

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC



HALIBUT COMMISSION

# IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) Design & Implementation in 2024

Agenda item: 4.2  
IPHC-2024-IM100-09  
T. Jack & K. Ualesi



# Primary Objective

- Standardised, fishery-independent data collection for the Pacific halibut stock (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) assessment and stock distribution estimation
  - Pacific halibut distribution and abundance trends
  - Collection of biological data (sex, maturity, and age)



# Standardisation

## GEAR

- Fixed & Snap Gear
- Each skate meets the following specifications:
  - 1800 ft (548.6 metres) with 100 hooks spaced 18 ft (5.5 metres) apart
  - No. 3 (16/0) circle hooks threaded through the front on 24-48 inch (61-122 cm) gangions
  - 7-10 lb (3-5 kg) weights on each non-anchored skate end

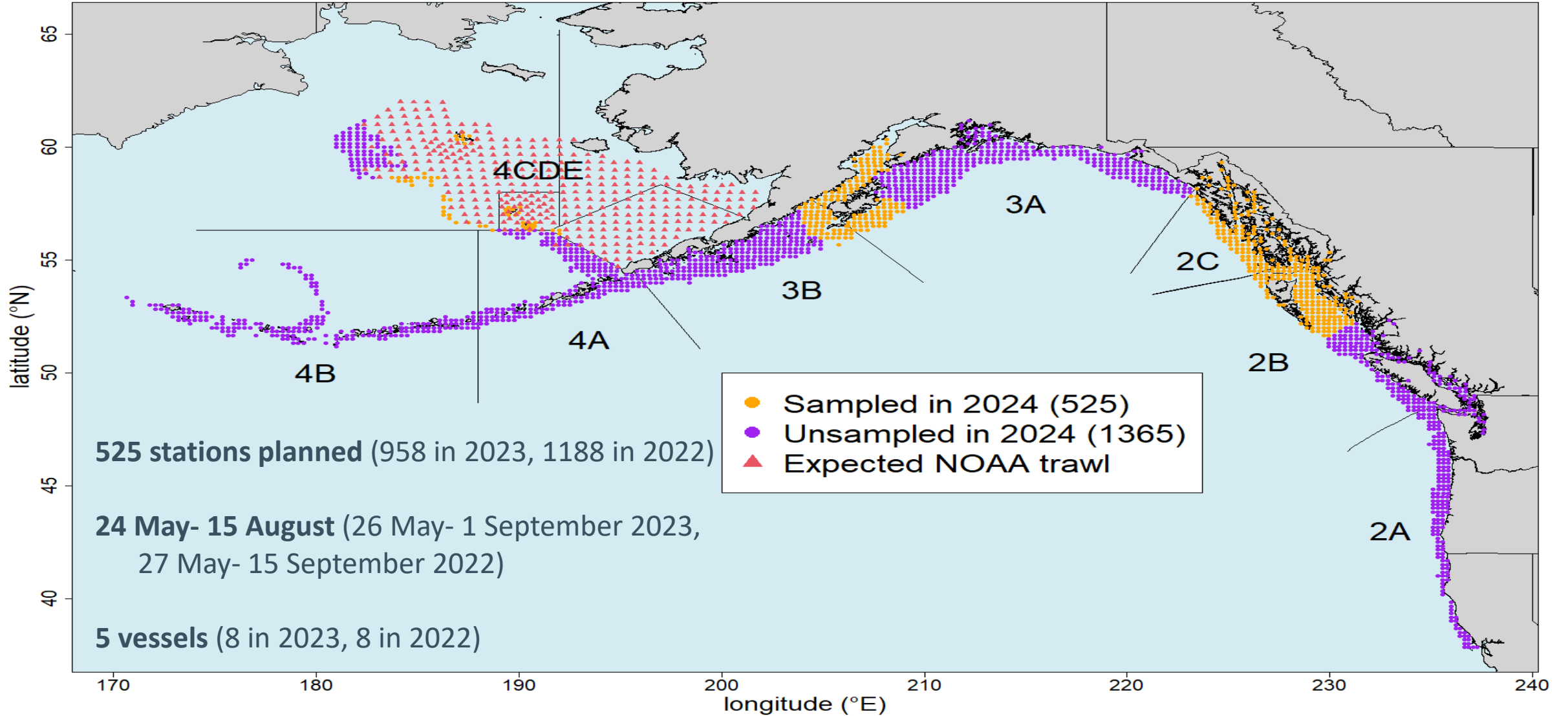


## BAIT

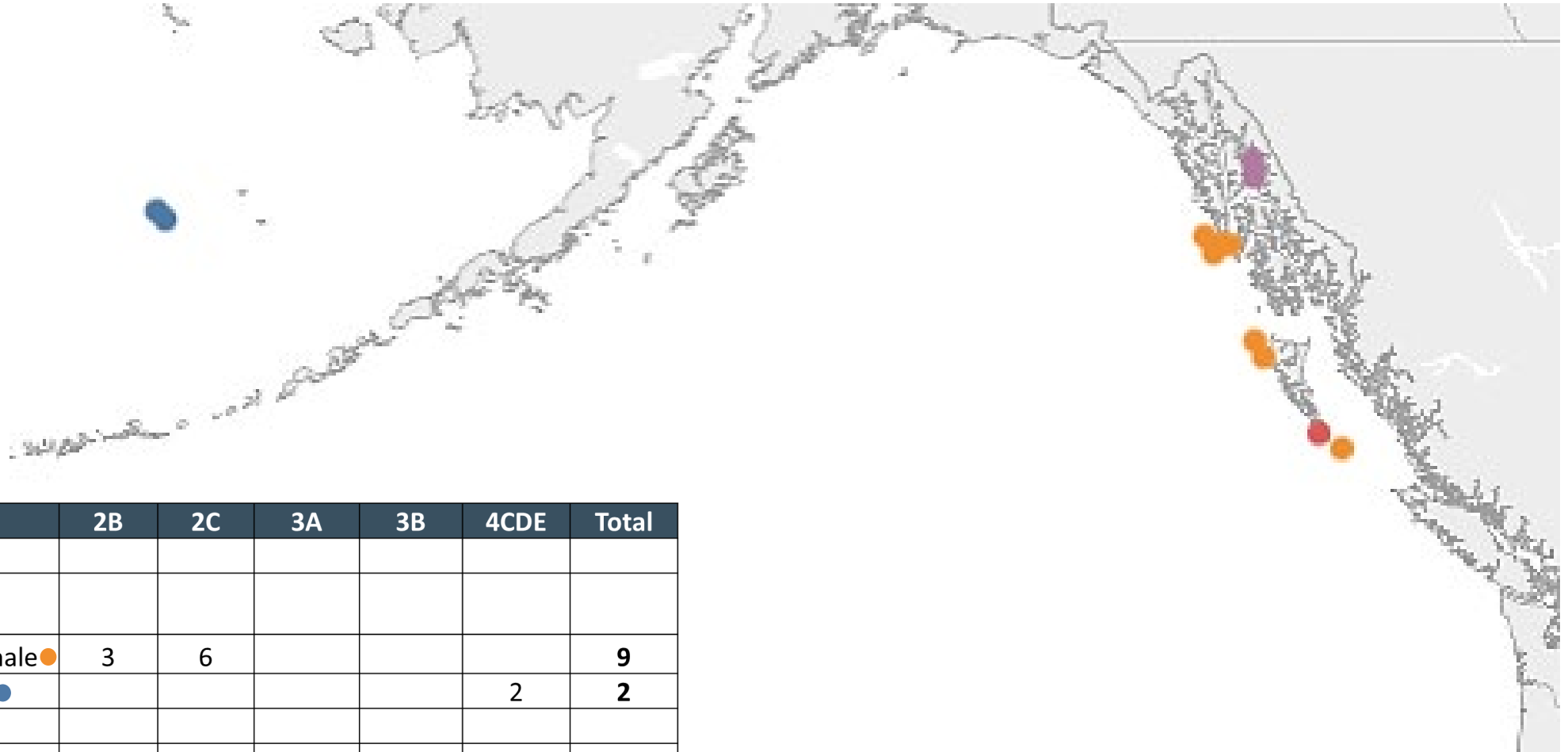
- Frozen chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) & pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)
- #2 semi-brite or better
- Cut 1/4 to 1/3 lb (1/10 to 1/6 kg)
- Captains sign off on bait quality



# 2024 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)



# Ineffective Stations in 2024

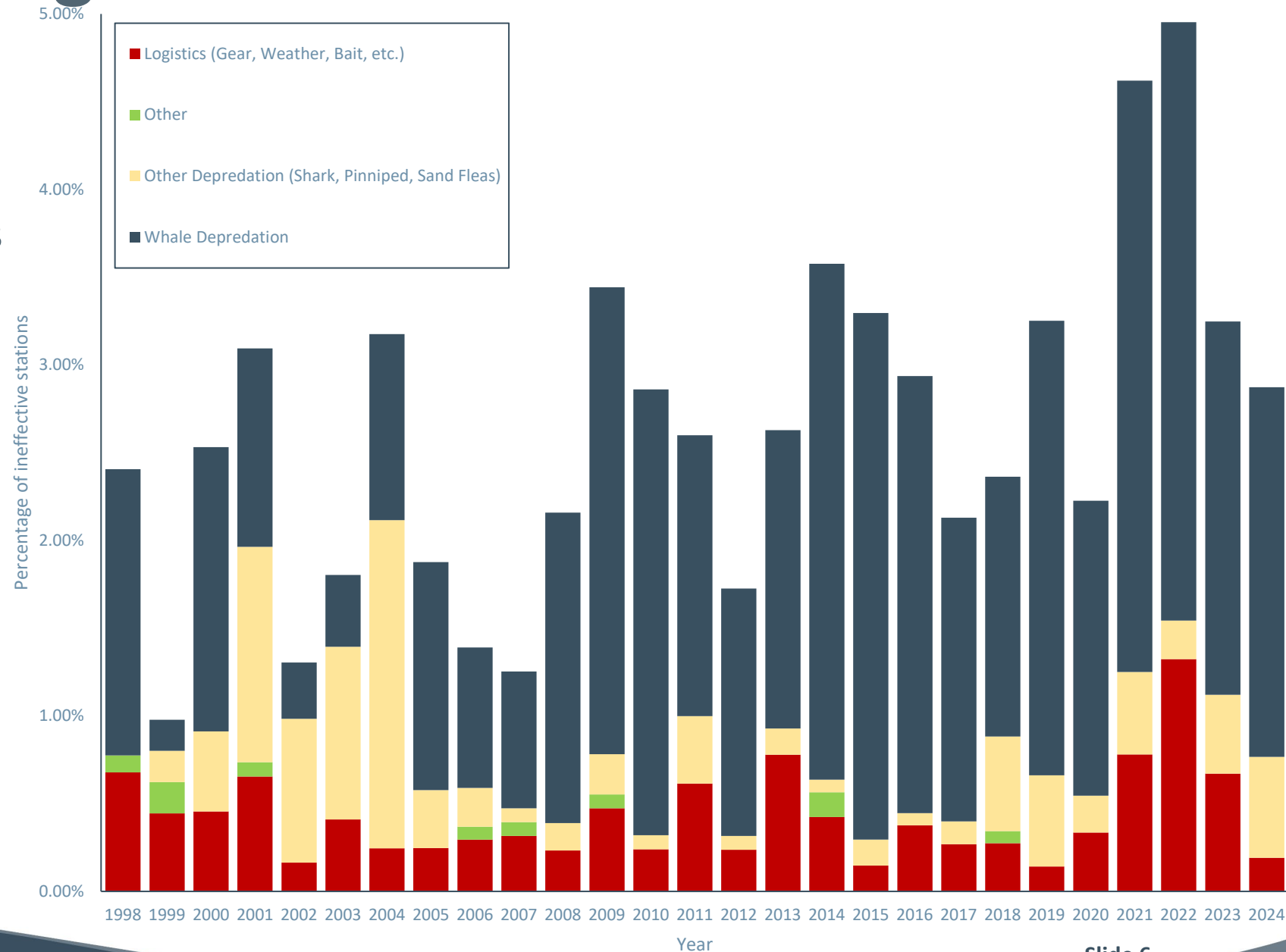


Description		2B	2C	3A	3B	4CDE	Total
Depredation: Shark							
Depredation: Whale							
	Sperm Whale ●	3	6				9
	Orca ●					2	2
Moved Station > 3nm							
Gear Issues ●		1					1
Soak Time > 24 hrs							
Sand Fleas ●			3				3
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>



# Percentage of Ineffective Stations

- Changes in the FISS design from year to year will influence the number of ineffective stations
- Reg. Area 4A has the highest percentage of ineffective stations and significantly impacts the whale depredation percentages in the years that this area is included in the FISS (not in 2020, 2023, or 2024).
- Sand fleas were more prevalent this year than in the past.
  - 3 stations in 2C deemed ineffective due to sand fleas.
  - Lots of sand fleas seen in 3A & 3B this past season as well, but their impacts did not meet criteria for stations to be deemed ineffective.



# Secondary Objective



- Long Term Revenue Neutrality
  - Fish Sale Process
    - RFT for each sale
    - Rated against specified criteria provided to all interested buyers on sales notice
    - Established controls for review and approval for each sale
    - Starting in 2023: Opened bids to multiple ports to increase options
  - Charter Agreements
    - RFTs
    - All submissions rated against specified criteria published in tender specifications



# Secondary Objective

- Sale of sampled U32 Pacific halibut
- Price is 19% less than O32 Pacific halibut average price





# Tertiary Objective

- Collaboration

- Pacific Cod & Spiny dogfish sampling (NOAA Fisheries)
- 2B: Dockside Rockfish sampling (DFO, Archipelago, PHMA) on hold for 2024
- WDFW: 8 Rockfish Index Stations & Dockside Rockfish Sampling on hold for 2024



# 2024 FISS Results

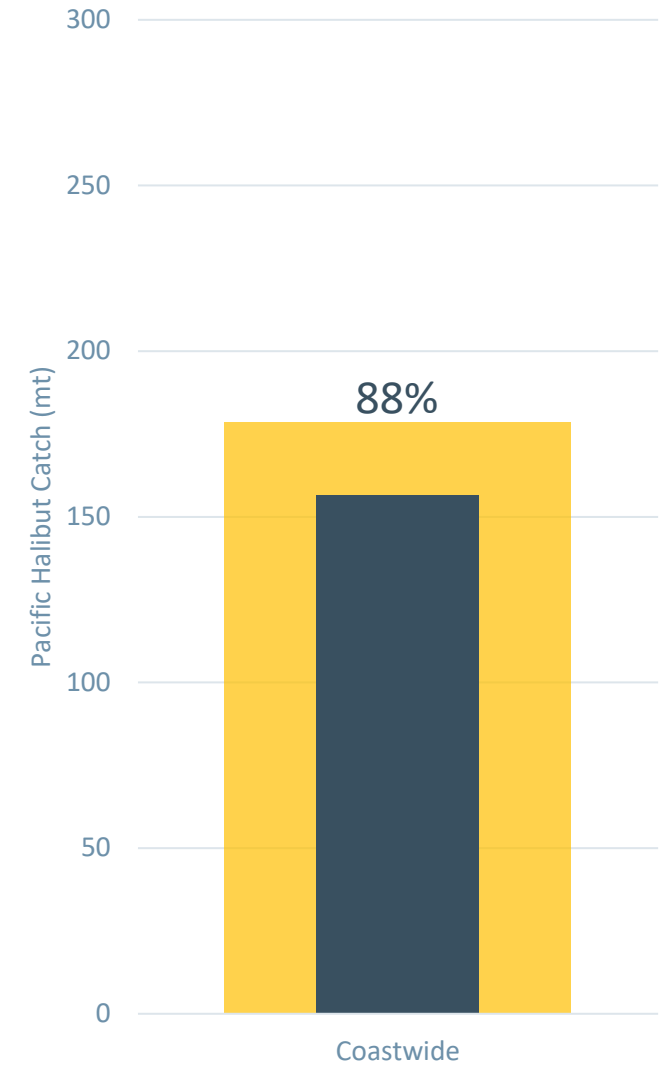
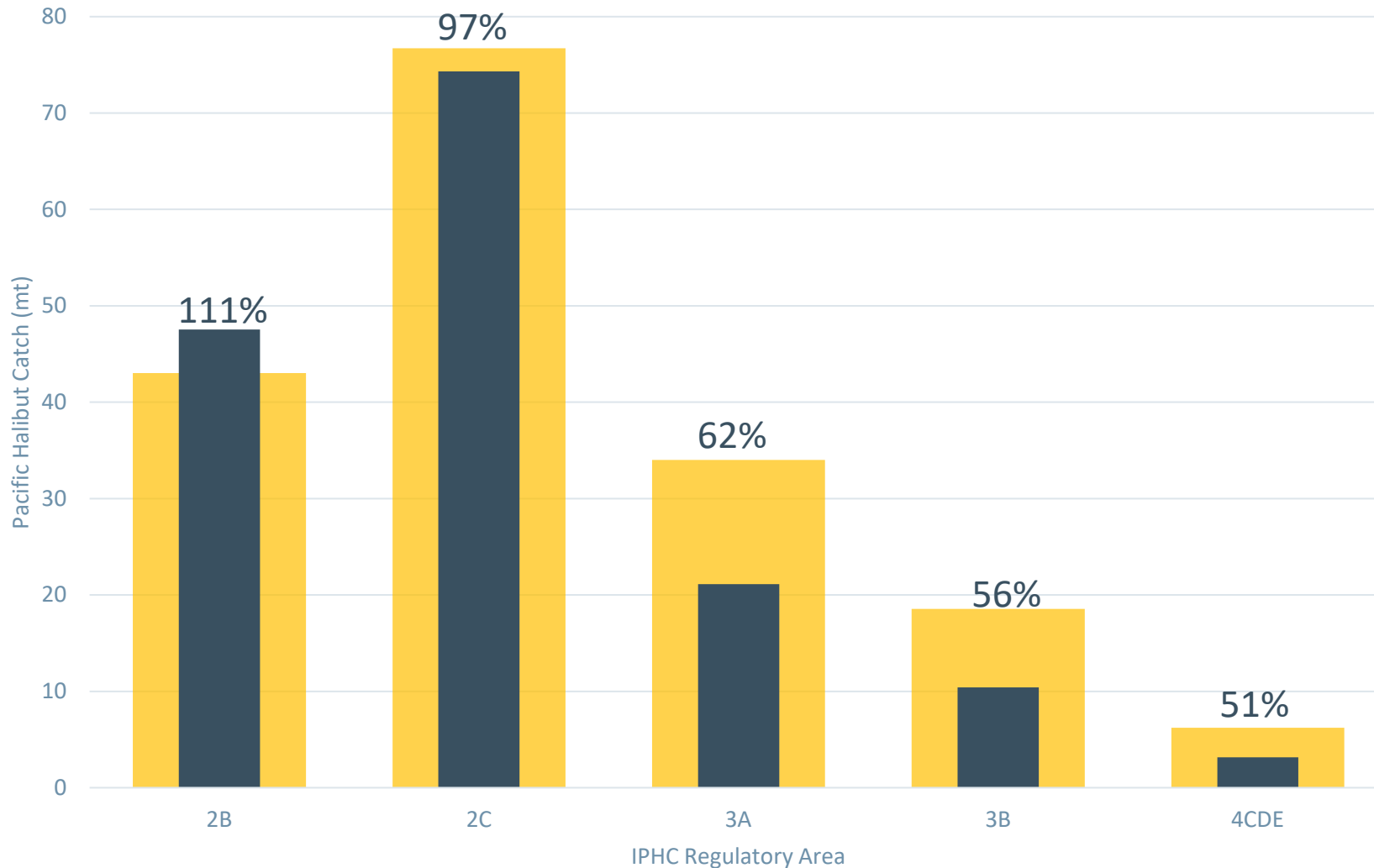
- [FISS Catch-Per-Unit-Effort \(CPUE\) data maps and plots](#)
- [FISS Performance](#)
- [FISS Biologicals](#)
- [Data set downloads](#)



# Estimated Catch vs Actual Catch by IPHC Reg Area

**NOTE:** Predicted catch in this case is strictly based on the last time each station was fished.

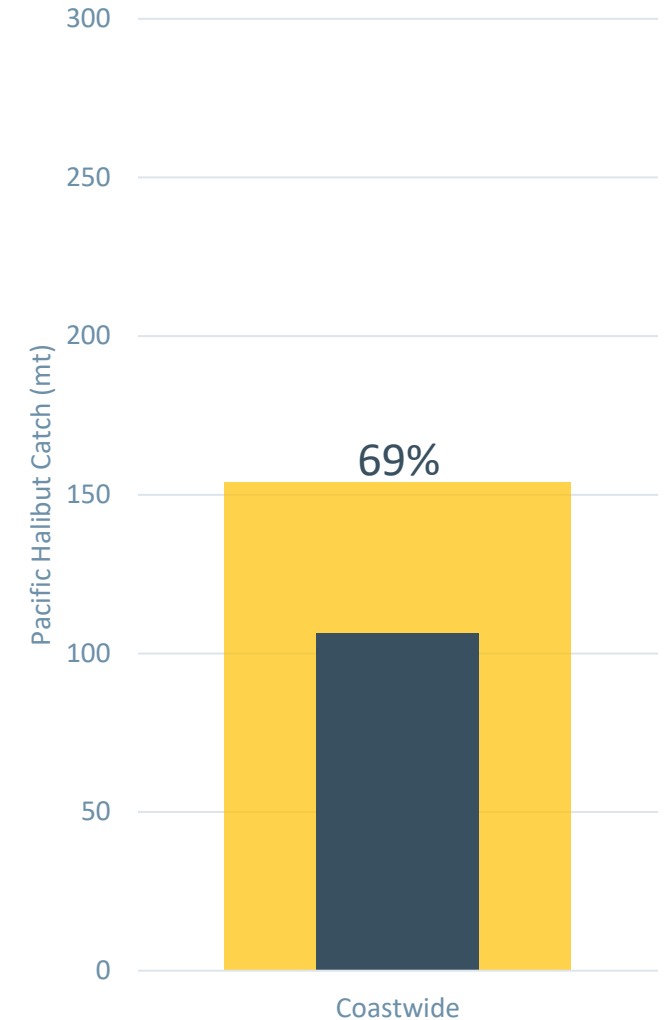
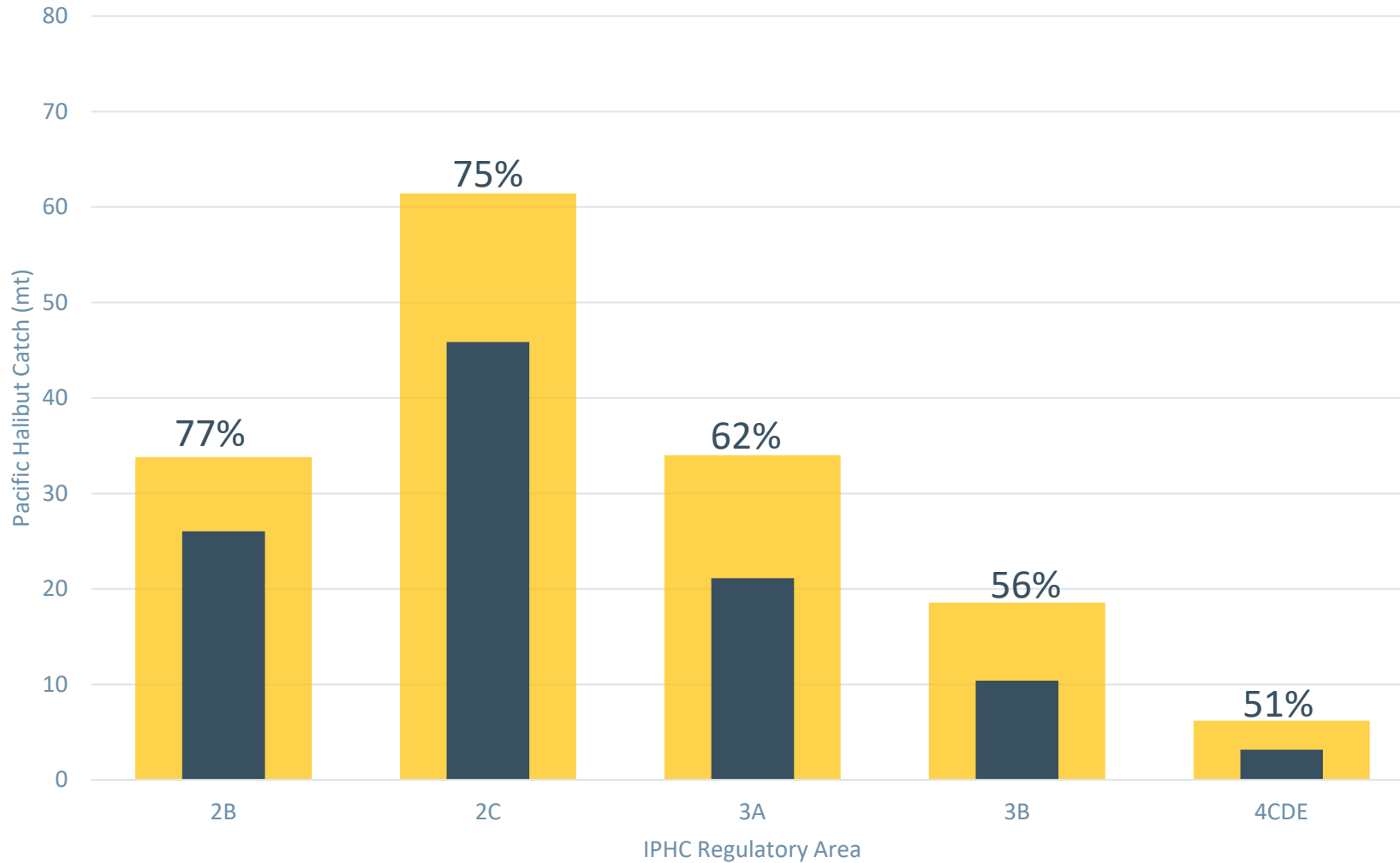
*These records include data from vessel captain stations in 2C & 2B.*



# Estimated Catch vs Actual Catch by IPHC Reg Area

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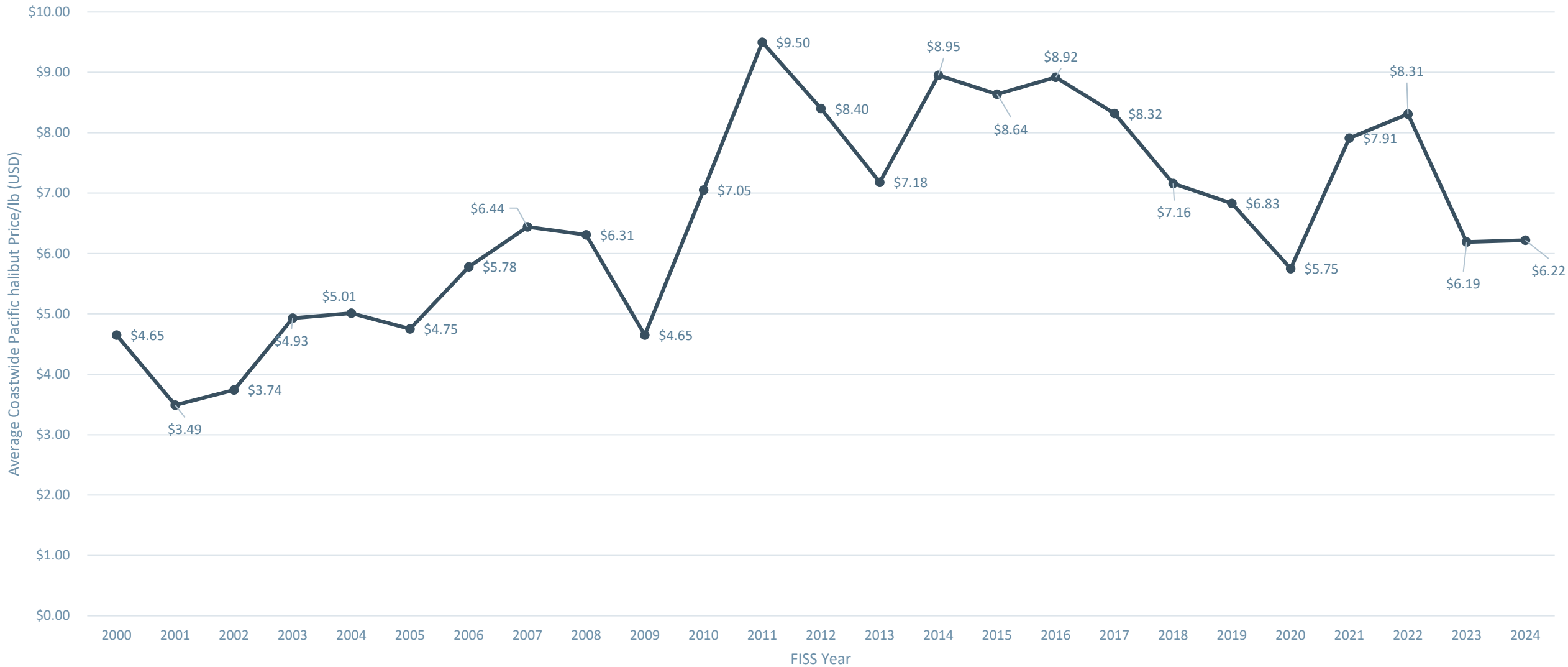
# Average Price/lb (USD) by IPHC Reg Area

IPHC Regulatory Area	FISS 2024 Average price/lb (USD)	FISS 2023 Average price/lb (USD)
2A	-	\$4.93
2B	\$7.26	\$8.03
2C	\$5.96	\$6.23
3A	\$5.56	\$5.63
3B	\$5.45	\$4.94
4A	-	-
4B	-	-
4CDE	\$3.09	-
Coastwide	\$6.22	\$6.19

\*2023 prices adjusted for inflation



# Average Price/lb (USD) Over Time (2000-2024)



# Pacific halibut sales (USD) by IPHC Reg. Area

IPHC Regulatory Area	FISS 2024 Pacific halibut sales value (USD)	FISS 2023 Pacific halibut sales value (USD)
2A	-	\$57,535.42
2B	\$758,469.97	\$1,026,328.17
2C	\$947,238.83	\$948,079.18
3A	\$259,281.05	\$416,710.66
3B	\$114,080.36	\$724,408.07
4A	-	-
4B	-	-
4CDE	\$20,652.13	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,099,722.34</b>	<b>\$3,173,061.50</b>

\*2023 sales adjusted for inflation



# 2024 FISS Highlights

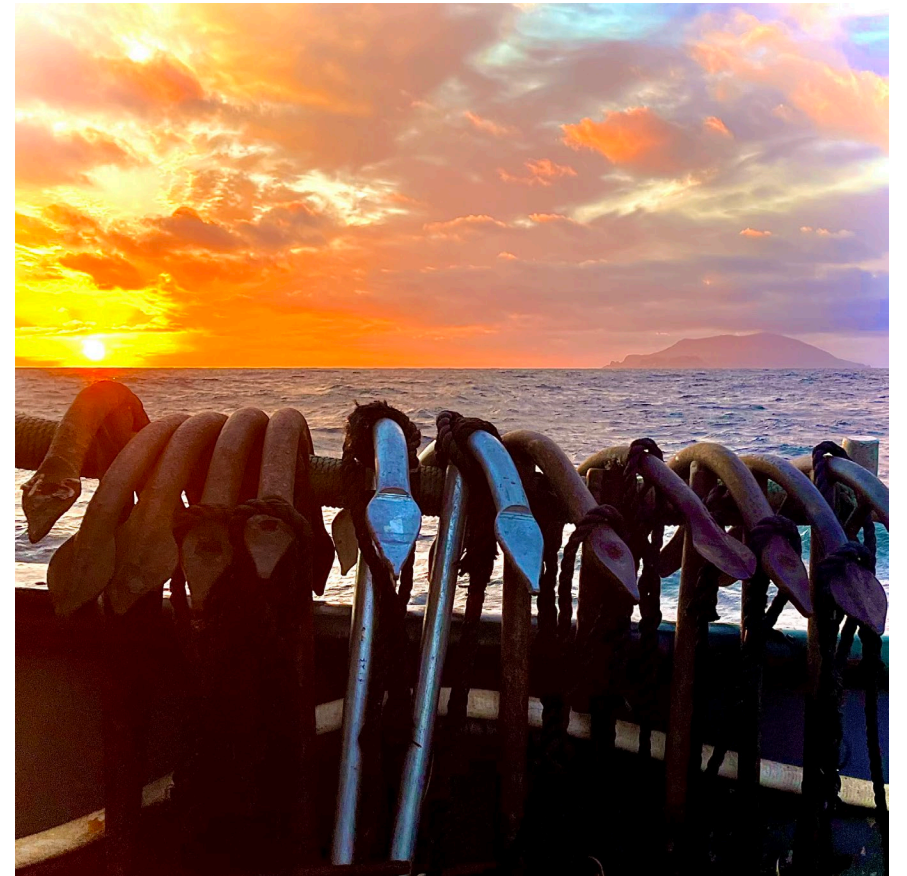
- FV Kema Sue completed 169 stations (Albatross, Shelikof & Trinity) and had zero stations deemed ineffective (3A & 3B)
- Low percentage of ineffective stations (2.87%, compared to 3.25% in 2023 & 4.96% in 2022)
- 525 stations planned, 15 stations deemed ineffective, 3 stations unable to be fished due to location in protected area
  - 507 stations completed effectively



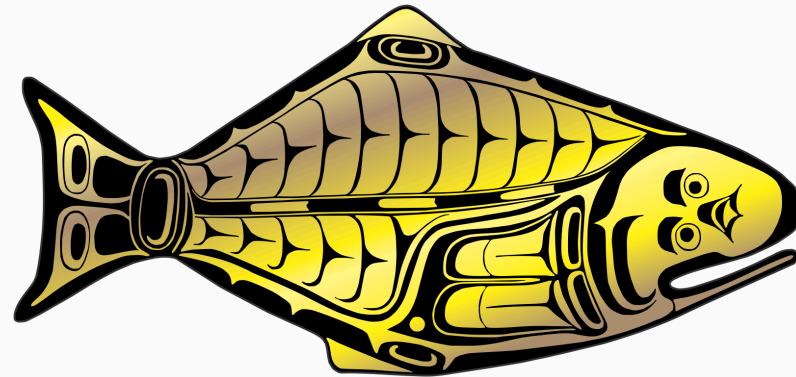


# 2024 FISS Challenges

- Poor catch rates in all regulatory areas (excluding vessel captain stations)
- Subpar prices for another year
  - While overall coastwide average price is slightly higher than in 2023 (\$6.22 vs. \$6.19), pricing in higher catch areas was still lower than last year (2B & 2C)



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