



# Black Sea Bass

## 2022-2023 Specifications



SSC Meeting

*July 22, 2021*

# Overview



- Stock status recap
- Summary of recent catch and landings
- Advisory Panel Fishery Performance Report
- Staff recommendations for 2022-2023  
OFL/ABC projections

# Stock Status



## ■ Not overfished in 2019

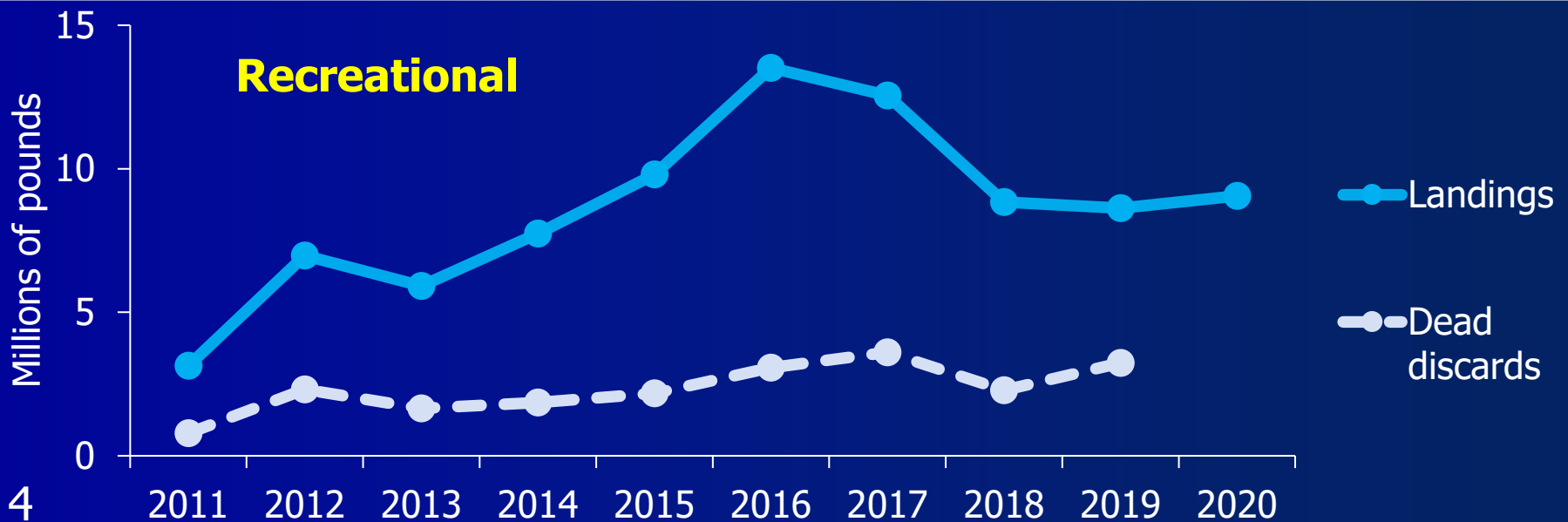
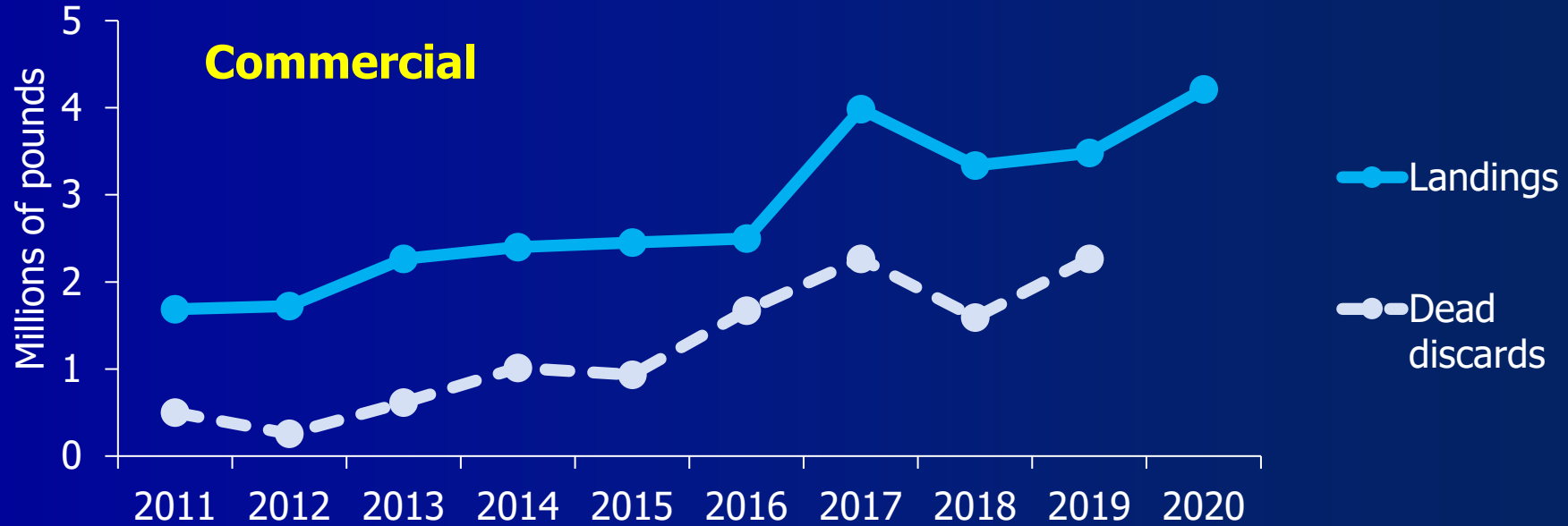
- 2019 SSB = 29,769 mt (65.63 mil lb)
- 210% of SSB<sub>MSY</sub> proxy = 14,441 mt (31.84 mil lb)

## ■ Overfishing not occurring in 2019

- 2019  $F = 0.39$
- 85% of  $F_{MSY}$  proxy =  $F_{40\%} = 0.46$

# Recent Fishery Landings & Discards

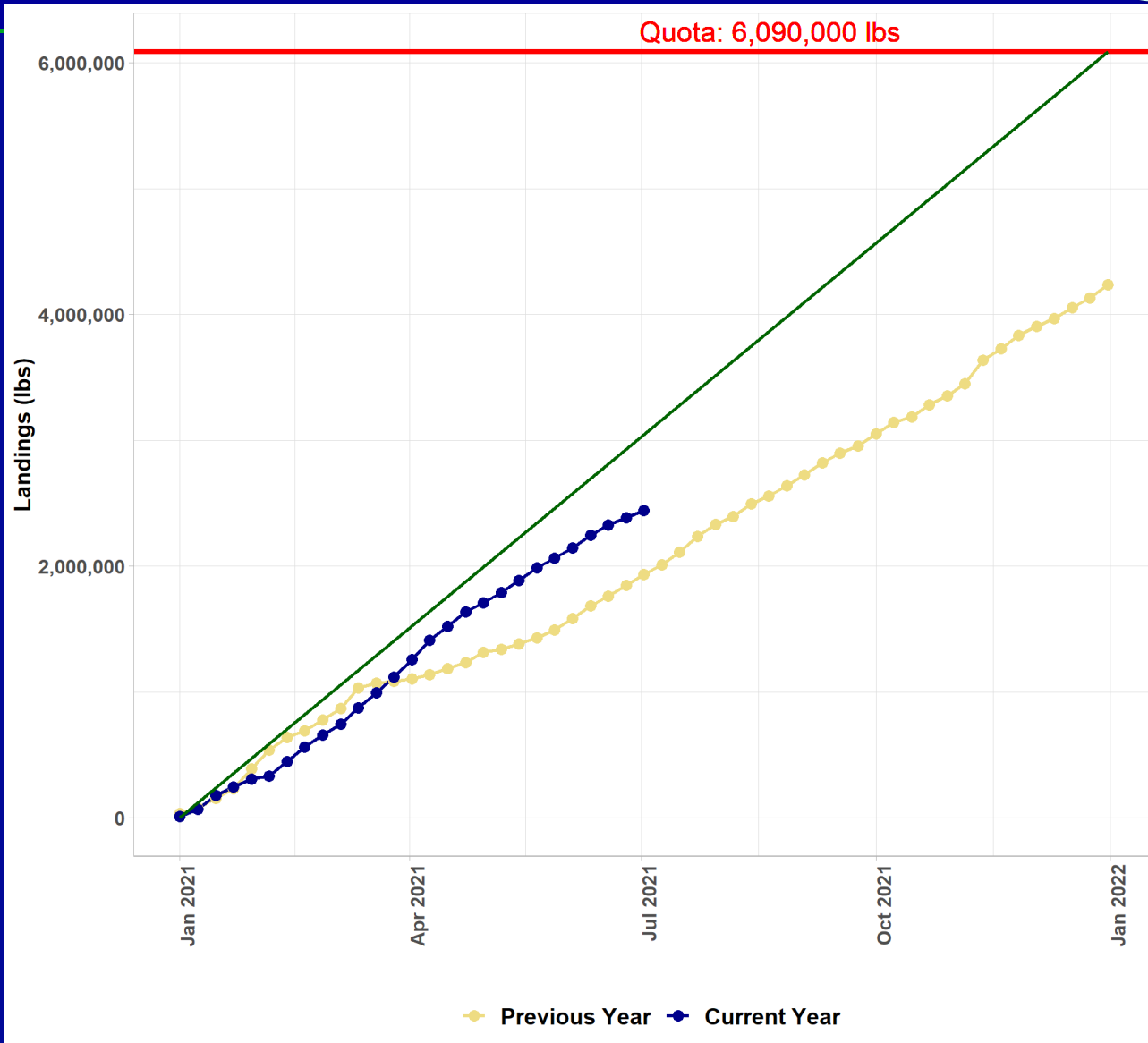
Landings through 2020, discards through 2019



# Recent Landings Relative to Quota and RHLs

Year	Com. landings	Com. quota	Quota overage/ underage	Rec. harvest (old MRIP estimates)	Rec. harvest (revised MRIP estimates)	RHL	RHL overage/ underage
2016	2.59	2.71	-4%	5.19	12.05	2.82	+84%
2017	4.01	4.12	-3%	4.16	11.50	4.29	-3%
2018	3.46	3.52	-2%	3.82	7.92	3.66	+4%
2019	3.53	3.52	0%	--	8.61	3.66	--
2020	4.21	5.58	-25%	--	9.05	5.81	+56%
2021	--	6.09	--	--	--	6.34	--

# 2021 Commercial Landings



# AP Fishery Performance Report

- Comments about all 3 species covered in scup presentation.
- **COVID-19 impacts**
  - Restrictions on restaurants caused significant drop in price. Price remains low.
  - Restaurant market for fresh fish is important in some areas and has not fully recovered.
  - For-hire impacts varied by state.
    - High demand for nearshore trips off VA Beach and Oregon Inlet – stimulus payments. No issues finding for-hire crew in VA.
    - Almost no charter trips out of NY until fall 2020.

# AP Fishery Performance Report

## ■ Recreational fishery

- Payback of 2020 rec. ACL overage will not be required based on stock status. Fairness issue - commercial fishery must always pay back quota overages.
- Concern about rec. compliance (e.g., exceeding the bag limit when fishing from private docks, anglers selling catch).
- Better info on # of anglers could improve MRIP.
- Feb rec. opening in VA: limited by bad weather, but caught a lot of BSB when vessels could go out. Desire for a longer winter opening.



# AP Fishery Performance Report

## ■ Biological issues

- Concern that trawl surveys don't sample offshore habitat.
- Impacts of abundant BSB population on shellfish – need emergency liberalizations.

## ■ Research recommendations

- Impacts of EMF, pile driving, seismic testing, and sub-bottom profiling on BSB and other fishery species (offshore wind energy, oil and gas).

# OFL and ABC Projections

- N & S sub-units projected separately, then combined.
- Provided projections are based on:
  - 100% OFL CV (previous SSC recommendation)
  - Recruitment sampled from 2000-2019 (SAW 62 recommendation)
  - 0.49 p\* (Council risk policy)
  - Staff recommended assumption about 2020 & 2021 catch.
    - Catch = ABC + rec. harvest overage.
    - Assumes 2021 rec harvest = estimated 2020 rec harvest.

Year	Rec. harvest	RHL
<b>2016</b>	12.05	2.82*
<b>2017</b>	11.50	4.29*
<b>2018</b>	7.92	3.66*
<b>2019</b>	8.61	3.66*
<b>2020</b>	9.05	5.81
<b>2021</b>	--	6.34

\*RHL did not account for revised MRIP data.

Virtually unchanged bag/size/season limits during 2018-2021.

# OFL and ABC Projections

**Table 6:** 2022-2023 OFL and ABC projections based on the varying ABC approach.

Year	Assumed Catch		OFL		ABC		ABC F	ABC p*	SSB		B/ B <sub>MSY</sub>
	MT	Mil. lb	MT	Mil. lb	MT	Mil. lb			MT	Mil. lb	
<b>2020</b>	8,310	18.32	8,795	19.39	6,835	15.07	0.33	N/A	26,375	58.15	1.83
<b>2021</b>	9,149	20.17	8,021	17.68	7,916	17.45	0.40	N/A	25,057	55.24	1.74
<b>2022</b>	8,555	18.86	8,735	19.56	8,555	18.86	0.41	0.49	22,637	49.91	1.57
<b>2023</b>	7,557	16.66	7,716	17.01	7,557	16.66	0.41	0.49	19,538	43.07	1.35

**Table 7:** 2020-2021 OFL and ABC projections based on the averaged ABC approach.

Year	Assumed Catch		OFL		ABC		ABC F	ABC p*	SSB		B/ B <sub>MSY</sub>
	MT	Mil. lb	MT	Mil. lb	MT	Mil. lb			MT	Mil. lb	
<b>2020</b>	8,310	18.32	8,795	19.39	6,835	15.07	0.33	N/A	26,375	58.15	1.83
<b>2021</b>	9,149	20.17	8,021	17.68	7,916	17.45	0.40	N/A	25,057	55.24	1.74
<b>2022</b>	8,055	17.76	8,735	19.26	8,056	17.76	0.38	0.46	22,897	50.48	1.59
<b>2023</b>	8,055	17.76	7,865	17.34	8,056	17.76	0.43	0.51	19,683	43.39	1.36

# Questions/Discussion

