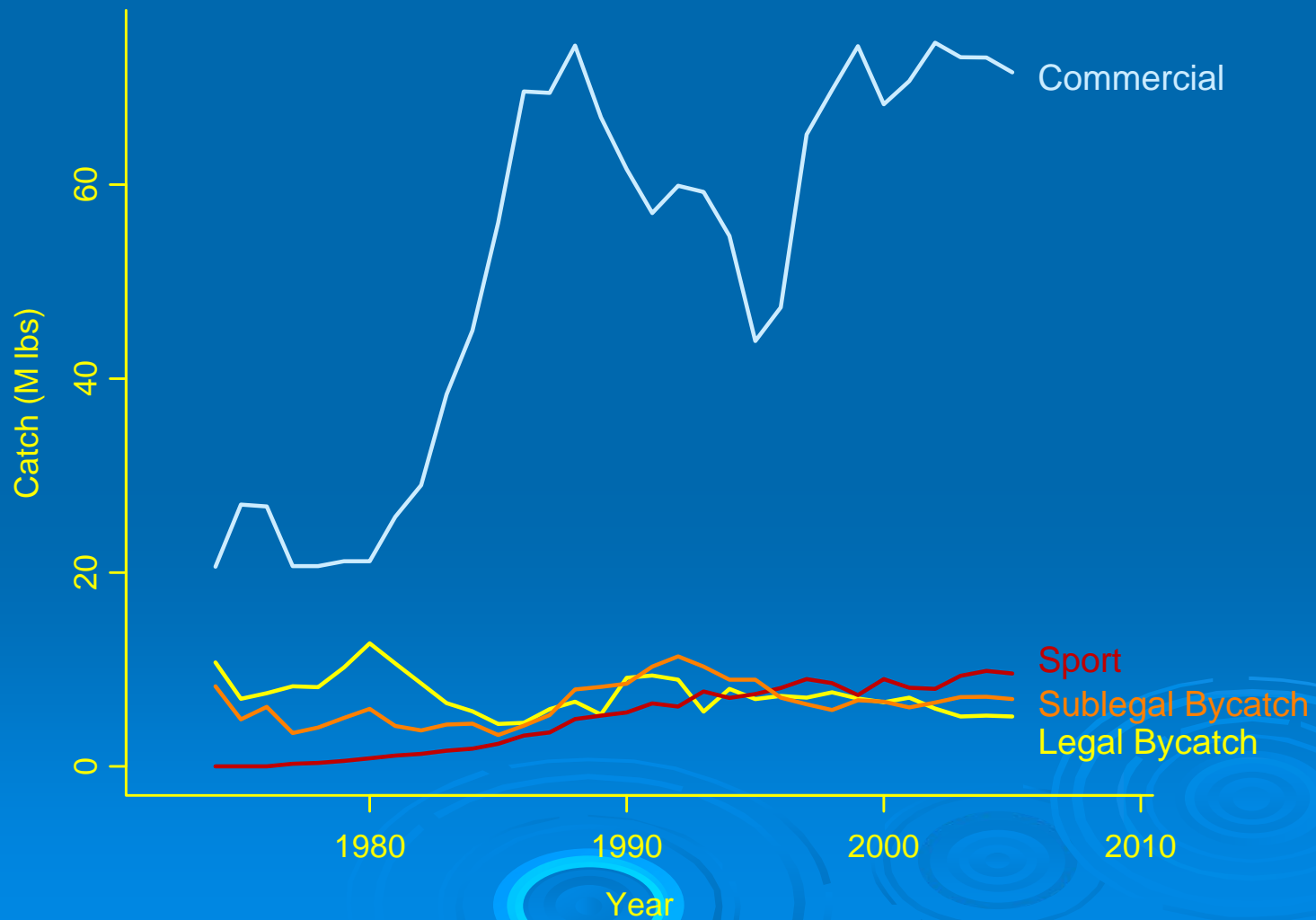


Everything you ever wanted to know about regularizing treatment of sport and bycatch*

Steven R. Hare and William G. Clark

* but were afraid to ask

Halibut catches, 1974-2005



Present treatment of bycatch and sport catch

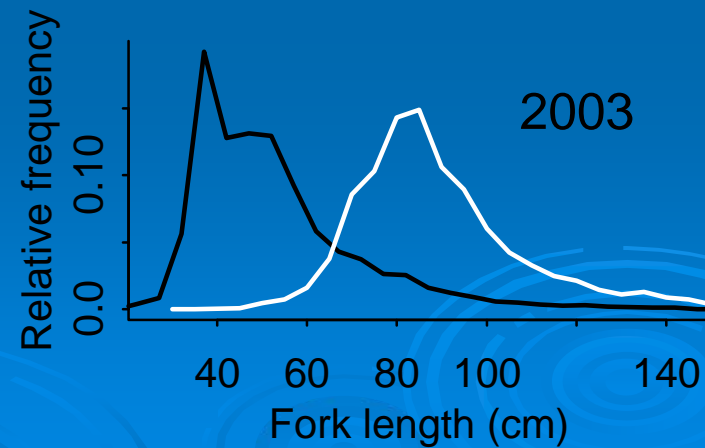
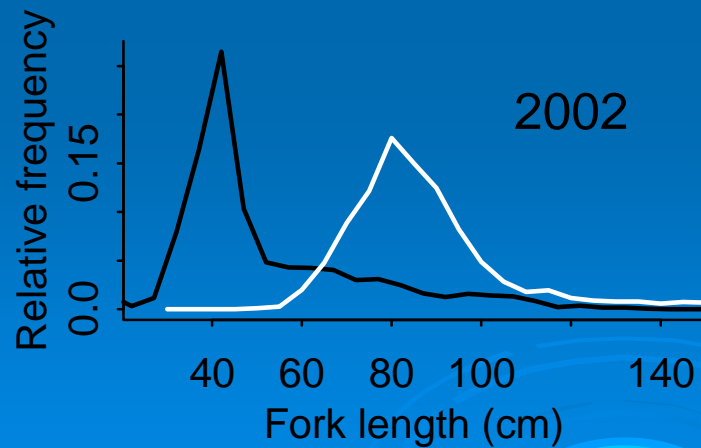
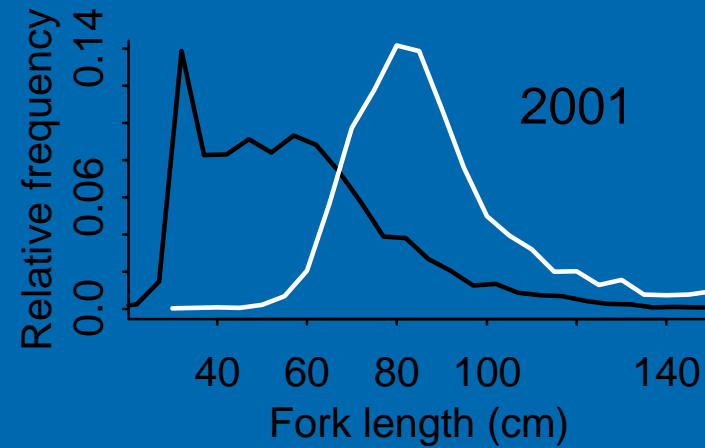
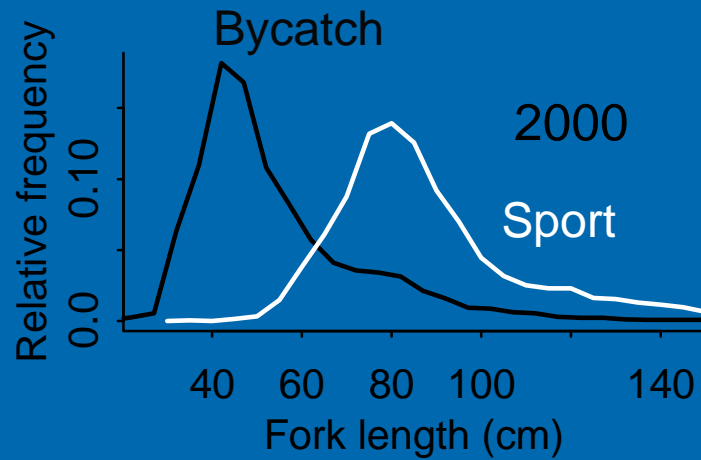
➤ Bycatch:

- Legal component subtracted from CEY (in area of capture)
- Sublegal component accounted for in harvest rate analysis
- Total bycatch mortality capped by NMFS regs

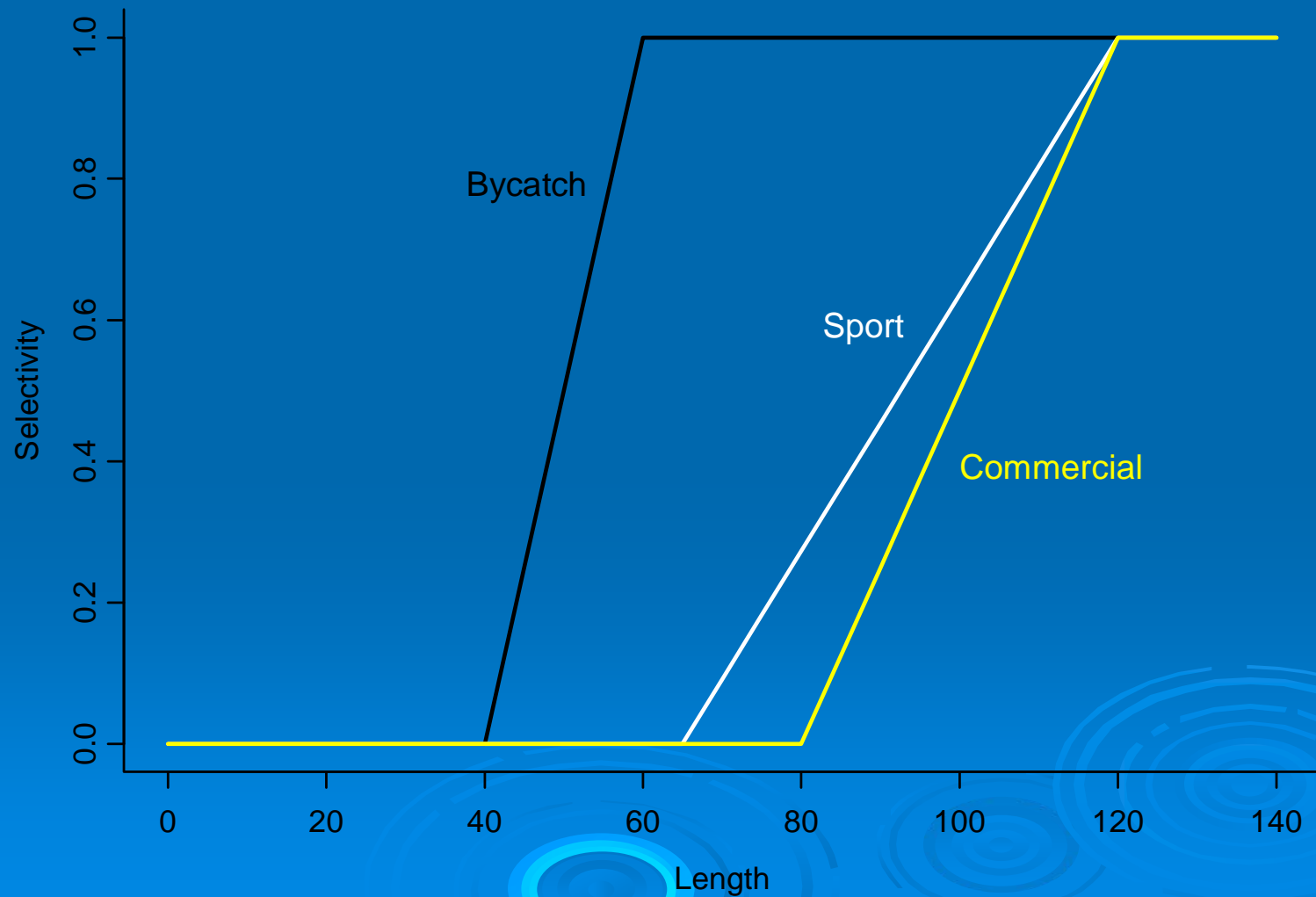
➤ Sport and subsistence

- Deducted, in entirety, from CEY
- Sport catch “sort of” capped

Bycatch and sport catch size distributions

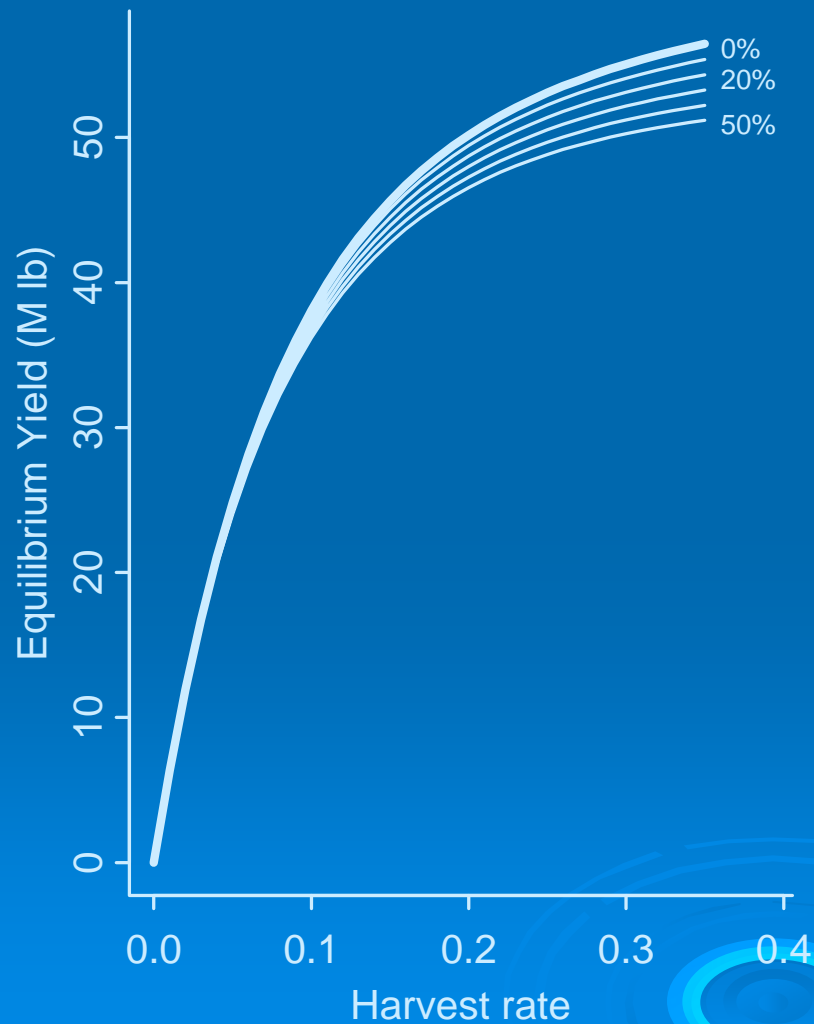


Fishery selectivities

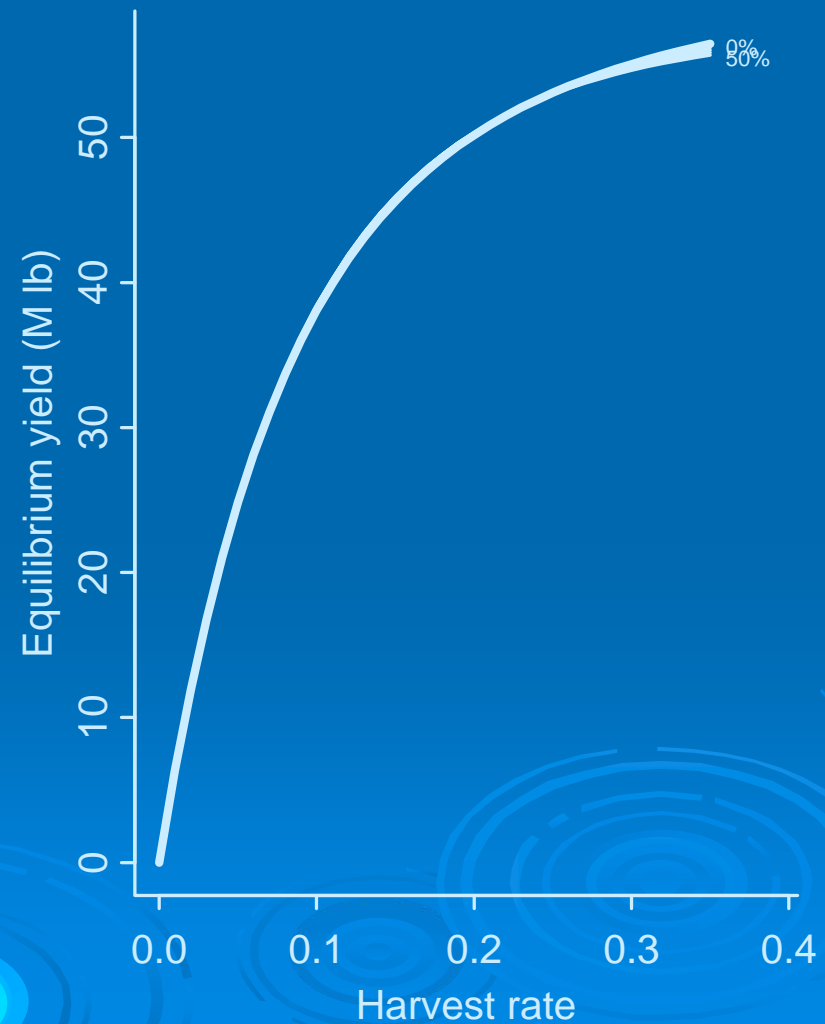


Impact on total yield

a) Bycatch



a) Sport catch



Options for “regularizing” - 1

- Status quo, i.e, don't regularize
 - Has worked well and machinery in place
 - Possible because of differing size comps
 - The smaller the bycaught fish, the greater the impact on future recruitment and yield
 - A pound of sport catch = a pound of commercial catch
 - A pound of bycatch \neq a pound of commercial catch

Options for “regularizing” - 2

- Treat bycatch same as sport catch
 - Until 1997, this was the case although the reduction in CEY was in proportion to coast wide biomass
 - This is a better option now than was the case 15-20 years ago because size at age is so much smaller
 - Downside is that CEY is reduced by amount of sublegal bycatch: Area 4 Fishery CEY ~ 0.

Options for “regularizing” - 3

- Treat sport catch same as bycatch
 - Problematic for a few reasons
 - Don't have program in place to provide annual estimates of sport catch size frequency
 - No method of limiting sublegal removals as there is for bycatch (fixed caps for groundfish fisheries)
 - Harvest policy would need to be revisited

Options for “regularizing” - 4

- Redefine sublegal as 65 cm, treat bycatch and sport catch the same
 - No effect on sport catch as all is > 65 cm
 - Larger subtractions from CEY (i.e., fish between 65 and 81cm)
 - Commercial catch definition also changed?
 - Harvest policy would need to be revisited

Conclusion

- Staff recommendation: Status quo
 - Status quo remains best option for optimal management of the stock
 - Regularizing unnecessary, burdensome
 - Substantial additional accounting practices would likely be required for other options