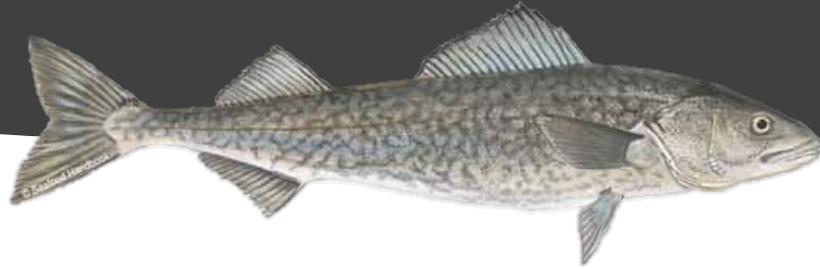


2023 Sablefish Industry Meeting



Welcome!

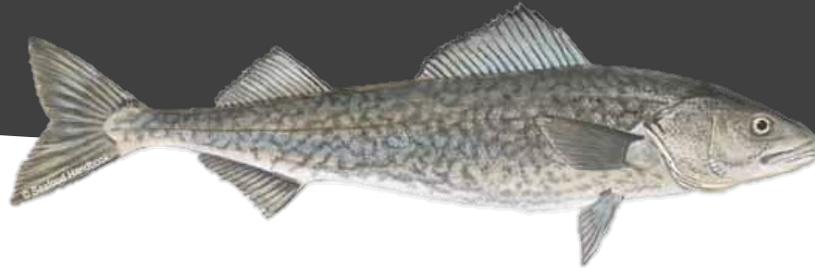


NOAA
FISHERIES

Sablefish Industry Meeting

April 28, 2023

Introduction



ADF&G Staff:

Rhea Ehresmann

Phil Joy

Andrew Olson

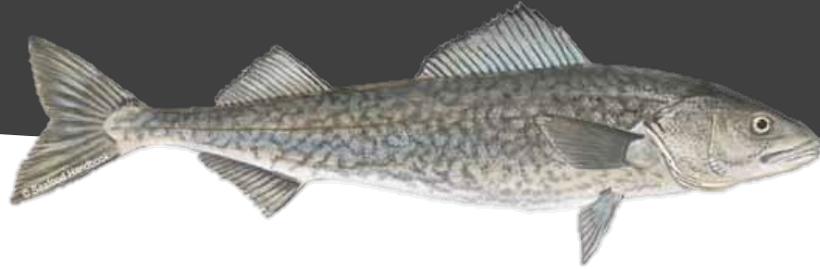
NOAA Staff:

Dan Goethel



NOAA
FISHERIES

Agenda



NSEI Chatham Strait (Phil Joy and Rhea Ehresmann, ADF&G)

Fishery & survey data review

Outlook for 2023

SSEI Clarence Strait (Rhea Ehresmann, ADF&G)

Fishery & survey data review

Outlook for 2023

BOF Updates (Andrew Olson, ADF&G)

GOA Federal Sablefish Assessment (Dan Goethel, NOAA)

NSEI sablefish data review and outlook for 2023



Sablefish Industry Meeting

April 28, 2023

Phil Joy

Rhea Ehresmann

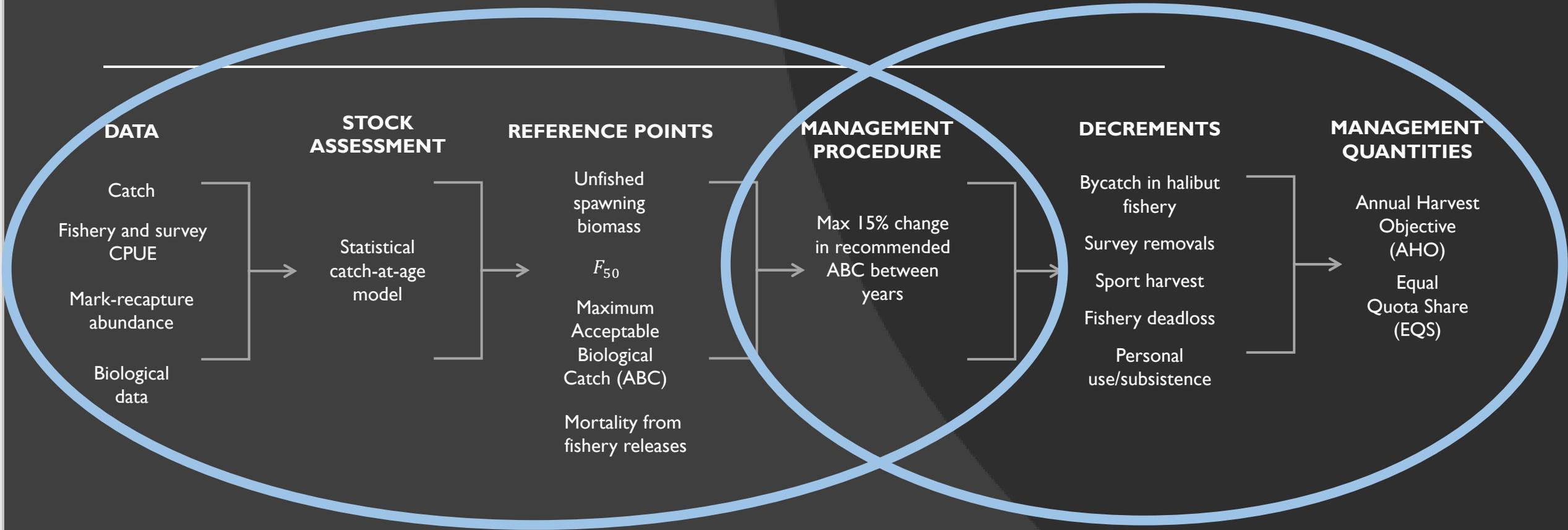
Andrew Olson

Key points

- First year of slinky pots!
- Population biomass continues to expand as 5 – 8-year-old fish from large recruitments continue to grow and mature
- All indices are up:
 - ✓ Survey
 - ✓ Fishery
 - ✓ Mark-recapture
- Although population is growing still uncertainty in stock status

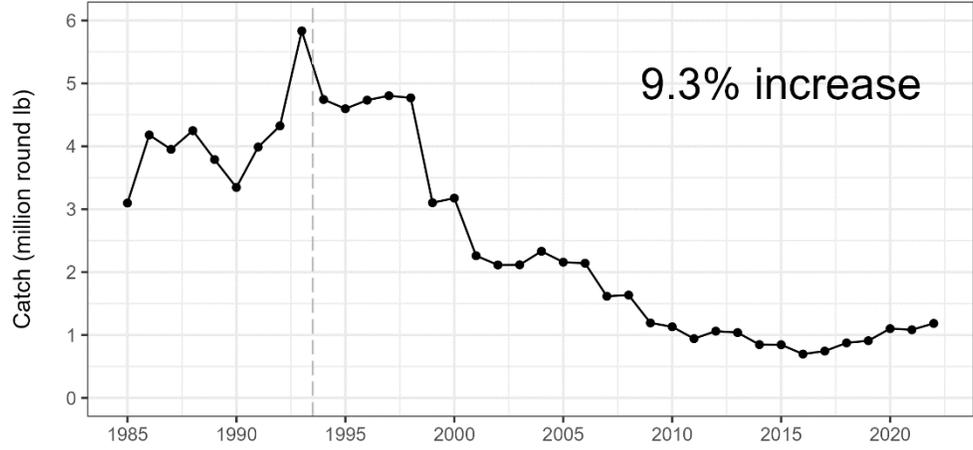


Assessment and management steps



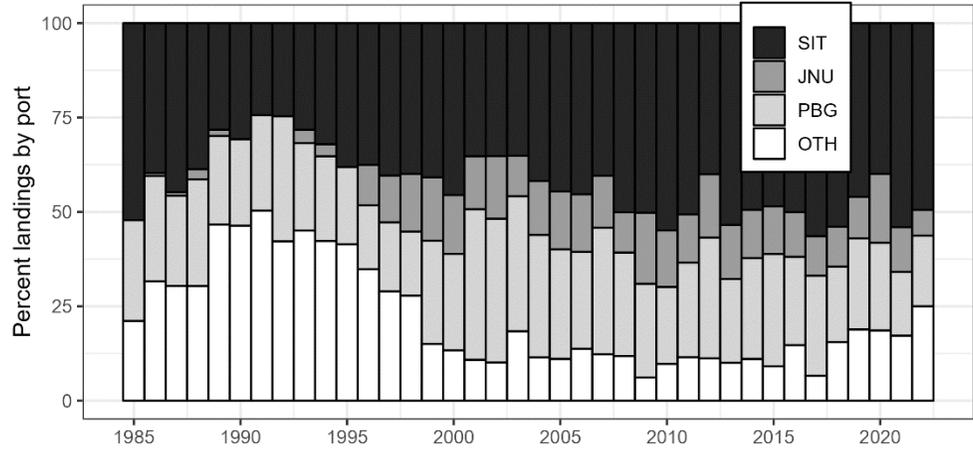
2022 NSEI fishery

Catch (million lb)

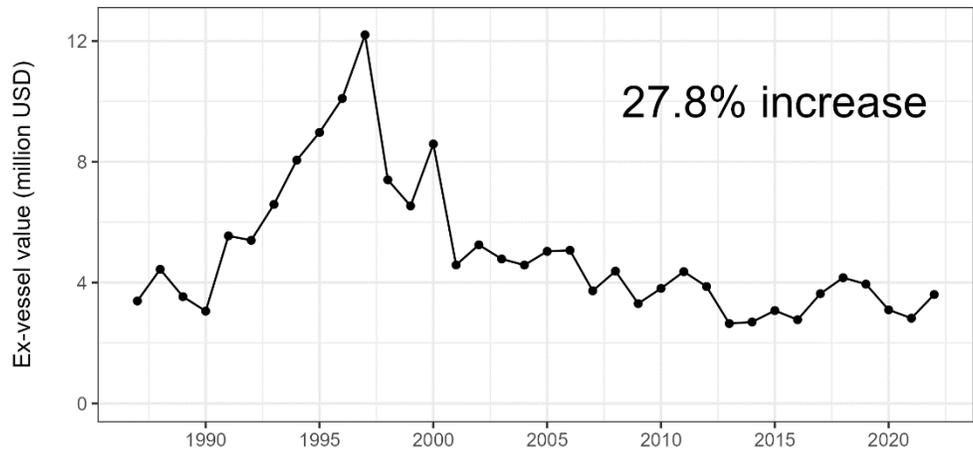


Catches climbing with increase in population

Percent landings by port



Ex-vessel value (million USD)



Ex-vessel value up – fish growing into desirable sizes



Abundance
trends

2022 Mark-Tag
Pot Survey



Leg 1 – May 2-13

Leg 2 – May 19-29

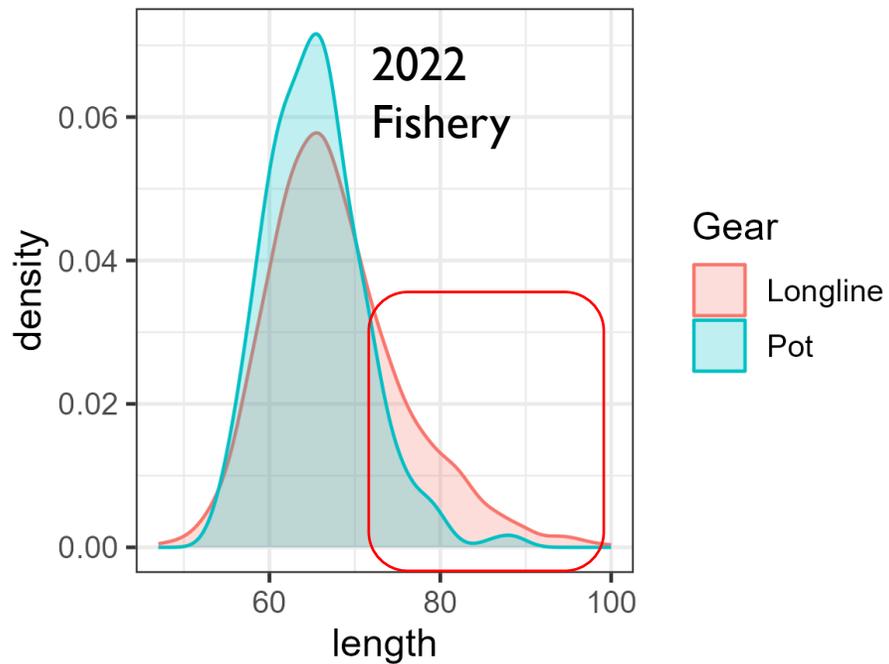
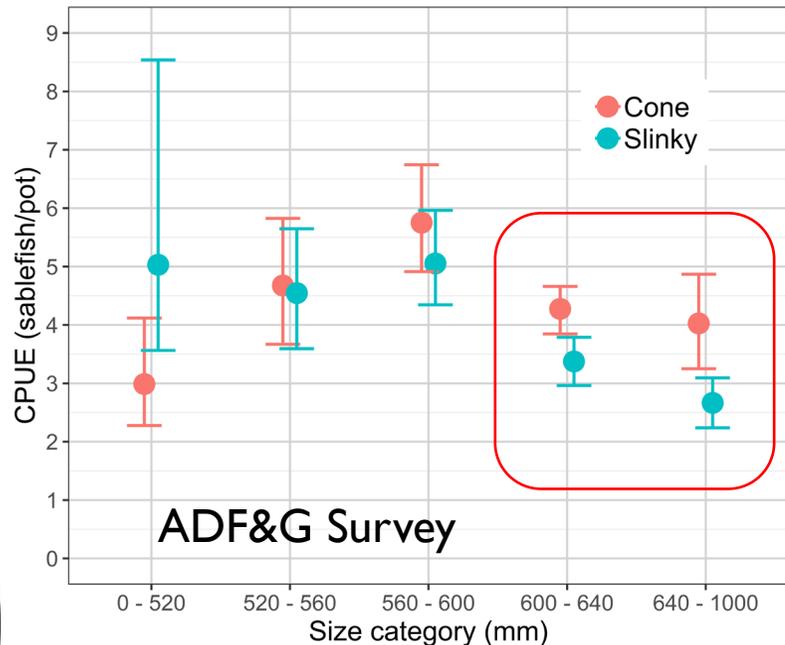
24 sets covering full length of Chatham
20 pots/set (10 slinky, 10 conical alternating)

Caught 8,871 sablefish

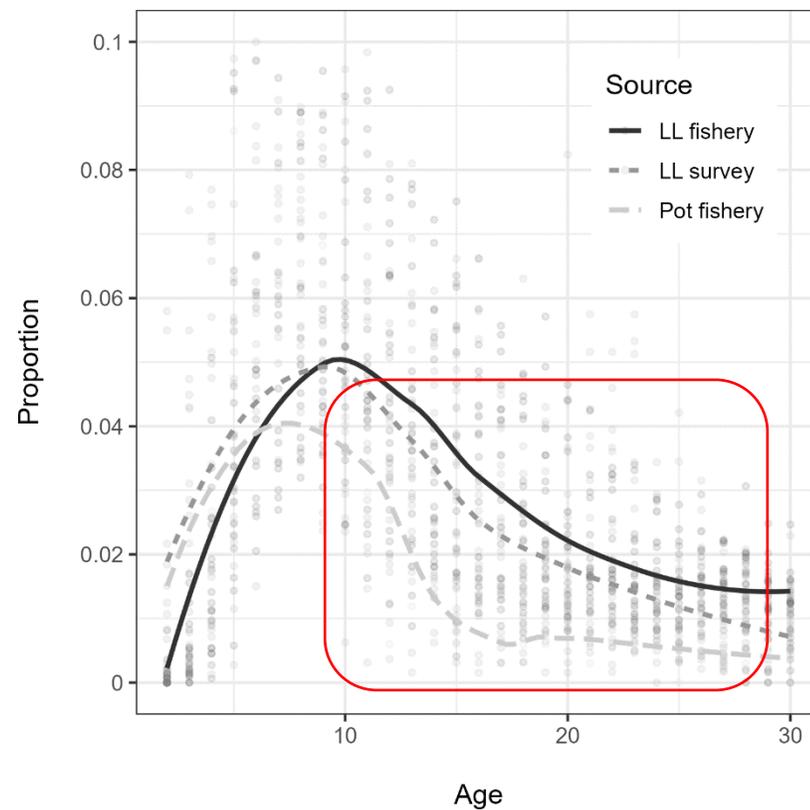
Tagged 8,650 sablefish



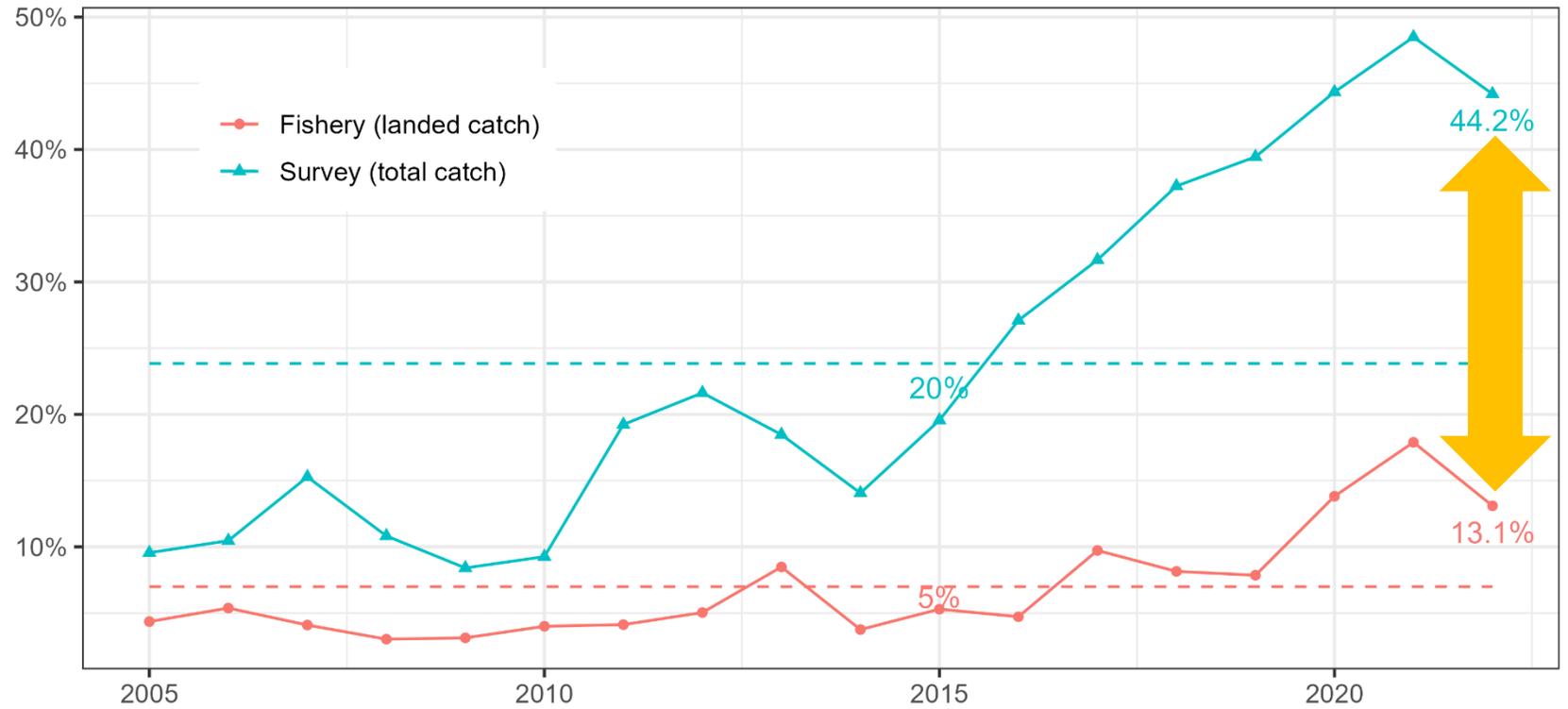
First look at Slinky pots



- 2022
- Became legal in Sept. 2022
 - Limited participation
 - 9 boats
 - 19 trips
 - 43 lbs / pot



Percent of sablefish ≤ 3 dressed lb



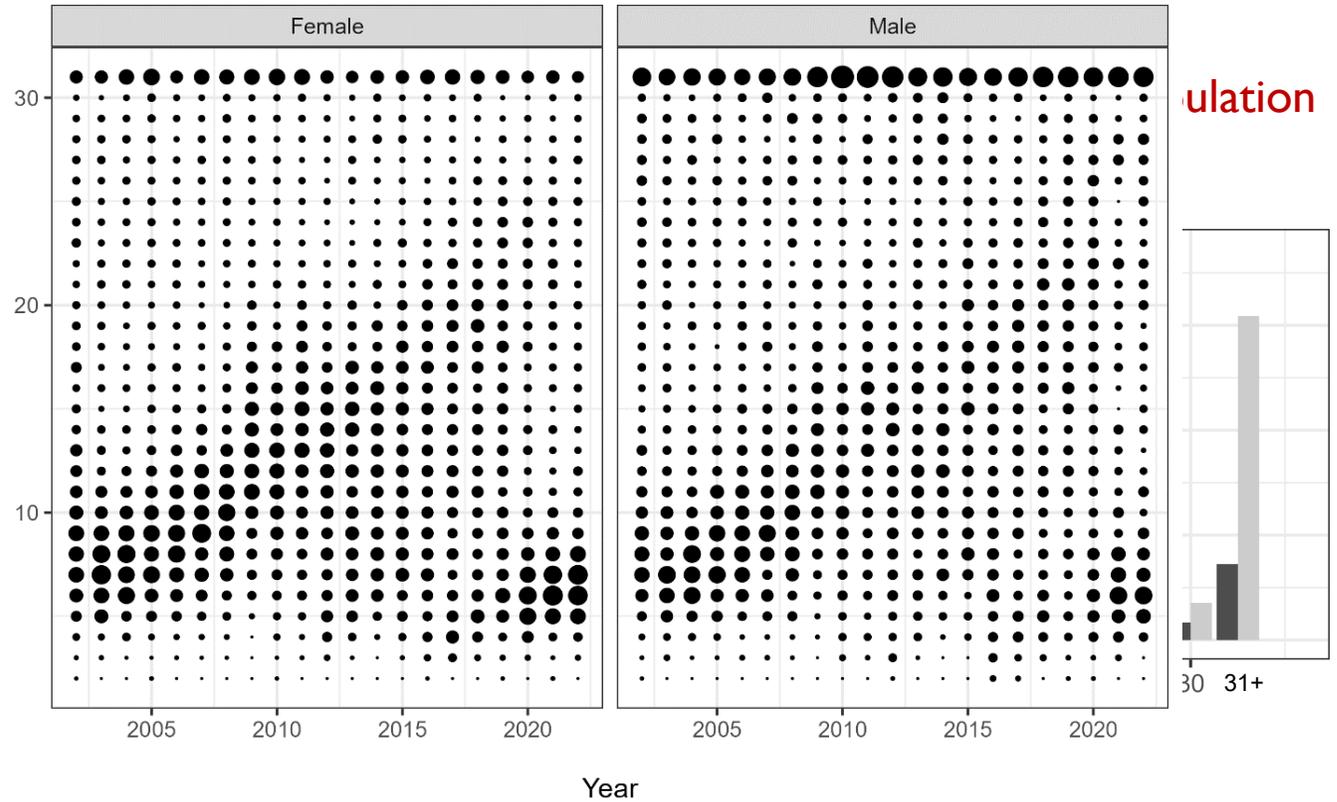
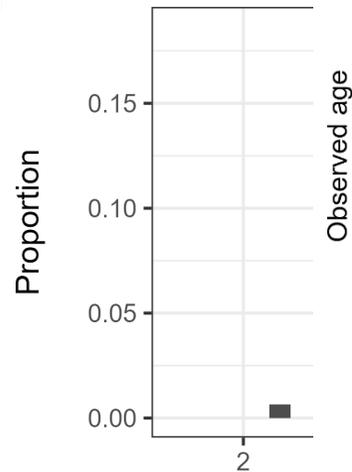
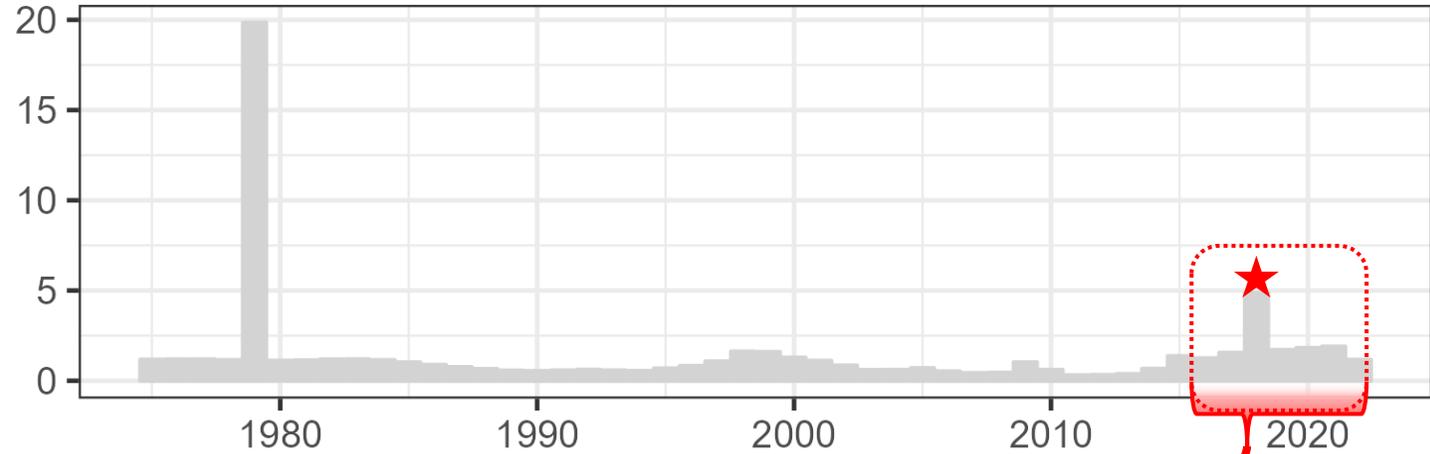
Growth of fish from big recruitments = fewer 3 pounders

RELEASES of small fish in fishery

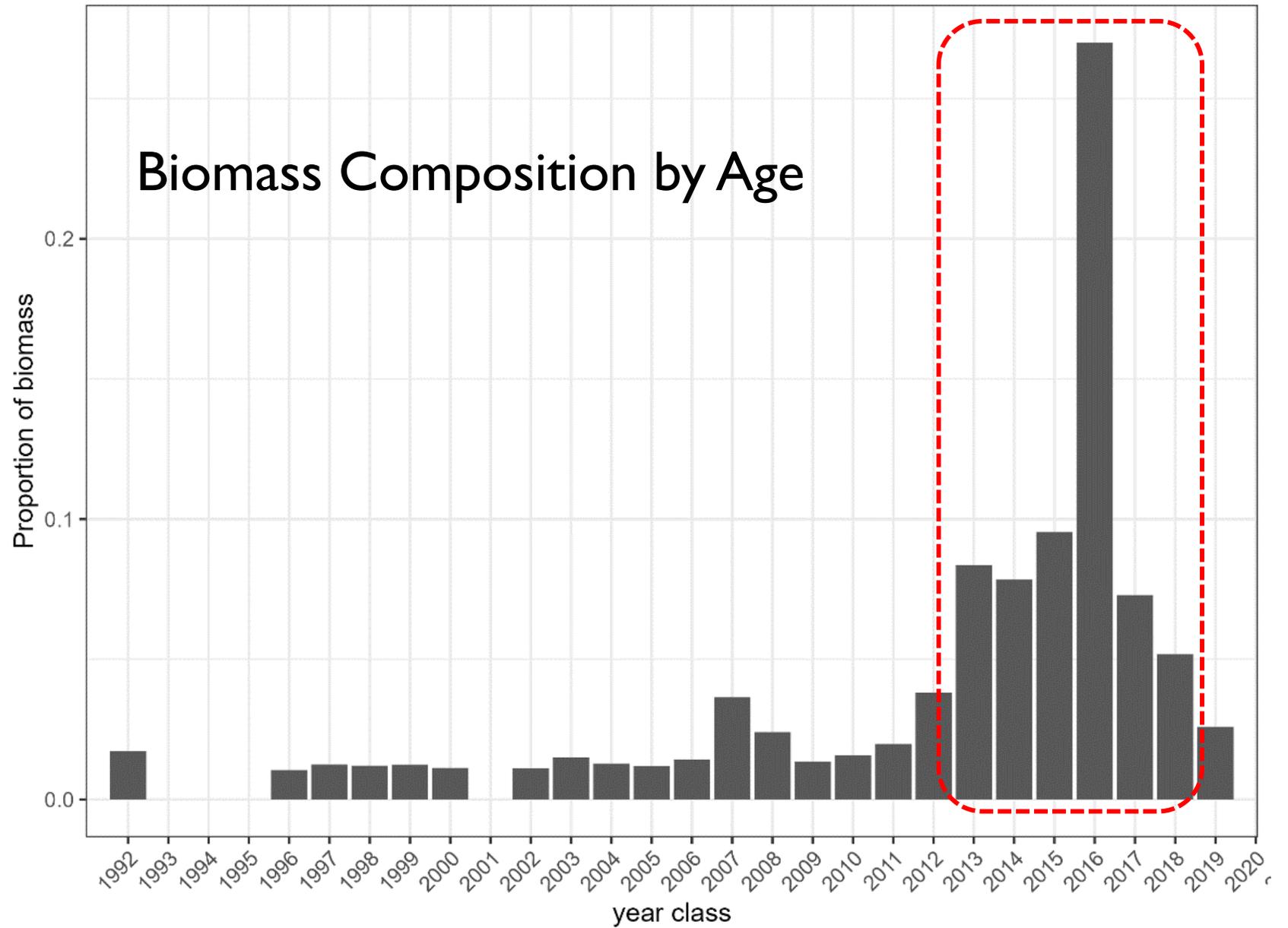
3 lb sablefish

Ages composition

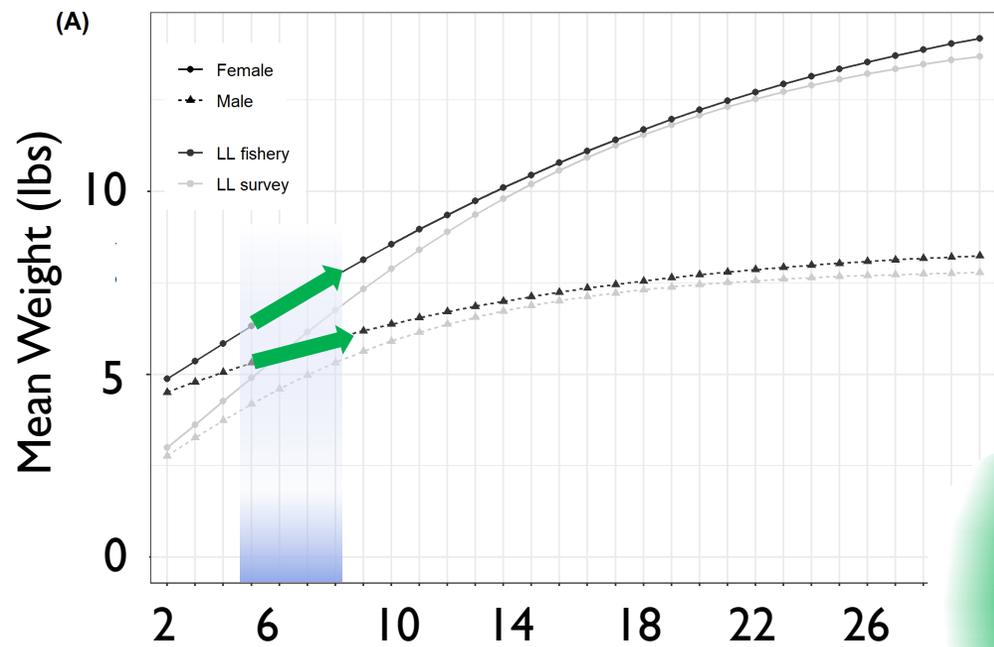
Age-2 recruits (millions)



Ages composition

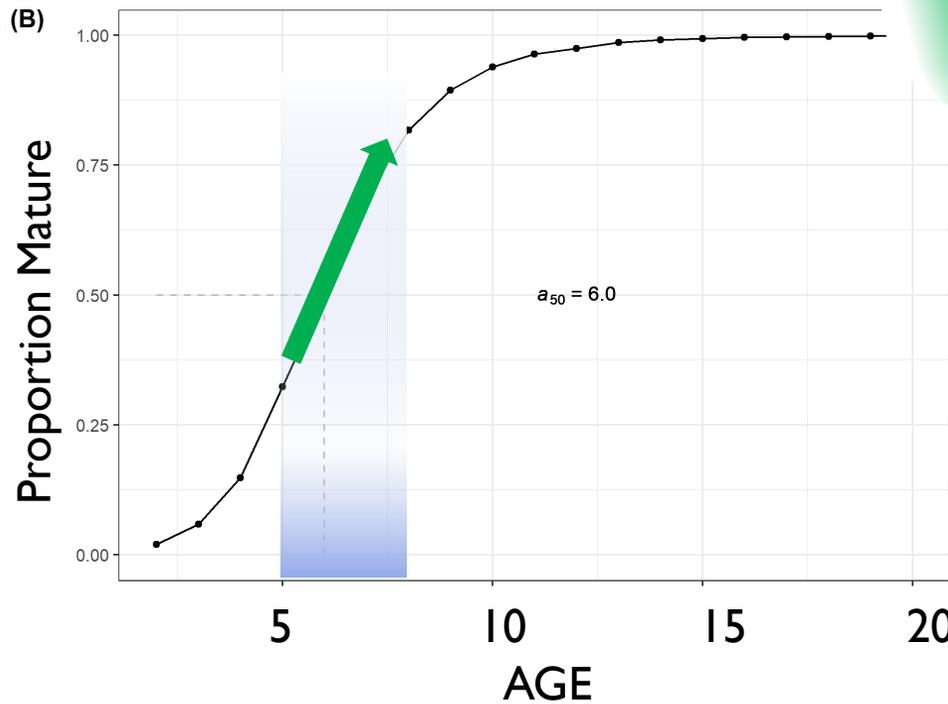


Ages and sizes



Still not done growing

Biomass and spawning stock still growing



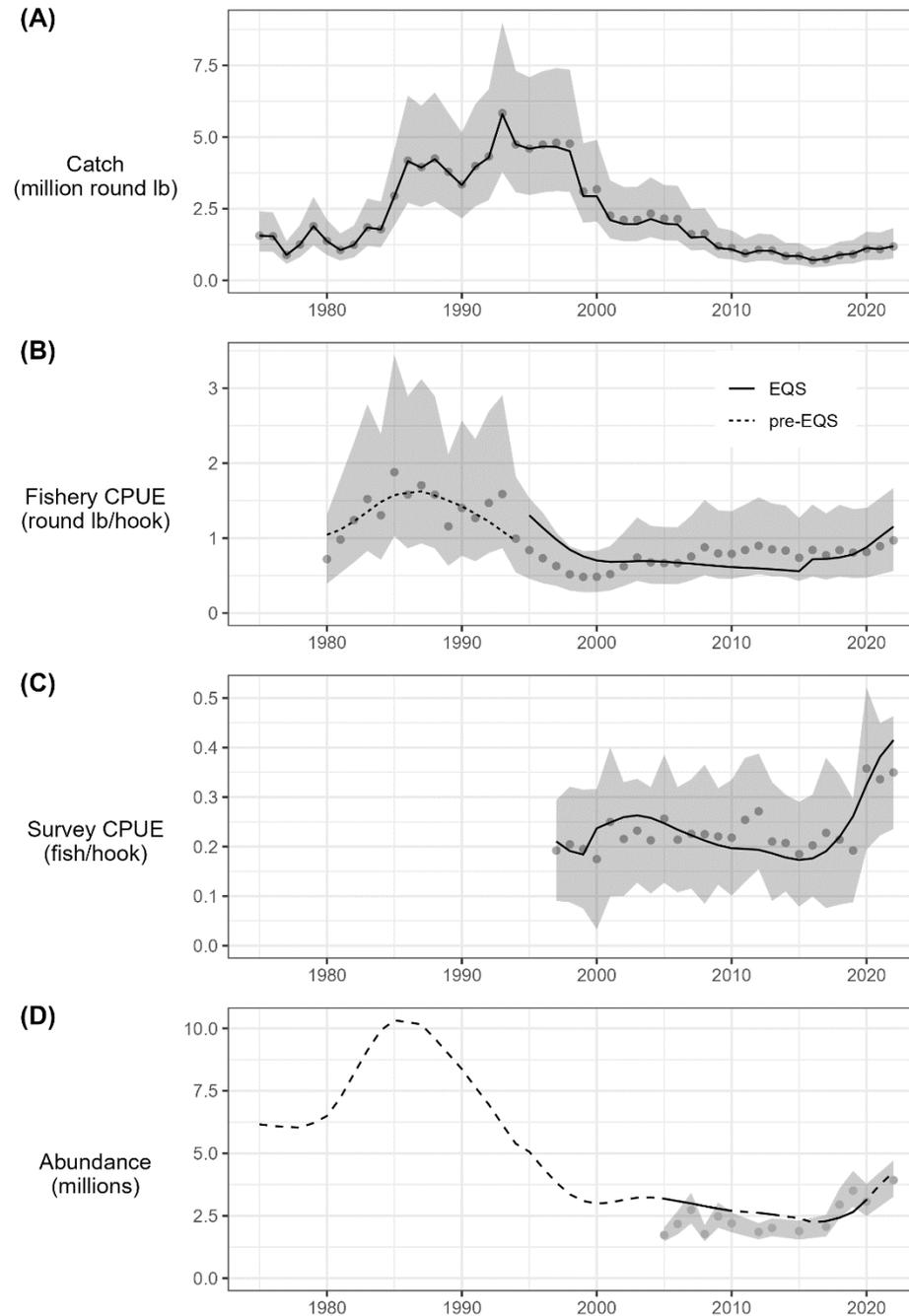
Still not fully mature

Assessment and management steps

New in 2022:

1. Fishery CPUE fully standardized
2. First year with pot fishery; no effect on model yet
3. Selectivity in the fishery updated using latest estimates from federal model
4. Survey selectivity now estimated within the model (no longer fixed to federal values)
5. Random effects on recruitment estimated within the model (no longer fixed to old federal estimate)
6. Data weighting adjusted to be in line with best practices

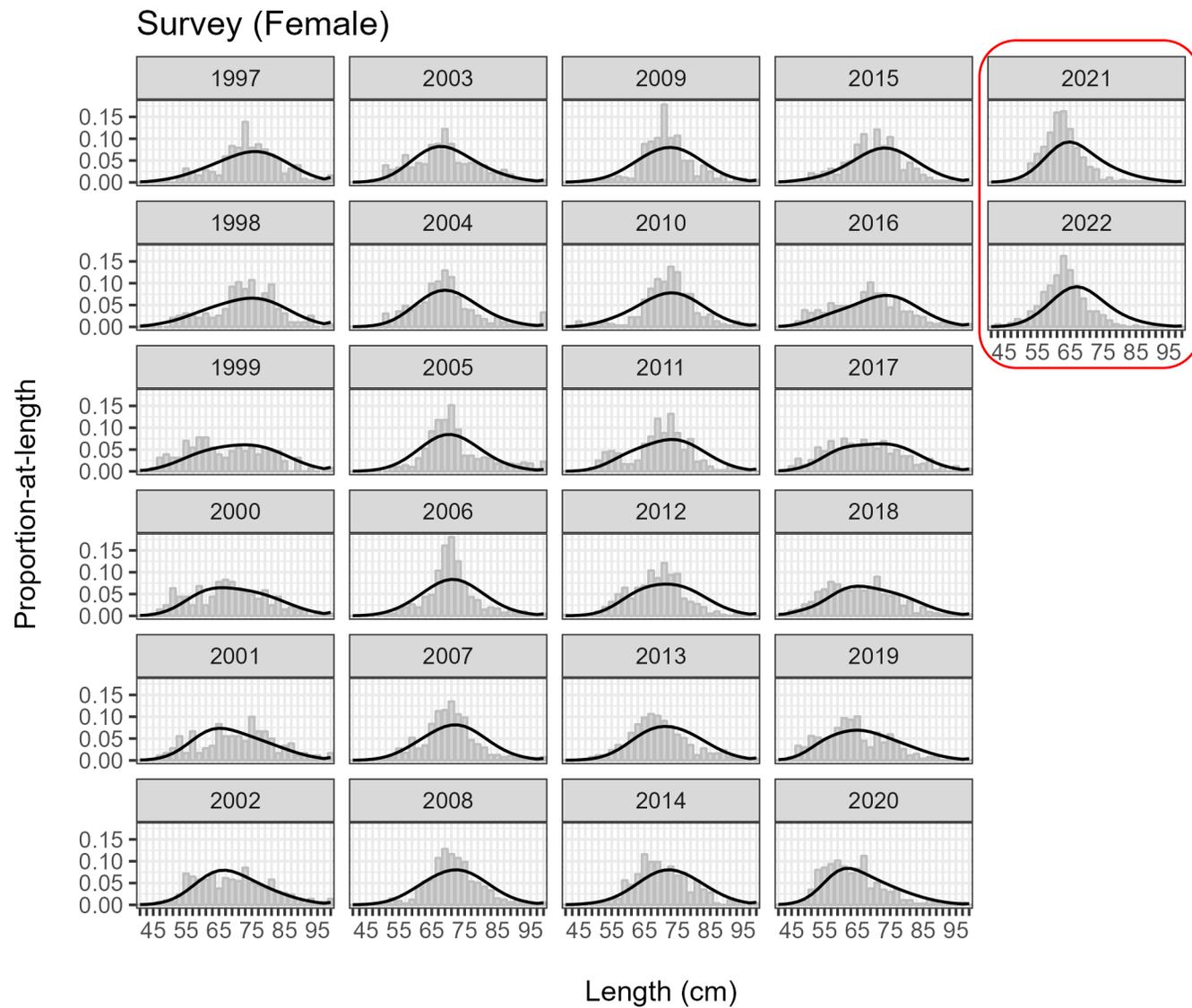
Model performance



- New data weighting increases importance of age and length data
- Model uses estimates of uncertainty in indices (not subjectively weighted)

Preliminary

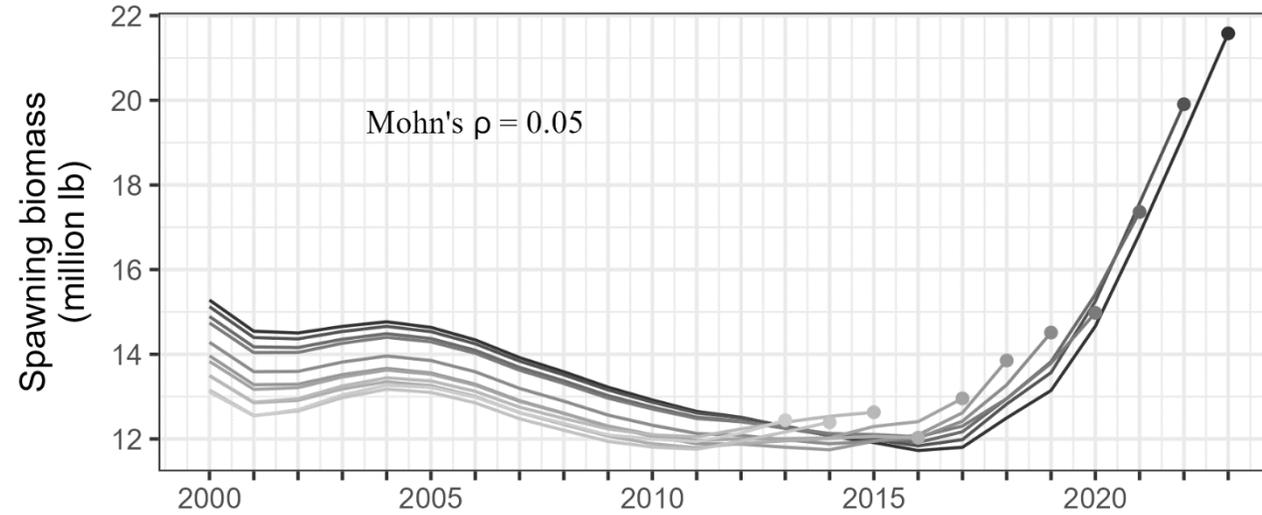
Model performance



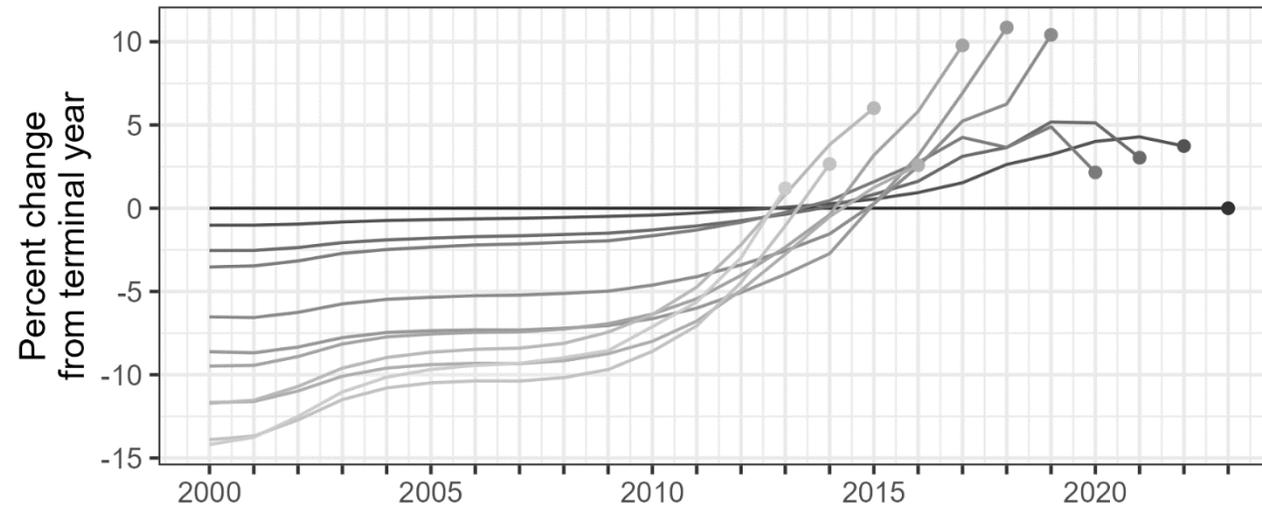
- Better fit to length composition data in fishery
- But less so in survey...

Retrospective

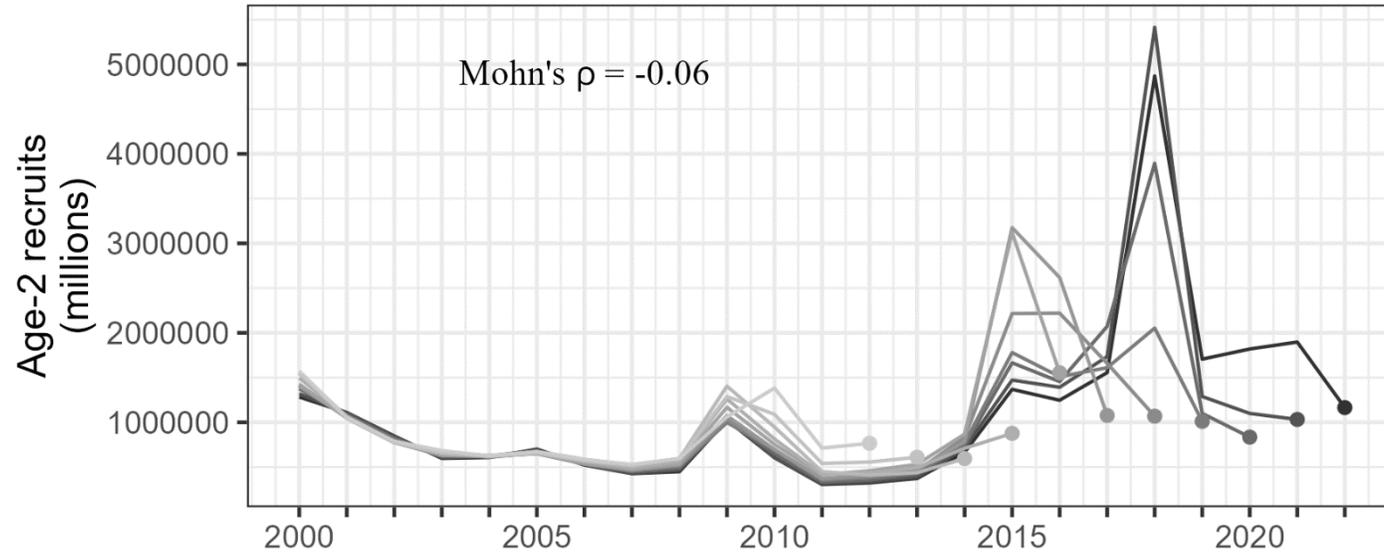
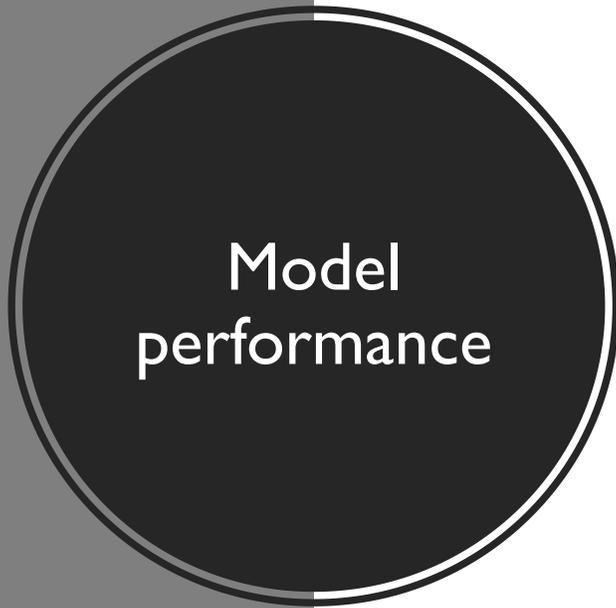
Model performance



Model slightly overestimates biomass

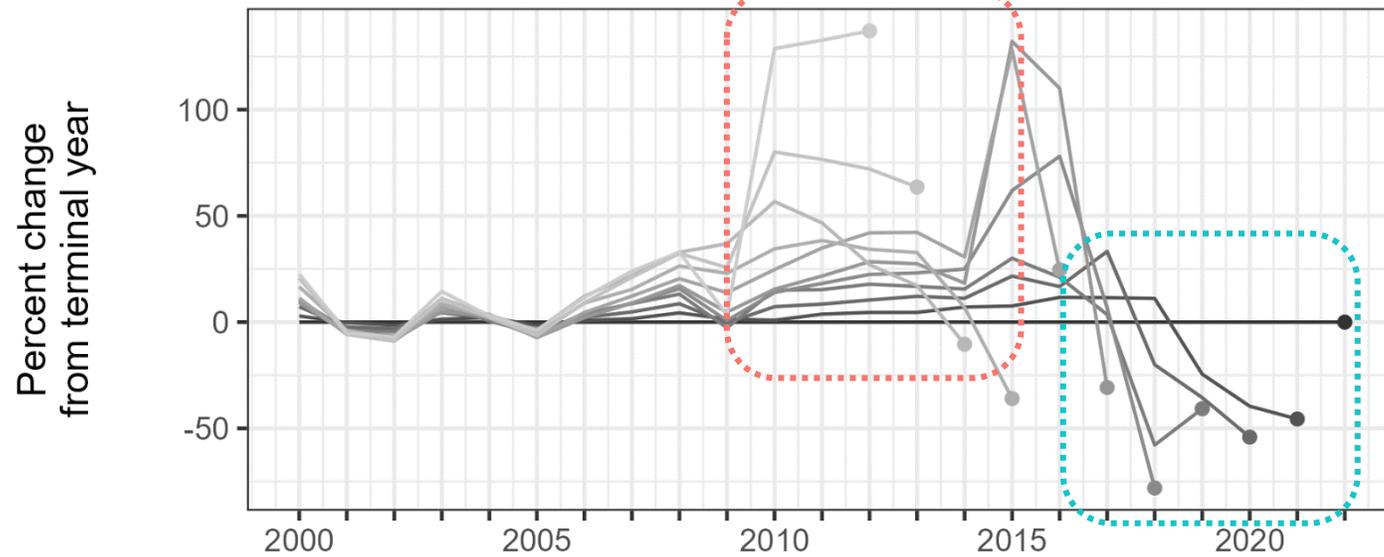


Retrospective



Model slightly underestimates recruitment on average

During low recruitment year model overestimates recruits



During high recruitment years model underestimates recruits

During low recruitment years model overestimates recruits

Assessment and management steps

To do list:

1. Adjust model so that fishery selectivity is estimated and not fixed to federal values
 - a. Will entail how releases are handled in the model
2. Monitoring pot fishery as it develops and adjust model when data become sufficient (likely several years away)



Decrements

1. Bycatch mortality in the IFQ halibut fishery
2. ADF&G longline survey removals
3. Recreational harvest (guided & unguided)
4. Subsistence and personal use harvest
5. Deadloss discard mortality (i.e. sandfleas, sharks, whales, etc.) in directed NSEI commercial fishery

2023 Annual Harvest Objective Next Steps

- Finalizing assessment and applying decrements to ABC to get AHO and EQS values
- Announcement out in early to mid-June

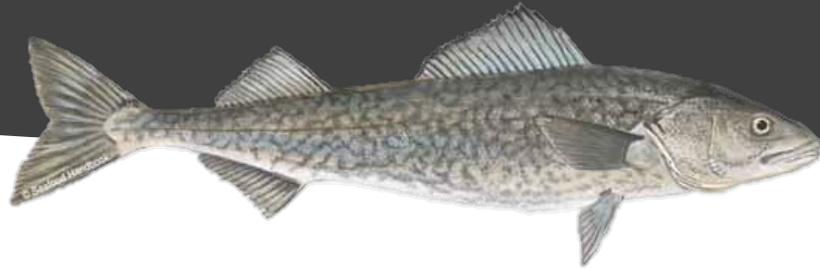


Question and Answer



Please ask your questions or type them in the chat for discussion.

SSEI Sablefish fishery and survey data review



Sablefish Industry Meeting

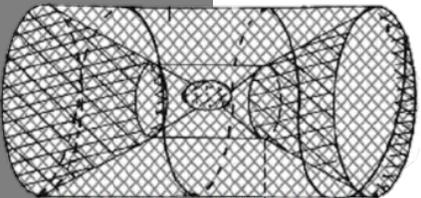
April 28, 2023

Rhea Ehresmann

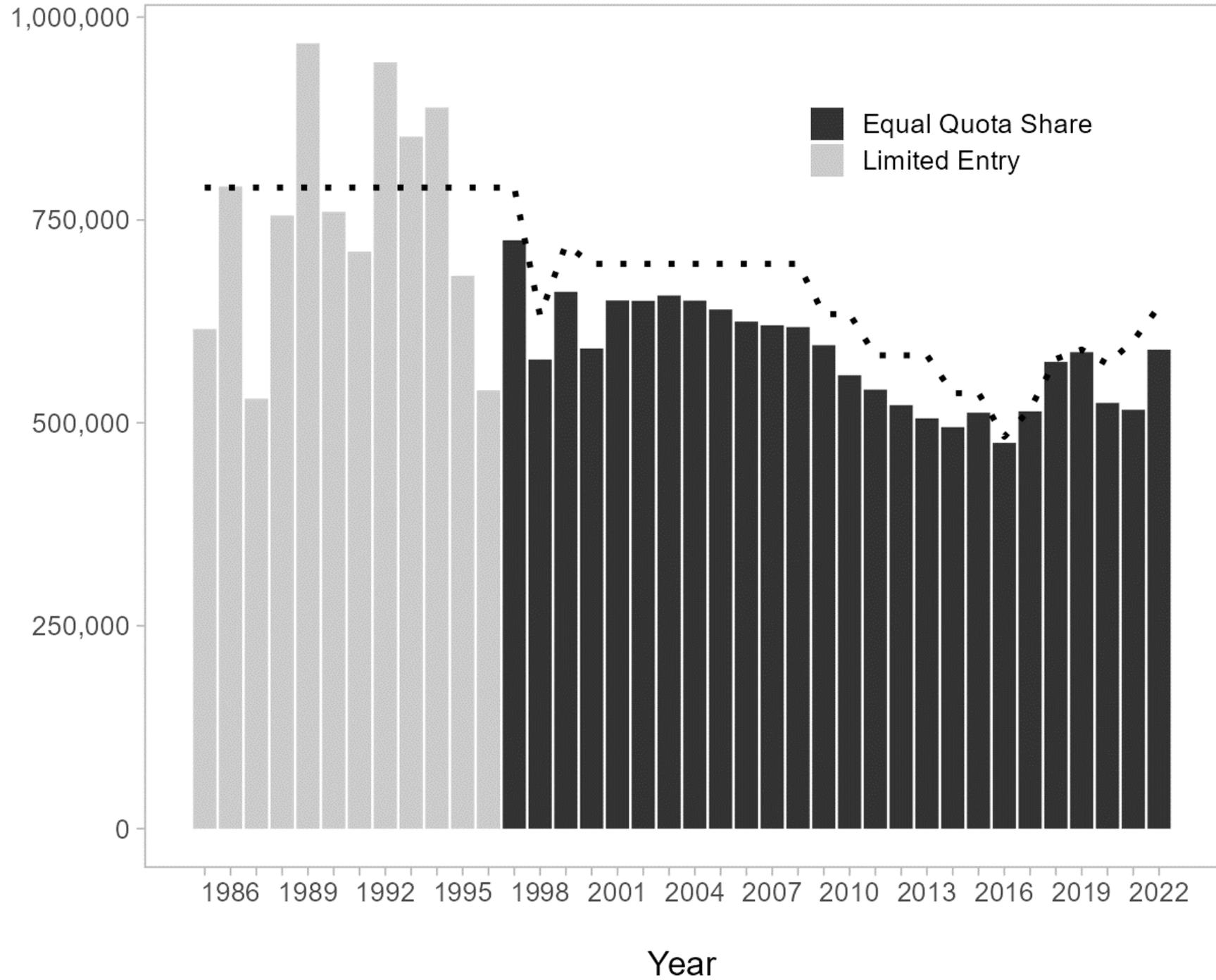
Phil Joy

Andrew Olson

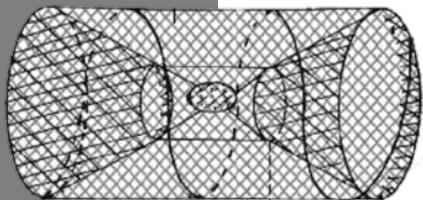
Fishery Harvest



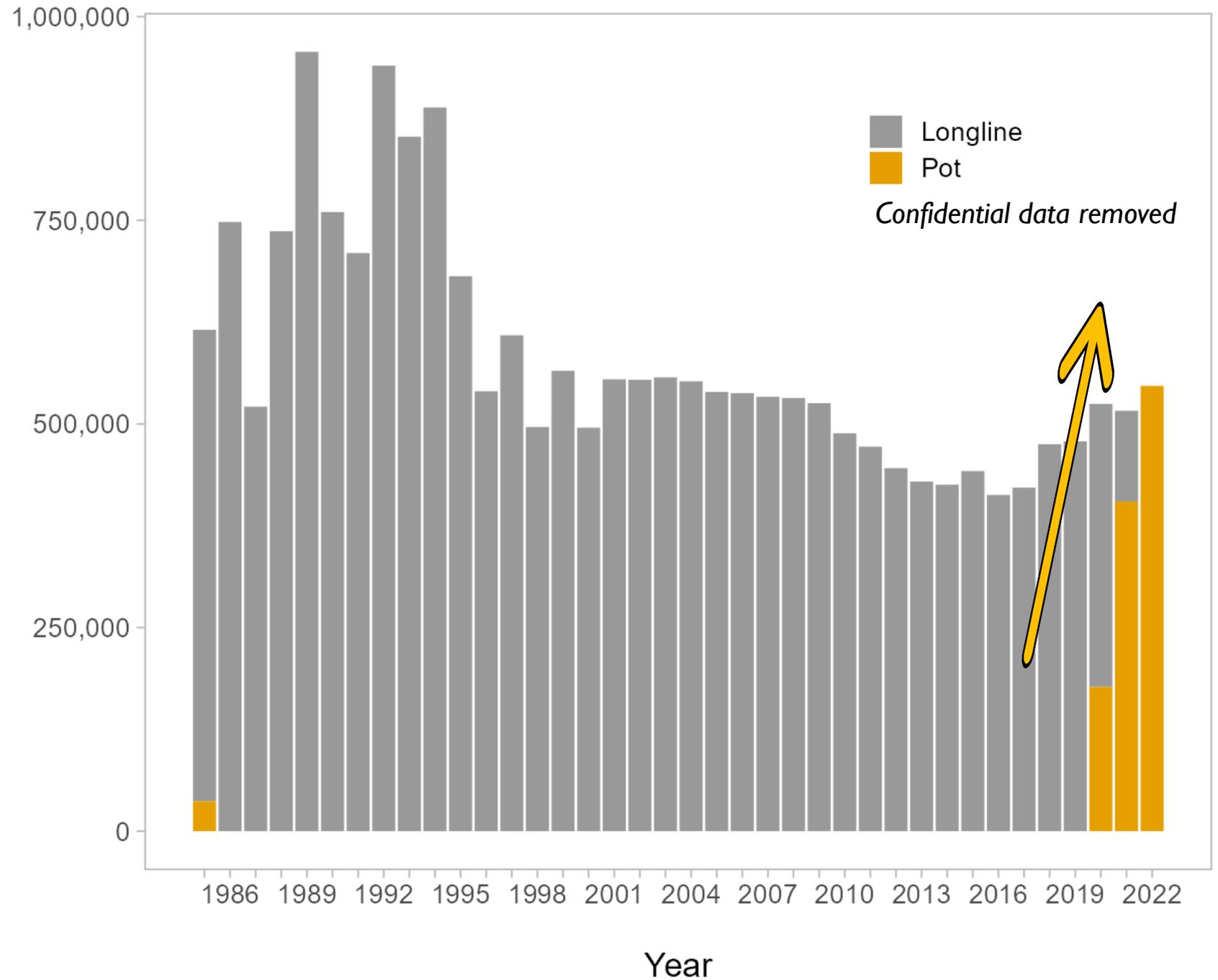
Harvest (round lbs)



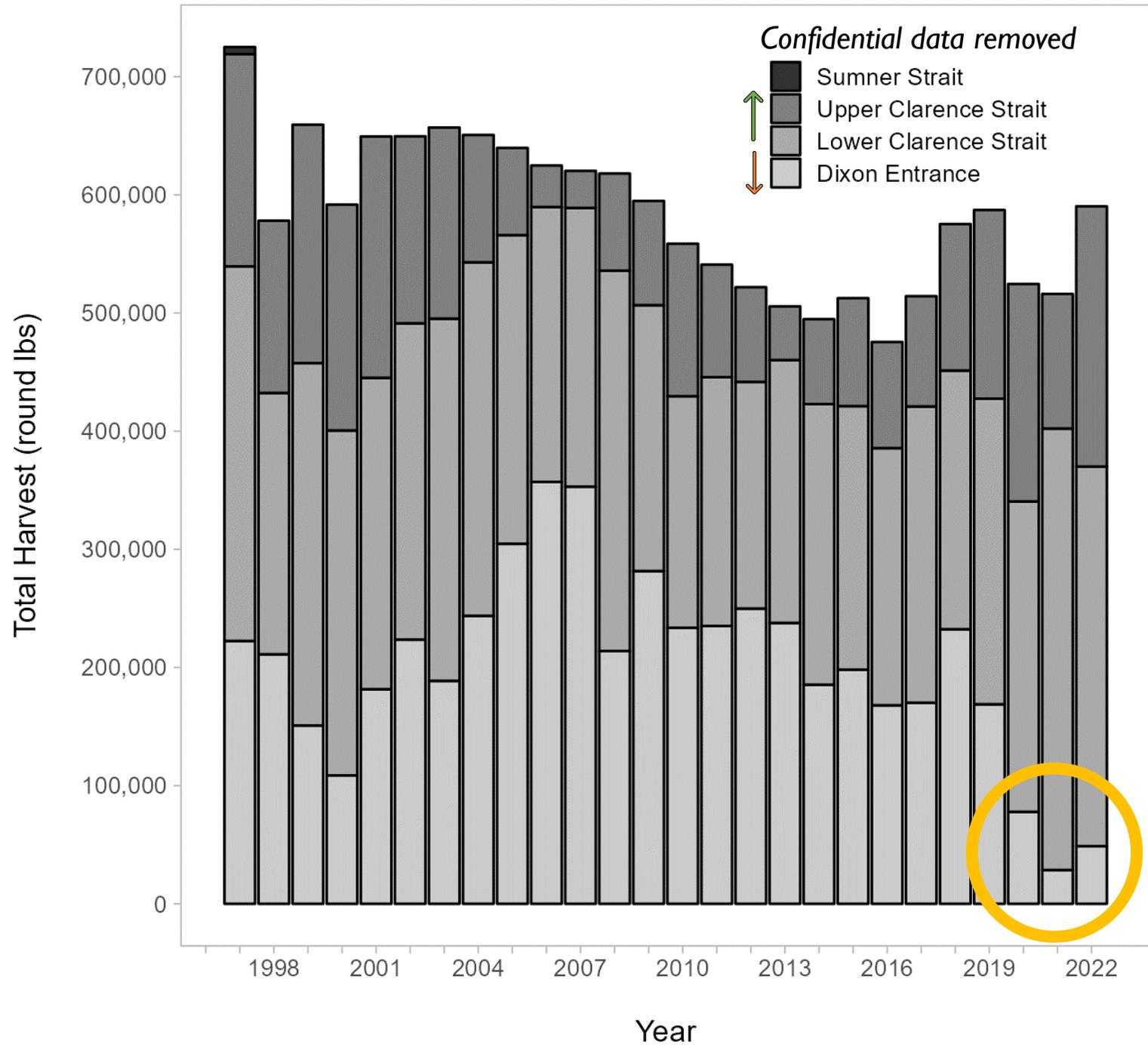
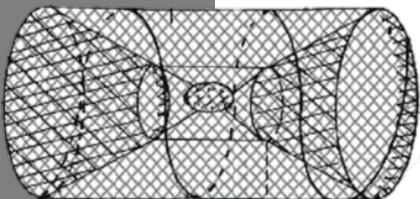
Fishery Harvest by Gear Type



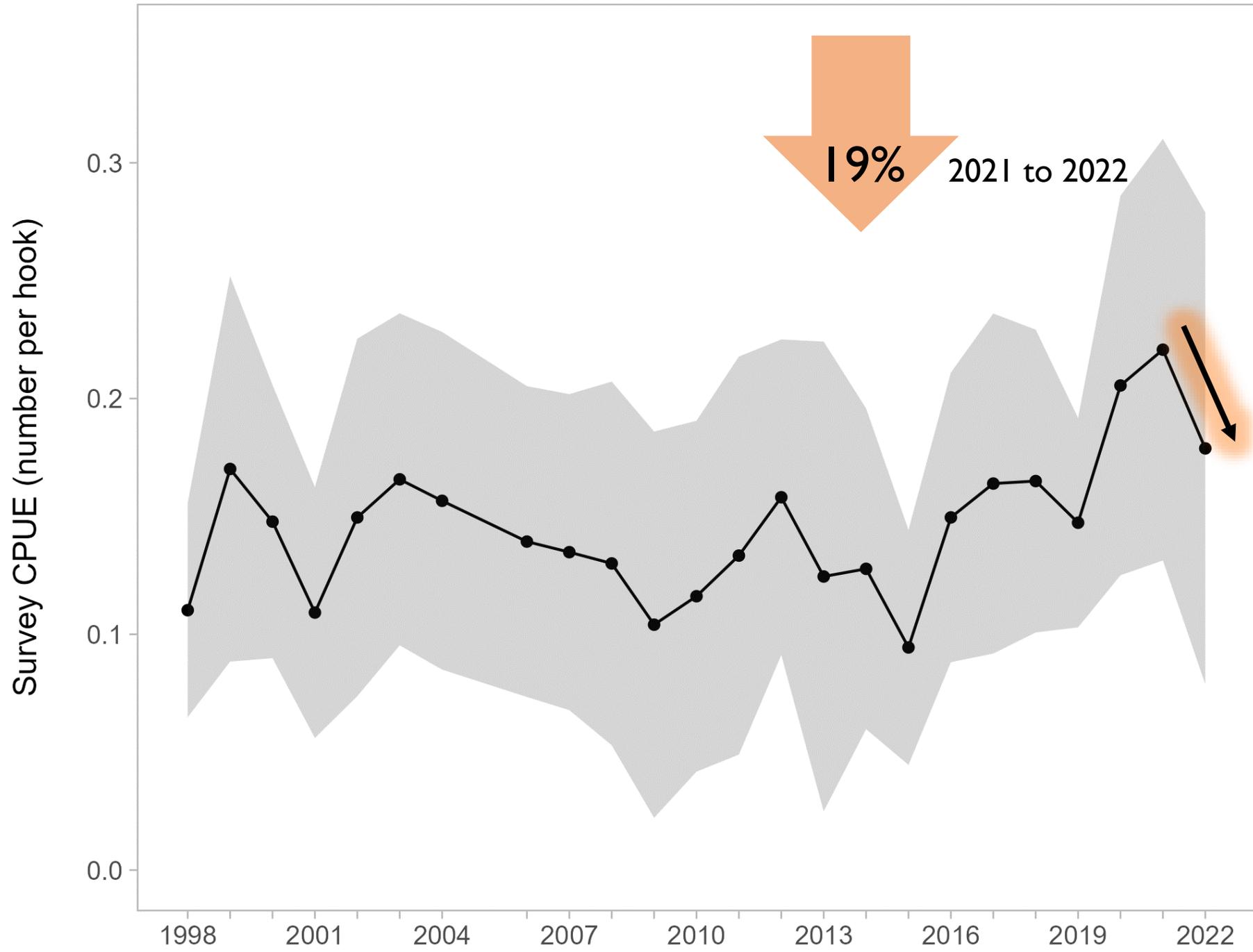
Harvest (round lbs)



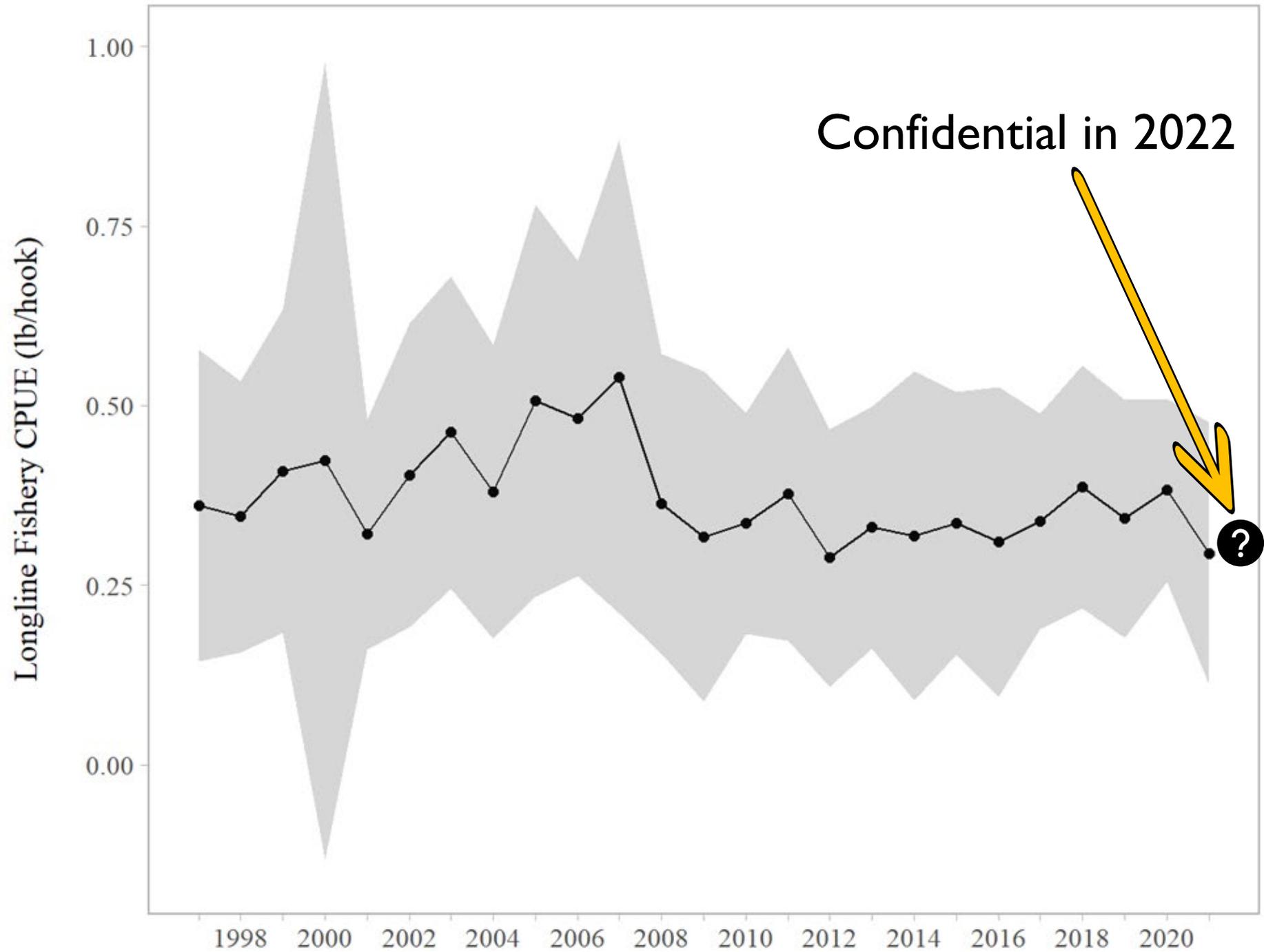
Fishery Distribution



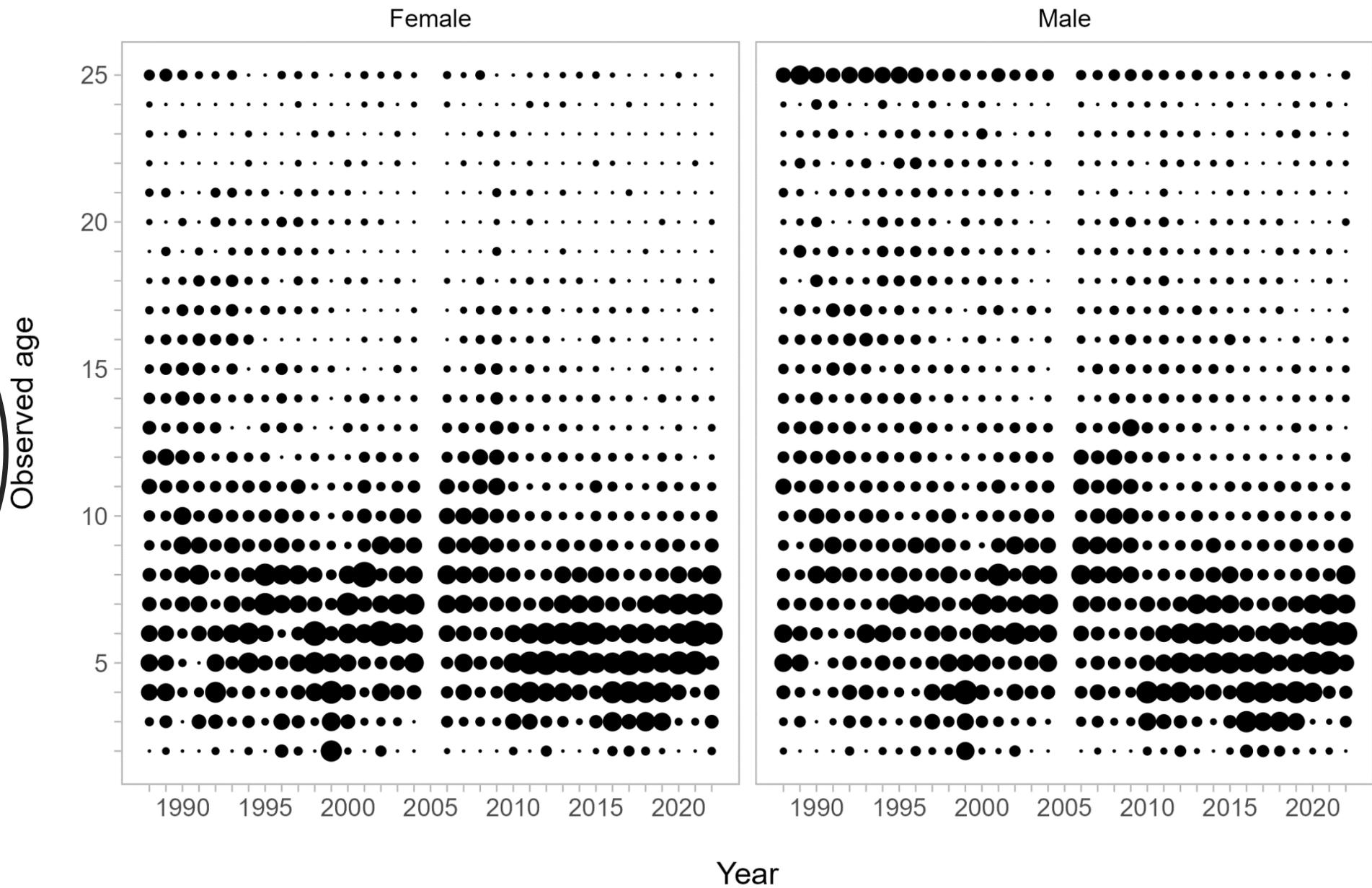
Longline Survey Performance



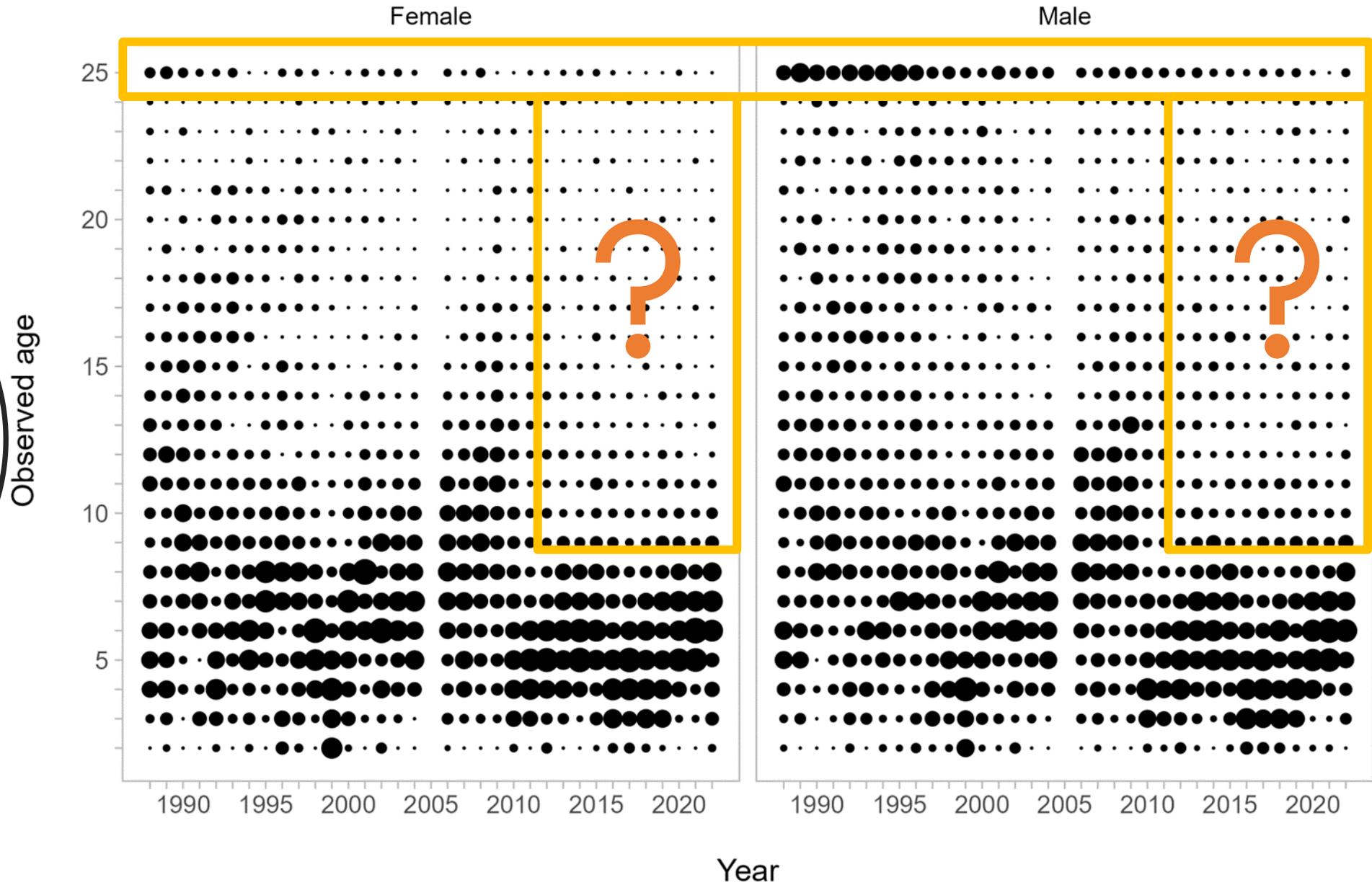
Longline Fishery Performance



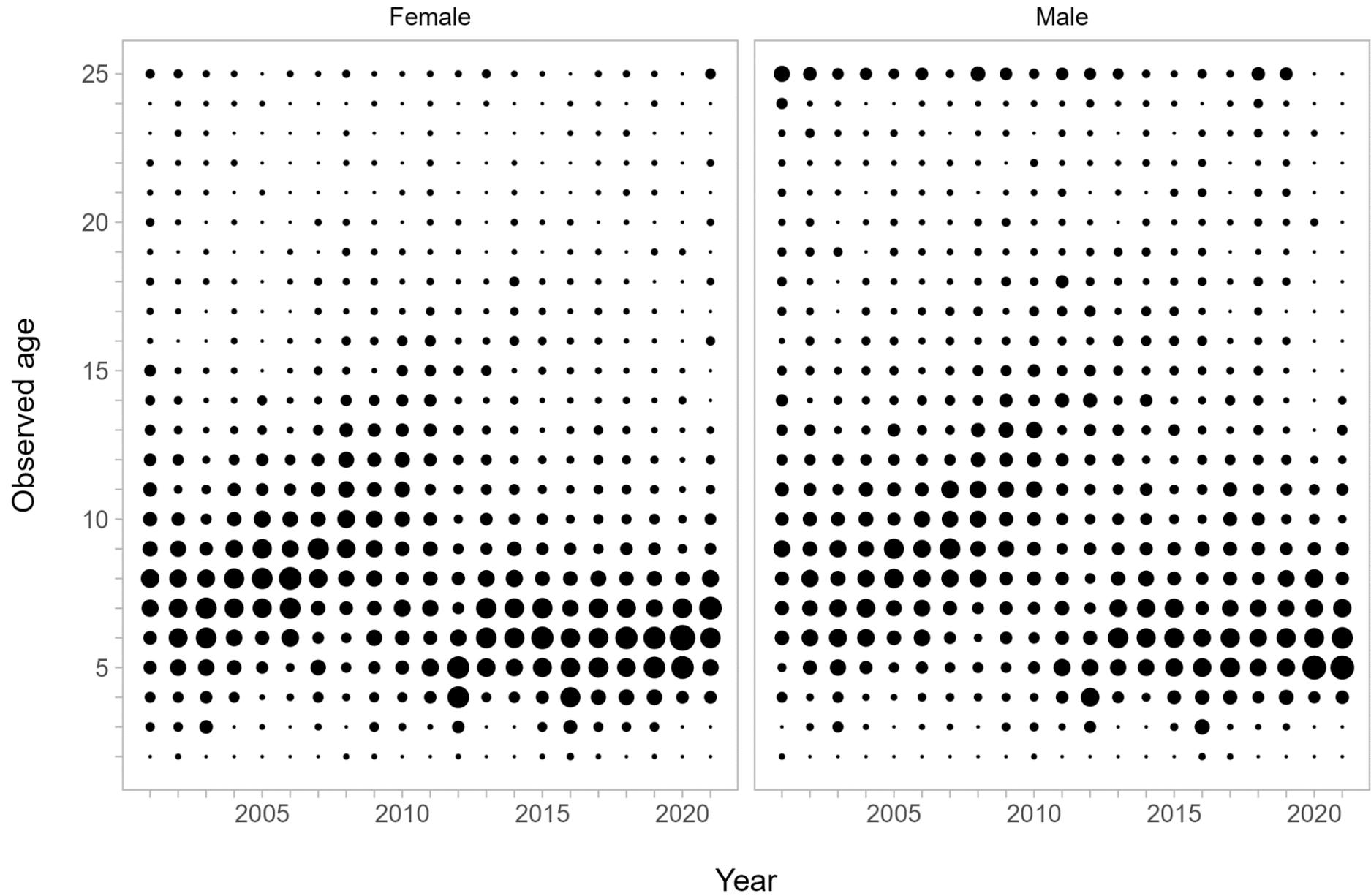
Longline Survey Age Structure



Longline Survey Age Structure

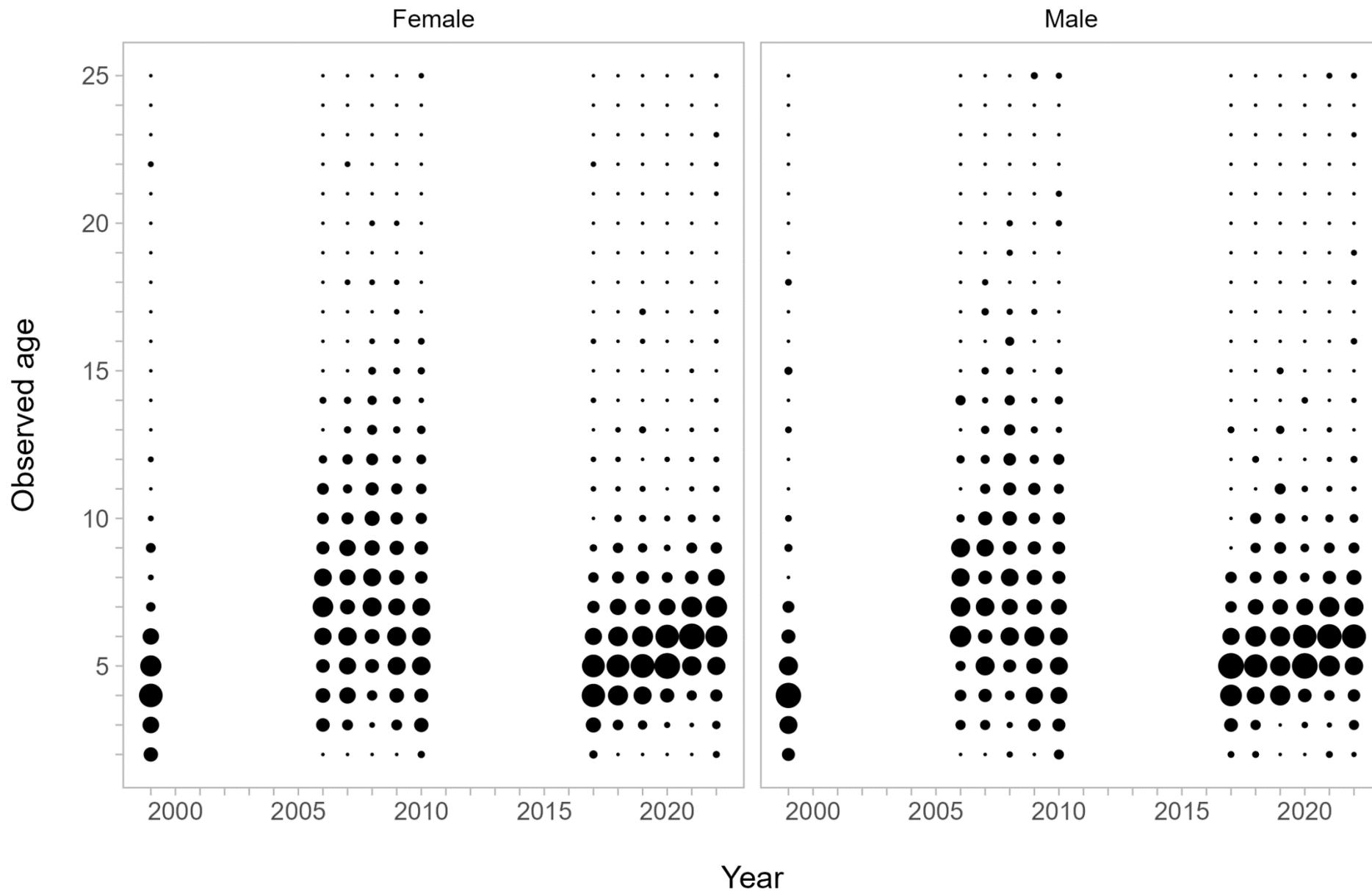
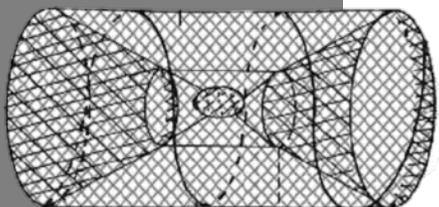


Longline Fishery Age Structure



X *No 2022 samples due to very few longline trips!*

Pot Fishery Age Structure





2023 SSEI Pot vs Longline Survey Comparison

Objectives:

- Compare catch rates, species composition, and length compositions between standard longline survey hook-and-line and longline slinky pot gear.
- Compare small vs large slinky pots for CPUE and length composition.
- Tag sablefish throughout Clarence Strait and Dixon Entrance.



2023 SSEI Pot vs Longline Survey Comparison

Two chartered longline vessels will fish a total of 29 longline sets

- 3 sets/day
- 25 skates per set (45 hooks per skate)
- Soak time 3-11 hours

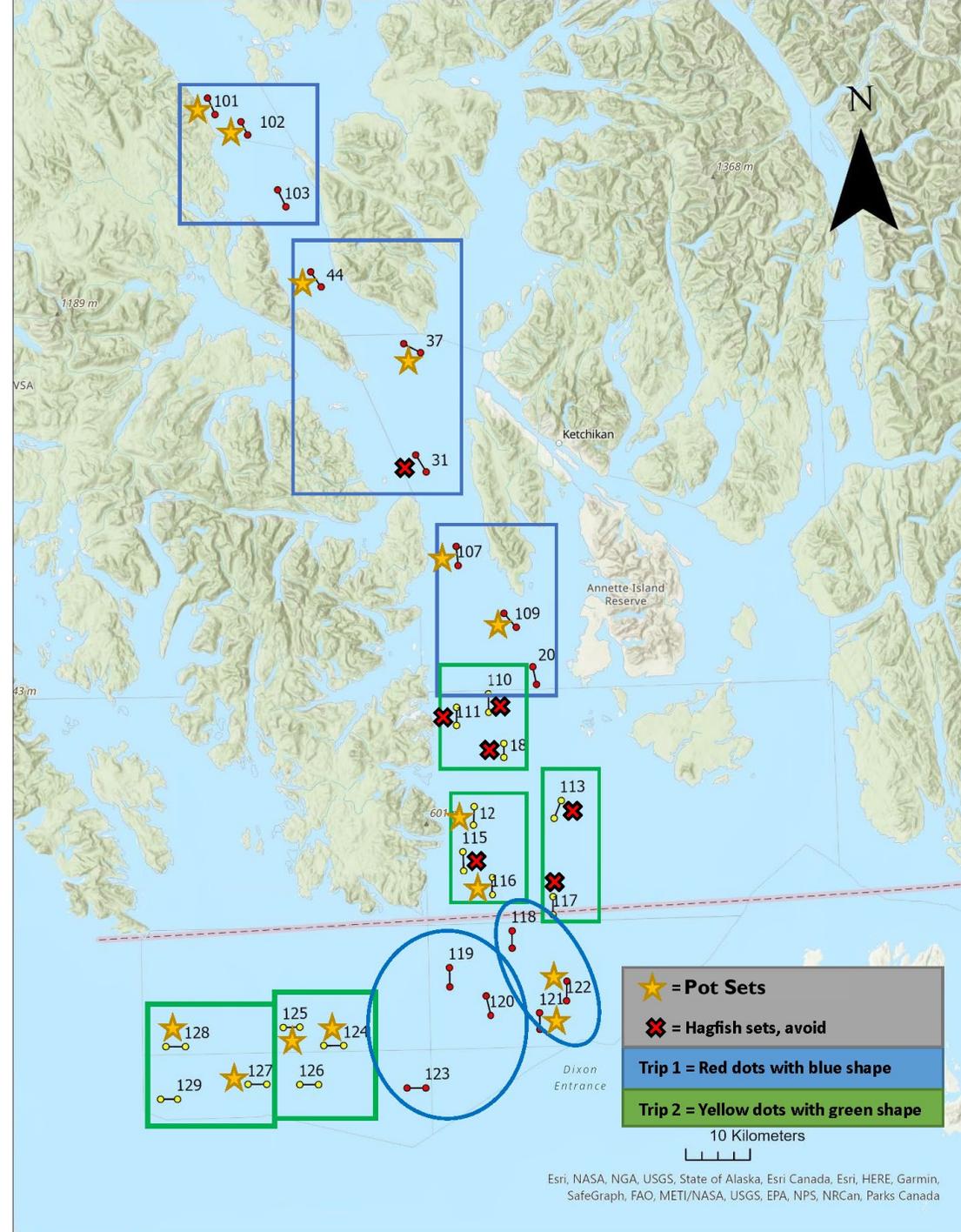
One chartered pot vessel will fish a total of 14 pot sets

- 2 sets/day
- 40 slinky pots per set (20 small, 20 large alternating)
- Pot spacing 30 fathoms
- Soak time ~8 hours

2023 SSEI Pot vs Longline Survey Comparison

Methods:

- Set gear at approximately the same time for each set.
- Similar depths and habitats
- ~ 1nm apart



SSEI Permit Holders!

Please keep an eye out for tagged fish this season:

- Record tag #s caught by set on your logbook
- Tape tags to your logbook or put in Ziploc bag and submit with your logbook
- One t-shirt reward per ADF&G tag recovered!



Set Number	Tag Number	Set Number	Tag Number	Set Number	Tag Number
1	104296				
1	103250				
1	074744				
2	114041				
2	0261036				
3	115638				
3	066582				
4	112369				
4	104051				
4	084913				
4	116408				
4	075153				



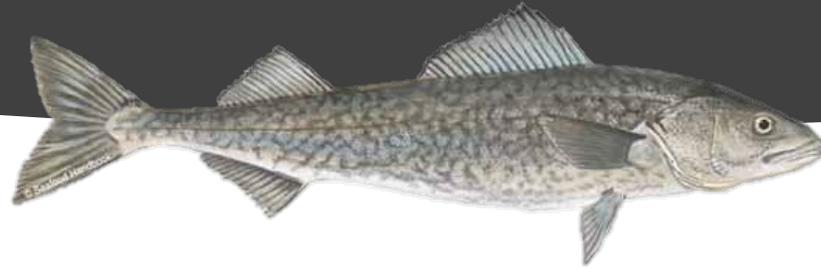
2023 Annual Harvest Objective Outlook

Still finalizing assessment

Complicated due to rapid change from predominantly longline gear to pot gear

AA released in next 7-10 days; PQS forms and registration packets May 12th

Question and Answer



Please ask your questions or type them in the chat for discussion.



2023 Board of Fisheries Statewide Finfish

- **Proposal 153:** define escape mechanisms for collapsible “slinky” groundfish pots
 - RC051
 - Slinky pots must have two escape openings on opposite sides of the pot (5 AAC 39.145 (5))
 - Gear marking for longlined pot gear must have “LP” on buoy (5 AAC 28.050 (b)(1) & (2))
 - When groundfish pot limits are in effect pot tags are required (5 AAC 28.050 (f)(1)(A) & (B))

Meeting info: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=03-10-2023&meeting=anchorage>



Acknowledgements

Thank you to:

- Groundfish Project Staff
- Survey vessel crews who participated in our 2022 sablefish surveys
 - F/V Providence
 - F/V Viking Maid
 - F/V Ilona B
 - F/V Ida June
 - F/V Janis M
 - R/V Medeia
- Processors
- NOAA scientists
- Matt Cheng UAF

See you next year!

