Joint Groundfish Plan Team meeting report

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Alaska Fisheries Science Center

November 30th, 2020

Joint Plan Team Meeting overview and agenda

Overview

- Date: November 16-20th
- Place: Online
- Participation: 24 Team members present (4 vacancies remain)
- Numerous AFSC and AKRO staff and members of the public

Agenda

- Grenadiers
- Economic SAFE report
- Risk tables
- Sablefish

The Grenadier Stock in Alaska

Cara Rodgveller and Kevin Siwicke

AFSC, Auke Bay Laboratories

The graceful grenadier

Ecosystem Component

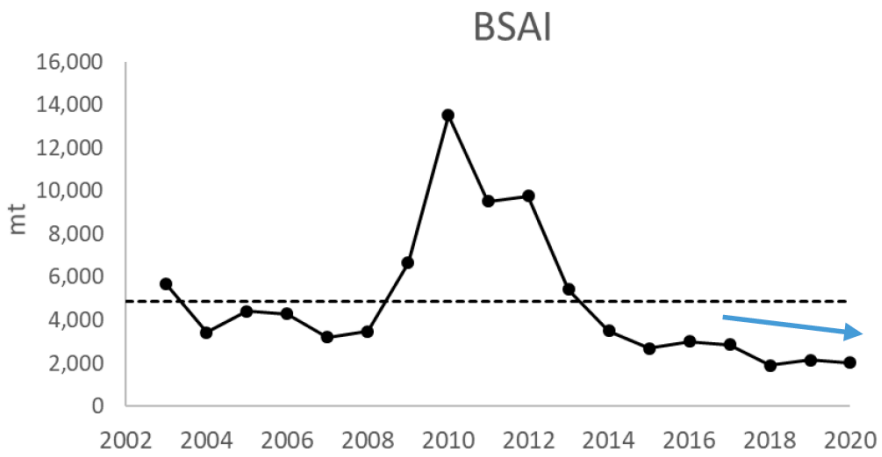
- In the BSAI and GOA FMPs
- No management – no ABC or OFL
- No targeted fishing
- SAFE not required
- Unofficial SAFE every 4 years

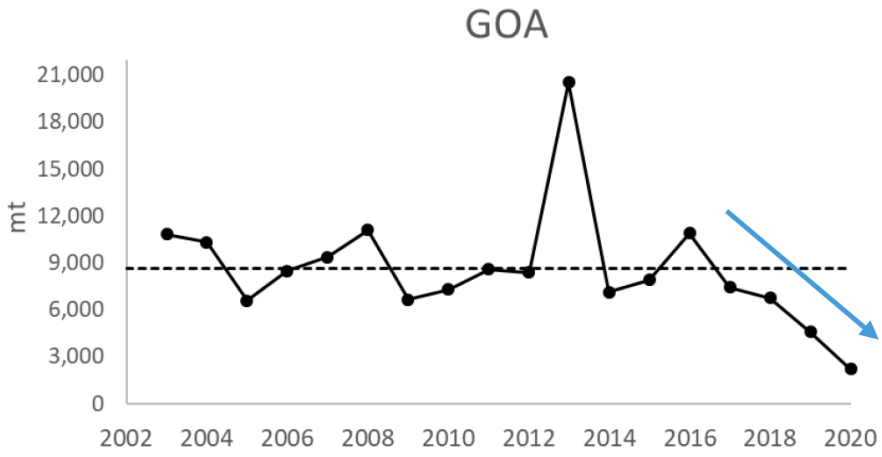
Retained on longline survey (once)

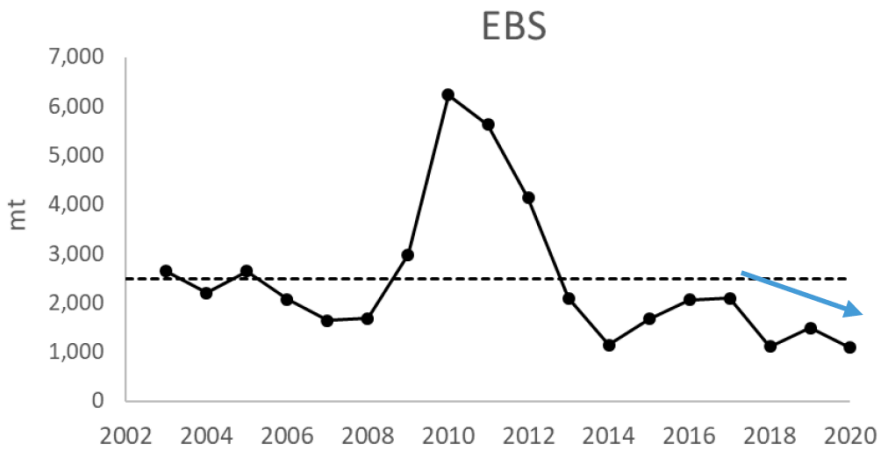
Down in BS, overall in the BSAI, and in the GOA

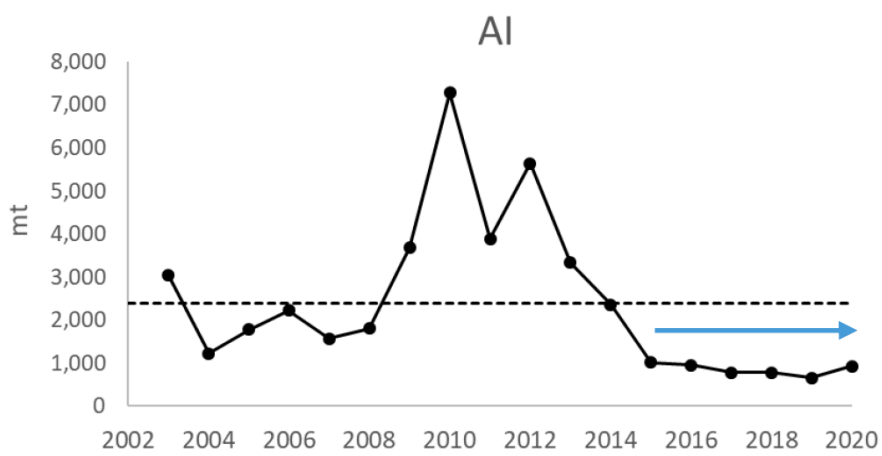
Target fisheries

- BS: Greenland turbot and P. halibut
- GOA: sablefish









Grenadier summary (example ABCs)

- Compared to the last SAFE, completed in 2016,
  - 12% decrease in the BSAI
  - 27% decrease in the GOA
- Catches well below unofficial ABL and OFL (again, not used for management)

Complex	Year	BSAI Biomass	BSAI ABC	BSAI Catch[1]	GOA Biomass	GOA ABC	GOA Catch[1]	Total Catch[1]
grenadiers	2019	1,197,110	70,031	2,142	507,888	29,711	4,601	6,743
	2020	1,197,110	70,031	2,016	507,888	29,711	2,213	4,229
	2021	1,055,348	61,738		369,618	21,623		
	2022	1,055,348	61,738		369,618	21,623		

ECONOMIC SAFE

Economic Status report contents

Executive Summary: 2019 highlights

- Report Card Metrics
- Plan Team Reports

Overview of the Economic Data Tables

- All Alaska summary Tables (1-9)
- BSAI data Tables (10-25)
- GOA data Tables (26-41)
- Halibut data Tables (H1-H10)

Contributions

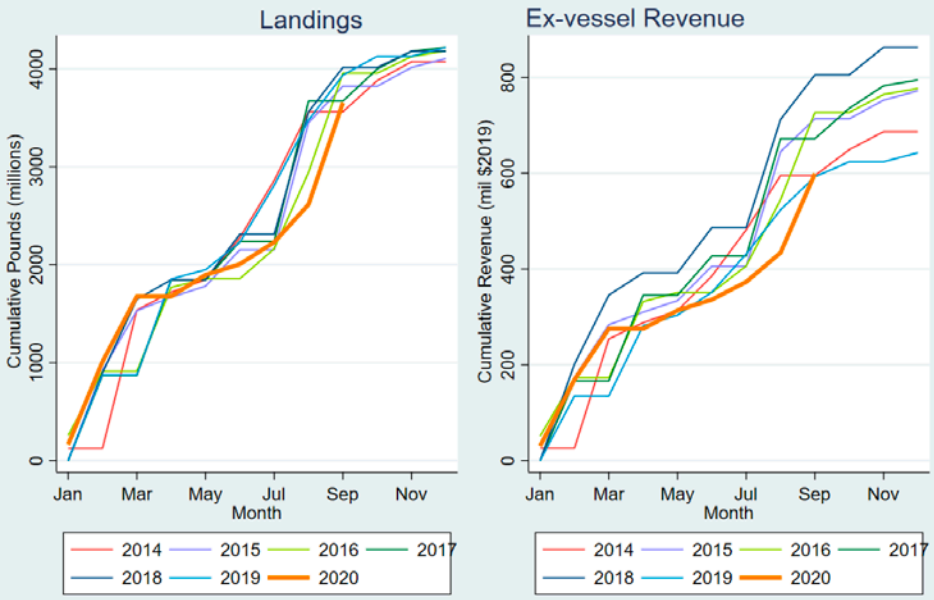
AFSC's Econ/social sciences group to NPFMC

1) Econ SAFEs
2) Ecosystem Status Reports (ESR),
3) Economic Performance Report (EPR) / Economic and Socioeconomic Profile (ESP),
4) Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO),
5) Webtools, and
6) Other Sources (e.g., research, PTs, SSC input etc.)

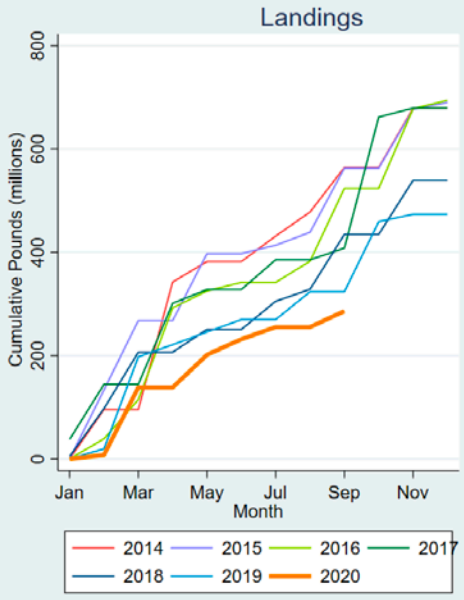
In-season Ex-Vessel Harvest and Revenue Estimates for 2020

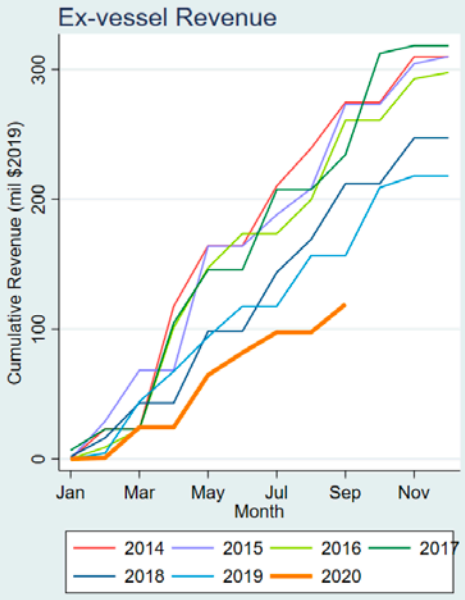
- Estimates "nowcasts" of 2020 monthly ex-vessel revenues and landings for Alaska groundfish and halibut fisheries through Sept.
- BSAI YoY harvest volumes through Sept. fell by approximately 11% in 2020 compared with 2019 and ex-vessel revenues are expected to be down 4% from 2019.
- GOA YoY harvest volumes through Sept. fell 27% in 2020 and ex-vessel revenues are expected to be down 32% from last year.

BSAI Cumulative Landings and Revenue by Year



GOA Cumulative Landings and Revenue by Year



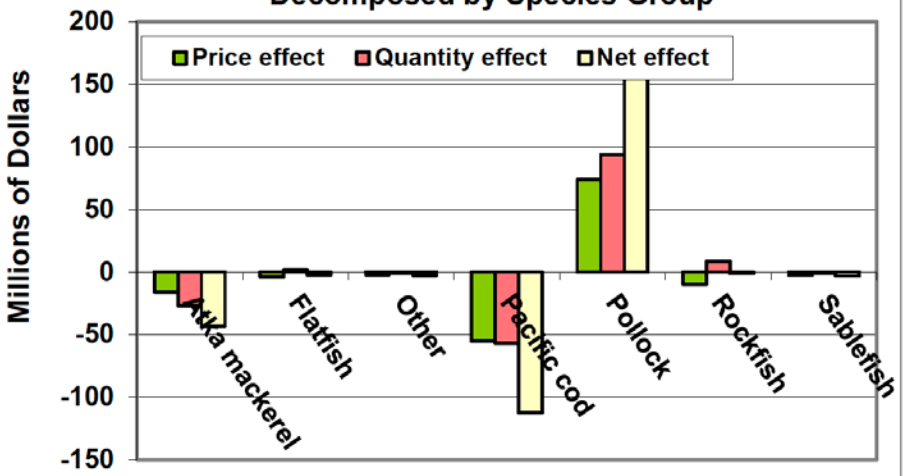


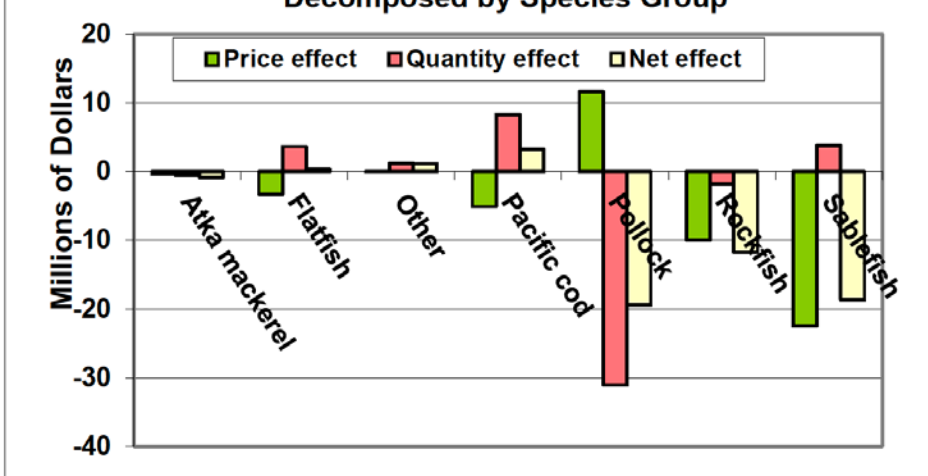
Revenue Decompositions 2018-2019

Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands

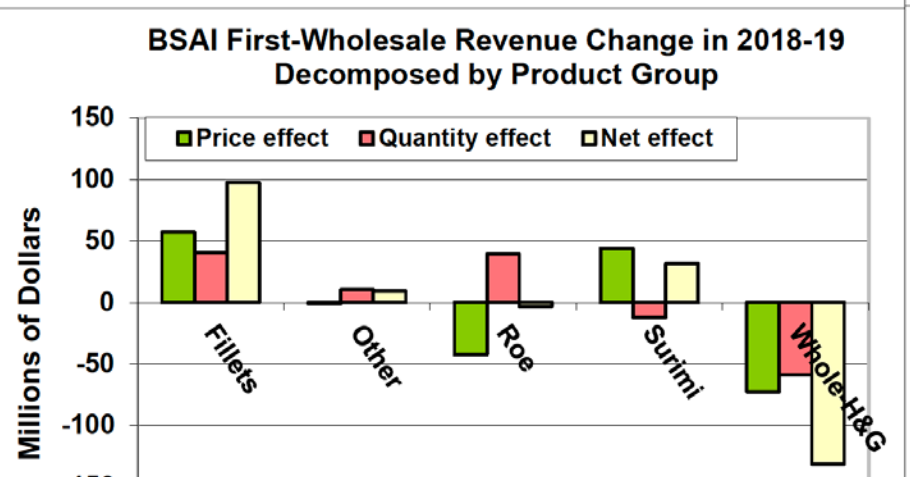
Gulf of Alaska

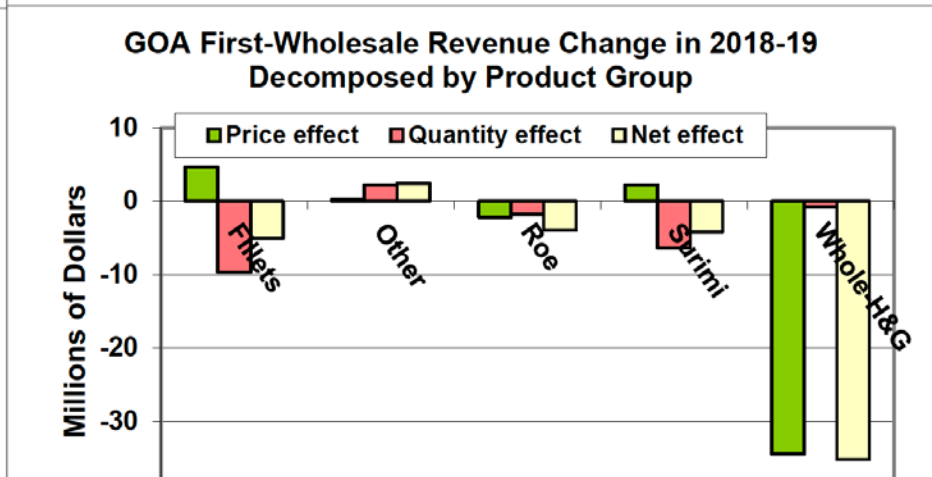
Species





Product

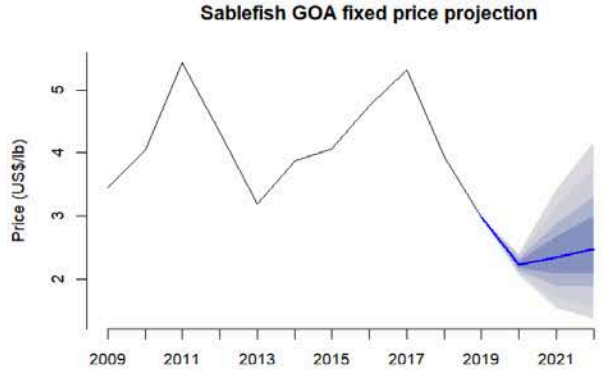


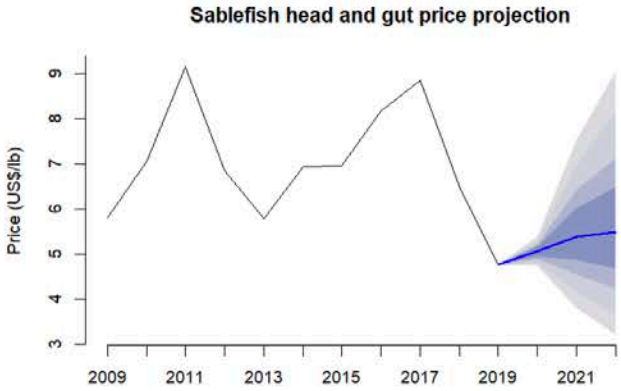


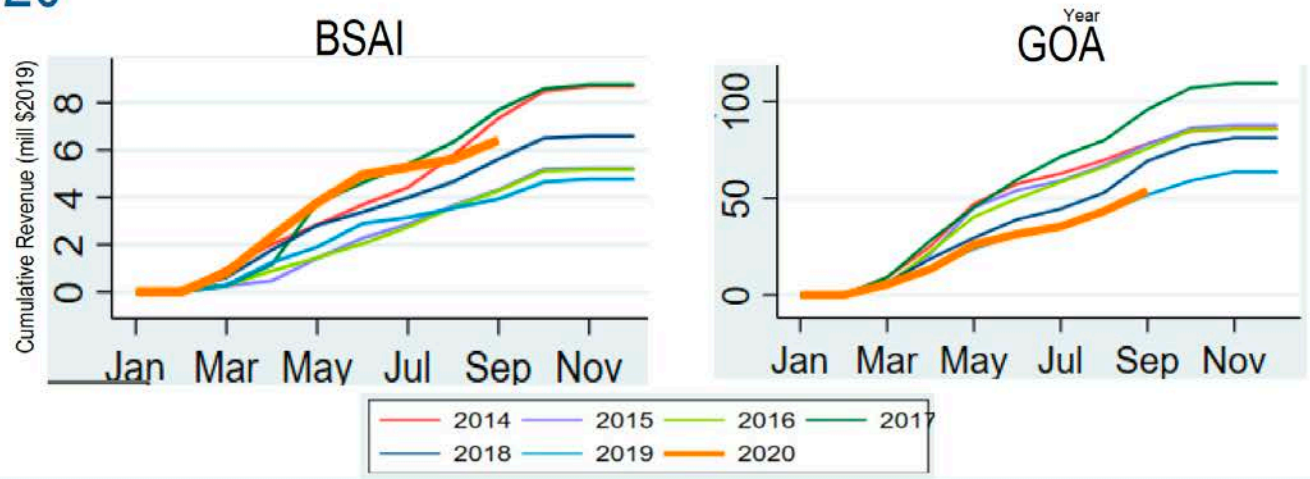
Sablefish

Economic SAFE

- Revenues down in 2019 with substantial decrease in the average price of sablefish.
- Decrease driven by decreases in size of average fish and price margin between fish sizes.
- Ex-vessel prices expected to decrease further in 2020.
- First-wholesale H&G prices are projected to stabilize in 2020







Economic SAFE chapter

Teams recommendation

- The Teams would like the SSC to clarify how the community information should be presented in a stock-specific manner in ESPs, or if it could better be placed in the broader context of the changes being experienced by communities.

Risk tables

- Teams compared 2019 and 2020 author recommended values
  - Differences in treatment of the levels among assessments
  - No changes to the author-recommended scores
- Refer to minutes and summary sections (in intros) for individual stock

Risk table (from 2019)

Stock	Assessment-related	Population Dynamics	Environment /Ecosystem	Fishery Performance	Overall	Proposed Reduction
Sablefish	2	3	2	3	3	0.57
EBS Pollock	1	2	2	2	2	0.43
GOA Pollock	2	1	1	1	2	0.10
EBS Pacific Cod	1	1	2	1	2	*
AI Pacific Cod	1	1	2	1	2	*
GOA Pacific Cod	2	2	2	1	2	*
BSAI Northern Rockfish	2	1	2	1	2	0
GOA POP	2	2	1	1	2	0
GOA Arrowtooth	1	1	2	1	2	0
BSAI Yellowfin Sole	1	1	1	1	1	0
BSAI Alaska Plaice	1	1	1	1	1	0
BSAI Atka Mackerel	1	1	1	1	1	0
GOA RE/BS	1	1	1	1	1	0
GOA Other Rockfish	1	1	1	1	1	0
GOA Shortraker	1	1	1	1	1	0
GOA Atka Mackerel	1	Unknown	1	1	1	0
GOA Octopus	1	1	1	1	1	0
GOA Skate	1	1	1	1	1	0

Risk table updated

Stock	Assessment related		Population Dynamics		Environment Ecosystem		Fishery Performance		Proposed Reduction	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Sablefish	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	57%	57%
EBS pollock	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	43%	30%
Bogoslof pollock		1		1		1		1		0%
AI pollock		1		1		1		1		0%
EBS Pacific Cod	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	*	0%
AI Pacific cod	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	*	0%
BSAI Yellowfin sole	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0%	0%
BSAI Alaska Plaice	1		1		1		1		0%	
BSAI Greenlnd turb.		1		1		2		1		0%
BSAI Arrowtooth		1		1		1		1		0%
BSAI Kamchatka		1		1		1		1		0%
BSAI Northrn rock sole		2		1		1		1		0%
BSAI Flathead		1		1		1		1		0%
BSAI Other Flatfish		1		1		1		1		0%
BSAI POP		2		1		1		1		0%
BSAI Blackspotted/RE		3		2		1		2		0%
BSAI Northrn Rockfish	2		1		2		1		0%	
BSAI Shortraker		1		1		1		1		0%
BSAI Other Rockfish		2		1		1		1		0%
BSAI Atka Mackerel	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0%	
BSAI Skates		1		1		1		1		0%
BSAI Sharks		2		2		1		1		0%
BSAI Octopus		1		1		1		1		0%
GOA pollock	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10%	0%
GOA Pacific cod	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	*	0%
GOA Nrthrn Rckfish		1		1		1		1		0%
GOA Arrowtooth	1		1		2		1		0%	
GOA Deepwtr Flat	2		1		1		1		0%	
GOA POP	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0%	0%
GOA Northrn Rockfish		1		1		1		1		0%
GOA Dusky Rockfish		2		1		1		1		0%
GOA Rougheye/BS	1		1		1		1		0%	
GOA Thornyheads		1		1		1		1		0%
GOA Other Rockfish	1		1		1		1		0%	
GOA Shortraker	1		1		1		1		0%	
GOA Atka Mackerel	1		Unknown		1		1		0%	
GOA Skate	1		1		1		1		0%	
GOA Sharks		2		2		1		1		0%
GOA Octopus	1		1		1		1		0%	

Sablefish assessment

Most of first day devoted to this assessment

- Revisited issues related to apportionment on Friday

Switch to senior author's presentation

Then ACLs AMs, and Council's spatial management policy

Team comments will follow those

Sablefish

- ESP (partial/updated)
  - Declining YOY growth index
  - below average condition for the age-4 and large female sablefish on the longline survey.
  - Incidental catch of sablefish in the arrowtooth fishery high in last four years
    - Overlap increase
- The Teams noted concern about effort required to produce even a partial update and
  - Commended the ESP team for the efforts
- **The Teams request that the next ESP include socioeconomic analysis of the impacts of the bycatch on various fleets.**
- The Teams also suggest that the ESP developers explore the idea of “hot topics,” similar to the ESR.

Sablefish

- Commended author on challenges of taking on a complex assessment in a few short COVID-impacted months
- Teams remain concerned about positive retrospective bias and poor fits to indices
- The Teams discussed appropriateness of using fishery CPUE given
  - Changes in the boats switching gear types (trending towards pots)
  - inconsistent trends with fishery-independent indices.
- Teams discussed issues related to shifting reference points
  - Presently based on “average recruitment,” …incoming year-classes impact magnitude significantly.

Sablefish

The Teams agreed with authors' ABC for 2021

- 17% increase from their 2020 ABC BUT a
- 57% reduction from maxABC
- Part of rationale was that it was an ABC that aligned closely with if average recruitment had been applied

- The Teams reiterated concerns over poor fits and residual patterns in the abundance indices

Sablefish

JPT Recommendations

- Explore spatial distribution of the top four year-classes…
  - If possible, compare them to the spatial distribution of the 1977 year class (from survey and fishery data)
- Examine **bycatch** in the historical foreign pollock fishery to evaluate its impact on the sablefish stock
  - Did a similar pattern occur from large 1977 year-class?
- CPUE work
  - Vessel effects
  - EM
- Biology
  - Age-specific M
  - Maturity

Sablefish apportionment

Team discussion

The Teams preferred to move away from the current fixed apportionment (same since 2014)

- Noted that proportions closer to relative fish distribution designed to mitigate stock-structure uncertainty and balance exploitation rates
- Agreed with recommendation: 5-year moving average of survey biomass
- SSC, AP, or Council to weigh in on selecting an alternative
    - Studies noted due to movement, alternative apportionments biologically acceptable (within range)

Sablefish apportionment (5-year mean, recommended)

Whale depredation corrections, 5-year mean survey biomass (Non-exponential…)

	2020			2021		2022	
Region	**OFL_w**	**ABC_w**	**TAC**	**OFL_w**	**ABC_w**	**OFL_w**	**ABC_w**
BS	--	2,174	1,861	--	3,674	--	4,843
AI	--	2,952	2,039	--	5,294	--	6,978
BSAI	--	**5,126**	**3,900**	--	**8,968**	--	**11,821**
GOA[1]	-	**16,883**	**14,393**	--	**13,269**	--	**17,489**
Alaska-wide	**50,481**	22,009	**18,293**	**60,426**	**22,237**	**70,710**	**29,309**

Sablefish apportionment

Whale depredation corrections, fixed apportionment (constant since 2014)

	2020			2021		2022	
Region	**OFL_w**	**ABC_w**	**TAC**	**OFL_w**	**ABC_w**	**OFL_w**	**ABC_w**
BS	--	2,174	1,861	--	2,177	--	2,869
AI	--	2,952	2,039	--	2,959	--	3,901
BSAI	--	**5,126**	**3,900**	--	**5,136**	--	**6,770**
GOA[1]	--	**16,883**	**14,393**	--	**17,087**	--	**22,520**
Alaska-wide	**50,481**	22,009	**18,293**	**60,426**	**22,223**	**70,710**	**29,290**

Note total changes slightly due to differential whale depredation rates by region

Also, some rounding issues

Sablefish

- In 2019 minutes of JPT:
  - Considerable uncertainty exists as to whether this is a biological concern or allocation issue, and the Teams suggested following the Council's spatial management policy to resolve this issue

Sablefish apportionment
Team discussion

Notion of a workshop as next step

- Teams noted issues related to apportionment and that it triggers “step 1” of Council’s spatial management policy
- Hence recommended that the SSC and Council consider developing a Council workshop in 2021 to evaluate both the fishing mortality rates by gear associated with different apportionment methods including management and socio-economic considerations
    - This workshop would satisfy step 2 of the policy, which is to “identify the economic, social, and management implications and potential options for management response”.

Sablefish apportionment

Team discussion

Potential workshop focus questions (relative to implementing the Spatial Management Policy)

1) What are the criteria for assessing whether a spatial management tool has been effective?
2) What are the specific criteria for when the Policy should be applied (either for the first time for a stock, or follow-up applications)?
3) Are there criteria for balancing conservation concerns (i.e., stock biomass and productivity) vs socio-economic concerns, and do these vary between target and bycatch stocks?