

# Blueline Tilefish



Scientific and Statistical Committee  
Meeting

March 19, 2019



# Outline

- Meeting objective
- Specifications process
- Stock status
- Review recent fishery performance (AP information document)
- Review 2019 Fishery Performance Report
- Staff Recommendations

# Meeting Objective



- Review 2020 ABC recommendations
  - 2019-2021 specs package
  - Factors influencing recent catch and landings
  - Other issues or concerns

# 2018 Measures and Specifications



## ■ Commercial trip limits

- Open until closure
- 500 lbs → 300 lbs once 70% of the quota has been landed - gutted weight (head and fins must be attached)

## ■ Recreational trip limits

- May 1 – Oct 31 → 7,5,3 (Inspected, Uninspected, Private)

### 2019-2021 Specifications

Specification	Recreational	Commercial
ABC	100,520 lbs	
ACLs	73,380 lbs	27,140 lbs
ACTs	73,380 lbs	27,140 lbs
TALs	71,912 lbs	26,869 lbs



# Stock Status

- SEDAR 50 (2017)
  - North (NOH) and South of Cape Hatteras (SOH)
  - SOH
    - Not overfished, overfishing not occurring
  - NOH
    - Unknown: **Data Limited Toolkit** used to estimate ABCs

# Specifications Process

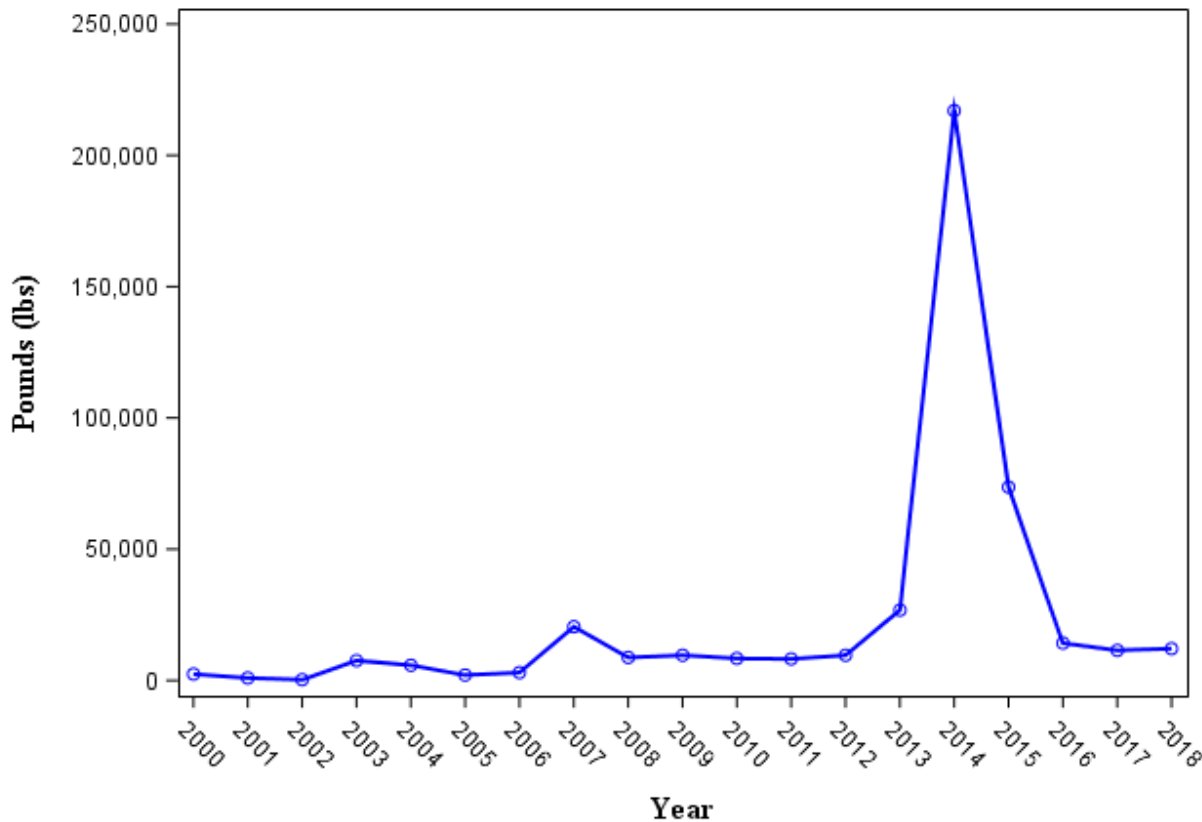


- Assessment made no ABC recommendations
  - 2 Stocks
- Subcommittee: MAFMC/SAFMC/NEFSC/SEFSC
  - Develop ABC recommendations North of Cape Hatteras
- SSC: ABC recommendations at March meeting
  - Reviewed 2019 FPR and AP info doc
- MC: Recommend management measures at March meeting
- Council: Approve specifications at the April meeting

# Commercial Fishery Performance



## Blueline Tilefish Dealer Landings



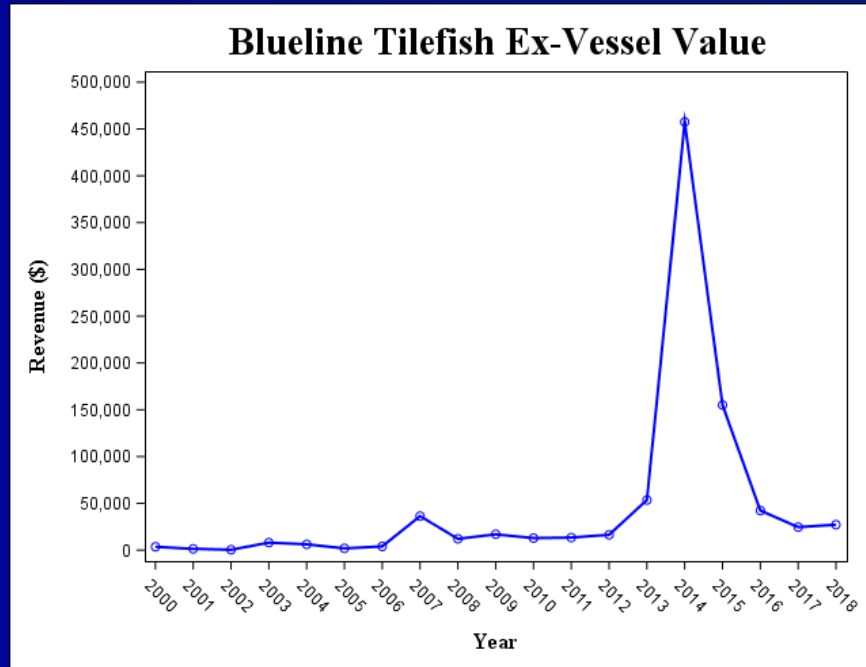
Year	Landings (lbs)
2013	26,780
2014	217,016
2015	73,668
2016	14,203
2017	11,485
2018	12,116

NMFS unpublished dealer data, ME-VA

# Commercial Fishery Performance

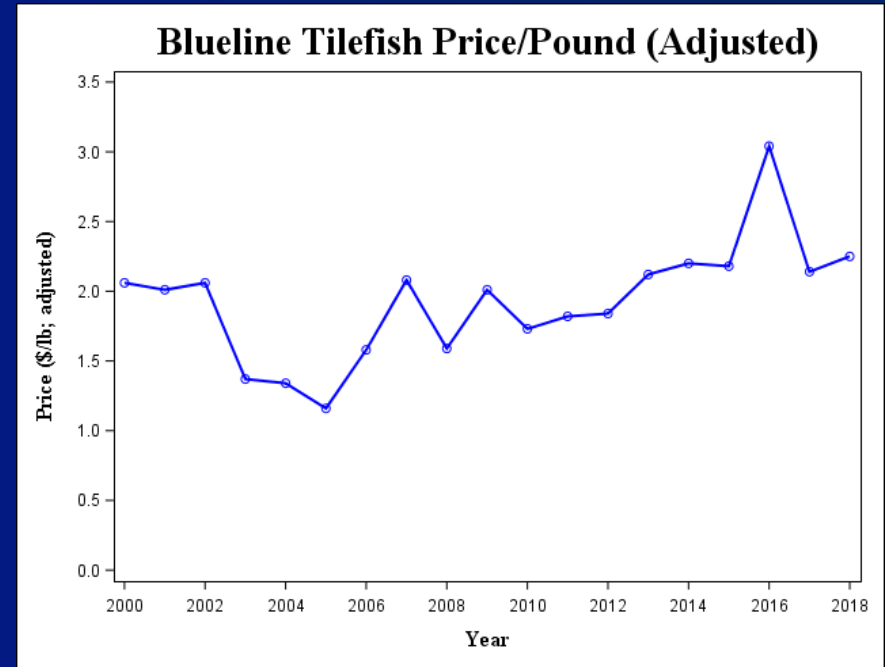


**Figure 3. Ex-Vessel Revenues for blue line tilefish, Maine through Virginia combined, 1999-2018.** Note: Price data have been adjusted by the GDP deflator indexed for 2017 (2018 – unadjusted).



2018: \$27,218

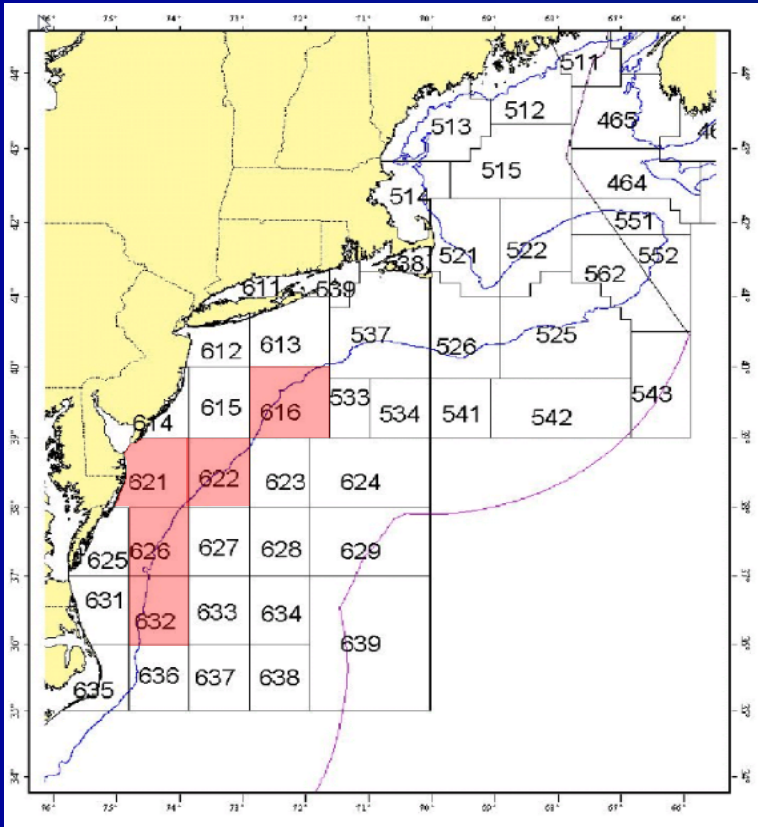
**Figure 4. Price for blue line tilefish, Maine through Virginia combined, 1999-2018.** Note: Price data have been adjusted by the GDP deflator indexed for 2017 (2018 – unadjusted).



2018: \$2.25



# Commercial Fishery Performance



2018 Landings by Gear

Gear	Pounds	Percent
Bottom Longline	4,683	39
Handline	2,706	22
Trawl	3,394	28
Gillnet	305	3
Pot/Trap	113	1
Unknown	915	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,116</b>	<b>~100</b>

Figure 2. Top five statistical areas where blue line tilefish are landed; 1994-2018  
 NMFS Unpublished VTR data (2018: 537, no 632)

# Recreational Fishery Performance



## MRIP

Year	State	MRIP – Base Catch (Numbers of fish)	MRIP (Numbers of fish)
2015	DE	1,565	4,663
2016	MD	10,644	46,106
2016	NJ	3,040	9,924
2016	VA	23,134	62,025
2017	VA	3,465	12,122
2018	DE	64	64
2018	MD	12	12
2018	VA	7,220	8,730

2018 MRIP Private Rental: 2,866 fish (VA)

## VTR - Party/Charter

Year	Frequency	Catch (Numbers of fish)	Reported Discards
2012	103	10,051	1,105
2013	120	11,838	1,828
2014	138	15,849	38
2015	170	14,391	395
2016	160	15,531	426
2017	112	10,220	56
2018	225	12,511	136

Blue line tilefish VTR landings and discards from ME-VA, 2012-2018 (Numbers of fish).

\*Private recreational reporting is on GARFO's priorities list for next year

# Recreational Fishery Performance



Projected: MRIP Private Rental + VTRs (Catch)

	3 lbs		4 lbs		5 lbs		6 lbs	
Year	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
2015	47,868	<b>57,162</b>	63,824	<b>76,216</b>	79,780	<b>95,270</b>	95,736	<b>114,324</b>
2016	153,924	<b>397,092</b>	205,232	<b>529,456</b>	256,540	<b>661,820</b>	307,848	<b>794,184</b>
2017	41,055	<b>67,026</b>	54,740	<b>89,368</b>	68,425	<b>111,710</b>	82,110	<b>134,052</b>
2018	41,601	<b>46,131</b>	55,468	<b>61,508</b>	69,335	<b>76,885</b>	83,202	<b>92,262</b>

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ABC	100,520 lbs	
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# Fishery Performance Report

- No major changes have been observed for bluelines in terms of catch rates/composition
  - Once blueline limits are met recreational trips search for other targets
- When targeting other species, trip limits restrict commercial fishermen from targeting areas where bluelines are present
- Often hit trip limits when targeting blueline tilefish
- Some advisors agreed that they want to see how the current specifications and management measures play out
- Recreational effort decreased this year as it does not make economic sense to target blueline tilefish when tuna are not present



# Fishery Performance Report

- New York (Hunts Point) and New Jersey (Barnegat Light) advisors were receiving ~\$2.25-\$2.50 per pound, and occasionally \$4.00 per pound for larger fish
  - Advisors remain confident that there is continued demand for blueline tilefish
- Advocated to maintain the 3, 5, 7 bag limits in place since there is currently limited reporting for private anglers and we are still learning how the fishery responds to management in the Mid-Atlantic
- Advisors want to avoid creating a directed fishery especially with the uncertainty of the overall stock
- Some disagreement on whether an increased bag limit will have negative effects on the overall stock

# Potential research Priorities

- Comprehensive 5-year Research Plan (2016-2020)
  - General
    - Implement novel supplemental surveys to derive fishery independent indices of abundance
  - Blueline: Fishery Independent Surveys
    - Collect discard, length and age data from the private sector
    - Research efforts to incorporate/require logbook reporting from recreational anglers
  - **Blueline: Biology/Life History/Habitat**
    - Habitat studies of the canyons
    - Validate ages
    - Collect reproductive samples
    - Stock identification study (genetic?)
    - Increase untargeted biological sampling (observers/dockside sampling)



# Staff Recommendations

- Considering last year's recommendations from the joint subcommittee and SSC, and given recent fishery performance, Council staff recommends a status quo blueline tilefish ABC of 100,520 pounds (45.60 mt) for 2020.

# Questions?



Image: David Hoke



# SAFMC ABCs and Landings



Year	Rec ACL	Rec Landings	Comm ACL	Comm Landings	Total ABC/ACL	Total Landings
2012	315,229	109,964	316,112	367,578	631,341	477,542
2013	315,229	357,642	316,112	276,764	631,341	634,406
2014	111,893	88,996	112,207	156,371	224,100	245,367
2015	17,791	45,040	17,841	78,900	35,632	123,940
2016	87,277	172,249	87,521	97,798	174,798	270,047
2017	87,277	252,593	87,521	63,175	174,798	315,768
2018	87,277	115,064	87,521	93,128	174,798	208,192