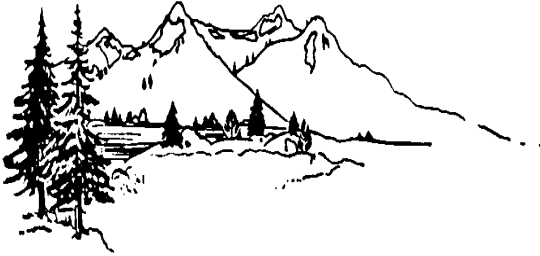


**TRINITY COUNTY FISH AND
GAME
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

P O Box 1917

Weaverville, CA 96093

trinityfishandgamecommission@gmail.com



Minutes – July 8, 2020

Chairman

Commissioner James Lee (At Large)

Vice Chairman

Commissioner Samantha Chilcote (Wildlife)

County Supervisor

Supervisor Keith Groves - Absent

Restoration

Commissioner Mike Dixon –

Present Via Zoom

Vacant

Recreation

Vacant

Vacant

Fisheries

Commissioner Kyle De Julio –

Late but present Via Zoom

Vacant

At Large

Commissioner Richard Cole – Present

Commissioner Charles Holthaus - Present

Wildlife

Commissioner Alex Ross - Absent

Secretary Tina Duong

This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

7:00 PM

Public Comment: Received comments from Liam Gogan

I. Approved the Minutes from April 22, 2020.

Motion:

Second:

Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Chilcote and Lee

Absent: Groves and Ross

II. Evening Program –Received a presentation from Justin Alvarez regarding brown trout management. See attached presentation.

III. On Going Reports

a. Restoration – Commissioner Dixon reported on the projects the Watershed in Hayfork have going on at this time: Salt creek flood plan Project and Indian Valley Creek Project. He also reported the projects the Yurok Tribe currently have going on: They are restoring stream flow on Indian Creek up from Indian Creek Valley. He reported that the County is working as CEQA lead with BLM on board should start in September. He also reported that the Resource Conservation District had some decommissioning and fuels treatment programs going on.

b. Trinity County Big Game Update, Deer Management Plan – Chairman Lee reported that the deer coordinator position at the state is vacant again. Nothing else to report.

c. Trinity River update – Commissioner DeJulio reported that Spring salmon opened on July 1st. He reported that during the last dry years they was concern about algae growth. He also reported that the Junction City Weir is in and they are catching fish. Commissioner Holthaus reported there were 19 adult salmon caught the first week and 95 adult salmon caught the second week along with 18 adult steelhead and 4 brown trout.

d. Department of Fish & Wildlife Report - None

e. NRA Collaboration Committee Report – Vice-Chairman Chilcolte reported that there is a meeting on Friday, July 10, 2020 at 10am.

f. Pacific Fisheries Management Council – Commissioner Cole reported Senator McGuire was appointed to the Council. Nothing else to report.

g. Grant Program – Vice-Chairman Chilcote to reach out to Southern Trinity to see if they held their event.

h. Correspondence Ad Hoc – Nothing to report.

IV. Old Business

- a. Beaver Letter – Vice-Chairman Chilcote discussed drafting a letter to CDFW regarding nuisance beavers. She said she believed the Commission sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors prior to 2018.

Action Item: Secretary Duong to research the Board of Supervisor Minutes to find out what happened.

V. New Business

a. Continued from April 22, 2020: Discussed the 2019 conflict of interest documents and advised the Secretary to report no changes at this time and dropped it from the agenda.

b. Commissioner DeJulio discussed having a steelhead derby. He said it would be similar to the Mad River Steelhead Days that start in January. He is envisioning the Steelhead Derby in Trinity being between Thanksgiving and Christmas and to be an event that brings sportsman activities to Trinity. In order to make the event a success they would need to get donations for prizes. However, do to COVID-19 it would be irresponsible to try and start it this year. The Commission discussed having a virtual derby but felt it would be better to have it in 2021. Chairman Lee asked if it was a possibility to combine the Steelhead Derby with brute stock. Vice-Chairman Chilcote and Commissioner DeJulio thought it would be to complicated to do at this time. They discussed if another agency would sponsor it.

Chairman Lee made a motion to create a subcommittee called Fishing Derby Committee with Commissioner DeJulio and Holthaus and Vice-Chairman Chilcote assigned to the committee.

Motion: Richard Cole **Second:** Kyle DeJulio

Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Chilcote and Lee

Absent: Groves and Ross

c. Discussed appointing an NRA Representative and assigned Commissioner Dixon as Primary and Vice-Chairman Chilcote as Secondary.

d. Discussed replacement for the Secretary position and the transition to the new person.

Offered the position to Steffanie Desrosiers.

Motion: Sam Chilcote **Second:** Richard Cole

Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Chilcote and Lee

Absent: Groves and Ross

Motion to allow overlap if Secretary Duong hasn't left.

Motion: Richard Cole **Second:** Samantha Chilcote

Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Chilcote and Lee

Absent: Groves and Ross

e. Discussed the Brown Trout Policy. Commissioner Cole asked if we want to eliminate brown trout in the Trinity, suppress them or do nothing. He said that is the question and it may not be an easy one. Commissioner DeJulio said Brown Trout have been in the

Trinity River for over a hundred years and we can't get rid of them. He said however, we could suppress them which is the only thing you could do. Commissioner DeJulio said the most valuable fishery for the county is steelhead and salmon fishery. He said if we want Steelhead and Salmon to rebound that suppressing Brown Trout is one tool to use. He said when Steelhead and Salmon rebound it would be his suspicion that Brown Trout would rebound in the same way delayed by several years because Salmon and Steelhead is a major part of their food source. He feels suppressing Brown Trout is a recovery plan for Brown Trout in the long run. Vice-Chairman Chilcote said that the Brown Trout are already suppressed. Commissioner DeJulio said that is the best time to Suppress them when they are already low.

Action Item: Commissioner Cole and DeJulio to write up a short statement regarding the goal for the Brown Trout Policy to clarify the position of the Commission.

f. Information Management (action tracker, Google Drive Account)- Vice Chairman Chilcote proposed using a google drive to share documents with the Commission and an action tracker to track projects or requests. Chairman Lee feels it's a good idea for the Commission to be able to view documents and correspondence. It was decided to use Vice-Chairman Chilcote's Google Drive for us to share information only, not for editing. Chairman and Vice-Chairman to manage the action tracker following the previous protocol to write documents.

Secretary Duong discussed the correspondence received from the State Fish and Game Commission.

VI. Staff Reports

- **Financial Report** – Budget Balance as of May 31, 2020: \$22,631.06
- **Fines and Fees** - Court Distribution for July 2019 - \$56.89, August 2019 - \$42.14, September 2019 - \$191.09, October 2019 - \$12.10, November 2019 - \$522.25, December 2019 - \$163.80, January 2020 - \$6.50, February 2020 \$25.57 and March 2020 - \$81.25 for a cumulative total of \$1,106.07 for fiscal year 2020/2021.

Accepted the financial report.

Motion: Second:

Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Chilcote and Lee

Absent: Groves and Ross

VII. Approval of Claims

- Revised the Secretary Fee to \$150.

Motion: Second:

Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Chilcote and Lee

Absent: Groves and Ross

Approved the Secretary Fee for April 22, 2020 - \$150

Motion: Second:

Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Chilcote and Lee

Absent: Groves and Ross

- Approved the Trinity Journal claim for Secretary Advertisement - \$49.40

Motion: Second:

Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Chilcote and Lee

Absent: Groves and Ross

Adjournment Next Meeting

September 9, 2020

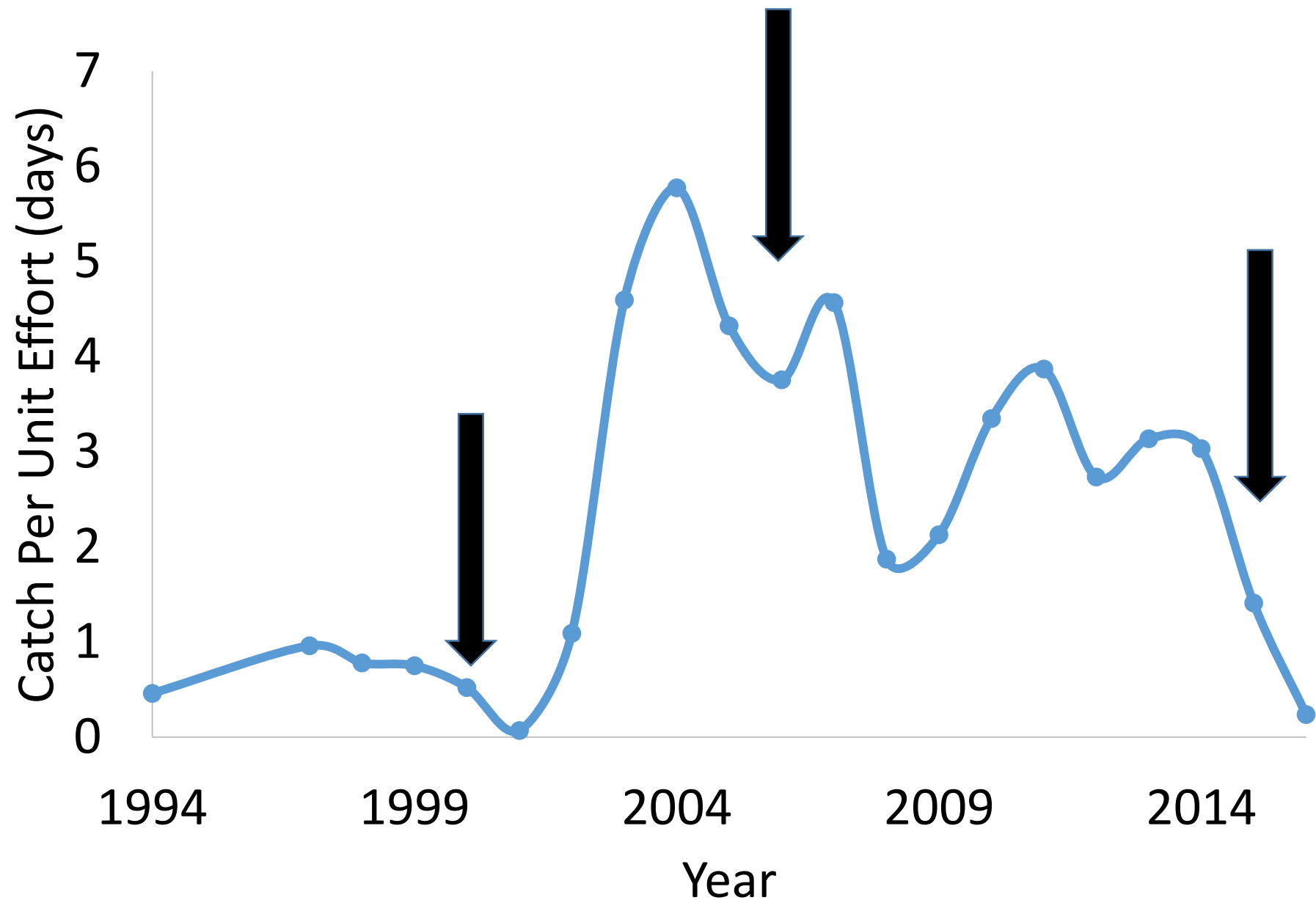
Presentation from Justin Alvarez regarding Brown Trout Management





Natural History

- Can live up to ~20 years in some systems
- Caught a 12 year old in Trinity River
- Population primarily in upper 60 miles below Lewiston Dam
- Brown Trout are seen and captured all the way down to the Klamath estuary
- Diets are opportunistic.
- Smallest Brown with a fry in its belly was 11cm
- Most fish over 30cm are piscivorous
- Mortality rates range from 35 to 70% each year Trinity is about 42%







Diet

- Sampled 715 stomachs
- Sources were electrofishing, weir, and angling
- Interesting contents
 - Coho
 - Chinook
 - Steelhead
 - Brown Trout
 - Lamprey
 - Pacific Giant Salamanders
 - Yellow Legged Frogs
 - Three-spine stickleback
 - Speckled Dace



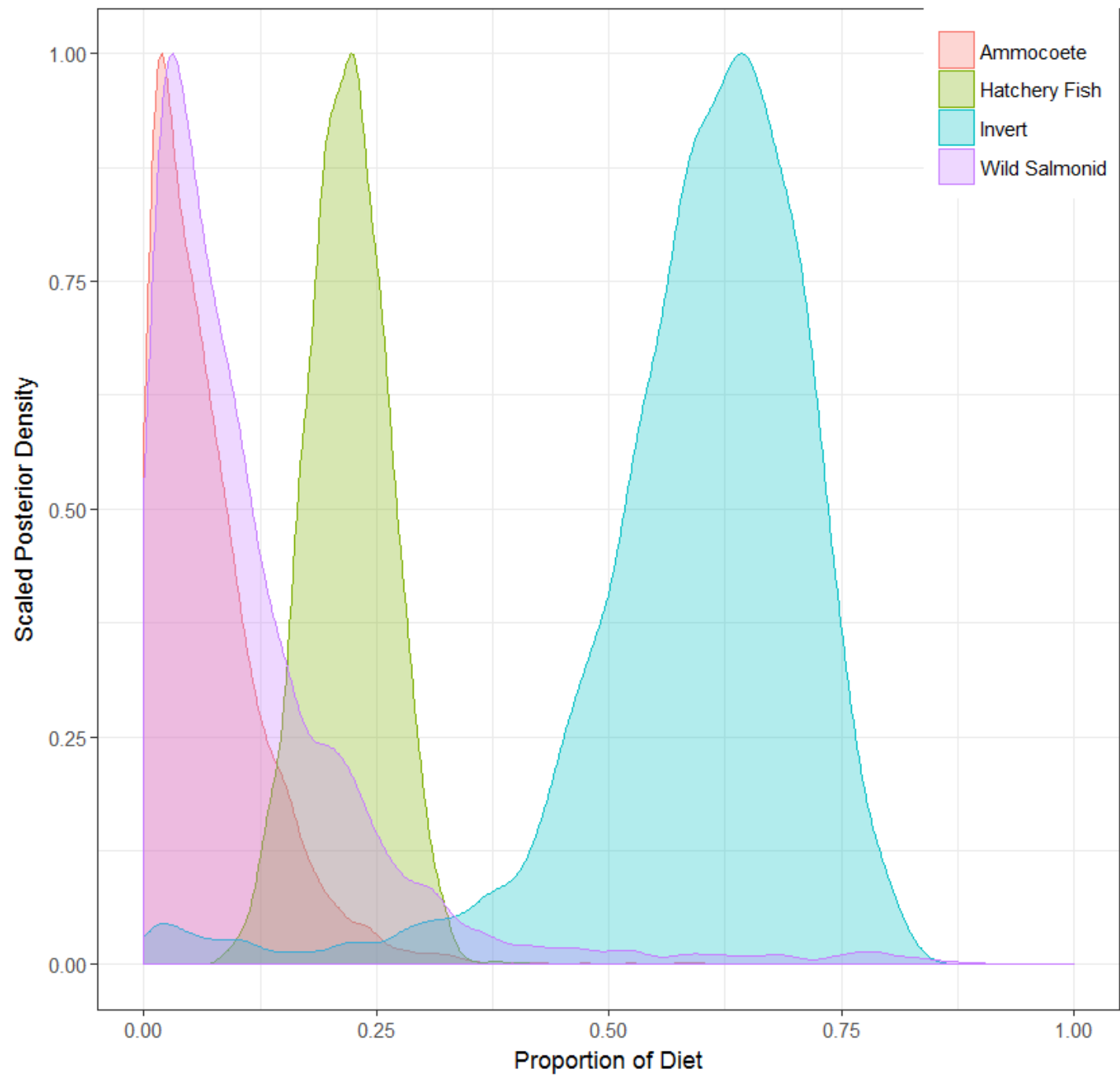
Diet

- Salmon
- Trout
- Invertebrates

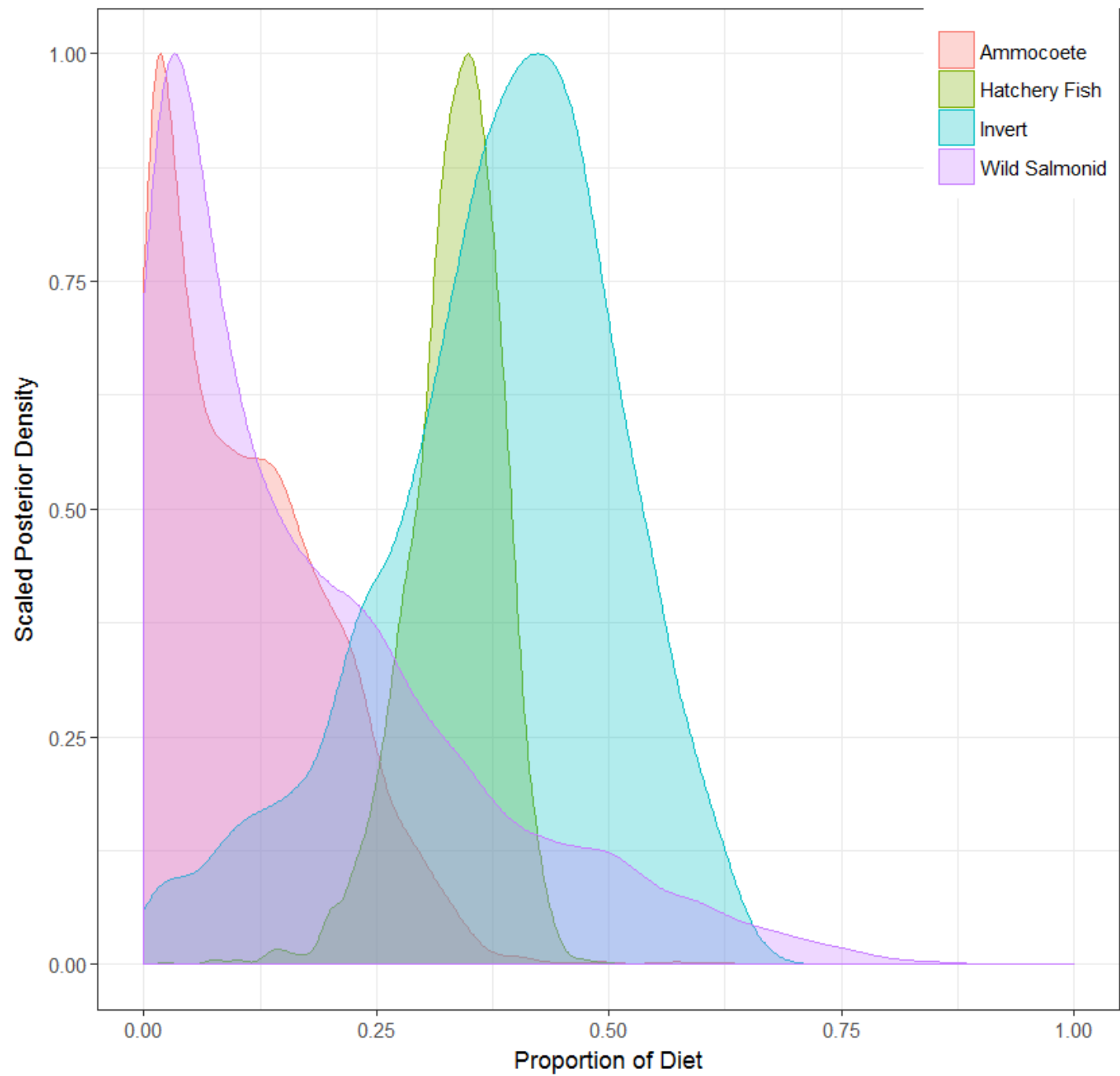


- Lamprey
- Pacific Giant Salamanders
- Yellow Legged Frogs
- Three-spine stickleback
- Speckled Dace

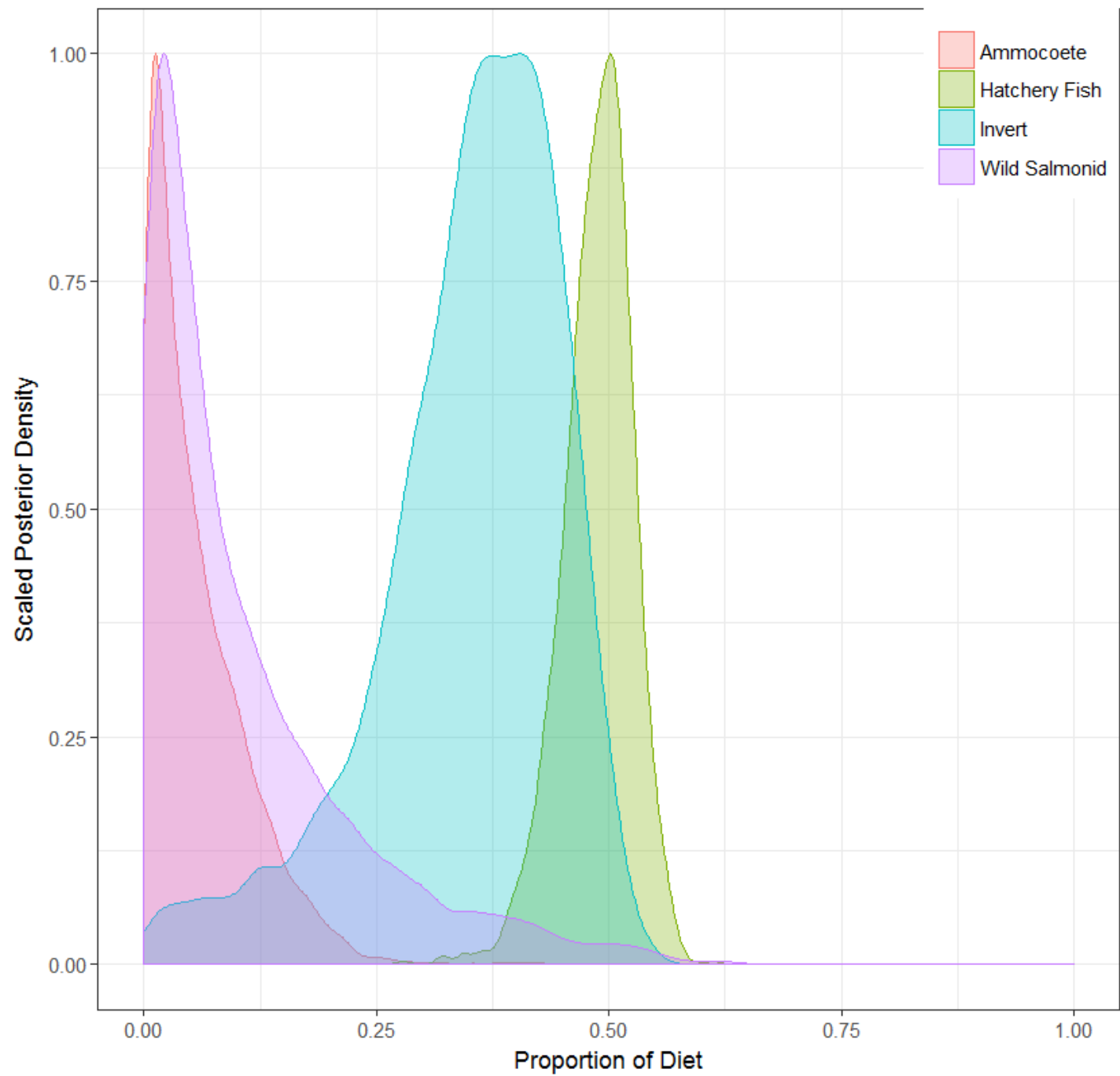
Group 1



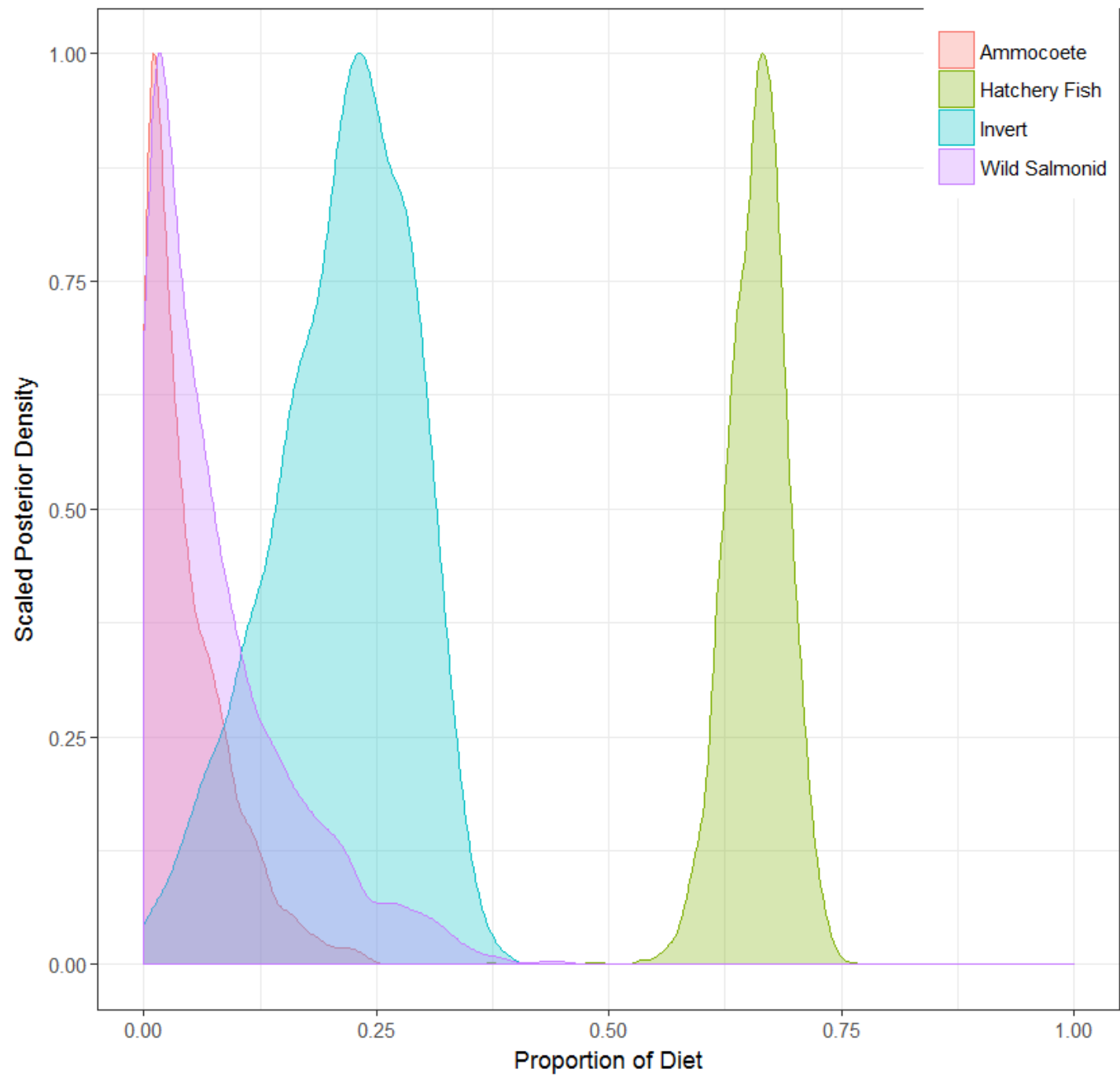
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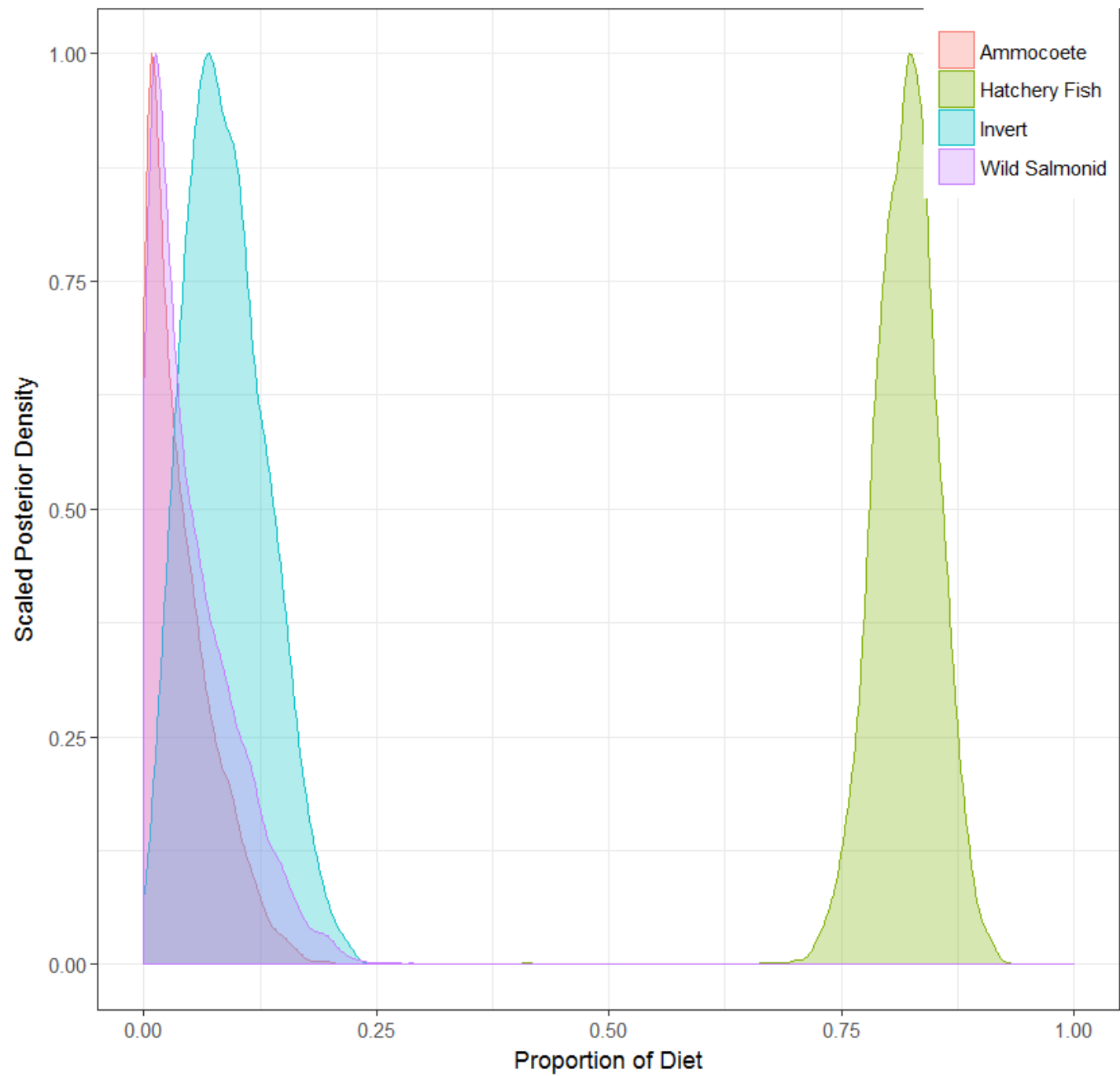
Group 3



Group 4

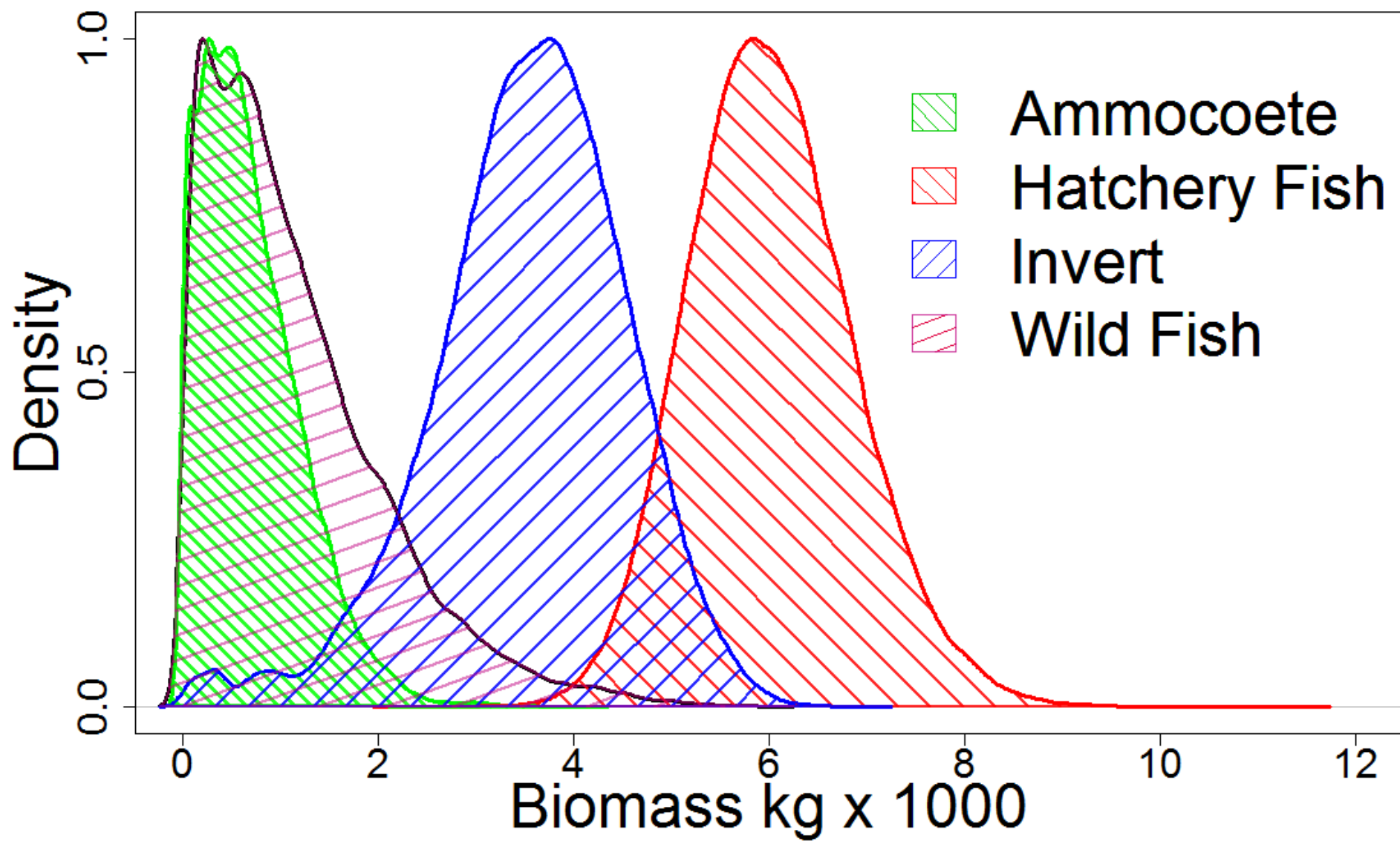


Group 5



$$\text{Consumption} = \text{Metabolism} + \text{Waste} + \text{Growth}$$





What does that mean?

- 6,000 kg of hatchery fish
- 1,000 kg of wild fish
- 600kg ammocoetes

Thesis Findings

- 2015 estimate was ~1500
- Population seems to be dropping
- Heavily reliant on hatchery fish to maintain population biomass
- Piscivorous nature will put increased burden on fish with longer in-river residency

Actions being taken

- Bag and Possession limit was changed for recreational anglers
- Removal at the Junction City Weir

- Next Steps
- Evaluation of population change