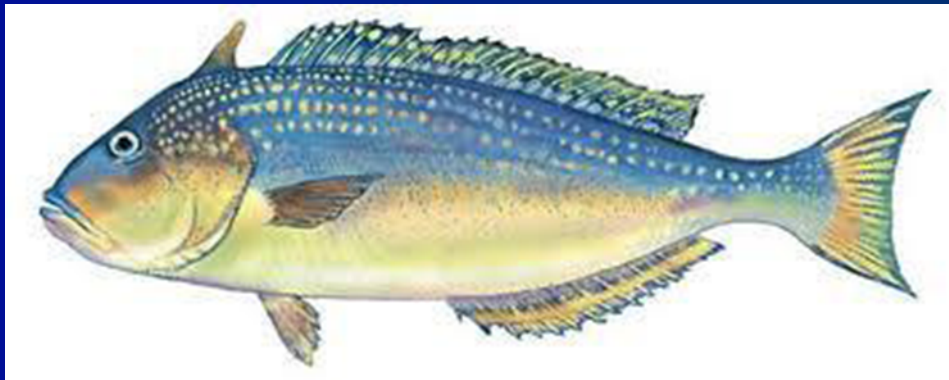


Golden Tilefish



SSC Meeting
10 March 2020

Today

■ Objective:

- To provide the SSC with updated fishery information for GTF
- Recommend ABCs for the next specs cycle

■ Presentation:

- Background: spec process & timeline
- Stock status & Data update
- Regulatory Review
- Recent Fishery Performance (FID & FPR)
- Other Relevant information
- Staff Memo to Chris Moore

I. Background

Specifications Process Review/Timeline

- 2018, 2019, 2020 multi-year specifications cycle
 - Ends with 2020 FY (November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020)

Specifications Process Review/Timeline (cont.)

- NRCC new stock assessment process & schedule
 - Management track assessment update – 2021
 - Peer review, June 2021
- This year, Council will use the GTF data update and other relevant information to set specifications for
 - 2021 and 2022 (interim)
- 2021 Management track assessment
 - Revise interim 2022 and set 2023 and 2024 specifications

II. Stock Status / Data Update

Stock Status

- Golden tilefish stock assessment update (Nitschke 2017)
- Stock not overfished and overfishing was not occurring in 2016 relative to newly developed updated BRPs

Stock Status (cont'd)

- Fishing mortality in 2016 was estimated at $F=0.249$; 20% below the fishing mortality threshold of $F=0.310$ (F_{MSY} proxy= $F_{38\%}$)
- SSB in 2016 was estimated at 18.69 million pounds (8,479 mt), and was at 89% of the biomass target (SSB_{MSY} proxy= $SSB_{38\%}$; 21 million pounds or 9,492 mt)

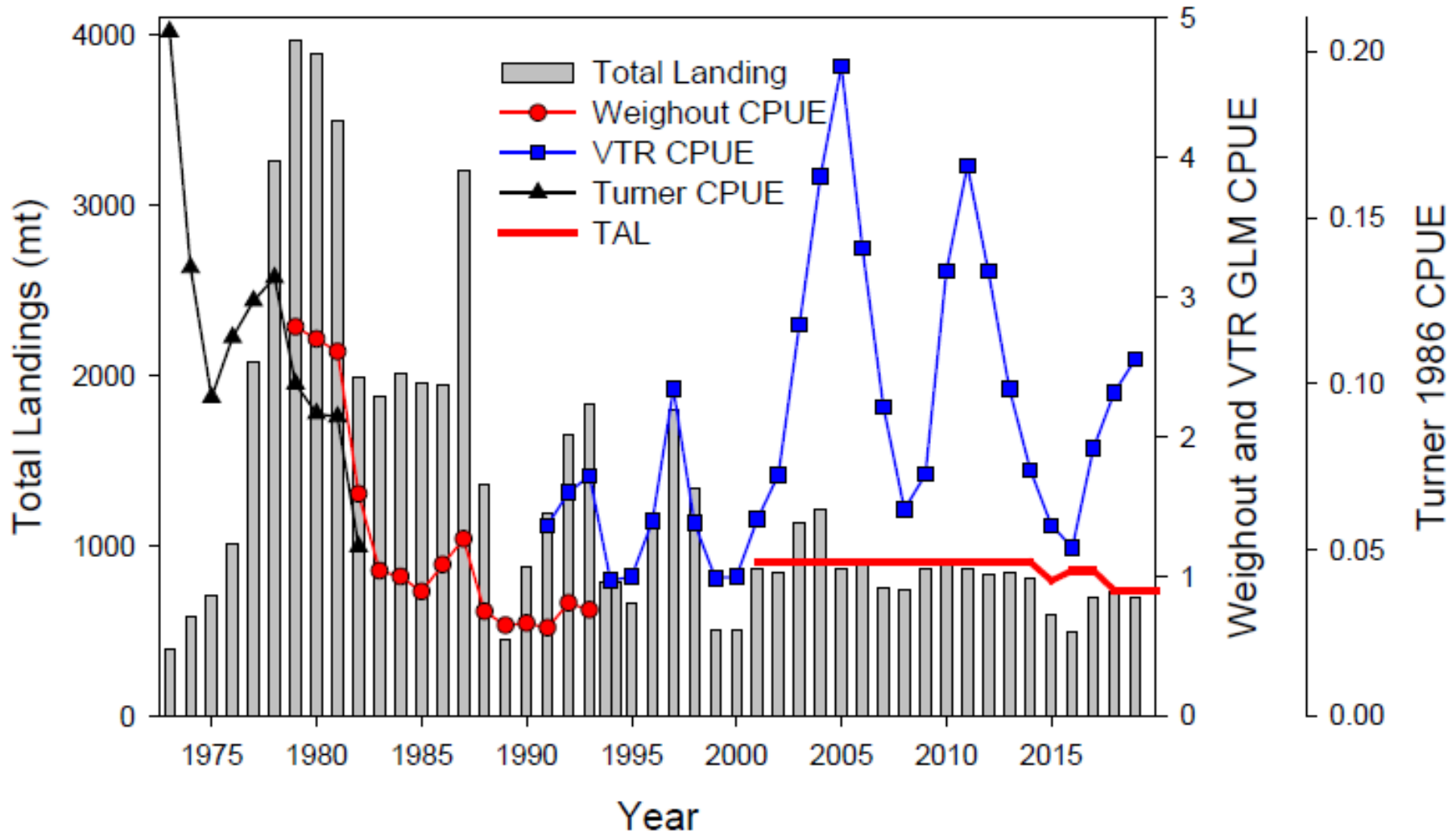
2020 Data Update

- As part of the reviewing process, the NEFSC provided
 - Trends commercial landings
 - Longline fishery CPUE
 - Size distribution of fish landed
 - Data through 2019

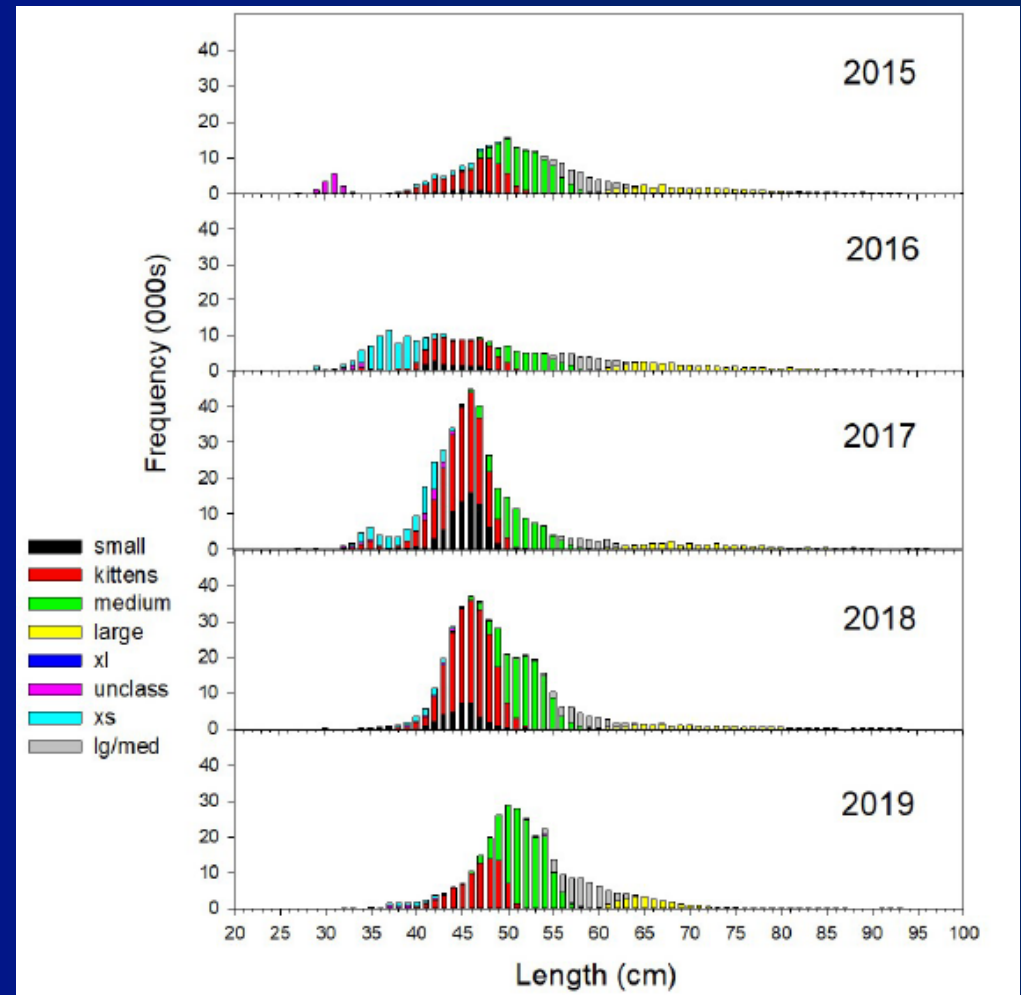
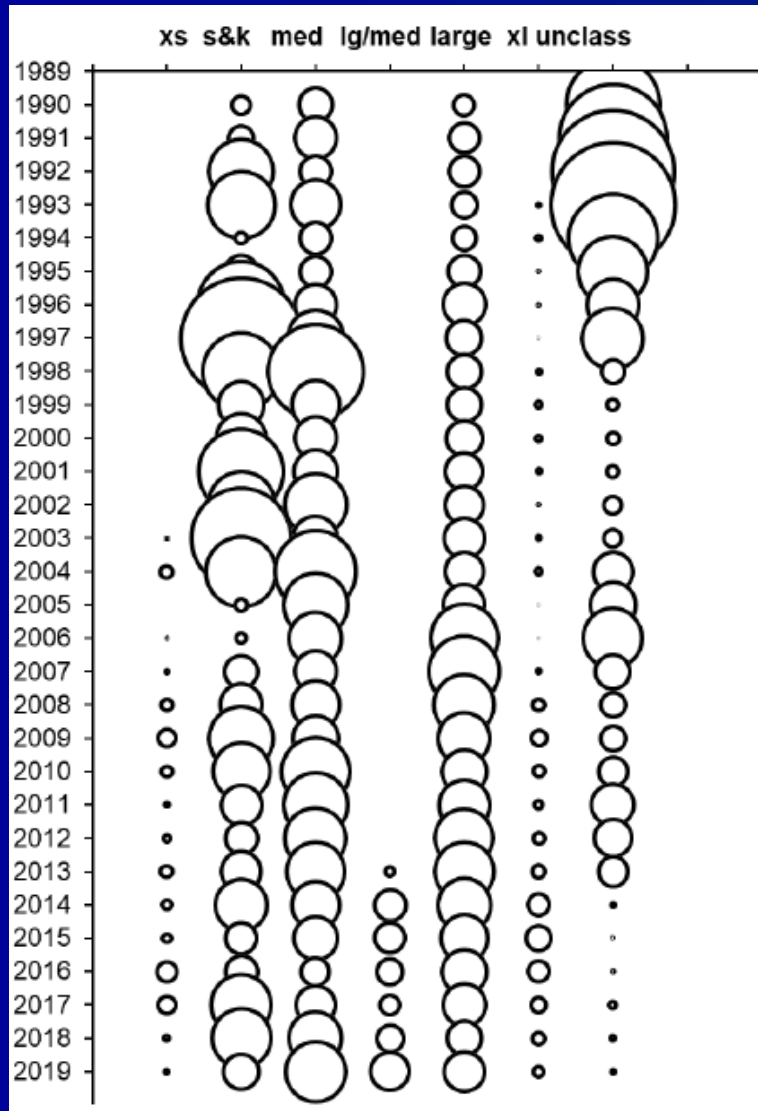
2020 Data Update (cont.)

- CPUE in 2019 increased relative to 2018 as predicted from growth of the strong 2013 year class
- Tracking of the strong 2013 year class is also reflected in the landings market category proportions and the landings at length distributions

2020 Data Update (cont.)



2020 Data Update (cont.)



II. Regulatory Review

Regulatory Review

- March 2017, the SSC recommended a 3-year ABC (2018, 2019, 2020)
 - The average ABC over the 3-year = 1.636 m pounds or 742 mt
- Council's revised approach to the risk policy that seeks to maintain consistency in catch advise

Regulatory Review (cont'd)

- The level of uncertainty in the assessment was assumed to require an SSC-specified coefficient of variation (CV)
- Maintained the 2014 determination based on consistency b/w input data and model dynamics, available model diagnostics, and lack of a pathological retrospective pattern

Regulatory Review (cont'd)

- The ABC calculation was based
 - On the F_{MSY} proxy
 - Lognormal coefficient of variability around the OFL of 100%
 - That the ABC is taken every year
 - Risk policy for a typical life history

Regulatory Review (cont'd)

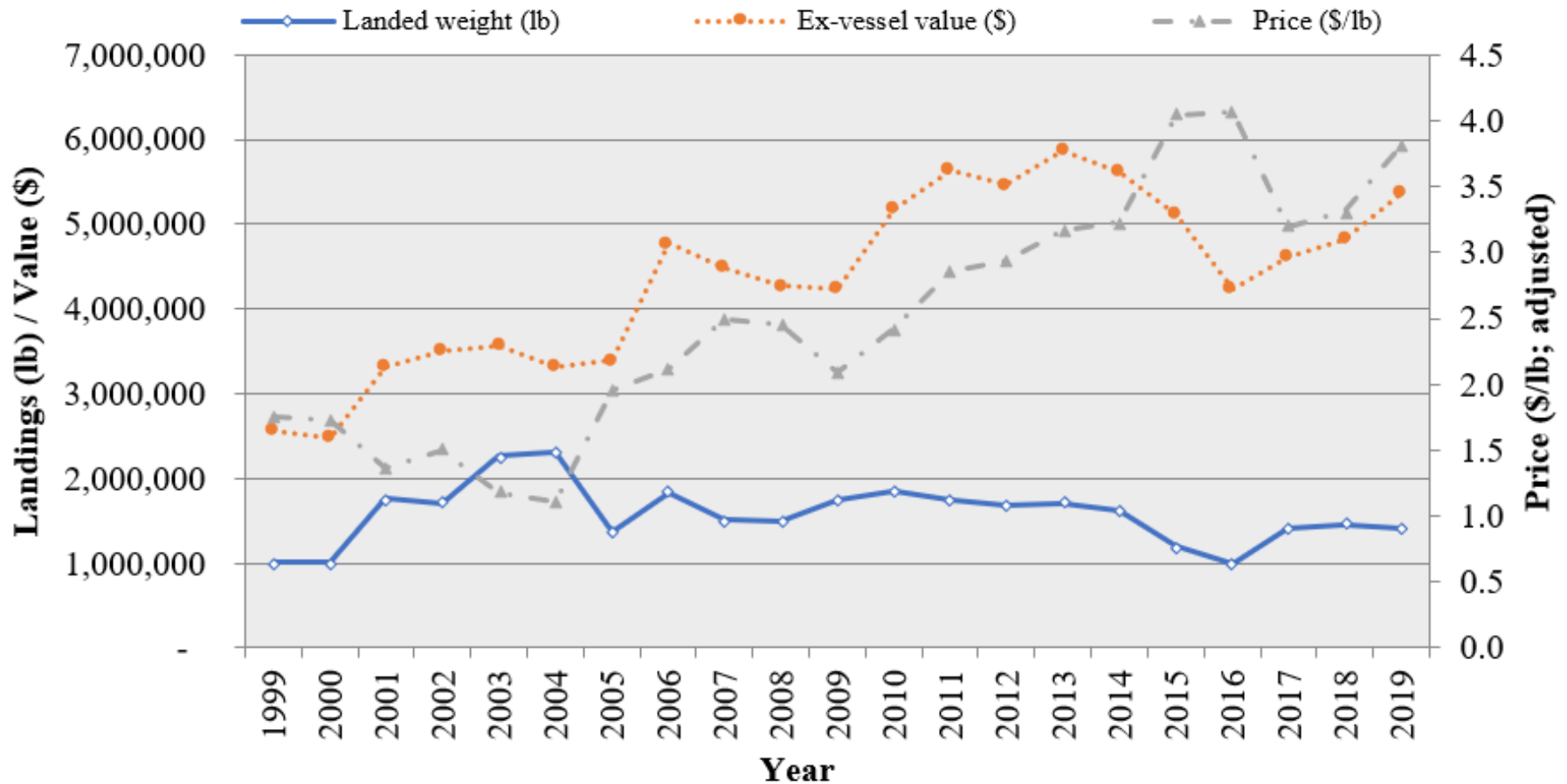
- Approach was used by the SSC because there is no strong trend in stock biomass in recent years
- Recommended the ABCs be re-examined annually in light of substantial changes in the size distribution in the catch or in the spatial distribution of the fishery
- Important as the 2013 year class fully recruits into the fishery over the next two years

III. Fishery Information Document

Commercial Landings (cont.)

- Tilefish are primarily caught by longline (~97%) and bottom otter trawl (2%) for the 2015-2019 period (Table 2)
- Statistical areas 537 (56%), 616 (38%), 539/626 (2% each; Table 3)
 - Accounting for 98% of the tilefish landings in 2019

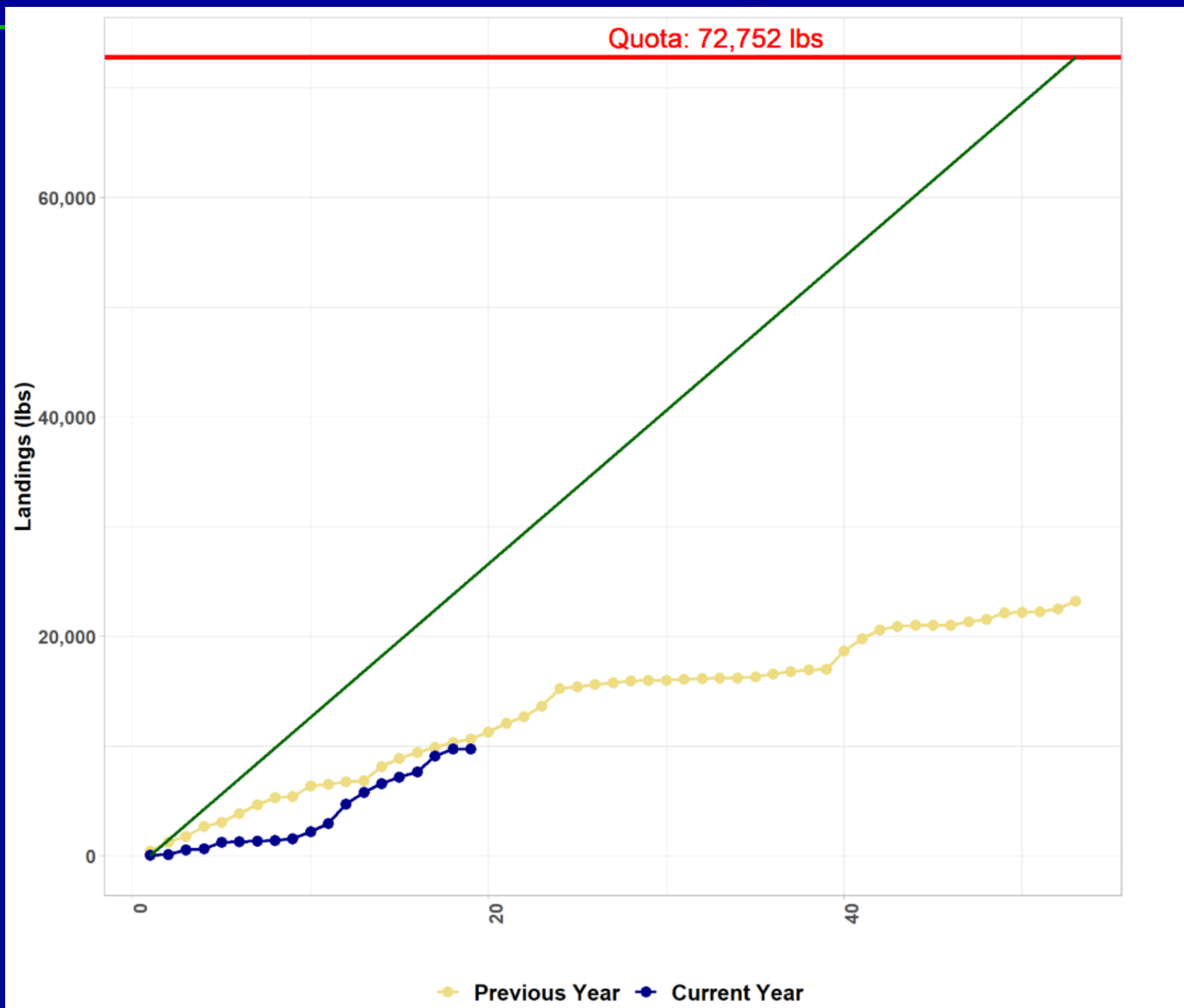
Figure 3. Landings, ex-vessel value, and price for tilefish, Maine through Virginia combined, 1999-2019.



Landings, ex-vessel value, and price for tilefish

- 2019 landings ~1.4 million pounds (<1% decrease from 2018)
- 2019 ex-vessel revenue ~ \$5.4 (10% increase from 2018)
- 2019 mean price per pound ~ \$3.81 (15% increase from 2018)

Incidental Landings



Incidental Landings (cont.)

Fishing year	Landings (pounds)	Incidental quota (pounds)	Percent of quota landed (%)
2013	36,442	99,750	37
2014	44,594	99,750	45
2015	18,839	87,744	21
2016	20,929	94,357	22
2017	60,409	94,357	64
2018	61,254	72,752	84
2019	22,246	72,752	31

Table 12. Incidental commercial landings for 2013-2019 fishing years.

Catch Disposition / Discard Trends

- No commercial discards of golden tilefish in directed tilefish trips (VTR)
- None to very little discarding reported in longline vessels targeting GTF (VTR)
- Commercial discards not included in the assessment

Discard Trends (cont'd)

- According to the “Discard Estimation, Precision, and Sample Size Analysis” conducted by the NEFSC, discard estimations for commercial fisheries are low (mostly large/small mesh trawls and gillnets)
 - 2012-2016 – avg. 9,393 pounds (~4 mt)
 - 2014-2018 – avg. 11,627 pounds (~5 mt)
 - 2015-2019 – avg. 11,524 pounds (~5 mt)

Dealers

- In 2018 - 76 dealers - \$4.9 million – 138 vessels
- In 2019 - 49 dealers - \$5.4 million – 106 vessels
- Dealers are mostly located in NY, CT, NJ, & RI (Table 9)

Recreational Fishery

- NMFS recreational statistics (Table 13)
- Recreational landings for the 1982 - 2019 period, ranged from zero for most years to approximately 220k fish in 2010
- In 2019, about 11K fish were reported landed in the NMFS recreational statistics database

Year	Landed no. A and B1				Released no. B2			
	Party/charter		Private/rental		Party/charter		Private/rental	
1982	0		2,225	(102.0)	0		0	
1983	0		0		0		0	
1984	0		0		0		0	
1985	0		0		0		0	
1986	0		0		0		0	
1987	0		0		0		0	
1988	0		0		0		0	
1989	0		0		0		0	
1990	0		0		0		0	
1991	0		0		0		0	
1992	0		0		0		0	
1993	0		0		0		0	
1994	555	(101.6)	0		0		0	
1995	0		0		0		0	
1996	1,765	(80.5)	0		0		0	
1997	0		0		0		0	
1998	0		0		0		0	
1999	0		0		0		0	
2000	0		0		0		0	
2001	98	(101.4)	0		0		0	
2002	0		122,443	(85.7)	0		8,163	(85.7)
2003	967	(75.2)	0		0		0	
2004	55	(102.2)	0		0		0	
2005	0		0		0		0	
2006	471	(103.7)	0		0		0	
2007	1,837	(71.4)	0		0		0	
2008	0		0		0		0	
2009	168	(89.8)	0		0		0	
2010	4,754	(81.9)	213,382	(98.4)	0		0	
2011	0		0		0		0	
2012	0		0		0		0	
2013	1,145	(0)	0		0		0	
2014	0		0		0		0	
2015	0		0		0		0	
2016	0		26,691	(70.4)	0		0	
2017	0		59,413	(59.4)	0		0	
2018	7,925	(80.3)	893	(102.9)	4	(106.8)	0	
2019	0		10,503	(64.4)	0		0	

**Table 13.
Recreational
tilefish data
from the NMFS
recreational
statistics
databases,
1982-2019.**

Year	Number of golden tilefish kept	Mean effort
1996	81	1.4
1997	400	7.5
1998	243	8.1
1999	91	0.4
2000	147	0.5
2001	172	0.7
2002	774	0.9
2003	991	1.6
2004	737	1.2
2005	498	0.9
2006	477	1.2
2007	1,077	1.2
2008	1,100	1.3
2009	1,451	1.3
2010	1,866	2.0
2011	2,938	3.4
2012	6,424	2.8
2013	6,560	3.2
2014	6,958	3.1
2015	8,297	4.2
2016	5,919	4.1
2017	7,014	4.6
2018	7,101	3.9
2019	2,733	3.4
All	64,049	2.8

**Table 14.
Number of
tilefish kept by
party/charter
anglers and
mean effort from
Maine through
Virginia, 1996
through 2019.**

IV. Fishery Performance Report

FPR

- Fishermen are not moving around much as they are finding a healthy mix of animals in traditional fishing grounds
- Industry members have observed a new year class coming into the fishery in 2019
- They have also seen a wide range of fish landed in terms of size and weight when compared to the year before

FPR (cont.)

- CPUE increasing
 - Dogfish interactions in 2019 continued to be high but at the same level seen in 2018
 - Skates interactions increased in 2019 when compared to 2018 (increased size of skates and numbers)

FPR (cont.)

- CPUE increasing . . .
 - Smooth dogfish have increased in recent years (e.g., encountering more animals and further east)
 - Weather in 2019 continued to be poor, winter started earlier in 2019 (October) when compared to 2018 conditions
 - Catching more fish and fishing is improving

FPR (cont.)

- Consider a recreational allocation
- Consider a differential trip limit (for hire vs private) and longer recreational trips
- Consider recreational management strategies (e.g., longer recreational trips), structured after the Gulf of Mexico regulations

FPR (cont.)

- Industry members indicated that for-hire trips targeting golden tilefish went down in 2019
 - weather factors
 - improved tuna and swordfish fishing conditions

V. Other Relevant information

Private Recreational Permitting/Reporting

- Approved in Amendment 6 to the Tilefish FMP in 2017, but with delayed implementation
- Proposed rule published on January 29, 2020
- Implementation expected on May 1, 2020
- Outreach to occur between March - April

2020 GTF Survey

- Fishery-independent bottom longline survey for the Mid-Atlantic Golden tilefish stock
- Council/Industry/NMFS
- Goal bottom longline survey design is to develop an abundance index for the golden tilefish stock
- Summer 2020

VI. Staff Recommendations

Staff Recommendations

- Memo to Chris Moore
- *Status quo* ABC for the 2021 and interim 2022 fishing year specifications
 - 1.636 m pounds or 742 mt
 - Stock status information (2017)
 - 2020 Data update
 - Recent Fishery Trends
 - Allow industry to continue to operate efficiently
 - Not likely to impact the status of the stock
 - Management track assessment update – 2021

Discussion

