MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Scup
2017-2018 Specifications Review

Council and Board Meeting

August 10, 2016

Objective

- Review 2017-2018 specifications
- Recommend changes if necessary

Recommendations

- Staff recommendation: *no changes*
- SSC recommendation: *no changes*
- Monitoring Committee recommendation: *no changes*
- AP recommendation: *ABCs should not decrease over 2016-2018*

2017-2018 Specs

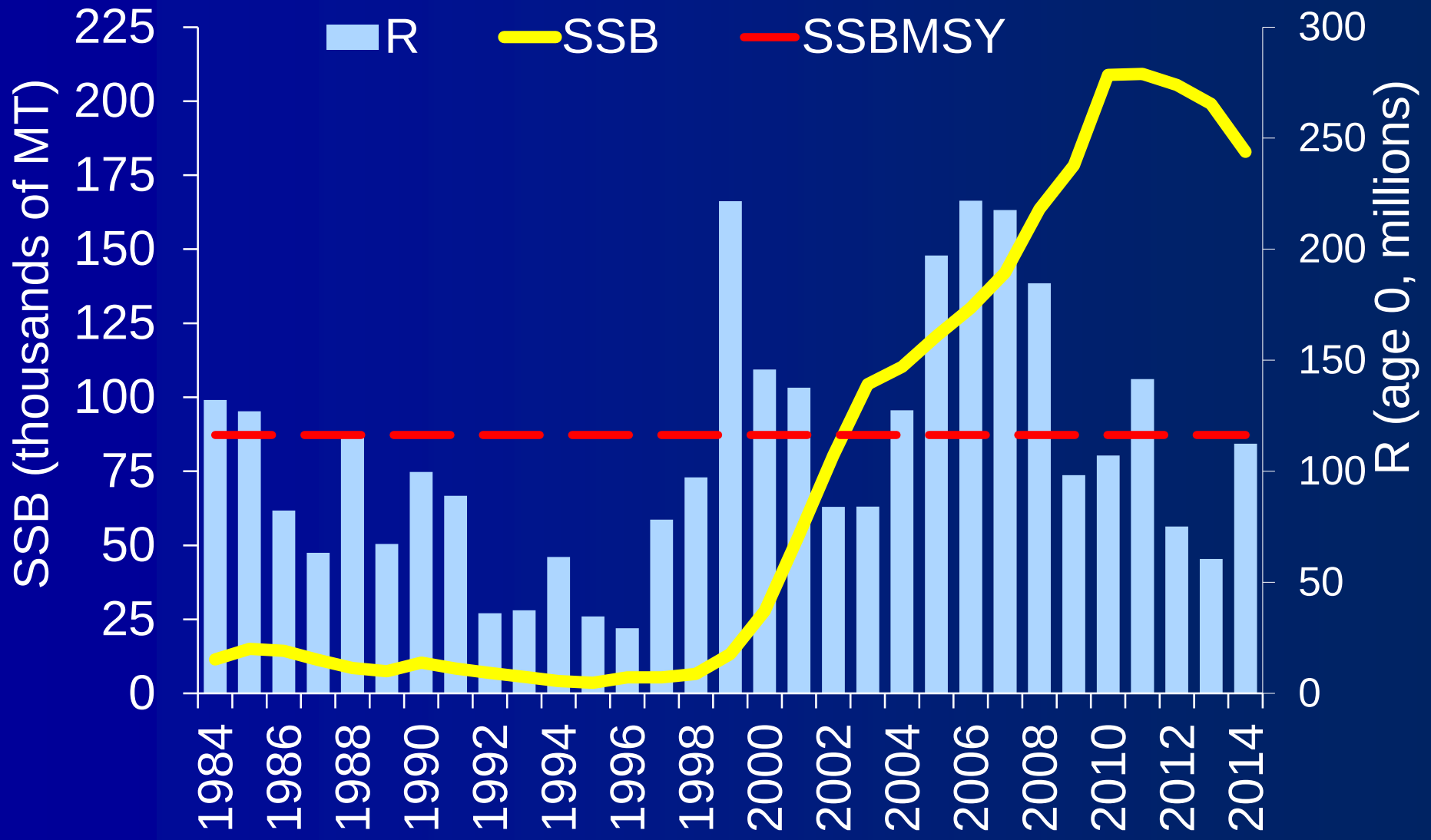
Management Measure	2017	2018
OFL	32.09	29.68
ABC	28.4	27.05
ABC landings portion	23.88	22.55
ABC discards portion	4.52	4.5
Comm. ACL = ACT	22.15	21.1
Projected discards	3.77	3.76
Commercial quota	**18.38**	**17.34**
Recreational ACL = ACT	6.25	5.95
Projected rec. discards	0.75	0.75
Recreational harvest limit	**5.5**	**5.21**

2017-2018 Specs

Commercial measures

- 9” TL min. fish size
- 5” min. mesh size, if possess >1,000 lb Nov-March, >200 lb Apr-Oct
- Pot/traps – degradable hinges, escape vent size/shape requirements
- Trawl rollers must be ≤18”
- Winter I possession limit = 50,000 lb; Winter II possession limit =12,000* lb

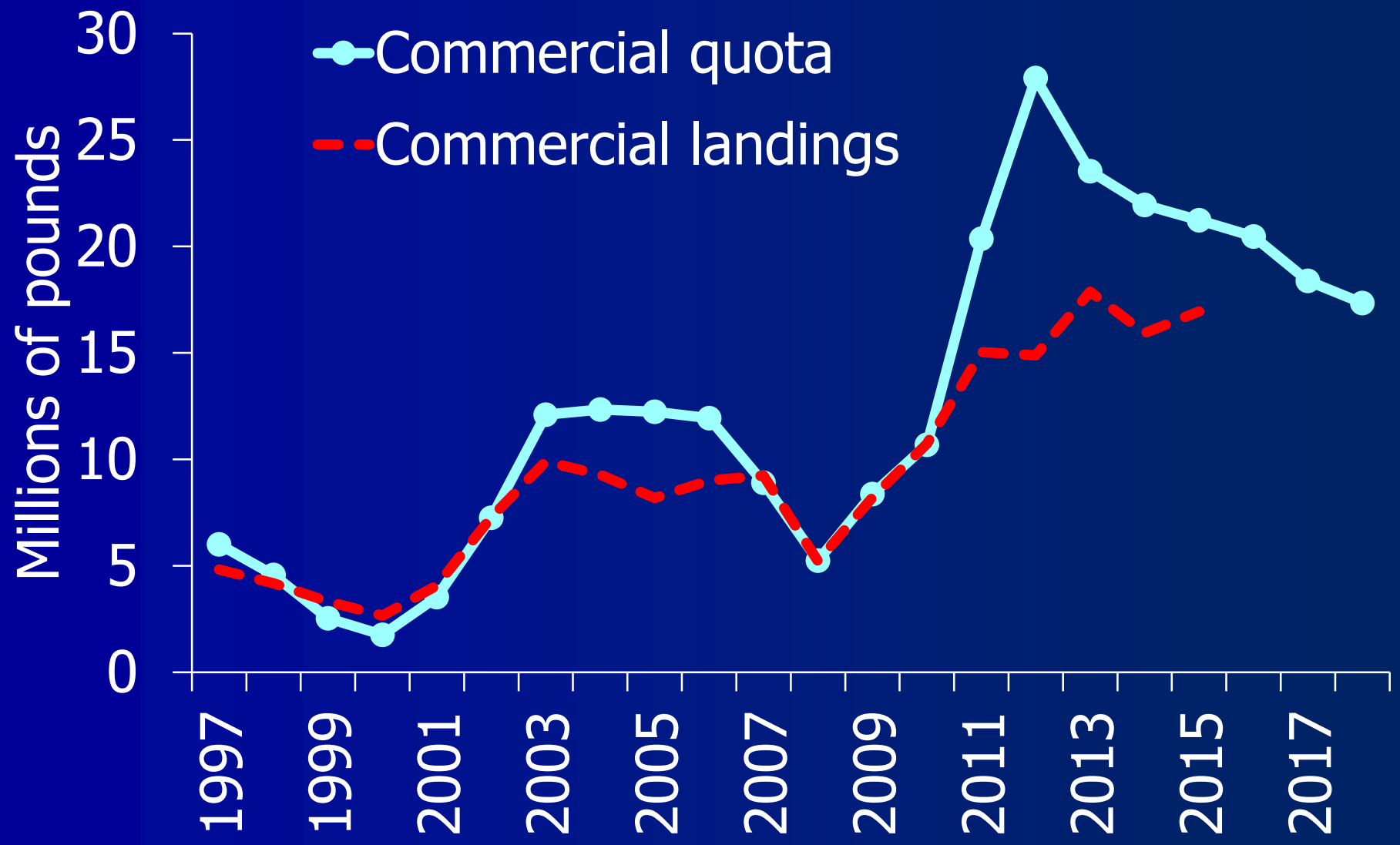
Biomass, Recruitment



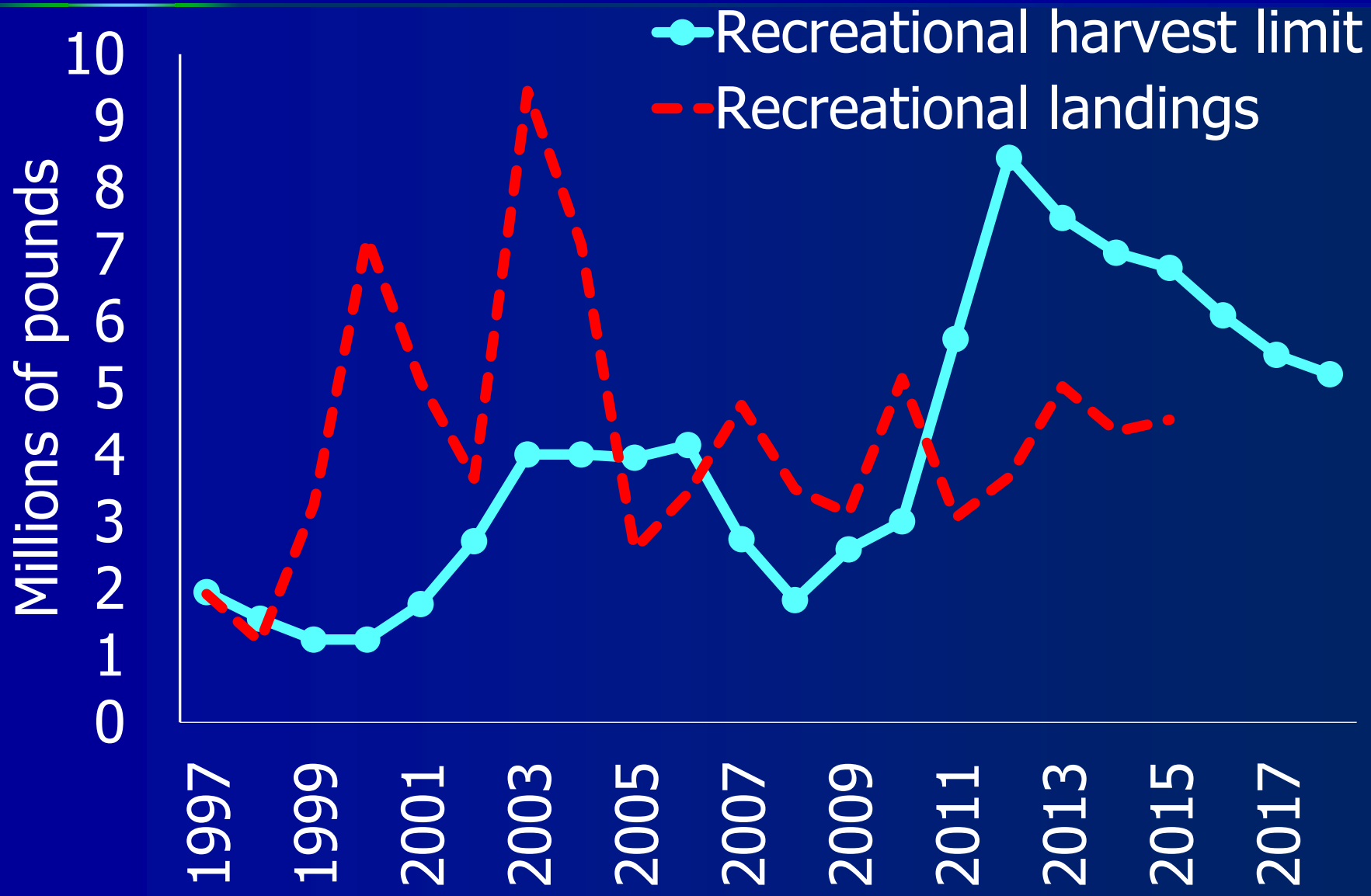
2016 Data Update

- Includes info on fishery catch, landings, and discards and survey (NEFSC and states) catches through 2015
- Biomass continues to be high
- Relative exploitation ratios remain low
- 2015 year class appears to be large
- Record or near record high survey catches: NEFSC spring 2014, NEFSC fall 2015, MADMF spring and fall 2015, RIDFW fall 2014, URIGSO 2014.

Commercial Fishery



Recreational Fishery



AP - Biomass

Quotas and recreational harvest limits should not decrease when SSB is so high

AP – Market Conditions

Differing opinions:

- **Worse than in past**
  - Currently driven by imports, substitutes (e.g. tilapia)
  - Market was stronger prior to FMP (e.g. could sell smaller fish)
- **Improving**
  - Driven by timing of landings
  - Increased supply to fresh markets
    - Focus on product quality
    - Higher demand & prices than frozen market
  - Potential for increased demand among party boats with better marketing

AP – Quota Periods

- Allow transfer of unused Winter I quota to Summer quota period
- Move October from Summer to Winter II quota period
- Both suggestions aimed at increasing commercial landings

Quota Period	Dates	% of annual quota	Possession limit (lb)
Winter I	Jan 1–Apr 30	45.11%	50,000
Summer	May 1–Oct 31	38.95%	State-specific
Winter II	Nov 1–Dec 31	15.94%	12,000*

AP – Minimum Fish Size

Should not apply to trawl vessels

- Min. mesh size intended to reduce catch of immature scup
- Vessels using mesh <min. mesh size restricted to incidental possession limits
- Assumed 100% mortality for trawl gear
- Eliminating min. fish size (9” TL) would reduce discards, bring smaller scup to market, have minimal impact on catch

AP – Recreational Measures

- **Ideas to reduce recreational discards**
  - Eliminate min. fish size (at least when landings<RHL and SSB>SSB_{MSY})
  - Encourage use of certain hook sizes
  - Some advisors though reducing rec. discards not necessary
- **State waters bag limits**
  - Increase to 50 fish to "restore credibility in management", allow "freezer filler" trips
  - Do not change – party/charter boats have adapted to current regulations

SSC Comments

- Survey catches increasing, but 2016-2018 ABC projections declining
- Council should consider requesting an assessment update in 2017 (could result in increased ABC projections)
- No changes to 2017-2018 ABCs recommended at this time

SSC Comments

- Fishery only constrained regionally for a short window of the overall fishery
- Possible ecological impact of large scup stock on benthic communities
- Future risk policy discussions - if super-abundant, allow P*>40%?

Monitoring Committee

- Increasing catch, declining ABCs – 2018 landings may approach quota/RHL
- Agree with SSC –2017 assessment update could be beneficial
- States should continue to diligently monitor landings to prevent overages
- No changes needed to 2017-2018 ACLs, ACTs, commercial management measures

Additional AP Comments

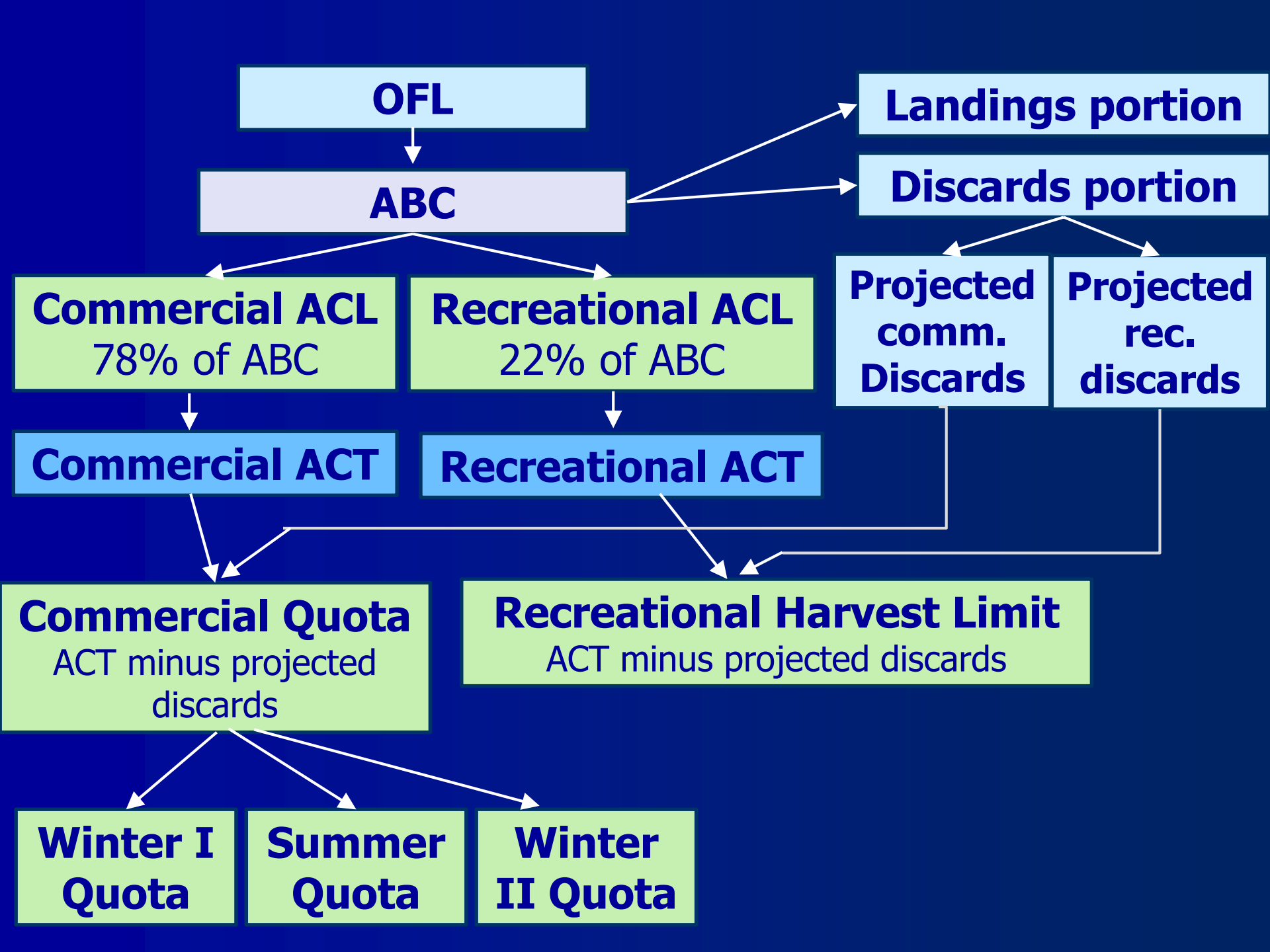
- Frustration – SSC acknowledged apparent disconnect between ABCs and survey catches, but did not revise ABCs
- 2016 quota & RHL should be maintained in 2017 & 2018
- Quotas & RHLs should not decline when biomass is so high
- Ecosystem impacts of high scup biomass
- Council moving towards EAFM, but not taking steps to address high biomass of scup, dogfish, etc.

Summary

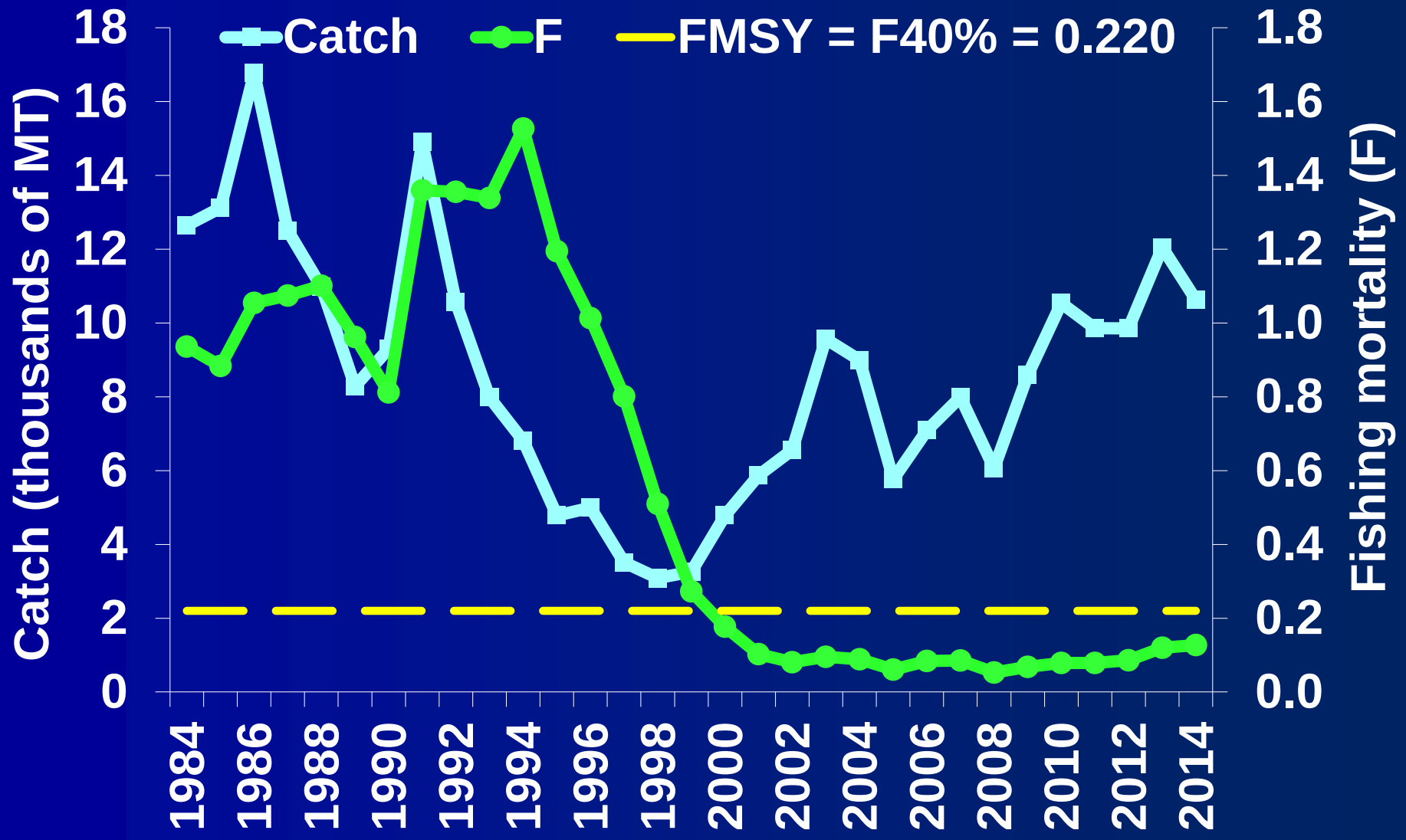
- Staff recommendation: *no changes*
- SSC recommendation: *no changes*
- Monitoring Committee recommendation: *no changes*
- AP recommendation: *ABCs should not decrease over 2016-2018*

Decision Point

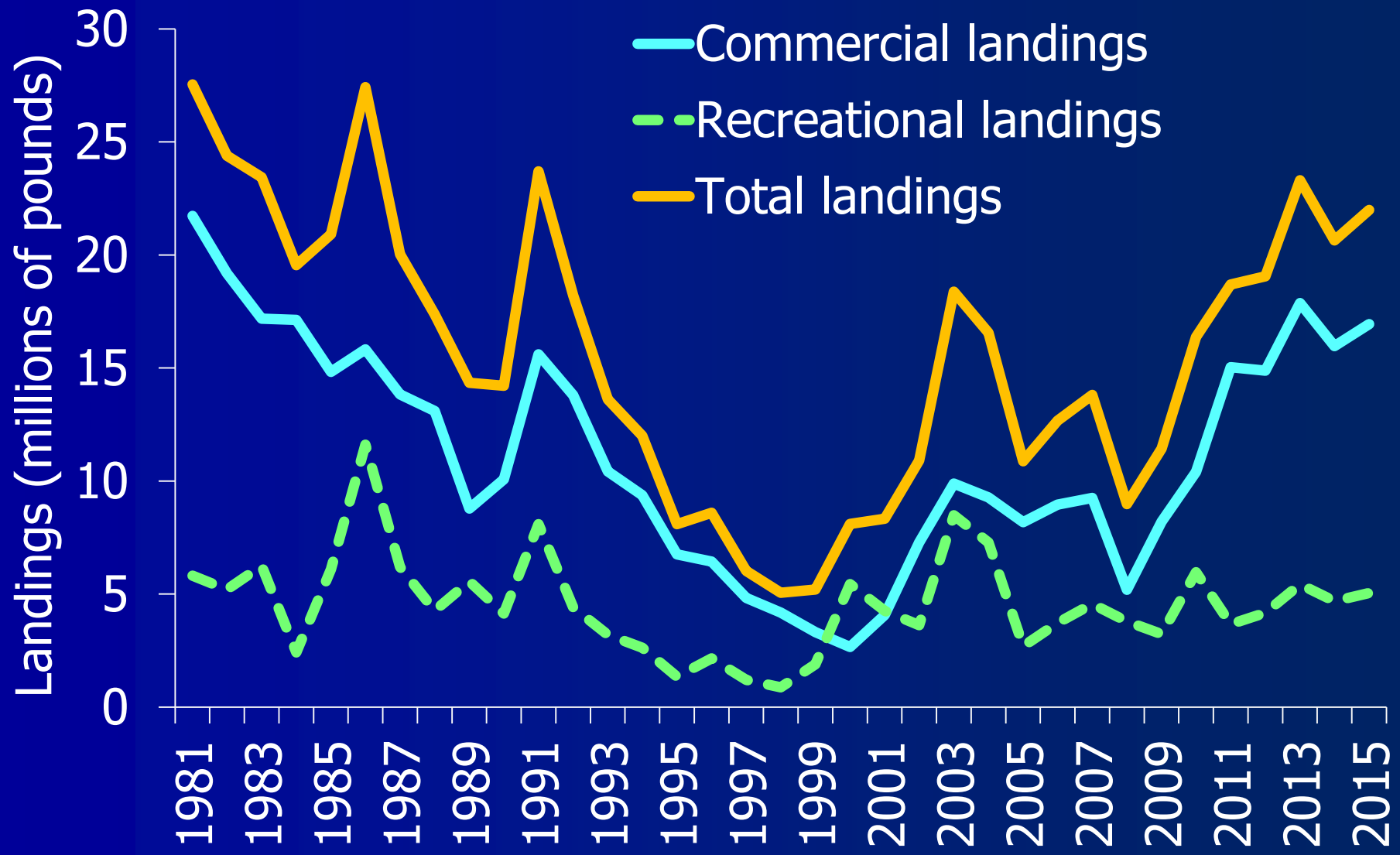
Changes needed to 2017-2018 specifications?


OFL
ABC
Landings portion
Discards portion
Commercial ACL
78% of ABC
Recreational ACL
22% of ABC
Projected comm. Discards
Projected rec. discards
Commercial ACT
Recreational ACT
Commercial Quota
ACT minus projected discards
Recreational Harvest Limit
ACT minus projected discards
Winter I Quota
Summer Quota
Winter II Quota

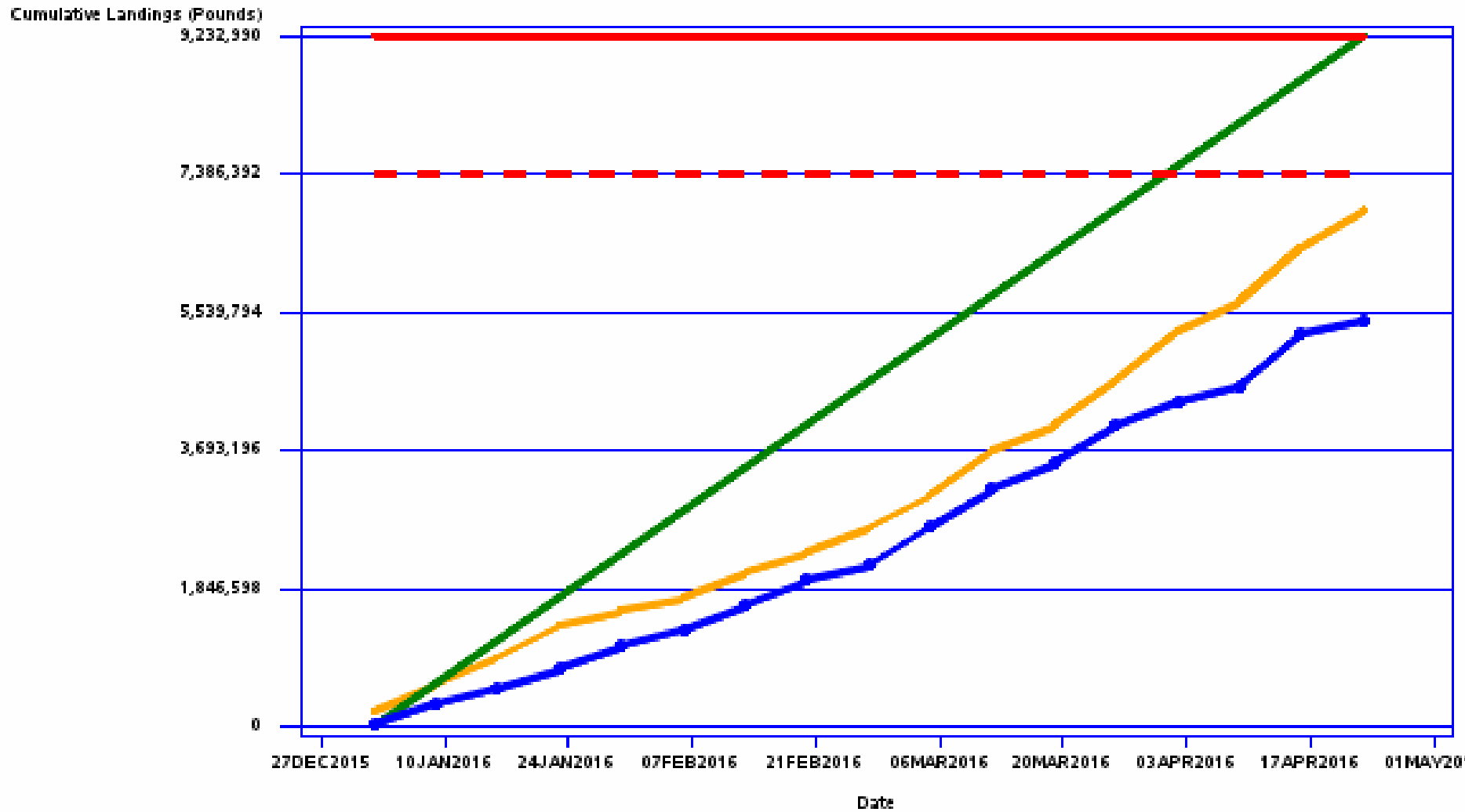
Fishing Mortality



Fishery Performance



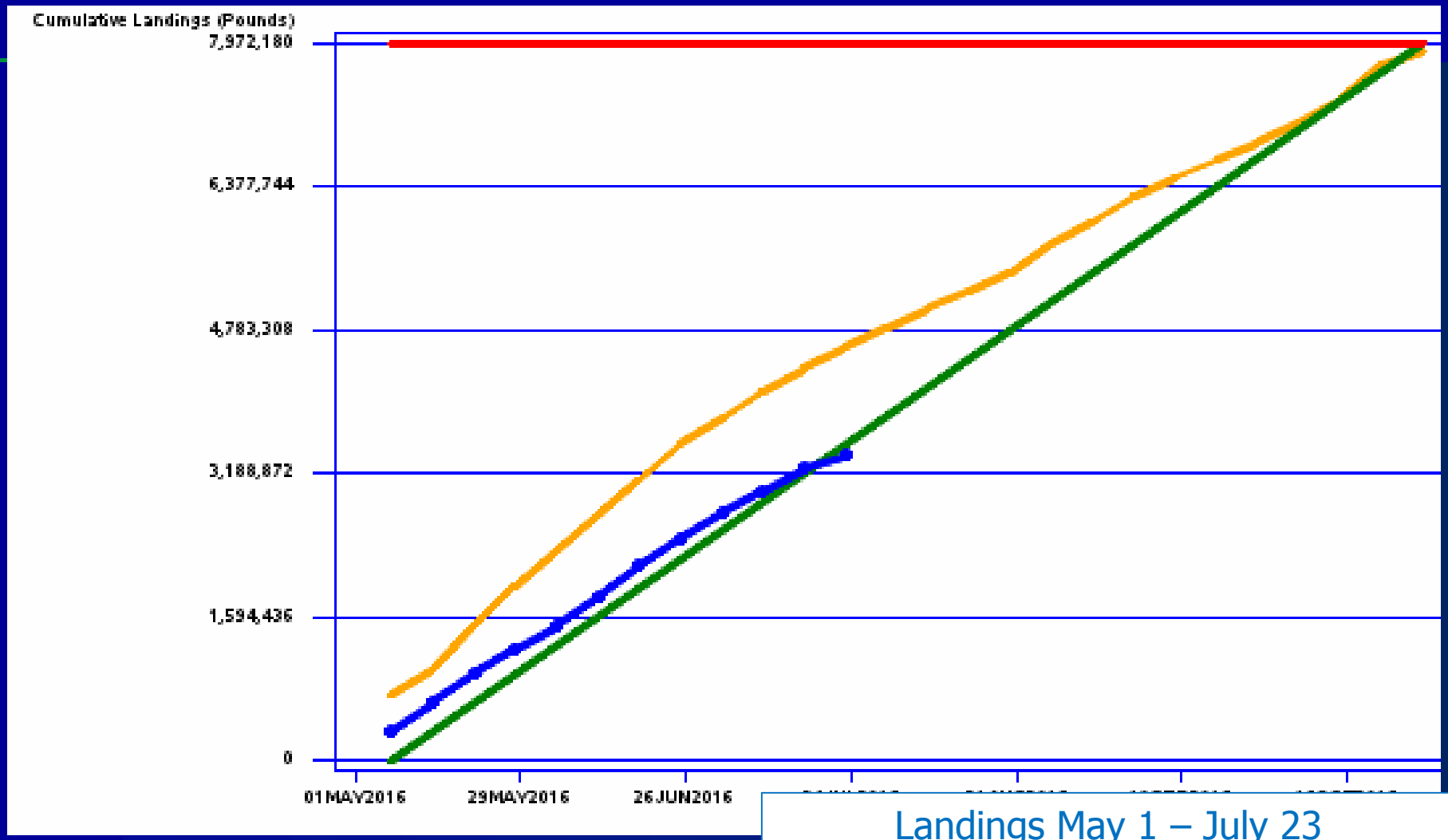
Winter I '16 Comm. Landings



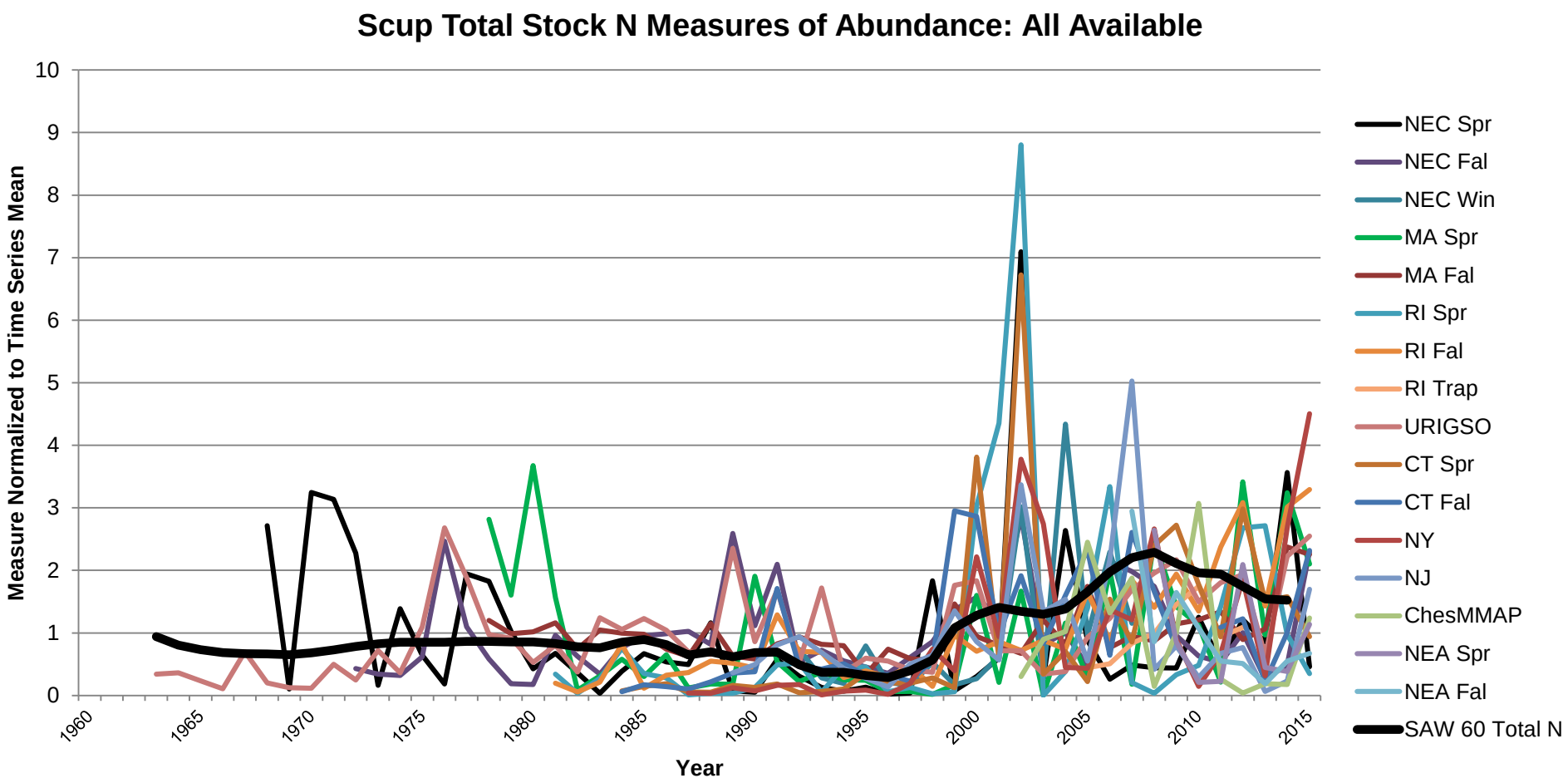
Prior Year's Landings (Pounds)
Quota Rationing Trajectory
80% of Quota
Quota (Pounds)
Current Year's Landings (Pounds)

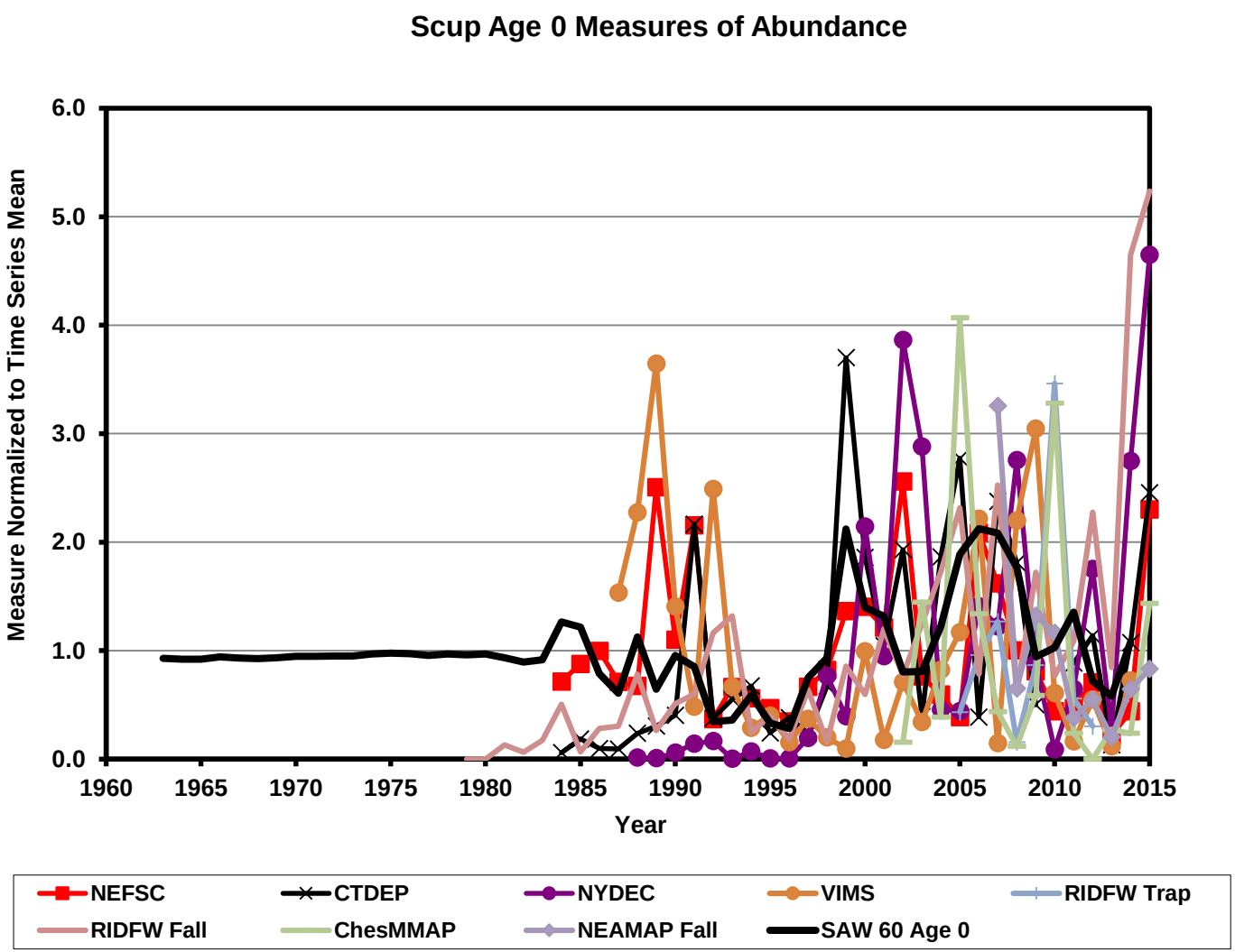
Landings Jan 1 – April 30
Winter I quota period: Jan 1 – April 30
Allocated 45.11% of annual quota

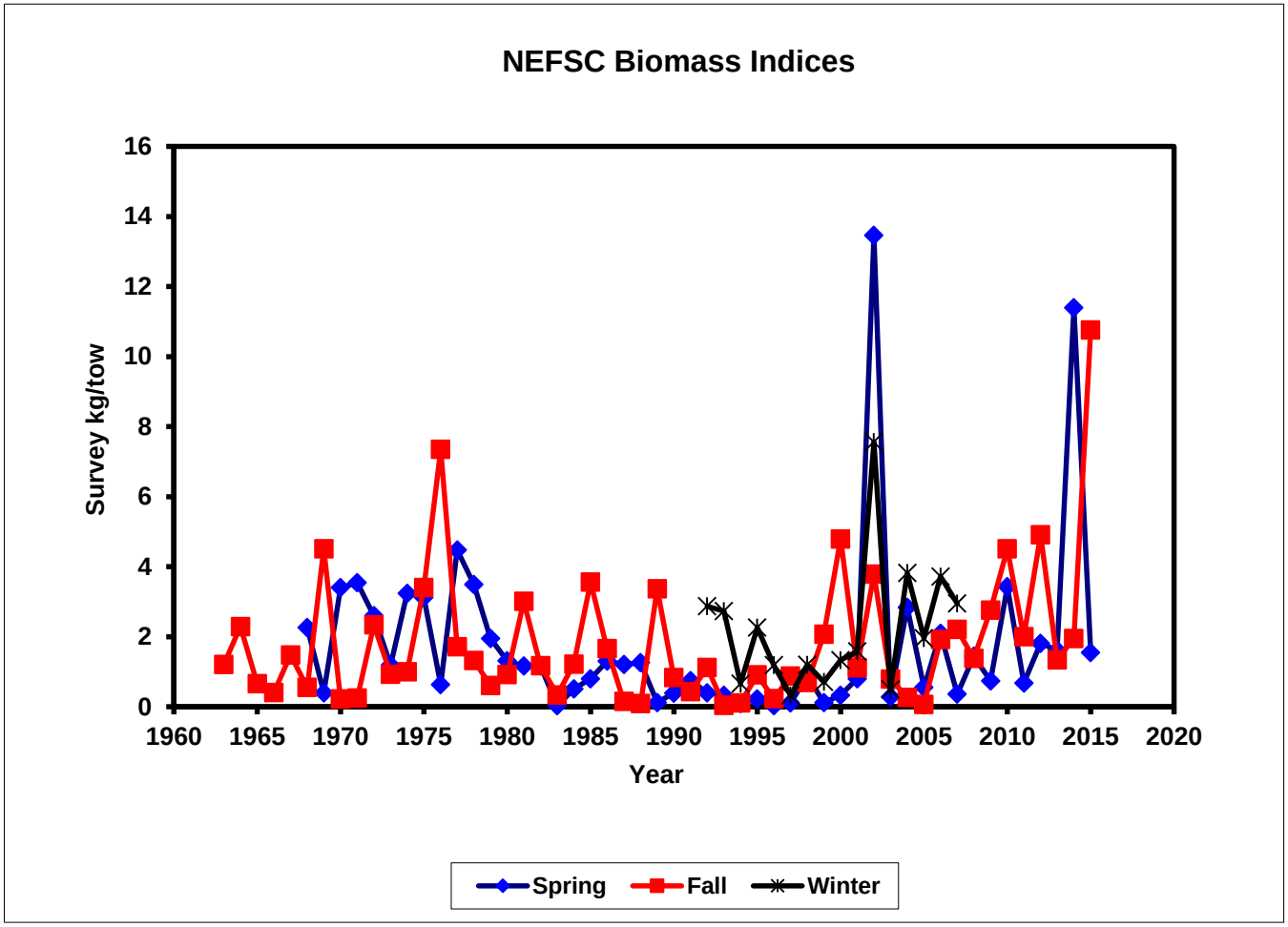
Summer '16 Comm. Landings

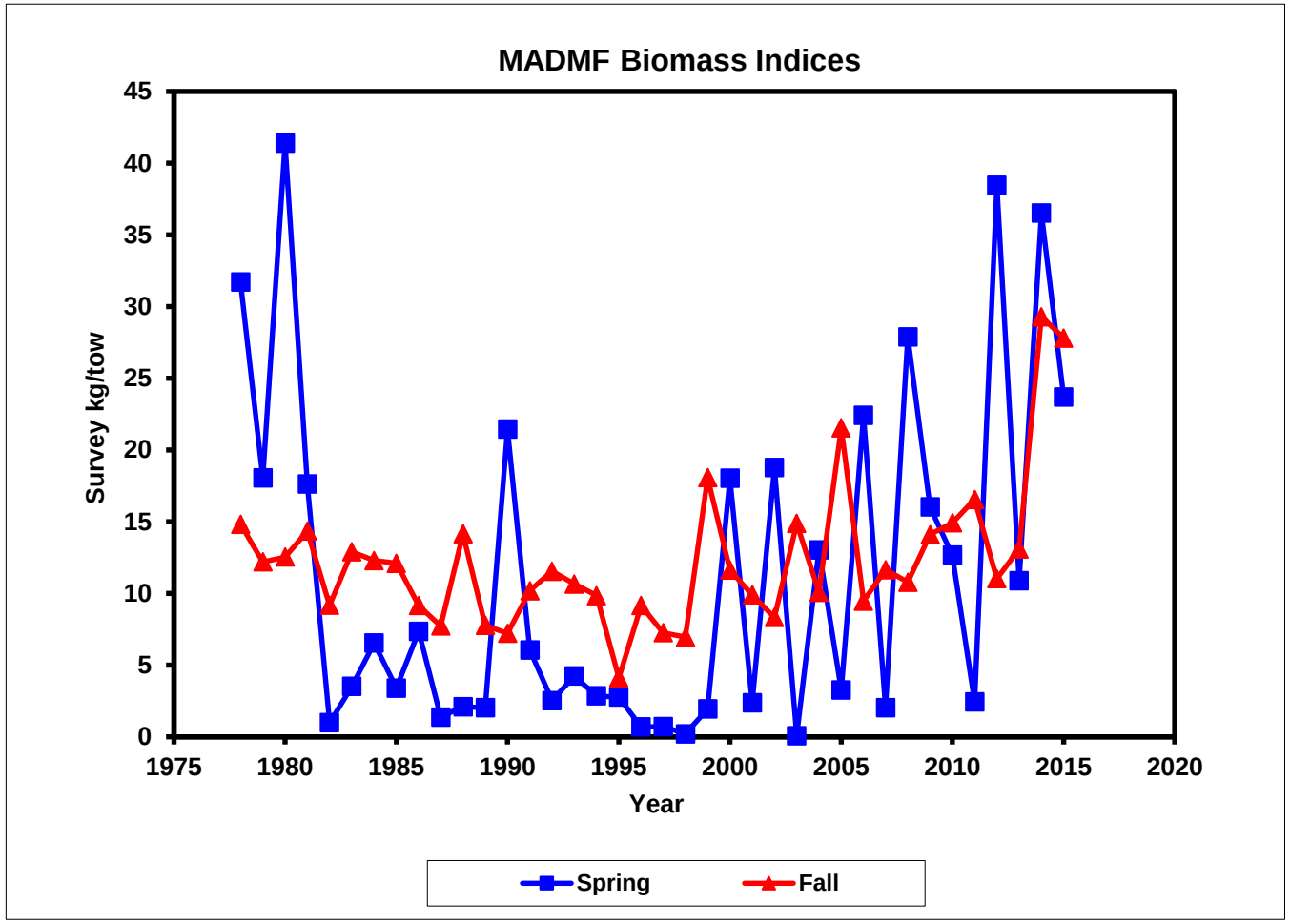


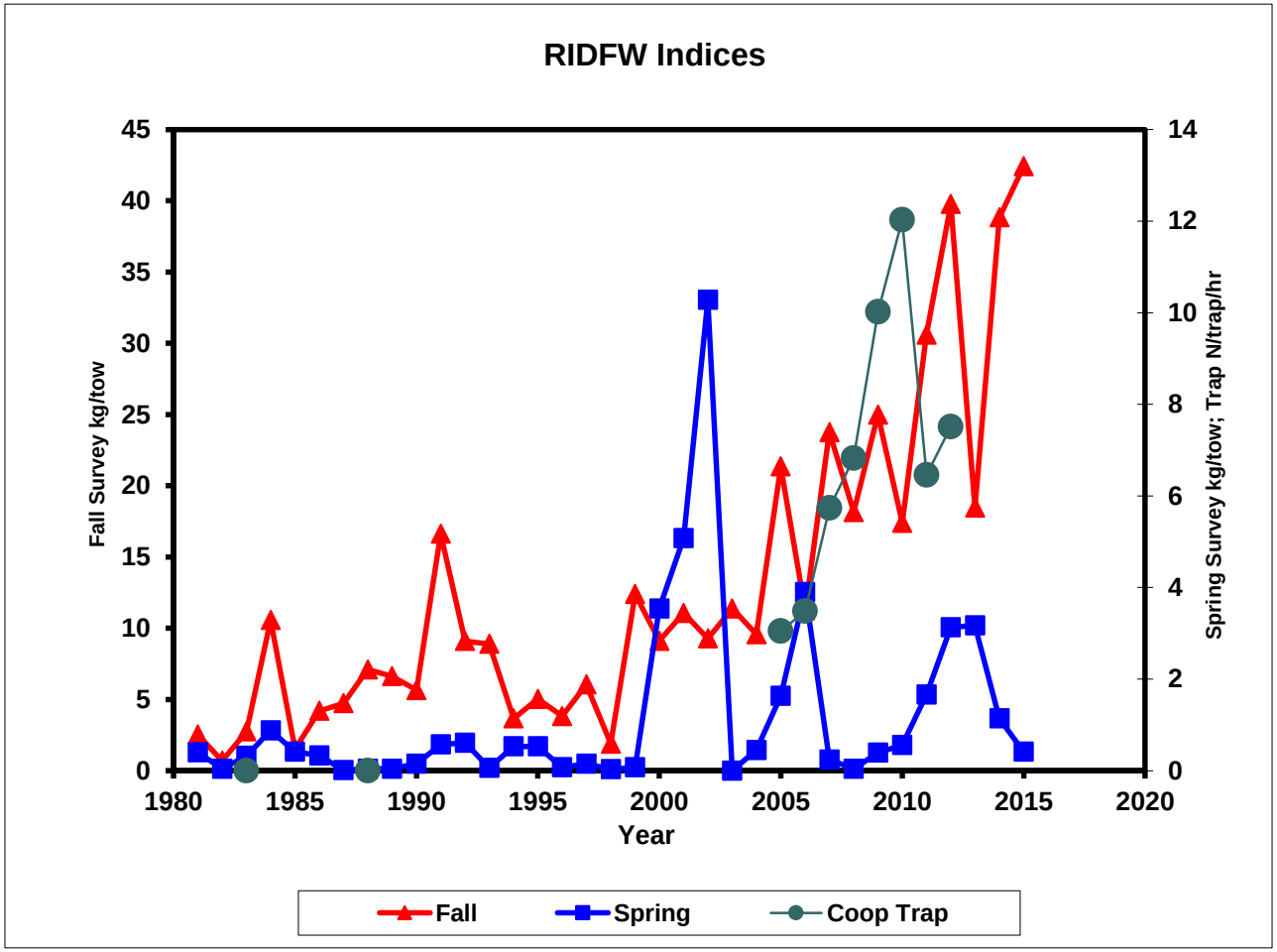
Landings May 1 – July 23
(Data reported through July 27)
Summer quota period: May 1 – Oct 31
Allocated 38.95% of annual quota

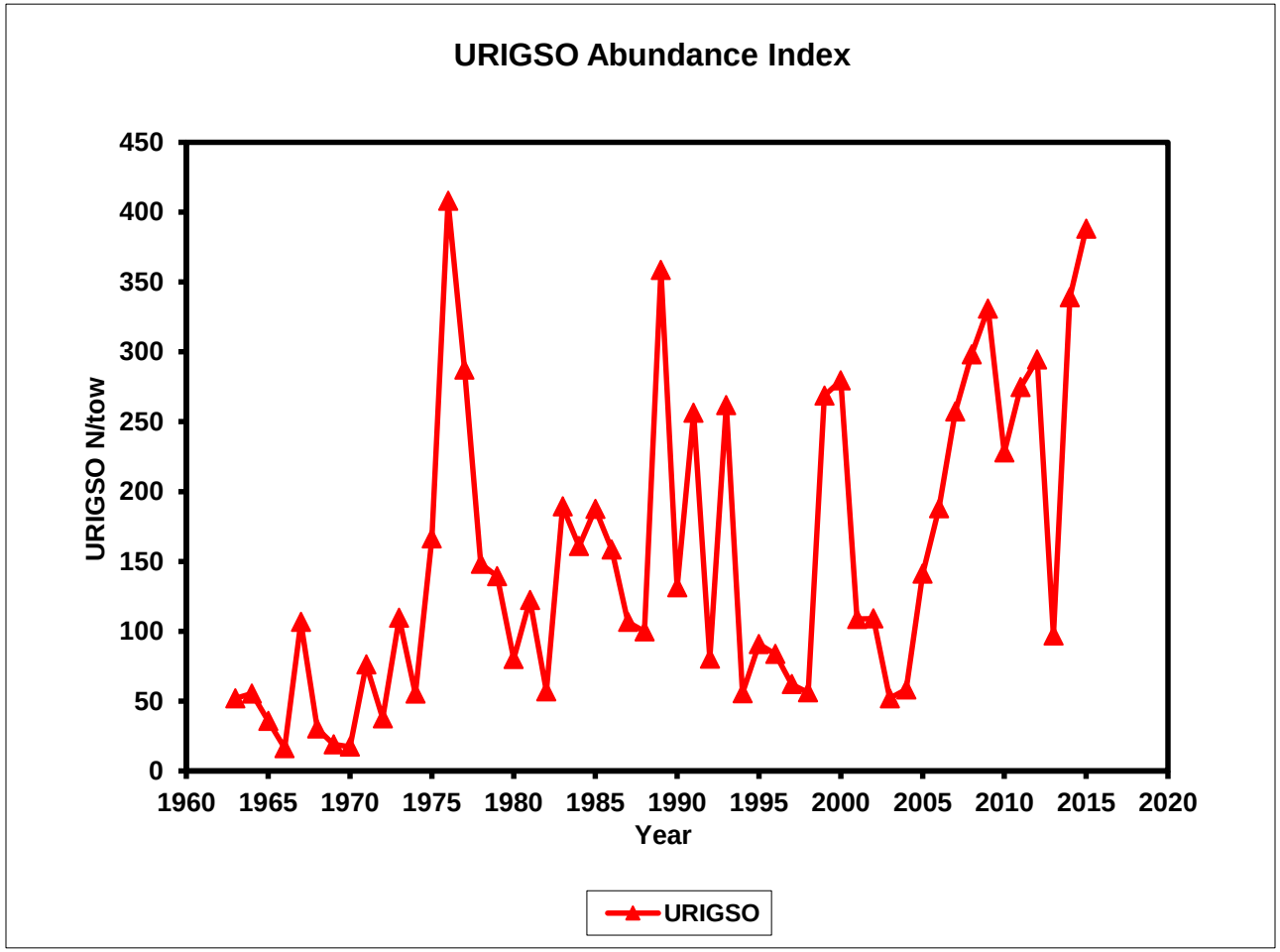

Scup Total Stock N Measures of Abundance: All Available
Measure Normalized to Time Series Mean
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
1960
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
Year
NEC Spr
NEC Fal
NEC Win
MA Spr
MA Fal
RI Spr
RI Fal
RI Trap
URIGSO
CT Spr
CT Fal
NY
NJ
ChesMMAP
NEA Spr
NEA Fal
SAW 60 Total N

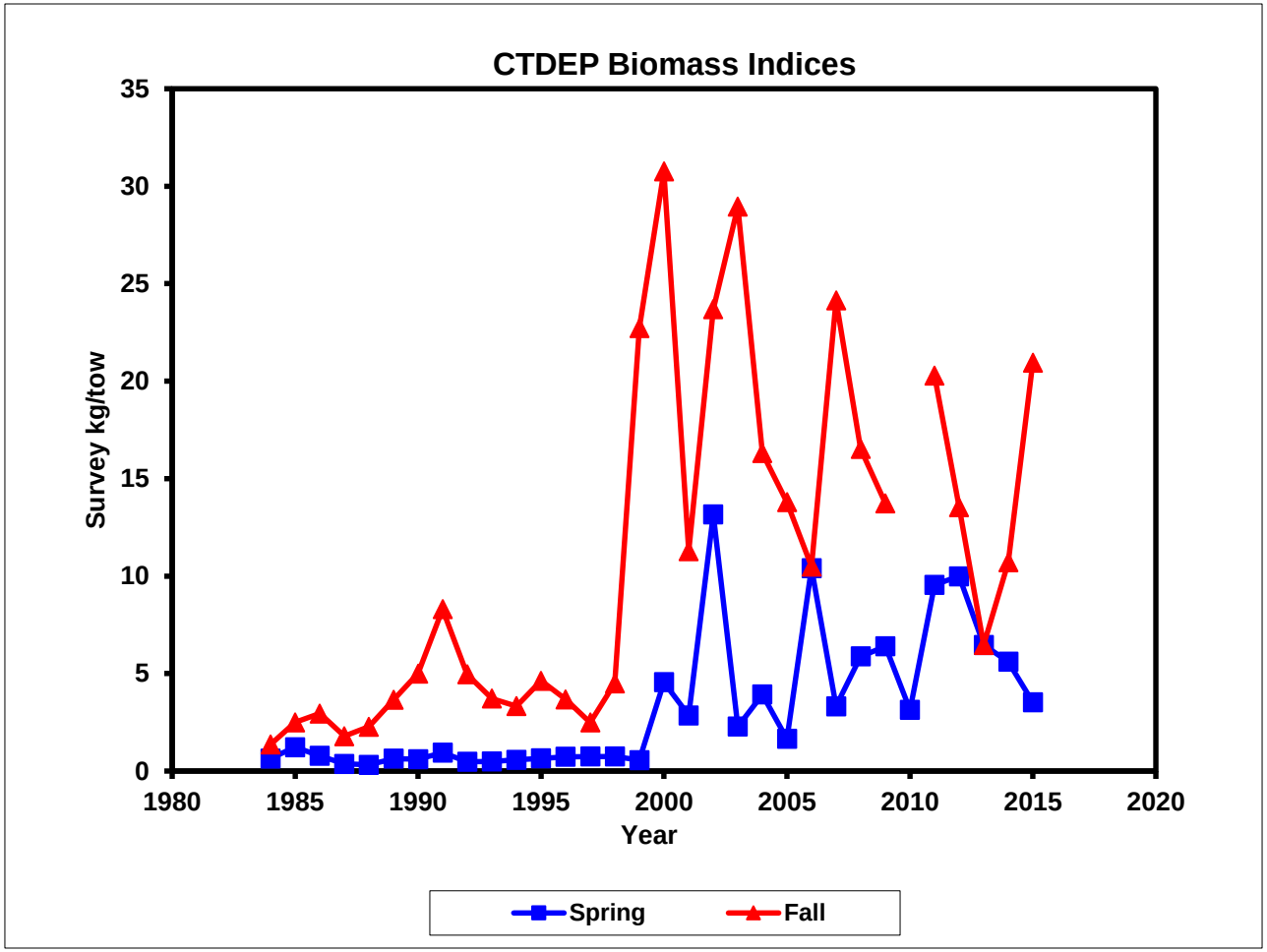

Scup Age 0 Measures of Abundance
Measure Normalized to Time Series Mean
6.0
5.0
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
1960
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
Year
NEFSC
CTDEP
NYDEC
VIMS
RIDFW Trap
RIDFW Fall
ChesMMAP
NEAMAP Fall
SAW 60 Age 0

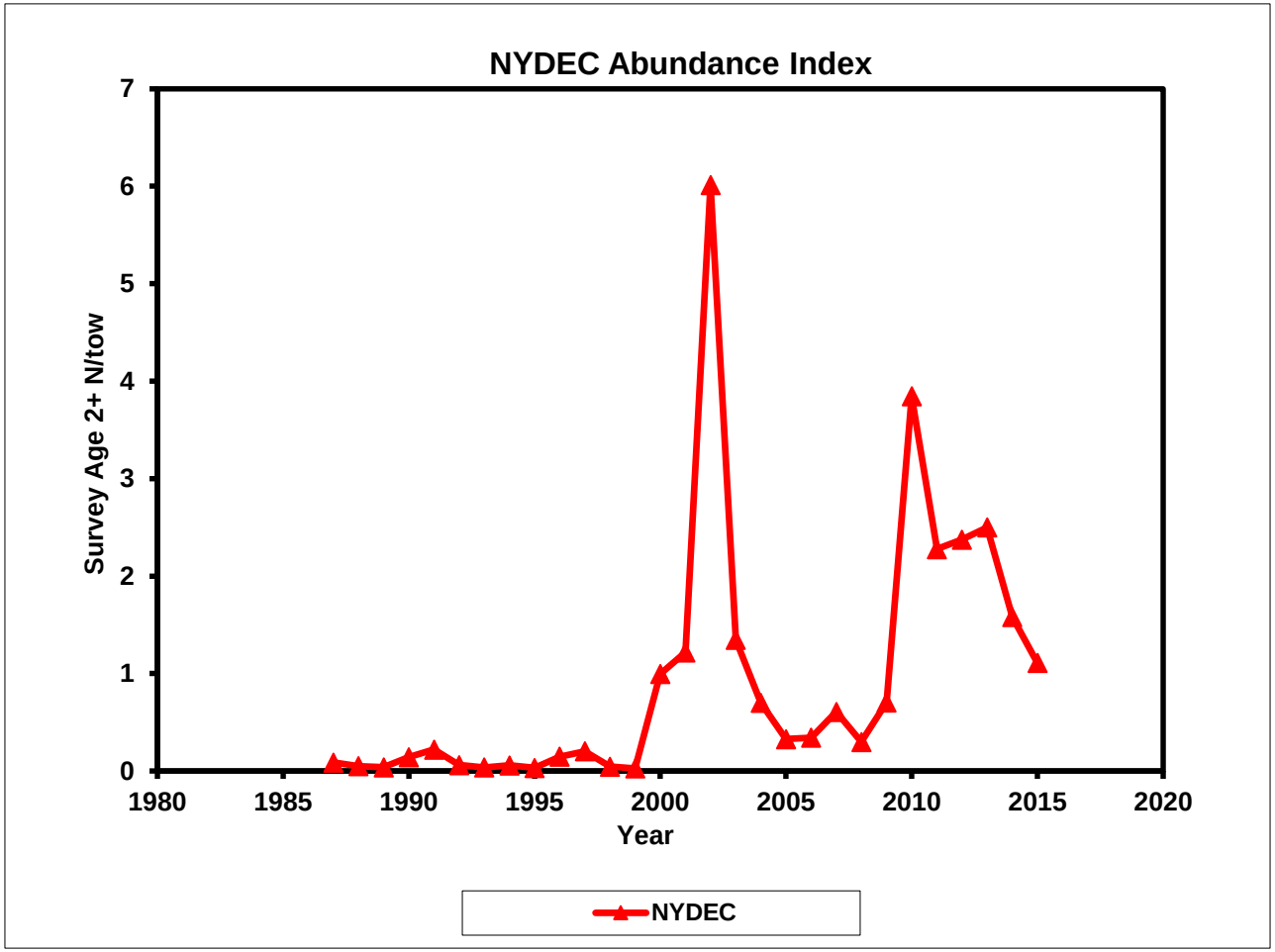

NEFSC Biomass Indices
Survey kg/tow
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1960
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
Year
Spring
Fall
Winter

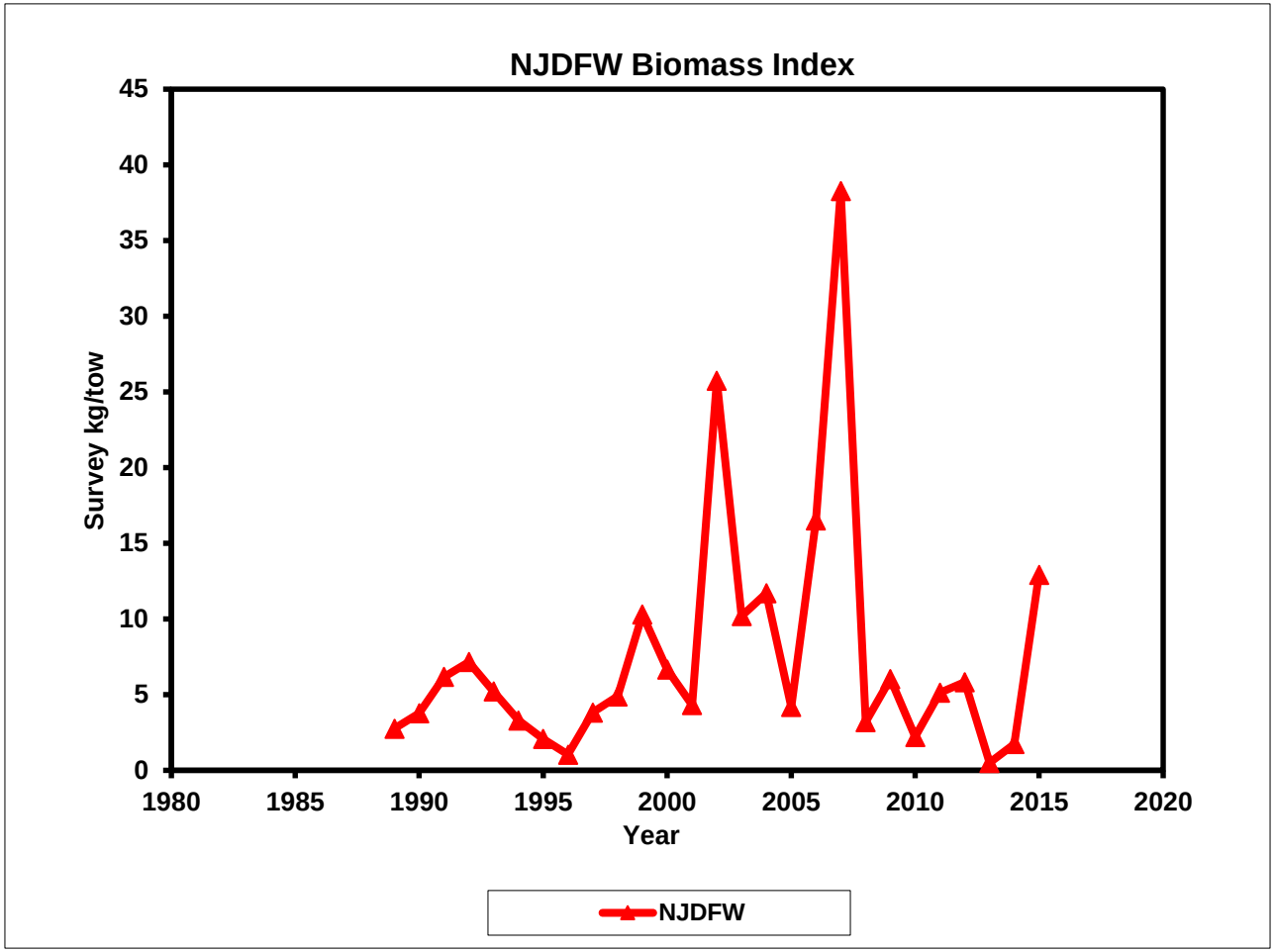

MADMF Biomass Indices
Survey kg/tow
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
Year
Spring
Fall

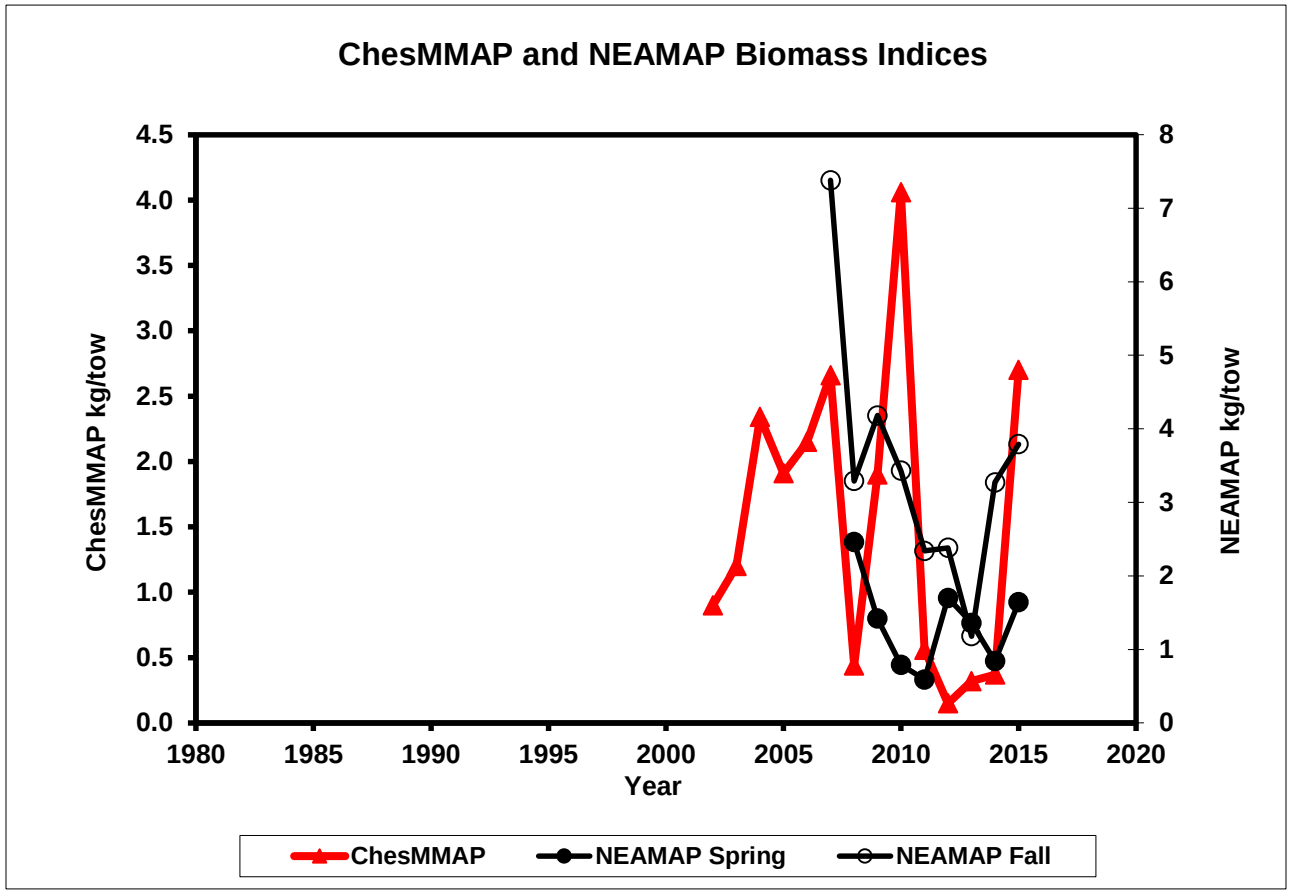

RIDFW Indices
Fall Survey kg/tow
Spring Survey kg/tow; Trap N/trap/hr
Year
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
Fall
Spring
Coop Trap


URIGSO Abundance Index
URIGSO N/tow
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
1960
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
Year
URIGSO


CTDEP Biomass Indices
Survey kg/tow
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
Year
Spring
Fall


NYDEC Abundance Index
Survey Age 2+ N/tow
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
Year
NYDEC


NJDFW Biomass Index
Survey kg/tow
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
Year
NJDFW


ChesMMAP and NEAMAP Biomass Indices
ChesMMAP kg/tow
NEAMAP kg/tow
Year
4.5
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
ChesMMAP
NEAMAP Spring
NEAMAP Fall