



RHODE ISLAND ANNUAL FISHERIES REPORT: 2021

May 2022



DEM
RHODE ISLAND



2021 COMMERCIAL FISHING AT A GLANCE



TOP SPECIES BY VALUE*



Sea Scallop - \$28.8 million

1,977,779 pounds

141% increase from 2020



Longfin Squid - \$20.0 million

14,729,026 pounds

Illex - \$13.7 million

23,988,253 pounds

Combined 29% increase from 2020



American Lobster - \$10.5 million

1,323,159 pounds

Jonah Crab - \$2.6 million

2,139,821 pounds

Combined 3% increase from 2020



Summer Flounder - \$5.6 million

1,889,534 pounds

12% increase from 2020



Quahog - \$4.0 million

14,584,484 pounds

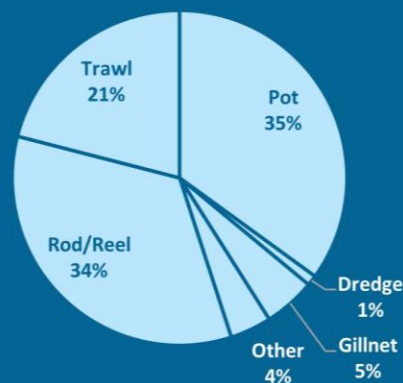
11% increase from 2020

TOTAL 2021 LANDINGS*

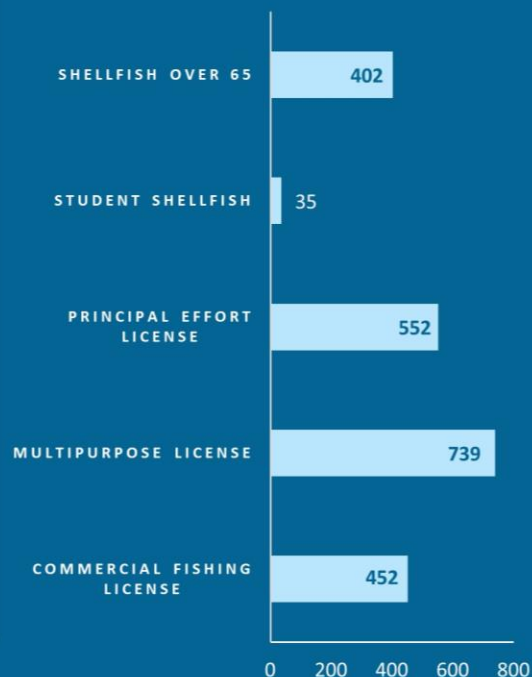
\$103.3 million

* 2021 commercial landings value increased 31% relative to 2020 landings, which were dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NUMBER OF TRIPS

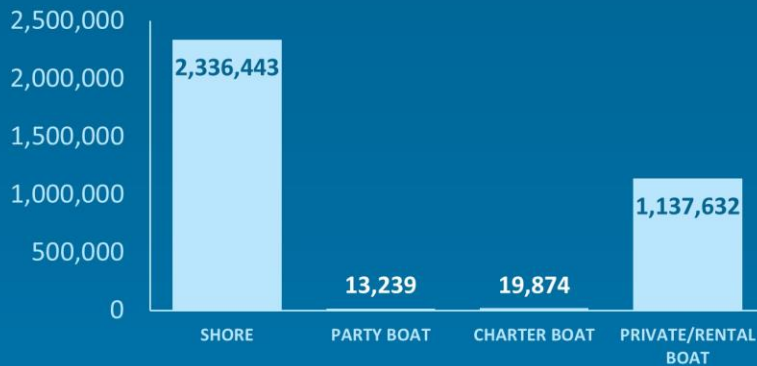


LICENSES

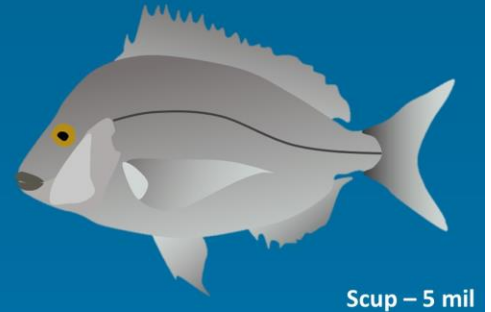


2021 RECREATIONAL FISHING AT A GLANCE

TRIPS BY MODE



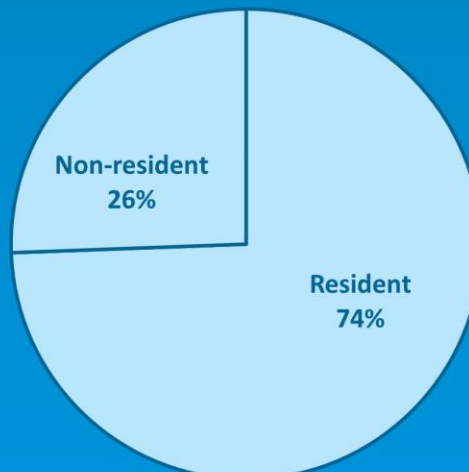
SPECIES OF INTEREST BY CATCH*



TOTAL 2021 TRIPS

3,507,188

2021 LICENSES TOTAL: 51,512



* 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). 2022. Rhode Island Annual Fisheries Report: 2021. Jamestown, RI. 41pp.

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is part of an annual series describing the state of the Rhode Island fishing industry, starting in 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 18th 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 2022).

In recent years, the top ten species by value have included: longfin squid, shortfin squid, Atlantic sea scallop, American lobster, quahog, scup, Jonah crab, summer flounder, black sea bass, 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 they 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 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 2021-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 99 species harvested and landed in 2021 alone. The overall ex-vessel value of landings in 2020 in Rhode Island was \$103.3 million, representing an increase of 31% in value from 2020. The fishery experienced a 27% decline in 2020, relative to 2019 value, 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 31% increase in value in 2021 suggests that the fishery has rebounded substantially following COVID-19.

The top ten species by value in 2020 were (Figure 2 and Table 1): Atlantic sea scallop (\$28,764,690), longfin squid (\$20,003,271), Illex squid (\$13,709,323), American lobster (\$10,455,152), summer flounder (\$5,566,747), quahog (\$3,987,312), scup (\$2,724,321), Jonah crab (\$2,564,432), silver hake (\$2,358,650), and black sea bass (\$2,024,678). Recent time series of the top ten species by value in 2021 are provided in Figures 3-12. All ten species, except Jonah crab (Figure 10) and silver hake (Figure 11), experienced an increase value from 2020 into 2021.

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.

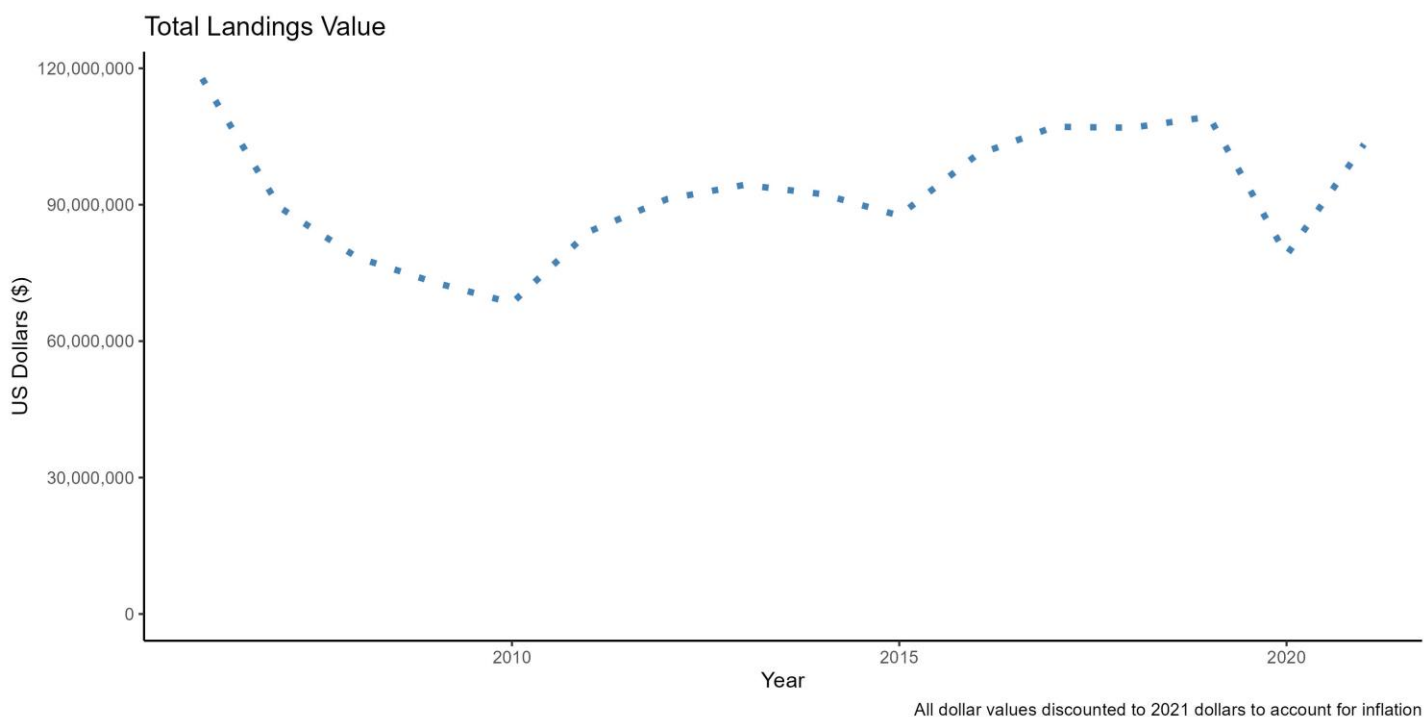


FIGURE 1. OVERALL EX-VESSEL VALUES OF RHODE ISLAND COMMERCIAL HARVEST (EXCLUDING AQUACULTURE) FROM 2006-2021

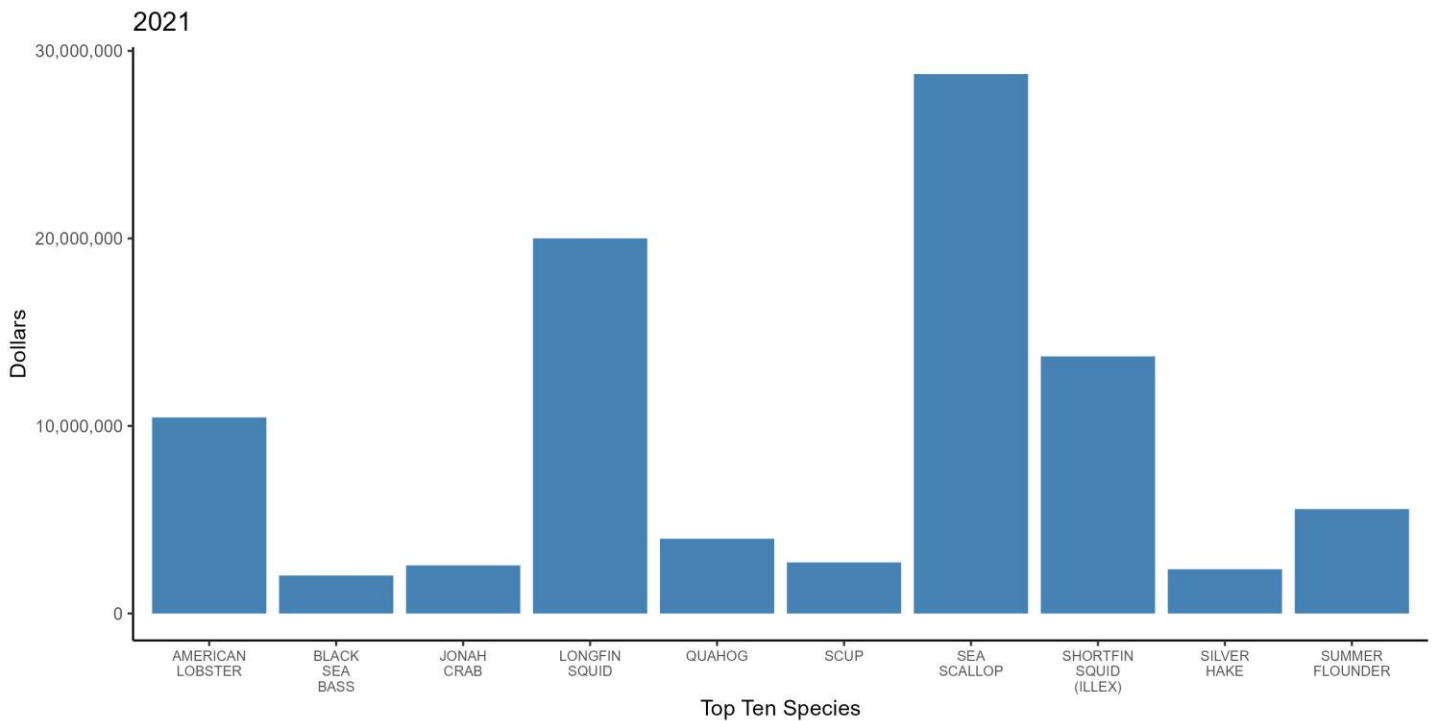


FIGURE 2. TOP TEN COMMERCIAL, WILD HARVEST SPECIES (BY VALUE) FOR TERMINAL YEAR, 2021

TABLE 1. POUNDS LANDED AND CORRESPONDING VALUE FOR TOP TEN COMMERCIAL, WILD HARVEST SPECIES LANDED (BY VALUE) FOR TERMINAL YEAR, 2021

Common Name	Pounds	2021 Dollars
SEA SCALLOP	1,977,779.00	\$28,764,690.44
LONGFIN SQUID	14,729,026.07	\$20,003,271.63
SHORTFIN SQUID (ILLEX)	23,988,253.25	\$13,709,323.86
AMERICAN LOBSTER	1,323,159.50	\$10,455,152.84
SUMMER FLOUNDER	1,889,534.23	\$5,566,747.20
QUAHOG	14,584,484.03	\$3,987,312.29
SCUP	4,272,463.95	\$2,724,321.61
JONAH CRAB	2,139,821.60	\$2,564,432.28
SILVER HAKE	2,896,423.00	\$2,358,650.53
BLACK SEA BASS	660,032.55	\$2,024,678.63

2006 – 2021 TIME SERIES FOR TOP TEN SPECIES BY VALUE IN 2021

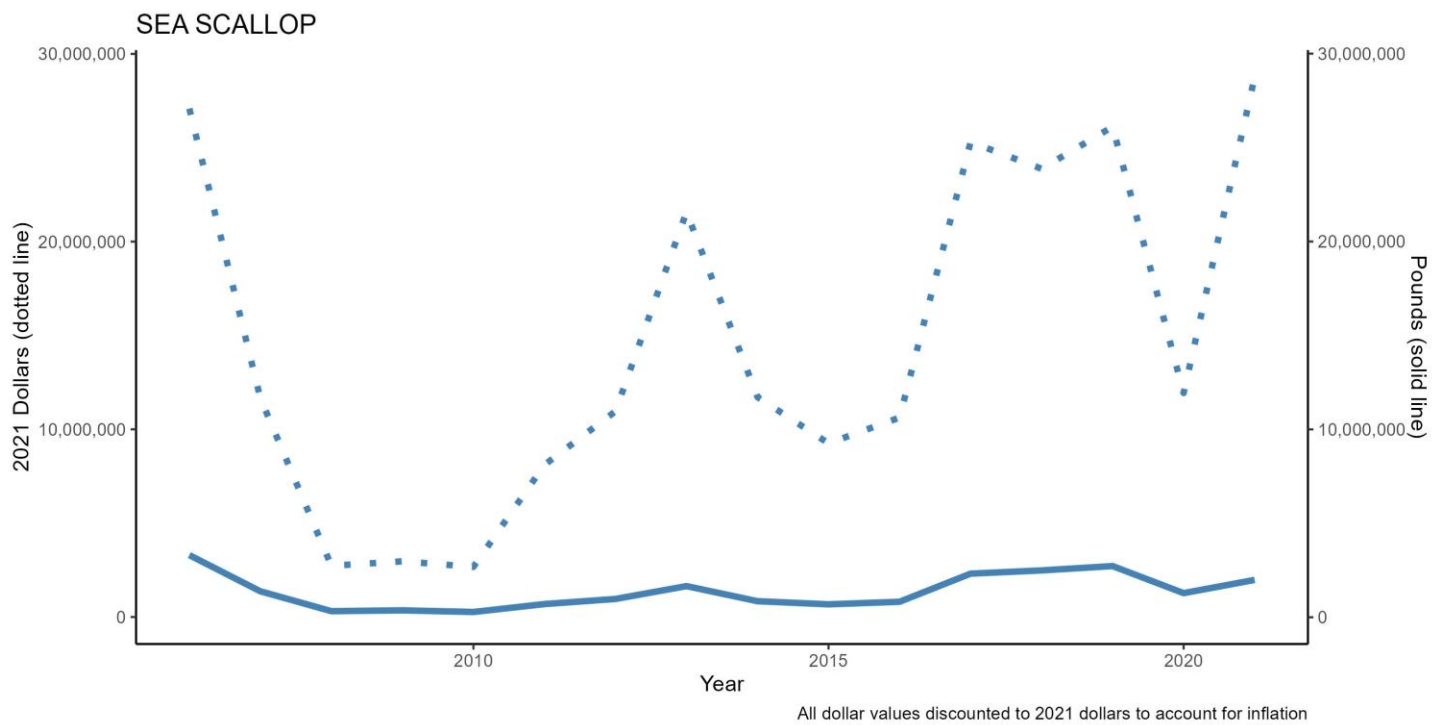


FIGURE 3. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF SEA SCALLOP FROM 2006-2021

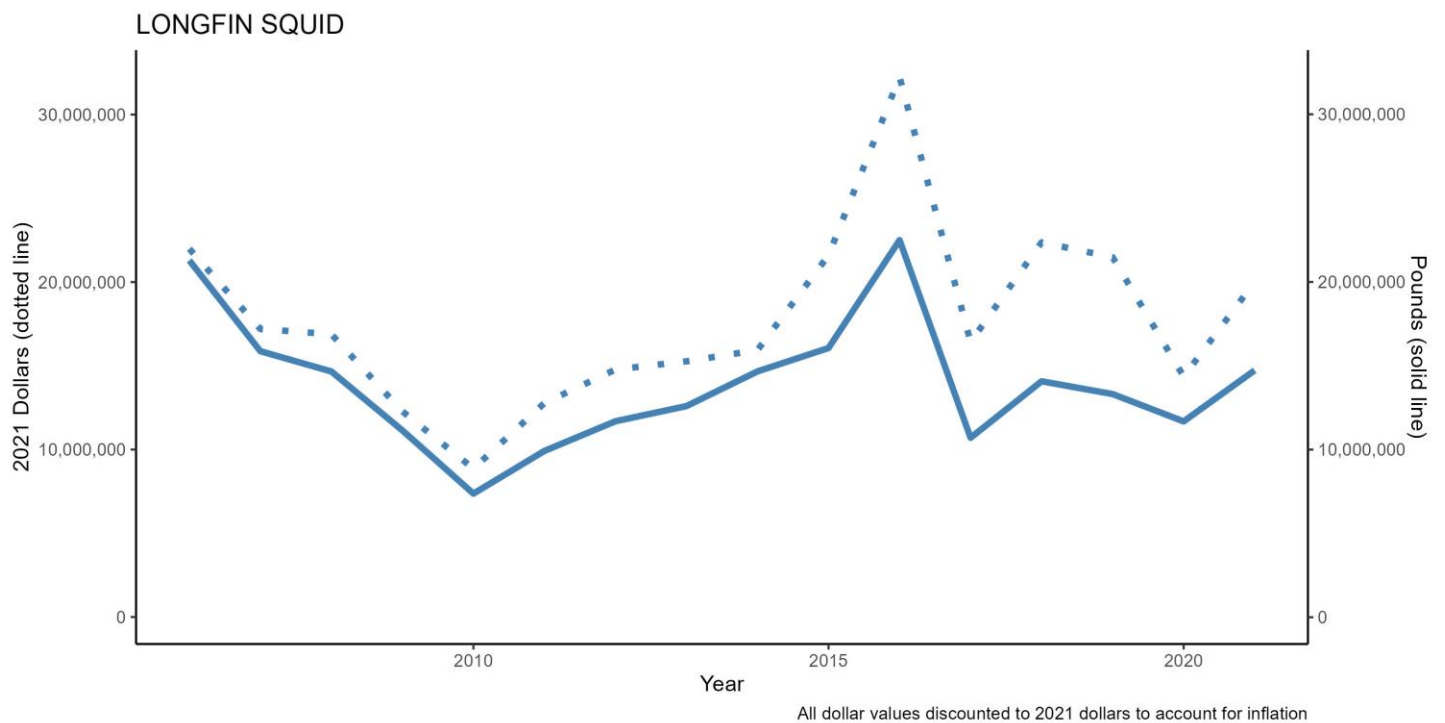


FIGURE 4. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF LONGFIN SQUID FROM 2006-2021

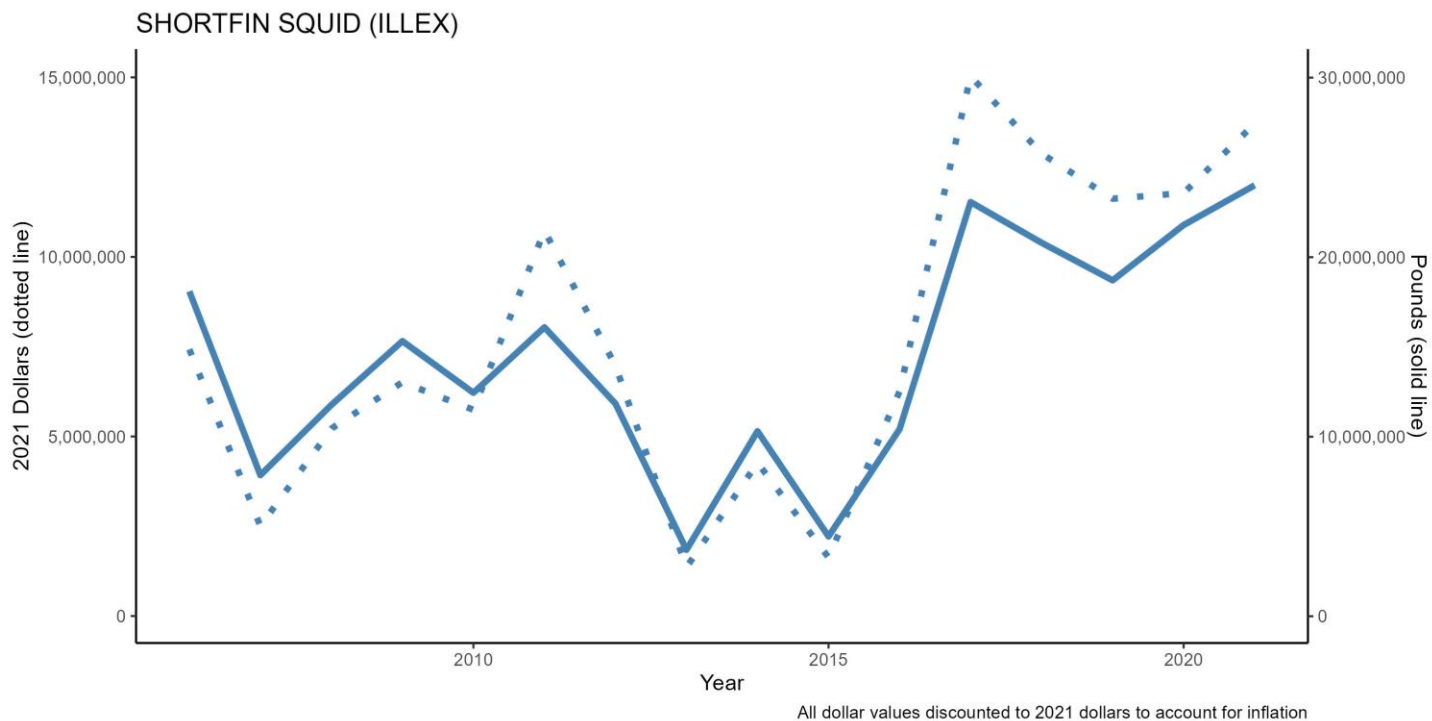


FIGURE 5. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF ILLEX SQUID FROM 2006-2021

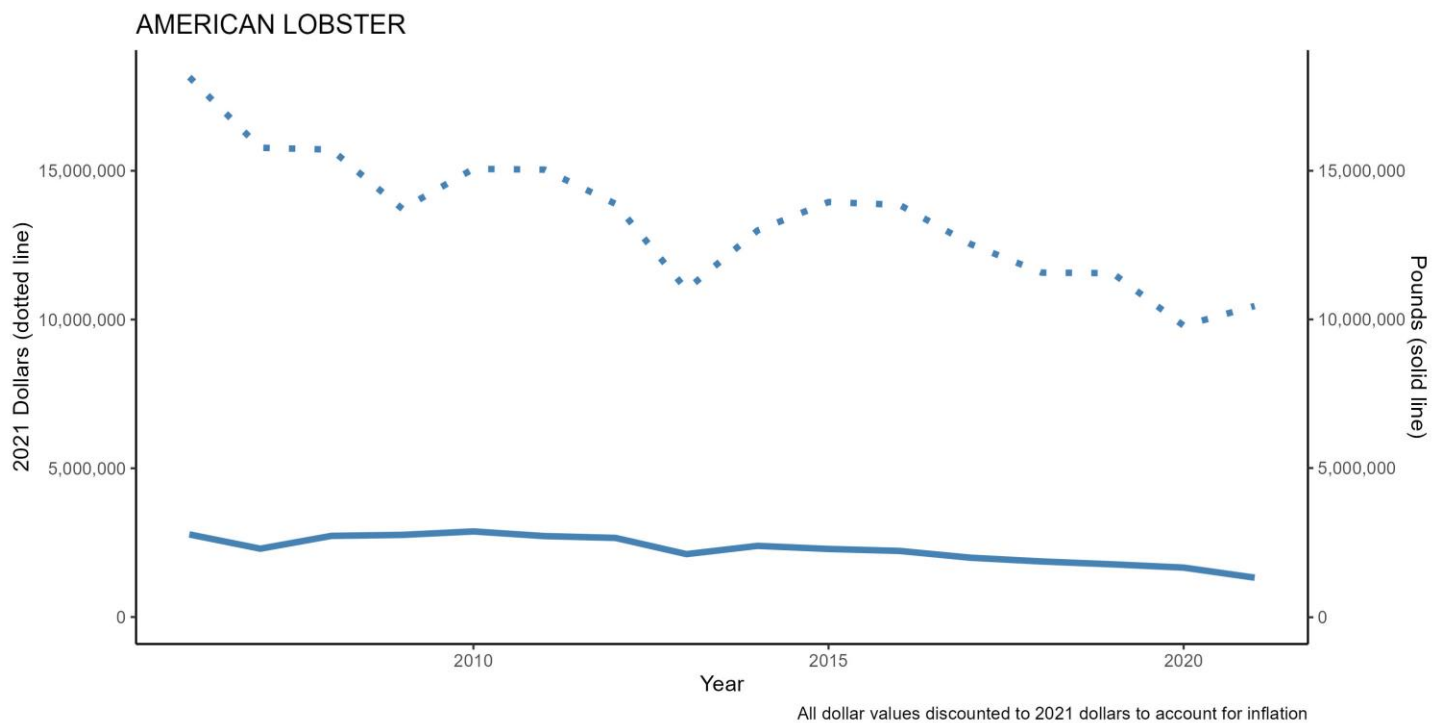


FIGURE 6. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF AMERICAN LOBSTER FROM 2006-2021

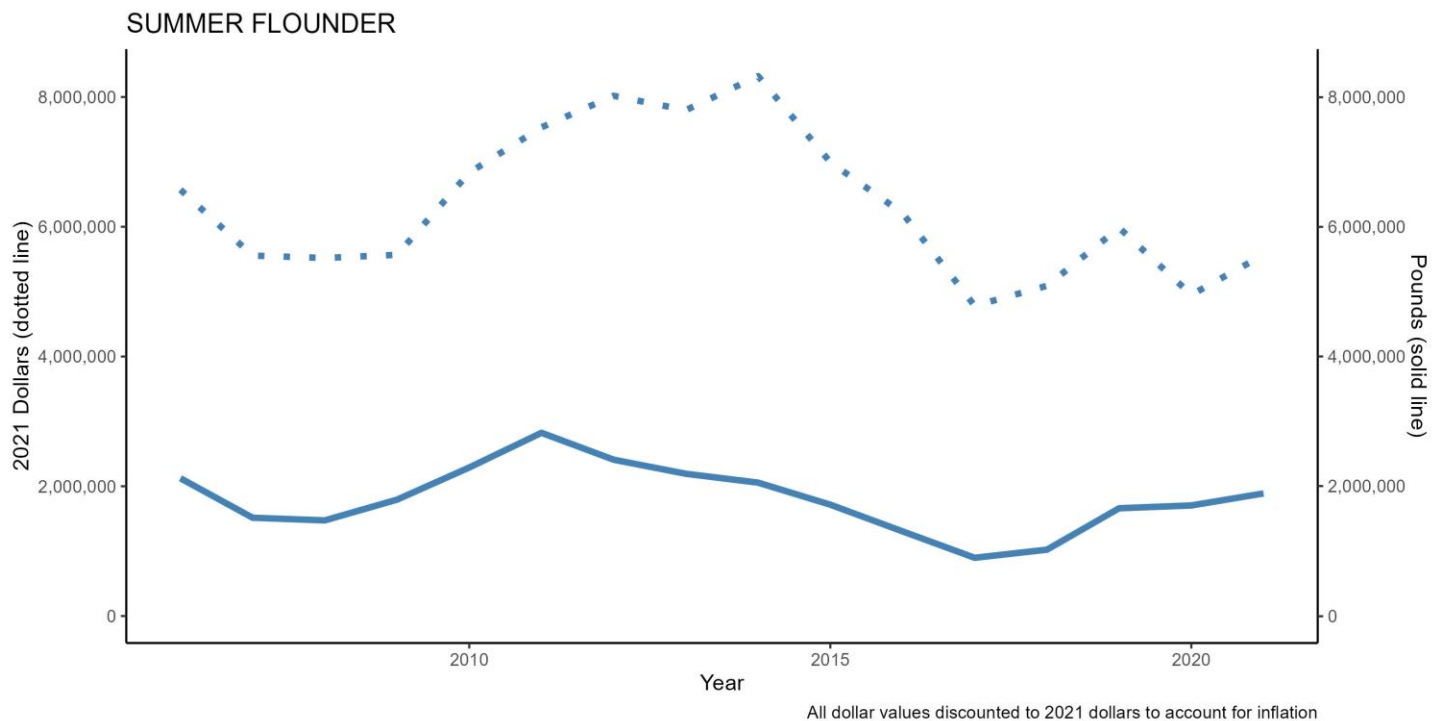


FIGURE 7. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF SUMMER FLOUNDER FROM 2006-2021

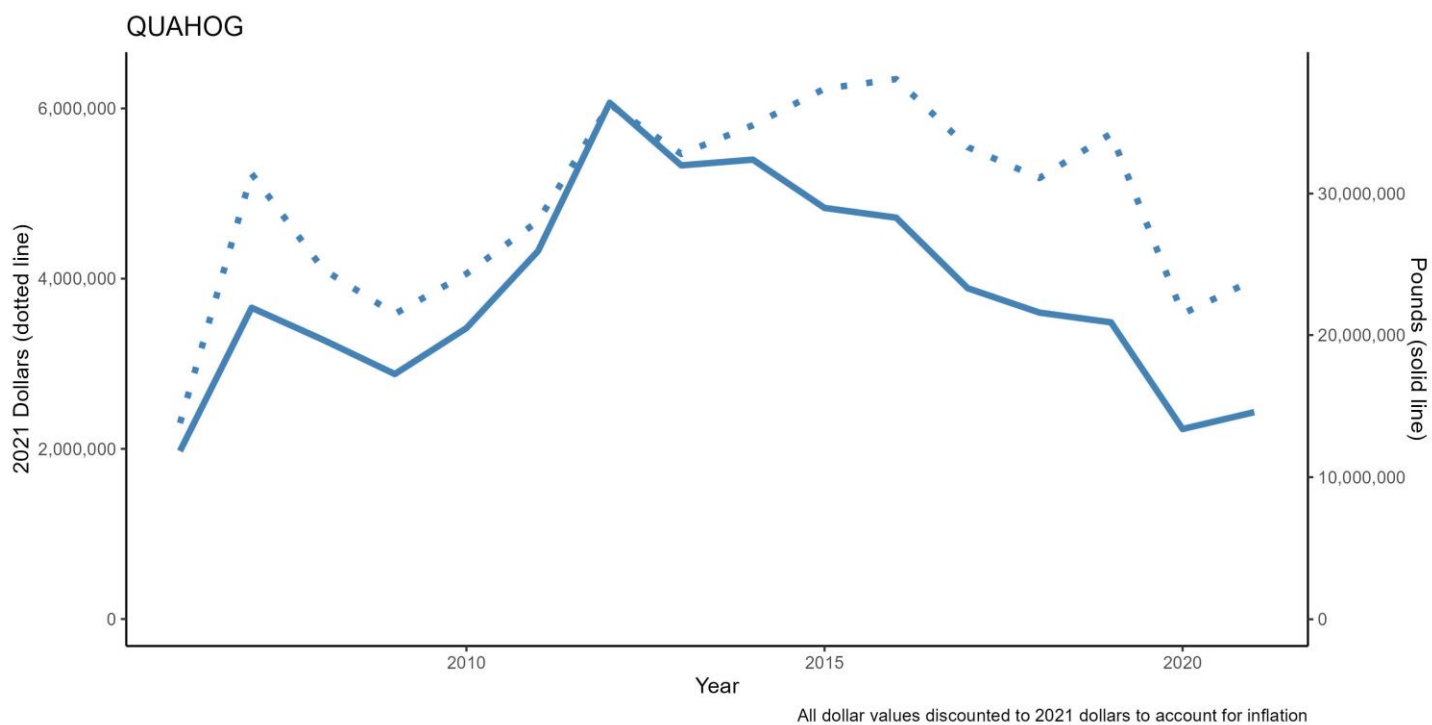


FIGURE 8. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF QUAHOG FROM 2006-2021

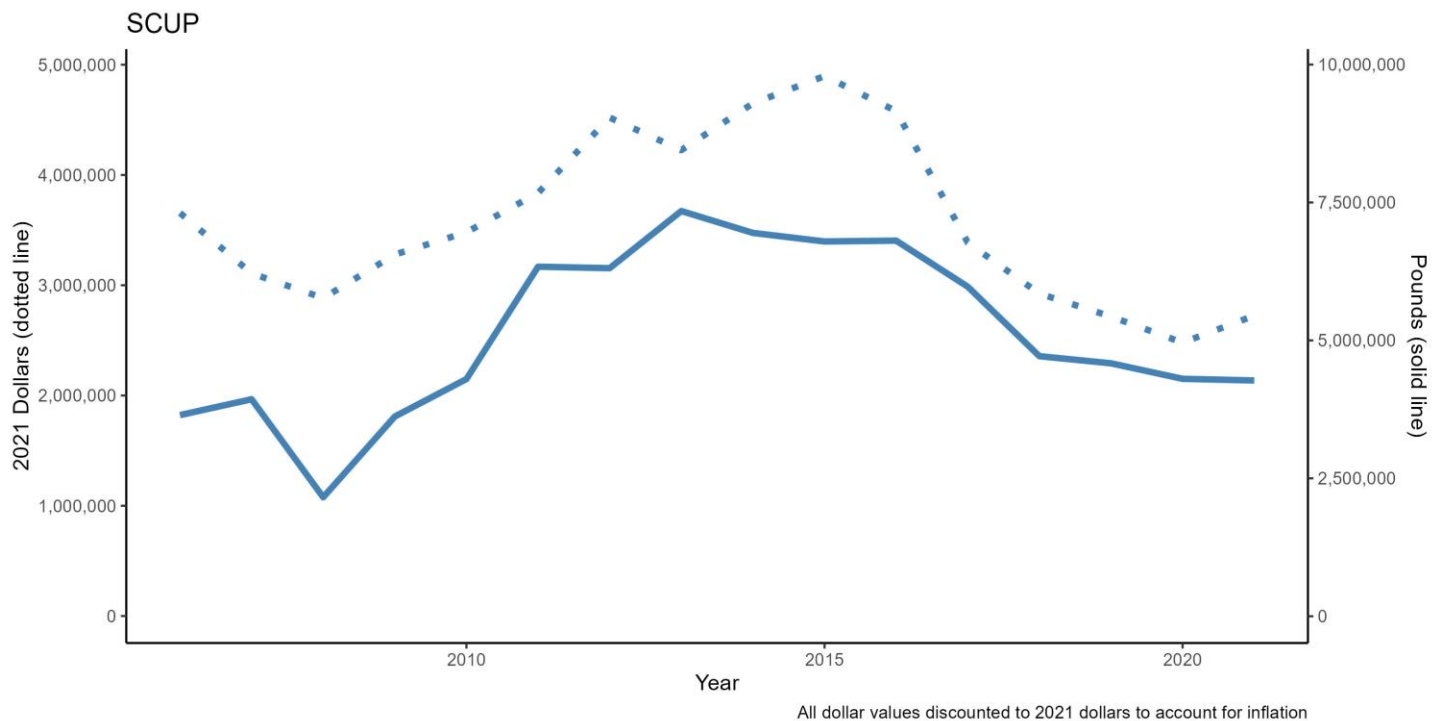


FIGURE 9. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF SCUP FROM 2006-2021

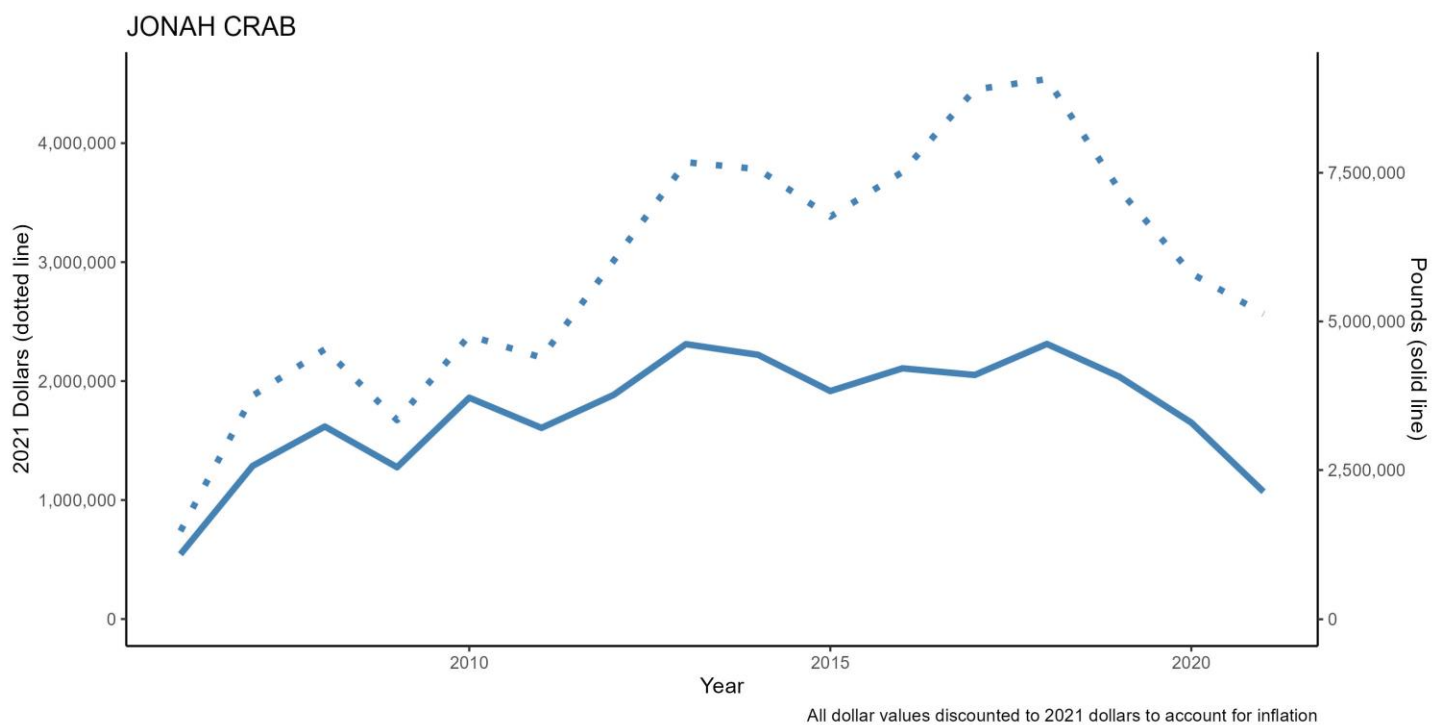


FIGURE 10. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF JONAH CRAB FROM 2006-2021

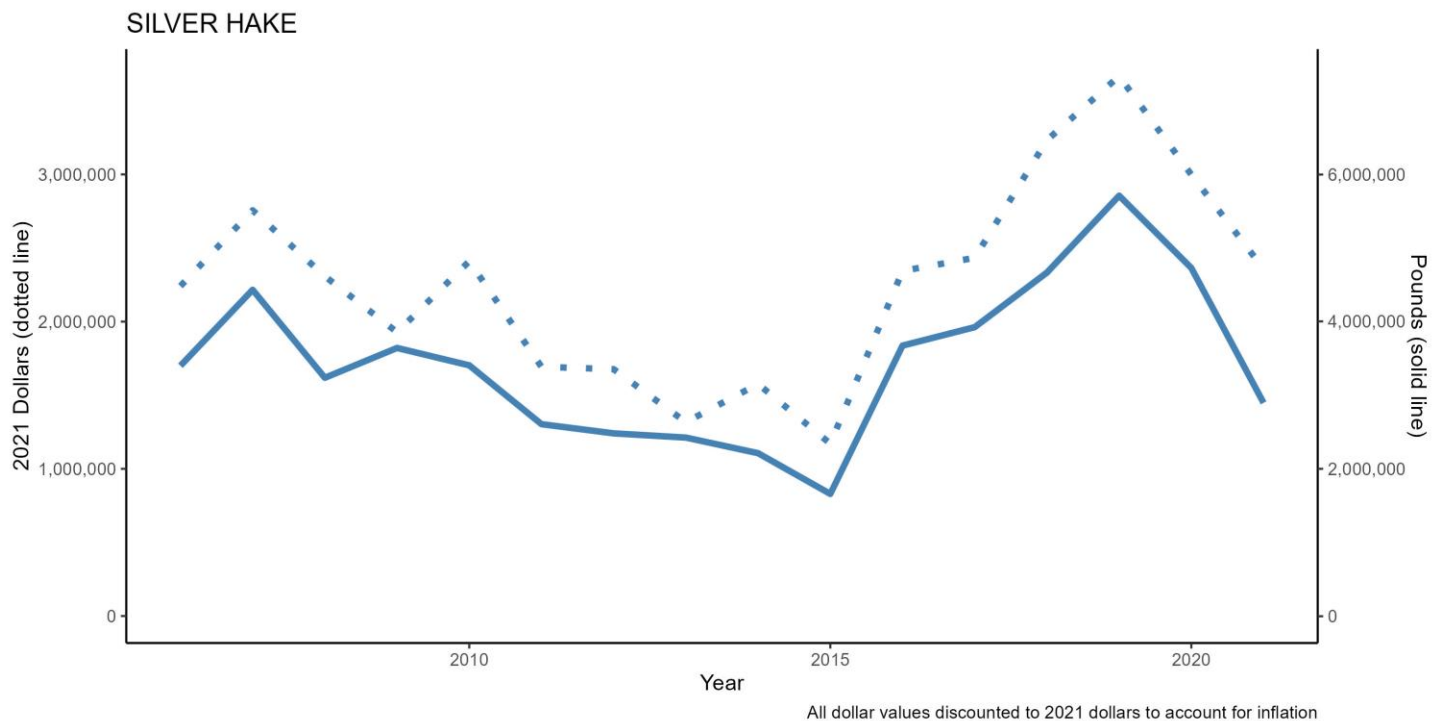


FIGURE 11. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF SILVER HAKE FROM 2006-2021

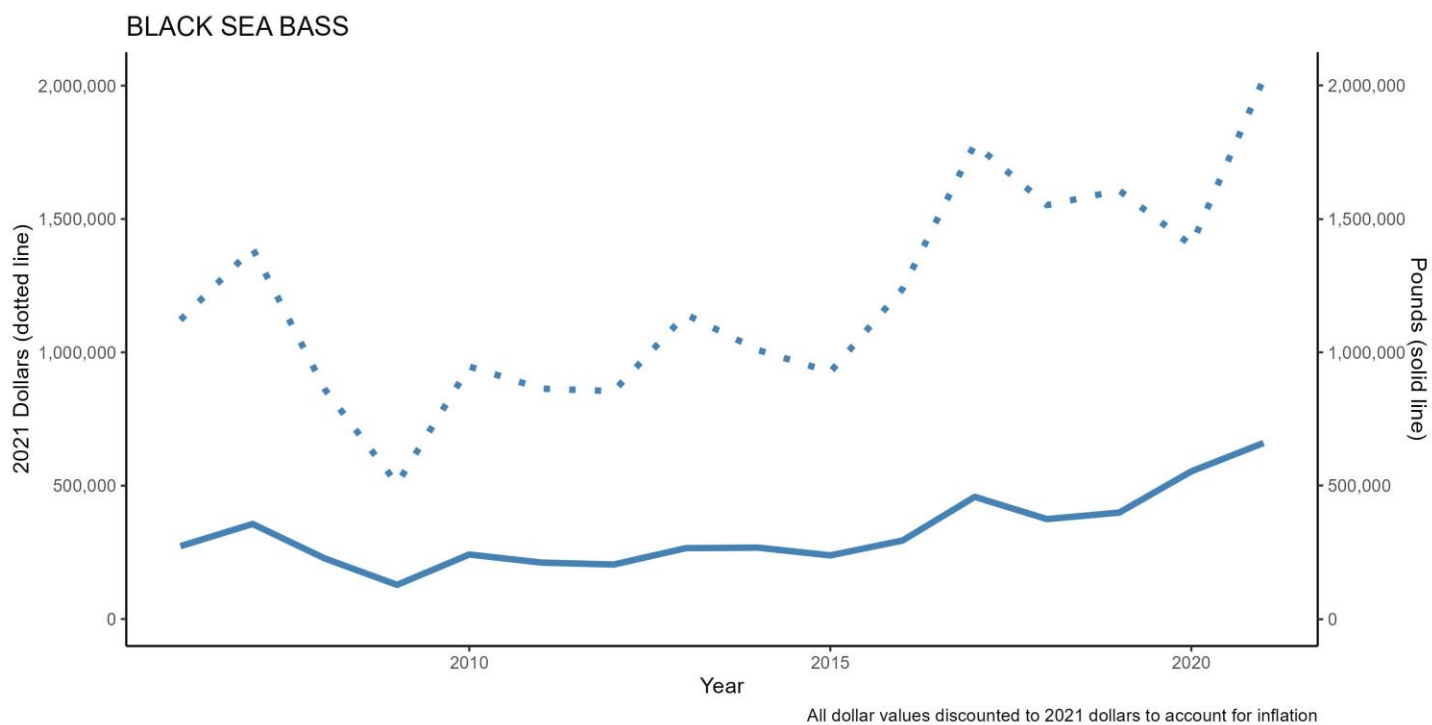


FIGURE 12. VALUE AND POUNDS LANDED OF BLACK SEA BASS FROM 2006-2021

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.

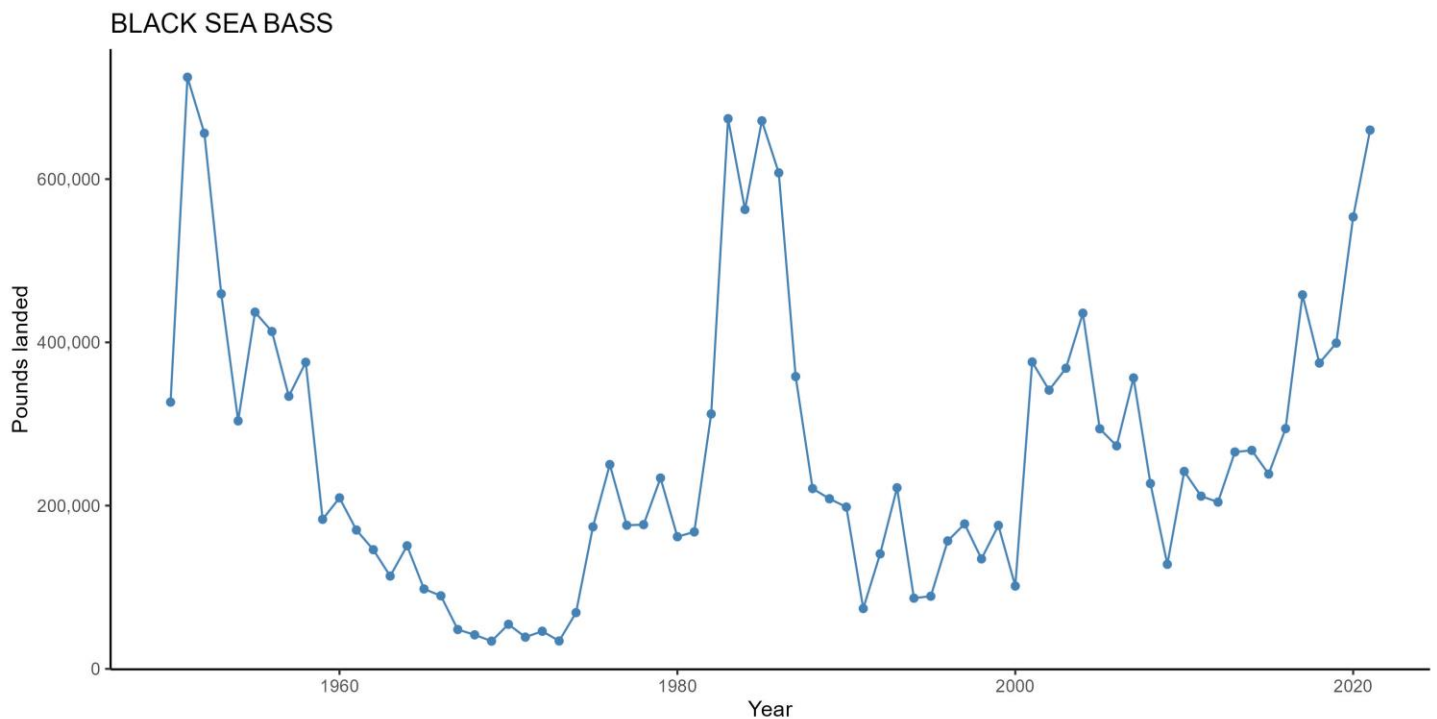


FIGURE 13. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF BLACK SEA BASS FROM 1950 TO 2021

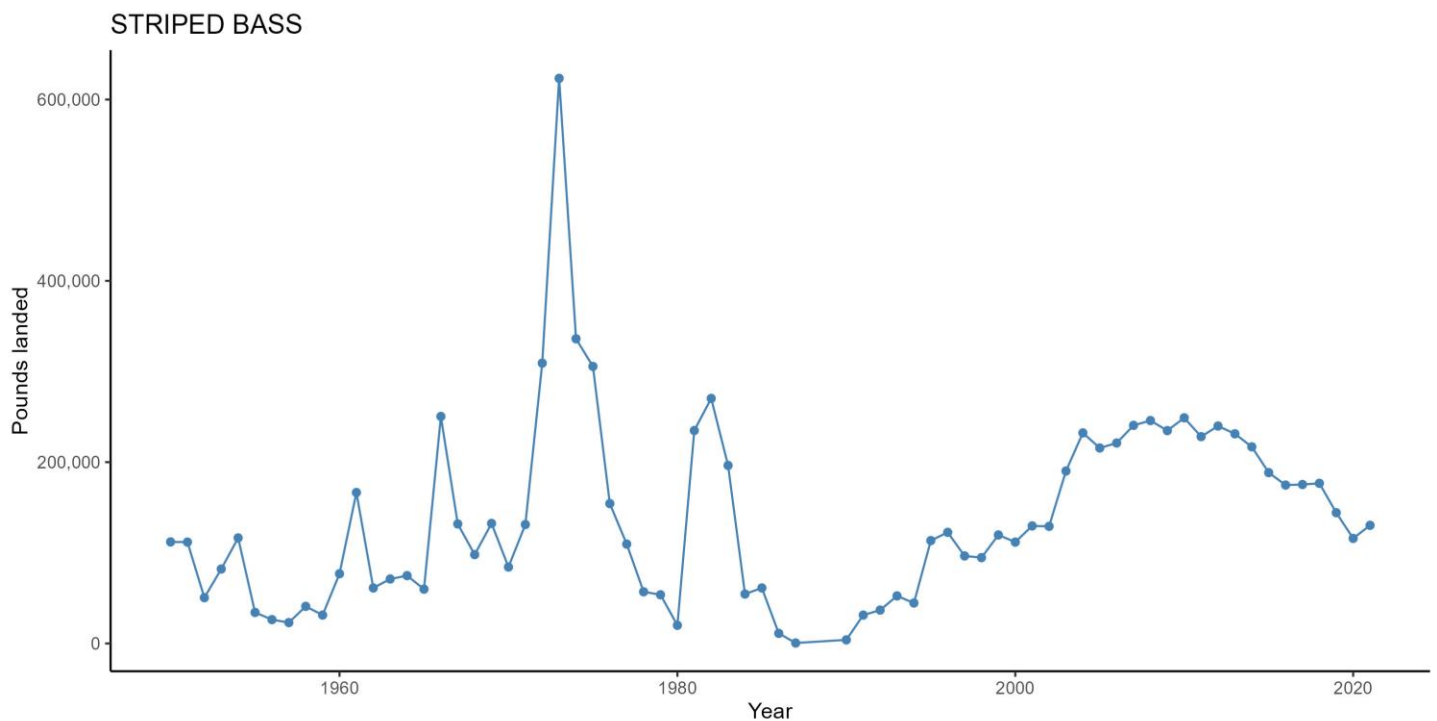


FIGURE 14. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF STRIPED BASS FROM 1950 TO 2021

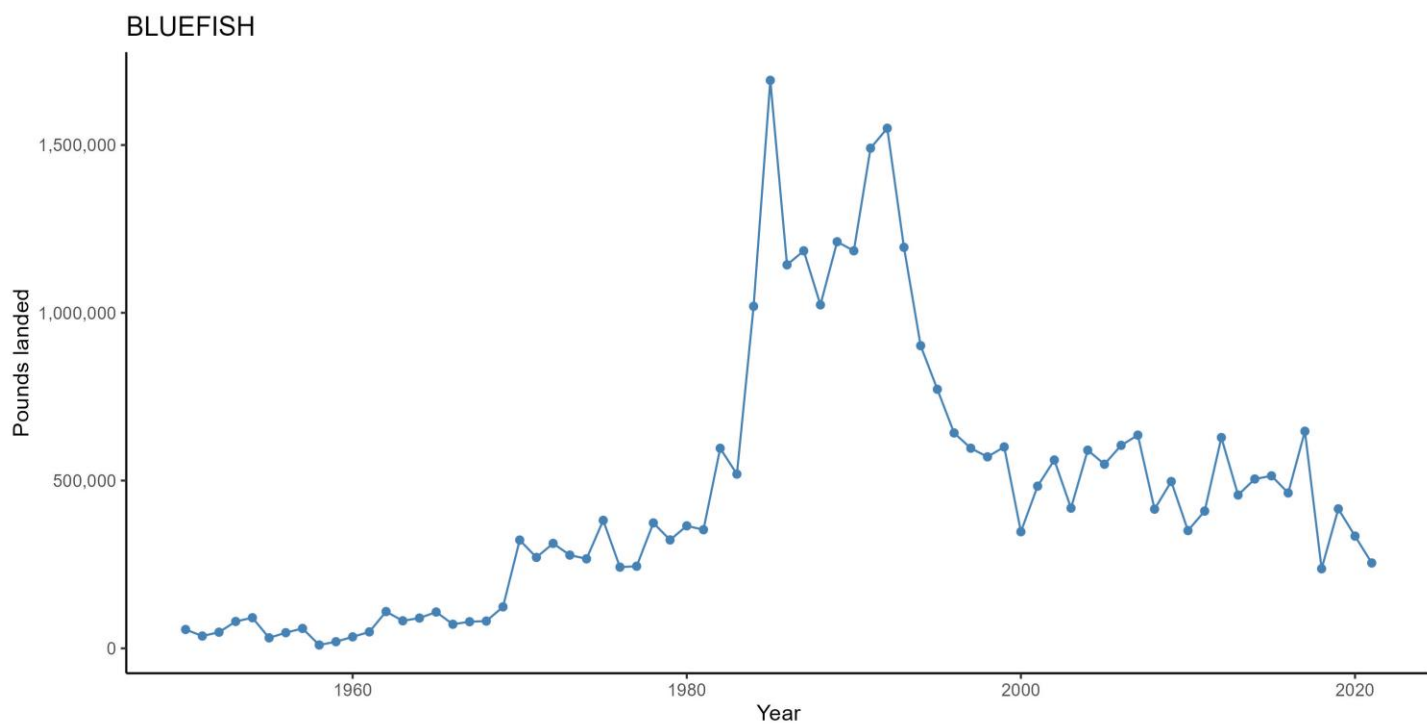


FIGURE 15. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF BLUEFISH FROM 1950 TO 2021

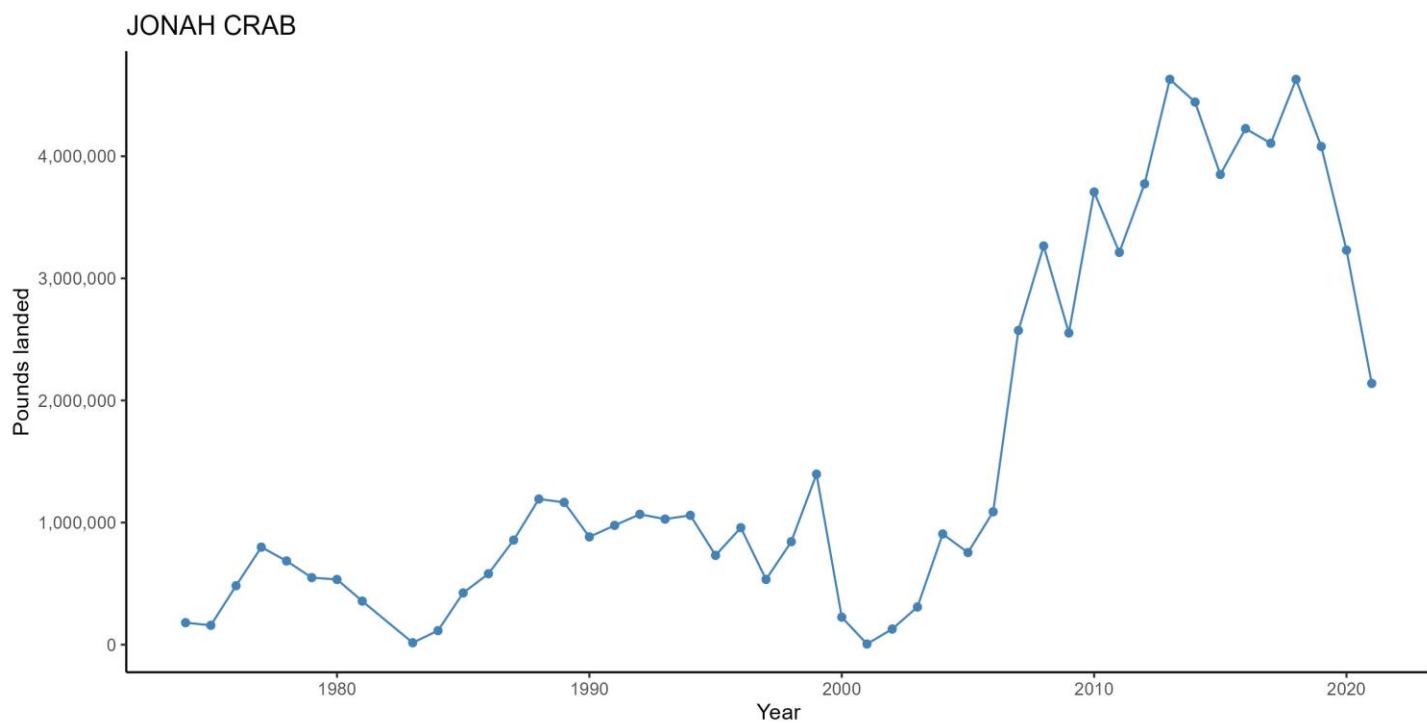


FIGURE 16. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF JONAH CRAB FROM 1950 TO 2021

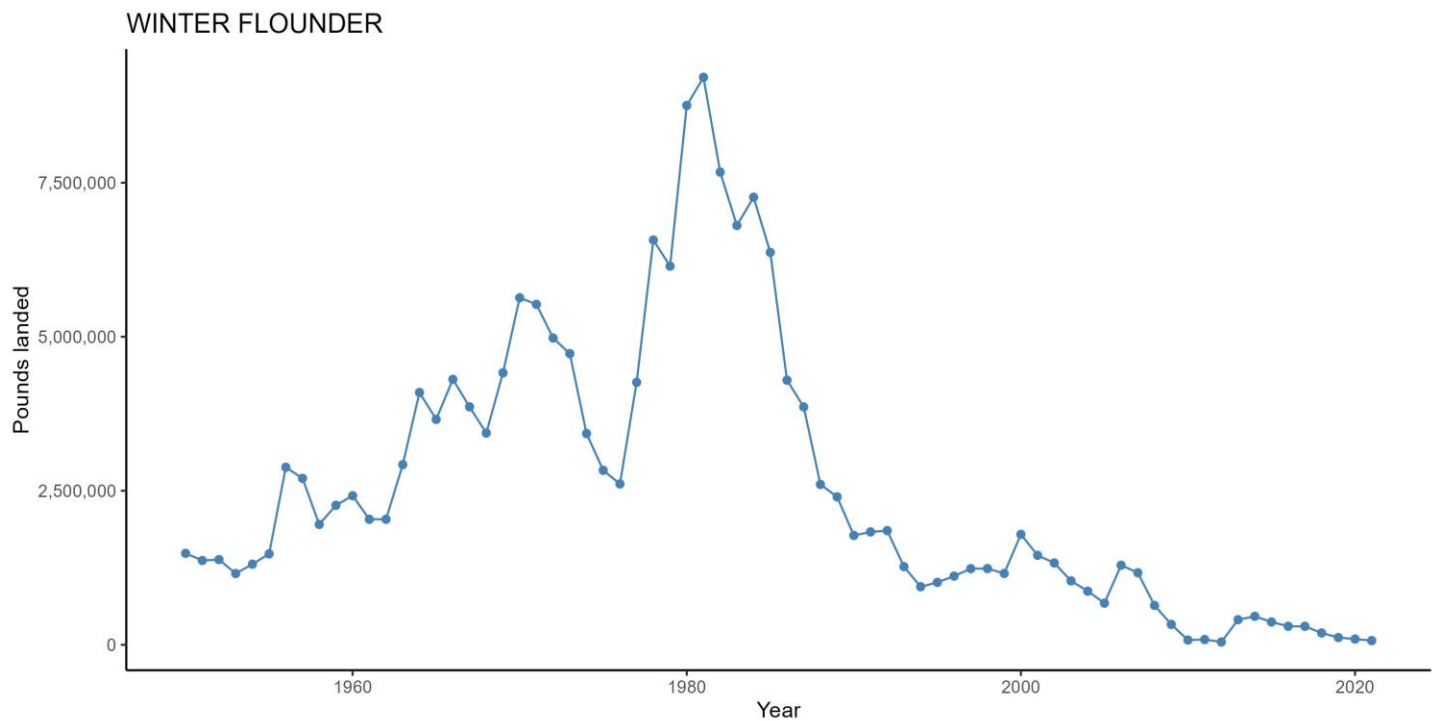


FIGURE 17. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF WINTER FLOUNDER FROM 1950 TO 2021

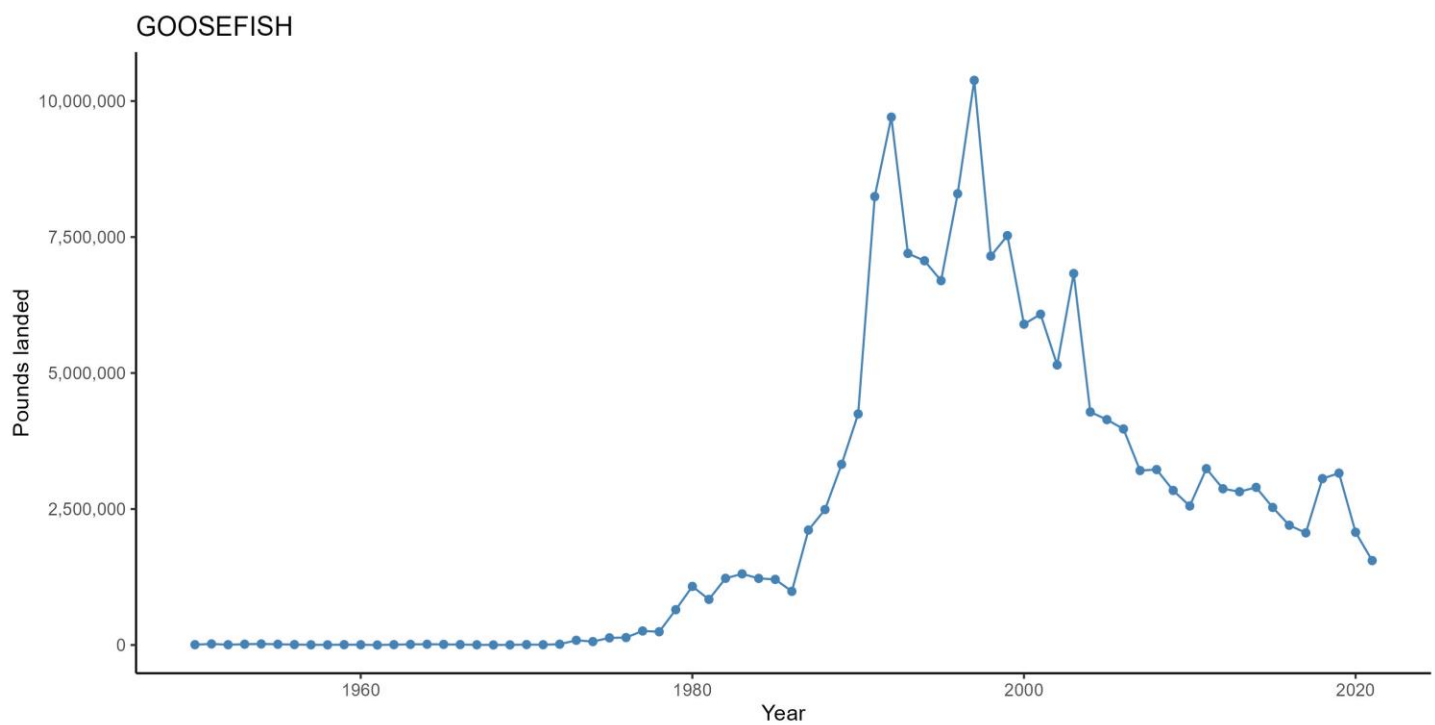


FIGURE 18. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF GOOSEFISH (MONKFISH) FROM 1950 TO 2021

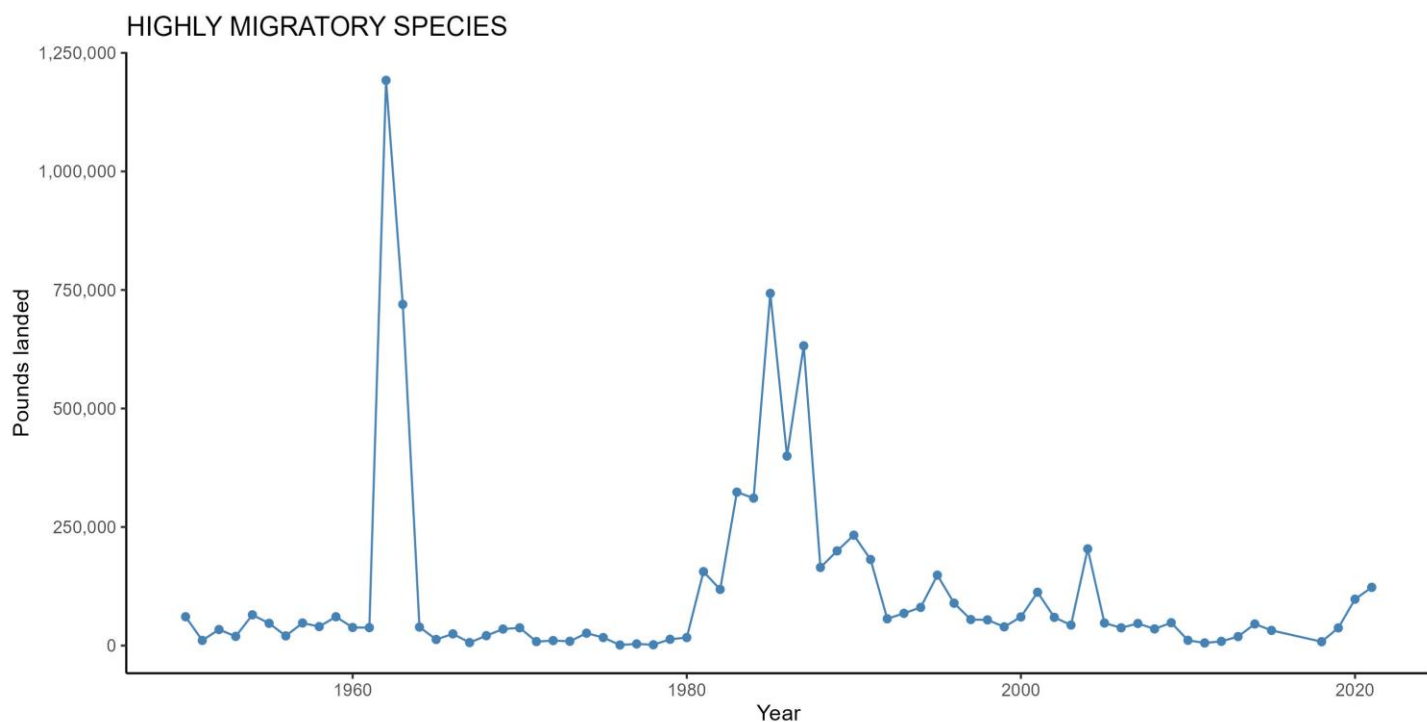


FIGURE 19. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FROM 1950 TO 2021. SPECIES INCLUDED: WAHOO, BLUEFIN TUNA, AND YELLOWFIN TUNA

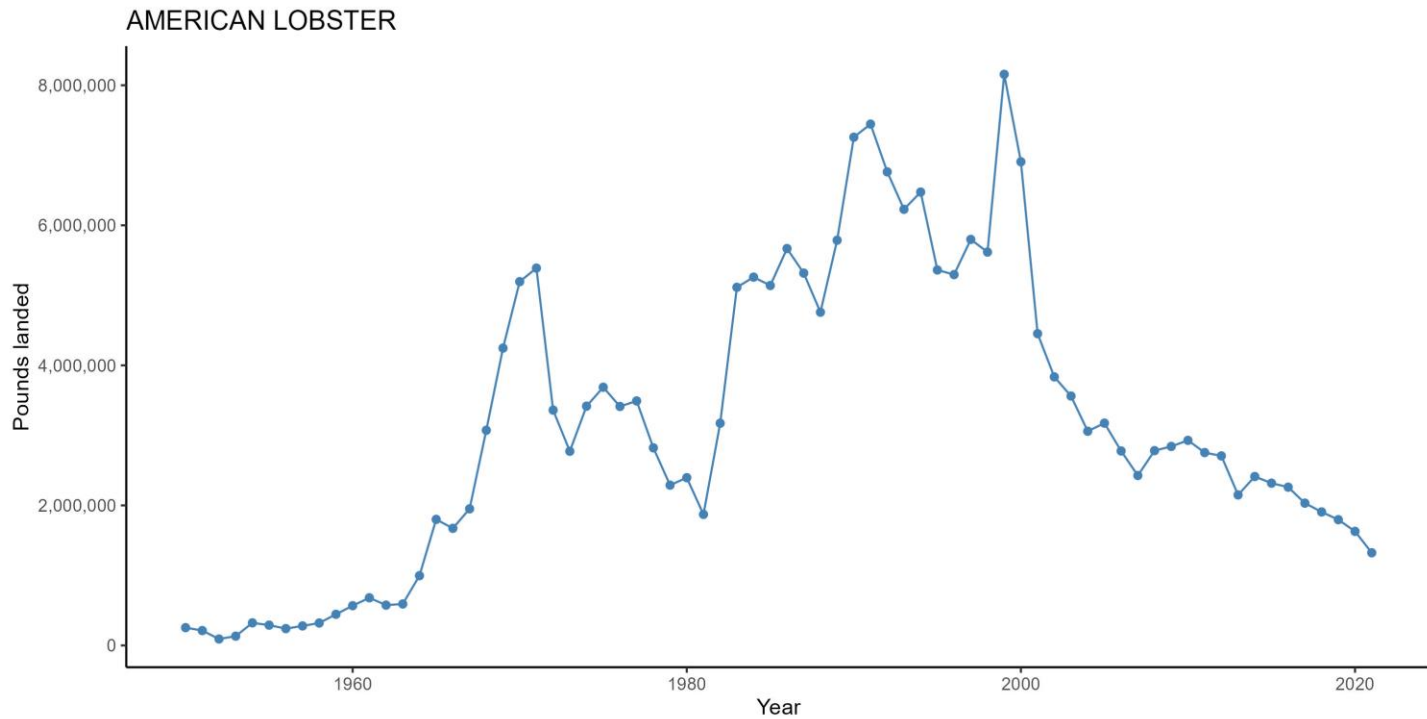


FIGURE 20. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF AMERICAN LOBSTER FROM 1950 TO 2021

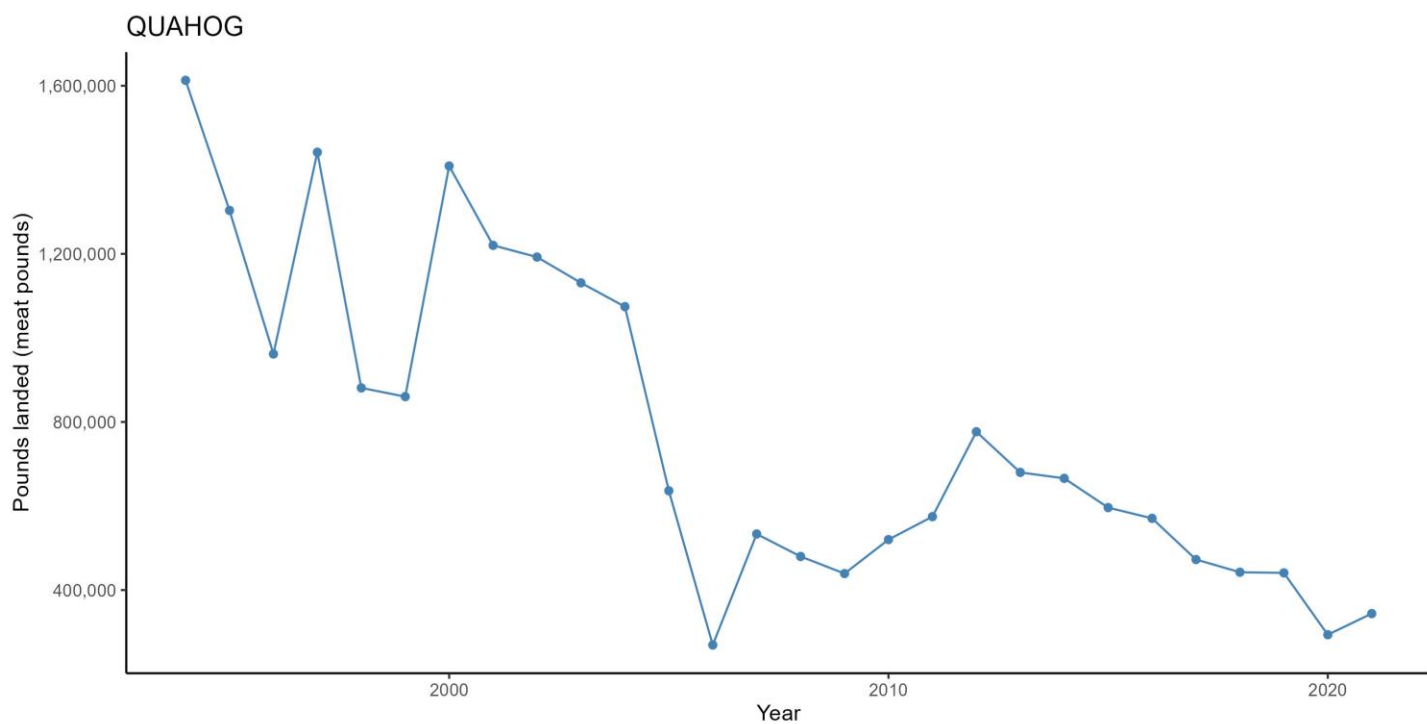


FIGURE 21. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF QUAHOG FROM 1950 TO 2021

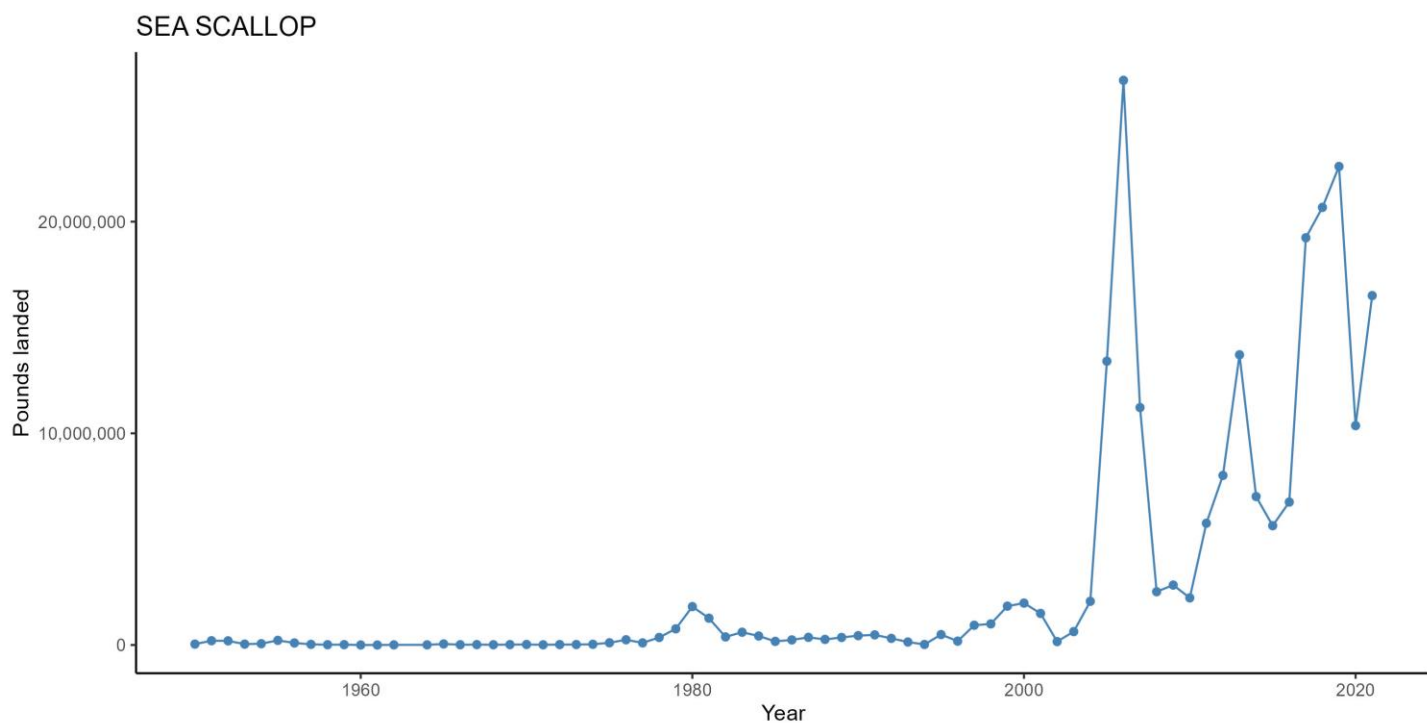


FIGURE 22. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FROM 1950 TO 2021

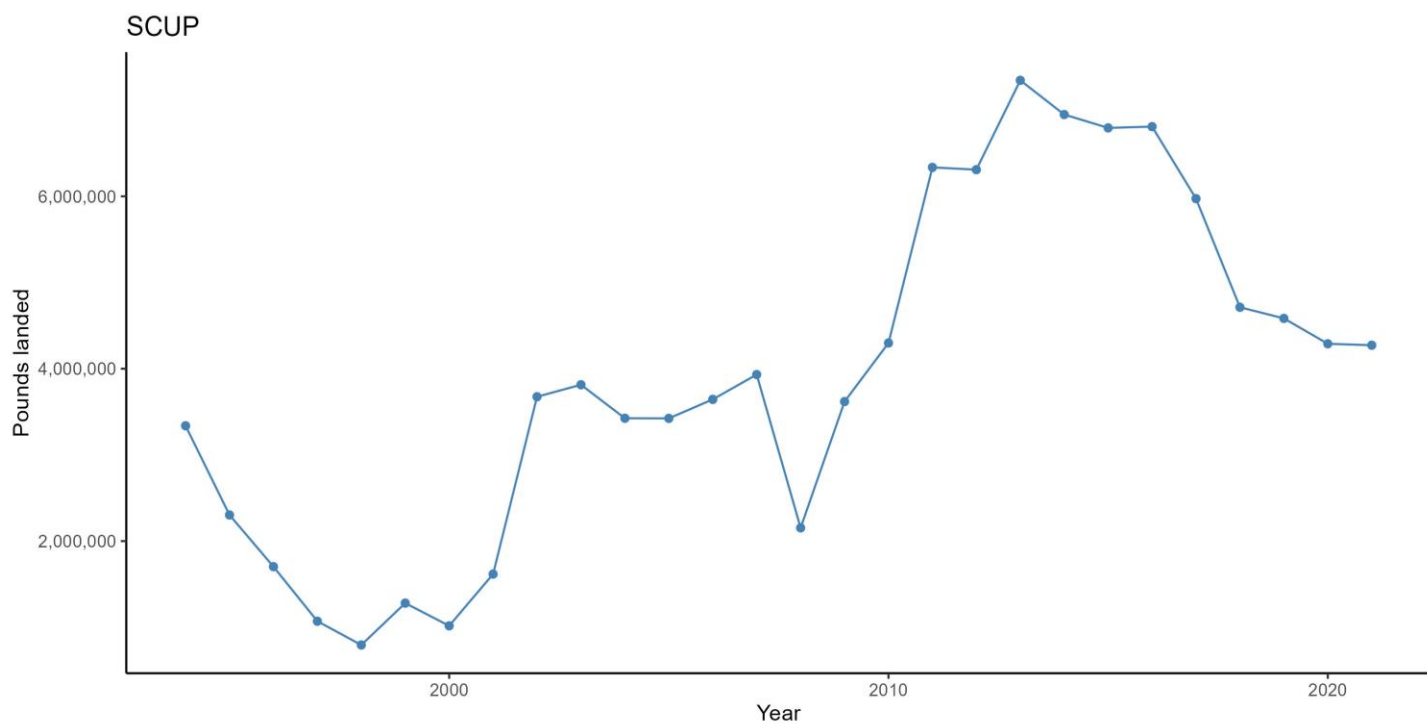


FIGURE 23. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF SCUP FROM 1950 TO 2021

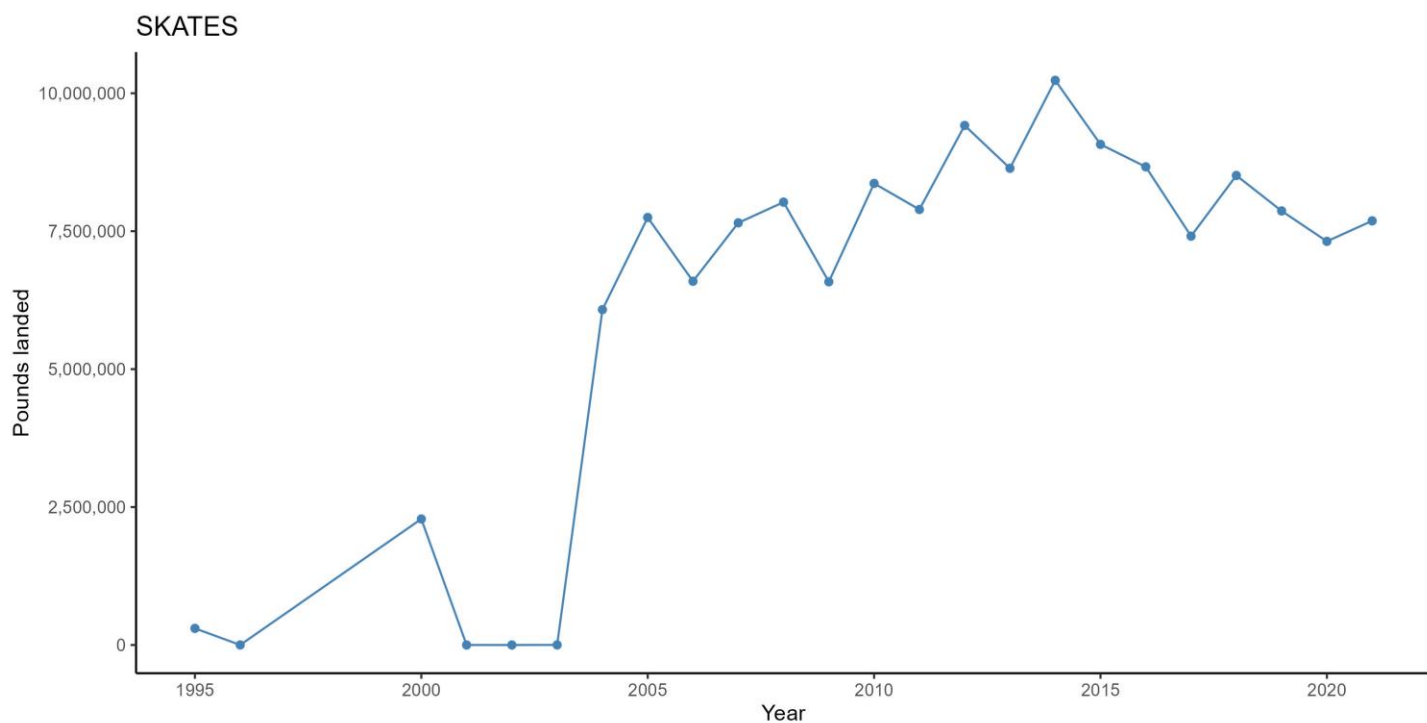


FIGURE 24. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF SKATES FROM 1950 TO 2021. SPECIES INCLUDED: LITTLE AND WINTER SKATE. GENERALLY, LITTLE SKATE IS USED AS BAIT, WHILE WINTER SKATE MAY BE USED AS WINGS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR AS BAIT.

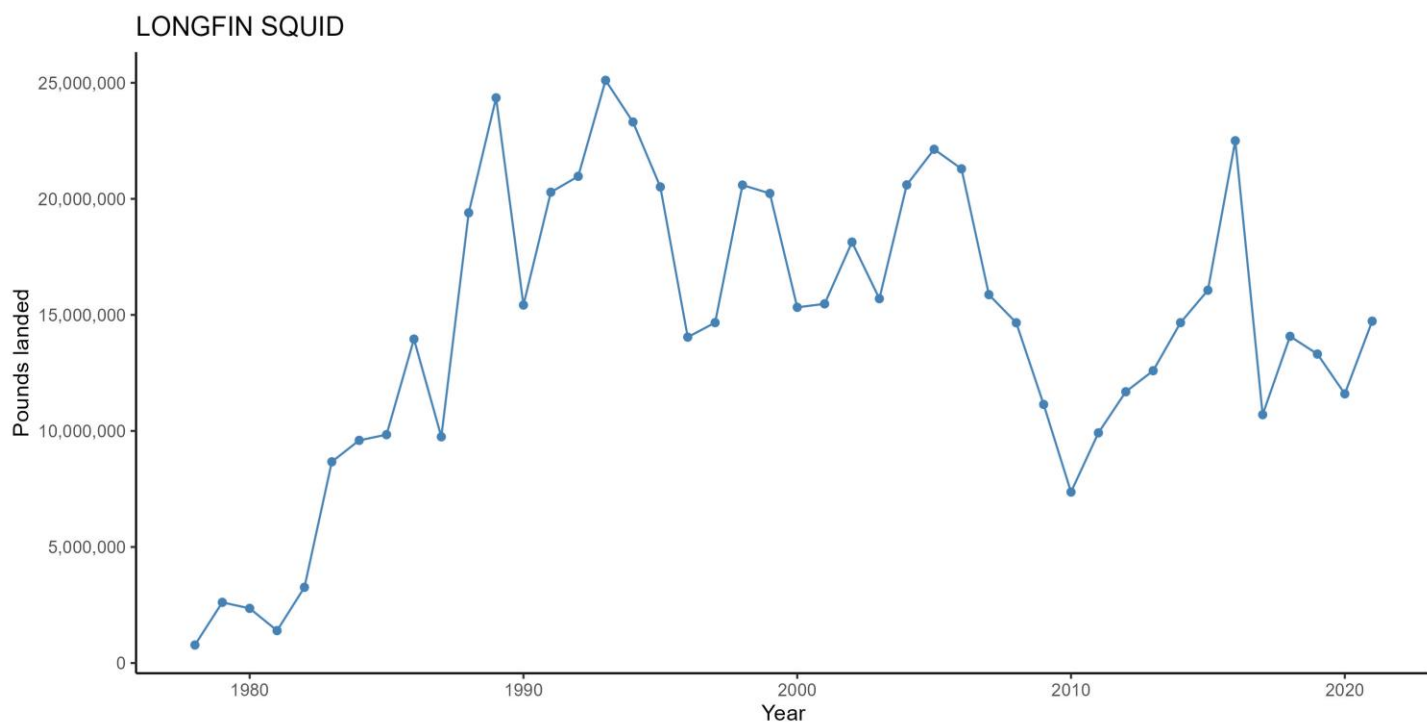


FIGURE 25. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF LONGFIN SQUID FROM 1950 TO 2021

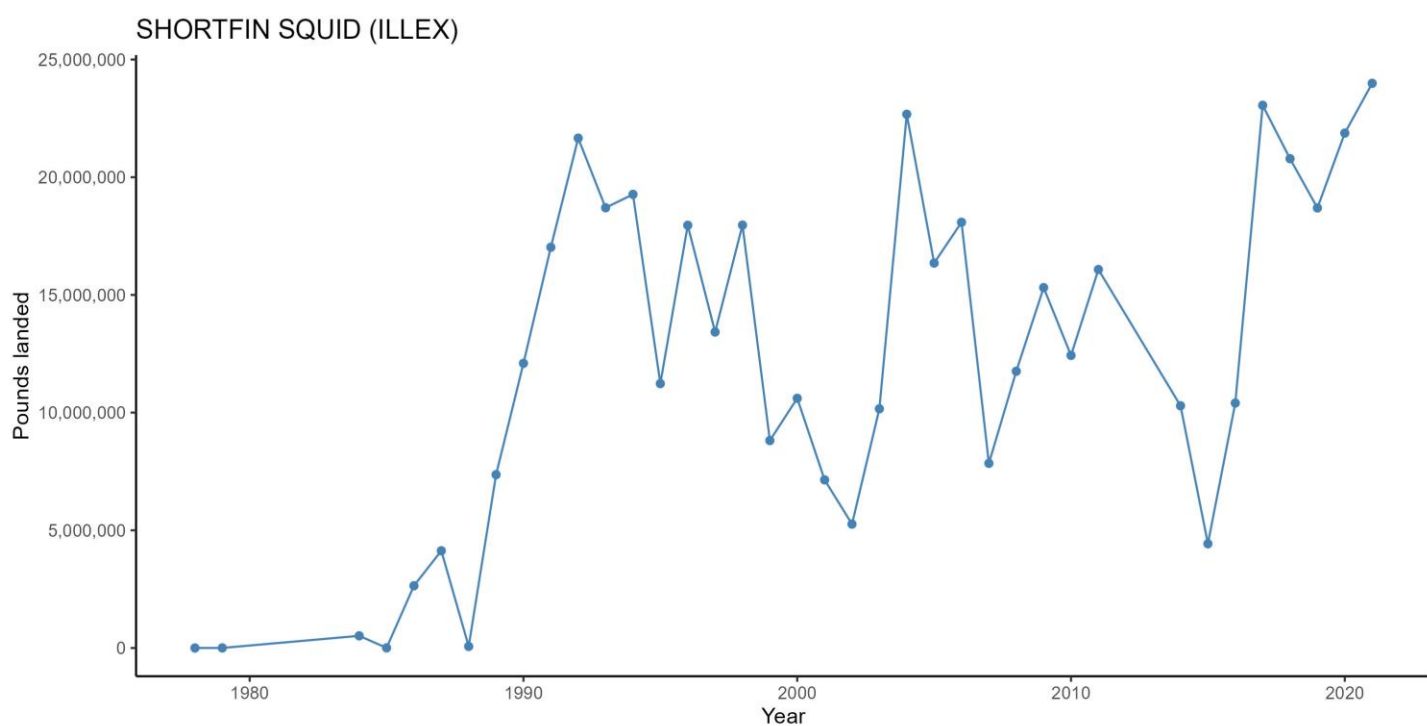


FIGURE 26. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF ILLEX SQUID FROM 1950 TO 2021

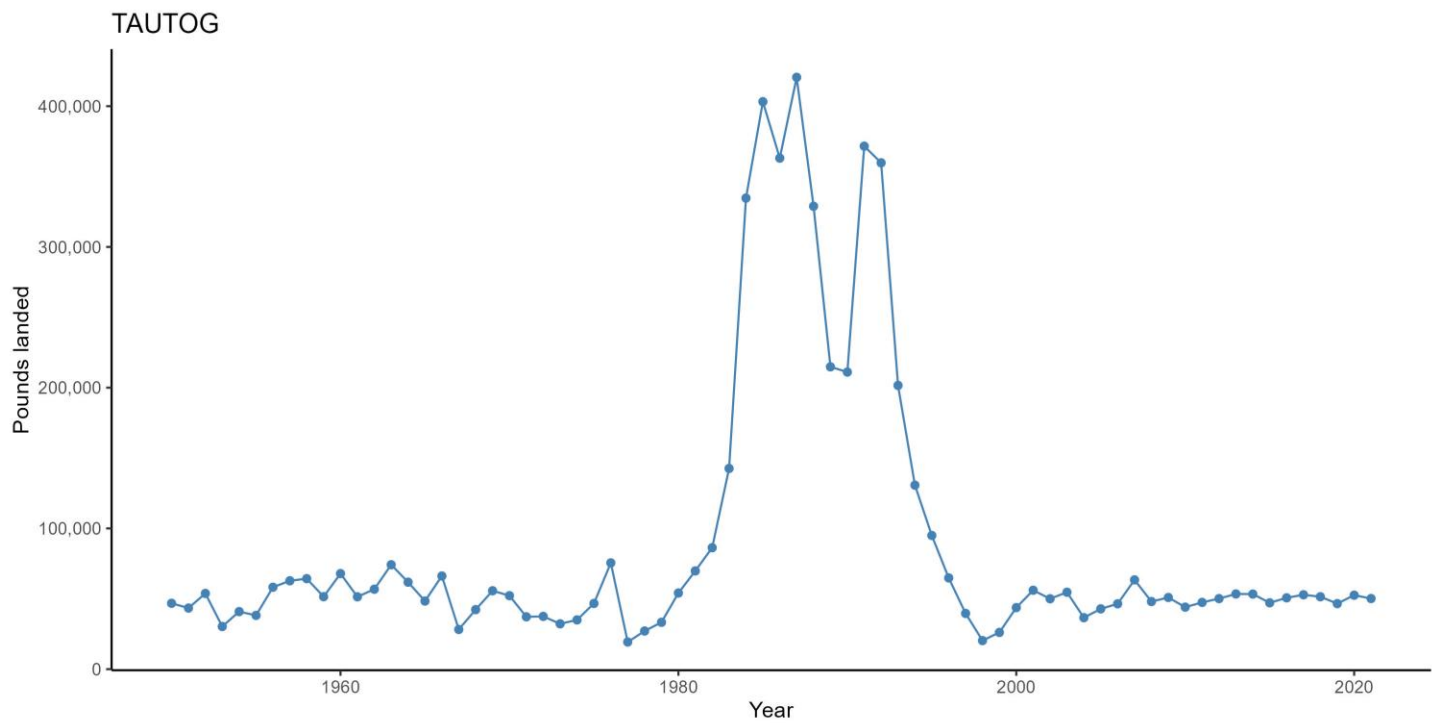


FIGURE 27. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF TAUTOG FROM 1950 TO 2021

Quahog Landings by Tagging Area

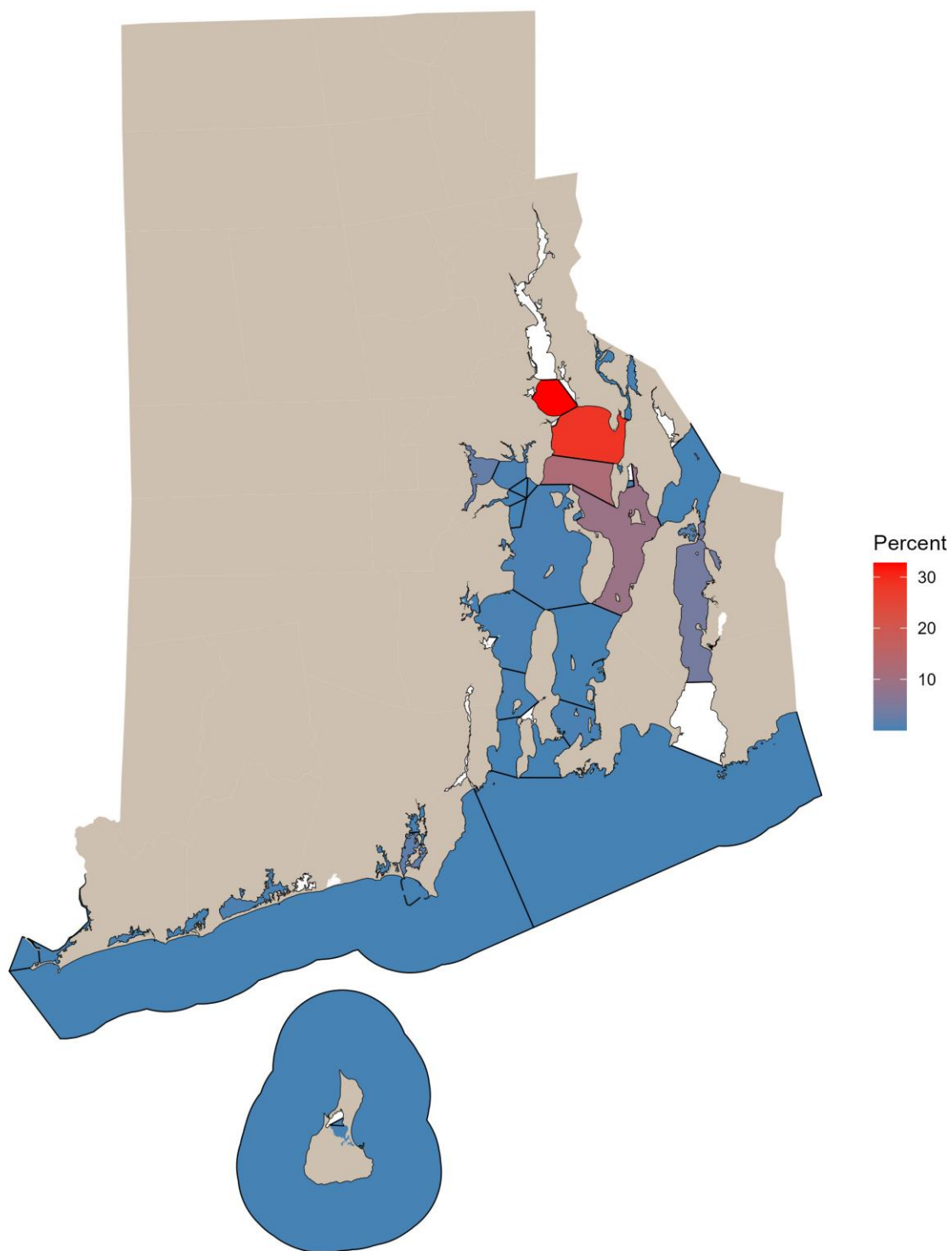


FIGURE 28. PERCENT OF 2021 LANDINGS OF QUAHOGS BY TAGGING AREA. NOTE THAT THESE AREAS WERE MODIFIED IN 2021 AND WILL BE DIFFERENT TAGGING AREAS FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT. TAGGING AREAS ARE OUTLINED IN BLACK. A WHITE POLYGON WITHIN A TAGGING AREA INDICATES THAT IT WAS CLOSED FOR HARVEST OR NO HARVEST OCCURED.

Whelk (Channeled & Knobbed) Landings by Tagging Area

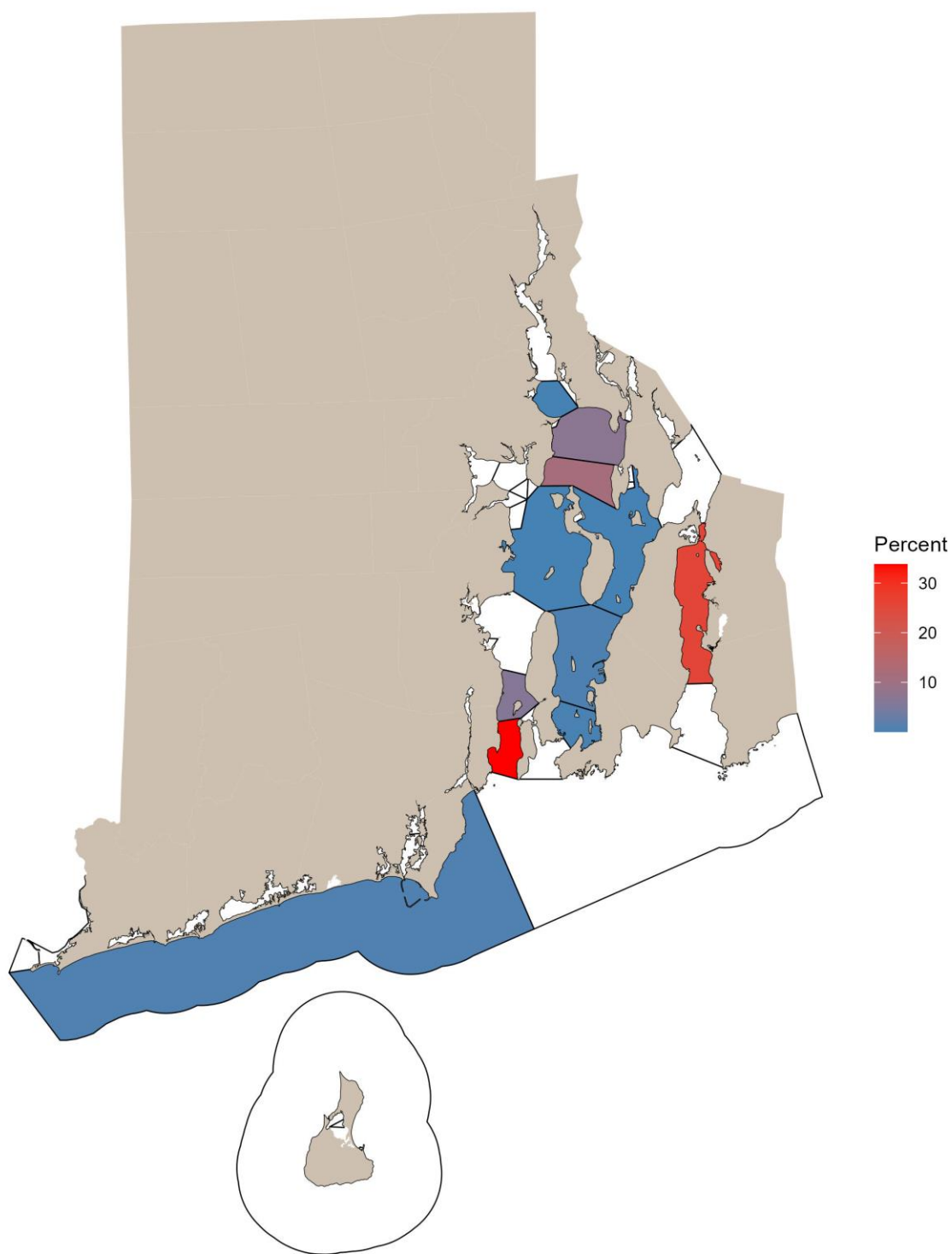


FIGURE 29. PERCENT OF 2021 LANDINGS OF WHELK (COMBINED CHANNELED AND KNOBBED) BY TAGGING AREA. NOTE THAT THESE AREAS WERE MODIFIED IN 2021 AND WILL BE DIFFERENT TAGGING AREAS FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT. TAGGING AREAS ARE OUTLINED IN BLACK. A WHITE POLYGON WITHIN A TAGGING AREA INDICATES THAT EITHER NO HARVEST OCCURRED WITHIN THIS TAGGING AREA, OR THE DATA DID NOT MEET THE ACCSP RULE OF THREE AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE DISCLOSED PUBLICALLY.

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 and squid.

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. After the emergency regulation expired, the license was codified in regulation in 2021. In 2021, 18 direct sale dealer licenses were issued to RI residents.

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

Rhode Island Commercial Fishing Licenses Issued by Type

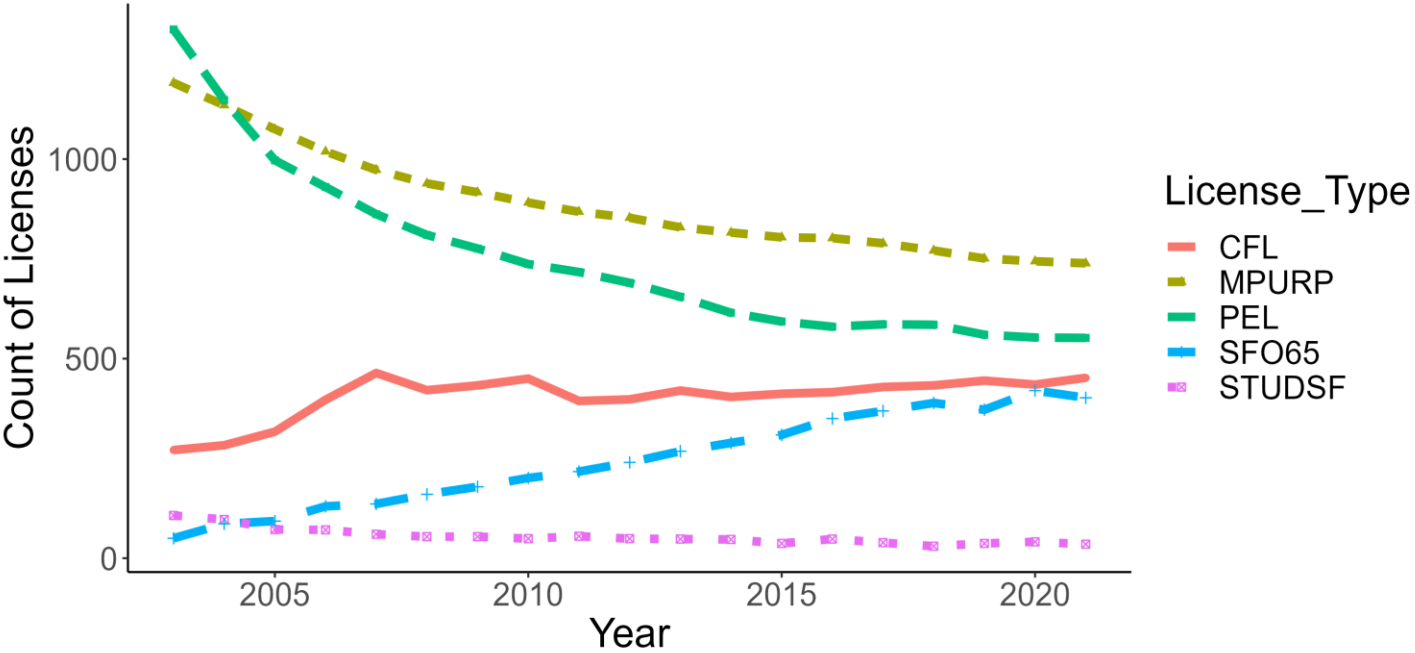


FIGURE 30. COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES BY YEAR FROM 2003 TO 2021

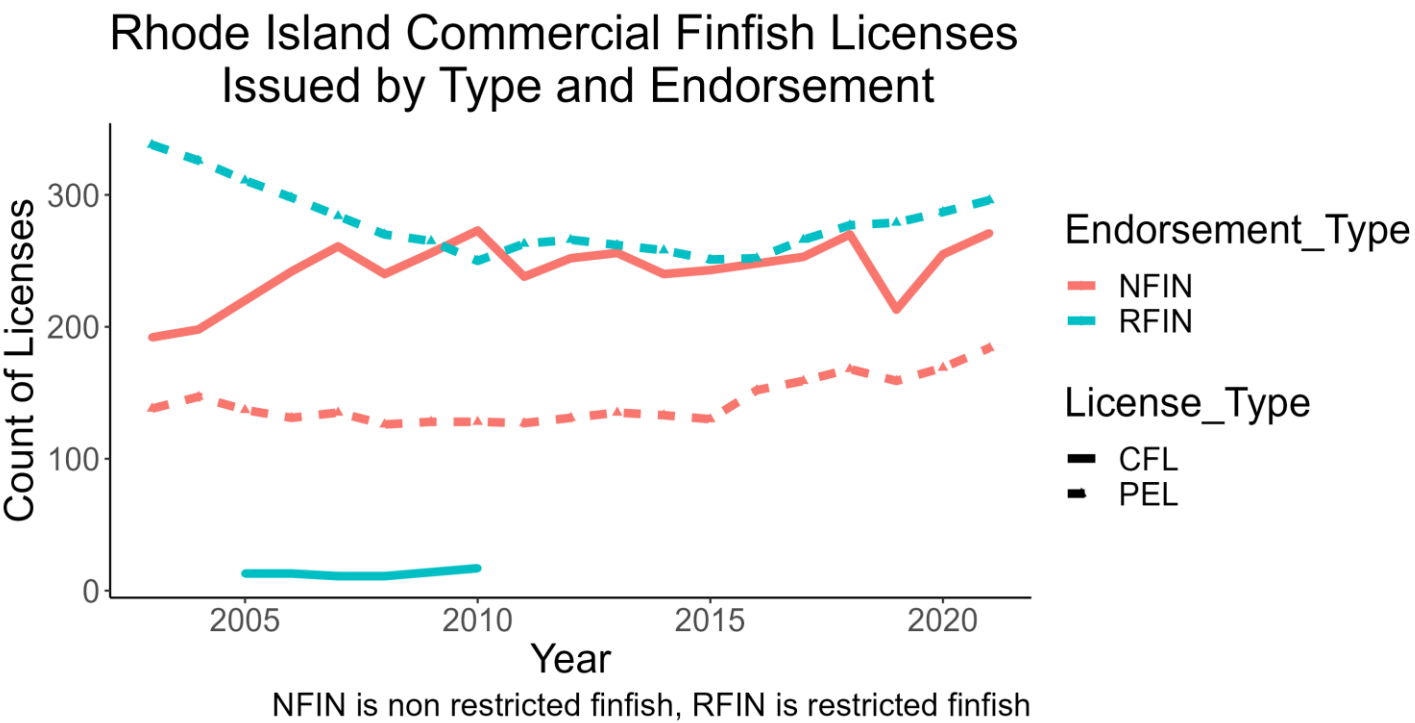


FIGURE 31. FINFISH LICENSES AND ENDORSEMENTS FROM 2003 TO 2021

Rhode Island Commercial Crustacean Licenses Issued by Type and Endorsement

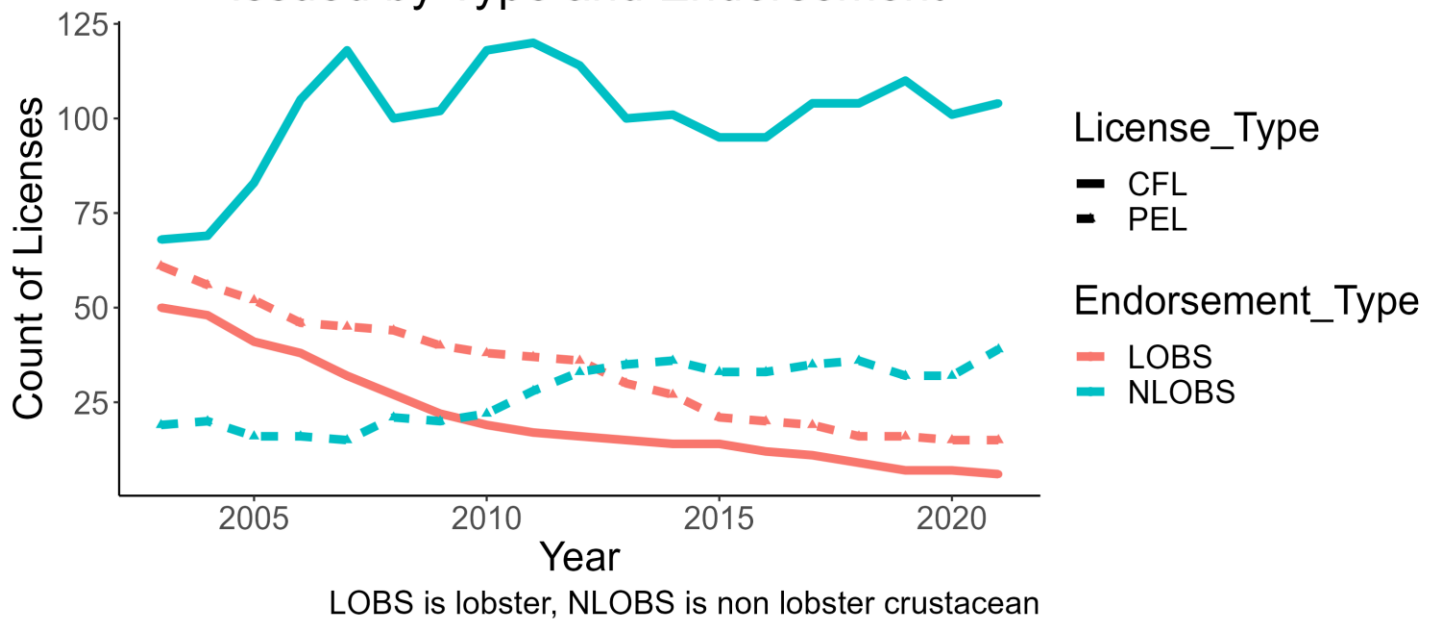


FIGURE 32. CRUSTACEAN LICENSES AND ENDORSEMENTS FROM 2003 TO 2021

Rhode Island Commercial Shellfish Licenses Issued by Type and Endorsement

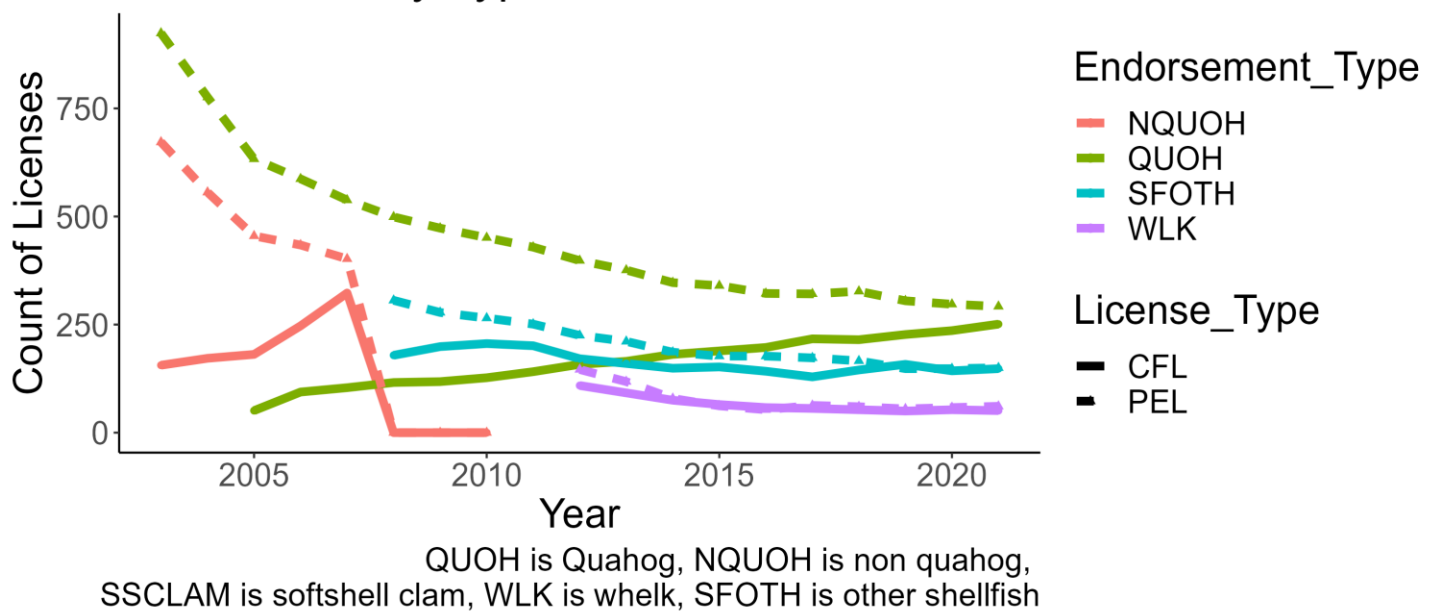


FIGURE 33. SHELLFISH LICENSES AND ENDORSEMENTS FROM 2003 TO 2021

Rhode Island Commercial Dockside Sales Endorsement Issued by License Type

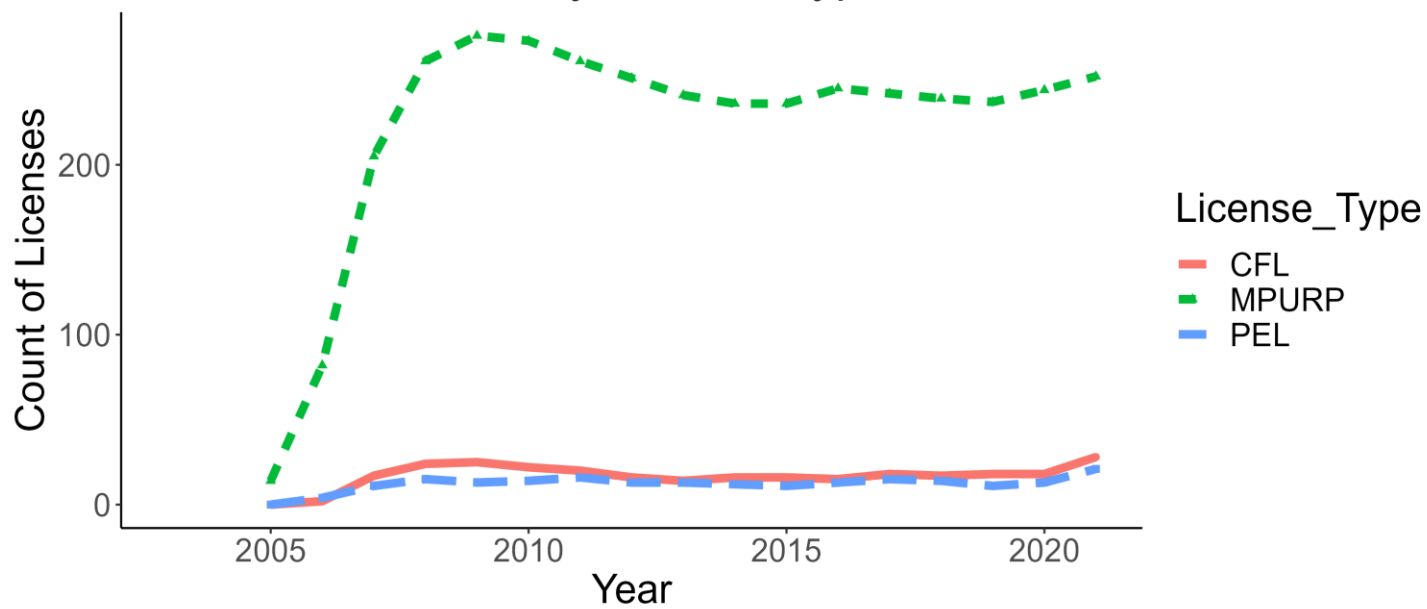


FIGURE 34. NUMBER OF DOCKSIDE SALES ENDORSEMENTS BY LICENSE TYPE FROM 2005 TO 2021

Number of Commercial Fishing Licenses Issued by Municipality

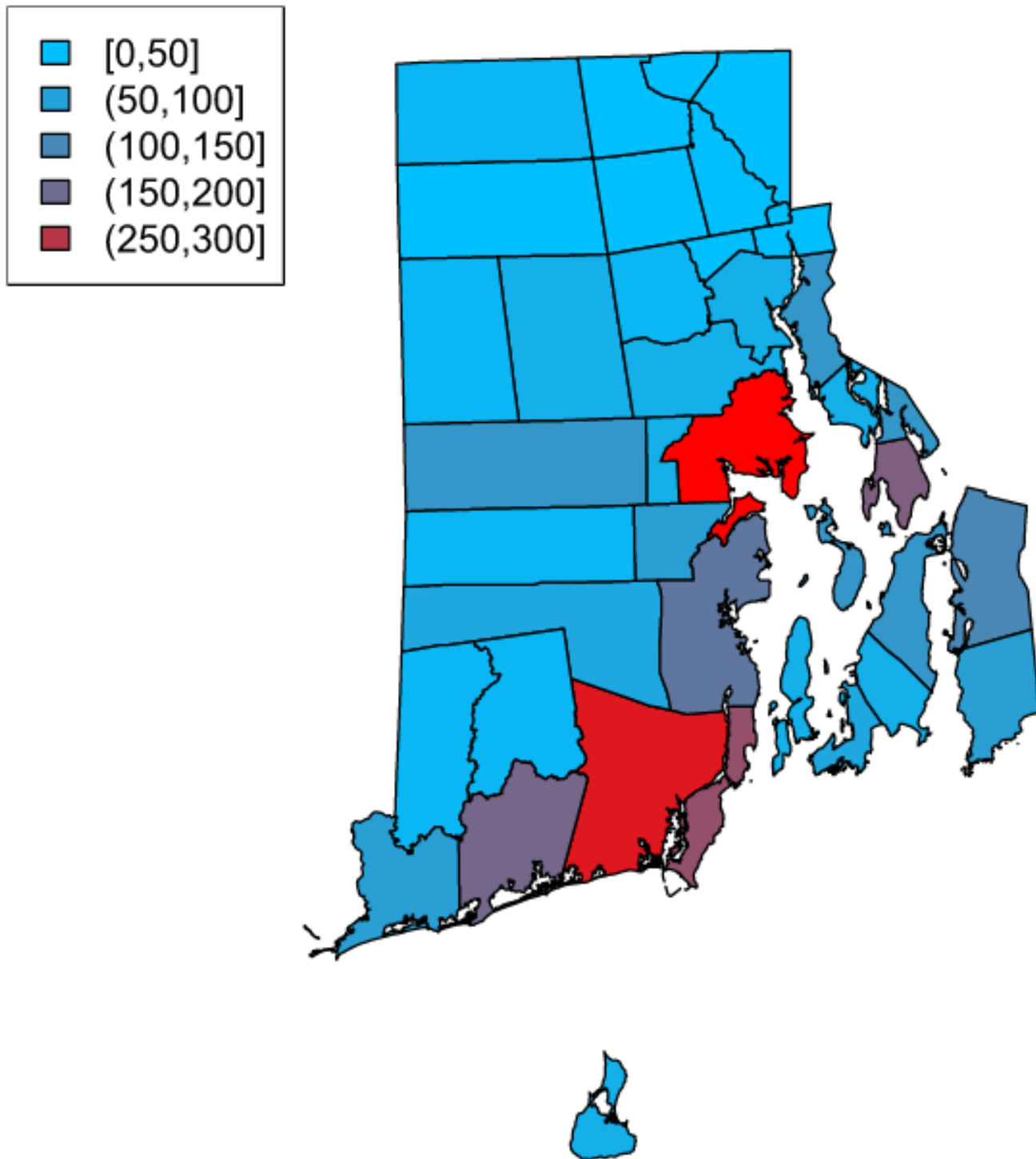


FIGURE 35. BREAKDOWN OF THE LICENSES ISSUED BY RI MUNICIPALITY IN 2021. THE MAJORITY OF FISHING LICENSES (90+%) ARE ISSUED TO RI RESIDENTS.

RI has a diverse fleet. A general fleet characterization can be developed utilizing state catch and effort logbooks and federal vessel trip 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 hail weight by gear type.

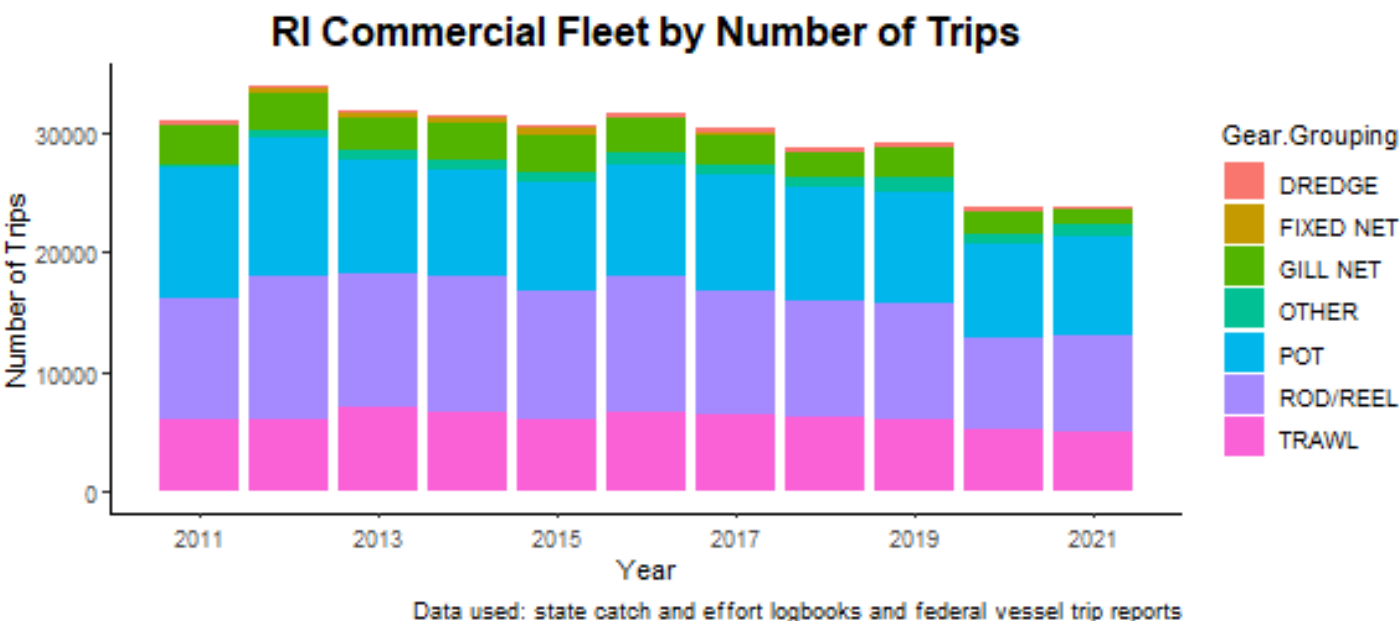


FIGURE 36. COMMERCIAL TRIPS BY GEAR FROM 2011 TO 2021

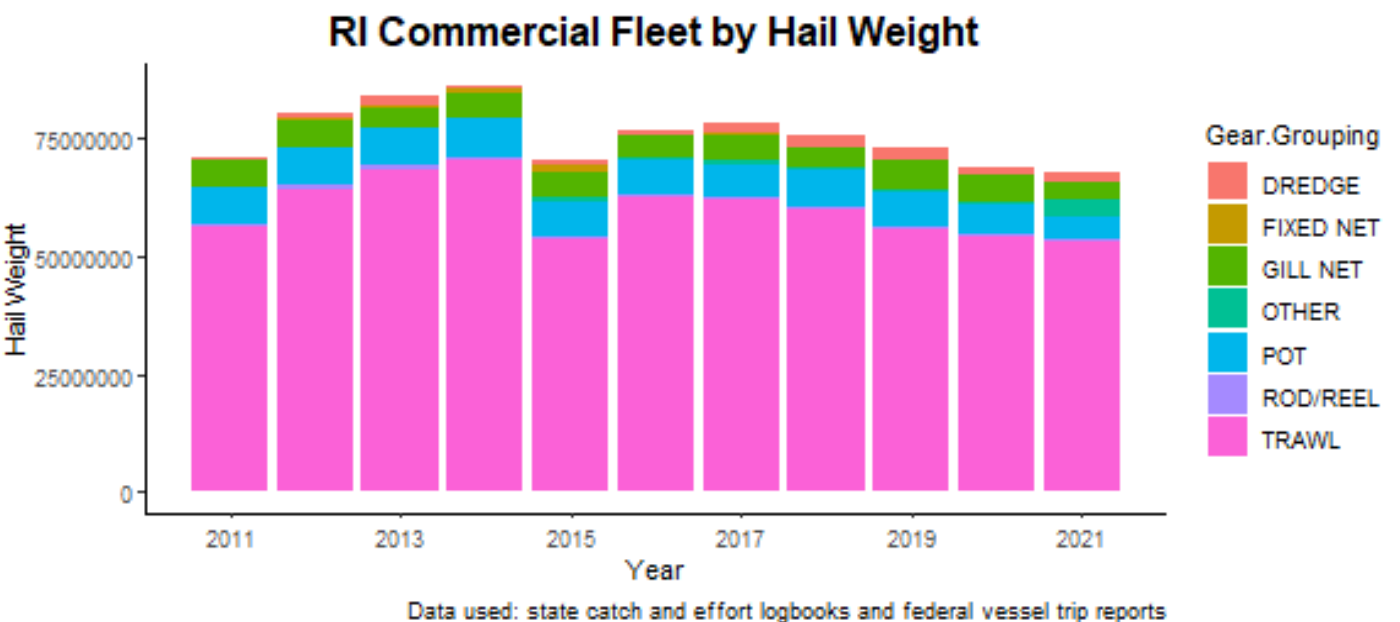


FIGURE 37. COMMERCIAL CATCH (HAIL WEIGHT) BY GEAR FROM 2011 TO 2021

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	2021
AMBERJACKS		7	8	3	4
BASS, BLACK SEA	544	509	527	481	473
BASS, STRIPED	286	269	268	231	234
BLUEFISH	340	280	334	302	292
BONITO, ATLANTIC	53	47	75	60	41
BUTTERFISH	146	141	131	122	115
BUTTERFISH, GULF		7			
CLAM, QUAHOG, NORTHERN	540	538	548	502	520
CLAM, SOFT	35	31	23	25	22
COBIA	5	8	9	4	8
COD, ATLANTIC	107	87	84	113	95
CONCHS	13	9	14	6	12
CRAB, GREEN				4	7
CRAB, HORSESHOE	18	19	12	15	9
CRAB, JONAH	72	64	62	57	63
CRAB, ROCK, ATLANTIC	20	26	26	26	21
CRABS, BLUE			3	3	
CUNNER	54	51	51	32	40
DOLPHINFISH	11	10	17	7	21
DORY, AMERICAN JOHN	77	63	51	54	48
DRUM, BLACK			3		
DRUMS			4		
EEL, AMERICAN	5	3	6	6	7
EEL, CONGER	159	156	133	111	96
ESCOLAR					3
FLOUNDER, AMERICAN PLAICE	3	7	3		
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	503	495	483	409	425
FLOUNDER, WINDOWPANE	11	5	7	3	
FLOUNDER, WINTER	116	103	88	80	61
FLOUNDER, WITCH	21	15	10	13	7
FLOUNDER, YELLOWTAIL	54	39	24	22	13
GOOSEFISH	174	175	158	137	120
HADDOCK		25	22	7	
HAKE, OFFSHORE			3		3
HAKE, RED	119	116	109	88	81
HAKE, SILVER	122	123	120	116	97
HAKE, WHITE	11	5	4	7	
HAKES, RED AND WHITE	8	8	5	4	4
HAKES, SILVER AND OFFSHORE		5			
HALIBUT, ATLANTIC		3		4	

HERRING, SEA, ATLANTIC	30	27	26	22	25
KINGFISH, NORTHERN		6	4	5	5
KINGFISHES	65	68	70	61	48
LOBSTER, AMERICAN	134	122	116	115	109
MACKEREL, ATLANTIC	90	103	104	101	99
MACKEREL, ATLANTIC CHUB		3	6	9	11
MACKEREL, KING	5				
MACKEREL, SPANISH	6	7	6	9	5
MENHADENS	11	8	6	12	18
OYSTER, EASTERN	14	16	13	35	35
POLLOCK	9	8	10	3	7
PUFFER, NORTHERN		4			
RAVEN, SEA	5			3	
REDFISH, ACADIAN	10	13	26	14	7
ROUGHY, BIG					4
SCALLOP, SEA	56	56	49	39	38
SCUP	440	434	434	365	398
SEAROBIN, NORTHERN			4		3
SEAROBINS	103	87	82	32	21
SEATROUT, WEAKFISH	112	114	93	93	99
SHAD, HICKORY	6	9	6	4	3
SHARK, DOGFISH, SMOOTH	39	33	31	30	24
SHARK, DOGFISH, SPINY	48	36	38	29	26
SHARK, MAKO, SHORTFIN				5	6
SHARK, THRESHER			3	4	4
SHRIMPS, MANTIS	4	5	8	8	8
SKATE, BARNDOR		4	13	12	11
SKATE, CLEARNOSE		4			
SKATE, LITTLE	42	41	37	33	32
SKATE, SMOOTH	4	4	3	3	6
SKATE, WINTER	130	126	124	104	100
SKATES, RAJIDAE (FAMILY)	27	25	18	9	4
SPOT			5		
SQUID, LONGFIN LOLIGO	162	165	149	131	138
SQUID, SHORTFIN ILLEX	21	27	29	18	25
SWORDFISH	5	4	9	20	23
TAUTOG	250	243	250	204	226
TILEFISH, BLUELINE	30	19	22	12	12
TILEFISH, GOLDEN	79	86	64	65	70
TRIGGERFISH, GRAY				3	4
TRIGGERFISHES	117	113	80	62	119
TUNA, ALBACORE	5		3	10	12
TUNA, BIGEYE	4	11	11	17	22
TUNA, BLUEFIN	4	12	7	27	40

TUNA, LITTLE TUNNY	27	24	23	20	22
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	8	11	12	20	31
WAHOO				5	
WHELK, CHANNELED	94	105	103	87	82
WHELK, KNOBBED	54	58	46	40	31

PORTS

The RIDEM Berthing and Land Management System started tracking berthing information in 2021. In 2021, a total of 355 vessels were accounted for within this system. The information below was prepared by the RIDEM Office of Coastal Resources.

TABLE 3. VESSEL BERTHING STATUS

Status	Number of Vessels
Permanent	218
Temporary	137

TABLE 4. VESSEL LOCATION

Port	Number of Vessels
Galilee	311
Newport	44

TABLE 5. VESSEL CLASS

Vessel Class	Number of Vessels
Charter	42
Commercial	305
Party/Head Boat	5
Sport Fishing	3

TABLE 6. COMPARISON OF IN-STATE VS OUT-OF-STATE VESSELS

Vessel Origin	Number of Vessels
RI	247
CT	3
FL	7
MA	15
ME	5
NC	6
NH	1
NJ	52
NY	11
SC	1
VA	7

TABLE 7. NUMBER OF TEMPORARY VESSELS PER SEASON.

Month	Number of Vessels
January	18
February	21
March	18
April	25
May	33
June	37
July	38
August	33
September	35
October	26
November	30
December	12

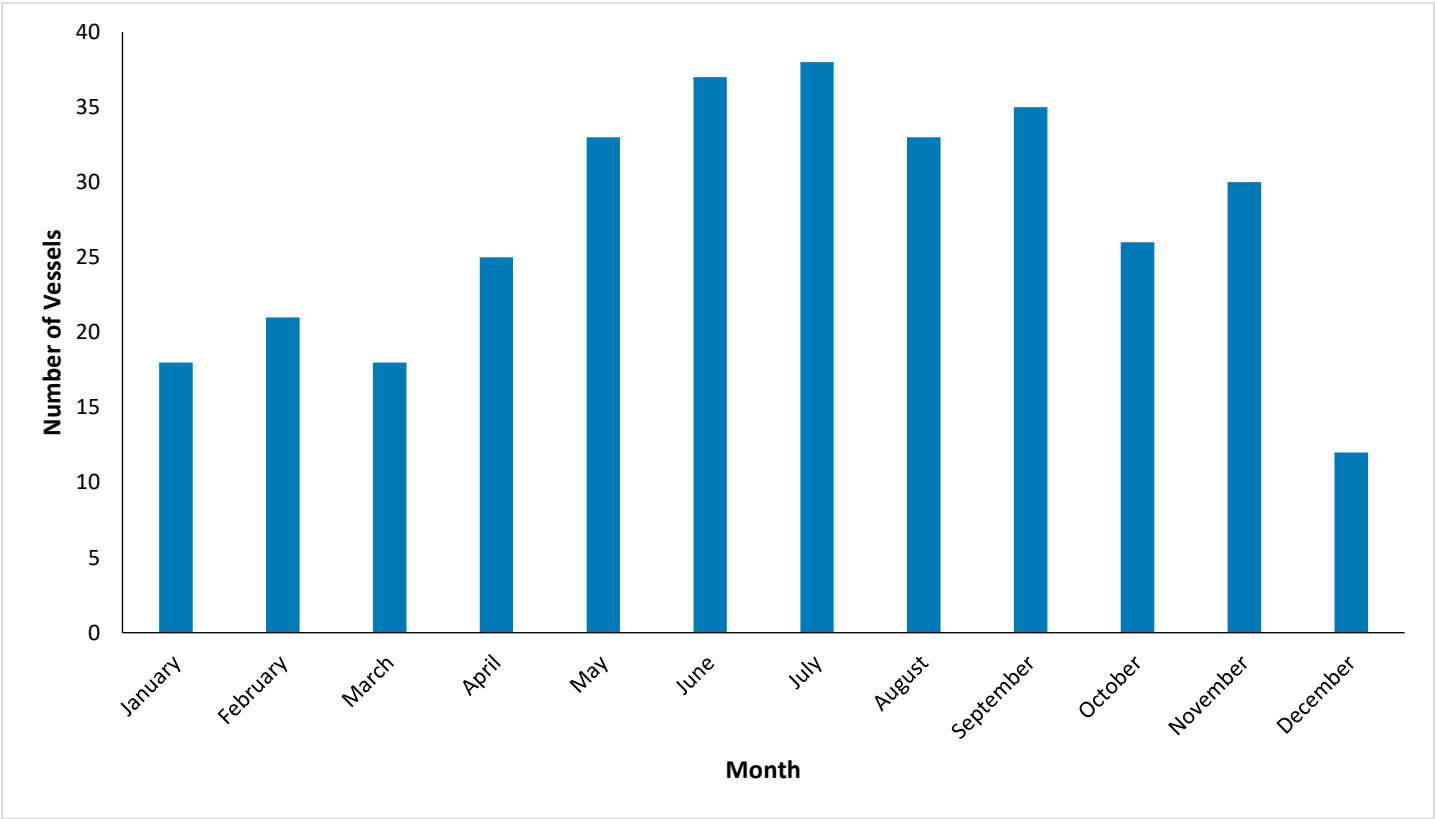


FIGURE 38. NUMBER OF TEMPORARY VESSELS PER SEASON

The primary ports by value of species landed are Point Judith, Wickford, and Newport. Data on landings were acquired through the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System.

TABLE 8. 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	2021 Dollars (\$)	Pounds	Percent of Total State Landings by Value
Barrington	-	-	-
Bristol	\$1,003,386.68	1,532,789.32	0.98%
Bristol (County)	\$1,098,001.24	3,572,203.88	1.07%
Charlestown	-	-	-
Davisville (community)	-	-	-
East Greenwich	-	-	-
Jamestown	\$86,989.79	31,850.00	0.08%
Little Compton	\$2,483,433.47	2,130,087.50	2.42%
Melville	-	-	-
Middletown	-	-	-
Narragansett (census name Narragansett Pier)	-	-	-
New Shoreham	\$46,412.12	14,023.80	0.05%
Newport	\$6,378,573.99	6,029,861.25	6.22%
Newport (County)(in PMSA 2480,6480)	\$10,429.75	9,401.00	0.01%
North Kingstown (local name Wickford)	\$14,131,845.58	18,884,680.12	13.77%
Point Judith	\$71,079,310.18	43,916,202.97	69.27%
Portsmouth	\$425,457.10	136,212.00	0.41%
Providence	-	-	-
Rhode Island (State)	\$2,975,244.70	180,987.00	2.90%
South Kingstown (Town of)	\$218,454.65	76,813.67	0.21%
Tiverton	\$808,329.67	463,196.60	0.79%
UNKNOWN	-	-	-
Wakefield	-	-	-
Warren	\$66,966.25	12,109.00	0.07%
Warwick	-	-	-
Warwick (RR name Apponaug)	\$1,695,416.67	5,609,852.46	1.65%

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. Scup were harvested in the largest number in 2021, followed by black sea bass, tautog, striped bass, bluefish, and summer flounder (Figure 39). Atlantic cod and winter flounder were caught in very limited numbers. Since 1980, the catch of recreational Atlantic cod (Figure 40) and winter flounder (Figure 50) have declined dramatically, while black sea bass catch has increased substantially (Figure 41). In the same timeframe, scup and tautog catch have fluctuated, but trended toward a slight increase overall (Figure 44 and 48, respectively). Tautog saw an uptick in catch in 2021 (Figure 48). Bluefish has also fluctuated, trending toward a decline in catch (Figure 43). Striped bass catch in 2021 was higher than any previous year in the time series (Figure 47). Recreational catch of tunas has changed dramatically year to year (Figure 49).

Recreational licenses in 2021 (51,512) declined slightly from 2020 (57,545), equating to a 10.5% reduction in licenses in 2021. It is worth noting that recreational licenses in 2020 had increased from 2019, as there was a major uptick in recreational fishing activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021 still saw more licenses issued than in years prior to the pandemic.

Between 2020 and 2021, catch of species of interest also changed dramatically for certain species (Table 9). Tautog harvest increased by 145%, bluefin tuna catch increased 732%, striped bass increased 129%, and winter flounder increased 3,920% (this large percentage is driven by how small the winter flounder catch is and by the large uncertainty associated with the MRIP estimate for this species). Blue shark, bluefish, little tunny, spiny dogfish, and summer flounder all saw declines in catch: 46%, 28%, 60%, 79%, and 42%, respectively.

HARVEST

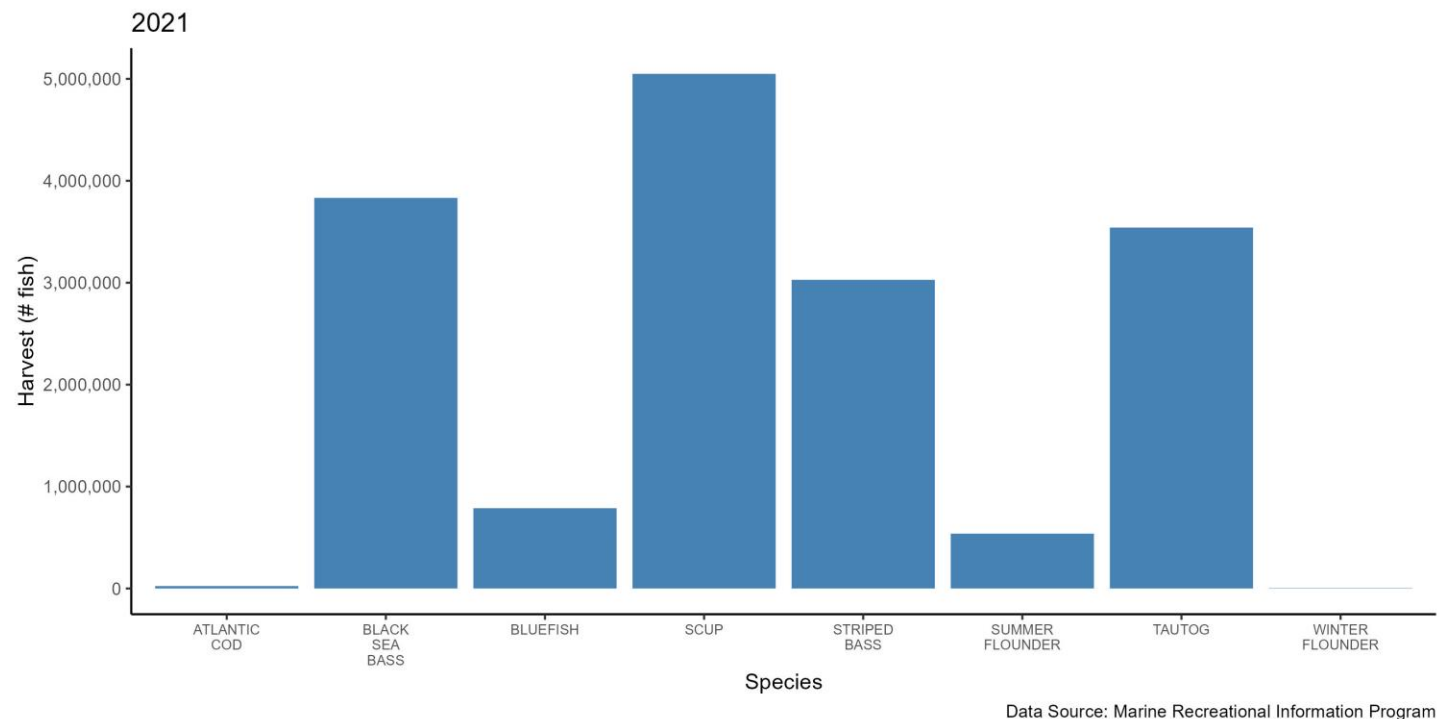


FIGURE 39. 2021 RECREATIONAL CATCH OF RI SPECIES OF INTEREST

TABLE 9. CHANGE IN CATCH (NUMBERS OF FISH) FROM 2020 TO 2021 FOR SPECIES OF INTEREST. DATA SOURCE: MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

Species	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	Percent Change
ATLANTIC COD	18,983	24,019	26.53
BLACK SEA BASS	3,689,416	3,832,372	3.87
BLUE SHARK	744	400	-46.24
BLUEFIN TUNA	1,548	12,885	732.36
BLUEFISH	1,089,449	788,025	-27.67
LITTLE TUNNY	89,839	36,222	-59.68
SCUP	2,884,837	5,049,350	75.03
SHORTFIN MAKO	360	427	18.61
SPINY DOGFISH	48,766	10,200	-79.08
STRIPED BASS	1,322,347	3,028,456	129.02
SUMMER FLOUNDER	930,296	538,234	-42.14
TAUTOG	1,446,064	3,541,149	144.88
WINTER FLOUNDER	95	3819	3920.00

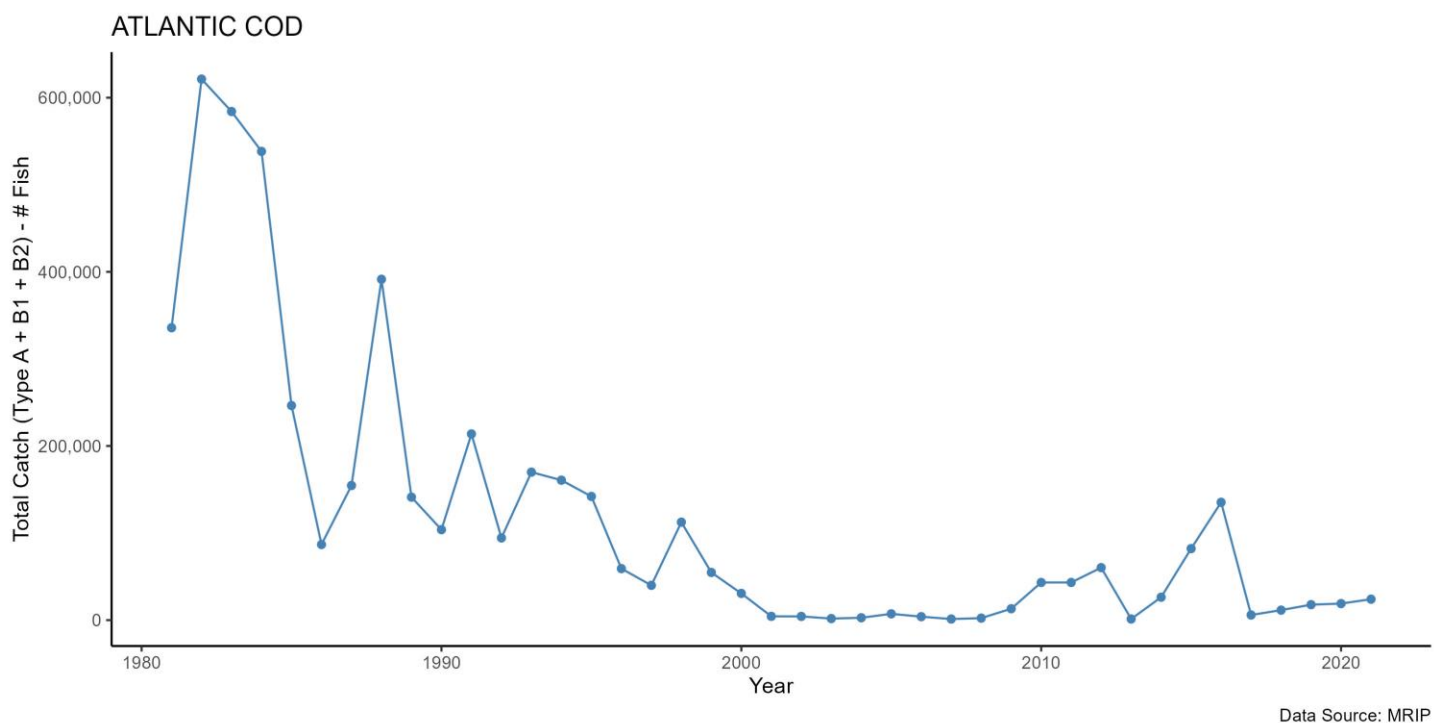


FIGURE 40. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF ATLANTIC COD FROM 1980 TO 2021

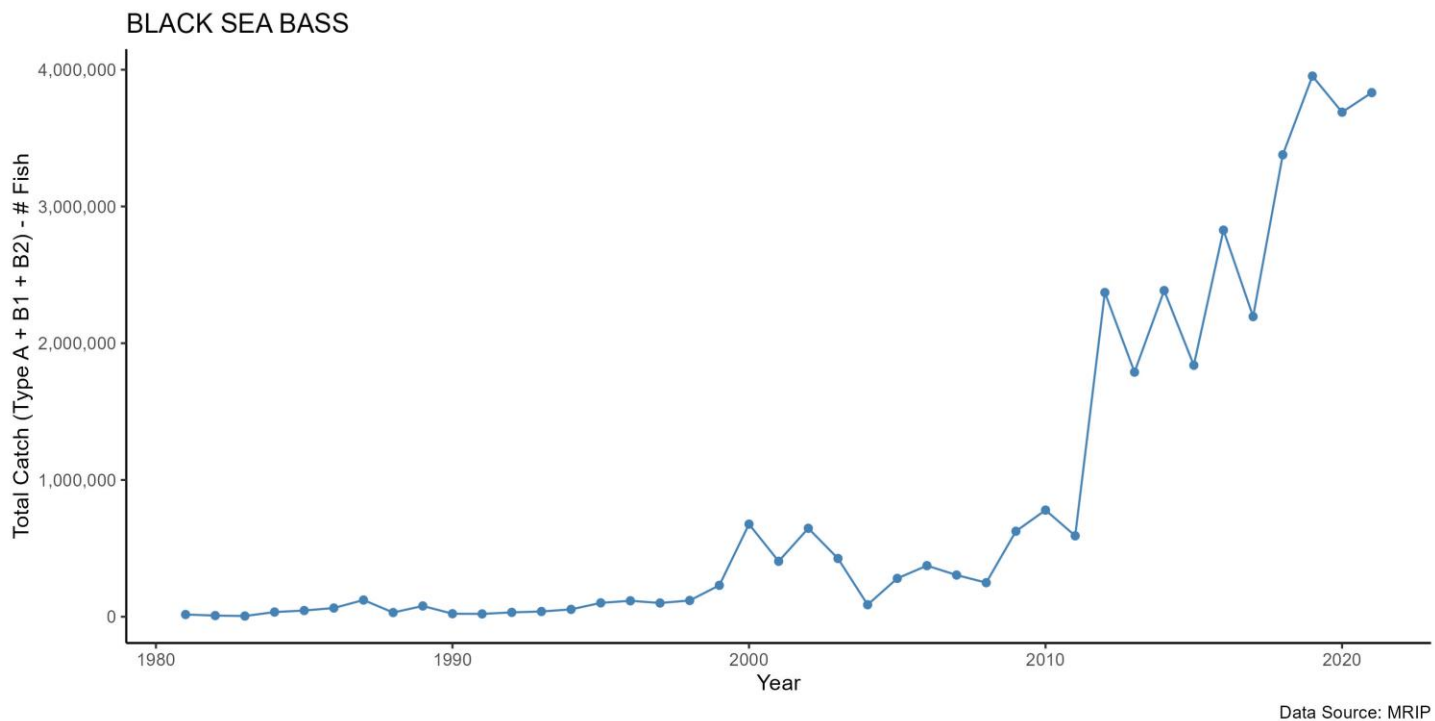


FIGURE 41. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF BLACK SEA BASS FROM 1980 TO 2021

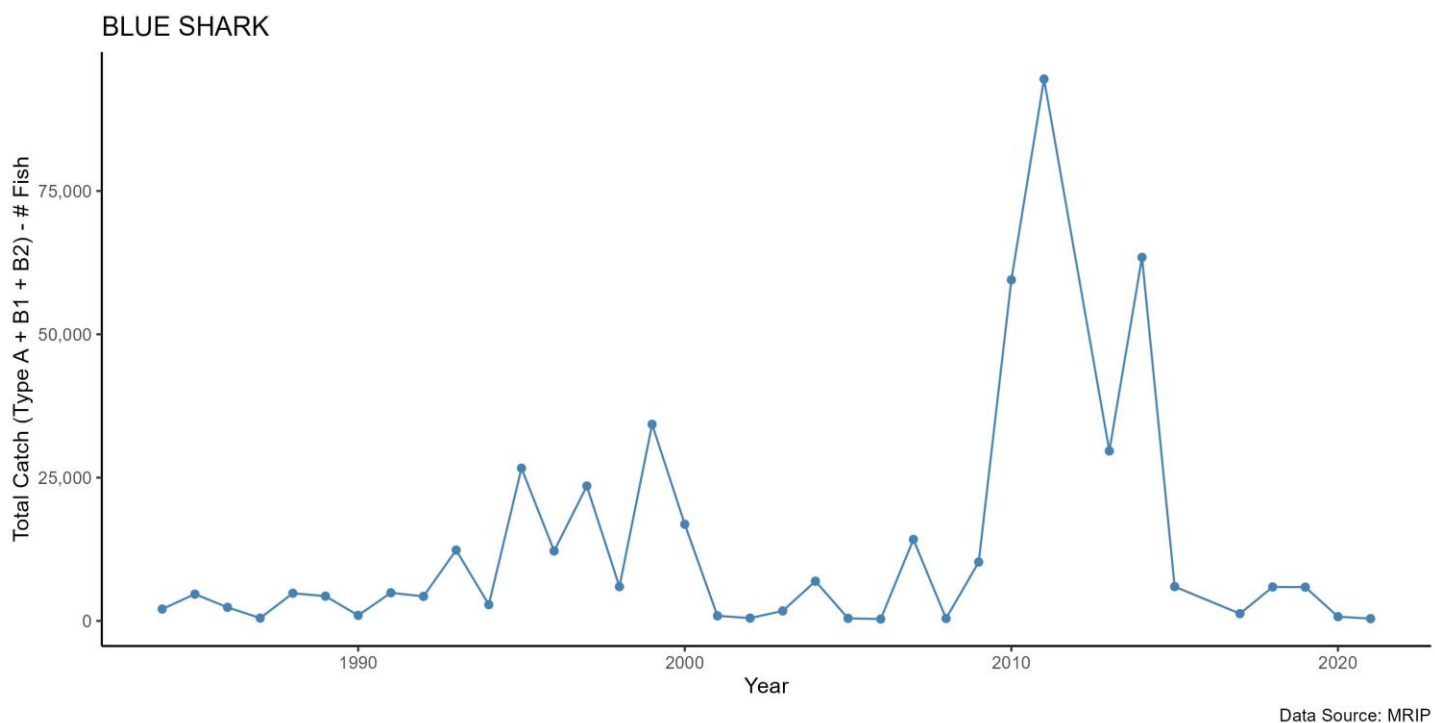


FIGURE 42. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF BLUE SHARK FROM 1980 TO 2021

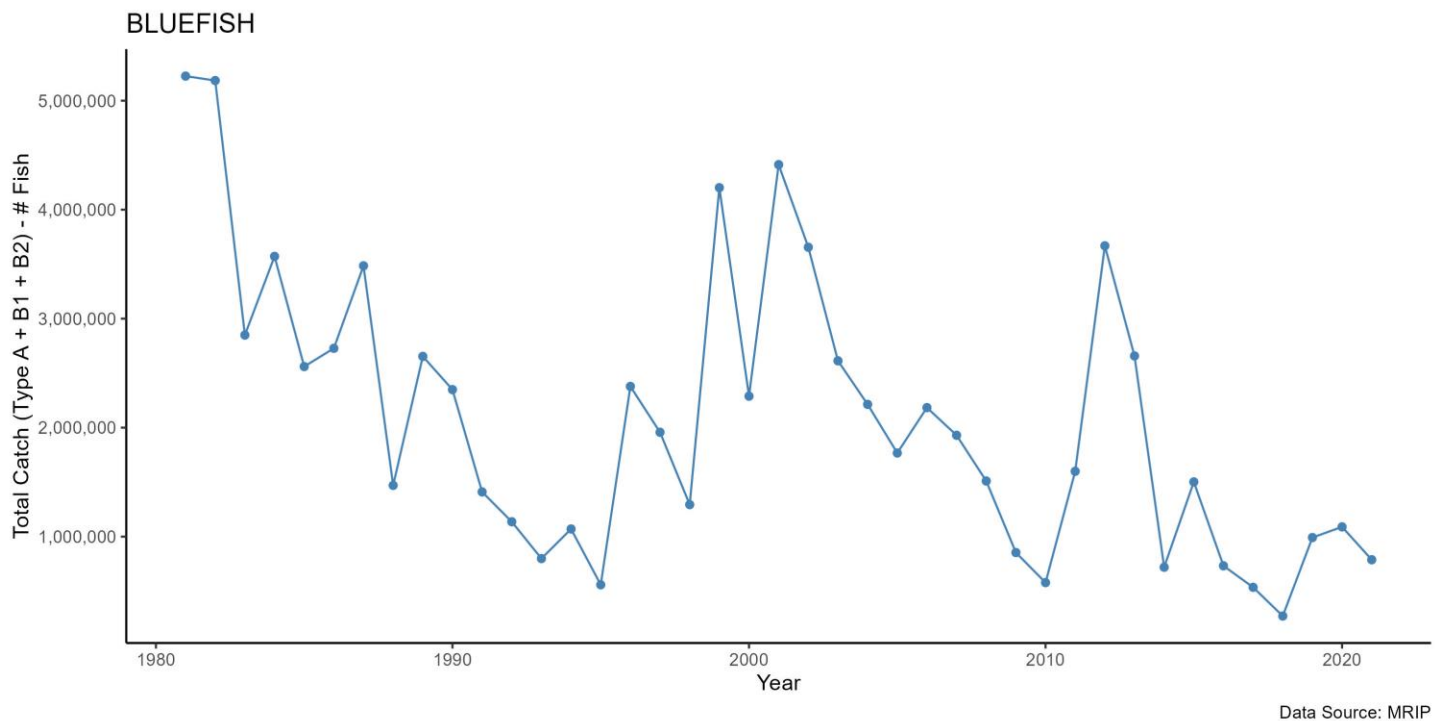


FIGURE 43. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF BLUEFISH FROM 1980 TO 2021

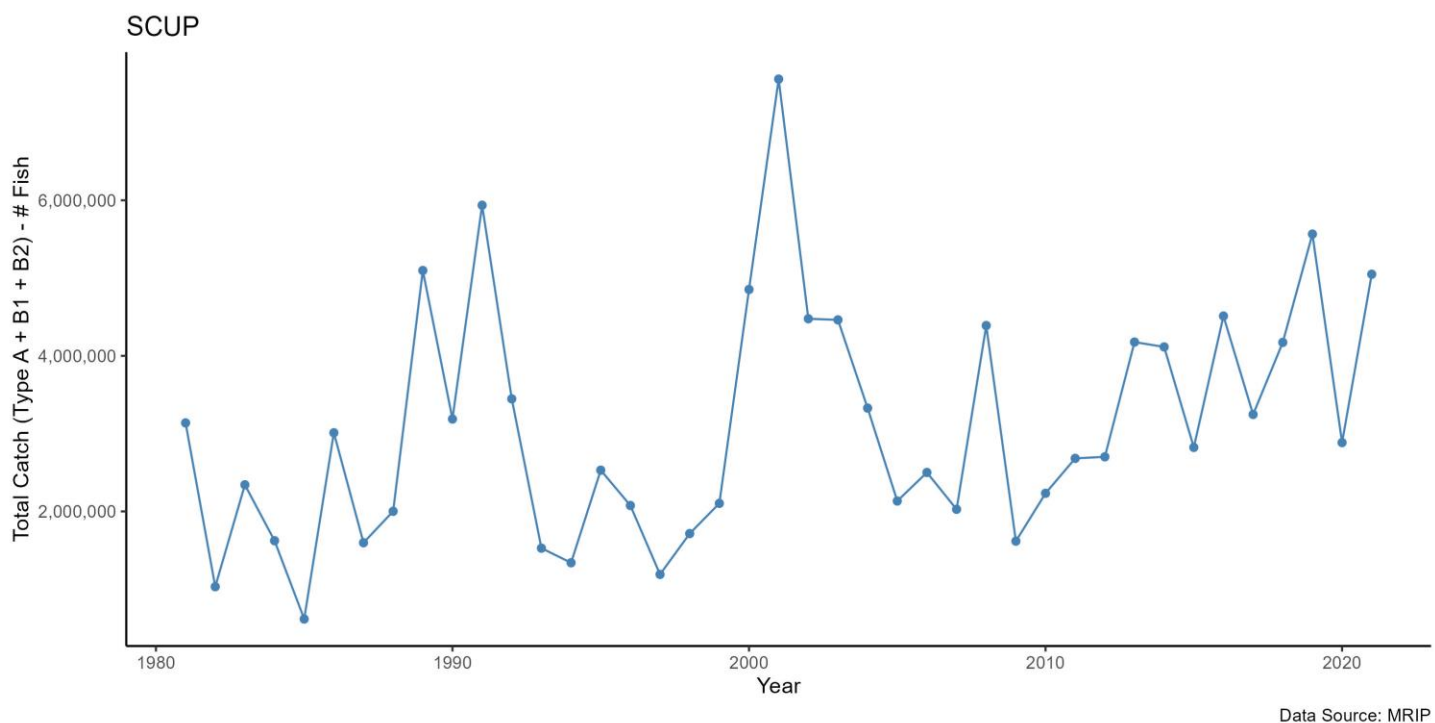


FIGURE 44. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF SCUP FROM 1980 TO 2021

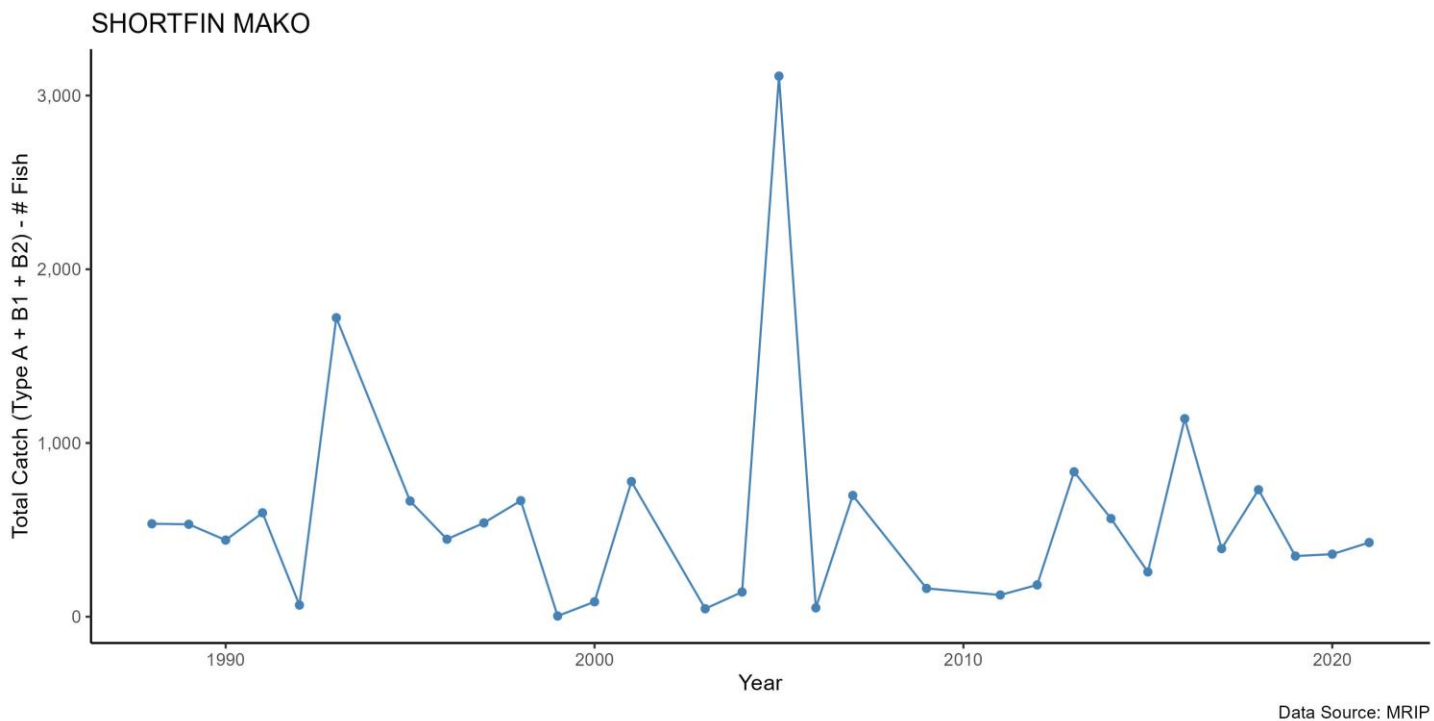


FIGURE 45. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF SHORTFIN MAKO FROM 1980 TO 2021

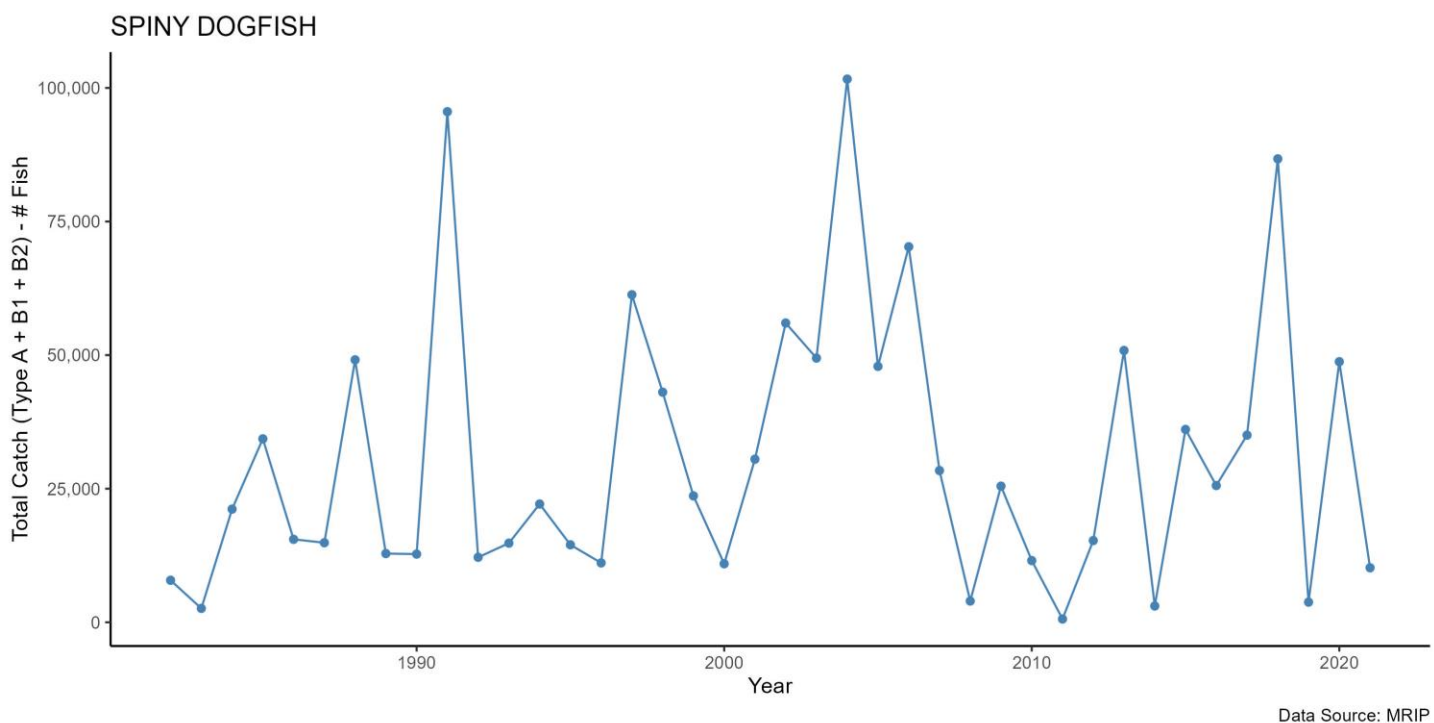


FIGURE 46. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF SPINY DOGFISH FROM 1980 TO 2021

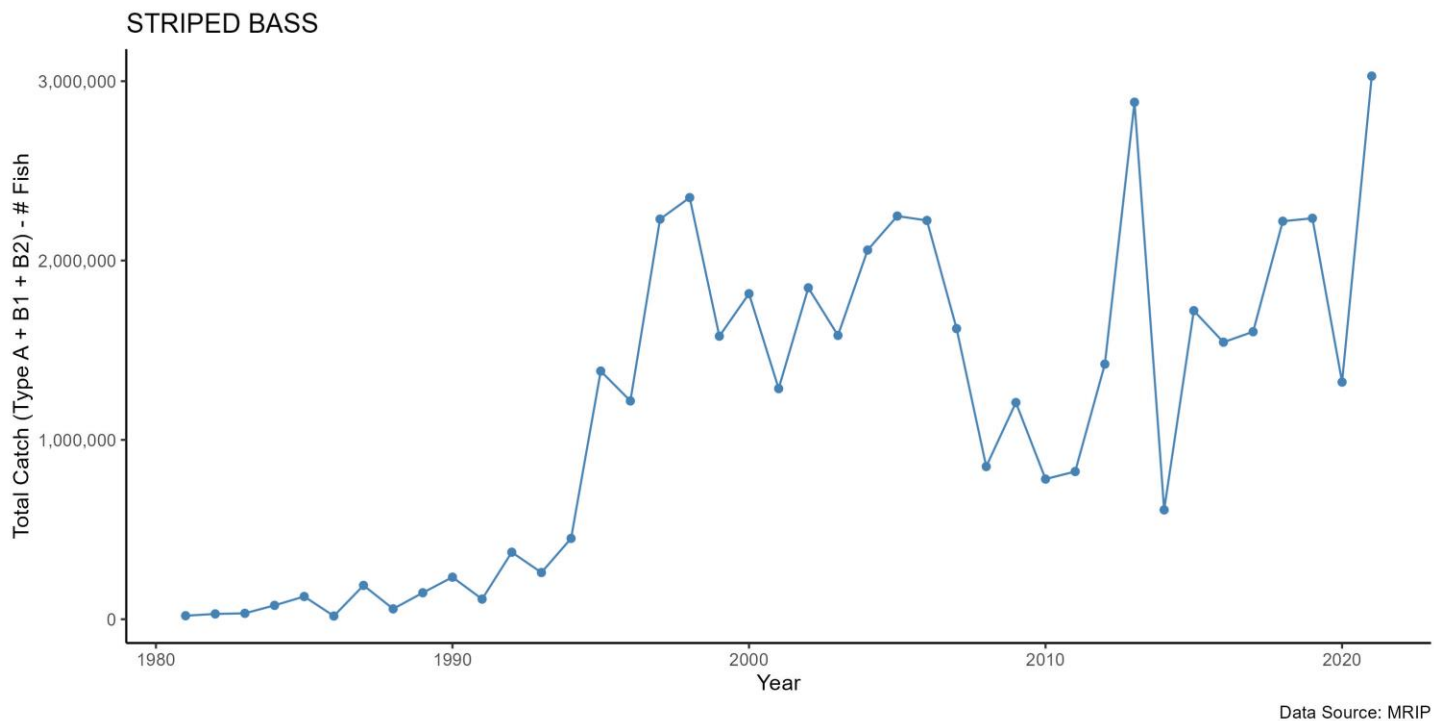


FIGURE 47. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF STRIPED BASS FROM 1980 TO 2021

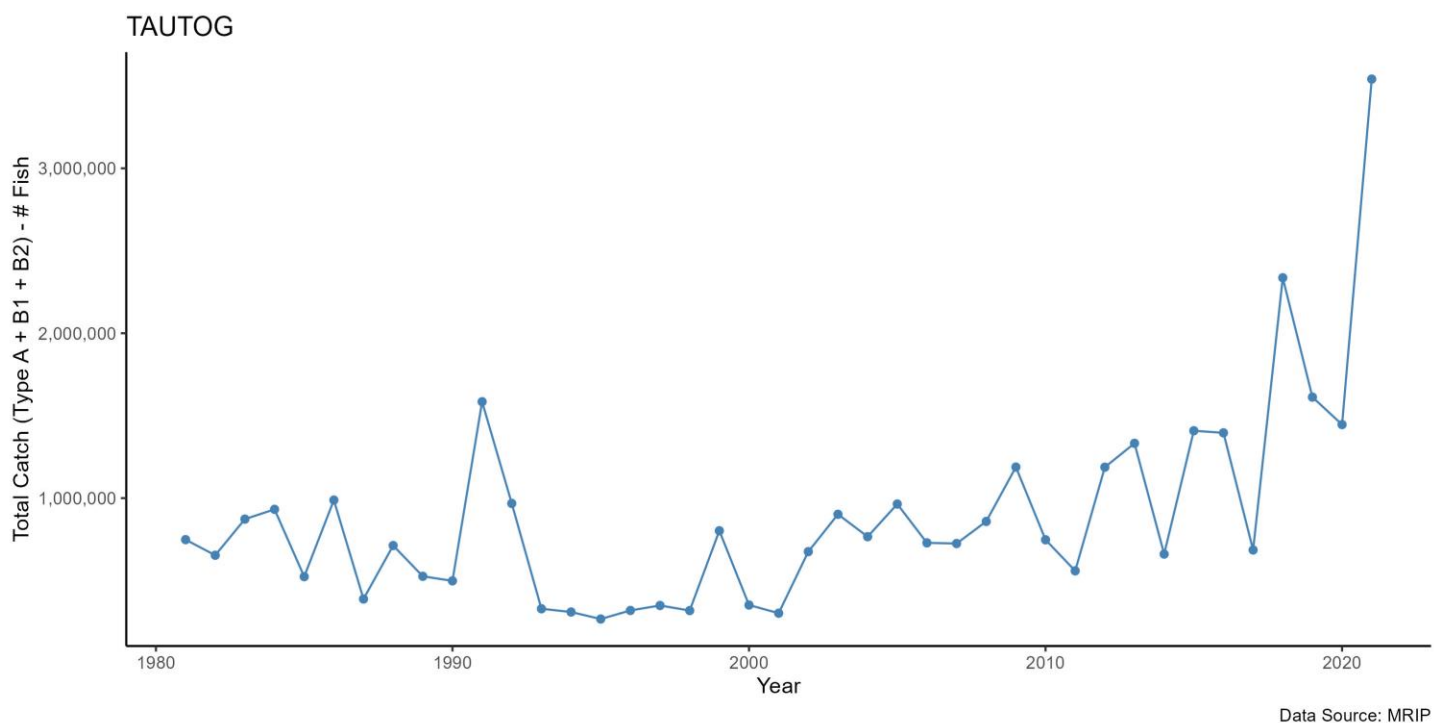


FIGURE 48. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF TAUTOG FROM 1980 TO 2021

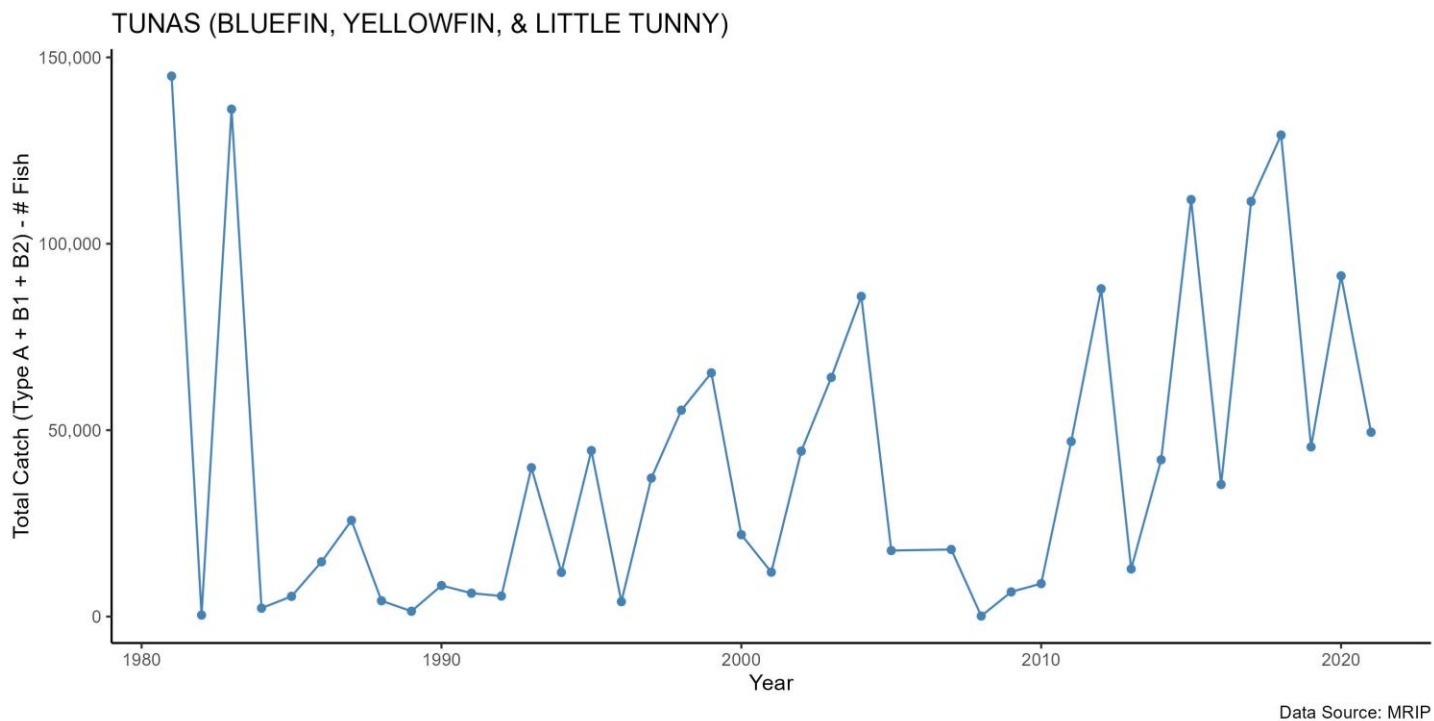


FIGURE 49. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF TUNAS FROM 1980 TO 2021

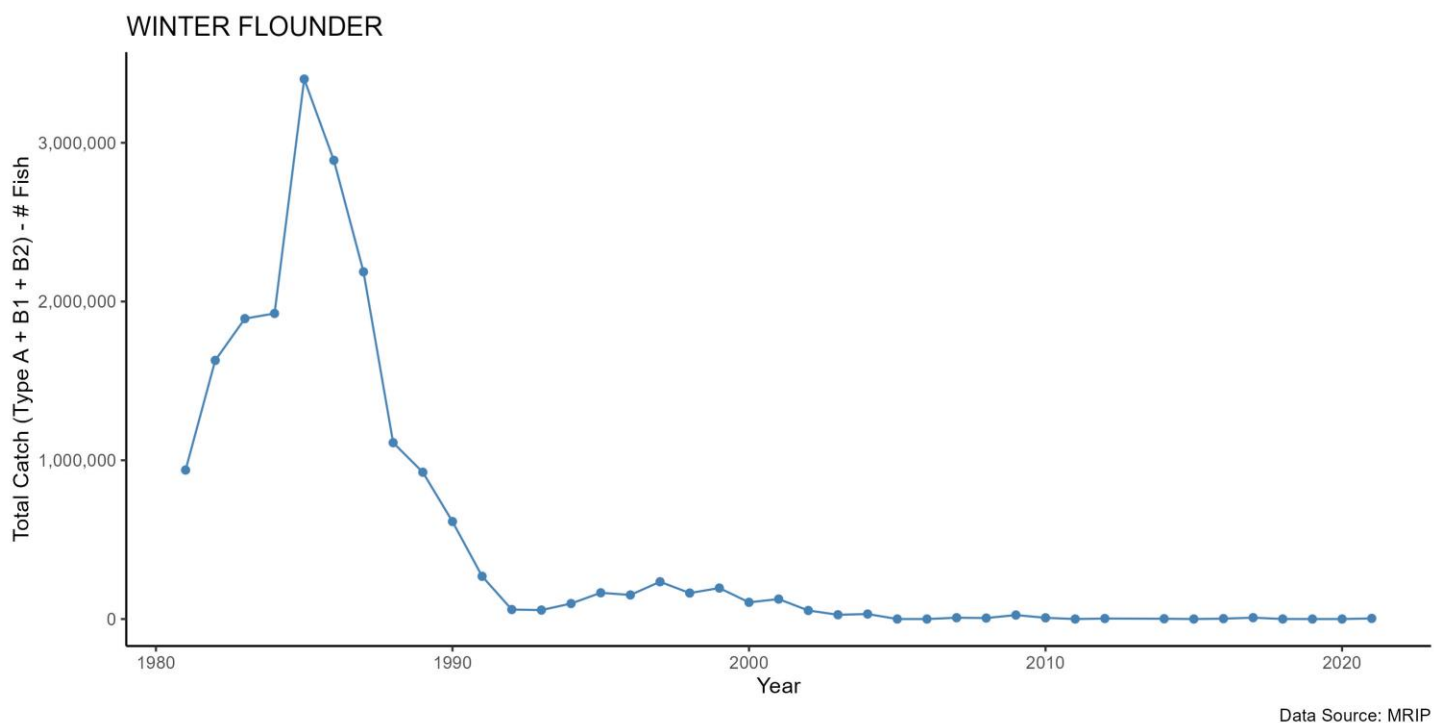


FIGURE 50. RI RECREATIONAL CATCH OF WINTER FLOUNDER FROM 1980 TO 2021

LICENSING

TABLE 10. RECREATIONAL LICENSES ISSUED BY TYPE IN 2021

Type	Number
Active Military Saltwater Fishing License	682
Non-Resident (7 Day) Saltwater Fishing License	3,410
Non-Resident Annual Saltwater Fishing License	9,593
Resident 7 Day Saltwater Fishing	179
Resident Annual Saltwater Fishing	31,639
Resident (Over 65) Saltwater Fishing License	6,009
Total	51,512

TABLE 11. VALID FOR-HIRE LICENSES. PLEASE NOTE THAT PARTY AND CHARTER LICENSES WERE A TWO-YEAR LICENSE THROUGH 2021. BOTH 2020 AND 2021 LICENSES ARE CURRENTLY VALID, MEANING THAT THERE ARE 335 VALID LICENSES IN 2021.

Year	Number of Licenses Issued
2020	267
2021	68

REFERENCES

NOAA. 2022. 2020 Fisheries of the United States. <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-05/Fisheries-of-the-United-States-2020-Report-FINAL.pdf>