



ALASKA SABLEFISH

DANA HANSELMAN, CARA RODGVELLER, KARI FENSKE, KALEI
SHOTWELL, KATY ECHAVE, PAT MALECHA, CHRIS LUNSFORD

MARINE ECOLOGY AND STOCK ASSESSMENT

ALASKA FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER

JUNEAU, AK

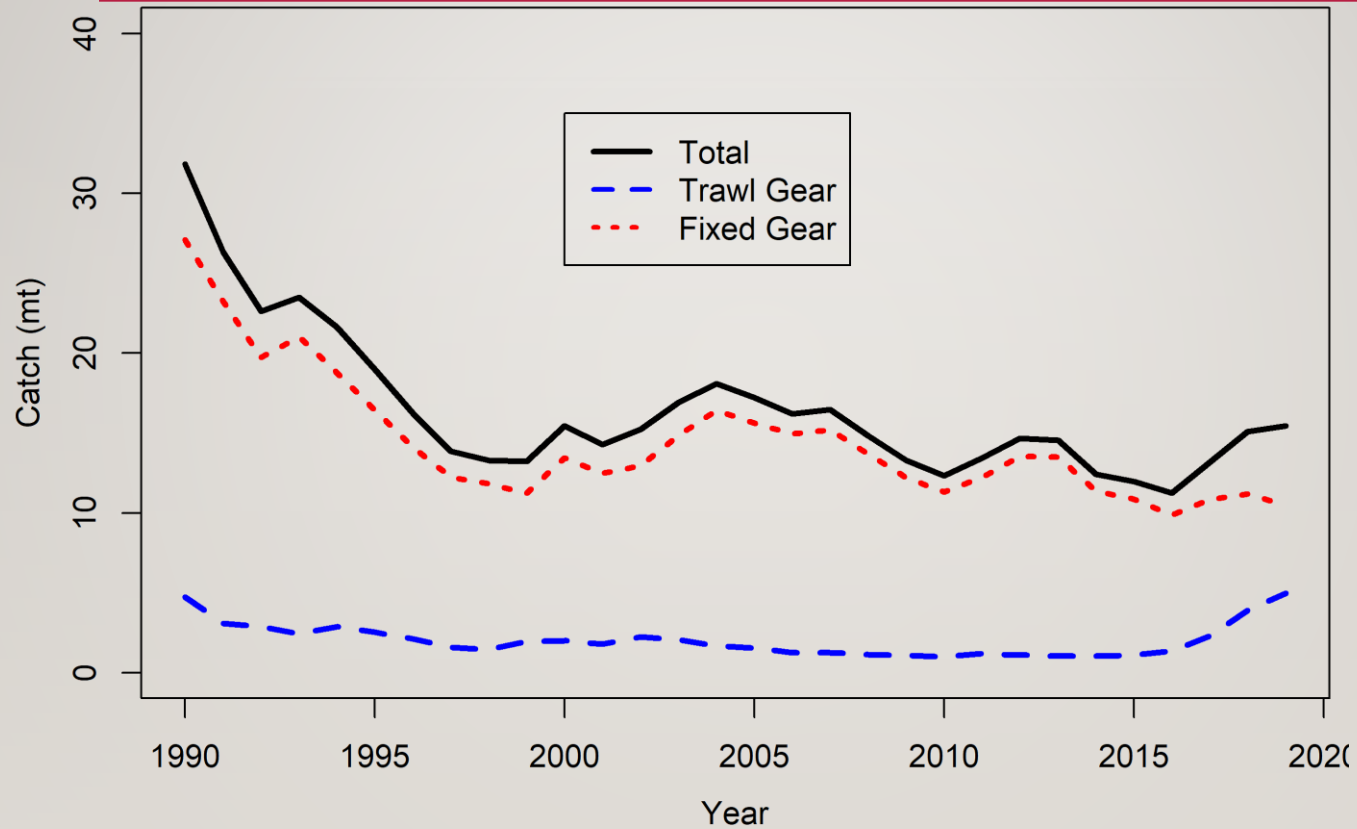


BOTTOM LINE

- Maximum permissible ABC way up
- Author's ABC 2020 > ABC 2019 (+25%)
- At least 12 reasons
why not the max ABC
- Risk-matrix approach
- Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile (ESP)

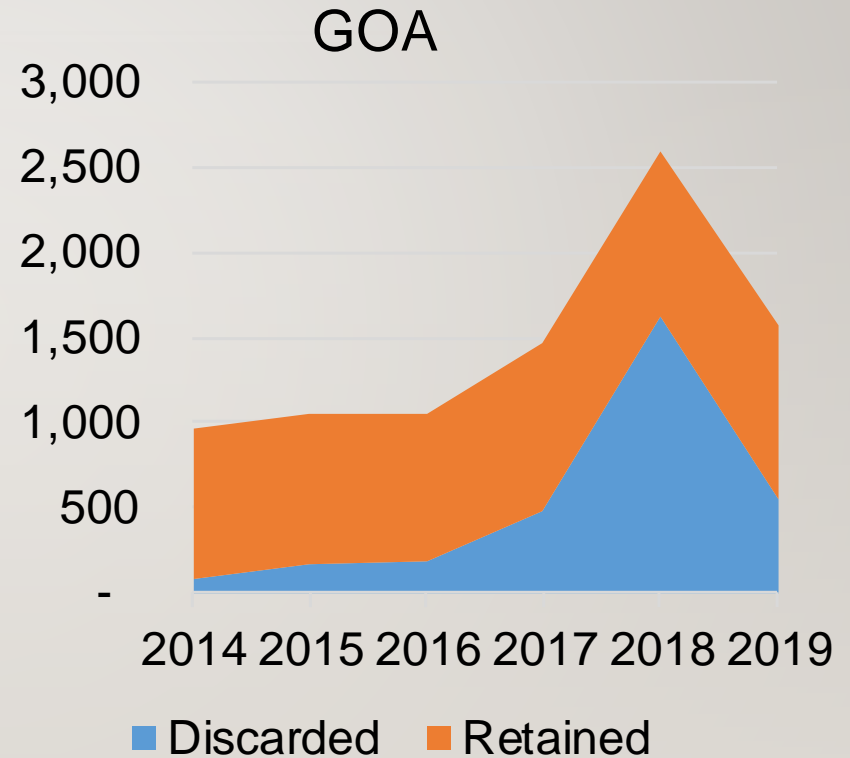
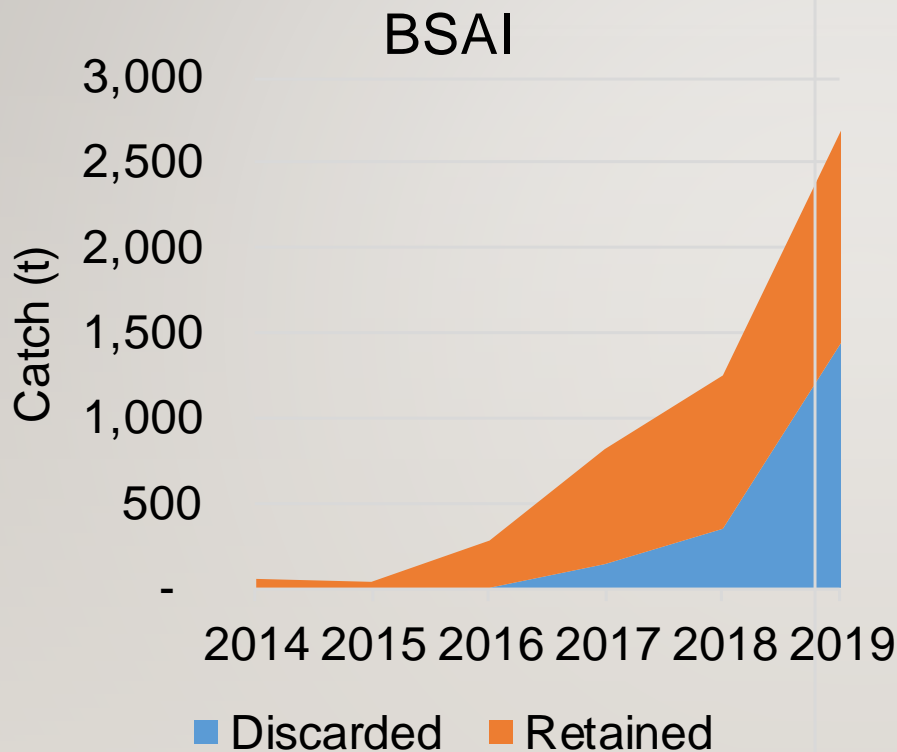


RECENT CATCHES

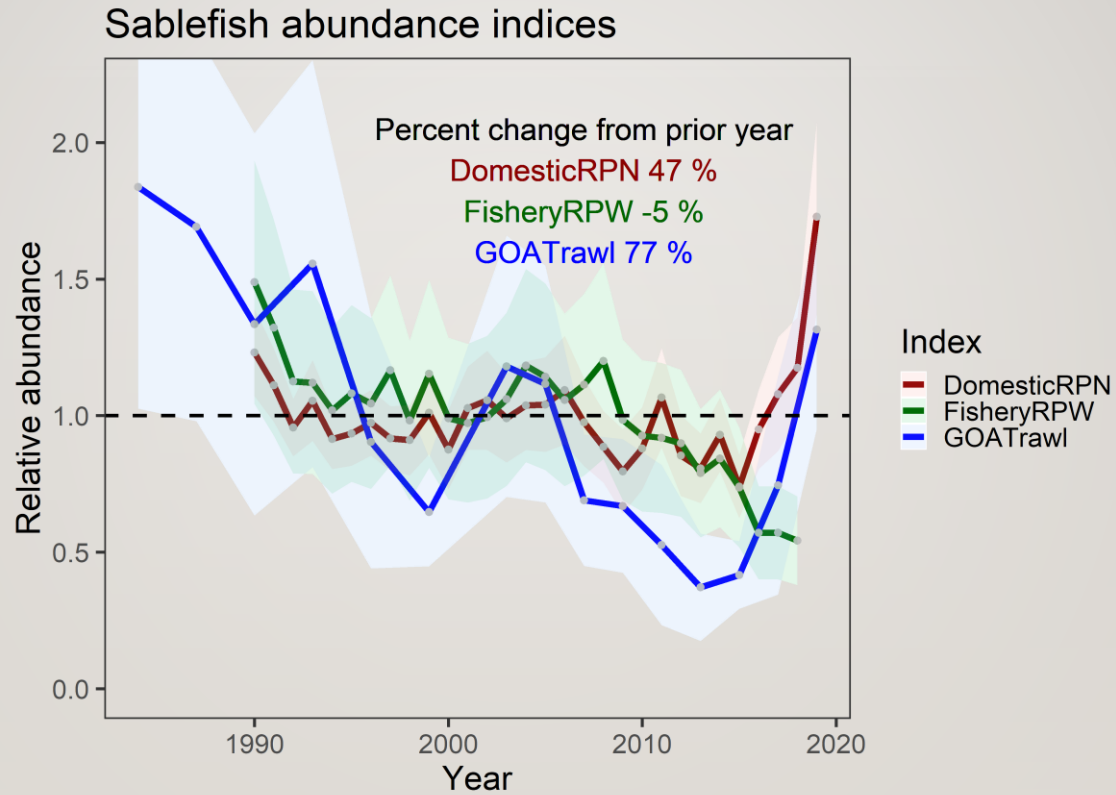


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TRAWL CATCH AND DISCARDS

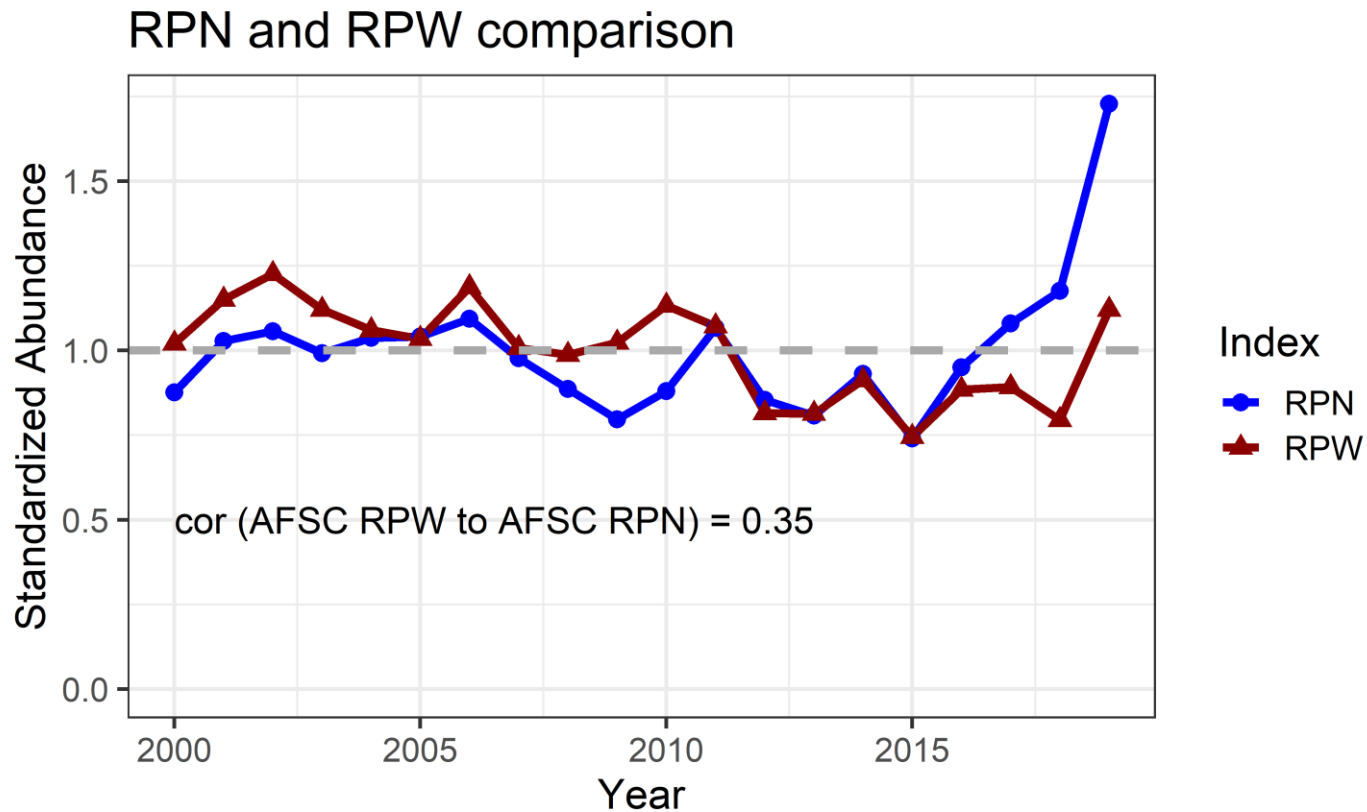


INDICES IN THE MODEL

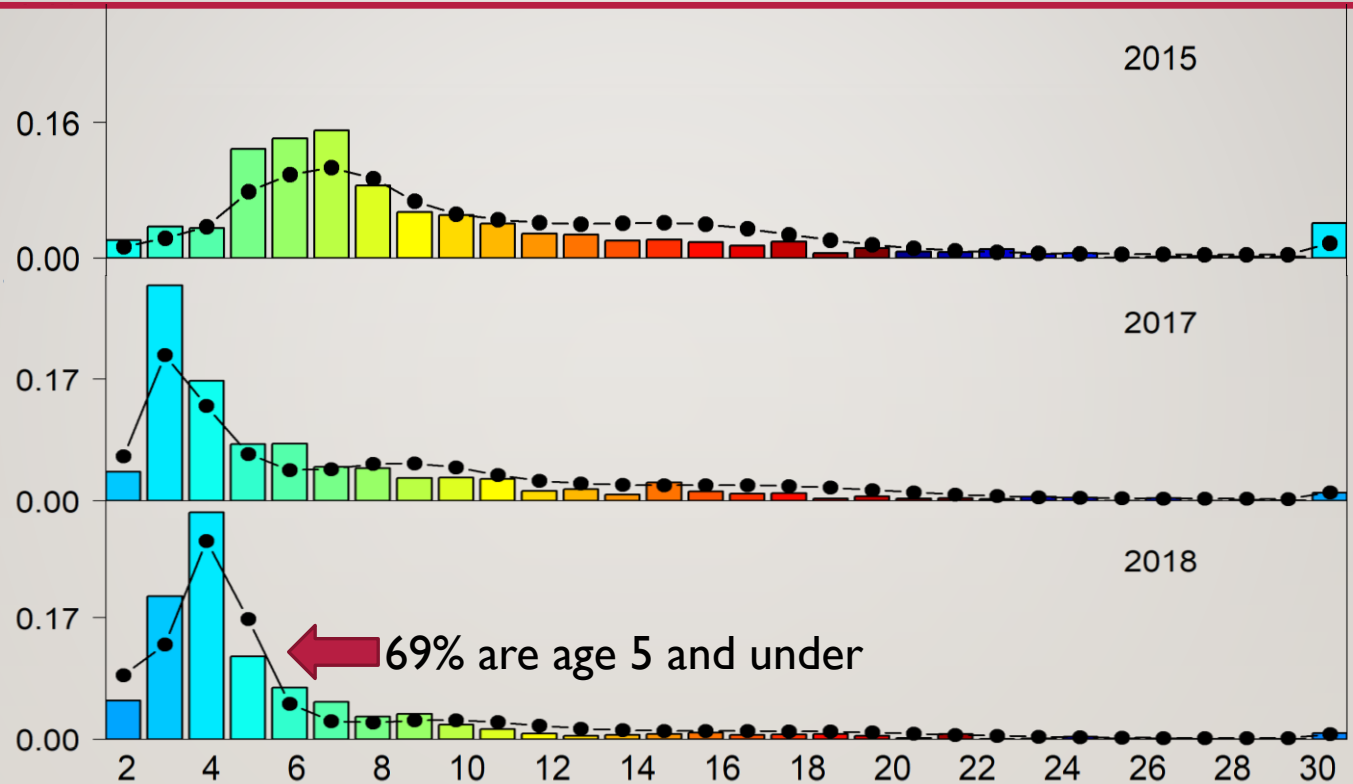




A TALE OF TWO INDICES



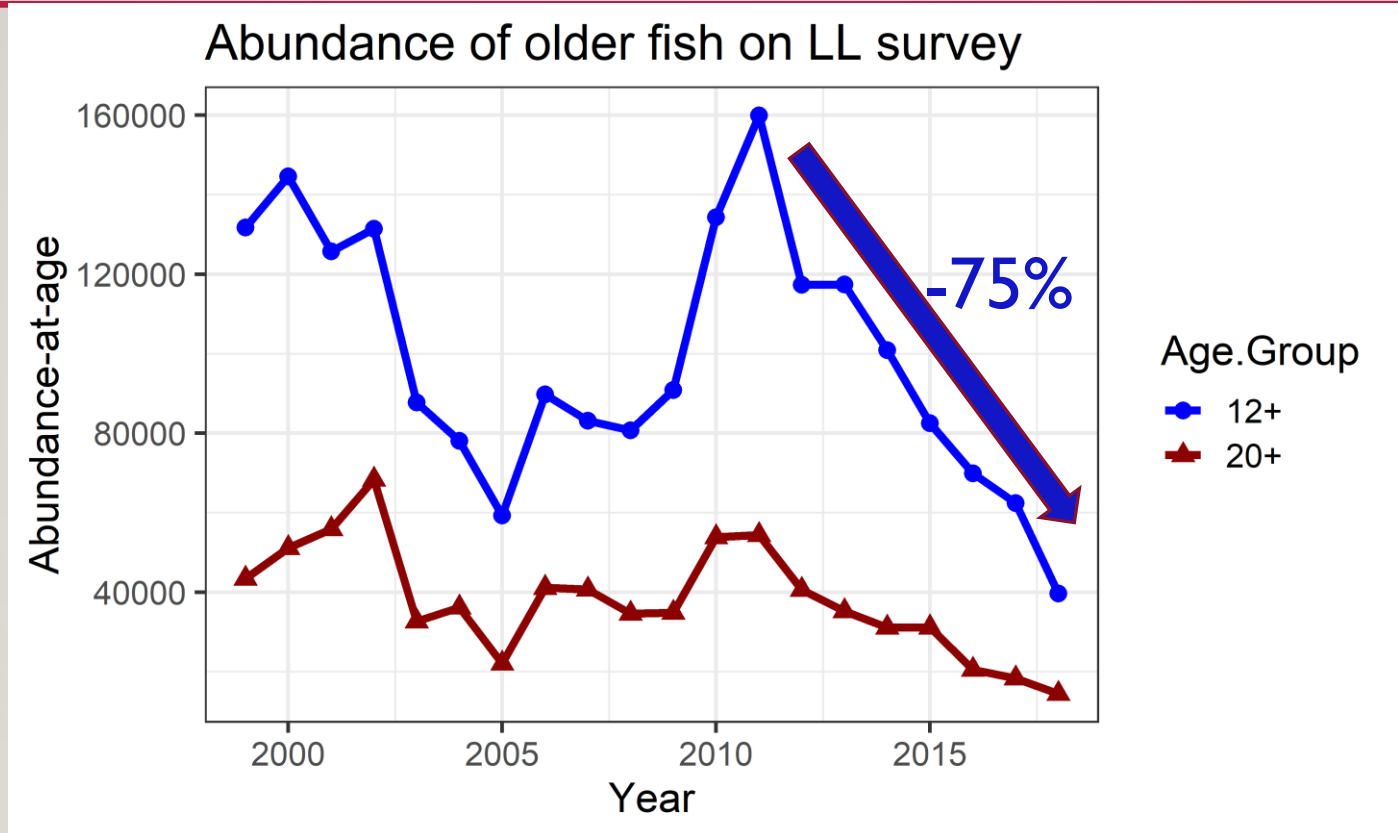
LONGLINE SURVEY AGES



Age

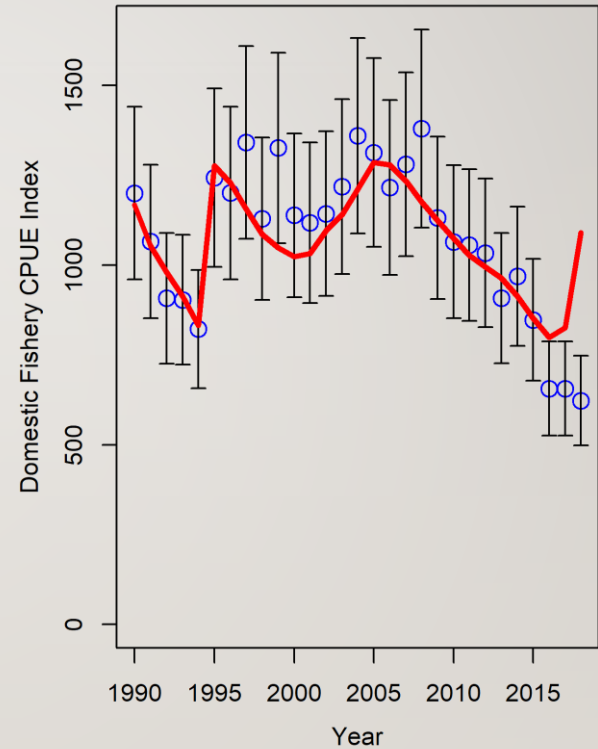
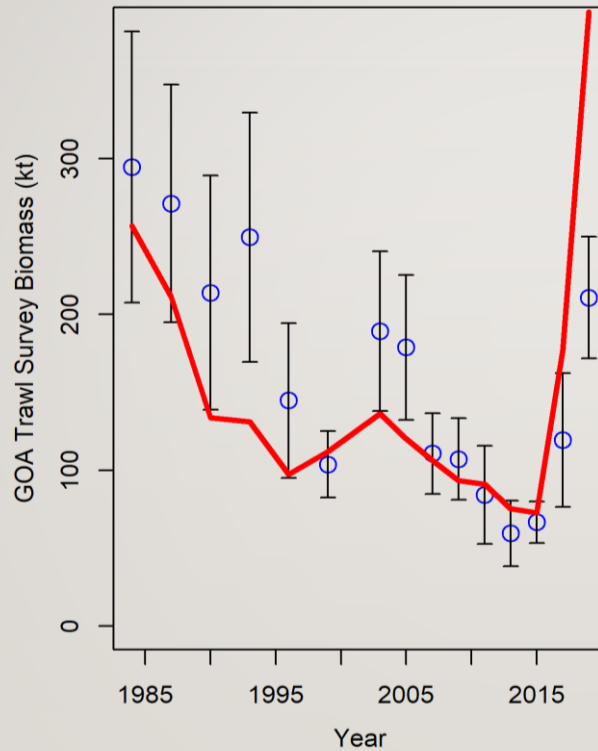


OLD FISH CONTINUE TO DECLINE

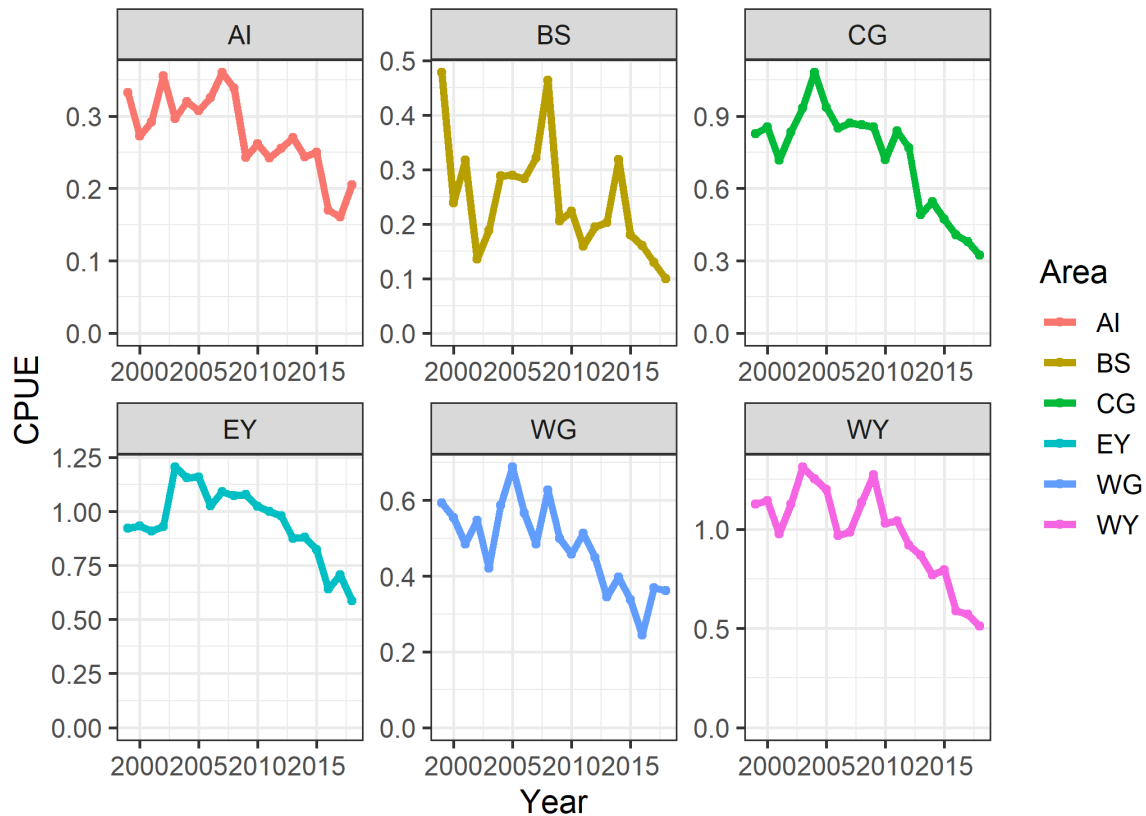


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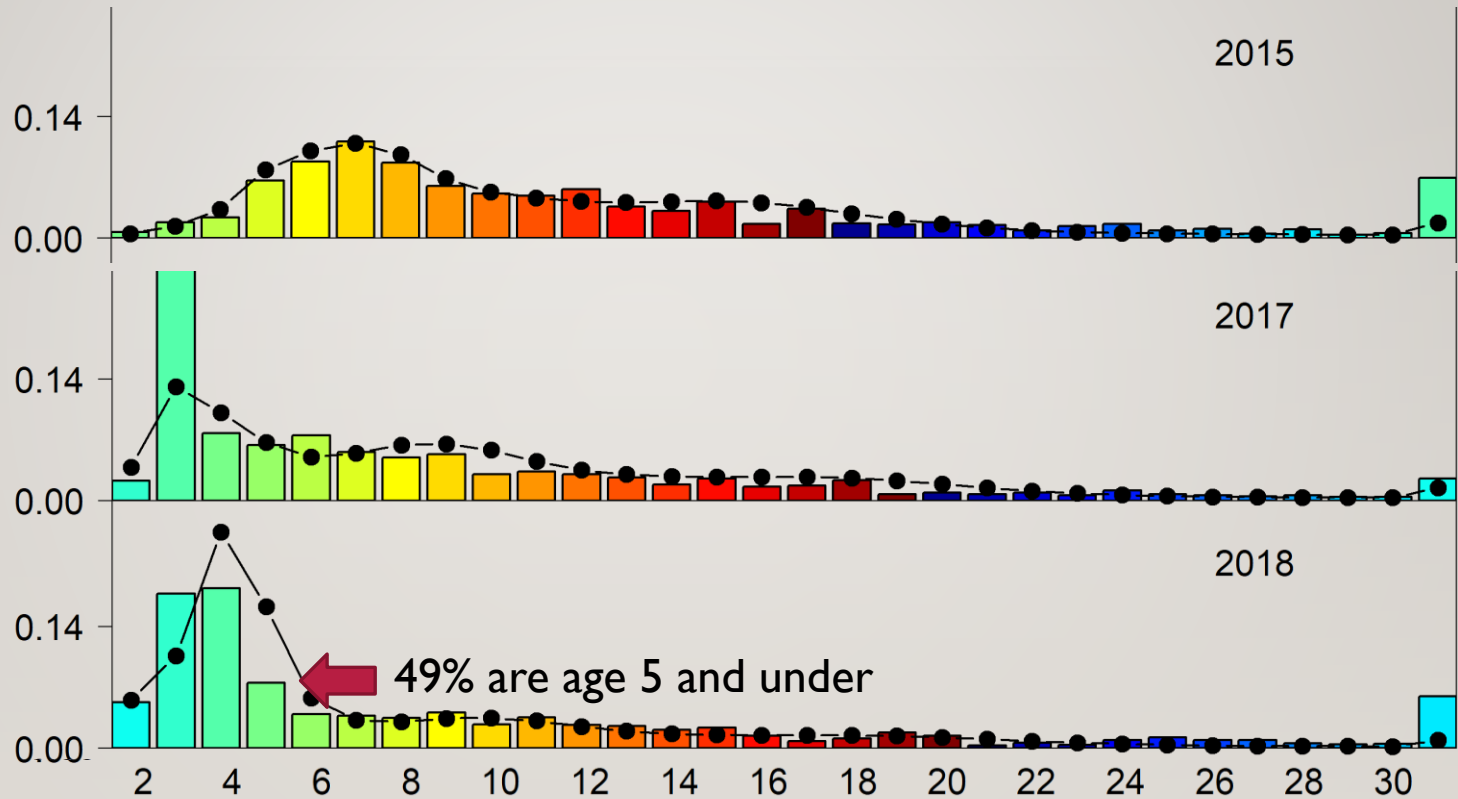
FIT TO OTHER INDICES IS POOR



FISHERY CPUE BY AREA

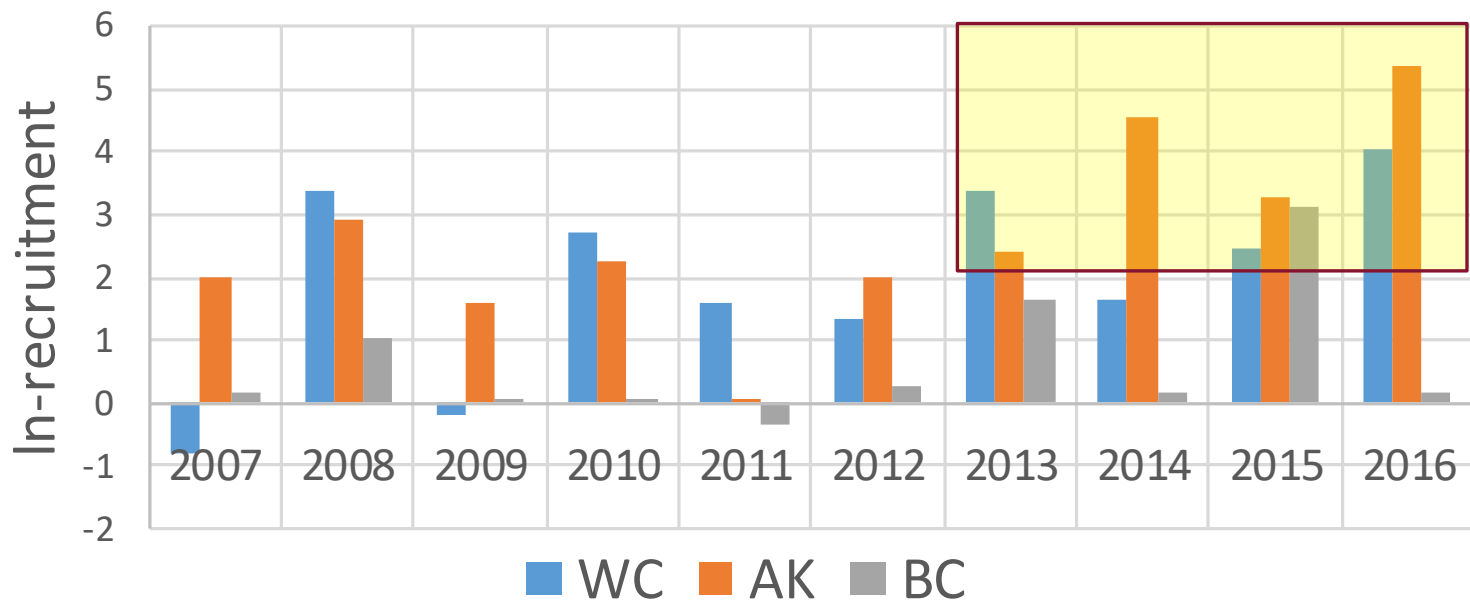


FIXED GEAR FISHERY AGES



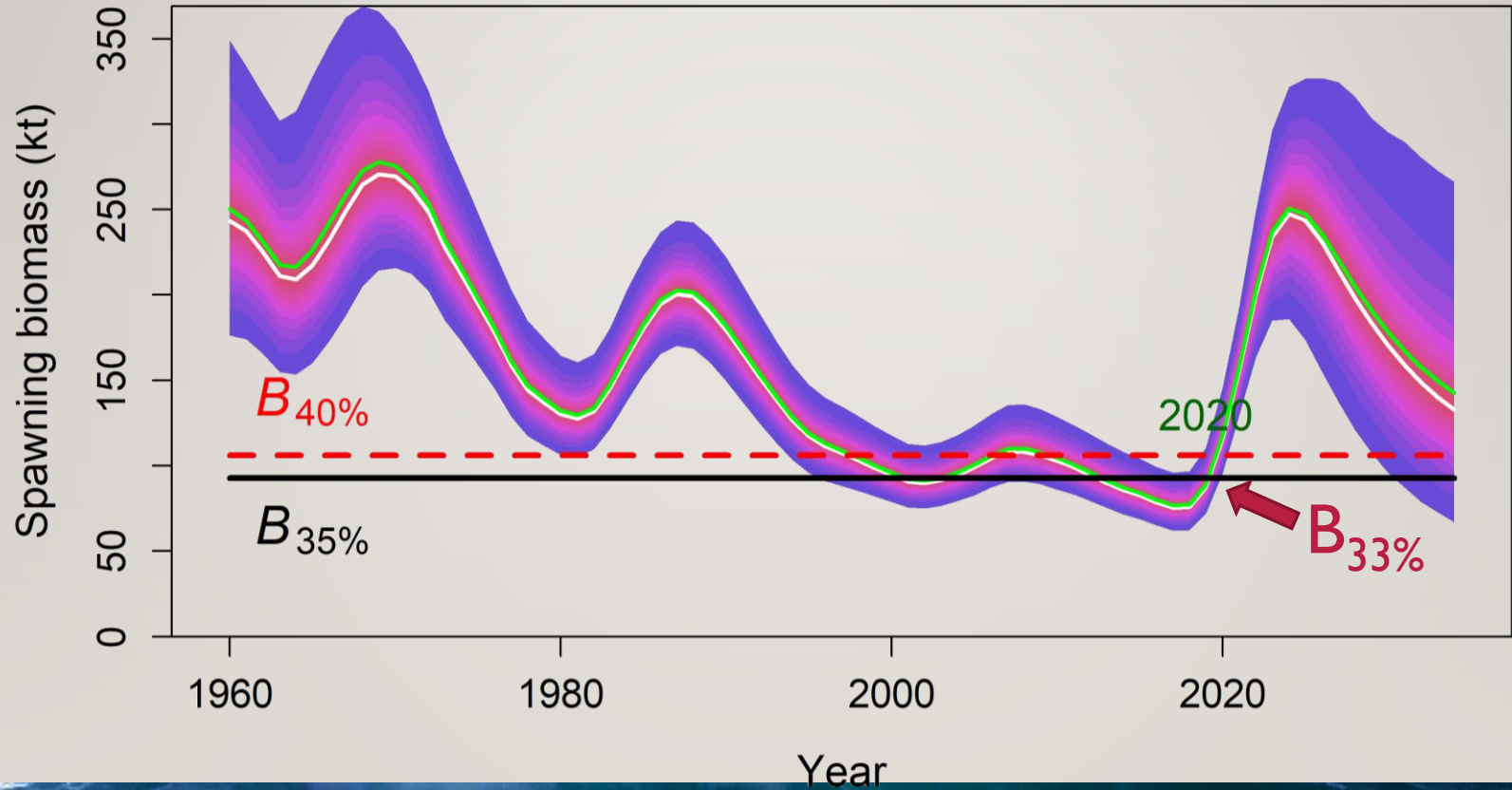
SYNCHRONICITY?

Recruitment increasing in all areas, but different years?



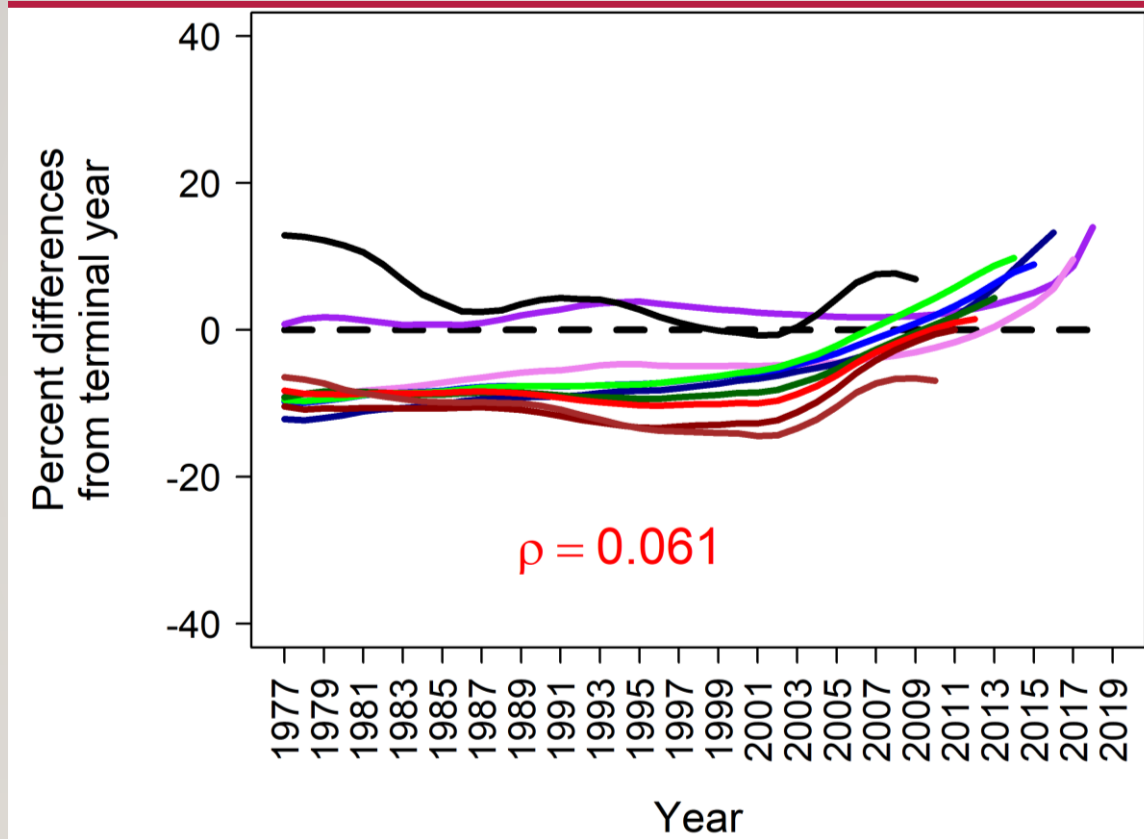
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SPAWNING BIOMASS IS STILL LOW



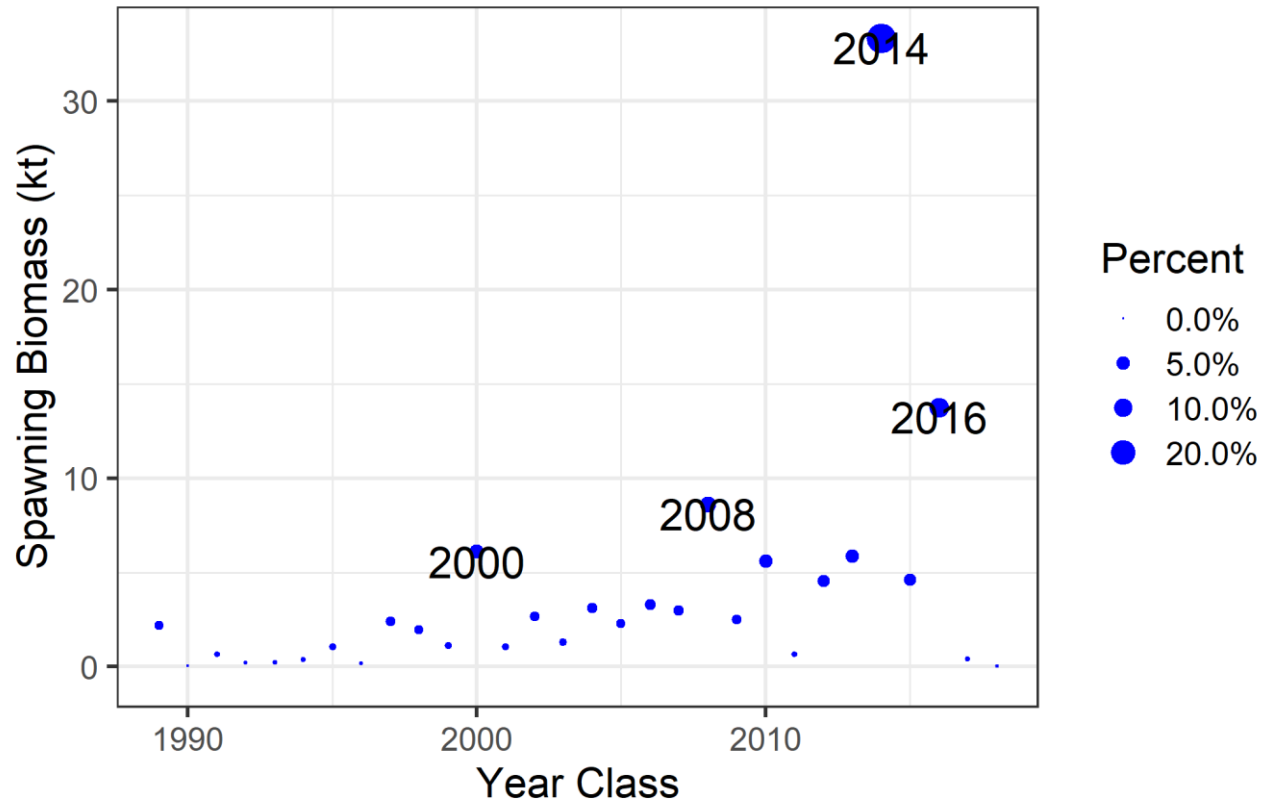
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RETROSPECTIVE BIAS



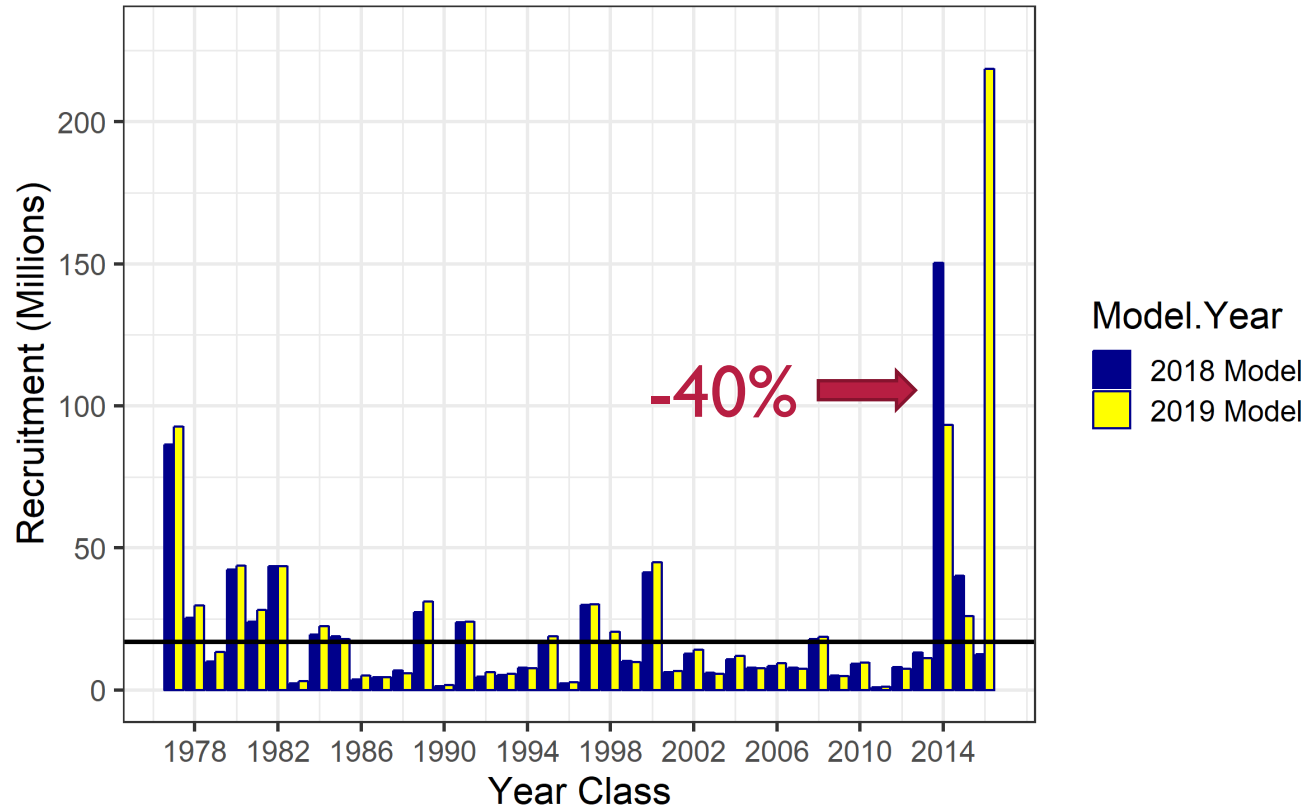


2014, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU: ... 2016 WE ALSO NEED YOU...



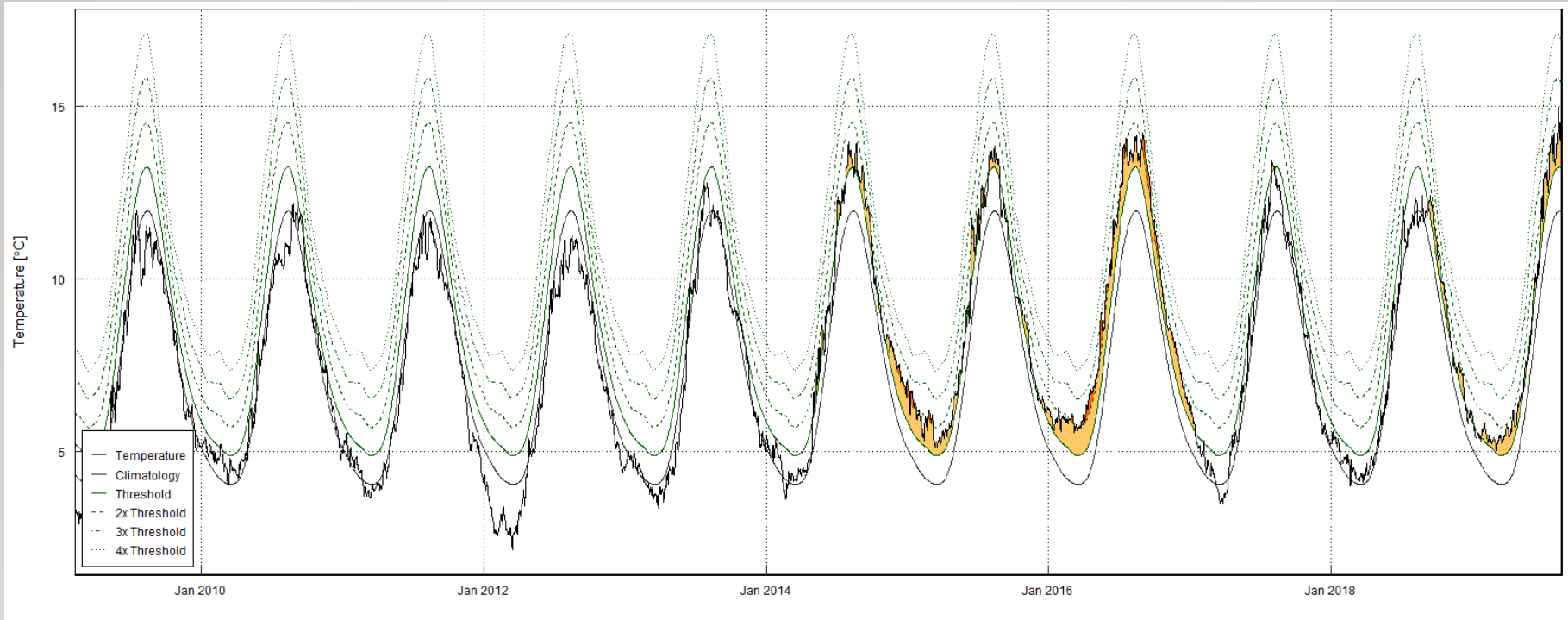


THE 2014 YEAR CLASS DECREASED (AGAIN)

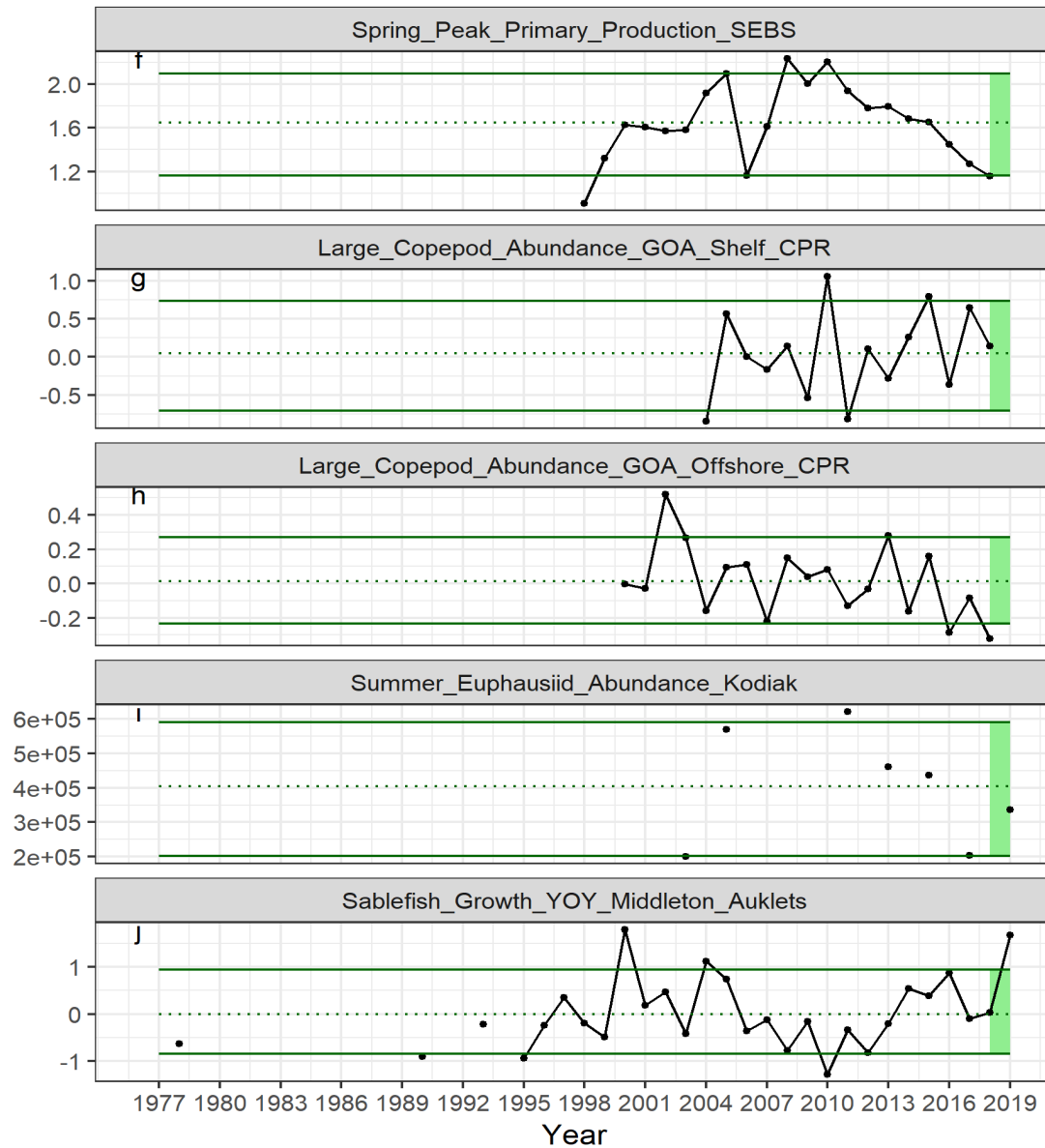


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HEAT EXHAUSTION (ESR/ESP)

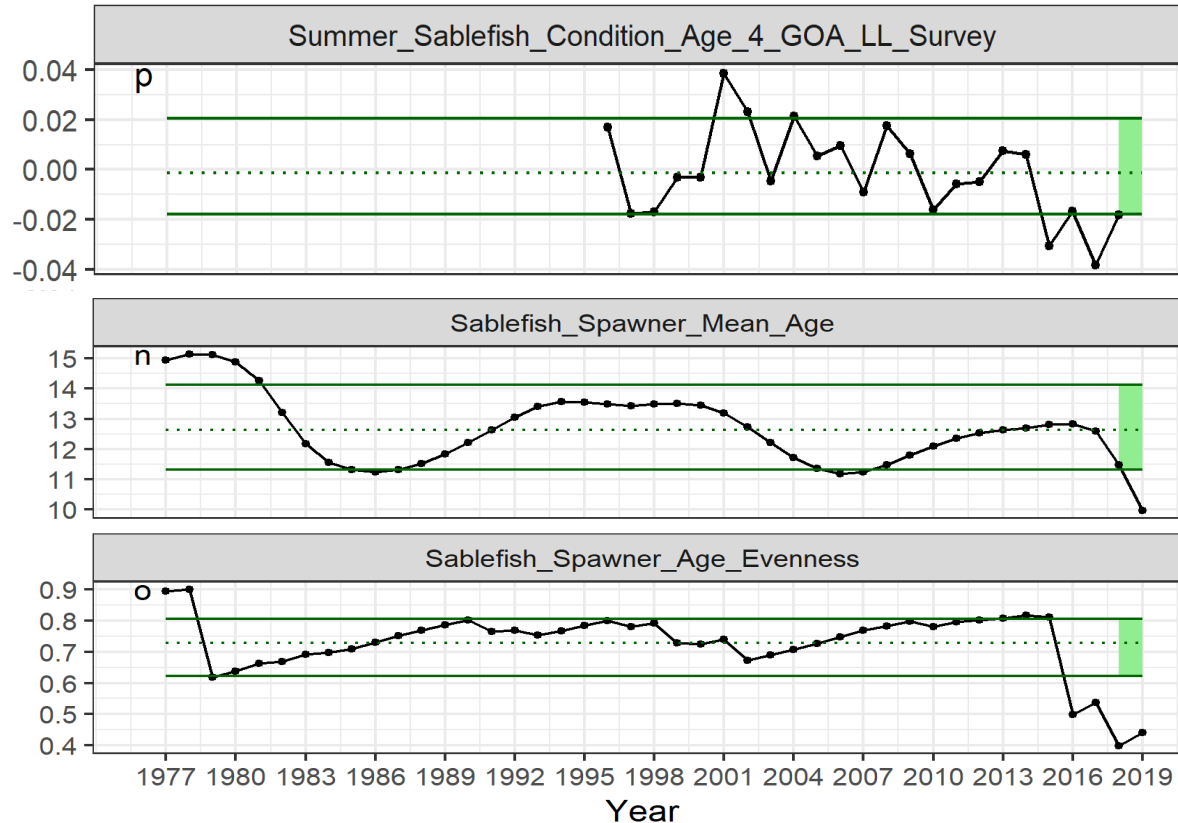


ESP INDICATORS



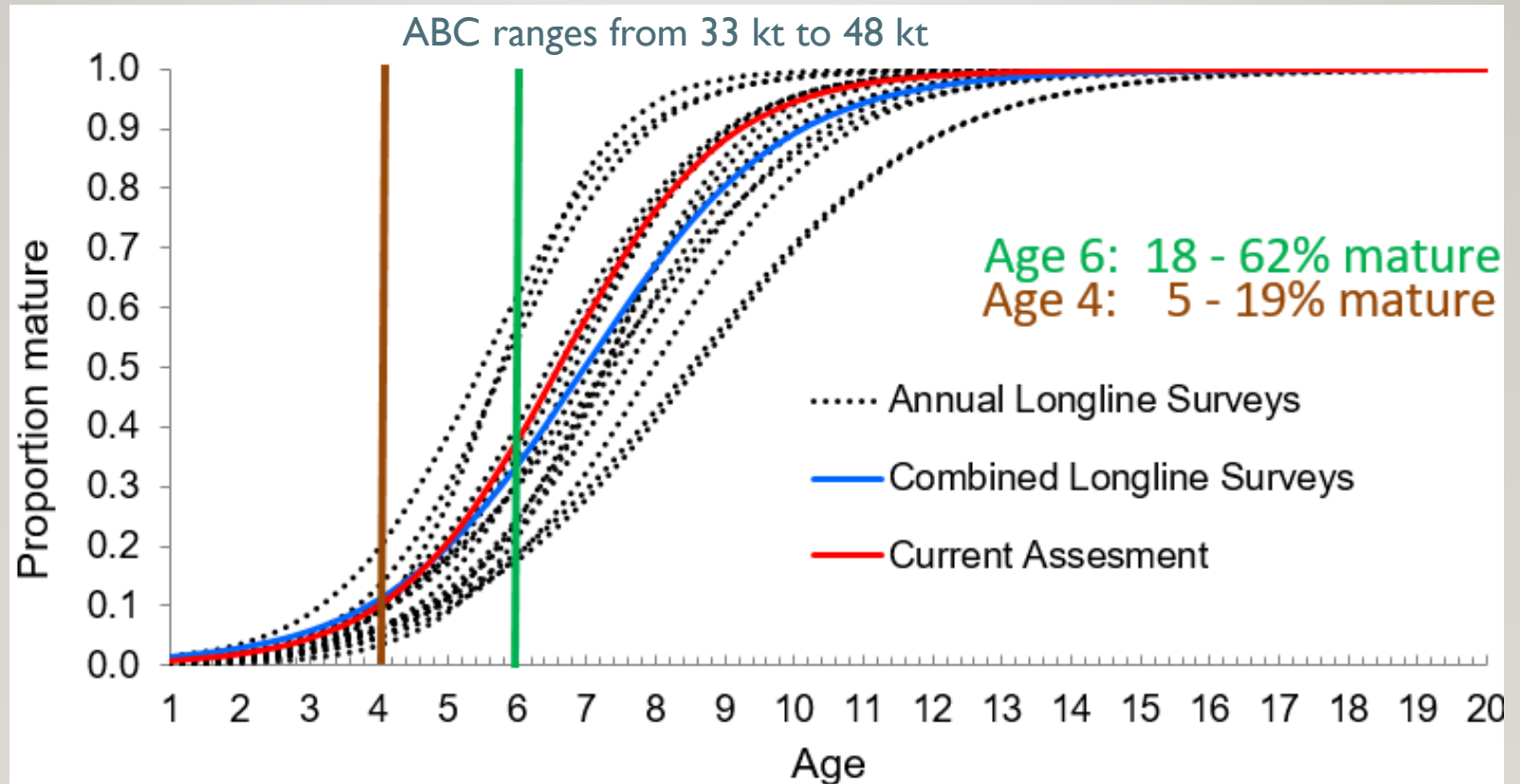


RELIANCE ON FEW COHORTS (ESP)



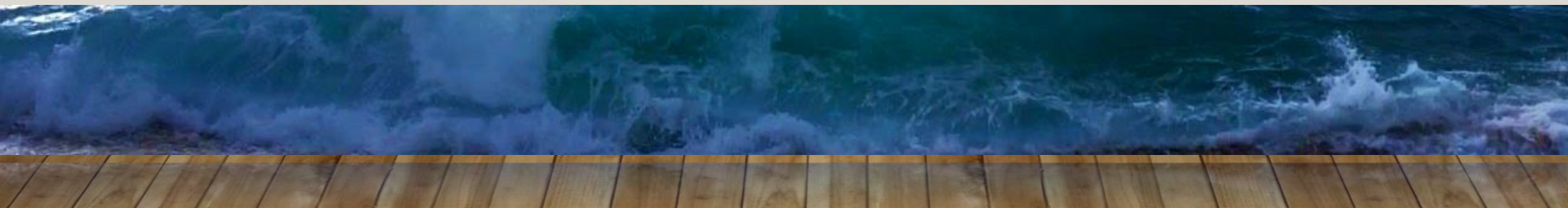
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MATURITY MATTERS



RISK-MATRIX FRAMEWORK: 3

- Assessment model: 2 (increased concern)
- Population dynamics: 3 (major concern)
- Ecosystem: 2 (increased concern)
- Fishery performance: 3 (major concern)



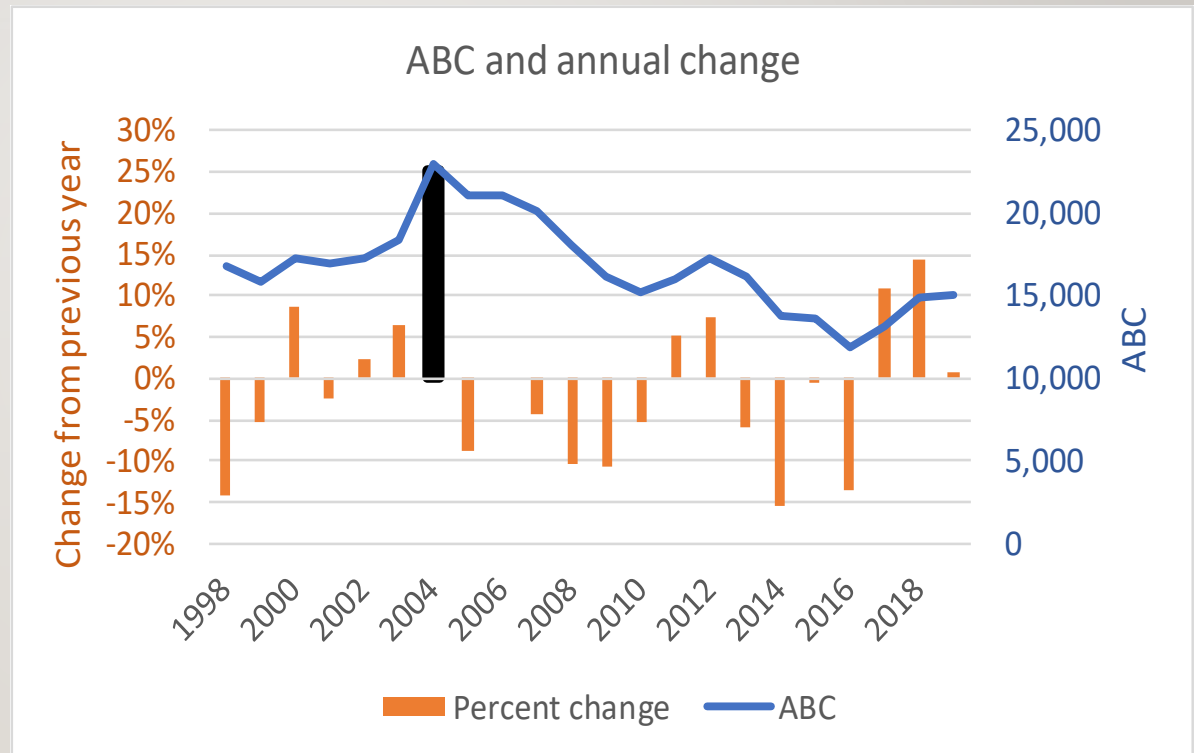
ABC SUMMARY

- LL survey RPN up substantially from low in 2015
- Fishery CPUE index at time series low in 2018
- 43% unfished spawning biomass in 2020 (now Tier 3a)
- ABC_w 2019: 15,068 t
- ABC 2020 (Max): 44,065 t (vs. 38,916 t projected)
 - 292 % **increase** from 2019
- Author recommended ABC_w 18,763 (+25%)



BOTTOM LINE

- Author's ABC 2020 is much lower than max
- Rebuilding spawning biomass and improving age structure is primary goal
- ABC 2021 continues with 25% increase from 2020 for now
- Also keeps fishing mortality level between 2019 and 2020



APPORTIONMENT

- CIE not concerned with static apportionment
- We believe it is best to stay put (and we have no new alternatives prepared)
- MSEs and spatial work continue (Appendix 3D)
- Maximum yield can be achieved with a wide range of apportionments
- SSC agreed at October meeting (while noting the old apportionment has diverged quite a bit)



EBS OFL ISSUE

- Sablefish OFL is apportioned to BS, AI, and GOA
- EBS sablefish catch was very close to OFL in 2019
- We were requested to give history and present options of how OFL is apportioned
 - History is very sparse, informal discussions among authors
- We presented the options with discussion, but did not recommend an option
- Under status quo, OFL will be much higher in 2020



BACKGROUND

- In 1996 stock transitioned to an All-Alaska assessment
- At that time BSAI started being apportioned in the same way as the GOA
- GOA was apportioned as TACs not ABCs until 1997
- There was concern that sub-area OFLs might instigate derby style fishing again if OFLs were getting approached



WHAT DOES THIS ACTION MEAN?

- ABC by subareas affords some protections
- What does area-specific OFL do?
 - Potentially close fisheries when reached in an area or act as a “hard cap”
 - However, sablefish status determination is Alaska-wide (i.e., if BS OFL is exceeded, the assessment will not report that stock “experiencing overfishing.”)
- Larger question: Should we have sub-area ABCs **OR** sub-area OFLs? Do we need to be more consistent?

