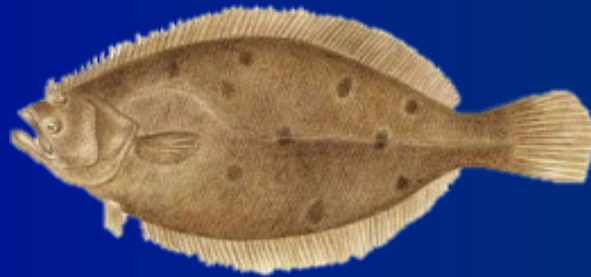




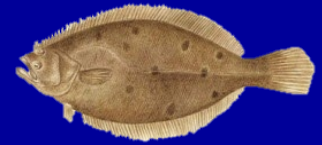
Summer Flounder 2022-2023 Specifications



SSC

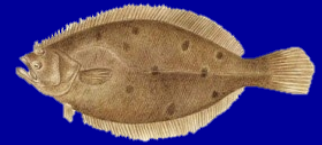
July 22, 2021

Overview



- Stock status recap; recent fishery landings and performance
- Advisory Panel Fishery Performance Report
- Review of prior SSC recommendations
- 2022-2023 OFL/ABC projections and staff recommendations

Stock Status: 2021 Management Track Assessment



SSB

- Not overfished in 2019
- 2019 SSB = 47,397 mt, 86% of SSB_{MSY} = 55,217 mt

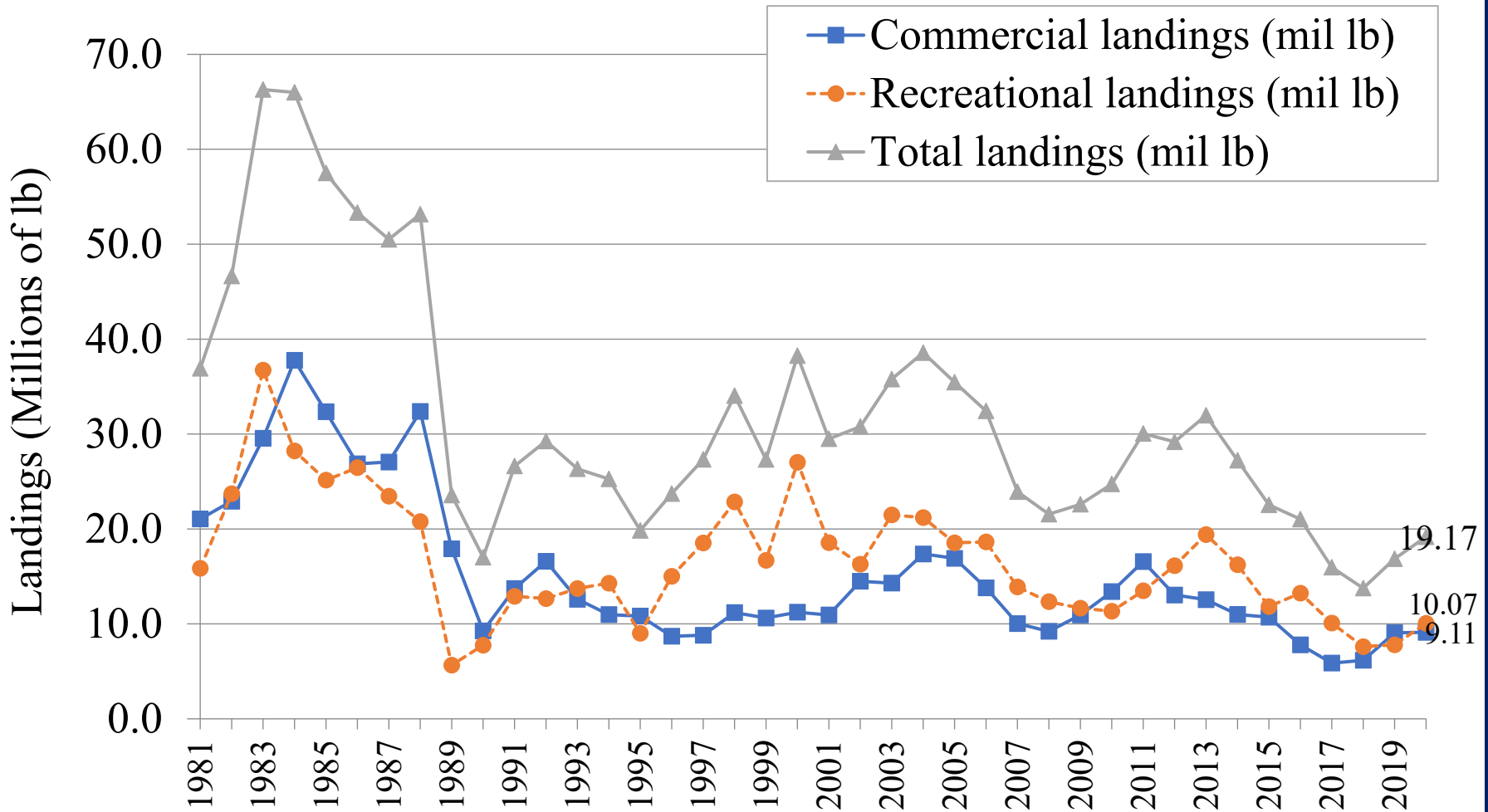
F

- Overfishing not occurring in 2019
- 2019 $F = 0.340$, 81% of F_{MSY} proxy = 0.422

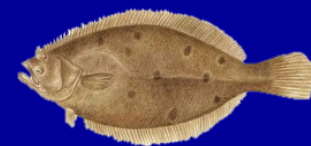
COVID-Related Data Gaps, Recap

- As described for scup:
 - No official commercial discard information for 2020 due to gaps in observer coverage
 - MRIP developed 2020 rec. harvest estimates using proxy catch rates from 2018-2019 to address missing APAIS data
 - Summer flounder ME-VA % imputed catch rate data = 19%

Fishery Landings 1981-2020



Fishery Performance

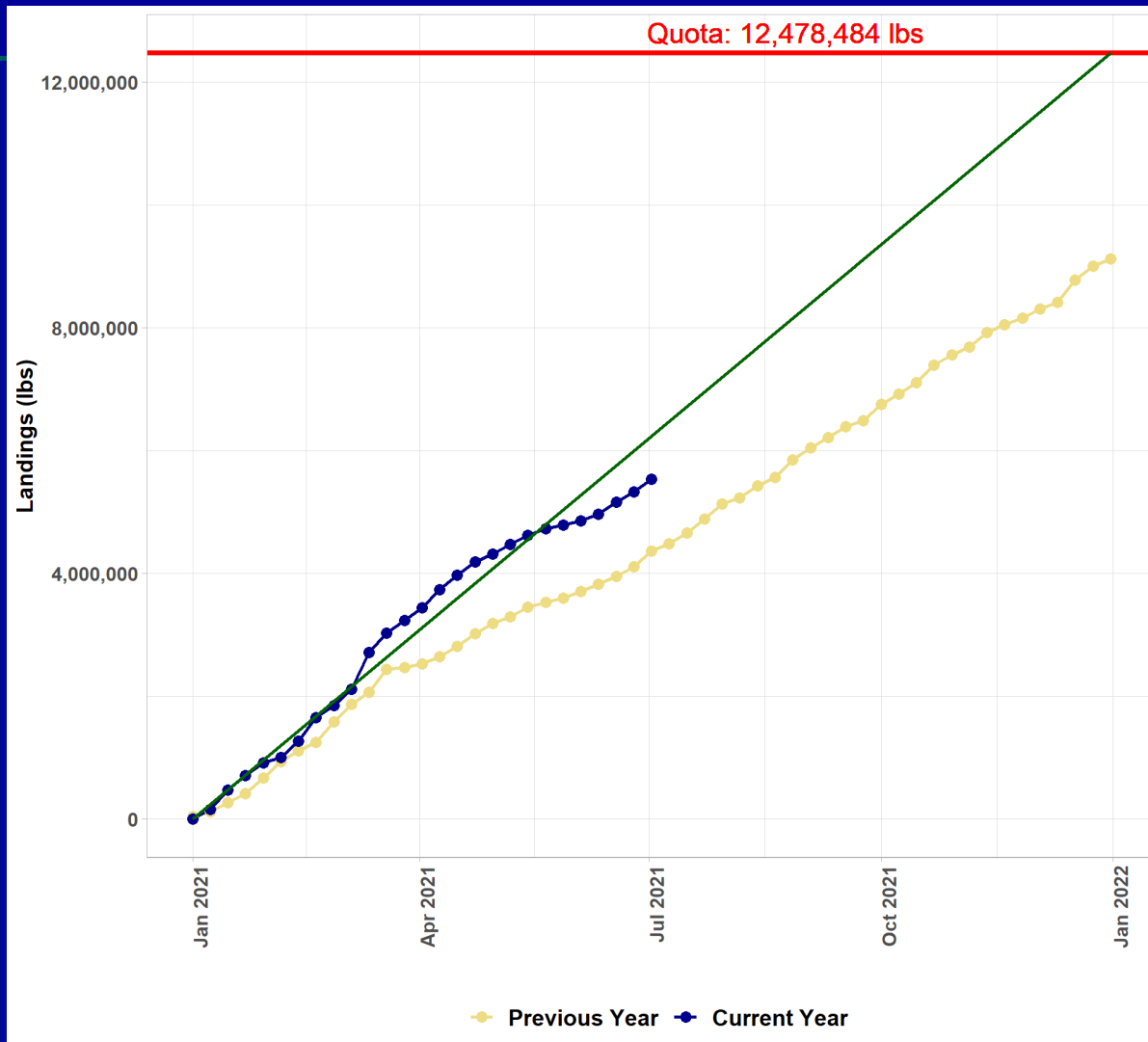
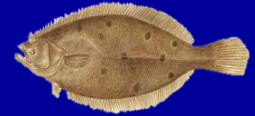


Year	Comm. Land. (mil lb)	Comm. Quota (mil lb)	Comm. % Over/ Under	Rec. Harvest – OLD MRIP (mil lb)	Rec. Harvest – NEW MRIP (mil lb)	RHL (mil lb)	Rec. % Over/ Under ^a
2016	7.81	8.12	-4%	6.18	13.24	5.42	+14%
2017	5.83	5.66	+3%	3.19	10.06	3.77	-15%
2018	6.14	6.44	-5%	3.35	7.60	4.42	-24%
2019	9.06	10.98	-17%	--	7.80	7.69	+1%
2020	9.11	11.53	-21%	--	10.06 ^b	7.69	+31%
Avg.			-9%				+7%

^a 2015-2018 evaluated using old MRIP data; 2019-2020 with revised MRIP data

^b 2020 harvest estimated using imputation methods with 2018-2019 data in addition to limited 2020 data

2021 Commercial Landings



Commercial landings through July 14, 2021

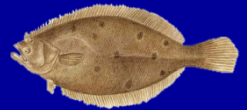
AP Fishery Performance Report



Market and Economic Issues

- COVID-19 had major impacts on comm. and rec. fisheries
- Effort notably down in commercial fishery as low prices did not justify trip costs
- Restaurant closures had big impact on markets & prices
- Some vessels did not fish all year
- Some noted difficulty finding reliable crew labor

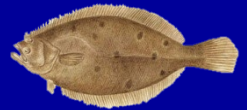
AP Fishery Performance Report



Market and Economic Issues

- Commercial size limits resulted in markets for smaller fish being lost to imports
 - Market would be better for smaller fish that fit on plates/are better for single servings
 - Request for lowering commercial minimum size below 14" to allow targeting smaller fish

AP Fishery Performance Report



Market and Economic Issues

- Mixed comments on recreational catch and effort in 2020:
 - Reduced participation in marinas – does not match with MRIP data that shows an increase in rec. catch
 - Charter industry in VA shut down for good part of season; does not believe that private boat effort was actually up as indicated by managers
 - Overall recreational effort for all species seemed to be up in 2020

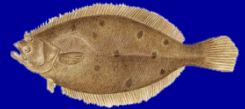
AP Fishery Performance Report



Environmental and General Fishing Trends

- Summer flounder fishing “off” last year; many commercial and rec. fishermen not targeting or catching very few
- Showed up late in the season (August instead of April or May)
 - Due to sharks keeping fish offshore?

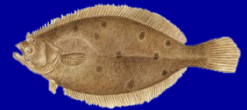
AP Fishery Performance Report



Management Issues

- Concerns with 2020 MRIP estimates using 2018-2019 data given differences in fisheries in these years
 - 2018-2019 “boom year”; 2020 “bust year”
- Question about whether regulatory discards are counted against catch limits despite being unavoidable for vessels
- Request for consideration of recreational total length limit with mandatory retention

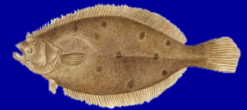
AP Fishery Performance Report



Email Comments (Summer Flounder)

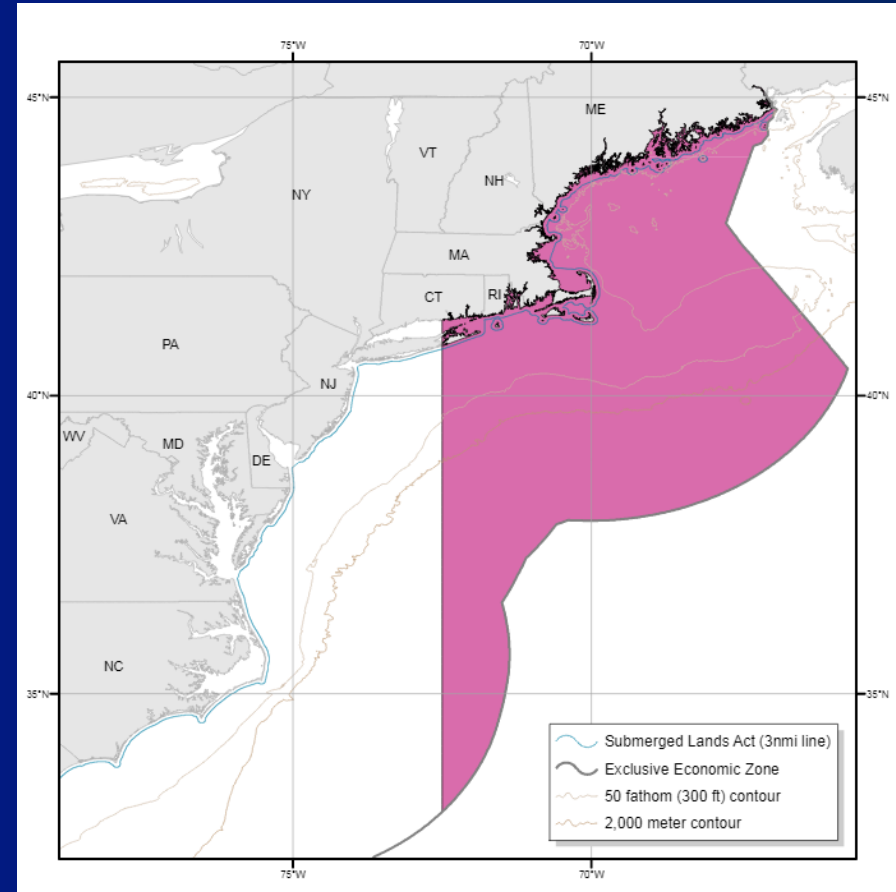
- Virtually no summer flounder rec. fishery inshore anymore (MA)
- Summer flounder comm. minimum size should be lowered to 13"
 - Turn discards into landings; discarded fish are not spawning

AP Fishery Performance Report



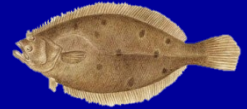
Email Comments (Summer Flounder)

- Request to remove summer flounder small mesh exemption area (Nov.-Apr.)
 - Vessels should be allowed to possess up to 1,000 lb with small mesh regardless of fishing area
 - Directed trips over 1,000 lb should have 5" mesh requirement (vs. 5.5" diamond/6" square currently)



Prior SSC Recommendations

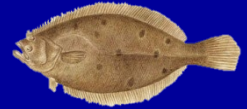
February 2019



- Recommended 2019-2021 constant & varying ABCs based on 2018 assessment projections
 - SSC-modified OFL probability distribution; OFL CV = 60%; Avg. Proj. B/B_{msy} ~89%
 - Recruitment sampled from 7-yr below avg. recruitment (2011-2017)
- Council/Board adopted constant ABCs for 2019-2021

Prior SSC Recommendations

July 2020



- Revised previously adopted 2021 ABC based on Dec. 2019 revisions to Council risk policy (revised P*)

Timing	Year	OFL	ABC	P*
Feb 2019	2019	30.00 mil lb (13,609 mt)	25.03 mil lb (11,354 mt)	0.37
	2020	30.94 mil lb (14,034 mt)		0.35
	2021 (initial)	31.67 mil lb (14,367 mt)		0.34
July 2020	2021 (revised)	31.67 mil lb (14,367 mt)	27.11 mil lb (12,297 mt)	0.39

2022-2023 Projections



- OFL/ABC projections provided by NEFSC assuming:
 - 60% OFL CV
 - ABC caught in each year
 - Recruitment sampled from recent, mostly below average R series (2011-2019)
 - 2018 R above average

2022-2023 Projections



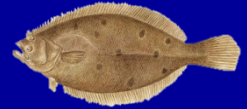
Varying 2022-2023 ABCs

	OFL Total Catch – mt	ABC Total Catch – mt	ABC F	ABC P* value	SSB - mt
2020	14,183	11,354	0.328	0.344	54,352
2021	14,884	12,297	0.320	0.365	56,920
2022	16,458	15,403	0.391	0.452	54,901
2023	15,759	14,639	0.387	0.447	51,570

Constant 2022-2023 ABCs

	OFL Total Catch - mt	ABC Total Catch - mt	ABC F	ABC P* value	SSB - mt
2020	14,183	11,354	0.328	0.344	54,352
2021	14,884	12,297	0.320	0.365	56,920
2022	16,458	15,021	0.380	0.435	55,211
2023	15,865	15,021	0.396	0.461	51,605

2022-2023 Staff ABC Recommendations



- Staff recommend adopting these assumptions and projections for 2022-2023 varying and constant ABCs

	Varying				Constant			
	OFL (mt)	OFL (mil lb)	ABC (mt)	ABC (mil lb)	OFL (mt)	OFL (mil lb)	ABC (mt)	ABC (mil lb)
2022	16,458	36.28	15,403	33.96	16,458	36.28	15,021	33.12
2023	15,759	34.74	14,639	32.27	34.98	15,865	15,021	33.12