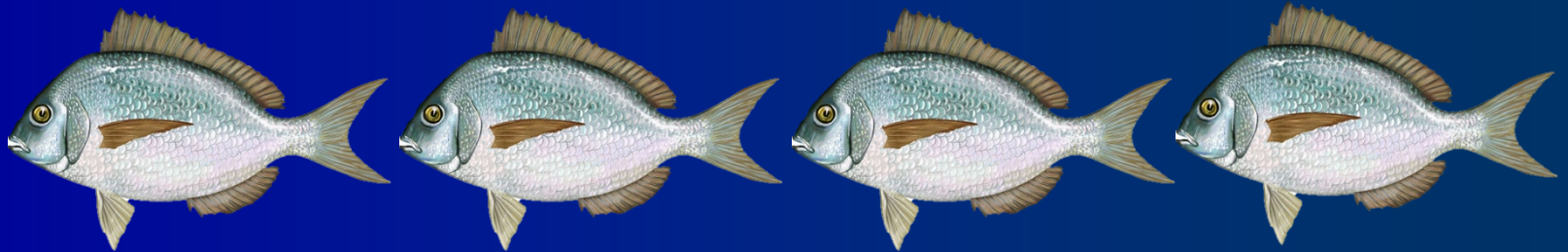




MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Scup

2024-2025 Specifications



SSC

July 24, 2023

Overview



- Recent catch and landings
- Review Advisory Panel Fishery Performance Report
- Review 2024-2025 projections and staff recommendation



Stock Status: 2023 Management Track Assessment

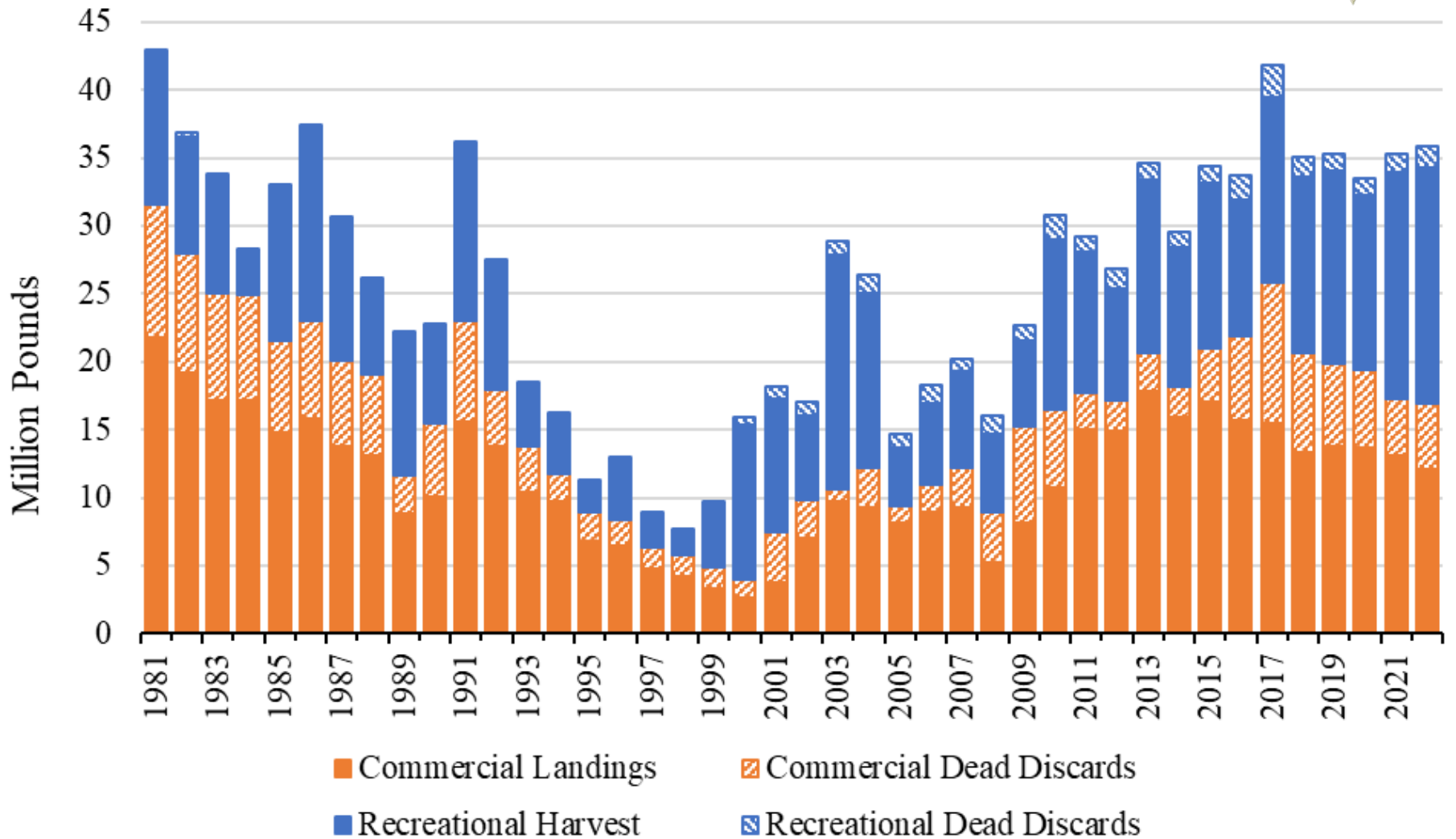
SSB

- Not overfished in 2022
- Adjusted 2022 SSB = 193,087 mt
- More than double
 $SSB_{40\%} = SSB_{MSY} = 78,593$ mt

F

- Overfishing not occurring in 2022
- Adjusted 2022 $F = 0.098$
- 52% of $F_{40\%} = F_{MSY}$ proxy = 0.190

Total Catch



Total catch calculated using revised MRIP data through the timeseries

OFL and ABC Performance



Year	Total catch	OFL	OFL overage/ underage	ABC	ABC overage/ underage
2014	23.10	47.8	-52%	35.99	-36%
2015	25.85	47.8	-46%	33.77	-23%
2016	26.91	35.8	-25%	31.11	-14%
2017	32.20	32.09	0%	28.4	+13%
2018	26.84	45.05	-40%	39.14	-31%
2019	26.55	41.03	-35%	36.43	-27%
2020	33.50	41.17	-19%	35.77	-6%
2021	35.35	35.3	0%	34.81	+2%
2022	35.92	32.56	+10%	32.11	+12%
2023	--	30.09	--	29.67	--

Limits/catch values in millions of pounds
 Total catch calculated using old MRIP data through 2019

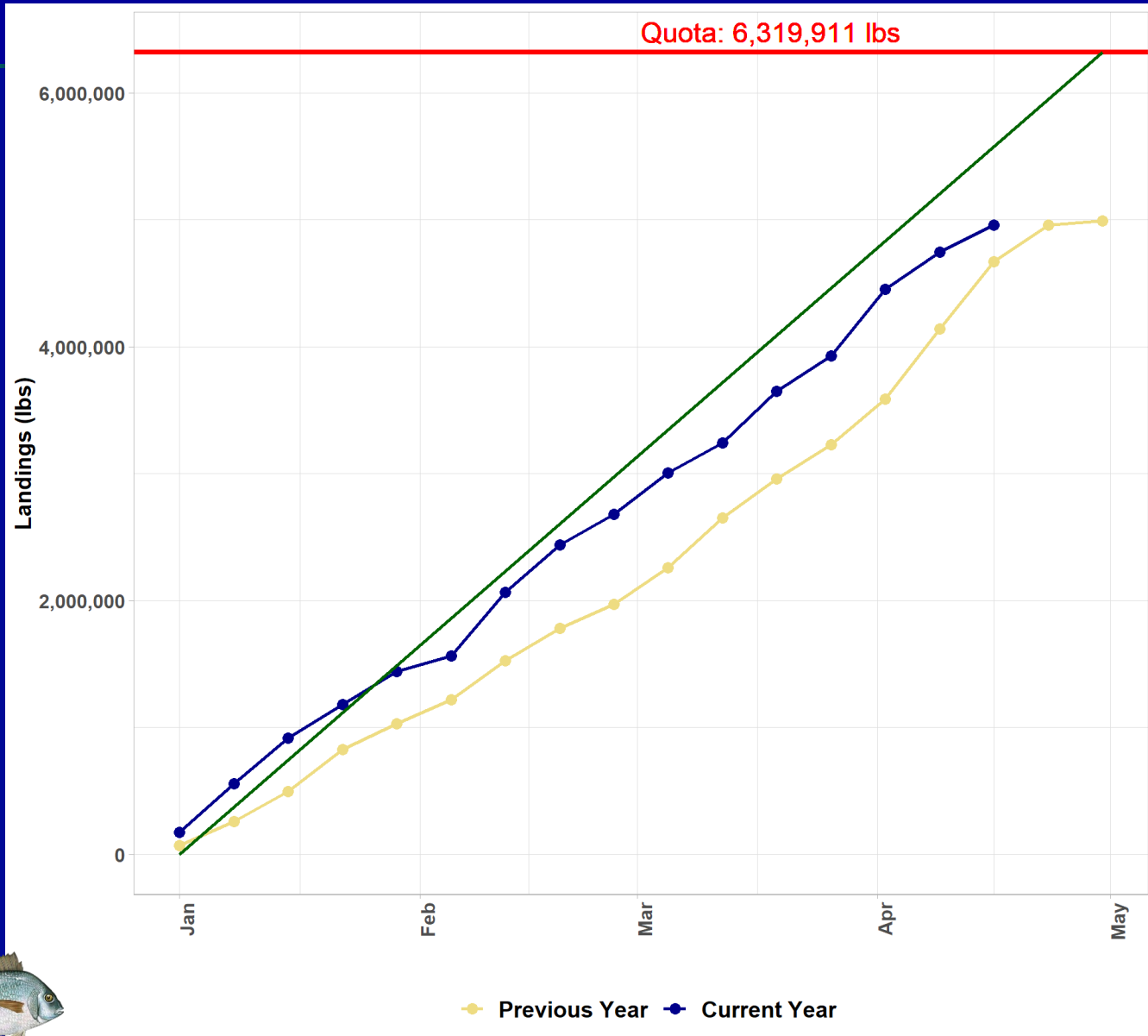
Commercial Fishery



Year	Com. landings	Com. quota	Quota overage/ underage	Com. dead catch	ACL	ACL overage/ underage
2018	13.37	23.98	-44%	20.63	30.53	-32%
2019	13.78	23.98	-43%	19.91	28.42	-30%
2020	13.62	22.23	-39%	19.37	27.90	-31%
2021	13.10	20.50	-36%	17.28	27.15	-36%
2022	12.14	20.38	-40%	16.93	25.05	-32%
2023	--	14.01	--	--	19.29	--

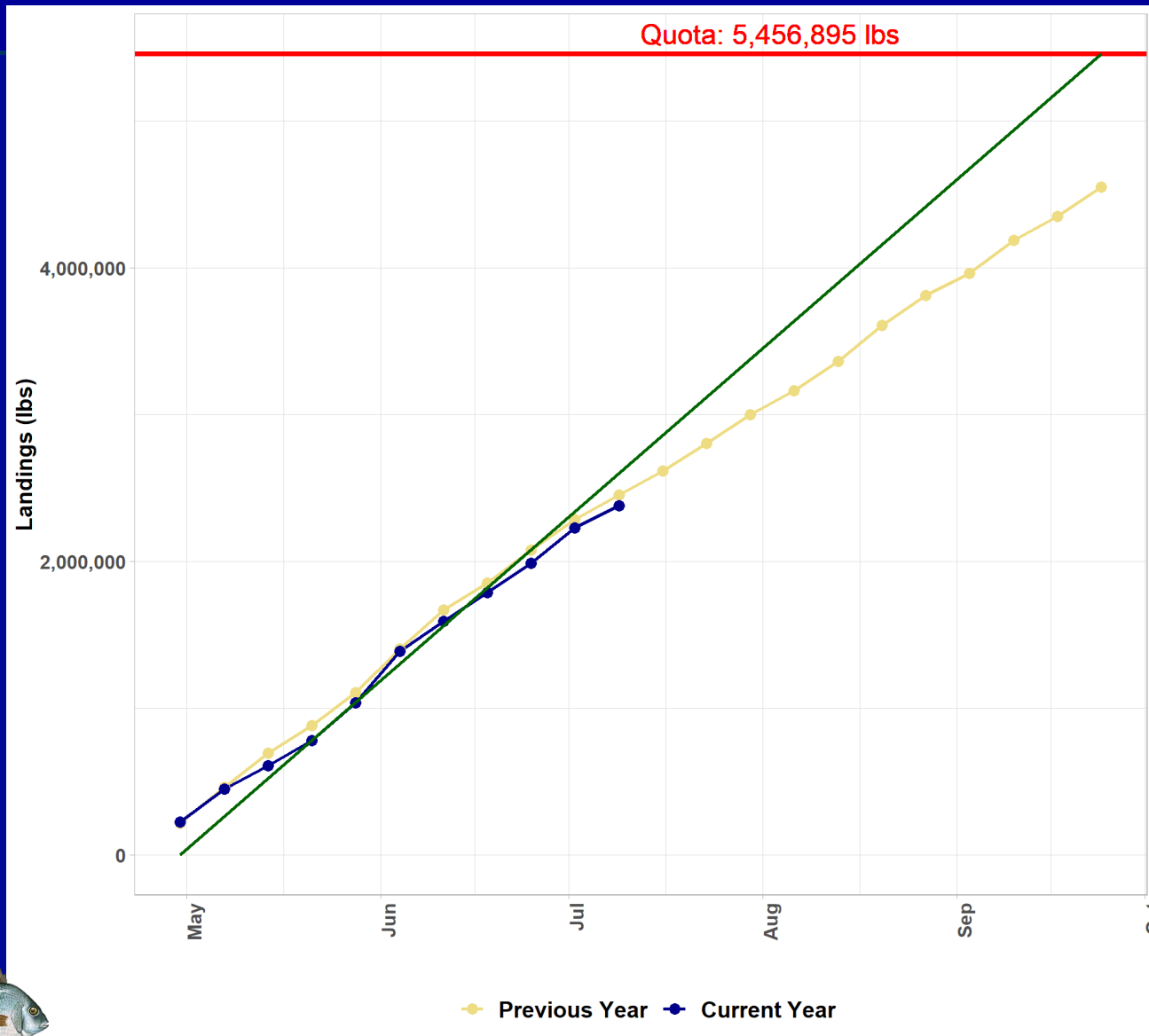
2023 Quota/Landings: Winter Period

Jan-April

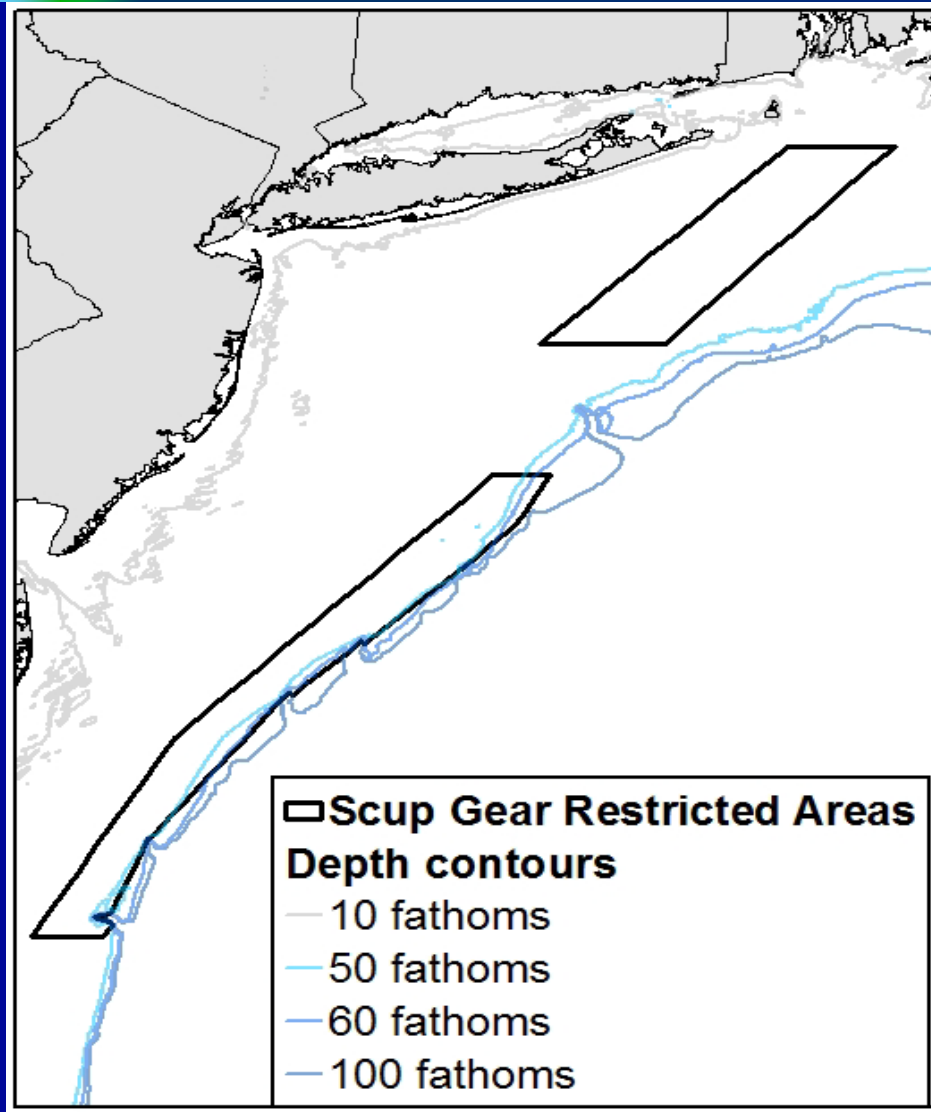


2023 Quota/Landings: Summer Period

May-Sept



Gear Restricted Areas



Effective dates:

Northern GRA:
Nov 1 – Dec 31

Southern GRA:
Jan 1 – Mar 15



Commercial Discards/GRA Analysis

- Staff conducting a commercial discard report and GRA analysis
 - Information will be presented at the July MC meeting and August Council meeting
- Preliminary key take-aways:
 - Discards have decreased since 2017 and represent a small percentage of annual scup biomass, but remain high compared to other years following GRAs
 - There's a strong correlation between scup discards and juvenile fish stock numbers
 - Appears GRAs contributed to rebuilding in early 2000s; however, given the spatial patterns, consideration of alternative measures may be warranted



Recreational Fishery



Year	MRIP data used	Rec. landings	RHL	RHL over/under	Rec. catch	ACL	ACL over/under
2018	Old MRIP (pre-revision)	5.61	7.37	-24%	7.03	8.61	-18%
2019	Old MRIP (provided by NEFSC)	5.41	7.37	-27%	6.64	8.01	-17%
2020	New MRIP (post-revision)	12.91	6.51	+98%	14.10	7.87	+79%
2021		16.62	6.07	+174%	18.06	7.66	+136%
2022		17.36	6.08	+186%	18.99	7.06	+169%
2023		--	9.27	--	--	10.39	--

2020 harvest estimated using imputation methods incorporating 2018-2019 proxy data

AP Fishery Performance Report

Scup – Stock Availability and Trends

- Multiple advisors noted that scup catch overages were due to abundance of stock
- One advisor said scup is being overregulated and the current management system seems backwards
 - Recommended loosening regulations for abundant stocks (i.e., scup and black sea bass), and tightening regulations for less abundant stocks (i.e., summer flounder)



AP Fishery Performance Report



Scup – Market/Economics and Commercial Fishery

- One advisor noted he could viably target scup if he could use smaller codend and operate during the night
- The same advisor said scup are plentiful in Massachusetts, but the lack of a market discourages targeting them



AP Fishery Performance Report



Scup – Recreational Fishery Performance

- Some advisors questioned the significant increase in recreational scup catch
 - Expressed disbelief in MRIP estimates
 - Questioned where the significant increase in catch is coming from
 - Hard to believe that amount of scup caught in NY is greater than coastwide harvest of summer flounder
- One advisor noted the need to get a better understanding of harvest and asked if others are seeing this level of harvest
 - One advisor noted NY headboats are catching large quantities but was unsure if it was to the level of MRIP estimates
 - Another advisor noted not experiences that level of harvest in NJ and that for-hire vessels were not regularly catching scup

AP Fishery Performance Report



Scup – Recreational Fishery Issues

- Several advisors were frustrated with 2023 recreational season in NJ (Aug. 1 – Dec. 31)
 - Too restrictive and unfair given neighboring states are open several months prior
 - Seems disproportionate given NJ landings constitutes such a small percentage of coastwide harvest
- Some noted the NJ start date is detrimental to for-hire vessels
- One advisor concerned with the ripple effect the regulations would have on other businesses (e.g., tackle shops, marinas, etc.)
- One advisor recommended better aligning NJ regulations with other states

AP Fishery Performance Report



Scup – Recreational Fishery Issues continued

- Two advisors stressed the importance of keeping scup year-round for the for-hire sector
 - Especially important to boats that don't target summer flounder and during times when black sea bass is closed
 - Requested recreational sector separation
- One advisor noted importance of keep scup open in NJ due to decline in ling (red hake) catch



AP Fishery Performance Report



Email/Phone Comments (Scup)

- Multiple advisors noted commercial ex-vessel prices decreased



Prior SSC Recommendations



July 2021:

- Recommended 2022-2023 varying ABCs based on 2021 Management Track Assessment projections
 - OFL CV = 60%
- Council/Board adopted varying ABCs for 2022-2023

July 2022:

- Recommended maintaining the previously approved ABC for 2023

Year	OFL total catch		ABC total catch		ABC P*
	mil lbs.	mt	mil lbs.	mt	
2022	32.56	14,770	32.11	14,566	0.49
2023	30.09	13,648	29.67	13,458	0.49

2024-2025 Projections



- OFL/ABC projections provided by NEFSC
 - based on the 2023 management track assessment

Assuming:

- 60% OFL CV
- ABC caught in 2024-2025



Photo curtesy: M. Eversmier

2024-2025 Projections

Varying 2024-2025 ABCs

Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ABC F	ABC P*	SSB (mt)
2023	13,649	13,458	0.115	0.495	209,407
2024	20,295	20,015	0.187	0.490	185,626
2025	18,393	18,139	0.187	0.490	163,140

Averaged (constant) 2024-2025 ABCs

2023	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ABC F	ABC P*	SSB (mt)
2024	13,649	13,458	0.115	0.495	209,407
2025	20,295	19,077	0.178	0.456	185,986
2023	18,495	19,077	0.196	0.522	163,645

2024-2025 Staff Recommended ABCs

	Varying approach			
	OFL		ABC	
	mil lbs.	mt	mil lbs.	mt
2024	44.74	20,295	44.13	20,015
2025	40.55	18,393	39.99	18,139





fin

This point forward are back-up slides

MAFMC 2020-2024 Research Priorities

SCUP	Corresponding Theme(s)
SHORT-TERM/SMALLER SCALE	
85. Explore the relationship between scup market trends, regulatory changes, and commercial landings and discards.	B, C, F
86. Evaluate the spatial and temporal overlap of scup and squid to better understand and characterize scup discard patterns.	A, B, F
87. Characterize the pattern of selectivity for older ages of scup in both surveys and fisheries.	A
LONG-TERM/LARGER SCALE	
88. Continue to evaluate the role and relative importance of implemented management strategies (i.e., gear restricted areas, increased minimum mesh size, and minimizing scup and squid fishery interactions) and expand analysis to consider the long-term climate variability to the increases in stock abundance and high recruitment events since 2000.	A, B, D, F, G
89. Characterize the current scup market and explore the development of new markets.	C

MAFMC will be developing new 5-year research priorities next year



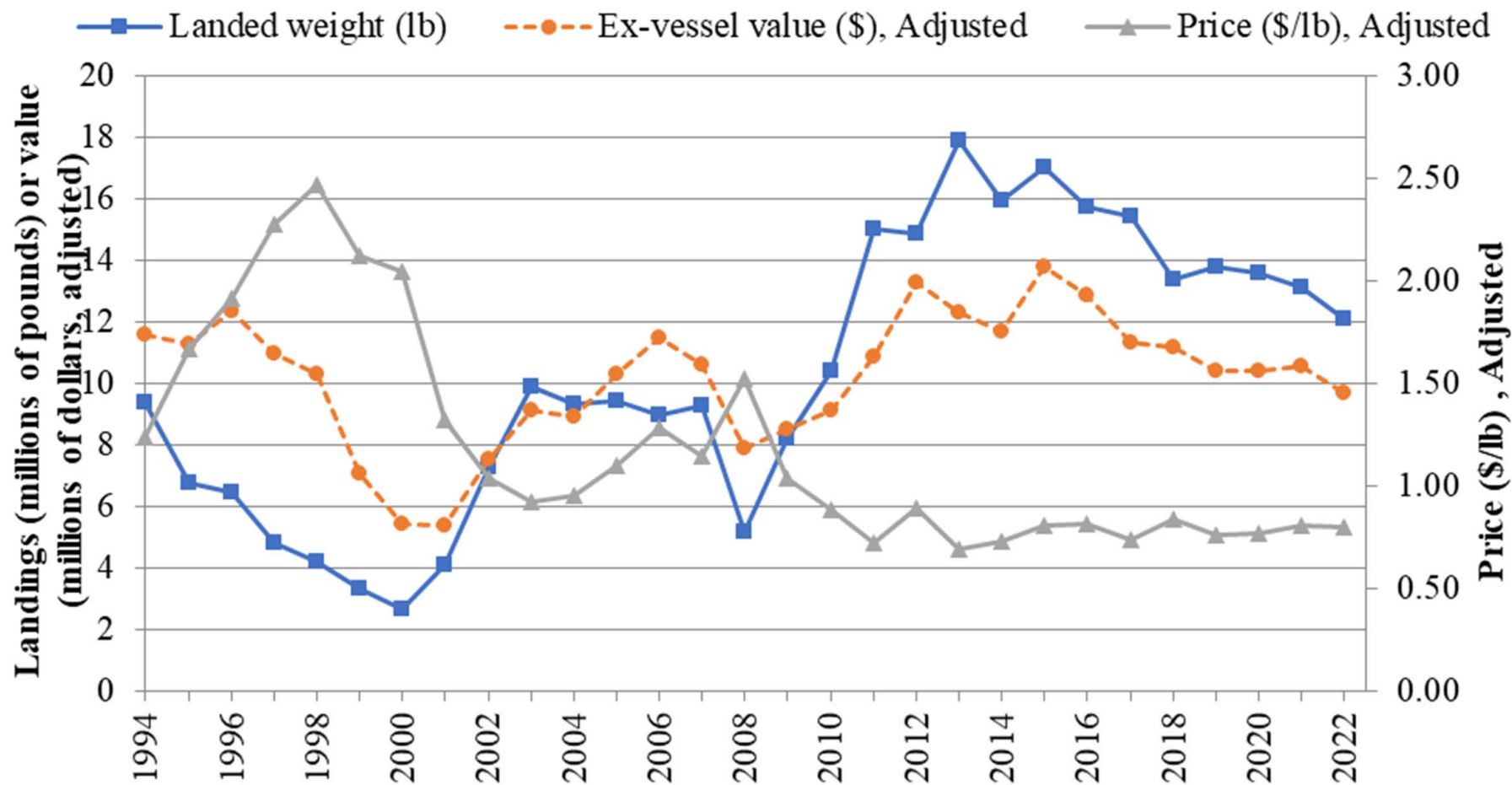
Commercial Non-Target Species

Species	% of total catch on scup observed directed trips, 2017-2022^a
DOGFISH, SPINY	8.3%
SEA ROBIN, NORTHERN	3.6%
SKATE, LITTLE	3.1%
FLOUNDER, SUMMER (FLUKE)	2.6%
SEA BASS, BLACK	2.5%
HAKE, SILVER (WHITING)	1.2%
SKATE, WINTER (BIG)	1.0%
DOGFISH, SMOOTH	1.0%

Recreational Non-Target Species

- Species guild analysis to identify species commonly caught together on recreational trips
- Commonly caught with scup:
 - Black sea bass, sea robins, summer flounder, bluefish, and tautog

Commercial Landings, Price, Value



Quota Periods

Quota Period	Dates 2018-2021	Dates 1997-2017	Allocation	Possession limit
Winter I	Jan–Apr	Jan–Apr	45.11%	50,000 pounds
Summer	May–Sept	May–Oct	38.95%	State-specific
Winter II	Oct–Dec	Nov– Dec	15.94%	12,000 pounds*

Summer Quota Allocation



State	Share of summer quota
Maine	0.121%
Massachusetts	21.587%
Rhode Island	56.195%
Connecticut	3.154%
New York	15.825%
New Jersey	2.917%
Maryland	0.012%
Virginia	0.1650%
North Carolina	0.025%
Total	100%

Other Commercial Measures

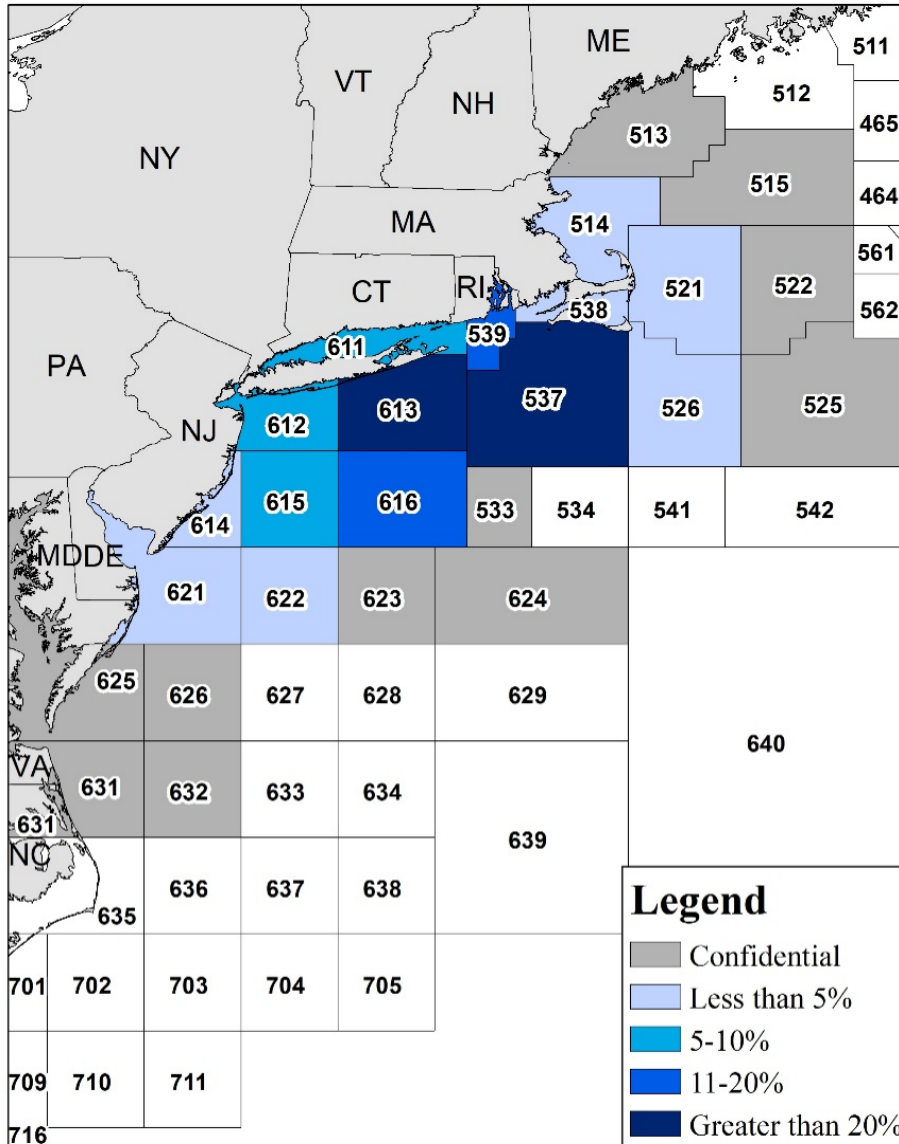


- Min. size: 9" total length
- Min. trawl mesh size of 5.0" diamond if retaining more than
 - 1,000 lbs. from Oct. 1 – April 14
 - 2,000 lbs. from April 15 – June 15
 - 200 lbs. from June 16 – Sept. 30
- Pots/traps
 - Escape vent and degradable hinges
 - 3.1" in diameter (circular), 2.25" x 2.25" (square), or equivalent rectangular vent
- 2 Gear Restricted Areas (GRA)

Commercial Catch



2022 Commercial Scup Catch - VTRs



2022 federal VTR data

Stat area	% of 2022 commercial scup catch	Num. of trips
613	24%	1,377
537	20%	1,066
616	16%	346
539	10%	2,108
611	6%	1,139

Top 5 Ports in 2022



Port	Scup landings (lbs.)	% of total landings	Number of vessels
POINT JUDITH, RI	3,203,618	26%	125
MONTAUK, NY	2,802,648	23%	79
PT. PLEASANT, NJ	1,397,265	12%	30
CAPE MAY, NJ	964,646	8%	24
NEW BEDFORD, MA	712,476	6%	48

Dealers By State in 2022

State	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC
Number of Dealers	31	30	13	45	15	3	5	5	8

Federal Rec. Measures – 2023

Possession
limit

- 40 scup*

Size limit

- 10 inches total length

Season

- May 1-December 31*

** Measures modified in 2023*

2023 Recreational measures by state



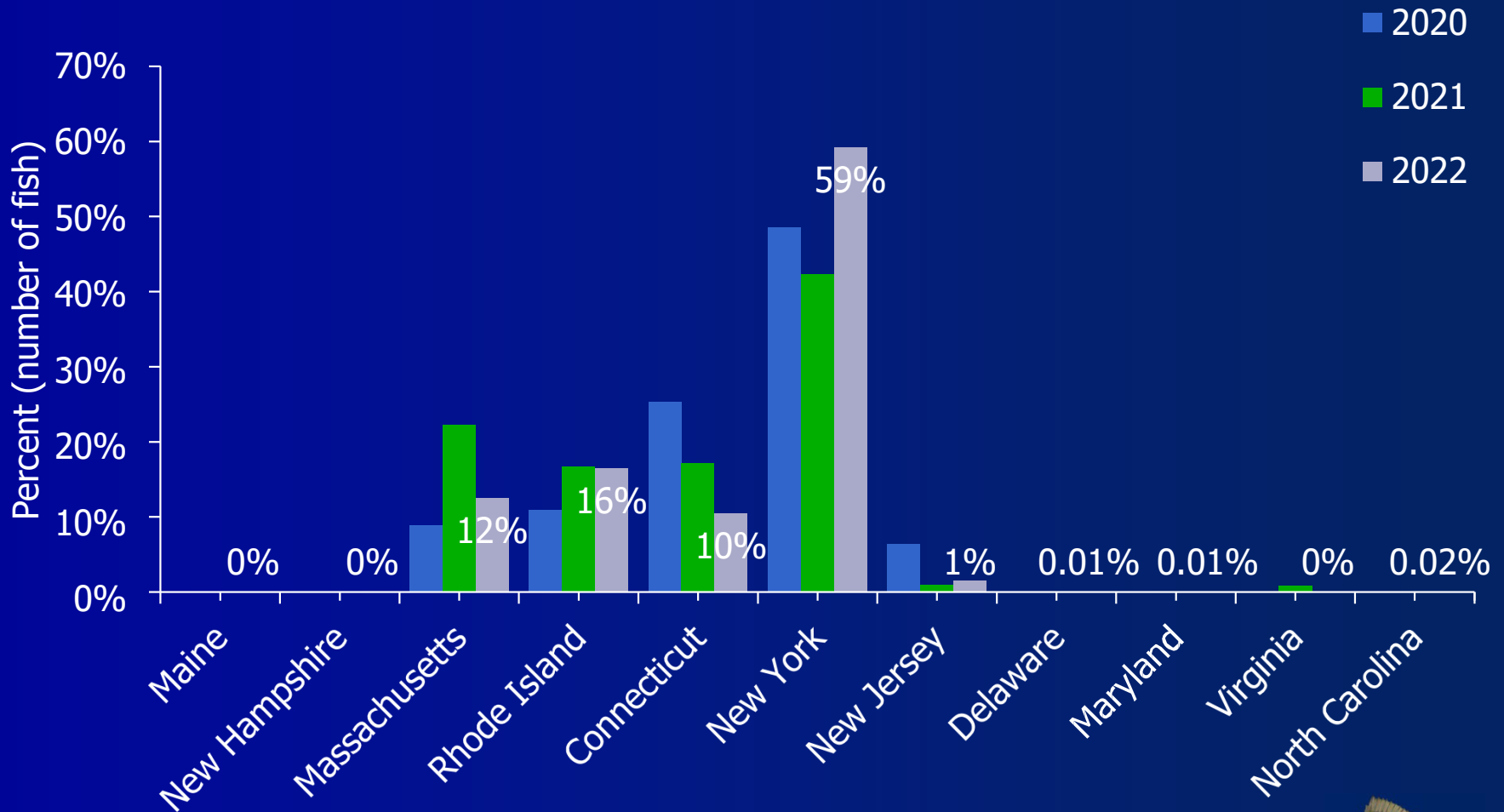
State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
MA (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec. 31
MA (shore)	9.5		
MA (party/charter)	10.5	40 fish	May 1 – June 30
		30 fish	July 1 – Dec. 31
RI (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec. 31
RI (shore)	9.5		
RI (party/charter)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Aug. 31; Nov. 1 – Dec. 31
		40 fish	Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
CT (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec. 31
CT (shore)	9.5		
CT (Authorized For-Hire Monitoring Program Vessels)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Aug. 31; Nov. 1 – Dec. 31
		40 fish	Sept. 1 – Oct. 31

2023 Recreational measures by state

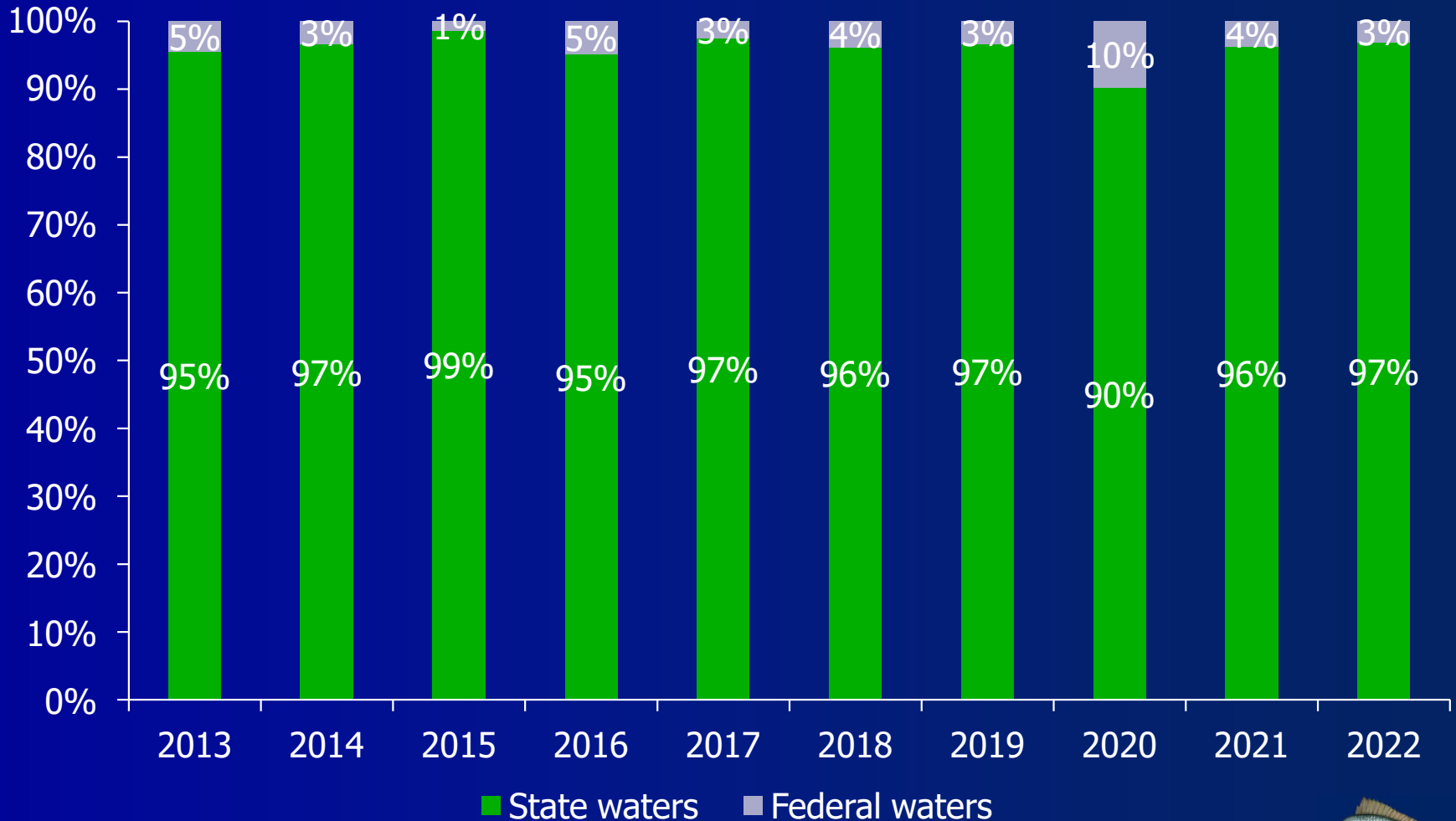


State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
NY (private vessel)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Dec. 31
NY (shore)	9.5		
NY (party/charter)	10.5	30 fish	May 1 – Aug. 31; Nov. 1 – Dec. 31
		40 fish	Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
NJ	10	30 fish	Aug. 1 – Dec. 31
DE	9	40 fish	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31
MD		30 fish	
VA			
NC, North of Cape Hatteras (N of 35° 15'N)		40 fish	

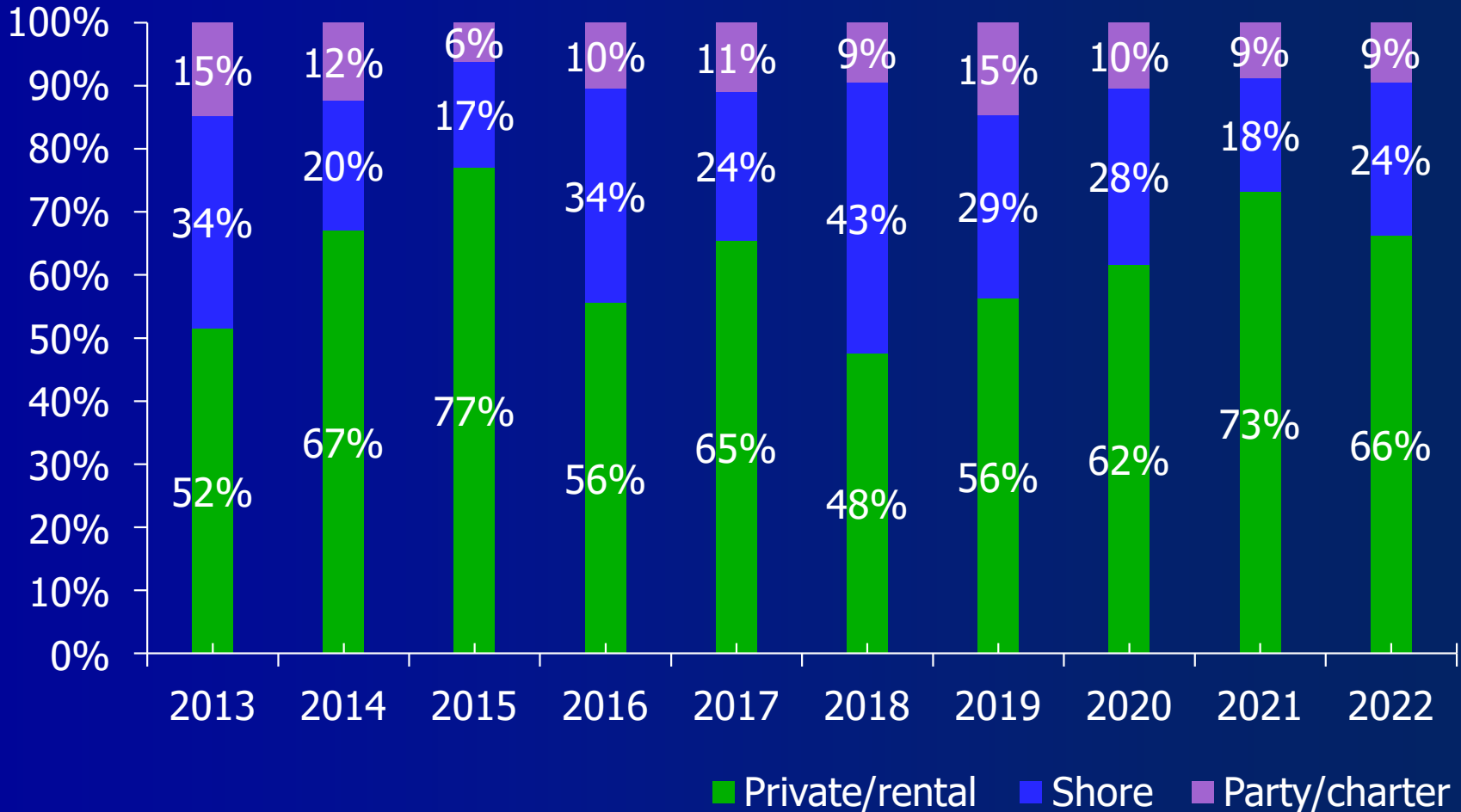
Recreational Landings by State as % of Total



State vs. Federal Waters Harvest



Harvest By Mode



2022 Recreational measures by state

State	Min Size (in)	Possession Limit	Open Season
MA (private & shore)	10	30 fish; 150 fish/vessel with 5+ anglers on board	January 1-December 31
MA (party/charter)	10	30 fish	Jan 1-April 30; July 1-December 31
		50 fish	May 1-June 30
RI (private & shore)	10	30 fish	January 1-December 31
RI shore program (7 sites)	9		
RI (party/charter)	10	30 fish	January 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		50 fish	September 1-October 31
CT (private & shore)	10	30 fish	January 1-December 31
CT shore program (45 sites)	9		
CT (party/charter)	10	30 fish	January 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		50 fish	September 1-October 31

2022 Recreational measures by state

State	Min Size (in)	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	10	50 fish	January 1- December 31
DE	9	50 fish	January 1-December 31
MD	9	50 fish	January 1-December 31
VA	9	30 fish	January 1-December 31
NC, North of Cape Hatteras	9	50 fish	January 1-December 31

