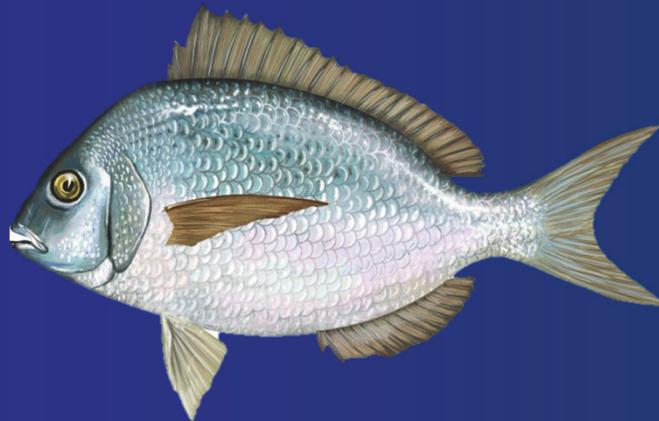




Scup



2014 and 2015 Management Measures

October 9, 2013

Specifications Timeline

- September 10: Advisory Panel meets to develop fishery performance reports
- September 18: SSC meets to recommend ABCs
- September 19: Monitoring Committee meets to recommend ACTs and management measures

Regulatory Review

- Multi-year specifications for 2013-2015
- 2013 ABC
 - Applied Council risk policy to OFL = 47.80 million lb (21,680 mt)
- Constant F applied to derive 2014 and 2015 ABCs



Regulatory Review

- Multi-year specifications set for 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
ABC	38.71 mil lb (17,557 mt)	35.99 mil lb (16,325 mt)	33.76 mil lb (15,320 mt)

Assessment

- 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
- September 2013 data update
 - Landings and discards, research survey indices

“Rumble Strips”

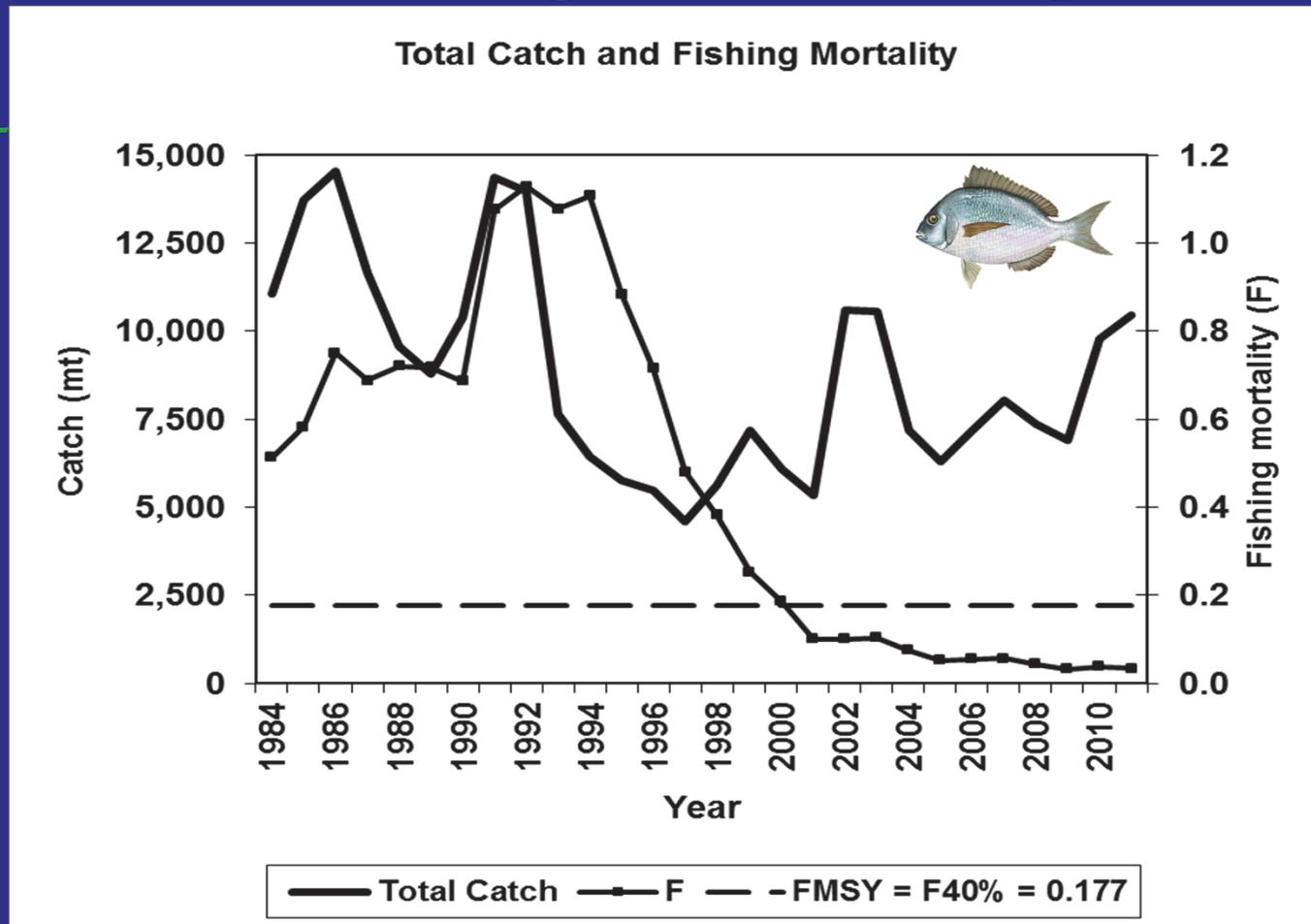
- Interim evaluation metrics for multi-year specifications
- In development by SSC Scientific Uncertainty (SUN) Subcommittee
 - Methods still being refined
- Initial run for scup: no indication that stock is in need of immediate re-evaluation

Biological Reference Points

- $F_{40\%} = F_{MSYproxy} = 0.177$
- $SSB_{MSYproxy} = 202.9$ mil lb
(92,044 mt)
- Not subject to rebuilding plan
- Not overfished and overfishing was not occurring in 2011



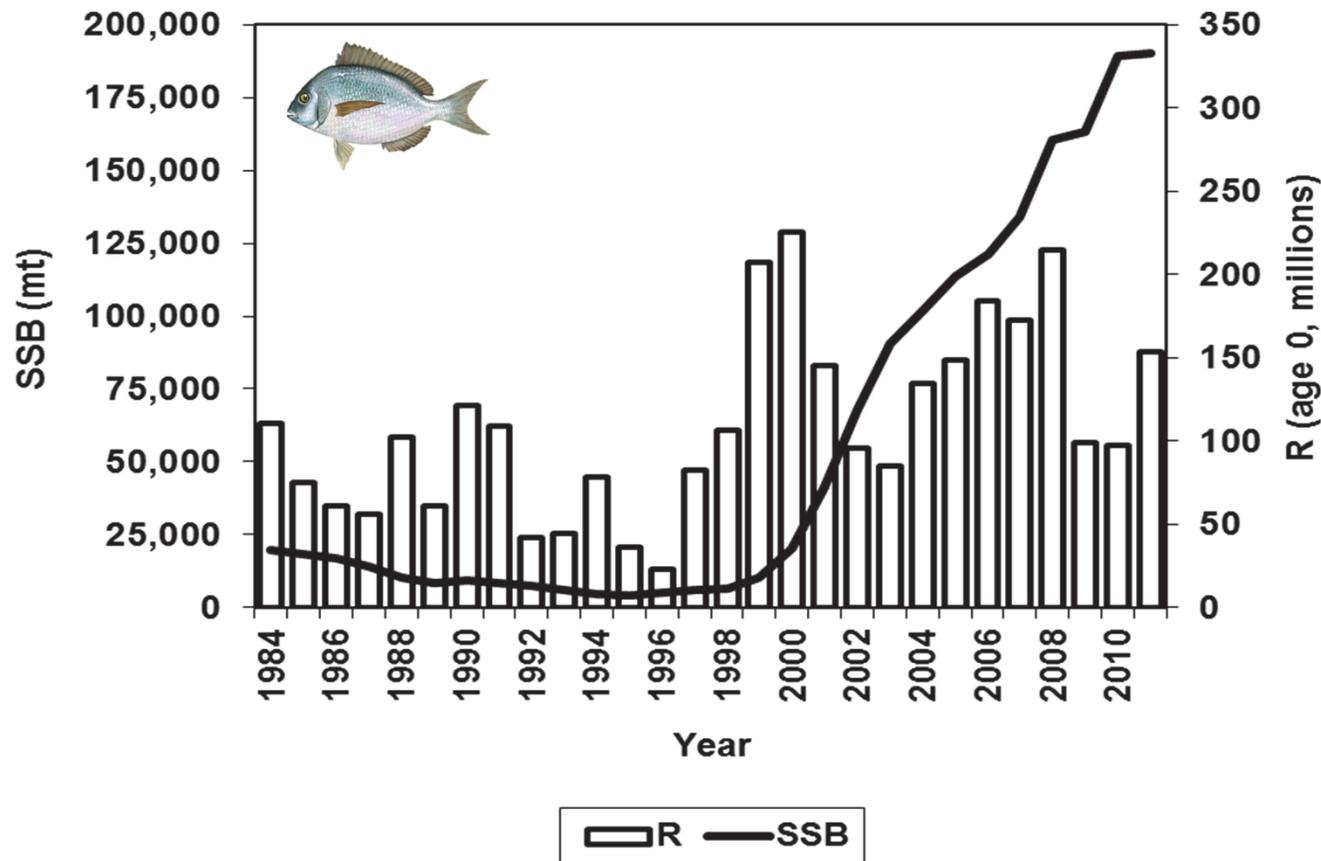
Fishing Mortality



- 2011 $F = 0.034$
- Below $F_{MSY} = F_{40\%} = 0.177$

Biomass

Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment (R)



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

2012 Fishery Performance

- Commercial landings
 - 15.70 million lb (7,122 mt)
 - ~44% under commercial quota
- Recreational landings
 - 4.06 million lb (1,842 mt)
 - ~51% under rec. harvest limit

Fishery Performance Report

- Commercial industry expects market to return for scup; trying to build demand
- Rising fuel and other costs continue to be a concern
- Winter II possession limit should be re-evaluated, has not changed despite quota increases
- MC should re-evaluate commercial seasons; shift October from Summer to Winter II



Fishery Performance Report

- Continued negative impacts from Hurricane Sandy in NJ and NY
- Lack of confidence in MRIP estimates, especially for effort
- Rec. effort shifts to scup in some areas due to increasing availability of large scup; restrictive regs. for other species



MAFMC SSC ABC Recommendations

Scup

2014 - 2015 Fishing Years

ABC

- The available scientific evidence was not compelling enough to warrant a change to its ABC recommendations for 2014 and 2015.
- The SSC recommends an ABC of **16,325 mt** for 2014 and an ABC of **15,320 mt for 2015.**



MC Recommendations

- No reduction from the commercial ACL to the commercial ACT
- No reduction from the recreational ACL to the recreational ACT
- Both fisheries have substantially under-harvested for the past two years in response to increased harvest limits

MC Recommendations

- No changes to current mesh requirements, pot/trap requirements, GRAs, etc.
- RSA up to 3% of TAL

MC Recommendations

- Responded to industry comment on increasing possession limit for Winter II
 - Currently at 8,000 lb and has not changed despite increases in quota
 - Potential to better utilize full quota and avoid regulatory discards
 - Recommends 30,000 lb possession limit
 - After reaching 80% trigger; reduced to 1,000 lb

Current Specifications

	2013	2014	2015
ABC	38.71 mil lb (17,557 mt)	35.99 mil lb (16,325 mt)	33.76 mil lb (15,320 mt)
Commercial ACL = ACT	30.19 mil lb (13,694 mt)	28.07 mil lb (12,732 mt)	26.34 mil lb (11,950 mt)
Recreational ACL= ACT	8.52 mil lb (3,863 mt)	7.92 mil lb (3,592 mt)	7.43 mil lb (3,370 mt)
Commercial Quota (adj)	23.53 mil lb (10,671 mt)	21.95 mil lb (9,955 mt)	20.60 mil lb (9,342 mt)
Rec. Harvest Limit (adj)	7.55 mil lb (3,425 mt)	7.03 mil lb (3,188 mt)	6.60 mil lb (2,992 mt)

Questions?

