



Atlantic Chub Mackerel 2024 Specifications Review



SSC Meeting

May 10, 2023

Objective

- Review
 - Management history
 - Recent fishery performance
 - AP Fishery Performance Report
- Consider if changes are needed to the previously recommended 2024 ABC
 - AP and staff recommend no changes



Robert Leaf

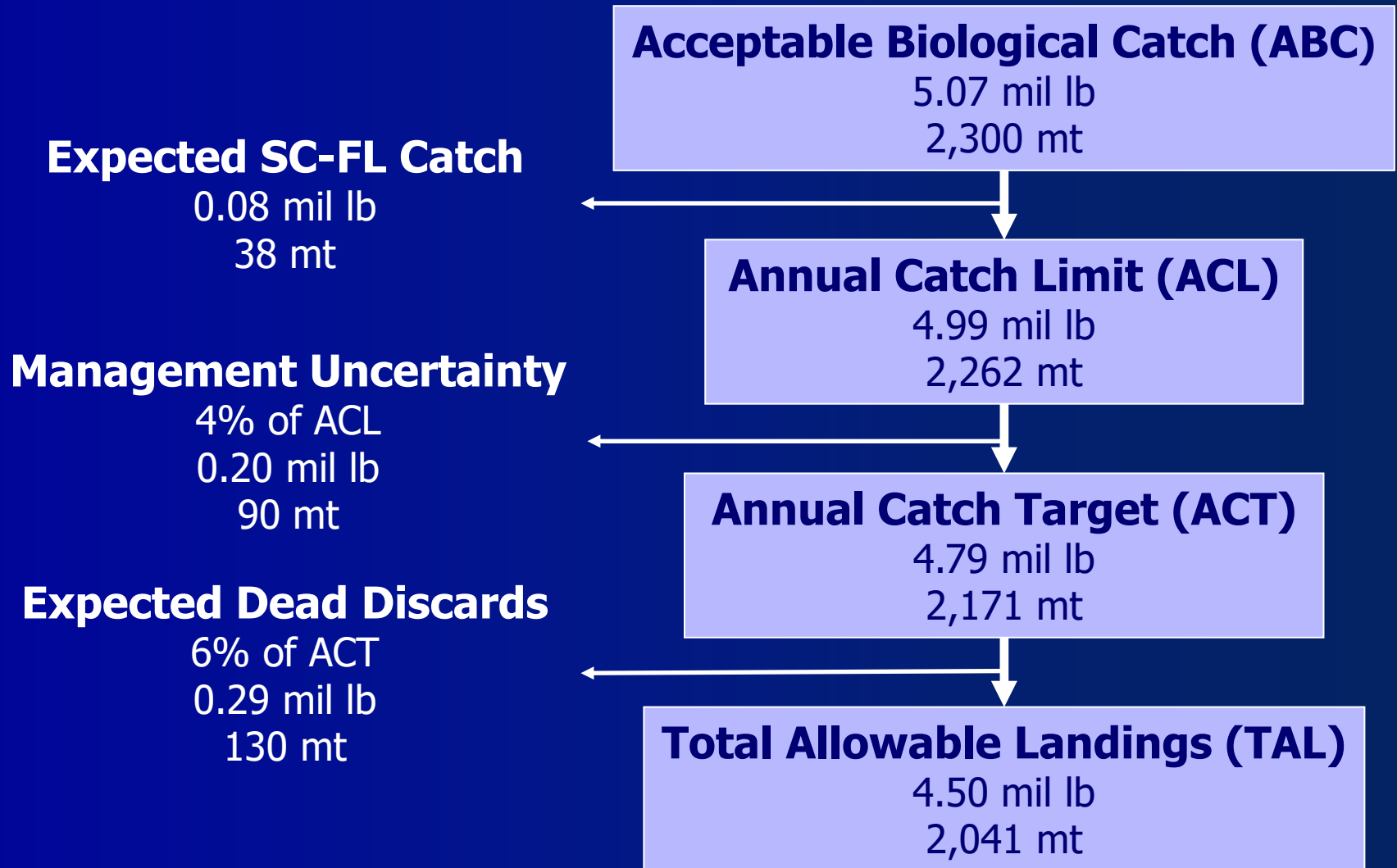
2024 ABC = 2,300 MT = 5.07 mil lb

- Constant ABC, 2020-2025.
- Insufficient info exists to assess status and trends in NW Atlantic.
- OFL cannot be specified.
- ABC based on expert judgement.
 - Based loosely on historic high for landings, assumptions about discards.
 - Prevents fishery from reaching historic high, but allows higher landings than all other years.
 - Unlikely to result in overfishing given general productivity of this species worldwide combined with low fishery capacity in this region.
- ME-FL catch applies to ABC.
- Reviewed in 2020, 2021, 2022. No changes recommended.

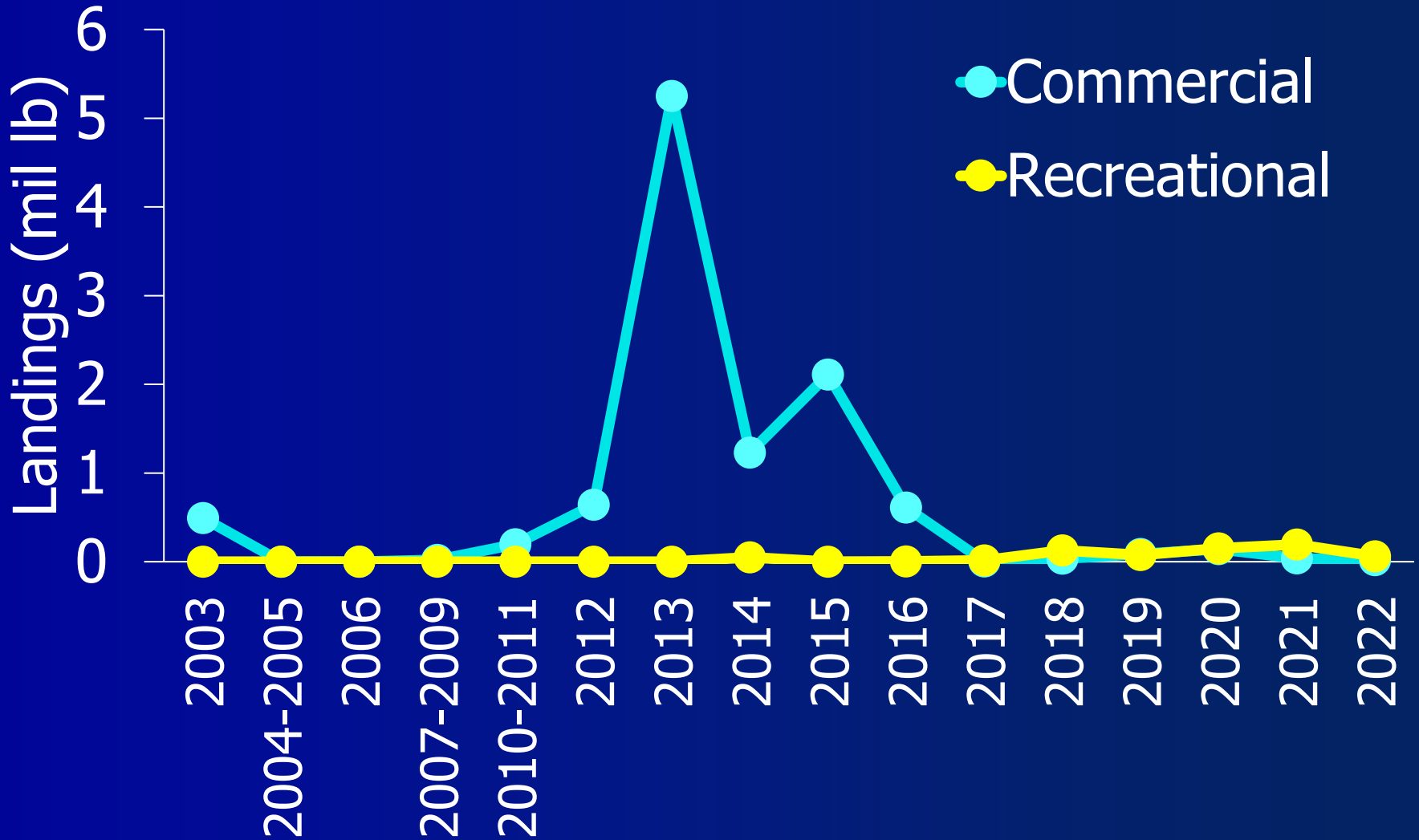
Management

- First measures implemented through Unmanaged Forage Amendment (effective Sept 2017).
- Amendment 21 to MSB FMP.
 - Effective Sept 2020.
 - ABC, ACL, ACT, TAL.
 - Vessel (commercial and party/charter), and dealer permit and reporting requirements.
 - Commercial possession limits.
 - 40,000 lb after 90% of TAL projected to be landed.
 - 10,000 lb after 100% of TAL projected to be landed.
 - No recreational possession limit.
 - No commercial or recreational fish size, gear, or season restrictions.

2020-2025 Specifications



Com. & Rec. Landings



Commercial Fishery

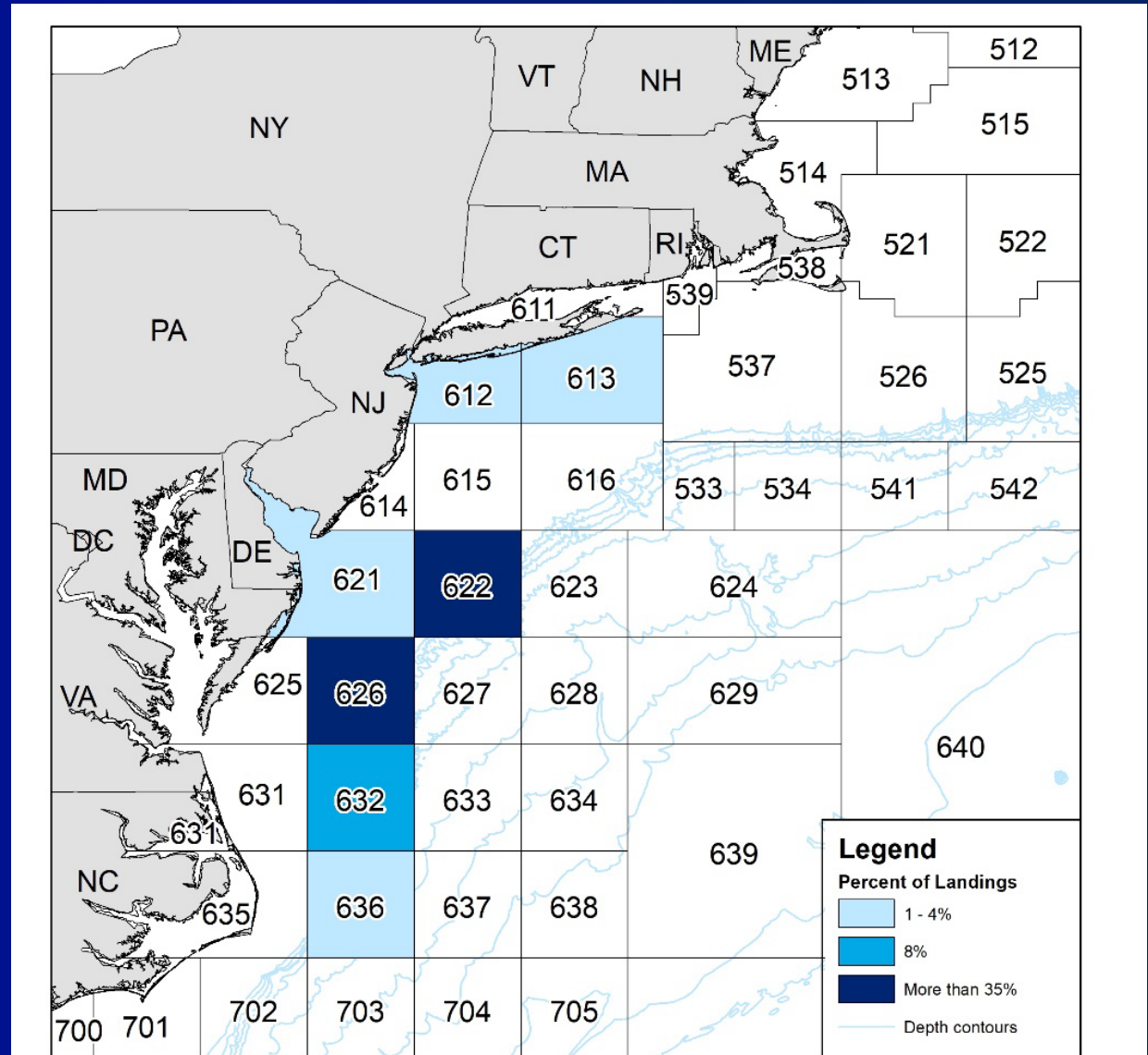
- Overlap with *Illex* squid fishery
 - Vessels, time of year, area
 - “Bailout” species/alternative fishery
- 95% of com. landings over past 20 years from fewer than 5 vessels, fewer than 3 dealers
- 90% landings from bottom trawl, 9% from midwater trawls (fed VTRs)
- 92% landings from June-October
- \$0.51/lb on avg, 2003-2022 (adjusted to 2022 \$)



Commercial Landings

Federal VTRs
2003-2022.

Only showing
areas with 1%
or more of
total.

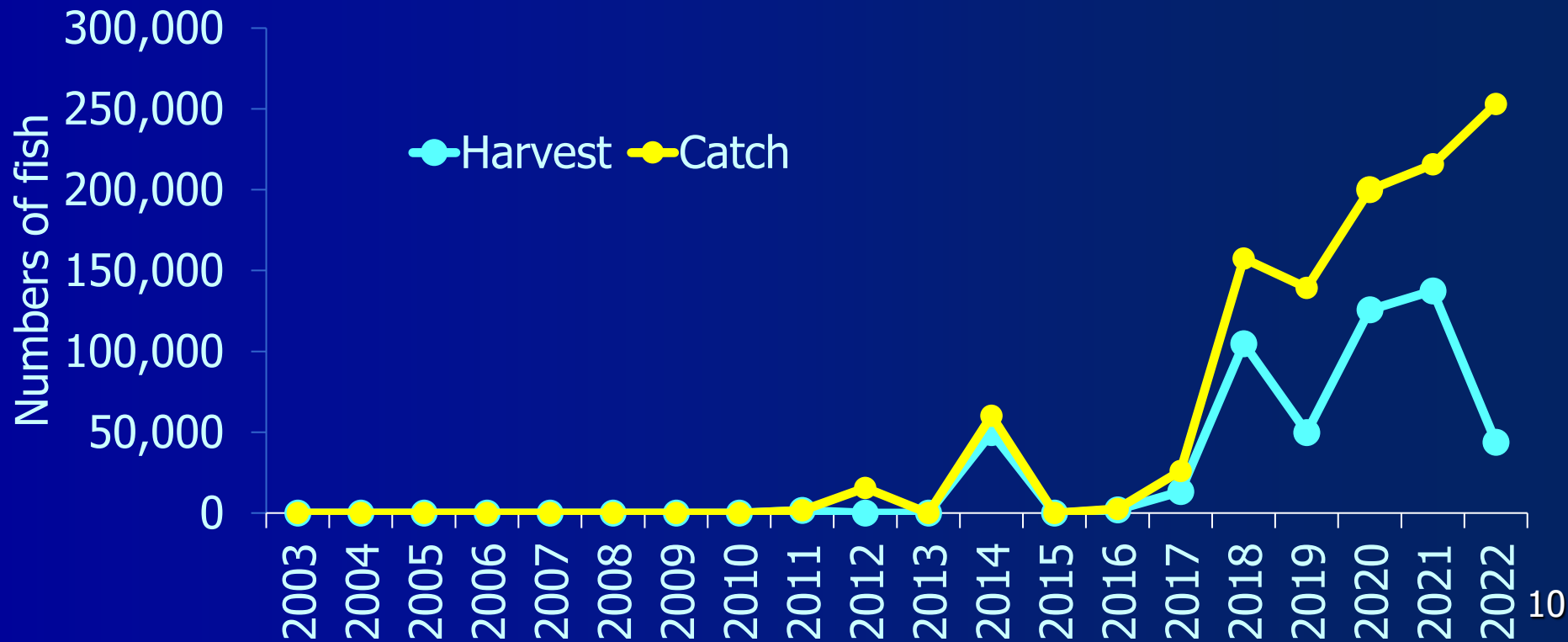


Bycatch

- Rough analysis by Council staff for Amend. 21 EA.
- Focus on trips landing at least 40,000 lb of chub mackerel.
- 8 observed trips on 4 vessels, 1999-2018.
- Other species most commonly caught on those trips: *Illex*, longfin, butterfish, and round herring.
 - All other species accounted for less than 0.5% of total observed catch.

Recreational Fishery

- On avg. 2018-2022:
 - 52% harvest from state waters, 48% federal
 - Most harvest in NY (41%), RI (28%), NJ (21%)
 - 56% private/rental, 39% party/charter, 5% shore



AP Fishery Performance Report

- No changes needed to any 2024 specifications.
- Low commercial landings because vessels have been focusing on other species, mostly *Illex*, but also loligo.
 - Even less likely to catch chub when targeting loligo compared to *Illex*.
- No changes to research priorities.
- Potential of ongoing EFH Amendment to provide more info.

Questions/ Discussion

- Are revisions needed to the previously recommended 2024 ABC?
 - Staff and AP recommend no changes.



2020-2025 Research Priorities

■ Short-term/smaller-scale

- Develop expanded discard estimates for the region and better quantify South Atlantic catch.
- Collect length, age, growth, maturity information from fishery independent and dependent data sources throughout U.S. Atlantic waters.
- Evaluate catch per unit effort including the influence of environmental and socioeconomic factors.
- Investigate existing egg and larval surveys throughout the U.S. Atlantic coast to better understand chub mackerel recruitment dynamics.

2020-2025 Research Priorities

■ Long-term/larger-scale

- Investigate stock mixing throughout Atlantic waters, as applicable.
- Investigate habitat use at different life stages.