



Black Cod Almanac



MESA Program, Auke Bay Laboratories, NMFS, Juneau, AK

February 2026

Greetings!

We hope this New Year finds you in good health and thinking about the upcoming 2026 season after a time of rest! This is the 13th installment of the Black Cod Almanac, which was created to improve transparency, communication and to increase dialogue between scientists and members of the industry. The intent is to provide updates on relevant research, summarize highlights of both the Groundfish Plan Team and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings, and share news that may be of interest to those involved with the federal sablefish fishery.

From changes in the longline survey to canceled groundfish assessments due to the Congressional lapse in appropriations, it has been an unusual year for the sablefish survey and assessment team! We appreciate your involvement in the science, management, and continued advocacy for sustainable fisheries in Alaska!

Please feel free to pass this on, or to send us email addresses of others who may appreciate receiving this newsletter.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- NPFMC HIGHLIGHTS: GROUND FISH SPECIFICATIONS
- ~~NOVEMBER 2025 GROUND FISH PLAN TEAM MEETING SUMMARY~~
- SABLEFISH RESEARCH UPDATE
- LONGLINE SURVEY UPDATE

NPFMC: Groundfish Specifications

The lapse in Federal appropriations from October 1 - November 12, 2025, has impacted the information available for the Council's typical process, in that Federal stock assessment authors did not have the time to complete new groundfish assessments as planned, and the Council's Groundfish Plan Teams did not convene to review stock assessments and provide their recommendations on harvest specifications. With that, there was not a new sablefish stock assessment in 2025, and groundfish specifications were rolled over from the 2024 assessment.

- Rollover groundfish specifications from the 2024 assessment.
- 2026 assessments will inform 2027 and 2028 specifications.

<https://www.npfmc.org/council-sets-groundfish-harvest-specs-for-2026-2027/>

2026/2027 GOA Groundfish Specifications

The sablefish overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catches (ABC), and total allowable catches (TAC) by area for 2026 are:

Area	OFL (t)	ABC (t)	TAC (t)
AK-Wide	57,797	47,008	
Gulf of Alaska			22,550
Western		4,687	
Central		9,622	
W. Yakutat		2,652	
E. Yak/S.E. Out		5,589	
Bering Sea		13,037	8,996
Aleutians		11,421	7,440

AFSC Longline Survey



1987- 2024

In 1987 the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) began executing an annual Gulf of Alaska (GOA) longline survey from a chartered freezer longliner. The survey was designed to continue the time series (1979–1994) of the GOA portion of the Japan-U.S. cooperative longline survey for sablefish. In 1996, AFSC expanded sampling into the eastern and central Aleutian Islands (AI) in even-numbered years and the eastern Bering Sea (BS) in odd-numbered years. From the outset, the vessel contract was funded solely on a cost-recovery basis, whereby the vessel contractor retained and sold the fish caught on the survey. This arrangement was sufficient to offset the vessel's operational costs and usually provided a nominal profit to the vessel contractor. In 2023, as fish prices slumped and operational costs exceeded revenues, the vessel contractor reported a financial loss. In 2024, AFSC and the vessel contractor attempted to negotiate an arrangement that ensured the vessel company would not operate in the red. However, given the financial uncertainty posed by a weak economic outlook for sablefish, a satisfactory arrangement was not found. Thus, in 2024 there was no AFSC Longline Survey.

cont.

Survey Changes

After 2024, a new vessel contract was solicited that provided a daily rate to ensure coverage of operational costs but still included a cost-recovery aspect that reduced what the government ultimately paid for the charter. In addition to financial modifications in the vessel contract, a few survey sampling changes were implemented to lessen the required number of days at sea while still providing adequate data for calculating abundance indices. Specifically, the once annual GOA survey will now sample the GOA only in odd-numbered years and the BS and AI in even-numbered years (Figure 1).

2025

After missing a year in 2024, the AFSC Longline Survey was back in action sampling the GOA in 2025. The survey started and ended in Dutch Harbor on 15 July and 2 September, respectively. Sampling began about a month later than usual due to governmental delays in awarding the vessel contract and was executed off the FV *Alaskan Leader*. Sampling occurred from the western end of Umnak Island in the western GOA, through the central GOA and down to Dixon Entrance in the eastern GOA. Two mid-survey port calls were made in Yakutat, one as the survey sampled to the east and a second as the survey sampled on its westward return.

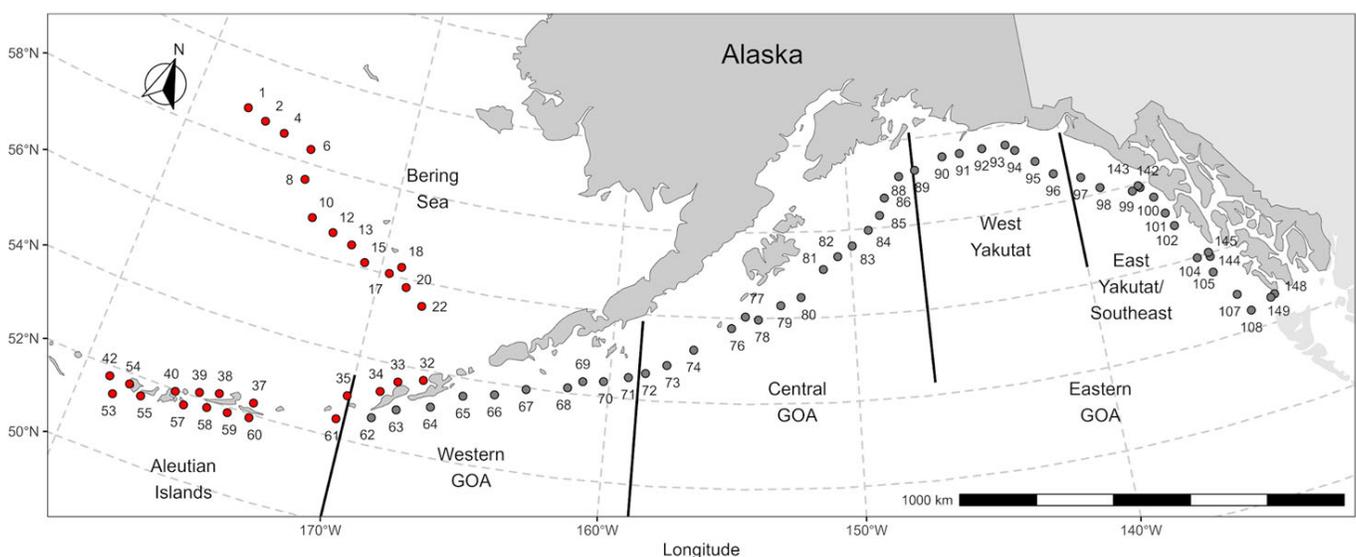


Figure 1. Map of AFSC Longline Survey station locations. Gray dots indicate stations sampled in odd-numbered years beginning in 2025; red dots indicate stations sampled in even-numbered years beginning in 2026.

AFSC Longline Survey – cont.

Standard survey sampling and data collection protocols were followed. On each day of sampling, two 9-km longline sets were made, each with 4,050 hooks. The gear was set from shallow to deep and usually covered depths from about 150 m to 1,000 m. A census of each hook was recorded at the rail and length data was recorded in the factory for several species, including sablefish, Pacific cod, and rockfish. Otoliths were collected from a subsample of sablefish for age determinations. Lastly, a subset of sablefish and shortspine thornyhead were tagged and released.

Catches of sablefish on the 2025 survey were robust. Over 46 days of sampling, a total of 126,299 sablefish were caught. **The combined GOA Relative Population Number (RPN) for sablefish, which is the survey’s primary index of abundance, was about 4% higher than the previous survey’s estimate in 2023** (Figure 2). Survey biologists recorded over 93,000 sablefish lengths in 2025. **Length distributions suggest a slight shift to larger fish for most areas of the GOA when compared to 2023** (Figure 3). Otoliths were collected from 2,869 sablefish and a subsample of those will be processed and aged by the AFSC Age and Growth Unit. Data from otoliths collected in 2025 will be available in time for the 2026 sablefish stock assessment.

cont.

Additional details about the 2025 AFSC Longline Survey and previous surveys can be found in annual cruise reports posted online at the following link:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/science-data/alaska-sablefish-longline-survey-reports>

2026

In 2026, the AFSC Longline Survey is scheduled to sample in the eastern Bering Sea and eastern and central Aleutian Islands area (Figure 1). The survey will once again be executed off of the FV *Alaskan Leader*. The plan is to begin around 1 June in the BS, have a mid-survey port day in Dutch Harbor, then complete sampling in the AI, finishing up around 5 July. However, these dates are only tentative and subject to change. Once the dates are finalized, a survey calendar will be made available at the link below. Survey and assessment staff respectfully request that the fishing fleet avoid survey stations by staying at least 5 nautical miles from each station for 7 days before and 3 days after the planned sampling dates (3 days after allows for potential survey delays). This will allow the survey vessel to sample the stations unencumbered and will hopefully avoid negative effects on calculated survey indices and ultimately quota recommendations.

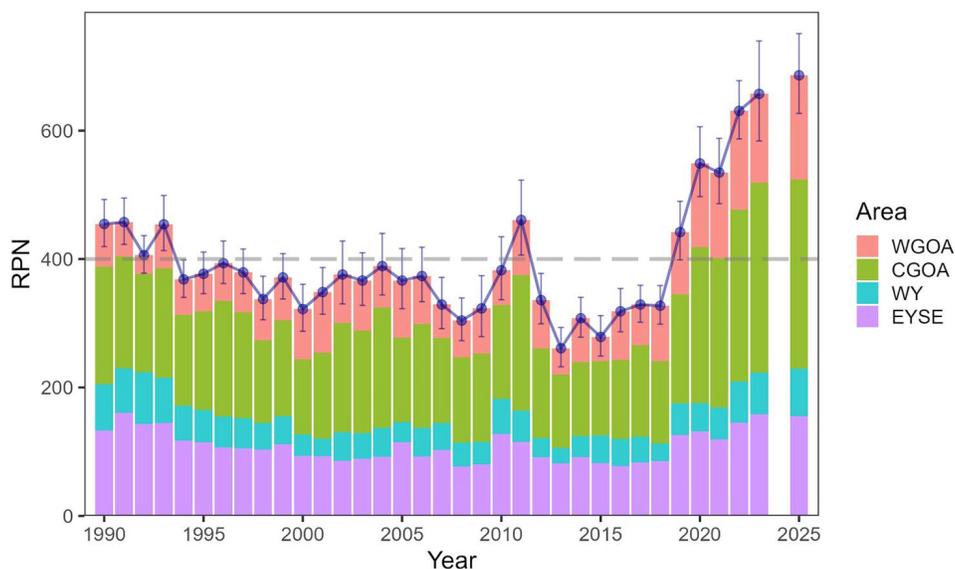


Figure 2. AFSC Longline Survey Relative Population Numbers (RPN) for sablefish by area and year for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). WGOA is the western GOA, CGOA is the central GOA, WY is the west Yakutat area and EYSE is the east Yakutat and southeast area.

AFSC Longline Survey – cont.

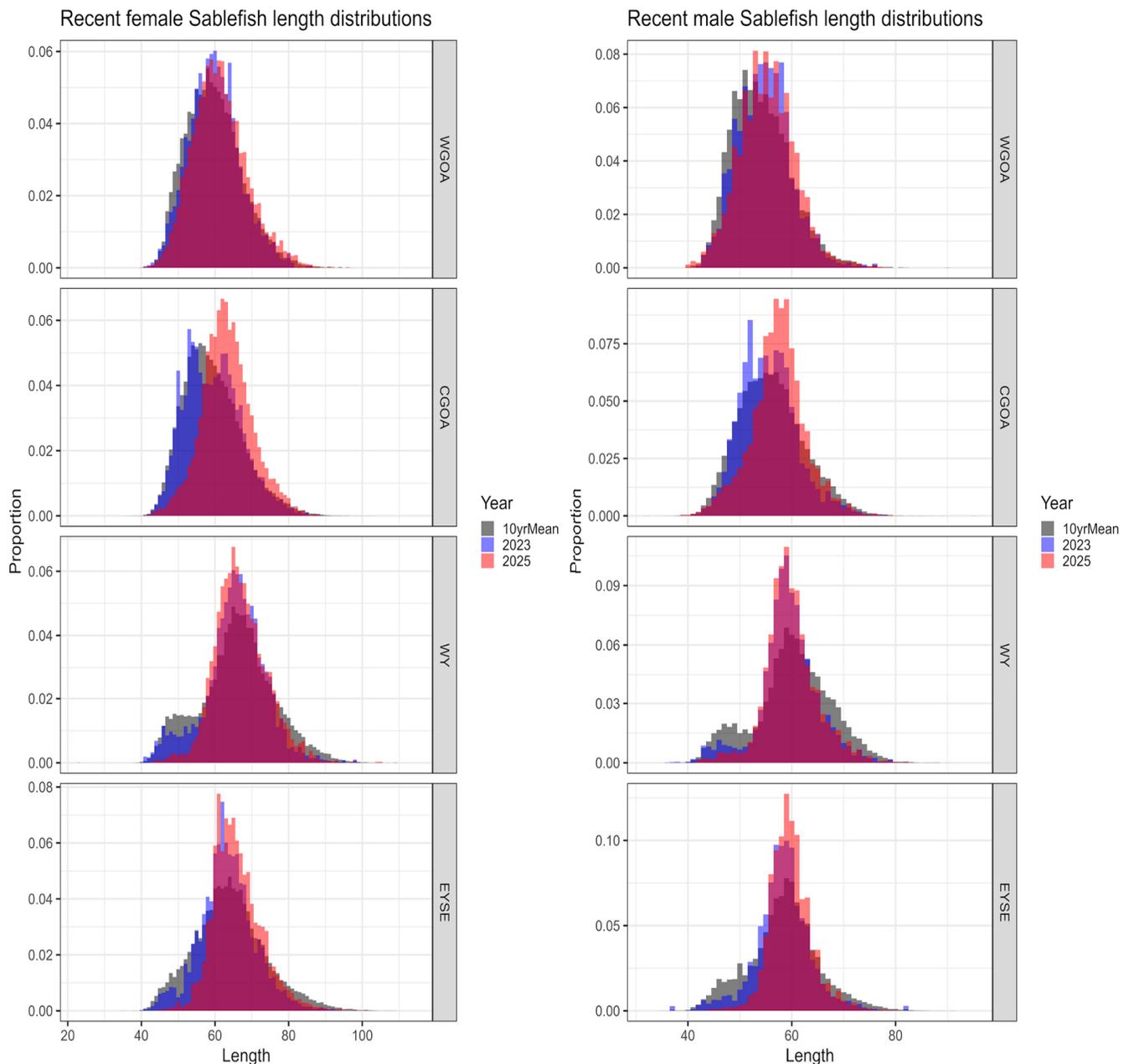


Figure 3. Fork length distributions of female and male sablefish by area and year in the Gulf of Alaska for 2023, 2025, and the 10-year mean. WGOA is the western GOA, CGOA is the central GOA, WY is the west Yakutat area and EYSE is the east Yakutat and southeast area.

A survey calendar will be at the following link once survey dates are finalized. Please bookmark and keep up to date with any survey changes that may occur.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/alaska-sablefish-longline-survey-station-schedule>



Sablefish Research Update

The sablefish team at ABL (MESA) with University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) partners (the Cunningham lab) continue a rich legacy of sablefish research with a diverse research portfolio, including both at-sea and model-based work, which aims to improve assessment and management advice.

For more information on any of the research projects please contact the lead investigators listed below, the sablefish assessment lead (Daniel Goethel, daniel.goethel@noaa.gov), the MESA program manager (Chris Lunsford, chris.lunsford@noaa.gov), or the UAF Principal Investigator (Curry Cunningham, cjcunningham@alaska.edu).

Improving the Alaska Sablefish Stock Assessment

(Matt Cheng) lhcheng@alaska.edu



The current Alaskan sablefish stock assessment is built in a custom modelling framework that can be

time-consuming to update to align with evolving good practices for stock assessments and emerging research on sablefish. Recent advances in computational tools now allow for more flexible and transparent model developments. In particular, a new stock assessment platform called the Stochastic Population over Regional Components (SPoRC) modelling platform was developed, primarily for sablefish. The SPoRC model matches the previous sablefish assessment, and is planned for use in future assessments (as recommended during the September Joint Plan Team (JPT) meeting).

In general, the SPoRC platform is designed to:

- Enable a quicker and more transparent implementation of the stock assessment process and SAFE development;

Improving Sablefish Assessment - cont.

- Support exploration of both single-region (i.e. Alaska-aggregated) and spatial stock assessment approaches that describe the unique population dynamics across regions (e.g. BSAI, WGOA, CGOA, EGOA) within the same framework;
- Enable easier and quicker testing of different assessment configurations, e.g. annual changes in fishery selectivity or growth, to address JPT and SSC recommendations;
- Facilitate more robust testing of how different model assumptions, and/or management harvest control rules might affect assessment and management robustness through simulations.

As requested by the JPT and SSC, analyses using SPoRC presented at the September JPT meeting examined how allowing for year-to-year changes in fishery selectivity influence model estimates, evaluated the effect of annually-varying growth, and updated the research-focused spatial stock assessment model through 2024. **Overall, the impacts of annually-varying selectivity and growth on population estimates were small** (Fig. 1), suggesting that the current configuration of the stock assessment model is generally robust to these changes. **Model results indicate the presence of age-related movement patterns, where young fish tend to remain in western regions (the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands), and older fish tend to move eastward into the Gulf of Alaska** (see Fig. 2 for the conceptual design of model). Moreover, **western regions remain important sources of age-2 recruitment, while mature fish (spawning stock biomass, SSB) tend to aggregate in eastern regions** (Fig. 3). We envision these developments should improve the transparency, flexibility, and long-term adaptability of the sablefish stock assessment. Ongoing work will continue to refine the modelling framework and evaluate how best to support management needs moving forward.

Improving Sablefish Assessment - cont.

Information on model runs presented in September, including working papers and presentations, can be found on the JPT agenda (<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3099>). Details and results of the development of the spatial sablefish assessment model can be found [here](#).

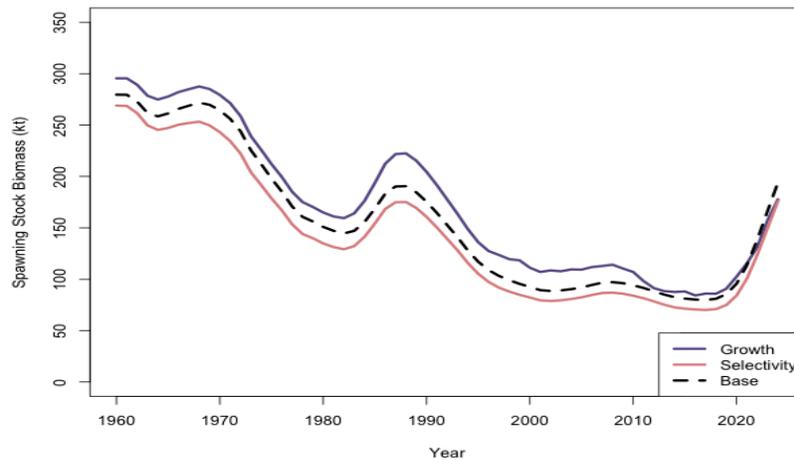


Figure 1. Comparison of spawning stock biomass (SSB) estimates between the current configuration of the stock assessment model (Base, black line), and those including annually-varying selectivity (Selectivity, pink line) and growth (Growth, purple line).

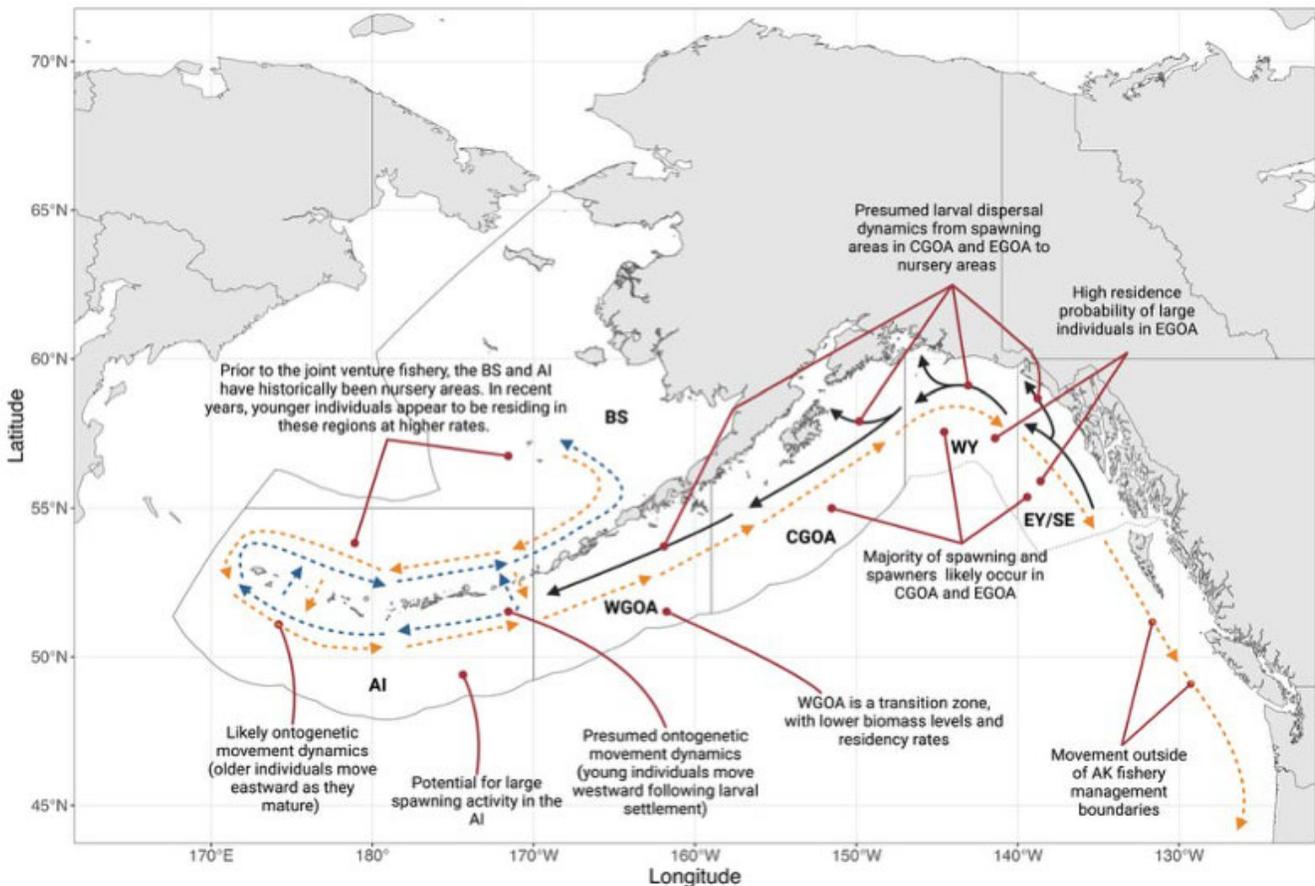


Figure 2. Conceptual model of hypothesized sablefish spatial dynamics. Black solid arrows represent larval dispersal, blue dashed arrows are the movement dynamics of younger individuals, and orange dashed arrows are general movement dynamics of individuals as they mature.

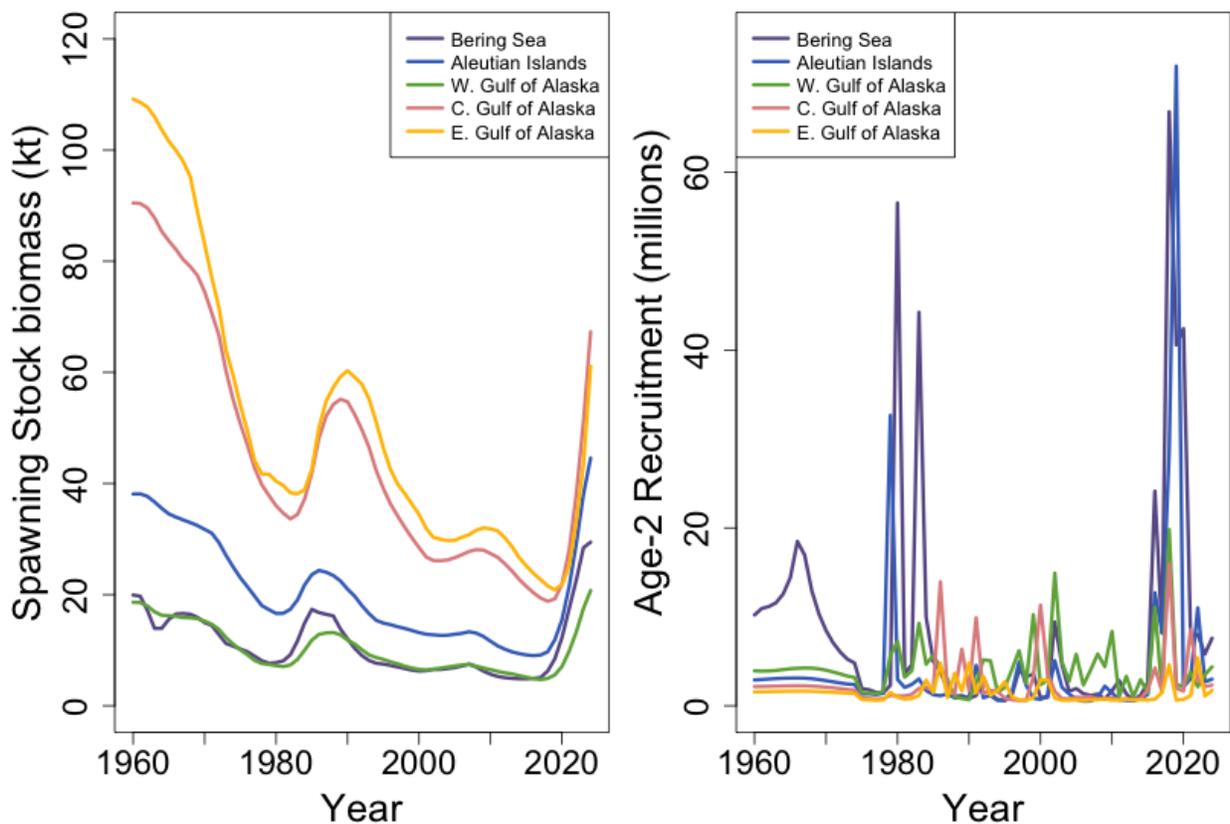


Figure 3. Model estimates from the research-oriented spatial stock assessment model, updated through 2024. The left panel shows spawning stock biomass (SSB) estimates, while the right panel shows age-2 recruitment across regions (colors).

Exploring the Performance of Harvest Strategies for Alaska Sablefish Using Management Strategy Evaluation



Joshua A. Zahner, Dan Goethel, Curry Cunningham, Matt Cheng, Ben Williams, Maia Kapur, and Chris Lunsford

Contacts: daniel.goethel@noaa.gov,

cjcunningham@alaska.edu, jazahner@alaska.edu

In response to rapid changes in Alaska sablefish recruitment and subsequent increases in catch limits set by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), **this project aims to evaluate the impact and outcomes of implementing possible alternative strategies for managing the Alaska sablefish resource given substantial uncertainty in future recruitment conditions.**

MSE – cont.

To date, this project has successfully developed an Alaska-coast-wide population model to assess relative outcomes from adopting harvest control rules that use alternative reference point levels, stability, constraints, and harvest caps across a range of future recruitment conditions. **Results indicate that the current F40 management strategy is robust to the extreme recruitment dynamics exhibited by the sablefish population in Alaska but can result in large quota fluctuations (Fig. 1). Adoption of more conservative reference point levels can help mitigate the scale of quota fluctuations to some degree but come at the cost of much lower average catch levels.** Rules that constrain year-to-year changes in TAC (stability constraints) can dampen the annual catch variability but can carry potential risks during transitions from periods of high to low recruitment (Fig. 1).

MSE – cont.

Finally, harvest caps allow for consistent, moderately high catch levels and can be tuned to prevent oversaturation of potential economic markets (Fig. 1). Harvest cap strategies also have the benefit of expanding population age structure to include a higher proportion of old, large fish (Fig. 1). A rule that combines both stability constraints and harvest caps (a “hybrid” rule) has also been tested, and provides similar performance to an equivalent, unconstrained, harvest cap strategy.

Recent work on the project has focused on development and validation of a spatially explicit version of the simulation framework, which allows for evaluating the effect of different harvest strategies in different management regions of Alaska.

MSE – cont.

This extension of the original model will allow us to incorporate more fine-scale information regarding management and harvesting practices, including spatial-TAC apportionment and spatial variation in TAC utilization rates, as well as capture spatial variation in population age structure that may influence recruitment patterns. Under this new framework, we plan to evaluate a subset of previously identified harvest control rules given three possible future recruitment scenarios and two possible future movement scenarios. The three future recruitment scenarios will closely match with previously analyzed recruitment patterns. The two future movement scenarios will include one scenario in which movement remains similar to its current pattern, and one scenario in which fish are more inclined to move towards western portions of Alaska. Work is ongoing.

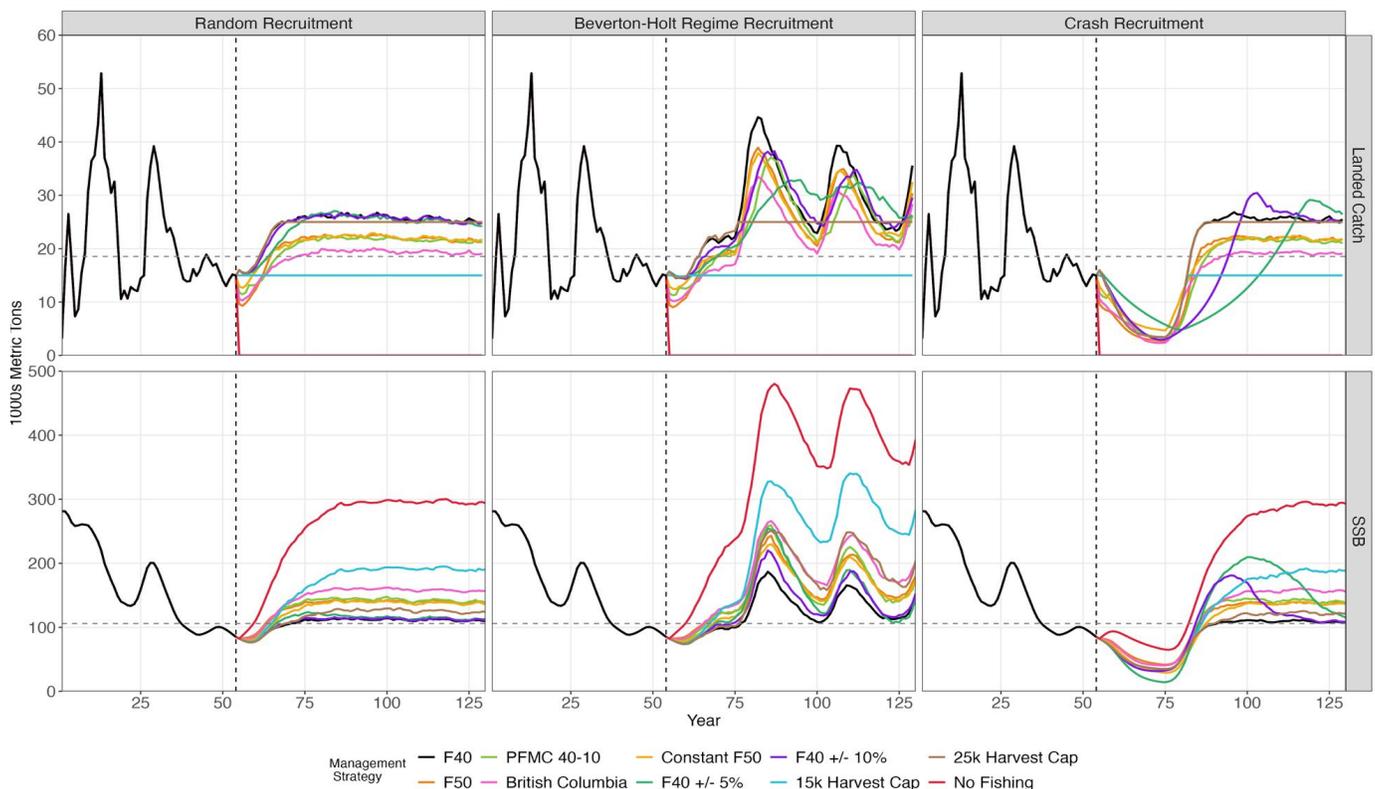
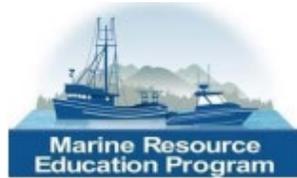


Figure 1: Landed catch (top) and SSB (bottom) trajectories across management strategy (color) and recruitment scenario (columns). Lines represent the median annual catch and SSB in each simulation year. Dashed vertical line indicates the start of the simulation period when alternative management strategies are applied.

Marine Resource Education Program

<https://mrep.gmri.org/>



The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) was created as a training program for fishermen to learn how to effectively engage and navigate the complex system of fisheries science and management.

The MREP hosts regional workshops that are moderated by fishermen to assist fisheries scientists and managers portray fisheries science and management issues in an approachable way. These workshops are held for fishermen to:

- Learn the nuts and bolts of marine fisheries science and management
- Demystify acronyms and vocabulary
- Gain tools and insights into effective engagement with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Connect with key regional fishery science and management experts

Workshops are free for accepted participants, with travel, hotel, and food costs covered: Juneau AK, February 23 – 27, 2026.

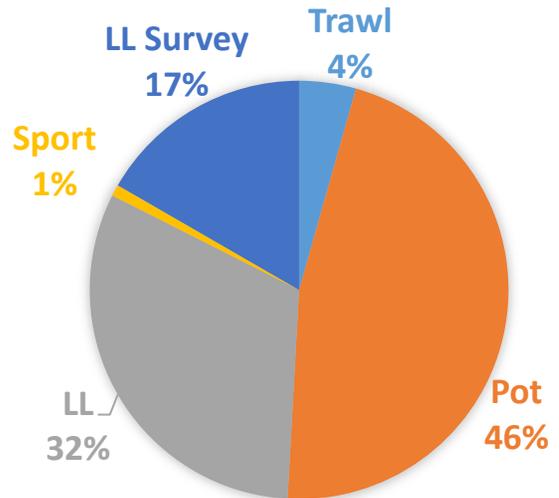


2025 GROUND FISH TAG PROGRAM RECAP

2025 number of tags **RECOVERED**:

- 284 sablefish (9 tagged as juveniles)
- 9 Pacific cod
- 1 shortspine thornyhead
- 3 tagged sablefish recovered in Russia

RECOVERIES BY GEAR TYPE



Of those **RECOVERED SABLEFISH** tags:

- Greatest time at liberty: ~36 yrs (recovered ~ 2 nm from its release location)
- Shortest time at liberty: 41 days (traveled 45 nmi during that time)
- Greatest distance traveled: 1,649 nmi

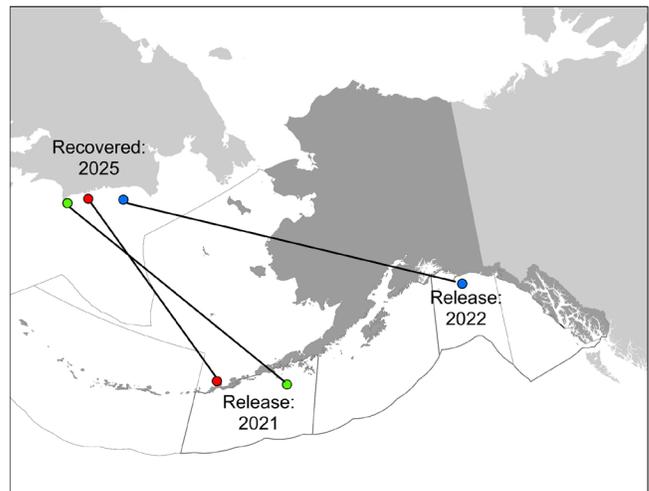


Figure. Release and recovery locations of three tagged sablefish recovered in Russian waters in 2025.



AFSC Groundfish Tag Website

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/map/alaska-groundfish-tagging-map>



CONTACTS

Chris Lunsford: Marine Ecology and Stock Assessment (MESA) program manager
chris.lunsford@noaa.gov

Dan Goethel: Lead sablefish assessment author
daniel.goethel@noaa.gov

Pat Malecha: Coordinator of the longline survey
pat.malecha@noaa.gov

Kevin Siwicke: Coordinator of the longline survey
kevin.siwicke@noaa.gov

Katy Echave: Groundfish Tag Program
katy.echave@noaa.gov

Congrats to the 2024 NMFS Sablefish Tag Recovery Prize Drawing Winners

Gina Hensley – Yakutat, AK **First Prize: \$1000**
 Tag BK 81406 – at liberty 1,702 days

Marina Sapeta – Napa, CA **Second Prize: \$500**
 Tag BK 89808– at liberty for 1,149days and traveled 372 nm

Jacob Strubbe – Sitka, AK **Third Prize: \$250**
 Tag BK 56303 – at liberty for 3,710 days and traveled 24 nm

Ryder Torgeson – Sitka, AK **Fourth Prize: \$250**
 Tag BK 84044–at liberty for 1,896 days and traveled 528 nm

Turn in those tags quick to be included in the 2025 drawing! \$\$\$\$

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARINE RESEARCH EDUCATION PROGRAM
 FISHERIES SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
<https://www.mrep.gmri.org/>
 JUNEAU, AK
 FEBRUARY 23-27, 2026

SABLEFISH TAG REWARD DRAWING
 TED STEVENS MARINE RESEARCH INST. -
 JUNEAU, AK – MARCH 2026
 Drawing for all of the 2025 sablefish tag returns with cash reward prizes.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

<https://www.npfmc.org/three-meeting-outlook/>
 EGAN CENTER - ANCHORAGE, AK
 FEBRUARY 2 – 11, 2026

HILTON HOTEL – VANCOUVER, WA
 JUNE 1 – 9, 2026

ANCHORAGE, AK
 OCTOBER 5 – 13, 2026

ANCHORAGE, AK
 NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 8, 2026

34TH LOWELL WAKEFIELD FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM

MARINE HEATWAVES AT HIGH LATITUDES: TOOLS FOR TRACKING AND SUPPORTING FISHERIES RESILIENCE
<https://alaskaseagrant.org/events/wakefield-fisheries-symposium-2026/>

KODIAK, AK
 MAY 5 - 8, 2026

NPFMC GROUND FISH PLAN TEAM MTGS

ALASKA FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER – SEATTLE, WA
 SEPTEMBER TBD, 2026
 NOVEMBER TBD, 2026

Groundfish Tag Recovery Reporting - Survey123 App



1) How do I download the Survey123 app?

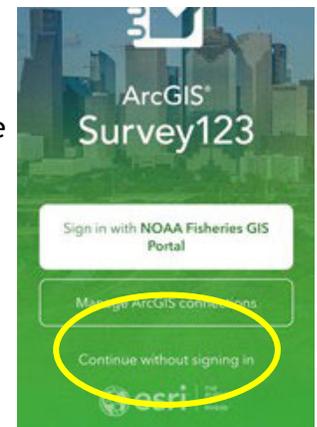
Downloading the Survey123 app on your smart device is the **FIRST STEP** to getting access to the Groundfish Tag Recovery Reporting survey. The **SECOND STEP** is clicking the individual link for the Groundfish Tag Recovery Reporting survey and then selecting 'Open in Survey123 field app'.

FIRST STEP: a) To download the free Survey123 app, scan the QR code on the device in which you will be submitting tag recoveries. Select the appropriate option for your device for downloading from the app store.

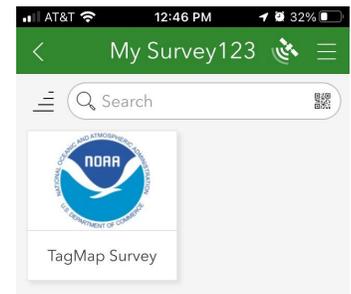
b) When you open the Survey123 app for the first time, you will be asked if Survey 123 can access your camera - click 'Yes/Allow.'

c) You will then see a log in screen (as seen in the figure at right) - click 'Continue without signing in' at the bottom of the screen.

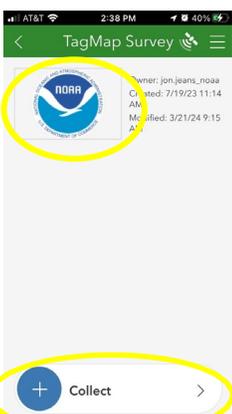
d) You may then be asked about Survey123 having access to your location - we would recommend selecting 'Allow while using app' as you may use this feature to record your location for immediate tag reporting. You will then see a screen saying 'You don't have any surveys on your device.' You will not see any surveys on this page unless you have already used the Survey123 app for other surveys. e) Close the app.



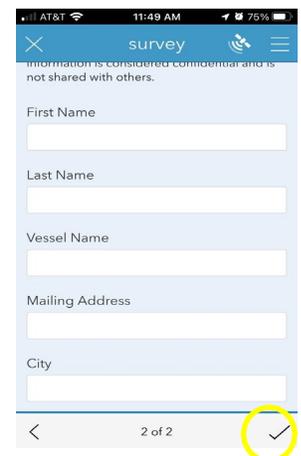
SECOND STEP: In order to access the Tag Reporting survey, close the app and scan the QR code again on the same device you downloaded the Survey123 app. Select 'Continue without signing in.' This should take you to the Tag Reporting entry. At this point, the Groundfish Tag Recovery Reporting survey is downloaded and can be opened in the Survey 123 app. When opening the Survey 123 app from here on, you should see a screen like that to the right. The Tag Recovery Reporting Survey will now remain on your device under the Survey123 app. Click on the Tag Map Survey to report a tag recovery.



YOU WILL ONLY NEED TO GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS THE FIRST TIME YOU SUBMIT A TAG RECOVERY!



Submitting a Tag Recovery: a) Open the Survey123 app on your device. b) Select 'Continue without signing in' at the bottom of the screen. c) Click on the TagMap Survey icon on your 'My Survey123' screen. d) Click 'Collect' at the bottom of the screen (as seen at left) and fill out a survey tag recovery. This will take you to the Tag Reporting survey. There are two pages with prompts for submitting a tag recovery. Items with an asterisk are required. Those without can be left blank as needed. In the second page, make sure and click the check mark at the bottom right of the page (shown in the figure to the right) to ensure the tag recovery has been submitted.



More Useful Tips for using the Survey123 Tag Reporting App

1) Do I need to Sign in to the Survey123 app?



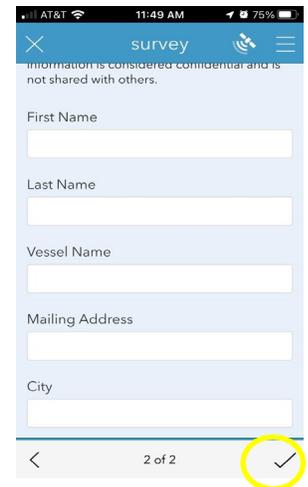
No, you do not need to sign in or create sign in details to use the Survey123 app. After downloading and opening the Survey123 app, you should see the screen featured on the left.

The text at the bottom of the screen that says ‘**Continue without signing in**’ is what you want to click. You will need to click this each time you open the Survey123 app.

2) Submitting a Tag Recovery:

There are two page with prompts for submitting a tag recovery. Items with an asterisk are required. Those without can be left blank if necessary.

On the second page, make sure and click the check mark at the bottom right of the page (as seen in the figure to the right) to ensure the tag recovery has been submitted.



3) Why isn't my location being picked up on the map and/or why can't I see a map at all?

There are several reasons why this could be the case but, in general, ensuring the location services on your device are enabled (see question 5 for instructions) and using the Survey123 field app to submit the survey should resolve this issue.

If you can see a map, but your location is not showing up, it may look something like this:



At this point, you can either:

- Click on the location icon 📍 on the left-hand side to find your location (a blue dot will appear at your location on the map if location services are enabled),
- Zoom in and click on the map to set your location,
- Search for your location using an address in the search bar at the top, OR
- Enter your latitude and longitude (if you have this information at hand)

When your location has been set, a blue pin 📍 will appear on the map, and the latitude and longitude boxes will be populated.

If you are experiencing this issue and do not have access to mobile data, please refer to question 7.

4) How do I enable location services on my smart device?

The follow information comes from [Esri's ArcGIS Survey123 FAQ for submitters](#):

*On iOS, when the app is launched for the first time after installing, you will be asked if you want to capture location only when the app is on, always, or never. This can be changed later in your device's settings, by browsing to **Settings > Privacy > Location Settings > Survey123**.*

*On Android, when the app is launched for the first time after installing, you will be asked if you want to allow access to the device's location. This can be changed later in your device's settings, by browsing to **Settings > Apps > Survey123 > Permissions** (or similar depending on the Android device). On Android, when you run the app in the background, a notification that the app may be using your current location appears; however, your location will only be captured according to the behavior chosen in the [location settings within the app](#). The default behavior is to only capture the location as needed by a survey, meaning that no location is captured when the app is in the background.*

5) How accurate is the location captured by the Survey123 field app?

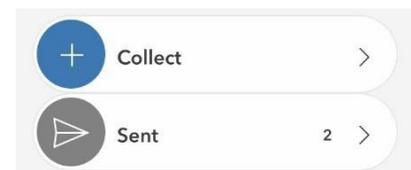
The accuracy of the Survey123 app depends on the ability of your device to capture locations. Keep in mind that accuracy will vary depending on what device you use and that it's important you choose a device that will best suit the type of survey you are doing.

If you are at all concerned that your device may not have captured an accurate location, you can always go back after the survey has been submitted and edit this information (see question 7 for instructions). For reference, the app records the location you are at when you click 'Collect' to begin the survey.

6) If I'm revisiting the same site, can I edit or view a survey I've previously submitted?

Yes, but you must be using the Survey123 app in order to do this. After you submit your first survey, you will see a 'Sent' folder at the bottom the survey summary page:

If you click into the 'Sent' folder, you can see all previously submitted surveys from your device. By clicking on one of the surveys, you will be given the option to 'View' or 'Copy sent data to a new survey'. By choosing the 'Copy sent data to a new survey' option, you can simply edit your location and answers to questions and submit as a new survey.



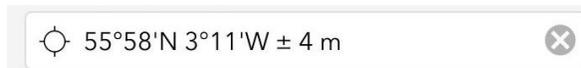
7) What if I don't have a mobile data plan or the location I'm going to is very remote and I may not have access to mobile data?

Short answer: You can still access and fill out the survey without mobile data but you **MUST** download the Survey123 app in order to do this. See instructions below:

When connected to Wi-Fi or mobile data, download the Survey123 app, as well as the Groundfish Tag Recovery Reporting survey you need to take into the field. You can then begin capturing survey information without a data connection. Upon completing the survey, you will be given the option to 'Save in Outbox', please select this option. In doing so, all of your survey results will be stored locally on your device. **When you are able to reconnect to Wi-Fi or mobile data, you will need to submit your survey that has been saved in your Outbox.** To do this, navigate to the survey summary page where you will see an 'Outbox' folder (see image below). By clicking on this folder, you will be able to see the survey you filled out and can submit it by clicking 'Send' in the bottom right corner of the screen.



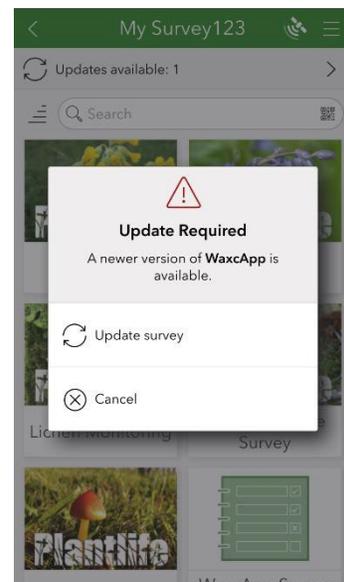
Note: You will not be able to see a map with your location while filling out a survey offline but rest assured, if you have locations services enabled on your device, the app will record your location. It might look like the following image, no map but an un-editable box containing your present coordinates.



8) If I already have the Groundfish Tag Recovery Reporting survey downloaded, how do I access the newest version?

You will know there is an update available when you open the Survey123 app and notice a bar across the top of the screen that says, 'Updates available'. You can click on this bar and update the survey. The other option is to simply click on the NOAA icon on the 'My Survey123' screen as if you are going to fill out a survey. You will then get a message saying that a required update is available - click 'Update survey'.

Then, when you enter the survey, you will be able to see the newest version of the Groundfish Tag Recovery Reporting survey.



9) If I'm submitting a survey multiple times, is there a way to save some of the information so I don't have to keep re-entering it?

Yes, there is a way! Once you have populated the survey with the answers you wish to save for future surveys, you can set them as your favorite answers by clicking the menu icon  in the upper right corner of the screen. You will then select the option 'Set as favorite answers'. Once your favorite answers have been saved, you can insert them into new surveys by clicking on the menu icon again at the start of your next survey and selecting 'Paste answers from favorite'. This is a good option for address fields.

10) How do I make the text larger on the Survey123 app?

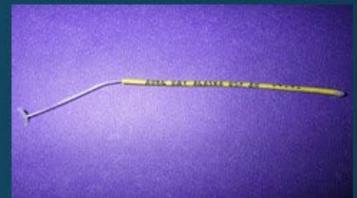
If you're having trouble with the size of the text, you can customize these settings within the Survey123 app. Click on the menu icon  in the upper right corner of the 'My Survey123' page and then select 'Settings'. In Settings, select 'Text' and adjust the text size by sliding the circle to the right to increase the size.

Still having trouble, didn't see your question listed or want to report an issue with Survey123?

Please get in touch with us if this FAQ guide did not help to answer your query by sending an email to: katy.echave@noaa.gov. Please be as detailed and specific as possible so that we can resolve any issues quickly and efficiently. It would also help tremendously if you could include screenshots of issues, where relevant. Thank you!



REWARD FOR TAGGED SABLEFISH



The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau, AK tags sablefish (blackcod) in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands in order to study distribution and migration.

Tags may be yellow, red, or orange and are usually located below the first dorsal fin on the left side of the fish. In addition, sablefish are being tagged with 3/4 inch diameter x 2 1/4 inch long electronic tags placed inside the fish with a 3 inch long fluorescent green and pink tag located near the dorsal fin of the fish. The external tag reads – "Reward for Depth Sensor Inside Fish." These electronic tags are worth monetary rewards of up to \$500 if returned.

Postage-paid envelopes are available in most areas. For a reward and information on the tagged fish, please send tags with as much of the following information as possible:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| Name of vessel | Date of recovery |
| Location of recovery | Sex of the fish |
| Fork length (from tip of snout to fork in tail) | Round weight |
| Depth fished | Type of gear |

Sablefish Tag Program
NOAA/NMFS Auke Bay Laboratories
17109 Pt. Lena Loop Rd.
Juneau, AK 99801