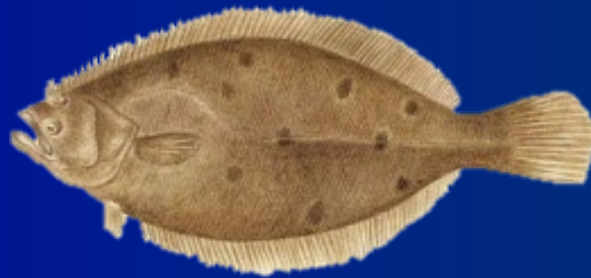




Summer Flounder 2024- 2025 Specifications



Advisory Panel

June 21, 2023

Specifications Process

2024-2025 specs for summer flounder and scup

2024 only for black sea bass

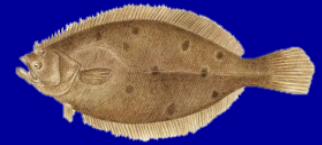
Late June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management track assessment peer review for summer flounder and scup• Data update provided for black sea bass
July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SSC recommends ABCs• MC recommends com. and rec. catch and landings limits; commercial measures
Aug 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council/Board adopt com. and rec catch and landings limits, com. measures
Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MC and AP meetings for rec. measures
Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council/Board meeting on recreational measures<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall percent change in recreational harvest needed• Federal waters measures• Conservation equivalency option for summer flounder and black sea bass
Early 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASMFC process for state measures

Stock Status



- Most recent complete assessment: management track assessment in July 2021
 - Data through 2019
 - 2020 data not included due to covid-related data gaps
- Data update in 2022
 - Landings through 2021 & federal trawl survey info through spring 2022
- Management track assessment in progress (next slide)

Stock Status



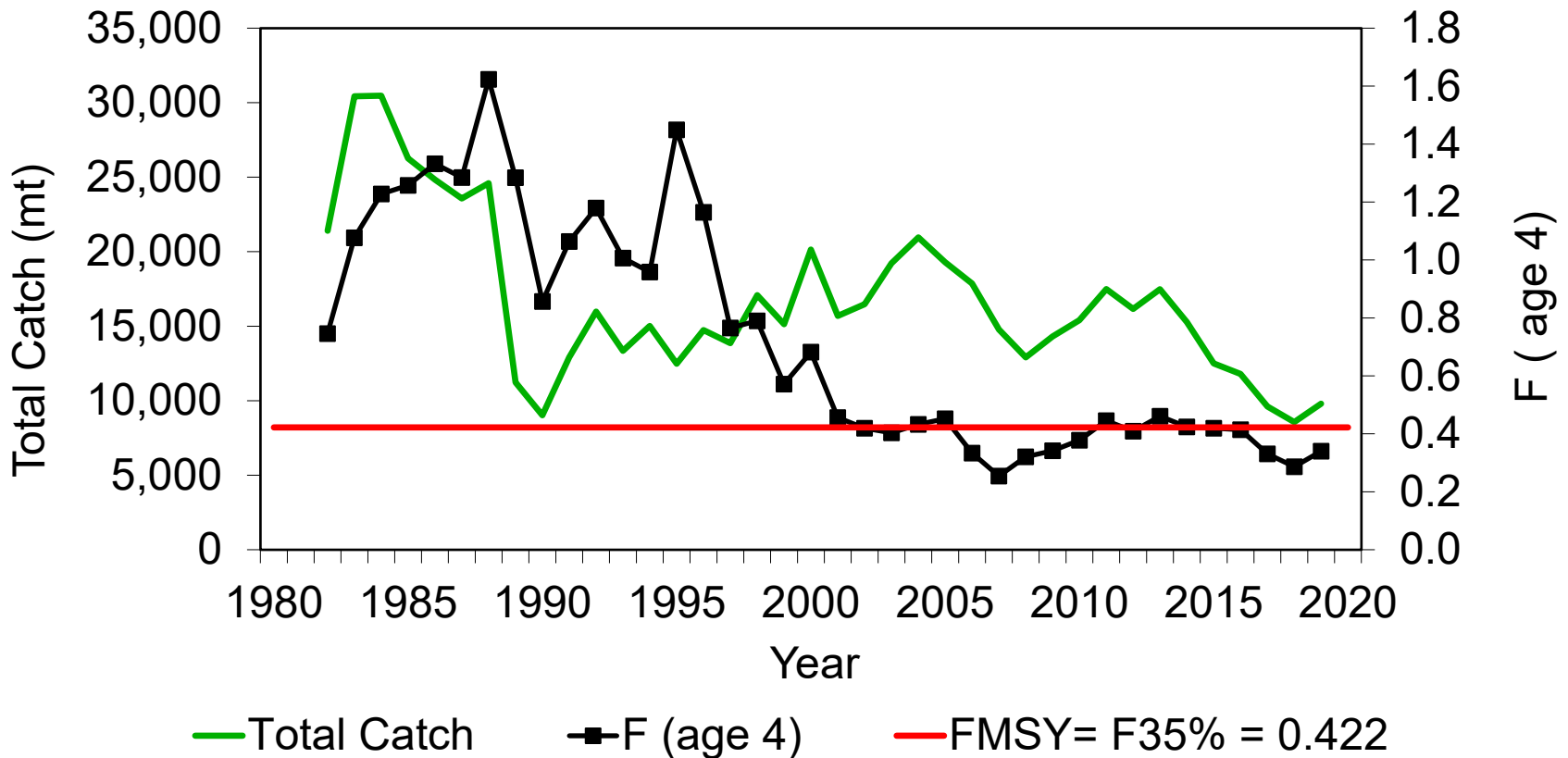
- Management track assessment peer review meeting June 26-28, 2023
 - Atlantic Mackerel, Longfin Squid, Bluefish, Scup, Summer Flounder
 - For summer flounder, will include updated stock status information based on data through 2022, and will inform 2024-2025 catch limits
 - Results considered at July 24-26 SSC and July 27 Monitoring Committee meetings to inform August Council/Board decisions

Fishing Mortality

2021 Management Track Assessment (MTA)



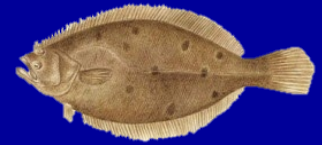
Total Catch and Fishing Mortality (F)



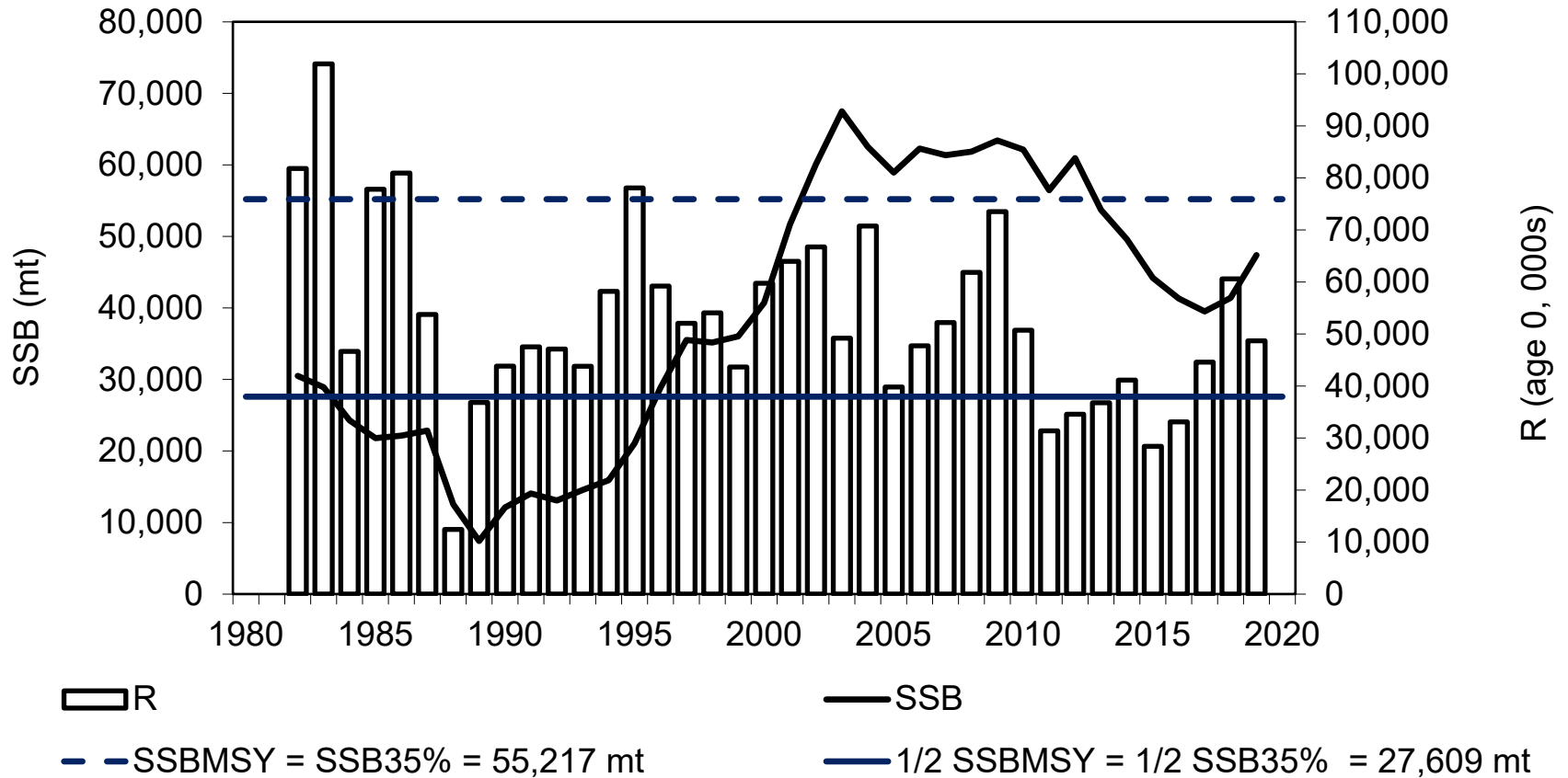
Not overfishing in 2019 – F estimated at 81% of threshold

SSB and Recruitment

2021 Management Track Assessment (MTA)



Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment (R)



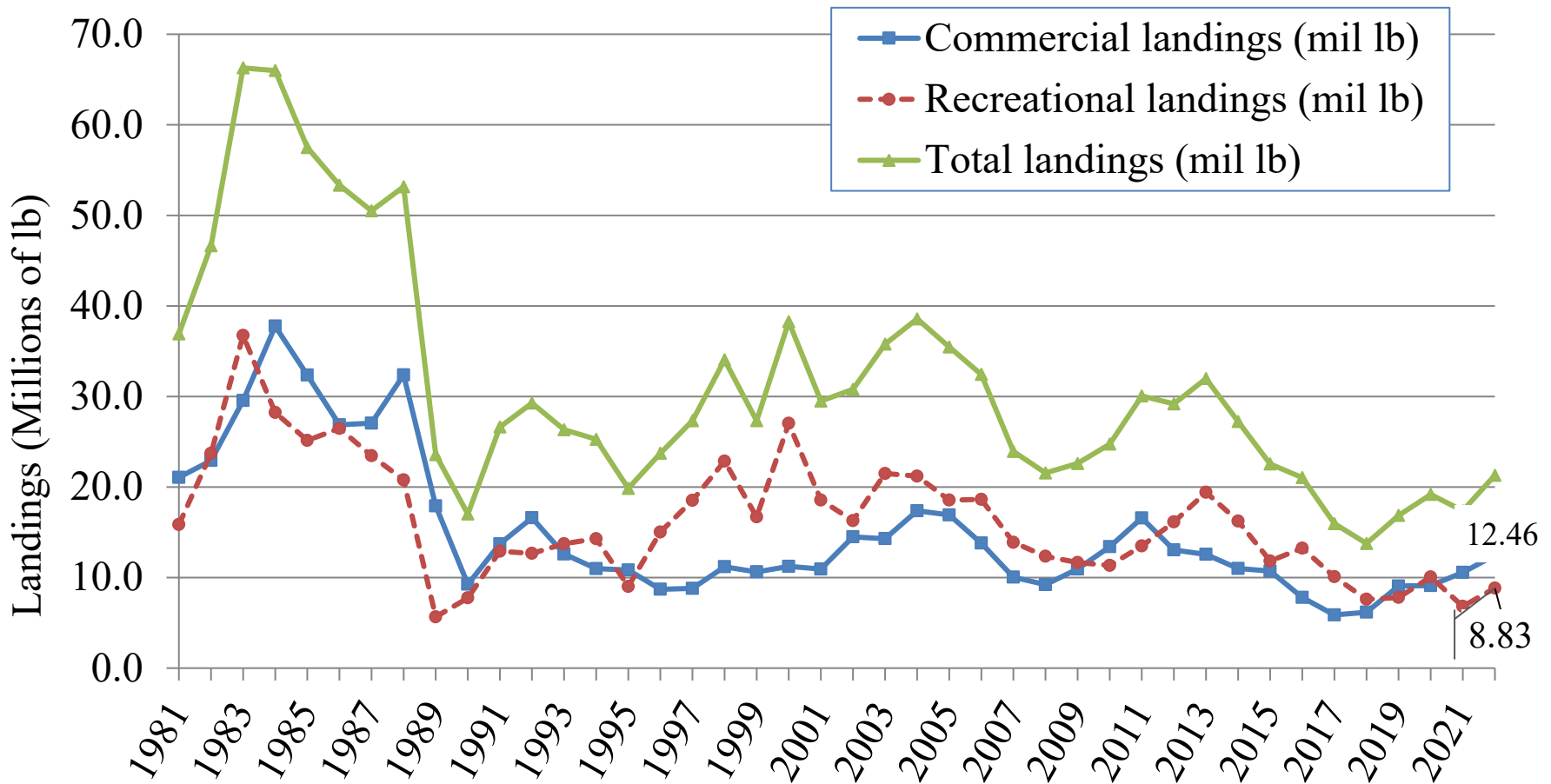
Not overfished in 2019 – SSB estimated at 86% of target

OFL and ABC Performance

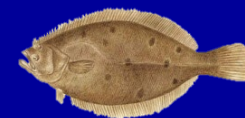
Year	Total dead catch	OFL	OFL over/under	ABC	ABC over/under
2014	22.27	26.76	-17%	21.94	+2%
2015	18.22	27.06	-33%	22.57	-19%
2016	17.16	18.06	-5%	16.26	+6%
2017	12.00	16.76	-28%	11.30	+6%
2018	12.65	18.69	-32%	13.23	-4%
2019	21.63	30.00	-28%	25.03	-14%
2020	24.27	30.94	-22%	25.03	-3%
2021	21.50	31.67	-32%	27.11	-21%
2022	25.55	36.28	-30%	33.12	-23%
2023	--	34.98	--	33.12	--

Limits/catch values in millions of pounds
 Total catch calculated using old MRIP data through 2018

Fishery Landings

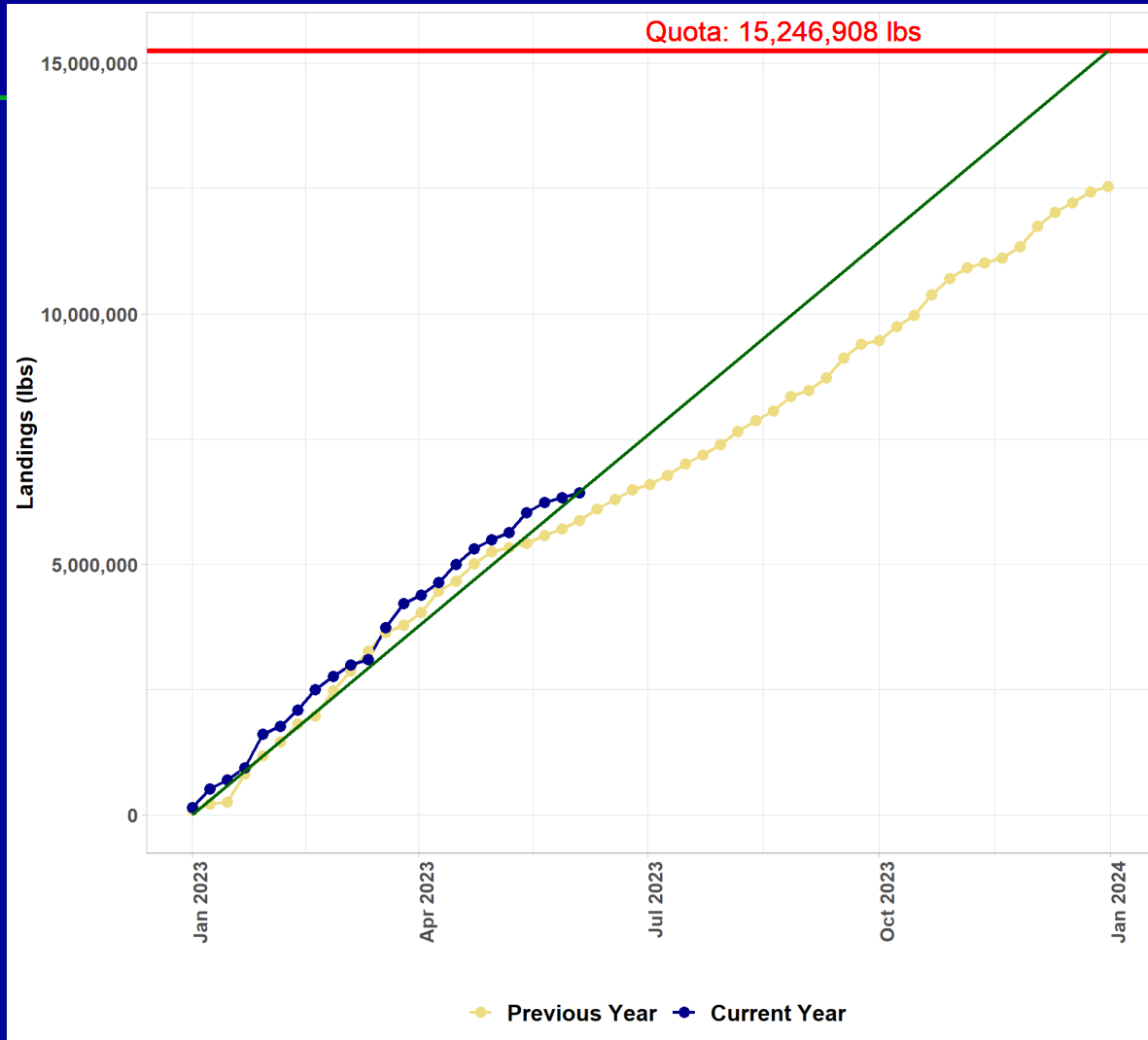


Commercial Limits and Catch



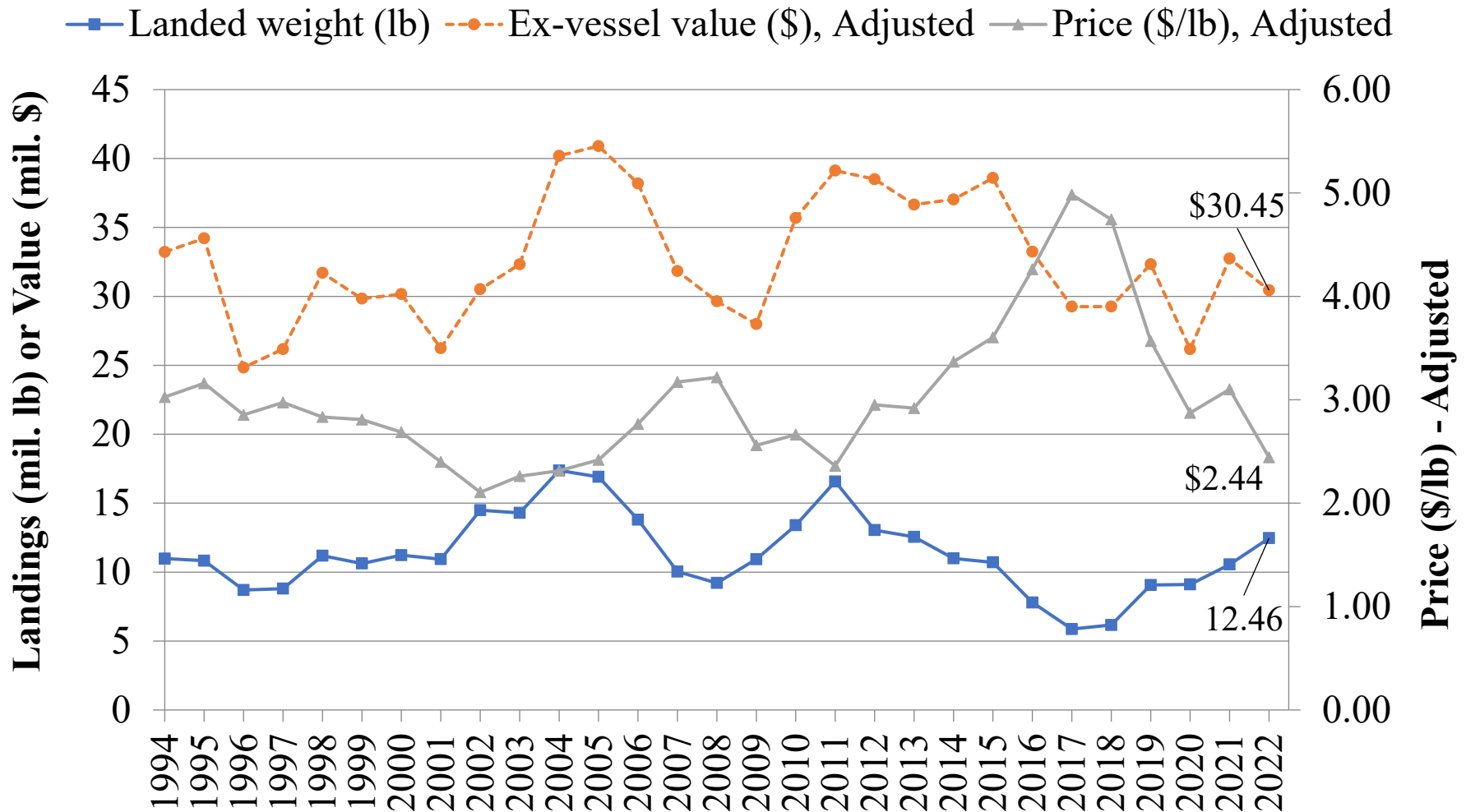
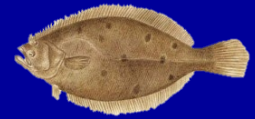
Year	Com. landings ^a	Com. quota	Quota overage/ underage	Com. dead catch ^a	ACL	ACL overage/ underage
2018	6.17	6.63	-7%	8.33	7.70	+8%
2019	9.06	10.98	-17%	10.79	13.53	-20%
2020	9.11	11.53	-21%	11.67	13.53	-14%
2021	10.56	12.49	-15%	12.48	14.63	-15%
2022	12.47	15.53	-20%	13.97	18.48	-24%
2023	--	15.27	--	--	18.21	--

2023 Commercial Landings

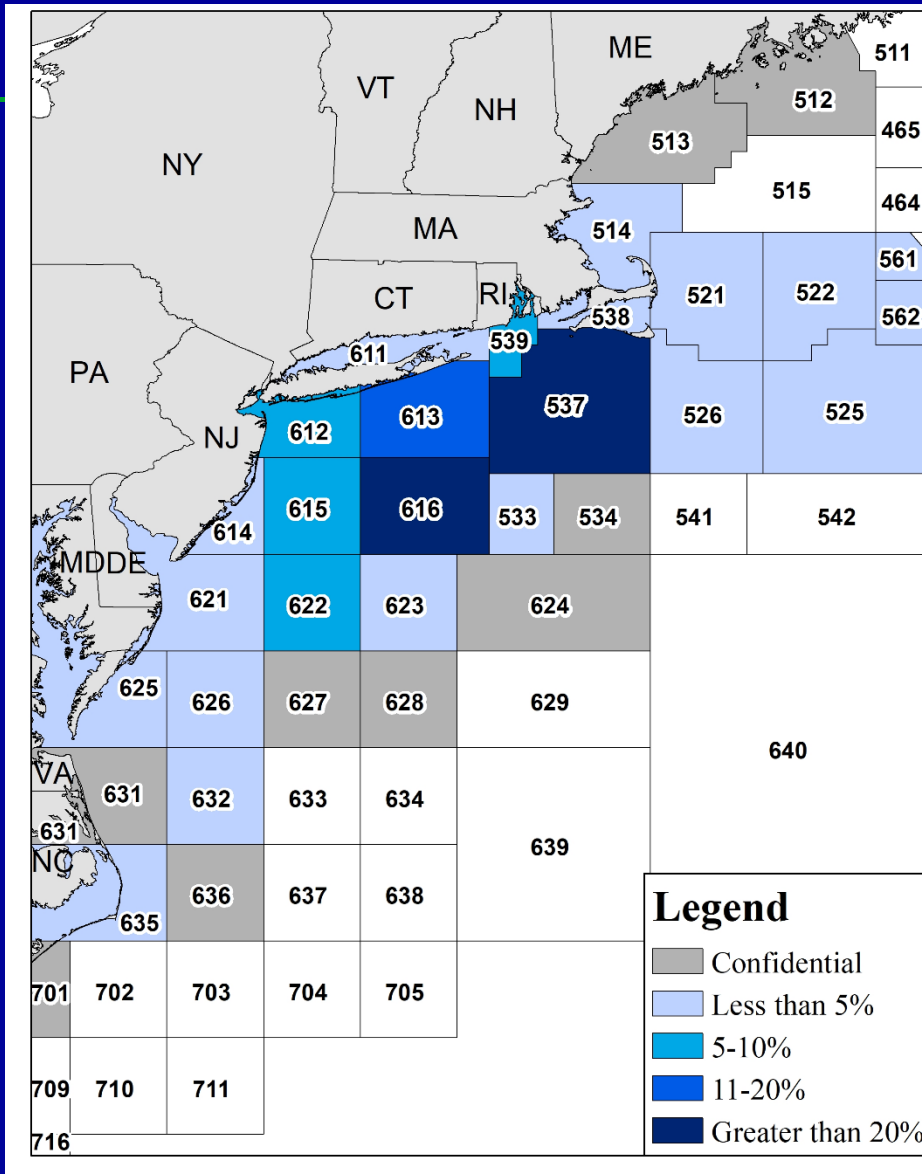


Commercial landings through June 15, 2023

Commercial Value & Price



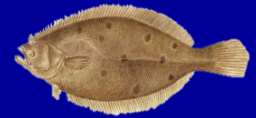
Catch by Statistical Area



2022 federal VTR data

Statistical Area	Percent of 2022 Commercial Summer Flounder Catch	Number of Trips
537	29%	1,461
616	22%	508
613	14%	1,653
612	7%	758
539	6%	1,626
615	5%	393
622	5%	134

Top Ports, 2022



Port	Summer flounder landings (lb)	% of total comm. fluke landings	# of vessels
POINT JUDITH, RI	1,921,868	15%	107
PT. PLEASANT, NJ	1,475,985	12%	39
BEAUFORT, NC	1,285,732	10%	28
HAMPTON, VA	854,395	7%	34
MONTAUK, NY	600,918	5%	52

Dealers by State, 2022



- Dealers purchasing summer flounder in 2022

State	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC
# Of Dealers	30	24	14	46	26	C	3	11	13

Recreational Limits and Catch

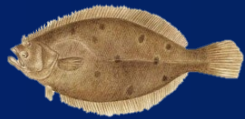


Year	Harvest ^a	RHL	RHL over/under	Rec. dead catch	ACL	ACL over/under
2018	3.35	4.42	-24%	4.32	5.53	-22%
2019	7.80	7.69	1%	10.84	11.51	-6%
2020^b	10.07	7.69	31%	12.60	11.51	9%
2021	6.82	8.32	-18%	9.02	12.48	-28%
2022	8.83	10.36	-17%	11.58	14.64	-21%
2023	--	10.62	--	--	14.9	--

^a 2018 evaluated using old MRIP data; 2019-2022 with revised MRIP data

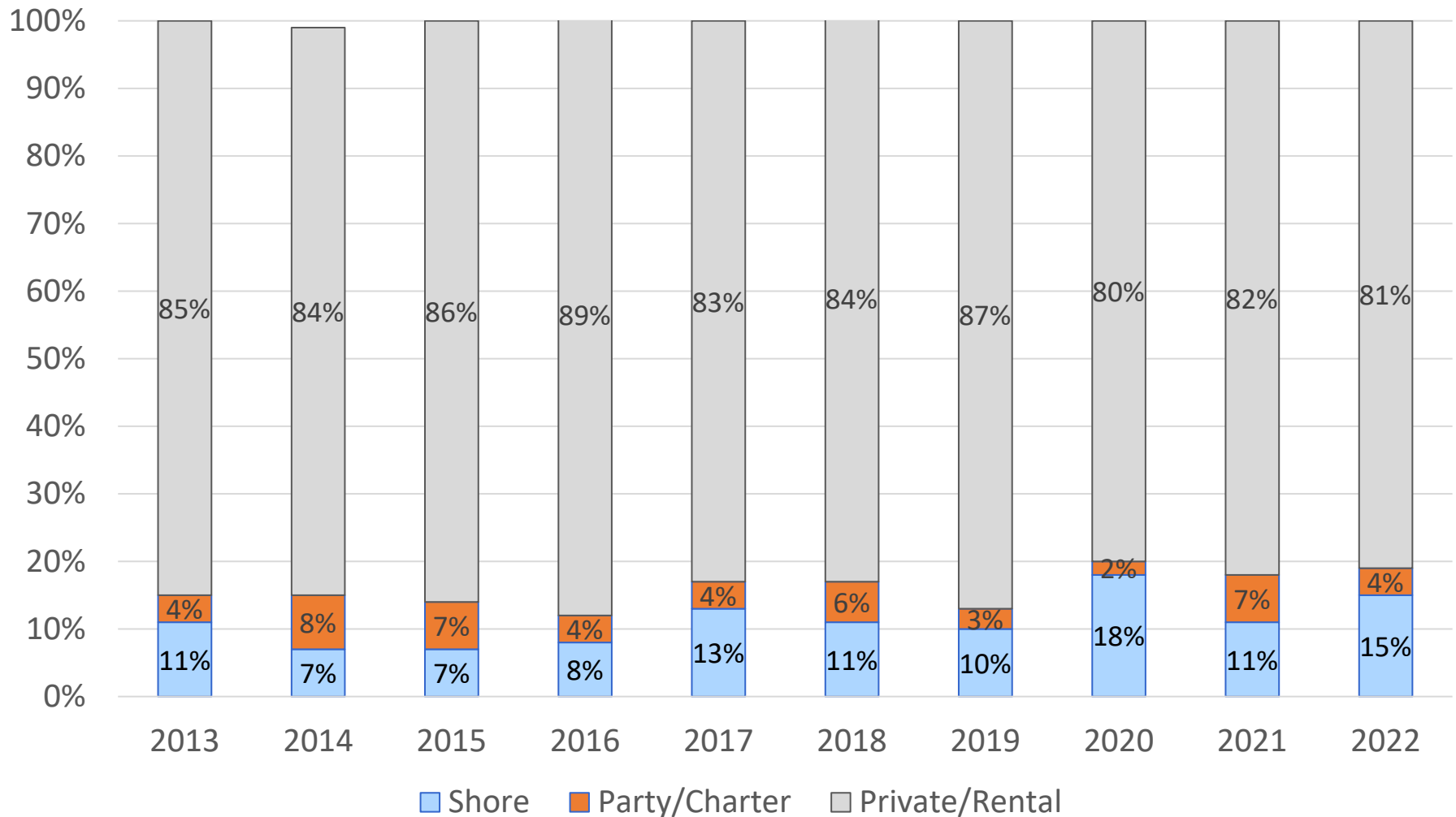
^b 2020 harvest estimated using imputation methods incorporating 2018-2019 proxy data

2022-2023 Recreational Measures

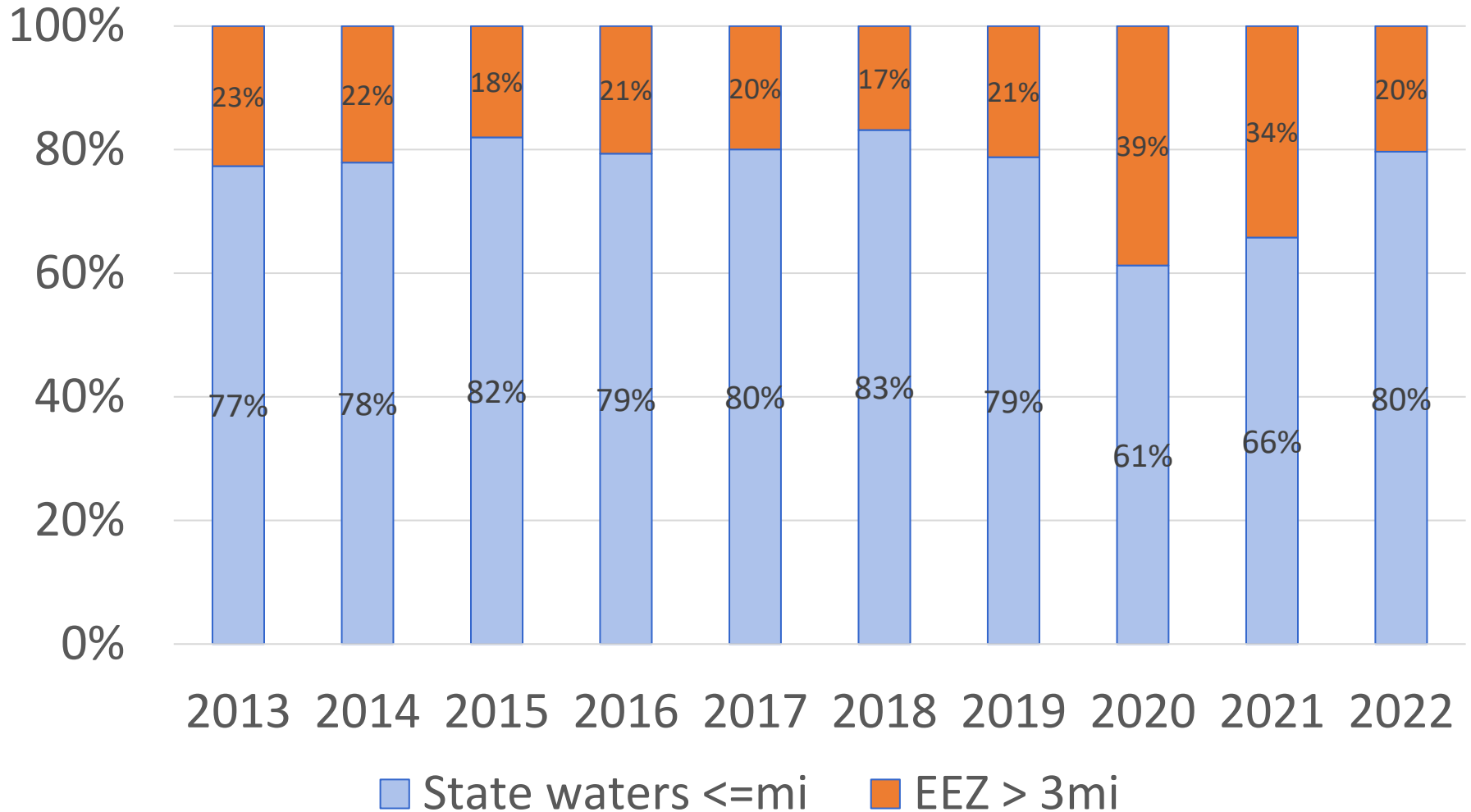


	2022-2023		
State	Min size (in)	Bag limit	Season
MA	16.5	5 fish	5/21-9/19
RI	18	4 fish	5/3-12/31
RI designated shore sites	18	2 fish ^a	
	17	2 fish ^a	
CT	18.5	4 fish	5/1-10/9
CT designated shore sites	17		
NY	18.5		
NJ	17-17.99 slot limit	2 fish	5/2-9/27
	18	1 fish	
NJ designated shore site	16	2 fish	
NJ Delaware Bay	17	3 fish	
DE	16	4 fish	1/1-12/31
MD			
PRFC			
VA			
NC	15	1 fish	9/1-9/30

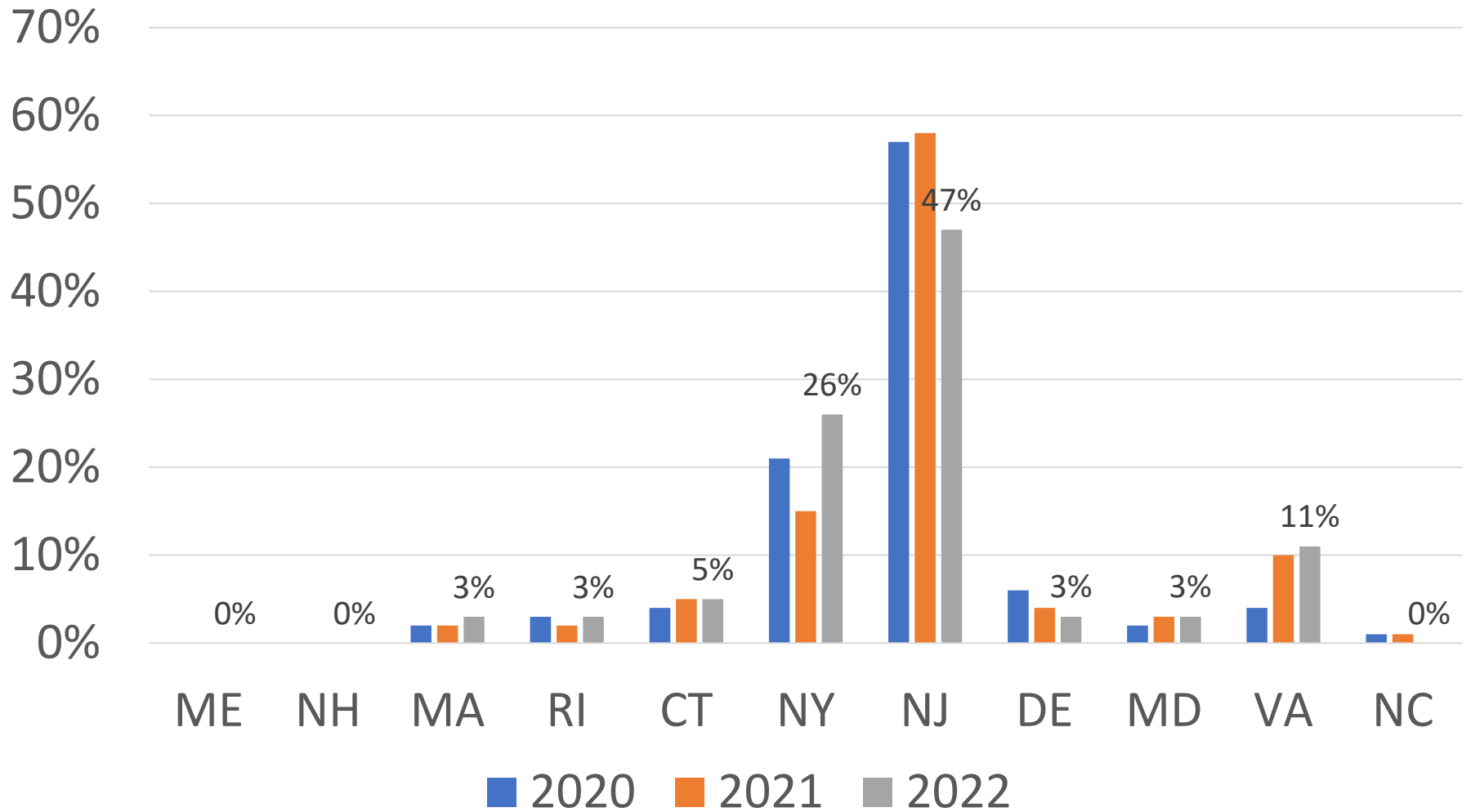
Recreational Harvest by Mode



State vs. Federal Waters Harvest



Recreational Harvest by State



Commercial Mesh Size Review

- In 2023, exploring 3 summer flounder mesh size issues in more detail:
 1. Equivalence of 5.5" diamond and 6.0" square mesh (Staff)
 2. Small Mesh Exemption Program (Contractor – Andy Loftus)
 3. Flynet Exemption (Contractor – Andy Loftus)
- Will discuss with MC in July, but more in-depth discussion this fall for **December** Council/Board meeting
- **Seeking input and expertise from AP members on these issues**
 - Intent to have **separate AP meeting** for this issue
 - But if you have thoughts now, **please call or email us!**

1. Minimum Mesh Size – Background



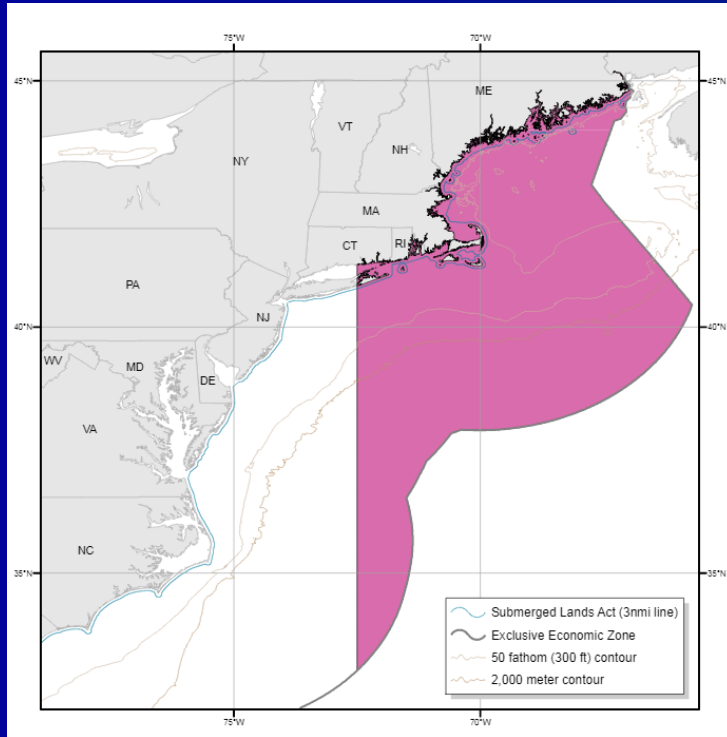
- Review mesh size requirement of 5.5" diamond or 6.0" square during annual specifications
- Mesh size study (Hasbrouck et al. 2018) indicated these sizes may not be equivalent
 - 6.0" square appears closer to 5.0" diamond
 - Some past MC concern about retention of undersized fish with 6.0" square; recommendation to evaluate possible phase out of 6.0" square option

1. Minimum Mesh Size – 2023 Evaluation



1. What is the extent of use of 6-inch square vs. 5.5 inch diamond? How can we characterize this use by area, fishery/fleet, etc.?
2. Is a square mesh regulation still needed? If so, is there a more appropriate square mesh equivalent to 5.5 inch diamond?
3. What are industry perspectives on the diamond and square mesh regulations?
4. What would the cost/other burden to industry be to phase out the square mesh regulation?

2. Small Mesh Exemption Program



SMEP allows authorized small mesh vessels to land more than 200 lb of summer flounder east of longitude 72° 30.0'W, Nov. 1 - April 30

1. What was the original intention of the regulation and how is that being served today?
2. Are changes to the SMEP needed relative to the area, timing, possession limit, or other?
3. How are vessels using the exemption and in which fisheries? Has use of the exemption program changed over time?
4. Industry perspectives and recommendations on the exemption program?
5. Is the extent of summer flounder discards under this exemption a problem?
6. Is the exemption program still needed?

3. Flynet Exemption

Vessels fishing with two-seam otter trawl flynet are exempt from the minimum mesh requirements

1. What was the original intention of the regulation and how is that being served today?
2. Better understand the use and configuration of 2-seam otter trawl flynet and 4-seam high-rise trawl nets as they relate to this exemption.
 - Determine the extent to which the exemption is being applied
 - Determine the extent to which 4-seam nets (which do not comply with the definition) and "high rise" nets are being used
3. Industry perspectives and recommendations on the exemption?

MAFMC 2020-2024 Research Priorities

SUMMER FLOUNDER

SHORT-TERM/SMALLER SCALE

- 94. Collect length, weight, and age data by sex to fully evaluate the sex and size distributions of landed and discarded fish in the summer flounder fisheries.
- 95. Evaluate summer flounder discard survival under different environmental variables and gear configurations with survey design considerations that account for feeding and predation.

LONG-TERM/LARGER SCALE

- 96. Continue to evaluate the causes for decreased recruitment, changes in recruitment distribution, and changes in the recruit-per-spawner relationship in recent years. Develop studies, sampling programs, or analyses to better understand how and why these changes are occurring, and the implications to stock productivity.
- 97. Evaluate range expansion and/or changes in distribution and their implications for stock assessment and management.
- 98. Explore the potential mechanisms for recent slower growth that is observed in both sexes.
- 99. Incorporate sex-specific differences in size-at-age into the stock assessment through model structures as well as data streams.

** . Reconsider stock structure based on modern approaches.

MAFMC will be developing new 5-year research priorities next year

Discussion Questions

- **How have the following factors influenced recent catch and landings?**
 - Markets/economy?
 - Environment?
 - Fishery regulations?
 - Other factors?
- **What other issues or concerns do you want to highlight?**
- **What research recommendations do you have for summer flounder?**
- **What recommendations do you have for summer flounder regulations in 2024-2025?**