MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Summer Flounder, Scup, & Black Sea Bass
Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment

SSC Meeting

July 23, 2020

Amendment Purpose

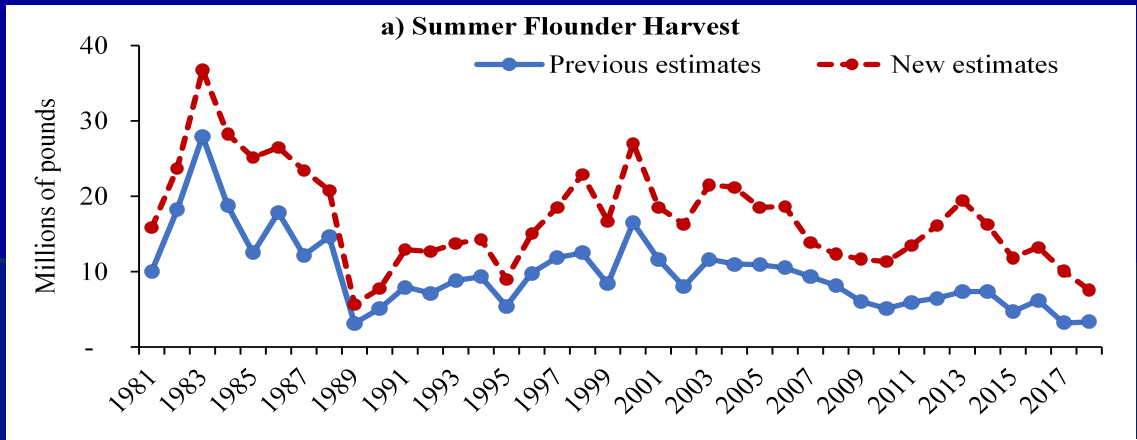
Consider potential modifications to the allocations of catch or landings between the commercial and recreational sectors for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass.

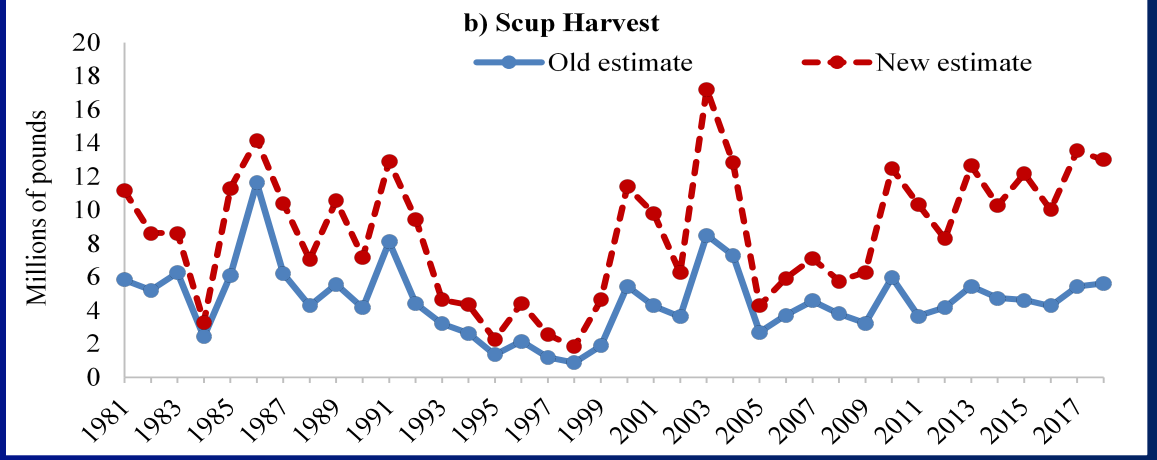
Why was this action initiated?

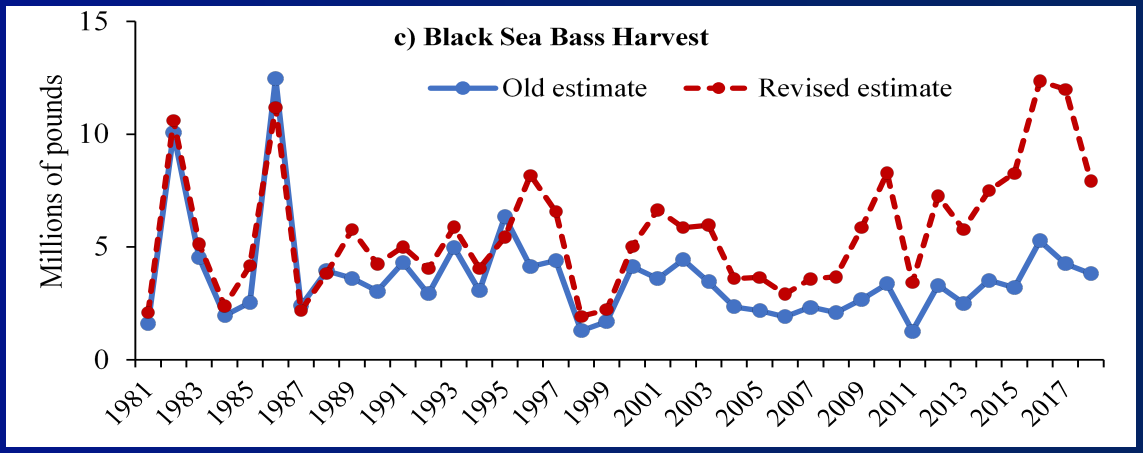
- Commercial/recreational allocations for all three species are based on historical proportions of landings or catch from each sector.
- Allocations were set in the mid-1990s and have not been revised.
- Our understanding of recreational and commercial landings and catch has changed.

MRIP changes

- New estimates: recreational harvest is higher than previously thought
- New values were incorporated into assessments
- Allocations are set in FMP and based on old MRIP numbers







Amendment Timeline

October 2019	Action initiation
February/ March 2020	Scoping hearings & public comment period
May 2020	Council/Commission review scoping comments and identify potential categories of alternatives to consider
May-July 2020	Initial development of draft management alternatives
August 2020	Council/Commission approve a range of alternatives for inclusion in public hearing document
Winter 2020-2021	Council/Commission approve public hearing document; public hearings
Spring-Fall 2021	Council/Commission consider public comments; final action; rulemaking
January 2022	Expected effective date

Alternative Categories

- **No Action/status quo**
- Summer flounder and black sea bass have landings-based allocations and scup has a catch-based allocation

	Current Allocations (Based on Old Data)	
	Comm.	**Rec.**
Summer flounder (1980-1989)	60%	40%
Scup (1988-1992)	78%	22%
Black sea bass (1983-1992)	49%	51%

Alternative Categories

- **Revised percentages based on different data or time series**
  - Catch-based or landings-based options
  - Averaging approach

Example of FMAT Rec. alternatives for Scup: catch-based		
Com. allocation	**Rec. allocation**	**Basis**
78%	22%	No action
65%	35%	Same base years, new data
61%	39%	2009-2018 base years
59%	41%	Approximate status quo harvest per sector compared to 2018/2019

Alternative Categories

- **Phased-in allocation change over a set number of years**
  - No phase in (no action/status quo)
  - Phase in with change evenly spread over 2, 3, or 5 years
  - Applies to alternatives that revise allocation percentages

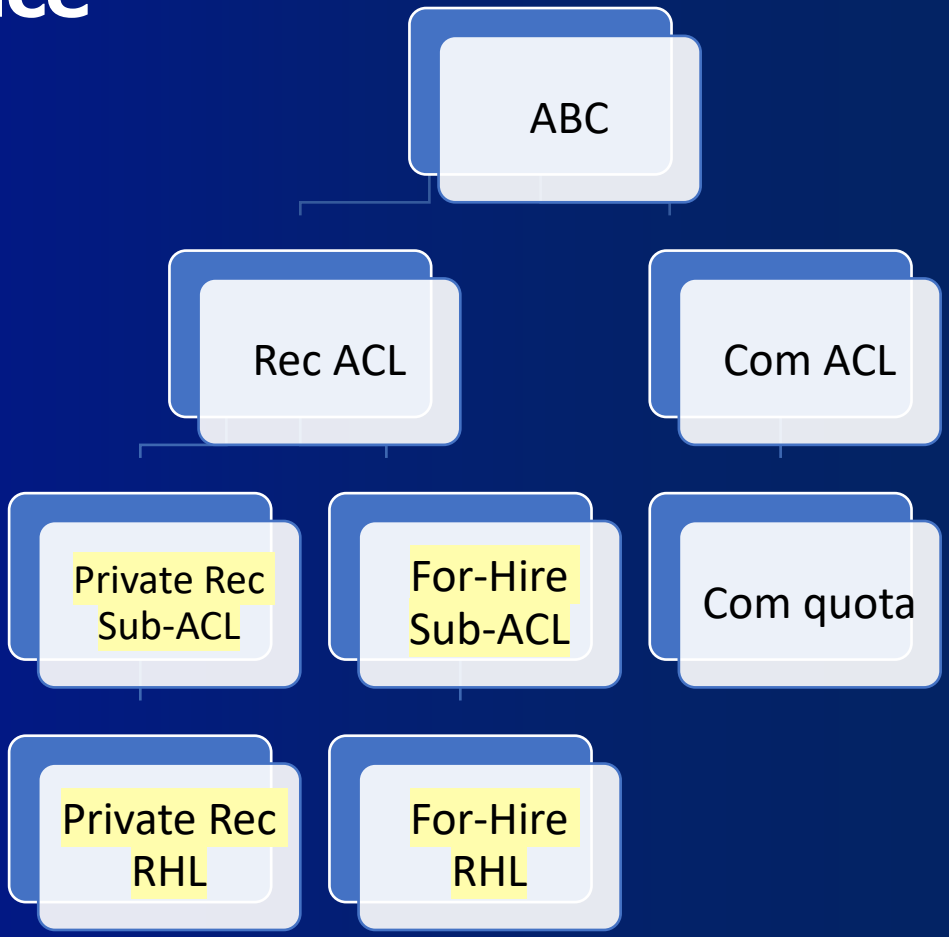
Alternative Categories

- **Recreational sector separation at sub-ACL level: FMAT preference**

- Sub-allocations:
  - Several options across diff time series/species
  - Allocation ranges:

  Private 87-96%

  For-hire 4-13%



Alternative Categories

- **Allocation transfers between sectors**
- Components of transfer provision
  - bidirectionality
  - Transfer cap
  - Projection methodology
  - Criteria prohibiting transfer
- Have not been consistent landings limit underages in either sector for fluke and BSB
- Scup has had underages in both sectors however rec underages were based on old MRIP

Alternative Categories

- **Allocation changes through frameworks/addenda:**
  - Allow com/rec allocations and other measures in this amendment to be changed through framework actions/addenda
  - Council/Board could still decide an amendment is warranted (lengthier, more public participation)
  - Tool in the toolbox

Summer Flounder Economic Model

- In 2016, the Council contracted Dr. Kurt Schnier (UC Merced) and Dr. Rob Hicks (William & Mary) to model the marginal economic benefits to the comm. and rec. sectors at various allocations
  - Peer reviewed Nov. 2016; presented to Council Dec. 2016
- Currently completing model update with revised MRIP data
  - Preliminary results presented to Council in June
  - Final report expected this summer

Summer Flounder Economic Model

- Preliminary conclusion:
  - Supports changes in allocations between sectors in either direction. It is likely (but not statistically significant) that increasing the recreational allocation would increase benefits from the fishery.

QUESTIONS?

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BACKUP SLIDES

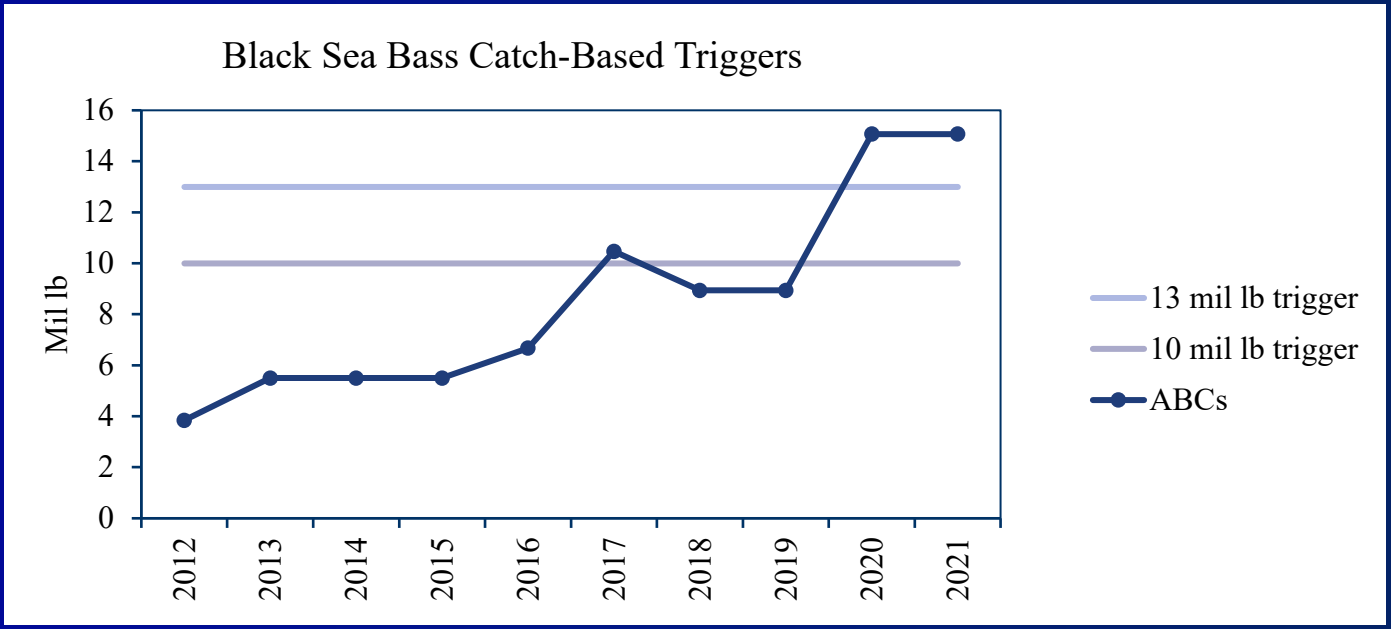
Implications of No Action

- Summer flounder
  - Projected 2019 harvest was very close to 2020 RHL (7.69 mil lb); rec fishery was able to stay *status quo*
- Scup
  - Final 2019 MRIP harvest estimate = 14.12 mil lb, 54% higher than the 2020 RHL of 6.51 mil lb.
- Black sea bass
  - Final 2019 MRIP harvest estimate = 8.61 mil lb, 48% higher than the 2020-2021 RHL of 5.82 mil lb.
- Maintaining status quo rec measures for BSB and scup in 2020 despite anticipated overage justified as a temporary solution – just for 2020.

Alternative Categories

- Trigger approaches
  - FMAT did not recommend continuing to develop this alternative

Comparison of potential catch-based trigger values shown in Table A-1 to the black sea bass ABCs over the past 10 years:



Commercial landings
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Rec. landings
Rec. landings - old MRIP
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Commercial landings
Commercial quota
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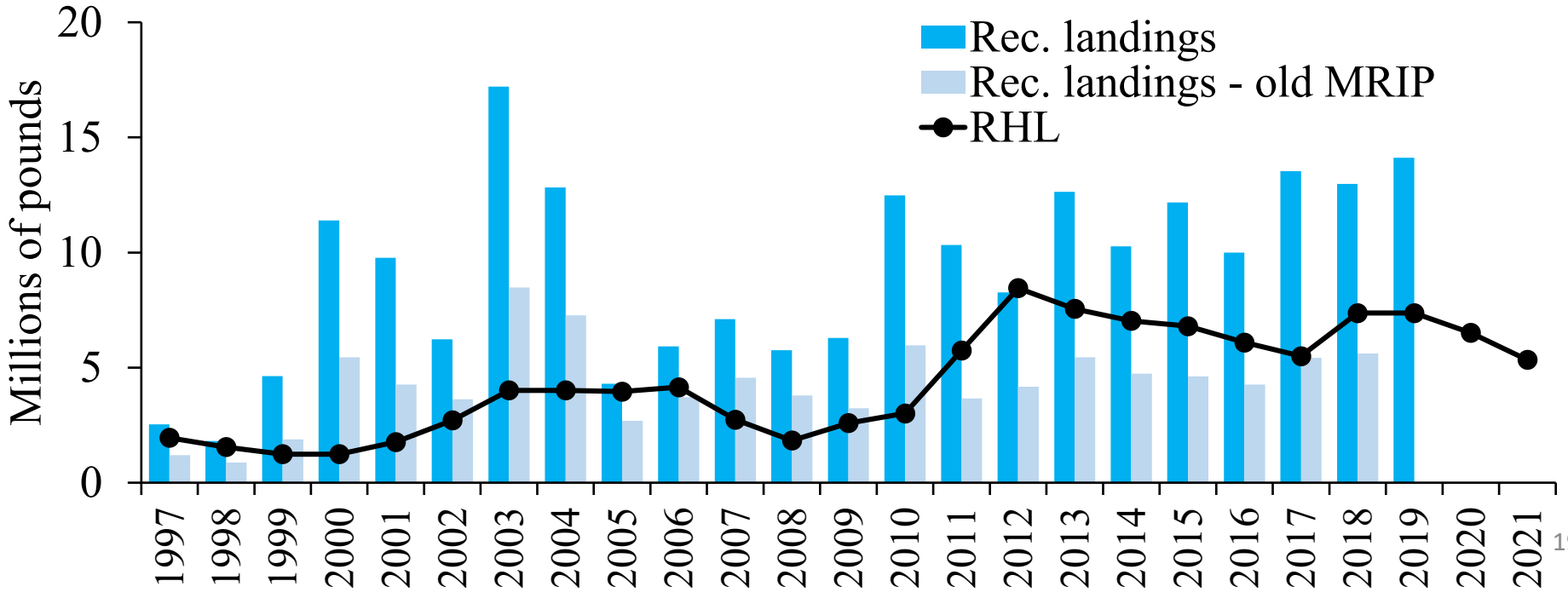
Rec. landings
Rec. landings - old MRIP
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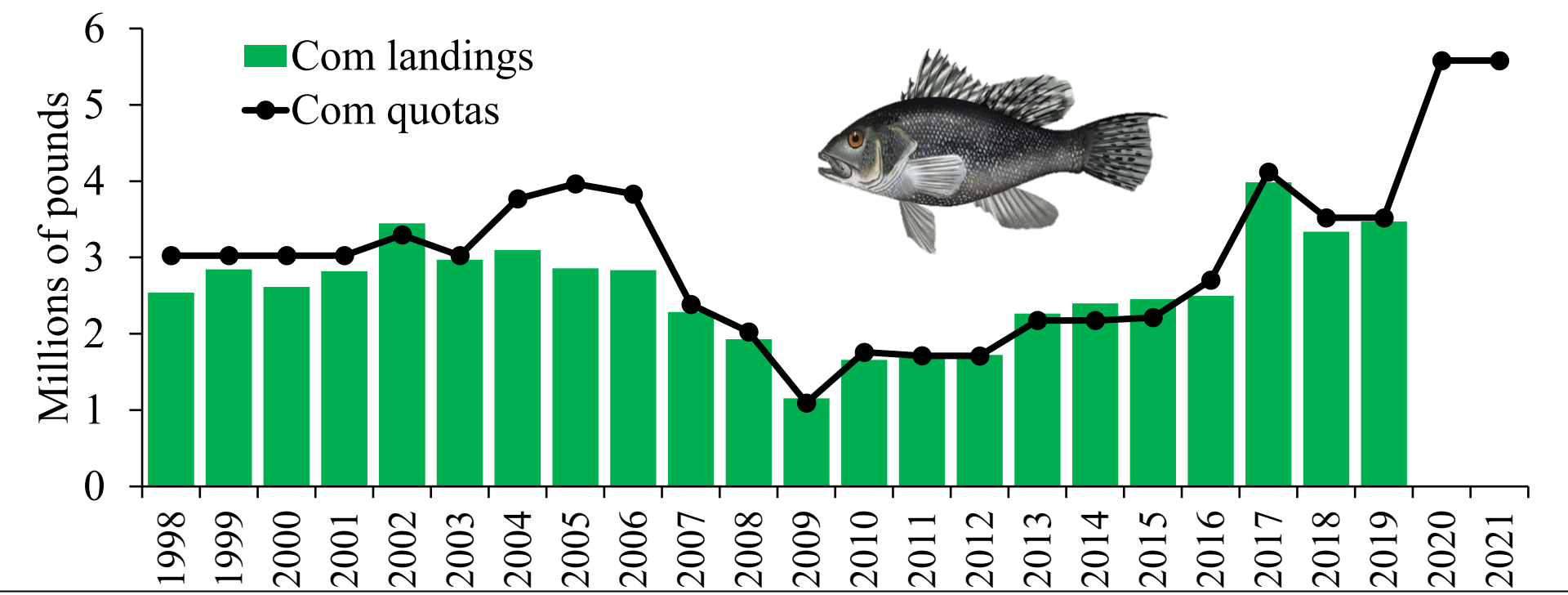
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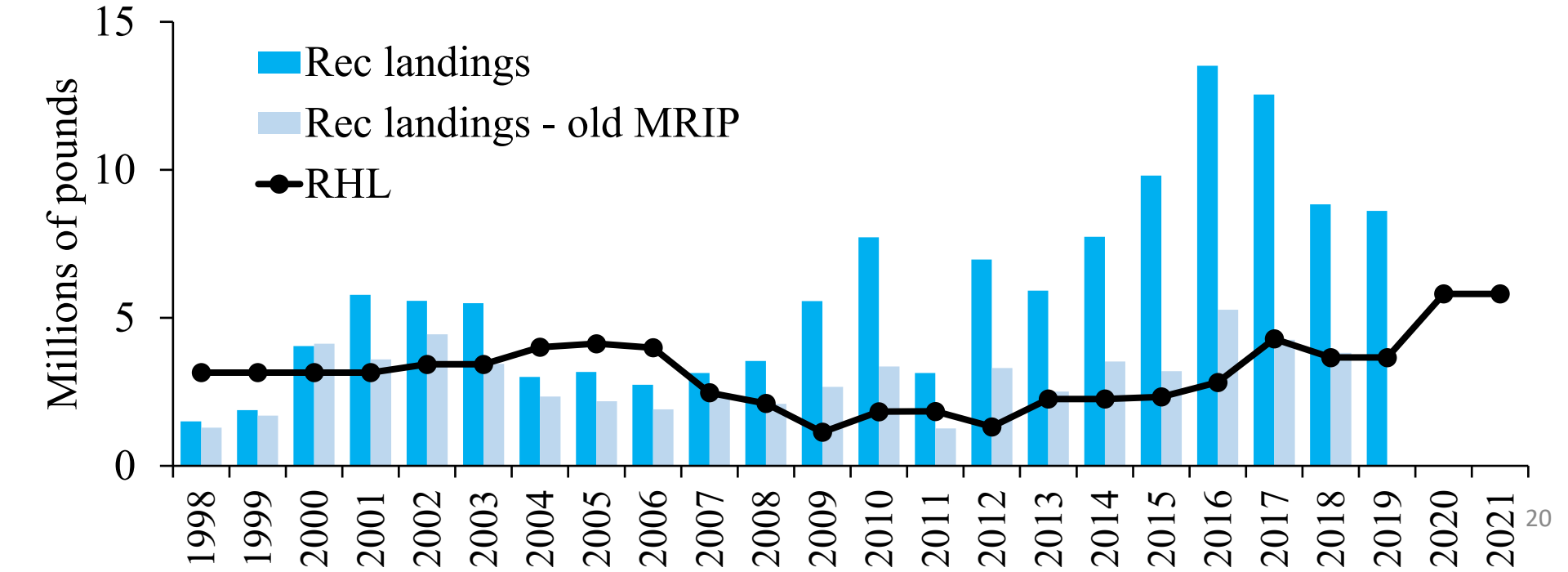
Rec landings
Rec landings - old MRIP
RHL
Millions of pounds
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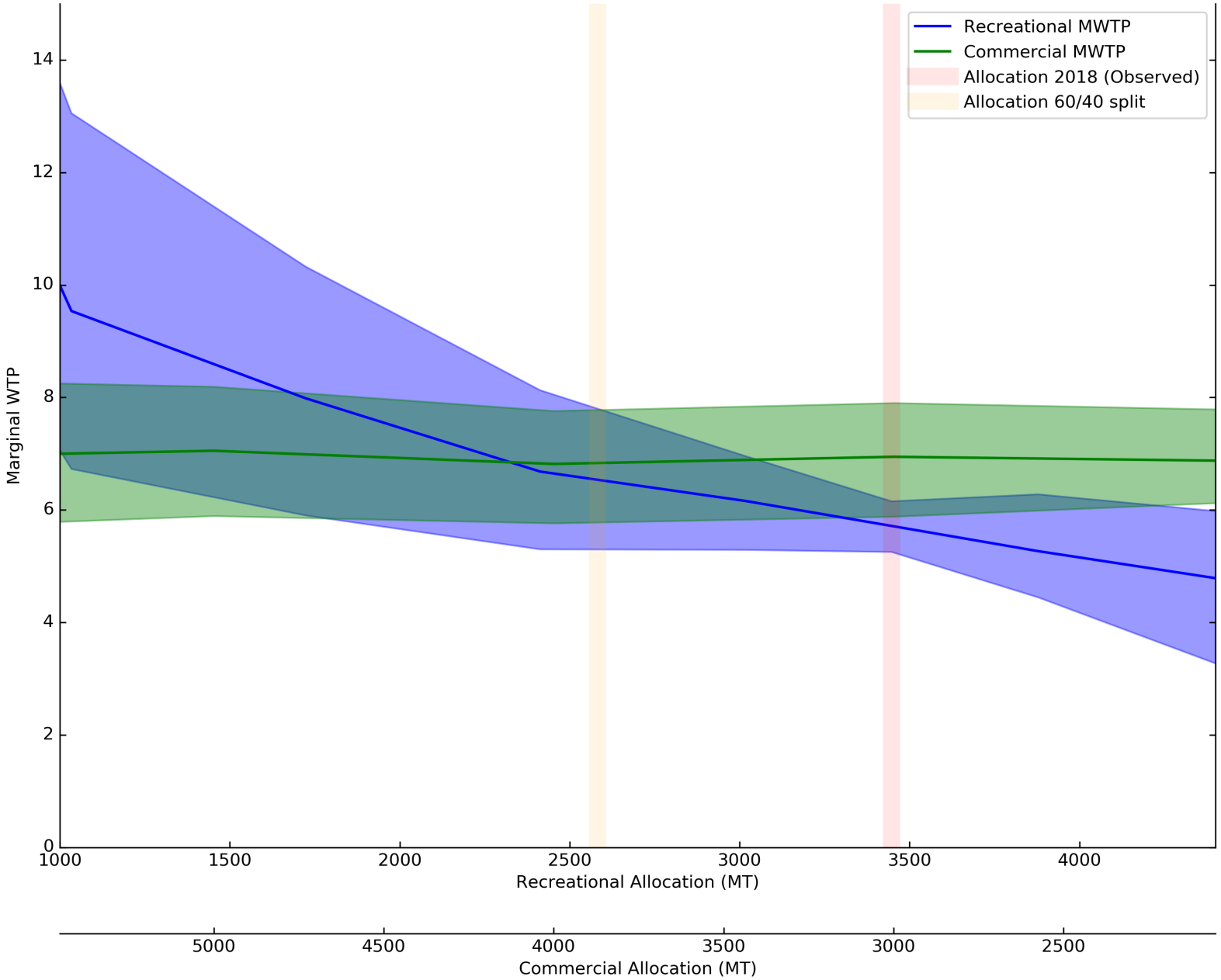
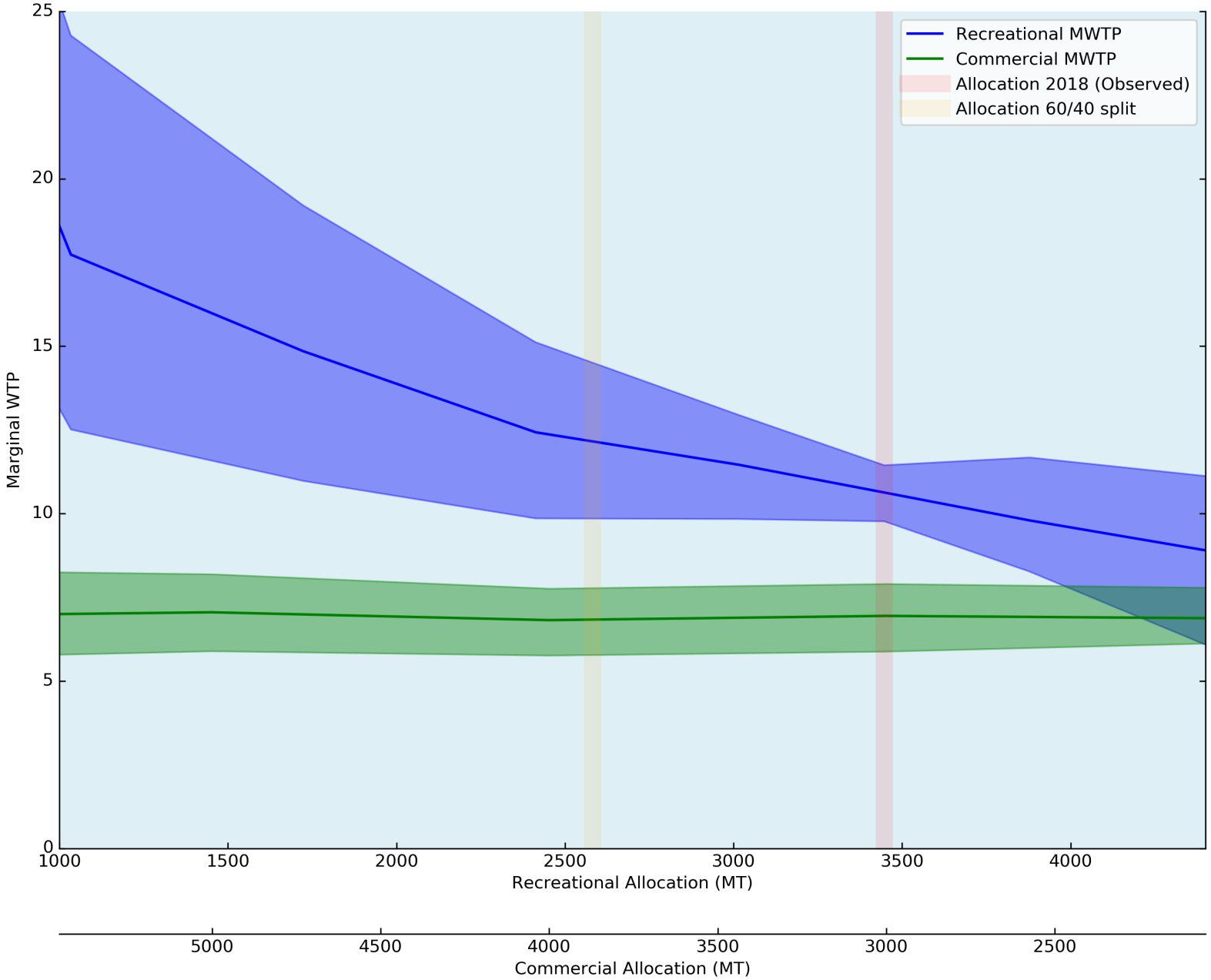
2017 version results



2020 preliminary results



Current allocations for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass

	Allocation	
Summer flounder: 1980-1989 (landings-based allocation)	Com	60%
	Rec	40%
Scup: 1988-1992 (catch-based allocation)	Com	78%
	Rec	22%
Black sea bass: 1983-1992 (landings-based allocation)	Com	49%
	Rec	51%