

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC



HALIBUT COMMISSION

IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) Design & Implementation in 2025

Agenda item: 4.2.1
IPHC-2026-AM102-08
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
 - Snap gear not used in 2025
- 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

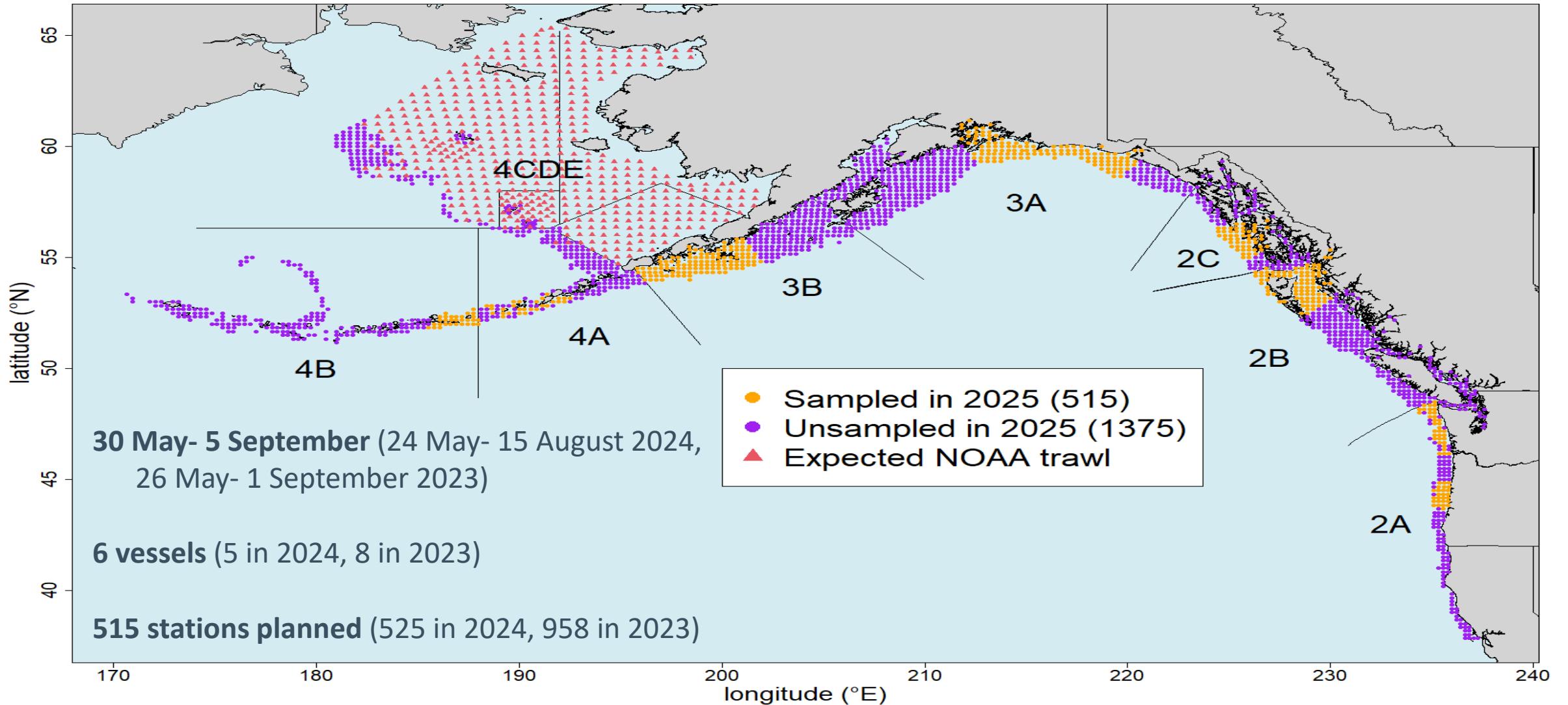


BAIT

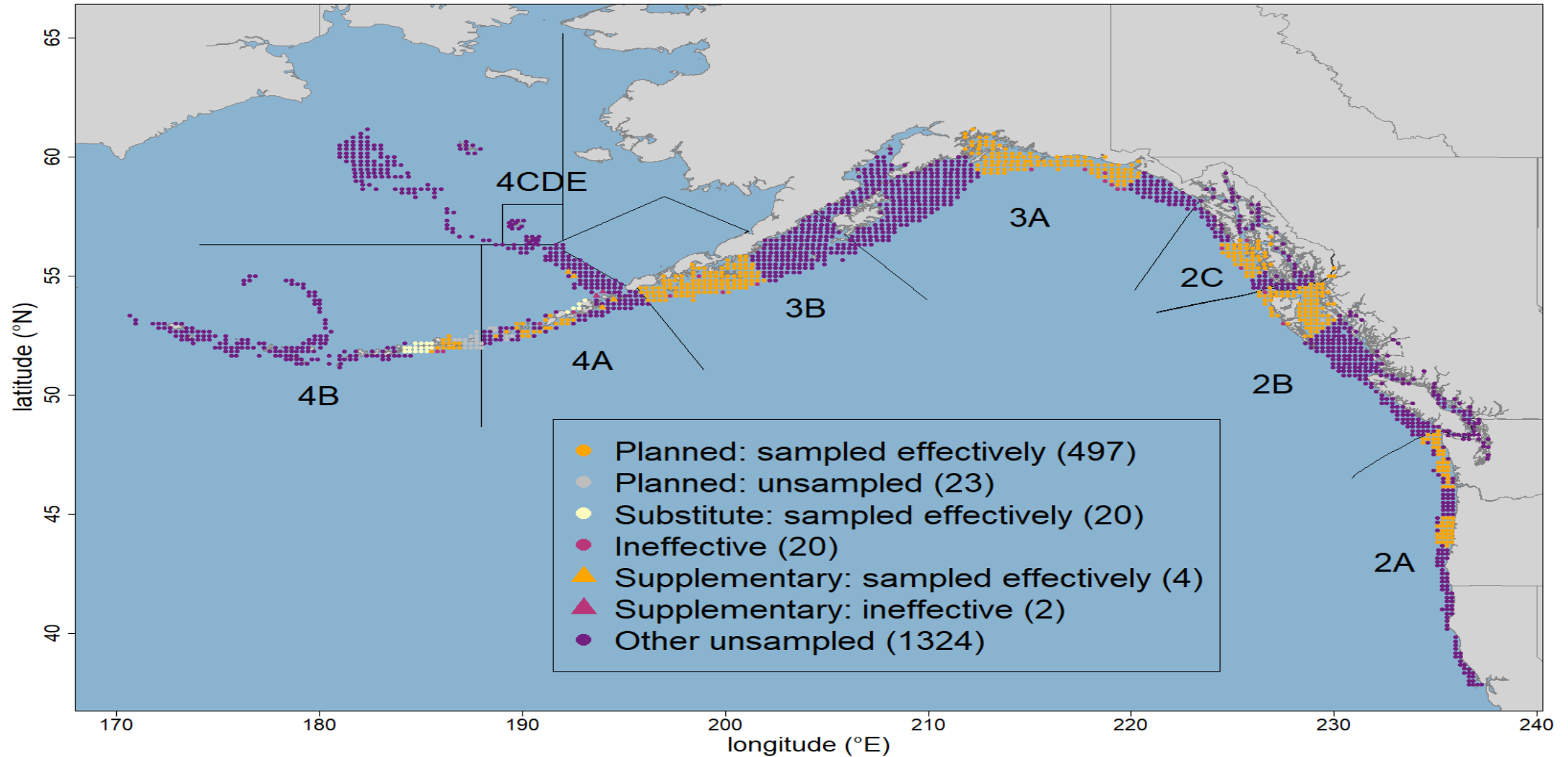
- Frozen chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) #2 semi-bright or better
- Cut 1/4 to 1/3 lb (1/10 to 1/6 kg)
- Captains sign off on bait quality



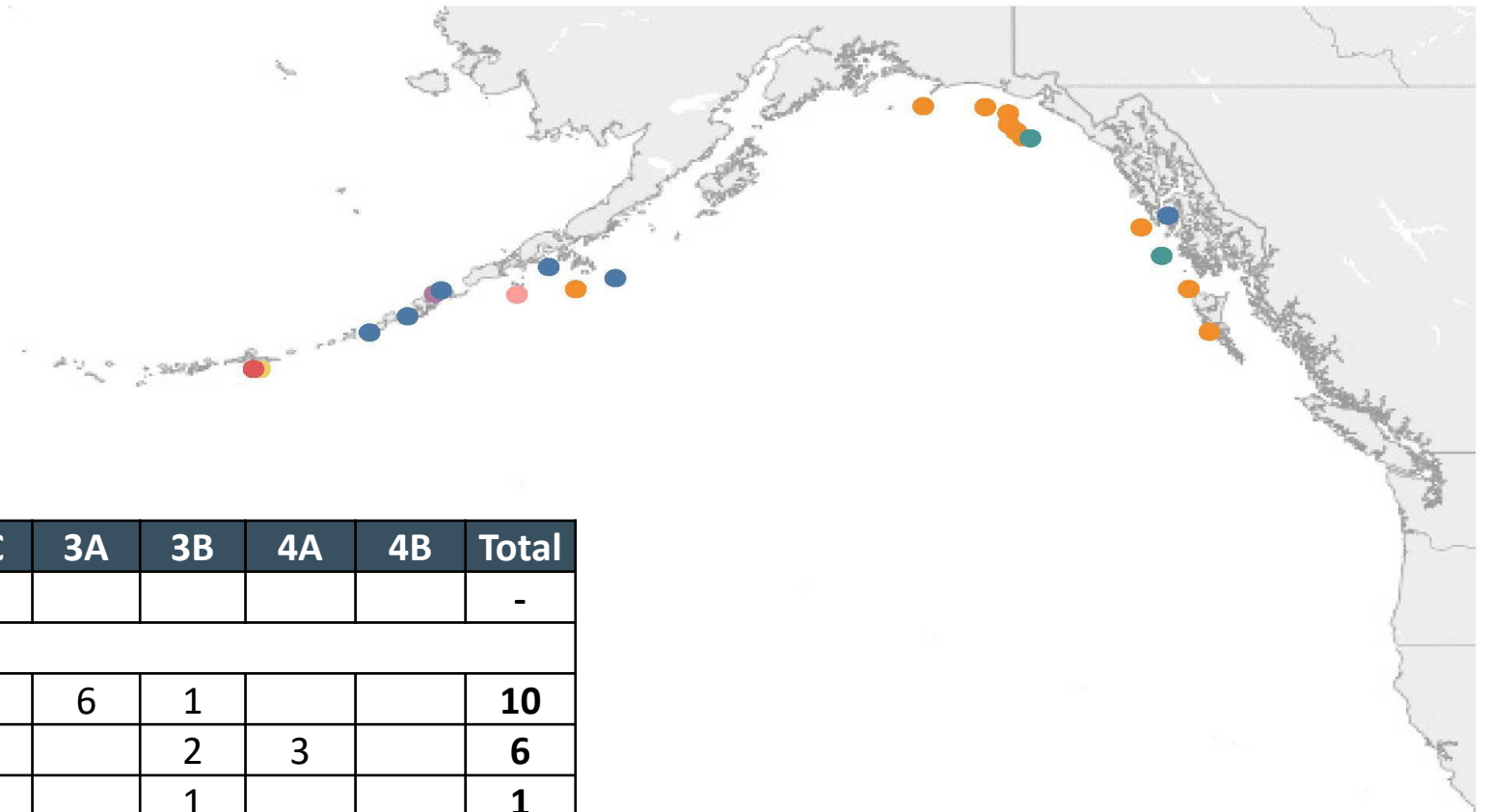
2025 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)



2025 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)



Ineffective Stations in 2025

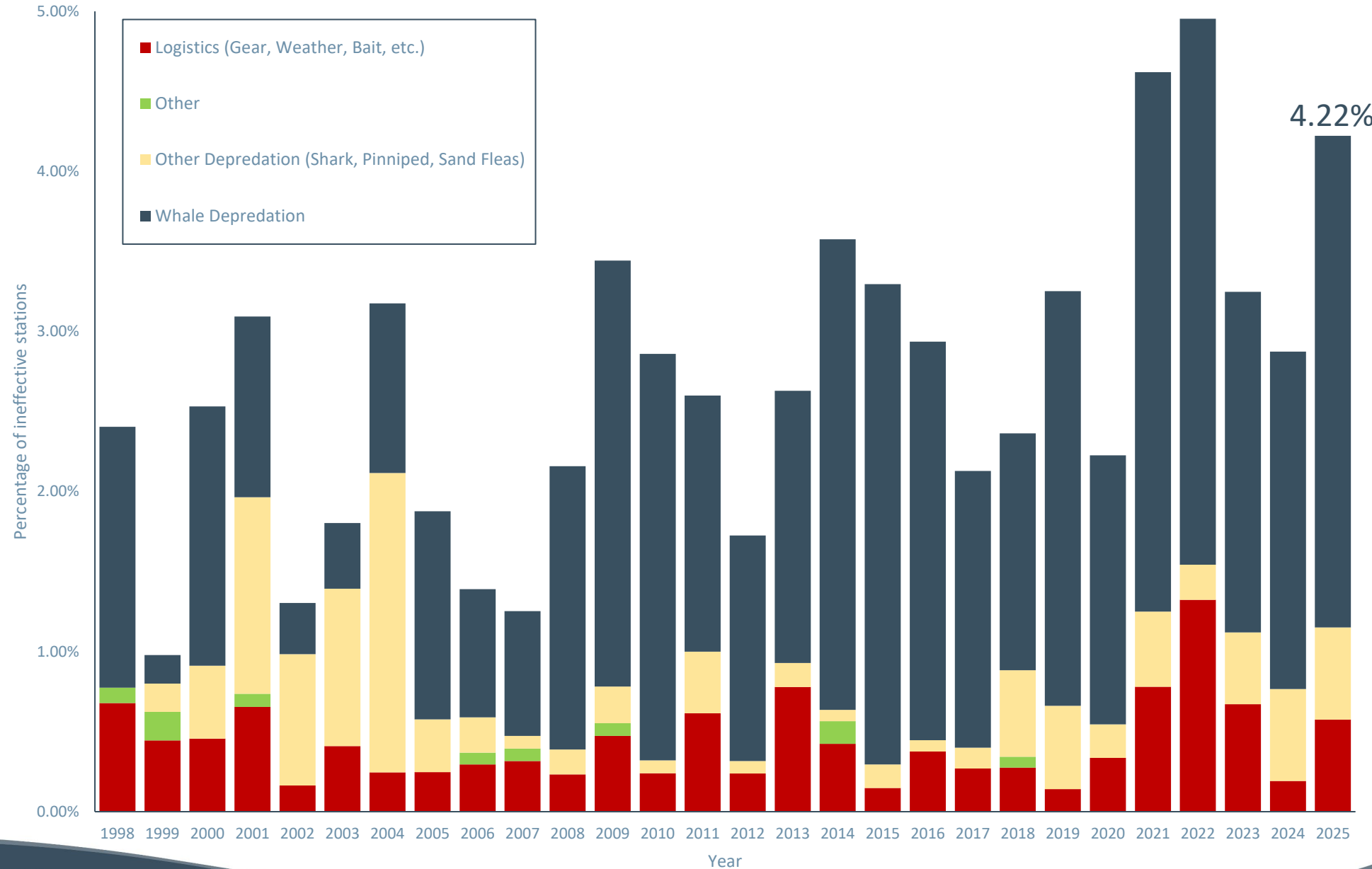


Description		2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	Total
Depredation: Shark									-
Depredation: Whale									
	Sperm Whale		2	1	6	1			10
	Orca			1		2	3		6
Depredation: Pinniped						1			1
Depredation: Other				1	1				2
Sand Fleas							1		1
Gear Issues								2	2
Total		-	2	3	7	4	4	2	22



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.



Secondary Objective

- Cost effectiveness without compromising scientific integrity of the FISS design
 - 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
 - Multi-port bidding when feasible
 - Charter Agreements
 - RFTs
 - All submissions rated against specified criteria published in tender specifications



Secondary Objective

- Sale of sampled U32 Pacific halibut
- Price is 26% less than O32 Pacific halibut average price



Tertiary Objective

- Collaboration
 - NOAA Fisheries: Pacific Cod & Spiny dogfish sampling
 - ADFG: Dockside Rockfish Sampling in Prince William Sound
 - WDFW: 8 Rockfish Index Stations & Dockside Rockfish Sampling
 - ODFW: Dockside Rockfish Sampling
 - 2B: Dockside Rockfish sampling (DFO, Archipelago, PHMA) on hold for 2025



2025 FISS Results

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



Average Price/lb (USD) by IPHC Reg Area

IPHC Regulatory Area	FISS 2025 Average price/lb (USD)	FISS 2024 Average price/lb (USD)
2A	\$7.33	-
2B	\$9.66	\$7.26
2C	\$9.99	\$5.96
3A	\$7.63	\$5.56
3B	\$6.22	\$5.45
4A	\$6.21	-
4B	\$6.20	-
4CDE	-	\$3.09
Coastwide	\$8.18	\$6.22

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



Average Price/lb (USD) Over Time (2000-2025)



**Prices adjusted for inflation*



Pacific halibut sales (USD) by IPHC Reg. Area

IPHC Regulatory Area	FISS 2025 Pacific halibut sales value (USD)	FISS 2024 Pacific halibut sales value (USD)
2A	\$80,763.36	-
2B	\$429,342.28	\$758,469.97
2C	\$683,662.21	\$947,238.83
3A	\$507,735.66	\$259,281.05
3B	\$305,805.65	\$114,080.36
4A	\$91,113.06	-
4B	\$56,062.37	-
4CDE	-	\$20,652.13
TOTAL	\$2,154,484.59	\$2,099,722.34

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



Pacific halibut sales (USD) by IPHC Reg. Area

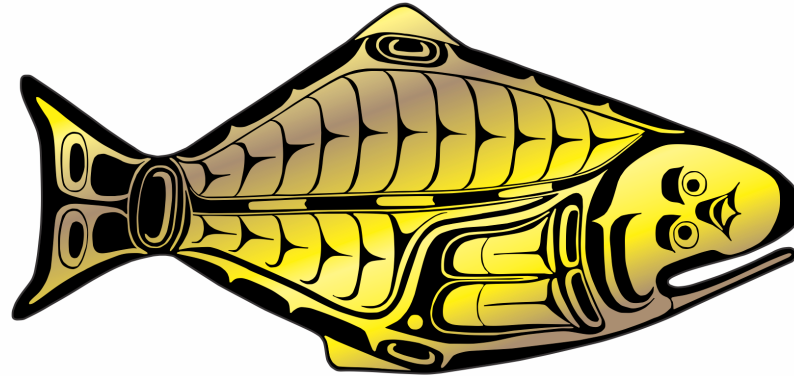
2024 sales details include vessel captain stations as well as standard FISS stations totaling 525.

	2025			2024		
IPHC Regulatory Area	Pacific halibut sales value (USD)	No. of Stations	Pacific halibut sales/Station (USD)	Pacific halibut sales value (USD)	No. of Stations	Pacific halibut sales/Station (USD)
2A	\$80,763.36	68	\$1,187.70	-	-	-
2B	\$429,342.28	88	\$4,878.89	\$758,469.97	144	\$5,267.15
2C	\$683,662.21	52	\$13,147.35	\$947,238.83	152	\$6,231.83
3A	\$507,735.66	130	\$3,905.66	\$259,281.05	113	\$2,294.52
3B	\$305,805.65	125	\$2,446.45	\$114,080.36	56	\$2,037.15
4A	\$91,113.06	34	\$2,679.80	-	-	-
4B	\$56,062.37	30	\$1,868.75	-	-	-
4CDE	-	-	-	\$20,652.13	60	\$344.20
TOTAL	\$2,154,484.59	527	\$4,088.21	\$2,099,722.34	525	\$3,999.47

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