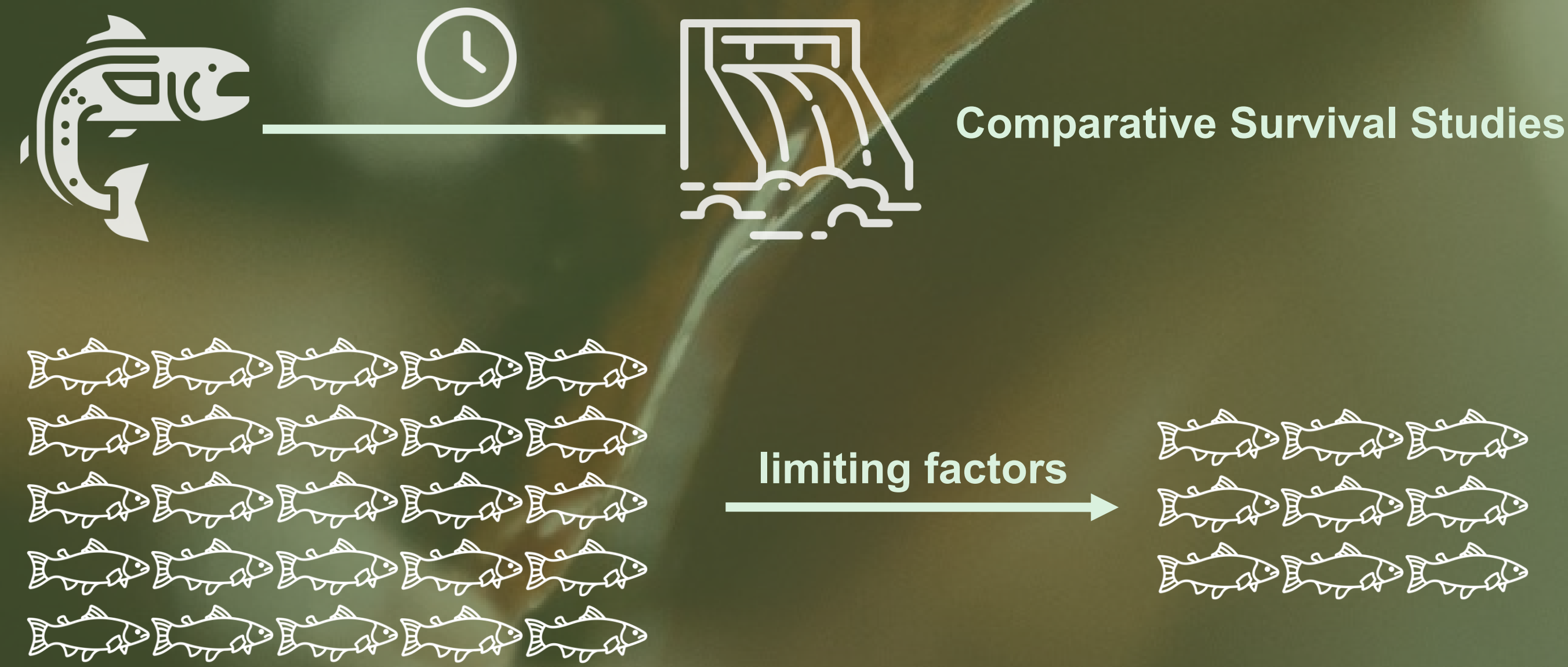


From Fry to Freedom: Tracing the Odyssey of Sockeye Salmon in the Okanagan Basin

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Faced with perilous decline due to overfishing, hydro dams, habitat degradation, and impassable dams, the *súwin* (Sockeye Salmon) population in the mid-1990s plummeted below 5,000. A collaborative visionary reintroduction program *kt cpálk stímí* 'cause to come back' marked the beginning of a long-term effort toward the ultimate goal of restoring Sockeye Salmon in the Okanagan Basin.

Objectives



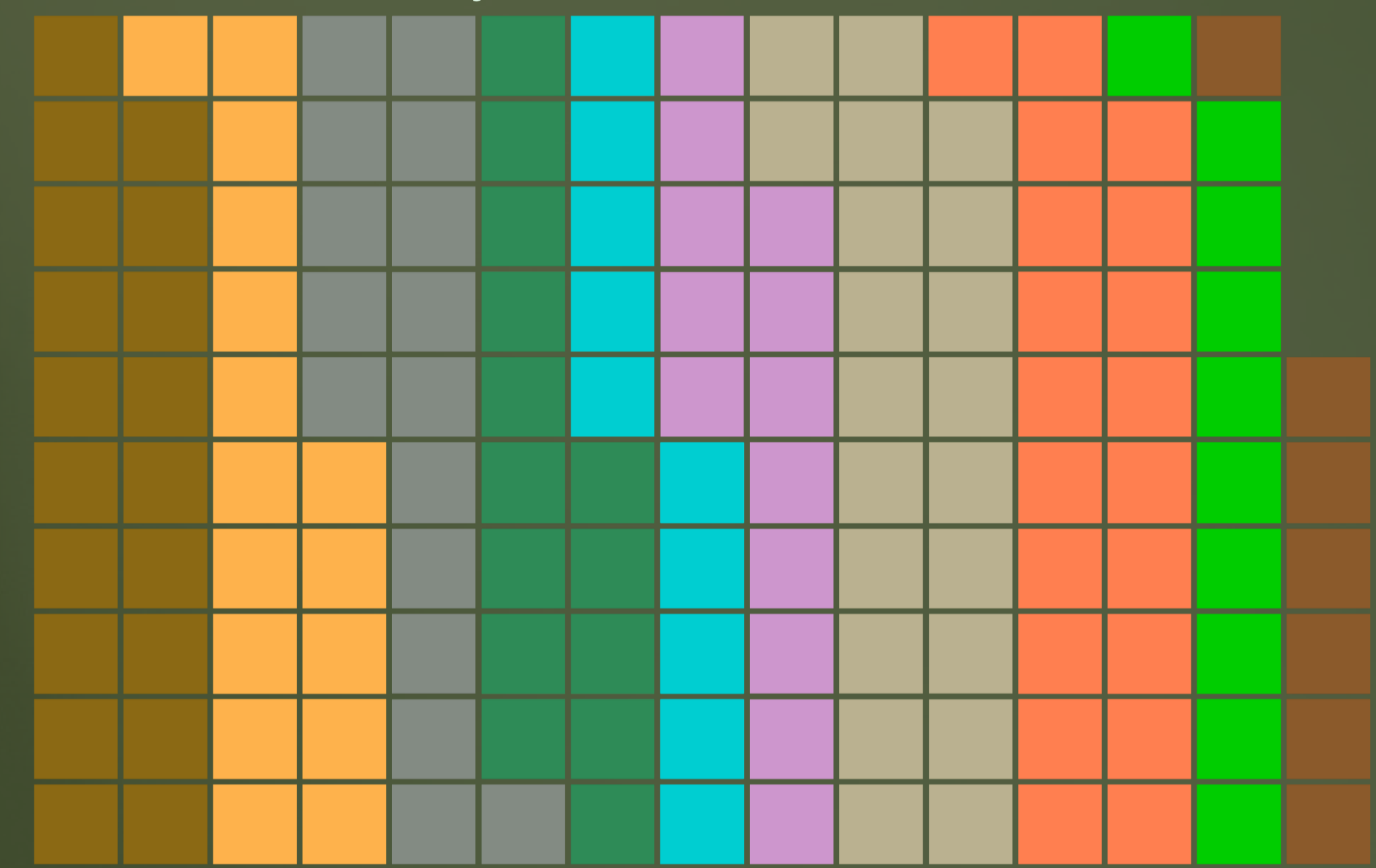
Methods



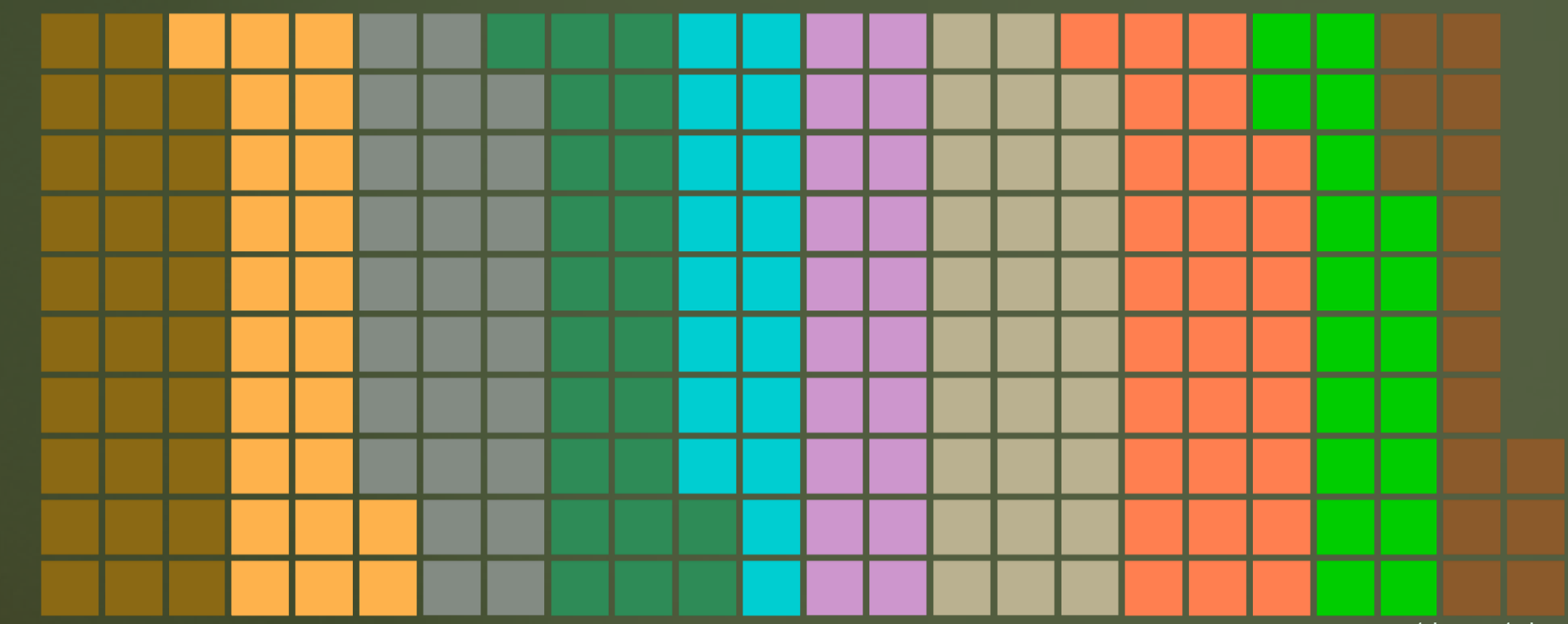
Counter-clockwise from left:
1. Fyke net
2. Rotary screw trap
3. Broodbag and whoosh release
4. Tagging crew
5. Purse seine

Results and Discussion

Release to Rocky Reach Dam



Release to Bonneville Dam



2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021* 2022 2023

*Osoyoos Lake population only

- Survival from release to Rocky Reach Dam is comparatively higher than those to Bonneville Dam
- From release to Rocky Reach Dam, in recent years, shorter travel time leads to higher survival rates
- Smolt out-migration occurs between late April and mid May
- Improve Comparative Survival Studies with larger samples and continuous annual sampling

1999

ONA and CCT initiated research funded by BPA to assess Sockeye reintroduction feasibility

2003

- 3-year *tú?cin* (Skaha Lake) risk assessment and feasibility studies
- Low risk identified
- Implemented Experimental Reintroduction Plan for Sockeye in Skaha Lake

2004

Pilot year of hatchery (Shuswap) production: released 352,500 fry

2005

Year 1 of hatchery/experimental production: released 1,205,500 fry into *sqáwsitk* (the Okanagan River)

2009

CRITFC and ONA installed PIT array 'OKC' upstream of *nk'mip* (Osoyoos Lake)

2011

First return of adult Sockeye to Skaha Lake

2012

Year 1 of out-migrating Sockeye Salmon Smolt PIT Tag program

2014

- Establishment of *kt cpálk stímí* Hatchery in Penticton, BC
- 2-year Skaha Lake Dam fish passage monitoring: PIT, video, acoustic tag, flow

2016

ONA conducted purse seine trials in Skaha and Osoyoos lakes

2018

PIT array 'OKP' operating in the Okanagan River

2023

- Initiated Year 1 of *kt cpálk stímí* Hatchery PIT tagged Sockeye fry release in *klusxnitk* (Okanagan Lake)
- Installed PIT array downstream of Okanagan Lake Dam and in the fish ladder

