



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

2025 Bottom Trawl Survey: What Did They Find?

FLC Symposium – May 5, 2026

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**Resource Assessment &
Conservation Engineering Division
Groundfish Assessment Program**

*Bering
Sea
Group*

Presentation Outline

- Survey overview and area
- Charter vessels
- Survey gear
- Results
 - Temperatures/Cold pool
 - Distribution, abundance, and sizes (select species)
 - Special projects



Bering Sea Bottom Trawl Surveys

Eastern Bering Sea (EBS):

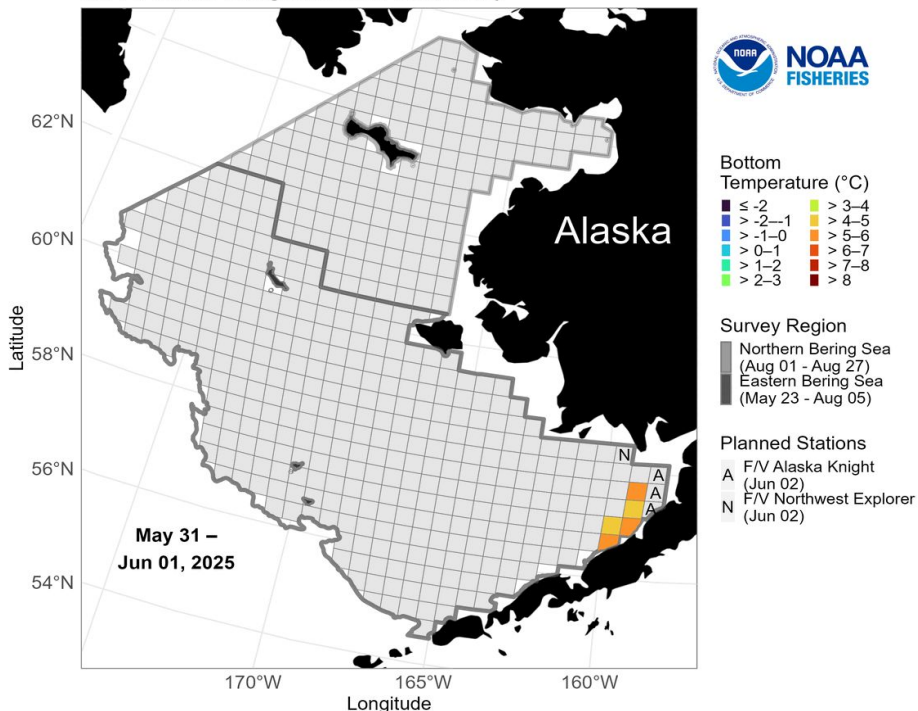
- 43rd year of survey
1982-2025
- May 31 - July 26, 2025
- 350/350 stations sampled

Northern Bering Sea (NBS):

- 7 years
2010, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022,
2023, and 2025
- July 27 - Aug 17, 2025
- 137/144 stations sampled

2025 Bottom Temperature (°C)

NOAA Fisheries Bering Sea Bottom Trawl Survey



Survey Charter Vessels

EBS: May 31 to August 17, 2025



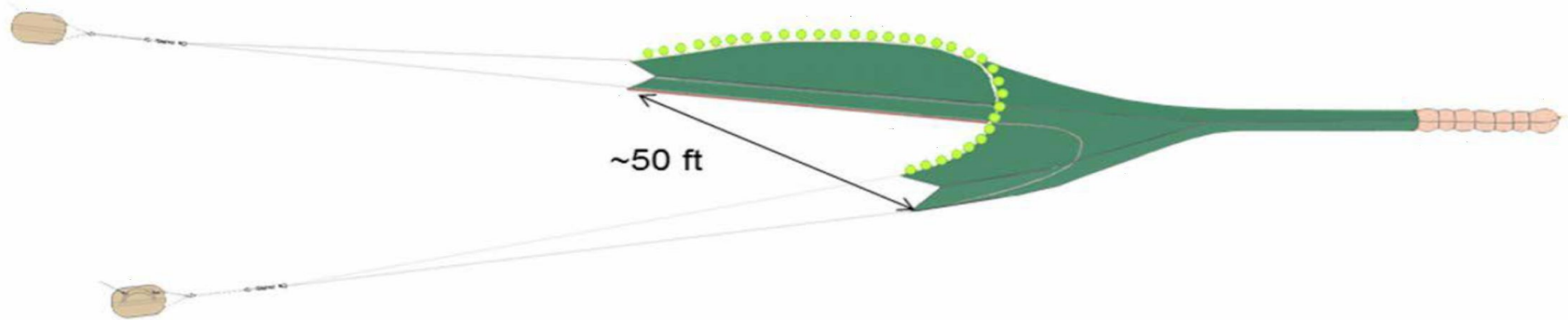
F/V Northwest Explorer
2023- present
3rd Year



F/V Alaska Knight
2010 - Present
15th year

Bering Sea Shelf Research Bottom Trawl

83-112 Eastern



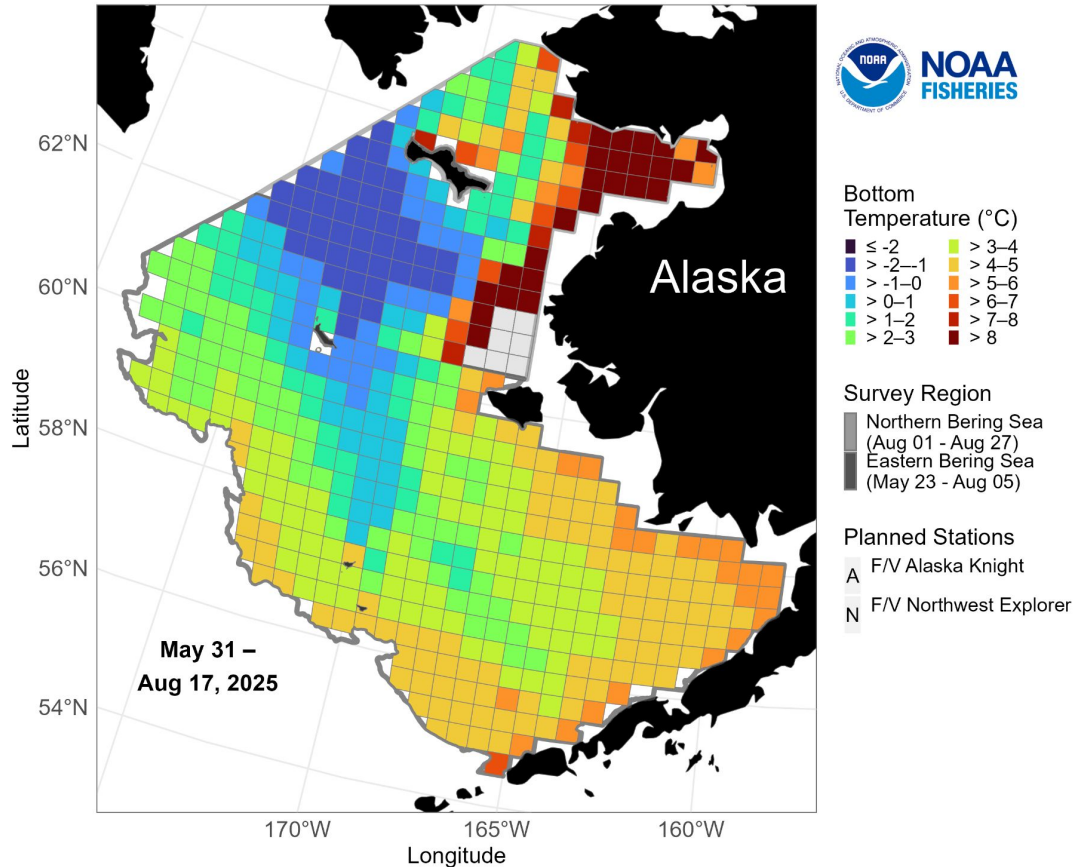
Characteristics

- Similar size and type used for Norton Sound red king crab survey
- Designed for being towed on smooth bottom
- Light footrope and bare wires with no ground gear - skims across bottom
- 6' X 9' doors for spreading trawl
- 0.75" braided nylon with 4" mesh body, 3.5" intermediate and 1.25" codend liner
- 83 ft headrope and 112 ft footrope
- Towed 30 minutes at 3 knots
- Area swept = net width (~50') X distance fished (~1.5 nm)

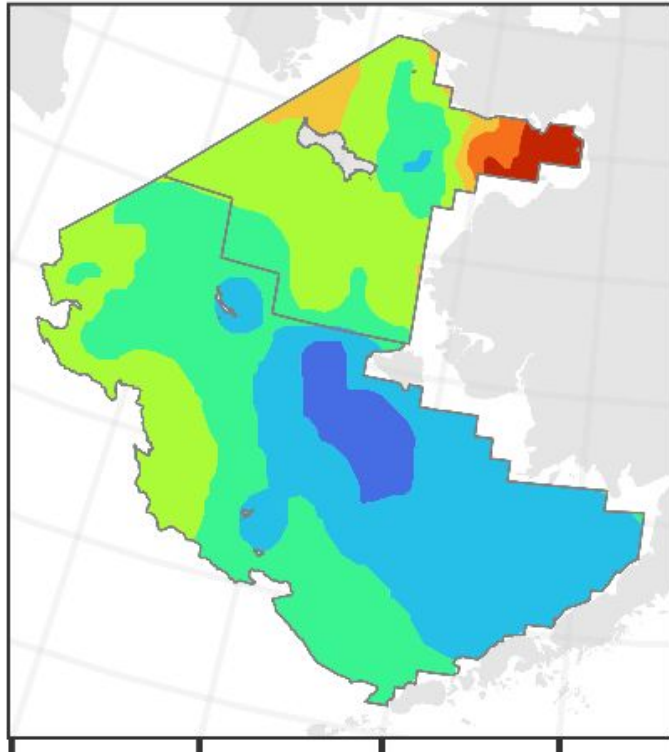


2025 Bottom Temperature (°C)

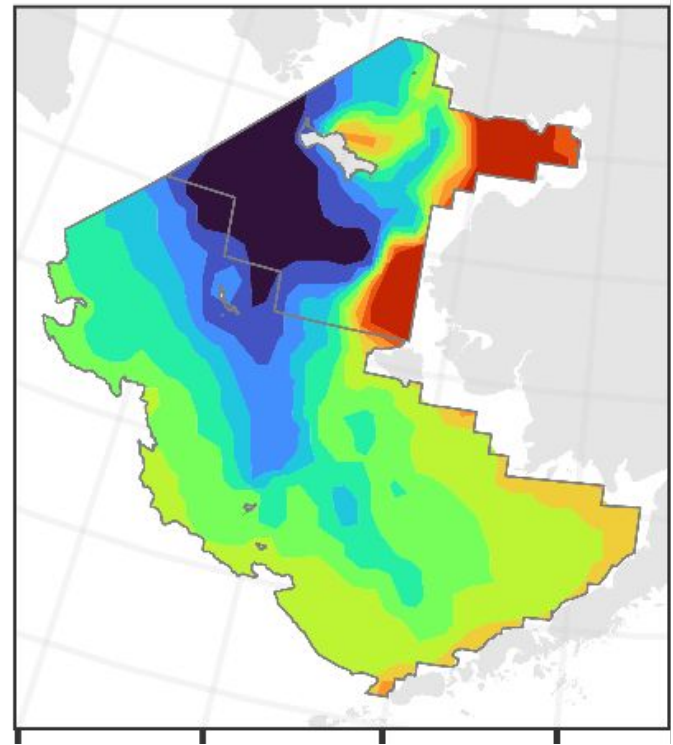
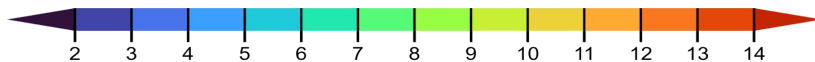
NOAA Fisheries Bering Sea Bottom Trawl Survey



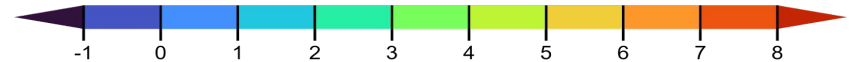
2025 Surface & Bottom Temperature



Surface temperature (°C)



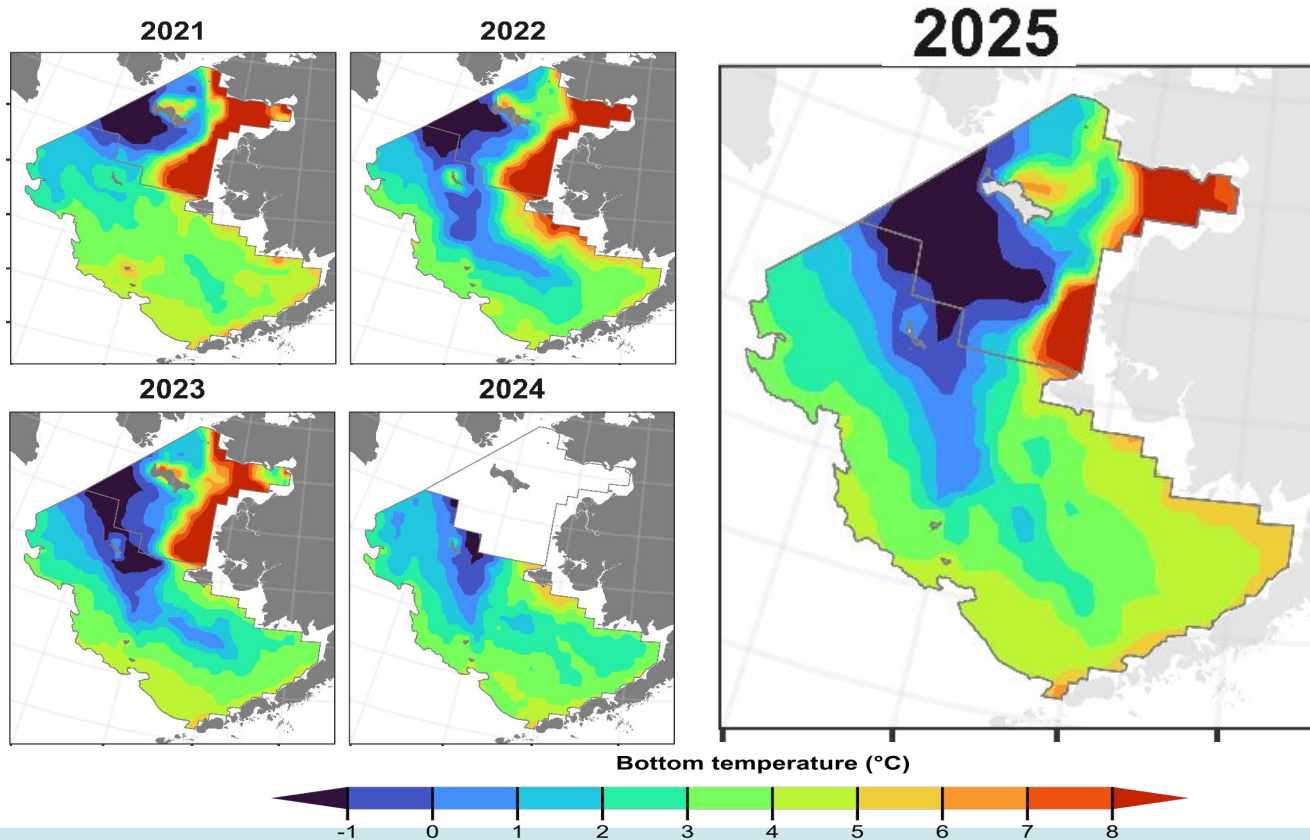
Bottom temperature (°C)



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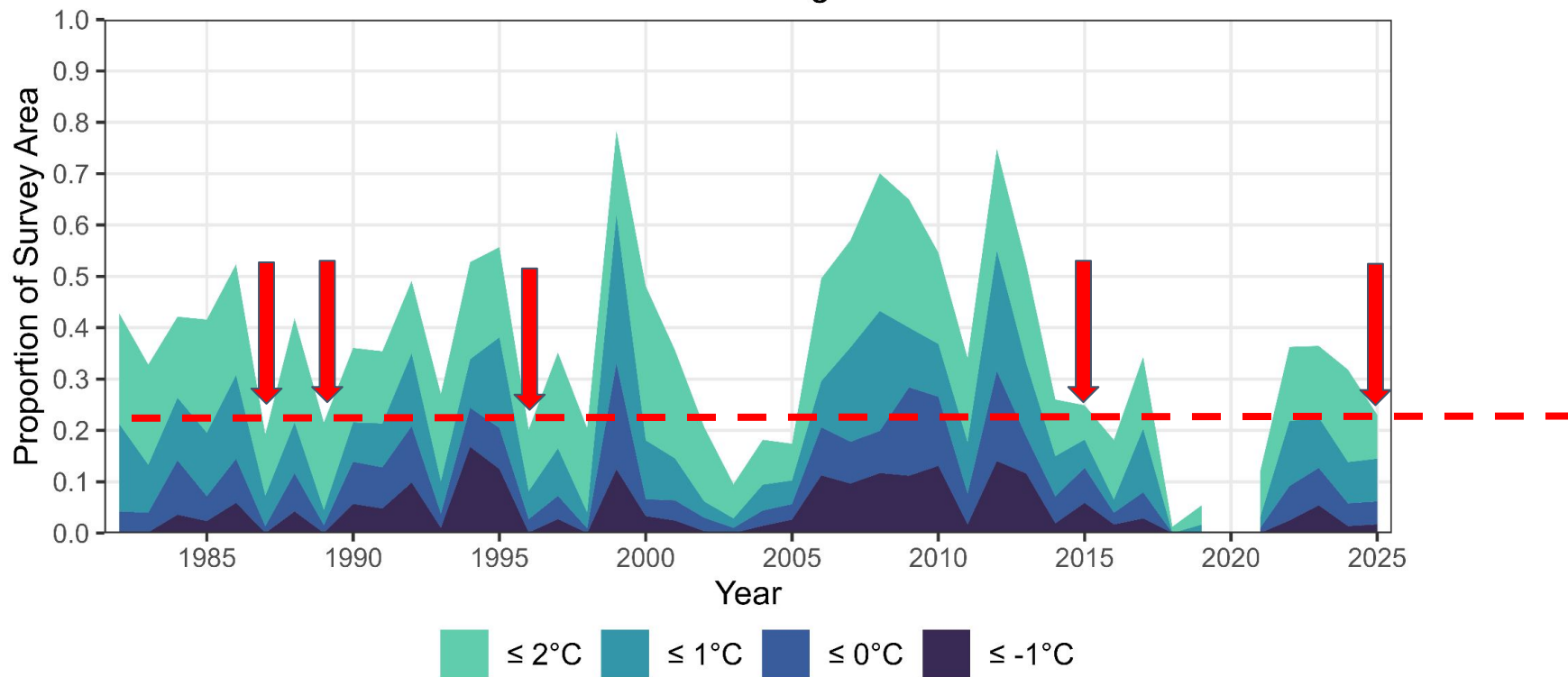
Temperature data products: <https://github.com/afsc-gap-products/coldpool>

Survey Bottom Water Temperatures

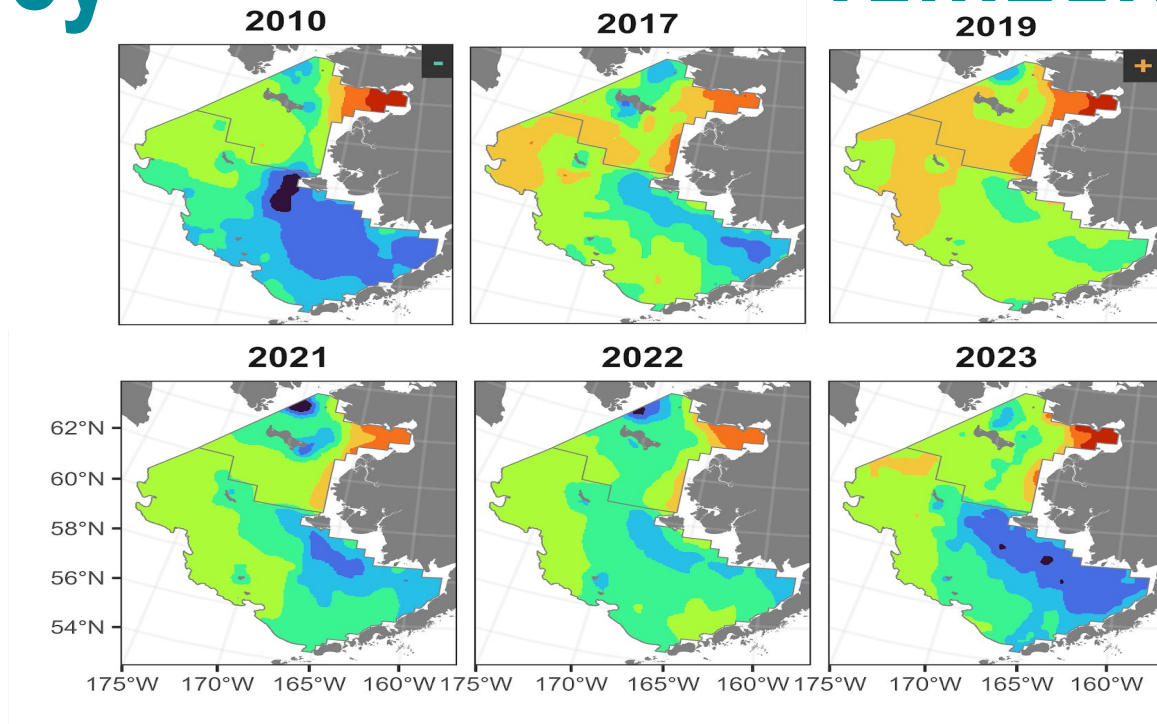


Cold Pool Area

Eastern Bering Sea



Survey Surface Water Temperatures



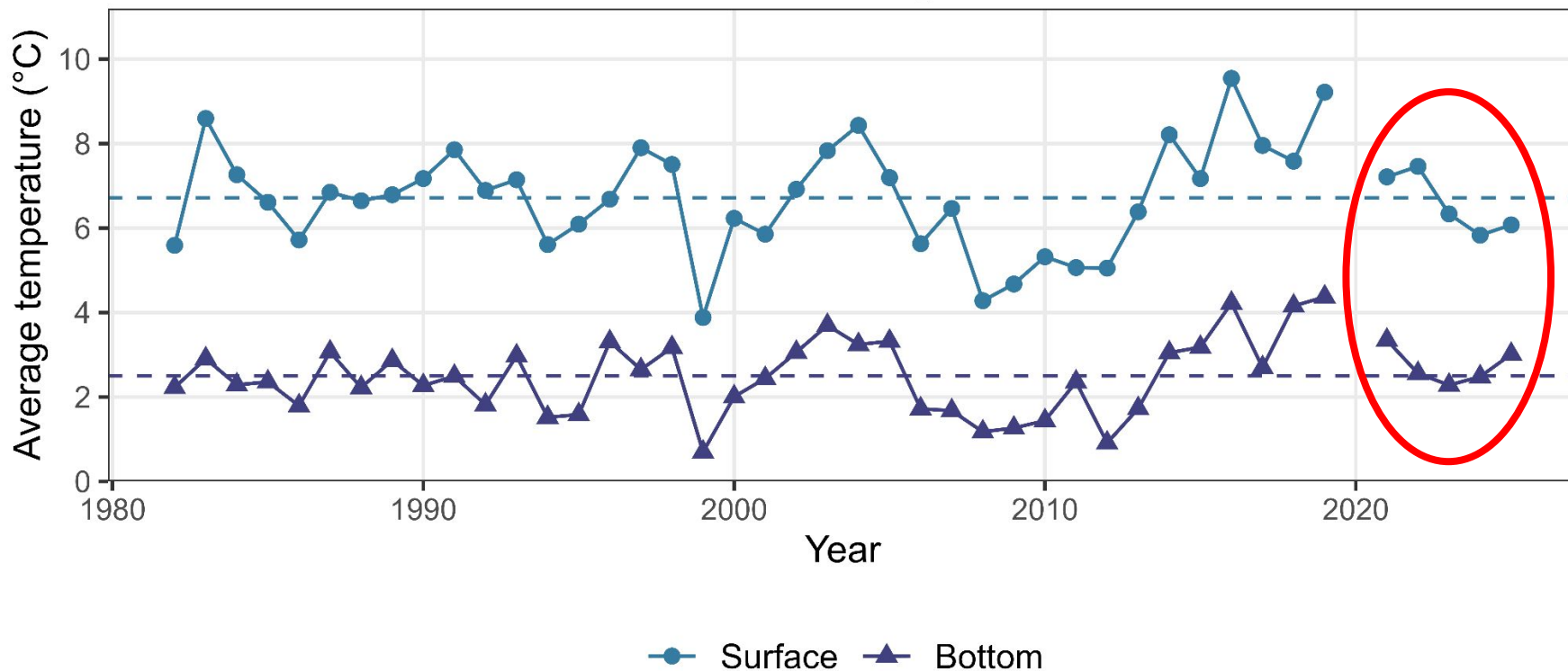
Surface temperature (°C)



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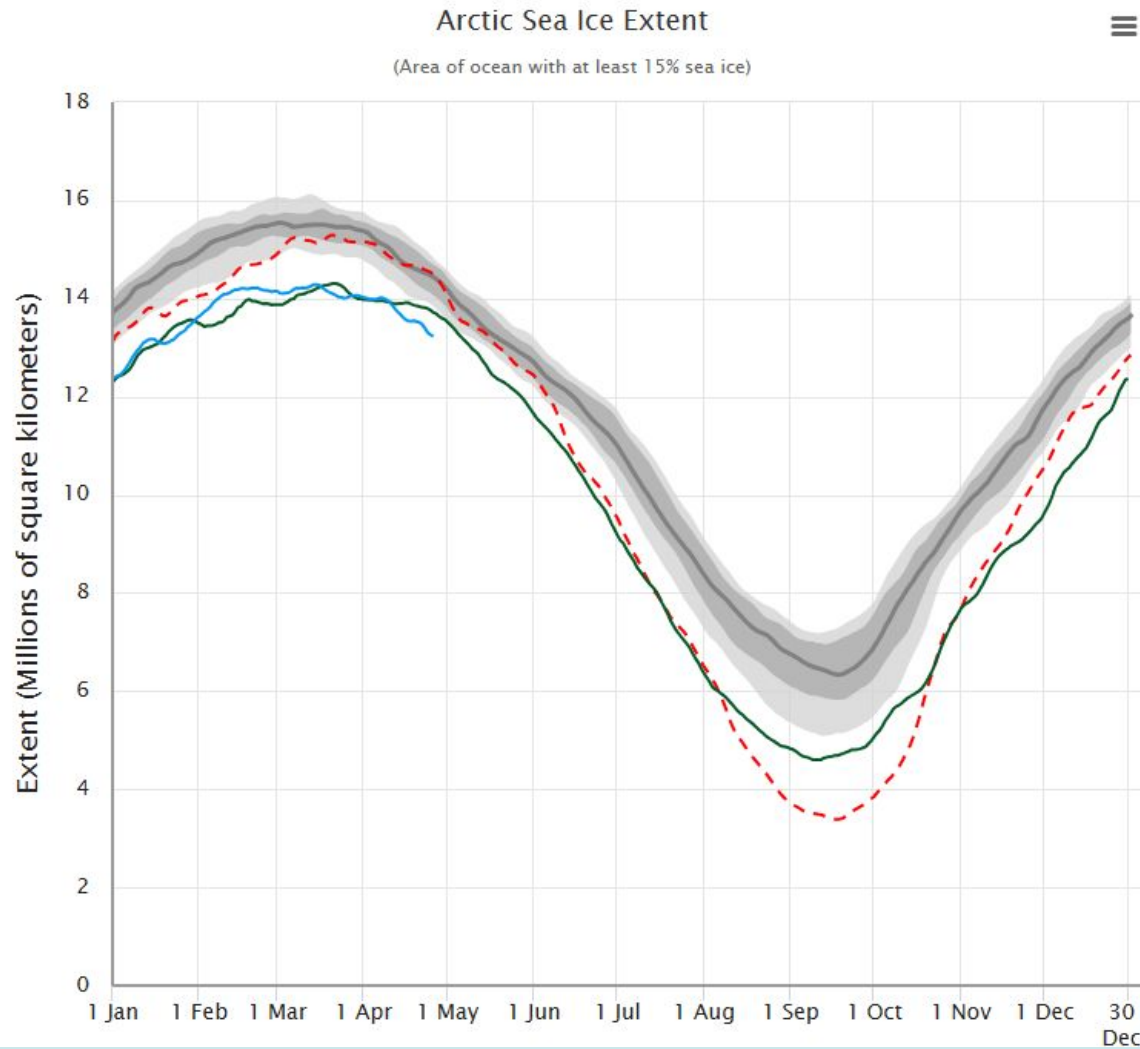
Average Bering Sea Temperatures

Eastern Bering Sea



Arctic Sea Ice

<https://nsidc.org/sea-ice-today/sea-ice-tools/>



Arctic Sea Ice

Fig. 3. Regional sea ice extent rankings for April 24, 2026 with 1 the lowest and 48 the highest in the 1979-2026 period of record. Seas marked as “NA” are seasonally ice covered. Data and base graphic courtesy NSIDC.

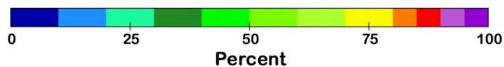
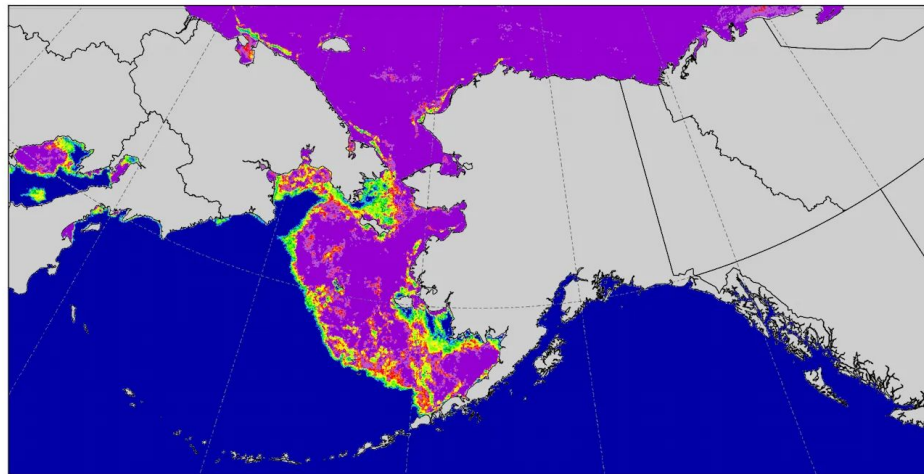


https://alaskaclimate.substack.com/p/late-april-2026-arctic-sea-ice-update?img=https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-media.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2F8b5ee094-7e68-4e76-9997-7c42455e2ce4_2628x1740.png&open=false

Arctic Sea Ice

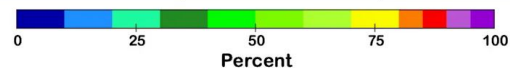
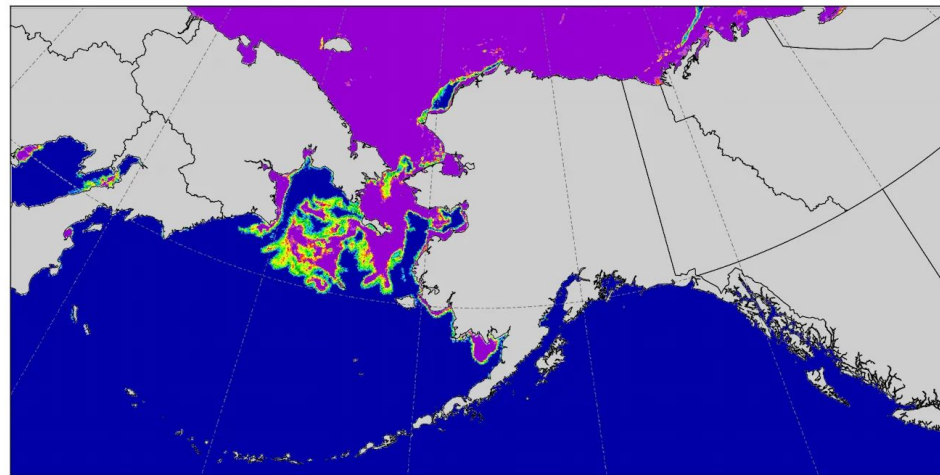
Sea Ice Concentration

April 1, 2026



Sea Ice Concentration

April 30, 2026



[Alaska and Arctic Climate Newsletter](#), Alaska April 2026 Climate Summary,
Rick Thoman

Summary of EBS Results by the Numbers

	EBS	NBS
stations	350	137
lengths	124,170	37,237
otoliths	6,532	1,348
stomachs	4,408	1,261
maturity scans	2,484	593

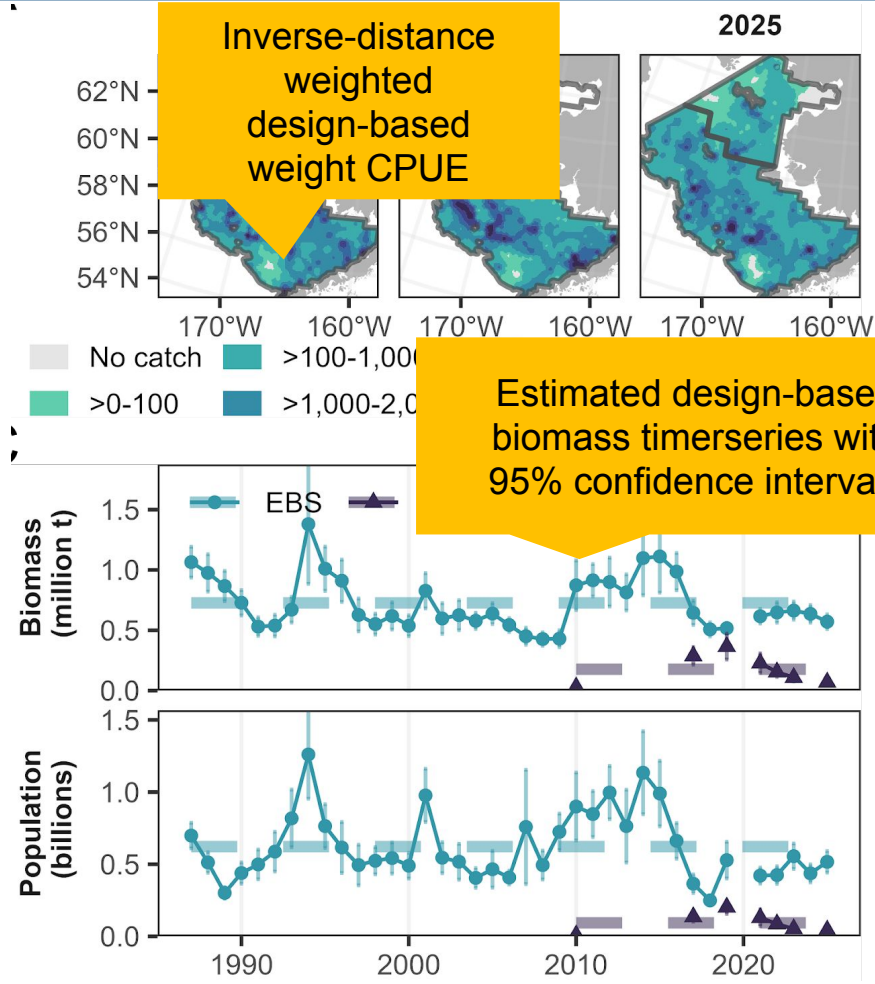
Length measurements

Common name	EBS	NBS
Pacific cod	11,249	1,265
Pacific halibut	2,505	233
Greenland Turbot	50	1
Walleye pollock	30,862	8,311

Age structures

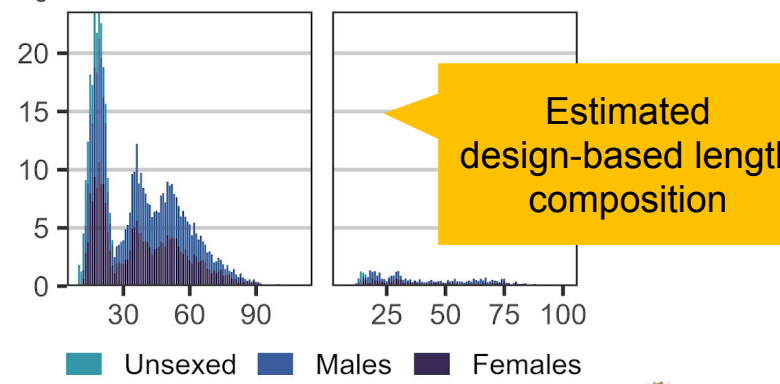
Common name	EBS	NBS
Pacific cod	1,403	319
Pacific halibut	1,267	244
Greenland turbot	43	0

A Species of Interest

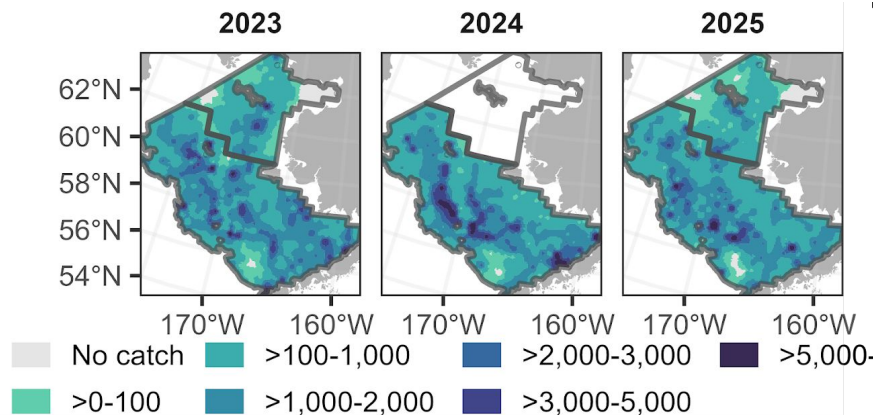


EBS Biomass
 Mean: XXX K
 2025: XXX K (-XX%)
 Comparison to 2024

NBS Biomass
 Mean: XX K
 2025: XX K (+XX%) (-XX%)
 from 2023
 Comparison to 2023

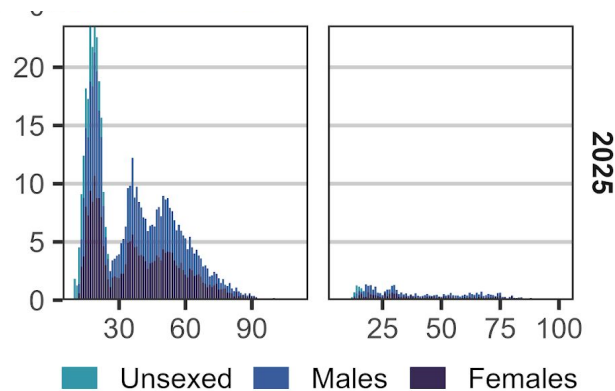
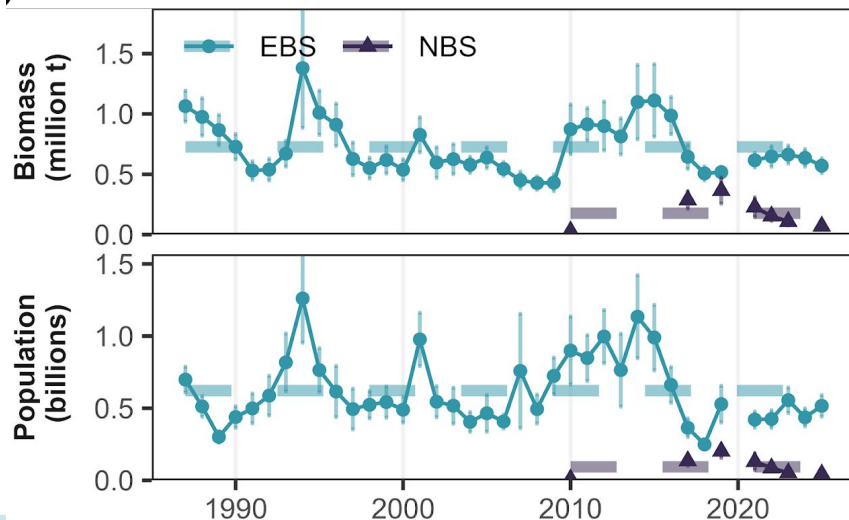


Pacific Cod

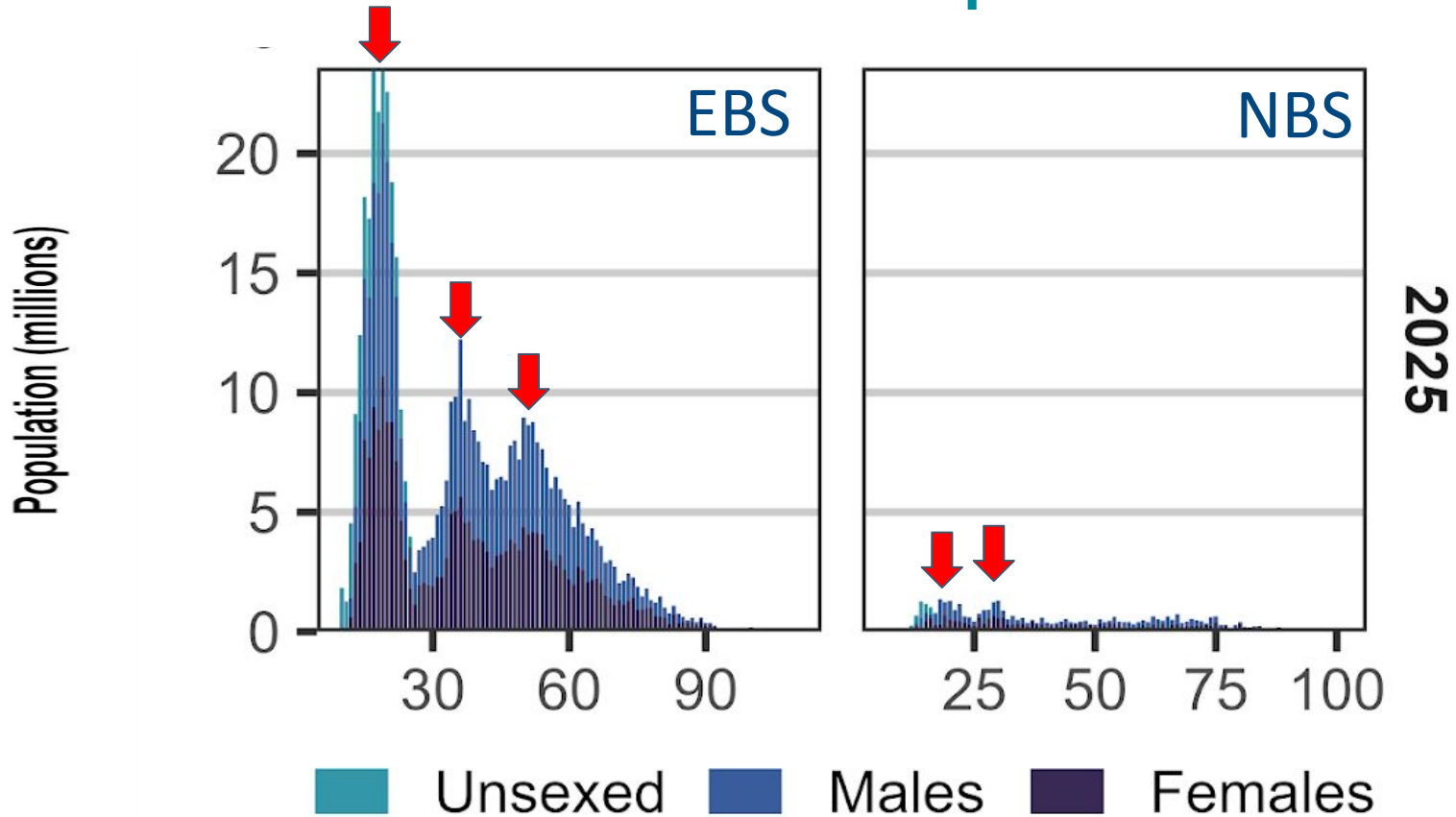


EBS Biomass
 Mean: 700 K
 2025: 570 K (-10%)

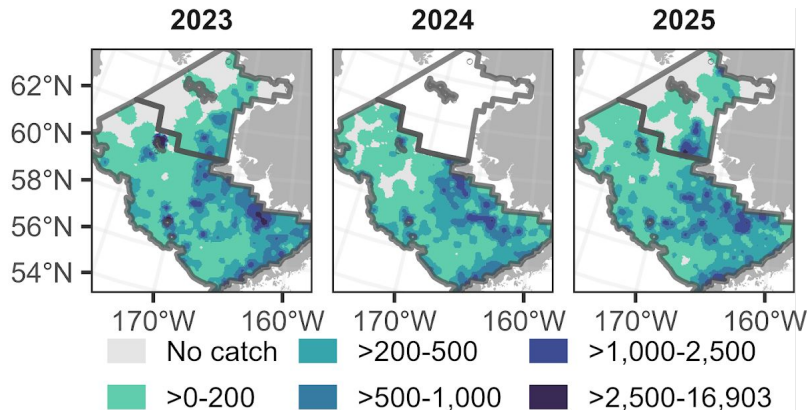
NBS Biomass
 2025: 69 K (-36%) from 2023



Pacific Cod Size Composition

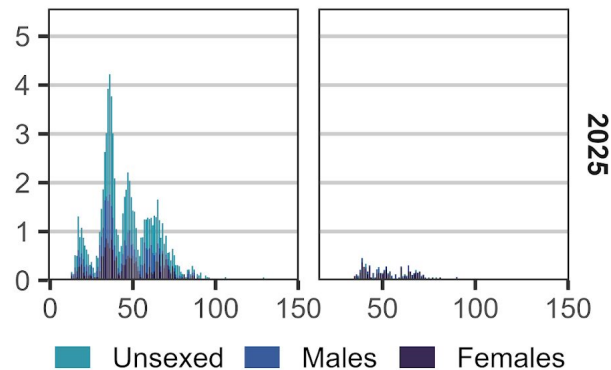
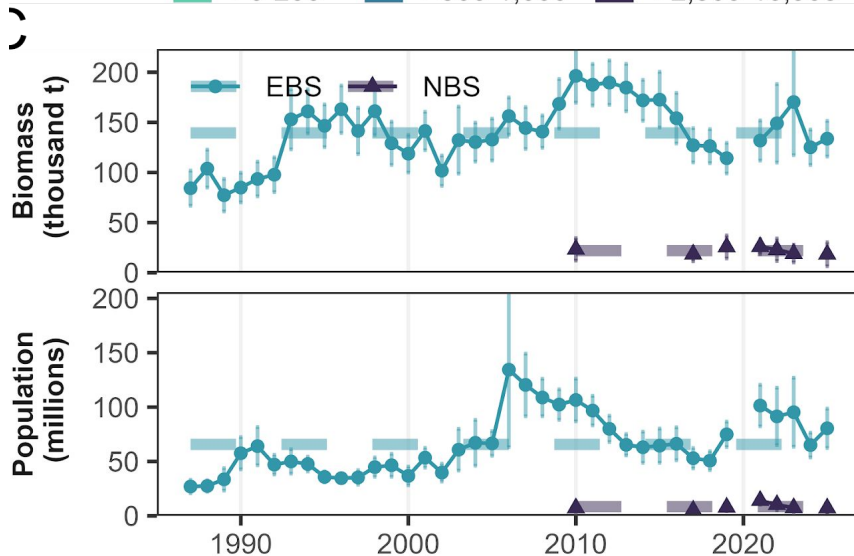


Pacific Halibut

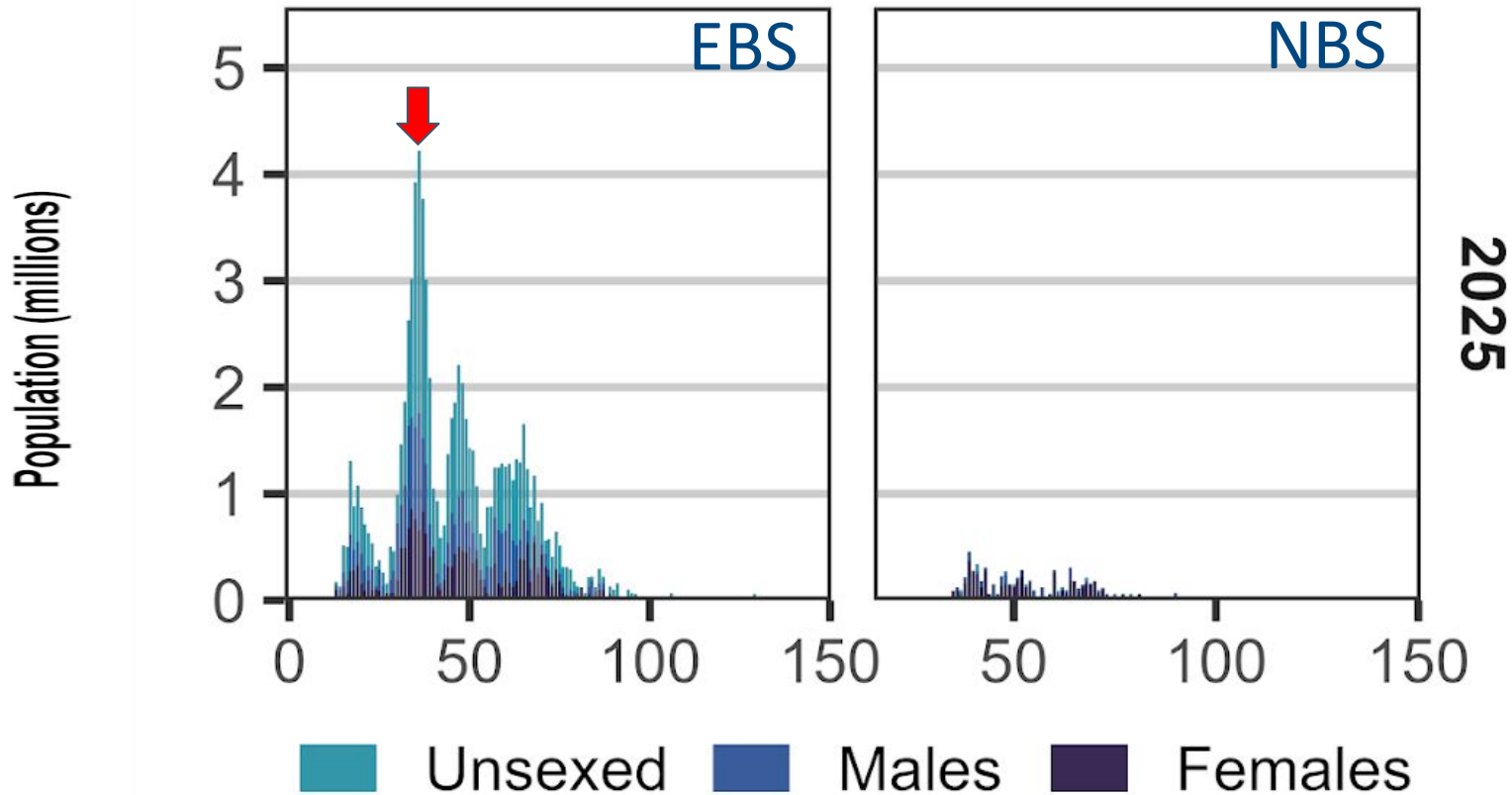


EBS Biomass
 Mean: 139.5 K
 2025: 134 K (+7%)

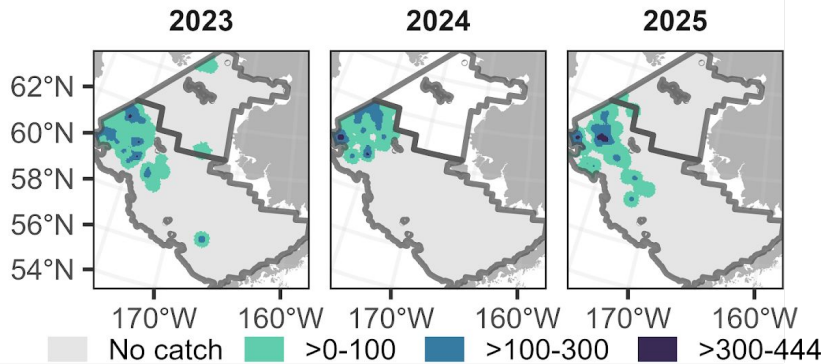
NBS Biomass
 2025: 18 K (-3%) from 2023



Pacific Halibut Size Composition



Greenland Turbot



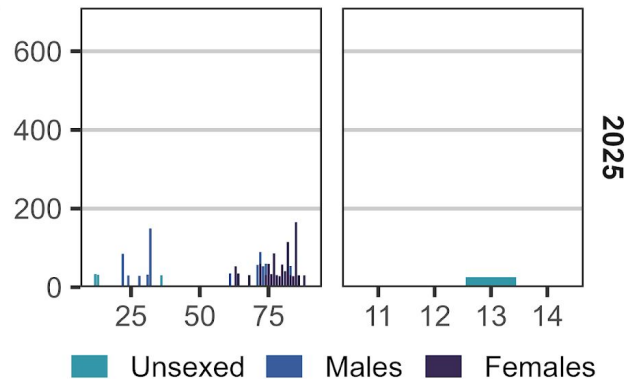
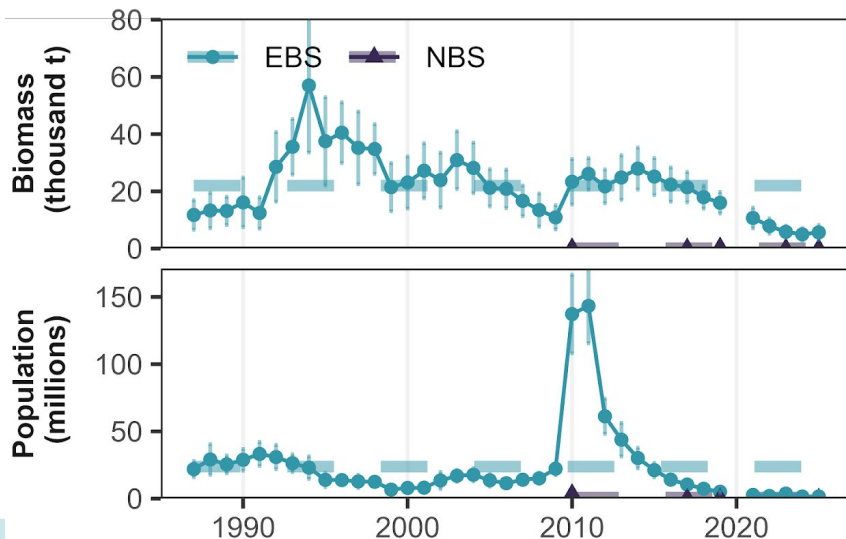
EBS Biomass

Mean: 22 K

2025: 5.7 K (+14%)

NBS Biomass

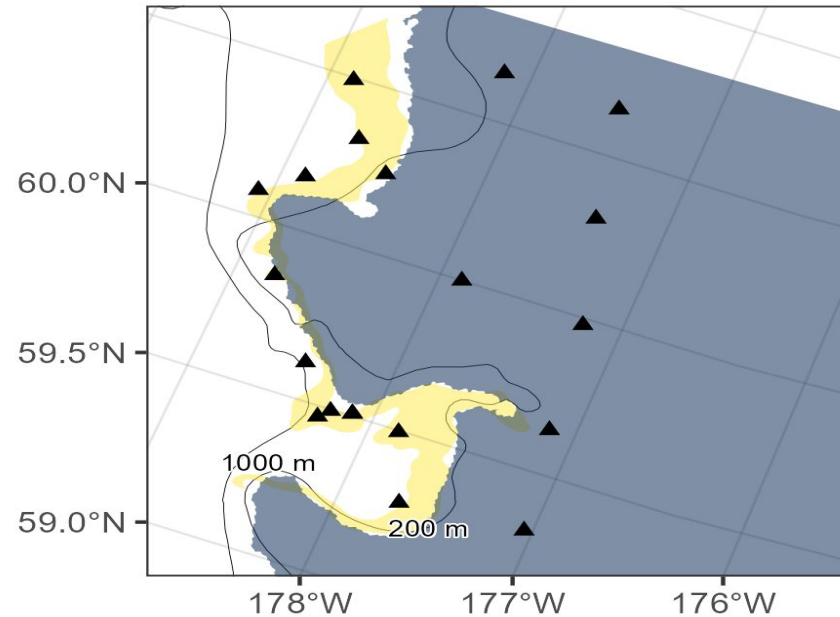
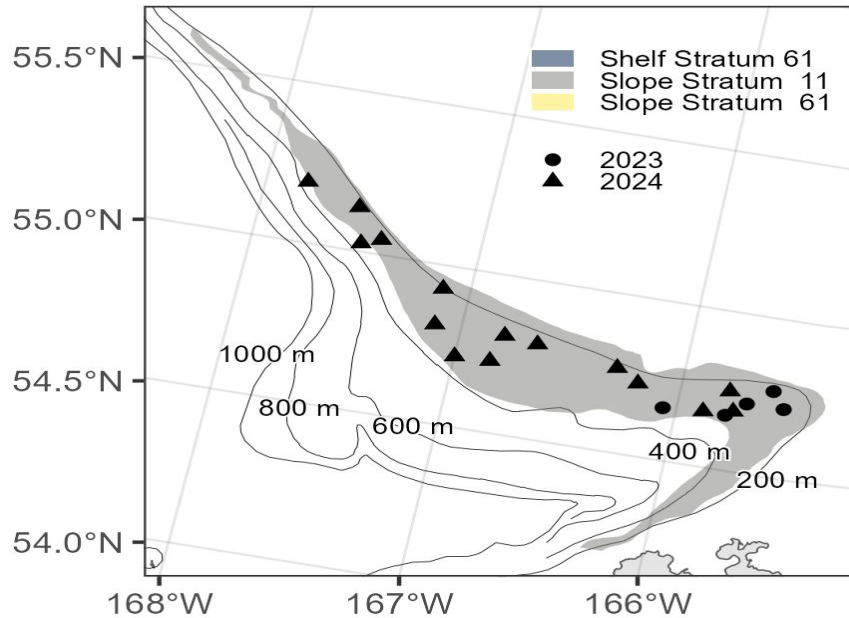
2025: >1 K (0%) from 2023



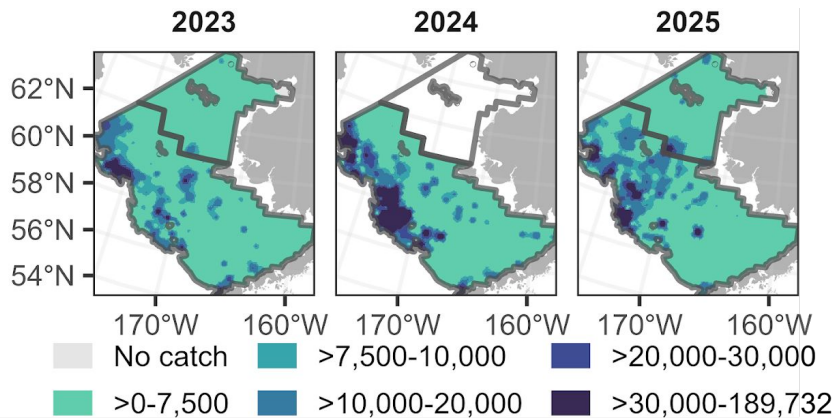
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Slope-shelf tow project 2024

- Completed 35 tow pairs in 2024 (5 in 2023)

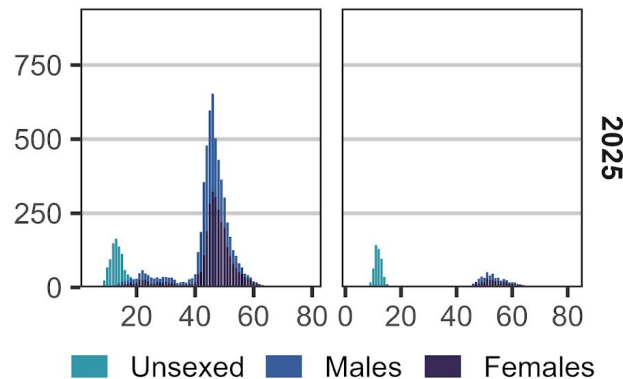
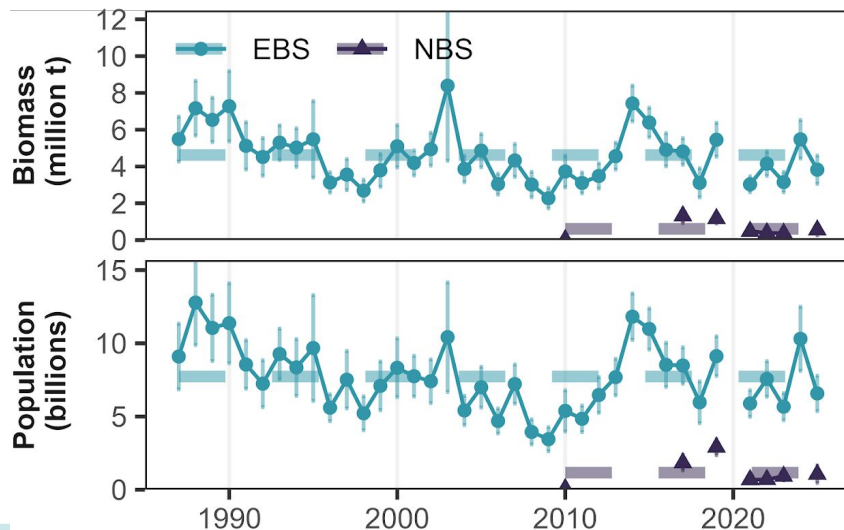


Walleye Pollock



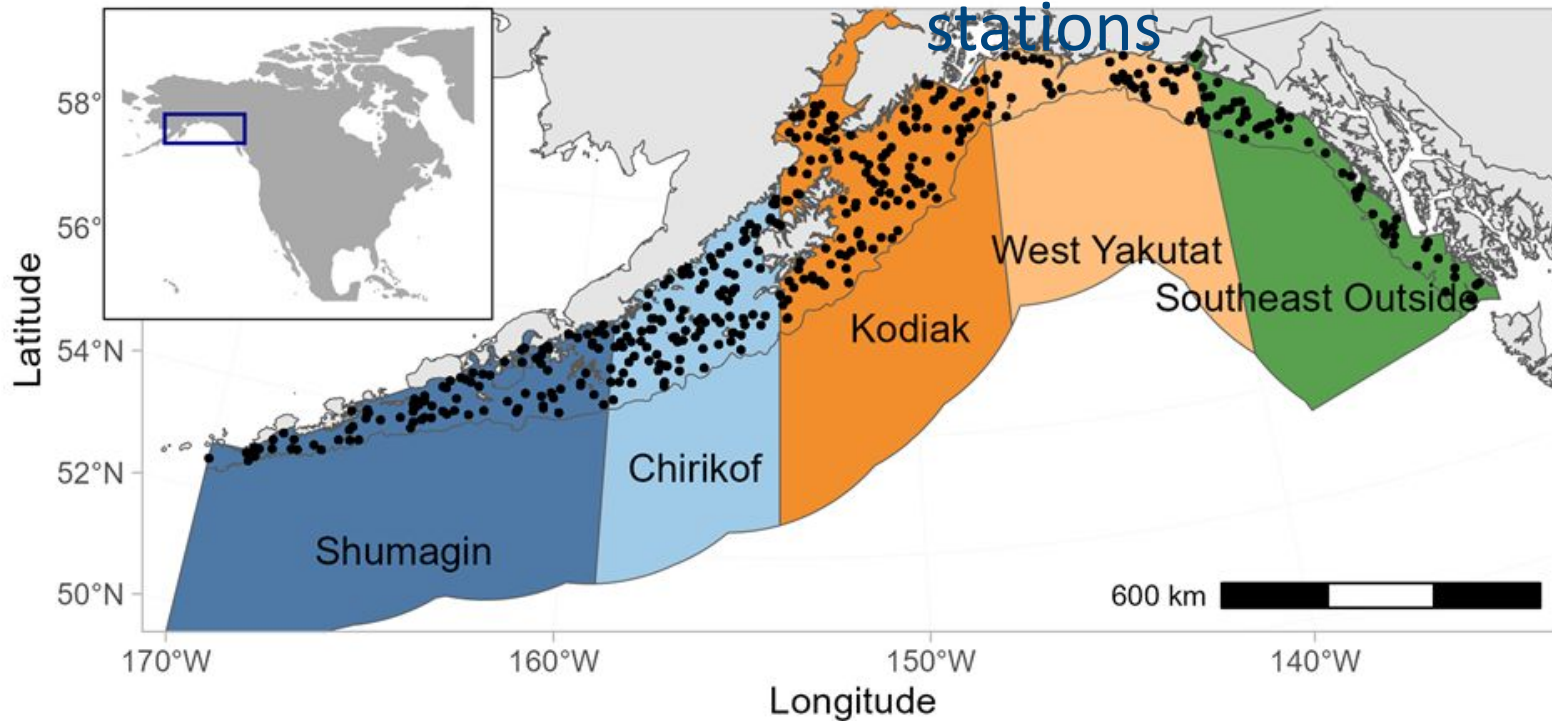
EBS Biomass
 Mean: 4.6 M
 2025: 3.8 M (-30%)

NBS Biomass
 2025: 547 K (+51%) from 2023



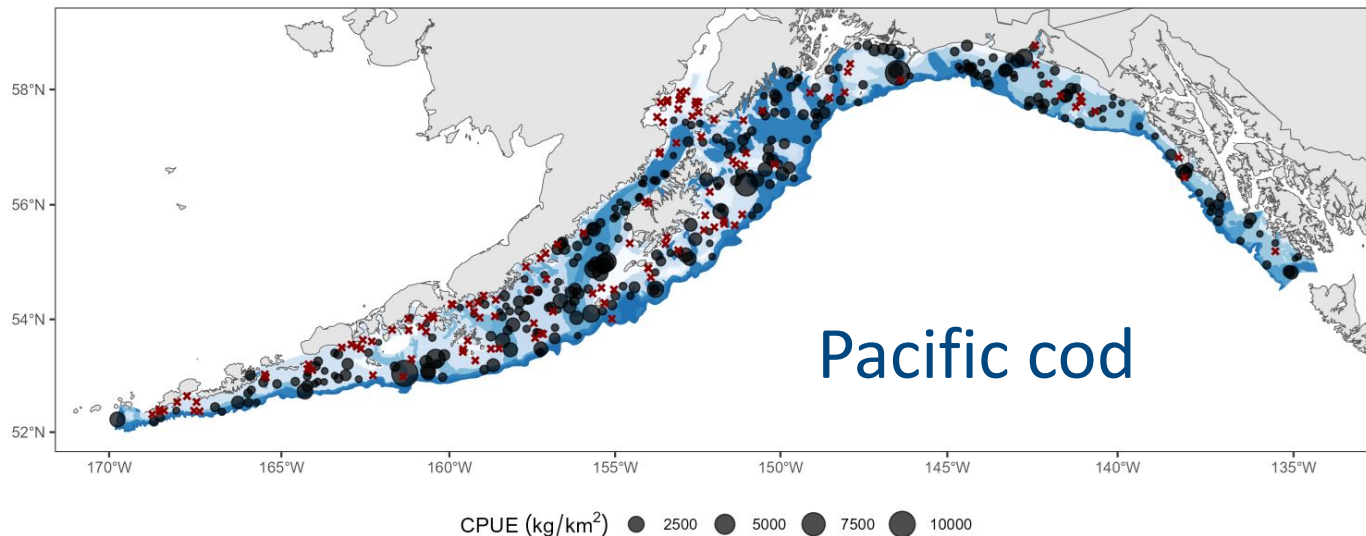
2025 Gulf of Alaska

431 of 450 planned
stations



Siple, M. C., Oyafuso, Z. S., Dowlin, Riggle, B. C., and A. N. In progress. Data Report: 2025 Gulf of Alaska bottom trawl survey. AFSC Processed Rep. 2025-XX, XXX p. Alaska Fish. Sci. Cent., NOAA, Natl. Mar. Fish. Serv., 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle WA 98115.

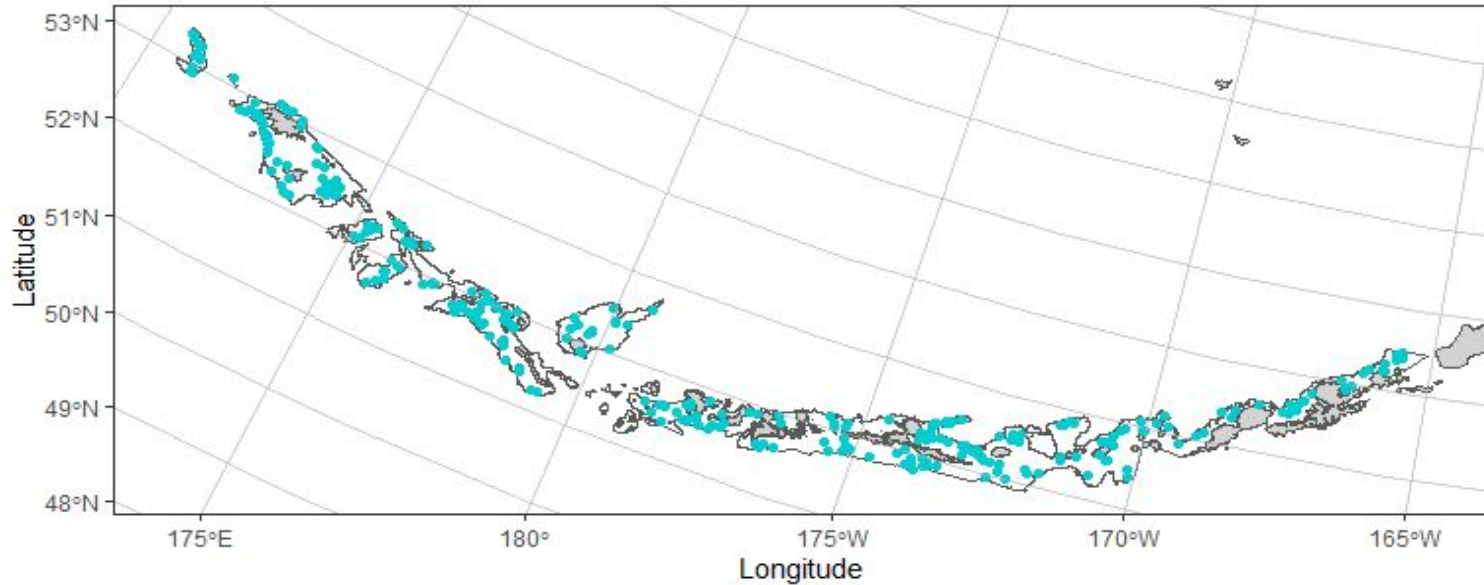
Gulf of Alaska 2025 Pacific cod



2025 % change
from 2023

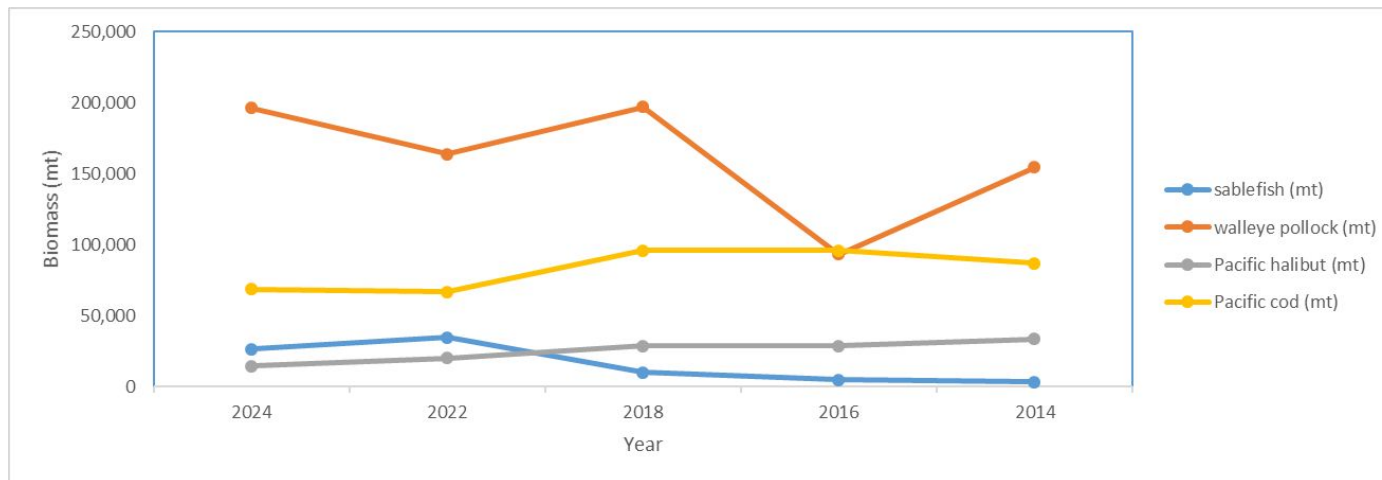
Pacific cod	~309,761 mt	+39.2
Walleye Pollock	~1.2 M mt	+32.1
Black cod	~152,655 mt	+21.3

2024 Aleutian Islands Survey



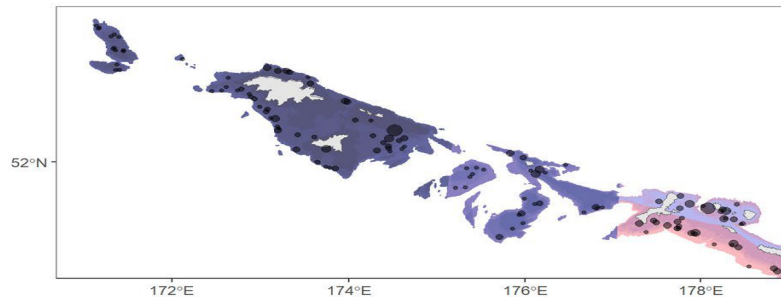
Aleutian Islands 2024 biomass

	2024	2022	2018	2016	2014	% Change (2024, 2022)
sablefish (mt)	26,433	34,436	10,075	4,882	3,325	-23.3
walleye pollock (mt)	196,440	163,806	197,182	93,117	154,484	19.8
Pacific halibut (mt)	14,437	19,988	28,564	28,534	33,379	-27.8
Pacific cod (mt)	68,482	66,907	95,905	95,735	86,791	2.3

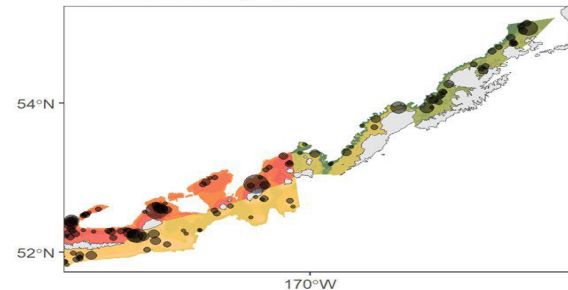


Aleutian Islands 2024 Pacific cod

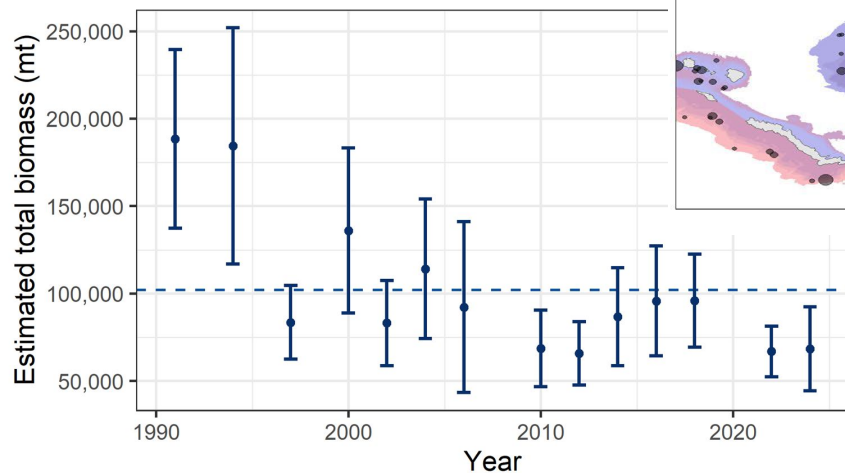
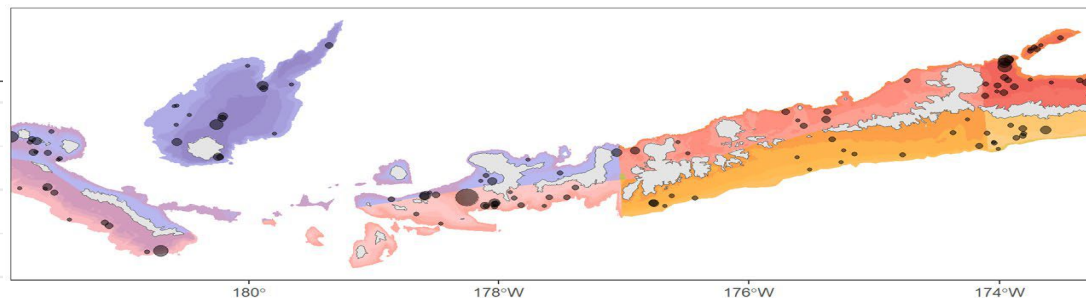
Pacific cod - Western Aleutians - 2024



Eastern Aleutians and Southern Bering Sea



Central Aleutians



AI Biomass
Mean: ~100 K mt
2024: 68.5 K mt (2.3%)

Additional Pacific cod survey projects

2024 & 2025

- Spatial variation in body condition of juvenile Pacific cod
- Visual maturity
- Fish condition (using liver)
- genetic collection (since 2017)

2026

- Repeat EBS survey starting May 26

F/V Alaska Knight

F/V Northwest Explorer

special project: comparison tows with the new net design (and doors/bridle configurations)

- Aleutian Islands Survey starting May 30/31

F/V Alaska Provider

F/V Ocean Explorer

- Full public access to our survey data:





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