

## Preliminary 2023 Spiny Dogfish Discards

Prepared By: Jason Didden, Council Staff, 11/16/2023

Spiny Dogfish Committee member Daniel Salerno asked if there was any information about preliminary 2023 spiny dogfish discards. NMFS' new "CAMS" Catch Accounting and Monitoring System can provide such information for the first half of 2023 (January through June). NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office staff pulled the CAMS data described below.

The primary caveat with the results below of comparing 2019-2023's January through June spiny dogfish discards is that for 2023, the discard rate comes mostly from January through June observer data (then that's applied to January-June landings data). The earlier years use the full year of observer data for an annual rate (CAMS uses full year data for discard rates) and then applies that to January through June landings data to estimate January through June discards. If discard rates are very different January through June versus July through December, then the preliminary 2023 data may be revised accordingly. At least through June 2023 as currently estimated by CAMS, 2023 spiny dogfish discards do not appear radically different than 2019-2022 for trawls ('50') or gillnet gear ('100') (Figure 1).

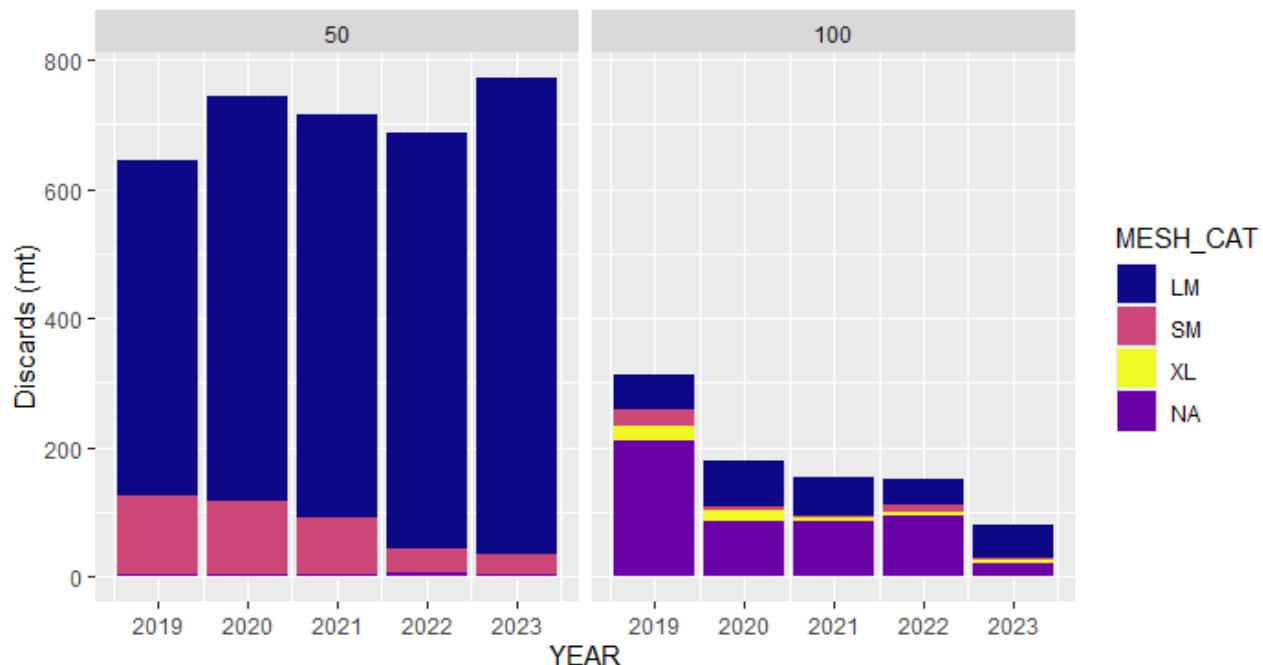


Figure 1. 1<sup>st</sup> half of year CAMS Spiny Dogfish Discards 2019-2023 (2023 preliminary) trawl and gillnet gear.

Staff also examined 2018-2023 partial year recreational discards through August (Wave 4) of each year, and early 2023 did not look particularly unusual from a recreational discards perspective (Figure 2). Even if recently identified scale issues with the mail-based fishing effort survey (FES – 2018 implementation) prove to be correct, the general trends would likely persist within this period.

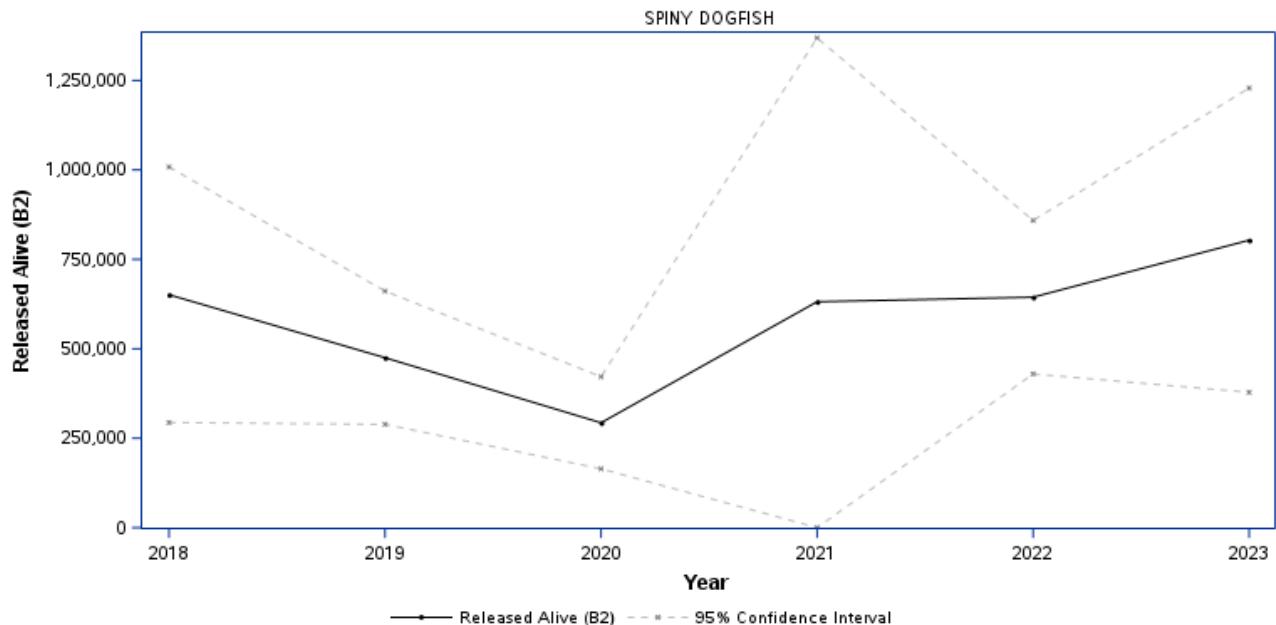


Figure 2. Recent Wave 1-4 Recreational Discards

**Your Query Parameters:**

<b>Query:</b>	MRIP CATCH TIME SERIES
<b>Year:</b>	2018 - 2023
<b>Summarize By:</b>	CUMULATIVE THROUGH WAVE 4
<b>Fishing Year:</b>	CALENDAR YEAR (JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31)
<b>Species:</b>	SPINY DOGFISH
<b>Geographic Area:</b>	ATLANTIC COAST
<b>Fishing Mode:</b>	ALL MODES COMBINED
<b>Fishing Area:</b>	ALL AREAS COMBINED
<b>Type of Catch:</b>	RELEASED ALIVE (TYPE B2)
<b>Information:</b>	NUMBERS OF FISH