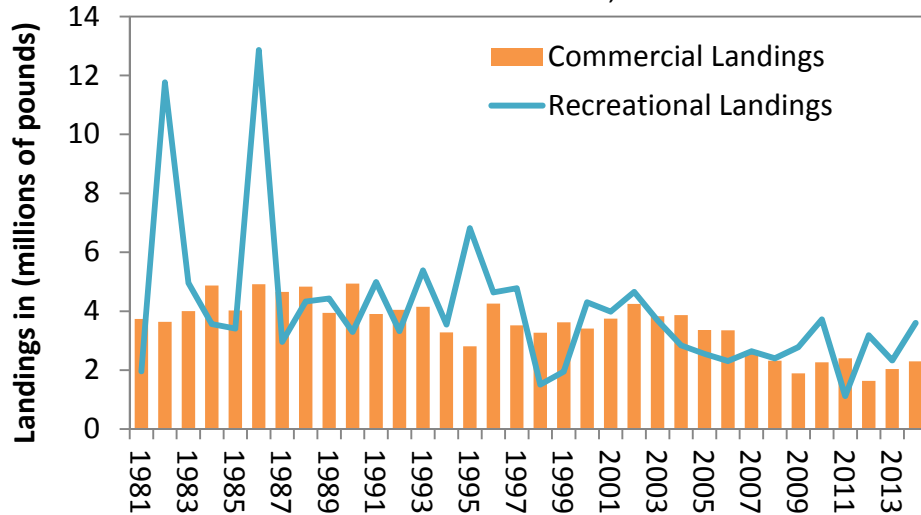


Overview of Stock Status Black Sea Bass, *Centropristis striata*

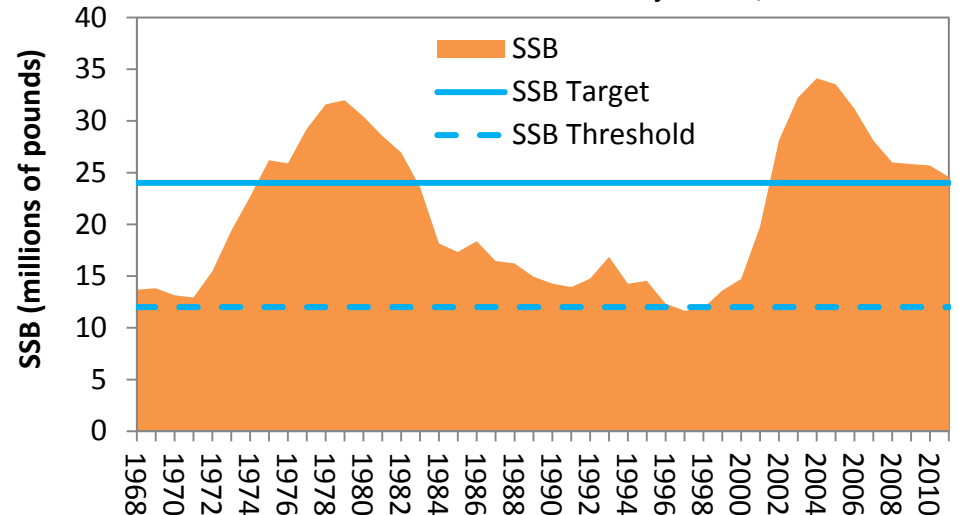
Black Sea Bass Commercial and Recreational Landings

Source: ACCSP and MRIP, 2015



Black Sea Bass Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)

Source: NEFSC Black Sea Bass Projections, 2012



Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1996); Amendment 10 (1997); Amendment 11 (1998); Amendment 12 (1999); Amendment 13 (2003); Addenda II & III (2004); Addendum XVI (2005); Addendum XIX (2007); Addendum XX (2009); Addendum XXI (2011); Addendum XXIII (2013); Addendum XXV (2014)

Management Considerations:

Condition: Although the resource was declared rebuilt in 2009, black sea bass' unique life history characteristics (e.g., the species changes sex from female to male) contributes to some level of uncertainty about the size of the stock, as well as the species' response to exploitation. 2012 assessment indicates resource is not overfished nor experiencing overfishing, with biomass estimated at 102% of the biomass target. Next benchmark assessment scheduled for 2016.

FMP Biological Reference Points:

SSB Target = 24 million pounds Fishing Mortality Threshold = 0.44

SSB Threshold = 12 million pounds

FMP Status:

Joint management with Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). Amendment 13 approved in 1998. Addendum XIII (August 2004) allows the TAL to be set up to three years in a given year. Addendum XIX (2007) sets the current state-by-state shares for the commercial fishery. Addendum XXII (February 2012) modified the management measures for the 2012 recreational black sea bass fishery.

Primary Management Measures:

Annual total allowable landings (TAL) divided into a state-by-state commercial quota (49% of TAL) and recreational harvest limit (51% of TAL). Coastwide commercial management measures include minimum fish and mesh sizes, as well as pot/trap specifications. The Commission and the MAFMC determine coastwide recreational bag/size limits each year, but in 2011 they set state-by-state regulations for the first time.