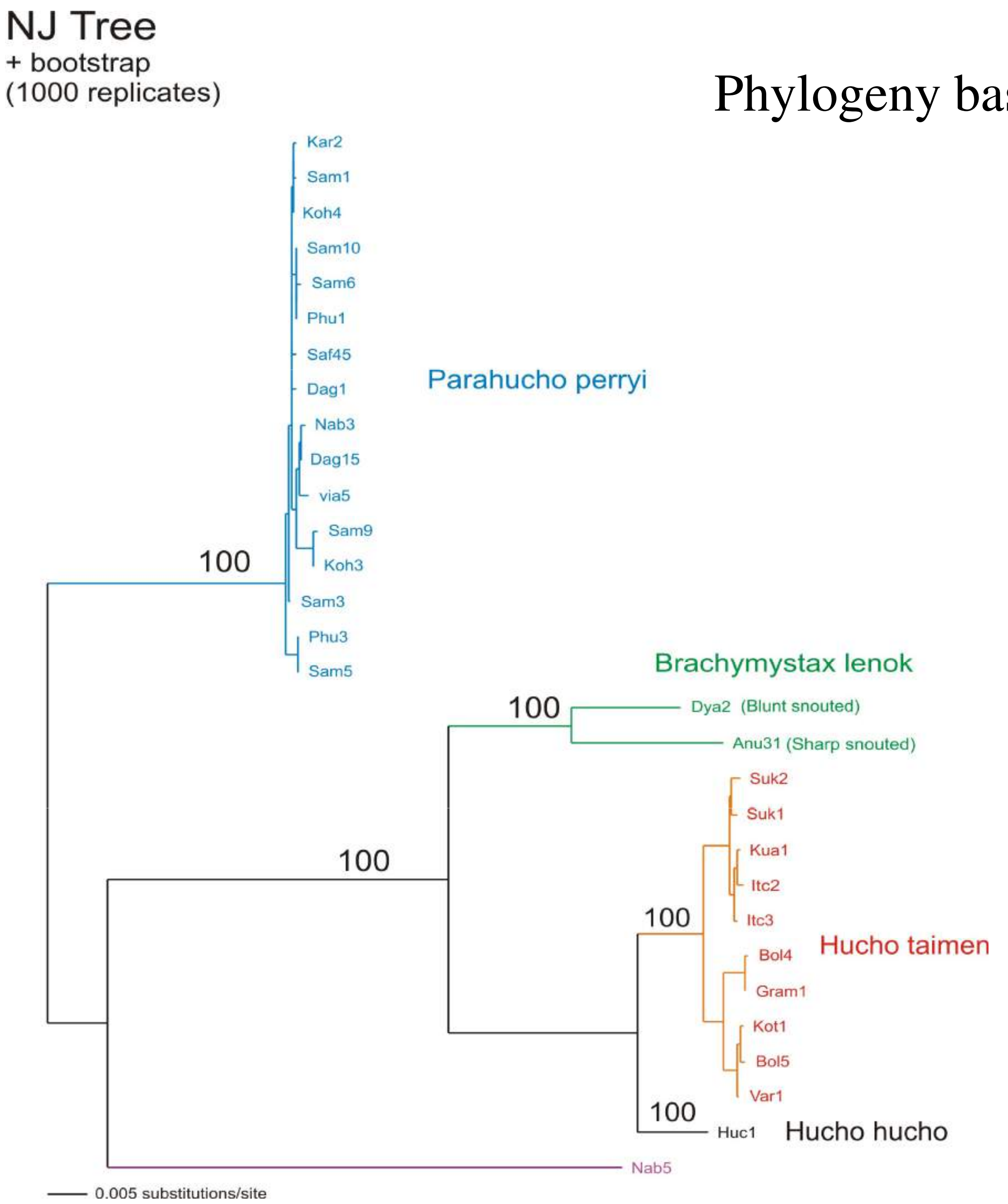
Fin clip - Genetic Lineage



National Geographic Society Research Study

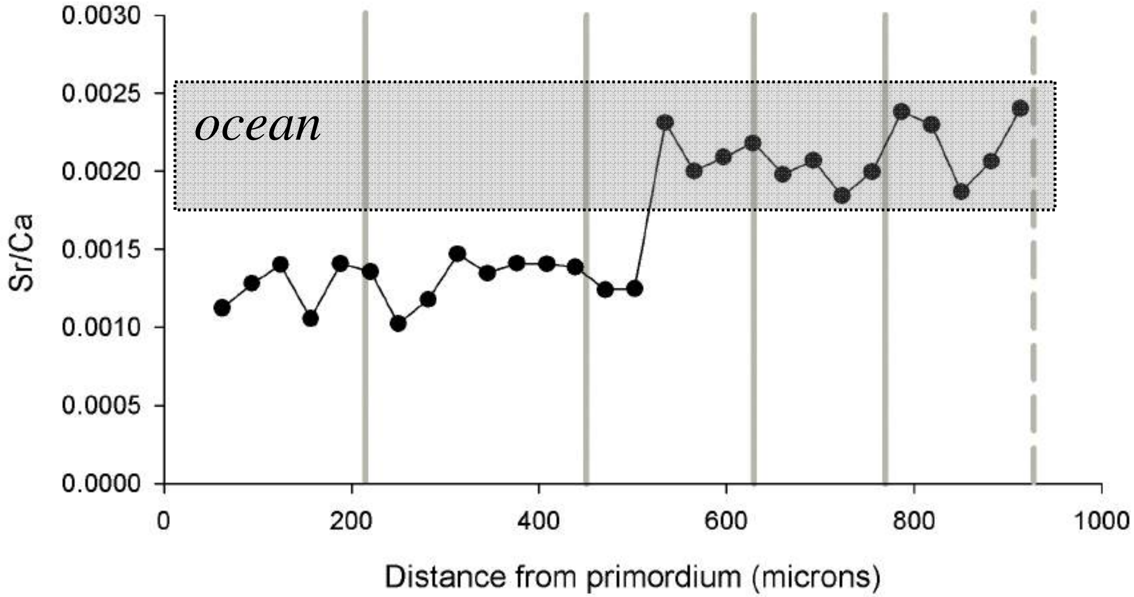
Koppi River, Khabarovsk, Russia

Phylogeny based on mtDNA



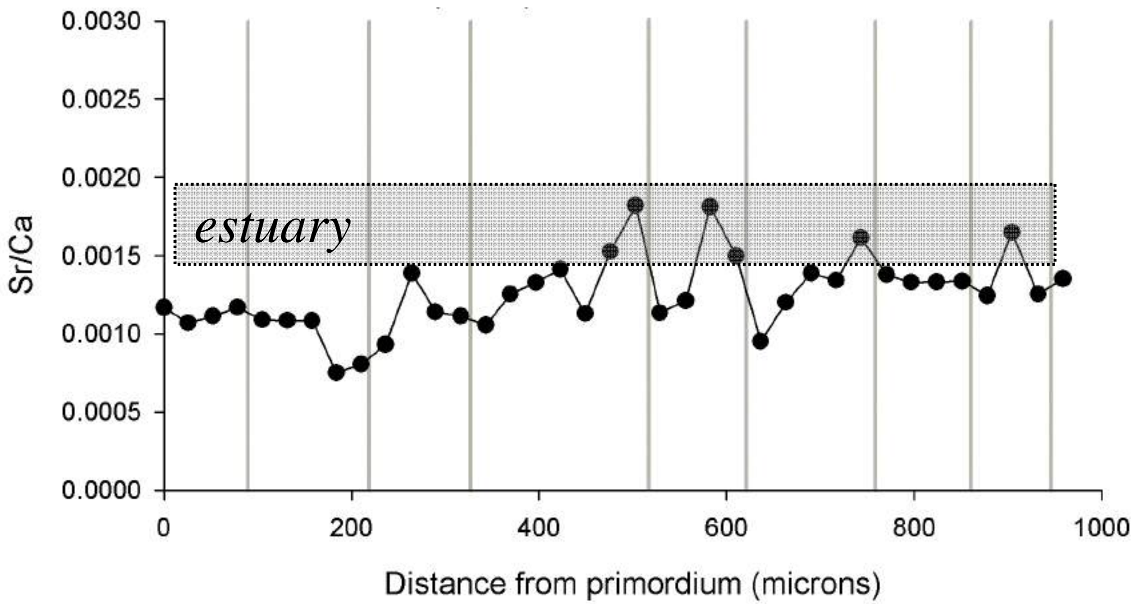
S. Weiss, unpubl. data

O. masou



Life History: Anadromous

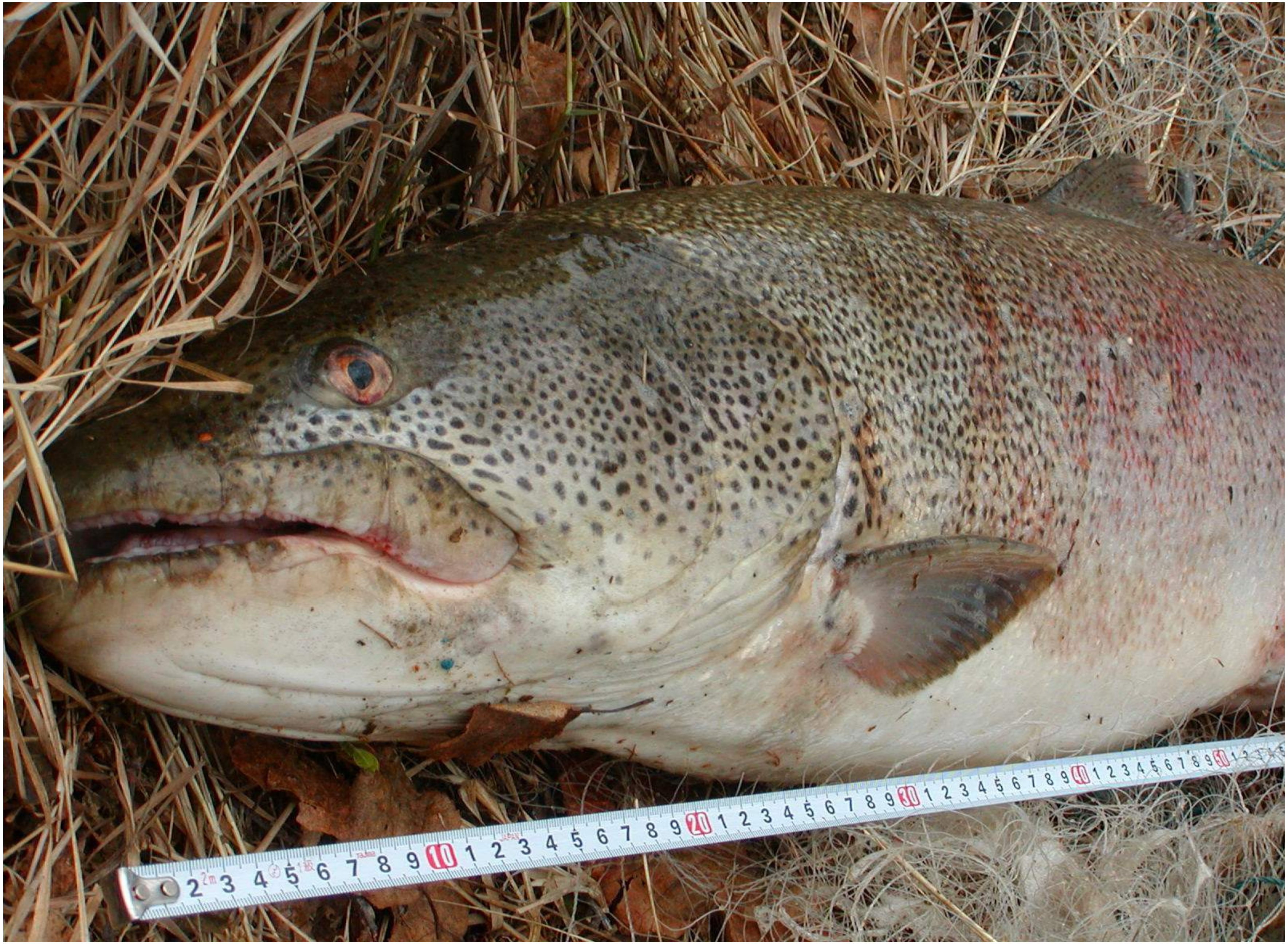
H. perryi



Life History: Amphidromous

Koppi River

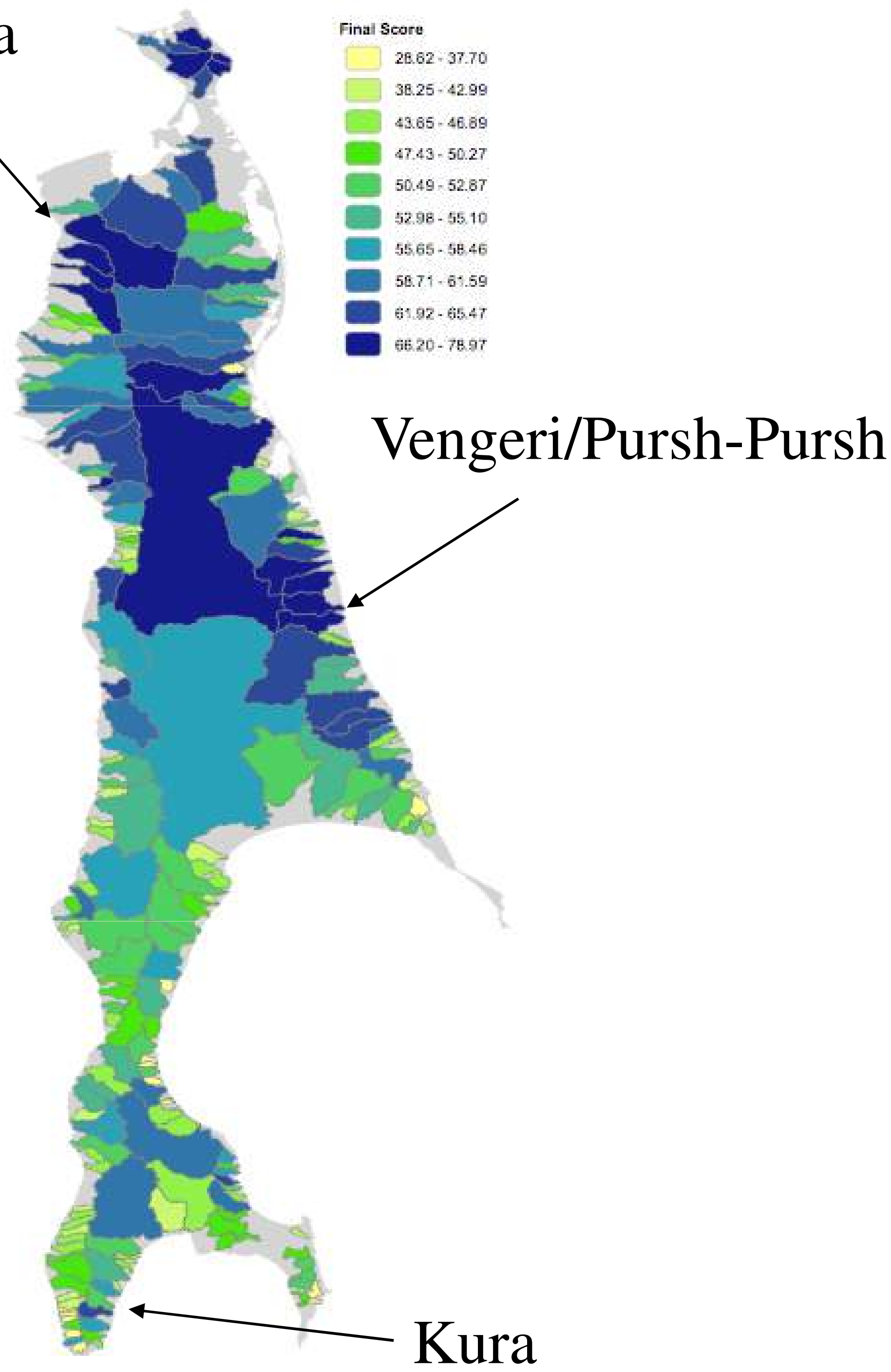
Poaching in Russia



Habitat Loss in Hokkaido

Sakhalin Salmon Initiative

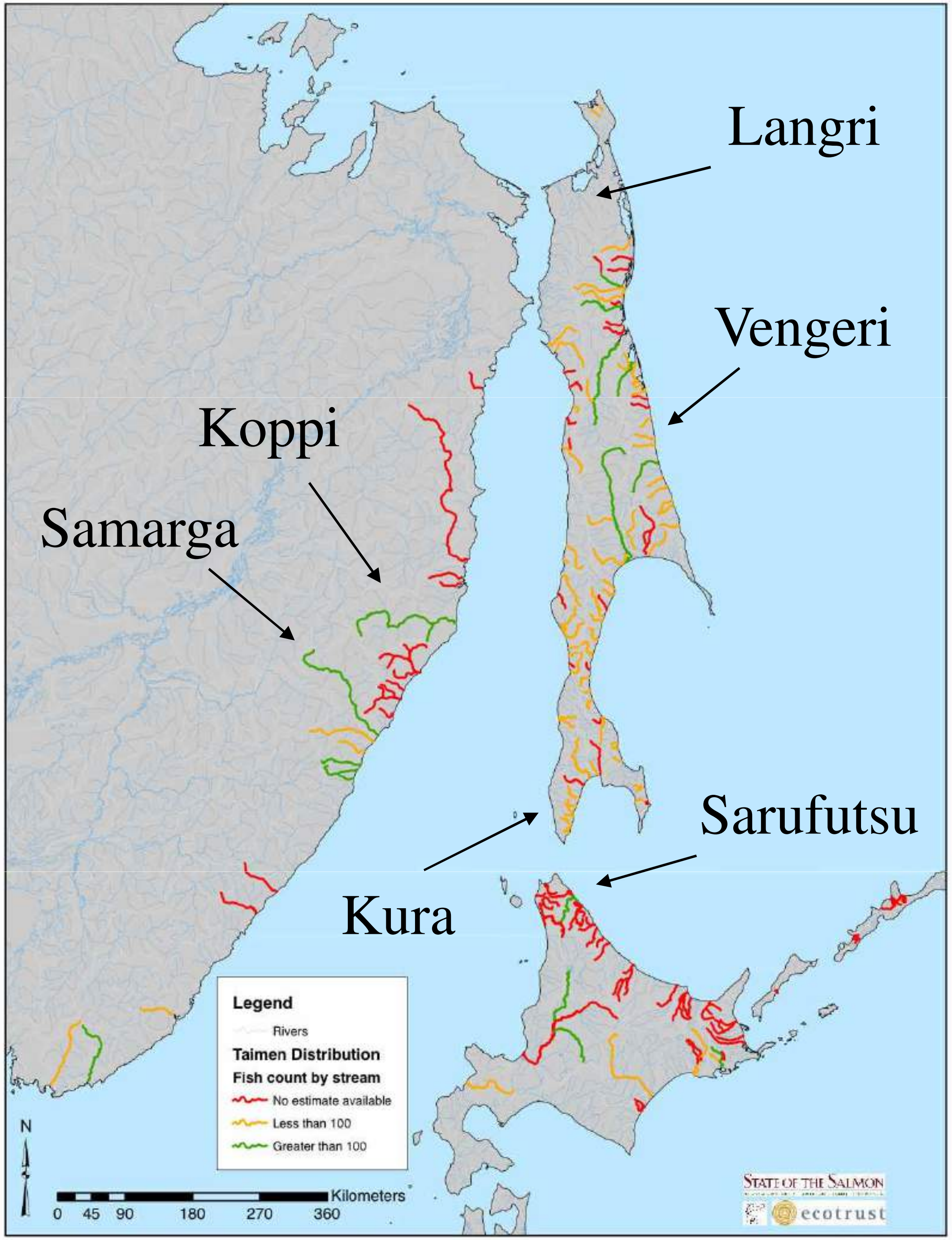
- Conference held in October 2006
- Workshop held in January 2007
- SSI Center opened in March 2007



International Conservation Effort for Itou

- Establish collaborative Itou “stronghold” network.
- Through local partnerships, implement common monitoring methods in a network of rivers
- Within each basin, identify and map critical habitat and establish long-term wild salmon monitoring

Itou "Stronghold" Network



Conclusions

- Itou is a sensitive species and we need to take active measures to reverse historical decline
- Itou is a cross-border species and will benefit from a combination of international and local conservation efforts
- Conservation planning must address leading threats to the species, including poaching and oil and gas development in Russia and habitat loss in Japan
- It is important to review fishing regulations to ensure the species is protected from overfishing