

AFSC/ABL: Longline Sablefish Survey

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Since 1978, the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) has conducted annual longline surveys with Japan (Japan-U.S. cooperative longline survey, 1978-94) and alone (1987-present, domestic longline survey). The survey has covered the upper continental slope (1978-present) and selected gullies (1987-present) of the Gulf of Alaska and the upper continental slope of the eastern Bering Sea (1982-94, biennially since 1997) and Aleutian Islands region (1980-94, biennially since 1996). A unique aspect of this survey is that the charter vessel retains most of the catch after the scientific data are recorded. The survey is conducted jointly by two components of the AFSC: the Auke Bay Laboratory and the Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering Division.