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### **2019 Inseason Actions**

NMFS closed directed fishing for non-CDQ sablefish by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI effective January 20, 2019.

NMFS prohibited retention of non-CDQ sablefish by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea subarea effective June 29, 2019.

NMFS reallocated 56 mt from the nonspecified reserves to non-CDQ sablefish trawl gear allocation in the Bering Sea subarea effective September 18, 2019.

### **Stock Assessment/Status Determinations/Specification of OFL**

Different management areas are used for the sablefish stock assessment and status determination, and the specification of the sablefish overfishing level (OFL). For Alaska groundfish stocks, sablefish is the only species with these area differences. The status determination is used to identify if a stock is being subjected to overfishing, is overfished, and is approaching an overfished condition.

**Stock Assessment and Status Determination** – OFL is Alaska wide (BSAI and GOA combined)

**Harvest Specification** – separate OFLs for Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska

### **From the Stock Assessment**

- Sablefish are assessed as a single population in Federal waters off Alaska because of their high movement rates.
- Significant stock structure among the federal Alaska population is unlikely given extremely high movement rates throughout their lives (Hanselman et al. 2015, Heifetz and Fujioka 1991, Maloney and Heifetz 1997, Kimura et al. 1998).
- For 2019, applying an adjusted  $F_{35\%}$  as prescribed for OFL in Tier 3b and adjusting for projected whale depredation results in an OFL value of 32,798 mt for the Alaska-wide combined stock.