

# H.3 – SABLEFISH GEAR SWITCHING PPA

***West Coast Shoreside***

***Processing Perspective***

**- Lori Steele, Executive Director –**

**West Coast Seafood Processors Association**

# FUTURE POTENTIAL

West Coast Shoreside Processing of

## IFQ Groundfish

We have significant potential to support the groundfish fishery, protect our coastal infrastructure, and sustain our communities.

*Year-round Groundfish Processing =*

*Year-round Jobs =*

*Coastal Infrastructure Stability =*

*Enhanced Opportunities in Other Fisheries =*

*Widespread Community Benefits*

Bellingham

Westport

Ilwaco

Warrenton

Astoria

Newport

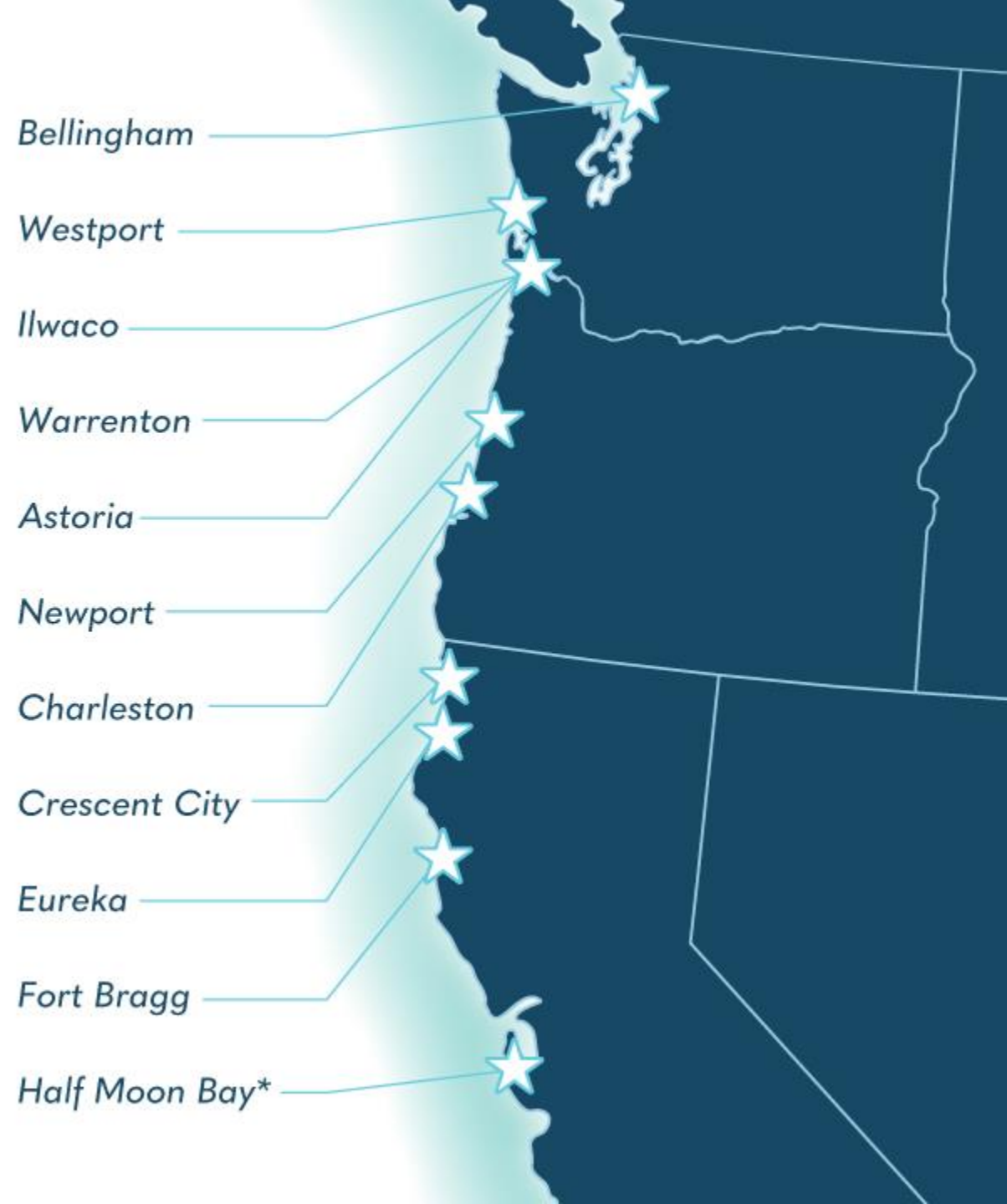
Charleston

Crescent City

Eureka

Fort Bragg

Half Moon Bay\*



# FUTURE POTENTIAL

West Coast Shoreside Processing of

# IFQ Groundfish

WCSPA expanded from 5 member companies in 2015 to 8 member companies in 2022.

- All own “brick and mortar” processing facilities
- All want to survive, thrive, and support our fisheries
- All striving for year-round production and year-round employment
- All represent critical infrastructure for West Coast fishing communities
- All have capacity to process many kinds of groundfish

West Coast  
Seafood Processors  
Association



# Sablefish is More Critical Than Ever for the Groundfish Trawl Sector

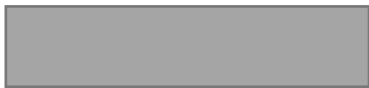
- Sablefish continues to be a limiting/choke species in the groundfish trawl fishery – Recent strong year classes of sablefish have exacerbated this situation.
- Targeted Dover sole and bottomfish fishing requires sablefish now more than ever – Every pound of sablefish allocated to the trawl sector is critical.
- Dover:sablefish catch ratios on targeted trips are much closer to 4:1 now – *Vessels targeting Dover sole cannot access enough sablefish to fish year-round.*
- Maximizing the availability of sablefish to the trawl fishery is critical for increasing attainment, meeting FMP goals/objectives, and achieving OY.

# Sablefish is More Critical Than Ever for the Groundfish Trawl Sector

- In recent years, major investments have been made by shoreside processors in groundfish processing equipment, market research and development, workforce and team training/support, and workforce housing.
- Major efforts are underway to re-establish and grow domestic and international markets for *all* groundfish species.
- Redeveloping groundfish markets takes significant time and money – and requires a consistent volume of product to be available on a consistent and predictable basis.

# Increasing Dover Sole Attainment Increases Overall Groundfish Attainment

- Sablefish is an important component of a multispecies trawl fishery and a significant value contributor and multiplier for groundfish trips.
- A wide variety of marketable groundfish species are caught in combination with sablefish and Dover sole.
- Additional value comes from increased employment required to process trawl-caught bottomfish above and beyond sablefish and Dover sole.



Fish Ticket

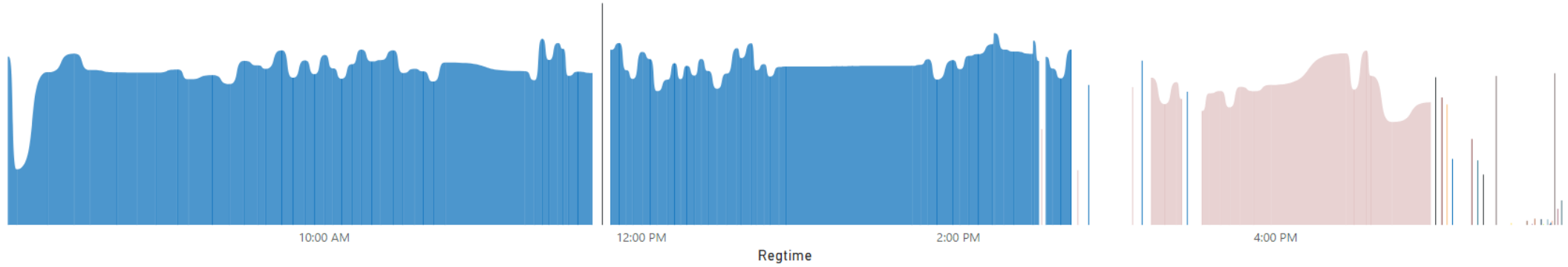
03/28/2022

Offload Date

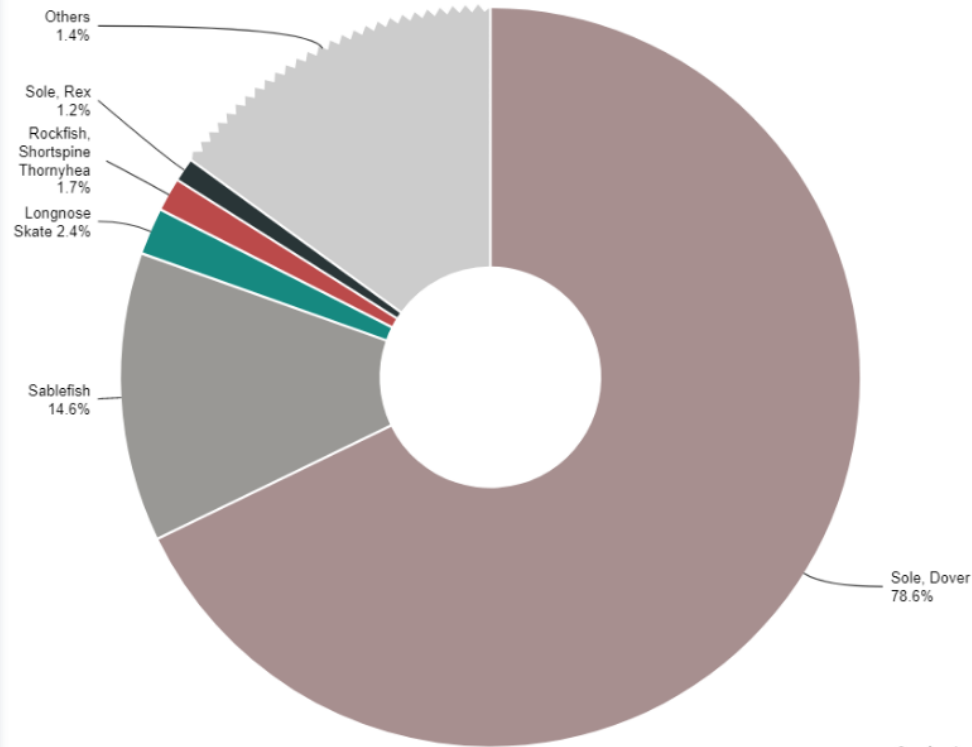
107,367

Total Weight in LB

Offload Log



Species	Weight (LB)	% of Total
Sole, Dover	84,411.00	78.62%
Sablefish	15,728.00	14.65%
Longnose Skate	2,550.00	2.38%
Rockfish, Shortspine Thornyhea	1,826.00	1.70%
Sole, Rex	1,301.00	1.21%
Sole, Petrale	732.00	0.68%
Flounder, Arrowtooth aka Turbo	392.00	0.37%
Rockfish, Slope	149.00	0.14%
Thornyhead, Longspine	98.00	0.09%
Big Skate	38.00	0.04%
Whiting, Pacific	35.00	0.03%
Marine Fish, Misc.	34.00	0.03%
Rockfish, Darkblotched	25.00	0.02%
Sole, General	25.00	0.02%
Rockfish, Shortraker	12.00	0.01%
Shark, Unspecified	7.00	0.01%
Ratfish	4.00	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,367.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Weight by Species





Fish Ticket

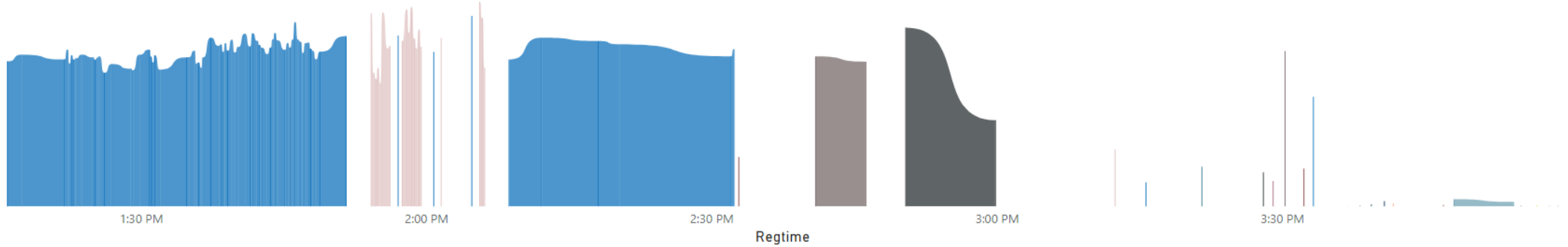
04/04/2022

Offload Date

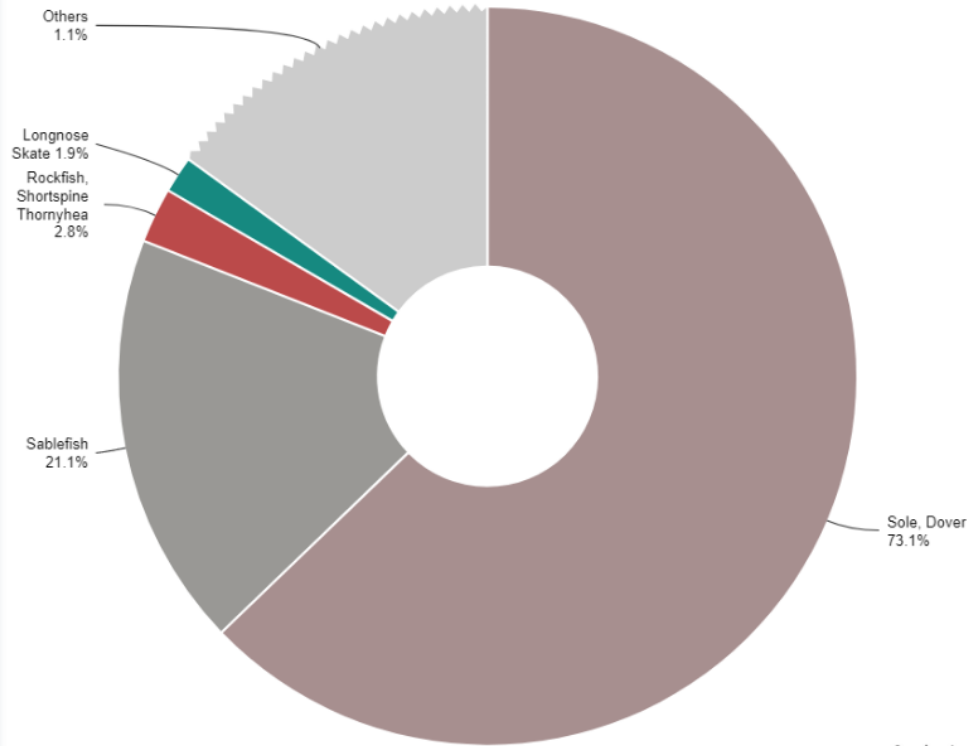
97,585

Total Weight in LB

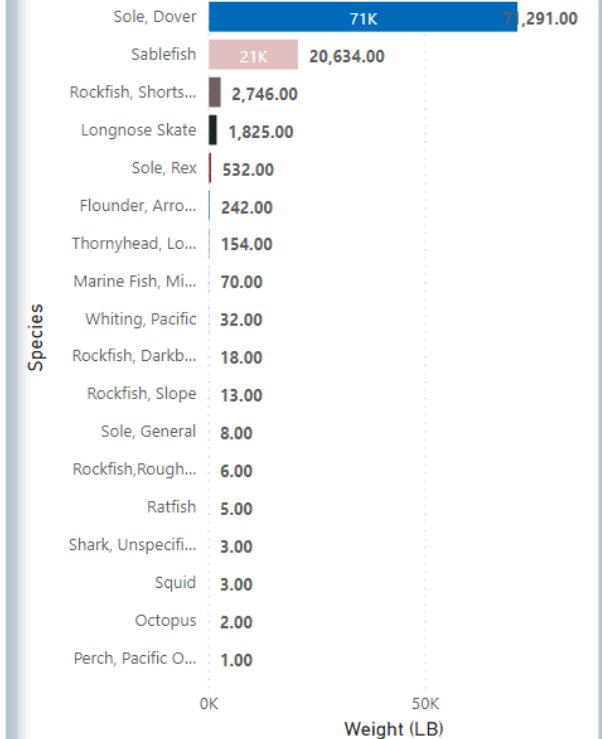
Offload Log



Species	Weight (LB)	% of Total
Sole, Dover	71,291.00	73.06%
Sablefish	20,634.00	21.14%
Rockfish, Shortspine Thornyhea	2,746.00	2.81%
Longnose Skate	1,825.00	1.87%
Sole, Rex	532.00	0.55%
Flounder, Arrowtooth aka Turbo	242.00	0.25%
Thornyhead, Longspine	154.00	0.16%
Marine Fish, Misc.	70.00	0.07%
Whiting, Pacific	32.00	0.03%
Rockfish, Darkblotched	18.00	0.02%
Rockfish, Slope	13.00	0.01%
Sole, General	8.00	0.01%
Rockfish,Rougheye/Blackspotted	6.00	0.01%
Ratfish	5.00	0.01%
Shark, Unspecified	3.00	0.00%
Squid	3.00	0.00%
Octopus	2.00	0.00%
Perch, Pacific Ocean	1.00	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,585.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Weight by Species







Fish Ticket

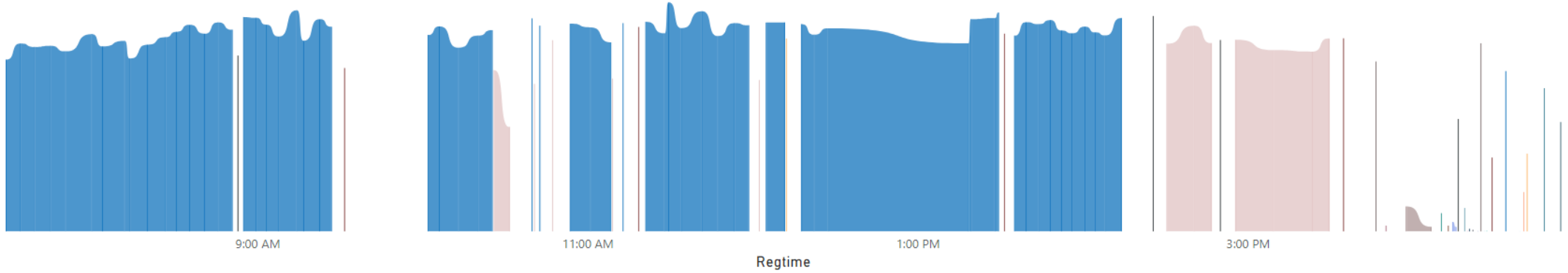
04/25/2022

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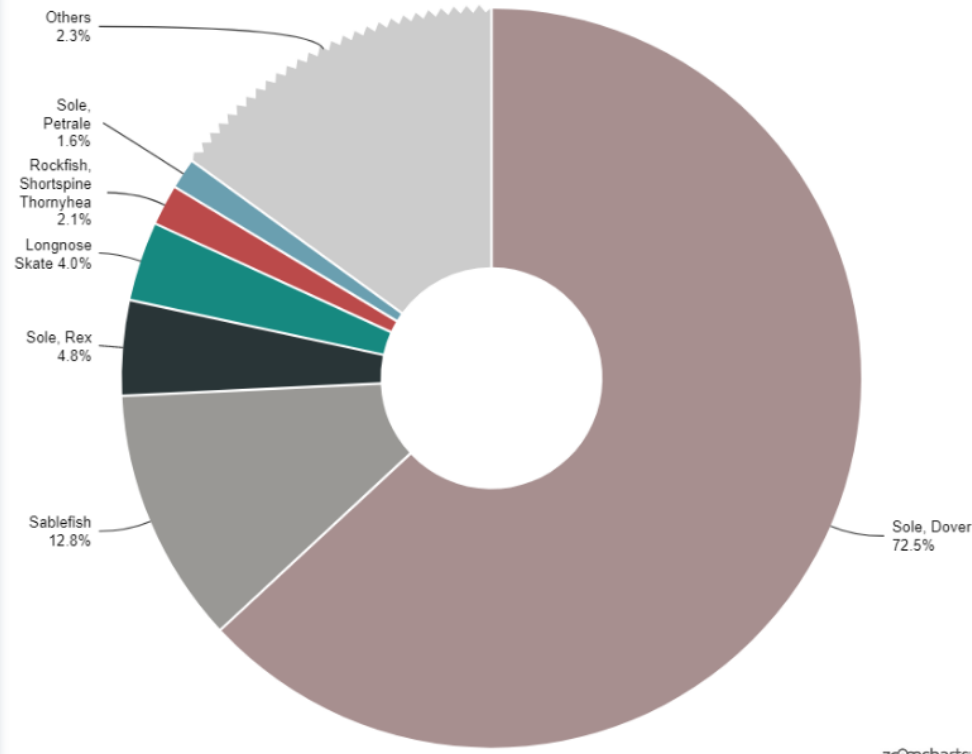
90,889

Total Weight in LB

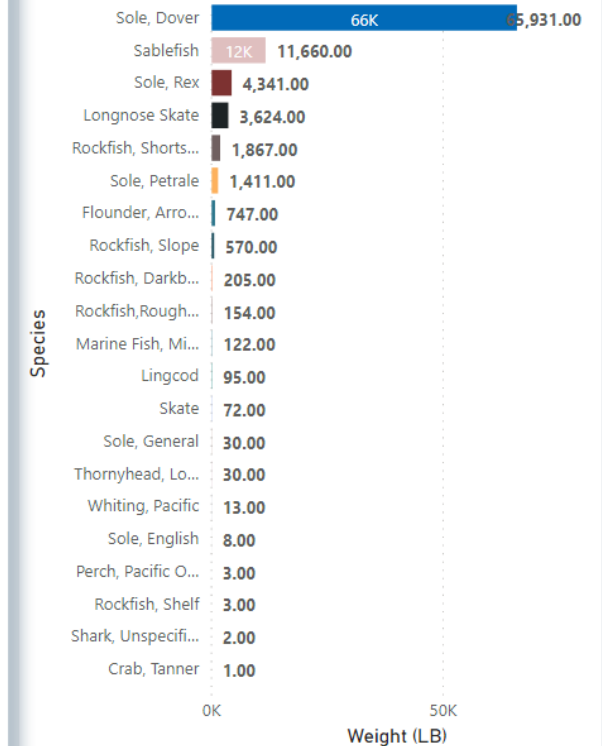
Offload Log



Species	Weight (LB)	% of Total
Sole, Dover	65,931.00	72.54%
Sablefish	11,660.00	12.83%
Sole, Rex	4,341.00	4.78%
Longnose Skate	3,624.00	3.99%
Rockfish, Shortspine Thornyhea	1,867.00	2.05%
Sole, Petrale	1,411.00	1.55%
Flounder, Arrowtooth aka Turbo	747.00	0.82%
Rockfish, Slope	570.00	0.63%
Rockfish, Darkblotched	205.00	0.23%
Rockfish,Rougheye/Blackspotted	154.00	0.17%
Marine Fish, Misc.	122.00	0.13%
Lingcod	95.00	0.10%
Skate	72.00	0.08%
Sole, General	30.00	0.03%
Thornyhead, Longspine	30.00	0.03%
Whiting, Pacific	13.00	0.01%
Sole, English	8.00	0.01%
Perch, Pacific Ocean	3.00	0.00%
Rockfish, Shelf	3.00	0.00%
Shark, Unspecified	2.00	0.00%
Crab, Tanner	1.00	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,889.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Weight by Species



# Trawl-Caught Sablefish

- Sablefish is a value multiplier for groundfish trawl trips – Trawl-caught sablefish is high quality, high-valued, and competitive in *any* market.



# Trawl-Caught Sablefish



# Gear Switching Range of Alternatives

## Alternative 3, Sub-Options 3/3, maximum 6.5% GSW

- Simple Approach – *Keep trawl-allocated sablefish in the trawl sector.*
- Maximize flexibility and opportunity within the trawl sector – This will increase attainment of *many* groundfish species.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 would provide trawl-allocated sablefish to numerous vessels that don't/won't use it.
- Council must prioritize the need to achieve OY for the groundfish fishery – This will help achieve OY, enhance food security, and promote the long-term viability of the groundfish fishery.

*Focus on supporting sustainable growth of the groundfish fishery and preserving our fishing community infrastructure.*