



# Atlantic Chub Mackerel 2025 Specifications Review



SSC Meeting  
May 14, 2024

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up of water ripples, with light reflecting off the surface, creating a pattern of concentric circles and wavy lines in shades of blue and white.

# Objective

- Review
  - Management history
  - Recent fishery performance
  - AP Fishery Performance Report
- Consider if changes are needed to the previously recommended 2025 ABC
  - AP and staff recommend no changes

# 2024 ABC = 2,300 MT = 5.07 mil lb

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- Constant ABC, 2020-2025.
- OFL cannot be specified.
- ABC based on expert judgement.
  - Based loosely on historic high for landings, assumptions about discards.
  - Prevents fishery from reaching historic high, but allows higher landings than all other years.
  - Unlikely to result in overfishing given general productivity of this species worldwide and low fishery capacity in this region.

# Management

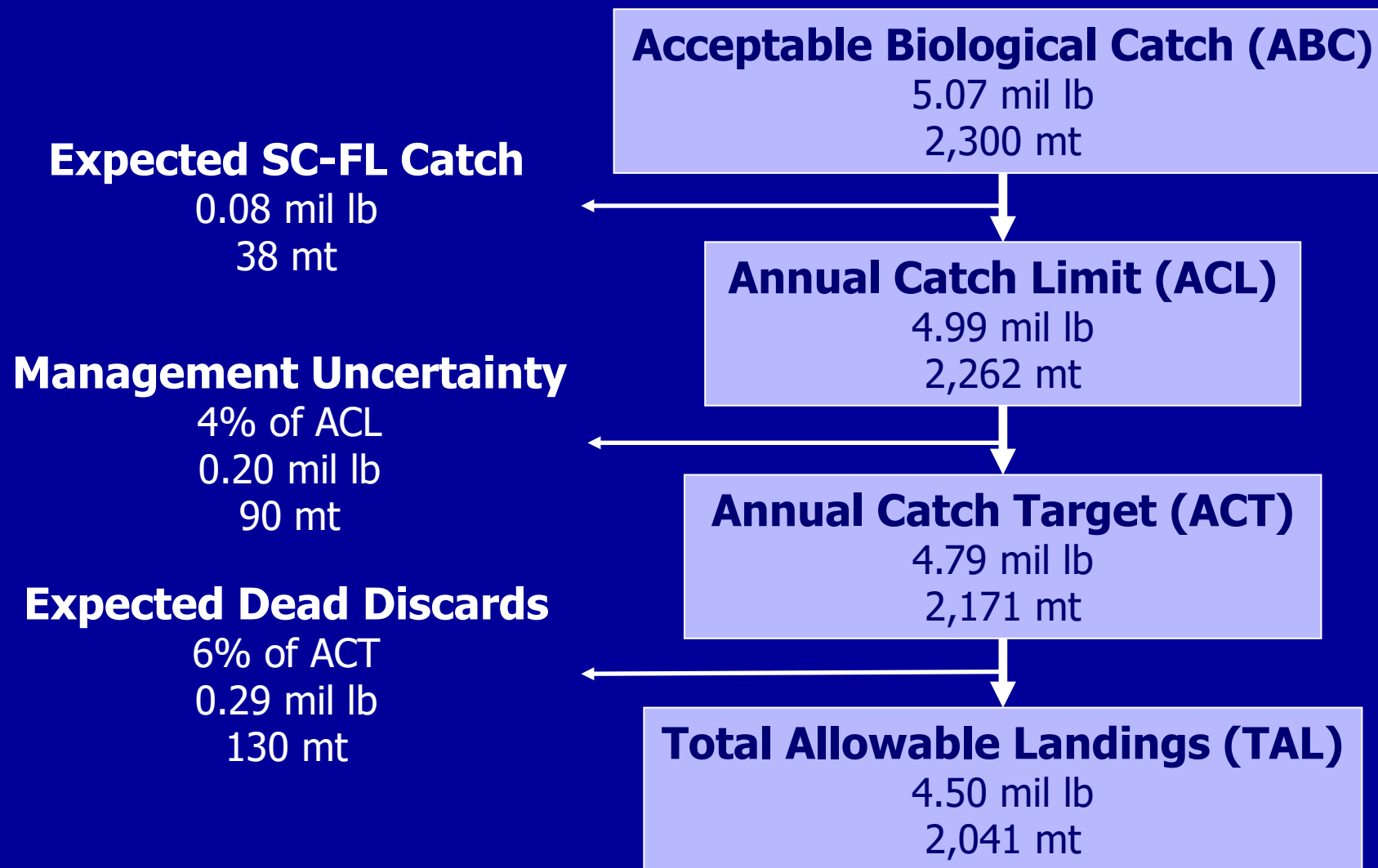
- **Forage Amendment** (effective Sept 2017).
- **Amendment 21 to MSB FMP** (effective Sept 2020).
  - ABC, ACL, ACT, TAL.
  - Vessel (commercial and party/charter) and dealer permit and reporting requirements.
  - Commercial possession limits after 90% and 100% of TAL projected to be landed.
  - No recreational possession limit.
  - No commercial or recreational fish size, gear, or season restrictions.

Photo credit: Robert Leaf

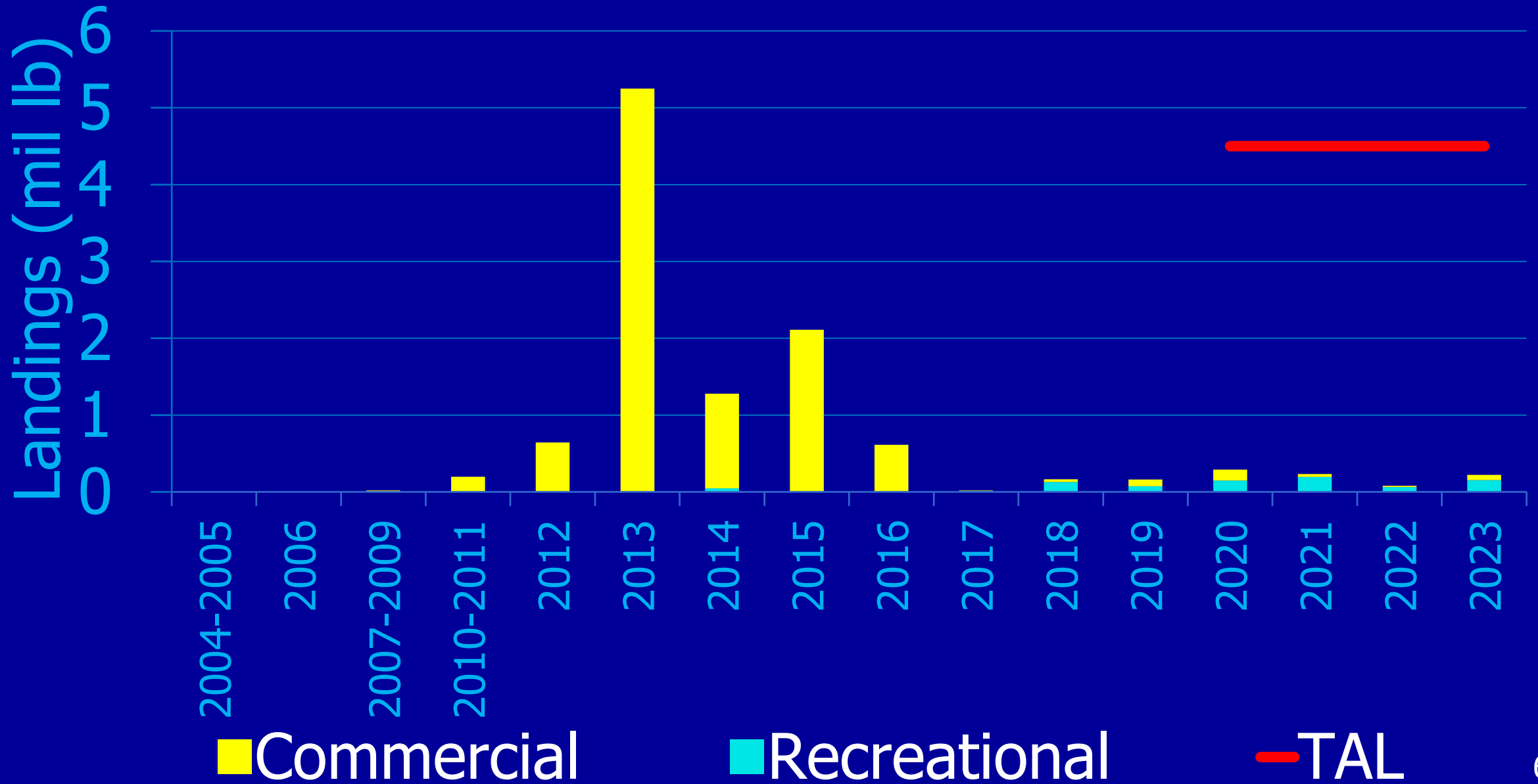




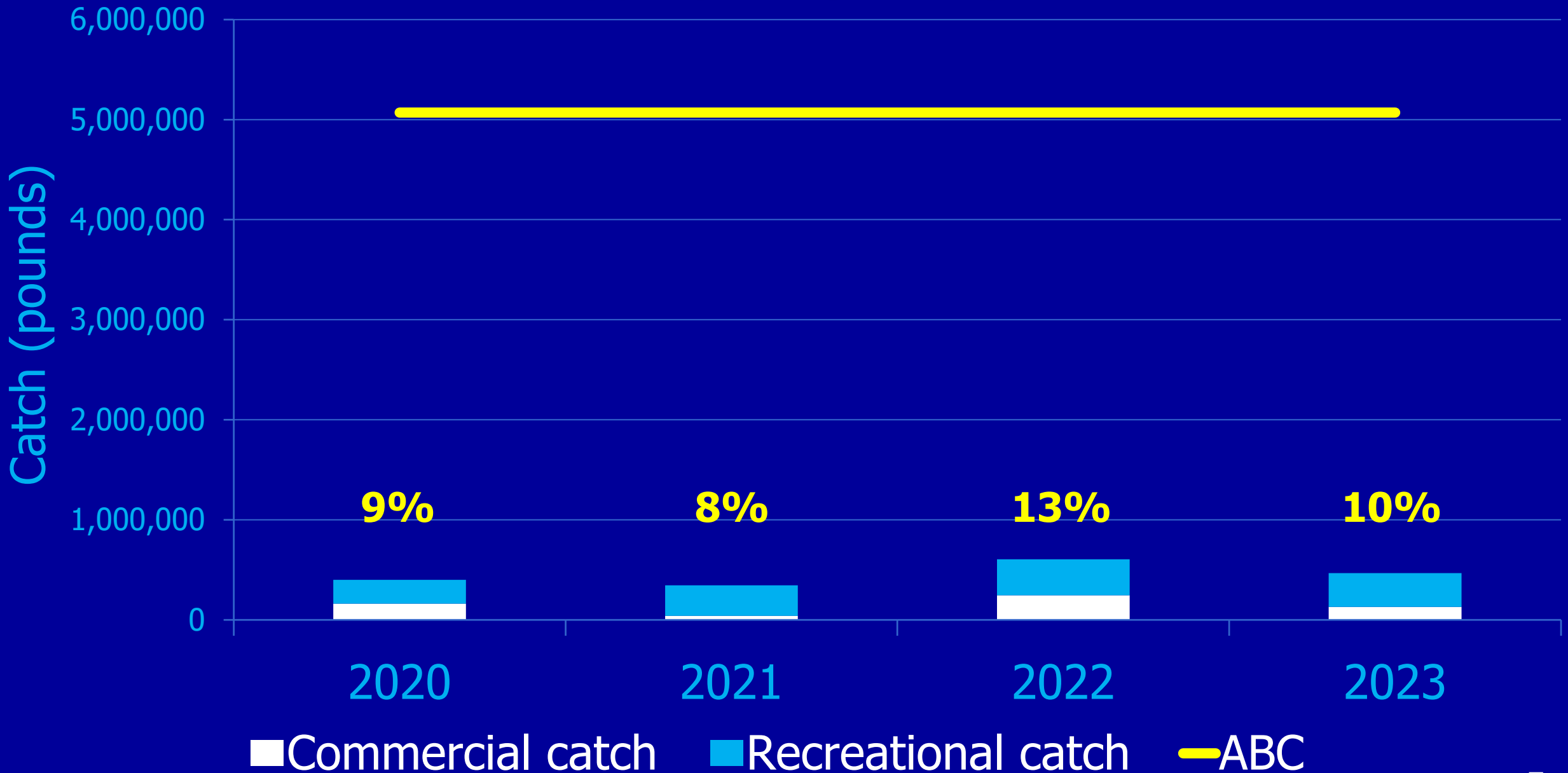
# 2020-2025 Specifications



# Landings



# Catch vs ABC



# Commercial Fishery

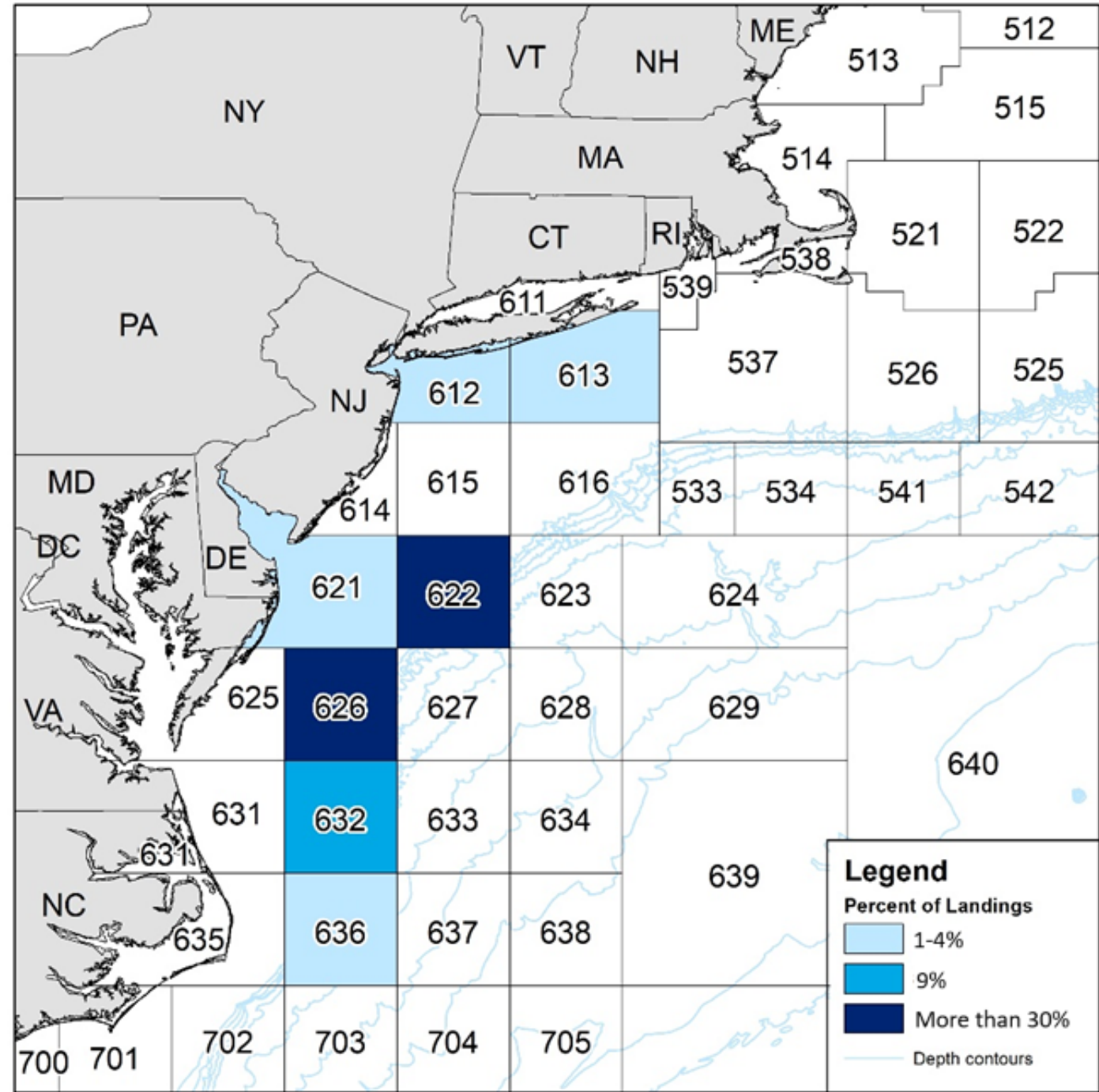
- Overlap with *Illex* squid fishery in years of highest landings (vessels, time of year)
- 95% of com. landings over past 20 years from fewer than 5 vessels, fewer than 3 dealers
- 94% landings from bottom trawl, 5% from midwater trawls (fed VTRs)
- 92% landings from June-October
- \$0.57/lb on avg, 2004-2023 (adjusted to 2023 \$)

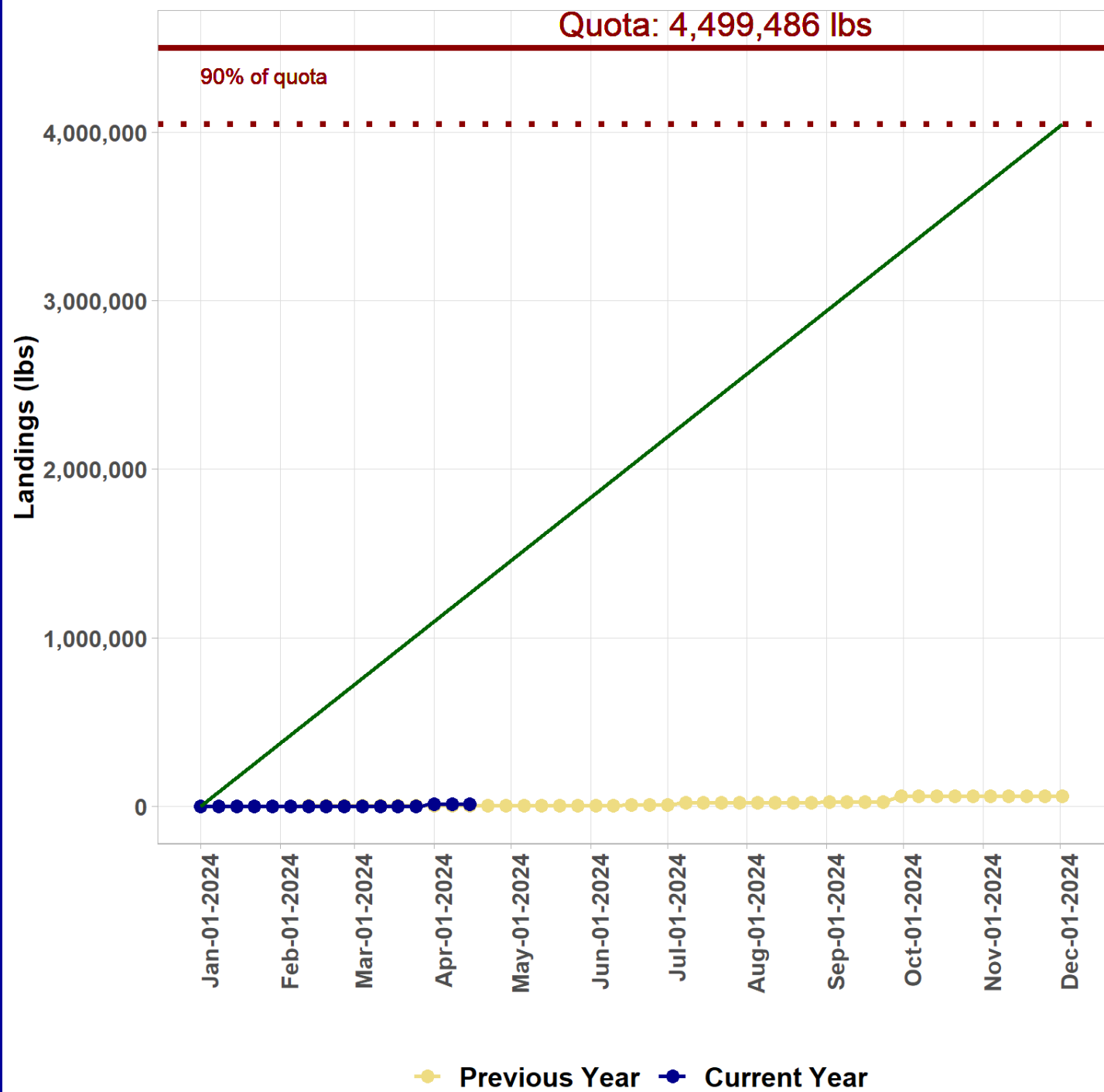


# Commercial Landings

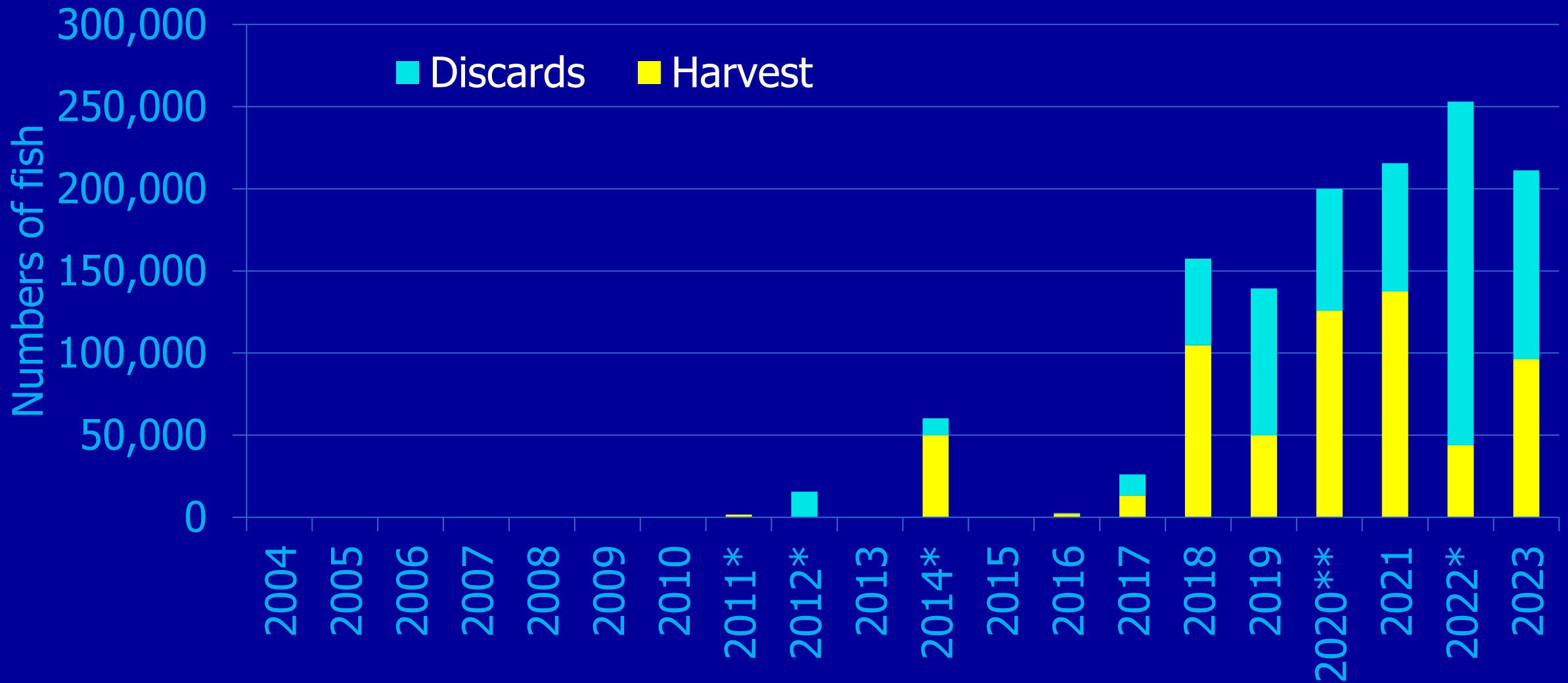
Federal VTRs  
2004-2023.

Only showing  
areas with 1%  
or more of  
total.





# Recreational Catch



\*PSE > 50

\*\*Partially estimated with imputed data

# Recreational Fishery

On avg. 2019-2023:

- 57% harvest from state waters, 43% federal.
- Most harvest in RI (43%), NY (29%), NJ (17%), CT (10%).
- 53% private/rental, 32% party/charter, 15% shore.

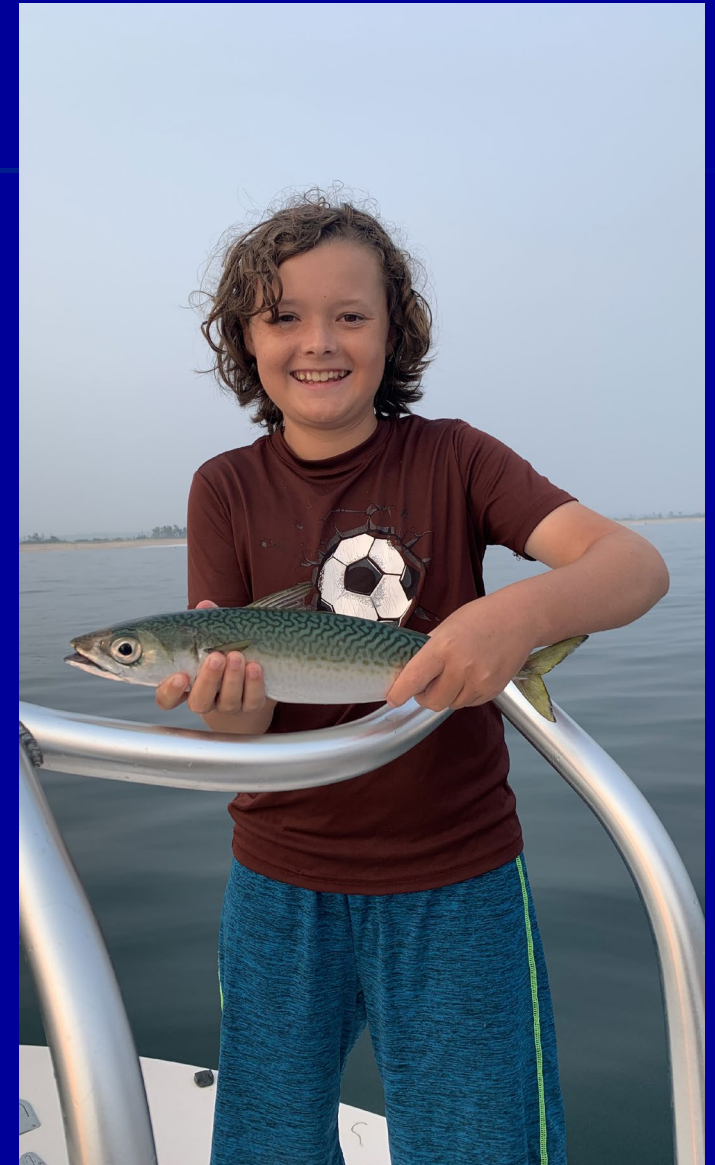


Photo credit: Jason Didden

# AP Fishery Performance Report

- No changes needed to any 2025 specifications.
- No changes to research priorities.
- Chub mackerel not targeted by commercial fishermen in recent years.



Photo credit: Lund's Fisheries



# Questions/ Discussion

- Are revisions needed to the previously recommended 2025 ABC?
  - *Staff and AP recommend no changes.*



Photo credit: Jason Didden



# Backup Slides

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# 2020-2025 Research Priorities

## Short-term/smaller-scale

- Develop expanded discard estimates for the region and better quantify South Atlantic catch.
- Collect length, age, growth, maturity information from fishery independent and dependent data sources throughout U.S. Atlantic waters.
- Evaluate catch per unit effort including the influence of environmental and socioeconomic factors.
- Investigate existing egg and larval surveys throughout the U.S. Atlantic coast to better understand chub mackerel recruitment dynamics.

# 2020-2025 Research Priorities

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## Long-term/larger-scale

- Investigate stock mixing throughout Atlantic waters, as applicable.
- Investigate habitat use at different life stages.

# Bycatch

- Rough analysis by Council staff for Amend. 21 EA.
- Focus on trips landing at least 40,000 lb of chub mackerel.
- 8 observed trips on 4 vessels, 1999-2018.
- Other species most commonly caught on those trips: *Illex*, longfin, butterfish, and round herring.
  - All other species accounted for less than 0.5% of total observed catch.
  - Similar results with lower thresholds of kept chub mackerel.