

# RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Division of Marine Fisheries

---

### Pre-hearing Workshop

January 31, 2023



# Purpose of Workshop



- Provide stock status and 2022 fishery performance on selected finfish species
- Provide Division proposals for 2023 management under consideration; provide opportunity for comment and additional proposals to be considered for noticing

# Virtual Meeting Participation



1. All participants will be muted throughout the meeting.
2. To make a comment or ask a question you must use the **Raise Hand** feature in the zoom webinar.
3. The meeting facilitator will un-mute one participant at a time to make their comment or ask their question, the participant will then be re-muted.

**Please minimize background noise while unmuted! –  
Thank you**

# Process and timeline



- **Jan. 31:** Workshop #1
- **Feb. 6:** Workshop #2
- **March 6:** Public Hearing\*
- **April 3:** RI Marine Fisheries Council
- **May 1:** Rules effective

\* Stay tuned for listserve announcing noticed rule and 30-day comment period



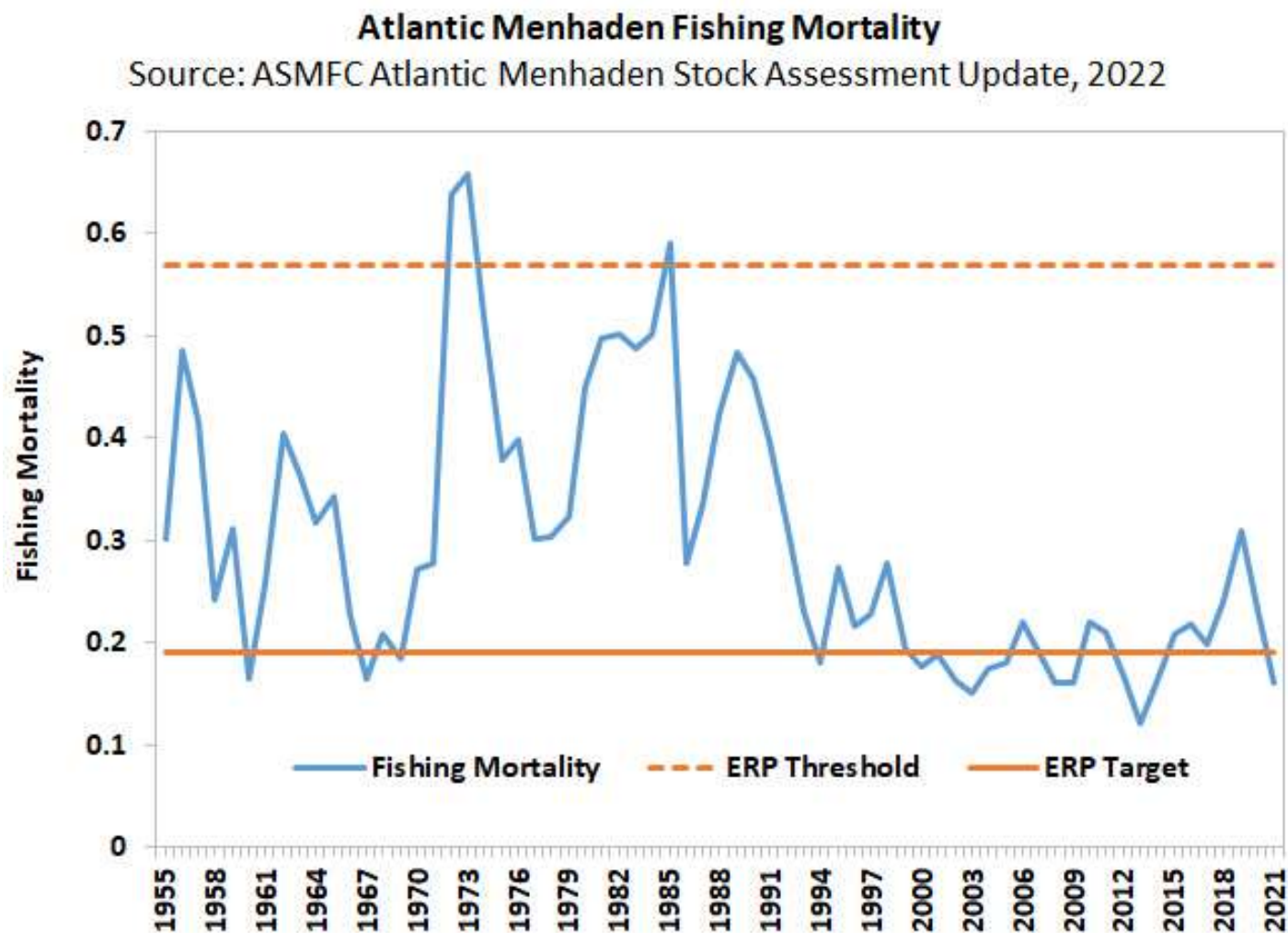
## Menhaden

- Summary of Stock Status
- 2022 Rhode Island Commercial Fishery Performance
- 2023 Commercial Management

# Menhaden - Stock Status



- F in 2021 estimated to be below both the ERP target and threshold, indicating the stock is not experiencing overfishing.



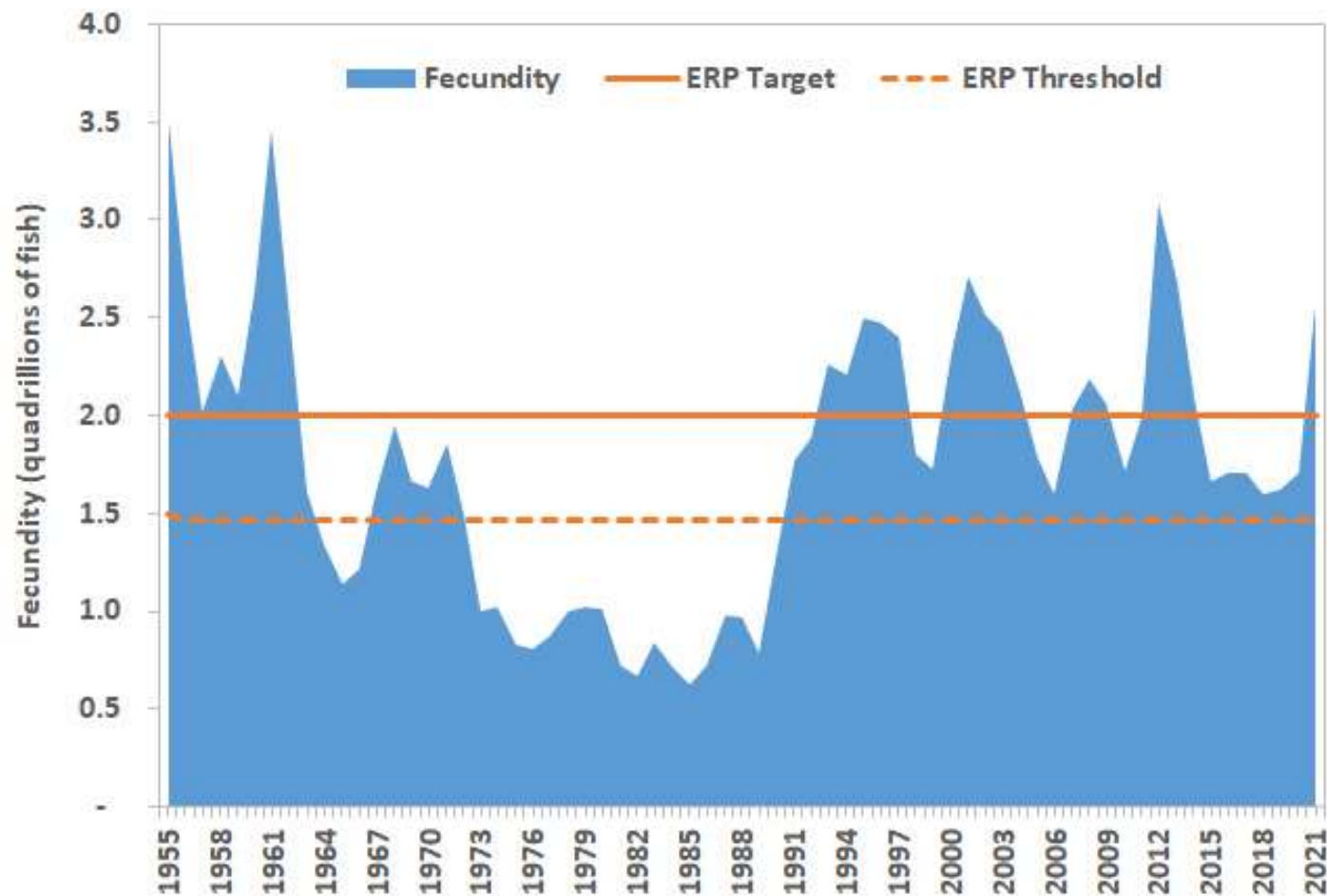
# Menhaden - Stock Status cont'd.



- Fecundity in 2021 estimated to be above both the ERP target and threshold, indicating the stock is not overfished.

## Atlantic Menhaden Fecundity

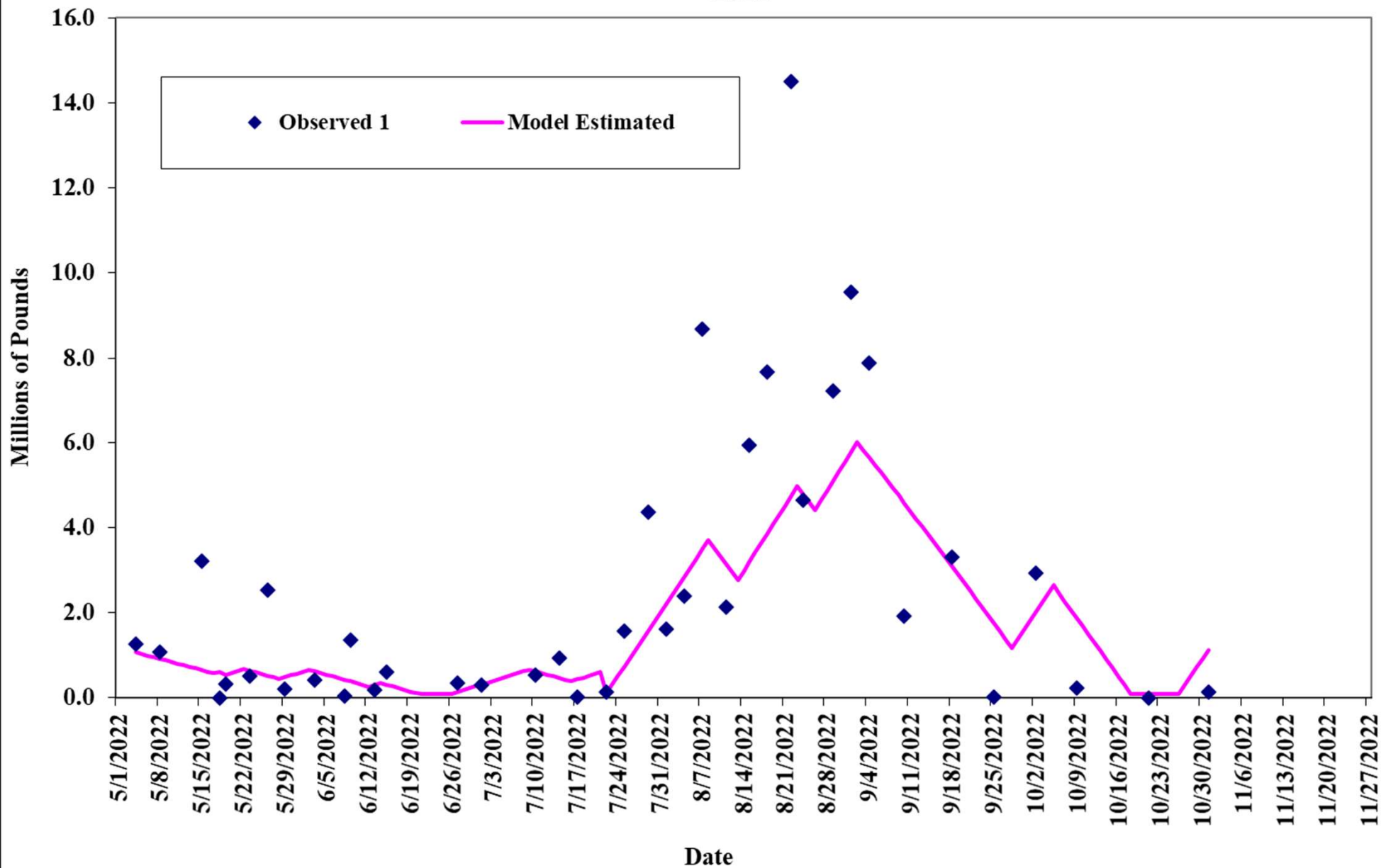
Source: ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Overview, 2022



# Menhaden - 2022 RI Spotter Pilot



Observed and Model Estimated Spotter Index of Menhaden in Narragansett Bay in 2022





# Menhaden - 2022 RI Comm. Landings in Menhaden Management Area



| Date     | Action    | Justification     |
|----------|-----------|-------------------|
| 5/16/22  | Open MMA  | Biomass Floor     |
| 5/17/22  | Close MMA | Biomass Threshold |
| 8/9/22   | Open MMA  | Biomass Floor     |
| 10/24/22 | Close MMA | Biomass Threshold |

# Menhaden - 2022 RI Comm. Landings



| Initial Quota | Total Landings | Transfers                        | Quota Remaining |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2,196,815 lbs | 617,151 lbs    | + 360,000 lbs<br>- 1,820,000 lbs | 119,664 lbs     |

# Menhaden - 2023 Proposed Commercial Management



- Total Allowable Catch (TAC) increased to 233,550 mt, ~20% increase from 2021-2022 TAC
- RI allocation increased to 0.81 %
- This results in a RI quota of ~ 4.1 million pounds for 2023

## Proposal 1 (Division):

- Clarify that IC/SSF starts when state quota reached
- Remove trammel nets from Incidental Catch small-scale gear types (FMP compliance measure)

# Menhaden - 2023 Proposed Commercial Management



## **Proposal 2 (Industry):**

- Weekly possession limit of 120,000 lbs/vessel regardless of MMA status

## **Proposal 3 (Industry): Not ASMFC Compliant**

- Add personal use purse seines to small-scale gear type under the Incidental Catch provision

## **Proposal 4 (Industry):**

- Eliminate 120,000 lb possession limit
- Remove Saturday and Sunday closure, open 7 days/week
- Eliminate aerial survey and biomass thresholds
- Allow access to menhaden control areas
- Have a season start that ends when annual quota is exhausted



## Tautog

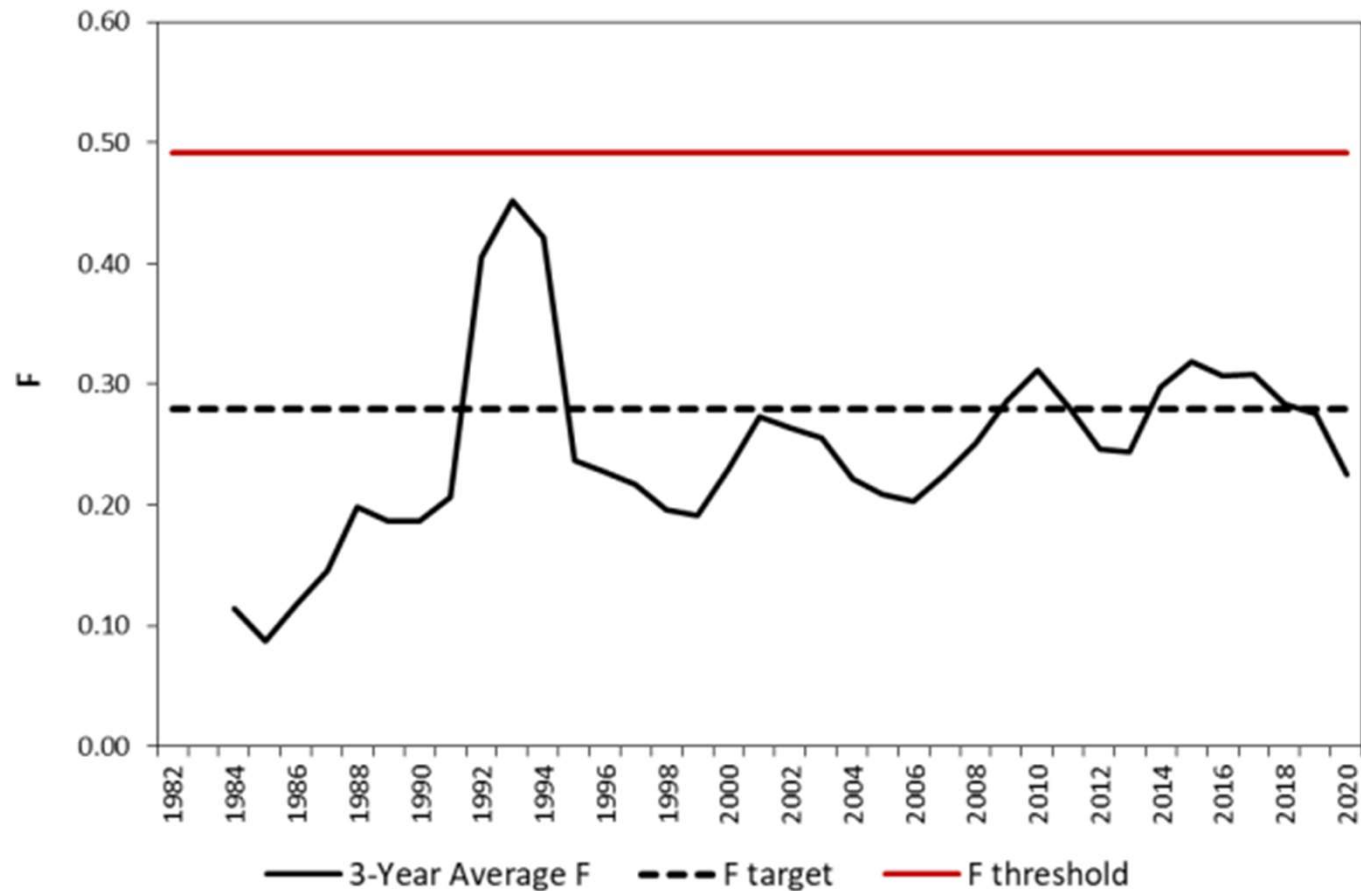


- Summary of Stock Status
- 2022 Recreational Fishery Performance
- 2023 Recreational Management
- 2022 Commercial Fishery Performance
- 2023 Commercial Management

# Tautog - Stock Status



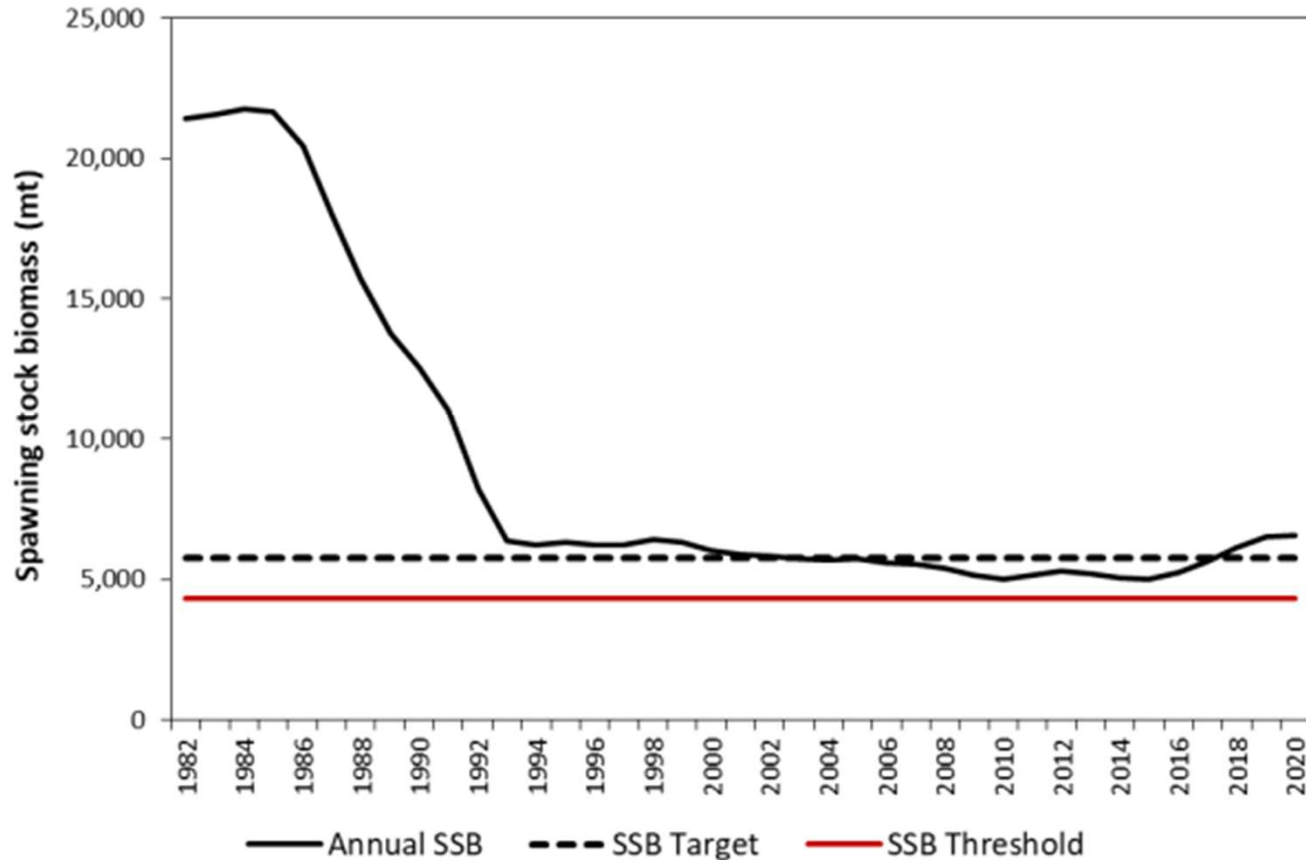
- Update assessment completed and approved by the Board in October 2021.
- Tautog is not overfished, overfishing is not occurring in the MARI region.
- Fishing mortality (F) estimated to be 0.23 in 2020; below the threshold F reference point = 0.49.



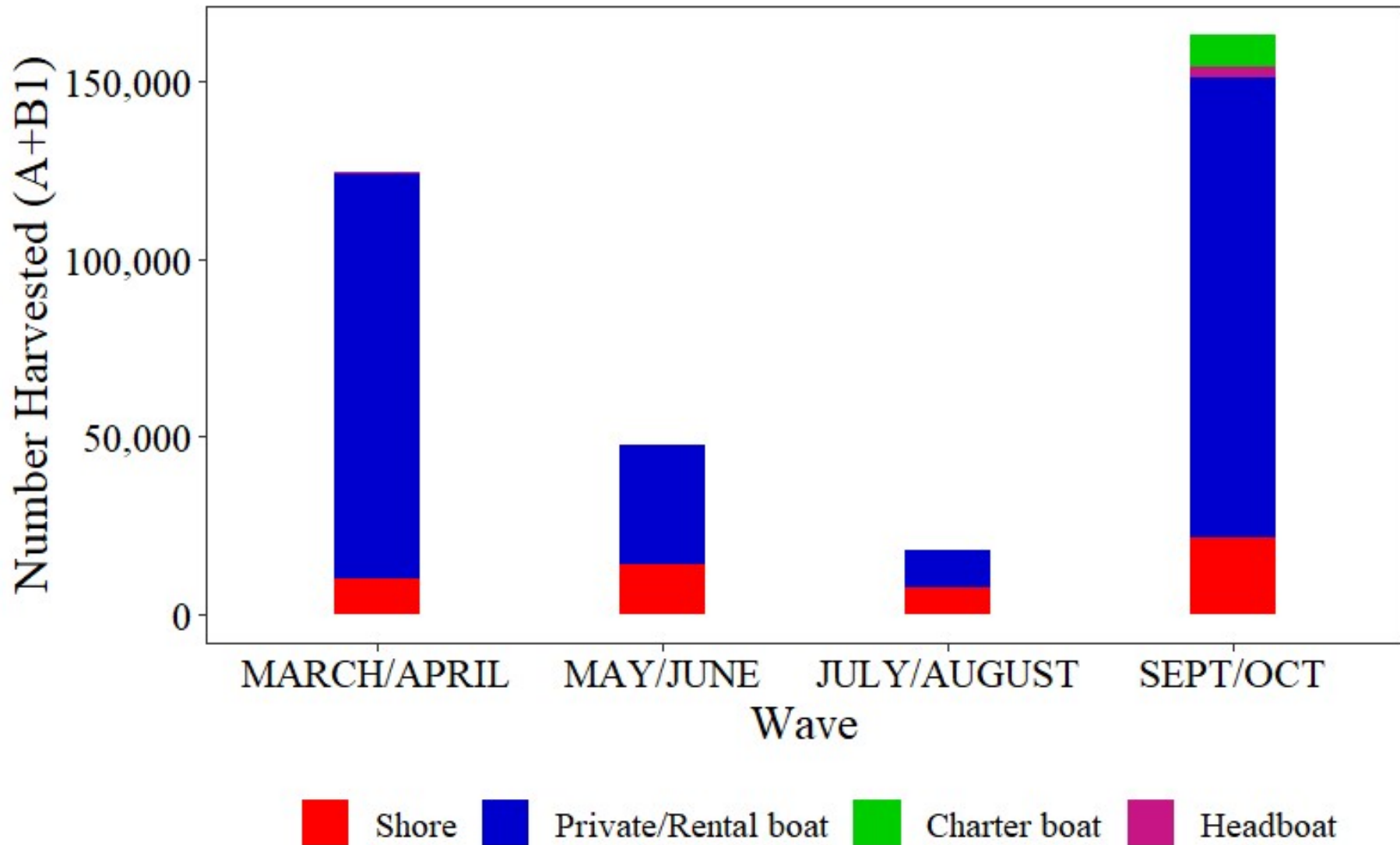
# Tautog - Stock Status



- SSB estimated at 14.9 million lbs (target = 10.09 million lbs; threshold = 7.57 million lbs.)
- No change in quota for 2023.



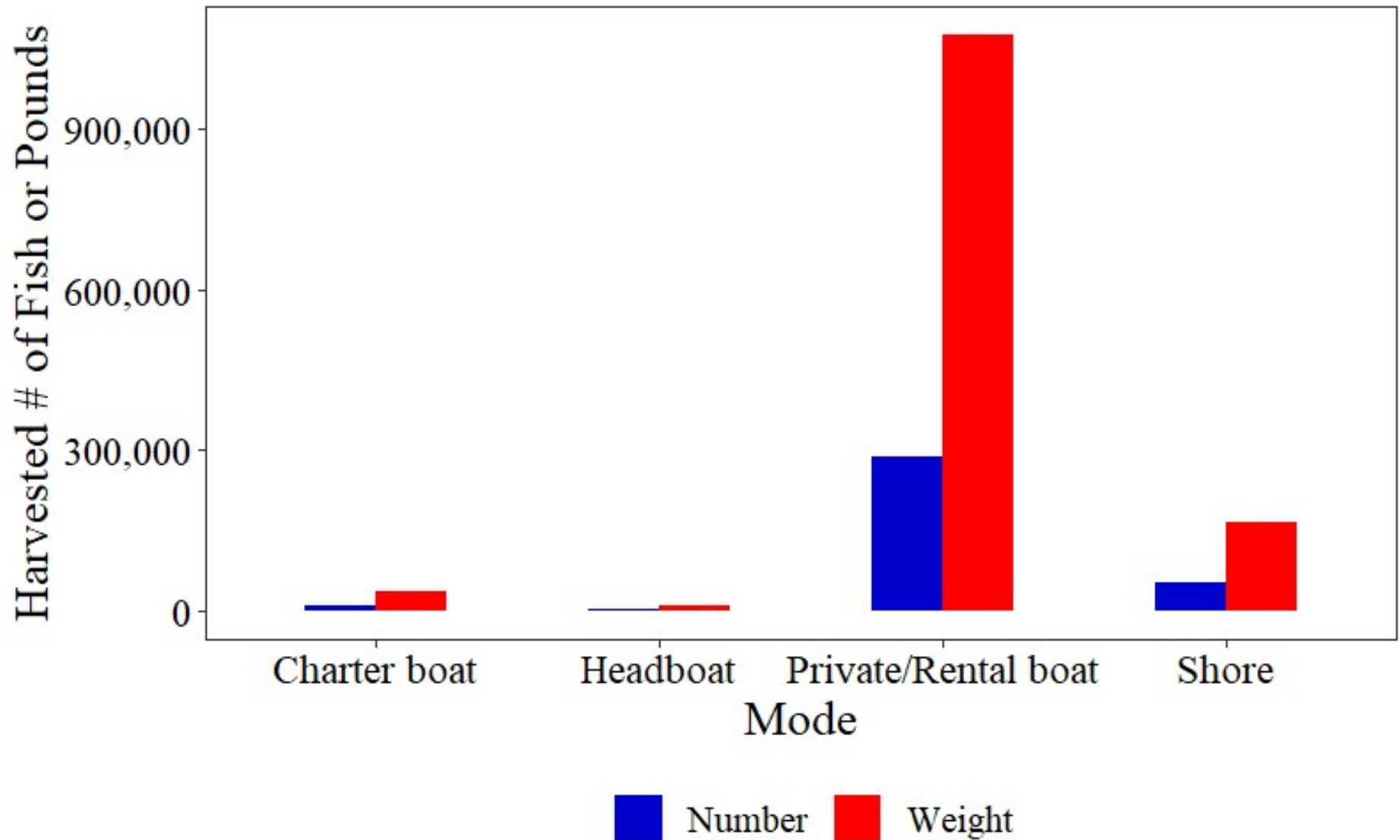
# Tautog - 2022 Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP, 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5

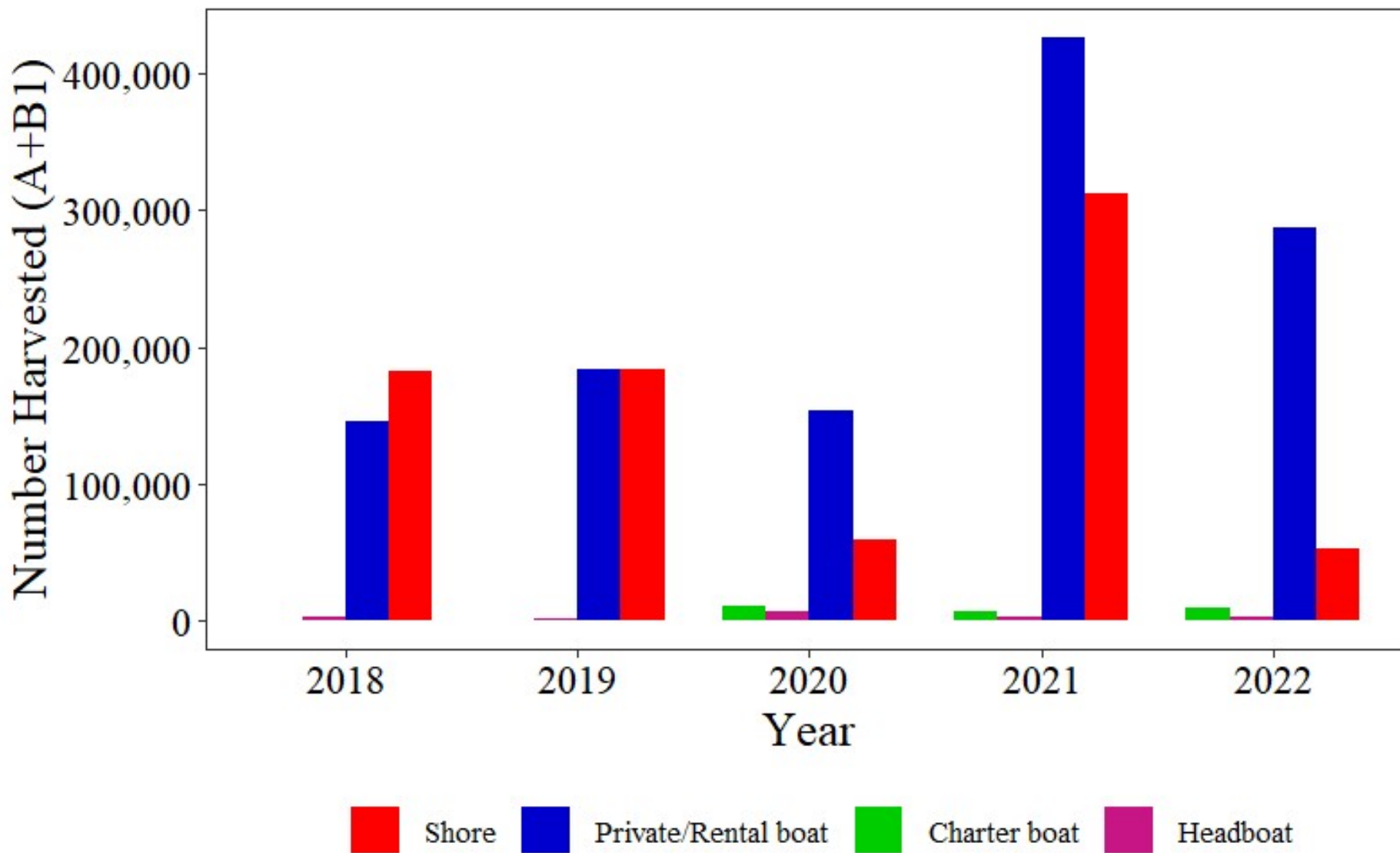


# Tautog - 2022 Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP, 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5

# Tautog - 2022 Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP, 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5

# Tautog - 2023 Recreational Management



## Current management:

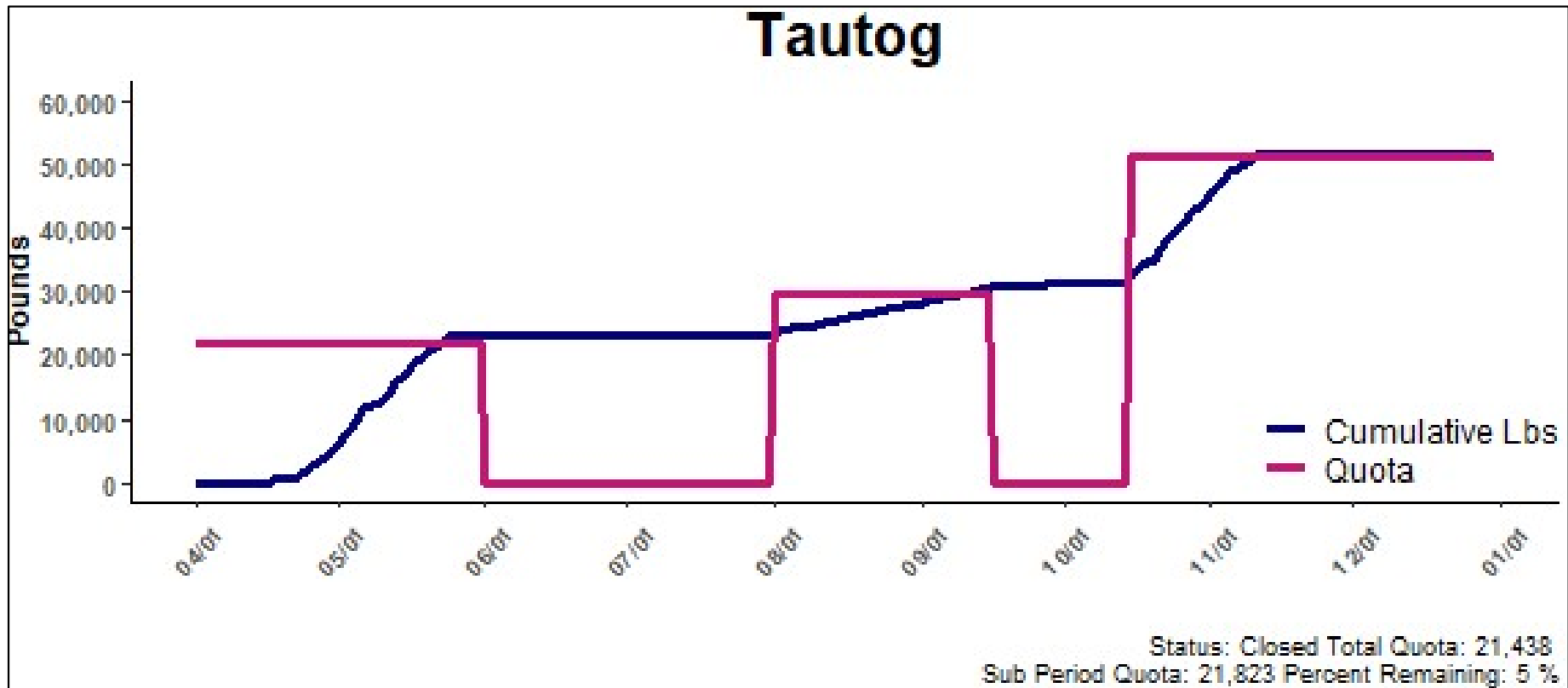
| Min. size | Season            | Poss. limit* |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| 16" **    | Jan. 1 – March 31 | Closed       |
|           | April 1 – May 31  | 3 fish/day   |
|           | June 1 – July 31  | Closed       |
|           | Aug. 1 – Oct. 14  | 3 fish/day   |
|           | Oct. 15 – Dec. 31 | 5 fish/day   |

\*10 fish/vessel maximum

\*\* Only 1 fish may be above 21"

**2023 Management:** The Division is not proposing changes to recreational Tautog management for 2023.

# Tautog - 2022 RI Commercial Fishery Performance



- In 2022 there was a small overage of 571lbs.
- There is no quota change for 2023. 2023 is anticipated to be 51,348lbs – 571lbs (overage from 2022).

# Tautog - 2023 Commercial Management



## Current management:

| Min. size | Season                  | Allocation | Poss. limit     |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 16"       | January 1 – March 30    |            | Closed          |
|           | April 1 – May 31        | 42.5%      | 10 fish/vsl/day |
|           | June 1 – July 31        |            | Closed          |
|           | August 1 – September 15 | 15%        | 10 fish/vsl/day |
|           | September 16 – Oct. 14  |            | Closed          |
|           | Oct. 15 – Dec. 31       | 42.5%      | 10 fish/vsl/day |

**2023 Management:** The Division is not proposing changes to commercial Tautog management for 2023.

# Tautog - 2023 Commercial Management



## Proposal 1 (Industry):

| Min. size                          | Season                  | Allocation | Poss. limit     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| <del>16"</del><br><u>16" – 21"</u> | January 1 – March 30    |            | Closed          |
|                                    | April 1 – May 31        | 42.5%      | 10 fish/vsl/day |
|                                    | June 1 – July 31        |            | Closed          |
|                                    | August 1 – September 15 | 15%        | 10 fish/vsl/day |
|                                    | September 16 – Oct. 14  |            | Closed          |
|                                    | Oct. 15 – Dec. 31       | 42.5%      | 10 fish/vsl/day |

- “Compatible regulations between adjacent states are desirable to prevent the shift of fishing effort to areas with more liberal regulations, or to an area with an open season.”
- Any management change would need interest from MA with a working group to be formed to discuss possible shifts in effort.



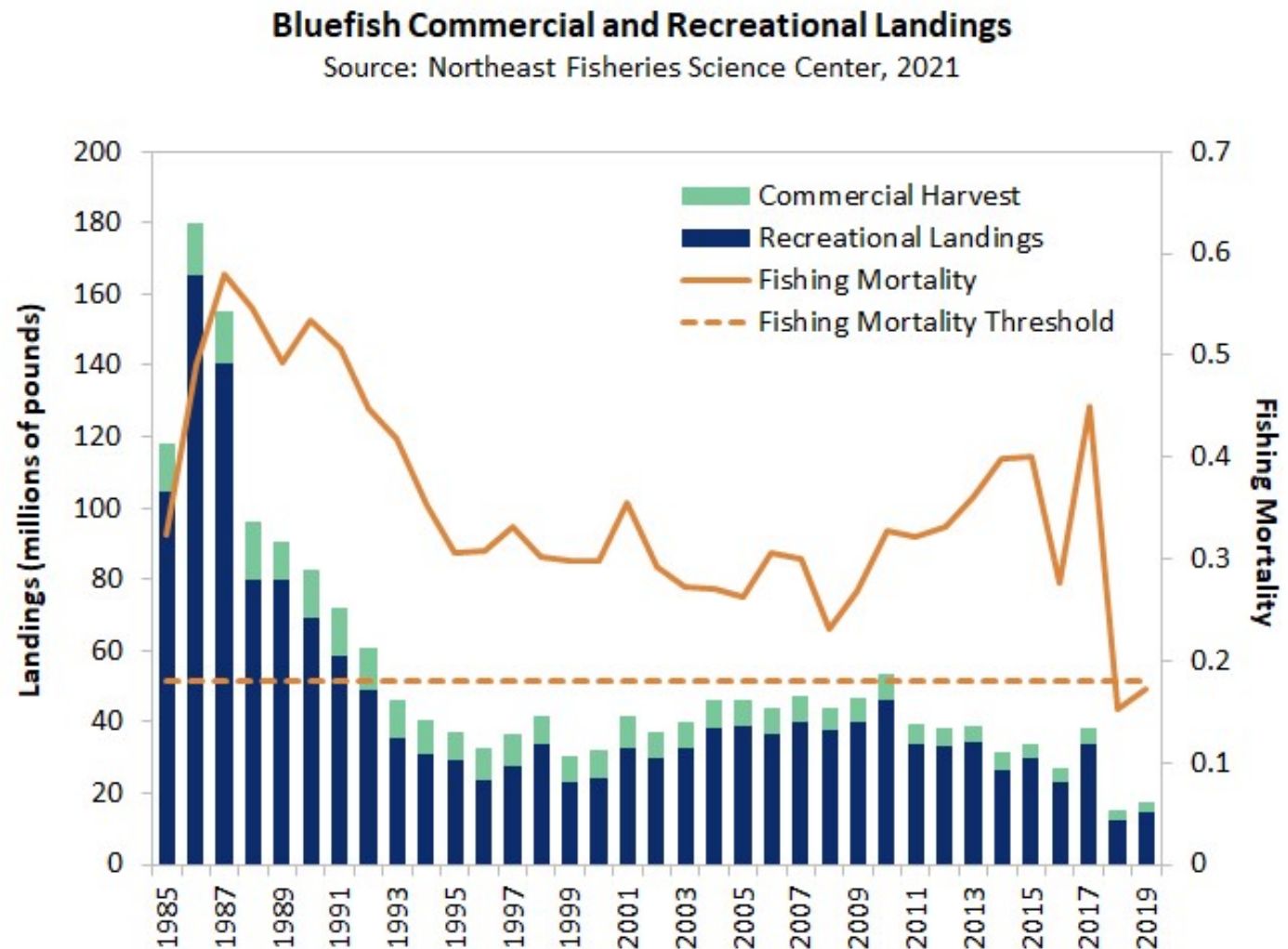
## Bluefish

- Summary of stock status
- 2022 recreational fishery performance
- 2023 recreational management
- 2022 commercial fishery performance
- 2023 commercial management

# Bluefish - Stock Status



- 2021 update assessment indicates the stock is overfished, however overfishing is not occurring in 2019 relative to the updated BRPs.
- $F$  was estimated to be 0.172 in 2019; below the threshold  $F$  reference point = 0.181.
- Although the stock is not experiencing overfishing in 2019, overfishing has occurred in all years prior to 2018.





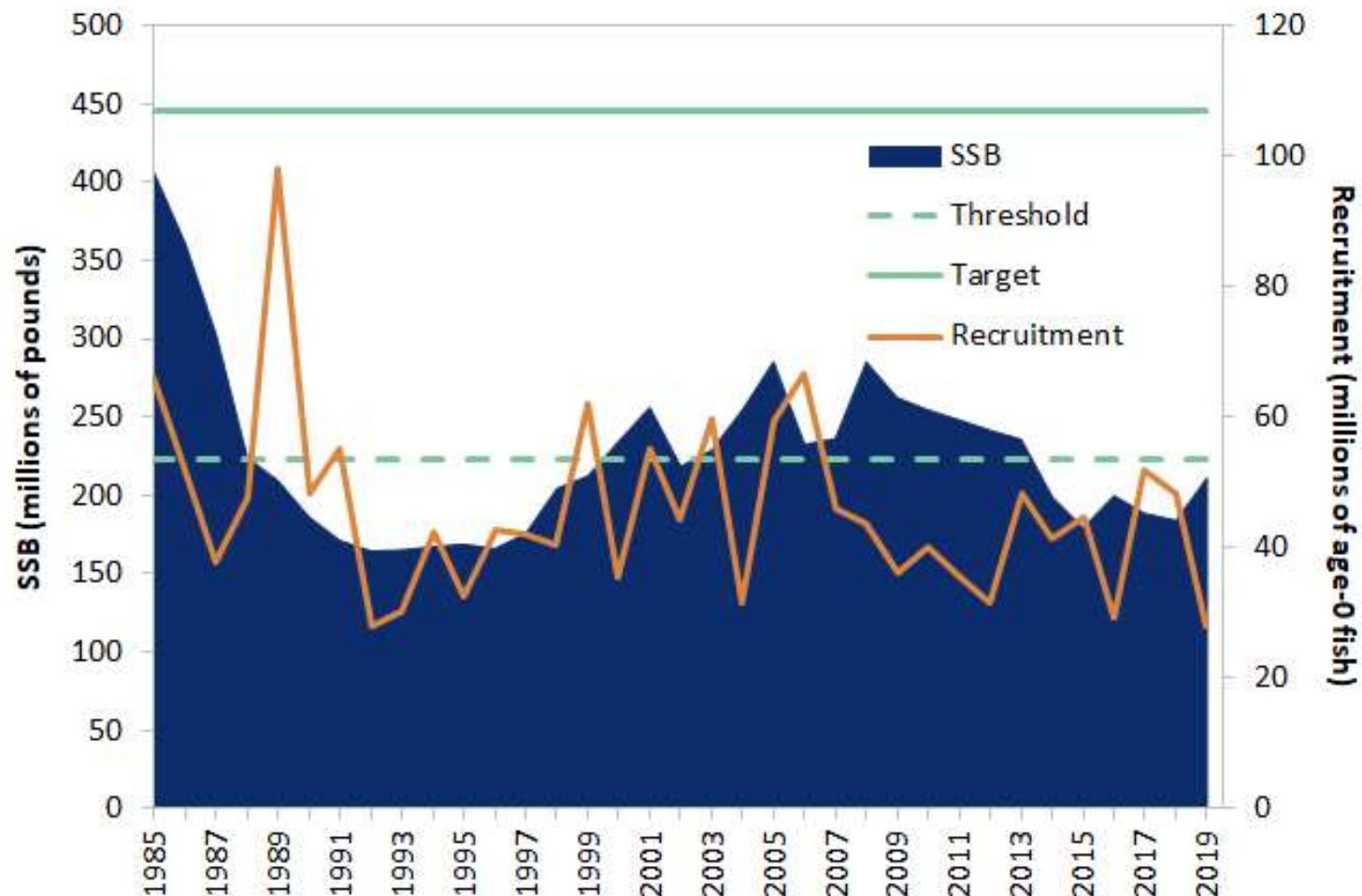
# Bluefish - Stock Status



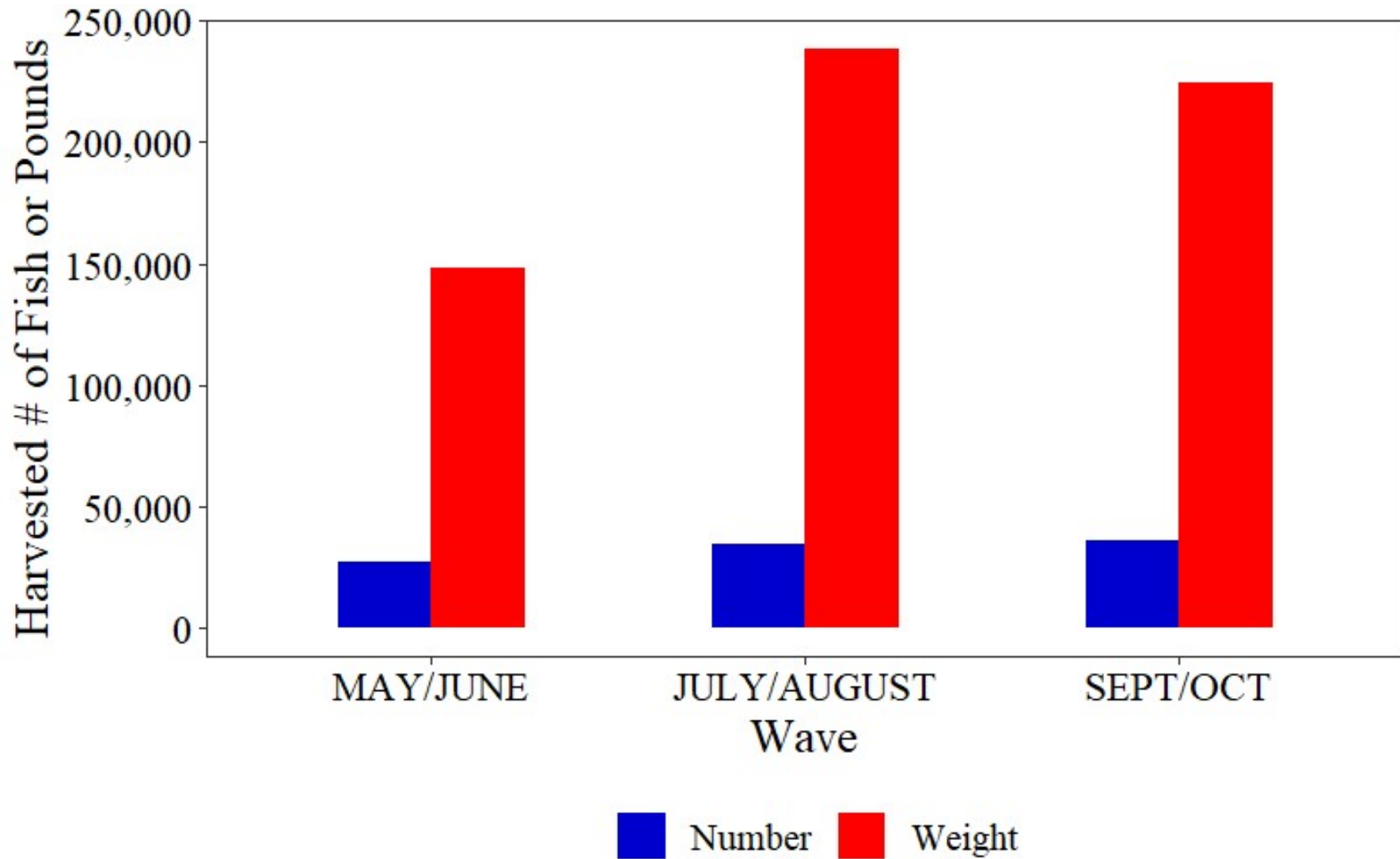
- SSB was estimated to be 211 m lbs in 2019, below the SSB threshold of 222 m lbs.

## Bluefish Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment

Source: Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 2021

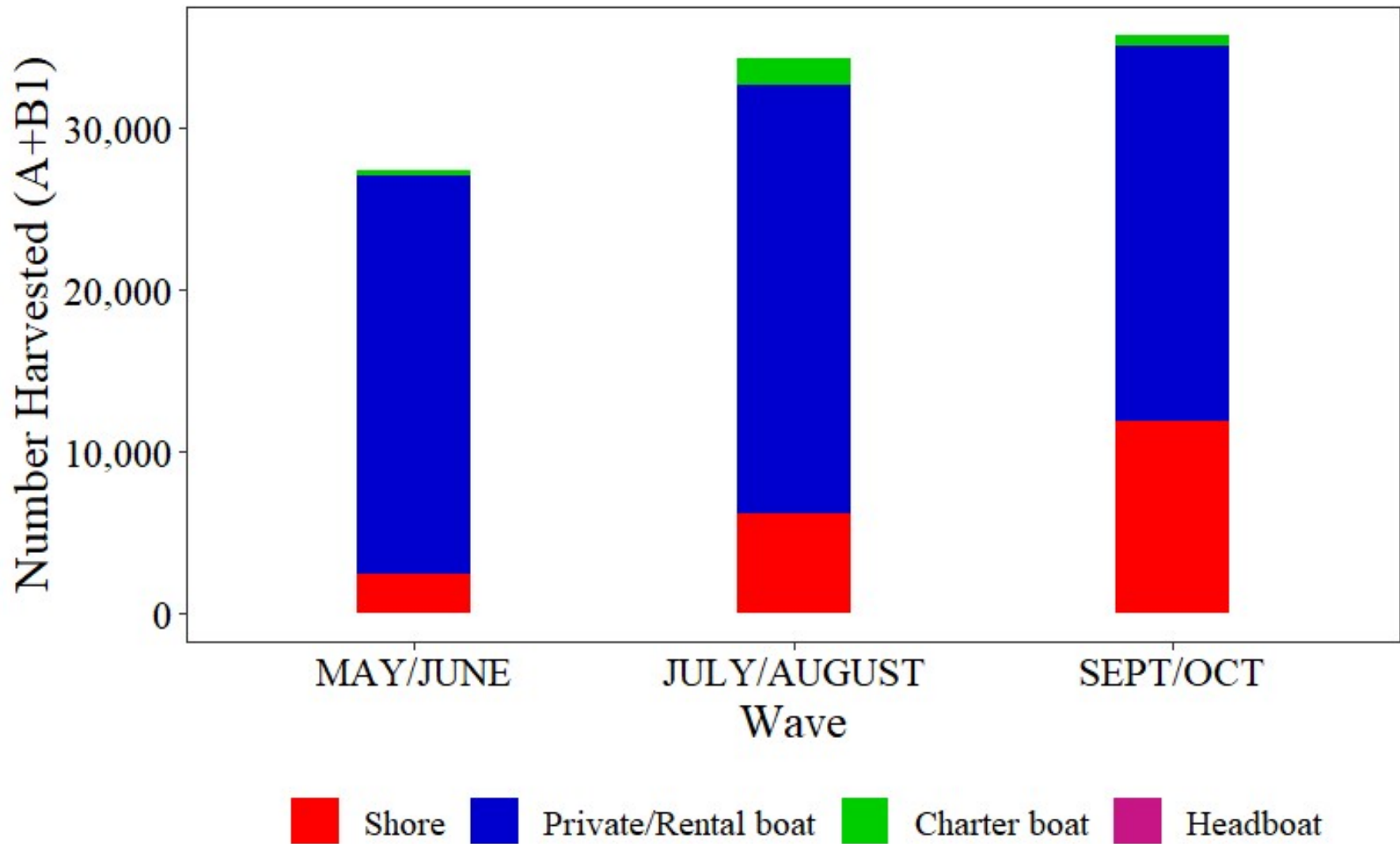


# Bluefish - 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP, 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5

# Bluefish - 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP, 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5

# Bluefish - 2023 Recreational Management



- Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) of 14.11 million lbs set for 2023, a 1.6% increase from the 2022 RHL.

## Current management:

| Mode          | Min. size | Season           | Poss. limit |
|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| Private/Shore | N/A       | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | 3 fish/day  |
| For-hire      |           |                  | 5 fish/day  |

**2023 Management:** The Division is not proposing changes to recreational Bluefish management for 2023.

# Bluefish - 2022 Commercial Fishery Performance



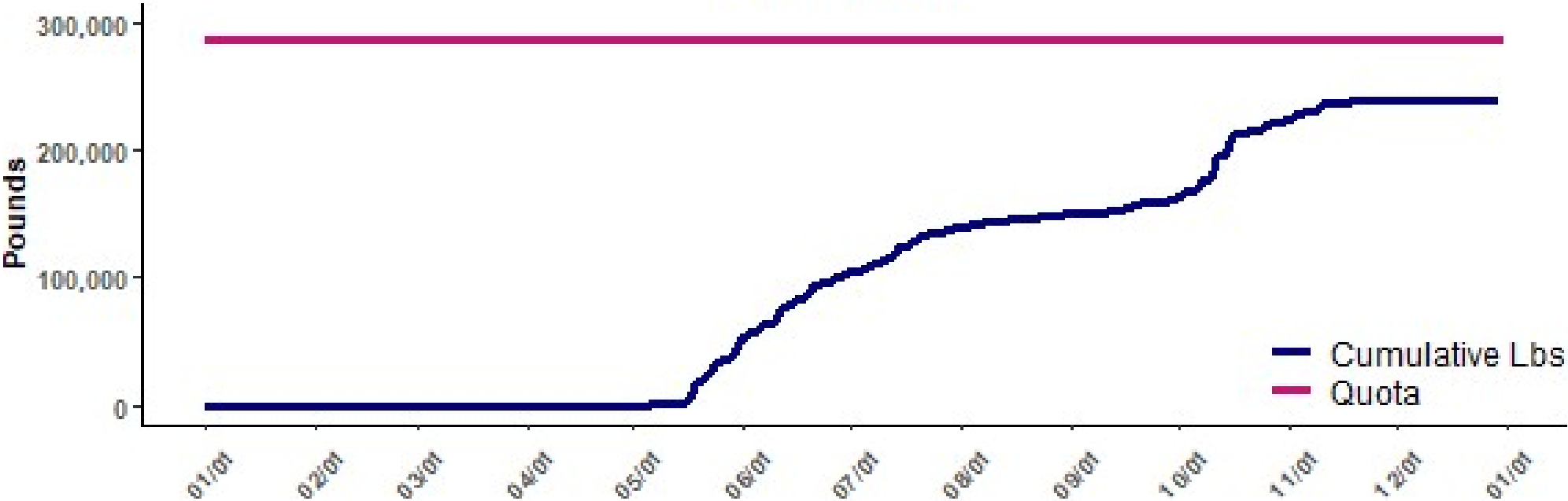
| Sub-period        | 2022 Initial Projected Poundage | 2022 Pounds Landed | Possession Limit      |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Jan. 1 – April 30 | 7,649                           | 353                | 1,000 lbs/2 wks (1/1) |
| May 1 – Nov. 15   | 232,010                         | 237,213            | 6,000 lbs/wk (5/1)    |
| Nov. 16 – Dec. 31 | 15,297                          | 2,938              | 6,000 lbs/wk (11/16)  |
| Total             | 254,956                         | 240,504            |                       |

- 127,500 pounds transferred from other states for final allocation of **382,456** lbs.

# Bluefish - 2022 Commercial Fishery Performance cont'd.



## Bluefish



# Bluefish - Proposed 2023 Commercial Management Options



- **2023 Commercial Quota:** 326,165 lbs. (~ 28% increase).
  - The Division will continue to pursue commercial quota transfers in 2023 to avoid an early closure.

**2023 Management:** The Division is not proposing changes to commercial Bluefish management for 2023.



## Striped Bass

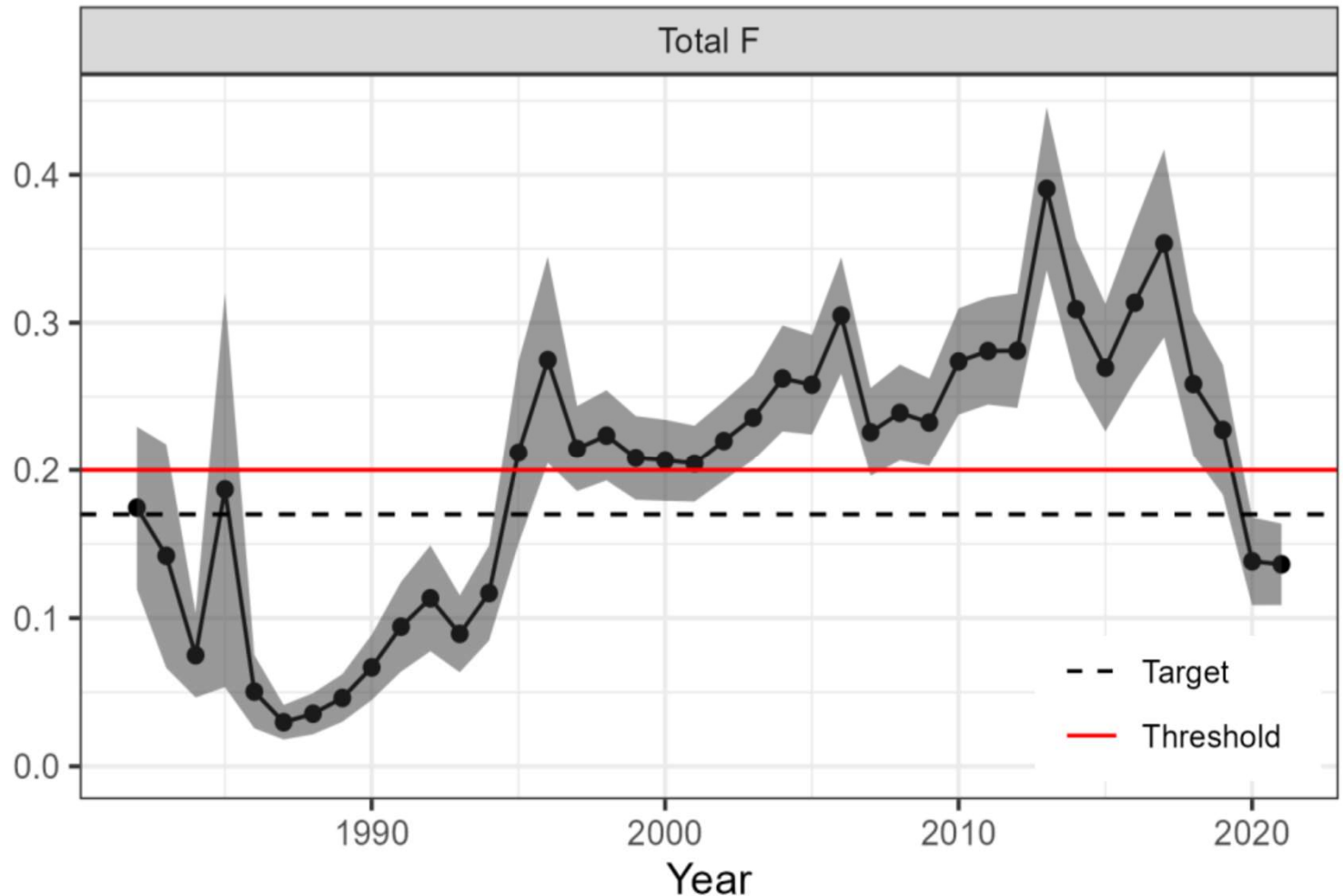
- Summary of stock status
- 2022 recreational fishery performance
- 2023 recreational management
- 2022 commercial fishery performance
- 2023 commercial management



# Striped Bass - Stock Status



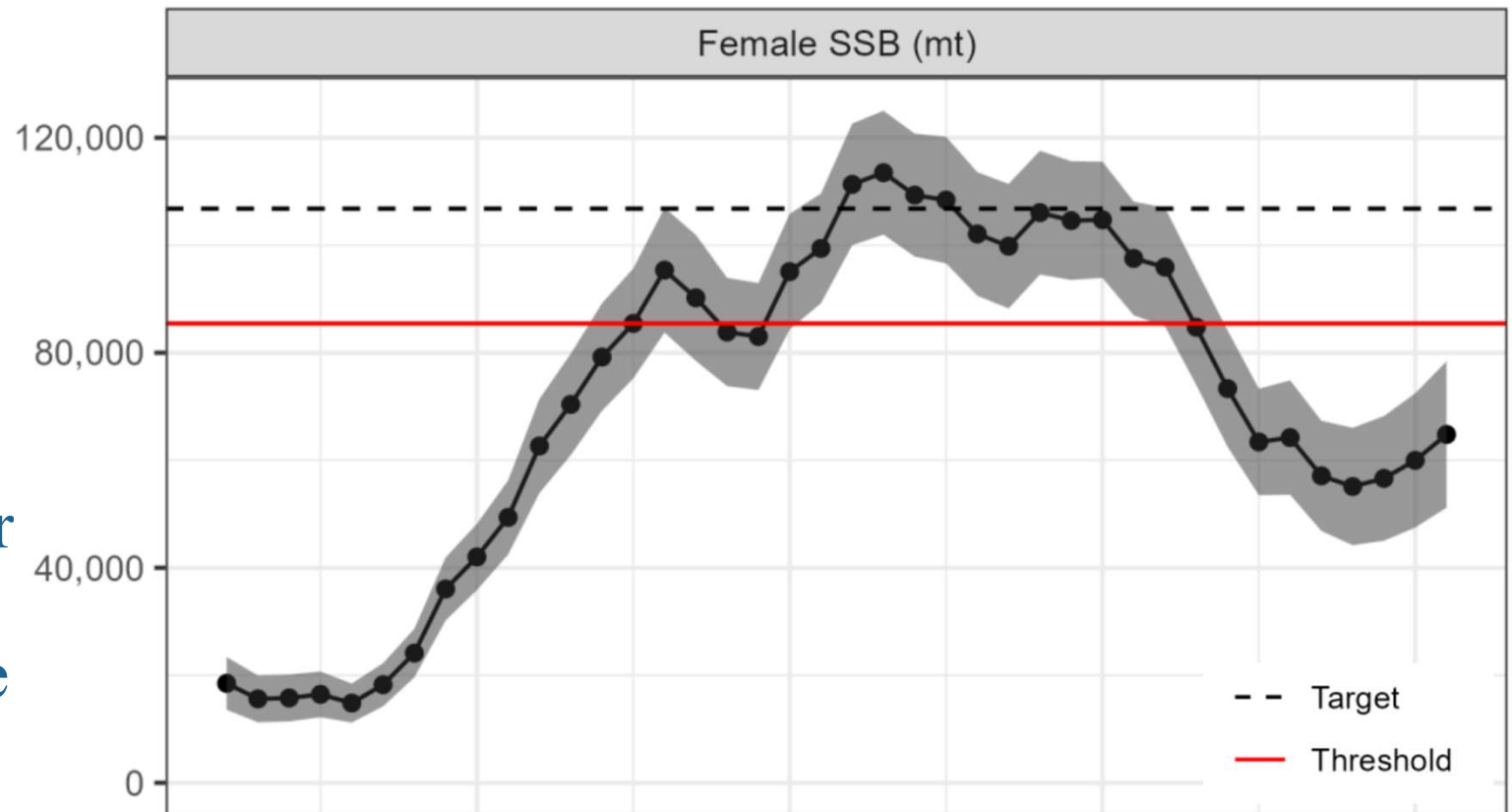
- 2022 Stock Assessment update indicates the striped bass stock is overfished and overfishing is not occurring relative to BRPs.
- Fishing mortality (F) was estimated to be 0.14 in 2021; below both the F threshold = 0.20 and the F target = 0.17.



# Striped Bass – Stock Status



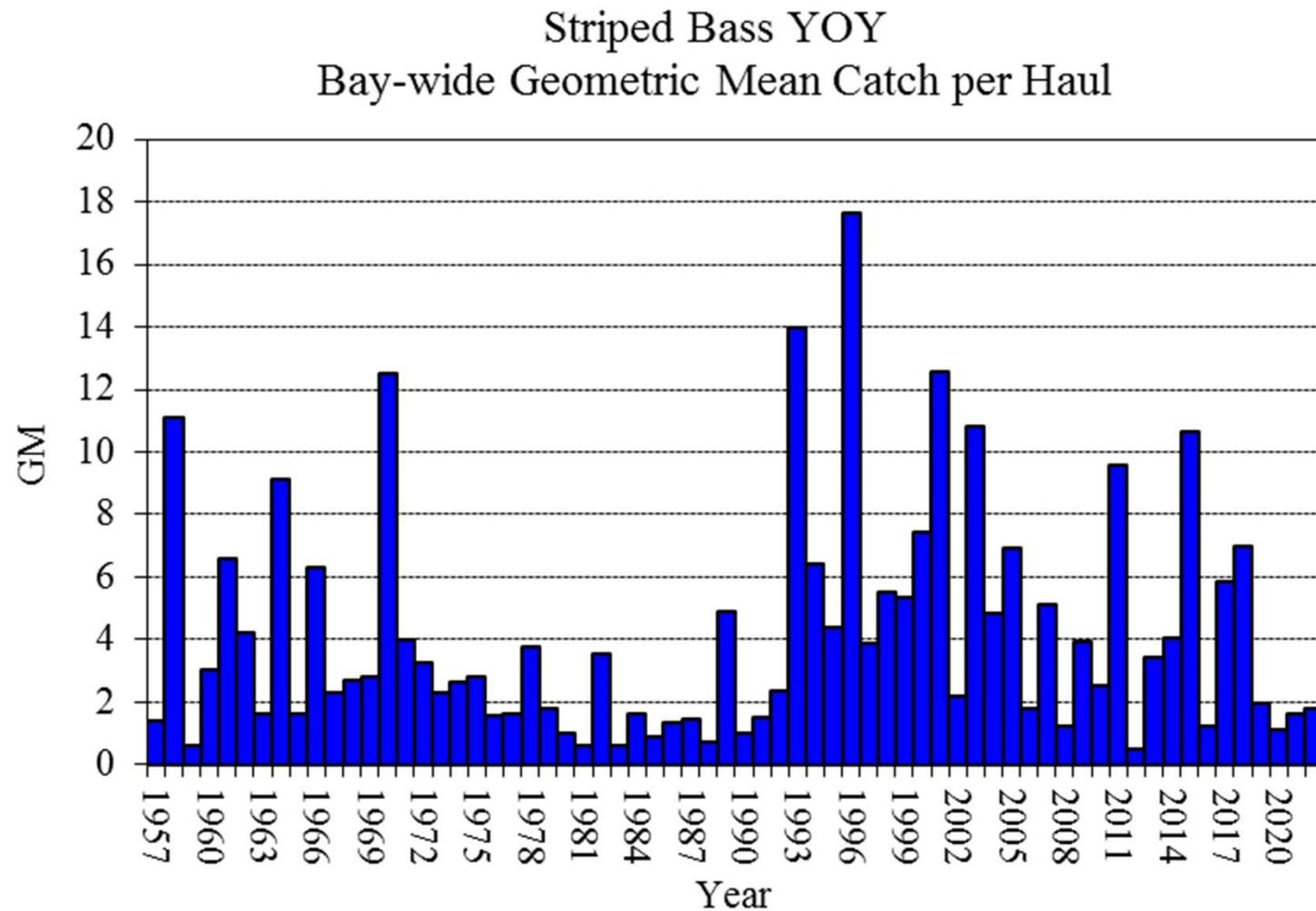
- SSB was estimated to be 143 m lbs in 2021, below both the threshold and target (188 m lbs and 235 m lbs respectively).
- Strong recruitment has been observed in 2012, 2015, and 2016.
- Projections indicate under current F, a 78.6% chance the stock will be rebuilt by 2029.



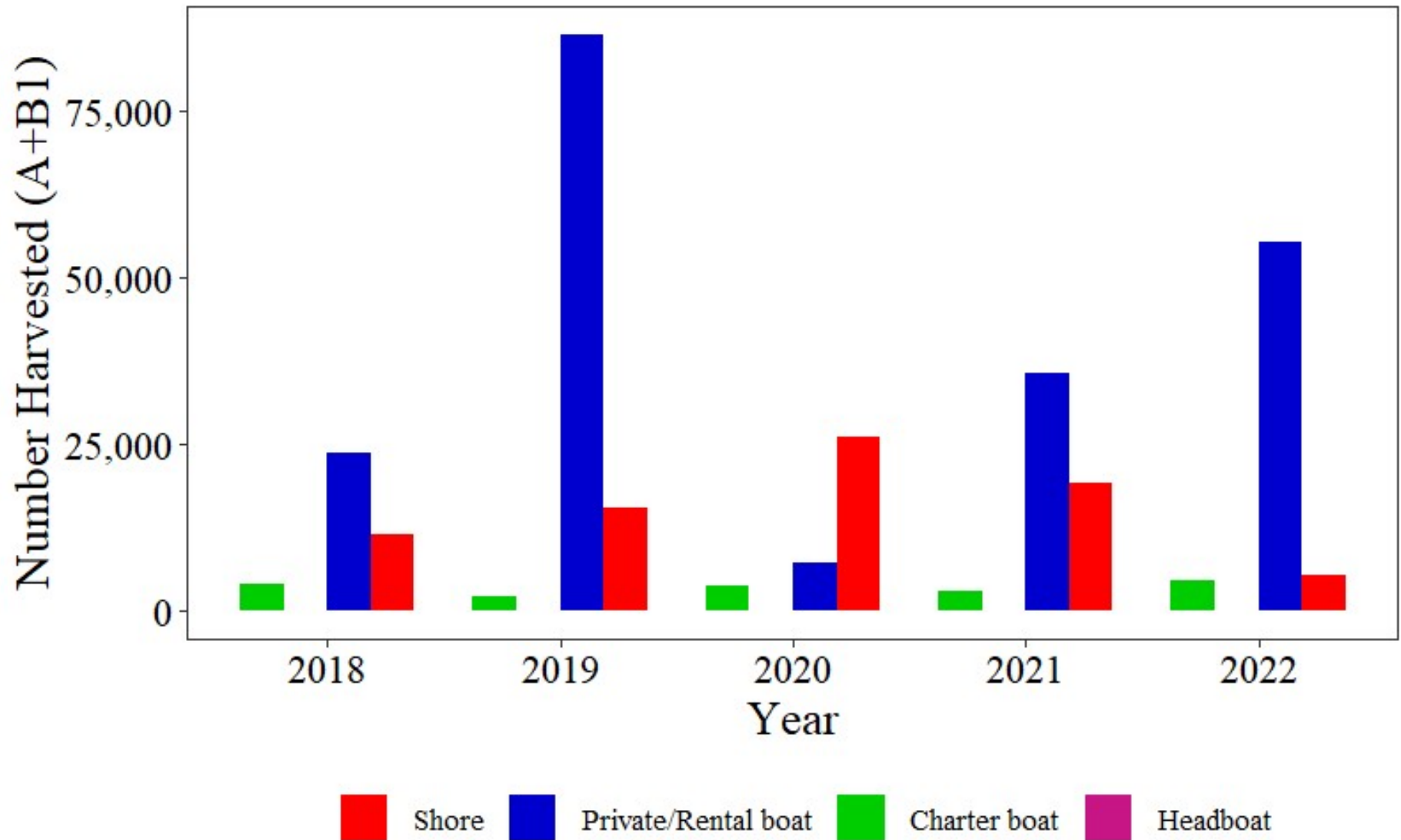
# Striped Bass – Stock Status



- In 2022 the MD YOY survey indicated a slightly higher abundance relative to 2021.

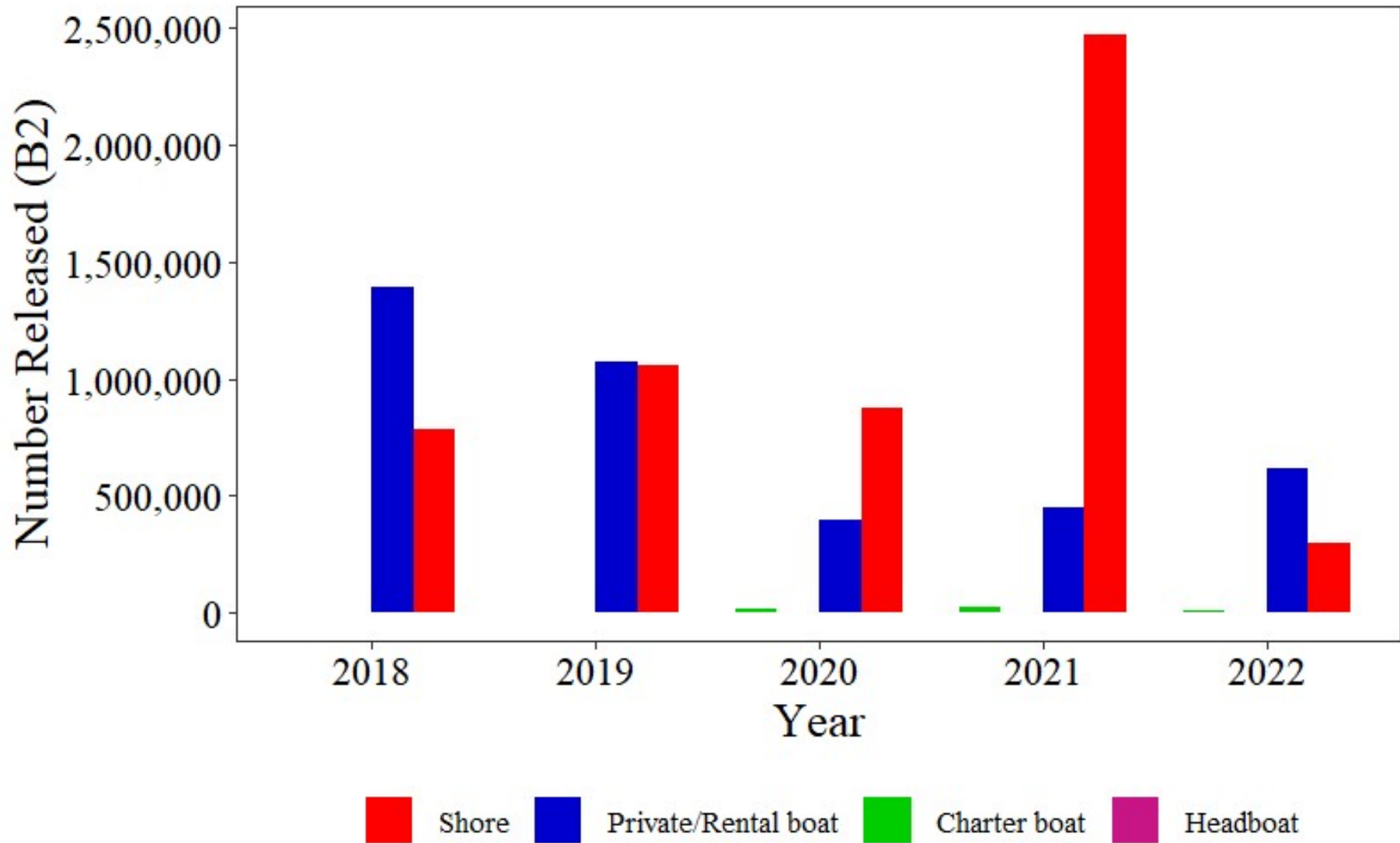


# Striped Bass – 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP, 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5

# Striped Bass – 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP, 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5

# ASMFC Striped Bass Management



- Amendment 7 (approved in May 2022)
  - Management triggers
    - Updated recruitment trigger more sensitive to low recruitment
    - 2-year timeframe to establish rebuilding plan when SSB trigger tripped
  - Recreational discard mortality
    - Recreational gaff prohibition
  - Conservation equivalency (CE)
    - No CE when overfished
    - Restrictions on use of MRIP data
    - Uncertainty buffers
- Draft Addendum I to Amendment 7
  - Commercial quota transfers
  - Final action expected today!

# Striped Bass – 2023 Recreational Management



## Current management:

| Min. size | Max. size | Season           | Poss. limit       |
|-----------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 28"       | < 35"     | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 | 1 fish/person/day |

## Additional Provisions:

- Remove right pectoral fin at time of harvest for striped bass  $\geq 34$ "
- Circle hooks required when fishing recreationally with bait
- Striped bass caught on any unapproved method of take must be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury
- Gaff prohibition when fishing recreationally (1/1/23)

**2023 Management:** The Division is not proposing changes to recreational Striped Bass management for 2023.

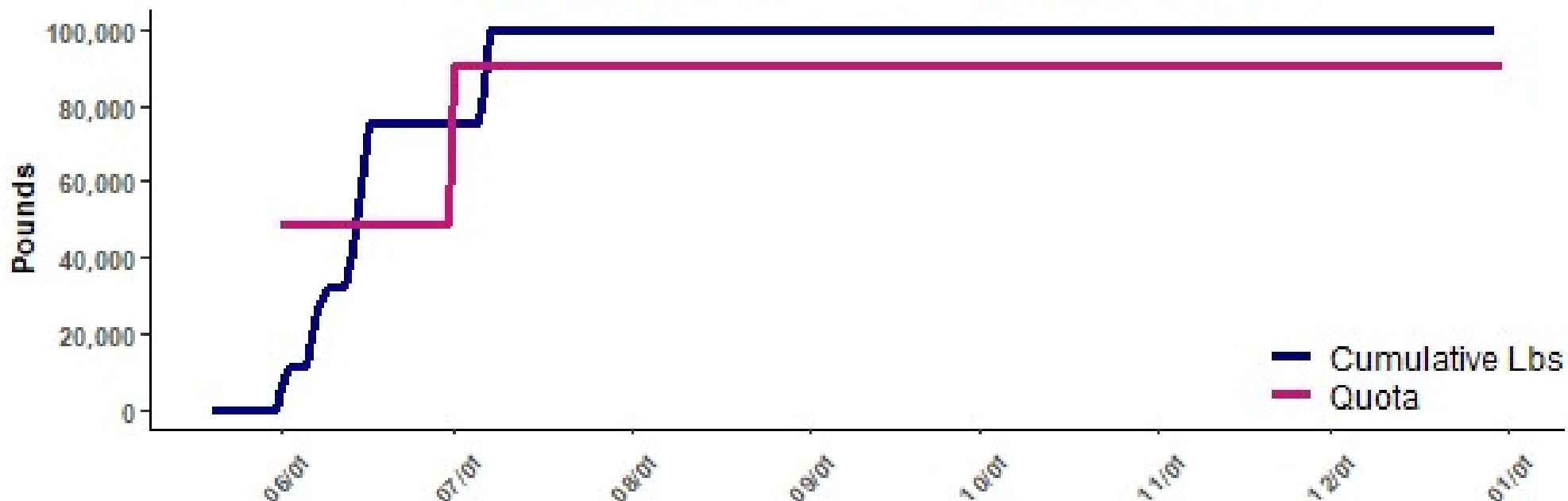
# Striped Bass - 2022 Commercial GC Fishery Performance



- **2022 Quota:** 90,822 lbs

| Season     | Fishing Days Open | Initial Allocation | Adjusted Allocation | Landings   | Underage/Overage |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|------------------|
| 6/1 – 6/19 | 10                | 48,825 lbs         | N/A                 | 75,726 lbs | -26,901 lbs      |
| 7/6 – 7/10 | 2                 | 41,997 lbs         | 15,096 lbs          | 24,247 lbs | -9,151 lbs       |

## Striped Bass General Category





# Striped Bass - 2022 Commercial GC Fishery Performance



| EFFORT DATA            | 2021  | 2022   |
|------------------------|-------|--------|
| License Count          | 232   | 253    |
| New Licenses           |       | 30     |
| Total Lbs New Licenses |       | 1305   |
| Max License/day        | 115   | 228    |
| Avg Licenses/day       | 35    | 130    |
| Max Lbs/day            | 6,458 | 15,036 |

| DEALER DATA                   | # of Dealers |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Used STB tags                 | 18           |
| Reports 100% on time          | 10           |
| ≥ 50% total lbs reported late | 7            |
| Total lbs late                | 44,022       |

- Reports due every Monday and Thursday, no more than 5 days from date of purchase

# Striped Bass - 2022 Commercial FFT Fishery Performance



- **2022 Quota:** 58,067 lbs

| Season    | Days Open | Initial Allocation | Landings |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| 4/1 – 6/2 | 63        | 58,067 lbs         | C        |

- Possession limit reduced from UNLIMITED to 500 lbs/licensee/day on 5/21/22
- Quota fully harvested with overage

# Striped Bass – 2023 Commercial GC Management



- **RI 2023 Commercial GC Quota:** 90,822 – 9,151 overage = 81,671 lbs

## **Current management:**

| Min. size | Season      | Allocation | Poss. limit       | Closed Days    |
|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 34"       | 6/1 – 7/5   | 50%        | 5 fish/person/day | Fri, Sat & Sun |
|           | 7/6 – 12/31 | 50%        | 5 fish/person/day | Fri, Sat & Sun |

## **Proposal 1 (Division):**

| Min. size | Season      | Allocation | Poss. limit       | Closed Days                  |
|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 34"       | 6/1 – 7/5   | 50%        | 5 fish/person/day | <u>Thurs,</u> Fri, Sat & Sun |
|           | 7/6 – 12/31 | 50%        | 5 fish/person/day | <u>Thurs,</u> Fri, Sat & Sun |

- **Daily Reporting Requirement to SAFIS for all Dealers who receive comm. Striped Bass tags**

# Striped Bass – 2023 Commercial GC Management



## Proposal 2 (Industry):

| Min. size | Season                            | Allocation                | Poss. limit                  | Closed Days                        |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 34"       | 6/1 – <del>7/5</del> <u>12/31</u> | <del>50</del> <u>100%</u> | 5 fish/person/day            | <u>Tues, Thurs,</u> Fri, Sat & Sun |
|           | <del>7/6</del> – <del>12/31</del> | <del>50%</del>            | <del>5 fish/person/day</del> | <del>Fri, Sat &amp; Sun</del>      |

## Proposal 3 (Industry):

| Min. size | Season                            | Allocation | Poss. limit       | Closed Days                |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 34"       | 6/1 – <del>7/5</del> <u>7/3</u>   | 50%        | 5 fish/person/day | <u>Wed,</u> Fri, Sat & Sun |
|           | <del>7/6</del> <u>7/4</u> – 12/31 | 50%        | 5 fish/person/day | <u>Wed,</u> Fri, Sat & Sun |

# Striped Bass – 2023 Commercial FFT Management



- **RI 2023 Commercial Quota:** 58,067 lbs - 2022 overage

## **Current management:**

| Min. size | Season            | Poss. limit                                                     |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26"       | April 1 - Dec. 31 | Unlimited;<br>@ 70% trigger, reduces to 500<br>lbs/licensee/day |

**2023 Management:** The Division is not proposing changes to commercial FFT Striped Bass management for 2023.

# Striped Bass – 2023 Commercial Tagging Update



## 2023 Tagging program changes:

- Each dealer who received tags in 2022 will receive a letter detailing:
  - 2022 tag performance
  - 2022 SAFIS reporting
  - New 2023 daily tag limits
- Dealers will no longer receive all tags prior to start of season and will be issued small allotments, e.g., 200 tags at a time
- Dealers will only be issued additional tags when they have submitted reports on previously issued tags and are up to date on SAFIS reports



# Black Sea Bass

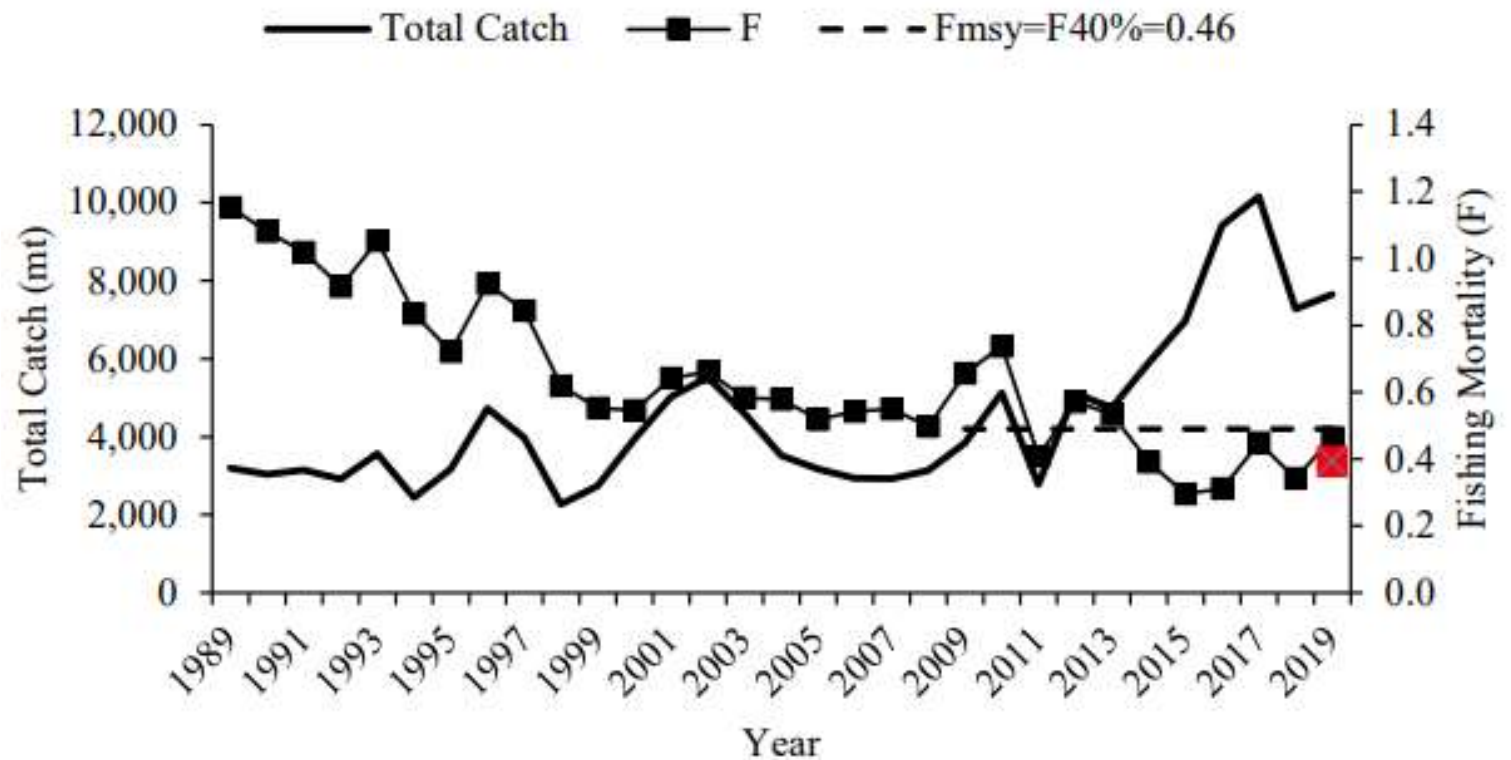


- Summary of Stock Status
- 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance
- 2023 Recreational Management

# Black Sea Bass - Stock Status



- Management Track Stock Assessment in 2021; biological reference points (BRPs) updated.
- Black sea bass is not overfished; overfishing is not occurring relative to BRPs.
- Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.39 in 2019, below the threshold  $F$  reference point = 0.46.

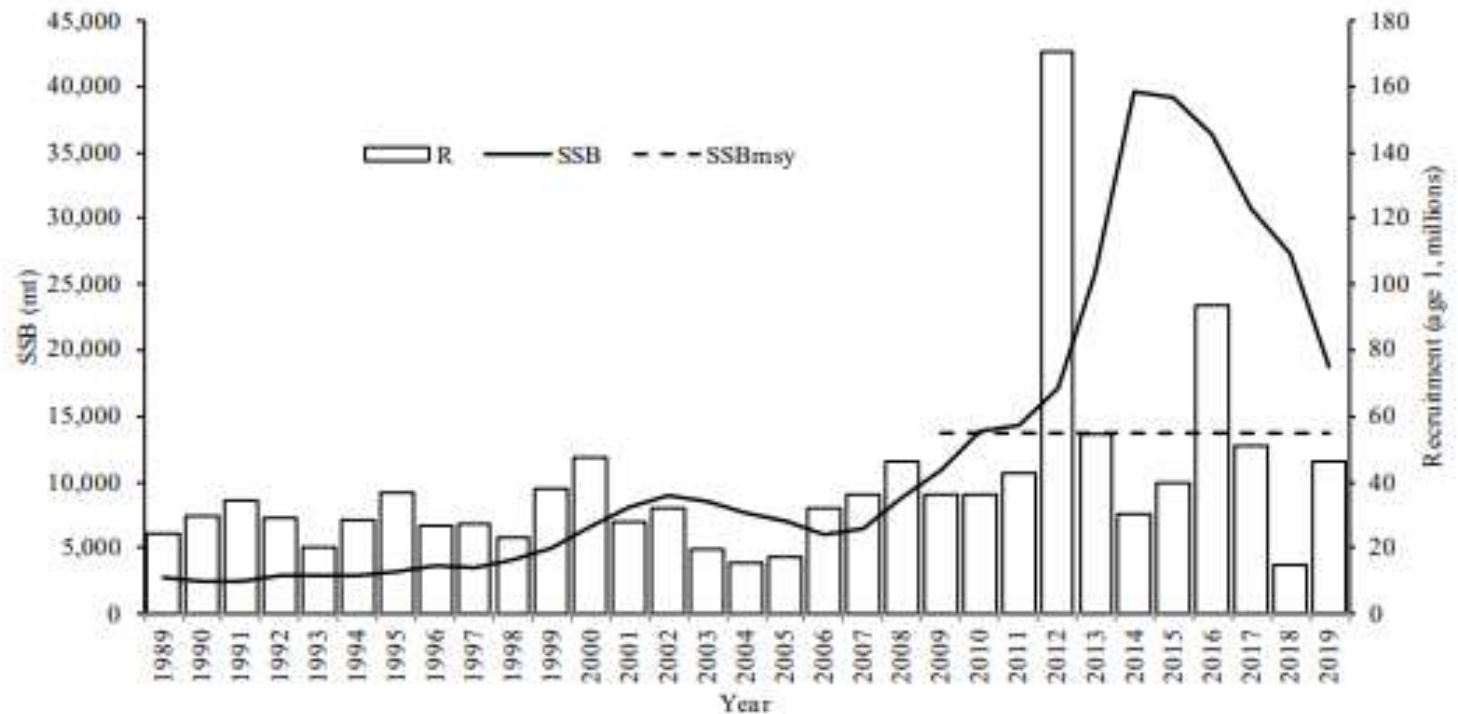




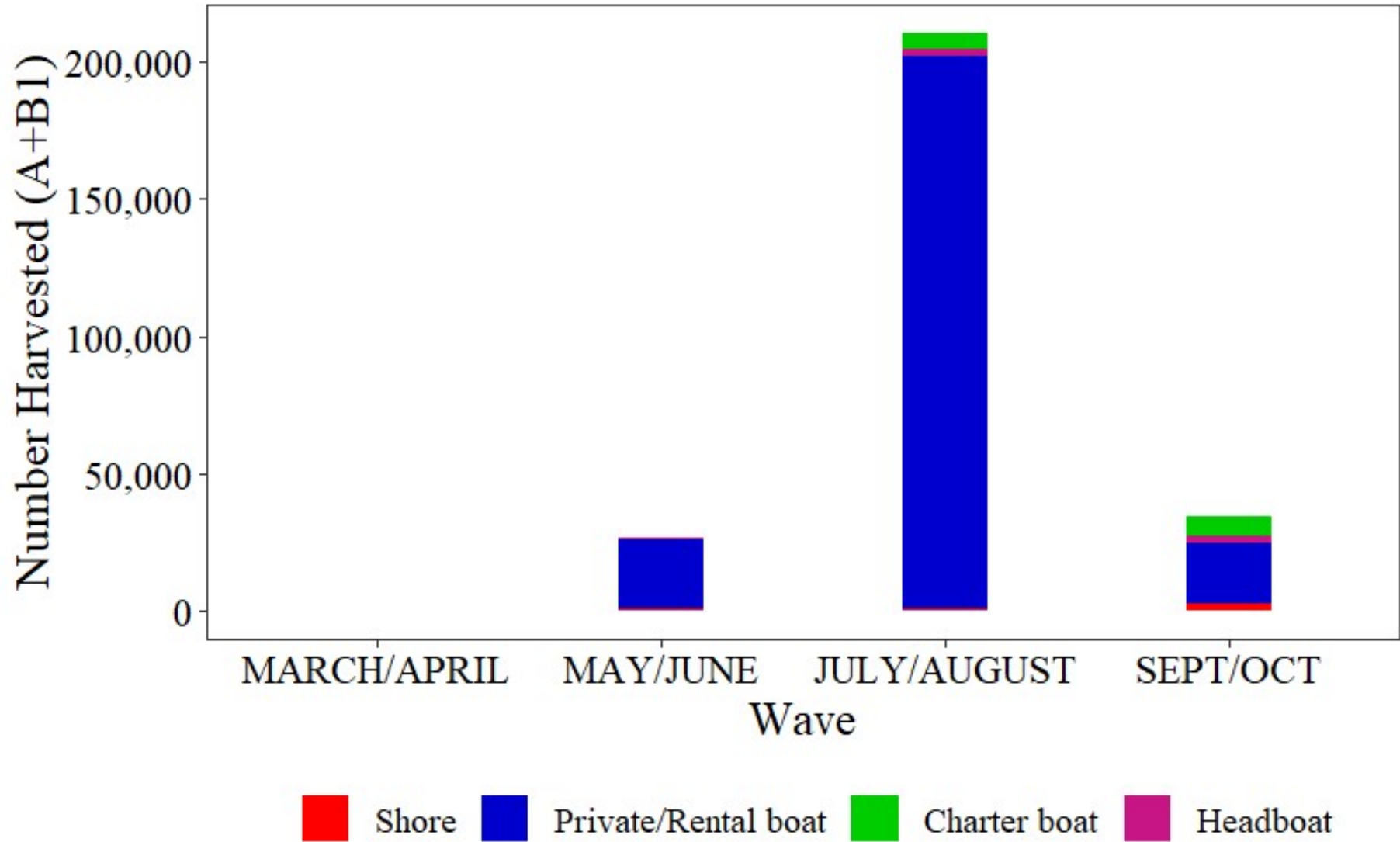
# Black Sea Bass - Stock Status cont'd.



- Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) estimated to be 65.6 m lbs (29,769 mt) in 2019, 2.1X the SSB reference point = 31.8 m lbs (14,441 mt).
- 2018 year class estimated ~79.4 million fish, above average.
- Recreational harvest to take 10% reduction



# Black Sea Bass – 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP; 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5

# Black Sea Bass - 2023 Recreational Management



- MAFMC requiring 10% coastwide reduction in 2023

## Current management:

| Mode              | Min. size | Season            | Poss. limit |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| Gen. Rec          | 16"       | Jan. 1 – May 21   | Closed      |
|                   |           | May 22 – Aug. 31  | 2 fish/day  |
|                   |           | Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 | 3 fish/day  |
| Party/<br>Charter | 16"       | Jan. 1 – June 17  | Closed      |
|                   |           | June 18 – Aug. 31 | 2 fish/day  |
|                   |           | Sept. 1 – Dec 31  | 6 fish/day  |

**2023 Management:** The Division is accepting proposals for regulatory changes that would achieve a 10% reduction.

# Black Sea Bass - 2023 Rec Management



## Industry Proposal 1:

| Mode          | Min. size                   | Season            | Poss. limit | Est. Reduction |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Gen. Rec      | <del>16"</del> <u>16.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – May 21   | Closed      | 11.75%         |
|               |                             | May 22 – Aug. 31  | 2 fish/day  |                |
|               |                             | Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 | 3 fish/day  |                |
| Party/Charter | <del>16"</del> <u>16.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – June 17  | Closed      |                |
|               |                             | June 18 – Aug. 31 | 2 fish/day  |                |
|               |                             | Sept. 1 – Dec 31  | 6 fish/day  |                |

## Industry Proposal 2:

| Mode          | Min. size                   | Season            | Poss. limit | Est. Reduction |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Gen. Rec      | <del>16"</del> <u>16.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – May 21   | Closed      | 11.36%         |
|               |                             | May 22 – Aug. 31  | 2 fish/day  |                |
|               |                             | Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 | 3 fish/day  |                |
| Party/Charter | 16"                         | Jan. 1 – June 17  | Closed      |                |
|               |                             | June 18 – Aug. 31 | 2 fish/day  |                |
|               |                             | Sept. 1 – Dec 31  | 6 fish/day  |                |

# Black Sea Bass - 2023 Rec Management



## Industry Proposal 3:

| Mode          | Min. size                   | Season                                 | Poss. limit | Reduction |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Gen. Rec      | <del>16"</del> <u>16.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – May 21                        | Closed      | N/A       |
|               |                             | May 22 – Aug. 31                       | 2 fish/day  |           |
|               |                             | Sept. 1 – Dec. 31                      | 3 fish/day  |           |
| Party/Charter | <del>16"</del> <u>16.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – June <del>17</del> <u>13</u>  | CLOSED      | ~8%       |
|               |                             | June <del>18</del> <u>14</u> – Aug. 31 | 2 fish/day  |           |
|               |                             | Sept. 1 – Dec 31                       | 6 fish/day  |           |

## Industry Proposal 4:

| Mode          | Min. size                   | Season                                      | Poss. limit | Est. Reduction |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Gen. Rec      | <del>16"</del> <u>16.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – May 21                             | Closed      | ~10.3%         |
|               |                             | May 22 – Aug. <del>31</del> <u>24</u>       | 2 fish/day  |                |
|               |                             | <del>Sept. 1</del> <u>Aug. 25</u> – Dec. 31 | 3 fish/day  |                |
| Party/Charter | <del>16"</del> <u>16.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – June 17                            | Closed      | N/A            |
|               |                             | June 18 – Aug. 31                           | 2 fish/day  |                |
|               |                             | Sept. 1 – Dec 31                            | 6 fish/day  |                |



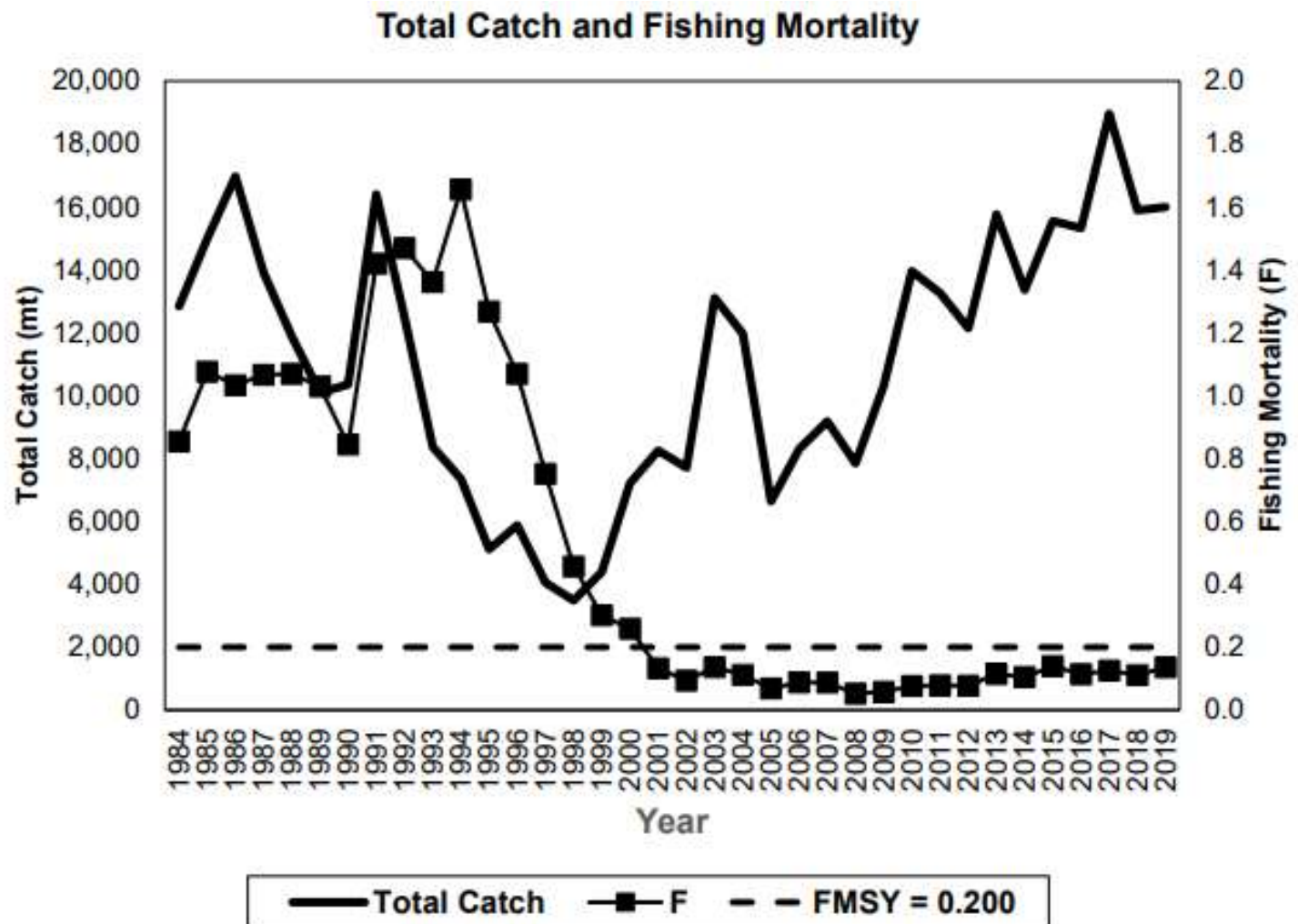
## Scup

- Summary of Stock Status
- 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance
- 2023 Recreational Management

# Scup - Stock Status



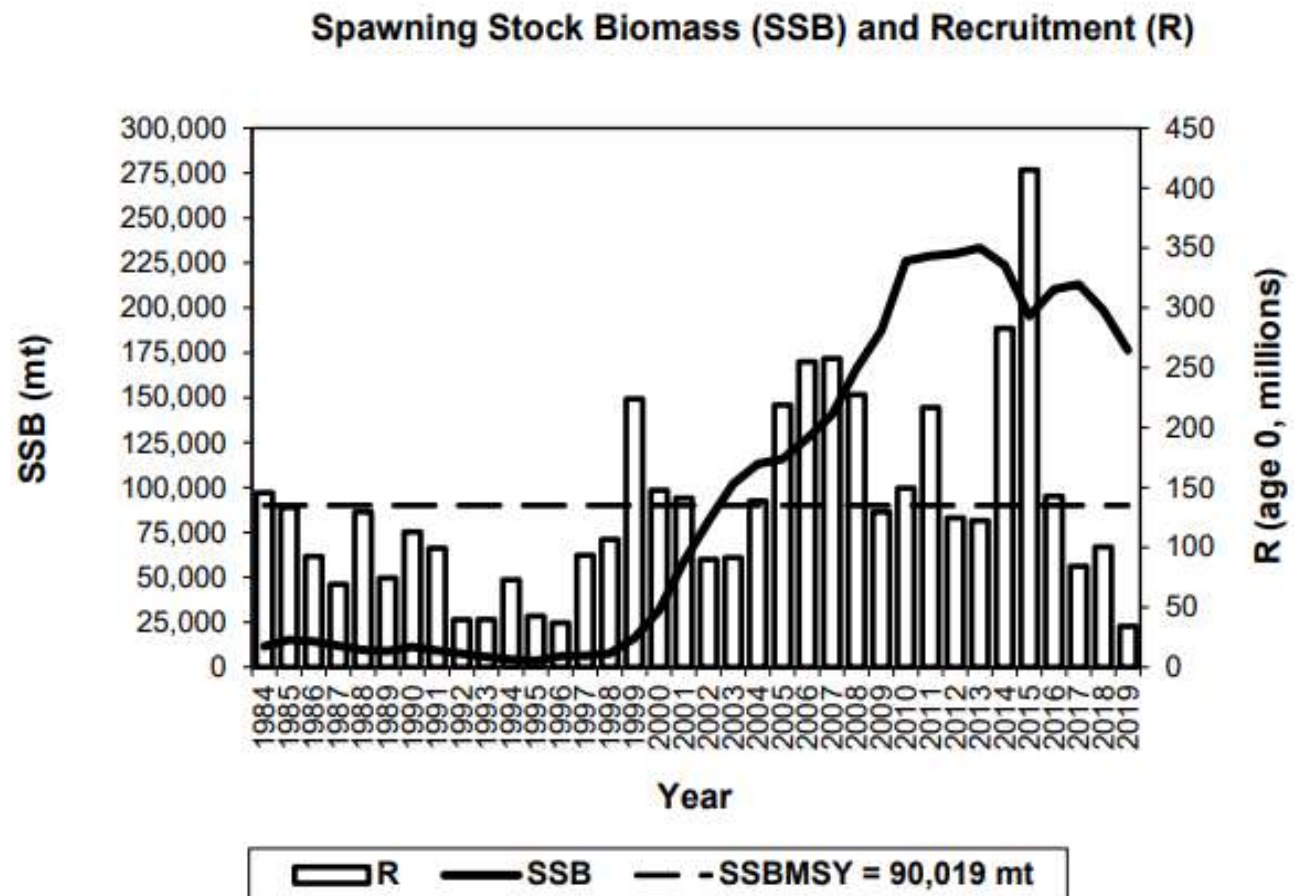
- Management Track Stock Assessment completed in 2021; biological reference points (BRPs) updated.
- Scup is not overfished; overfishing is not occurring relative to BRPs.
- Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.136 in 2018, below the threshold F reference point = 0.20.



# Scup - Stock Status cont'd.

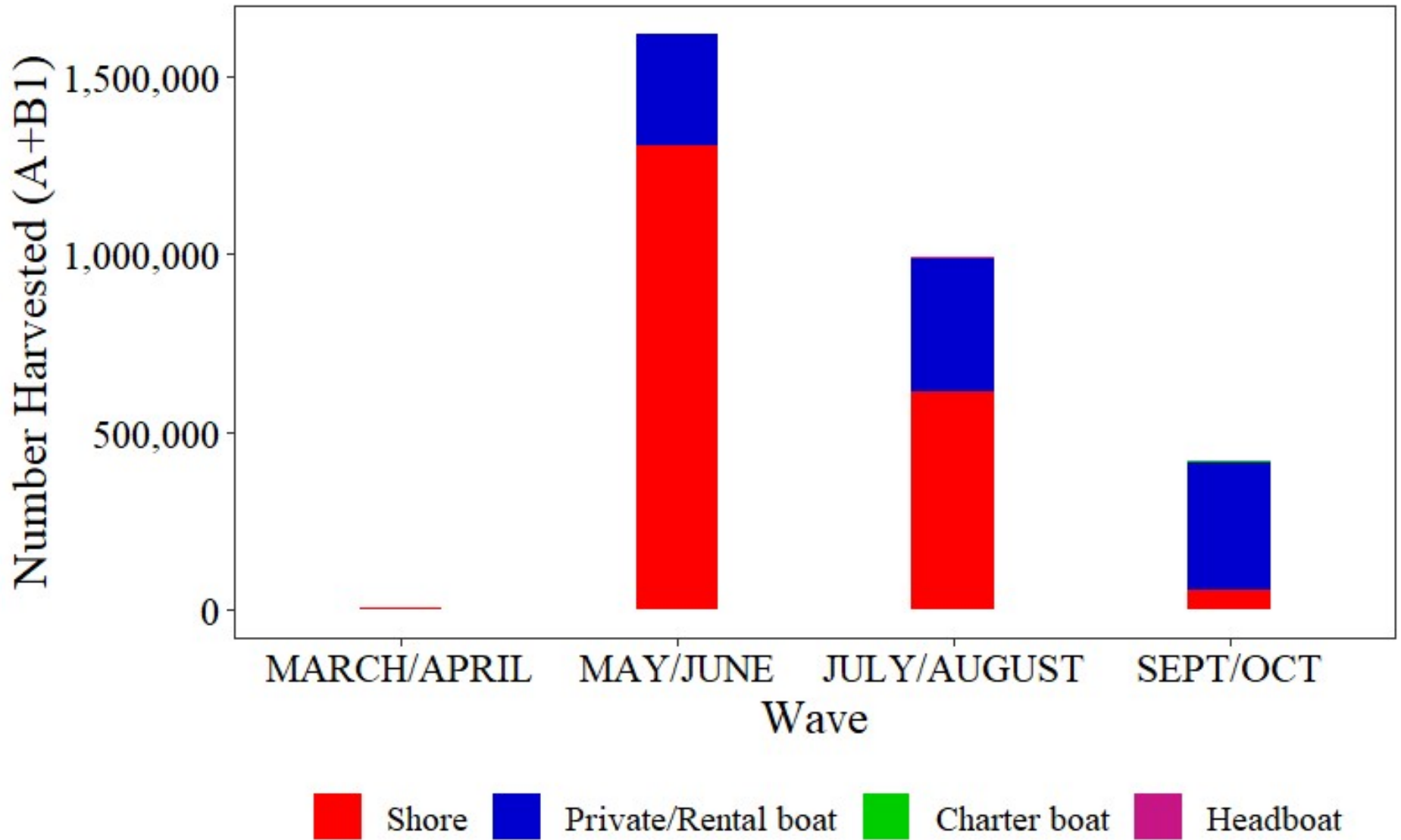


- SSB estimated to be 389 m lbs in 2019, above the updated SSB reference point = 198.46 m lbs and the SSB threshold = 99.23 m lbs.
- 2017 – 2019 year classes estimated to be below average.
- 2023 recreational fishery required to take a 10% reduction
- Council and Board voted to change federal measures: season starts May 1 and possession limit reduced from 50 to 40 fish. States must also achieve 10% reduction





# Scup – 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP; 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5



# Scup - 2023 Recreational Management

- MAFMC requiring 10% coastwide reduction in 2023

## **Current management:**

| Sector            | Min. size | Season            | Poss. limit |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| Gen. rec.         | 10"       | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31  | 30 fish/day |
| Party/<br>Charter | 10"       | Jan. 1 – Aug. 31  | 30 fish/day |
|                   |           | Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 | 50 fish/day |
|                   |           | Nov. 1 – Dec. 31  | 30 fish/day |
| Special<br>Shore  | 9"        | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31  | 30 fish/day |

**2023 Management:** The Division is accepting proposals for regulatory changes that would achieve a 10% reduction.

# Scup - 2023 Recreational Management



## Federal Waters Management:

| Sector | Min. size | Season                                   | Poss. limit                      |
|--------|-----------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| All    | 10"       | <del>Jan. 1</del> <u>May 1</u> – Dec. 31 | <del>50</del> <u>40</u> fish/day |

- MAFMC requiring a 10% coastwide reduction in 2023.
- These measures DO NOT achieve the full 10% reduction therefore states need to take additional measures through ASMFC.

# Scup - 2023 Recreational Management



## Proposal 1 (Regional proposal - CT, NY, MA, RI):

| Sector                                | Min. size                   | Season                                   | Poss. limit                      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <del>Gen. rec.</del> <u>Private</u>   | <del>10"</del> <u>10.5"</u> | <del>Jan. 1</del> <u>May 1</u> – Dec. 31 | 30 fish/day                      |
| Party/ Charter                        | <del>10"</del> <u>10.5"</u> | <del>Jan. 1</del> <u>May 1</u> – Aug. 31 | 30 fish/day                      |
|                                       |                             | Sept. 1 – Oct. 31                        | <del>50</del> <u>40</u> fish/day |
|                                       |                             | Nov. 1 – Dec. 31                         | 30 fish/day                      |
| <del>Special Shore</del> <u>Shore</u> | 9"                          | <del>Jan. 1</del> <u>May 1</u> – Dec. 31 | <del>30</del> <u>20</u> fish/day |

## Proposal 2 (Regional proposal - CT, NY, MA, RI):

| Sector                                | Min. size                   | Season                                   | Poss. limit                      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <del>Gen. rec.</del> <u>Private</u>   | <del>10"</del> <u>10.5"</u> | <del>Jan. 1</del> <u>May 1</u> – Dec. 31 | 30 fish/day                      |
| Party/ Charter                        | <del>10"</del> <u>10.5"</u> | <del>Jan. 1</del> <u>May 1</u> – Aug. 31 | 30 fish/day                      |
|                                       |                             | Sept. 1 – Oct. 31                        | <del>50</del> <u>40</u> fish/day |
|                                       |                             | Nov. 1 – Dec. 31                         | 30 fish/day                      |
| <del>Special Shore</del> <u>Shore</u> | <del>9</del> <u>10"</u>     | <del>Jan. 1</del> <u>May 1</u> – Dec. 31 | 30 fish/day                      |

**\*\*Proposals must still be run through the estimation model to ensure it achieves the required 10% reduction (measures may need to be adjusted).**

# Scup - 2023 Recreational Management



## Proposal 3 (Industry):

| Sector            | Min. size                   | Season            | Poss. limit |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Gen. rec.         | <del>10"</del> <u>10.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31  | 30 fish/day |
| Party/<br>Charter | <del>10"</del> <u>10.5"</u> | Jan. 1 – Aug. 31  | 30 fish/day |
|                   |                             | Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 | 50 fish/day |
|                   |                             | Nov. 1 – Dec. 31  | 30 fish/day |
| Special Shore     | <del>9"</del> <u>9.5"</u>   | Jan. 1 – Dec. 31  | 30 fish/day |

Achieves a ~14% reduction

\*\*Proposals must still be run through the estimation model to ensure it achieves the required 10% reduction (measures may need to be adjusted).



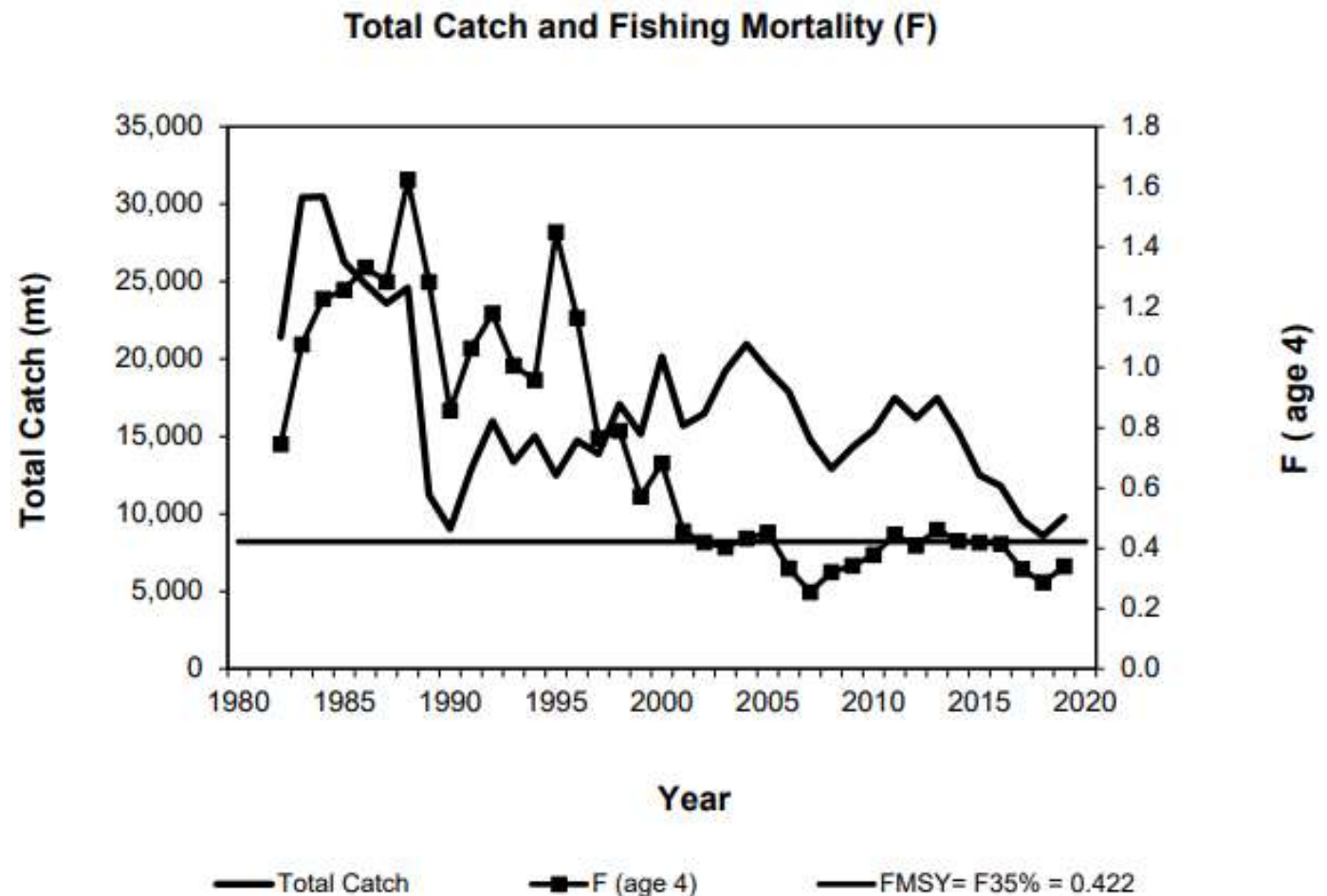
# Summer Flounder

- Summary of Stock Status
- 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance
- 2023 Recreational Management

# Summer Flounder - Stock Status



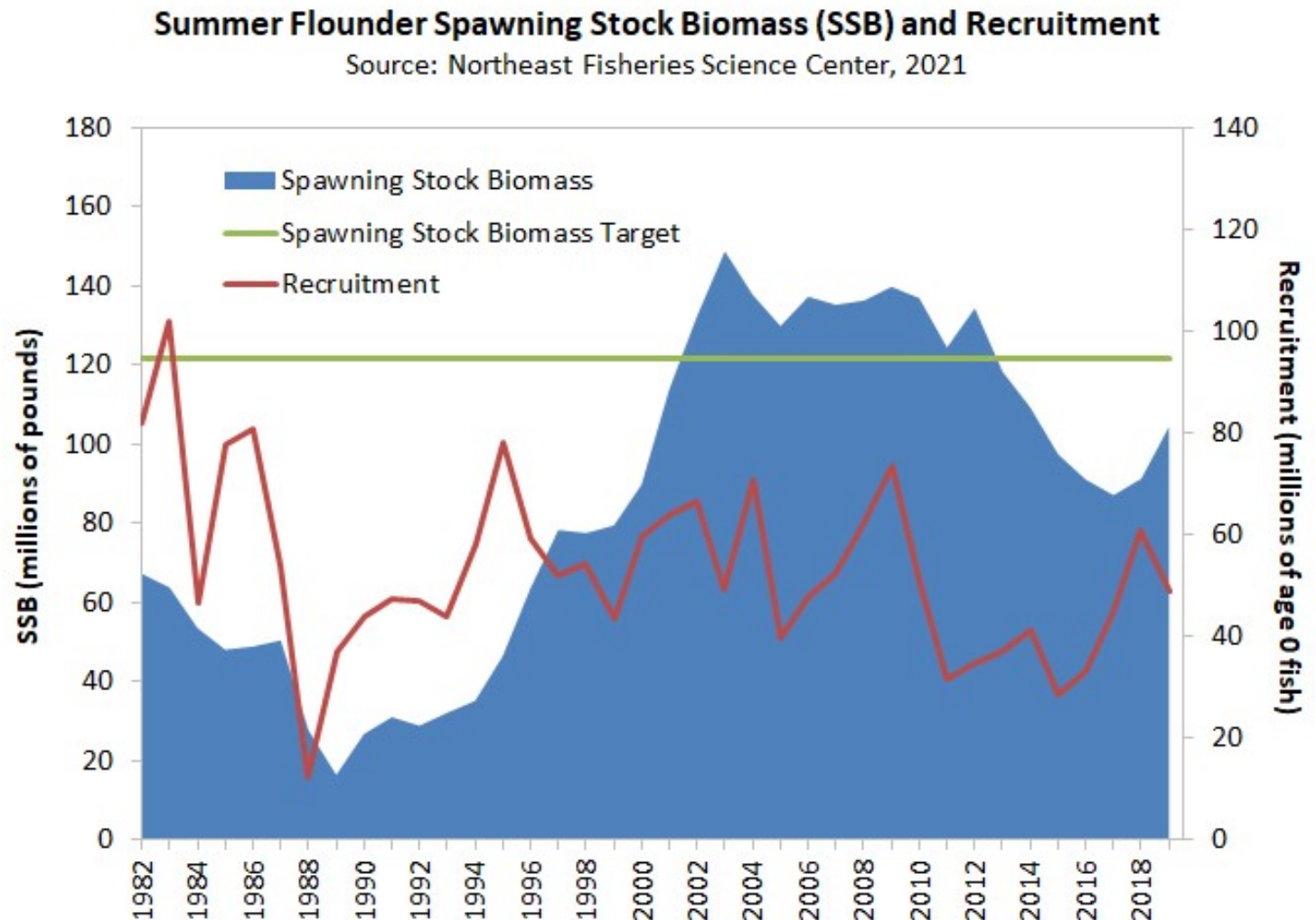
- Management Track Stock Assessment in 2021; biological reference points (BRPs) updated
- The summer flounder stock is not overfished; overfishing not occurring relative to BRPs.
- Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.340 in 2019, below the threshold F reference point = 0.422.



# Summer Flounder - Stock Status cont'd.

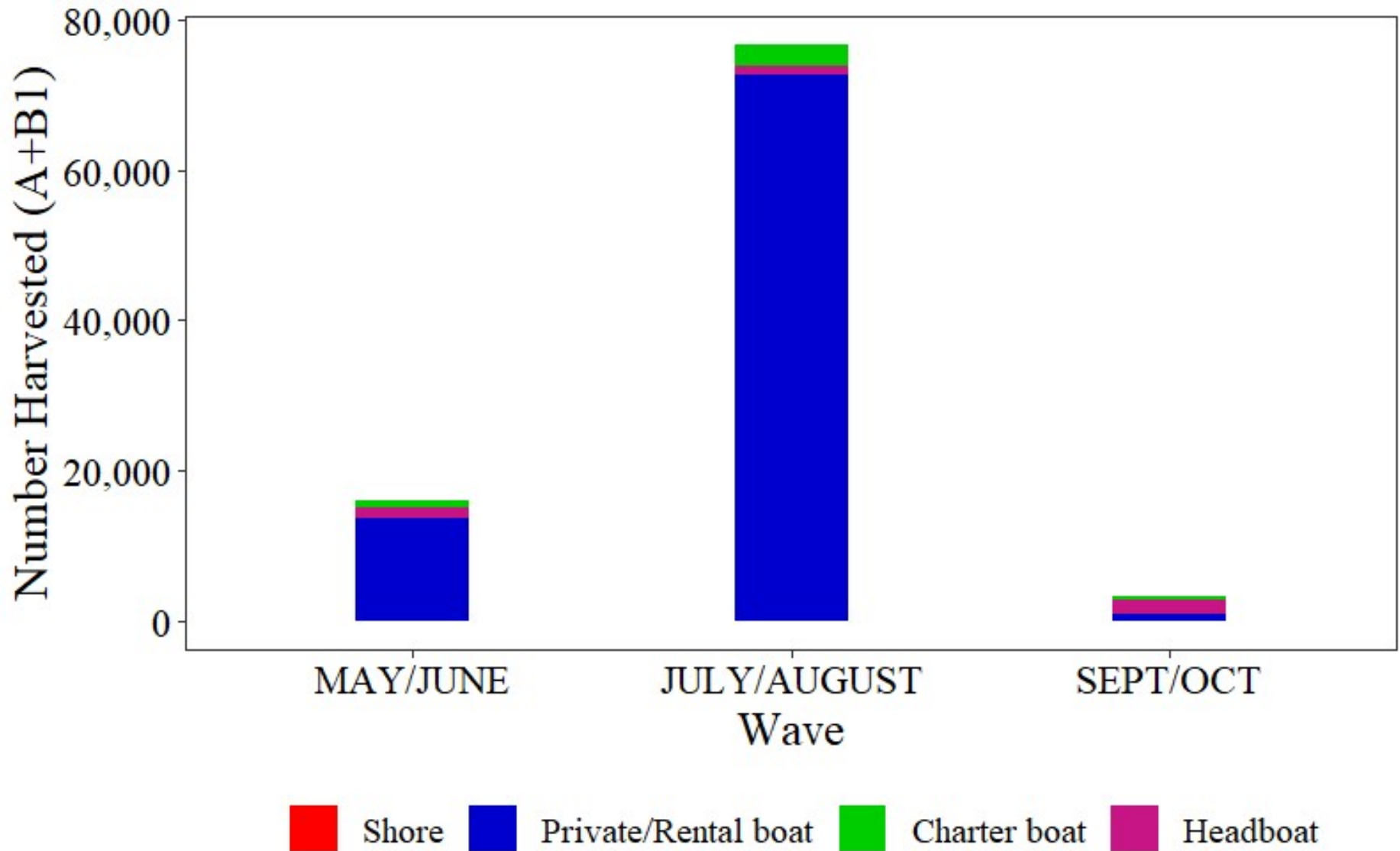


- SSB estimated to be 104.5 m lbs in 2019, below the SSB reference point = 121.7 m lbs but above the SSB threshold = 60.9 m lbs.
- The 2019 year class is currently estimated to be about 49 million fish, below the average of 53 million fish.
- No reduction for summer flounder required in 2023.





# Summer Flounder – 2022 RI Recreational Fishery Performance



Source: 2022 MRIP; 2022 data preliminary and only through wave 5



# Summer Flounder - 2023 Recreational Management

- Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) of 10.62 m lbs set for 2023; a 3% increase over the 2022 RHL.

## Current management:

| Sector        | Min. size               | Season          | Poss. limit |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Gen. Rec.     | 18"                     | May 3 – Dec. 31 | 4 fish/day  |
| Special Shore | 18" (2 fish may be 17") | May 3 – Dec. 31 | 4 fish/day  |

**2023 Management:** The Division is not proposing changes to recreational Summer Flounder management for 2023 at this time. The ASMFC has specified that summer flounder will remain status quo in 2023.



# Definitions and General Provisions

- Addition of several terms consistent with statute
- Removal of terms not used in rules
- Addition of new species (e.g., cobia, Spanish mackerel) to species list
- Other minor non-substantive clarifications

End of Slides!

