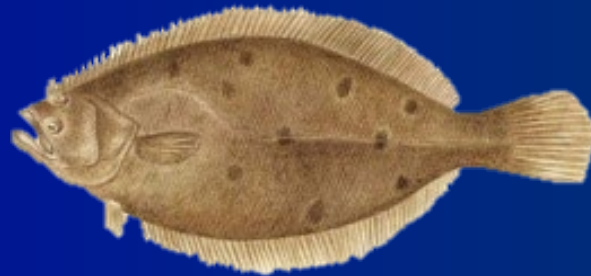




Summer Flounder 2024-2025 Specifications



SSC

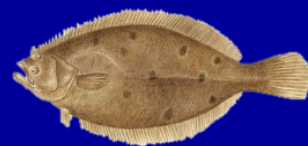
July 25, 2023

Overview



- Recent catch, landings, and fishery performance
- Advisory Panel Fishery Performance Report
- Projections and staff recommendations for 2024-2025 ABCs

Stock Status: 2023 Management Track Assessment



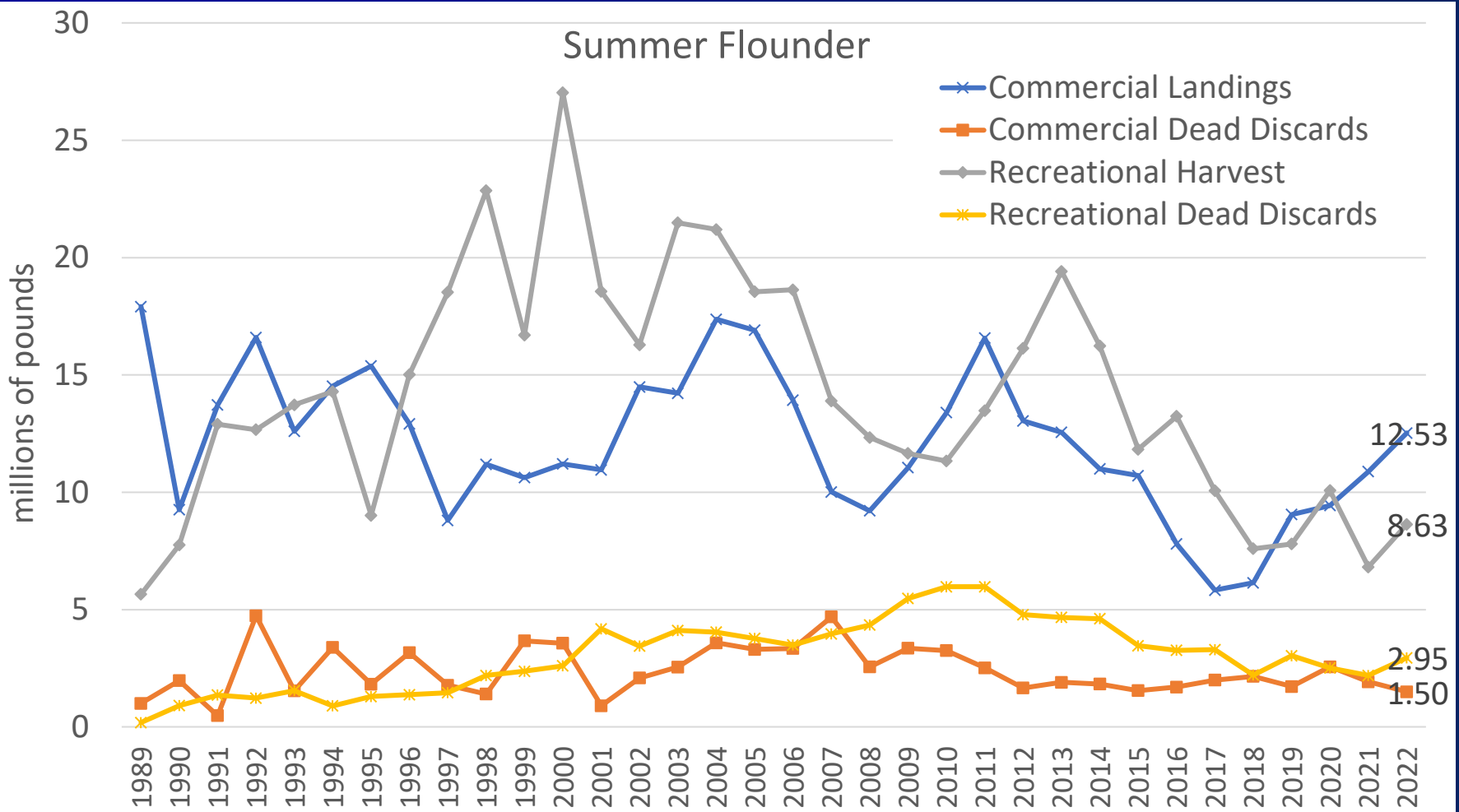
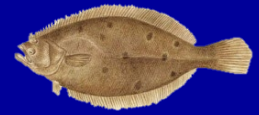
SSB

- Not overfished in 2022
- 2022 SSB = 40,994 mt, 83% of SSB_{MSY} = 49,561 mt

F

- Overfishing is occurring in 2022
- 2022 $F = 0.464$, 103% of F_{MSY} proxy = 0.451

Fishery Landings & Discards 1989-2022



OFL and ABC Performance

Year	Total dead catch	OFL	OFL over/under	ABC	ABC over/under
2014	22.27	26.76	-17%	21.94	+2%
2015	18.22	27.06	-33%	22.57	-19%
2016	17.16	18.06	-5%	16.26	+6%
2017	12.00	16.76	-28%	11.30	+6%
2018	12.65	18.69	-32%	13.23	-4%
2019	21.63	30.00	-28%	25.03	-14%
2020	24.60	30.94	-21%	25.03	-2%
2021	21.82	31.67	-31%	27.11	-20%
2022	25.61	36.28	-29%	33.12	-23%
2023	--	34.98	--	33.12	--

Limits/catch values in millions of pounds

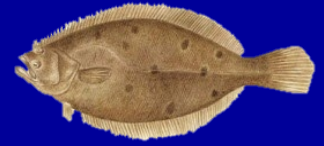
Total catch calculated using [old MRIP data through 2018](#)

Recreational Fishery Performance



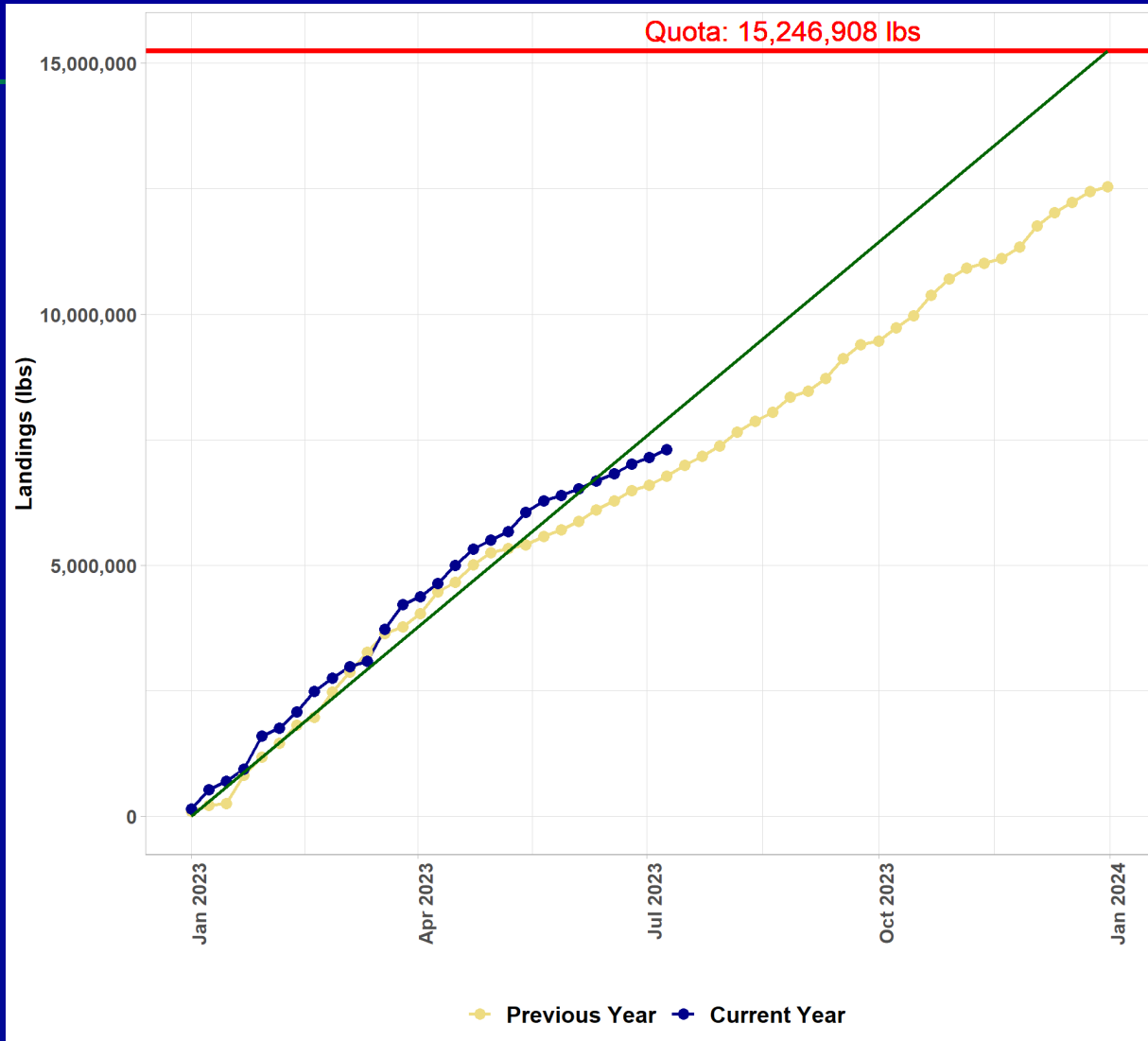
	MRIP version	Rec harvest	RHL	RHL over/under	Rec. dead disc.	Rec dead catch	ACL	ACL over/under
2018	OLD MRIP	3.35	4.42	-24%	0.97	4.32	5.53	-22%
2019	NEW MRIP	7.80	7.69	1%	3.04	10.84	11.51	-6%
2020		10.07	7.69	31%	2.52	12.60	11.51	9%
2021		6.82	8.32	-18%	2.20	9.02	12.48	-28%
2022		8.83	10.36	-17%	2.95	11.58	14.64	-21%
2023		--	10.62	--	--	--	--	14.90

Commercial Fishery Performance



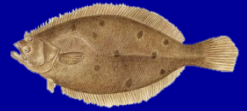
Year	Com. Land.	Com. quota	Quota over/under	Comm dead disc.	Com. dead catch	ACL	ACL over/under
2018	6.14	6.63	-7%	2.16	8.30	7.70	8%
2019	9.06	10.98	-17%	1.73	10.79	13.53	-20%
2020	9.44	11.53	-18%	2.56	12.00	13.53	-11%
2021	10.88	12.49	-13%	1.92	12.80	14.63	-13%
2022	12.53	15.53	-19%	1.50	14.03	18.48	-24%
2023	--	15.27	--	2.16	--	18.21	--

2023 Commercial Landings



Commercial landings through July 19, 2023

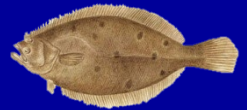
AP Fishery Performance Report



Fishery Performance

- Question about whether it's typical for catch to be ~30% below OFL on regular basis
- Request for information about F/FMSY
- Struggle to understand conservation need for larger underages

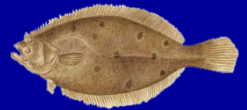
AP Fishery Performance Report



Stock Availability and Trends

- Underages due to “fishery controlling itself” – availability is down
 - Would be better to tighten regs for fluke and loosen for scup and BSB
 - Rec. fishermen still catching many fluke, but very few keepers
- Another advisor agreed stock is not as robust as we think
 - Would expect more stock growth with all of these underages
 - Questioned whether natural mortality is mis-specified

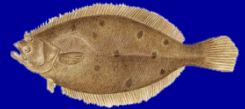
AP Fishery Performance Report



Stock Availability and Trends

- Commercial horseshoe crab harvester – normally sees 1-2 fluke per tow; this year getting many smaller 16-20 in, up to 50-70 pounds per tow
- NEAMAP bottom temp. observations 6-10 degrees colder than last 20 years, impacting seasonal availability of target species
 - Timing running about 2 weeks behind “typical” this year
- Suggestion to consider applying “Squid Squad” approach to linking oceanographic conditions to availability for summer flounder

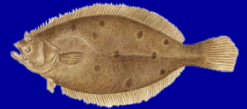
AP Fishery Performance Report



Market and Economic Issues

- Several reports of low prices this year
 - Town Dock (RI) reports “terrible” prices
 - MD advisor noted recent prices as low as \$0.46 per pound
- Low prices and high costs causing hardships for industry
- MA fisherman noted recent years have seen mostly medium fluke; few large and jumbos
 - However, this year seeing more large and jumbos again

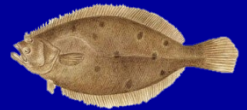
AP Fishery Performance Report



Recreational Management Issues

- Comments on NJ split slot limit (2 fish at 17-17.99 and 1 above 18")
 - One concerned it has not been successful in lowering harvest of female fish
 - Another supported slot but suggested some modifications to single slot or two slot limits with one fish bag in each
- One advisor supported further discussions on sector separation for the for-hire sector

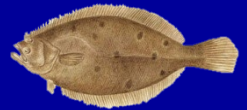
AP Fishery Performance Report



Research Recommendations

- Important to understand causes of center of biomass shift; does not believe it is explained by oceanographic changes
 - Could be related to asymmetric fishing pressure
- Need to know more about migration patterns of summer flounder beyond general East-West
- Find better, less destructive survey methods vs. bottom trawls
- Understand causes of recent low recruitment

AP Fishery Performance Report



Email/Phone Comments (Summer Flounder)

- Recreational fishery not catching many because biomass is low – one of the worst years so far for fluke
- Heard there was a good body of fluke moved north to MA before they could be caught off NY
- Price for fluke in NY was higher this year, but no one was catching them

Prior SSC Recommendations

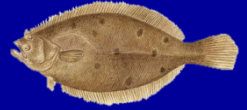
July 2021/July 2022



- 2022-2023 constant & varying ABCs based on 2021 MTA
 - SSC-modified OFL probability distribution; OFL CV = 60%
 - Recruitment sampled from 9-yr below avg. recruitment (2011-2019)
 - Council/Board adopted constant ABCs for 2022-2023
 - No changes to 2023 ABC when reviewed in 2022

Year	OFL	ABC	P*
2022	36.28 mil lb 16,458 mt	33.12 mil lb 15,021 mt	0.435
2023	34.98 mil lb 15,865 mt		0.461

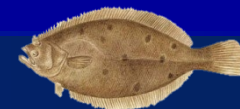
2024-2025 Projections



- Staff memo contains OFL/ABC projections provided by NEFSC assuming:
 - 60% OFL CV
 - 2023 catch = 2023 ABC
 - Recruitment sampled from recent, mostly below average R series (2011-2022)

2024-2025 Projections in Memo

Assuming 2023 catch = 2023 ABC



Varying 2024-2025 ABCs

	OFL Total Catch – mt	ABC Total Catch – mt	ABC F	ABC P* value	SSB - mt	SSB/SSB _{MSY}
2023	15,867	15,023	0.622	0.461	37,233	75%
2024	10,422	8,111	0.338	0.326	40,439	82%
2025	11,515	9,411	0.358	0.358	42,452	86%

Constant 2024-2025 ABCs (Staff will rec. constant to Council/Board)

	OFL Total Catch - mt	ABC Total Catch - mt	ABC F	ABC P* value	SSB - mt	SSB/SSB _{MSY}
2023	15,867	15,023	0.622	0.461	37,233	75%
2024	10,422	8,761	0.369	0.377	39,908	81%
2025	11,325	8,761	0.336	0.322	42,380	86%

2024-2025 Projections – Assuming 2023 catch = 85% of ABC



Varying 2024-2025 ABCs

	OFL Total Catch – mt	ABC Total Catch – mt	ABC F	ABC P* value	SSB - mt	SSB/SSB _{MSY}
2023	15,867	12,770	0.510	0.348	39,113	75%
2024	11,074	8,871	0.349	0.345	41,892	85%
2025	11,940	9,972	0.366	0.373	43,245	87%

Constant 2024-2025 ABCs (Staff will rec. constant to Council/Board)

	OFL Total Catch - mt	ABC Total Catch - mt	ABC F	ABC P* value	SSB - mt	SSB/SSB _{MSY}
2023	15,867	12,770	0.51	0.348	39,113	79%
2024	11,074	9,422	0.374	0.385	41,441	84%
2025	11,778	9,422	0.349	0.344	43,185	87%

BACKUP

2024-2025 Staff ABC Recommendations

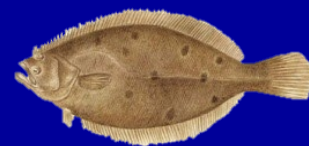


- With conversion to million pounds
- Staff will recommend to Council and Board to adopt constant ABCs for 2024-2025

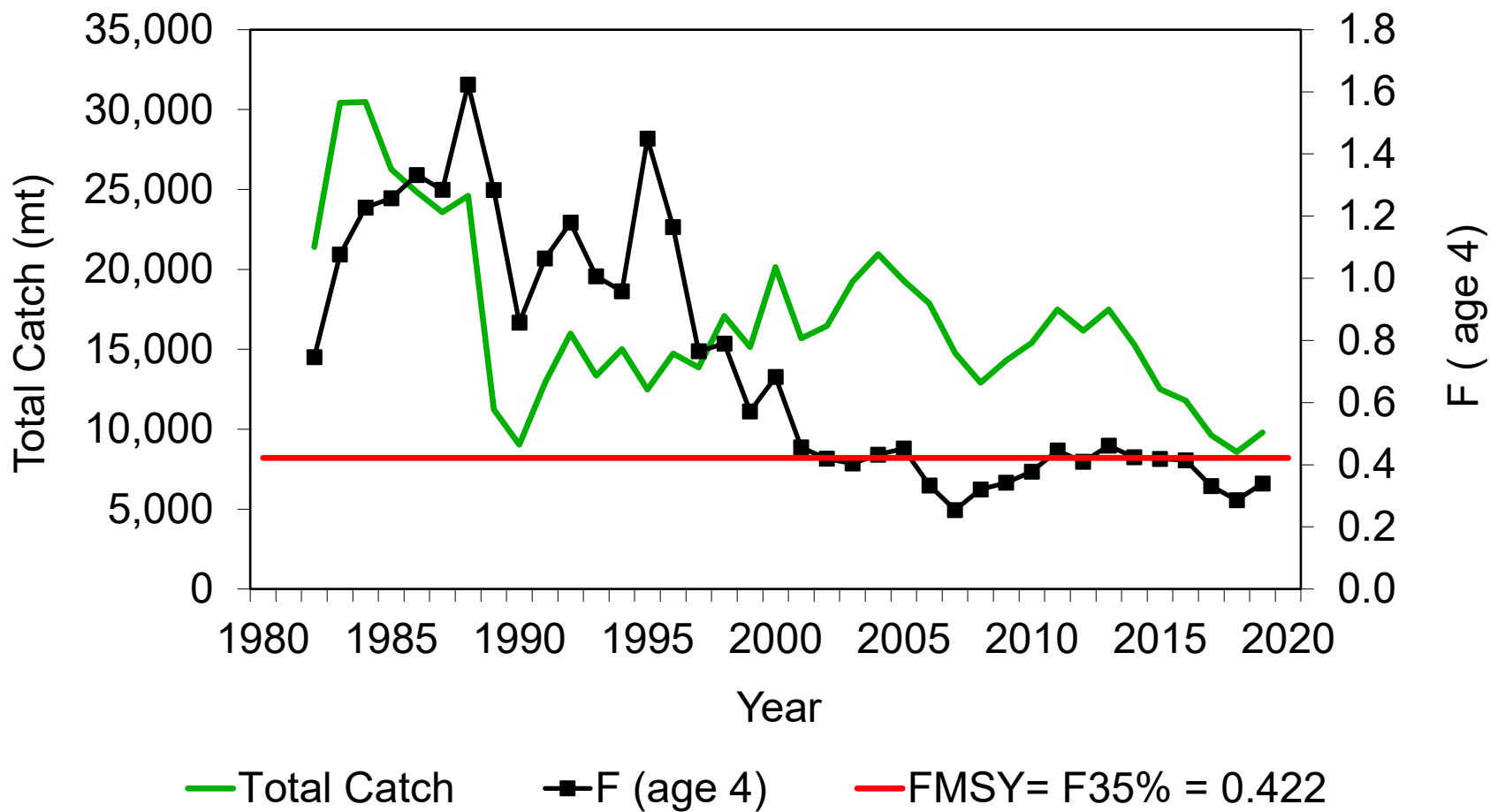
	Varying				Constant			
	OFL (mt)	OFL (mil lb)	ABC (mt)	ABC (mil lb)	OFL (mt)	OFL (mil lb)	ABC (mt)	ABC (mil lb)
2022	10,422	22.98	8,111	17.88	10,422	22.98	8,761	19.31
2023	11,515	25.39	9,411	20.75	11,325	24.97	8,761	19.31

Fishing Mortality

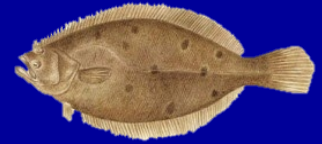
2021 MTA



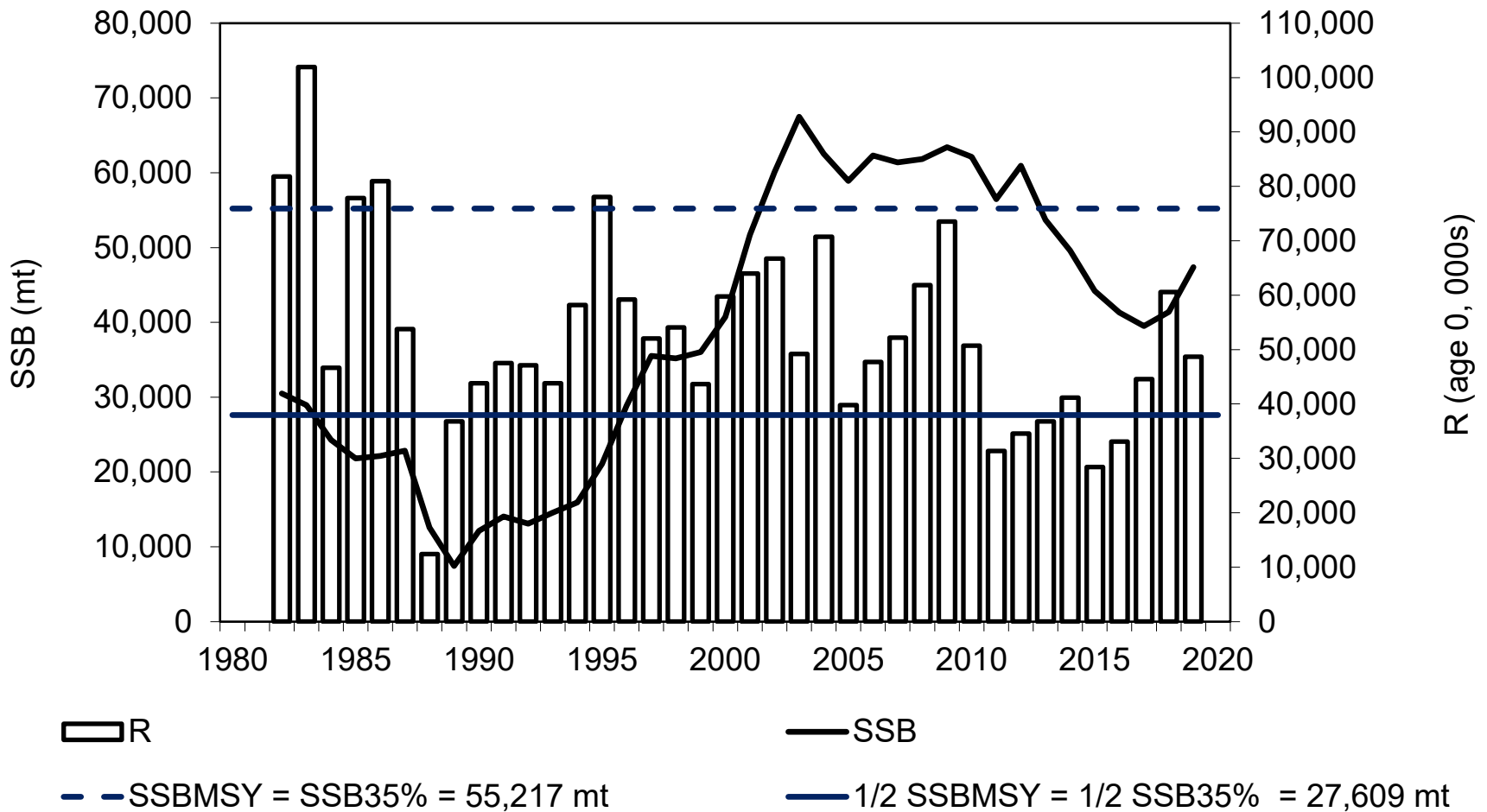
Total Catch and Fishing Mortality (F)



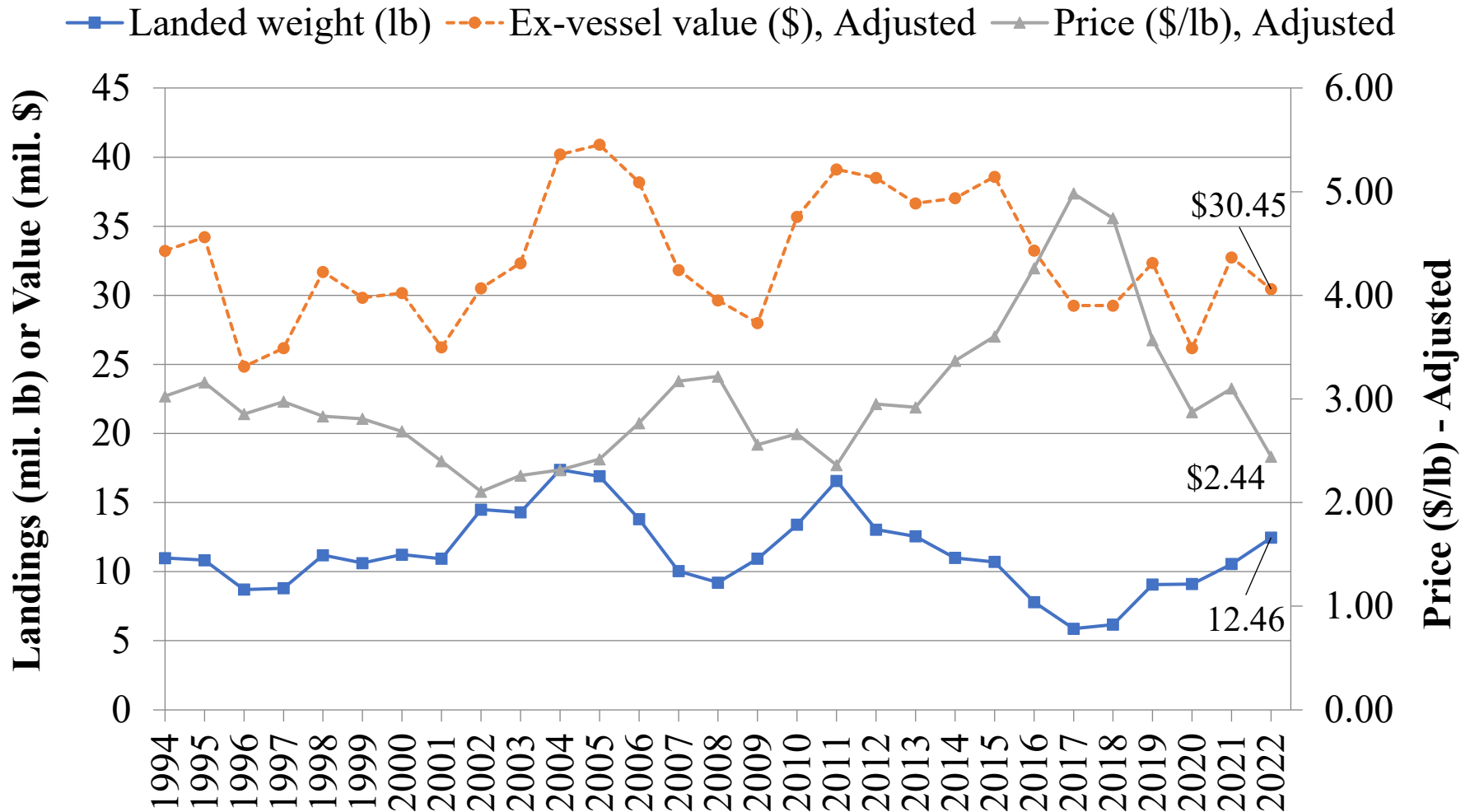
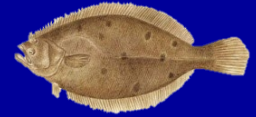
SSB and Recruitment 2021 MTA



Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment (R)



Commercial Value & Price



2022-2023 Recreational Measures



	2022-2023		
State	Min size (in)	Bag limit	Season
MA	16.5	5 fish	5/21-9/19
RI	18	4 fish	5/3-12/31
RI designated shore sites	18	2 fish ^a	
	17	2 fish ^a	
CT	18.5	4 fish	5/1-10/9
CT designated shore sites	17		
NY	18.5		
NJ	17-17.99 slot limit	2 fish	5/2-9/27
	18	1 fish	
NJ designated shore site	16	2 fish	
NJ Delaware Bay	17	3 fish	
DE	16	4 fish	1/1-12/31
MD			
PRFC			
VA			
NC	15	1 fish	9/1-9/30

Recreational Harvest by Mode

