

Assessment of Occupational Hazards in the Alaskan Halibut/Sablefish Fleet

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The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally disseminated by CDC/NIOSH and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.



Department of
Homeland
Security

United States
Coast Guard
USCG

Regulation/Enforcement



Department of
Health and Human Services

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
CDC

National Institute for
Occupational
Safety and Health
NIOSH

Research, Training, and
Prevention Recommendations

NIOSH



Commercial Fishing Safety Research and Design Program

- Scientific research on safety problems and solutions
- Provide high quality, relevant information
- Research findings used by
 - Fishing industry
 - Government agencies (USCG, NMFS)
 - Fishing safety advocates





Marine
Casualty
Occurs

Coast
Guard
Investigates

NIOSH
Reviews
case

Information
entered
into CFID



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U.S. Coast Guard REPORT OF MARINE CASUALTY									
SECTION I. GENERAL INFORMATION									
1. Official No.		3. Nationality		4. Call Sign					
7. Length		8. Gross Tons		9. Year Built		10. Prop.			
12. Draft (Ft - in.) FWD AFT.		13. If Vessel Classed, By Whom: (ABS, LLOYDS, DNV, BV, etc.)				14. Date			
Operating Co.						17. Estir			
						VE			





Hazard Assessment

Crewmember fatalities:

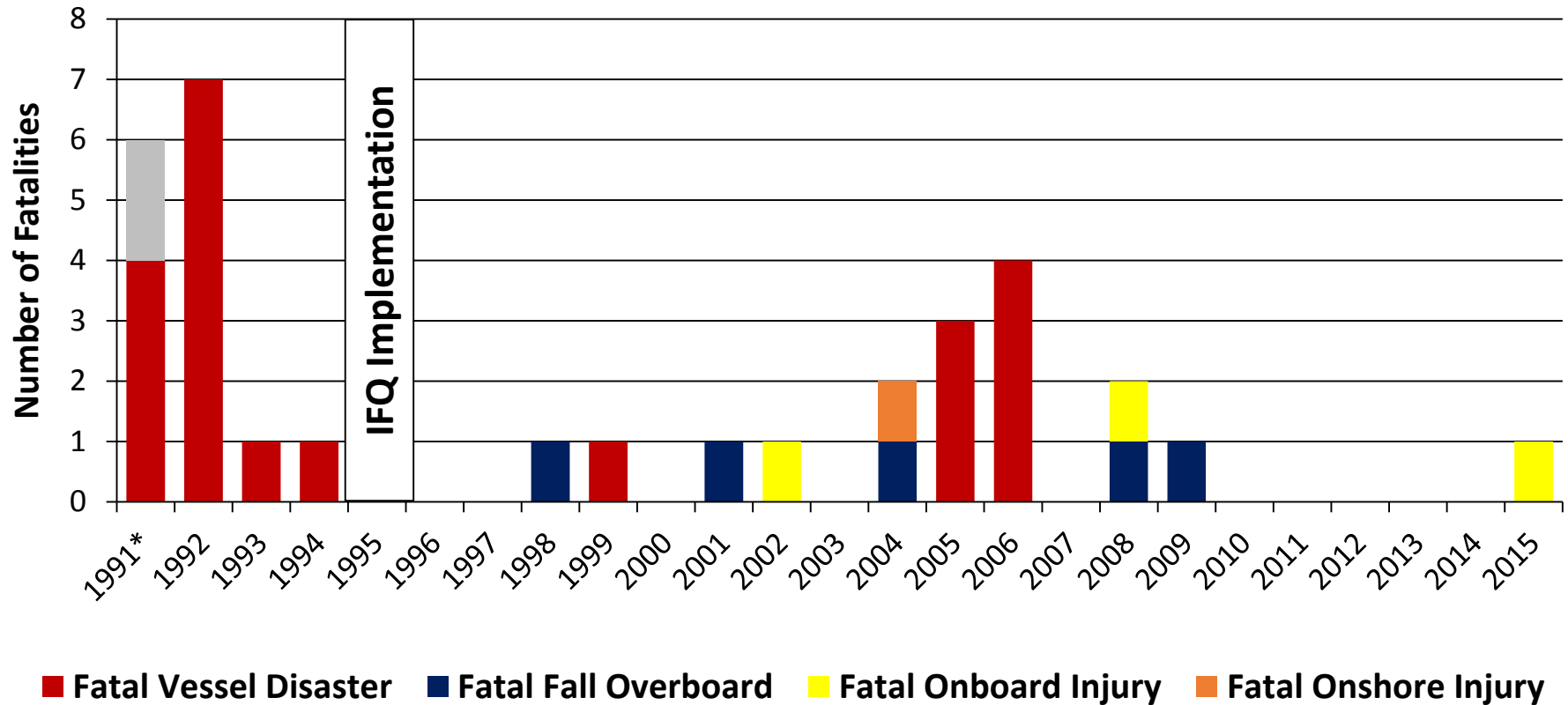
- Previous study by Lincoln, Mode, & Woodley (2007): **1991-2000**
- More recent data: **2001-2015**
- Fatality rates (# of fatalities/100,000 FTEs)
 - FTEs account for number of vessels, workers, and days at sea
- Test for trend in fatality rates

Vessel disasters:

- Fatal and nonfatal: **2001-2014**



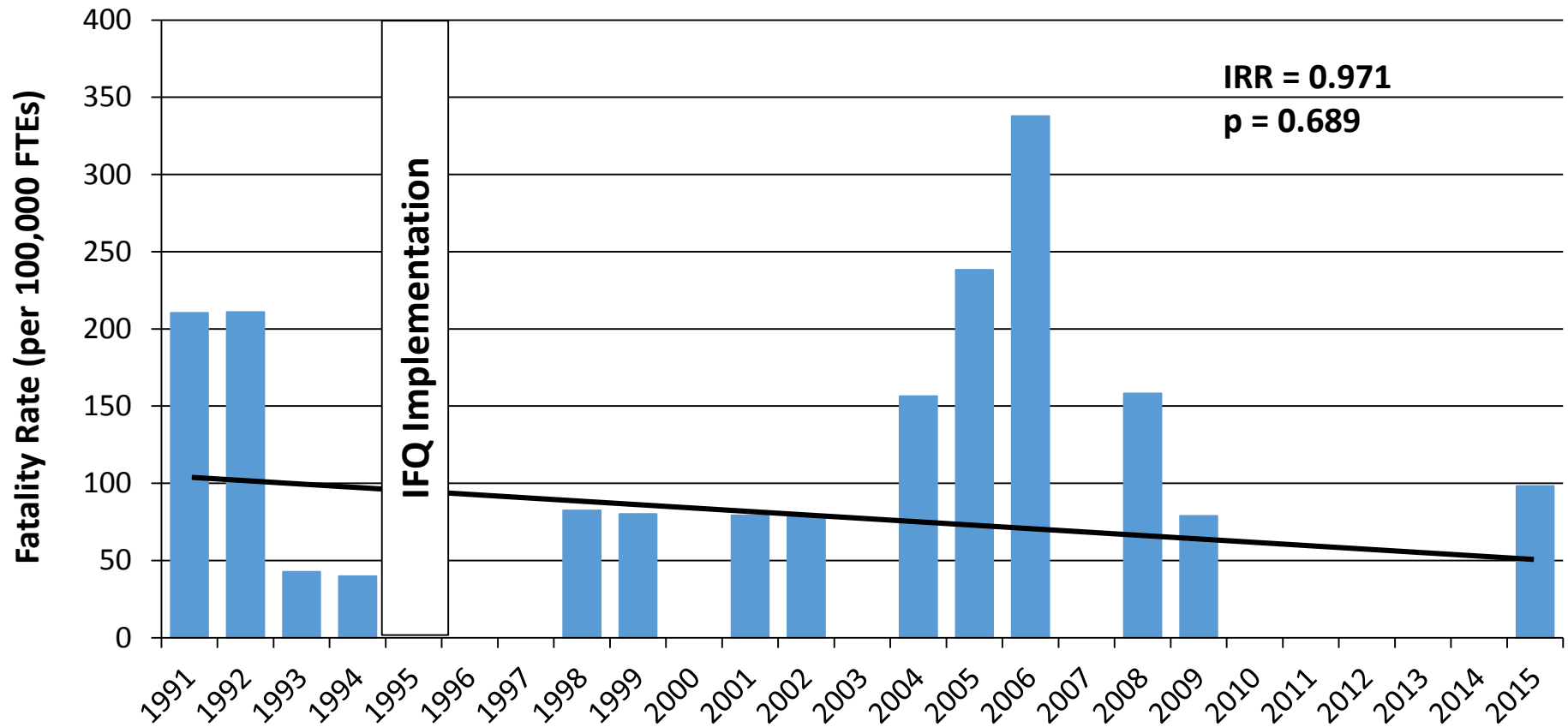
Number and causes of fatalities in the Alaskan halibut/sablefish fleet, 1991-2015 (n=32)



*Incident type unknown for two fatalities

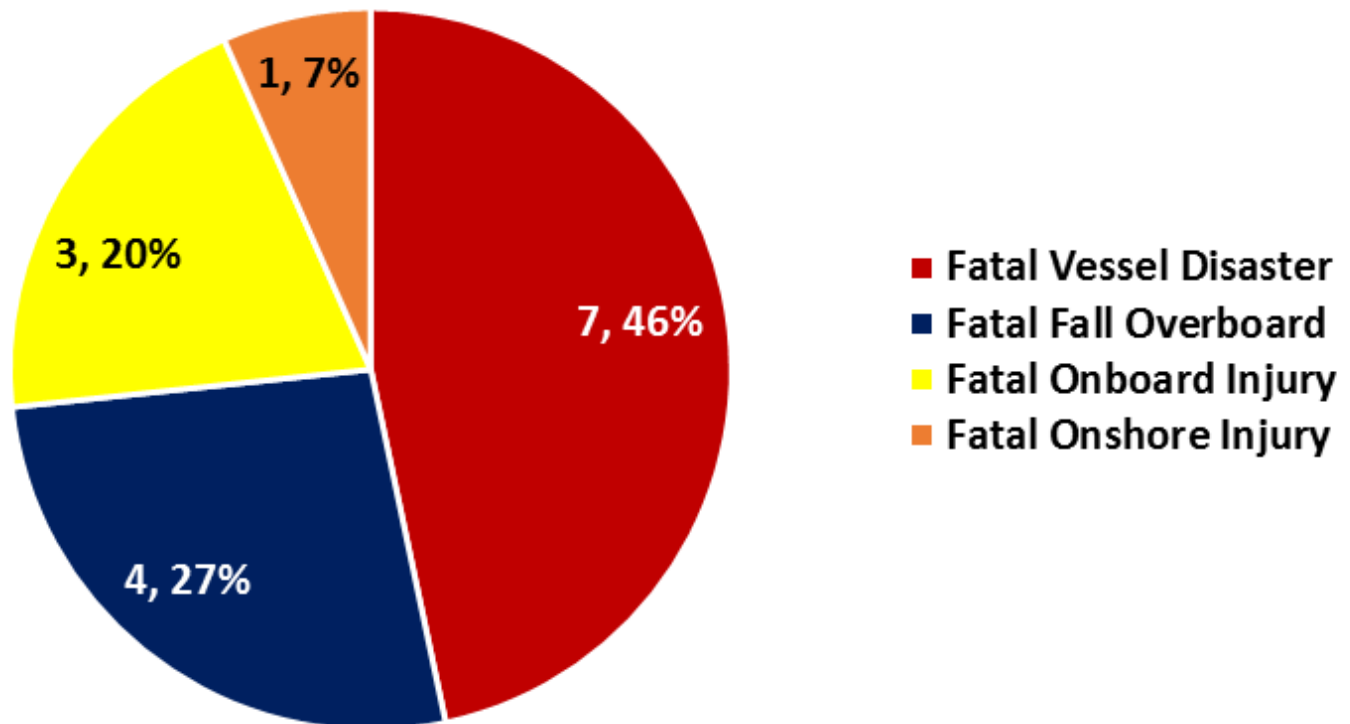


Fatality rates and trend in the Alaskan halibut/sablefish fleet, 1991-2015



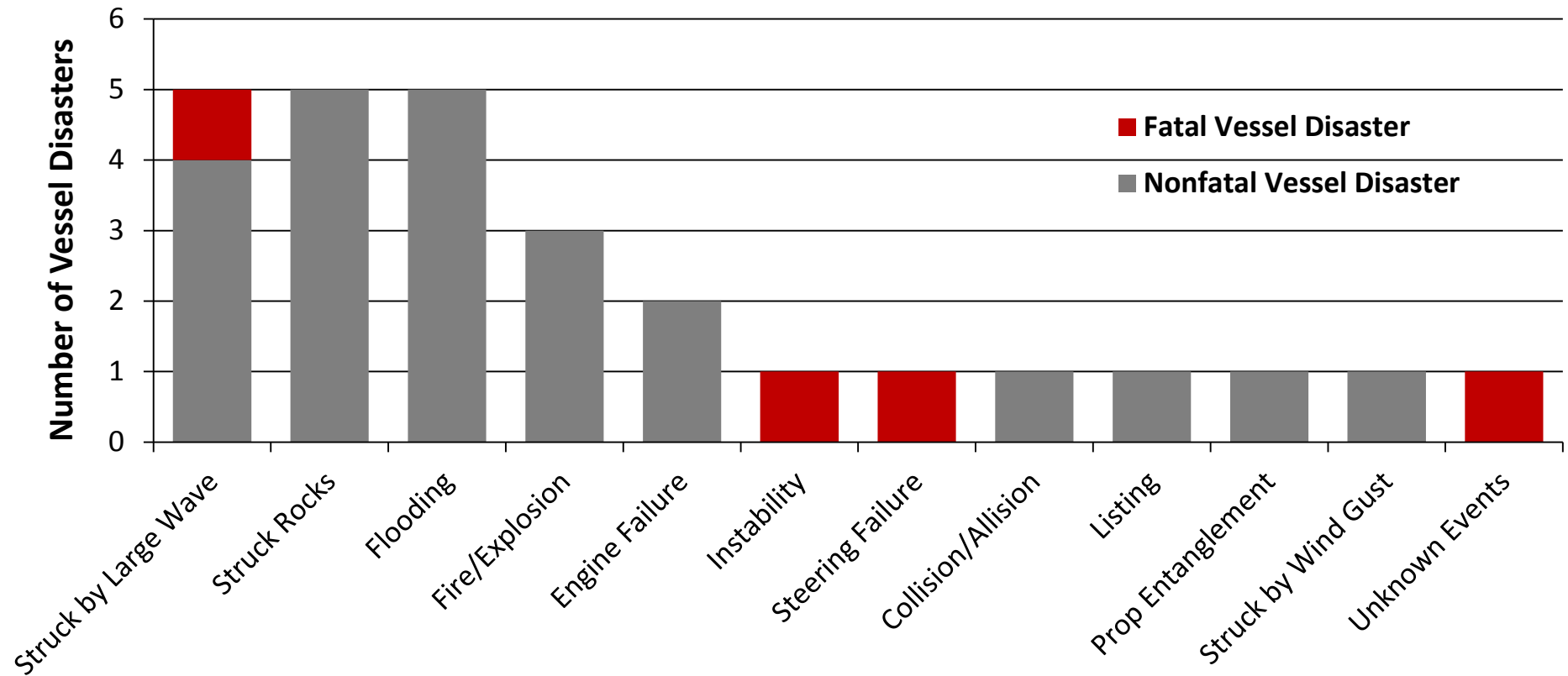


Causes of fatalities in the Alaskan halibut/sablefish fleet, 2001-2015 (n=15)





Initiating causes of vessel disasters in the Alaskan halibut/sablefish fleet, 2001-2014 (n=27)



87 crewmembers at risk; 7 deaths



Recommendations

To prevent and survive **vessel disasters...**

- Keep vessels and systems well-maintained and watertight
- Participate in marine safety training
- Conduct monthly drills

To prevent fatal **falls overboard...**

- Wear PFDs on deck
- Create/enforce PFD policy
- Conduct monthly drills
- Use effective recovery devices



Limitations

- Timeline is imbalanced
 - Limited pre-IFQ data
- FTE estimates include average number of crewmembers
- Additional safety measures can be considered
 - Nonfatal injuries
 - Vessel safety issues



Conclusions

- IFQs allow for longer fishing seasons, more experienced crews, and flexibility on when to fish
- While trend in risk was minimal, other factors outside of fishery management policies may be responsible for fatalities
- Important to continue to research and address persistent hazards (vessel disasters, falls overboard)

THANK YOU

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