



Atlantic Chub Mackerel Amendment



Council Meeting

June 6, 2018

Philadelphia, PA

Outline

- Timeline
- AP fishery performance report
- Amendment goals and objectives
- Management unit
- ABC considerations
- Spatial/temporal measures

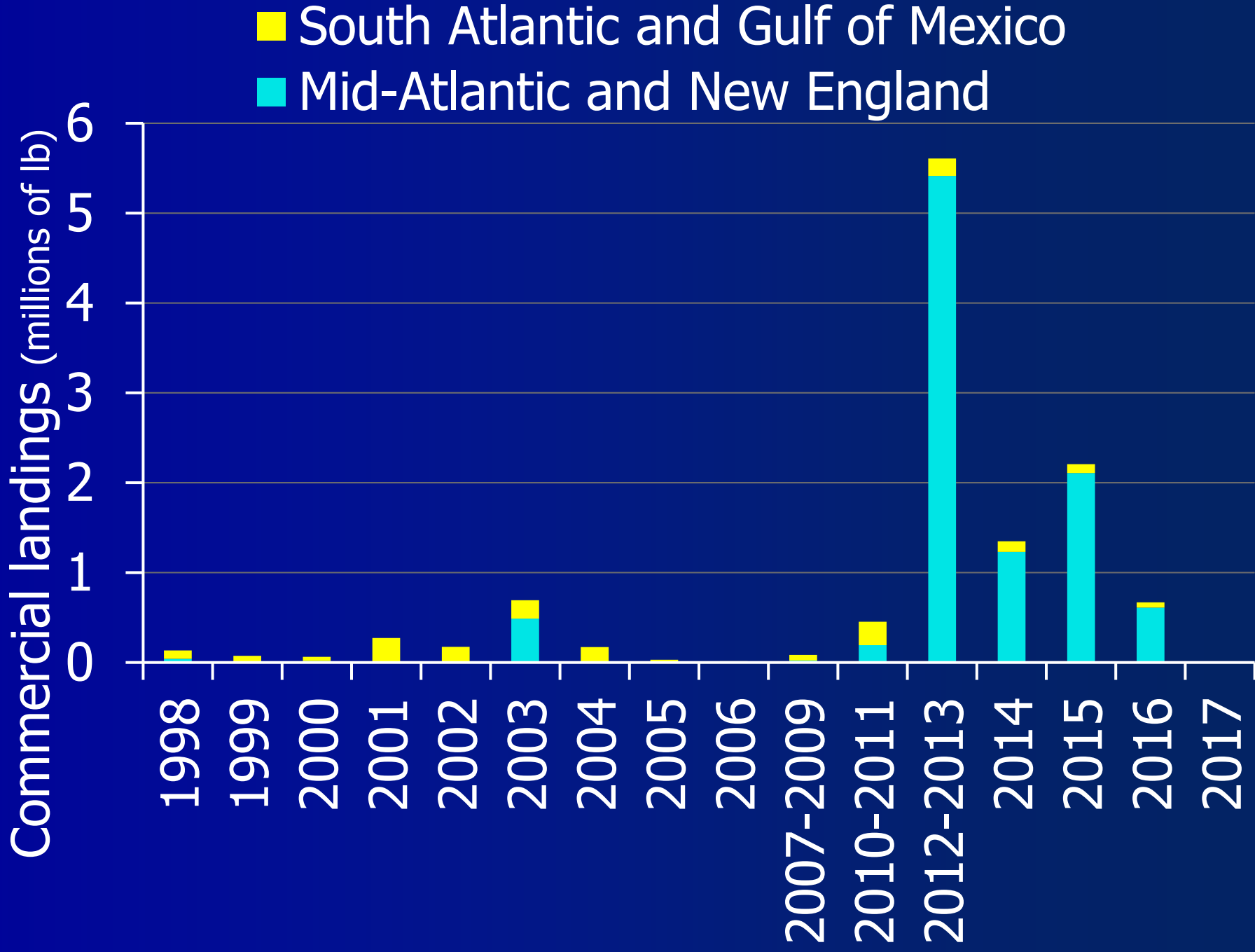
Next Steps

Task	Date
SSC meeting – ABCs, mgmt unit	July 2018
FMAT – alternative development	Summer – fall 2018
Council meeting – approve public hearing document	Oct 2018
Public hearings	Oct - Nov 2018
Final action	Dec 2018 or Feb 2019
Forage Amendment regulations expire	Jan 1, 2021

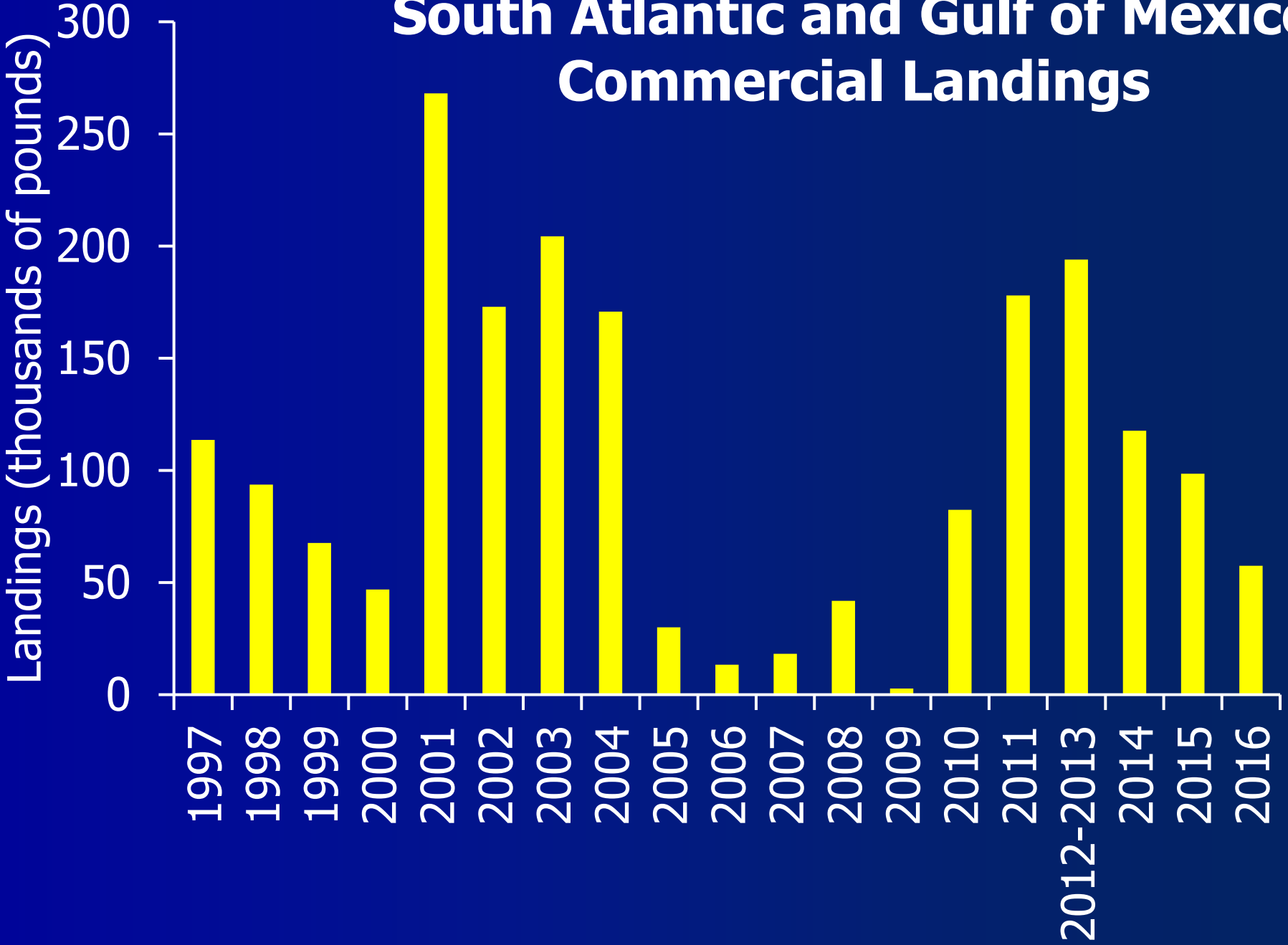
HMS Diet Study

- Sampling during 2018-2019
- NJ - SC
- Commercial and recreational (tournament and non-tournament) sampling
- White and blue marlin, yellowfin and bigeye tunas
- Traditional stomach content analysis, genetic barcoding, stable isotope analysis

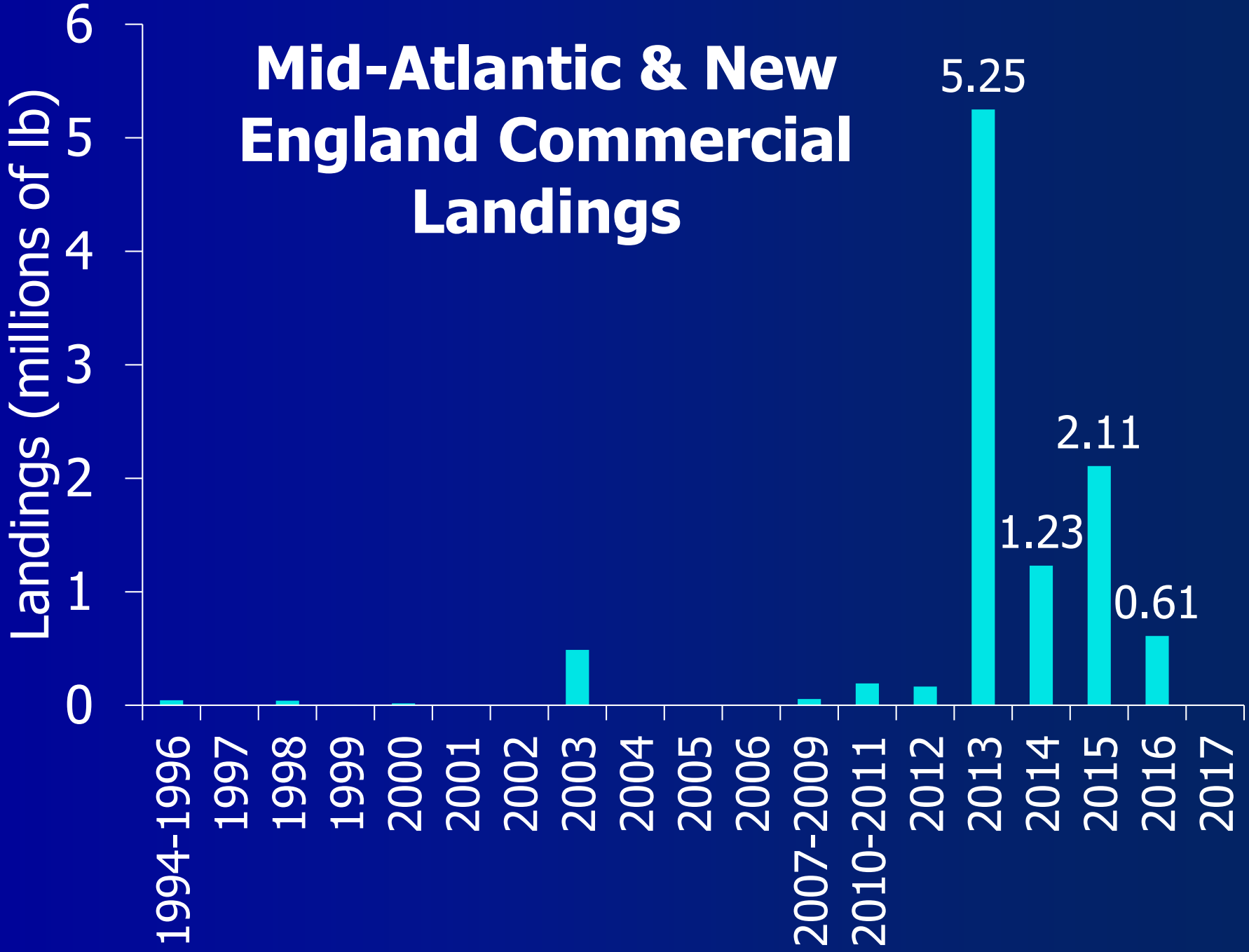
AP Fishery Performance Report



South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Commercial Landings



Mid-Atlantic & New England Commercial Landings



AP Fishery Performance Report

- *Illex* is biggest determinant of effort, landings
- There has always been a market
- Difficult/costly to harvest due to fast swimming speed, preference for warm water
- Abundance is variable, sometimes “bunched”
- Mixed with *Illex* to some extent during beginning and end of season (~May and Oct)
- Possible influence of env. on south Atlantic landings

AP – Predator/Prey Issues

- Fishery operates inshore of canyons
- Management should be based on science, not public opinion
- Chub mackerel are not important prey
- Results of new HMS diet study will be inconclusive
- Public comments are important – spatial/temporal management should be considered

Note: these are not consensus statements

Amendment Goals and Objectives

Committee Recommendation

Goal 1: Maintain a sustainable chub mackerel stock.

- **Obj. 1.1:** Prevent overfishing and achieve and maintain sustainable biomass levels that achieve optimum yield in the fisheries and meet the needs of chub mackerel predators.
- **Obj. 1.2:** Consider, to the extent practicable, the role of chub mackerel in the ecosystem, including its role as prey, as a predator, and as food for humans.

Committee Recommendation

Goal 2: Optimize economic & social benefits from utilization of chub mackerel, balancing the needs & priorities of different user groups.

- **Obj. 2.1:** Allow opportunities for com. & rec. chub mackerel fishing, considering the opportunistic nature of the fisheries, changes in availability that may result from changes in climate & other factors, & the need for operational flexibility.
- **Obj. 2.2:** To the extent practicable, allow the *Illex* squid fishery to proceed without additional limiting restrictions.
- **Obj. 2.3:** Balance social & economic needs of various sectors of the chub mackerel fisheries (e.g. com., rec., regional) and other fisheries, including rec. fisheries for HMS.

Committee Recommendation

Goal 3: Support science, monitoring, and data collection to enhance effective management of chub mackerel fisheries.

- **Obj. 3.1:** Improve data collection to better understand the status of the chub mackerel stock, the role of chub mackerel in the ecosystem, and the biological, ecological, and socioeconomic impacts of management measures, including impacts to other fisheries.
- **Obj. 3.2:** Promote opportunities for industry collaboration on research.

Decision Point

Approve draft goals and objectives for inclusion in a public hearing document

Management Unit

Management Unit

- A fishery/portion of a fishery identified in an FMP as relevant to the FMP objectives
- May be based on biological, geographic, economic, technical, social, or ecological considerations



Alessandro Ducci

Management Unit

- NS 3 – stocks should be managed as a unit throughout their range
- One FMP for entire range is preferred
- “Coordination” with other entities should be sought
- Measures need not be uniform throughout the management unit
- ABC should apply to entire mgmt. unit, could apply beyond

Chub Mackerel Distribution

- No information on stock structure, movement/migration in this region
- In eastern Atlantic:
 - Regional differences in morphology, life history
 - Genetically uniform across broad areas; however, genetic differentiation between W & E Atlantic
 - “Considerable” seasonal migrations



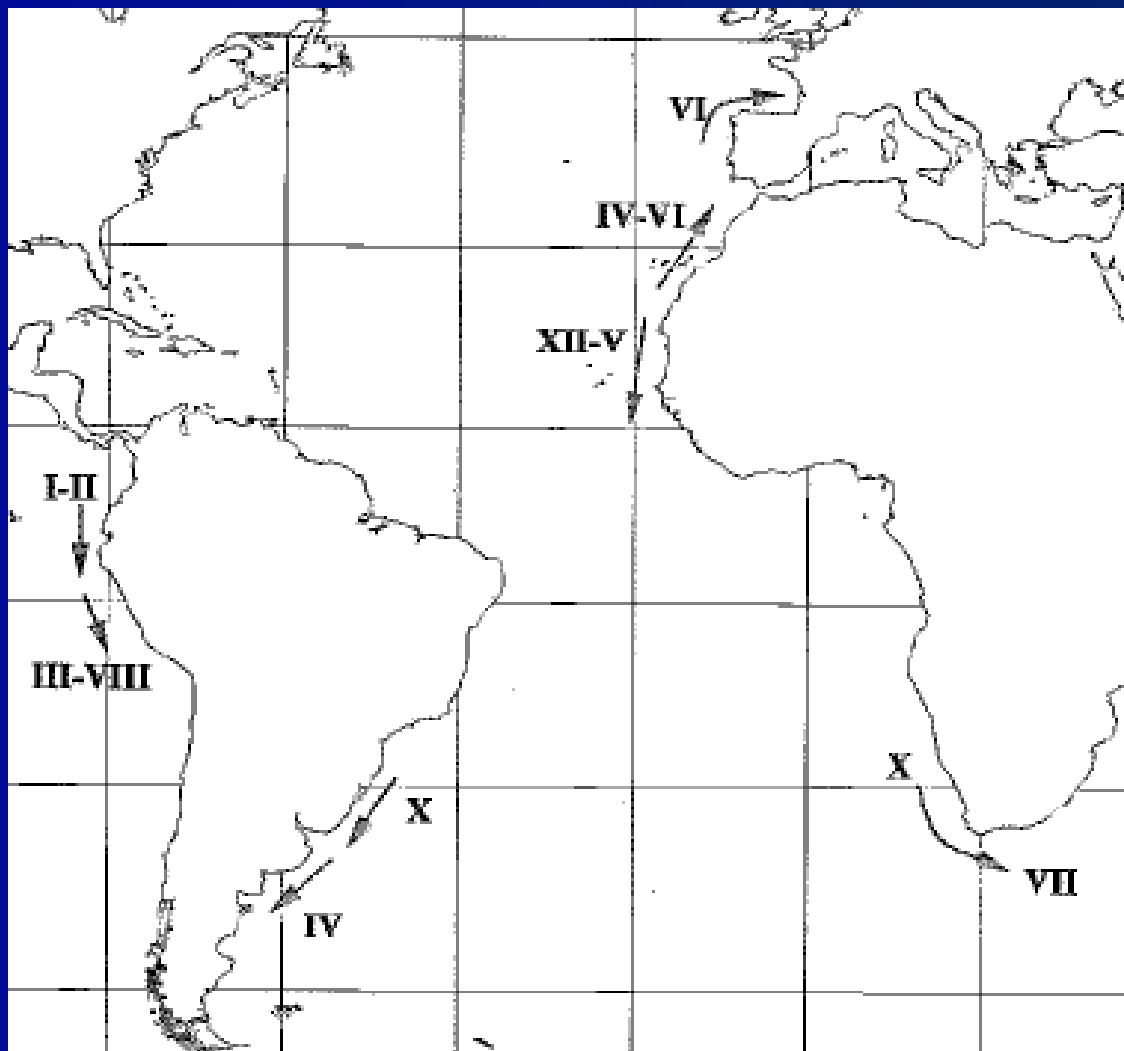


Figure 9. Schematic migratory paths and local movements of *Scomber japonicus*. (Roman numerals indicate the starting and finishing months of migration.)

Hernández, J. J. C. and A. T. S. Ortega. 2000. Synopsis of biological data on the chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus* Houttuyn, 1782). FAO Fisheries Synopsis No. 157.

FMAT – Management Unit

■ ME-TX, pros:

- Would allow efficient reaction to future changes in the fishery
- Fishery mostly operates at seasonal northern edge of range
- Should not decouple management & biology
- Spawning in Gulf of Mexico

■ ME-TX, cons:

- May be more difficult to control catch and implement measures than ME-FL or ME-NC

AP/Committee – Mgmt Unit

- Atlantic mackerel example – expected Canadian catch deducted from ABC
- Essentially a regional allocation decision
- Need to start with the “right” number – wait to recommend mgmt. unit until after SSC recommends ABC
- Regional differences in fleet capacity

Decision Point

None needed – revisit after
SSC ABC discussion

ABC

Considerations

ABC

- July 2018 – SSC ABC consideration
- No stock assessment
- Data concerns:
 - Low, sporadic catches in surveys
 - Influence of factors other than abundance on CPUE
 - Limited data on growth and maturity in U.S.
 - Uncertainty regarding stock structure

AP – ABC

- Fishery should be allowed to grow
 - Large fisheries in eastern Atlantic
 - A way for pelagic fishermen to stay in business
- Fishery should not grow beyond current limit
 - Ecosystem impacts are unknown
- SSC should consider ABCs ranging from 2,000-5,000 MT (~4-11 million lb)

Note: these are not consensus statements

Committee – ABC

- Recommend that the SSC consider a range of ABCs from 1,300 MT (current limit) to 5,000 MT.
- “In the event that the ABC is reached in three consecutive years, potential management options to limit the ABC will be considered by the Council and implemented through frameworking or changes to the FMP.”

Committee – ABC

- High ABC will allow for fisheries-dependent data collection, could be coupled with additional data collection requirements
- However, SSC shouldn't recommend an ABC based on a data need
- Some interest in postponing further amendment development until more data is available to support ABC

Committee – ABC

- Council not required to manage as stock in fishery once SSC recommends an ABC
- May need to manage as stock in fishery, or not at all
- Ecosystem Component not an option
- Tenuous legal justification to continue managing as neither EC nor stock in fishery

Committee – ABC

- Consider fisheries in eastern Atlantic
- Request multiple ABC options based on multiple mgmt. unit options



Time Period	Avg. com. & rec. landings (lb)		
	ME-NC	ME-FL	ME-TX
2002-2016	674,399	676,936	776,518
2007-2016	962,708	966,462	1,041,802
2012-2016	1,882,744	1,883,241	1,976,277
2013-2015	2,878,810	2,879,439	2,966,221
2013	5,249,567	5,250,807	5,295,612

Time Period	Avg. com. & rec. landings (MT)		
	ME-NC	ME-FL	ME-TX
2002-2016	306	307	352
2007-2016	437	438	473
2012-2016	854	854	896
2013-2015	1,306	1,306	1,345
2013	2,381	2,382	2,402

Spatial/Temporal Measures

■ **FMAT**

- Consider through separate action after results of diet study are available
- Localized depletion difficult to assess
- Qualitatively analyzing through this action could set stage for future framework adjustments

■ **AP** - Some in favor of considering, others opposed

■ **Committee** - Most in favor of removing from consideration in this amendment

■ **Decision point**

- Approve draft goals and objectives for inclusion in a public hearing document

■ **Other discussions**

- Management unit considerations
- ABC considerations
- Include spatial/temporal management measures in this amendment?

Management

- Unmanaged Forage Amendment
- 2.86 million lb annual landings limit (New England and Mid-Atlantic)
- Once limit is reached, 40K lb possession limit (Mid-Atlantic only)
- Measures expire Jan 1, 2021

MSB FMP Objectives

1. Enhance the probability of successful (i.e., the historical average) recruitment to the fisheries.
2. Promote the growth of the U.S. commercial fishery, including the fishery for export.
3. Provide the greatest degree of freedom and flexibility to all harvesters of these resources consistent with the attainment of the other objectives of this FMP.
4. Provide marine recreational fishing opportunities, recognizing the contribution of recreational fishing to the national economy.
5. Increase understanding of the conditions of the stocks and fisheries.
6. Minimize harvesting conflicts among U.S. commercial, U.S. recreational, and foreign fishermen.

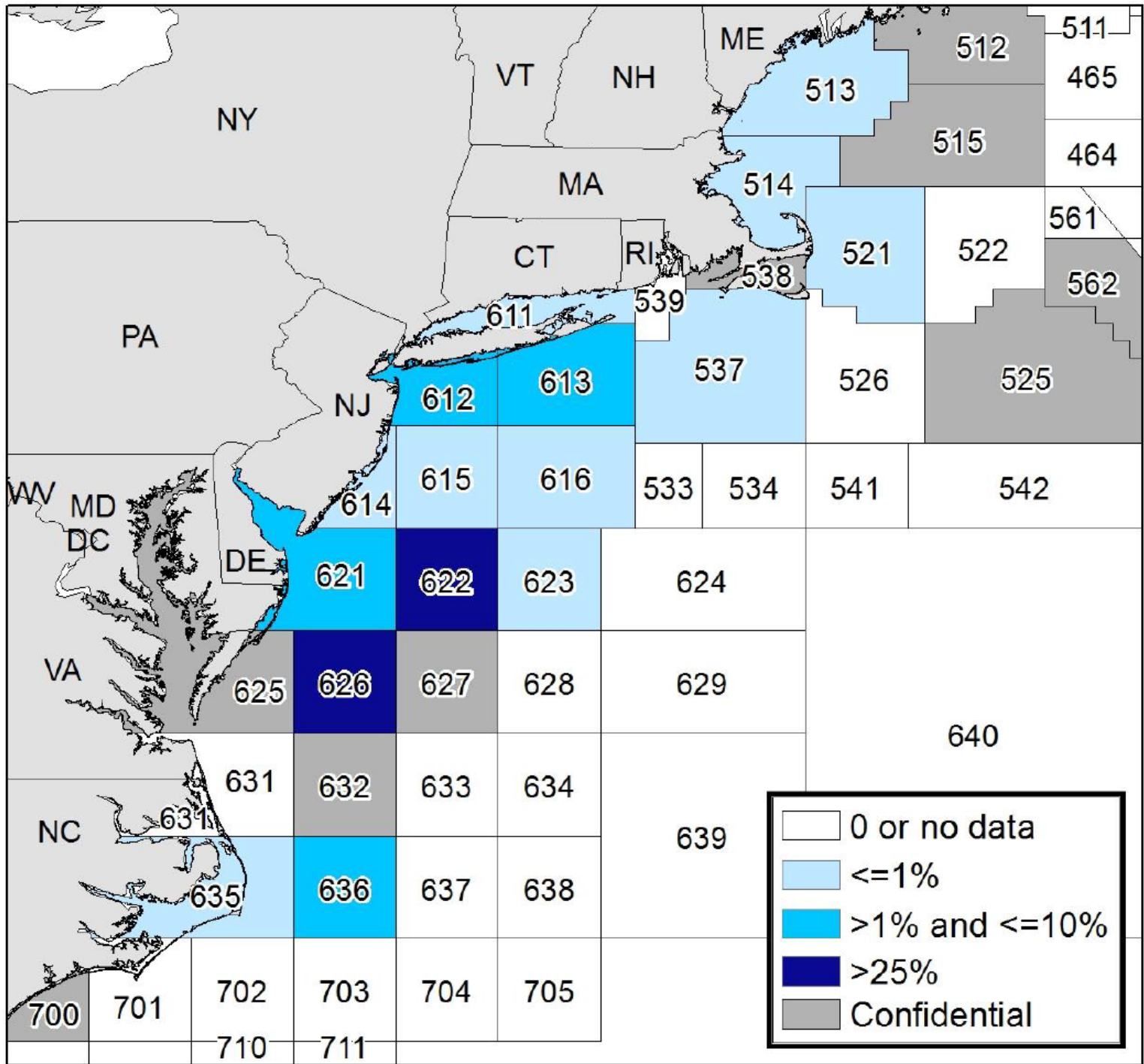
Forage Amendment

Goal: Prohibit development of new and expansion of existing directed commercial fisheries until Council has the opportunity to assess scientific information and consider potential impacts.

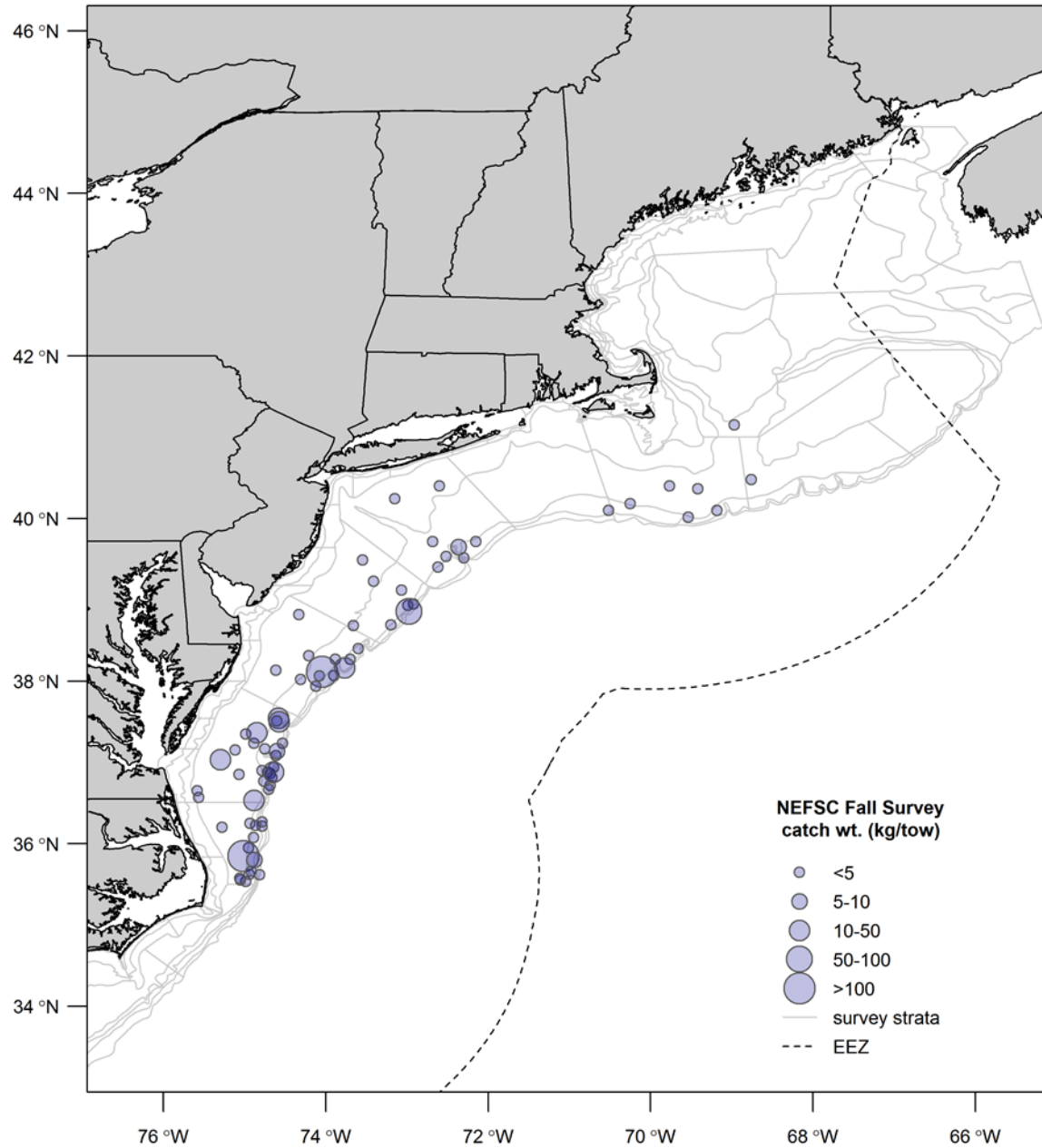
EAFM Guidance Document

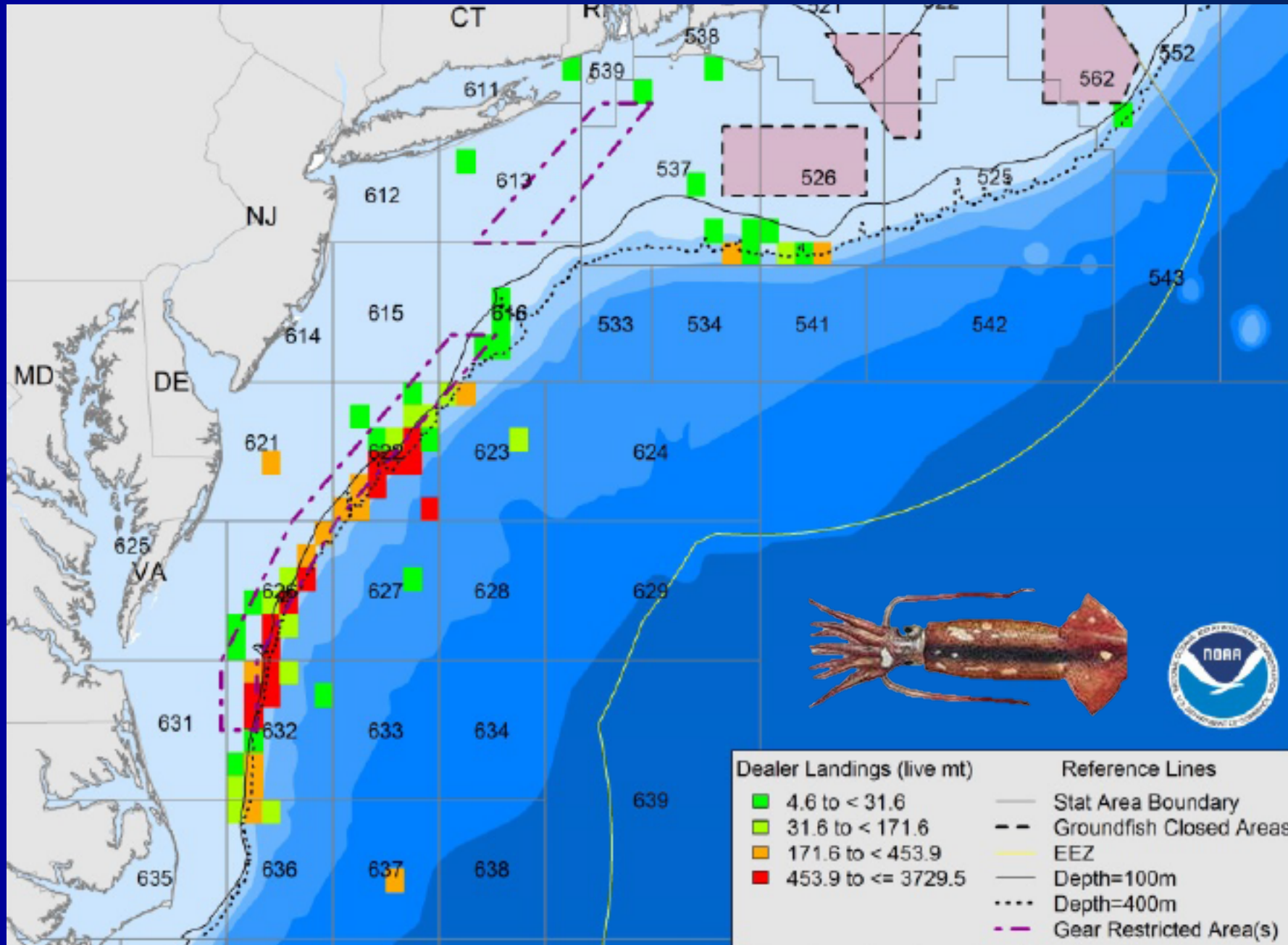
Goal: to manage for ecologically sustainable utilization of living marine resources while maintaining ecosystem productivity, structure, and function.

1. The stock is an important component of the marine env.
2. The stock is caught by the fishery
3. Whether an FMP can improve or maintain the condition of the stock
4. The stock is a target of a fishery
5. The stock is important to com., rec., or subsistence users
6. The fishery is important to the nation or to the regional economy
7. The need to resolve competing interests and conflicts among user groups and whether an FMP can further that resolution
8. The economic condition of a fishery and whether an FMP can produce more efficient utilization
9. The needs of a developing fishery, and whether an FMP can foster orderly growth
10. The extent to which the fishery is already adequately managed by states, state/Federal programs, federal regs, or by industry self-regulation, consistent with the requirements of the MSA and other applicable law



FALL 1963-2016





2013-2016, source: 2018 data update from NEFSC

