

ADF&G STAFF ORAL PRESENTATION

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

SOUTHEAST ALASKA AREA
GROUNDFISH REGULATORY PROPOSALS
January 2021, Ketchikan



Sport Groundfish and Shellfish Fisheries

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Acting Regional Management Coordinator, Division of Sport Fish

Groundfish

- Rockfish (*Sebastes sp.*)



- Lingcod



- Sablefish



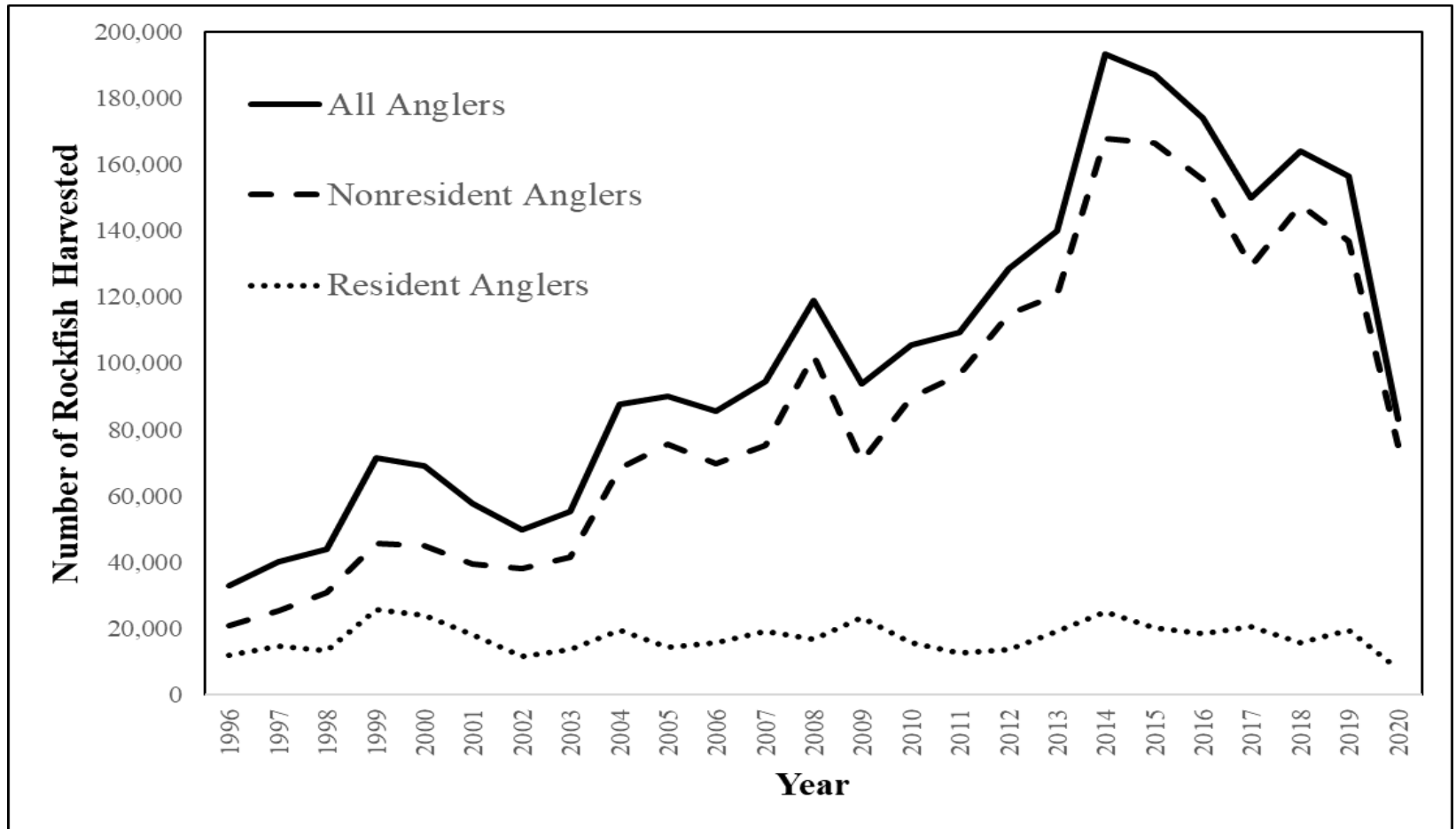
Rockfish Proposals

- Establish bag and possession limits for nonpelagic or slope rockfish.
- Limit restrictions to resident anglers.

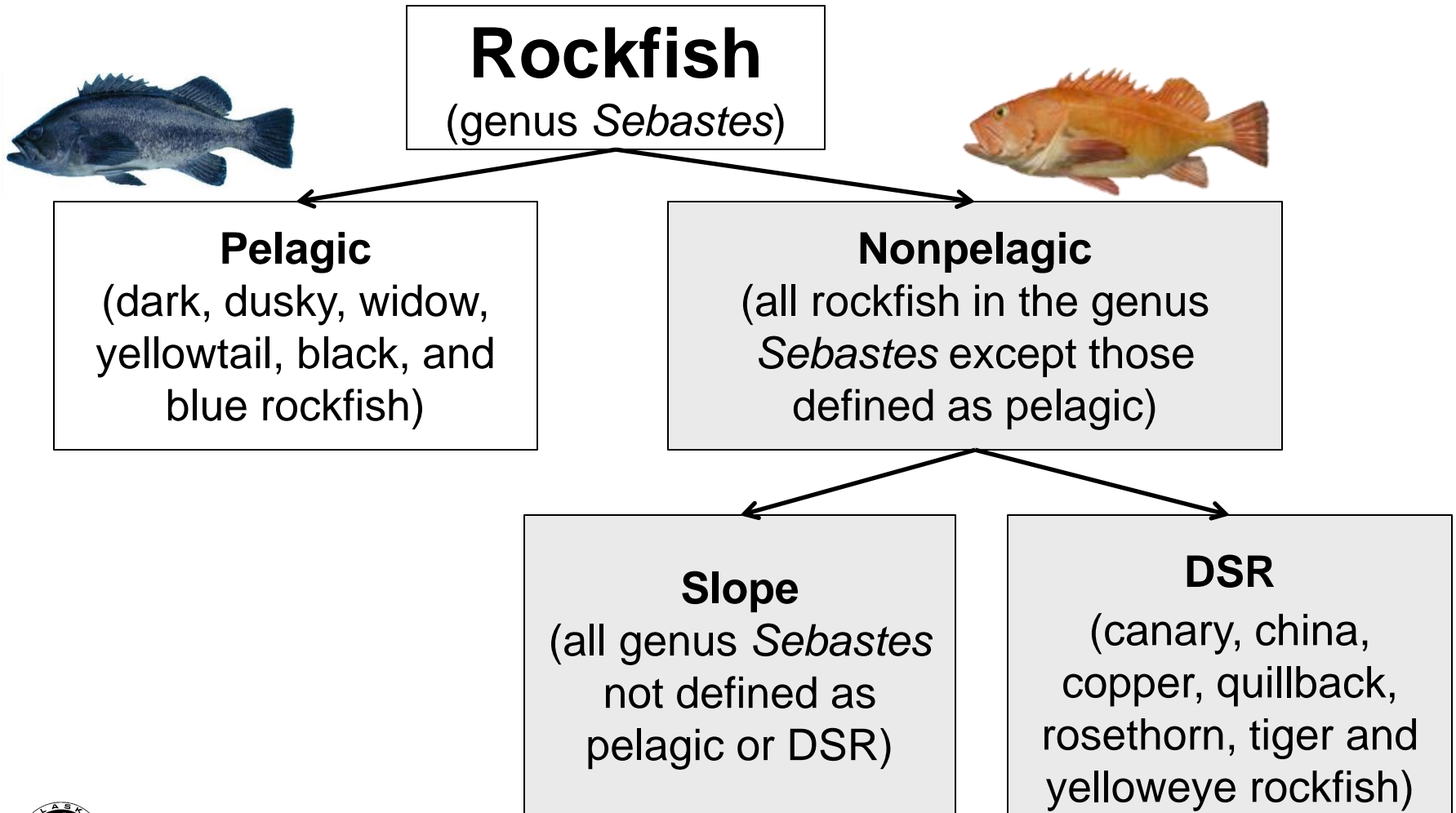
Proposals:
226
227
228
230



Southeast Alaska Rockfish Harvest



Rockfish Assemblages



Southeast Alaska Rockfish Management

● Pelagic Rockfish

- Established in 1994, bag limit of 5, possession limit of 10 fish.
- **CSEO** (Central Southeast Outside, Sitka area): In 2016 and 2017 the bag and possession limit was restricted to 3 and 6 respectively by EO.
- **CSEO**: In 2018, the board established a nonresident bag limit of 3 fish, 6 in possession.

● Nonpelagic Rockfish

- Established in 1994, bag limit of 5 fish, 10 in possession of which two per day and four in possession could be yelloweye.
- Since 2006 annual emergency orders (EO's) established nonpelagic rockfish regulations to manage within the sport fishery allocation for DSR in SEO and for conservation purposes in all SE waters.

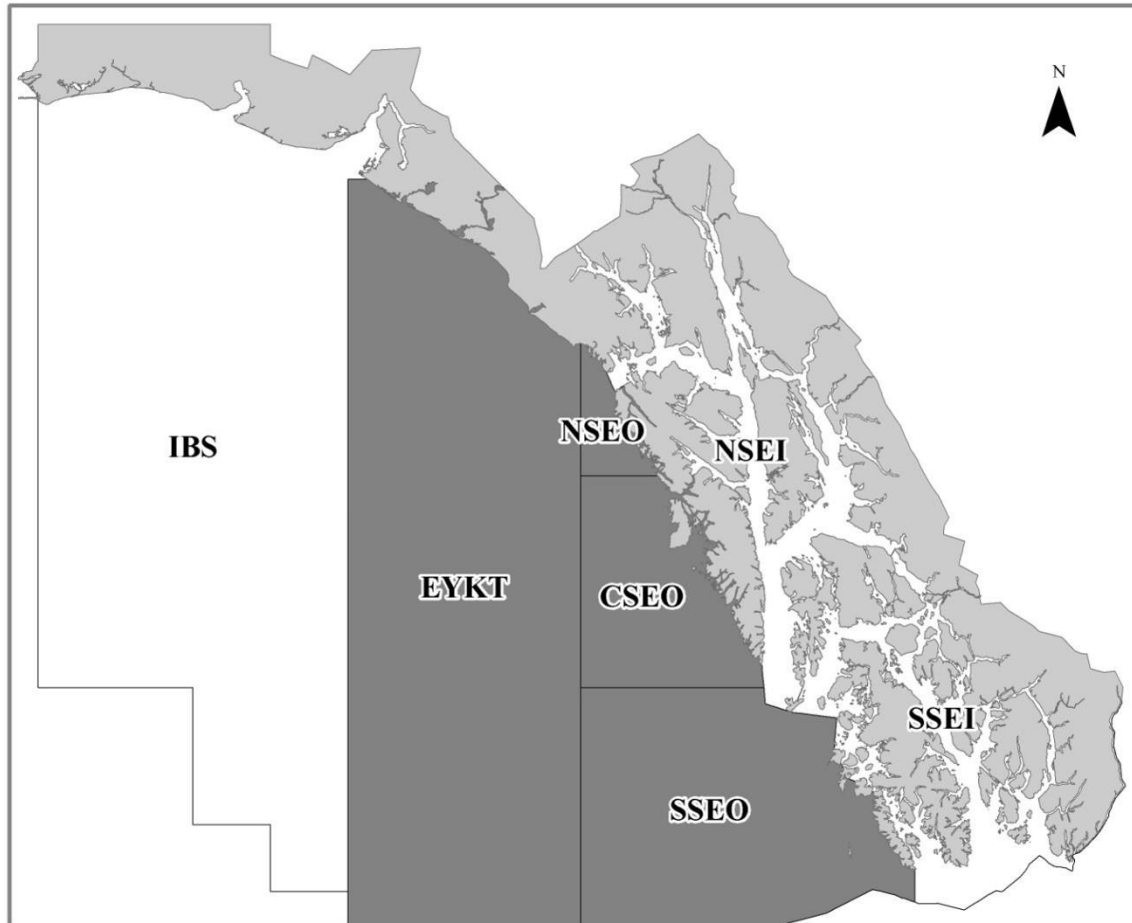


Southeast Alaska Rockfish Management

- In January 2020, the harvest of nonpelagic rockfish was closed by EO in all Southeast waters due to conservation concerns for DSR species.
 - In April 2020, a subsequent EO was issued:
 - Decoupled nonpelagic species group into DSR and slope rockfish.
 - Bag and possession limit was set at one slope rockfish.
- 2020 – regulations were enacted to require **all anglers** statewide to release **all rockfish** at depth of capture or to a depth of at least 100ft, whichever is shallower.



Southeast Outside Subdistrict



IBS - Icy Bay Subdistrict

EYKT- Eastern Yakutat

NSEO - Northern Southeast Outside

NSEI - Northern Southeast Inside

CSEO - Central Southeast Outside

SSEO - Southern Southeast Outside

SSEI - Southern Southeast Inside



Southeast Outside Subdistrict Rockfish Management

2006 – The board allocated 16% of the annual allowable catch (mortality) of demersal shelf rockfish (DSR), to the sport fishery.



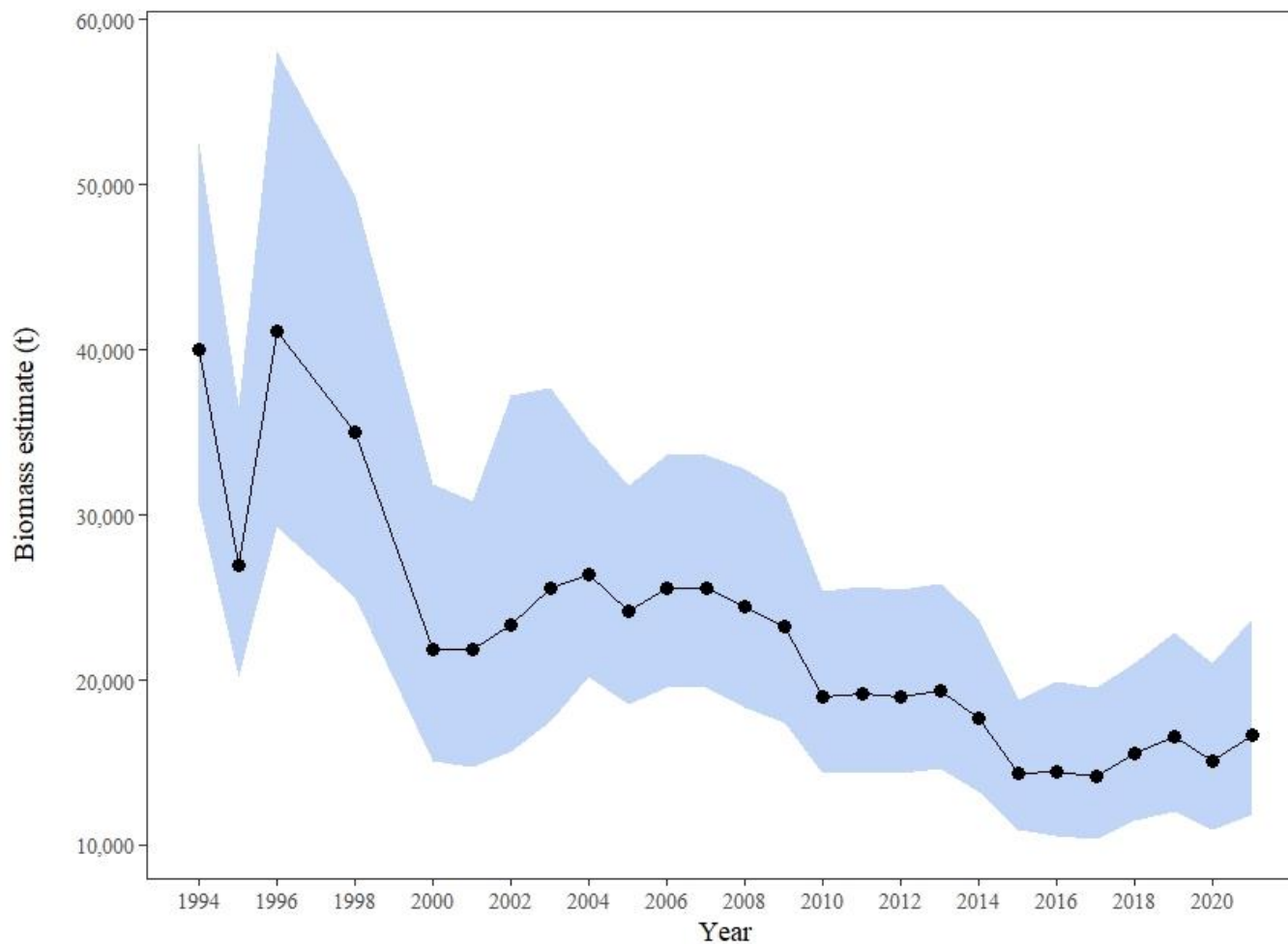
Southeast Outside Subdistrict Rockfish Management

The board outlined a series of eight management measures that the commissioner may implement by emergency order to modify existing sport fish regulations to keep the sport fishery within its allocation. 5 AAC 47.065

1. reduced bag and possession limits for nonresident anglers;
2. retention of all demersal shelf rockfish caught by a nonresident angler is required until the nonresident bag limit is reached;
3. charter operators and crewmembers may not retain demersal shelf rockfish while clients are on board the vessel;
4. annual limits for demersal shelf rockfish for nonresident anglers;
5. reduce the bag and possession limits for resident anglers;
6. retention of all demersal shelf rockfish caught by a resident angler is required until the resident angler's bag limit is reached (repealed 2018);
7. annual limits for demersal shelf rockfish for resident anglers; and
8. time and area closures.

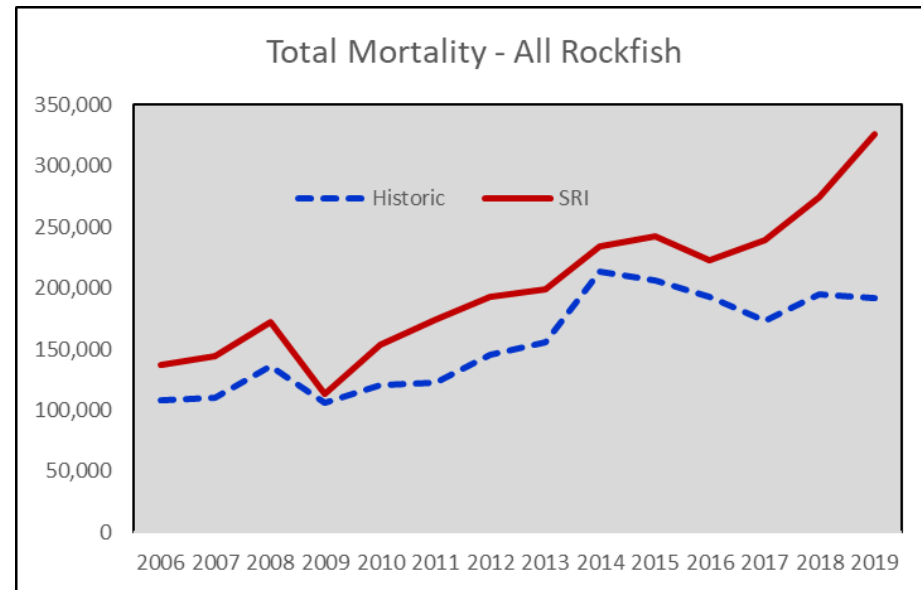


Declining Yelloweye Biomass

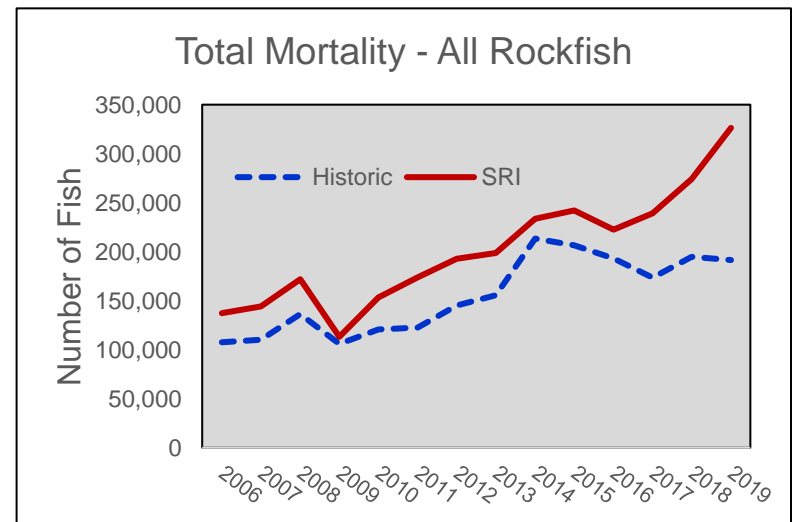
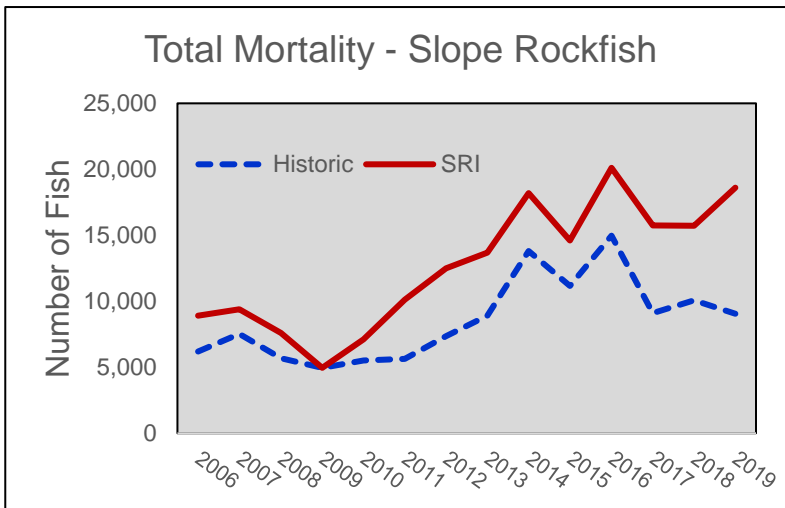
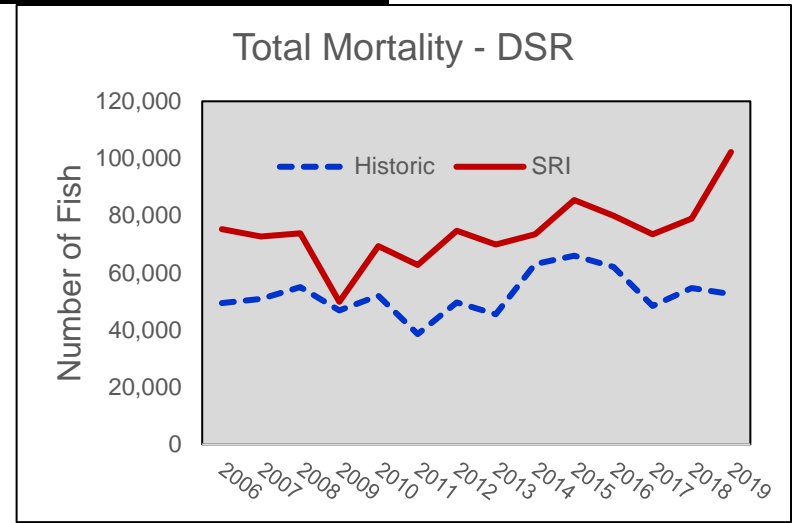
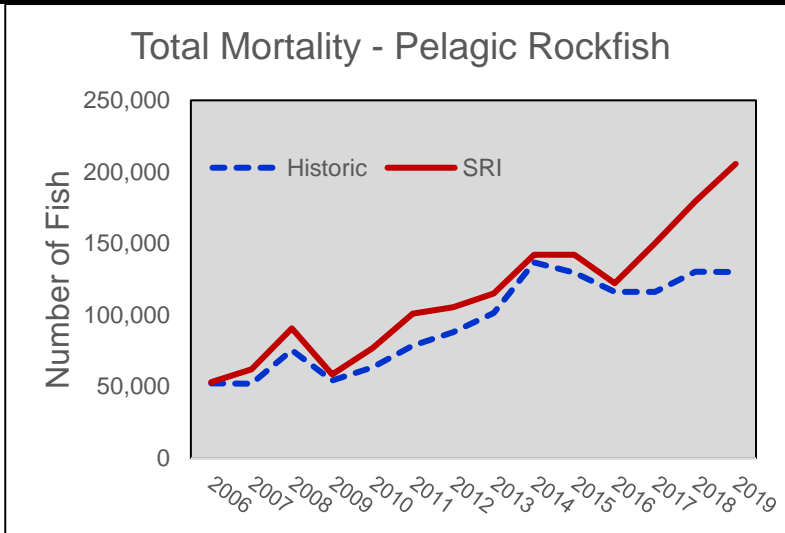


Harvest/Mortality Estimation

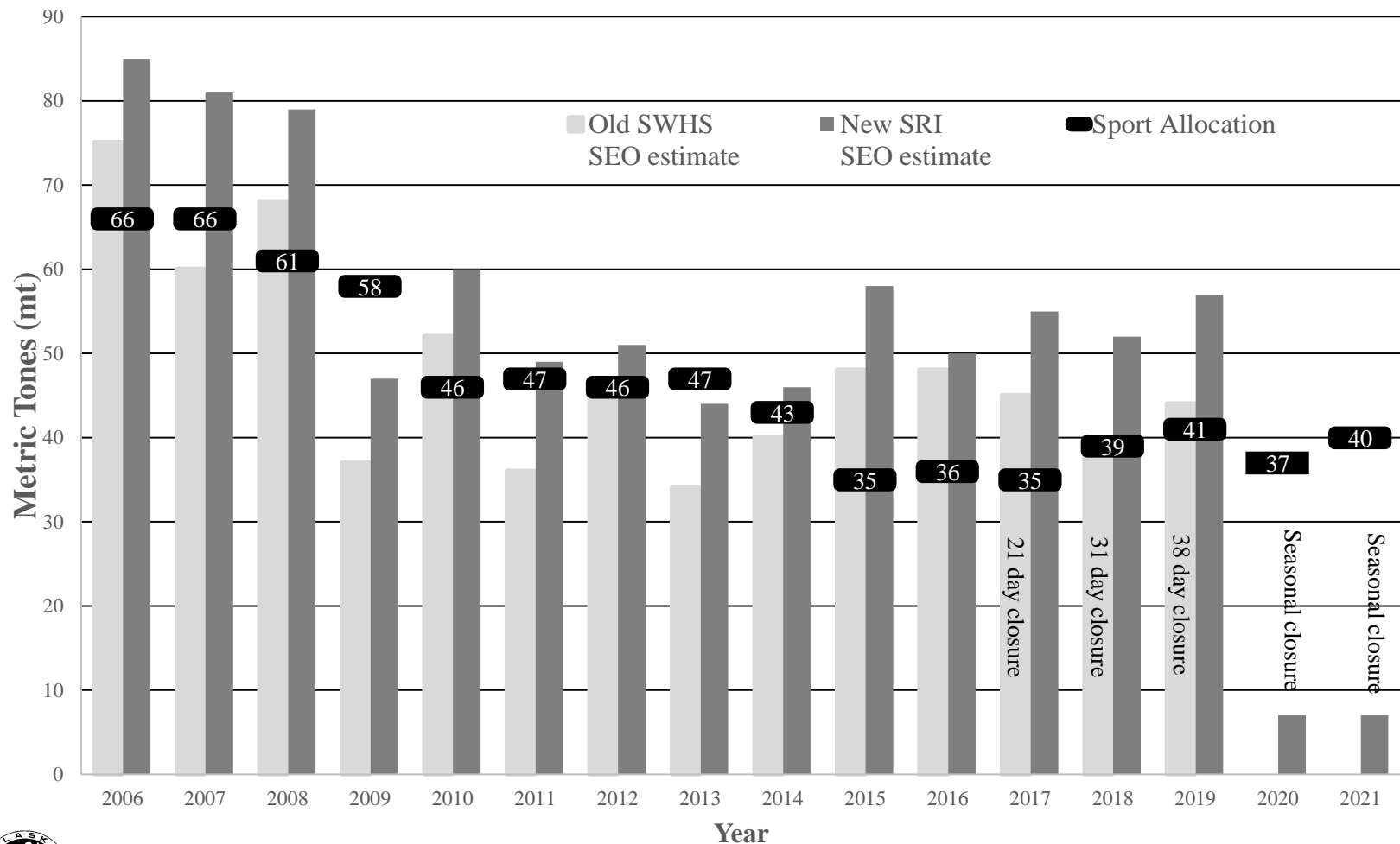
- **New Method:** SRI
- **Previous Method:** Historic
- SRI method leverages census information from guide logbook program
- SRI estimates of mortality (harvest, release, total) display similar trends/patterns as historic method
 - but at a consistently greater magnitude (~ up to 70%)



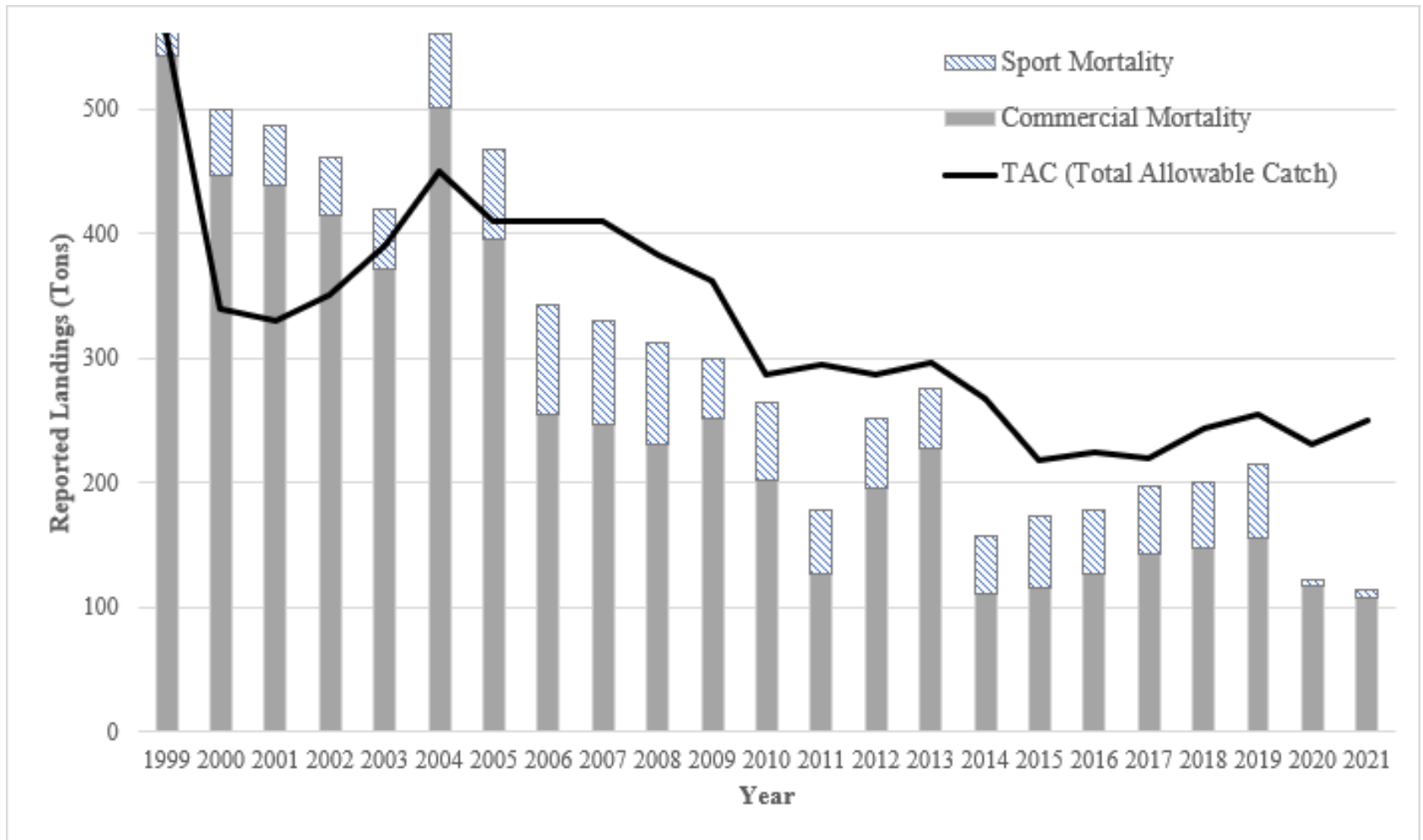
Total Mortality Comparisons in Numbers of Fish



SEO DSR Total Sport Mortality Estimates (mt) from 2006-2021



Removals of Demersal Shelf Rockfish in the Southeast Outside Subdistrict and Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)



Lingcod Proposals

- Establish lingcod bag, possession, size, and annual limits for nonresidents in the CSEO.
- Require recording length for lingcod on annual harvest record.

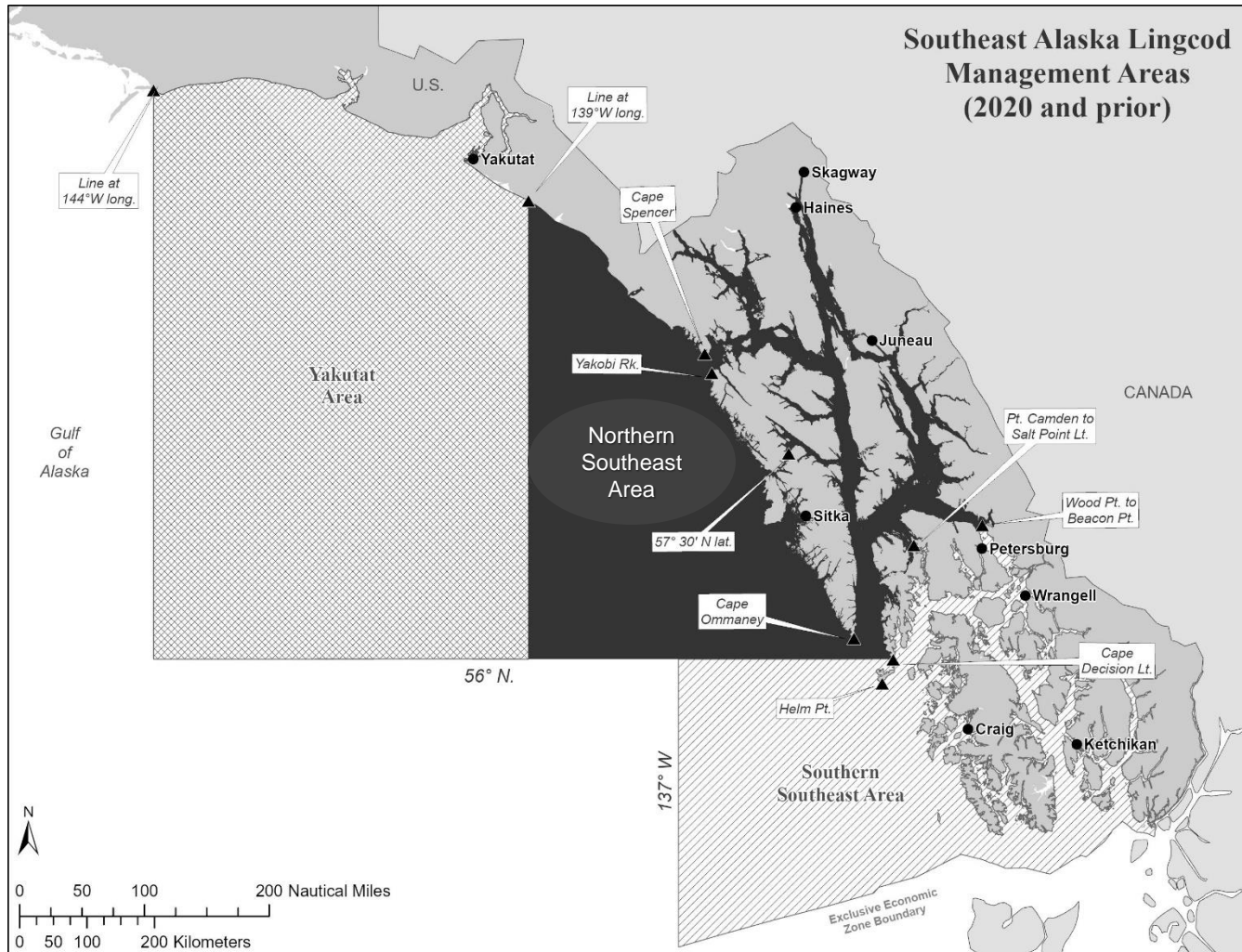
Proposals:
229
231



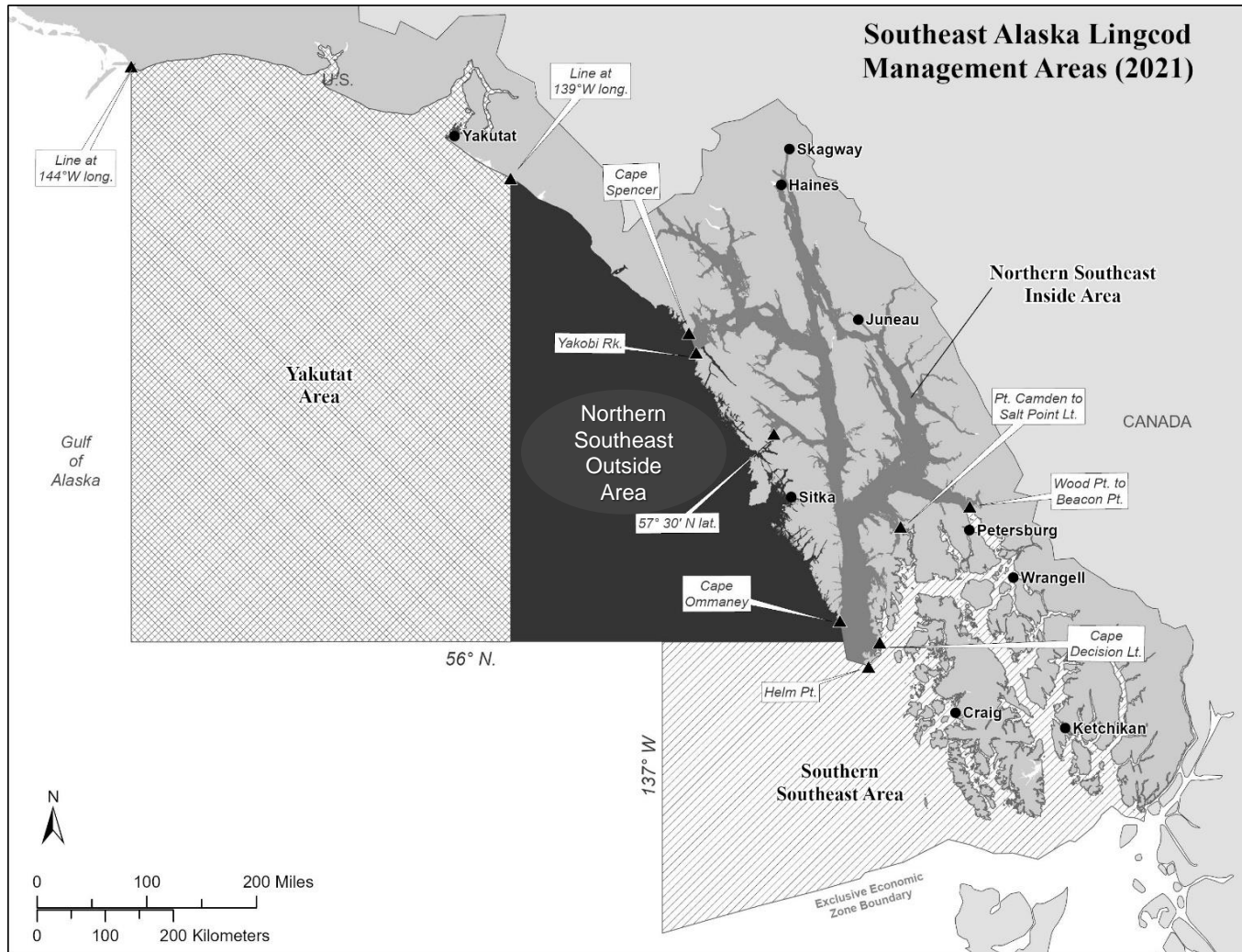
Charting Nature/Brenda G. Gillespie



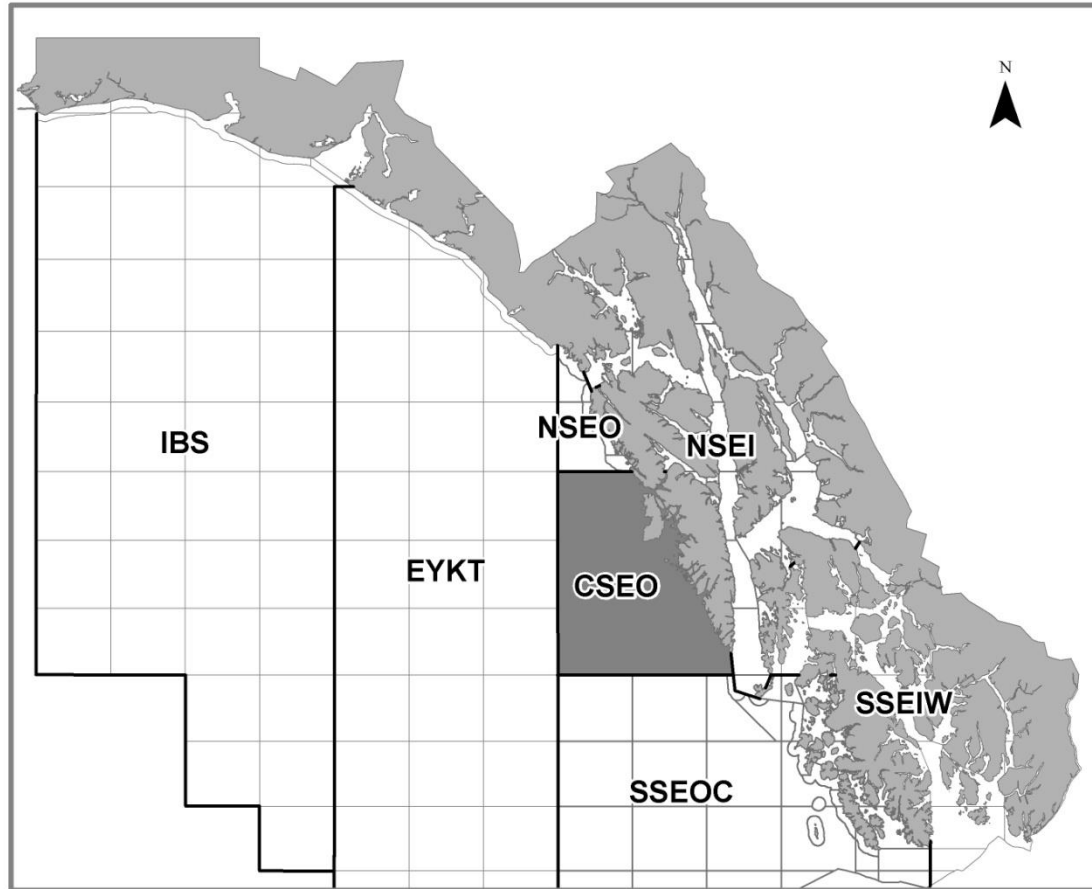
Sport Lingcod Management Areas



Sport Lingcod Management Areas in 2021



Lingcod Management Area CSEO

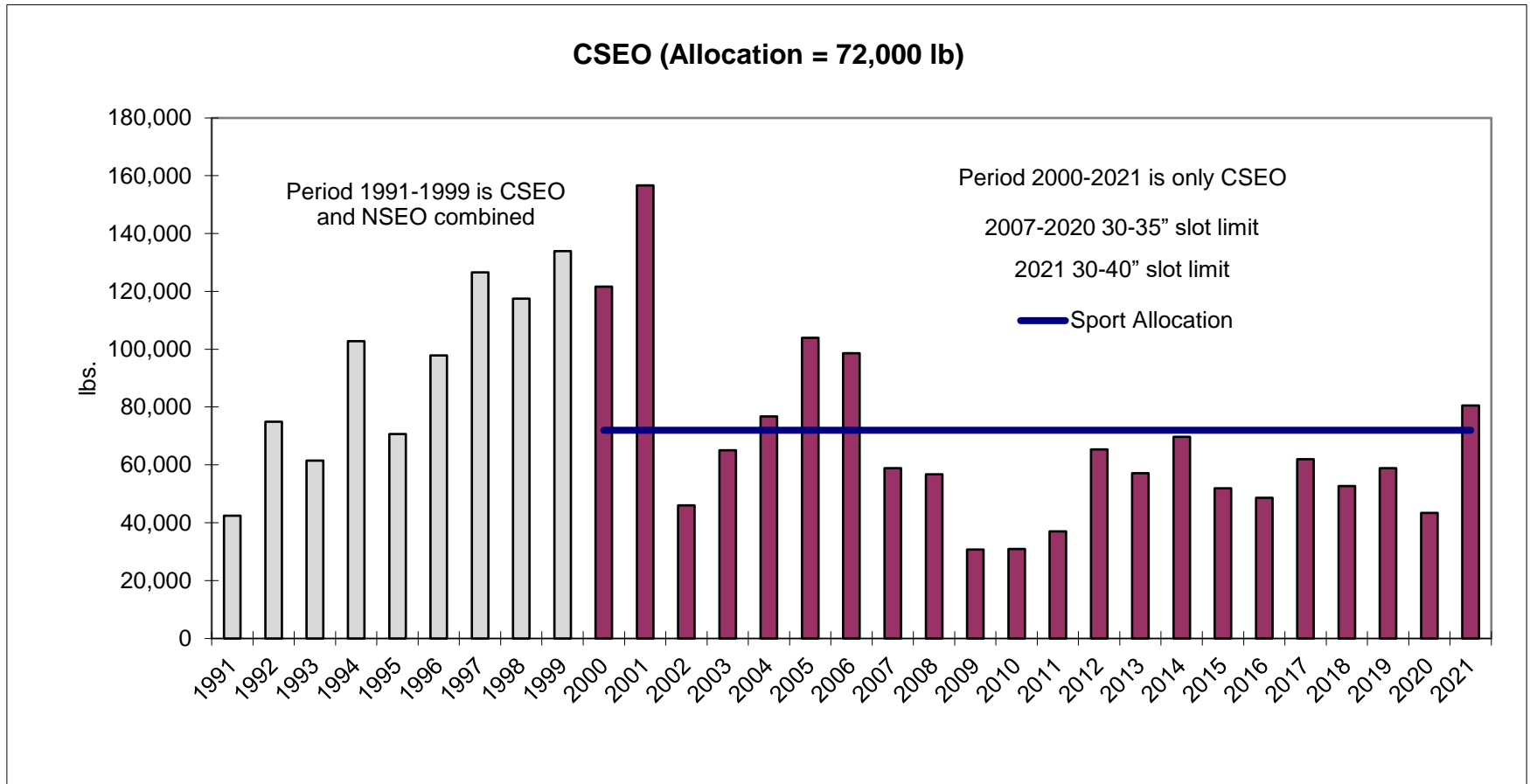


Lingcod Management

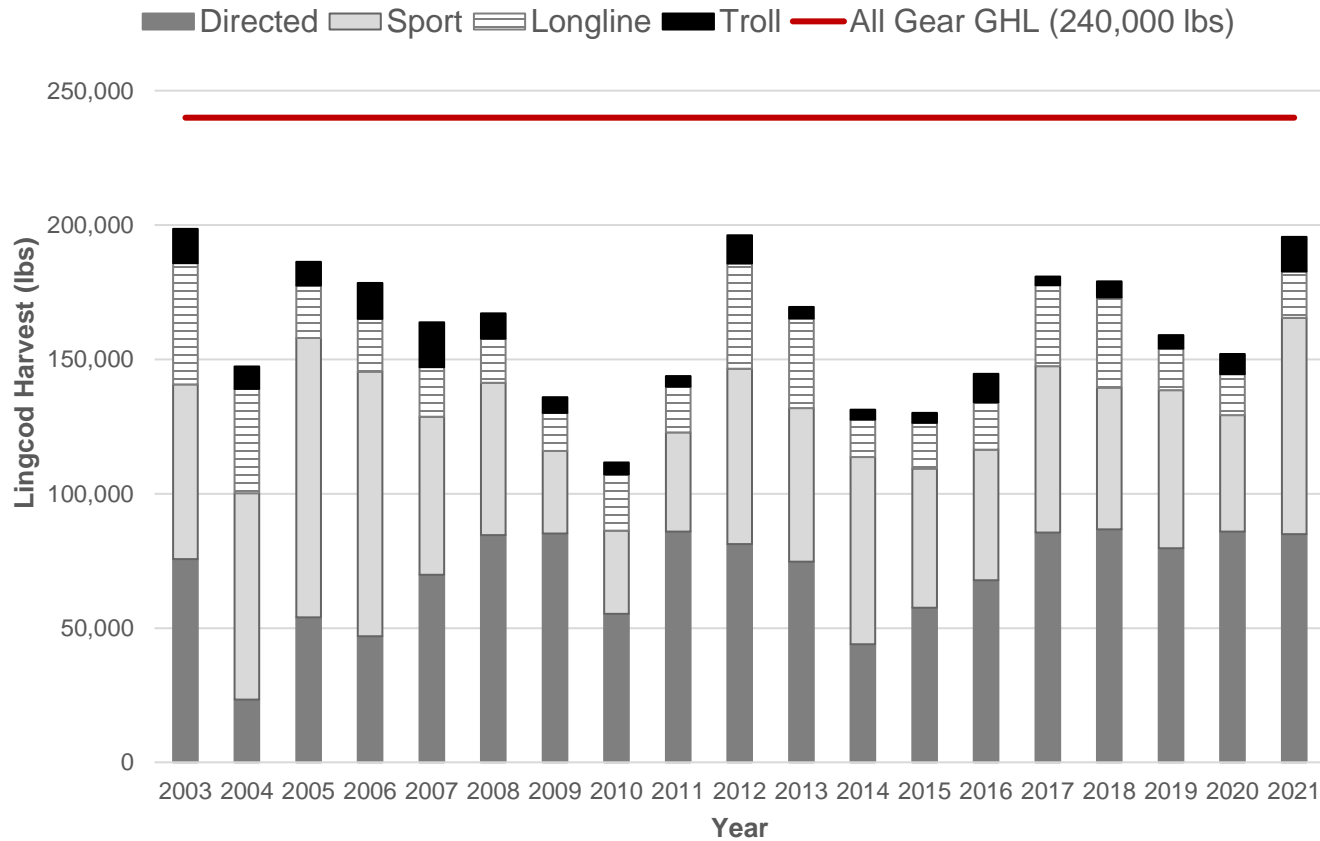
- Sport Lingcod Allocation of GHL within the Area
 - Icy Bay Subdistrict 33%
 - East Yakutat Section 2%
 - Northern Southeast Outside Section 22%
 - **Central Southeast Outside Section 30%**
 - Southern Southeast Outer Coast Sector 44%
 - Southern Southeast Internal Sector 92%
 - Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict 50%



CSEO Lingcod Harvest Performance



CSEO Lingcod Harvest and GHL



Sablefish Proposal

**Proposal
225**

Increase the sport fish daily bag
and annual limit based on the
recommended sablefish
Acceptable Biological Catch
(ABC).



Sablefish Regulations

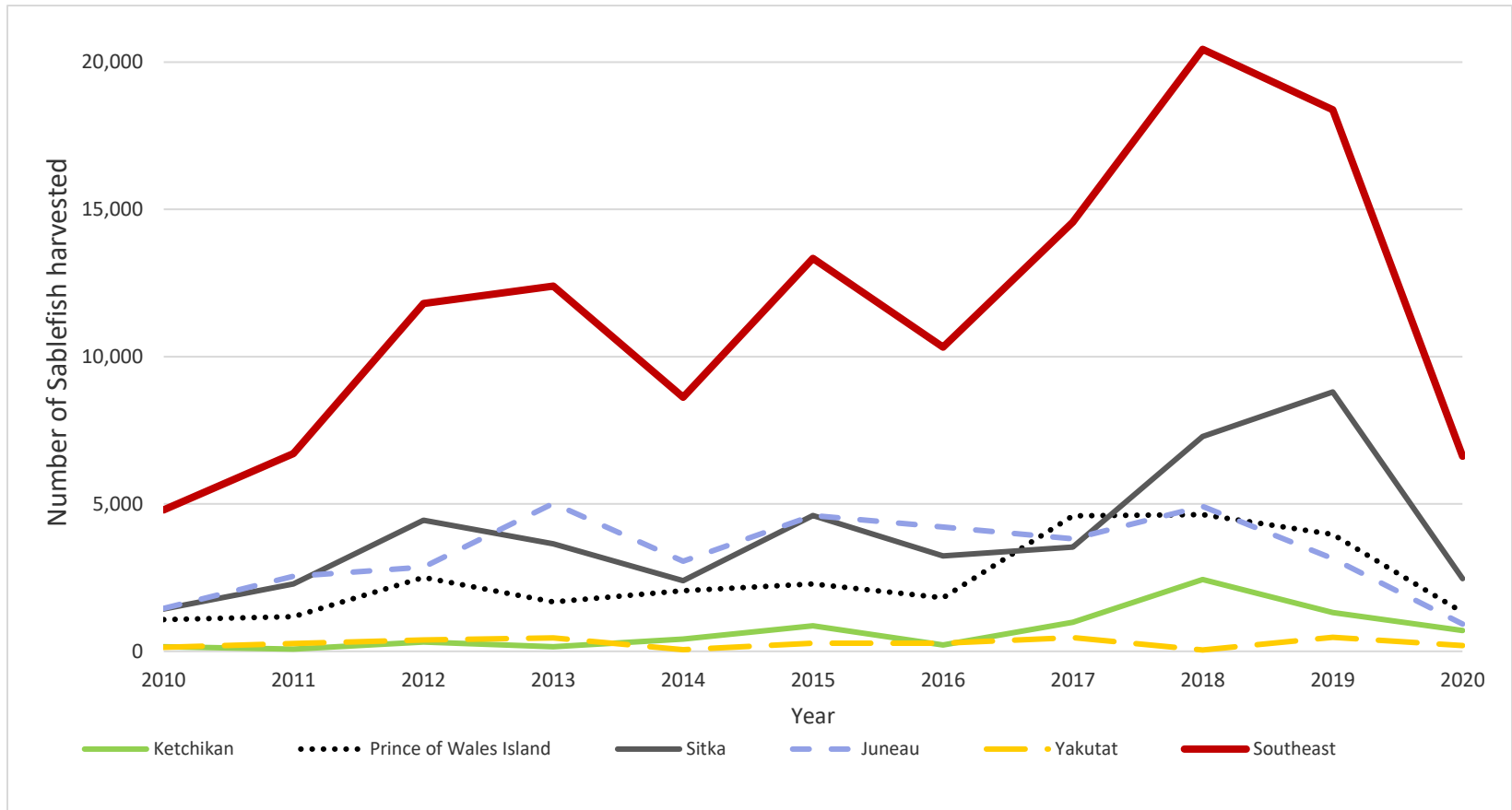
- Prior to 2009 no bag, possession, or annual limits were established for sablefish.
- In 2009, the bag and possession limit of four fish and a nonresident annual limit of eight fish was established.
- In 2012, the annual limit was rescinded for Southeast Alaska except in the waters of Lower Lynn Canal and Chatham Strait (District 12) where the nonresident annual limit remained at eight fish.
- In 2018, the board established a nonresident annual limit of eight fish throughout Southeast Alaska.

Current Regulations

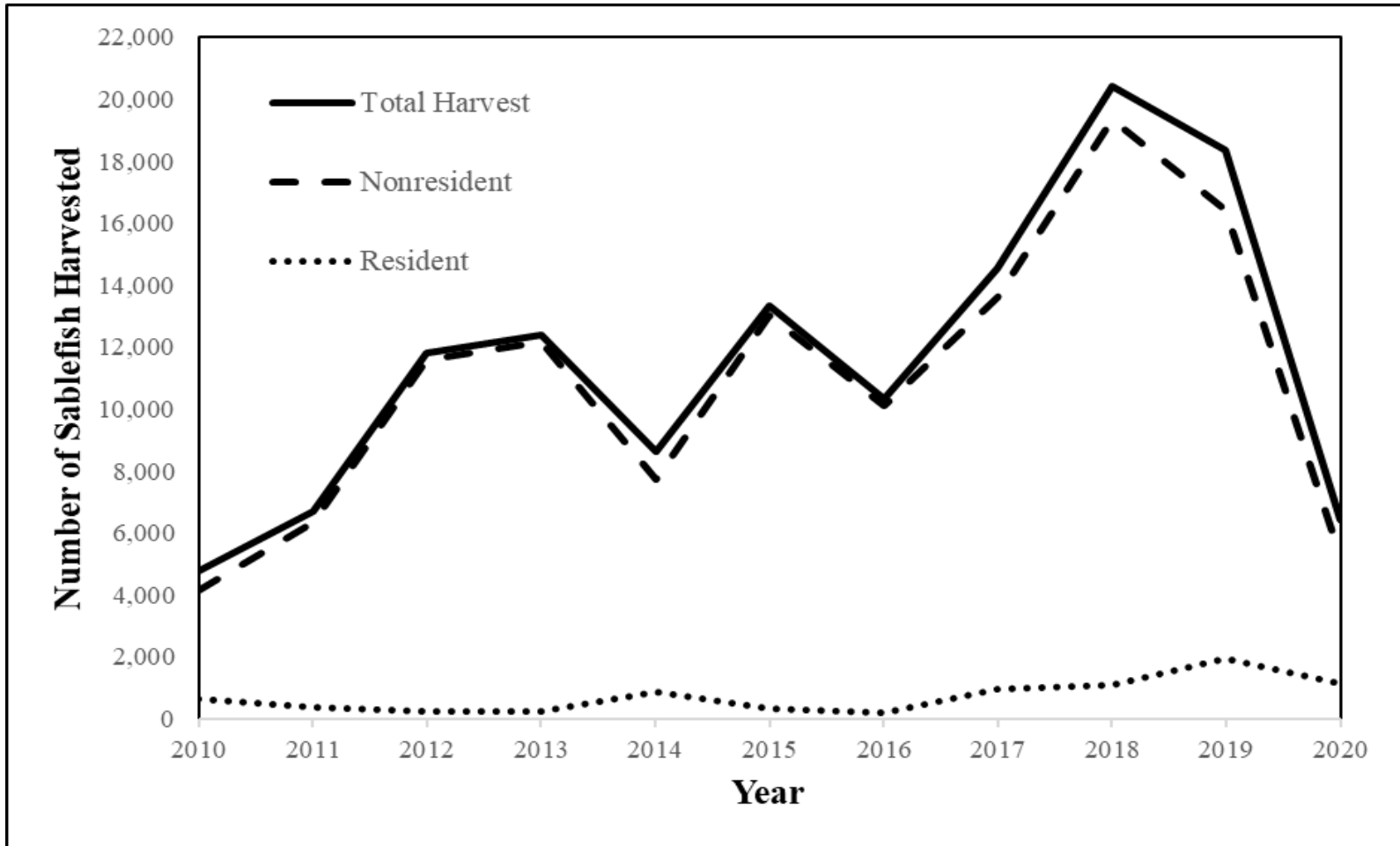
- Resident
 - Bag and possession limit of four fish, no size restrictions.
- Nonresident
 - Bag and possession limit of four fish, annual limit of eight fish, no size restrictions.



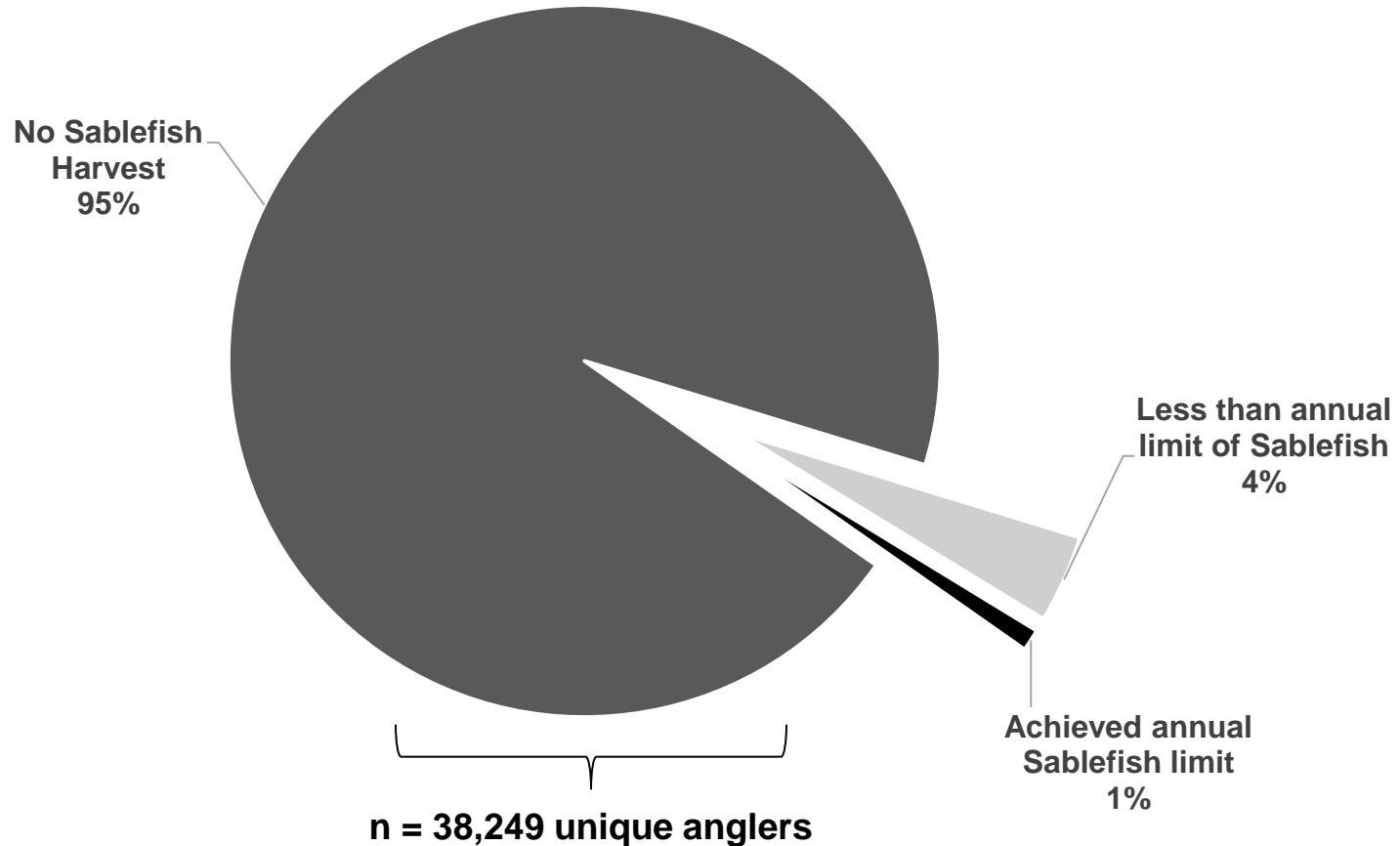
Sablefish Harvest from the SWHS



Sablefish Sport Harvest by Residency



Sablefish Harvest by Guided Nonresidents 2010-2020



Shellfish

- Crab
- Shrimp
- Miscellaneous
 - Squid



Dungeness Crab Proposals

Restrict or close areas to sport fishing
for Dungeness crab

Proposals:

200

204

206

209



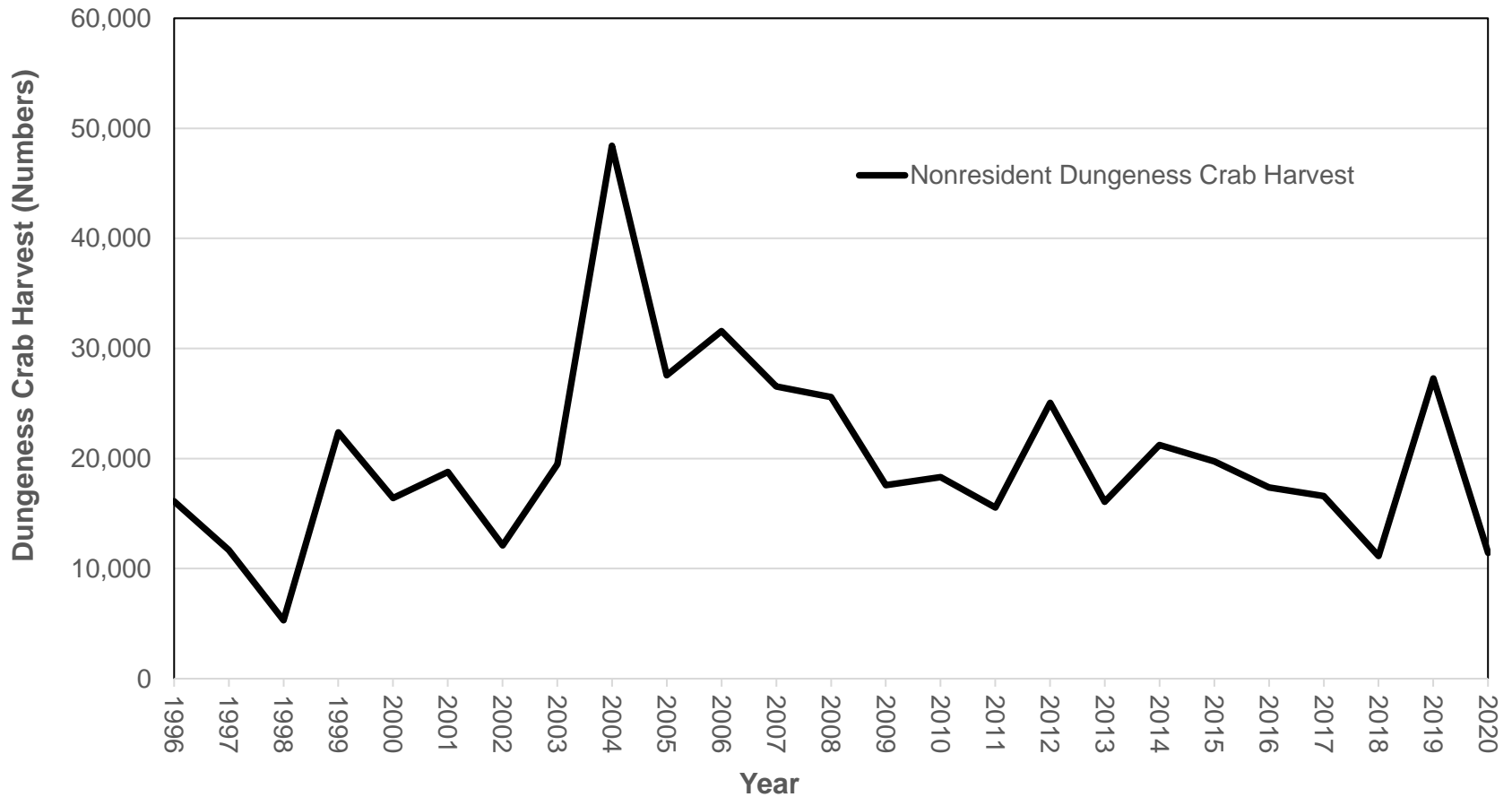
Dungeness and Tanner Crab Regulations

Dungeness and Tanner Crab (in combination):

- Bag and possession limit: nonresident sport anglers, 3 male crabs.
- Size limits: 5½ inches minimum carapace width for Tanner and 6½ inches minimum for Dungeness
- Gear limits:
 - Dungeness: 4 pots or 10 ring nets per person with a maximum of 10 pots or 20 ring nets per vessel
 - Tanner: 4 pots or 10 ring nets maximum per vessel
- King Crab is closed to sport fishing



Dungeness Crab Harvest in SEAK



Shrimp Proposals

- Increase maximum size of opening perimeter
- Clarify if longlining pots is allowed in sport pot shrimp fishery.

Proposals:
183
184



Sport Shrimp Regulations

- Permit and harvest reporting required as of 2018
- Bag and possession limit: 3 pounds or 3 quarts whole or de-headed
- Size limits: no size restrictions
- Gear limits: In addition to crab pots, 5 shrimp pots per person with a maximum of 10 pots per vessel
 - 15 inch max tunnel eye opening
 - No more than 4 tunnel eye openings



Sport Shrimp Permit

- Effective June 25, 2018, the BOF required a shrimp permit for sport users wishing to harvest shrimp in Southeast Alaska
- Permits are free and available online or at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices
- Designed to estimate effort in pot days and harvest of whole shrimp biomass in the Southeast Alaska sport shrimp fishery



Sport Shrimp Effort and Harvest

Year	Residency	Permits issued	Percent response	Percent fished	Effort ^a (pots)	Harvest ^{a,b} (lb)	Harvest per unit effort
2019	Resident	458	40%	47%	3,359	8,983	2.67
	Nonresident	3,144	33%	71%	9,326	24,035	2.58
2020	Resident	73	82%	37%	341	1,331	3.91
	Nonresident	1,824	73%	38%	3,883	8,160	2.10

Source: Kirk Brogdon, Analyst Programmer V, ADF&G Anchorage, unpublished data.

^a Harvest and effort are expanded to account for nonrespondents.

^b Conversion factors of 1.80 lb/quart and 2.02 tail/whole of shrimp were used to estimate harvest in pounds. These conversion factors are based on an ADF&G study (Dave Harris, ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries, unpublished data).



Squid Proposals

- Allow artificial light when fishing for squid
- Allow an unlimited number of hooks when fishing for squid

Proposals:
185
186



Squid Regulations

- Open all year, no bag, possession or size limits
- Use of artificial light is not prohibited,
- One line per person and no more than 2 hooks per line (except herring and smelt)
- No estimates of total harvest by sport fishery



Questions?

