



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

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Canada



# Salmon bycatch in the groundfish trawl fishery

April 2022 update

Canada 

# Groundfish trawl fishery

- Approximately 50 active vessels
- Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) for all major groundfish species
- Annual landings > 100 million kgs
- Hake is the largest catch by weight and value
- Fleet includes fresh and freezer vessel types





# Audit-Based Monitoring

Dockside  
Monitoring

+

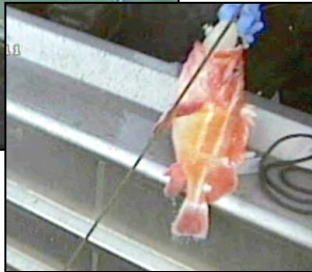
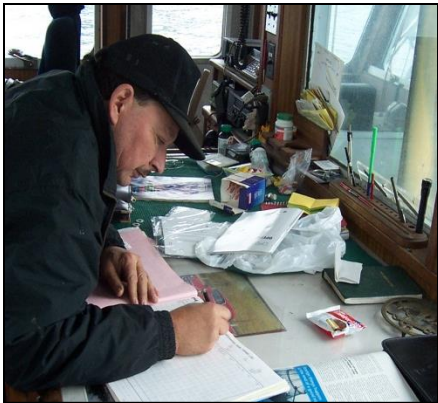
Fishing  
Log



Catch Allocation  
and  
Quota Deduction



Electronic Monitoring



# Salmon bycatch monitoring

## Current Requirements

- Salmon and trout are prohibited species that may not be fished for or retained
- Monitoring of salmon bycatch by fisher logs/electronic monitoring and dockside observer program
- Groundfish monitoring programs continue to evolve with technological changes and COVID public health guidance

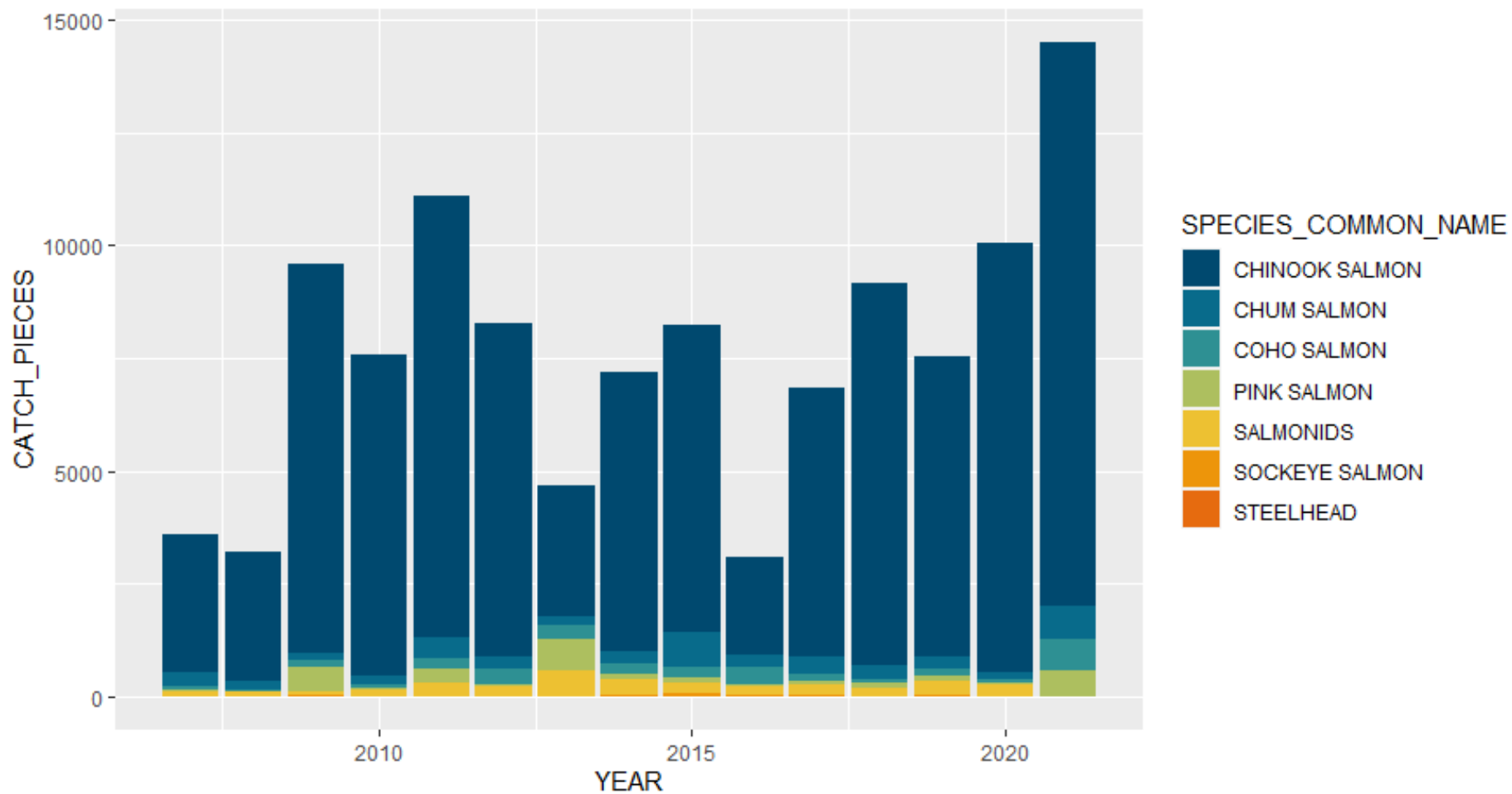
### Fisher logs:

- number of pieces and weight by species of discarded salmon
- Independent audit by electronic monitoring
- At-sea observers provided discard estimates pre-COVID

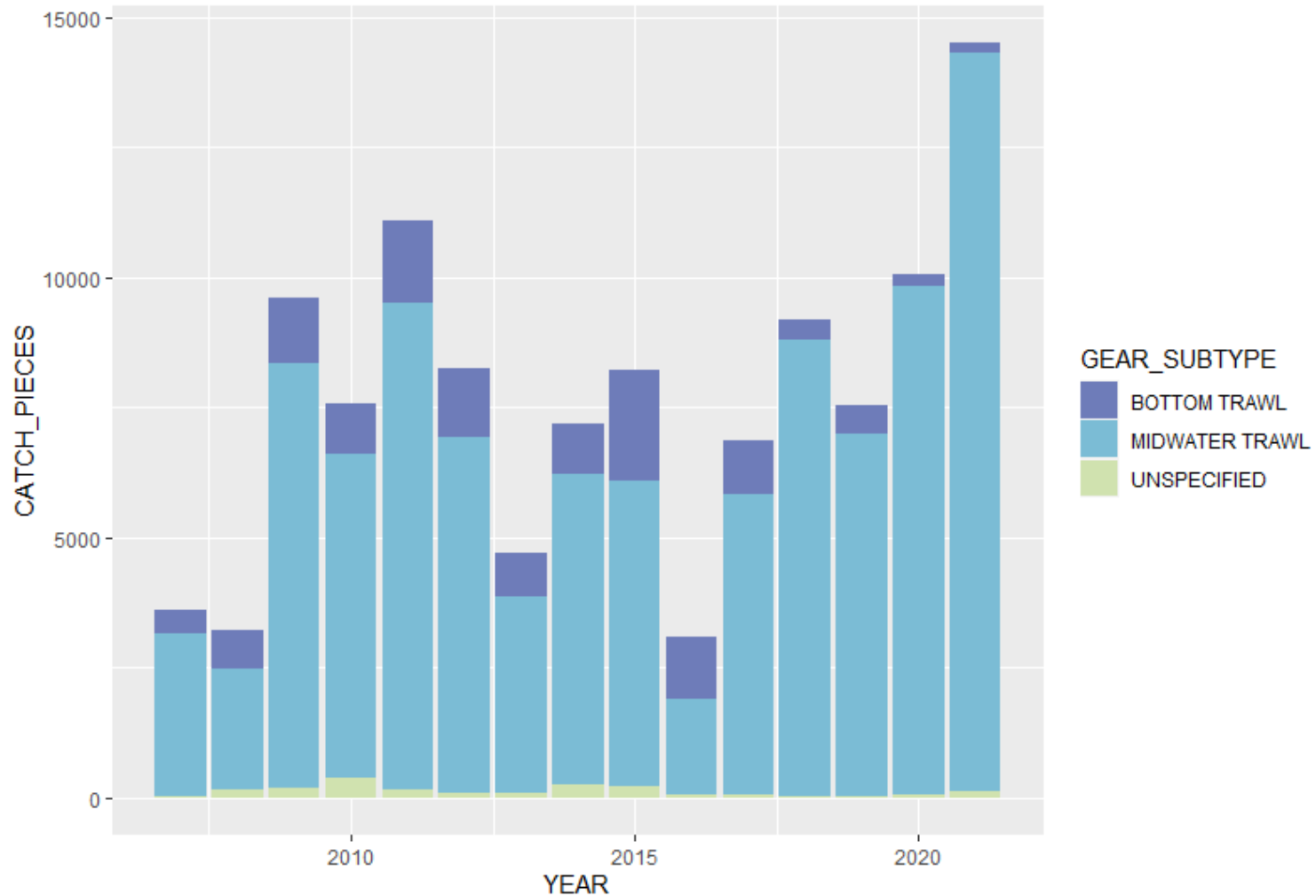
### Dockside:

- Estimates of all unintentionally retained salmon by species, weight and pieces

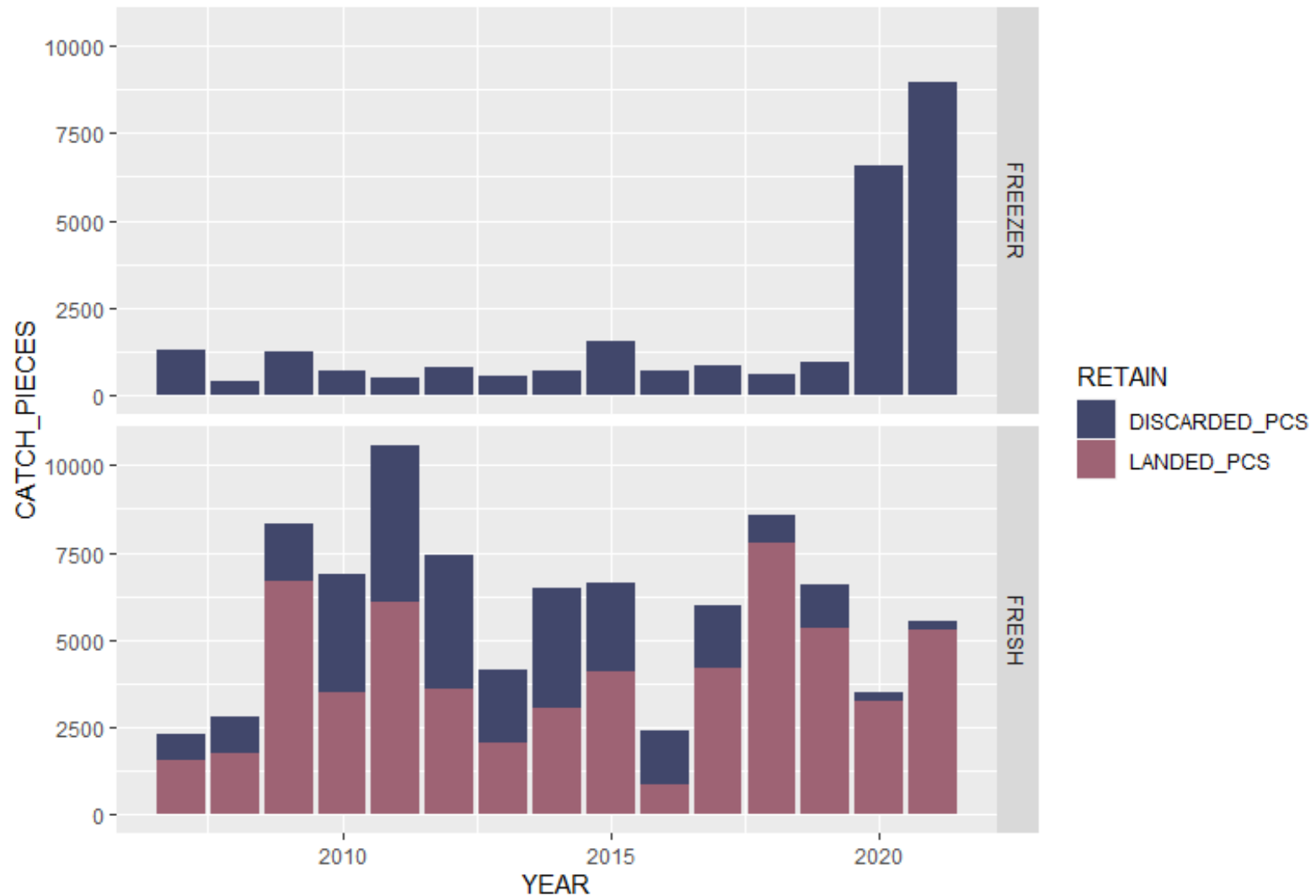
# Trawl salmon catch by species 2007-2021



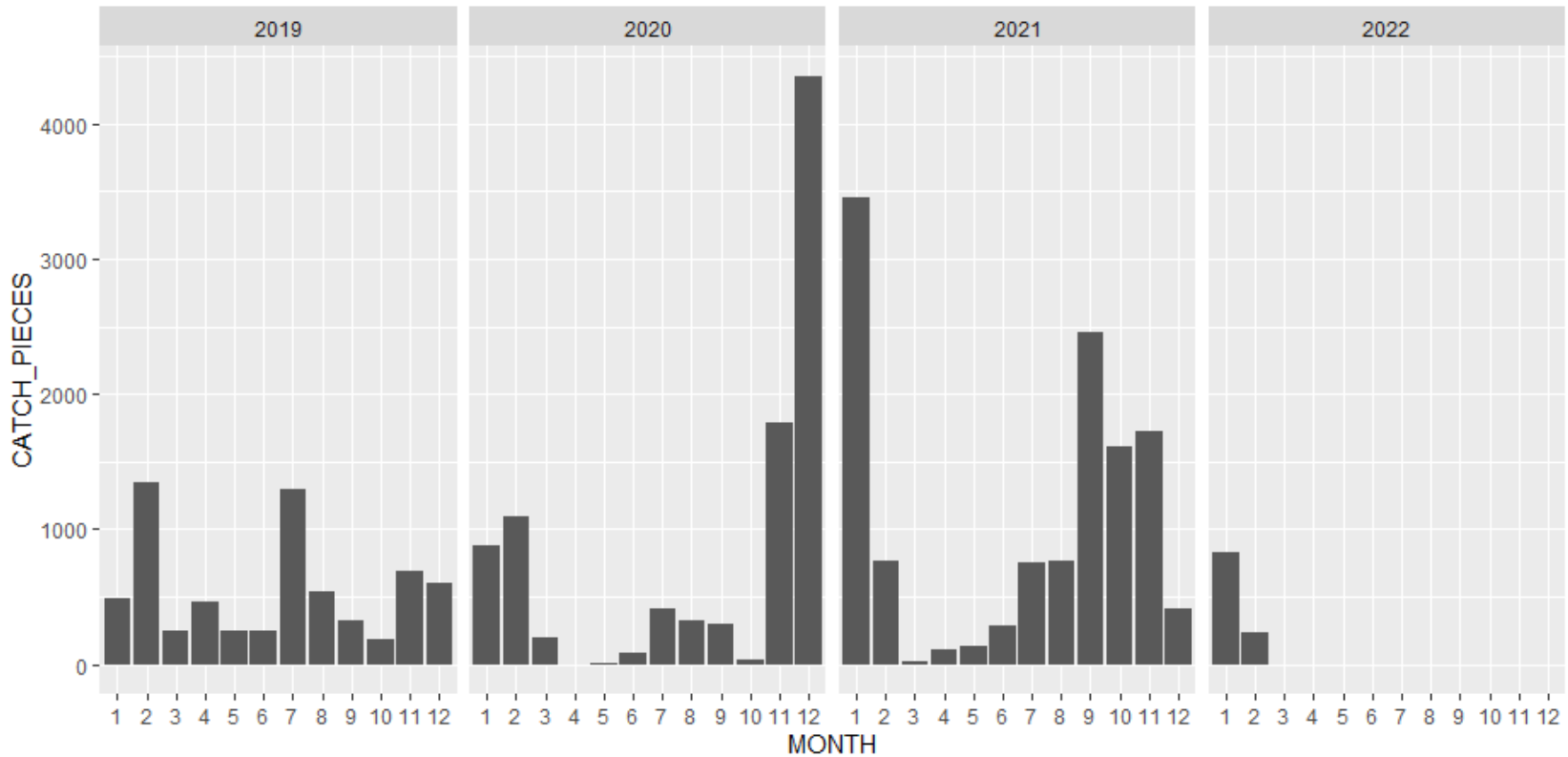
# Trawl salmon catch by gear type (landed + discards)



# Trawl salmon catch by vessel type and retention status



# Chinook salmon catch by month 2019- Feb 2022



# Salmon Bycatch Monitoring

## Proposed enhancements

- Mandatory retention of Pacific Salmon and Trout for more accurate validation at dockside
  - Freezer vessels would only be required to retain heads
  - Pacific Salmon and Trout would remain a prohibited species that cannot be sold or targeted
- Dockside sampling of heads from 25% of all trips (except 100% for freezer vessels)
  - Randomly selected for representativeness
- Lab analysis of heads to validate species type and sample coded-wire tags
  - Collection of genetic samples also being considered

# Freezer trawl pilot program

- Monitoring enhancements tested from Oct 2021 to Feb 2022 on a freezer trawl vessel
- 1000+ heads collected, mostly Chinook and Chum
- Lab analysis of heads for CWT information in progress
- Lessons learned and sampling instructions developed to inform a fleet-wide program

# Next steps

- Feasibility and implementation timelines for a fleet-wide enhanced salmon monitoring program currently under review
- Bycatch estimates to date for 2022 reduced from previous years due to changes in fishery effort distribution

# Questions?

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