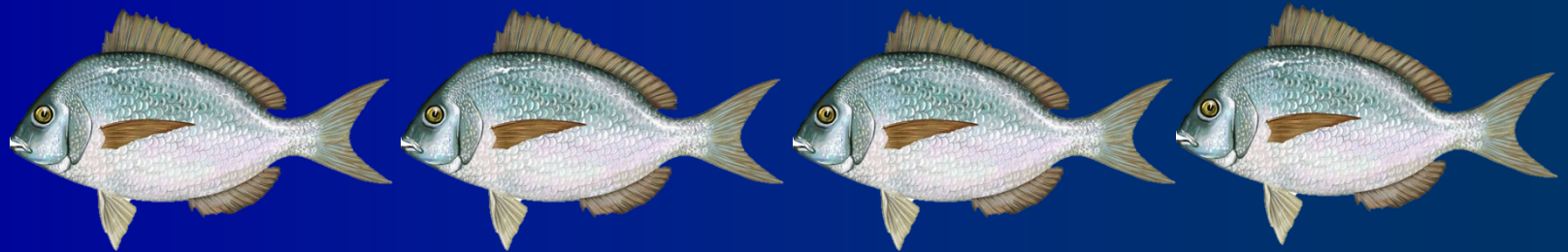




**MID-ATLANTIC**  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# Scup

## 2022-2023 Specifications



SSC

*July 22, 2021*

# Stock Status: 2021 Management Track Assessment

## SSB

- Not overfished in 2019
- 2019 SSB = 176,404 mt
- double SSB<sub>40%</sub> = SSB<sub>MSY</sub> = 90,019 mt

## F

- Overfishing not occurring in 2019
- 2019 F = 0.136
- 68% of  $F_{40\%} = F_{MSY}$  proxy = 0.200

# COVID Related 2020 Data Gaps: Commercial

- Commercial effort/markets affected, but commercial landings data collection continued as normal
- Commercial dead discard estimates for 2020 unavailable due to suspension of observer program (mid-March through mid-August 2020)
- Unclear at this time if other methods will be used to generate 2020 dead discard estimates

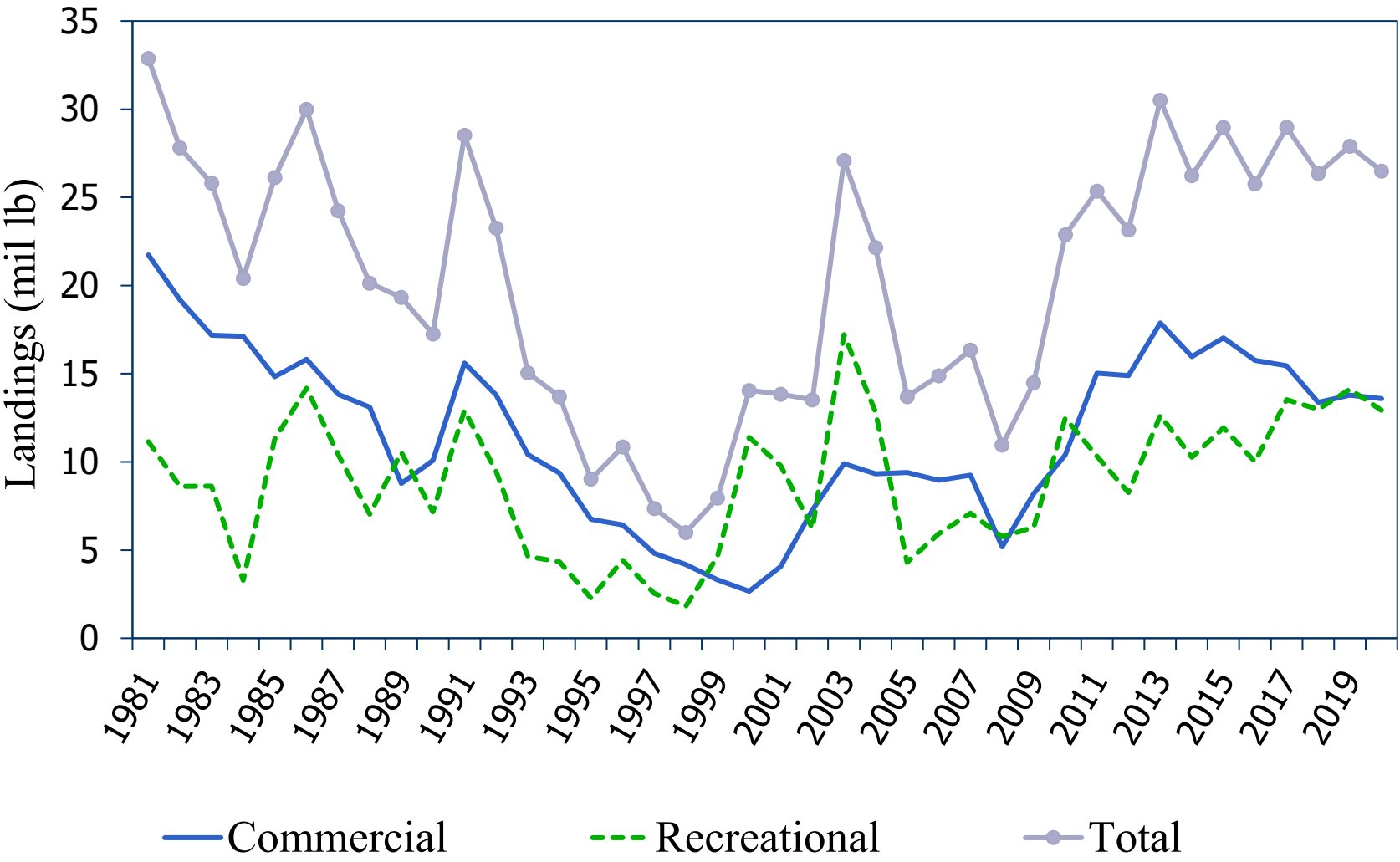
# COVID Related 2020 Data Gaps: Recreational

- Effort data collection proceeded as normal
- APAIS (shoreside intercept) sampling disrupted in all states in March or April 2020
  - Length of disruption varied by state and wave
  - All states fully resumed APAIS sampling by August
  - At-sea headboat sampling still suspended in all states

# COVID Related 2020 Data Gaps: Recreational

- MRIP developed 2020 estimates by filling in gaps with proxy data from 2018-2019
  - Matching the time, place, mode of missing data from 2020
- Observed data + proxy data used to generate estimates using standard estimation methodology
- Adjustments to 2020 estimates may occur once 2021 data are available (MRIP will review methods that use 2021 data)
- Recreational dead discard estimates in weight currently unavailable for 2020

# Fishery Landings



# Commercial Quota and Landings

Year	Quota (mil lb)	Landings (mil lb)	% of quota landed
2015	21.23	17.03	80%
2016	20.47	15.76	77%
2017	18.38	15.44	84%
2018	23.98	13.37	55%
2019	23.98	13.78	57%
2020	22.23	13.58	61%
2021	20.50		

# Recreational Harvest and RHLs

Year	RHL (mil lb)	Harvest (old MRIP, mil lb)	% of RHL harvested (old MRIP)	Harvest (new MRIP, mil lb)
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	--	--	14.12
2020	6.51	--	198%	12.91
2021	6.07	--	--	--



# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *General Management Issues (All 3 Species)*

- Concerns with the accuracy of MRIP data
  - One added an accurate count of all saltwater rec. anglers is needed to comply with MSA/better manage the fishery
  - Concerns with 2020 rec. estimates using imputation methods
- COVID-19: major impacts on commercial and recreational fishing effort in 2020, negative impacts on commercial markets and prices.
- One advisor: should be a common commercial minimum mesh size for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass

# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *Environmental Issues (All 3 Species)*

- More sharks due to overabundance of menhaden, increased predation on bluefish and striped bass, potentially also impacting BSB and SF
  - predator/prey dynamics are not properly factored into current catch estimate data
- Need to address chemicals in the water, such as surfactants, that may negatively impact fish populations

# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *Email Comments (all 3 species)*

- Need to research fertilizers and pesticides in the water and the negative impacts to fish
- Need to understand effects of windmills, their construction, and seismic blasting on fish
- Due to Covid-19, 2020 data should be eliminated from evaluation methods

# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *Scup*

- COVID-19 had major impacts on the scup market and prices, and commercial landings.
- Less rec fishing effort due to COVID, especially on for-hire vessels.
  - Multiple advisors felt the 2020 the MRIP estimates of harvest do not make sense/were too high.
- One advisor recommended a cumulative length limit approach in the rec. scup fishery, could first be tested for the shore-based mode before applying it to the entire rec fishery.
- Email comment: scup have been abundant last 2 yrs.

# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *Scup*

- Proposal from Lund's Fisheries to decrease the commercial min. size from 9 inches to 8 inches and increase or remove the scup winter I quota period possession limit in 2022.
  - Two advisors did not support an 8 inch min size due to maturity concerns and maintaining a healthy SSB
  - One supported an 8 inch min size due to the preference of some to buy smaller fish
  - Email comments: 8 inch min size is a poor management move, it could increase discards, shifting effort to smaller scup
  - Fresh market will not be able to sell a scup that small

# AP Fishery Performance Report

## *Scup*

- Proposal from Lund's Fisheries discussion cont'd
  - Two advisors did not support an increase or elimination of the possession limit due to tanking the price for the fresh fish market or competition from vessels shifting their effort
  - One advisor added that fishermen generally do not land the current possession limit
  - Email comments: this increase would open the fishery to way larger vessels
  - Destroy the fresh fish market
  - Larger trip limits will lead to even more discards

# Prior SSC Recommendations

Sept 2019:

- Recommended 2020-2021 constant & varying ABCs based on 2019 operational assessment projections
  - OFL CV = 60%
- Council/Board adopted varying ABCs for 2020-2021

July 2020:

- Revised previously adopted 2021 ABC based on Dec. 2019 revisions to Council risk policy

# 2022-2023 Projections

- OFL/ABC projections provided by NEFSC
  - based on the 2021 mgmt. track assessment

Assuming:

- 60% OFL CV
- ABC caught in 2020-2022



# 2022-2023 Projections

## Varying 2022-2023 ABCs

Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ABC F	ABC P*	SSB (mt)
2021	18,005	15,791	0.166	0.406	173,993
2022	14,770	14,566	0.197	0.490	156,947
2023	13,648	13,460	0.197	0.490	139,650

## Constant 2022-2023 ABCs

Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ABC F	ABC P*	SSB (mt)
2021	18,005	15,791	0.166	0.406	173,993
2022	14,770	14,013	0.189	0.462	157,165
2023	13,708	14,013	0.205	0.516	137,963

# 2022-2023 Staff ABC Recommendations

	Varying				Constant			
	OFL		ABC		OFL		ABC	
	mil lb	mt	mil lb	mt	mil lb	mt	mil lb	mt
2022	32.56	14,770	32.11	14,566	32.56	14,770	30.89	14,013
2023	30.09	13,648	29.67	13,460	30.22	13,708	30.89	14,013



*fin*