

Sablefish

Sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*), often referred to as blackcod, range from the Bering Sea to Baja California to Japan, and inhabit shelf and slope water to 1500 m depth. Abundance is mainly centred in northern BC and the Gulf of Alaska. Juveniles migrate inshore from offshore waters and rear in near-shore and shelf habitats until age two through five, when they migrate offshore and recruit into the fishery.¹

The Sablefish Longline Fishery

The sablefish fishery is a groundfish fishery. In 2010, following a three-year pilot program designed by the Commercial Industry Caucus with input from the Commercial Groundfish Industry Advisory Committee, the Commercial Groundfish Integration Program was implemented. The program includes 100 percent at-sea and dockside monitoring; individual vessel accountability for all catch, both retained and released; IVQs and reallocation of these quotas between vessels and fisheries to cover catch of non-directed species.²

The majority of Canadian sablefish are harvested by trap but they may also be caught by trawl and longline gear.³ Longline gear consists of baited hooks connected to a mainline by a short line.⁴ Longline gear can extend from 15 km long in demersal longlines (at or near the seafloor), to up to 100 km long in pelagic longlines (floating at or below the surface).

Management measures are described using units known as Species/Stock Management Areas, Groundfish Management Areas (GMAs) in the case of groundfish fisheries and Pacific Fishery Management Areas (PFMAs). Of the eight GMAs identified for the Pacific, seven exist entirely or partially within PNCIMA (see table).

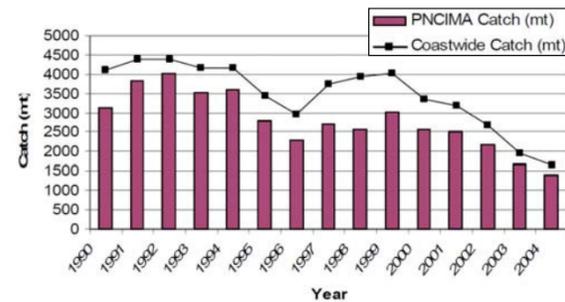
Fishery Effort

The fishery effort map, using four by four km gridded data, represents 89.53 percent of the data available for PNCIMA

GMAs within PNCIMA, as defined by PFMAs/Subareas

GMA	PFMAs and/or Subareas
3D	Subareas 27-2 to 27-11, 127-1 and 127-2
4B	Area 13 and Subareas 12-1 to 12-13, 12-15 to 12-48
5A	Areas 11, 111 and Subareas 12-14, 27-1, 127-3, 127-4 and 130-1
5B	Areas 7 to 10, 108 to 110 and Subareas 102-3, 107-2, 107-3, 130-2 and that portion of 130-3 that lies south of the parallel passing through 51 degrees, 56 seconds north latitude
5C	Areas 6, 106 and Subareas 2-1 to 2-19, 102-2 and 105-2 and 107-1
5D	Areas 3 to 5, 103, 104 and Subareas 1-2 to 1-5 and 101-4 to 101-10, 102-1 and 105-1
5E	Area 142 and Subareas 1-1 and 2-31 to 2-100 and 101-1 to 101-3 and that portion of Subarea 130-3 that lies north of the parallel passing through 51 degrees, 56 seconds north latitude

Sablefish Catch by Longline and Trap



after screening for confidentiality (minimum three vessels reporting per grid cell).³ The five data classes presented on the map are based on natural groupings inherent in the data such that similar values are grouped and differences between classes are maximized (Natural Break or Jenks statistical method). In PNCIMA, cumulative sablefish fishery effort by longline is measured by the number of hooks set during a fishing event.

With the exception of the area of Langara Island at the northern tip of Haida Gwaii, fishing for sablefish by longline gear appears to be concentrated along the continental slope extending from the waters off Brooks Peninsula (west coast Vancouver Island) in the south to Dixon Entrance at the northern boundary of PNCIMA.

A comparison of sablefish catches by longline and trap in PNCIMA and coastwide is presented in the graph.³

Map data are viewable online through DFO Mapster at www-heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/maps/maps-data_e.htm
 Material presented is drawn from the following literature reviews, which include primary references:
 1 Hillier, C.J., Gueret, D., Butterfield, S. and Pellegrin, N. 2007. Fish harvesting activities within the proposed Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area. Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2803: vi + 65 p.
 2 Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2010. Pacific region integrated fisheries management plan: groundfish, February 21, 2010 to February 20, 2011, 185 pp.
 3 MacConnachie, S., Hillier, J. and Butterfield, S. 2007. Marine use analysis of the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2677: viii + 188 p.
 4 Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2007. National plan of action for reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries. 29p.

Sablefish fishing by longline is concentrated along the continental slope

