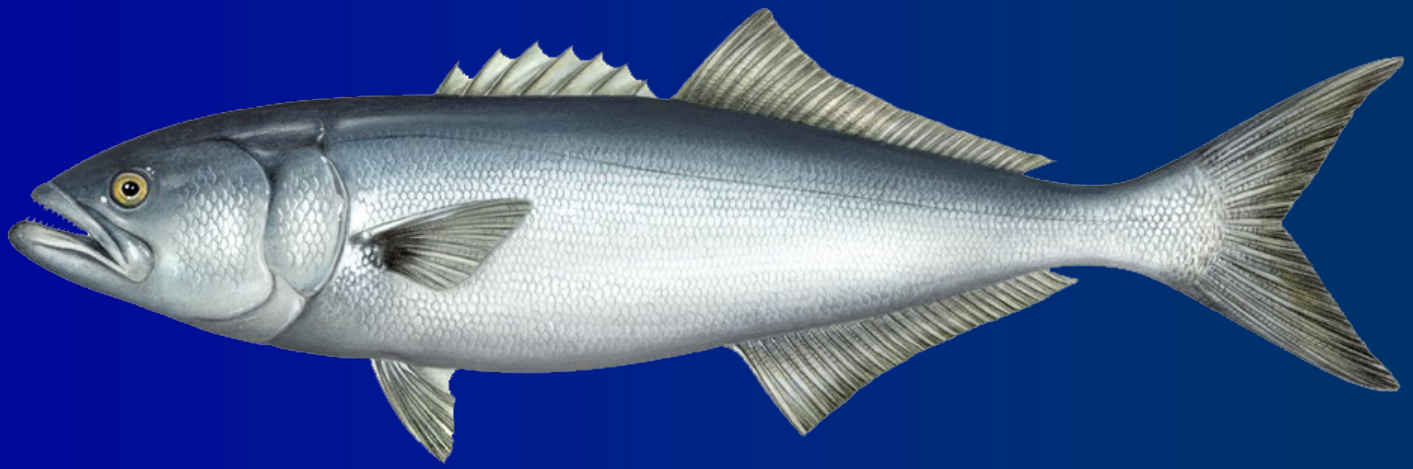
Atlantic Bluefish



Joint Council/Board Meeting

October 7, 2020

Timeline

December 2017	June-July 2018	October 2019	November 2019
Amendment Initiation	Scoping Comment Period	Rebuilding Incorporated	2 yrs Overfished Declaration
February-March 2020	**May 2020**	**Summer-Fall 2020**	**October 2020**
Supplemental Scoping Period	Review Scoping Comments	Refine Draft Alternatives	Approve Alternatives for Public Hearing Document
February 2021	**Spring/ Summer 2021**	**Winter 2021**	**Spring 2022**
Approve Public Hearing Document / Draft Amendment	Final Action	Final Rule	Rebuilding Plan Implementation

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Meeting Goal

- Approve a range of alternatives to be included in the Council's Public Hearing Document and the Commission's Draft Amendment
  - Slim down the alternatives, if possible

Outline: FMAT Summary

1. FMP Goals and Objectives
2. Commercial and Recreational Sector Allocations
   - Phase-in Approach
3. Commercial Allocations to the States
   - Phase-in, Trigger, and Minimum Default Allocation Approaches
4. Regional Commercial Allocations
5. Rebuilding Plan
6. Sector Transfer
7. Management Uncertainty
8. De minimis

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Issue 1: FMP Goals and Objectives

Current FMP Goals and Objectives

Goal: Conserve the bluefish resource along the Atlantic coast.

- **Objective 1:** Increase understanding of the stock and of the fishery.
- **Objective 2:** Provide the highest availability of bluefish to U.S. fishermen while maintaining, within limits, traditional uses of bluefish.
- **Objective 3:** Provide for cooperation among the coastal states, the various regional marine fishery management councils, and federal agencies involved along the coast to enhance the management of bluefish throughout its range.
- **Objective 4:** Prevent recruitment overfishing.
- **Objective 5:** Reduce the waste in both the commercial and recreational fisheries.

Issue 1: FMP Goals and Objectives

Proposed FMP Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 Conserve the bluefish resource through stakeholder engagement to maintain sustainable recreational fishing and commercial harvest.

- **Objective 1.1.** Achieve and maintain a sustainable spawning stock biomass and rate of fishing mortality.
- **Objective 1.2.** Promote practices that reduce discard mortality within the recreational and commercial fishery.
- **Objective 1.3.** Maintain effective coordination between the National Marine Fisheries Service, Council, Commission, and member states by promoting compliance and to support the development and implementation of management measures.
- **Objective 1.4.** Promote compliance and effective enforcement of regulations.
- **Objective 1.5.** Promote science, monitoring, and data collection that support and enhance effective ecosystem-based management of the bluefish resource.

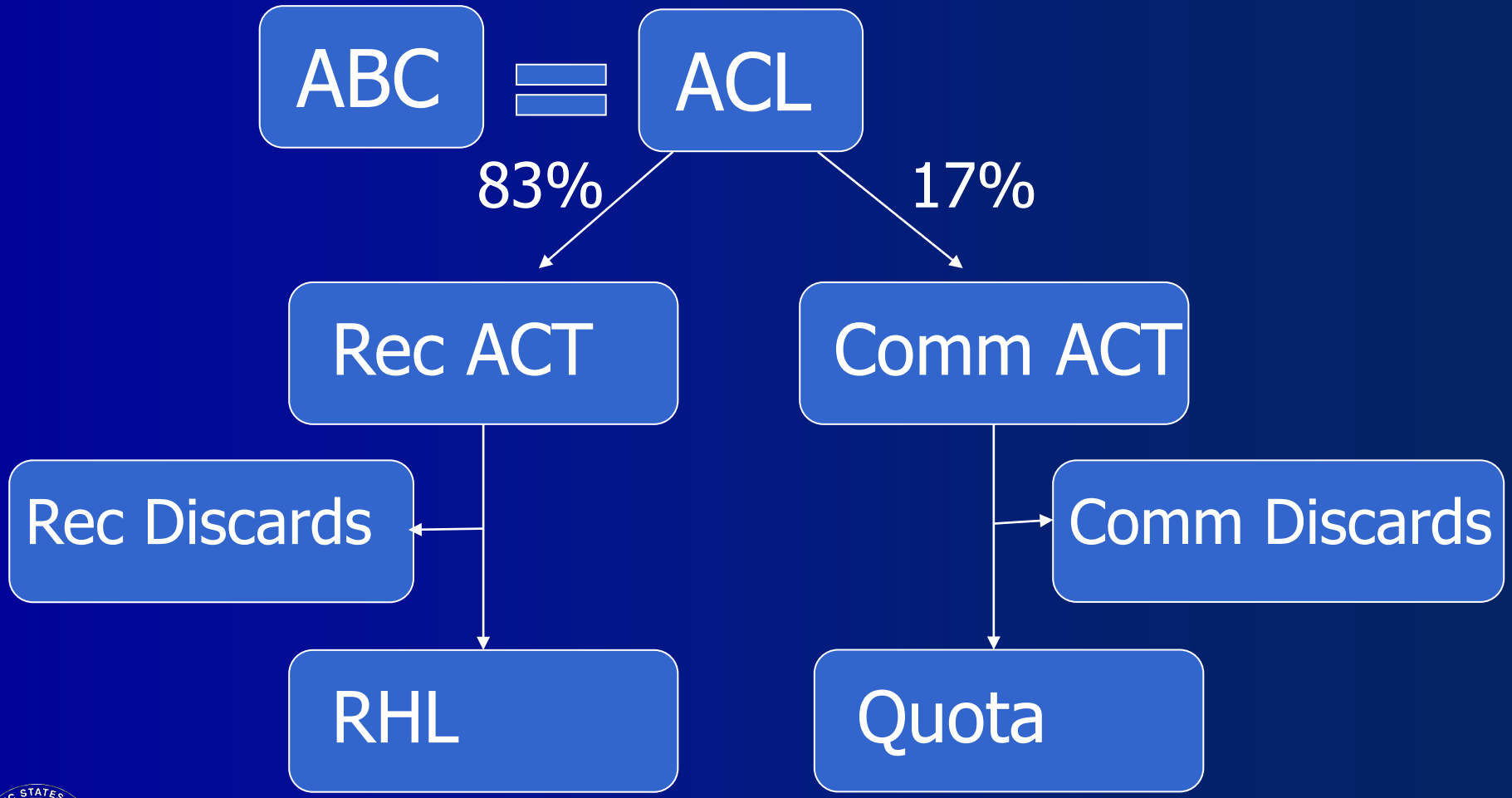
Issue 1: FMP Goals and Objectives

Proposed FMP Goals and Objectives Continued

Goal 2 Provide fair and equitable access to the fishery across all user groups throughout the management unit.

- **Objective 2.1** Ensure the implementation of management measures provides fair and equitable access to the resource across to all groups along the coast.
- **Objective 2.2** Consider the economic and social needs and priorities of all groups that access the bluefish resource in the development of new management measures.
- **Objective 2.3** Maintain effective coordination with stakeholder groups to ensure optimization of economic and social benefits.

Issue 2: Sector Allocations



Issue 2: Sector Allocation Alternatives

Alternative	Basis - Landings Based	Recreational Allocation	Commercial Allocation
2.1 (Status quo)	1981-1989 (Landings-based)	83%	17%
2.1.1	5 year (2014-2018) and 10 year (2009-2018)	89%	11%
2.1.2	20 year (1999-2018)	87%	13%
2.1.3	Full Time Series (1981-2018)	86%	14%

Alternative	Basis - Catch Based	Recreational Allocation	Commercial Allocation
2.1 (Status quo)	1981-1989 (Landings-based)	83%	17%
2.2.1	5 year (2014-2018) and 10 year (2009-2018)	86%	14%
2.2.2	20 year (1999-2018) and Full Time Series (1981-2018)	84%	16%

Issue 2: Sector Allocations Phase-in Approach

- Both sectors are impacted by a reduced quota
  - Overfished designation
  - Sector transfers from recreational to commercial sector halted
- Alternatives currently in development decrease the commercial allocation
- FMAT recommends streamlining phase-in timeline with rebuilding timeline
- Phasing in allocation changes allows for commercial/recreational allocation percentages to transition slowly over time.
  - Potential to reduce economic burden
- Changing allocations on a continual basis during a rebuilding plan may unnecessarily overcomplicate management.

Issue 2: Sector Allocations

Issue	Approach	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
Sector Allocations	Allocations	Keep all alternatives (catch and landings based) for further development but combine alternatives when the allocation percentage is the same.
	Phase-in	Streamline the timing with the selected rebuilding duration. Keep for inclusion in a public hearing document.

Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Landings-Based Allocation Alternatives						
	3.1	3.1.1	3.1.2	3.1.3	*3.1.4*	*3.1.5*
State	Status quo (1981-1989)	5 year (2014-2018)	10 year (2009-2018)	20 year (1999-2018)	*Time Series (1981-2018)*	*1/2 '81-'89 1/2 '09-'18*
ME	0.67%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	*0.43%*	*0.49%*
NH	0.41%	0.03%	0.12%	0.17%	*0.65%*	*0.33%*
MA	6.71%	10.64%	10.16%	7.53%	*7.18%*	*7.66%*
RI	6.80%	11.81%	9.64%	8.00%	*7.96%*	*7.59%*
CT	1.26%	1.18%	1.00%	0.73%	*1.12%*	*1.19%*
NY	10.37%	20.31%	19.94%	19.44%	*14.76%*	*13.01%*
NJ	14.79%	11.23%	13.94%	15.23%	*15.57%*	*14.57%*
DE	1.88%	0.58%	0.40%	0.39%	*1.09%*	*1.47%*
MD	3.00%	1.50%	1.84%	1.54%	*2.10%*	*2.68%*
VA	11.86%	4.62%	5.85%	6.92%	*8.79%*	*10.26%*
NC	32.01%	32.06%	32.38%	36.94%	*33.52%*	*32.13%*
SC	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	*0.02%*	*0.03%*
GA	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	*0.01%*	*0.01%*
FL	10.04%	6.07%	4.75%	3.10%	*6.91%*	*8.59%*
Total	100.00%	100.01%	100.03%	100.02%	*100.10%*	*100.00%*

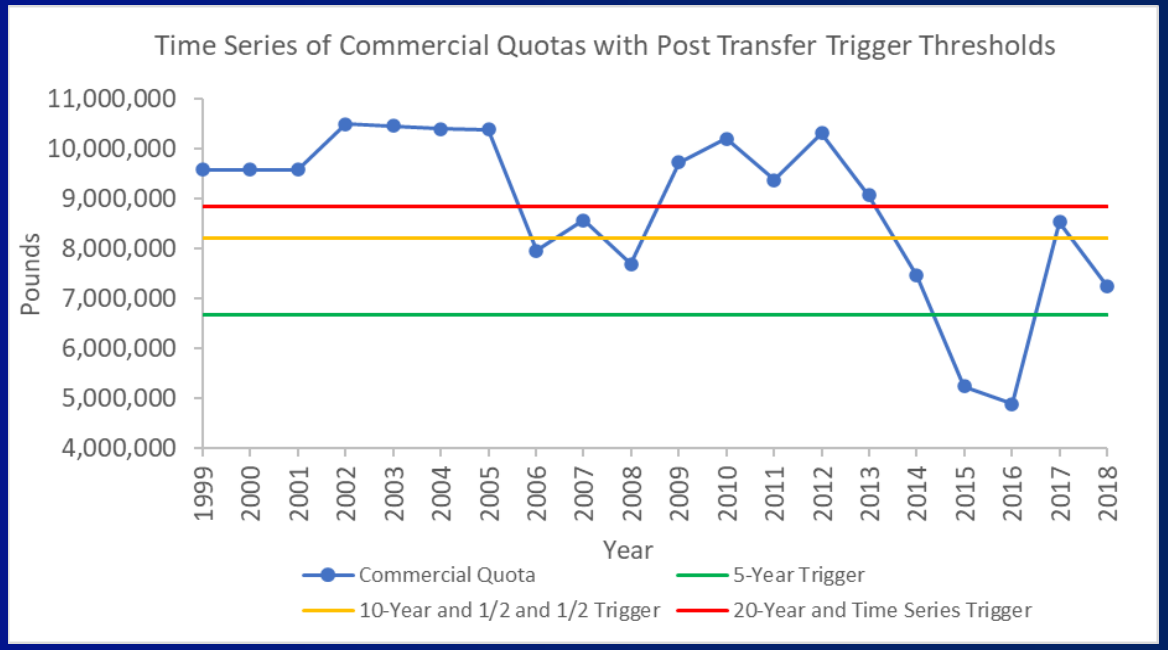
Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States <u>Phase-in</u> Approach

- Same FMAT comments for Issue 2 apply here
  - Phasing in allocation changes allows for commercial state allocation percentages to transition slowly over time.
    - Potential to reduce economic burden
  - The commercial sector is impacted by a reduced quota
    - Overfished designation
    - Sector transfers from recreational to commercial sector halted
  - Changing allocations on a continual basis during a rebuilding plan may unnecessarily overcomplicate management.
  - FMAT recommends streamlining a phase-in timeline with rebuilding timeline

Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States Trigger Approach

- FMAT is concerned about the tradeoff between perceived benefit and added complexity
- May not an be appropriate management tool during rebuilding
- What is an appropriate trigger threshold level?
  - Recent biomass levels have remained low (Post Transfer)
- Refine equity across states

Commercial Quota Time Series	Pre-Transfer	Post Transfer
No Action/Status quo	N/A	N/A
5-year (2014-2018)	3.67 M lbs	6.67 M lbs
10-year (2009-2018)	4.31 M lbs	8.21 M lbs
20-year (1999-2018)	4.88 M lbs	8.84 M lbs
Time series (1981-2018)	4.88 M lbs*	8.84 M lbs*
½ 1981-1989 and ½ 2009-2018	4.31 M lbs*	8.21 M lbs*



MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States
Trigger Approach

Allocation of additional quota beyond the trigger threshold.						
State	Status quo (1981-1989)	5 year (2014-2018)	10 year (2009-2018)	20 year (1999-2018)	*Time Series (1981-2018)*	*1/2 '81-'89 1/2 '09-'18*
ME	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	*0.10%*	*0.10%*
NH	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	*0.10%*	*0.10%*
MA	7.50%	16.60%	19.60%	7.50%	*7.50%*	*7.50%*
RI	7.50%	16.60%	7.50%	7.50%	*7.50%*	*7.50%*
CT	3.00%	3.00%	0.10%	0.10%	*3.00%*	*3.00%*
NY	15.12%	16.60%	19.60%	23.63%	*20.20%*	*17.03%*
NJ	15.12%	16.60%	19.60%	23.63%	*20.20%*	*17.03%*
DE	3.00%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	*3.00%*	*3.00%*
MD	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	*3.00%*	*3.00%*
VA	15.12%	3.00%	7.50%	7.50%	*7.50%*	*17.03%*
NC	15.12%	16.60%	19.60%	23.63%	*20.20%*	*17.03%*
SC	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	*0.10%*	*0.10%*
GA	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	*0.10%*	*0.10%*
FL	15.12%	7.50%	3.00%	3.00%	*7.50%*	*7.50%*
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	*100%*	*100%*

Range of Baseline Quota	Associated Additional Quota Allocations
<=1%	0.10%
>1-5%	3.00%
>5-10%	7.50%
>10%	Remainder

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States
Minimum Default Allocation

- Modeled after Amendment 3 for Atlantic Menhaden
  - "The Atlantic menhaden commercial TAC is managed with jurisdictional quotas. Each jurisdiction is allocated a 0.5% fixed minimum quota and the remainder of the TAC is allocated based on a three-year average of historic landings from 2009-2011".
- Sufficient range of percentages (0.10%, 0.25%, 0.50%)
- Minimum default allocations were applied to each state by allocating a baseline quota of 0.10-0.50% to each state
- Then, the rest of the annual commercial quota is allocated based on historic landings under different time series

Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States
Minimum Default Allocation

		0.10% Minimum Default Allocation					
State	**No Action 1981-1989**	**Status quo 1981-1989**	**5-year 2014-2018**	**10-year 2009-2018**	**20-year 1999-2018**	*Time Series 1981-2018*	*½ '81-'89 ½ '09-'18*
ME	0.67%	0.76%	0.10%	0.11%	0.11%	*0.52%*	*0.58%*
NH	0.41%	0.51%	0.13%	0.22%	0.27%	*0.74%*	*0.42%*
MA	6.71%	6.72%	10.59%	10.12%	7.53%	*7.18%*	*7.65%*
RI	6.81%	6.81%	11.74%	9.61%	7.98%	*7.95%*	*7.58%*
CT	1.27%	1.35%	1.26%	1.09%	0.82%	*1.20%*	*1.28%*
NY	10.38%	10.33%	20.12%	19.76%	19.27%	*14.65%*	*12.93%*
NJ	14.81%	14.70%	11.17%	13.85%	15.11%	*15.45%*	*14.46%*
DE	1.88%	1.95%	0.67%	0.49%	0.48%	*1.17%*	*1.55%*
MD	3.00%	3.06%	1.57%	1.92%	1.62%	*2.17%*	*2.75%*
VA	11.94%	11.88%	4.65%	5.87%	6.93%	*8.77%*	*10.22%*
NC	32.03%	31.68%	31.71%	32.03%	36.52%	*33.15%*	*31.78%*
SC	0.04%	0.13%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	*0.12%*	*0.13%*
GA	0.01%	0.11%	0.10%	0.10%	0.11%	*0.11%*	*0.11%*
FL	10.06%	10.02%	6.08%	4.78%	3.16%	*6.91%*	*8.57%*

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Approach	Alternative	Basis	FMAT Recommendations	
Allocations	3.1 (Status quo)	Amd. 1 (1981-1989)	Must remain in Amendment	
	3.1.1	5 year (2014-2018)	Recommends further consideration	
	3.1.2	10 year (2009-2018)	Recommends further consideration	
	3.1.3	20 year (1999-2018)	Recommends removal	
	3.1.4	Time Series (1981-2018)	*Recommends removal of either 3.1.4 or 3.1.5*	
	3.1.5	1/2 '81-'89 1/2 '09-'18	*Recommends removal of either 3.1.4 or 3.1.5*	
Phase-in	3.2 (Status quo)	No Phase-in	Must remain in Amendment	Streamline timing with the selected rebuilding duration
	3.2.1	Phase-in	Recommends further consideration	
Trigger	3.3 (Status quo)	No Trigger	Must remain in Amendment	Trigger (and post transfer threshold) and minimum default allocation time series should match the preferred alternative under section 3.1-3.1.5
	3.3.1	Pre-Transfer Trigger	Recommends removal	
	3.3.2	Post Transfer Trigger	Recommends further consideration	
Minimum Default Allocations	3.4 (Status quo)	No Minimum Default Allocation	Must remain in Amendment	
	3.4.1	0.10% - No Minimum Default Allocation	Recommends further consideration	
	3.4.2	0.25% - No Minimum Default Allocation	Recommends removal	
	3.4.3	0.50% - No Minimum Default Allocation	Recommends removal	

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

- Originated as a proposal from FL
- Regionalization: NE, MA, SA
  - Race to fish?
  - Biological basis?
    - Landings as a proxy for abundance?
      - Lacking biological backing, there is less technical merit
  - Trip limit step downs and/or adjusted quotas
    - Requires a high level of state buy-in
  - Transfer approval may be less likely to occur

Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

Alternative	Time Series	New England (ME-CT)	Mid-Atlantic (NY-VA)	South Atlantic (NC-FL)
4.1	Status quo: 1981-1989	N/A (15.86%)	N/A (42.00%)	N/A (42.13%)
4.1.1	2014-2018	23.66%	38.23%	38.13%
4.1.2	2009-2018	20.93%	41.97%	37.13%
4.1.3	1999-2018	16.44%	43.53%	40.05%
4.1.4	1981-2018	17.34%	42.31%	40.45%
4.1.5	½ '81-'89 -½ '09-'18	17.25%	41.99%	40.75%

Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

	New England Trips			Mid-Atlantic Trips			South Atlantic Trips		
Pound Bin	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017
5000+	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
4000-4999	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
3000-3999	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
2000-2999	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%
1000-1999	<1%	<1%	1.25%	<1%	2.45%	1.45%	1.58%	1.13%	1.26%
500-999	2.34%	1.42%	3.42%	2.29%	3.12%	3.31%	3.69%	3.08%	2.99%
<500	95.84%	96.69%	94.10%	97.20%	94.40%	95.20%	94.31%	95.33%	94.76%

	New England Landings			Mid-Atlantic Landings			South Atlantic Landings		
Pound Bin	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017
5000+	3.95%	4.49%	4.39%	0%	0%	1.29%	5.80%	12.93%	25.82%
4000-4999	7.12%	1.86%	11.30%	0%	0%	0.64%	1.30%	1.83%	2.17%
3000-3999	5.36%	5.29%	8.45%	0%	0%	0.46%	1.72%	2.01%	2.26%
2000-2999	11.79%	19.80%	6.91%	0%	1.13%	0%	5.40%	4.23%	8.19%
1000-1999	13.21%	9.54%	11.56%	7.04%	25.26%	16.21%	18.64%	13.84%	11.86%
500-999	15.42%	8.59%	16.00%	20.48%	23.36%	25.78%	22.54%	18.99%	14.07%
<500	43.15%	50.43%	41.39%	72.49%	50.25%	55.62%	44.60%	46.18%	35.64%

New England (ME-CT)		Mid-Atlantic (NY-VA)		South Atlantic (NC-FL)	
Harvest Trigger	Trip Limit (lbs)	Harvest Trigger	Trip Limit (lbs)	Harvest Trigger	Trip Limit (lbs)
0%	3,500	0%	2,000	0%	10,000
75%	1,500	75%	1,500	50%	3,500
90%	500	90%	500	75%	1,500
-	-	-	-	90%	500

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

- FMAT Recommendation – Remove from the Amendment
  1. FMP contains provisions to combine quotas
  2. Loss of state autonomy and flexibility in setting comm. measures
  3. Difficulty with setting equitable trip limits
  4. **Lack of biological basis**
- Spearman correlation analysis
  - Rec. CPUE was used as a proxy for total abundance
  - Commercial landings were not used because they are assumed to be influenced by market factors and restricted by state quotas
  - Analysis is in the FMAT Summary
  - Expect to see green groupings closely surrounding the diagonal gray plots if there were correlations in total abundance across neighboring states.

Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

- CFR § 648.162 Bluefish Specifications
  - Two or more states implementing a state commercial quota for bluefish may request approval from the Regional Administrator to combine their quotas, or part of their quotas, into an overall regional quota.

Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

Issue	Approach	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
Regional Commercial Allocations	Regional Allocations	Recommends removal of the alternative set. • Regionalization lacks biological backing • Regionalization will result in a loss of autonomy • Reduced flexibility to manage fisheries at the state level. • Difficulty developing equitable trip limits • Multiple states already have the ability to combine their quotas (CFR § 648.162)

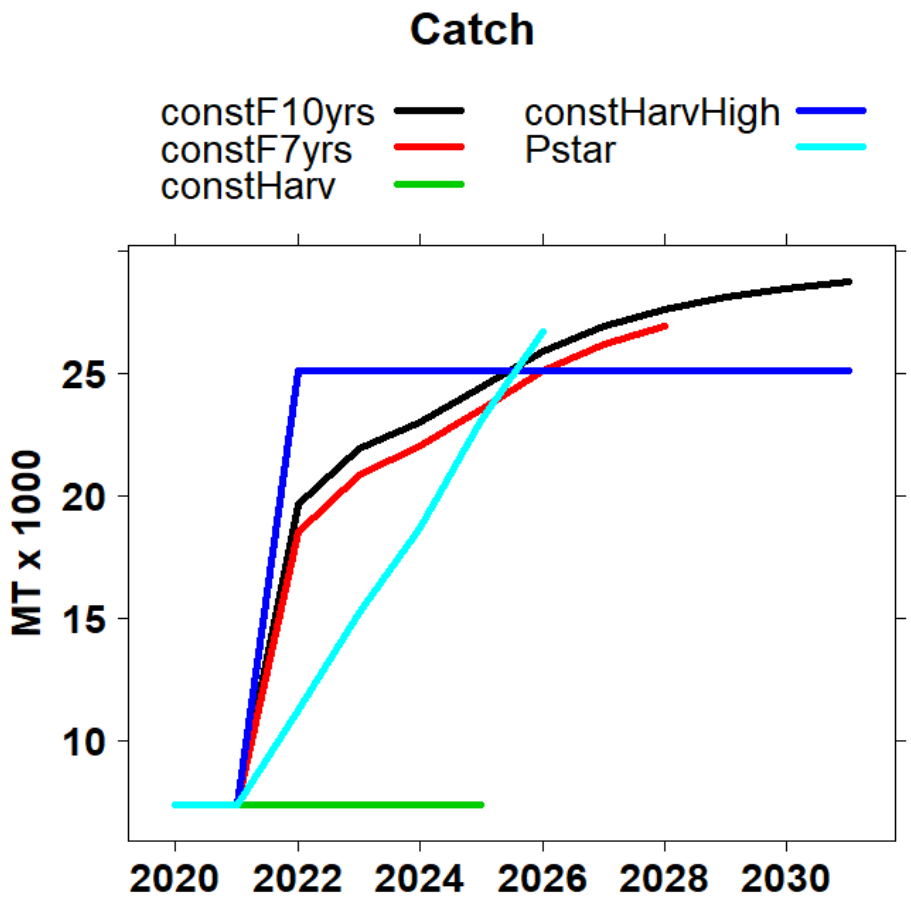
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

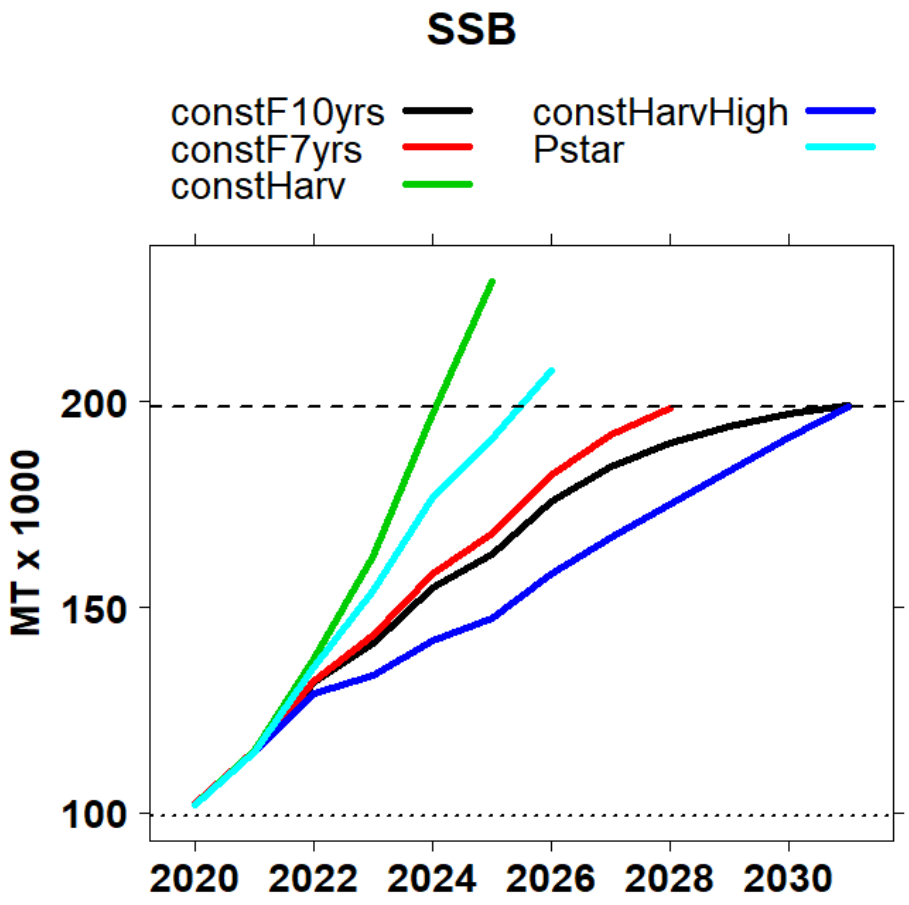
MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan

- 2019 Operational Stock Assessment – overfished stock status
- Adjustments to the Council's risk policy (for bluefish only) are necessary under alternatives 5.1.2, 5.1.3, and 5.1.4.
- Rebuilding plan reassessed each year through specifications

Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan





Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan

Alternative	Rebuilding Plan	Duration	*Adjustment to Council Risk Policy	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
5.1	Status Quo	N/A	N/A	Must include in amendment
5.1.1	Constant Harvest	4 years	No	Recommends further consideration
5.1.2	Constant Fishing Mortality	10 years	Yes	Recommends removal
5.1.3	Constant Fishing Mortality	7 years	Yes	Recommends further consideration
5.1.4	Constant Harvest (Highest Catch)	10 years	Yes	Recommends removal
5.1.5	P* (Council Risk Policy)	5 years	N/A	Recommends further consideration

*Adjustment to the Council Risk Policy will be done through development of the Environmental Assessment and adds minimal work.

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Issue 6: Sector Transfers

- Need for transfer addressed annually through the specifications process
- Prior to August meeting, MC develops projections for next years landings for each sector

Scenario	Commercial Sector	Recreational Sector	Outcome
1	Projected to achieve quota	Projected to achieve RHL	No transfer
2	Projected to achieve quota	Projected to not achieve RHL	Transfer to comm
3	Projected to not achieve quota	Projected to achieve RHL	Transfer to rec
4	Projected to not achieve quota	Projected to not achieve RHL	No transfer

Issue 6: Timing and Process

- Existing bluefish transfer process
  - Implements specifications in January for the new fishing year
  - NOAA Fisheries reassesses transfer amount in February based on new data and an adjustment notice is released in March/April
- Post-specifications adjustment problematic
  - Recreational measures set in December
- Without adjustments, projections are based off incomplete data from prior year, increasing potential for overages

Issue 6: Criteria for Prohibiting a Transfer

- FMAT agreed that prohibiting transfers when the stock is overfished is appropriate
- Considered, but rejected
  - Overfishing is occurring
  - Stock is rebuilding

Issue 6 Transfer Cap

- The ABC under a rebuilt stock is projected to equal approximately 60 million lbs.
- A 10% cap would result in a transfer cap of 6 million lbs
- Transfers from the recreational to the commercial fishery never exceeded 5.93 million lbs (2000-2020)

Sector Transfers (2000-2019)

Year	Sector Transfer Amount
2000	0
2001	3.150 million lbs
2002	5.933 million lbs
2003	4.161 million lbs
2004	5.085 million lbs
2005	5.254 million lbs
2006	5.367 million lbs
2007	4.780 million lbs
2008	4.088 million lbs
2009	4.838 million lbs
2010	5.387 million lbs
2011	4.772 million lbs
2012	5.052 million lbs
2013	4.686 million lbs
2014	3.340 million lbs
2015	1.579 million lbs
2016	1.577 million lbs
2017	5.033 million lbs
2018	3.535 million lbs
2019	4.000 million lbs

- Sector transfer cap of 5% for a rebuilt stock equals approximately 3 million pounds under current projections
- FMAT thought this value to be overly restrictive

Issue 6: Sector Transfers

Alternatives	Transfer Cap	FMAT Recommendations
6.1	No Action/Status Quo	Must remain in.
6.1.1	5% of the ABC	Recommends removal
6.1.2	10% of the ABC	Recommends further consideration
6.1.3	15% of the ABC	Recommends removal

Alternatives	Bi-directionality	FMAT Recommendations
6.2	No Action/Status Quo	Must remain in.
6.2.1	Bi-directional	Recommends further consideration

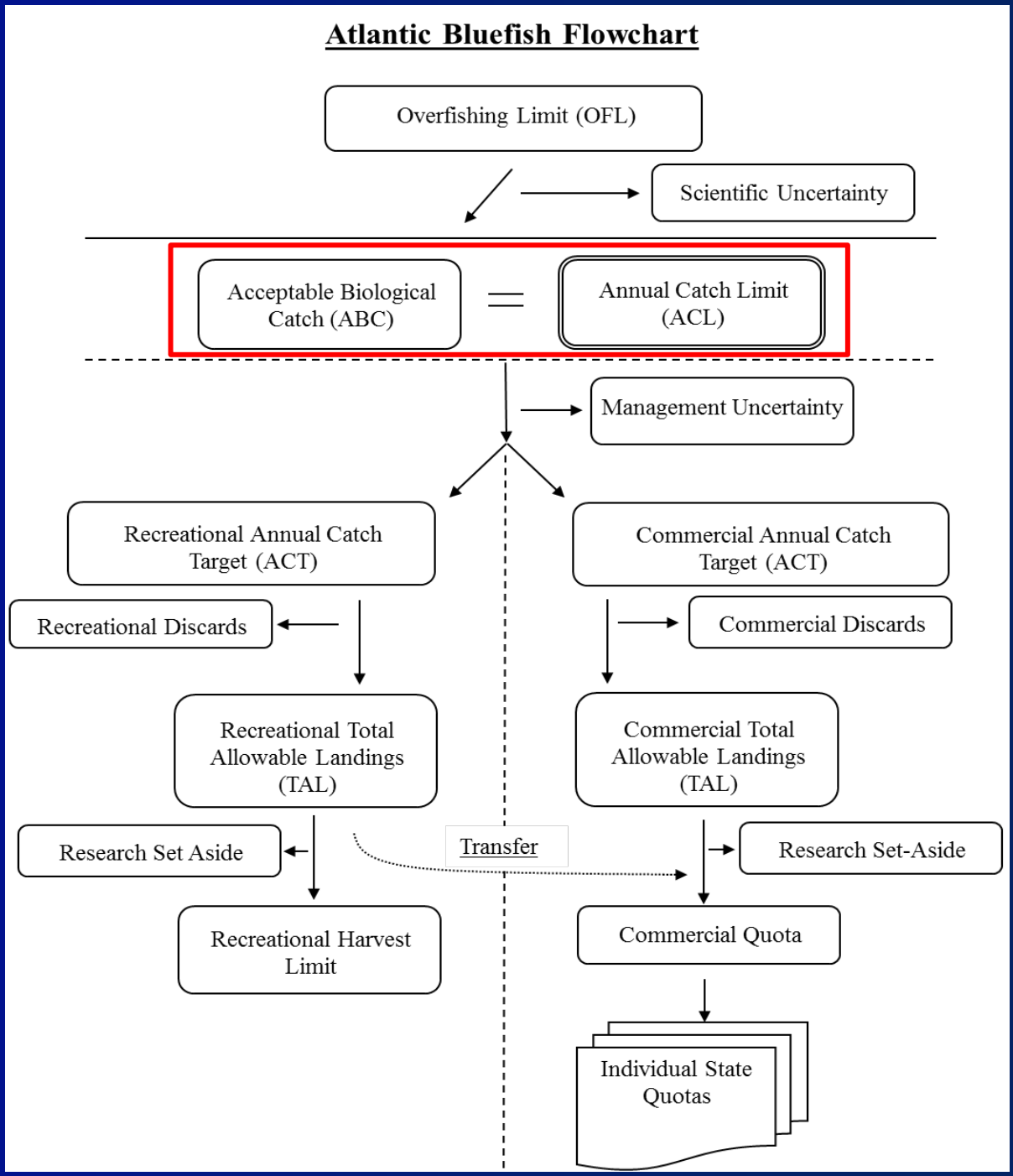
Issue 7: Sector Specific Management Uncertainty

- The FMAT agreed that this concept should be left in the amendment for further consideration.
- Refining the management uncertainty tool will enable it to target one specific sector without negatively affecting the other sector.
  - E.g. Recreational discard calculations have been a management uncertainty concern, however, no reductions for management uncertainty have occurred in recent years because it would lead to reductions in the commercial quota.

Issue 7:

Sector Specific Management Uncertainty

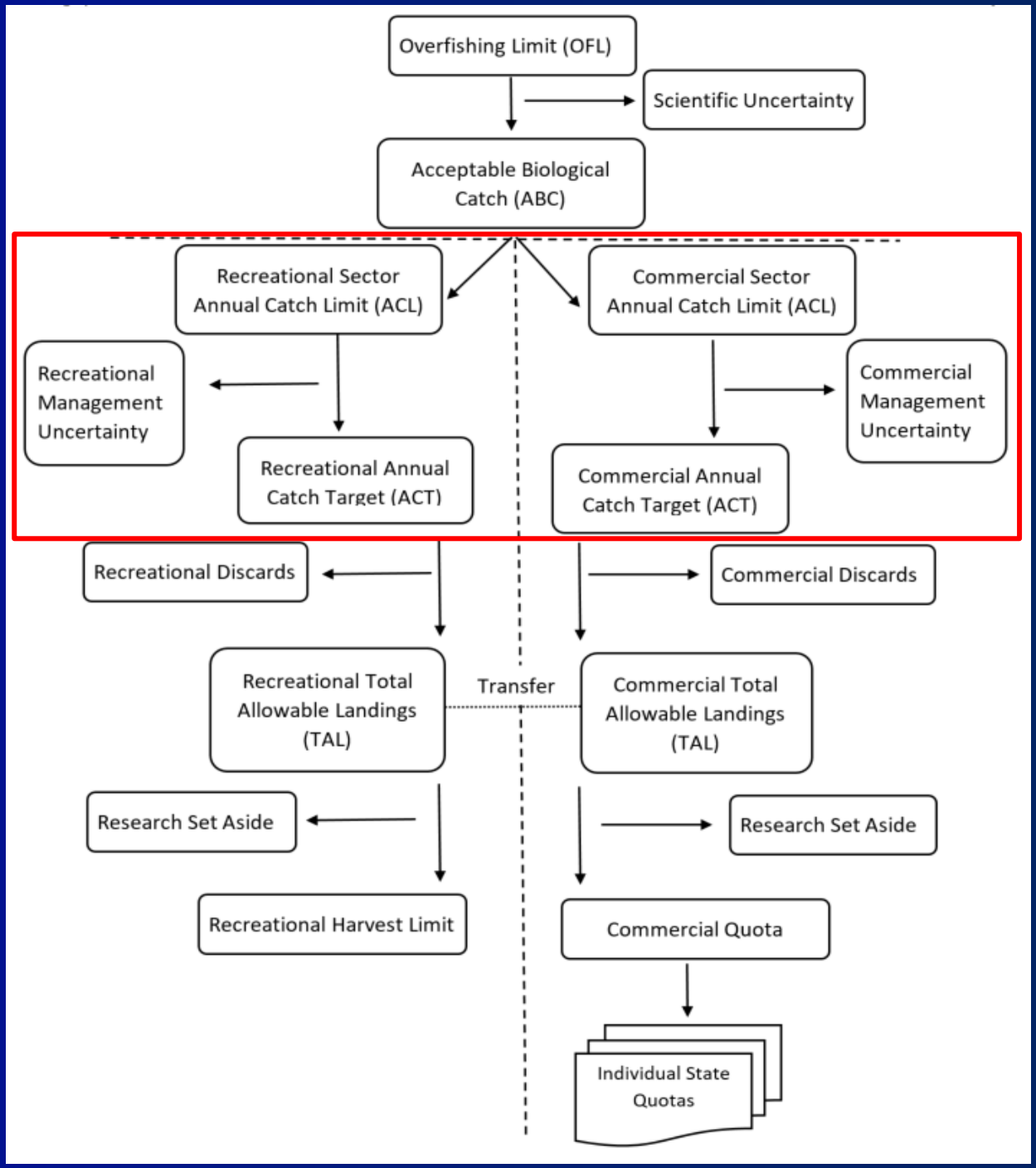
Status Quo



Issue 7:

Sector Specific Management Uncertainty

Post-Sector Split



Issue 7: Sector Specific Management Uncertainty

Alternatives	Approach	FMAT Recommendations
7.1	No Action/Status Quo	Must remain in.
7.1.1	Post-Sector Split	Recommends further consideration

Issue 8: *de minimis*

- During scoping, Georgia DNR proposed a *de minimis* provision
- *De minimis* status would relieve a state from having to adopt fishery regulations
- To qualify for *de minimis* status:
  - 3-year average of total landings (commercial + recreational) < 1% coastwide landings
- Commission has an existing de minimis status provision which provides exemption of the requirement to conduct fishery independent monitoring.

Issue 8: *de minimis*

- FMAT Comments:
  - The FMAT agreed that the *de minimis* provision should be kept in the amendment but should remain a state waters only provision.
  - Applying the *de minimis* provision to federal waters would overcomplicate the issue and would likely not be approved by NOAA Fisheries.

Issue 8: *de minimis*

- Important considerations:
  - For-hire operators with a federal permit would be required to adhere to the more restrictive regulations (federal or state) regardless of where they are fishing.
  - If a state's de minimis status is not granted for the following year it would be required to implement all current commercial and recreational regulations for the next fishing year or be found out of compliance

Issue 8: *de minimis*

Alternatives	Approach	FMAT Recommendations
8.1	No Action/Status Quo	Must remain in.
8.1.1	Revised De minimis (state waters)	Recommended further consideration

Summary

- FMAT recommendation for removal
  - Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States
    - 20-year time series and full time series or ½ - ½
    - Pre-transfer trigger threshold
    - 0.25% and 0.50% minimum default allocations
  - Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations
  - Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan
    - Constant Fishing Mortality (10 years)
    - Constant Harvest (10 years)
  - Issue 6: Sector Transfers
    - 5% and 15% transfer cap

Next Steps

- February 2021: Approve Draft Amendment for public comment (public hearing document)
- September 2021: Formal submission to NOAA Fisheries
- 2021: Management Track Assessment
- 2022: SAW/SARC Research Track Assessment

Backup Slides

Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

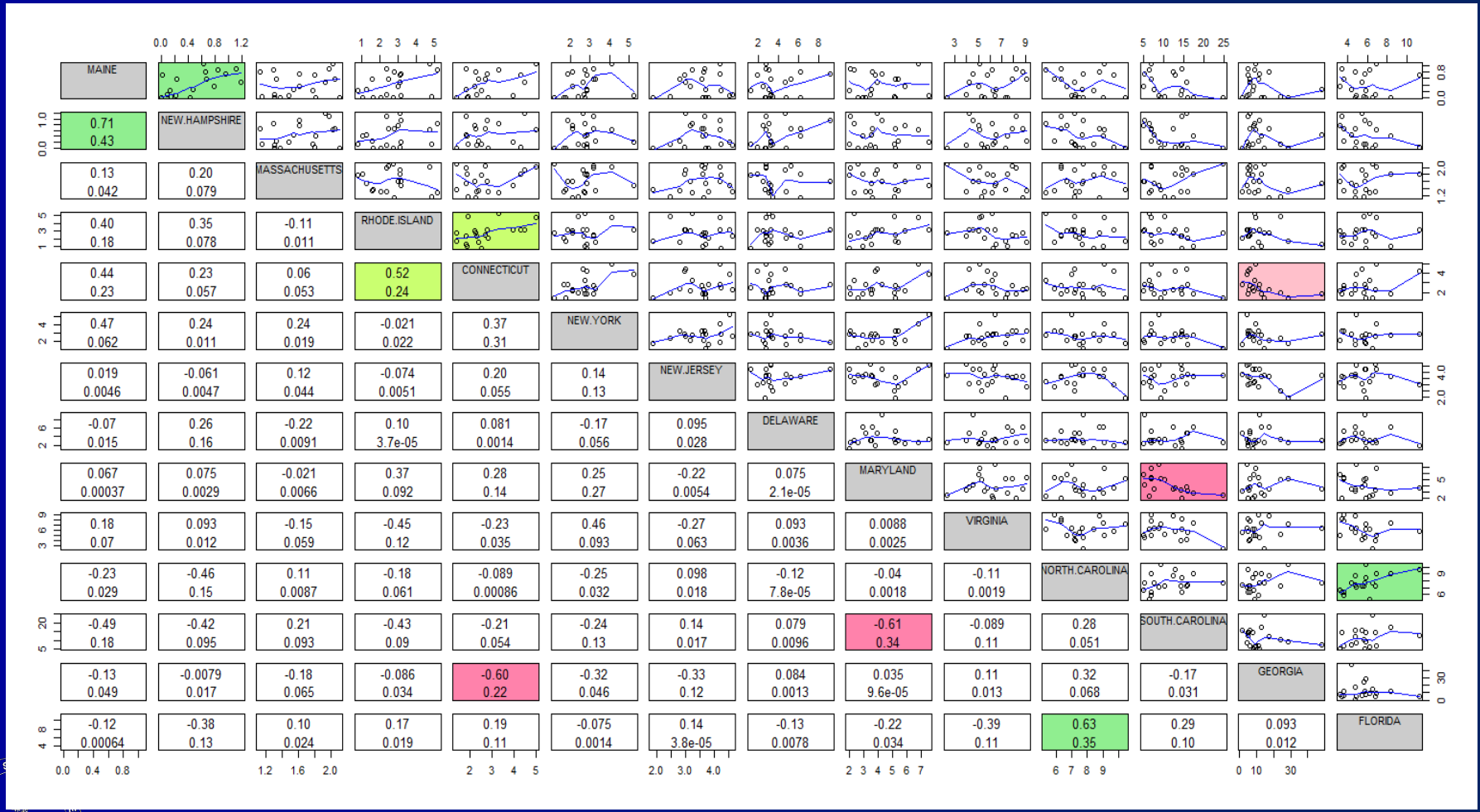
	Landings-Based Allocation Alternatives										
	3.1	3.1.1		3.1.2		3.1.3		*3.1.4*		*3.1.5*	
State	Status quo (1981-	5 year (2014-2018)		10 year (2009-2018)		20 year (1999-2018)		*Time Series 1981-2018*		*1/2 '81-'89 1/2 '09-'18*	
ME	**0.67%**	0.00%	*-100%*	0.01%	*-99%*	0.01%	*-99%*	0.43%	*-36%*	0.49%	*-27%*
NH	**0.41%**	0.03%	*-93%*	0.12%	*-71%*	0.17%	*-59%*	0.65%	*59%*	0.33%	*-20%*
MA	**6.71%**	10.64%	*59%*	10.16%	*51%*	7.53%	*12%*	7.18%	*7%*	7.66%	*14%*
RI	**6.80%**	11.81%	*74%*	9.64%	*42%*	8.00%	*18%*	7.96%	*17%*	7.59%	*12%*
CT	**1.26%**	1.18%	*-6%*	1.00%	*-21%*	0.73%	*-42%*	1.12%	*-11%*	1.19%	*-6%*
NY	**10.37%**	20.31%	*96%*	19.94%	*92%*	19.44%	*87%*	14.76%	*42%*	13.01%	*25%*
NJ	**14.79%**	11.23%	*-24%*	13.94%	*-6%*	15.23%	*3%*	15.57%	*5%*	14.57%	*-1%*
DE	**1.88%**	0.58%	*-69%*	0.40%	*-79%*	0.39%	*-79%*	1.09%	*-42%*	1.47%	*-22%*
MD	**3.00%**	1.50%	*-50%*	1.84%	*-39%*	1.54%	*-49%*	2.10%	*-30%*	2.68%	*-11%*
VA	**11.86%**	4.62%	*-61%*	5.85%	*-51%*	6.92%	*-42%*	8.79%	*-26%*	10.26%	*-13%*
NC	**32.01%**	32.06%	*0%*	32.38%	*1%*	36.94%	*15%*	33.52%	*5%*	32.13%	*0%*
SC	**0.10%**	0.00%	*-100%*	0.00%	*-100%*	0.00%	*-100%*	0.02%	*-80%*	0.03%	*-70%*
GA	**0.10%**	0.00%	*-100%*	0.00%	*-100%*	0.01%	*-90%*	0.01%	*-90%*	0.01%	*-90%*
FL	**10.04%**	6.07%	*-40%*	4.75%	*-53%*	3.10%	*-69%*	6.91%	*-31%*	8.59%	*-14%*
Total	**100.00%**	**100.01%**		**100.03%**		**100.02%**		***100.10%***		***100.00%***	

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

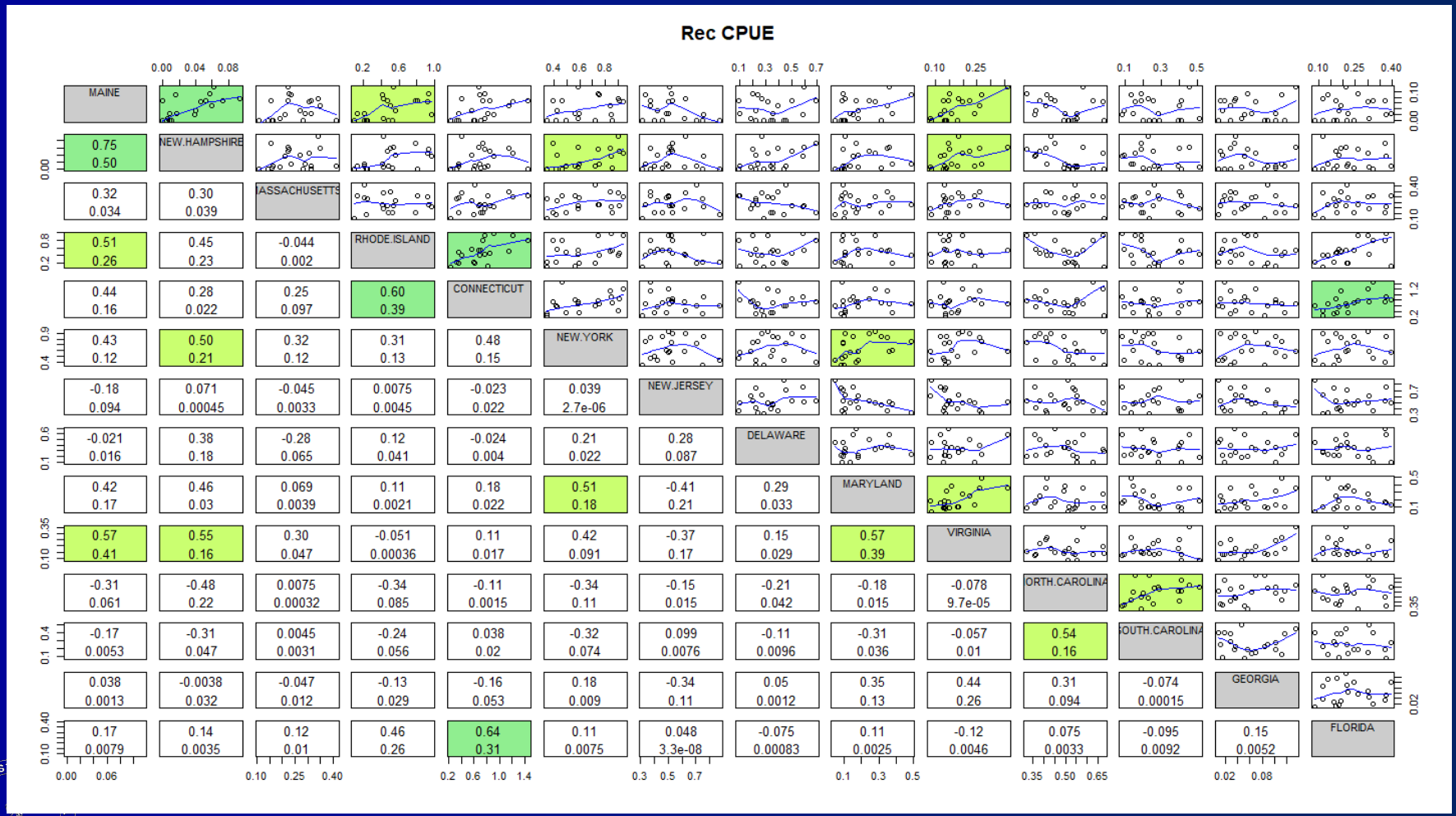
Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations - Correlations Among Rec CPUE

Total catch divided by total recreational directed effort; primary, secondary, and caught; by state, all modes combined) 2000-2018.

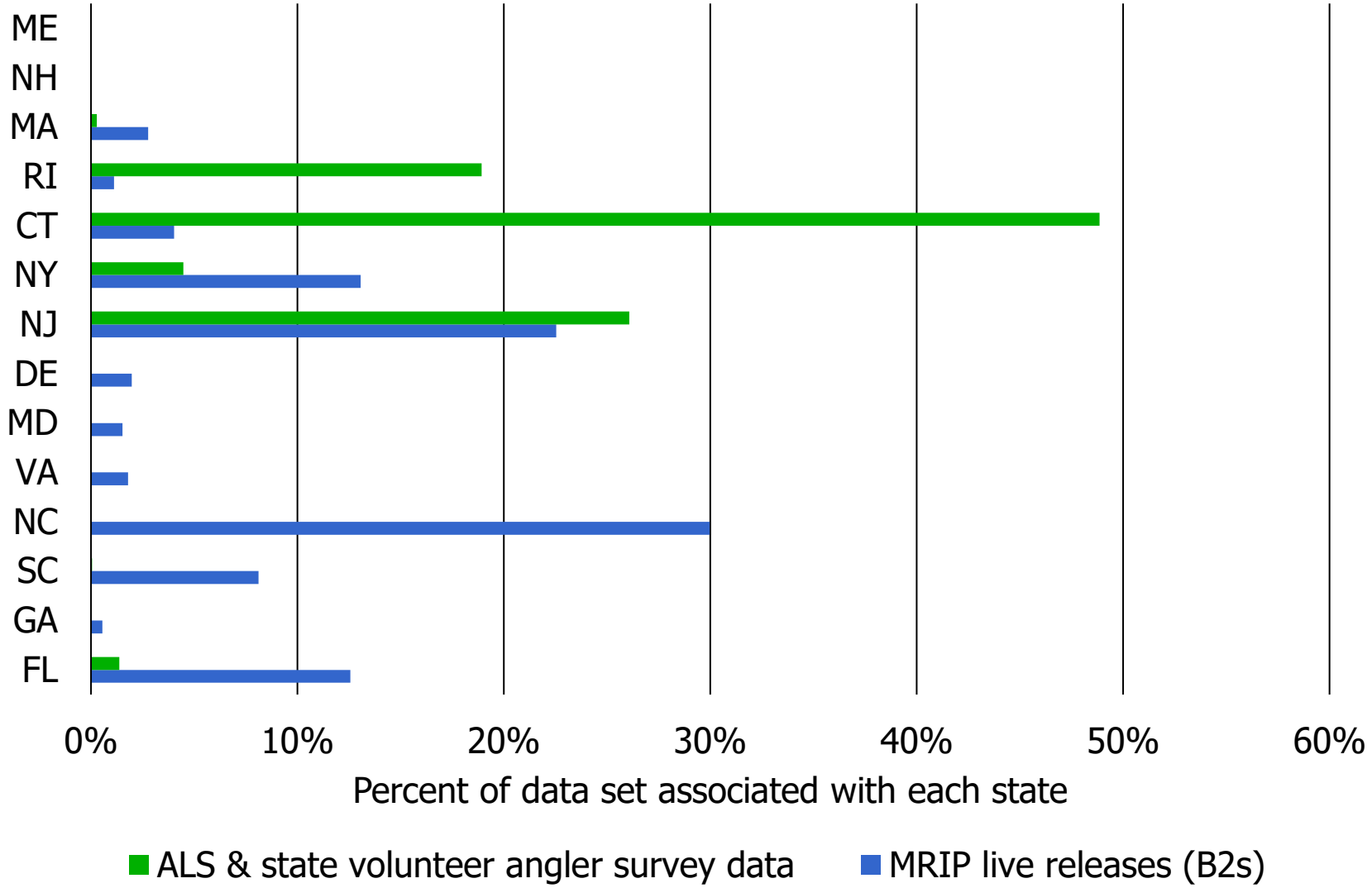


Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations - Correlations Among Rec CPUE

Total catch divided by total recreational effort; by state, all modes combined from 2000-2019.



Spatial distribution of live releases vs. release at length data (2016-2018)

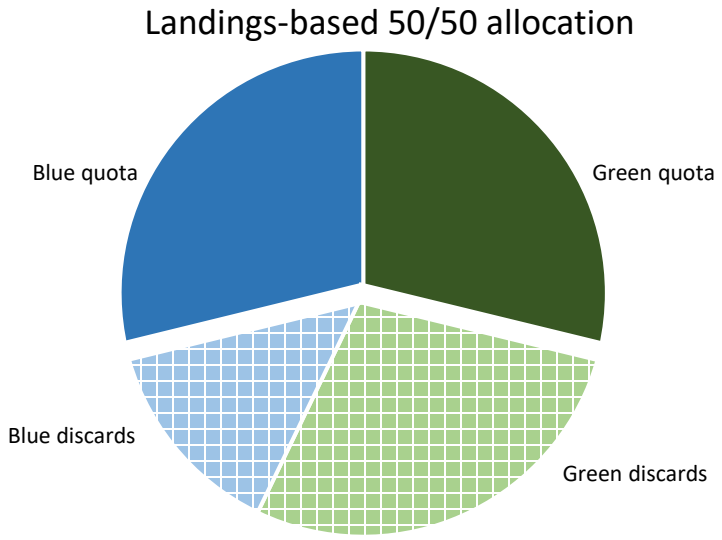


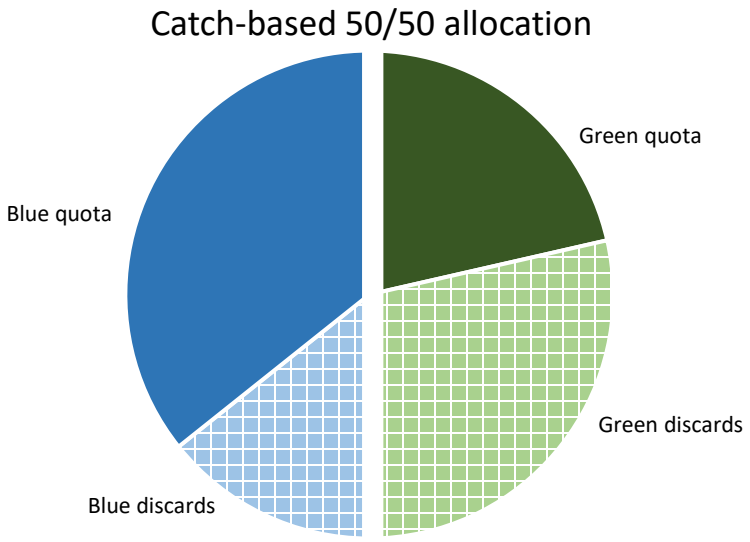
*MRIP i9s not included; i9s represent a much smaller proportion of total length frequency data

Catch vs. landings-based allocations

How do you make the first cut to the pie?

- Blue and green sectors.
- 50/50 allocation.
- In recent years, both sectors have equal landings, but dead discards in the green sector are double those in the blue sector.
- If the allocation is landings-based, both sectors will have the same quota, but the green sector will have a higher ACL due to its greater expected discards.
- If the allocation is catch-based, both sectors will have equal ACLs, but the blue sector will have a higher quota due to lower expected discards.

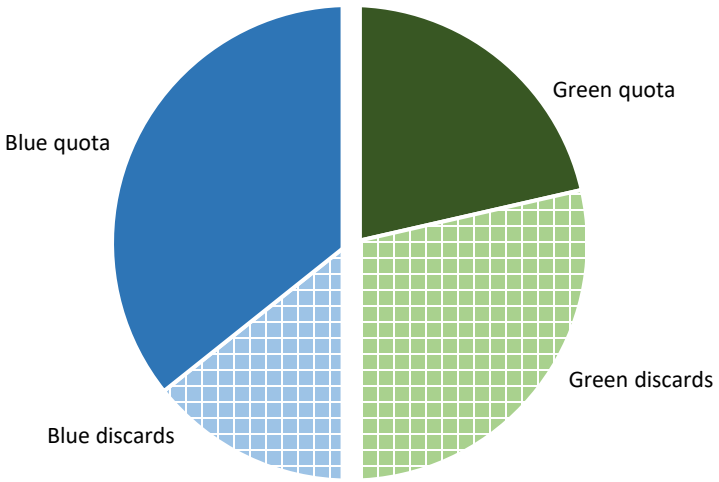




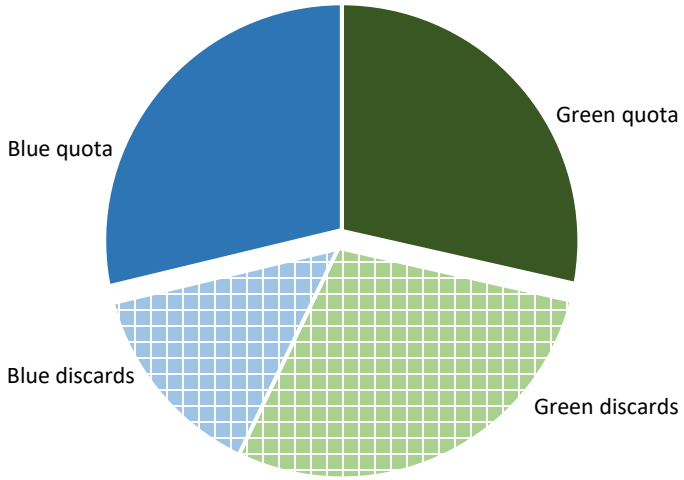
An increase in expected discards in the green sector impacts the blue quota under a landings-based allocation, but not under a catch-based allocation.

Example from previous slide:

Catch-based

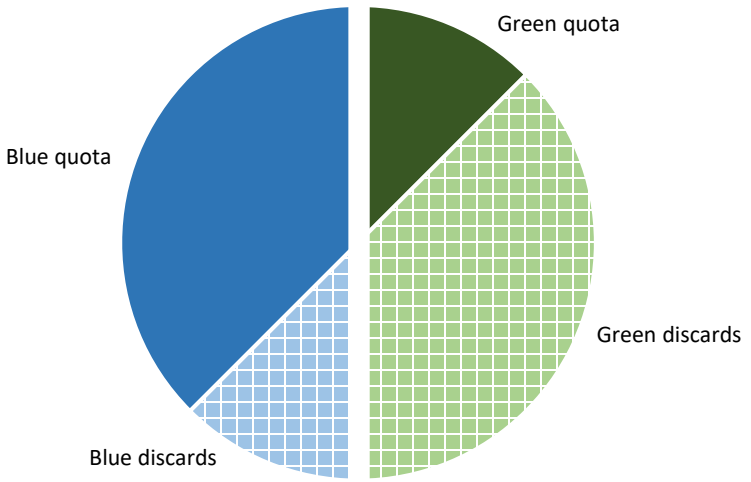


Landings-based

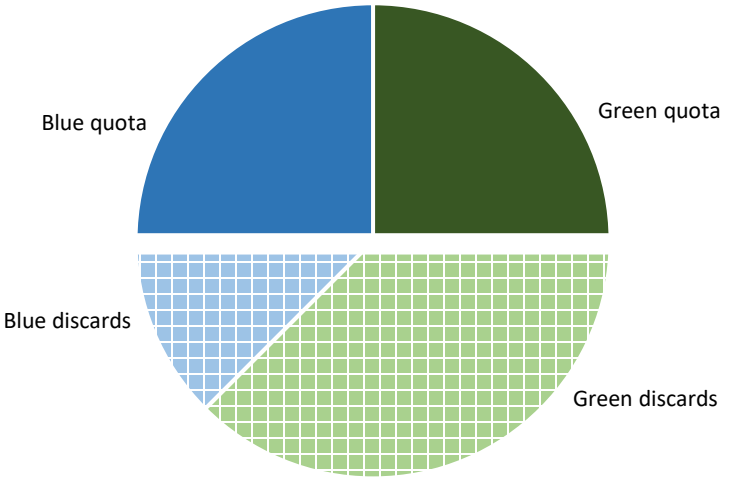


Same, but with higher expected green discards:

Catch-based



Landings-based



Issue 4: Commercial State-to-State Transfers

- FMAT recommends status quo
  - Very useful tool for adaptive management
  - If removed, ensure transfers are added as a frameworkable action

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Average
ME	0	-52,000	-25,000	-45,000	0	0	0	0	0	-45,000	-30,000	-32,000	0	0	-16,357
NH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	-20,000	0	0	5,714
MA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200,000	45,000	250,000	225,000	0	0	51,429
RI	0	60,000	155,000	-50,000	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	180,000	132,000	150,338	0	51,953
CT	0	0	0	-20,000	-75,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-6,786
NY	0	250,000	450,000	455,000	425,000	0	200,000	50,000	300,000	250,000	550,000	420,000	0	0	239,286
NJ	0	0	309,125	0	0	0	0	0	-300,000	-50,000	0	-40,000	-50,000	0	-9,348
DE	0	-15,000	-80,000	-90,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-50,000	0	0	-16,786
MD	0	-45,000	-50,000	-50,000	0	0	0	0	0	-50,000	0	-50,000	0	0	-17,500
VA	0	-525,000	-350,000	0	-150,000	0	0	0	0	0	-250,000	-210,000	-338	0	-106,096
NC	0	652,000	0	-100,000	0	0	0	-100,000	-200,000	0	-550,000	-225,000	-100,000	0	-44,500
SC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-150,000	0	0	-10,714
GA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FL	0	-325,000	-409,125	-100,000	-200,000	0	-200,000	-50,000	0	-250,000	-150,000	0	0	0	-120,295

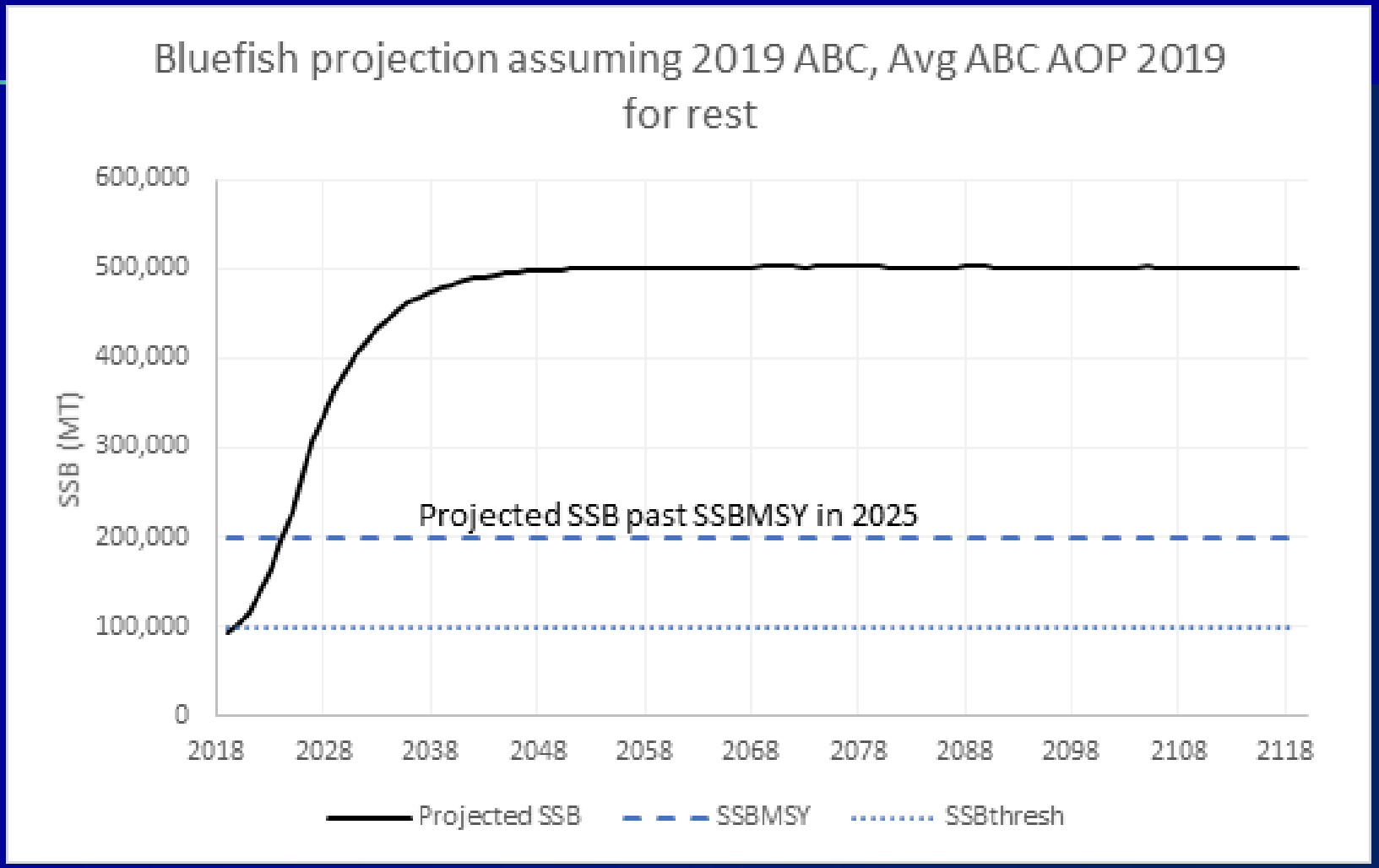
Dealer Data

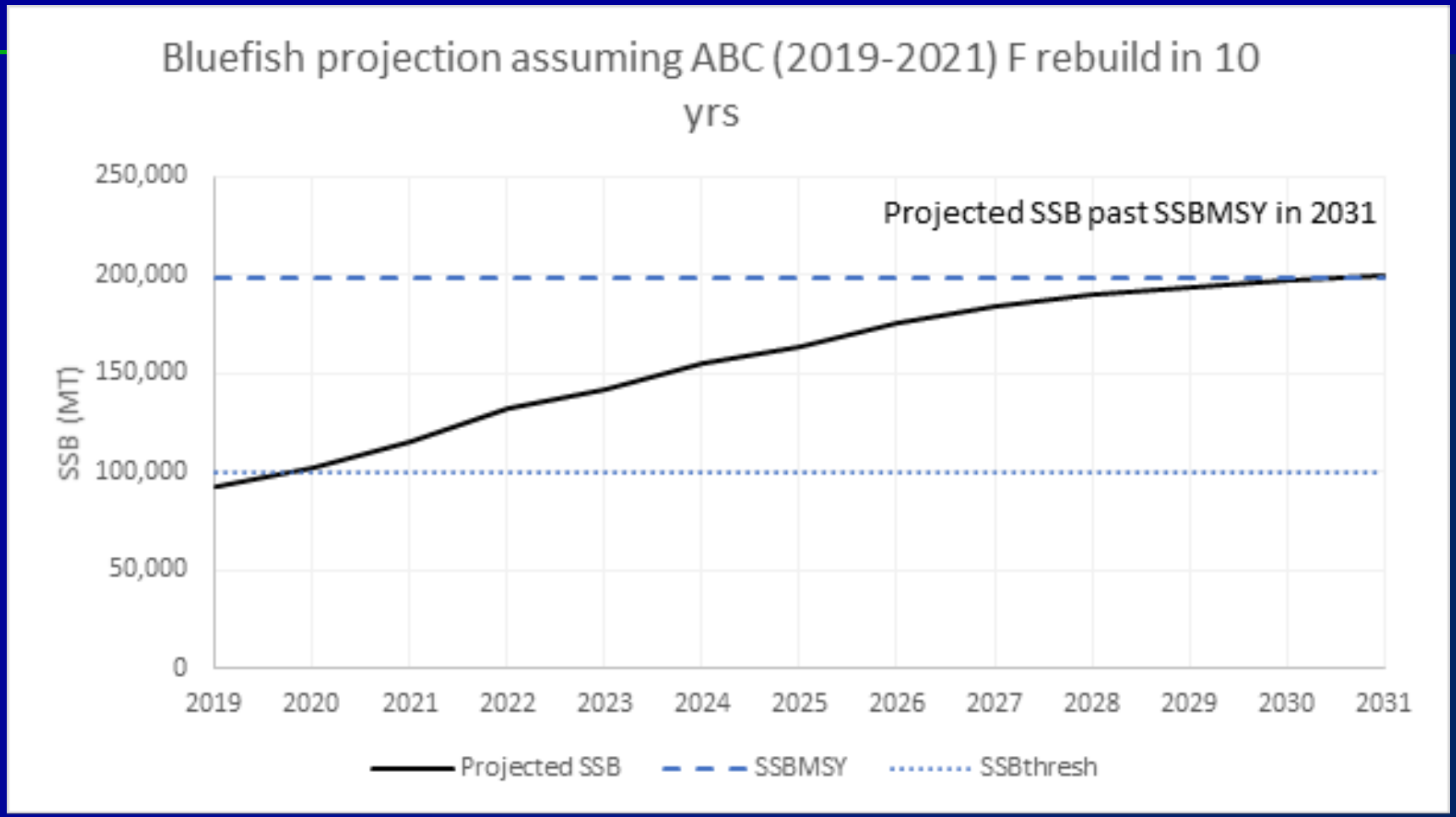
- TAC through 2011, ABC 2012 onwards
- 2002-2020 average = 14% of ABC

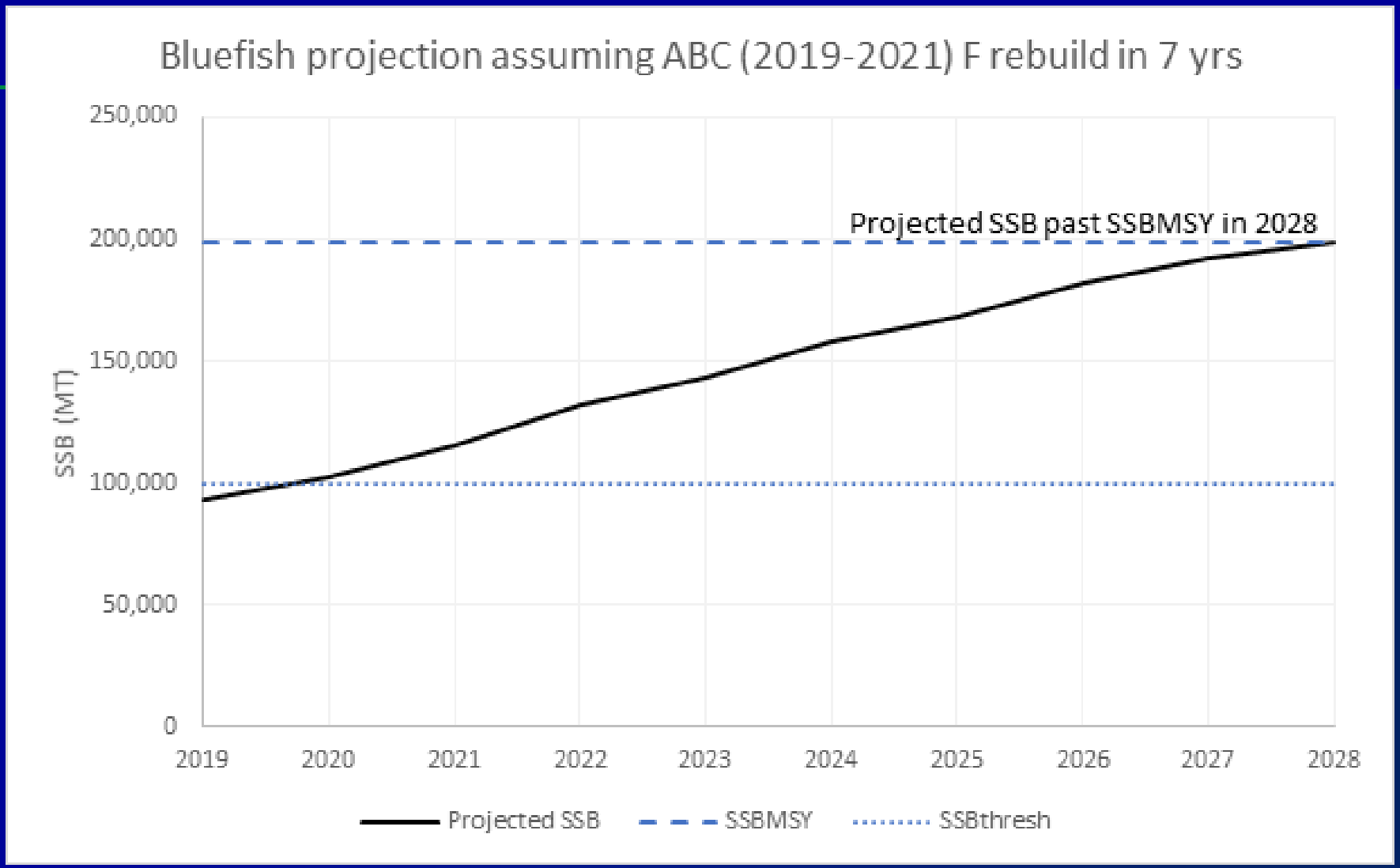
Year	Sector Transfer (million lbs)	TAC/ABC (million lbs)	Sector Transfer % of ABC
2002	5.933	29.1	20%
2003	4.161	39.5	11%
2004	5.085	34.22	15%
2005	5.254	34.22	15%
2006	5.367	29.15	18%
2007	4.78	32.03	15%
2008	4.088	31.89	13%
2009	4.838	34.08	14%
2010	5.387	34.38	16%
2011	4.772	31.74	15%
2012	5.052	32.04	16%
2013	4.686	27.47	17%
2014	3.34	24.43	14%
2015	1.579	21.54	7%
2016	1.577	19.45	8%
2017	5.033	20.64	24%
2018	3.535	21.81	16%
2019	4	21.81	18%
2020	0	16.28	0%

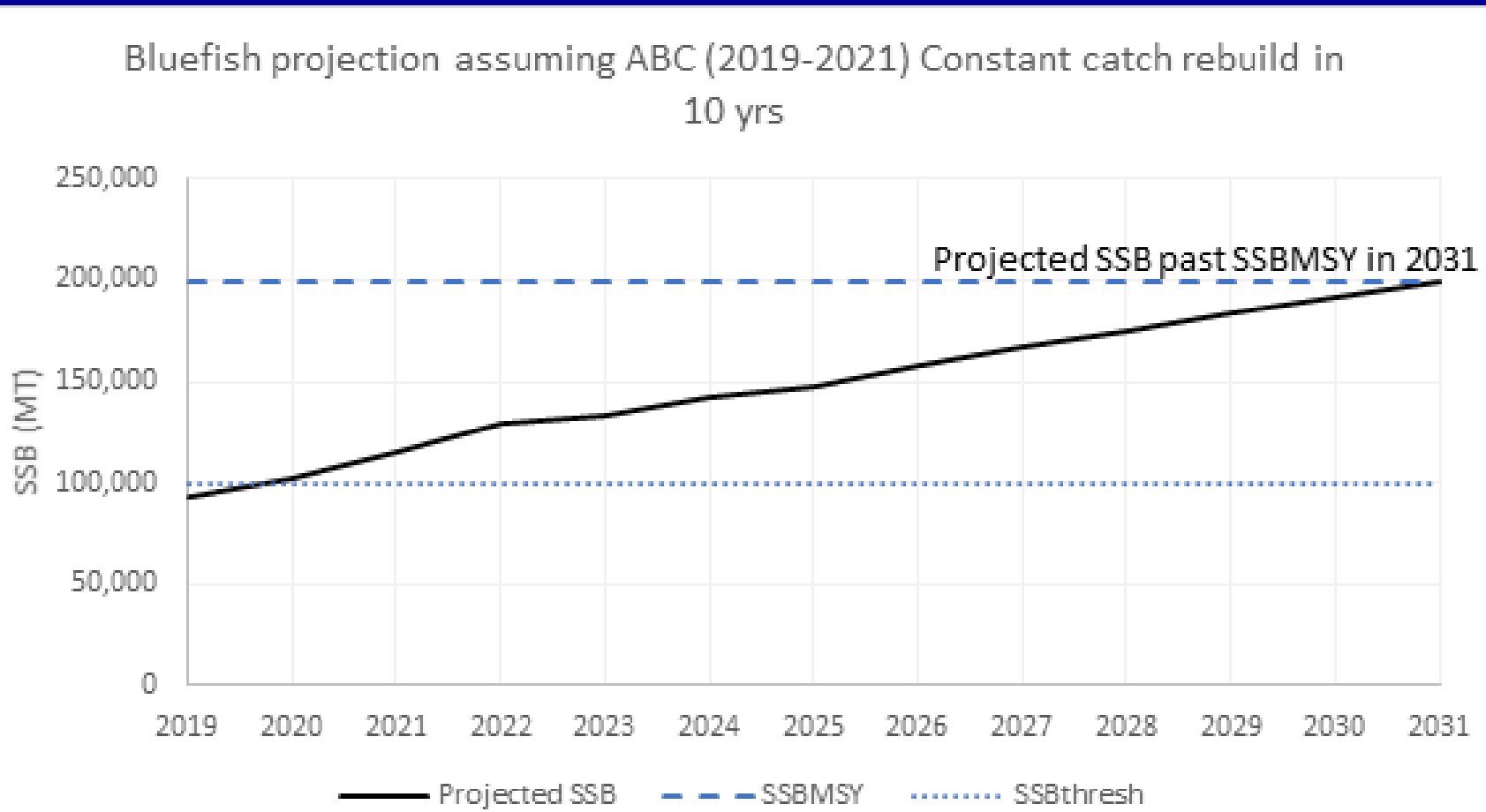
Bi-directional Comm>Rec Transfer Example

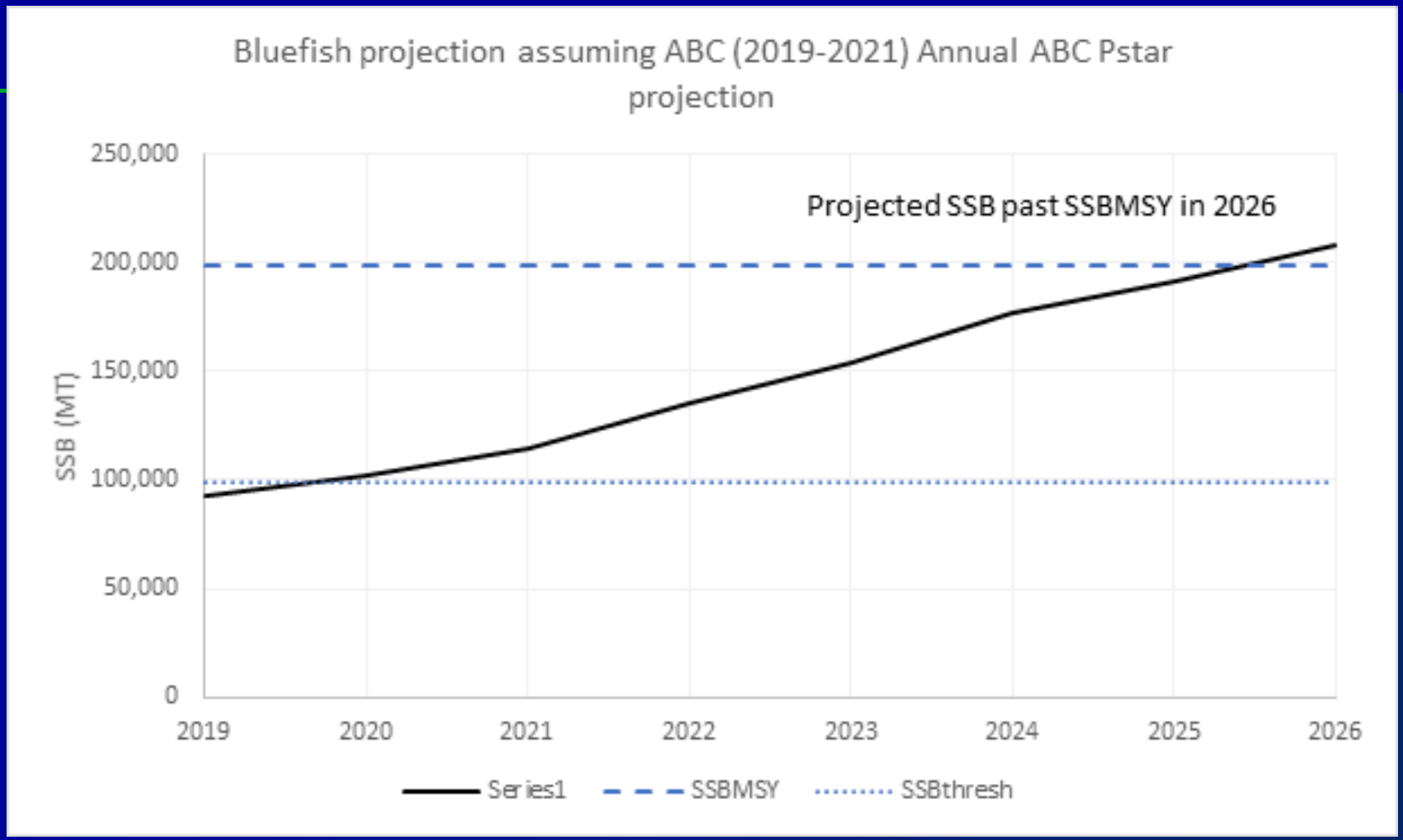
- Summer 2020
  - MC develops rec and comm landings projections
  - Comm sector projected to underachieve quota
- Joint Meeting August 2020
  - Board and Council set RHL with transfer to Rec sector included
- Joint Meeting December 2020
  - Set Rec measures to achieve RHL


Bluefish projection assuming 2019 ABC, Avg ABC AOP 2019 for rest
600,000
500,000
400,000
300,000
200,000
100,000
0
SSB (MT)
Projected SSB past SSBMSY in 2025
2018
2028
2038
2048
2058
2068
2078
2088
2098
2108
2118
Projected SSB
SSBMSY
SSBthresh

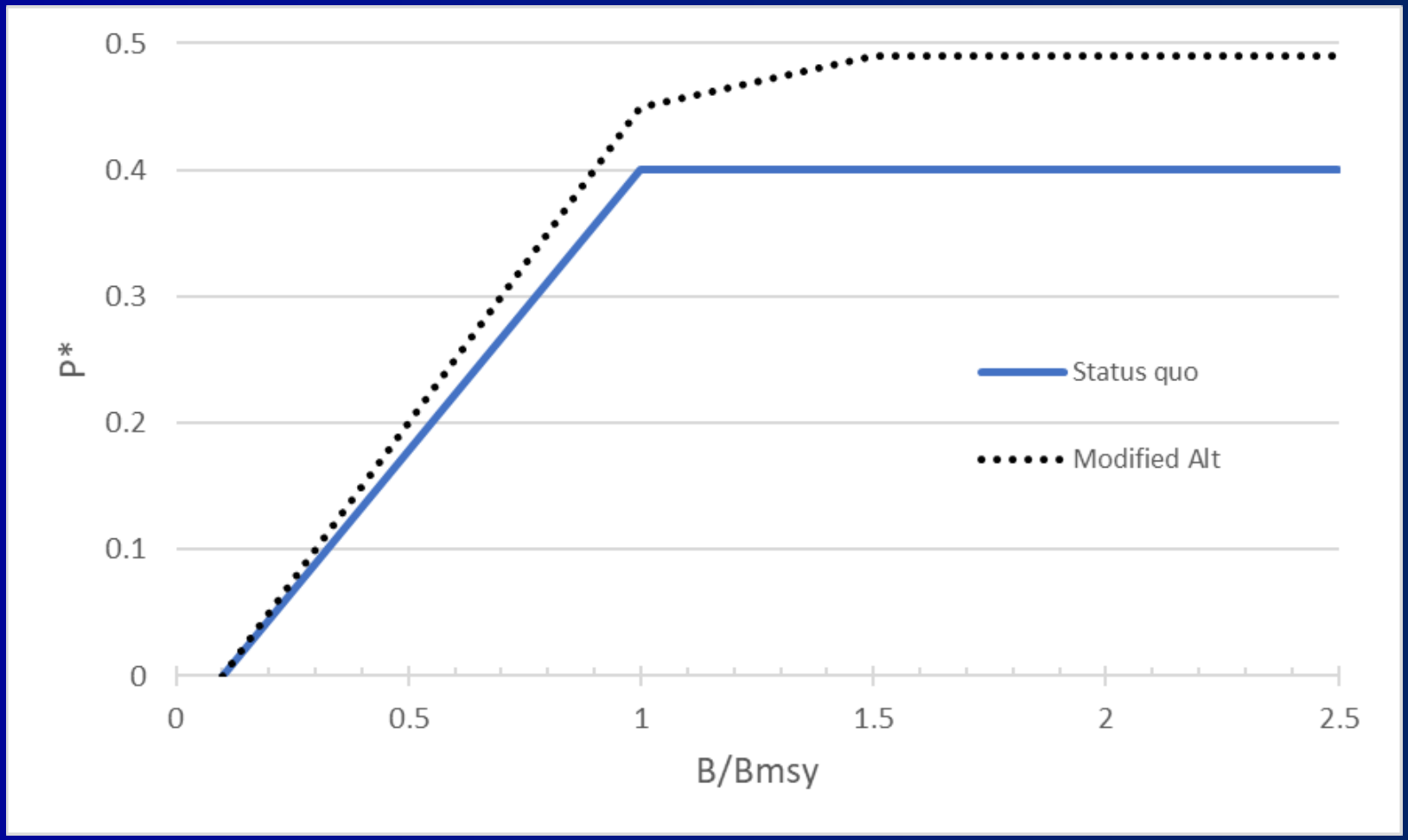

Bluefish projection assuming ABC (2019-2021) F rebuild in 10 yrs
Projected SSB past SSBMSY in 2031
SSB (MT)
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
2027
2028
2029
2030
2031
Projected SSB
SSBMSY
SSBthresh


Bluefish projection assuming ABC (2019-2021) F rebuild in 7 yrs
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
SSB (MT)
Projected SSB past SSBMSY in 2028
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
2027
2028
Projected SSB
SSBMSY
SSBthresh


Bluefish projection assuming ABC (2019-2021) Constant catch rebuild in 10 yrs
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
SSB (MT)
Projected SSB past SSBMSY in 2031
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
2027
2028
2029
2030
2031
Projected SSB
SSBMSY
SSBthresh


Bluefish projection assuming ABC (2019-2021) Annual ABC Pstar projection
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
SSB (MT)
Projected SSB past SSBMSY in 2026
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
Series1
SSBMSY
SSBthresh

Risk Policy



	Timeline
Jun-20	Refine alternatives
Jul-20	
Aug-20	
Sep-20	
Oct-20	
Nov-20	
Dec-20	Approve range of alternatives for public hearing document
Jan-21	
Feb-21	Approve public hearing document
Mar-21	
Apr-21	Public Hearings
May-21	
Jun-21	Final Action
Jul-21	
Aug-21	
Sept-21	Submit
Oct-21	
Nov-21	