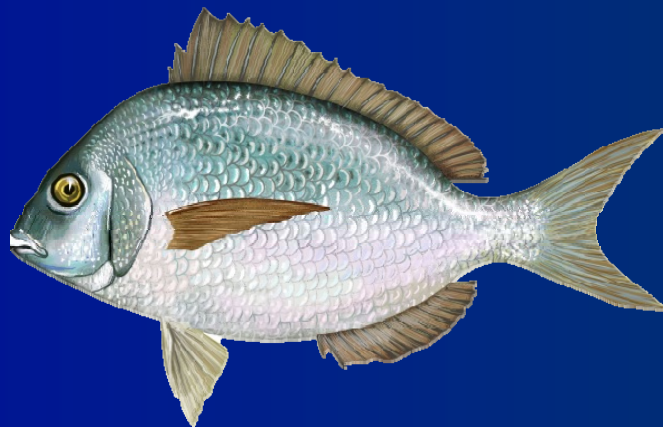


Scup



SSC

July 23, 2014

Current multi-year specifications

- 2014-2015 specifications in place for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass
- Review implemented 2015 specifications
 - Recommend changes if necessary





Stock Status

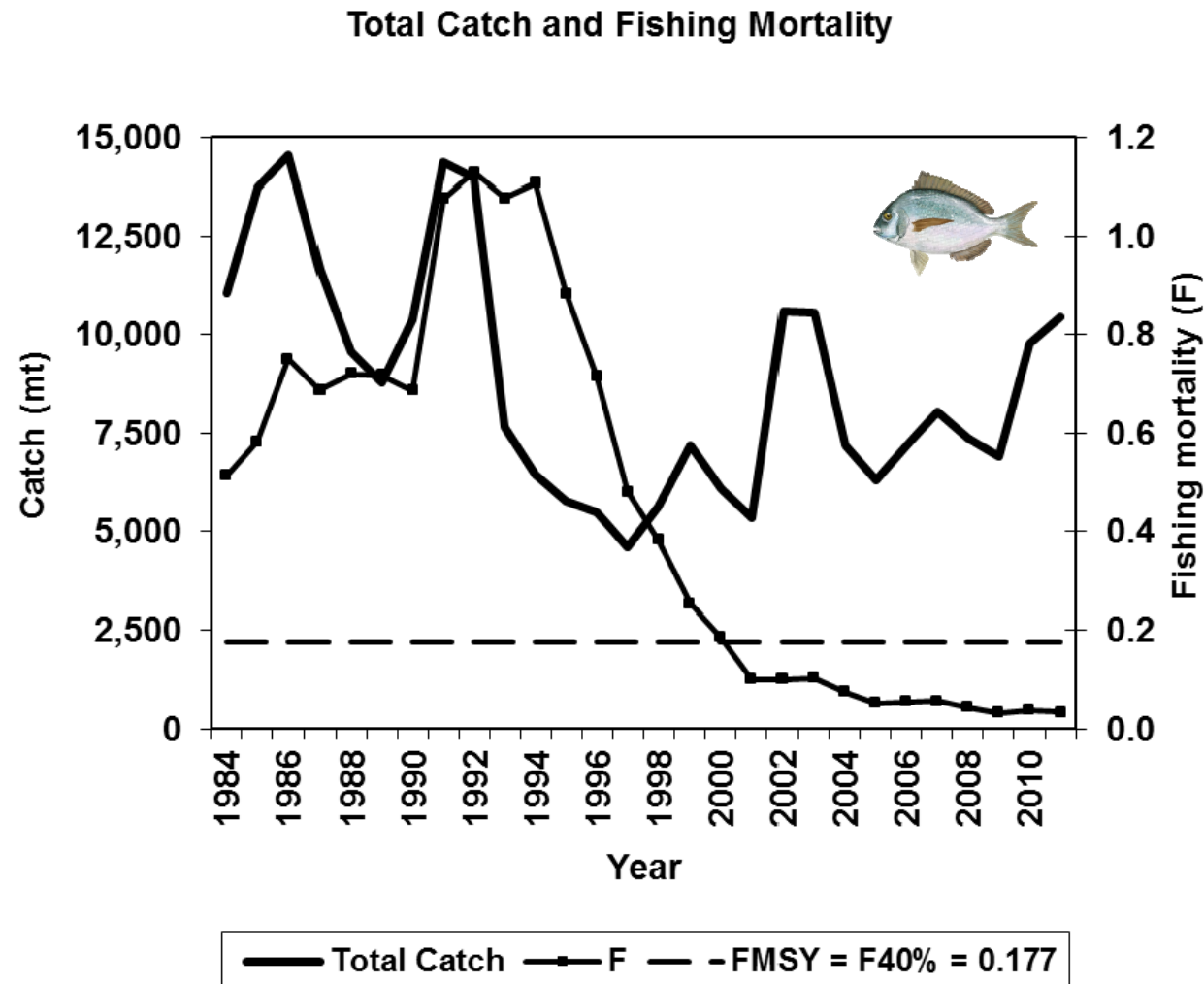
- Data Poor Stock Working Group and Peer Review Panel (2009)
 - Age-structured assessment program (ASAP)
- July 2012 update
 - 2011 Estimates of F and SSB, updated projections
 - Not overfished and overfishing not occurring in 2011
- 2014 data update (landings, discards, survey indices)

Biological Reference Points

- $F_{40\%} = F_{MSYproxy} = 0.177$
- $SSB_{MSYproxy} = 202.9 \text{ mil lb (92,044 mt)}$
- $MSST = \frac{1}{2} SSB_{MSY} = 101.46 \text{ mil lb (46,022 mt)}$

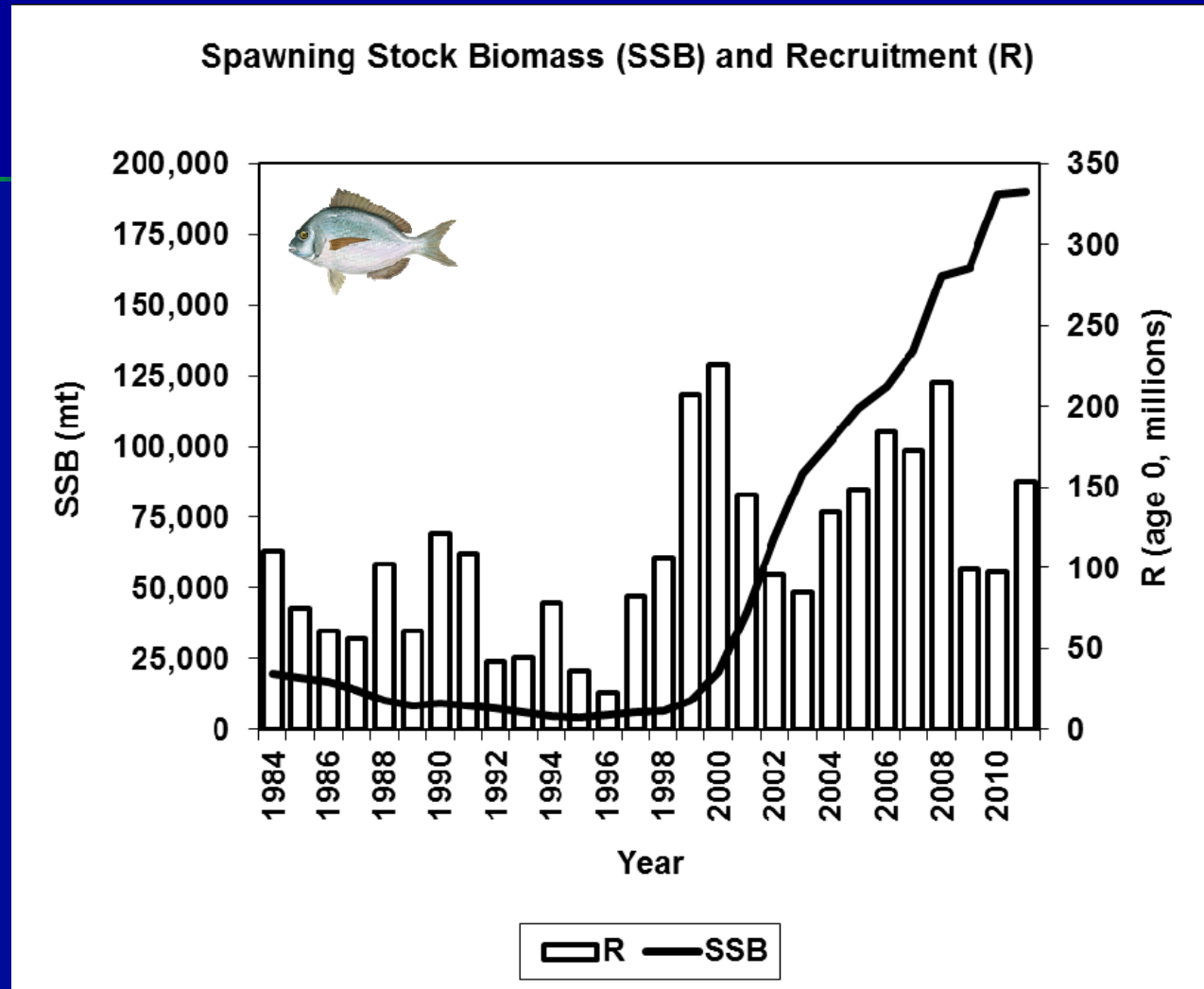


Fishing Mortality



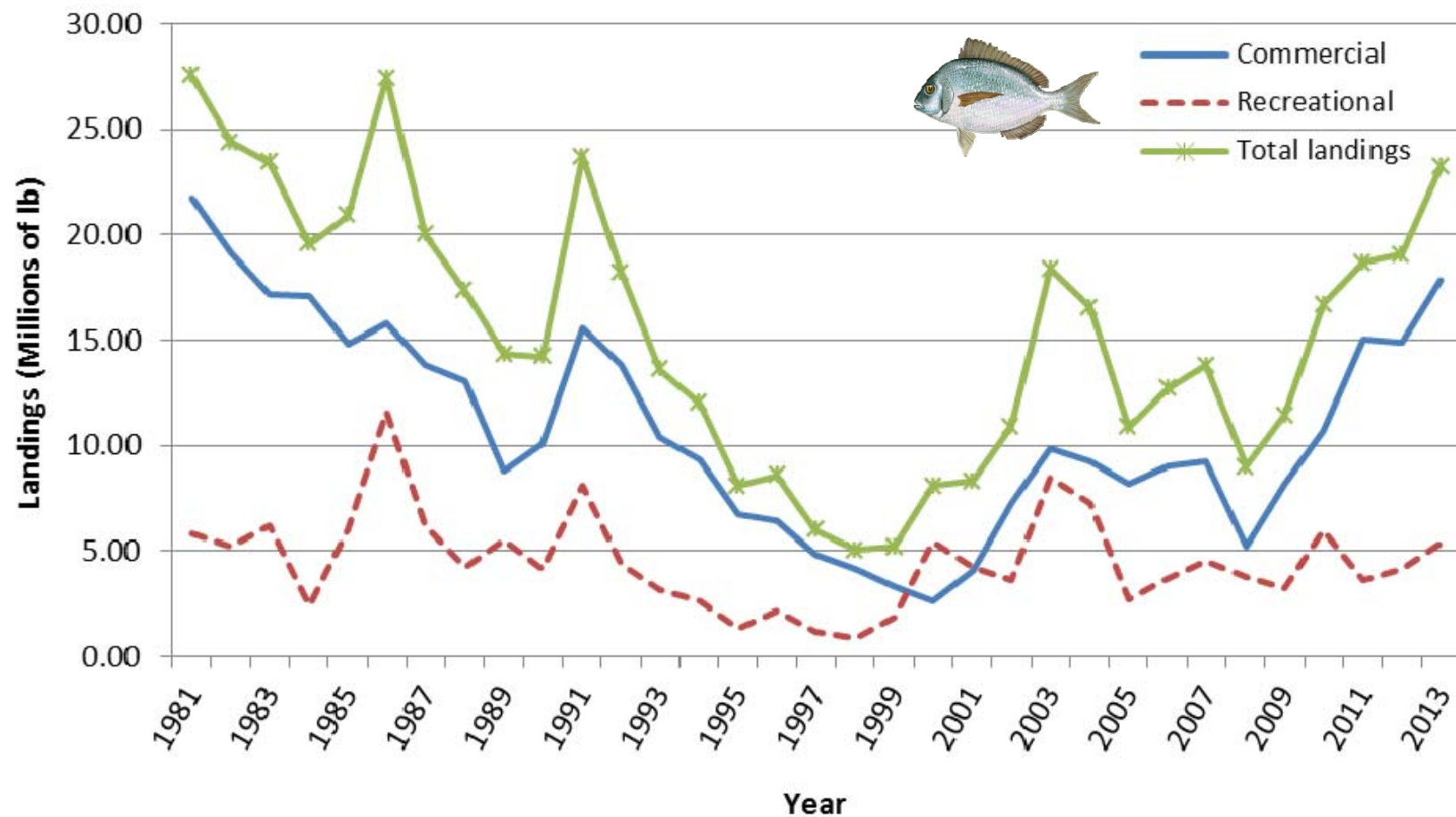
2011 $F = 0.034$; below $F_{MSY} = F_{40\%} = 0.177$

Biomass



2011 SSB = 420 mil lb; 207% of $SSB_{MSY} = SSB_{40\%}$
= 203 mil lb

Scup Landings

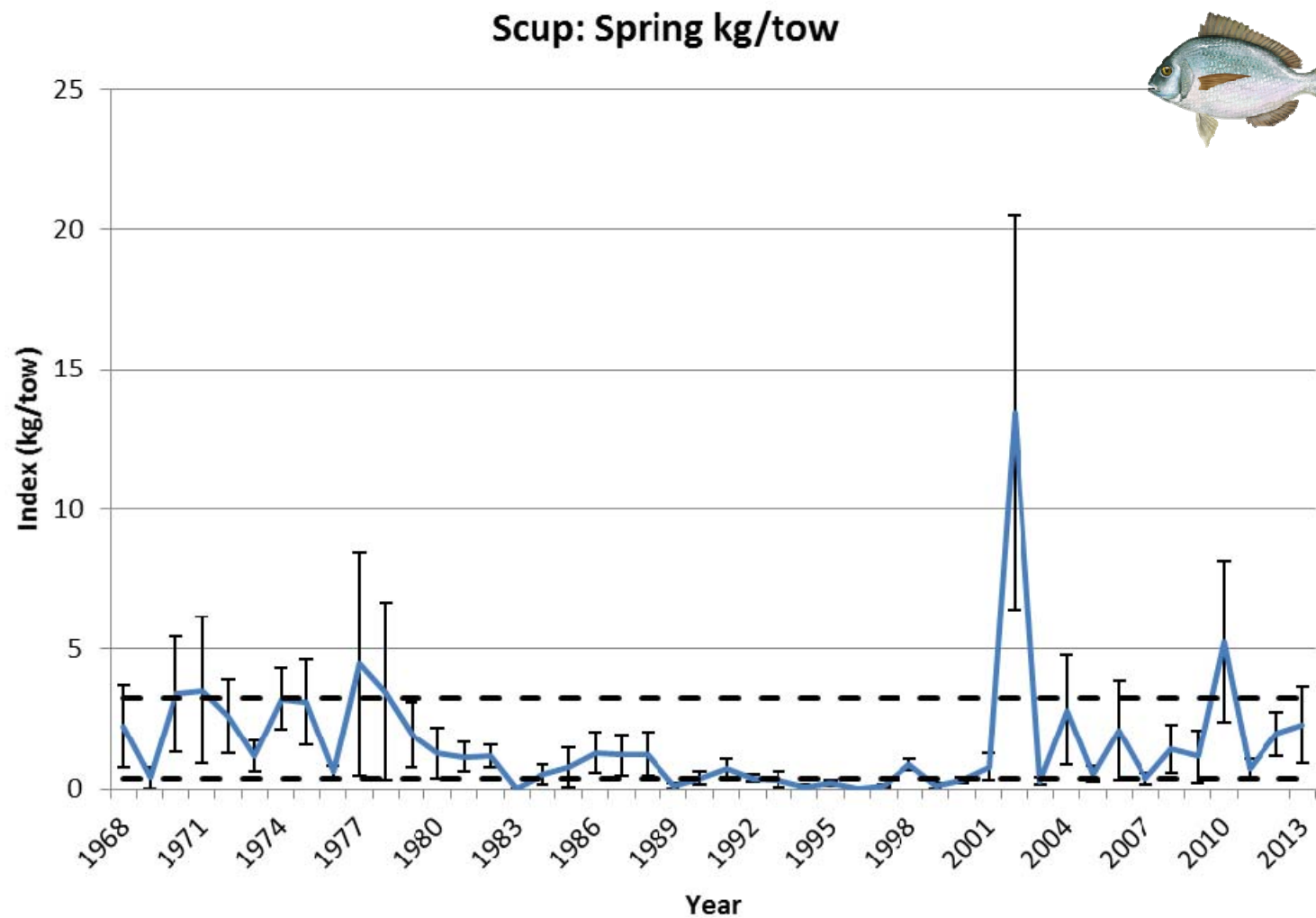


2013 Fishery Performance

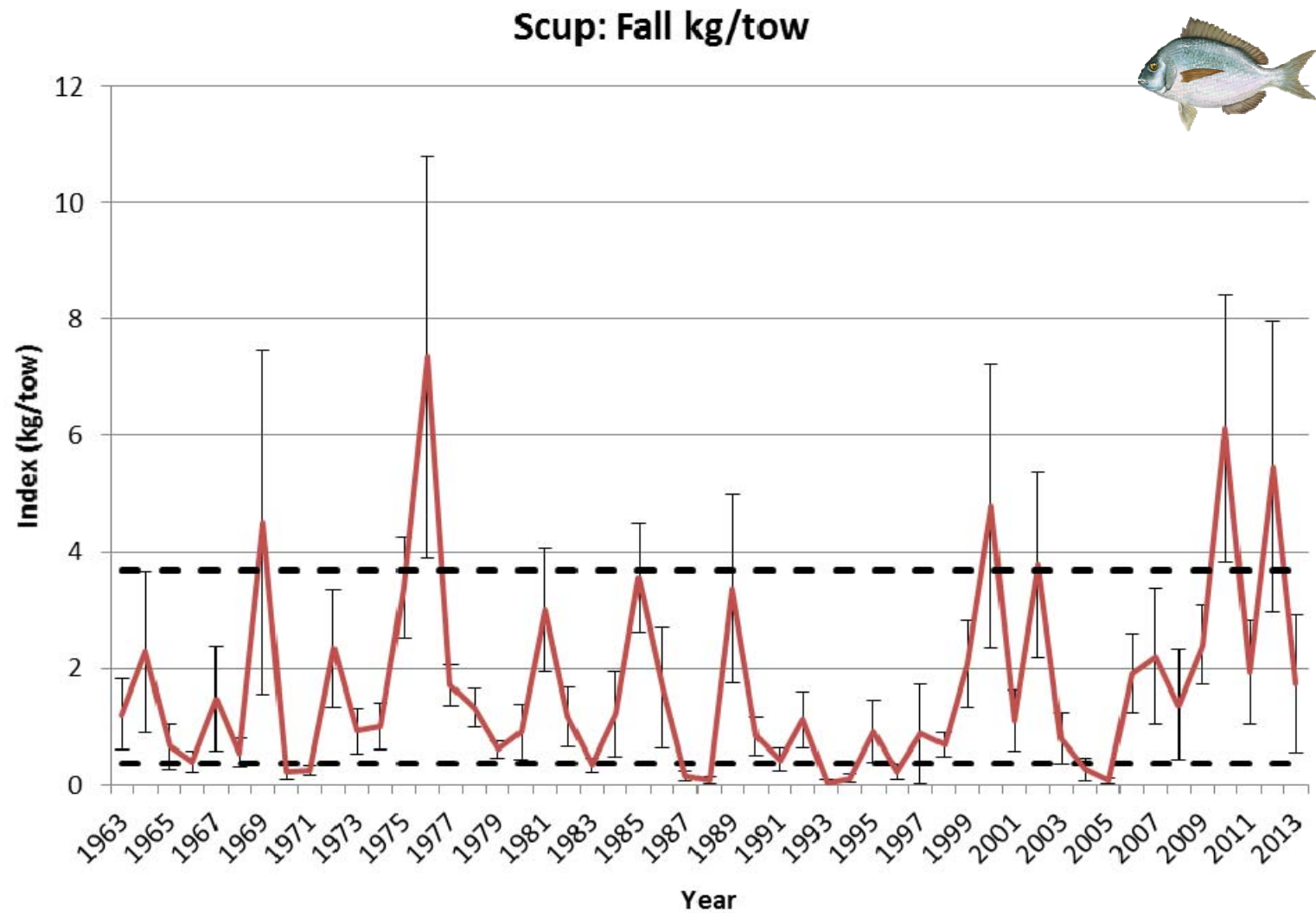
- 2013 commercial landings
 - 17.88 million lb (8,108 mt); ~73% of commercial quota
- 2013 recreational landings
 - 5.34 million lb (2,424 mt); ~71% of rec. harvest limit



Data Update

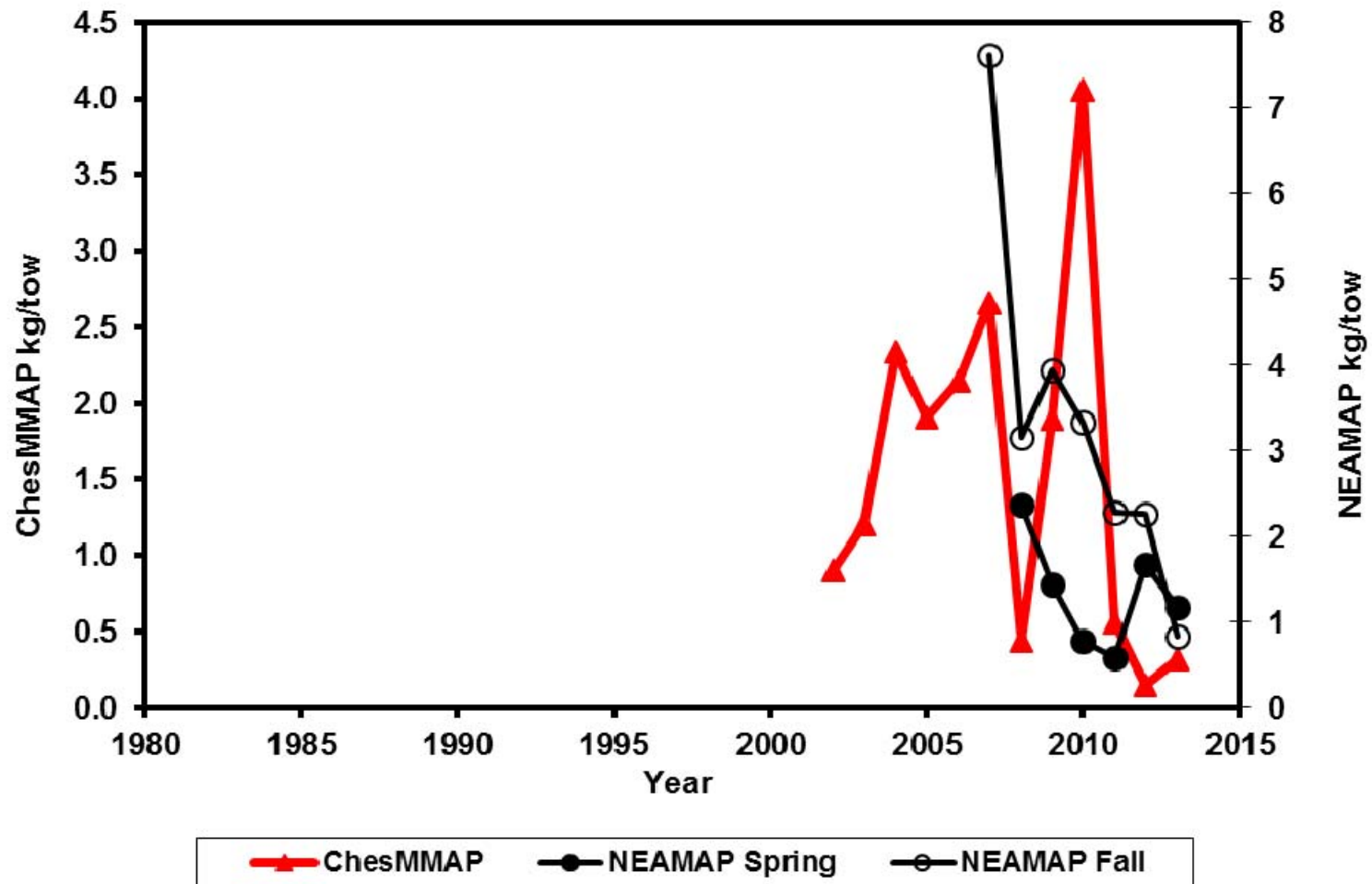


Data Update



Data Update

ChesMMAAP and NEAMAP Biomass Indices



Regulatory Review

- In 2012: multi-year specifications set for 2013-2015
- 2013 ABC derived using $SSB/SSB_{MSY} = 212\%$; $P^* = 0.4$; lognormal OFL distribution with $CV = 100\%$
- Constant $F (=0.142)$ applied to derive 2014 and 2015 ABCs



Fishery Performance Report

- Increase in minimum size over years has impacted markets for scup
 - Used to be demand for frying-pan sized smaller fish
- Scup prices are down due to high abundance
- Starting to see benefits of rebuilding: markets returning/growing
 - Value-added and restaurant markets



Fishery Performance Report

- Lack of confidence in MRIP estimates
 - Sense that recent effort reductions not captured by outdated effort surveys
- Price of fuel is negatively impacting party/charter fishery
 - Effecting rates/participation
 - Fewer boats in marinas
 - Fewer low-income participants can justify trip expenses



Fishery Performance Report

- Scup are preying on juveniles of other species (crabs and lobsters)
 - Need to consider how high biomass impacts other species
- Managers should incentivize increased catch given high biomass estimates
 - Concerns regarding predation on other commercially valuable species



Fishery Performance Report

- Smaller minimum sizes should be considered for both commercial and rec. fisheries
 - Reduced discards
 - Increased opportunities for all participants
- Scup stock is strong enough to support liberalized measures



Fishery Performance Report

- Managers should consider subsistence participation in fishery
 - Fishing behavior has changed with decreased possession limits




Fishery Performance Report

- Research plan comments:
 - Quantify role of scup as predator
 - Incorporating ecological relationships/oceanic events in stock assessment model should be higher priority
 - Cooking methods (whole fish)
 - Financial reward system for research work



Staff Recommendation: No Change to Implemented Specifications

	2014	2015
ABC	35.99 mil lb (16,325 mt)	33.77 mil lb (15,320 mt)
Commercial ACL	27.07 mil lb (12,734 mt)	26.34mil lb (11,950 mt)
Recreational ACL	7.92 mil lb (3,592 mt)	7.43 mil lb (3,370 mt)