



Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog (SCOQ)

SSC Meeting

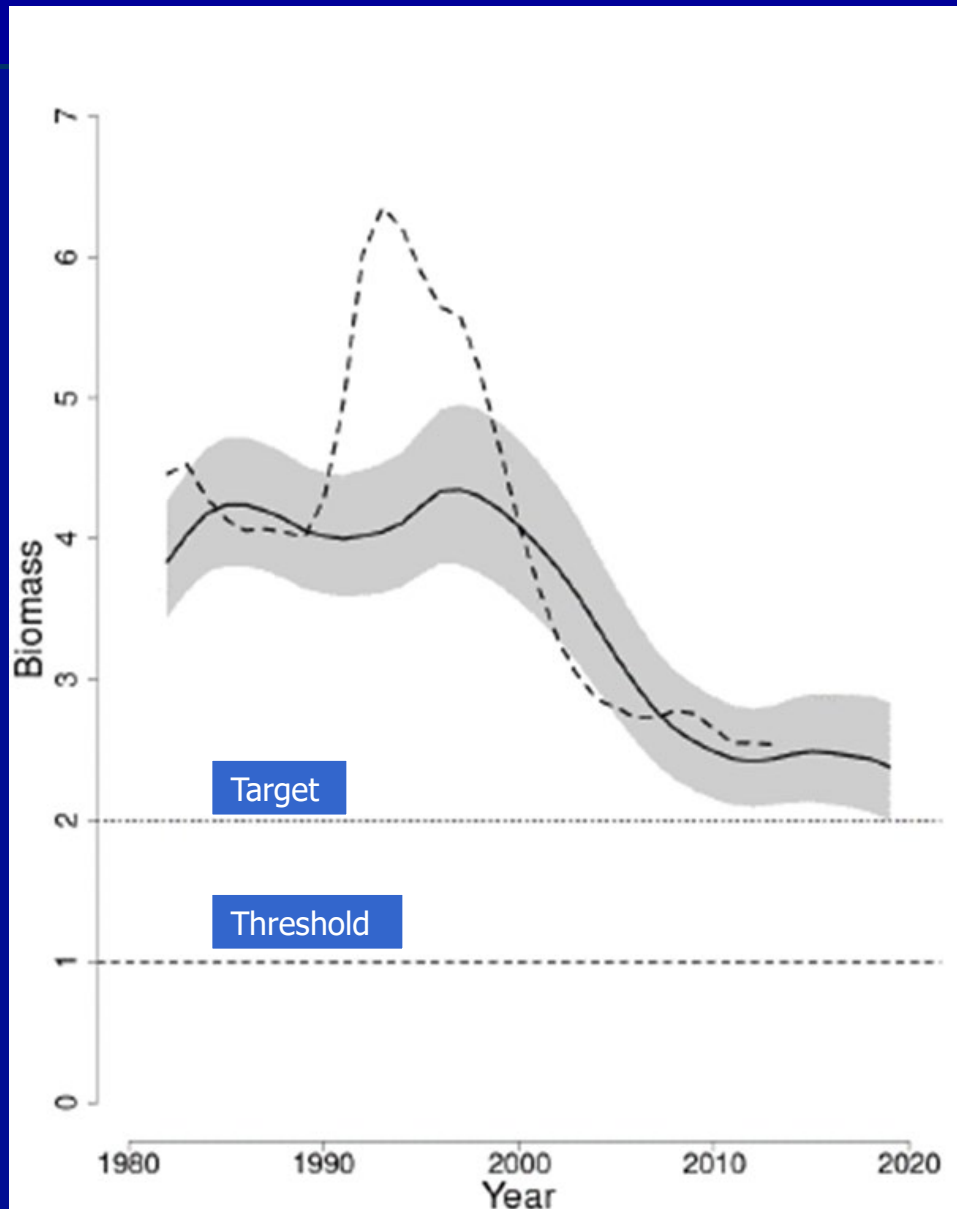
May 12, 2021



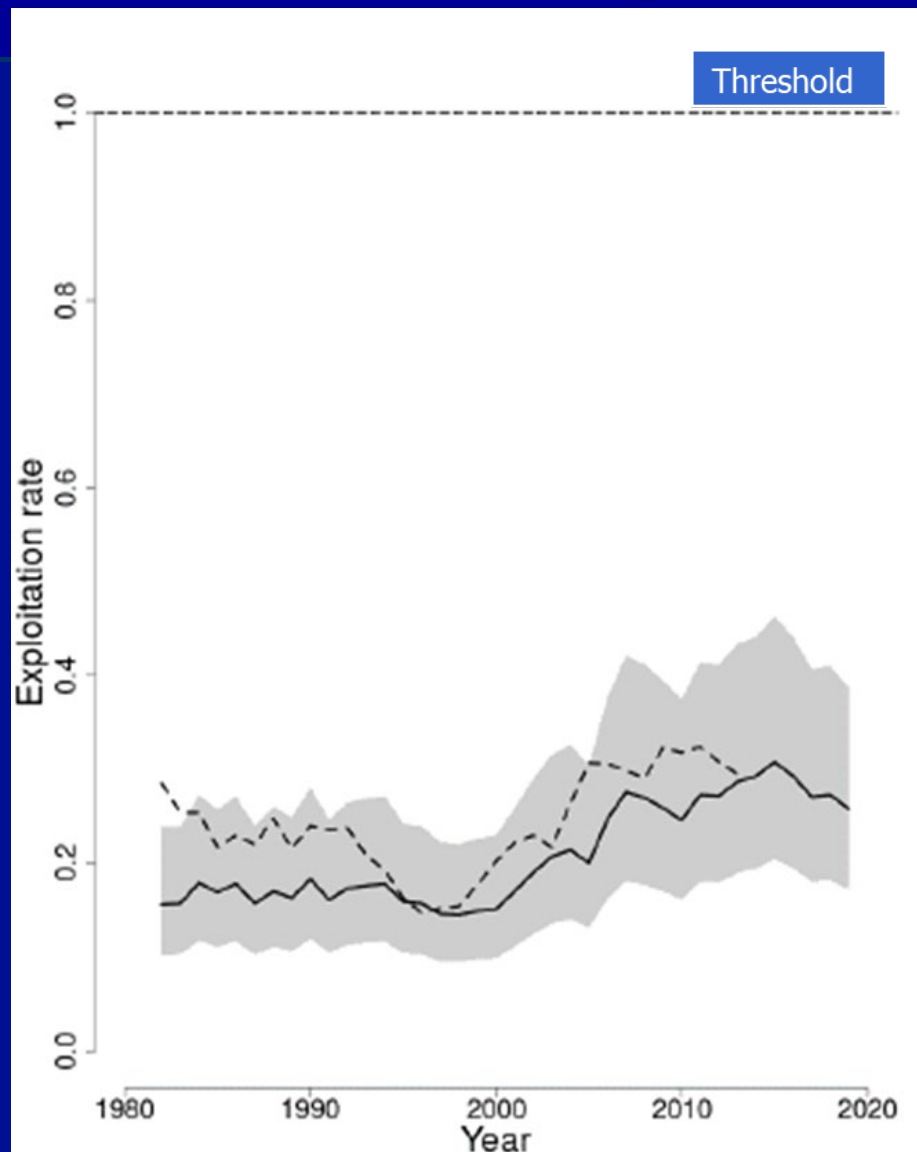
Today's Review (2022 Measures)

- Surfclam fishery info doc (fishery data update)
- Fishery performance report (both SCOQ)
- Staff recommendations for surfclam
- Repeat for ocean quahog...
- Received Level 3 SC and Level 1 OQ Management Track Assessments last year

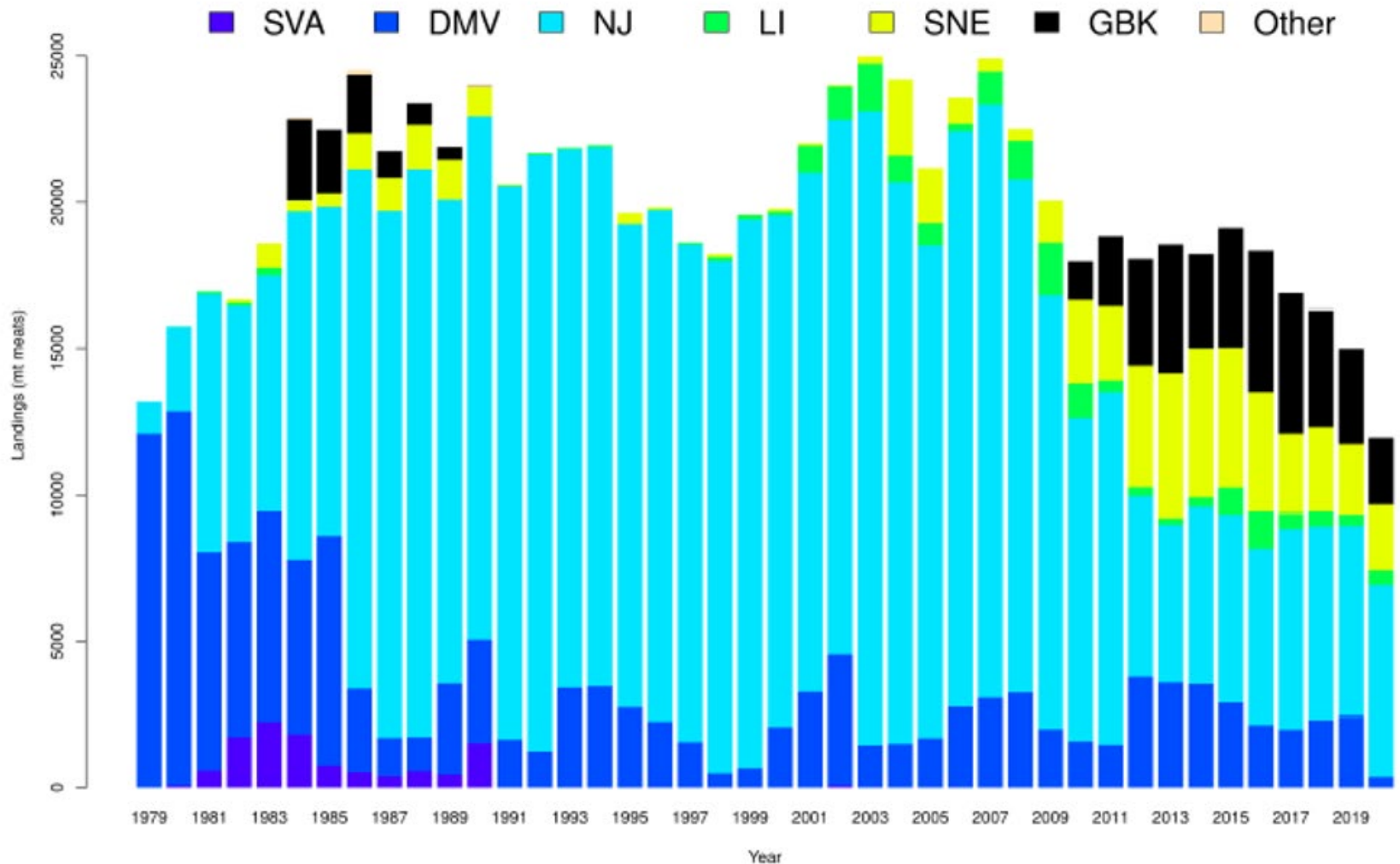
Surfclam Biomass



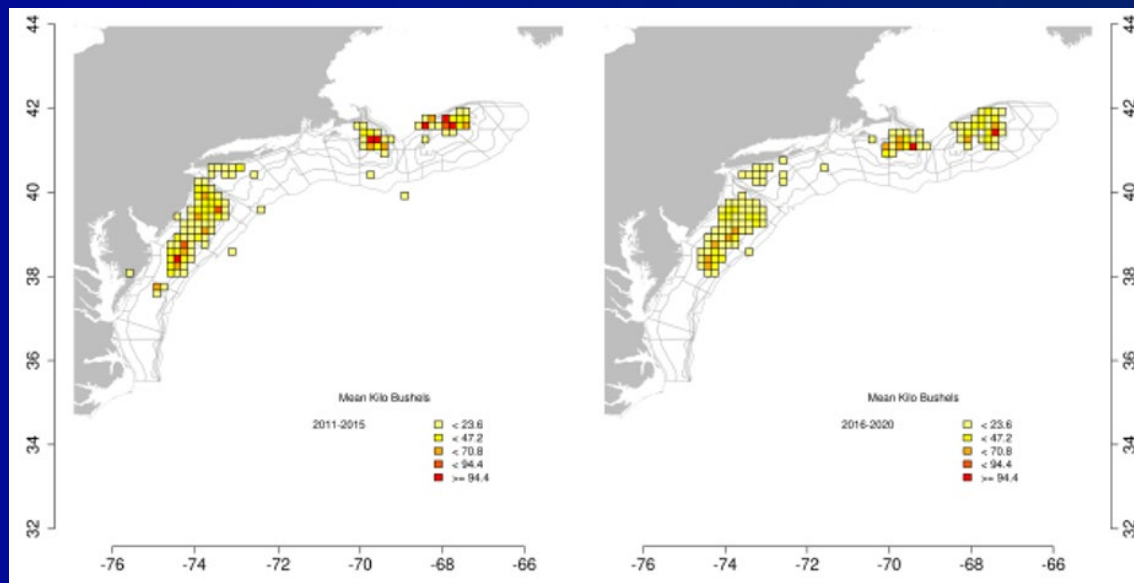
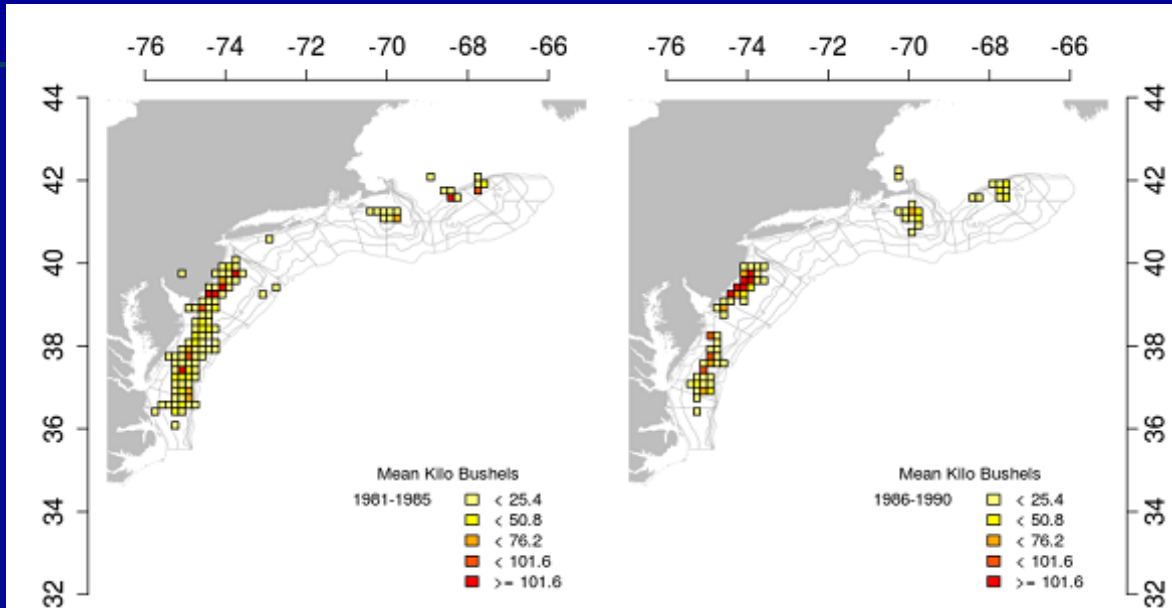
Surfclam Fishing Mortality



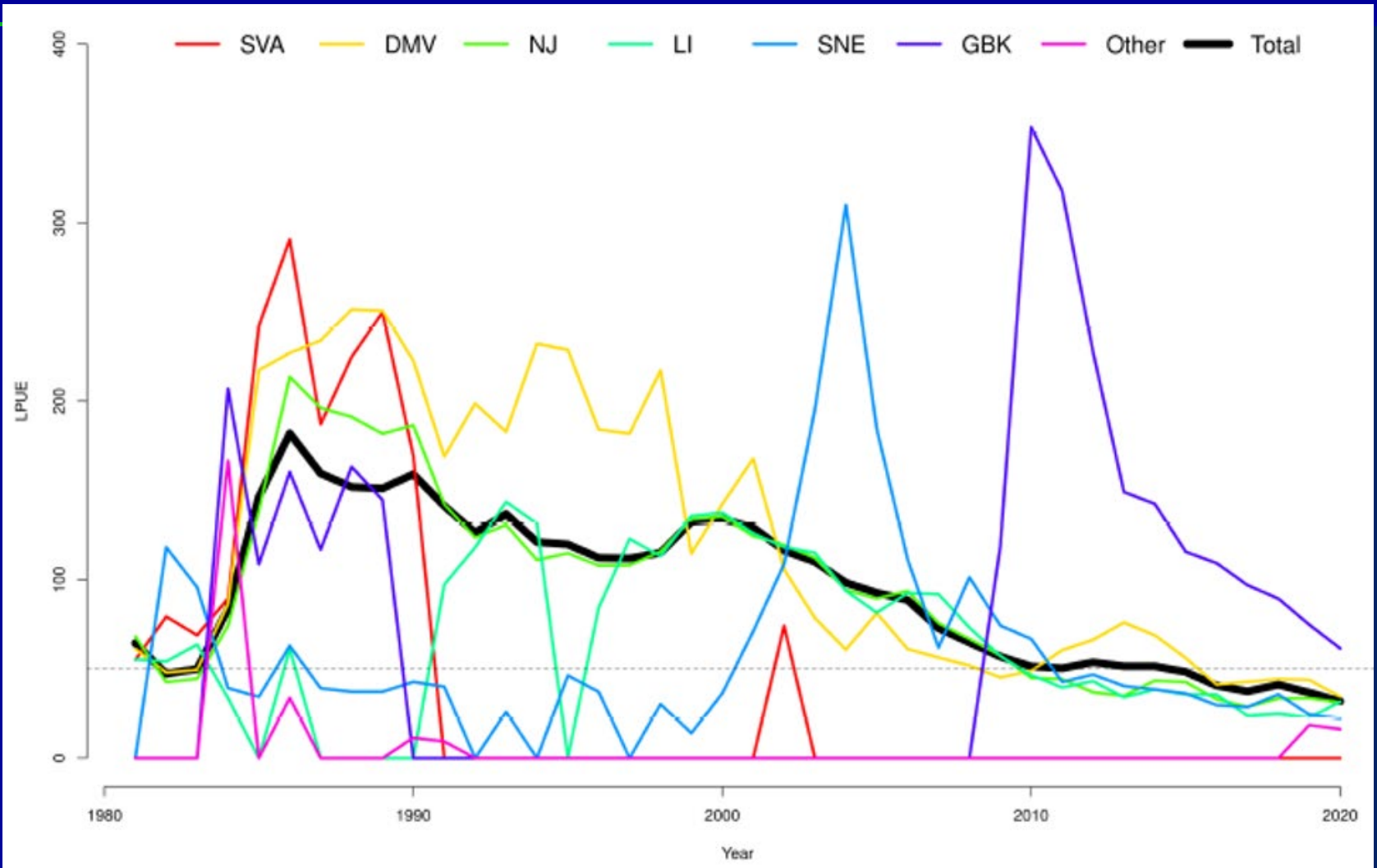
Surfclam Info Doc



Surfclam Info Doc



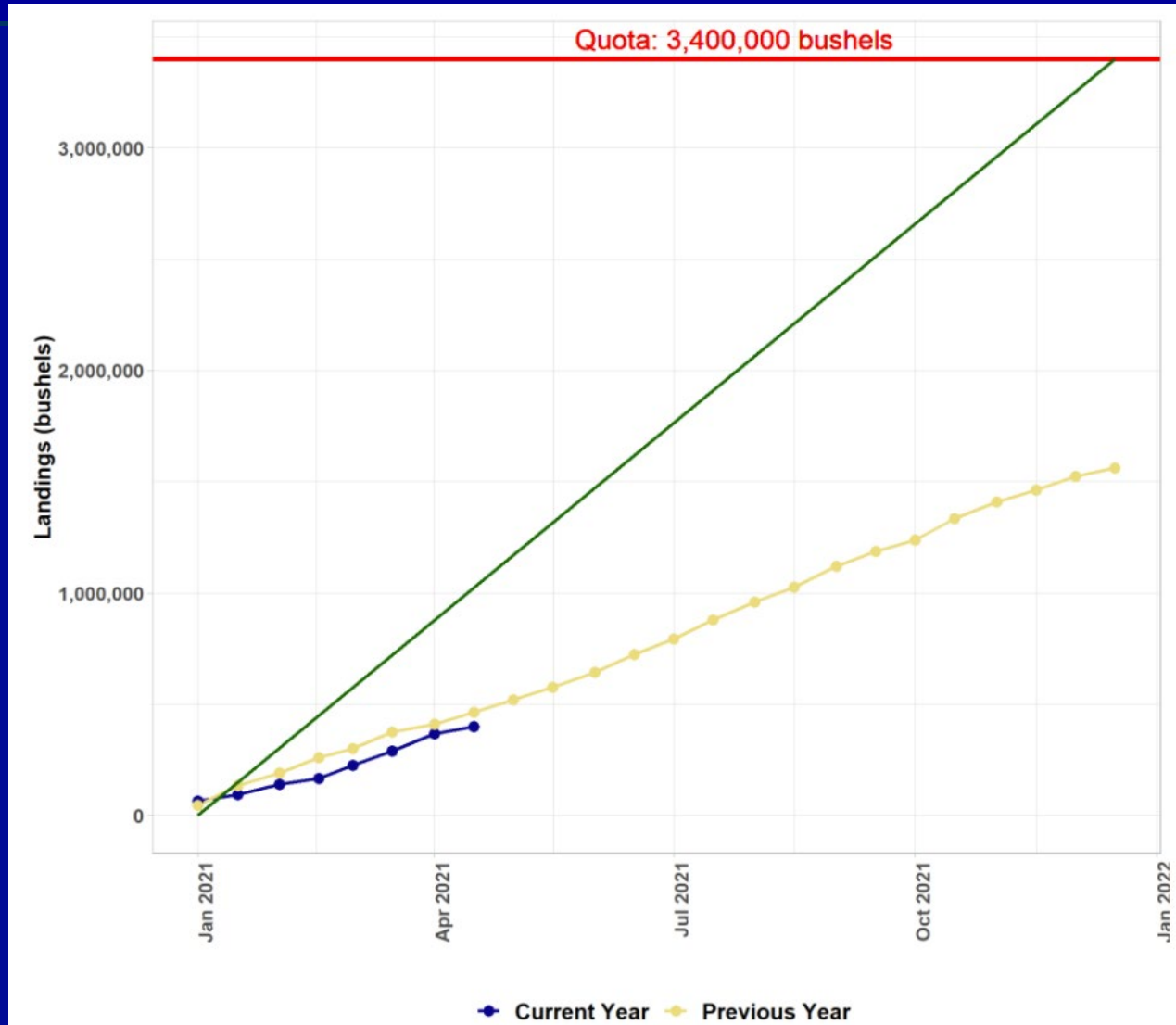
Surfclam Info Doc



Surfclam Info Doc

- 2020: 43 vessels (same as 2019)
- 7 processors SCOQ in 3 states
- Decrease in overall ex-vessel value
 - \$23 million in 2020
 - Down \$5 million from 2019

Surfclam Landings (thru May 5)



Fisheries Performance Report

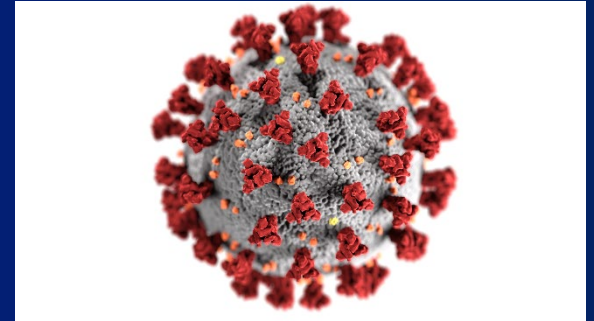
- Covers both SCOQ
- Advisors met April 22, 2021
- Asked series of trigger questions
- AP identified several “Critical Issues”
- Also note, advisors would like status quo quotas (quota stability = fishery/market stability)



Fisheries Performance Report

■ A. COVID-19:

- Sales to restaurants/retail low
- Processors continuing to operate
- Causing inventories to rise – causing storage costs/expenses to increase
- Distribution is starting to increase in anticipation of improved sales, but hasn't helped bottom line at this point yet
- Expect these effects to be ongoing, longer lasting



Source: CDC/Alissa Eckert, MSMI, Dan Higgins, MAMS

Fisheries Performance Report

■ B. Research:

- Important Council support research in Great South Channel Habitat Management Area (Nantucket Shoals/Southern New England area)
- SCOQ AP recommends NEFMC and MAFMC pursue cross Council workshop to,
 - 1) review the management process, 2) better understand what research is being conducted, 3) describe the process for ongoing management, and 4) develop understanding what this means for process of managing these clam access areas.

Fisheries Performance Report

- C. Access to Fishing Grounds:
 - Development of wind energy and aquaculture areas, protected marine areas and historic monuments, and other offshore ocean uses have become a critical issue for our industry.
 - All of these activities have potential to reduce safe access to historically used fishing ground resulting in a greater concentration of fishing effort in smaller areas.

Fisheries Performance Report

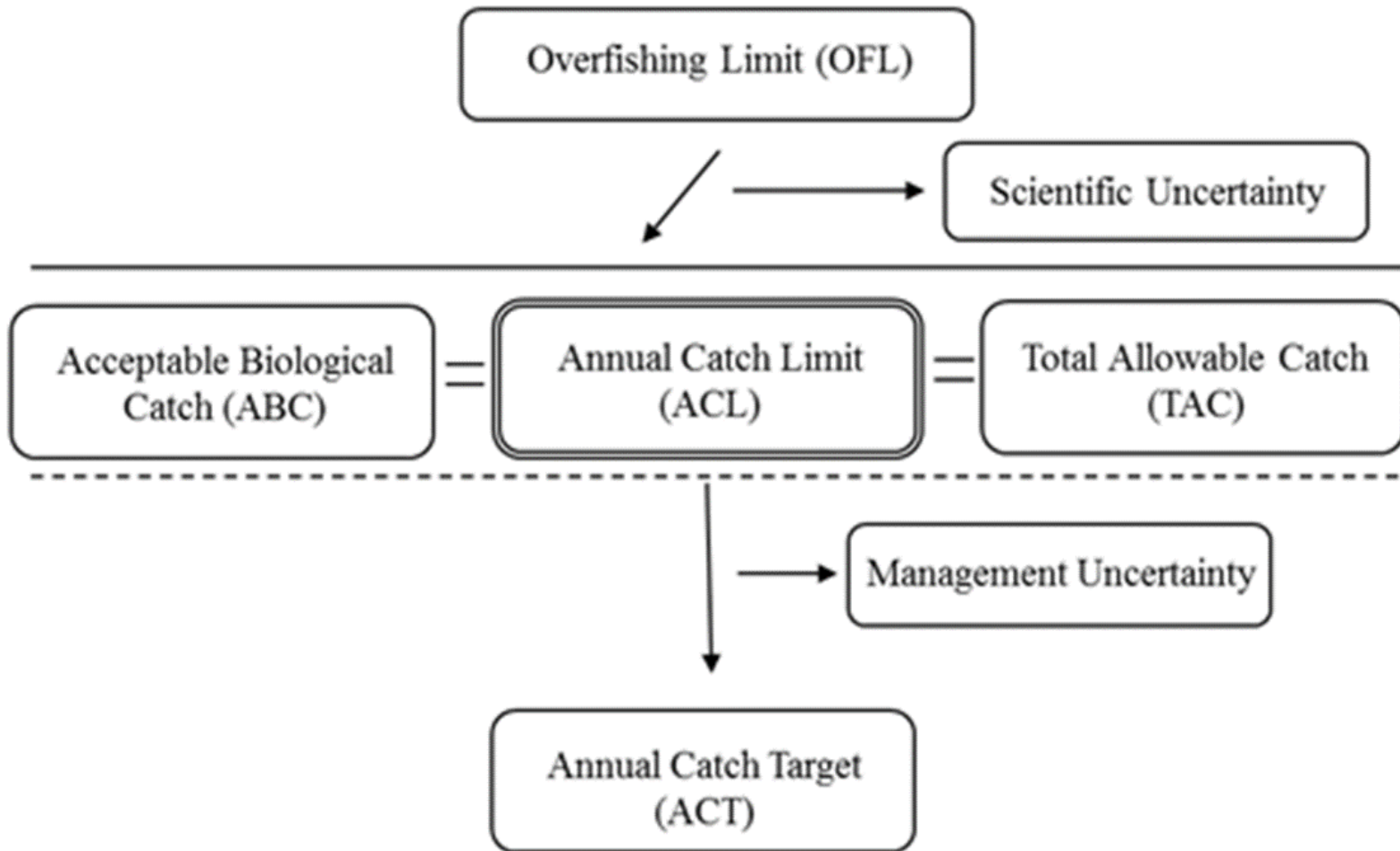
- Other Important Issues:
 - The SCOQ AP would like to request that surfclam and ocean quahog AP members have two seats on Fishery Management Act Teams (FMATs) for issues related to these fisheries.

SSC Recommendation 2021-2026



- SSC-modified OFL probability distribution
- Coefficient of variation (OFL CV) of 100%
- Based on report for Level 3 Management Track Assessment
- 2021 $p^*=0.47$

Atlantic Surfclam Flowchart



Surfclam SSC/Council Recommendations

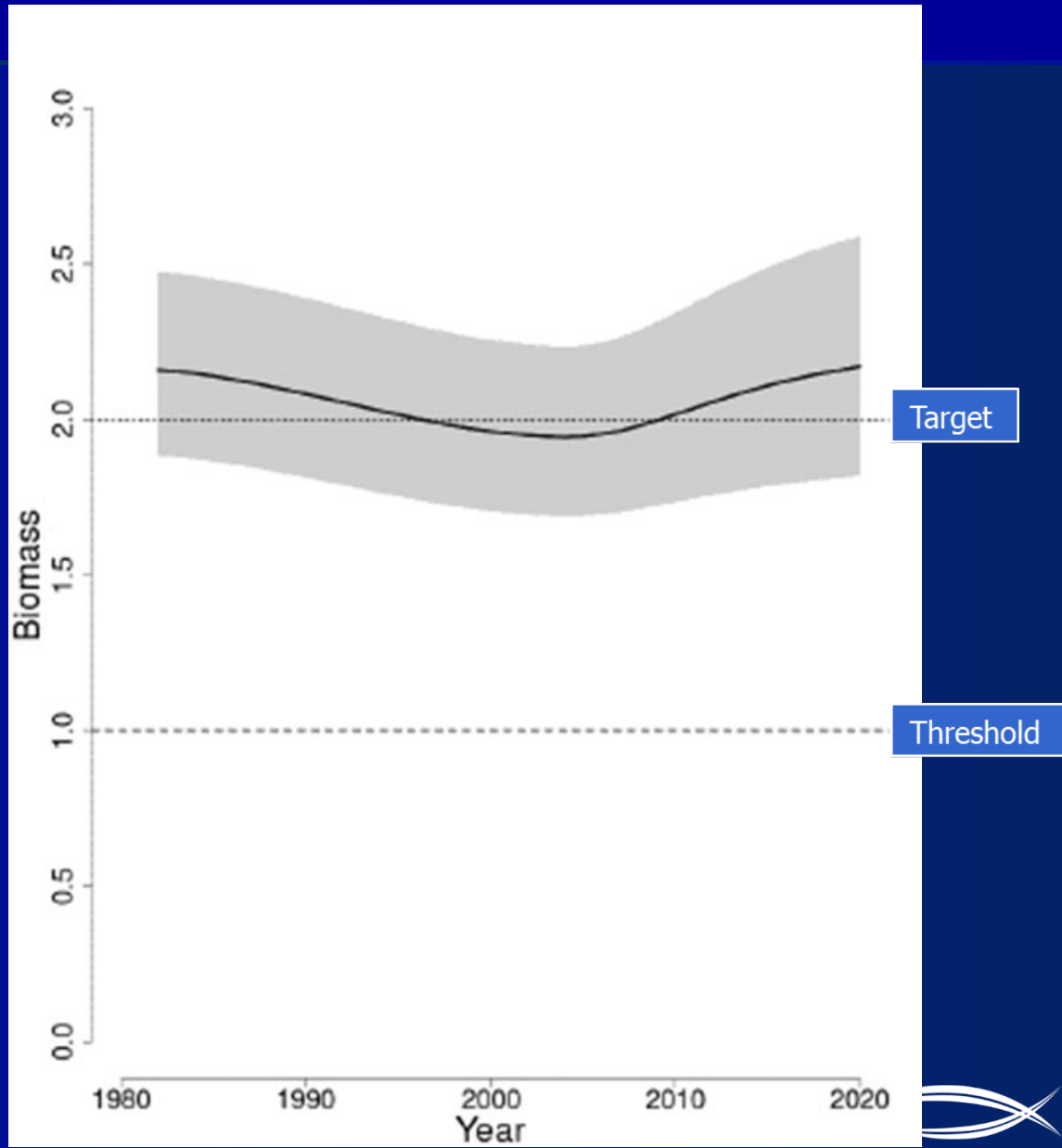
Year	OFL	ABC	ACL	ACT	Commercial Quota
2021	51,361 mt	47,919 mt	47,919 mt	29,363 mt	26,218 mt
2022	48,202 mt	44,522 mt	44,522 mt	29,363 mt	26,218 mt
2023	45,959 mt	42,237 mt	42,237 mt	29,363 mt	26,218 mt
2024	44,629 mt	40,946 mt	40,946 mt	29,363 mt	26,218 mt
2025	44,048 mt	40,345 mt	40,345 mt	29,363 mt	26,218 mt
2026	43,886 mt	40,264 mt	40,264 mt	29,363 mt	26,218 mt

Surfclam Staff Recommendations

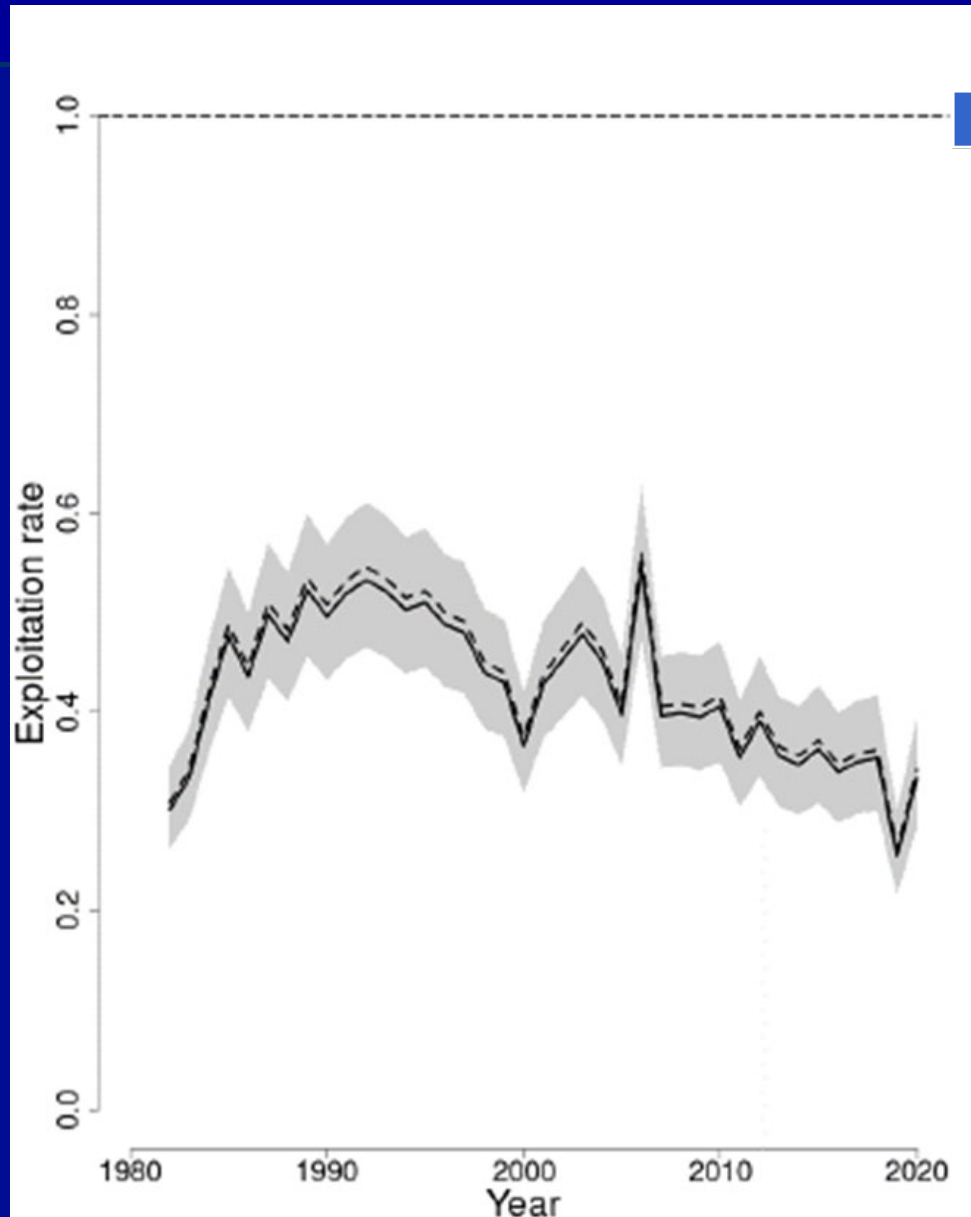


- No changes to measures for 2022
 - Council will need motion to recommend RA suspend minimum size (required annually)

Quahog Biomass

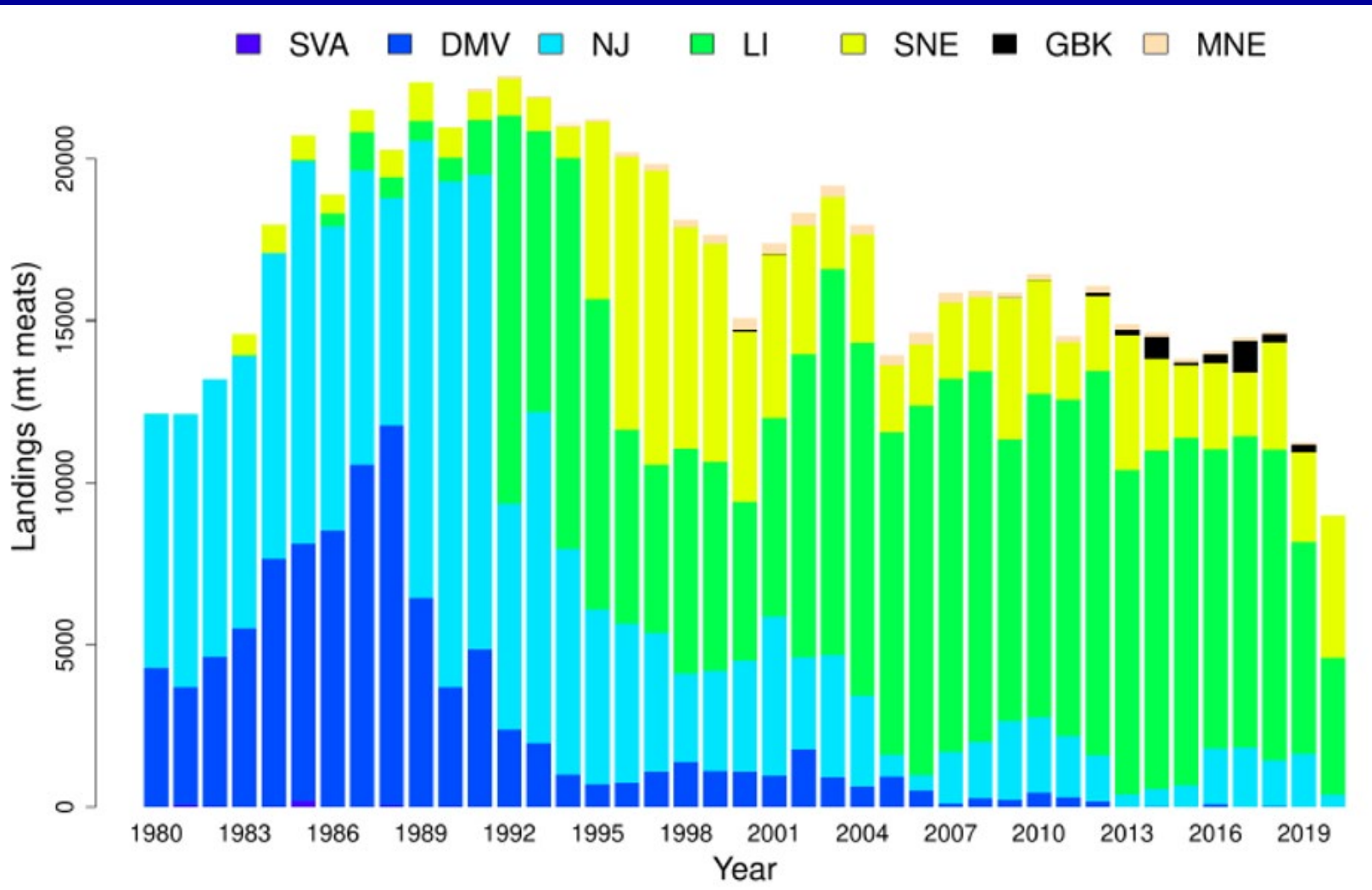


Quahog Fishing Mortality

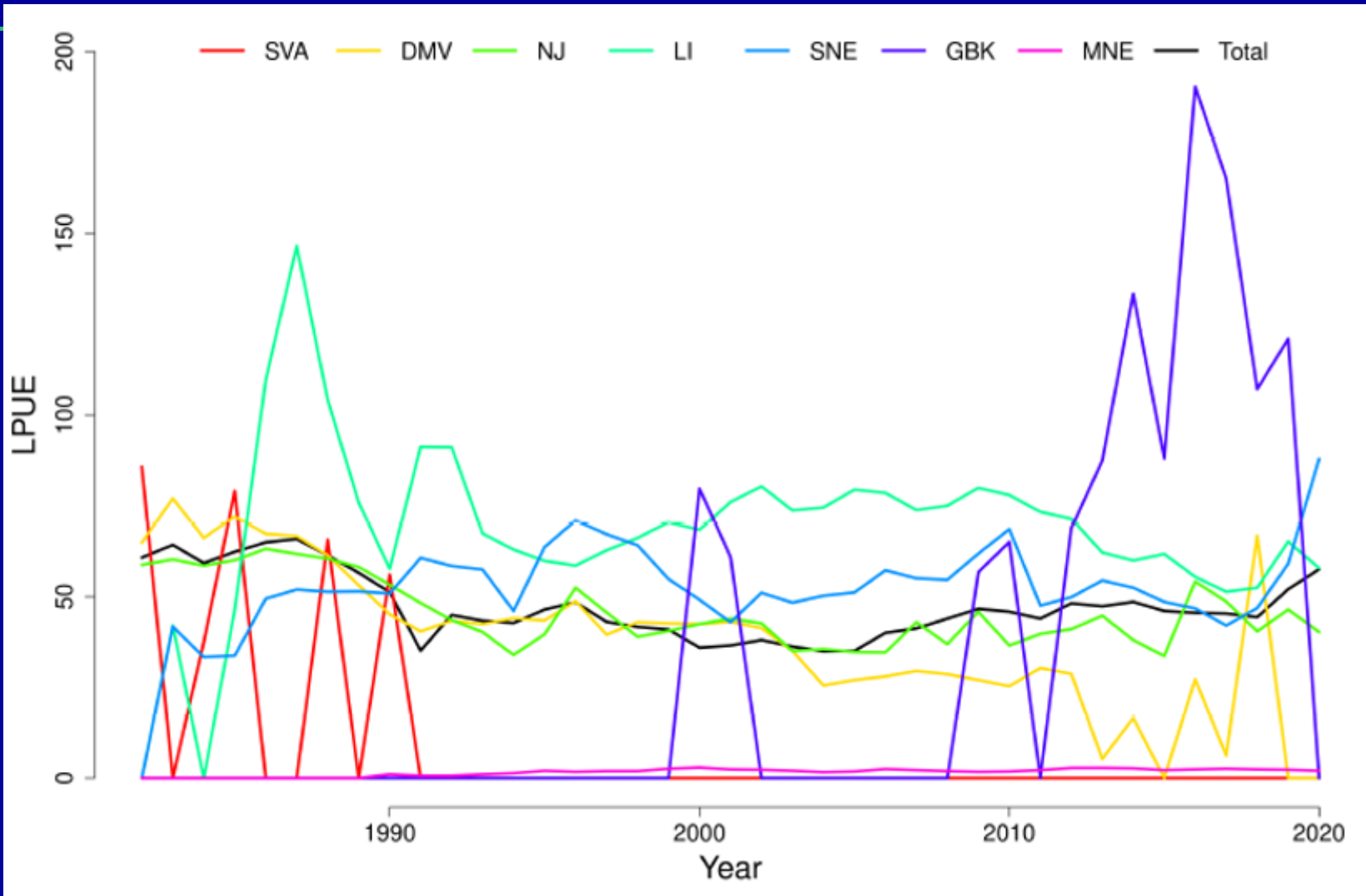


Threshold

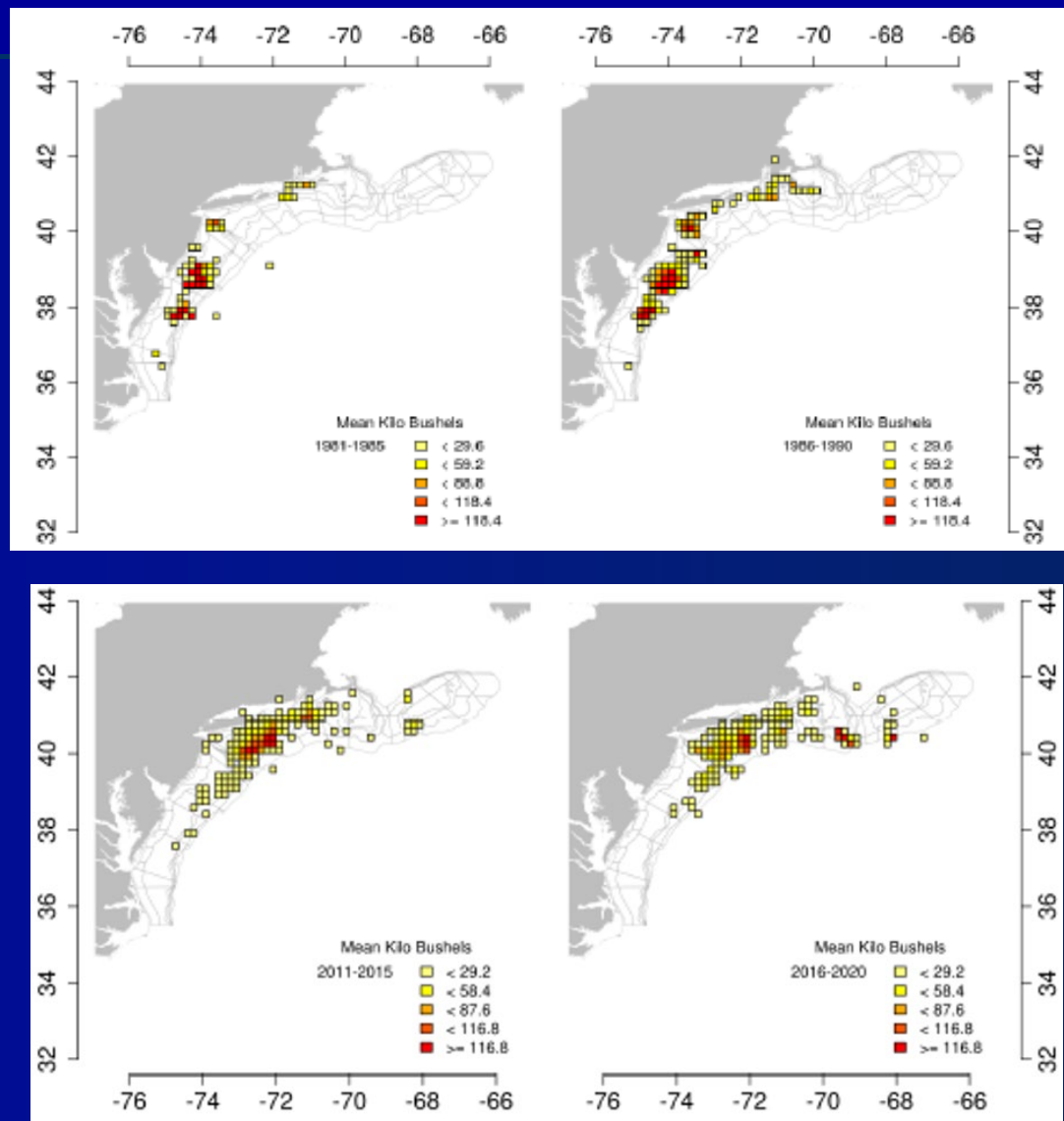
Quahog Info Doc



Quahog Info Doc



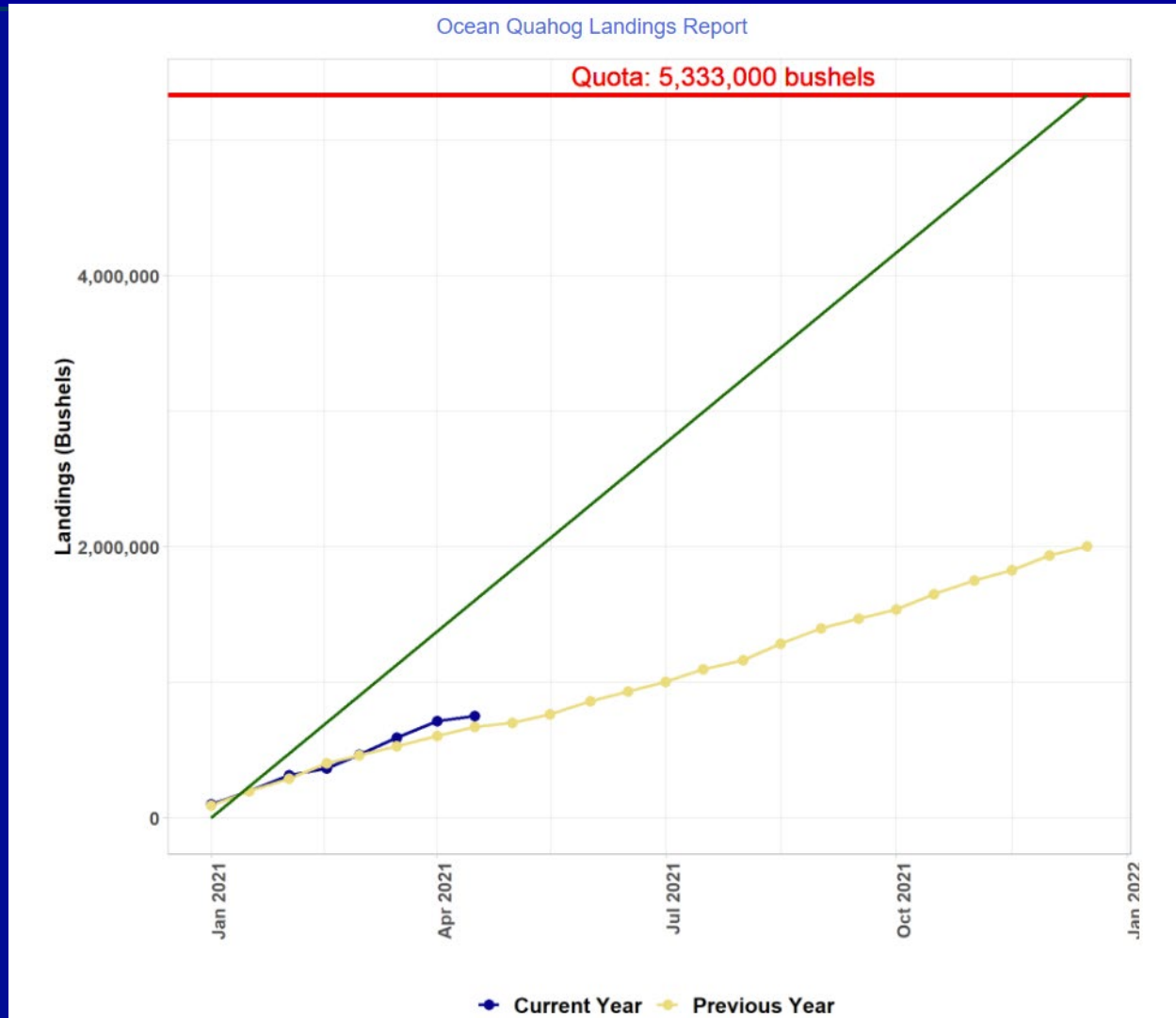
Quahog Info Doc



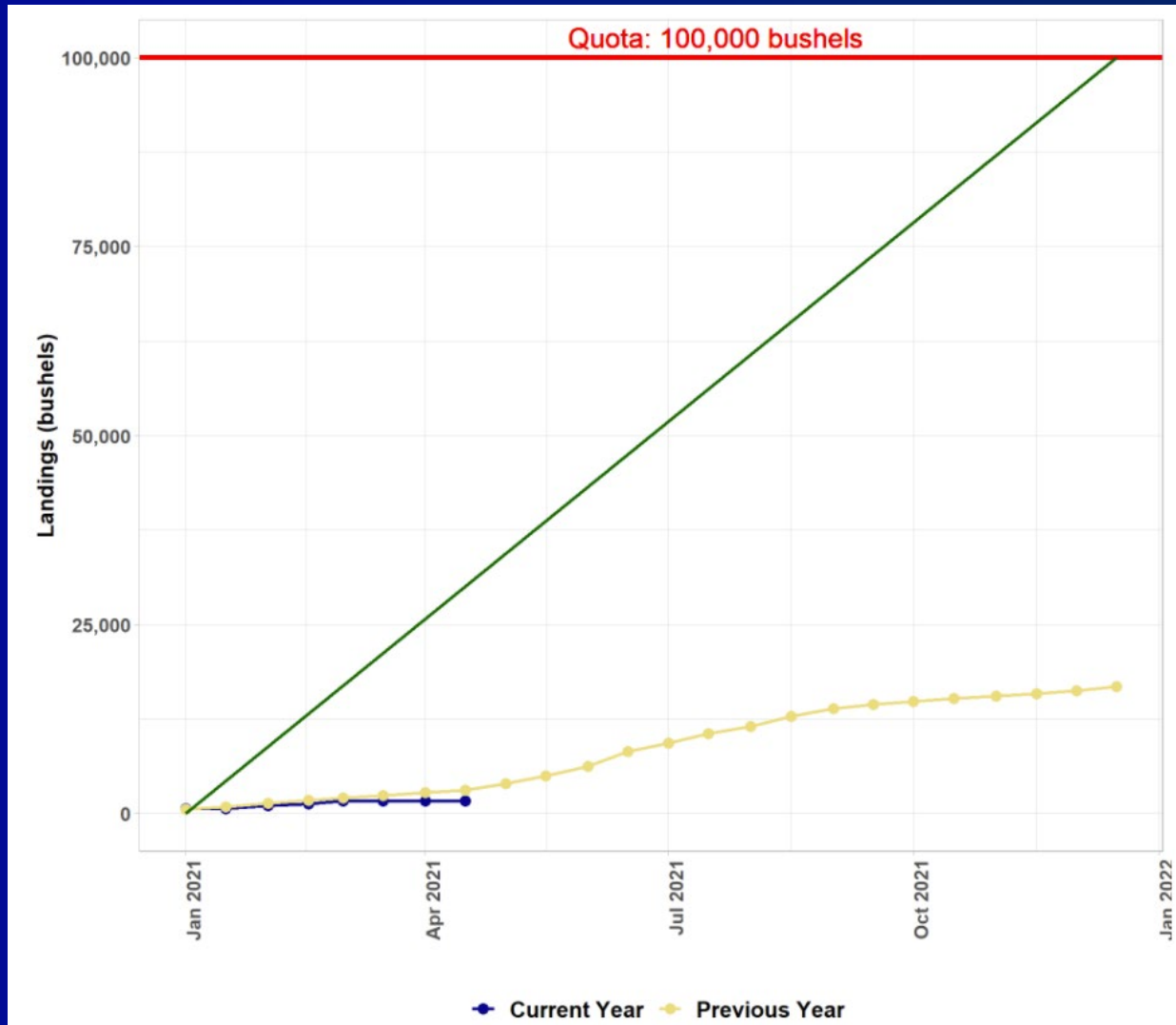
Quahog Info Doc

- 2019: 15 non-ME vessels, 8 ME
- 7 processors SCOQ in 3 states
- Decrease in overall ex-vessel value
 - \$16 million in 2020
 - Down \$3 million from 2019

Quahog Landings – Non-Maine (thru May 5)



Quahog Landings – Maine (thru May 5)

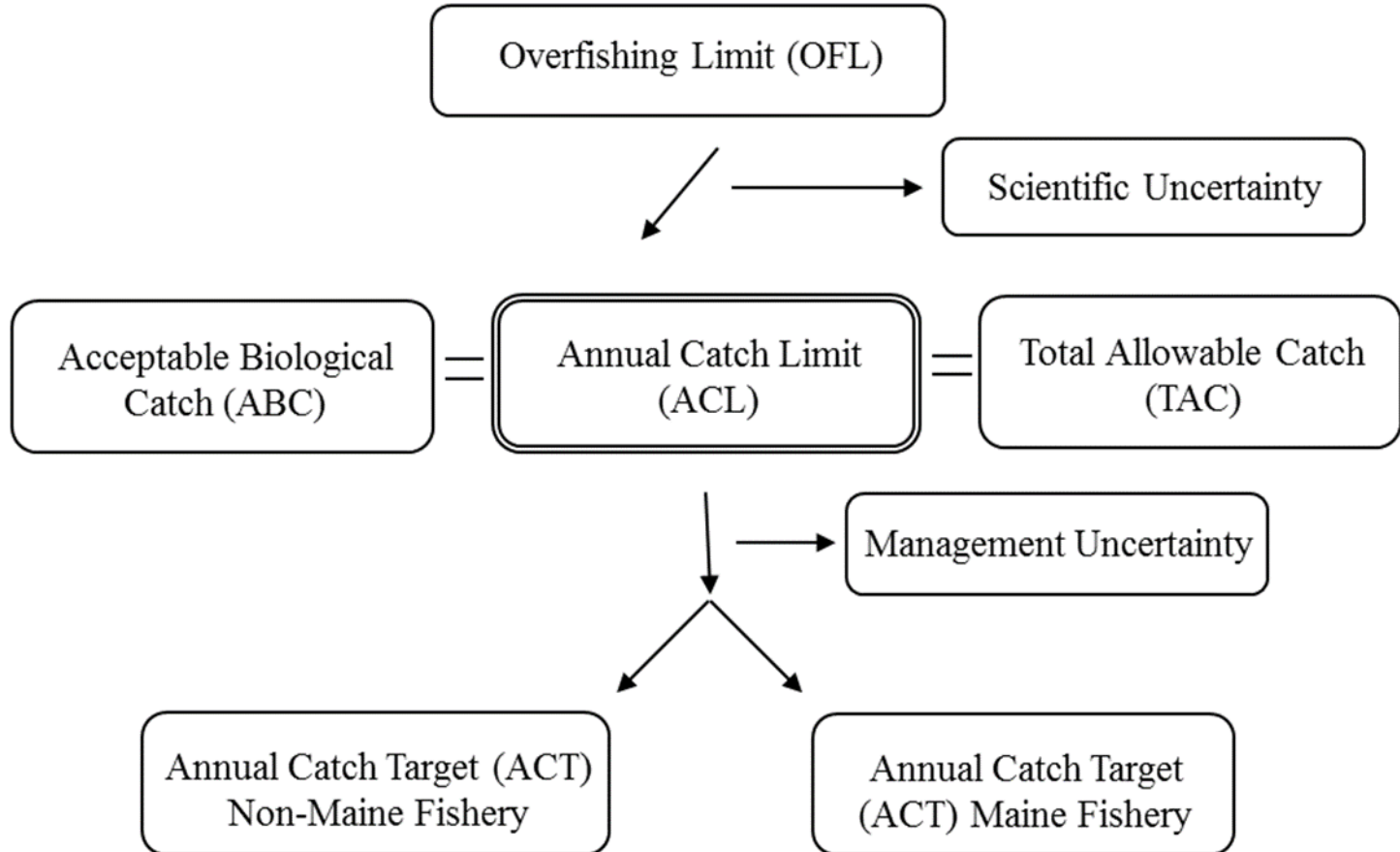


SSC Recommendation 2021-2026



- SSC-modified OFL probability distribution
- Coefficient of variation (OFL CV) of 100%
- Based on report for Level 1 Management Track Assessment
- 2021 $p^*=0.49$

Ocean Quahog Flowchart



Quahog SSC/Council Recommendations

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL	ACT*	Commercial Quota*
2021	44,960 mt	44,031 mt	44,031 mt	25,924 mt	24,689 mt
2022	45,001 mt	44,072 mt	44,072 mt	25,924 mt	24,689 mt
2023	45,012 mt	44,082 mt	44,082 mt	25,924 mt	24,689 mt
2024	44,994 mt	44,065 mt	44,065 mt	25,924 mt	24,689 mt
2025	44,948 mt	44,020 mt	44,020 mt	25,924 mt	24,689 mt
2026	44,875 mt	43,948 mt	43,948 mt	25,924 mt	24,689 mt

* For combined Maine and non-Maine quahog fishery.

Quahog Staff Recommendations

- No changes to measures for 2022

