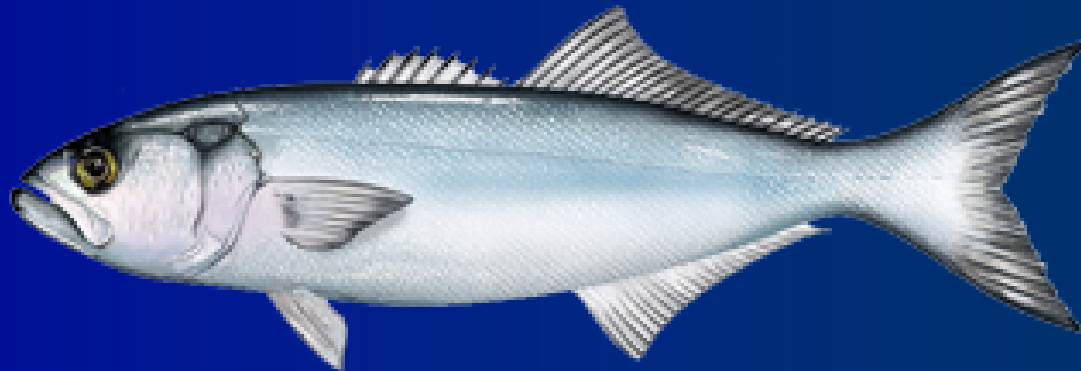




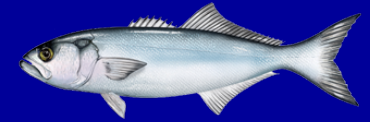
Atlantic Bluefish



Advisory Panel Meeting

August 15, 2018

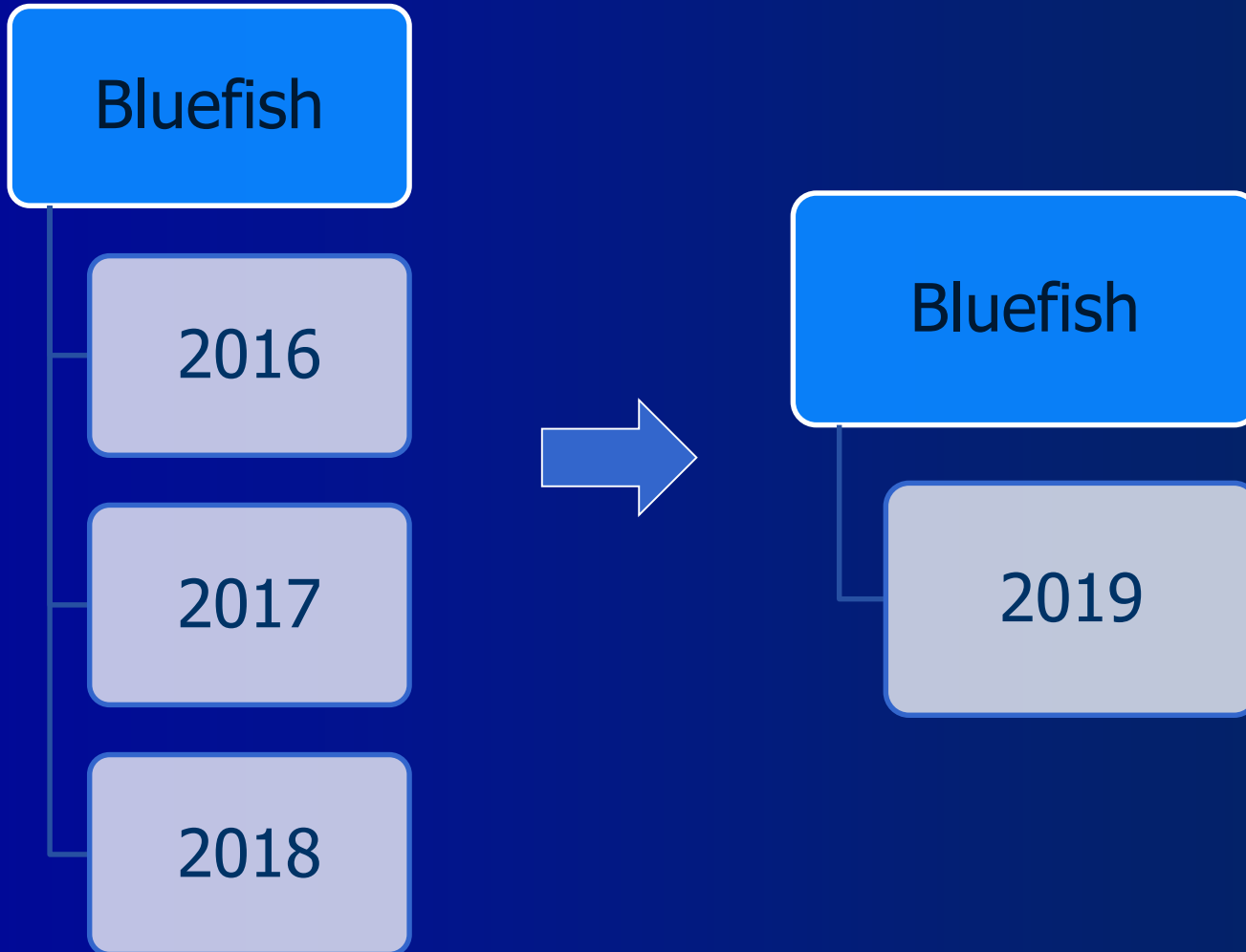
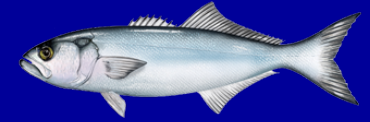
Outline



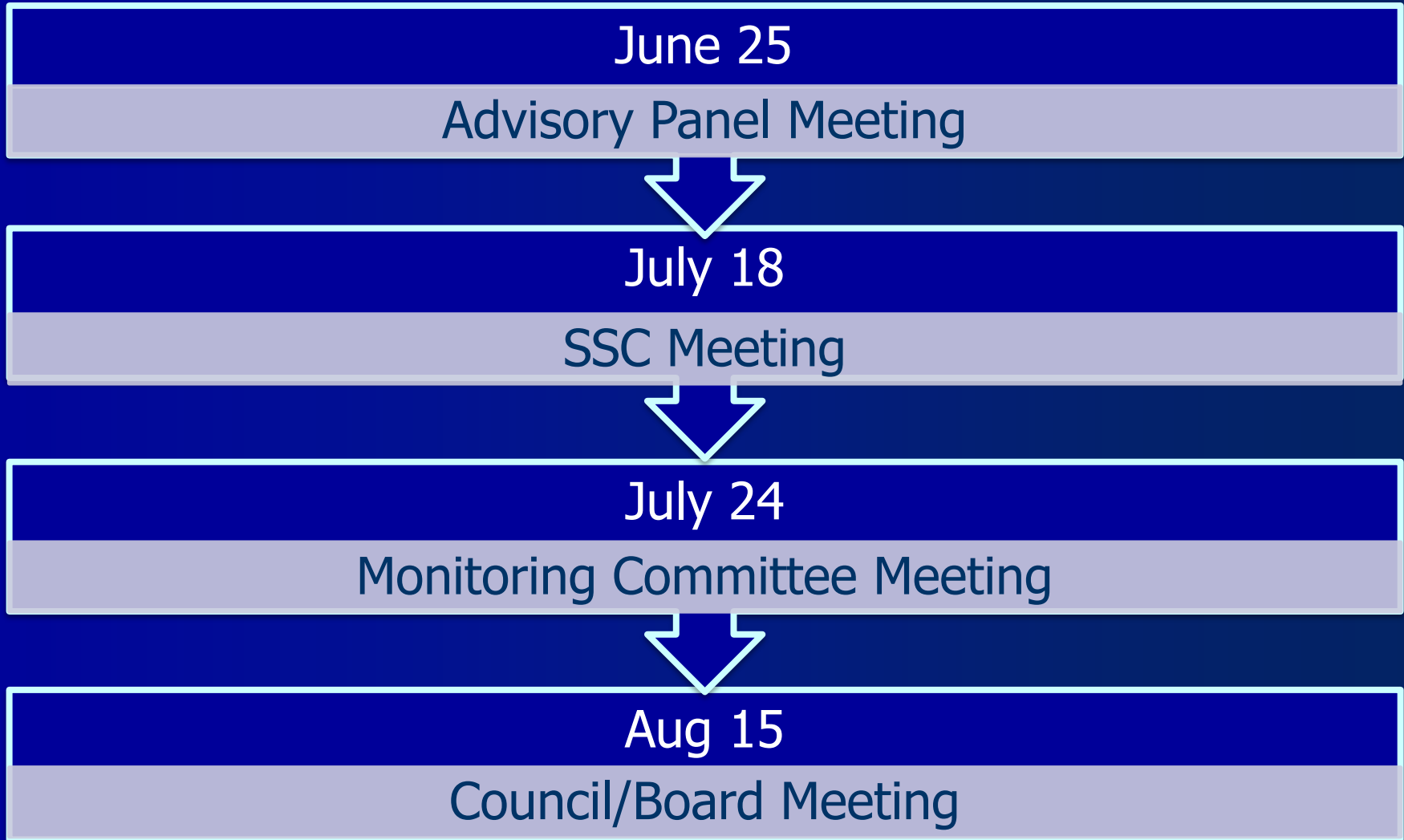
- Review
 - Recent fishery performance
 - AP info doc
 - NEFSC data update through 2017
 - FPR
 - SSC report
- Set management measures for 2019

Specifications Process -

Current specifications



Specifications Process

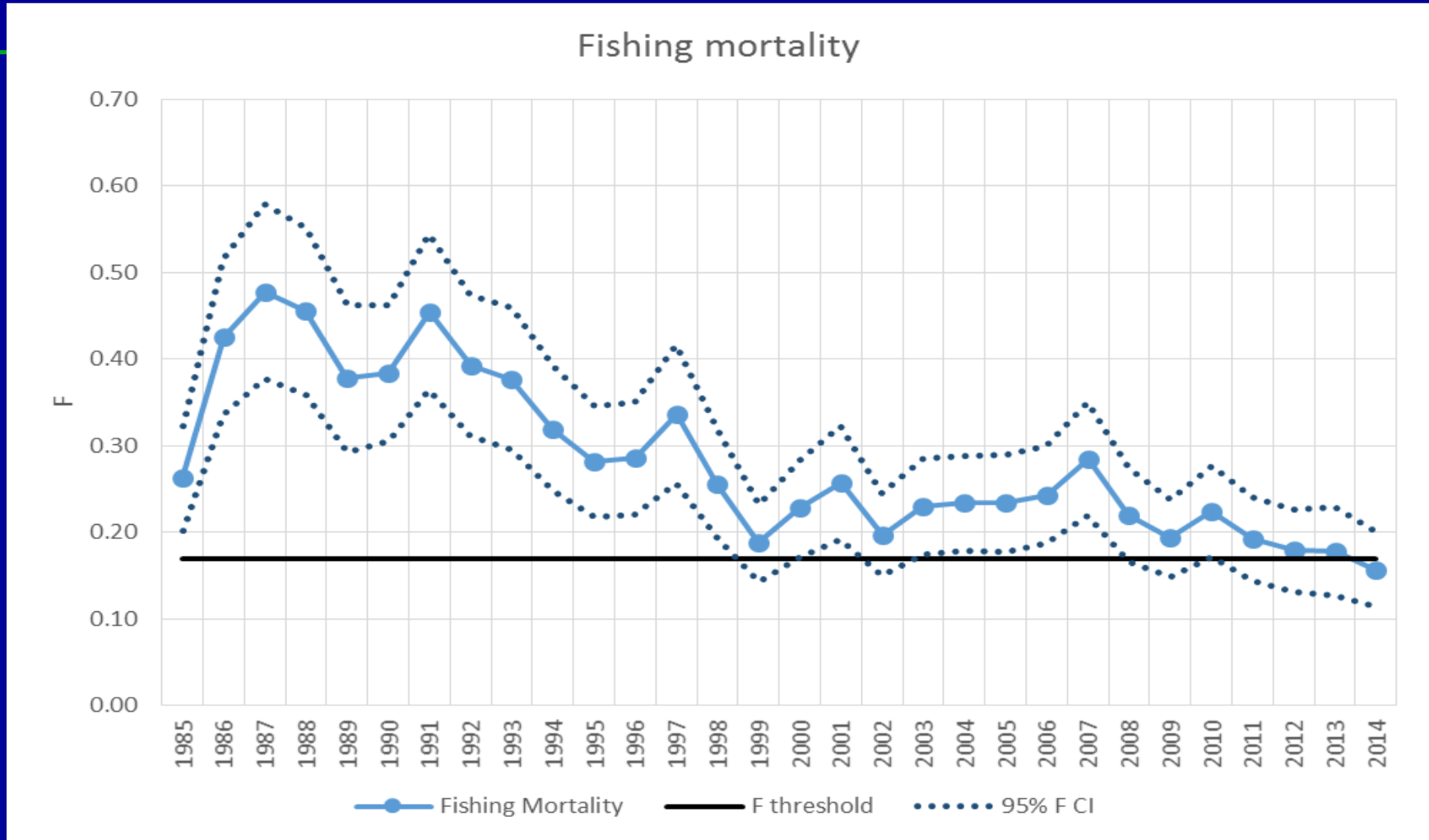
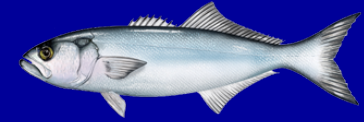


Stock Status



- Last benchmark stock assessment: 2015
 - SAW/SARC 60
- Stock is not overfished
- Overfishing is not occurring

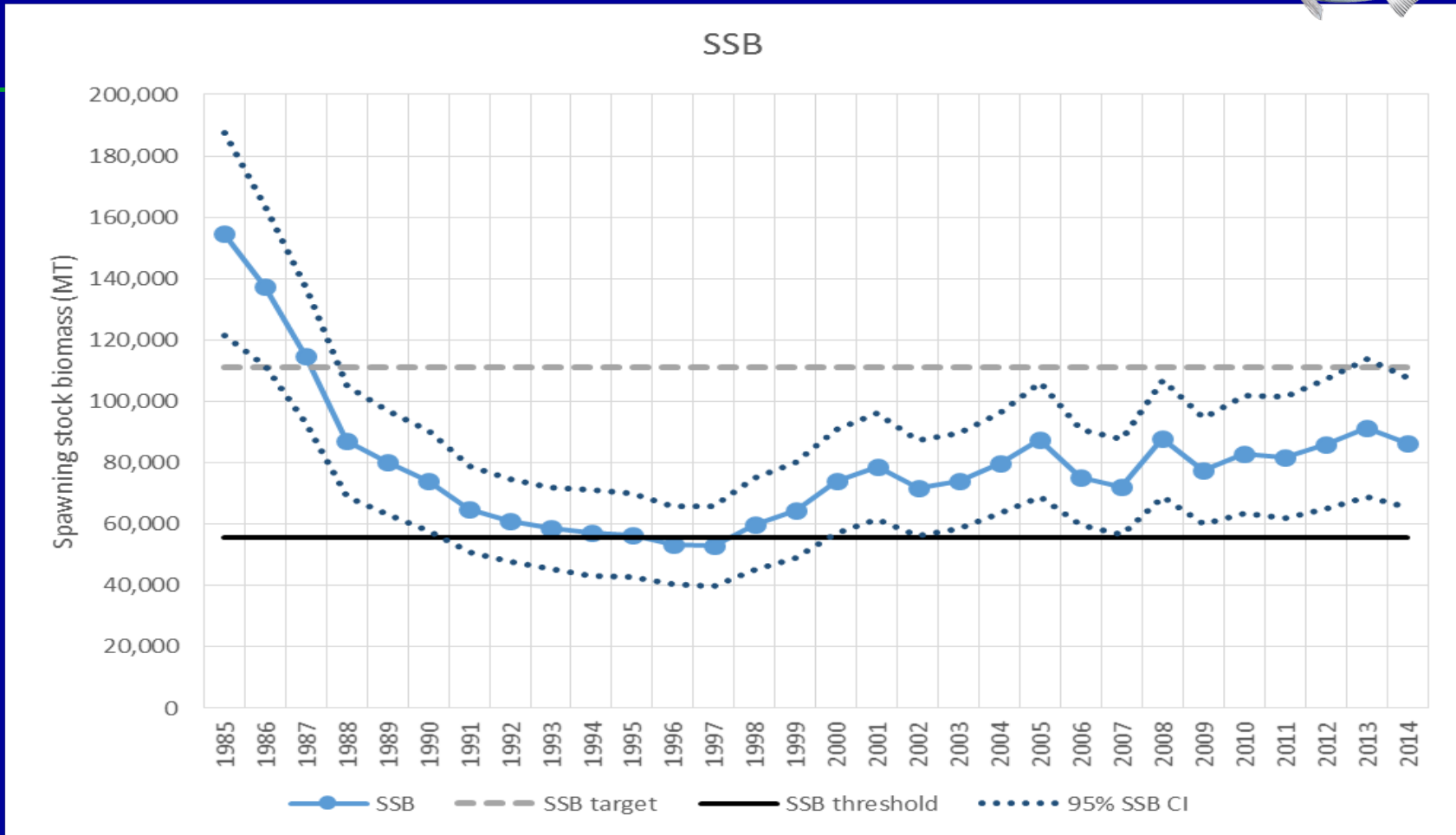
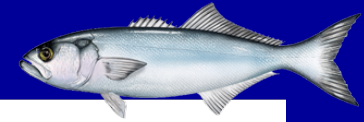
Fishing Mortality



Overfishing not occurring

(2014 $F = 0.157$; below $F_{MSY\ proxy} = F_{35\%SPR} = 0.190$)

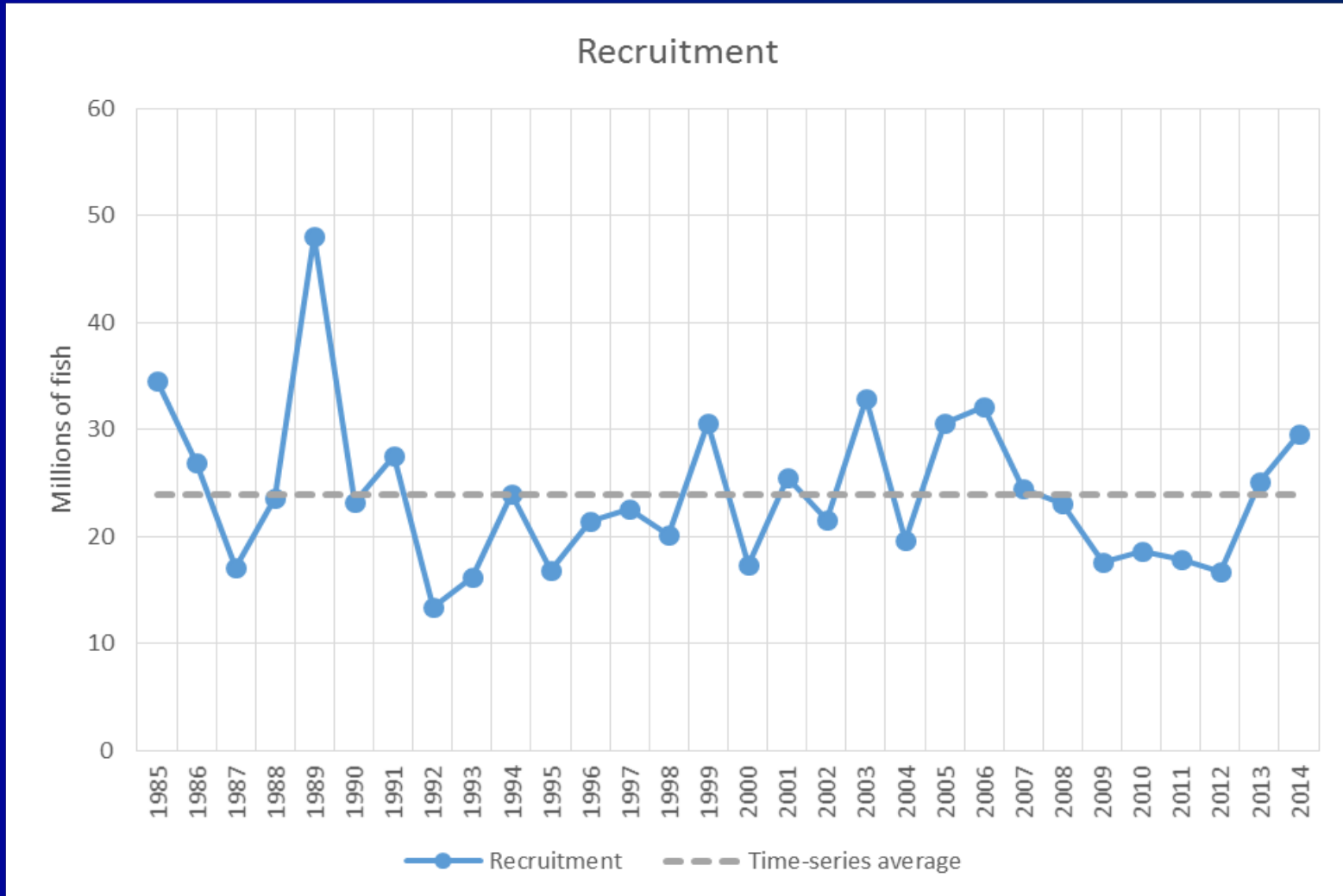
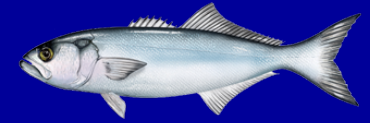
Biomass



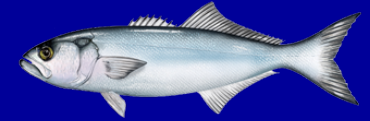
Not overfished

2014 SSB (86,534 mt) \approx 22% below $SSB_{MSY \text{ proxy}}$ (111,228 mt), but still well above biomass threshold ($\frac{1}{2} SSB_{MSY \text{ proxy}} = 55,614$ mt)

Recruitment



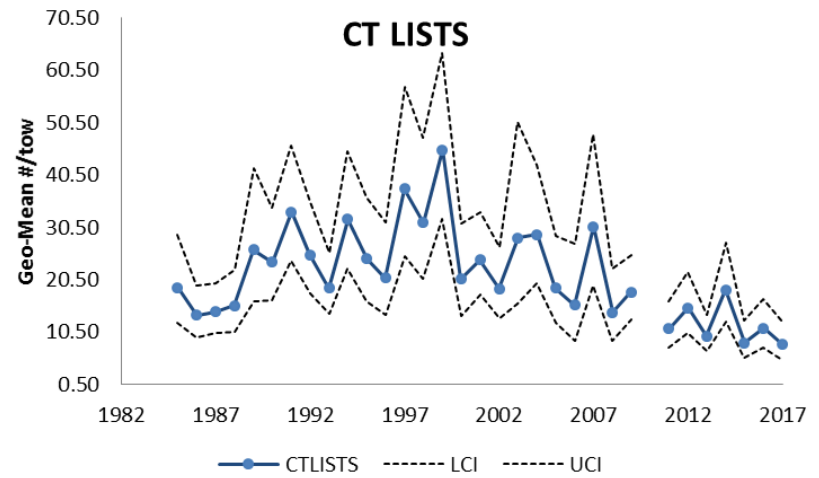
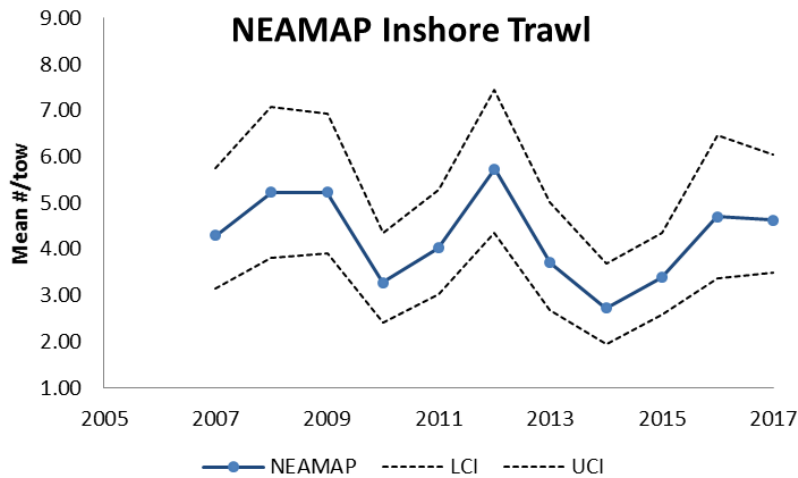
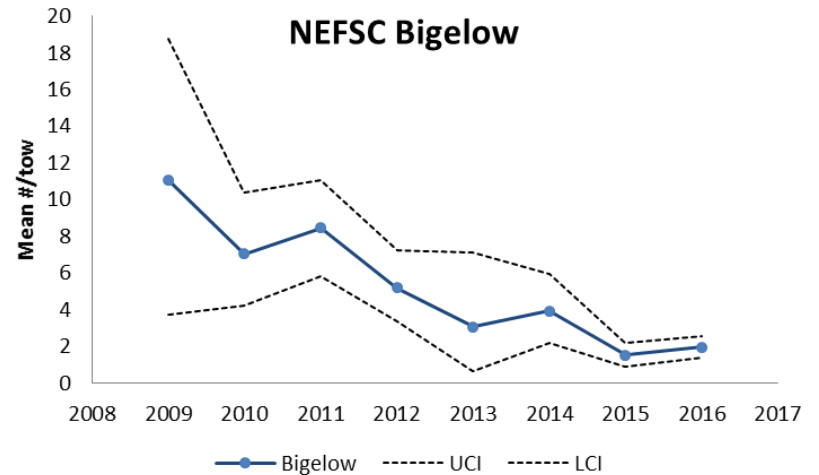
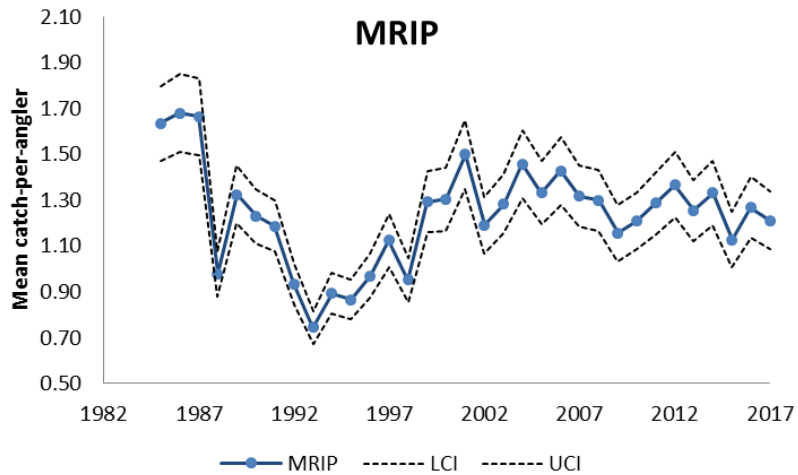
Data Update



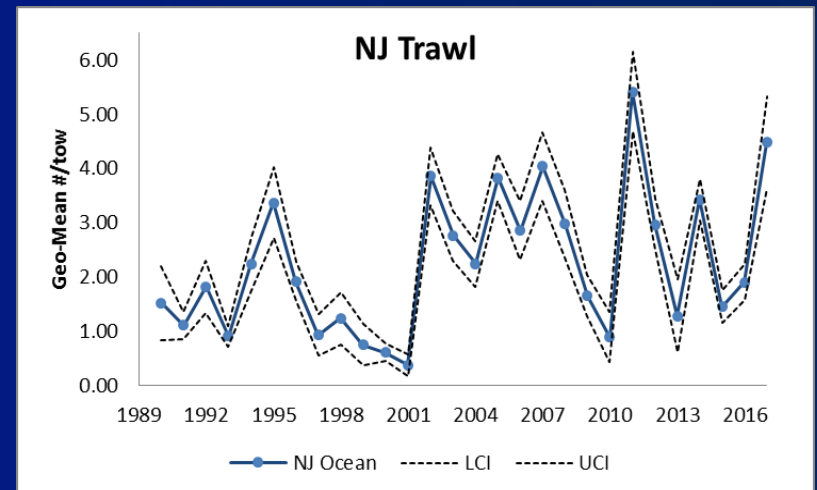
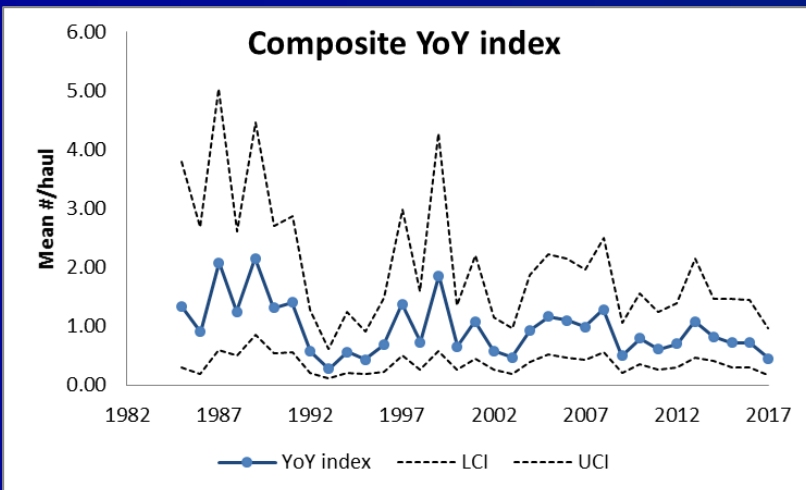
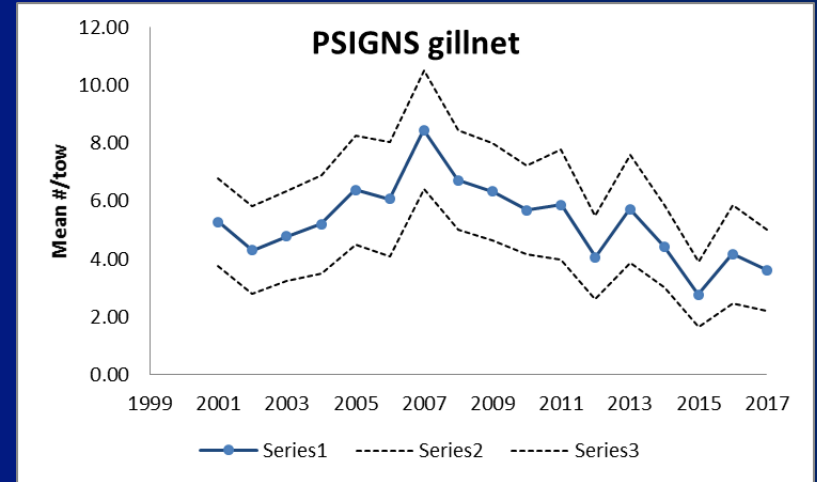
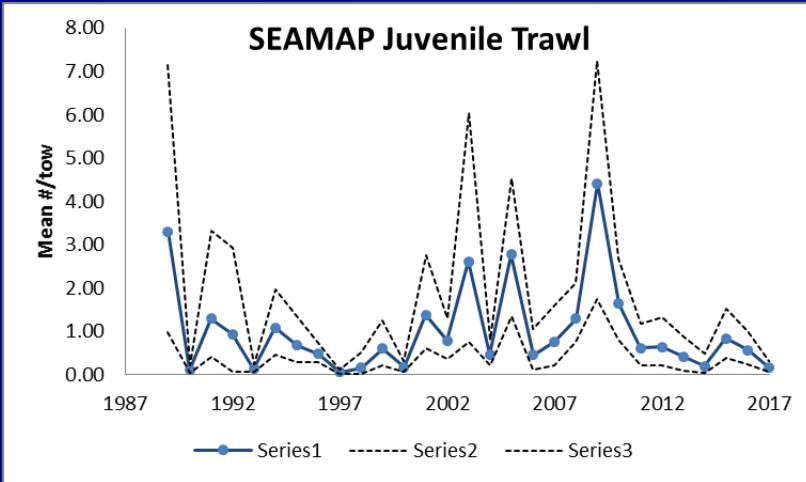
- Updated fishery-independent indices through 2017



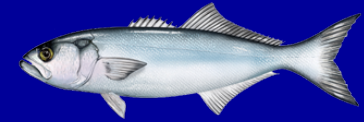
Data Update



Data Update

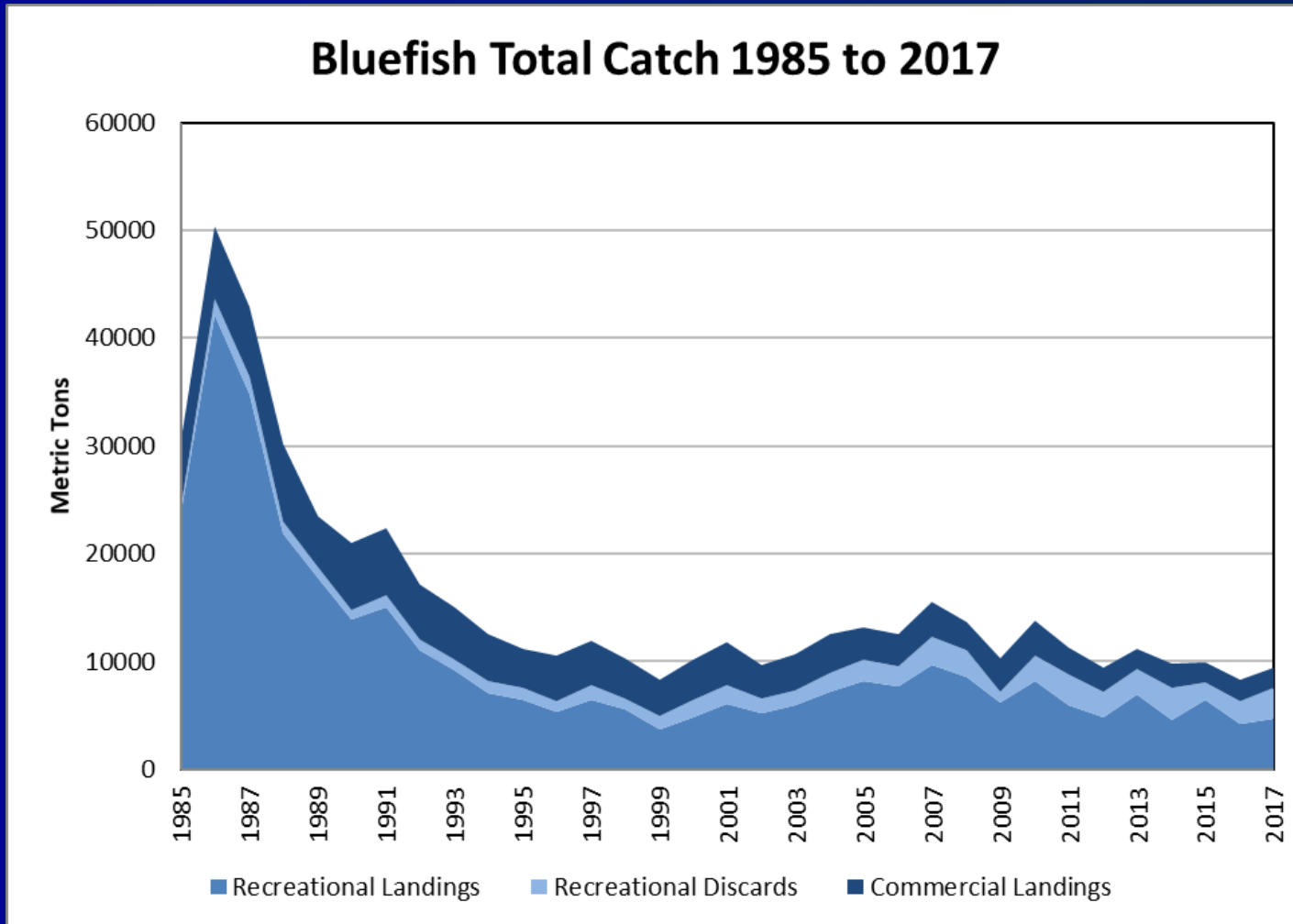
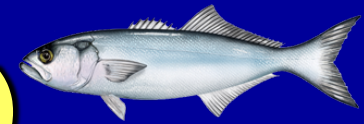


Management Measures



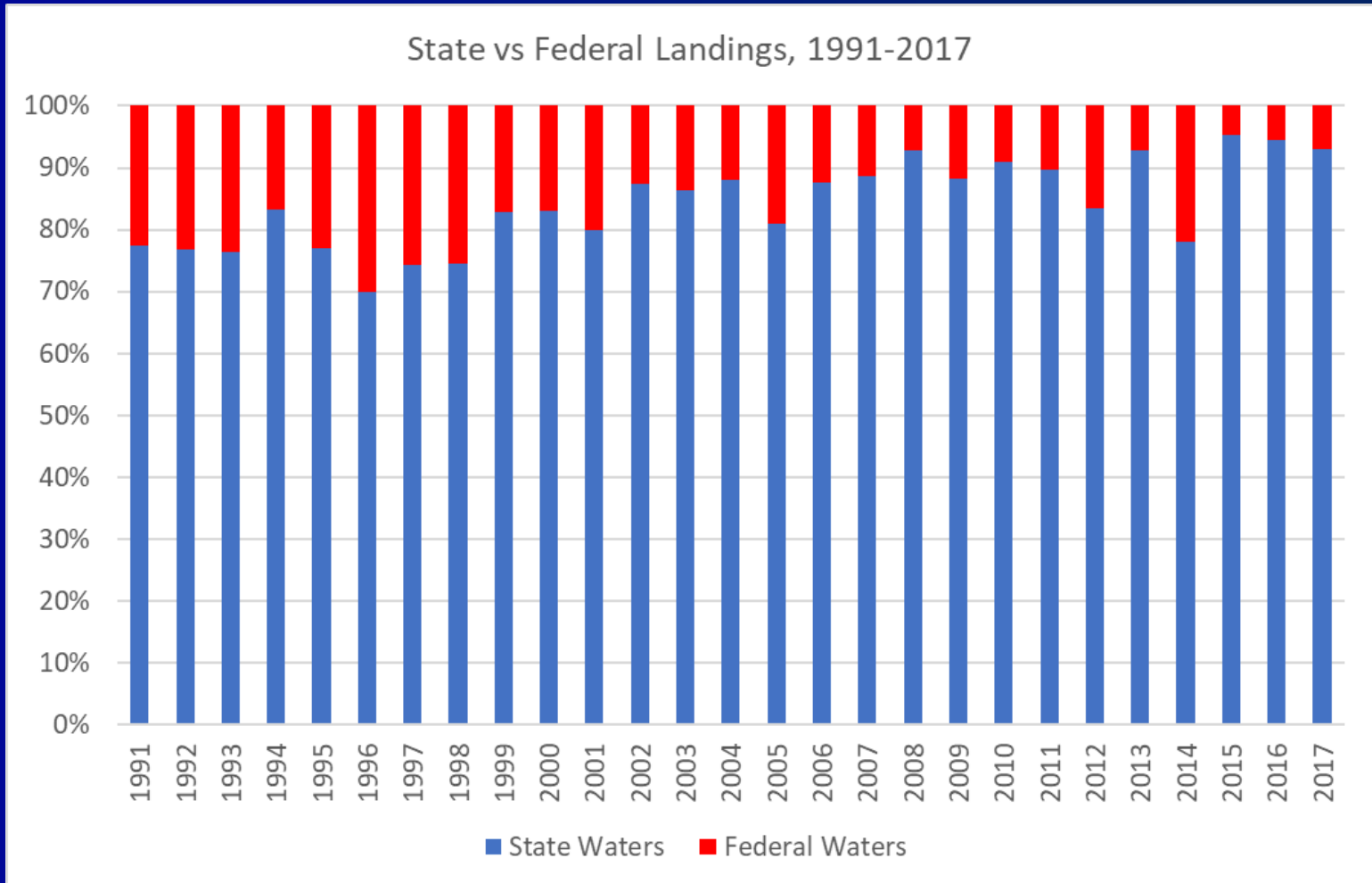
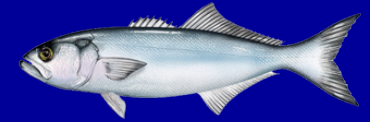
Management Measures		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TAC ¹ / ABC ²	2000-2012 See table 1	27.47	24.43	21.54	19.45	20.64	21.81
TAL ³		23.86	21.08	18.19	16.46	18.19	18.82
Comm. Quota ⁴		9.08	7.46	5.24	4.88	8.54	7.24
Comm. Landings ⁵		4.12	4.77	4.02	4.1	3.64	-
Rec. Harvest Limit ⁴		14.07	13.62	12.95	11.58	9.65	11.58
Rec. Landings ⁶		16.46	10.46	11.67	9.54	9.52	-
Rec. Possession Limit (# fish)		15	15	15	15	15	15
Total Landings		20.58	15.23	15.69	13.64	13.16	-
Overage/Underage		-3.28	-5.85	-2.5	-2.82	-5.03	-
Total Catch ⁷		24.06	17.96	18.65	16.09	15.65	-
Overage/ Underage		-3.41	-6.47	-2.89	-3.36	4.99	-

Catch (landings and discards)

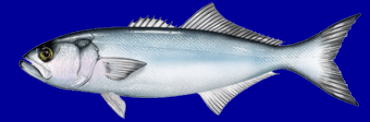


Anthony Wood 2018, NEFSC

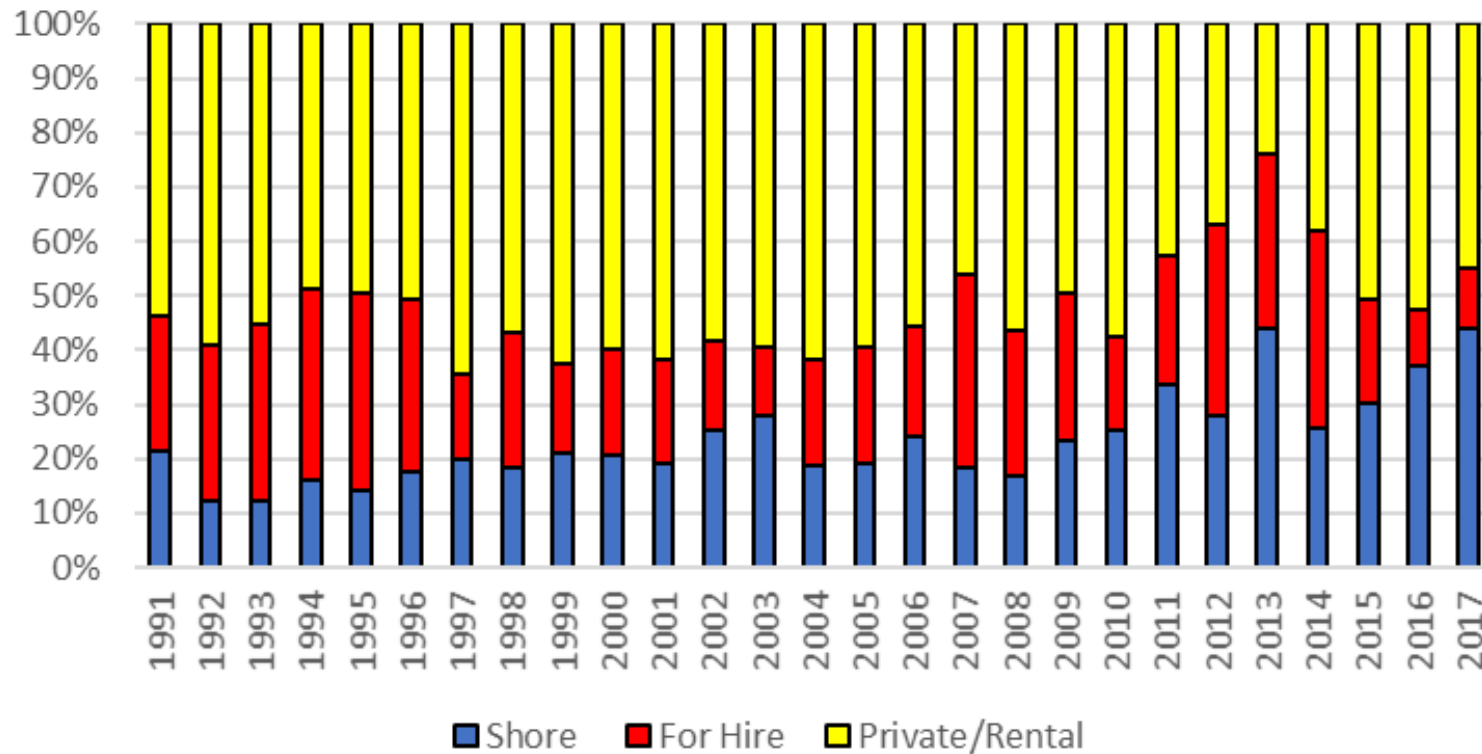
Recreational Fishery



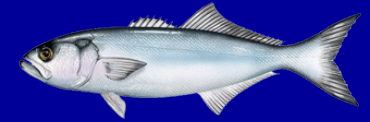
Recreational Fishery



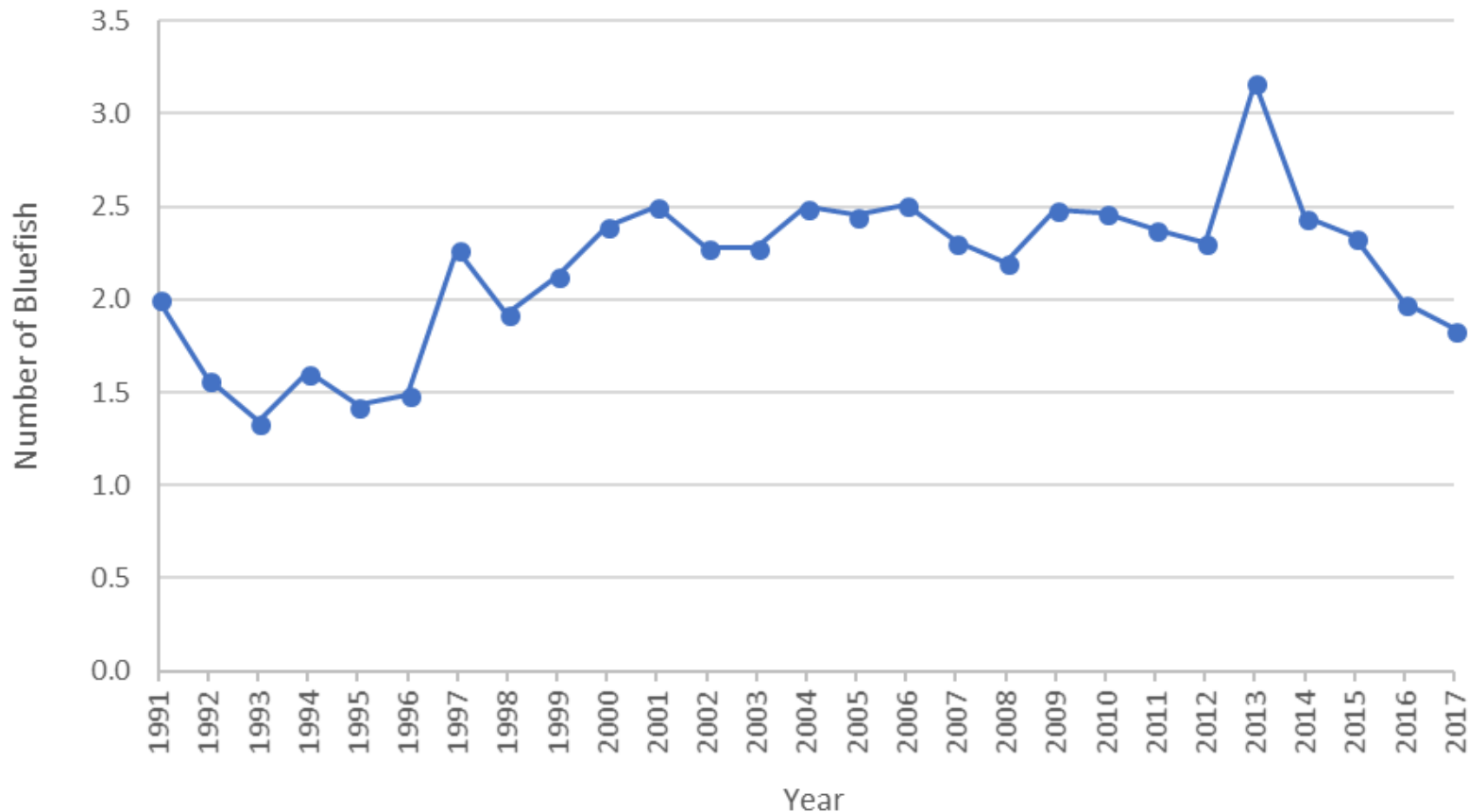
Recreational Landings by Mode



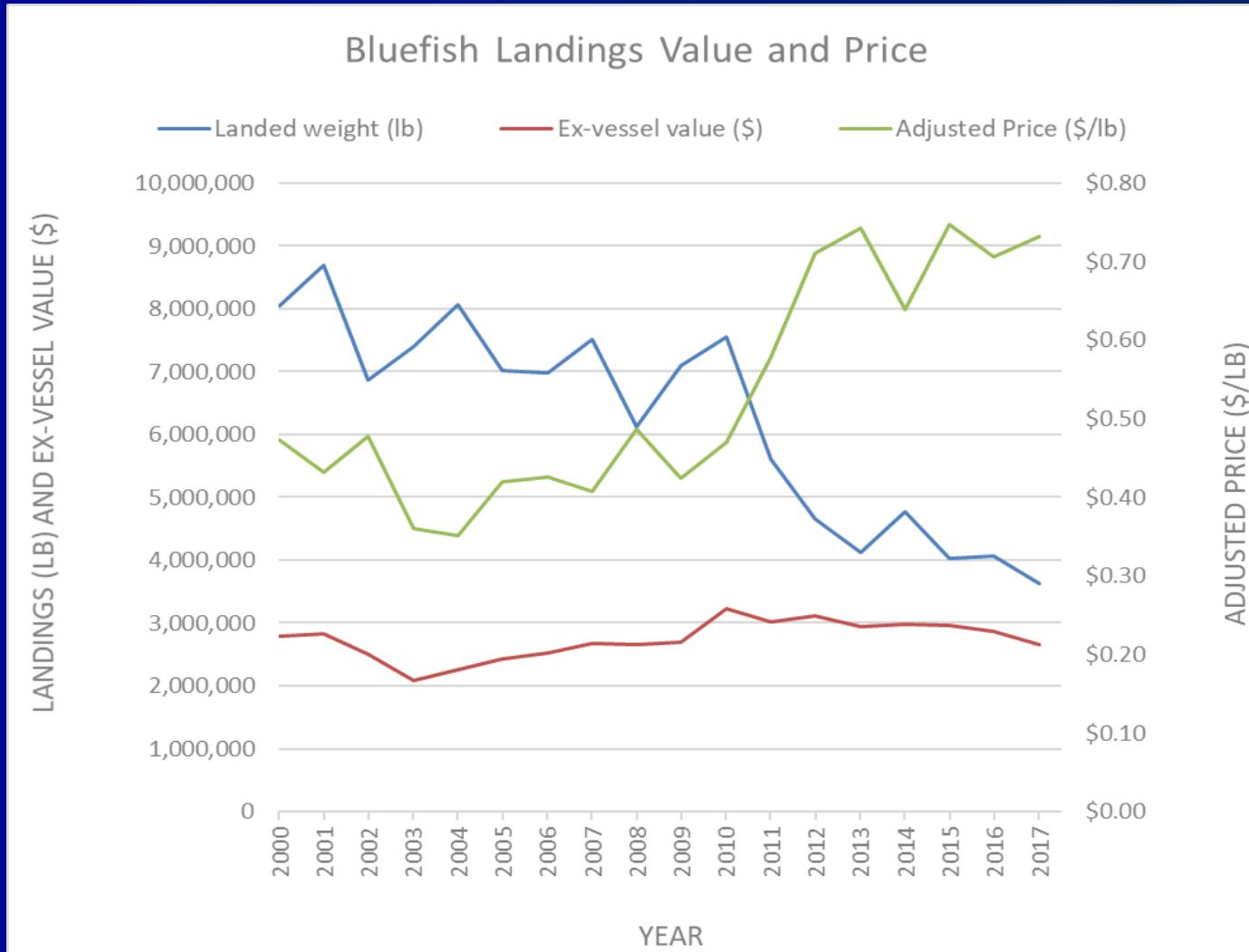
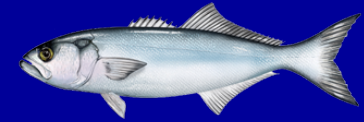
Recreational Fishery



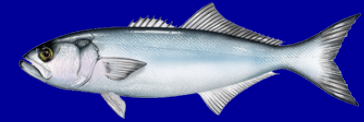
Recreational Landings per "Bluefish Trip"



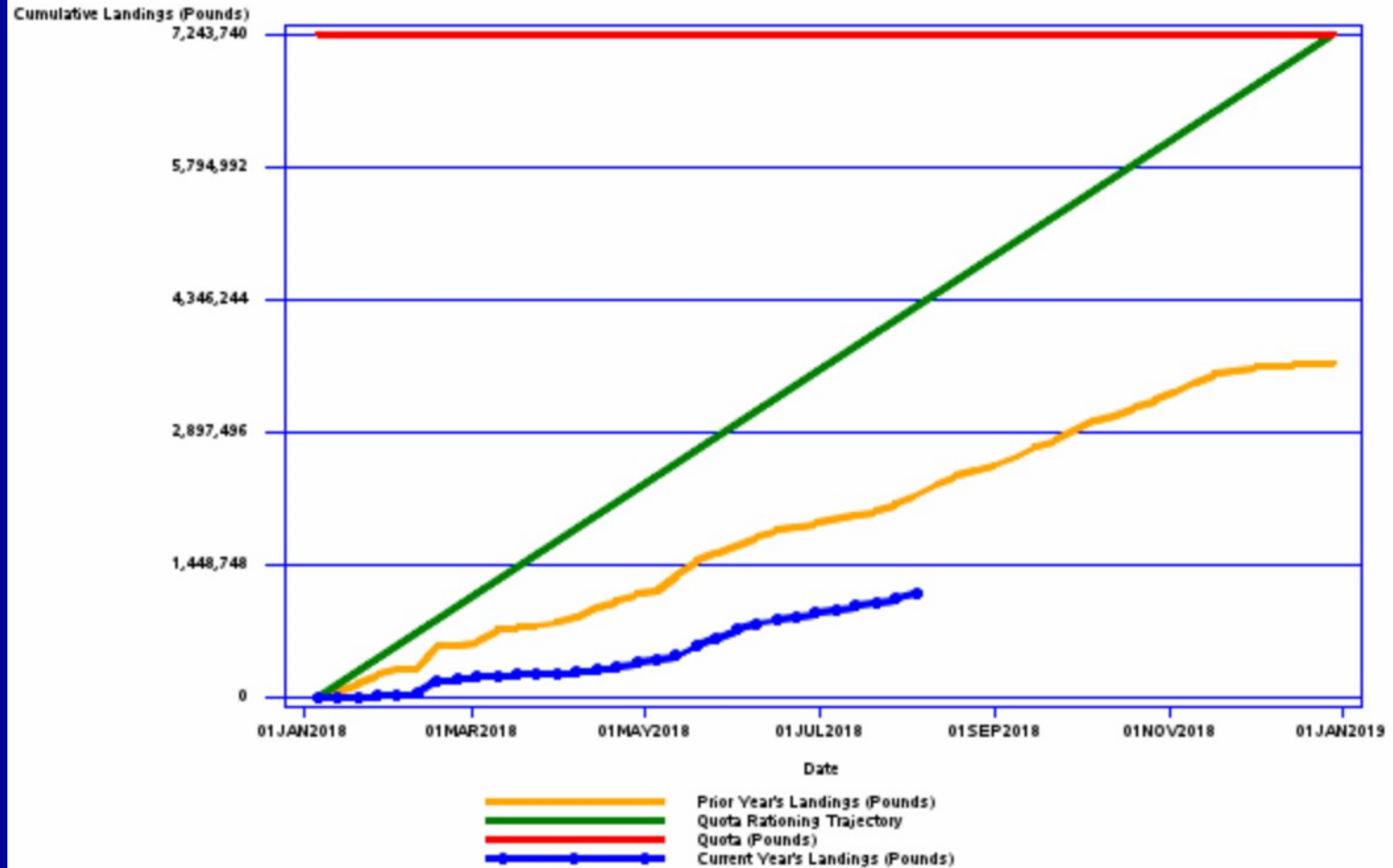
Commercial Fishery



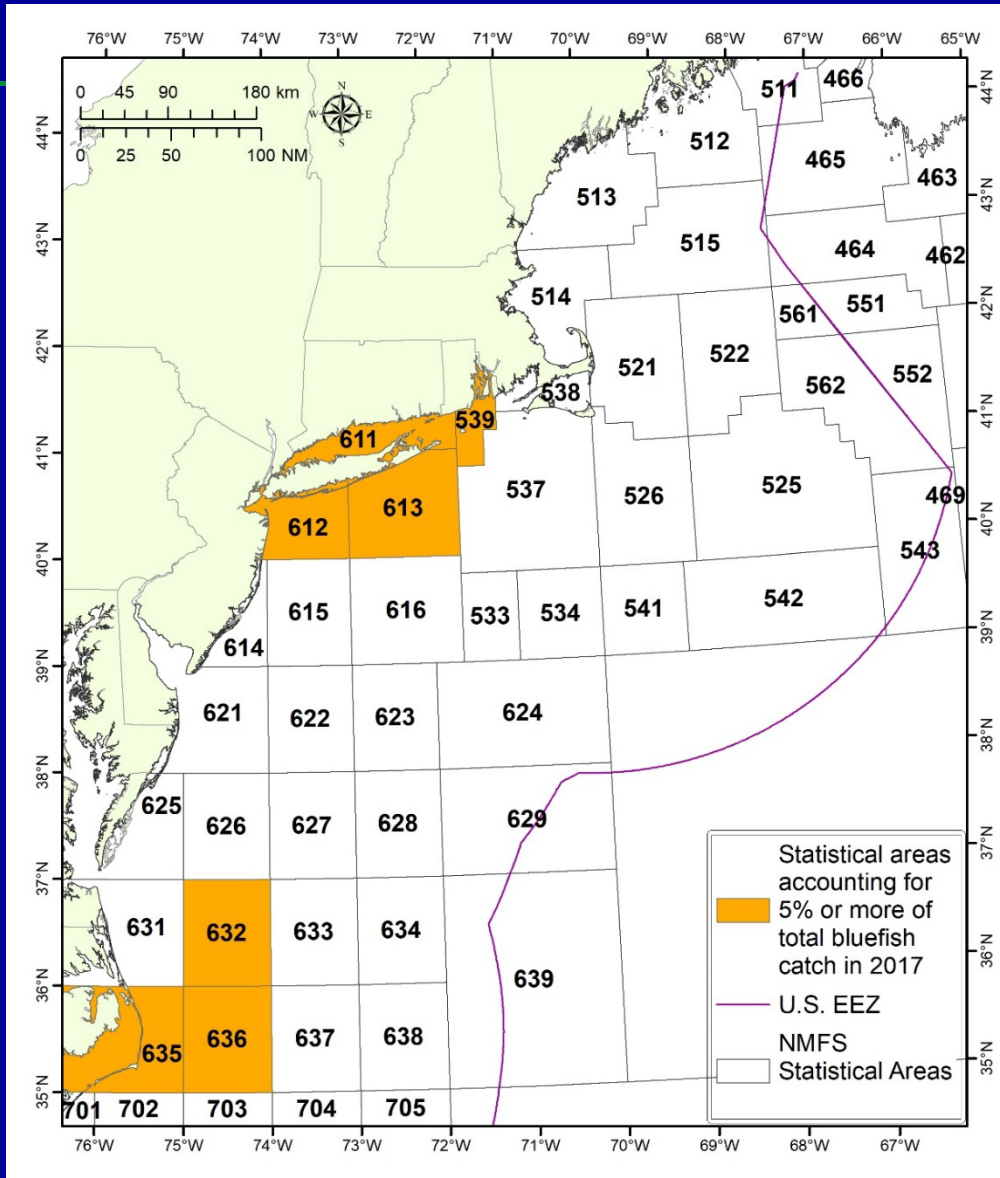
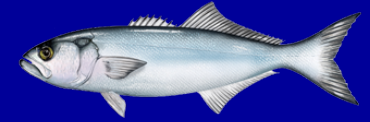
Commercial Fishery



Atlantic Bluefish Quota Monitoring Report



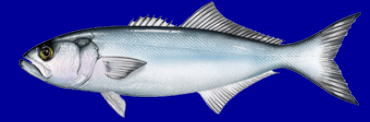
Commercial Fishery



Landings by Gear - Dealer Data 2017

- Gillnet (47%)
- Unknown (29%)
- Otter trawl, bottom fish (10%)
- Handline (7%)
- Pound net (4%)
- Other (3%)

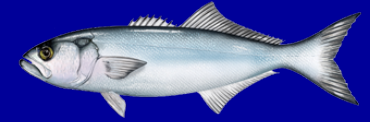
AP Fishery Performance Report



Recreational Fishery Comments

- Lot less fish (and small fish) compared to previous years
- Less for-hire trips
 - More restrictive measures for species like striped bass or target species has shifted
- Avoid increase bluefish pressure despite other species being down
- Seeing lots of bluefish inshore (bays and estuaries)

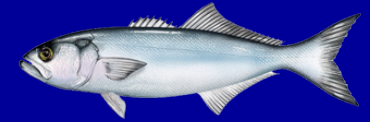
AP Fishery Performance Report



Commercial Fishery Comments

- Large runs arrived on schedule (NY)
- Habits and movement are inconsistent with previous years (NJ)
 - Timing and range
- Strong recruitment over the last few years
- Bluefish are not as abundant in typical locations and are being found further offshore

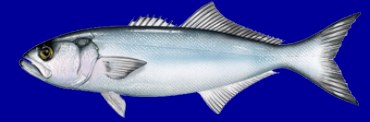
AP Fishery Performance Report



Market/Economic Comments

- Becoming increasingly important to the rec fishery as abundance of other species decreases
- Do not want to see bluefish used as bait
- May run of large fish
 - \$0.20/lb
- June-July run of smaller fish (3 lb)
 - \$0.50-0.70/lb, occasionally over \$1.00/lb

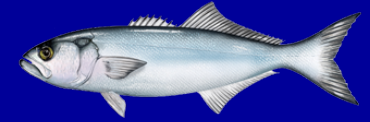
AP Fishery Performance Report



Management/Fishery Regulations Comments

- Quotas may be too cautious (NY)
 - Increase to use up the TAL
- Reduce bag limit from 15 to 10 fish
- Commercial discards still appear to be relatively low (some advisors are skeptical of the lack of comm discards)

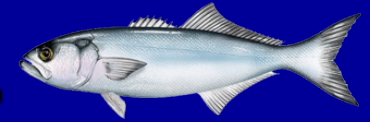
AP Fishery Performance Report



Research, Environmental and Other Comments

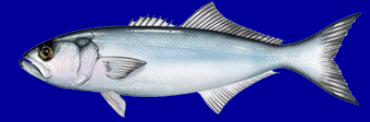
- Better understand the dynamics of inshore and offshore populations
- Address high recreational discards
- Runs of large fish 10 miles up inlets and further offshore
- What is causing these fish to move out?
What factors do bluefish cue in on?

Staff ABC Recommendation to the SSC



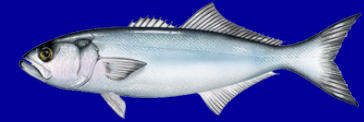
- Maintain status quo specified ABC for 2019
- Assessment update in 2019

SSC Recommendations

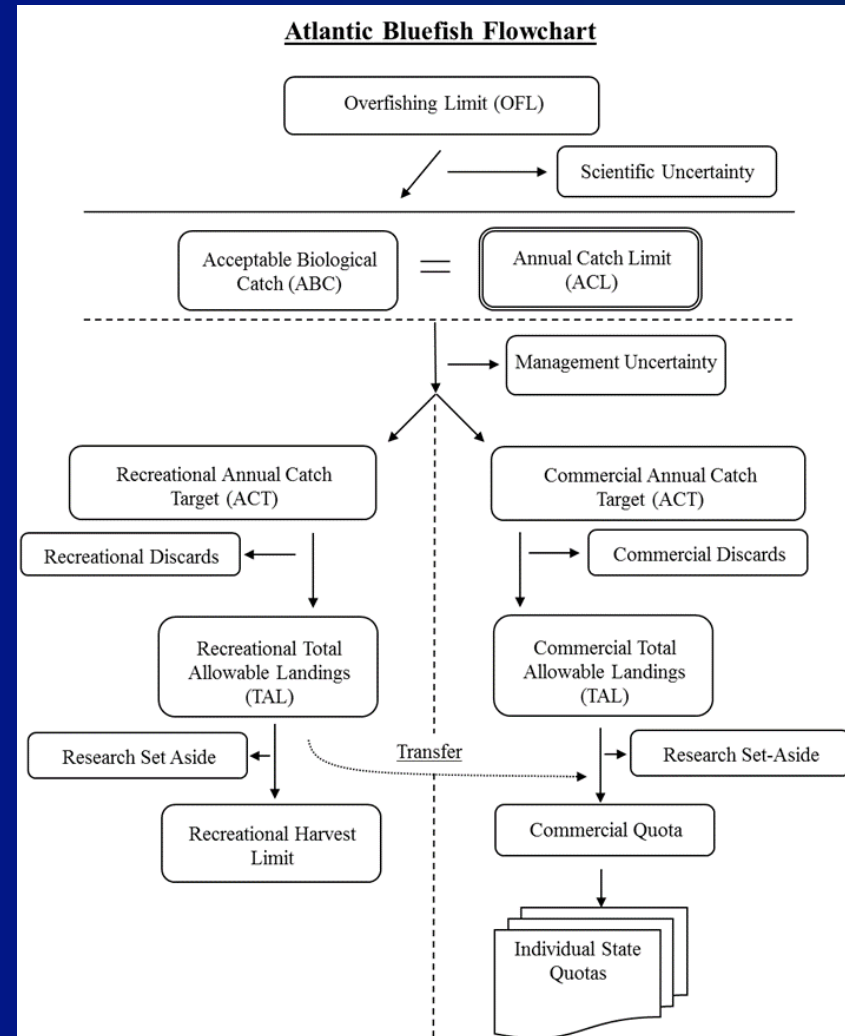


- Status quo
 - OFL: 12,688 mt (27.97 M lbs)
 - ABC: 9,895 mt (21.82 M lbs)

MC Discussion Points



- Discards
- Expected Rec Landings
- Transfers
 - Rec to comm to make RHL equal expected landings
- Bag Limits



MC Recommendations

Management Measure	2018		Basis	2019		Basis
	mt	M lb ¹		mt	M lb ¹	
ABC	9,895	21.81	Derived by SSC; Council P* policy	9,895	21.81	Derived by SSC; Council P* policy
ACL	9,895	21.81	Defined in FMP as equal to ABC	9,895	21.81	Defined in FMP as equal to ABC
Management Uncertainty	0	0	Derived by Monitoring Committee	0	0	Derived by Monitoring Committee
Commercial ACT	1,682	3.71	(ACL – Management Uncertainty) x 17%	1,682	3.71	(ACL – Management Uncertainty) x 17%
Recreational ACT	8,213	18.11	(ACL – Management Uncertainty) x 83%	8,213	18.11	(ACL – Management Uncertainty) x 83%
Commercial Discards	0	0	Value used in assessment	0	0	Value used in assessment
Recreational Discards	1,356	2.99	2015 discards	1,129	2.49	2017 discards
Commercial TAL	1,682	3.71	Commercial ACT – commercial discards	1,682	3.71	Commercial ACT – commercial discards
Recreational TAL	6,857	15.11	Recreational ACT – recreational discards	7,083	15.62	Recreational ACT – recreational discards
TAL Combined	8,539	18.82	Commercial TAL + recreational TAL	8,766	19.32	Commercial TAL + recreational TAL
Expected Rec Landings	5,253	11.58	2015 Recreational landings	4,318	9.52	2017 Recreational landings
Transfer	1,604	3.54	Calculated so the expected recreational landings equal the RHL	2,765	6.10	Calculated so the expected recreational landings equal the RHL
Commercial quota	3,286	7.24	Commercial TAL + transfer	4,447	9.80	Commercial TAL + transfer
RHL	5,253	11.58	Recreational TAL - transfer	4,318	9.52	Recreational TAL - transfer

Questions?



MC Recommendations

Management Measure	2019		Basis
	mt	M lb	
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Transfer	2,765	6.10	Calculated so the expected recreational landings equal the RHL
Commercial quota	4,447	9.80	Commercial TAL + transfer
RHL	4,318	9.52	Recreational TAL - transfer

Motion

- Move to adopt the adopt the 2019 catch and landings limits specified in Table 1 of the Monitoring Committee Report. Use the terminal year estimate for recreational landings projections and discards (i.e., 2017), and allow the National Marine Fisheries Service to transfer the maximum amount allowable from the recreational fishery to the commercial fishery (in 2019) without exceeding the RHLs.