

Scup Data Update for 2020

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Reported 2019 landings in the commercial fishery were 6,252 mt = 13.784 million lb, an increase of 3% from 2018, and 57% of the 2019 commercial quota. Estimated 2019 landings in the recreational fishery were 6,403 mt = 14.116 million lb, an increase of 9% from 2018, and 192% of the 2019 recreational harvest limit. Total commercial and recreational landings in 2019 were 12,655 mt = 27.899 million lb, an increase of 6% from 2018 (Figure 1).

The NEFSC fall 2015 and spring 2016 survey biomass indices were record highs for the time series, although both seasonal indices have since decreased (Figure 2). The NEFSC fall survey length frequency distributions suggest that a very large year class (modes at less than 10 cm fork length) recruited to the stock in 2015 (Figure 3).

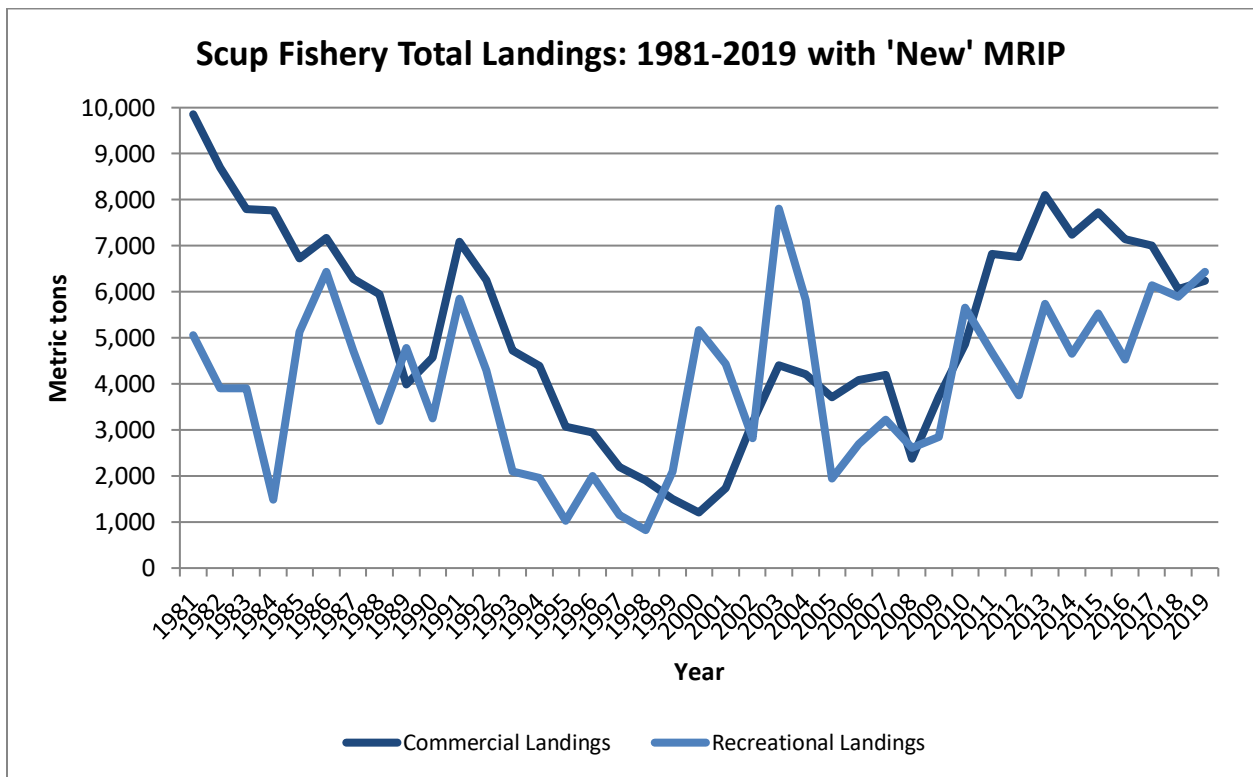


Figure 1. Scup fishery total landings.

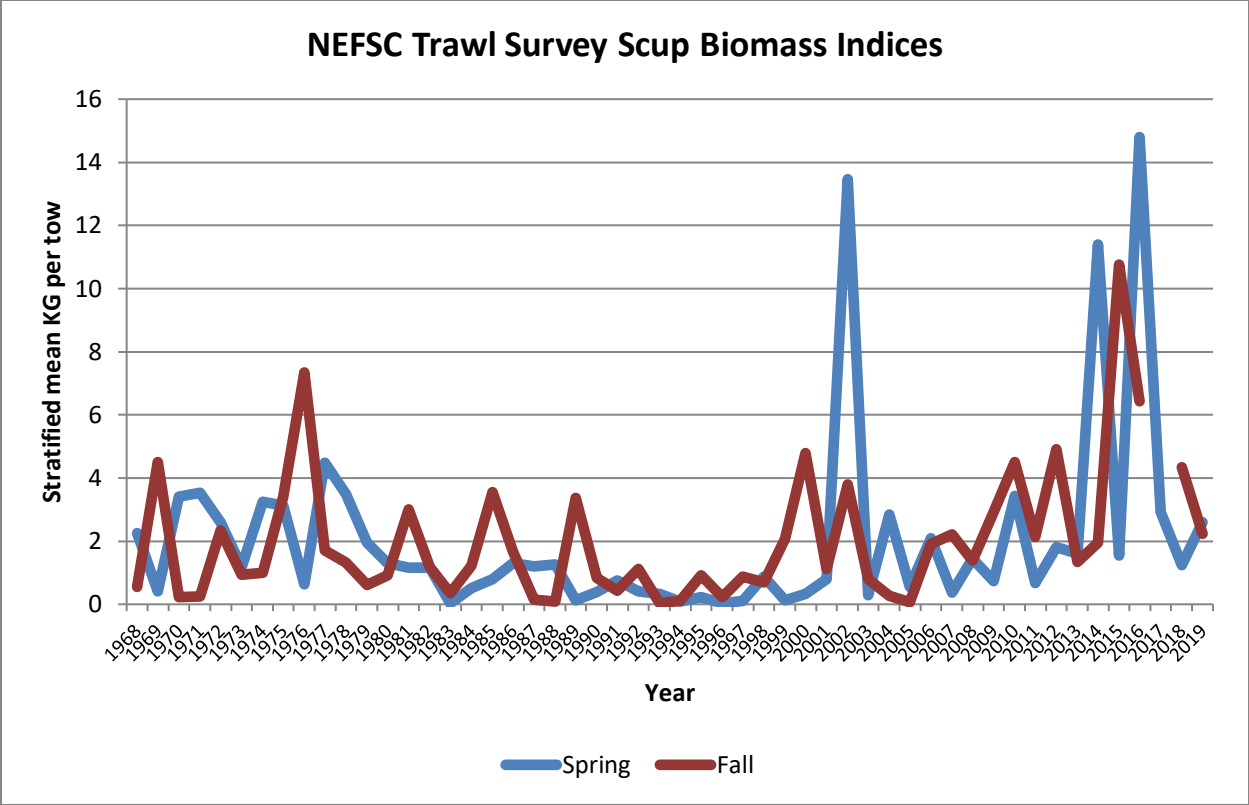


Figure 2. NEFSC trawl survey biomass indices for scup. Indices are FSV Albatross IV equivalents. There is no valid fall 2017 index for scup.

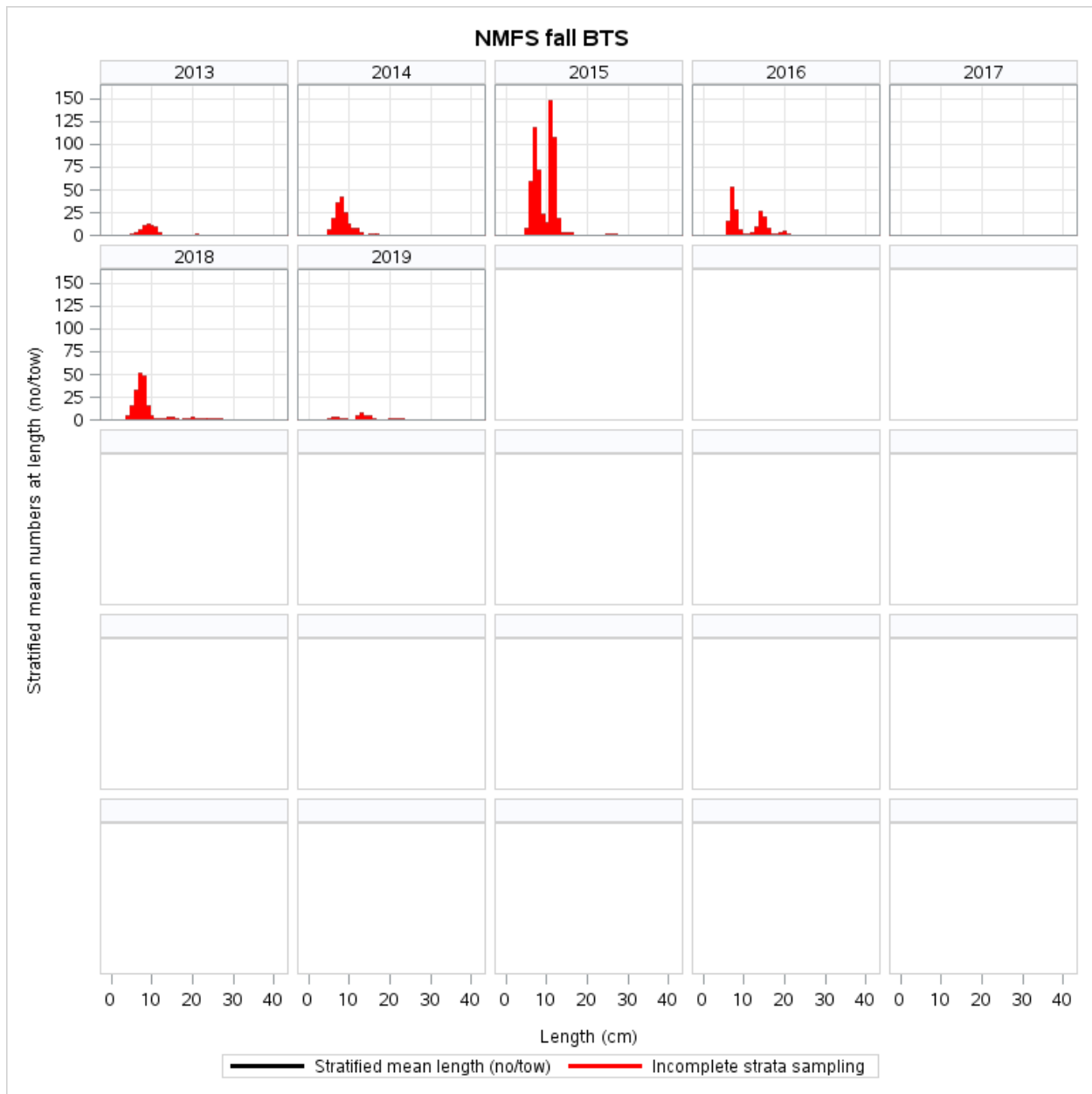


Figure 3. Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) fall trawl survey indices at length. There is no valid fall 2017 index for scup.