C3 Joint Groundfish September Plan Team Report

Steve Barbeaux, Sara Cleaver, Jim Ianelli, Chris Lunsford, Kalei Shotwell, Diana Stram, Cindy Tribuzio

October 2023, Presentation to the SSC

GF Plan Team Meetings, September 19-22, 2023

- Hybrid, see e-agenda for Joint Teams, then BSAI and GOA
- Vacancies on both teams, **asking for a call for nominations to go out**

BSAI Groundfish Plan Team Members:

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

GOA Groundfish Plan Team Members:

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

Joint Plan Team presentation summary (1 of 2)

Topic	Presenter	Type	Action
Research Priorities	Nicole Watson	Information	Yes
Halibut DMRs	Michael Fey	Information	In individual teams
SAFE Guidelines and Scheduling	Chris Lunsford	Information	Yes
ESP Overview and Update	Kalei Shotwell	Ecosystem Update	Yes
ESR Climate Update	Bridget Ferriss	Ecosystem Update	No
ESR CIE Review	Ivonne Ortiz	Information	No
Rockfish Genetic Stock Structure	Wes Larson	Information	No
EBS Krill Index	Mike Levine	Information	No
Draft 2024 ADP	Craig Faunce	Information	No
Longline Survey	Kevin Siwicke	Survey Update	No
GOA Trawl Survey	Ned Laman	Survey Update	No
Winter Acoustic Survey	Denise McKelvey	Survey Update	No
Summer Acoustic Pollock Survey	Dave McGowan	Survey Update	No

Note: Underlined text has a link to presentation

Joint Plan Team presentation summary (2 of 2)

Topic	Presenter	Type	Action
EBS/NBS Trawl Survey	Duane Stevenson	Survey Update	No
EBS BTS Survey Modernization	Stan Kotwicki	Information	No
Ecosystem Surveys	Lauren Rogers	Survey Update	No
Sablefish Model	Daniel Goethel	Model Update	No
Sablefish Fleet Changes	Matt Cheng	Information	No
M Priors Methods	Jim Thorson	Information	No
Archival Tag Methods	Jim Thorson	Information	No
One Step Ahead Residuals	Cole Monnahan	Information	No
Index Likelihoods	Cole Monnahan	Information	No
Retrospective Patterns	Meaghan Bryan	Information	No
Acoustic Trawl Survey Uncertainty	Sam Urmy	Information	No
Age and Length Sample Sizes	Pete Hulson	Information	No
Age Composition Methods	Thomas Helser	Information	No

Note: Underlined text has a link to presentation

Data-Limited assessment working group

AFSC data-limited assessment working group met August 21, 2023:

- Identified high-priority Tier 6 stocks or stock complexes

- Discussed providing alternative data-limited methods for OFLs

  - Including how uncertainty could affect the OFL to ABC buffer

- Will present results to the September 2024 Joint Groundfish Plan Teams

Thanks to Cindy Tribuzio

Research Priorities

- Highlights:
  - Groundfish Plan Teams provide review of existing research priorities, new priorities submitted to the online portal, and additional PT priorities
  - Teams will meet January 17, 2024 and develop list of priorities that will be distilled into 3-5 priorities and forwarded to the SSC

- **Recommendation:**
  - AFSC track the progress of AFSC led projects that address any of the 8-12 priorities selected by the Council

Thanks to Nicole Watson

SAFE Guidelines and Scheduling

- Highlights:
  - Review of the stock prioritization and assessment definitions
  - Update on AFSC contingency plan for stock assessments in the event of a US government shutdown

- **Recommendation:**
  - Council staff request feedback from the SSC and Council in October meeting regarding the preference for >20 day plan of action in response to the government shutdown
  - Council staff consider ability to obtain feedback from federal SSC membership prior to government shutdown

Thanks to Chris Lunsford

ESP Overview and Update

- Highlights:
  - Statistical importance, report reproducibility, data modernization, and climate readiness projects were reviewed
  - Plan to begin Request For Information (RFI) process in 2024 to organize ESP contributions, National ESP Initiative workshops summary

- **Recommendation:**
  - Climate information within the ESP as a potential on-ramp be presented at the Council's CCTF November 2023 meeting
  - Opportunity for product sharing between survey and ESP teams
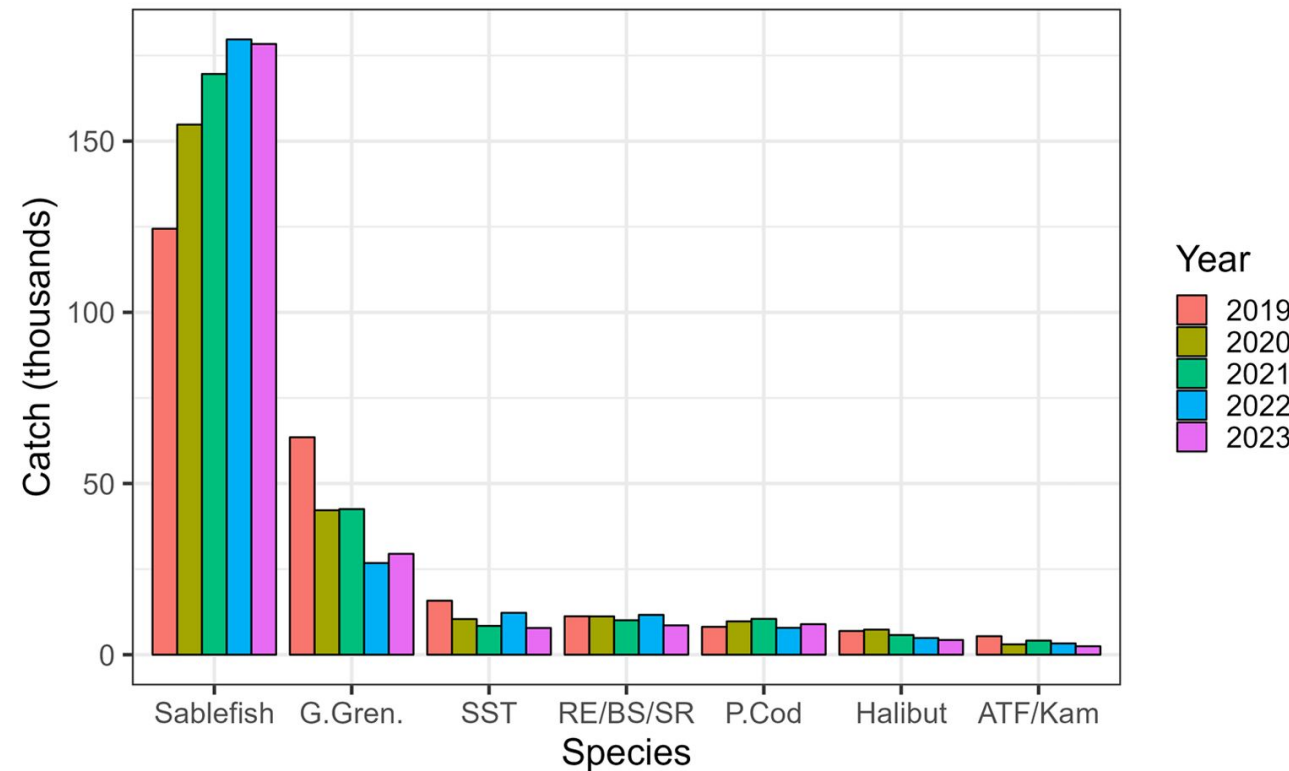
Thanks to Kalei Shotwell
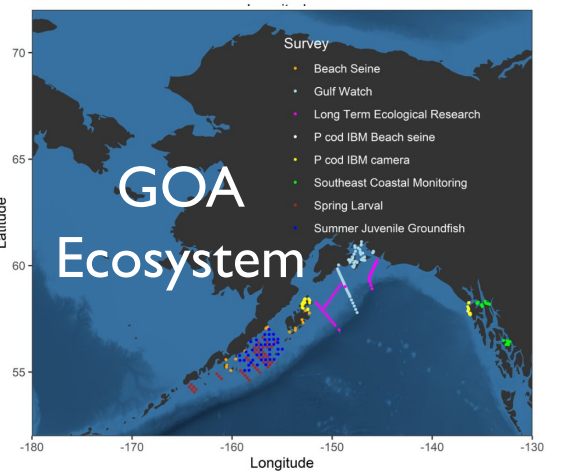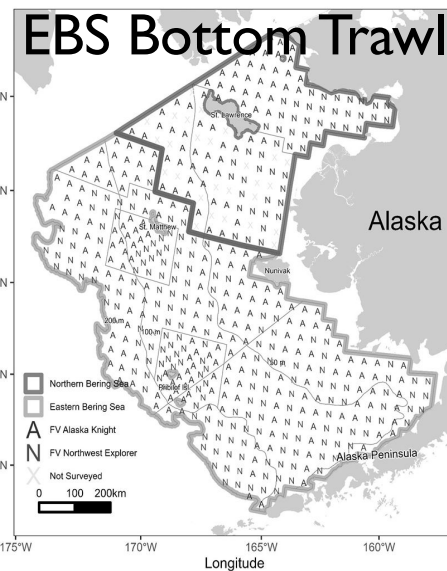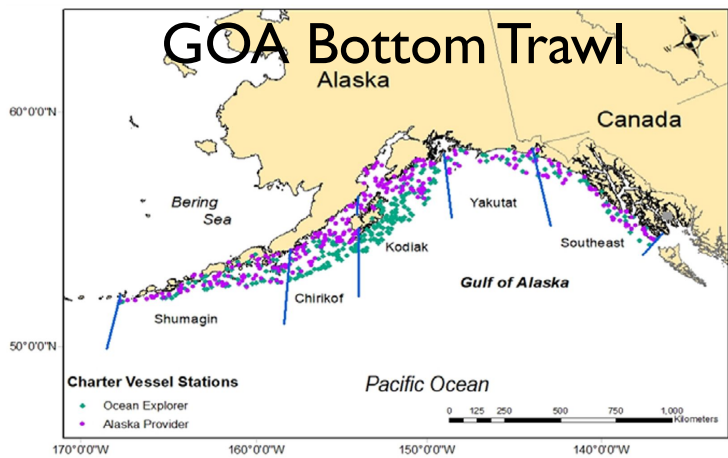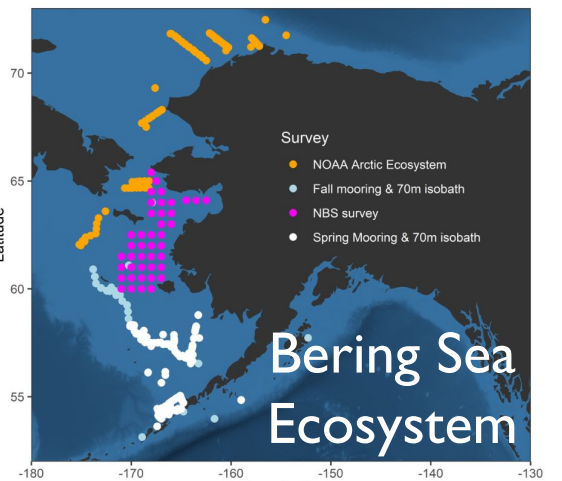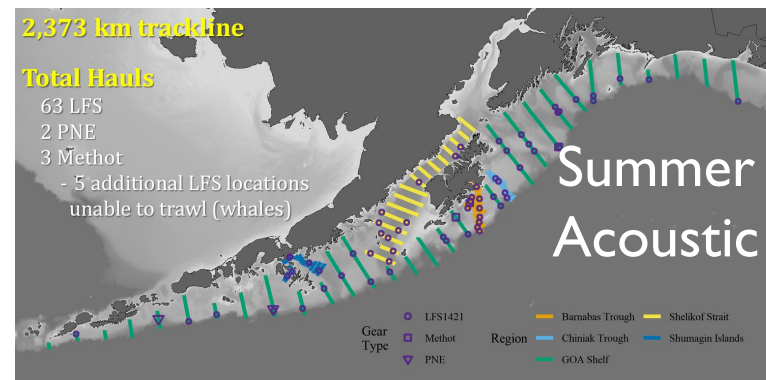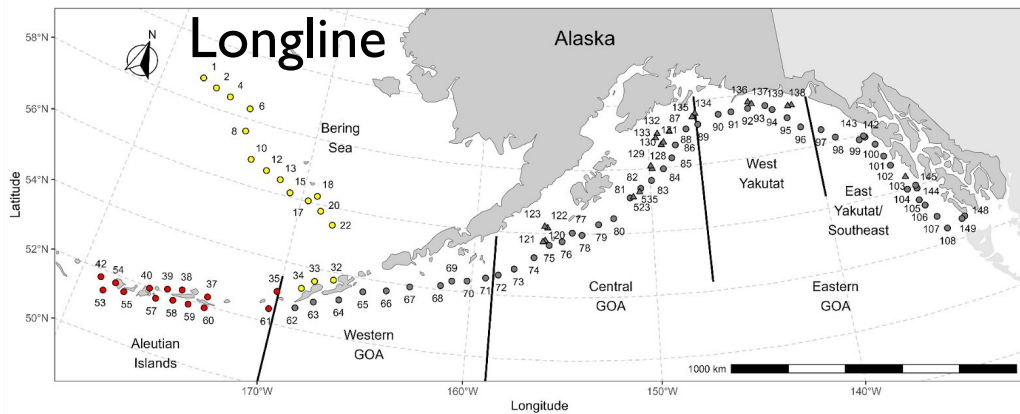
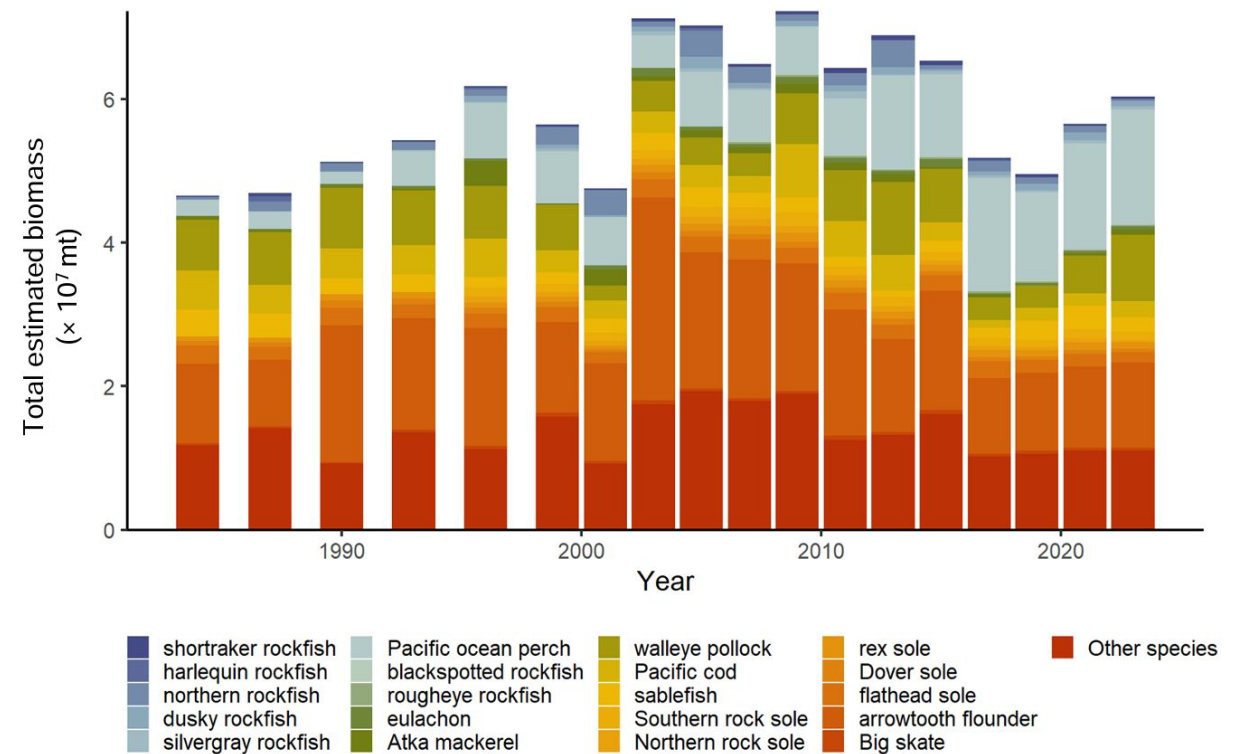# Surveys

Longline Survey

- **Highlights:**
  - Survey methods update and standard data collections
  - Update on slinky pot project

- **Discussion:**
  - Escape rings, pot fullness, sablefish getting stuck
  - Hook competition concerns

Recent raw catches by species

Thanks to Kevin Siwicke

GOA Trawl Survey

- Highlights:
  - Survey methods update and standard data collections
  - Sampling refined to reduce repetitive motion injuries
  - Total biomass higher than 2021

- Discussion:
  - New GAP PRODUCTS schema for next year, include contacts

Thanks to Ned Laman

GOA Trawl Survey

- Notable:
  - Summary table useful for looking at all stocks together
  - Showing % difference from previous survey
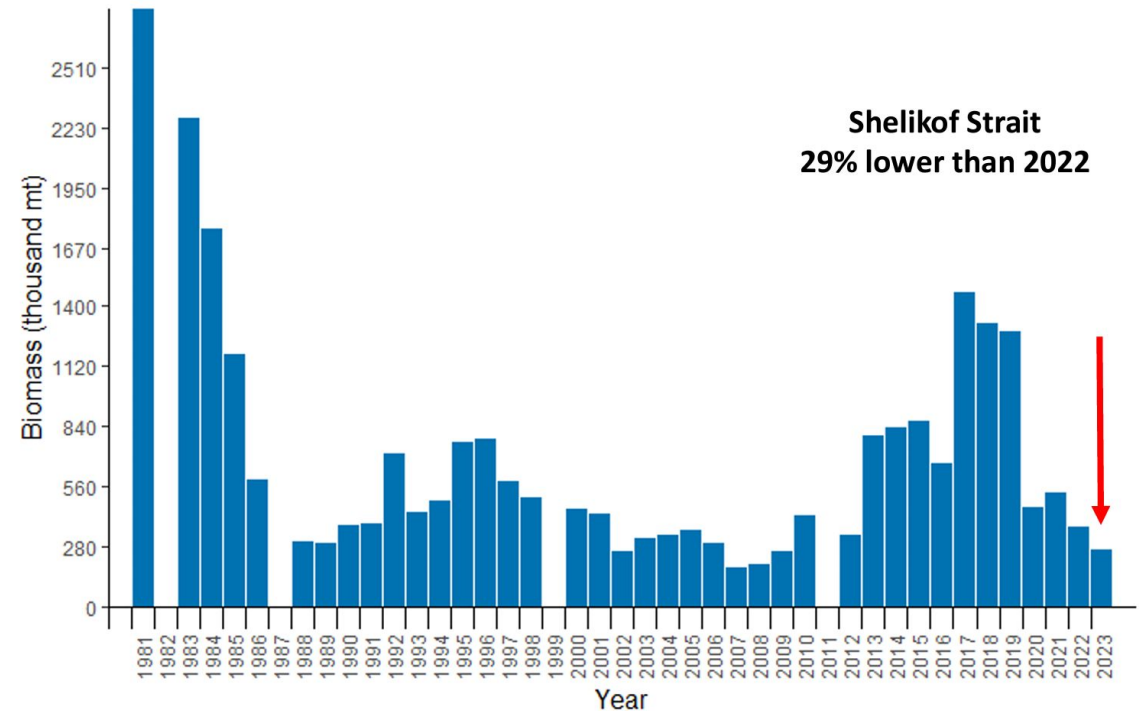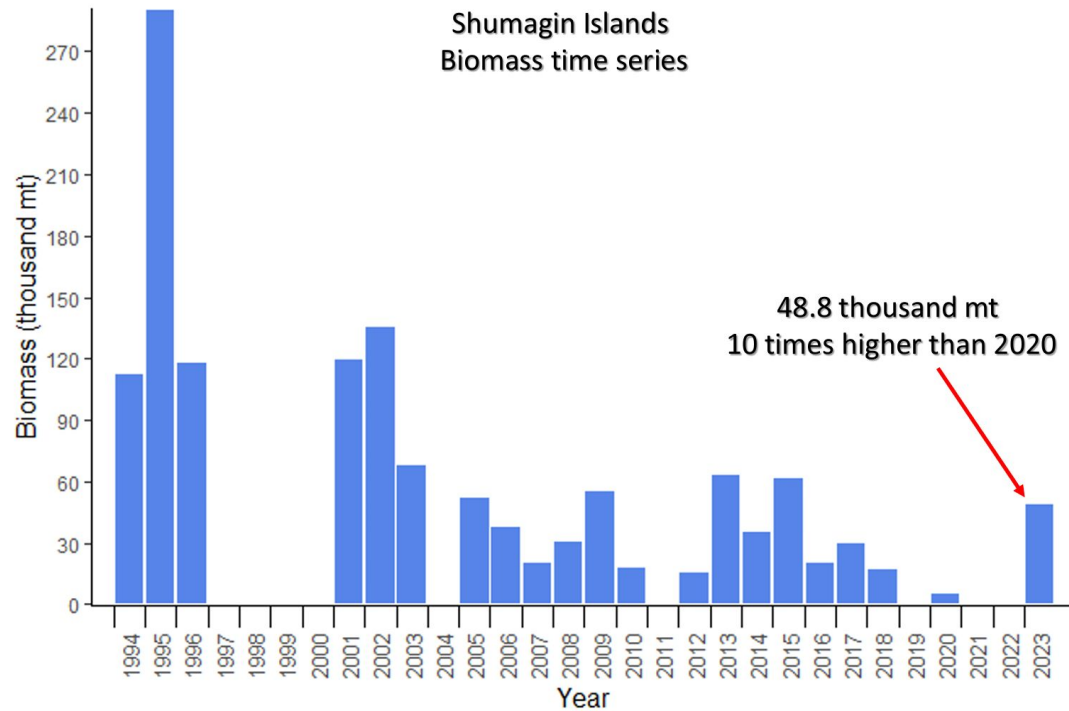 - Change relative to the long-term mean

Thanks to Ned Laman

Common name	% difference	Relative to longterm average
arrowtooth flounder	+5.3	Below
Atka mackerel	+219	Average
blackspotted RF	+0.6	Average
Dover sole	+6.2	Below
flathead sole	-21.7	Below
northern RF	-65	Below
Pacific cod	+32.5	Below
POP	+7.9	Above
rex sole	-17.6	Average
sablefish	-39.8	Below
shortraker RF	+14.4	Below
silvergray RF	-0.3	Above
southern rock sole	-10.4	Below
walleye pollock	+74.3	Above
eulachon	+14.1	Below
big skate	+14.9	Below

GOA Winter acoustic-trawl survey

- Highlights:
  - Pollock trawls conducted in February in Shumagins and March in Shelikof Strait

Shumagin Islands Biomass time series

48.8 thousand mt 10 times higher than 2020

Shelikof Strait 29% lower than 2022

Thanks to Denise McKelvey

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GOA Summer acoustic trawl survey

- **Highlights:**
  - Preliminary results of pollock, POP, and capelin biomass
  - Overview of DriX Uncrewed Surface Vehicle (USV)

- **Discussion:**
  - Cost of new tech
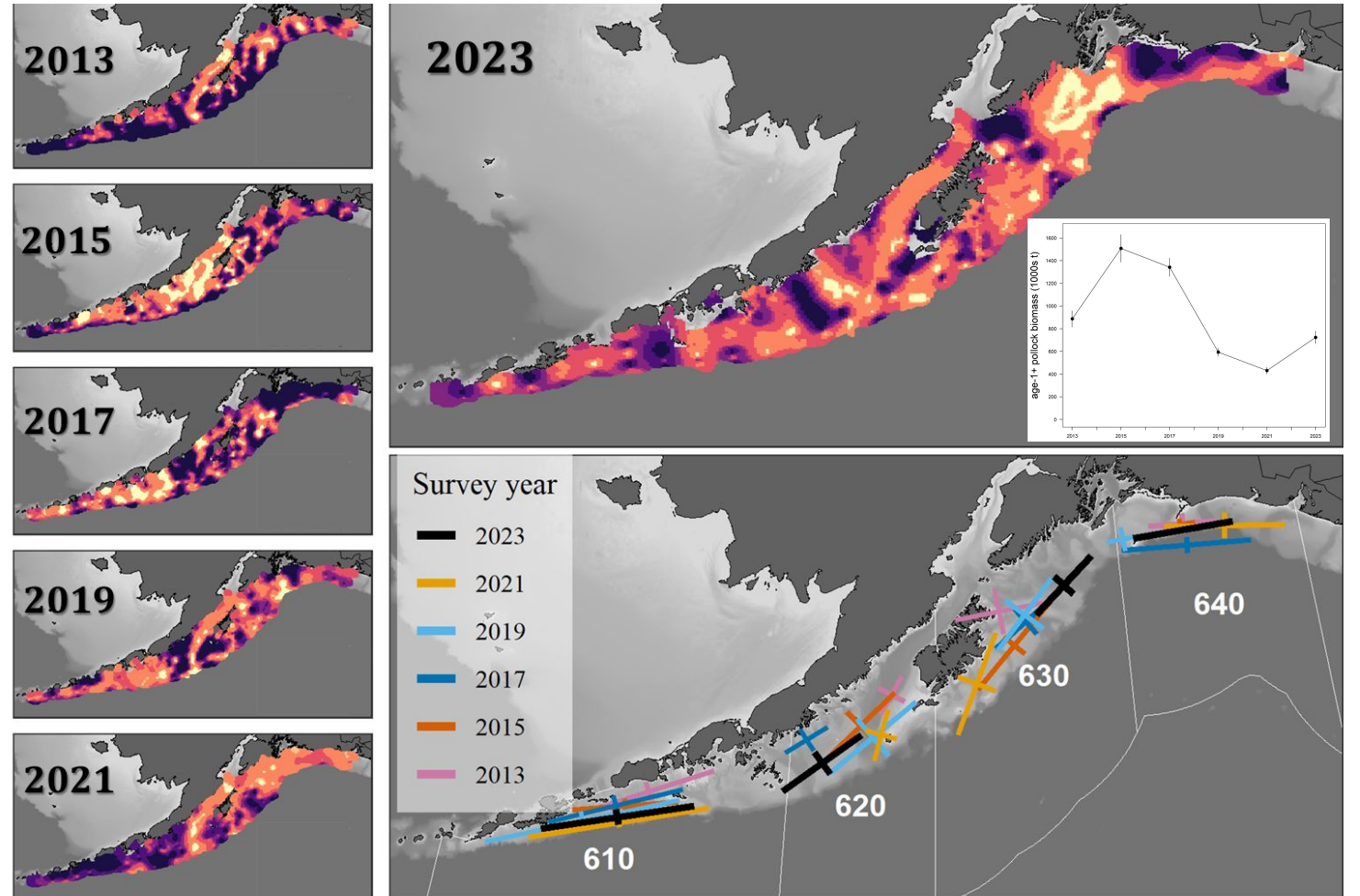
Thanks to Dave McGowan

EBS trawl survey

- Highlights:
  - Survey methods update and standard data collections
  - Cold pool similar to 2022 in extent, but colder and below average
  - Fish biomass generally down relative to 2022

- Discussion:
  - NBS survey still being processed at time of this presentation

Thanks to Duane Stevenson
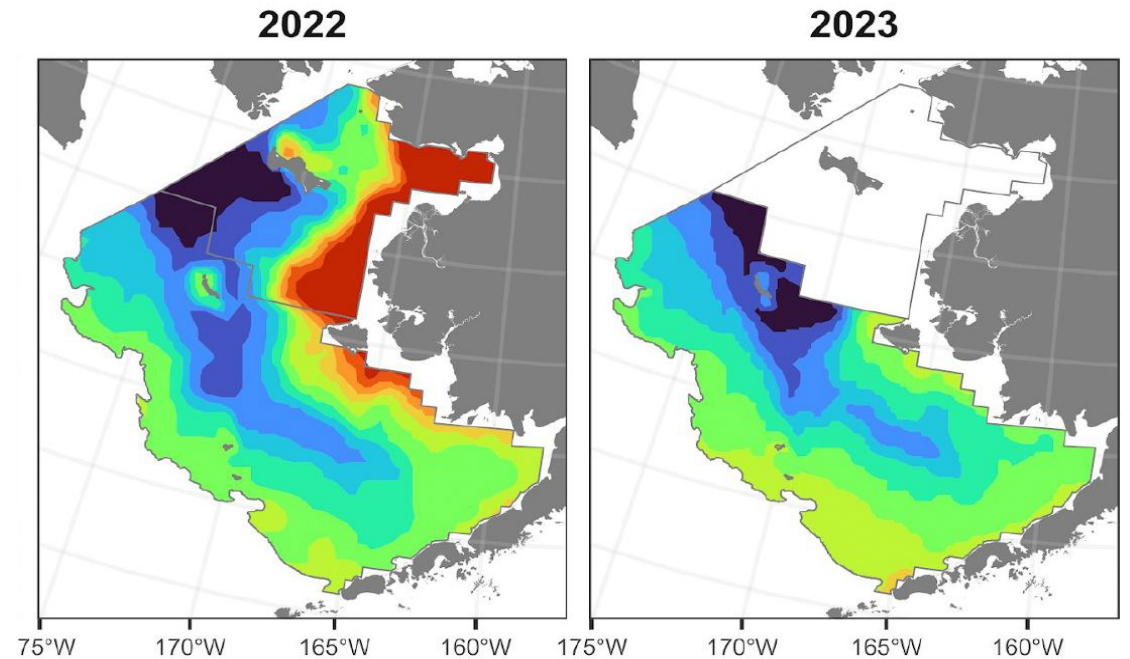
EBS trawl survey

- Notable:
  - Summary table useful for looking at all stocks together
  - Showing biomass and population estimates for 2022 and 2023
  - Color coded for increase (green) or decrease (orange)

Thanks to Duane Stevenson

Biomass/Population Changes

| Common name	Year	EBS Biomass (mt)	EBS Population (x1,000)
walleye pollock	2022	4,153,971	7,563,348
	2023	3,154,668 (-24%)	5,685,500 (-25%)
Pacific cod	2022	647,400	425,156
	2023	663,075 (2%)	555,739 (31%)
yellowfin sole	2022	2,039,968	8,660,407
	2023	1,393,379 (-32%)	5,567,596 (-36%)
northern rock sole	2022	1,294,581	7,408,458
	2023	1,380,684 (7%)	6,657,558 (-10%)
flathead sole	2022	703,375	2,442,797
	2023	594,851 (-15%)	2,039,623 (-17%)
Bering flounder	2022	6,237	36,007
	2023	6,813 (9%)	33,736 (-6%)
Alaska plaice	2022	385,294	660,307
	2023	358,845 (-7%)	617,849 (-6%)
arrowtooth flounder	2022	521,615	1,001,554
	2023	462,575 (-11%)	861,345 (-14%)
Kamchatka flounder	2022	29,699	45,293
	2023	24,875 (-16%)	40,128 (-11%)
Pacific halibut	2022	149,064	91,474
	2023	170,238 (14%)	95,321 (4%)
Alaska skate	2022	463,017	102,817
	2023	418,483 (-10%)	98,290 (-4%)
Pacific ocean perch	2022	126,805	242,638
	2023	18,914 (-85%)	23,560 (-90%)

Ecosystem Surveys

- Highlights:
  - Comprehensive update of many surveys for GOA and Bering Sea
  - Update on recruitment indicators and new projects

- Discussion:
  - Low abundance of large copepods in the EBS and potential relationship to the cold pool being more inshore (no data to explore this however)

  - Databases exist in many areas (ESP/ESR, Github repos, manuscripts, etc.), but no centralized location, might improve uptake if more centrally available

Thanks to Lauren Rogers

Bering Sea Survey Modernization:

- Need to adapt surveys to the new reality
  - Design one survey for all 3 BS regions (EBS, NBS, Slope)
  - Increase survey efficiency, optimize effort allocation
  - Design flexible survey that will be responsive to data needs and adaptable to new technologies

- Need to redesign gear and change sampling methods
  - Gear is becoming obsolete (doors, floats, nylon mech, bridles, etc)
  - Improve fishing methods (e.g., use autotrawl)
  - Need to decrease towing time from 30 to 15 min to reduce catch volume and number of tows with split catch

Thanks to Stan Kotwicki
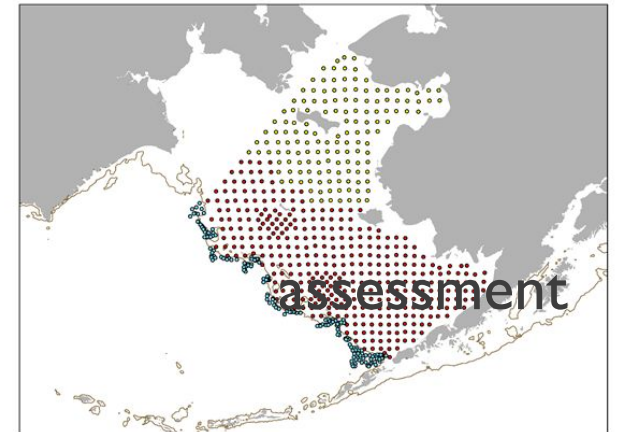
Bering Sea Survey Modernization:
Call for stakeholder engagement in workshops

Interested in participating in initial meeting of Survey Modernization Working Group?

Call for public and industry engagement in all projects, but especially in project on survey bottom trawl gear and fishing methods redesign. Initial workshop is planned in late October. If interested please email:

Workshop coordinator: Nancy Roberson nancy.roberson@noaa.gov

For specific questions about the project you can contact:

Stan Kotwicki stan.kotwicki@noaa.gov

Lyle Britt lyle.britt@noaa.gov

Mike Litzow mike.litzow@noaa.gov

Nicole Charriere nicole.charriere@noaa.gov
**Shawn Russell shawn.russell@noaa.gov**

Thanks to Stan Kotwicki

Sablefish Model

- Model Explorations:
  - Work continues on Template Model Builder (TMB) model version (from ADMB)
  - Preliminary results of a spatially explicit sablefish model
  - Nominal longline CPUE converting to standardized index with pot and longline

- Results/Discussion:
  - Limited impact of adding standardized index to the model
  - 2024 explorations may include migrating to TMB, how to handle CPUE in future, address changes in fishery dynamics that may result from discarding small sablefish
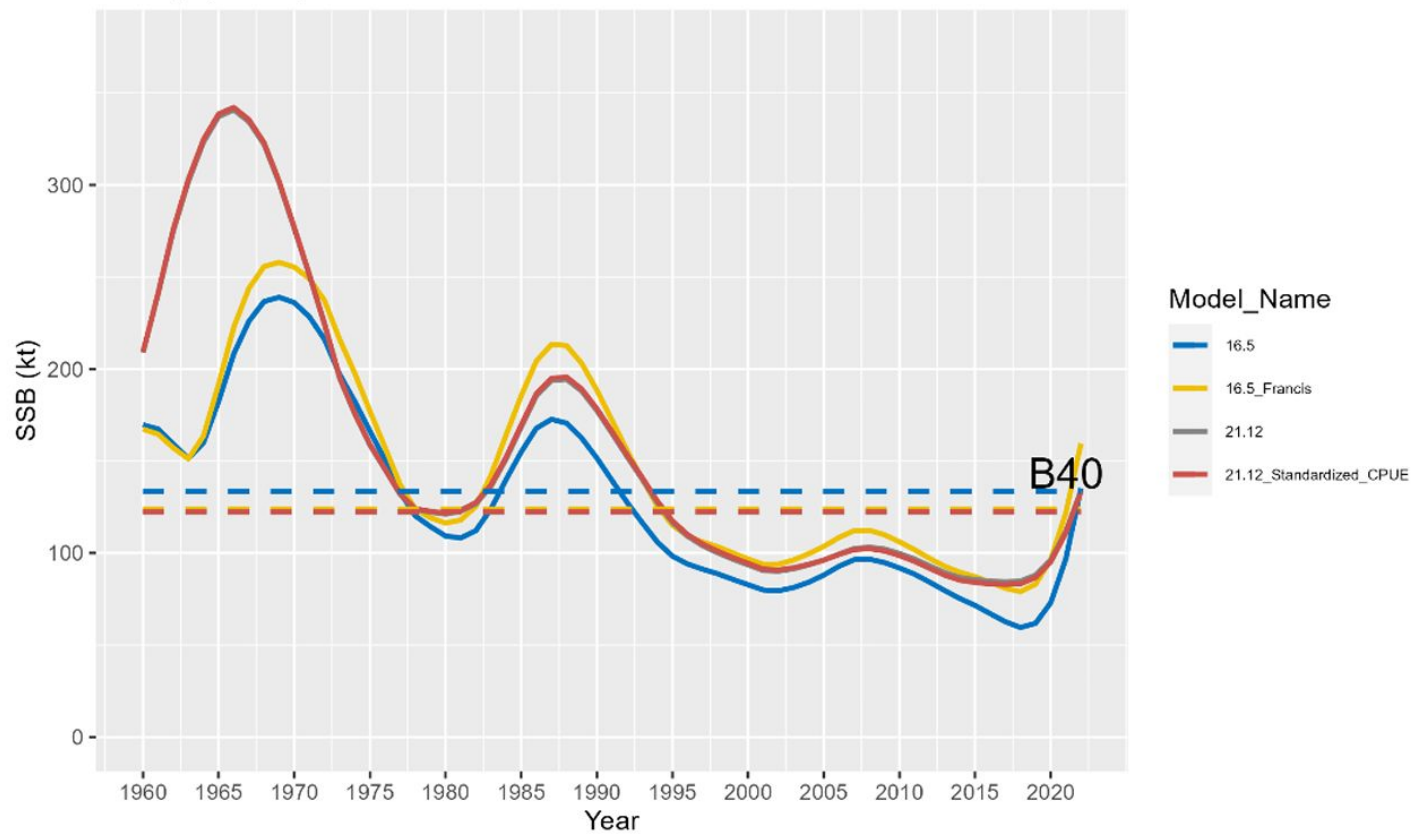
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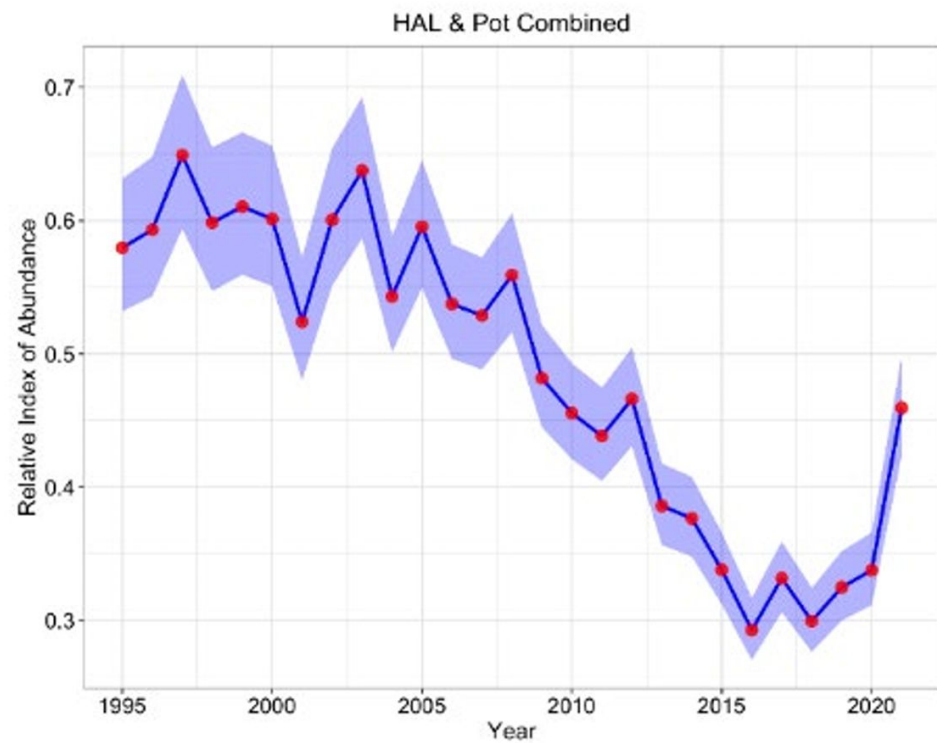
Sablefish Model

Sablefish Model

- **Recommendation:**
  - Support for all proposed modeling changes in 2023 including replacing nominal CPUE with standardized index and using last year's whale depredation values
  - Support for exploring sensitivity runs to start the model at age 3 versus 2 as an option for dealing with proposed small sablefish release
  - Support to continue management strategy evaluations

Thanks to Daniel Goethel

Questions?

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