



# ***Atlantic Mackerel***

*August 2020*

# Overview

- Data Update
- Current Specifications
- Info Doc Highlights
- FPR Highlights
- Staff recommendation
- SSC

# Data Update

- Low 2018/2019 landings, limited in Canada by quota and US by RH/S Cap
- 2015 year class tracking through catches
- Not evident that there's high recruitment since (but some).

# Current Specifications

Specification	Mackerel 2019 (MT)	Mackerel 2020 (MT)
Overfishing Limit (OFL) (only available for 2019)	31,764	
Total Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) from	29,184	29,184
Canadian Deduction (10,000 MT)	10,000	10,000
U.S. ABC = ACL (Canadian catch deducted)	19,184	19,184
Recreational Allocation	1,209	1,270
Commercial Allocation (rest of ACL)	17,975	17,914
Management Uncertainty Buffer = 3%	539	537
Commercial ACT (97% of ACL)	17,436	17,377
DAH (0.37% discards)	17,371	17,312

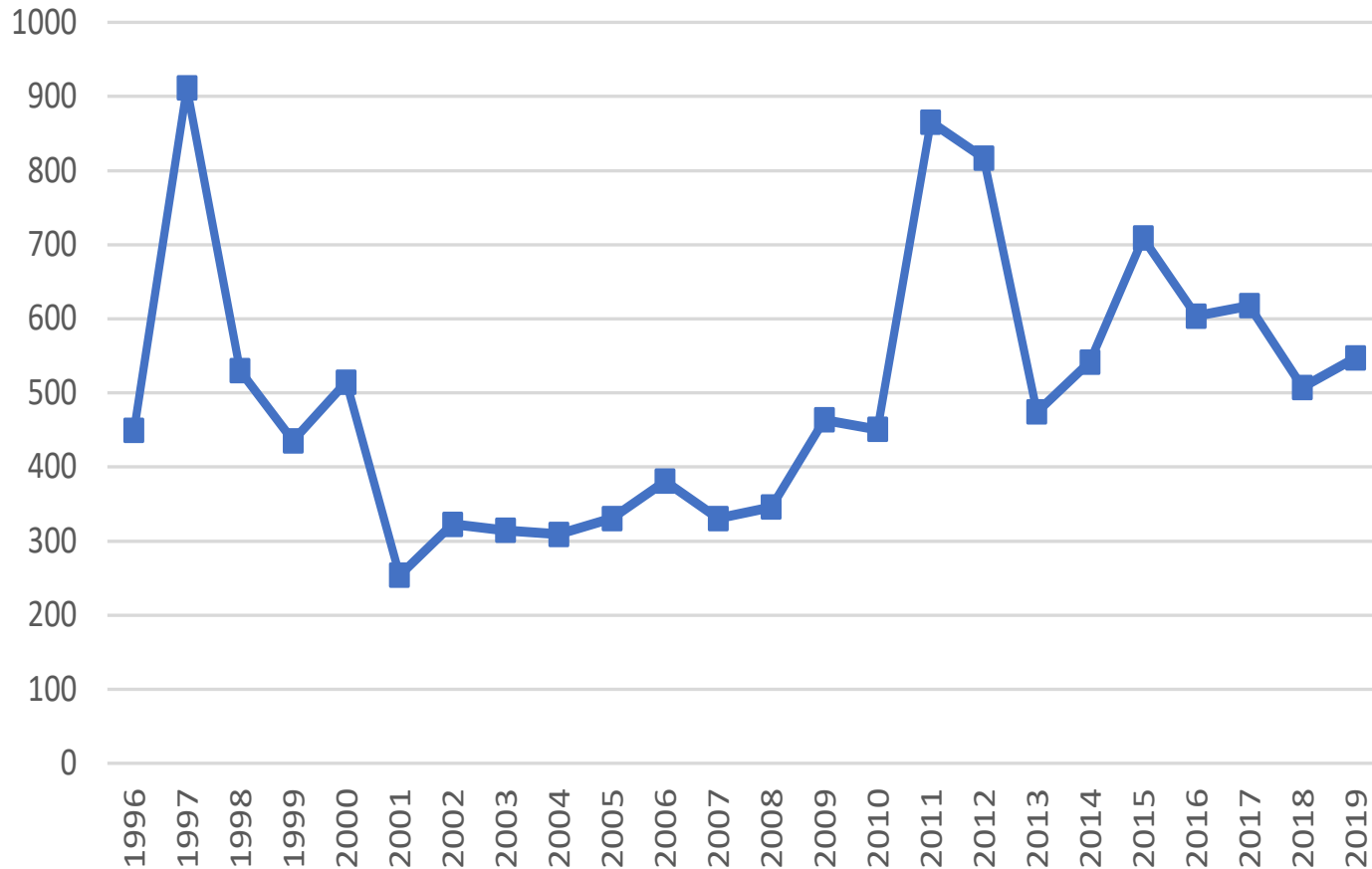
90% = 40,000-pound trip limit for Tier 1/2/3 (inc to 5,000-pounds);

98% = 5,000-pound trip limit

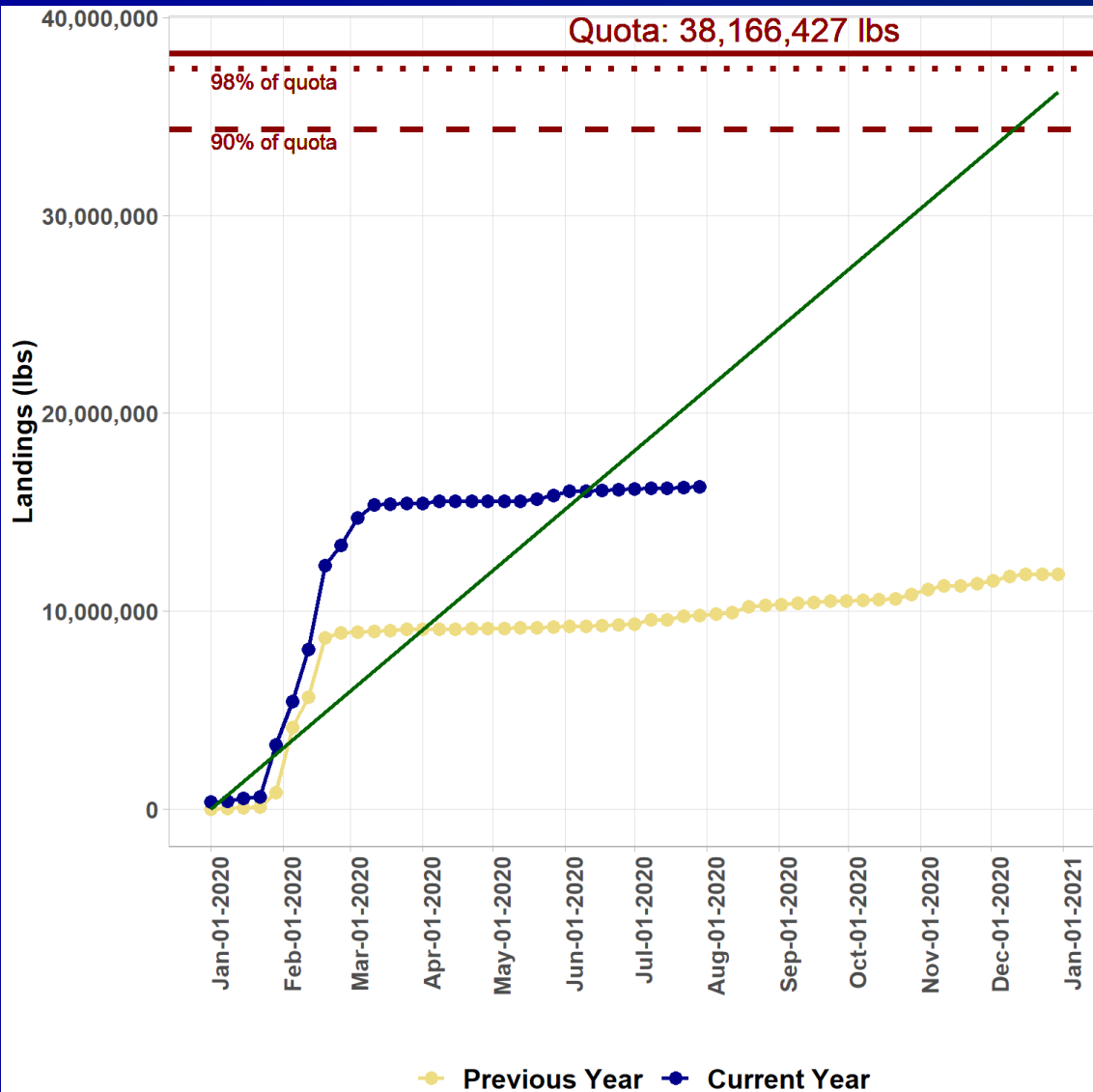
20,000-pound trip limit if RH/S cap reached

# Info Doc Highlights

Mackerel Inflation-Adjusted Price \$/MT



# Info Doc Highlights



# FPR Highlights

- Shifting thermal habitat
- Tariffs
- Regulation limitations
- COVID-19 affecting everything in current year, but fish disappeared in 2020 before COVID-19 effects
- RH/S Cap & Atl. Herring Choke Species
  - Canada limited by quota

# Staff Recommendation

- The mackerel situation does not appear substantially changed since last reviewed
- Staff recommends maintaining the current mackerel ABC of 29,184 metric tons (MT) for 2021-2022 (until the 2021 assessment can be used)
- SSC...



# Atlantic Mackerel (100% OFL CV)



- **Highlights**

- Assessment update delayed due to availability of data
- Assessment postponed until June 2021; will now synchronize with Canada
- Fishery closed in 2019 due to river herring/shad bycatch cap
- Canadian assessment (March 2019) recommends low catches for northern contingent
- Endorses staff ABC recommendation of **29,184 mt** in 2021 and 2022.

- **Uncertainties**

- MANY—see below

- **Considerations for 2021 Management Track Assessment**

- Recreational landings expected to be high (~39% since 2010)
- Absence of spring survey in 2020 and egg survey data.
- Southern contingent is small (~6.4%) of total stock.
- Concerns expressed about 2015 year class—it drives the rebuilding trajectory
- Unpredictable timing of offshore movements
- Low recent recruitment and low SSB in Canadian egg survey
- Missing catch information from bait and recreational fisheries in Canada