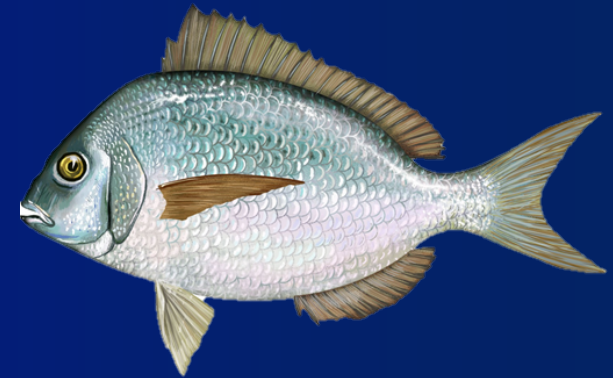


Scup 2020 Recreational Measures

Council and Board Meeting
December 11, 2019



Meeting Objectives

- Review recreational performance and current measures
- Review MC recommendation
- Review AP recommendation
- Decision point:
 - adopt measures for 2020 recreational scup fishery

2020 Rec. Measures Process

Oct 9

Council/Board Meeting (RHL)



Nov 13-14

Monitoring Committee



Nov 22

Advisory Panel Meeting



Dec 11

Council/Board Meeting



Feb 4-6

ASMFC Meeting

Recent Harvest

Year	Catch (mil fish)	Harvest (mil fish)	Harvest (mil lb)	% Released	Avg. weight of landed fish (lb)
2015	24.87	11.33	11.93	54%	1.05
2016	31.49	9.14	10.00	71%	1.09
2017	41.20	13.84	13.54	66%	0.98
2018	30.37	14.55	12.98	52%	0.89
2019 (w1-4)	18.89	10.10	9.31	47%	0.92

RHL Performance

Year	RHL (mil lb)	Harvest (old MRIP, mil lb)	% of RHL harvested (old MRIP)	Harvest (new MRIP, mil lb)
2014	7.03	4.43	63%	10.27
2015	6.80	4.41	65%	12.17
2016	6.09	4.26	70%	10.00
2017	5.50	5.42	98%	13.54
2018	7.37	5.61	76%	12.98
2019	7.37	--	--	14.43 (proj.)
2020	6.51	--	--	14.43 (proj.)

Federal Recreational Measures 2015-2019

Possession
limit

- 50 scup

Size limit

- 9 inches total length

Season

- January 1-December 31

2019 State Measures (slide 1 of 2)

State	Minimum Size (in)	Possession Limit	Open Season
MA (private & shore)	9	30 fish; 150 fish/vessel with 5+ anglers on board	April 13-December 31
MA (party/charter)	9	30 fish	April 13-April 30; July 1-December 31
		50 fish	May 1-June 30
RI (private & shore)	9	30 fish	January 1-December 31
RI shore program (7 sites)	8		
RI (party/charter)	9	30 fish	January 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		50 fish	September 1-October 31
CT (private & shore)	9	30 fish	January 1-December 31
CT shore program (45 sites)	8		
CT (party/charter)	9	30 fish	January 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		50 fish	September 1-October 31

2019 State Measures (slide 2 of 2)

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
NY (private & shore)	9	30 fish	January 1-December 31
NY (party/charter)	9	30 fish	January 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		50 fish	September 1- October 31
NJ	9	50 fish	January 1- December 31
DE	8	50 fish	January 1-December 31
MD	8	50 fish	January 1-December 31
VA	8	30 fish	January 1-December 31
NC, North of Cape Hatteras (N of 35° 15'N)	8	50 fish	January 1-December 31

2018 % Harvest by Wave and State

State	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6
ME	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NH	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
MA	0%	0%	53%	34%	13%	0%
RI	0%	0%	23%	53%	25%	0%
CT	0%	0%	29%	39%	31%	0%
NY	0%	0%	19%	31%	50%	1%
NJ	0%	0%	0%	10%	85%	5%
DE	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	97%
MD	0%	0%	0%	98%	0%	1%
VA	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NC	0%	90%	2%	0%	8%	0%
Total	0%	0%	29%	36%	35%	1%

% Harvest in State and Federal Waters

Year	State Waters (\leq 3 miles)	EEZ ($>$ 3 miles)
2014	96%	4%
2015	98%	2%
2016	95%	5%
2017	96%	4%
2018	95%	5%
Average	96%	4%

2019 Projections: Methodology

MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, NC

- 2019 w1-4 harvest
- 2018 proportion of harvest by wave and state
- Standard projection methodology

DE, MD, VA

- 2019 w1-4 + 2018 w5-6

2019 Projections

MC Meeting:

- NY wave 3 private mode harvest estimate: 3-4x recent values, determined to be an outlier by MC
- Harvest in NY projected using average proportions of total harvest by wave from 2014-2018

- Projected harvest in 2019: 14.43 mil lb

RHL and 2020 Projected Harvest

In 2020:

- RHL: 6.51 mil lb
- Projected harvest: 14.43 mil lb
- 55% reduction in harvest

MC Discussion

Ways to reduce harvest by 55%:

- Seasonal closures too disparate
- 3 fish bag limit
- 12" minimum size
- Combination of 10" min size and 5 fish bag limit

MC Discussion

- New MRIP estimates are a drastic change to our understanding of recreational harvest
- Little time to respond to changes
- Scup stock is healthy, SSB is $\sim 2x$ the SSB reference point in 2018
- Compliance issues

MC Recommendation

- avoid imposing additional restrictions on anglers as management adjusts to the new MRIP numbers
 - Stock is healthy
 - Management/FMP flexibility problem
- Because of this management situation, healthy stock status, and catch projections below the 2020 ABC, the MC recommended *status quo* recreational measures in state and federal waters for scup in 2020

Status Quo Rec Measures

- Estimated scup catch in 2020 under status quo: 2% below ABC, 18% below OFL

	2020 (mil lb)	Basis
dead discards (both sectors)	7.03	stock assessment projections for 2020
Est. rec. harvest	14.43	preliminary 2019 MRIP data
Est. comm. harvest	13.47	2018 harvest
Estimated total catch	34.93	
ABC	35.77	
OFL	41.17	

AP Recommendation and Discussion

AP recommendation:

- *status quo* recreational measures in state and federal waters for scup in 2020
 - Encouraging to see MC recommend this
 - Restriction is absurd for such a healthy stock

AP Discussion

- MRIP related comments
 - Heavily biased towards private boat
 - “Ridiculous”, “impossible”
 - “Wrecking the management process”
- Cumulative length limit should be considered

Council and Board Decision Point

- Set federal recreational measures for 2020
- MC and AP recommend *status quo*:
 - Bag limit: 50 scup
 - Minimum Size limit: 9"
 - Season: January 1-December 31
- Ways to reduce harvest by 55%:
 - 3 fish bag limit
 - 12" minimum size
 - Combination of 10" min size and 5 fish bag limit

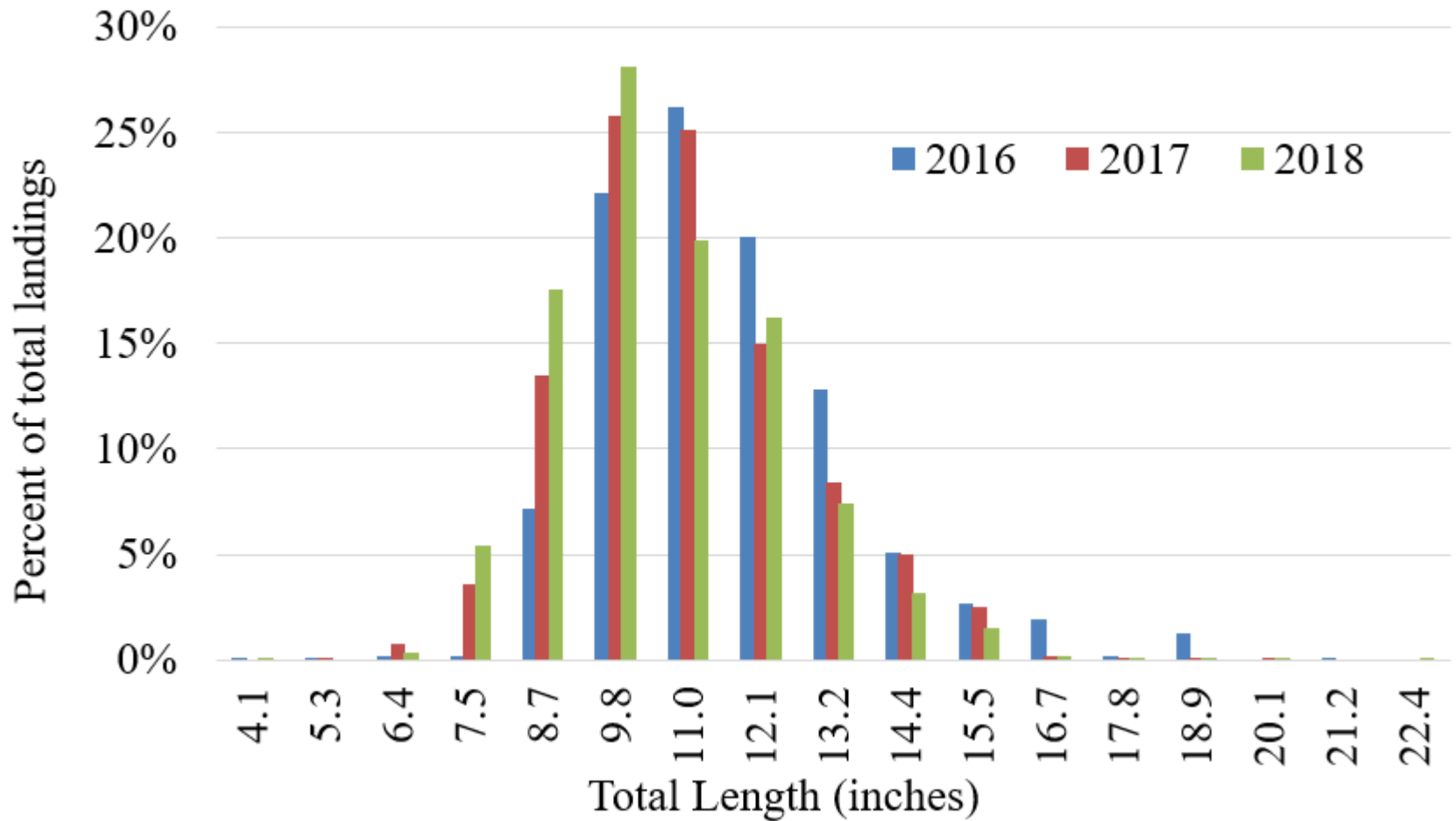
2015-2017 State Measures

State	Size	Bag	Season
MA private & shore	10"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
MA party/charter	10"	45 fish	5/1 – 6/30
		30 fish	7/1 – 12/31
RI private and shore	10"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
RI shore program (7 sites)	9"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
RI party/charter	10"	30 fish	5/1-8/31; 11/1-12/31
		45 fish	9/1-10/31
CT private angler	10"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
CT 45 shore sites	9"		
CT party/charter	10"	30 fish	5/1-8/31; 11/1-12/31
		45 fish	9/1-10/31
NY private and shore	10"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
NY party/charter	10"	30 fish	5/1-8/31; 11/1-12/31
		45 fish	9/1-10/31
NJ	9"	50 fish	1/1-2/28; 7/1 –12/31
DE - NC, North of Cape Hatteras	8"	50 fish	1/1-12/31

2018 State Measures

State	Size	Bag	Season
MA private & shore	9"	30 fish; 150 fish/vessel with 5+ anglers on board	5/1- 12/31
MA party/charter	9"	45 fish	5/1 – 6/30
		30 fish	7/1 – 12/31
RI private and shore	9"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
RI shore program (7 sites)	8"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
RI party/charter	9"	30 fish	5/1-8/31; 11/1-12/31
		45 fish	9/1-10/31
CT private & shore	9"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
CT 46 shore sites	8"		
CT party/charter	9"	30 fish	5/1-8/31; 11/1-12/31
		45 fish	9/1-10/31
NY private and shore	9"	30 fish	5/1- 12/31
NY party/charter	9"	30 fish	5/1-8/31; 11/1-12/31
		45 fish	9/1-10/31
NJ	9"	50 fish	1/1-12/31
DE - NC, North of Cape Hatteras	8"	50 fish	1/1-12/31

Length Frequencies of Rec. Scup Landings



2018 State Rec. Regulations & 2019 Changes

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
NY (private & shore)	9	30 fish	May 1-December 31
NY (party/charter)	9	30 fish	May 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		45 fish	September 1- October 31
NJ	9	50 fish	January 1- December 31
DE, MD, NC	8	50 fish	January 1-December 31
VA	8	30 fish	January 1-December 31

2019 state rec. measure changes:

- MA through NY increased party/charter bag limit from 45 to 50 fish during a portion of their open season
- RI through NY extended rec fishing season to the full year
- MA extended theirs by 18 days

Potential Bag Limit Reduction

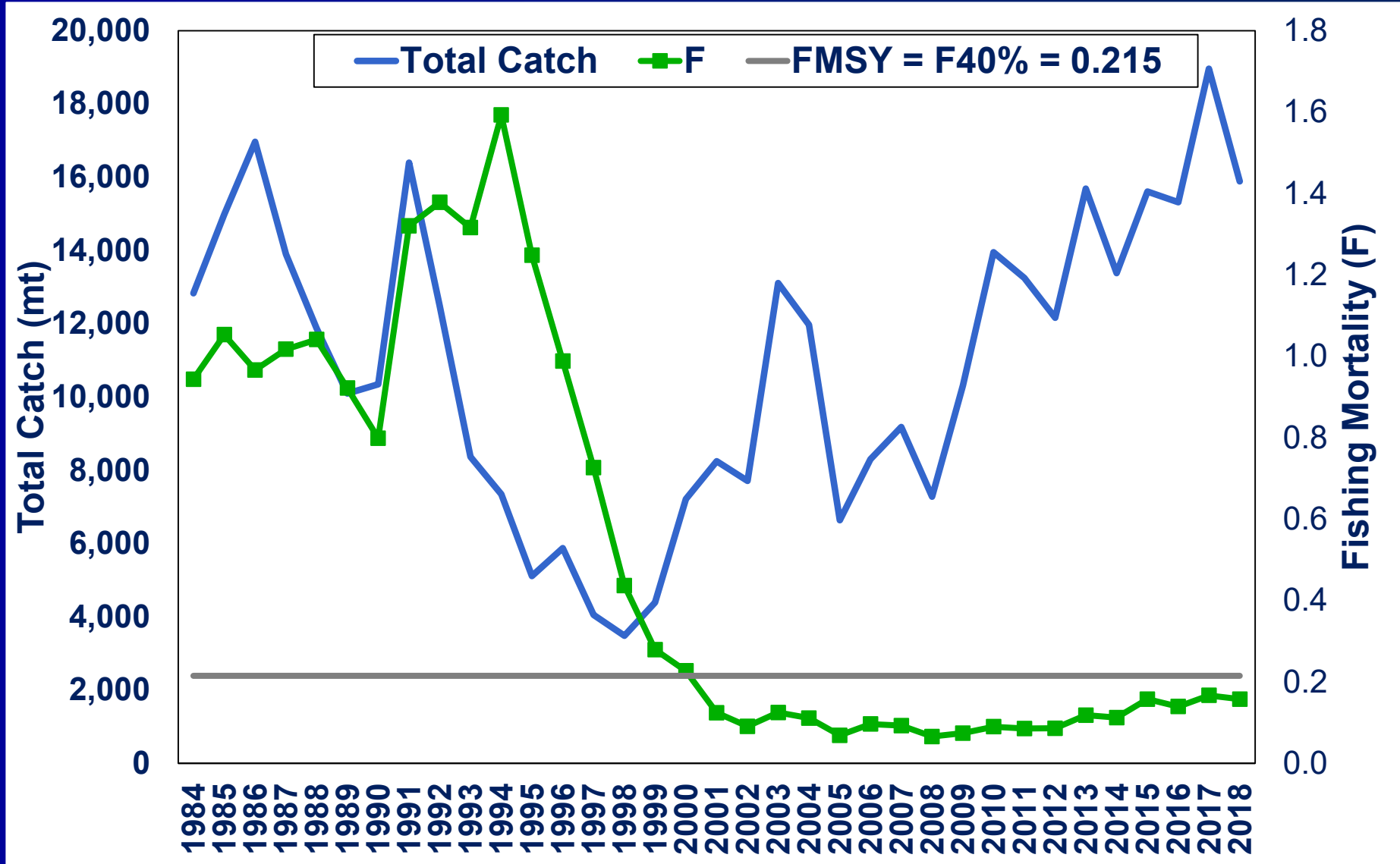
- Predicted % change in total harvest
- Based on MRIP harvest estimates from 2015-2019
- Federal bag limit: 50 fish since 2015
- State bag limits: 30-50 fish since 2015

Bag Limit	Predicted Change in Harvest
25	-3%
15	-10%
10	-20%
5	-41%
3	-57%
2	-67%

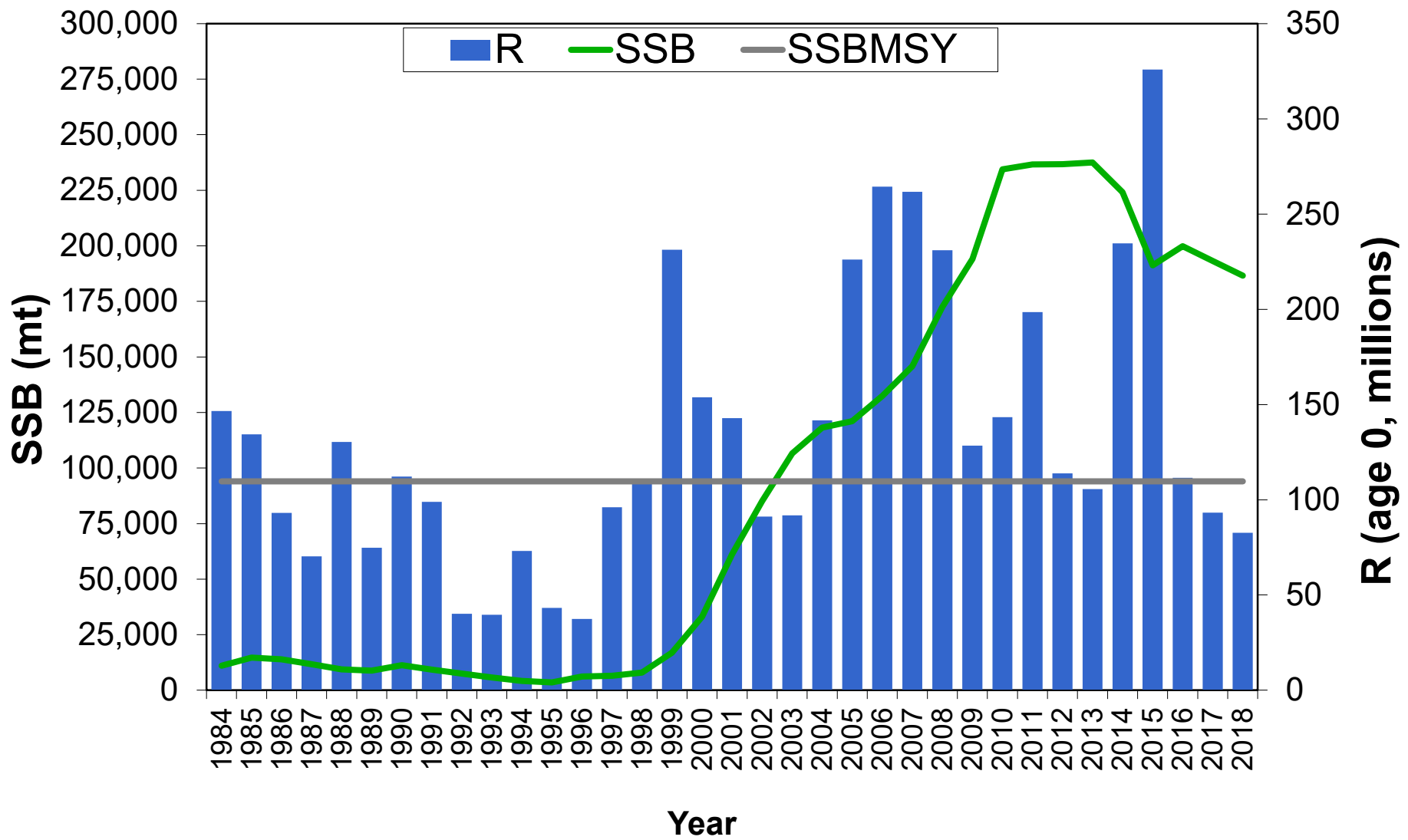
Reduction in Harvest by Increasing Minimum Size Coastwide

	2016	2017	2018	Average
10 inch	-22%	-26%	-28%	-25%
11 inch	-48%	-51%	-48%	-49%
12 inch	-68%	-66%	-64%	-66%

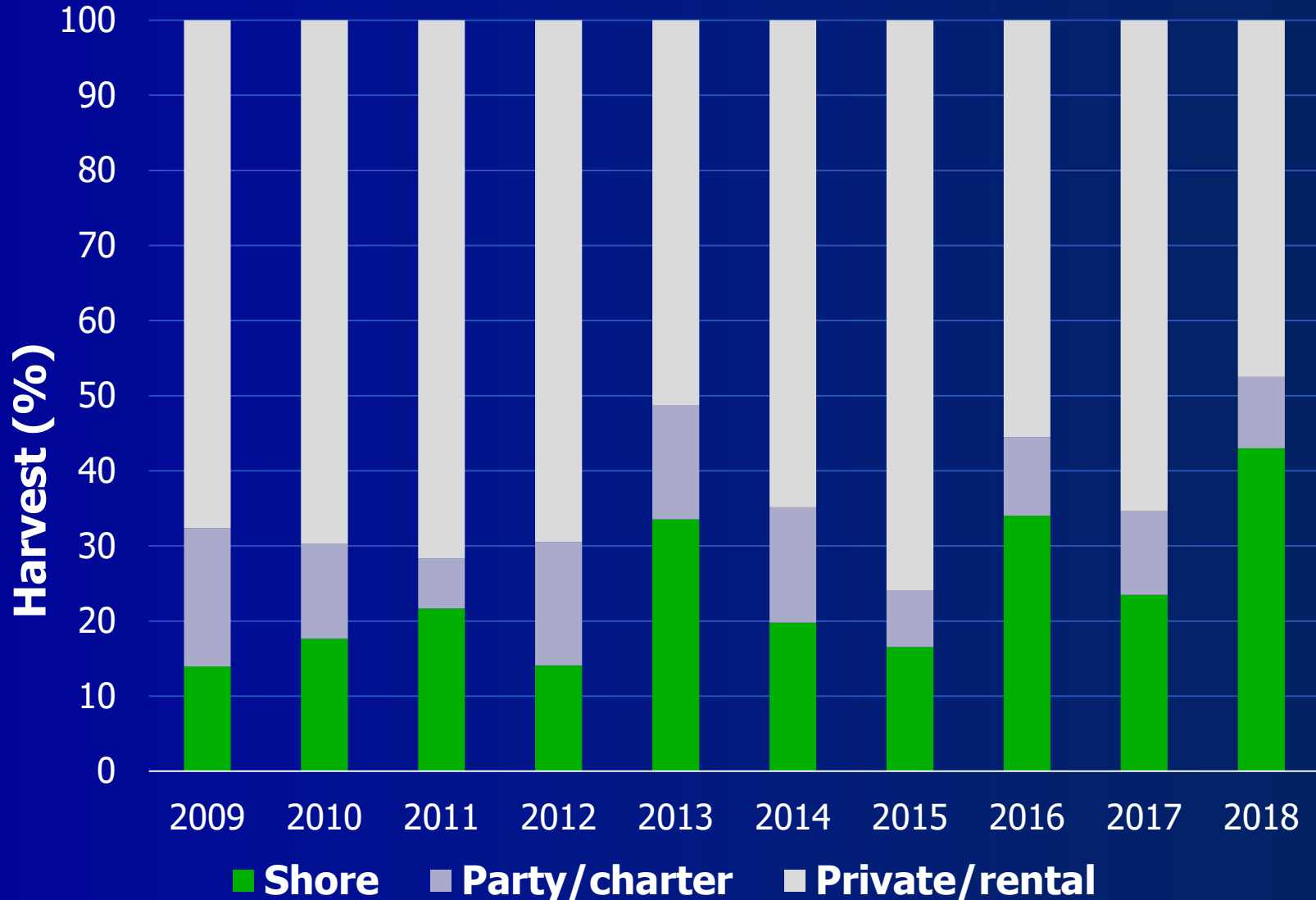
Fishing Mortality



Biomass, Recruitment



Harvest By Mode



2019 Projections by State (staff Memo)

State	2018 wave 1-4 harvest as % of annual harvest	2019 wave 1-4 harvest	2018 annual harvest	2019 projected annual harvest	% of projected 2019 total harvest
ME	0%	0	0	0	0%
NH	0%	0	0	0	0%
MA	87%	1,030,370	3,021,961	1,180,577	7%
RI	75%	1,703,835	2,030,259	2,267,281	14%
CT	69%	1,377,875	2,574,307	2,010,040	13%
NY	49%	5,194,213	4,906,043	10,552,583	66%
NJ	10%	1,298	443,699	12,763	0%
DE	1%	0	362	357	0%
MD	98%	0	369	6	0%
VA	0%	0	0	0	0%
NC	92%	2,526	420	2,734	0%
Total	64%	9,310,117	12,977,420	16,026,341	100%

2019 Projections by State (MC Rec.)

State	2018 wave 1-4 harvest as % of annual harvest	2019 wave 1-4 harvest	2018 annual harvest	2019 projected annual harvest	% of projected 2019 total harvest
ME	0%	0	0	0	0%
NH	0%	0	0	0	0%
MA	87%	1,030,370	3,021,961	1,180,577	7%
RI	75%	1,703,835	2,030,259	2,267,281	14%
CT	69%	1,377,875	2,574,307	2,010,040	13%
NY	58%	5,194,213	4,906,043	8,955,540	62%
NJ	10%	1,298	443,699	12,763	0%
DE	1%	0	362	357	0%
MD	98%	0	369	6	0%
VA	0%	0	0	0	0%
NC	92%	2,526	420	2,734	0%
Total	64%	9,310,117	12,977,420	14,429,297	100%