

GOA Thornyhead Rockfish



- Tier 5 species – represented by SST (idiots)
 - Following the prioritization process, TH remain on biennial schedule, with a full assessment produced in even years and no assessment produced in odd years
 - HOWEVER- we present a partial assessment because the ABC has been exceeded in the past in the WGOA and because trawl survey biomass estimates have often shown extreme variability between surveys
- **New Data: 2017 trawl survey biomass**
 - Exploitable biomass estimation and harvest allocation were provided using the random effects model, fit with 1984-2017 trawl survey biomass and uncertainty estimates
 - New exploitable biomass: 90,570 t
 - 4% increase in exploitable biomass from previous estimate in 2016 assessment
- **Catch Update (October 17, 2017)**
 - 2017 catch down 19% from 2016
 - This is <50% of gulfwide ABC

GOA Thornyhead Summary



- GOA thornyhead recommendations for 2018 (tier 5):
 - $F_{OFL} = M = 0.03$
 - B (exploitable biom.) = 90,570 t
 - **OFL** = 90,570 x 0.03 = **2,717 t**
 - $F_{ABC} = 0.75 * M = 0.0225$
 - **ABC** = 90,570 x 0.0225 = **2,038 t**
(↑ 3.9% from 1,961 t in 2016 & 2017)

Thornyhead: Apportionment of ABC for 2017

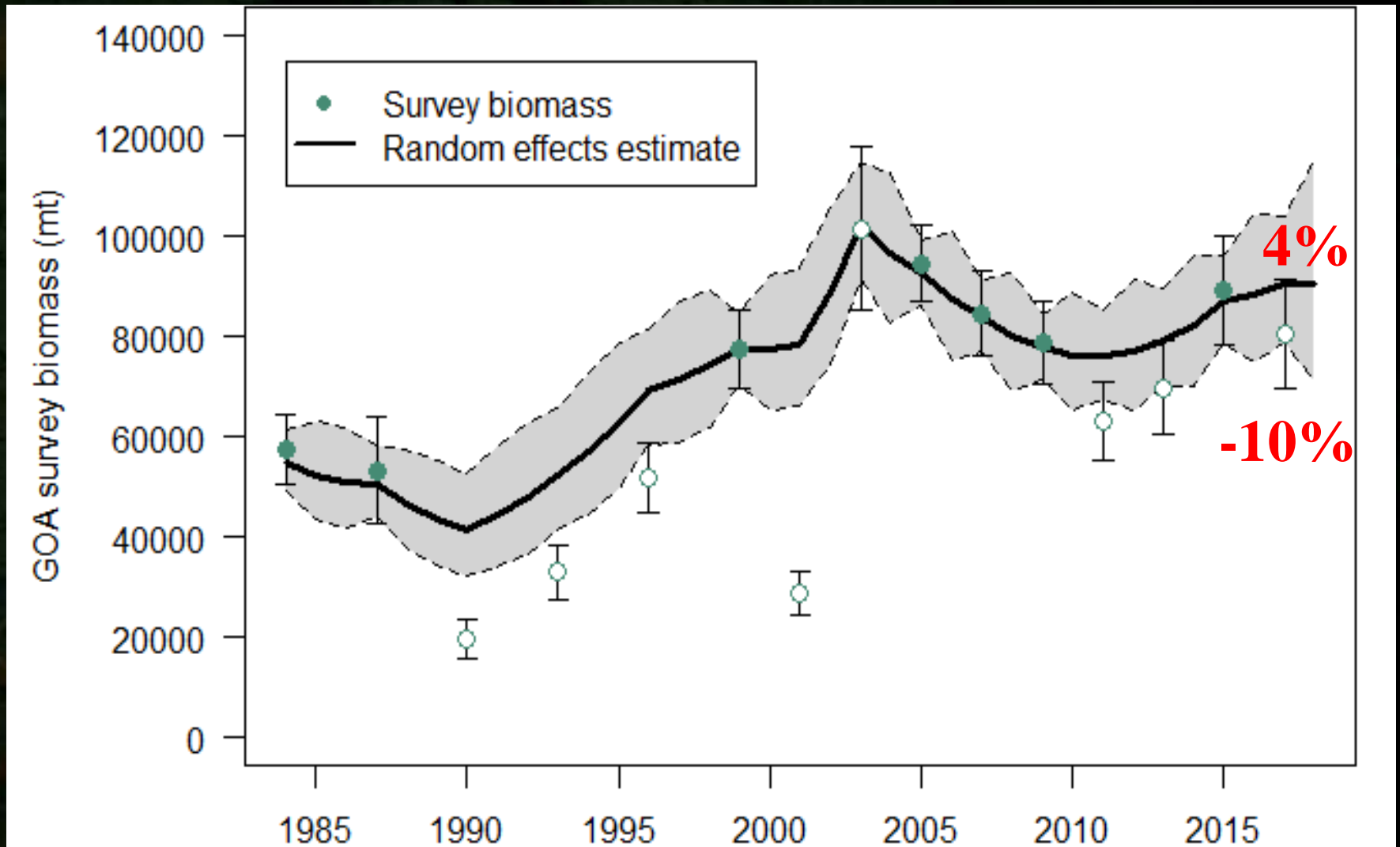


Apportionment is based on random effects estimation of biomass by region, fit to 1984-2017 trawl survey biomass estimates

- **Western: 344 t**
- **Central: 921 t**
- **Eastern: 773 t**



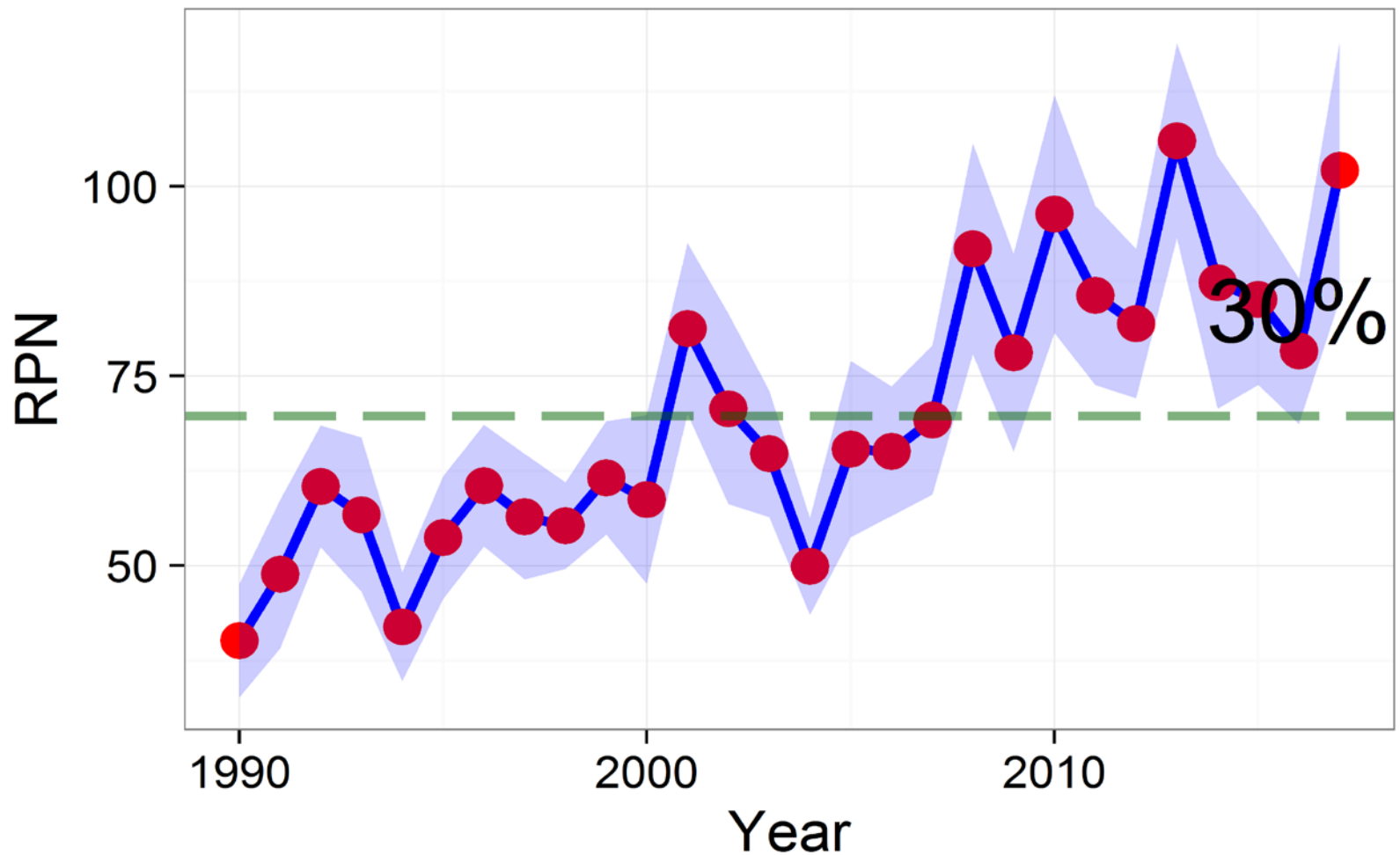
Estimated Exploitable Biomass via Random Effects Model



LL Survey RPNs



GOA Thornyhead longline survey RPNs w/ 95%



Thornyheads: Catch/Biomass

