

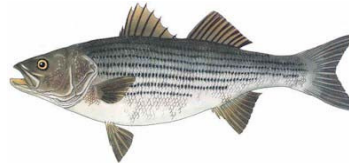


Rhode Island  
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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**Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, Striped Bass Advisory Panel Meeting  
Minutes**

January 28, 2014 – 6:00 PM  
URI/GSO Narragansett Bay Campus  
Coastal Institute Building, Large Conference Room  
South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, RI 02882

Ken Booth, Panel Chair	Alan Glidden <sup>A</sup>
Steven Anderson	Ray Jobin*
Jeff Barker	Mike Lanni*
Robert Beresford*	Joseph Macari III <sup>A</sup>
Bob Bryer	Ray Masciarelli
Edwin Cook <sup>A</sup>	Frank Pascale
Andy Dangelo*	Bart Wagner <sup>A</sup>
Jim Dzwil	Thomas Rosa, DFW Staff
Ron Enright*	Nicole Lengyel, DFW Staff

(\*Primary Advisory Panel member, <sup>A</sup>Alternate Advisory Panel member)

Ken Booth started the meeting by taking roll call of the advisory panel members and requesting we move agenda item #6 (yo-yo rigs) to item #2 because it has relevance to the 1<sup>st</sup> agenda item (stock status). Ray Jobin made a motion to change the agenda, a second was made by Andrew Dangelo, and a vote resulted in all in favor, motion passed. K. Booth stated that Nicole Lengyel of the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW or the Division) is the Division staff member for the STB AP and turned it over to N. Lengyel to start the presentation.

N. Lengyel began the presentation (see attached) by reviewing the current striped bass stock status taken from the ASMFC 2013 benchmark stock assessment which stated that the stock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring. N. Lengyel briefly discussed recruitment and the striped bass young of year (YOY) index from the Chesapeake Bay which indicated a strong year class in 2011 but a decline thereafter. N. Lengyel informed the group that according to the

stock assessment, if the current level of fishing mortality (F) is maintained through 2013-2017, there will be a high probability that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) will decline to a level beneath the threshold leading to the stock being overfished. N. Lengyel reviewed the process occurring at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) with the development of two draft addenda that will 1) set new reference points and 2) propose management options to reduce F. N. Lengyel urged anyone who had questions regarding the benchmark assessment or the process happening at ASMFC to contact her.

The next agenda item covered was the banning of yo-yo rigs in RI. N. Lengyel reviewed that this had been discussed at the 2013 AP meeting and turned into a larger mortality discussion which was referred to the RI Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC). The RIMFC thought it best to wait until the 2013 benchmark assessment had been completed to take on the issue of mortality further. N. Lengyel explained that because the yo-yo rig discussion had turned into a larger mortality discussion, it did not make sense to proceed any further until the process currently occurring at the ASMFC with the development of two draft addenda was completed.

Next, N. Lengyel reviewed the 2013 RI striped bass fishery. The 2013 floating fish trap (FFT) fishery was discussed first followed by the general category (GC) fishery. A brief discussion occurred regarding the overage that occurred in the GC in the spring. It was stated that with reporting requirements for dealers and online reporting it seems that such a large overage in the 1<sup>st</sup> sub-period should not be happening every year. N. Lengyel explained that the overage was due to 1) late dealer reporting and 2) high daily catch rates at the end of the 1st sub-period. N. Lengyel explained that dealers with poor reporting in 2013 will not be allotted as many striped bass tags in 2014 until their reporting improves. Additionally, N. Lengyel explained that with the requirement to notice 48 hrs before closing the fishery in addition to the daily catch rates increasing the last few days the fishery was open, an overage resulted. K. Booth asked about going to a one-ticket system to have more real-time reporting data. N. Lengyel explained that this was still an interest being pursued at the ACCSP. N. Lengyel reviewed the recreational landings from MRIP next. She stated that the Division recognizes that the wave 3 landings are extremely high and our Recreational Biologist Kevin Smith was looking into it further.

The 2014 FFT season and quota allocation was discussed next. It was stated that the Division was proposing that the start of the FFT season be changed from January 1 to April 1. N. Lengyel explained this was merely to assist the Division with compliance requirements they have with the ASMFC, not to change the nature of the fishery and that landings typically occur after April anyway. Additionally, the Division was proposing that they be given the authority to rollover any unused FFT quota to the GC beginning on October 15. N. Lengyel clarified that this was not an automatic rollover, nor did it mean that all of any remaining quota would be rolled over. If FFT quota remained on 10/15, the Division would consider several factors and make a decision regarding a rollover. Alan Glidden stated that the FFT's were ok with the proposed changes. R. Enright asked why the GC fishery did not remain open in November and December if there was unused quota. N. Lengyel stated that the Division decided on a 5-day opening in November unsure what catch rates would be for the given time of year. After extremely low landings came in during that opening, the Division did not think a re-opening was warranted. A brief discussion then occurred regarding the unused FFT quota in 2013. A. Glidden updated the group stating that the unused quota resulted from one company not fishing in 2013. He also stated the future

of that company/FFT was uncertain at this point. Re-allocation of that companies share to the GC was briefly discussed. J. Macari made a motion for the Divisions proposed FFT management for 2014. A second was made by R. Jobin and a vote resulted in all in favor, motion passed.

The 2014 GC season and quota allocation was discussed next. It was stated that the Division was not proposing any changes for 2014. The group looked at what days of the week status quo openings would fall on. A motion was made by R. Enright for status quo and a second by R. Jobin. There was a discussion regarding how keeping it status quo for the opening dates could be confusing because June 6 was a Friday and the fishery is closed Friday/Saturday throughout. A brief discussion also took place regarding the potential changes that could take place in the MA fishery. N. Lengyel reviewed the MA public hearing notice and the proposed changes to the MA fishery. N. Lengyel then reviewed the timeline for the RIMFC process to illustrate that a decision regarding 2014 management could not be put off to another meeting after the MA public hearings. The group felt a decision had to be made and that if a drastic change in the MA fishery took place that there would be opportunity to comment or recommend changes to the RI season at the public hearing and RIMFC meeting. The motion on the table was modified to a June 8<sup>th</sup> opening and status quo of Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> opening. A second was made by J. Macari, a vote resulted in all in favor, motion passes.

The 2014 recreational fishery was discussed next. It was stated that the Division was not proposing any changes for 2014. A motion was made by Andrew Dangelo for status quo. A second to the motion was made by J. Macari. A vote among AP members resulted in all in favor, motion passes.

K. Booth asked if there was any other business. N. Lengyel again stated that anyone with questions regarding the stock assessment or ASMFC process could contact her.

R. Beresford made a motion to adjourn and a second was made by A. Dangelo. The meeting was adjourned at this point.

# Striped Bass Advisory Panel Meeting






January 28, 2014



# Striped Bass Stock Status

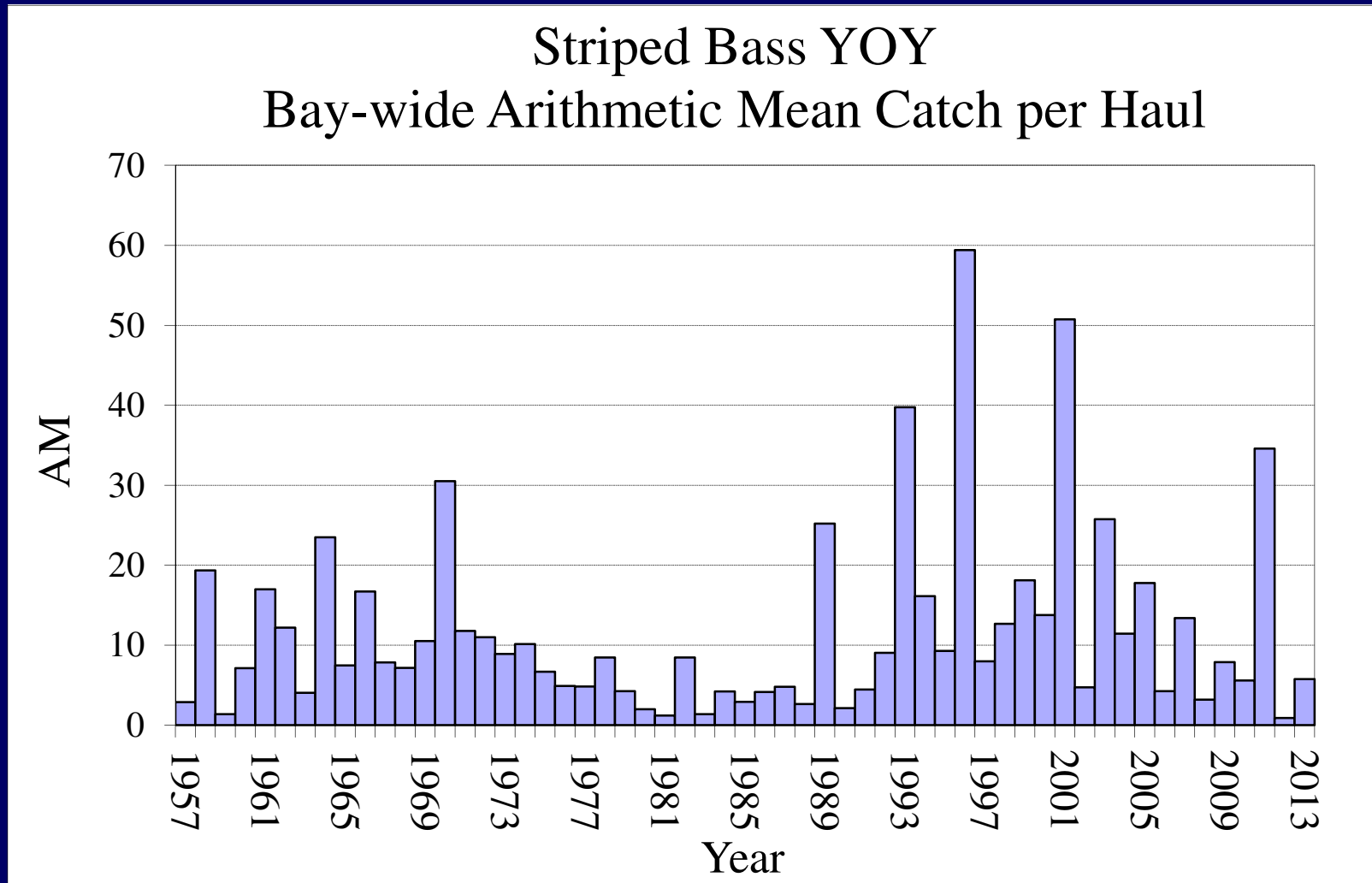
## Stock Status:

-  The striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring according to the ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Benchmark Assessment, 2013
-  Female SSB = 128 million lbs, just above the threshold SSB = 127 million lbs, and below the target SSB = 159 million lbs
-  Fishing mortality estimated to be 0.20, a value between the proposed new fishing mortality threshold (0.219) and fishing mortality target (0.18)



# Striped Bass Stock Status

## YOY Index



Source: MD DNR



# Striped Bass Stock Status

 **Stock Status:**

 **Current F (0.20) maintained 2013-2017, high probability until 2015-2016 that:**

**$SSB < SSB$  threshold**

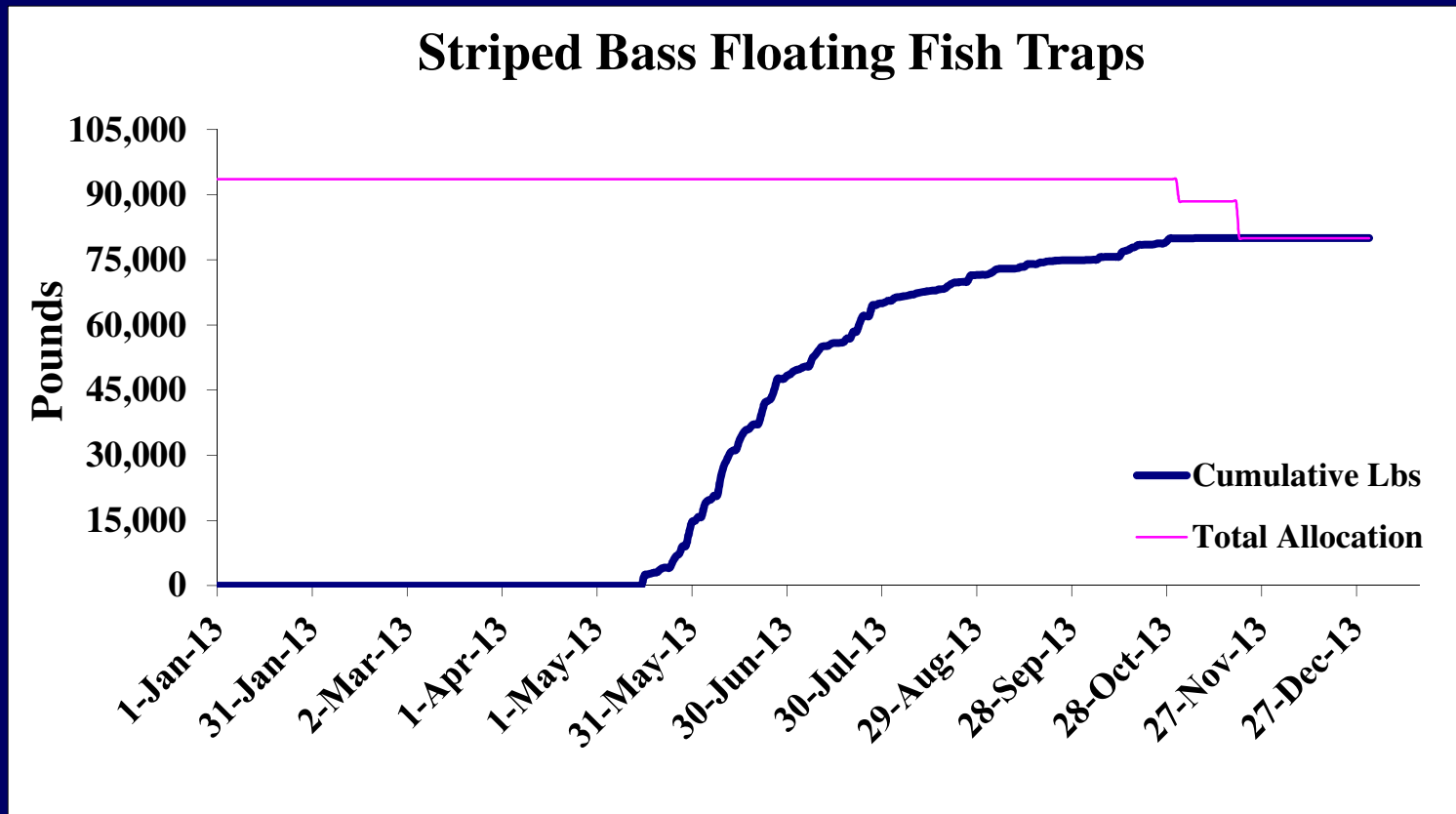


**stock overfished**



# Review of 2013 Fishery

## Commercial — Floating Fish Trap

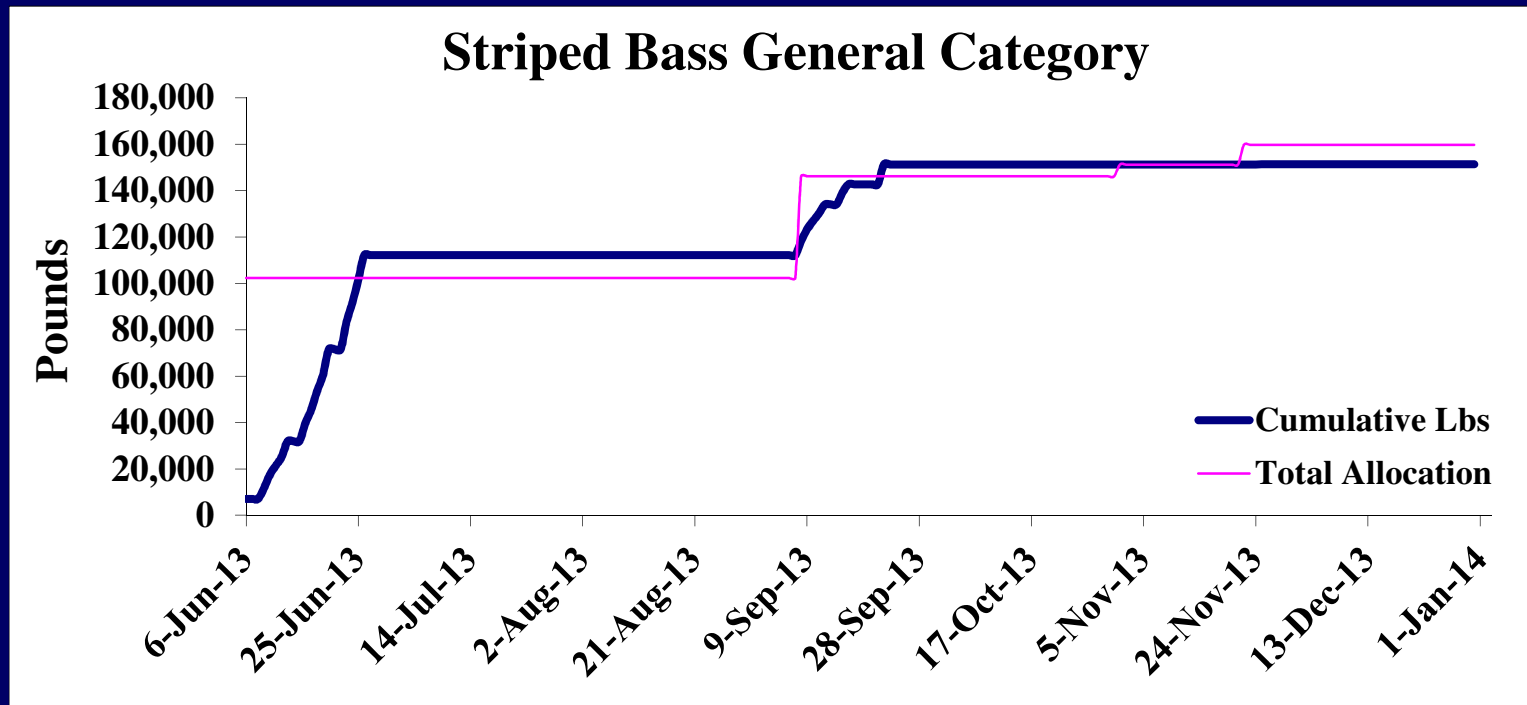


Period	2013 Quota Allocation	Rollover 1	Rollover 2	Total Landings
Jan 1 -Dec 31	93,586	5,078	8,512	79,996



# Review of 2013 Fishery

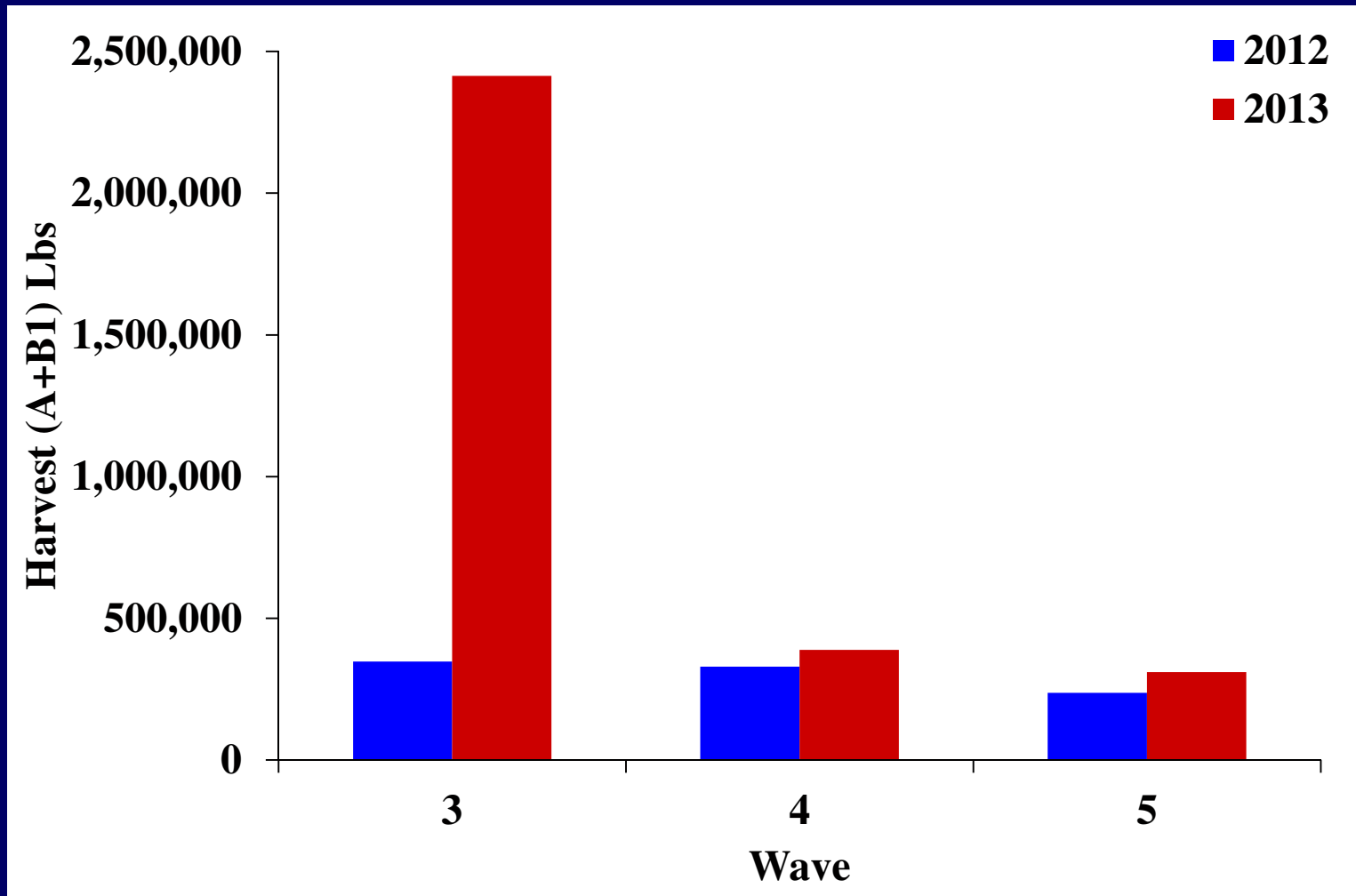
## Commercial - General Category



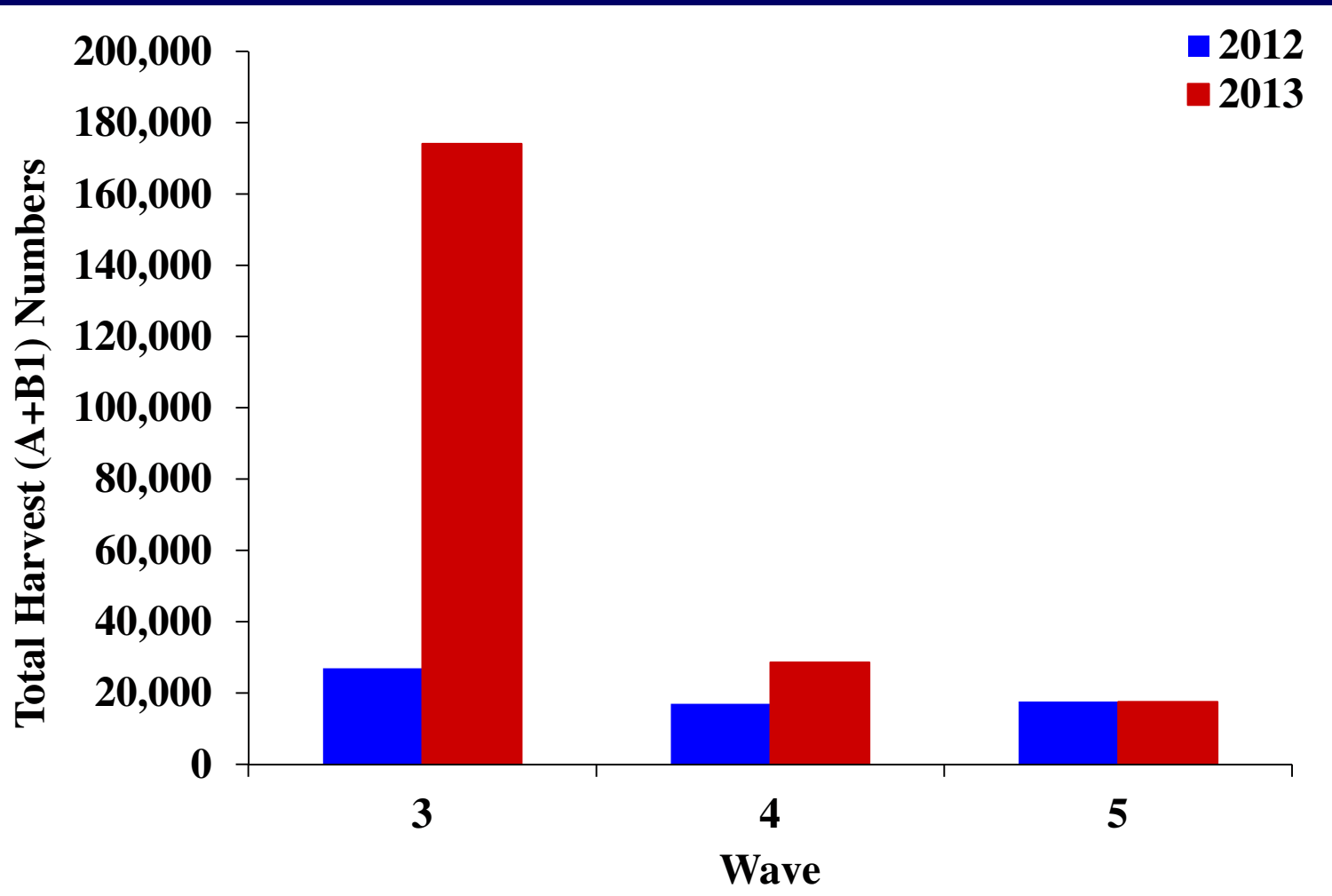
Period	2013 Allocation	Landings	Period Adjustment/ Rollover	Remaining
June 6 – Aug 31	102,275	112,101		-9,826
Sep 8 – Dec 31	43,832	39,183	3,764	8,413
<b>2013 Total</b>	<b>146,107</b>	<b>148,042</b>		







# Review of 2013 Fishery Preliminary Recreational Landings (MRIP)



# Review of 2013 Fishery Preliminary Recreational Landings (MRIP)



# 2014 Fish Trap Commercial Seasons and Quota Allocation

-  **The Division proposes the following changes for 2014:**
  -  **Change the season from January 1 – December 31 to April 1 – December 31**
  -  **Provide the Division the authority to move any remaining floating fish trap allocation to the general category beginning on October 15**
  
-  **The Division recommends maintaining the 26” minimum size (TL)**




# 2014 General Category Commercial Seasons and Quota Allocation

 **The Division does not propose any changes for 2014**  
 **2013 management:**

 **34" minimum size (TL)**

 **January 1 – June 5: CLOSED**

 **June 6 – Aug. 31:**

 **70% of quota**

 **5 fish/person/day**

 **CLOSED Friday and Saturday throughout**

 **Sept. 8 – Dec. 31:**

 **30% of quota**

 **5 fish/person/day**

 **CLOSED Friday and Saturday throughout**



# Discussion of Recreational Striped Bass Fishery

 The division does not propose any changes for 2014






 2013 management:

 28'' minimum size (TL)

 2 fish/person/day possession limit



# Discussion on Ban of Yo-yo Rigs

-  In 2013 AP voted to send issue to RIMFC for further discussion including mortality issues and enforcement capabilities
-  The RIMFC decided to wait for the 2013 ASMFC benchmark assessment to be completed and use that report as a foundation for further exploration of the issue
-  Currently ASMFC is developing draft addendum in response to the benchmark assessment that:
  -  Propose the adoption of new F reference points
  -  Propose a range of management options to reduce F to at least Target F

