



D2 - Small Sablefish Discarding



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Mike Fey (AKFIN)  
Nathan Lagerway (NOAA)  
Brent Pristas (NOAA)

Source: <https://www.seafoods.com/>

# Small Sablefish Discarding

## D-2 Discussion Paper

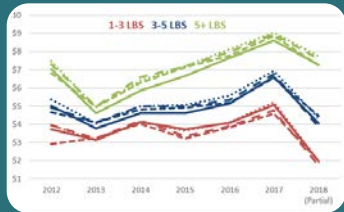
# Elements of April 2018 Motion



DMRs



Trade-Offs







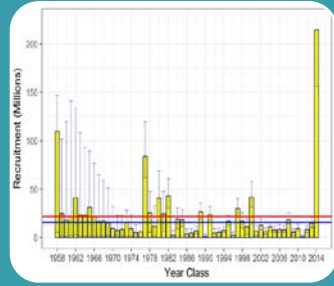
Value by Size



Observer Sampling

# Structure of the Document

-  DMRs
-  Trade-Offs
-  Value by Size
-  Observer Sampling



Biological





Econ / Operational



Management

# Structure of the Document

## Summary Points

-  DMRs
-  Trade-Offs
-  Value by Size
-  Observer Sampling

Action may be warranted by further very strong year classes

No compelling biological reason to prohibit/require discarding

Many years from having scientific basis for sablefish DMRs

Econ/Operational benefits will vary by area and operation

Discards may need to accrue to IFQ

Observer-based DMRs a significant new program

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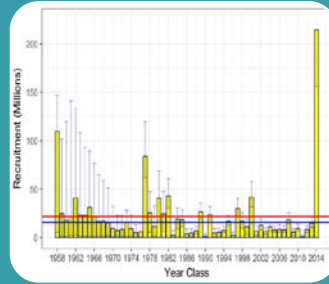
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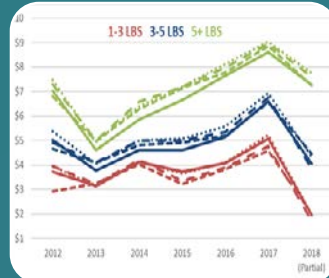
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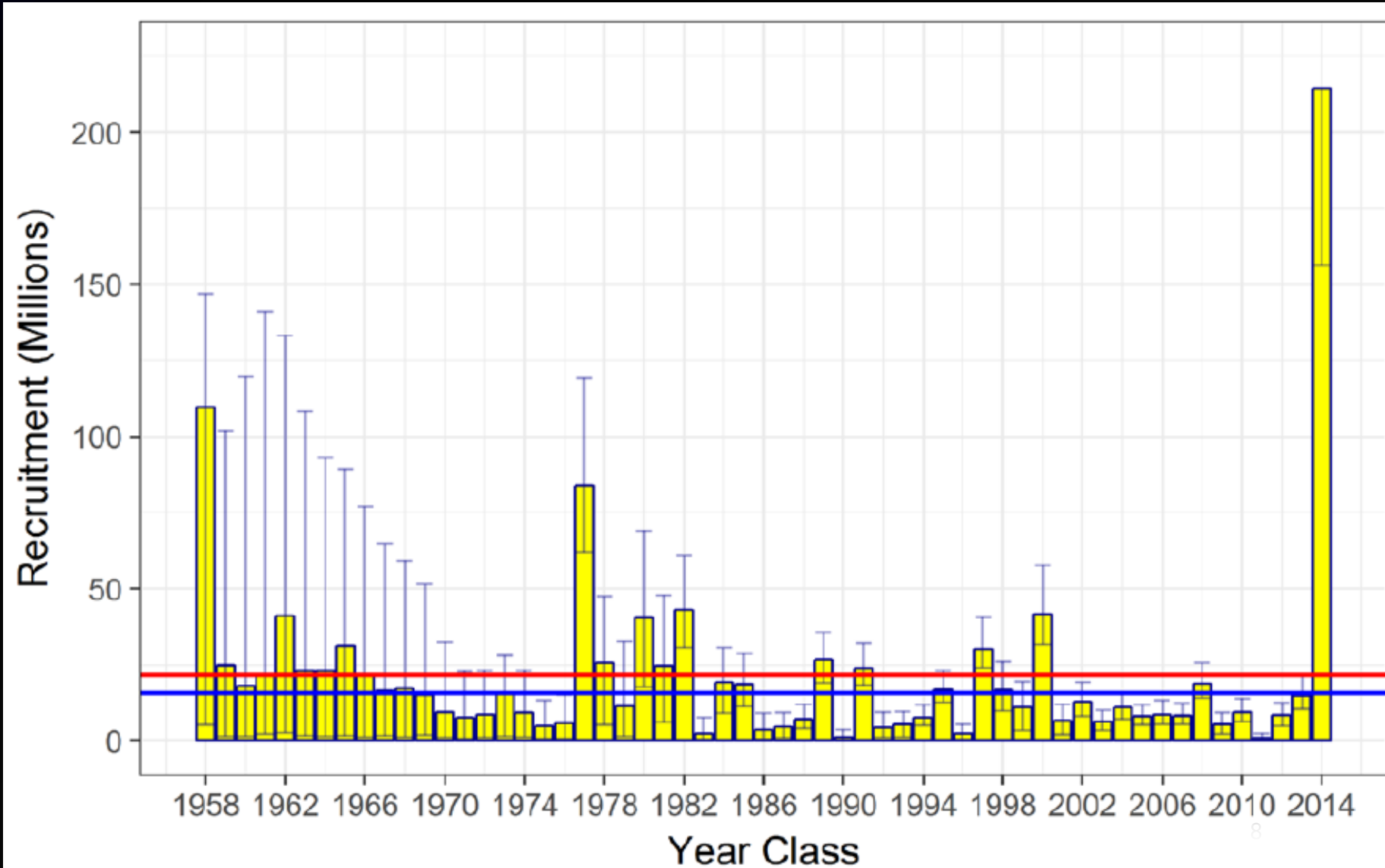


Econ / Operational



Management

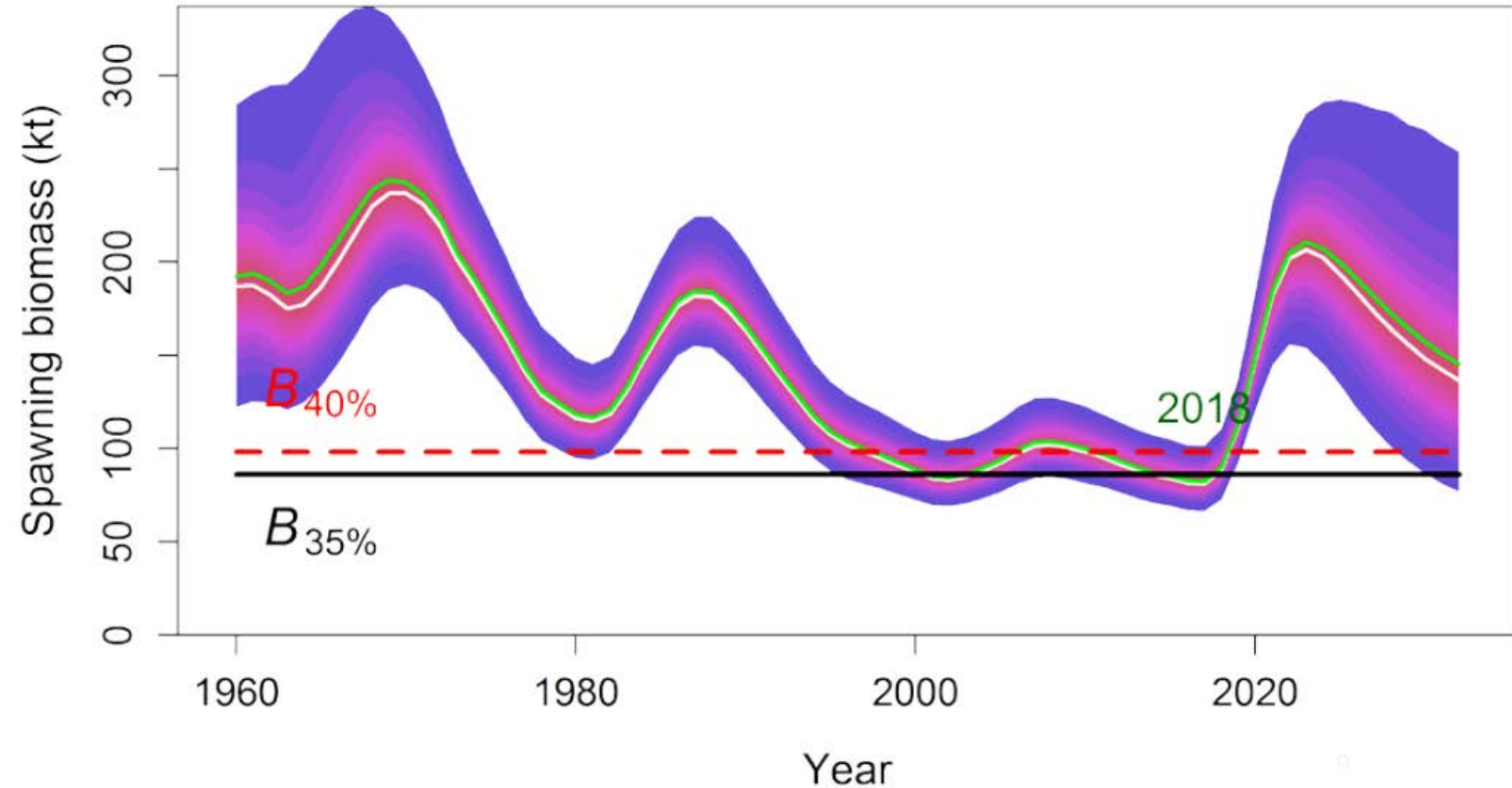
# 2014 Year Class





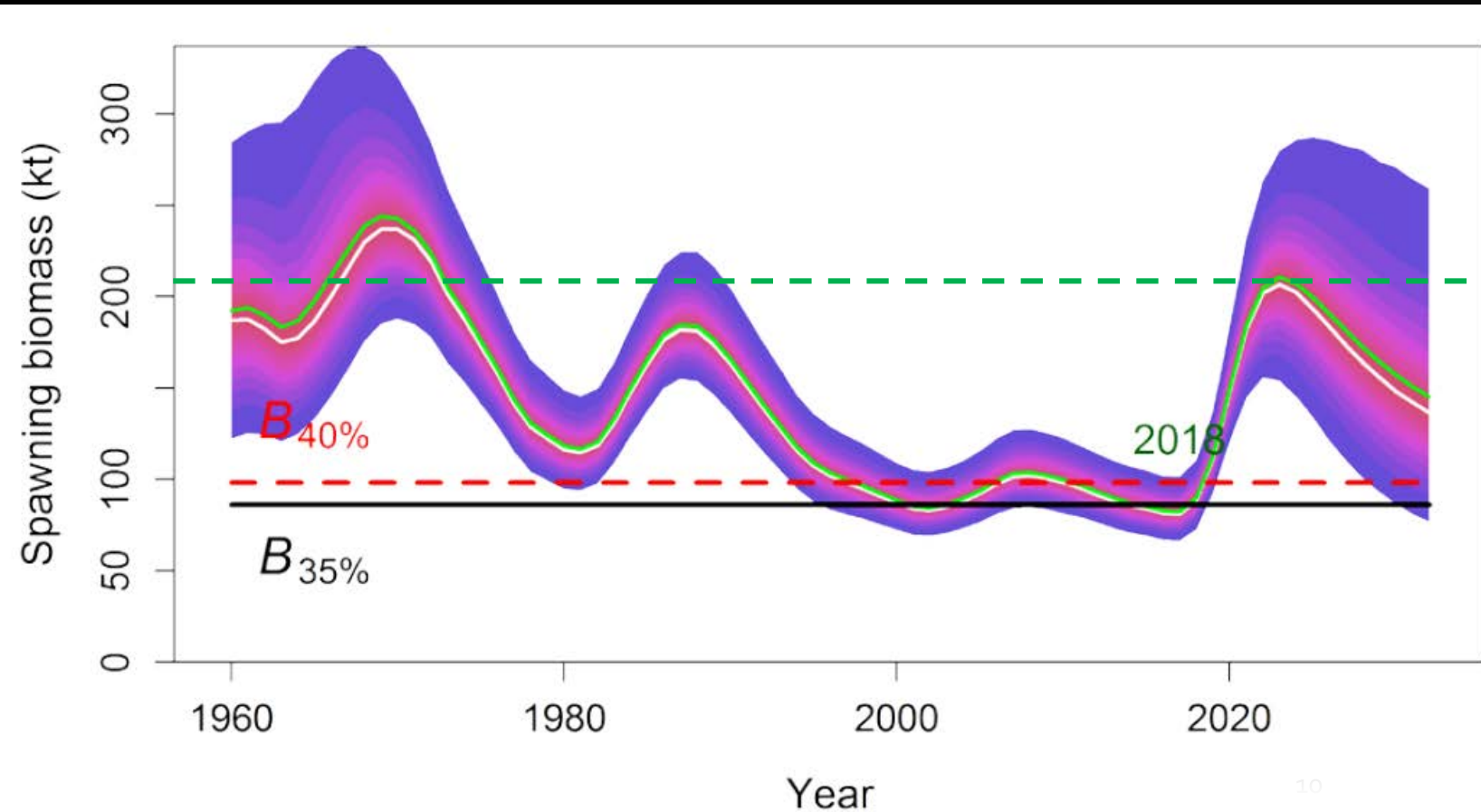
# Contribution to Sablefish Biomass

Source: ADF&G



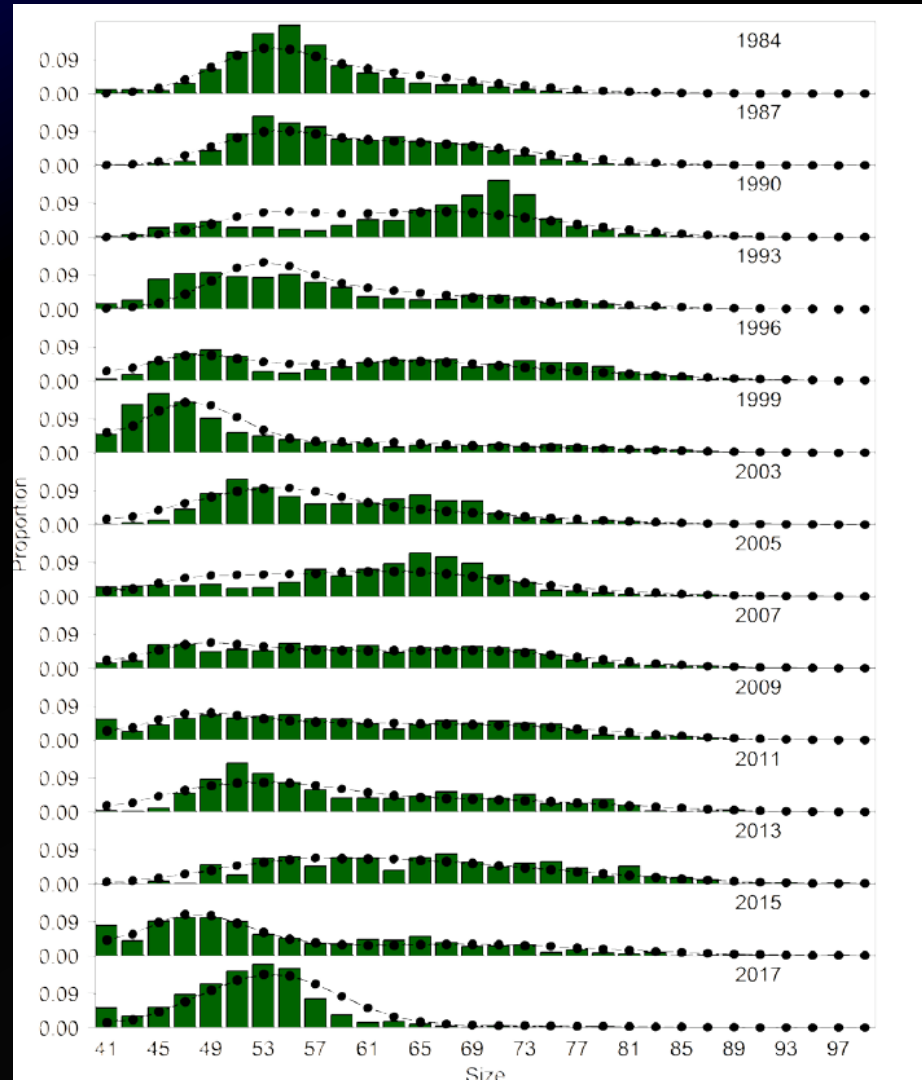
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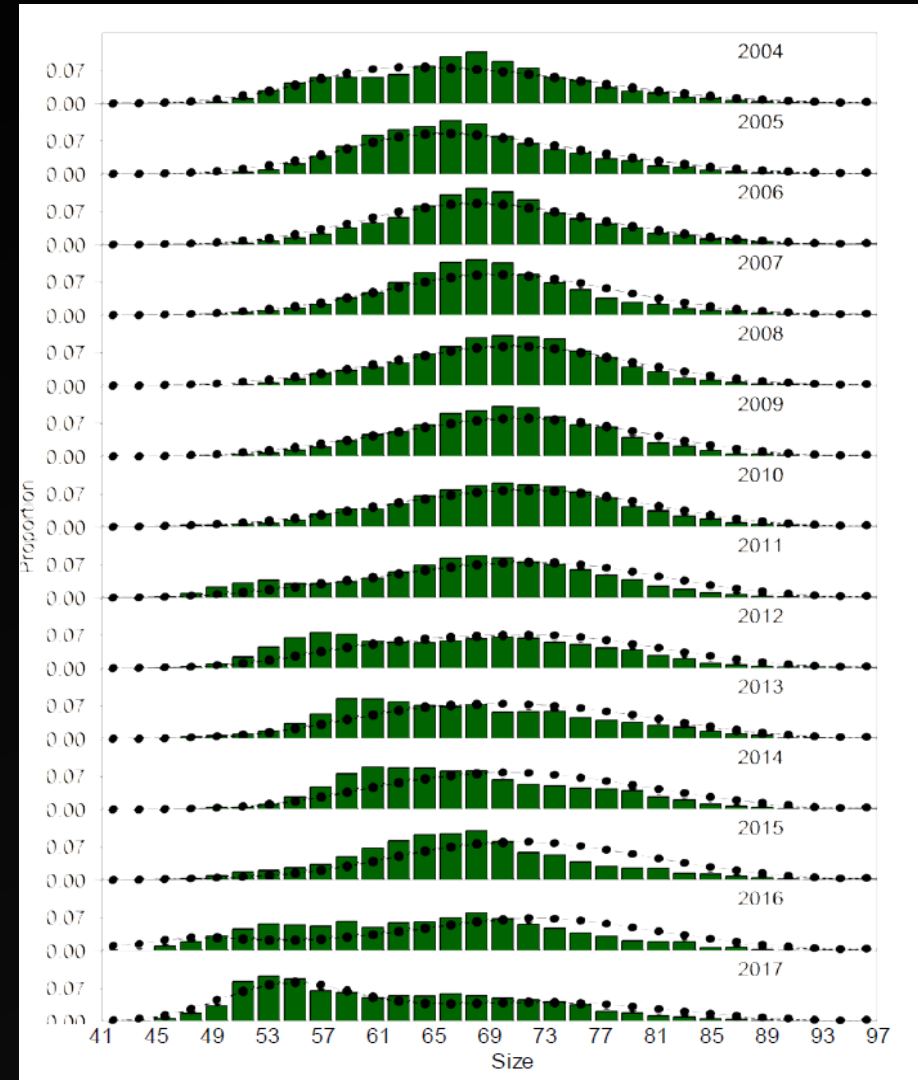


# Arrival in Survey

## Trawl Survey

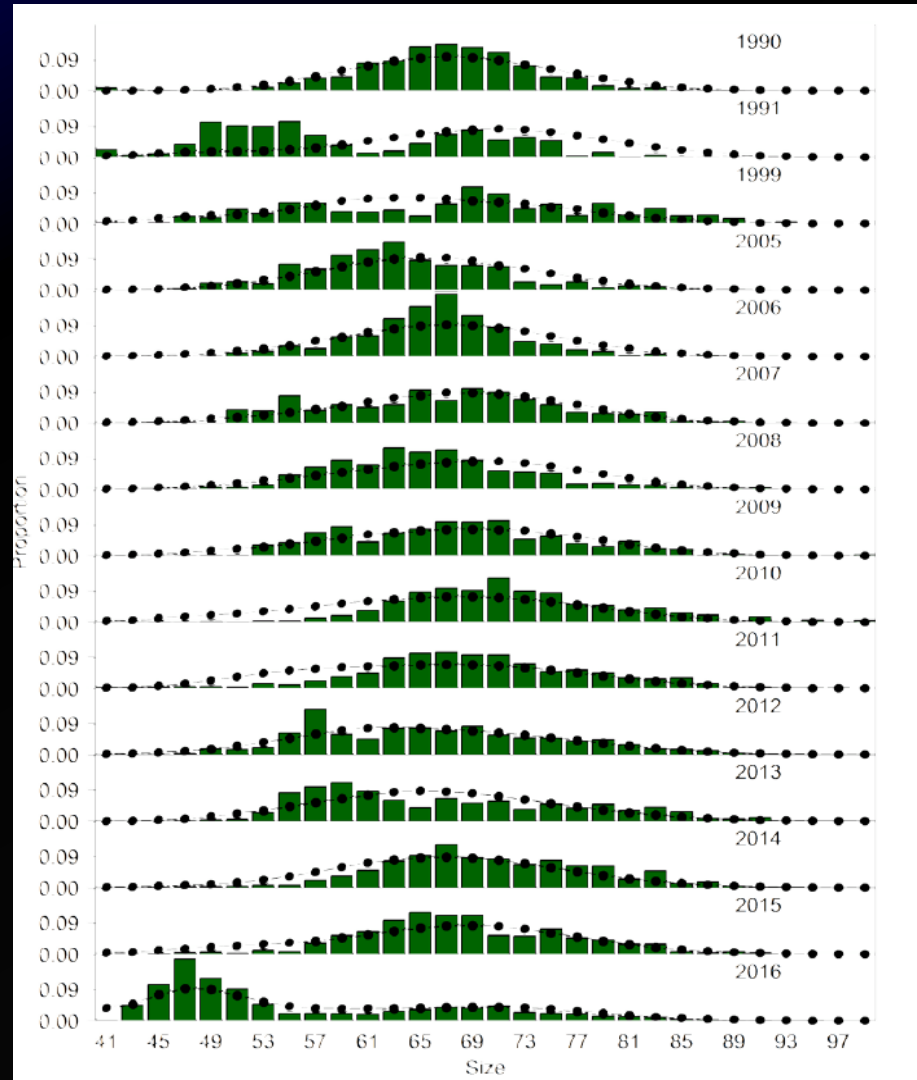


## LL Survey

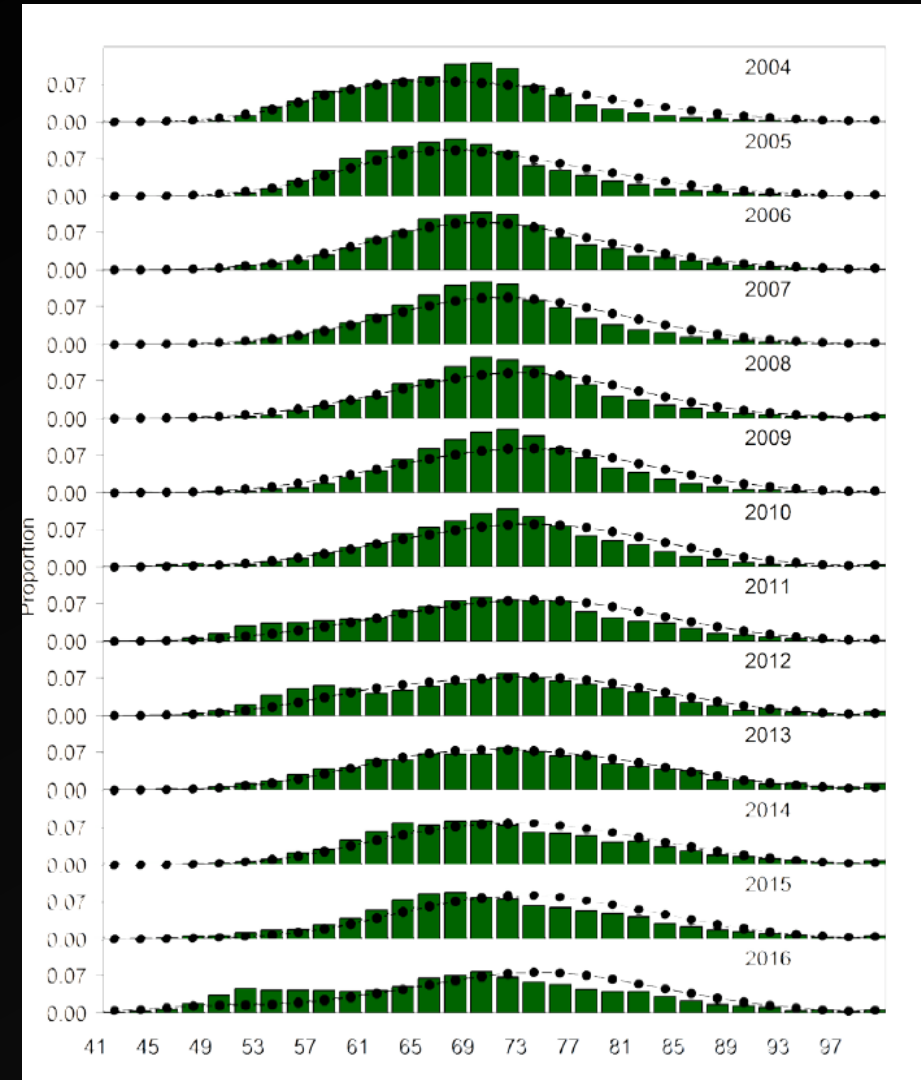


# Arrival in Fishery

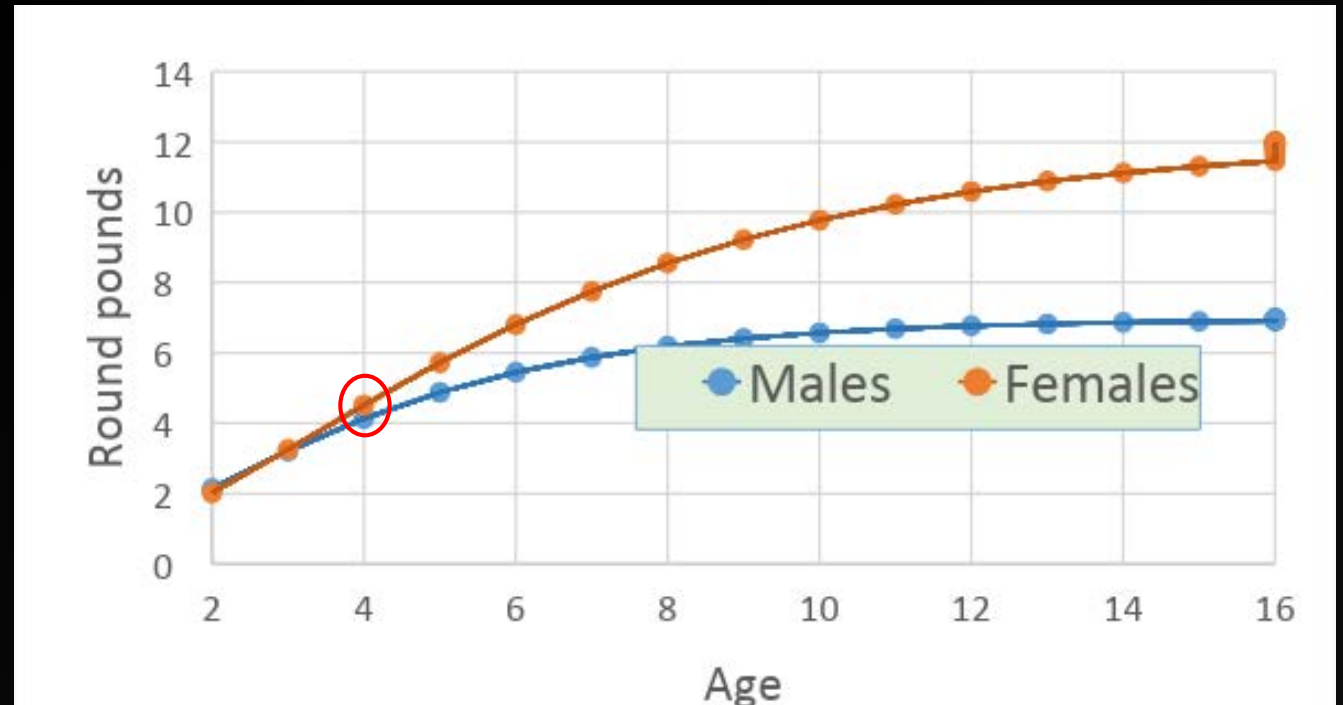
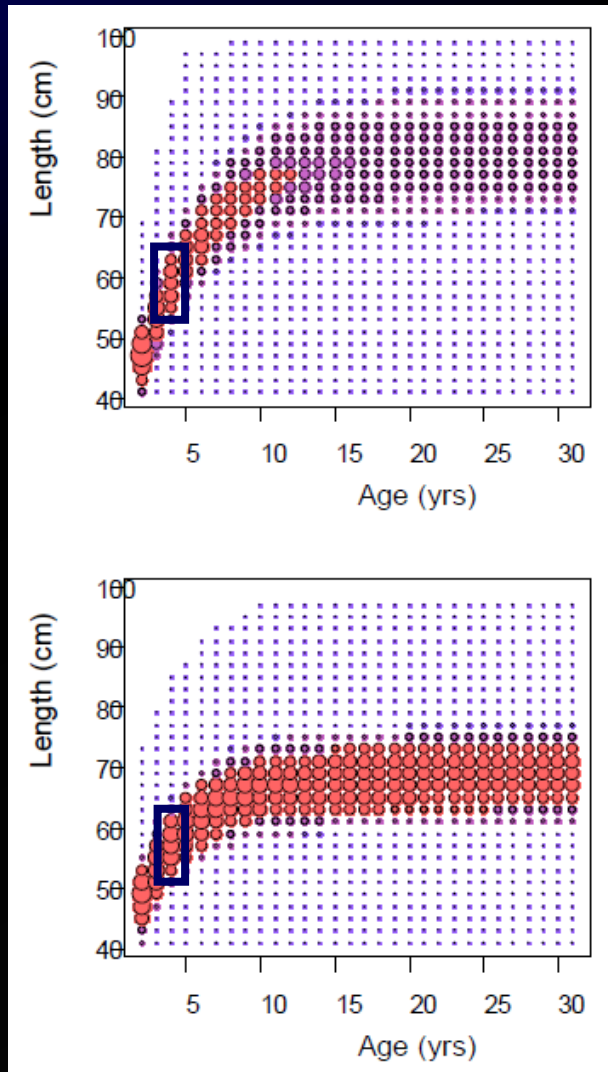
## Trawl Fishery



## LL Fishery



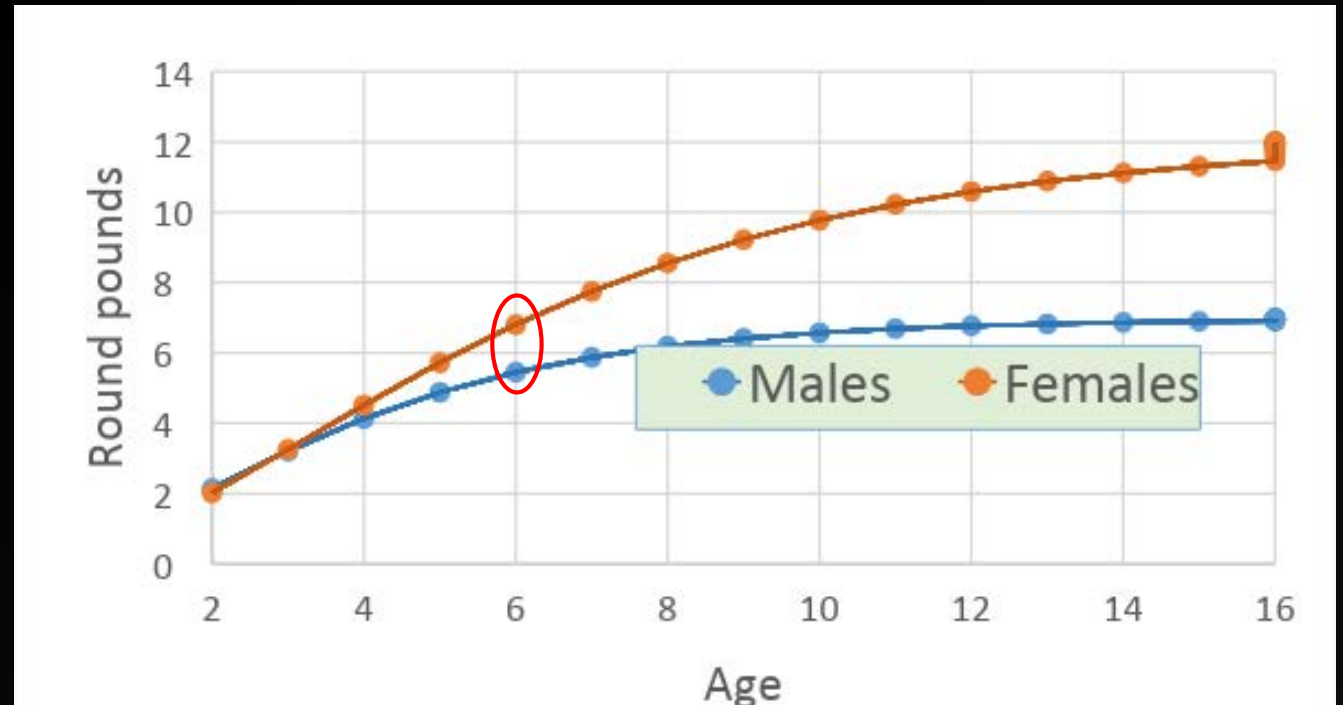
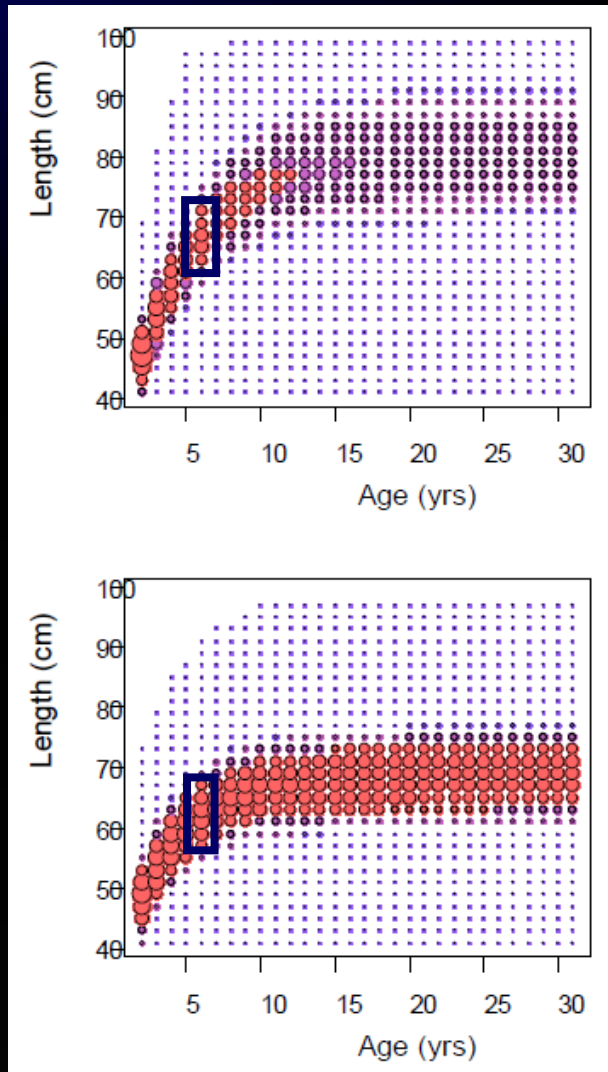
# Current Size of 2014 Year Class



2018

- 56-62 cm (22-24 in)
- 1.8-2.3 kg (4-5 lbs)

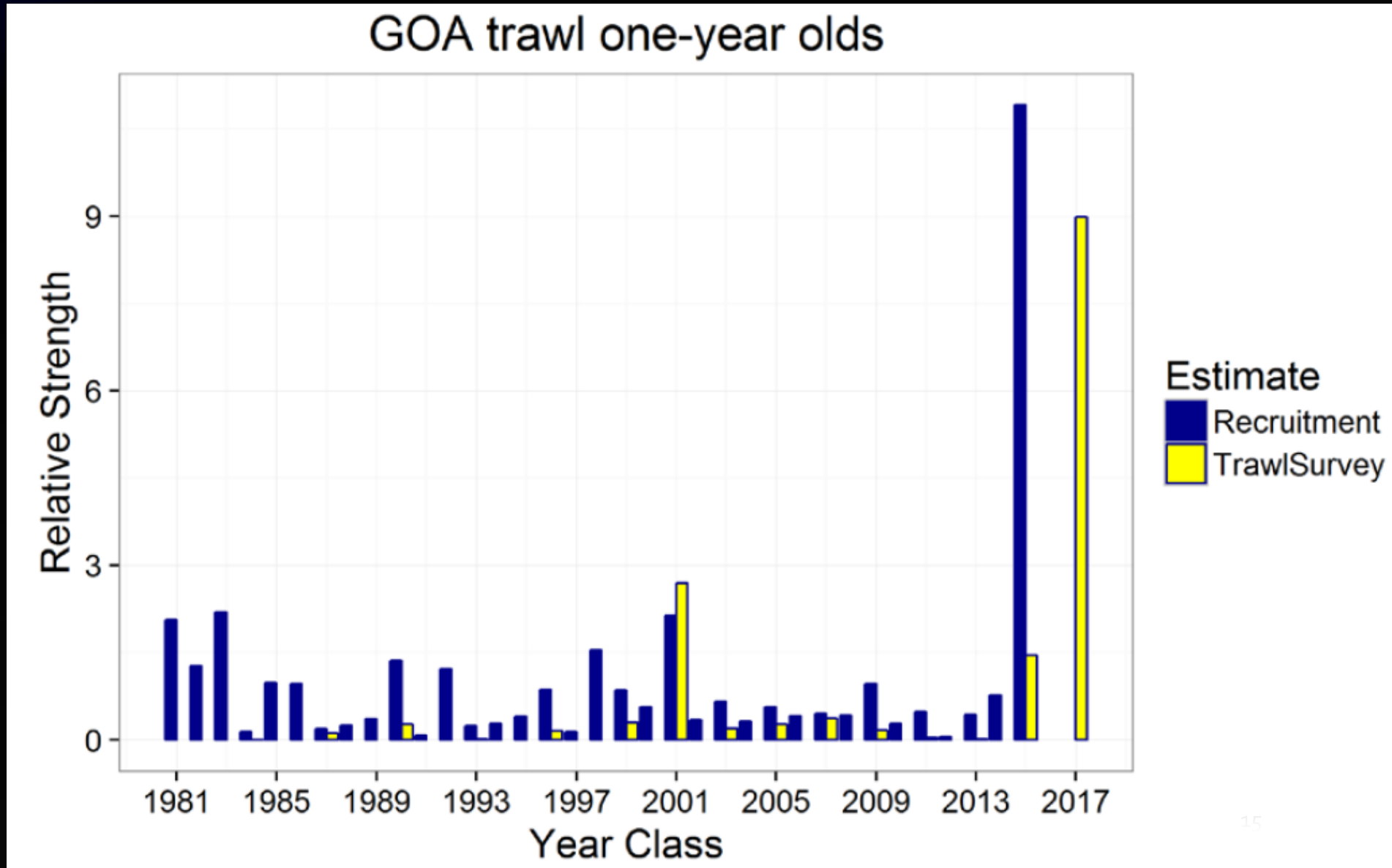
# Future Size of 2014 Year Class



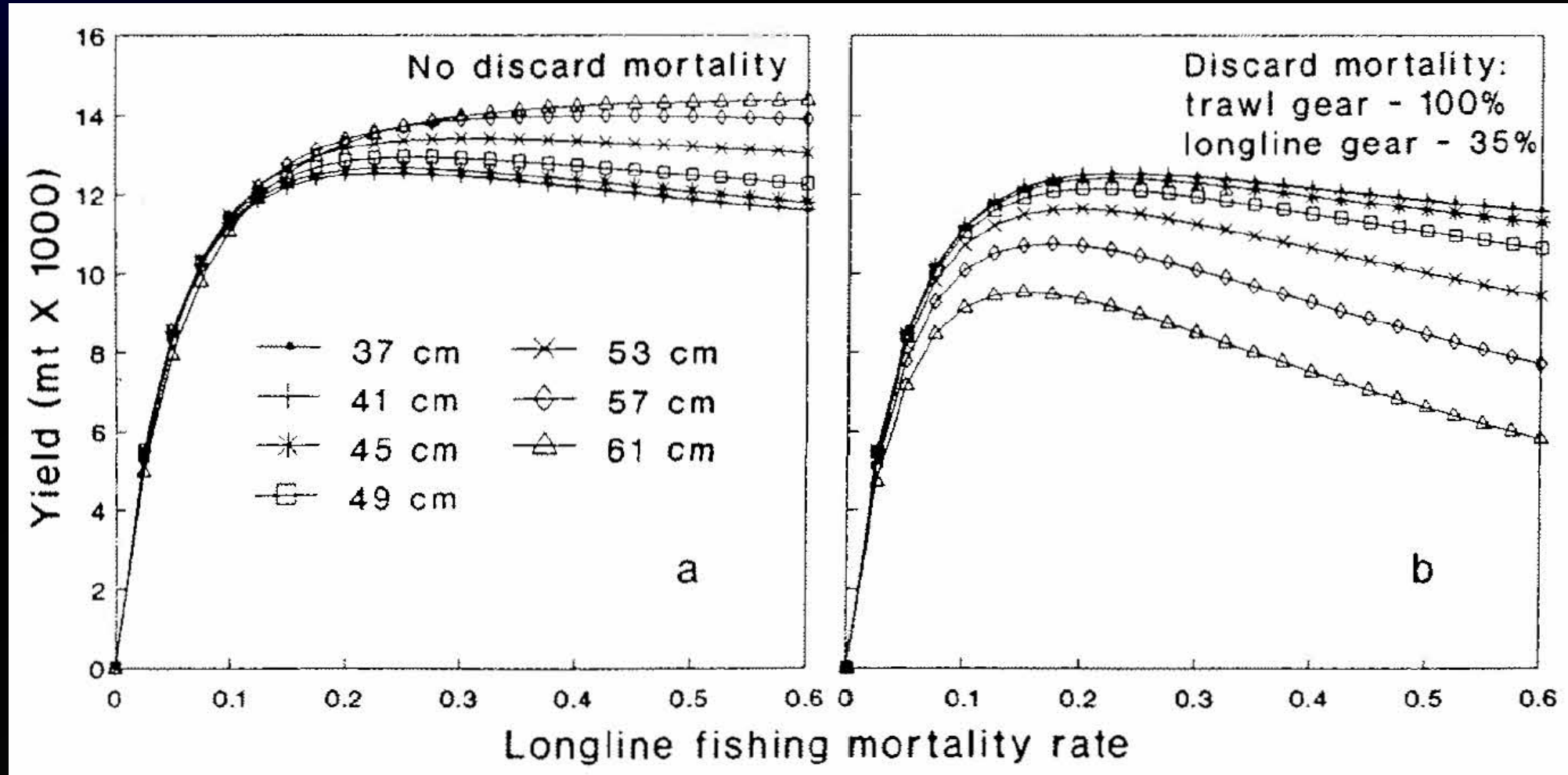
2020

- 58-72 cm (23-28 in)
- 2.36-3.2 kg (5-7 lbs)

# More to come....?

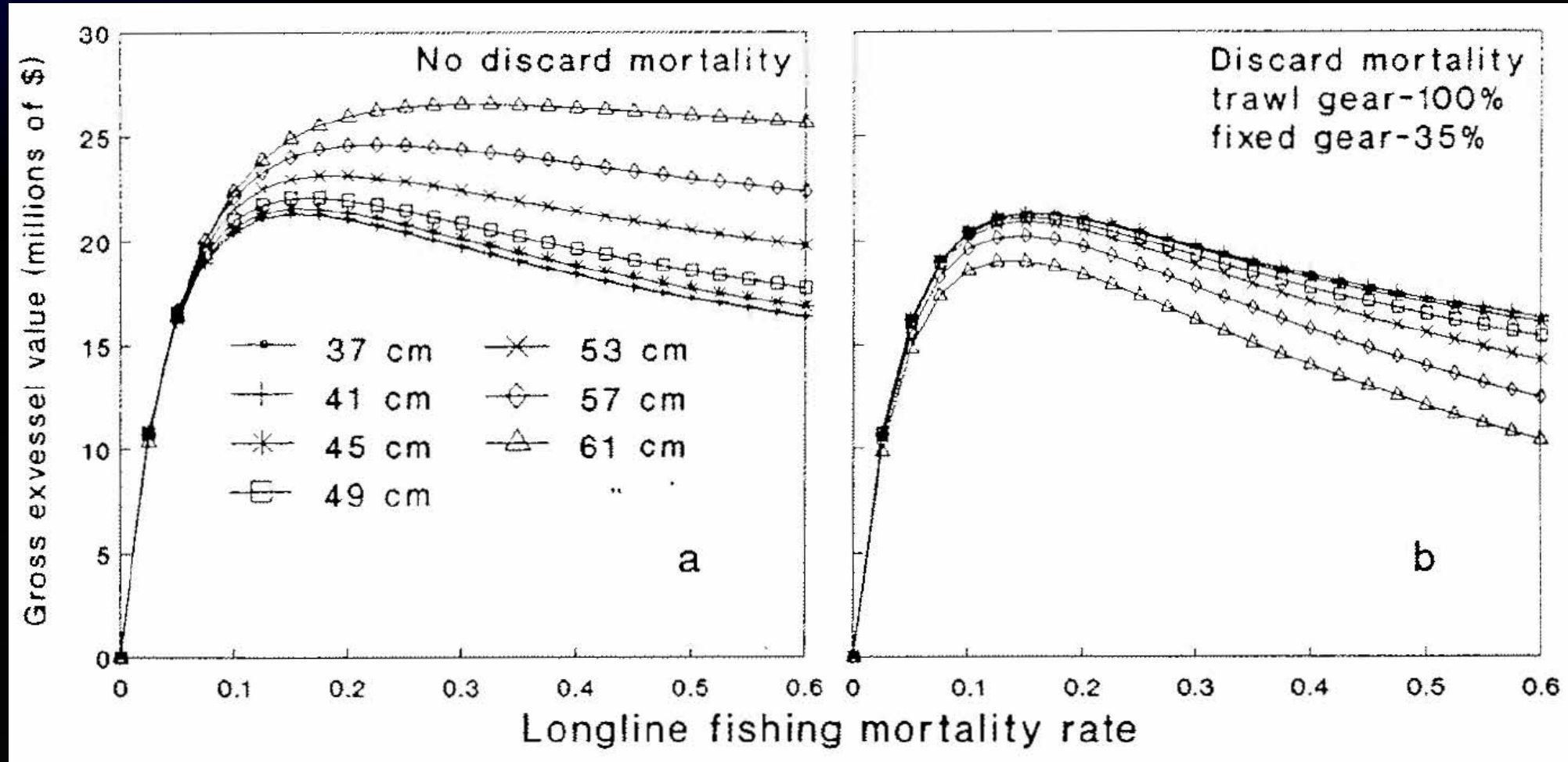


# Yield per Recruit Analysis





# Yield per Recruit Analysis



# Discard Mortality Rate Issues

## Data needed

- Size
- Time on deck
- Release condition
- Water temperature

# Discard Mortality Rate Issues

- PFMC (mix of historically based and analogous)
  - Trawl= 50%;
  - HAL= 20% offshore, 7% nearshore
- DFO (no rationale, incentive for trawl)
  - HAL= 15%
  - Pot = 9%,
  - Trawl= 10% first 2 hrs fished, 10% per additional hour
- ADF&G (new methods, analogous)
  - HAL sablefish = 16%
  - HAL halibut = 25%

# Min Size Regs

- PFMC (incentive for deeper fishing)
  - 56 cm (22 in)
- DFO (historic – since 1945)
  - approximately 55 cm (22 in)
- ADF&G
  - none

# Summary Points

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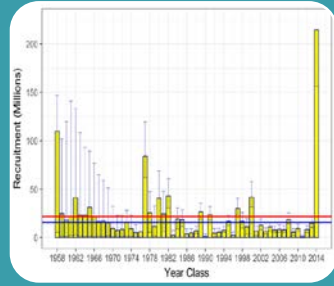
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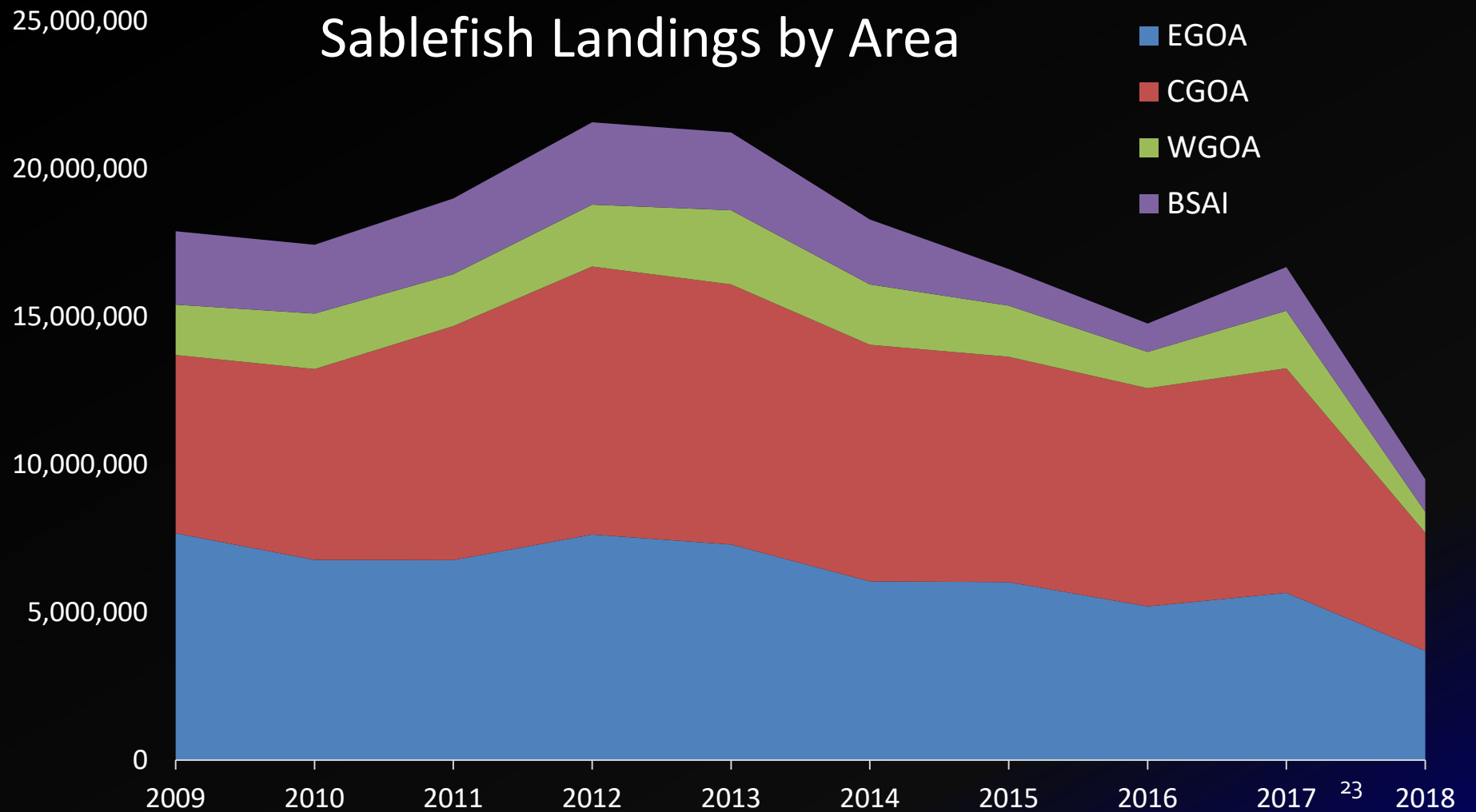


Econ / Operational

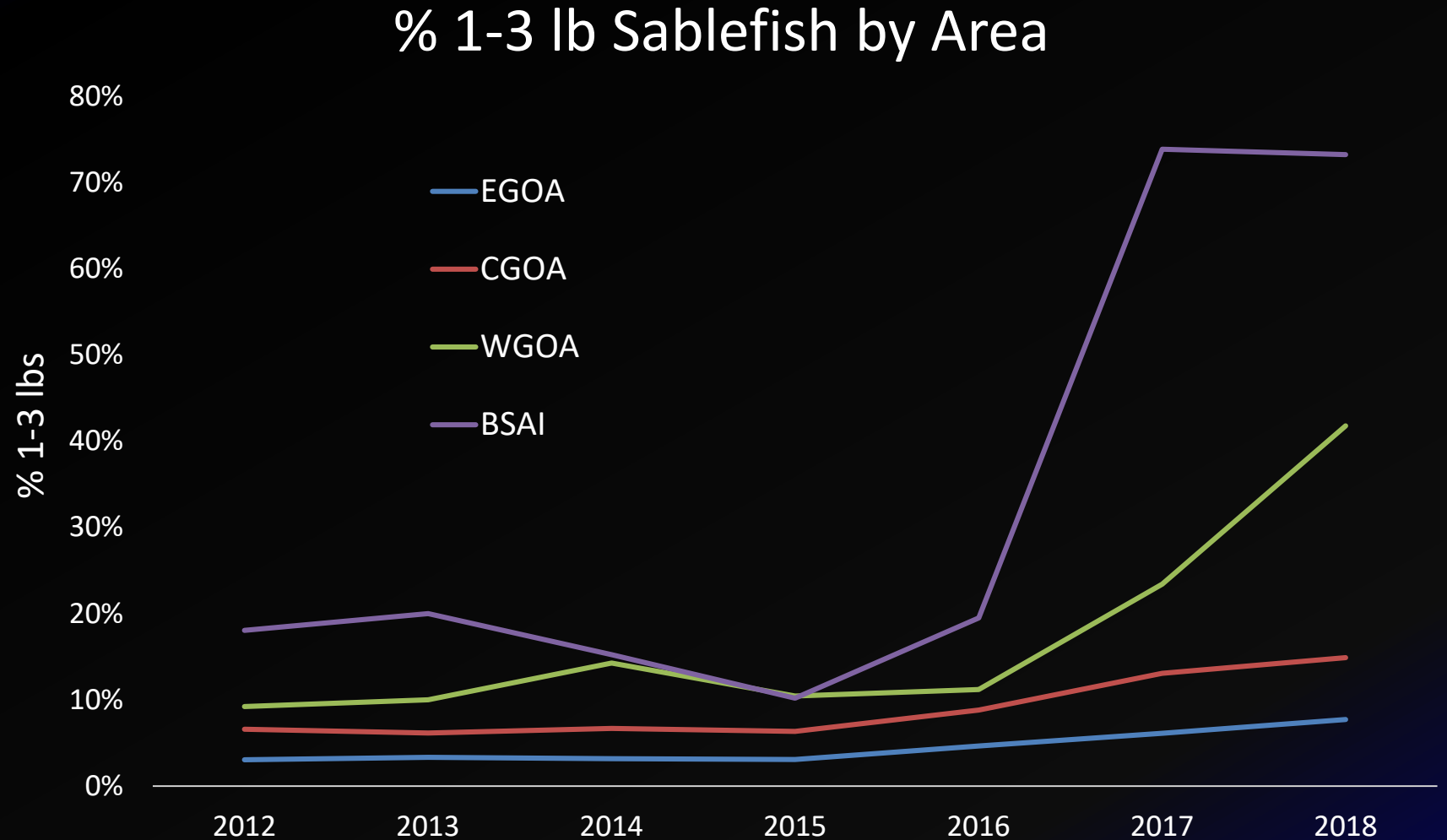


Management

# Spatial Considerations

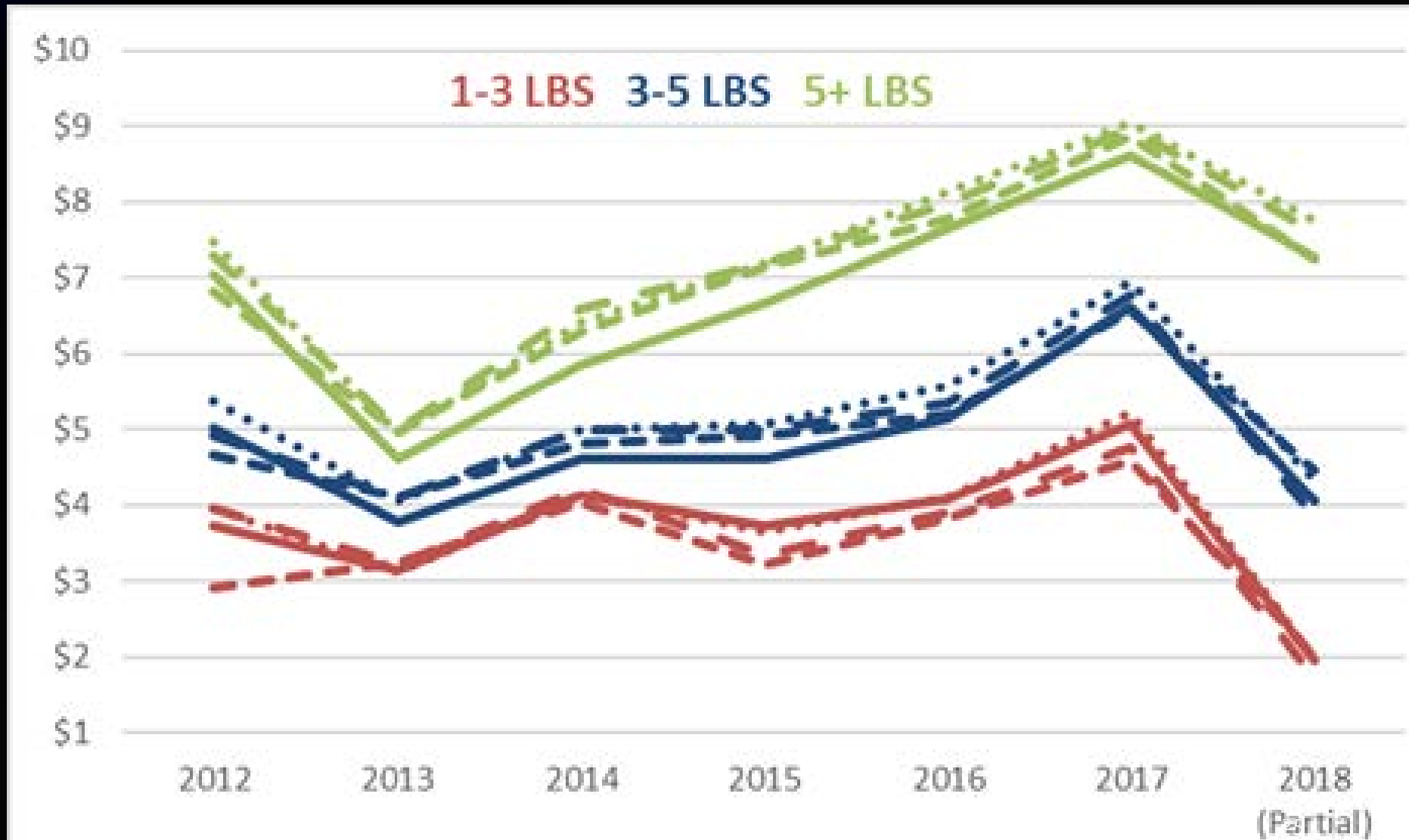


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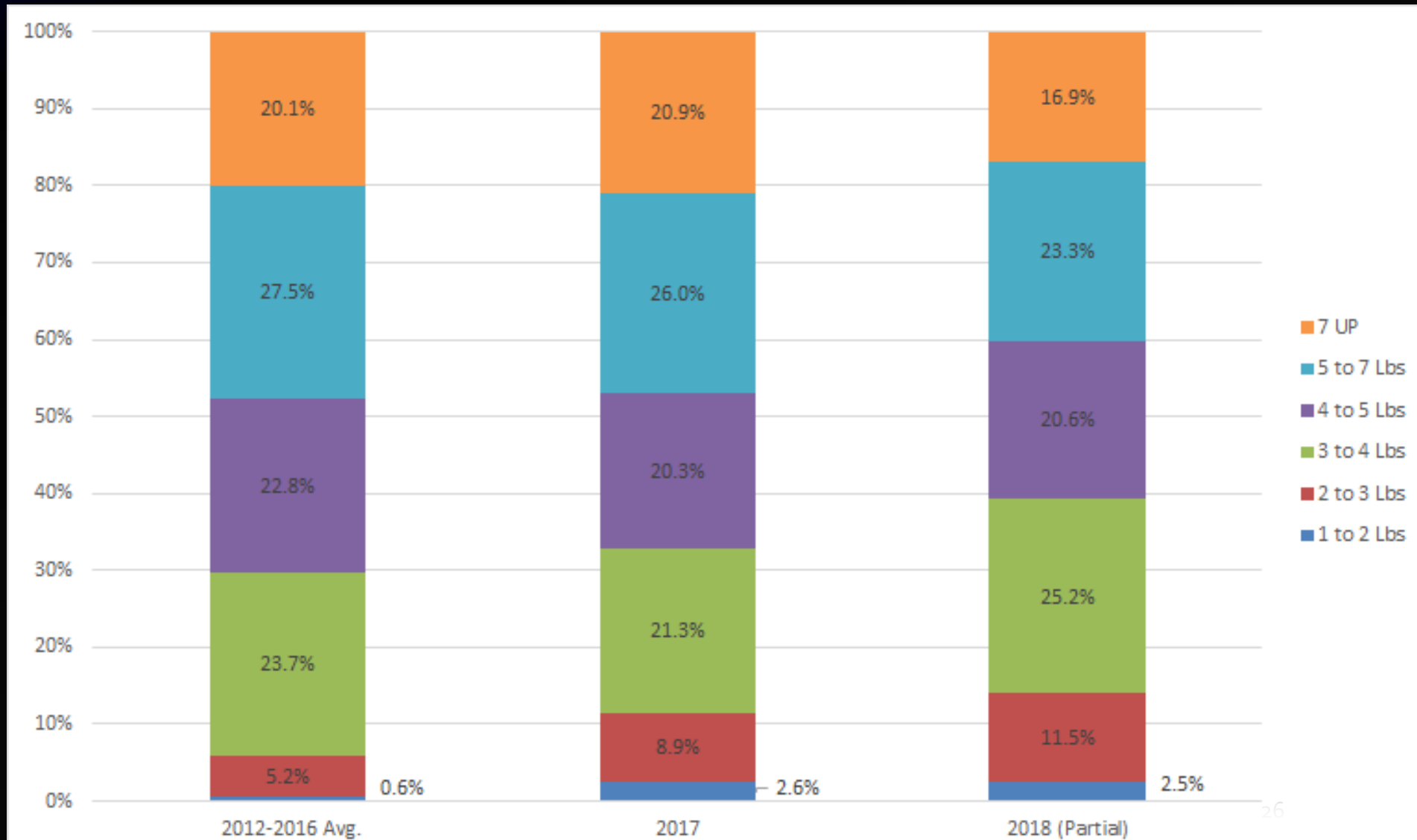




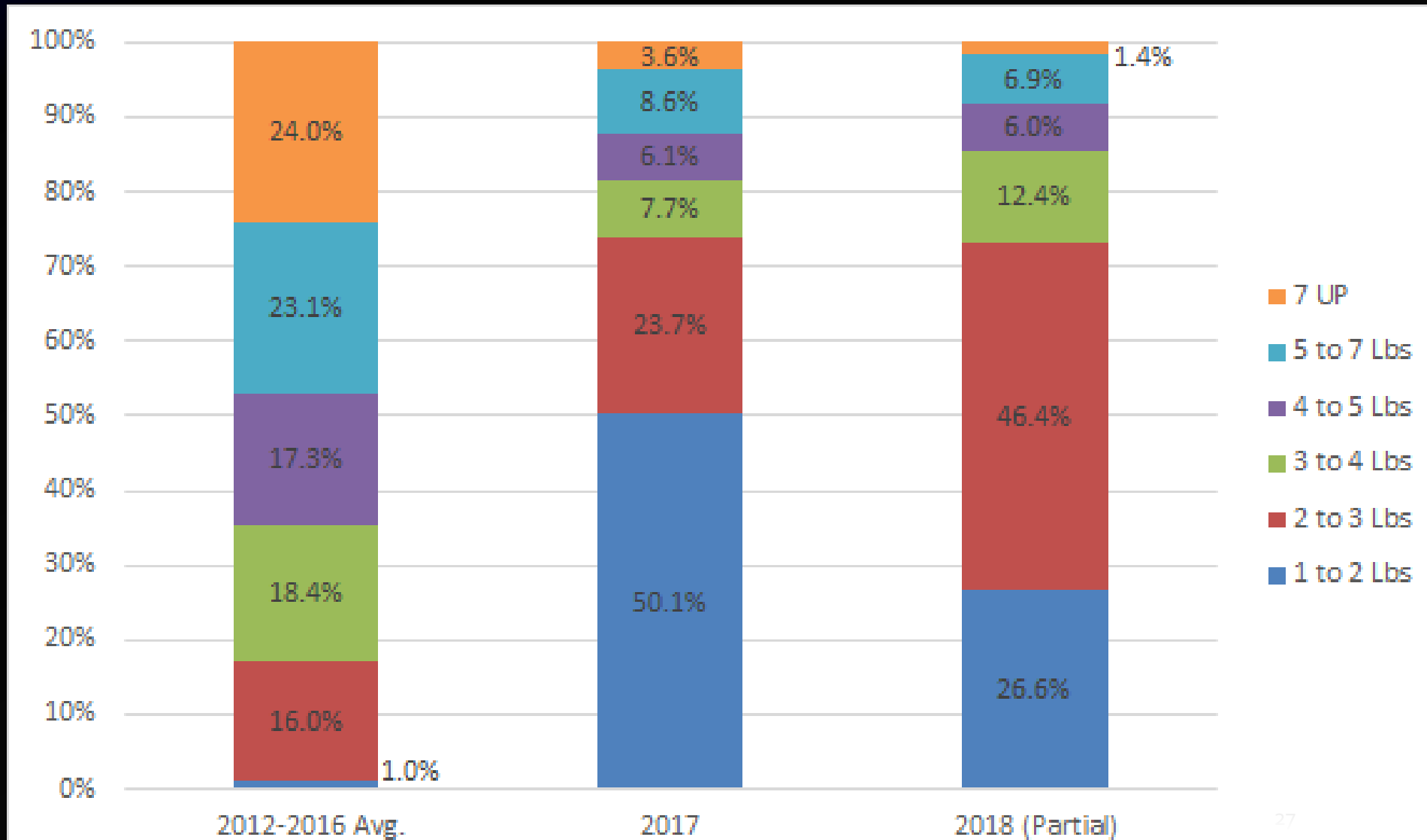
# Value by Size



# Value by Size



# Value by Size



# Trade Offs

Flexibility

Need to fill hold

High grading

Relieve negative impact of small fish

Varies by size of IFQ

DMRs may be low

Whale depredation not accounted for in DMRs

Higher Price/lb

Greater expenses (time, labor, bait)

Profits greater to processors for larger fish

Longer trips could affect flesh quality

Processors could avoid negative returns

Enforcement & Observer Issues

Discard Allowance

Minimum Size

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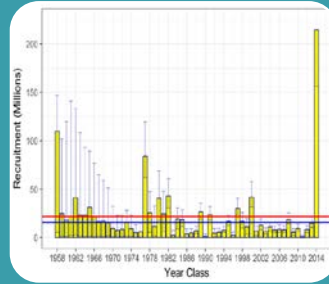
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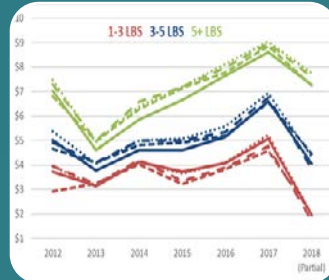
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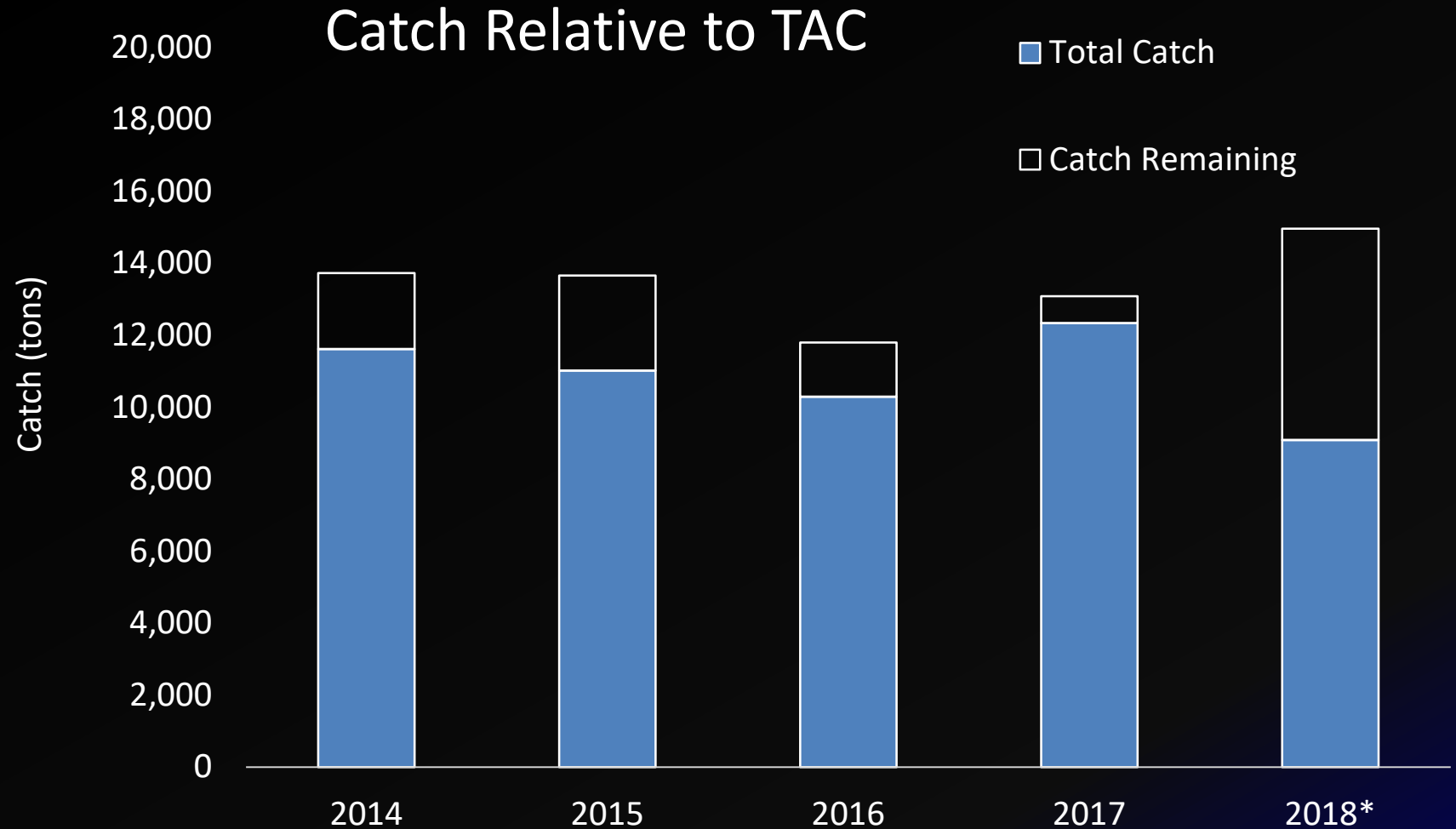


## Econ / Operational



## Management

# Achieving Sablefish TAC



# Observer Program Issues

- Data quality and potential bias of discard estimates
- Vessels with Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems
- Data collection methods and observer protocols



# Discard Mortality Rate Issues

## Data needed

- Size
- Time on deck
- Release condition
- Water temperature

# Enforcement Issues

- Release Option
  - Careful release requirement
    - Easiest
    - Necessary under either
- Minimum Size
  - Collecting discarded fish
  - Compliance



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Boat by Dan Hull

Photo by Sarah  
Marrinan