Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries off Alaska, 2026

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Economic and Social Science Research



Purpose of Today's Presentation

Information presented may provide

- Contextual information on the Alaskan groundfish fishery for TAC setting and allocations
- Meet mandated national standards

We are NOT suggesting that this data be used for ABC setting

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction of New ESSR Products
  - Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries off Alaska Brief
  - Alaska Seafood Industry Snapshot
- Summary of the Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries off Alaska, 2026
- Highlights from Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview
- Insights from the Alaska Seafood Industry Snapshot
- Relevant research projects in ESSR

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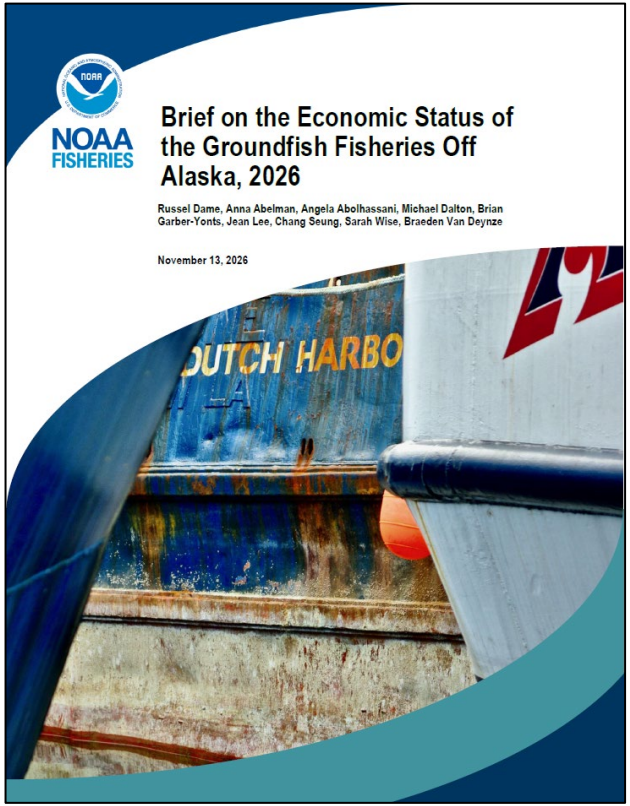
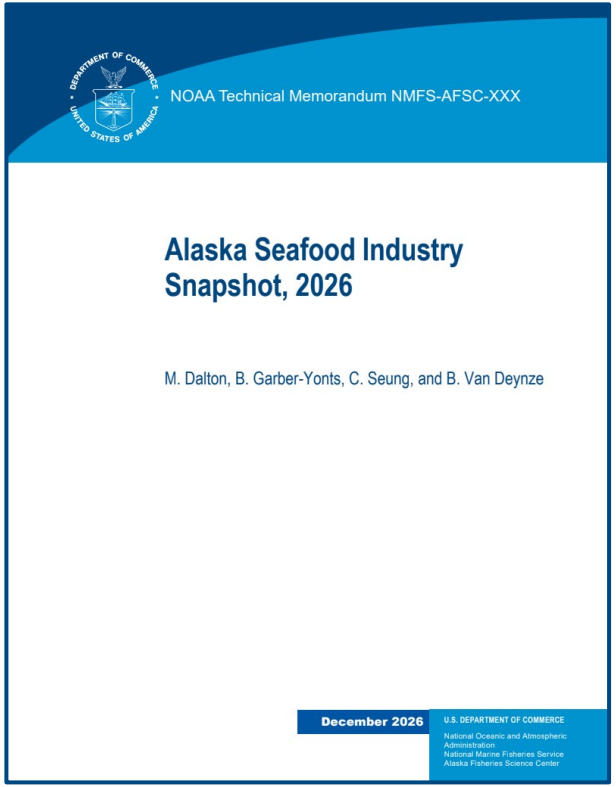
Summary of the Groundfish Economic SAFE Brief

- **Purpose**
  - Highlight key trends and findings
  - Accessible to all audiences
- **Key Features**
  - Timeline of data availability and ESSR products
  - Infographic of high-level economic statistics
  - Hyperlinks to specific database queries
- **Timeline and Process**
  - Posted by November Groundfish Plan Team
  - Replacing Executive Summary chapter
    - Dynamic narrative
  - Available on HDDE



Summary of the Alaska Seafood Industry Snapshot (AKSIS)

- **Purpose**
  - Comprehensive summary of Alaska seafood industry's economic impacts on coastal communities and the US economy, tracking year-to-year growth and contraction
- **Key Features**
  - Covers harvest, processing, and multiplier effects across 11 species groups (both state and federal) for eight Alaska and two Lower 48 regions
  - Breaks down economic output, employment, value-added, and income
  - Sketches on key 2026 trends (trade and fuel)
- **Differences from Alaska Seafood Snapshot (2024)**
  - Focuses narrowly on consistent economic impact reporting
  - Refined indexing to separate quantity and price effects on revenue



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Content in the Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries off Alaska, 2026

- ~~**Executive Summary**~~
  - ~~High level summary of changes from 2024 to 2025~~
  - Report card metrics
- **Economic Data Tables**
  - AK-, BSAI-, and GOA-specific ex-vessel and first-wholesale volume, value, and price by species, gear, and product
- **Economic Indices**
  - Visualize changes in value, catch/production, and price by region, at-sea/shoreside, species, gear, product type
- ~~**Amendment 80 Program Economic Status Summary**~~

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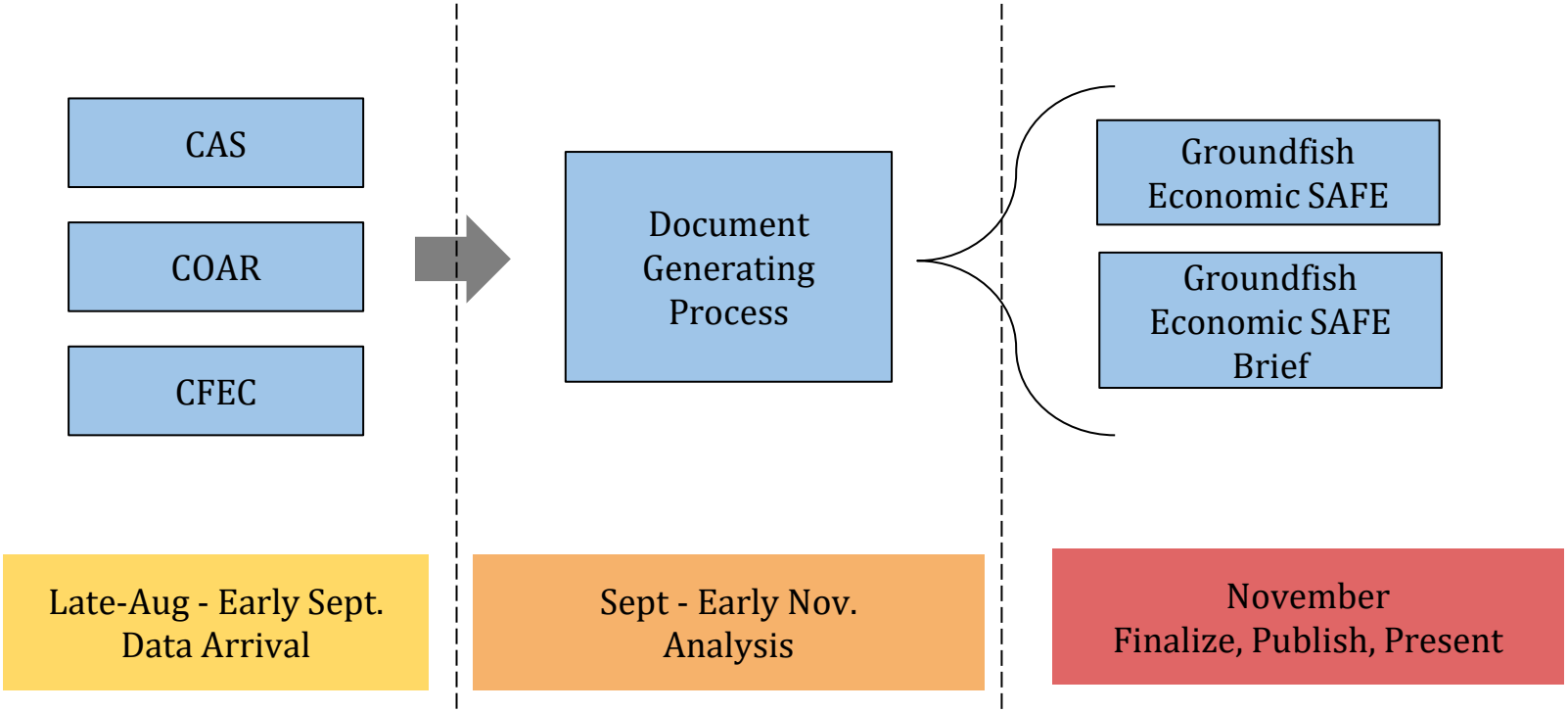
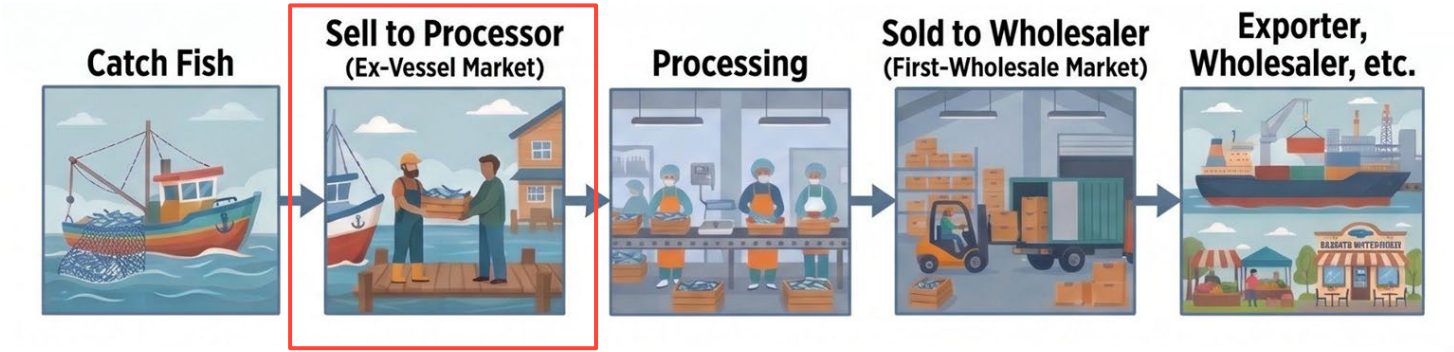
Data Sources to Create Groundfish Economic SAFE



Definition of Terms

- **Ex-Vessel Market:** Catch sold by a vessel directly to a processor
- **First-Wholesale Market:** First sale after initial processing by a commercial processor



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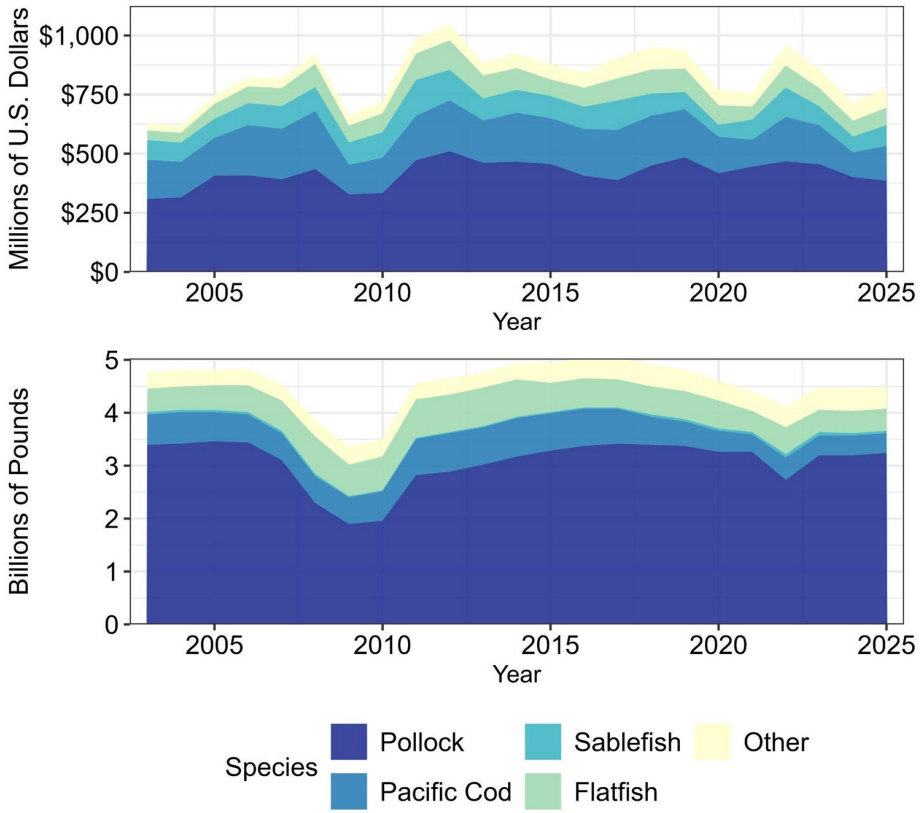
Aggregate Groundfish Ex-Vessel Market Trends

- **Ex-vessel value of groundfish in Alaska:** $777 million (+9% from 2024)
- **Retained catch of groundfish in Alaska:** 4.4 billion pounds (+1%)
- **Aggregate ex-vessel price per pound**: $0.18 per pound (+7%)

Figures 3.1-3.3 in GF Econ. SAFE



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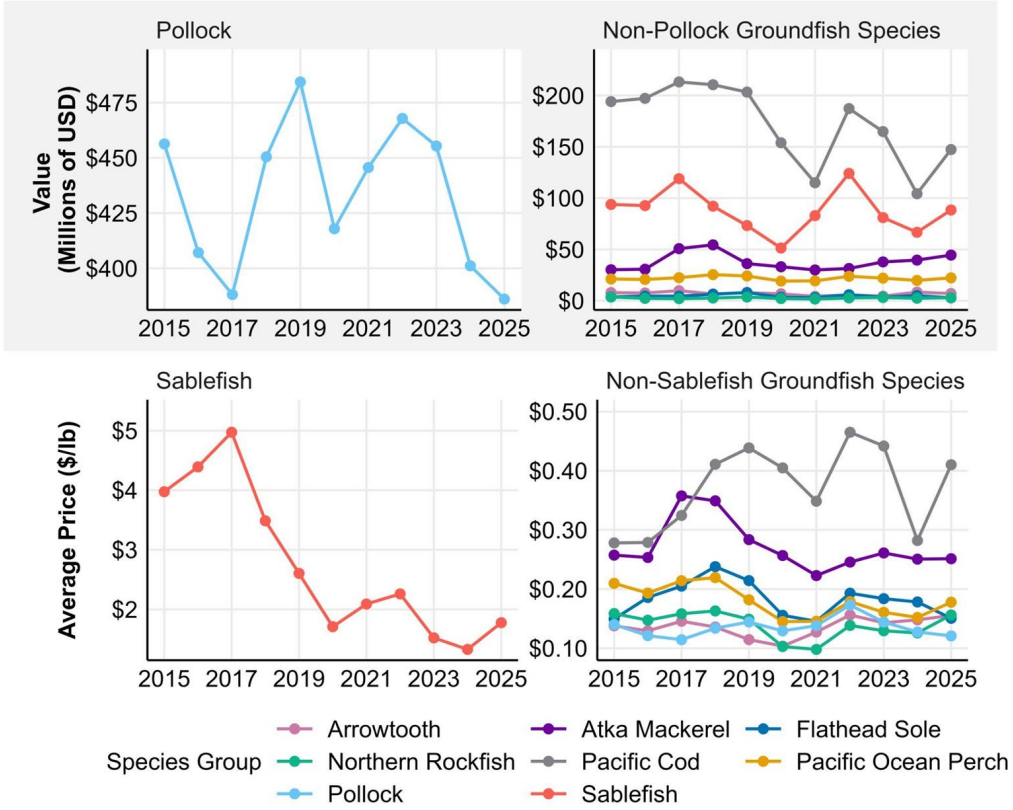
Disaggregate Groundfish Ex-Vessel Market Trends

- **Increasing** ex-vessel value and price:
  - Pacific cod
  - Sablefish
  - Northern rockfish
  - Pacific Ocean perch
- **Declining** ex-vessel value and price:
  - Pollock
  - Flathead sole

Figure 1 in GF Econ. SAFE Brief



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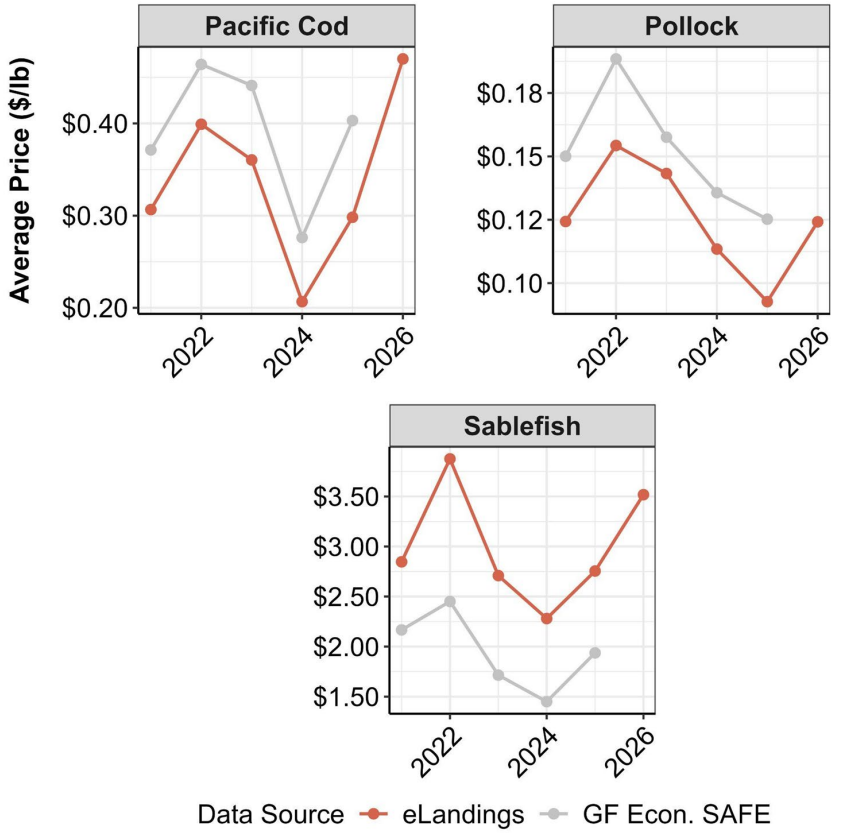
Preliminary 2026 Ex-Vessel Price Trends

- **Data**: In season eLandings fish ticket data
- **Analysis**: In season eLandings fish ticket data serve as a strong proxy for end-of-year ex-vessel prices for select species
- Increases in ex-vessel prices for Pacific cod, pollock, and sablefish in 2026

Figure 2 in GF Econ. SAFE Brief



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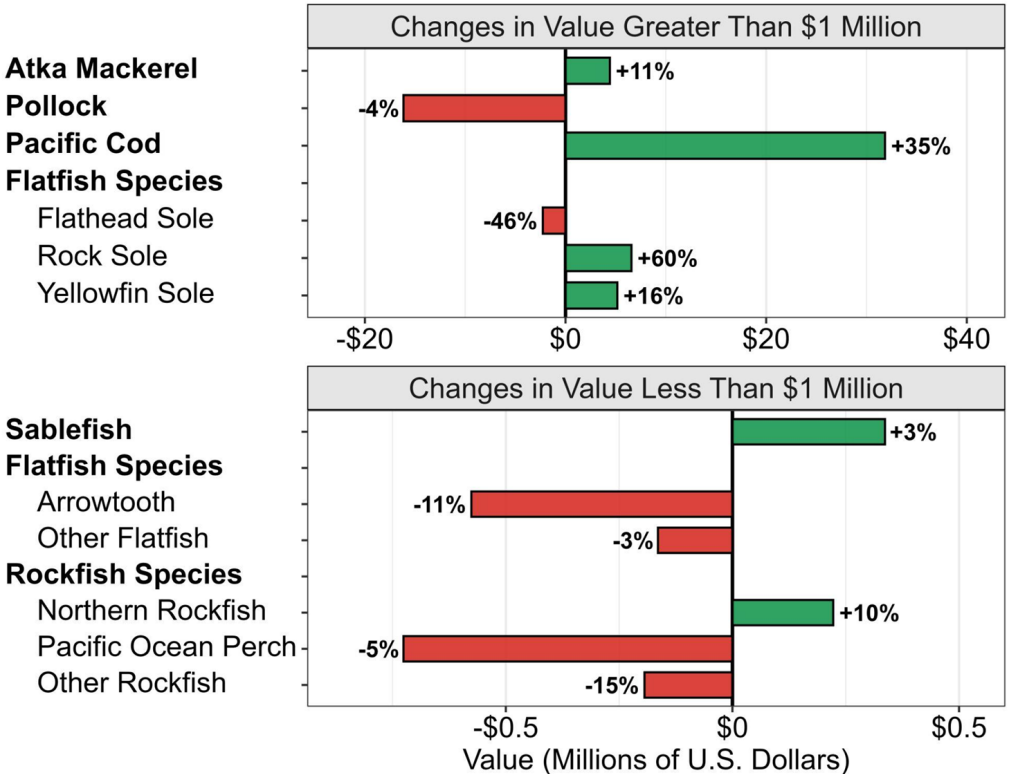
Changes in Ex-Vessel Value by Species in the BSAI (2024 to 2025)

- Notable **increases** in the BSAI ex-vessel value:
  - Rock sole (+60%)
  - Pacific cod (+36%)
- Notable **decreases** in the BSAI ex-vessel value:
  - Flathead sole (-46%)
  - Pollock (-4%)

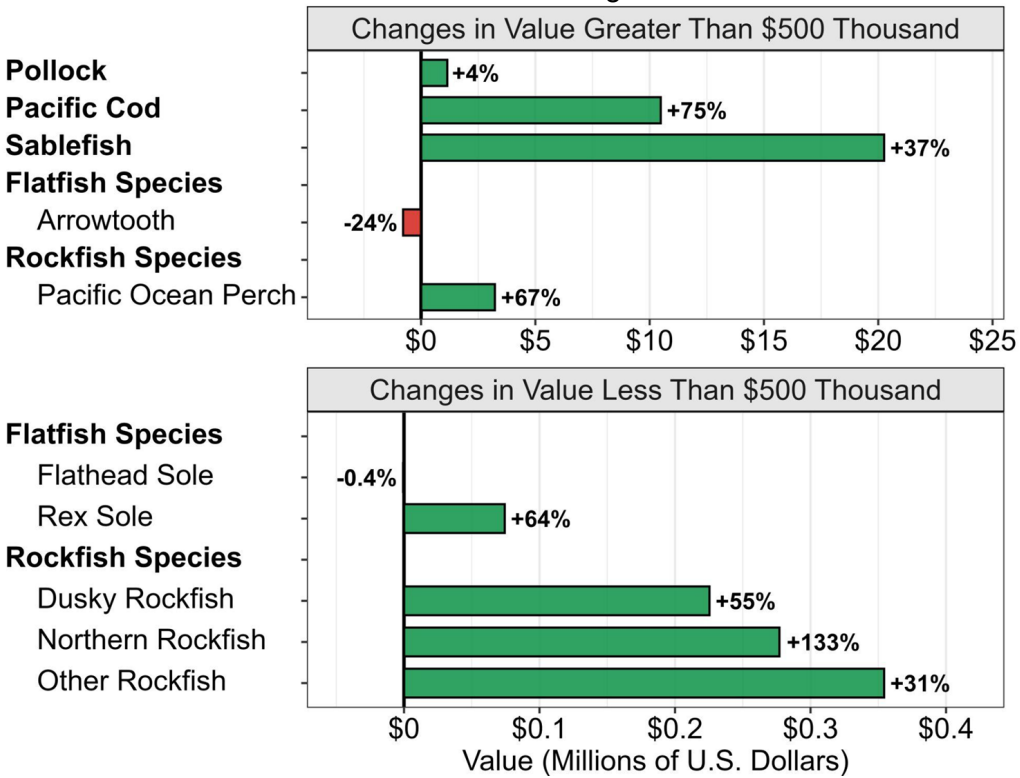
Figure 5 in GF Econ. SAFE Brief



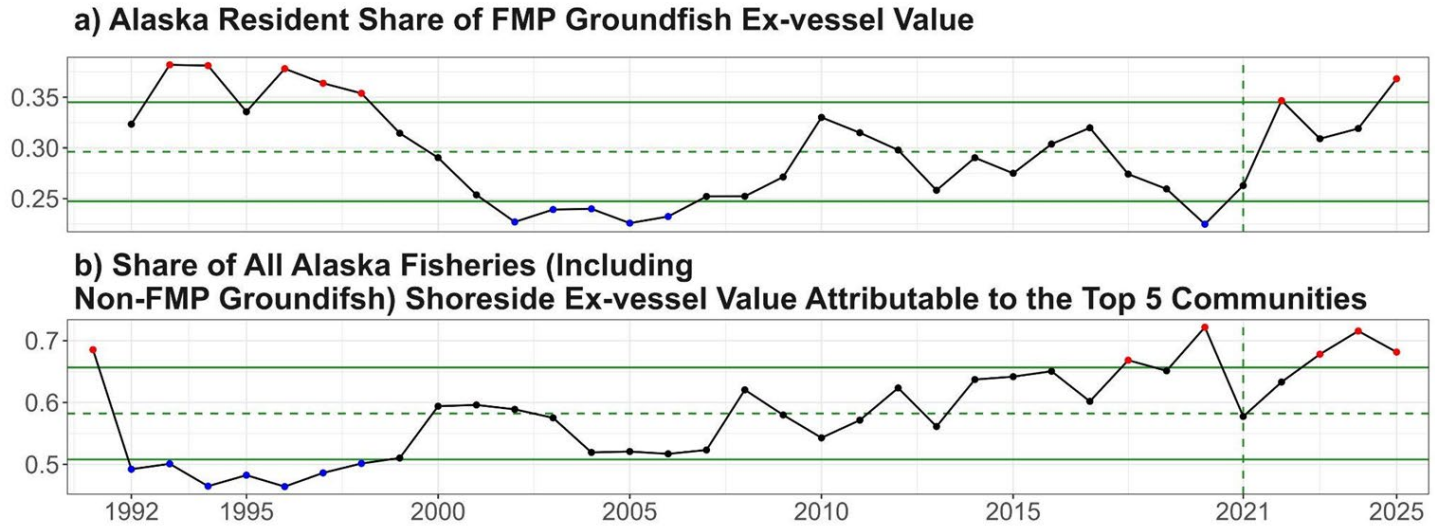
Changes in Ex-Vessel Value by Species in the GOA (2024 to 2025)

- Notable **increases** in the GOA ex-vessel value:
  - Northern rockfish (+133%)
  - Pacific cod (+77%)
  - Pacific Ocean perch (+67%)
  - Rex sole (+64%)
- Notable **decreases** in the GOA ex-vessel value:
  - Arrowtooth (-24%)

Figure 6 in GF Econ. SAFE Brief



Ex-Vessel Related Report Card Metrics (8 & 9)



- Alaskan resident share of FMP groundfish ex-vessel value is at the highest level since 1996
- Port aggregation fell, but remains greater than the historical average

Definition of Terms

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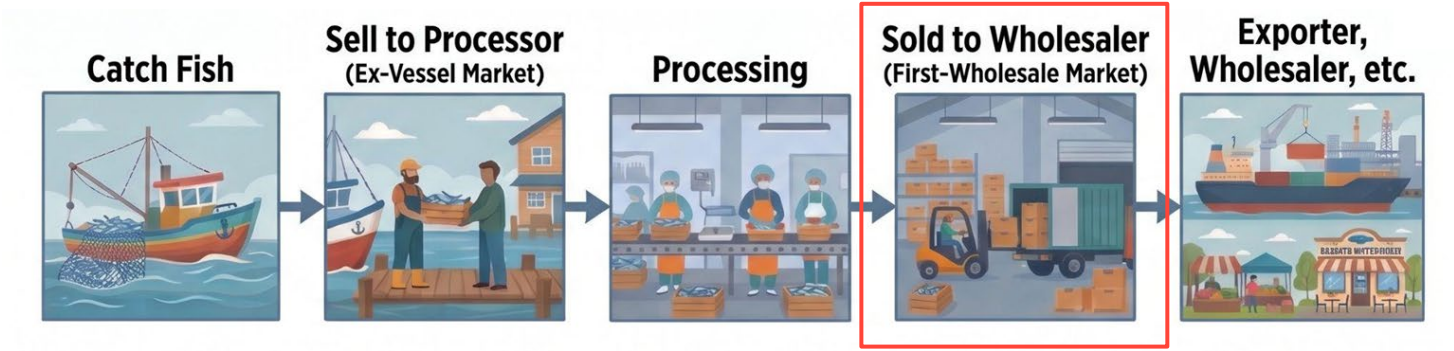

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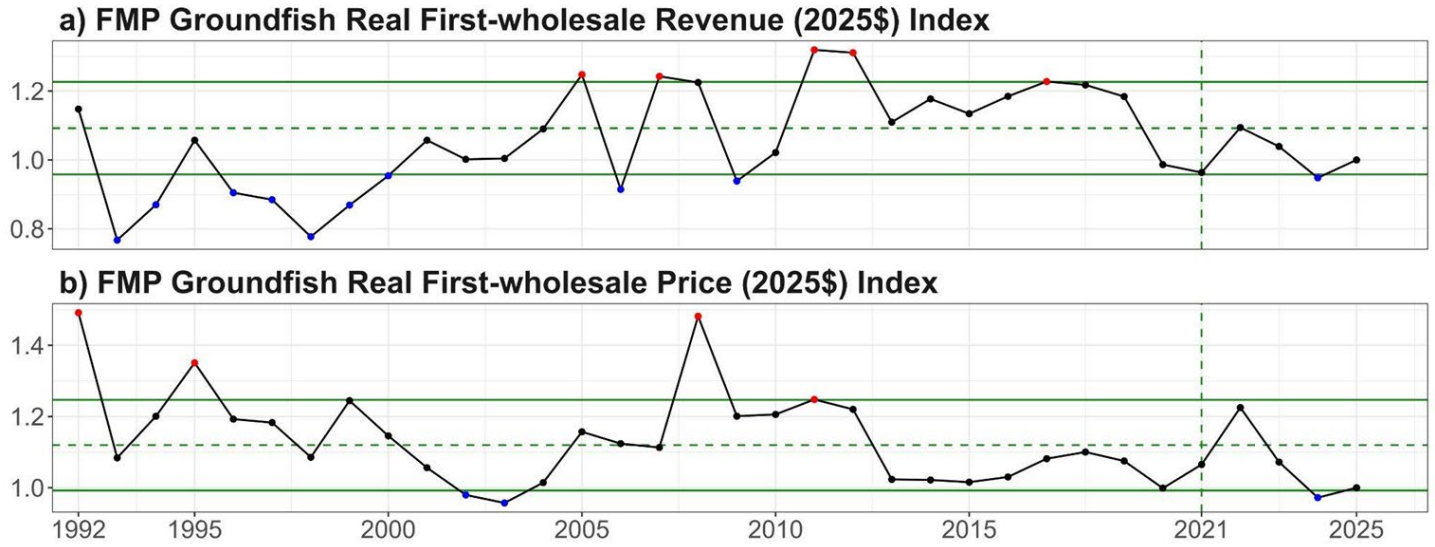
Aggregate Groundfish First-Wholesale Market Trends (Report Card Figures 1 & 2)

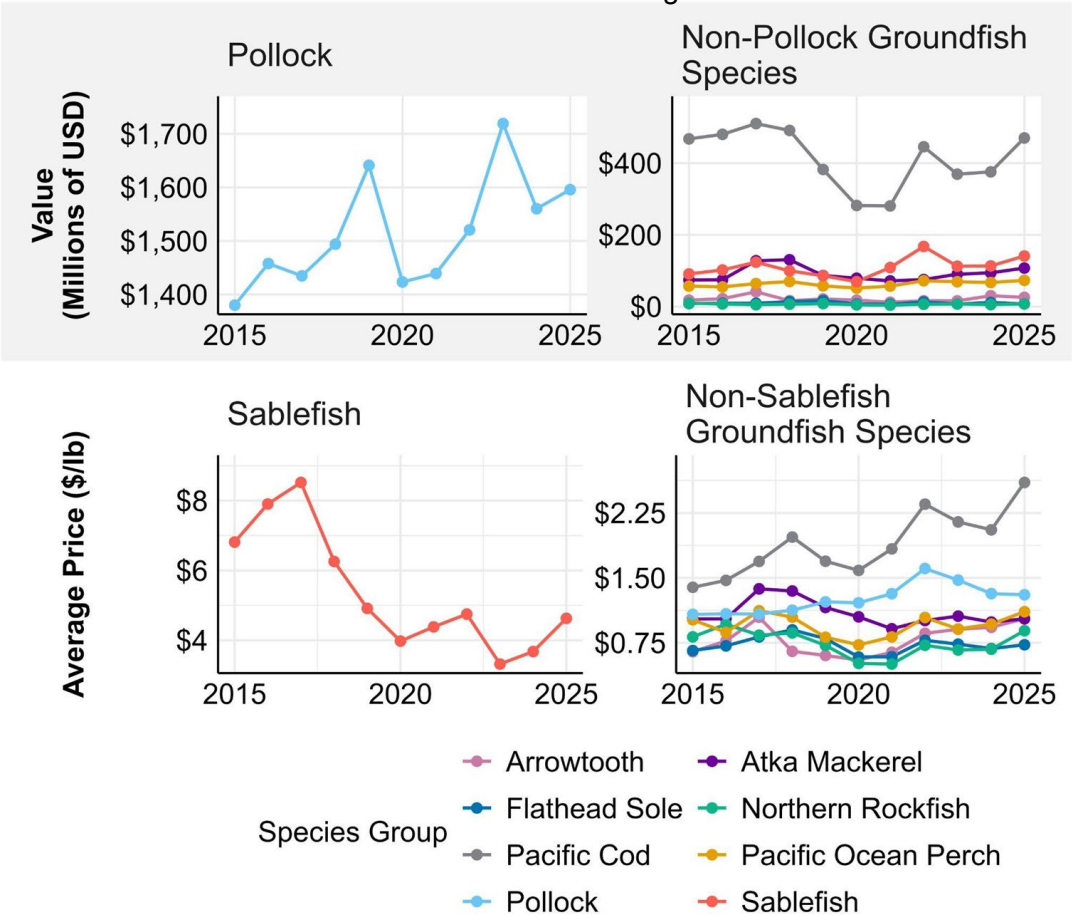


- **First-wholesale value:** $2.6 billion (+8% from 2024)
- **First-wholesale volume:** 1.9 billion pounds (+2%)
- **Aggregate first-wholesale price per pound:** $1.39 (+6%)

Trends in the First-Wholesale Groundfish Market

- **Increasing** first-wholesale value and price:
  - Pacific cod
  - Sablefish
  - Northern rockfish
  - Pacific Ocean perch
  - Atka mackerel
- **Declining** first-wholesale value or price:
  - Flathead sole & Arrowtooth (value)
  - Pollock (price)

Figure 3 in GF Econ. SAFE Brief



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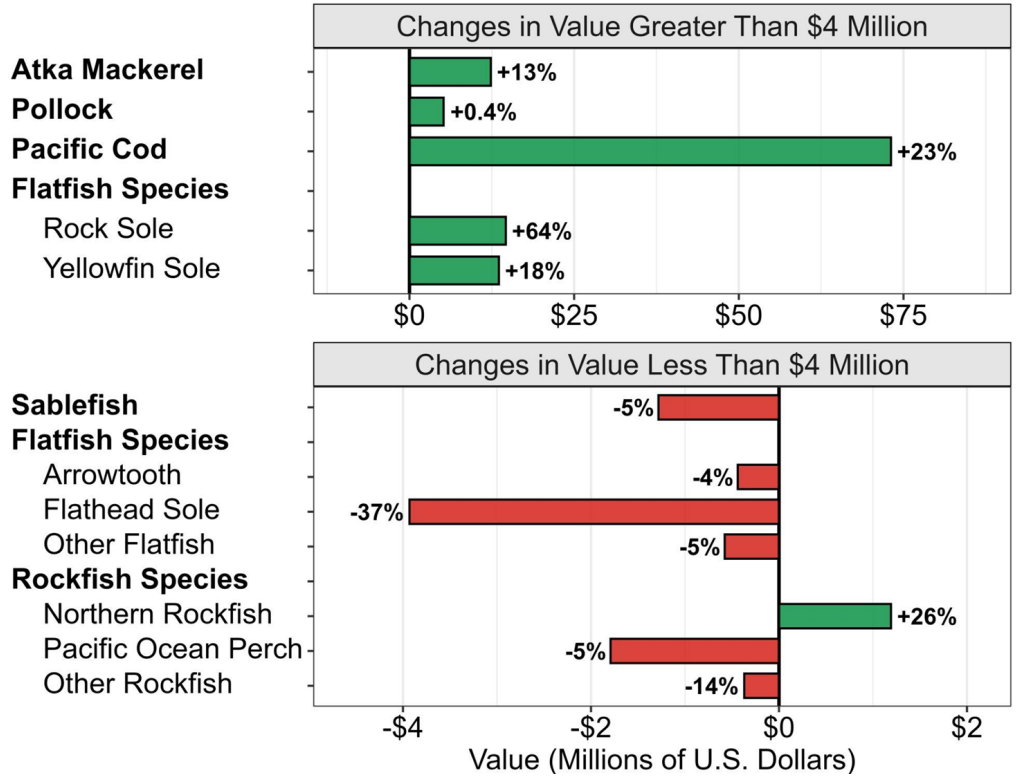
First-Wholesale Value Trends by Species in the BSAI (2024 to 2025)

- Notable **increases** in the BSAI first-wholesale value:
  - Rock sole (+64%)
  - Northern rockfish (+26%)
  - Pacific cod (+23%)

- Notable **decreases** in the BSAI first-wholesale value:
  - Flathead sole (-37%)

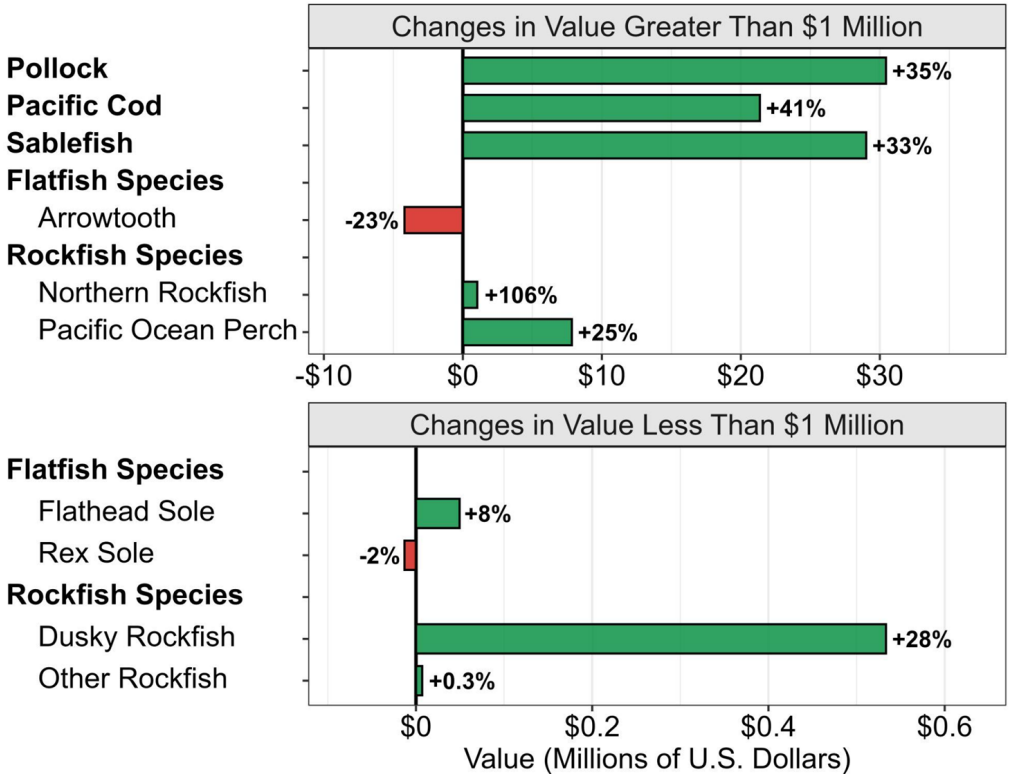
Figure 5 in GF Econ. SAFE Brief



First-Wholesale Value Trends by Species in the GOA (2024 to 2025)

- Notable **increases** in the GOA first-wholesale value:
  - Northern rockfish (+106%)
  - Pacific cod (41%)
  - Pollock (+35%)
- Notable **decreases** in the GOA first-wholesale value:
  - Arrowtooth (-23%)

Figure 6 in GF Econ. SAFE Brief



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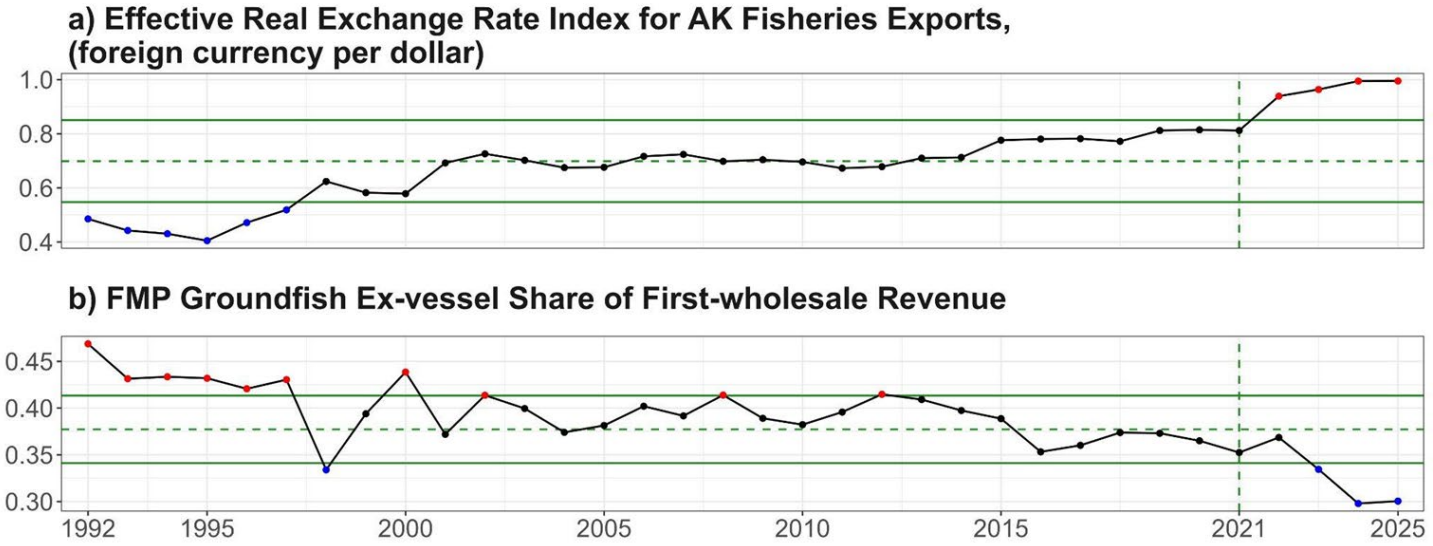
Relationship Between Ex-Vessel and First-Wholesale Markets (Report Card Figures 5 & 6)



- Effective real exchange rate index continues to increase
- Ex-vessel share of first-wholesale revenue at **historic low** (~30% share)
  - This may be due to tighter production margins and changes in the global market

Human Dimensions of Fisheries Data Explorer

https://akhd.psmfc.org



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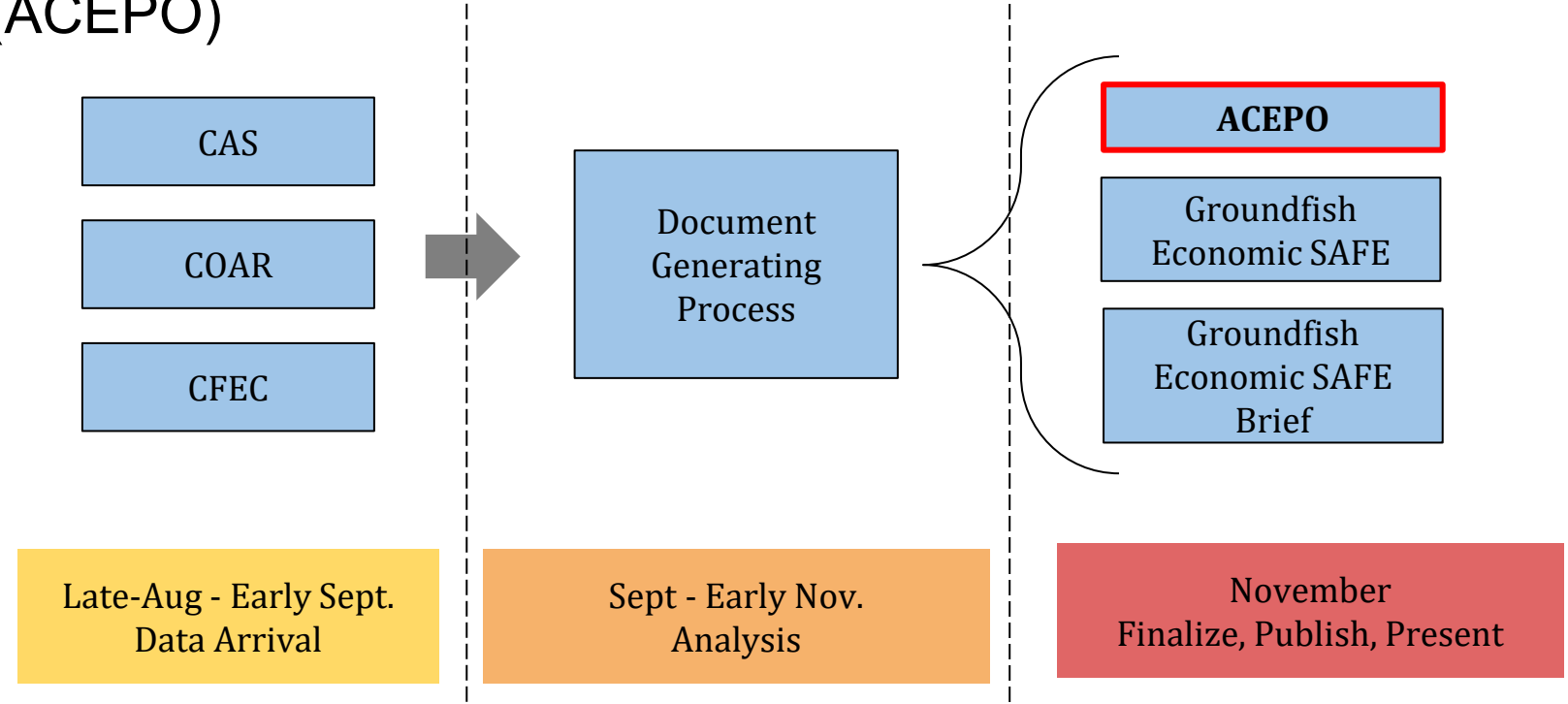
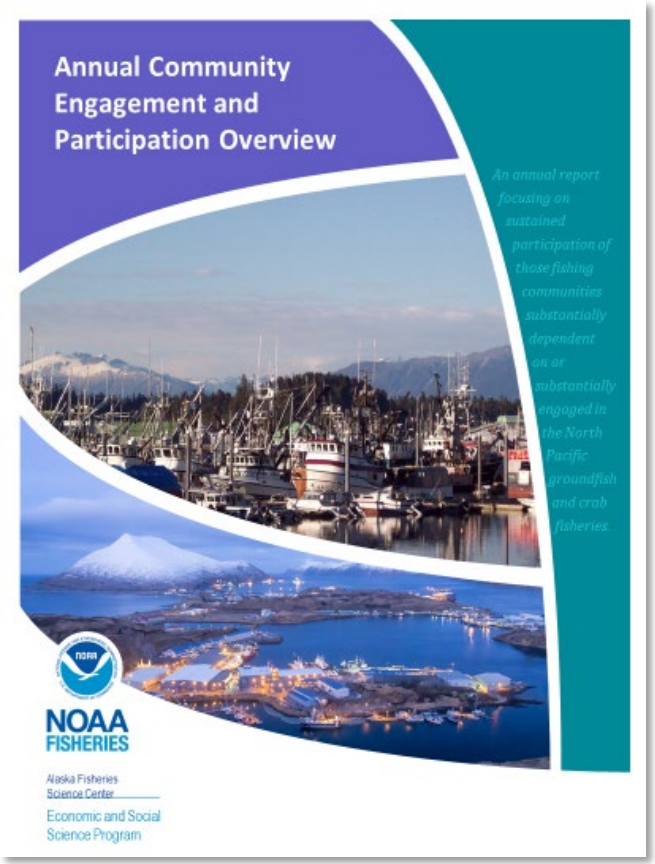
Data Sources to Create Groundfish Economic SAFE and the Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO)



Summary of the Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO)

- **Purpose**
  - To provide community-level social and economic information on the distributional benefits of FMP groundfish and crab fisheries.
- **Document Summary**
  - Community participation engagement by harvesting and processing sectors disaggregated by aggregate groundfish and crab
  - Community Sketches



Summary of Engagement Indices

Summary

- Examines fishing *community participation* over time for select fisheries and sectors to trace sustained participation over time (National Standard 8)

Methodology

- Principal Component Factor Analysis (PCFA)
- Four analyses: Aggregate groundfish and aggregate crab harvesting and processing indices

Introducing species-specific harvesting and processing indices:

- BSAI & GOA Pacific cod
- BSAI & GOA pollock
- Norton Sound red king crab
- Bristol Bay red king crab
- Snow crab
- Tanner crab

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Groundfish Harvest Engagement Indices

Table 4.2 in ACEPO

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Full Time Series: 2008-2025
Homer						
Pacific Cod — BSAI	Medium-High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Pacific Cod — GOA	High	High	High	High	High	
Pollock — BSAI	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	
Pollock — GOA	High	High	High	Medium-High	High	
All Groundfish	High	High	High	High	High	

- Homer is highly engaged in aggregate groundfish harvesting
- Highly engaged in GOA Pacific cod and pollock harvesting with moderate engagement in BSAI Pacific cod and low engagement in pollock harvesting

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Crab Harvest Engagement Indices

Table 5.2 in ACEPO

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Full Time Series: 2000-2025
Kodiak						
BBR	Low	-	Medium	Medium	Medium-High	
BSS	Medium	Medium	-	-	Medium	
BST	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	
NSR	-	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	
All Crab	Medium-High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	

- Kodiak is also moderately engaged in aggregate **crab** harvesting
- Rising engagement in Bristol Bay red king crab harvesting but falling aggregate crab engagement

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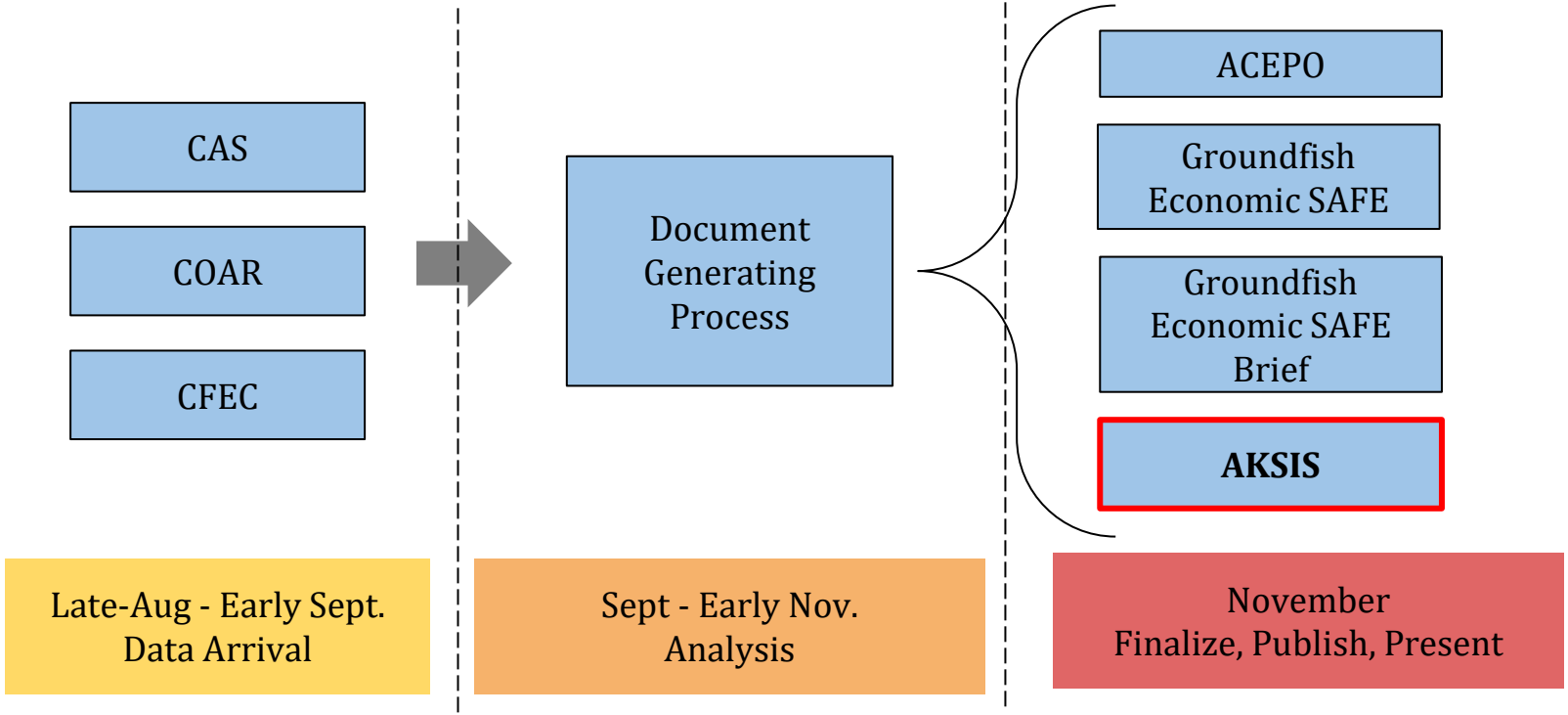


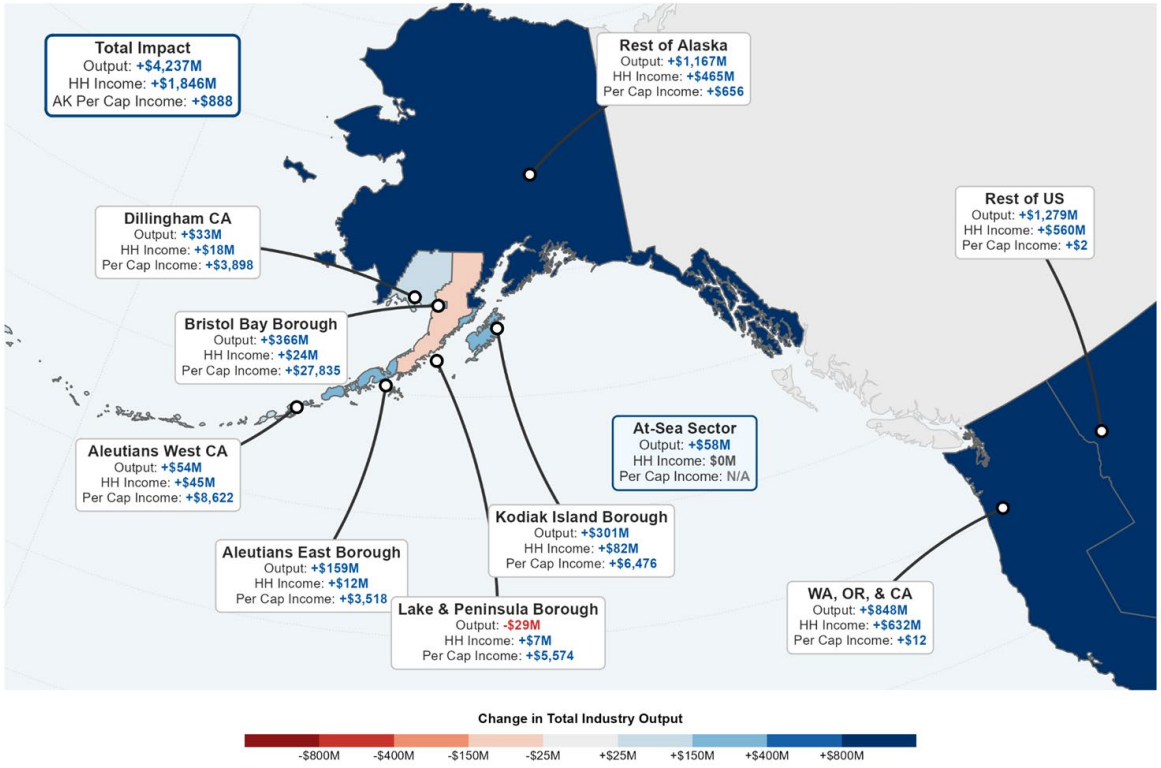
Summary of the Alaska Seafood Industry Snapshot (AKSIS)

Methods

- Price vs. quantity effect revenue decomposition
- Multi-Region Social Accounting Matrix (MRSAM)

Key Findings from 2024 to 2025

- +$4.2B output and +31k jobs following multi-year decline, driven by salmon and Tanner crab
- Large household income per capita gains in Bristol Bay, Kodiak Island, and Aleutians West
- Of $1.8B in AK value-added gains, only $654M (37%) was realized as resident household income



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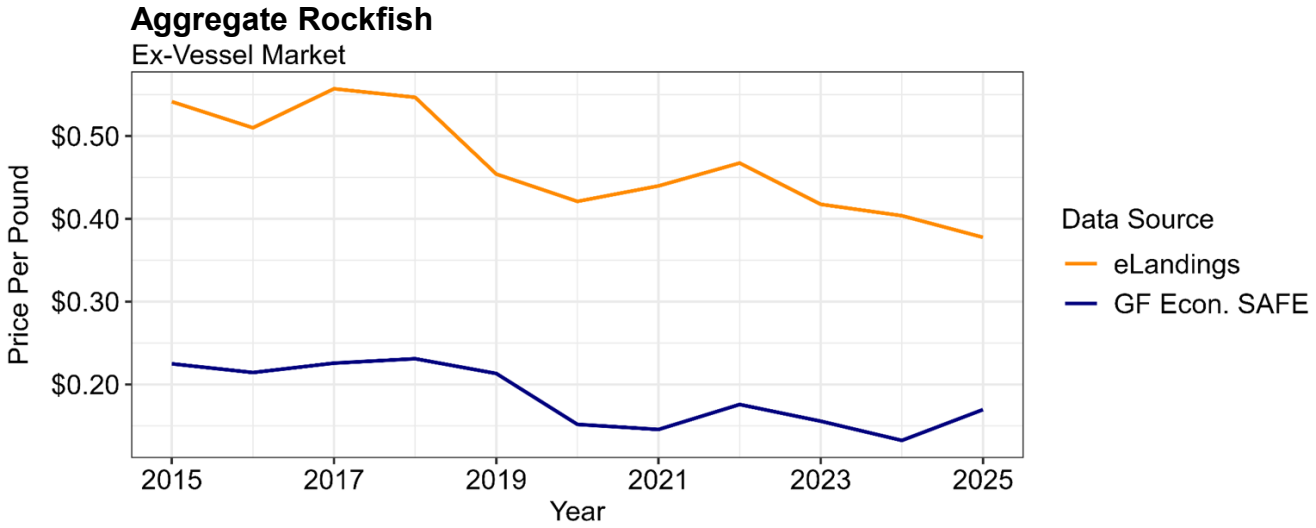
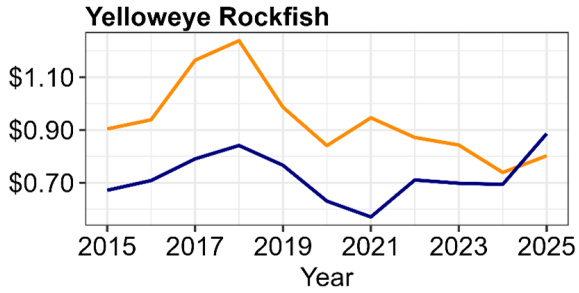
Retrospective Analysis of In Season Pricing Data to Finalized Prices (Aggregate Rockfish Example)

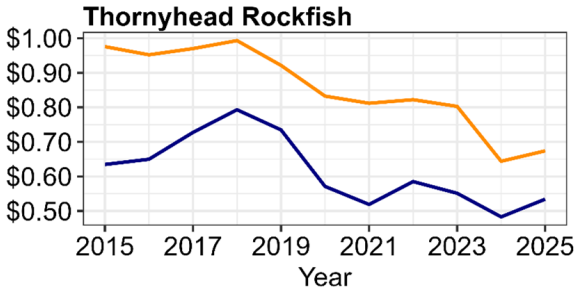


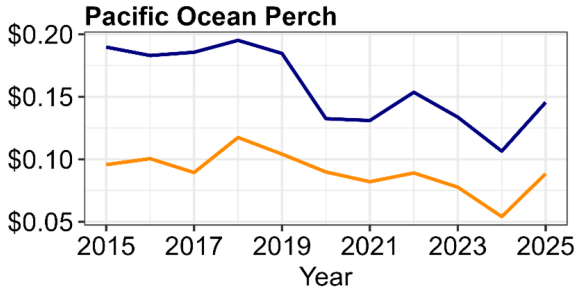
- Exploring other in season data sources (eLandings fish ticket, export data, FAO price indices, etc.) to provide more timely and BSIA to the Council
- Preliminary results suggest eLandings fish ticket data is a good indicator for species with a significant proportion processed by shoreside processors

Retrospective Analysis of In Season Pricing Data to Finalized Prices (Select Rockfish Species)

- When we disaggregate rockfish we find better fitting relationships
- Pacific Ocean perch, yelloweye rockfish, and thornyhead rockfish have better fitting relationships that may provide adequate predictions on the interannual directional trend of finalized prices

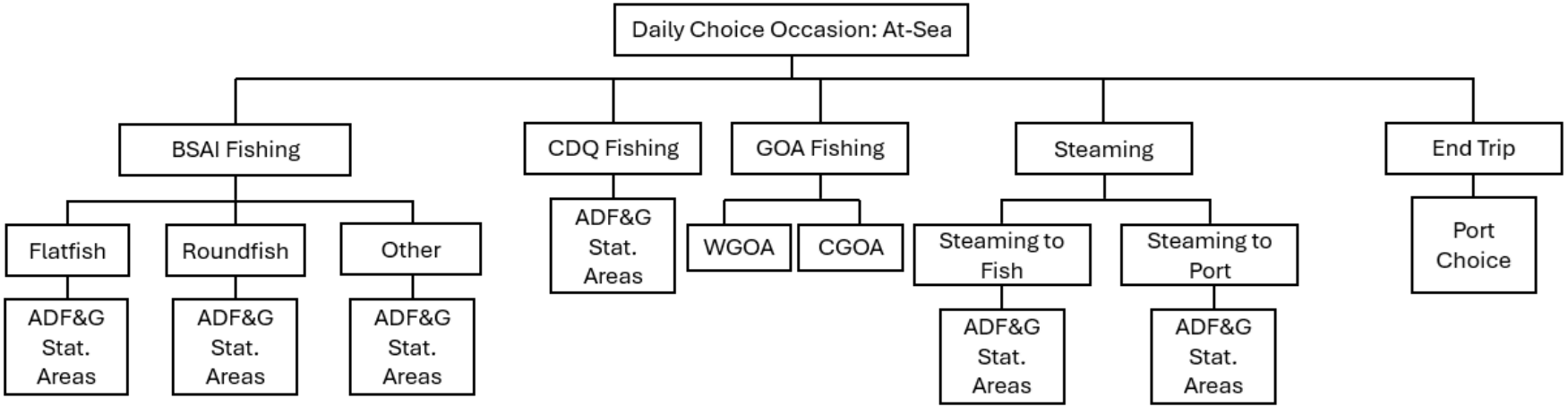






Data Source
eLandings
GF Econ. SAFE

Location Choice Modelling (Amendment 80 Fleet Example)



- *Purpose:* Estimate changes in spatial and temporal effort (days fished) and expected revenue from changes in TAC and halibut PSC rates (other bycatch species), and other exogenous shifters (environmental variables)

Conclusion

- ESSR products serve many purposes:
  - Contextual information on TAC setting to the NPFMC
  - Record of groundfish fishery in Alaska
  - Source data for the public, scientists, and industry

- We invite feedback on the Groundfish Economic SAFE (and Brief) and other ESSR products – russel.a.dame@noaa.gov and braeden.vandeynze@noaa.gov