

## Scup Data Update for 2022

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Reported 2021 landings in the commercial fishery were 5,904 mt = 13.016 million lb, a decrease of 5% from 2020, and 63% of the 2021 commercial quota (Figure 1). Estimated 2021 landings in the recreational fishery were 7,540 mt = 16.623 million lb, an increase of 29% from 2020, and 2.74 times the 2021 recreational harvest limit (Figure 1). Total commercial and recreational landings in 2021 were 13,444 mt = 29.639 million lb, an increase of 10% from 2020. Final estimates of fishery discards for 2020-2021 are not yet available.

The NEFSC fall 2015 and spring 2016 bottom trawl survey biomass indices were record highs for the time series. No valid NEFSC bottom trawl survey indices are available for fall 2017 or spring and fall 2020. Both seasonal indices have generally decreased since the 2015-2016 record highs (Figure 2). The NEFSC spring survey index of scup stock biomass increased by 34% from 2019 to 2022; the fall index increased by 132% from 2019 to 2021. The NEFSC fall survey indices suggest that a very large year class recruited to the stock in 2015 with below average recruitment during 2016-2021 (Figure 3).

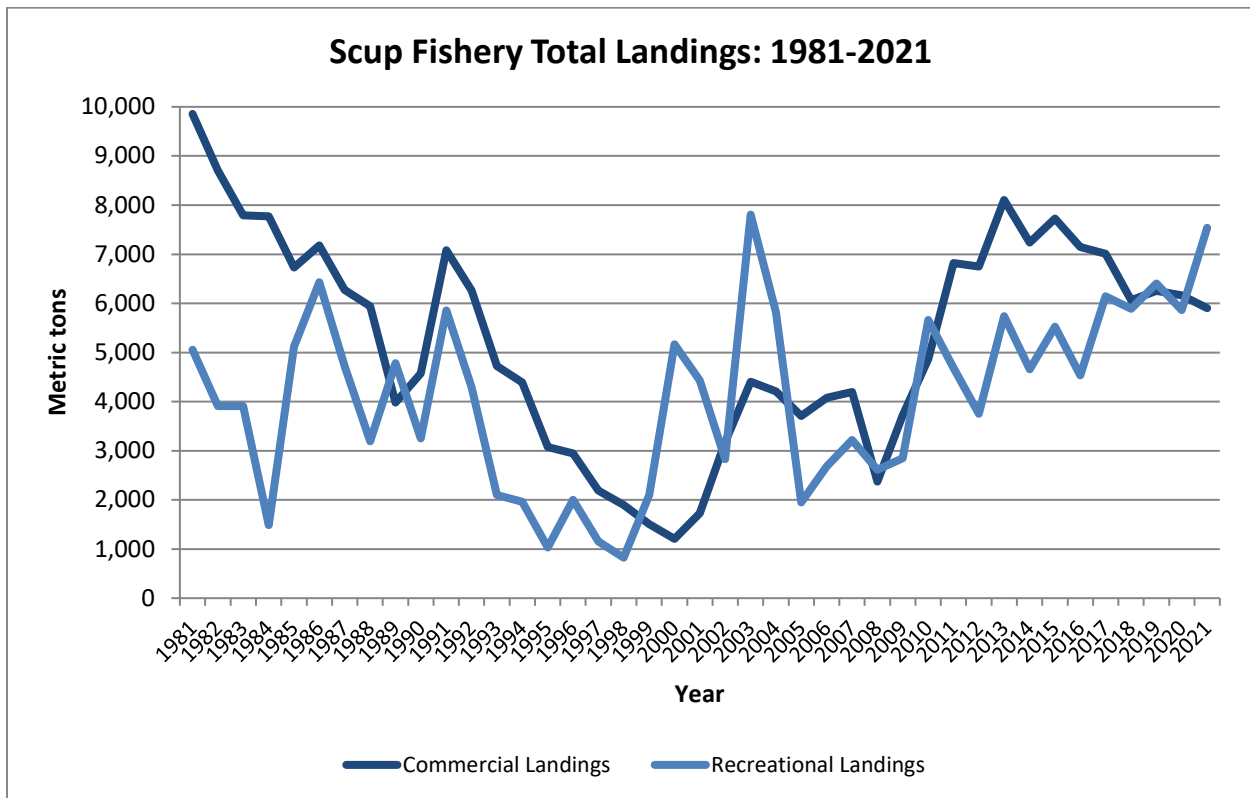


Figure 1. Scup fishery total landings.

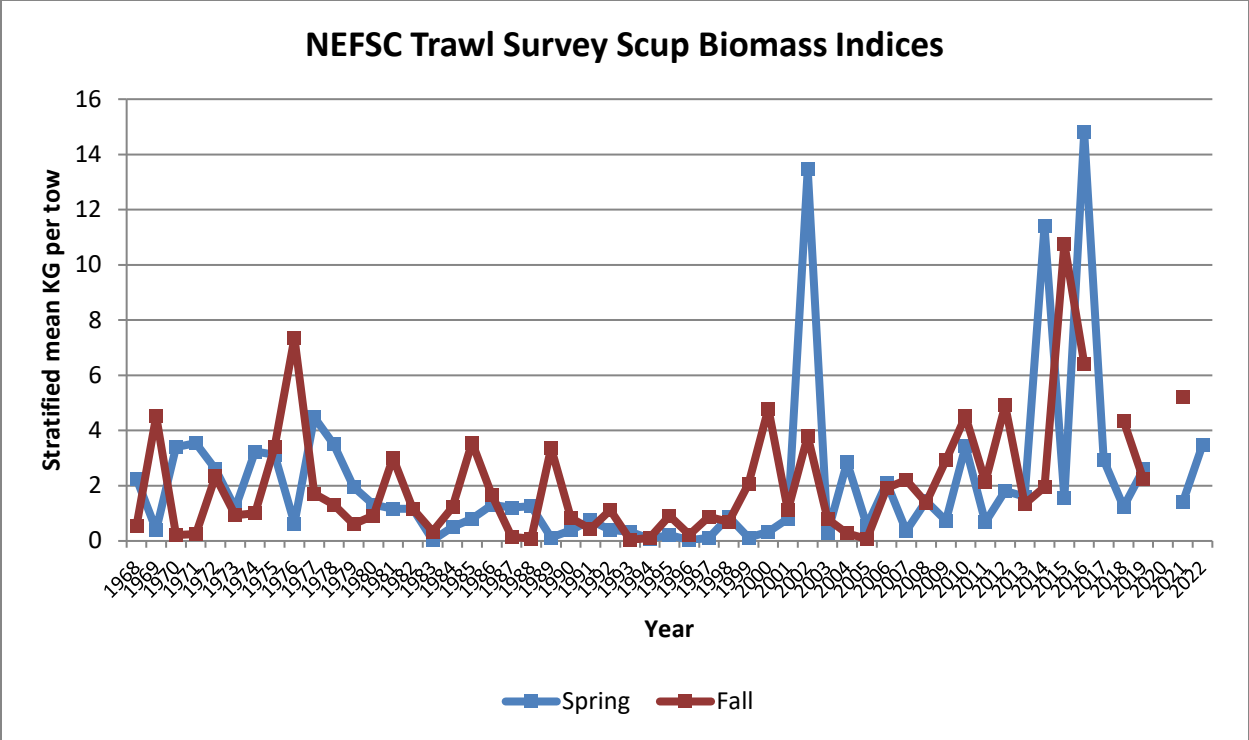


Figure 2. NEFSC bottom trawl survey biomass indices for scup. Indices are FSV Albatross IV equivalents. There are no valid fall 2017 or spring and fall 2020 indices for scup.

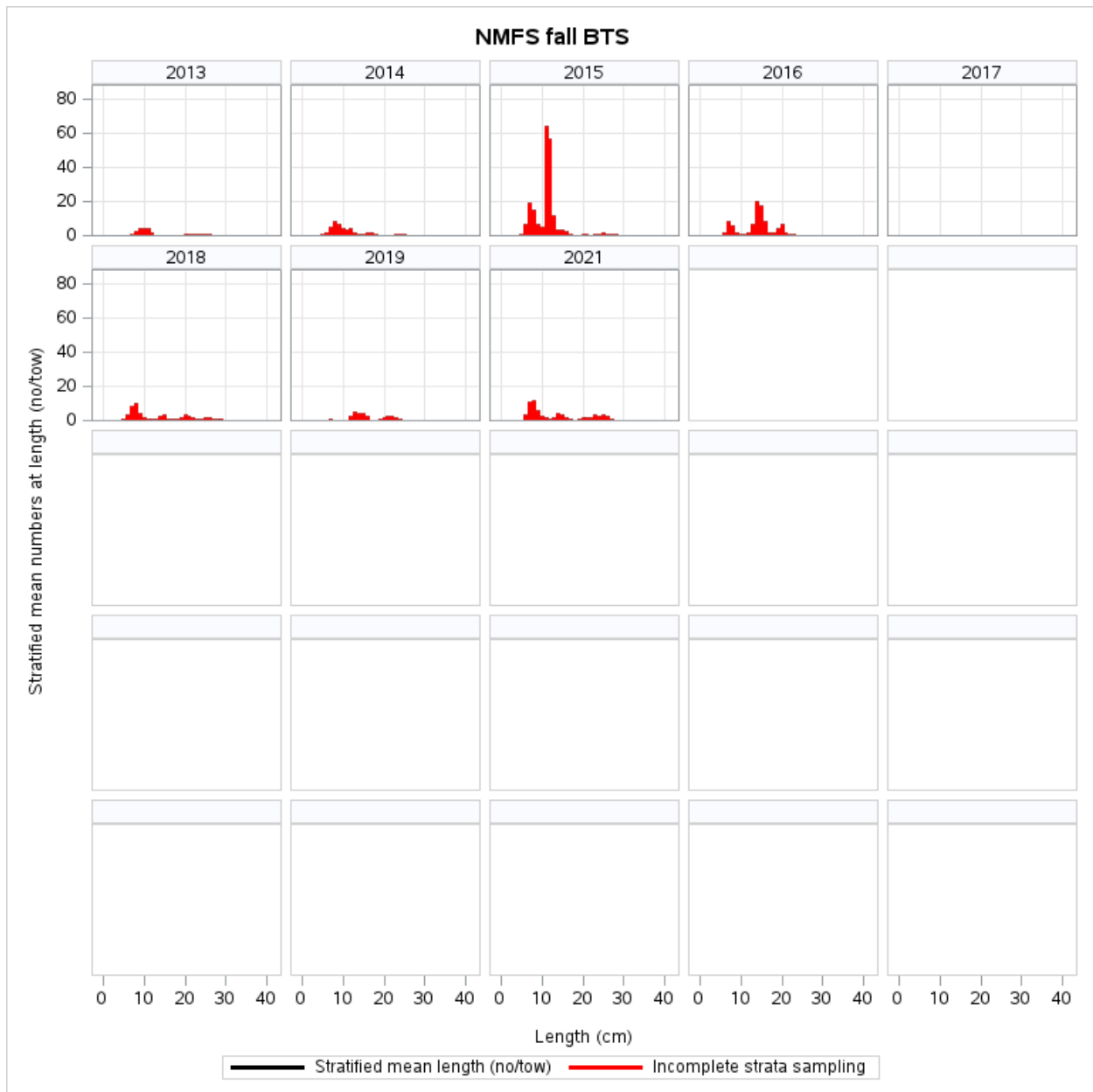


Figure 3. Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) fall bottom trawl survey FSV HB Bigelow indices at length since 2013. There was an incomplete survey conducted in 2017 and no survey conducted in 2020.