Gulf of Alaska SAFE report

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Report of the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team meeting Nov 17th-20th, 2020

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GOA assessment Overview

- "Off" year for GOA, NMFS bottom trawl survey occurred
- 8 "full" assessments reviewed
- 8 "partial" assessments



Stock Assessment schedule for the Gulf of Alaska

			Frequency	Full assessment
Stock	Assessment	Tier	(yrs)	Year due
Pollock	Full	3	1	2021
Pacific cod	Full	3	1	2021
Sablefish	Full	3	1	2021
Northern and southern rock sole	Partial	3	4	2021
Shallow water flatfish	Partial	5	4	2021
Deepwater flatfish (Dover)	Partial	3/6	4	2023
Rex sole	Partial	5	4	2021
Arrowtooth flounder	Partial	3	2	2021
Flathead sole	Partial	3	4	2021
Pacific ocean perch	Full	3	2	2021
Northern rockfish	Full	3	2	2022
Shortraker rockfish	None	5	2	2021
Other rockfish	None	4/5/6	2	2021
Rougheye & blackspotted rockfish	Partial	3	2	2021
Dusky rockfish	Full	3	2	2022
Demersal shelf rockfish	Partial	4/6	2	2021
Thornyhead rockfish	Full	5	2	2022
Sharks	Full	5/6	2	2022
Skates	None	5	2	2021
Atka mackerel	None	6	2	2021
Octopus	None	6	2	2021
Forage species (including squid)	Report	eco	1	2022
Grenadiers (BSAI/GOA)	Report	eco	1	2024

Overview

• 8 full assessments (sablefish complete so 7 to discuss); 8 partials

Stock	Assessment	Tier
Pollock	Full	3
Pacific cod	Full	3
Sablefish	Full	3
Pacific ocean perch	Full	3
Northern rockfish	Full	3
Dusky rockfish	Full	3
Thornyhead rockfish	Full	5
Forage species (including squid)	Report	eco

Stock	Assessment	Tier
Northern and southern rock sole	Partial	3
Shallow water flatfish	Partial	5
Deepwater flatfish (Dover)	Partial	3/6
Rex sole	Partial	5
Arrowtooth flounder	Partial	3
Flathead sole	Partial	3
Rougheye & blackspotted rockfish	Partial	3
Demersal shelf rockfish	Partial	4/6

GOA Economic synopsis 400-300-Millions of U.S. Dollars Species Other Flatfish 200-Sablefish Pac. cod Pollock 100-0-

2014

Year

2016

20 18

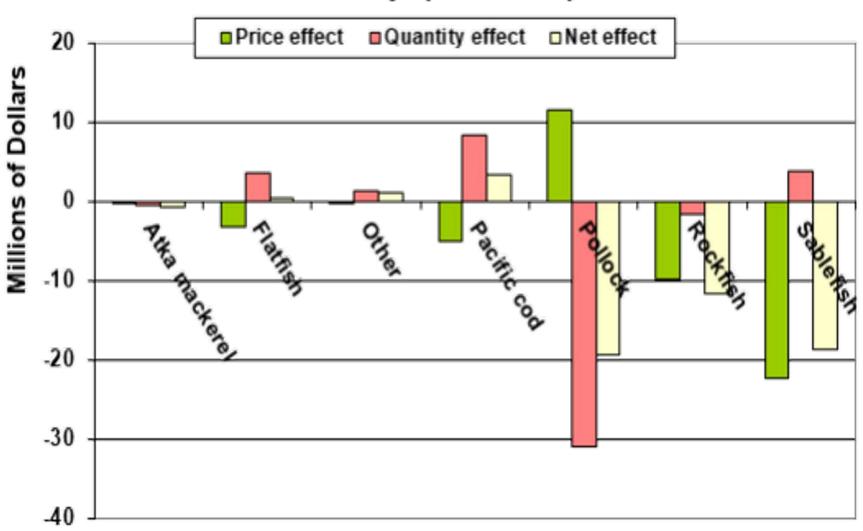
2008

2010

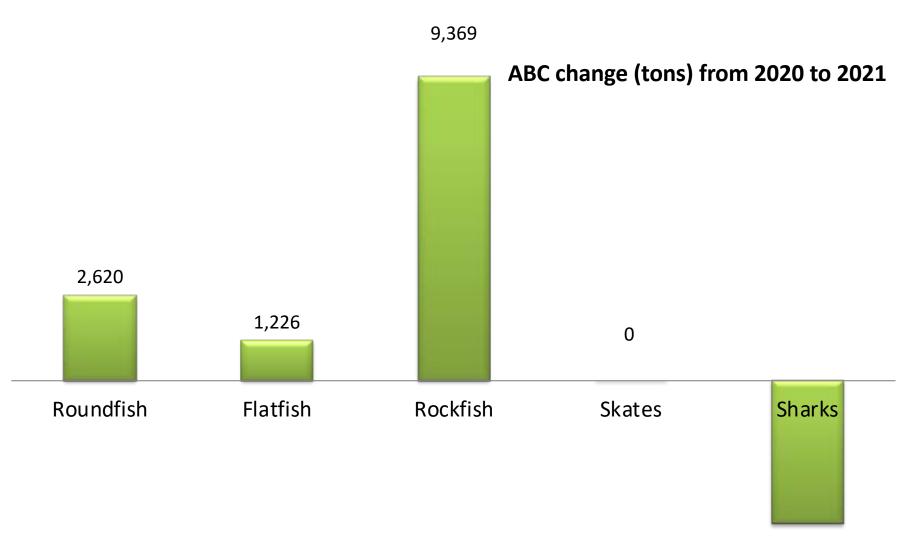
2012

2018-2019 revenue changes (and source)

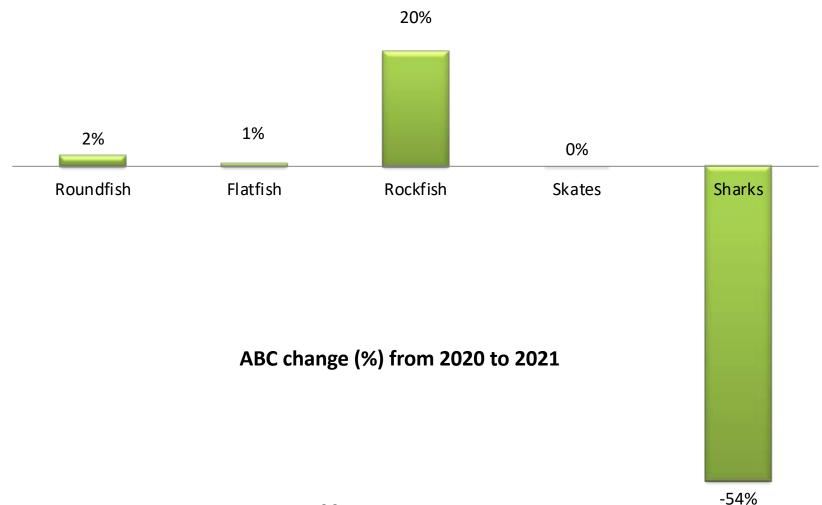
GOA First-Wholesale Revenue Change in 2018-19 Decomposed by Species Group



2020-2021 ABC change

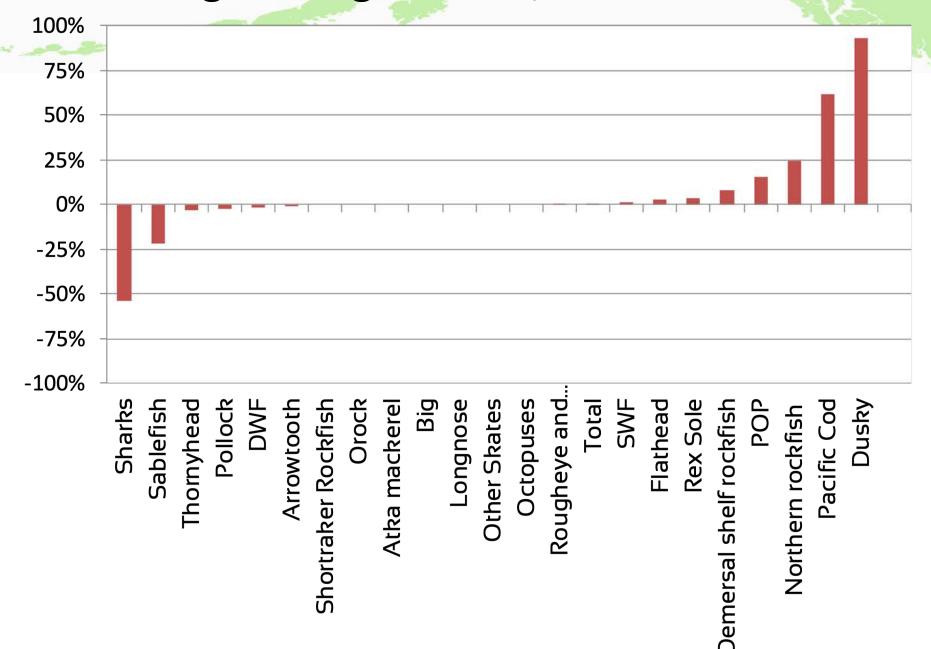


2020-2021 ABC change

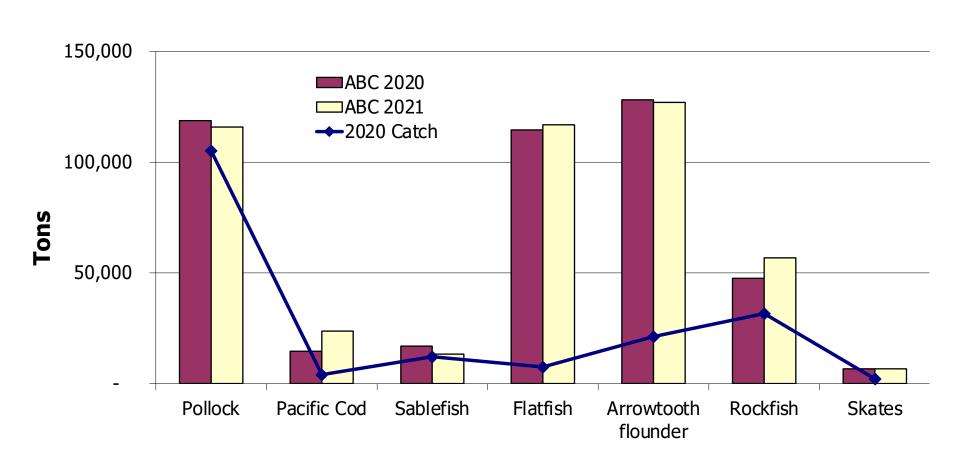


Overall a 1% increase (assuming authors' sablefish apportionment)

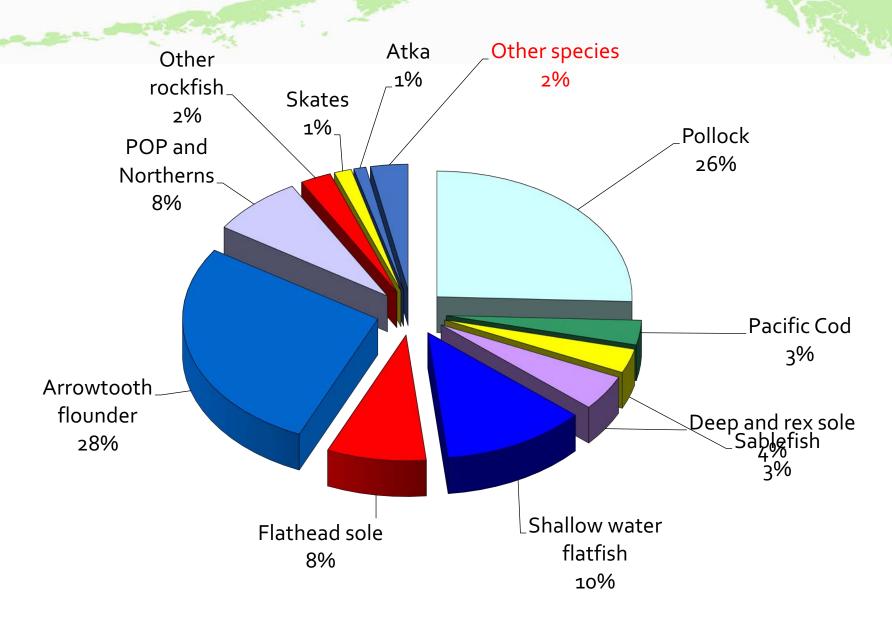
Percentage change in ABC, 2020-2021



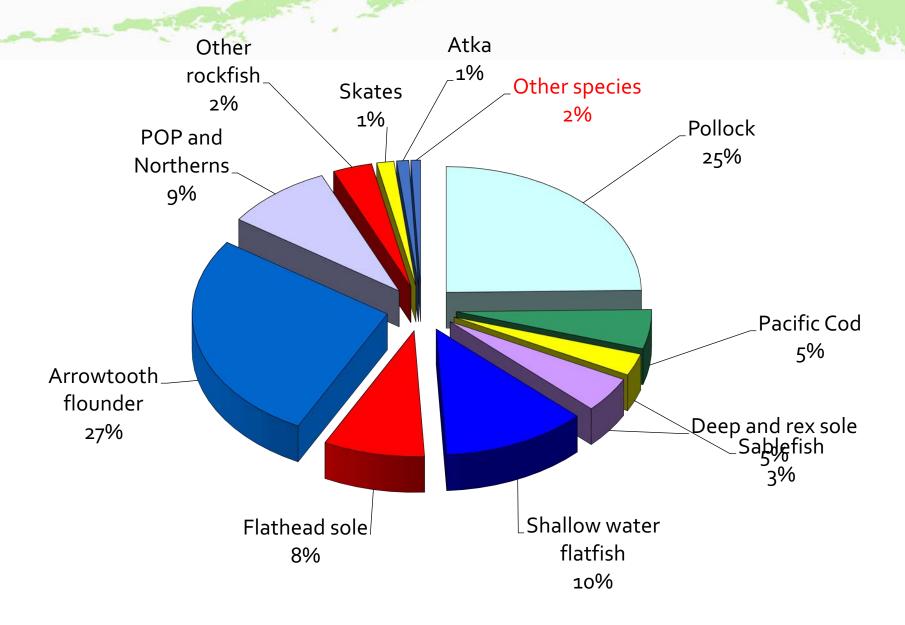
GOA Catch and ABC levels



GOA 2020 ABC's: 463,466 t



GOA 2021 ABC's: 469,543 t



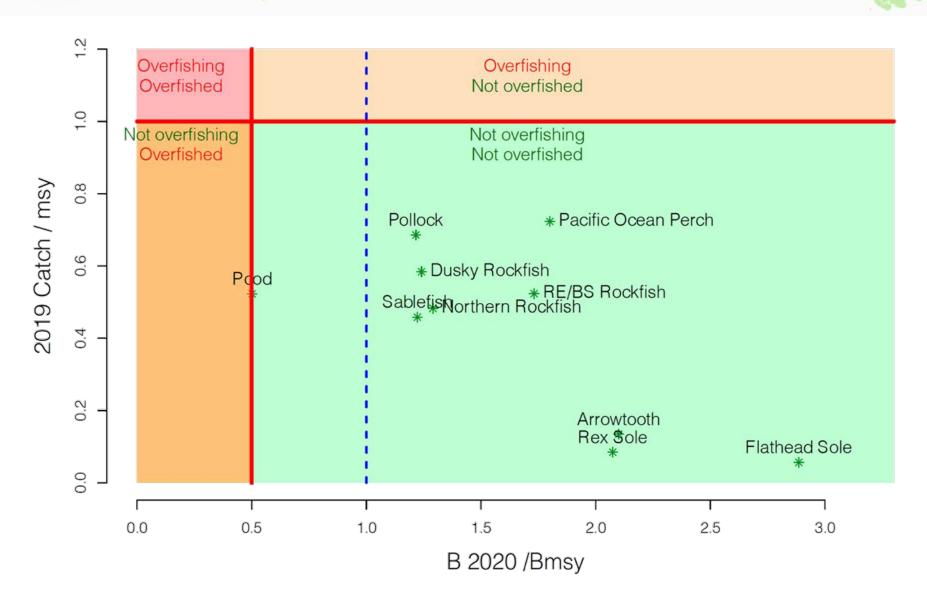
ABC / TAC

Team recommendations where ABC < maximum permissible:

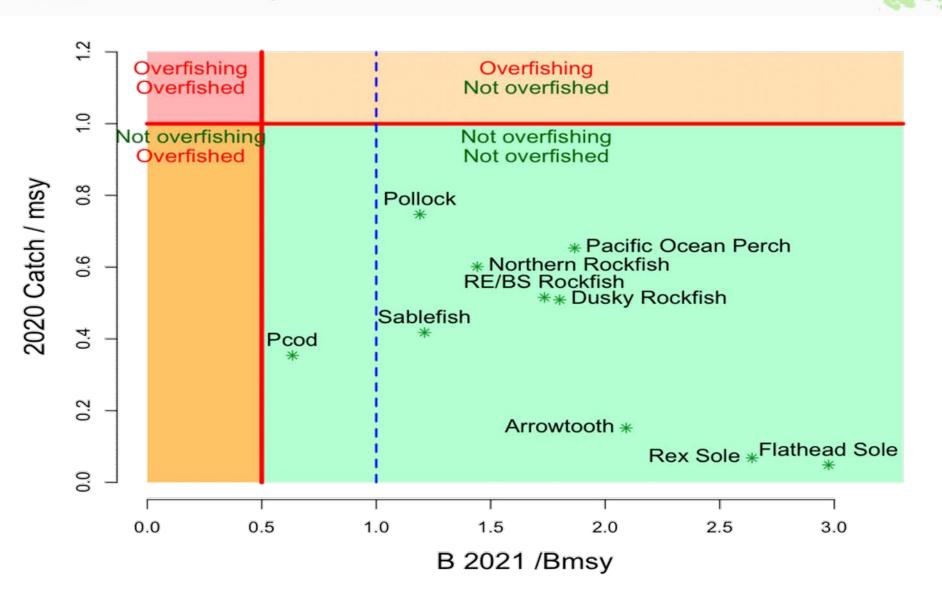
Table 3. Maximum permissible fishing mortality rates and ABCs as defined in Amendment 56 to the GOA and BSAI Groundfish FMPs, and the Plan Team's 2021 and 2022 recommended fishing mortality rates and ABCs, for those species whose recommendations were below the maximum permissible.

			2021		
Species	Tier	$Max F_{ABC}$	Max ABC	F_{ABC}	ABC
Sablefish	3a	0.100		0.042	
Demersal shelf rockfish	4, 6	0.026	328	0.02	257

Stock status summary last year



Stock status summary this year



Species overviews

- 1. 2020 ABC/Catch and recommended changes
- 2. Highlights
 - New data
 - Analytic approach (changes)
- 3. Stock status and trend
- 4. ABC/OFL
 - Tier history and recommendations
 - 2021, 2022 maxABC; recommended ABC

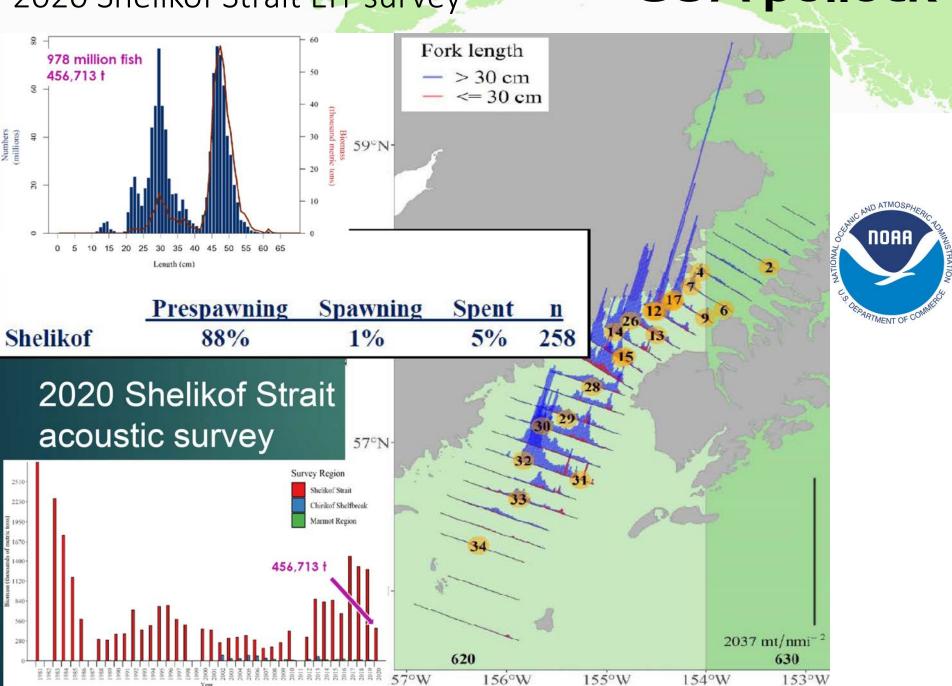
ABC

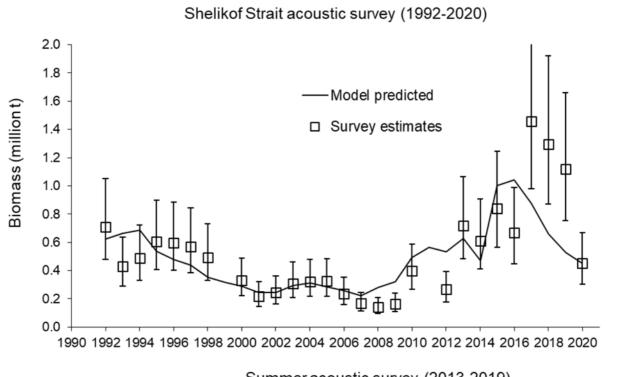


Species	2020 Catch	2020	2021	Change
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Pacific Cod	3,980	14,621	23,627	up 9,006 (62%)
Sablefish	12,095	16,883	13,269	down 3,614 (21%)
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Arrowtooth flounder	21,177	128,060	126,970	down 1,090 <mark>(1%)</mark>
Rockfish	31,628	47,450	56,819	up 9,369 (20%)
Atka mackerel	608	4,700	4,700	same (0%)
Skates	2,165	6,670	6,670	same (0%)
Sharks	1,581	8,184	3,755	down 4,429 <mark>(54%)</mark>
Octopus	78	980	980	same (0%)
Total	185,927	456,035	469,250	up 13,215 (3%)

2020 Shelikof Strait EIT survey

GOA pollock

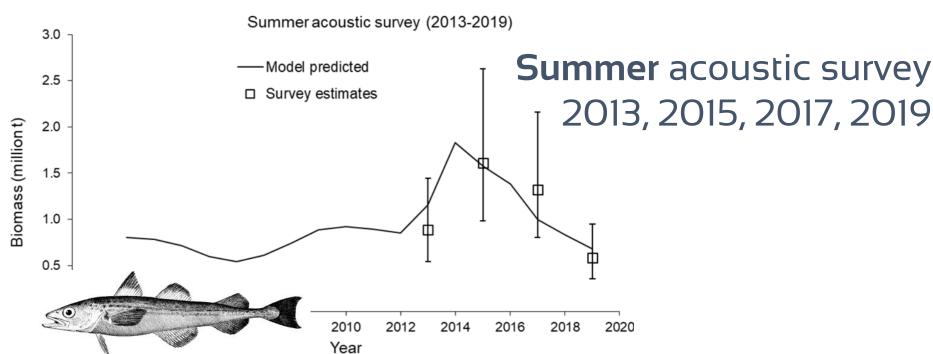




GOA pollock

Shelikof Strait winter acoustic survey, 1992 2020





GOA pollock

Shelikof Strait winter acoustic survey, 1992-2020

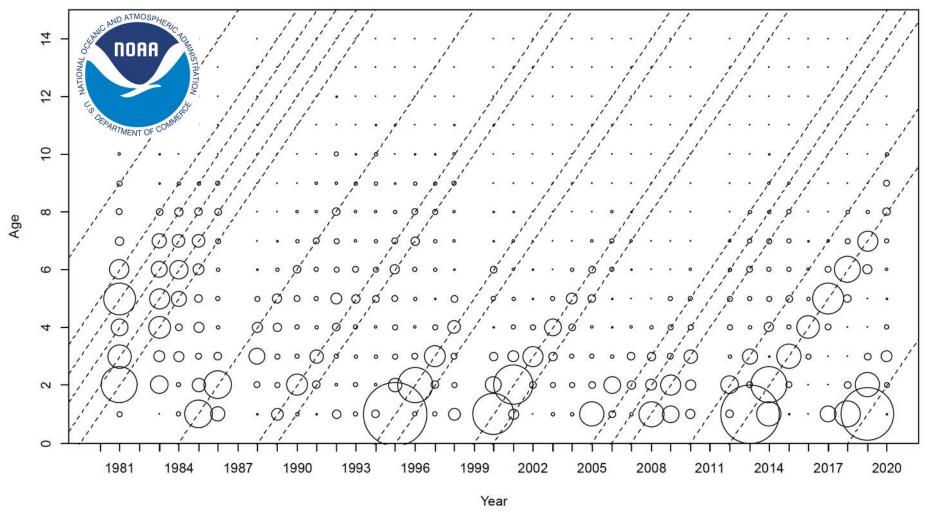
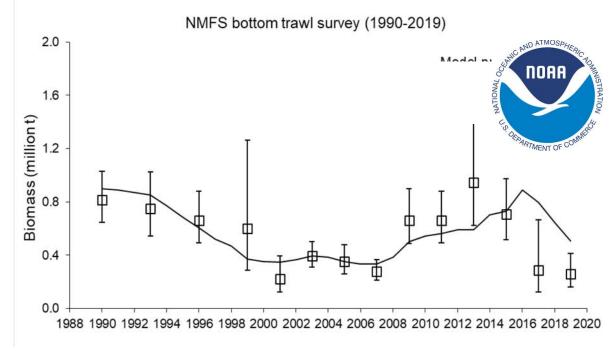


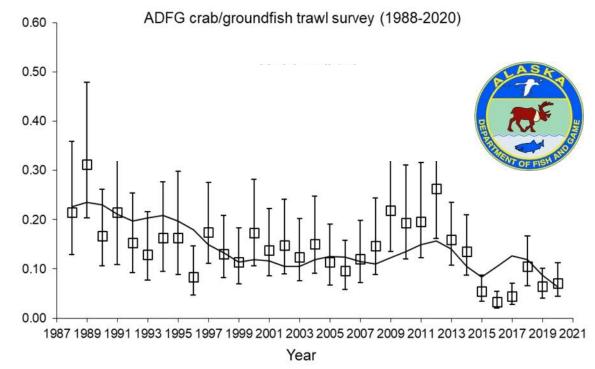
Figure 1.7. Estimated abundance at age in the Shelikof Strait acoustic survey (1981-2020, except 1982, 1987, 1999, and 2011). The area of the circle is proportional to the estimated abundance.

GOA pollock

NMFS bottom trawl survey

ADFG trawl survey





Gulf of Alaska pollock Summary



Changes to the assessment model

None

Author's 2021 ABC 105,722 t

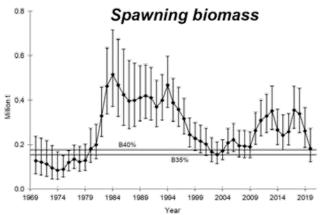
- Decrease of 3% from the 2020 ABC
- 2022 ABC decreases to ~91,000 t

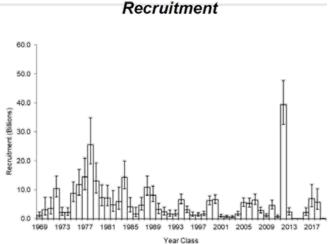
Concerns:

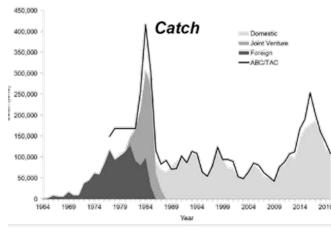
- Big drop Shelikof Strait survey
- Big drop in 2018 year class from 2019 to 2020
- Projections indicating a period of lower abundance and reduced harvests.

Positives:

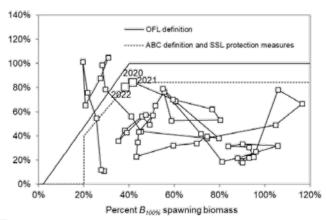
- Environmental conditions are relatively "normal"
- Conditions somewhat favorable for recruitment this year.



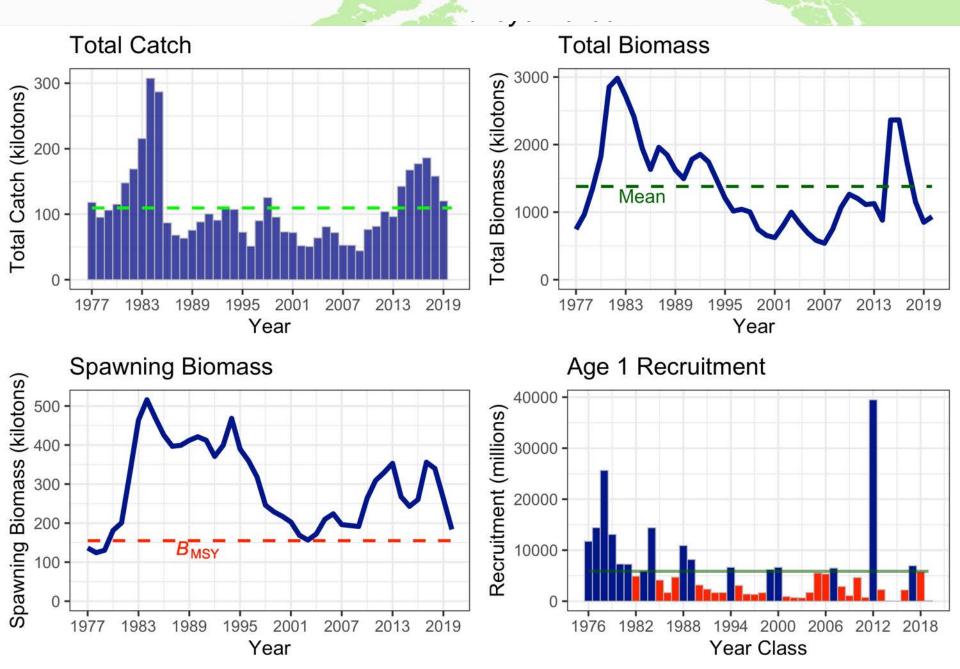




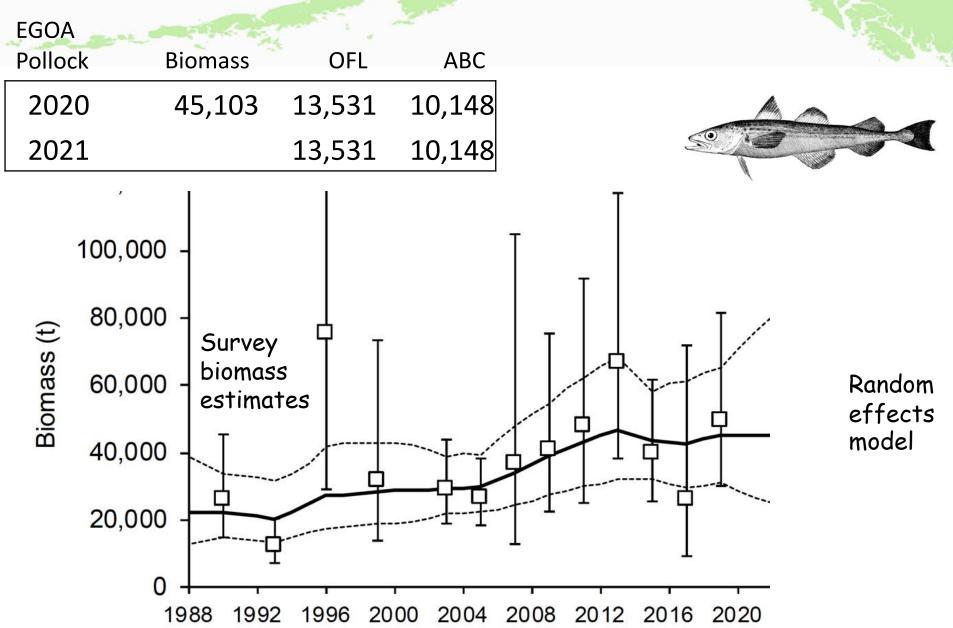
Status phase plot



GOA Pollock



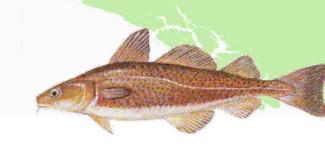
EGOA pollock (Tier 5)



Team discussions—GOA pollock



- The Team recommended...
 - The Plan Team recommended investigation into the status of the 2018 year class by potentially looking at any available diet data of potential predatory fishes such as sablefish or any other data sources that may support a displacement of this cohort from the Shelikof Strait survey area.



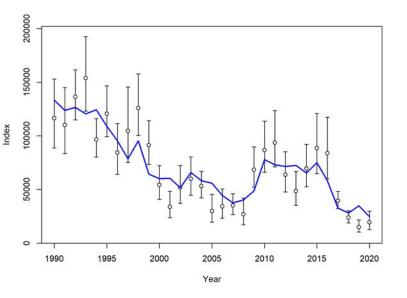
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Rockfish	31,628	47,450	56,819	up 9,369 (20%)
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Skates	2,165	6,670	6,670	same (0%)
Sharks	1,581	8,184	3,755	down 4,429 <mark>(54%)</mark>
Octopus	78	980	980	same (0%)
Total	185,927	456,035	469,250	up 13,215 (3%)

AFSC bottom trawl survey

Poor fit to high 2009 estimate.

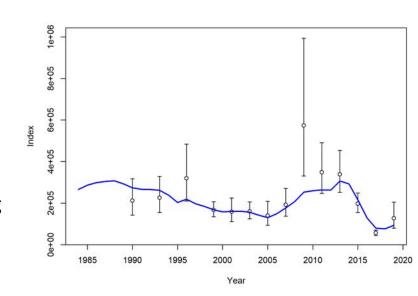
AFSC longline survey

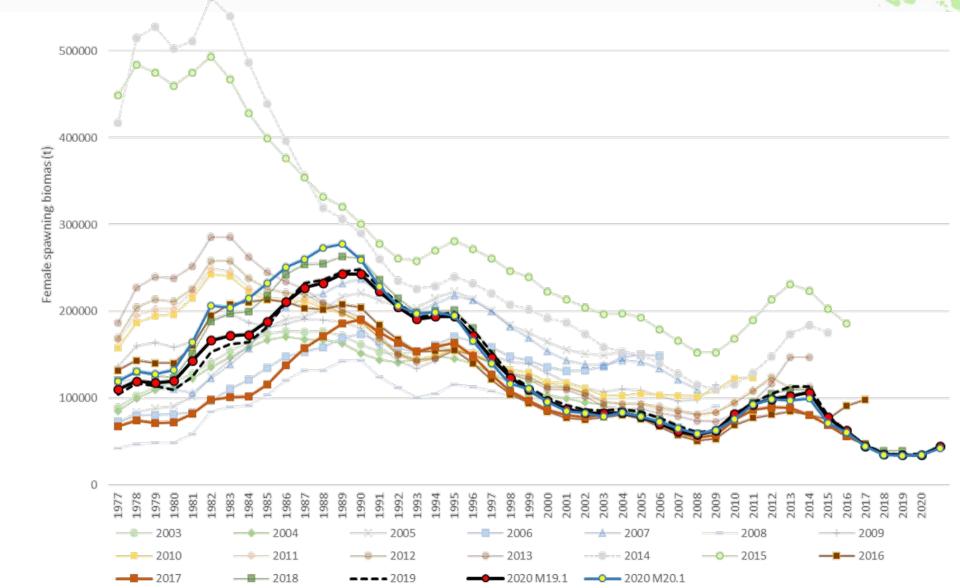
- Catchability scaled to June CFSR temperatures
- Poor fit to low 2019 estimate



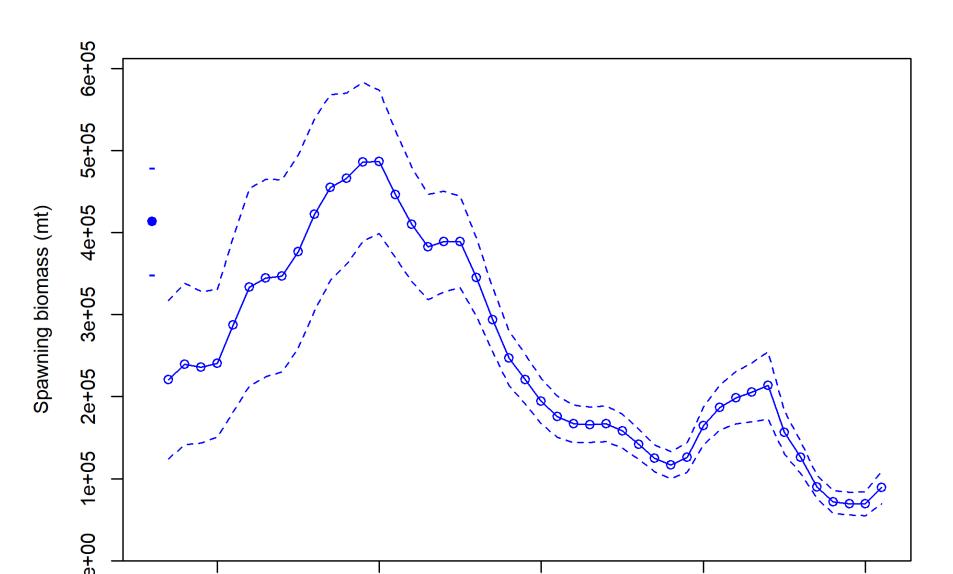
Fit to survey indices

 Generally good fit to surveys, trawl survey difficulty fitting 2009 survey estimate, the longline survey has difficulty fitting 2019 estimate.



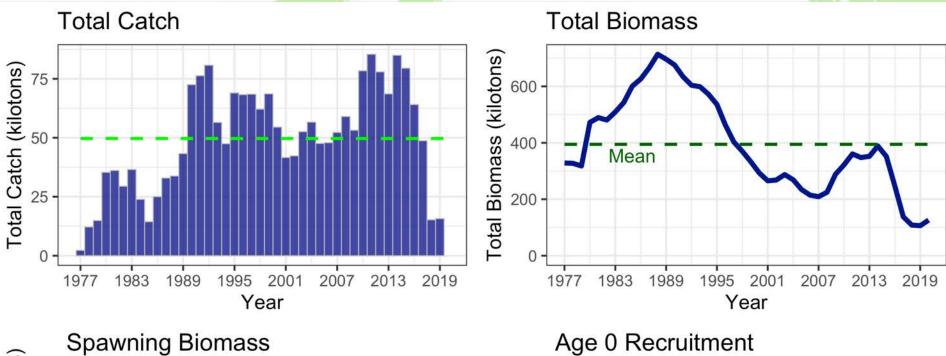


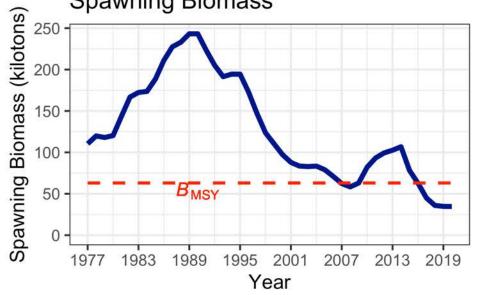


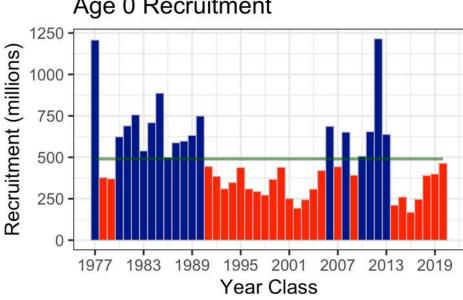


Team recommended

- ... looking at the ADF&G trawl survey as to whether it would be a useful index in the model as well as the overlap with state and federal fisheries to possibly provide information about population demographics.
- ... that authors of assessments with fishery data that have EM participants meet with existing EM committees to determine which biological data would need to be collected to inform assessment.
- ... the AFSC continue to pursue avenues to ensure IPHC surveys provide readily available information on Pacific cod.



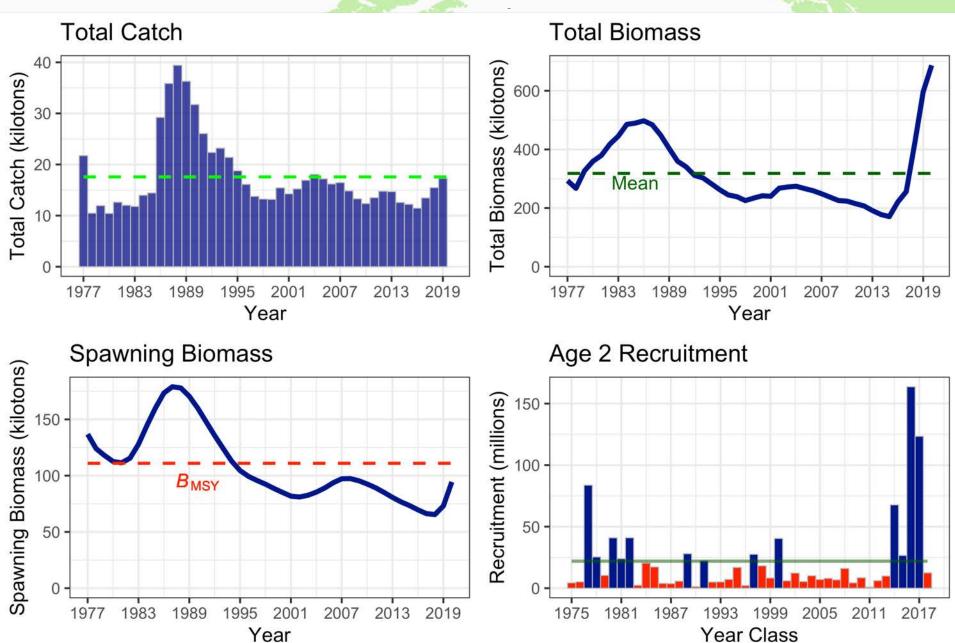




3. Sablefish

Species	2020 Catch	2020	2021	Change
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Sharks	1,581	8,184	3,755	down 4,429 <mark>(54%)</mark>
Octopus	78	980	980	same (0%)
Total	185,927	456,035	469,250	up 13,215 (3%)

2020 sablefish



Flatfish ABC Summary



Species	2020 Catch	2020	2021	Change
Pollock	105,118	118,642	115,870	down 2,772 <mark>(2%)</mark>
Pacific Cod	3,980	14,621	23,627	up 9,006 (62%)
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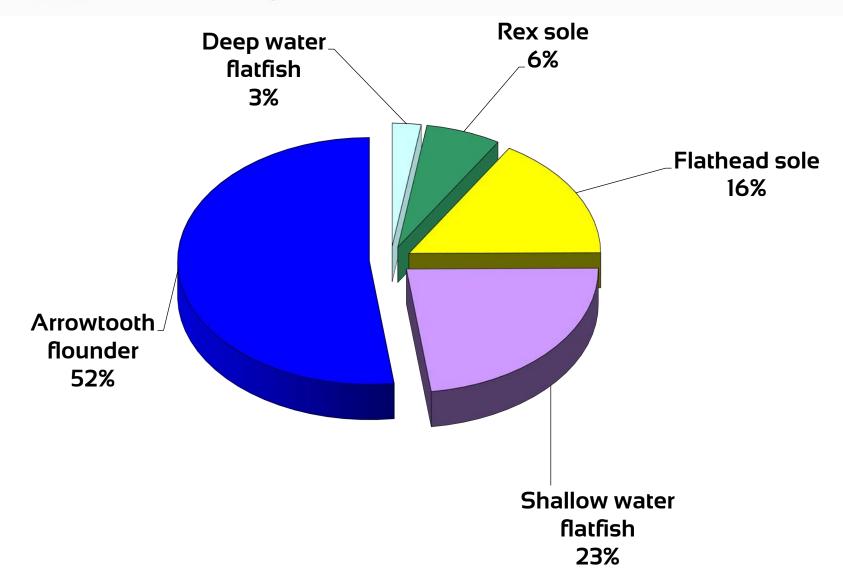
Flatfish ABC's ... broken out...

- All partials
- Lightly exploited

Species	2020	2021	Change
Shallow water flatfish	55,463	56,164	up 701(1%)
Rex sole	14,878	15,416	up 538 (4%)
Deep water flatfish	6,030	5,926	down 104 <mark>(2%)</mark>
Flathead sole	38,196	39,377	up 1,181(3%)
Arrowtooth flounder	128,060	126,970	down 1,090 <mark>(1%)</mark>
Subtotal	242,627	243,853	up 1,226(1%)
Subtotal (without ATF)	114,567	116,883	up 2,316(2%)

Deep-water ABC from Dover assessment Tier 3 + others Tier 6 Shallow water flats: N and S rock sole Tier 3, others Tier 5

Flatfish 2021 ABC's 243,853 t combined



Flatfish ABC's

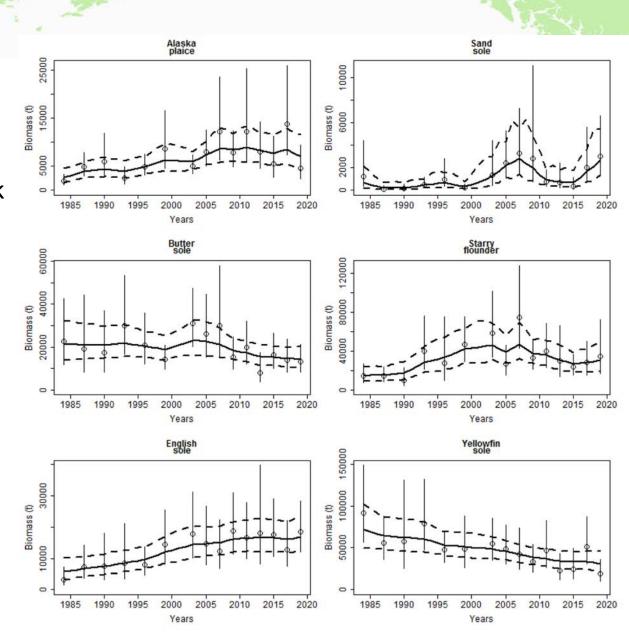
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Shallow water flats: N and S rock sole Tier 3, others Tier 5

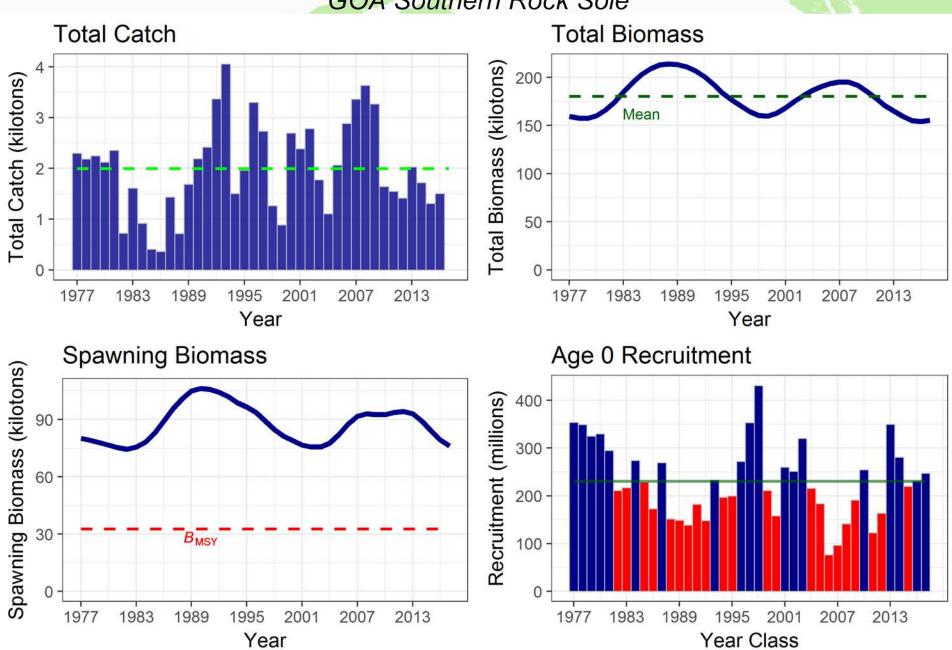
4. Shallow-water flatfish

Partial assessment

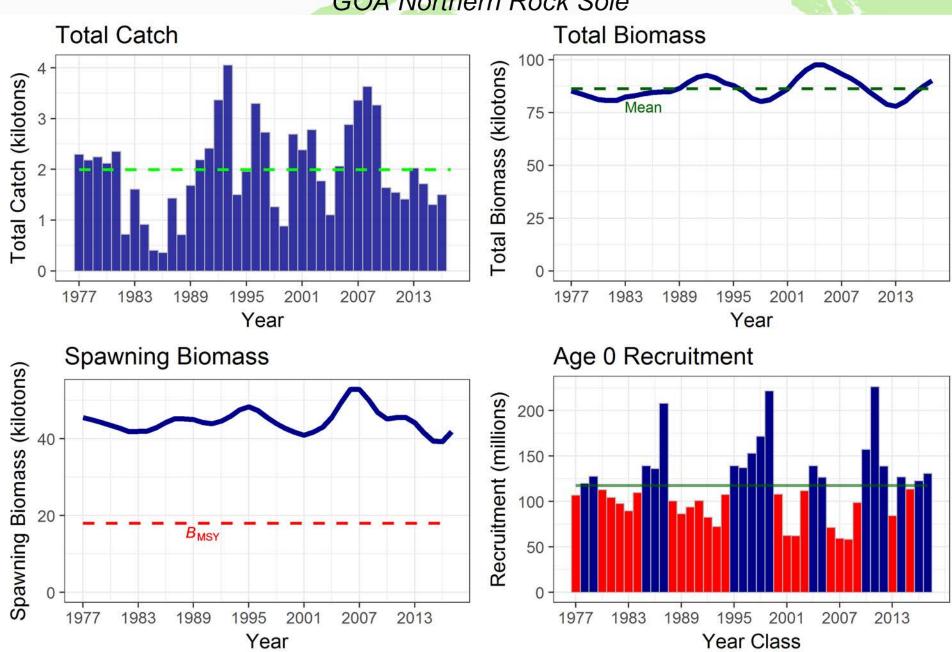
 2019 GOA survey biomass down 7% for southern rock sole and down 28% for northern rock sole



GOA Southern Rock Sole



GOA Northern Rock Sole



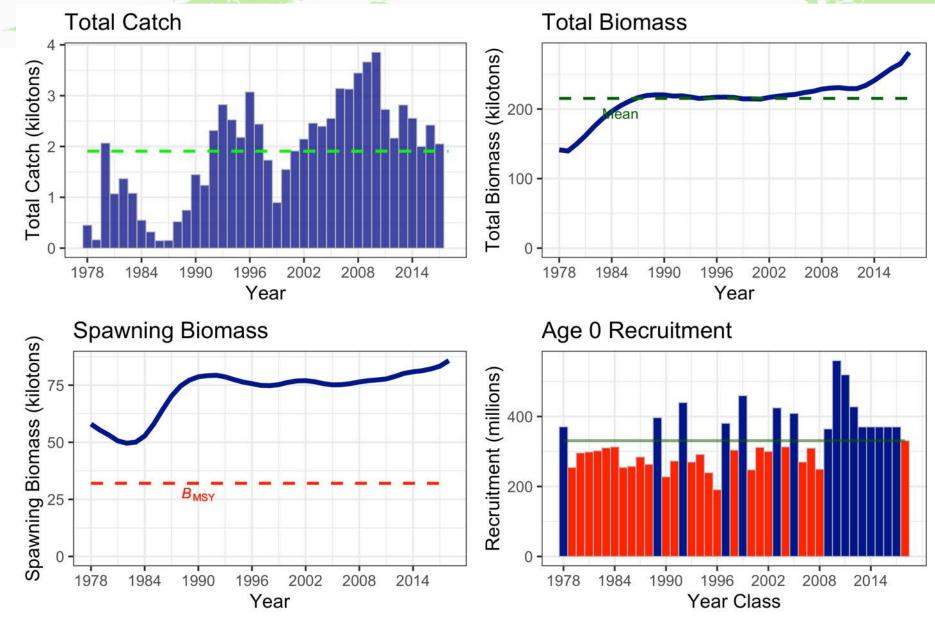
Flatfish ABC's

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Shallow water flats: N and S rock sole Tier 3, others Tier 5

8. Flathead sole

GOA Flathead Sole

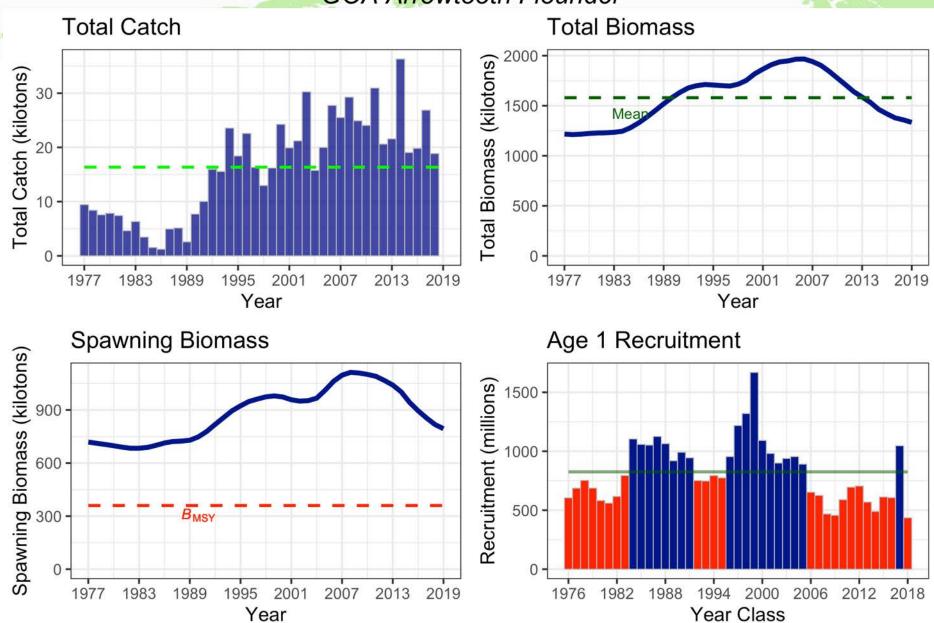


Arrowtooth

Species	2020	2021	Change
Shallow water flatfish	55,463	56,164	up 701(1%)
Rex sole	14,878	15,416	up 538 (4%)
Deep water flatfish	6,030	5,926	down 104 <mark>(2%)</mark>
Flathead sole	38,196	39,377	up 1,181 (3%)
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Subtotal	242,627	243,853	up 1,226 (1%)
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Shallow water flats: N and S rock sole Tier 3, others Tier 5

GOA Arrowtooth Flounder

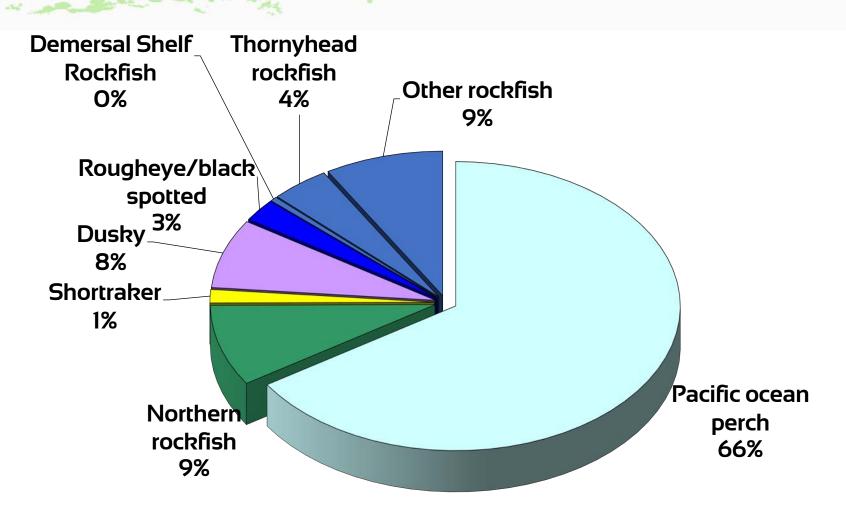


GOA Rockfish stocks...

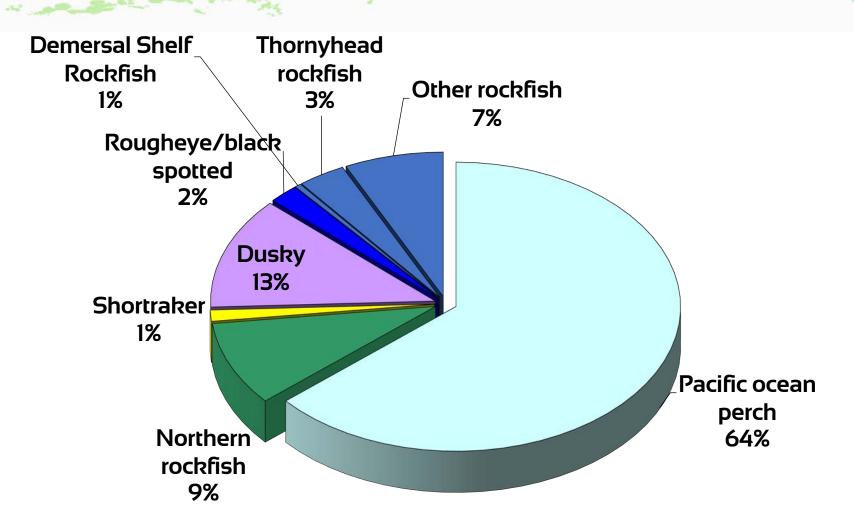
GOA Rockfish

Species	2020 Catch	2020	2021	Change
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Sharks	1,581	8,184	3,755	down 4,429 <mark>(54%)</mark>
Octopus	78	980	980	same (0%)
Total	185,927	456,035	469,250	up 13,215 (3%)

Rockfish 2020 ABC's 47,450 t total



Rockfish 2021 ABC's 56,819 t total

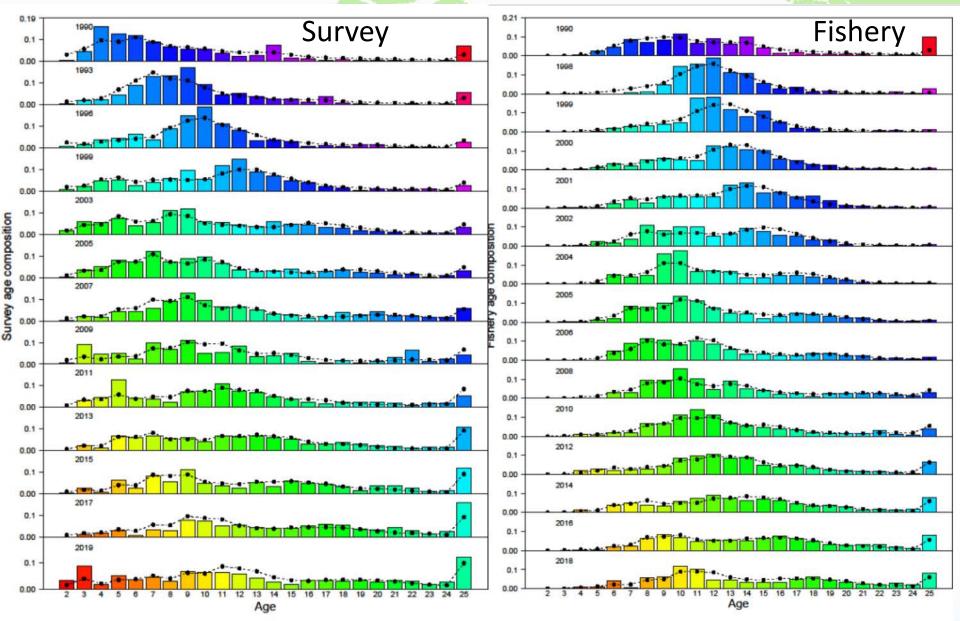


Rockfish ABC Summary

Species	2020	2021	Change
POP	31,238	36,177	up 4,939 (16%)
northern	4,312	5,358	up 1,046 (24%)
Shortraker	708	708	same (0%)
Dusky	3,676	7,101	up 3,425 (93%)
Rougheye and Blackspotted	1,209	1,212	up 3 (0%)
Demersal shelf	238	257	up 19(8%)
Thornyhead	2,016	1,953	down 63 <mark>(3%)</mark>
Other	4,053	4,053	same (0%)
Sub Total	47,450	56,819	up 9,369 (20%)

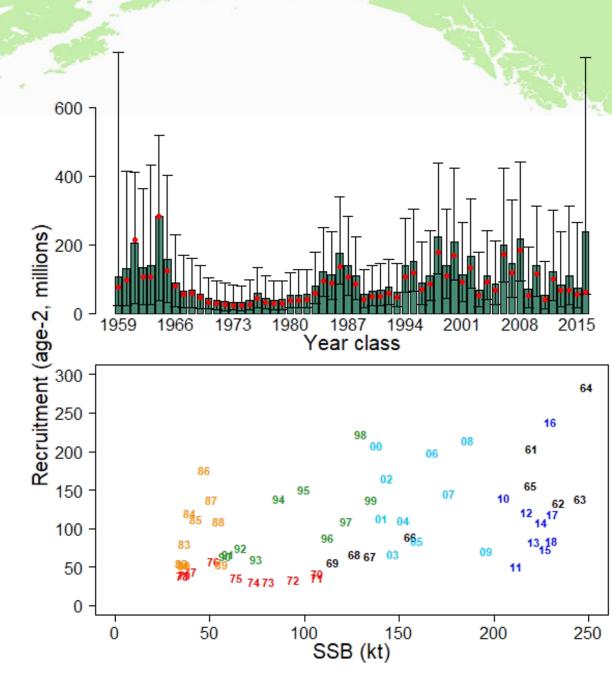
- Full assessment
- CIE review for GOA rockfish scheduled for spring 2021
 - 1. Use hydroacoustic info
 - 2. Examine fishery-dependent info, e.g., age sampling
 - 3. Catchability manuscript is in prep to inform priors...

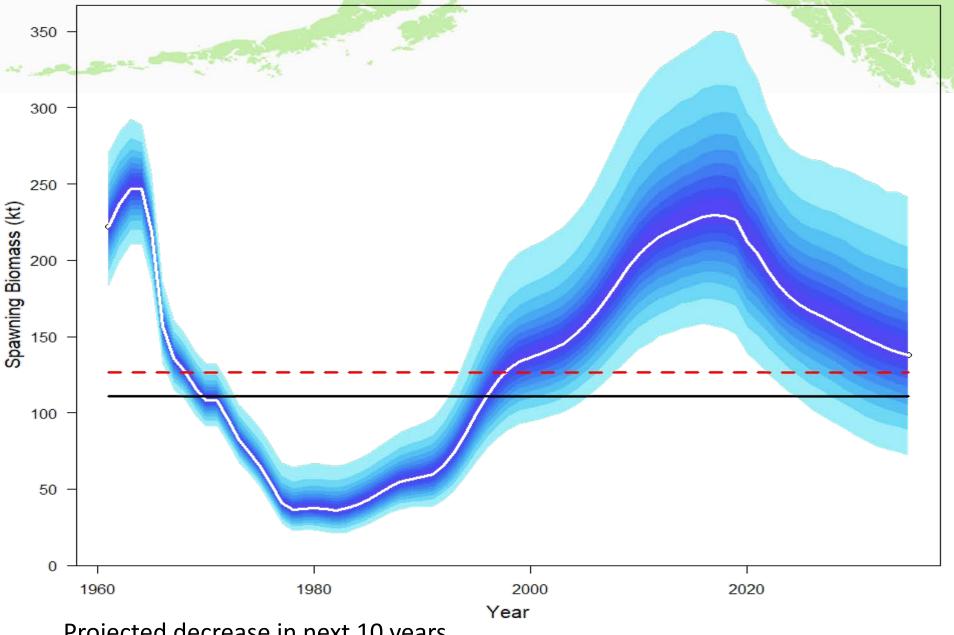
Age data



Sign of incoming year classes...2018 survey age composition

Recruits and SSB





Projected decrease in next 10 years

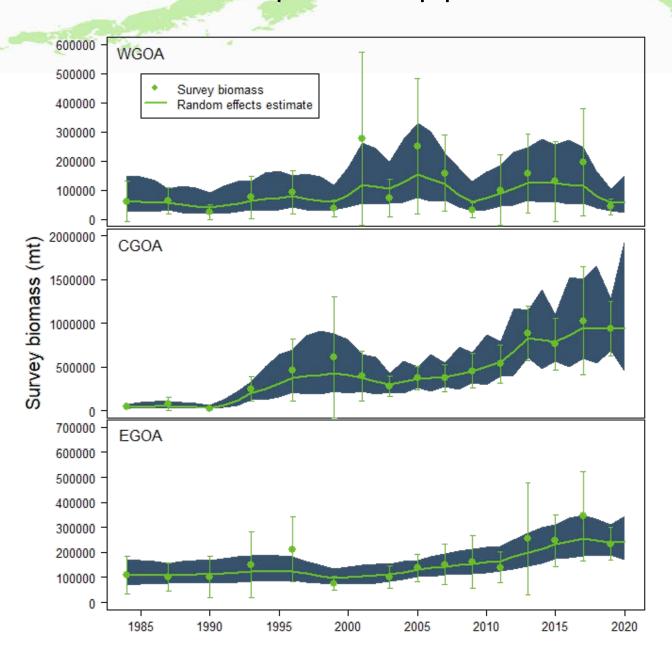
9. GOA POP Risk table

No change from 2019

Assessment-related	Population dynamics	Environmental/ ecosystem	Fishery Performance
Level 2: Substantially	Level 2: Substantially	Level 1: No apparent	Level 1: No apparent
increased concerns	increased concerns	concern	concern

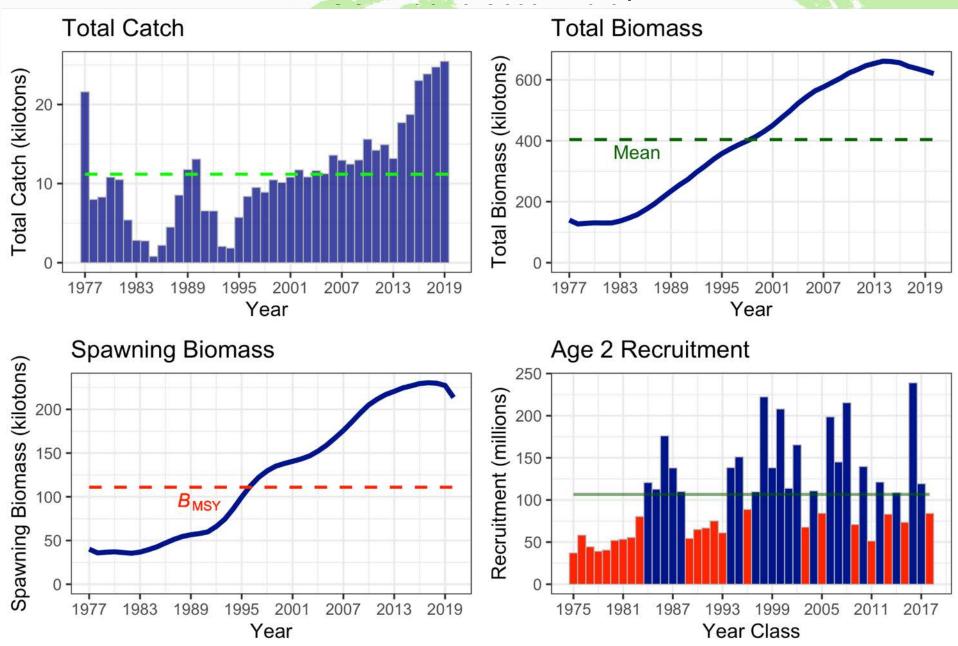
- Assessment-related: consistent underestimation of survey biomass since 2013
- Pop'n dynamics: sudden increase in biomass not reflected in dynamics of model

9. GOA Pacific ocean perch apportionment



- The Team recommended that assessment authors work with the MACE group to examine acoustic survey data to see if there are vertical shifts for POP related to water temperature.
 - There is evidence of behavior changes of pollock because of water temperatures so that they are more available for trawl nets, but it is unknown if this behavior exists for POP

• The Team supports the ABC recommendations (table) and apportionment (which did not change from last year)



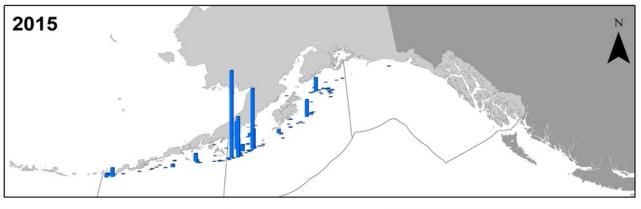
Rockfish ABC Summary

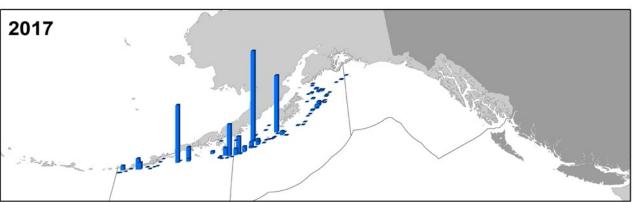
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Thornyhead	2,016	1,953	down 63 <mark>(3%)</mark>
Other	4,053	4,053	same (0%)
Sub Total	47,450	56,819	up 9,369 (20%)

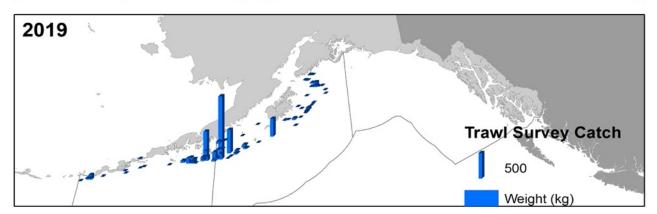
10. Northern rockfish

- Full Assessment
- new author
- Tier 3a
- Risk table all 1s

10. Northern rockfish survey distribution

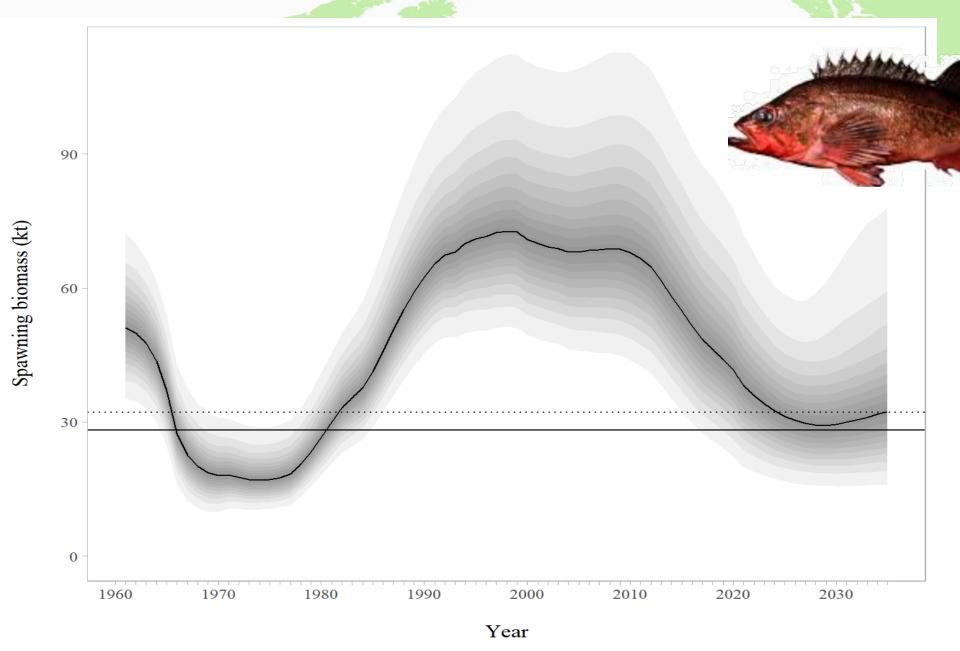








10. Northern rockfish







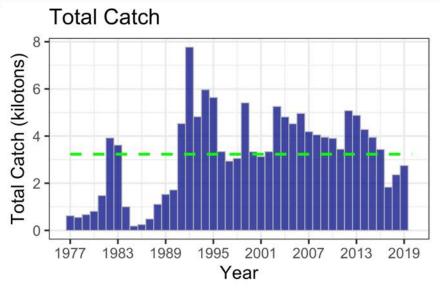
Team recommended

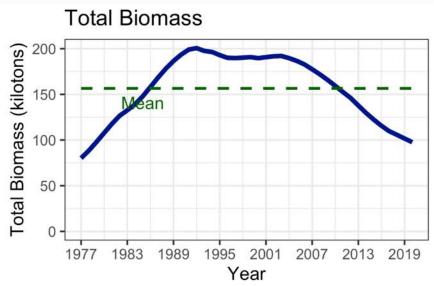
 ...that both northern rockfish and dusky rockfish use GAP VAST estimates of survey biomass and encouraged collaboration on producing model-based estimates of abundance

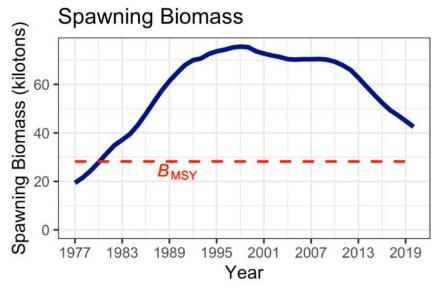
 ... the authors examine the high proportion of survey and commercial catch that are being assigned to the plus group age bin and investigate why fits to the fishery plus group are so poor

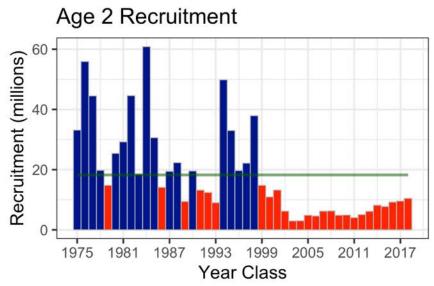
10. Northern rockfish





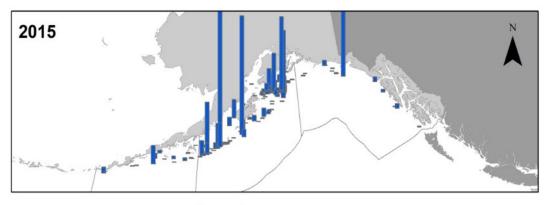


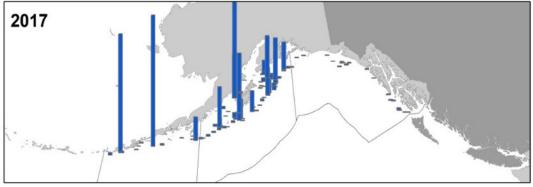


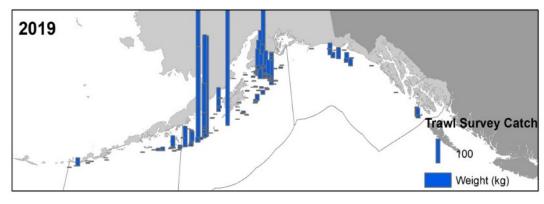


Rockfish ABC Summary

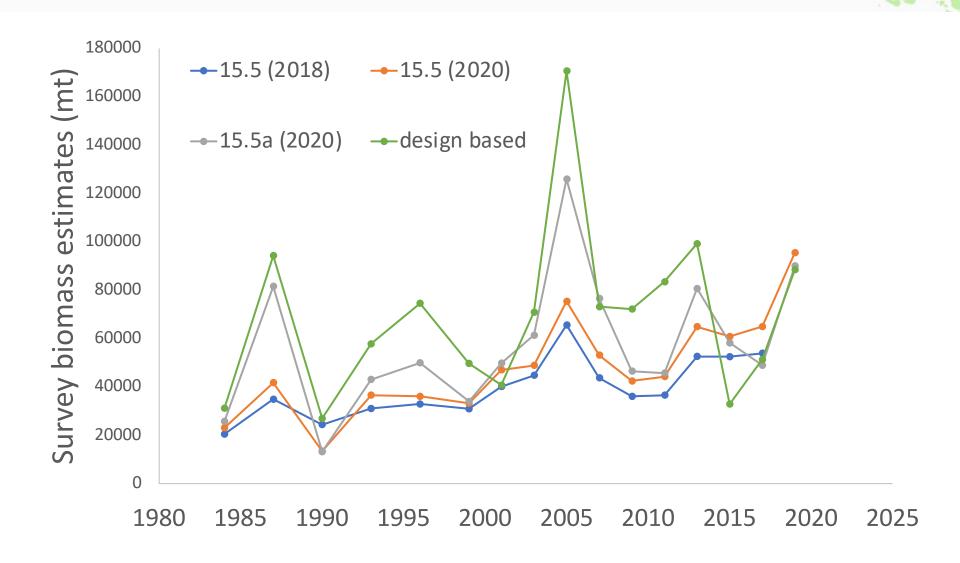
Species	2020	2021	Change
POP	31,238	36,177	up 4,939 (16%)
northern	4,312	5,358	up 1,046 (24%)
Shortraker	708	708	same (0%)
Dusky	3,676	7,101	up 3,425 (93%)
Rougheye and Blackspotted	1,209	1,212	up 3 (0%)
Demersal shelf	238	257	up 19 (8%)
Thornyhead	2,016	1,953	down 63 <mark>(3%)</mark>
Other	4,053	4,053	same (0%)
Sub Total	47,450	56,819	up 9,369(20%)





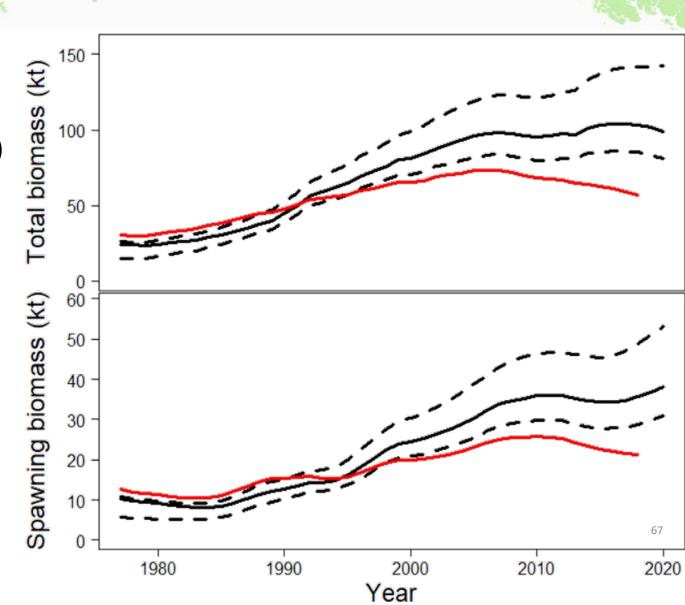


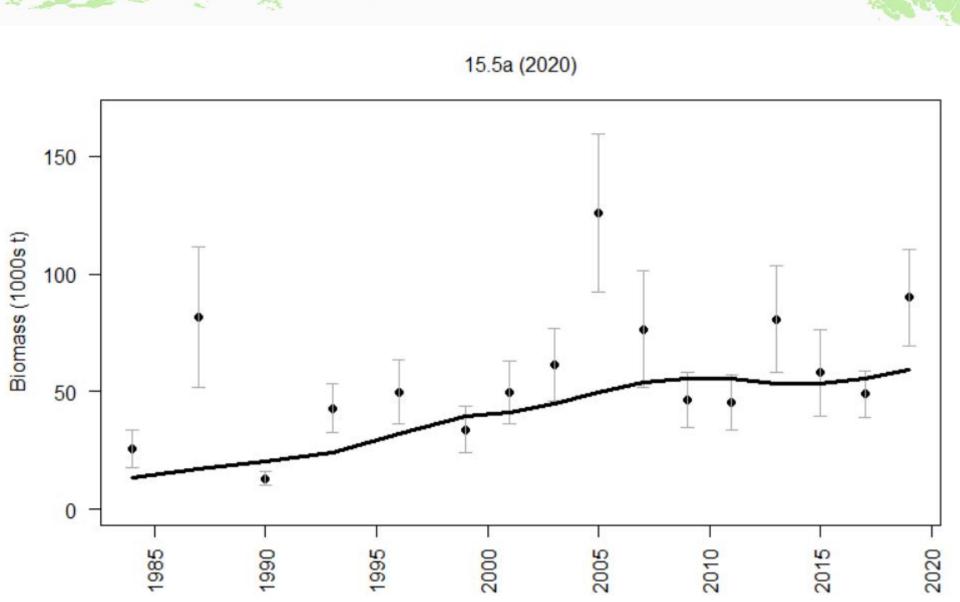
12. GOA dusky rockfish

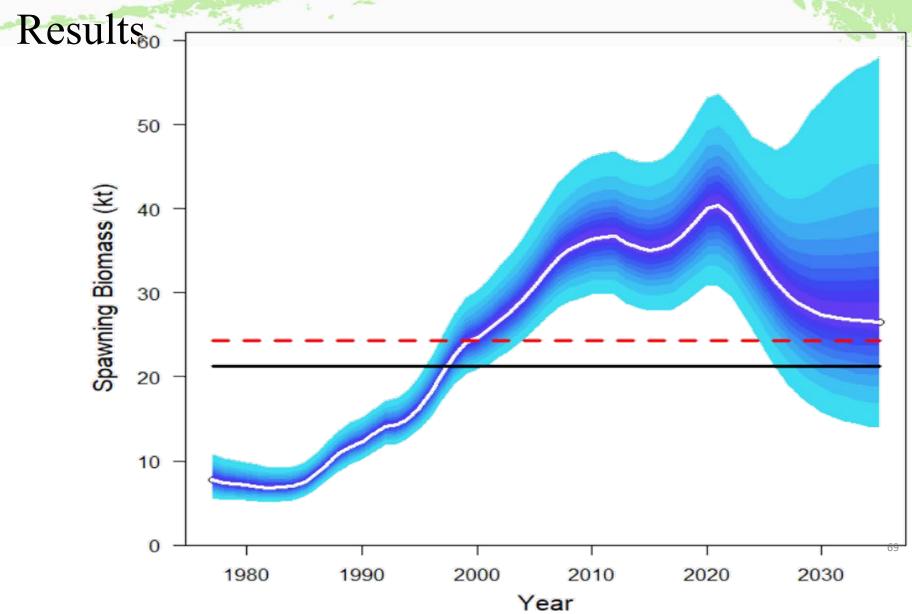


Results

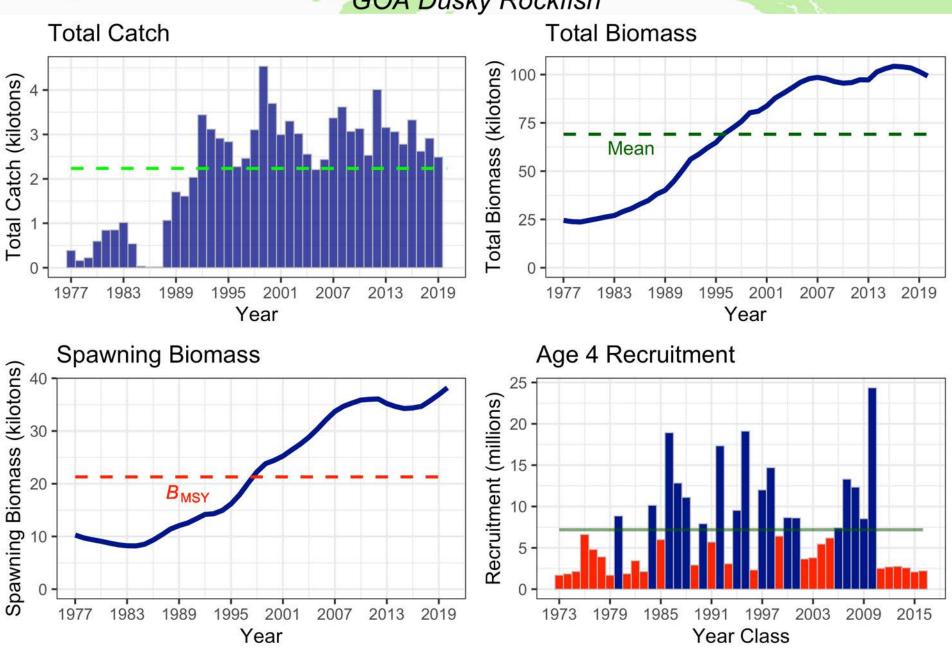
- Model 15.5a (2020)
- Model 15.5 (2018)







GOA Dusky Rockfish

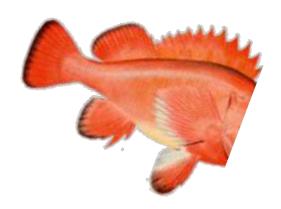


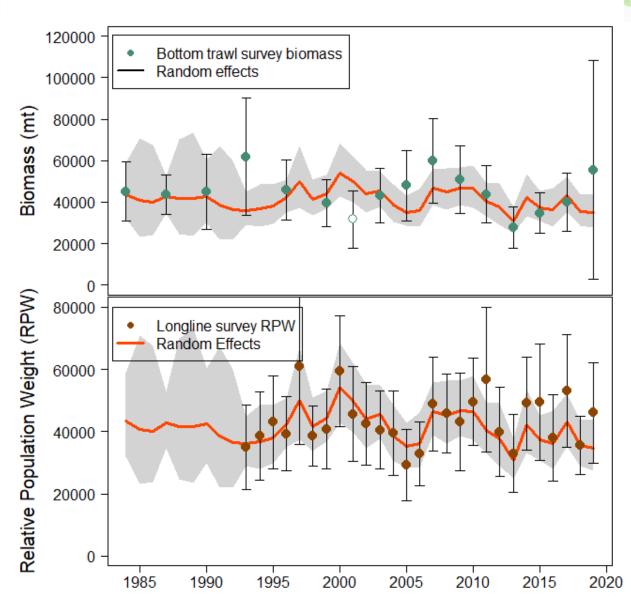
Rockfish ABC Summary

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13. GOA Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish

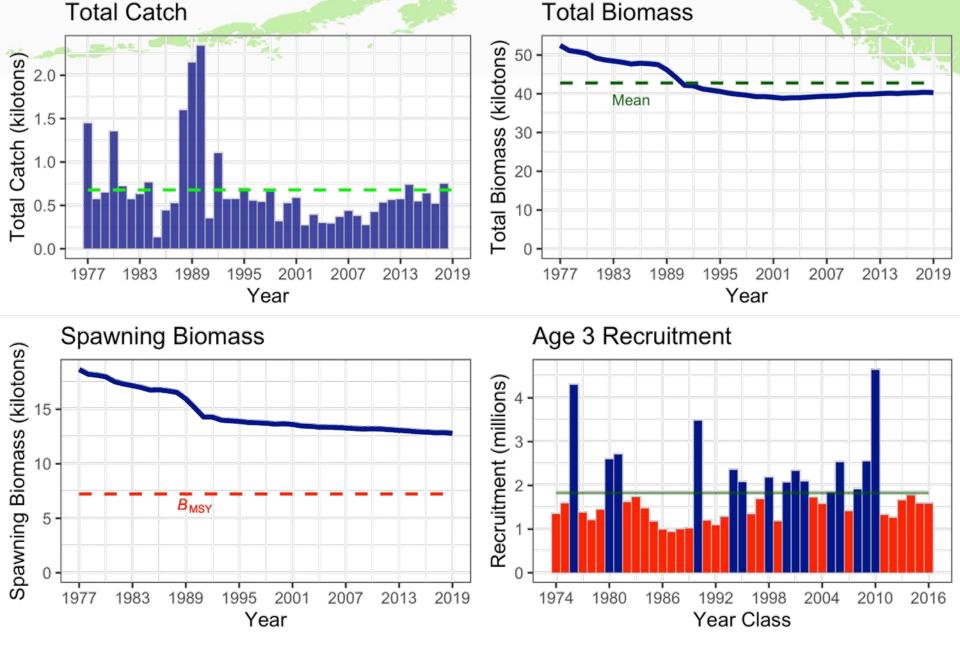
Partial assessment





jane.sullivan@noaa.gov

13. Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish



Rockfish ABC Summary

Species	2020	2021	Change
POP	31,238	36,177	up 4,939 (16%)
northern	4,312	5,358	up 1,046 (24%)
Shortraker	708	708	same (0%)
Dusky	3,676	7,101	up 3,425 (93%)
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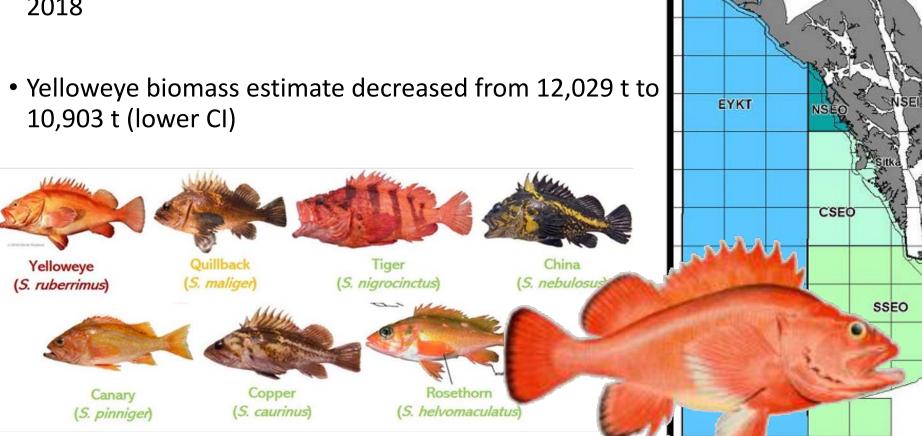
14. Demersal shelf rockfish

Kellii Wood ADF&G kellii.wood@alaska.gov

Southeast Alaska G

 Partial Assessment, Tier 4 (yelloweye) and Tier 6 (6 other species)

 Three areas (SSEO, CSEO, and NSEO) surveyed by ROV in 2018



Stock Assessment Survey

Four Management Areas:

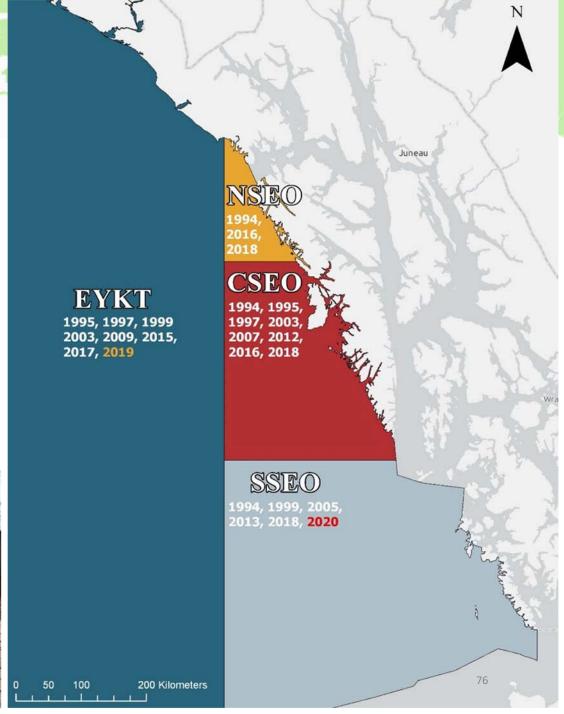
Eastern Yakutat (EYKT)

Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO)

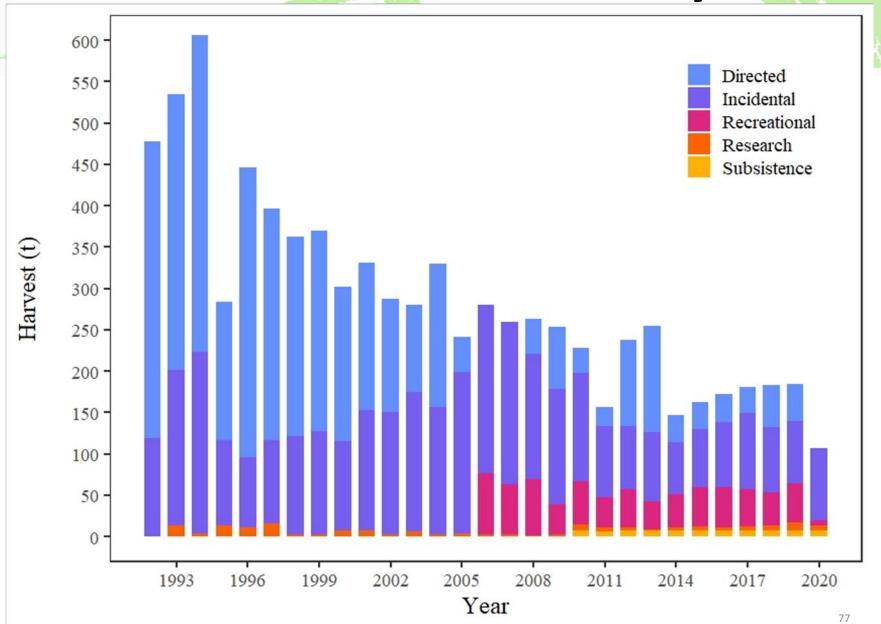
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO)

Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO)





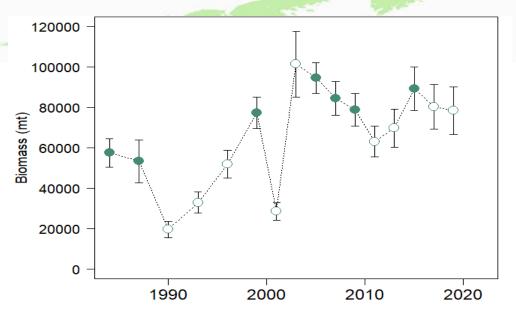
SEO DSR Catch by Sector

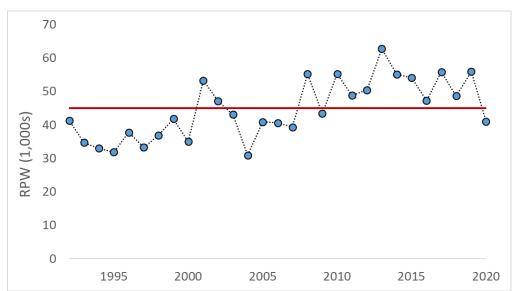


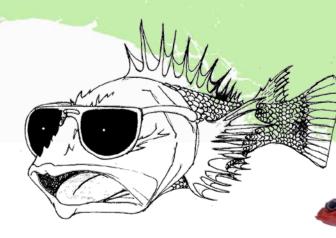
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15. Shortspine thornyheads

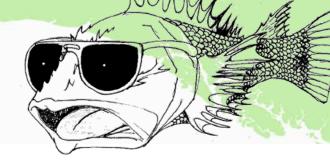


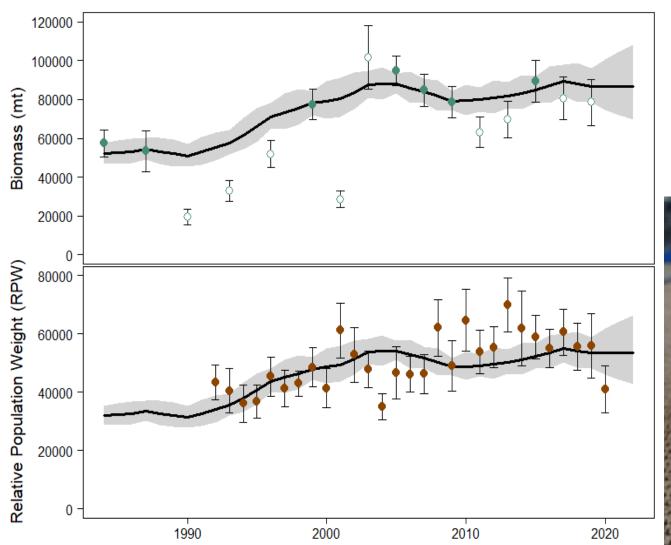






15. Shortspine thornyheads



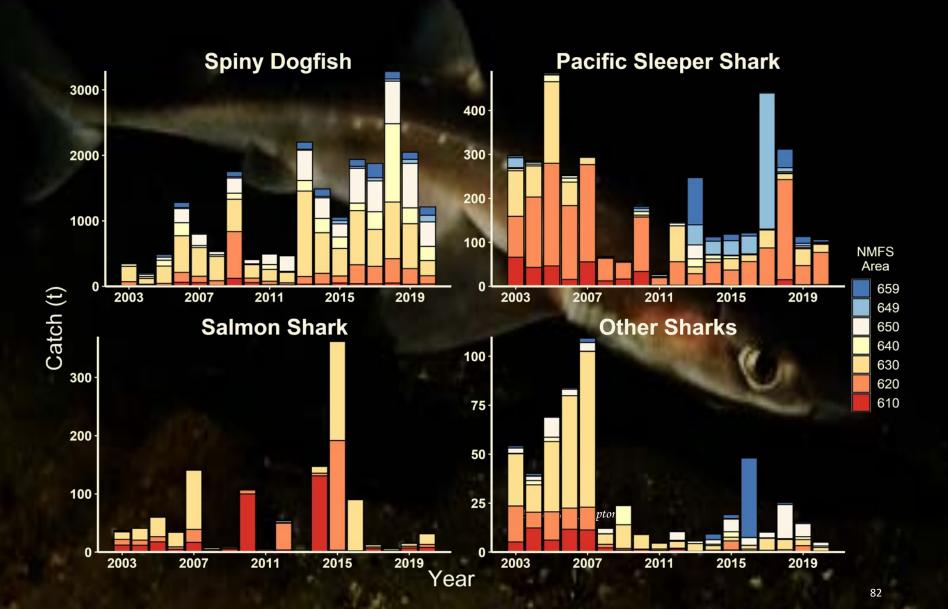


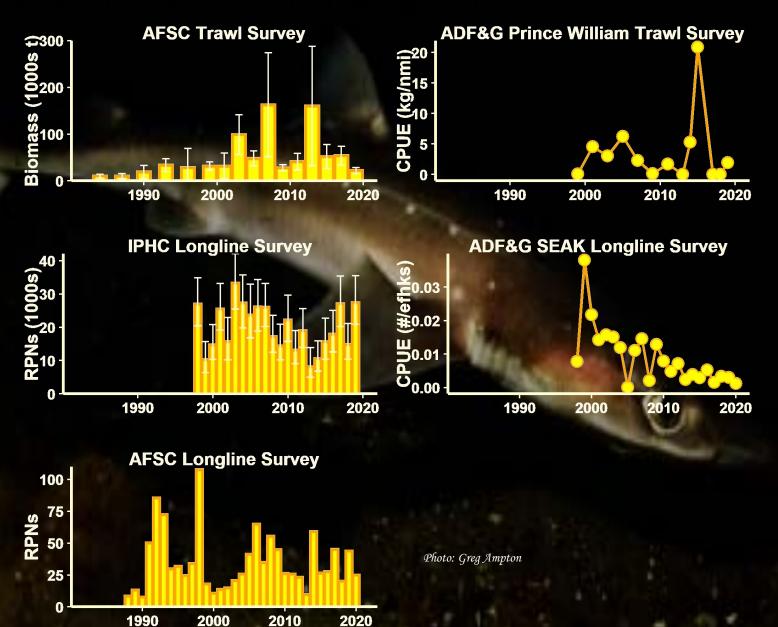


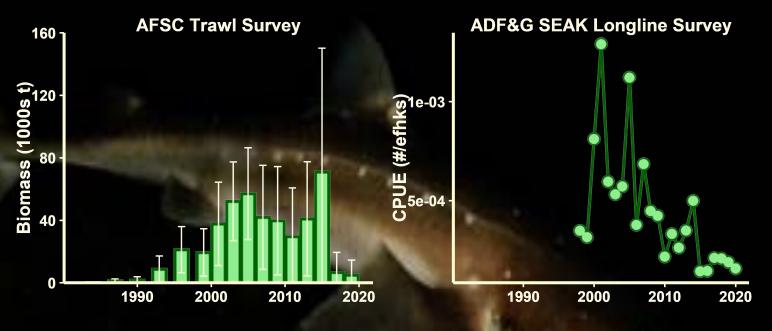


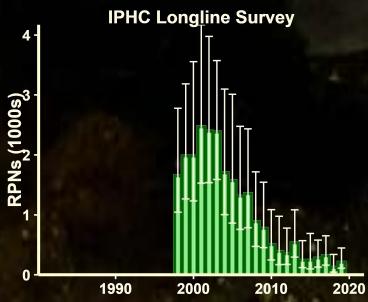
Species	2020 Catch	2020	2021	Change
Pollock	105,118	118,642	115,870	down 2,772 <mark>(2%)</mark>
Pacific Cod	3,980	14,621	23,627	up 9,006 (62%)
Sablefish	12,095	16,883	13,269	down 3,614(21%)
Flatfish	7,497	114,567	116,883	up 2,316(2%)
Arrowtooth flounder	21,177	128,060	126,970	down 1,090 (1%)
Rockfish	31,628	47,450	56,819	up 9,369 (20%)
Atka mackerel	608	4,700	4,700	same (0%)
Skates	2,165	6,670	6,670	same (0%)
Sharks	1,581	8,184	3,755	down 4,429 (54%)
Octopus	78	980	980	same (0%)
Total	185,927	456,035	469,250	up 13,215 (3%)

19. GOA Sharks Catch by Area



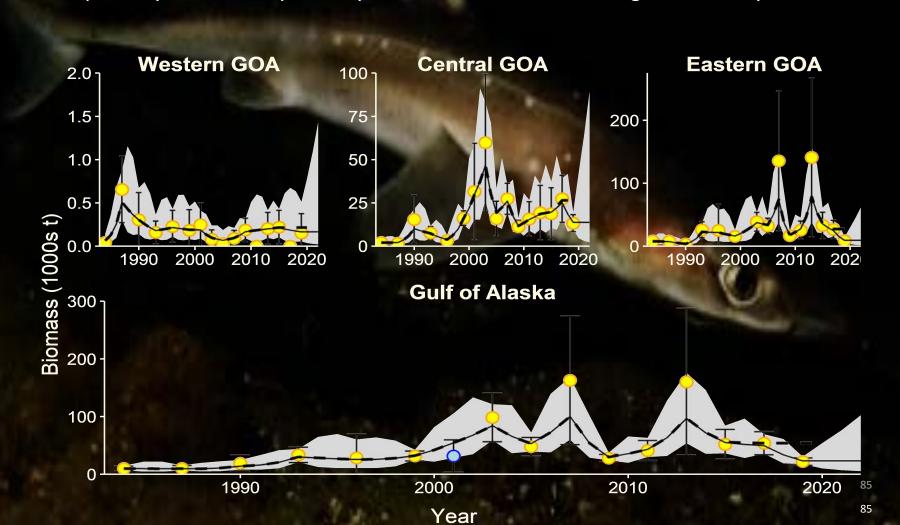






19. GOA Sharks Random Effects Biomass

- Spiny dogfish only
 - Fit separately trawl survey data by area, to account for missing 2001 survey in EGOA



Harvest Recommendations Spiny Dogfish

- •Model 15.3A
 - •q = 0.21
 - $\bullet B_a = B_{RFX}/q$
 - $F_{OFL} = F_{max} = 0.04$ (demographic)
 - $\bullet OFL = F_{OFL} * B_a$

Reminder: ABC = 0.75OFL



Risk Table

- Unclear how to score a complex when different species score differently
- Do not recommend any ABC reductions at this time
- A number of projects ongoing to inform on these categories and improve assessments
 - Ageing, improving catch estimates, genetics and stock structure, tagging, data-limited methods

Assessment-related considerations	Population dynamics considerations	Environmental/ ecosystem considerations	Fishery performance considerations	
Level 2:	Level 2:	Level 1: no	Level 1: no	
Substantially	Substantially	increased	increased concerns	
increased concerns	increased concerns	concerns	mereased concerns	





Team discussion

•The Team inquired about a potential "observer effect" in the fisheries that are sampled more, and recommended that the author look at data from pre- and post-observer restructuring.