

## 15 Annual Sablefish Ex-Vessel Prices

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The term “ex-vessel” refers to activities that occur when a commercial fishing vessel lands or offloads a catch. For example, the price received by a captain (at the point of landing) for unprocessed catch is an ex-vessel price.

Although fishermen often target sablefish and halibut at the same time, because of differences in market demands and fishing procedures, sablefish and halibut ex-vessel prices are neither equivalent nor generally comparable.

This chapter provides annual estimated ex-vessel prices by IFQ management area, including statewide estimates, during 1992 through 2011. The State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) is the source for these data. The commission collects summary data from permit holder fish ticket landing records. NMFS-RAM uses CFEC data for Table 15-1, which provides annual ex-vessel price estimates by management area (including statewide estimates) for the 18-year reporting period.

Estimated prices reflect all commercial delivery/condition types and weighted average ex-vessel prices reported for all fixed-gear types, including longline, troll, jig, handline, and pot. These estimates reflect catcher vessel deliveries to shoreside processors for commercial catches (IFQ Community Development Quota (CDQ) program) only and exclude harvests from discards, test fishing, confiscated catch, personal use, and other unsold harvests. CFEC also excluded small harvests and associated landings from the state waters of the Aleutian Islands, Alaska Peninsula, and Chukchi Sea during their calculations of sablefish ex-vessel prices.

In Table 15-1, prices in the Aleutian Islands reflect a narrower range in ex-vessel prices from 1992 through 2011, compared with ex-vessel prices in all other statewide areas. Prices in the Aleutian Islands ranged from a low of \$1.67 in 1993 to a peak price of \$7.85 in 2011. The Central Gulf and Western Gulf shared the widest range of prices in statewide management areas, with prices ranging from \$1.63 and \$1.68, respectively, in 1993 to \$6.01 and \$7.70, respectively, in 2011.

Table 15-1 shows estimated ex-vessel prices were higher during 1997 for all IFQ management areas, including Southeast, where the price reached \$3.79 during 2000. Aleutian Islands ex-vessel price of \$7.85 in 2011 was the statewide highest ex-vessel price. Over the entire 20 years, the lowest ex-vessel price was in the Central Gulf during 1993 when the estimated price was \$1.63 in the Western Gulf. Generally, ex-vessel prices rose in gradual increments in each management area, except prices declined in all areas during 1998 and 2001 and gradually rebounded.

**Table 15-1 Sablefish estimated ex-vessel prices by management area and year, including annual statewide estimates, 1992–2011**

| Sablefish IFQ Area <sup>1</sup> | Year | Estimated ex-vessel price | Sablefish IFQ Area <sup>1</sup> | Year | Estimated ex-vessel price | Sablefish IFQ Area <sup>1</sup> | Year | Estimated ex-vessel price |
|---------------------------------|------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| Aleutian Islands                | 1992 | 1.88                      | Central Gulf Cont.              | 2000 | 3.67                      | Western Gulf Cont.              | 2007 | 3.84                      |
|                                 | 1993 | 1.67                      |                                 | 2001 | 3.16                      |                                 | 2008 | 4.46                      |
|                                 | 1994 | 1.98                      |                                 | 2002 | 3.17                      |                                 | 2009 | 4.66                      |
|                                 | 1995 | 2.99                      |                                 | 2003 | 3.63                      |                                 | 2010 | 5.73                      |
|                                 | 1996 | 3.03                      |                                 | 2004 | 3.09                      |                                 | 2011 | 7.70                      |
|                                 | 1997 | 3.60                      |                                 | 2005 | 3.17                      | West Yakutat                    | 1992 | 1.87                      |
|                                 | 1998 | 2.21                      |                                 | 2006 | 3.51                      |                                 | 1993 | 1.65                      |
|                                 | 1999 | 2.75                      |                                 | 2007 | 3.30                      |                                 | 1994 | 2.24                      |
|                                 | 2000 | 3.17                      |                                 | 2008 | 3.66                      |                                 | 1995 | 3.31                      |
|                                 | 2001 | 2.93                      |                                 | 2009 | 3.95                      |                                 | 1996 | 3.27                      |
|                                 | 2002 | 3.09                      |                                 | 2010 | 4.59                      |                                 | 1997 | 3.76                      |
|                                 | 2003 | 3.46                      | 2011                            | 6.01 | 1998                      |                                 | 2.64 |                           |
|                                 | 2004 | 2.81                      | Southeast                       | 1992 | 1.93                      |                                 | 1999 | 2.98                      |
|                                 | 2005 | 2.87                      |                                 | 1993 | 1.68                      |                                 | 2000 | 3.73                      |
|                                 | 2006 | 3.55                      |                                 | 1994 | 2.46                      |                                 | 2001 | 3.20                      |
|                                 | 2007 | 3.53                      |                                 | 1995 | 3.18                      | 2002                            | 3.24 |                           |
|                                 | 2008 | 4.37                      |                                 | 1996 | 3.42                      | 2003                            | 3.67 |                           |
|                                 | 2009 | 4.78                      |                                 | 1997 | 3.78                      | 2004                            | 3.22 |                           |
|                                 | 2010 | 5.67                      |                                 | 1998 | 2.49                      | 2005                            | 3.24 |                           |
| 2011                            | 7.85 | 1999                      |                                 | 3.03 | 2006                      | 3.53                            |      |                           |
| Bering Sea                      | 1992 | 1.86                      |                                 | 2000 | 3.79                      | 2007                            | 3.47 |                           |
|                                 | 1993 | 1.66                      |                                 | 2001 | 3.23                      | 2008                            | 3.47 |                           |
|                                 | 1994 | 1.99                      | 2002                            | 3.25 | 2009                      | 3.78                            |      |                           |
|                                 | 1995 | 3.04                      | 2003                            | 3.68 | 2010                      | 4.34                            |      |                           |
|                                 | 1996 | 3.05                      | 2004                            | 3.26 | 2011                      | 5.69                            |      |                           |
|                                 | 1997 | 3.61                      | 2005                            | 3.50 | Statewide                 | 1992                            | 1.89 |                           |
|                                 | 1998 | 2.26                      | 2006                            | 3.11 |                           | 1993                            | 1.67 |                           |
|                                 | 1999 | 2.86                      | 2007                            | 2.63 |                           | 1994                            | 2.36 |                           |
|                                 | 2000 | 3.54                      | 2008                            | 2.96 |                           | 1995                            | 3.23 |                           |
|                                 | 2001 | 3.03                      | 2009                            | 3.17 |                           | 1996                            | 3.30 |                           |
|                                 | 2002 | 2.16                      | 2010                            | 3.74 |                           | 1997                            | 3.53 |                           |
|                                 | 2003 | 3.00                      | 2011                            | 5.03 |                           | 1998                            | 2.34 |                           |
|                                 | 2004 | 2.22                      | Western Gulf                    | 1992 |                           | 1.90                            | 1999 | 2.83                      |
|                                 | 2005 | 2.67                      |                                 | 1993 |                           | 1.65                            | 2000 | 3.53                      |
|                                 | 2006 | 3.26                      |                                 | 1994 |                           | 2.00                            | 2001 | 3.04                      |
|                                 | 2007 | 2.93                      |                                 | 1995 |                           | 3.21                            | 2002 | 3.06                      |
|                                 | 2008 | 3.87                      |                                 | 1996 | 3.13                      | 2003                            | 3.46 |                           |
|                                 | 2009 | 3.85                      |                                 | 1997 | 3.65                      | 2004                            | 2.95 |                           |
|                                 | 2010 | 4.50                      |                                 | 1998 | 2.41                      | 2005                            | 3.14 |                           |
| 2011                            | 7.18 | 1999                      |                                 | 2.92 | 2006                      | 3.33                            |      |                           |
| Central Gulf                    | 1992 | 1.85                      |                                 | 2000 | 3.65                      | 2007                            | 3.10 |                           |
|                                 | 1993 | 1.63                      |                                 | 2001 | 3.14                      | 2008                            | 3.45 |                           |
|                                 | 1994 | 2.21                      | 2002                            | 3.25 | 2009                      | 3.71                            |      |                           |
|                                 | 1995 | 3.30                      | 2003                            | 3.65 | 2010                      | 4.38                            |      |                           |
|                                 | 1996 | 3.23                      | 2004                            | 2.99 | 2011                      | 5.85                            |      |                           |
|                                 | 1997 | 3.74                      | 2005                            | 3.31 |                           |                                 |      |                           |
|                                 | 1998 | 2.63                      | 2006                            | 3.89 |                           |                                 |      |                           |
|                                 | 1999 | 3.00                      |                                 |      |                           |                                 |      |                           |

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