

### **Prince William Sound State Waters Sablefish**

Jan Rumble (ADF&G) provided a brief summary of the Prince William Sound (PWS) sablefish GHLL fishery. The annual guideline harvest level (GHL) is set independent of the federal GOA sablefish assessment and has been fixed at 242,000 pounds since 1993. The GHL was initially set based on bathymetric mapping of sablefish habitat and a yield per unit model.

The GHL has not been fully harvested since 2003 and the 2014 catch and CPUE were the lowest in the time series. Due to declining catch and CPUE, ADF&G staff are reassessing research priorities and exploring new methodologies for establishing future catch limits. ADF&G has additionally conducted some limited sablefish tagging in PWS. Preliminary results indicate PWS and GOA sablefish stocks are likely mixing. Plan team members noted that PWS and GOA sablefish catch and CPUE generally follow similar trends and encourage ADF&G work with NMFS sablefish assessment staff to evaluate PWS logbook catch rates and further examine movement from tagging data.