

Groundfish Endangered Species Workgroup Report

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Workgroup's Objectives

- Was amount of incidental take amount exceeded?
- New information reveal effects not previously considered?
- Recommend new analyses to improve bycatch estimates
- Propose conservation and management measures to minimize bycatch of listed species

Fishing Effort Report



2016-2017

- Continued development of the shoreside midwater rockfish trawl fleet
- Increase in the number of fleet-wide pots used.

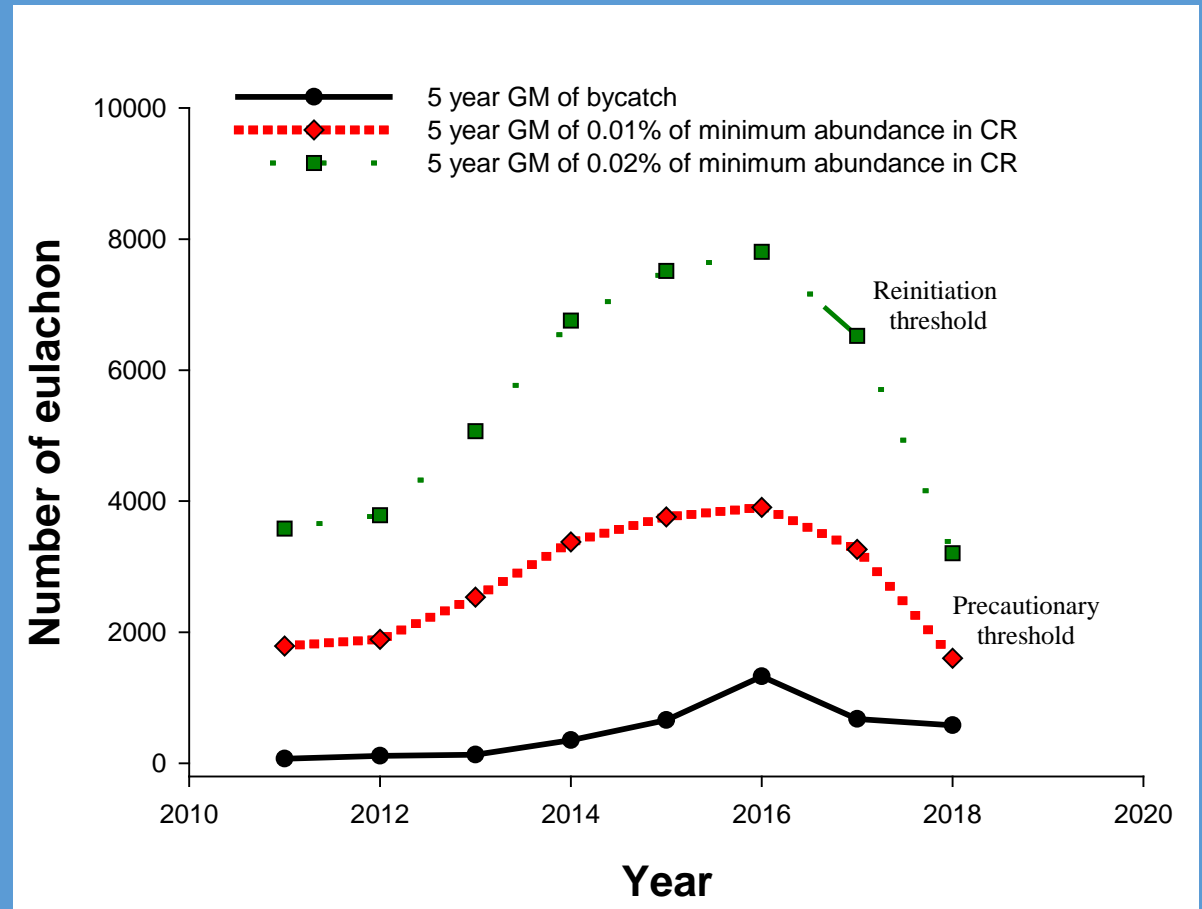
Changes notable but do not warrant a new look at the BiOps

Eulachon

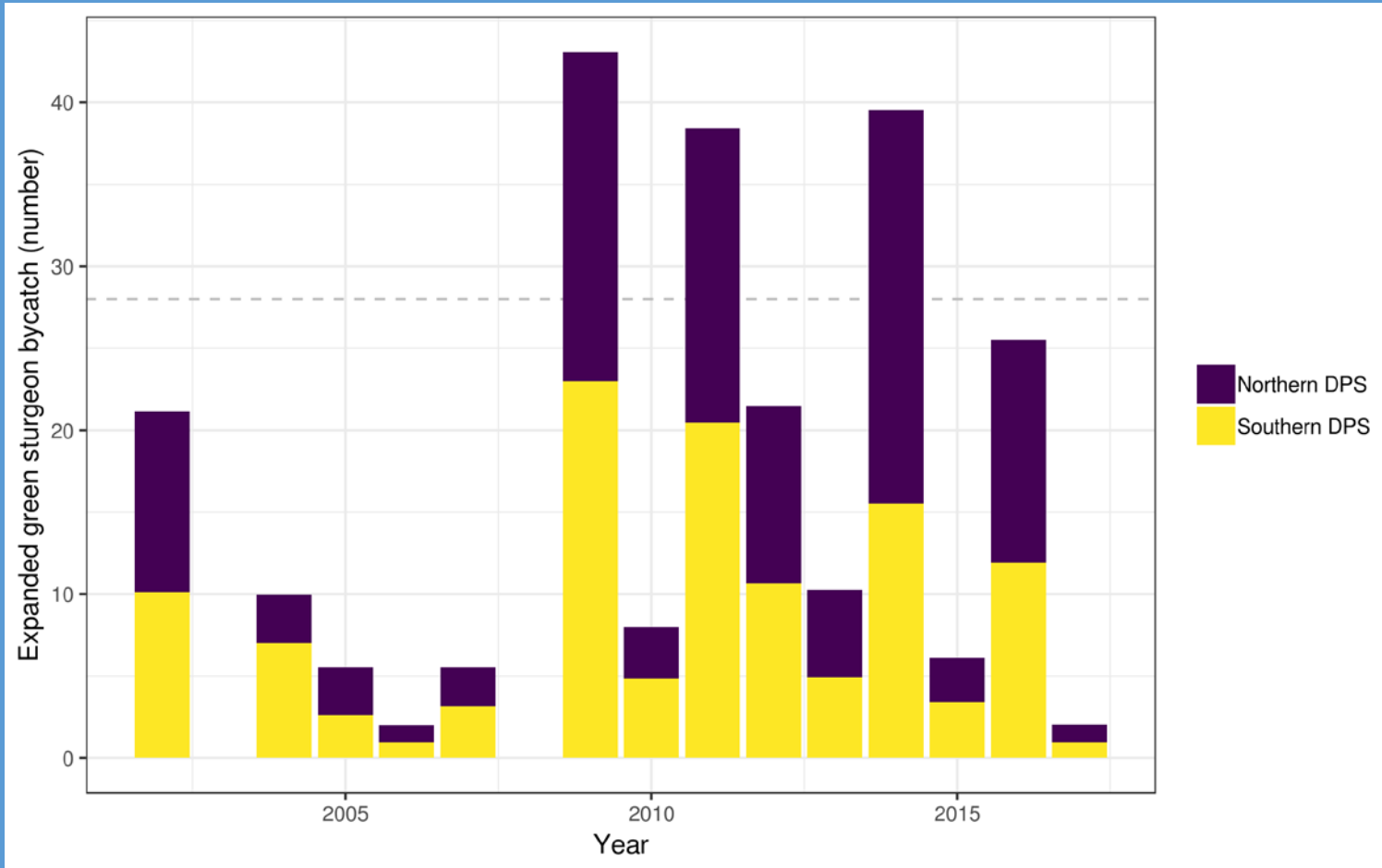


- Five year geometric mean bycatch estimates:
2016 – 1,326 eulachon
2017 – 676 eulachon
- Bycatch under precautionary and reinitiation thresholds for 2016 and 2017
- No Workgroup recommendations

Eulachon bycatch thresholds (0.01% and 0.02%) compared with the five-year geometric mean for West Coast Groundfish Fishery eulachon bycatch (number of individuals)



Green Sturgeon



DPS bycatch in federal fisheries 2002–2017

horizontal dashed line = annual ITS threshold (28 Southern DPS individuals)

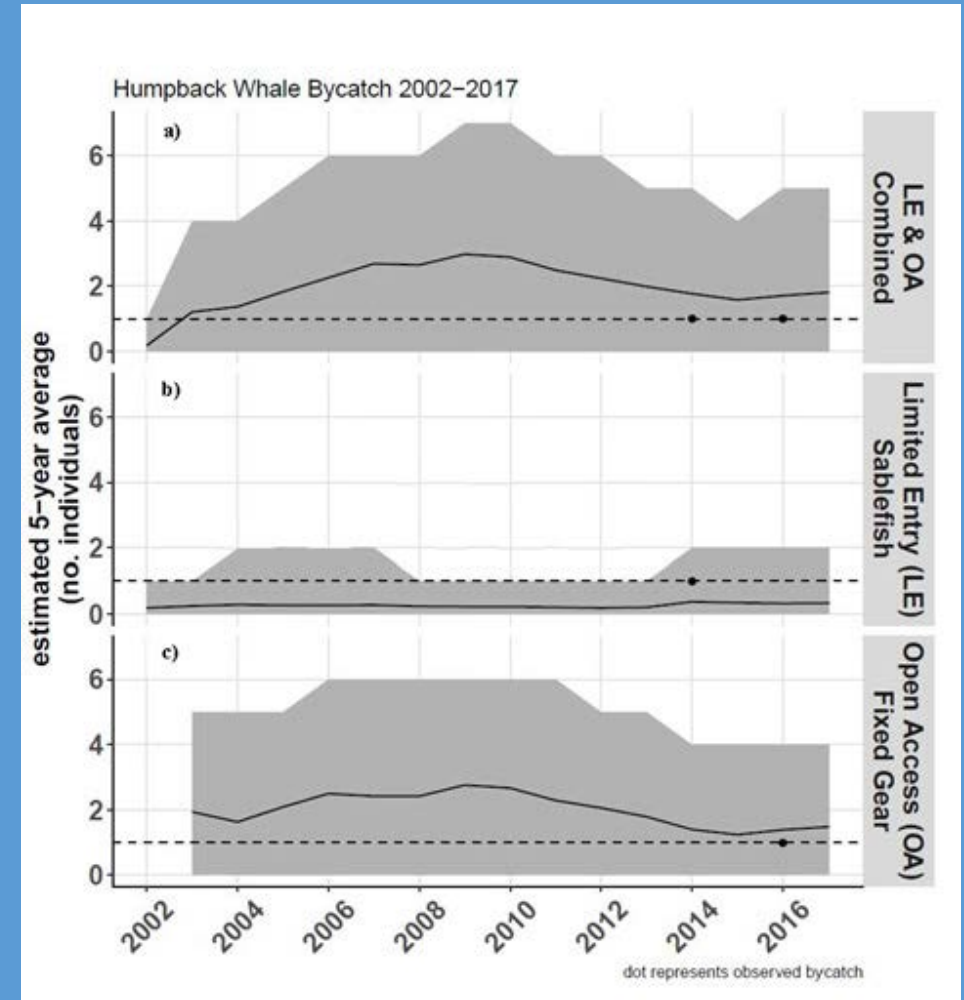
- Southern DPS
 - 1-16 encounters per year (2013-2017)
 - Incidental take statement amount not exceeded
- No Workgroup recommendations



Humpback Whales

Two documented takes:

- Limited Entry Sablefish (2014)
- Open Access Fixed Gear (2016)
- **Incidental take amount was exceeded**
 - Above 5 year average of 1/year
- NMFS reinitiated consultation based on DPS changes. ITS exceedance will also be considered.



Dotted lines = 5-year incidental take limit per the 2012 BiOp
Points = observed takes

Humpback Whales



The Workgroup recommends the Council:

1. Encourage NMFS to collaborate with the Council during the consultation process
2. Pursue a coastwide Federal fixed gear logbook requirement for all fixed gear sectors
3. Encourage NMFS, industry, and other partners to:
 - a. Explore gear modifications to reduce entanglements/mortalities
 - b. Consider changes to fixed gear marking requirements
 - c. Have discussions on the extent of lost gear and storage of gear at sea
 - d. Identify methods or improved procedures for identification of humpback whales at the DPS level

Leatherback Sea Turtles

- No observed bycatch from 2013-2017

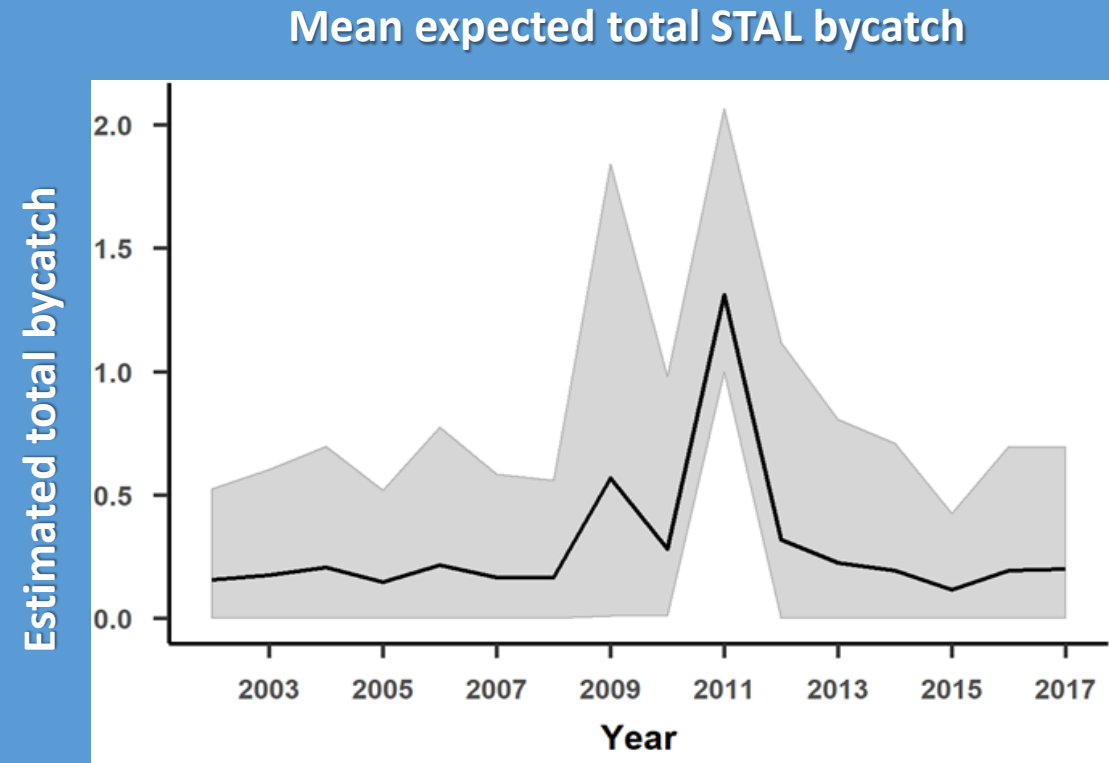


- Incidental take statement amount not exceeded
- No Workgroup recommendations

Short-tailed albatross



- No STAL takes documented in 2016-2017
- Fleet-wide estimates of mean bycatch ranged from 0.11 to 1.32 STAL/year
- Incidental take statement amount not exceeded



Effort = hooks

Three effort measures show similar patterns

Short-tailed albatross

- The Workgroup recommends the Council support efforts that explore ways to improve streamer lines or gear configuration for the purpose of mitigating seabird interactions.





Questions

