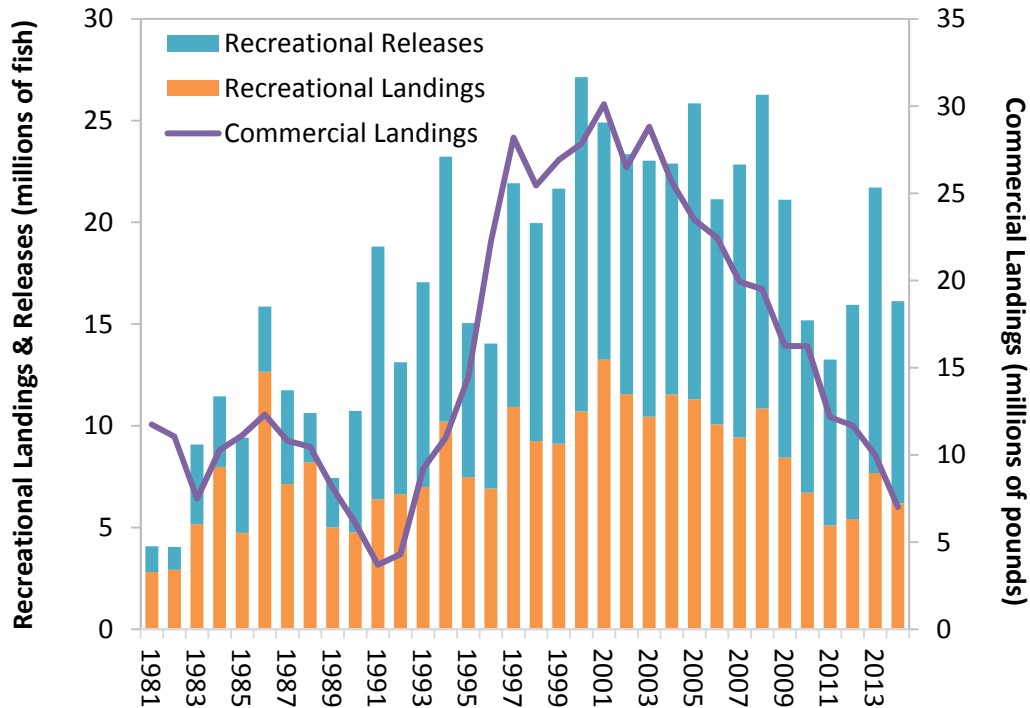


## Overview of Stock Status Atlantic Croaker, *Micropogonias undulatus*

### Atlantic Croaker Commercial Landings & Recreational Landings and Releases

Sources: ASMFC State Reports and ACCSP Data Warehouse, 2015



**Timeline of Management Actions:** FMP (1987); Amendment 1 (2005); Addendum I (2011); Addendum II (2014)

### Management Considerations:

**Condition:** Not experiencing overfishing. Although model estimates of spawning stock biomass (SSB) were too uncertain to be used to precisely determine overfished stock status, biomass has been increasing and the age-structure of the population has been expanding since the late 1980s. Next benchmark assessment scheduled for 2016.

### **FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals (Addendum I):**

Fishing Mortality Rate (F) Threshold =  $F_{MSY}$  (or a reasonable proxy thereof)

F Target ( $F_{target}$ ) = a fraction of the F threshold. F target is the rebuilding rate. Exceeding F threshold constitutes overfishing.

Biomass target =  $B_{MSY}$  (or a reasonable proxy thereof) B target is the rebuilt level.

Biomass threshold = a fraction of the biomass target.

Falling below B threshold constitutes overfished

### **FMP Status:**

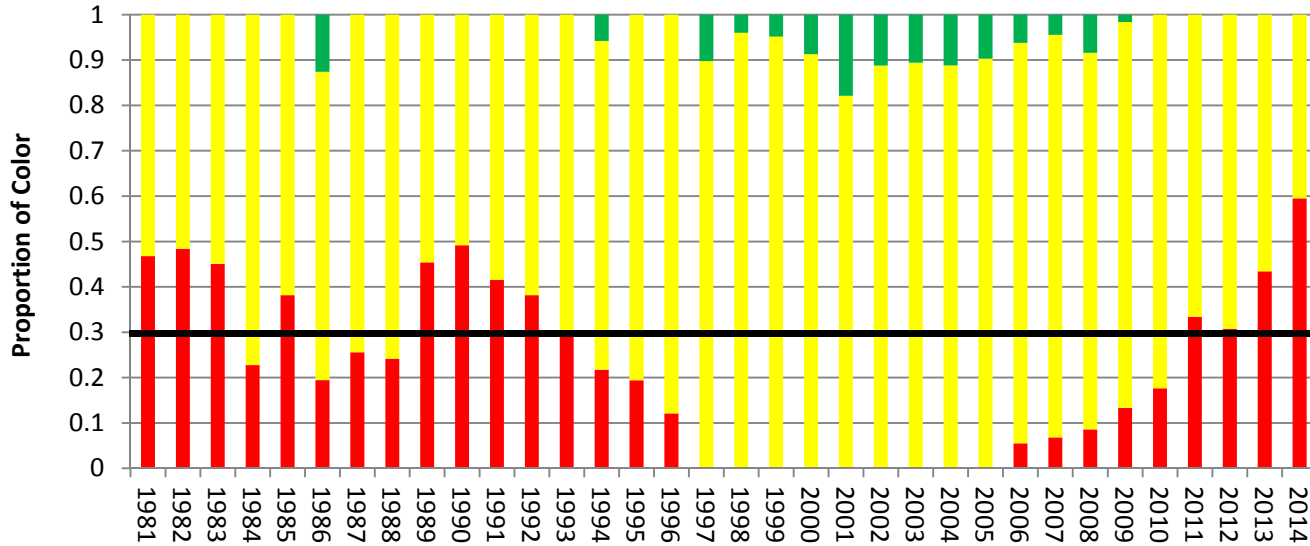
Amendment 1 revised plan's goals and objectives and established biological reference points. Addendum I revised the management area (change to coastwide stock versus Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic stock components) and adopted biological reference points. Addendum II established traffic light approach to assess stock trends and initiate management response.

### **Primary Management Measures:** Amendment 1 established

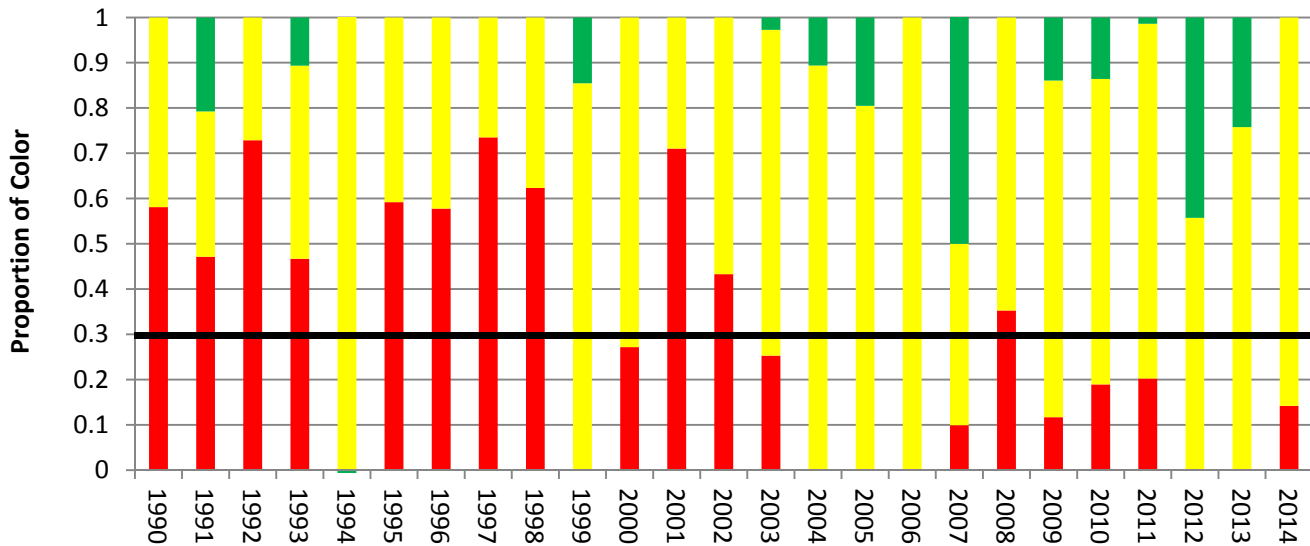
biological reference points for the Mid-Atlantic region and established a benchmark stock assessment to be conducted every five years. In each non-assessment year, the Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee will use the traffic light approach to evaluate changes in stock trends and the fishery. Although the plan does not require states to implement specific management measures, some states have implemented size and bag limits.

# Overview of Stock Status Atlantic Croaker, *Micropogonias undulatus*

## Traffic Light Analysis for Atlantic Croaker (Harvest Metric)



## Traffic Light Analysis for Atlantic Croaker (Abundance Metric)



Management response is triggered when proportion of red exceeds the 30% threshold level for three consecutive years in both fishery characteristics (harvest and abundance metrics).