

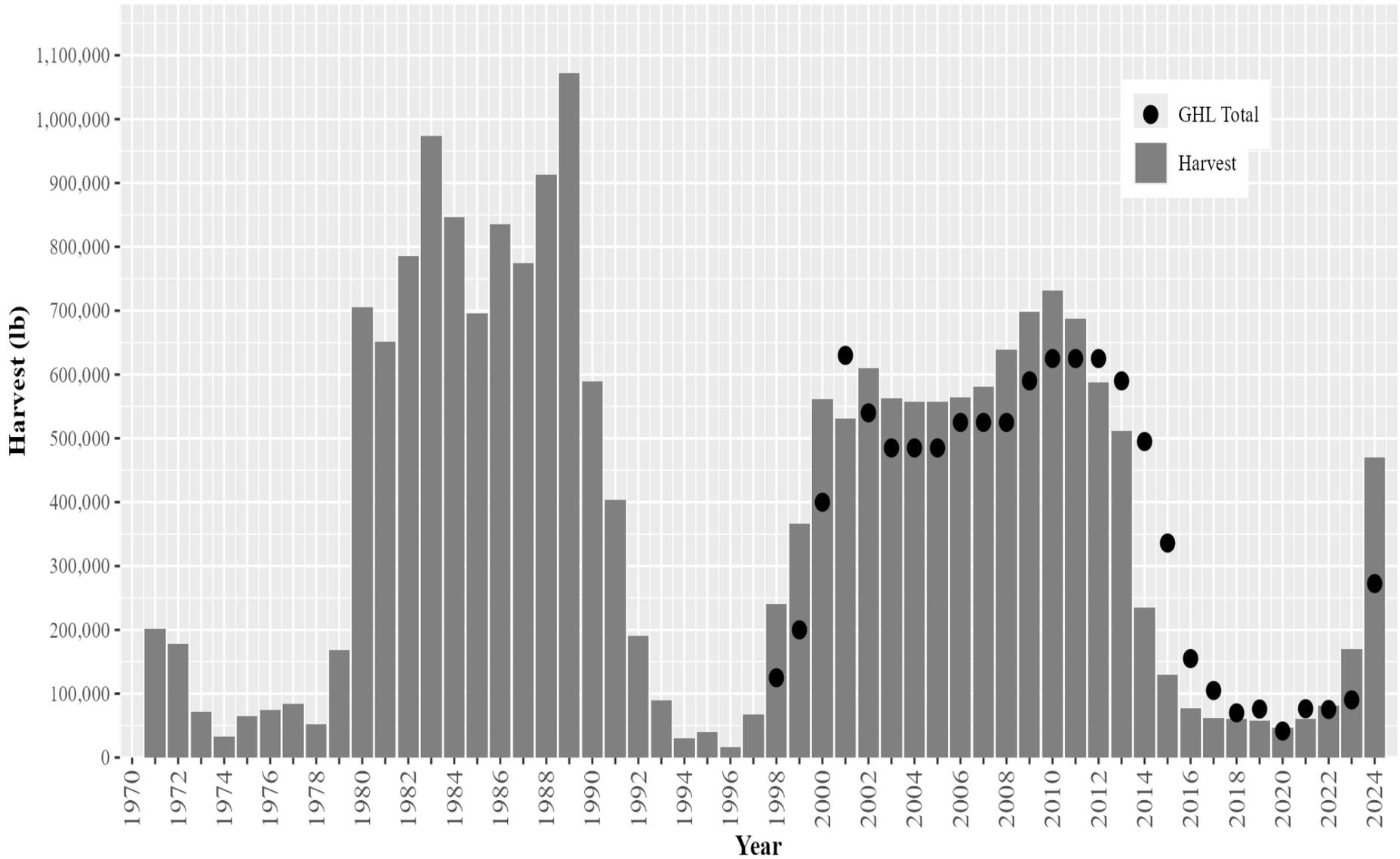
# ADF&G STAFF PRESENTATION

King and Tanner Task Force – December 2024

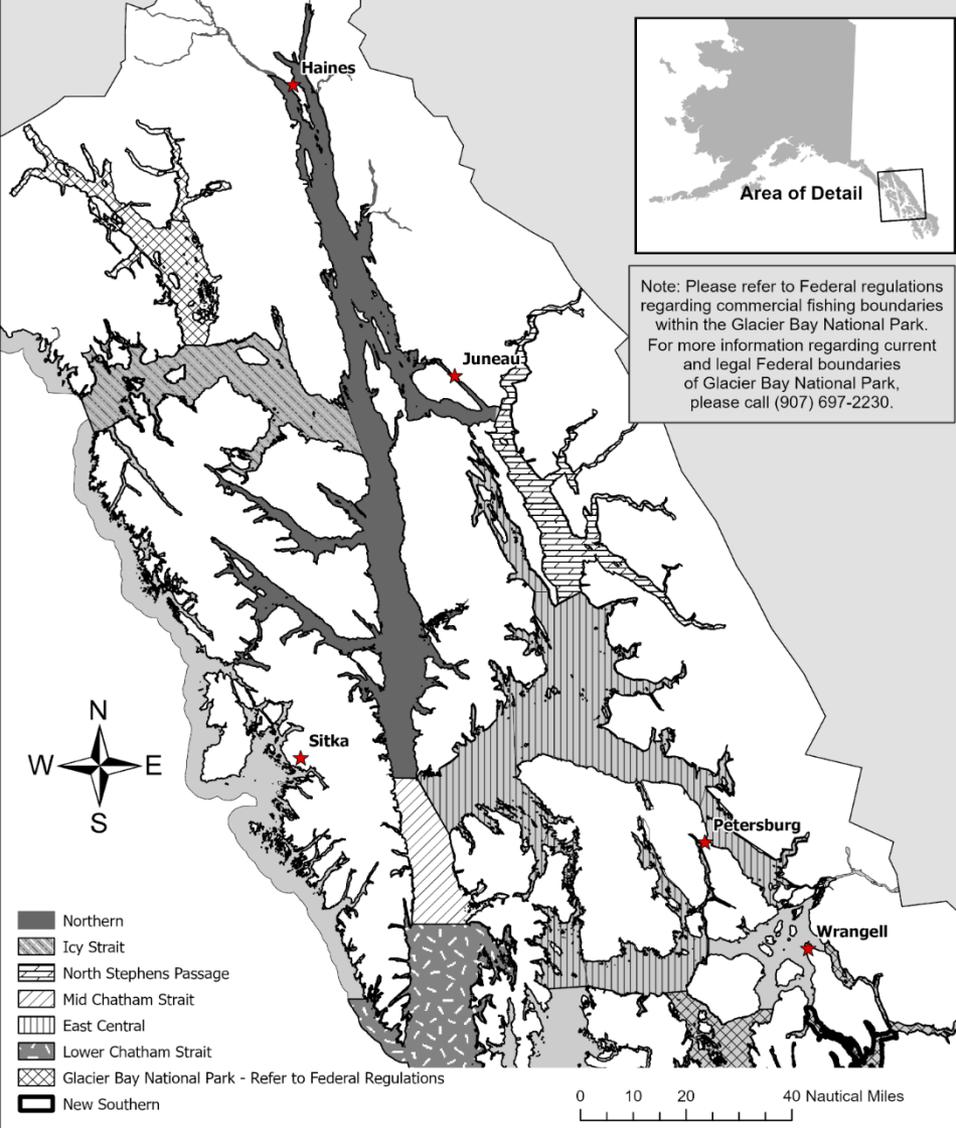


## Golden King Crab Commercial Fishery

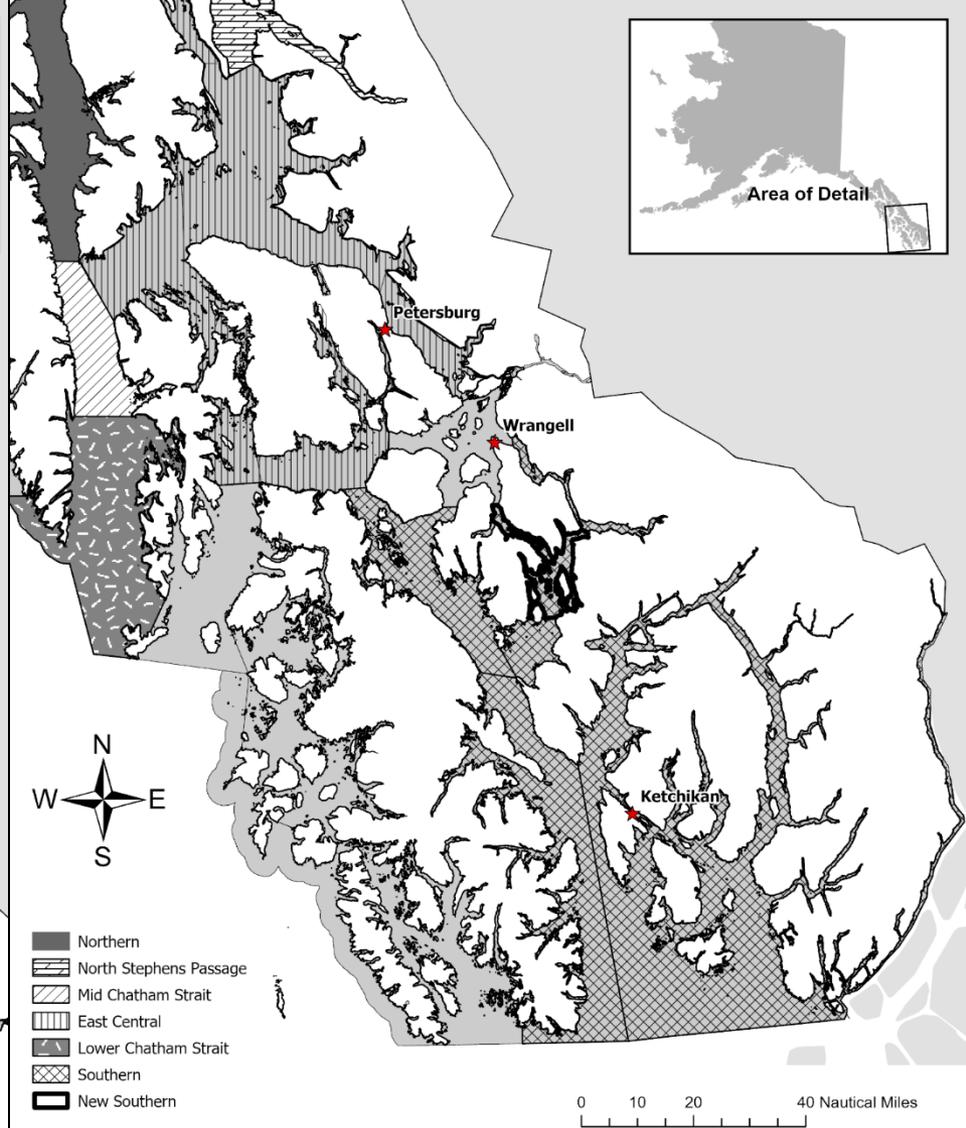
Adam Messmer, Lead King/Tanner Shellfish Biologist  
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Southeast Region



**Golden King Crab Management Areas and Waters of  
Registration Area A Closed and Not Open to Commercial Fishing  
Refer to 5AAC 34.107 and 5 AAC 34.150 for Legal Descriptions**



**Golden King Crab Management Areas and Waters of  
Registration Area A Closed and Not Open to Commercial Fishing  
Refer to 5AAC 34.107 for Legal Descriptions**



# Summary – GHL Review

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- GHL recommendations are made annually following a GKC harvest strategy (when applicable) to minimize the risk of recruitment failure
- Reasons for this approach
  - 1) Recent fishery performance had been poor in some areas
  - 2) Data poor fishery with no fishery independent stock assessment program
  - 3) GKC are a long-lived deep-water species, on a 20-month asynchronous reproductive cycle with non-feeding larvae that remain at depth; are less fecund than RKC and size at maturity varies across management areas

# Data Sources

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- All data currently available to assess SE AK GKC are fishery dependent:
  - 1) Commercial CPUE - fish ticket and logbook. Logbooks have been used in the fishery since 2000.
  - 2) Dockside sampling - length frequencies of crab by recruit class (recruit and post-recruit) from the early 1970s to present.
  - 3) Soak time plots.
  - 4) Future data source - Juvenile and pre-recruit survey partnership.

**(2025 areas: Northern and Icy Strait)**

# 2024 Fishery

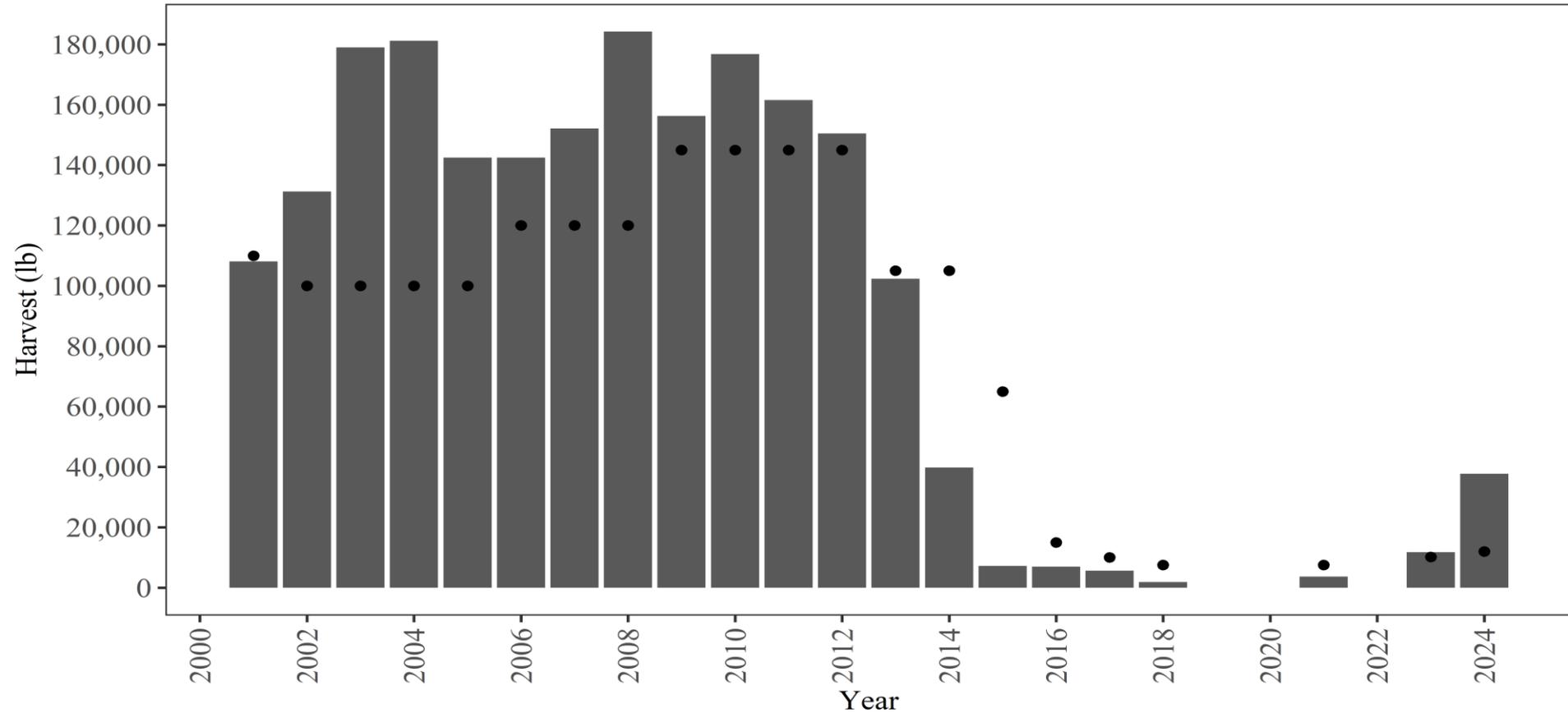
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- All seven fishery areas were open:
  - 1) Northern – 12,000 lb
  - 2) Icy Strait – 35,000 lb
  - 3) North Stephens Passage – 16,000 lb
  - 4) East Central – 150,000 lb
  - 5) Mid-Chatham Strait – 30,000 lb
  - 6) Lower Chatham Strait – 7,500 lb
  - 7) Southern – 22,000 lb

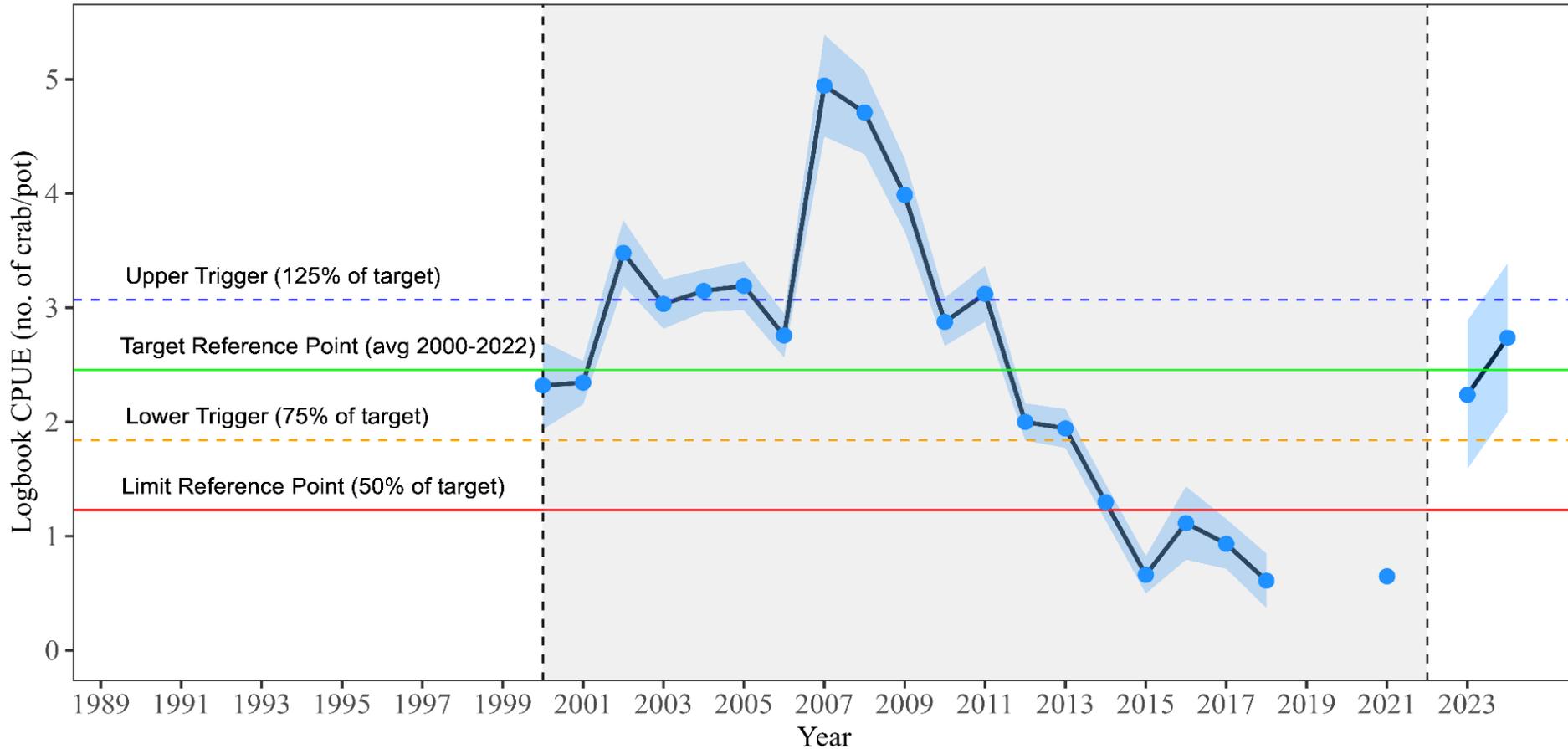
Total Region GHl – **272,500 lb**

# Northern



2024 harvest – 37,771 lb

## Northern logbook data



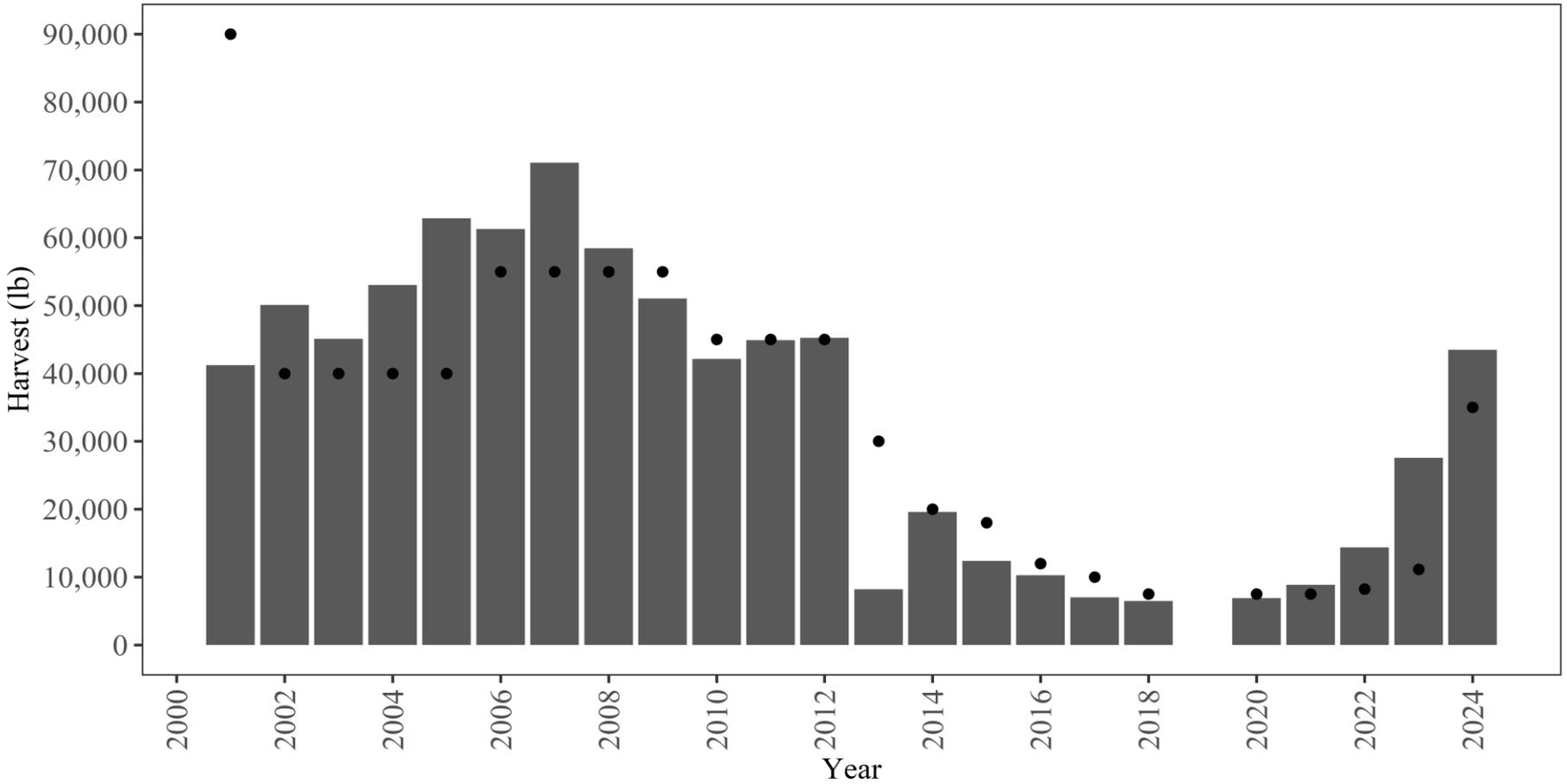
2024 average CPUE – 2.74 crab/pot

# Northern

- Closed by EO after 17 days
- Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest was expected to reach the 12,000 lb GHL after 15 days, extreme weather system - closure date was pushed back to allow gear to be removed from the area safely.

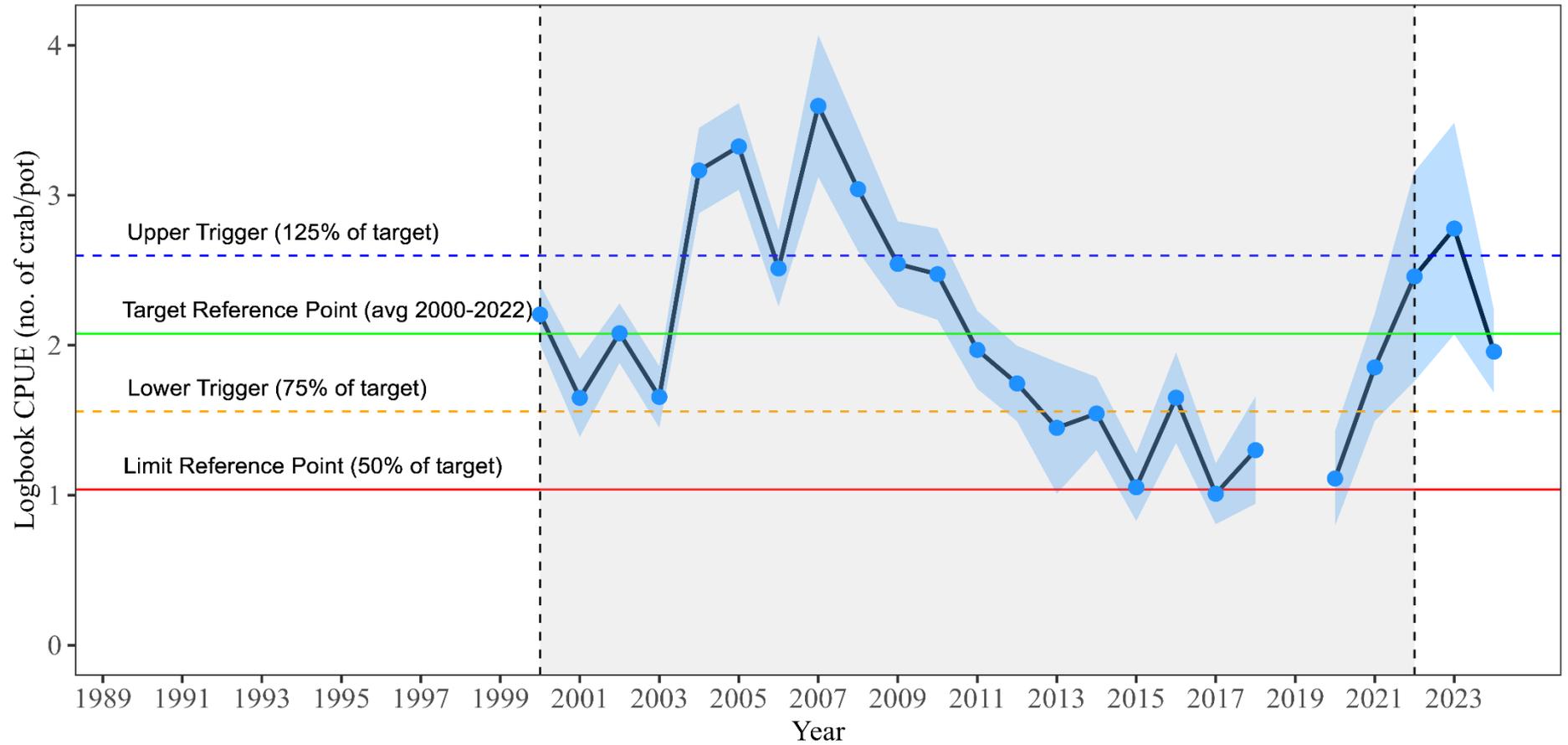


# Icy Strait



2024 harvest – 43,479 lb

# Icy Strait logbook data



2024 average CPUE – 1.9 crab/pot

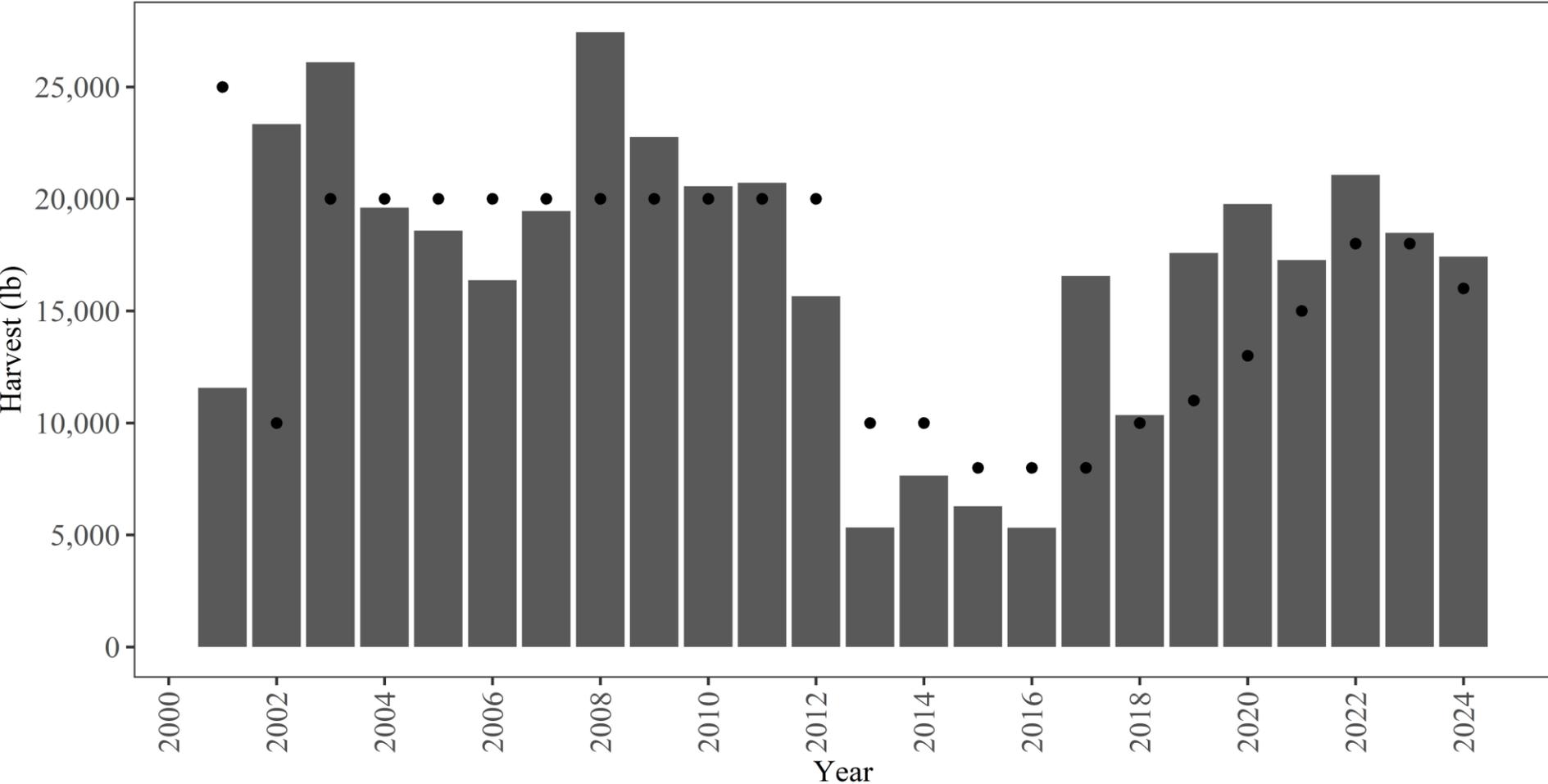


# Icy Strait

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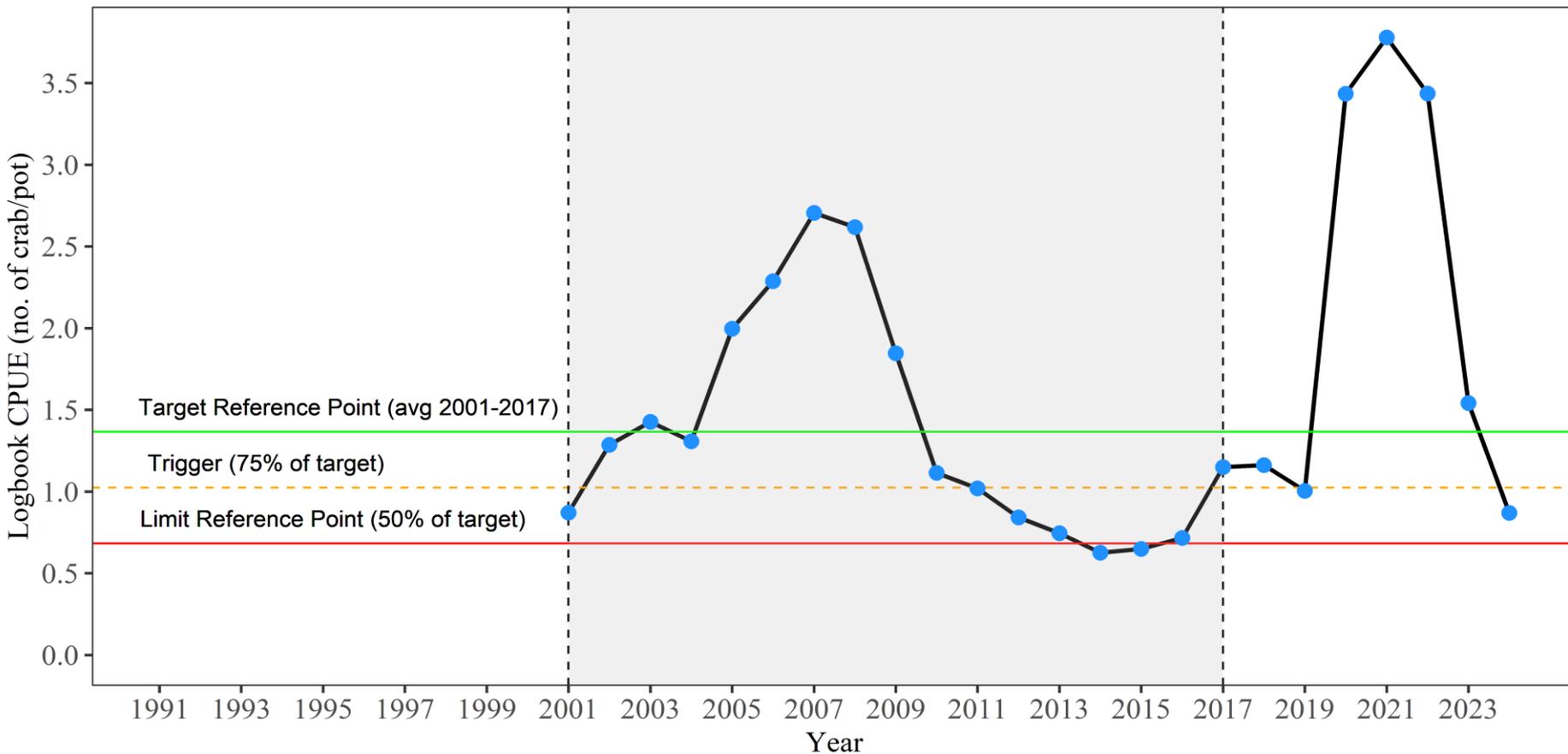
- Closed by EO after 33 days of fishing
- Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest was expected to reach the 35,000 lb GHF for the Icy Strait management area by the closure date.
- Overage in this area is due to a non-reporter

# North Stephens Passage



2024 harvest – 17,424 lb

## North Stephens Passage logbook data



2024 average CPUE– 0.9 crab/pot

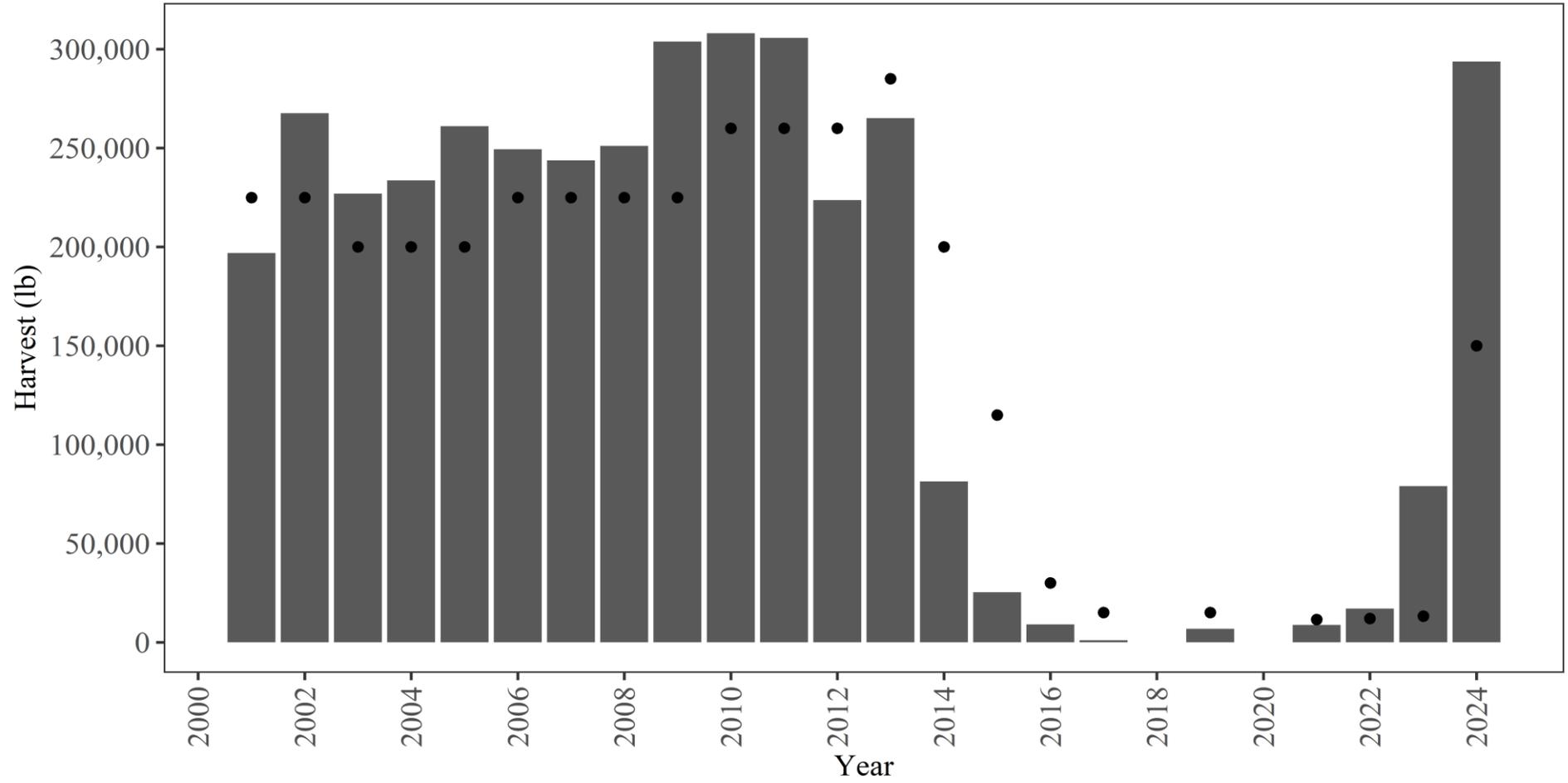
# North Stephens Passage

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- Closed by emergency order (EO) after 73 days of fishing (longest since 2014).
- Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, harvest as of the closure date was expected to reach the 16,000 lb guideline harvest level.

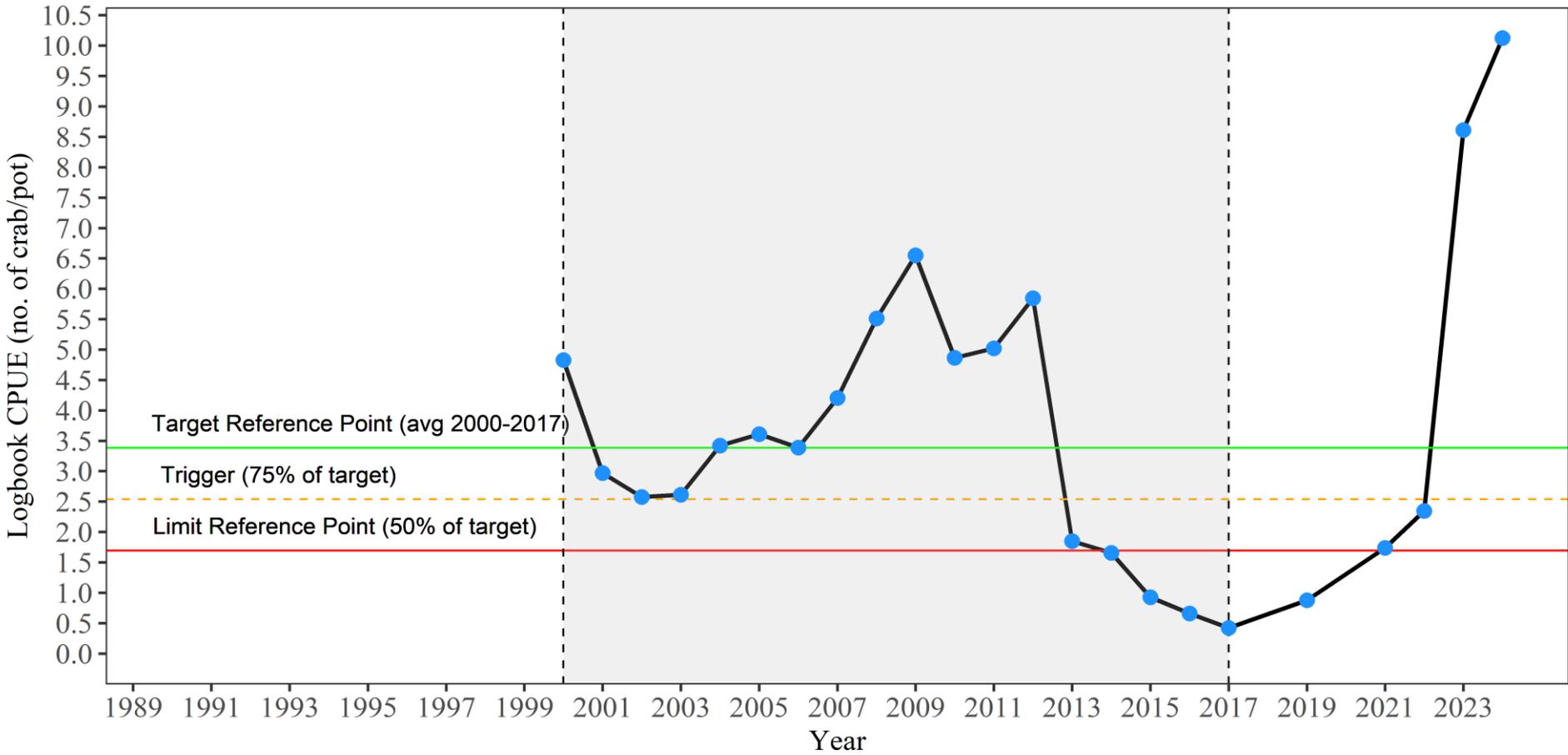


# East Central



2024 harvest – 293,718 lb

# East Central logbook data



2024 average CPUE – 10.1 crab/pot

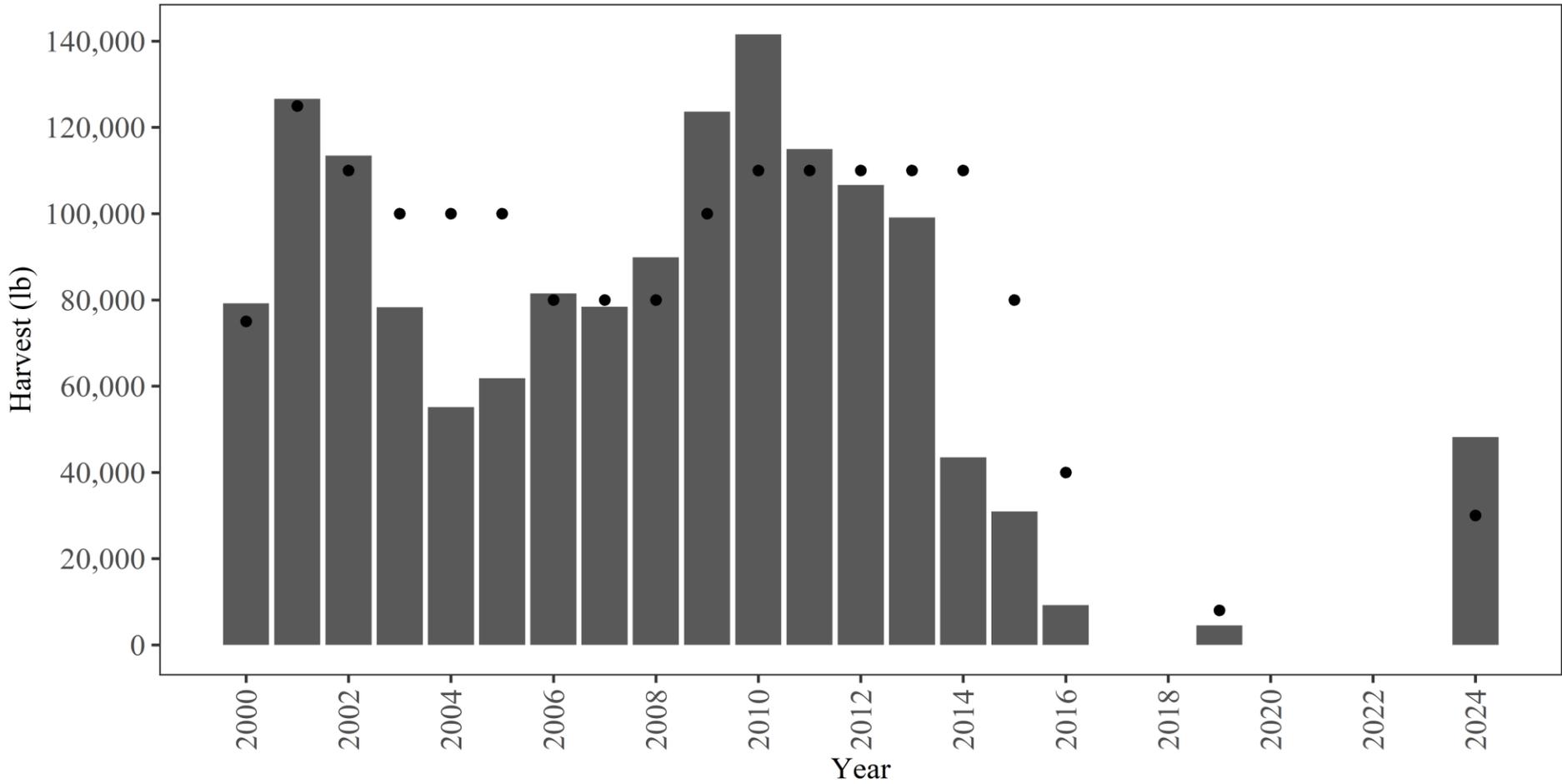
# East Central

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- Closed by emergency order (EO) after 4 days of fishing
- Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, harvest as of the closure date was expected to exceed the 150,000 lb guideline harvest level for the East Central management area.

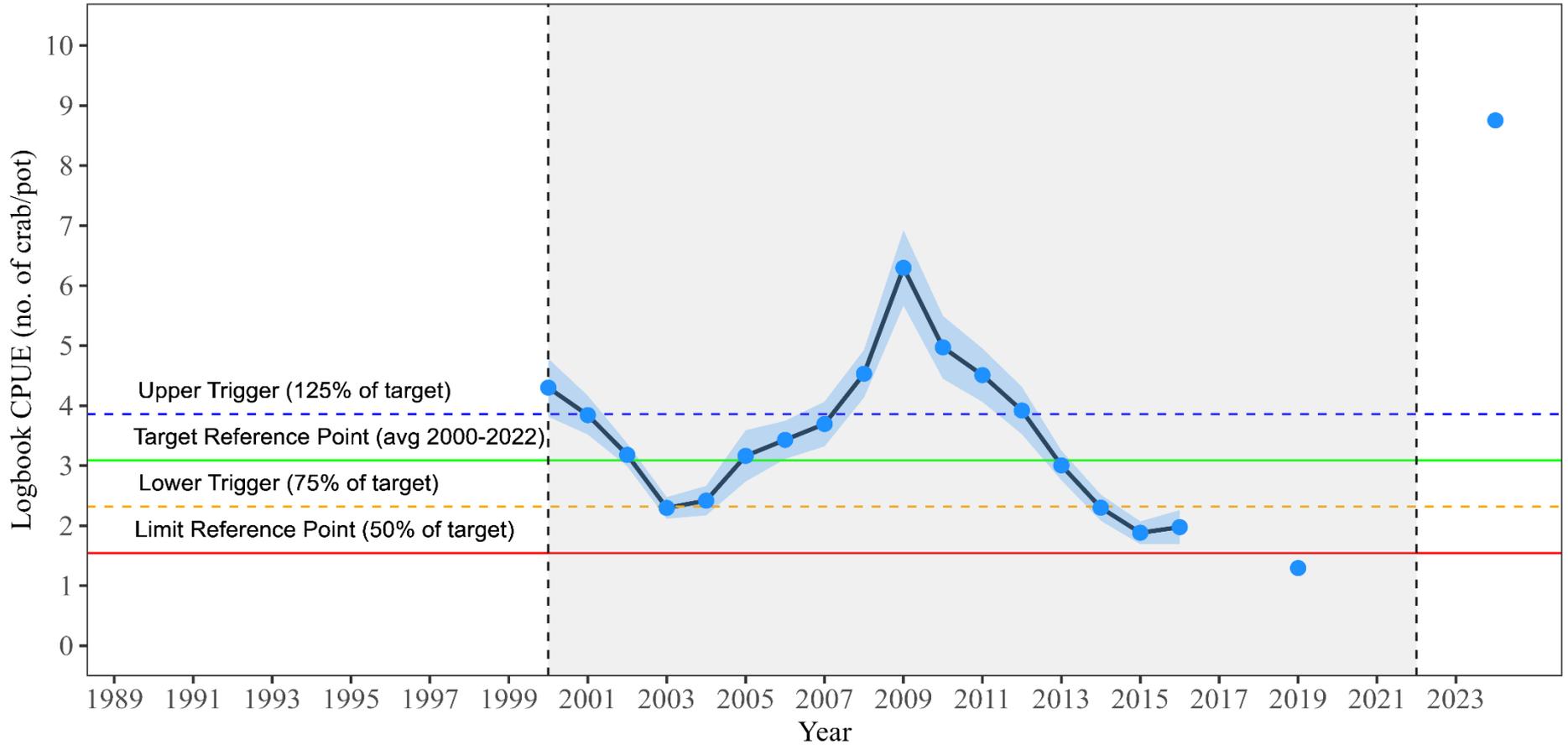


# Mid-Chatham



2024 harvest – 48,192 lb

# Mid-Chatham logbook data



2024 average CPUE – 8.7 crab/pot

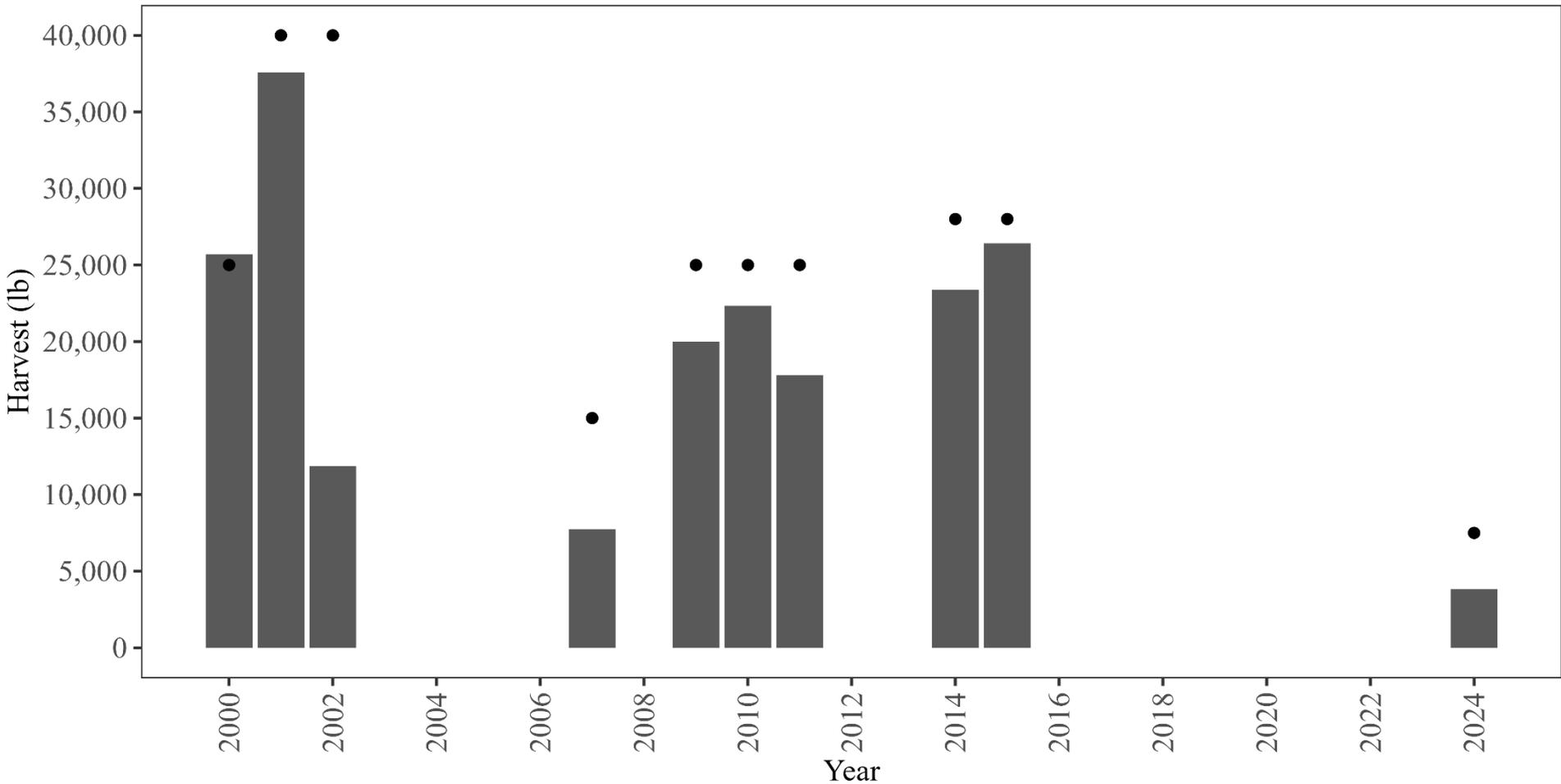
# Mid-Chatham Strait

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- Closed by emergency order (EO) after 30 days
- Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, harvest as of the closure date was expected to reach the 30,000 lb guideline harvest level.

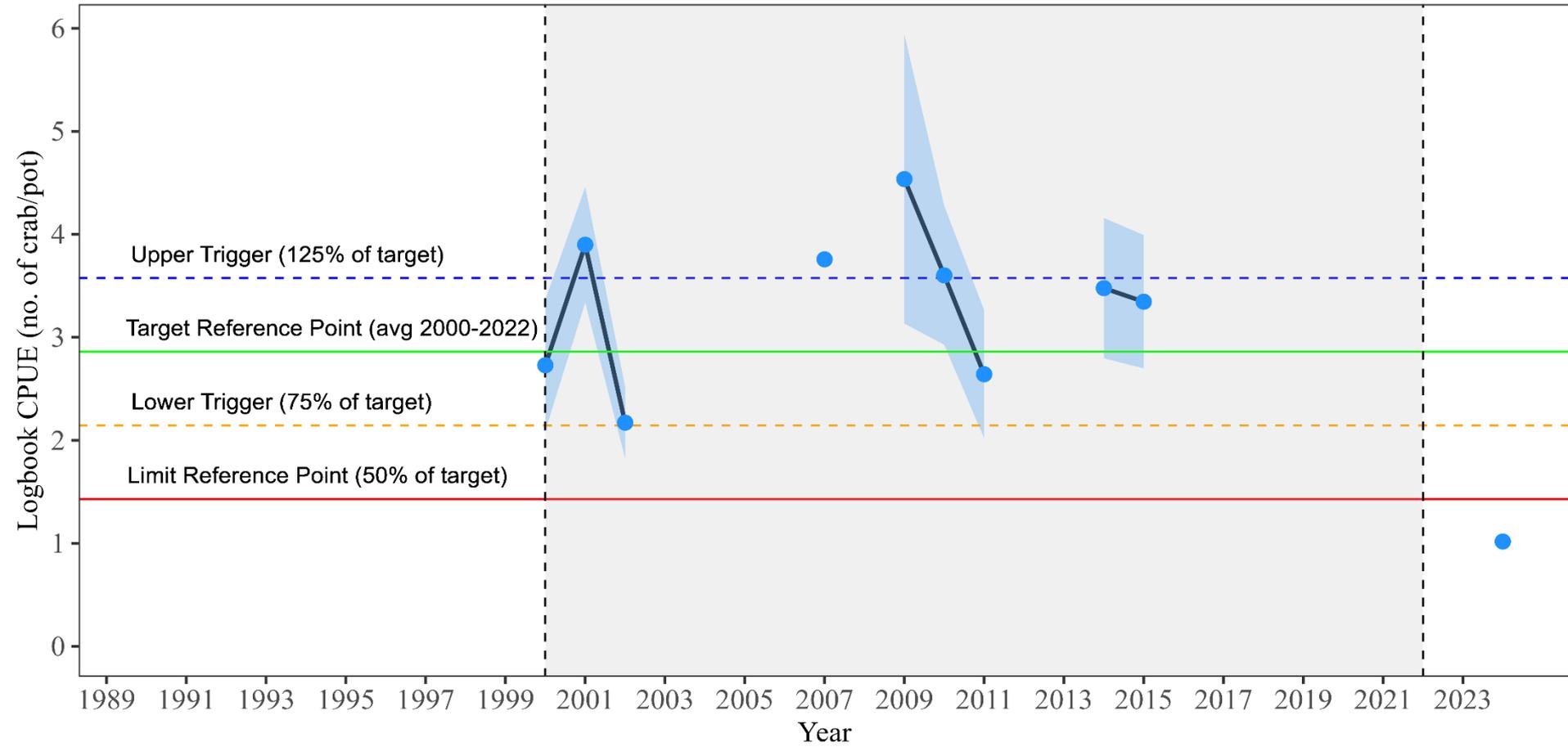


# Lower Chatham



2024 harvest – 3,831 lb

# Lower Chatham logbook data



2024 average CPUE – 1.02 crab/pot

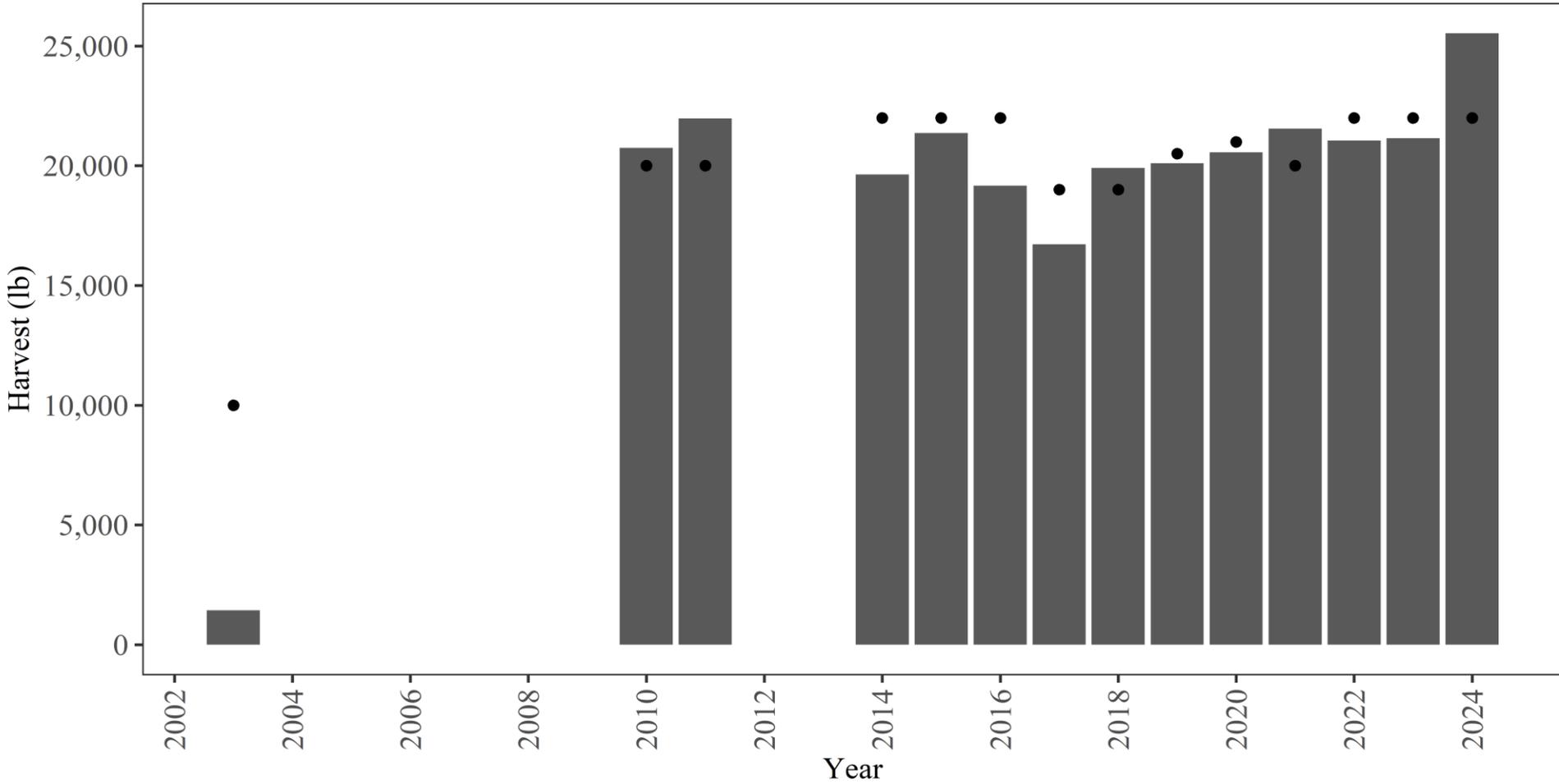
# Lower Chatham Strait

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- Low effort, pot lift level below 500-pot lift threshold, no in season harvest strategy decision rules were triggered
- Closed by regulation December 1, 2024

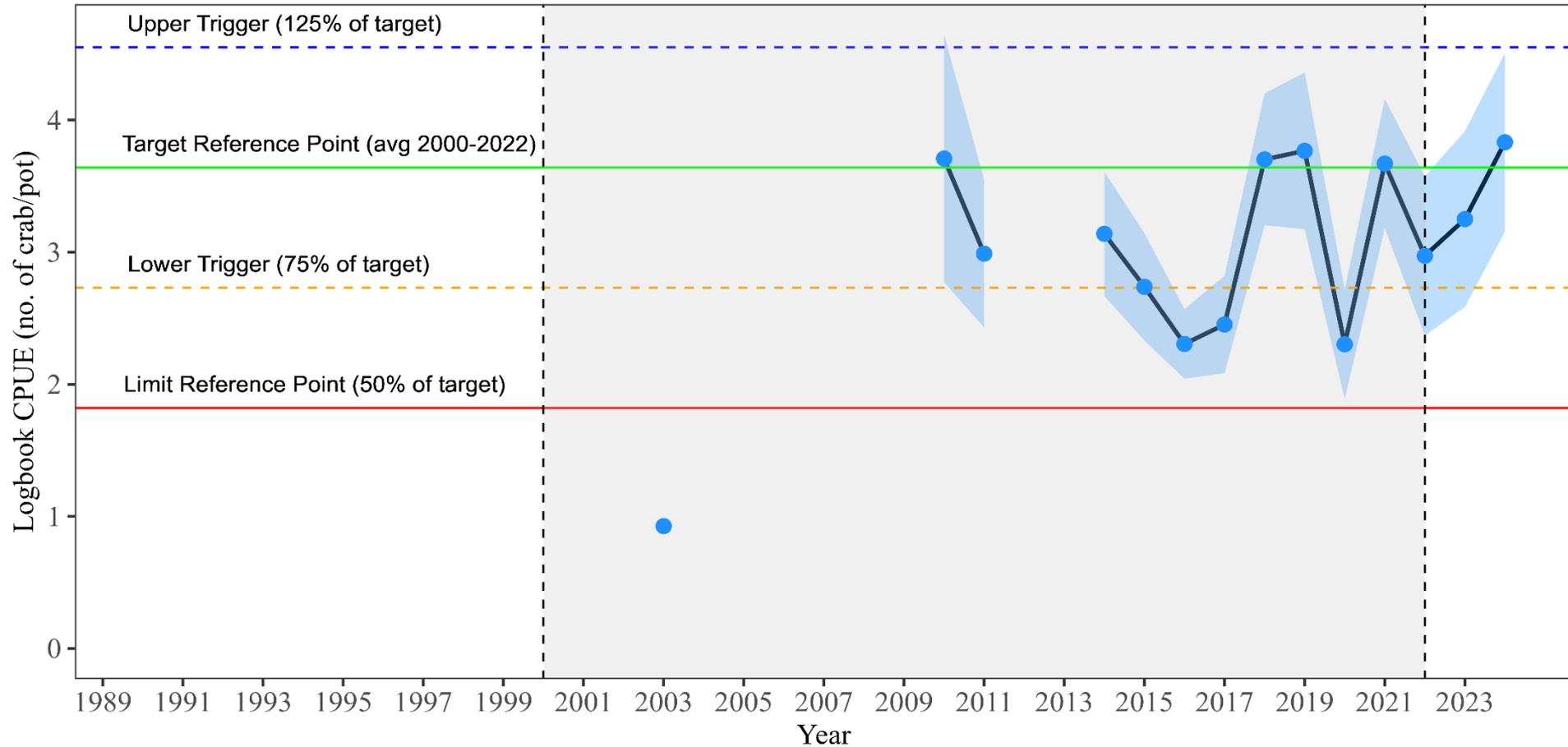


# Southern



2024 harvest – 25,531 lb

# Southern logbook data



2024 average CPUE – 3.83 crab/pot

# Southern

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- Closed by EO after 77 days of fishing
- Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest was expected to reach the 22,000 lb GHL by the closure date.



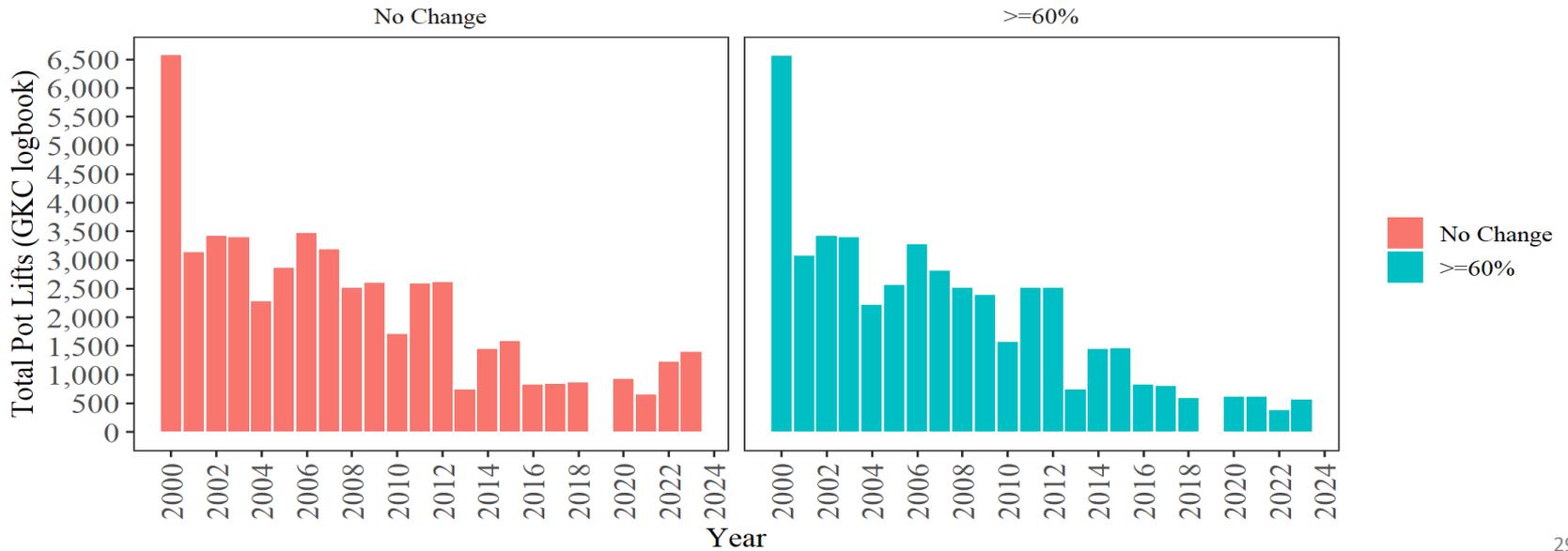
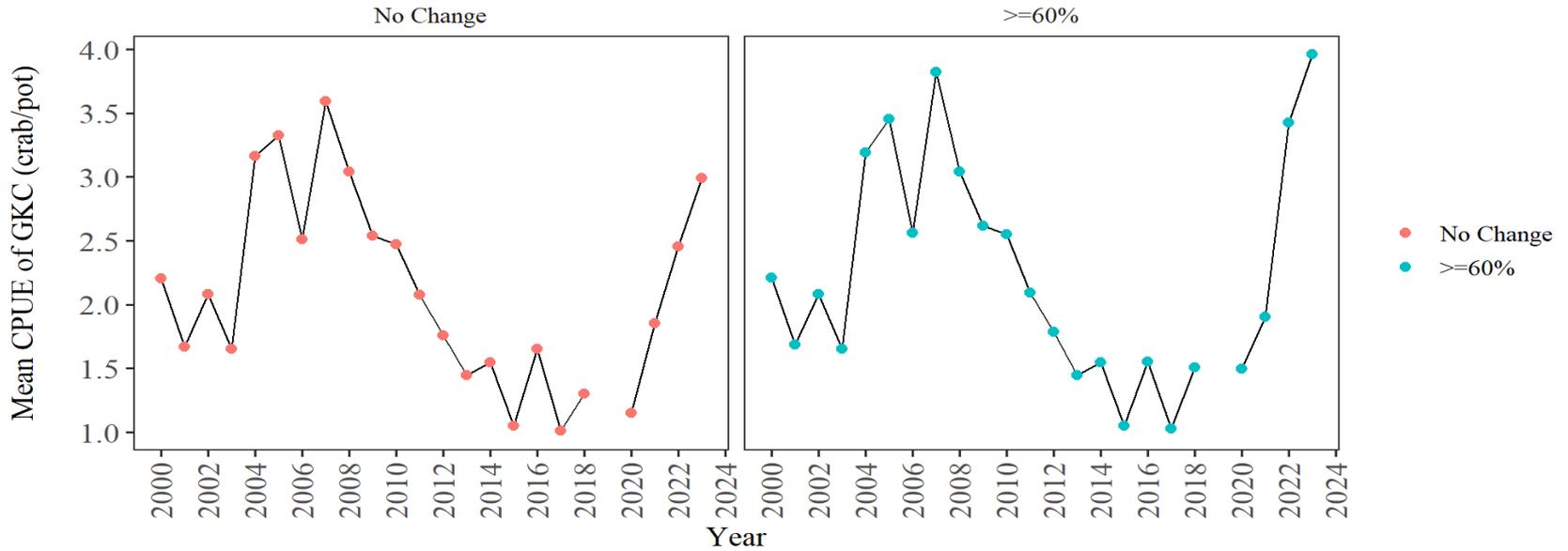
# 2025 Fishery

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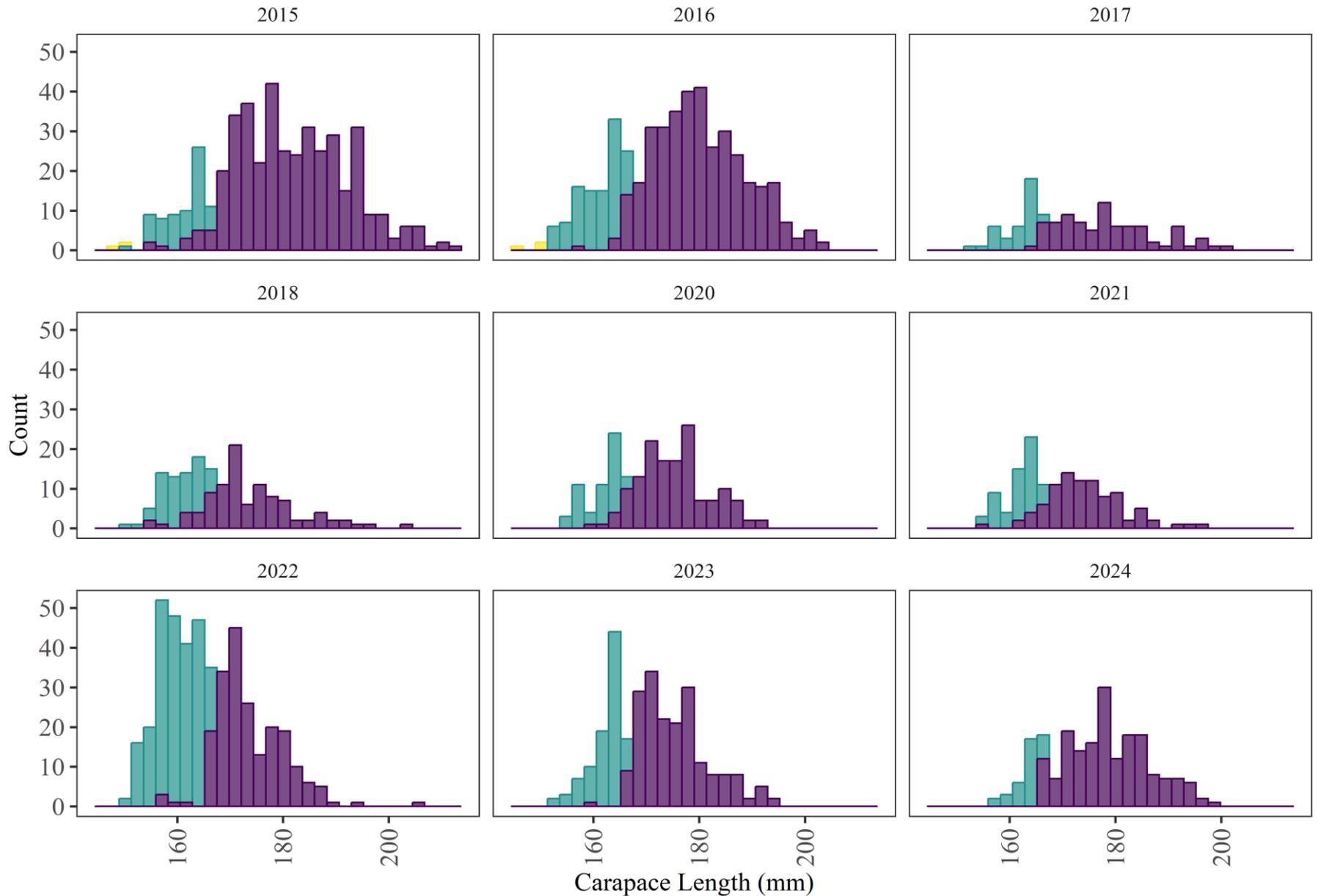
- Season will open on February 17, 2025. (registration deadline January 21)
- Refining a harvest strategy, with in-season and post-season decision rules defining management actions.
- For each area, reviewed postseason decision rules from the harvest strategy in its current form using reference points for CPUE: Limit @ 50%, Lower Trigger @ 75%, Target @ 100%, and Upper Trigger @ 125%
- Post season Fishermen surveys.
- Considered secondary performance indicators to refine the recommendations.

# Icy Strait

Removing Tanner bycatch based on proportion of harvest from logbooks

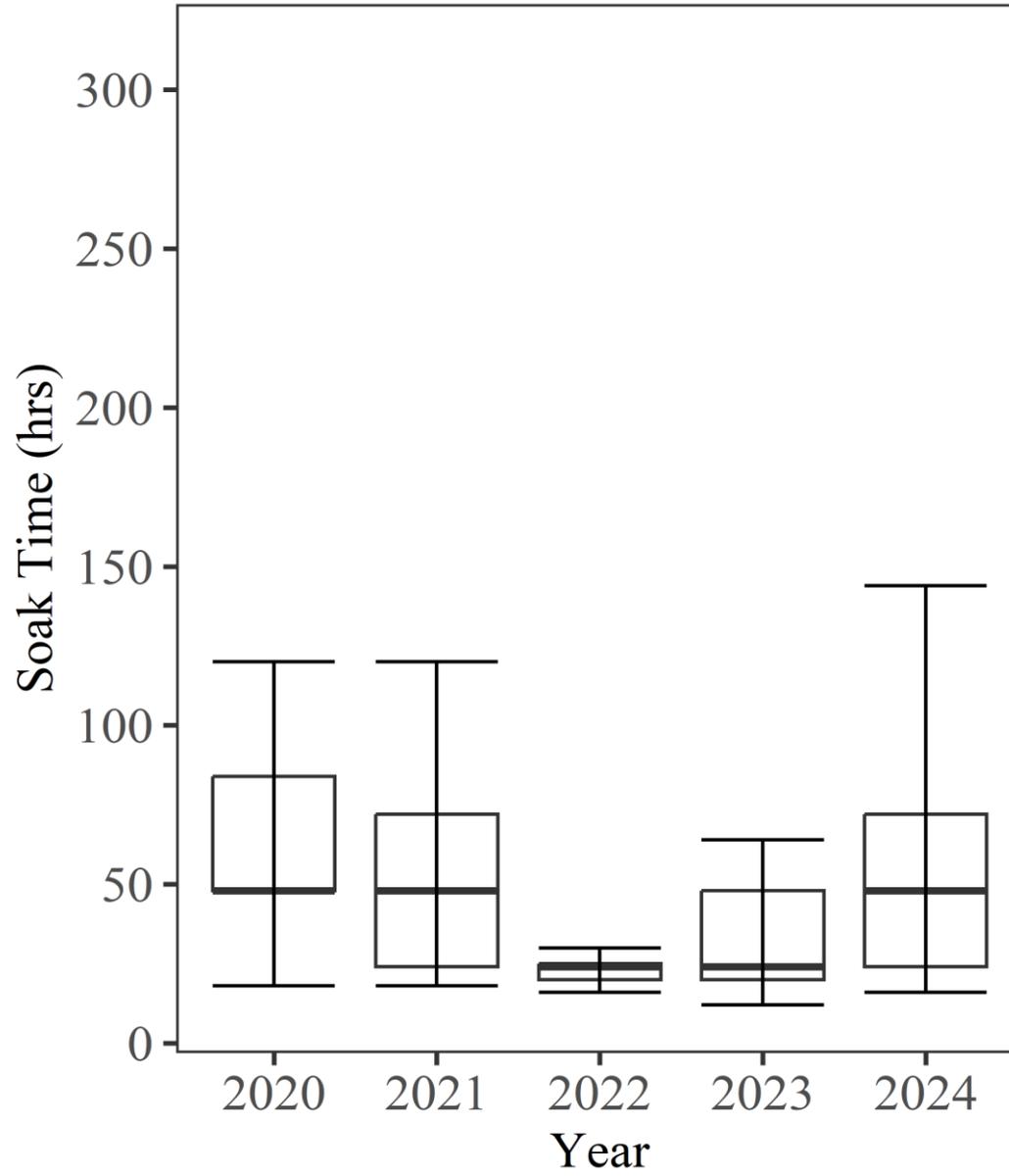


# Icy Strait



Pre-Recruit Recruit Post-Recruit

# Icy Strait



# Preliminary GHGs for 2025 Fishery

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- After analysis of all seven areas:
  - **Northern:** Re-set the GHG to **35,000 lb.**
  - **Icy Strait:** 28% reduction to **25,000 lb.**
  - **North Stephens Passage:** 50% reduction to **8,000 lb.**
  - **East Central:** 35% increase to **202,500 lb.**
  - **Mid-Chatham Strait:** 35% increase to **40,500 lb.**
  - **Lower Chatham Strait:** Reopen with the same GHG **7,500 lb.**
  - **Southern:** 5% increase to **23,000 lb.**
  - **Total:** **341,500 lb.**
  - **Regional GHG:** **128K lb increase from 2024.**

# 2025 Daily Vessel Call-in

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- Mandatory and enforced by AWT
- 1-907-772-5200
  - Name/vessel name/ADFG #
  - Date
  - Stat-area fished
  - # of pots
  - # of crab
- Call-ins will start February 16 – management area starting in.



# Questions

