



Atlantic Mackerel

2024-25 Specifications

SSC - Oct 2023

Overview

- 2023 Specifications
- Preliminary 2024-2025 decisions
- Additional projections

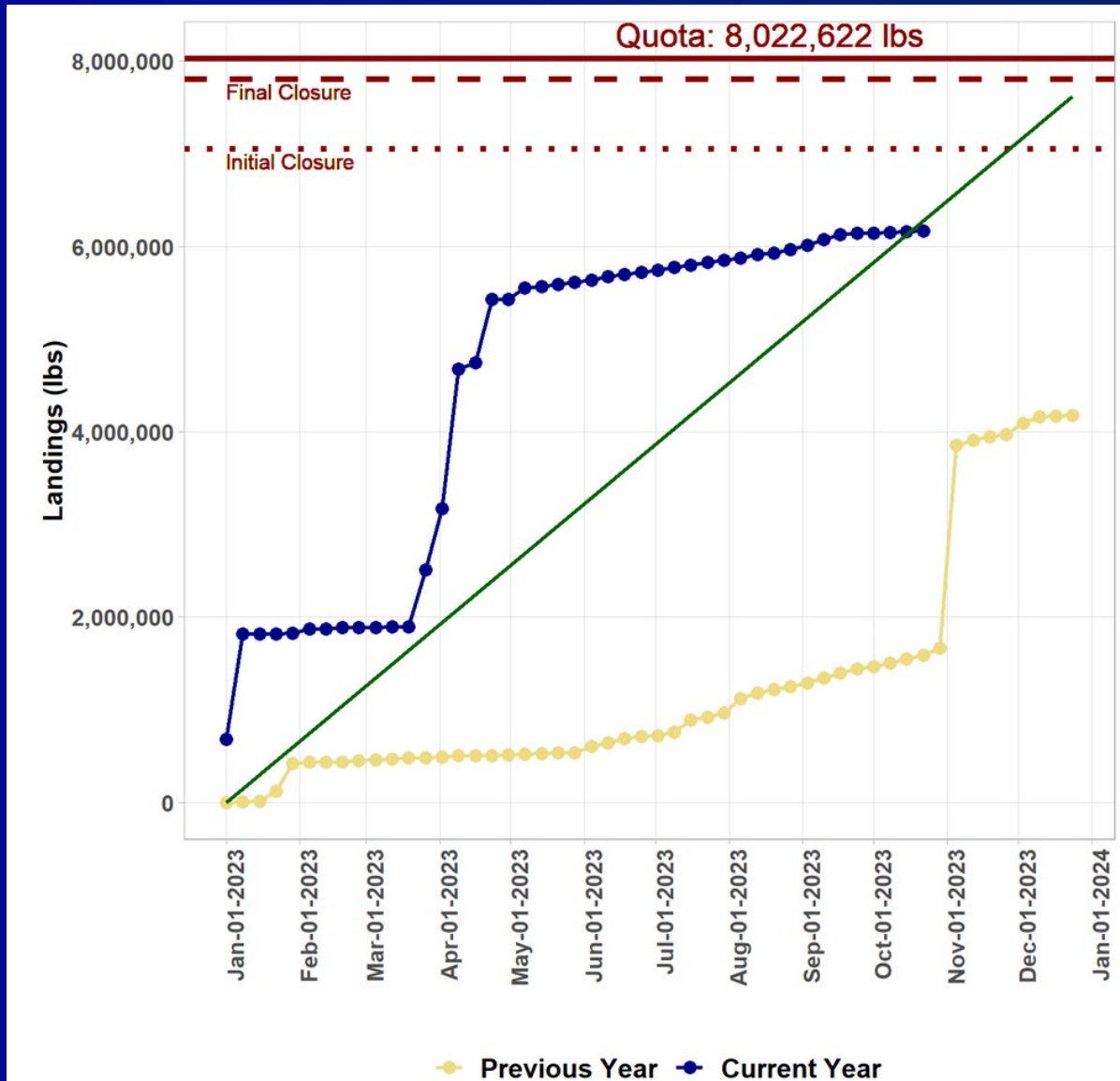
2023 Specifications

Table 9. The proposed new specifications and closure provisions for the preferred rebuilding alternative (RPA 4)

ABC/ACL	8,094	a
Canadian Catch Deduction	2,197	b
Rec Catch Deduction	2143	c
Commercial Discards	115	d
Commercial Quota	3,639	e=a-b-c-d
Before May 1 First Closure Threshold (-886 MT)	2,753	f=e-886
May 1/after First Closure Threshold (-443 MT)	3,196	g=e-443
Final Closure Threshold (-100 MT)	3,539	h=e-100

- 2023 Emergency Action – October 12
 - 2023 landings will likely be limited to about 3,000 MT...

2023/2022



Preliminary 2024-2025 decisions

- SSC
- ABCs of 2,726 mt in 2024 and 3,900 mt in 2025
 - Dampens good terminal year recruitment
 - Same chance of rebuilding by 2032 (61%)

Preliminary 2024-2025 decisions

- Council
- Very low quotas
- Limit commercial fishery to incidental-level landings...
 - “Directed” = 20,000 pounds
 - “Open access/incidental” = 1,000 pounds

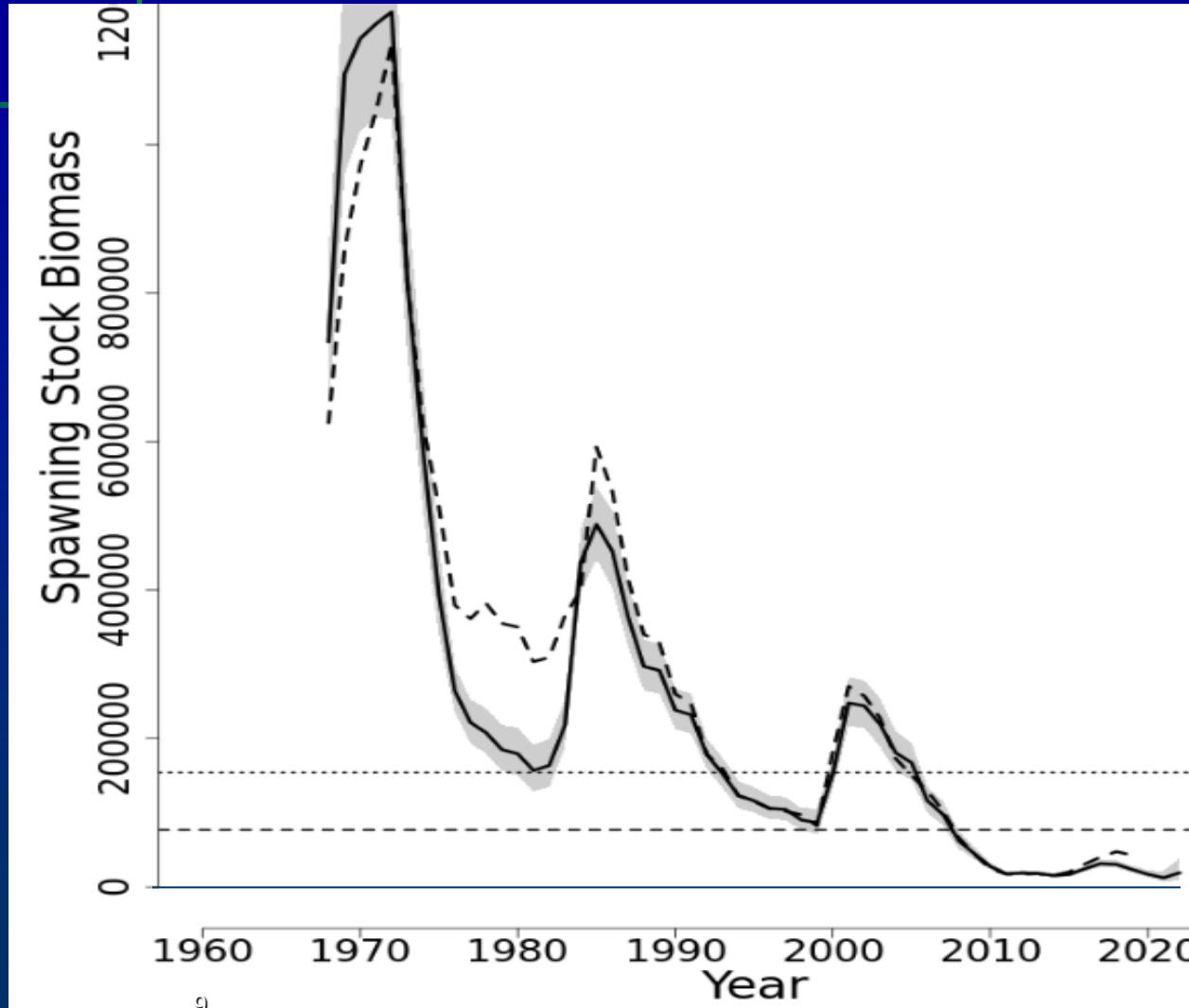
Additional Projections

- I move to request that in October 2023 the SSC consider 2024/2025 ABCs that are consistent, near an averaged result, and would still rebuild mackerel with a 61% probability by 2032.

Staff Memo

- Given the variability observed in the sensitivity analyses associated with projections, staff's original ABC recommendation of 3,314 MT seems reasonable.
- Limit directed fishing and regulatory discarding...

“...about 50 years of overfishing”



1968-
2022 =
55 years

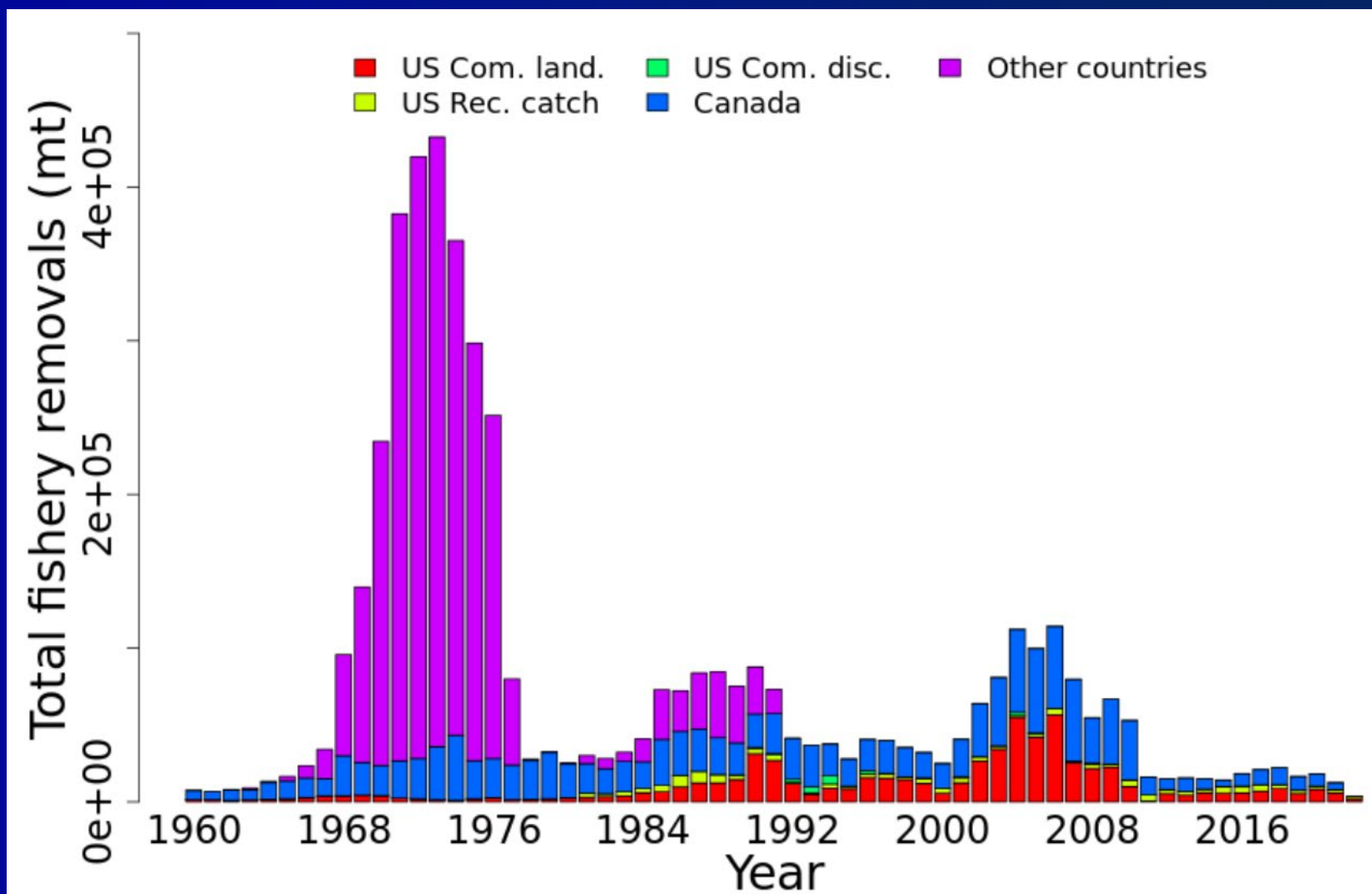
Additional Projections

label	description
1	Basic Assessment Projection
2	Dampened 2022 R (Initial SSC recommendation)
2a	2, but find two-year constant catch near 2's 2024-25 average catch that still gets 61% rebuilding
3	Use Retro Adjustment, all ages
3a	3, but find two-year constant catch near 3's 2024-25 average catch that still gets 61% rebuilding
4	Dampened 2022 R, use Retro Adjustment other ages
4a	4, but find two-year constant catch near 4's 2024-25 average catch that still gets 61% rebuilding

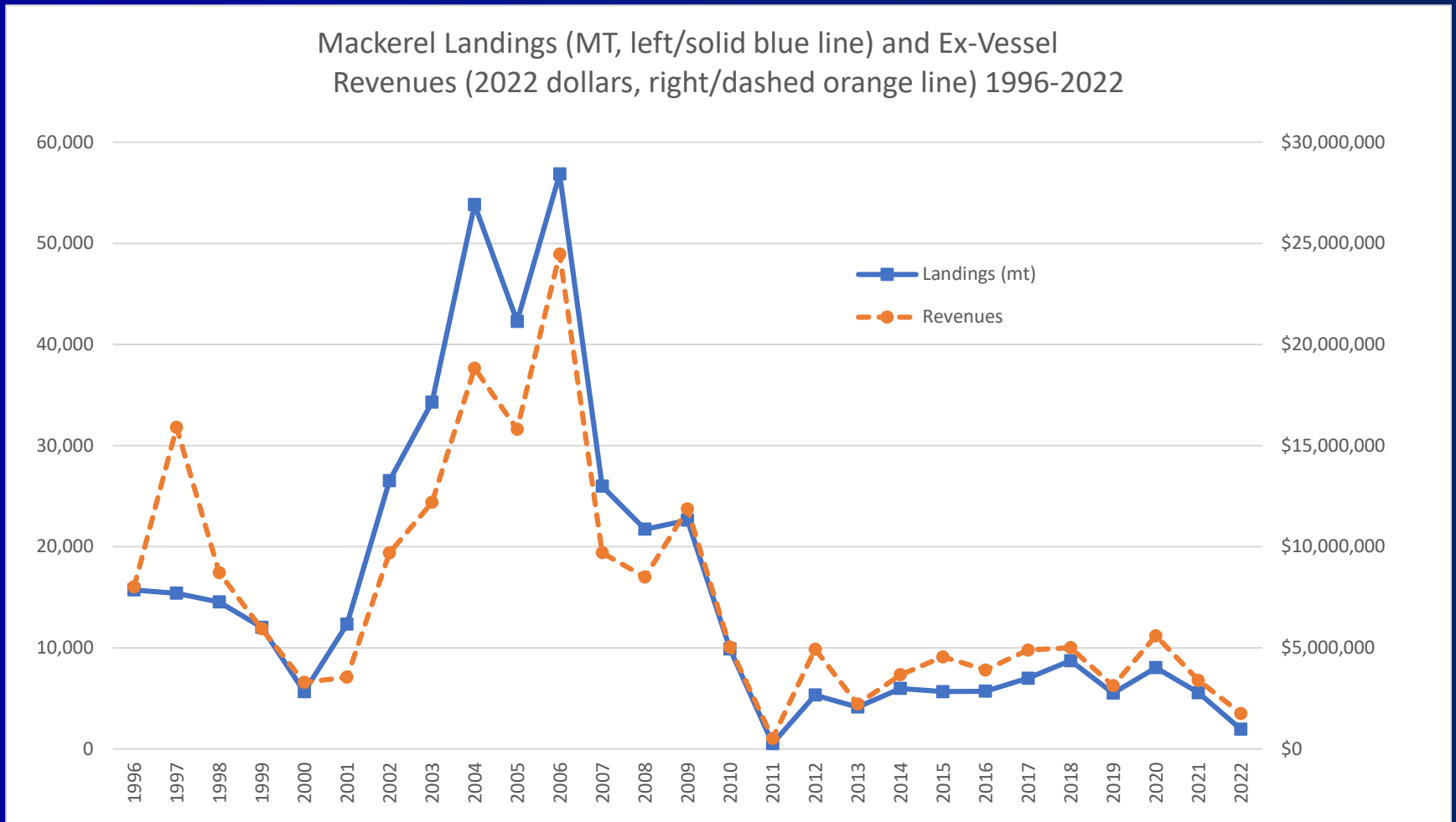
On to the projections...

Backup slides

Catch 1968-2022

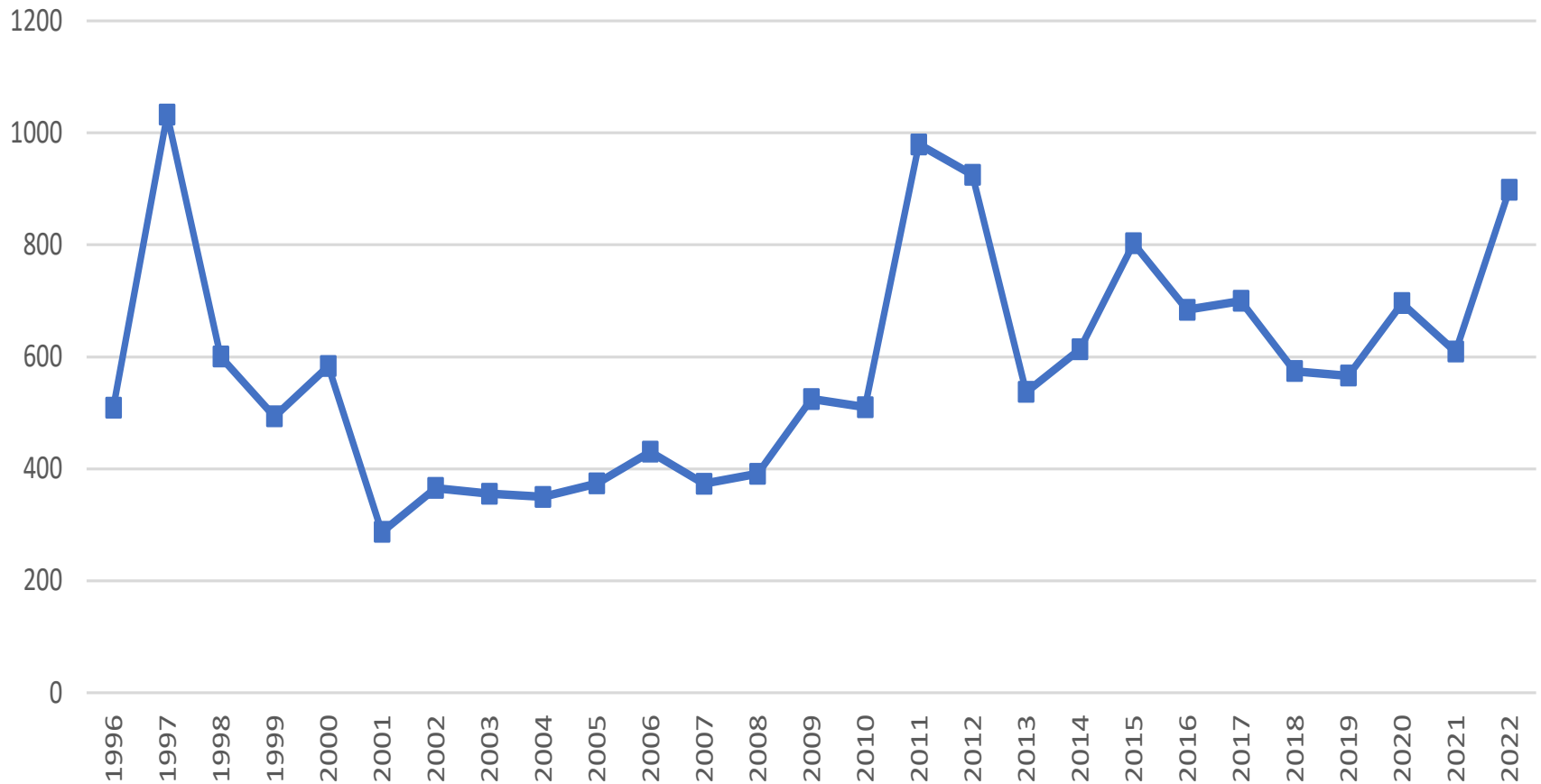


Landings/Revenues 1996-2022

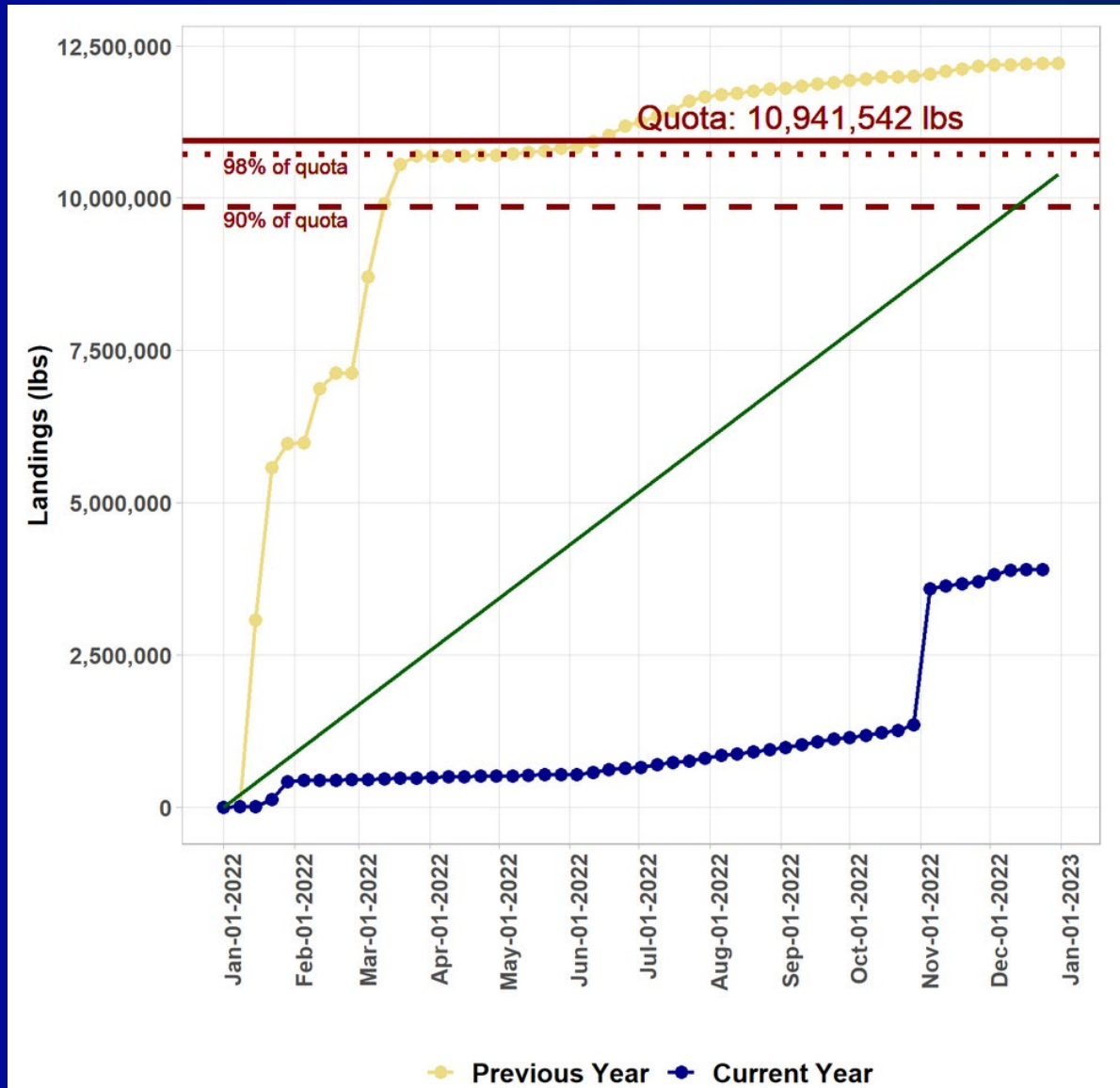


Prices 1996-2022

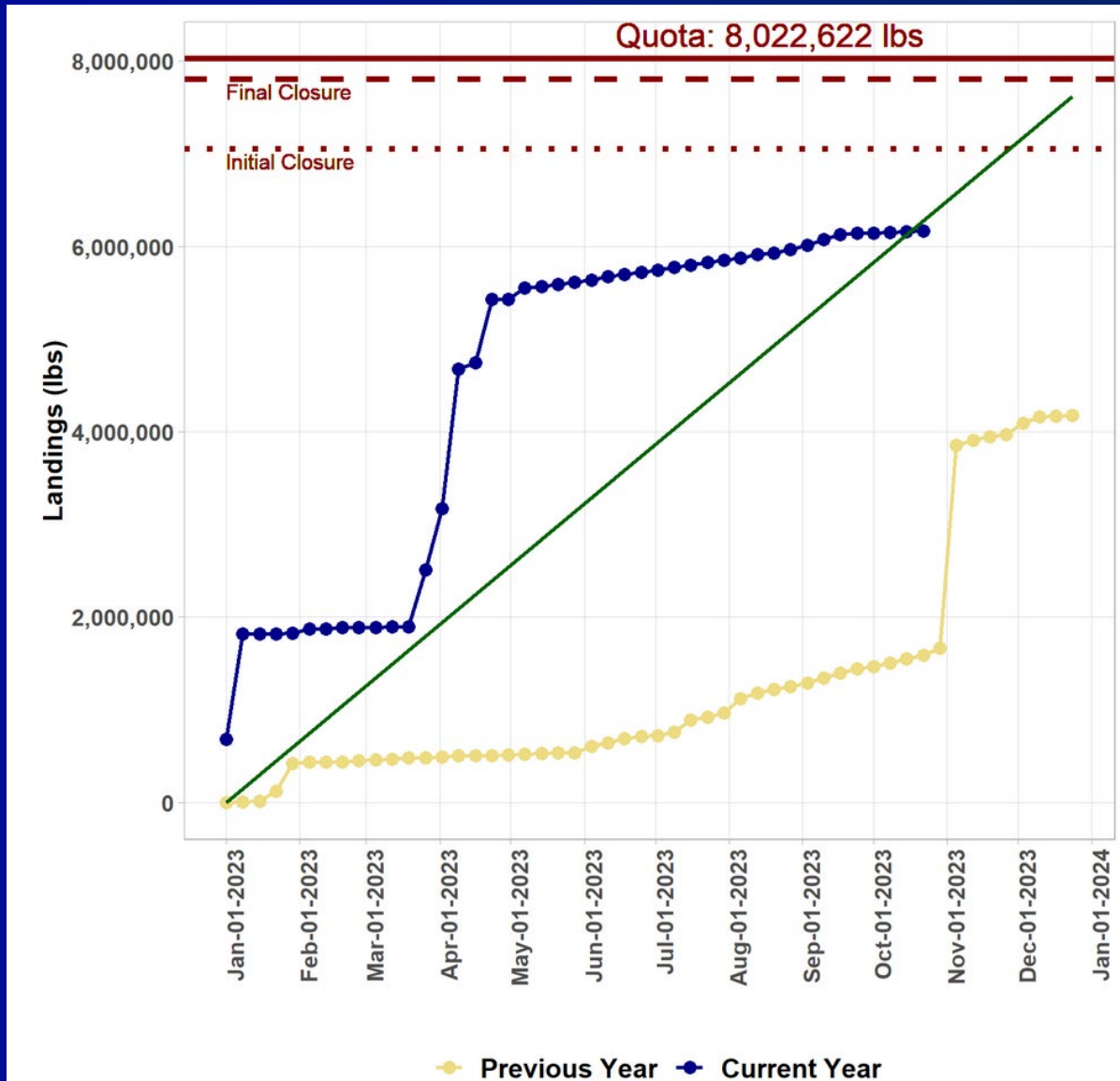
Mackerel Inflation-Adjusted Price \$/MT



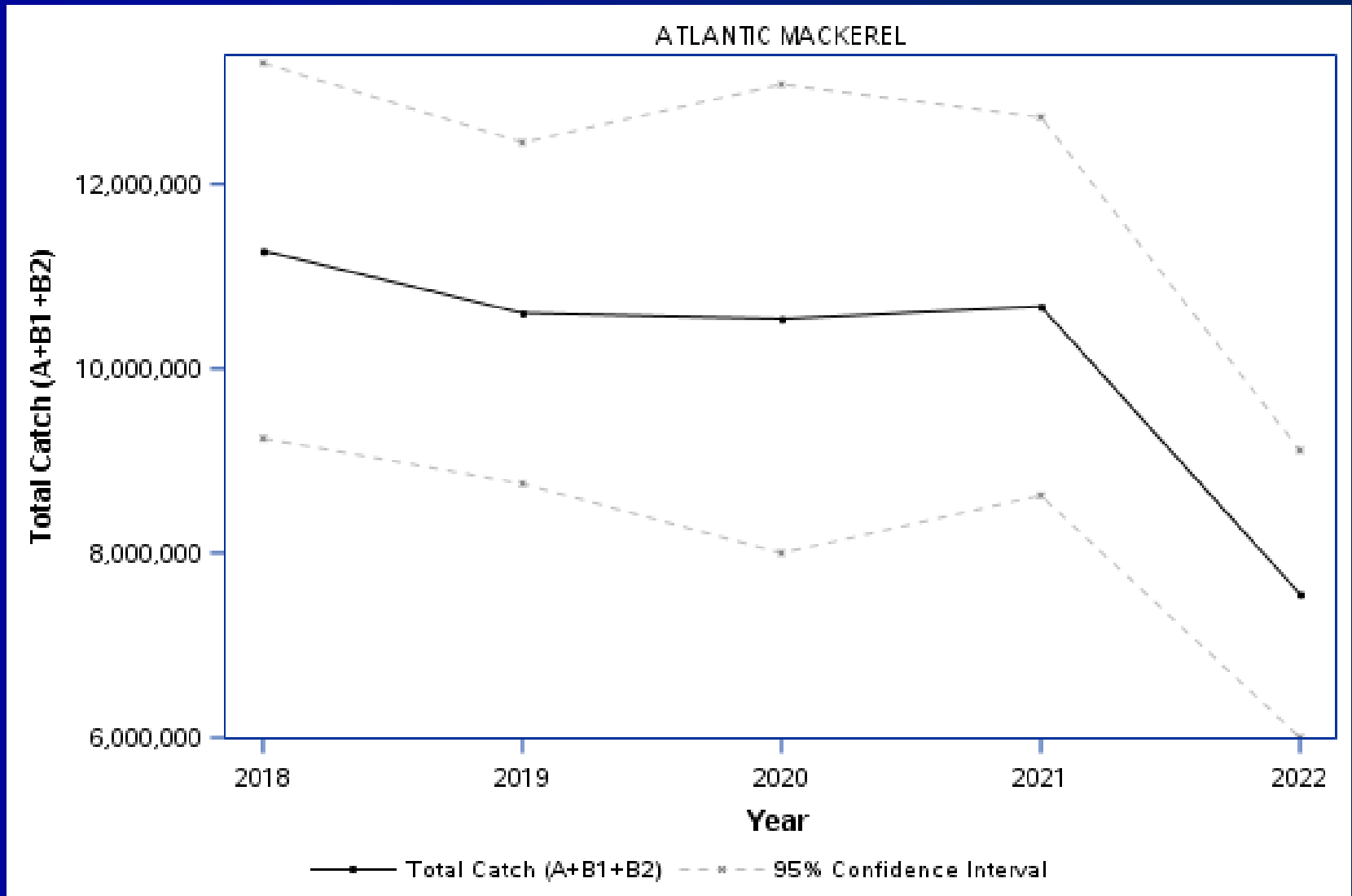
2022/2021



2023/2022



Recreational Catch



Discussion Questions

- What factors influence catch and landings?
- What other issues or concerns do you want to highlight?
- Recommendations for 2024 regulations?
- Research recommendations?

Mackerel – FPR

- Demand/markets not a limiting factor
- No unusual environmental observations
- NEFMC inshore mid-water trawl buffer affected landings 2/10/21 - 3/29/22
- Horsepower restrictions, and resulting speed limitations, may affect the size of the fish in commercial catch

Mackerel – FPR

- Lack of herring RSA quota limited mackerel landings later in the year in recent years
- But trawl boats are allowed to catch herring in the third trimester in area 1A which does allow trawled herring/mackerel catch

Mackerel – FPR

- Criticism of the mackerel fishery has made the creation of a fishery performance report moot
 - in the current situation we can't catch the quota we have, and therefore can't provide fishery-dependent information which will increase assessment uncertainty.

Mackerel – FPR

- Recreational catch and its precision and impact on biomass remain a concern.
 - Drop in 2022 – mostly from Massachusetts' private/rental boat mode: reported but not observed harvests (MRIP B1s) and reported discards (MRIP B2s).
- Concern about mid-water trawl gear and selectivity

Staff ABC Recommendation

- Twice stock has not behaved as projected
- Good 2022 recruitment: more of same?
- An ABC of 3,314 MT would allow incidental landings and recreational catch
 - Assuming minimal Canadian catch
- Alternate projection suggests catch around 3,314 MT allows rebuilding (2032) even with 65% pruning of fish that were 1s in 2022

Staff to Council

- Likely recommend that the Council request NMFS take emergency action to close directed mackerel fishing for the remainder of 2023 given that the anticipated F in the alternative projection would = overfishing if the full 2023 quota is caught \rightarrow predicted $F_{2023-Alt}=0.23$

Questions?