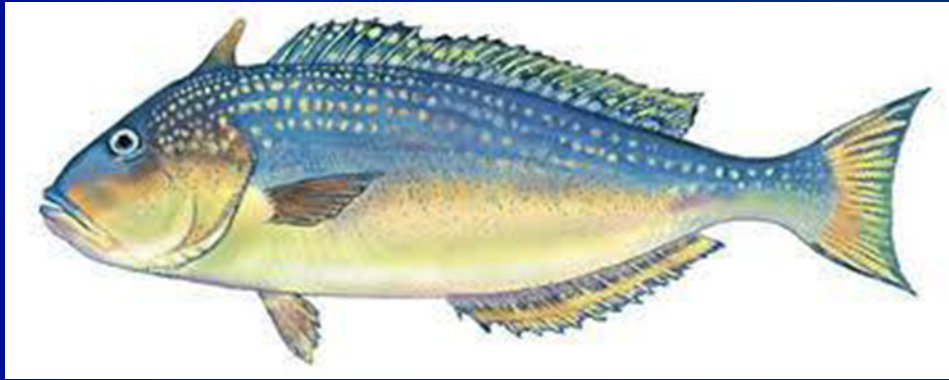


Golden Tilefish



Council Meeting
8 April 2020

Outline

1. Regulatory Review: specs. process & timeline
2. Stock status & data update
3. Recent fishery performance
4. SSC recommendations
5. MC recommendations

I. Regulatory Review & Background

Specifications Process Review/Timeline

- 2018, 2019, 2020 multi-year specifications cycle
 - Ends with 2020 FY (Nov 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020)

Specifications Process Review/Timeline (cont.)

- NRCC new stock assessment process & schedule
 - Management track assessment update – 2021
 - Peer review, June 2021
- This year, Council will use the GTF data update and other relevant information to set specifications for
 - 2021 and 2022 (interim)
- 2021 Management track assessment
 - Revise interim 2022 and set 2023 and 2024 specifications

II. Stock Status / Data Update

Stock Status

- Golden tilefish stock assessment update (Nitschke 2017)
- Fishing mortality in 2016 was estimated at $F=0.249$; 20% below the fishing mortality threshold of $F=0.310$ (F_{MSY} proxy= $F_{38\%}$)
- SSB in 2016 was estimated at 18.69 million pounds (8,479 mt), and was at 89% of the biomass target (SSB_{MSY} proxy= $SSB_{38\%}$; 21 million pounds or 9,492 mt)

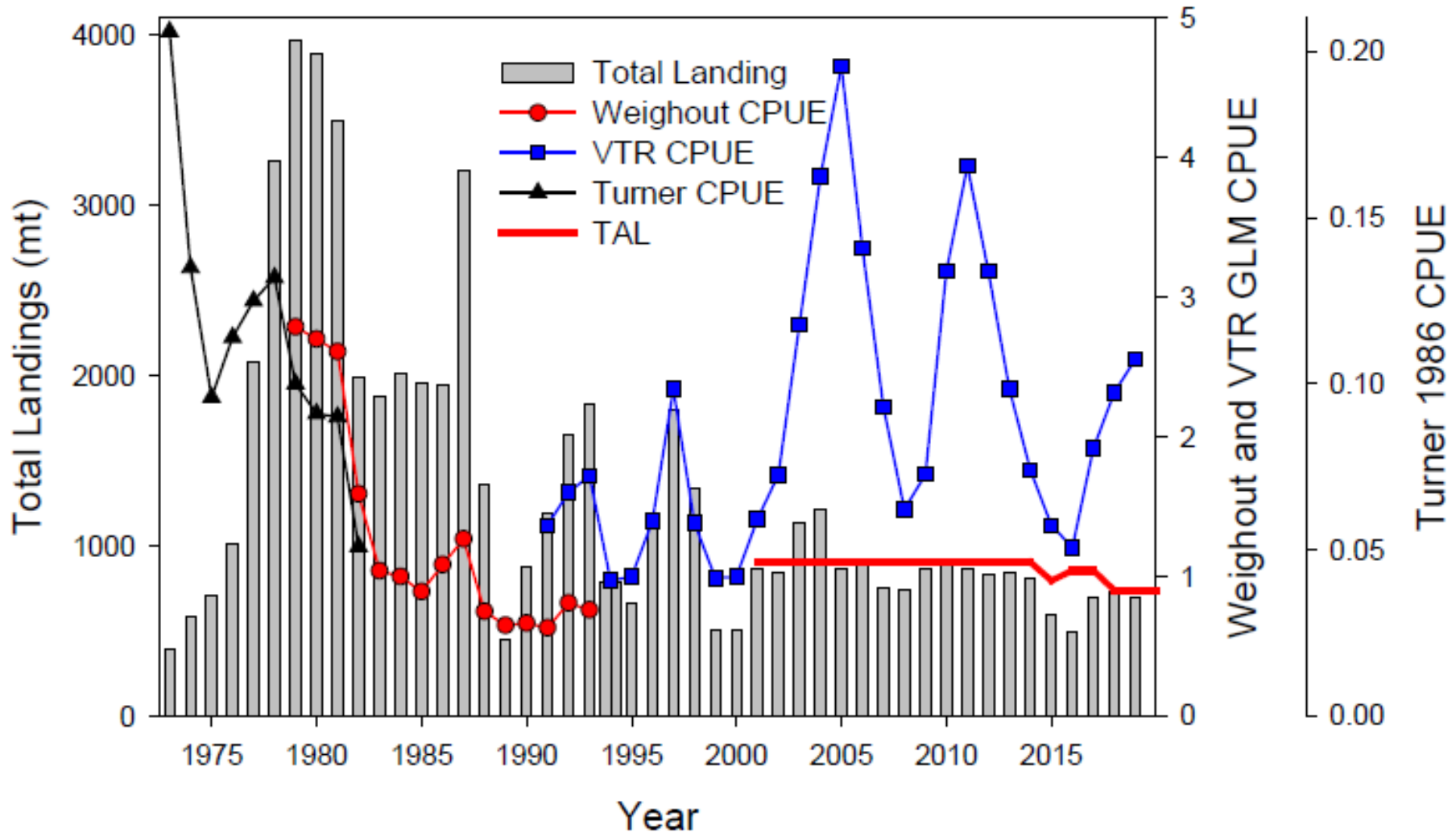
2020 Data Update

- As part of the reviewing process, the NEFSC provided
 - Trends commercial landings
 - Longline fishery CPUE
 - Size distribution of fish landed
 - Data through 2019

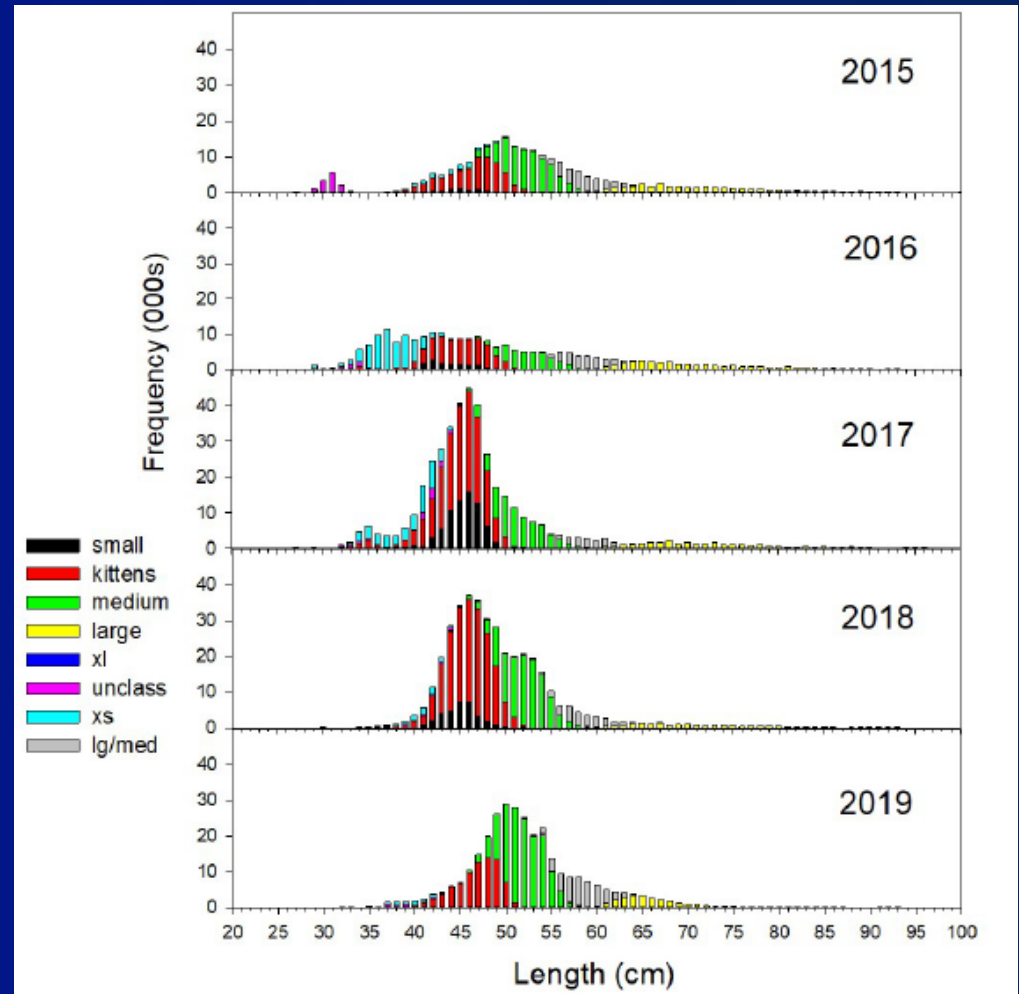
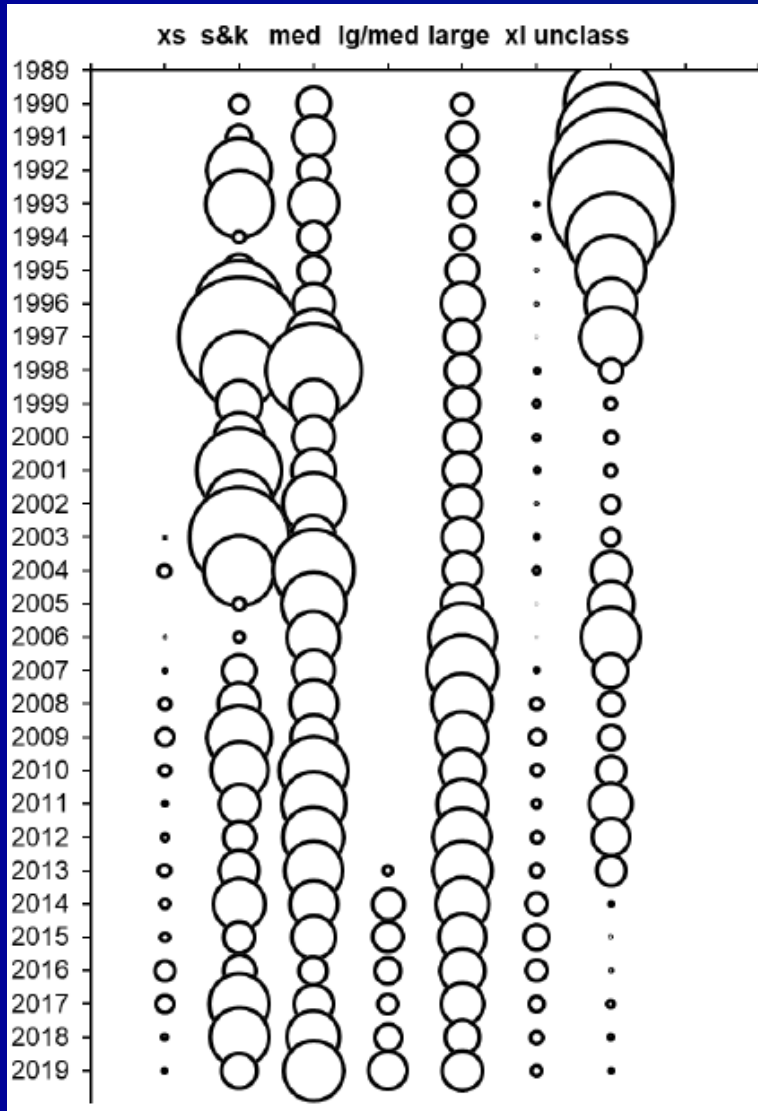
2020 Data Update (cont.)

- CPUE in 2019 increased relative to 2018 as predicted from growth of the strong 2013 year class
- Tracking of the strong 2013 year class is also reflected in the landings market category proportions and the landings at length distributions

2020 Data Update (cont.)



2020 Data Update (cont.)



III. FID AND FPR

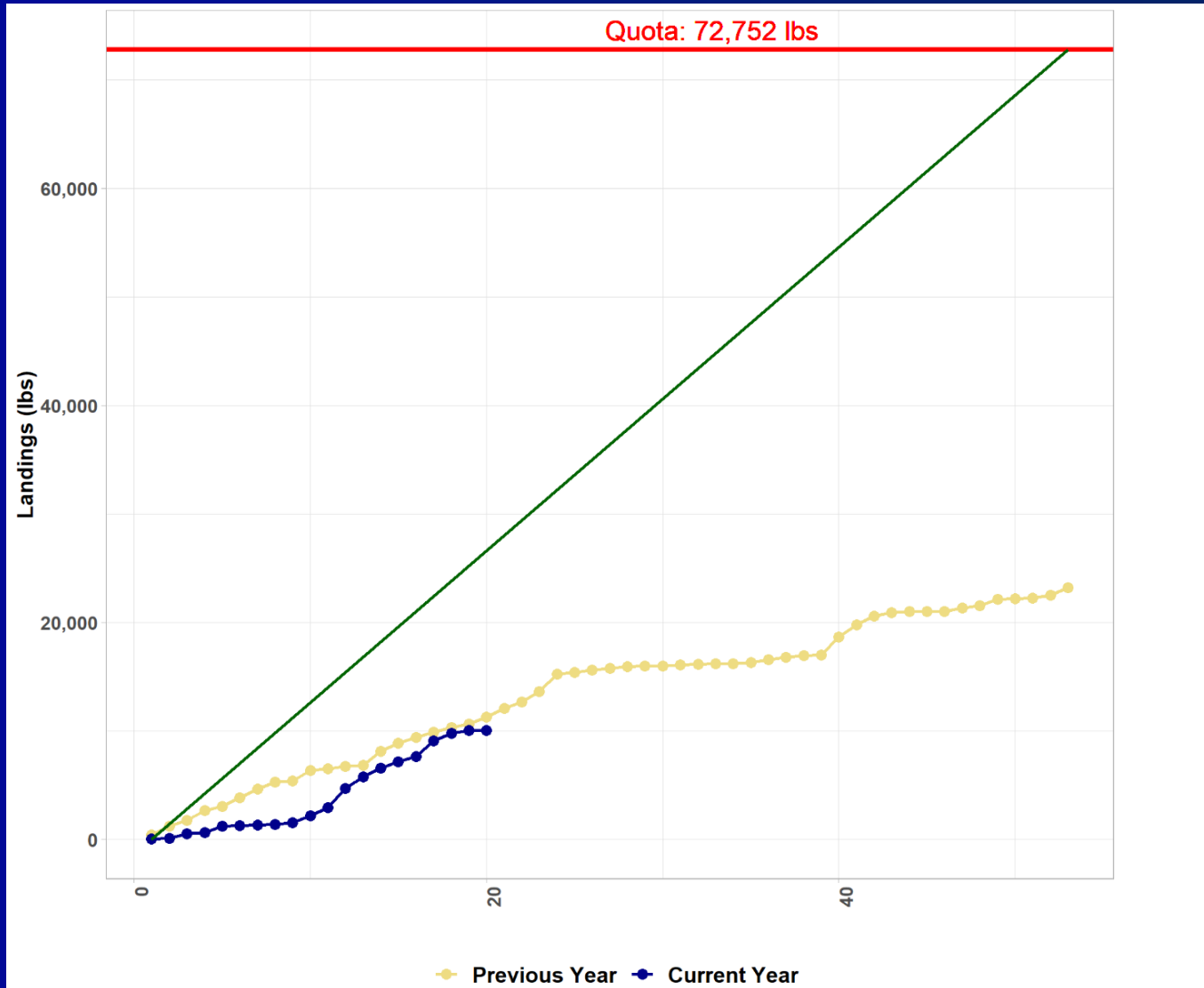
Commercial Landings

- Year to year landings relatively stable since IFQ system became effective; few exceptions
- 2019 landings ~1.4 million pounds (<1% decrease from 2018)
- 2019 ex-vessel revenue ~ \$5.4 (10% increase from 2018)

Commercial Landings (cont.)

- 2019 mean price per pound ~ \$3.81 (15% increase from 2018)
 - Average 2015-2019 = \$3.72 per pound
- Stable IFQ vessel participation by top ports

Incidental Landings



Incidental Landings (cont.)

Fishing year	Landings (pounds)	Incidental quota (pounds)	Percent of quota landed (%)
2013	36,442	99,750	37
2014	44,594	99,750	45
2015	18,839	87,744	21
2016	20,929	94,357	22
2017	60,409	94,357	64
2018	61,254	72,752	84
2019	22,246	72,752	31

Table 12. Incidental commercial landings for 2013-2019 fishing years.

Commercial Discards

- No commercial discards of golden tilefish in directed tilefish trips (VTR)
- None to very little discarding of other species reported in longline vessels targeting GTF (VTR)
- Commercial discards are low in non-directed trips

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)
 - 2015-2019 – avg. 11,524 pounds (~5 mt)

Dealers

- In 2018 - 76 dealers - \$4.9 million – 138 vessels
- In 2019 - 49 dealers - \$5.4 million – 106 vessels
- Dealers are mostly located in NY, CT, NJ, & RI

Recreational Landings

- Recreational landings and catches are low (MRIP and VTR data)
 - MRIP, GTF is a rare event species
 - Zero for most years up to 215K fish in 2010
 - ~11K in 2019
 - According to VTR data, 2,733 fish were landed by party/charter boats in 2019
 - Lowest value since 2011
 - Average 2015 to 2019 = 6,213 fish

FPR

- Fishermen are not moving around much as they are finding a healthy mix of animals in traditional fishing grounds
- Industry members have observed a new year class coming into the fishery in 2019
- They have also seen a wide range of fish landed in terms of size and weight when compared to the year before

FPR (cont.)

- CPUE increasing
 - Dogfish interactions in 2019 continued to be high but at the same level seen in 2018
 - Skates interactions increased in 2019 when compared to 2018 (increased size of skates and numbers)

FPR (cont.)

- CPUE increasing . . .
 - Smooth dogfish have increased in recent years (e.g., encountering more animals and further east)
 - Weather in 2019 continued to be poor, winter started earlier in 2019 (October) when compared to 2018 conditions
 - Catching more fish and fishing is improving

FPR (cont.)

- IFQ system = benefits
- Constant harvest strategy worked well in rebuilding fishery. Do not want to see different landings limits every year

FPR (cont.)

- Consider a recreational allocation
- Consider a differential trip limit (for hire vs private) and longer recreational trips
- Consider recreational management strategies (e.g., longer recreational trips), structured after the Gulf of Mexico regulations

FPR (cont.)

- Industry members indicated that for-hire trips targeting golden tilefish went down in 2019
 - Weather factors
 - Improved tuna and swordfish fishing conditions

FPR (cont.)

- 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

IV. Other Relevant information

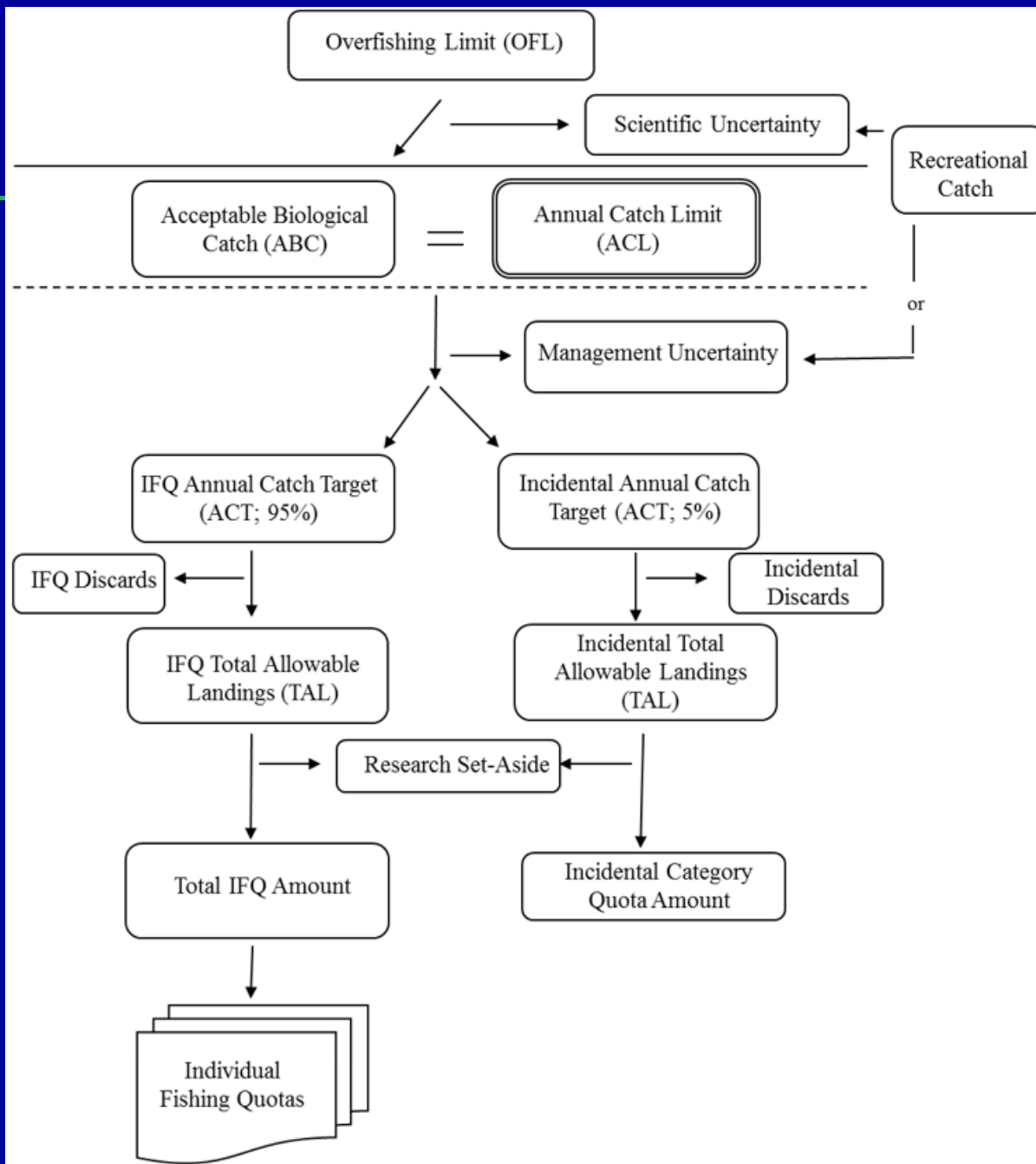
Private Recreational Permitting/Reporting

- Approved in Amendment 6 to the Tilefish FMP in 2017, but with delayed implementation
- Proposed rule published on January 29, 2020
- Implementation expected on May 1, 2020
- Outreach to occur between March - April

2020 GTF Survey

- Fishery-independent bottom longline survey for the Mid-Atlantic Golden tilefish stock
- Council/Industry/NMFS
- Goal bottom longline survey design is to develop an abundance index for the golden tilefish stock
- Summer 2020

V. Flow Chart



Tilefish Flow Chart for Catch and Landings Limits

VI. SSC Recommendations

SSC

- *Status quo* ABCs
- SSC recommended an ABC of 1.636 million pounds (742 mt) for each 2021 and interim 2022
- The SSC expressed concerns about the interim measures for 2022 with respect to their uncertainty

SSC (cont.)

- These positive and negative factors include:
 - No major evidence in the commercial and recreational fisheries that stock conditions have changed substantially
 - Absence of direct evidence of new recruitment
 - An observed decline in recreational harvest but explained by decline in effort due to weather

SSC (cont.)

- Concerns about precision of recreational catch
 - Noted that a new recreational fishing permitting and reporting initiative may improve quality of estimates
- CPUE in the commercial fishery has been increasing over the past few years

SSC (cont.)

- No compelling evidence to change the current ABC
- The 2021 management track assessment will be used to revise the interim 2022 specifications and set specifications for the 2023 and 2024 fishing seasons

SSC (cont.)

- Provisional 2022 ABC, concerns
 - But the SSC was reassured by the expected joint availability of results from the 2021 assessment update and the 2020 cooperative fishery independent golden tilefish longline survey
- The SSC endorsed the ABCs recommended by staff for 2021 and 2022 (interim)

VII. MC Recommendations

MC Recommendations

- Discussed
 - Management uncertainty - no adjustment
 - The poorly described level of recreational catch and effort
 - New recreational fishing permitting and reporting initiative under Amendment 6 to the Tilefish
 - Improve quality of estimates

MC Recommendations (cont.)

- Discards, incidental fishery
 - 2015-2019; avg. 11,524 pounds (~5 mt)
- No change to the 8-fish per person bag limit
 - Continue to monitor
- No change to the 500-lb whole weight (458-lb gutted) incidental trip limit
- The MC endorsed the management measures recommended by staff for 2021 and 2022 (interim)

	2020 (Current)	2021	2022 (interim)	Basis (2021-2022)
OFL	2.290 m <u>lb</u> (1,039 mt)	NA	NA	NA
ABC	1.636 m <u>lb</u> (742 mt)	1.636 m <u>lb</u> (742 mt)	1.636 m <u>lb</u> (742 mt)	Staff recommendation, based on recent fishing trends and scheduled 2021 management track assessment update
ABC % of OFL	72%	NA	NA	
ACL	1.636 m <u>lb</u> (742 mt)	1.636 m <u>lb</u> (742 mt)	1.636 m <u>lb</u> (742 mt)	ABC = ACL
IFQ ACT	1.554 m <u>lb</u> (705 mt)	1.554 m <u>lb</u> (705 mt)	1.554 m <u>lb</u> (705 mt)	IFQ 95% of ACL Incidental 5% of ACL. Deduction for management uncertainty = 0
Incidental ACT	0.082 m <u>lb</u> (37 mt)	0.082 m <u>lb</u> (37 mt)	0.082 m <u>lb</u> (37 mt)	
IFQ Discards	0	0	0	Discards in the IFQ fishery are prohibited
Incidental Discards	0.009 m <u>lb</u> (4 mt)	0.011 m <u>lb</u> (5 mt)	0.011 m <u>lb</u> (5 mt)	Avg. discard (2015-2019) mostly <u>sm</u> /lg mesh OT and Gillnet gear
IFQ TAL	1.554 m <u>lb</u> (705)	1.554 m <u>lb</u> (705 mt)	1.554 m <u>lb</u> (705 mt)	IFQ ACT - IFQ Discards
Incidental TAL	0.072 m <u>lb</u> (33 mt)	0.070 m <u>lb</u> (32 mt)	0.070 m <u>lb</u> (32 mt)	Incidental ACT - Incidental Discards

Other Issues

- Roll-over of unused IFQ quota in fishing year 2020 to fishing year 2021 due to current health pandemic
 - Low product demand
 - Prices have collapsed
 - Small onetime roll-over
- No recommendation, but something that the Council and GARFO could further investigate

Questions?

