



# Summer Flounder, Scup, & Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment: Review of Public Hearing Document

Joint Council and Board Meeting  
December 16, 2020



# Objectives

- Overview of joint public hearing document and associated analysis
- Review FMAT discussion
- Modify/approve joint public hearing document and Commission draft amendment
- Provide guidance on virtual public hearings

# Council & Commission Documents

- Joint public hearing document
- Commission amendment document (must be available for public comment period)
- Council amendment document (EA) to be developed later

# Action Timeline

<b>May 2020</b>	Council/Commission review scoping comments and identify potential categories of alternatives to consider
<b>June 2020</b>	Council/Commission further refine and provide guidance on draft alternatives
<b>May-July 2020</b>	Development of range of specific draft management alternatives
<b>August 2020</b>	Council/Commission approve a range of alternatives for inclusion in public hearing document
<b>Dec 2020</b>	<b>Council/Commission approve public hearing document/Commission draft amendment document</b>
<b>Late Jan.-Feb. 2021</b>	<b>Public hearings (FR notice required 23 days in advance; will need schedule by early January)</b>
<b>March 2021</b>	Advisory Panel meeting; FMAT meeting
<b>April 2021</b>	Council/Commission consider public comments; final action
<b>January 2022</b>	Expected effective date

# Public Hearing Document Contents

1. Table of contents
2. Comment instructions
3. Intro & amendment purpose
4. Commercial/recreational allocation alternatives & impacts
5. Quota transfer alternatives & impacts
6. Framework/addendum provision alternatives & impacts
7. Appendices

# 3.1 Amendment Purposes

1. Consider potential modifications to the allocations of catch or landings between the commercial and recreational sectors for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass.
2. Consider the option to transfer a portion of the allowable landings each year between the commercial and recreational sectors.
3. Consider whether modifications to the commercial/recreational allocation and/or transfer provisions can be considered through a future FMP addendum/framework action.

## 3.2 Need for Action

- As requested in August, additional context added on MRIP data changes, recent assessments, and resulting catch limit changes



# 4.0 Commercial/Recreational Allocation

- Options for modified allocation %s based on updated data, different time series (4.1)
- Options for phase-in of changes (4.3)
- Catch-based and landings-based options for all 3 species
  - Section 4.0 intro gives overview of differences, more detail in Appendix A
  - **Resulting percentages not directly comparable** between two methods due to allocations being applied to landings in one method and catch in another; however, example quotas and RHLs calculated based on several assumptions (see Appendix C)



# 4.1.1 Summer Flounder Commercial/Recreational Allocation

## Summer Flounder:

### Catch based alternatives

### Basis

1a-1: **44%** comm., **56%** rec.

2004-2018 base years

1a-2: **43%** comm., **57%** rec.

Multiple approaches: 2009-2018 base years, approximate status quo harvest per sector compared to 2017/2018

1a-3: **40%** comm., **60%** rec.

2014-2018 base years

### Landings based alternatives

### Basis

1a-4: **60%** comm., **40%** rec.

**No action/status quo** (1980-1989)

1a-5: **55%** comm., **45%** rec.

Same base years, new data (1981-1989; 1980 data unavailable)

1a-6: **45%** comm., **55%** rec.

Multiple approaches: 2009-2018 and 2004-2018 base years

1a-7: **41%** comm., **59%** rec.

(2014-2018 base years)

# 4.1.2 Scup Commercial/Recreational Allocation

## Scup:

Catch based alternatives	Basis
<b>1b-1: 78%</b> comm., <b>22%</b> rec.	<b>No action/status quo</b> (1988-1992)
<b>1b-2: 65%</b> comm., <b>35%</b> rec.	Same base years, new data (1988-1992)
<b>1b-3: 61%</b> comm., <b>39%</b> rec.	Multiple approaches: 2009-2018 base years and average of other approaches approved by Council/Board in June 2020
<b>1b-4: 59%</b> comm., <b>41%</b> rec.	Approximate status quo harvest per sector compared to 2018/2019
Landings based alternatives	Basis
<b>1b-5: 57%</b> comm., <b>43%</b> rec.	Multiple approaches: Same base years, new data; 2014-2018 base years; 2009-2018 base years
<b>1b-6: 56%</b> comm., <b>44%</b> rec	2004-2018 base years
<b>1b-7: 50%</b> comm., <b>50%</b> rec.	Approximate status quo harvest per sector compared to 2018/2019

# 4.1.3 Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation

## Black sea bass:

Catch based alternatives	Basis
<b>1c-1:</b> 32% comm., 68% rec.	Approximate status quo harvest per sector compared to 2018/2019
<b>1c-2:</b> 28% comm., 72% rec.	2004-2018 base years
<b>1c-3:</b> 24% comm., 76% rec.	2009-2018 base years

Landings based alternatives	Basis
<b>1c-4:</b> 49% comm., 51% rec.	<b>No action/status quo</b> (1983-1992)
<b>1c-5:</b> 45% comm., 55% rec.	Same base years, new data (1983-1992)
<b>1c-6:</b> 29% comm., 71% rec.	Approximate status quo harvest per sector compared to 2018/2019
<b>1c-7:</b> 22% comm., 78% rec.	2009-2018 and 2014-2018 base years

# Catch vs. Landings-Based Allocations

## Catch-based allocations

- Allocation % applied to ABC. Changes in landings and dead discards in one sector do not influence the other sector's ACL.
- Dead discards projected for each sector; subtracted from sector ACLs to determine landings limits.

## Landings-based allocations

- Allocation % applied only to landings. Requires first splitting ABC into expected landings & dead discards.
- Dead discards split by sector usually based on recent trends.
- Changes in landings and dead discards in one sector influence the catch and landings limits of the other sector.

## Under Both Approaches:

- Com. and rec. ACLs, ACTs, commercial quota and RHL are required.
- Dead discards must be projected and accounted for by sector.
- Separate AMs still required for each sector

- **Main difference: the step in the calculations at which the commercial/recreational allocation percentages are applied.**

# Catch vs. Landings-Based Allocations

- Landings-based allocations are a holdover from pre-catch limit management for summer flounder and black sea bass.
- When catch limits were later implemented, discards were factored in using other methods instead of changing the allocation to apply to catch.

## 4.2 Allocation Revision Impacts

- Impacts descriptions focused on socioeconomic outcomes with some discussion of biological impacts
- Mostly qualitative discussion
- Example quotas and RHLs used to describe some quantitative impacts

# 4.2 Allocation Revision Impacts

- Example quotas and RHLs: methodology described in **Appendix C**
- Developed using 2020 ABCs
- Sector dead discards vary annually and are difficult to predict under modified allocations → **assumptions required**
  - Discards positively correlated with landings: regression approach used to estimate dead discards by sector to derive commercial quotas and RHLs
  - Assumes past discarding trends indicative of future trends
- **Example quotas and RHLs should be taken with a grain of salt; actual quotas will vary under different ABCs and discarding patterns**

# 4.2 Allocation Revision Impacts: Summer Flounder

**Table 5: Comparison of 2018-2019 summer flounder landings to example RHLs and commercial quotas for each allocation alternative under the 2020 ABC (25.03 million pounds) and the assumptions outlined in Appendix C. (Landings and limits in millions of pounds; 2018-2019 landings provided by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center or NEFSC).**

Alternative	1a-1	1a-2	1a-3	1a-4	1a-5	1a-6	1a-7
	Catch-based			Landings-based			
Com. allocation	44%	43%	40%	60%	55%	45%	41%
Rec. allocation	56%	57%	60%	40%	45%	55%	59%
Example commercial quota	8.79	8.57	7.92	11.10	10.20	8.38	7.65
2018-2019 avg comm. landings	7.60						
% Difference from 2018-2019 Com Landings	16%	13%	4%	46%	34%	10%	1%
Example RHL	10.24	10.47	11.15	7.40	8.34	10.25	11.02
2018-2019 avg rec. landings	7.70						
% Difference from 2018-2019 Rec Landings	33%	36%	45%	-4%	8%	33%	43%



## 4.2 Allocation Revision Impacts: Scup

**Table 6: Comparison of 2017-2019 scup landings to example RHLs and commercial quotas for each allocation alternative under the 2020 ABC (35.77 million pounds) and the assumptions outlined in Appendix C. (Landings and limits in millions of pounds; 2017-2019 landings provided by NEFSC).**

Alternative	1b-1	1b-2	1b-3	1b-4	1b-5	1b-6	1b-7
	Catch-based				Landings-based		
Com. allocation	78%	65%	61%	59%	57%	56%	50%
Rec. allocation	22%	35%	39%	41%	43%	44%	50%
Example commercial quota	22.91	16.90	15.92	15.44	16.85	16.56	14.81
2017-2019 avg comm. landings	14.20						
% Difference from 2017-2019 Com Landings	61%	19%	12%	9%	19%	17%	4%
Example RHL	6.46	11.04	13.04	13.04	12.71	13.01	14.81
2017-2019 avg rec. landings	13.55						
% Difference from 2017- 2019 Rec Landings	-52%	-19%	-4%	-4%	-6%	-4%	9%

# 4.2 Allocation Revision Impacts: Black Sea Bass

**Table 7: Comparison of 2018-2019 black sea bass landings to example RHLs and commercial quotas for each allocation alternative under the 2020 ABC (15.07 million pounds) and the assumptions outlined in Appendix C. (Landings and limits in millions of pounds; 2018-2019 landings provided by the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office).**

Alternative	1c-1	1c-2	1c-3	1c-4	1c-5	1c-6	1c-7
	Catch-based			Landings-based			
Com. allocation	32%	28%	24%	49%	45%	29%	22%
Rec. allocation	68%	72%	76%	51%	55%	71%	78%
Example commercial quota	3.31	2.99	2.66	5.43	5.04	3.38	2.61
2018-2019 avg com. landings	3.50						
% Difference from 2018-2019 com. Landings	-5%	-15%	-24%	55%	44%	-3%	-25%
Example RHL	8.16	8.65	9.14	5.65	6.15	8.28	9.27
2018-2019 avg rec. landings	8.73						
% Difference from 2018- 2019 rec. landings	-7%	-1%	5%	-35%	-30%	-5%	6%

# 4.2 Allocation Revision Impacts

## *Impacts to commercial sector:*

- Aside from status quo, alternatives for all three species would result in reduced allocation to the commercial sector
  - Decreased commercial quotas compared to current allocations
  - Reduction in potential commercial landings for summer flounder and black sea bass and therefore likely losses in revenue, though the price volume relationship varies across species
  - For scup, decreased quota may not result in decreased landings depending on scale of decrease/other factors such as stock biomass and market demand
  - Impacts will not be felt equally across all commercial industry participants, e.g. state quotas/seasonal quota periods

# 4.2 Allocation Revision Impacts

## *Impacts to recreational sector:*

- Depending on the alternative/species, an increased rec allocation may not allow for liberalized rec measures compared to recent years
- Liberalizing: more fish to take home, more opportunities and/or demand, increased revenues for for-hire and supporting businesses
- Restricting: reduced angler satisfaction, retain less fish, less opportunity, reduced revenues
- Community level: impacts greatest for communities near rec fishing sites, where for-hire businesses are based, where tourism is impacted by recreational fishing

# 4.3.1 Allocation change phase-in alternatives

## Alternative

**1d-1:** No phase-in (no action/status quo)

**1d-2:** Allocation % shift evenly spread over **2 years**

**1d-3:** Allocation % shift evenly spread over **3 years**

**1d-4:** Allocation % shift evenly spread over **5 years**

## 4.3.2 Phase-in Impacts

- If allocation remains catch-based for scup or landings-based for summer flounder and BSB, phase-in calculations are straightforward.
- If switching from one type to the other, slightly more complicated given differences in handling discards.
  - Catch limit (ACL) split each year for fluke and BSB may not match landings-based allocation percent, and vice versa for scup
  - In this case, analysis uses implemented 2021 catch or landings limit split as starting point to determine allocation shift

# 4.3.2 Phase-in Impacts Summer Flounder

**Table 11**

Catch-Based Alternatives	Total amount of allocation percent shift needed (from 2021 ACL split)	1d-2: 2 year phase-in	1d-3: 3 year phase-in	1d-4: 5 year phase -in
1a-1: 44% commercial, 56% recreational	10%	5% shift per year	3.3% shift per year	2% shift per year
1a-2: 43% commercial, 57% recreational	11%	5.5% shift per year	3.7% shift per year	2.2% shift per year
1a-3: 40% commercial, 60% recreational	14%	7% shift per year	4.7% shift per year	2.8% shift per year
Landings-Based Alternatives	Total amount of allocation percent shift needed	1d-2: 2 year phase-in	1d-3: 3 year phase-in	1d-4: 5 year phase -in
1a-4 (status quo): 60% commercial, 40% recreational	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
1a-5: 55% commercial, 45% recreational	5%	2.5% shift per year	1.7% shift per year	1% shift per year
1a-6: 45% commercial, 55% recreational	15%	7.5% shift per year	5% shift per year	3% shift per year
1a-7: 41% commercial, 59% recreational	19%	9.5% shift per year	6.3% shift per year	3.8% shift per year

# 4.3.2 Phase-in Impacts

## Scup

**Table 12**

Catch-Based Alternatives	Total amount of allocation percent shift needed	1d-2: 2 year phase-in	1d-3: 3 year phase-in	1d-4: 5 year phase -in
<b>1-b1 (status quo): 78% commercial, 22% recreational</b>	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>1b-2: 65% commercial, 35% recreational</b>	13%	6.5% shift per year	4.3% shift per year	2.6% shift per year
<b>1b-3: 61% commercial, 39% recreational</b>	17%	8.5% shift per year	5.7% shift per year	3.4% shift per year
<b>1b-4: 59% commercial, 41% recreational</b>	19%	9.5% shift per year	6.3% shift per year	3.8% shift per year
Landings-Based Alternatives	Total amount of allocation percent shift needed (from 2021 TAL split)	1d-2: 2 year phase-in	1d-3: 3 year phase-in	1d-4: 5 year phase -in
<b>1b-5: 57% commercial, 43% recreational</b>	20%	10% shift per year	6.7% shift per year	3.4% shift per year
<b>1b-6: 56% commercial, 44% recreational</b>	21%	10.5% shift per year	7% shift per year	4 % shift per year
<b>1b-7: 50% commercial, 50% recreational</b>	27%	13.5% shift per year	9% shift per year	5.4% shift per year



# 4.3.2 Phase-in Impacts

## Black Sea Bass

**Table 13**

Catch-Based Alternatives	Total amount of allocation percent shift needed (from 2021 ACL split)	1d-2: 2 year phase-in	1d-3: 3 year phase-in	1d-4: 5 year phase -in
1c-1: 32% commercial, 68% recreational	23%	11.5% shift per year	7.7% shift per year	4.6% shift per year
1c-2: 28% commercial, 72% recreational	27%	13.5% shift per year	9.0% shift per year	5.4% shift per year
1c-3: 24% commercial, 76% recreational	31%	15.5% shift per year	10.3% shift per year	6.2% shift per year
Landings-Based Alternatives	Total amount of allocation percent shift needed	1d-2: 2 year phase-in	1d-3: 3 year phase-in	1d-4: 5 year phase -in
1-c4 (status quo): 49% commercial, 51% recreational	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
1c-5: 45% commercial, 55% recreational	4%	2% shift per year	1.3% shift per year	0.8% shift per year
1c-6: 29% commercial, 71% recreational	20%	10% shift per year	6.7% shift per year	4% shift per year
1c-7: 22% commercial, 78% recreational	27%	13.5% shift per year	9% shift per year	5.4% shift per year

# 5.0 Transfers between sectors

## Transfer Alternatives

**2a:** No action (transfers between sectors not allowed).

**2b:** Allow for optional bi-directional transfers through the specifications process. The transfer would consist of a portion of the total ABC in the form of a landings limit (i.e., commercial quota and RHL) transfer. Transfers would not occur if the stock is overfished or overfishing is occurring.

## Transfer Cap Alternatives

**2c-1:** No transfer cap; any amount of the ABC be transferred.

**2c-2:** Max transfer of 5% of the ABC.

**2c-3:** Max transfer of 10% of the ABC.

**2c-4:** Max transfer of 15% of the ABC.

# 5.1 Transfers between sectors

- Proposed transfer process outlined in Table 15
- Modified from last discussion:
  - Clarifies inability to accurately project harvest in-season
  - No methodology to quantitatively determine need for transfer with high confidence
  - Would be annual policy decision based on older fishery performance data & qualitative info

# 5.2 Transfer Process Impacts

- Alternative 2a (no action) provides less flexibility in adapting to changing sector needs
- However, 2b process would rely on older data and qualitative information; potentially increase political complexity of specifications process

# 5.2 Transfer Process Impacts

- Will be difficult to predict expected under-harvest; past year performance not likely informative for a few years if allocations change
- For rec. fishery, expected underages more likely to result in liberalization of measures vs. transfer to comm. sector (particularly for fluke and BSB)
- Transfers may cause more annual fluctuation in fishery limits, especially in combination with ABC changes

# 5.2 Transfer Cap Impacts

- Theoretical transfer cap amounts under recent high and low ABCs

**Table 17: Example transfer caps under alternatives 2c-2 through 2c-4 for the 2017-2021 high and low ABCs for each species, in millions of pounds. Note that these are only examples using recent ABCs and do not represent a theoretical maximum or minimum transfer amount in pounds.**

		Summer Flounder	Scup	Black Sea Bass
ABC for comparison	2017-2021 Low ABC	11.30	28.40	8.94
	2017-2021 High ABC	27.11	39.14	17.45
2c-2: 5% of ABC	2017-2021 Low Transfer Cap	0.57	1.42	0.45
	2017-2021 High Transfer Cap	1.36	1.96	0.87
2c-3: 10% of ABC	2017-2021 Low Transfer Cap	1.13	2.84	0.89
	2017-2021 High Transfer Cap	2.71	3.91	1.75
2c-4: 15% of ABC	2017-2021 Low Transfer Cap	1.70	4.26	1.34
	2017-2021 High Transfer Cap	4.07	5.87	2.62

# 6.0 Changes through frameworks/addenda

## Framework/addendum provision alternatives

**3a:** No action (changes to commercial/recreational allocations must be made through an amendment)

**3b:** Allow changes to commercial/recreational allocations, annual sector transfers, and other measures included in this amendment to be made through framework actions/addenda

## 6.0 Framework/Addendum Provision Impacts

- Primarily procedural/administrative
- Frameworks/addenda are typically more efficient, but involve fewer comment opportunities
- Would not require framework/addendum; amendment could be used if determined appropriate or necessary
  - Tool in the toolbox



# 7.0 Appendices

- Appendix A: Catch vs. Landings-based allocations
- Appendix B: Basis for Allocation Alts.
- Appendix C: Example commercial quotas and RHLs
- Appendix D: Acronyms and abbreviations

# Sector Variability Analysis Provided by Dr. Paul Rago

- Commercial and recreational sectors have varying degrees of precision in the estimates of landings and dead discards.
- In August, Council and Board requested analysis of how this may impact risk of overfishing.
- Analysis considers variances (CVs) in the catch estimates and likelihood of exceeding ABC under different allocations.
- Does not consider factors such as the efficacy of the management program in constraining catch in either sector.

# Sector Variability Analysis Provided by Dr. Paul Rago

- Summary of average CVs for commercial and recreational landings and dead discards, 2010-2019.

	Commercial CVs		Recreational CVs	
Species	Landings	Discards	Landings	Discards
Summer flounder	0.01	0.127	0.089	0.078
Scup	0.01	0.104	0.134	0.127
Black Sea Bass	0.01	0.31	0.126	0.102

# Probability of Exceeding Summer Flounder ABC under varying sector percentages

Fraction of total catch from com. fishery	0% ABC overage	5% ABC overage	10% ABC overage	15% ABC overage	20% ABC overage	25% ABC overage	30% ABC overage
40%	50.00%	12.33%	1.03%	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
41%		12.00%	0.94%	0.02%			
42%		11.66%	0.85%	0.02%			
43%		11.32%	0.78%	0.01%			
44%		10.98%	0.70%	0.01%			
45%		10.64%	0.64%	0.01%			
46%		10.30%	0.57%	0.01%			
47%		9.97%	0.51%	0.01%			
48%		9.63%	0.46%	0.00%			
49%		9.30%	0.41%				
50%		8.96%	0.36%				
51%		8.63%	0.32%				
52%		8.31%	0.28%				
53%		7.99%	0.25%				
54%		7.67%	0.21%				
55%		7.36%	0.19%				
56%		7.05%	0.16%				
57%		6.74%	0.14%				
58%		6.45%	0.12%				
59%		6.16%	0.10%				
60%		5.88%	0.09%				

# Probability of Exceeding Scup ABC under varying sector percentages

Fraction of total catch to com. fishery	0% ABC overage	5% ABC overage	10% ABC overage	15% ABC overage	20% ABC overage	25% ABC overage	30% ABC overage
50%	50.00%	20.77%	5.17%	0.73%	0.06%	0.00%	0.00%
52%		20.13%	4.70%	0.60%	0.04%		
53%		19.47%	4.26%	0.49%	0.03%		
55%		18.79%	3.82%	0.39%	0.02%		
56%		18.09%	3.41%	0.31%	0.01%		
58%		17.37%	3.01%	0.24%	0.01%		
59%		16.64%	2.64%	0.18%	0.01%		
61%		15.89%	2.28%	0.14%	0.00%		
62%		15.12%	1.96%	0.10%			
64%		14.34%	1.66%	0.07%			
65%		13.56%	1.39%	0.05%			
67%		12.76%	1.14%	0.03%			
68%		11.96%	0.93%	0.02%			
70%		11.16%	0.74%	0.01%			
71%		10.37%	0.58%	0.01%			
73%		9.58%	0.45%	0.00%			
74%		8.82%	0.34%				
76%		8.07%	0.26%				
77%		7.36%	0.19%				
79%		6.68%	0.13%				
80%	6.04%	0.10%					

# Probability of Exceeding Black Sea Bass ABC under varying sector percentages

Fraction of total catch to com. fishery	0% ABC overage	5% ABC overage	10% ABC overage	15% ABC overage	20% ABC overage	25% ABC overage	30% ABC overage
20%	50.00%	24.02%	7.91%	1.71%	0.24%	0.02%	0.00%
22%		22.83%	6.82%	1.28%	0.15%	0.01%	
23%		21.55%	5.76%	0.91%	0.08%	0.00%	
25%		20.17%	4.73%	0.61%	0.04%		
26%		18.69%	3.76%	0.38%	0.02%		
28%		17.11%	2.88%	0.22%	0.01%		
29%		15.44%	2.09%	0.11%	0.00%		
31%		13.67%	1.43%	0.05%			
32%		11.84%	0.90%	0.02%			
34%		9.98%	0.51%	0.01%			
35%		8.13%	0.26%	0.00%			
37%		6.36%	0.11%				
38%		4.76%	0.04%				
40%		3.41%	0.01%				
41%		2.37%	0.00%				
43%		1.66%					
44%		1.24%					
46%		1.06%					
47%		1.10%					
49%		1.20%					
50%	1.29%						

# FMAT Comments on Variability Analysis

- Analysis shows that for both sectors, the catch components are fairly well estimated.
- Caveats of analysis:
  - Doesn't address the efficacy of management in constraining landings/dead discards.
  - Assumes that each catch component matches its allocation exactly.
  - Doesn't assess bias in the estimates.

# FMAT Comments on Variability Analysis

- Risk of exceeding the ABC does not vary greatly under a wide range of proportions of total dead catch from each sector.
  - Suggests changes in com/rec allocation, within range under consideration, may not have notably different impacts on the risk of exceeding the ABC.
- FMAT agreed that only the broad conclusions of this analysis should be included in the hearing document; details can be included in the EA
  - Broad conclusions are summarized in section 4.2.1 of PHD



# Public Hearing Process

- Remote hearings in late January-February
  - Hearings should be scheduled by early January
  - Staff recommends regional approach with 4-5 hearings total
  - Example regional groupings: MA-RI, CT-NY, NJ, DE-NC
  - States can request additional hearings through the Commission process
  - Multiple time of day options may be beneficial

# Decision Points

- Approve joint public hearing document and Commission draft amendment for public comment, with suggested changes as needed.
  - Substantial changes to the document or range of alternatives are likely to extend timeline and prevent implementation by 2022
- Input on public hearings

# Backup Slides

# Current allocations for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass

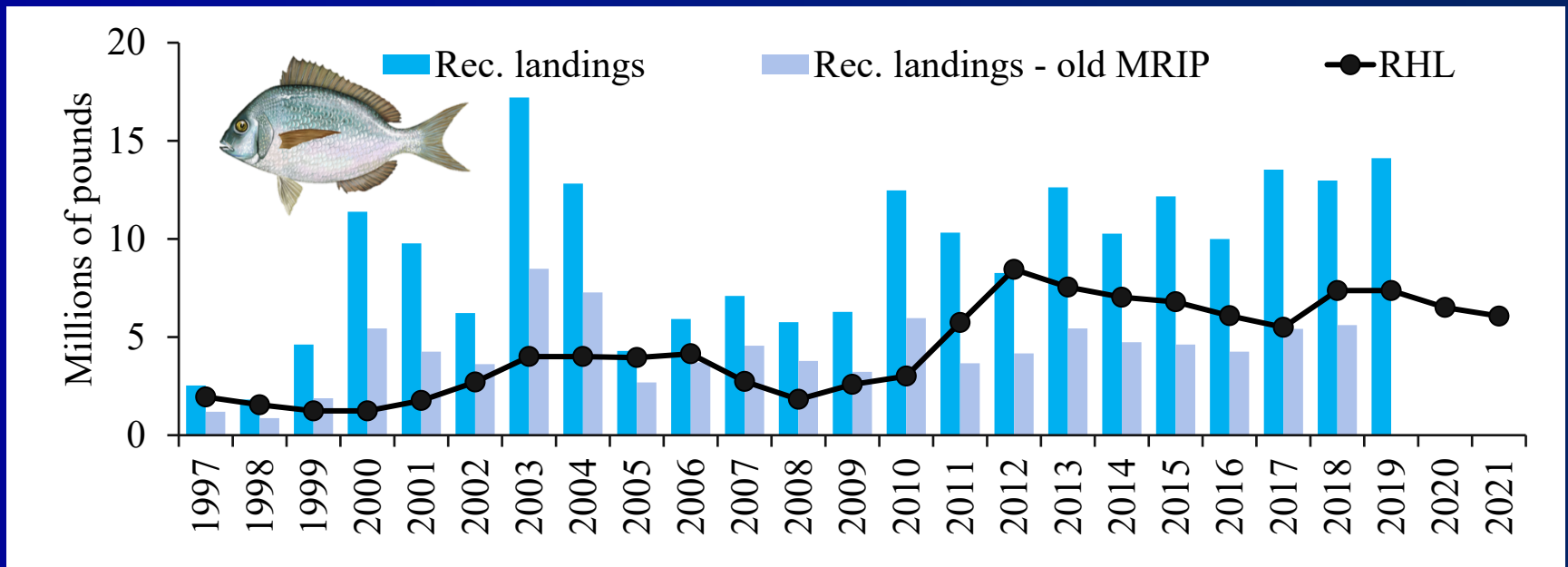
	Allocation	
<b>Summer flounder:</b> 1980-1989 (landings-based allocation)	Com	60%
	Rec	40%
<b>Scup:</b> 1988-1992 (catch-based allocation)	Com	78%
	Rec	22%
<b>Black sea bass:</b> 1983-1992 (landings-based allocation)	Com	49%
	Rec	51%

# Implications of No Action

- Summer flounder
  - Projected 2019 harvest was very close to 2020 RHL (7.69 mil lb); rec fishery was able to stay *status quo*
- Scup
  - Final 2019 MRIP harvest estimate = 14.12 mil lb, 54% higher than the 2020 RHL of 6.51 mil lb.
- Black sea bass
  - Final 2019 MRIP harvest estimate = 8.61 mil lb, 48% higher than the 2020-2021 RHL of 5.82 mil lb.
- Maintaining status quo rec measures for BSB and scup in 2020 despite anticipated overage justified as a temporary solution – just for 2020.

# No Action

- Transition to revised MRIP data → difficulty constraining to rec limits without substantial restrictions
  - Near term issue for scup and BSB in particular
  - Final 2019 scup harvest 54% higher than 2020 RHL
  - Final 2019 BSB harvest 48% higher than 2020-21 RHL



# Keep existing base years but update with the most recent recreational and commercial data

Species	Sector	Catch-based		Landings-based	
		Current	Revised	Current	Revised
<b>Summer flounder: 1981-1989</b>	Com	N/A	N/A	60%	55%
	Rec	N/A	N/A	40%	45%
<b>Scup: 1988-1992</b>	Com	78%	65%	N/A	57%
	Rec	22%	35%	N/A	43%
<b>Black sea bass: 1983-1992</b>	Com	N/A	N/A	49%	45%
	Rec	N/A	N/A	51%	55%

# Allocations to maintain roughly 2018/2019 levels of harvest by sector

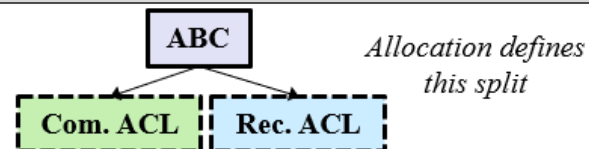
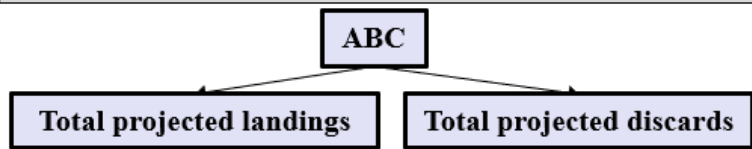
- Can allocations be modified such that both sectors could maintain approximate landings levels from the last year(s) prior to recent catch limit revisions (2018-2019)?
  - Would modify allocation % going forward and would not guarantee status quo landings long term
- Preliminary analysis suggests possible for summer flounder; close, but not quite for scup and black sea bass.
- After most recent assessments:
  - SF and BSB ABCs increased by more than 50%, but rec. sector could not liberalize
  - Scup ABC decreased. Com. scup sector has under-harvested since 2007



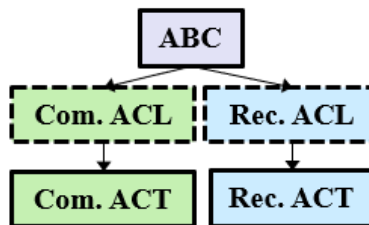
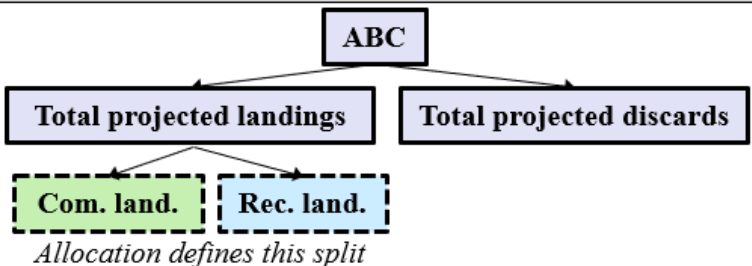
## Landings-Based Allocation

## Catch-Based Allocation

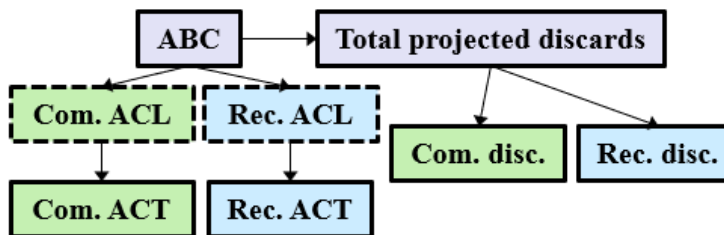
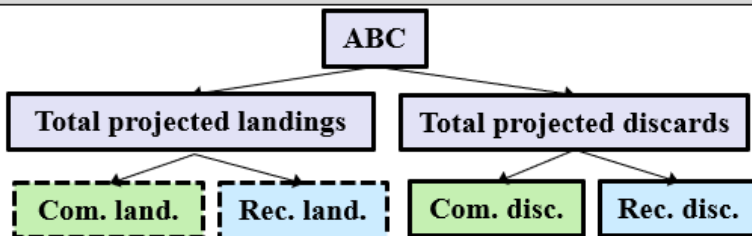
Step 1



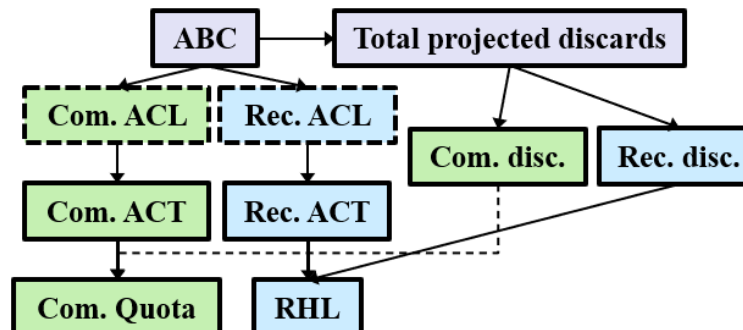
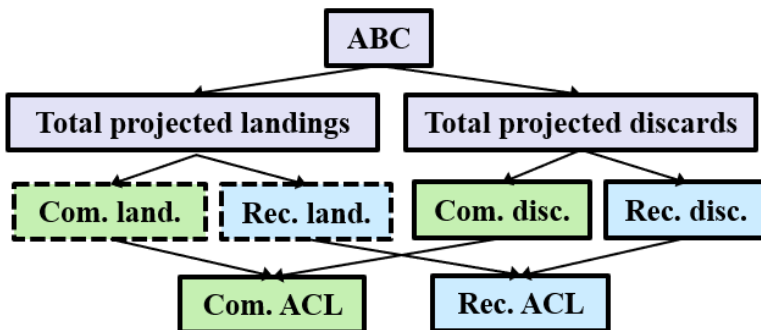
Step 2



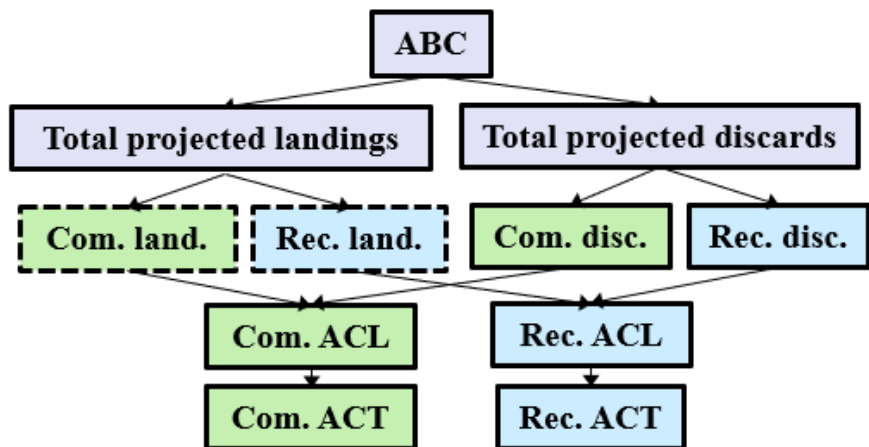
Step 3



Step 4

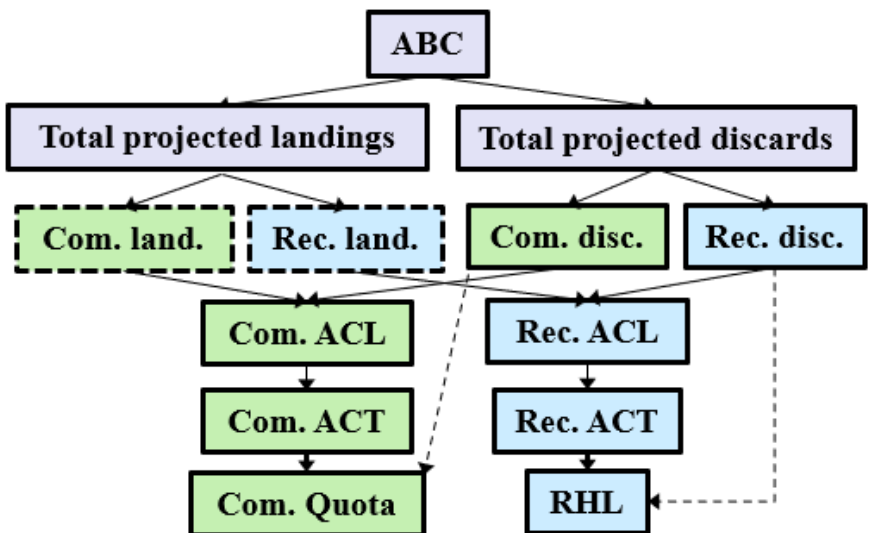


Step 5



N/A

Step 6



N/A

Notes:

- The ABC, ACLs and ACTs include catch and dead discards in all cases. The commercial quota and RHL include only landings.
- A dashed border indicates the step defined by the commercial/recreational allocation.

# 4.3.2 Phase-in Impacts

**Table 9: The currently implemented recreational/commercial split for total landings, dead discards, and total dead catch for 2021 specifications. The current FMP-specified allocations for each species are highlighted in yellow.**

Currently landings-based allocations						
	Comm. % of TAL (allocation)	Rec. % of TAL (allocation)	Comm. % of discards in 2021	Rec. % of discards in 2021	Comm ACL % of ABC in 2021	Rec ACL % of ABC in 2021
Summer flounder	60	40	34	66	54	46
Black sea bass	49	51	68	32	55	45
Currently catch-based allocation						
	Comm. % of TAL in 2021	Rec. % of TAL in 2021	Comm. % of discards in 2021	Rec. % of discards in 2021	Comm ACL % of ABC (allocation)	Rec ACL % of ABC (allocation)
Scup	74	23	81	19	78	22

# FMAT Members

Agency	FMAT Role	Name
MAFMC	Council staff (summer flounder)	Kiley Dancy
MAFMC	Council staff (scup)	Karson Coutré
MAFMC	Council staff (black sea bass)	Julia Beaty
ASMFC	Commission staff (summer flounder and scup)	Dustin Colson Leaning
ASMFC	Commission staff (black sea bass)	Caitlin Starks/Savannah Lewis
NMFS GARFO	Sustainable fisheries	Emily Keiley
NMFS GARFO	NEPA	Marianne Ferguson
NMFS NEFSC	Socioeconomics	Greg Ardini
NMFS NEFSC	Stock assessment/population dynamics (consult as needed)	Gary Shepherd
NMFS NEFSC	Stock assessment/population dynamics (consult as needed)	Mark Terceiro

# Advisory Panel Comments on Comm/Rec Allocation

- One advisor stated rec. allocation should not increase, since proportion of population fishing recreationally is small
  - Fisheries should produce food for nation, not select few who can afford private boats
- At least 5 advisors recommended that this action be put on hold/dropped due to:
  - Support of status quo allocations
  - Concerns with reliability of MRIP data
  - Differences in accountability for the commercial/recreational sectors & differing data quality
  - Ongoing covid impacts and uncertainty about future conditions

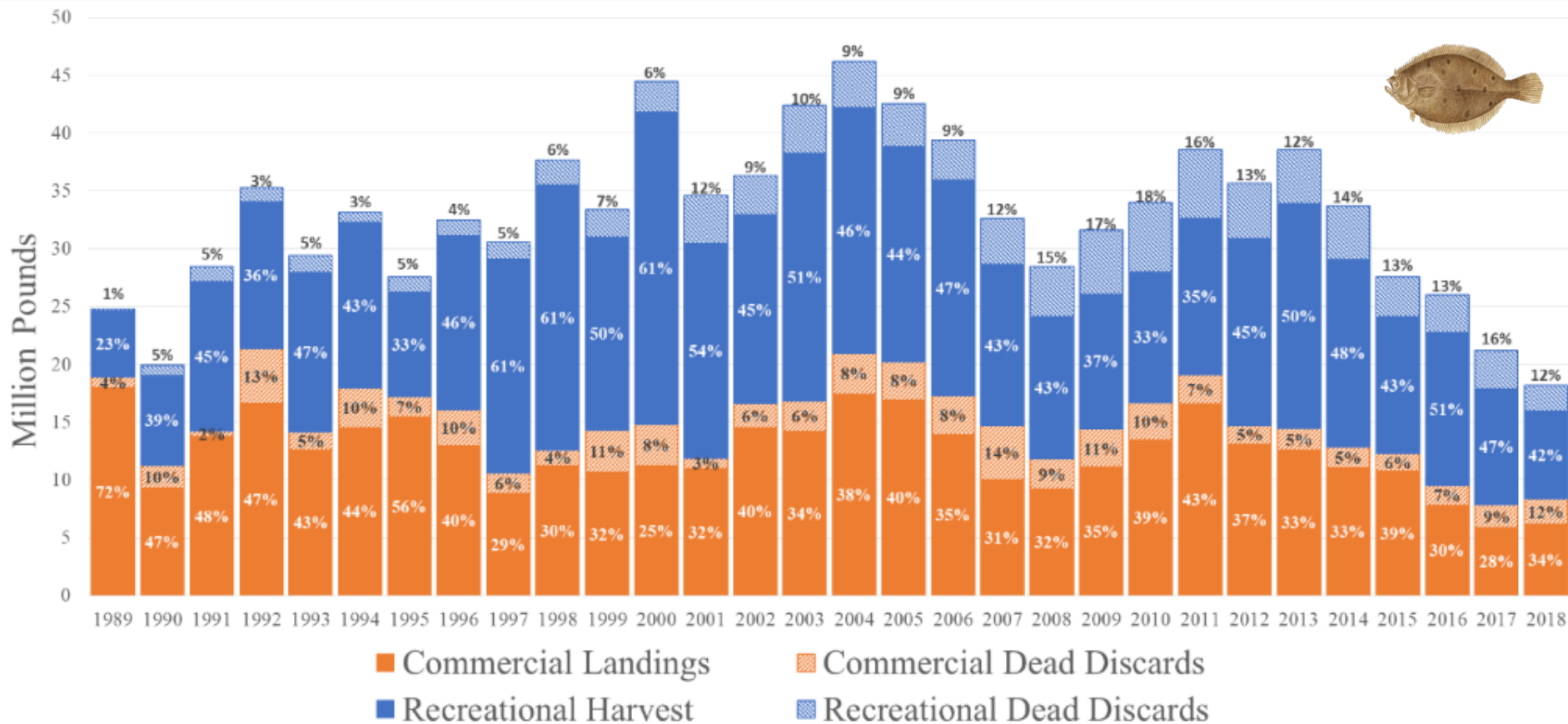
# Advisory Panel Comments on Comm/Rec Allocation

- One advisor expressed opposition to the basis of attempting to maintain status quo harvest by sector from 2018/2019
  - Does not support taking back the commercial quota increase that resulted from new assessments

# Advisory Panel Comments on Comm/Rec Allocation

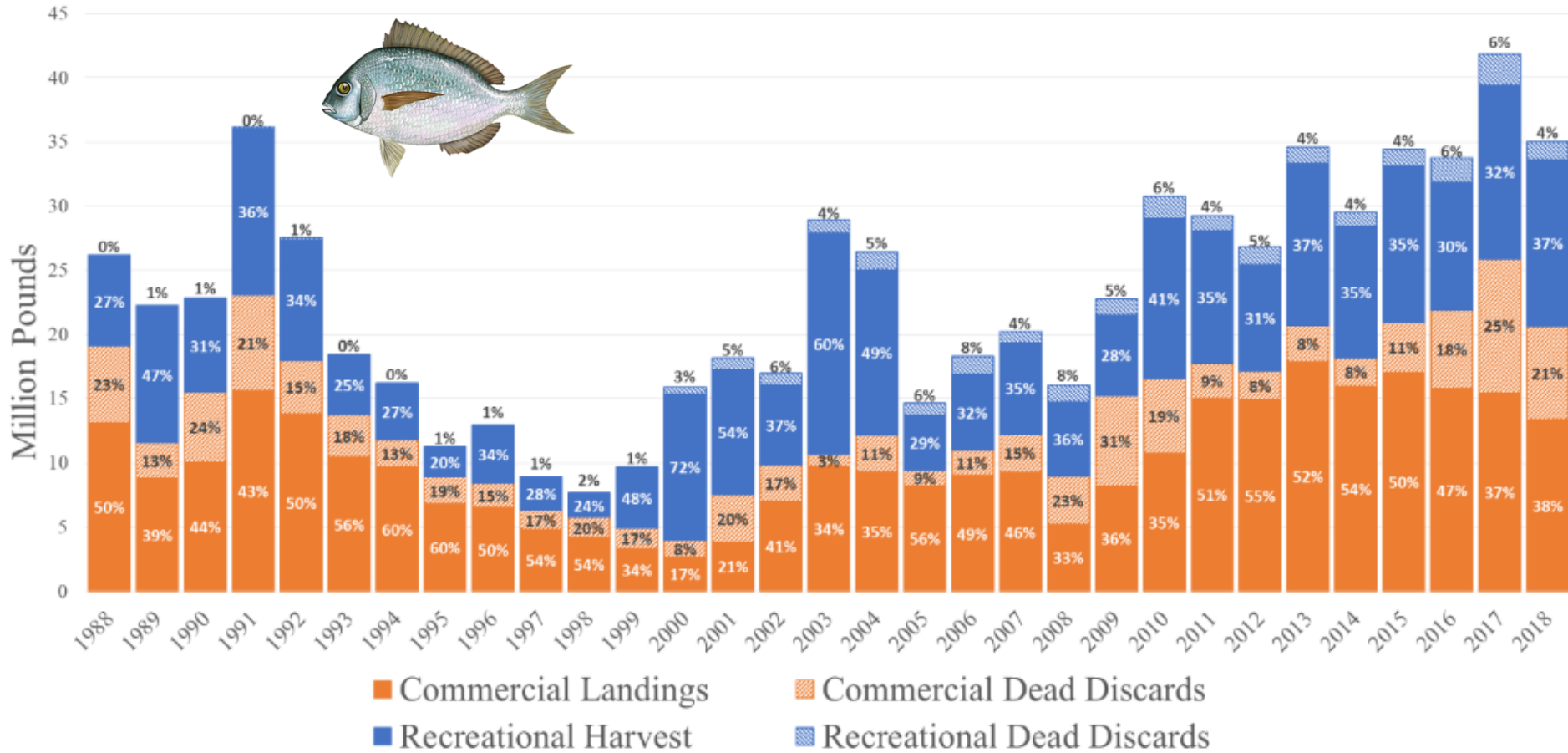
- One rec. advisor said existing allocations seem to be working, not sure substantial rec. increase is justifiable
- Another rec. advisor said it would be illogical and irresponsible not to apply new data to allocation percentages
  - Recreational sector provides huge economic benefit to coastal communities and recreational support industries

# Commercial and recreational summer flounder landings and dead discards, 1982-2018





# Commercial and recreational scup landings and dead discards, 1981-2018



# Commercial and recreational black sea bass landings and discards, 1989-2018

