GOA Shortraker Rockfish

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NOAA FISHERIES

GOA Shortraker Rockfish



- **Operational Update Assessment**
- **Tier 5 species – 2 index multi area random effects model (REMA)**
- ***Changes in the input data***
  - Longline survey RPWs (2025) and trawl survey biomass values (2025) were updated for use in the REMA model
- ***Changes in assessment methodology***
  - No changes – update assessment
  - Continue using accepted model (Model 23.3; Siwicke *et al.* 2023)

CURRENT STATUS - Catch



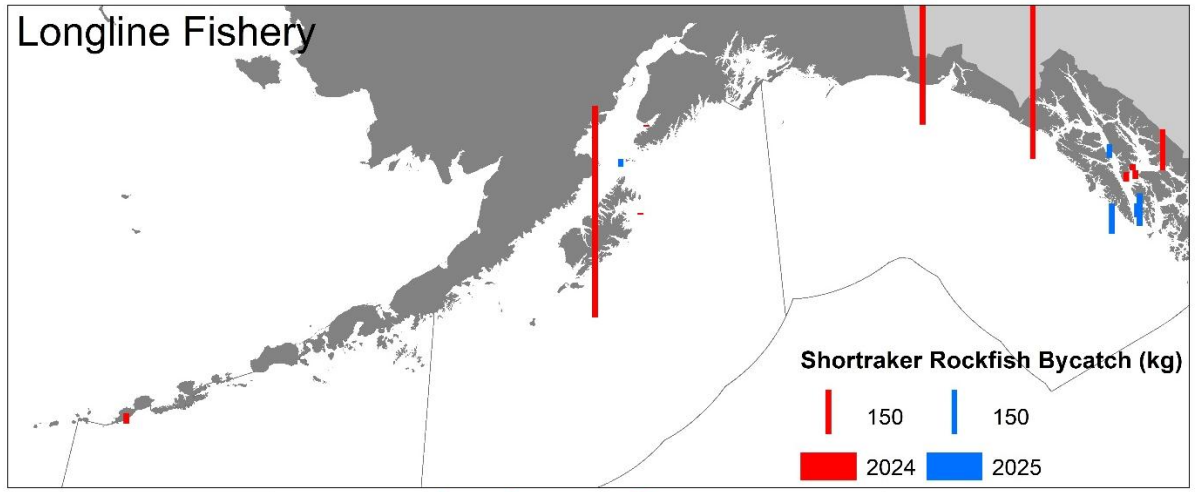
Area	2026 BRD	2026 TAC	2026 OFL	2026 Catch
Western	54	54		14
Central	134	134		105
Eastern	459	459		211
TOTAL	647	647	863	329*

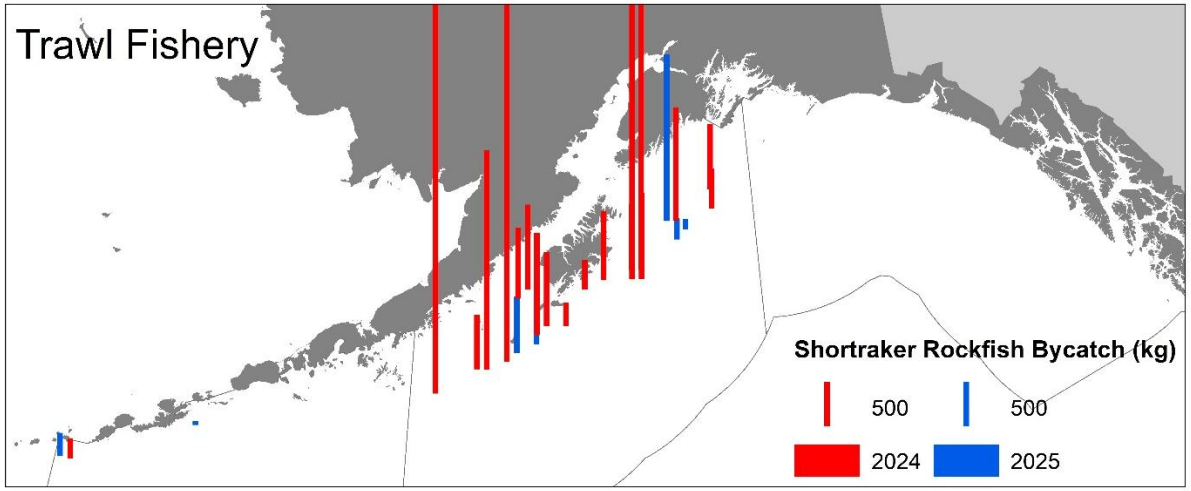
*Catch as of Oct 1, 2026

- 2026 catch is down ~34% from 2025
- This is ~50% of gulfwide ABC

SR CATCH – by Target Fishery & Area



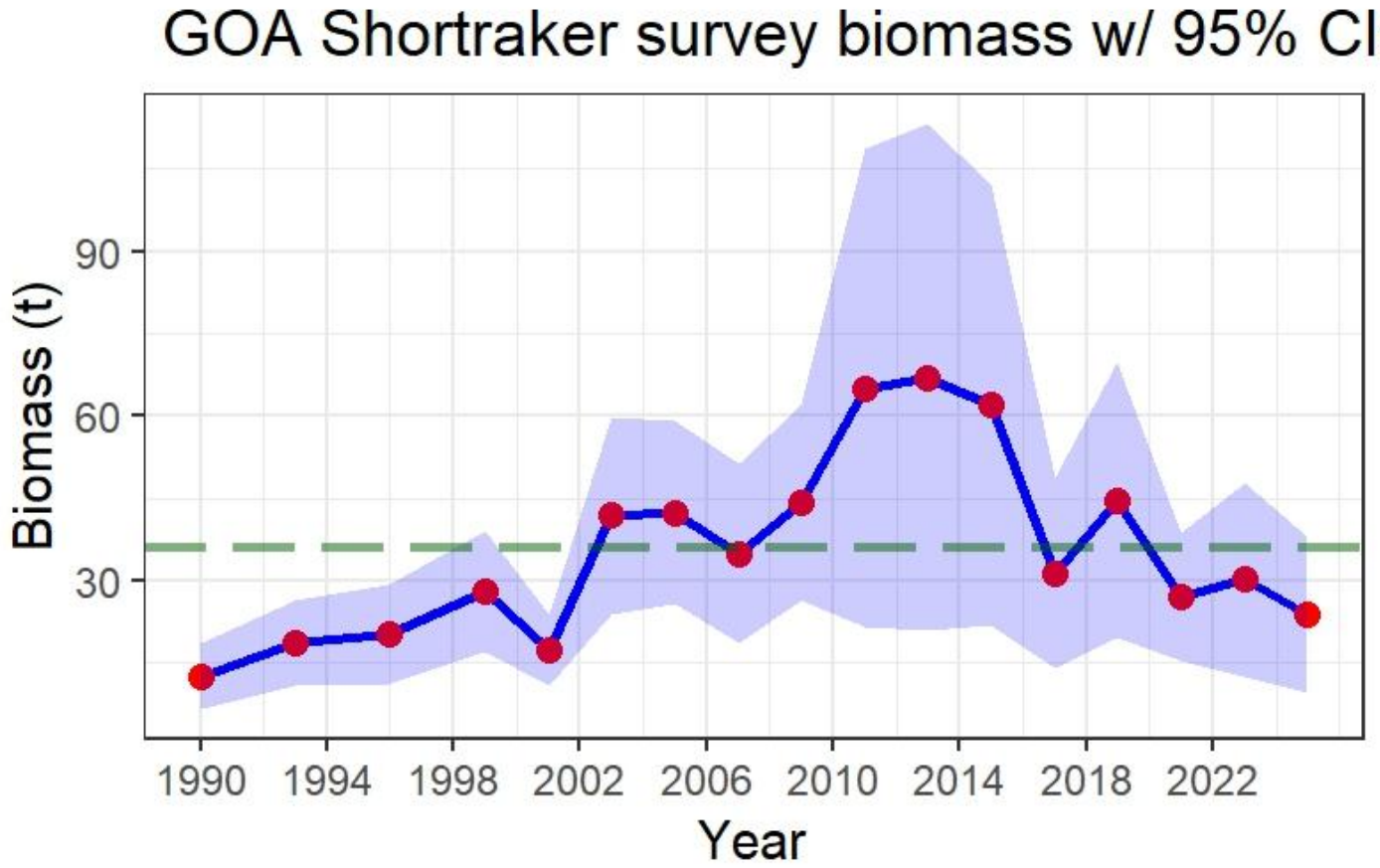




- Overall catch continues to decrease with increasing use of pot gear in the sablefish fishery
- Majority of catch now occurs in trawl gear (primarily in rockfish fisheries) in the CGOA

SURVEY DATA – Trawl Survey Biomass

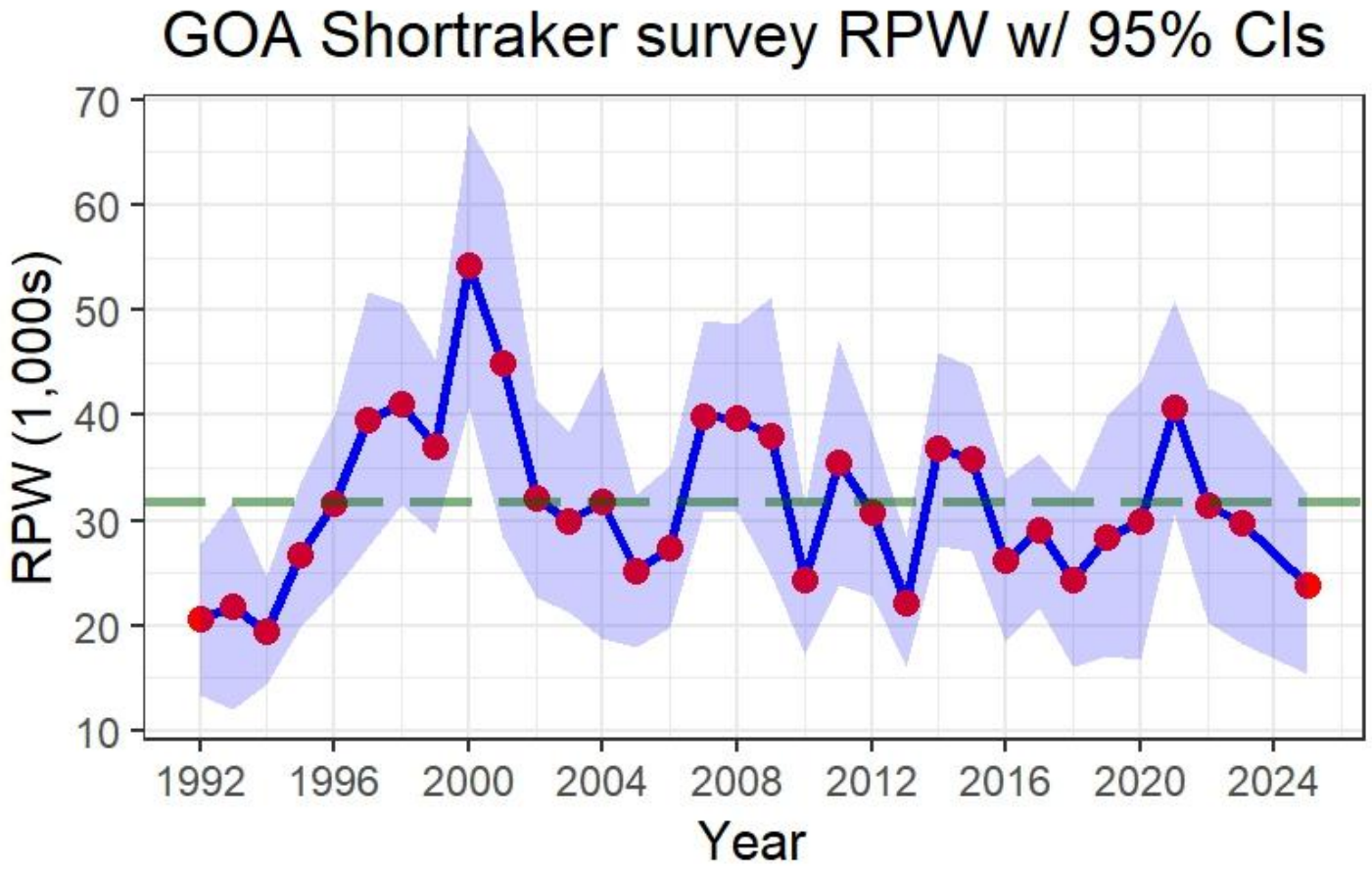




- SR **biomass decreased by 21.2%** in 2025, still below time series mean
- Decreased in all areas

SURVEY DATA – Longline Survey RPWs

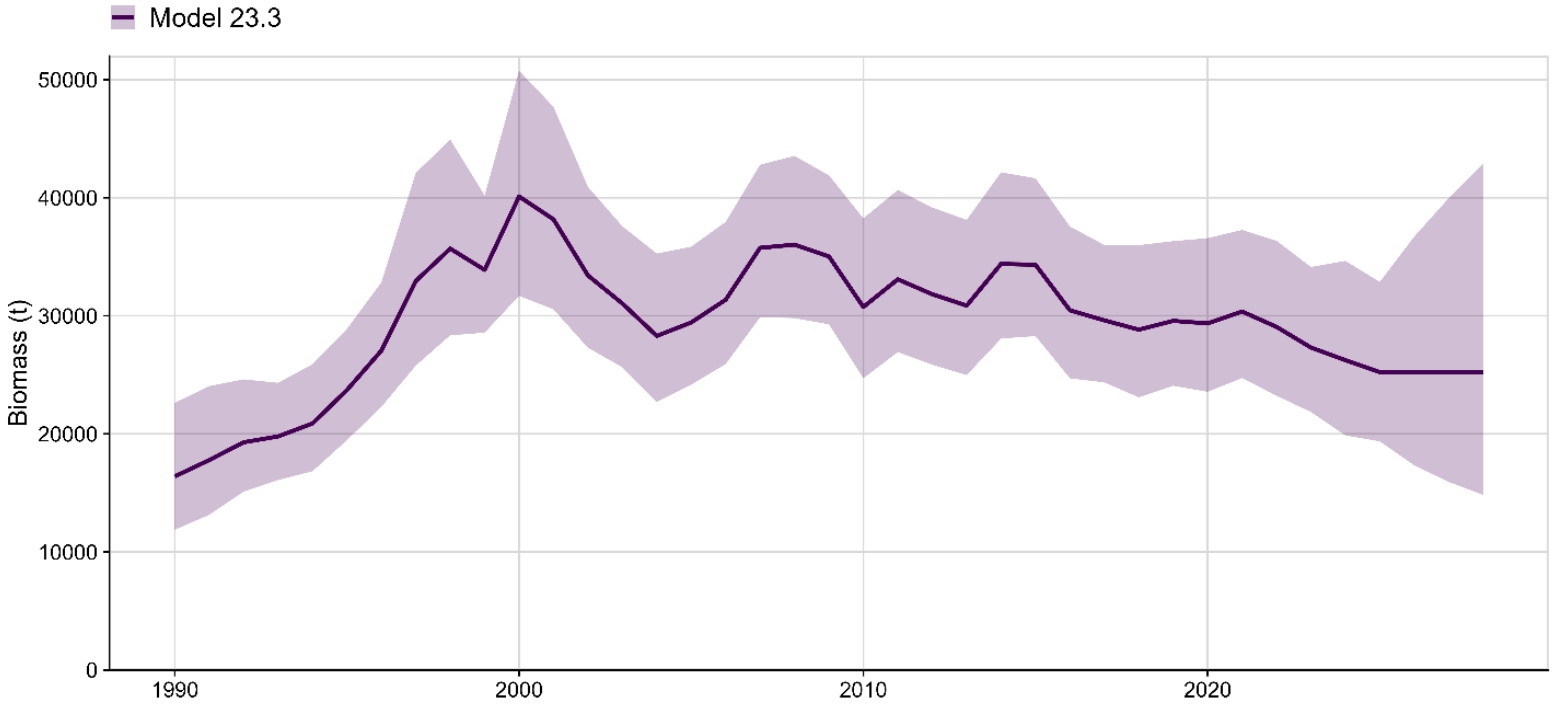




- SR **RPWs decreased by 16%** in 2025, still below time series mean
- Decreased in all areas

MODEL– Biomass Estimates





- **REMA model M23.3:** Estimates 1 process error, 3 area-specific scaling coefficients, both surveys (bottom trawl and longline survey) equal weights (1.0), estimates an additional observation error for the longline survey
- M23.3 ***B*** **= 25,227 t**

~ 12%

Figure 11-4.-- Two-survey random effects (REMA) model fit to Gulf of Alaska (GOA) shortraker rockfish bottom trawl survey (BTS) biomass and longline survey (LLS) relative population weights, where the shaded region is the model predictions and 95% confidence intervals from the REMA model. Results are shown for Model 23.3 (LLS weight = 1.0 with extra LLS observation error).

Harvest Recommendations



Model	Tier	Biomass Est.	F_{OFL}	OFL	F_{ABC}	ABC
23.3	5	25,227 t	$F_{OFL} = M = 0.03$	757 t	$0.75 * F_{OFL}$	568 t









BRD Recommendations



As there is no immediate conservation concern, the SSC recommends the status quo apportionment method… SSC Oct. 2023

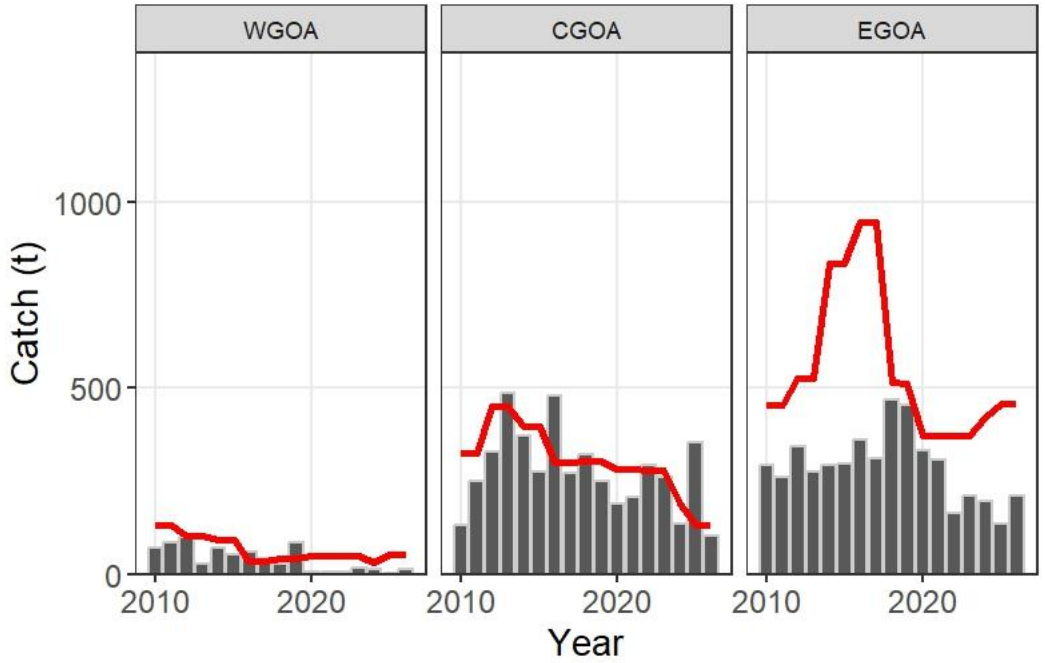
M23.3: Apportionment is based on the proportion of predicted biomass by area

GOA Area	Percent of Total Biomass	Area ABC Apportionment (t)	% Change from 2026 Apportionment
Western	4.6%	26	**- 51.9%**
Central	31.4%	179	**+ 33.6%**
Eastern	64.0%	363	**- 20.9%**
Gulfwide Total	**100%**	**568**	**- 12.2 %**

BRD Information



- 2026 catch < BRDs
- No stock structure in GOA (Echave *et al.*, 2016, Baetscher *et al.* 2026)
- WGOA BRD in 2026 54 t, 2027 26 t



RISK TABLE - No Reductions of ABC



Assessment-related considerations	Population dynamics considerations	Environmental/ ecosystem considerations	Fishery Performance considerations
Level 1 • Large annual changes in biomass but low CVs • Potential bias and uncertainty that may exist with both survey indices	**Level 1** • Little to no information on the population dynamics • Biomass estimates show normal variability for this species • Exploitable biomass estimates have been in a slow decline	**Level 1** • Indicators of the GOA shelf forage fish and zooplankton were largely above-average. • Predation and competition are to remain moderate. • Ongoing concern due to the continued decline of sponges, habitat • Lack of understanding of the effects of envir. change on the survival and productivity	**Level 1** • Non directed fishery species • Consistent gulfwide catches historically below the TAC • Recent overages in the CGOA but not in 2026

Shortraker rockfish - CONCLUSIONS



Quantity	As estimated or *specified in 2024* for: 2025	2026	As estimated or *recommended this* year for: 2027	2028
M (natural mortality rate)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Tier	5	5	5	5
Biomass (t)	28,768	28,768	25,227	25,227
F_{OFL}	$F=M=0.03$	$F=M=0.03$	$F=M=0.03$	$F=M=0.03$
$maxF_{ABC}$	$0.75M=0.0225$	$0.75M=0.0225$	$0.75M=0.0225$	$0.75M=0.0225$
F_{ABC}	0.0225	0.0225	0.0225	0.0225
OFL (t)	863	863	**757**	757
maxABC (t)	647	647	568	568
ABC (t)	647	647	**568**	568
Status	As determined *in 2024* for: 2023	2024	As determined *this* year for: 2026	2027
Overfishing	No	n/a	No	n/a







Questions?

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