Gulf of Alaska Other Rockfish Stock Complex

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Presentation to the Plan Team

With contributions from:
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NOAA FISHERIES

Stock & Update Assessment Overview

- 20 non-target rockfish (*Sebastes spp.*)
- Managed in 3 Tiers
  - Tier 4, 5, and 6
- Changes in Assessment Inputs
  - Updated data
    - Fisheries catch through Oct. 9, 2026
    - NMFS GOA bottom trawl survey updated with 2025 survey data
  - No assessment method changes

- *EGOA ABC from the Northern rockfish assessment is transferred to Other Rockfish EGOA ABC once the northern SAFE ABC is approved at Nov PT

Common name	Tier
sharpchin rockfish	4
harlequin rockfish	5
redbanded rockfish	5
redstripe rockfish	5
silvergray rockfish	5
aurora rockfish	6
blackgill rockfish	6
bocaccio	6
Chilipepper	6
darkblotched rockfish	6
greenstriped rockfish	6
pygmy rockfish	6
shortbelly rockfish	6
splitnose rockfish	6
stripetail rockfish	6
vermilion rockfish	6
widow rockfish	6
yellowmouth rockfish	6
yellowtail rockfish	6
northern rockfish[a]	n/a

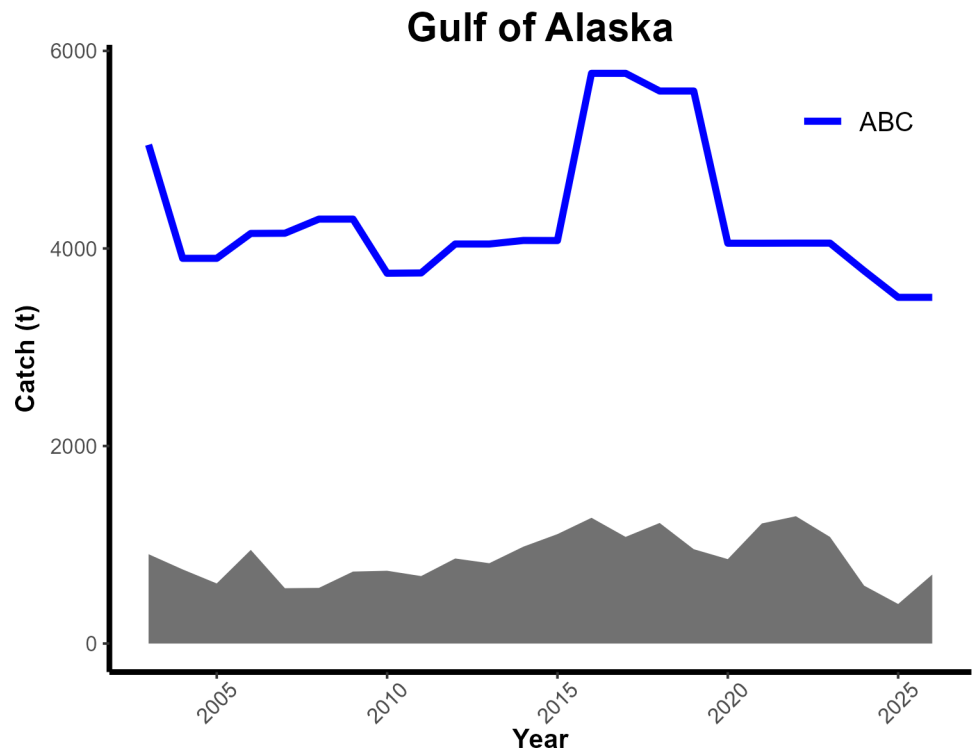
PT/ SSC Comments

- *SSC Summarized Comments on BRDs*
  - Update apportioned ABC wording to Biologically-informed Recommended Distributions (BRDs) throughout SAFE.
  - Extra information can be found in the SAFE
- SSC recognizes the changes in bottom trawl survey methodology may impact indices or abundance, composition, and biological sampling and recommends investigating.
  - Author investigated changes in survey biomass estimates by individual species and by tier level based on previous analyses presented at the June SSC meeting. These rockfish species are highly variable (patchy distributions, sporadically caught). No notable impacts were discerned, but variability (i.e., CVs) did increase.
- PT/ SSC support for continued research on survey 'trawlable'/ 'untrawlable' habitat.
  - Revisiting the SIRCCA project and the genetics group is starting to investigate relative abundance in trawlable and untrawlable habitat based on eDNA



Stock Overview- Current Status

Area	2025/ 2026 ABC	2025/ 2026 TAC	2025/ 2026 OFL	2025 Catch	2026 Catch*
Western/ Central/ West Yakutat	1,084	1,084		378	677
Southeast Outside	2,421**	300		22	21
Total	3,505**	1,384	4,618	400	698



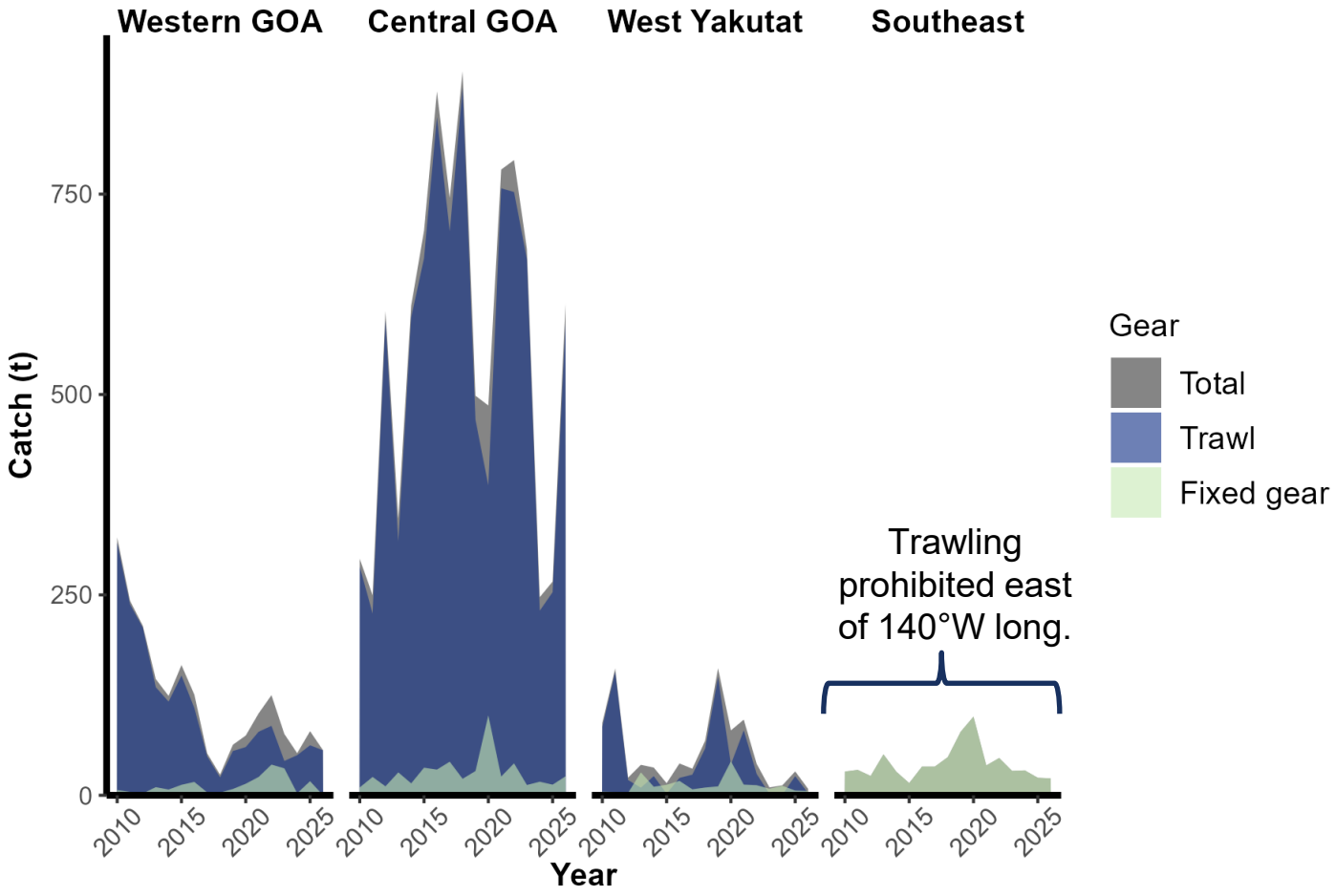
- 2025 GOA catch is ~ 9% of OFL (~ 29% of TAC)
- 2026 GOA catch is ~ 15% of OFL (~ 50% of TAC)
- No overfishing occurring

*Catch as of Oct. 9, 2026

**Includes added Northern ABC for EGOA

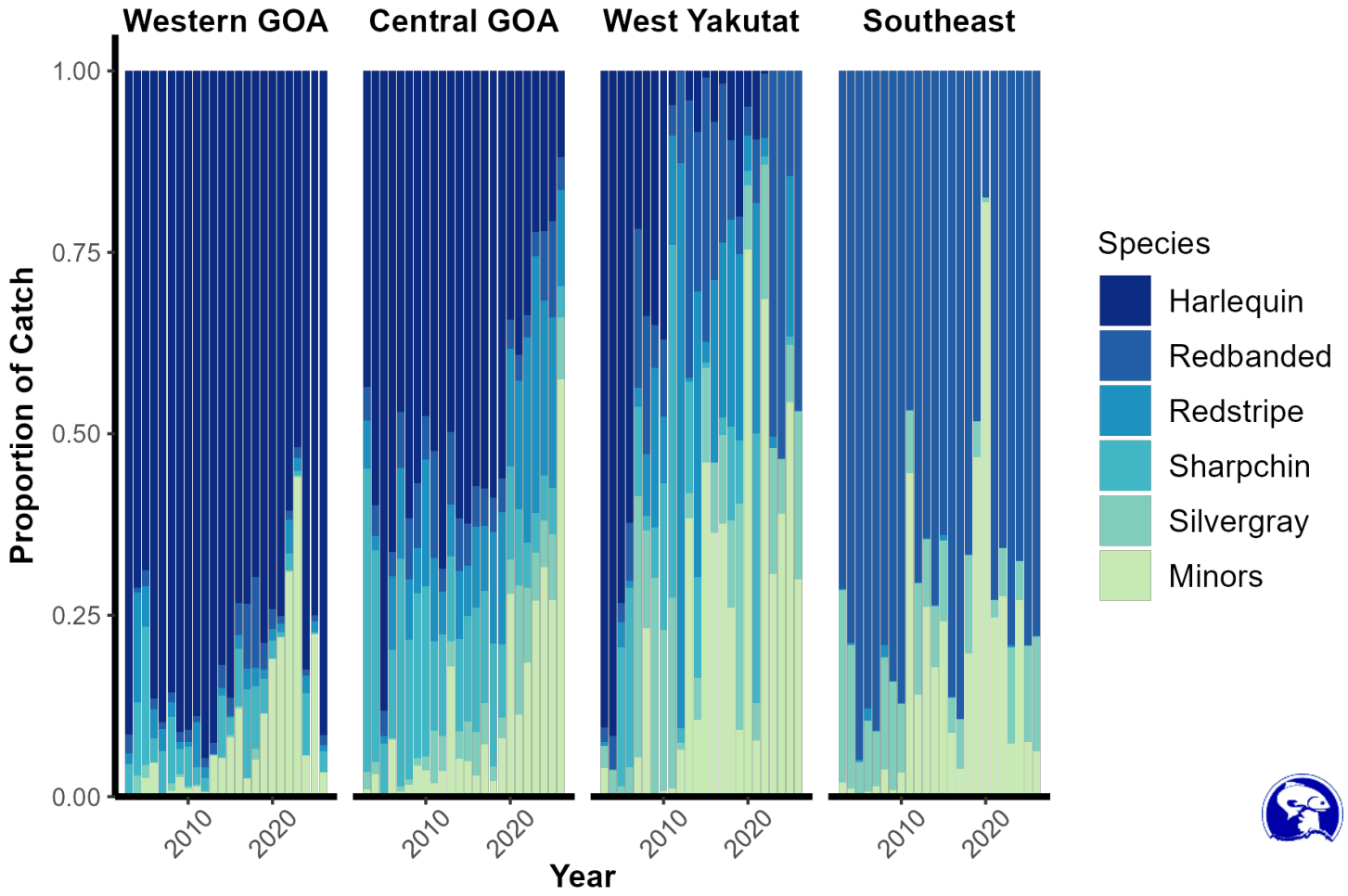
Catch

- Incidentally-caught
- Average 89% trawl fisheries
- Highest in Central GOA by the rockfish trawl fishery
- Discards ~ 50%

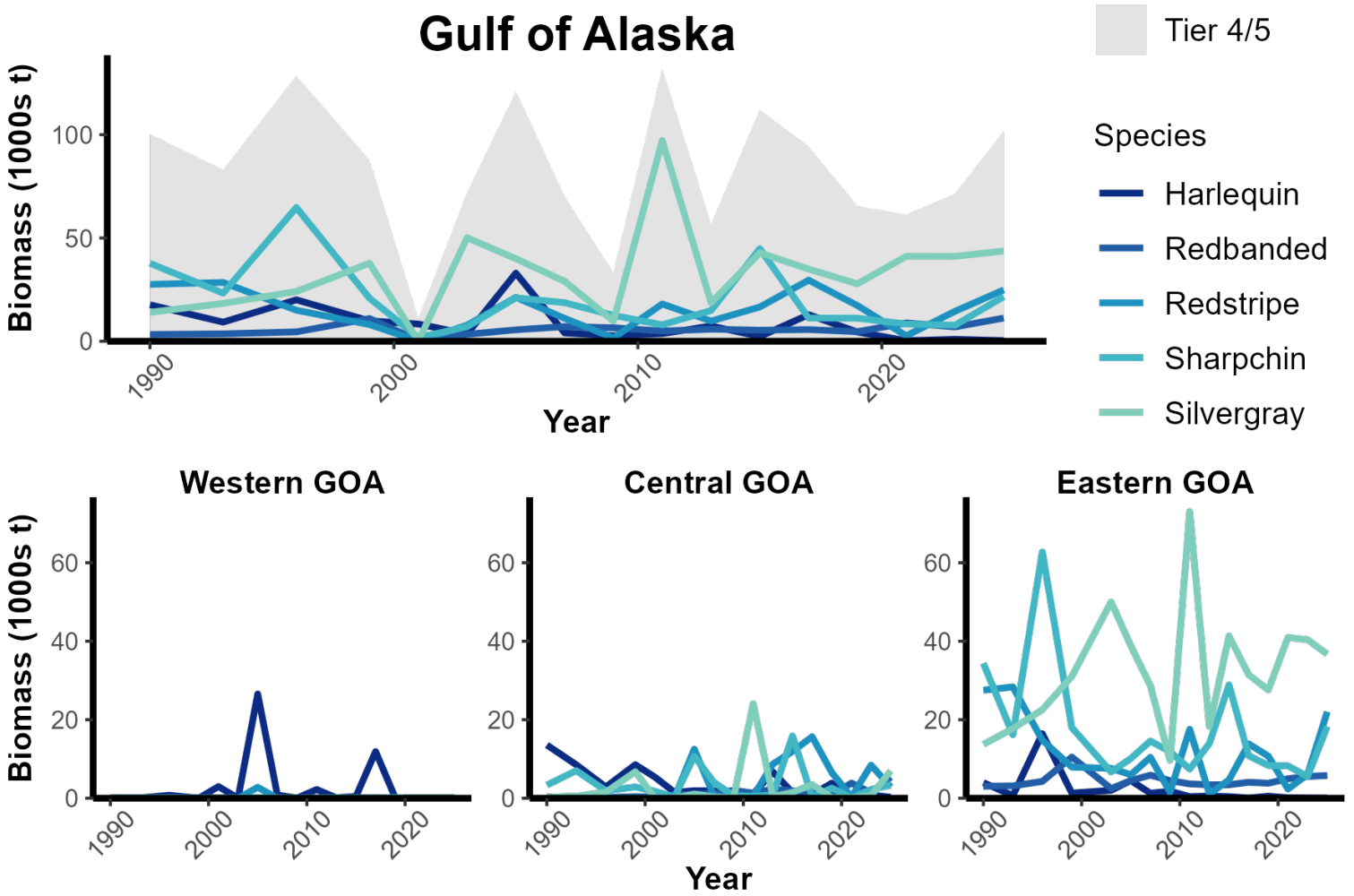


Catch

- 95% of total GOA Other Rockfish catch = 5 species
- Largest species diversity in Eastern GOA
- Variable annual catch → patchy distributions
- Unidentified rockfish grouped with ‘minors’ & monitored

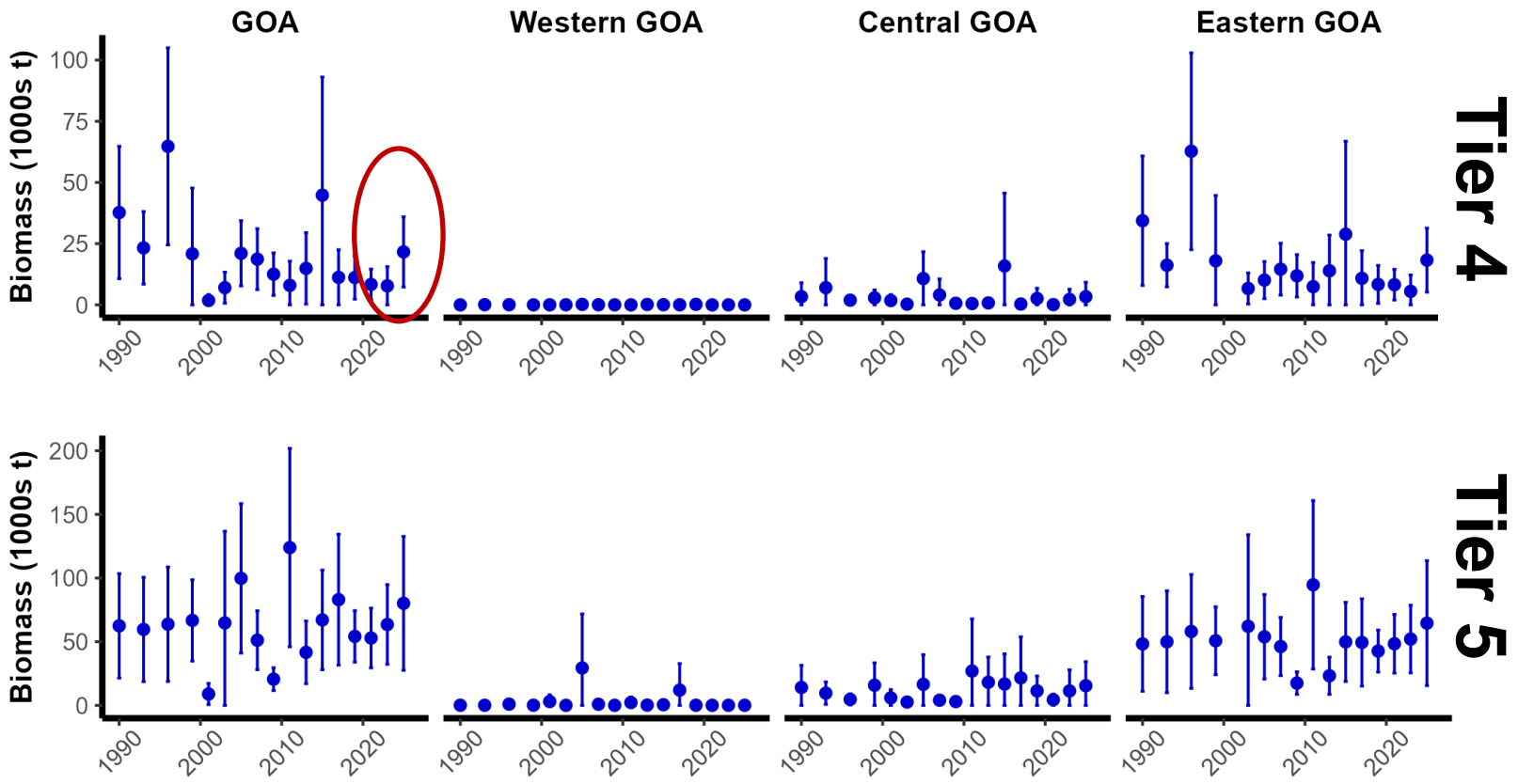


Bottom Trawl Survey Biomass



- Highest catch in Eastern GOA
- Typically ~95% of survey biomass = Tier 4 & 5 species

Bottom Trawl Survey Biomass



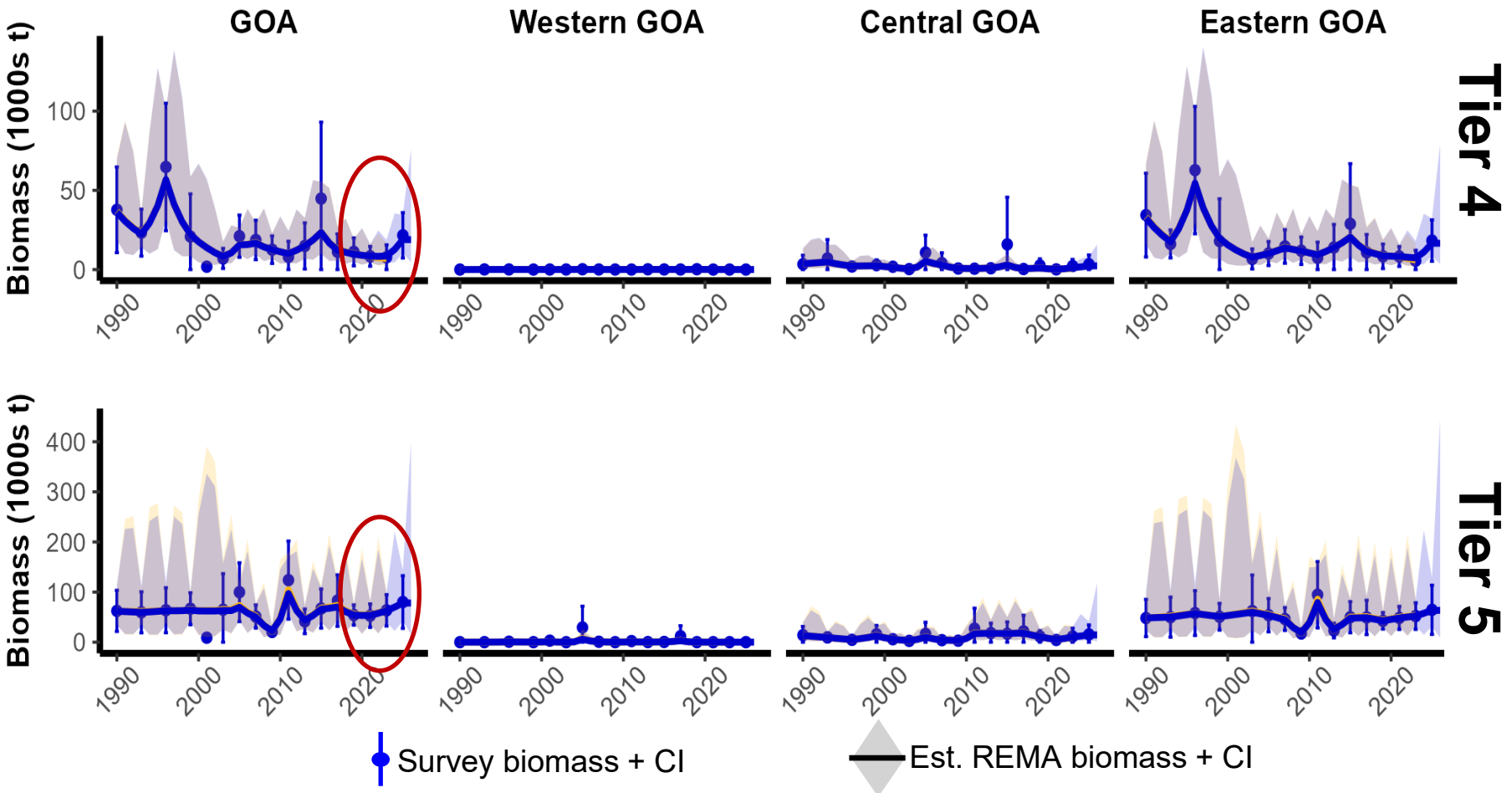
- Tier 4 + 5: 43% ⬆ in 2025 survey biomass from 2023
- Individual species varied
- Highly variable catches (high CVs/ CIs)
  - 2025 highest CIs from past few surveys
- Note: 2025 survey restratification

Models- Overview

Tiers	Model	Data Input	Assessment method	OFL calculations
Tier 4: 1 species	15.2	GOA bottom trawl survey	REMA (3 strata with shared process error)	Biomass x $F_{35\%}$ (SPR analysis*)
Tier 5: 4 species	23.1	GOA bottom trawl survey	REMA (3 strata with shared process error) $\text{REMA}_{\text{indiv\_spp}}$ estimates → $\overline{Wt\_M}$	Biomass x $\overline{Wt\_M}$
Tier 6: 14 species	23.1	Fishery catch	Catch history	Maximum catch (2013-2022)

*Tier 4 for spawning potential ratio (SPR) calculation completed in *tier4tools* R package

Models- Biomass Estimates: Tier 4 & 5

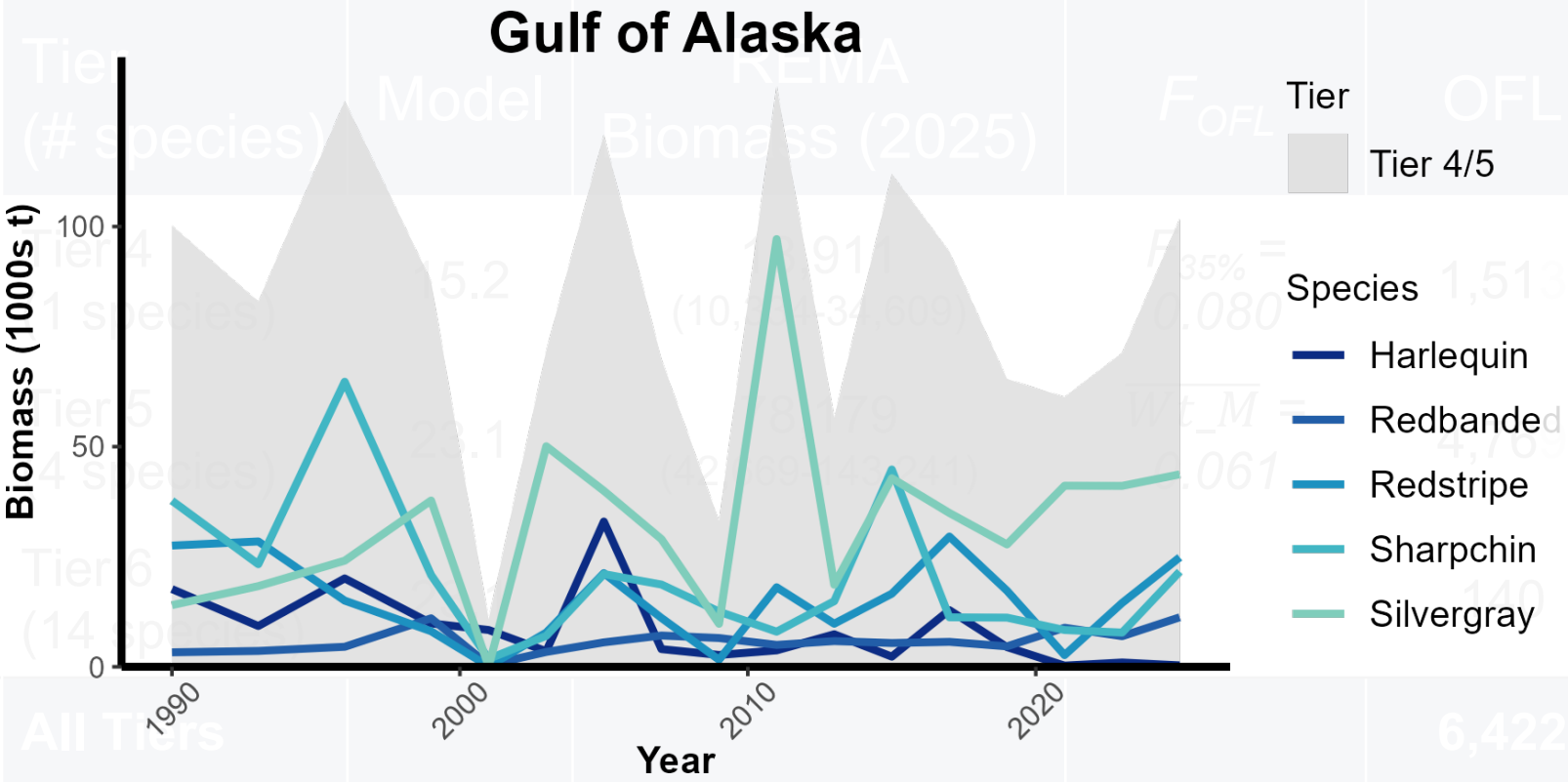


- REMA B_{Tier4} (sharpchin): 120% ↑
- REMA B_{Tier5} (4 species):
  - Silvergray ≈
  - Redstripe ↑
  - Redbanded ↑
  - Harlequin ↓
  - Tier 5: 24% ↑

Harvest Recommendations

Tier (# species)	Model	REMA Biomass (2025)	F_{OFL}	OFL	F_{ABC}	ABC
Tier 4 (1 species)	15.2	18,911 (10,334-34,609)	$F_{35\%}$ = 0.080	1,513	$F_{40\%}$ = 0.066	1,248
Tier 5 (4 species)	23.1	78,179 (42,669-143,241)	$\overline{Wt\_M}$ = 0.061	4,769	0.75*F_{OFL}= 0.046	3,577
Tier 6 (14 species)	23.1			140		105
All Tiers				**6,422**		**4,930**

Harvest Recommendations



Tier (# species)	Model	REMA Biomass (2025)	F_{OFL}	OFL	F_{ABC}	ABC
Tier 4 (1 species)	15.2	19,91 (10,[illegible]-34,[illegible])	$F_{35\%}$ = 0.080	1,51	F_{ABC} = 0.066	1,248
Tier 5 (4 species)	23.1	8,[illegible]79 (4,[illegible]-[illegible])	$\overline{Wt\_M}$ = 0.061	4,76	0.75*F_{OFL} = 0.046	3,[illegible]
Tier 6 (14 species)	[illegible]	[illegible]		140		105
All Tiers				6,422		4,930

2025: $\overline{Wt\_M}$ = 0.061

2023: $\overline{Wt\_M}$ = 0.062

Harvest Recommendations

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All Tiers				**6,422**		**4,930**

Risk Table

Assessment- related considerations	Population dynamics considerations	Environmental/ ecosystem considerations	Fishery performance considerations
Level 1: • Typical to moderate increased uncertainty/ minor unresolved issues • Mismatch between fishery & survey catch (i.e., trawlable vs. untrawlable habitat) • High CVs & CIs • Limited life history data	**Level 1:** • Stock trends are typical for the stock, 2025 survey indicates higher estimated biomass • No data on recruitment or larval dispersal • Patchy distributions	**Level 1:** • Sparse species-specific data • ~Average conditions and potentially more favorable conditions • No apparent environmental/ ecosystem concerns	**Level 1:** • No apparent fishery concerns • Incidental catch only • No notable changes in fishery to cause concern

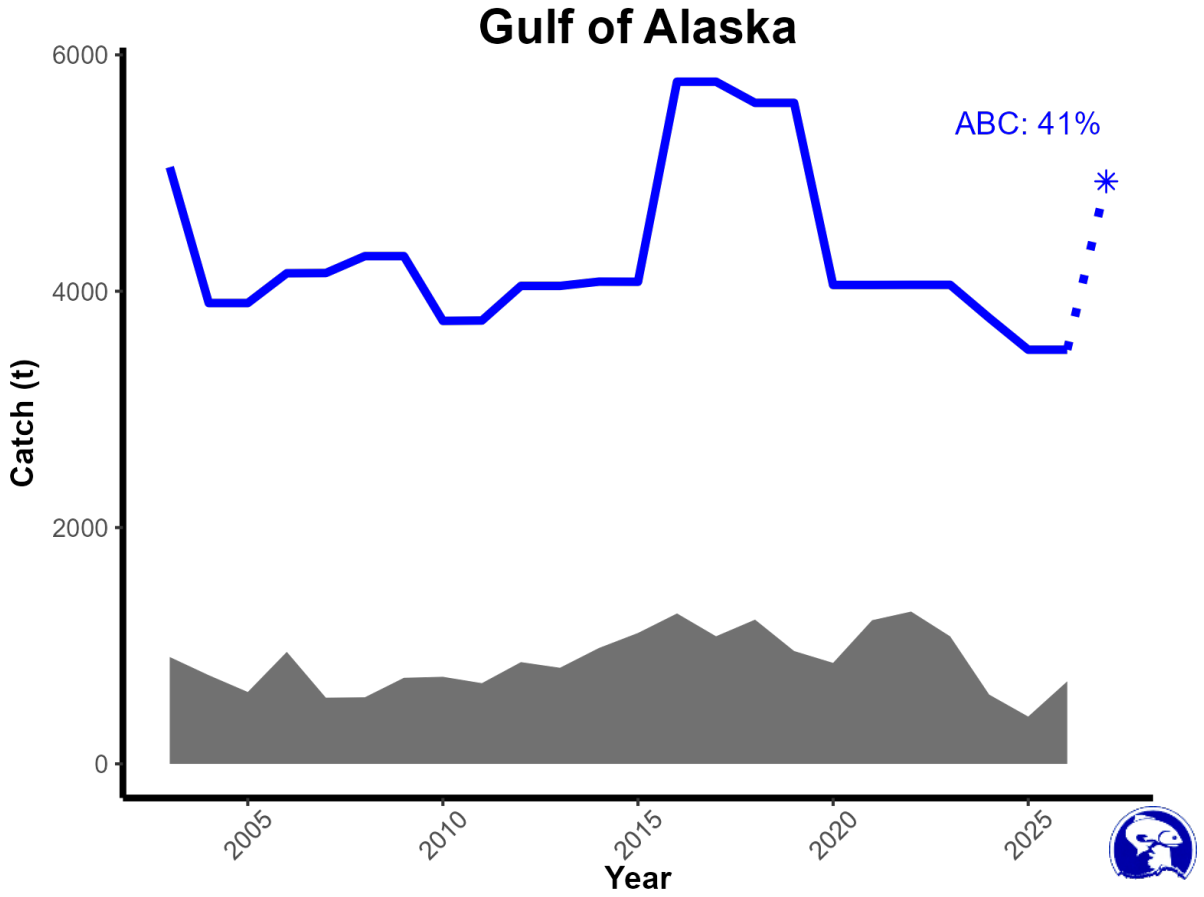
Overall, Level 1: No reduction in maxABC recommended

Harvest Recommendations



2027/2028
GOA Harvest Specs:

ABC = 4,930
(+ 41%) ⬆
OFL = 6,422
(+ 39%) ⬆



Other Rockfish- Past Spatial Apportionment

	Gulf of Alaska Catch						BRDs/ Allocated ABC			
Year	Western	Central	Western/ Central	West Yakutat	Western/ Central/ West Yakutat	Southeast Outside	Western	Central	West Yakutat	Southeast Outside
2012	211	604		22		24	44	606	230	3,165
2013	203	477		81		52	44	606	230	3,165
2014	170	720	890	61		29	1,031		580	2,470
2015	212	844	1,056	36		15	1,031		580	2,469
2016	155	1030	1,185	52		36	1,534		574	3,665
2017	135	864	999	45		36	1,534		574	3,665
2018	49	988	1,037	136		48	1,737		368	3,489
2019	110	583	693	183		79	1,737		368	3,489
2020	98	555	653	104		98	940		369	2,744
2021	129	924	1,053	125		37	940		369	2,744
2022	179	984	1,163	79		47	940		370	2,744
2023	131	859	990	58		31	940		370	2,744
2024	85	409		62	556	31	1,353			2,421
2025	80	267		32	379	22	1,084			2,421
2026	56	613		8	677	21	1,084			2,421

Biologically-informed Recommended Distributions

BRD Recommendations for 2027 and 2028:

Tier/ Complex	Western GOA/ Central GOA/ West Yakutat	Southeast Outside	Total
Tier 4	323	925	1,248
Tier 5	1,058	2,519	3,577
Tier 6	97	8	105
BRD (t)	**1,478**	**3,452**	**4,930**
OFL (t)			6,422



Other Rockfish- Conclusions



ABC and OFL recommendations for the full Other Rockfish complex for 2027–2028.

Quantity **All Other Rockfish Combined**	As estimated or *specified in 2024* for: 2025	 2026	As estimated or *recommended this* year for: 2027	 2028
Tier	4/5/6	4/5/6	4/5/6	4/5/6
OFL (t)	4,618	4,618	**6,422**	6,422
*max*ABC (t)	3,505[1]	3,505[1]	4,930	4,930
ABC (t)	3,505[1]	3,505[1]	**4,930**	4,930
Status	As determined *last* year for: 2023	 2024	As determined *this* year for: 2025	 2026
Overfishing	No	n/a	No	n/a

[1]ABCs include 1 ton transferred from northern rockfish ABC to Other Rockfish ABC for the EGOA.

Questions?





Contact:

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Special thanks to:
GAP team
Alaska Regional Office
AKFIN team
Observers
Survey teams

Other Rockfish- BRDs by Tier and Area

Year	Area	Tier 4 1 species	Tier 5 4 species	Tier 6 14 species	Other Rockfish Total
2027	Western GOA	2	4	3	9
2027	Central GOA	152	665	75	892
2027	West Yakutat	169	389	19	577
2027	W/C/WY	323	1,058	97	1,478
2027	Southeast Outside	925	2,519	8	3,452
2027	GOA	1,248	3,577	105	4,930
2028	Western GOA	2	4	3	9
2028	Central GOA	152	665	75	892
2028	West Yakutat	169	389	19	577
2028	W/C/WY	323	1,058	97	1,478
2028	Southeast Outside	925	2,519	8	3,452
2028	GOA	1,248	3,577	105	4,930