



Butterfish
2023-2024 ABCs

July 2022

Butterfish 2022 Current/review

- 17,854 MT ABC
 - 2/3 M proxy, about 1/3 P*, 100% CV
 - Set in 2020

From Fishery Info Doc

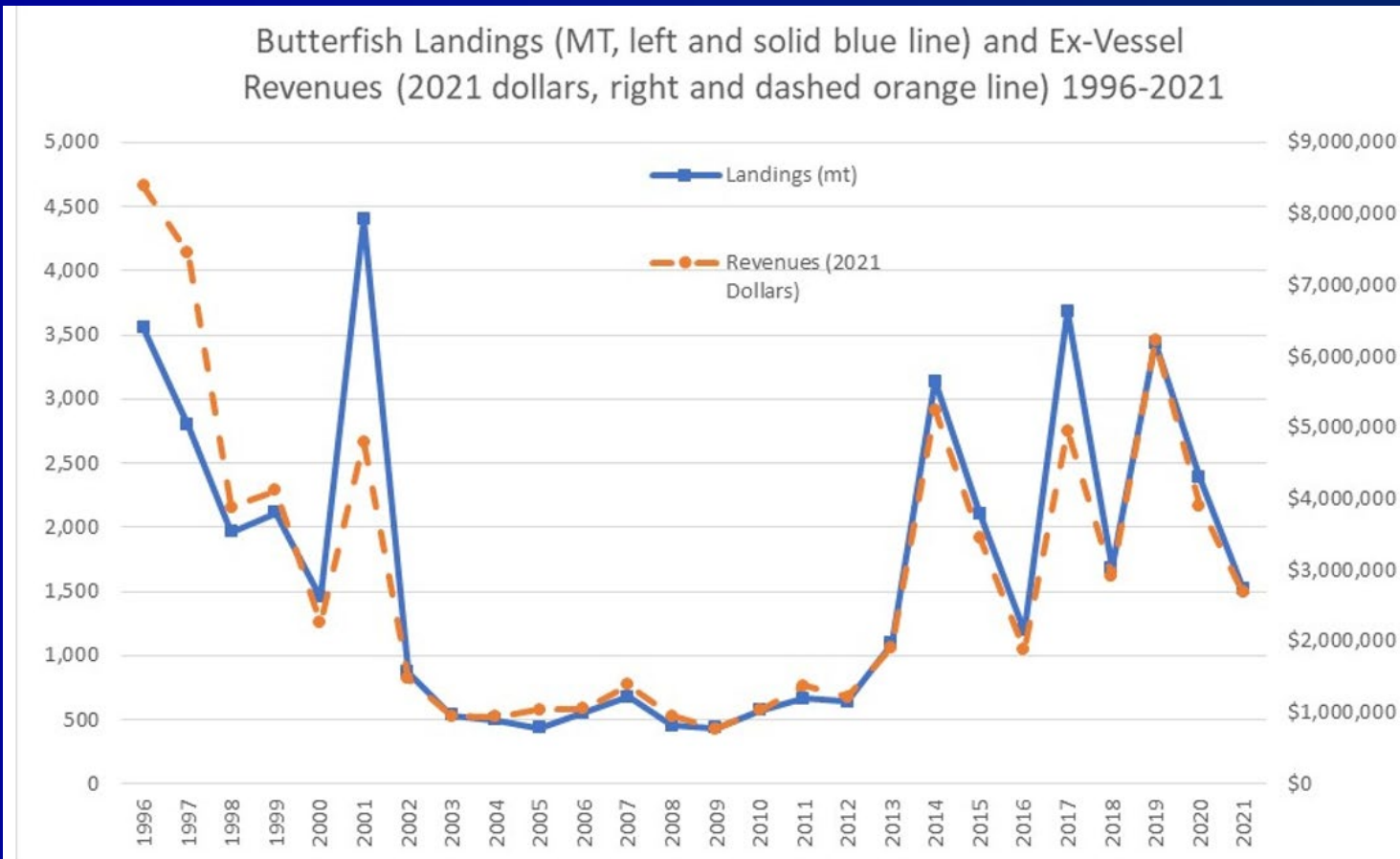


Figure 3. U.S. Butterfish Landings and Butterfish Ex-Vessel Values 1996-2021. Source: NMFS unpublished dealer data.

From Fishery Info Doc

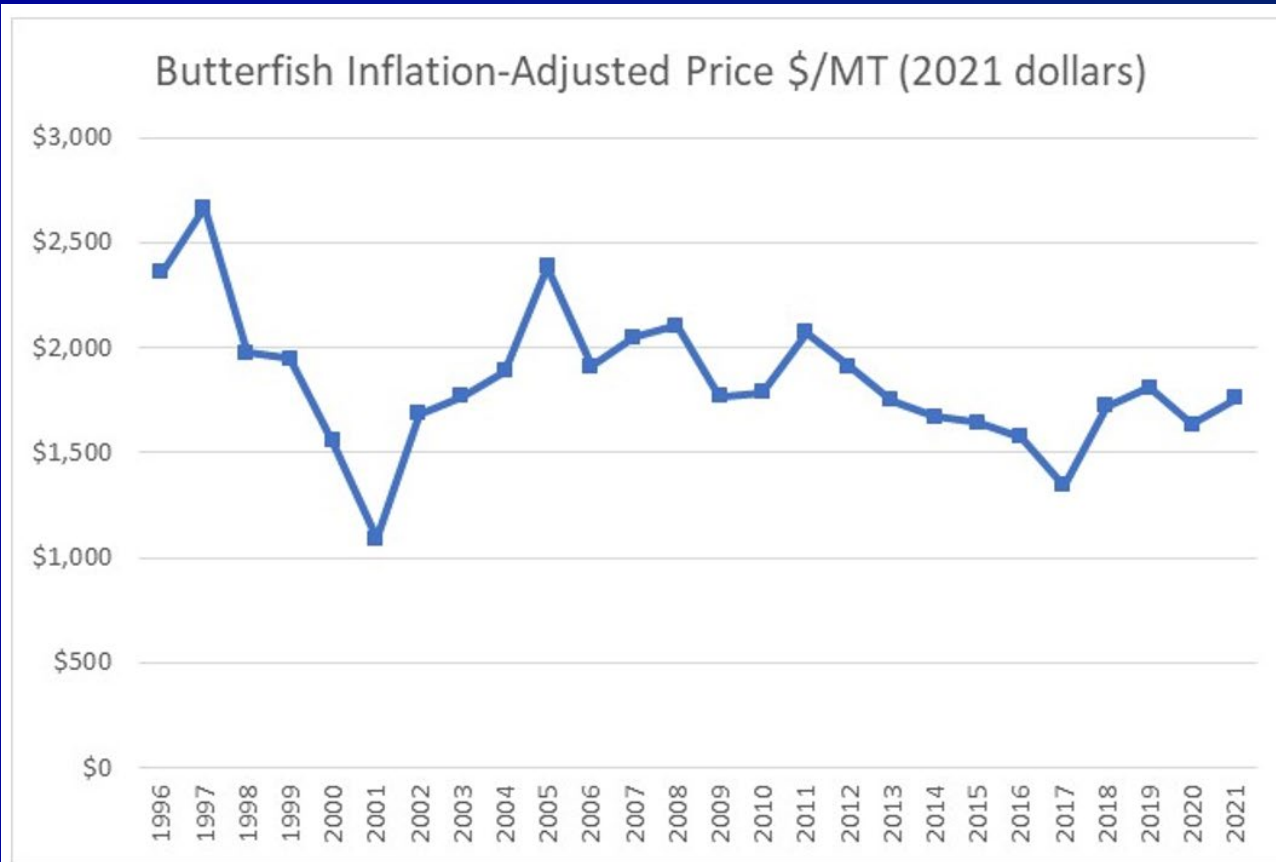


Figure 4. Ex-Vessel Butterfish Prices 1996-2021 Adjusted to 2021 Dollars Source: NMFS unpublished dealer data.

Fishery Performance Report

- Other species more lucrative
- Covid issues persist re: shipping
- High fuel prices and good longfin fishing depressing interest in butterfish in 2022
- Concern about biomass precision and past negative effects on longfin
- Concern about overall prey availability and 2/3 M reference point.

Research Track Assessment Review

- Panel concern about $F_{50\%}$
- “not overfished or experiencing overfishing...likely to be robust to the major sources of uncertainty”

Staff ABC Recommendation

- 2/3 M seems to have been working OK
- Various improvements in butterfish assessment
- With 100% C.V., the resulting ABCs would be 17,267 MT for 2023 and 15,764 MT for 2024
- Staff notes consistency in projected 2022/2023 ABCs