



2014 Annual Review of Stock Rebuilding Performance

ASMFC

August 2014



Background

- 2014-2018 Strategic Planning
- Commissioners Requested more frequent reviews
- Task in the 2014 Action Plan



Objective

- Validate Status/Rate of Progress
- In not acceptable: Identify corrective action
 - Direction/feedback to species management boards
- Input into the 2015 action planning process



5 Categories

- Rebuilt-reflects low levels of abundance
- Viable/Rebuilding
- Concern
- Depleted
- Unknown



Rebuilt

- Stock biomass is equal to or above the biomass level set by the FMP to ensure population sustainability
- Stock is still rebuilt if it drops below the target but remains above the threshold

Viable

- Stock exhibits stable or increasing trends.
- Biomass is approaching the target level set by the FMP to ensure population sustainability



Rebuilt and Viable/Rebuilding

Rebuilt

- GOM/GBK Lobster
- Atlantic Herring
- Black Sea Bass
- Bluefish
- Scup
- Spanish Mackerel
- Spiny Dogfish
- Summer Flounder

Viable/Rebuilding

- Red Drum



Concerned: Stocks developing emerging issues, e.g. increased effort, declining landings, or impacts due to environmental conditions

- Croaker
- Menhaden
- Striped Bass
- Coastal Sharks
- Horseshoe Crab
- Spotted Seatrout
- Winter Flounder-GOM



Atlantic Croaker

- Not experiencing overfishing
- Biomass increasing and F decreasing
- Biomass unknown due to uncertainty in shrimp trawl discards
 - Workshop on shrimp discards conducted by SEDAR
- Traffic Light approach to monitor stock outside of assessment recommended and being considered by Board



Menhaden

- Overfishing but unknown if stock is overfished
- Exploring uncertainty in the assessment through the benchmark
- Set interim reference points to increase SSB and availability for ecosystem services
- Established TAC in 2013 to end overfishing
 - Under the TAC in 2013



Striped Bass

- Stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, SSB approaching overfished threshold (2013 assessment)
- Projections show SSB likely fall below threshold due to poor year classes from 2005-2010
- Advice to reduce F across all sectors

Coastal Sharks



Species or Complex	Overfished	Overfishing
Porbeagle	Approaching	Yes
Dusky	Yes	Yes
Large Coastal Sharks	Unknown	Unknown
Blacktip (Atlantic)	Unknown	Unknown
Sandbar	Yes	No
Atl. Sharpnose	No	No
Blacknose	Yes	Yes
Bonnethead	No	No
Finetooth	No	No
Smoothhound Sharks	In progress	In progress

Horseshoe Crab



Regional Trends in Horseshoe Crab Abundance

Region	Time series duration of longest dataset	Conclusion about population change
New England	1978 - 2008	Declined
New York	1987 - 2008	Declined
Delaware Bay	1988 - 2008	Increased
Southeast	1993 - 2009	Increased

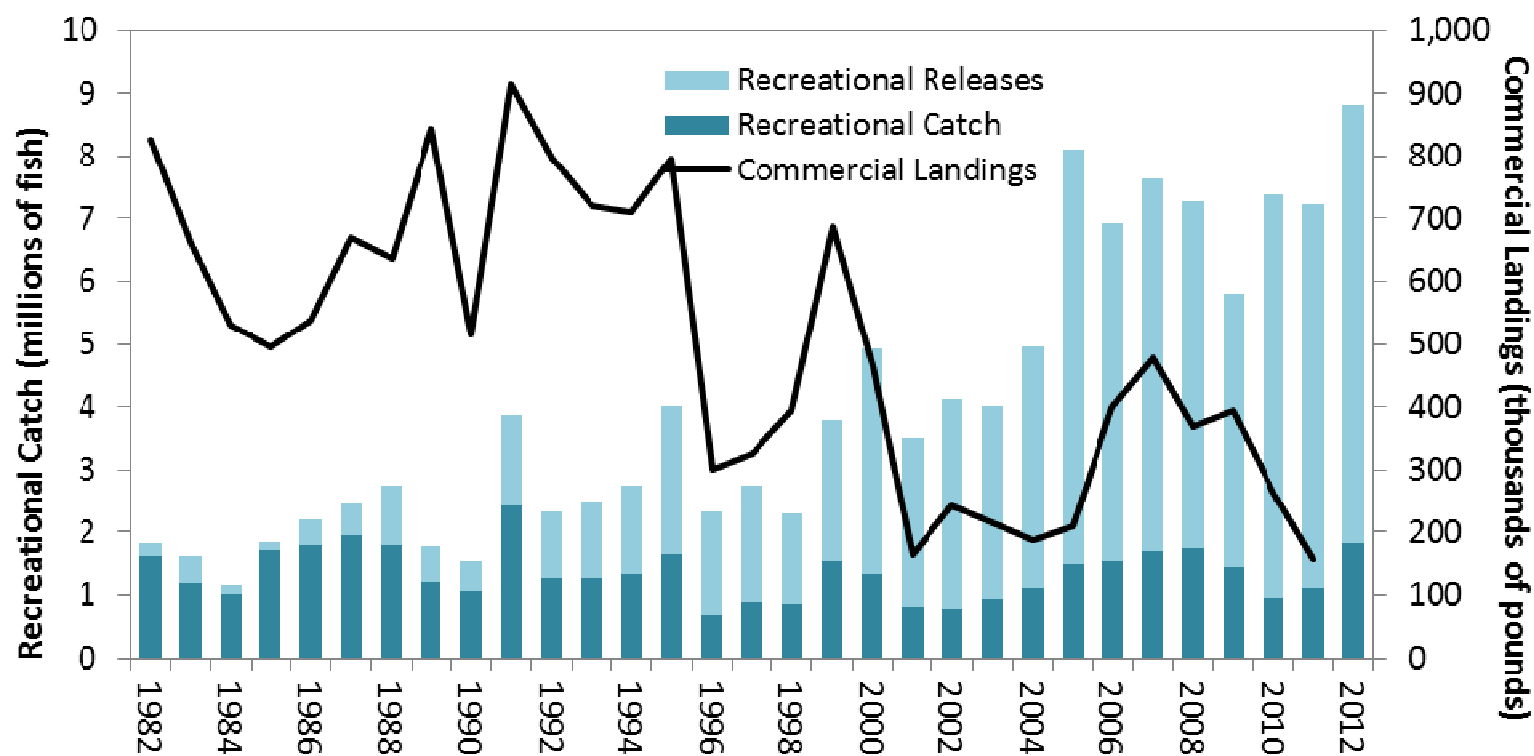
- Need a mechanism to include biomedical landings in regional assessments
- Set precautionary cap on harvest
- Loss of abundance index without trawl survey



Spotted Seatrout

Spotted Seatrout Recreational Catch & Commercial Landings

Source: NOAA Fisheries Statistics Division, 2013





Winter Flounder GOM

- Last assessment not accepted-no F and SSB targets generated
 - Proxy F threshold, overfishing not occurring
- 2014 maintained 2013 measures



Depleted: Reflects low levels of abundance though it is unclear whether fishing mortality is the primary cause for reduced stock size

- Eel
- Lobster-SNE
- American Shad
- River Herring
- Tautog
- Weakfish
- Winter Flounder-SNE/MA



American Eel

- Trend analysis show decline
- At or near low levels
- Decreasing trend in yellow eel stages
- Significant fisheries occurring
 - Addendum addressing
 - Approved 9" size, reduced rec bag, restrictions on pigmented eels
- Improve passage



American Lobster SNE

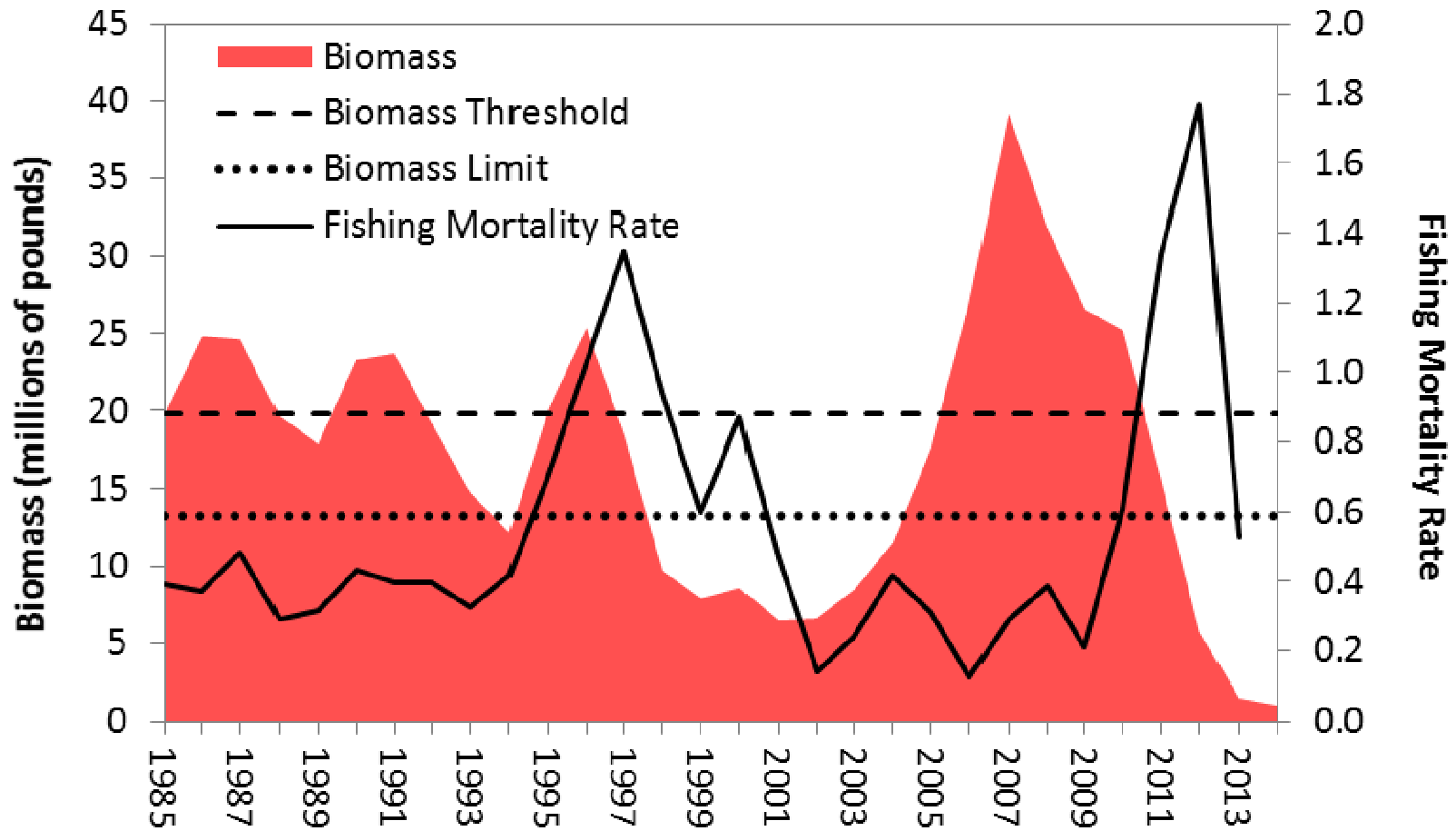
- SSB at 58% of Target (09 Assessment)
- Overfishing Not Occurring
- Abundance Lowest Since 1980's
- TC Recommended 5-Year Moratorium
- Rebuilding Goal of 2022
- Approved 10% reduction in exploitation
 - Not all LCMAs met reduction after 2 years of implementation
- Approved trap cuts for LCMA 2 and 3

Shad



State	River	Trend
ME	Saco and Kennebec	Declining
NH	Exeter	Declining
MA	Merrimack	Low, Stable
RI	Pawcatuck	Declining
CT/MA	Connecticut	Stable
NY	Hudson	Declining
NY/PA/NJ/DE	Delaware River and Bay	Low, Stable
PA	Susquehanna	Declining
DC/MD/VA	Potomac	Increasing
MD	Nanticoke	Low
VA	York	Increasing
	James	Declining
	Rappahannock	Stable
SC	Santee	Increasing
	Edisto	Declining
GA	Altamaha	Declining
FL	St. Johns	Declining

Northern Shrimp





River Herring

- Depleted to near historic lows (2012)
- Overfishing status unknown
- Most Surveys Flat or Decreasing
- Available Run Estimates Decreasing
- Approved monitoring programs
- Approved sustainable fishery management plans
- TEWG identifying conservation efforts, critical data gaps, monitoring and evaluating progress towards rebuilding



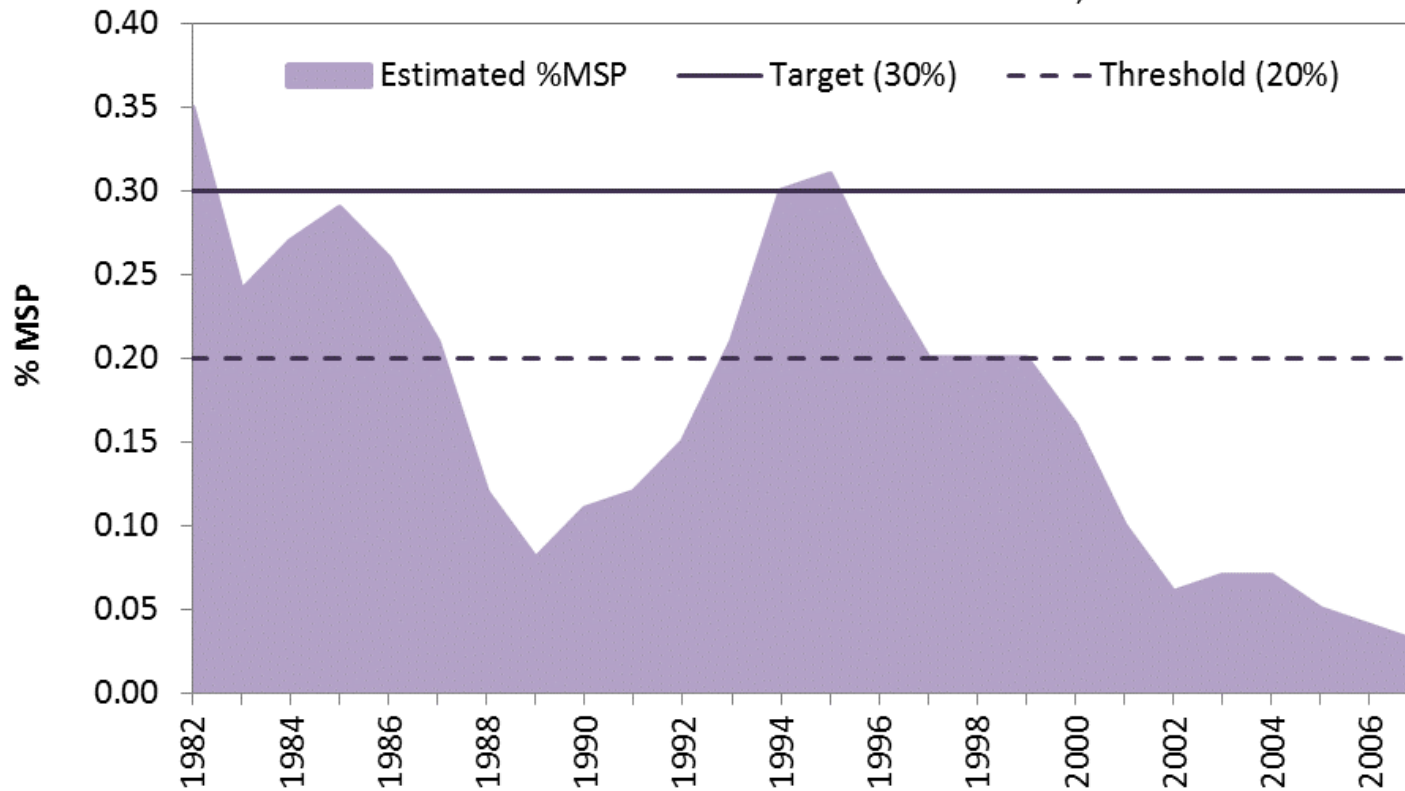
Tautog

- SSB at 39% of Target (11 Assessment)
- Overfishing Occurring
- Board Approved $F=0.15$ Target
- States Implemented Regulations to achieve the target F
- On-going benchmark assessment



Weakfish

Weakfish Maximum Spawning Potential
Source: ASMFC Weakfish Technical Committee, 2009





Winter Flounder

- Overfished, but overfishing not occurring
- Followed TC and established low limits to discourage a directed fishery and dead discards
- No Assessment on the schedule



Unknown: There is no accepted stock assessment to estimate the stock status

- Sturgeon
- Black Drum
- Spot



Sturgeon

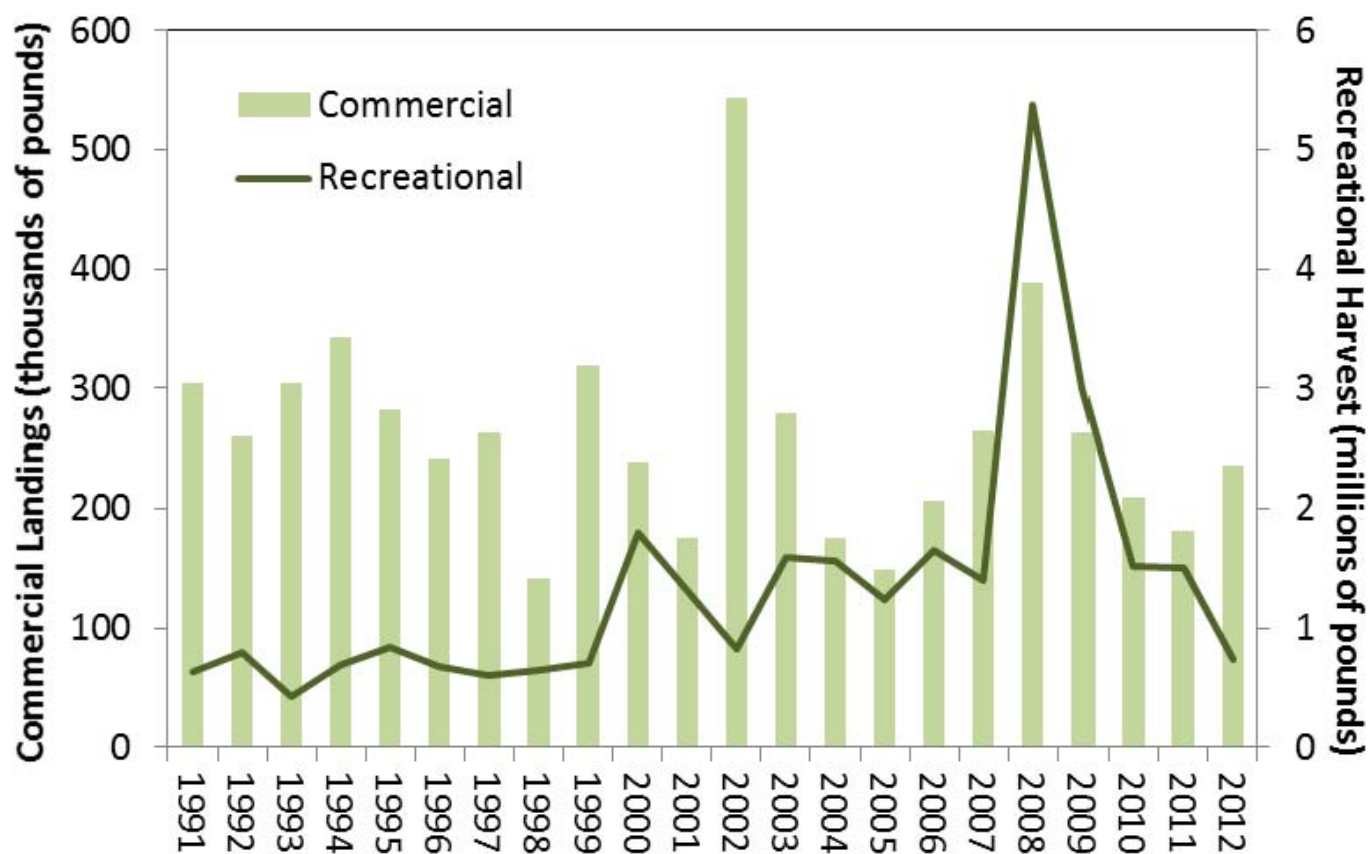
- At Low Abundance
- Need River Specific Abundance Estimates
- Need Better Bycatch Information
- 4 DPS –endangered 1-threatened
- Benchmark assessment in 2015



Black Drum

Recreational and Commercial Black Drum Landings

Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse and MRIP, 2013

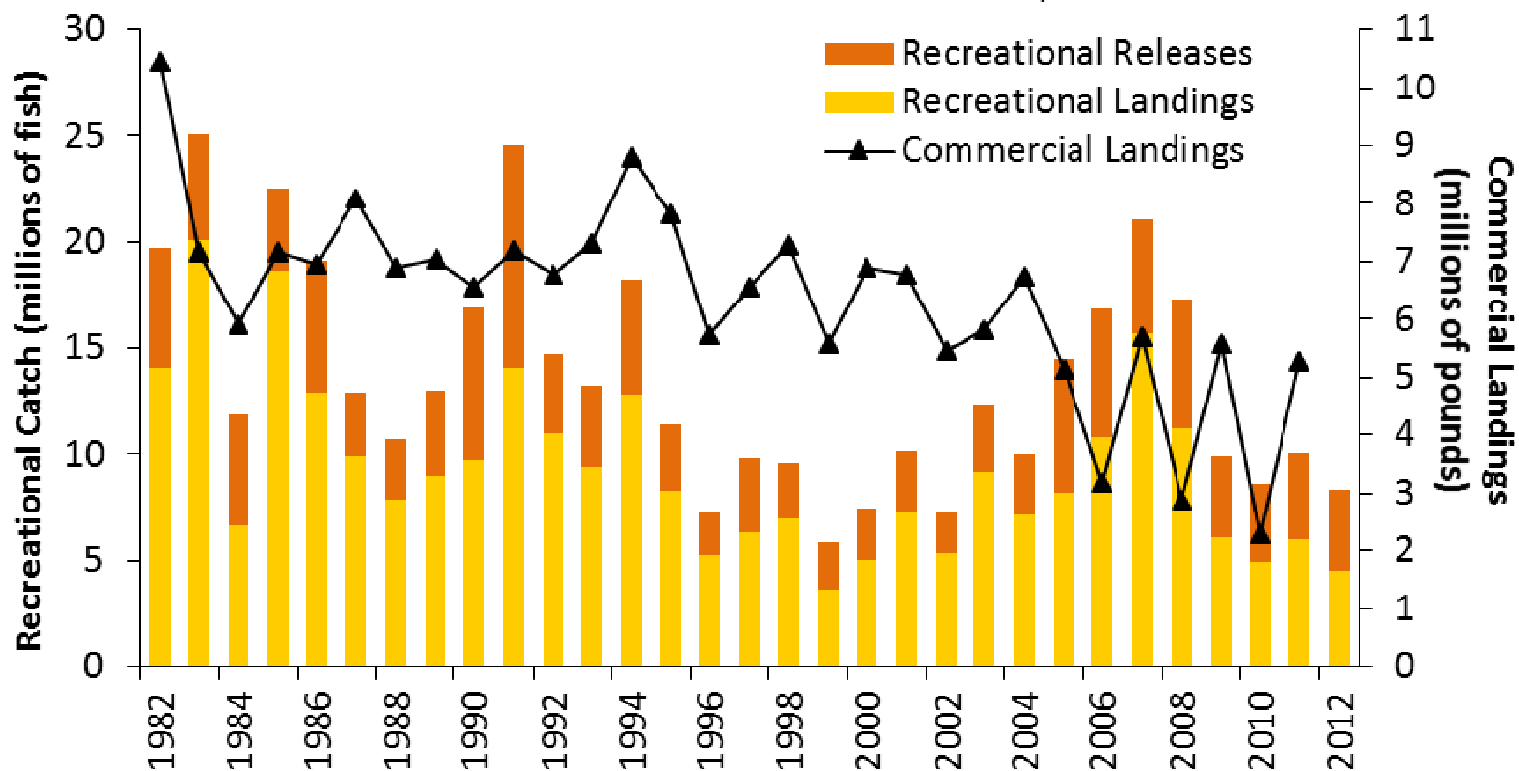




Spot

Spot Recreational Catch & Commercial Landings

Source: NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division, 2013





NOAA Proposed Rule on Special Management Zones

ASMFC

August 2014



Background

- Proposed rule on SMZ off the coast of Delaware for 5 artificial reef site
- NOAA is accepting comment until August 19
- Does the Commission want to submit comment on the proposed rule?



Reef Sites

- Proposed to only allow hook and line and spear fishing
- 5 sites proposed to limit gear conflicts on the reefs
- Maintain FWS SRP funding for the building and maintenance of the sites



VTRs within .46 km of Reefs

- Site 13 greater than 10 trips from 2008-10
- Site 14 greater than 20 trips in 2009
- Site 11 7-25 trips from 2004-06; 3-8 trips in 2008-10
- Trips on site 11 and 13 dominated by pot/trap
- Trips on site 14 dominated by trawl/dredge



Gross Income Impacts

Percent of total average gross revenue (2010-2012)

	<5%	5-9%	10-19%	20-29%
Small Shellfish	6	1	1	0
Large Shellfish	1	0	0	0
Small Finfish	3	1	1	1



Impacts

- Increased availability fish to hook and line and spear fishing
- Commercial fishing effort shift to other area
 - Fixed gear shifts may result in increased gear conflicts forced to move to areas with mobile gear
 - Other sites could be less productive
- Difficult to determine full impacts



NEFMC Comments

- Area 14 overlaps with scallop, skate and monkfish fishing grounds and is within the Elephant Trunk scallop rotation area
- Open since 2004 and very valuable and productive
- Found the analysis incomplete
 - No impacts to the monkfish and skate fishery
 - No overlays of management areas and SMZ



NEFMC

- VTRs likely under estimate impacts but no attempt has been made to correct such as using VMS
- The EA does not account for the inter-annual variation of the fishery due to the rotational aspect



NEFMC

- Notes there is currently no reef site within area 14
- Closing the area would close active fishing grounds with no current reef.
 - Loss between 1 to 20 million dollars



**Should the Commission Submit
Comment on the Proposed Rule?**

**If yes, what issues should be
addressed?**