



# Atlantic Chub Mackerel 2022 Specifications

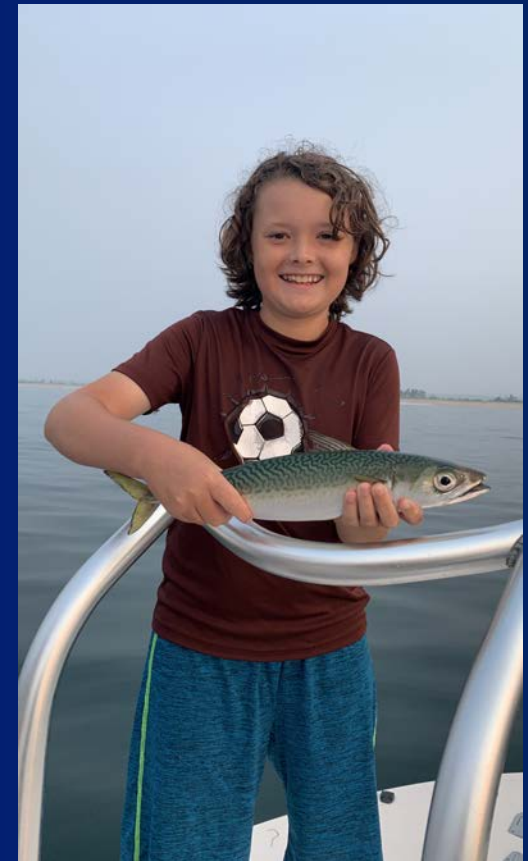


Council Meeting

October 5, 2021

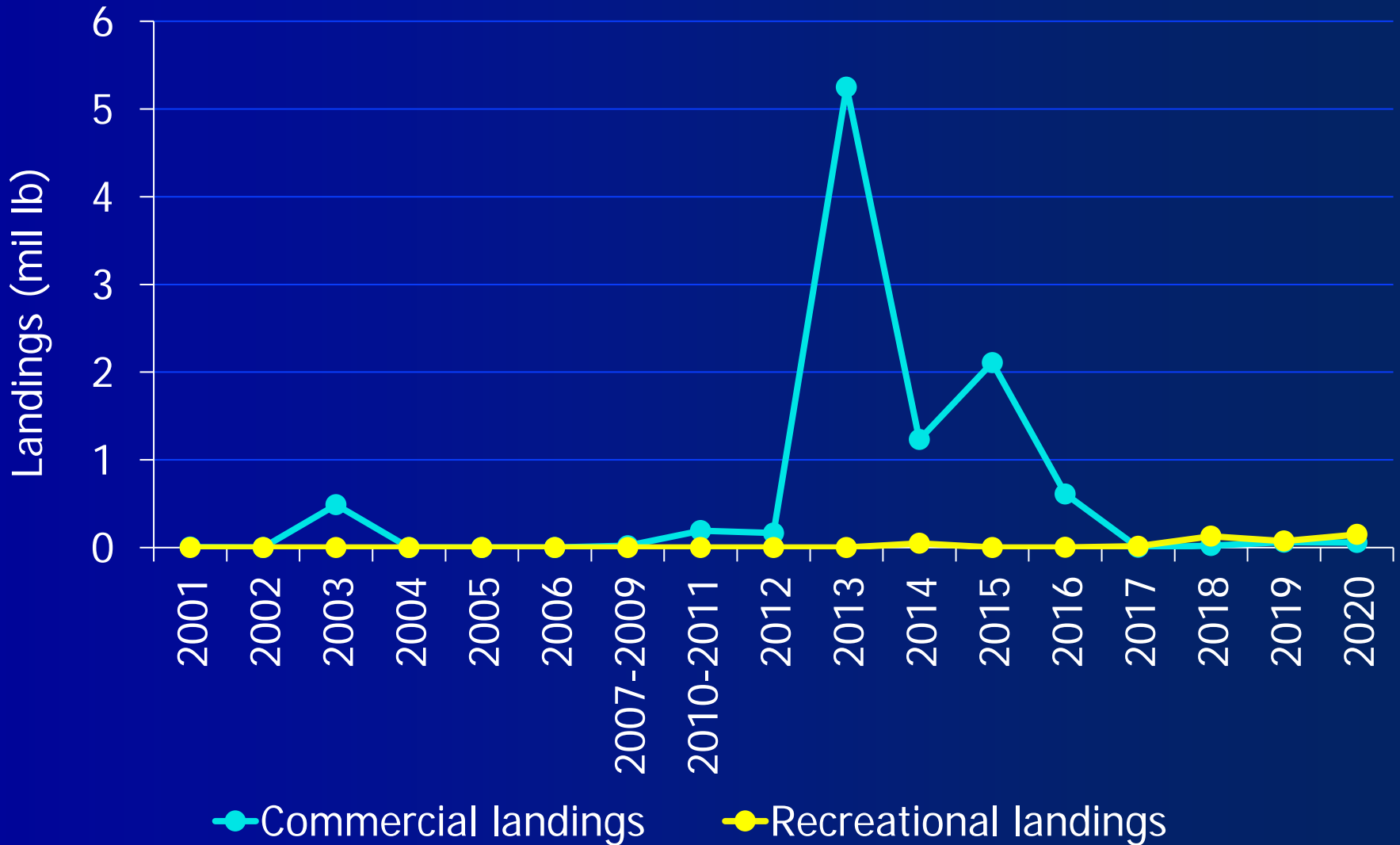
# Meeting Objective

- Review:
  - Recent fishery information
  - Implemented 2022 specifications
  - SSC, AP, and MC recommendations
- Consider if revisions are needed to 2022 specifications.
  - SSC, AP, and MC all recommend no changes.

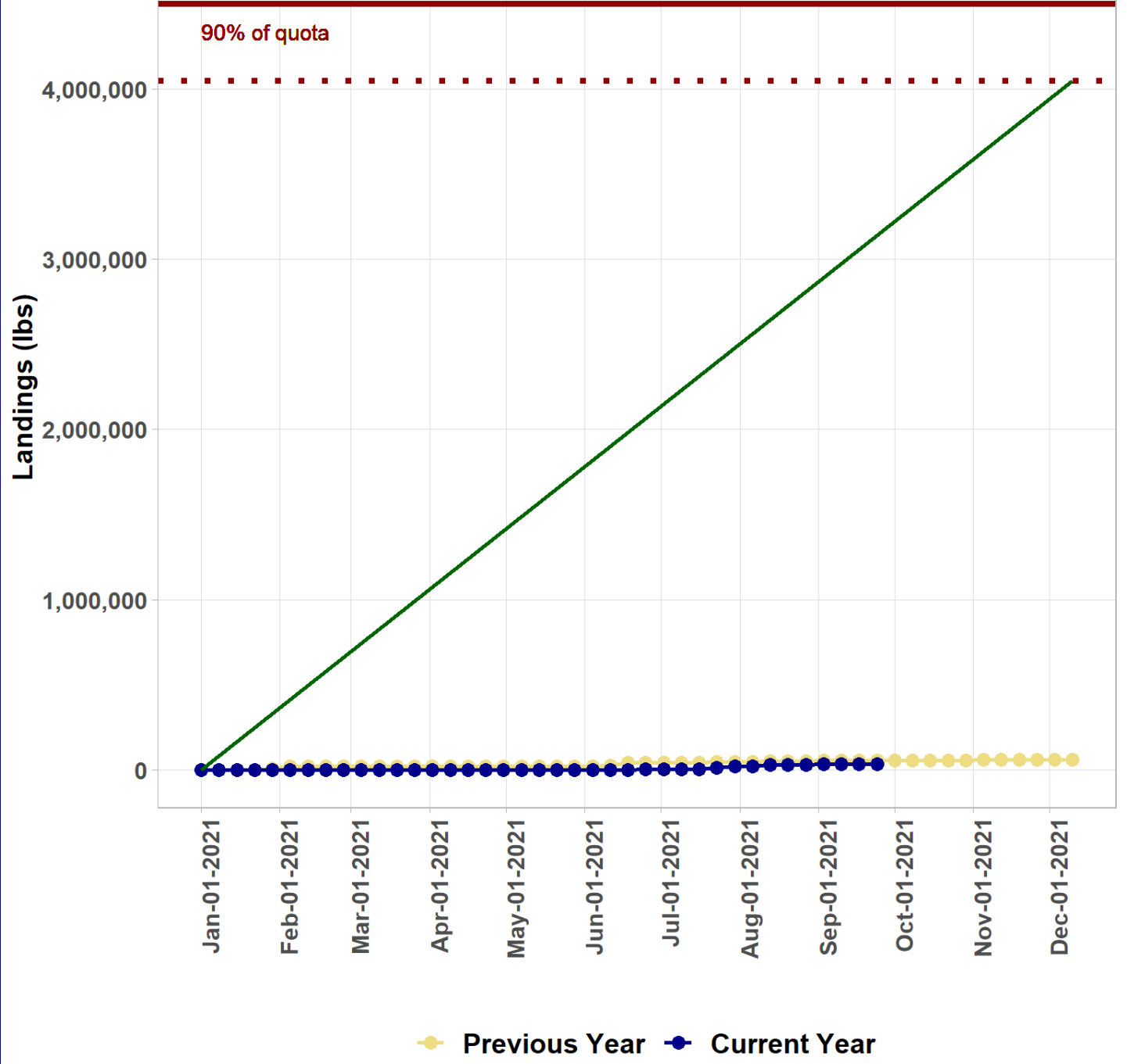


Jason Didden

# Com. & Rec. Landings, ME-NC



Quota: 4,499,486 lbs



# Commercial Fishery

- Overlap with *Illex* squid fishery
  - Vessels, time of year, area
  - “Bailout” species/alternative fishery
- 95% of com. landings over past 20 years from fewer than 5 vessels, fewer than 3 dealers
- 91% landings from bottom trawl (fed VTRs)
- 97% landings from June-October
- \$0.51/lb on avg, 2001-2020 (adjusted to 2020 \$)

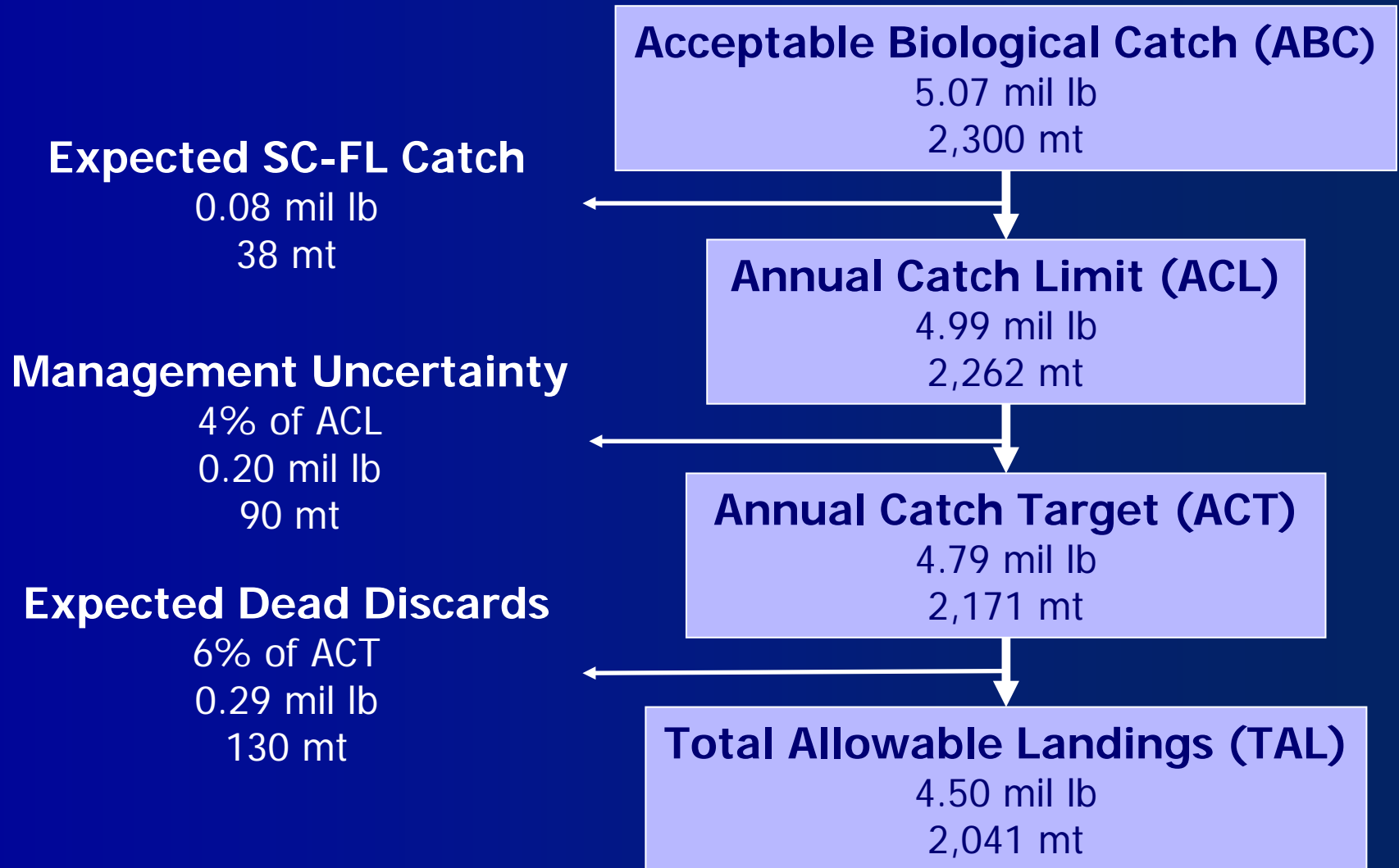


# Recreational Fishery

- On avg. 2016-2020:
  - 54% harvest from state waters, 46% federal.
  - Most harvest in NY (48%), RI (22%), NJ (14%), CT (10%).
  - 49% private/rental, 34% party/charter, 7% shore.
  - Most harvest July-Aug (65%), Sept-Oct (30%).



# 2020-2022 Specifications



# ABC

- Insufficient info exists to assess status and trends in NW Atlantic.
- OFL cannot be specified.
- $ABC = 2,300 \text{ MT} = 5.07 \text{ mil lb.}$ 
  - Based on expert judgement.
  - Based loosely on historic high for landings and assumptions about discards.
  - Prevents fishery from reaching historic high, but allows higher catch than in all other years.
  - Unlikely to result in overfishing given general productivity of species worldwide combined with low fishery capacity in this region.
- ME-FL catch applies to ABC.
- Reviewed in 2020, 2021. No changes recommended.



# ACL

- $ACL = ABC - \text{expected SC-FL catch}$ .
- Expected SC-FL catch = 38 mt / 84,500 lb.
- Intended as a conservative estimate.
- Represents ~2% of ABC.
- Highest com + rec landings, 1998-2017, increased by about 10% to account for discards, which are uncertain.
- Recent data suggest SC-FL catch has remained well below this amount.
  - No MRIP catch SC- FL east coast, 2018-2020.
  - Commercial data confidential, but landings less than 200 lb total, 2018-2020.
- **MC and AP recommend no change.**

# ACT

- $ACT = ACL - \text{mgmt. uncertainty buffer.}$
- Council previously recommended 4% reduction in ACL.
- **MC and AP recommend no change.**

# TAL

- TAL = ACT – expected discards.
- No expanded discard estimates.
- Council previously recommended 6% reduction in ACT.
- Based on overall % discards shown in 2003-2017 observer data. Driven by years with higher catch.
- More recent years shown higher discard % (table below), but lower overall catch.
- As ABC is loosely based on the year with highest catch, **MC and AP recommend no changes.**

Years	Observer Discard %	VTR Discard %
2006-2020 (15 years)	7% (337 trips)	3% (869 trips)
2011-2020 (10 years)	6% (301 trips)	3% (854 trips)
2016-2020 (5 years)	43% (193 trips)	4% (582 trips)
2013-2015 (top 3)	4% (95 trips)	3% (282 trips)
2013 (historic high)	3% (27 trips)	1% (63 trips)

# Possession Limits

- No recreational possession limit.
- Commercial possession limits.
  - 40,000 lb after 90% of TAL projected to be landed.
  - 10,000 lb after 100% of TAL projected to be landed.
- 40,000 lb intended to discourage targeting while minimizing dead discards.
- 10,000 lb = ~avg trip, 1998-2017. If top vessels excluded, covers ~99% of trips.
- Data since 2017 show similar trends.
- **MC and AP recommend no change.**



Robert Leaf

# Recreational Size Limit

- Considered for Atlantic mackerel through rebuilding 2.0.
- Consider same measure for chub mackerel due to species ID challenges?
- Not recommended by AP.
- MC did not recommend for or against, but discussed relevant considerations.
  - Monitoring and enforcement of Atl. Mackerel rec. size limit more effective if same limit applied to chub mackerel.
  - Could improve compliance, avoid incentives to misreport, lead to better confidence in data used to monitor catch of both species.
  - Conservation benefits questionable given high discard mortality rate.

# AP Fishery Performance Report

## Research priorities

- 3 advisors: Dr. Golet's research rigorous and conclusive. No additional research needed on chub mackerel in HMS diets.
- 1 advisor: Dr. Golet's findings on the importance of *IIIex* and bullet and frigate mackerel warrant further exploration.
- Another advisor did not recommend the Council funding additional research on *IIIex* in the diet of HMS. Can be addressed in other ways.



# Discussion

- Any changes recommended for 2022 specifications?
- SSC, AP, MC recommendation: No changes.

