

## Summer flounder Data Update for 2020

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water St.  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

### Fishery and Survey Data

Reported 2019 landings in the commercial fishery were 4,109 mt = 9.059 million lb, an increase of 47% from 2018, and 82% of the 2019 commercial quota. Estimated 2019 landings in the recreational fishery were 3,537 mt = 7.798 million lb, an increase of 3% from 2018, and 101% of the 2019 recreational harvest limit. Total commercial and recreational landings in 2019 were 7,646 mt = 16.857 million lb, an increase of 23% from 2018.

The NEFSC spring survey index of summer flounder stock biomass decreased by 4% from 2018 to 2019; the fall index decreased by 36% from 2018 to 2019 (Figure 2). The NEFSC fall survey length frequency distributions suggest that an above average year class (mode at about 20 cm total length) recruited to the stock in 2018 (Figure 3).

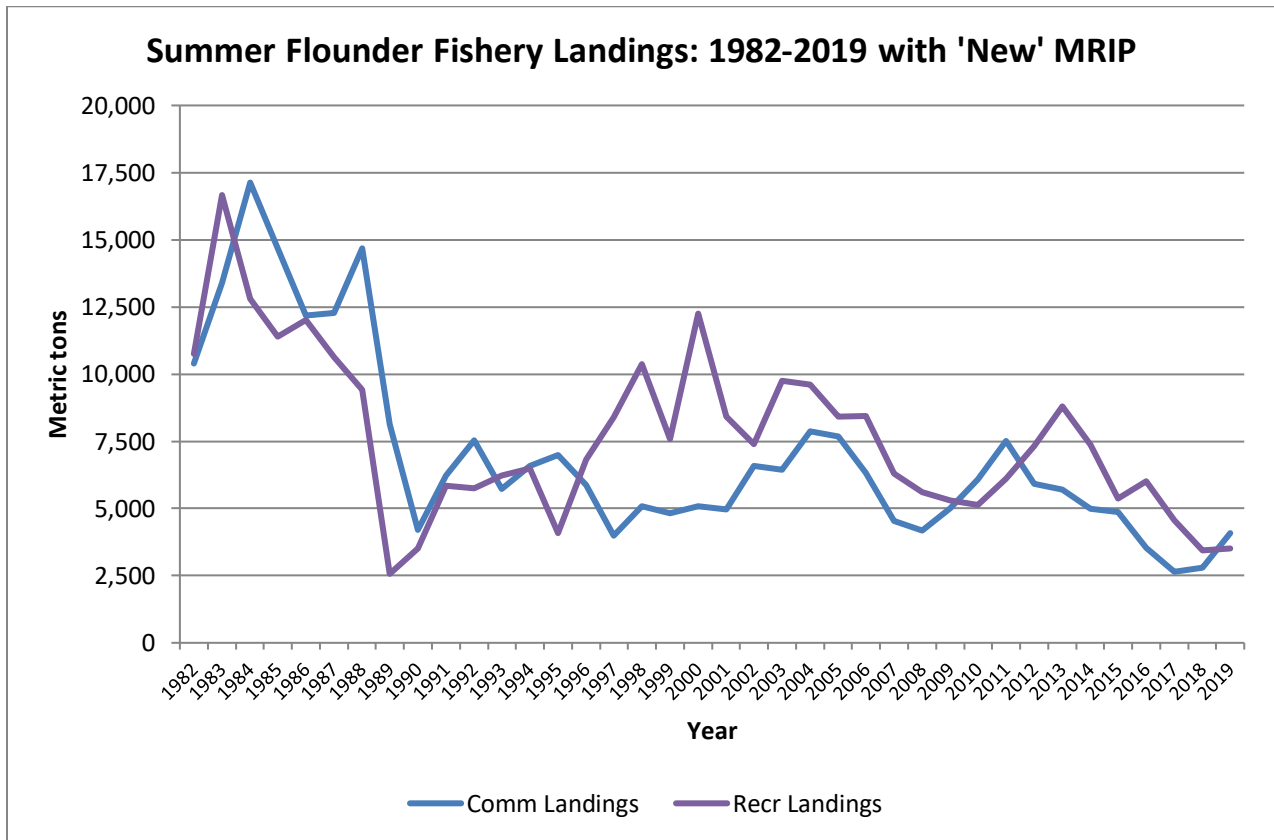


Figure 1. Summer flounder fishery landings (includes 'New' Marine Recreational Information Program [MRIP] estimates of recreational landings).

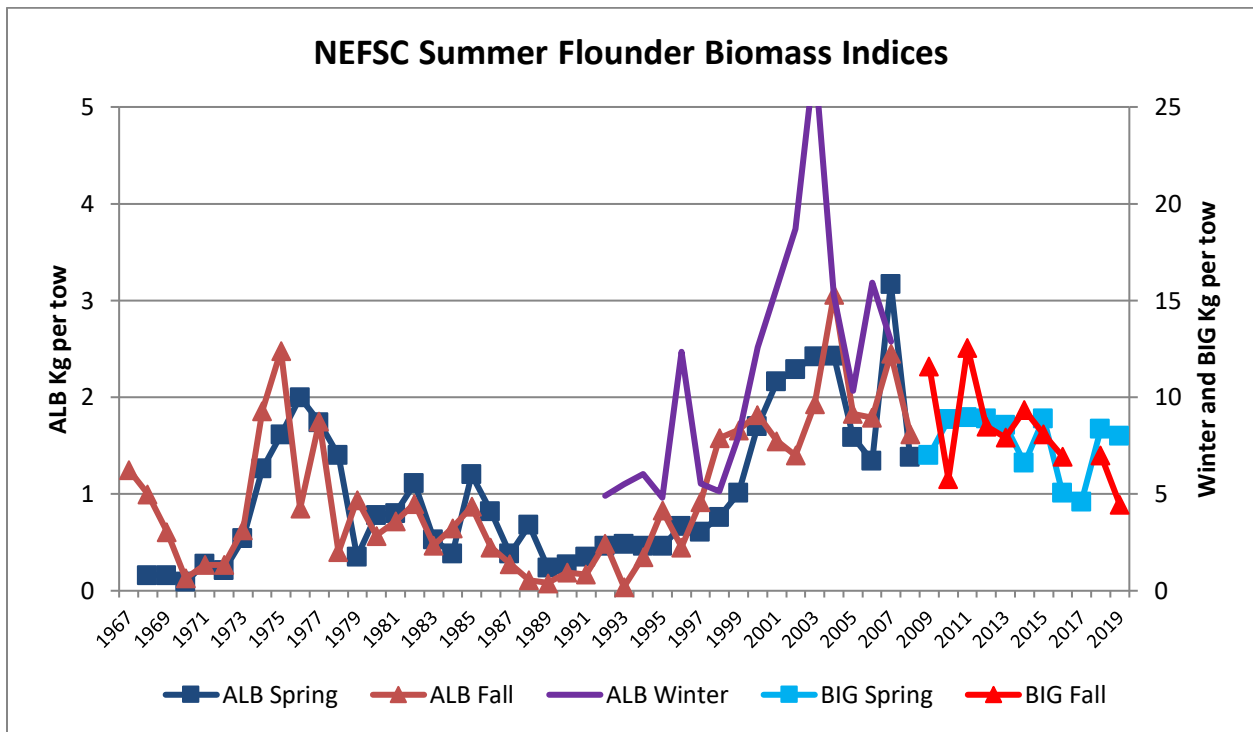


Figure 2. Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) trawl survey aggregate biomass indices for summer flounder. ALB indices are FSV Albatross IV indices. BIG indices are FSV HB Bigelow indices. ALB spring and fall indices are plotted on the left-hand Y-axis. ALB winter and BIG spring and fall indices are plotted on the right-hand Y-axis. Note that the ALB and BIG indices are now independent series; there is no valid BIG Fall 2017 index for summer flounder.

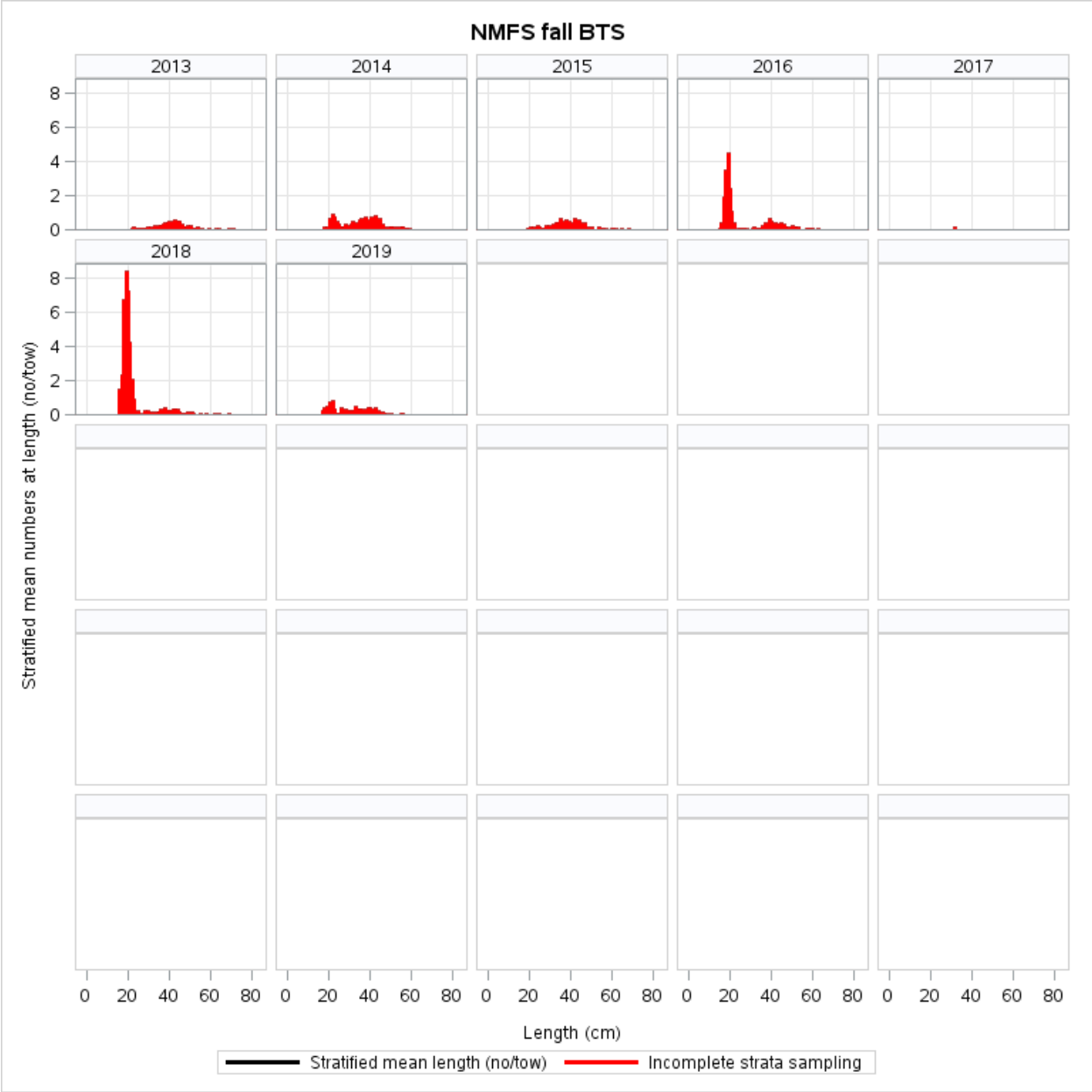


Figure 3. Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) fall trawl survey FSV HB Bigelow indices at length.