

RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Division of Marine Fisheries

Pre-hearing Workshop

January 9, 2020



Goals of the workshop



- Provide a forum for DMF to provide currently available information for each species being considered for amendment including stock status, past years performance, and FMP updates/requirements
- Provide the public with proposals currently being considered.
- Provide a forum for interested persons to understand proposals and the rationale behind the proposal
- Provide a forum for interested persons to offer new proposals, or to narrow down general management considerations into specific proposals; to obtain consensus when achievable.
- **IMPORTANT!** The workshop is not an official record of the public hearing. Comments on noticed proposals and/or alternative proposals must be made during the public comment period.

Public Hearing Rules of Engagement



- The purpose of the hearing ***is*** to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit data, opinions, comments, and/or arguments on specific amendments being proposed, and/or to offer how the proposed amendment can be changed to minimize the impact on those affected while still achieving goals.
- The hearing ***is not*** a forum for discussing, debating, arguing, or otherwise having dialogue. Clarifying questions only may be asked.
- Five (5) minutes will be allowed per person per hearing item. A follow-up comment may be made after all other persons have had an opportunity to speak. Persons not recognized by the hearing officer are requested to refrain from talking while a speaker is recognized.
- Persons providing comments are strongly encouraged to read all proposed rules. DMF staff is available to discuss proposals to assist in your preparation.

Dates to remember



- **January 9:** Workshop (finfish species being considered for amendment other than striped bass)
- **January 13:** Workshop (Striped Bass)
- **January 22:** Public Notice
- **February 10:** Hearing
- **February 21:** End of public comment period.
- **March 2:** RI Marine Fisheries Council.



Skate

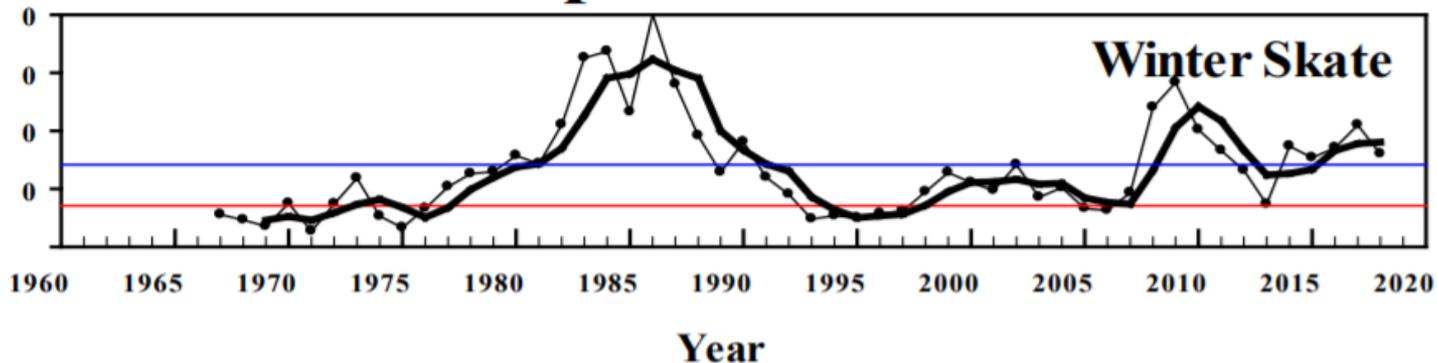
- Summary of Stock Status
- RI Commercial Fishery Performance
- 2020 Commercial Management

Skate - Stock Status



- Assessment: Most recent update (Framework Adjustment 8) conducted in Aug 2019.
- Stock Status: Winter skate is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

Skate Complex Biomass Indices



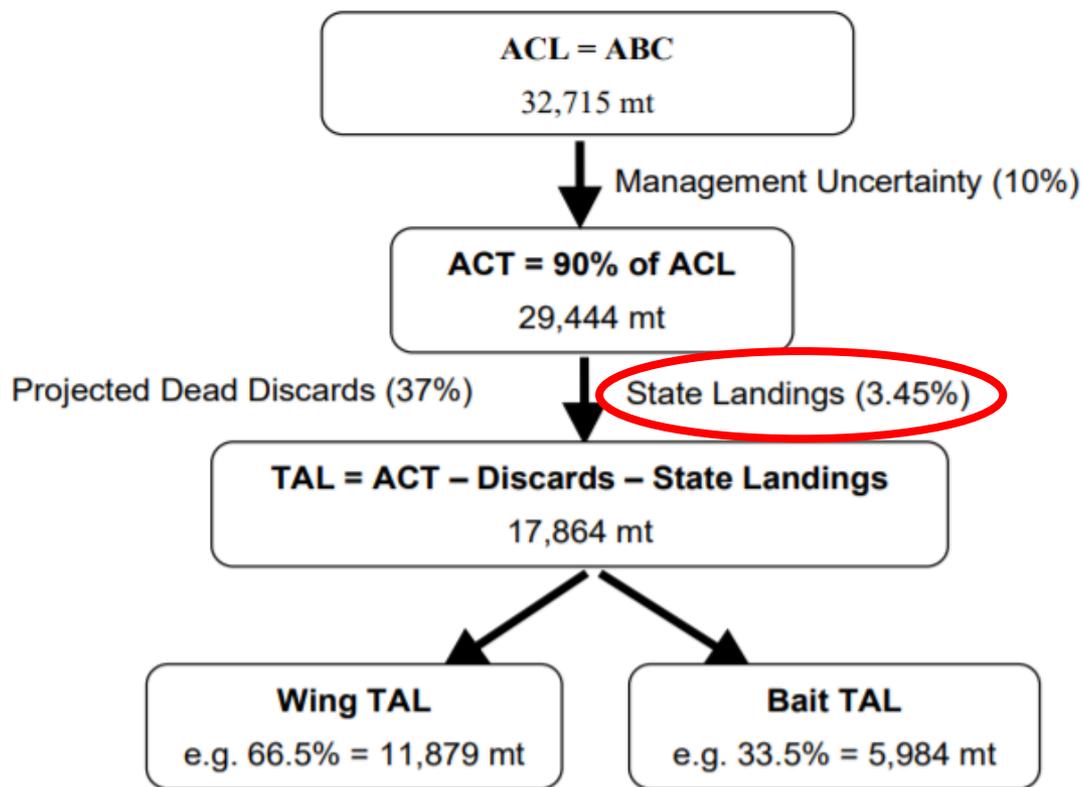
- NEFSC survey biomass indices (kg/tow)
- NEFSC survey 3-year moving average
- Biomass threshold
- Biomass target

State-waters Commercial Skate Wing Fishery Performance

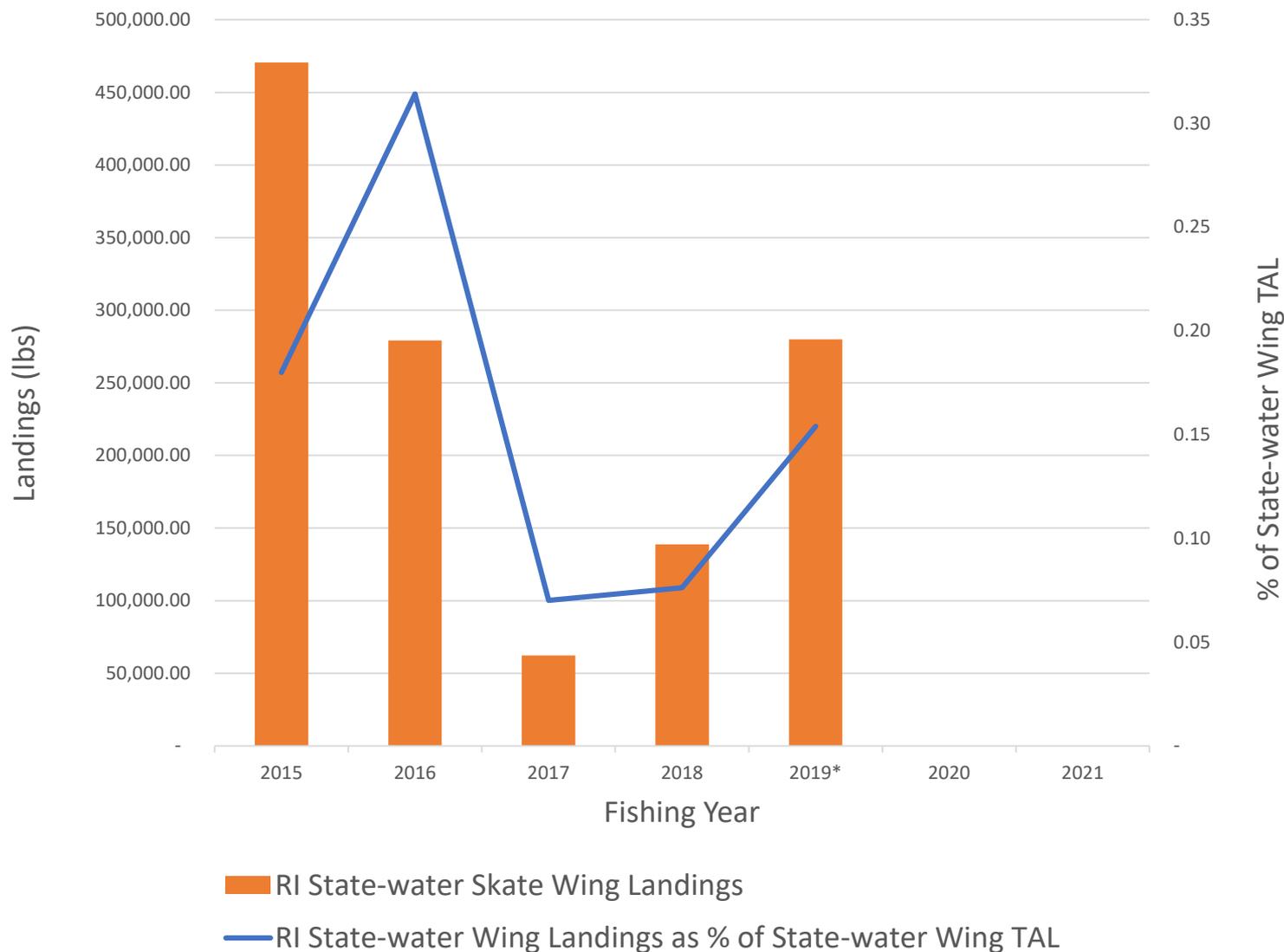


- RI State-water skate wing fishery management aims to compliment federal plan.
- Allow flexibility with state-water fishery, while not undermining federal plan.

2020-2021 Skate Specifications (Proposed)



State-waters Commercial Skate Wing Fishery Performance



State-waters Commercial Skate Wing Management



Current management:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| N/A | May 1 – April 30 | 18,200 wings/week <u>21,000</u> wings/week |

Industry proposal:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| N/A | May 1 – April 30 | <u>35,000</u> wings/week |

Alternative proposal:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| N/A | May 1 – April 30 | <u>25,000</u> wings/week |



Monkfish

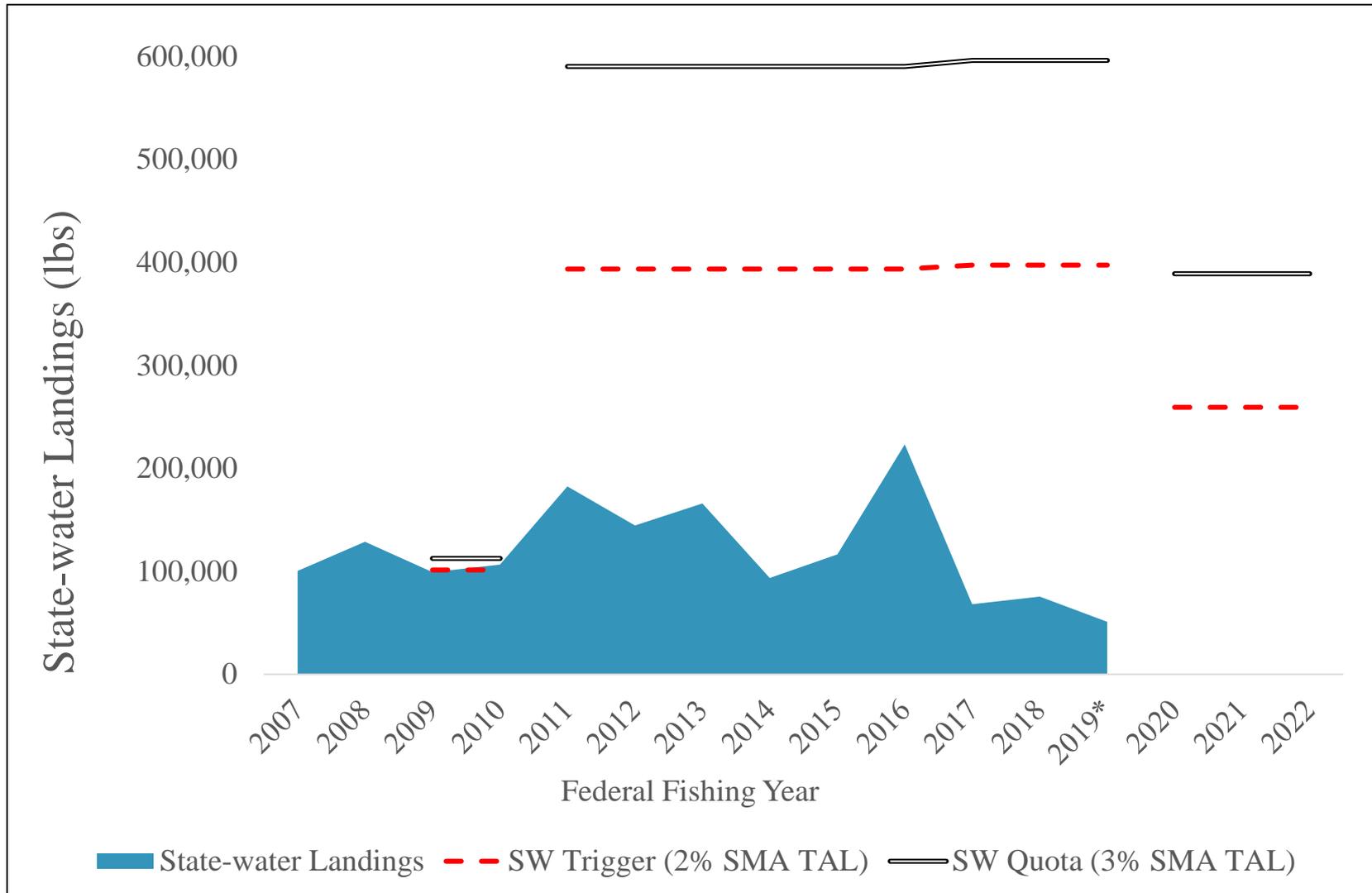
- Summary of Stock Status
- RI Commercial Fishery Performance
- 2020 Commercial Management

Monkfish - Stock Status



- Operational assessment was completed in 2019.
- Previous Biological Reference Points (BRPs) are no longer relevant due to invalidation of the growth model, and could not be updated for this assessment update.
- Stock Status: Unknown (i.e., BRPs invalidated)
 - Qualitative: Based on trends in survey results, monkfish stock status has remained steady in the Southern Management Area in the past three years, likely due primarily to the 2015 recruitment event.

Monkfish - RI State-water Commercial Fishery Performance



Monkfish - 2020 Commercial Management



Current management:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 17" total or 11" tail length | May 1 – April 30 | 700 lbs tail weight/2,037 lbs whole weight/vsl/day |

Industry proposal:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 17" total or 11" tail length | May 1 – April 30 | <u>4,900</u> lbs tail weight/ <u>14,259</u> lbs whole weight/vsl/ <u>week</u> |

Alternative proposal:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 17" total or 11" tail length | May 1 – April 30 | <u>3,500</u> lbs tail weight/ <u>10,185</u> lbs whole weight/vsl/ <u>week</u> |



Tautog

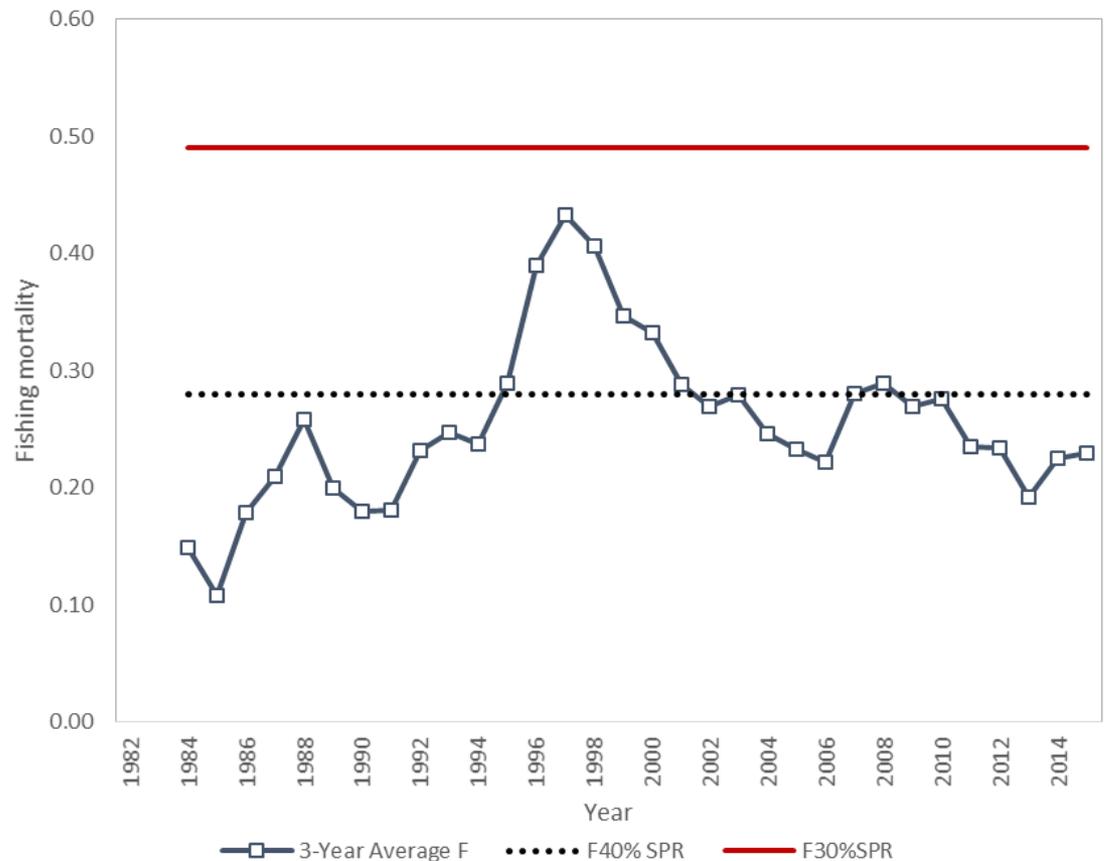
- Summary of stock status
- 2019 recreational fishery performance
- 2020 recreational management
- 2019 commercial fishery performance
- 2020 commercial management

Tautog - Stock Status



- Update assessment scheduled for 2021.
- Tautog is not overfished, overfishing is not occurring.

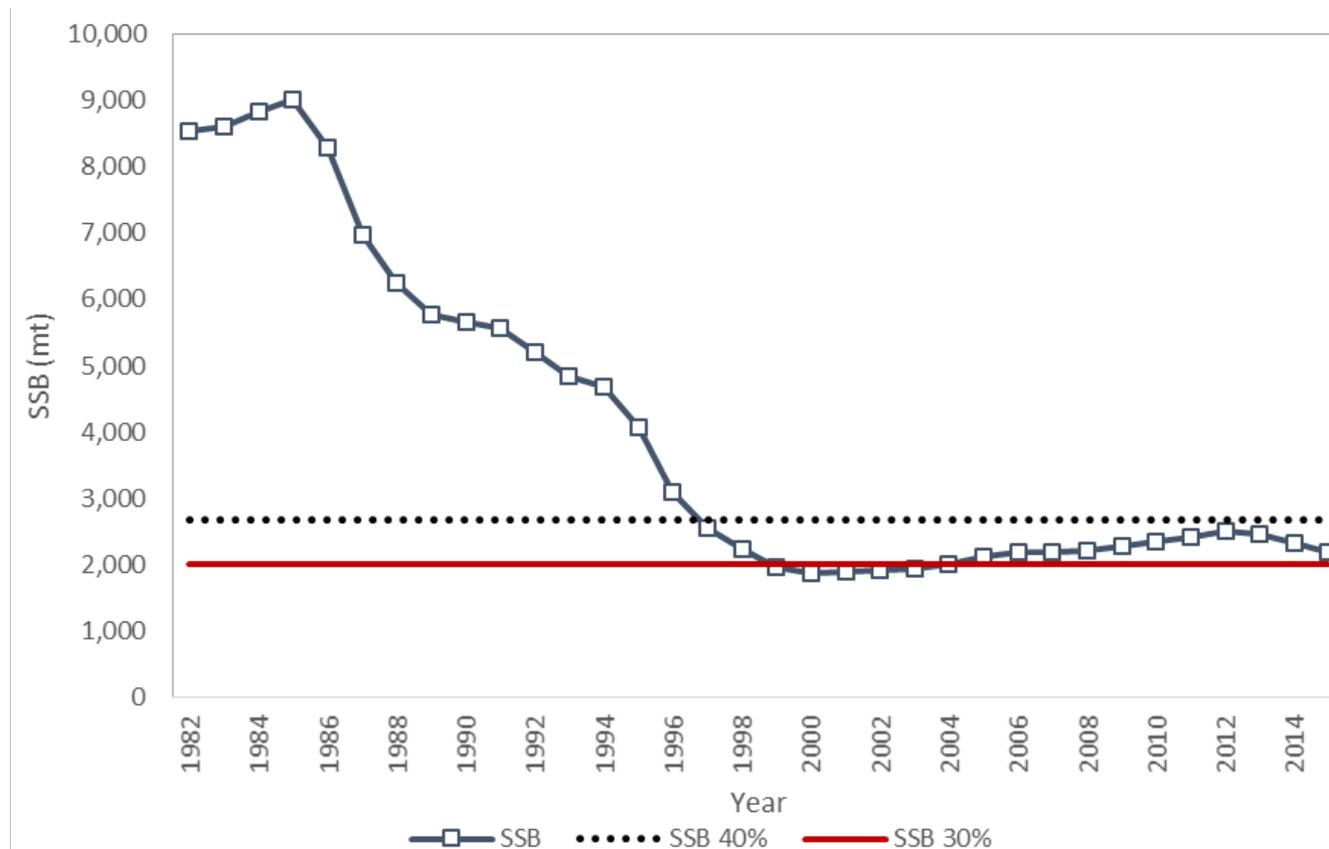
- Fishing mortality (F) estimated to be 0.23 in 2015, below the threshold F reference point = 0.49.



Tautog - Stock Status



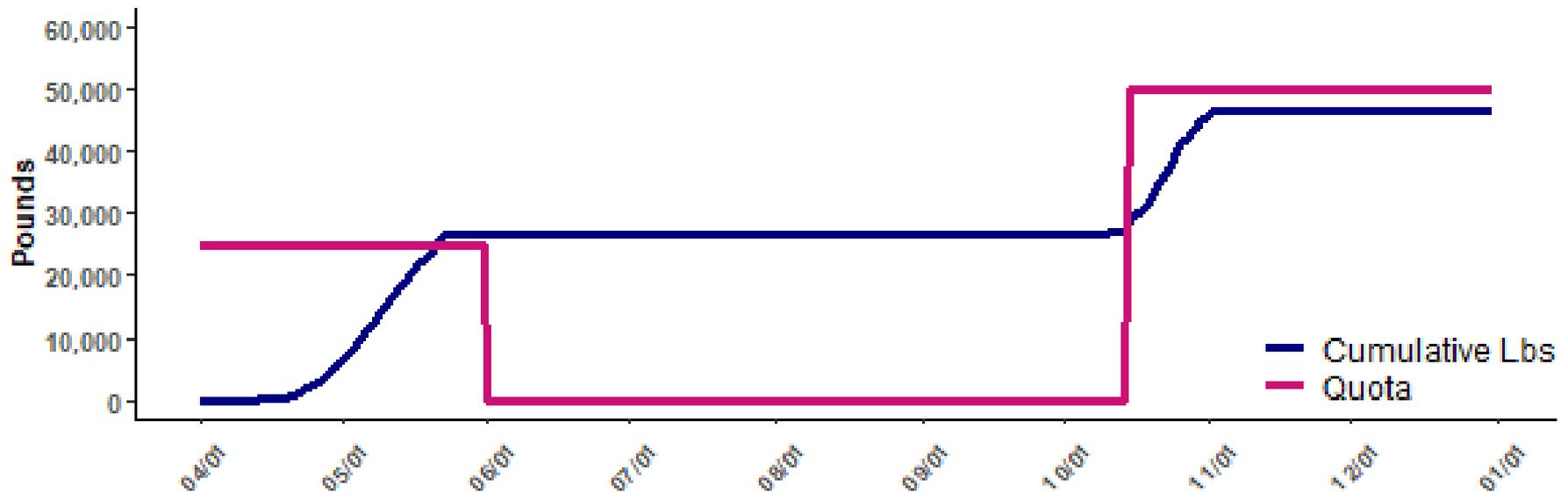
- Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) estimated at 2,196 mt (target = 2,684 mt; threshold = 2,004 mt).
- No change in quota for 2020.



Tautog - 2019 RI Commercial Fishery Performance



Tautog



Status: Closed Total Quota: 49,820
Sub Period Quota: 24,910 Percent Remaining: 21 %

Tautog - 2020 Commercial Management



Current management:

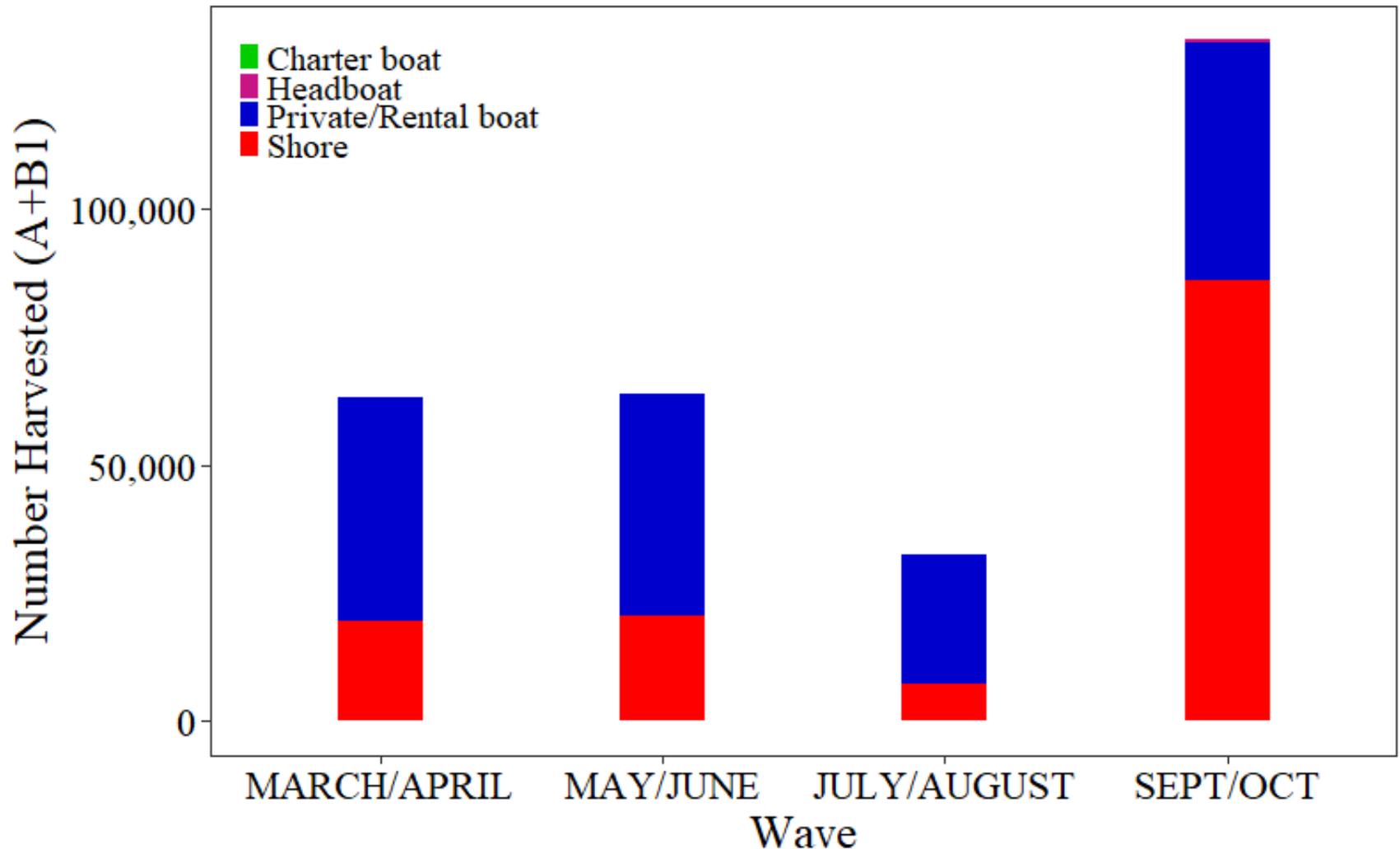
| Min. size | Season | Allocation | Poss. limit |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 16" | April 1 – May 31 | 50% | 10 fish/vsl/day |
| | June 1 – October 14 | | Closed |
| | Oct. 15 – Dec. 31 | 50% | 10 fish/vsl/day |

2020 Management: The Division is not proposing changes to commercial Tautog management for 2020.

Industry proposal:

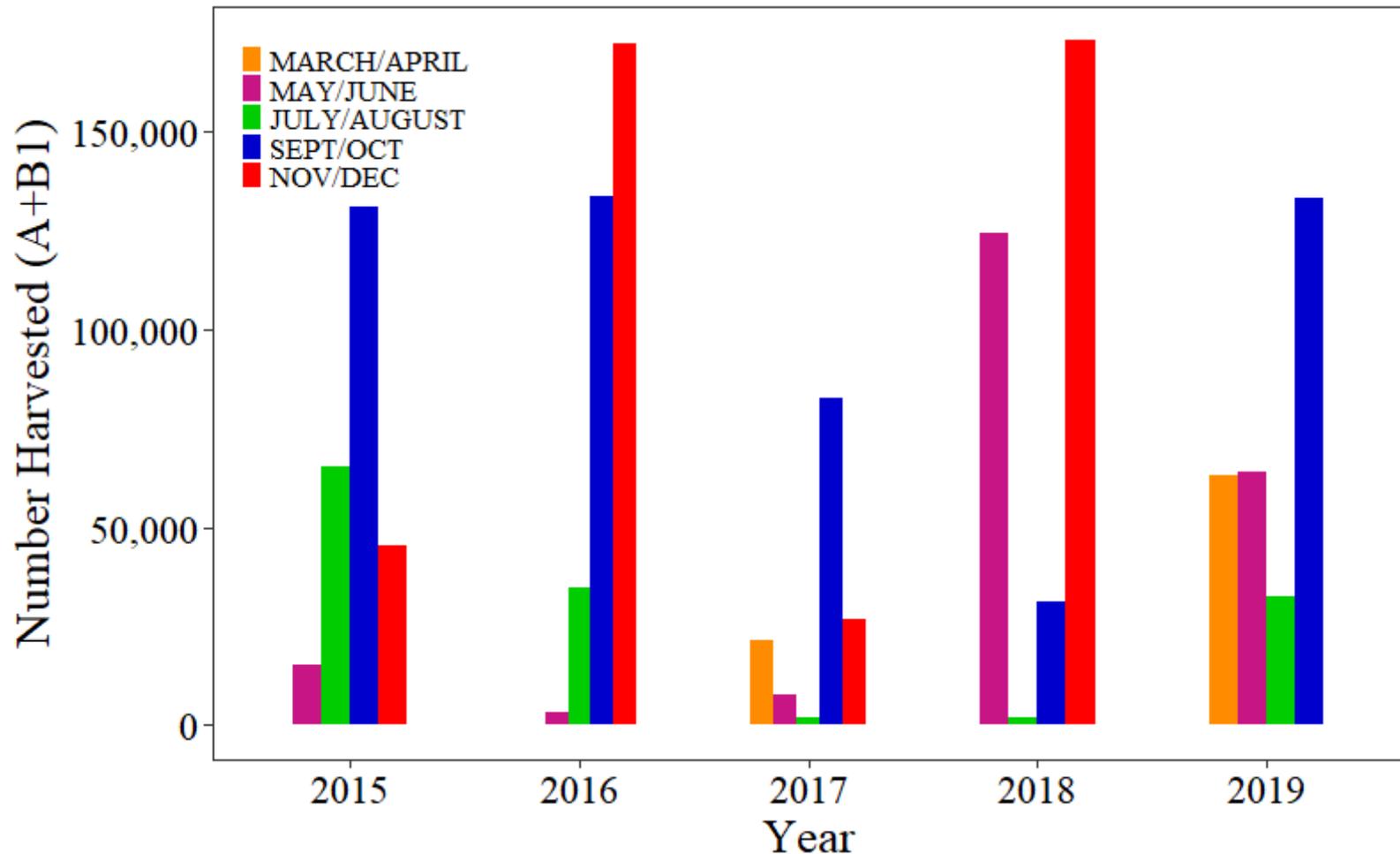
| Min. size | Season | Allocation | Poss. limit |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 16" | April 1 – May 31 | 50 <u>35%</u> | 10 fish/vsl/day |
| | June 1 – October 14 <u>July 31</u> | | Closed |
| | <u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 15</u> | <u>15%</u> | <u>10 fish/vsl/day</u> |
| | Sept. 16 – Oct. 14 | | Closed |
| | Oct. 15 – Dec. 31 | 50% | 10 fish/vsl/day |

Tautog - 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2019 MRIP, 2019 data preliminary and only through wave 5

Tautog - 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2019 MRIP, 2019 data preliminary and only through wave 5

Tautog - 2020 Recreational Management



Current management:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit* |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| 16" | Jan. 1 – March 31 | Closed |
| | April 1 – May 31 | 3 fish/day |
| | June 1 – July 31 | Closed |
| | Aug. 1 – Oct. 14 | 3 fish/day |
| | Oct. 15 – Dec. 31 | 5 fish/day |

* 10 fish/vessel maximum

2020 Management: The Division is not proposing changes to recreational Tautog management for 2020. However, the division is investigating a CE proposal that would increase the Party/Charter limit to 6 fish/day in the Oct-Dec season.



Bluefish

- Summary of stock status
- 2019 recreational fishery performance
- 2020 recreational management

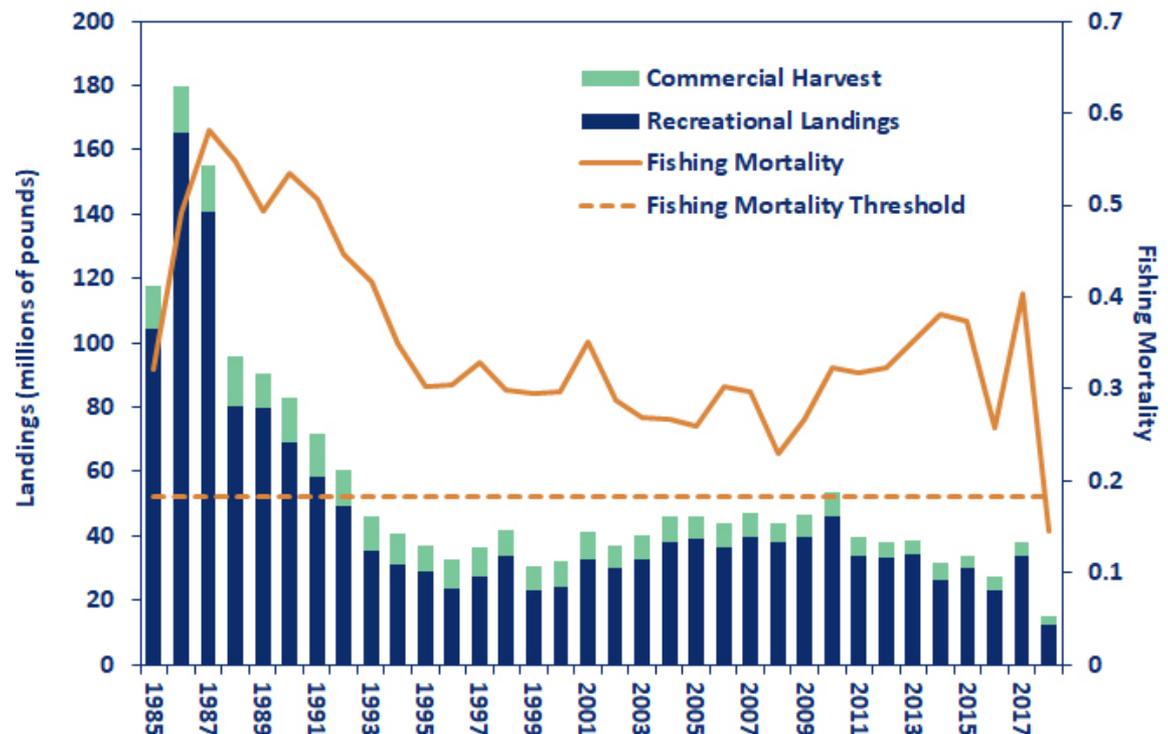
Bluefish - Stock Status



- Operational assessment in 2019 incorporated newly calibrated MRIP estimates.
- The bluefish stock is overfished, however overfishing is not occurring in 2018 relative to the updated BRP's.
- F was estimated to be 0.146 in 2018, below the threshold F reference point = 0.183.
- Although the stock is not experiencing overfishing in 2018, overfishing has occurred in all prior years dating back to 1985.

Bluefish Commercial and Recreational Landings

Source: Bluefish Operational Stock Assessment, 2019



Bluefish - Stock Status

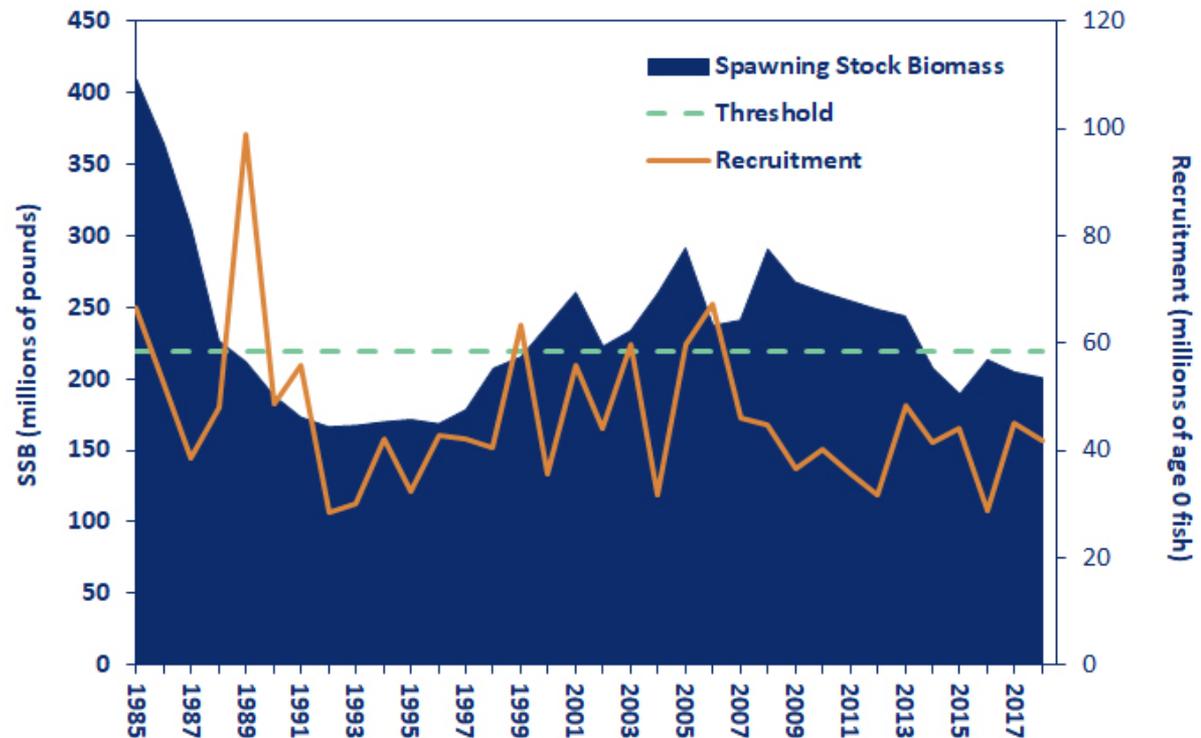


- SSB was estimated to be 201 million lbs in 2018, below the SSB threshold of 219 million lbs.

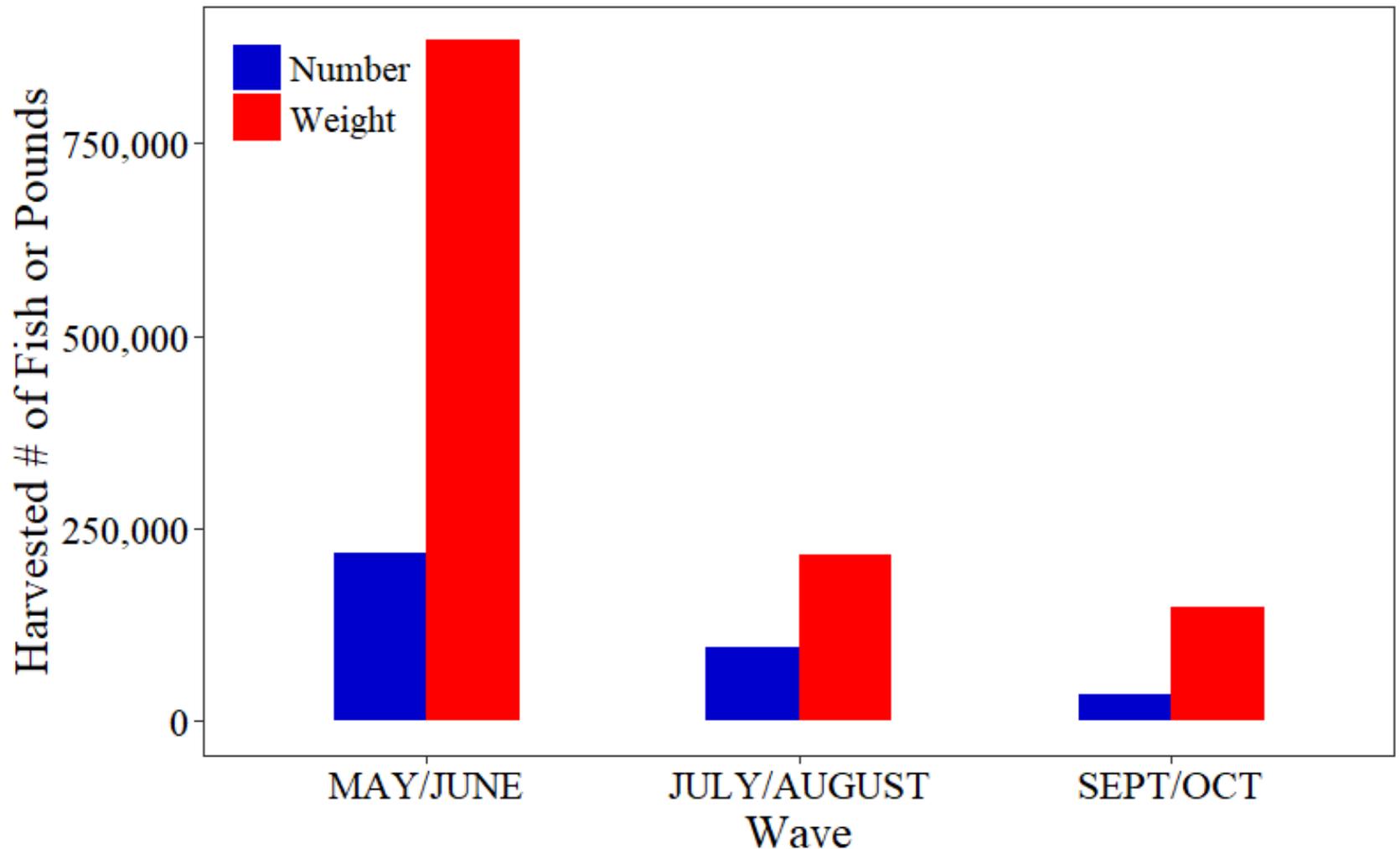
- SSB threshold increased relative to existing SSB causing a switch to the overfished status.

Bluefish Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment

Source: Bluefish Operational Stock Assessment, 2019

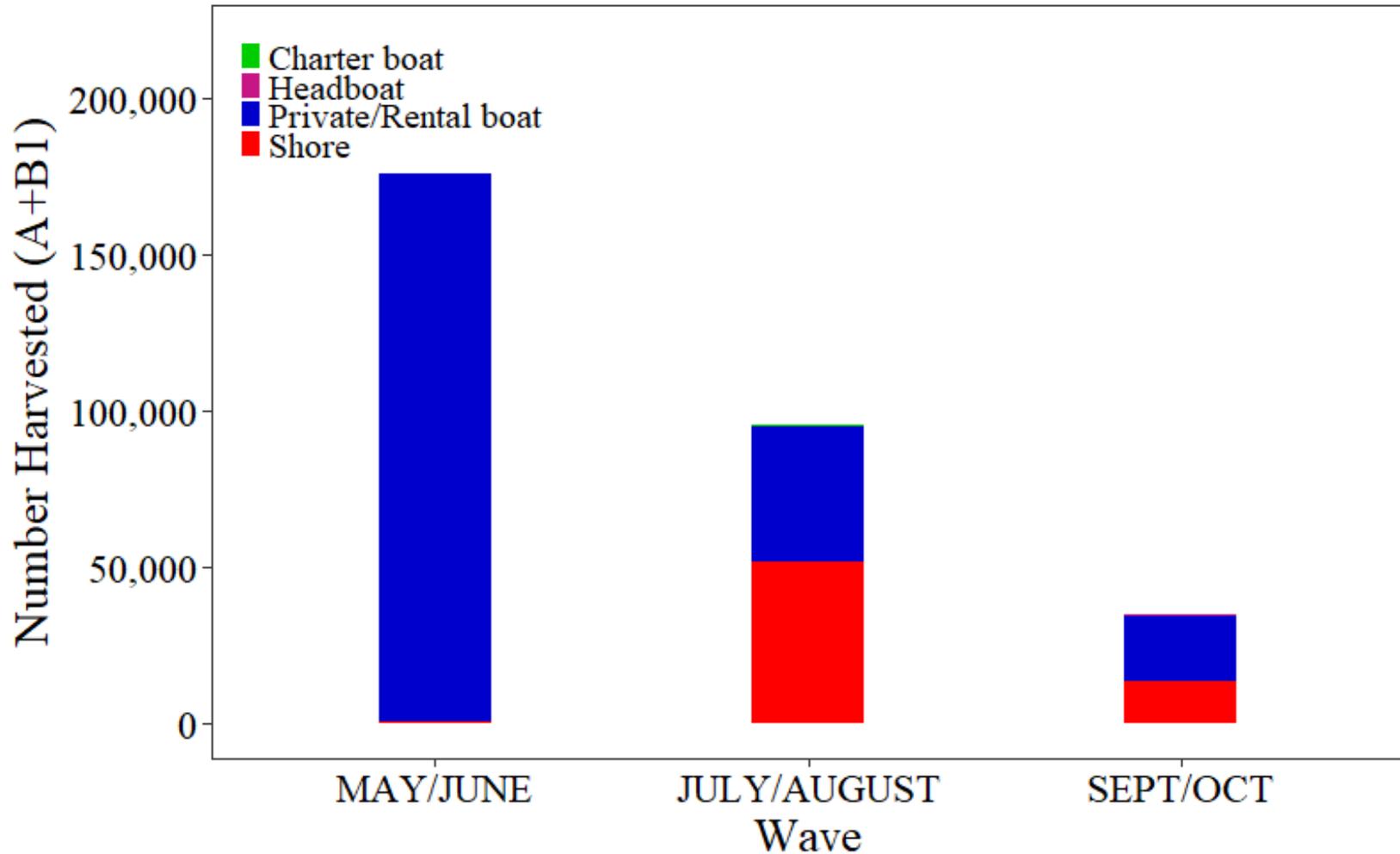


Bluefish - 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2019 MRIP, 2019 data preliminary and only through wave 5

Bluefish - 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2019 MRIP, 2019 data preliminary and only through wave 5

Bluefish - MAFMC/ASMFC Management



- Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) of 9.48 million lbs set for 2020 and 2021, an 18% decrease from 2019 RHL.
- Under current regulations, it is projected that the RHL for bluefish will be exceeded by 28.56% in 2020.
- The MAFMC and ASMFC approved new 2020 rec. measures to constrain harvest in 2020 to the RHL.

Bluefish - 2020 Recreational Management



Current management:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| N/A | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | 15 fish/day |

MAFMC/ASMFC management:

| Mode | Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Private/Shore</u> | N/A | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | <u>3 fish/day</u> |
| <u>For-hire</u> | | | <u>5 fish/day</u> |

Industry Proposal:

| Mode | Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Private/Shore</u> | <u>18"</u> | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | <u>3 fish/day</u> |
| <u>For-hire</u> | | | <u>5 fish/day</u> |

Bluefish - 2020 Recreational Management



ASMFC conservation equivalency:

- Options still being developed
- Would allow a higher bag limit for shore mode to maintain “snapper” fishery
- Intent would be to have this adopted regionally

EXAMPLE OPTION:

| Mode | Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Private</u> | N/A | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | <u>3 fish/day</u> |
| <u>For-hire</u> | N/A | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | <u>5 fish/day</u> |
| <u>Shore</u> | >12” | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | <u>2 fish/day</u> |
| | <12” | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | <u>6 fish/day</u> |

Bluefish - MAFMC/ASMFC Management Next Steps



- Bluefish Allocation Amendment considering:
 - FMP Goals & Objectives
 - Commercial/Recreational Allocation
 - Commercial Allocations to States
 - Quota Transfer Process
 - Other Issues
- Timeline:
 - December 2017 – Initiated amendment
 - June-July 2018 – Meetings held and public comment period
 - August 2018 – MAFMC/Board Meeting
 - October 2019 – MAFMC/Board Meeting
 - Incorporated stock rebuilding into Amendment
 - Additional hearings to be held seeking public comment
 - RI hearing to be held:
February 26, 2020 @ 7:30pm, GSO Corless Aud.



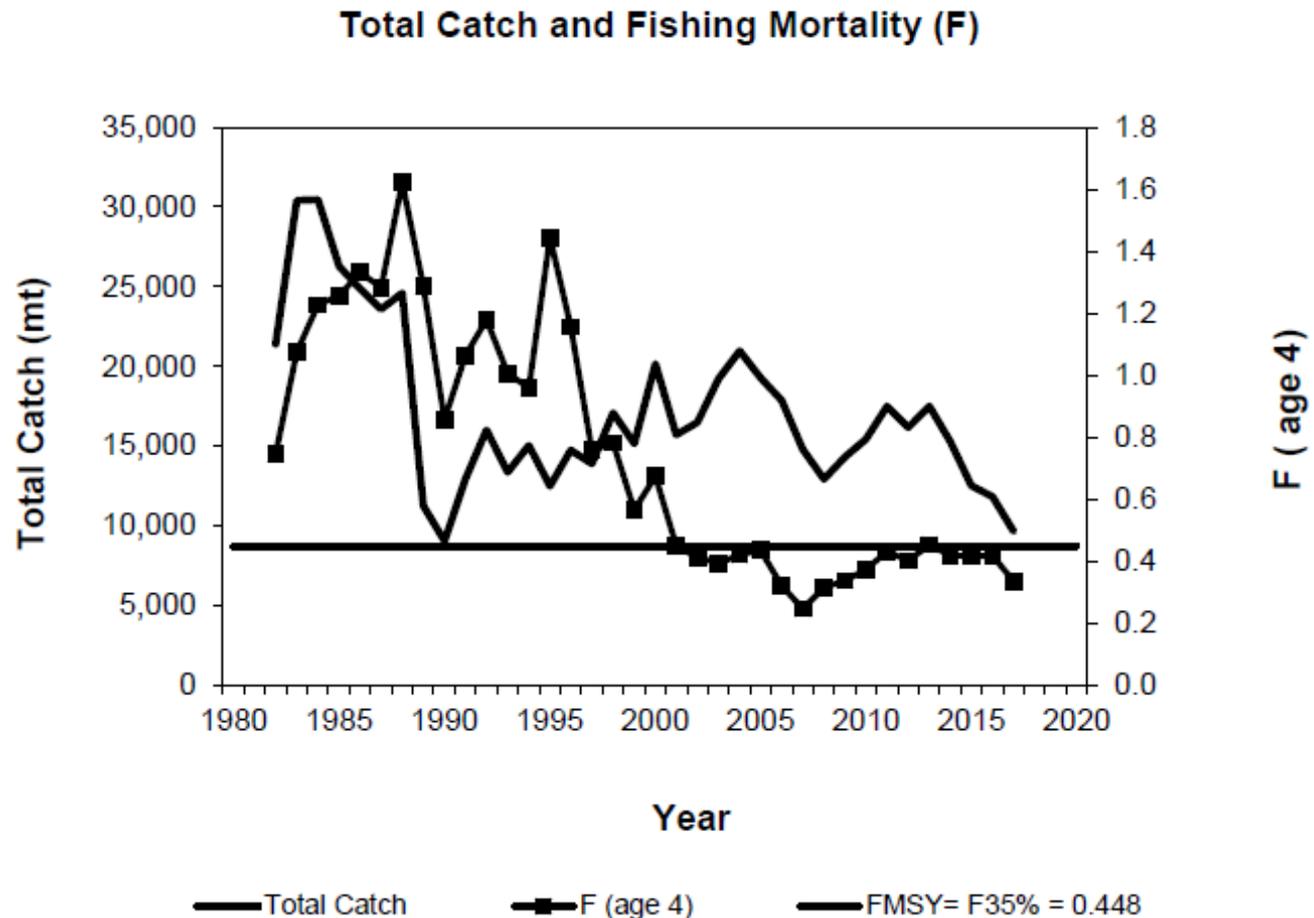
Summer Flounder

- Summary of Stock Status
- 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance
- 2020 recreational management

Summer Flounder - Stock Status



- Benchmark assessment completed in 2018 that incorporated newly calibrated MRIP estimates.
- Summer flounder is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring relative to biological reference points (BRPs).
- Fishing mortality (F) estimated to be 0.334 in 2017, below the threshold F reference point = 0.448.

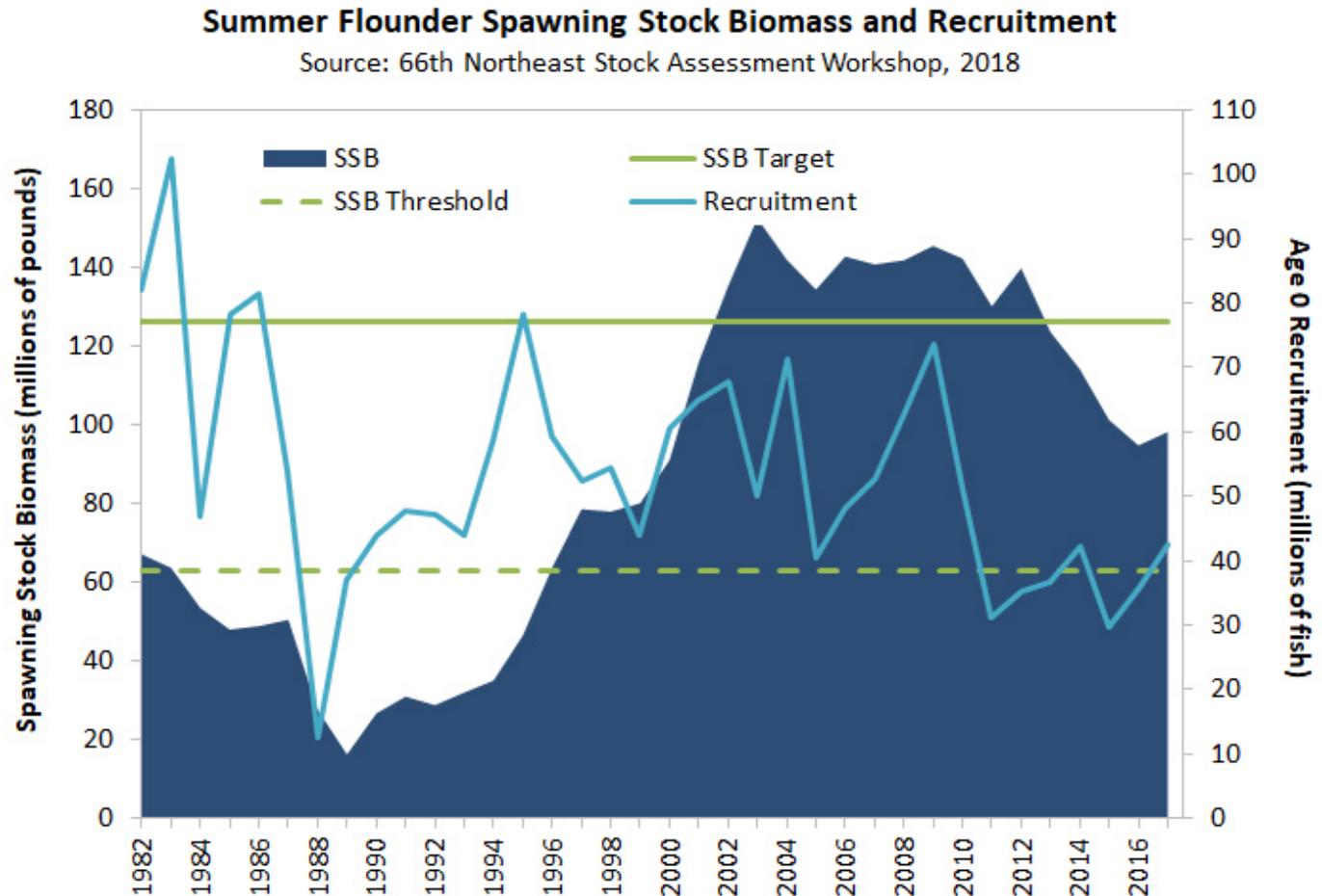


Summer Flounder - Stock Status

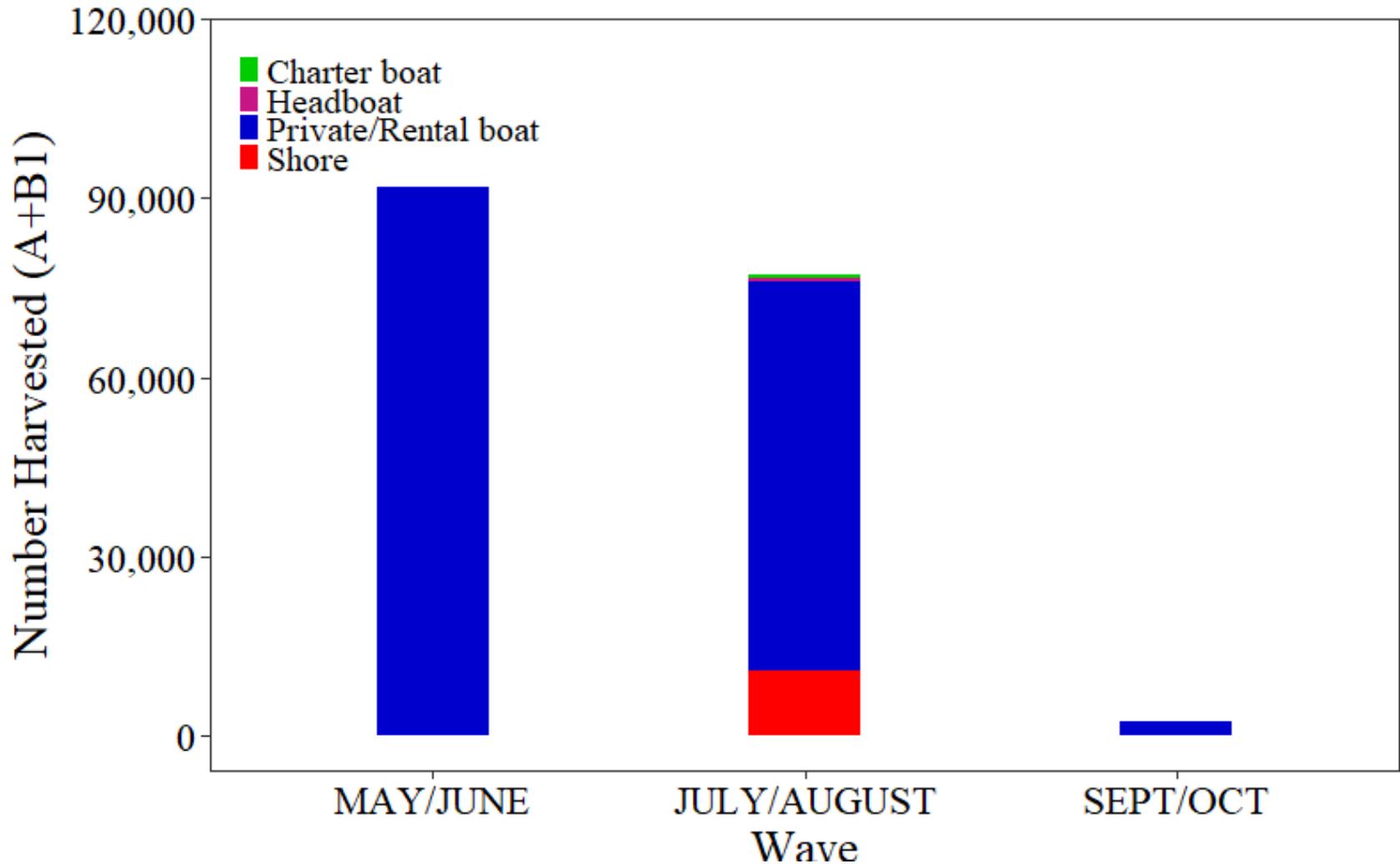


- Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) estimated to be 98.2 m lbs in 2017, below the SSB reference point = 126.0 m lbs but above the SSB threshold = 63.0 m lbs.

- The 2017 year class estimated to be 42 million fish, well below the average of 53 million fish.



Summer Flounder - 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2019 MRIP; 2019 data preliminary and only through wave 5

Summer Flounder - 2020 Recreational Management



- Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) of 7.69 million lbs set for 2020 and 2021, the same as the 2019 RHL.

Current management:

| Sector | Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Gen. Rec. | 19" | May 3 – Dec. 31 | 6 fish/day |
| Special Shore | 19" (2 fish may be 17") | May 3 – Dec. 31 | 6 fish/day |

2020 Management: The Division is not proposing changes to recreational Summer flounder management for 2020.



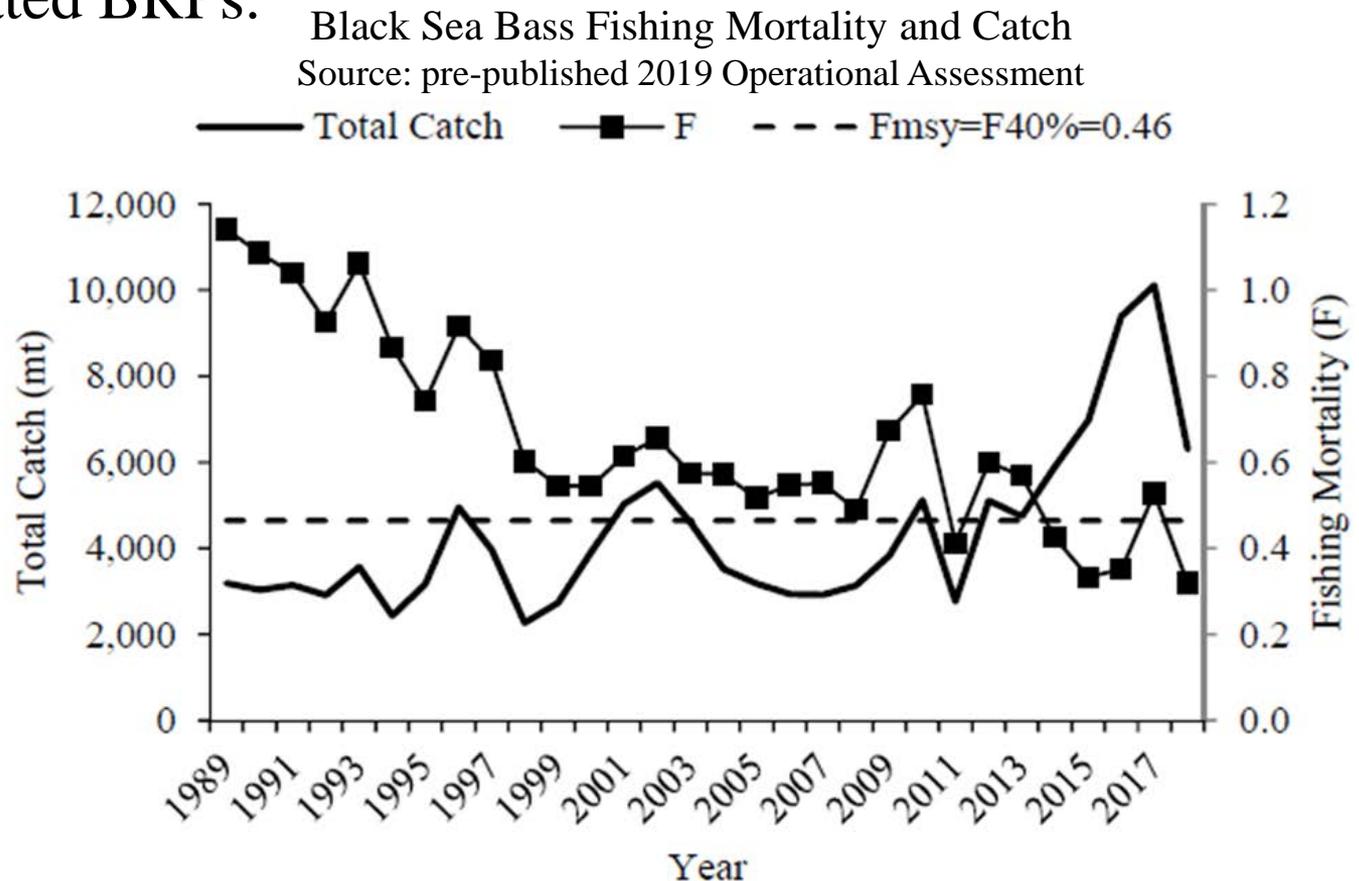
Black Sea Bass

- **Summary of Stock Status**
- **2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance**
- **2020 recreational management**

Black Sea Bass - Stock Status



- Operational assessment completed in 2019 incorporating newly calibrated MRIP estimates.
- Black sea bass is not overfished, overfishing is not occurring relative to updated BRPs.
- Fishing mortality (F) estimated to be 0.27 in 2018, below the threshold F reference point = 0.46.

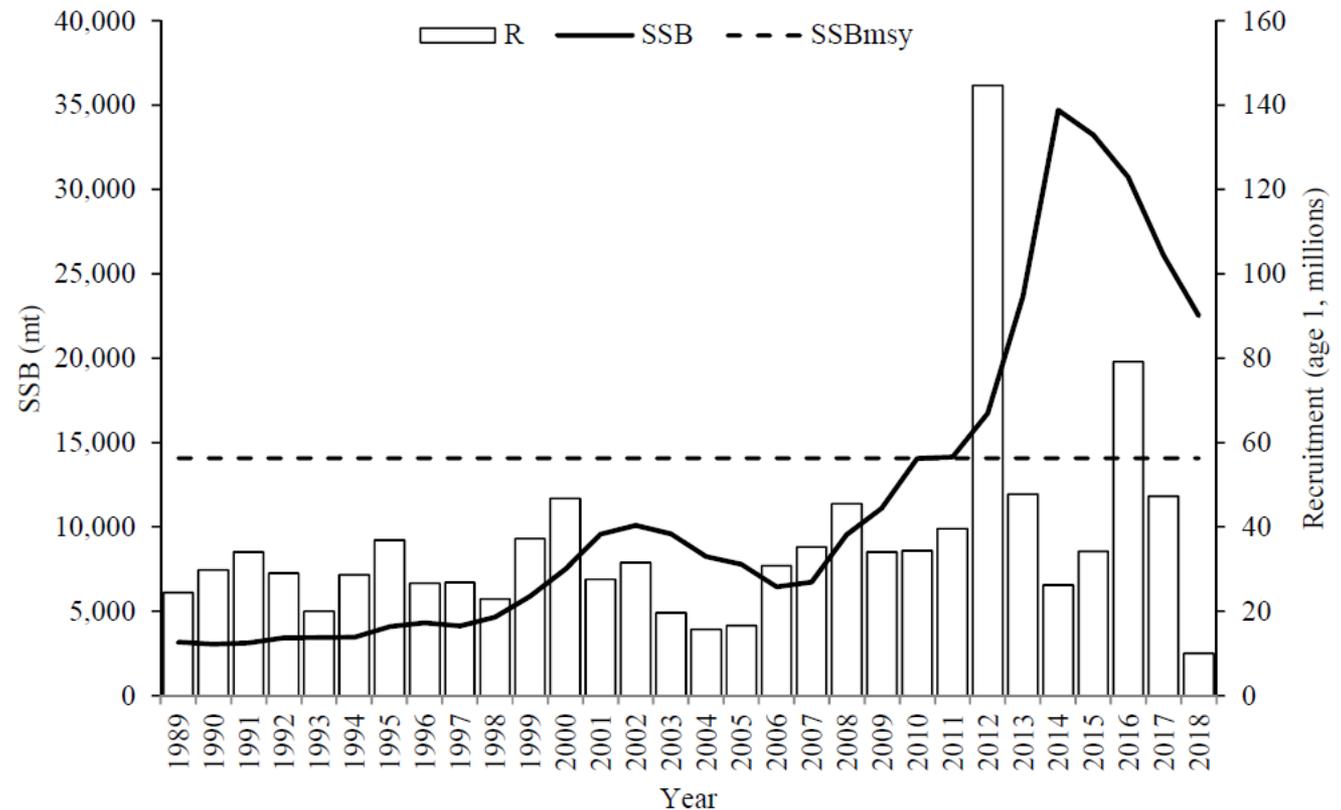


Black Sea Bass - Stock Status

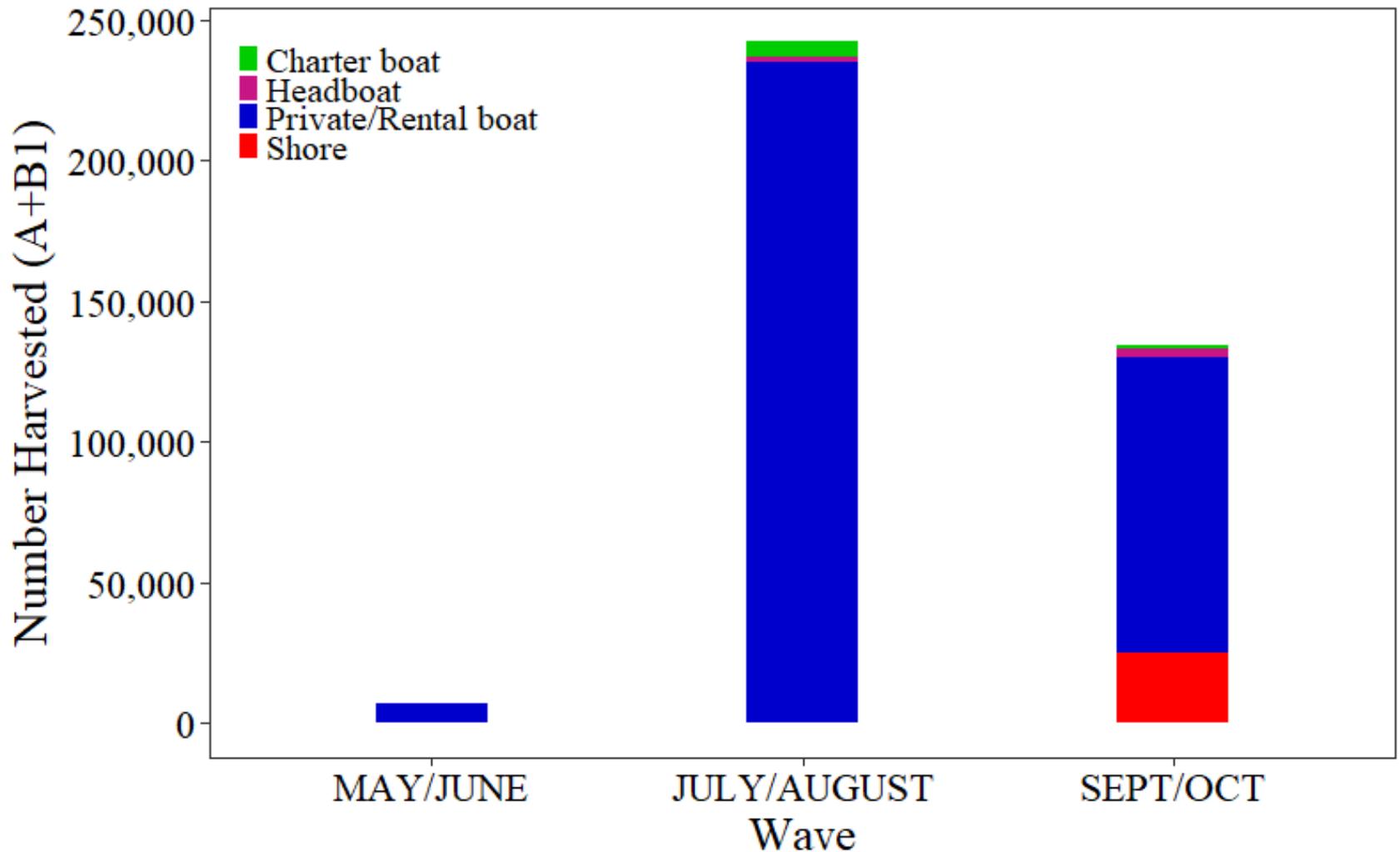


- SSB estimated to be 74.2 m lbs in 2018, 2.4X above the SSB reference point = 31.1 m lbs.
- 2017 year class estimated to be 16.0 million fish, below average.

Black Sea Bass Spawning Stock Biomass and Recruitment
Source: pre-published 2019 Operational Assessment



Black Sea Bass - 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2019 MRIP, 2019 data preliminary and only through wave 5



Black Sea Bass - 2020 Recreational Management

- Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) of 5.81 million lbs set for 2020 and 2021, an increase from the 2019 RHL.

Current management:

| Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| 15" | Jan. 1 – June 23 | Closed |
| | June 24 – Aug. 31 | 3 fish/day |
| | Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 | 7 fish/day |

2020 Management: The Division is not proposing changes to recreational Black sea bass management for 2020.



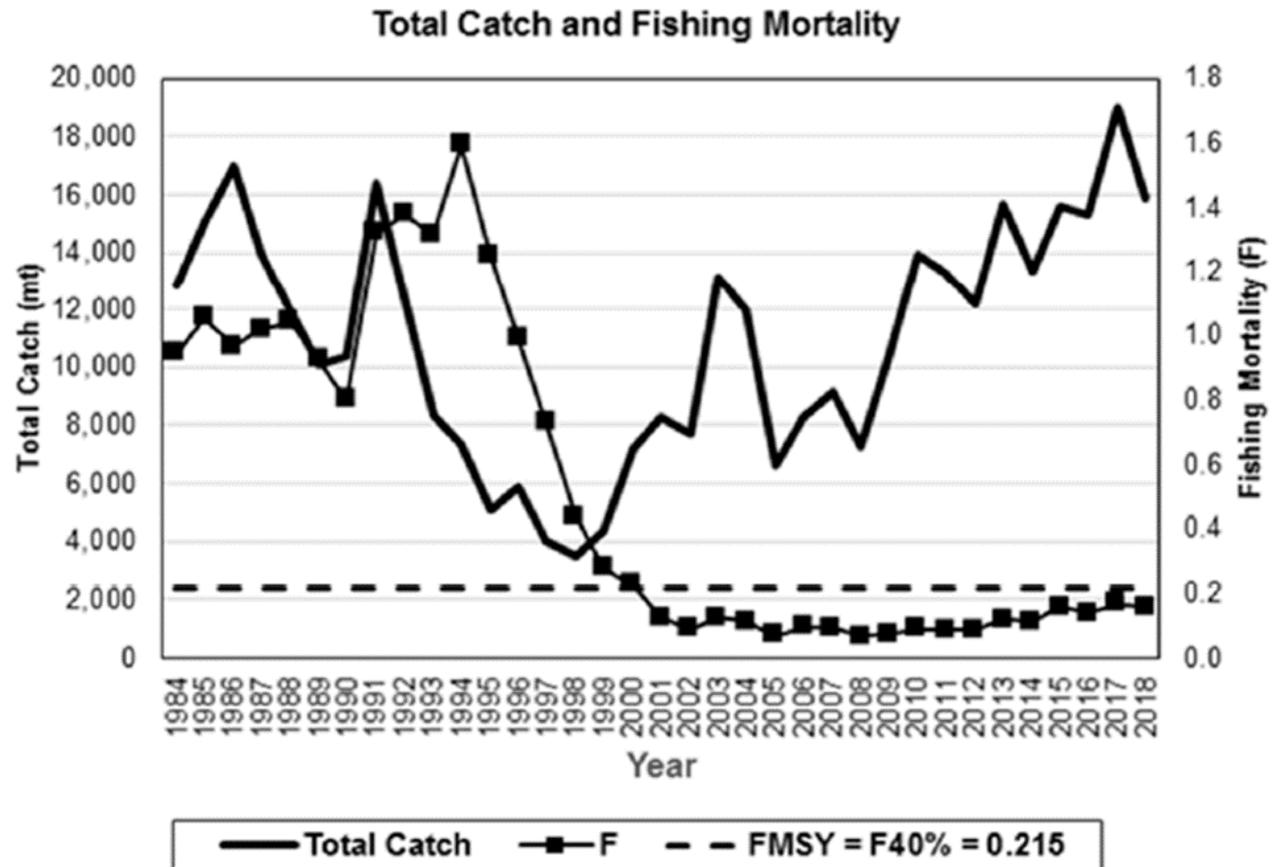
Scup

- Summary of Stock Status
- 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance
- 2020 recreational management

Scup - Stock Status



- Benchmark assessment completed in 2015; operational assessment in 2019.
- Scup is not overfished, overfishing is not occurring relative to updated BRPs.
- Fishing mortality (F) estimated to be 0.158 in 2018, below the threshold F reference point = 0.22.



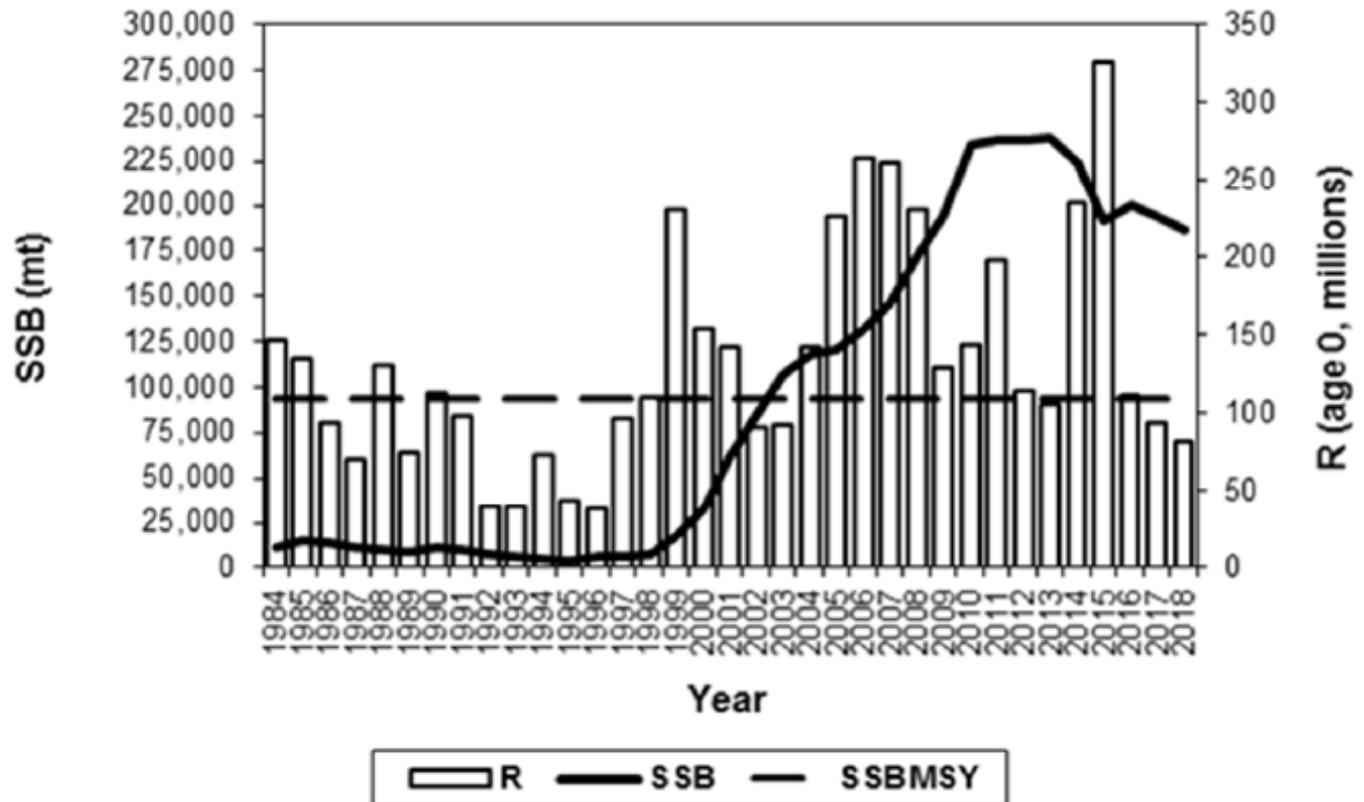
Scup - Stock Status



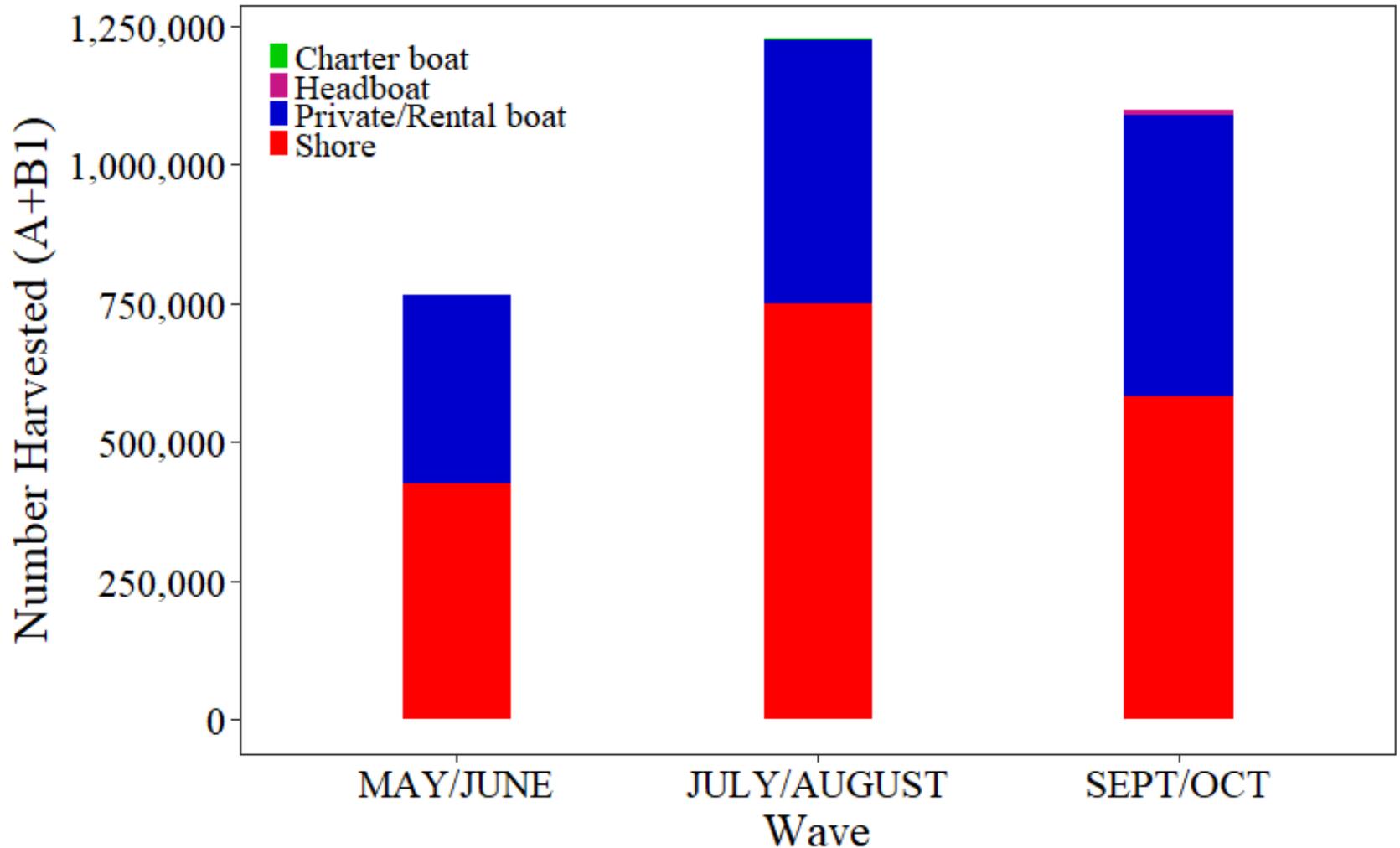
- SSB estimated to be 411 m lbs in 2018, above the SSB reference point = 207.28 m lbs and above the SSB threshold = 103.64 m lbs.

- The 2016-2018 year classes estimated to be below average.

Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment (R)



Scup - 2019 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2019 MRIP, 2019 data preliminary and only through wave 5

Scup - 2020 Recreational Management



- Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) of 6.51 and 5.34 million lbs set for 2020 and 2021, a decrease from the 2019 RHL.

Current management:

| Sector | Min. size | Season | Poss. limit |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| Gen. rec. | 9" | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | 30 fish/day |
| Party/ Charter | 9" | Jan. 1 – Aug. 31 | 30 fish/day |
| | | Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 | 50 fish/day |
| | | Nov. 1 – Dec. 31 | 30 fish/day |
| Special Shore | 8" | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | 30 fish/day |

2020 Management: The Division is not proposing changes to recreational Scup management for 2020.

End of Slides!



CoolClips.com