

Strengthening the working waterfront

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The working waterfront is fishermen and fishing communities



Why is a working waterfront important?

- ▶ Important economic driver for the Nation, especially in coastal states.
- ▶ Vital voice for conservation and sustainable fisheries.
- ▶ Harvesting fish from the sea is integral to the identity of coastal people.





“

If you aren't fishing, there isn't much of a need to own a boat. And as village life ceases to revolve around these vigorous outdoor activities, it will more and more settle on the four prongs of a cultural pitchfork: welfare, TV, junk food, and alcohol.

”

- Dan O'Neill, [A Land Gone Lonesome](#)



Thriving Waterfronts

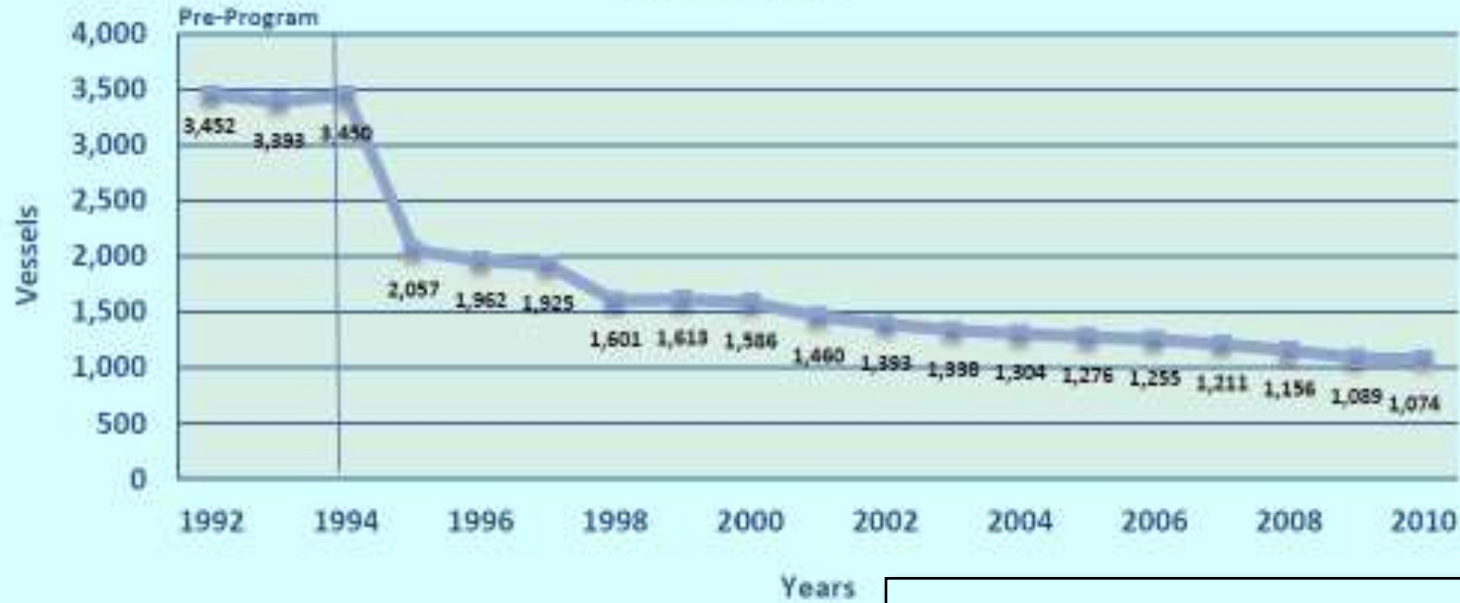
- ▶ A productive resource that supports an economically viable fishing industry and a healthy workforce.
- ▶ A regulatory structure that encourages stewardship, diversification, and participation in fisheries by local residents.

Threats to the working waterfront

- ▶ Fleet consolidation
- ▶ Limiting options and rising access costs
- ▶ Inadequate socioeconomic analysis

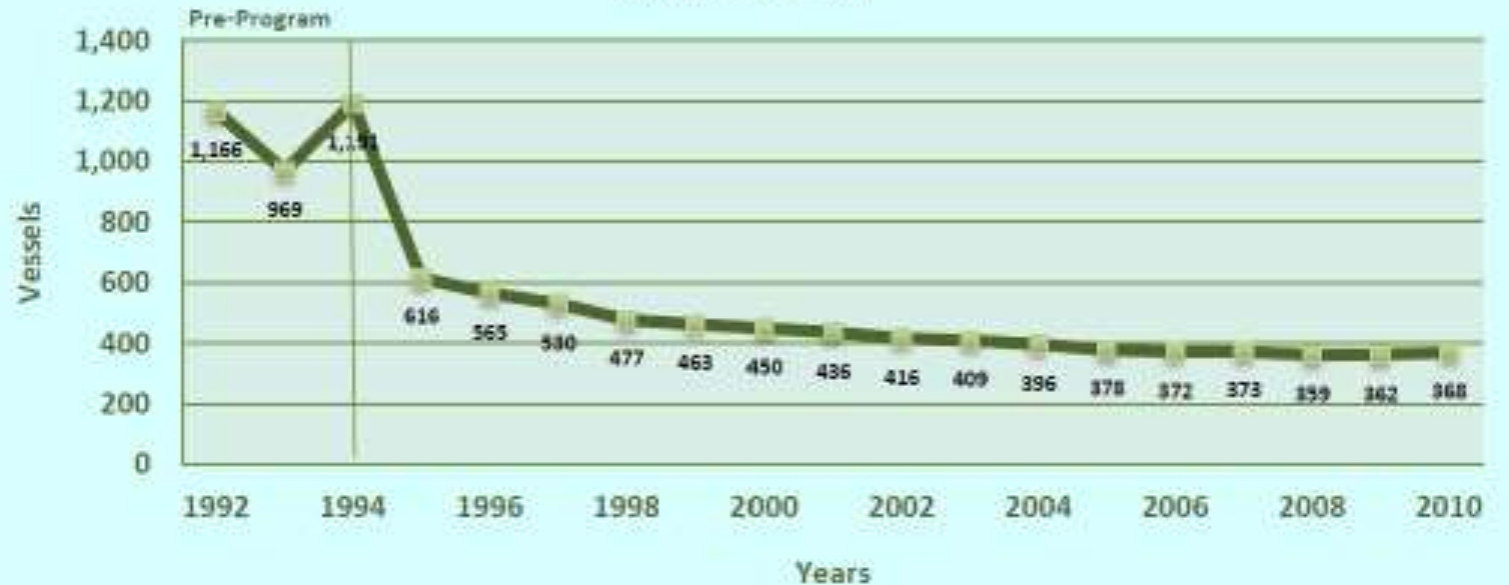


Halibut Vessels



Fleet Consolidation

Sablefish Vessels



Limiting Options: Rising Access Costs

- ▶ Diversification can substantially reduce the variability of income and therefore risk from commercial fishing.
- ▶ The current fleet of vessels on the US West Coast and in Alaska is less diverse than at any point in the past 30 years.

From: Kasperki and Holland, PNAS 2012



Socioeconomic Analysis



Capturing impacts to large vs. small operations

Socioeconomics of Scale

At-sea monitoring: human observers VS. electronic monitoring



Socioeconomic of sectors

Capturing contributions and impacts

Commercial



Charter/for hire



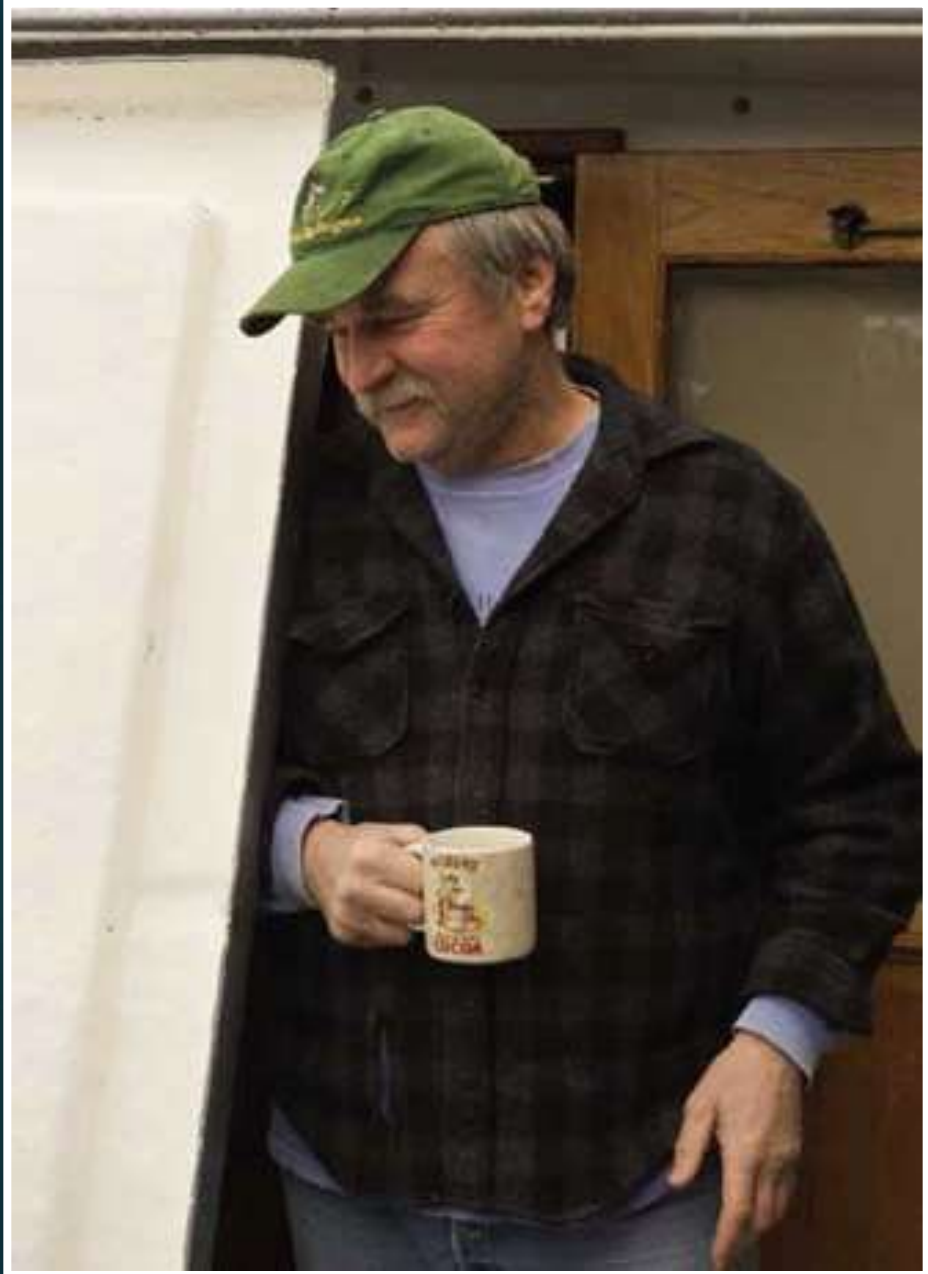
Changing Course



Limit Consolidation

- ▶ Rethink “economic efficiency”
- ▶ Monitor fleet/community health over time and adjust regulations to meet working waterfront objectives





Promote Diversification and Affordable Access

- ▶ Provide management alternatives scaled to meet the needs of community-based fishermen.
- ▶ Build fleet and community resilience by promoting diversification.
- ▶ Support programs that anchor fishery access in communities.



Strengthen Effect Analysis

- ▶ Consider social as well as economic effects.
- ▶ Recognize effects differ between large and small fishing operations.
- ▶ Develop baseline data and standardized metric to evaluate waterfront industries.
- ▶ Assess cumulative impacts to fleet and waterfront.

Conclusion

- Adhere to science-based management
- Rethink economic efficiency and fleet consolidation
- Promote diversification and affordable access
- Strengthen socioeconomic analysis



Sitka