



Gulf of Alaska Sablefish Pots Review

Presentation to the NPFMC
April 2021

Sara Cleaver, NPFMC



History of Action, p9

- GOA Amendment 14 (1985): banned the use of pots for fishing for sablefish
- 2006 - on : Council receives testimony and written comment concerned with whale depredation in the HAL fishery
- April 2015 – Council establishes preferred alternative for GOA sablefish pots
- Jan 2017 – GOA Amendment 101 regulations effective



Amendment 101, p10

Allow the use of pot longline gear in the GOA Sablefish IFQ fishery.

Element 1. Pot limits / pot tags

Element 2. Gear retrieval

Element 3. Gear specifications

Element 4. Retention of incidentally caught halibut



Participation: Vessels, p12

TABLE 2-1, P12

GOA Sablefish IFQ Vessels by Gear Type				
Year	# Pot vessels	# HAL vessels	All vessels that fished GOA sablefish IFQ	Vessels that used both pot and HAL
2014		299	299	
2015		293	293	
2016		290	290	
2017	22	276	283	15
2018	23	270	281	12
2019	32	251	265	18
2020	104	219	254	69

FIGURE 2-1, P14

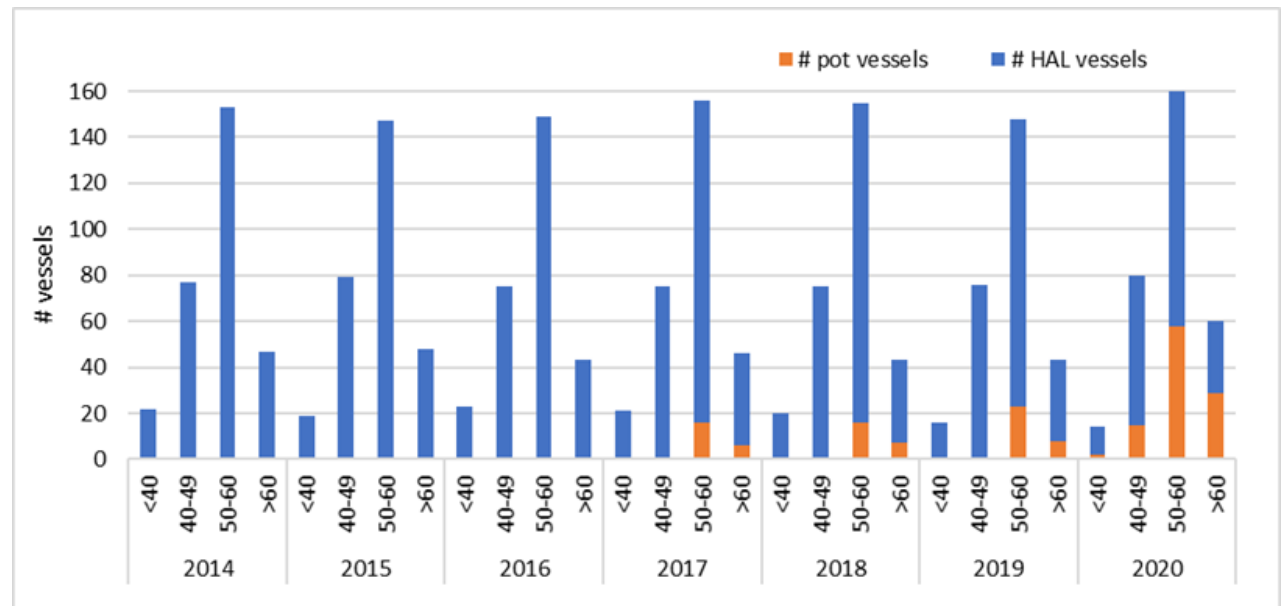


TABLE 2-9, P20

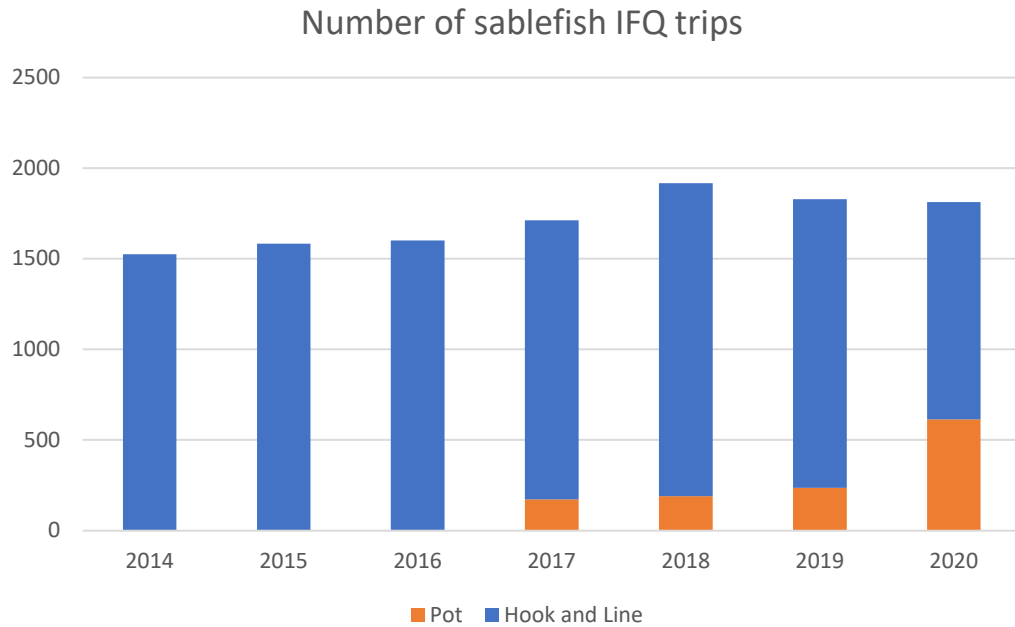
Port of Landing	% of all GOA pot-caught sablefish IFQ sold at this port	% pot-caught sablefish, port level	# deliveries of pot-caught sablefish	# distinct vessels delivered pot-caught sablefish
KODIAK	30%	76%	156	47
SEWARD	21%	60%	142	36
DUTCH/UNALASKA	C	97%	33	16
SAND POINT	C	91%	24	11
KING COVE	C	76%	25	11
JUNEAU	C	37%	42	20
AKUTAN	C	91%	12	6
SITKA	3%	9%	56	18
CORDOVA	3%	38%	24	13
YAKUTAT	C	17%	27	13
HOMER	C	45%	16	10
PETERSBURG	2%	15%	25	11
WHITTIER	C	83%	9	4
WRANGELL	C	43%	7	4
HOONAH	C	27%	5	3
BELLINGHAM, WA	C	47%	3	3
CRAIG	C	20%	3	1
KETCHIKAN	C	14%	3	2
PELICAN	C	28%	1	1
ASTORIA, OR	C	100%	1	1
ELFIN COVE	C	0%	0	0
OTHER AK	C	0%	0	0

Participation:
Processors and
Ports of
Landing, p17



Effort: Trips, p22

FIGURE 2-2, P22



MIXED-GEAR TRIPS, TABLE 2-13 P23

<i>Year</i>	<i>One gear type</i>	<i># Mixed HAL and pot trip</i>	<i>Total trips</i>
2017	4131	15	4146
2018	4056	8	4064
2019	4126	21	4147
2020	3641	169	3810



Effort: Pots

TABLE 2-14 P23

Average # of pots per vessel by subarea on observed sablefish target trips

Year	WG (300)	CG (300)	WY (120)	SE (120)
2017	34	156	67	74
2018	97	118	41	32
2019	-	83	52	38
2020	-	155	-	47

TABLE 2-15 P23

pots per vessel on observed sablefish target trips

Year	Average # pots	Max # pots	Min # pots
2017	103	252	20
2018	101	276	35
2019	69	146	17
2020	140	427	20

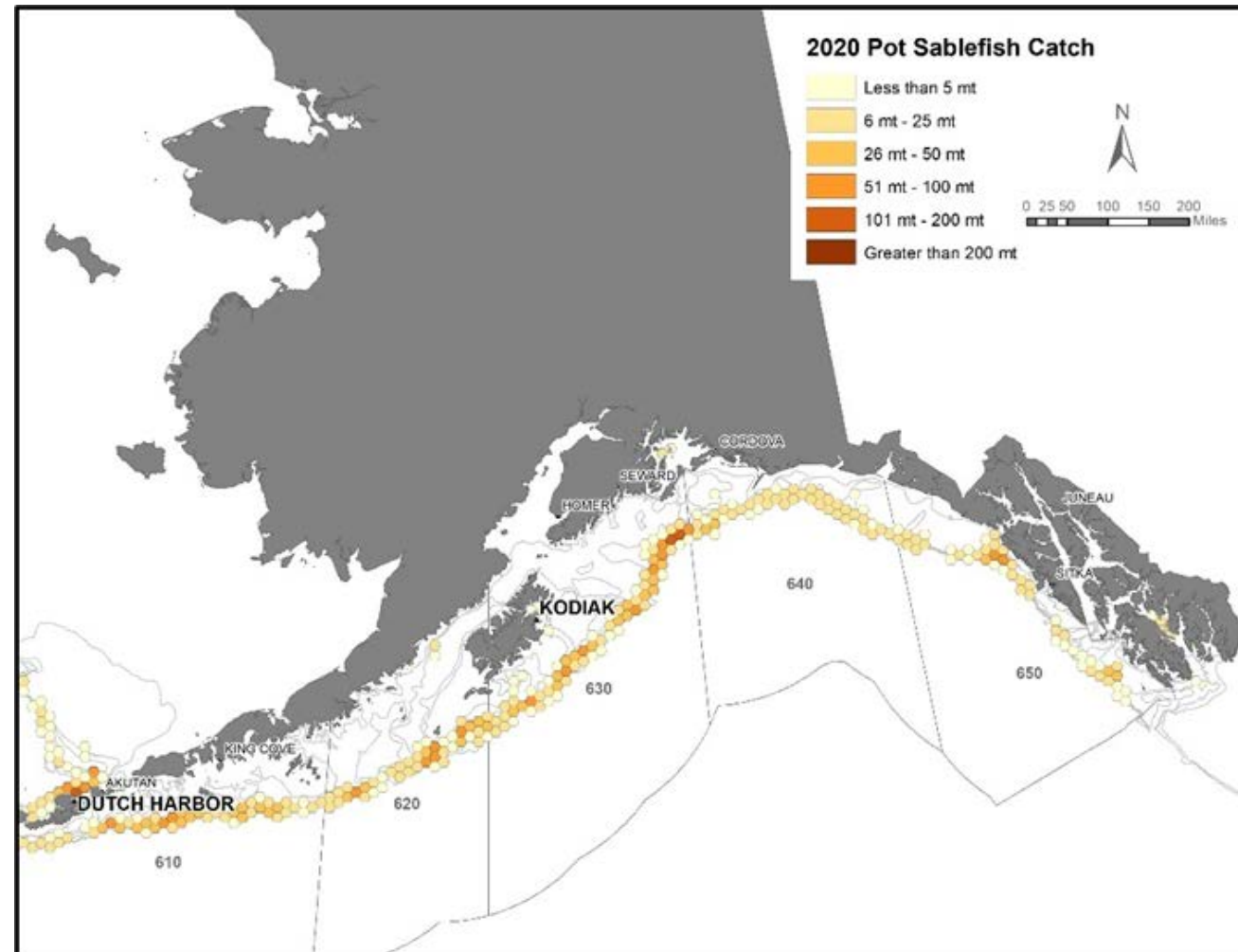


Note that these are from observer data, representing a small sample size (low coverage in the fleet)



Spatial distribution of sablefish catch by pot gear, 2020

FIGURE 3-5 P28



Source: NMFS Alaska Region Catch-in-Areas database



Sablefish Harvest, p23

FIGURE 3-1, P24

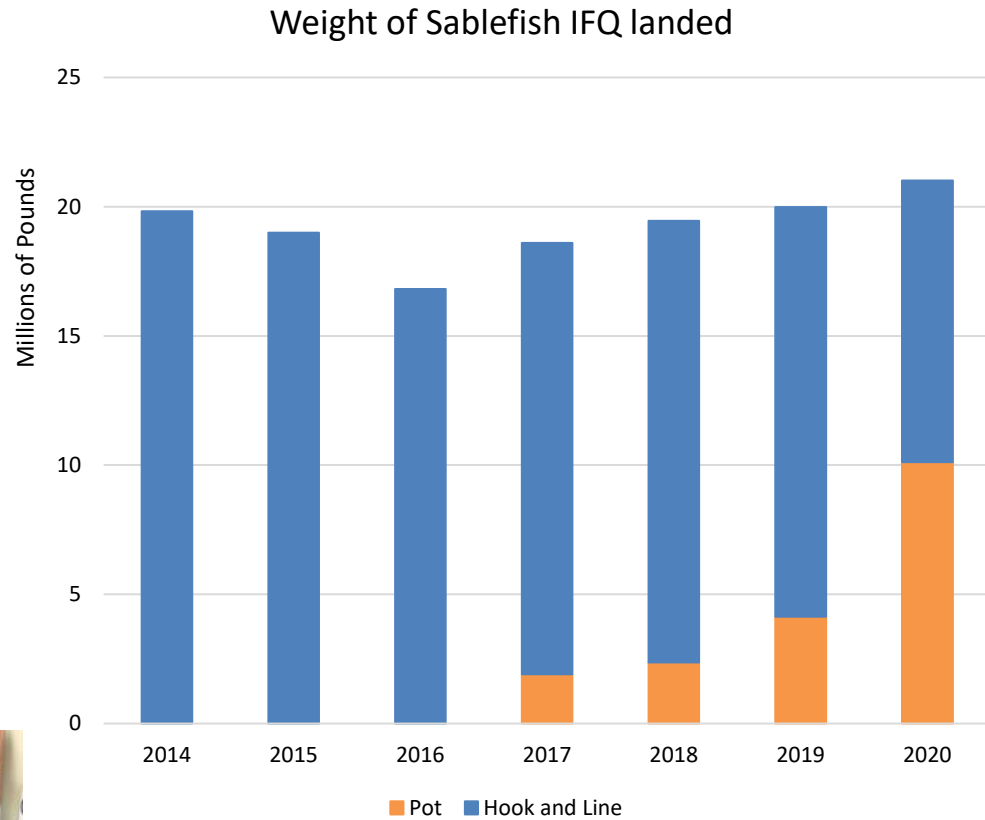
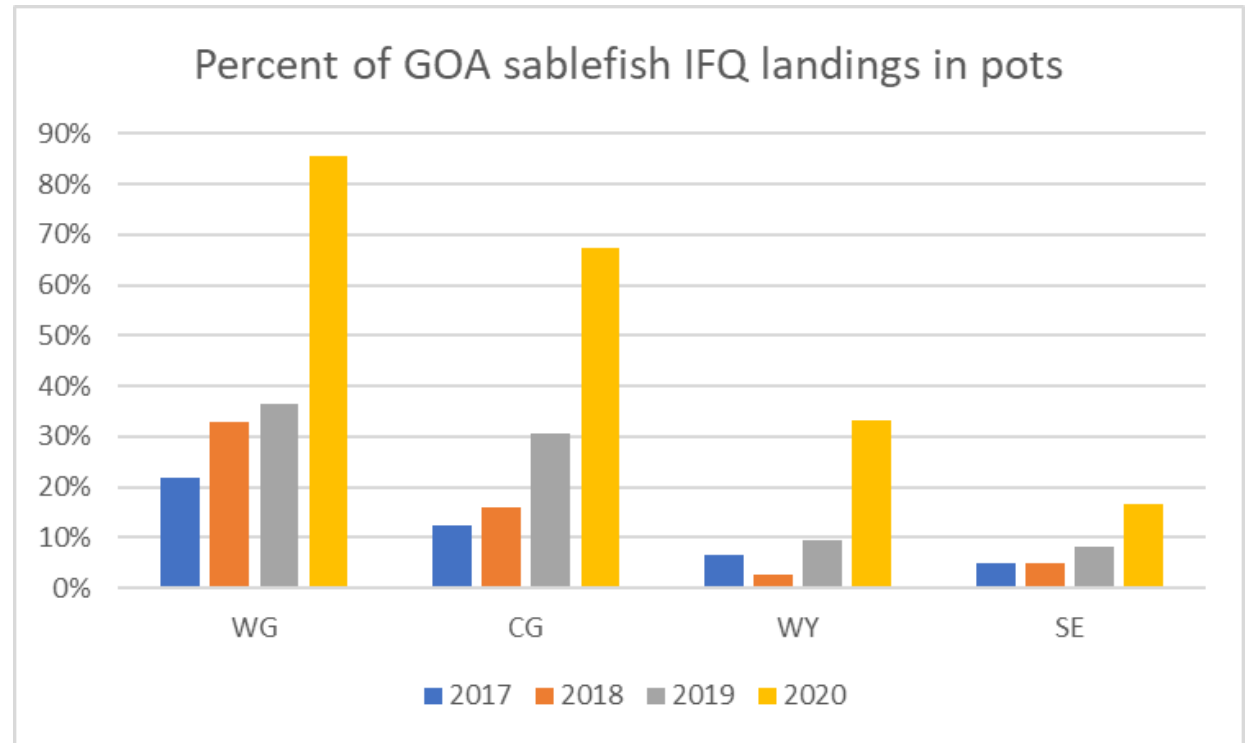
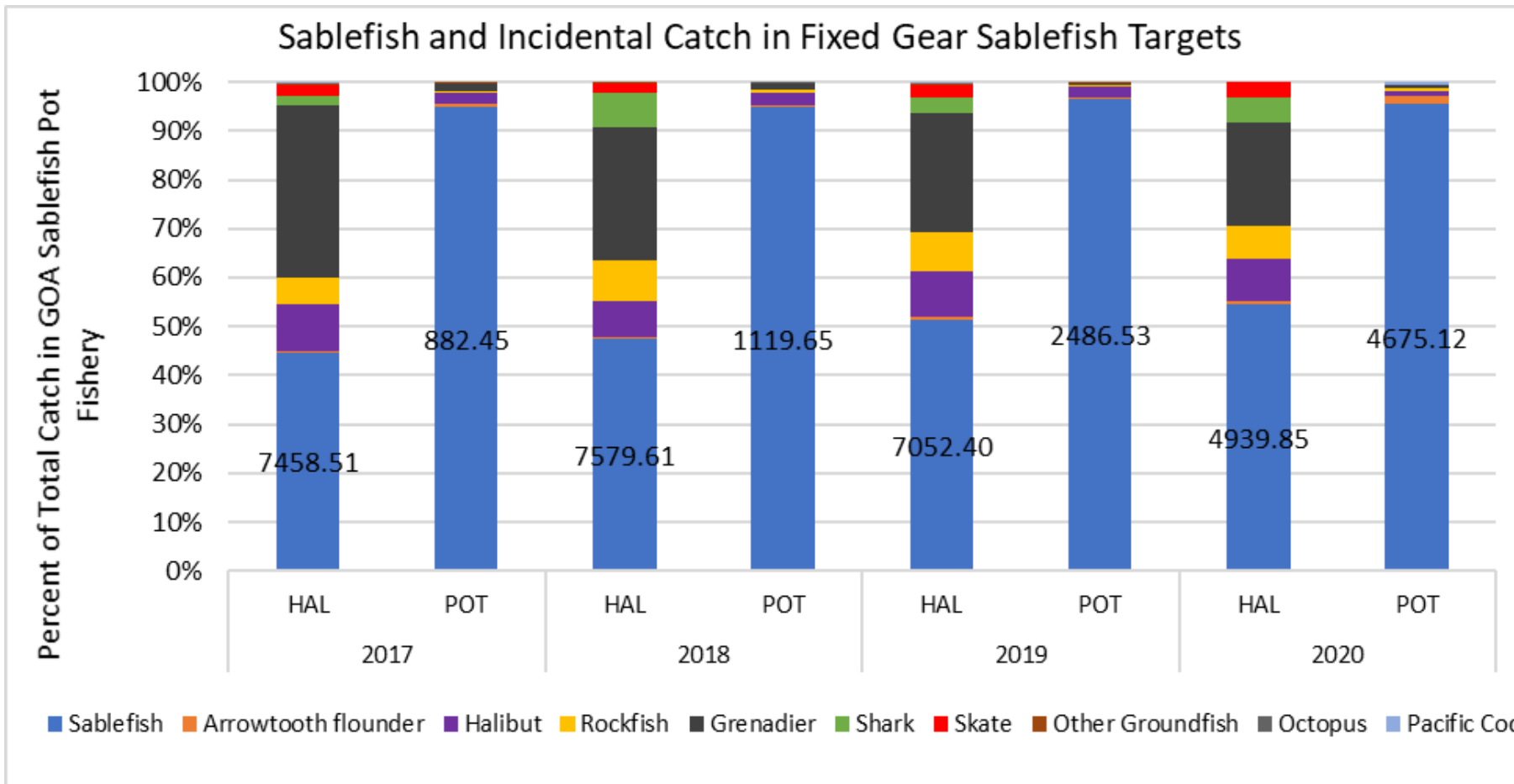


FIGURE 3-2, P25



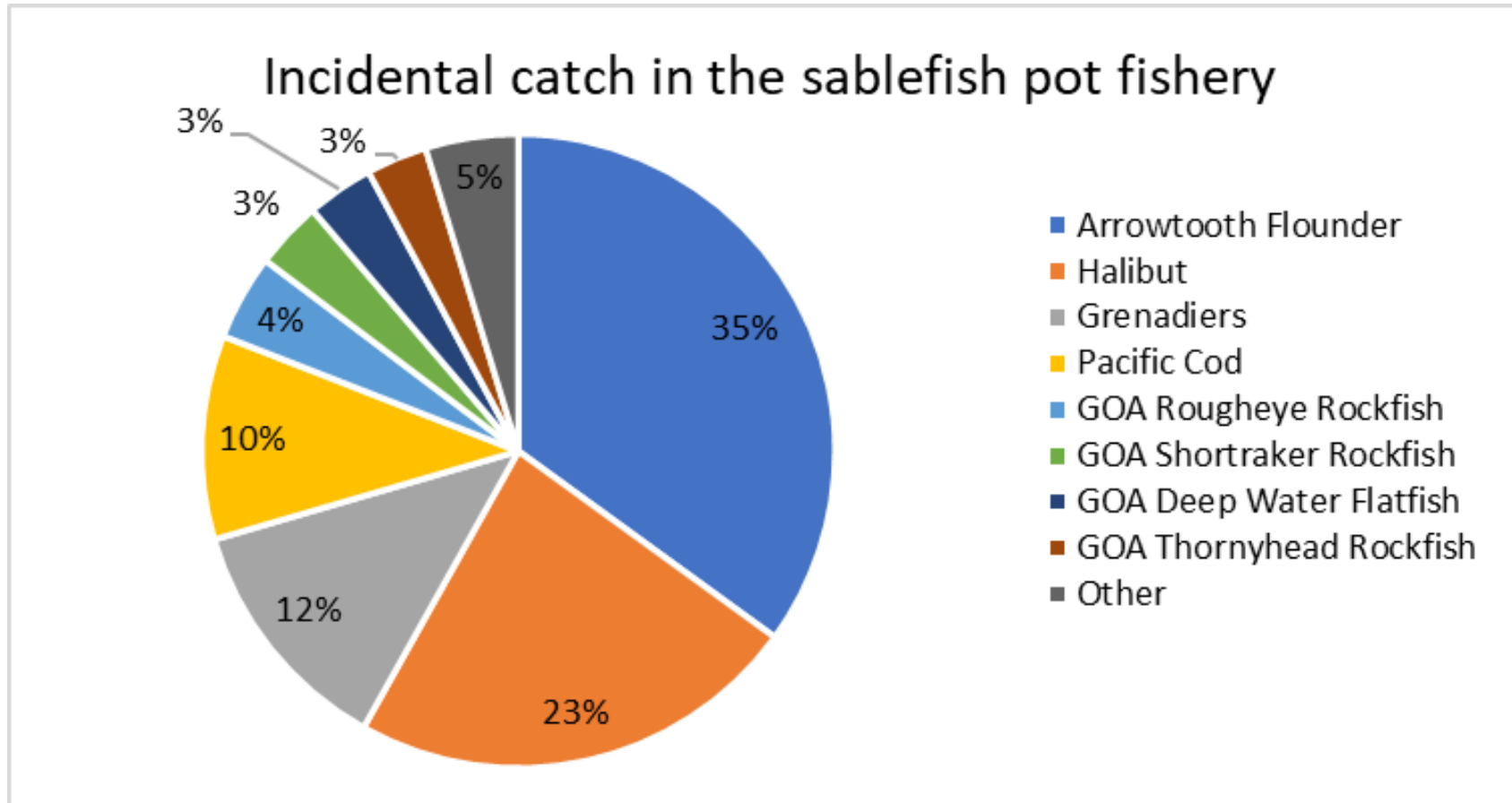
Incidental catch, p29

FIGURE 4-1, P30



Incidental catch, p29

FIGURE 4-2, P31



Incidental catch: Pacific halibut, p32

TABLE 4-4, P33

Halibut as a percent of total catch in the GOA sablefish IFQ fisheries

	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	HAL	POT	HAL	POT	HAL	POT	HAL	POT
weight (mt)	1575	20	1182	32	1285	54	783	51
% of total catch	9%	2%	7%	3%	9%	2%	9%	1%



TABLE 4-5, P33

Halibut caught in sablefish pot fishery

Year	Discarded (mt)	Retained (mt)	Total (mt)	% Retained
2017	4	16	20	82%
2018	2	30	32	94%
2019	16	38	54	70%
2020	22	29	51	57%



Fishery Revenues, p34

TABLE 5-2, P35

GOA sablefish IFQ catch volume (million lbs.) and ex-vessel value (million 2019\$) by gear type

	Whole Pounds		Net Pounds		Ex-Vessel Value (2019\$)	
	HAL	Pot	HAL	Pot	HAL	Pot
2017	16.7	1.9	13.7	1.7	85.1	8.5
2018	17.0	2.4	13.9	2.0	64.2	6.3
2019	15.9	4.1	12.9	3.4	46.9	9.0

TABLE 5-3, P36

GOA sablefish IFQ ex-vessel price per pound (2019\$) by gear type, based on whole weight (round weight) and net weight

	Whole Price		Net Price	
	HAL	Pot	HAL	Pot
2014	3.75		4.73	
2015	4.08		4.94	
2016	4.48		5.44	
2017	5.11	4.45	6.52	4.98
2018	3.75	2.81	4.82	3.21
2019	2.91	2.26	3.73	2.70



Fishery Revenues, cntd

TABLE 5-4, P36

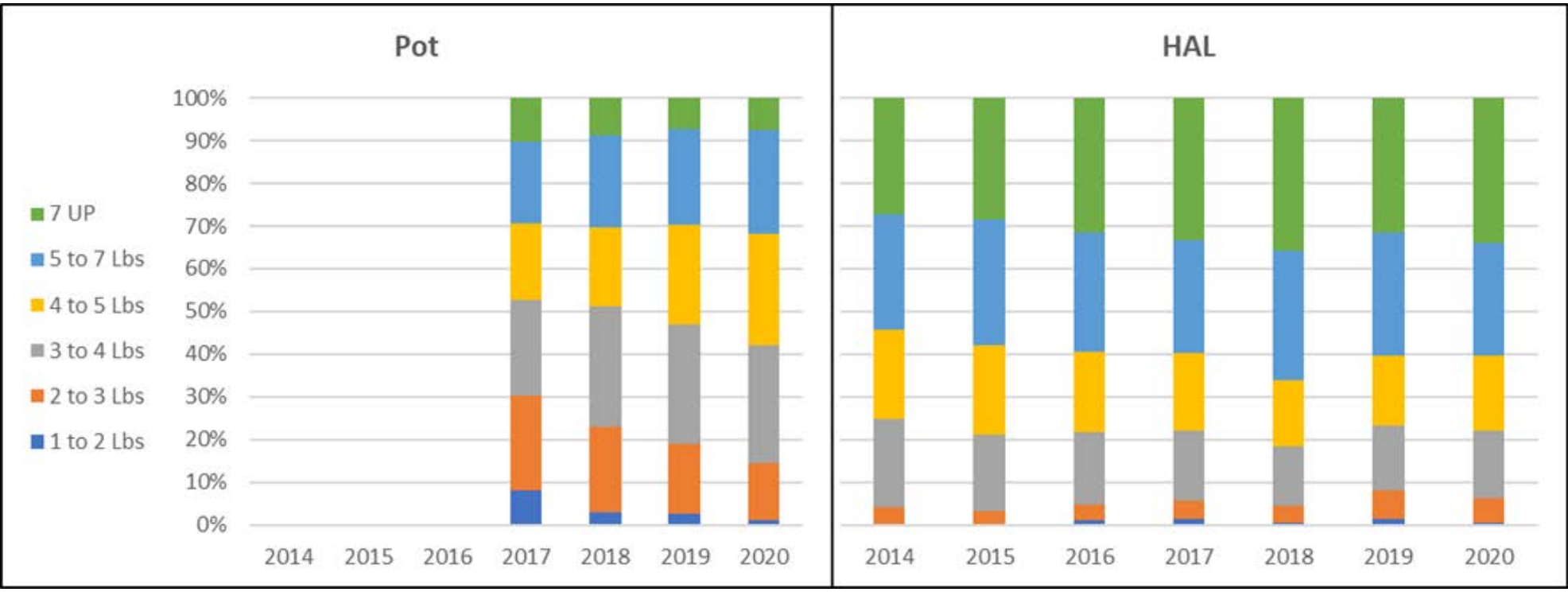
Year	WG		CG		WY		SE	
	HAL	POT	HAL	POT	HAL	POT	HAL	POT
2014 Ex-Vessel \$ (mil)	9.27		31.14		12.00		21.62	
	\$/lb. (net)	5.86	4.76		4.48		3.81	
2015 Ex-Vessel \$ (mil)	8.02		31.62		12.99		22.80	
	\$/lb. (net)	6.27	5.06		4.80		4.11	
2016 Ex-Vessel \$ (mil)	8.90		30.45		12.08		22.30	
	\$/lb. (net)	6.79	5.57		5.28		4.66	
2017 Ex-Vessel \$ (mil)	8.84	1.93	33.96	4.22	14.88	0.93	27.43	1.39
	\$/lb. (net)	7.69	4.56	6.55	5.06	6.40	5.17	5.44
2018 Ex-Vessel \$ (mil)	5.76	1.66	23.06	3.19	12.62	0.25	22.75	1.19
	\$/lb. (net)	5.40	2.66	4.82	3.12	4.90	3.31	4.16
2019 Ex-Vessel \$ (mil)	4.12	1.62	14.11	5.22	9.19	0.74	19.50	1.40
	\$/lb. (net)	4.00	2.42	3.40	2.64	3.87	2.67	3.65



Fishery Revenues, cntd

FIGURE 5-1, P37

Percent landed weight of GOA fixed-gear sablefish (H&G), by gear type and market category (2014 through 2020)



Monitoring, p40

TABLE 6-2, P44

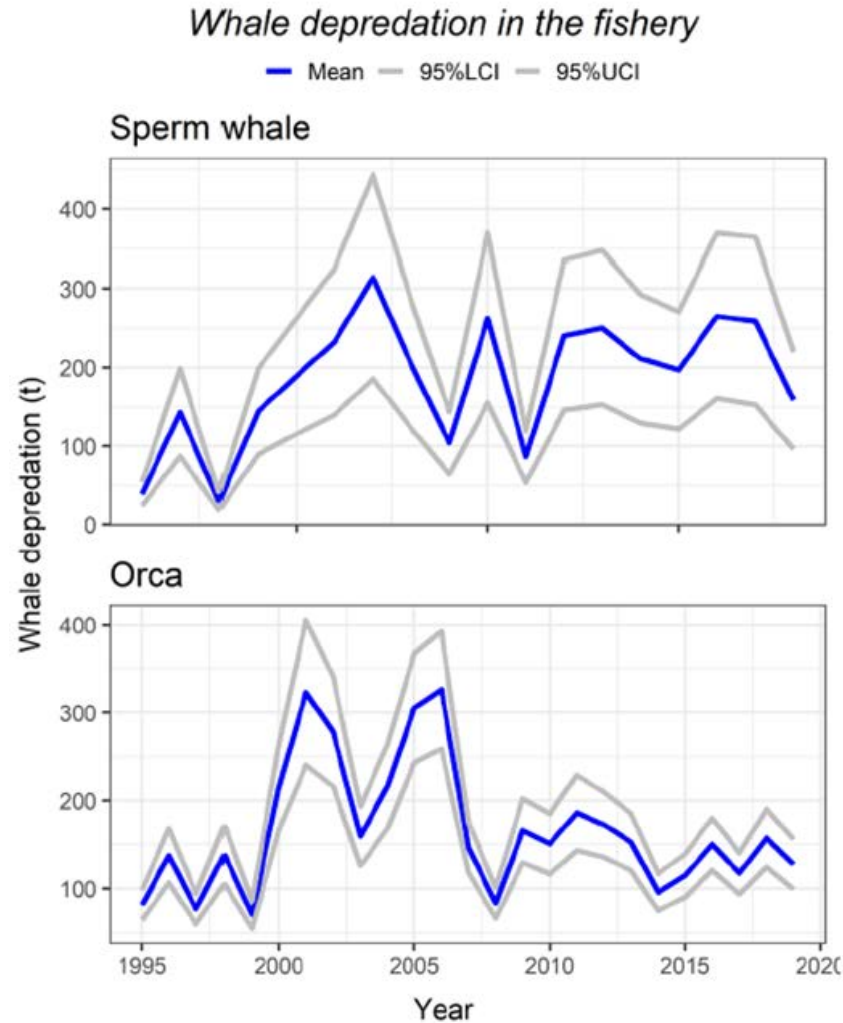
STRATA	Year	Trips Total	Trips Observed	% Trips Observed	% Sabl. Lbs. Landed on Observed Trips
HAL	2017	859	99	12%	12%
	2018	830	106	13%	11%
	2019	750	123	16%	15%
	2020	656	40	6%	6%
HAL Total		3,095	368		
EM_HAL	2018	371	62	17%	19%
	2019	395	127	32%	28%
	2020	283	63	22%	25%
EM_HAL Total		1,049	252		
POT	2017	136	10	7%	7%
	2018	131	23	18%	13%
	2019	130	15	12%	9%
	2020	308	25	8%	9%
POT Total		705	73		
EM_POT	2018	45	7	16%	9%
	2019	69	25	36%	29%
	2020	144	35	24%	19%
EM_POT Total		258	67		
No Selection	HAL 2017*	299			
	2018	79			
	2019	59			
	2020	44			
	POT 2017**	18			
2020	8				

- Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on observer deployment in 2020
- 2017 to 2020 period 88 EM vessels fished with HAL gear (1,049 trips) and 29 EM vessels fished with pot gear (258 trips).
- The proportion of trips monitored with EM was 24% for HAL and 26% for pot gear
- Pots have introduced new challenges for EM reviewers and a need to have different Vessel Monitoring Program (VMP) designs.



Whale Depredation & Stock Assessment Considerations, p46

FIGURE 7-1 P48



Size selectivity, p50

FIGURE 7-2

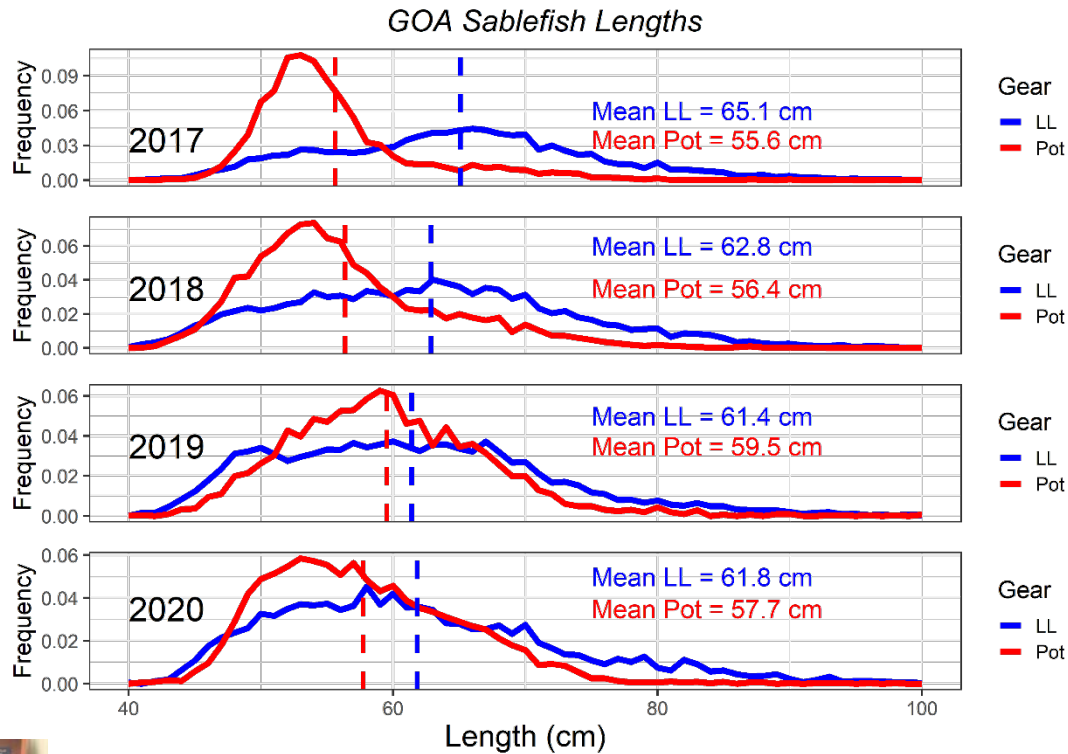
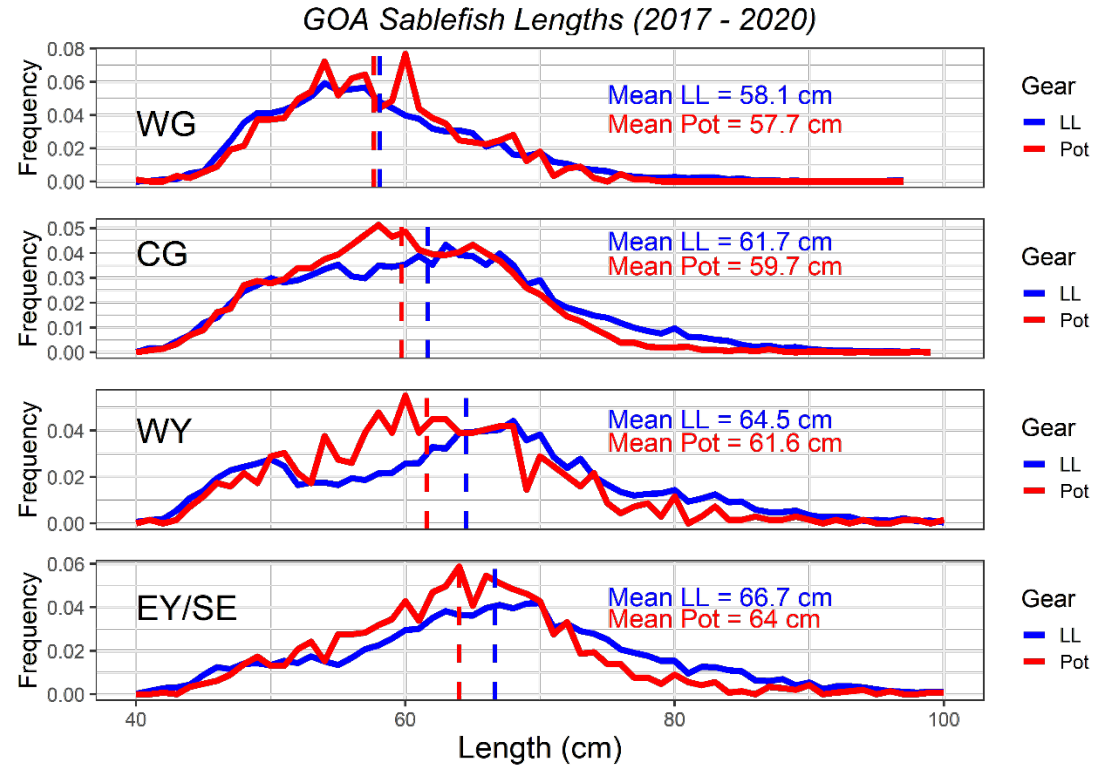


FIGURE 7-3





Vessel and gear characteristics,

p52



Management: Pot tags, p57

- NMFS recommends the Council consider whether pot tags continue to be a necessary provision of this program as they are costly to implement.
- According to enforcement and Coast Guard representatives, this gear marking requirement has not been useful for the enforcement of pot limits
- NMFS also suggests changes to regulations to combine the IFQ sablefish pot longline gear: vessel registration and request for pot gear tags application form with the IFQ sablefish request for replacement of pot longline gear tags application form



White - WG - 300 Pot limit

Green - CG - 300 pot limit

Blue - WY - 120 Pot limit

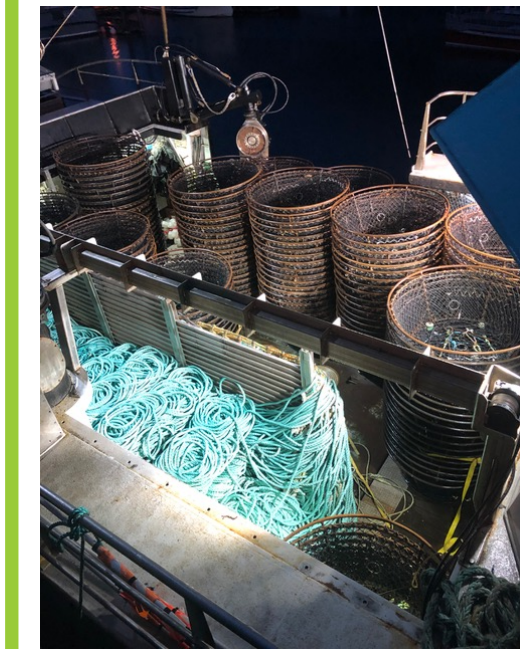
Pink - SE - 120 Pot limit



Automatic Identification System (AIS), p60

- FCC regulations do not currently allow AIS on fishing gear
- December 2020: U.S. Congress passed H.R. 6395 – National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) “Authorization of the use of Automatic Identification Systems Devices to Mark Fishing Equipment.”
 - requires the FCC to *consider* authorizing AIS for this use and whether it can be consistent with the core safety purpose of AIS.
 - does not guarantee that such authorization will be granted
 - rulemaking process must be initiated no later than end of June 2021.

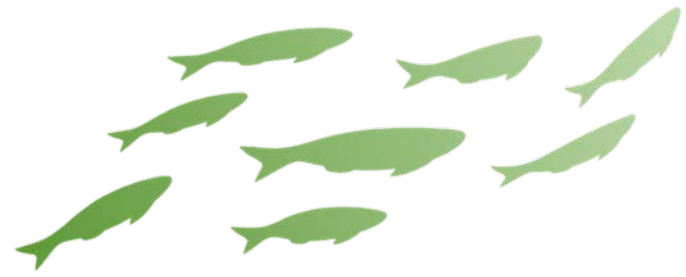




Topics that would benefit from stakeholder input, p62

- Gear conflicts
- Grounds preemption/gear retrieval requirements
- Gear innovation
- Gear specifications
- Cost of gear conversion





Questions?

Sara Cleaver

Sara.cleaver@noaa.gov

Sam Cunningham

Sam.Cunningham@noaa.gov

907-271-2809



IFQ Committee report on D1

IFQ Committee met virtually March 25 and 26

Posted: Action memo, IFQ committee report and committee's eAgenda

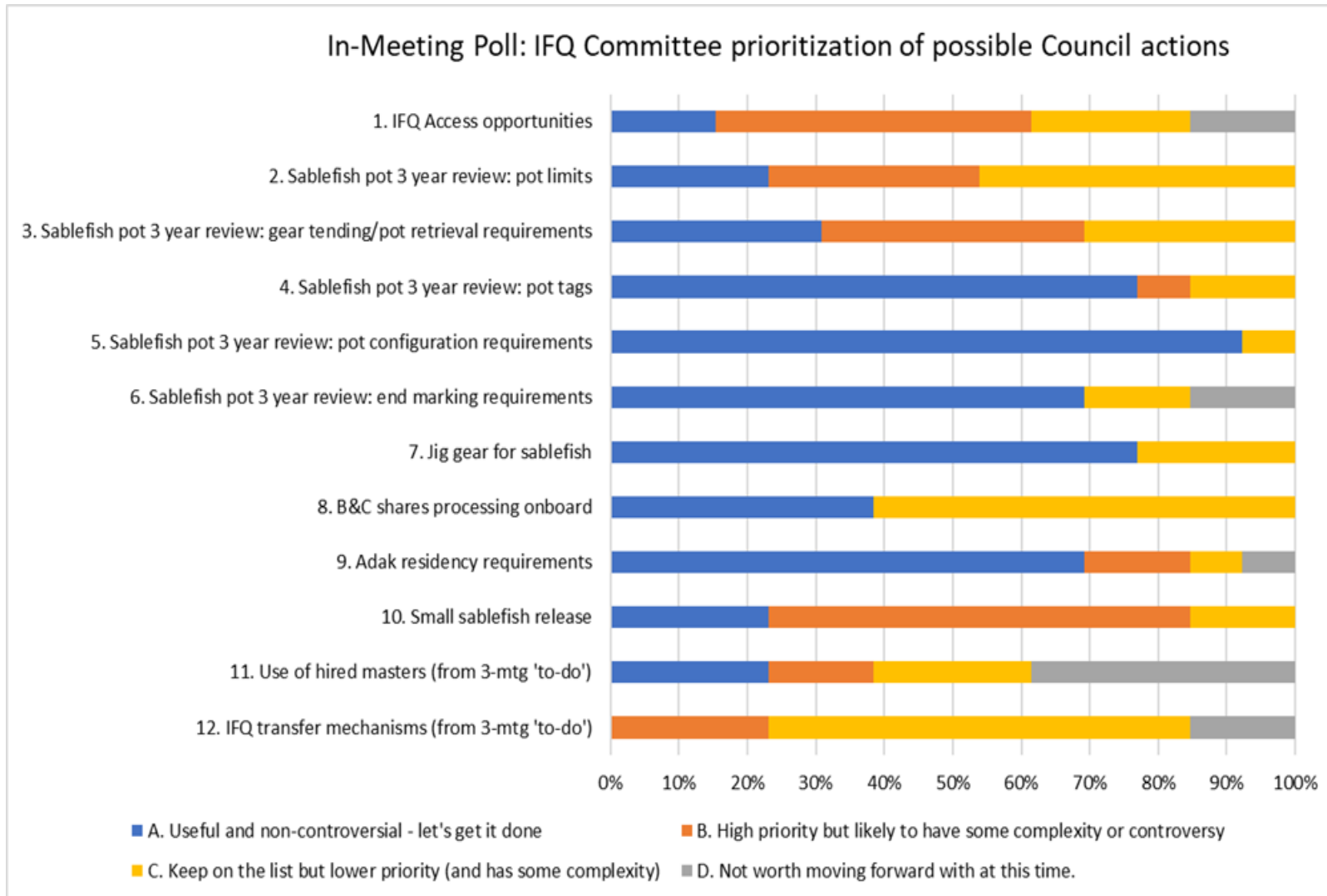
1st day – presentations and discussions on 2 Council actions (IFQ access opportunities & GOA sablefish pots), proposals, and several “non-action” items

2nd day – prioritization of IFQ-related actions

- A poll was used to canvas members on relative priority of items and their thoughts on complexity/ controversy
- Members provided context to their votes through discussion that followed



IFQ Committee Prioritization poll



IFQ Committee Report on D1, cntd

Modifications to Pot limits

- worth exploring, diversity in the level of priority, with half of committee members indicating it as a lower priority

Gear tending/pot retrieval requirements

- worth exploring but there was divergence on the level of priority to assign it

Pot tags

- recommended the requirement for **pot tags be removed** to address an unnecessary burden and cost.
- majority of members felt this was non-controversial/non-complex; high priority

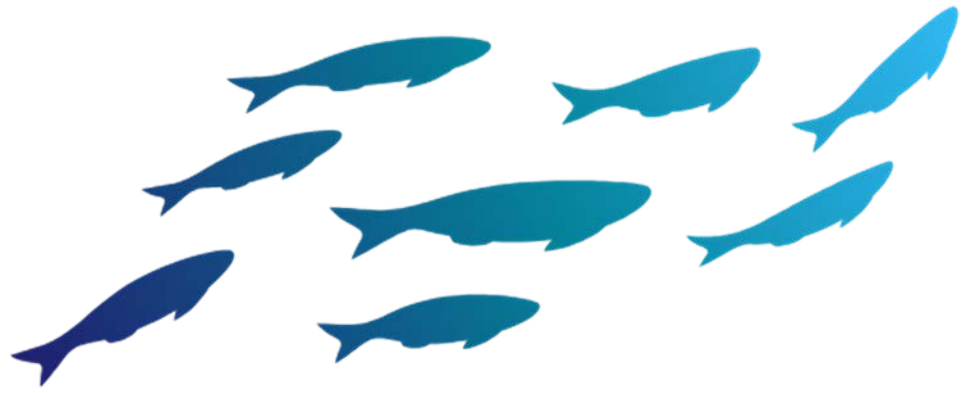
Pot configuration requirements

- recommend the Council revisit pot configuration requirements – especially the definition of **biodegradable panel**.
- high priority due to the fast pace of gear innovation
- not opposed to allowing the retention of halibut taken with pots (**9” tunnel requirements**)

Gear end-marking requirements

- consensus that existing requirements overly burdensome, but mixed views on marking both ends
- recommended Council send letter to the FCC in favor of allowing **AIS** to be used to identify gear locations





Thank you!
