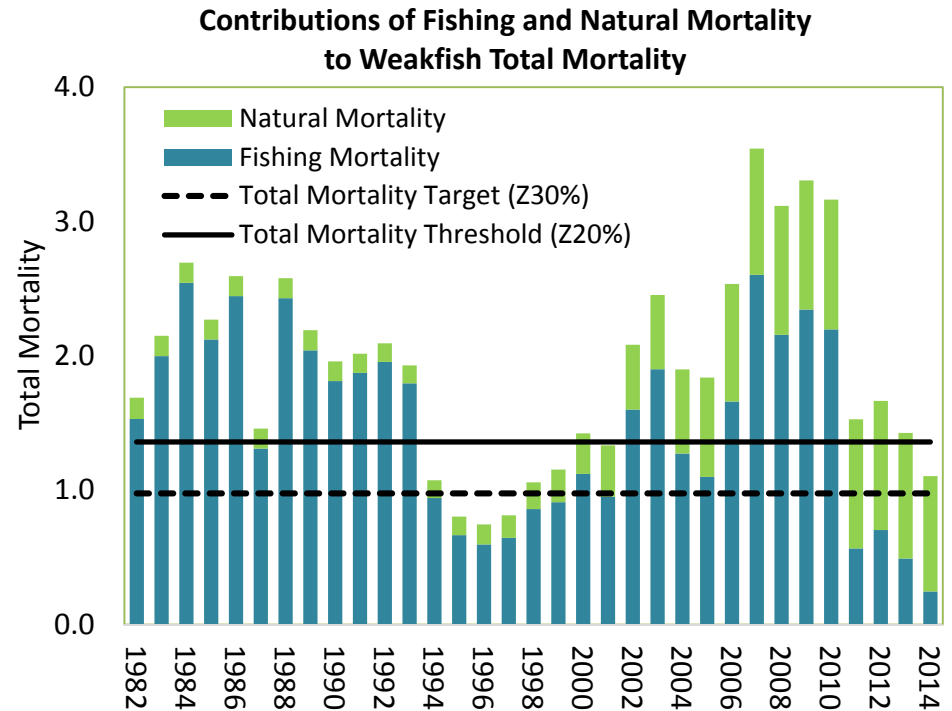
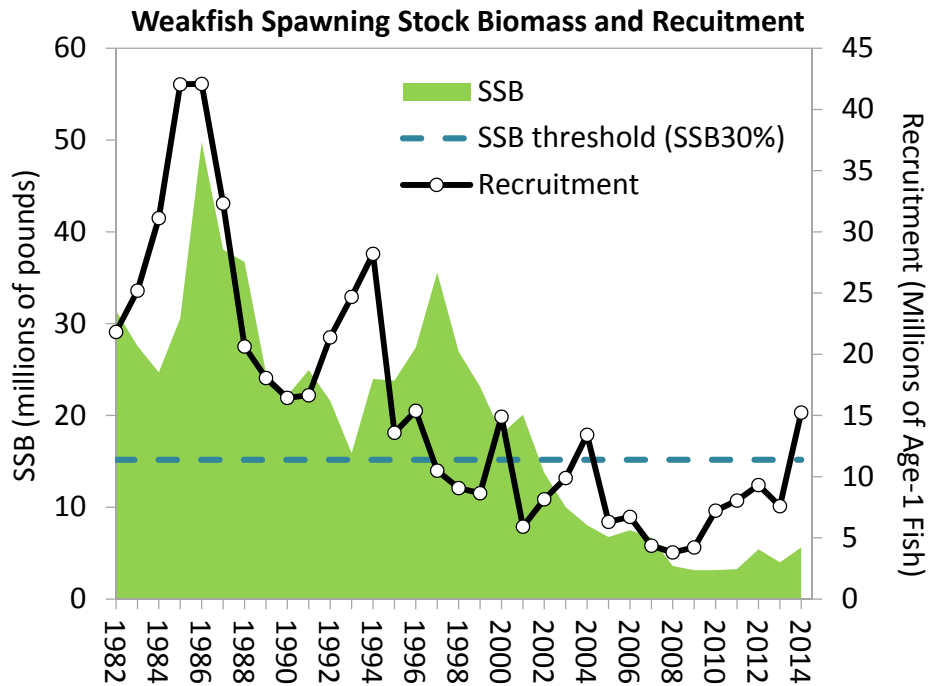


Overview of Stock Status Weakfish, *Cynoscion regalis*



Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1985); Amendment 1 (1991); Amendment 2 (1995); Amendment 3 (1996); Amendment 4 (2002); Addendum I (2005); Addenda II & III (2007); Addendum IV (2009)

Management Considerations:

Condition: depleted, overfishing not occurring

FMP Stock Control Rules:

Spawning Stock Biomass Threshold = 20% Maximum Spawning Potential (MSP; i.e., SSB that is 20% of an unfished stock)

Spawning Stock Biomass Target = 30% MSP (i.e., SSB that is 30% of an unfished stock)

Next benchmark assessment scheduled for 2015.

FMP Rebuilding Schedule: 6-year rebuilding period if SSB falls below the threshold level in any given year.

FMP Status: Amendment 4, implemented in 2003, established overfishing and overfished definitions, provided alternative recreational fish size and creel limit options, and increased the commercial bycatch limit. Addendum I (2005) replaced Amendment 4's biological sampling program. Addendum II (2007) implemented several management measures (i.e., reduced creel and bycatch limits, landings triggers) to control expansion of the fishery in the event that stock status improved. Addendum III altered the bycatch reduction device certification requirements for consistency with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Shrimp FMP. Addendum IV (2009) responded to the most recent stock assessment, and implemented a one fish recreational creel limit, 100 pound

Overview of Stock Status

Weakfish, *Cynoscion regalis*

commercial trip limit, 100 pound commercial bycatch limit, and 100 undersized fish allowance for finfish trawls. The addendum maintained all previously implemented weakfish management measures, and also removed the fishing mortality reference points and implemented percentage-based spawning stock biomass reference points. States had until May 1, 2010 to implement Addendum IV.

Primary Management Measures: The commercial fishery is controlled through minimum size limit, trip limit, closed season, closed area, mesh size, bycatch limit, and bycatch reduction device requirements. The recreational fishery is managed through bag limit and minimum size limit requirements.