



federal
Alaska↑Sablefish

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Outline

- Frequently asked questions
- Whale depredation
- Stock status
- Tag report
- Pots
- Logbooks
- Questions



Shameless plug



Black Cod Almanac

MESA Program, Auke Bay Laboratories, NMFS, Juneau, AK

January 2017

Greetings!

We hope this New Year finds you in good health and thinking about the upcoming fishing season. This is the 4th installment of the Black Cod Almanac which we started to improve communication and increase dialogue between scientists and members of the industry. The intent is to provide updates on relevant research, summarized highlights of both Groundfish Plan Team and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings, and news that may be of interest to those involved with the federal sablefish fishery. Please feel free to pass on, or send us email addresses of others who may appreciate receiving these newsletters.



2016 NMFS Longline Survey

The 2016 NMFS longline survey sampled waters throughout the entire Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and in the Eastern Aleutian Islands, from June 2016 – August 2016. During the survey catch is recorded, a subset of sablefish otoliths is collected for age reading, sablefish are lengthed, and a subset of sablefish are tagged for movement research. The results of this survey are the most influential data source used in the sablefish assessment model, which estimates spawning biomass and is used to set harvest limits.

- LL Survey Relative Population Numbers (RPNs: area weighted measures of the numbers of fish) were up from 2015 in the western GOA and the Aleutian Islands combined (by 75%), and in the central GOA (by 6%). The eastern GOA was down (5%).



Frequently asked questions

- Quota is UP?? Is there really some good recruitment coming?
- What about pots?
- How did you make the whale corrections this year?
- We're glad you are accounting for whales but it's not high enough.
- What is with the fixed apportionment?

Sablefish CIE 2016

- Independent review of the assessment
- May 10 – 12, Auke Bay Labs, Juneau
- May 27: Consensus recommendations
- July 27: Individual CIE reports
- September Plan Team: Responses to consensus recommendations, some preliminary model responses
- November Plan Team: Presented 8 new models that addressed the major recommendations of the CIE

CIE Results

- *“The outstanding negative feature of the model is that it provides unrealistically precise estimates of stock biomass...”*
- *“Of the many stock assessments that I have reviewed this was arguably the most comprehensive, supported by excellent data and subject to careful consideration of alternative modelling assumptions.”*
- Endorsed our methods for accounting for whale depredation
- Considered apportionment unlikely to be biologically important, but recommended continued research into spatial models to test strategies.

Whale depredation and the sablefish stock assessment (Models 16.1 – 16.5)



Sperm whale and killer whale depredation



Visser 2000



SEASWAP

Outline

Model 16.1:

Longline survey abundance index

Model 16.2:

Commercial fishery depredation

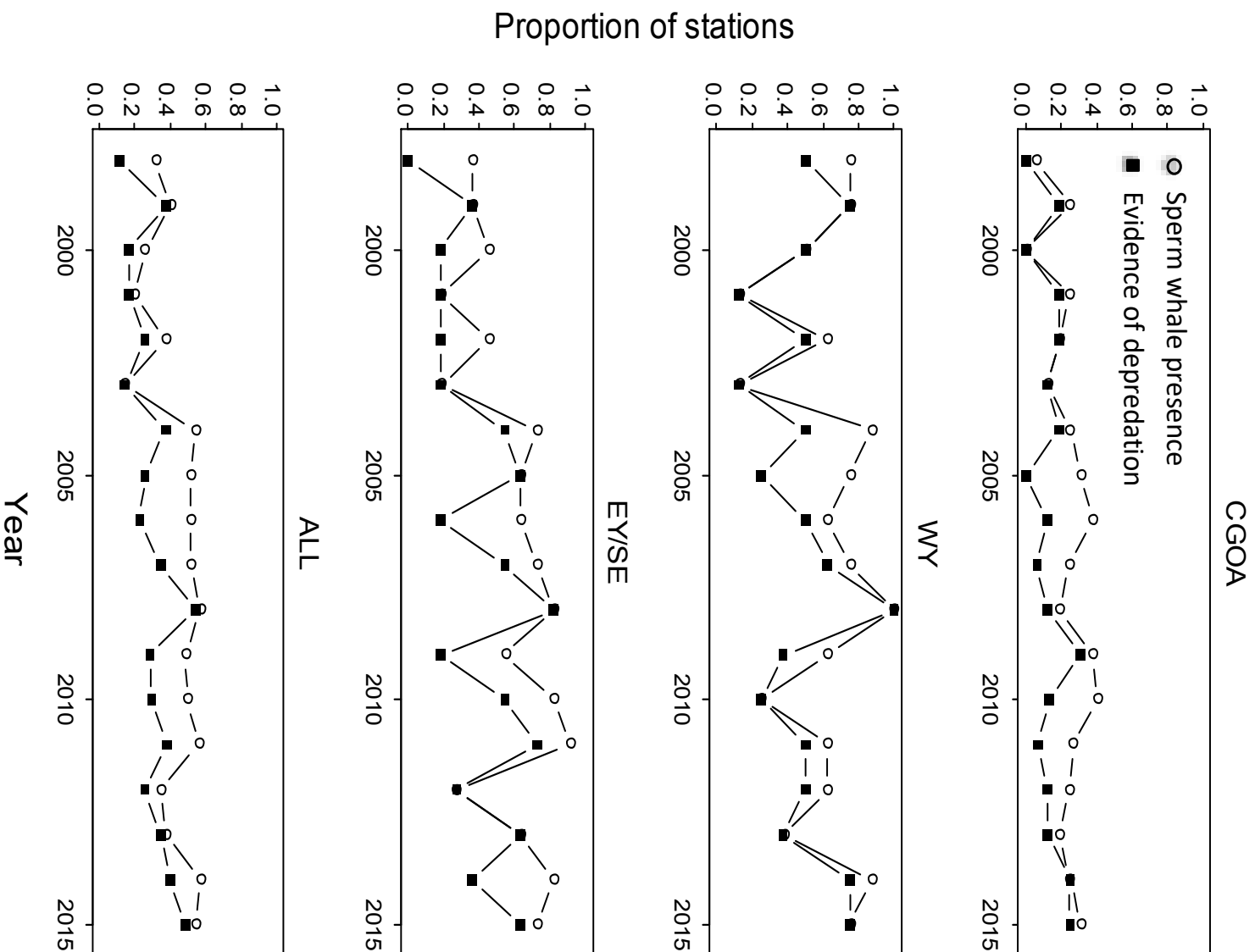
Model 16.3:

Both corrections applied



Model 16.1: Longline survey abundance index





**Increasing trend
presence**

**Increasing trend
presence & evidence**

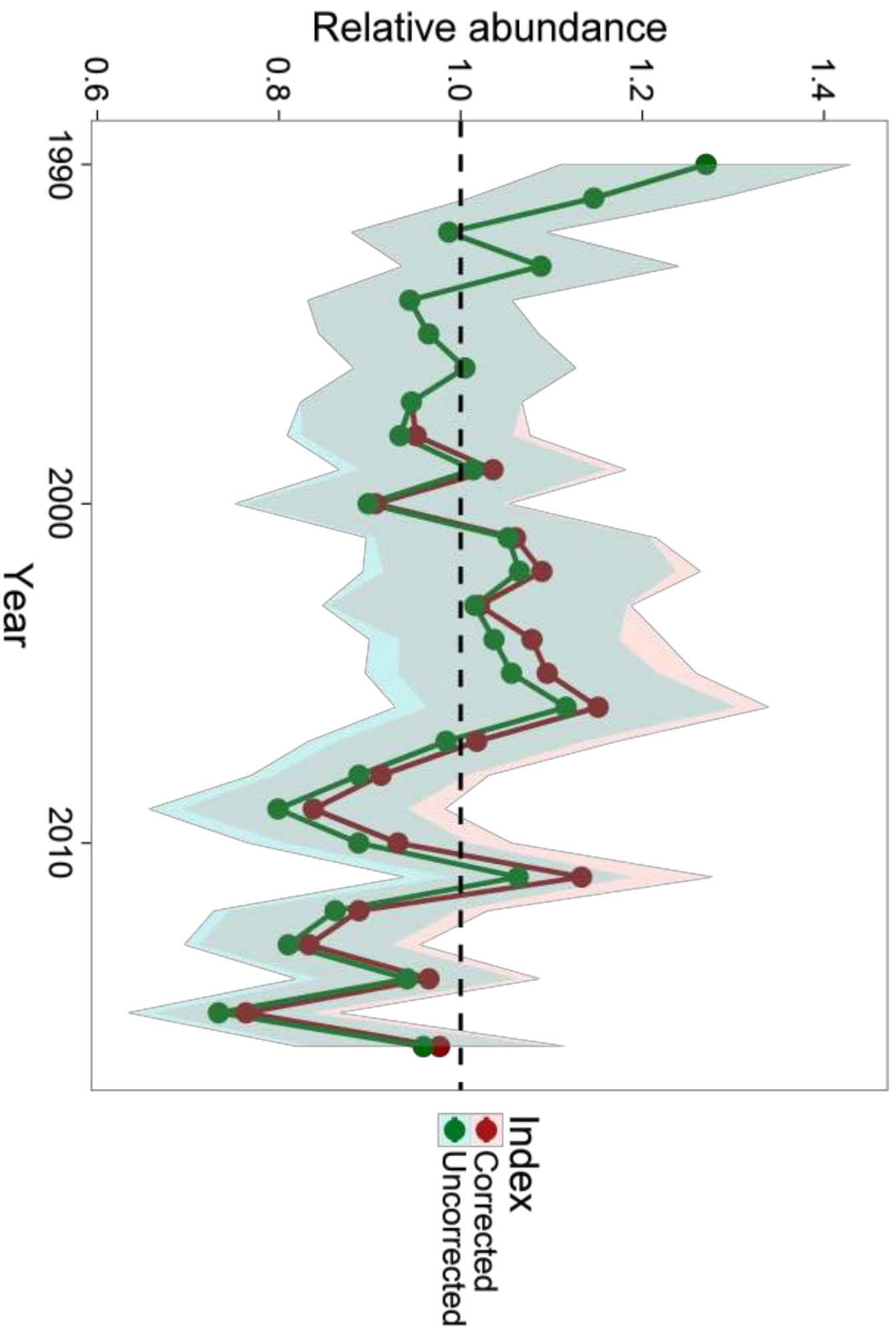
**Increasing trend
presence & evidence**

Results con't....

➤ 12% CPUE reduction across areas (95% CI: 6% - 18%) at stations where there was evidence of depredation

*Evidence flag desirable but presence still a useful/practical proxy for depredation

Effect of sperm whale corrections on the longline survey



Model 16.2:
Commercial fishery
depredation
(Peterson and
Hanselman 2017)



Issues with observer data

Limited observer coverage (especially on smaller vessels)

Marine mammal interactions monitored sometimes...

“Considerable whale depredation”

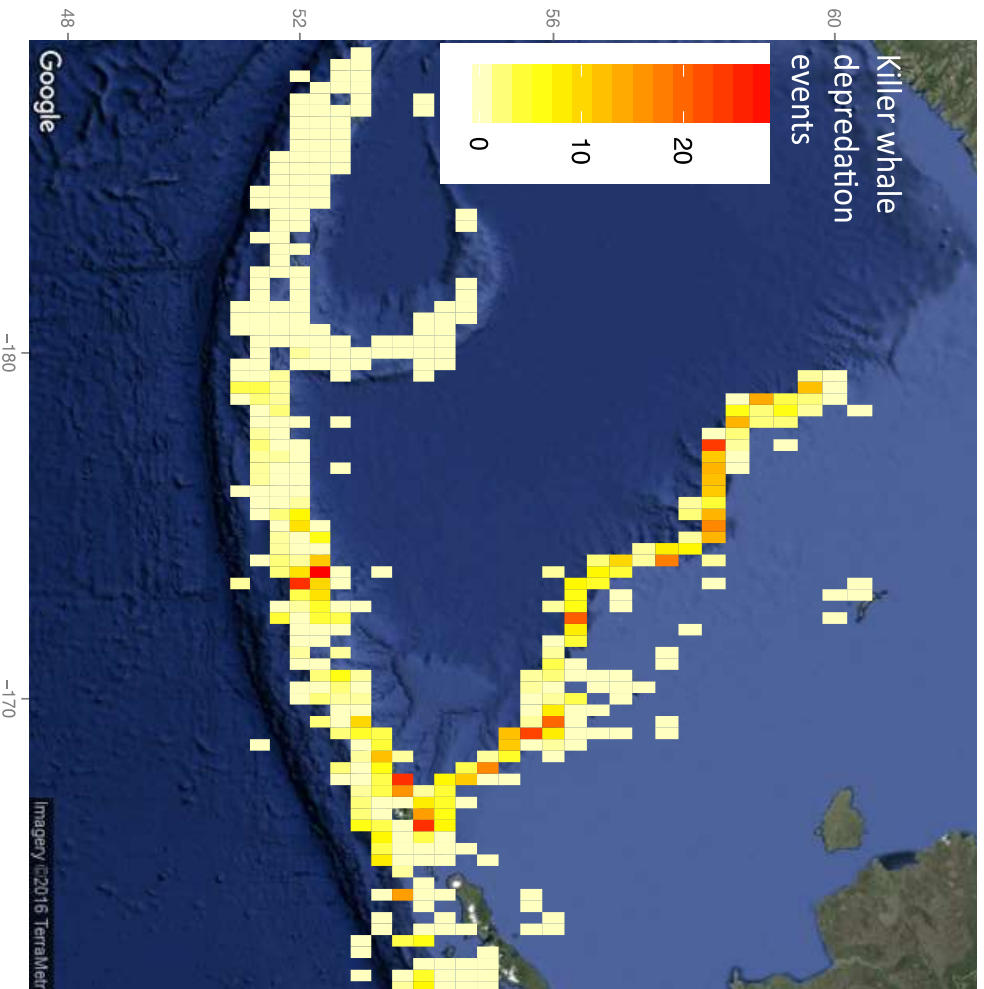
But it is the data we have!!



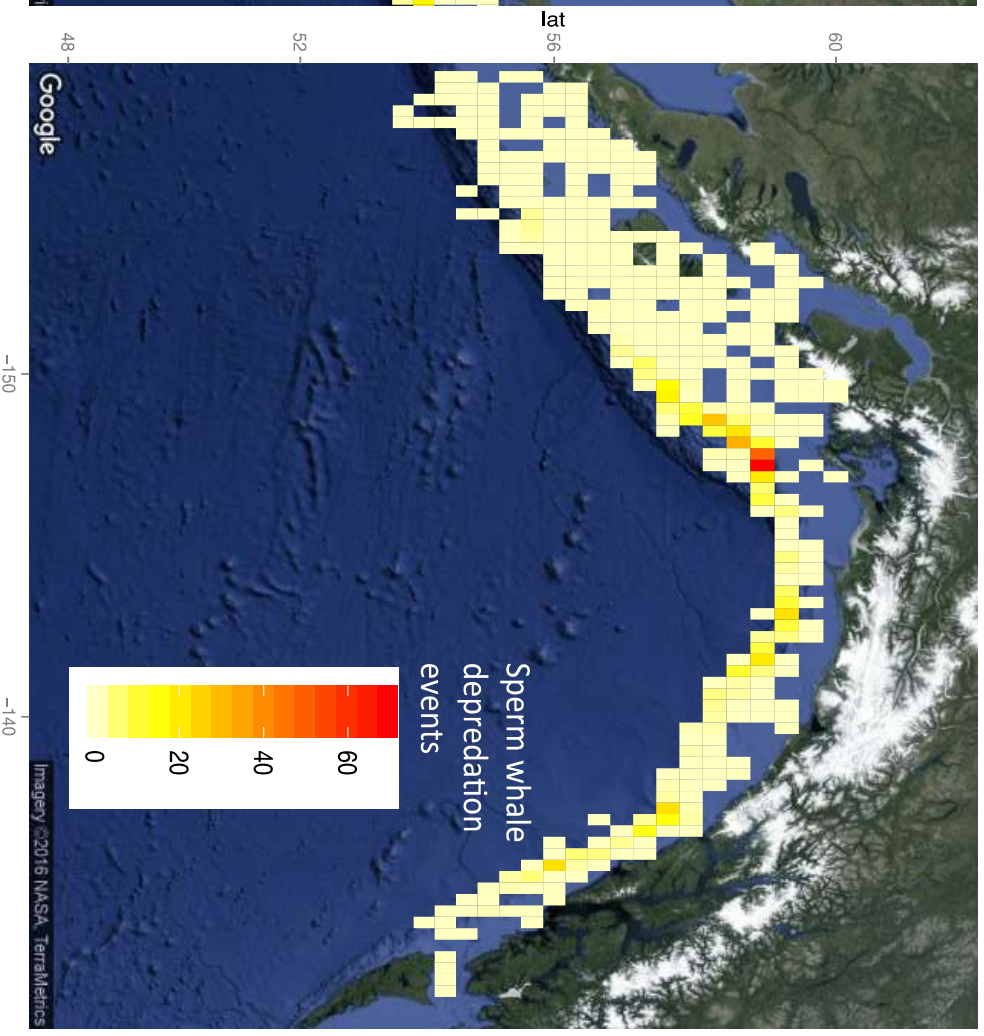
Commercial sablefish fishery observed sets 1995-2015



Western Alaska (n=19,921 sets)

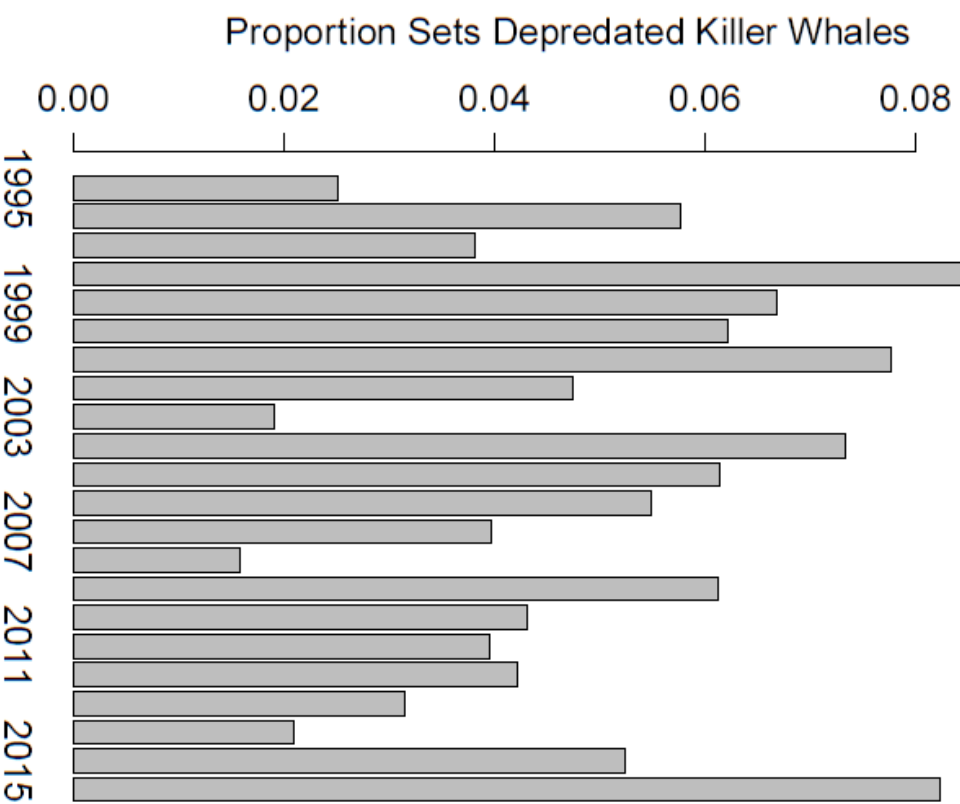


Gulf of Alaska (n=16,443 sets)

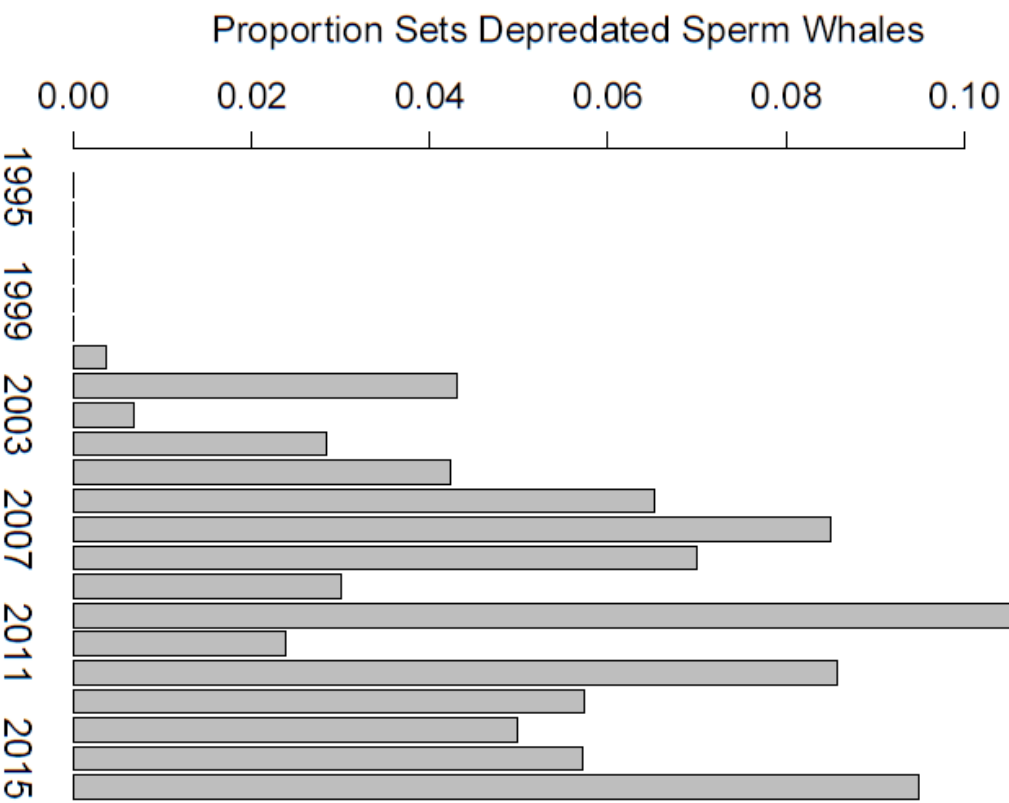


Proportion of sets impacted by whales

Western Alaska



Eastern Alaska



$$\text{Log(sable_CPUE)} = \beta_0 + \text{whale_dep} + \text{depth} + \text{year} + \text{jul_day} + (\text{lat}, \text{long}) + \text{vessel} + \text{gren_CPUE} + \text{hal_CPUE} + \varepsilon$$

Area	Depredation coefficient (% CPUE reduced)	95% Confidence Interval	n	% dev explain
Bering Sea	45.7%	40.2% - 51.2%	4339	49.7%
Aleutians	57.7%	50.1% - 65.2%	6744	37.2%
Western Gulf of Alaska	69.4%	63.0% - 75.9%	5950	31.0%
Central Gulf of Alaska	23.8%	19.4% - 28.1%	8218	46.4%
West Yakutat	26.3%	21.5% - 31.1%	3919	52.7%
Southeast	29.4%	22.6% - 36.2%	2865	43.5%

Estimating sablefish removals due to whales

- Data gridded into $1/3^\circ$ by $1/3^\circ$ (approx 36 km by 25 km)
- Zero Inflated Poisson (ZIP) distribution GAM to model # sets depredated per grid...
- Zero – inflation is a modeling technique to try to capture the reason for excess zeros in data (such as observers below deck during whale activities)
- We end up with an estimate of depredated sets/grid cell
 - Landings per grid from Catch-in-Areas database based on Catch Accounting and VMS data (pers .comm. Steve Lewis – AKRO)

Annual depredation mortality

Estimated depredation in the fishery is then:

The proportion of depredated sets/grid cell
multiplied by

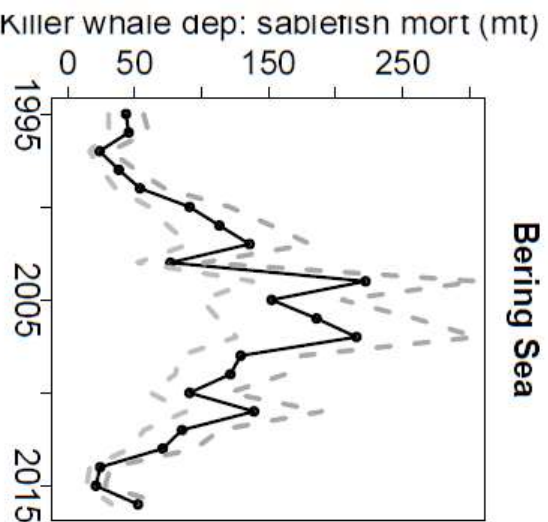
the catch in that cell

multiplied by

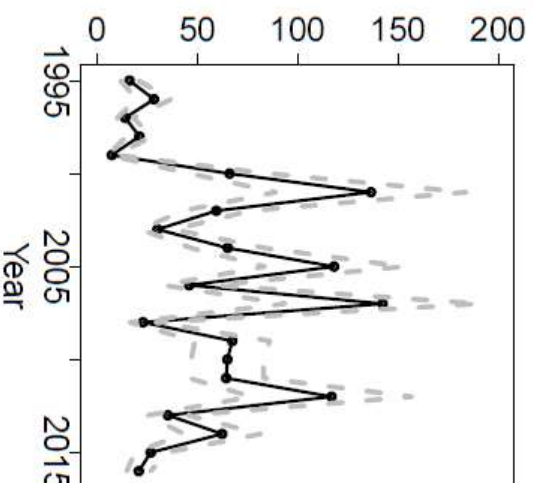
the estimate of CPUE reduction
for that area.

Depredation by Area

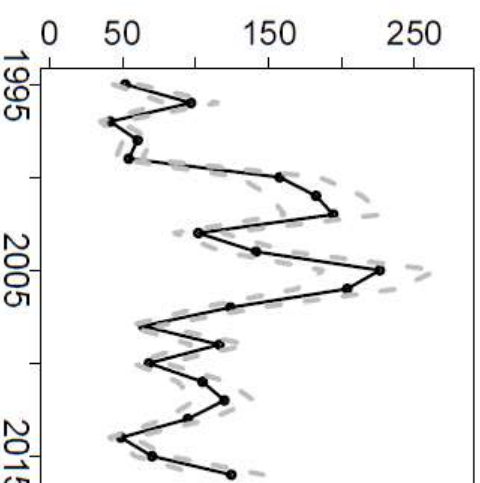
Bering Sea



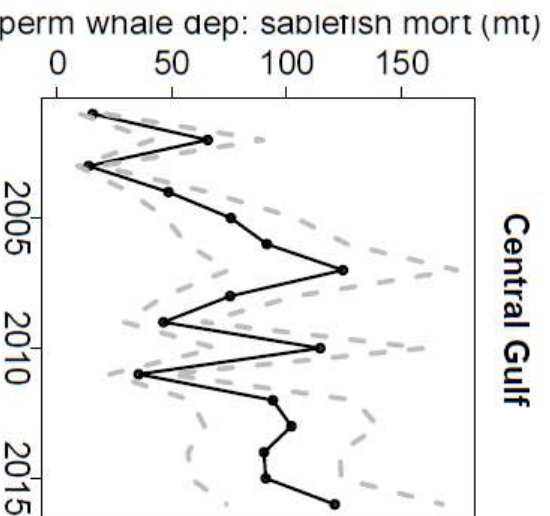
Aleutian Islands



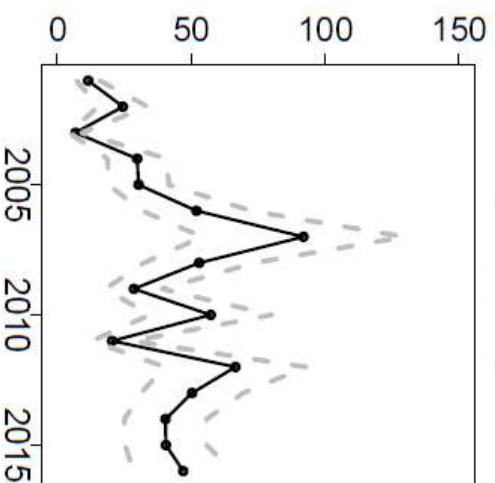
Western Gulf of Alaska



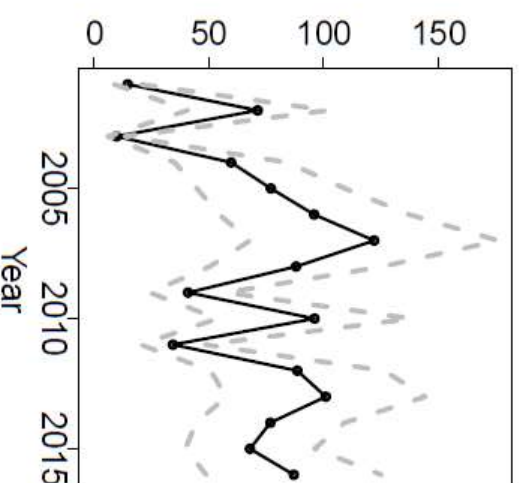
Central Gulf



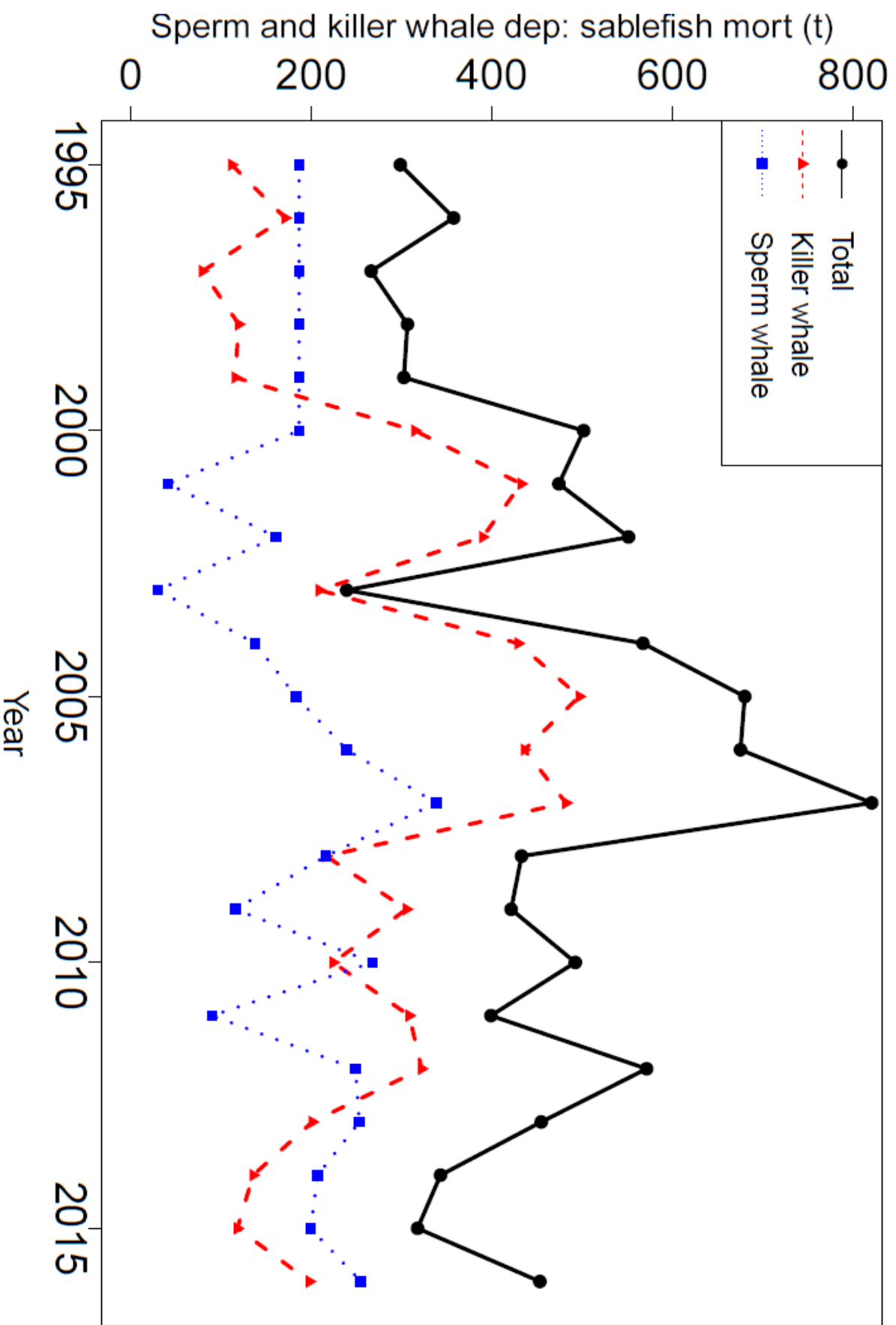
West Yakutat



Southeast



All area whale depredation in fishery



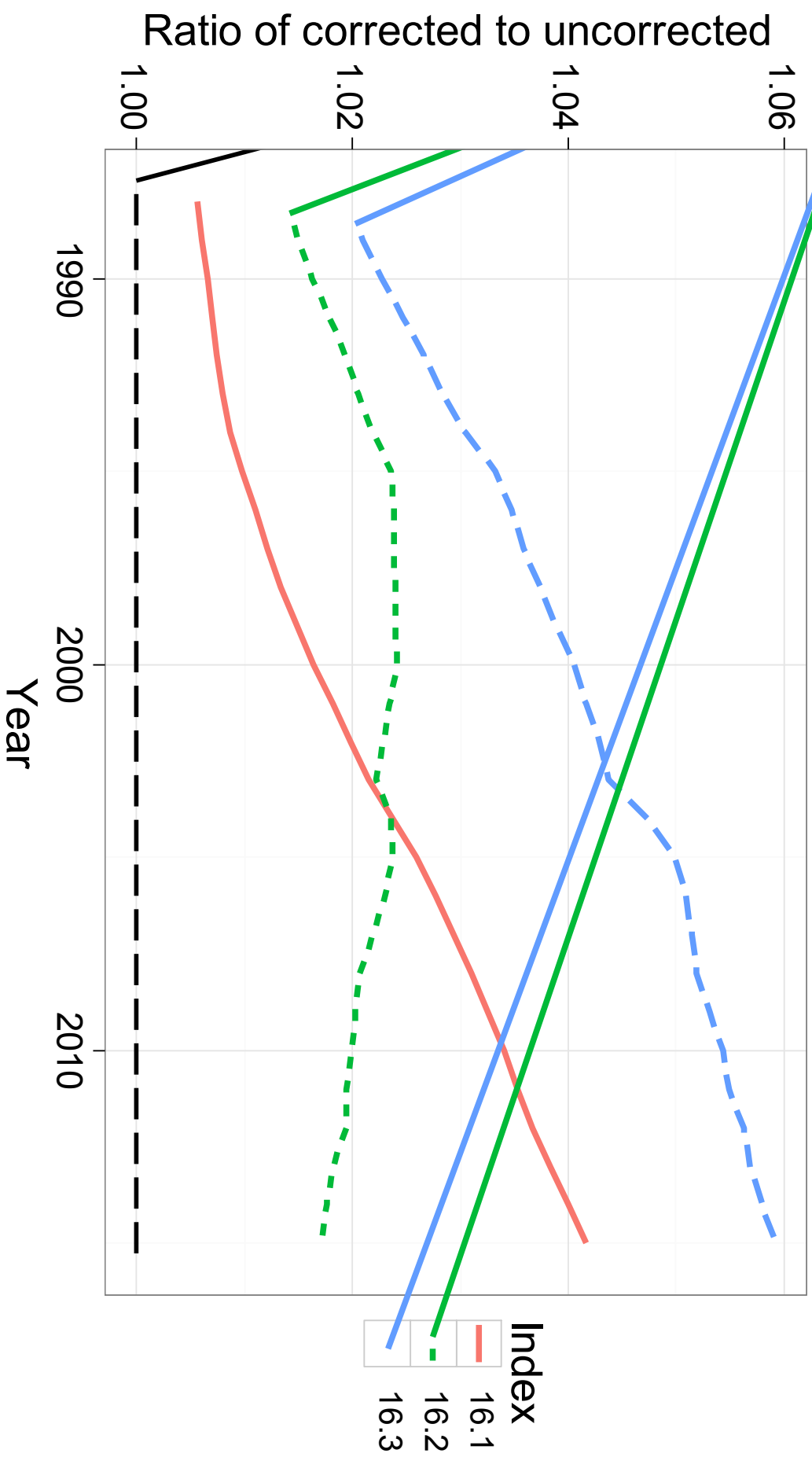
16.3: Putting them together



Incorporating Depredation

- Comparing to Model 10.3b presented earlier that uses new area sizes and variance estimates
- 16.1 – correct for sperm whales in survey
- 16.2 – add additional catch in the fishery
- 16.3 – do both

Effect on female spawning biomass



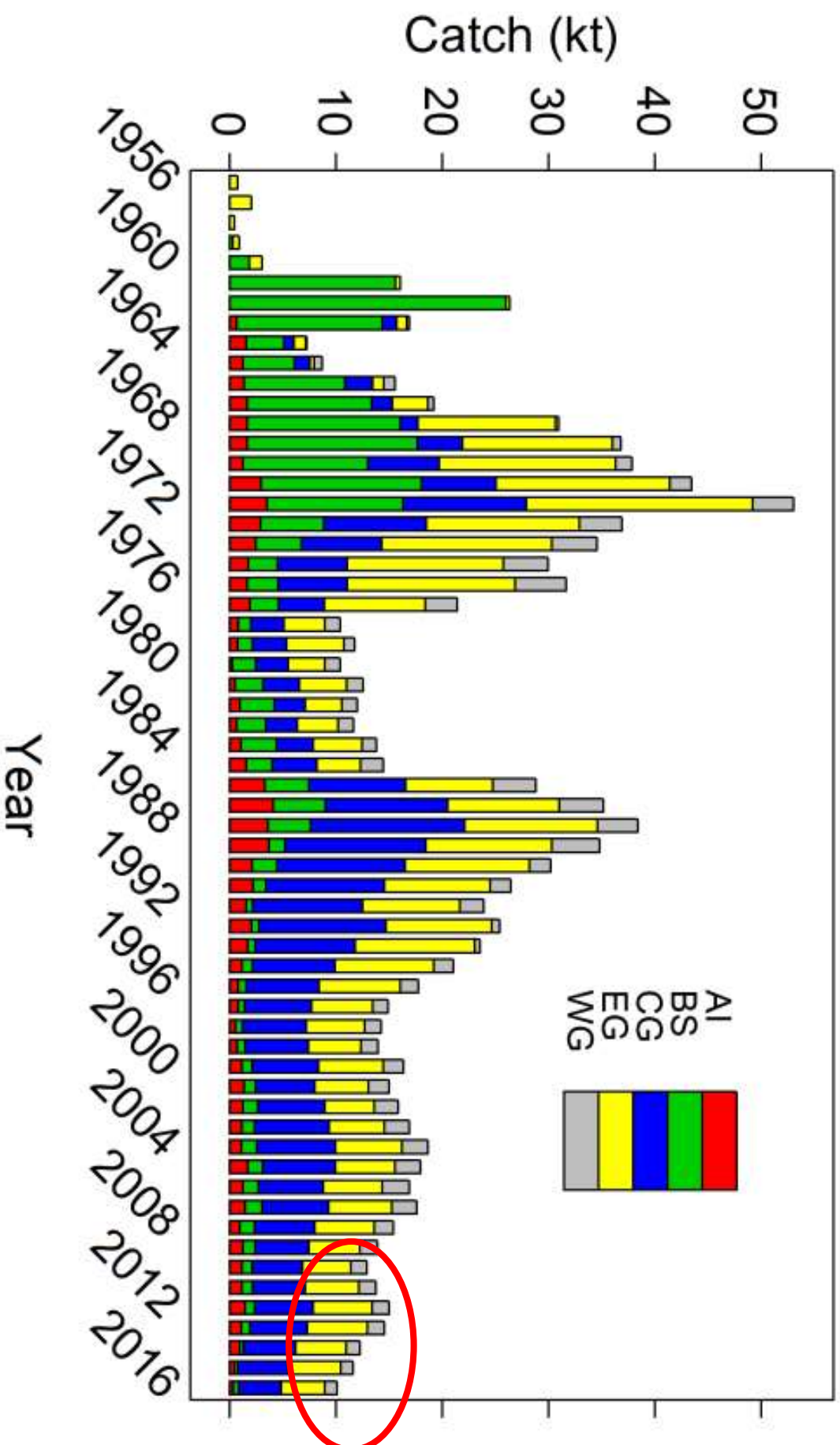
Stock status: New data



- Relative abundance: 2016 Longline survey, 2015 Longline fishery
- Ages: 2015 Longline survey, 2015 fixed gear fishery
- Lengths: 2016 Longline survey, 2015 fixed gear fishery, and 2015 trawl fishery
- ALSO: New economic performance report in Appendix

Catch

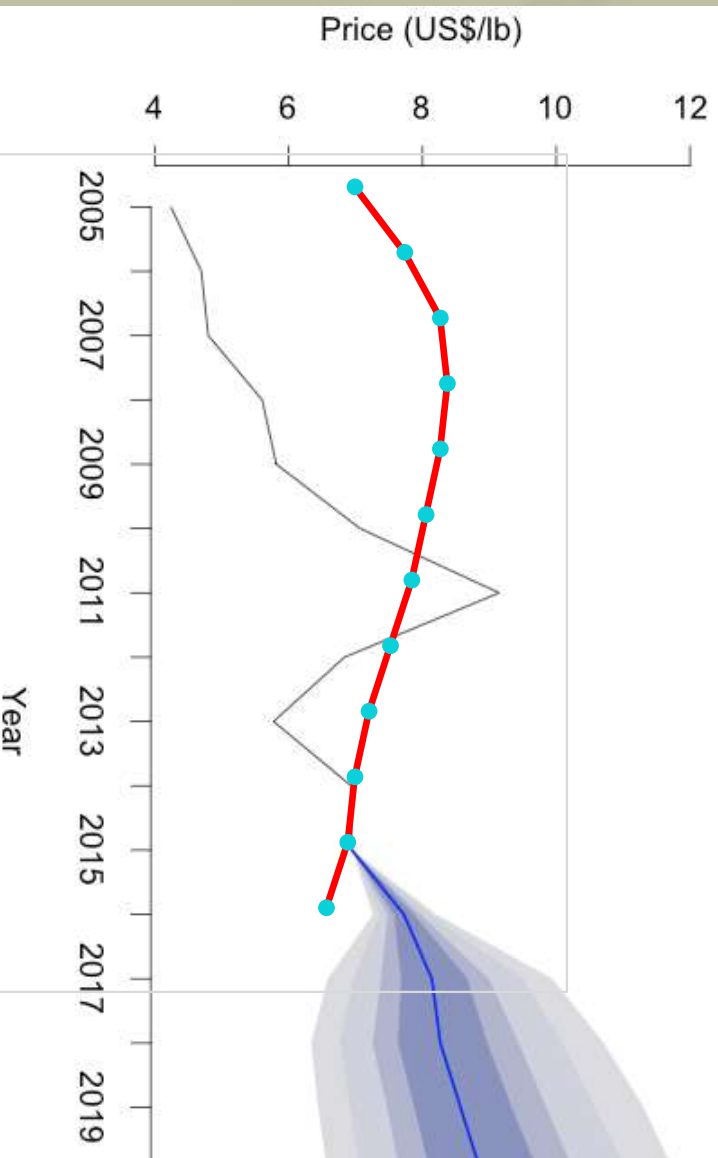
Catch by FMP management area



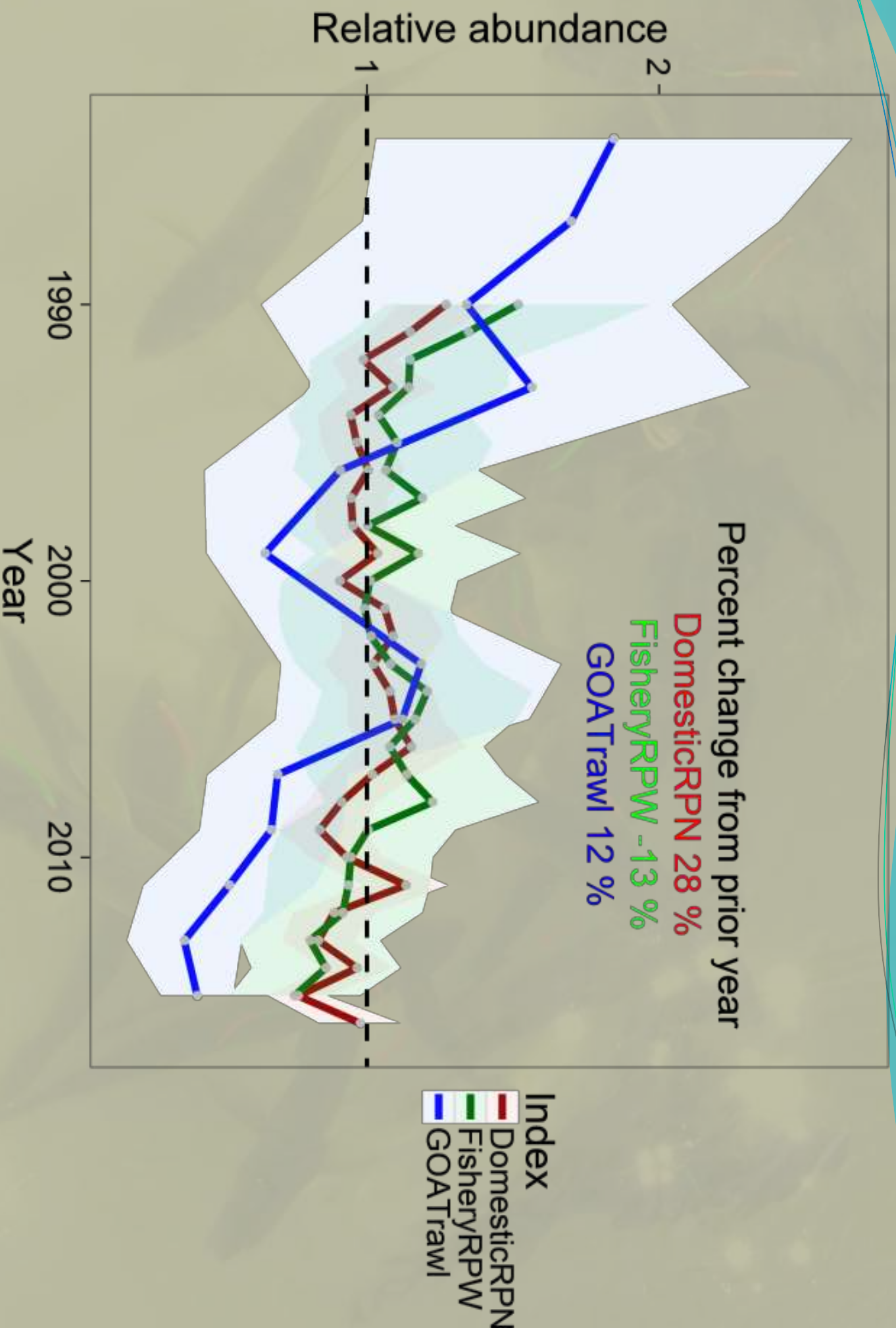
Economic Performance

- Similar price/lb in 2015 as 2014
- \$91 million in ex-vessel value 2015
- Export \$/lb look to be increasing in 2016

Sablefish head and gut price projection



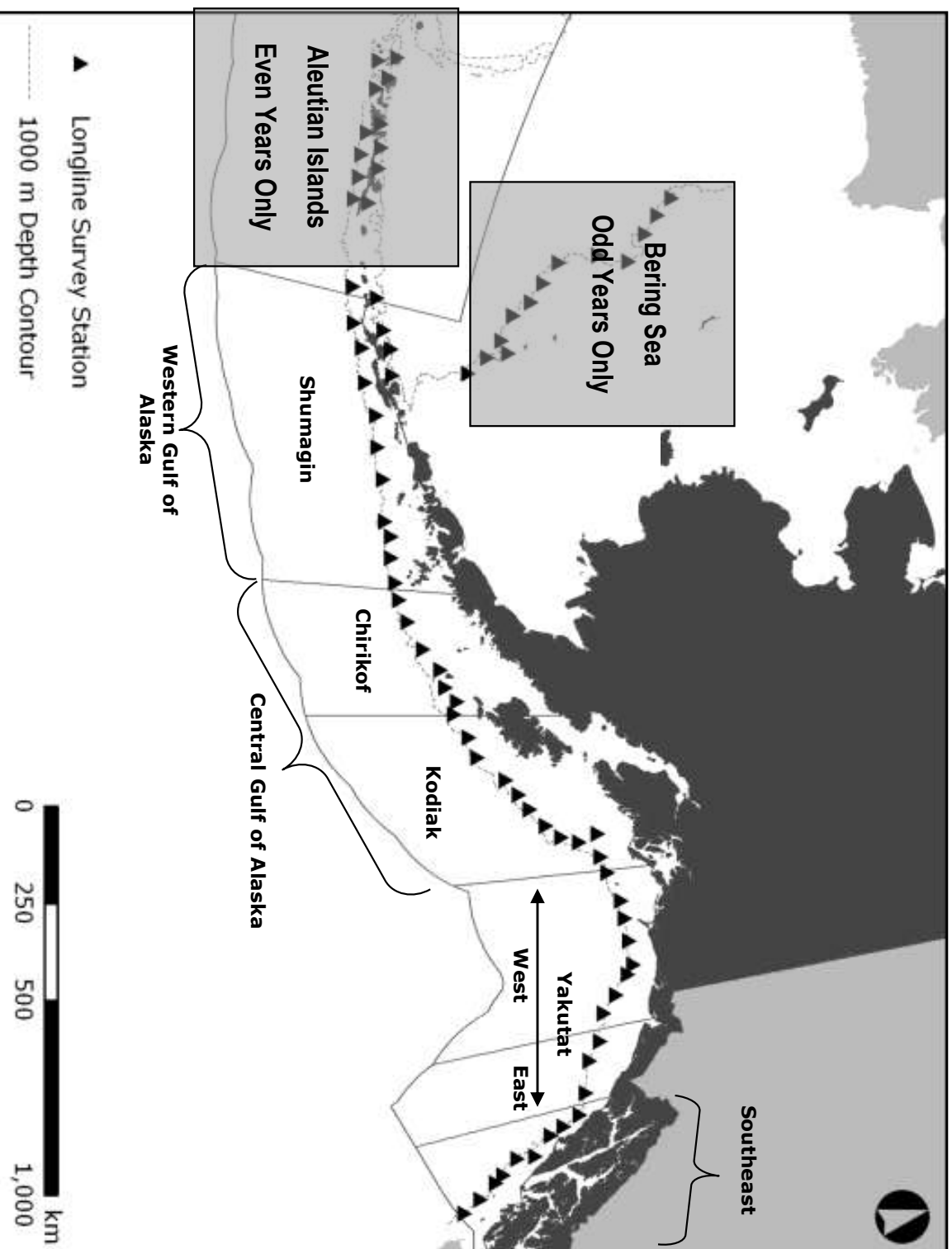
Sablefish abundance indices



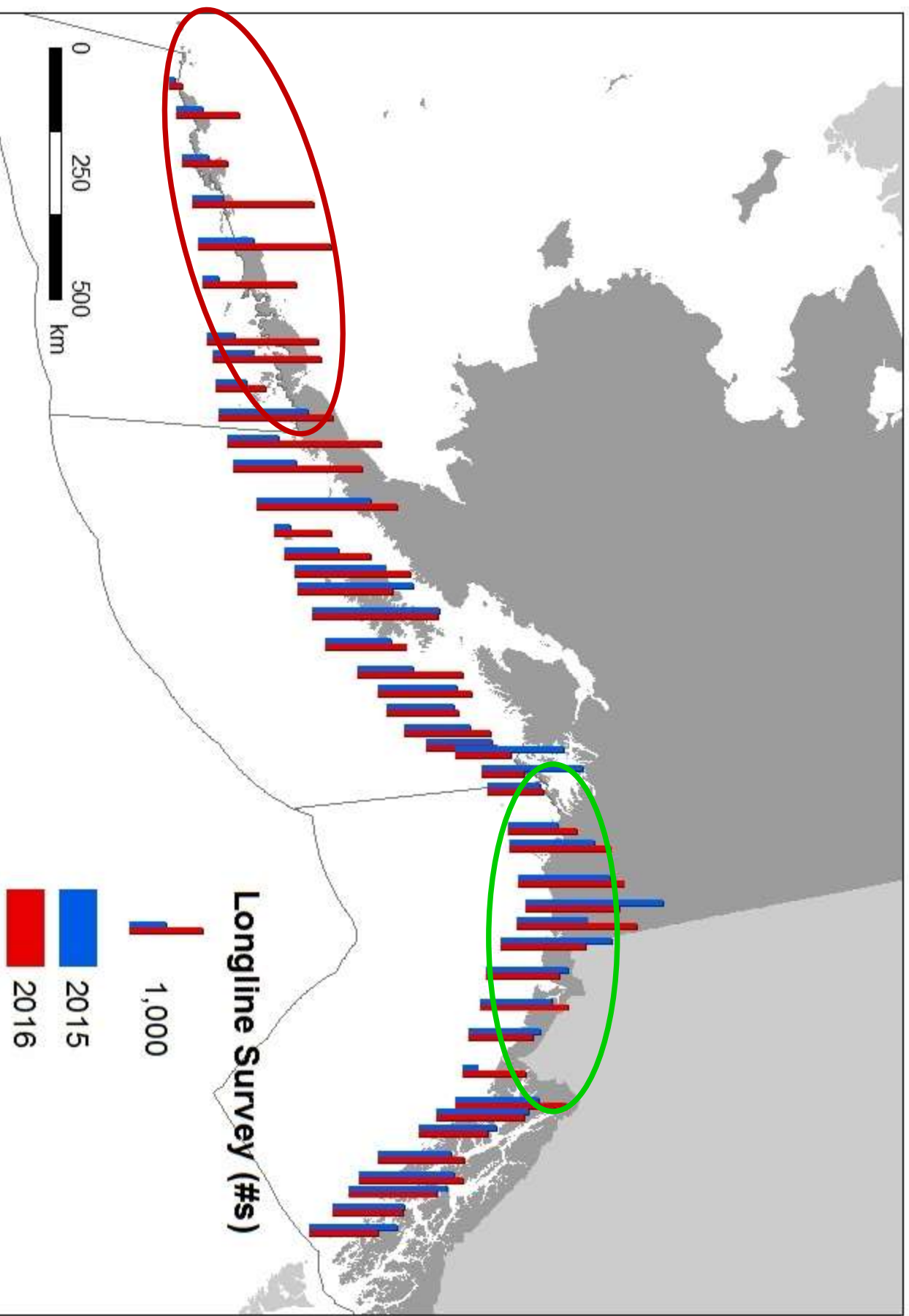
AFSC LONGLINE SURVEY



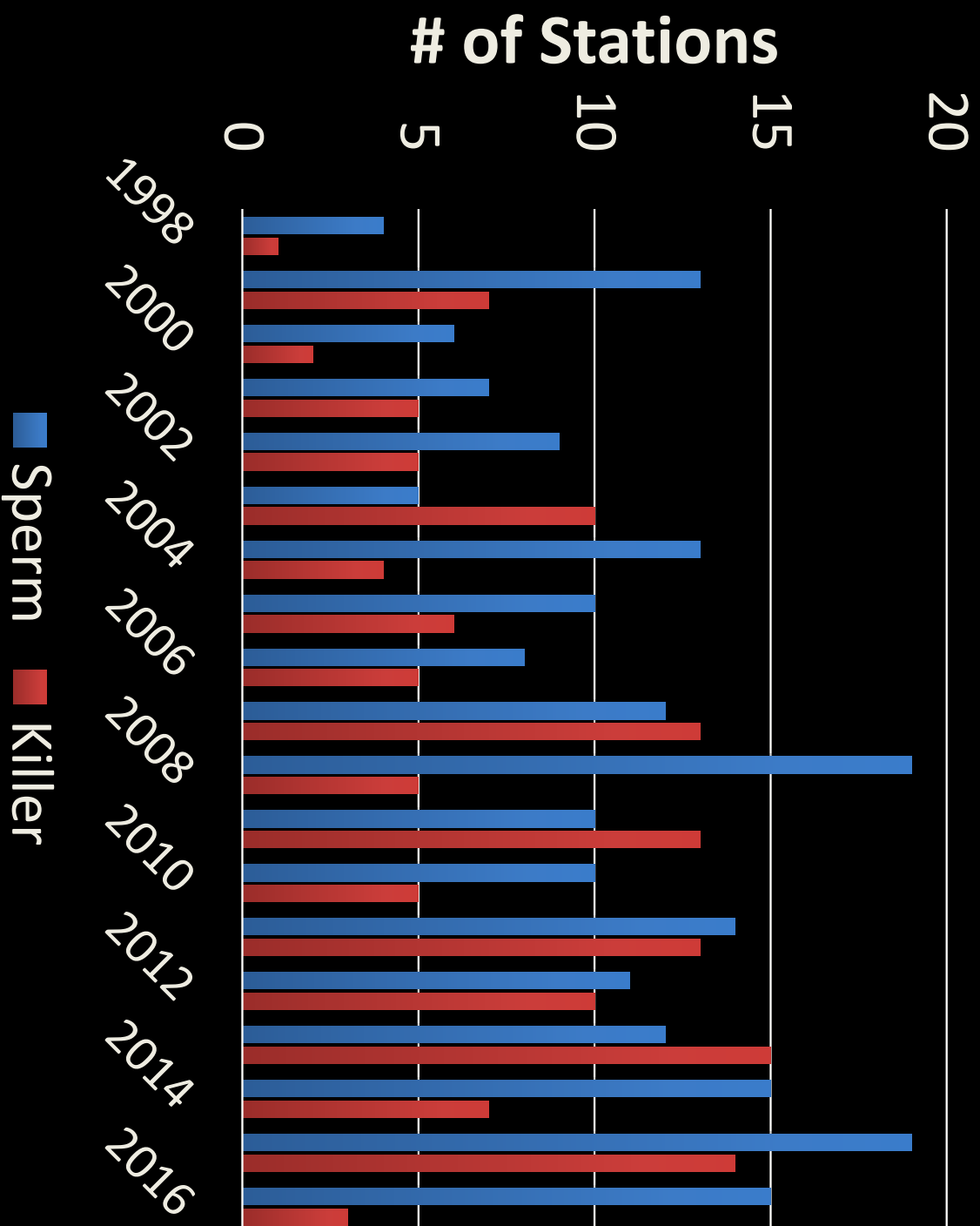
Domestic survey coverage



Gulf of Alaska LL Survey

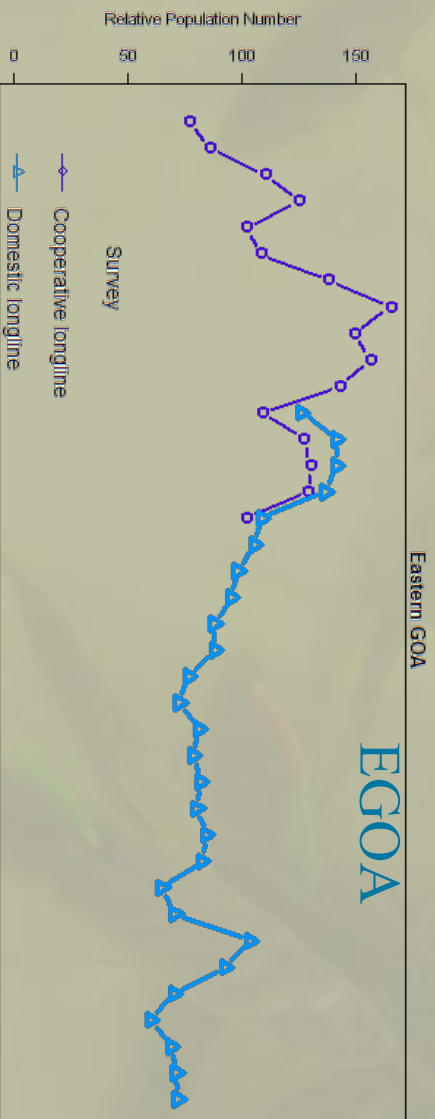
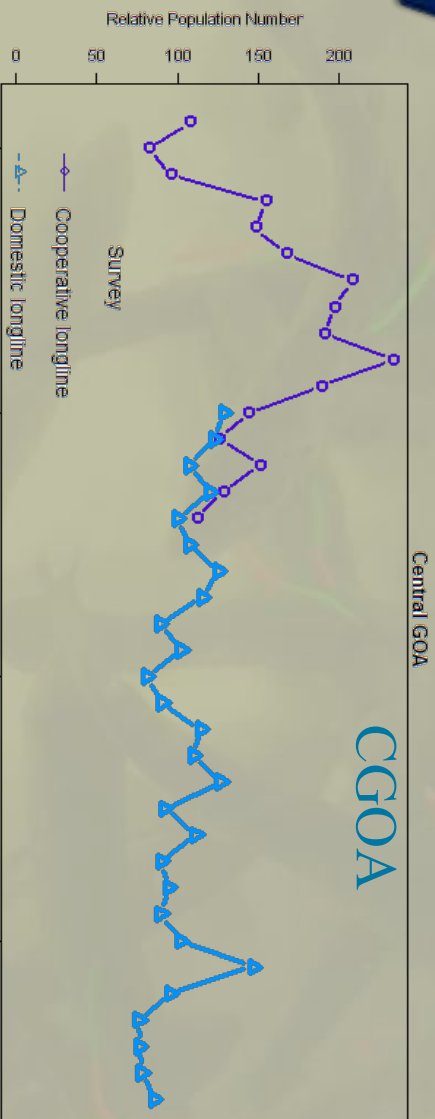


Longline survey depredation



LL Survey RPNS

Western GOA, Aleutian Islands, and Bering Sea

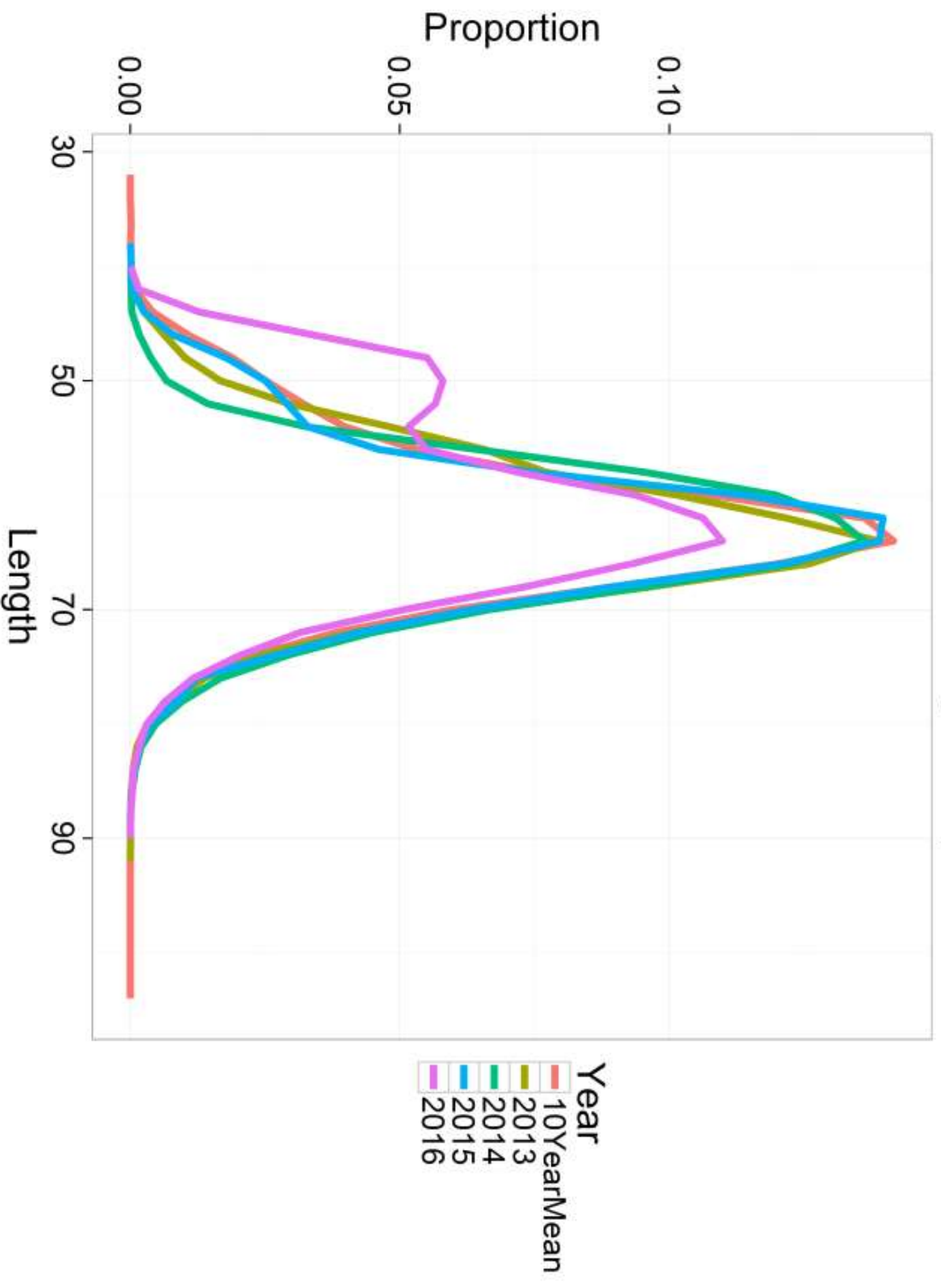


Bring on the blob?

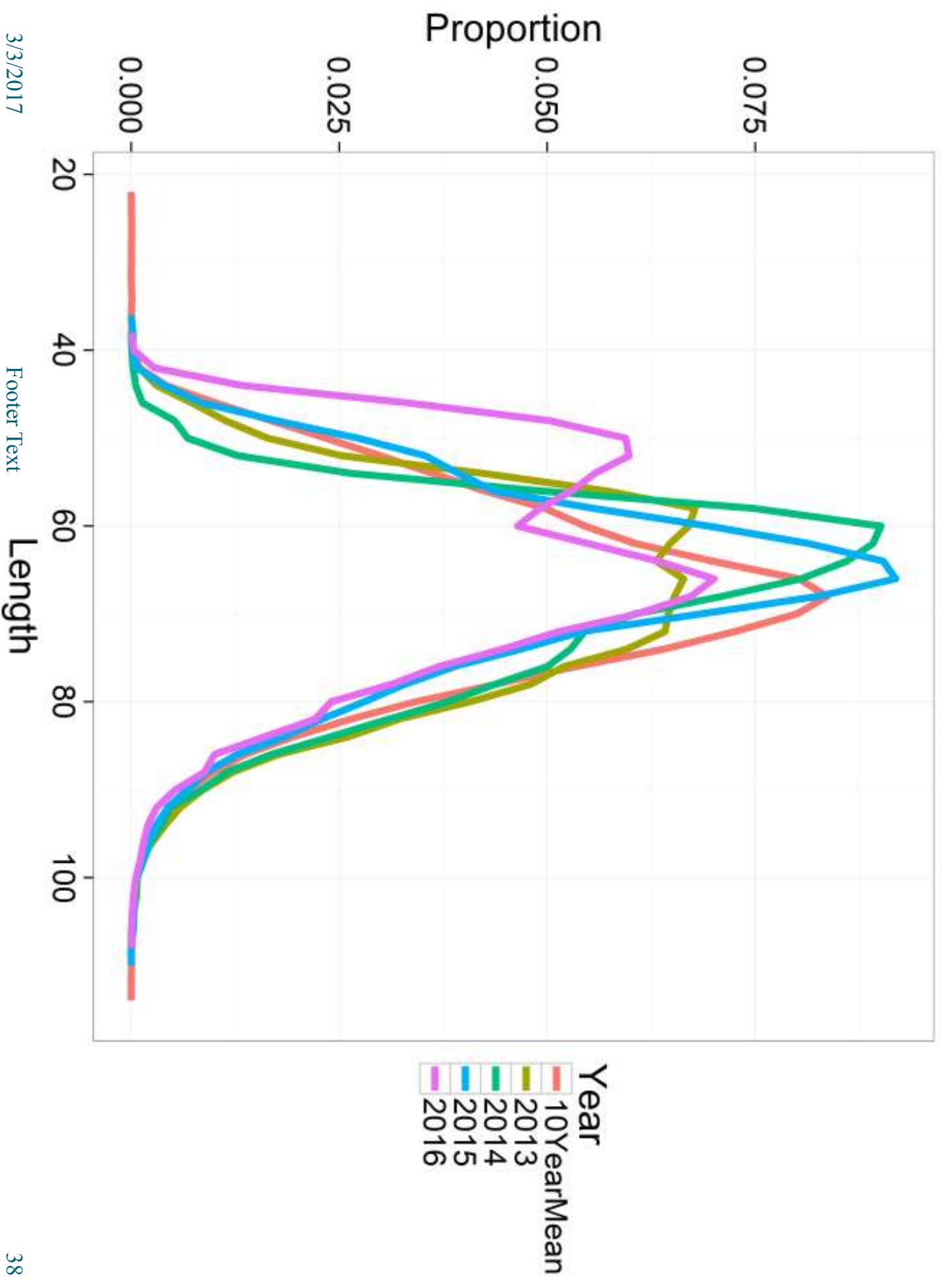
- 2014:
 - Lots of YOYs caught in surface trawl surveys
 - Lots of fishermen reports of YOY in coho bellies
- 2015:
 - One year olds reported all over by sport fishermen
 - YOYs found in coho and pomfret stomachs on GOA project survey
 - More fisherman reporting YOY in coho stomachs
- 2016:
 - Many YOY caught in new surface trawl experiment EGOA
 - More fisherman reporting YOY in coho stomachs

Signs of hope

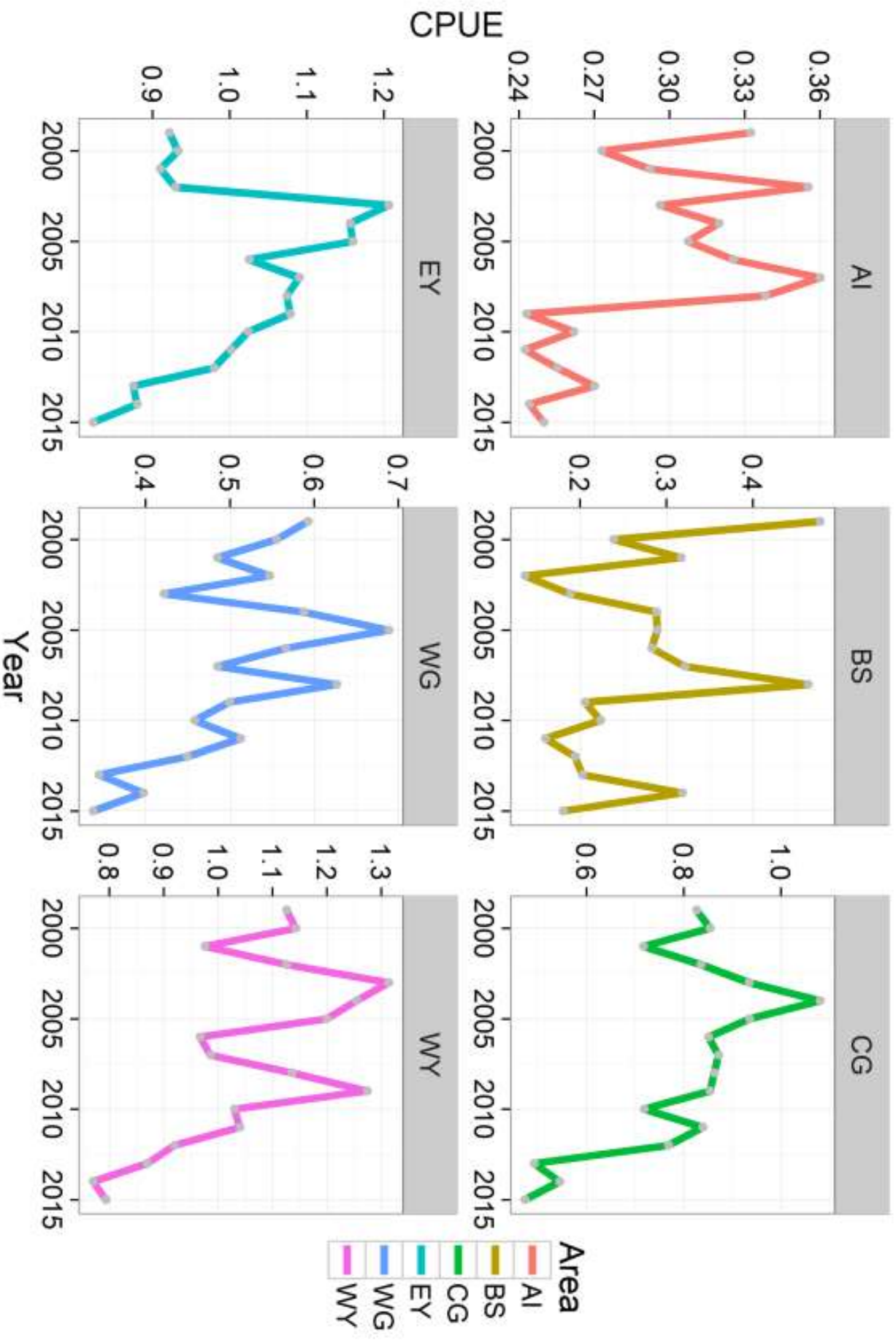
Recent male sablefish length frequencies



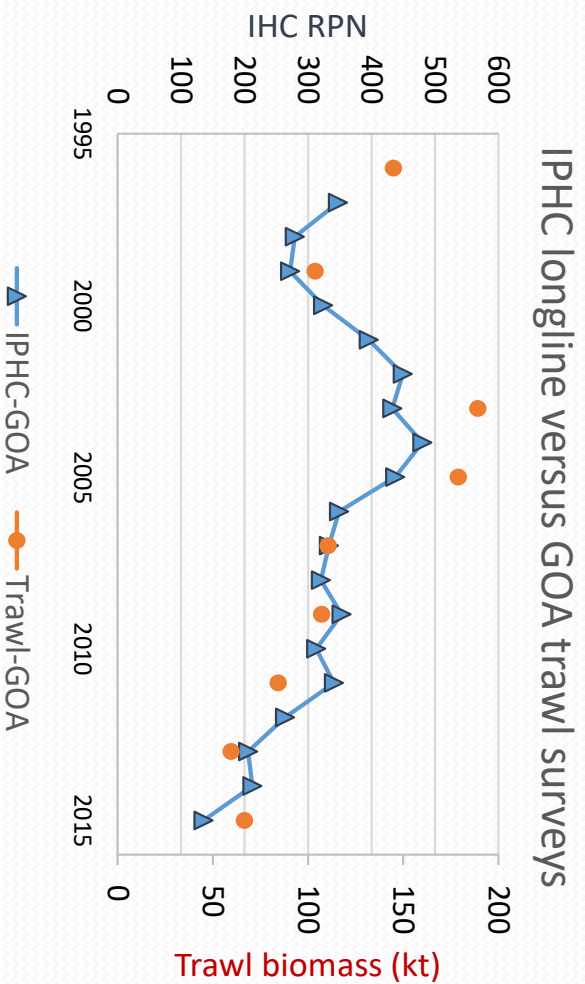
Recent female sablefish length frequencies



Fishery CPUE by area

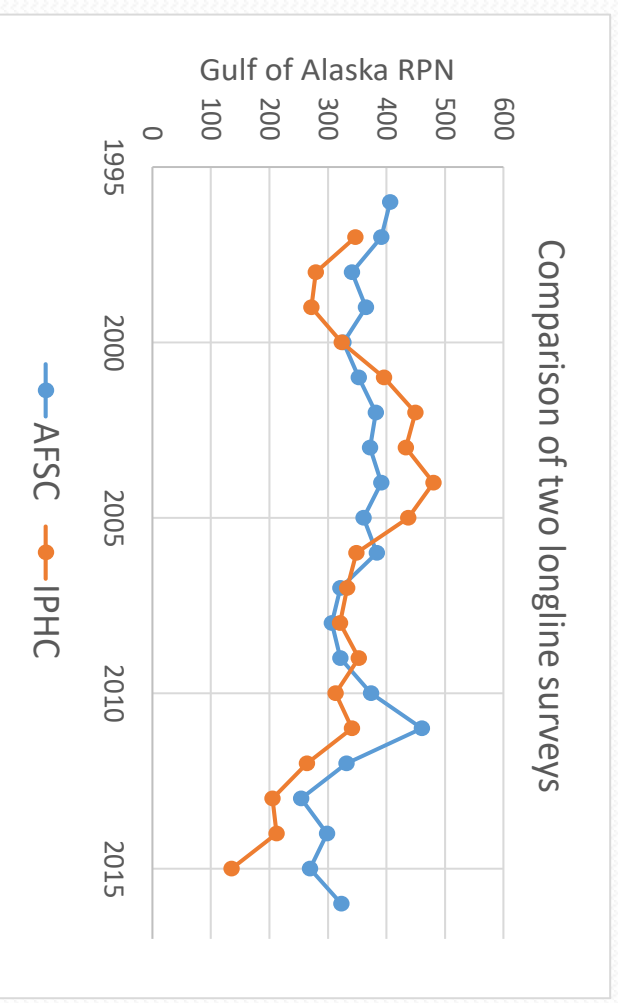


Gulf of Alaska

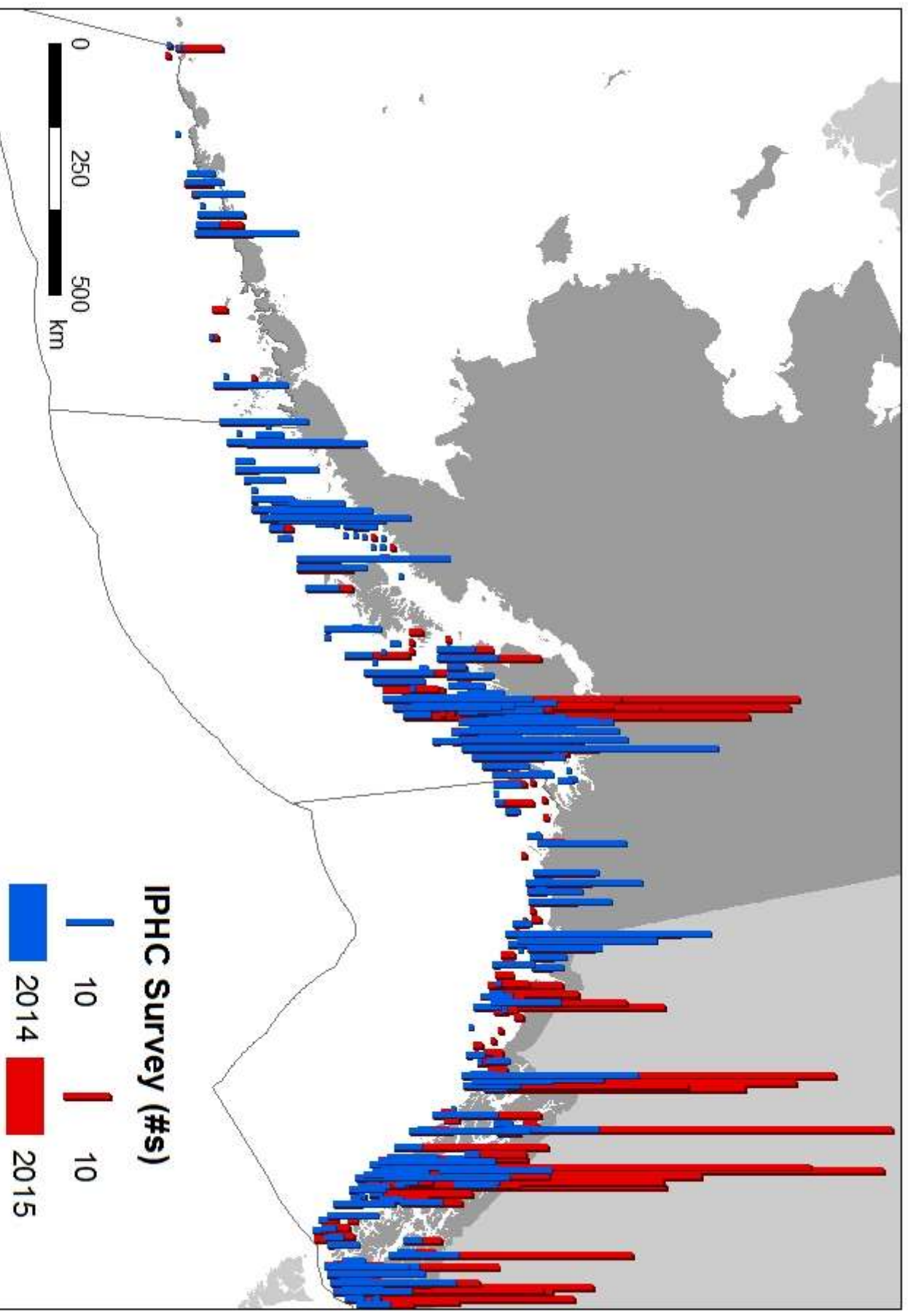


IPHC Survey

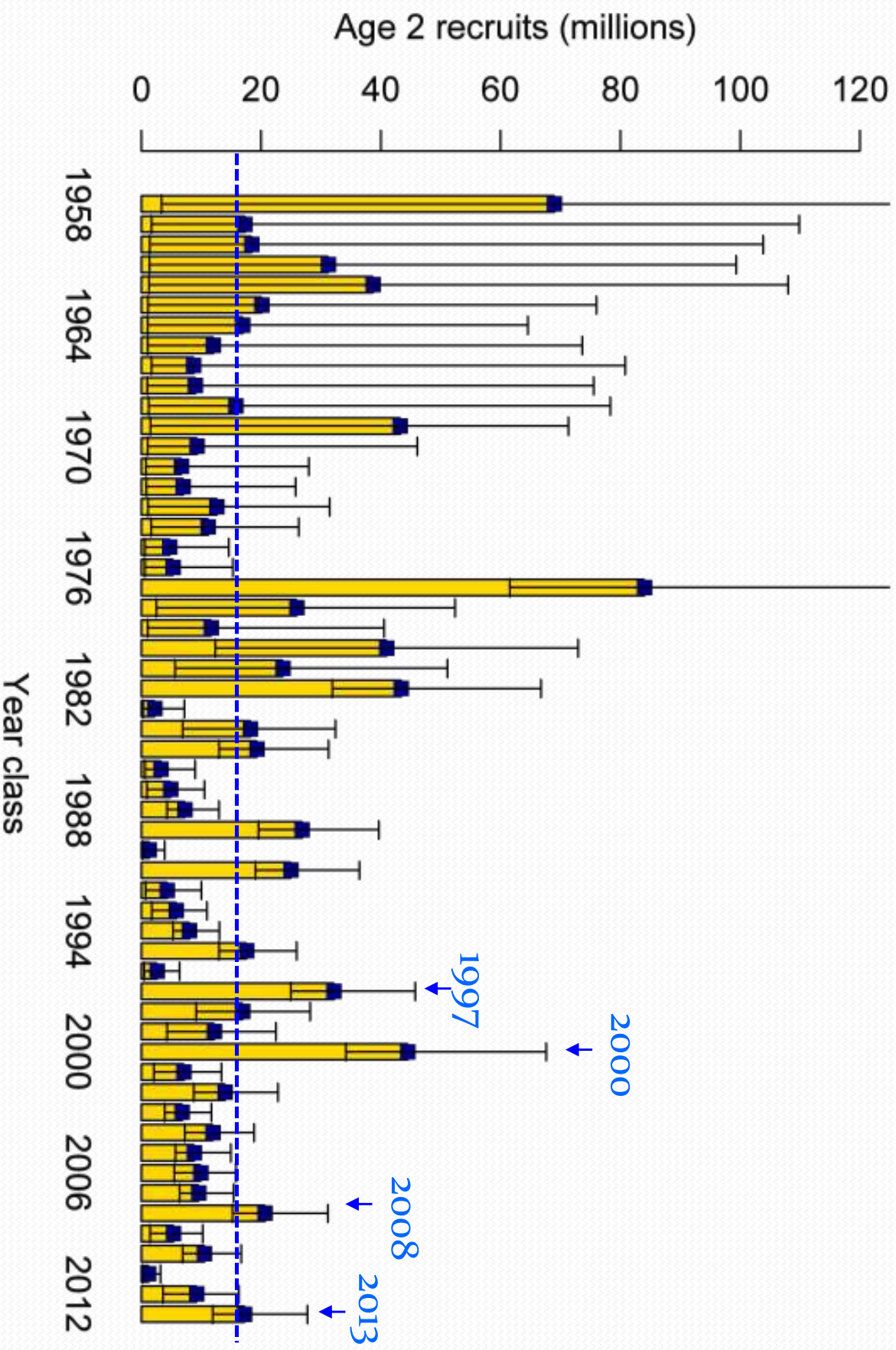
- Showed some uptick in 2011 (possibly also 2008 year class)
- AFSC shows stabilizing in GOA, IPHC sees decline
- Closely correlated to GOA trawl survey

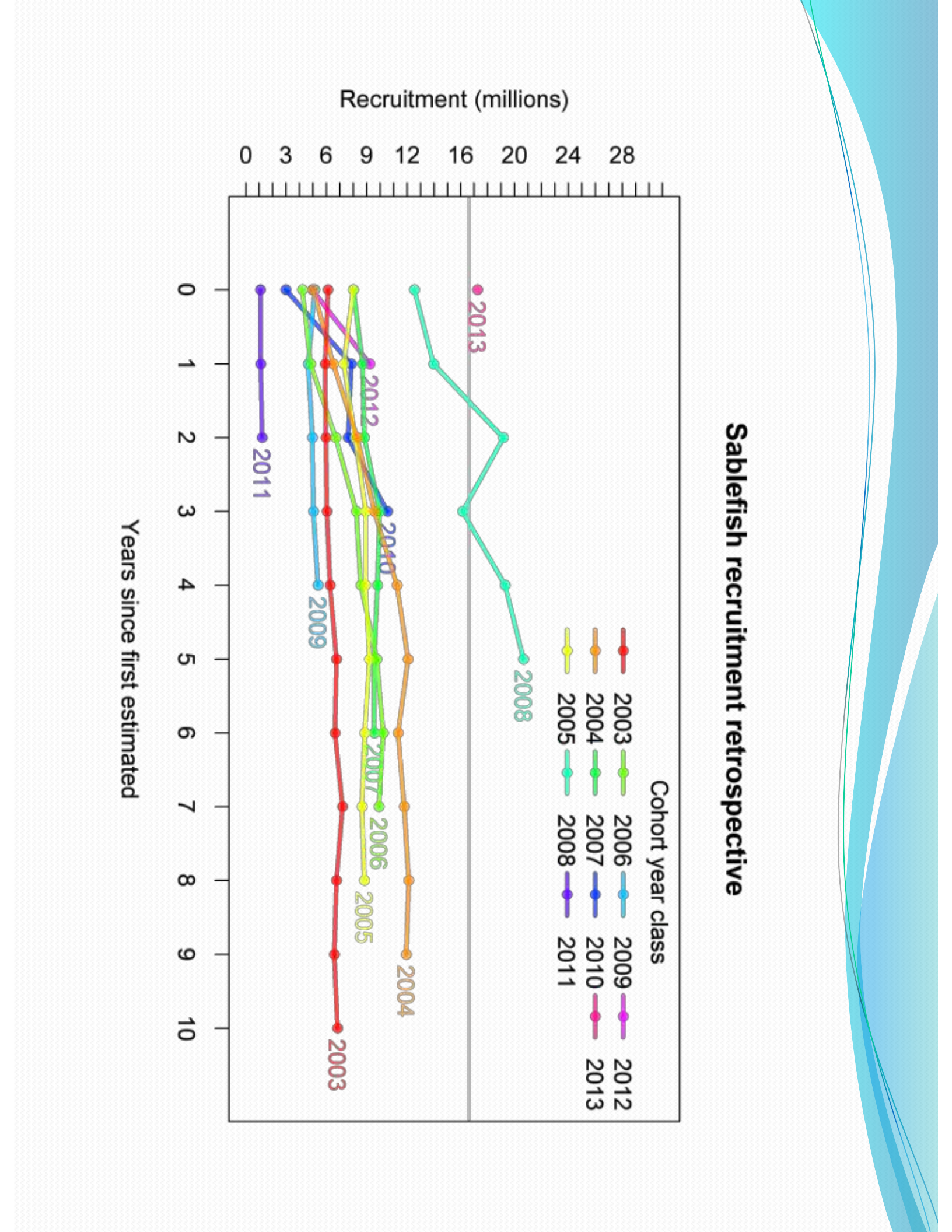


Gulf of Alaska IPHC Survey

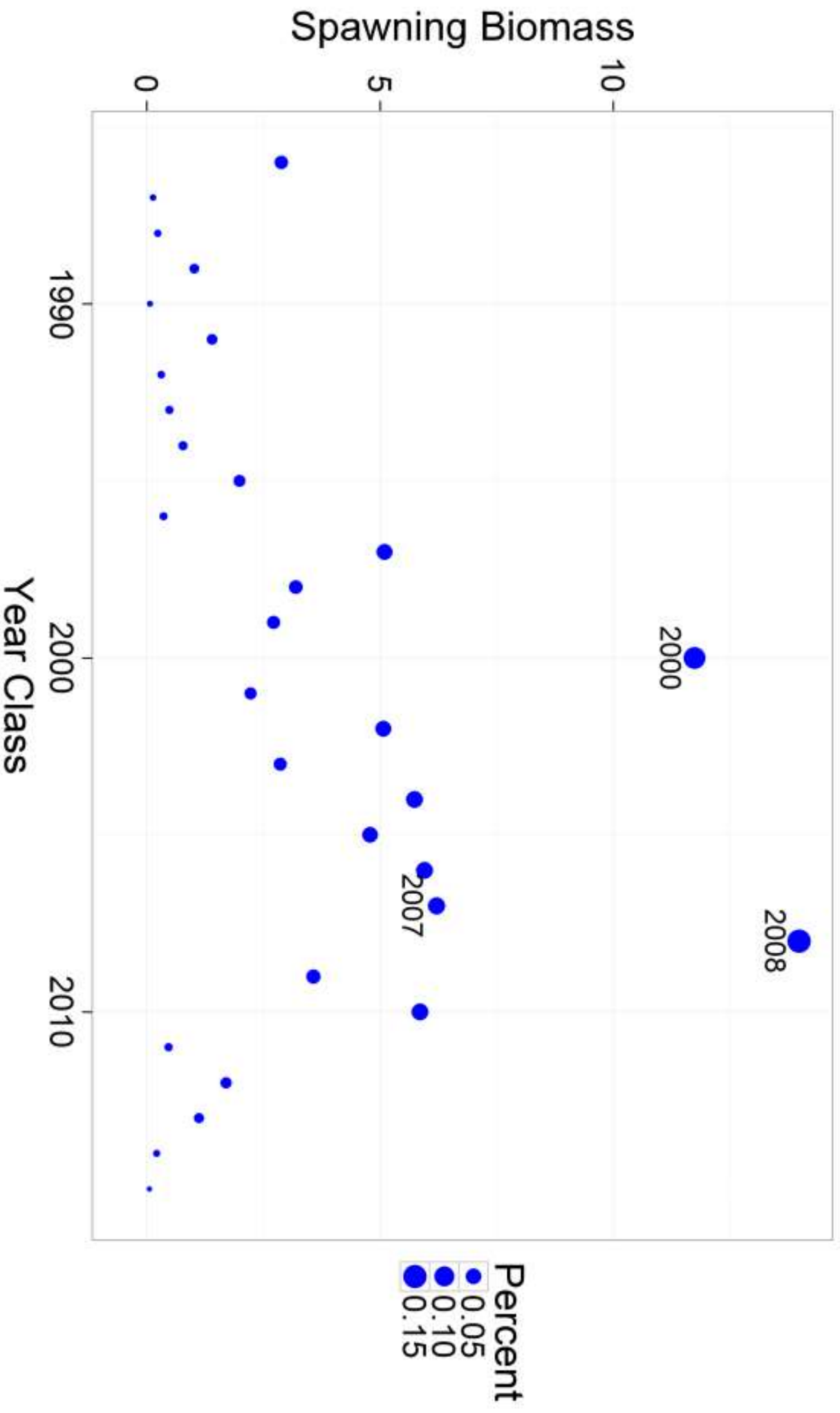


Recruitment



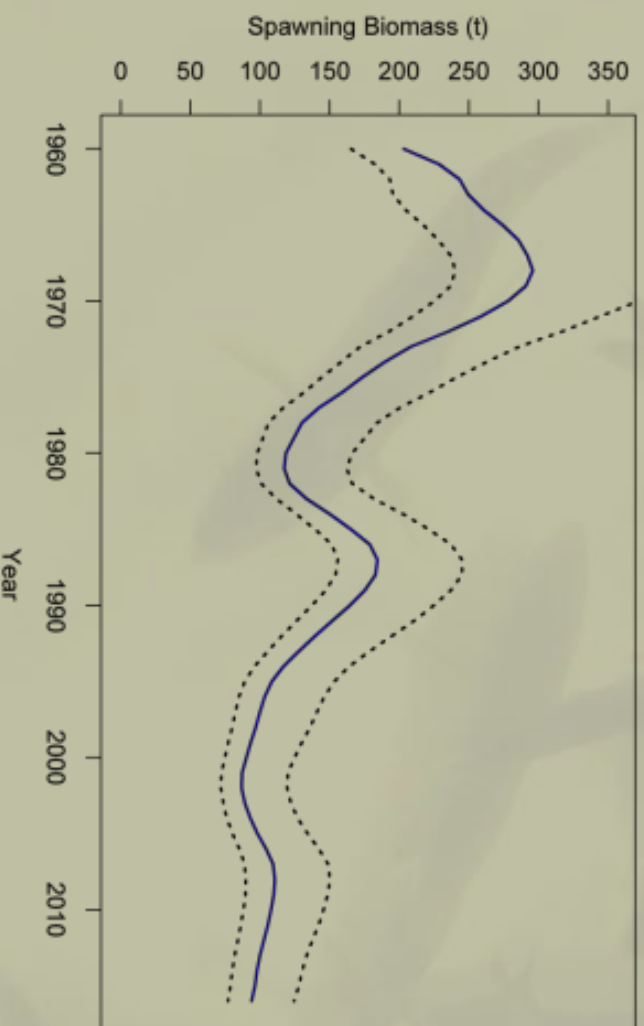
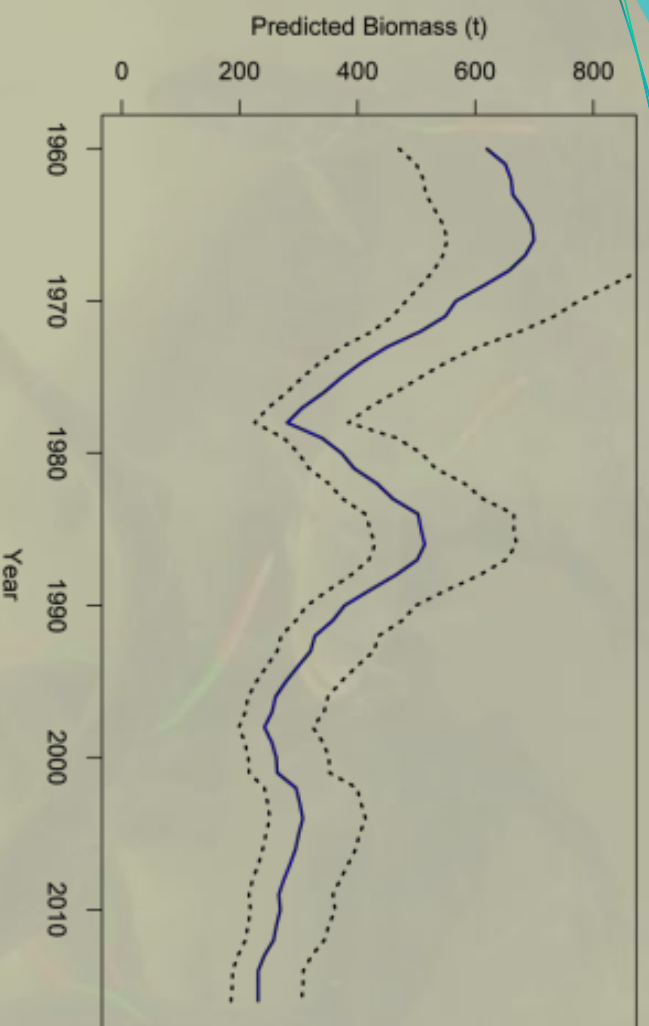


2017 spawners by year class



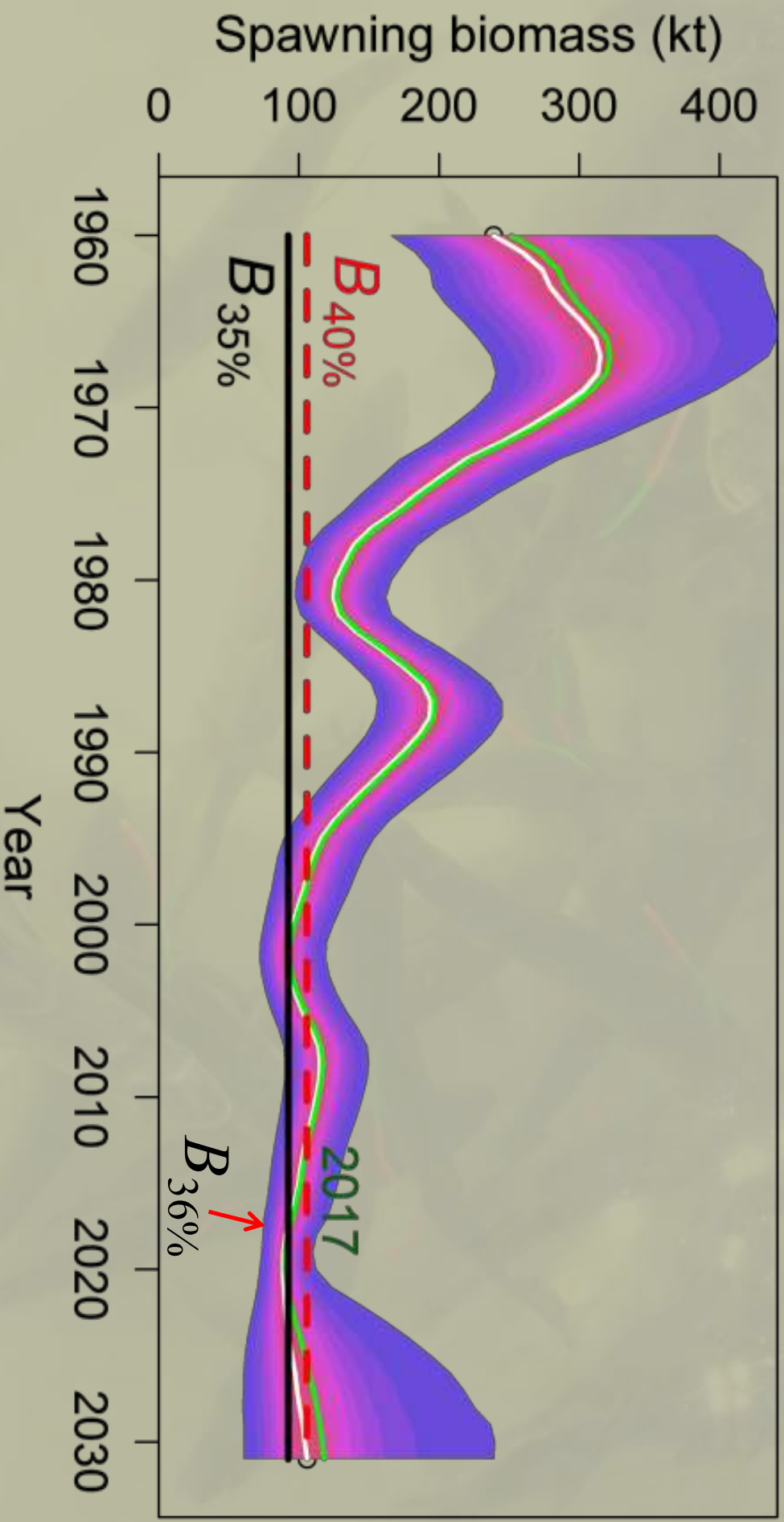
Trends

- Total biomass has been slowly decreasing since 2003



- Spawning biomass leveled and trending slightly down

Projection



ABC summary

- LL survey up substantially from low in 2015
- Fishery CPUE index at time series low in 2015, like longline survey
- 36% unfished spawning biomass
- ABC 2016: 11,795 t
- ABC 2017 (Max): 13,509 t (vs. 10,782 t projected)
 - 14.5 % **increase** from 2016 (versus -9% projected)
- Future: Projection is stable for several years
- Author recommended ABC 13,083 (+11%)

Apportionment

- CIE recommends seeking further input on objectives
- CIE not concerned with static apportionment
- We believe it is best to stay put (and we have no new alternatives prepared)
- MSEs and spatial work continue (and we have a new hire)
- SSC agreed at October meeting
- A workshop/WebEx might be good later

2017 ABC Corrected For Depredation

Area	<u>AI</u>	<u>BS</u>	<u>WG</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>WY*</u>	<u>EY*</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016 ABC	1,557	1,151	1,272	4,023	1,353	2,438	11,795
2017 ABC	1,783	1,318	1,457	4,608	1,550	2,793	13,509

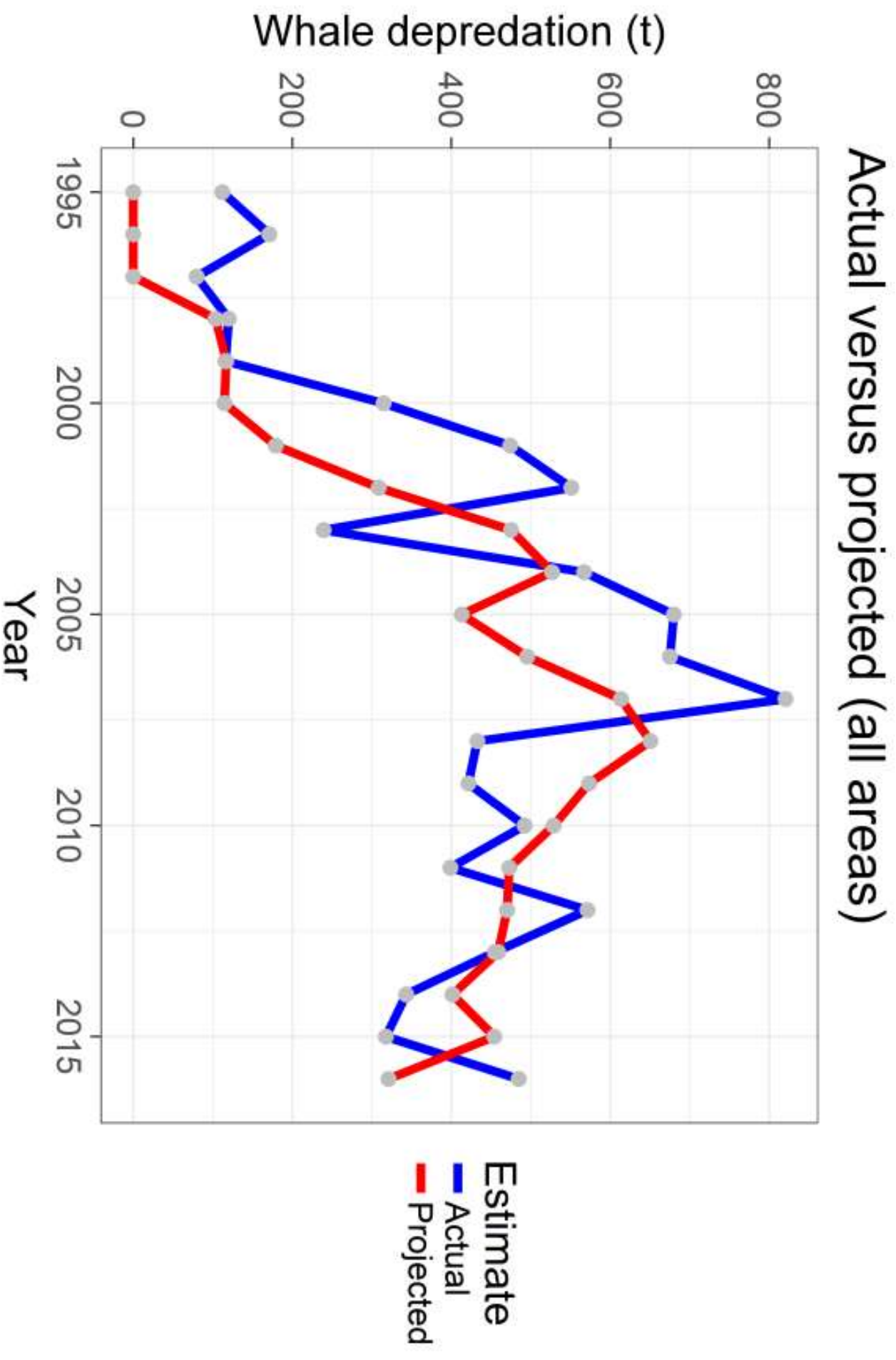
Run with whale corrections for survey and fishery

3 year average depredation	-42	-39	-94	-82	-71	-44	-372
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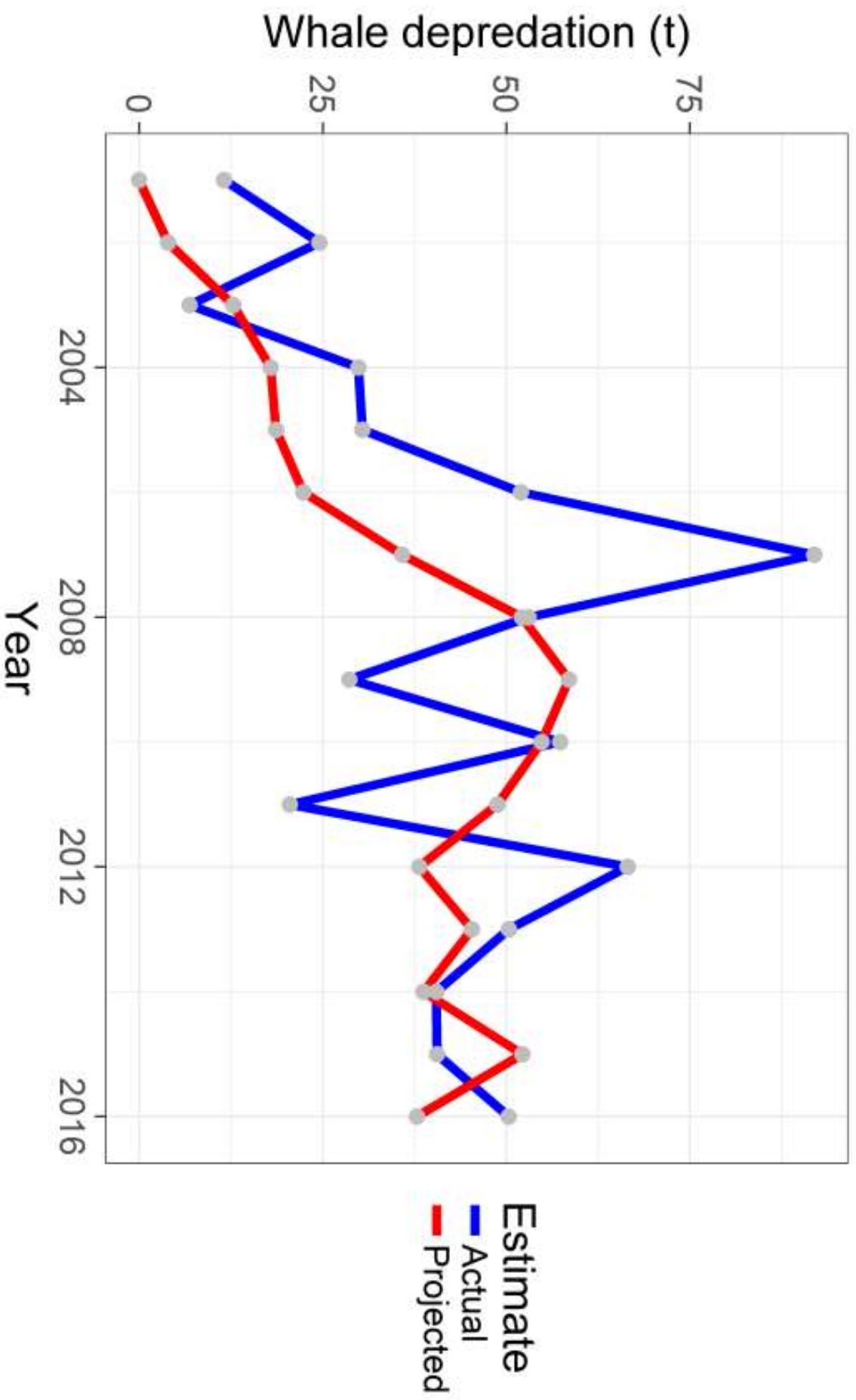
Ratio of 2017 ABC/2016 ABC = 1.145

Deduct 3 year average * 1.145							
Deduct 3 year adjusted average	-48	-44	-108	-94	-82	-50	-426
2017 ABC_{wc}	1,735	1,274	1,349	4,514	1,468	2,743	13,083
Change from 2016	11%	11%	6%	12%	9%	12%	11%

Projected depredation error



Actual versus projected (W. Yak)



- THANKS FOR TURNING IN YOUR TAGS!!
- :Ongoing
 - Archival tag analysis
 - Annual covariates affecting movement
 - Including BC and WC tags (and possibly PWS)
 - Juvenile tagging in Sitka (Saint John Baptist Bay)
 - Satellite tagging for spawning locations
- **Tag website**

Research – Movement/tagging

AFSC GROUNDFISH TAGGING



- Tag Map
- Graphs
- Tables
- About

Filters for Tagmap

Single Tag Multi Tag

Year Range

2016 2016

Status

- Release
- Recovery
- Release & Recovery

Species

- Toggle All
- Greenland Turbot
- Lingcod
- Pacific Sleeper Shark
- Sablefish (Adult)
- Sablefish (Juvenile)
- Spry Dogfish
- Shortspine Thornyhead

Areas

- Toggle All
- Bering Sea
- Aleutian Islands
- Western Gulf
- Central Gulf
- West Yakutat
- East Yakutat
- West Coast

Reset Map

Search



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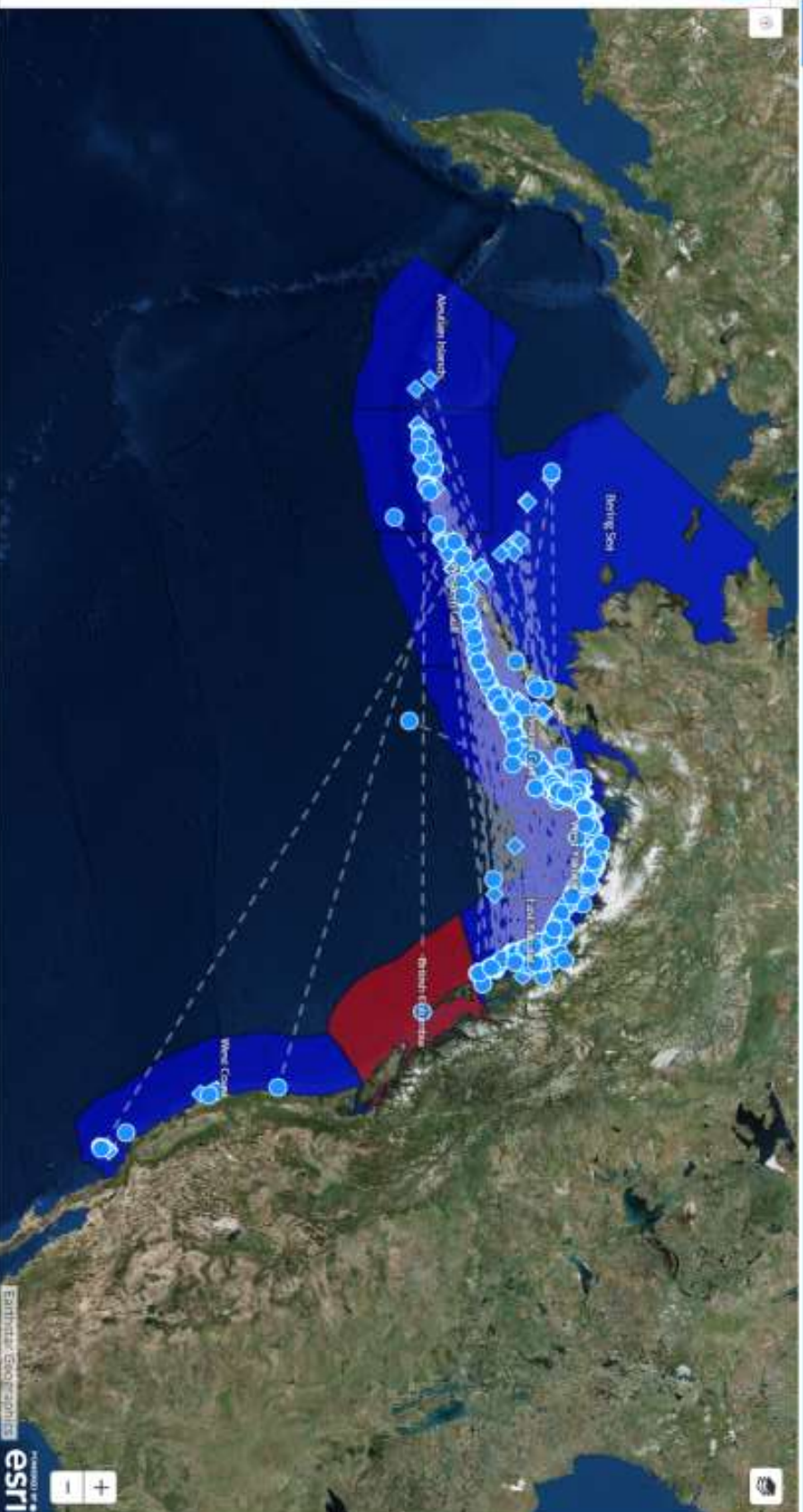
- ☐ Toggle All
- ☐ Greenland Turbot
- ☐ Lingcod
- ☐ Pacific Sleeper Shark
- ☒ Sablefish (Adult)
- ☐ Sablefish (Juvenile)
- ☐ Spiny Dogfish
- ☐ Shortspine Thornyhead

Areas

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Reset Map

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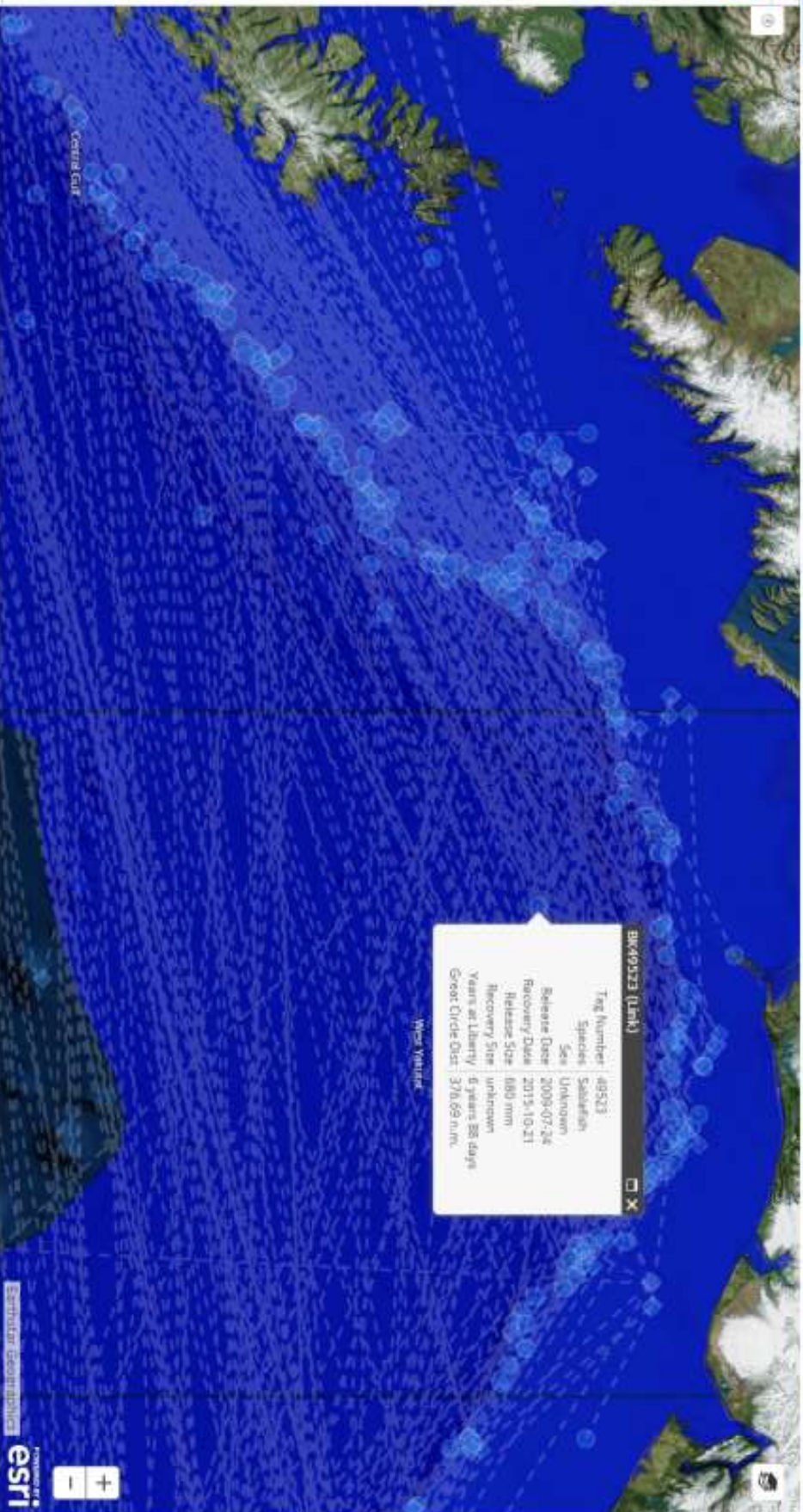
- ☐ Toggle All
- ☐ Greenland Turbot
- ☐ Lingcod
- ☐ Pacific Sleeper Shark
- ☐ Sablefish (adult)
- ☐ Sablefish (juvenile)
- ☐ Spiny Dogfish
- ☐ Shortspine Thornyhead

Areas

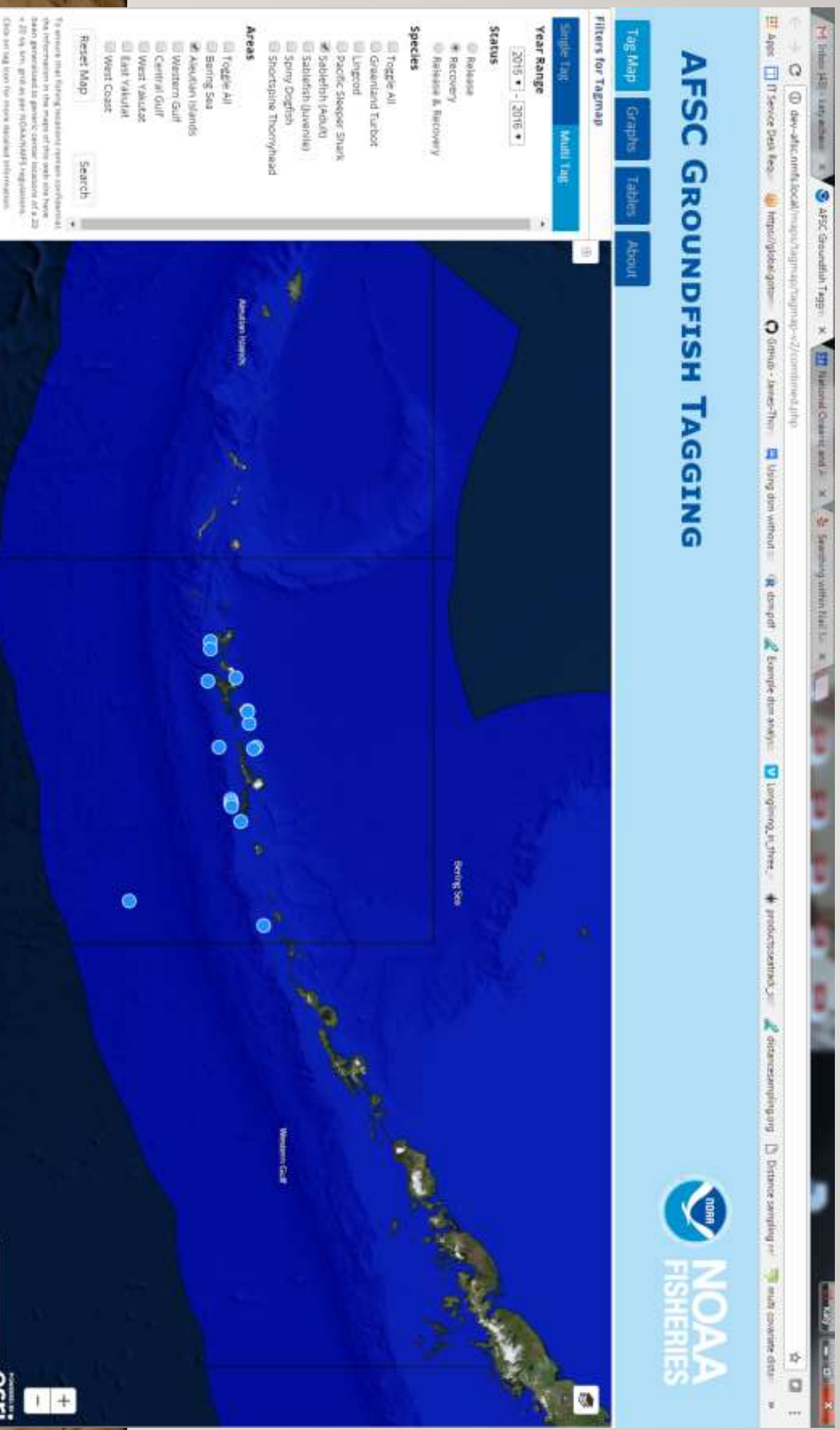
- ☒ Toggle All
- ☒ Bering Sea
- ☒ Aleutian Islands
- ☒ Western Gulf
- ☒ Central Gulf
- ☒ West Yakutat
- ☒ East Yakutat
- ☒ West Coast

Reset Map

Search

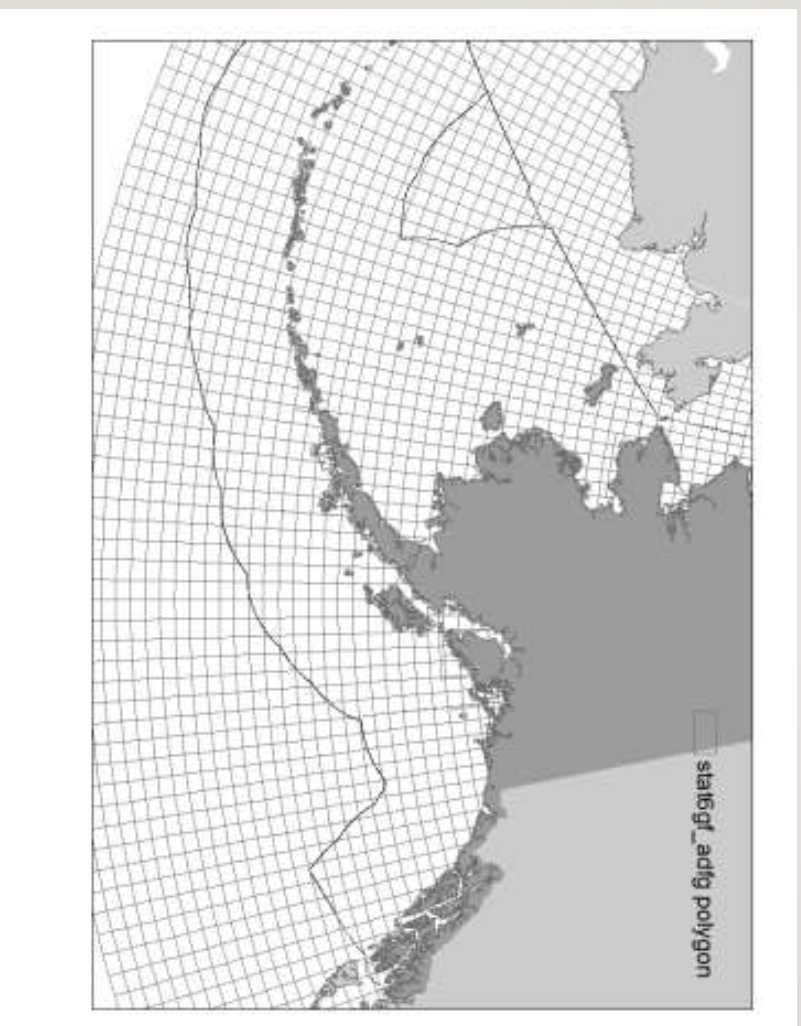


RESOLUTION OF INFORMATION: WE ARE USING A 20 X 20 SQ KM GRID, WHICH SATISFIES NOAA REGULATIONS, BUT IS IT STILL TO SPECIFIC?



MAP SHOWING ADFG STAT AREA GRID

Would this
resolution be
better?



AFSC GROUNDFISH TAGGING



- Tag Map
- Graphs
- Tables
- About

- Table 1: Total Releases by Year
- Table 2: Releases and Recoveries by Year
- Table 3: Percentage of Recoveries
- Table 4: Distance Traveled
- Table 5: Percentage of Recoveries by Time
- Table 6: Distance Traveled by Time

The average distance (nm) traveled of by number of years at liberty.

Show CSV

The average distance (nm) traveled by number of years at liberty.

Number of years at liberty	Avg distance traveled (nm)
0 - 1	152
2 - 3	259
4 - 5	403
6 - 7	473
8 - 10	478
11 - 20	464
21+	445

SITKA FACTOIDS

- #1 Tag Reporting City in 2016!
- 120 TAG RECOVERIES WITH A SITKA HOME TOWN ADDRESS IN 2016 (OUT OF 742 TOTAL, ~16%). Second highest was Seward with 57. Kodiak 3rd.
- Furthest traveled tag of Sitka recoveries- 1455 nmi
- Oldest tag of Sitka recoveries – 13,568 days (~37 yrs)
- Largest recovered tagged fish from Sitka port? 40 in. This is the largest tag recovery in 2016!

WHAT ABOUT POT LEGALIZATION?

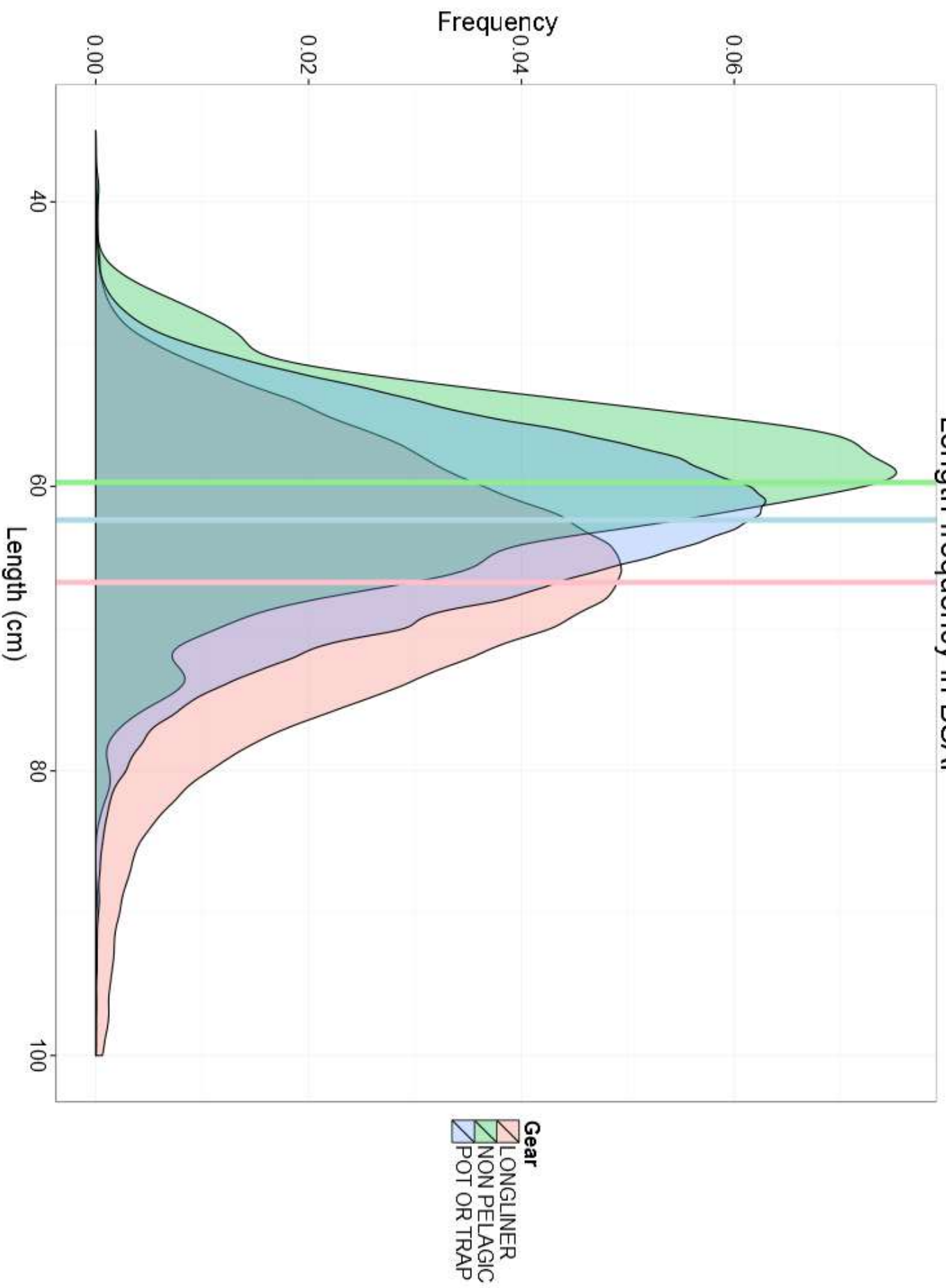
- Pot gear has been in the BS/AI for long time
- Was becoming dominant gear type until about 2007 to avoid killer whales
 - AI has moved back toward longline gear (and to the west)
 - Still main gear in EBS, but total catch is way down
- Pots in the Gulf of Alaska (b/c of sperm whales)
 - New effective date: March 11, 2017
 - Expecting some pot effort this year

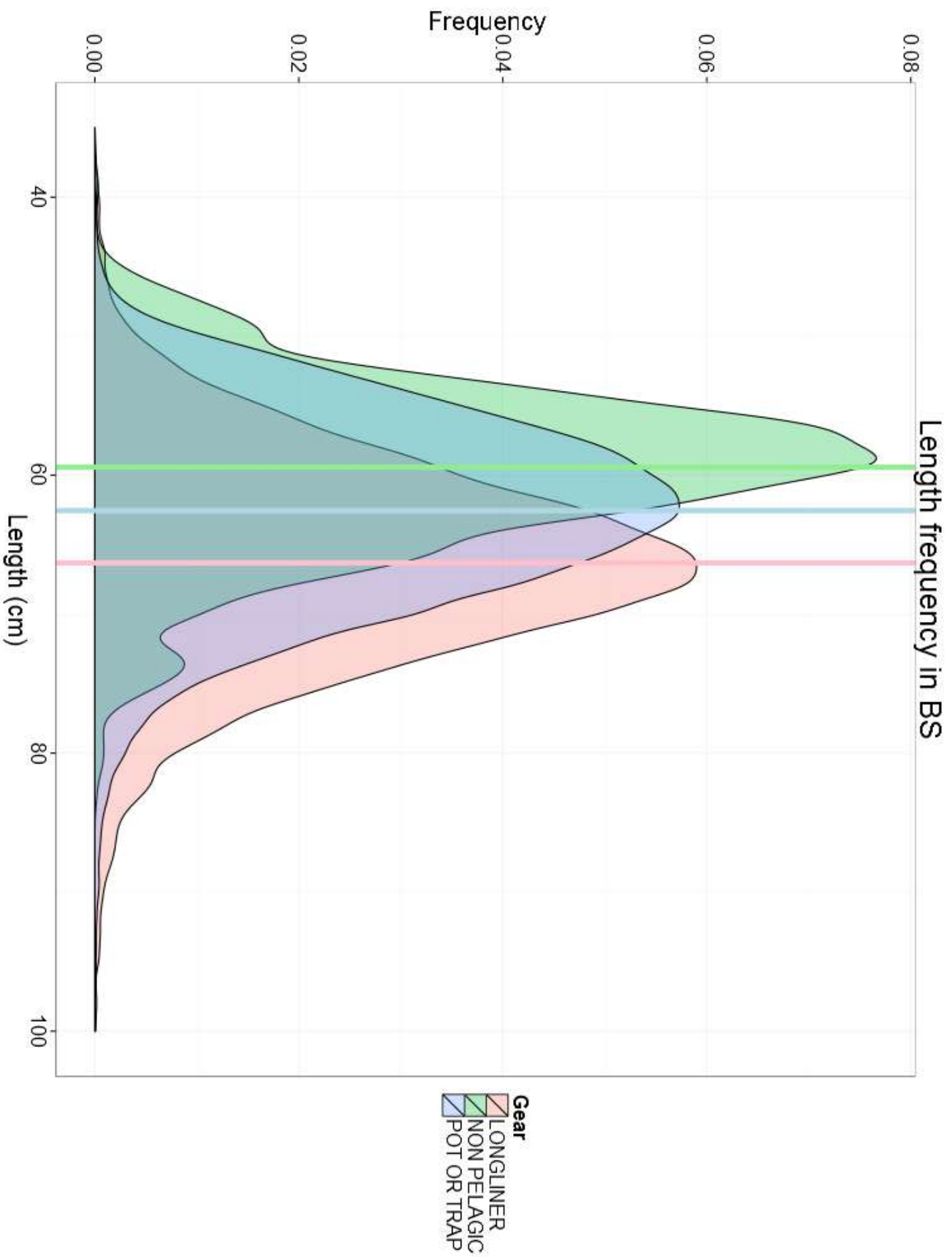
https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/pottag_faq.pdf

What do pots catch?

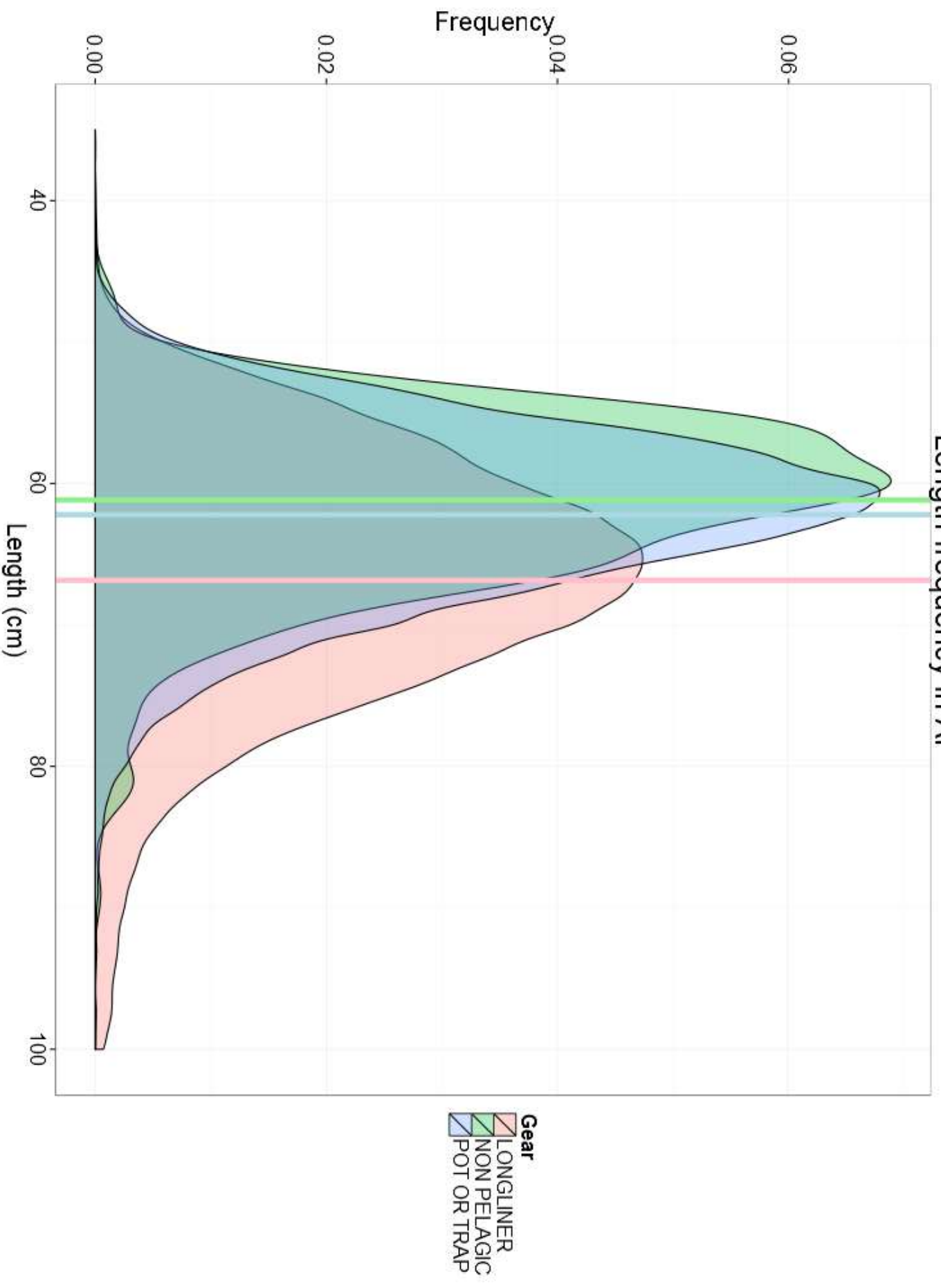
- Pot versus longline lengths
- All years
 - LL mean = 26.3 inches
 - Pot mean = 24.6 inches
- Recent 5 (2010-2014)
 - LL mean = 27.6 inches
 - Pot mean = 23.8 inches
- Bigger difference in AI

Length frequency in BSAI





Length frequency in AI



Pot summary

Due to recent vote, recommend using “trap”

- Pots recently are catching smaller fish than LL gear
- Differences in catch appear to be more spatial than depth - related
- Differences also likely gear related
- Bottom line:
 - Pots fished in the same areas will probably catch the full range of lengths
- LL gear will catch larger fish on average

UNLOADING
PORT

2017 logbooks

Pots

GEAR TYPE (check one)								
<input type="checkbox"/> Pot is longline pot? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Jig <input type="checkbox"/> Troll <input type="checkbox"/> Handline <input type="checkbox"/> Hook & Line <input type="checkbox"/> Other								
If hook & line or longline pot, complete applicable boxes below.								
GEAR ID	FIXED HOOK		BENTLINE	# of Hooks	Length of shank (hookline) or net (pot) (ft)	Size, hook or pot	Spacing, hook or pot	No. hooks per shaft
	CONV	TLD						
A								
B								
C								
D								

Whales

B	HALL WEIGHT (lbs. or mt.)	BIRD AVOID GEAR	Mammals (No.) sighted while hauling	Number damaged
No.			Sperm _____ Orca _____ Other _____	Sablefish _____ Halibut _____ Other fish _____ Hooks _____
No.			Sperm _____ Orca _____ Other _____	Sablefish _____ Halibut _____ Other fish _____ Hooks _____
No.			Sperm _____ Orca _____ Other _____	Sablefish _____ Halibut _____ Other fish _____ Hooks _____

2017 logbooks

Gear type	If Hook & Line or Longline Pot, complete applicable boxes			
	Hook- and-line or Pot (includes pot-and- line and longline pot)	fixed hook (conventional or tub)	optional, but may be required by IPHC (see §§ 300.60 through 300.65)	
		autoline		
		Snap		
		length of skate (hook and line) or longline pot set (to the nearest foot)	optional, but may be required by IPHC (see §§ 300.60 through 300.65)	
		size of hook or pot in inches (width by length by height or diameter)		
		spacing of hook or pot (to the nearest foot)		
Number of hooks per skate	optional, but may be required by IPHC (see §§ 300.60 through 300.65)			
number of pots set				
the number of pots lost				

	0.001 mt.	
Bird avoid gear	Seabird avoidance gear code(s) (see § 679.24(e) and Table 19 to this part)	
Mammals (Number) sighted while hauling	Name of mammals seen: Sperm, Orca, or Other	<i>optional, but may be required by IPHC (see §§ 300.60 through 300.65)</i>
Number damaged	Sablefish, Halibut, Other fish, Hooks	<i>optional, but may be required by IPHC (see §§ 300.60 through 300.65)</i>

Questions

