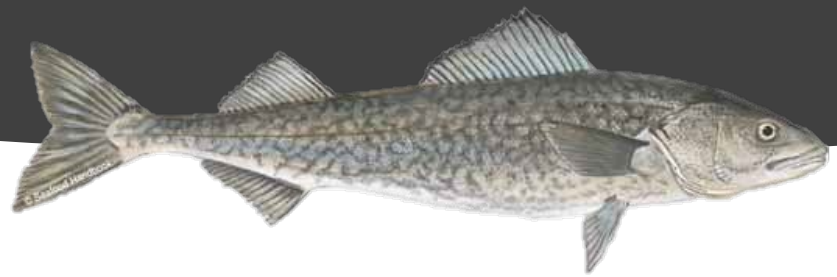
2025 Sablefish Industry Meeting



Welcome!

Sablefish Industry Meeting

April 23, 2025

Introduction

<u>ADF&G Staff:</u>

Rhea Ehresmann

Spencer Weinstein

Alex Reich

Caitlin Stern

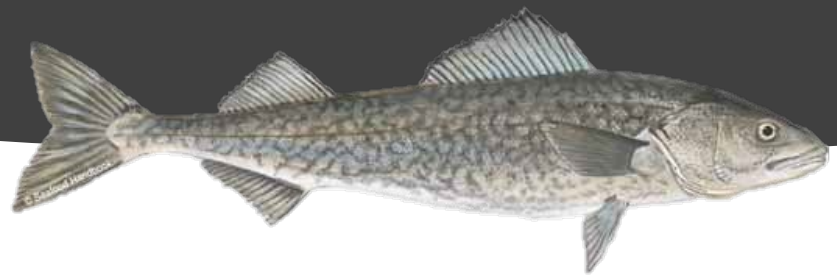
Laura Coleman

Jan Rumble

<u>NOAA Staff:</u>

Chris Lunsford

Agenda



NSEI Chatham Strait (Spencer Weinstein and Laura Coleman, ADF&G)

Fishery assessment & survey data review

Outlook for 2025

SSEI Clarence Strait (Laura Coleman, ADF&G)

Fishery & survey data review

Outlook for 2025

BOF Updates (Jan Rumble, ADF&G)

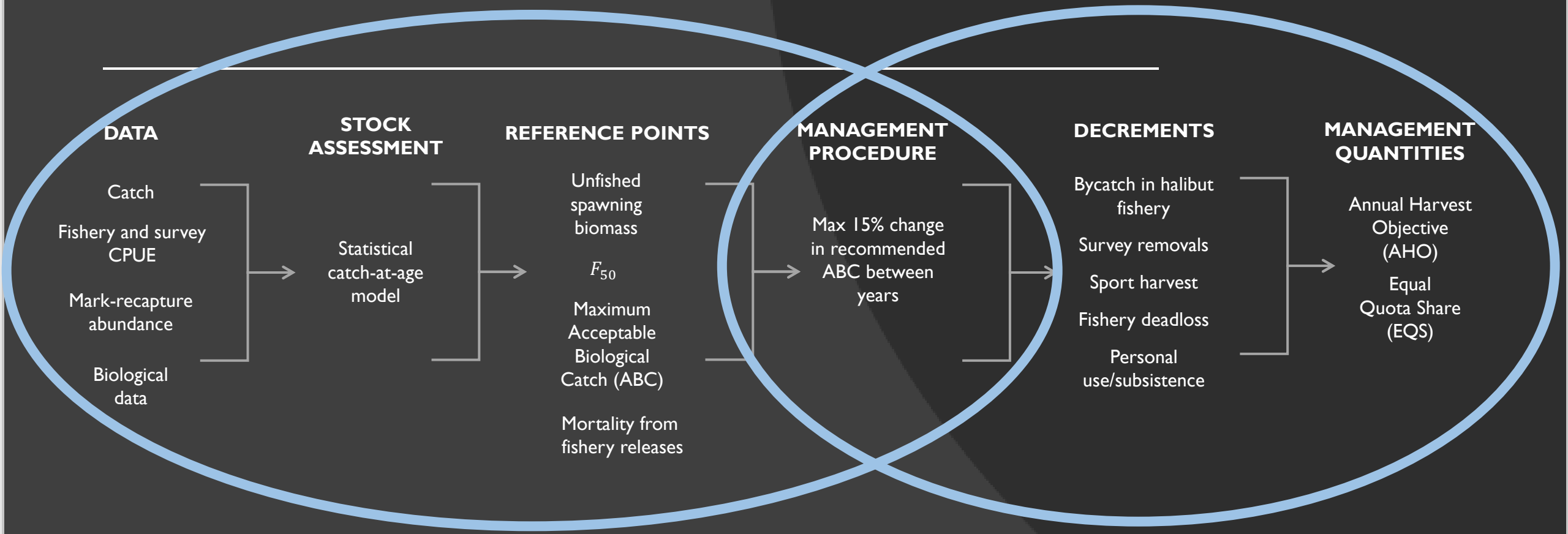
GOA Federal Sablefish Assessment (Chris Lunsford, NOAA)

NSEI sablefish data review and outlook for 2025

Spencer Weinstein

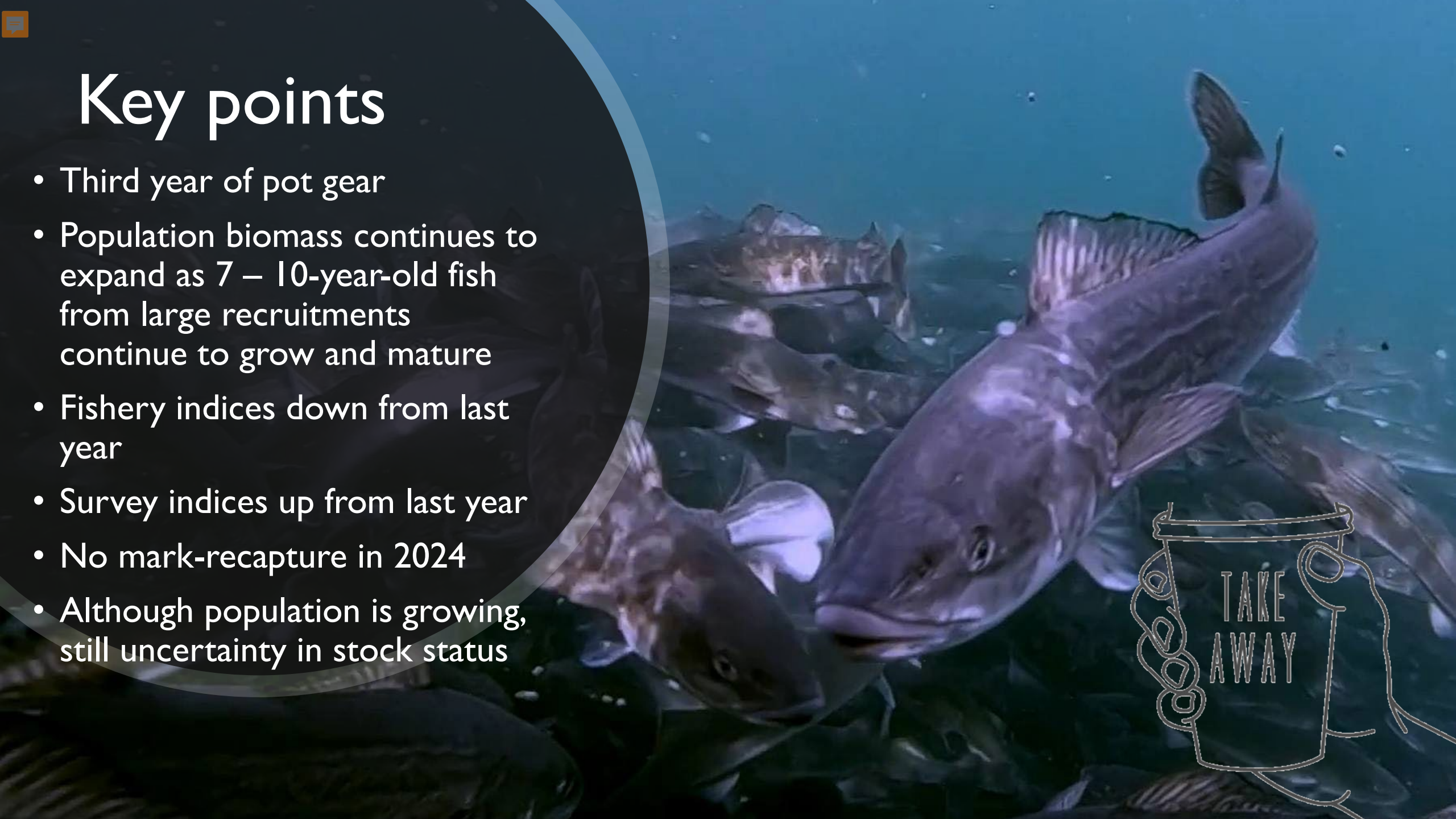
Laura Coleman

Assessment and management steps



Key points

- Third year of pot gear
- Population biomass continues to expand as 7 – 10-year-old fish from large recruitments continue to grow and mature
- Fishery indices down from last year
- Survey indices up from last year
- No mark-recapture in 2024
- Although population is growing, still uncertainty in stock status



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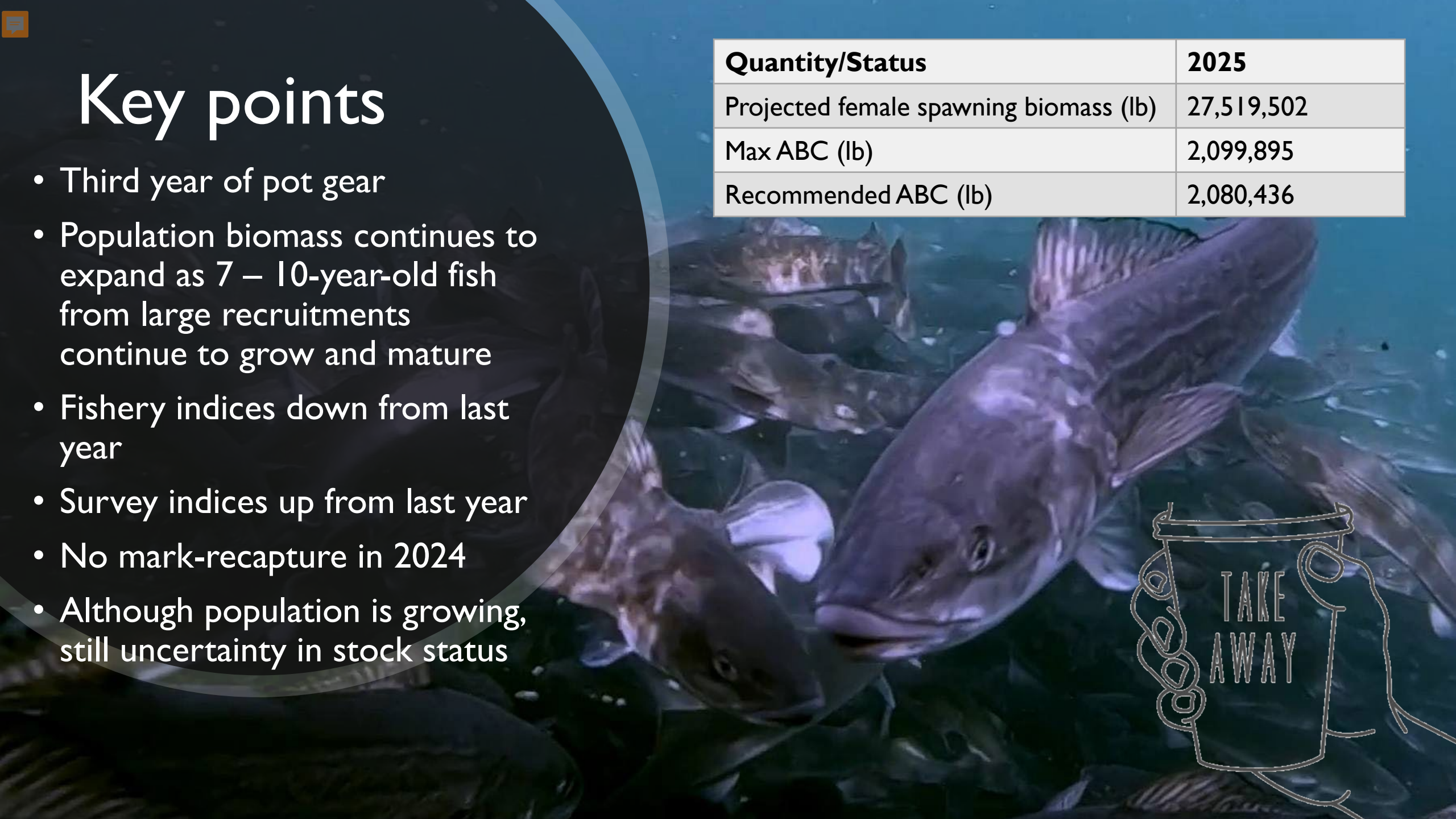
Quantity/Status	2025
Projected female spawning biomass (lb)	27,519,502
Max ABC (lb)	2,099,895
Recommended ABC (lb)	2,080,436

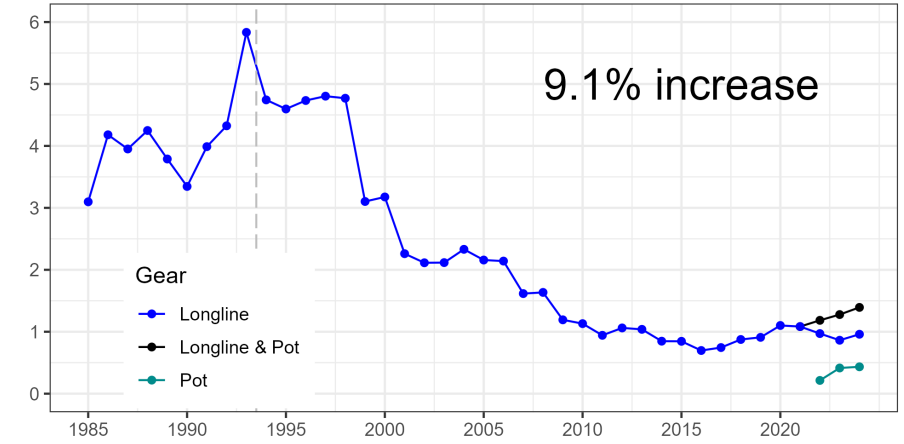


2025 Assessment – Model Results

Quantity/Status	2024	2025	% Change
Projected total (age 2+) biomass (lb)	61,986,177	68,857,964	+11.1%
Projected female spawning biomass (lb)	24,518,584	27,519,502	+12.2%
Unfished female spawning biomass ($SB_{100\%}$, lb)	30,388,516	30,736,010	+1.1%
Female spawning biomass at F_{50} ($SB_{50\%}$, lb)	15,194,258	15,368,005	+1.1%
max $F_{ABC} = F_{50}$	0.062	0.061	-1.6%
Recommended F_{ABC}	0.061	0.061	-0.5%
Mortality from fishery releases (lb)	75,682	81,270	+7.4%
max ABC (lb)	1,833,775	2,099,895	+14.5%
Recommended ABC (lb)	1,809,075	2,080,436	+15%

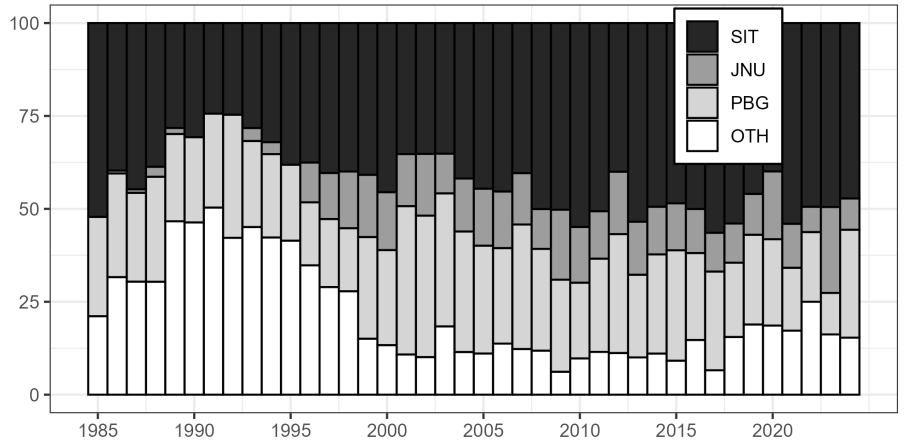
2024 NSEI fishery

Catch
(million round lb)

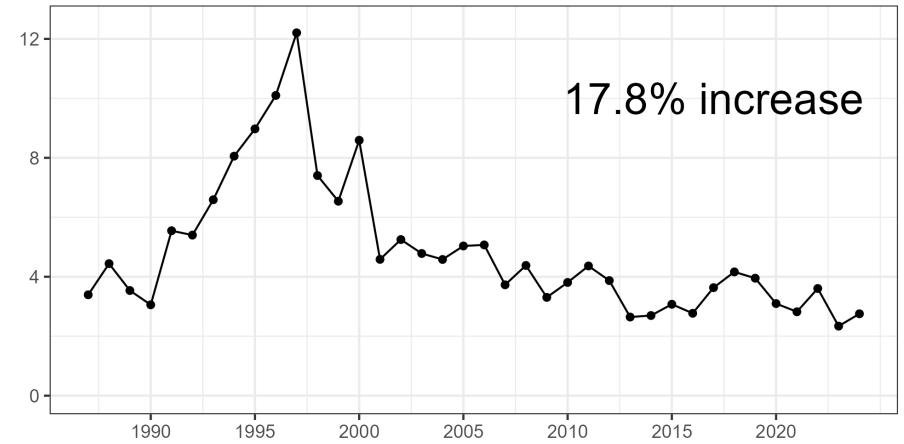


Catches climbing with increase in population

Percent landings by port



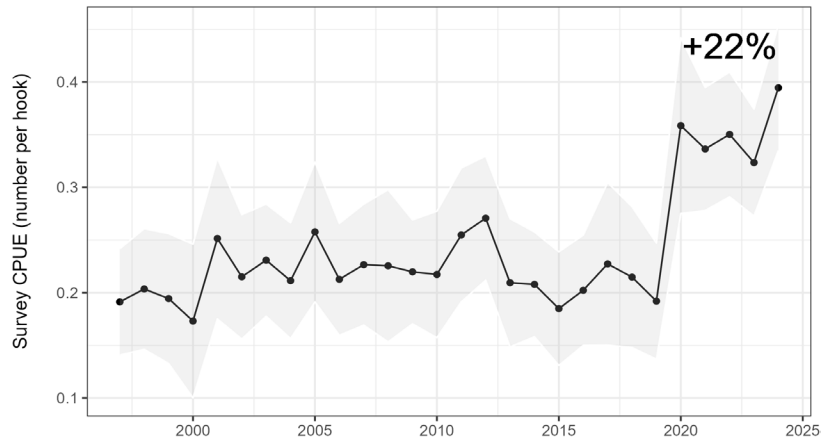
Ex-vessel value
(million USD)



Ex-vessel value up – fish growing to desirable sizes

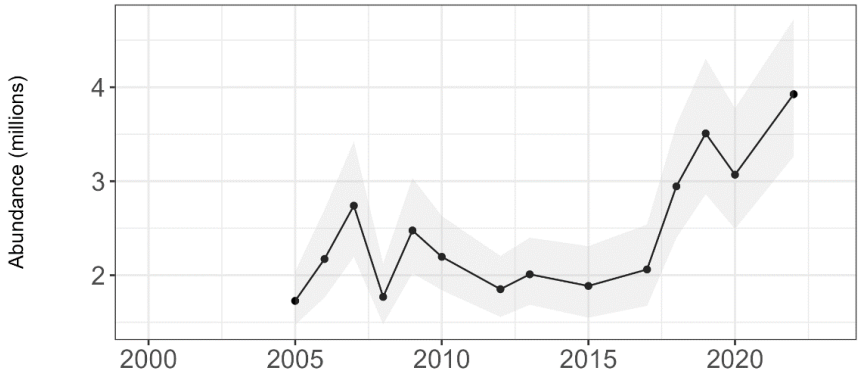
Abundance trends

Longline survey CPUE (#/hook)



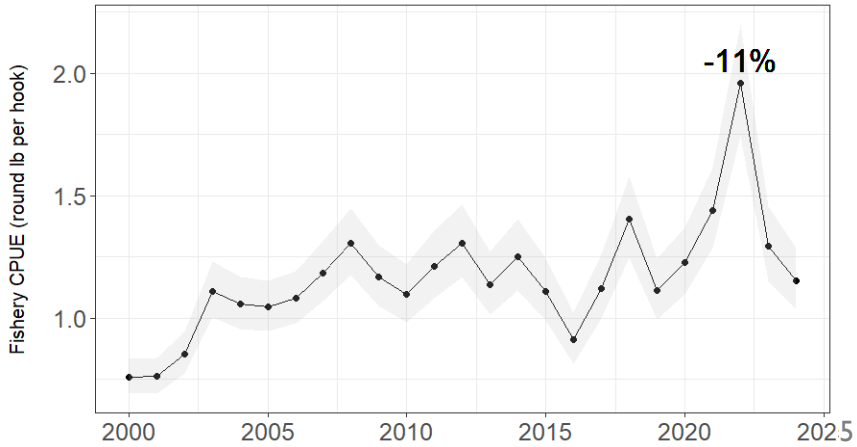
- 5th year above long-term average

Mark-recapture exploitable abundance (millions)



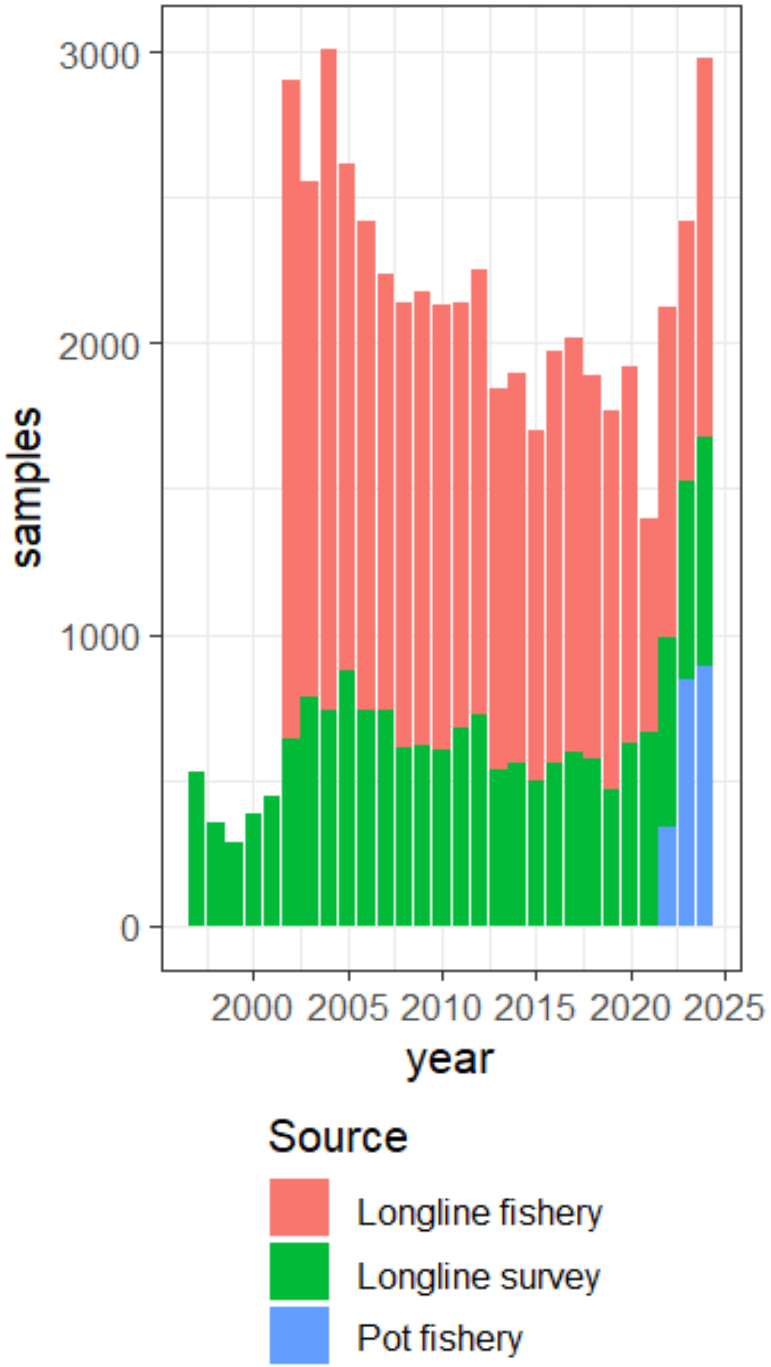
- No 2023 or 2024 MR
- 2022: largest estimate since 2005

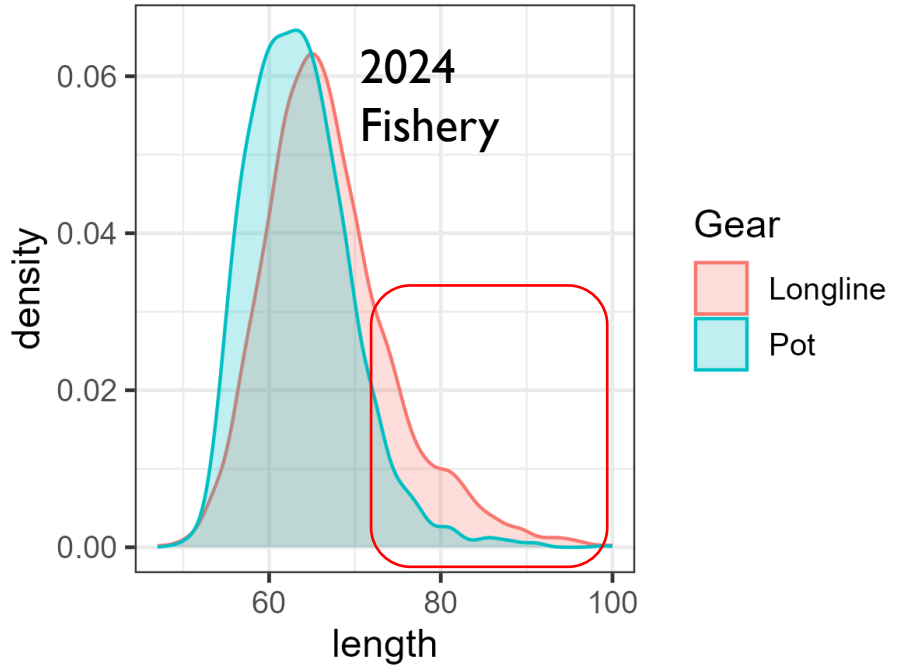
Fishery CPUE (lb/hook)

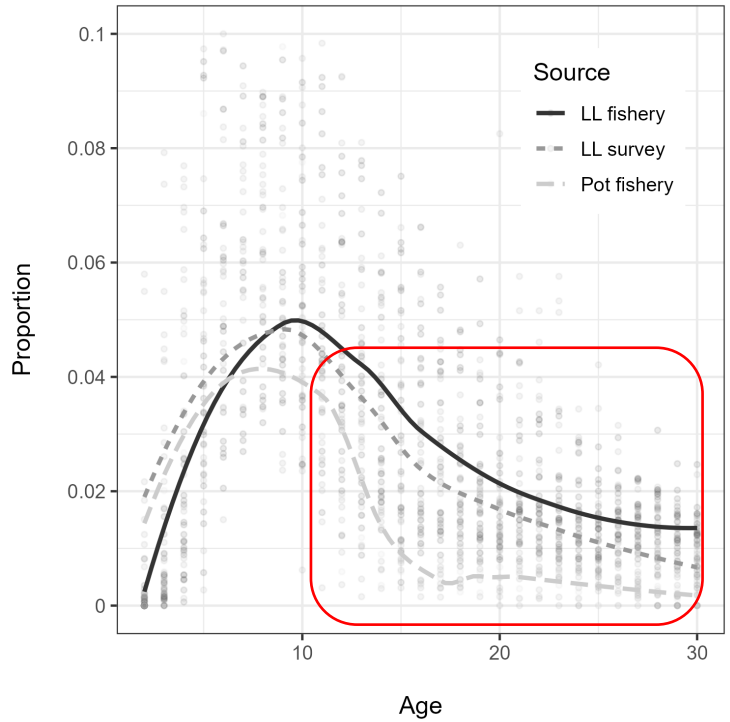


- Fully standardized estimates
- Down slightly from last year

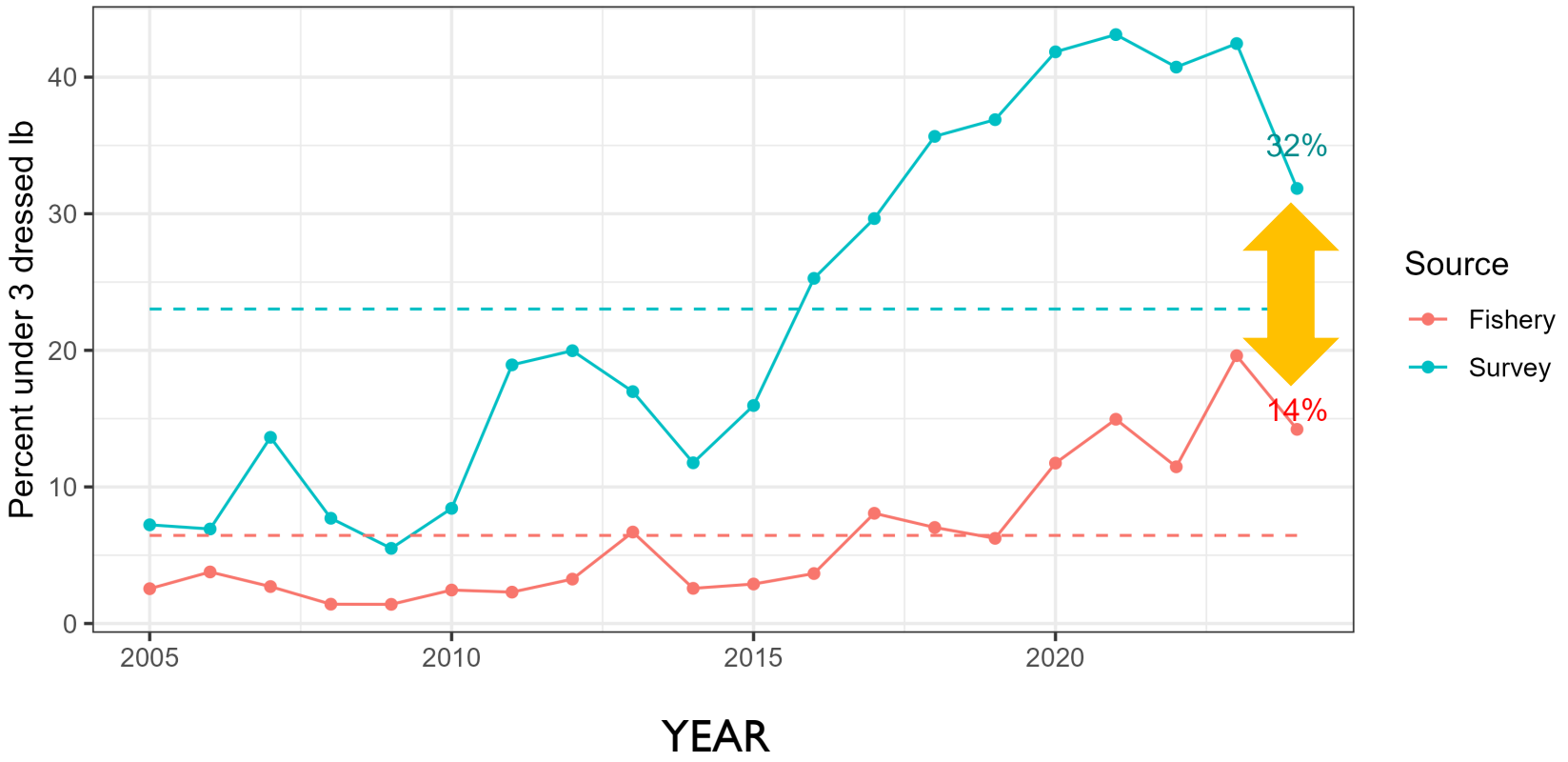
A look at slinky pots







3 lb sablefish



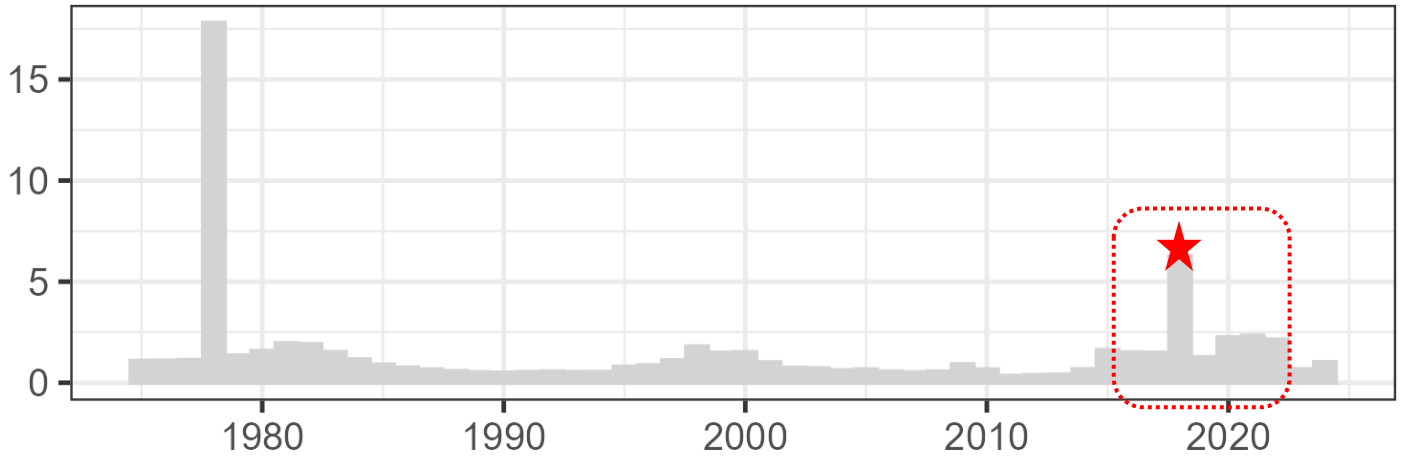
Growth of fish from big recruitments = fewer 3 pounders

RELEASES of small fish in fishery

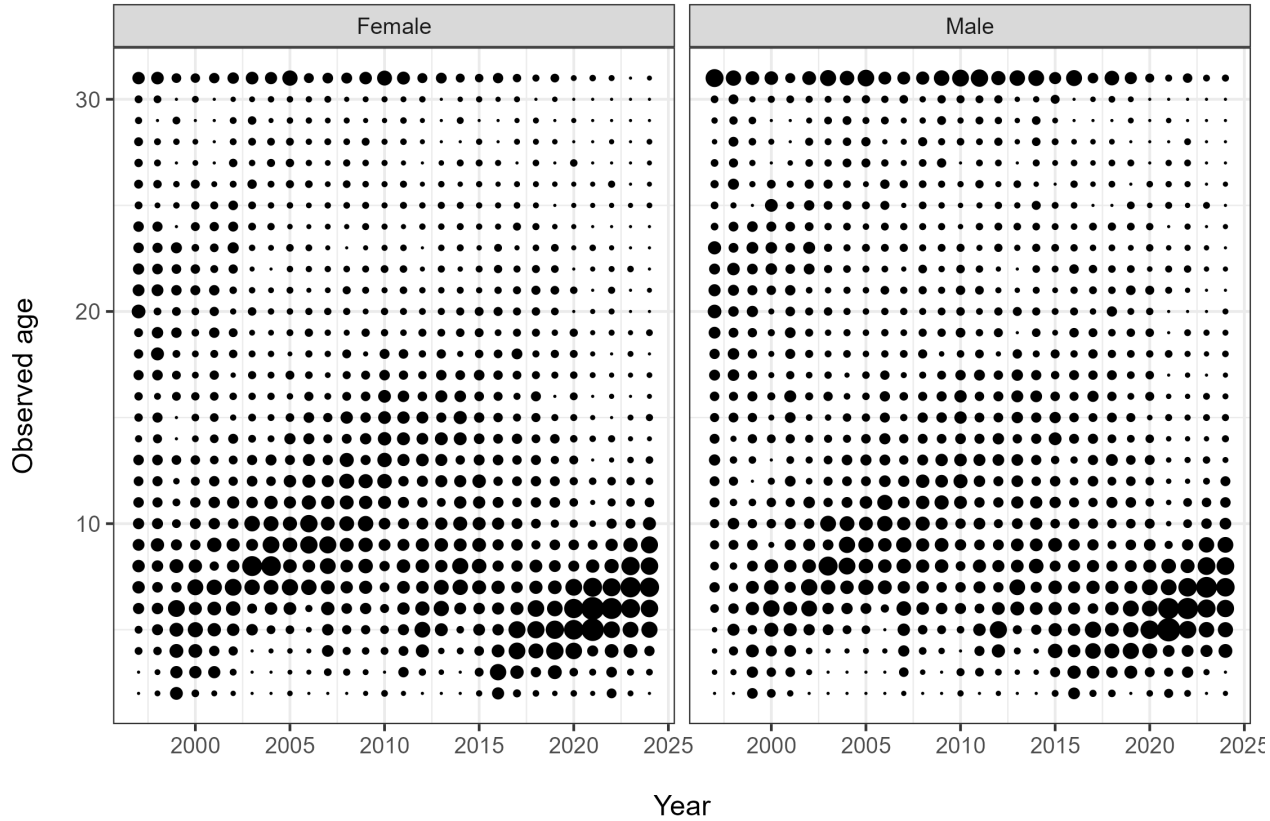
Age composition

(A)

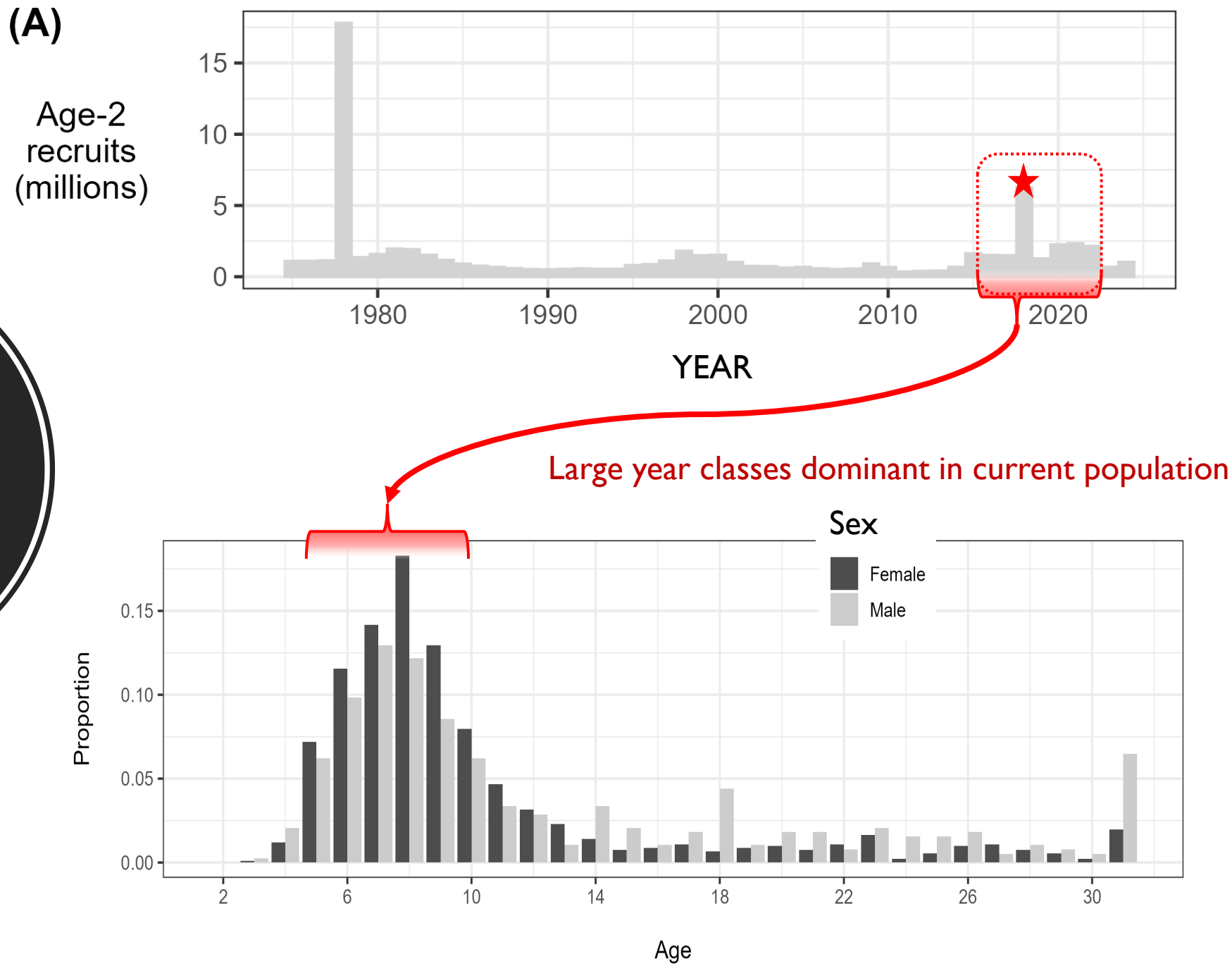
Age-2 recruits (millions)



YEAR



Age composition



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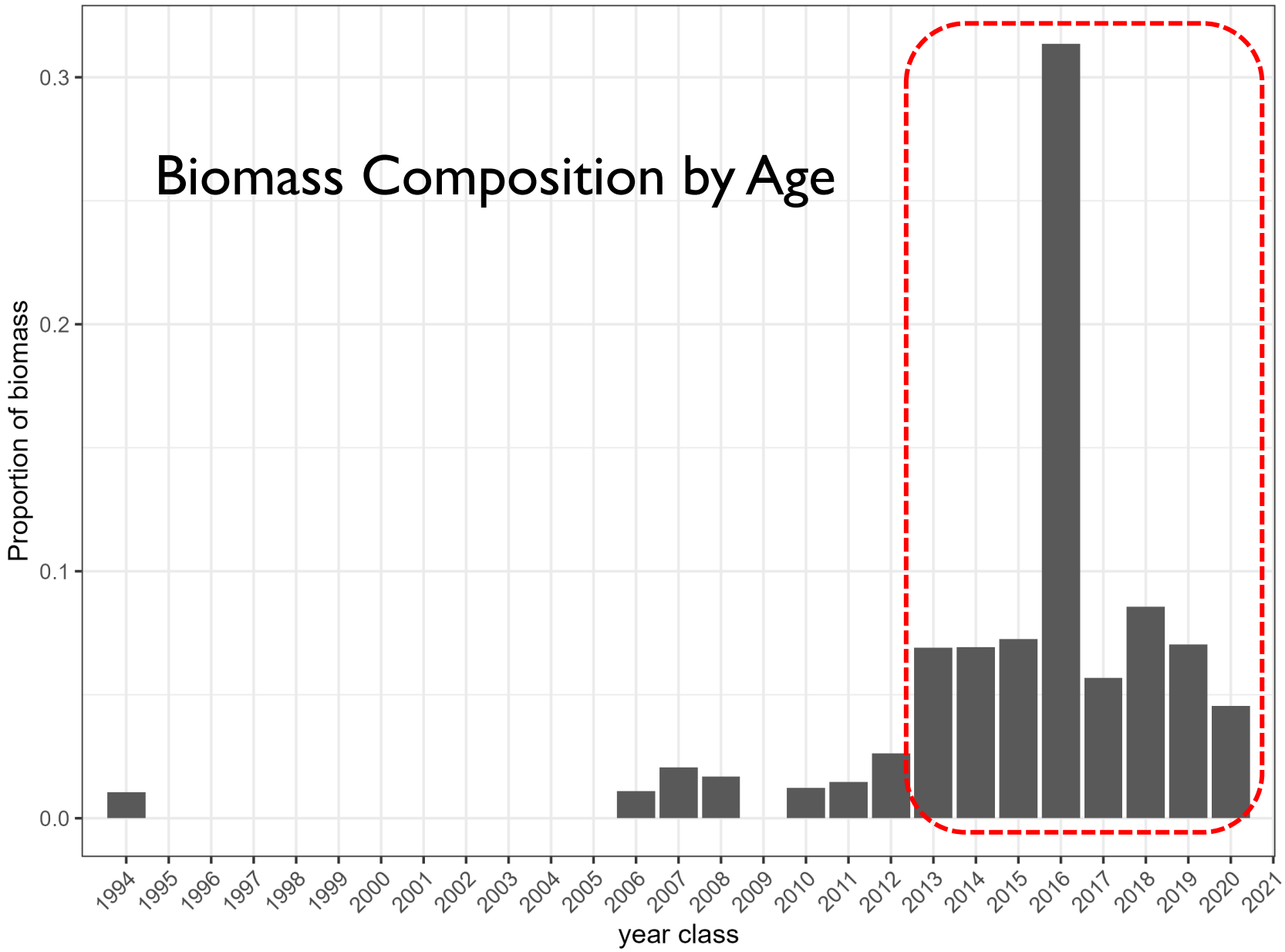
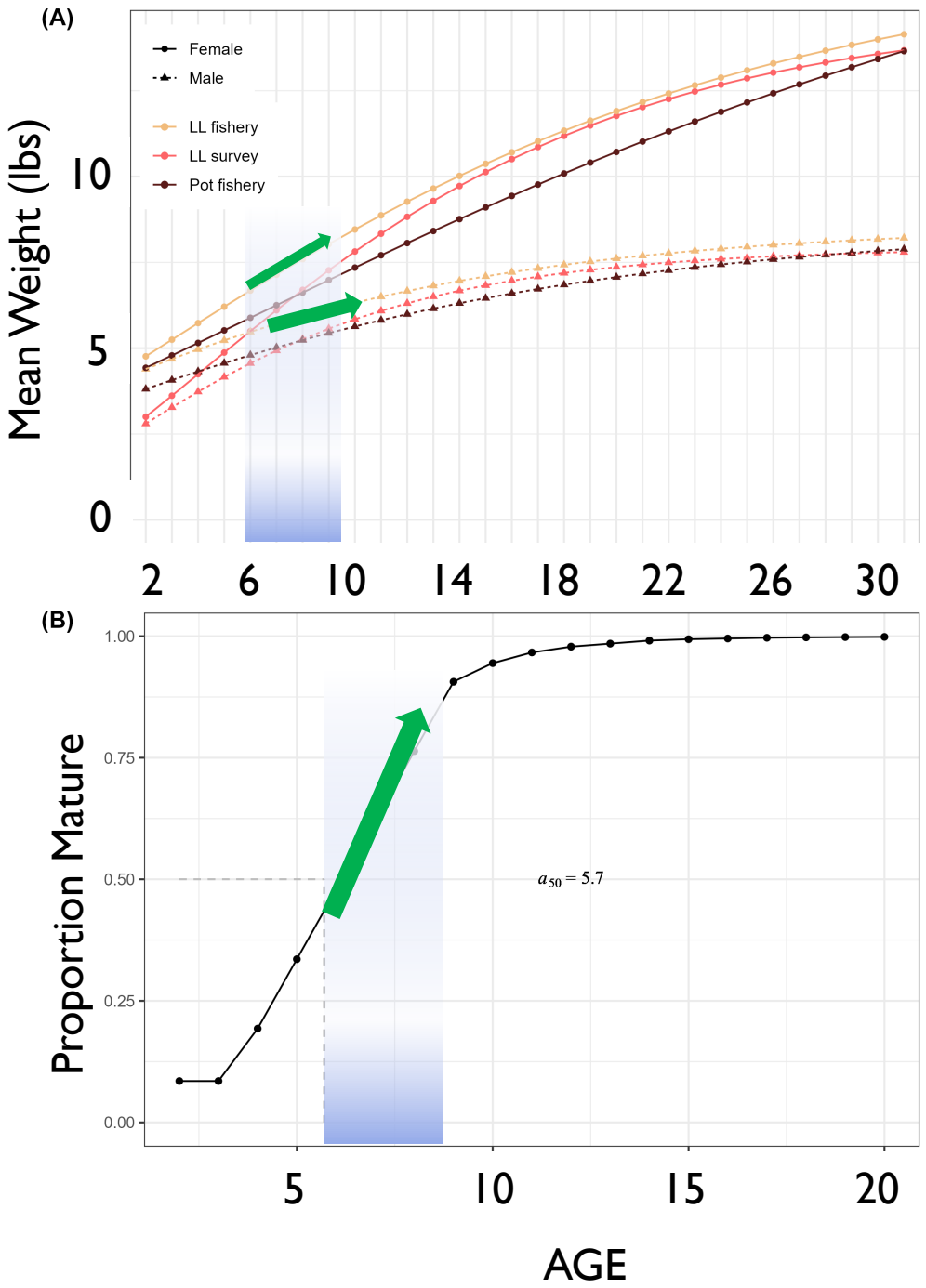


Ages and sizes



Still not done growing

Biomass and spawning stock still growing

Still not fully mature

Assessment and management steps

In 2025:

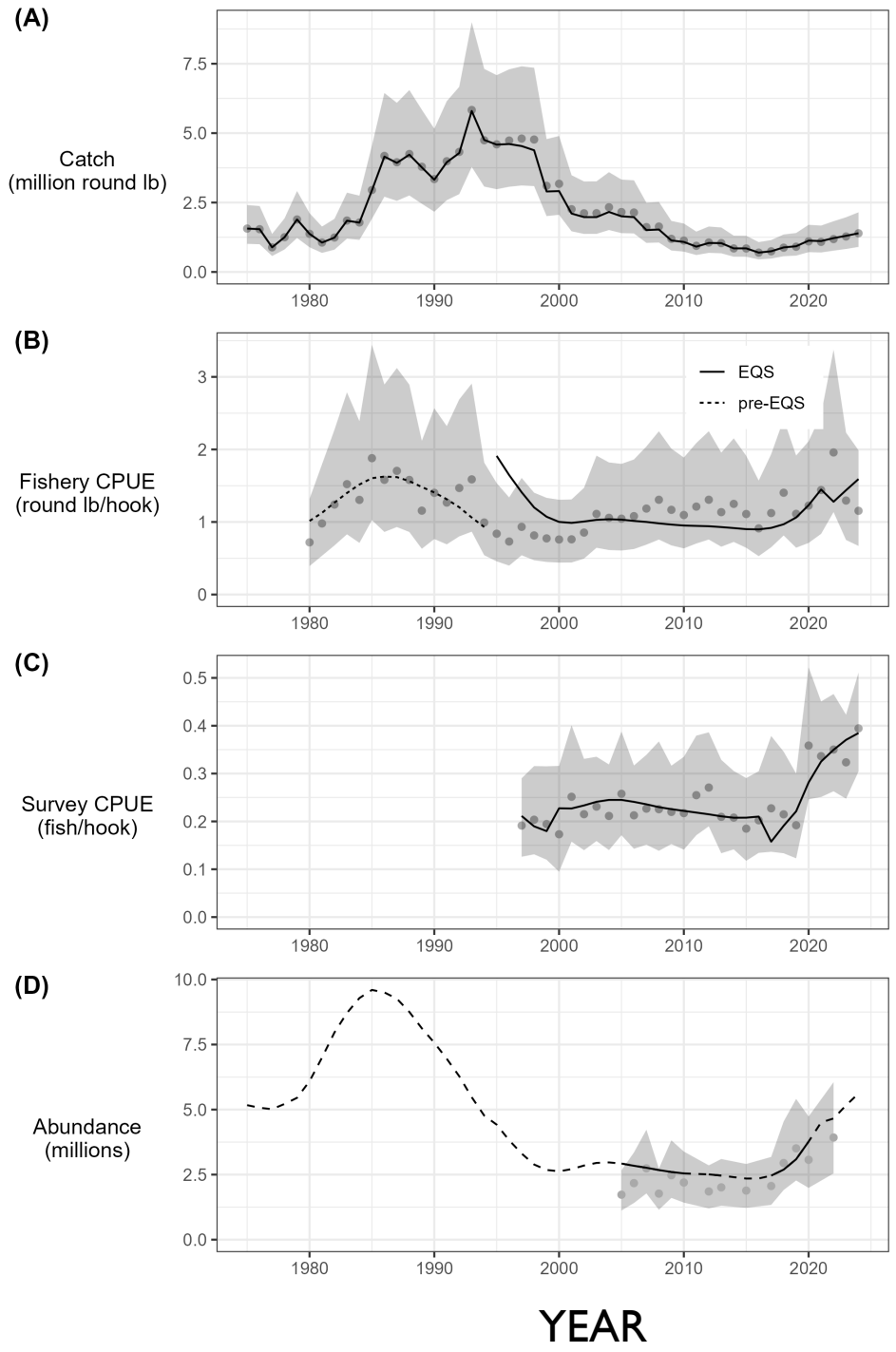
1. Third year with pot fishery; not included in the model yet but worth investigating in future years

2. Fishery CPUE calculations incorporated stat area, and was calculated only on sets for which sablefish was the sole target species

3. Survey and fishery selectivity set with three time blocks
    1. Survey time blocks: 1975-1999 (pre-survey standardization); 2000-2016 (survey standardization); 2017-2024 (post-large recruitment class)
    2. Fishery time blocks: 1975-1994 (pre-EQS); 1995-2021 (longline fishery); 2022-2024 (mixed gear fishery)

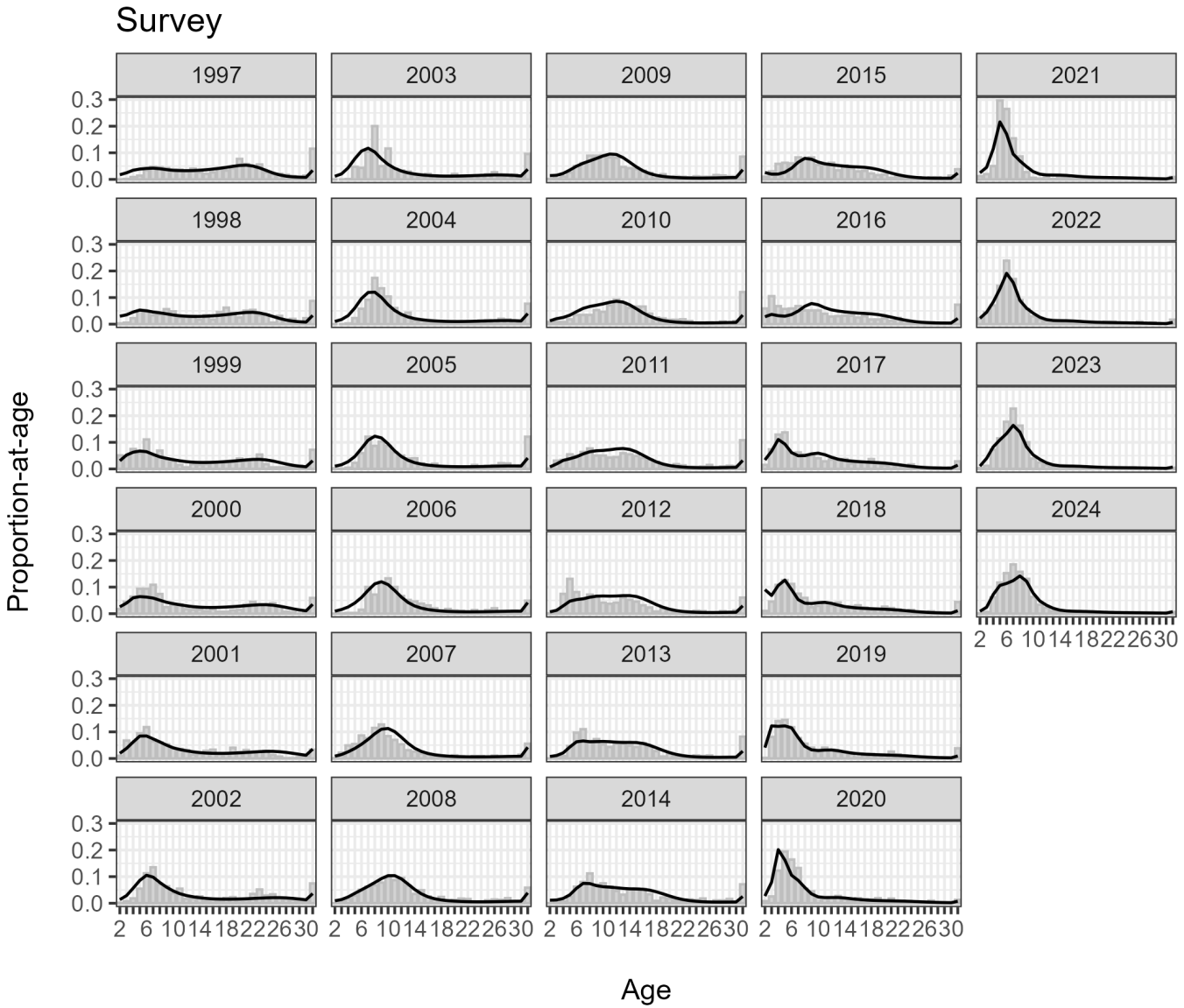
4. Model unable to estimate survey selectivity values - fixed for second and third time blocks to values estimated in 2024 stock assessment

Model performance



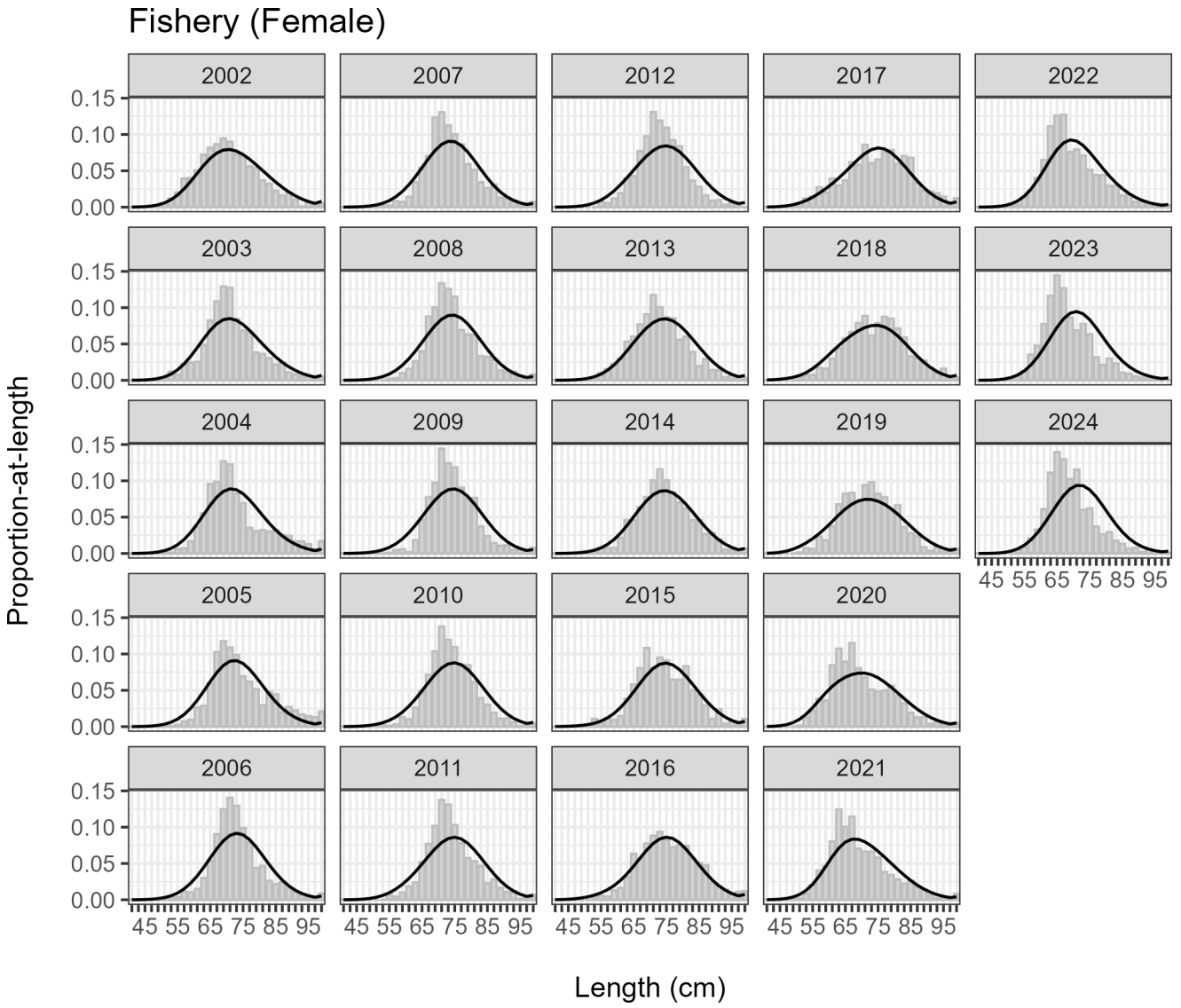
- Model fits catch well
- Fair fits to fishery CPUE and survey CPUE
- Model predicts population increasing in abundance, in line with mark-recapture estimates

Model performance



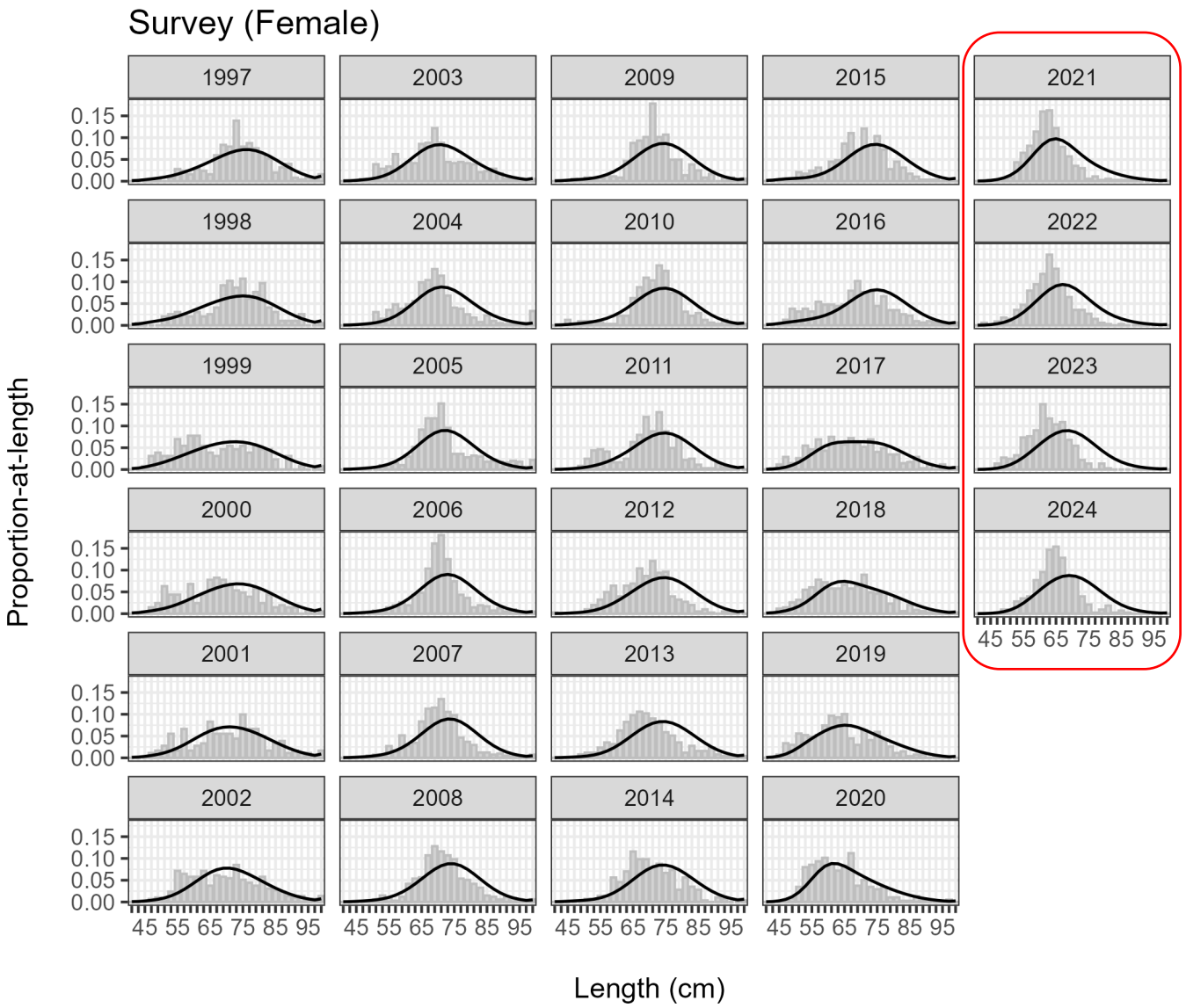
- Good fit to age composition data

Model performance



- Decent fit to length composition data

Model performance



- Good fit to length composition data in fishery
- But less so in survey…

Retrospective

Model performance

- Model slightly overestimates biomass
- Model slightly underestimates recruitment on average
  - During low recruitment year model overestimates recruits
  - During high recruitment years model underestimates recruits

Assessment and management steps

To do list:

1. Develop methods to estimate fishery selectivity so it is not fixed to federal values
   a. Will entail how releases are handled in the model

2. Monitor pot fishery as it develops and adjust model when data become sufficient (likely several years away)

3. Review mark-recapture analysis

4. Explore model configurations that allow estimates of survey selectivity

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, etc.) in directed NSEI commercial fishery

Sablefish Decrements

2023-2025

Year	2023	2024	2025
ABC (lbs)	1,573,109	1,809,075	2,080,436
Decrements			
1) Bycatch mortality in halibut fishery	38,653	77,436	
2) ADF&G longline survey removals (excluding catch retained by permit holders)	75,636	117,849	
3) Guided sport harvest	34,395	41,464	
Unguided sport harvest	2,655	6,085	
4) Subsistence and personal use	18,643	17,245	
5) Deadloss discard mortality in sablefish fishery	9,467	6,553	
Total Decrements	179,450	266,631	
AHO	1,393,659	1,542,444	
# of Permit Holders	73	73	
EQS	**19,091**	**21,129**	

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2023-2025

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ABC (lbs)	1,573,109	1,809,075	2,080,436
Decrements			
1) Bycatch mortality in halibut fishery	38,653	77,436	78,849
2) ADF&G longline survey removals (excluding catch retained by permit holders)	75,636	117,849	140,080
3) Guided sport harvest	34,395	41,464	43,087
Unguided sport harvest	2,655	6,085	7,291
4) Subsistence and personal use	18,643	17,245	15,010
5) Deadloss discard mortality in sablefish fishery	9,467	6,553	6,448
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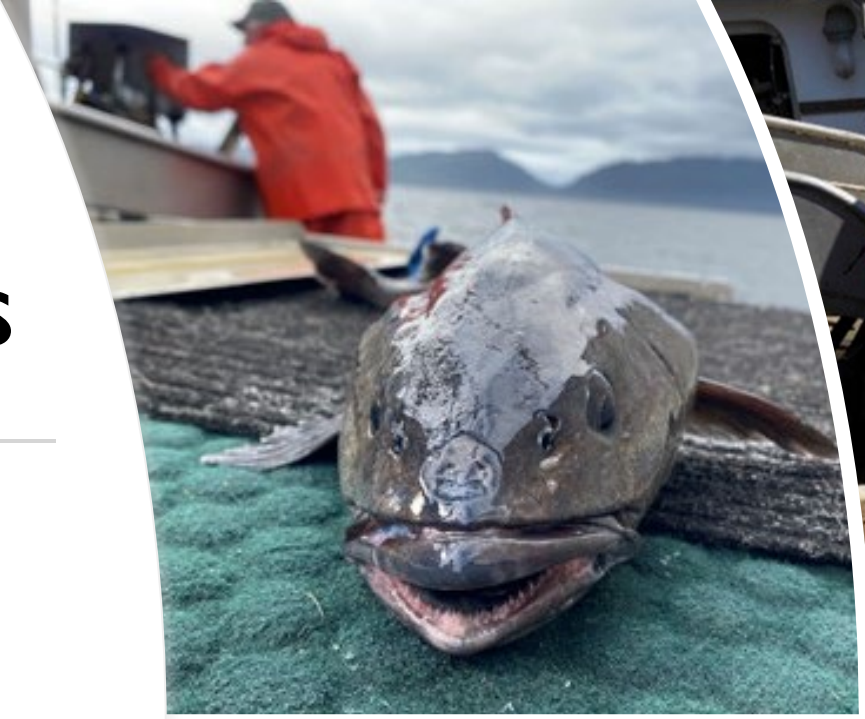
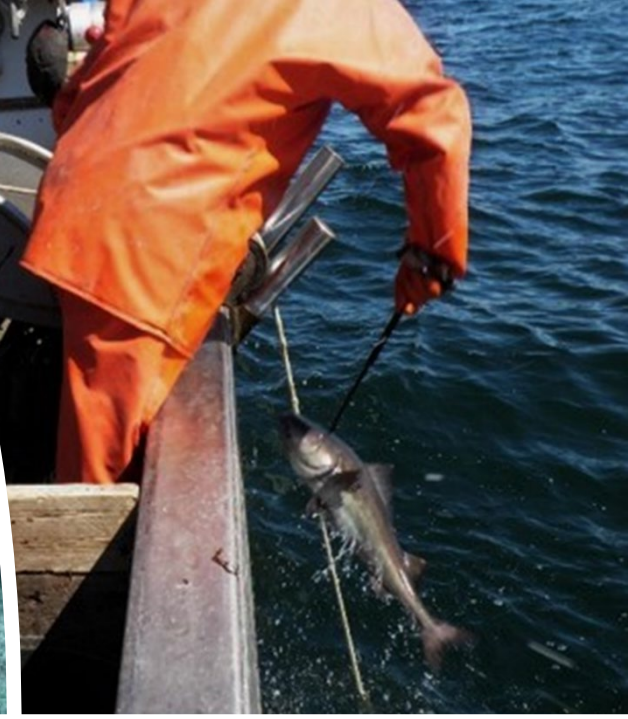
5) Deadloss discard mortality in sablefish fishery	9,467	6,553	6,448
Total Decrements	179,450	266,631	290,765
AHO	1,393,659	1,542,444	1,789,671
# of Permit Holders	73	73	73
EQS	**19,091**	**21,129**	**24,516**

16%

2025 Annual Harvest Objective Next Steps

- Finalizing management and assessment report
- Announcement out in early to mid-June
- Registrations available late July





Question and Answer

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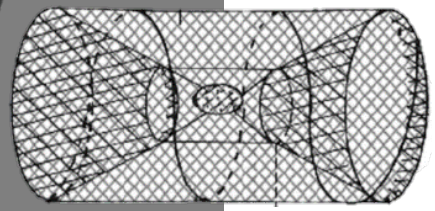
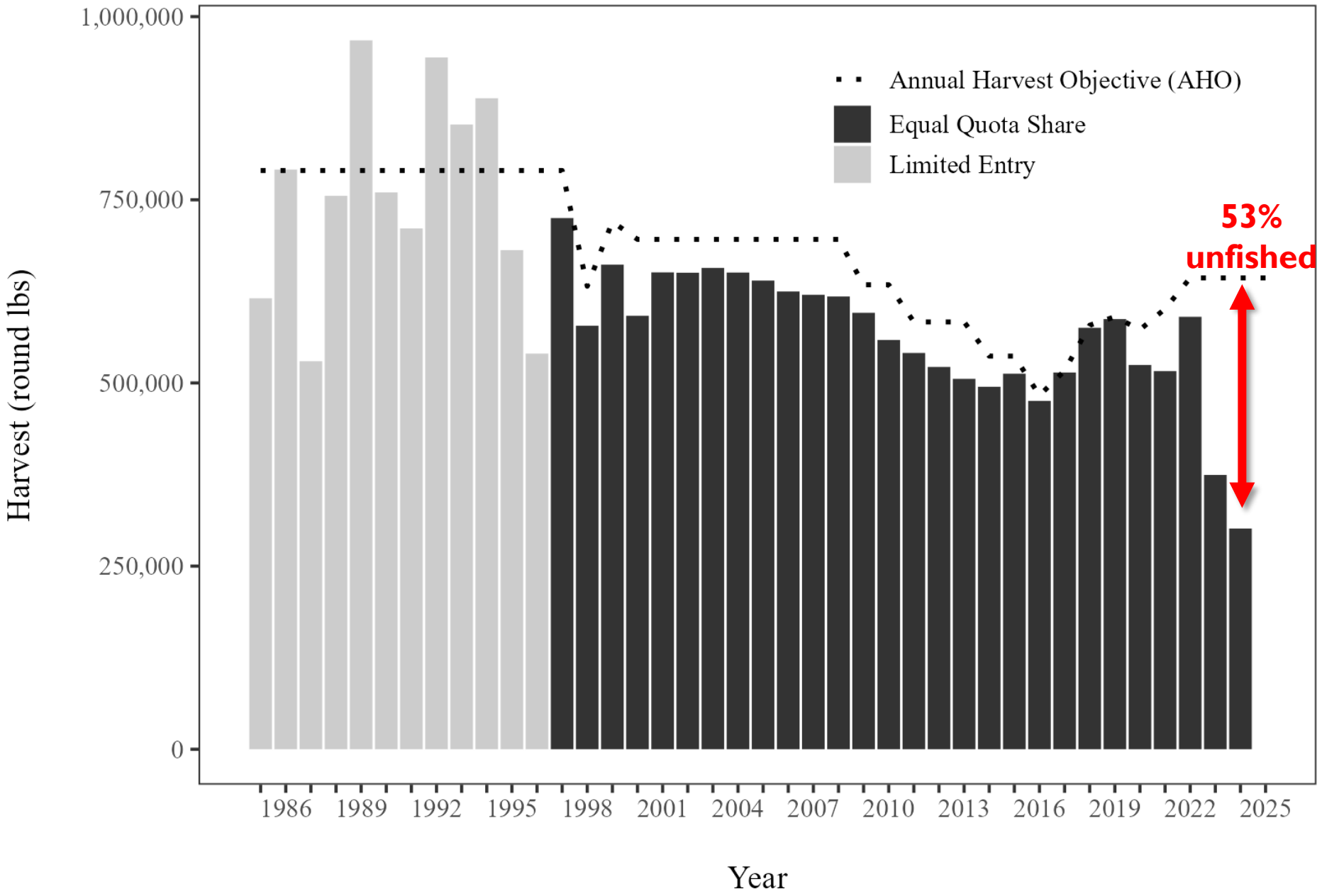
SSEI Sablefish fishery and survey data review

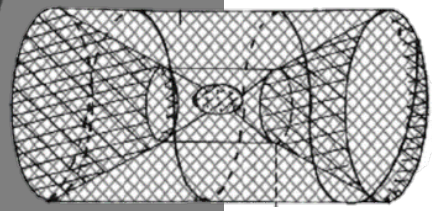
Laura Coleman

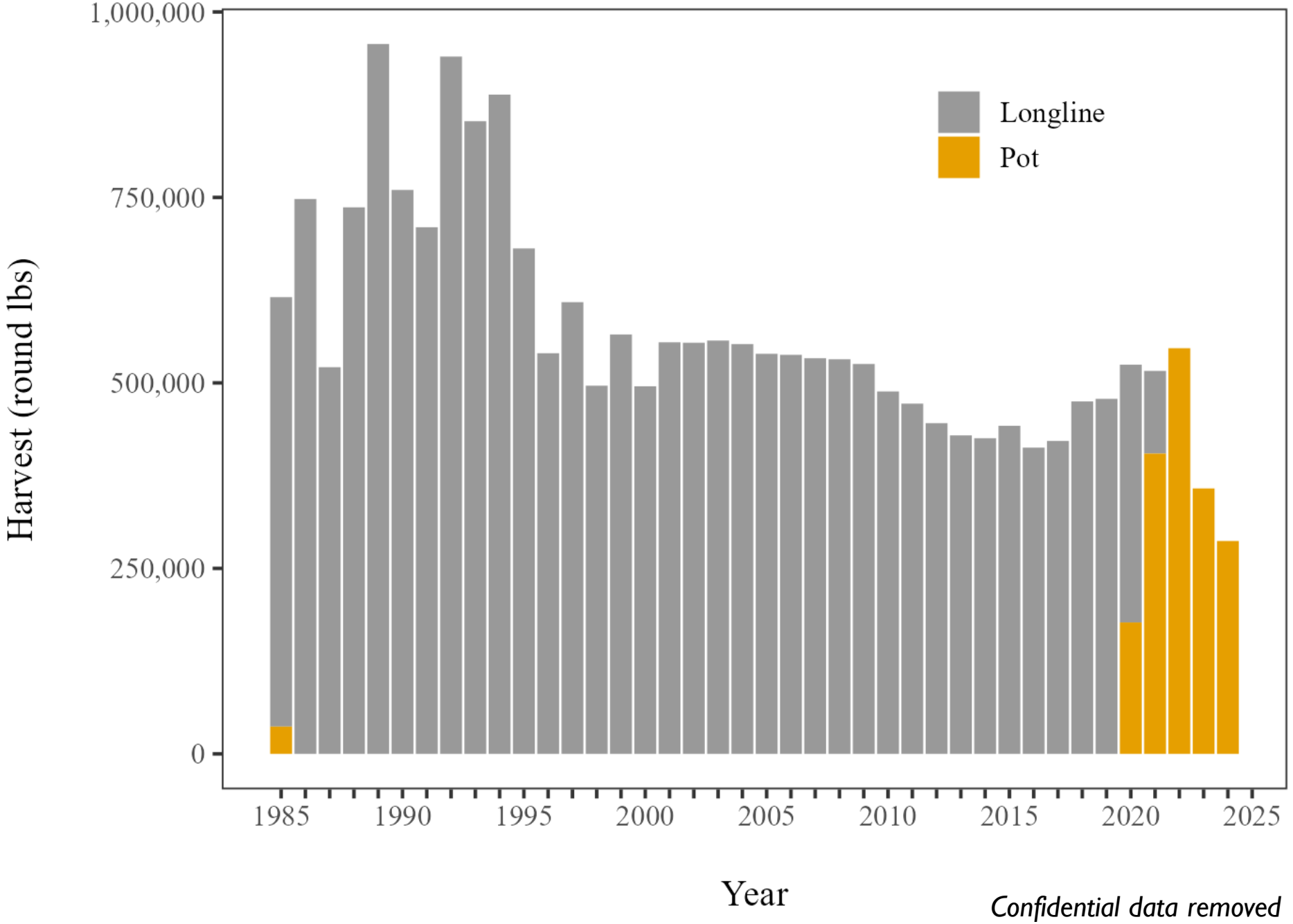
Fishery Harvest





Fishery Harvest by Gear





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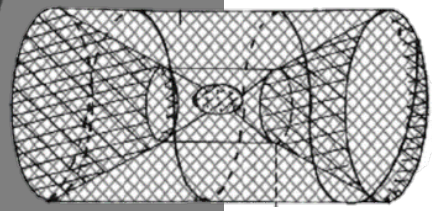
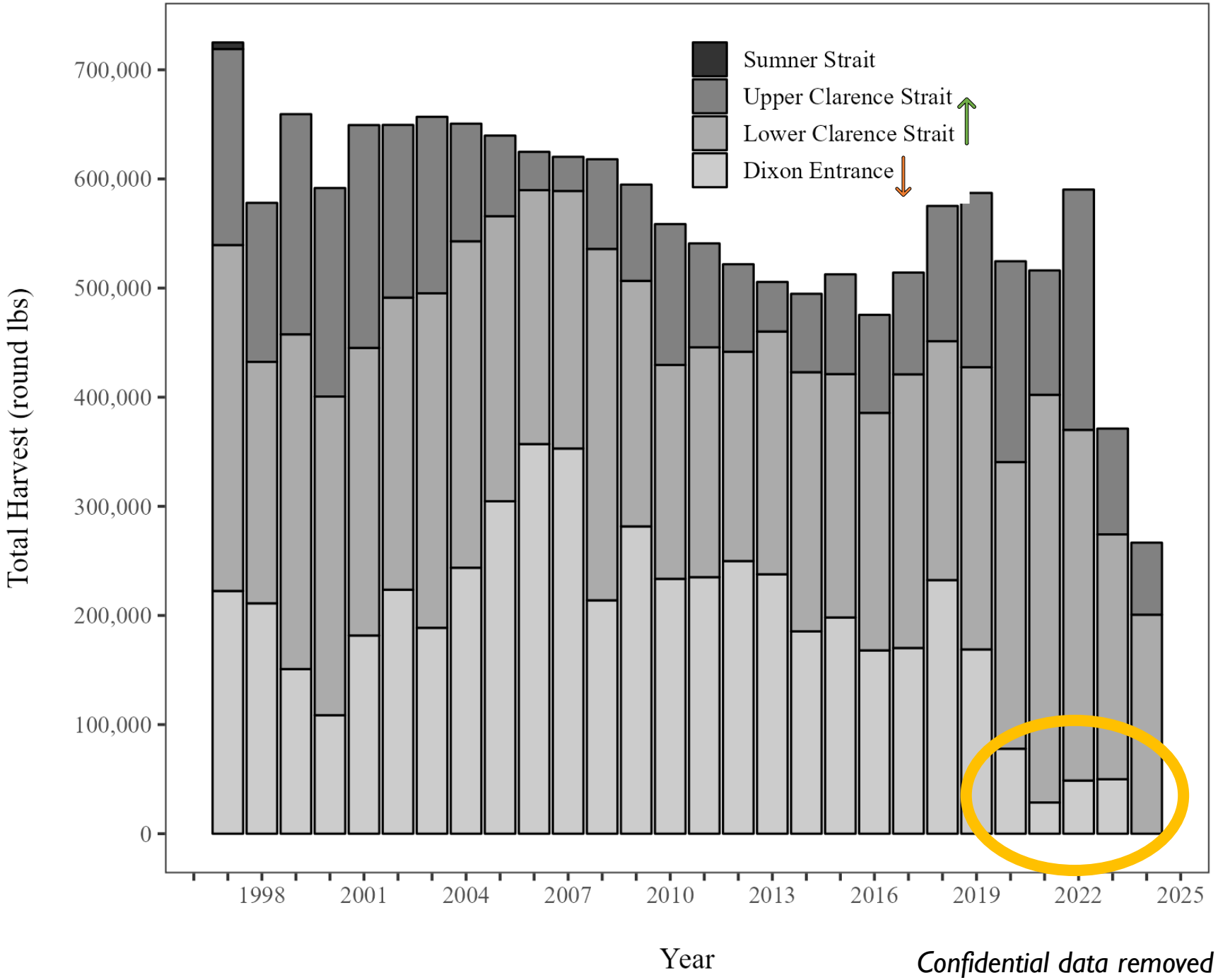
Fishery Distribution





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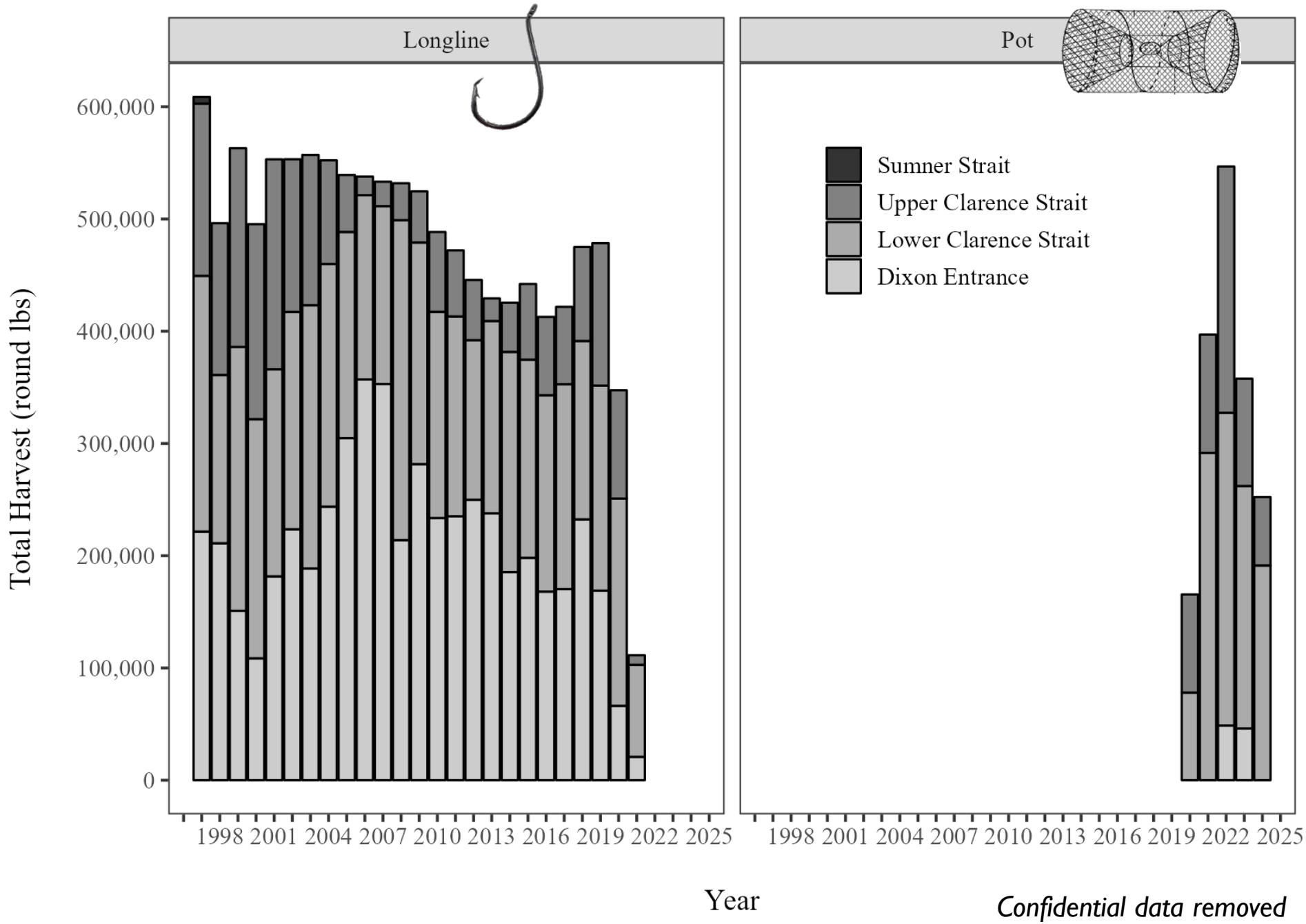
Fishery Distribution by Gear



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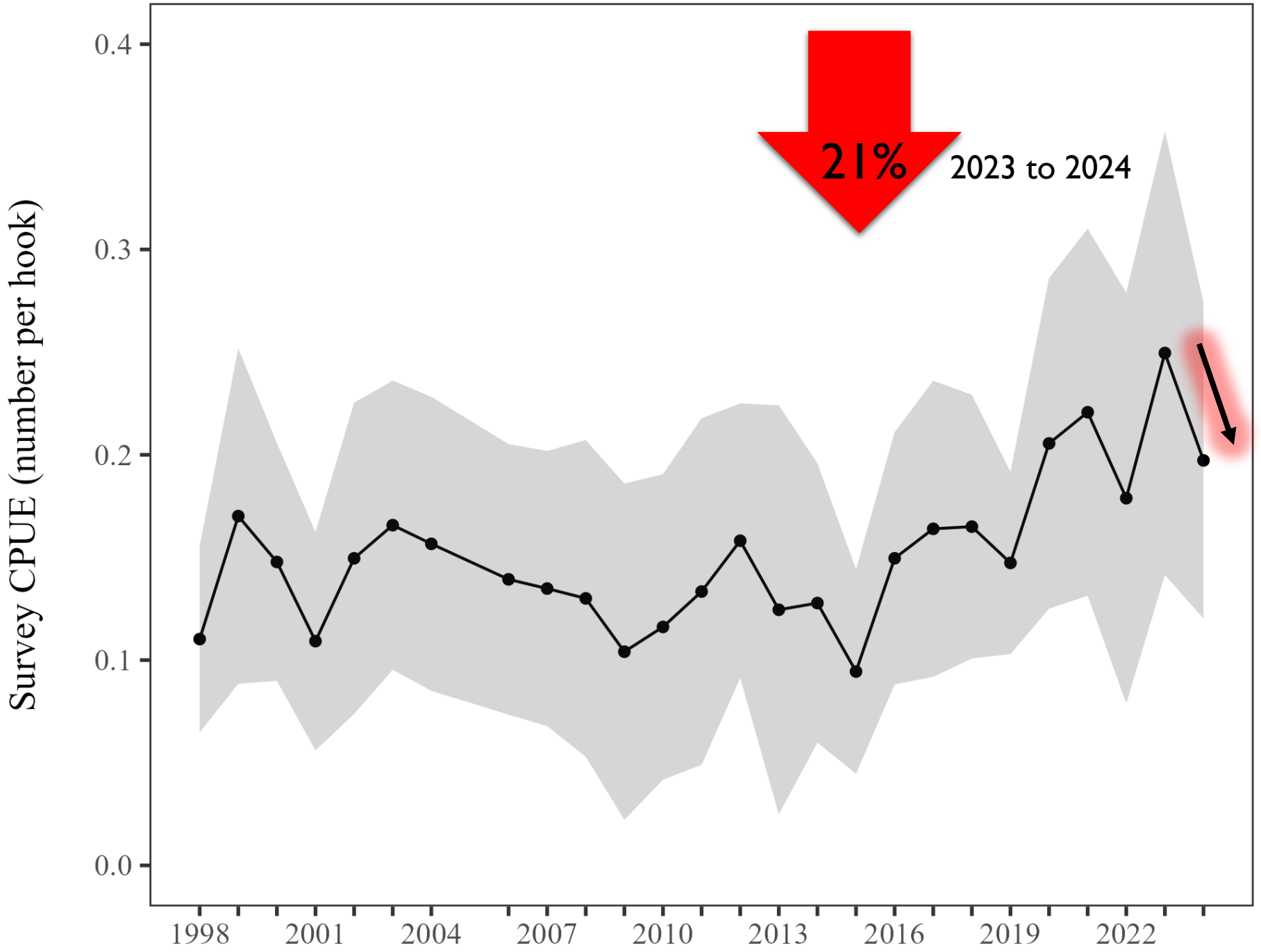
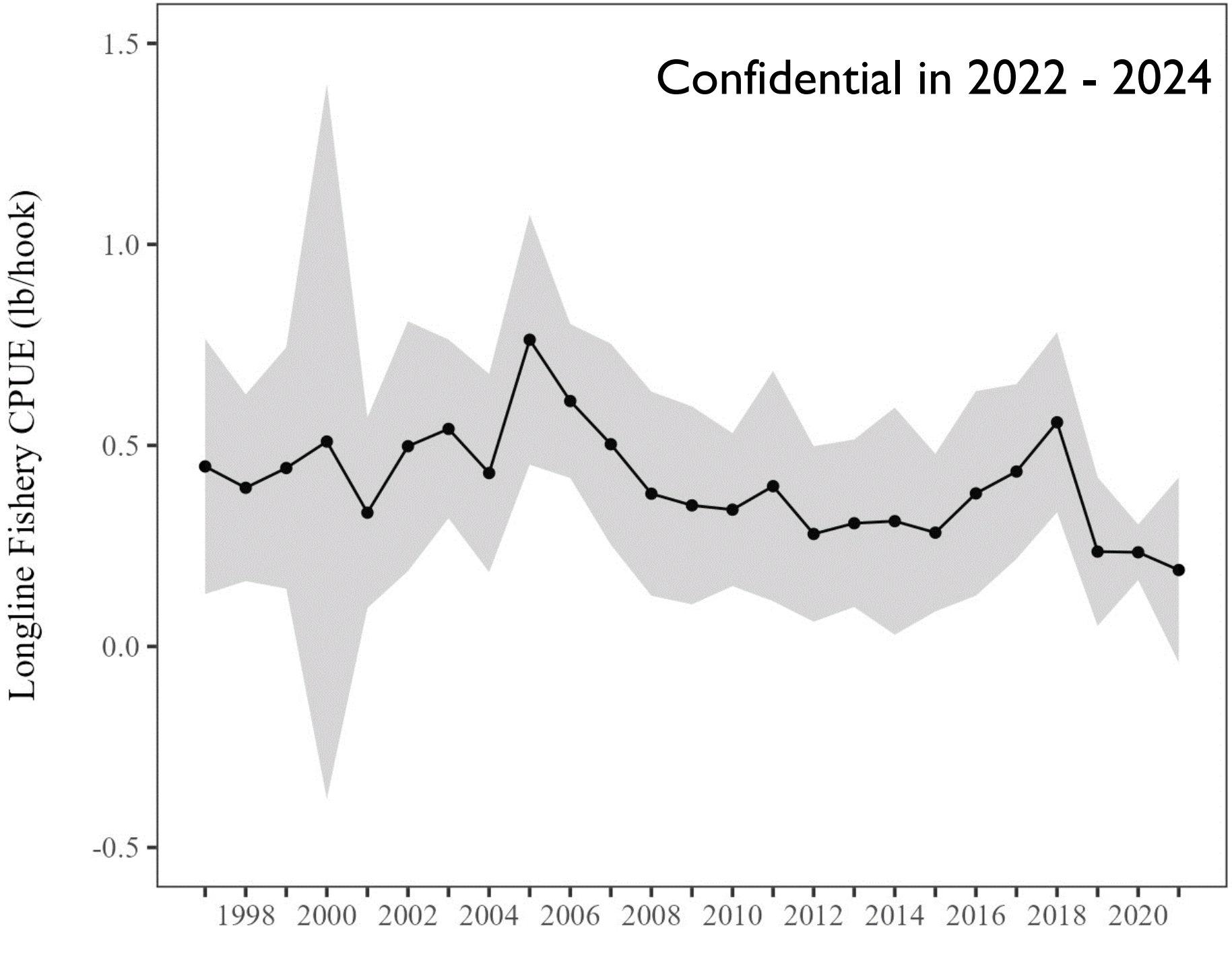
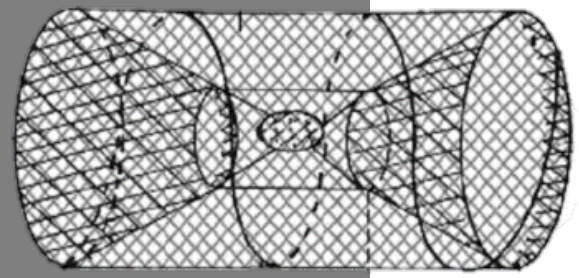
Longline Survey Performance

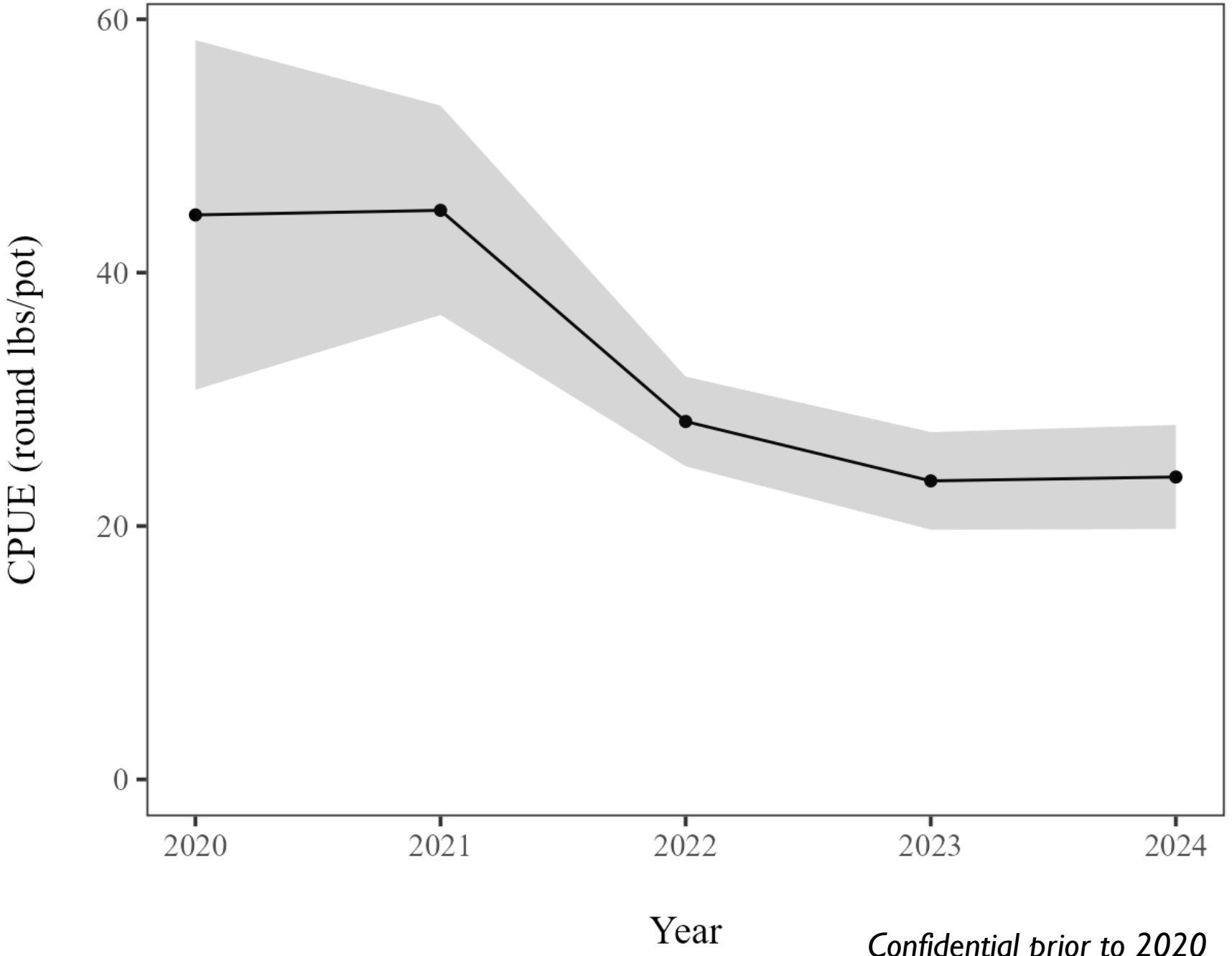


Longline Fishery Performance



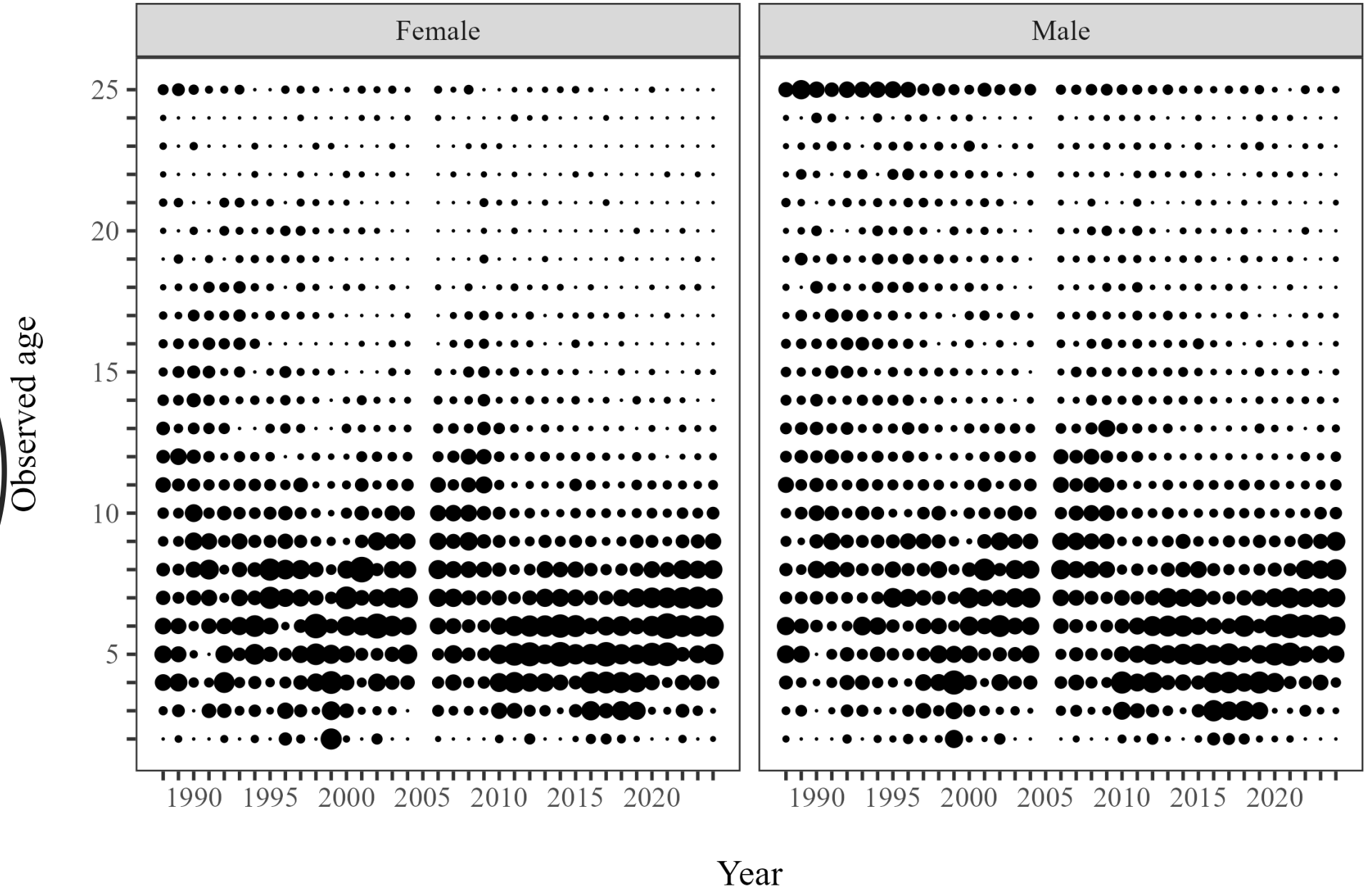
Pot Fishery Performance



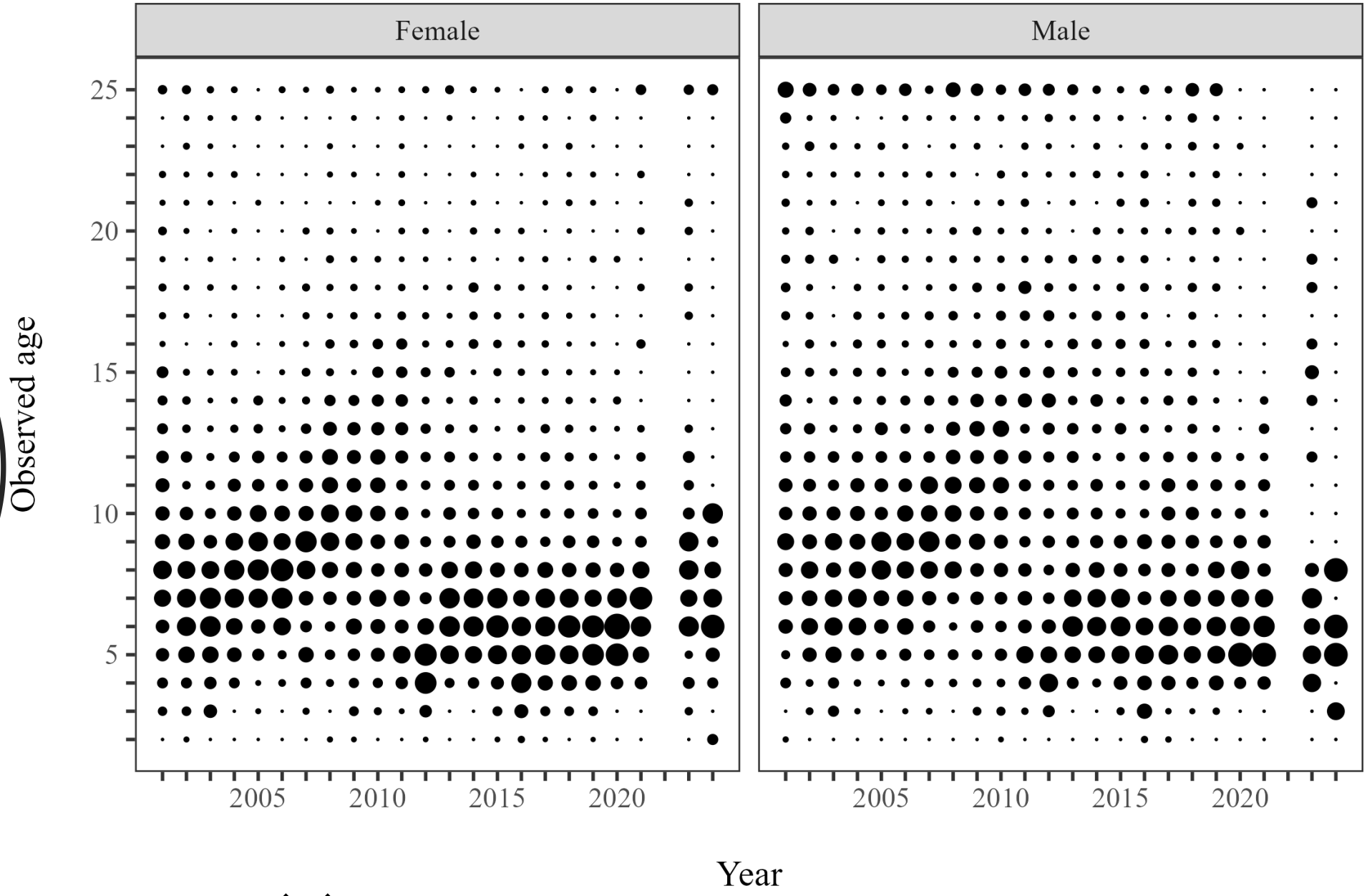


Confidential prior to 2020

Longline Survey Age Structure

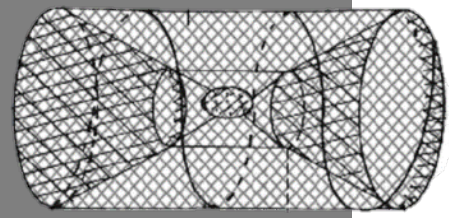


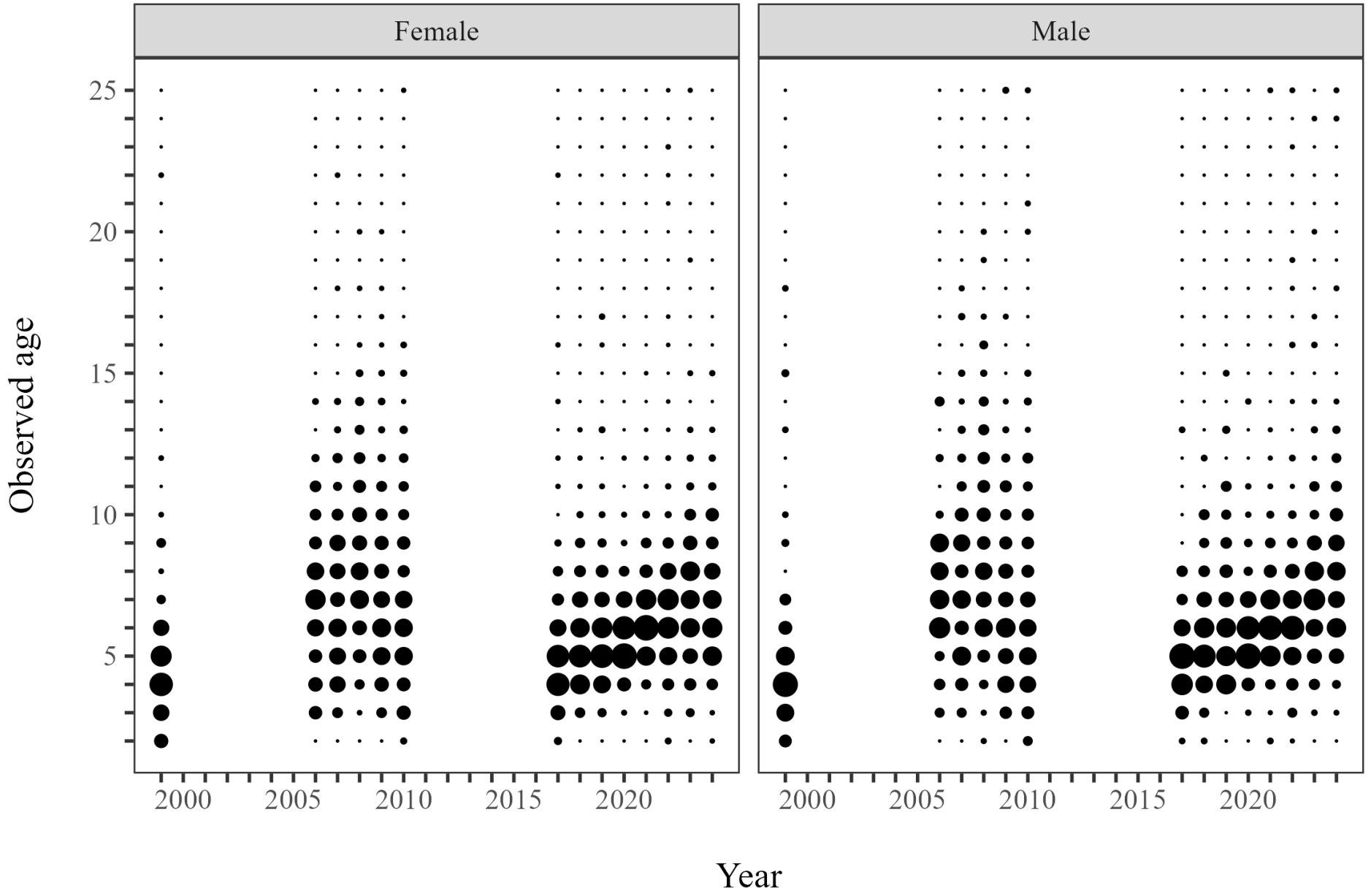
Longline Fishery Age Structure



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

Pot Fishery Age Structure





2025 Annual Harvest Objective Outlook

- AHO: 643,360
- 21 permits in 2025
- EQS: 30,636
- PQS forms and registration packets April 28th

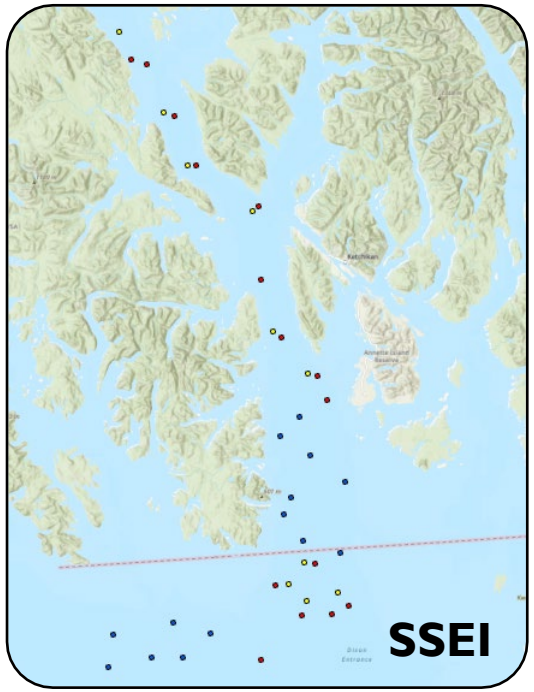
Question and Answer

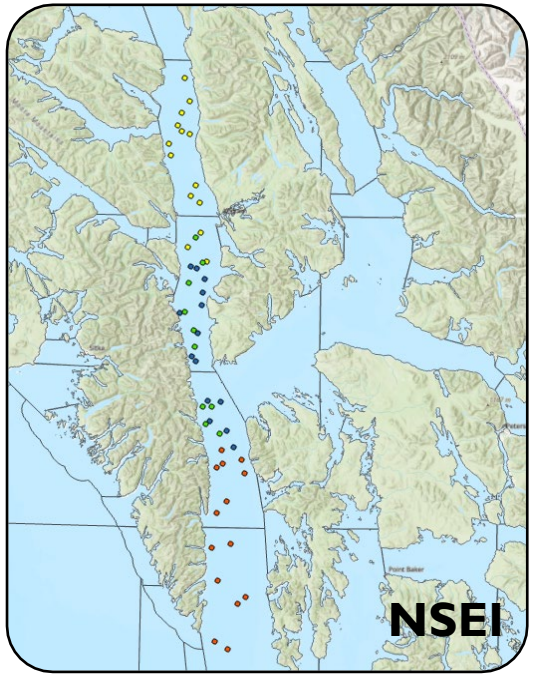
Please ask your questions or type them in the chat for discussion.

2024 SSEI & NSEI Pot vs Longline Survey Comparison

Objectives:

- Compare catch rates, species composition, and biological compositions between standard longline survey hook-and-line and longline slinky pot gear.
- Compare small vs large slinky pots for CPUE and length composition.
- Enumerate bycatch





2024 SSEI & NSEI Pot vs Longline Survey Comparison

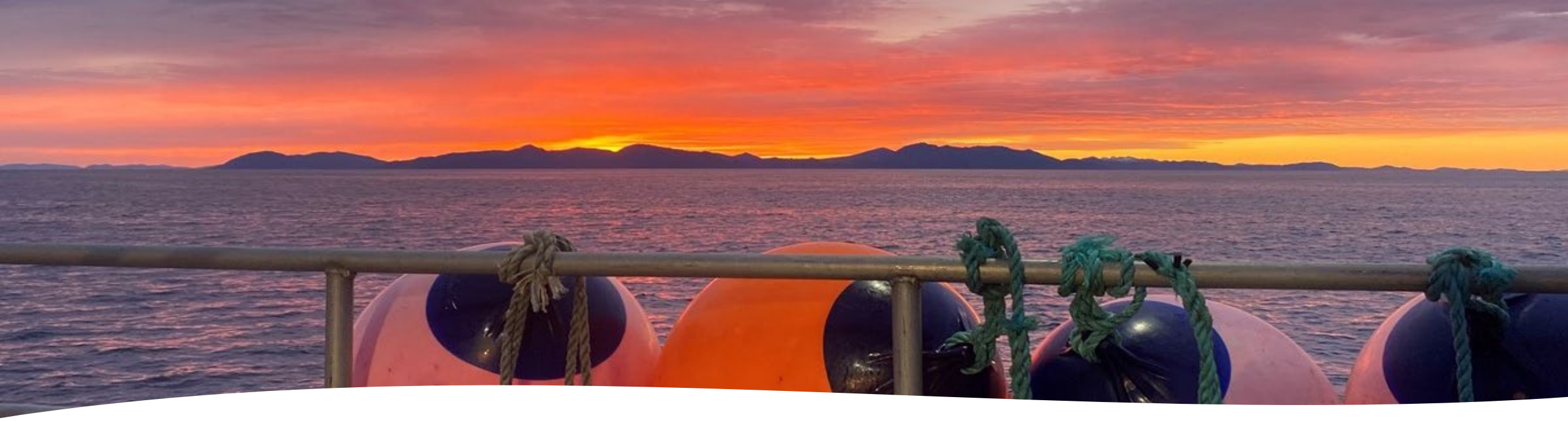
Methods:

- Set gear at approximately the same time for each set.
  - Similar depths and habitats
  - ~ 1nm apart
- Set 30 pots/set (15 large, 15 small)
- 2 sets/day; 10 sets total
- Enumerate sablefish and bycatch by pot for each station
- Collect full bio sample for 1 fish from every pot and up to 4 length only

2025 Survey Plans

- Repeat pot vs longline side-by-side study in both Clarence and Chatham Strait
- Clarence survey ends today
- Chatham survey in early August

Stay tuned for results!



2025 Board of Fisheries Meeting

Regulation Changes

- Pot escape ring reduced to 3 ½ inches for subsistence, personal use, and commercial sablefish fisheries.
- Amended subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries groundfish fisheries in NSEI and SSEI regulations to clarify that subsistence and PU separate from commercial
- EGOA groundfish logbook requirements – added additional fields

Acknowledgements

Thank you to:

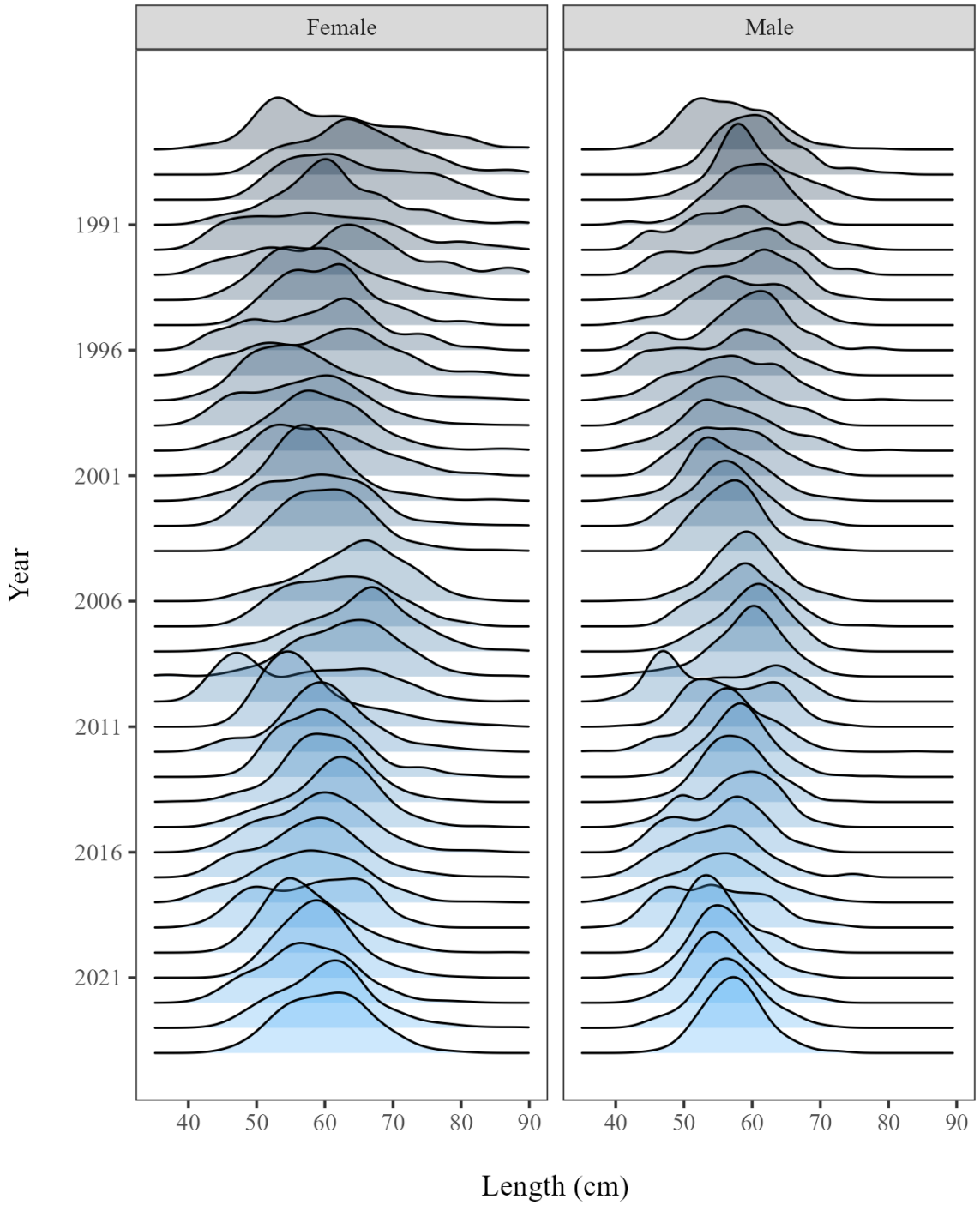
- Groundfish Project Staff
- Support from other ADF&G project staff
- Survey vessel crews
  - F/V Providence
  - F/V Viking Maid
  - F/V Ilona B
  - F/V Ida June
  - F/V Indigo
  - F/V Kraken
- NOAA scientists
- Processors

See you next year!

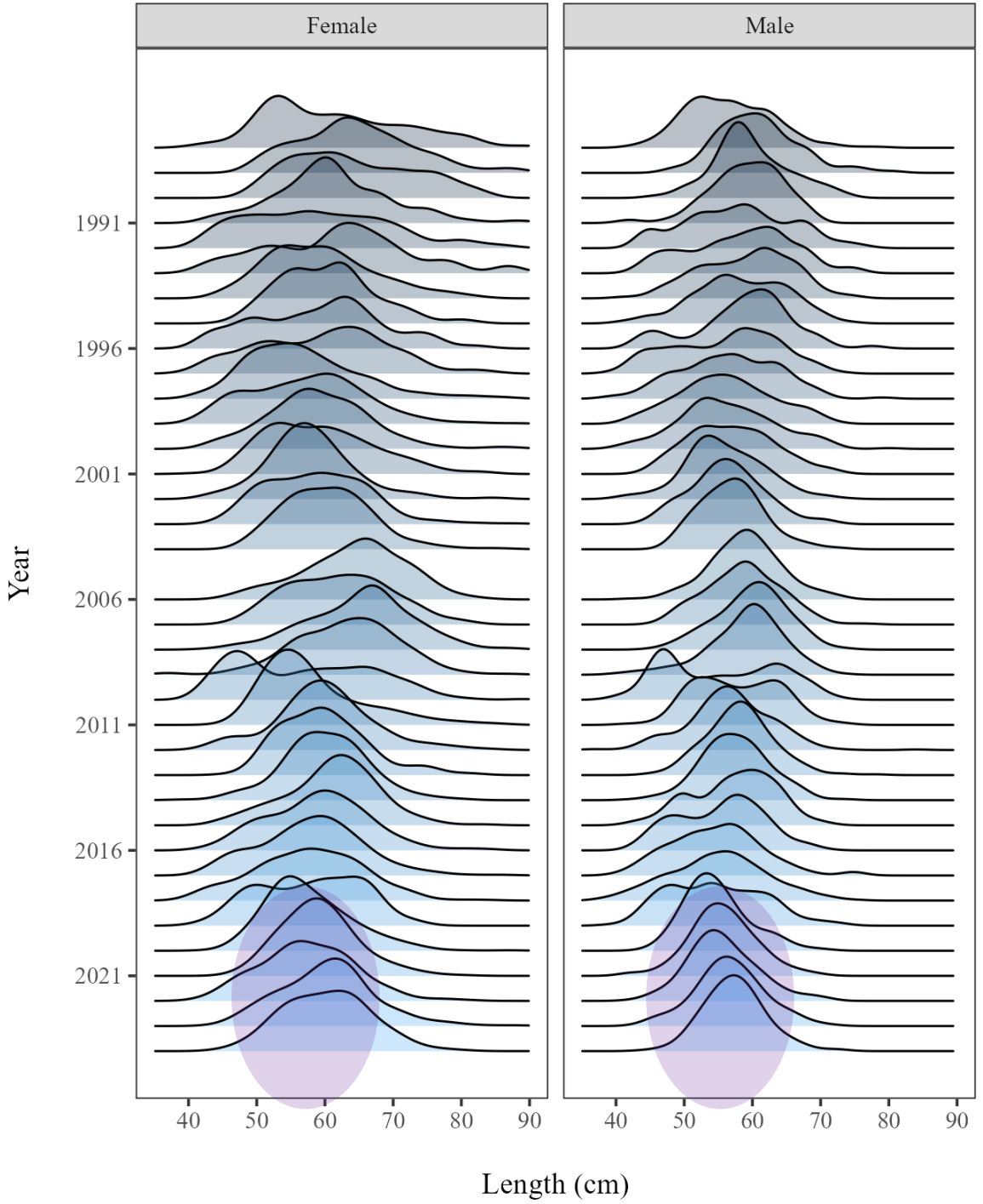
Extra slides

Quantity/Status	2024	2025	Difference
Projected total (age 2+) biomass (lb)	61,986,177	68,857,964	+6,871,787
Projected female spawning biomass (lb)	24,518,584	27,519,502	+3,000,918
Unfished female spawning biomass ($SB_{100\%}$, lb)	30,388,516	30,736,010	+347,494
Female spawning biomass at F_{50} ($SB_{50\%}$, lb)	15,194,258	15,368,005	+173,747
max $F_{ABC} = F_{50}$	0.062	0.061	
Recommended F_{ABC}	0.061	0.061	
Mortality from fishery releases (lb)	75,682	81,270	+5,588
max ABC (lb)	1,833,775	2,099,895	+266,120
Recommended ABC (lb)	1,809,075	2,080,436	+271,361

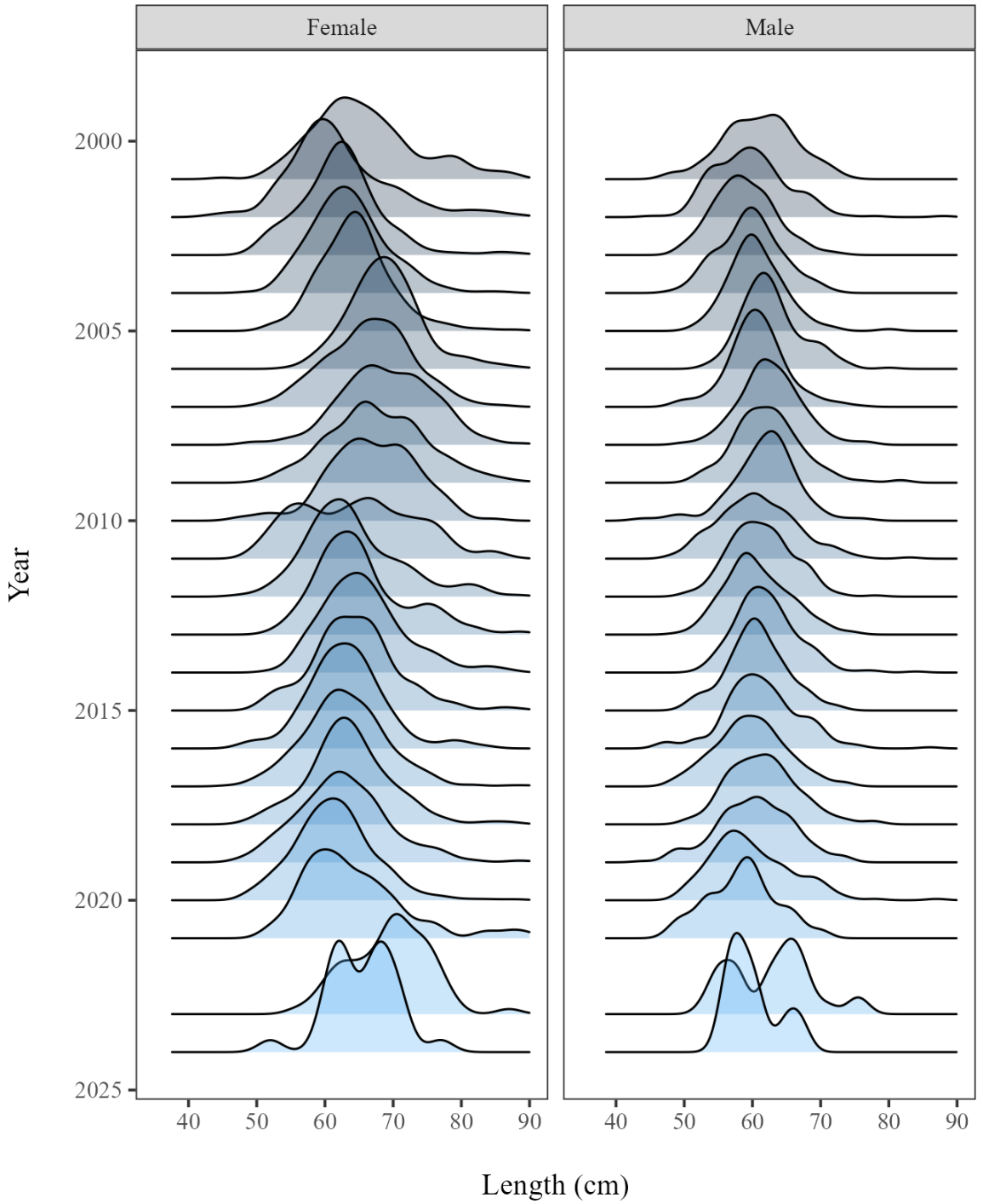
Survey Length Compositions



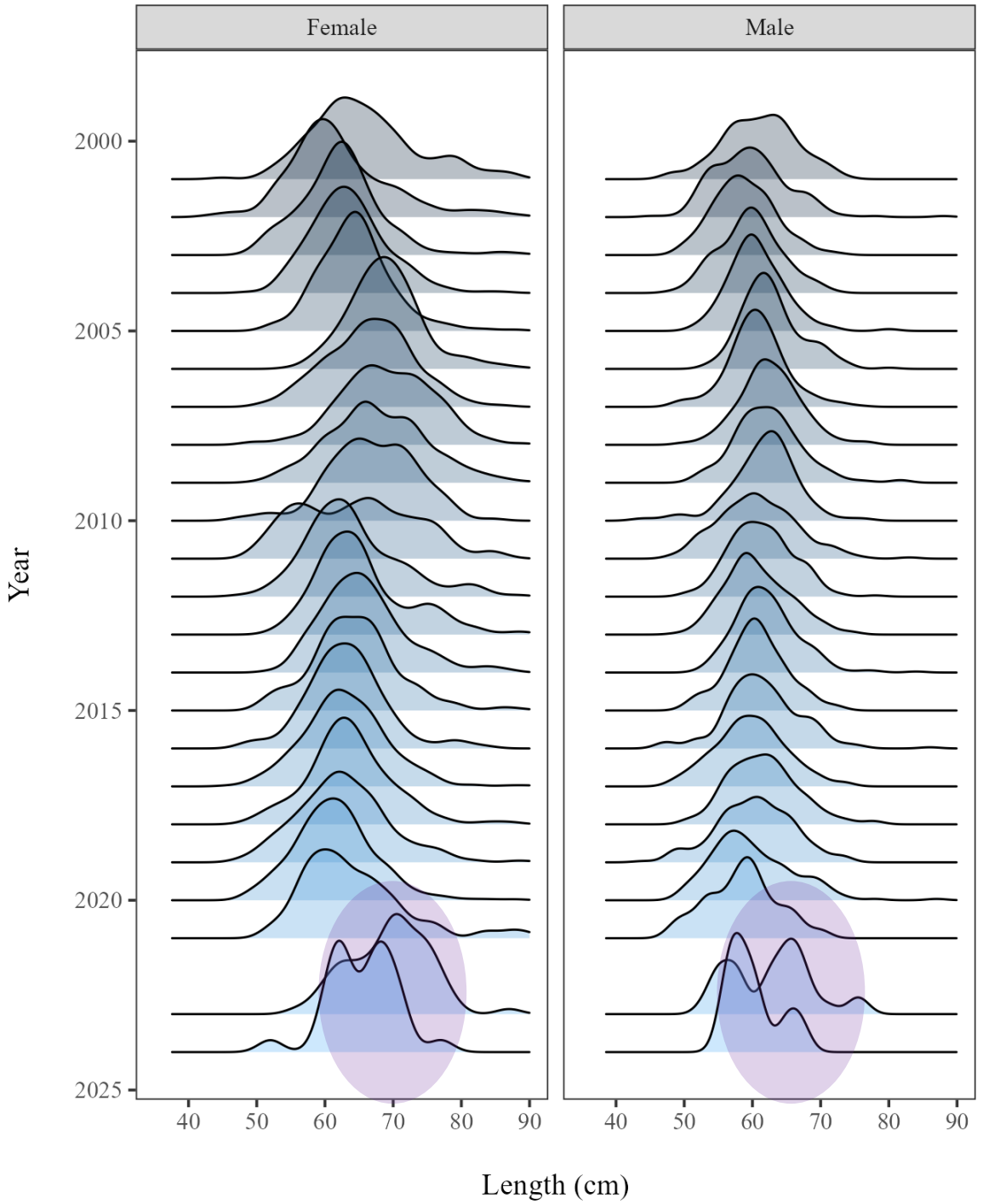
Survey Length Compositions



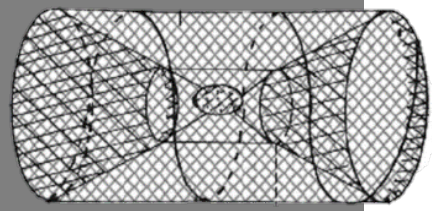
Longline Fishery Length Compositions

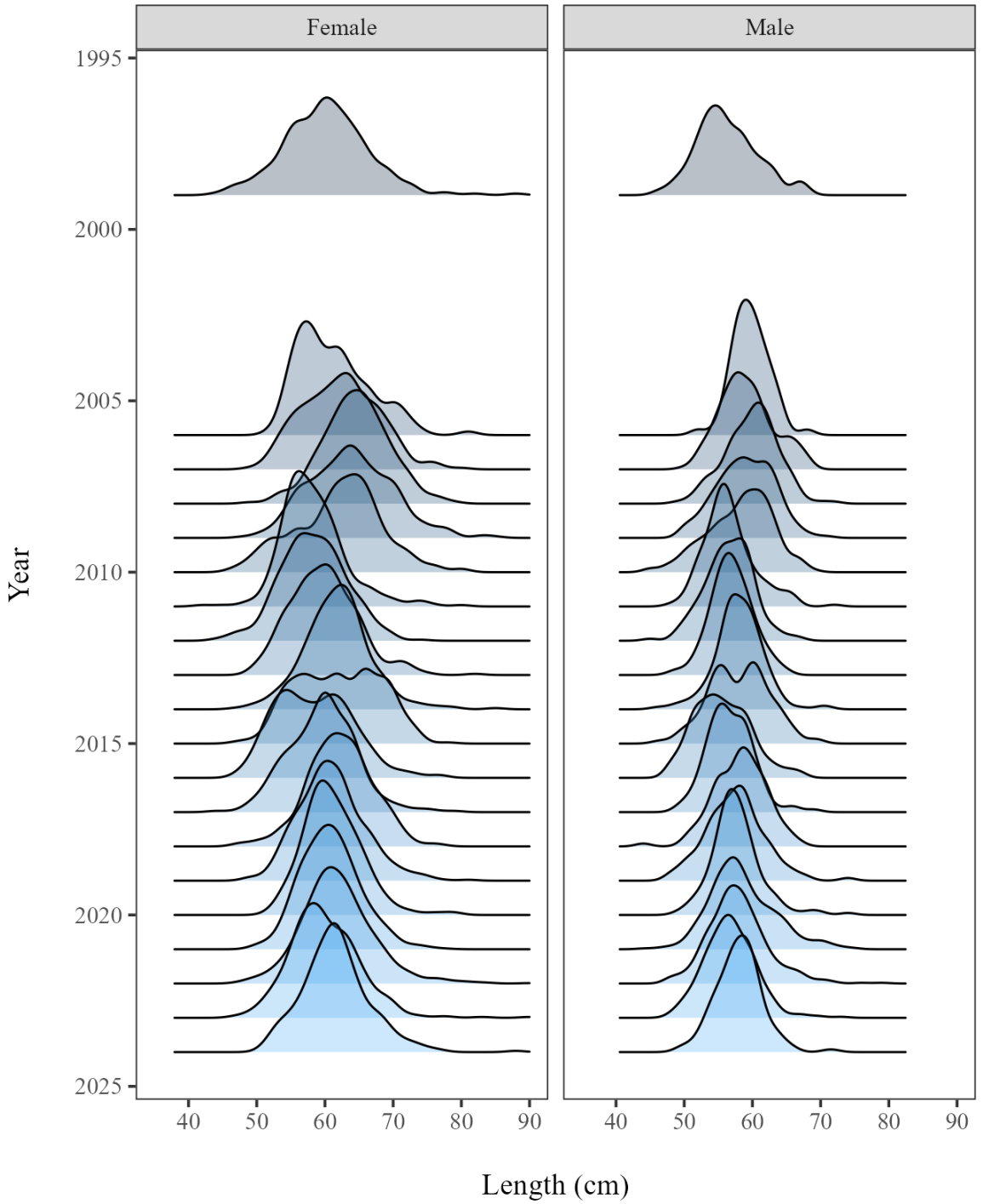


Longline Fishery Length Compositions

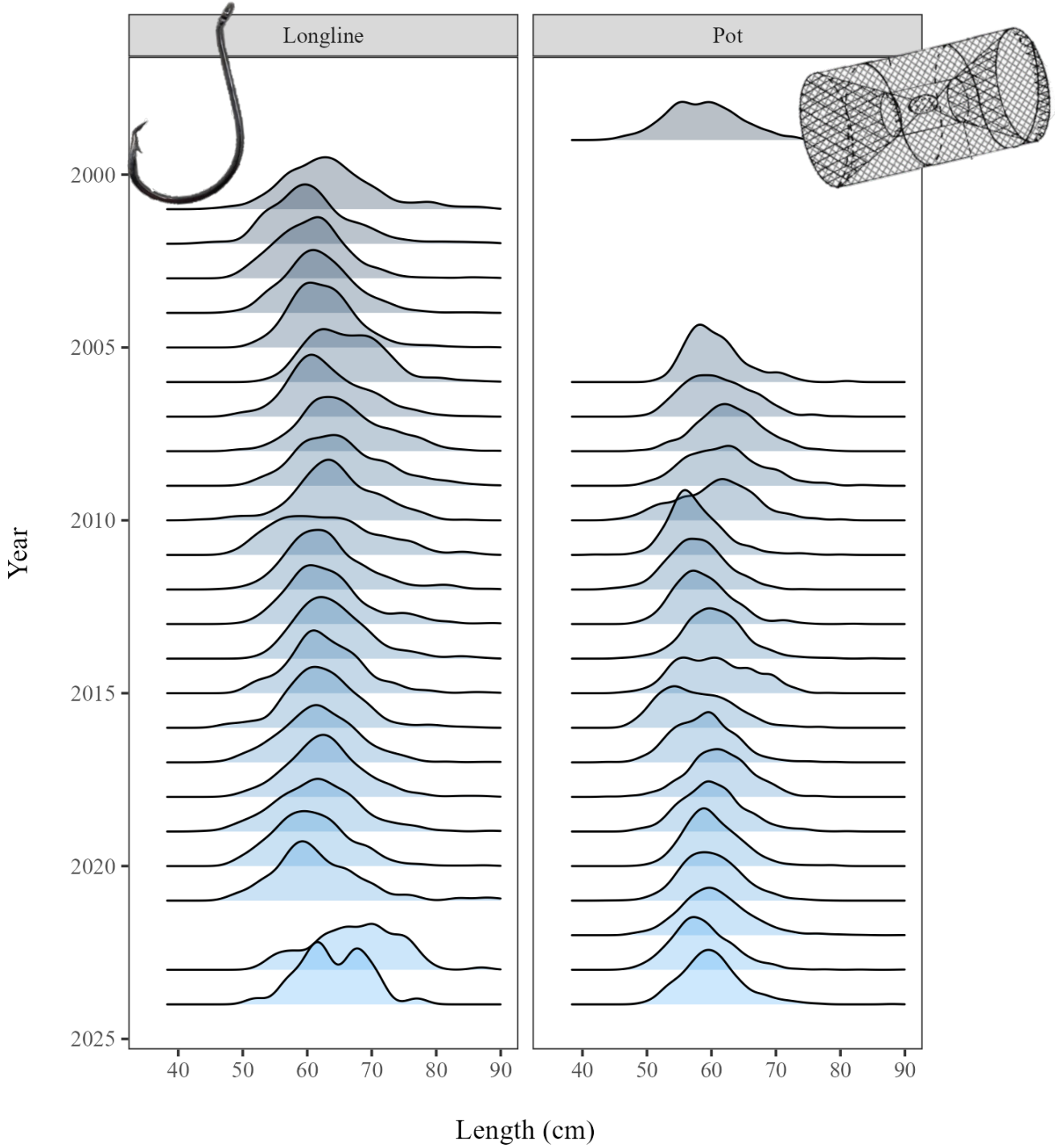


Pot Fishery Length Compositions





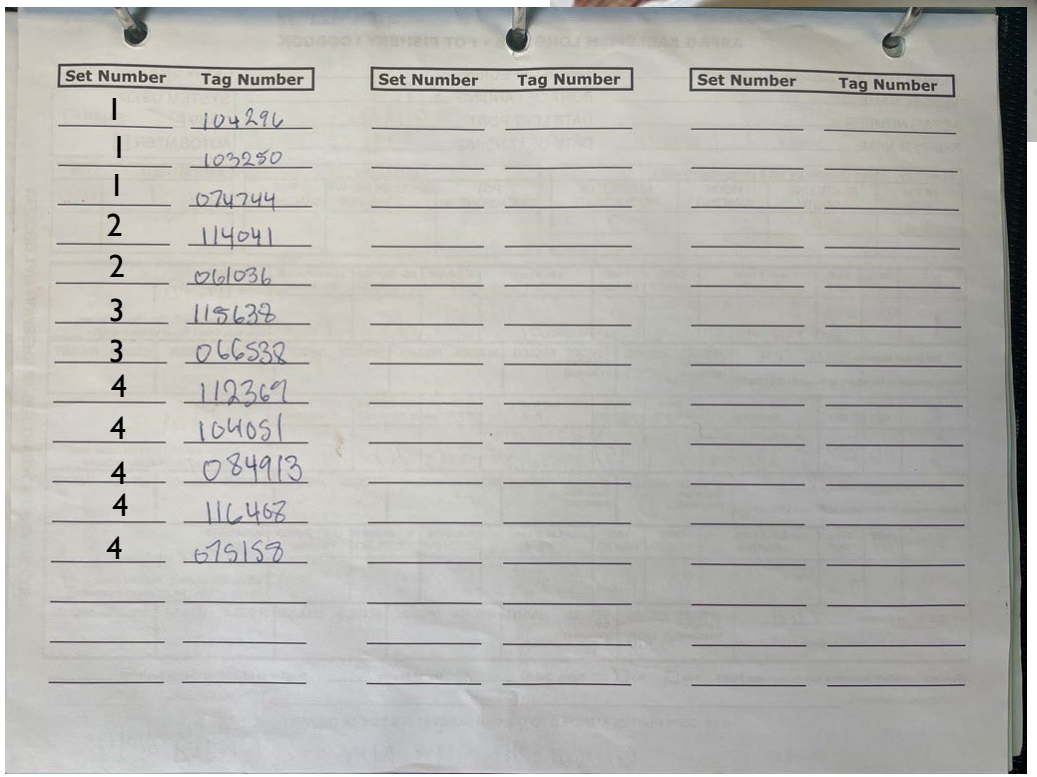
Longline vs Pot Fishery Length Compositions



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	061036				
3	115638				
3	066538				
4	112367				
4	104051				
4	084913				
4	116408				
4	075158				