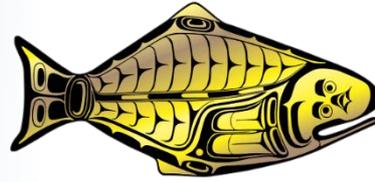


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# Outcomes of the 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)

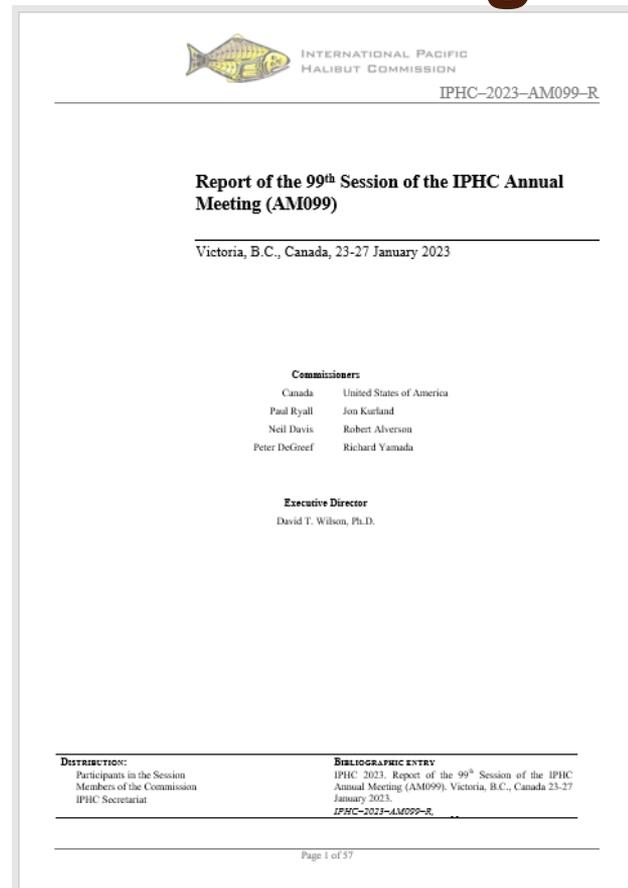
NPFMC meeting  
Agenda item B8  
9 February 2023



# 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)

- 23 - 27 January 2023
- Held in Victoria, BC with remote access option
- Open to public
- AM099 webpage:

<https://www.iphc.int/venues/details/99th-session-of-the-iphc-annual-meeting-am099>



# Mortality limits for 2023

IPHC Regulatory Area	Tonnes	Million Pounds
Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington)	748	1.65
Area 2B (British Columbia)	3,075	6.78
Area 2C (southeastern Alaska)	2,654	5.85
Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska)	5,479	12.08
Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska)	1,665	3.67
Area 4A (eastern Aleutians)	785	1.73
Area 4B (central and western Aleutians)	617	1.36
Areas 4CDE (Bering Sea)	1,746	3.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,769</b>	<b>36.97</b>



# Mortality limits for 2022 to 2023

<b>Contracting Party IPHC Regulatory Area</b>	<b>2022 TCEY (Mlbs)</b>	<b>2023 TCEY (Mlbs)</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>USA: 2A</b>	1.65	1.65	0.0%
<b>Canada: 2B</b>	7.56	6.78	-10.3%
<b>USA: 2C</b>	5.91	5.85	-1.0%
<b>USA: 3A</b>	14.55	12.08	-17.0%
<b>USA: 3B</b>	3.9	3.67	-5.9%
<b>USA: 4A</b>	2.1	1.73	-17.6%
<b>USA: 4B</b>	1.45	1.36	-6.2%
<b>USA: 4CDE</b>	4.1	3.85	-6.1%
<b>Total (IPHC Convention Area)</b>	<b>41.22</b>	<b>36.97</b>	<b>-10.3%</b>



# 2023 Mortality limits: detailed projections

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards	0.05	0.18	NA	NA	0.29	0.05	0.01	0.08	0.66
O26 Non-directed discards	0.08	0.24	0.06	0.39	0.27	0.25	0.13	1.72	3.13
Recreational	NA	0.04	1.14	1.2	0.01	0.01	0	0	2.4
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.29	0.18	0.01	0.01	0	0.04	0.94
<b>Total non-FCEY</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>7.13</b>
Commercial discards	NA	NA	0.15	0.58	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.73
Recreational	0.62	0.89	0.8	1.89	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.19
Subsistence	0.02	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.02
Commercial landings	0.88	5.03	3.41	7.84	3.09	1.41	1.22	2.02	24.9
<b>Total FCEY</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>5.92</b>	<b>4.36</b>	<b>10.31</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>29.84</b>
							<b>4C FCEY</b>	0.9	
							<b>4D FCEY</b>	0.9	
							<b>4E FCEY</b>	0.22	
<b>TCEY</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>6.78</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>12.08</b>	<b>3.67</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>3.85</b>	<b>36.97</b>
U26 Non-directed discards	0	0.03	0	0.24	0.1	0.1	0.01	0.88	1.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>6.81</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>12.32</b>	<b>3.77</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>4.73</b>	<b>38.34</b>



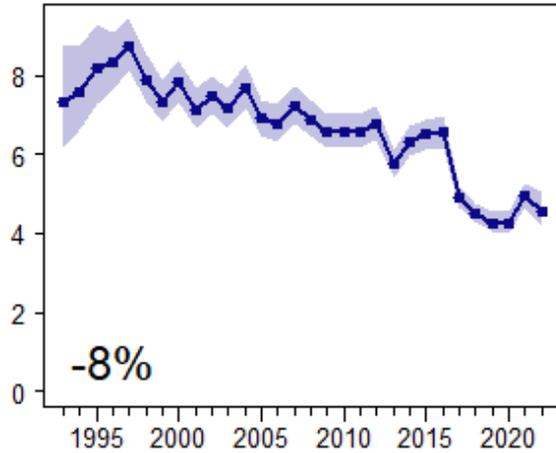
# Stock assessment data summary

- All coastwide indices were down strongly in 2022
  - Lowest fishery performance/efficiency in 3 decades
- Both the FISS and fishery have largely transitioned to the 2012 year-class from the 2005 and older year-classes
- Very low recruitment from 2006-2011 continues to reduce the short-term productivity of the stock

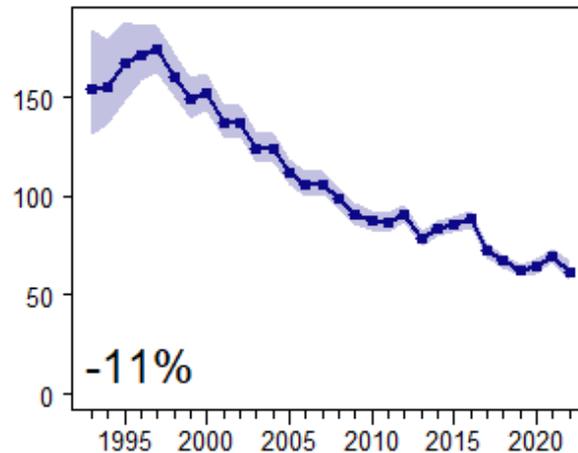


# Modelled coastwide survey trends

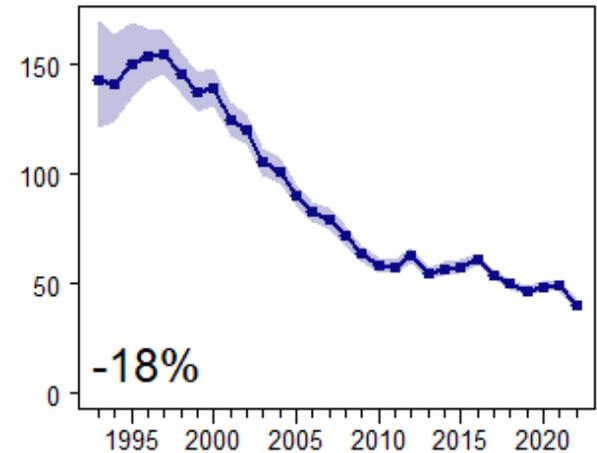
## Numbers/skate



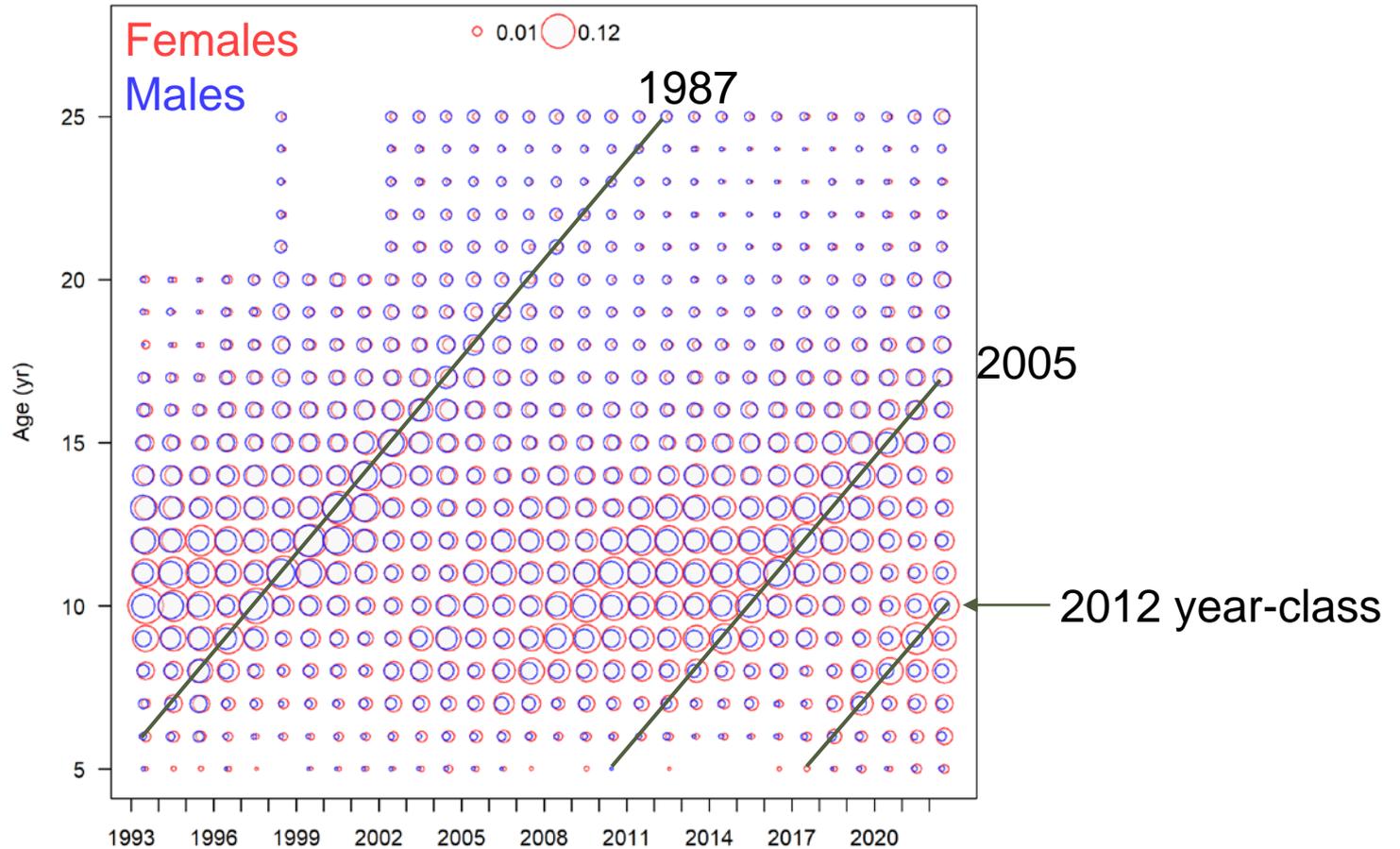
## Total pounds/skate



## O32 pounds/skate

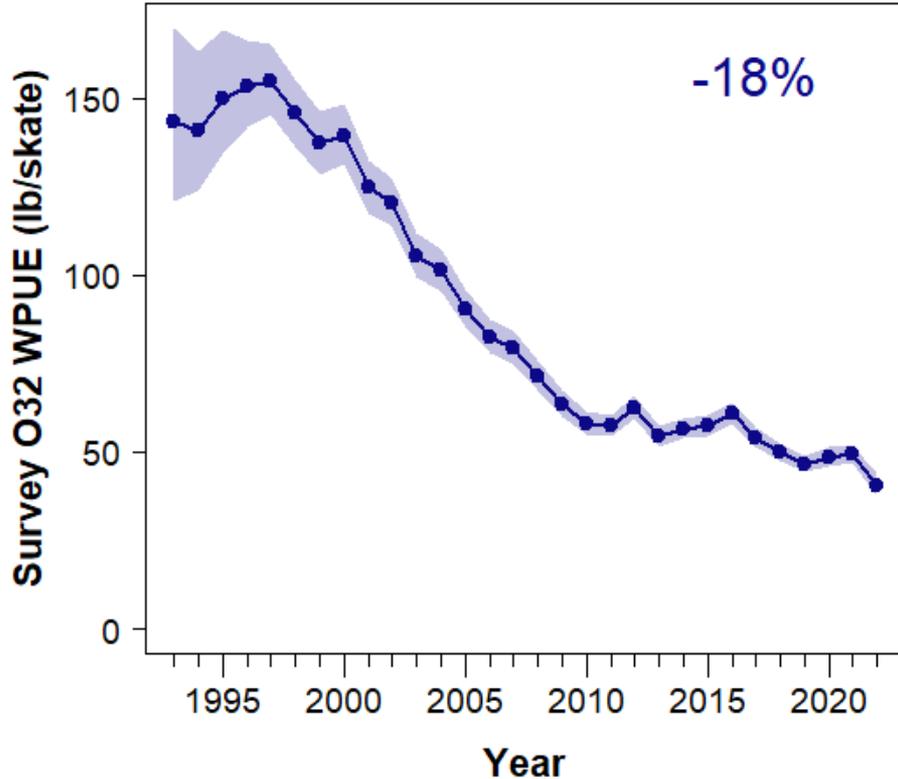


# Recent survey ages

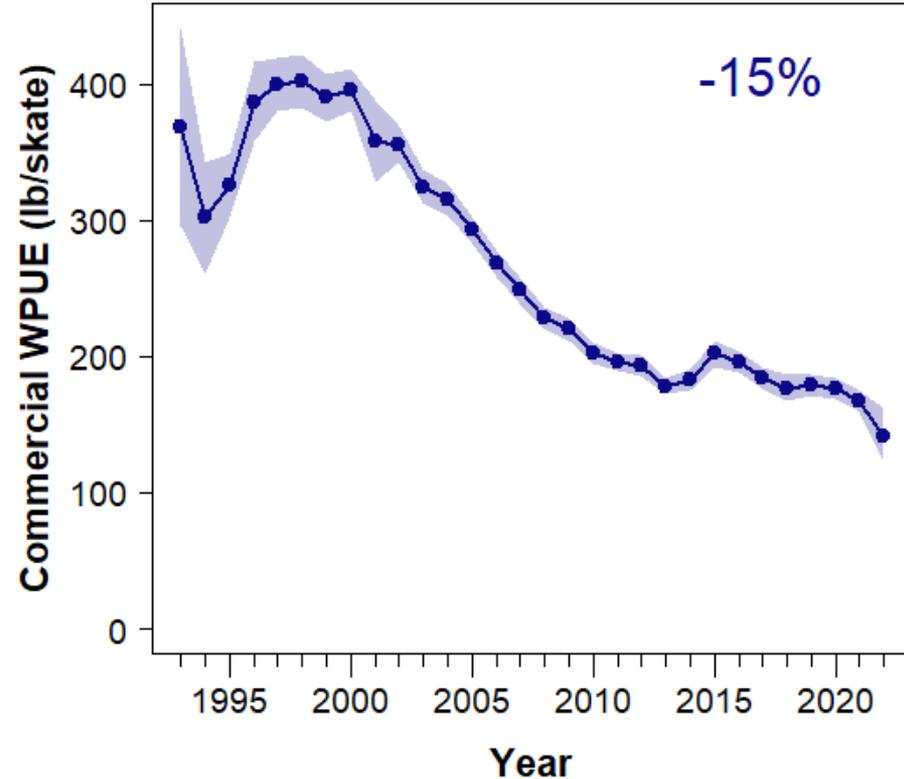


# Legal-size (O32) catch rates

## Coastwide survey

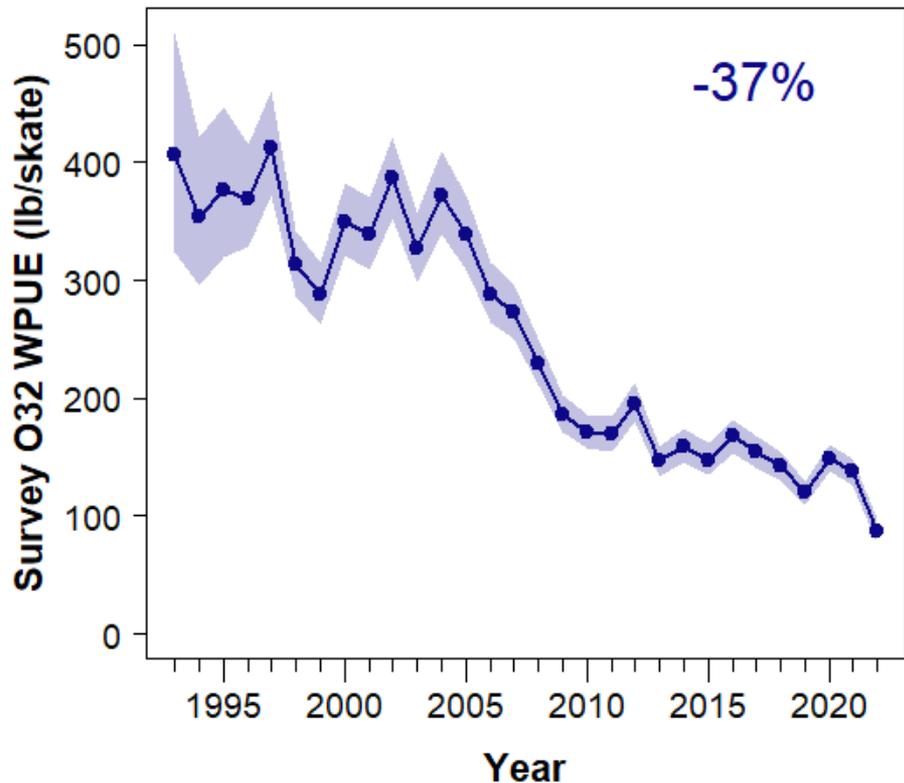


## Coastwide commercial

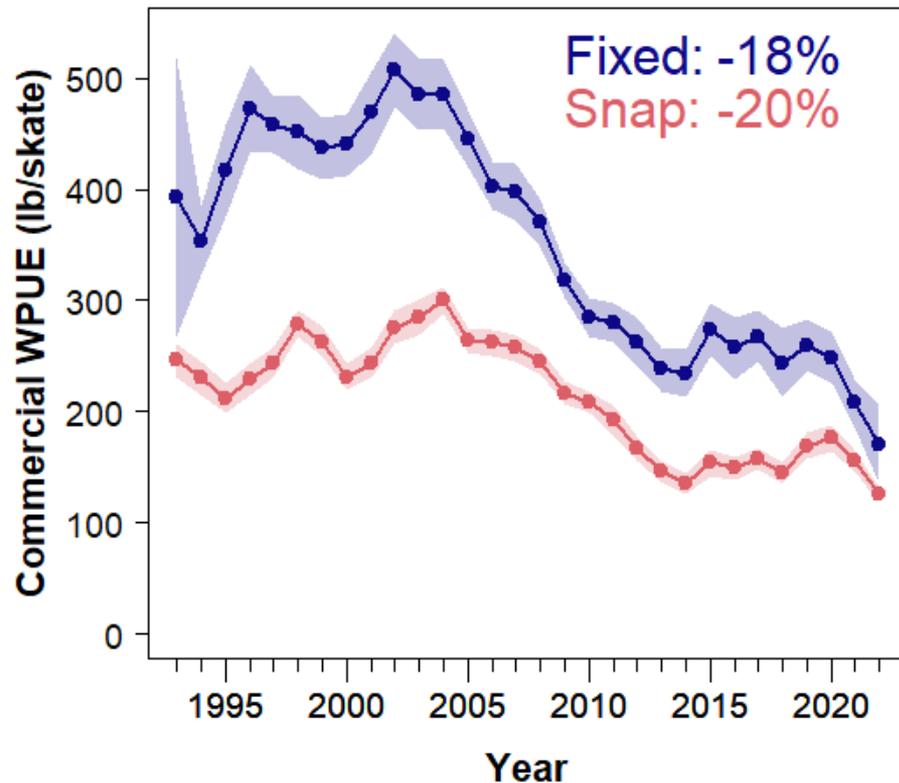


# O32 WPUE trends by IPHC Regulatory Area

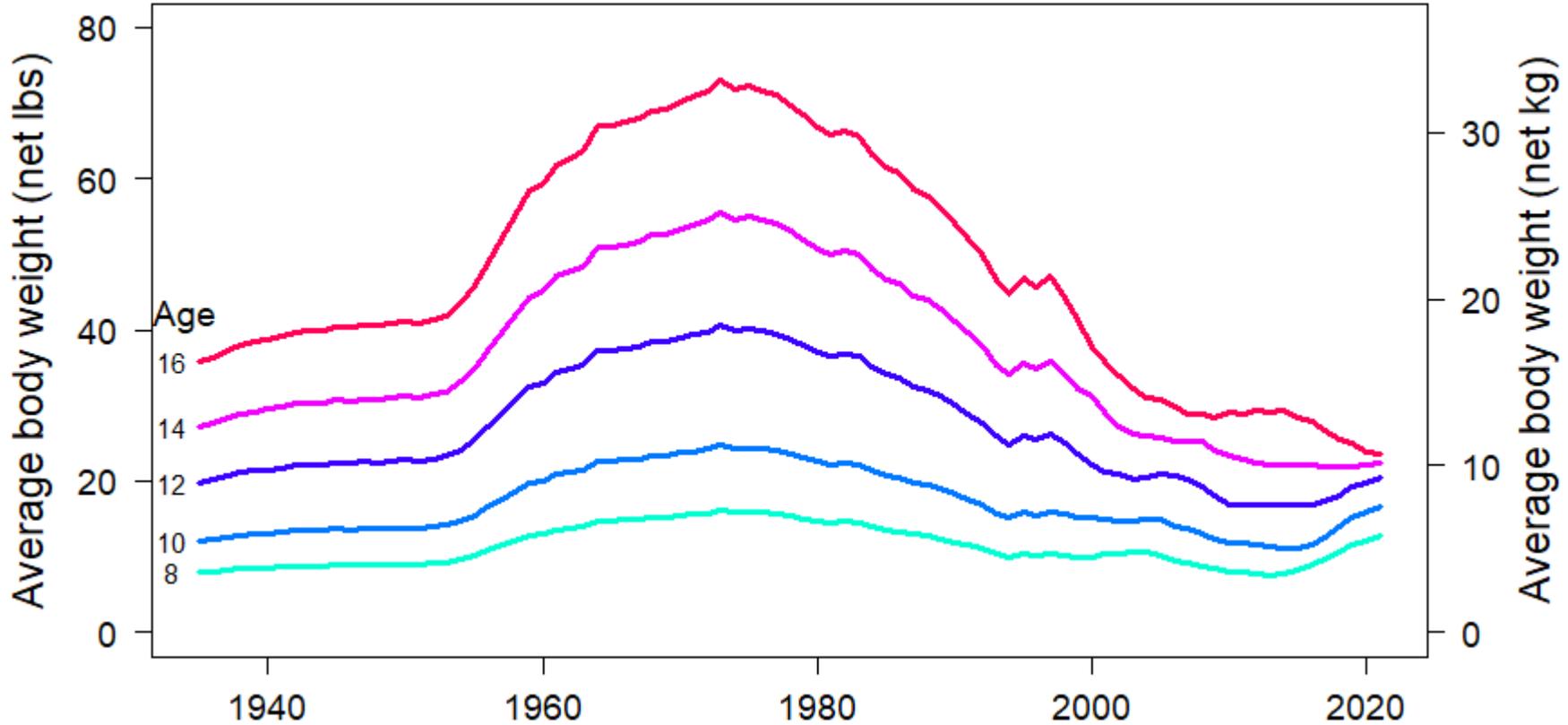
## 3A survey



## 3A commercial



# Historical coastwide female weight-at-age

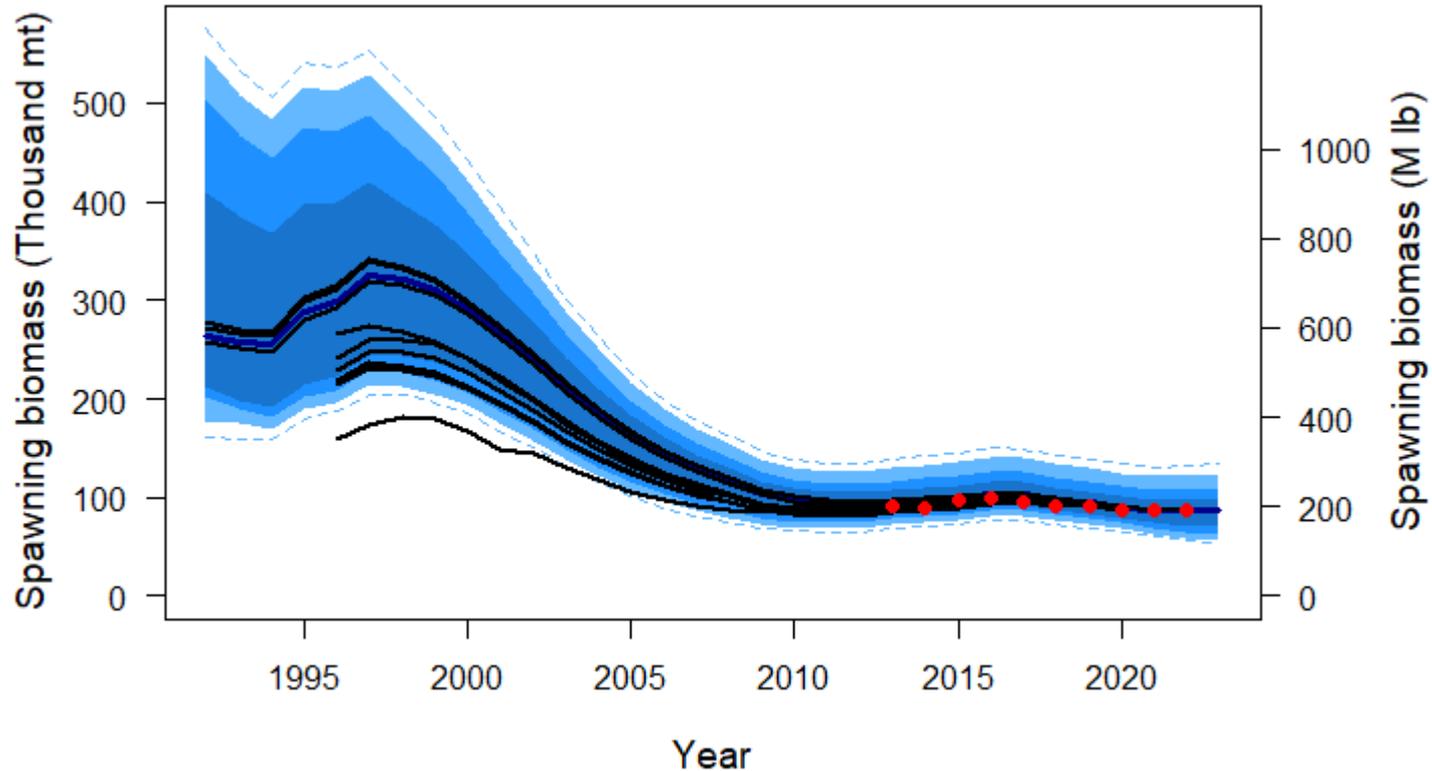


# Stock assessment modelling summary

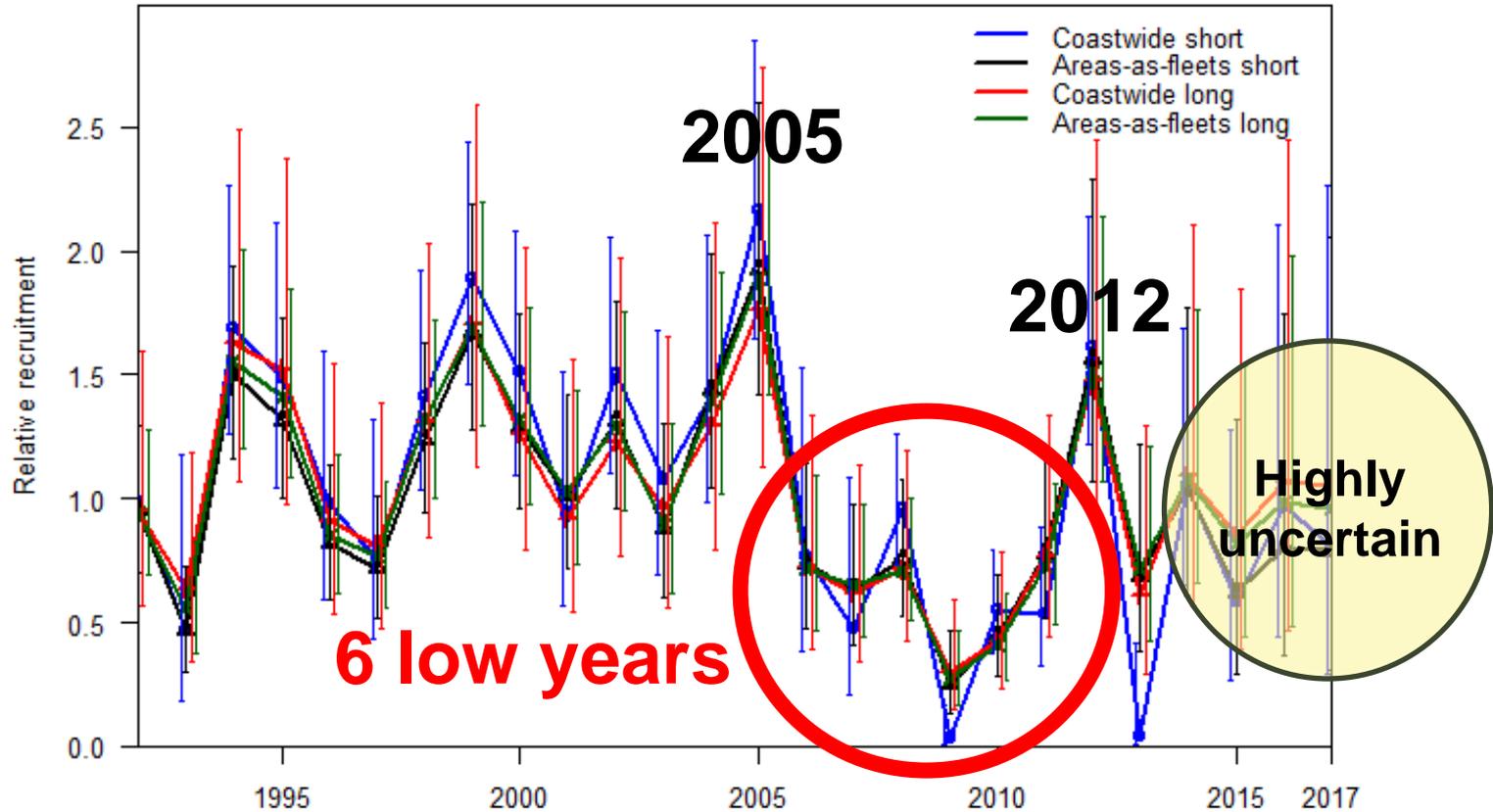
- Removed an outdated assumption of low natural mortality in 1 of 4 assessment models
  - Now estimated directly from the data
  - Results in larger projected yields at long-term fishing intensity reference points (e.g.,  $F_{43\%}$ )
- Spawning biomass estimated to be stable, but relying heavily on maturation of the 2012 year class
- Short term projections of surplus production remain near *status quo*



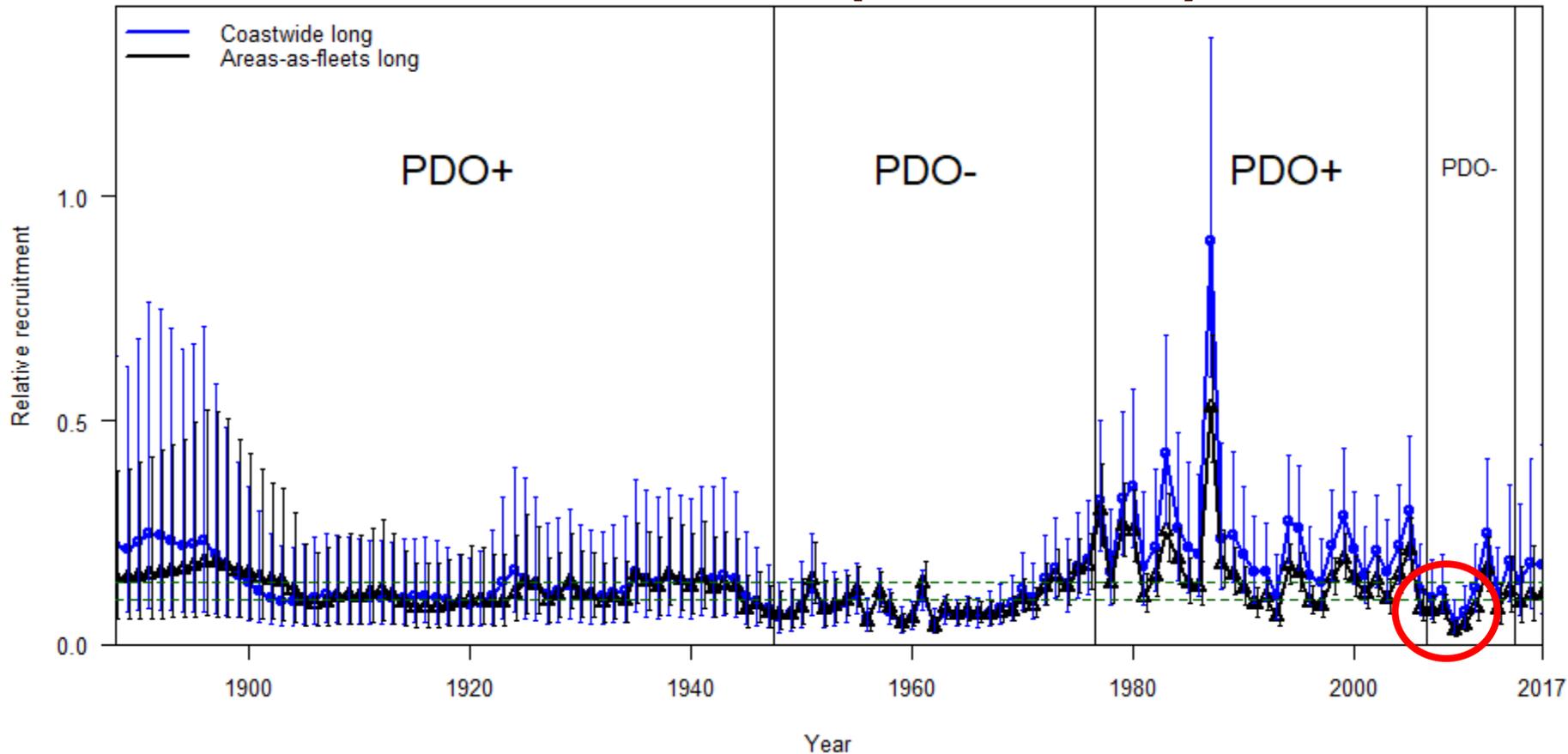
# Comparison with previous assessments



# Relative recruitment estimates



# Historical recruitment (2 models)



# Status and projections

- Fishing intensity in 2022:  $F_{51\%}$  (lower than reference level,  $F_{43\%}$ )
- Status as of 2023:  $SB_{42\%}$
- Adopted 2023 mortality limit (37.0 Mlb):
  - Below the estimated 3-year surplus (43.0 Mlb)
  - 38% chance of decrease in SB during 2023
    - 7% chance of dropping by 5% or more
  - 25% chance of dropping below  $SB_{30\%}$  management trigger by 2024
  - 25% probability of fishery limit decrease in 2023



# Additional risks

- The FISS and fishery have transitioned to the 2012 year-class, 29% mature in 2022; projections rely heavily on this single year class growing and maturing ‘on schedule’.
- Stock is at an unprecedented low population level (actual number/biomass of fish in the water) due to recent poor recruitment
  - Low productivity relative to long-term expectations
  - Less productive response to recent fishing
    - Downward trends, even though fishing intensity has been lower than reference level



# For more data and assessment information

- Summary for AM099: [IPHC-2023-AM099-11](#)
- Assessment and data overview documents are available through the [stock assessment page](#) of the IPHC's website:
  - [IPHC-2023-SA-01](#)
  - [IPHC-2023-SA-02](#)



# 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)

- Other decisions:
  - Fishing periods
  - Accommodation of the 2A management transition
  - Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A
  - Recreational bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B
  - Onboard consumption in Alaska
  - New qualifying logbook in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

[IPHC Fishery Regulations 2023 – 2 February 2023](#)



# Fishing Periods

- The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2023:
  - All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas may begin no earlier than **10 March** and must cease on **7 December**.

With the transition of management authority of the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A non-tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery from the IPHC to the PFMC and NOAA Fisheries (87 FR 74322), the IPHC no longer needs to consider setting dates for the 2A non-tribal directed commercial fishery. The dates set by NOAA Fisheries must be set within the overall commercial fishing period dates.



# Charter Management Measures

The Commission **ADOPTED** charter management measures for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A for 2023:

- IPHC Regulatory Area 2C – one-fish bag limit with size limit of less than or equal to 40 inches or greater than or equal to 80 inches, closed on any Monday from July 24 – December 31
- IPHC Regulatory Area 3A – two-fish bag limit with one fish of any size and a second fish less than or equal to 28 inches, Wednesdays and nine Tuesdays (June 20, June 27, July 4, July 11, July 18, July 25, August 1, August 8, August 15) closed to retention of Pacific halibut, one trip per vessel, one trip per CHP per day, and no annual limit
- See PropB1 for additional detail



# Other changes to IPHC Fishery Regulations

- In waters of British Columbia, the daily bag limit is two (2) Pacific halibut of any size per day, per person, and may be increased to a daily bag limit of three (3) Pacific halibut per day, per person on or after 1 August. This provision shall remain in effect through 2025, unless extended by a vote of the Commission.
- In waters of Alaska, each Pacific halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a patch of skin on each piece, naturally attached. Either one dorsal piece or one ventral piece from one Pacific halibut on board may be consumed.
- In IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, Pacific Coast Groundfish non-trawl logbook provided by NOAA Fisheries is an approved logbook for reporting Pacific halibut.



# Looking ahead

- The Commission accepted the offer by the United States of America to host the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100) in 2024 in Anchorage, AK from 22 to 26 January 2024.



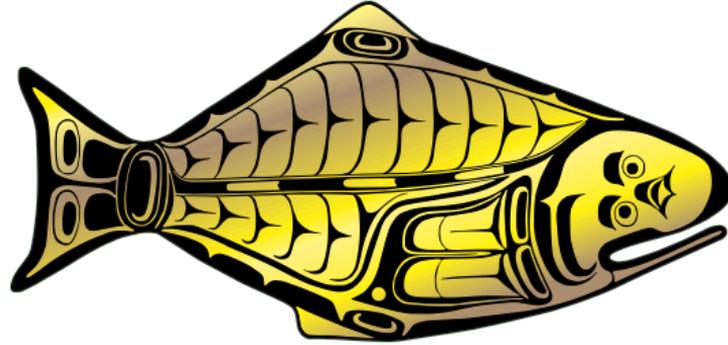
# Meeting materials and Report

- 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099) materials available at:

<https://www.iphc.int/venues/details/99th-session-of-the-iphc-annual-meeting-am099>



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