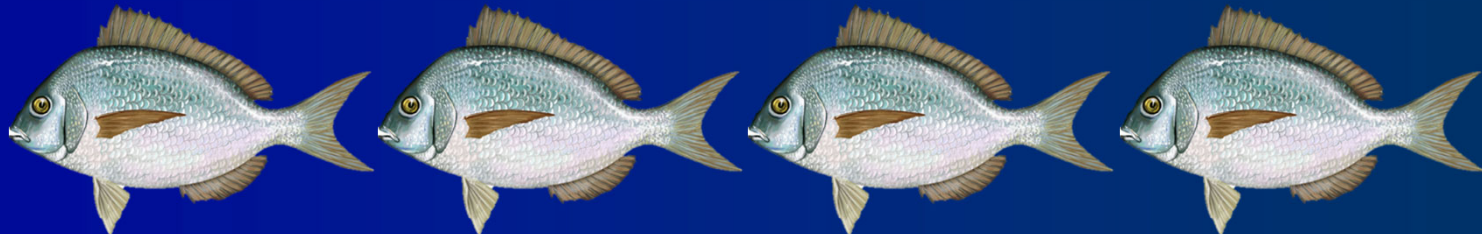


# Scup



Council and Board  
2023 Specifications Review  
*August 9, 2022*

# Overview



Photo curtesy: M. Eversmier

- Presentation:
  - 2021 Management Track Assessment results and 2022 data update
  - Recent Fishery Performance and AP FPR
  - SSC recommendations
  - Monitoring Committee recommendations
- Council/Board Objectives:
  - Adopt recommendations for revised 2023 ACLs, ACTs, comm. quota, and RHL
  - Review commercial management measures and recommend changes if warranted

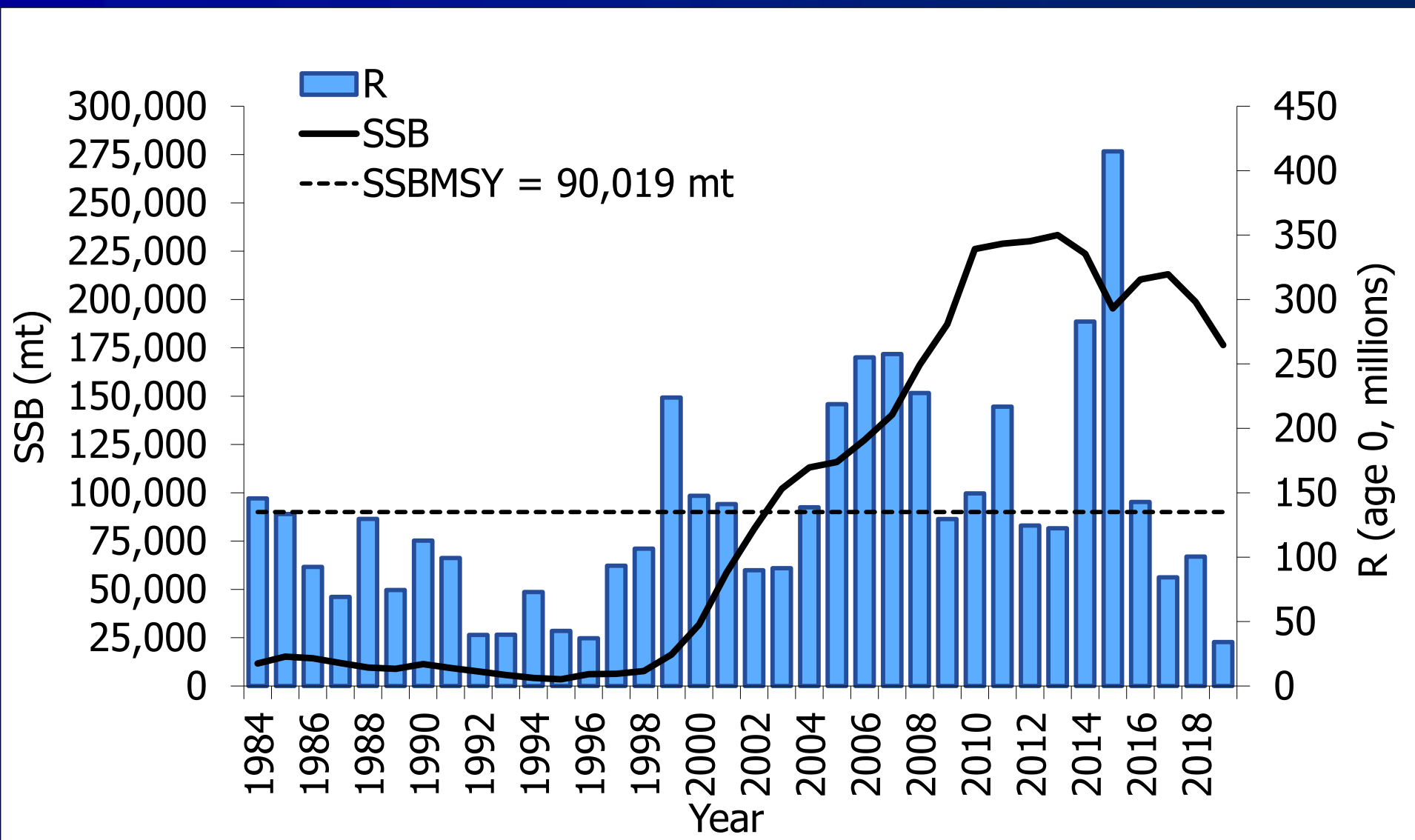
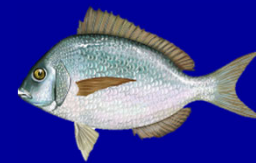
# Stock Status: 2021 Management Track Assessment



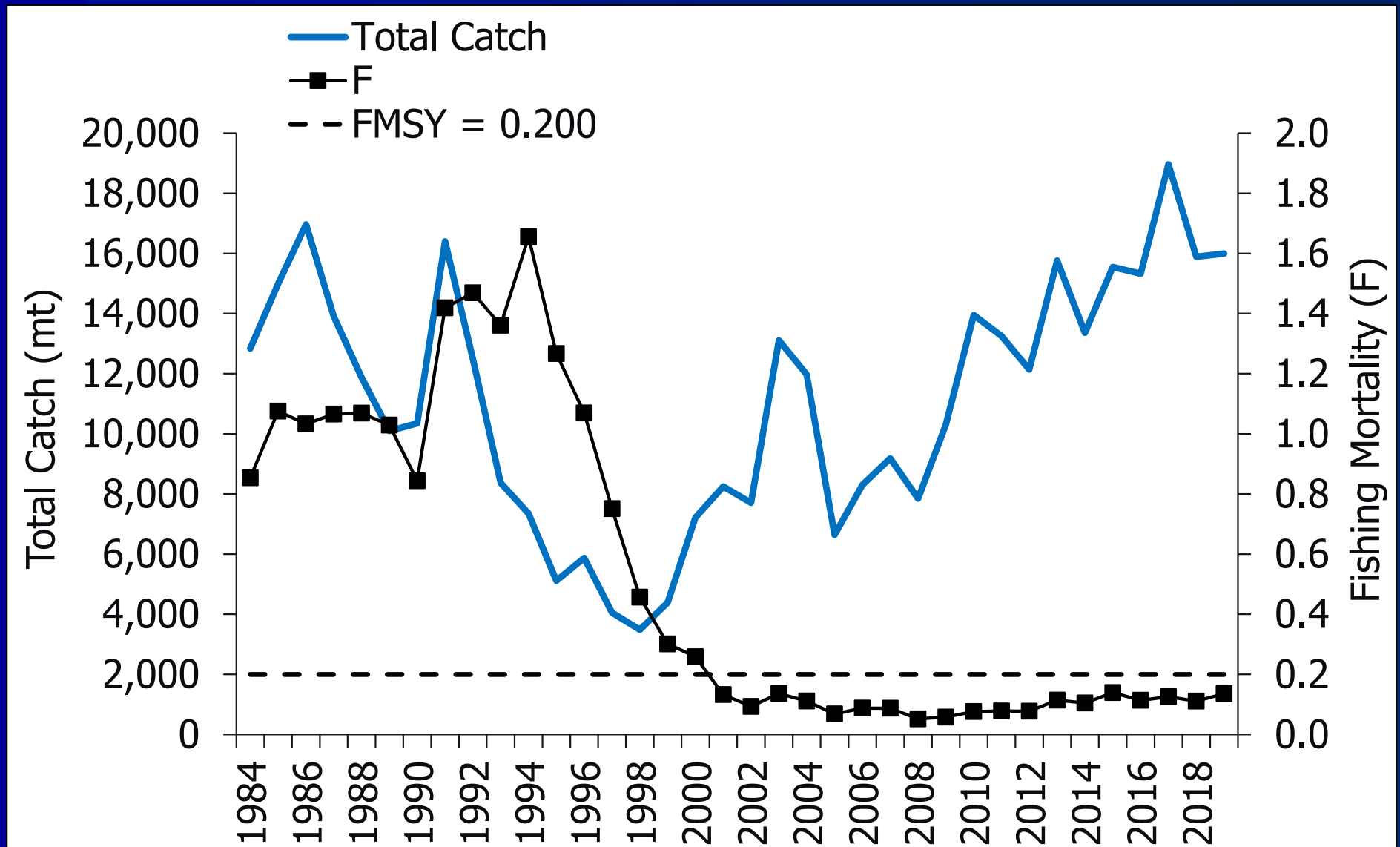
- Assessment terminal year: 2019

	Spawning stock biomass (SSB)	Fishing mortality rate (F)
<b>Status</b>	<b><u>Not overfished</u></b>	<b><u>Overfishing not occurring</u></b>
<b>Target</b>	<b>198.46 mil lbs.</b> (90,019 mt)	N/A
<b>Threshold</b>	<b>99.23 mil lbs.</b> (45,010 mt)	<b>0.200</b>
<b>Terminal year estimate (2019)</b>	<b>388 mil lbs.</b> (176,404 mt) <i>~ 2 times target level</i>	<b>0.136</b> <i>32% below threshold level</i>

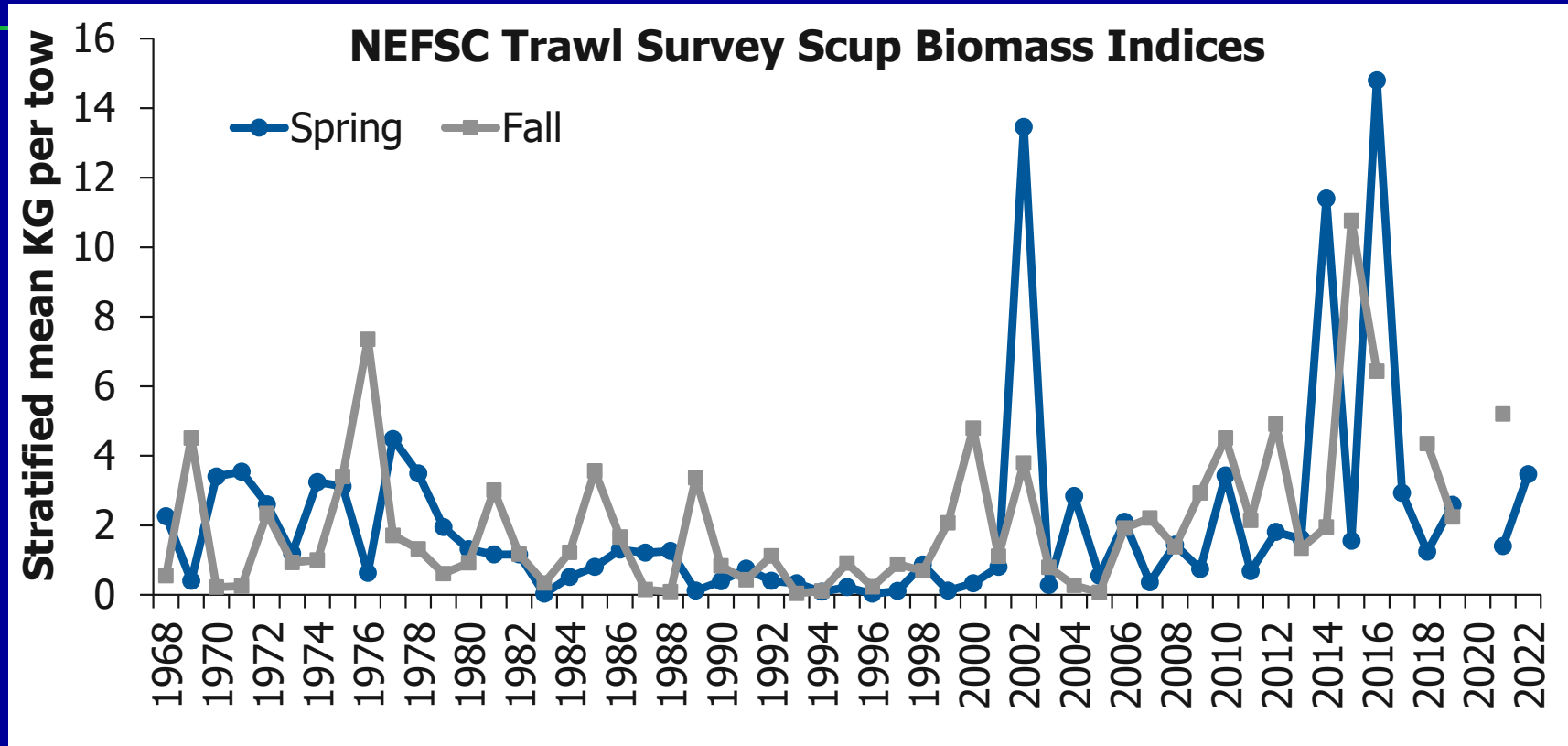
# Spawning Stock Biomass and Recruitment



# Fishing Mortality and Total Catch

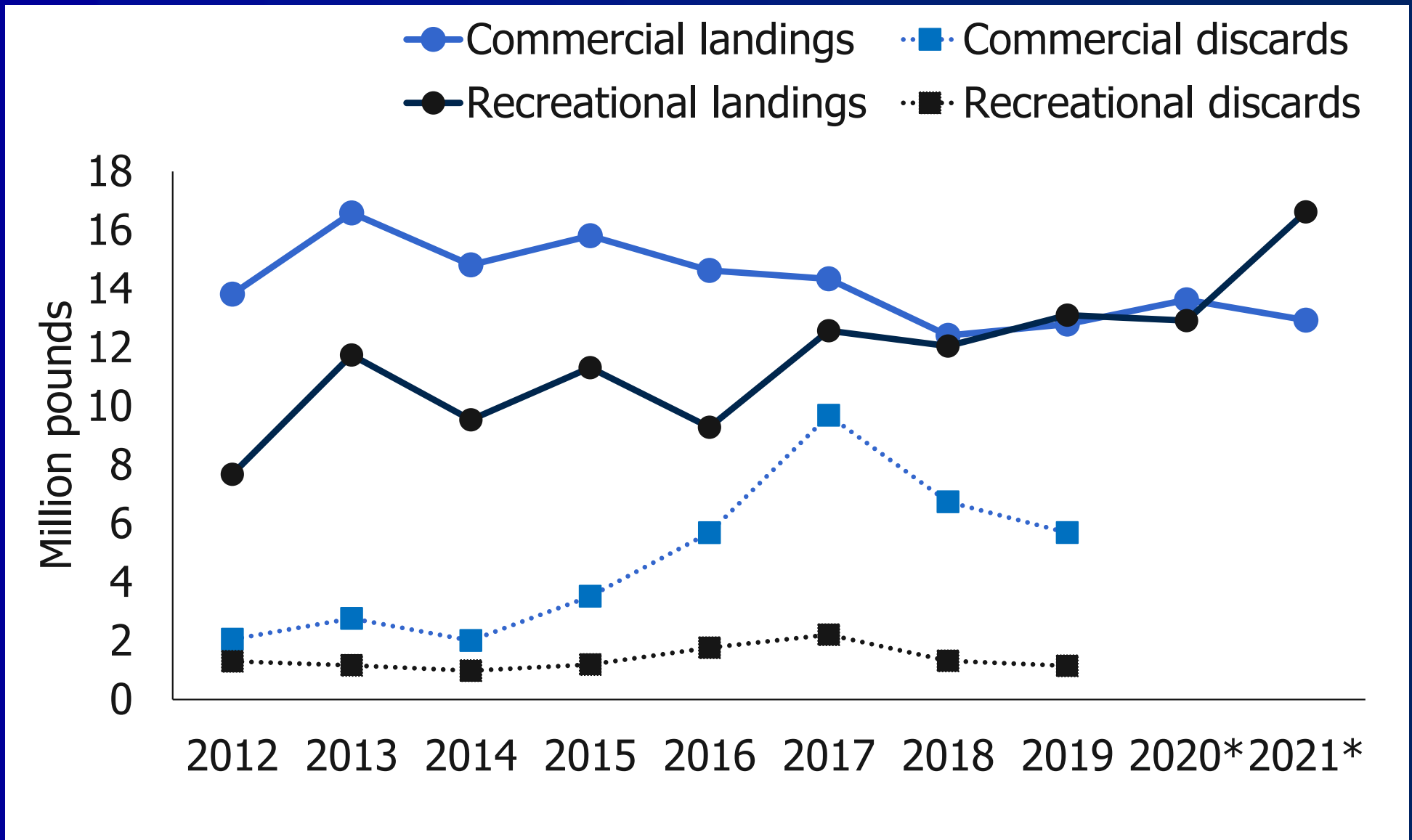
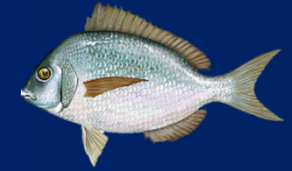


# NEFSC Data Update



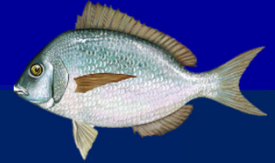
- Fall 2015/ Spring 2016 biomass indices record high
  - Generally decreased since
- Spring and Fall survey index increase from 2019 to 2021/2022
- Fall survey suggests below average recruitment 2016-2021

# Fishery Landings



*\*Discards currently not available (2020-2021)*

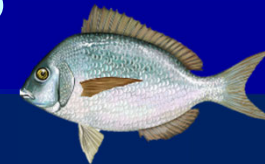
# Recreational Harvest and RHLs



Year	Rec. landings old MRIP	Rec. landings new MRIP	RHL	RHL overage/ underage	Rec. dead catch (old MRIP)	Rec. dead catch (new MRIP)	ACL	ACL overage/ underage
<b>2012</b>	4.17	8.27	8.45	-51%	4.68	9.67	8.99	-48%
<b>2013</b>	5.37	12.64	7.55	-29%	5.87	13.89	8.52	-31%
<b>2014</b>	4.43	10.27	7.03	-37%	4.93	11.33	7.92	-38%
<b>2015</b>	4.41	12.17	6.80	-35%	4.91	13.45	7.43	-34%
<b>2016</b>	4.26	10.00	6.09	-30%	5.04	11.90	6.84	-26%
<b>2017</b>	5.42	13.53	5.50	-1%	6.32	15.91	6.25	+1%
<b>2018</b>	5.61	12.98	7.37	-24%	6.21	14.40	8.61	-28%
<b>2019</b>	5.41	14.12	7.37	-27%	6.64	15.35	8.01	-17%
<b>2020</b>	N/A	12.91	6.51	+98%	N/A	TBD	7.87	TBD
<b>2021</b>	N/A	16.62	6.07	+174%	N/A	TBD	7.66	TBD



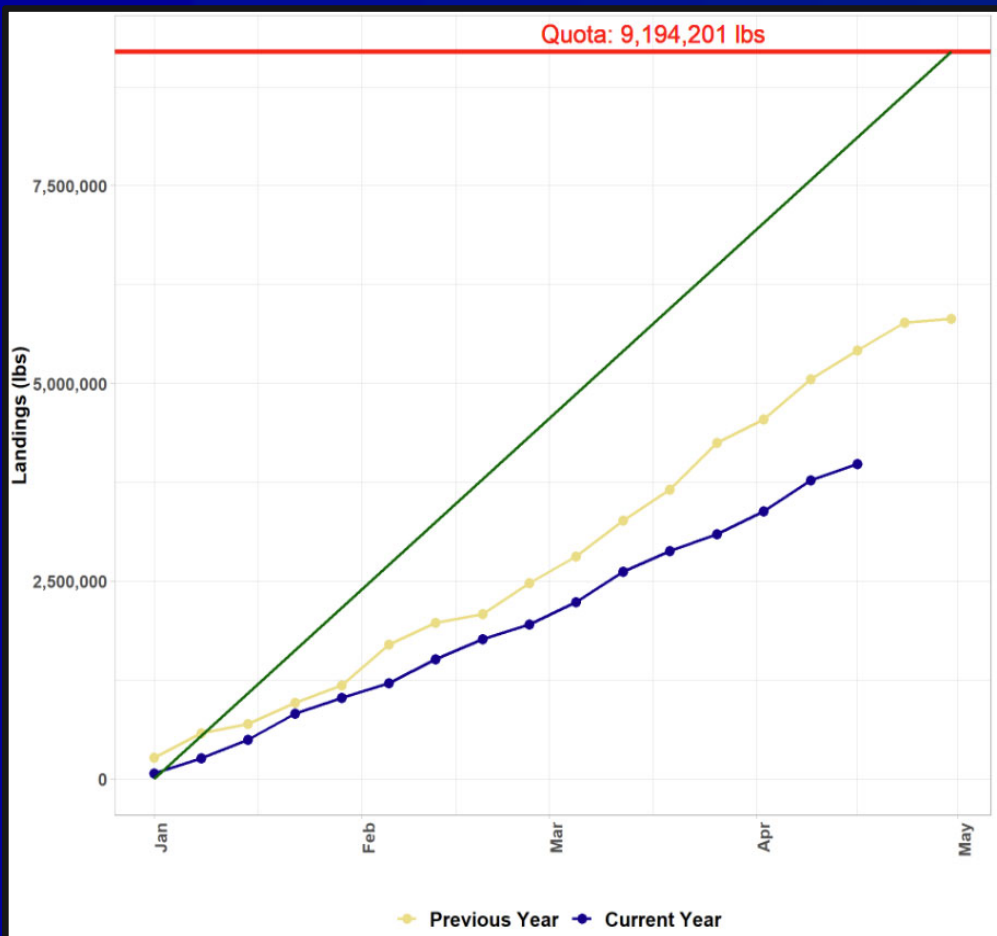
# Commercial Quota and Landings



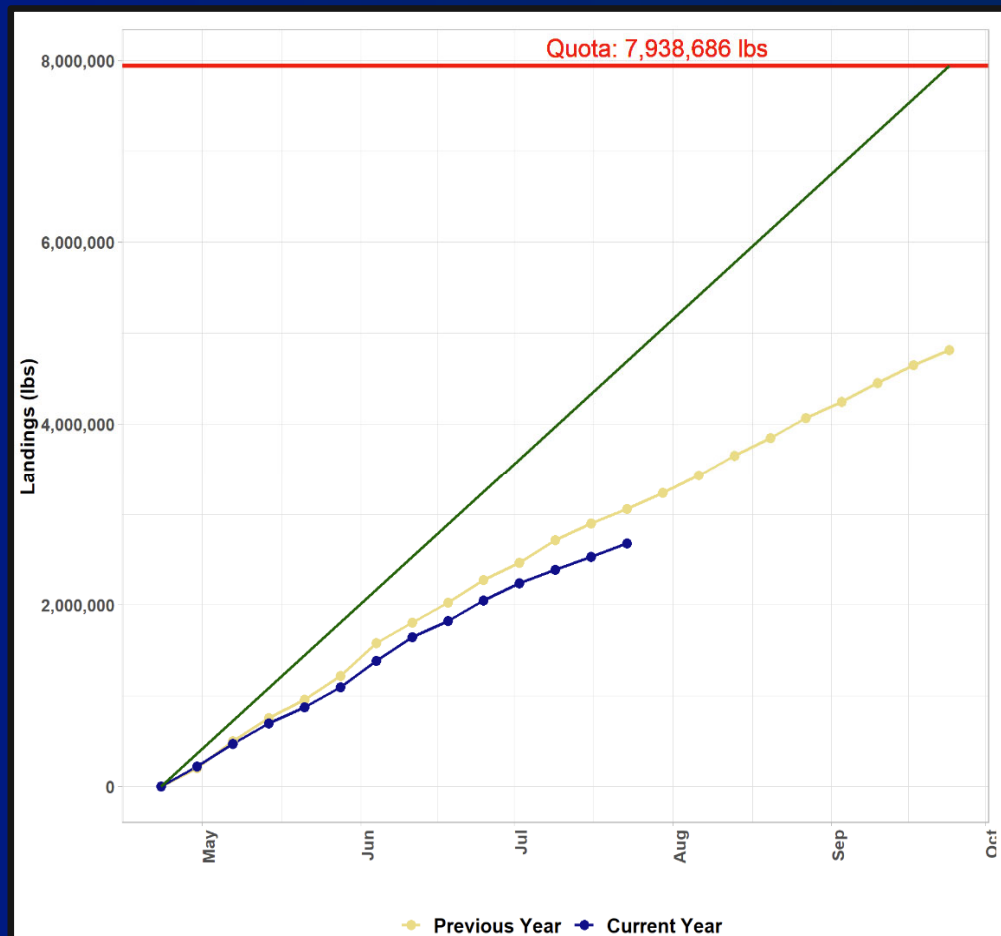
Year	Com. landings	Com. quota	Quota overage/ underage	Com. dead catch	ACL	ACL overage/ underage
2012	14.88	27.91	-47%	17.09	31.89	-46%
2013	17.87	23.53	-24%	20.84	30.19	-31%
2014	15.96	21.95	-27%	18.12	28.07	-35%
2015	17.03	21.23	-20%	20.82	26.35	-21%
2016	15.76	20.47	-23%	21.88	24.26	-10%
2017	15.45	18.38	-16%	25.88	22.15	+17%
2018	13.37	23.98	-44%	20.63	30.53	-32%
2019	13.78	23.98	-43%	19.91	28.42	-30%
2020	13.58	22.23	-39%	TBD	27.90	TBD
2021	12.93	20.50	-37%	TBD	27.15	TBD

# 2022 Preliminary Commercial Landings

## Winter Period



## Summer Period – as of Aug. 8, 2022



# AP Fishery Performance Report



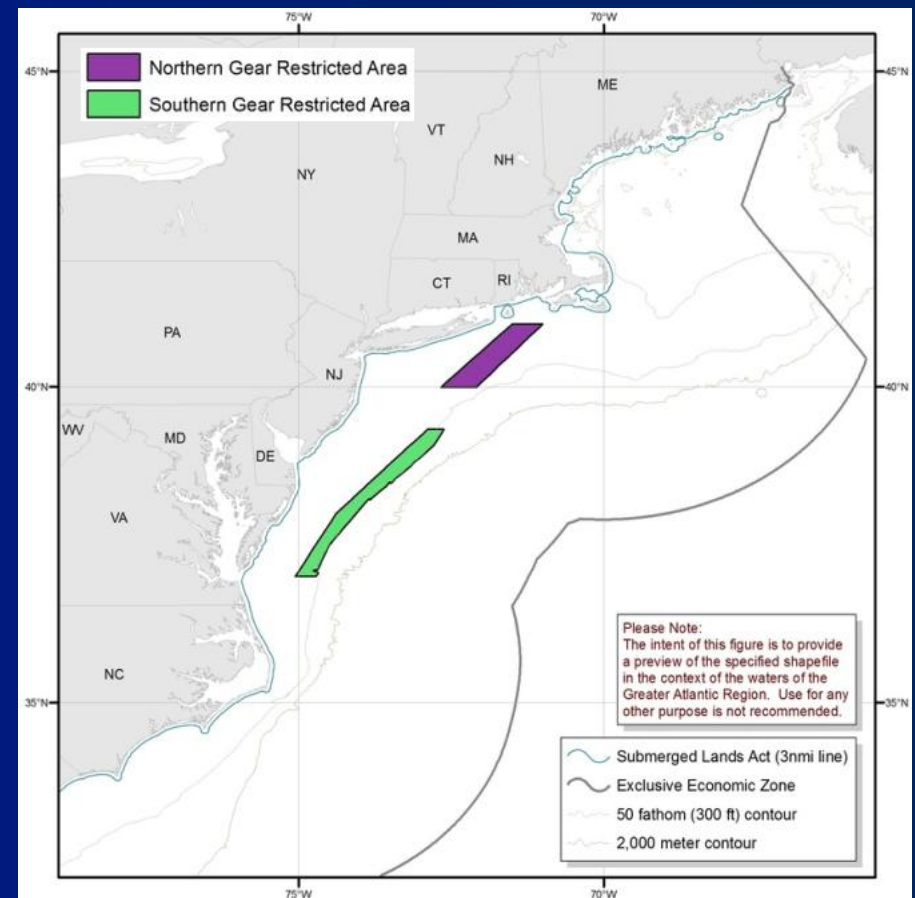
## *Scup – Market/Economic*

- Prices were good during winter
  - Extremely windy off New York
  - Effort limited due to weather
- Concerns about impacts of high prices (fuel, bait, etc.)
  - Recreational and Commercial
- One advisor concerned about impacts of imported fish
- One advisor recommended decreasing commercial min. size to bring back low-income market for small fish
  - Email comment: recommended no change to minimum size

# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *Scup – Commercial Fishery Issues*

- Recommendation to modify Southern Gear Restricted Area (GRA)
  - Scup are uncommon off Virginia
  - Southern ~20 miles of GRA taking away from trawl fisheries with no biological benefit to scup



# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *Scup – Recreational Fishery Issues*

- Concerned about high MRIP landing estimates
  - Inflating harvest estimates
  - 2021 wave 2 Massachusetts estimates extremely high and based on single intercept
  - Recommendation to work with MRIP staff to “smooth” poor data scenarios
- Questioned why recreational sector exceed the RHL the past 2 years



# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *Scup – Research Recommendations*

- Need to better understand impacts due to wind energy development
  - Planned project are within scup migratory path
  - Concerned noise pollution and vibrations will impact behavior and biology

Photo curtesy: M. Eversmier



# SSC Recommendation



- Recommended **no change** to previously adopted 2023 ABC

Year	OFL		ABC	
	mil lbs.	mt	mil lbs.	mt
2022	32.56	14,770	32.11	14,566
2023	30.09	13,648	29.67	13,460

# Flow Chart



**OFL**

**ABC**

**Landings portion**

**Discards portion**

**Commercial ACL**  
**65% of ABC**

**Recreational ACL**  
**35% of ABC**

**Projected comm. discards**

**Projected rec. discards**

**Commercial ACT**

**Recreational ACT**

**Commercial Quota**  
ACT minus projected discards (80.7% of total)

**Recreational Harvest Limit**  
ACT minus projected discards (19.3%)

**Winter I Quota**

**Summer Quota**

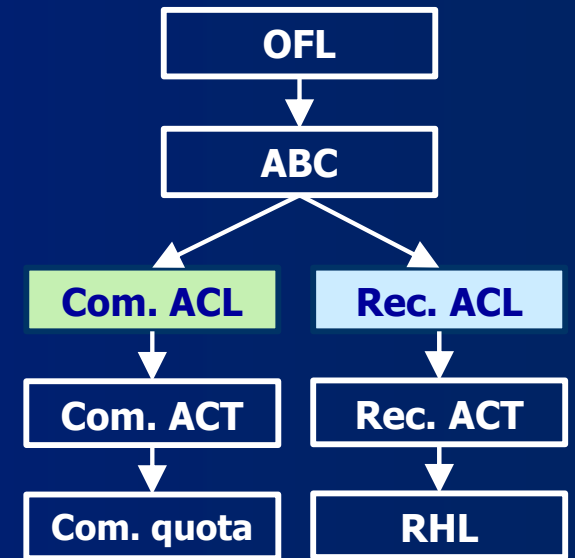
**Winter II Quota**



# Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)



- Defined by commercial/recreational allocations
  - 65%  $\Rightarrow$  commercial ACL
  - 35%  $\Rightarrow$  recreational ACL
- 2023 ABC = 29.67 mil lbs.
  - Commercial ACL = 19.29 mil lbs.
  - Recreational ACL = 10.39 mil lbs.



# Considerations for Annual Catch Targets (ACTs)



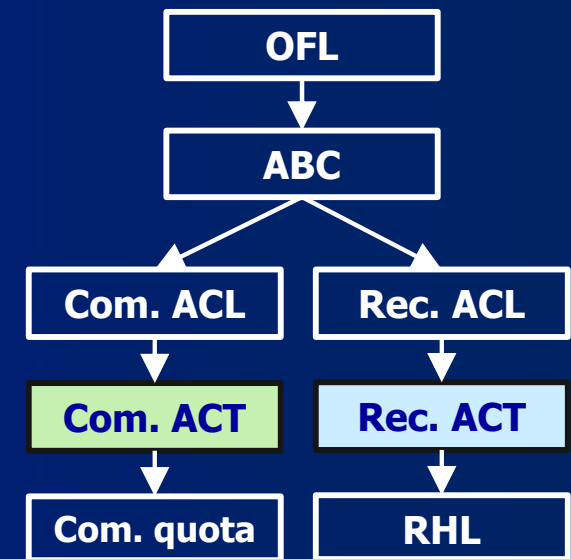
- *MC recommend no management uncertainty buffer in either sector (ACL = ACT)*

- **Commercial fishery**

- Well monitored and in-season closure authority
- Quota consistently not caught
- ACL overage in 2017 driven by high discards

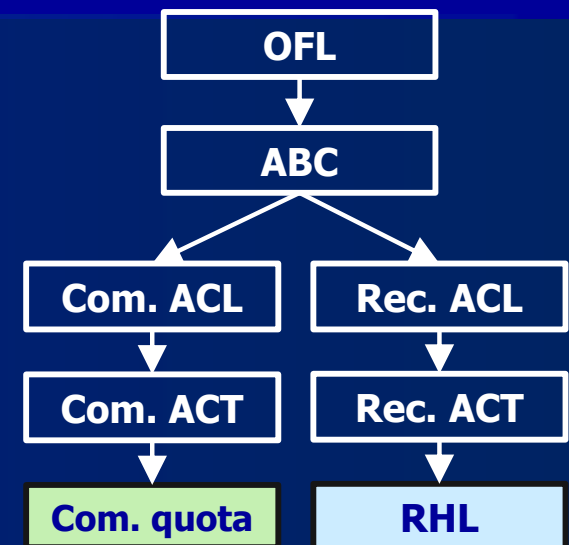
- **Recreational fishery**

- Measures restricted in 2022 to prevent RHL overage
- Change in measure for 2023 under HCR (percent change approach) currently unknown




# Discards Projections to Derive Com. Quota and RHL

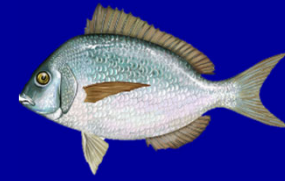
- *MC recommend using same method as previous years*
- ABC discard projections from NEFSC divided based on 3-yr. moving avg. proportion by sector
- Based on most recent discard data (2017-2019):
  - Com. discards account for 82.6% of ABC discards
  - Rec. discards account for 17.4% of ABC discard
- Results in same projected discards as previously approved



# MC Recommendation: 2023 Catch and Landings Limits (mil lbs.)

Measure	Previously adopted	MC recommendation	Basis 
OFL	30.09	30.09	Assessment projection
ABC	29.67	29.67	Assessment projection and risk policy
ABC discards	6.39	6.39	Assessment projection
Com. ACL	23.15	<b>19.29</b>	<b>New com. allocation 65% of ABC</b>
Com. ACT	23.15	<b>19.29</b>	No deduction for management uncertainty (ACL = ACT)
Projected com. discards	5.28	5.28	82.6% of ABC discards (avg. % dead discards from com. fishery; 2017-19)
Com. quota	17.87	<b>14.01</b>	Com. ACT – projected com. discards
Rec. ACL	6.53	<b>10.39</b>	<b>New rec. allocation 35% of ABC</b>
Rec. ACT	6.53	<b>10.39</b>	No deduction for management uncertainty (ACL = ACT)
Projected rec. discards	1.12	1.12	17.4% of ABC discards (avg. % dead discards from rec. fishery; 2017-19)
RHL	5.41	<b>9.27</b>	Rec. ACT – projected rec. discards

# MC Recommendation: Commercial Measures



- *Recommended no changes for 2023*
- Measure that can be changed through Specifications:
  - Minimum size limit
  - Quota period possession limits and quota rollover provisions
  - Gear requirements
  - Incidental possession limits

# Council/Board Decisions Points

- Consider MC recommendations to revise ACLs, ACTs, commercial quota, and RHL according to new allocations
- Recommendations/comments on commercial measure
  - Quota period possession limits
  - Minimum fish size
  - Gear requirements
  - Incidental possession limits

