

EASTERN PACIFIC PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY GROUP (EP PSG) ALBACORE VESSEL LENGTH DATA SUMMARIES



September PFMC Council Meeting

September 14, 2020

Presented by:

Jessica Watson

EP PSG/HMSMT



HMSAS Albacore Vessel Length Data Request



- At its June 2020 meeting the HMS Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) raised the issue of the entry of small, high speed vessels into the West Coast commercial albacore fishery, expressing concern about overcapitalization and the potential to complicate U.S. compliance with IATTC Resolution C-05-02.
- This topic was originally brought to the attention of the Eastern Pacific Professional Specialty Group (EP PSG) by Mr. Corey Niles and conversations were reinitiated prior to the June 2020 Council meeting.
- The Eastern Pacific Specialty Group (EP PSG) has expanded on the work done previously to address the HMSAS request for an analysis of increased participation by small (under 30ft), high speed vessels in the West Coast Albacore Fishery.





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- There have been 3 years (2011-2013) for which the US has exceeded the 2002-2004 average effort for number of vessels and/or fishing days.

	No. of vessels	Fishing days
<i>2002-2004 Average</i>	689	13,311
2010	609	12,845
2011	640	14,677
2012	816	15,016
2013	703	12,923
2014	617	12,200
2015	574	11,506
2016	569	12,744
2017	518	12,619
2018	452	11,094
2019	552	11,014

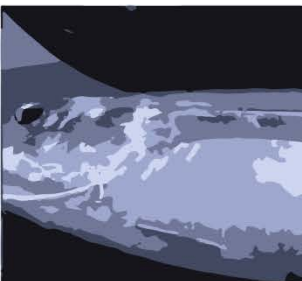
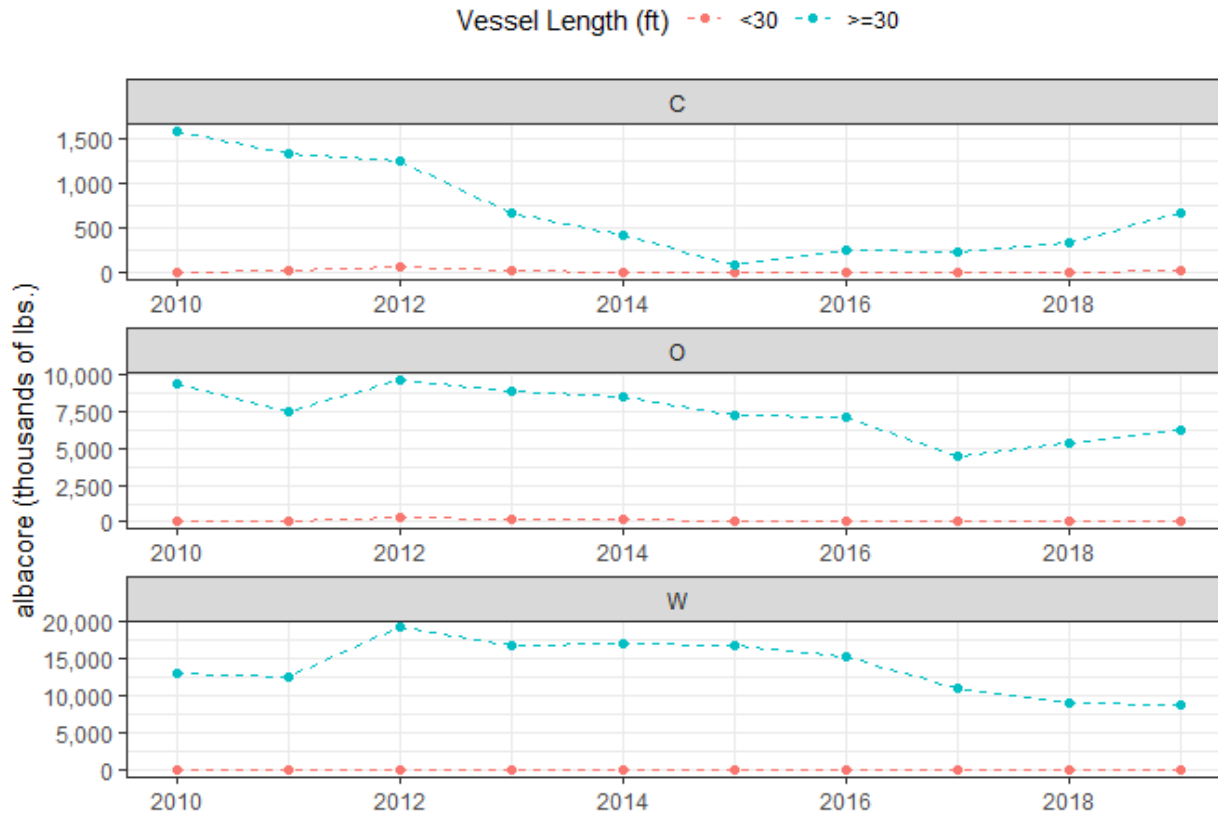




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- Overall, albacore landings from smaller vessels (<30ft in length) account for a small proportion of the overall albacore landings.

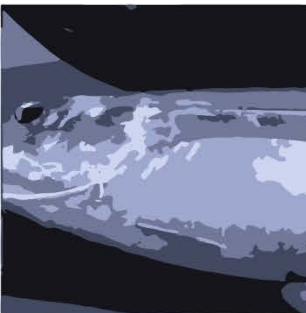




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- There is an order of magnitude difference in landings between the two vessel size classes. Albacore landings for smaller vessels (<30ft in length) and larger vessels (≥ 30 ft in length) peaked in 2012. Small vessel landings have declined to under 100 thousand lbs. in 2015 where they have remained ever since.

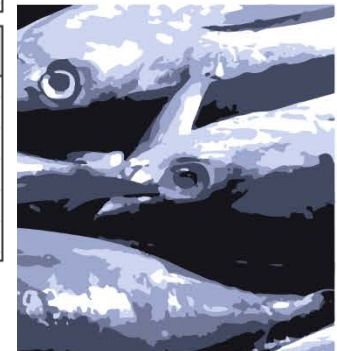
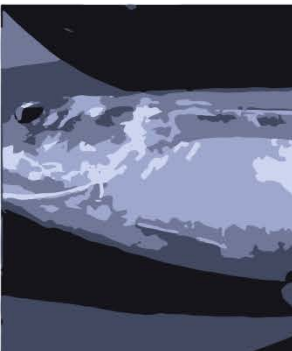
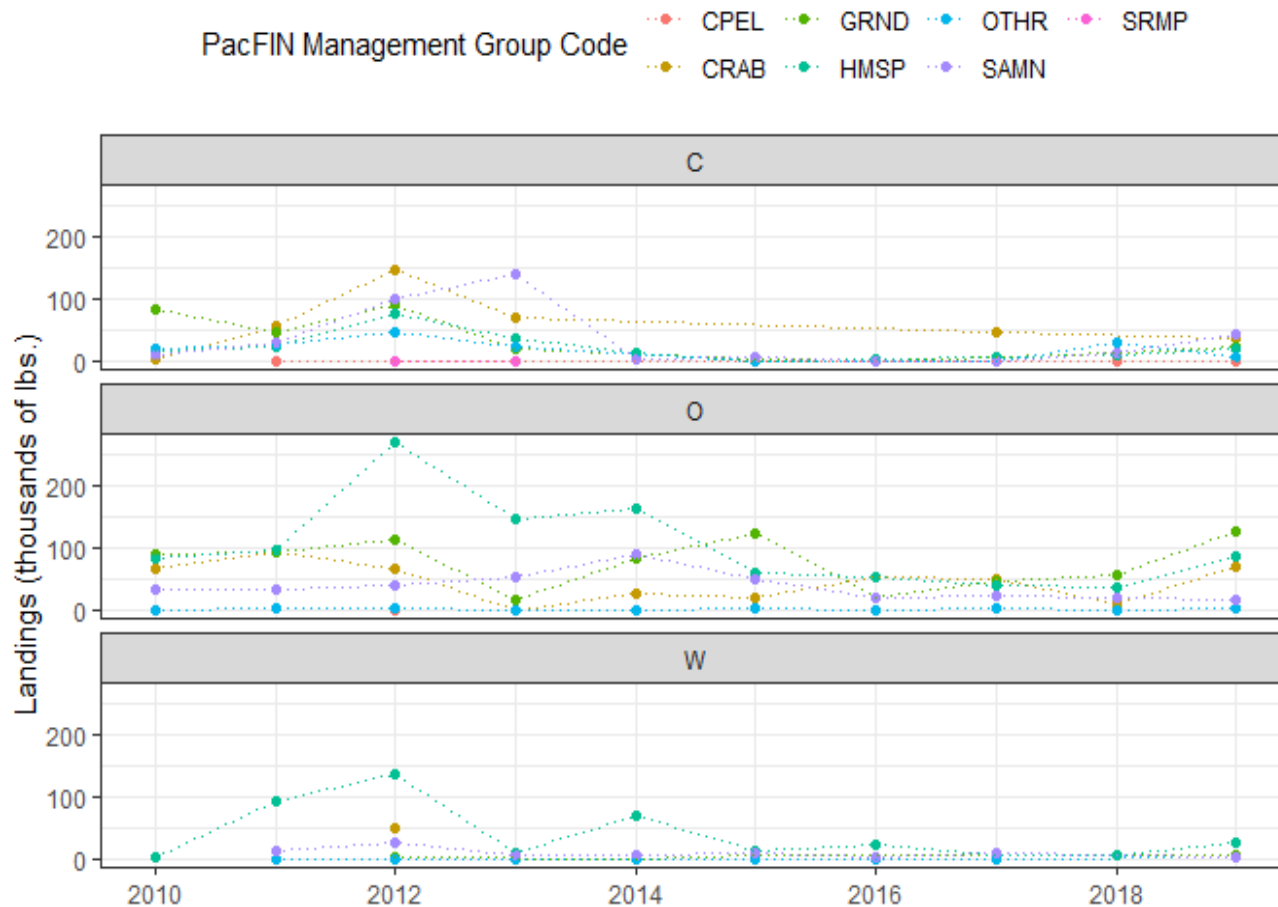




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- HMS landings were highest for OR and WA prior to 2015 for smaller vessels (<30ft), with the highest HMS landings occurring in 2012.

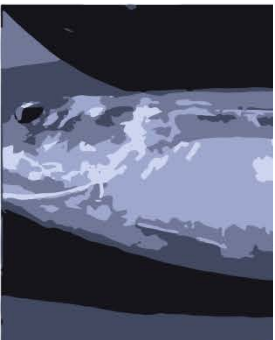
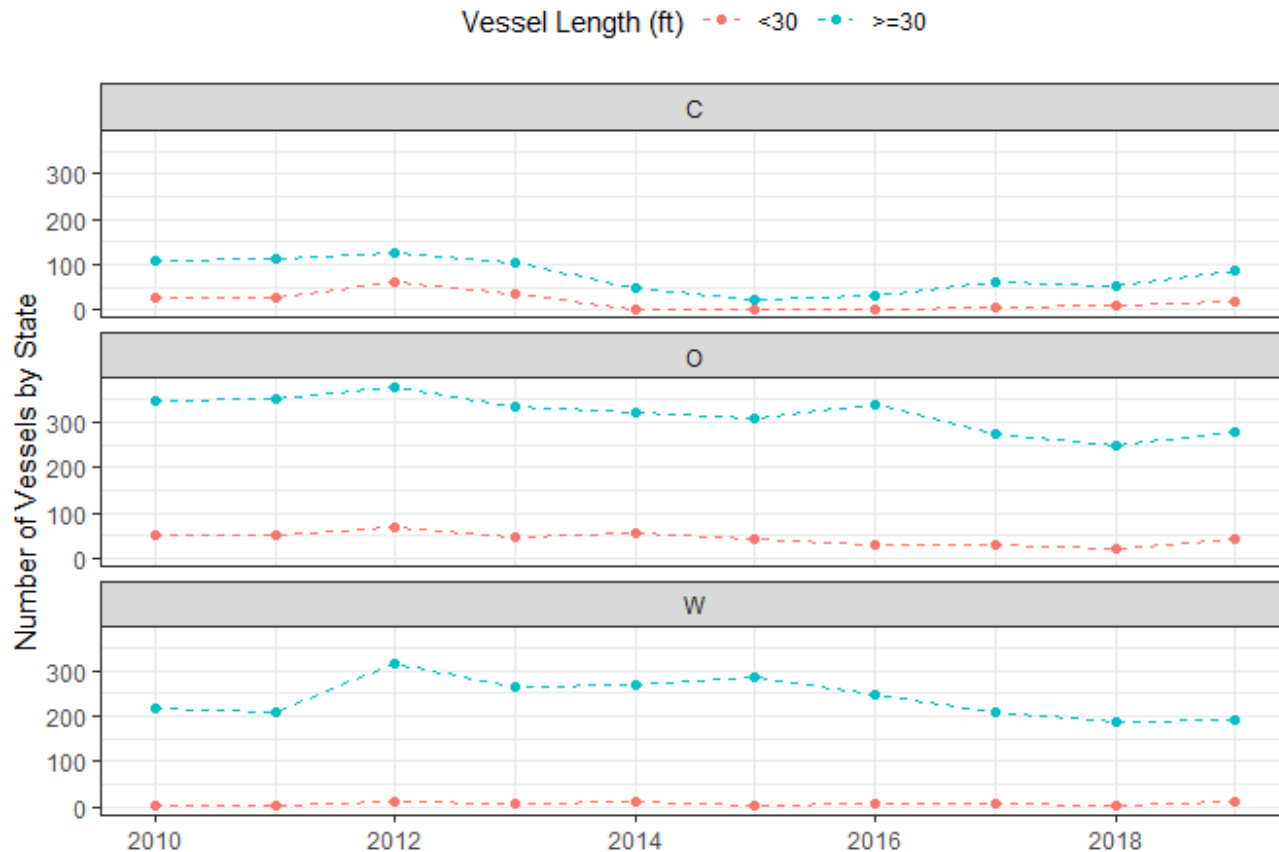




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- There were increases in the number of smaller vessels (<30ft in length) and larger vessels (≥ 30 ft in length) landing albacore in 2012 throughout all three west coast states.

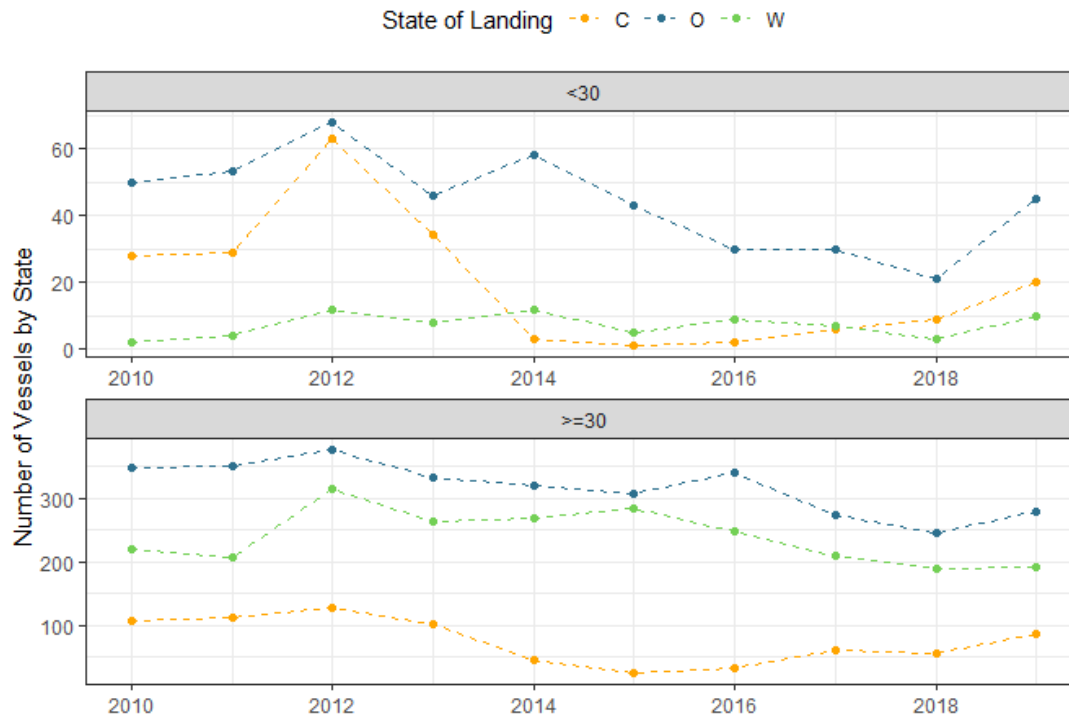




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- The number of vessels decreased for CA after 2012 until 2014 when vessel numbers leveled off before increasing again in 2016. OR had a downward trend in smaller vessel participation from 2012 until 2018 with the exception of a brief increase in 2014. WA has had only slight fluctuations in smaller vessel participation throughout the time series.

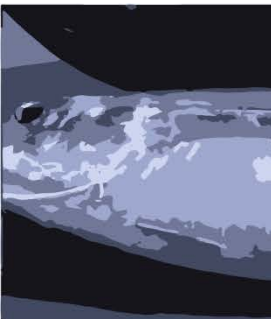
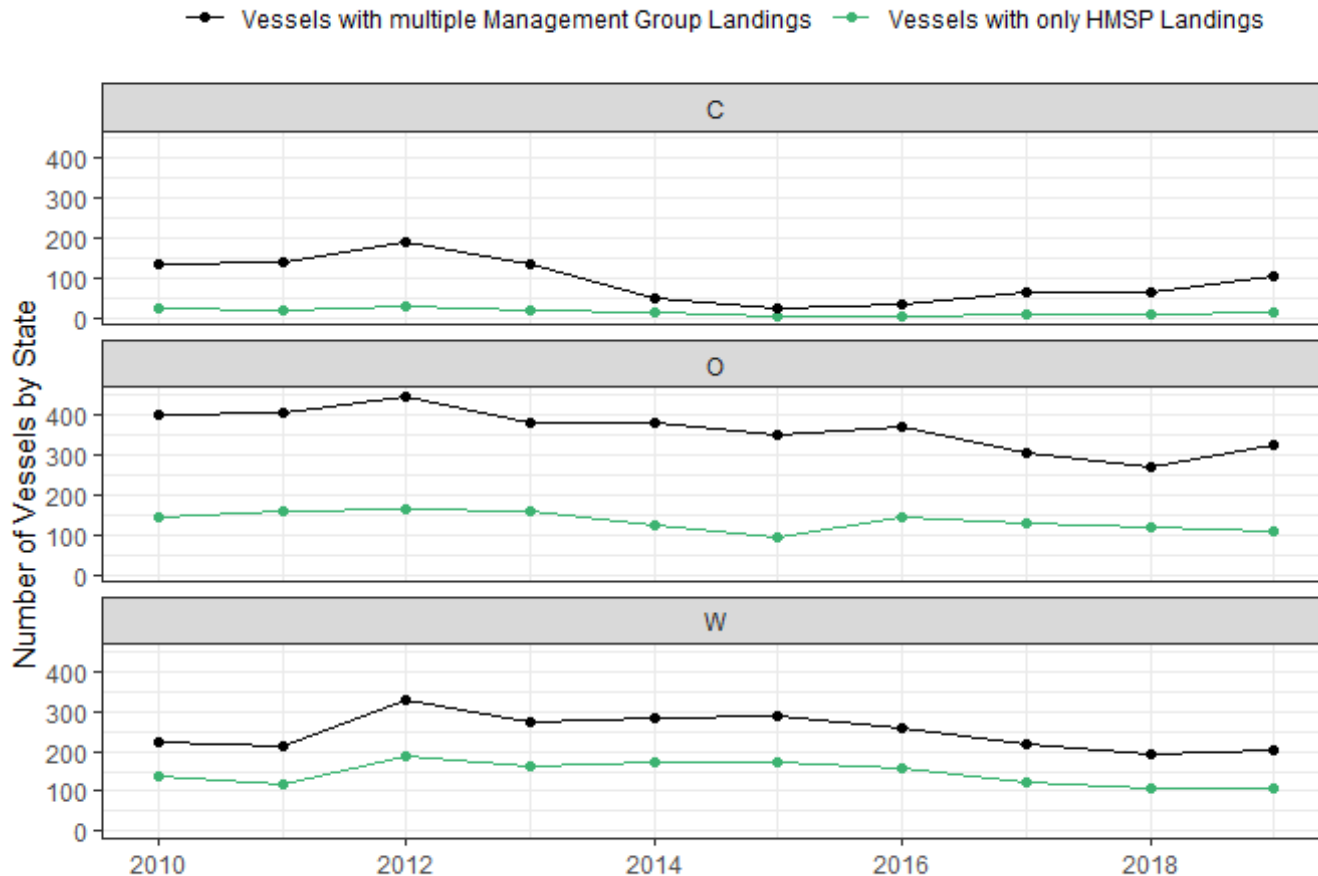




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- There are fewer vessels that participate in only HMS than vessels that participate in multiple fisheries.

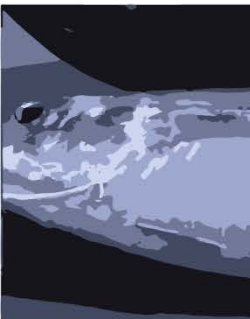
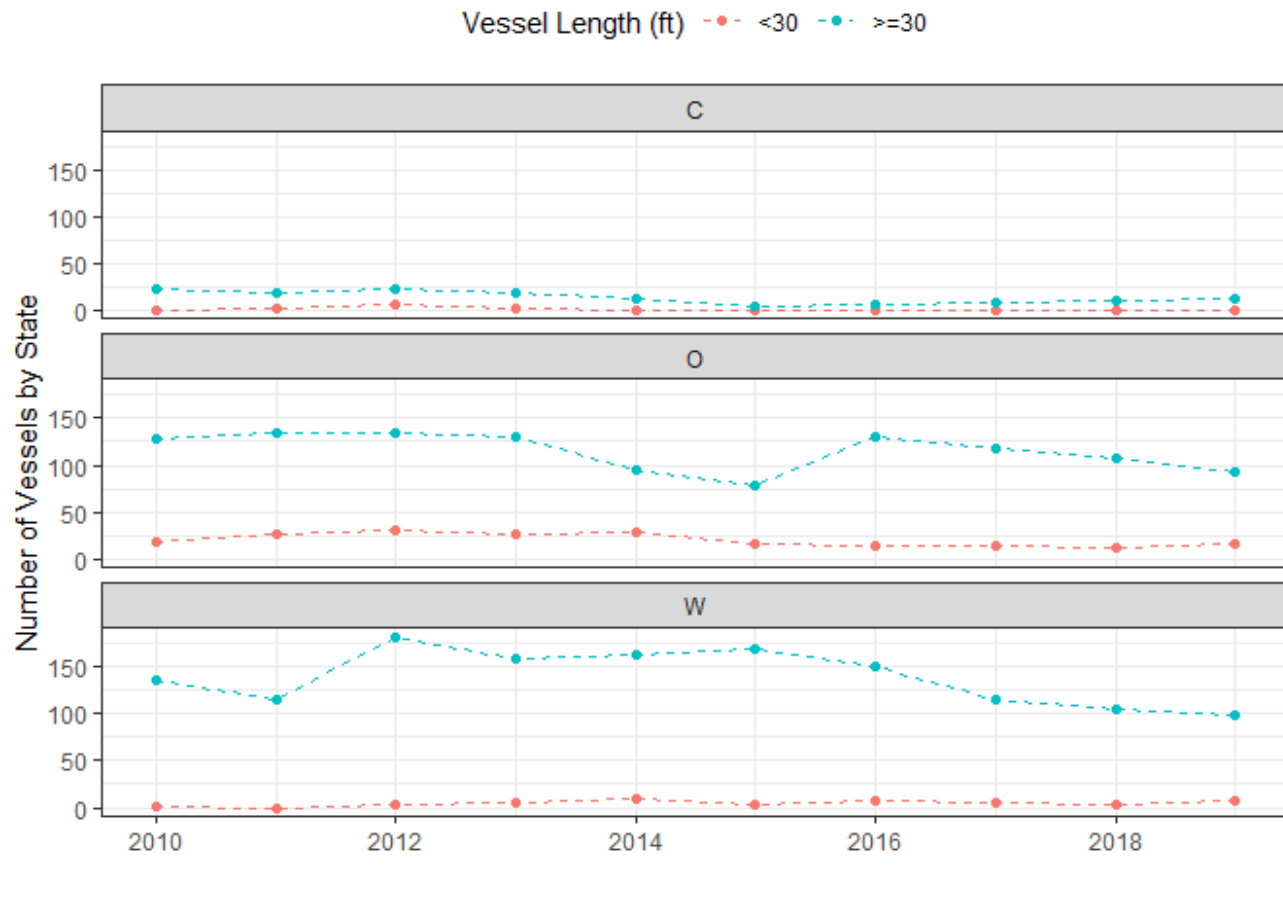




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- There are few small vessels (<30ft) that participate in only HMS than larger vessels (≥ 30 ft) that participate in only HMS.





HMSAS Albacore Vessel Length Data Request



- The HMSMT notes that there have been similar data summary requests raised for the Southern California region with regards to:
 - Swordfish
 - Pacific Bluefin Tuna
- Should the Council want these analyses, the HMSMT could be directed to coordinate with the EP PSG to produce similar data summaries as those presented here for albacore.





HMSAS Albacore Vessel Length Data Request



QUESTIONS?

