

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC



HALIBUT COMMISSION

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

Agenda item: 4.2
IPHC-2024-AM101-09
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

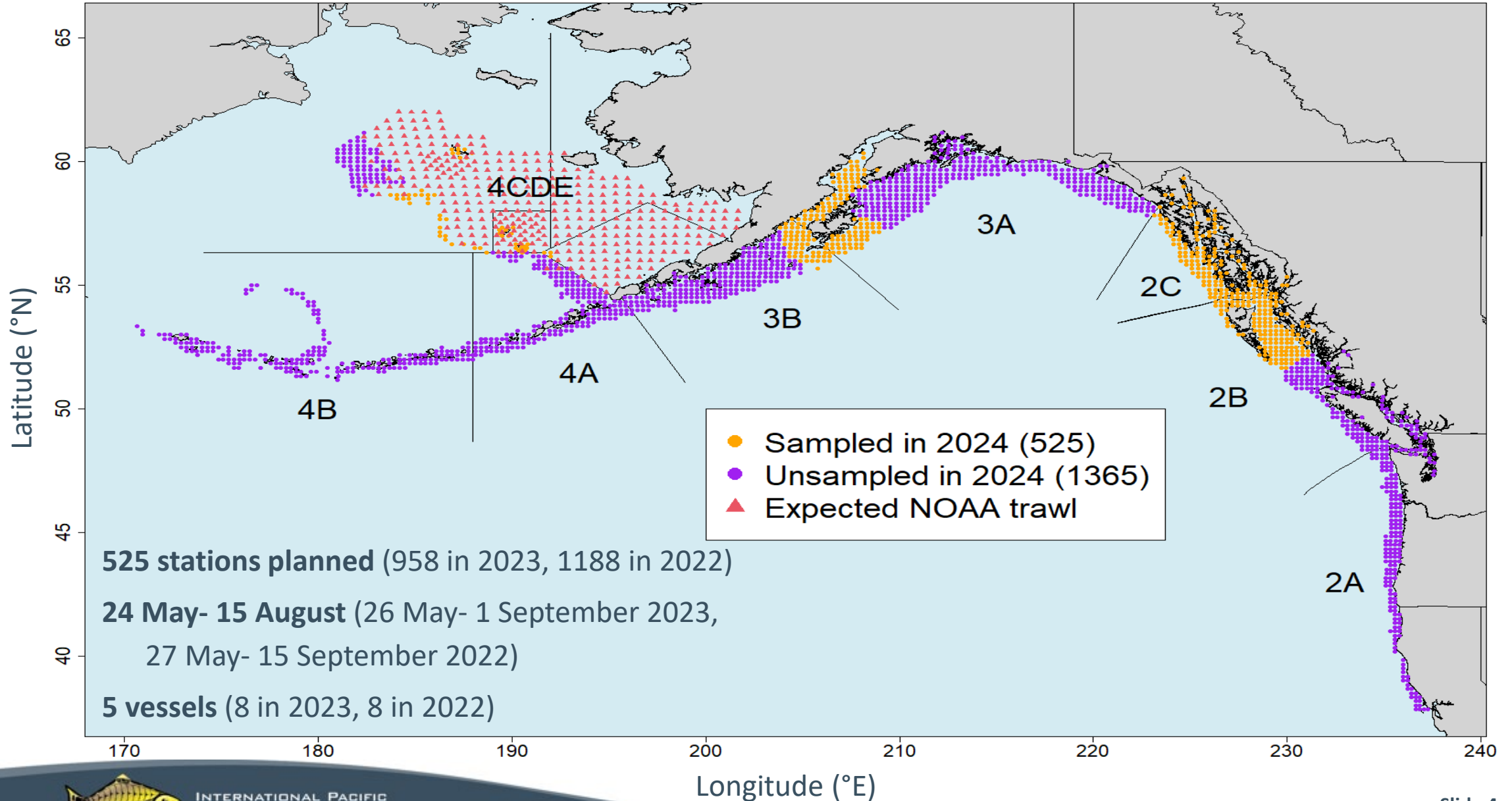


BAIT

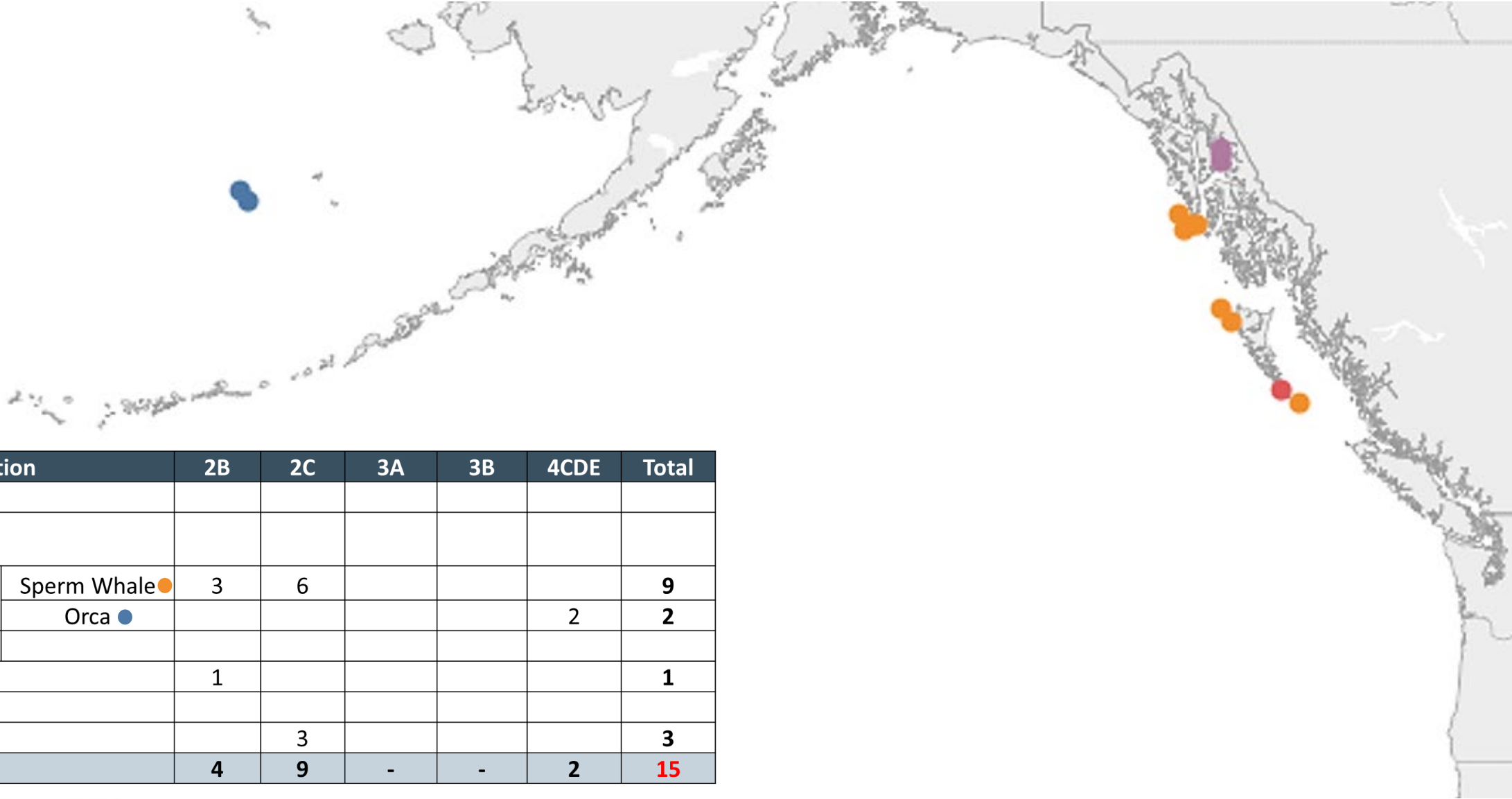
- Frozen chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) & pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)
- #2 semi-brite or better
- Cut 1/4 to 1/3 lb (1/10 to 1/6 kg)
- Captains sign off on bait quality



2024 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)



Ineffective Stations in 2024

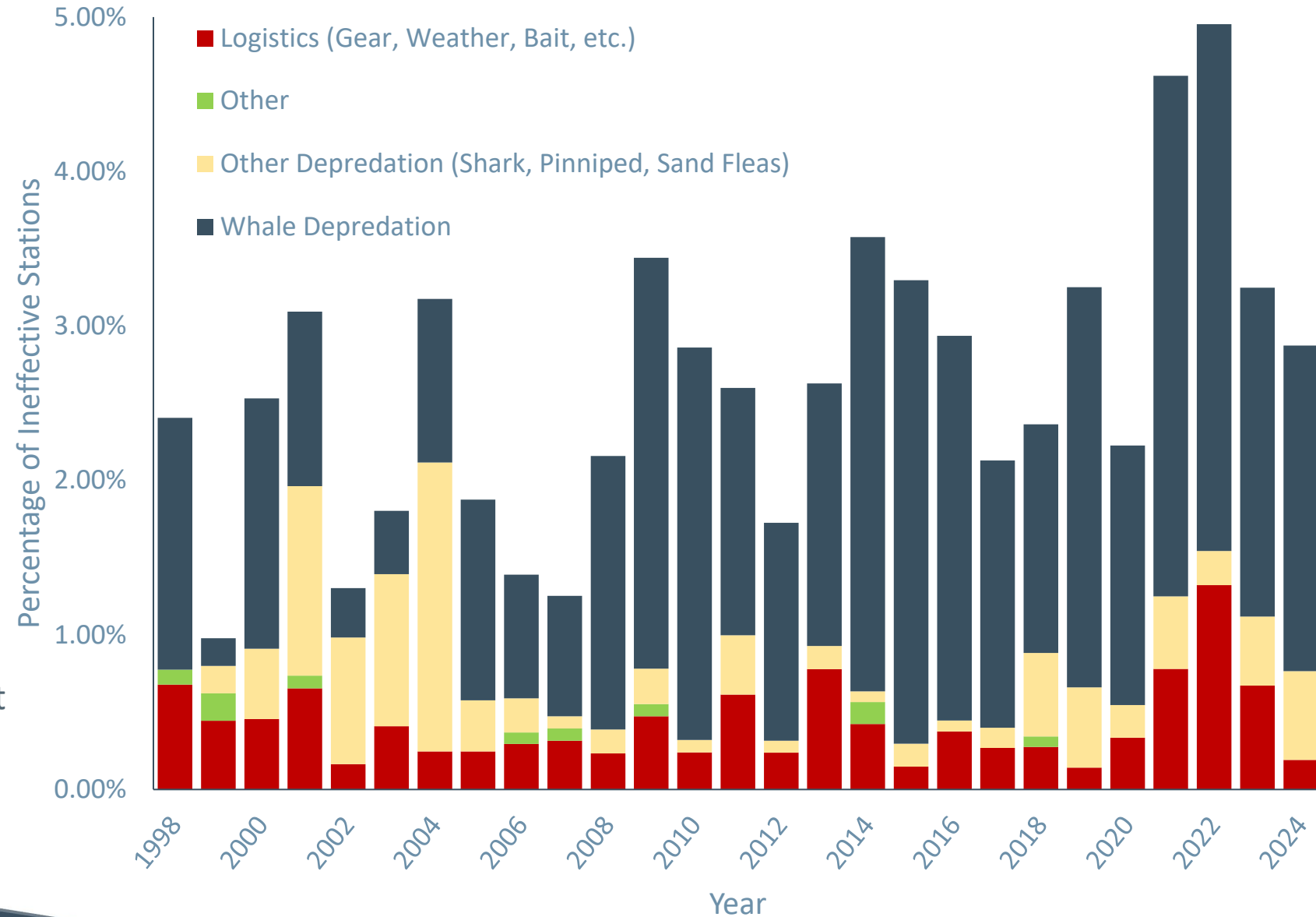


Description		2B	2C	3A	3B	4CDE	Total
Depredation: Shark							
Depredation: Whale							
	Sperm Whale ●	3	6				9
	Orca ●					2	2
Moved Station > 3nm							
Gear Issues ●		1					1
Soak Time > 24 hrs							
Sand Fleas ●			3				3
Total		4	9	-	-	2	15



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. This drives up whale depredation when included in the FISS (last included in 2021, 2022)
- Sand fleas were more prevalent this year than in the past
 - 3 stations in 2C deemed ineffective due to sand fleas.
 - 3A & 3B: Increased sand flea presence, but impacts did not meet the criteria for ineffective stations.



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

- Scientific Collaboration

- Pacific Cod & Spiny dogfish sampling (NOAA Fisheries)
- WDFW: 8 Rockfish Index Stations & Dockside Rockfish Sampling on hold for 2024



2024 FISS Results

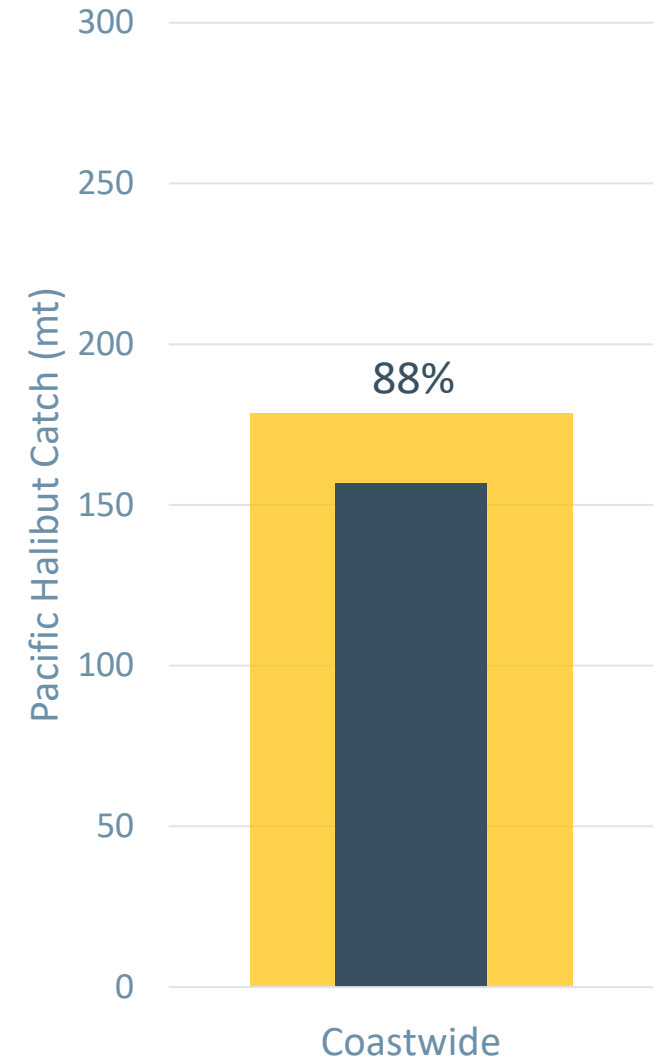
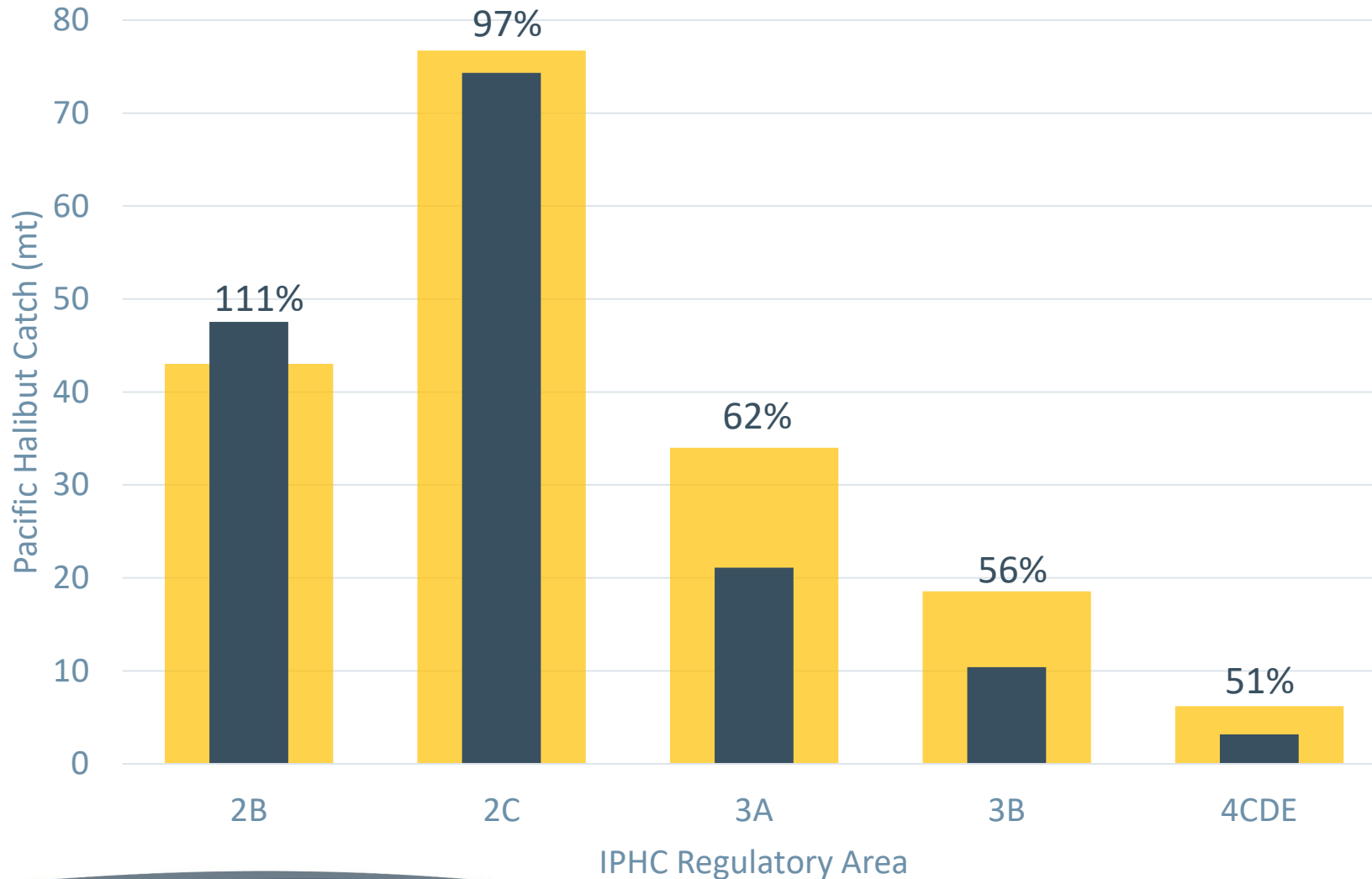
- IPHC website links:
 - [FISS Catch-Per-Unit-Effort \(CPUE\) data maps and plots](#)
 - [FISS Performance](#)
 - [FISS Biologicals](#)
 - [Data set downloads](#)



Previous Catch vs Actual Catch by IPHC Reg Area

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

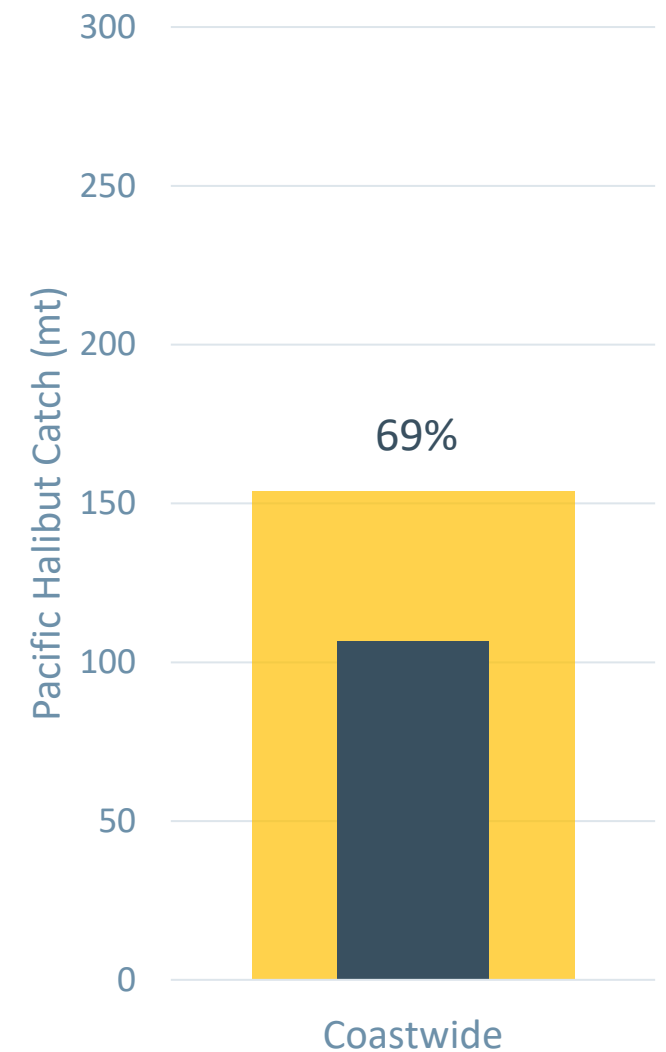
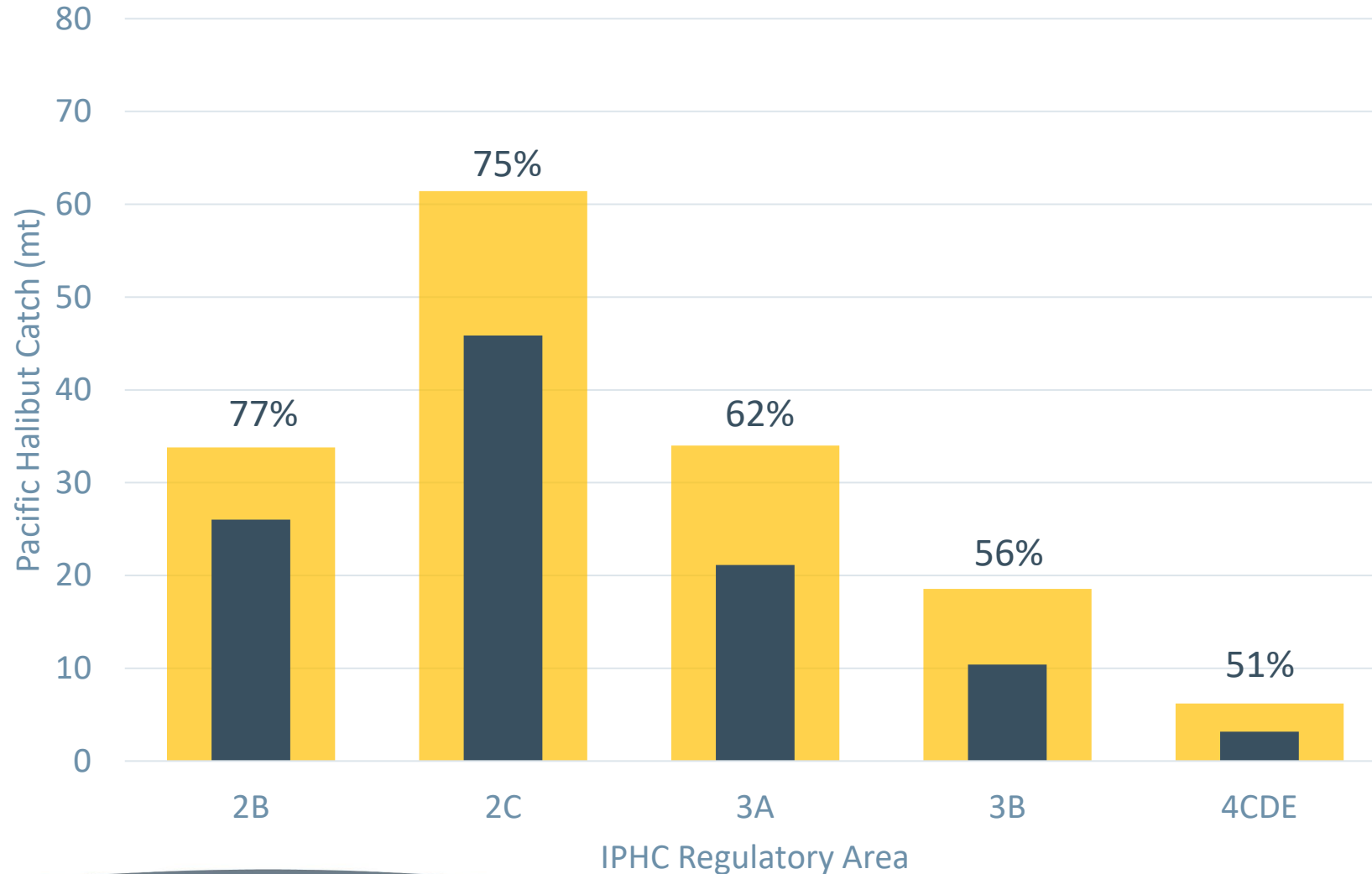
These records include data from vessel captain stations in 2C & 2B.



Previous Catch vs Actual Catch by IPHC Reg Area

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

These records **DO NOT** include data from vessel captain stations in 2C & 2B.



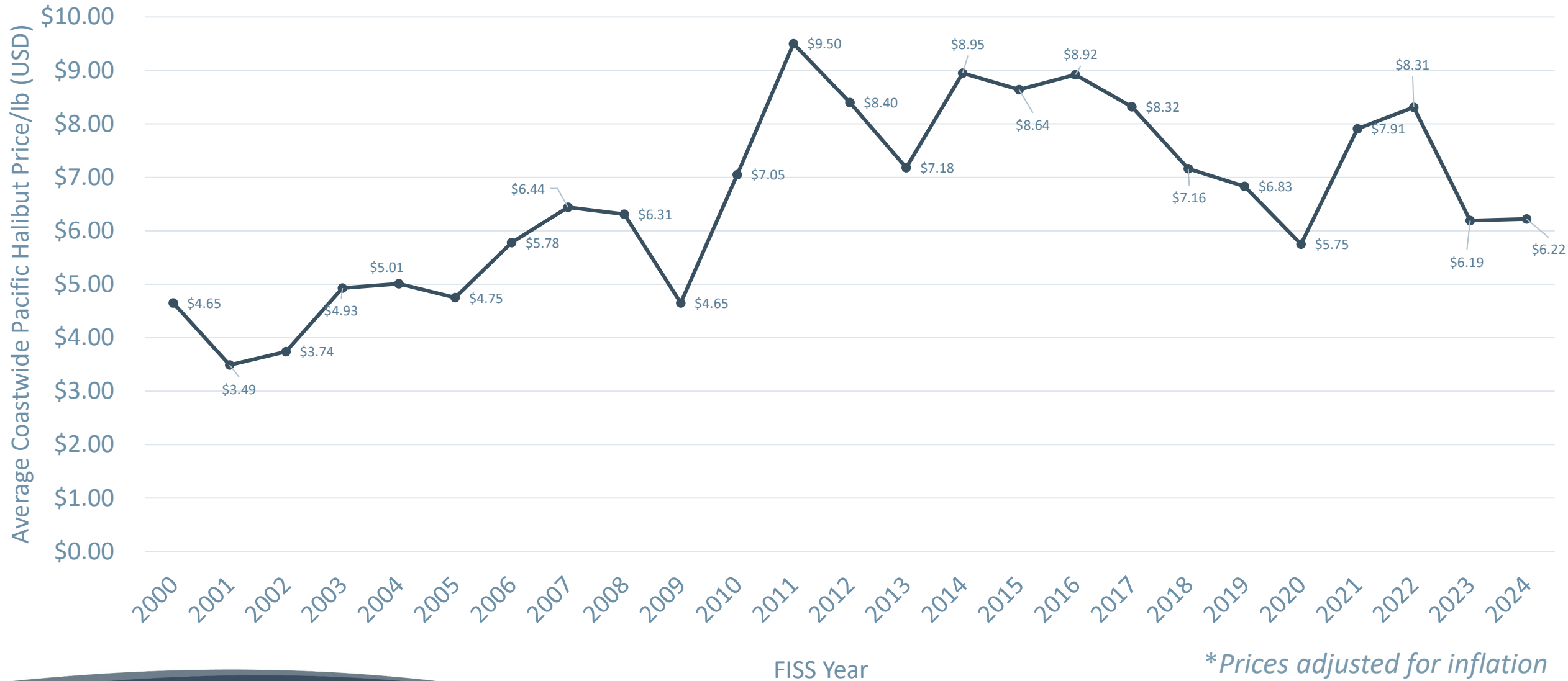
Average Price/lb (USD) by IPHC Reg Area

IPHC Regulatory Area	FISS 2024 Average price/lb (USD)	FISS 2023 Average price/lb (USD)
2A	-	\$4.81
2B	\$7.26	\$7.83
2C	\$5.96	\$6.07
3A	\$5.56	\$5.49
3B	\$5.45	\$4.82
4A	-	-
4B	-	-
4CDE	\$3.09	-
Coastwide	\$6.22	\$6.04

**Prices reflect nominal values and are not 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	-	\$56,102.01
2B	\$758,469.97	\$1,000,758.77
2C	\$947,238.83	\$924,459.23
3A	\$259,281.05	\$406,328.95
3B	\$114,080.36	\$706,360.55
4A	-	-
4B	-	-
4CDE	\$20,652.13	-
TOTAL	\$2,099,722.34	\$3,094,009.51

**Totals reflect nominal values and are not adjusted for inflation*



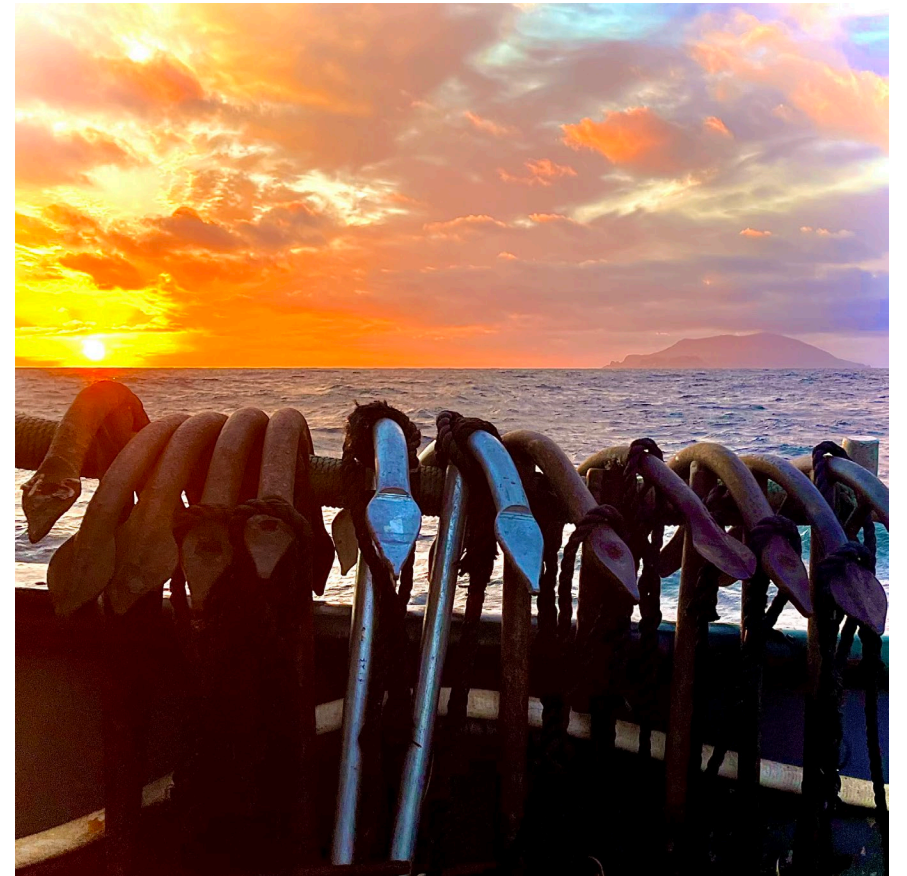
2024 FISS Highlights

- 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

- Low catch in all regulatory areas (excluding vessel captain stations)
- Variable pricing in 2024
 - While overall coastwide average price is higher than in 2023 (\$6.22 vs. \$6.04), pricing in higher catch areas was still lower than last year (2B & 2C)

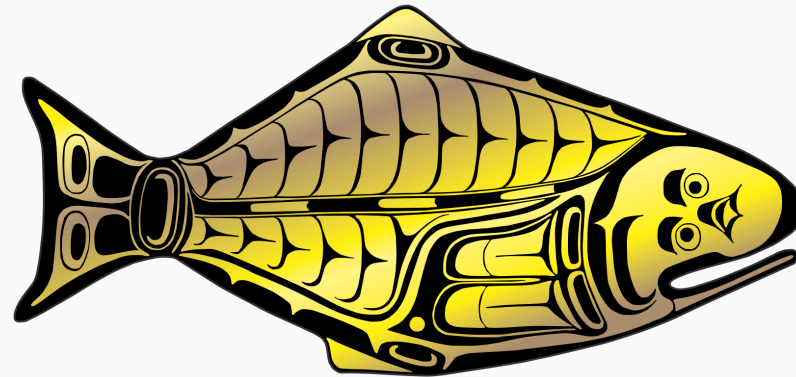


2025 Vessel Request for Tenders

- All submissions are due Feb 3rd
- [Vessel Recruiting – IPHC](#)
- 4A/4B is a high priority data collection area
- **IPHC 2025 FISS Q&A – RFT process and specifications**
(Crystal Pavilion Tuesday 17:00-18:30)



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<https://www.iphc.int/>

