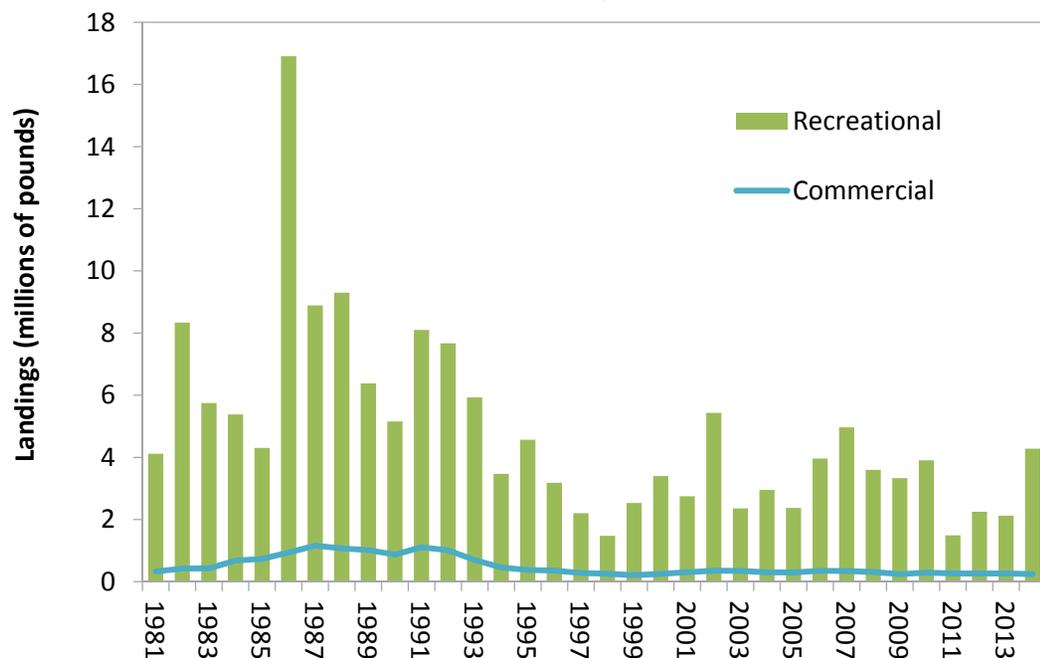


Overview of Stock Status Tautog, *Tautoga onitis*

Tautog Recreational and Commercial Landings

Source: ACCSP, 2015



Timeline of Management Actions: FMP ('86); Addendum I ('97); Addendum II ('99); Addendum III ('02); Addenda IV & V ('07); Addendum VI ('11)

Primary Management Measures:

Tautog is managed as a single coastwide stock, although the Board is evaluating regional management alternatives. The FMP requires a fishing mortality rate of 0.15 to be controlled by recreational and commercial possession limits, size limits (depending on the state the minimum size limits is 15-16 inches), and seasonal closures.

Management Considerations:

Condition: Overfished and overfishing is occurring on a coastwide basis (based on 2015 benchmark assessment). The Technical Committee explored alternative regional groupings in the latest assessment to account for the limited north-south migration and regional harvest patterns. In May 2015, the Tautog Board initiated Draft Amendment 1 to solicit public comment on the proposed regional management areas and evaluate the illegal harvest of undersized and unreported tautog.

FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:

SSB target = 20,612 mt (45.4 million pounds)

SSB threshold (75% target) = 15,459 mt (34 million pounds)

Fishing Mortality Target $F_{\text{target}} = 0.15$

FMP Status: Addendum VI established a new $F_{\text{target}} = 0.15$ for 2012 and beyond. All states in the management unit must implement measures to achieve $F = 0.15$ by January 1, 2012, which is estimated to be a 39% reduction relative to the 2008-2009 average total harvest. The Board reduced the target F in response to the 2011 assessment update findings. SSB has remained at low levels for the last decade and continued to be overfished and experiencing overfishing; therefore, the Technical Committee recommends $F = 0.15$ or lower to rebuild the stock.