



RHODE ISLAND ANNUAL FISHERIES REPORT: 2020

March 2022



DEM
RHODE ISLAND



2020 COMMERCIAL FISHING AT A GLANCE



TOP SPECIES BY VALUE*



Longfin Squid - \$13.6 million

11,680,815 pounds

Illex - \$11.2 million

21,775,412 pounds

20% decrease from 2019



Sea Scallop - \$11.3 million

1,272,761 pounds

54% decrease from 2019



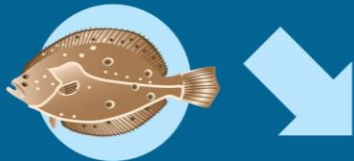
American Lobster - \$9.1 million

1,630,570 pounds

Jonah Crab - \$2.7 million

3,261,751 pounds

15% decrease from 2019



Summer Flounder - \$4.7 million

1,704,496 pounds

16% decrease from 2019



Quahog - \$3.4 million

13,336,528 pounds

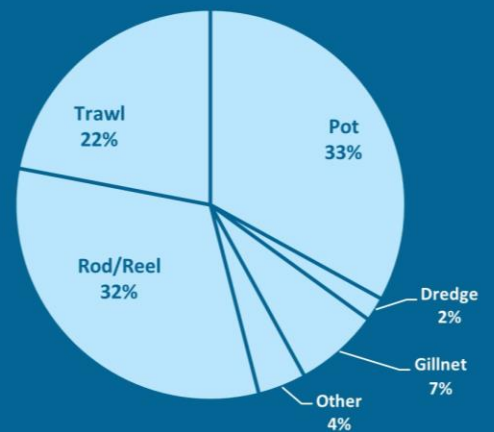
37% decrease from 2019

TOTAL 2020 LANDINGS

\$74.6 million

* 2020 landings were dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a 27% reduction in commercial landings overall.

NUMBER OF TRIPS

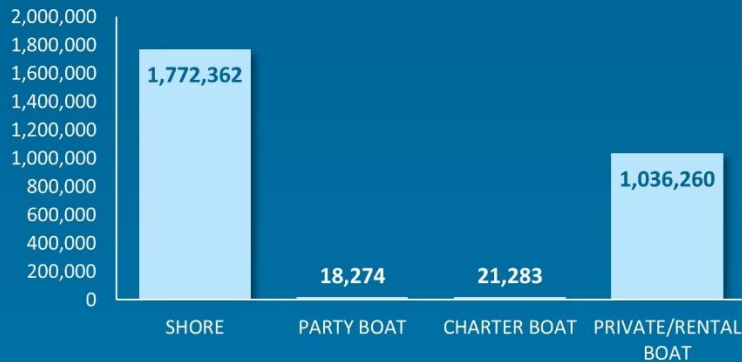


LICENSES

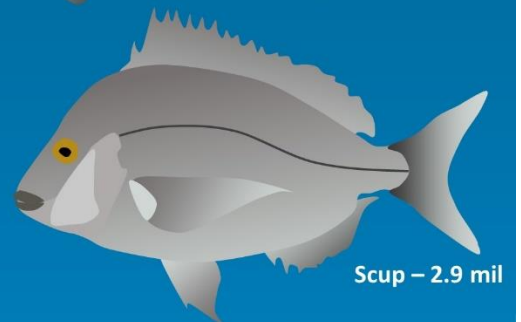
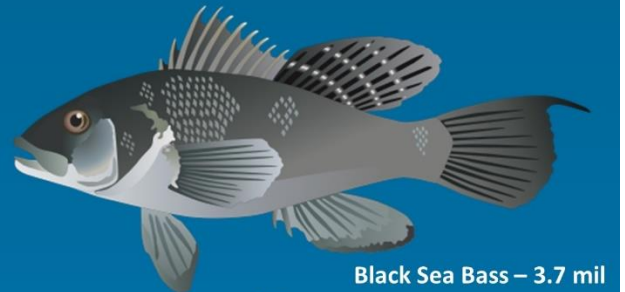


2020 RECREATIONAL FISHING AT A GLANCE

TRIPS BY MODE



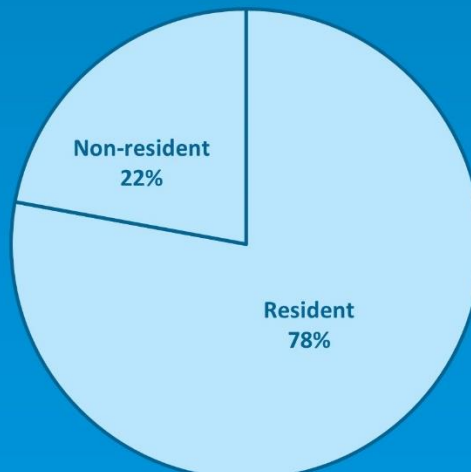
SPECIES OF INTEREST BY CATCH*



TOTAL 2020 TRIPS

2,848,179

2020 LICENSES TOTAL: 57,545



* Total catch in number of fish (including released fish)

Illustrations courtesy of Integration and Application Network (ian.umces.edu/media-library).

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CITING THIS REPORT

When citing this report, please use the following information:

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDEM DMF). 2021. Rhode Island Annual Fisheries Report: 2020. Jamestown, RI. 38pp.

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is part of an annual series describing the state of the Rhode Island fishing industry, starting with 2020. The data provided shed light on the value of the fleet's contribution to the Rhode Island economy and coastal culture, as well as fishery performance relative to previous years.

Aquaculture is not included as part of this report; only wild harvest fisheries are addressed. Please refer to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council's [aquaculture webpage](#) for annual aquaculture reporting.

GENERAL RI FISHERY INFO

The commercial fishing industry in Rhode Island is over 350 years old and contributes largely to the State's cultural heritage. Narragansett Bay, the Rhode Island Sound, and the Block Island Sound have provided natural resources to sustain the commercial fishing industry since the 1630s, as well as Native Americans for thousands of years prior. Today, the commercial fishing and recreational industry is integral to the Rhode Island economy; the commercial fishery generates around \$100 million in seafood landings annually.

The state has 22 active fishing ports, four of which are state managed: Port of Galilee, State Pier #9 (Newport), State Pier #4 (Jerusalem), and State Pier #5 (Narragansett). The Port of Galilee is one of the largest ports on the East Coast and is known for high volumes of squid landings. Galilee, also known as Point Judith, is the 11th highest value US port as of most recent NOAA Fisheries of the United States assessment; it was also the 4th highest value fishing port on the East Coast (NOAA 2018).

In recent years, the top ten species by value have included: longfin squid, shortfin squid, Atlantic sea scallop, American lobster, quahog, scup, Jonah crab, monkfish, butterfish, summer flounder, and silver hake. By pounds landed, Atlantic herring, little skate, winter skate, and Atlantic mackerel would also be added to the list.

ACCSP RULE OF THREE

It is important to understand the confidentiality around commercial fishing data, both information on catch and landings. Per Rhode Island Statute, all data sharing must ensure fisher confidentiality (§ 20-3.1-6. Information systems and data collection). Furthermore, data managed through the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program is subject to the Rule of Three, which requires that all data points be aggregated to include at minimum, three harvesters, three vessels, and three dealers to be considered non-confidential. As such, tables in this report may not all add up as expected. This is due to confidential numbers being included in some larger data aggregations, while it may be omitted to maintain confidentiality in others.

DATA CAVEATS

It is also important to note the different units of measure and metrics used to describe the landings data as there are multiple ways to report poundage landed. Initially, all landings are reported in the raw reported quantity, which requires a unit of measure (pounds, count, bushels, etc.) and a market/grade combination (live, hard shell etc. for market and whole, gutted etc. for grade). These quantities are not always comparable (i.e., a count of quahogs would be difficult to compare to poundage of whole fish). Consequently, data are often converted into live weight (weight of the whole, unprocessed, live animal) and meat weight (weight of just the shellfish meat). Historical data reports shellfish in meat weight, so meat weight for shellfish is provided within the report to compare historical to current landings. Quahog landings are also reported in count of quahogs since seafood dealers commonly purchase quahogs by the count. The total poundage reported will be live weight unless otherwise noted. Given the various methods that poundage may be reported, coupled with the rule of three, data within this report may not match the numbers reported in/by other reports/agencies.

In addition to landings data, RI collects catch and effort information for all fishermen except for the shellfish industry (all shellfish except for the whelk fishery, which began data collection in 2012). Thus, the catch and effort breakdowns of the commercial fleet do not include the shellfish industry in its entirety.

While the data presented in this report is up to date at the time of writing, due to the nature of the data collected, prior years' data may be changed from in subsequent years due to late corrections to the data. Late corrections include but are not limited to: late data entry, corrections to port/state landed, data entry errors in the data identified during the QA/QC process.

All commercial landings values presented in this annual report have been discounted to 2020-dollar values; this standardizes all values to allow for direct comparisons among years while accounting for inflation over time. The annual Consumer Price Index from the Bureau of Labor Statistics was used to carry out this correction.

COMMERCIAL FISHERY

HARVEST

Rhode Island is known for consistently landing large volumes of squid, but the state has an incredibly diverse commercial fishery, with 107 species harvested and landed in 2020 alone. The overall ex-vessel value of landings in 2020 in Rhode Island was \$74.6 million, representing a decline of 27% in value from 2019. This decline is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited seafood sales. Prior to 2020, the value of Rhode Island commercial fishing landings had been increasing since 2015 (Figure 1).

The top ten species by value in 2020 were (Figure 2 and Table 1): longfin squid (\$13,640,836), Atlantic sea scallop (\$11,338,643), Illex squid (\$11,189,625), American lobster (\$9,103,557), summer flounder (\$4,703,995), quahog (\$3,392,300), butterfish (\$3,029,728), silver hake (\$2,848,305), Jonah crab (\$2,723,166), and scup (\$2,355,507). All ten species, except Illex squid (Figure 5), experienced a reduction in value from 2019 into 2020, again likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes in value and pounds landed annually can be driven by a variety of factors. Changes in management measures, environmental conditions, stock status, and economic conditions can substantially impact catch.

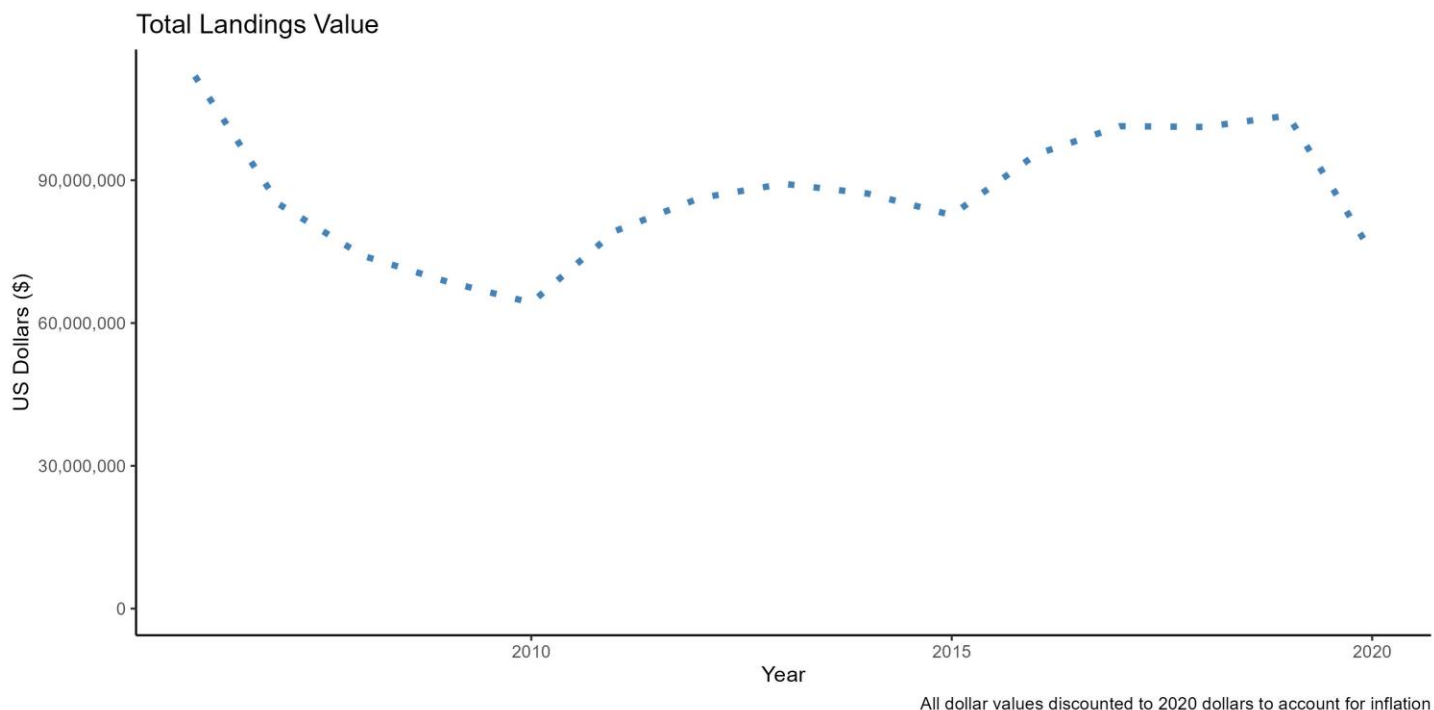


FIGURE 1. OVERALL EX-VESSEL VALUES OF RHODE ISLAND COMMERCIAL HARVEST (EXCLUDING AQUACULTURE) FROM 2006-2020

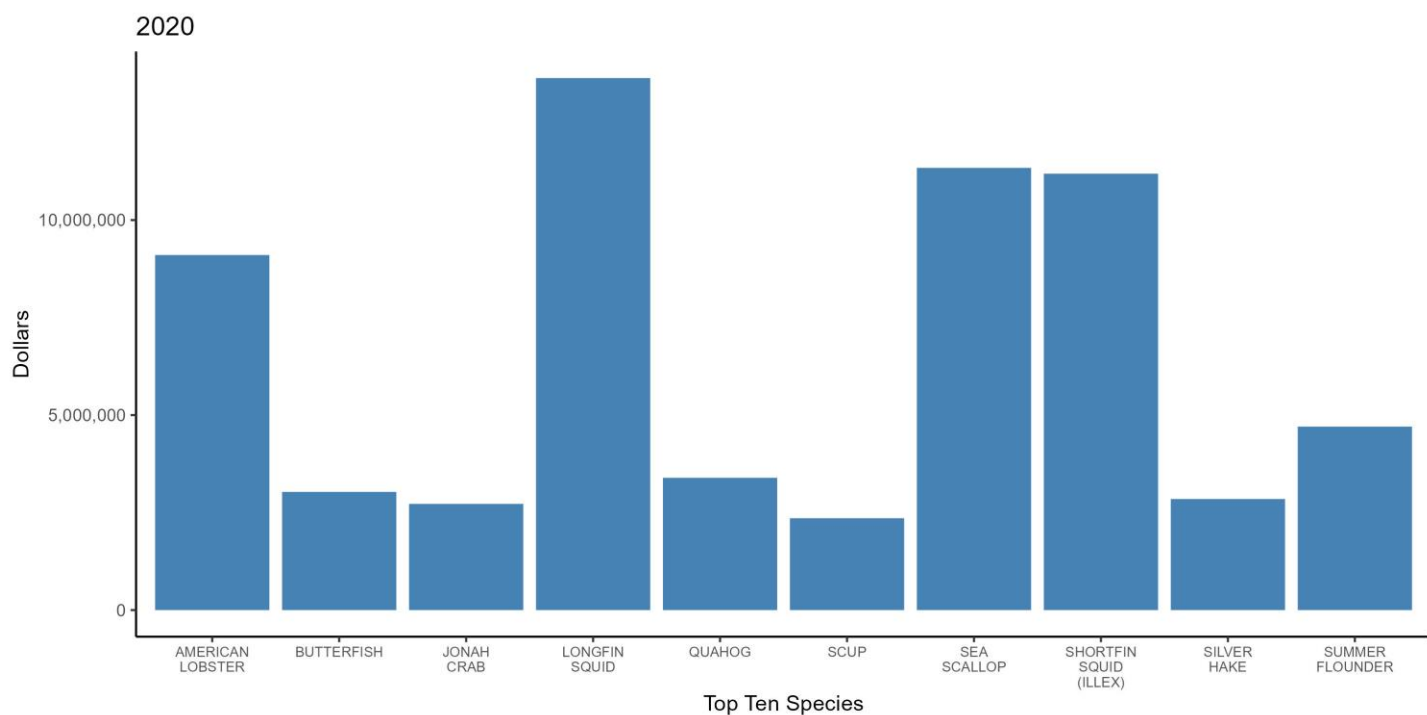


FIGURE 2. TOP TEN SPECIES BY VALUE FOR TERMINAL YEAR, 2020

TABLE 1. TOP TEN SPECIES LANDED (BY VALUE) FOR TERMINAL YEAR, 2020

Common Name	Pounds	2020 Dollars
LONGFIN SQUID	11,680,814.59	\$13,640,835.84
SEA SCALLOP	1,272,761.3	\$11,338,643.23
SHORTFIN SQUID (ILLEX)	21,775,412.31	\$11,189,624.79
AMERICAN LOBSTER	1,630,569.9	\$9,103,556.57
SUMMER FLOUNDER	1,704,496.46	\$4,703,994.77
QUAHOG	13,336,528.07	\$3,392,299.72
BUTTERFISH	4,570,943.46	\$3,029,727.94
SILVER HAKE	4,727,728	\$2,848,304.66
JONA CRAB	3,261,751.3	\$2,723,165.50
SCUP	4,302,323.85	\$2,355,506.97

2006 – 2020 TIME SERIES FOR TOP TEN SPECIES BY VALUE IN 2020

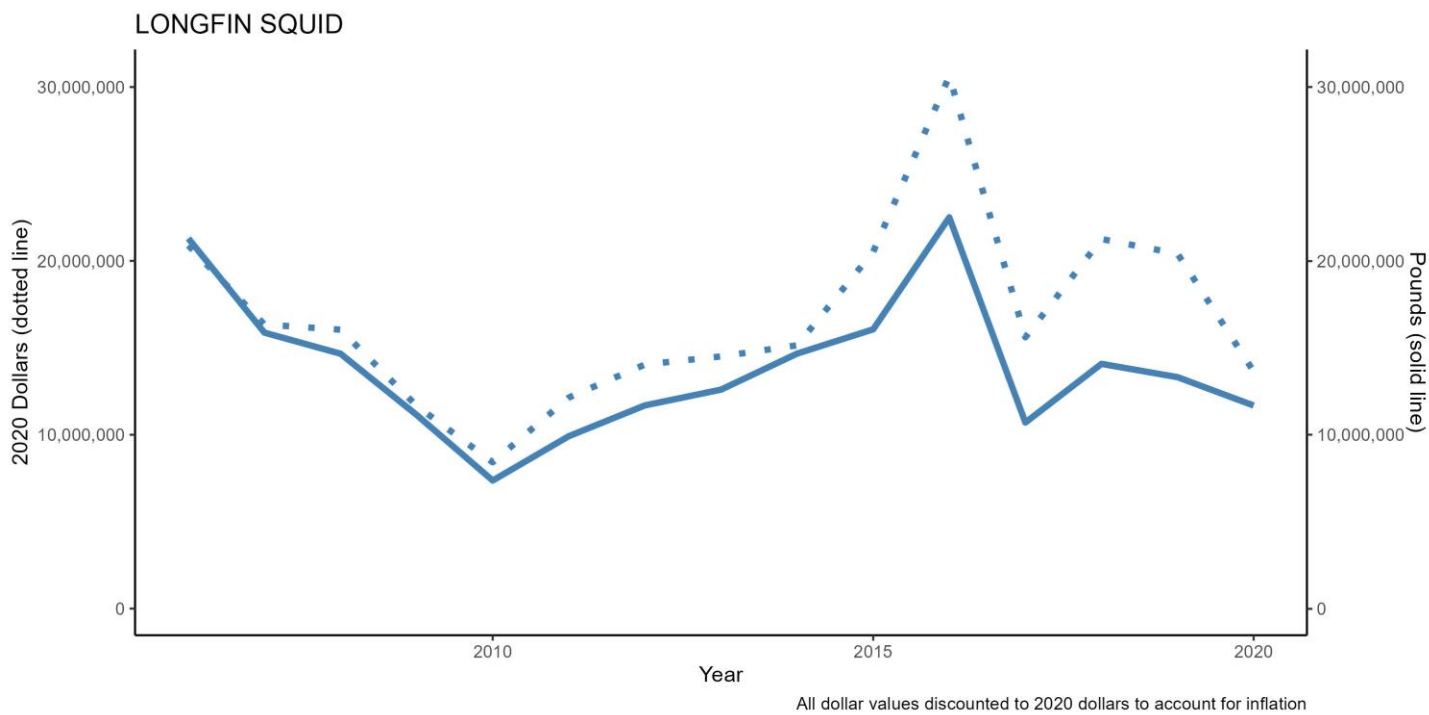


FIGURE 3. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF LONGFIN SQUID FROM 2006-2020

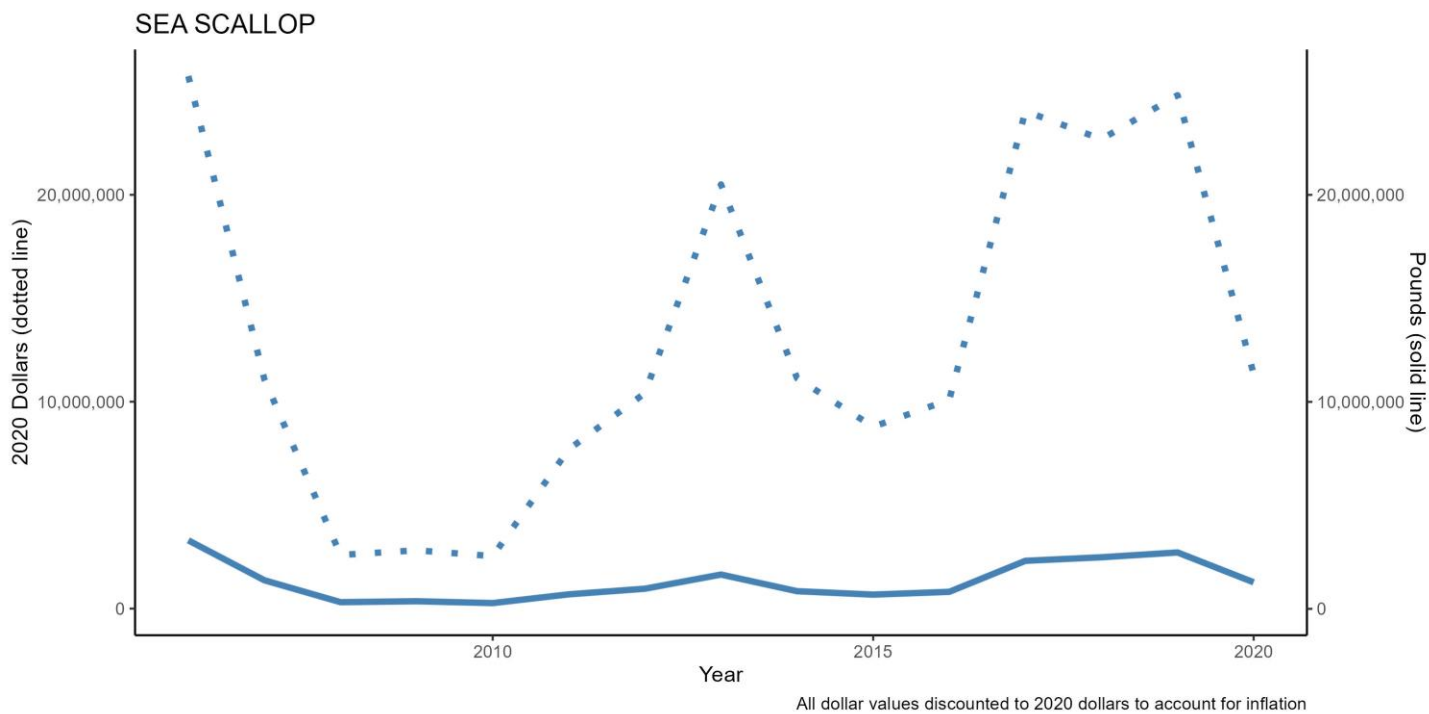


FIGURE 4. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FROM 2006-2020

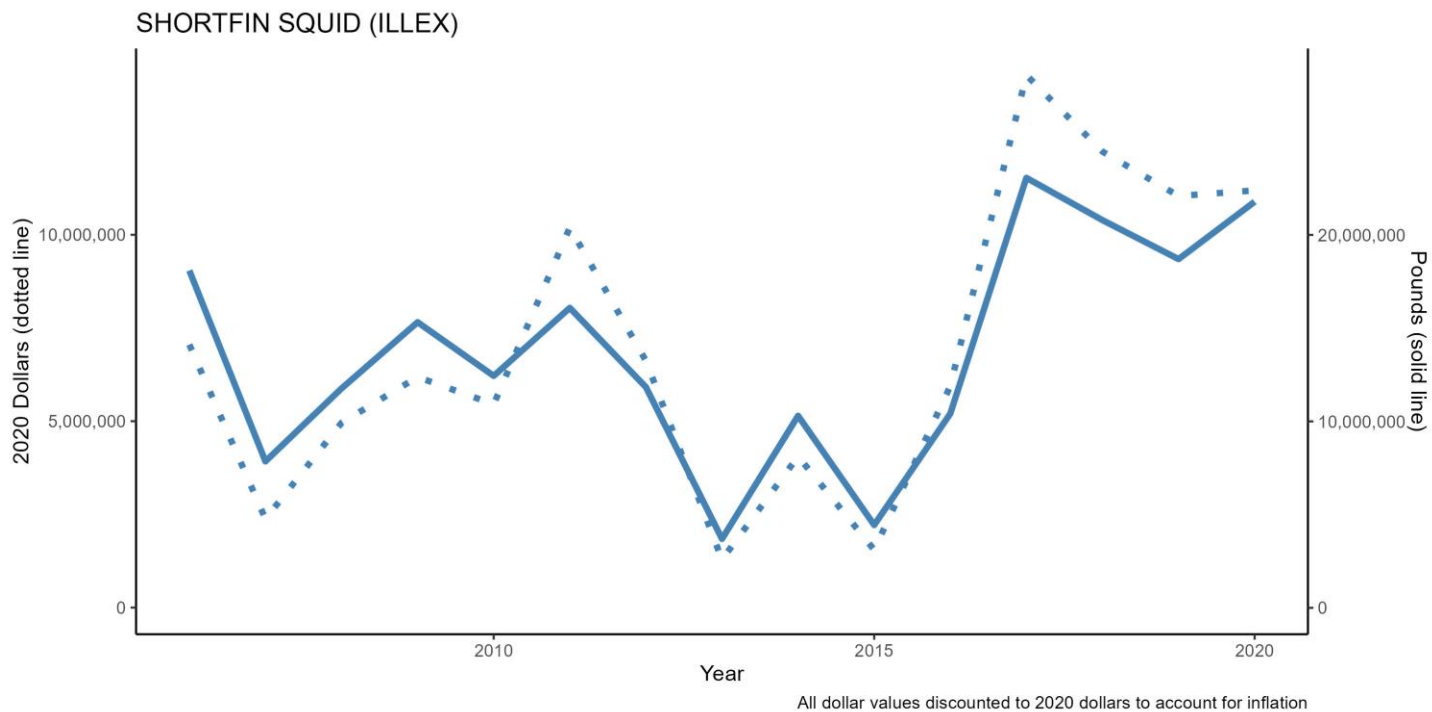


FIGURE 5. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF ILLEX SQUID FROM 2006-2020

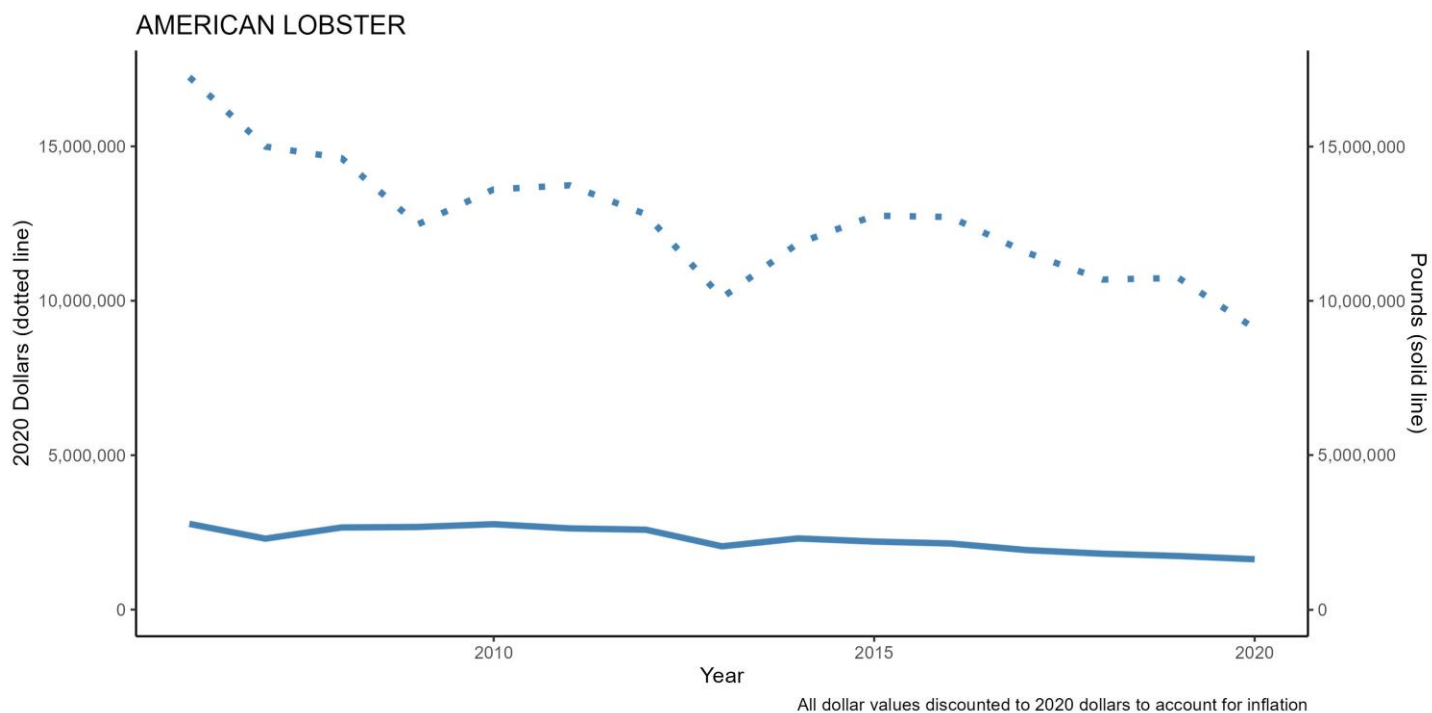


FIGURE 6. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF AMERICAN LOBSTER FROM 2006-2020

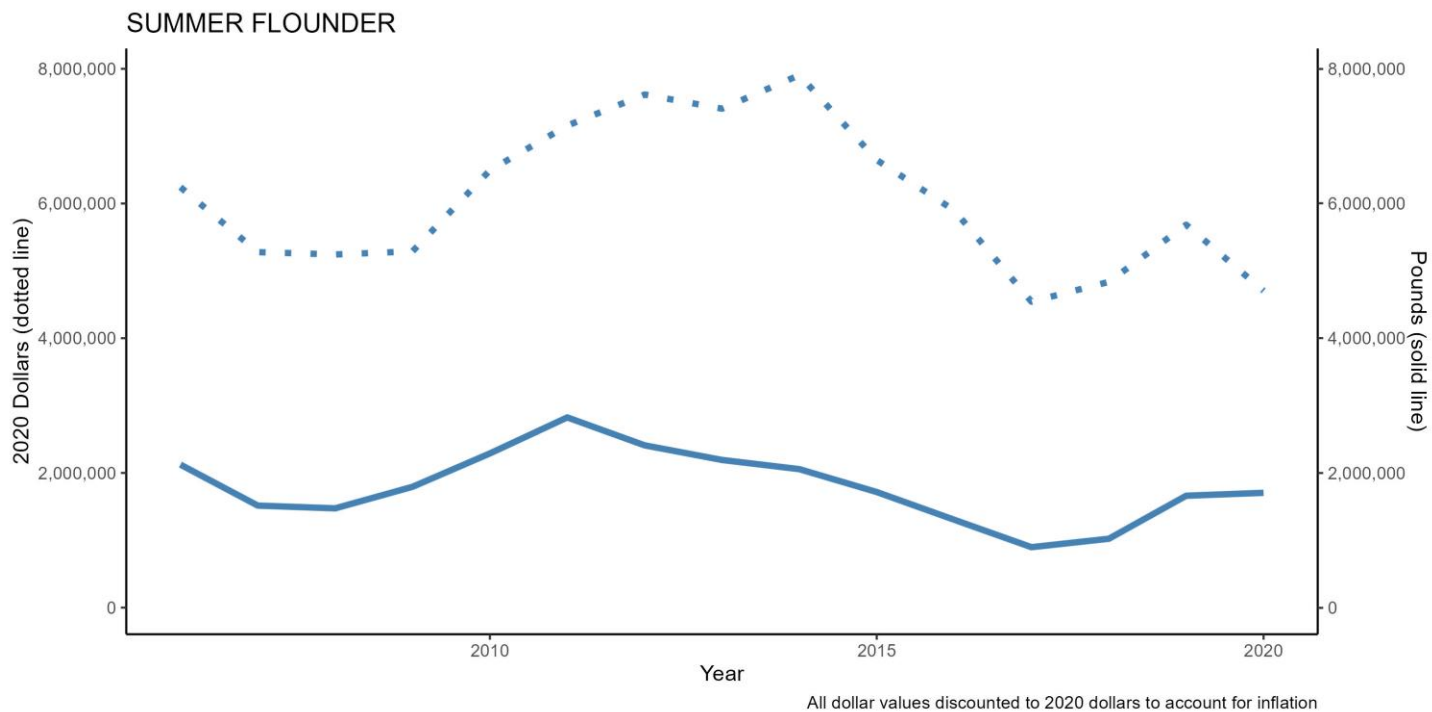


FIGURE 7. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF SUMMER FLOUNDER FROM 2006-2020

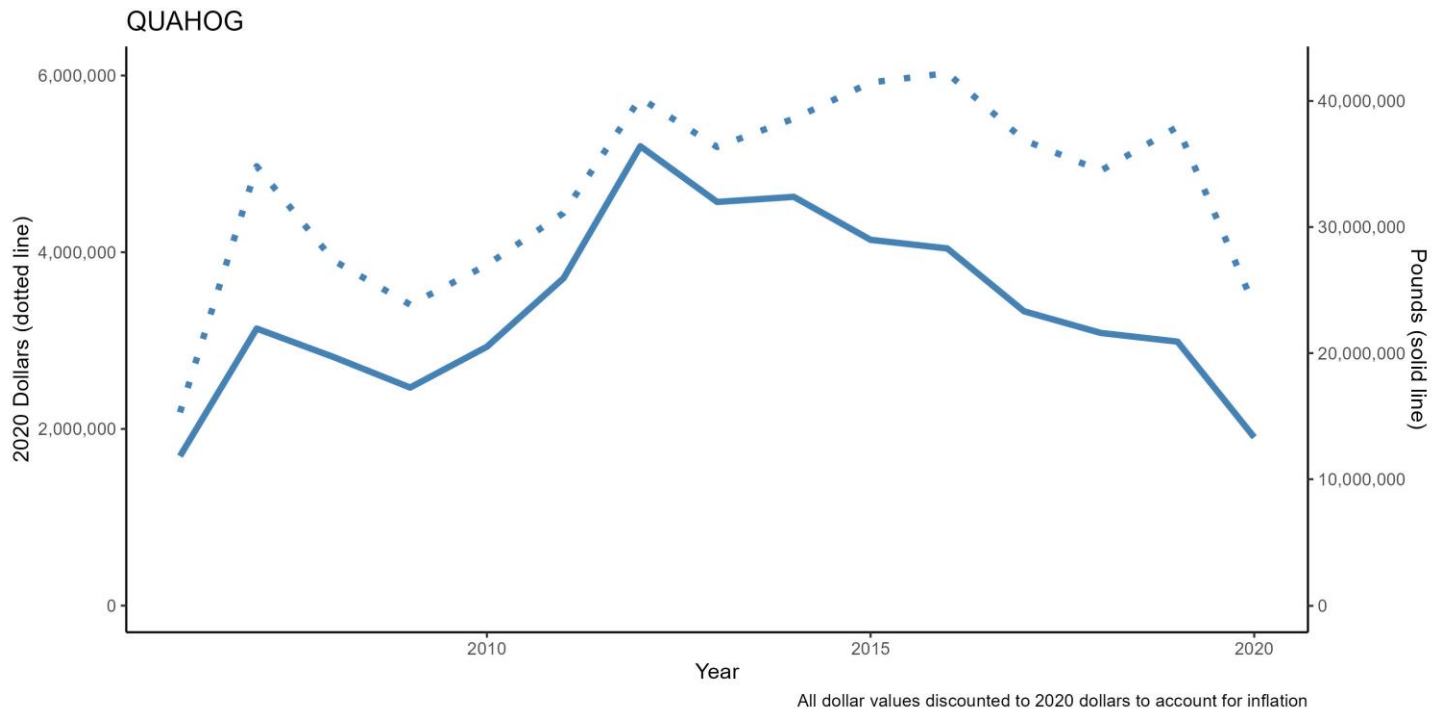


FIGURE 8. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF QUAHOG FROM 2006-2020

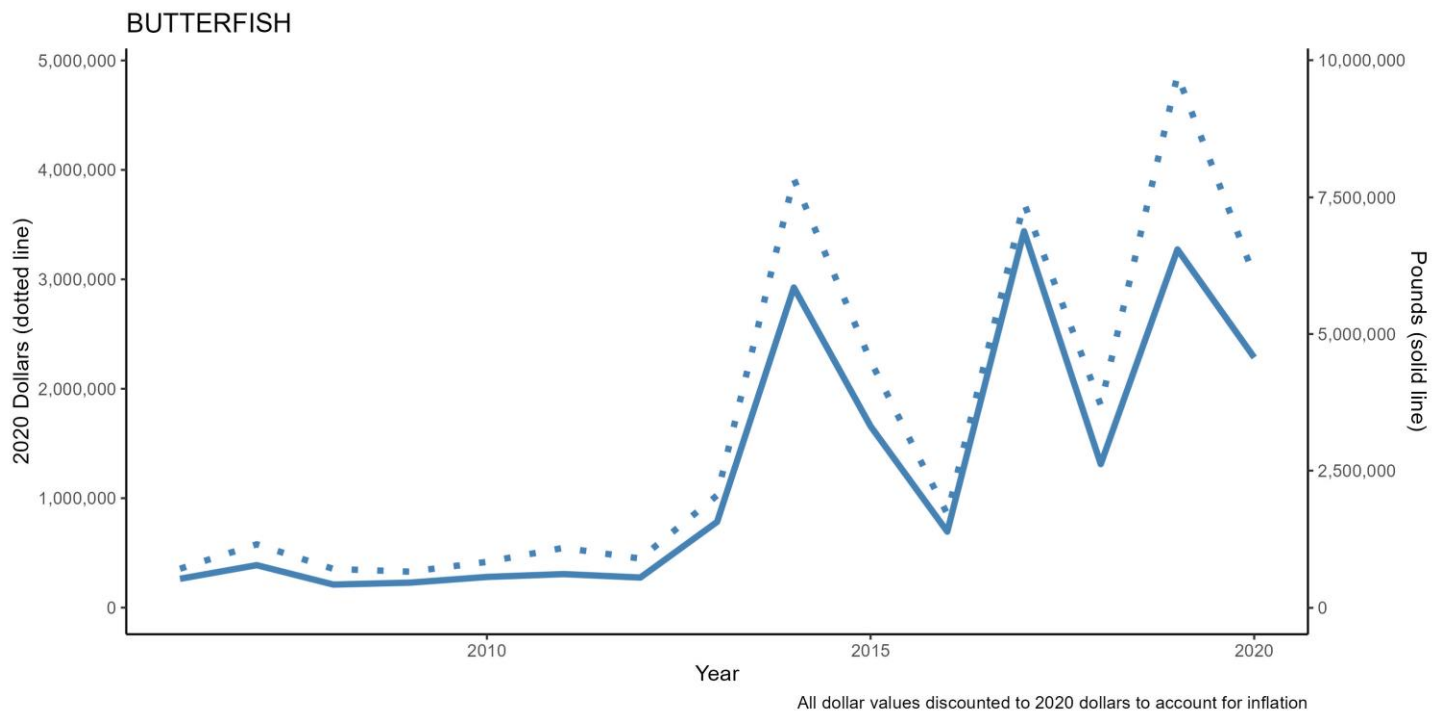


FIGURE 9. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF BUTTERFISH FROM 2006-2020

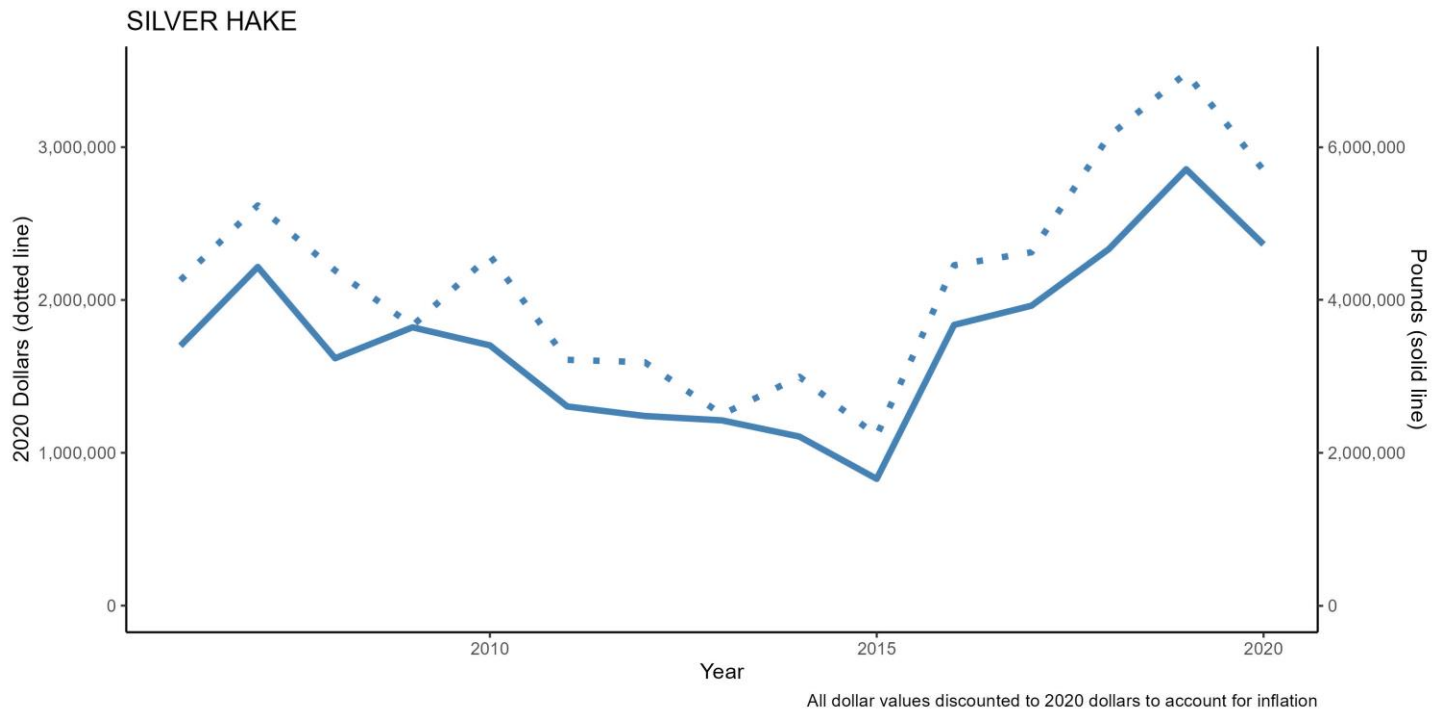


FIGURE 10. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF SILVER HAKE FROM 2006-2020

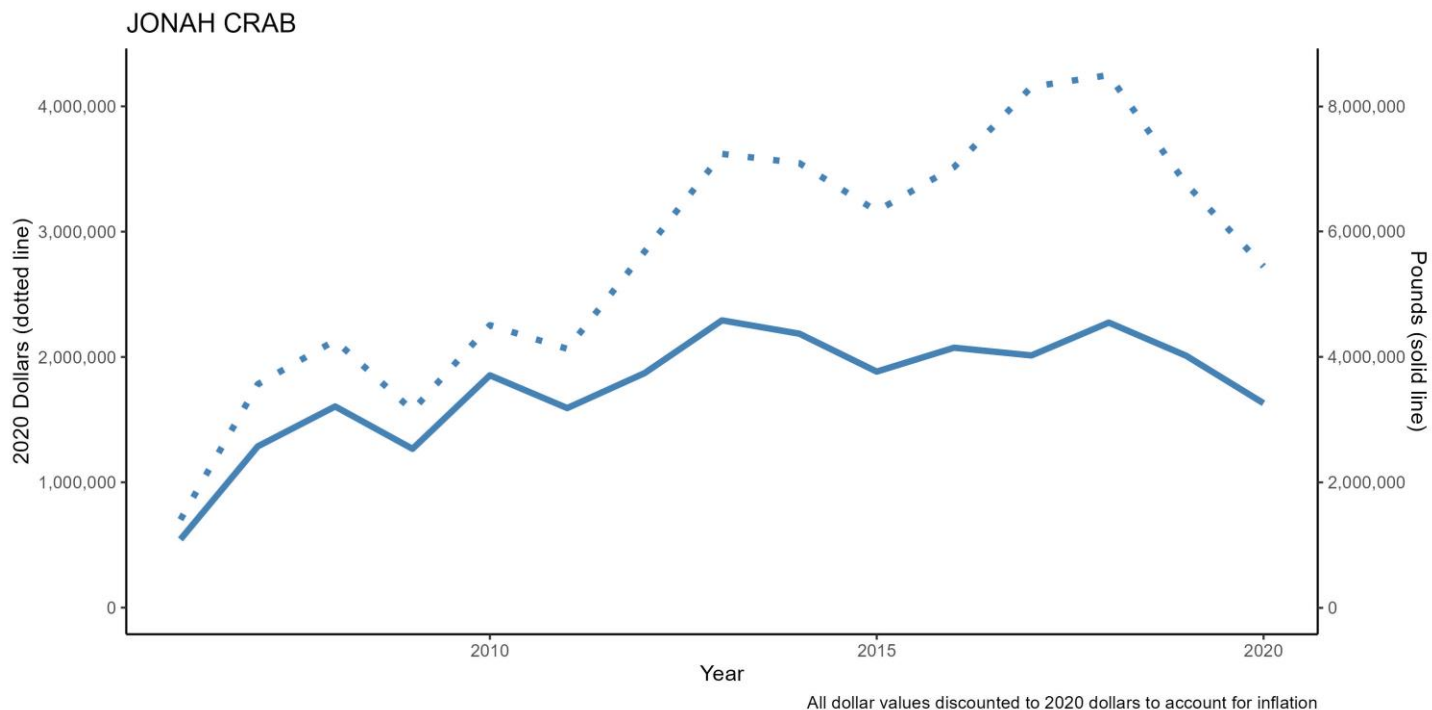


FIGURE 11. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF JONAH CRAB FROM 2006-2020

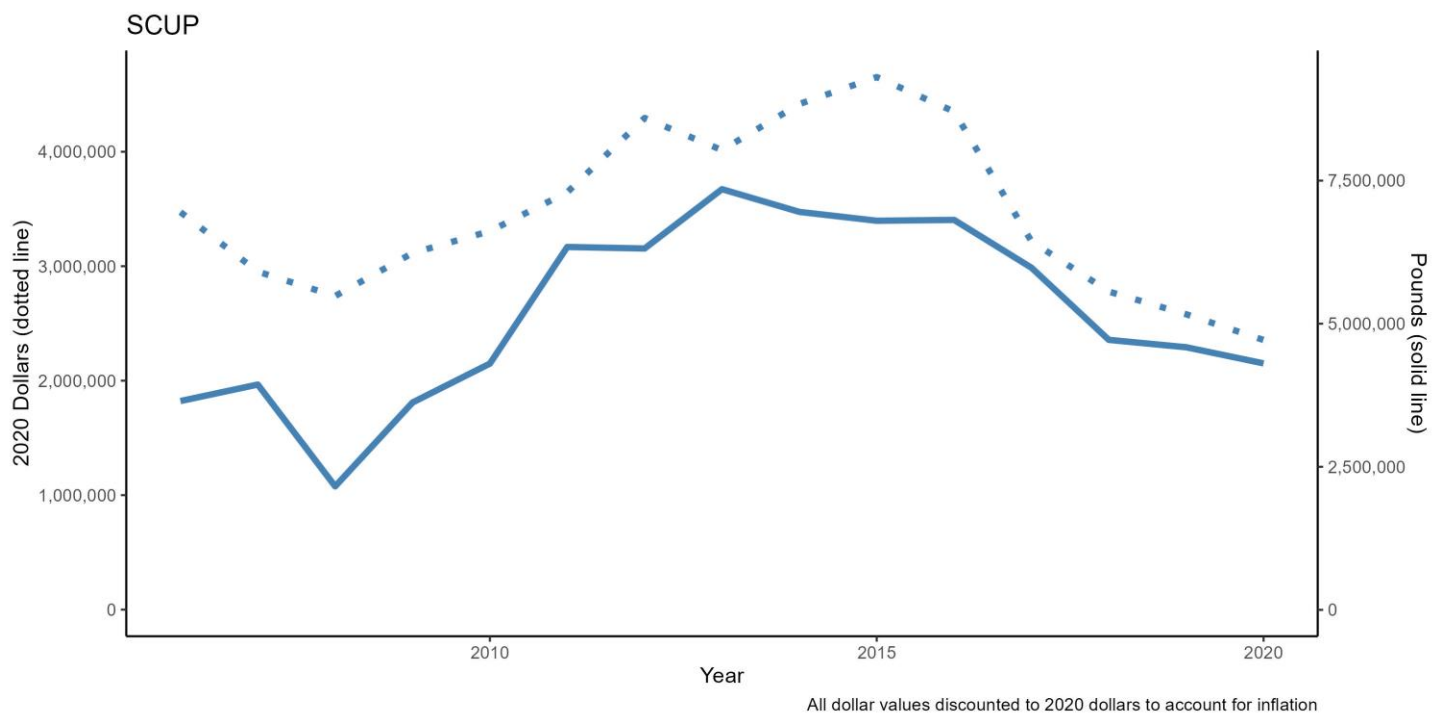


FIGURE 12. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF SCUP FROM 2006-2020

TOTAL LANDINGS TIME SERIES FOR RHODE ISLAND SPECIES OF INTEREST

In addition to the highest value species, other species may be of interest for cultural reasons or historical value. Longer time series of landings for high value species and species of interest are provided below. Additional species included black sea bass, striped bass, tautog, winter flounder, monkfish, highly migratory species, and skates.

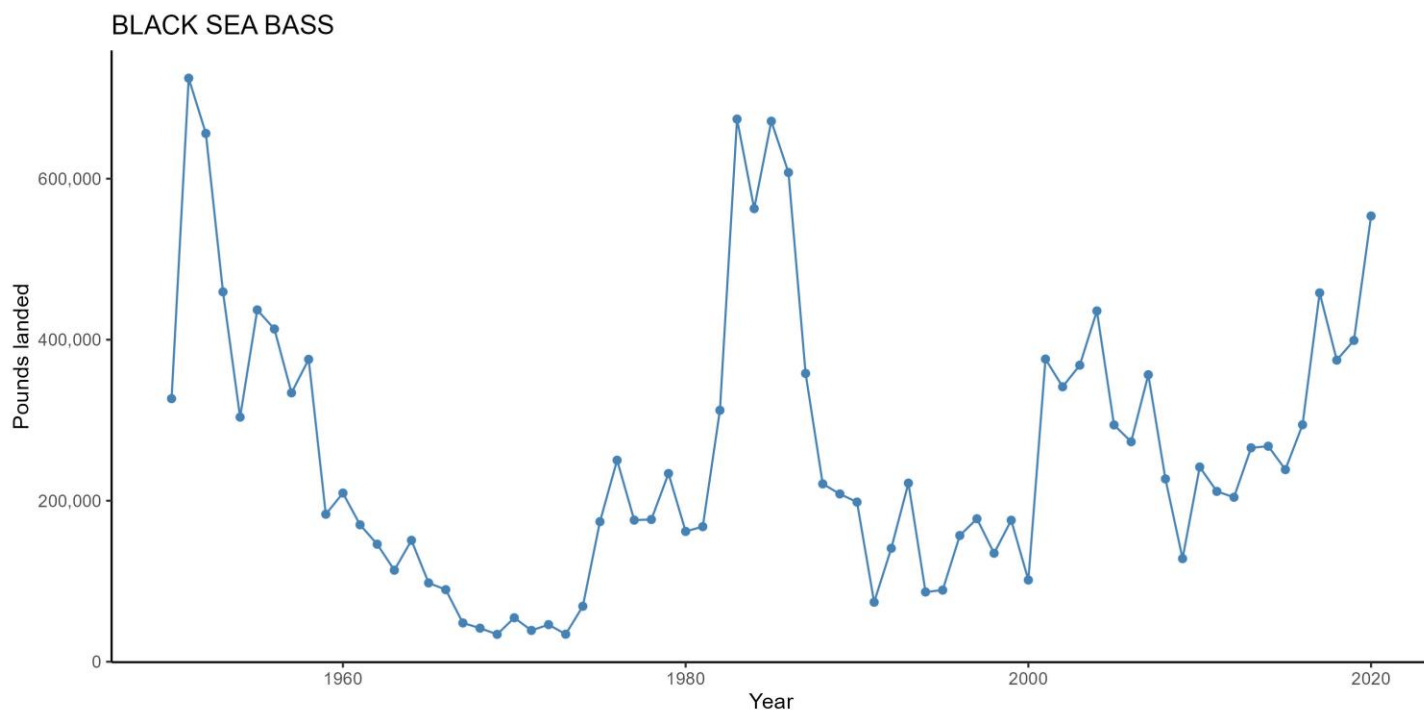


FIGURE 13. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF BLACK SEA BASS FROM 1950 TO 2020

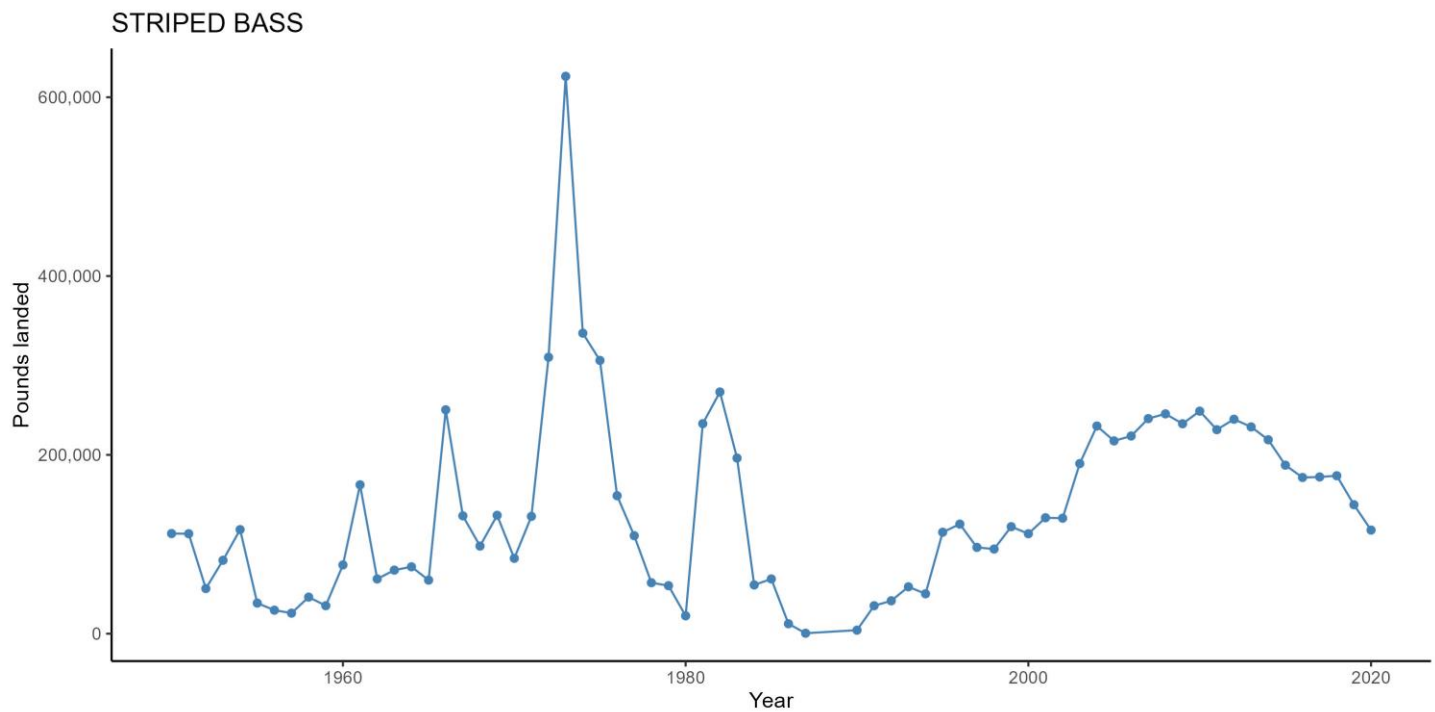


FIGURE 14. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF STRIPED BASS FROM 1950 TO 2020

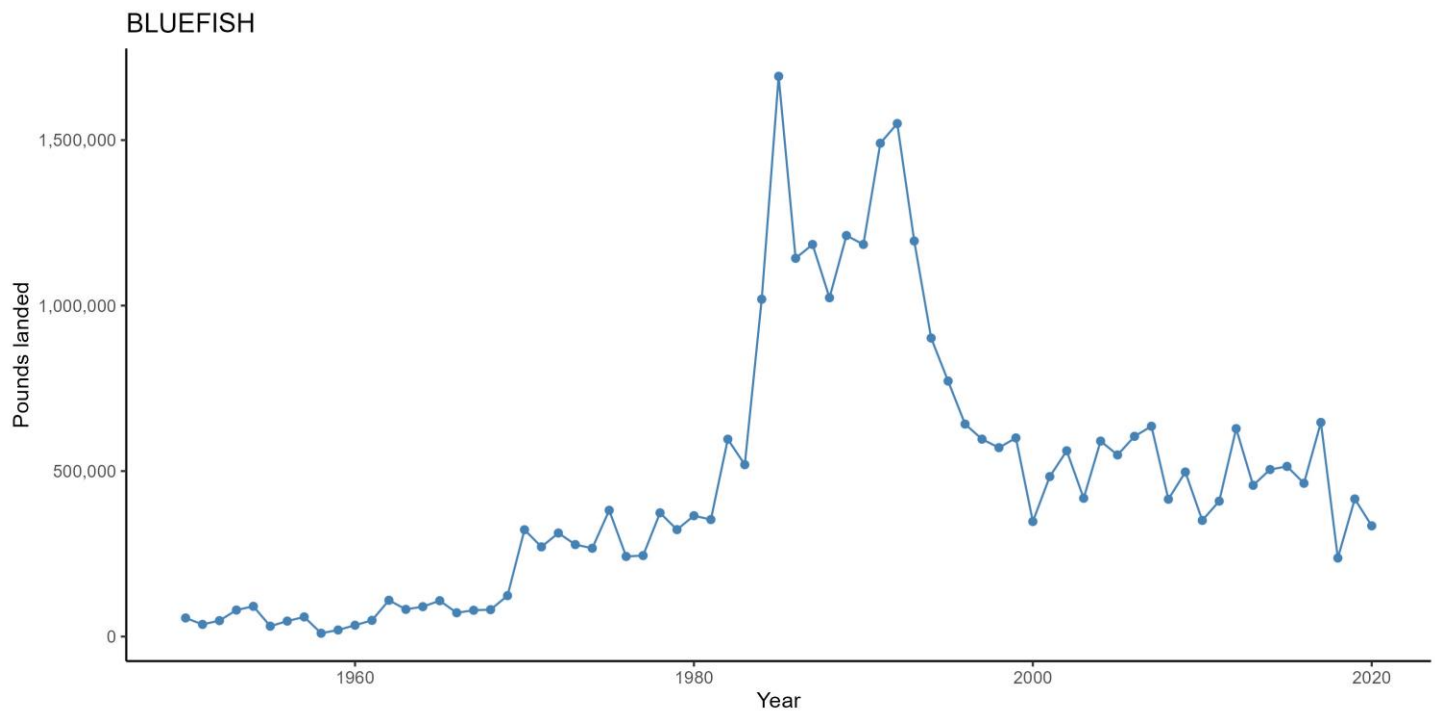


FIGURE 15. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF BLUEFISH FROM 1950 TO 2020

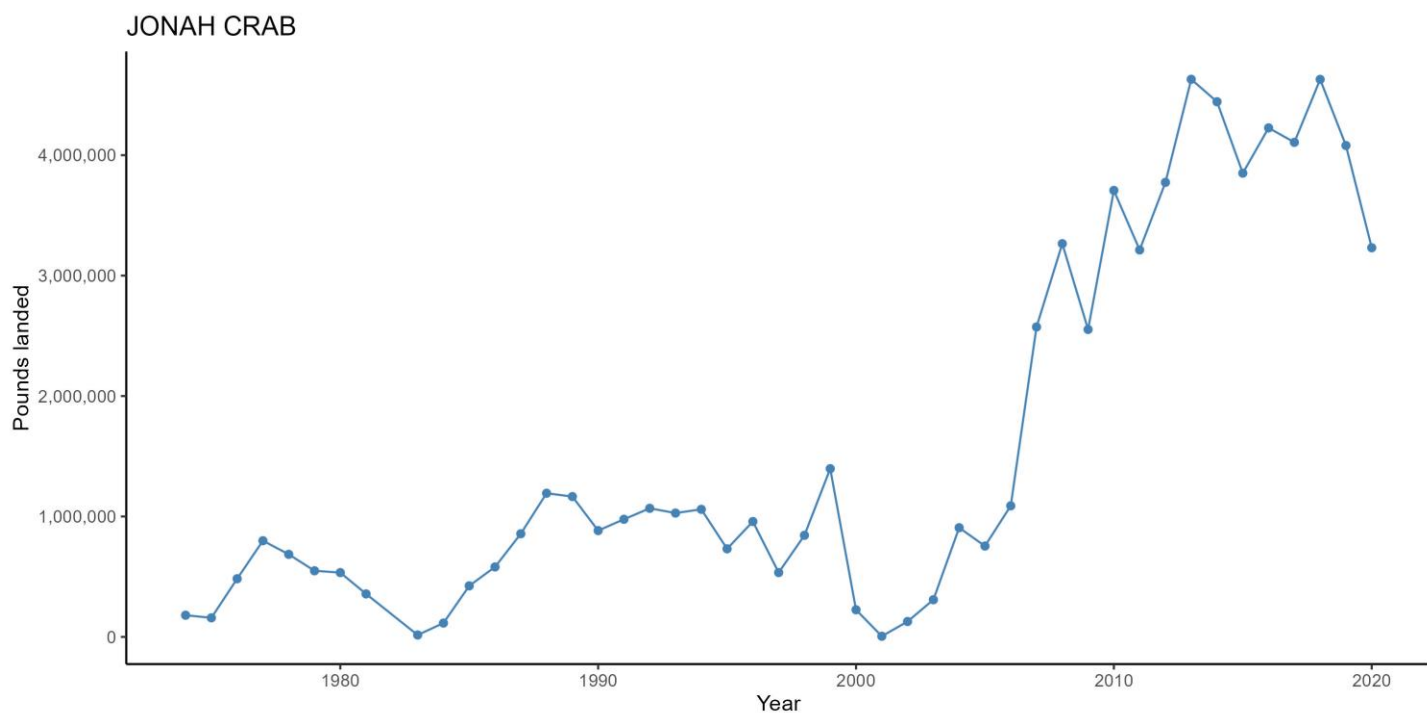


FIGURE 16. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF JONAH CRAB FROM 1950 TO 2020

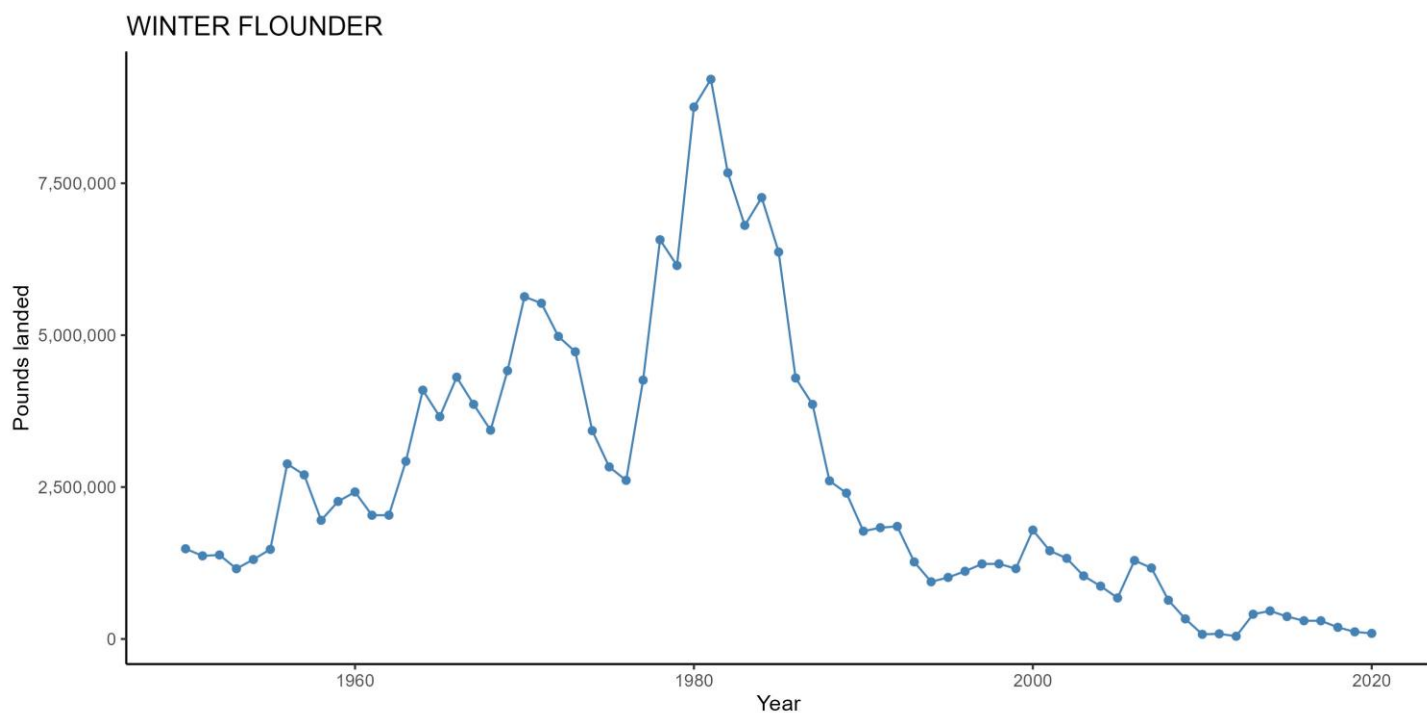


FIGURE 17. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF WINTER FLOUNDER FROM 1950 TO 2020

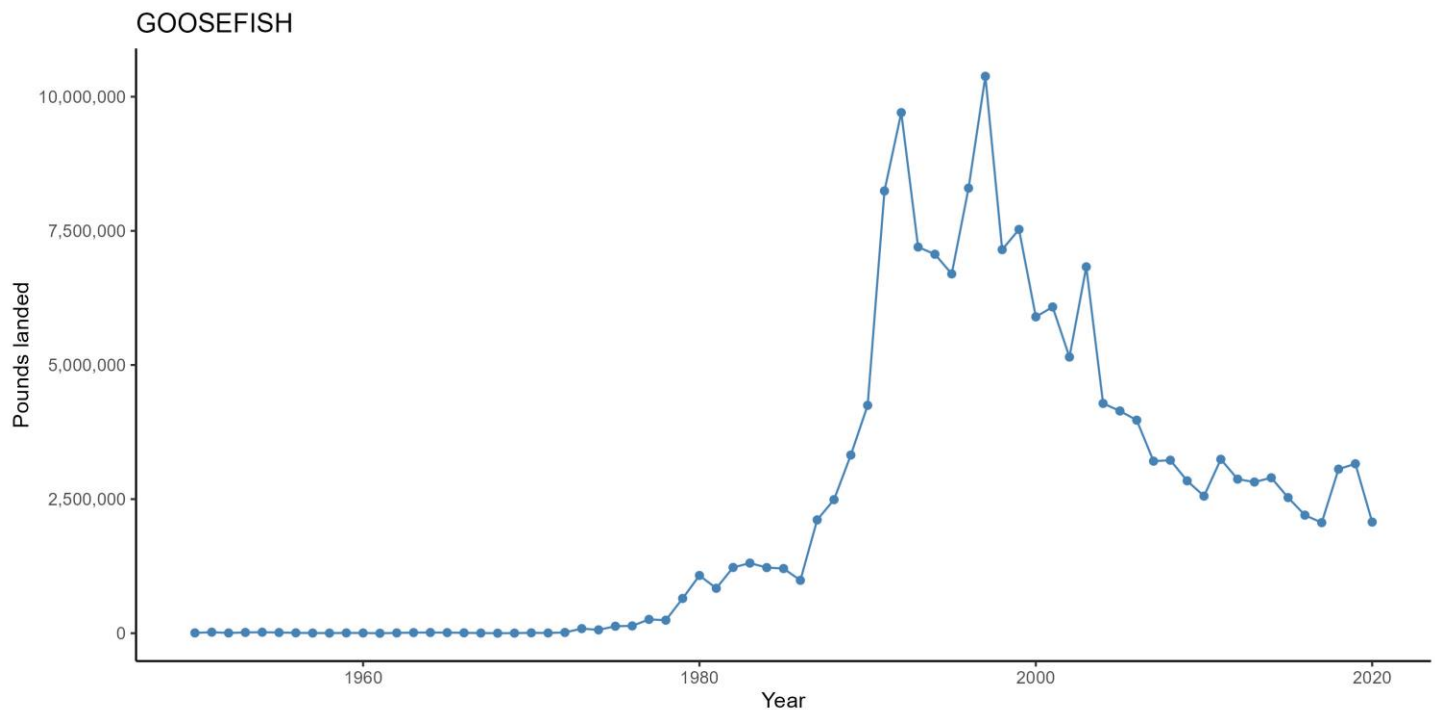


FIGURE 18. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF GOOSEFISH (MONKFISH) FROM 1950 TO 2020

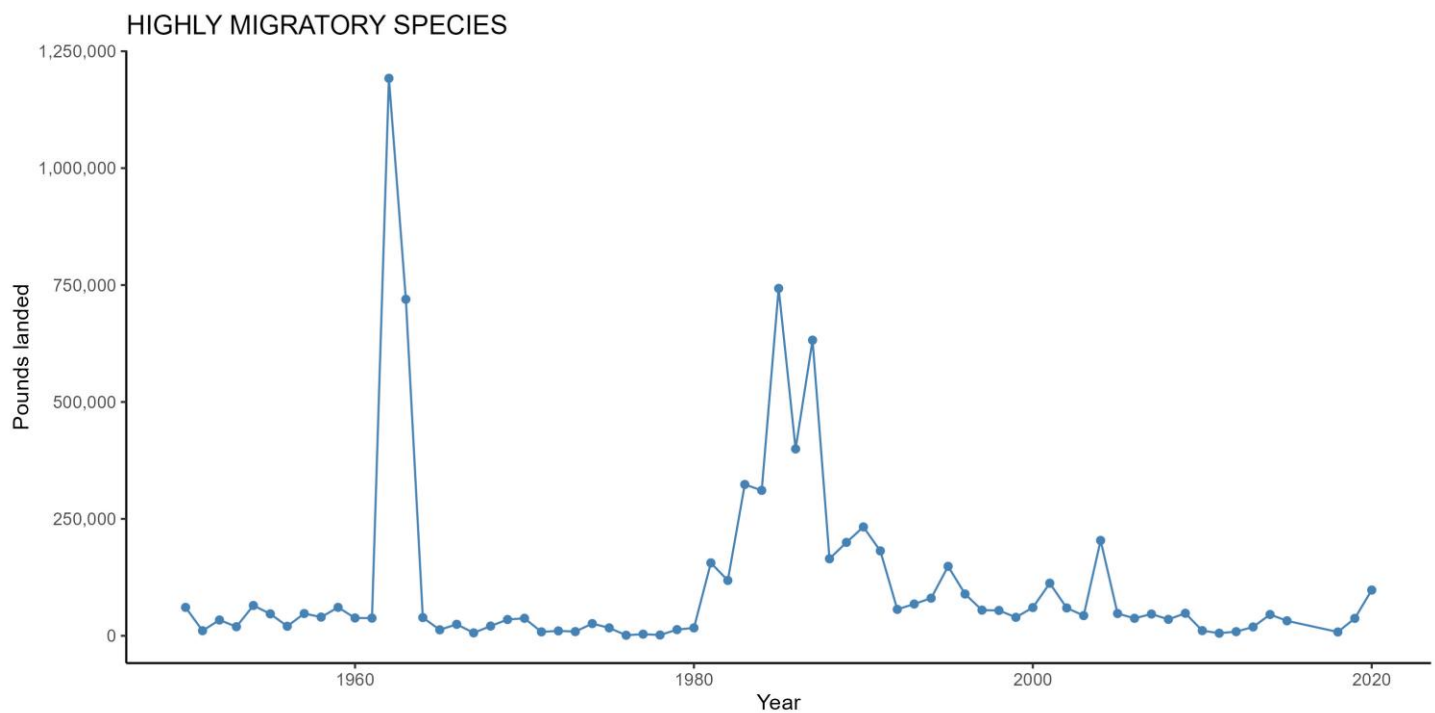


FIGURE 19. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FROM 1950 TO 2020. SPECIES INCLUDED: WAHOO, BLUEFIN TUNA, AND YELLOWFIN TUNA

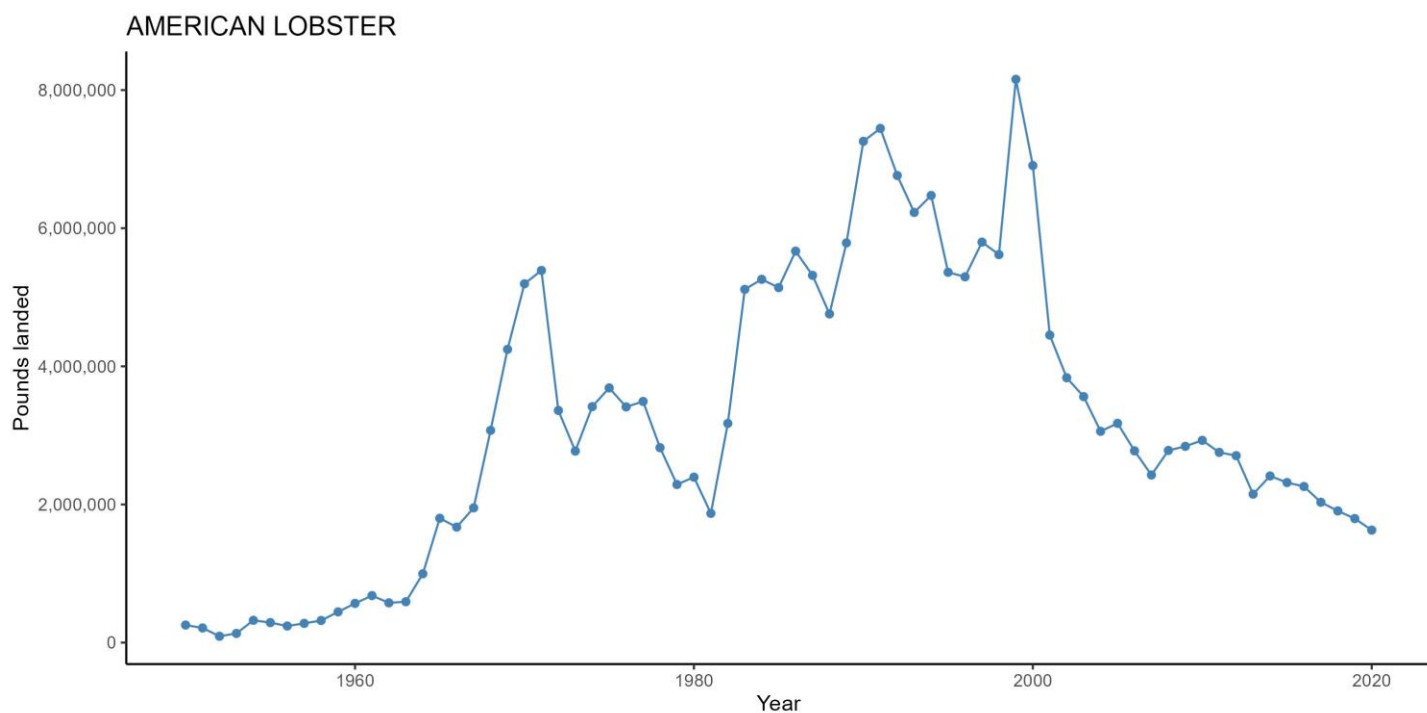


FIGURE 20. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF AMERICAN LOBSTER FROM 1950 TO 2020

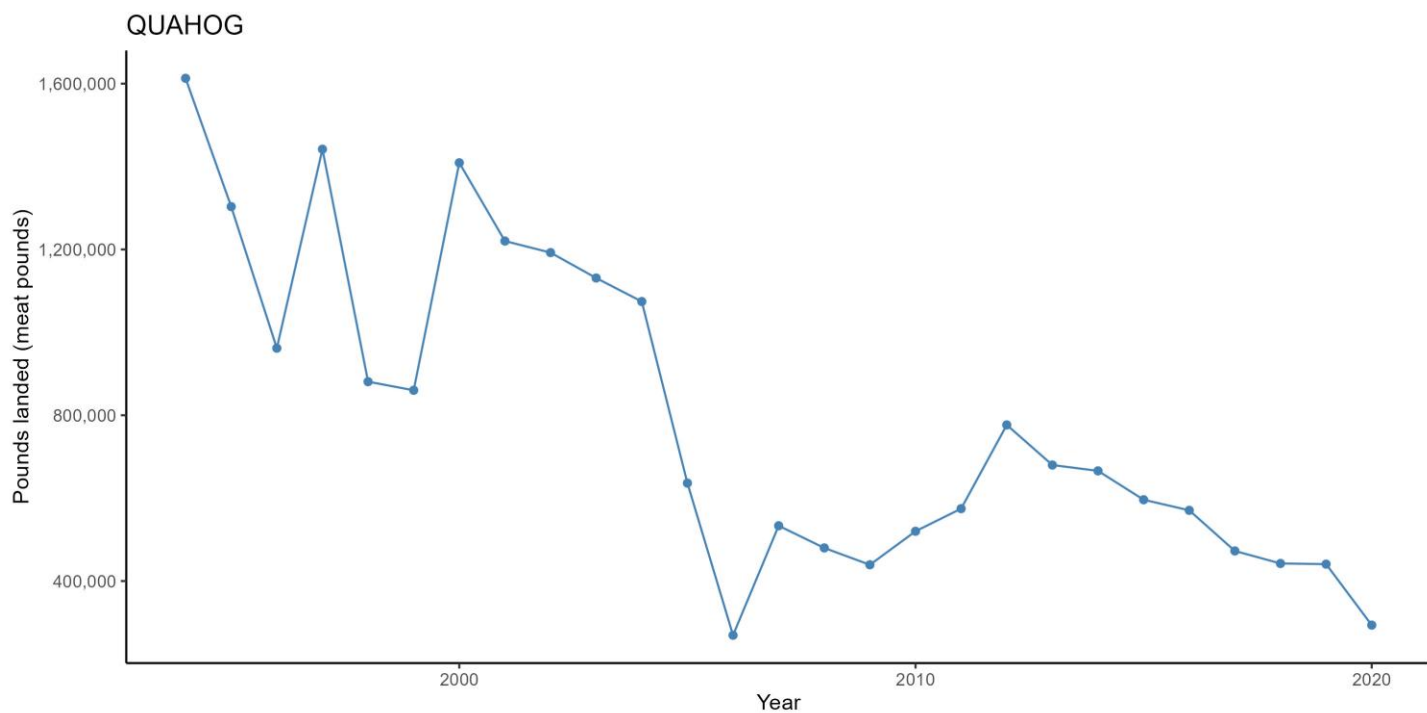


FIGURE 21. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF QUAHOG FROM 1950 TO 2020

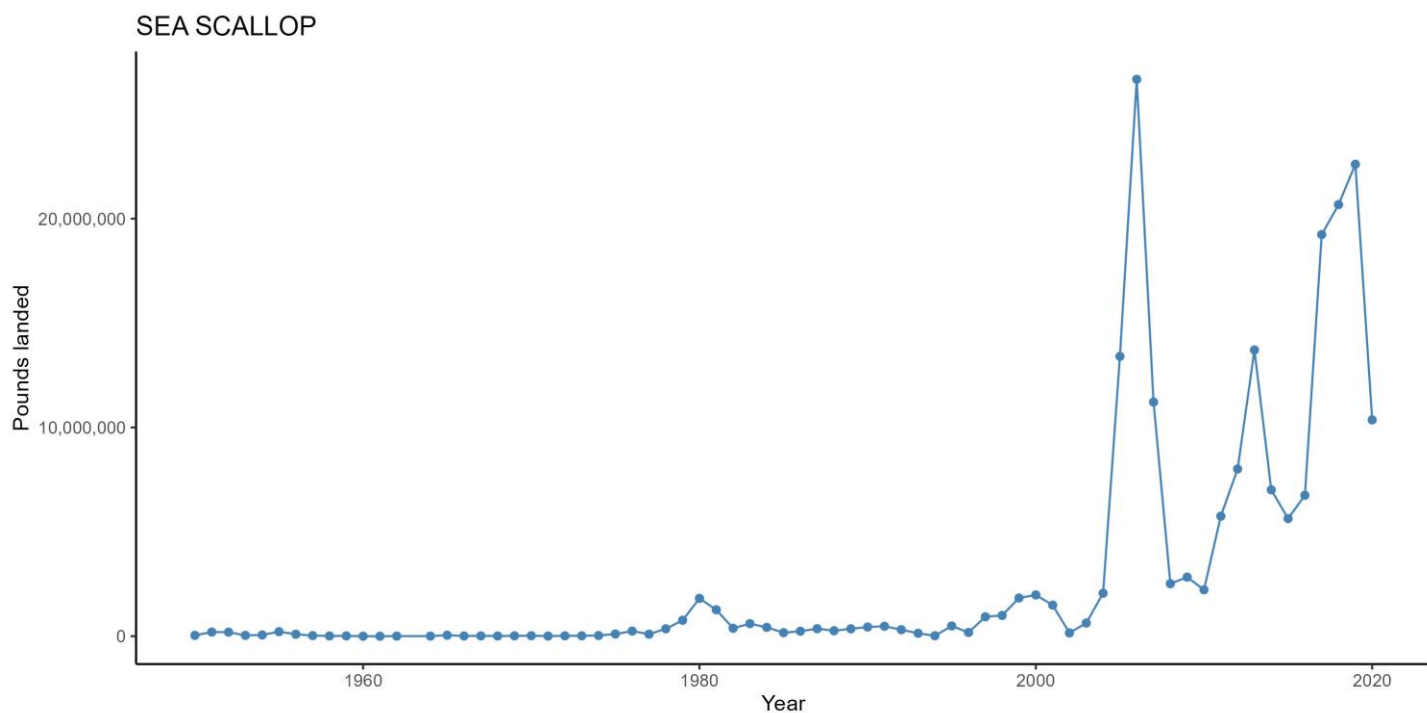


FIGURE 22. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FROM 1950 TO 2020

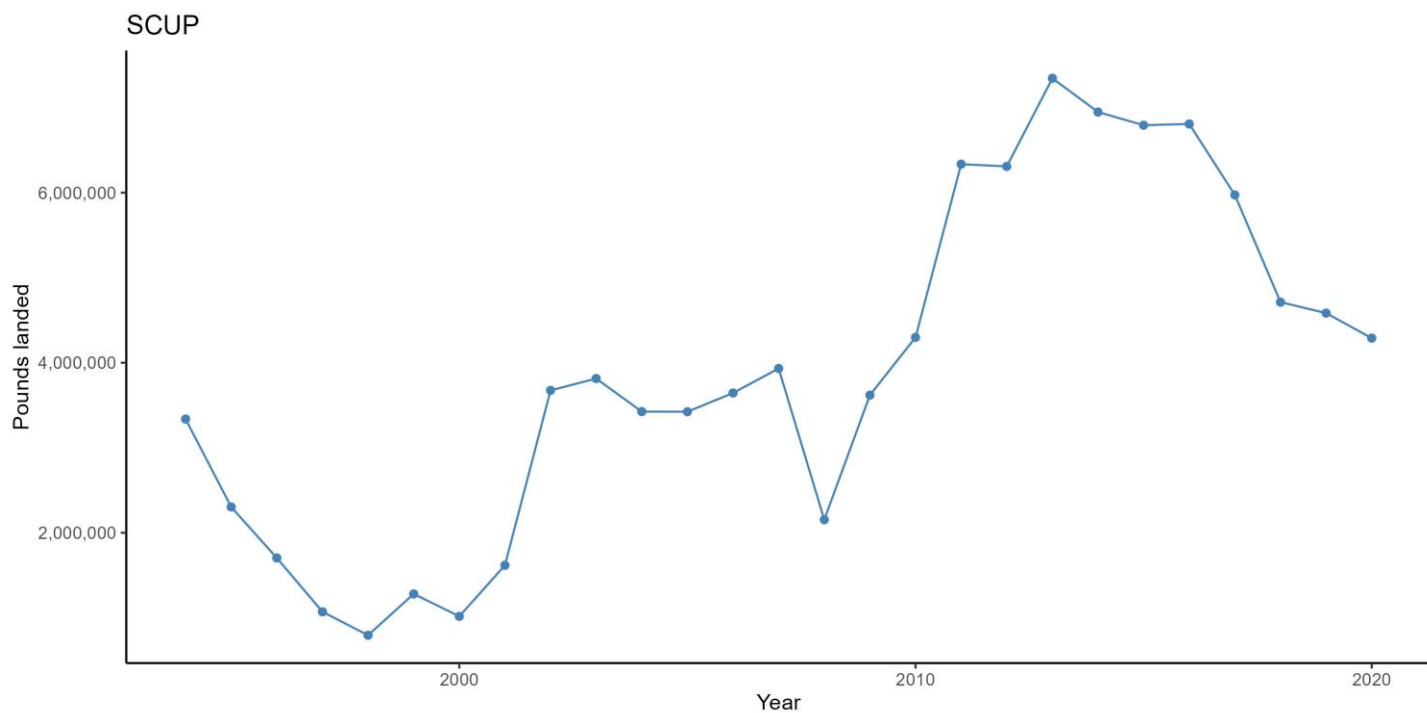


FIGURE 23. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF SCUP FROM 1950 TO 2020

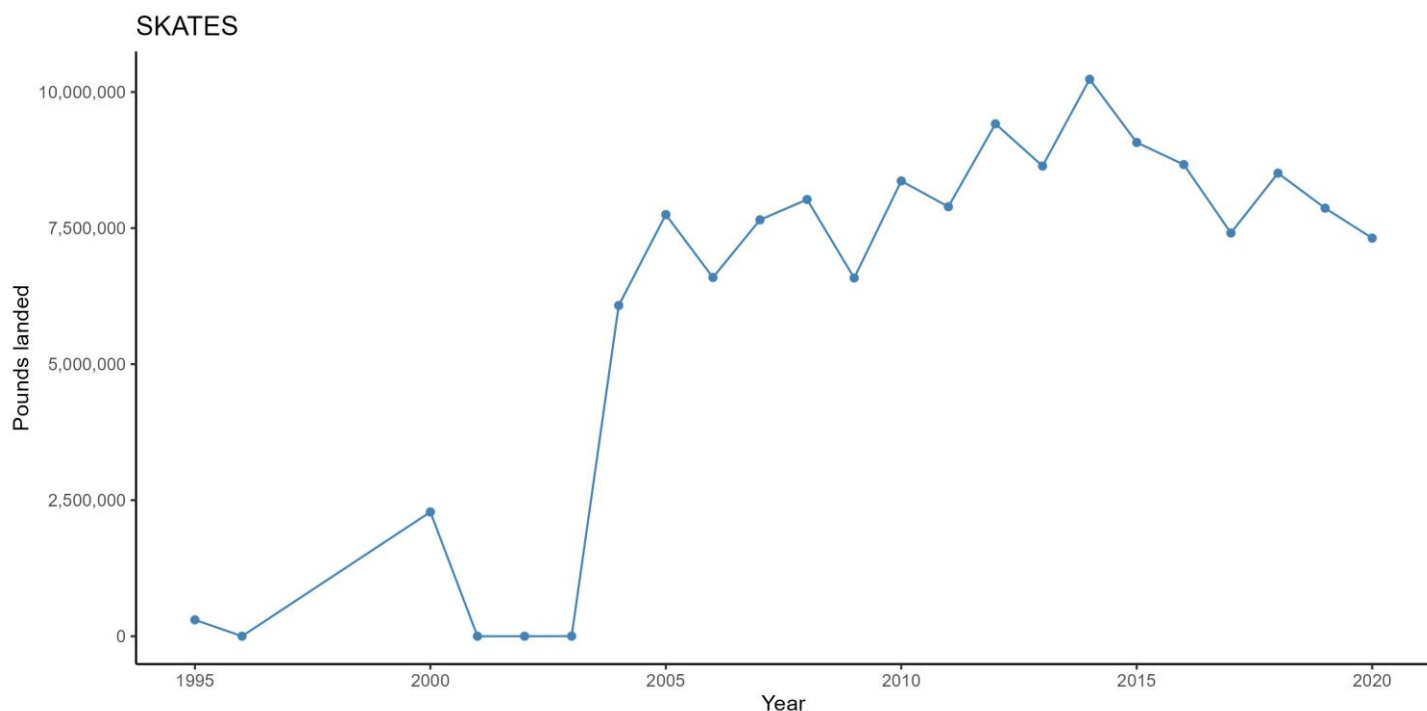


FIGURE 24. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF SKATES FROM 1950 TO 2020. SPECIES INCLUDED: LITTLE AND WINTER SKATE. GENERALLY, LITTLE SKATE IS USED AS BAIT, WHILE WINTER SKATE MAY BE USED AS WINGS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR AS BAIT.

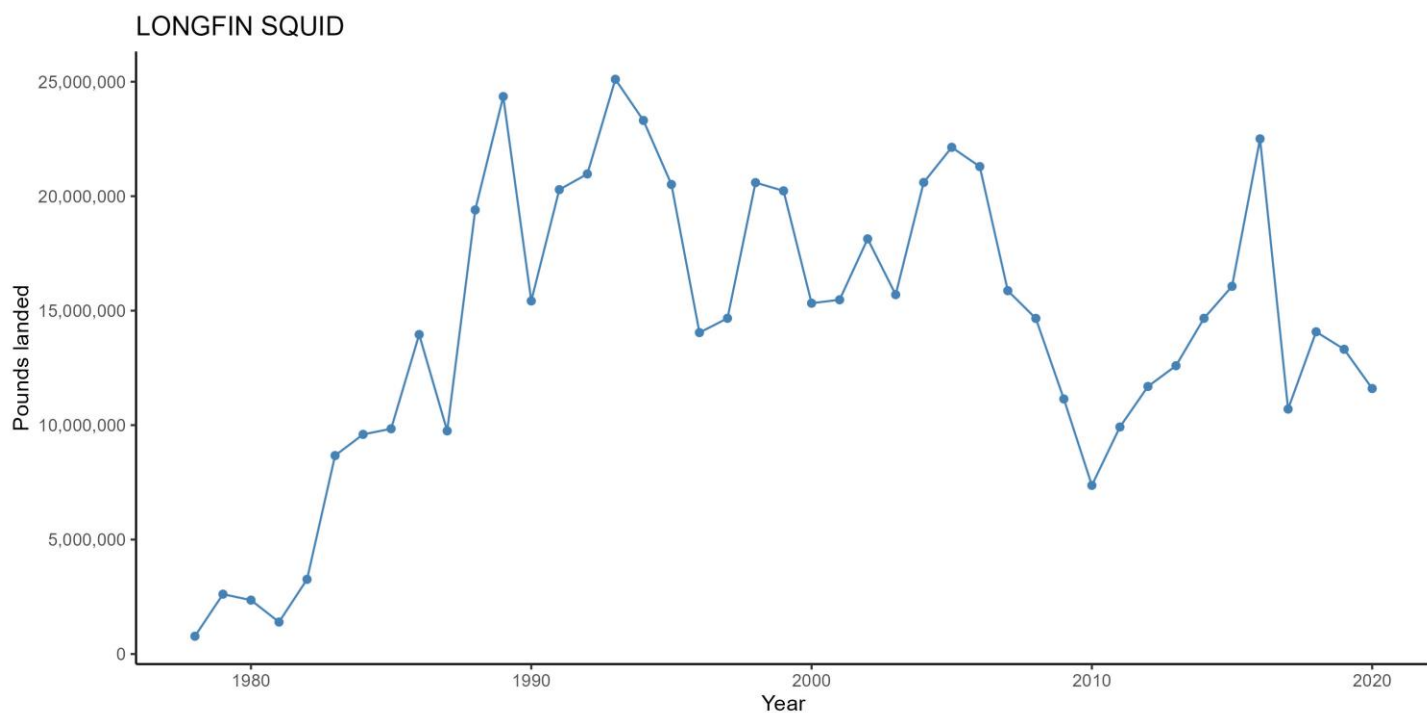


FIGURE 25. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF LONGFIN SQUID FROM 1950 TO 2020

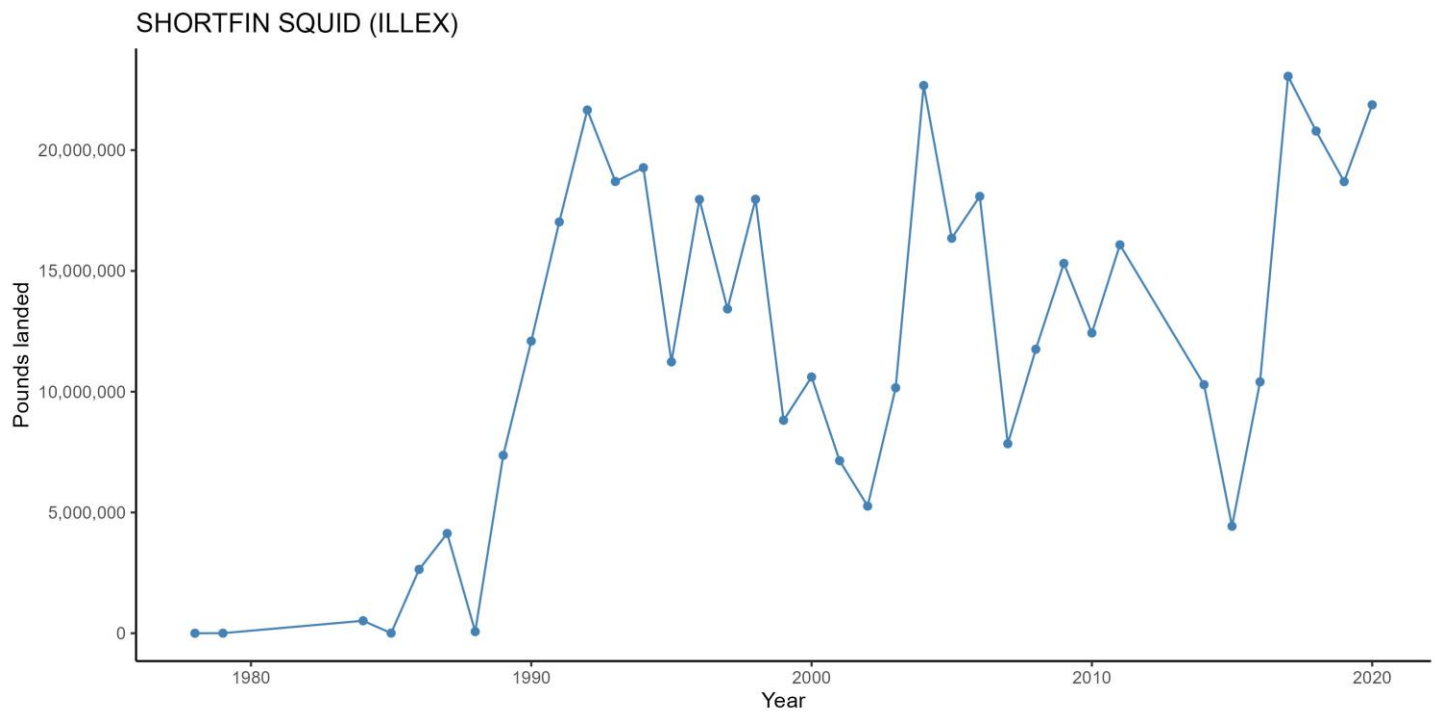


FIGURE 26. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF ILLEX SQUID FROM 1950 TO 2020

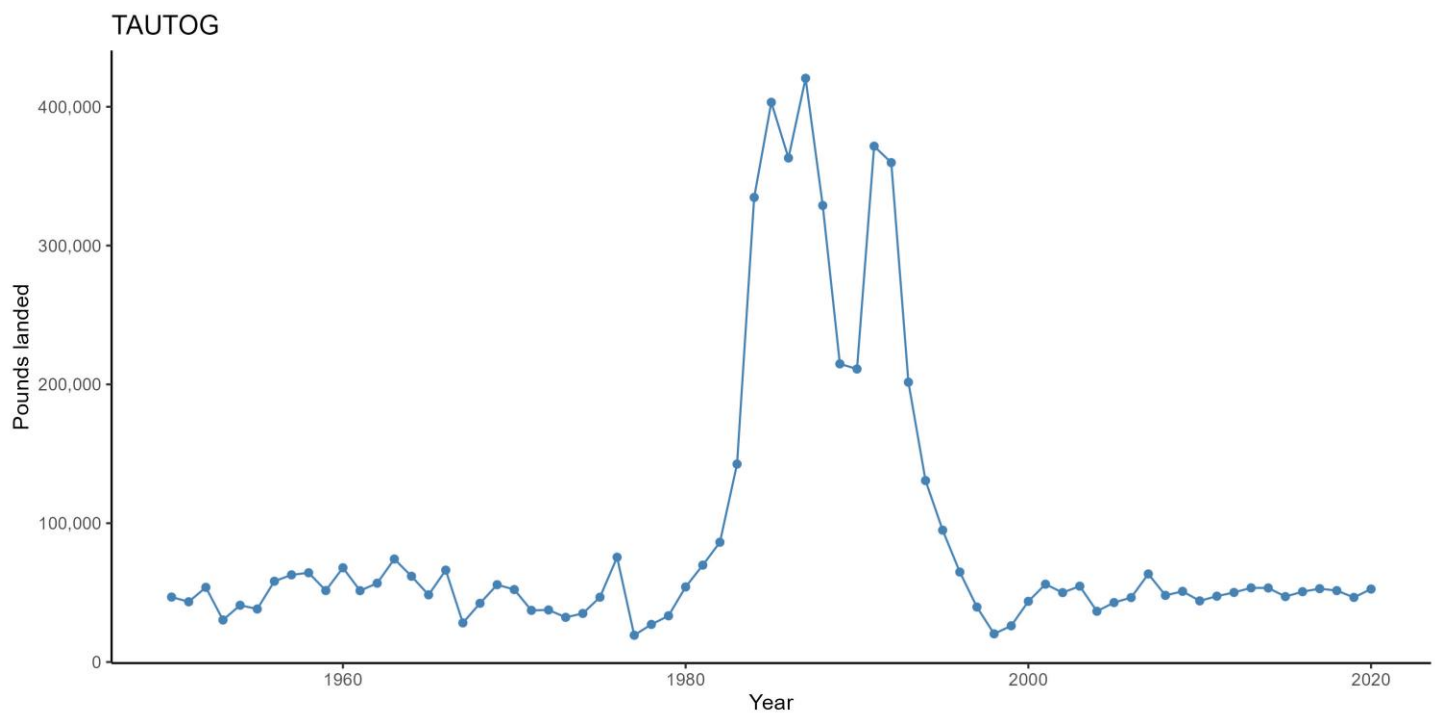


FIGURE 27. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF TAUTOG FROM 1950 TO 2020

Quahog Landings by Tagging Area

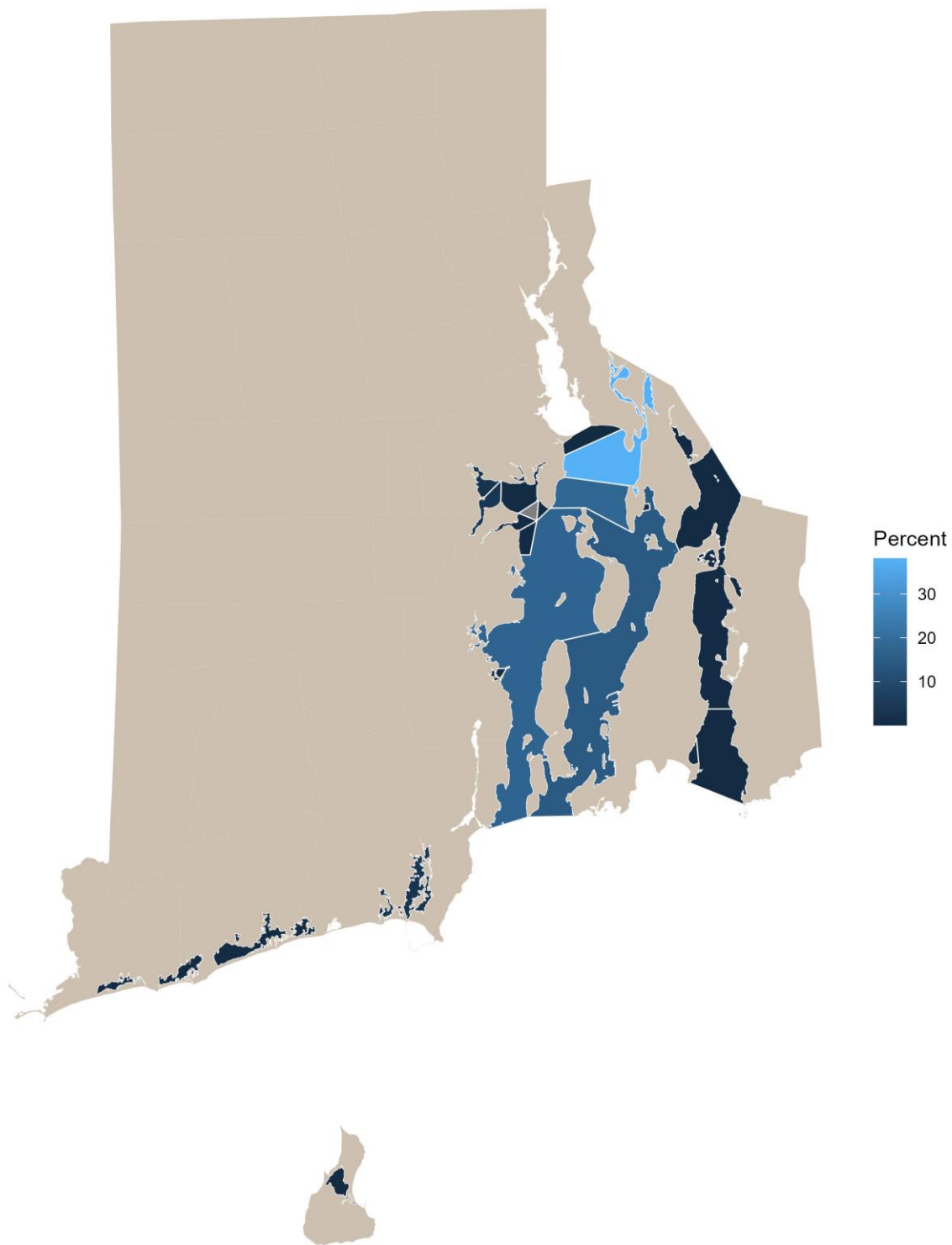


FIGURE 28. PERCENT OF 2020 LANDINGS OF QUAHOGS BY TAGGING AREA. NOTE THAT THESE AREAS WERE MODIFIED IN 2021 AND WILL BE DIFFERENT TAGGING AREAS IN FUTURE REPORTS. A GRAY VALUE WITHIN A TAGGING AREA INDICATES THAT IT WAS CLOSED FOR HARVEST.

FLEET CHARACTERIZATION

LICENSING

RI's commercial fishing license was restructured in 2003. Following the restructure, five commercial fishing license types can be issued. Three of these license types are standalone licenses, and therefore have no endorsements required to fish them. They are the multipurpose (MPURP) license which allows for the harvest of all marine species in RI waters, the student shellfish (STUDSF) and the Over 65 Shellfish license (SFO65), both of which allow for the commercial harvest of quahogs at a 3-bushel limit. The other two license types require endorsements to allow for the harvest of specific species groupings in RI waters. They are the commercial fishing license (CFL) and the principal effort license (PEL). Since 2003, there have been several changes to the endorsements available for each license based on fishery management needs.

As previously noted, MPURP licenses do not require endorsements to harvest specific species in RI state waters. However, CFL and PEL, STUDSF, and SFO65 may require endorsements to harvest specific species.

CFL and PEL license holders with the proper endorsement may harvest finfish from RI waters. RFIN is the restricted finfish endorsement; restricted finfish include summer flounder (fluke), black sea bass, tautog, striped bass, and scup. NFIN allows for the harvest of all non-restricted finfish species.

Crustacean endorsements are also available for CFL and PEL license holders. CFL and PEL license holders with the proper endorsement may harvest crustaceans from RI waters. LOBS is the lobster endorsement; it must also be accompanied by a lobster trap allocation. NLOBS is the non-lobster crustacean endorsement; the primary fisheries utilizing this endorsement are crabs.

In addition to the multipurpose, over 65 shellfish, and student shellfish licensees, CFL and PEL license holders with the proper endorsements may also harvest shellfish from RI waters. There are several endorsements for shellfish and the endorsements available have changed over time as fishery management needs have changed. QUOH is the quahog endorsement and has been available since 2003. From 2003 – 2007 all other shellfish were included on the NQUOH, or non-quahog endorsement. In 2008 the SSCLAM (softshell clam), SFOTH (shellfish other) endorsements replaced the NQUOH. In 2012 the WLK (whelk) endorsement was introduced.

Dockside sales endorsements are available on MPRUP, CFL, and PEL licenses and allow for the sale of live lobsters and crabs to consumers directly from the vessel.

In 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Direct Sale Dealer License was developed. This license, available in 2020 under Emergency Regulation (250-RICR-90-00-15) allowed for the sale of live lobsters, crabs, whelk, and allowable (non-histamine-producing) finfish directly from the vessel to the final consumer or seafood retailers. It also allows for the transport of live lobsters, crabs, and whelk from the vessel to consumers or seafood retailers. Due to the limitation of the Emergency Regulation, the licenses were only valid for a portion of 2020 while the Emergency Regulation was valid. Approximately 170 applications for the license were submitted in 2020. Once the Emergency Regulation expired, the license was then brought forth through the public hearing process for consideration of full implementation beginning in 2021. The Direct Sale Dealer License was fully implemented in 2021 and will be included in future reports.

In addition to the commercial fishing licenses, RI also issues landing permits. Landing permits allow the licensee to harvest marine species in waters outside of RI state waters and transit state waters for the offloading of those species for sale. There are 3 landing permits available for issuance year-round to individuals with federal permits, or commercial fishing licenses for waters outside of RI.

- Resident Landing Permit (RESLND): allows the offloading of all marine species
- Non-Resident Landing Permit (NRLAND): allows the offloading of all marine species except restricted finfish
- Non-Resident with Restricted Landing Permit (NRLNDR): allows for the offloading of all marine species

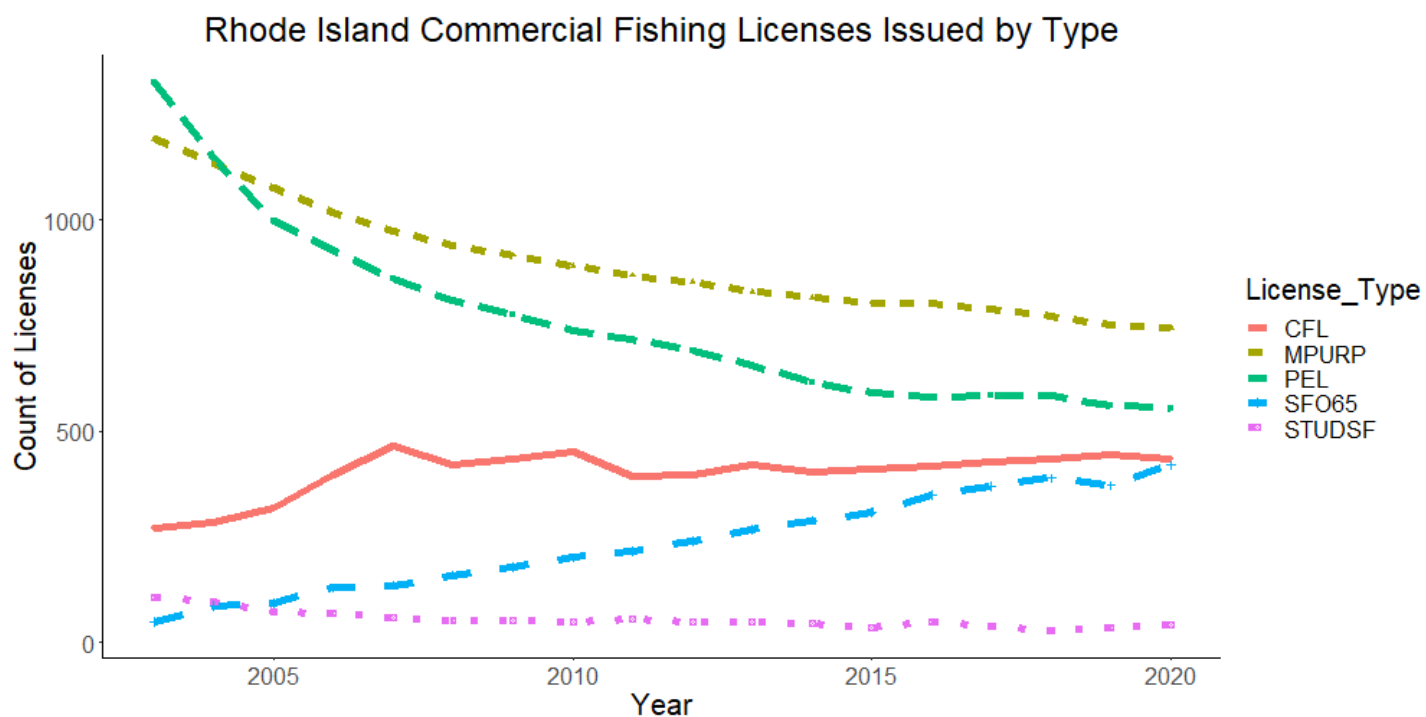


FIGURE 29. COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES BY YEAR FROM 2003 TO 2020

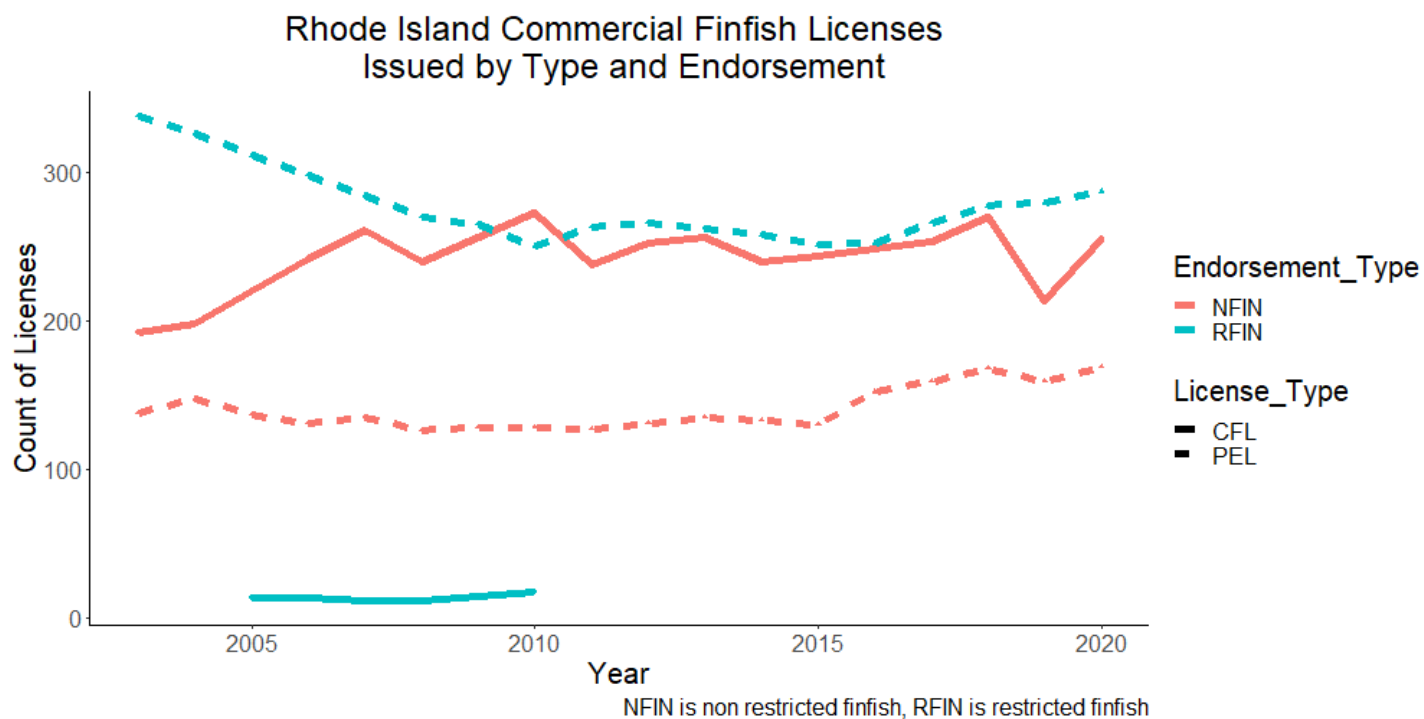


FIGURE 30. FINFISH LICENSES AND ENDORSEMENTS FROM 2003 TO 2020

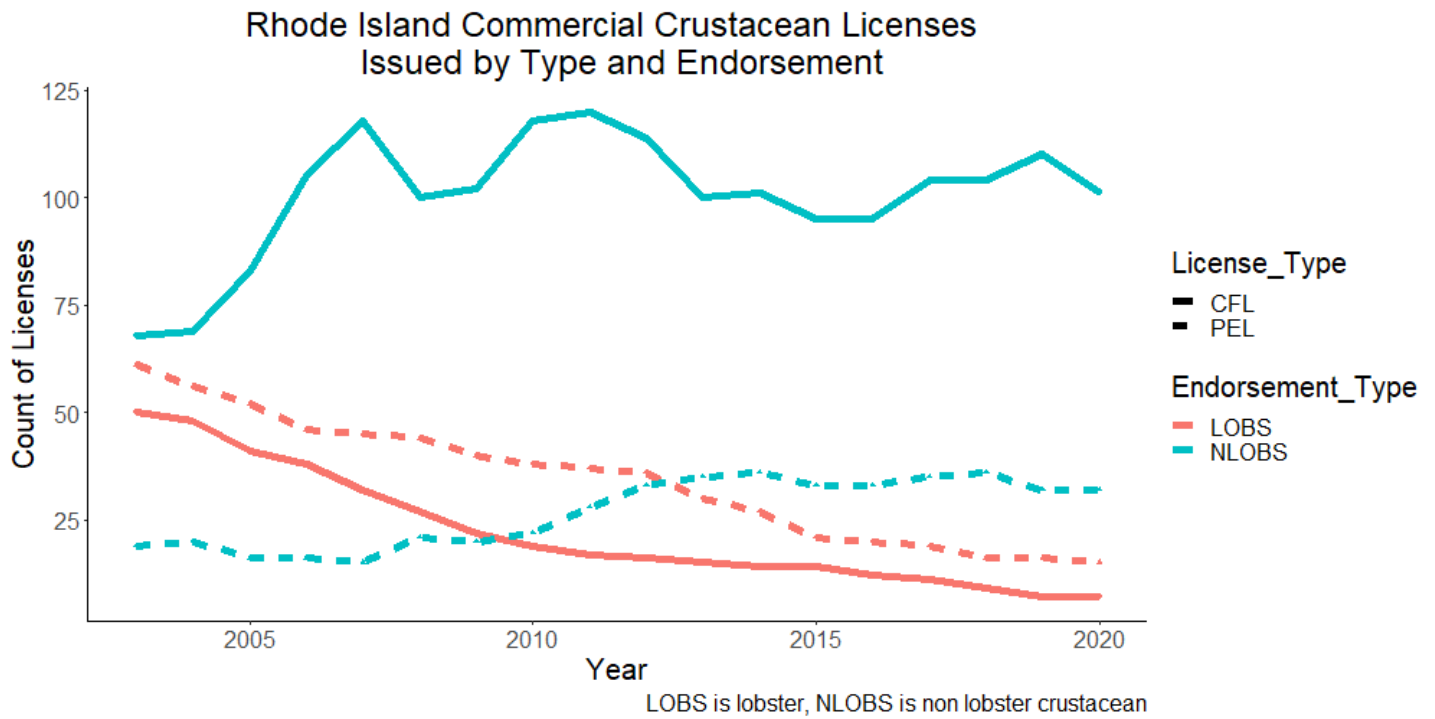


FIGURE 31. CRUSTACEAN LICENSES AND ENDORSEMENTS FROM 2003 TO 2020

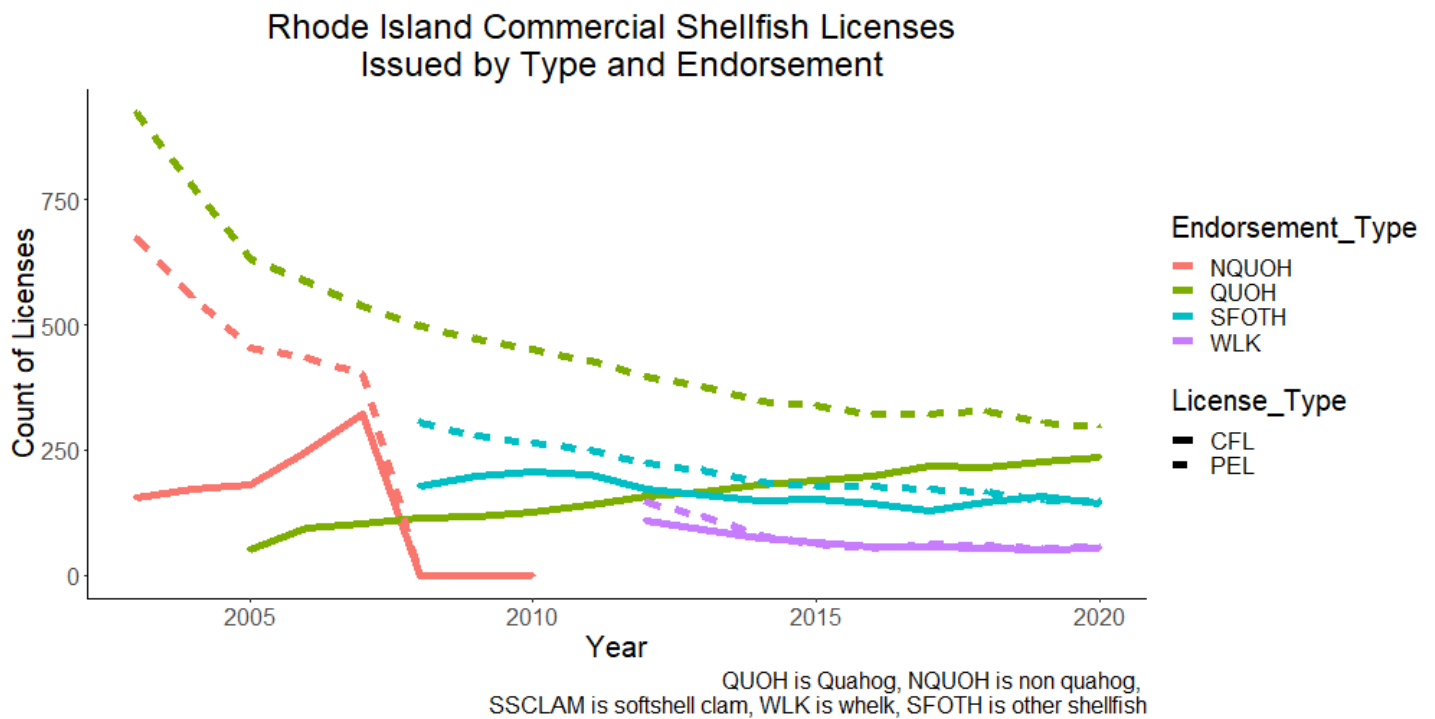


FIGURE 32. SHELLFISH LICENSES AND ENDORSEMENTS FROM 2003 TO 2020

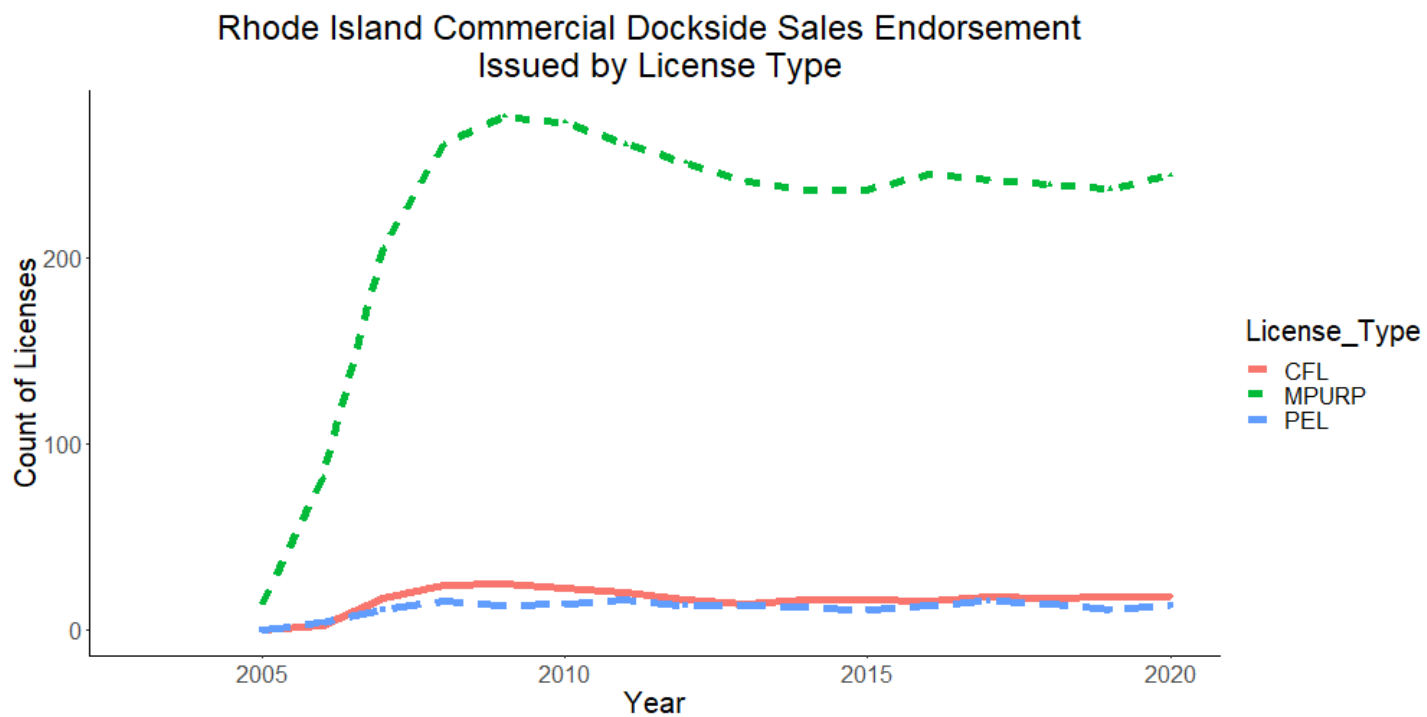


FIGURE 33. NUMBER OF DOCKSIDE SALES ENDORSEMENTS BY LICENSE TYPE FROM 2005 TO 2020

Number of Commercial Fishing Licenses Issued by Municipality

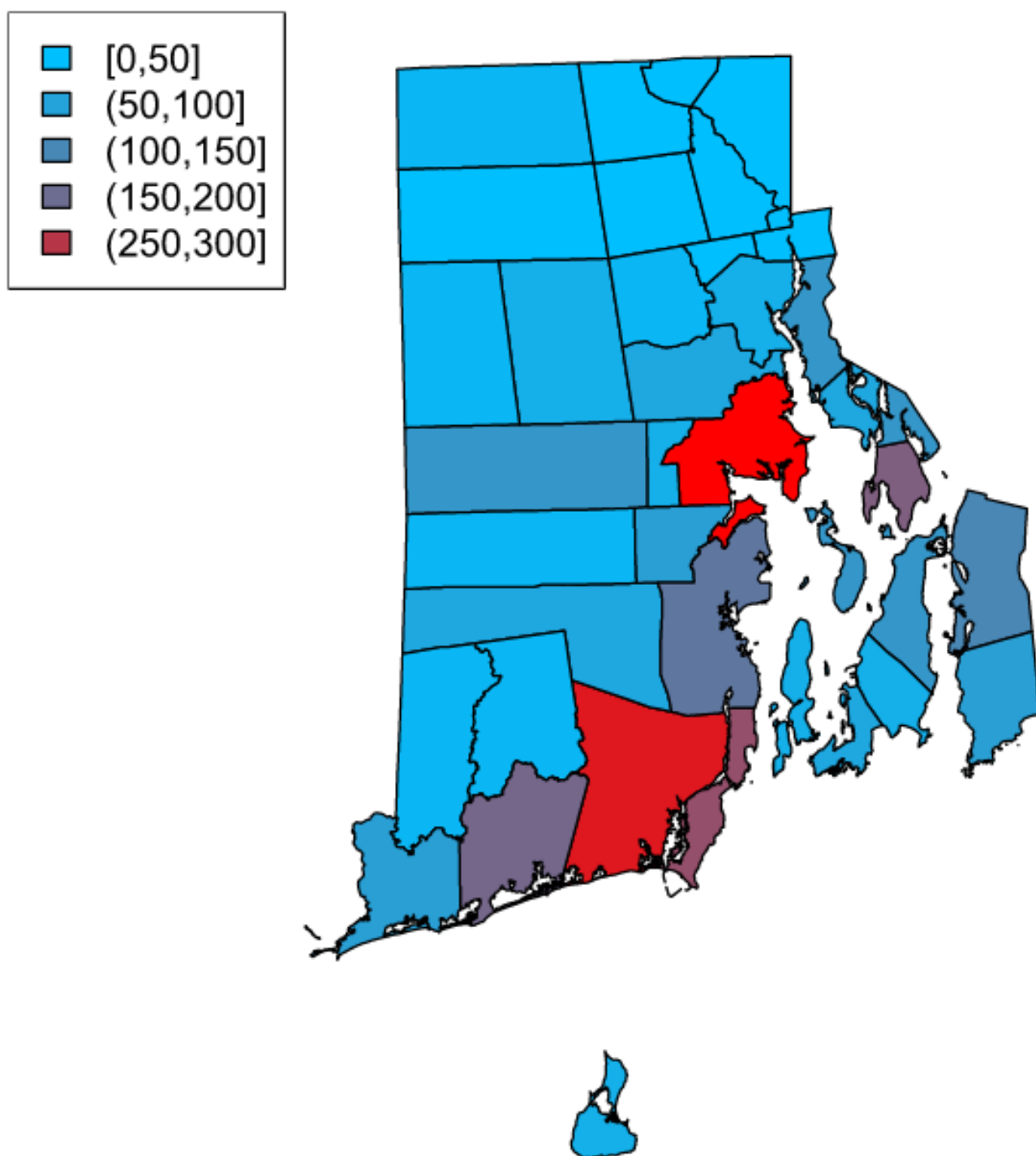


FIGURE 34. BREAKDOWN OF THE LICENSES ISSUED BY RI MUNICIPALITY. A MAJORITY OF FISHING LICENSES (90+%) ARE ISSUED TO RI RESIDENTS.

RI has a diverse fleet. A general fleet characterization can be developed utilizing state catch and effort logbooks and federal vessel trips reports. Not all fisheries are represented in this dataset, namely the shellfish fleet is exempt from reporting catch and effort data to RIDEM, with the exception of the whelk fishery beginning in 2012. Characterizations are shown below in both number of trips taken by gear type and the haul weight by gear type.

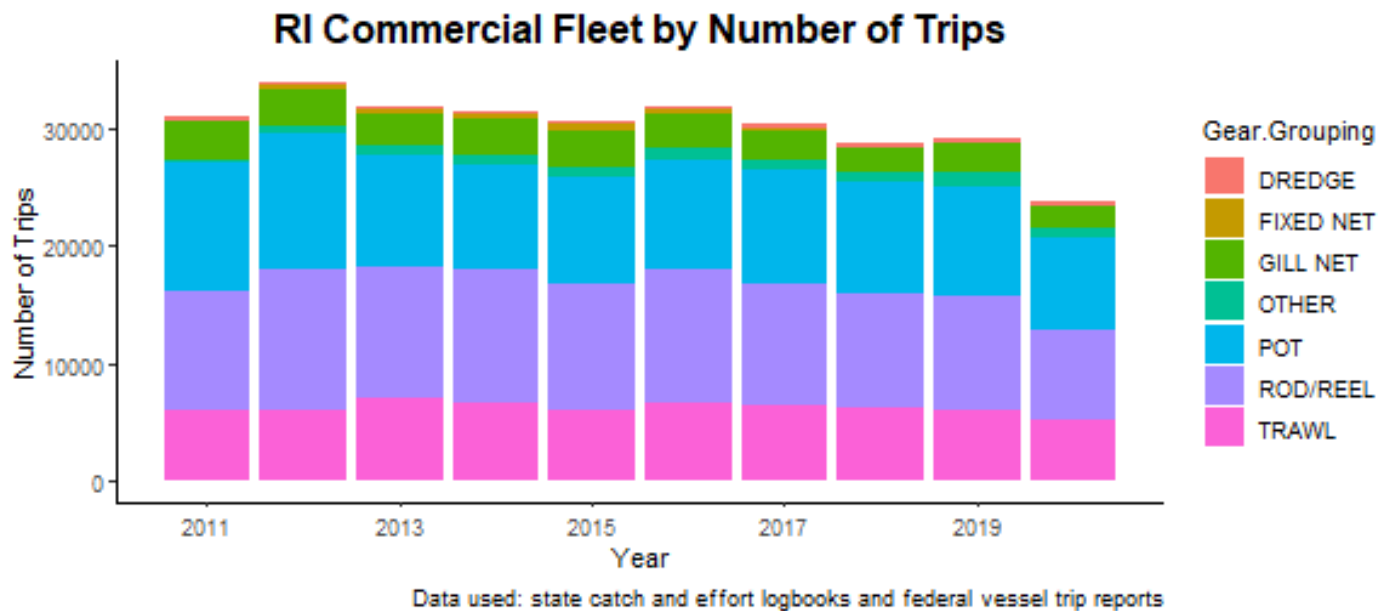


FIGURE 35. COMMERCIAL TRIPS BY GEAR FROM 2011 TO 2020

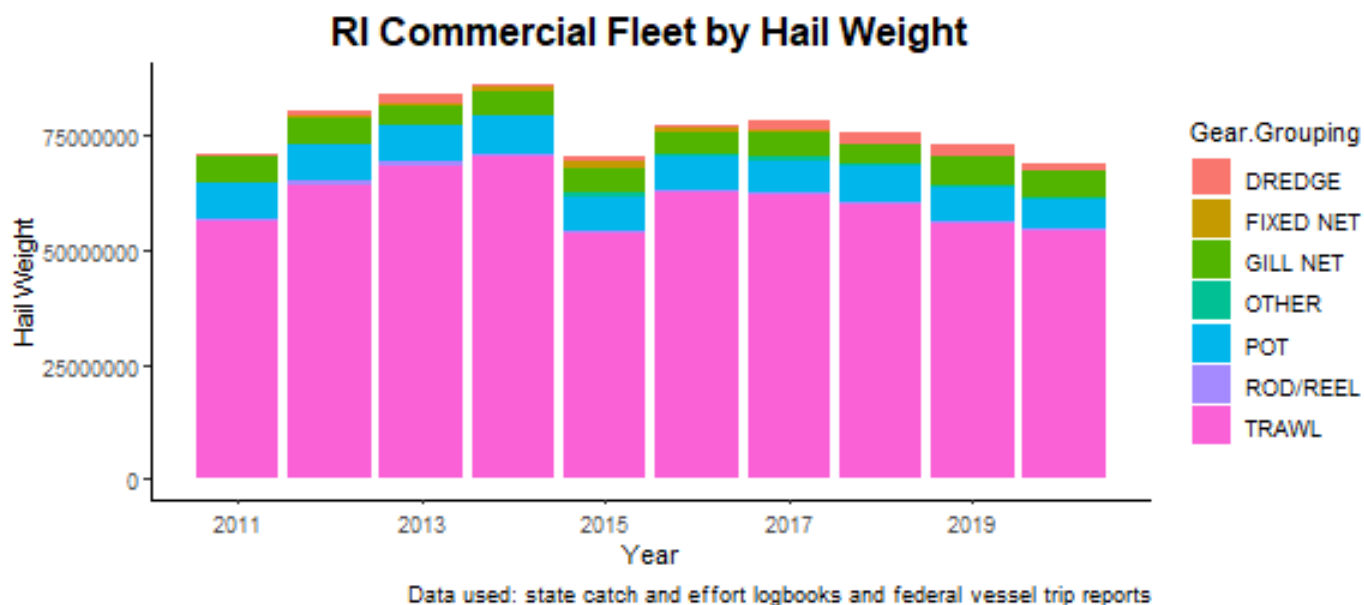


FIGURE 36. COMMERCIAL CATCH (HAIL WEIGHT) BY GEAR FROM 2011 TO 2019

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF FISHERMEN CONTRIBUTING TO THE HARVEST BY SPECIES. BLANK CELLS REPRESENT CONFIDENTIAL DATA (DOES NOT MEET THE RULE OF 3) OR NO PARTICIPANTS IN A GIVEN YEAR.

Species	2017	2018	2019	2020
AMBERJACKS		7	8	3
BASS, BLACK SEA	544	509	527	481
BASS, STRIPED	286	269	268	231
BLUEFISH	340	280	334	302
BONITO, ATLANTIC	53	47	75	60
BUTTERFISH	146	141	131	122
BUTTERFISH, GULF		7		
CLAM, QUAHOG, NORTHERN	540	538	548	502
CLAM, SOFT	35	31	23	25
COBIA	5	8	9	4
COD, ATLANTIC	107	87	84	113
CONCHS	13	9	14	6
CRAB, GREEN				4
CRAB, HORSESHOE	18	19	12	15
CRAB, JONAH	72	64	62	57
CRAB, ROCK, ATLANTIC	20	26	26	26
CRABS, BLUE			3	3
CUNNER	54	51	51	32
DOLPHINFISH	11	10	17	7
DORY, AMERICAN JOHN	77	63	51	54

DRUM, BLACK			3	
DRUMS			4	
EEL, AMERICAN	5	3	6	6
EEL, CONGER	159	156	133	111
ESCOLAR				
FLOUNDER, AMERICAN PLAICE	3	7	3	
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	503	495	483	409
FLOUNDER, WINDOWPANE	11	5	7	3
FLOUNDER, WINTER	116	103	88	80
FLOUNDER, WITCH	21	15	10	13
FLOUNDER, YELLOWTAIL	54	39	24	22
GOOSEFISH	174	175	158	137
HADDOCK		25	22	7
HAKE, OFFSHORE			3	
HAKE, RED	119	116	109	88
HAKE, SILVER	122	123	120	116
HAKE, WHITE	11	5	4	7
HAKES, RED AND WHITE	8	8	5	4
HAKES, SILVER AND OFFSHORE		5		
HALIBUT, ATLANTIC		3		4
HERRING, SEA, ATLANTIC	30	27	26	22
KINGFISH, NORTHERN		6	4	5
KINGFISHES	65	68	70	61
LOBSTER, AMERICAN	134	122	116	115
MACKEREL, ATLANTIC	90	103	104	101
MACKEREL, ATLANTIC CHUB		3	6	9
MACKEREL, KING	5			
MACKEREL, SPANISH	6	7	6	9
MENHADENS	11	8	6	12
OYSTER, EASTERN	14	16	13	35
POLLOCK	9	8	10	3
PUFFER, NORTHERN		4		
RAVEN, SEA	5			3
REDFISH, ACADIAN	10	13	26	14
ROUGHY, BIG				
SCALLOP, SEA	56	56	49	39
SCUP	440	434	434	365
SEAROBIN, NORTHERN			4	
SEAROBINS	103	87	82	32
SEATROUT, WEAKFISH	112	114	93	93
SHAD, HICKORY	6	9	6	4
SHARK, DOGFISH, SMOOTH	39	33	31	30
SHARK, DOGFISH, SPINY	48	36	38	29
SHARK, MAKO, SHORTFIN				5

SHARK, THRESHER			3	4
SHRIMPS, MANTIS	4	5	8	8
SKATE, BARNDOR		4	13	12
SKATE, CLEARNOSE		4		
SKATE, LITTLE	42	41	37	33
SKATE, SMOOTH	4	4	3	3
SKATE, WINTER	130	126	124	104
SKATES, RAJIDAE (FAMILY)	27	25	18	9
SPOT			5	
SQUID, LONGFIN LOLIGO	162	165	149	131
SQUID, SHORTFIN ILLEX	21	27	29	18
SWORDFISH	5	4	9	20
TAUTOG	250	243	250	204
TILEFISH, BLUELINE	30	19	22	12
TILEFISH, GOLDEN	79	86	64	65
TRIGGERFISH, GRAY				3
TRIGGERFISHES	117	113	80	62
TUNA, ALBACORE	5		3	10
TUNA, BIGEYE	4	11	11	17
TUNA, BLUEFIN	4	12	7	27
TUNA, LITTLE TUNNY	27	24	23	20
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	8	11	12	20
WAHOO				5
WHELK, CHANNELED	94	105	103	87
WHELK, KNOBBED	54	58	46	40

TABLE 3. DEALER LICENSES ISSUED FROM 2010 TO 2020

Year	Number of Dealer Licenses
2010	130
2011	135
2012	144
2013	146
2014	146
2015	142
2016	142
2017	131
2018	121
2019	131
2020	138

PORTS

Berthing information will be available in future reports, starting with 2021.

TABLE 4. LANDINGS BY PORT (ALL SPECIES COMBINED). "-" INDICATES THAT DATA ARE CONFIDENTIAL. THIS TABLE INCLUDES ALL PORTS AVAILABLE FOR SELECTION WITHIN THE STANDARD ATLANTIC FISHERIES INFORMATION SYSTEM (SAFIS).

Landing Port	2020 Dollars (\$)	Pounds	Percent of Total State Landings by Value
Barrington	-	-	-
Bristol	1065623	1767460	2.26%
Bristol (County)	-	-	-
Charlestown	-	-	-
Davisville (community)	-	-	-
East Greenwich	-	-	-
Jamestown	37118.79	23199.5	0.03%
Little Compton	2798250	3272004	4.18%
Melville	-	-	-
Middletown	-	-	-
Narragansett (census name Narragansett Pier)	-	-	-
New Shoreham	35615.7	15117.7	0.02%
Newport	6997646	4824613	6.17%
Newport (County)(in PMSA 2480,6480)	-	-	-
North Kingstown (local name Wickford)	13597762	20613405	26.34%
Point Judith	45537030	42240850	53.98%
Portsmouth	402231.7	159808.6	0.20%
Providence (County)(in PMSA 6060,6480)	-	-	-
Rhode Island (State)	189030.4	46892	0.06%
South Kingstown (Town of)	179608.1	58406.08	0.07%
Tiverton	400194.1	335629	0.43%
UNKNOWN	-	-	-
Wakefield	512	600	0.00%
Warren	140131.1	33107	0.04%
Warwick (RR name Apponaug)	1324468	4837338	6.18%
Westerly (census name Westerly Center)	71996.51	25512	0.03%

RECREATIONAL FISHERY

Recreational fishery information is provided in the following section. Harvest data were acquired through the NOAA Marine Recreational Information Program (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/data-tools/recreational-fisheries-statistics-queries>). Species of focus were based on overall catch and social importance to Rhode Island recreational harvesters. Black sea bass were harvested in the largest number in 2020, followed by scup and tautog, striped bass, bluefish, and summer flounder (Figure 37). Atlantic cod and winter flounder were caught in very limited numbers (Figure 38 and 48, respectively). Since 1980, the catch of recreational Atlantic cod and winter flounder have declined dramatically, while black sea bass catch has increased substantially (Figure 39). In the same timeframe, scup and tautog catch have fluctuated, but trended toward a slight increase overall (Figure 42 and 46, respectively). Bluefish has also fluctuated, trending toward a decline in catch (Figure 41). Striped bass catch in 2020 was lower than the preceding five years (Figure 45). Recreational catch of tunas has changed dramatically year to year (Figure 47).

HARVEST

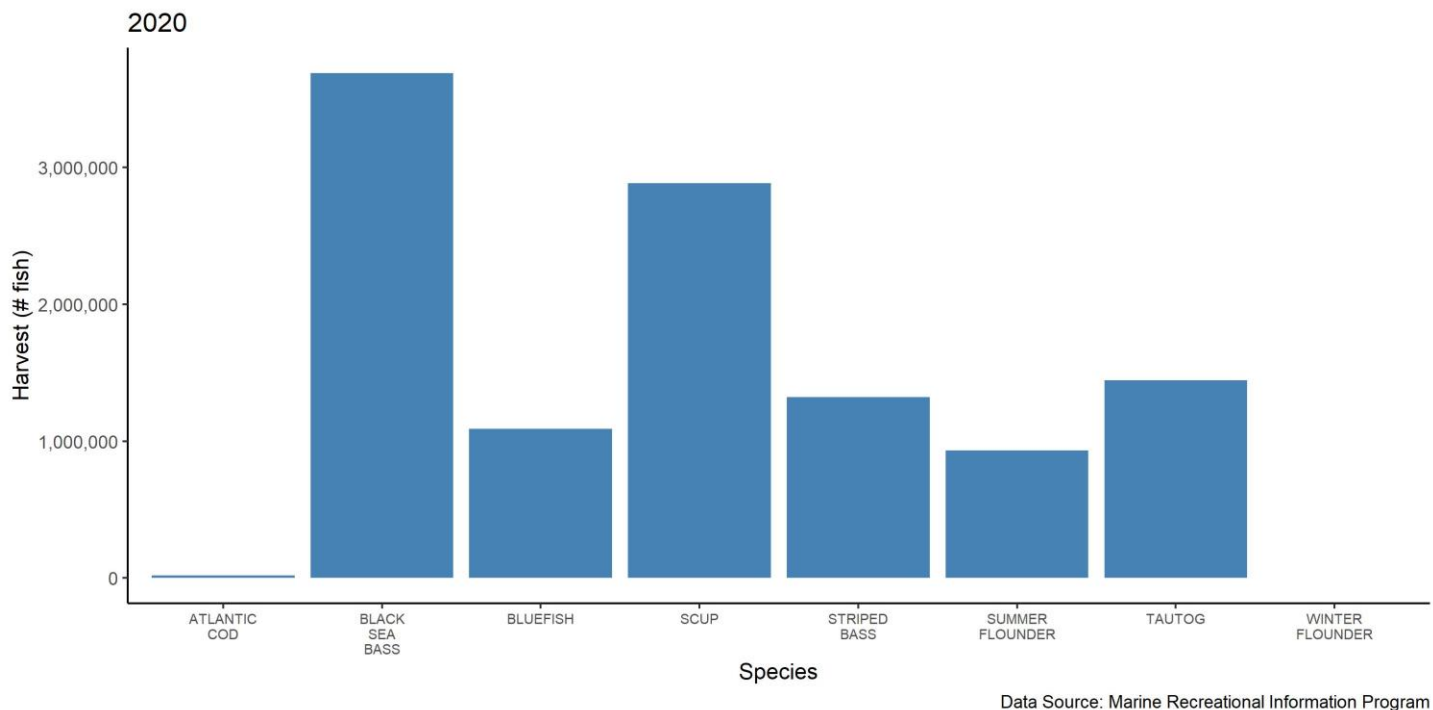


FIGURE 37. 2020 RECREATIONAL CATCH OF RI SPECIES OF INTEREST

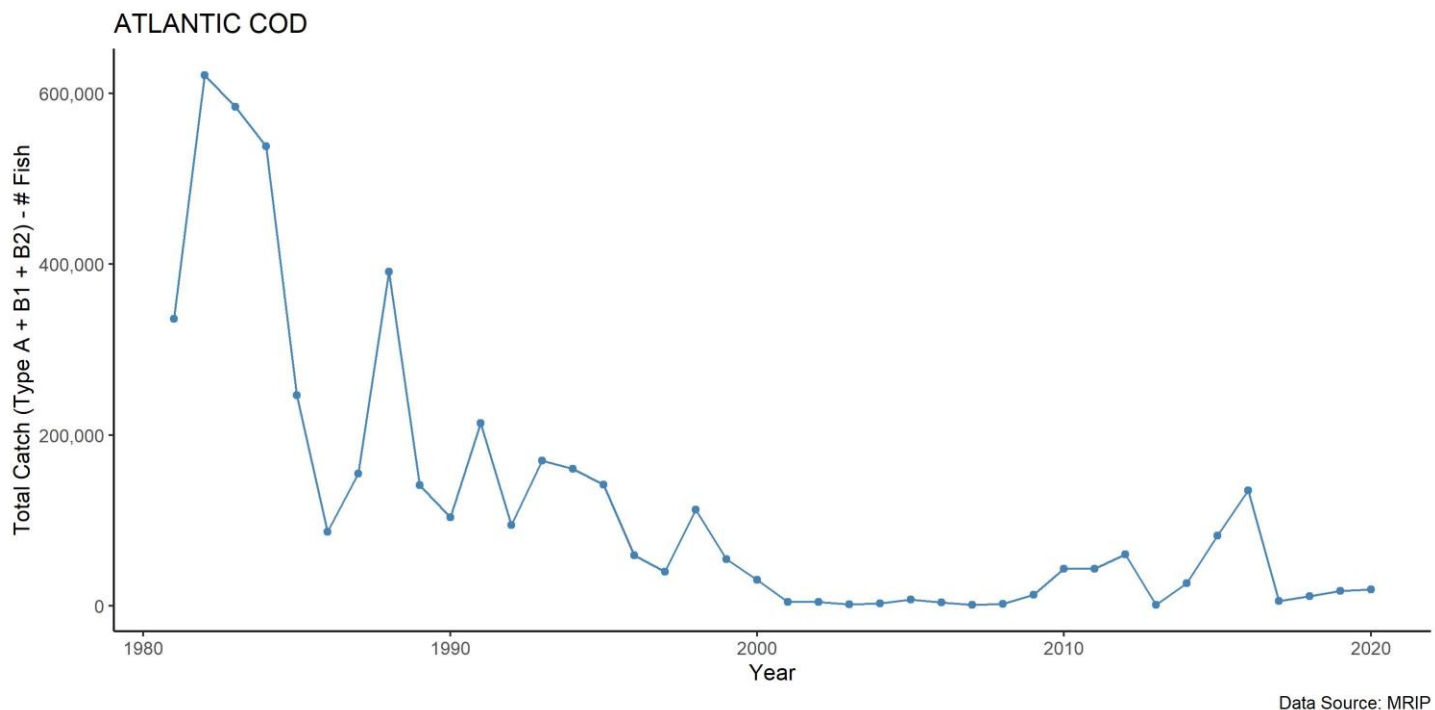


FIGURE 38. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF ATLANTIC COD FROM 1980 TO 2020

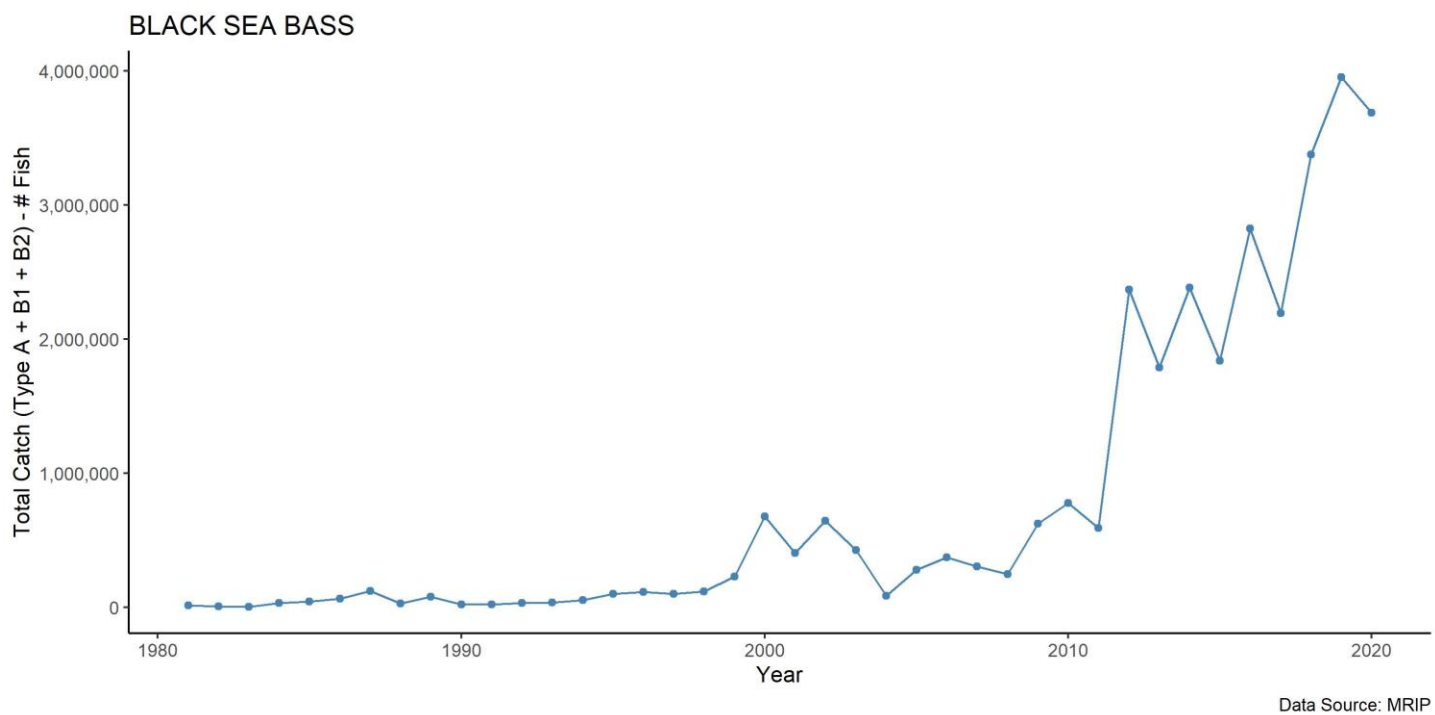


FIGURE 39. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF BLACK SEA BASS FROM 1980 TO 2020

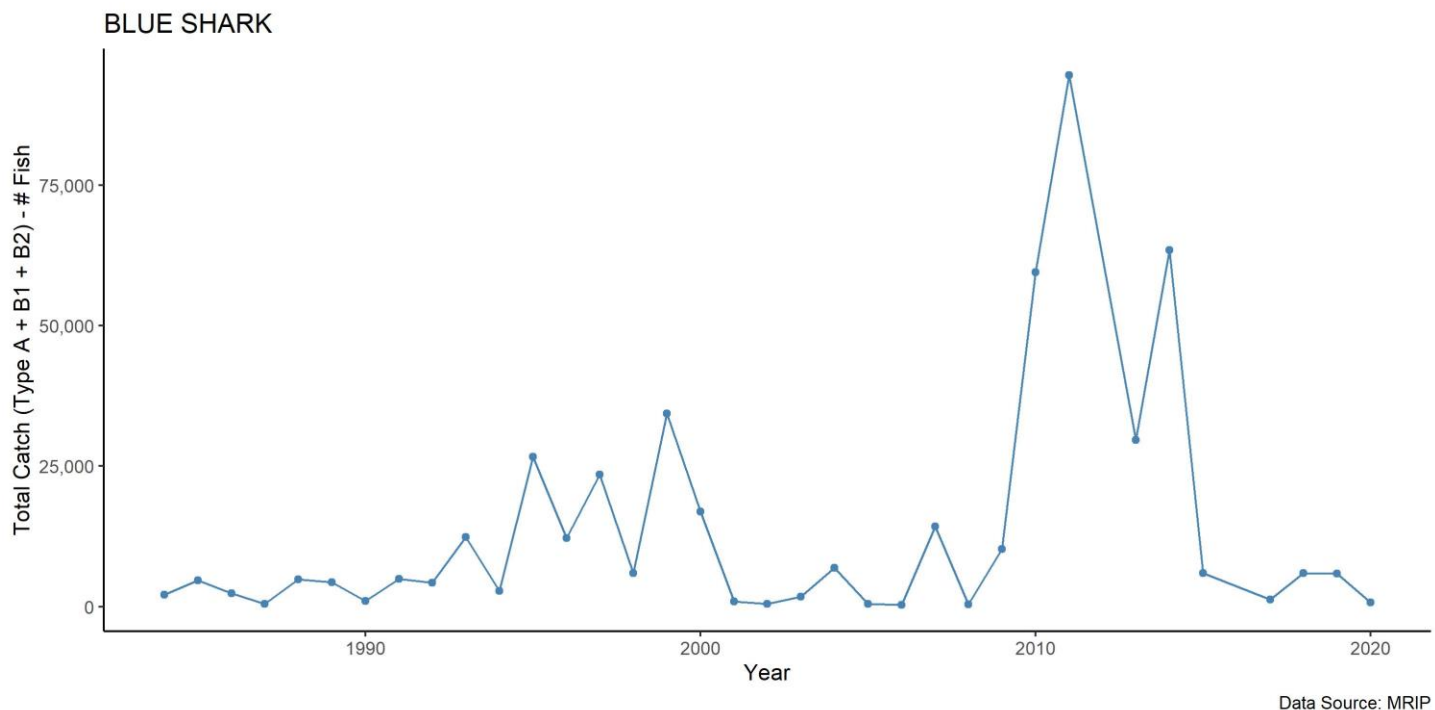


FIGURE 40. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF BLUE SHARK FROM 1980 TO 2020

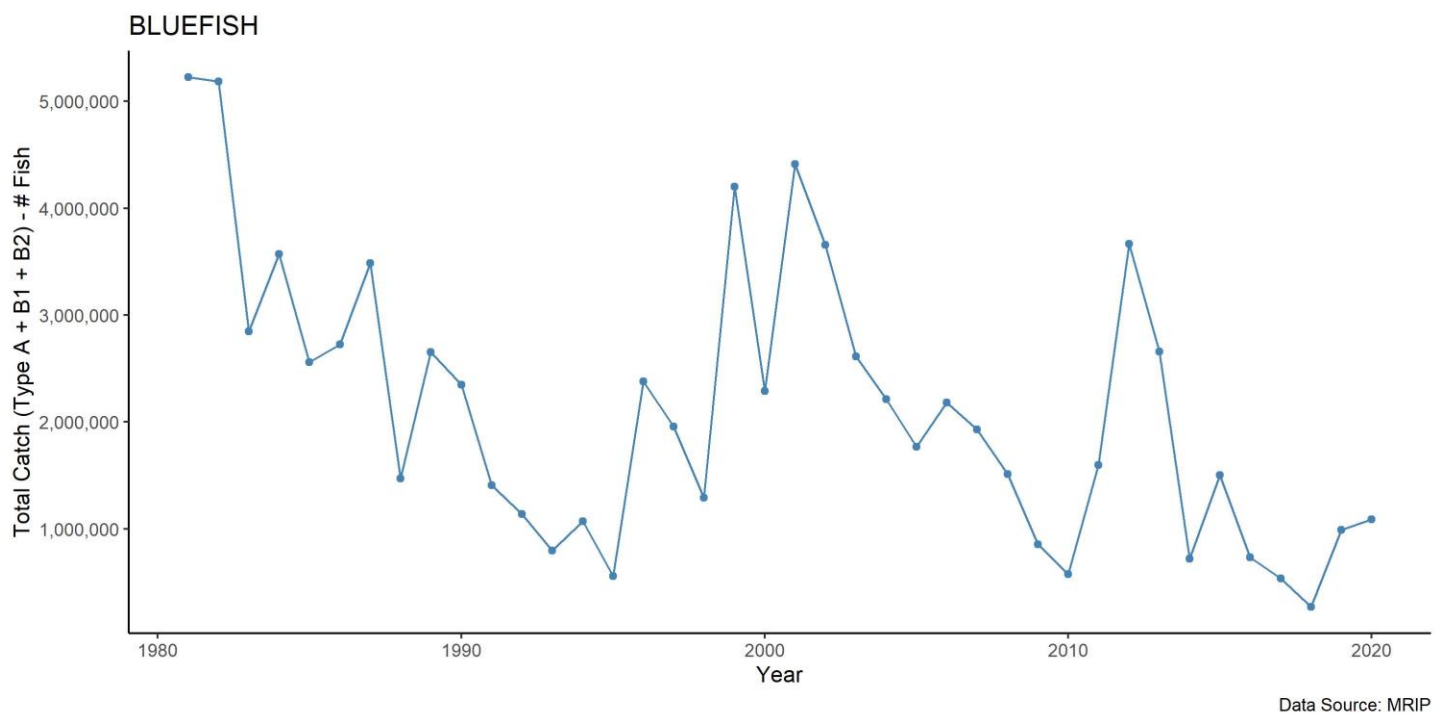


FIGURE 41. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF BLUEFISH FROM 1980 TO 2020

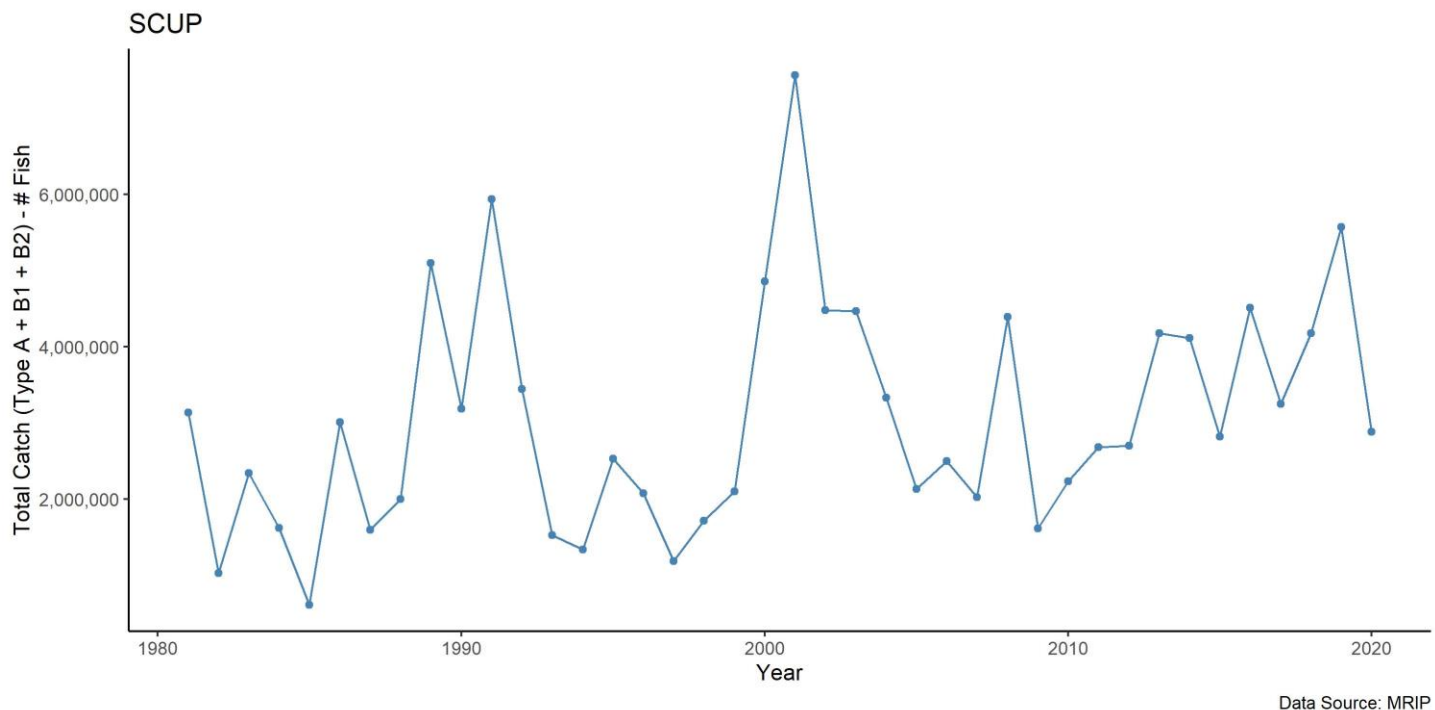


FIGURE 42. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF SCUP FROM 1980 TO 2020

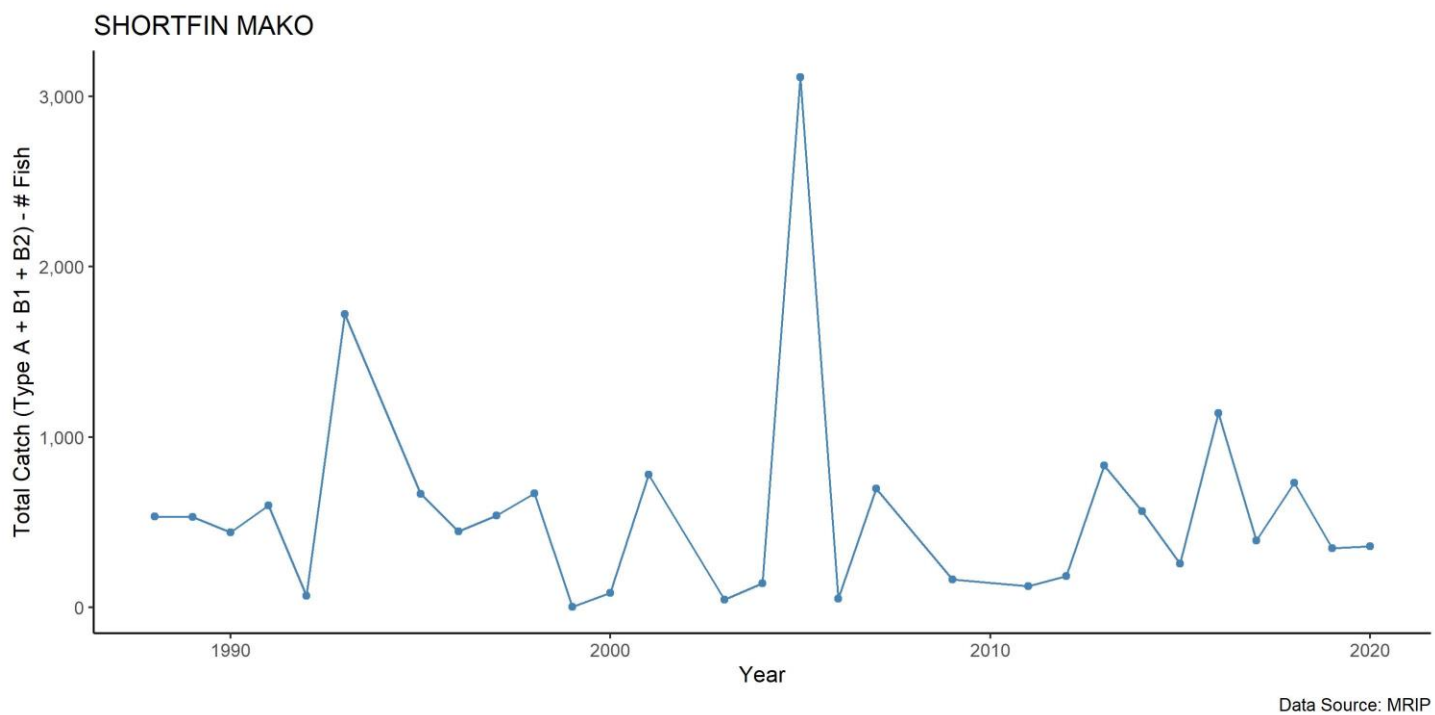


FIGURE 43. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF SHORTFIN MAKO FROM 1980 TO 2020

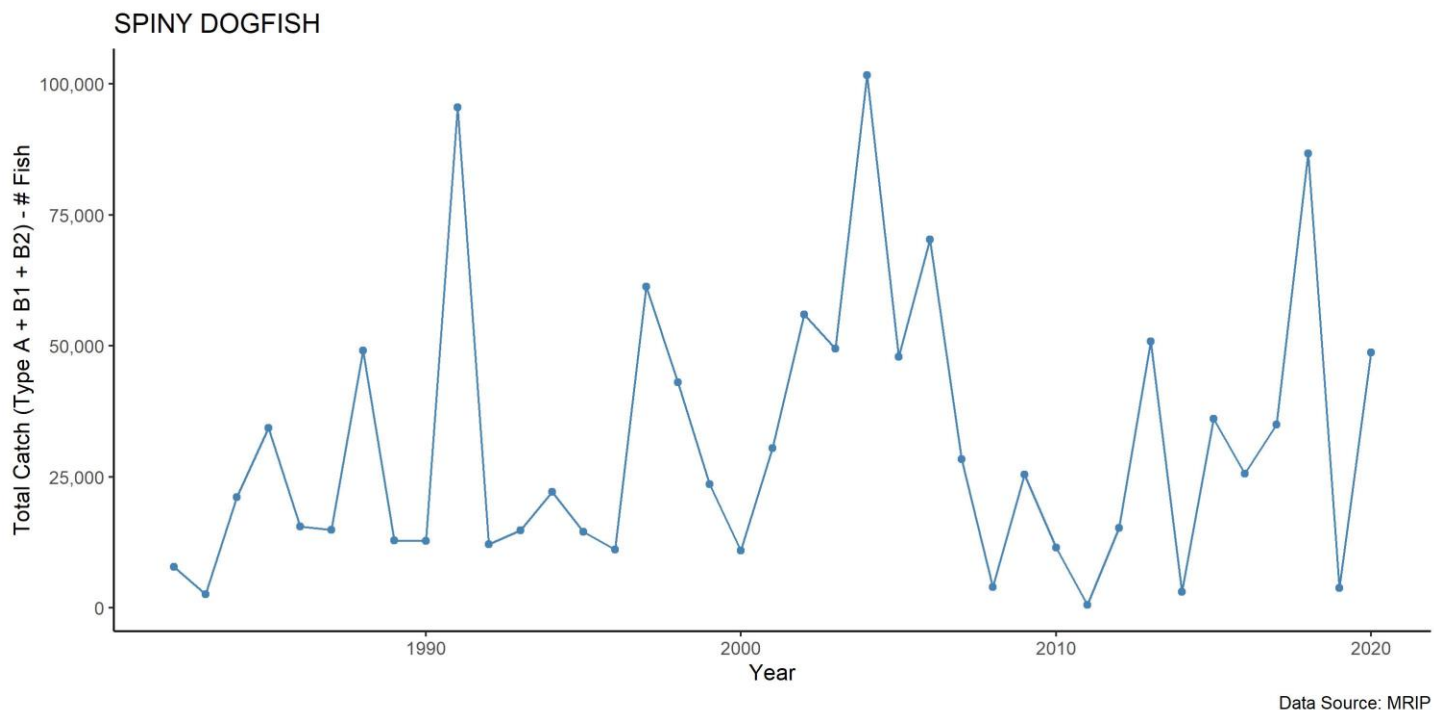


FIGURE 44. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF SPINY DOGFISH FROM 1980 TO 2020

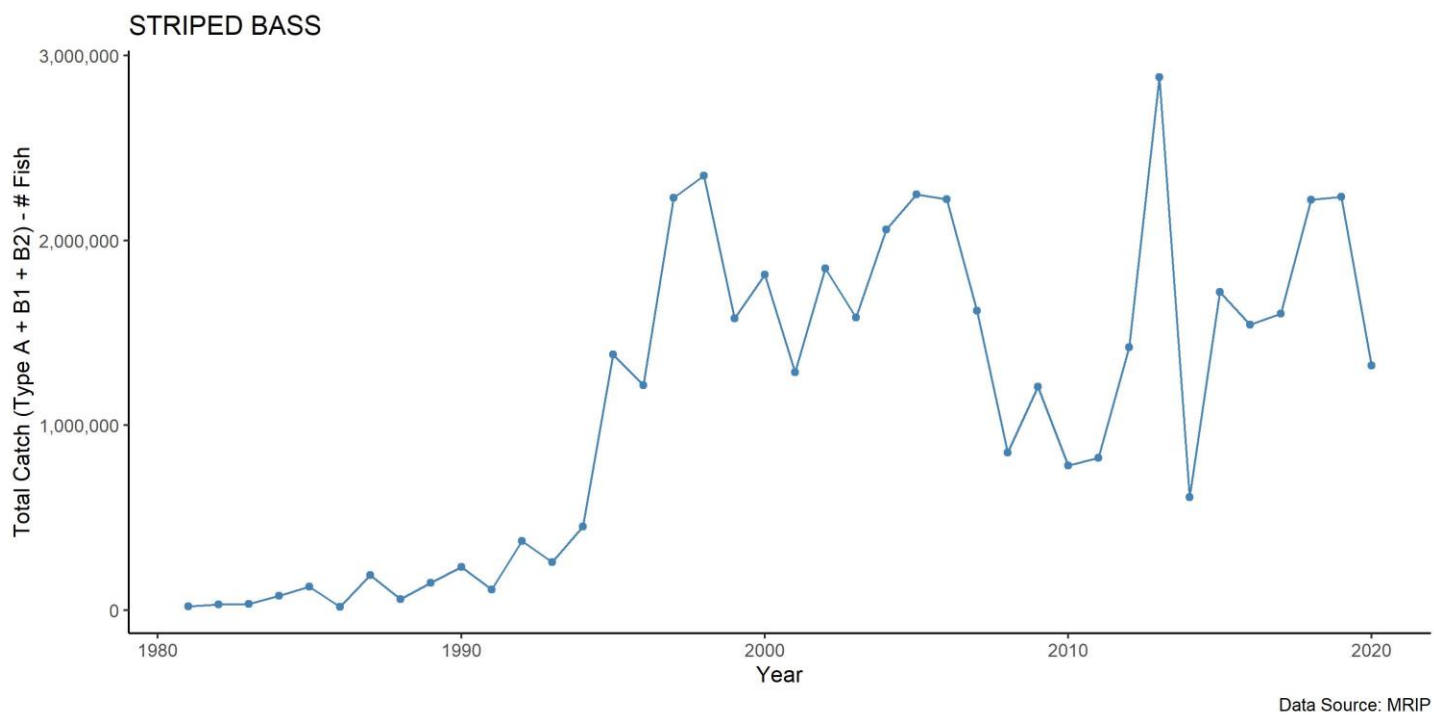


FIGURE 45. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF STRIPED BASS FROM 1980 TO 2020

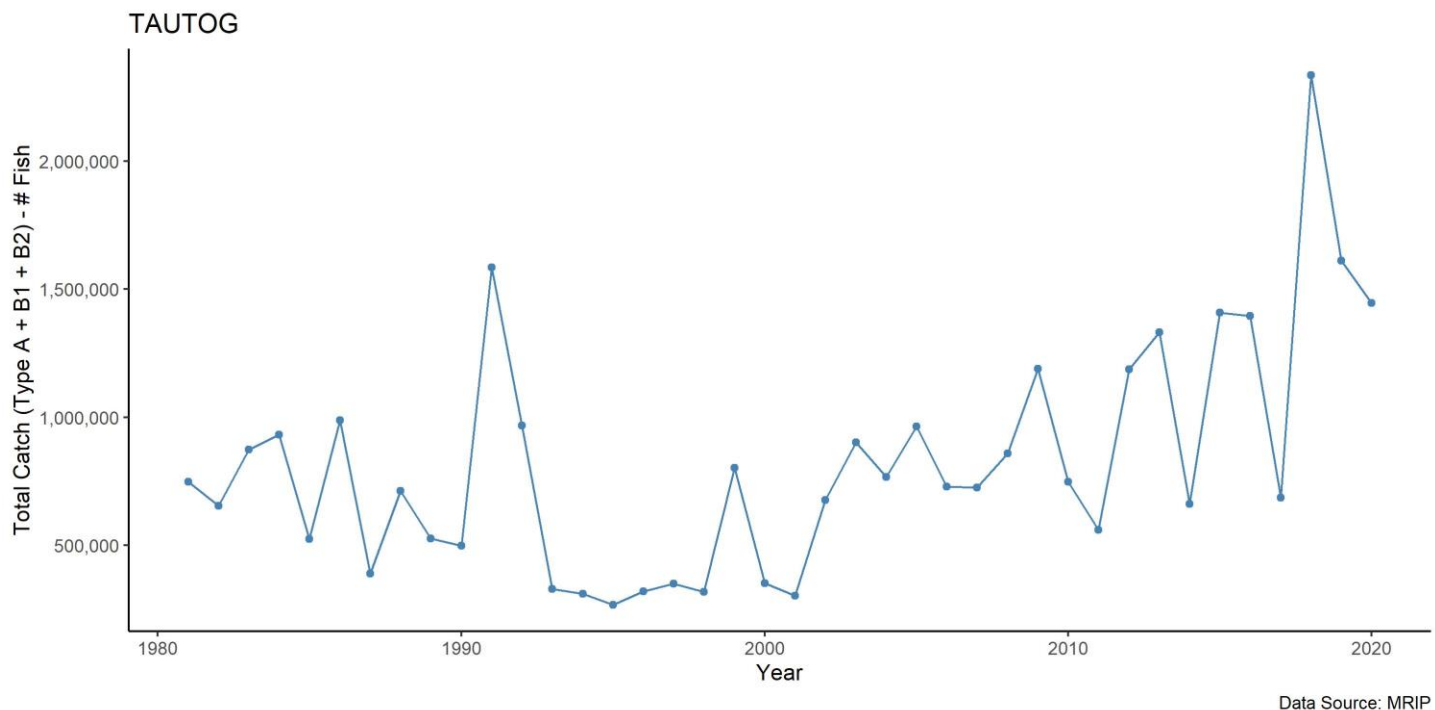


FIGURE 46. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF TAUTOG FROM 1980 TO 2020

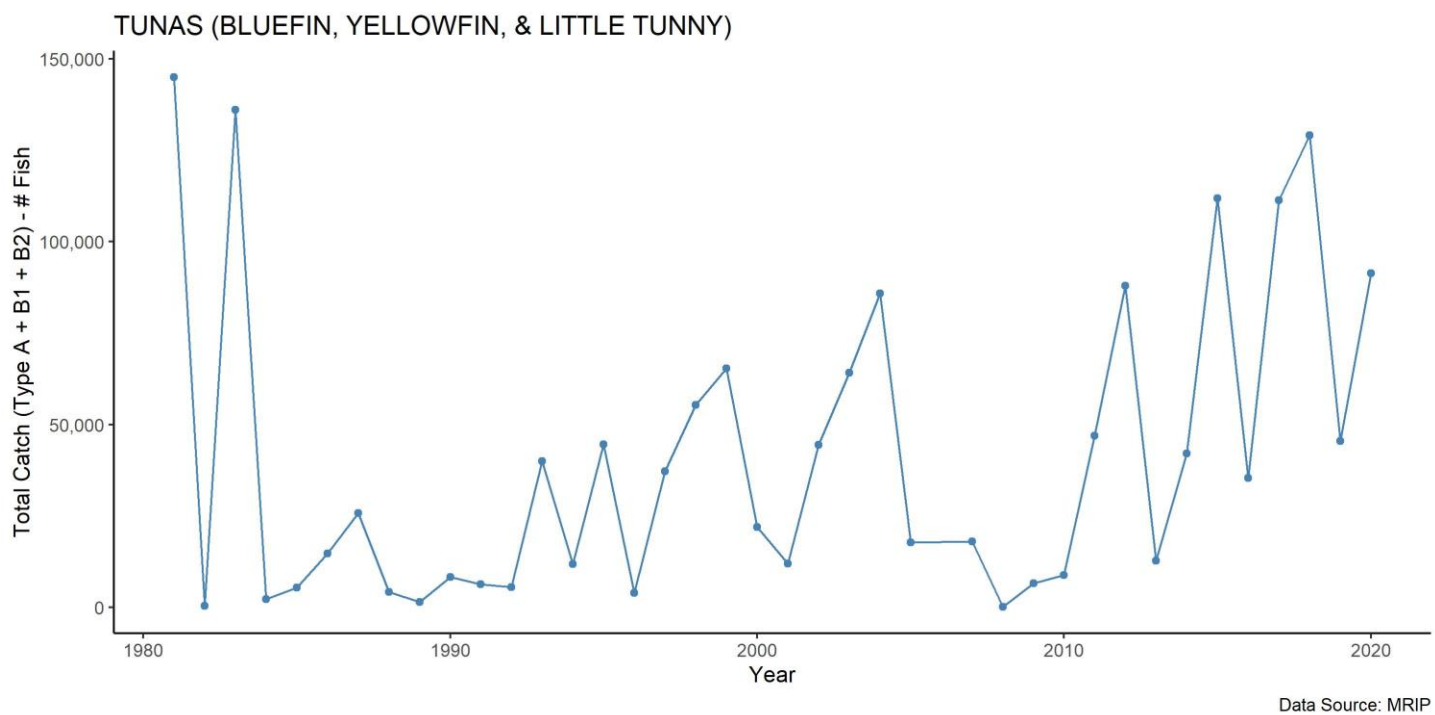


FIGURE 47. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF TUNAS FROM 1980 TO 2020

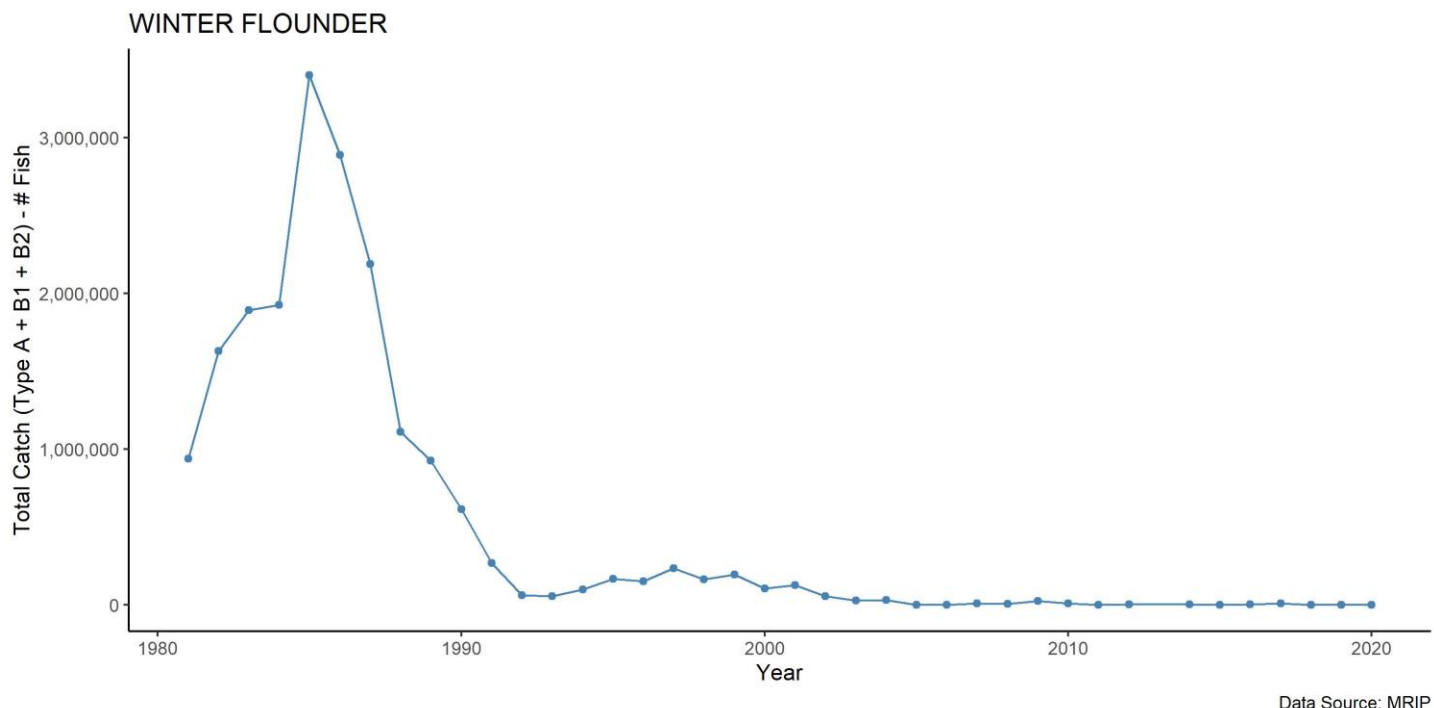


FIGURE 48. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF WINTER FLOUNDER FROM 1980 TO 2020

LICENSING

TABLE 5. RECREATIONAL LICENSES ISSUED BY TYPE IN 2020

License Type	Number of Licenses
Active Military Saltwater Fishing License	752
Non-Resident (7 Day) Saltwater Fishing License	2,636
Non-Resident Annual Saltwater Fishing License	10,093
Resident 7 Day Saltwater Fishing	239
Resident Annual Saltwater Fishing	37,984
Resident (Over 65) Saltwater Fishing License	5,841

TABLE 6. FOR-HIRE LICENSES. PLEASE NOTE THAT PARTY AND CHARTER LICENSES WERE A TWO-YEAR LICENSE THROUGH 2020. NUMBER OF LICENSES PRESENTED IS THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE LICENSES IN 2020.

License Type	Number of Licenses
Party and Charter	267

REFERENCES

NOAA. 2018. Fisheries of the United States. https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/fus_2018_report.pdf