

Kodiak Management Area Herring Fisheries



By Brad Fuerst

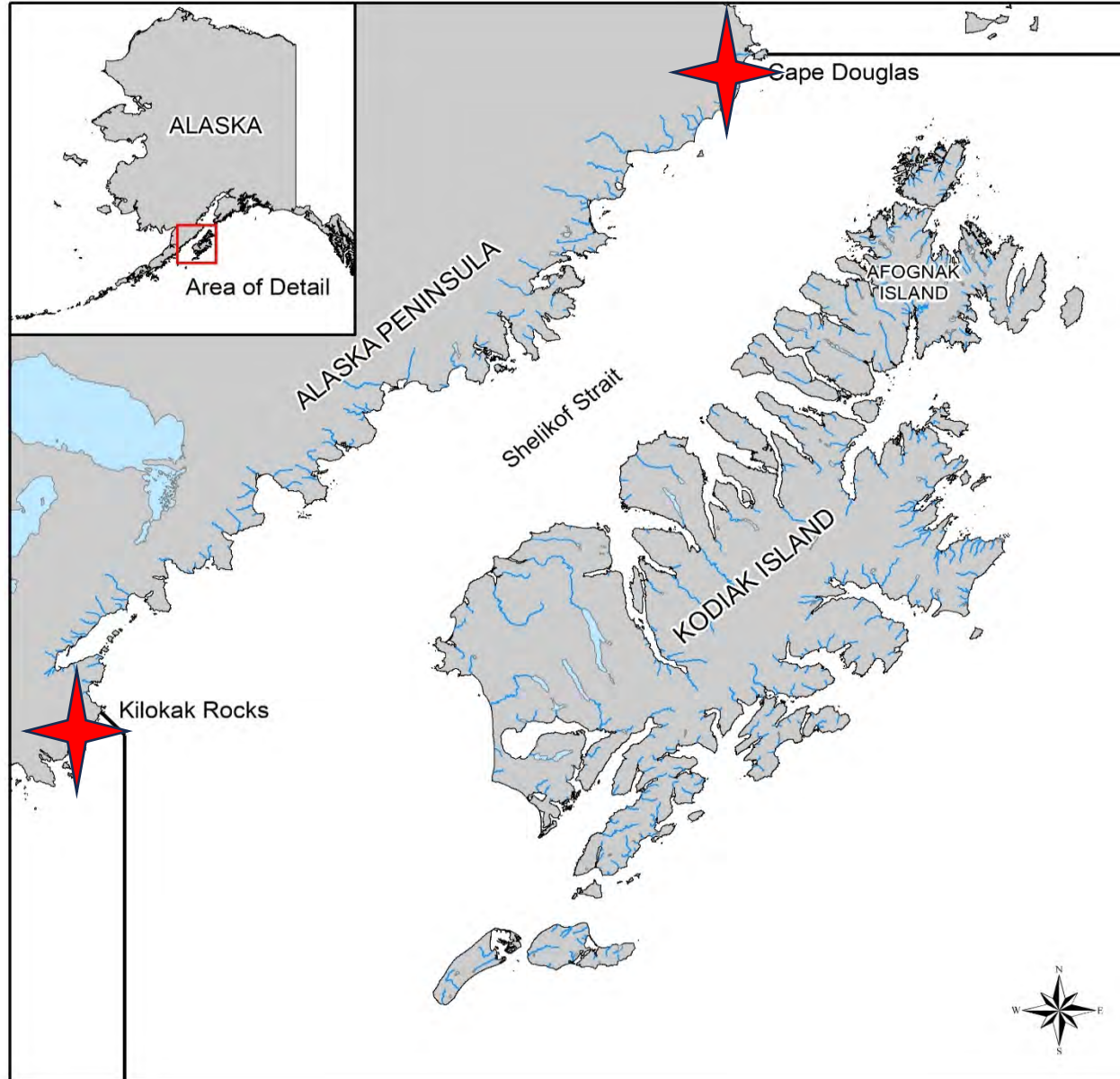
Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries
January 2024

Oral Report: RC 3; Tab 6

Topics to be covered

- 1) Description of the Kodiak Management Area
- 2) Summary of commercial herring fisheries
 - Sac Roe fishery
 - Food and Bait fishery
- 3) Board of Fisheries herring proposals
 - Proposal 56
 - Proposal 57

Kodiak Management Area



Stock Status

Increasing biomass

Age Classes – 48% age-7
34% age-4

Sac Roe Fishery

Season: April 1 to June 30

Gear: Purse seines and
gillnets



Sac Roe Fishery Harvest Strategy

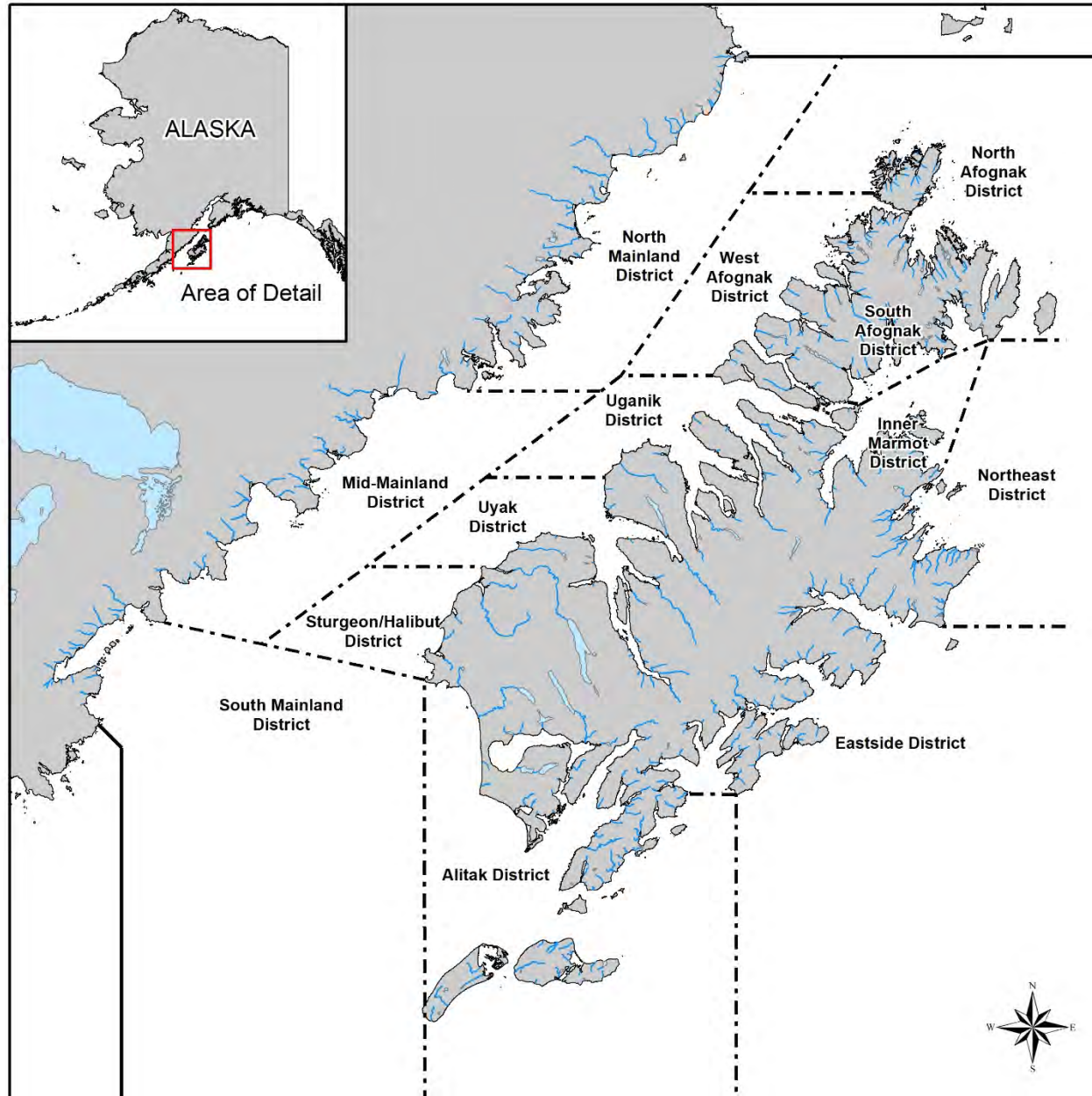
Old Strategy (2000–2019) :

- April 15 to June 30
- Purse Seine ~ 75% of GHL
- Gillnet ~ 25% of GHL
- Areas separated by gear type

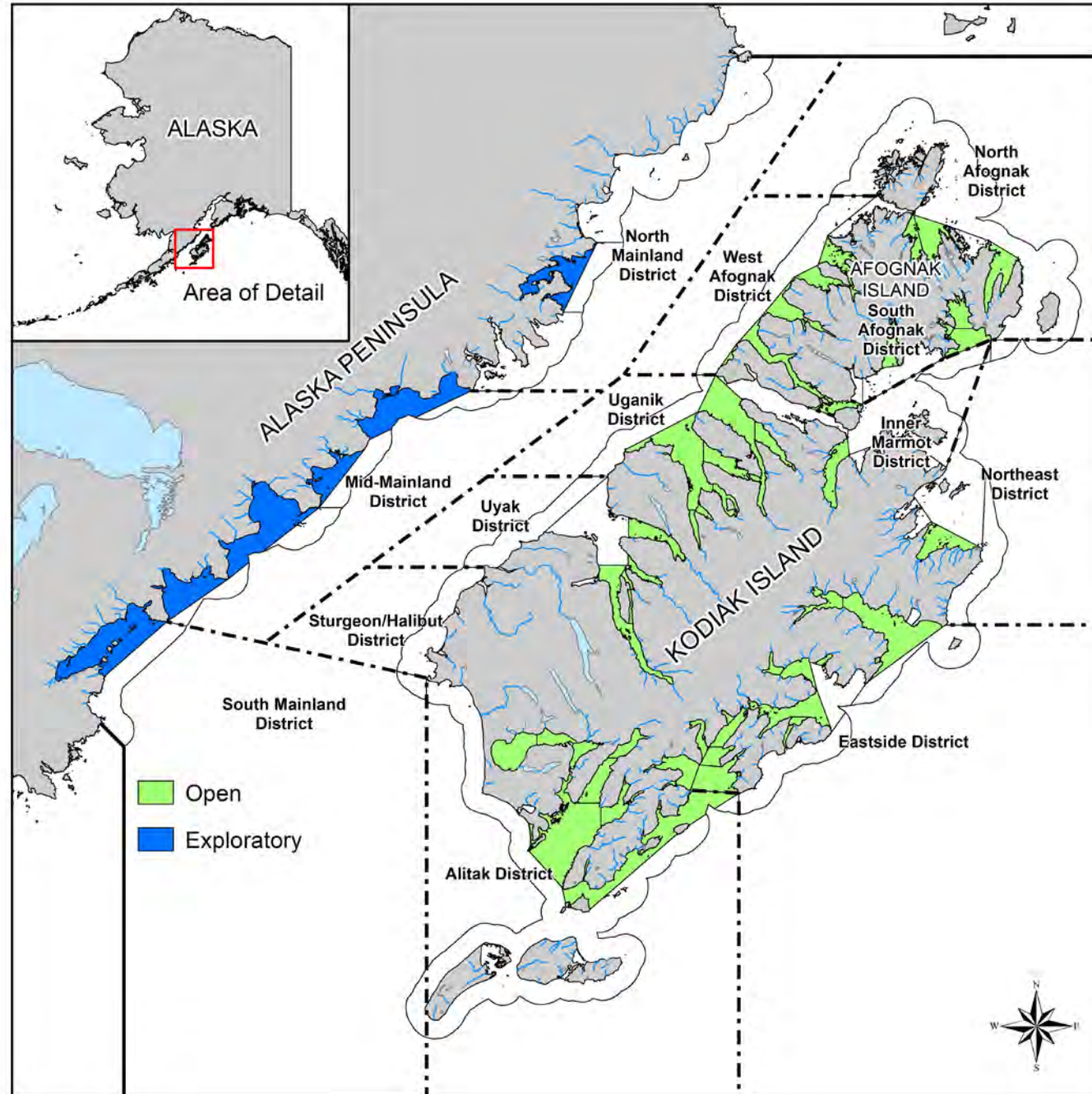
New Strategy (since 2020) :

- April 1 to June 30
- Gear-type GHL allocations removed
- All areas open to both gear types on alternating days

Herring Districts



2023 Open Sections



Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs)

Age compositions

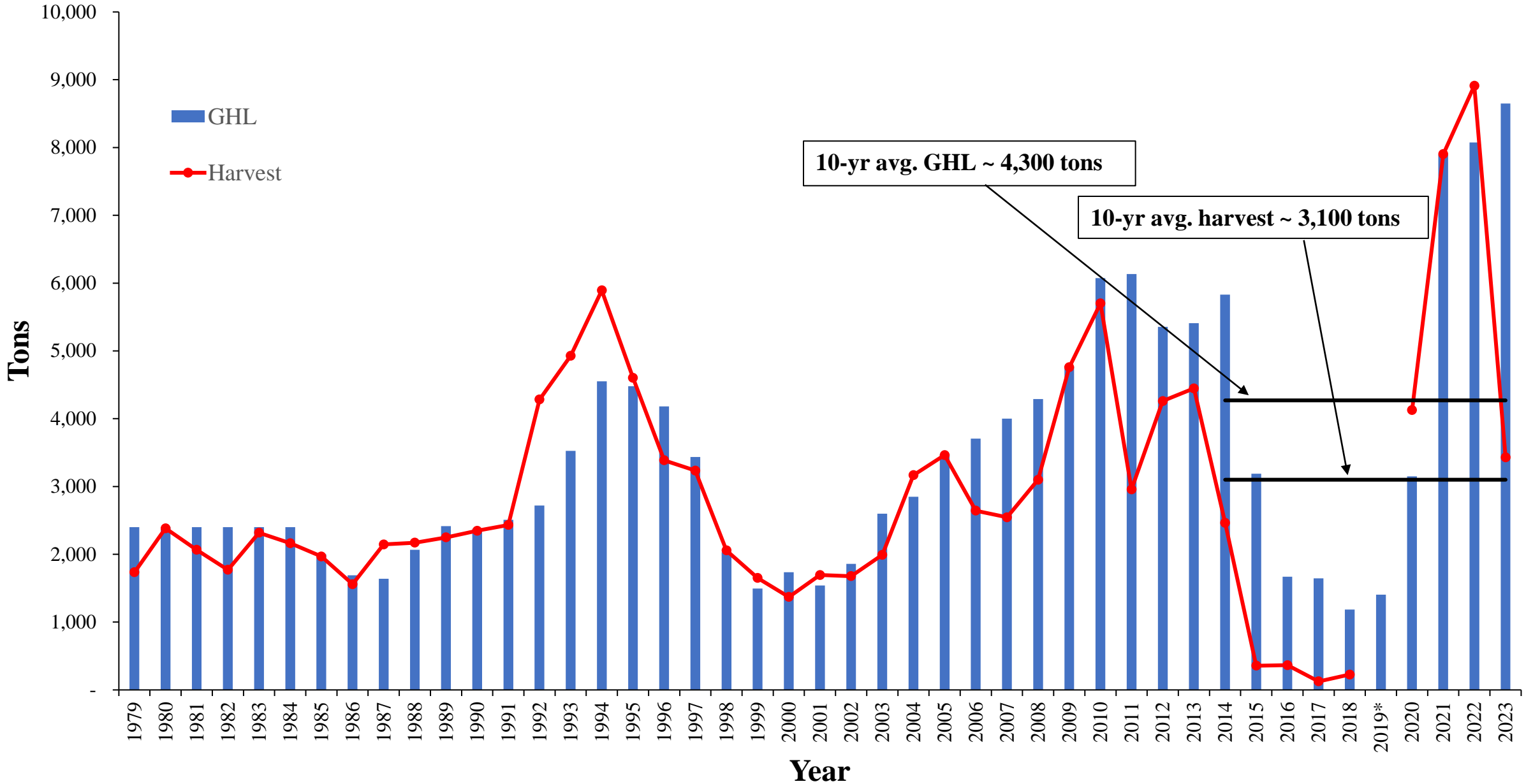
Biomass observations

- Aerial surveys
- Hydroacoustic surveys

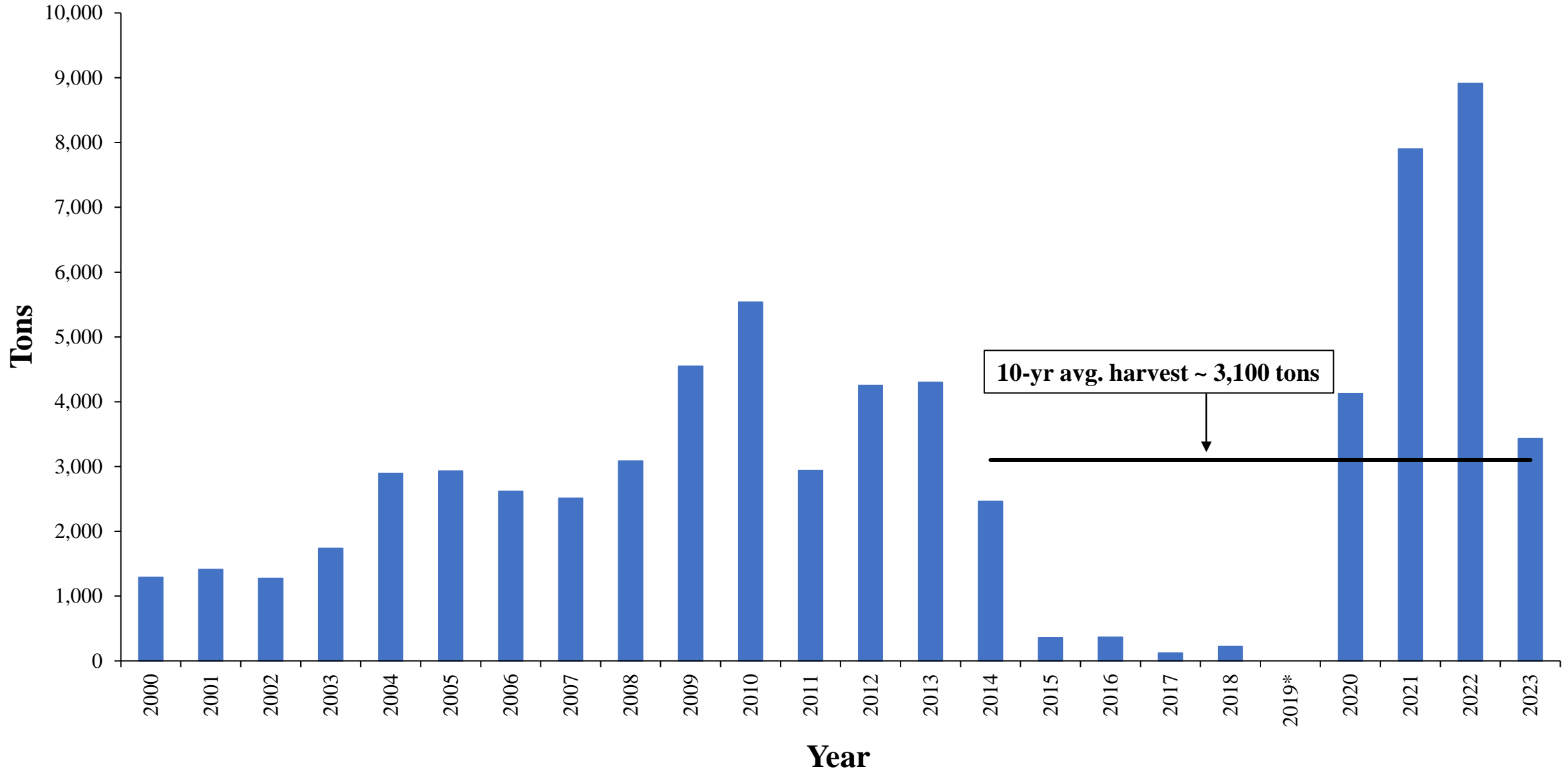
Fishery performance



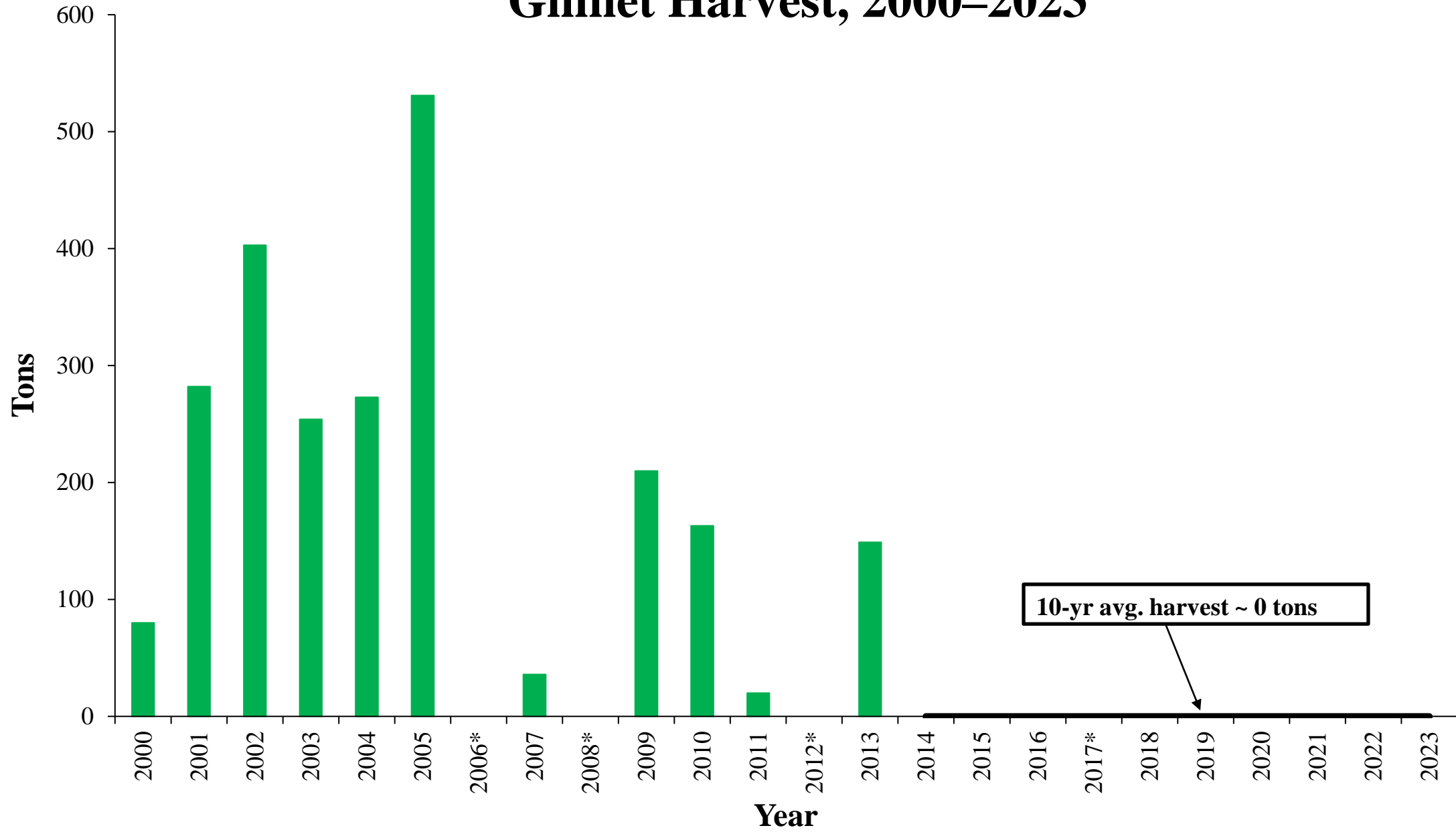
GHLs vs. Harvests, 1979–2023



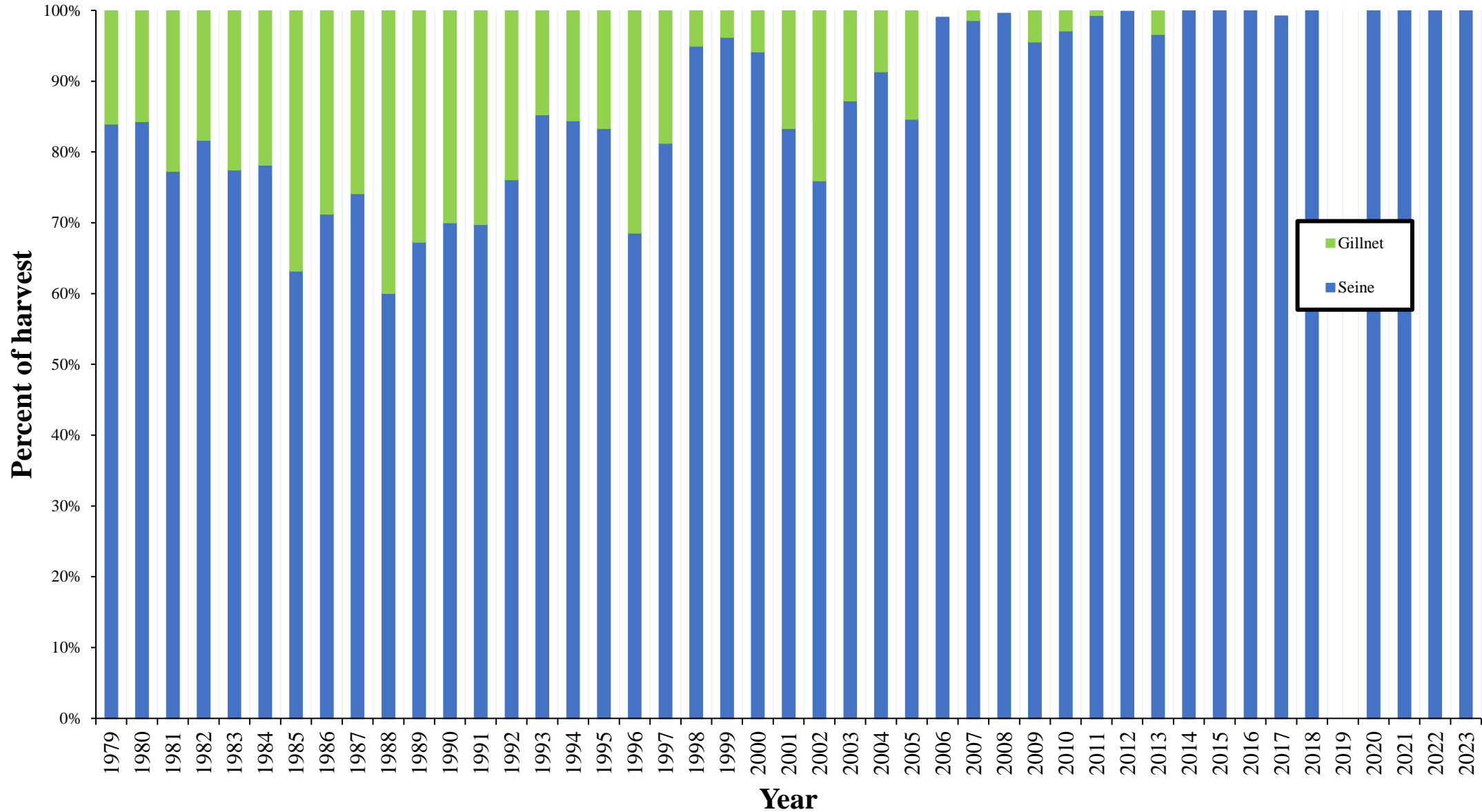
Purse Seine Harvest, 2000–2023



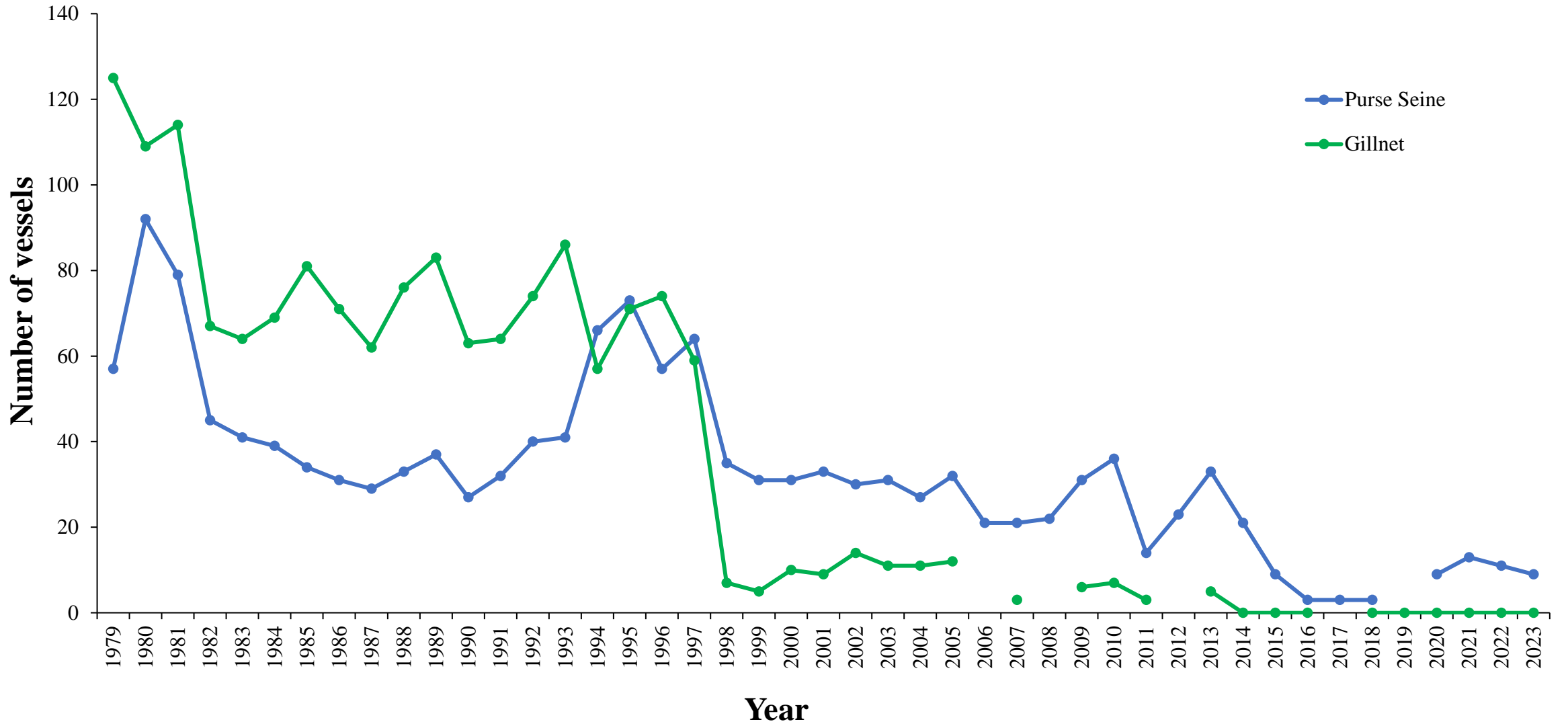
Gillnet Harvest, 2000–2023



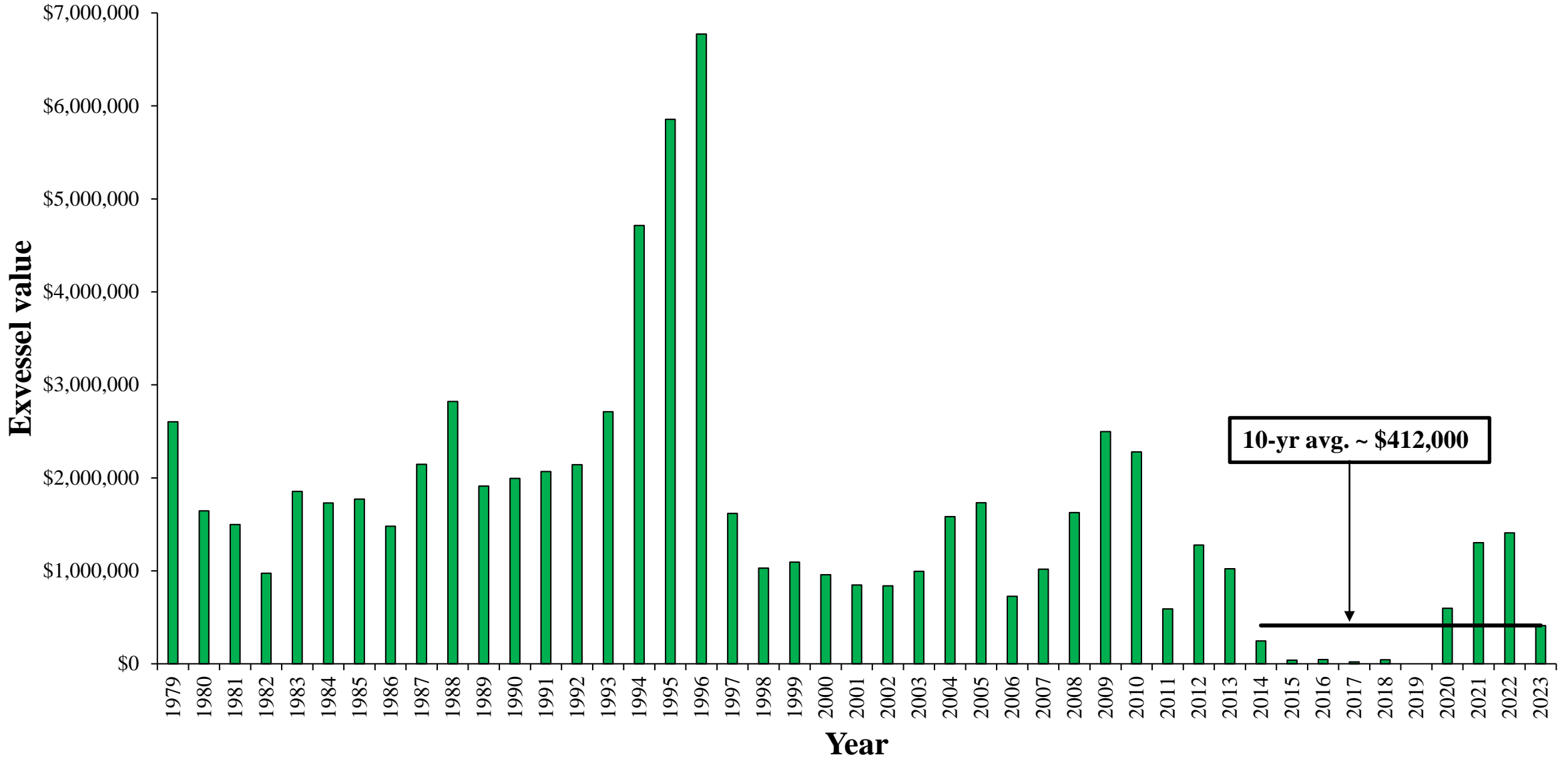
Percentage of Harvest by Gear Type



Participation by Gear Type, 1979–2023



Exvessel Value, 1979–2023



Kodiak Herring Food and Bait Fishery

Season: September 1–February 28

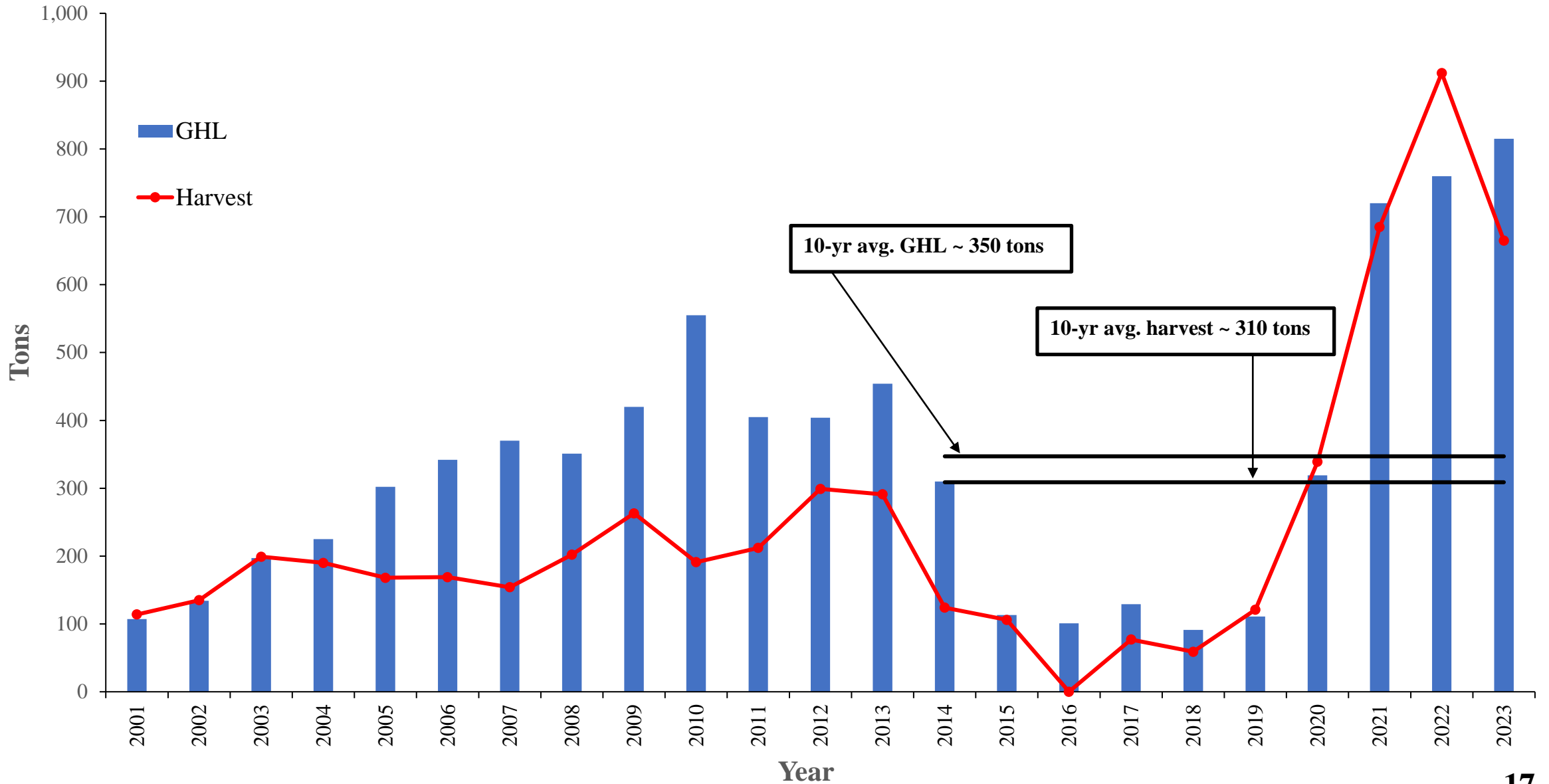
Gear: 5 purse seine/gillnet permits
4 trawl permits

Combine fisheries since 2001
1 purse seine vessel

GHLs based on sac roe GHLs



Food and Bait GHLs vs Harvests, 2001–2023



2024 Herring Proposals

Proposal 56 – add additional fishing time for purse seiners in the sac roe fishery

Proposal 57 – change the sac roe fishery to allow sac roe permit holders to fish in the fall





Questions