

There are several disorienting features in the graphs provided on slide 9 by the Department of Fish and Game.

These include:

1. Breaks in the Y-Axis

When a graph's Y-axis does not begin at \$0, it can exaggerate small differences in the data. This can make modest growth look dramatic or make small declines look severe.

In financial data especially, starting at zero helps viewers understand proportional change. Truncated axes are not always wrong, but they must be clearly labeled and interpreted cautiously.

2. Different Y-Axis Scales

Even if two graphs look similar, using different vertical intervals changes how steep data appears.

As a result, the graph with the smaller interval (\$1 million steps) will appear more volatile or dramatic. This makes side-by-side comparison misleading because the same dollar increase may look much larger in one graph than the other.

3. Different X-Axis Starting Years

When timelines don't align, trends may appear longer or shorter. Without matching time frames, comparisons are incomplete and potentially biased.

4. Different Overall Floor and Ceiling Numbers

Because the vertical ranges differ, the same dollar change represents a different proportion of the total axis range. makes movement appear more dramatic in the graph with the smaller total range.

5. Please note that the the William Jack Hernandez Hatchery match balance calculation is current as of 02/12/2025; the Ruth Burnett Hatchery match balance calculation is dated to 01/12/2026.

Attached is an alternative graph committee members may look at:

