



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Alaska Fisheries
Science Center

Joint Groundfish Plan Team meeting report

Jim Ianelli and Chris Lunsford (GOA co-chairs)
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Grant Thompson and Steve Barbeaux (BSAI co-chairs)
Diana Stram (BSAI coordinator)

November 2021

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Plan Teams for the Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI)

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
November 15, 2021

BSAI Team

Grant Thompson	AFSC REFM (co-chair)
Steve Barbeaux	AFSC REFM (co-chair)
Diana Stram	NPFMC (coordinator)
Mary Furuness	NMFS AKRO
Alan Haynie	AFSC REFM
Allan Hicks	IPHC
Lisa Hillier	WDFW
Kirstin Holsman	AFSC REFM
Phil Joy	ADF&G
Andy Kingham	AFSC FMA
Kalei Shotwell	AFSC REFM
Cindy Tribuzio	AFSC ABL

GOA Team

Jim Ianelli	AFSC REFM (co-chair)
Chris Lunsford	AFSC ABL (co-chair)
Sara Cleaver	NPFMC (coordinator)
Obren Davis	NMFS AKRO
Craig Faunce	AFSC FMA
Lisa Hillier	WDFW
Pete Hulson	AFSC ABL
Sandra Lowe	AFSC REFM
Nat Nichols	ADF&G
Jan Rumble	ADF&G
Paul Spencer	AFSC REFM
Marysia Szymkowiak	AFSC REFM
Kresimir Williams	AFSC RACE
Andrew Olson	ADF&G

Joint Plan Team Meeting overview and agenda

Overview

- Date: November 15th
- Place: Online
- Participation: 24 Team members present (4 vacancies remain)
- Numerous AFSC and AKRO staff and members of the public

Agenda

- EBS/NBS Survey
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Comments on Assessments in General
- Sablefish
- Economic SAFE

Essential Fish Habitat

Iterative review of components 1 (EFH descriptions and maps) and 7 (prey species lists and locations)

Next steps

- Presentation to the Crab Plan Team and Ecosystem Committee in January 2022
- SSC in February 2022.

Comments on Assessments in General

- Given challenges conducting stock assessments during these times
 - Suggest that informal (internal) reviews be conducted out of cycle
 - Encouraged authors to collaborate on issues they have in common to develop shared tools for use by all authors
- Relative to ESP, the Teams noted ambiguity in some indicators
 - E.g., the decrease in BSAI incidental sablefish catch: “good” or “bad”
 - **The Teams recommended “grey” traffic light color coding**

Sablefish assessment

Sablefish

ESP-comment covered under general assessment issues

The Teams noted that changes in behavior due to observer restructuring in 2013 likely had impacts on some fishery performance indicators.

- **The Teams recommend that the authors explore the impacts of the 2013 switch to a new deployment plan and subsequent coverage changes on CPUE.**

Sablefish

- Logbook/CPUE issues
- **The Teams agree that the fishery CPUE and logbook data are valuable to the assessment and recommend that the agencies involved prioritize access to these data so they are available with sufficient time to be incorporated into the assessment.**

Sablefish

Author recommended 2022 ABC (with whale depredation adjustments).

Area	AI	BS	WG	CG	WY*	EY*	Total
2021 ABC	4,727	3,420	3,253	9,644	3,471	5,326	29,841
2022 ABC	6,486	5,305	3,821	10,008	3,179	6,064	34,863
2018 - 2020 Avg. Depredation	16	26	81	41	44	89	297
Ratio 2022:2021 ABC	1.37	1.55	1.17	1.04	0.92	1.14	1.17
Deduct 3-Year Adjusted Avg.	-23	-41	-95	-43	-40	-101	-342
**2022 ABC_w	6,463	5,264	3,727	9,965	3,139	5,963	34,521
Change from 2021 ABC _w	37%	55%	16%	5%	-9%	13%	17%

*Before 95:5 hook and line : trawl split between WY and EY/SE shown below.

**ABC_w is the author recommended ABC that accounts for whale depredation.

Author recommended 2022 – 2023 ABCs by Sector in West Yakutat and East Yakutat/Southeast adjusted for the 95:5 hook-and-line : trawl split in the EGOA.

Year	West Yakutat	E. Yakutat/ Southeast
2022	3,437	5,665
2023	3,159	5,398

*ABCs represent total regional ABC across gears, but with the 5% trawl allocation in EY/SE reallocated to WY.

ECONOMIC SAFE



Economic Status report contents

- Executive Summary: 2020 highlights
 - Report Card Metrics
 - Plan Team Reports (forthcoming)
- Overview of the Economic Data Tables
- Economic Data Tables
 - All Alaska summary Tables (1-9)
 - BSAI data Tables (10-25)
 - GOA data Tables (26-41)
 - Halibut data Tables (H1-H10).

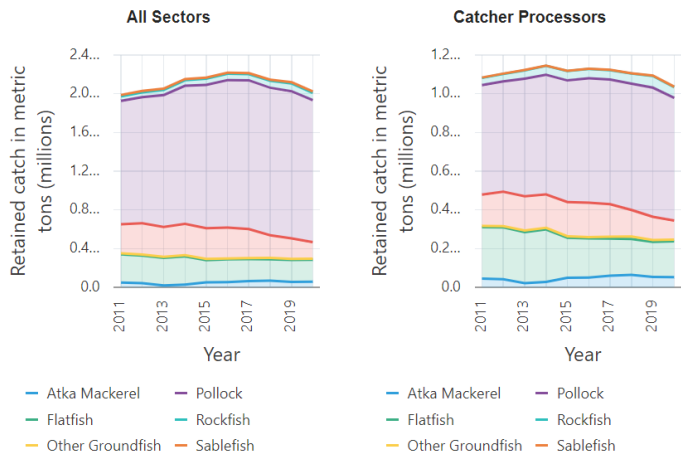
Tables primarily cover: Retained catch, ex-vessel value and prices, first-wholesale production and prices, vessel counts, and fishing and crew weeks.

Economic SAFE chapter

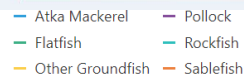
<https://reports.psmfc.org/akfin/f?p=501:2001>



AKFIN Development (by Jean Lee)



- + Catch and discards
- + Ex-vessel value
- + Wholesale production and value
- + Effort
- + Fleets



Economic SAFE chapter

Teams' recommendation

- The Teams agree that it would be useful to have a coordinated effort to improve the integration of socioeconomic work, but
- **recommend that this be done in careful consideration of existing workload as part of the process and that a broad discussion with NOAA, SSPT, and Council staff be undertaken in this planning process.**