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FISHERIES

Alaska Fisheries
Science Center

C4: Joint Groundfish Plan Team meeting report

Jim Ianelli and Chris Lunsford (GOA co-chairs)
Sara Cleaver (GOA coordinator)

Steve Barbeaux and Kalei Shotwell (BSAI co-chairs)
Diana Stram (BSAI coordinator)
November 2022

Joint Meeting of the Groundfish Plan Teams for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) MINUTES

November 14-18, 2022
Hybrid Meeting: Seattle, Washington, AFSC

BSAI Groundfish Plan Team Members:

Steve Barbeaux	AFSC REFM (co-chair)	Kirstin Holsman	AFSC REFM
Kalei Shotwell	AFSC REFM (co-chair)	Phil Joy	ADF&G
Cindy Tribuzio	AFSC ABL (vice chair)	Andy Kingham	AFSC FMA
Diana Stram	NPFMC (coordinator)	Beth Matta	AFSC REFM
Caitlin Allen Akselrud	AFSC RACE	Andrew Seitz	UAF
Mary Furuness	NMFS AKRO	Michael Smith	AFSC REFM
Allan Hicks	IPHC	Jane Sullivan	AFSC ABL
Lisa Hillier	WDFW		

GOA Groundfish Plan Team Members:

Jim Ianelli	AFSC REFM (co-chair)	Nat Nichols	ADF&G
Chris Lunsford	AFSC ABL (co-chair)	Cecilia O'Leary	AFSC GAP
Sara Cleaver	NPFMC (coordinator)	Andrew Olson	ADF&G
Kristan Blackhart	NMFS OS&T	Jan Rumble	ADF&G
Obren Davis	NMFS AKRO	Paul Spencer	AFSC REFM
Craig Faunce	AFSC FMA	Marysia Szymkowiak	AFSC REFM
Lisa Hillier	WDFW	Ben Williams	AFSC ABL
Pete Hulson	AFSC ABL	Kresimir Williams	AFSC RACE
Sandra Lowe	AFSC REFM		

Joint Plan Team Meeting overview and agenda

Overview

- Date: November 14th
- Place: Seattle and online

Agenda

- Sablefish
- Working group
- Economic update

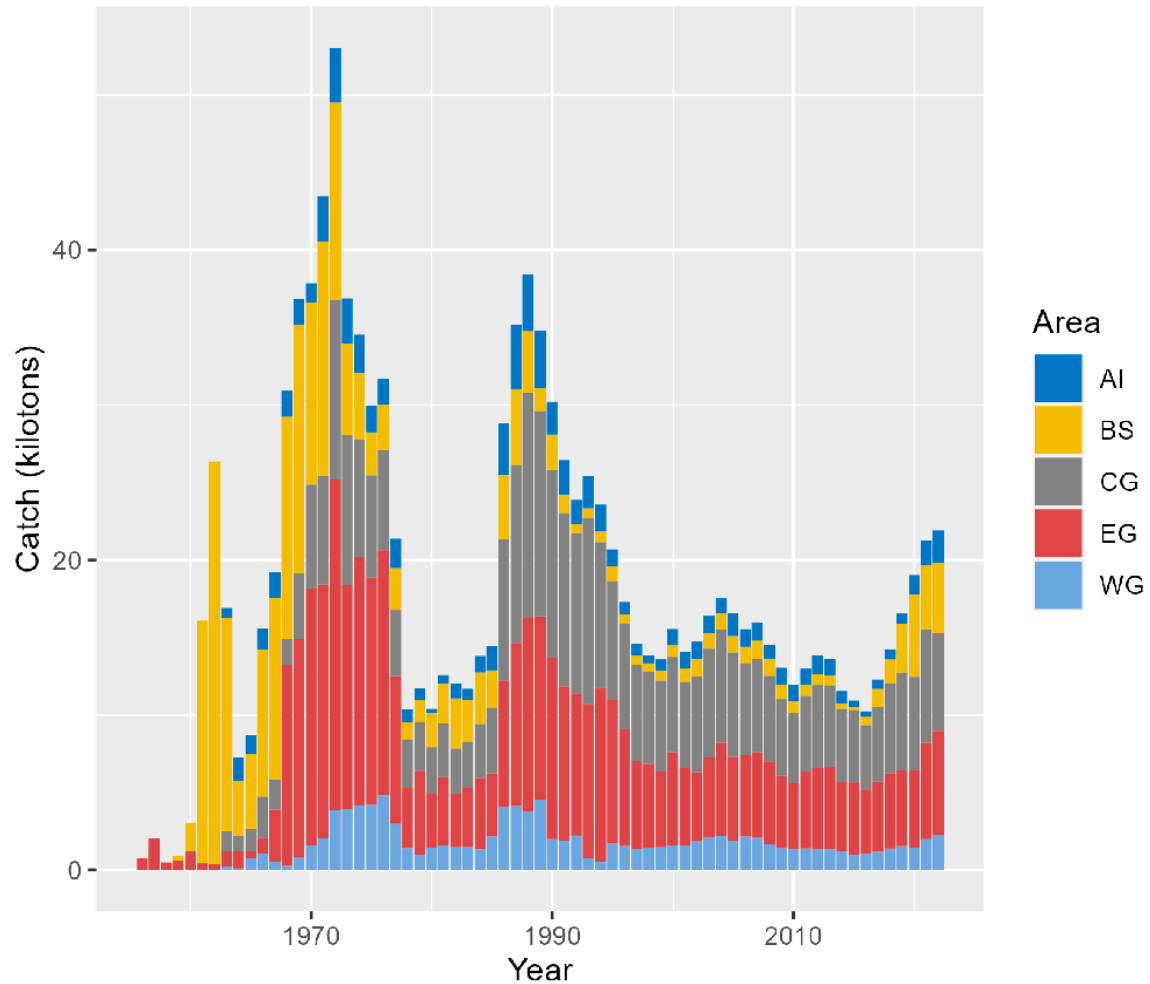
Sablefish assessment- data

Source	Data	Years
Fixed gear fisheries	Catch	1960 – 2022
Trawl fisheries	Catch	1960 – 2022
Japanese longline fishery	Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE)	1964 – 1981
U.S. fixed gear fishery	CPUE, length	1990 – 2021
	Age	1999 – 2021
U.S. trawl fisheries	Length	1990, 1991, 1999, 2005 – 2021
Japan-U.S. cooperative longline survey	RPNs, length	1979 - 1994
	Age	1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993
Domestic longline survey	RPNs, length	1990 – 2022
	Age	1996 – 2021
NMFS GOA trawl survey	Biomass index	1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021
	Lengths	1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021

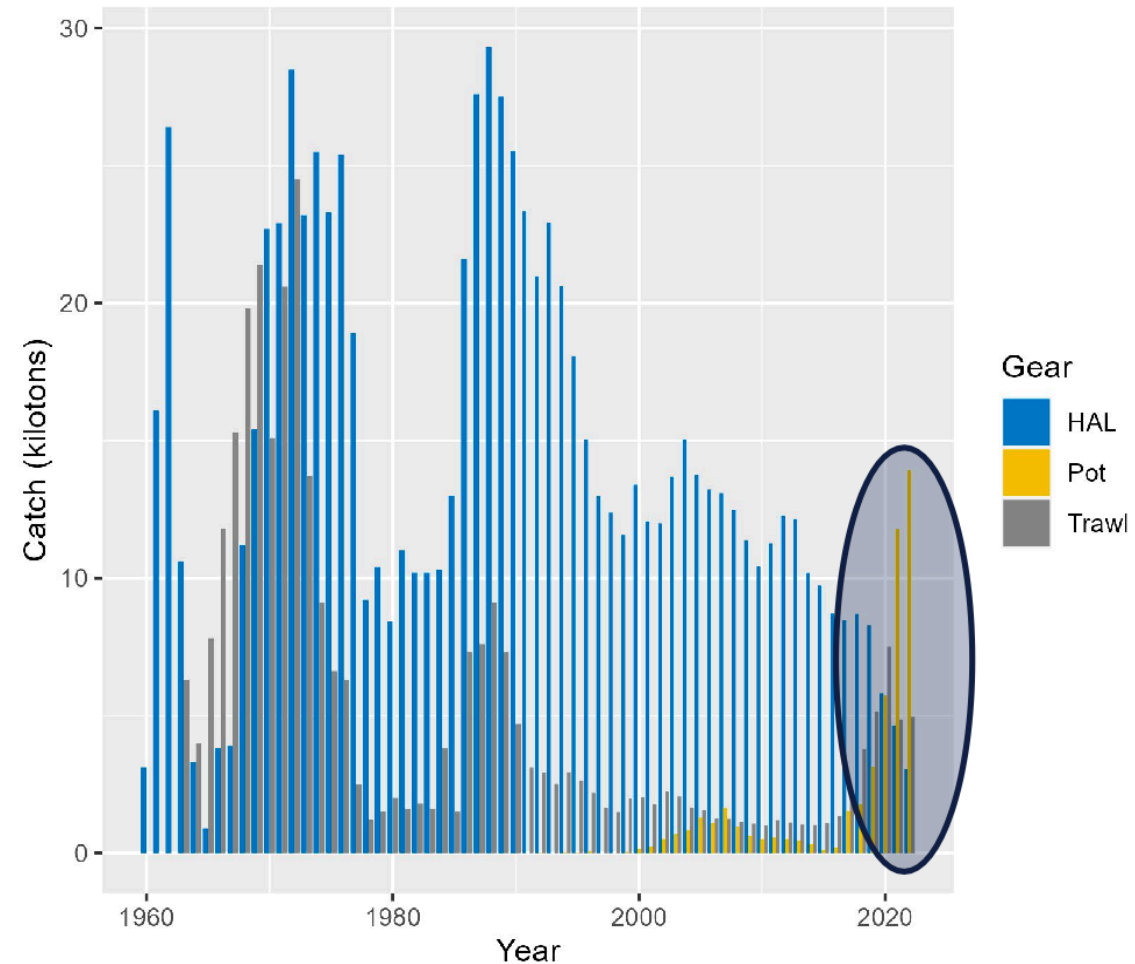
Sablefish- catch

- Catch in pot gear increasing rapidly

Catch by NPFMC Area

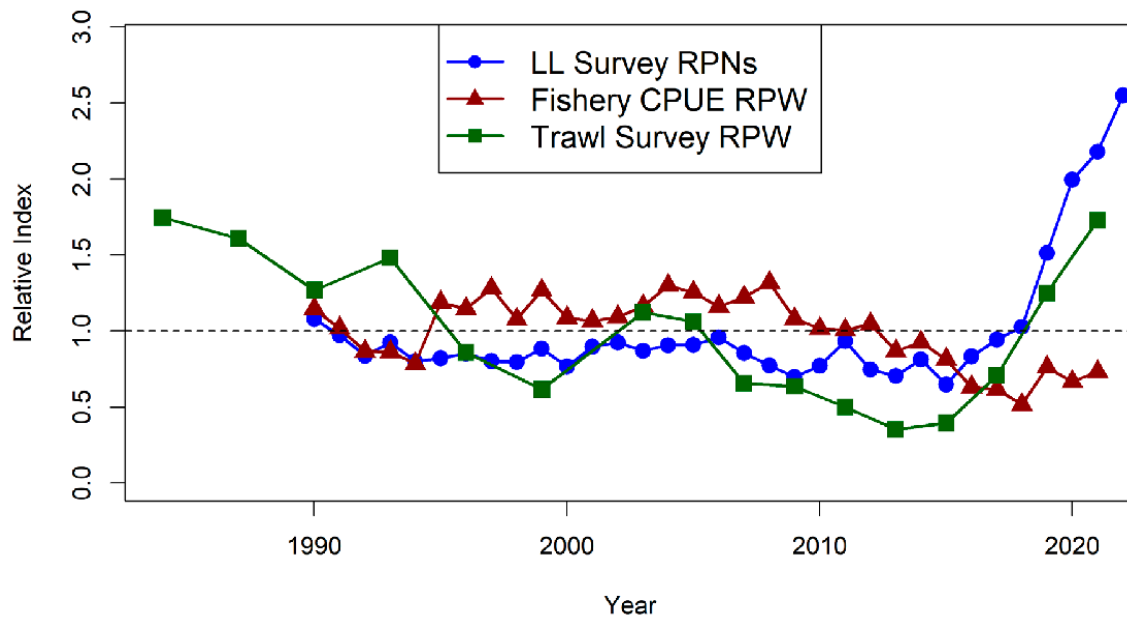


Catch by Gear Type



Sablefish assessment

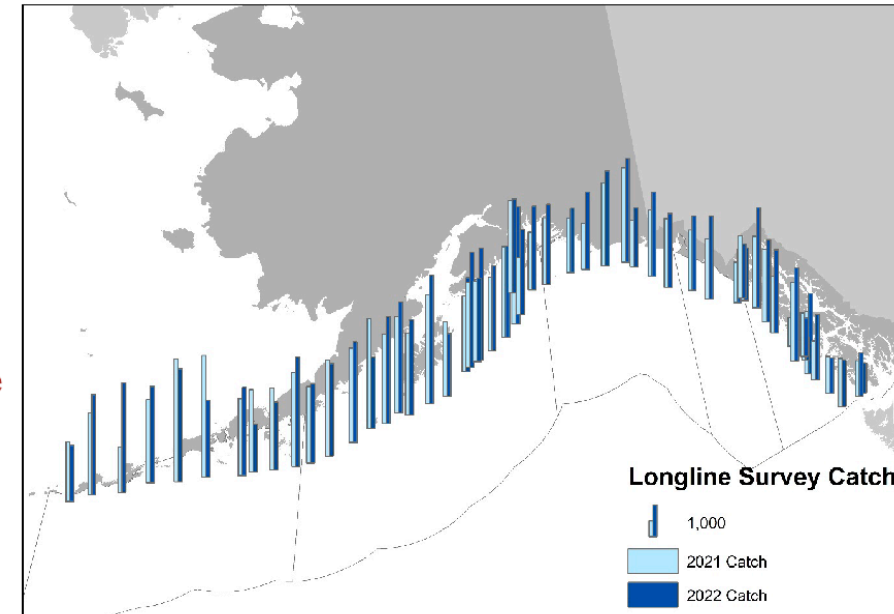
- Longline survey abundance continues increase
- BSAI constitutes > 50% of survey biomass in 2022



17% Increase

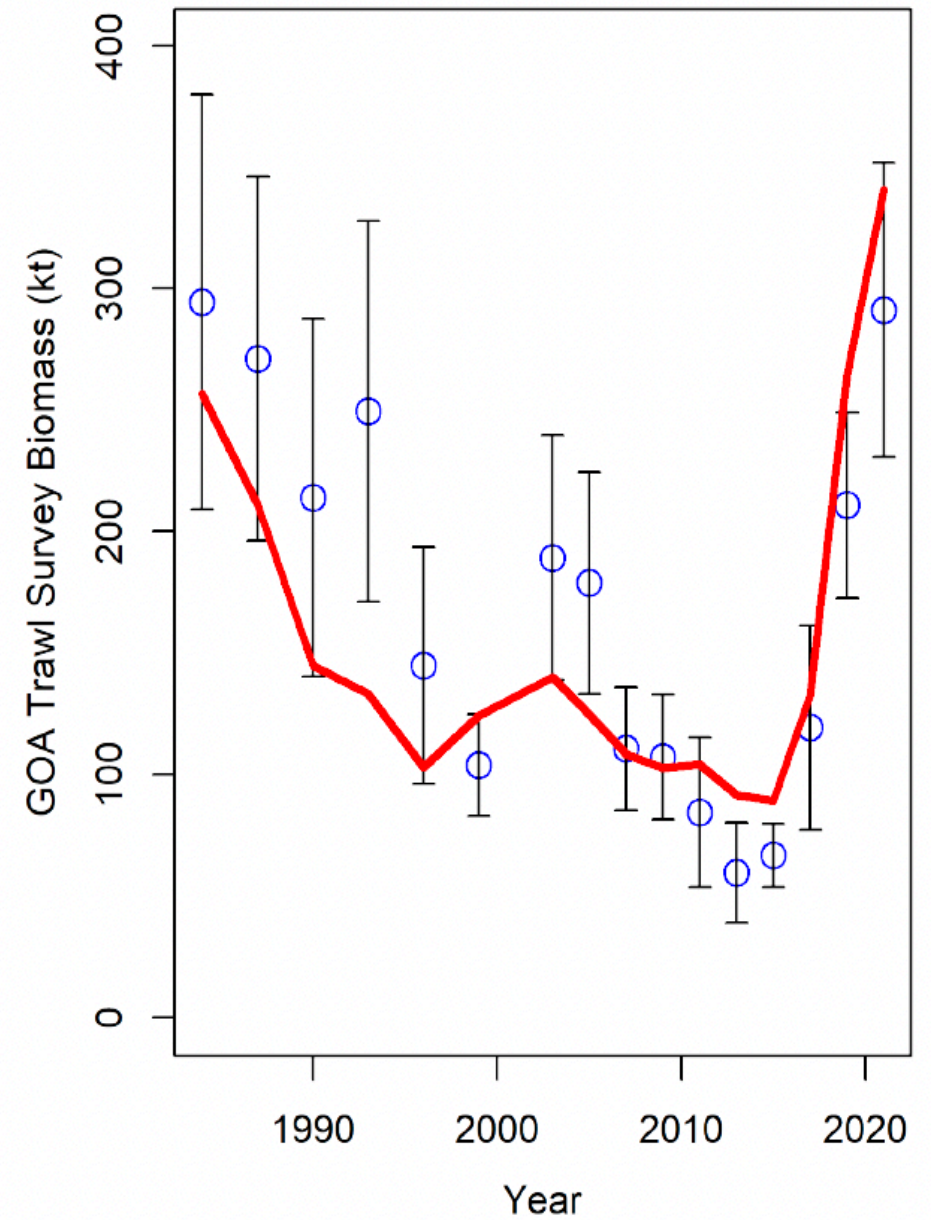
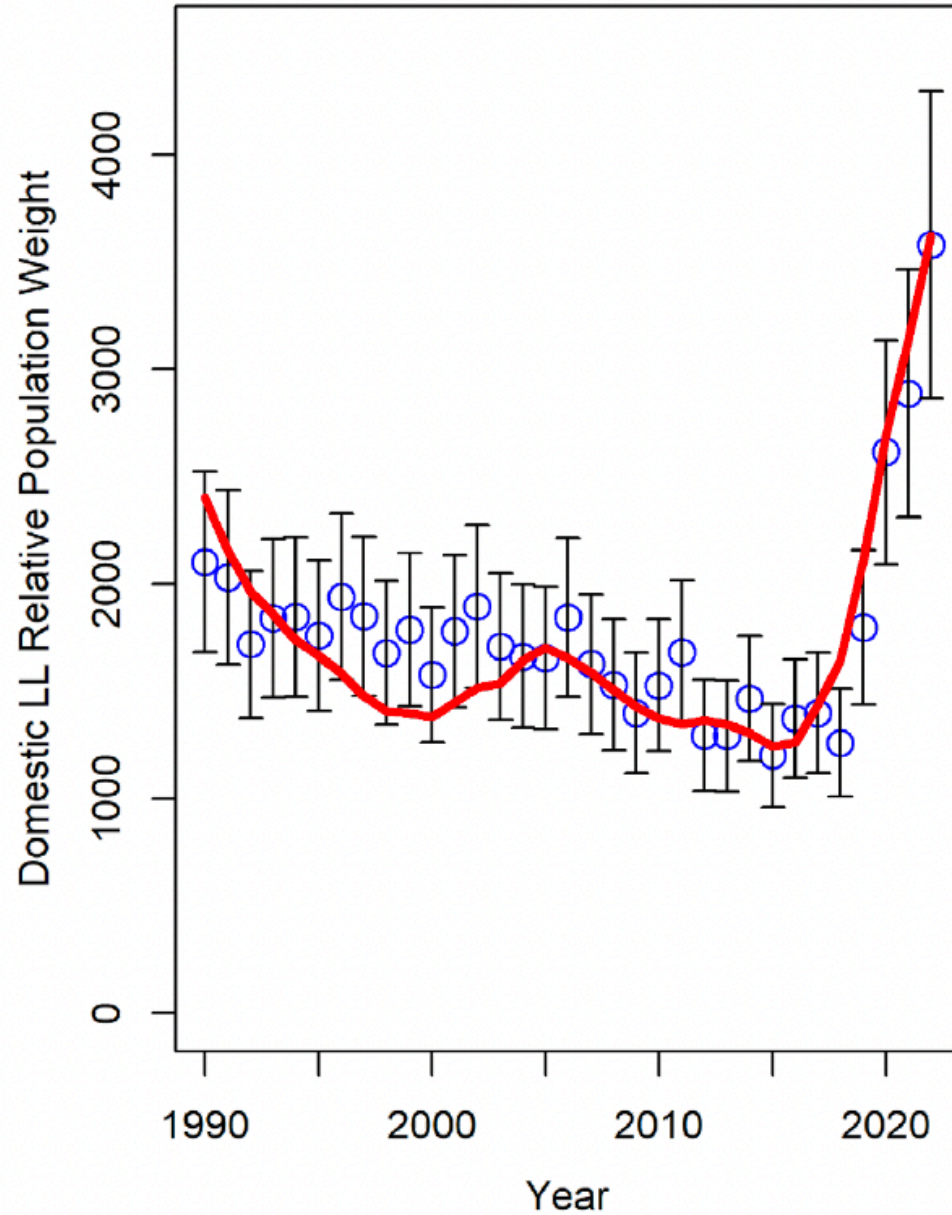
**40% Increase
(in 2021)**

**CPUE Increasingly Unreliable
due to Increase in Pot Gear**



Sablefish assessment

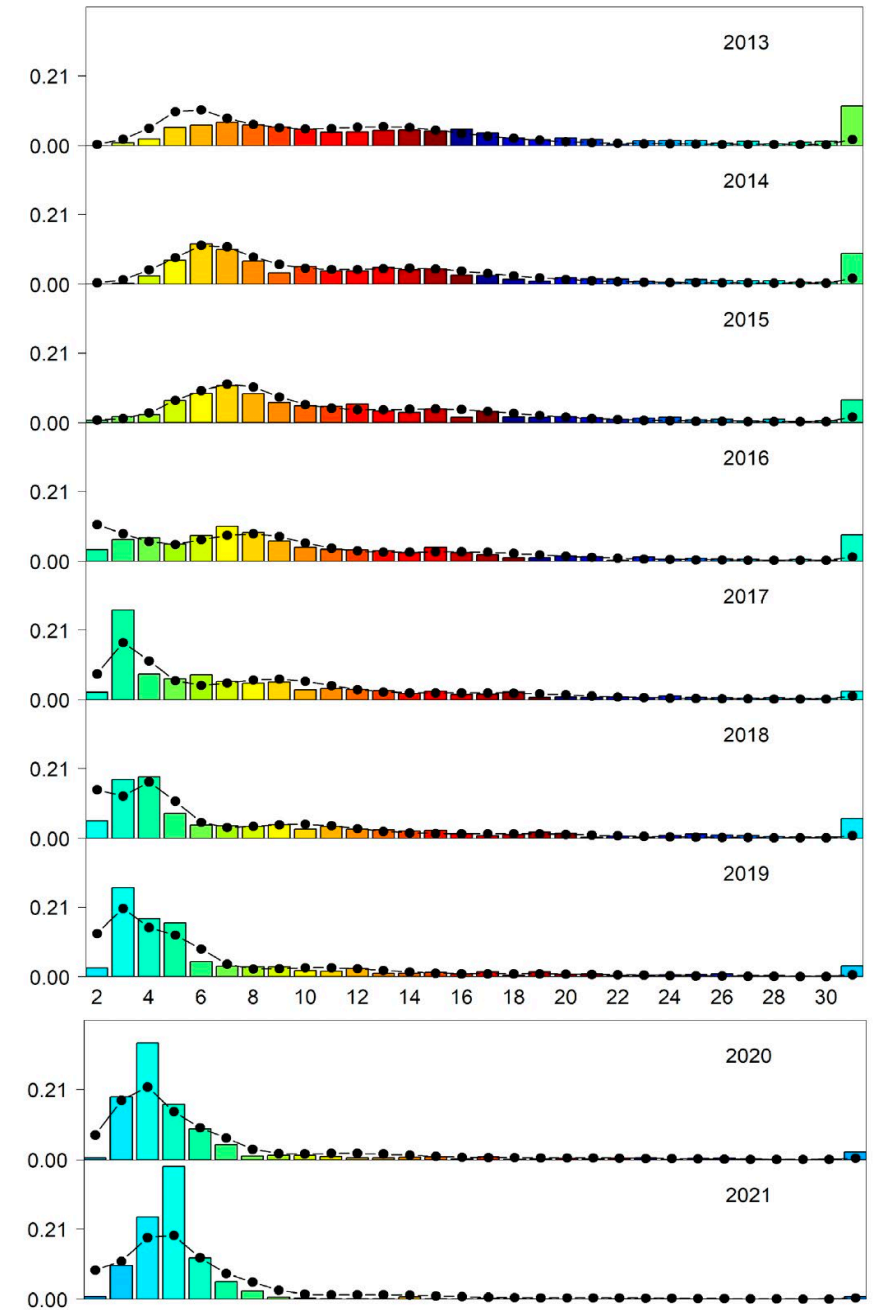
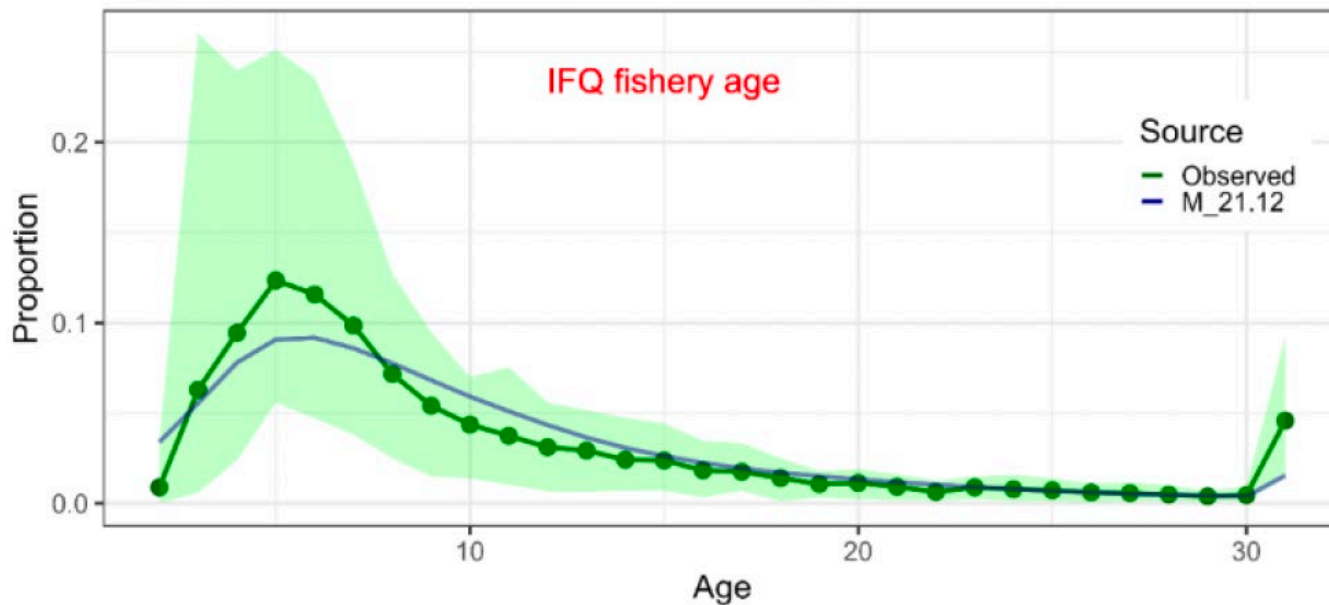
Fits to
indices



Sablefish assessment

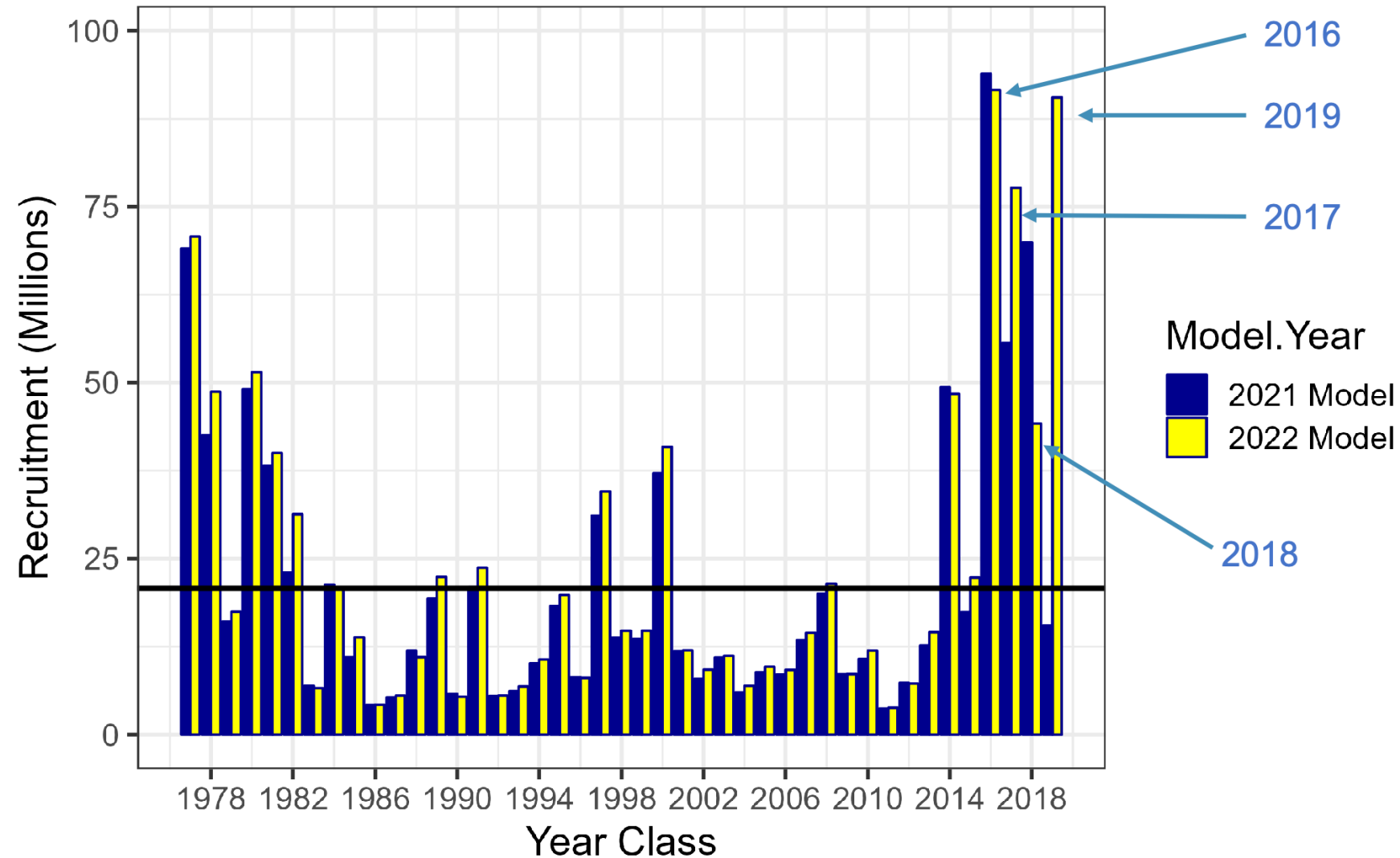
Fits to composition data

Aggregated observed compositions and predictions



Sablefish assessment- Recruitment

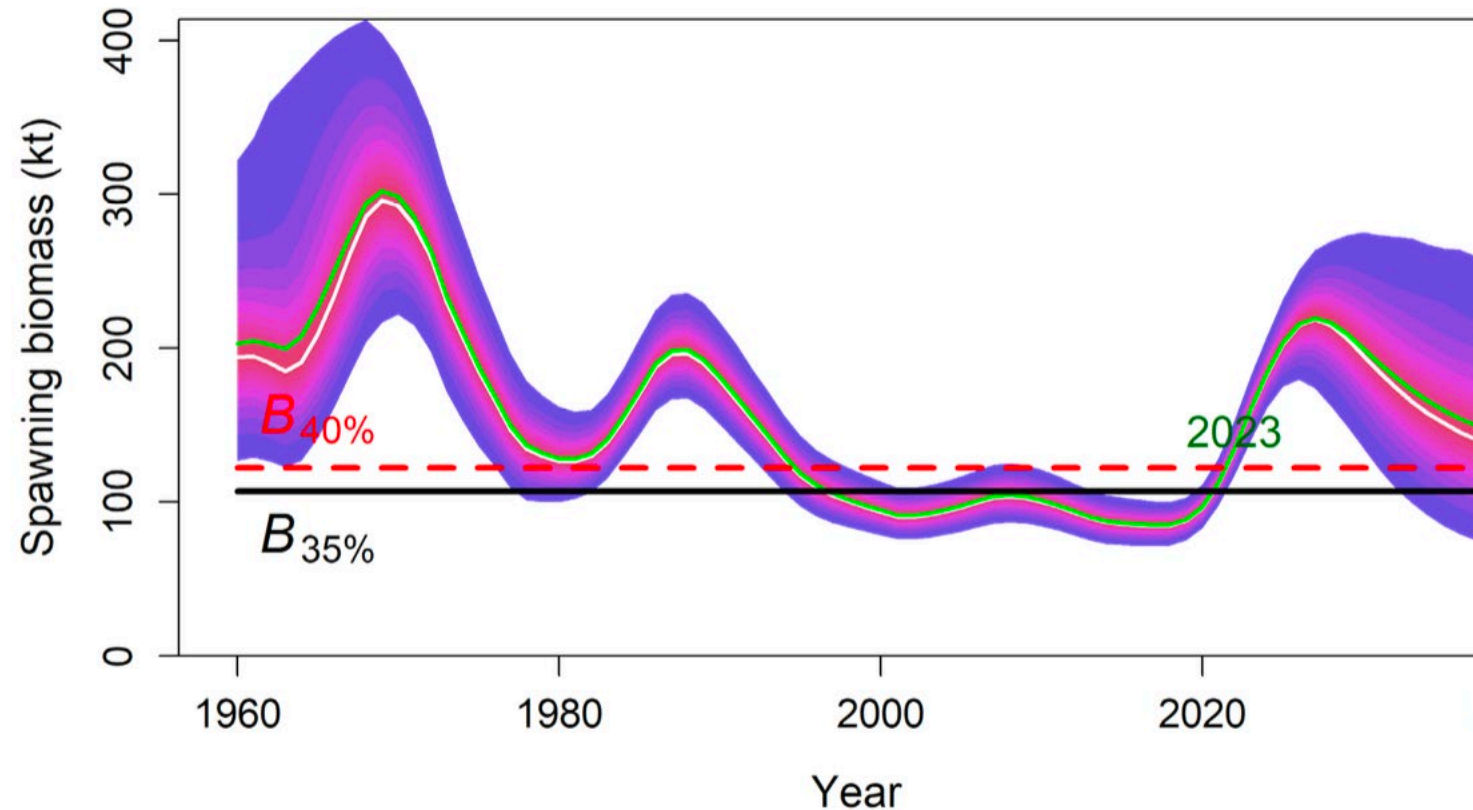
2016 largest on record?
2017 & 2019 big too...
(but 2019 highly uncertain)



Sablefish assessment

Summary:

- Spawning biomass increasing
- 2023 ABC = 40,502 t (*3rd highest catch*, if full ABC taken)



Sablefish assessment- Summary Table

Quantity/Status	As estimated or specified <i>last</i> year for (model 21.12):		As estimated or recommended <i>this</i> year for (model 21.12):	
	2022*	2023*	2023*	2024*
M (natural mortality rate, estimated)	0.100	0.100	0.105	0.105
Tier	3a	3a	3a	3a
Projected total (age 2+) biomass (t)	574,599	582,536	678,562	675,058
Projected female spawning biomass (t)	128,789	153,820	159,788	186,126
$B_{100\%}$	295,351	295,351	305,595	305,595
$B_{40\%}$	118,140	118,140	122,238	122,238
$B_{35\%}$	103,373	103,373	106,958	106,958
F_{OFL}	0.094	0.094	0.096	0.096
$maxF_{ABC}$	0.080	0.080	0.081	0.081
F_{ABC}	0.080	0.080	0.081	0.081
OFL (t)	40,839	42,948	47,857	49,040
OFL_w (t)**	40,432	42,520	47,390	48,561
max ABC (t)	34,863	36,670	40,861	41,876
ABC (t)	34,863	36,670	40,861	41,876
ABC_w (t)**	34,521	36,318	40,502	41,539
Status	As determined <i>last</i> year for:		As determined <i>this</i> year for:	
	2020	2021	2021	2022
Overfishing	No	n/a	No	n/a
Overfished	n/a	No	n/a	No
Approaching overfished	n/a	No	n/a	No



Sablefish: Area Apportionments

Incremental based on 5-year average survey biomass proportions
Year 3 (75%) of the SSC 4-year stair step

Area	AI	BS	WG	CG	WY*	EY*	Total
2022 ABC	6,486	5,305	3,821	10,008	3,179	6,064	34,863
2023 ABC	8,892	8,450	4,533	9,972	2,970	6,044	40,861
2019 - 2021 avg. depredation	6	21	51	52	63	147	340
Ratio 2023:2022 ABC	1.37	1.59	1.19	1.00	0.93	1.00	1.17
Deduct 3 year adjusted average	-8	-33	-60	-51	-60	-147	-359
**2023 ABC_w	8,884	8,417	4,473	9,921	2,910	5,897	40,502
Change from 2022 ABC _w	37%	60%	20%	0%	-15%	4%	17%

*Before 95:5 hook and line : trawl split between WY and EY/SE shown below.

**ABC_w is the author recommended ABC that accounts for whale depredation.

Sablefish- PT discussion & recommendations

The Teams

- Agreed with author recommendations with apportionment strategy from SSC
- **Recommended evaluation abundance in “plus” age group**
Concern about apparent declining proportion in plus group
- Noted a potential technical issue using fishery CPUE in model
Fishery composition data should be scaled relative abundance rather than catch

Plan Team Recommendations on Working Groups (WG)

The Teams requested the SSC consider forming working groups

1. Focused on data-limited/Tier 6 methods, and
2. That address current policies affecting harvest control rules

Develop approaches to account for climate change impacts on ecosystems

Explore how environmental data could be used (e.g., to inform recruitment)

The Teams noted

- There are projects already funded that may address these
- Researchers should work together on these issues

Risk tables

Joint Teams discussed risk table issues:

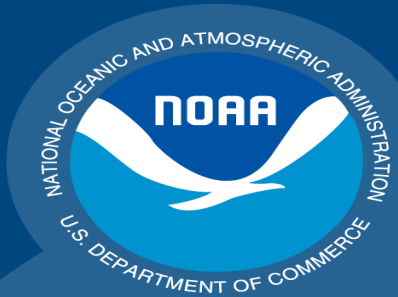
Application varies across assessments

Rationales were reviewed and judged as reasonable

Economic SAFE chapter

SSC Review in Feb 2023

- Teams received a presentation, noted accessibility of data and information
- Intro-sections of BSAI and GOA SAFEs contain summary of relevant changes in conditions



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Questions?

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