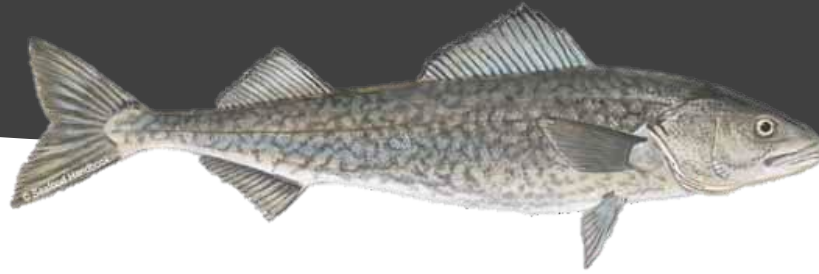


2026 Sablefish Industry Meeting



Welcome!



NOAA
FISHERIES

Sablefish Industry Meeting
May 19, 2026

Introduction



ADF&G Staff:

Rhea Ehresmann

Aaron Lambert

Jan Rumble

NOAA Staff:

Dan Goethel

Pat Malecha



NOAA
FISHERIES

Agenda



1. **NSEI Chatham Strait** (Aaron Lambert and Rhea Ehresmann)

Fishery assessment & survey data review

Outlook for 2026

2. **SSEI Clarence Strait** (Rhea Ehresmann)

Fishery & survey data review

Outlook for 2026

3. **Longline - Pot Gear Comparison Study** (Rhea Ehresmann and Aaron Lambert)

Background & results

2026 pot survey update

4. **GOA Federal Sablefish Updates** (Pat Malecha and Dan Goethel)



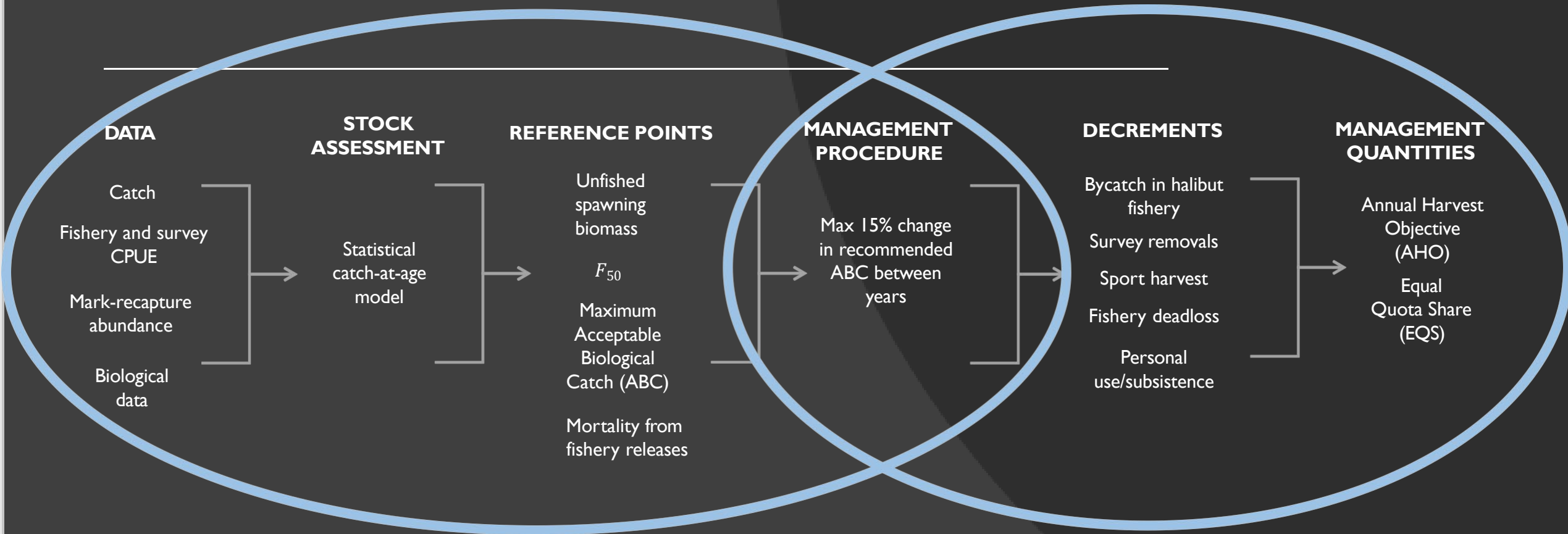
NOAA
FISHERIES

An underwater photograph showing a large school of fish, likely Atlantic croakers, swimming in clear, blue-green water. The fish are silvery with dark vertical stripes. One fish is prominently featured in the foreground, facing the viewer, while many others are visible in the background, creating a sense of a large, active population.

NSEI Chatham Strait Assessment

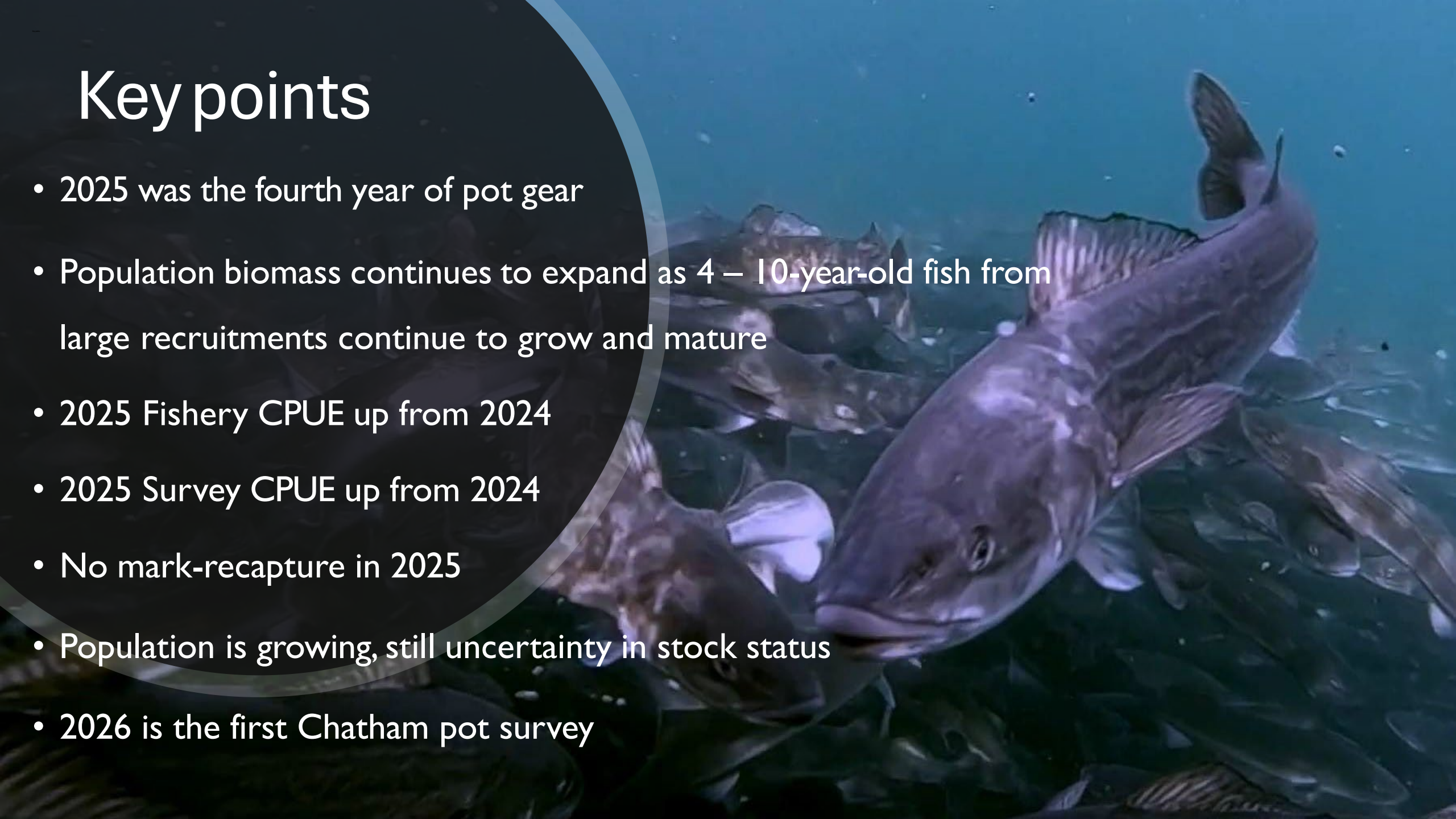
Aaron Lambert & Rhea Ehresmann

Assessment and management steps



Key points

- 2025 was the fourth year of pot gear
- Population biomass continues to expand as 4 – 10-year-old fish from large recruitments continue to grow and mature
- 2025 Fishery CPUE up from 2024
- 2025 Survey CPUE up from 2024
- No mark-recapture in 2025
- Population is growing, still uncertainty in stock status
- 2026 is the first Chatham pot survey





2026 Assessment updates and changes

- Fishery CPUE was standardized and was calculated with sets that sablefish were the target species
- Pot fishery information was not included in the fishery CPUE
- Survey and fishery selectivity using three time-blocks
 - Survey time-blocks: 1975-1999 (pre-survey standardization); 2000-2016 (survey standardization); 2017-2024 (post-large recruitment class)
 - Fishery time blocks: 1980-1994 (pre-EQS); 1995-2021 (longline fishery); 2022-2024 (mixed gear fishery)
- Survey selectivity estimated; fisheries selectivity fixed to Federal values
- Changed the retention/discard calculation
- Added retention/discard to SPR calculation

2026 Assessment Model Results



NOTE: Due to model changes, estimates between 2025 and 2026 are not directly comparable

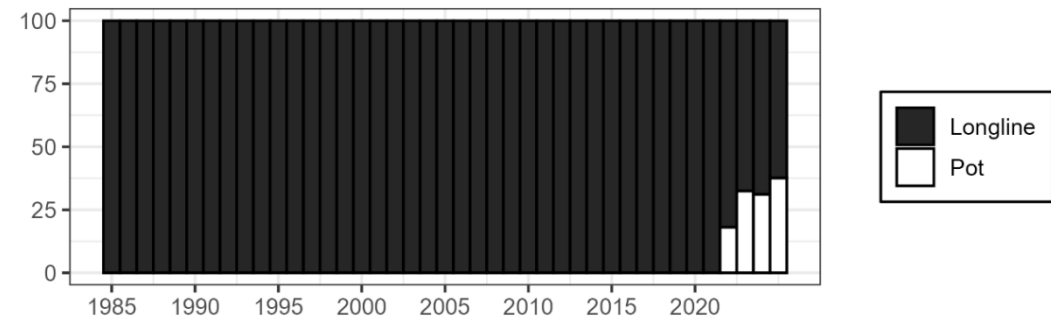
Quantity/Status	2025	2026
Projected total (age 2+) biomass (lb)	68,857,964	69,555,961
Projected female spawning biomass (lb)	27,519,502	28,216,051
Unfished female spawning biomass ($SB_{100\%}$, lb)	30,736,010	30,266,573
Female spawning biomass at F_{50} ($SB_{50\%}$, lb)	15,368,005	15,133,287
$\max F_{ABC} = F_{50}$	0.061	0.071
Recommended F_{ABC} (Under 15% increase)	0.061	0.054
Mortality from fishery releases (lb)	81,270	178,603
$\max ABC$ (lb)	2,099,895	3,150,994
Recommended ABC (lb)	2,080,436	2,392,501

2025 NSEI Fishery

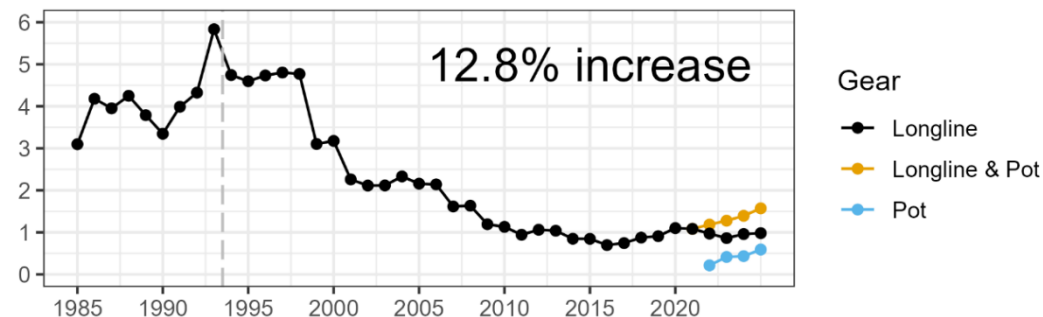
- Prop. of catch from pots increasing
- Catch (rnd. lb) continues to increase
- Exvessel value increasing, still low



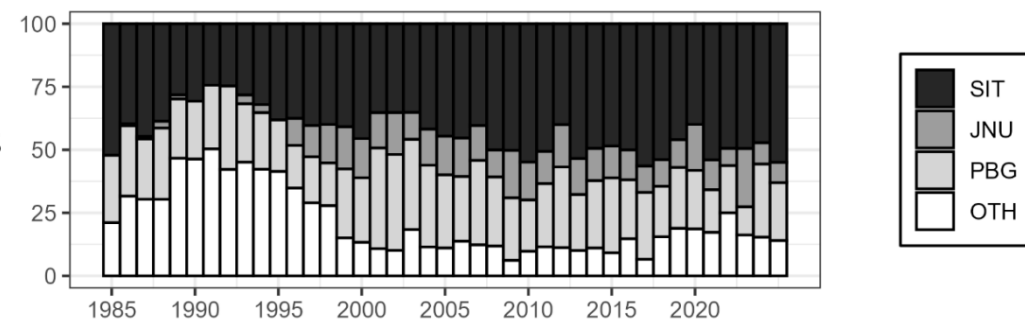
Pot & LL
percent catch



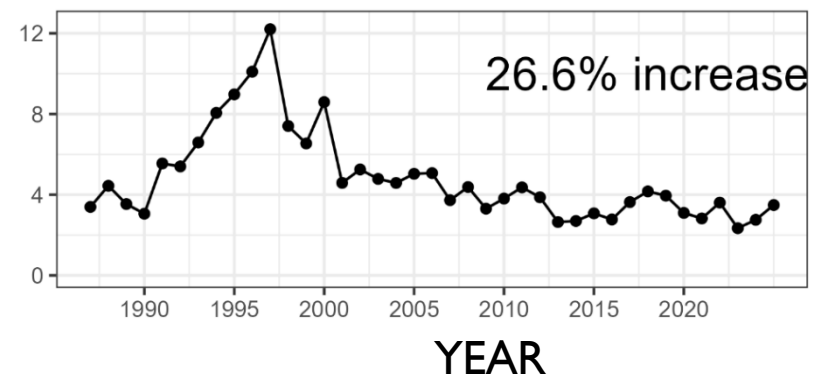
Catch
(million round lb)



Percent landings
by port

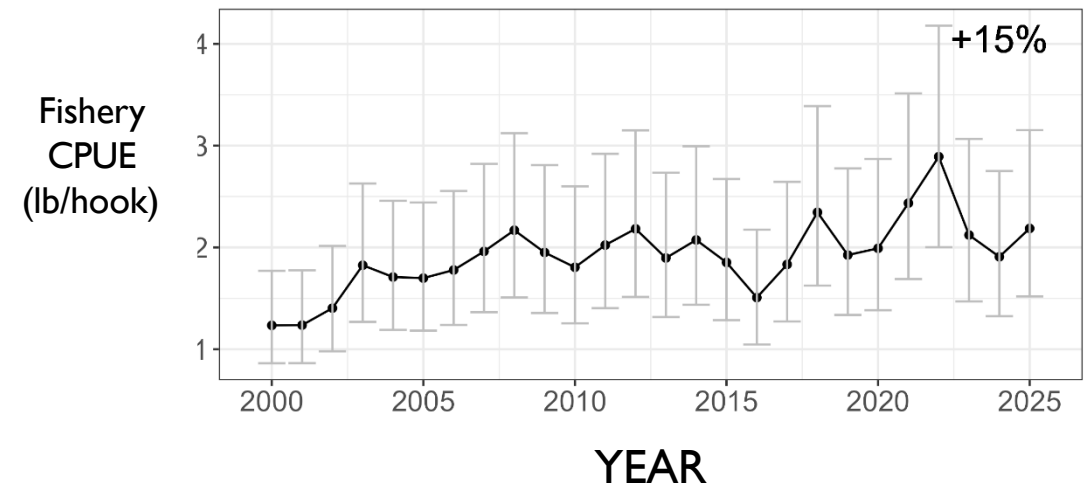
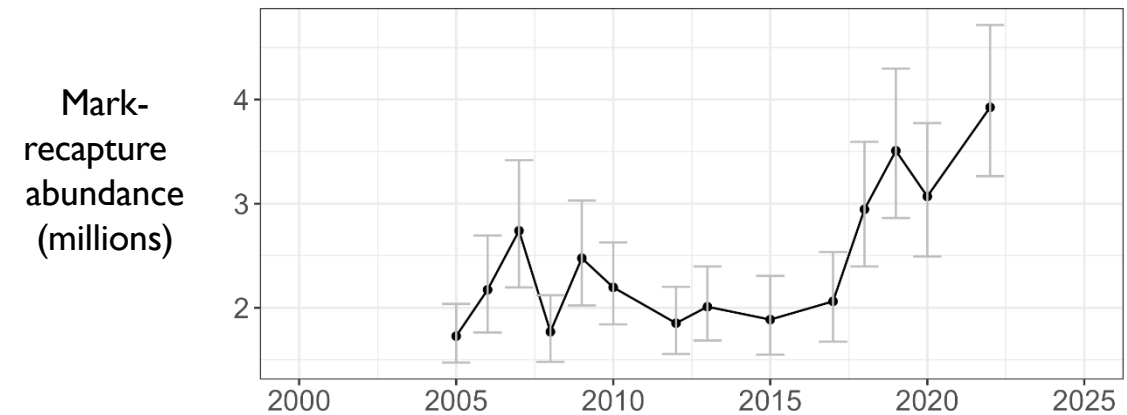
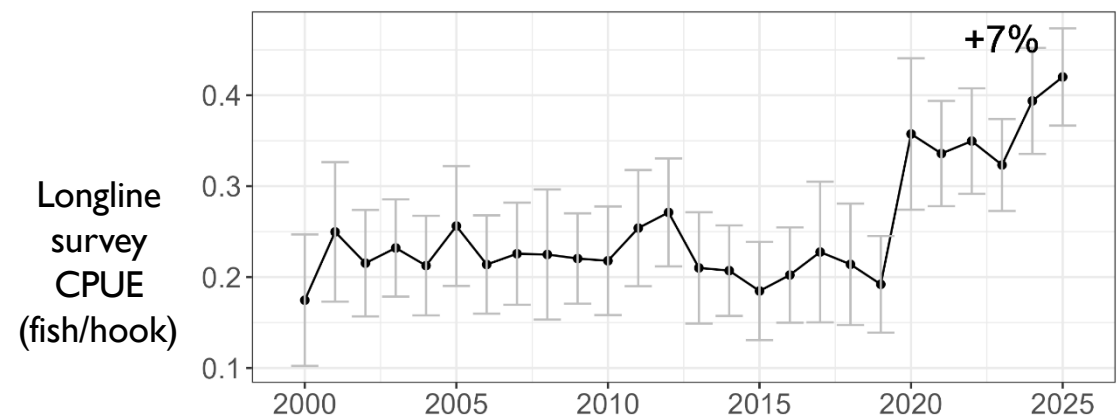
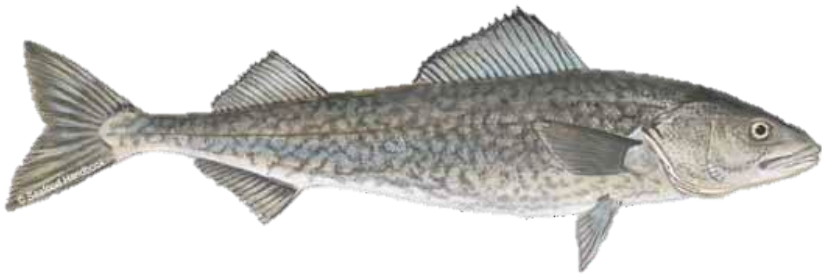


Ex-vessel value
(million USD)



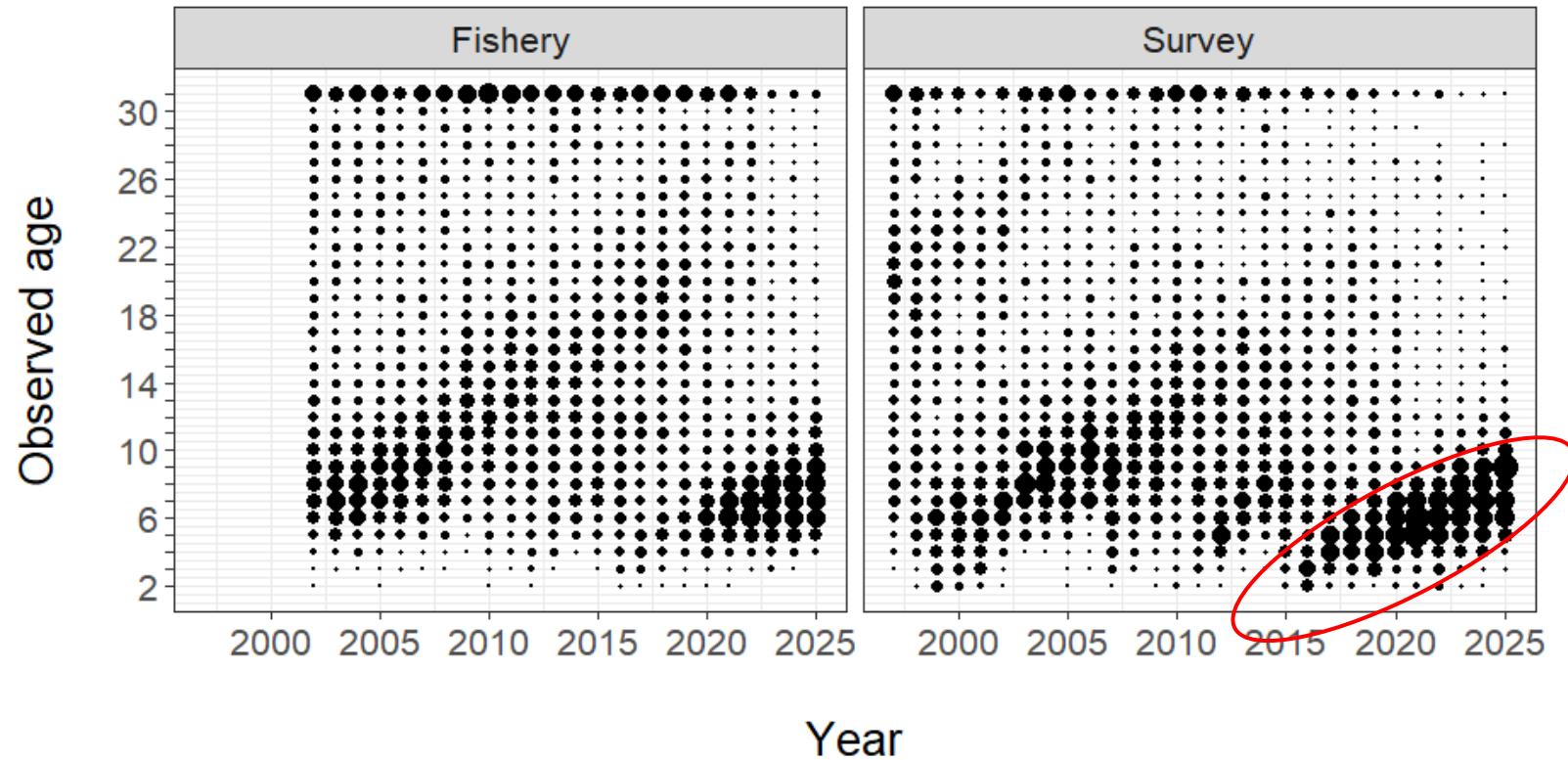
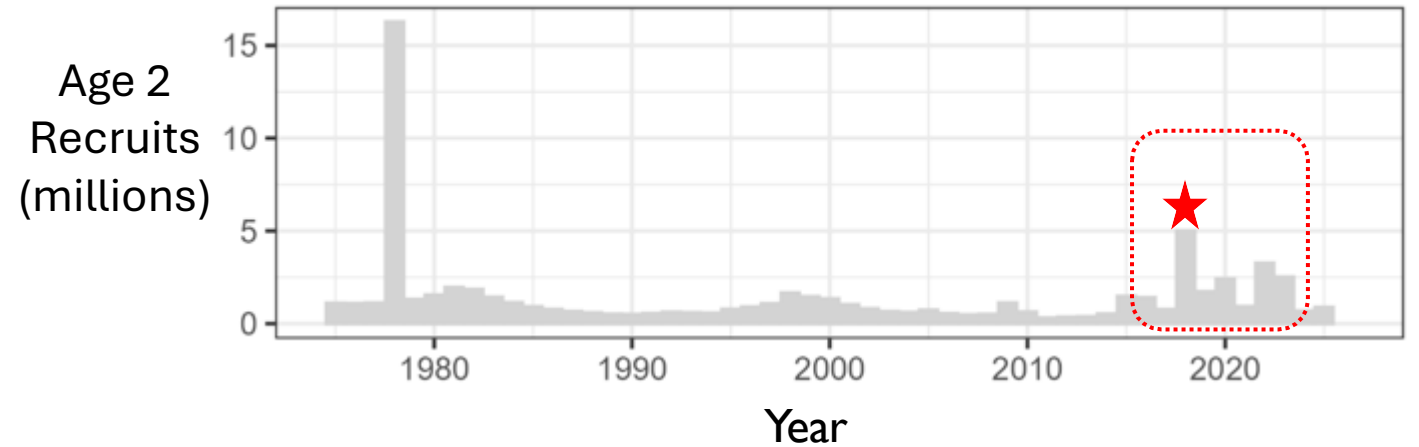
Abundance Indices Trends

- 6th year above the average survey CPUE
- No mark-recapture 2025
- Catch (rnd. lb) continues to increase

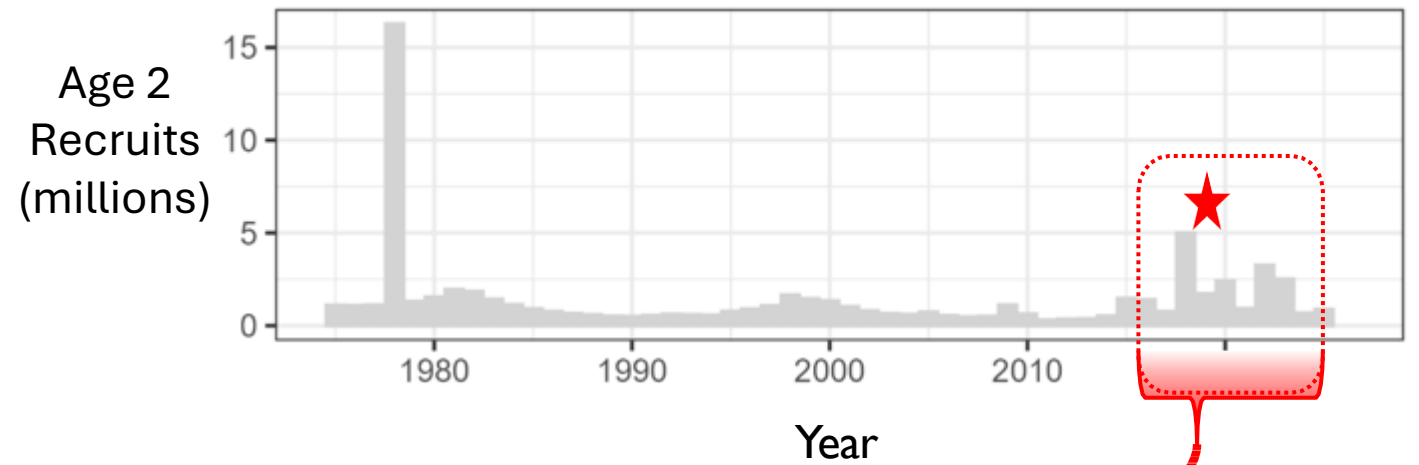


Age Composition

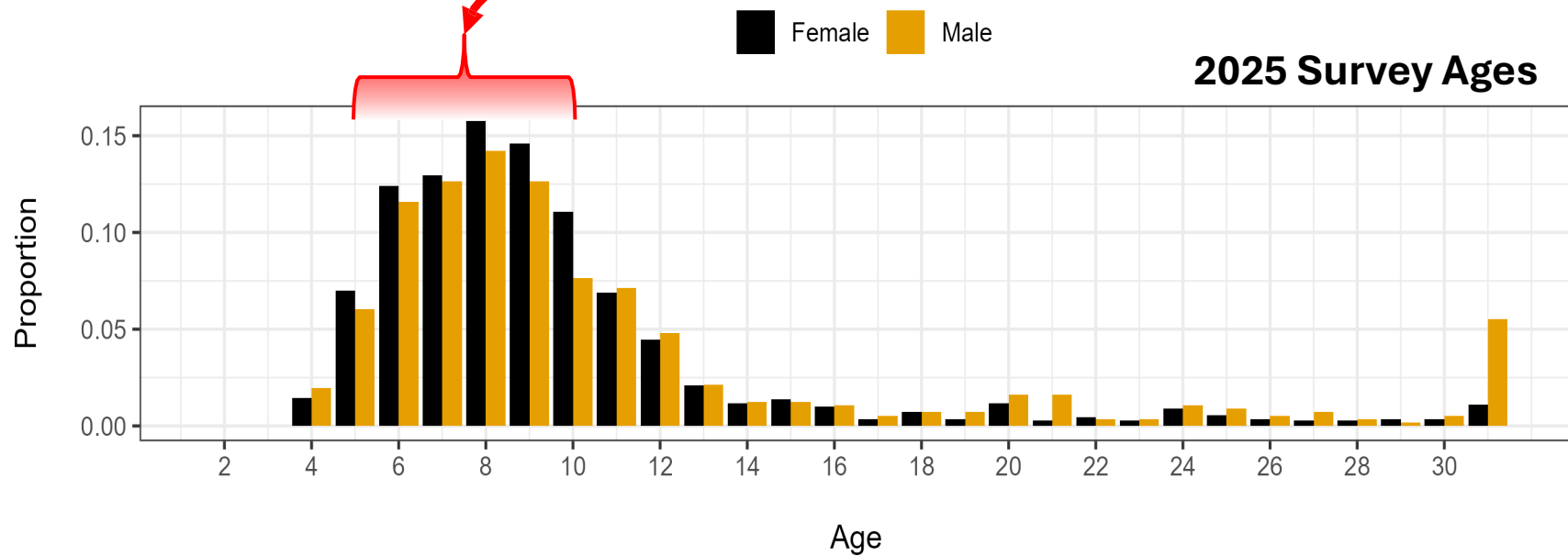
- Recruitment may be returning to more average levels
- 2016 – 2018-year class growing to marketable size



Age Composition

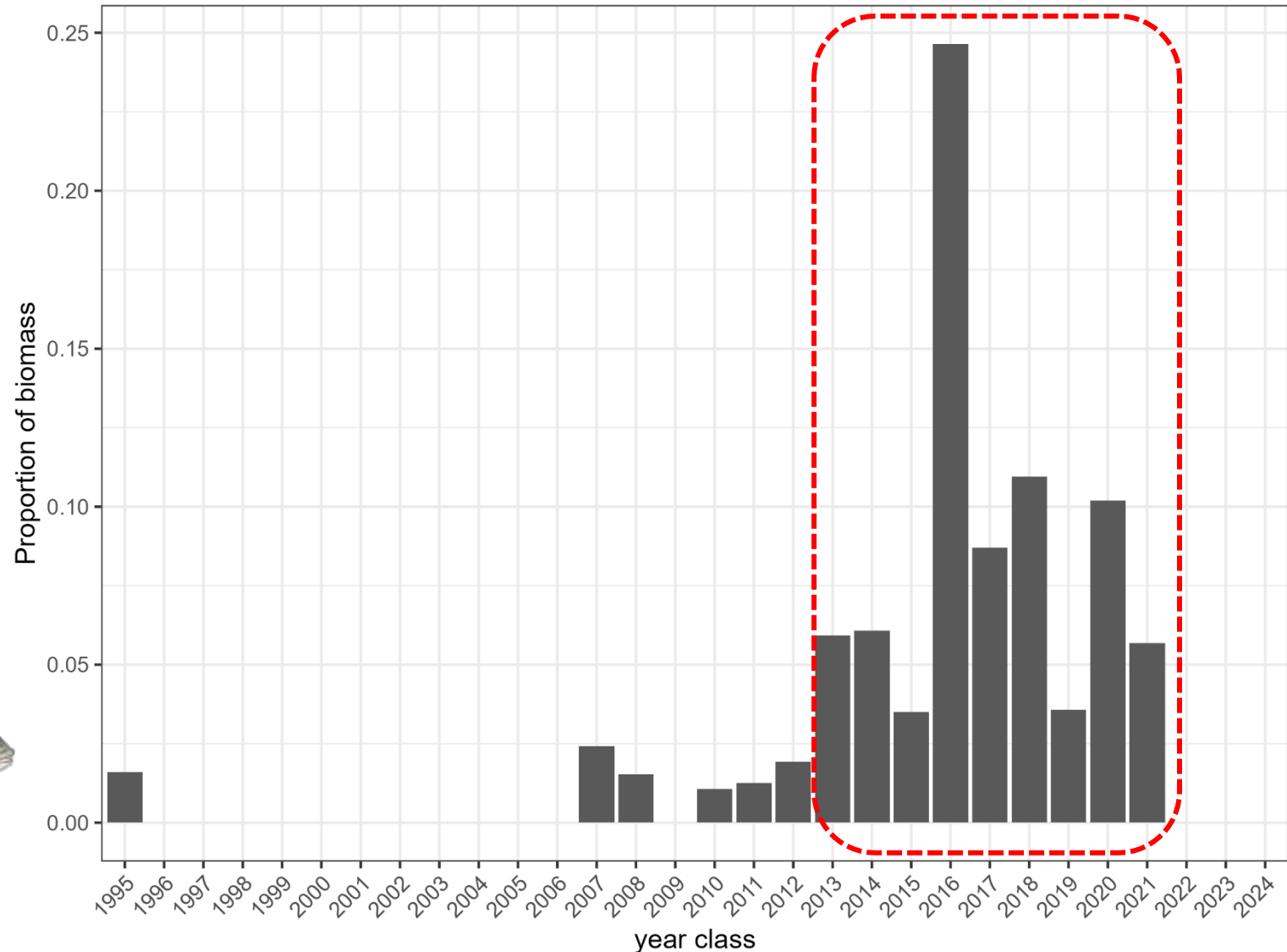
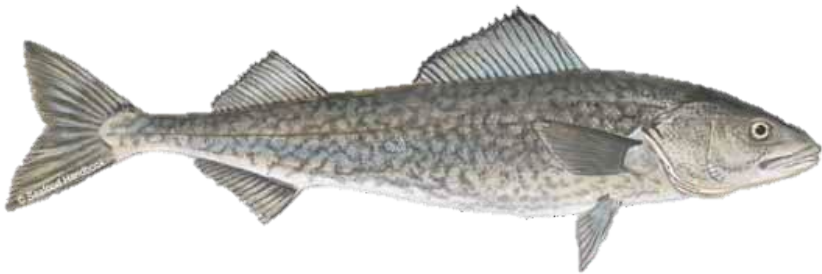


Large year classes dominant in current population



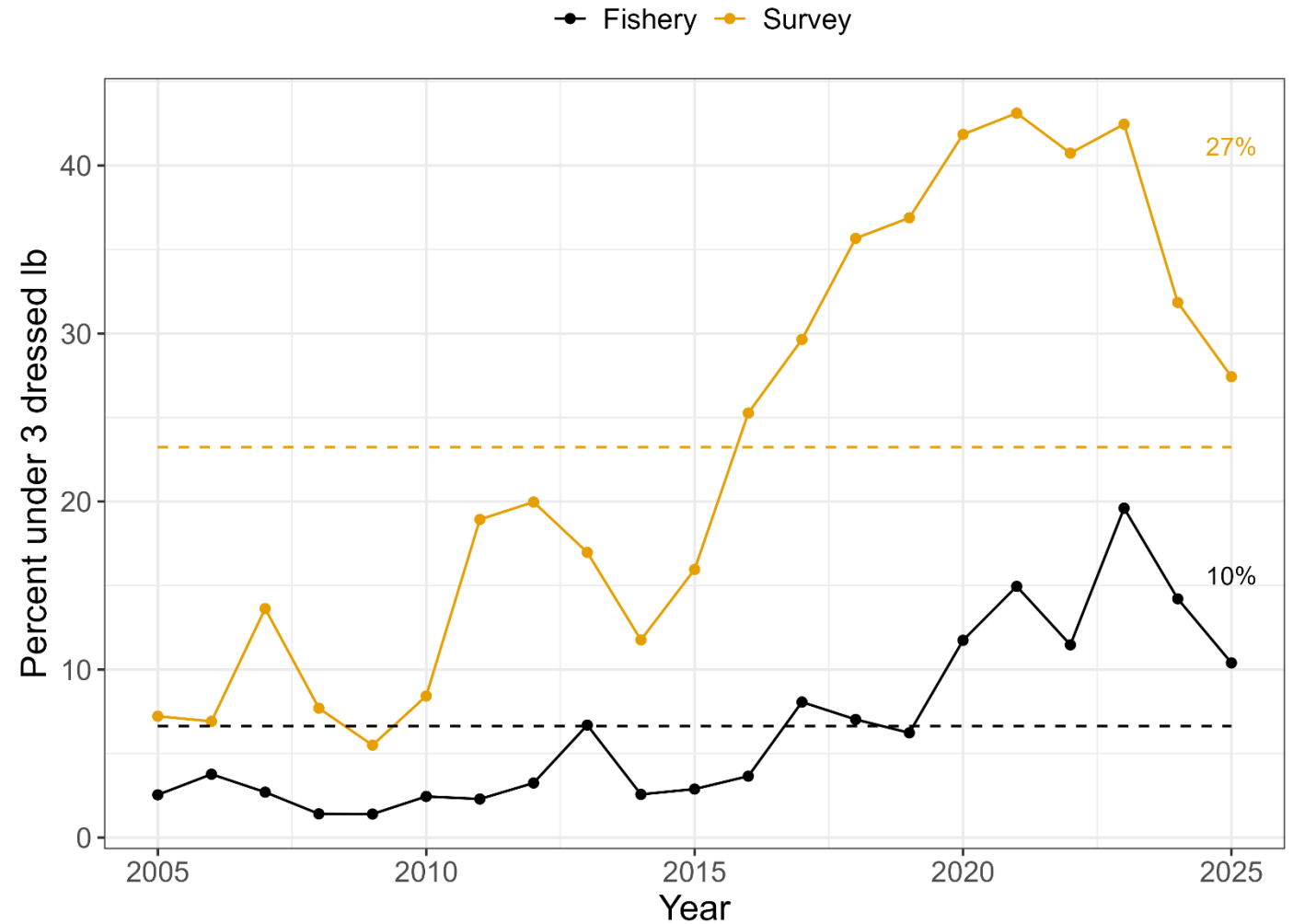
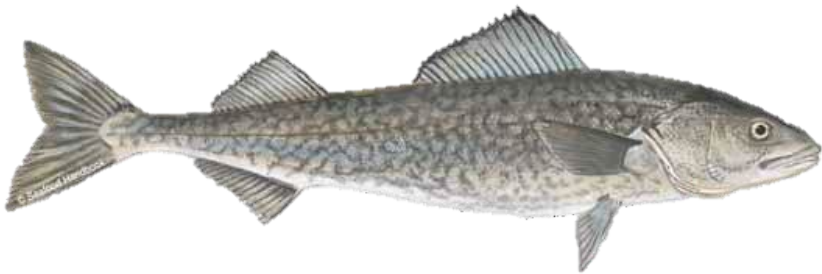
2025 Biomass Composition by Year-Class

- 2016-year class makes up 25% of the biomass
- Most of the biomass is from younger fish



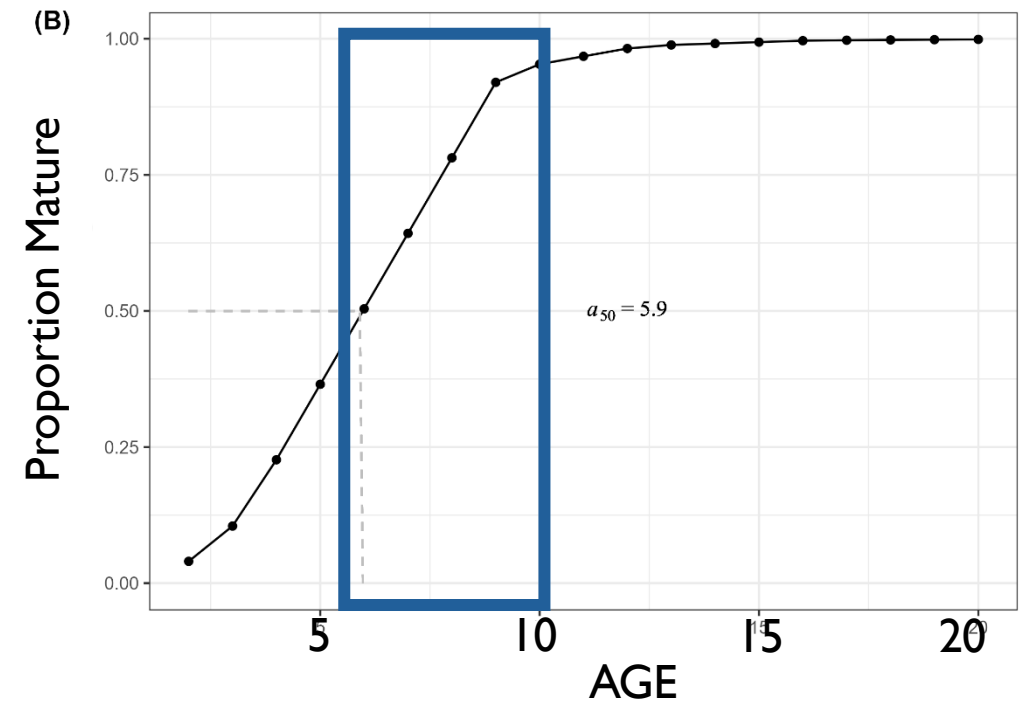
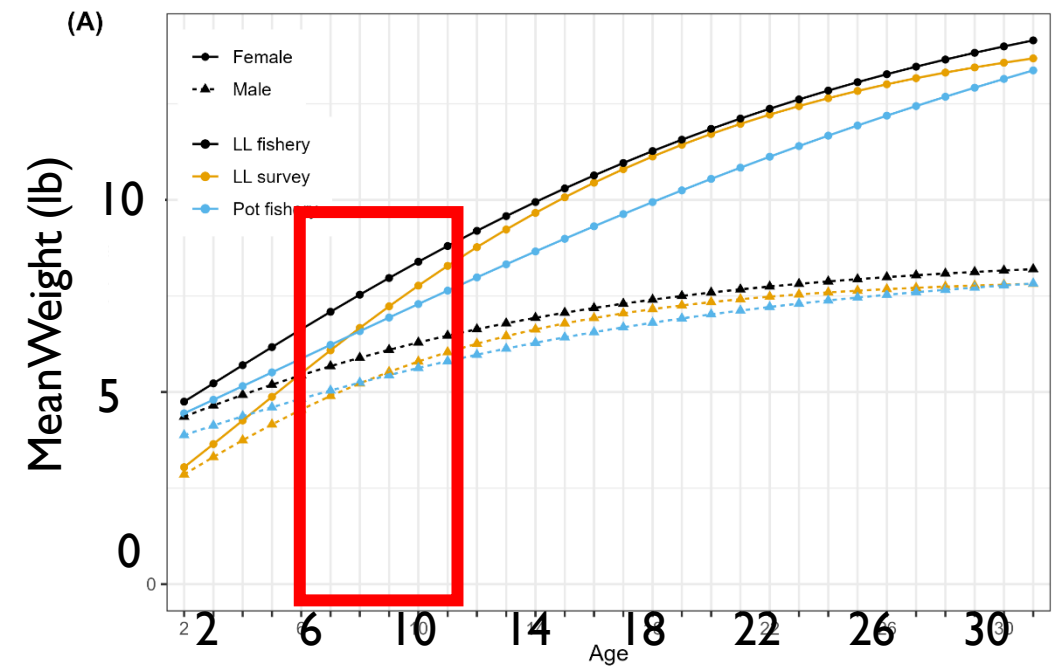
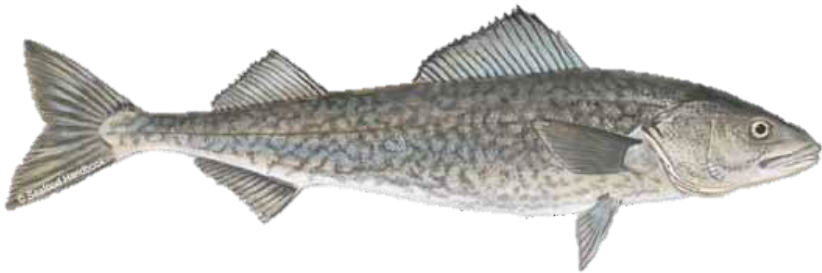
Catch of 3 lb sablefish

- Proportion of small fish in catch declining as large recruitment class grows
- True for survey and fishery



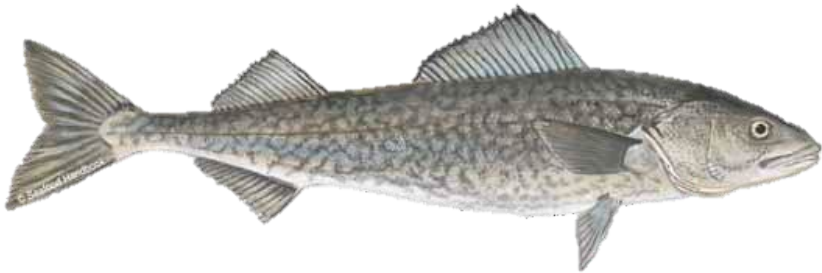
Age, size, maturity

- 2016 – 2022 cohorts **continuing to grow**
- 2016 cohort mostly mature
- More recent year classes **continuing** to mature

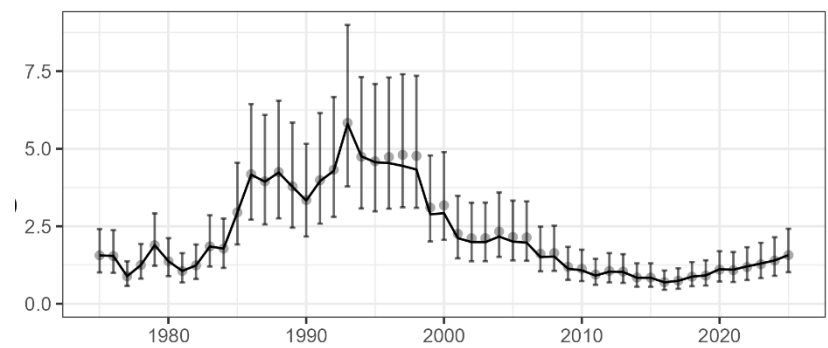


Model fit to indices

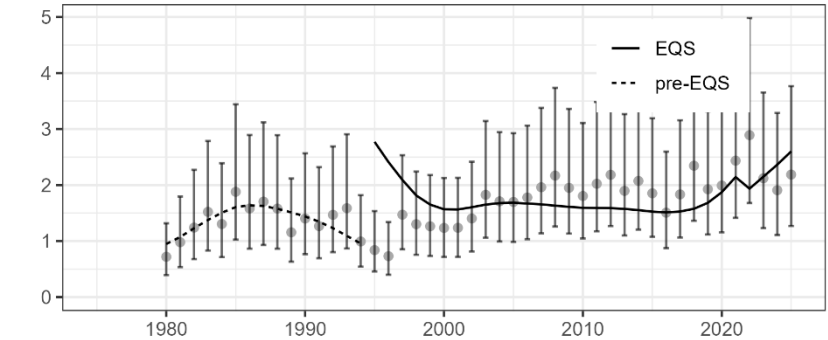
- Fits catch well
- Fishery CPUE fit is OK
- Fit to survey CPUE is good
- Overall agreement that abundance is continuing to increase



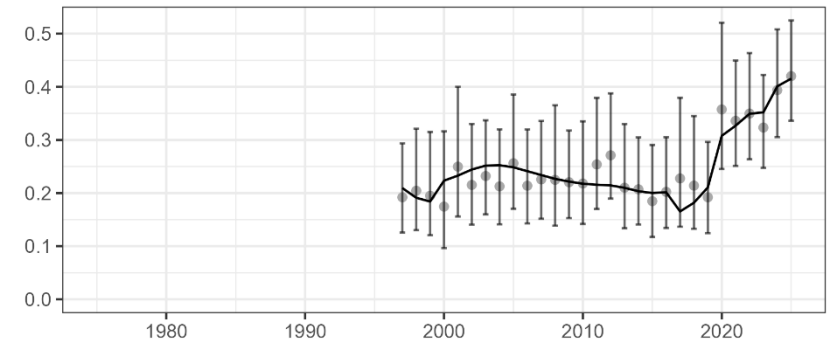
Catch
(million rnd lb)



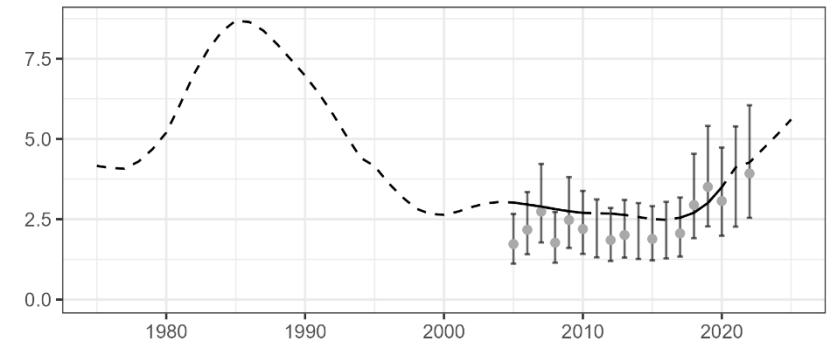
Fishery
CPUE
(lb/hook)



Longline
survey
CPUE
(fish/hook)

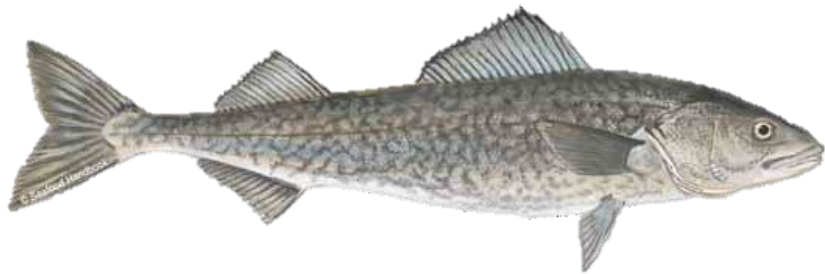


Mark-
recapture
exploitable
abundance
(millions)

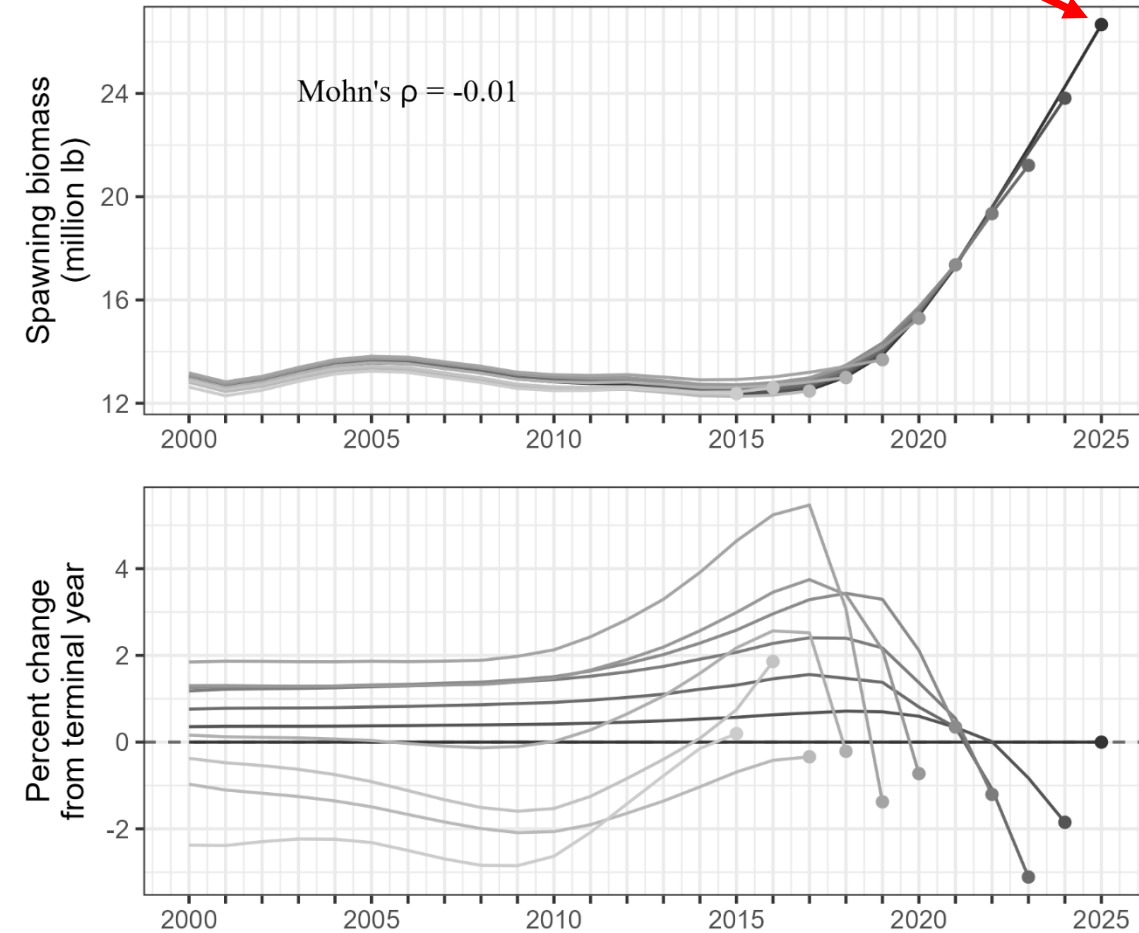


Retrospective performance

- Model slightly underestimates biomass
- Model slightly underestimates recruitment
- When recruitment is high, takes a few years to observe the recruitment in indices
- This indicates that the model is stable and adding new observations won't dramatically change past estimates



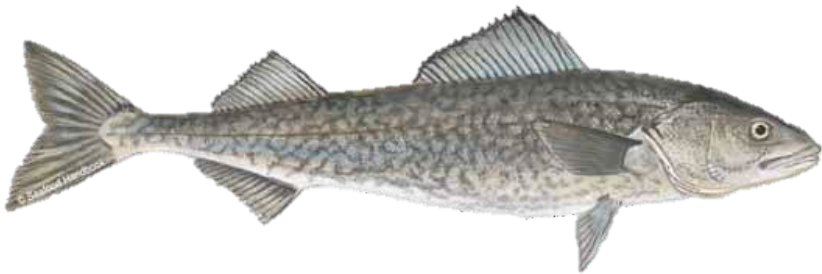
This year's model





Future assessment steps

1. Continue to address the retention probability and fishery selectivity challenges
2. Monitor pot fishery as it develops and adjust model when data become sufficient
3. Review mark-recapture analysis (hopefully add future mark-recapture to model 2027)
4. Explore options for adding the NEW 2026 pot survey index into the model





Decrements

1. Bycatch mortality in the IFQ halibut fishery (limited IPHC stations in 2025)
2. ADF&G 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

2024–2026



Year	2024	2025	2026
ABC (lb)	1,809,075	2,080,436	2,392,501
Decrements			
1) Bycatch mortality in halibut fishery	77,436	78,849	
2) ADF&G longline survey removals	117,849	140,080	
3) Guided sport harvest	41,464	43,087	
Unguided sport harvest	6,085	7,291	
4) Subsistence and personal use	17,245	15,010	
5) Deadloss discard mortality in sablefish fishery	6,553	6,448	
Total Decrements	266,631	290,765	
AHO	1,542,444	1,789,671	
# of Permit Holders	73	73	
EQS	21,129	24,516	

Year		2024	2025	2026
ABC (lb)		1,809,075	2,080,436	2,392,501
Decrements				
1) Bycatch mortality in halibut fishery		77,436	78,849	70,146
2) ADF&G longline survey removals		117,849	140,080	112,476
3) Guided sport harvest		41,464	43,087	38,141
Unguided sport harvest		6,085	7,291	7,293
4) Subsistence and personal use		17,245	15,010	11,630
5) Deadloss discard mortality in sablefish fishery		6,553	6,448	9,935
Total Decrements		266,631	290,765	249,619
AHO		1,542,444	1,789,671	
# of Permit Holders		73	73	
EQS		21,129	24,516	

Sablefish Decrements

2024–2026



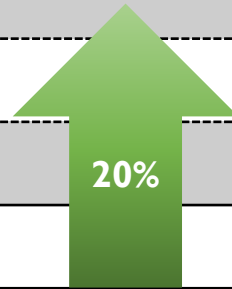
Sablefish Decrements 2024–2026 	Year	2024	2025	2026
	ABC (lb)	1,809,075	2,080,436	2,392,501
	Decrements			
	1) Bycatch mortality in halibut fishery	77,436	78,849	70,146
	2) ADF&G longline survey removals	117,849	140,080	112,476
	3) Guided sport harvest	41,464	43,087	38,141
	Unguided sport harvest	6,085	7,291	7,293
	4) Subsistence and personal use	17,245	15,010	11,630
	5) Deadloss discard mortality in sablefish fishery	6,553	6,448	9,935
	Total Decrements	266,631	290,765	249,619
	AHO	1,542,444	1,789,671	2,142,882
	# of Permit Holders	73	73	
	EQS	21,129	24,516	

Year		2024	2025	2026
ABC (lb)		1,809,075	2,080,436	2,392,501
Decrements				
1) Bycatch mortality in halibut fishery		77,436	78,849	70,146
2) ADF&G longline survey removals		117,849	140,080	112,476
3) Guided sport harvest		41,464	43,087	38,141
Unguided sport harvest		6,085	7,291	7,293
4) Subsistence and personal use		17,245	15,010	11,630
5) Deadloss discard mortality in sablefish fishery		6,553	6,448	9,935
Total Decrements		266,631	290,765	249,619
AHO		1,542,444	1,789,671	2,142,882
# of Permit Holders		73	73	73
EQS		21,129	24,516	29,355

Sablefish

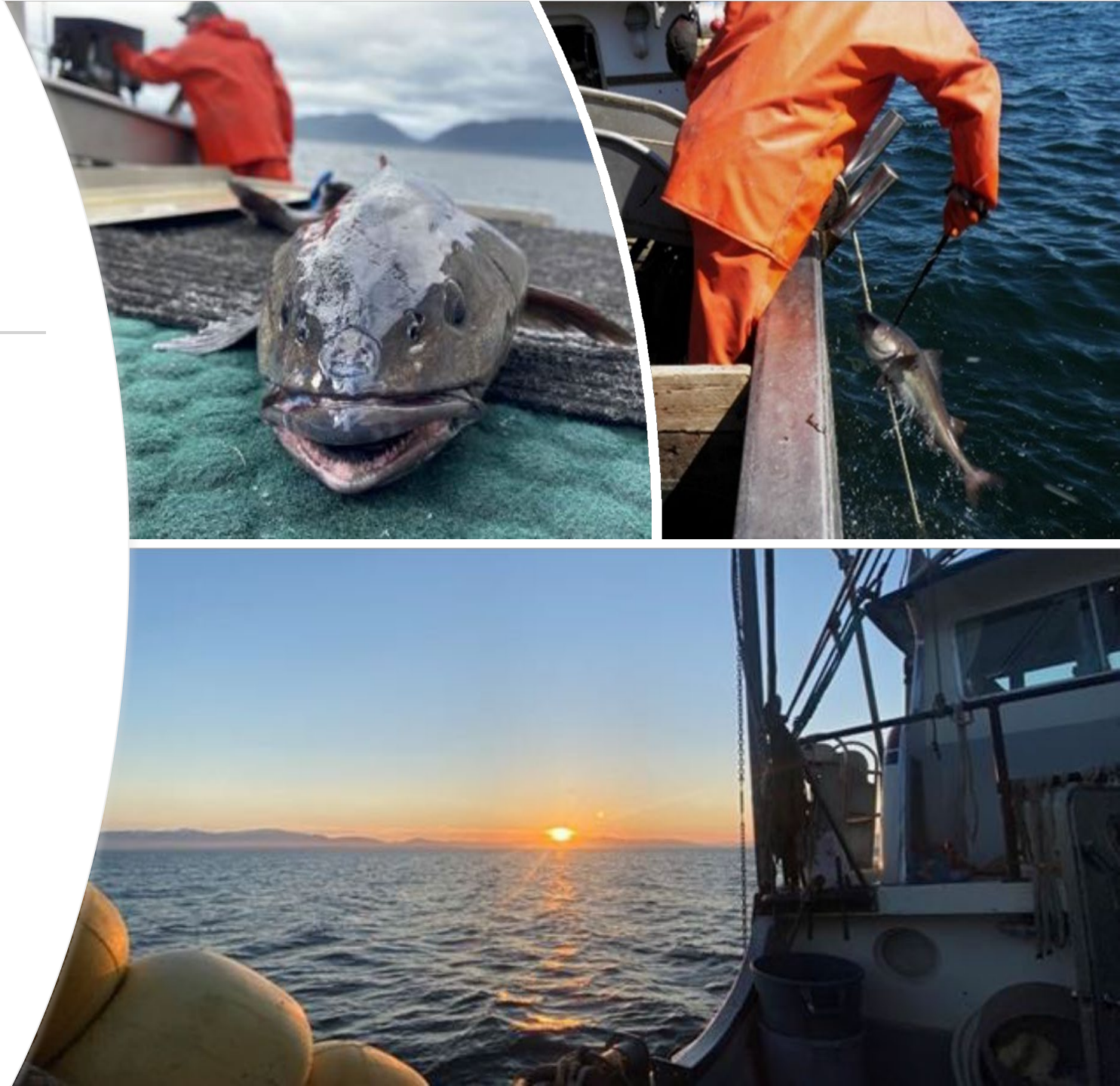
Decrements

2024–2026

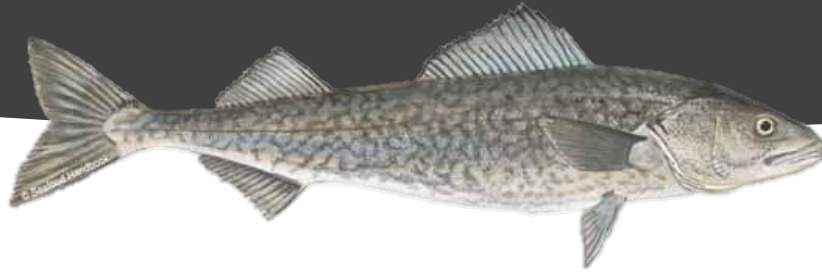


2026 Annual Harvest Objective Next Steps

- Finalizing management and assessment report
- Announcement out in late May
- Registrations available in July

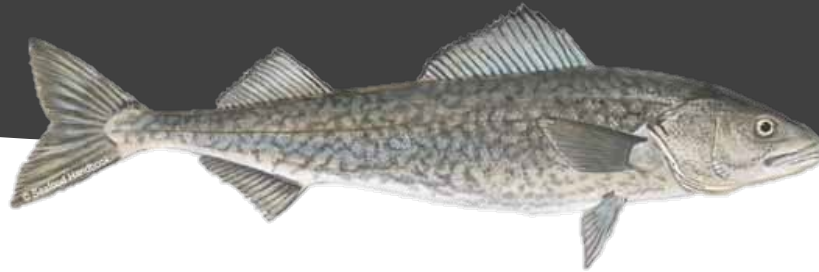


Question and Answer



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

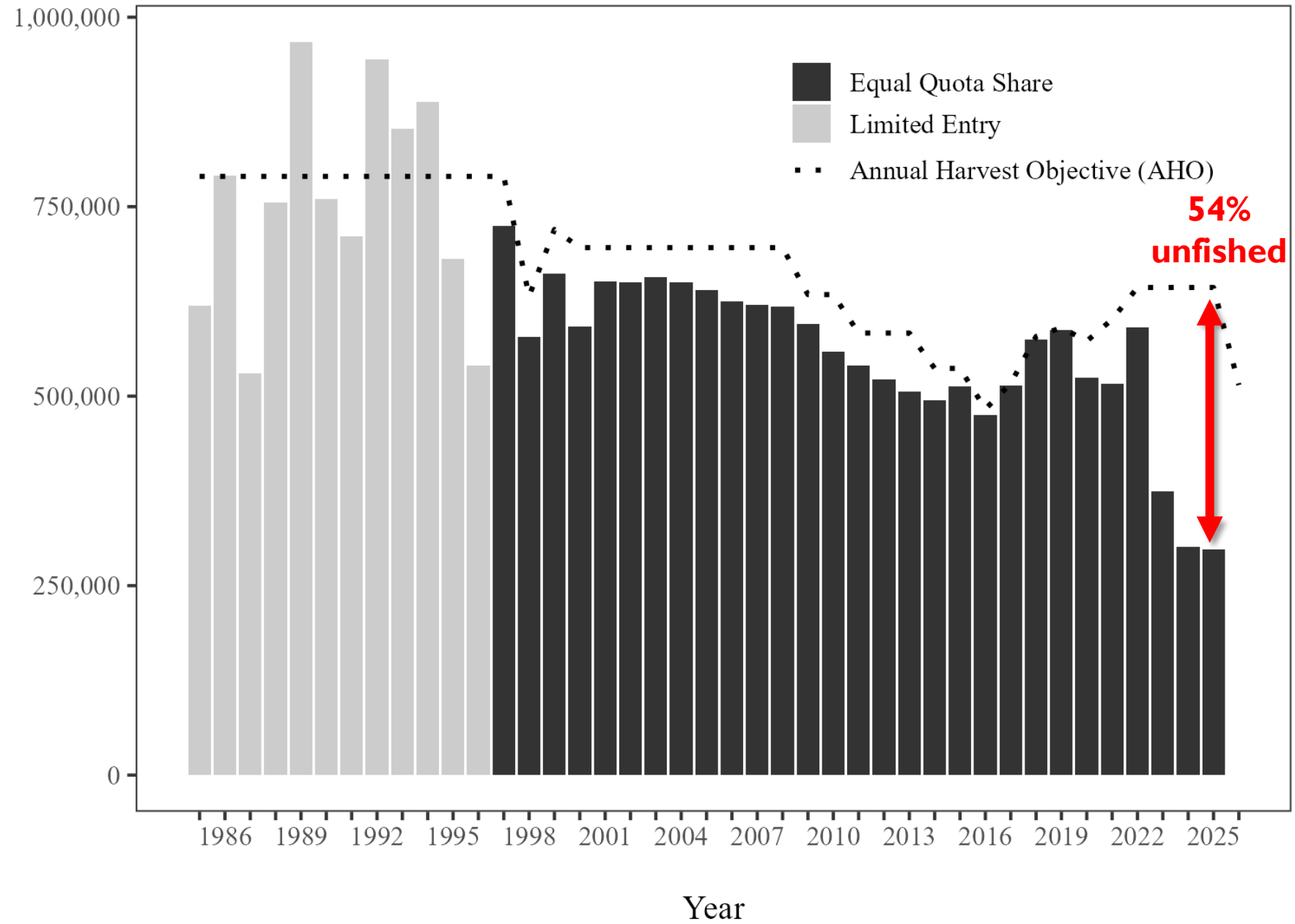
SSEI Sablefish fishery and survey data review



Rhea Ehresmann

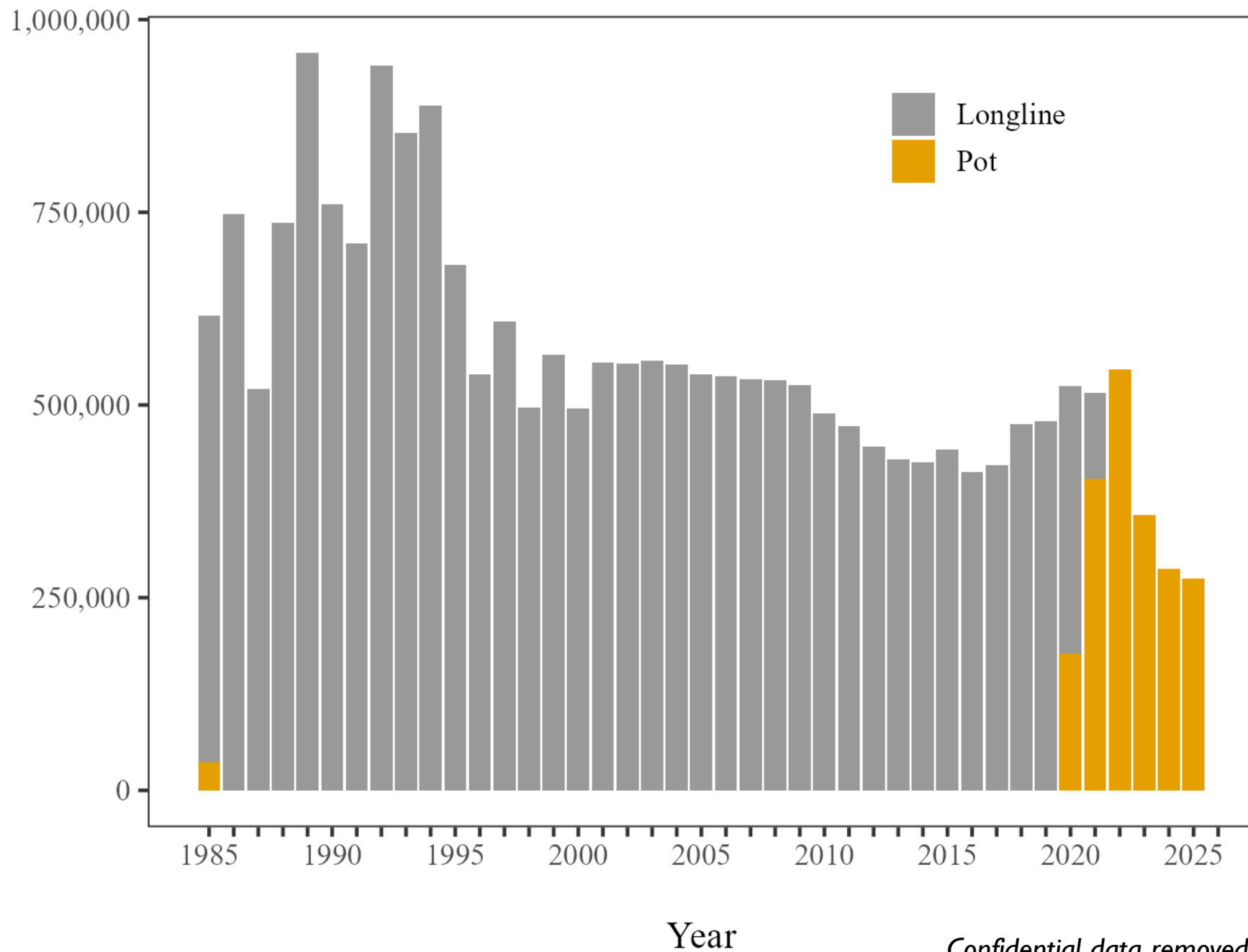
Fishery Harvest

Harvest (round lb)



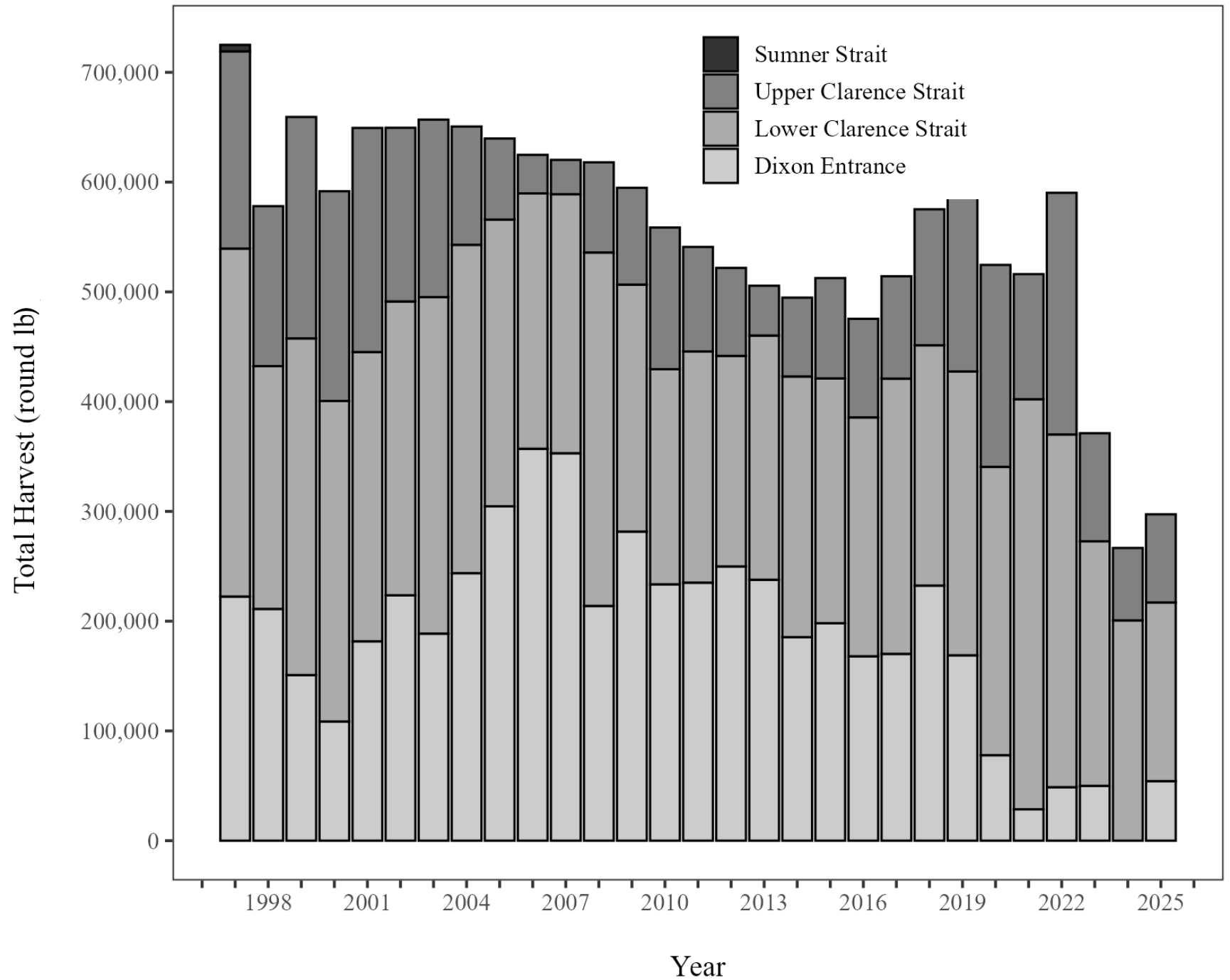
Fishery Harvest by Gear

Harvest (round lb)



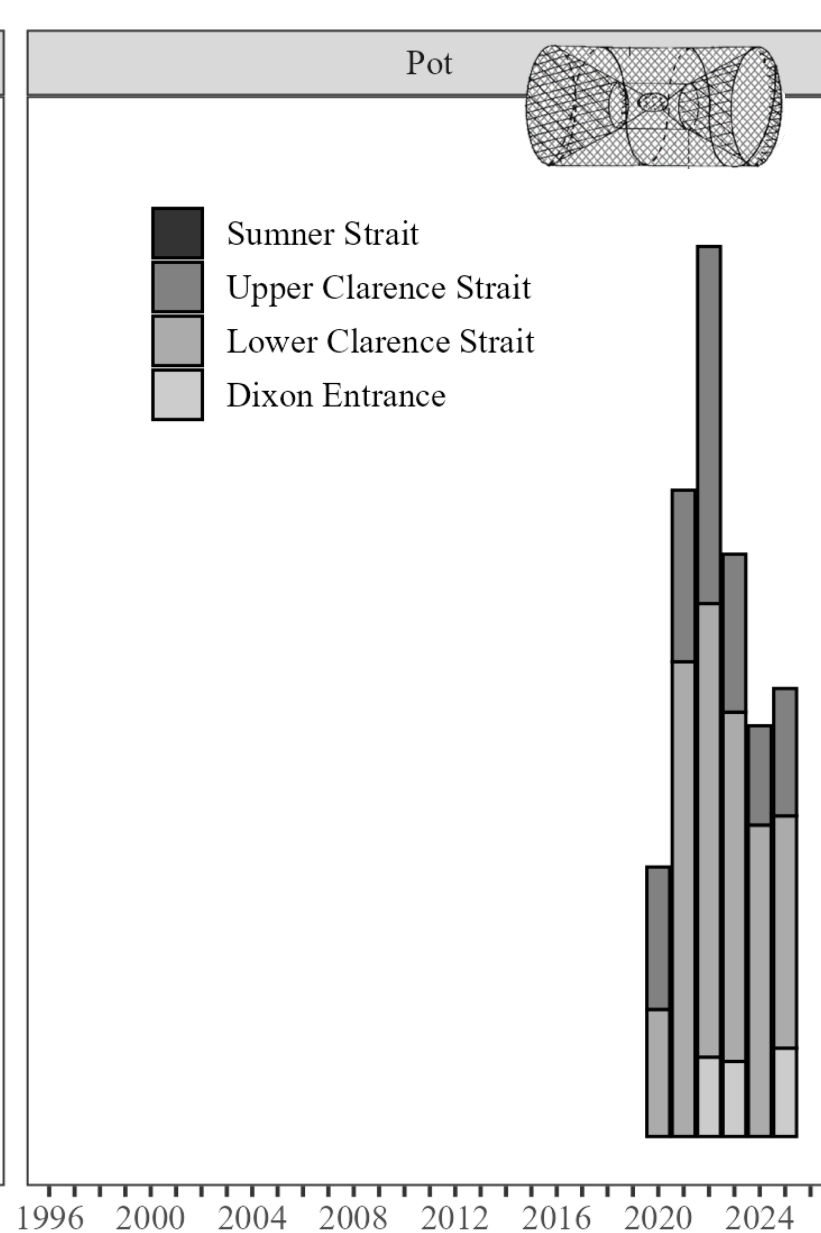
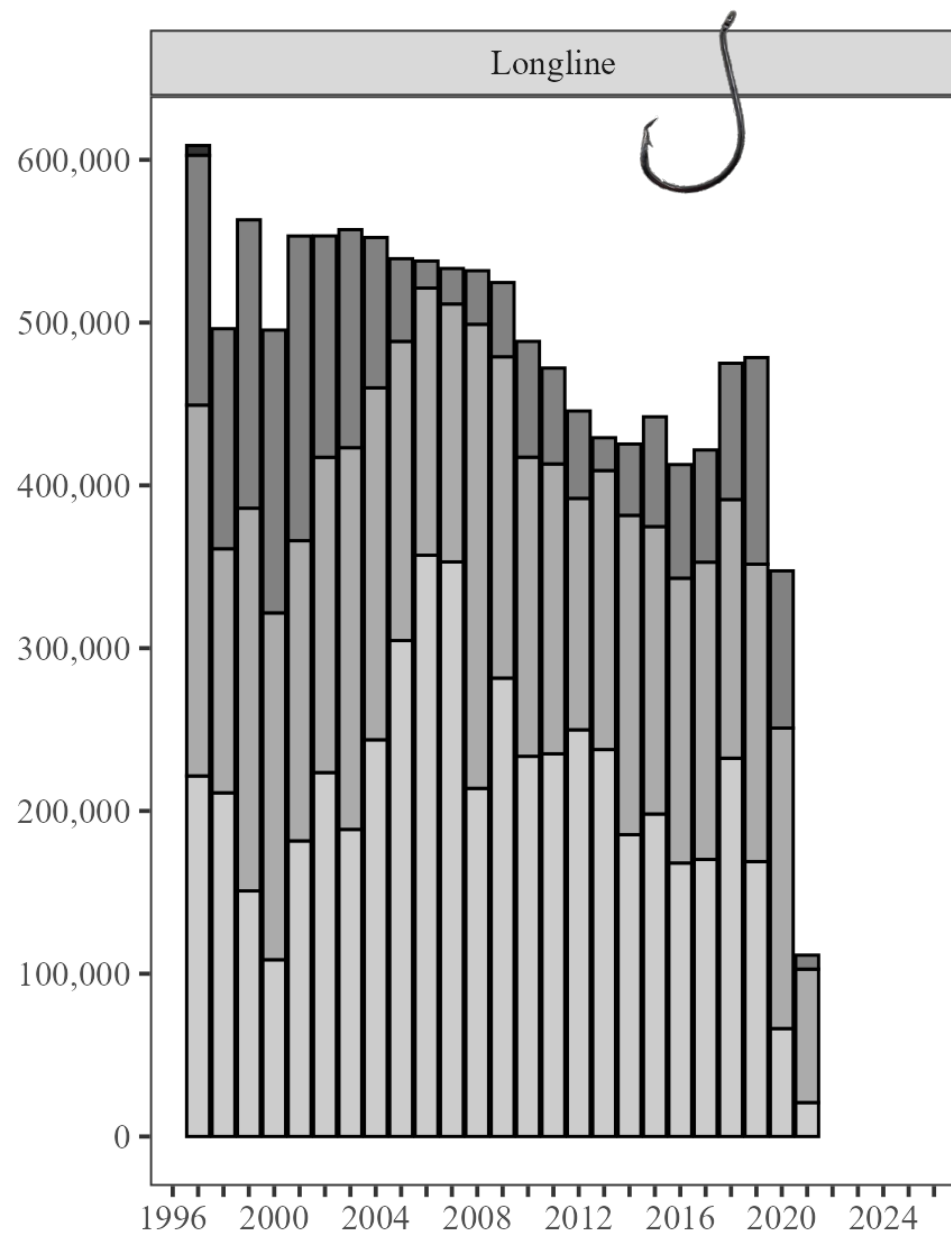
Confidential data removed

Fishery Distribution



Fishery Distribution by Gear

Total Harvest (round lb)



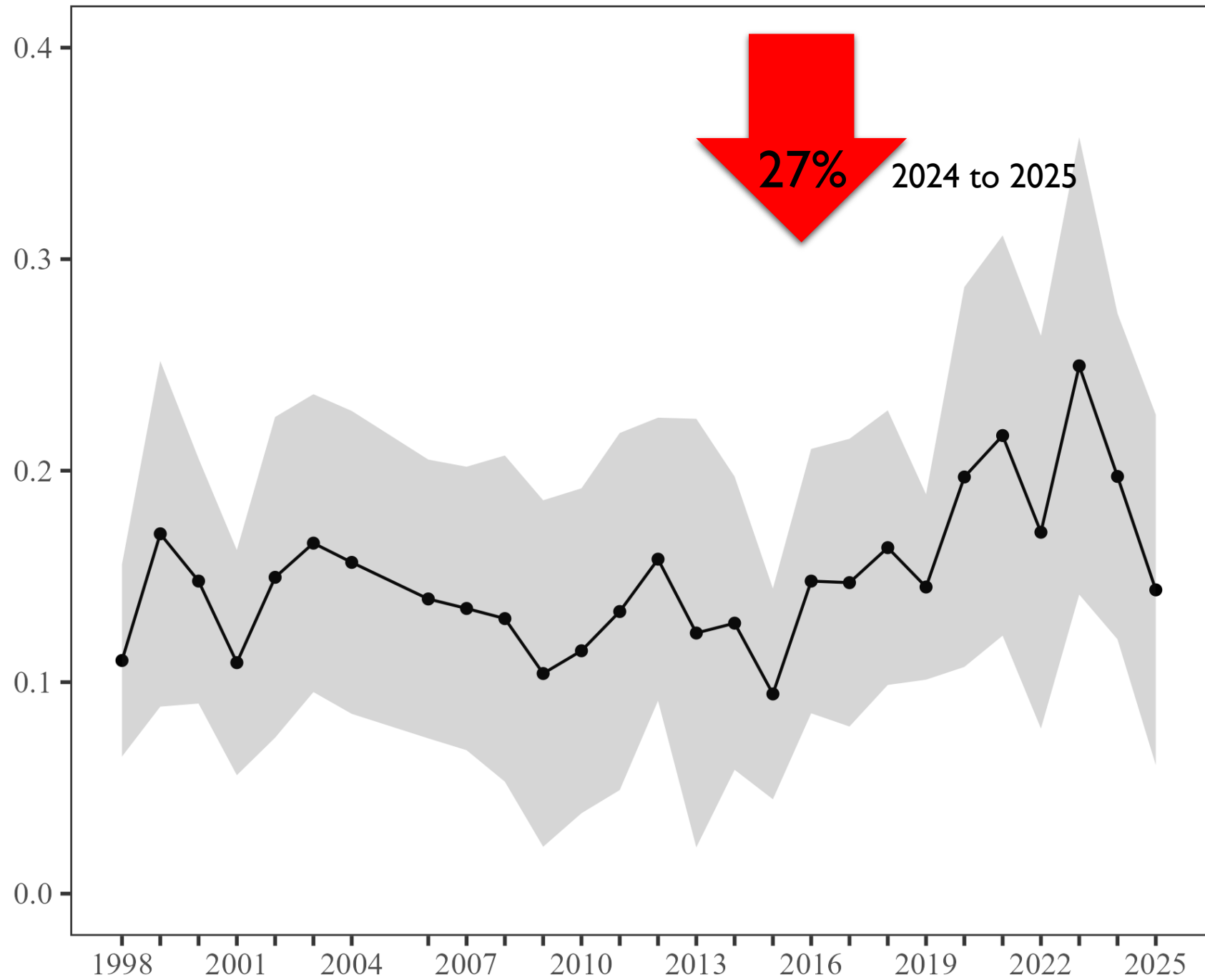
Year

Confidential data removed

Longline Survey Performance



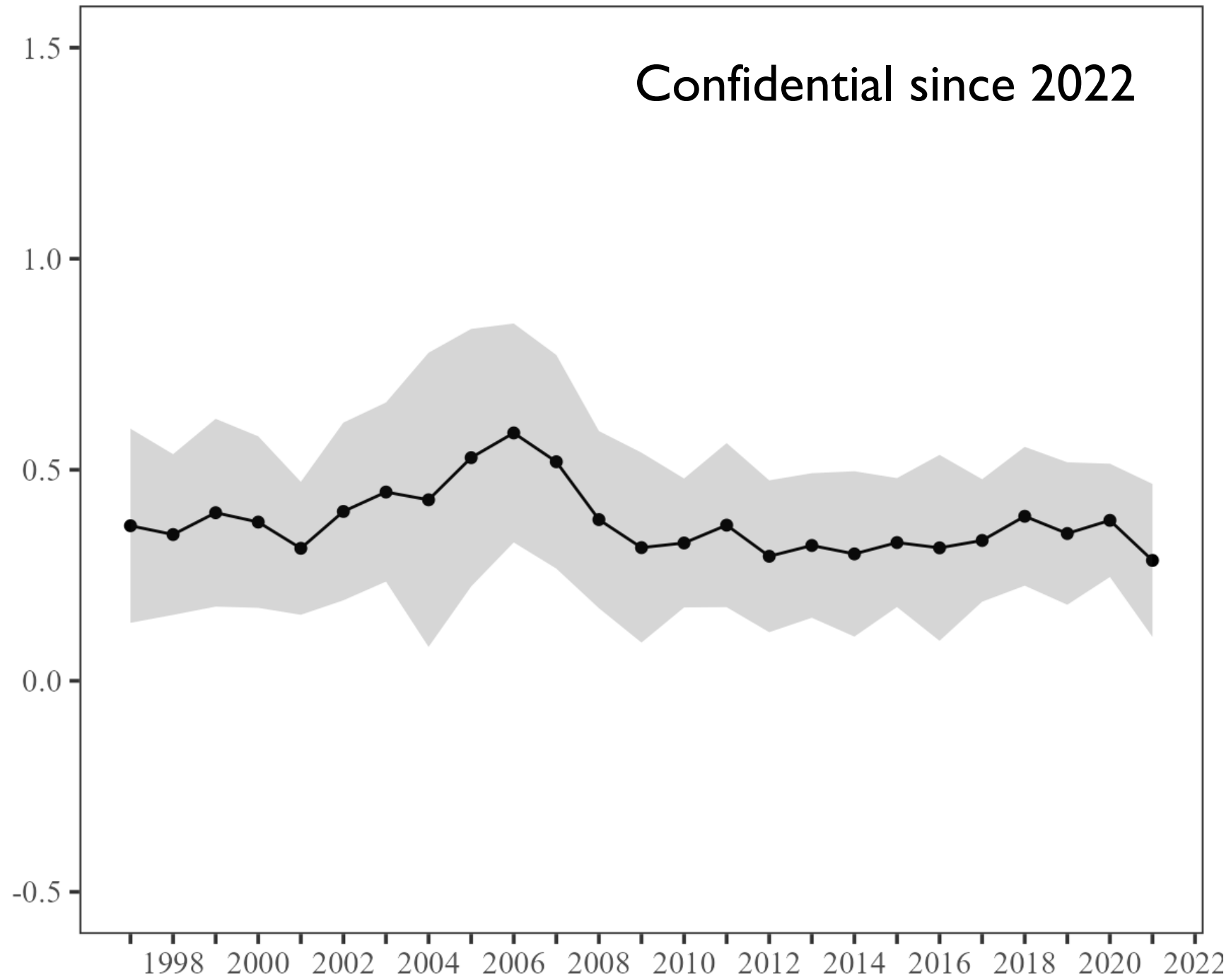
Survey CPUE (number per hook)



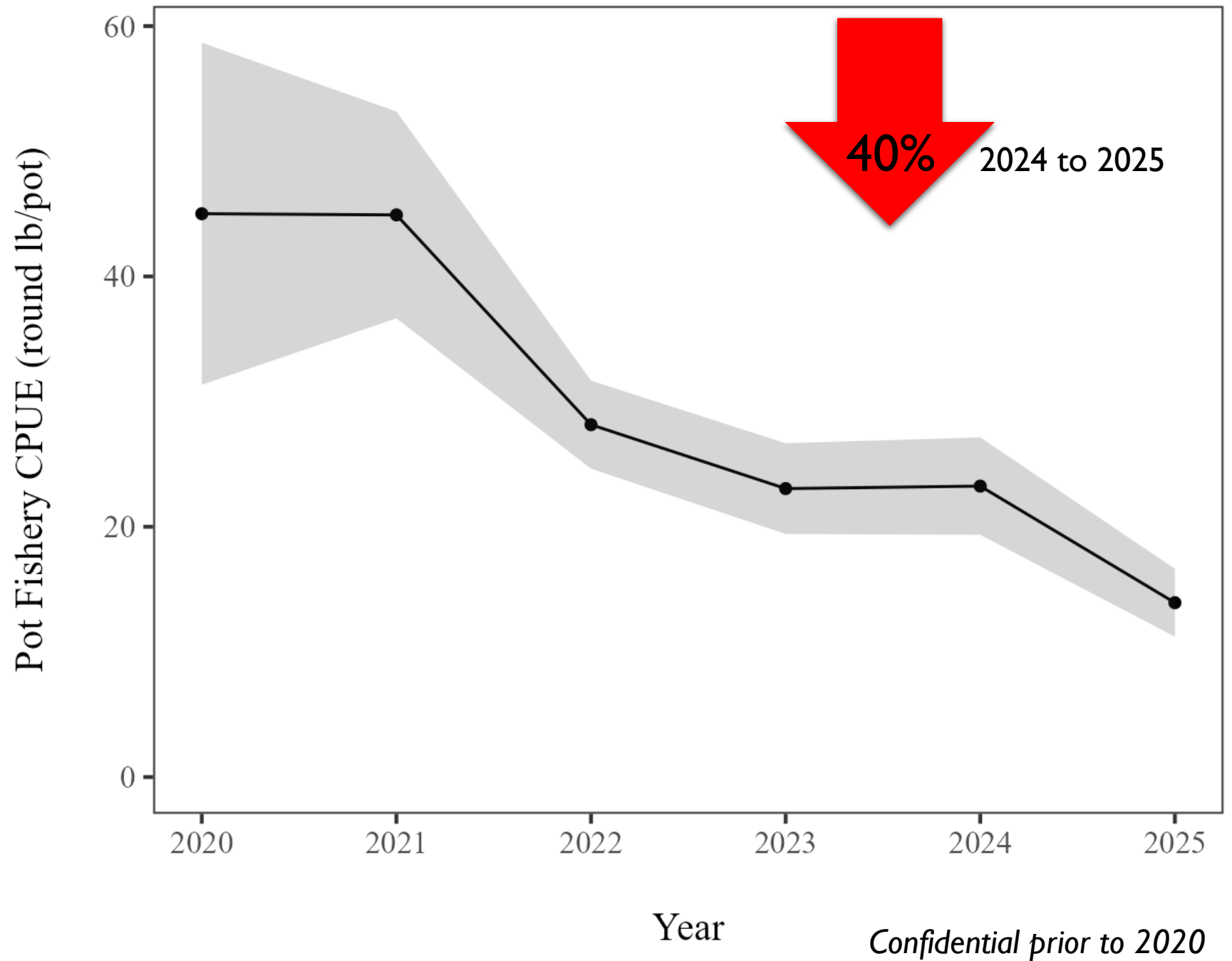
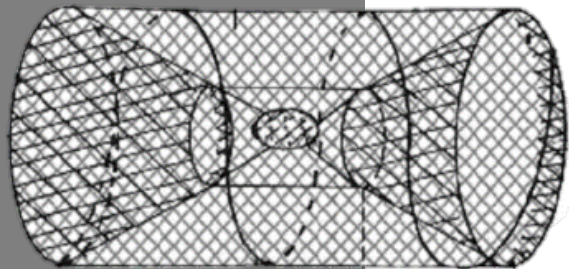
Longline Fishery Performance



Longline Fishery CPUE (lb/hook)

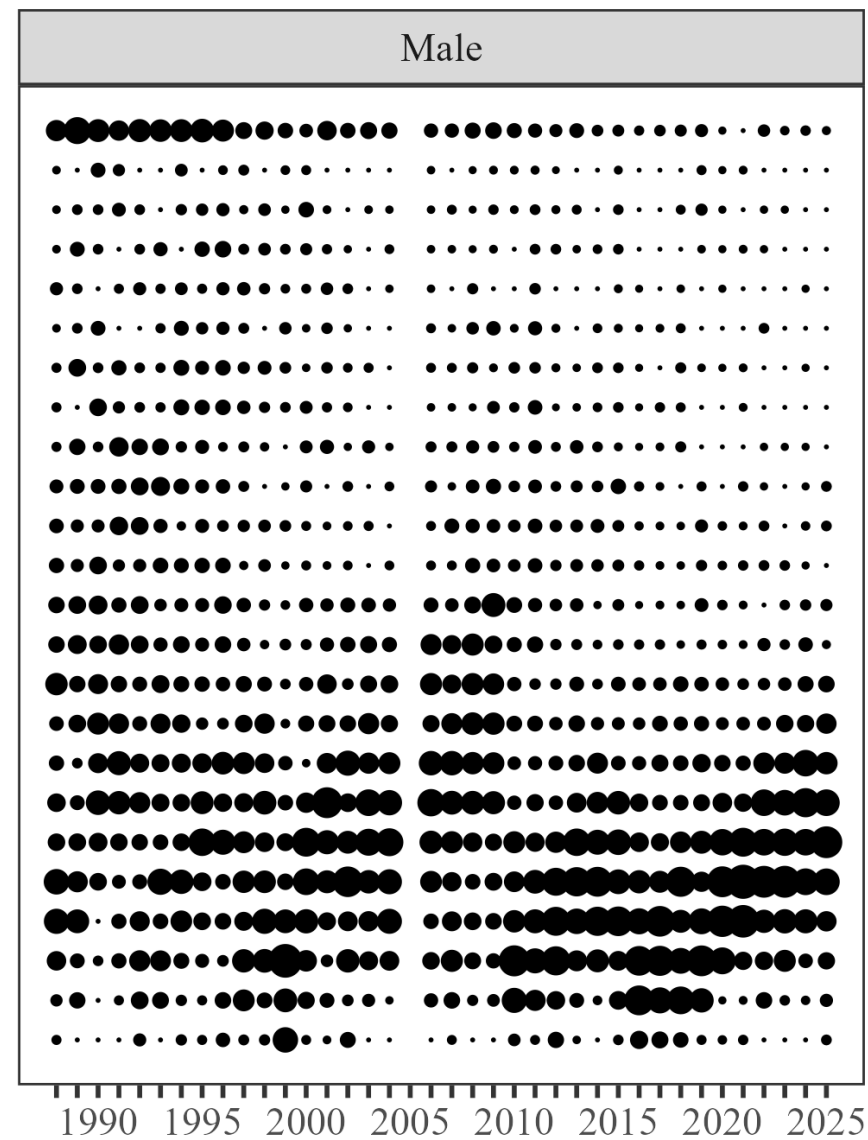
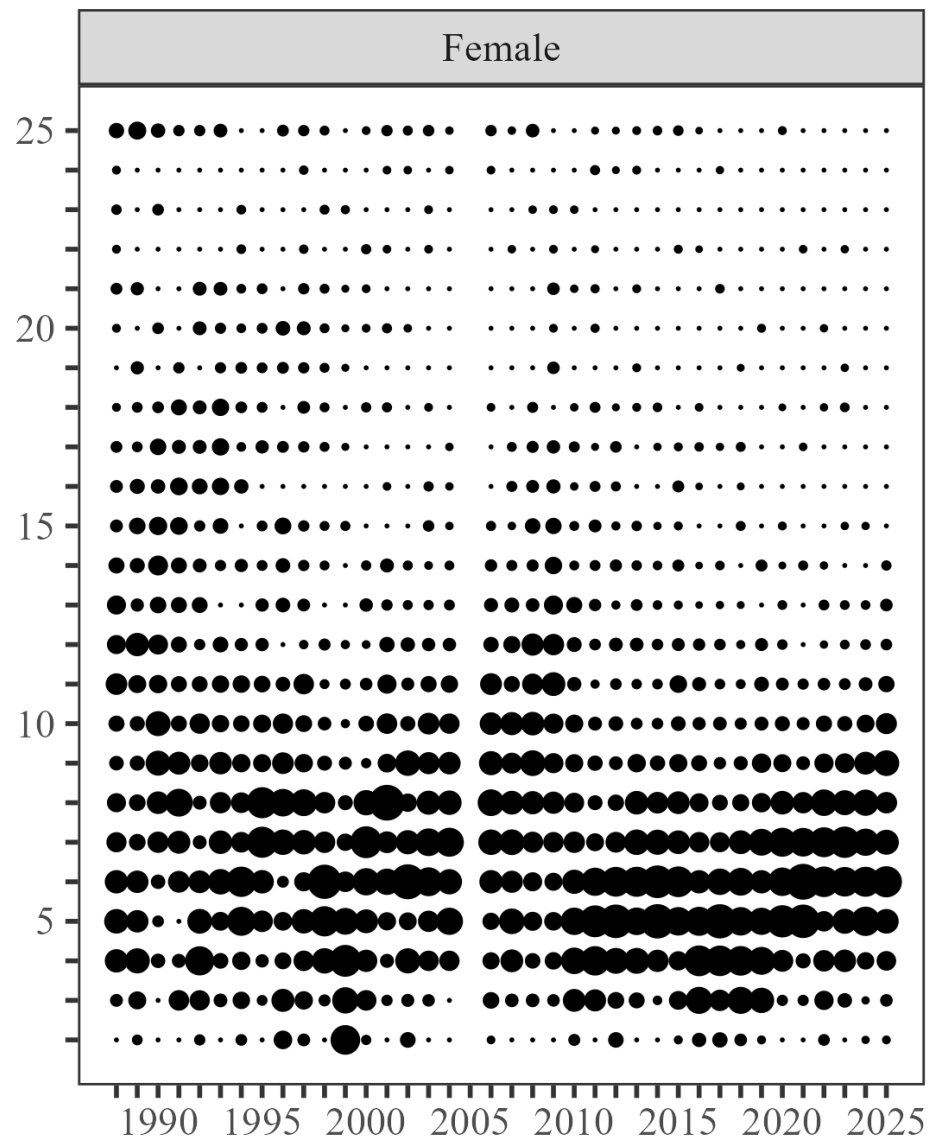


Pot Fishery Performance



Longline Survey Age Structure

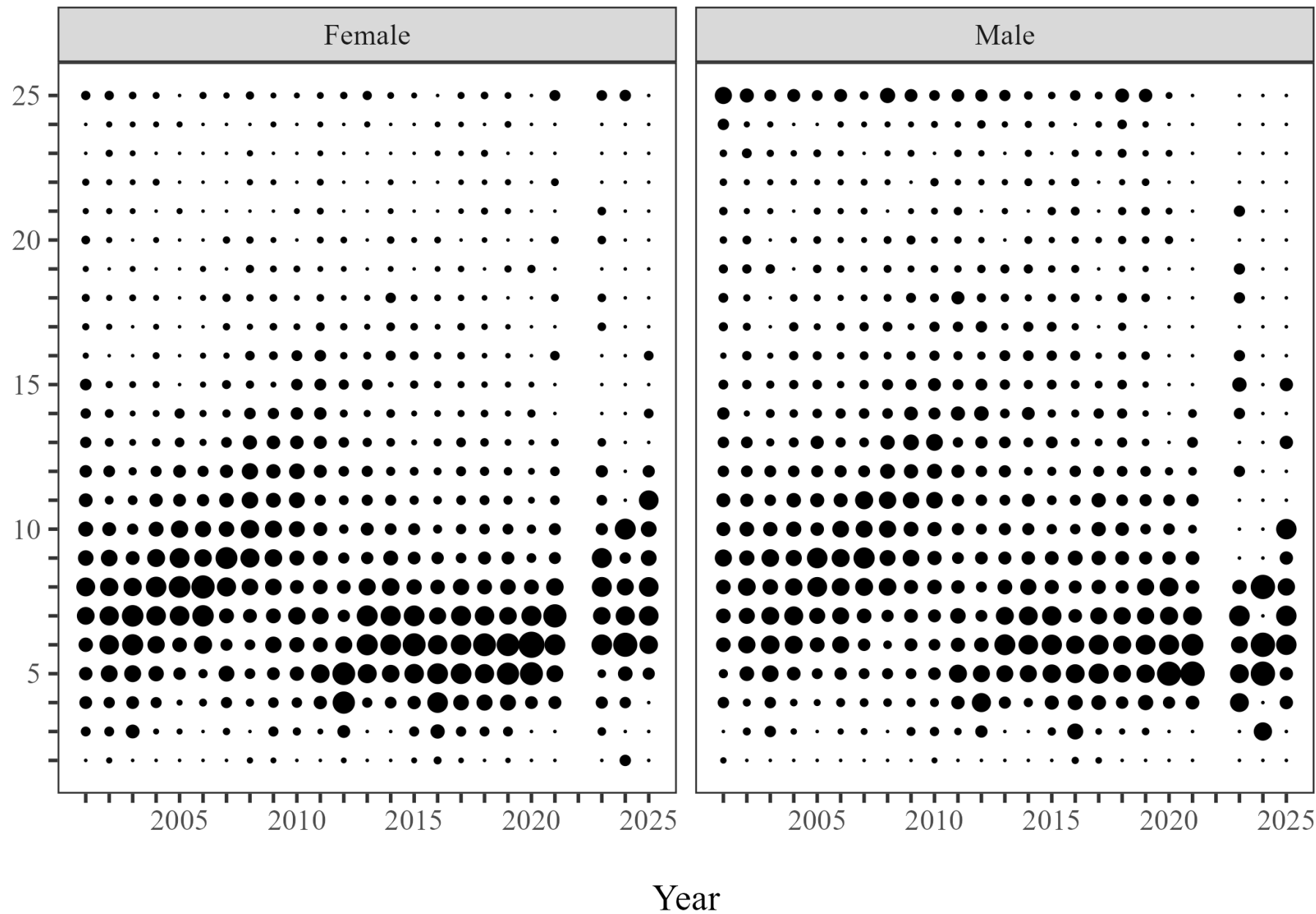
Observed age



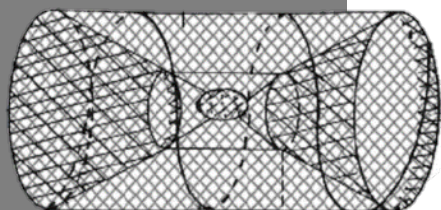
Year

Longline Fishery Age Structure

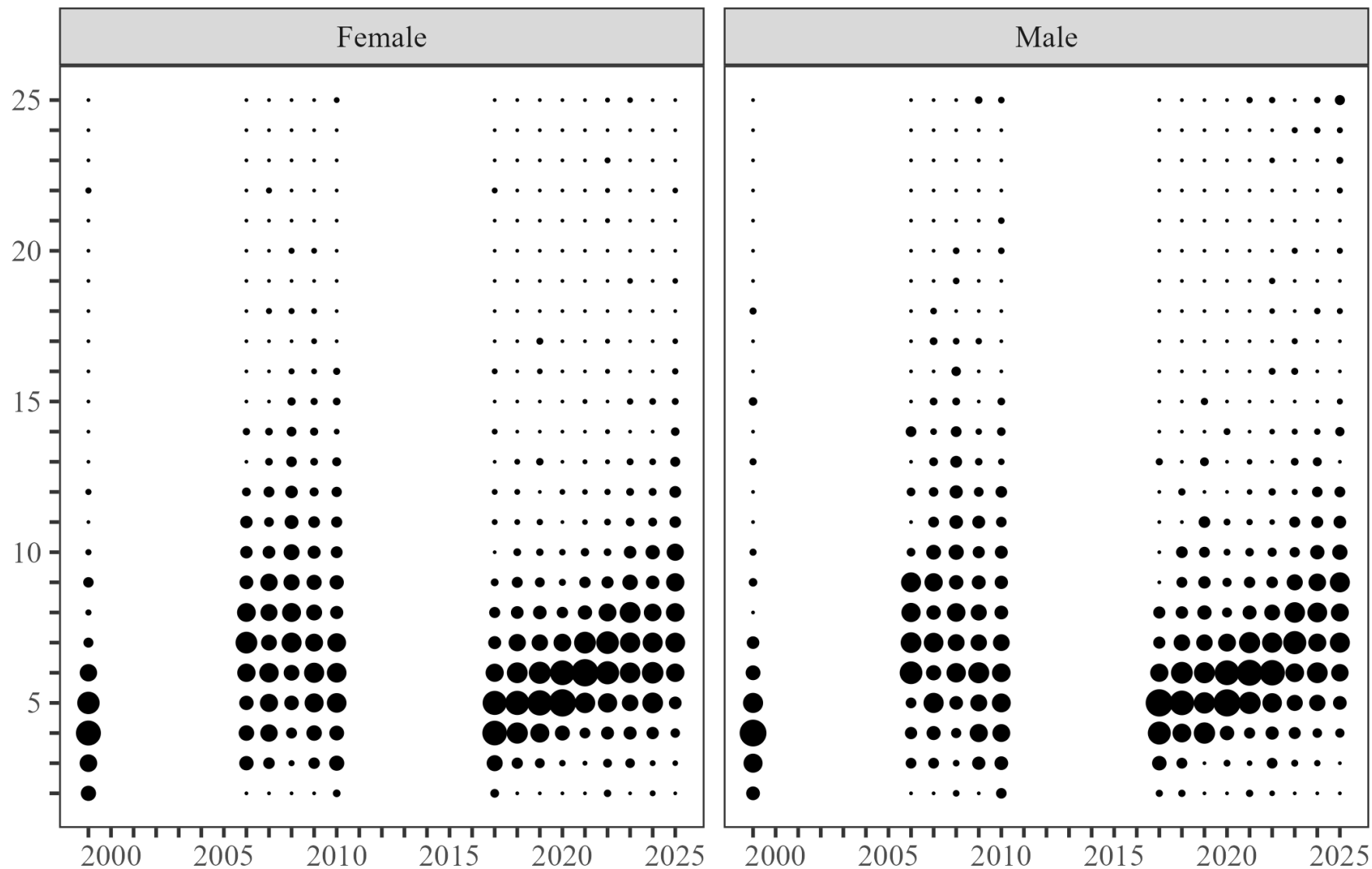
Observed age



Pot Fishery Age Structure



Observed age



Year



SSEI Fishery

Clarence Strait Summary

SURVEY CPUE

—27%

decline 2024 → 2025

POT FISHERY CPUE

—40%

decline 2024 → 2025

QUOTAS UNFISHED

>50%

round lb remaining in AHO

MOVEMENT OUT OF CLARENCE STRAIT

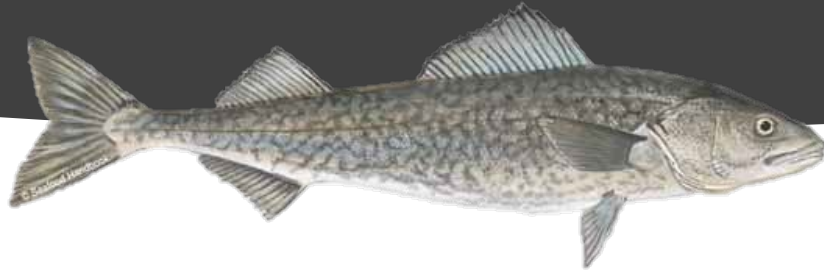
- ~30% of tagged sablefish left Clarence Strait, compared to ~10% in Chatham Strait (Hanselman et al. 2015)
- Generally smaller fish than Chatham Strait (4.9 lb vs 5.9 lb in 2025)
- Moving to British Columbia and Gulf of Alaska waters
- Ontogenetic movement patterns (Cheng et al. 2025)



2026 Annual Harvest Objective Outlook

- AA released on May 6
- AHO = 514,688 rnd lb
- EQS = 25,734 rnd lb
- PQS forms and registration packets available now

Question and Answer



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

An underwater photograph showing a large school of fish, likely sea bass, swimming in clear blue water. The fish are densely packed, with many individuals visible in the foreground and background. The lighting is natural, coming from above, creating a slightly darker area at the bottom of the frame. The fish have silvery scales and some show darker markings on their sides.

Inside Waters Gear Comparison Study

Rhea Ehresmann & Aaron Lambert

Hook-and-line vs Slinky Pots

- To compare catches between hook-and-line gear and slinky pot gear (CPUE)
- To compare size of sablefish among gear types and between pot sizes
- To enumerate bycatch in pot gear for bycatch reduction improvements
- To switch the longline survey to a pot survey to avoid whale depredation and improve safety



Methods

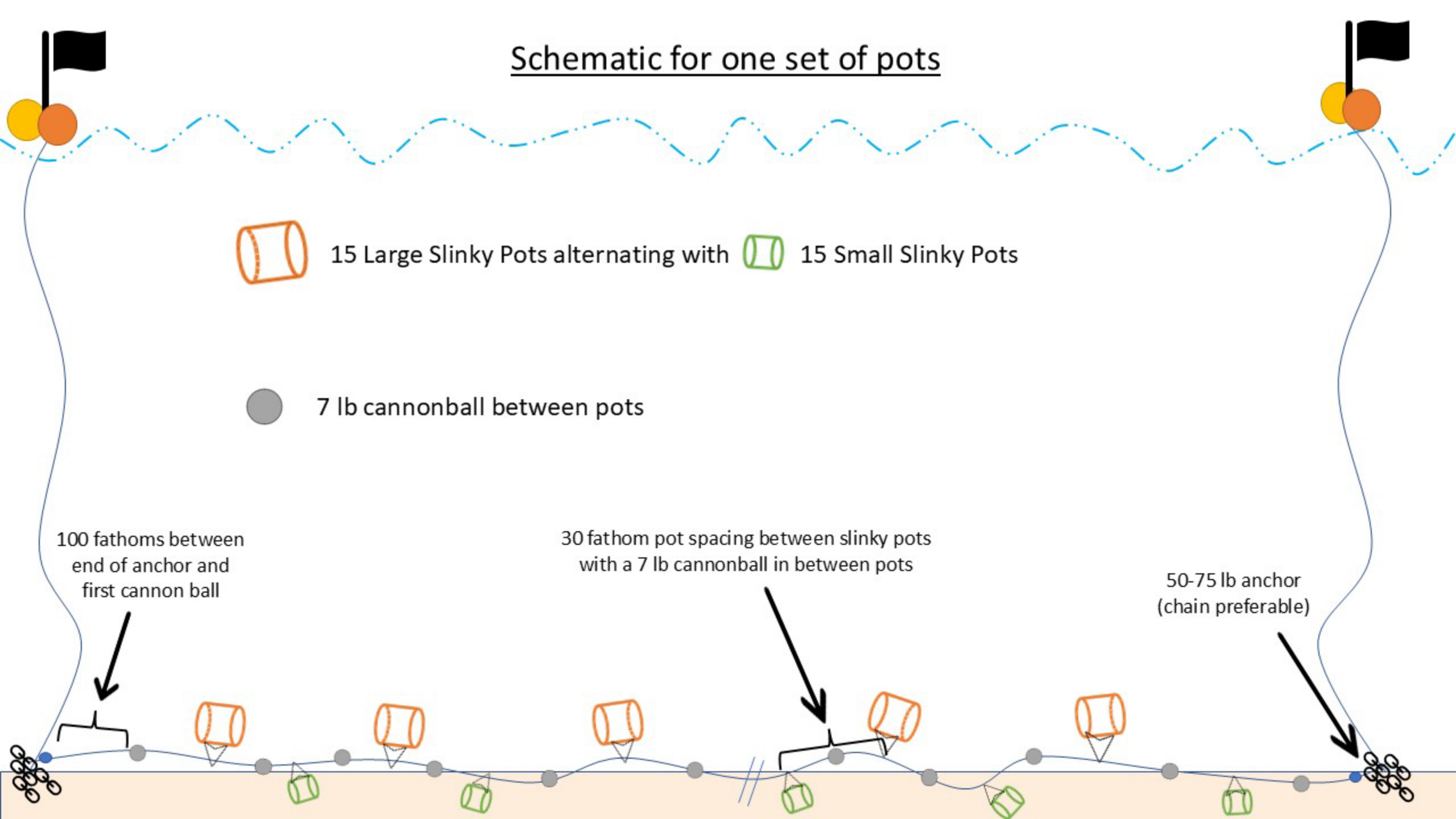
- **Annual surveys for 3 years (2023–2025)** conducted in NSEI and SSEI
 - *2023 SSEI special study all sablefish were tagged and released*
- **10 paired stations surveyed** during each cruise
- **1 nm from longline sets** in similar habitat/depth
- **30 pots per set** (15 large, 15 small; alternating)

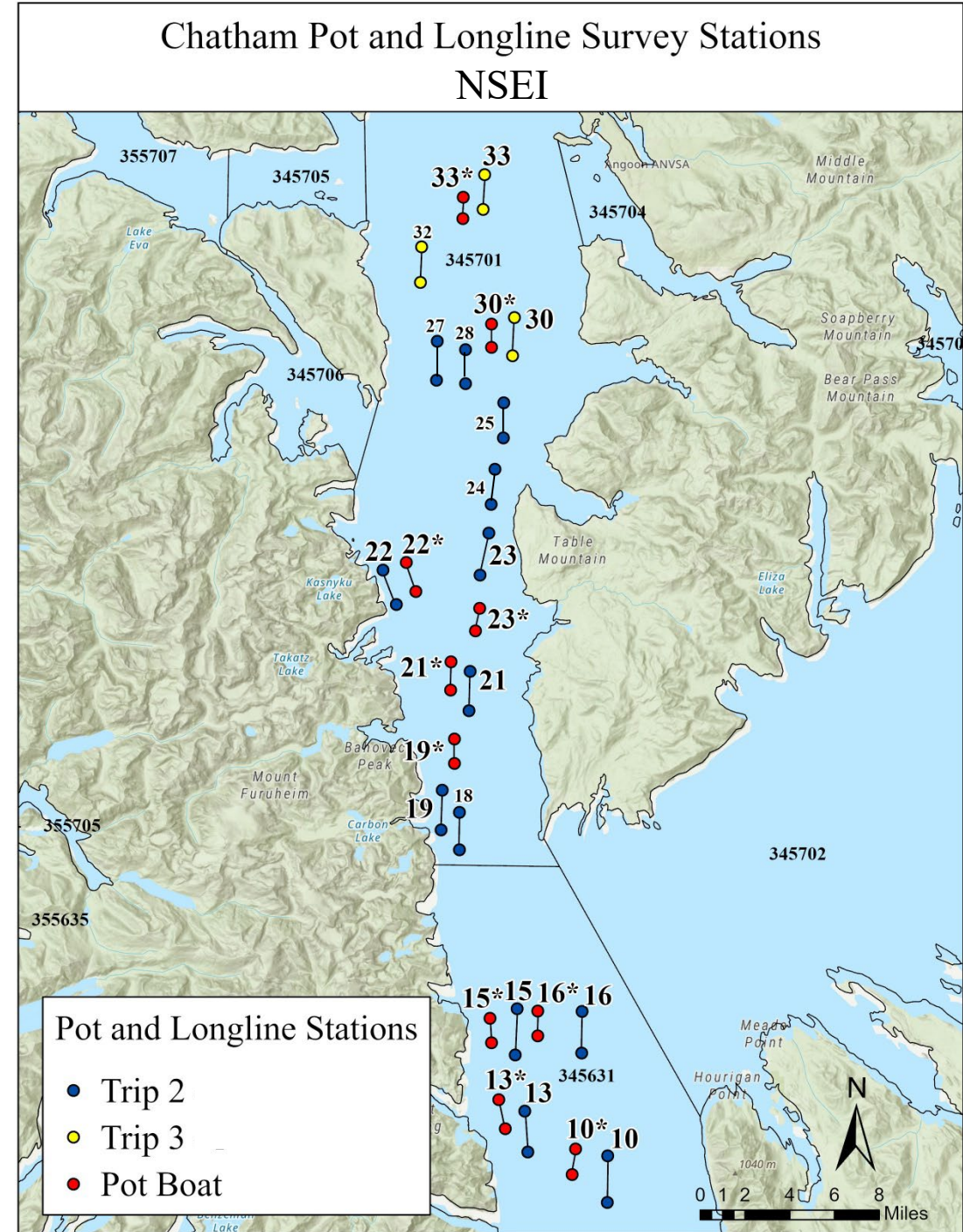
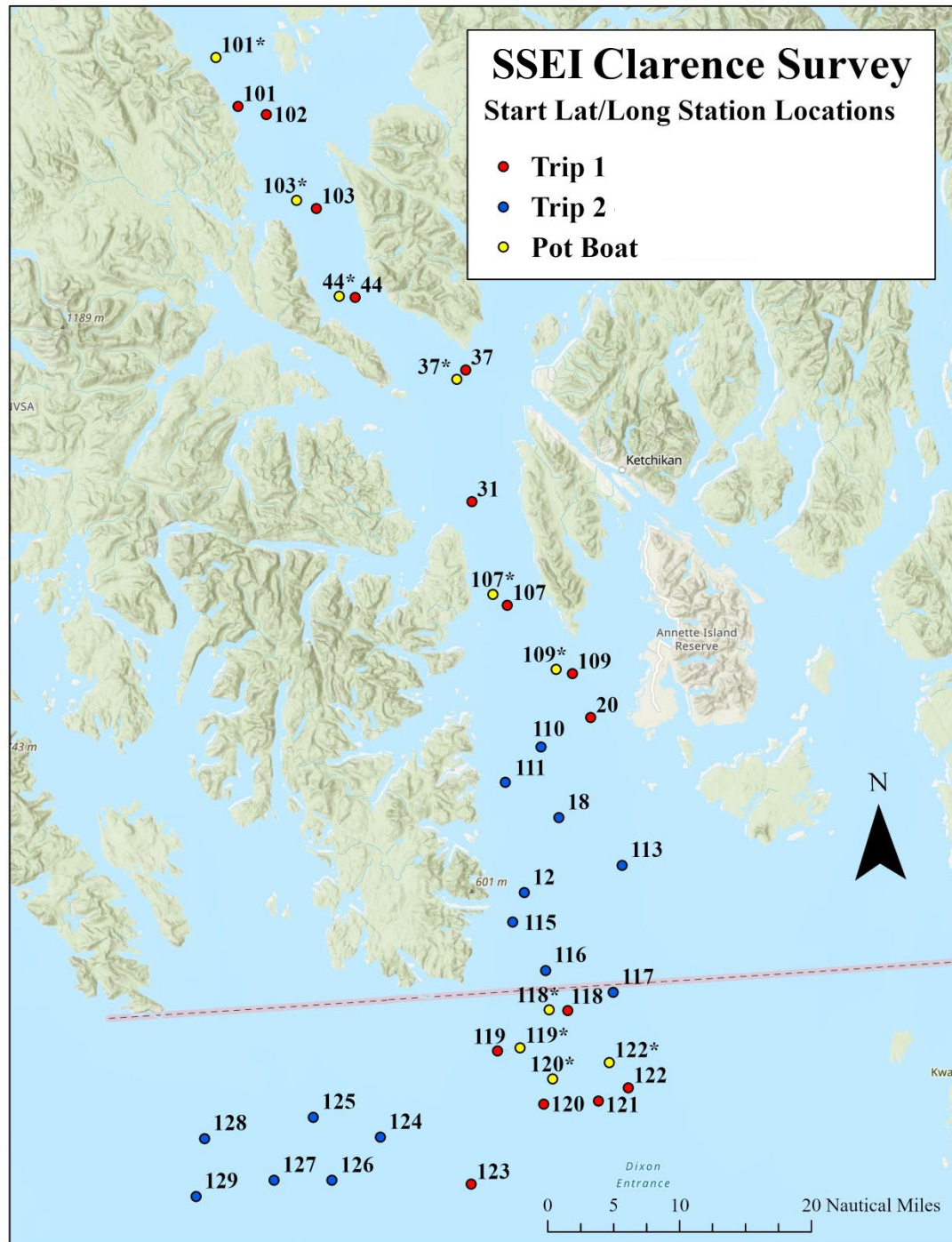
Methods (cont)

- **Standardized fishing protocol:** 7+ hr soak times and 4 lb squid bait per pot
- **Catch enumerated by pot and station:** sablefish and bycatch per pot
- **Biological sampling:** 1 full bio sample + up to 4 additional length measurements



Schematic for one set of pots







Pot Survey Data Collections

Trip	Total Sets	Total Pots	Total # Sablefish	# Samples/Lengths
2023 SSEI	9	357	8,172	3,289 tagged (0) / 4,563 lengths
2023 NSEI	10	300	6,273	288 samples / 1,383 lengths
2024 SSEI	10	295	5,002	281 samples / 1,058 lengths
2024 NSEI	10	281	6,306	279 samples / 1,090 lengths
2025 SSEI	10	300	3,675	286 samples / 1,330 lengths
2025 NSEI	10	295	5,162	291 samples/ 1,143 lengths
Totals:	59 sets	1,828 pots	34,590 fish	1,425 samples / 10,567 lengths

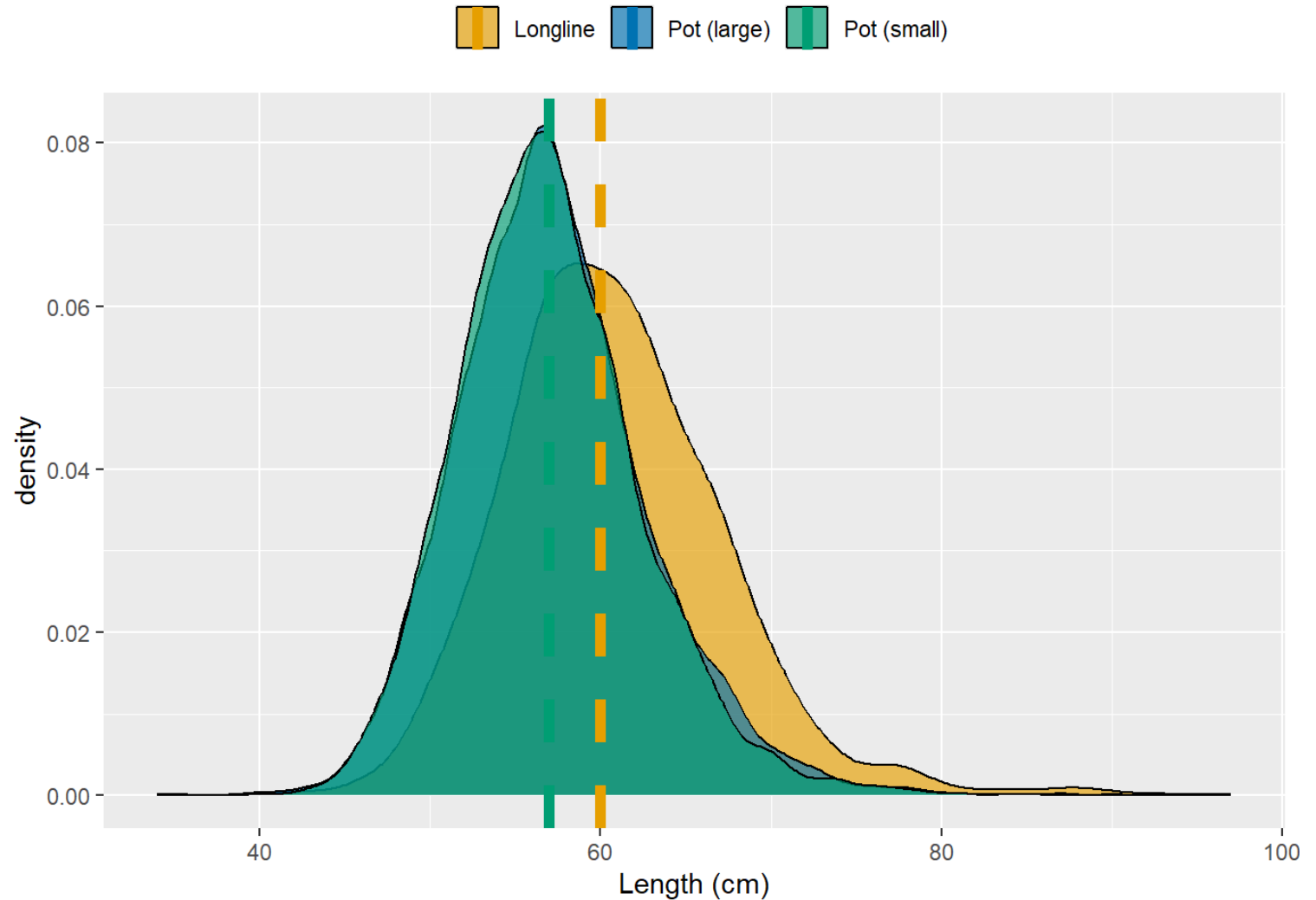
Note: not all sets are valid due to whales, problems with gear, etc.



Inside waters gear comparison

Length

- LL catches larger fish on average
- When aggregated by region, small and large pot catch similar length fish

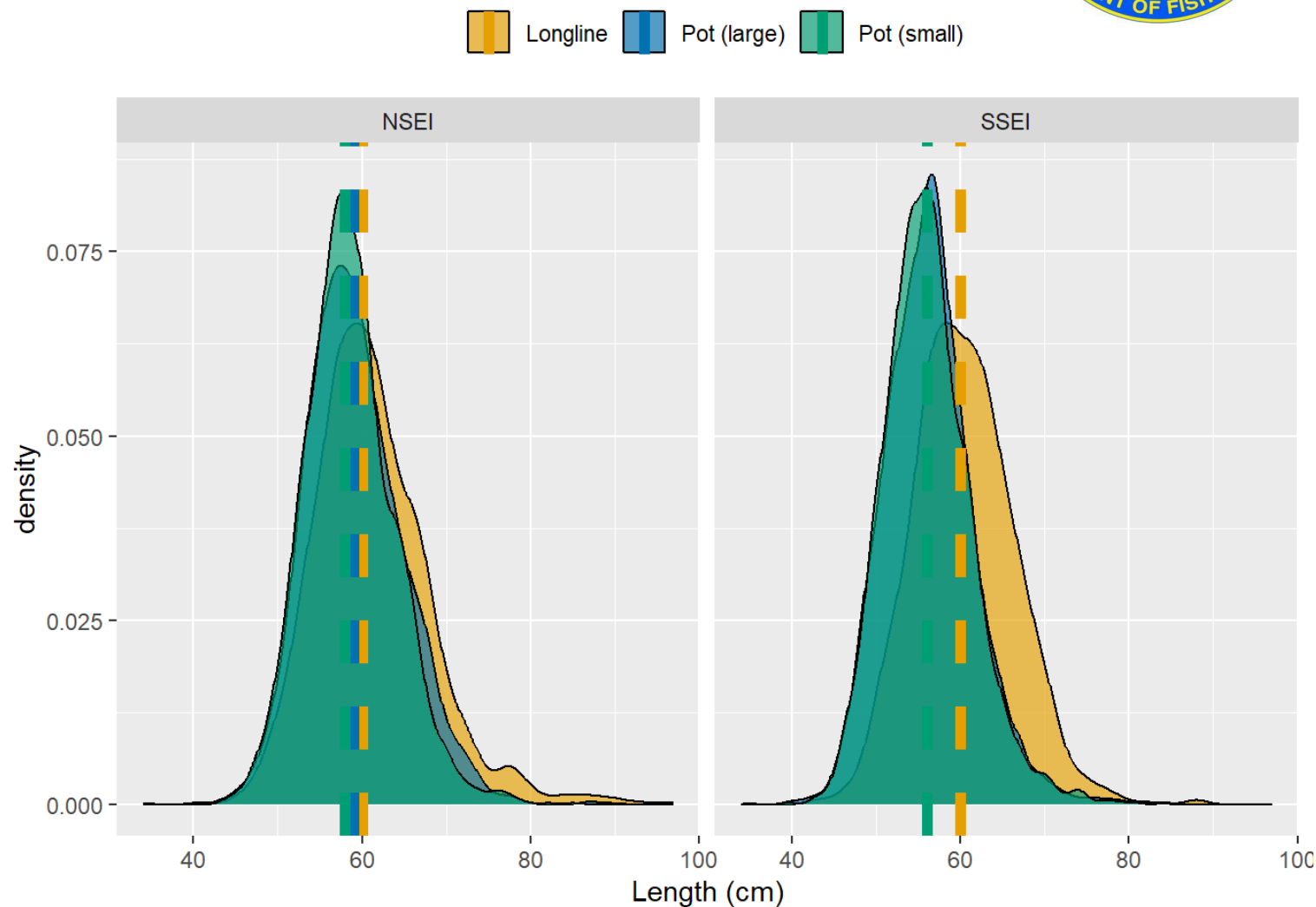




Inside waters gear comparison

Length

- LL catches larger fish on average
- When aggregated, small and large pot catch similar length fish
- NSEI: difference is smaller
- SSEI: difference is larger

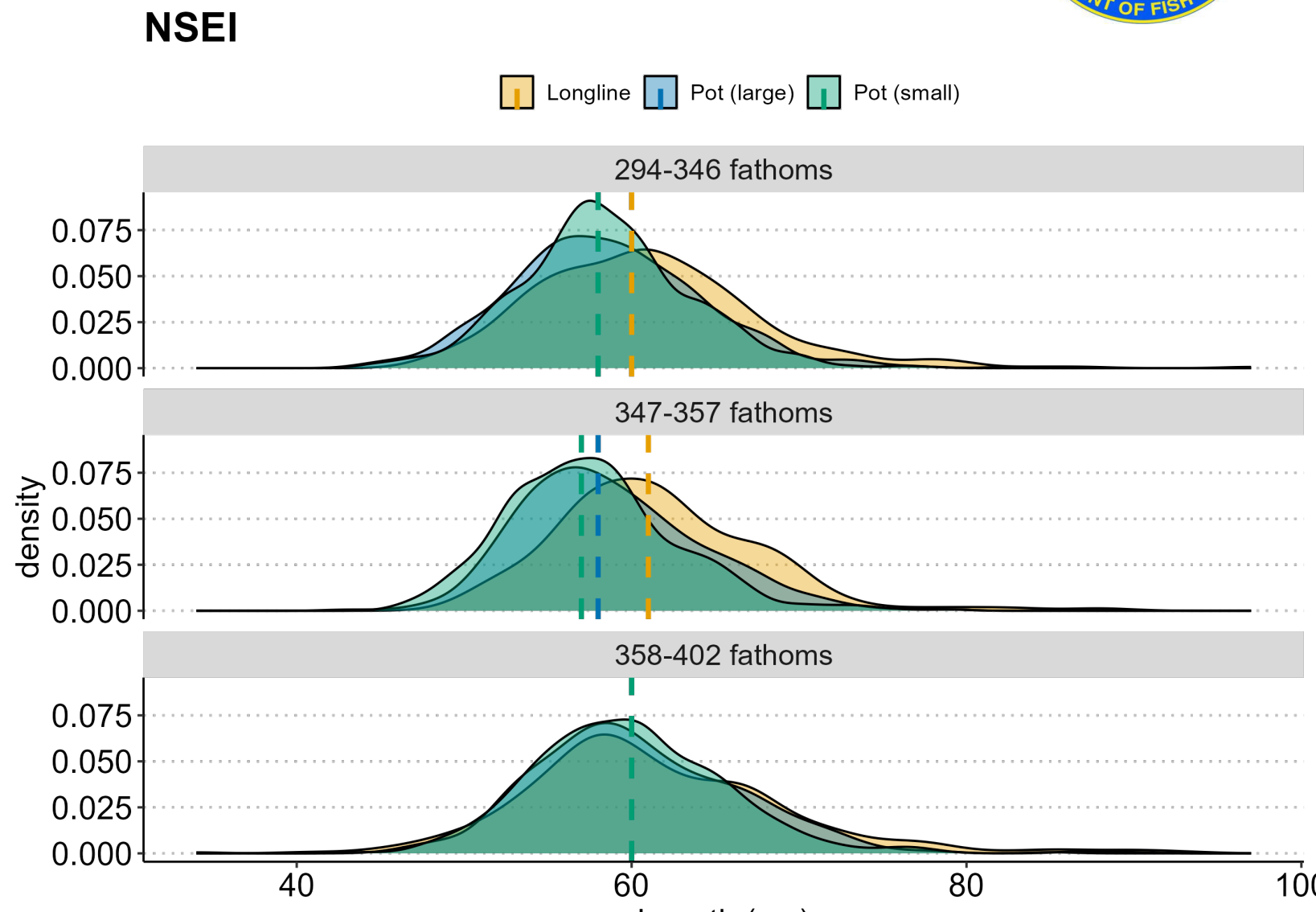




Inside waters gear comparison

Length by depth

- LL catches larger fish on average
- When aggregated, small and large pot catch similar length fish
- NSEI: difference is smaller
- SSEI: difference is larger
- NSEI: More small fish in shallower depths

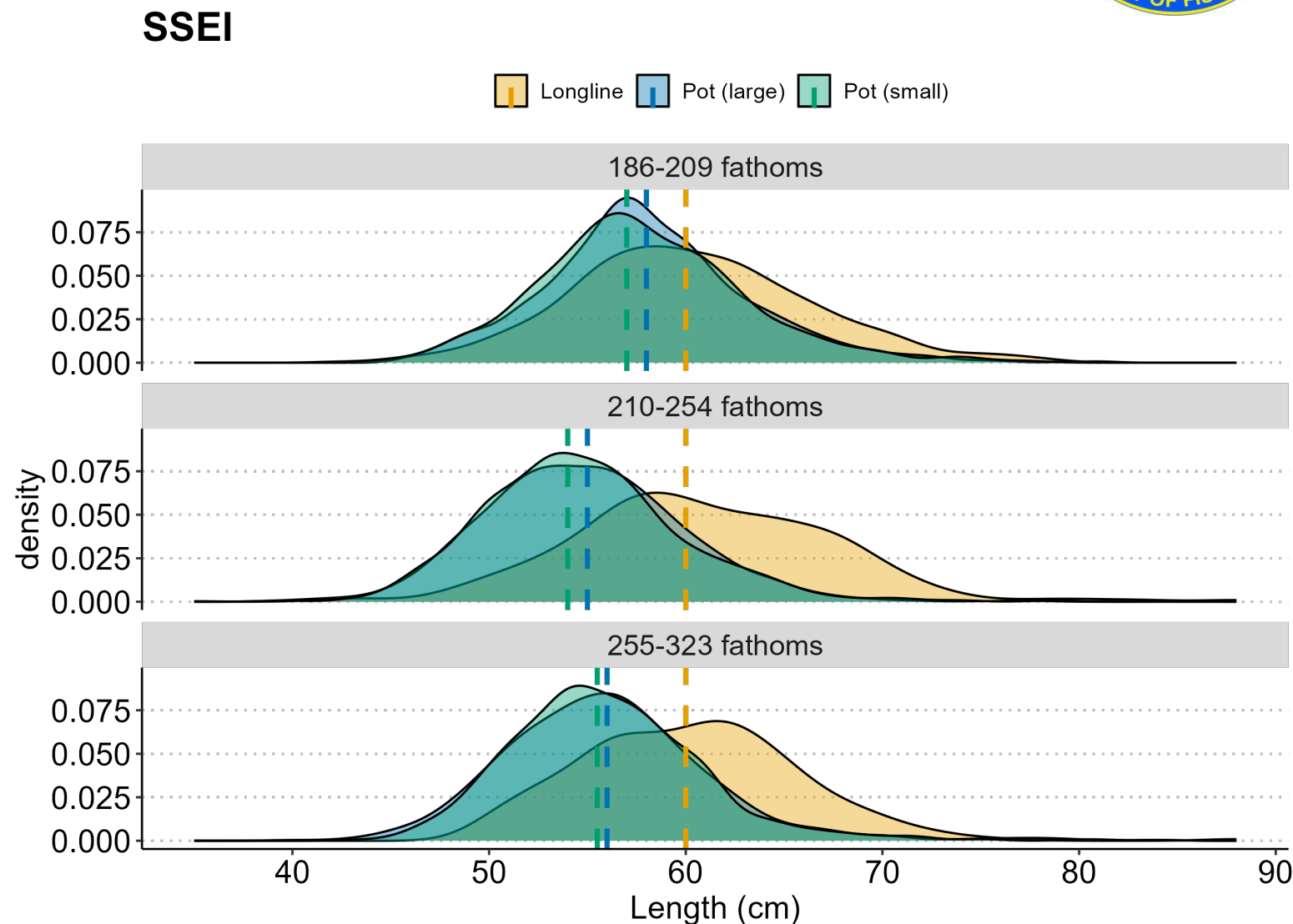




Inside waters gear comparison

Length by depth

- LL catches larger fish on average
- When aggregated, small and large pot catch similar length fish
- NSEI: difference is smaller
- SSEI: difference is larger
- NSEI: More small fish in shallower depths
- SSEI: Similar across all depths

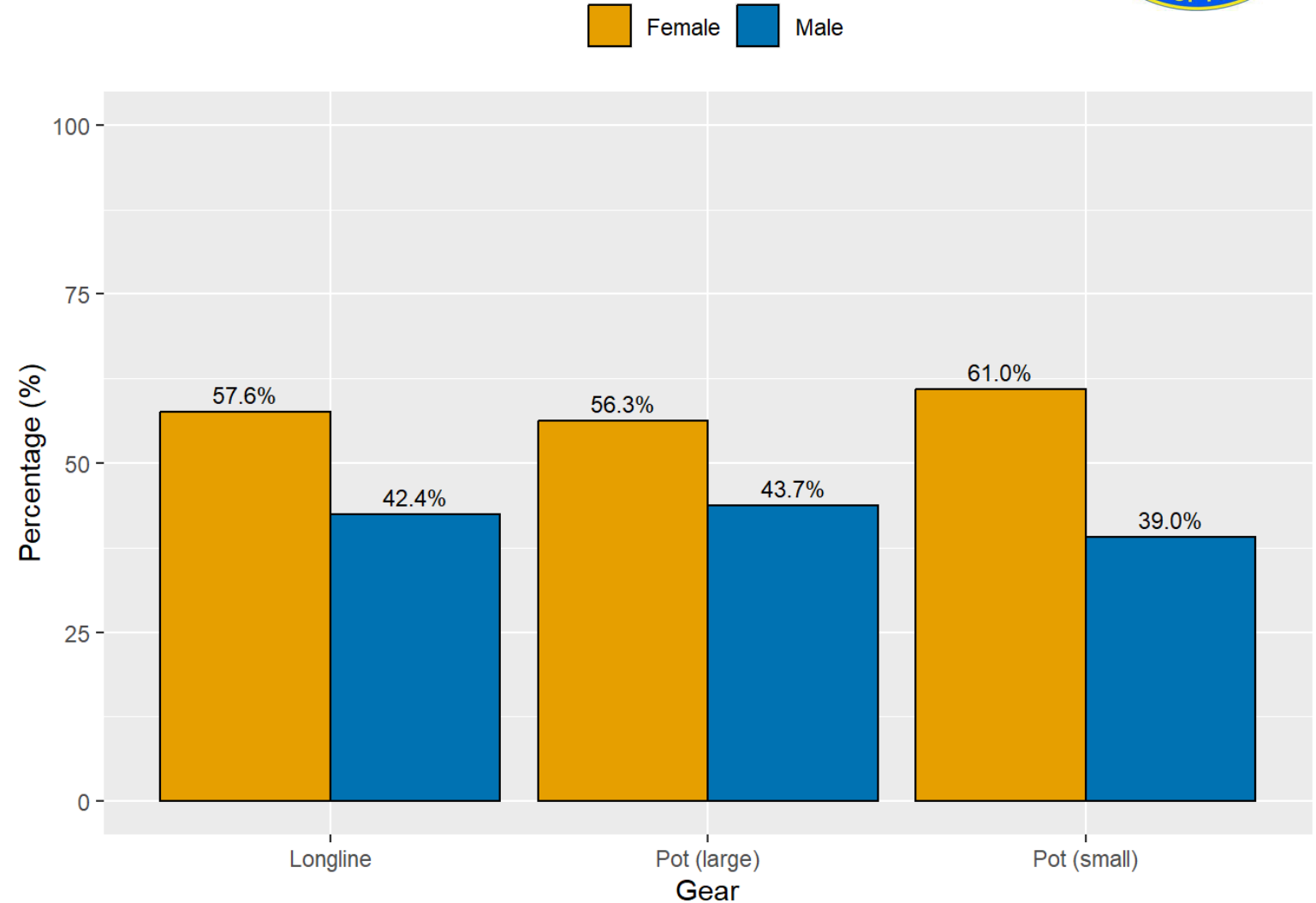




Inside waters gear comparison

Sex

- No statistical difference between gear
- More females across all gear types

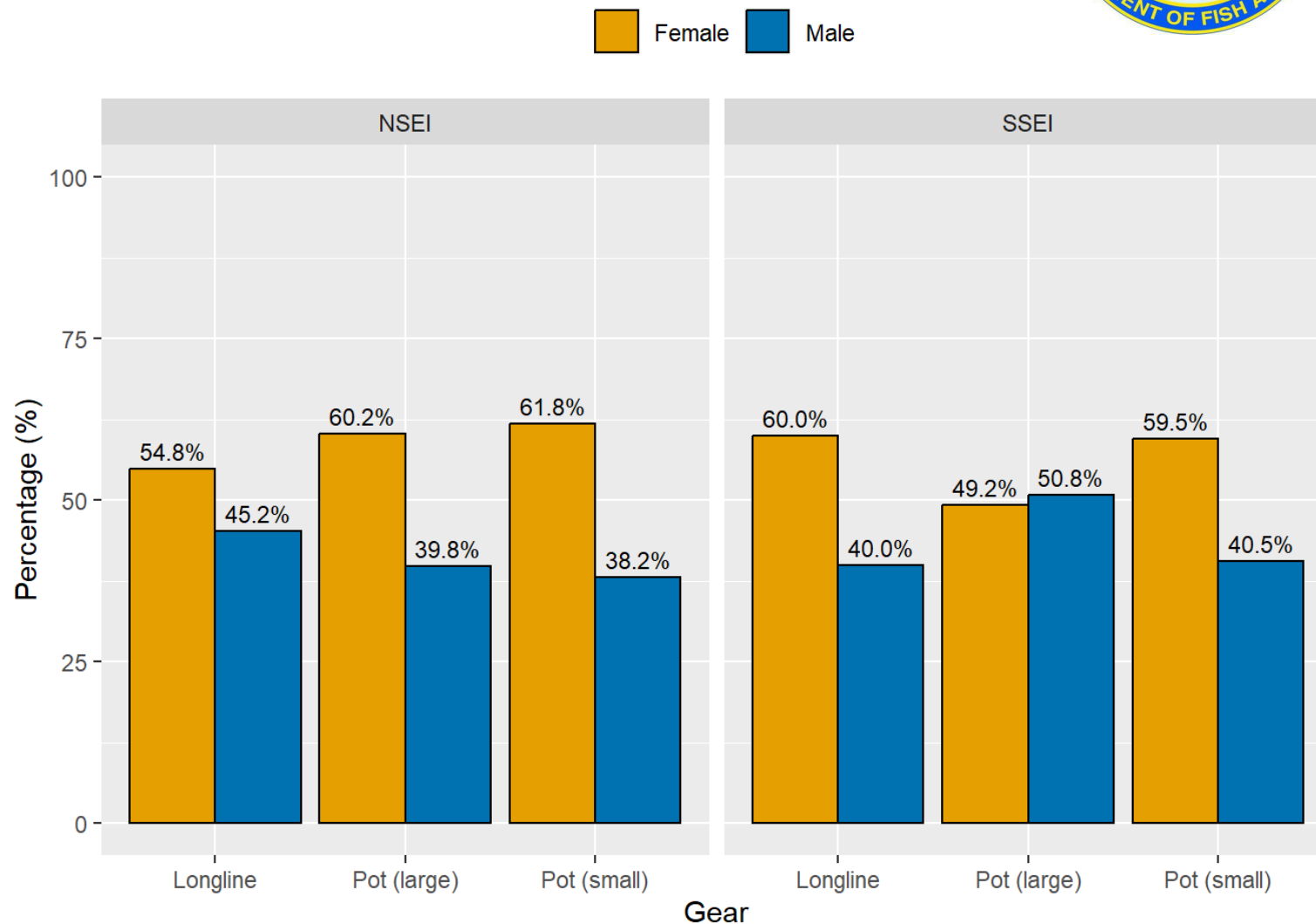




Inside waters gear comparison

Sex

- No statistical difference between gear
- More females across all gear types
- Difference when breaking out by area
- Chatham (NSEI) sees more females across gear type
- Clarence (SSEI) large pot has equal proportions

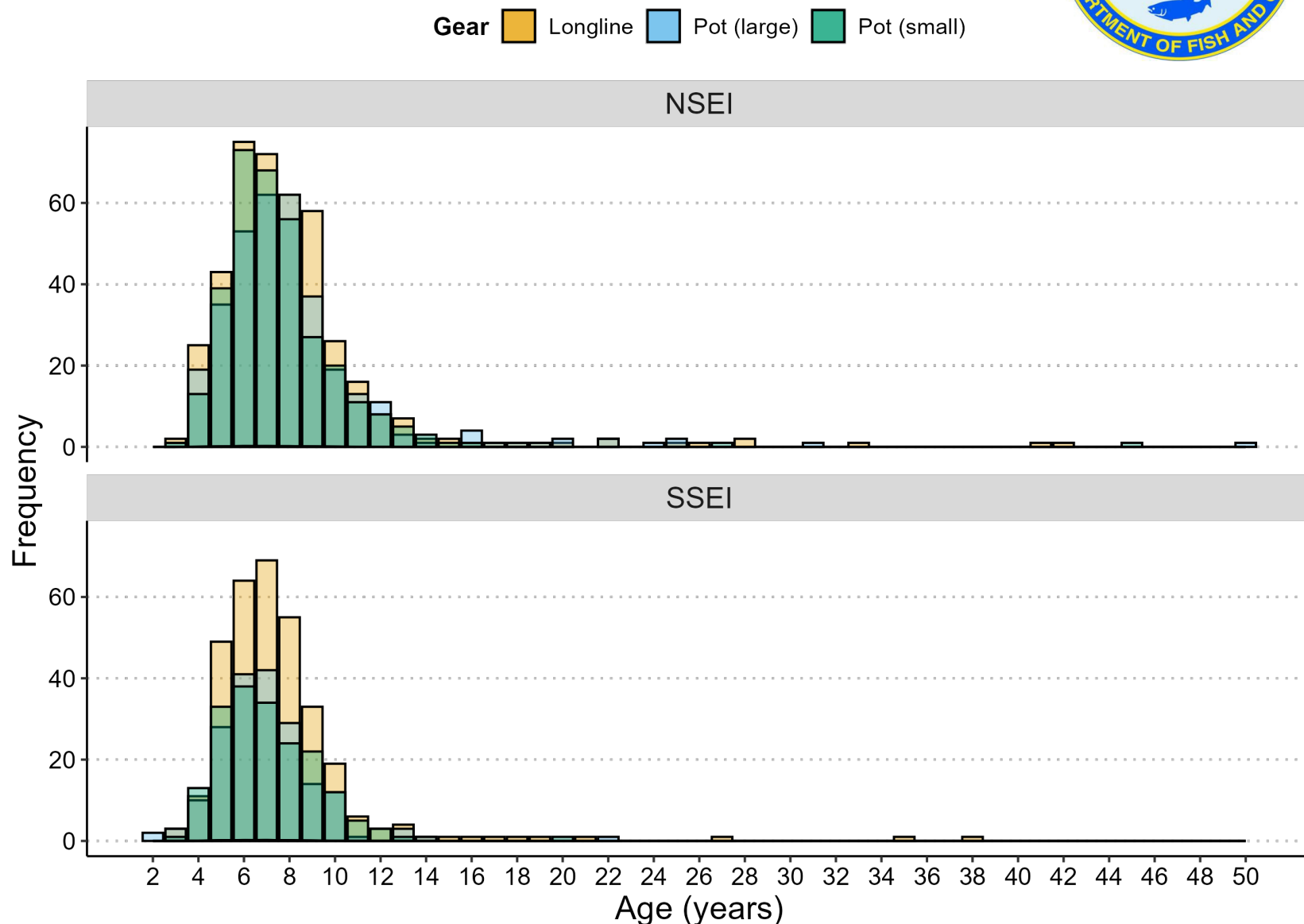




Inside waters gear comparison

Age

- Similar age distribution across all gear types
- LL catching slightly more older fish
- NSEI generally has older fish and broader range of ages

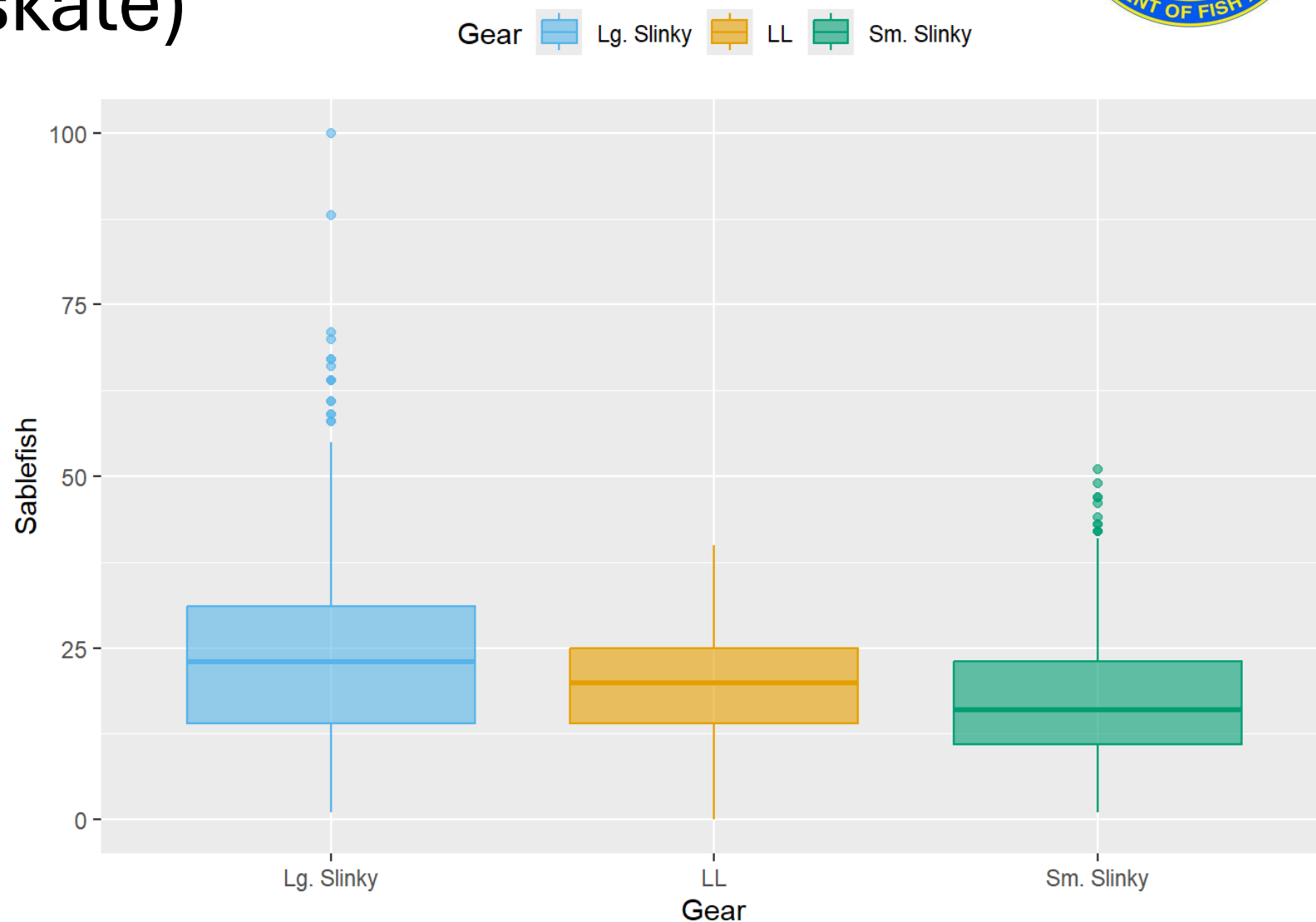




Inside waters gear comparison

CPUE (per pot or skate)

- Statistically significant difference between all three gear types
- Greater variability in pots
 - Can catch more per pot
 - Skate limited to 45 hooks

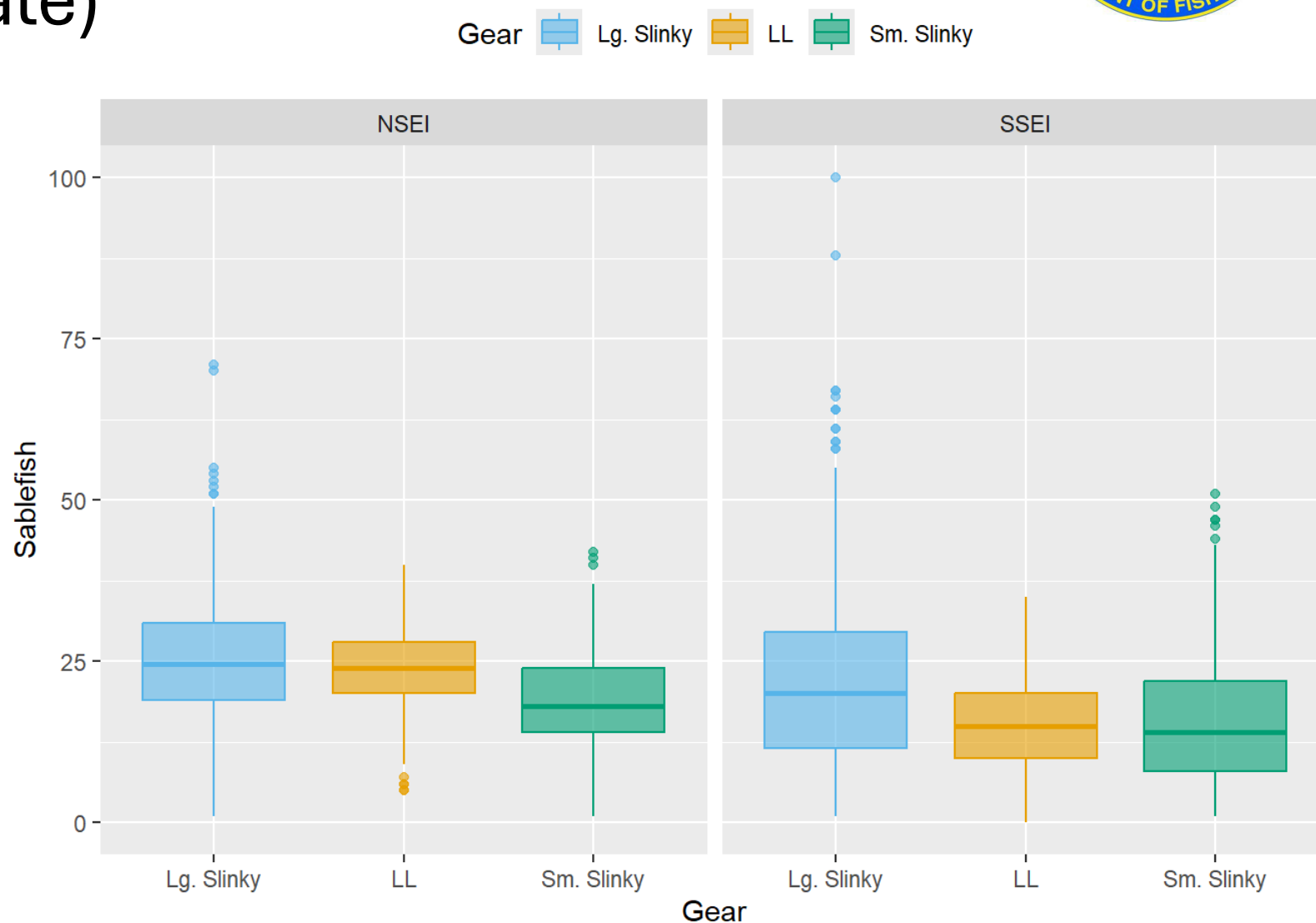




Inside waters gear comparison

CPUE (per pot or skate)

- Statistically significant difference between all three gear types
- Greater variability in pots
 - Can catch more per pot
 - Skate limited to 45 hooks
- Chatham (NSEI) has larger median CPUE for all gear types
- Chatham (NSEI) is less variable



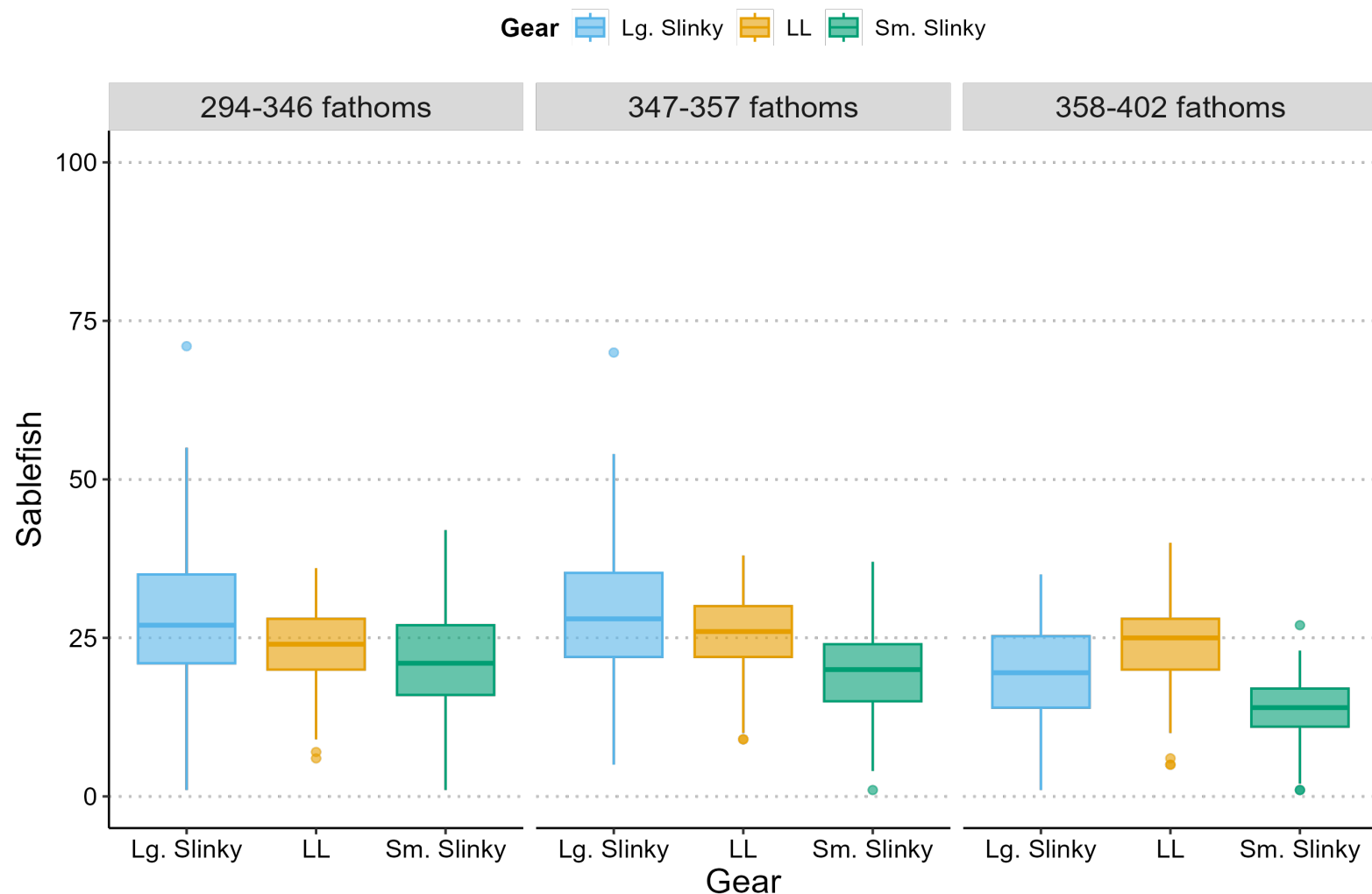


Inside waters gear comparison

CPUE by depth

NSEI

- Statistically significant difference between all three gear types
- Greater variability in pots
 - Can catch more per pot
 - Skate limited to 45 hooks
- Chatham (NSEI) has larger median CPUE for all gear types
- Chatham (NSEI) is less variable
- NSEI: CPUE lowest in deep strata for pots



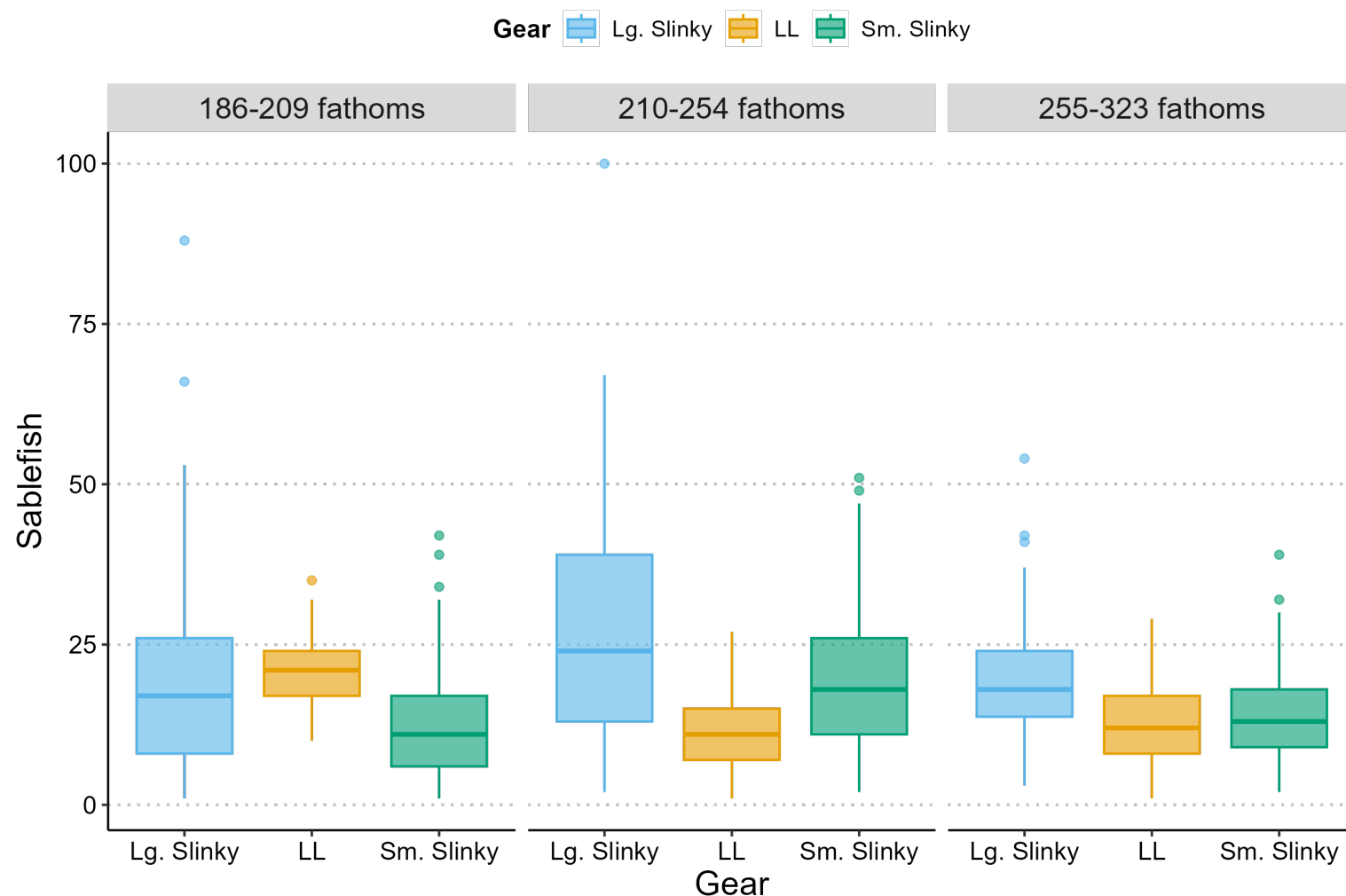


Inside waters gear comparison

CPUE by depth

SSEI

- Statistically significant difference between all three gear types
- Greater variability in pots
 - Can catch more per pot
 - Skate limited to 45 hooks
- Chatham (NSEI) has larger median CPUE for all gear types
- Chatham (NSEI) is less variable
- NSEI: CPUE lowest in deep strata for pots
- **SSEI: Lower avg rate, but some high CPUE stations**

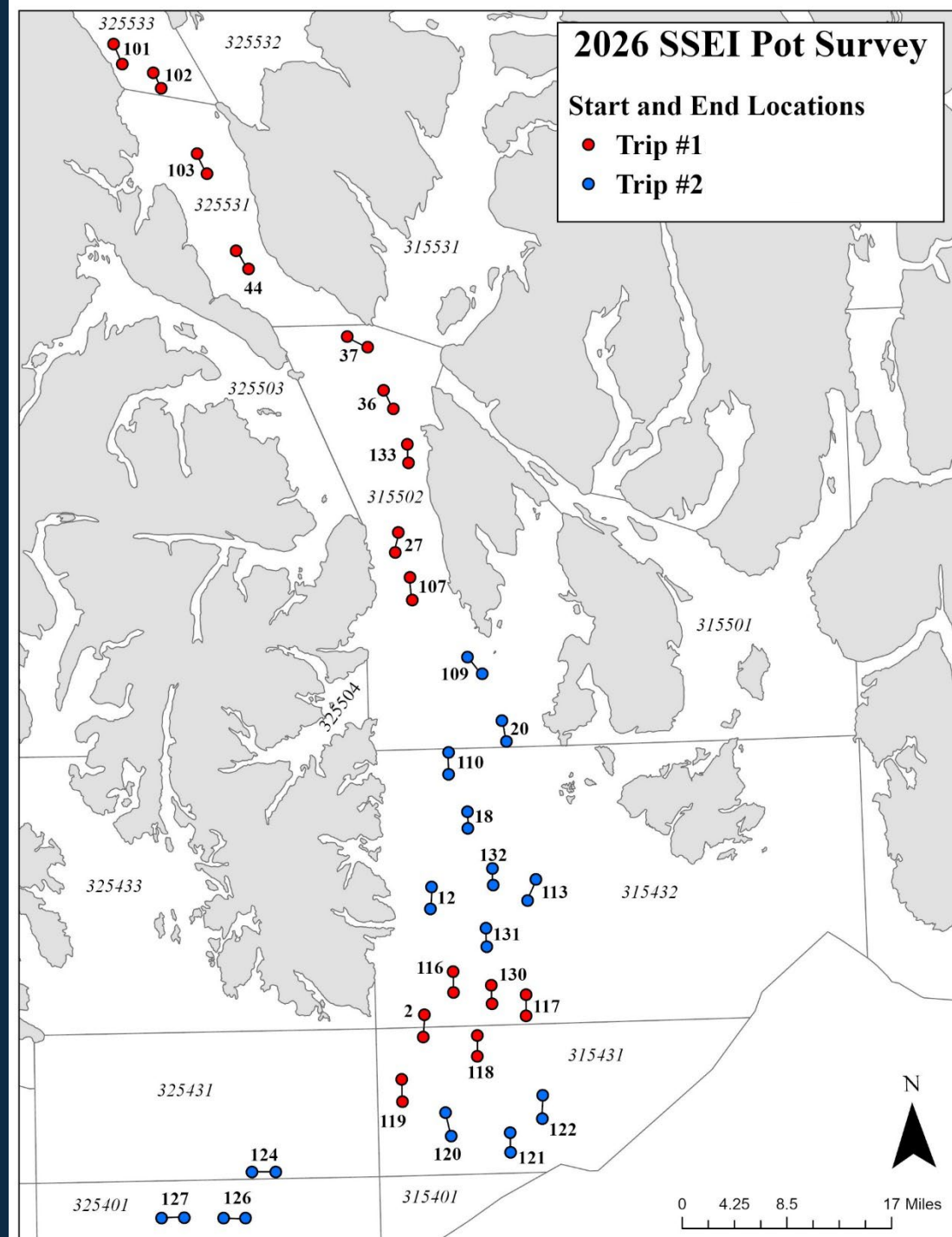




Inside waters gear comparison Summary

- Slinky pots are suitable for the survey
 - 1 skate (45 hooks) = 1.2 small pots
 - 30 small pots to replace each LL survey set
- LL selects for larger fish
- Catch similar age comp
 - Pots = slightly younger fish
 - May help detect recruitment events earlier
 - Better contrast for the model
- No depredation events on the pot gear study or the 2026 Clarence pot survey!





NEW!

POT SURVEY

SSEI · APRIL 2026

SURVEY RESULTS



Daily schedule much better

Set 2 stations the night before

Set 3rd station in the morning

Haul all 3, run, set



Baiting is much faster for crew



Much less bycatch than hooks



No whale depredation!



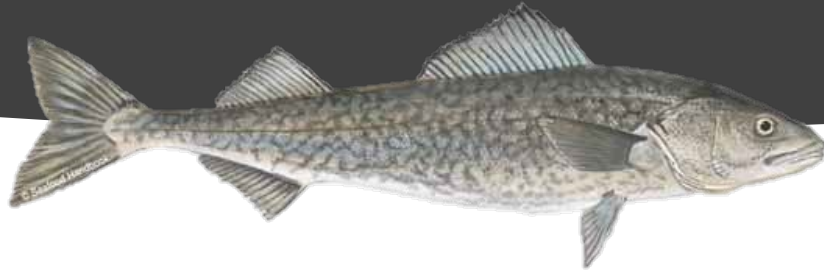


Acknowledgements

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

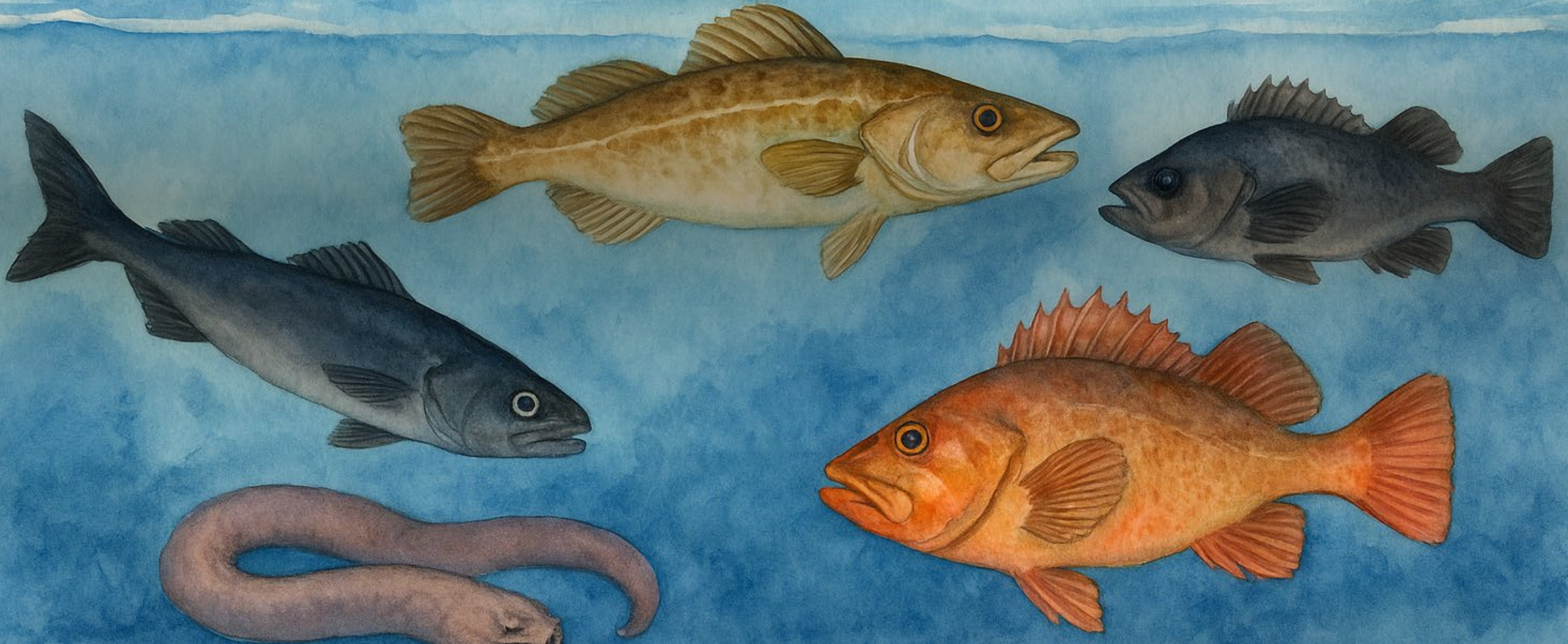


Question and Answer



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

See you next year!





NOAA
FISHERIES



AFSC Longline Survey

ADFG Sablefish Industry Meeting - 2026



Kevin Siwicke and Pat Malecha

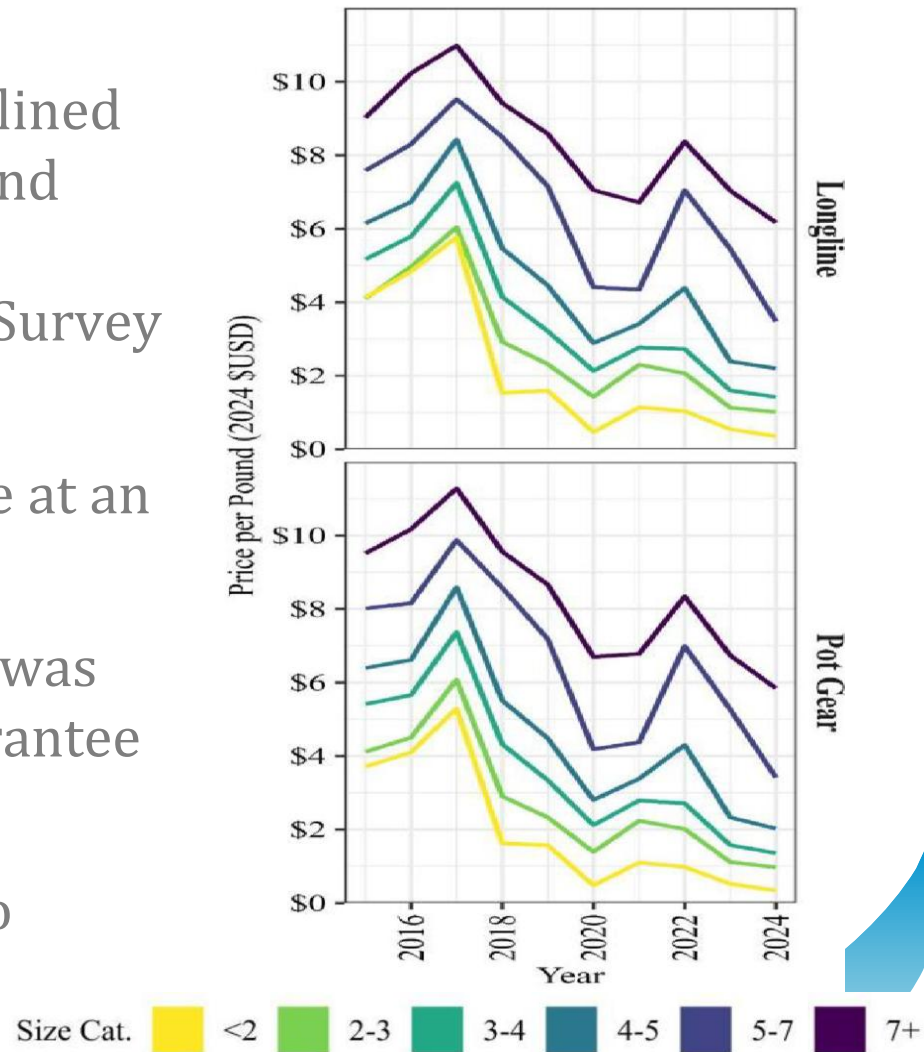
Longline Survey History

- Annual hook-and-line survey
 - Japan/US - 1979-1994
 - NMFS – 1988-2023, 2025-
- Samples Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska continental slope 200 - 1,000m
- Freezer longliners contracted
- Before 2020 there were two vessel contractors, but only one since
- Operated solely on a cost-recovery basis with sale of the catch covering all vessel costs – zero-dollar contract



2024 Longline Survey Cancellation

- Economic value of sablefish declined due to record high abundance and poor markets
- Declining prices and margins – Survey vessel reported a loss in 2023
- Survey was projected to operate at an economic loss in 2024
- Government contract structure was unable to provide financial guarantee
- In April 2024, the survey was cancelled due to financial risk to contractor



2025/26 Longline Survey Contract

- Restructured to guarantee a daily rate to remove market volatility risk to vessel
- Daily rate offset by sale of retained catch; reduces net cost to government
- Vessel days reduced and survey re-structured to address cost and vessel availability
- Previously sampled GOA every year and BS or AI every other year ~90 Days at Sea (DAS) annually
- Now sample GOA in odd years for 50 DAS (2025) and BSAI in even years for 34 DAS (2026)

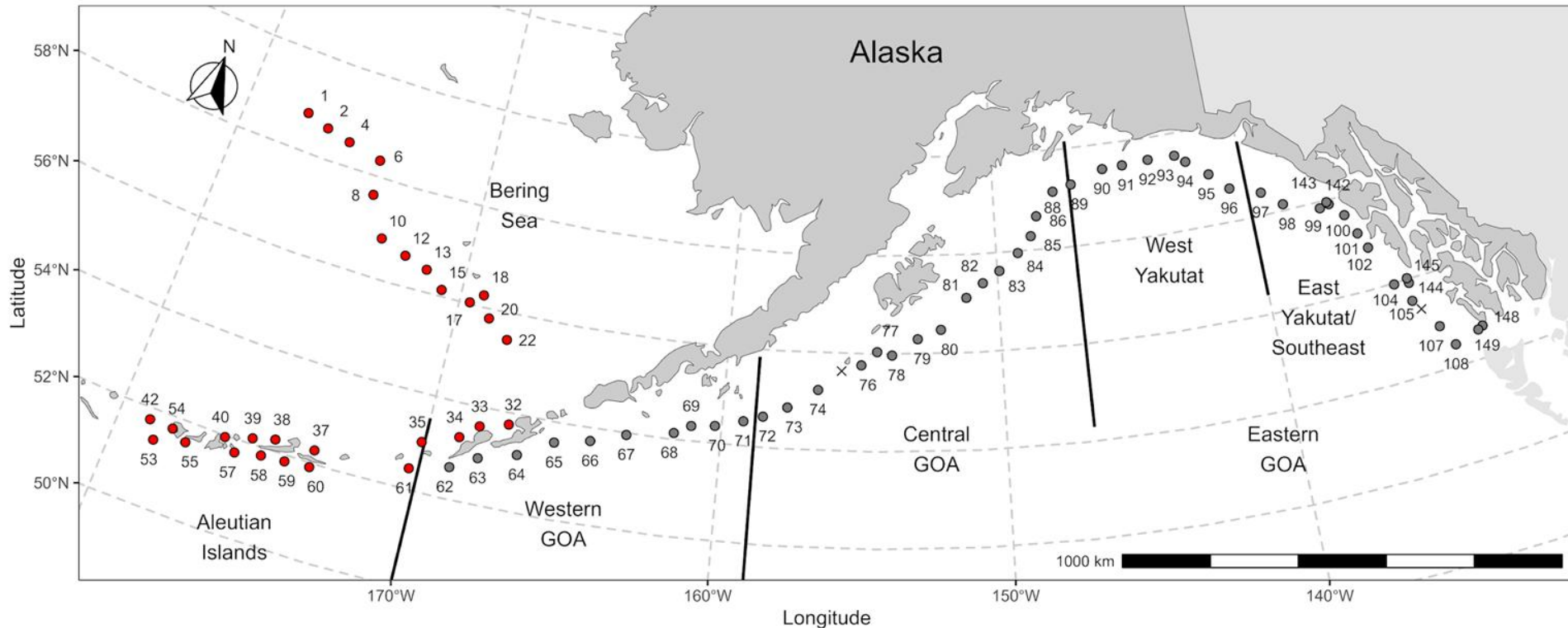


NOAA
FISHERIES

Impacts to Data

- Loss of 2 GOA RPN index stations
 - Stations were chosen based on highest sampling frequency relative to geographic area to minimize overall data loss – **little effect**
 - Dropped non-RPN gully and experimental stations
- Sampling GOA and BSAI every other year -- similar to the biennial trawl surveys
 - Most assessments are by specific FMP areas but sablefish is AK-wide
 - Assessment has to deal with GOA data one year and BSAI data in alternate years

2025/26 Survey Geographic Coverage



- Bering Sea – even years
- Aleutian Islands – even years
- GOA – odd years
- 180 skates per day
- 45 hooks per skate
- Data depth stratified



2025 GOA Survey in Numbers

- 371,700 hooks fished in 46 days
 - 126,299 sablefish caught
- 2,869 sablefish otoliths collected (length/weight/sex)
- Tagged:
 - 3,998 sablefish
 - 197 shortspine thornyhead
- Recaptured 19 tagged sablefish (18-NMFS, 1-Canadian), and 1 SST (NMFS)
- 90 temperature-depth profiles
- Special Projects:
 - Eyes from sablefish for stable isotope analysis (Rogers)
 - Age validation and Epigenetics: genetics, otoliths and eyes ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}$) from sablefish and shorttraker (Patterson/Portnoy)
- Cruise Reports found here:
 - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/publications-database/alaska-fisheries-science-center-technical-memorandums>

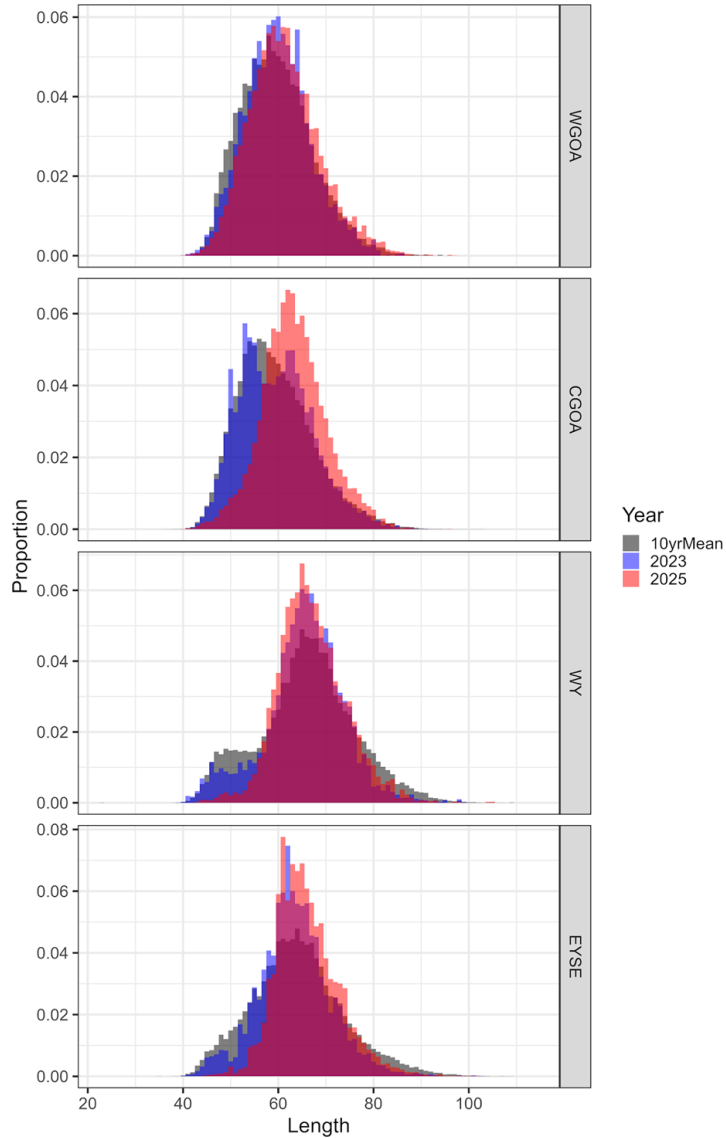
2025 GOA Species Lengths

Common name	Lengths collected
sablefish	93,164
shortspine thornyhead	4,347
roughey rockfish	3,392
Pacific cod	2,652
giant grenadier	1,898
shortraker rockfish	1,738
redbanded rockfish	867
arrowtooth flounder	561
yelloweye rockfish	304
Pacific grenadier	229
spiny dogfish	50
rosethorn rockfish	34
dusky rockfish	25
Greenland turbot	1
Kamchatka flounder	1
Total	109,263

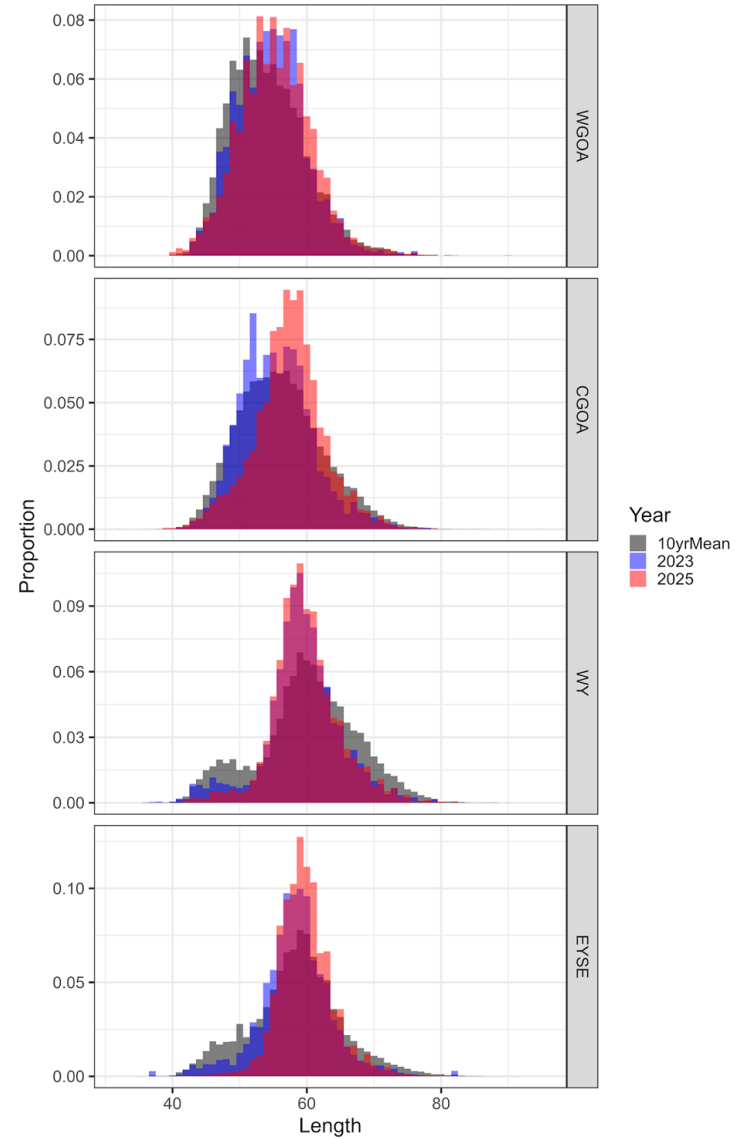


2025 GOA Sablefish Lengths

Recent female Sablefish length distributions

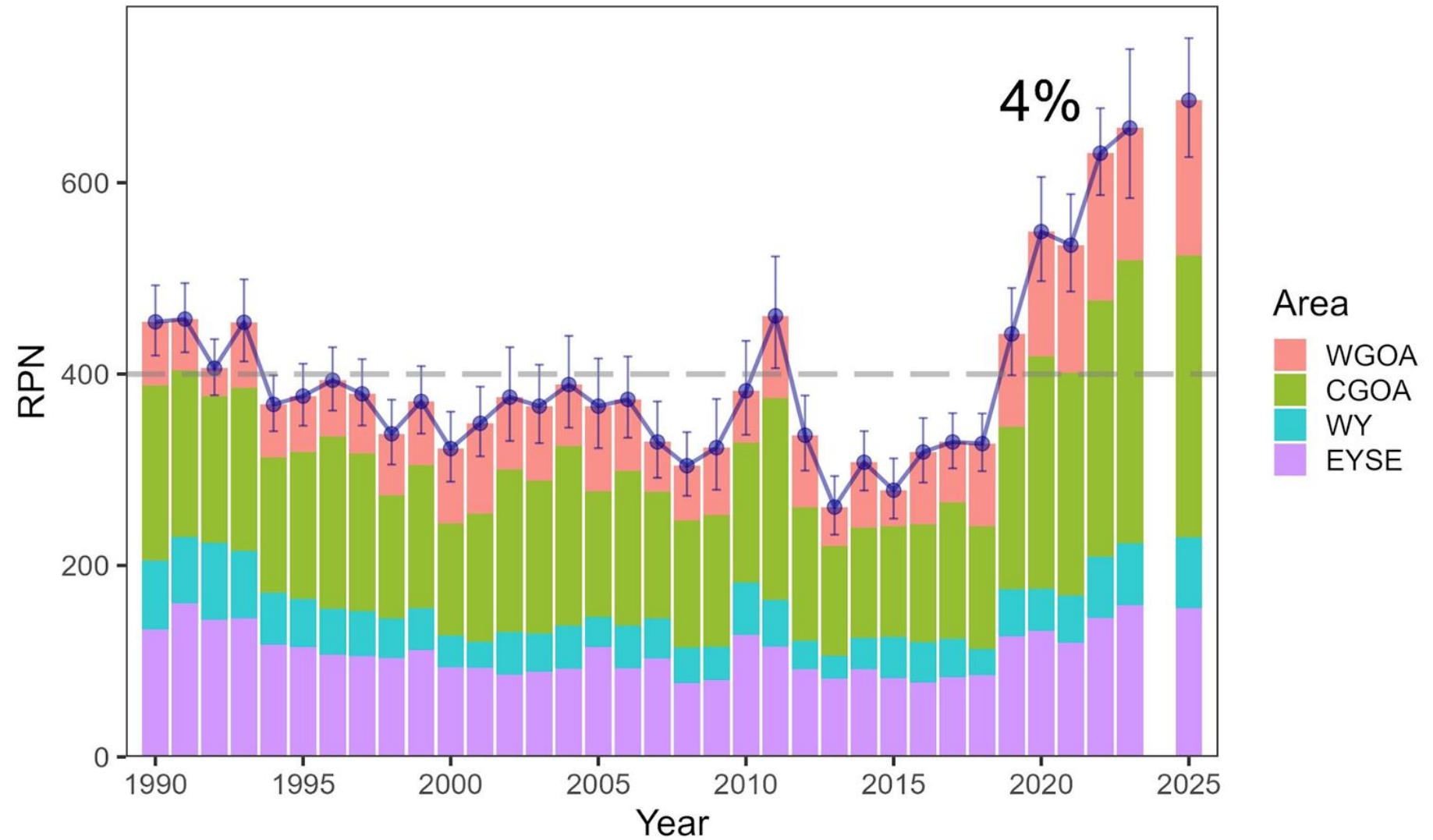


Recent male Sablefish length distributions



NOAA
FISHERIES

2025 GOA Sablefish



NOAA
FISHERIES

2026 Longline Survey

- Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
- *FV Alaskan Leader*
- Depart Dutch Harbor June 1
- Survey complete July 5
- Request fleet to avoid stations
- Survey calendar available online:



<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/alaska-sablefish-longline-survey-station-schedule>

Survey contacts:

Pat.Malecha@noaa.gov

Kevin.Siwicke@noaa.gov

Alaska Federal Sablefish Assessment Summary

ADFG Industry Meeting May 2026

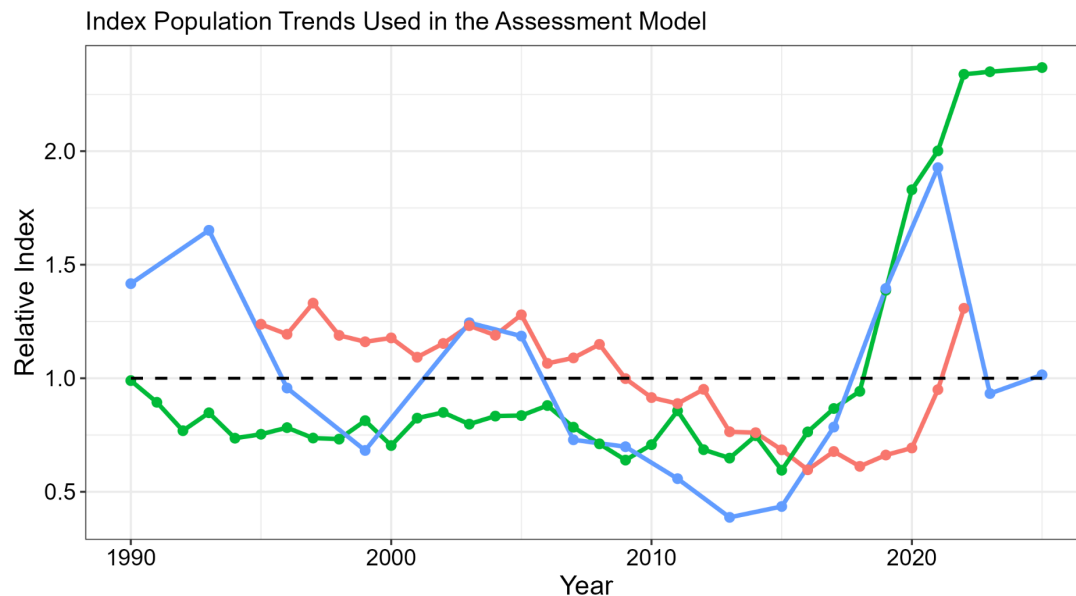
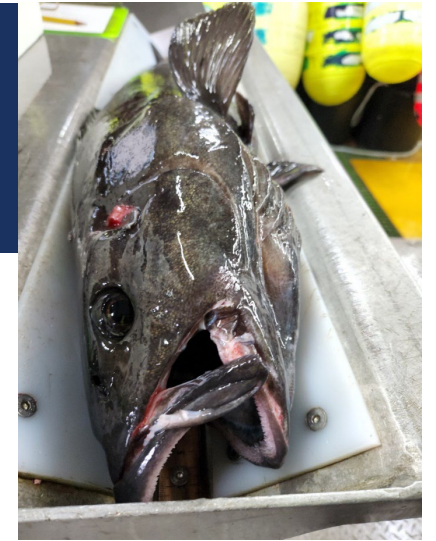
Dan Goethel and Matt Cheng

National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Auke Bay Laboratories
Juneau, AK



Surveys

- No assessment in 2025 (Government Shutdown)
 - 2024 SAFE document can be found at:
 - <https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/SAFE/2024/Sablefish.pdf>
- 2025 Longline survey only included GOA stations in 2025
 - No change in index since ~2022 (no survey in 2024)
 - 2025 trawl survey (GOA juvenile index) demonstrated no change from 2023 and similar trends to LLS



LL Survey:
Similar to 2023 (GOA only)

CPUE Index:
No Update

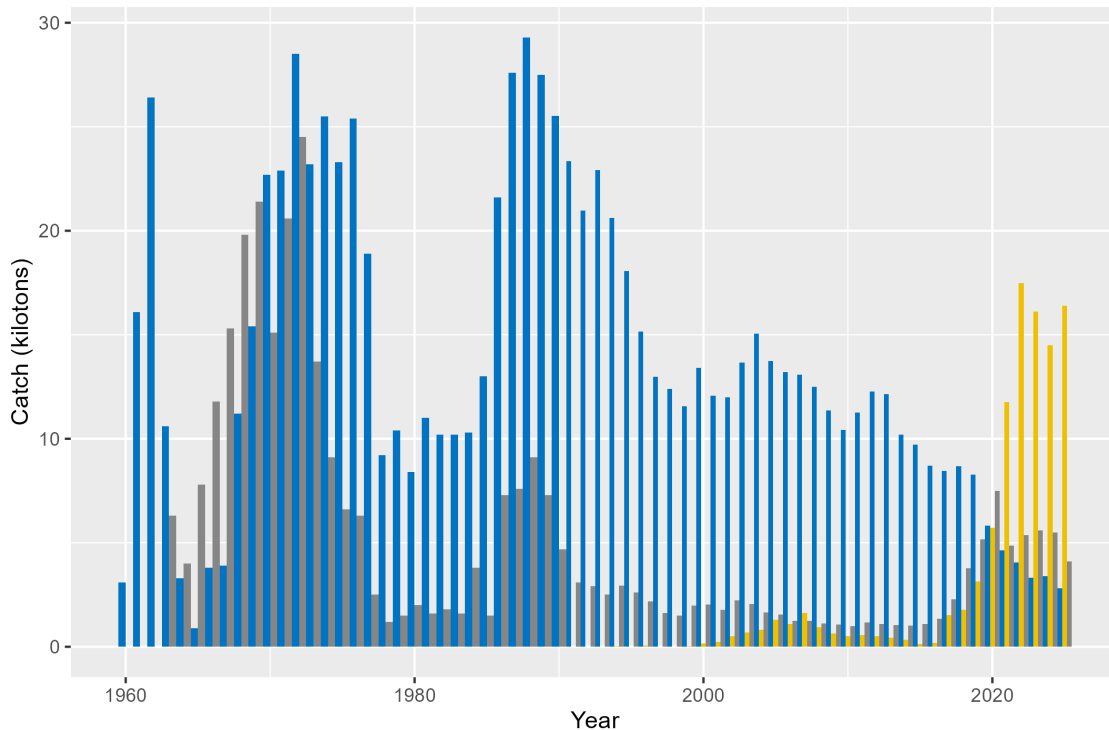
Trawl Survey:
Similar to 2023 (GOA only;
NOT USED IN ASSESSMENT)



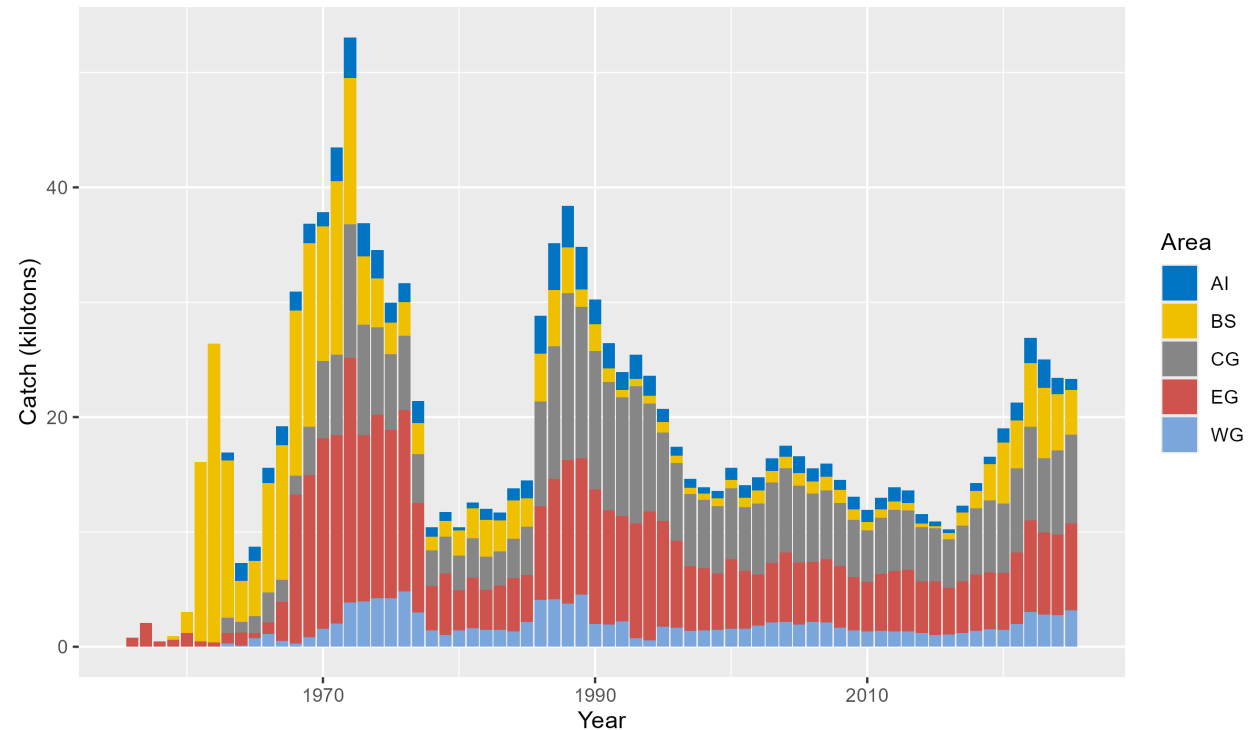
Catch

- Catch has been relatively stable since ~2023.
- Pot gear (yellow bars) remains the dominant gear type.
- ABC only ~50% utilized in recent years, with utilization rates lower in western regions.

Catch by Gear Type



Catch by NPFMC Area

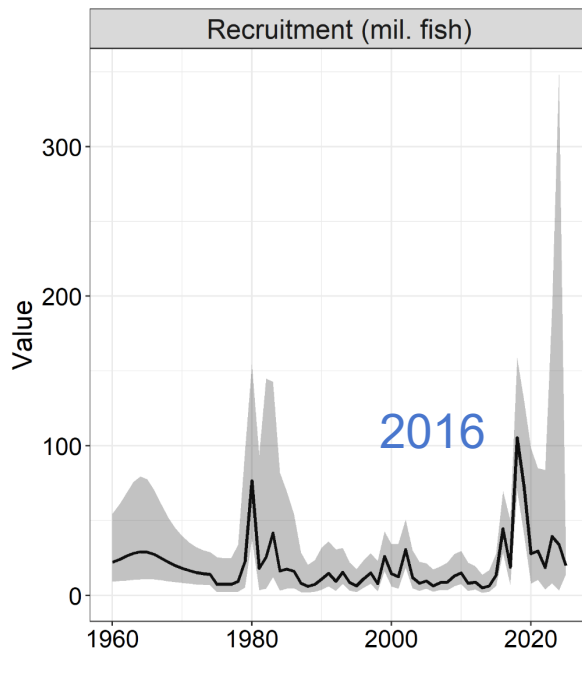


Biomass and Recruitment Trends

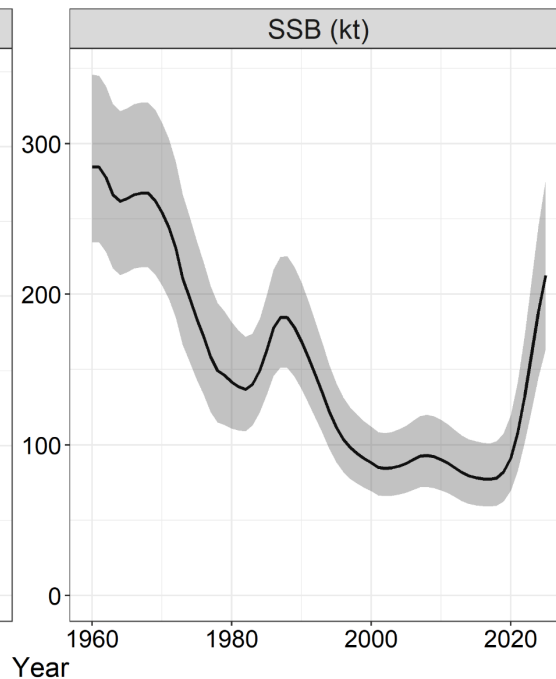


- Recruitment remains elevated, but closer to long-term average compared to 2016 year class.
- Slightly reduced recruitment is leading to a leveling off in total biomass (weight of all fish).
- Spawning stock biomass (SSB; weight of fully mature fish) continues to increase.

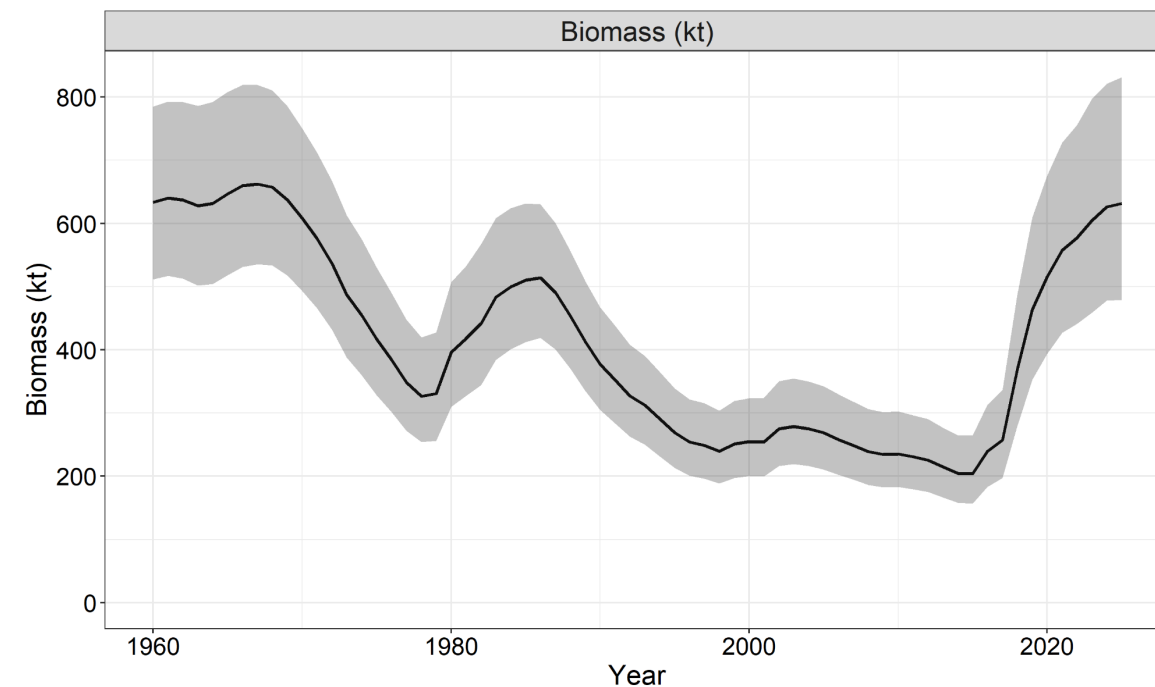
Recruitment



SSB

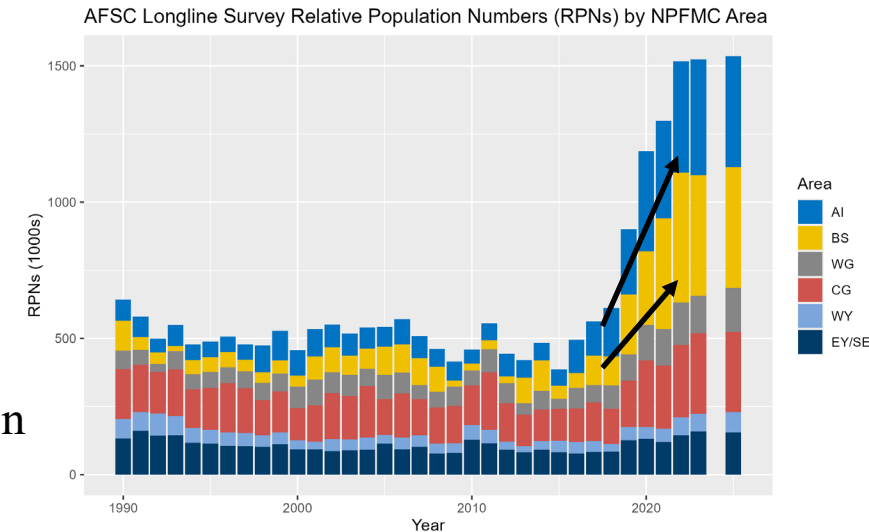


Biomass



ABC and Apportionment

- **ABC = 47,008 t** (-600 t from 2025 ABC)
 - SSC used the 2026 projected ABC from the 2024 SAFE
 - Only ~50% utilization in recent years
- Use a survey-based apportionment to regions
 - Assumes a 5-year moving average of survey biomass (RPW) by region
 - Since ~2019, more than 50% of survey biomass has come from the BSAI

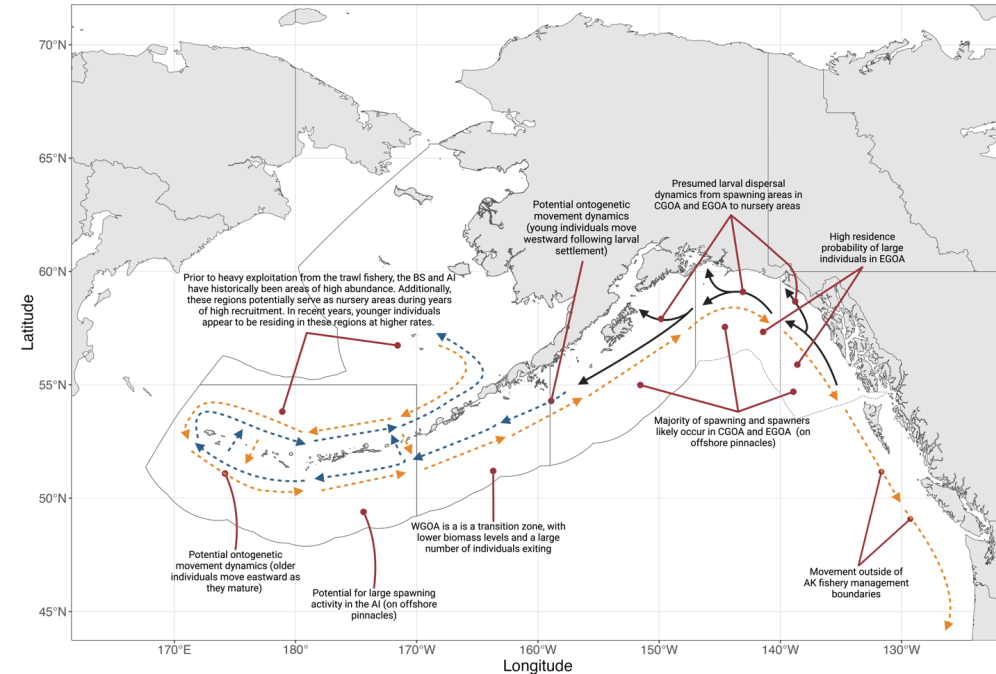


Year	2024				2025				2026		
Region	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch	OFL	ABC	TAC
BS	--	11,450	7,996	4,900	--	13,203	8,496	3,900	--	13,037	8,996
AI	--	13,100	8,440	1,400	--	11,566	7,940	900	--	11,421	7,440
GOA	--	22,596	22,596	17,200	--	22,836	22,836	18,500	--	22,550	22,550
WGOA	--	4,699	4,699	2,800	--	4,756	4,756	3,200	--	4,687	4,687
CGOA	--	9,651	9,651	7,300	--	9,744	9,744	7,700	--	9,622	9,622
EGOA	--	8,246	8,246	7,100	--	8,346	8,346	7,600	--	8,241	8,241
Total	55,084	47,146	--	23,500	58,532	47,605	--	23,300	57,797	47,008	--



Upcoming Assessment Meetings and Notes

- There will be an independent peer review of the sablefish stock assessment conducted by the Center for Independent Experts (CIE).
 - Public meeting: June/TBD in Juneau, AK (TSMRI/ABL)
- Normal 2026 assessment schedule planned
 - ‘Full’ assessment using the final CIE/SSC approved model
 - Groundfish Plan Team September Meeting
 - Approve model changes from 2025 model
 - Groundfish Plan Team November Meeting
 - Approve final 2026 model
 - Final NPFMC Harvest Specification in December 2026
- Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) stakeholder meeting tentatively will be scheduled for fall 2026.



Sablefish Spatial Model:
Integrates Tagging Data and Estimates
Movement Among Regions
(Cheng et al., 2025)

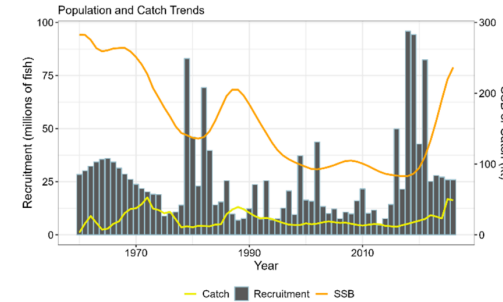
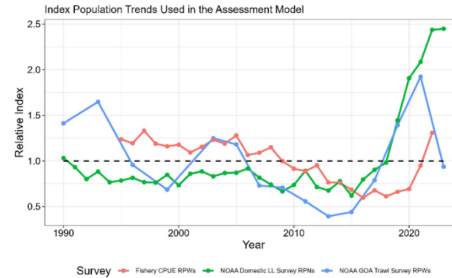




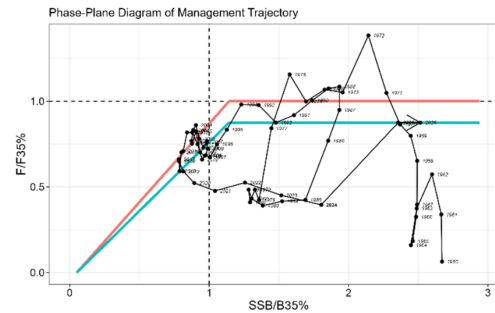
2024 Alaskan Sablefish SAFE (*Anoplopoma fimbria*)

Data and Stock Assessment Model

- Survey indices had been steadily increasing since 2015, but the 2023 NOAA longline survey abundance was stable and the 2023 NOAA Gulf of Alaska trawl survey declined. *There were no surveys in 2024.*
- For 2024 an update assessment was undertaken and there were no changes to the author proposed model (23.5) aside from updated data for 2024 (i.e., catch, fishery lengths, and fishery and survey ages).
- The biomass and SSB continue to increase, while recruitment appears to have returned to more average conditions in recent years.



Stock Status and ABC Recommendations



Quantity	2023 SAFE (Projections for 2024)	2024 SAFE (Projections for 2025)
$B_{100\%}$	299,901	302,672
$B_{40\%}$	119,960	121,069
$SSB_{(Terminal_Yr+1)}$	185,079	219,714
$SSB_{(Terminal_Yr+1)}/B_{100\%}$	62%	73%
$F_{ABC(Terminal_Yr+1)}$	0.086	0.087
$ABC_{w(Terminal_Yr+1)}$	47,146	50,111
$OFL_{w(Terminal_Yr+1)}$	55,084	58,532

*SSB projections are based on specified catch for the terminal year. ABC_w and OFL_w are the recommended values after whale depredation has been taken into account.

- The resource is *not overfished* and *overfishing is not occurring*.
- Recent ABCs have not been fully utilized with catch averaging ~71% of the ABC over the last 3 years, but expected to be <50% utilized in 2024 (based on extrapolated landings through the end of the year).
- The ABC increased by 6% due to continued maturation and growth (in weight) of the population.

Other Considerations

- The population age-structure is beginning to expand with the rapid maturation of the 2014 and 2016 year classes.
- 2014 – 2021 year classes comprise > 81% of projected 2025 SSB.

