



# Golden Tilefish

## *Specs Review*



Council Meeting  
*11 April 2018*

# Outline



1. Stock Status
2. Regulatory Review
3. Recent Fishery Performance
4. FPR
5. Staff Recommendation
6. SSC/MC Recommendations

# Stock Status



- SAW/SARC 58 Peer-reviewed assessment (2014)
- Model update done in 2017
- Stock not overfished and overfishing was not occurring in 2016

# Stock Status (cont'd)



- Fishing mortality in 2016 was estimated at  $F=0.249$ 
  - 20% below the fishing mortality threshold of  $F=0.310$  ( $F_{\text{MSY proxy}} = F_{38\%}$ )
- SSB in 2016 was estimated at 18.69 million pounds (8,479 mt)
  - 89% of the biomass target ( $\text{SSB}_{\text{MSY proxy}} = \text{SSB}_{38\%}$ ; 20.93 m lb or 9,492 mt)

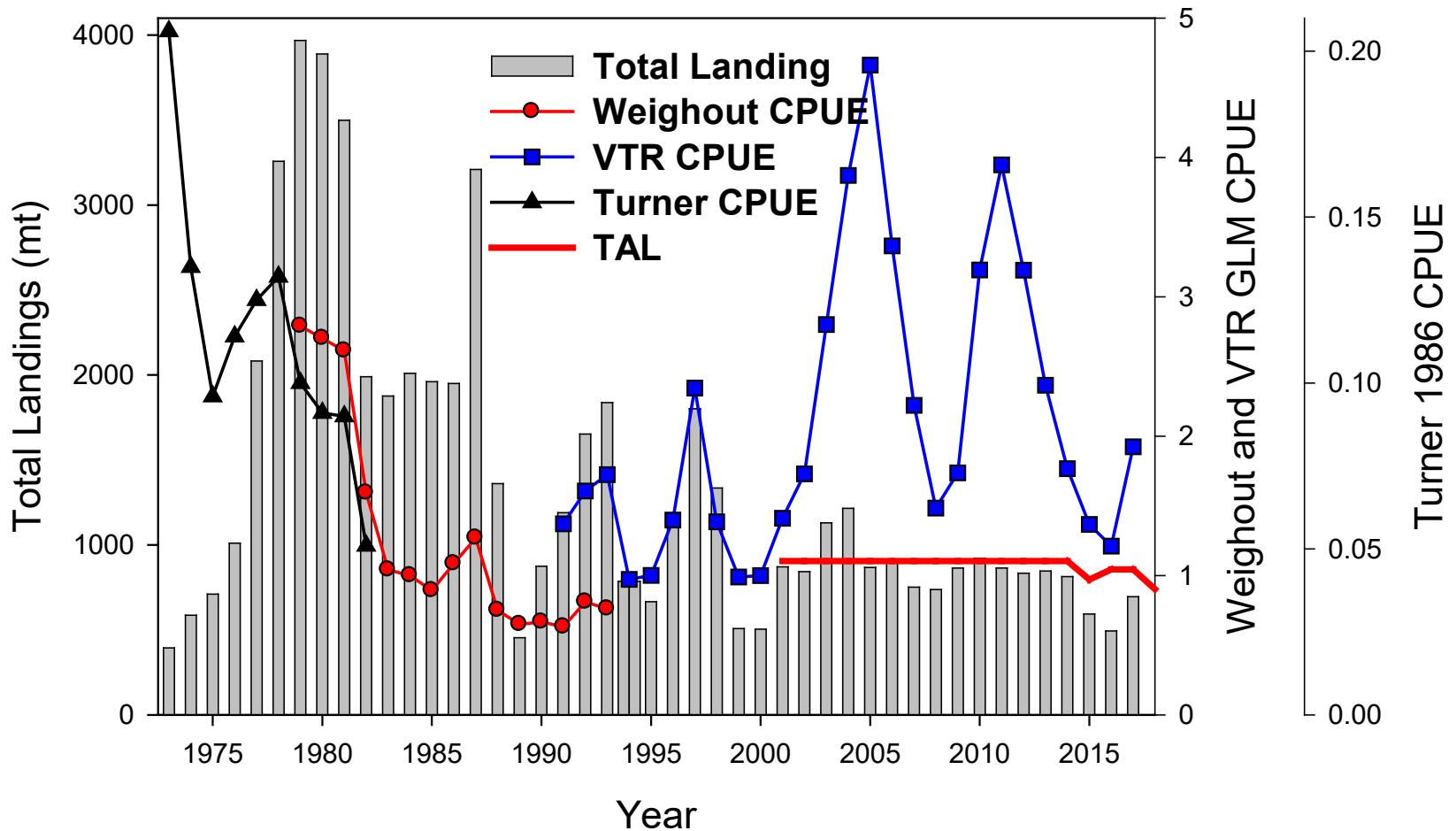
# NEFSC Data Update

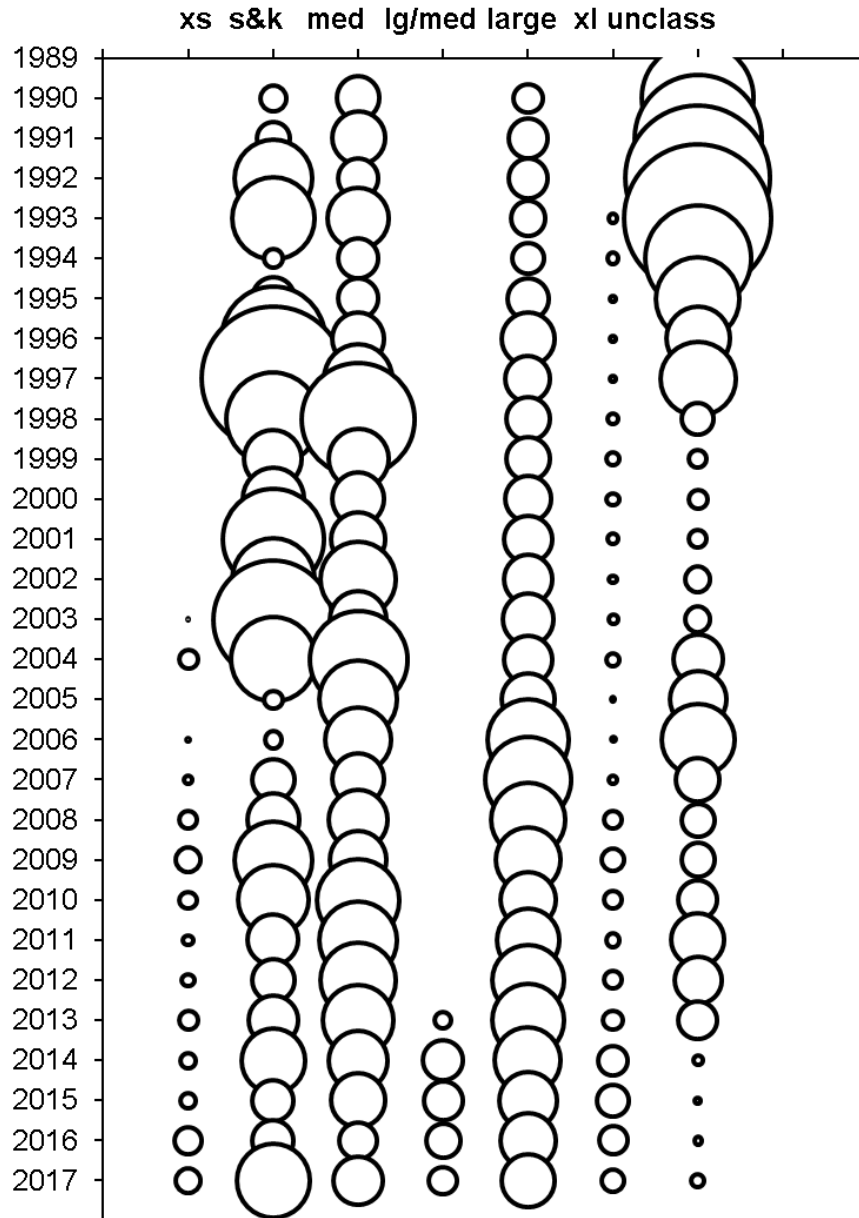


- Update CPUE increased in 2017
- Strong 2013 year class recruiting in to the fishery

# Data Update – NEFSC (cont'd)

## Figure 5





Bubble plot of Golden tilefish landings by market category (Fig 7 of data update)

# Regulatory Review



- Currently in a 3-year specifications cycle
  - 2018, 2019, 2020



# Framework 2 – Final Ruled Published



- modifying the golden tilefish catch and landings limits flow chart
- eliminating the interactive voice response (IVR) requirements
- adding gear requirements in the recreational fishery
- adding landings ratios/qualifiers in the incidental fishery
- prohibiting vessels from fishing more than one IFQ allocation at a time
- require golden tilefish to be landed with the head attached

# Fishery Performance



Management Measures	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
ABC (m lb)	-	-	-	2.013	2.013	1.766	1.898	1.898	1.636	1.636	1.636
TAL (m lb)	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.755	1.887	1.887	1.627	1.627	1.627
Com. quota-initial (m lb)	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.755	1.887	1.887	1.627	1.627	1.627
Com. quota-adjusted (m lb)	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.755	1.887	1.887	1.627	1.627	1.627
Com. landings	1.997	1.946	1.874	1.841	1.830	1.354	1.060	1.485	-	-	-
Com. overage/underage (m lb)	+0.002	-0.049	-0.121	-0.154	-0.165	-0.401	-0.827	-0.402	-	-	-
Incidental trip limit (lb)	300	300	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Rec. possession limit	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>

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Com. quota-initial (m lb)	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.755	1.887	1.887	1.627	1.627	1.627
<b>Com. quota-adjusted (m lb)</b>	<b>1.995</b>	<b>1.995</b>	<b>1.995</b>	<b>1.995</b>	<b>1.995</b>	<b>1.755</b>	<b>1.887</b>	<b>1.887</b>	<b>1.627</b>	<b>1.627</b>	<b>1.627</b>
<b>Com. landings</b>	<b>1.997</b>	<b>1.946</b>	<b>1.874</b>	<b>1.841</b>	<b>1.830</b>	<b>1.354</b>	<b>1.060</b>	<b>1.485</b>	-	-	-
<b>Com. overage/underage (m lb)</b>	<b>+0.002</b>	<b>-0.049</b>	<b>-0.121</b>	<b>-0.154</b>	<b>-0.165</b>	<b>-0.401</b>	<b>-0.827</b>	<b>-0.402</b>	-	-	-
Incidental trip limit (lb)	300	300	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
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# Recreational Trends



- Recreational landings and catches are low (MRIP and VTR data)

# Recreational Trends (cont'd)



Year	Number of golden tilefish kept	Mean effort
1996	81	1.4
1997	400	7.5
1998	243	8.1
1999	91	0.4
2000	147	0.5
2001	172	0.7
2002	774	0.9
2003	991	1.6
2004	737	1.2
2005	498	0.9
2006	477	1.2
2007	1,077	1.2
2008	1,100	1.3
2009	1,451	1.3
2010	1,866	2.0
2011	2,938	3.4
2012	6,424	2.8
2013	6,560	3.2
2014	6,958	3.1
2015	8,297	4.2
2016	5,919	4.1
2017	2,334	3.3
All	49,535	2.6

# Discard Trends



- No commercial discards of gtf in directed gtf trips (according to VTR data)
- Commercial discards of gtf are low in non-directed trips
- Commercial discards are adjusted before final quota is derived by the MC

# Discard Trends (cont'd)



- According to the “Discard Estimation, Precision, and Sample Size Analysis” conducted by the NEFSC, discard estimations for commercial fisheries are low (mostly large/small mesh trawls and gillnets)
- NEFSC – avg. 9,393 pounds (~4 mt); 2012-2016

# Incidental Landings



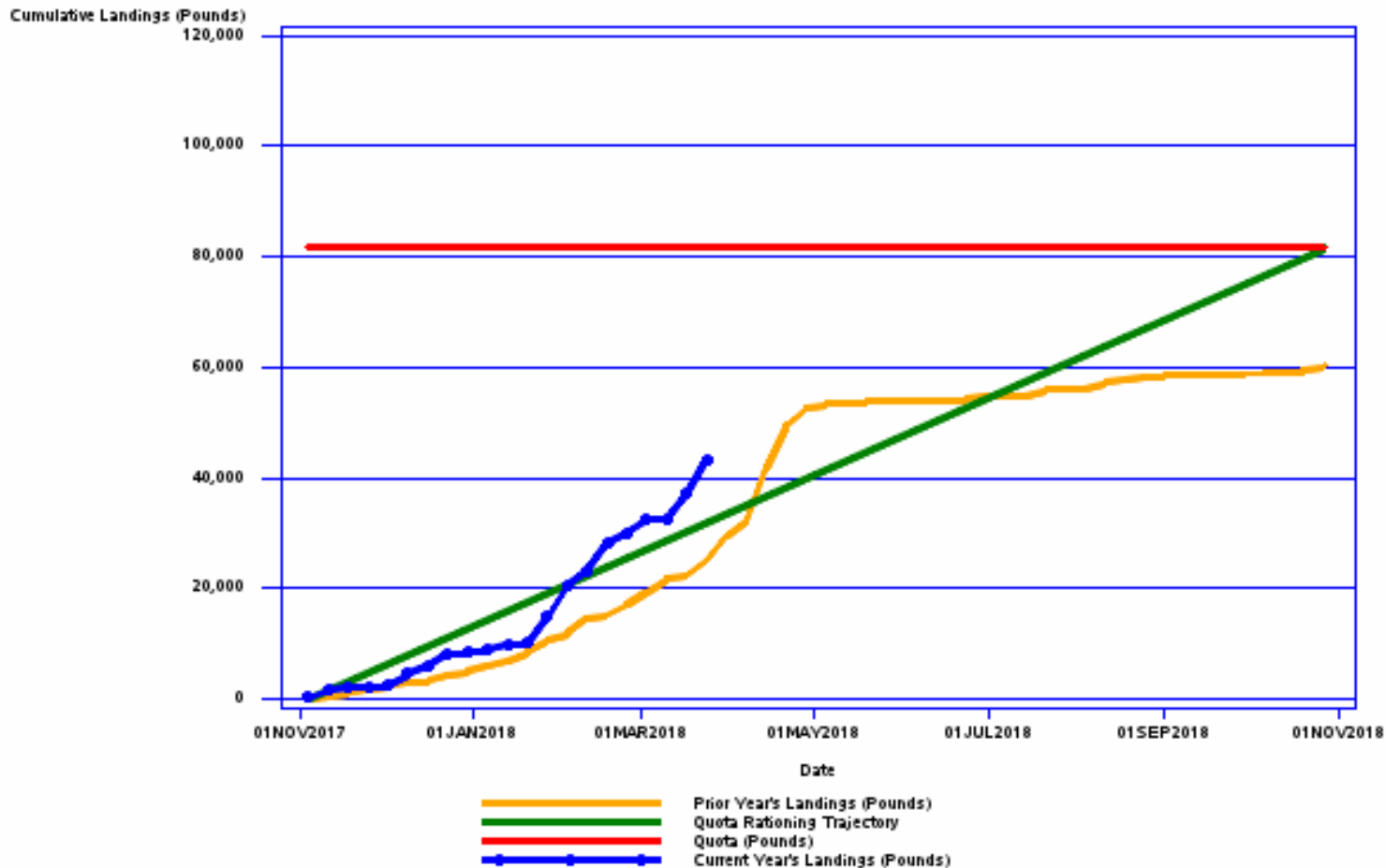
<b>Fishing year</b>	<b>Landings (pounds)</b>	<b>Incidental quota (pounds)</b>	<b>Percent of quota landed (%)</b>
<b>2013</b>	36,442	99,750	37
<b>2014</b>	44,594	99,750	45
<b>2015</b>	18,839	87,744	21
<b>2016</b>	20,929	94,357	22
<b>2017</b>	60,409	94,357	64



# Incidental Landings (cont'd)



## Incidental Golden Tilefish Quota Monitoring Report



# Fishery Performance Report

## Market Factors



- Prices continue to be stable in all market categories, except the for the small-kitten category (2 - 3.5 pounds)
- Stable prices
  - Time of landings coordination
  - Avoid market gluts
  - Spreading landing throughout the year
  - Marketing efforts

# Fishery Performance Report

## Market Factors (cont'd)



- Having a steady year-round supply of tilefish has influenced the positive market development for this product
- Due to the high cost of operations, tilefish vessels fish as close to home port as possible
  - *Illex* from 50¢ to \$1 per pound since Oct 2017

# FPR - Environmental



- Industry has observed no tilefish aggregation changes due to changes in water temperature
- Dogfish interactions reduces tilefish catches and strongly affect where people fish

# FPR - Mgmt. Issues



- IFQ system benefits - can plan fishing through the year. Working closely with each other and dealers to avoid market gluts

# FPR - Fishing Trends



- Current landings overall for the 2018 FY > same time last year
- Small-Kitten category landings increasing (2 to 3.5 pounds); continues to be a large % of overall catch composition
- Fishermen are not moving around much as they are finding a healthy mix of animals in traditional fishing grounds
- Two rec advisors - large aggregations of fish in some southern mid-Atlantic canyons have decreased and that a higher percentage of their catch is comprised of smaller fish

# FPR - Recreational Trends



- Five or six headboats directly fish for GTF & BLT but not 100% of the time
- Limited # trips throughout the season (summer time)
- For example, the boat w/ the largest # of scheduled trips (24 trips) do not take all of those trips (weather)

# FPR - Recreational Trends (cont'd)



- Reg changes in VA could increase effort for golden
  - 7 fish any golden/blueline combo per angler/trip
  - 8 golden and 7 blueline per angler/trip
- Fed reg changes in the blueline fishery season/closures (Nov 1 - Apr 30) may decrease golden fishing effort



# FPR - Other



- Severe winter conditions in the northeast in 2013-2017 affected fishing operations/practices, resulting in longer fishing trips
- Crew issues
- Constant harvest strategy working well in rebuilding fishery. Do not want to see different ACL every year

# FPRs – Other (cont'd)



- Concerns about directed trips in the incidental category by non-trawl vessels
- Concerns about vessels targeting GTF under the incidental rules. Some of these vessels do not have permitting requirements to sell fish or meet CG safety requirements

# FPRs – Other (cont'd)



- Consider differential trip limits (for hire vs private) and longer recreational trips (structured after the Gulf of Mexico regulations)
- Consider recreational allocation

# FPRs – Other (cont'd)



- Concerns about relaxing recreational regulations = higher recreational landings; while commercial quota could remain at status quo levels or decrease in the future
- Concerns about increasing any effort, bag limit, while maintaining status quo for the commercial fishery

# Staff Recommendations



- Memo to Chris Moore
- Based on the review of the NEFSC data update, FPR, and other available information
- No change to the 2019 fishing year specifications

# SSC/MC Recommendations



- SSC recommended no changes to the 2019 ABC
- MC recommended no changes to the catch and landings limits, trip limit, or bag limit previously recommended for 2019 specifications

# SSC/MC recommendations

	2018	2019	2020	Basis (2018-2020)
<b>OFL</b>	2.332 m lb (1,058 mt)	2.421 m lb (1,098 mt)	2.291 m lb (1,039 mt)	Projections
<b>ABC</b>	1.636 m lb (742 mt)	<b>1.636 m lb</b> <b>(742 mt)</b>	1.636 m lb (742 mt)	Projections/ Council Risk Policy (recommendation, based on overfishing probability averaging)
<b>ABC % of OFL</b>	70%	68%	71%	
<b>ACL</b>	1.636 m lb (742 mt)	1.636 m lb (742 mt)	1.636 m lb (742 mt)	ABC = ACL

# SSC/MC recommendations (cont'd)

	2018	2019	2020	Basis (2018-2020)
<b>IFQ ACT</b>	1.554 m <u>lb</u> (705 mt)	<b>1.554 m lb</b> (705 mt)	1.554 m lb (705 mt)	IFQ 95% of ACL Incidental 5% of ACL. Deduction for management uncertainty = 0
<b>Incidental ACT</b>	0.08 m <u>lb</u> (37 mt)	<b>0.08 m lb</b> (37 mt)	0.08 m lb (37 mt)	
<b>IFQ Discards</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	
<b>Incidental Discards</b>	0.009 (4 mt)	<b>0.009 m lb</b> (4 mt)	0.009 m lb (4 mt)	Avg. discard (2012-2016) mostly sm/lg mesh OT and Gillnet gear
<b>IFQ TAL</b>	1.554 m <u>lb</u> (705 mt)	<b>1.554 m lb</b> (705 mt)	1.554 m lb (705 mt)	IFQ ACT – IFQ discards
<b>Incidental TAL</b>	0.07 m <u>lb</u> (33 mt)	<b>0.07 m lb</b> (33 mt)	0.07 m lb (33 mt)	Incidental ACT – Incidental discards
<b>IFQ Quota</b>	1,554,038 (704.90 mt)	<b>1,554,038</b> (704.90 mt)	1,554,038 (704.90 mt)	
<b>Incidental Quota</b>	72,398 <u>lb</u> (32.84 mt)	<b>72,398 lb</b> (32.84 mt)	72,398 lb (32.84 mt)	



# Questions?

