

Under-ice gillnet harvest of Sheefish in Hotham Inlet

Abstract: In northwestern Alaska sheefish *Stenodus leucichthys* are harvested in subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries. Most of the total harvest, however, is taken for subsistence. Winter subsistence harvests have been the largest component of the subsistence fishery and are poorly documented. Investigators conducted a complete survey of the under-ice gillnet fishery by contracting fishermen to record their harvest over the entire fishing season. Fifteen fishermen participated in the fishery and survey. A sample of scales was collected to estimate the age composition, and a sample of fish as measured to estimate length composition of the harvest. The survey indicated 14,533 sheefish were harvested. The 574 sheefish sampled ranged from 8 to 18 years of age and 580 to 960 mm in fork length. The largest proportion of sheefish in the harvest was age 13, and most were 775-799 mm long.

Citation: Savereide, J. W. 2001. Under-Ice Gillnet Harvest of Sheefish in Hotham Inlet in 2000-2001. Fisheries Data Series No. 02-04, Anchorage. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Final Report (Study No. 00-020). Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Fairbanks, Alaska.