



Black Sea Bass



SSC Meeting

July 23, 2020

TORs

- 1) Specify a revised 2021 ABC based on the Council's revised risk policy.

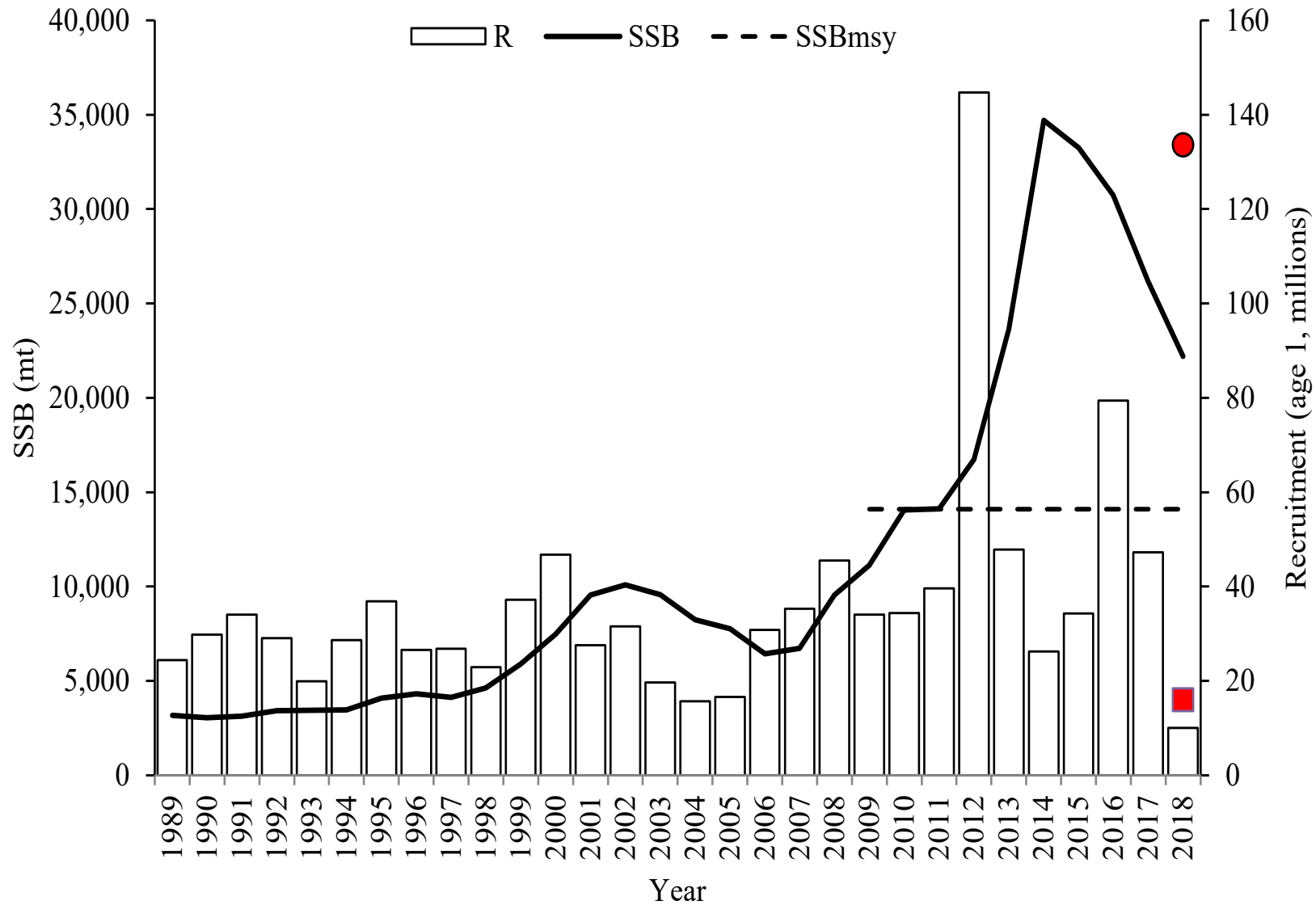
If revising the 2021 ABC with the new risk policy is inappropriate, specify an alternative ABC for 2021 (e.g., previous recommendation) and provide any supporting information used to make this determination;

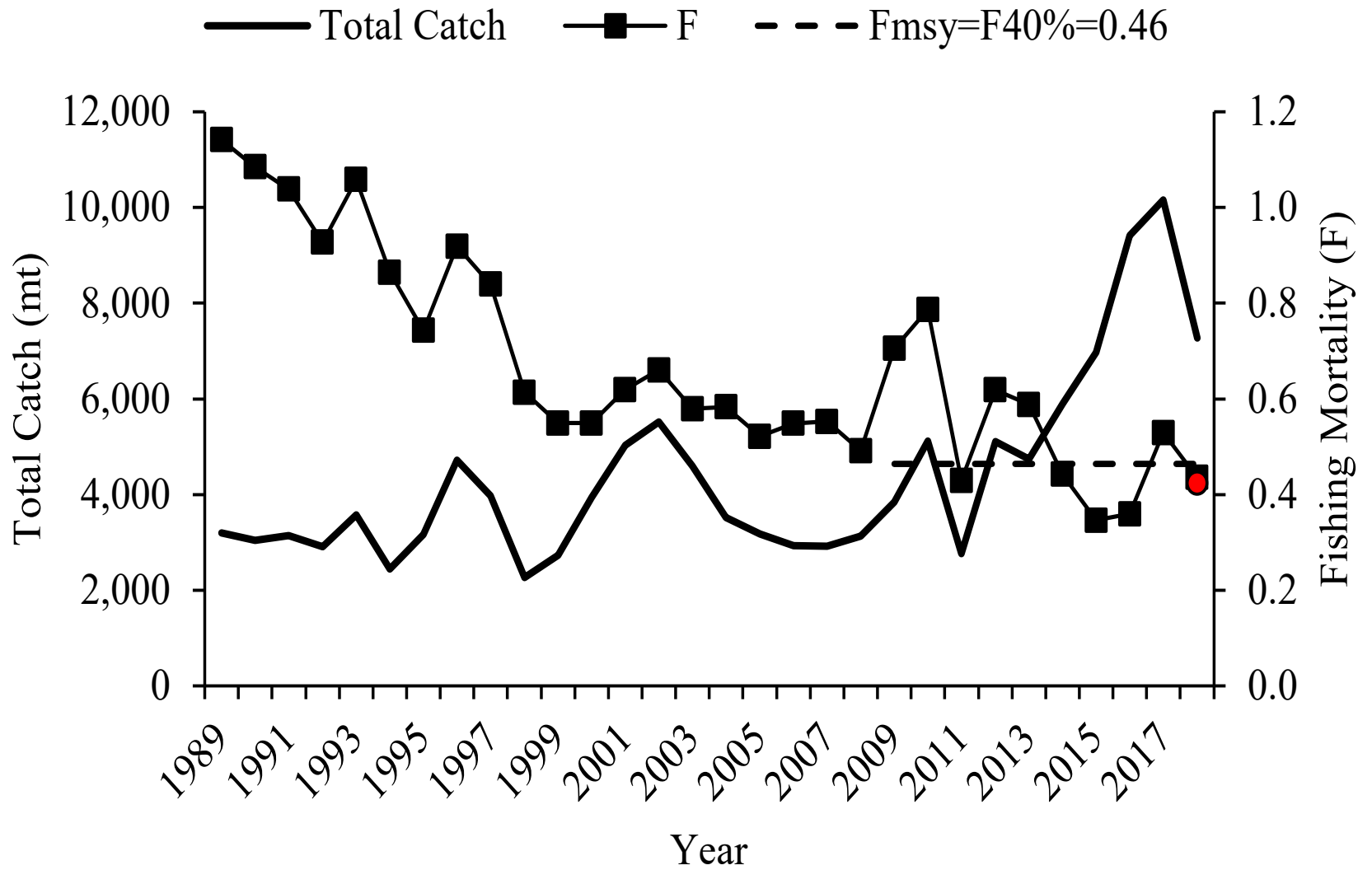
- 2) Provide any relevant data and/or assessment considerations for the 2021 management track assessment.

Previously-approved 2020-2021 OFLs and ABC

- Constant catch and landings limits set each year 2020-2021
- 100% OFL CV (increase from 60% used for 2017-2019 ABCs)

	OFL	ABC	ABC F	P*
2020	8,795 MT 19.39 mil lb	6,835 MT 15.07 mil lb	0.30	38%
2021	8,021 MT 17.68 mil lb		0.33	42%





2020 Data Update

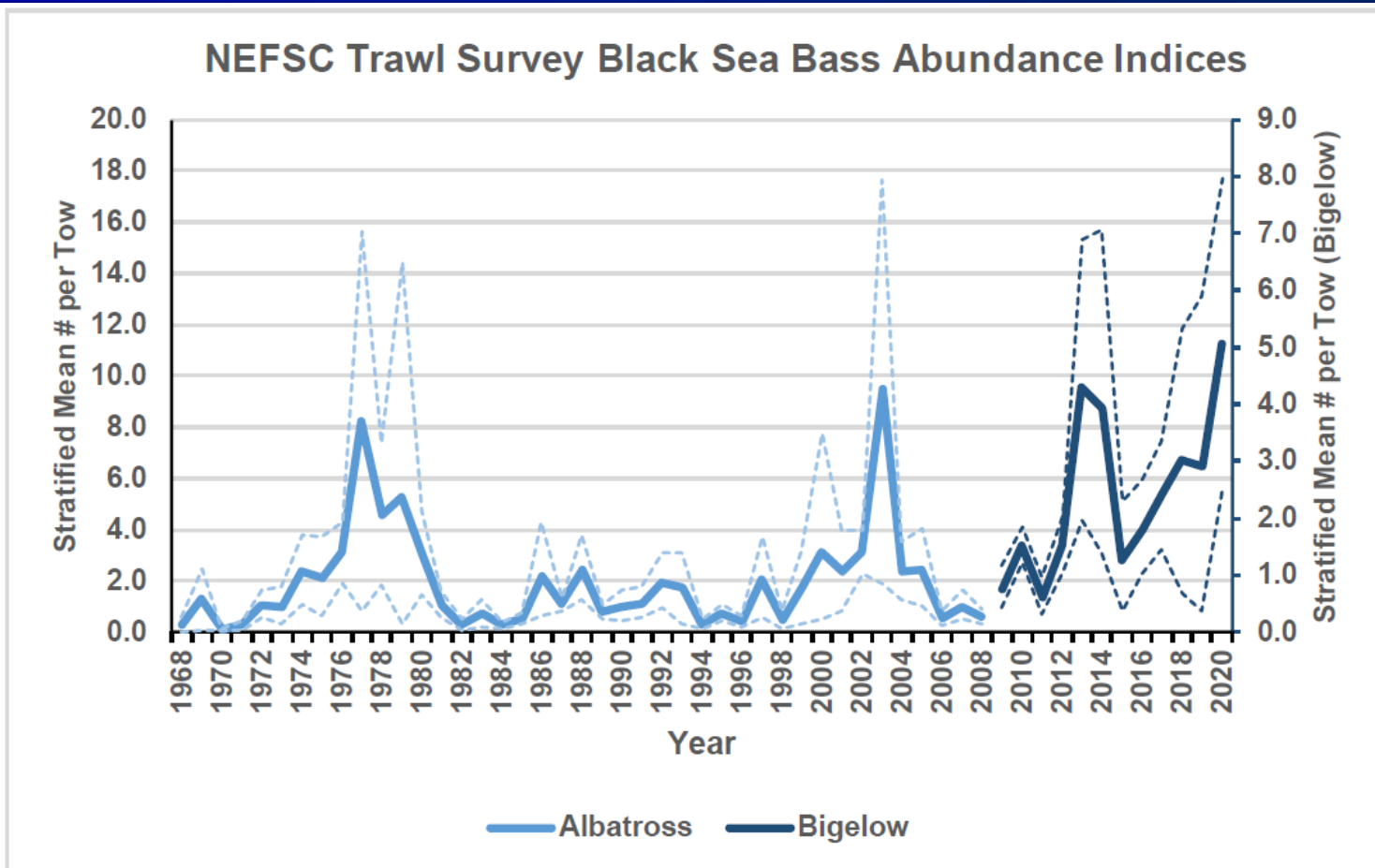


Figure 2. NEFSC Spring trawl survey abundance indices ($\pm 90\%$ CI) for black sea bass collected on FSVs Albatross IV (1968-2008) and H. B. Bigelow (2009-2020). Note: the 2020 index is based on incomplete survey.

2020 Data Update

NMFS spring bottom trawl survey

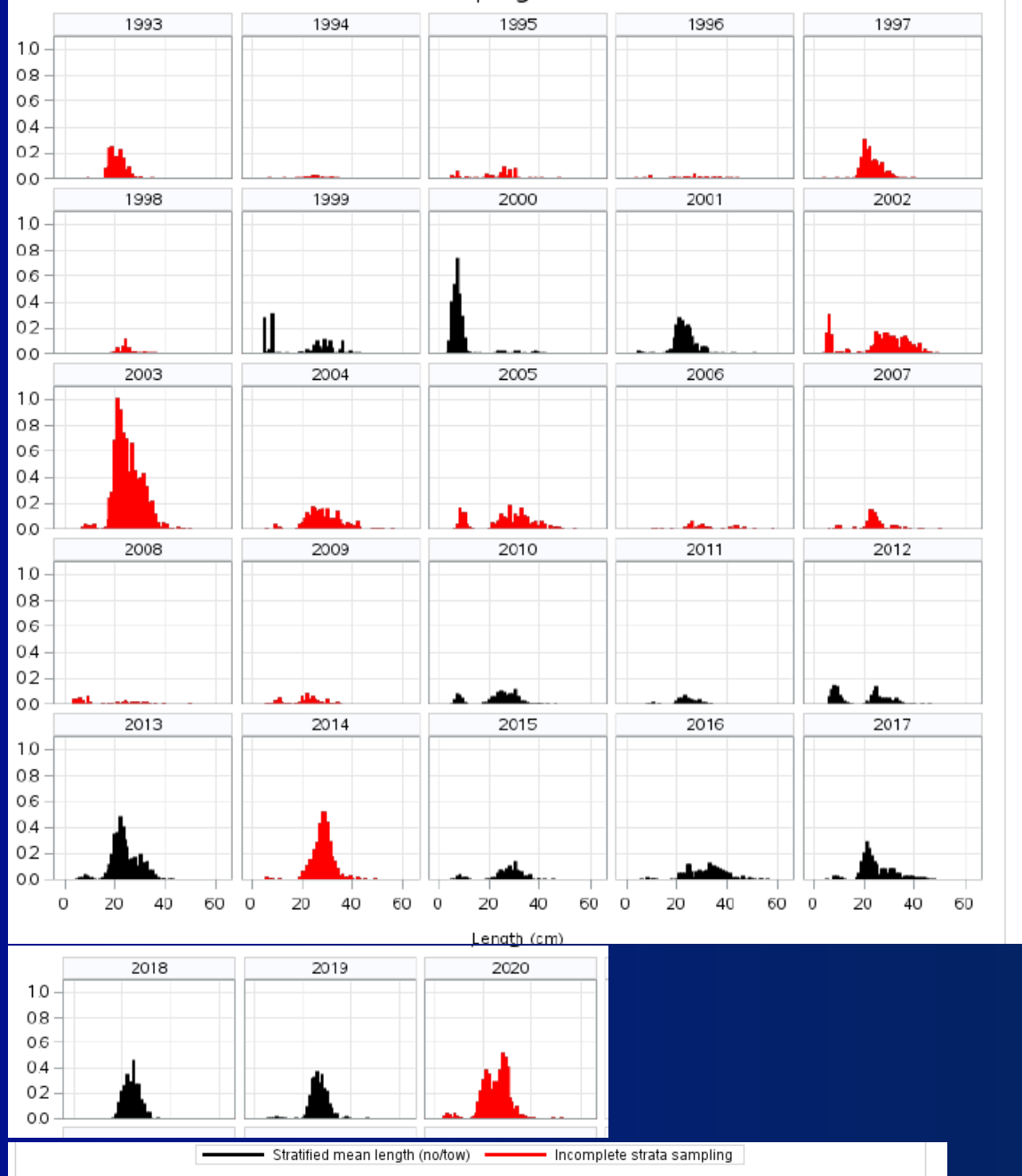
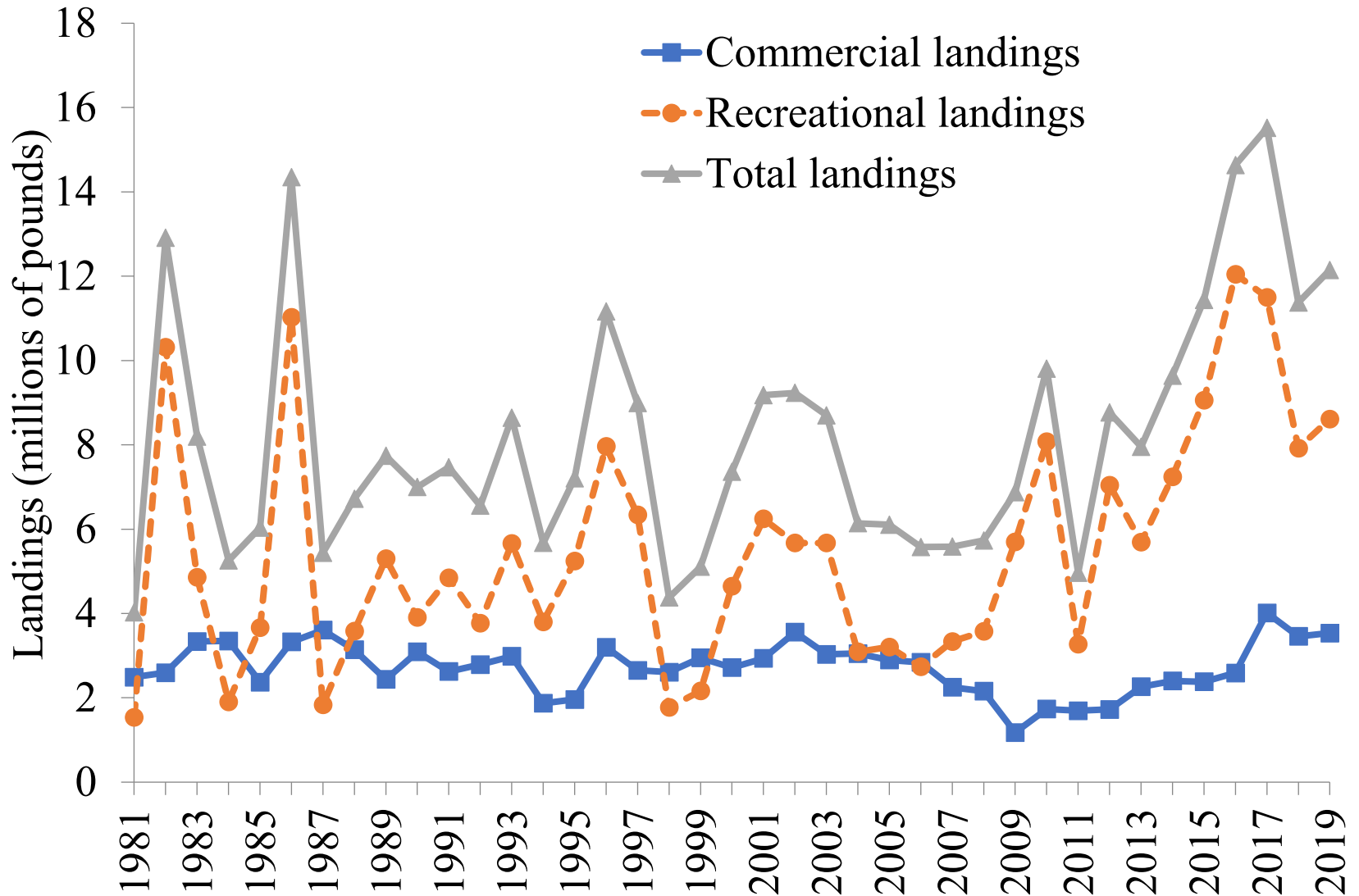


Figure 3. Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) spring trawl survey black sea bass indices at length. Indices since 2009 are uncalibrated Bigelow values. Note: the 2020 index is based on incomplete survey.

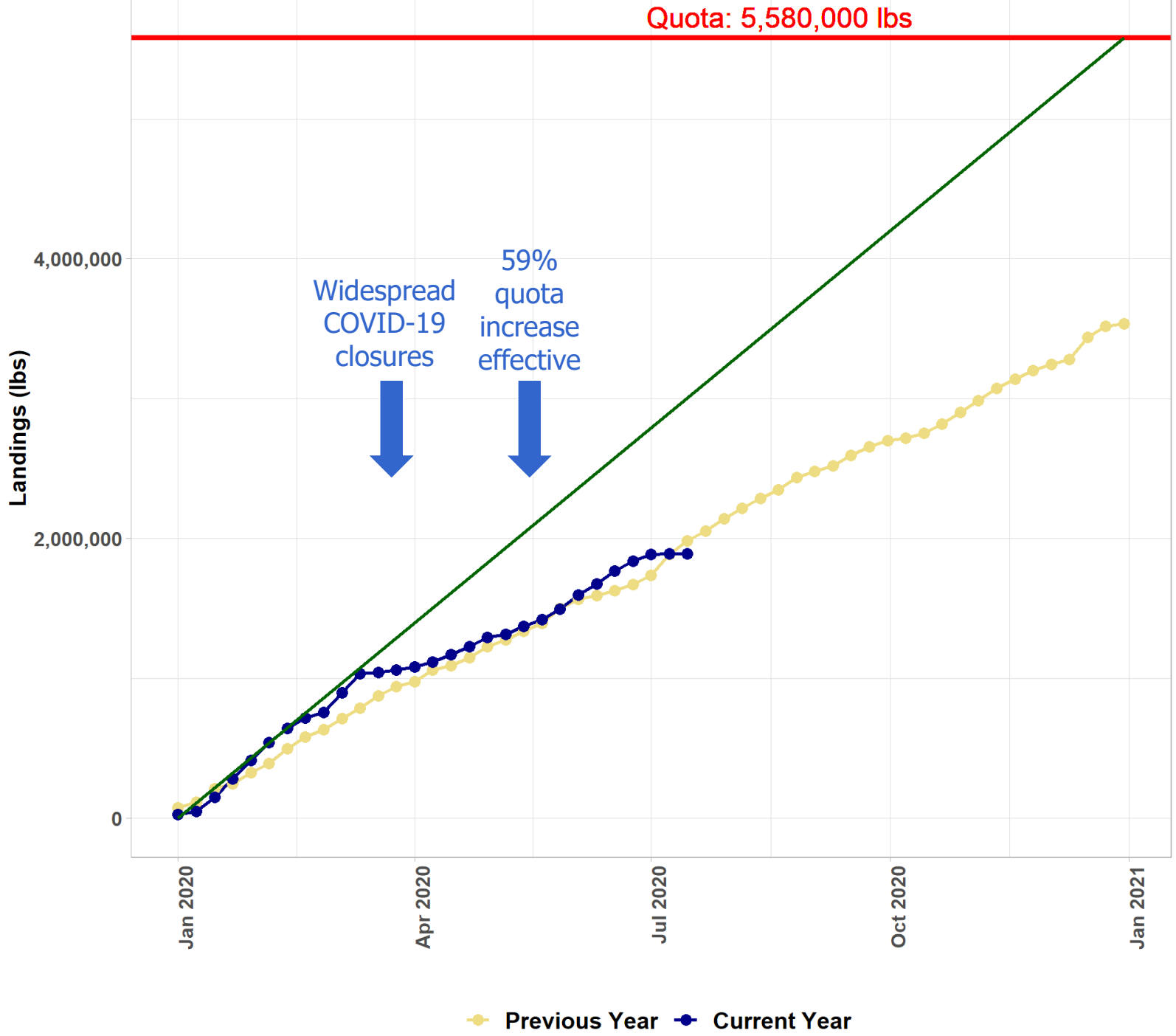
Fishery Landings



Commercial Quotas & Landings

Year	Quota (mil lb)	Landings (mil lb)	% of quota landed
2015	2.21	2.38	108%
2016	2.71	2.59	96%
2017	4.12	4.01	97%
2018	3.52	3.46	98%
2019	3.52	3.53	100%
2020 & 2021	5.58	--	--

Quota: 5,580,000 lbs



Landings (lbs)

Previous Year Current Year

RHLs & Rec. Harvest (mil lb)

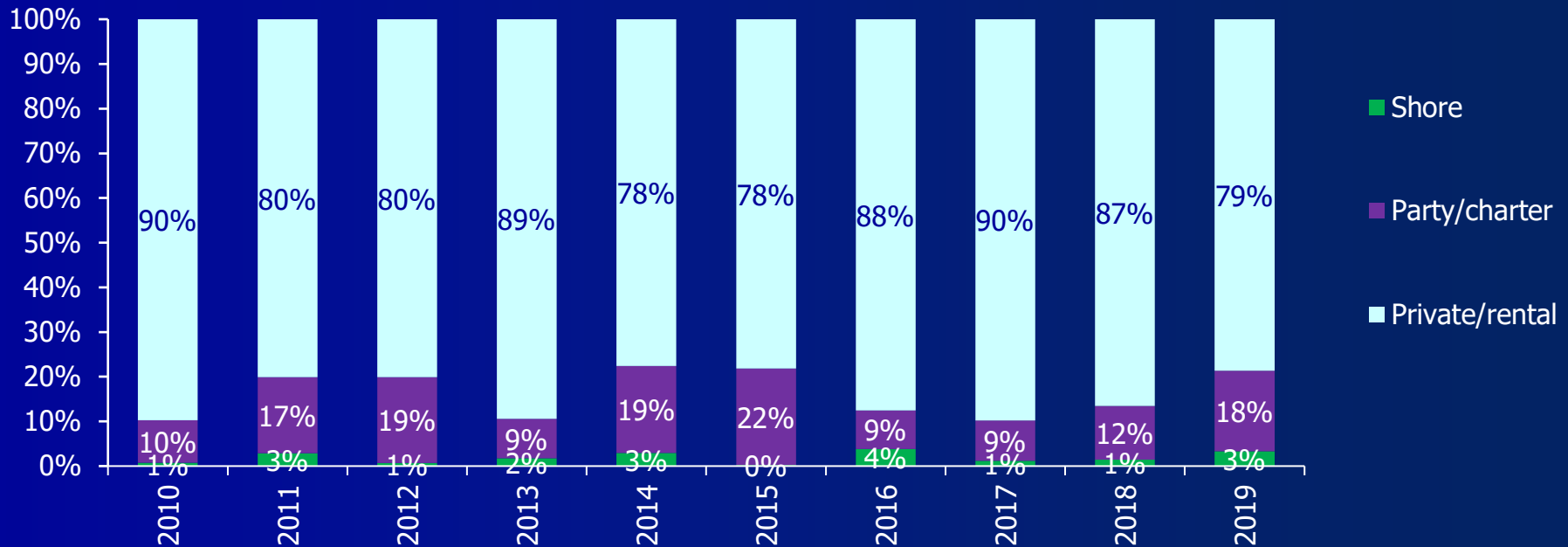
Year	RHL	Harvest (old MRIP)	% of RHL harvested (old MRIP)	Harvest (new MRIP)
2015	2.33	3.79	163%	9.06
2016	2.82	5.19	184%	12.05
2017	4.29	4.16	97%	11.50
2018	3.66	3.82	104%	7.92
2019	3.66	--	--	8.61
2020 & 2021	5.81	--	--	--

AP Fishery Performance Report

- See summer flounder presentation for comments that apply to all 3 species (COVID impacts, concerns about MRIP accuracy, etc.).
- BSB price decreased from as much as \$4-6/lb to \$1.50/lb, but still higher than other species, so fishermen continued to harvest.
- 2020 a good year so far for com. and rec. fisheries off Virginia.

AP Fishery Performance Report

- Distribution of com. BSB catch influenced by fishing effort for summer flounder.
- BSB stock has expanded both north and south.
- MRIP estimates showing private harvest > for-hire are unbelievable.



2021 ABC

- Staff recommend revising based on risk policy revisions
- 100% OFL CV
- Projected 2021 $B/B_{msy} = 1.58$
- Would increase the ABC by 16%.
- Would decrease OFL to ABC buffer from 15% to 1%.

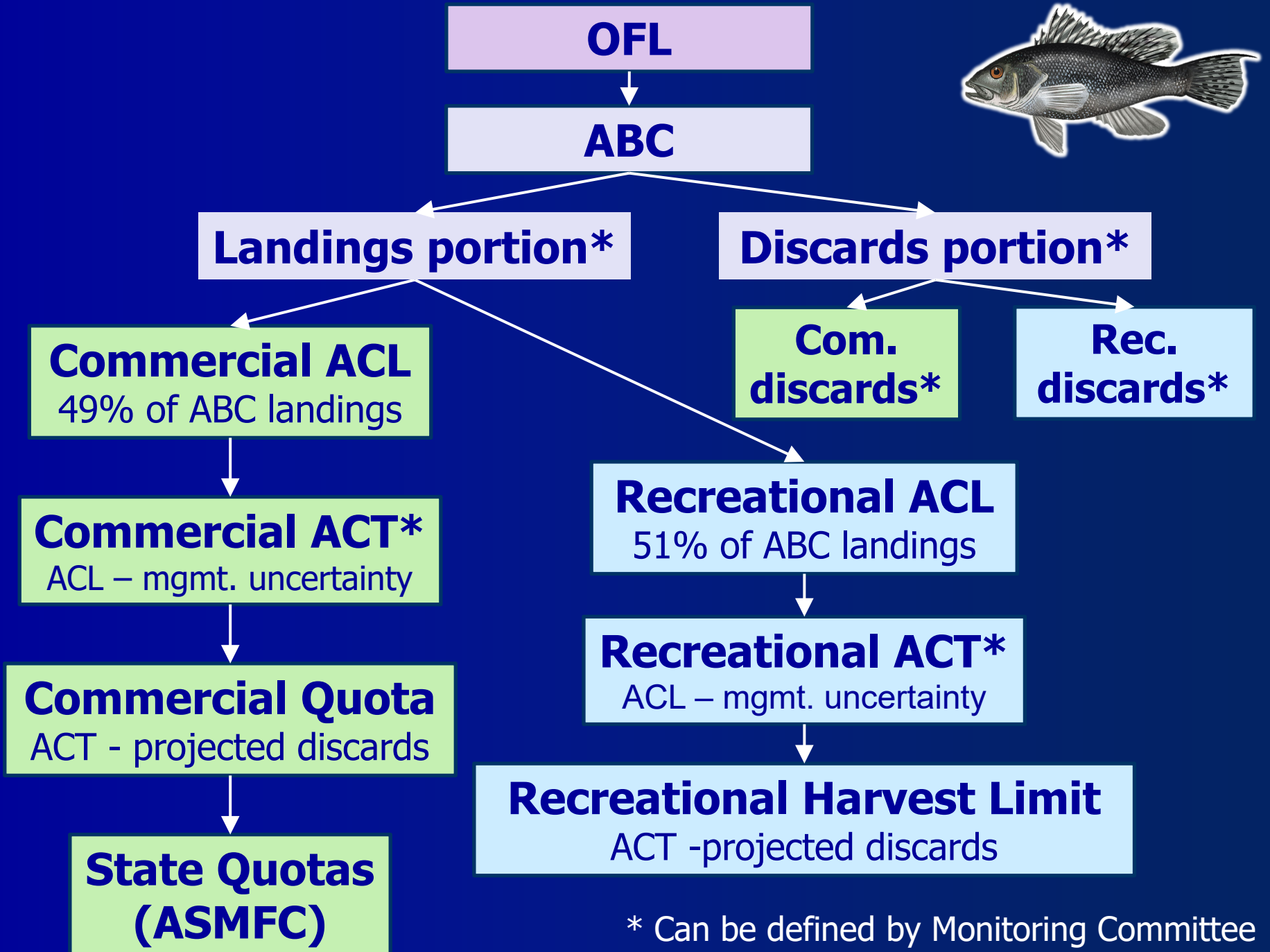
	Previously-approved	Staff Recommendation
OFL	8,021 MT 17.61 mil lb	No change
ABC	6,835 MT 15.07 mil lb	7,916 MT 17.45 mil lb
P*	42%	49%

Discards

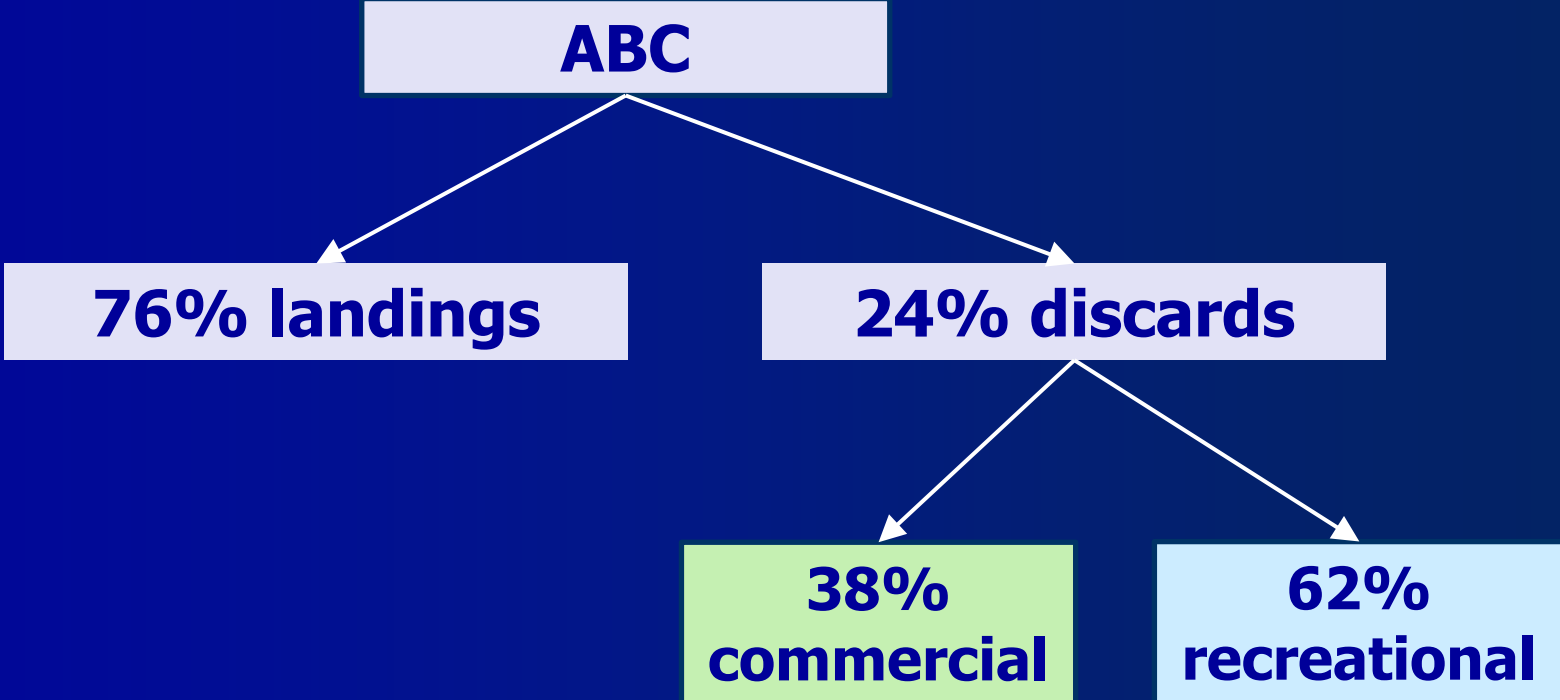
- Necessary to project discards in 2021 to derive sector-specific catch and landings limits.
- Discards have exceeded projections every year since at least 2015.
- ABC (but not OFL) has been exceeded every year since at least 2015.
- With risk policy change, buffer between OFL and ABC will shrink from 15% to 1%.
- Staff recommend reconsideration of discard projections to help ensure that ABC is not exceeded in 2021.

QUESTIONS?



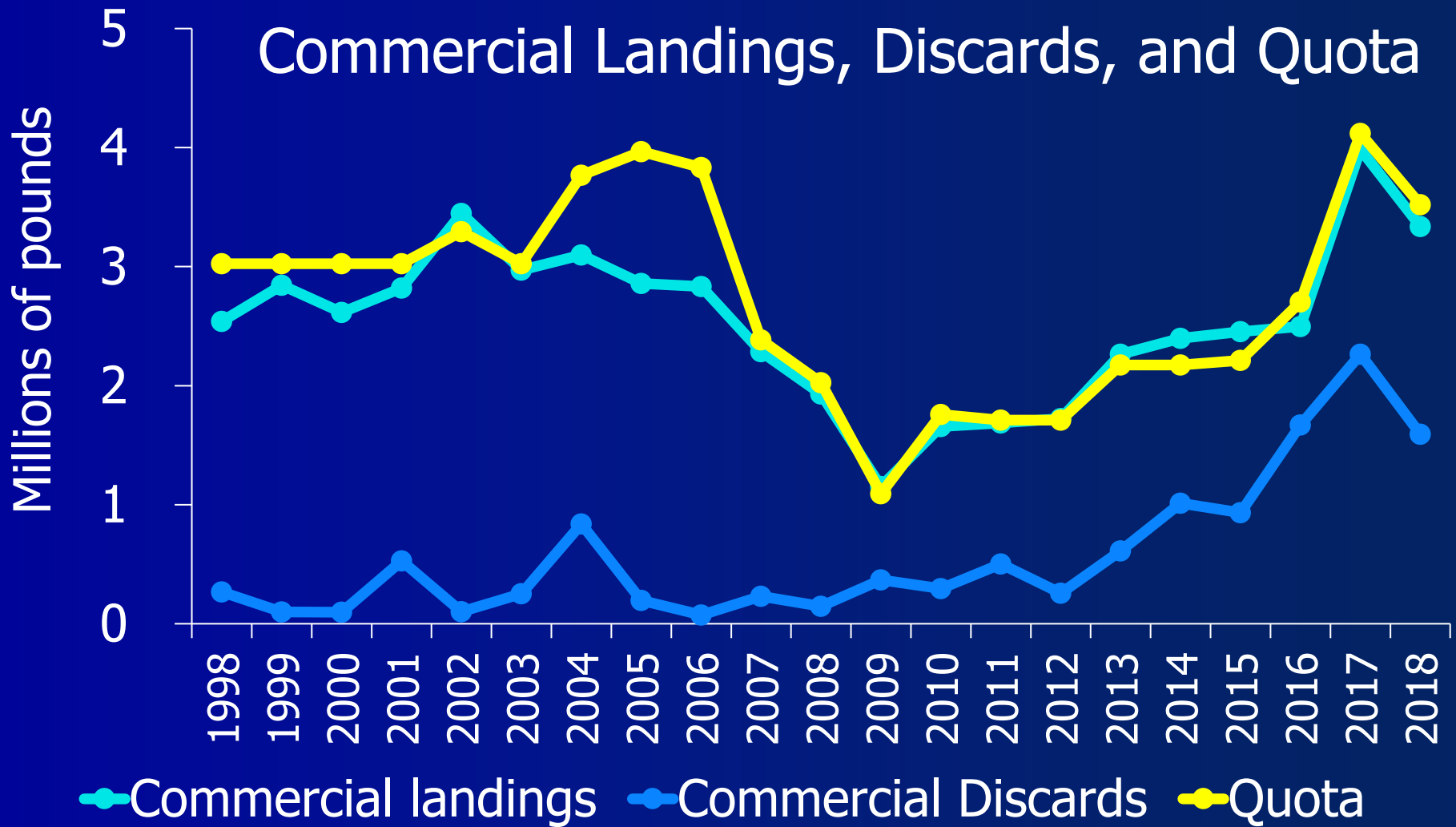


Past MC Method for Calculating Expected Discards



All based on 2016-2018 proportions, NEFSC data

Commercial Landings, Discards, and Quota



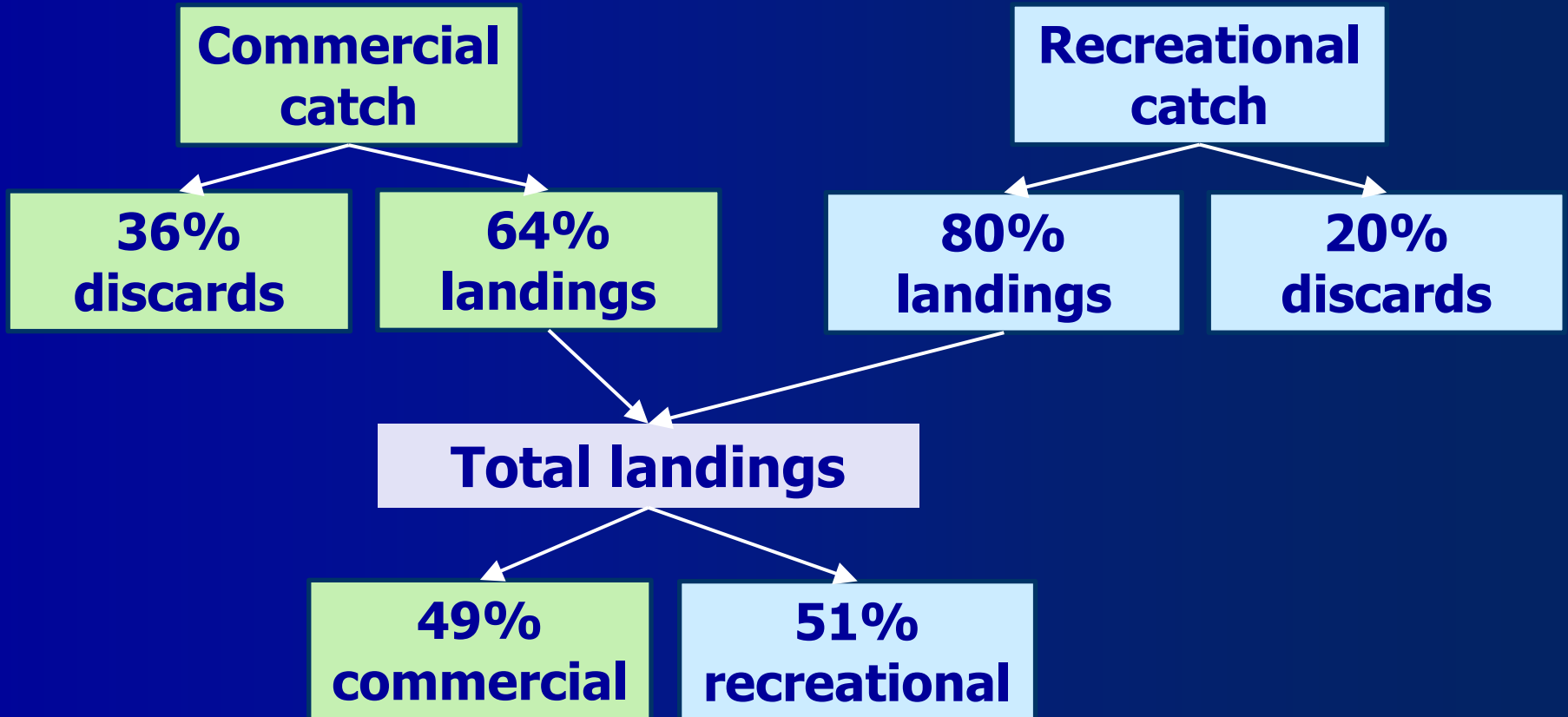
	2016	2017	2018	Avg
Rec disc as % of rec catch	18%	22%	20%	20%
Com disc as % of com catch	40%	36%	32%	36%

2019 MC Discard Recommendation



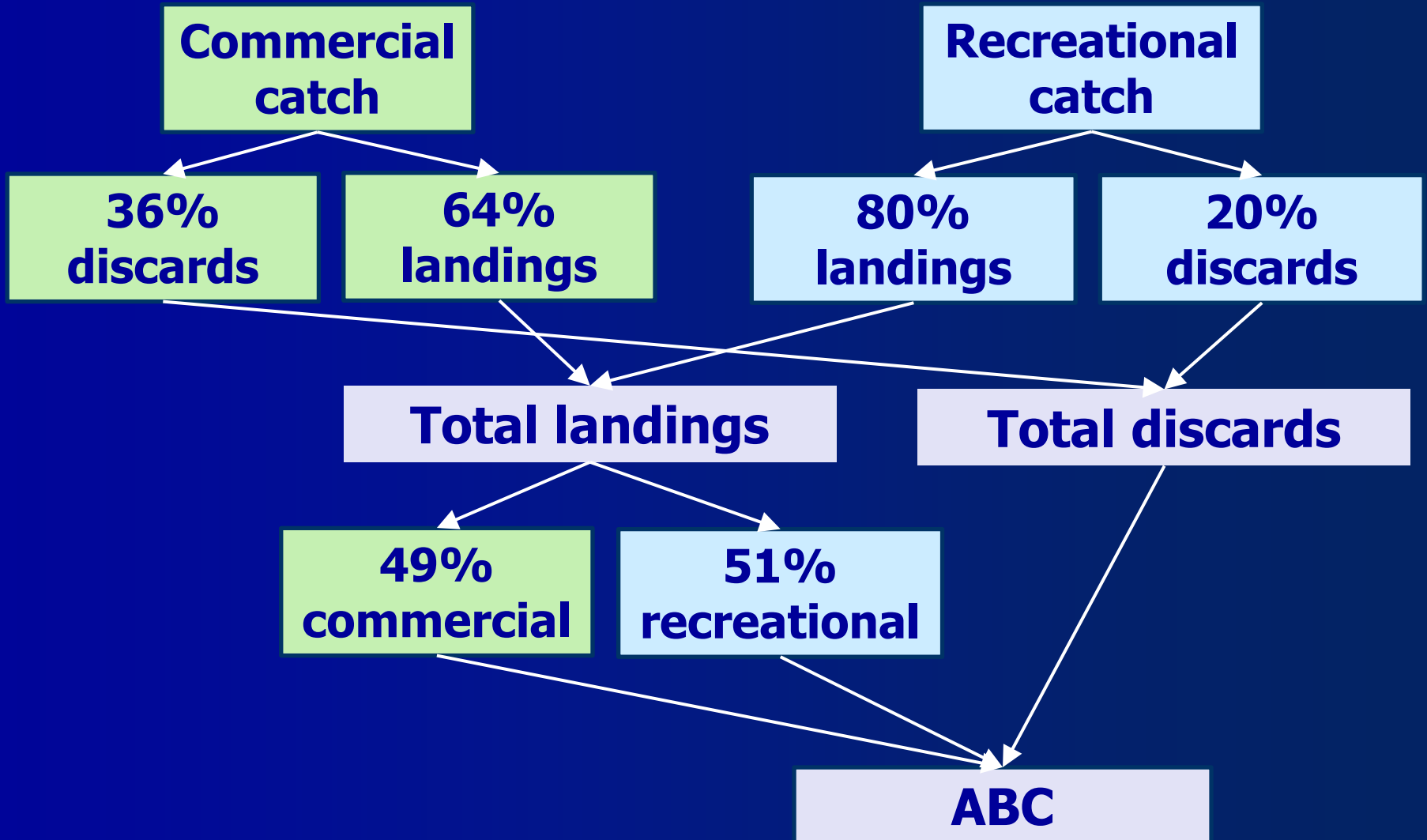
All based on 2016-2018 proportions, NEFSC data

2019 MC Discard Recommendation



All based on 2016-2018 proportions, NEFSC data

2019 MC Discard Recommendation



All based on 2016-2018 proportions, NEFSC data