



# Unmanaged Commercial Landings Reports



Scaled sardines ©Jorge A. Pérez Torres on inaturalist.org



Atlantic cutlassfish ©Jacob Jones on inaturalist.org






Blue mussels © InspiredImages on pixabay.com

EOP Committee and AP meeting  
April 29, 2024

# Meeting Objectives

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-  Review 2023 report and associated data
-  Discuss potential thresholds/indicators to trigger further evaluation
-  Discuss other potential improvements to the reports

# Forage Amendment Goal

A large school of fish, likely salmon, is captured in mid-leap from the water. The fish are silvery and sleek, with their bodies arched as they move through the air. The water around them is turbulent, with a large splash of white foam and droplets. The background is a deep blue sea with ripples on the surface.

**Prohibit development of new and expansion of existing directed commercial fisheries for unmanaged forage species**

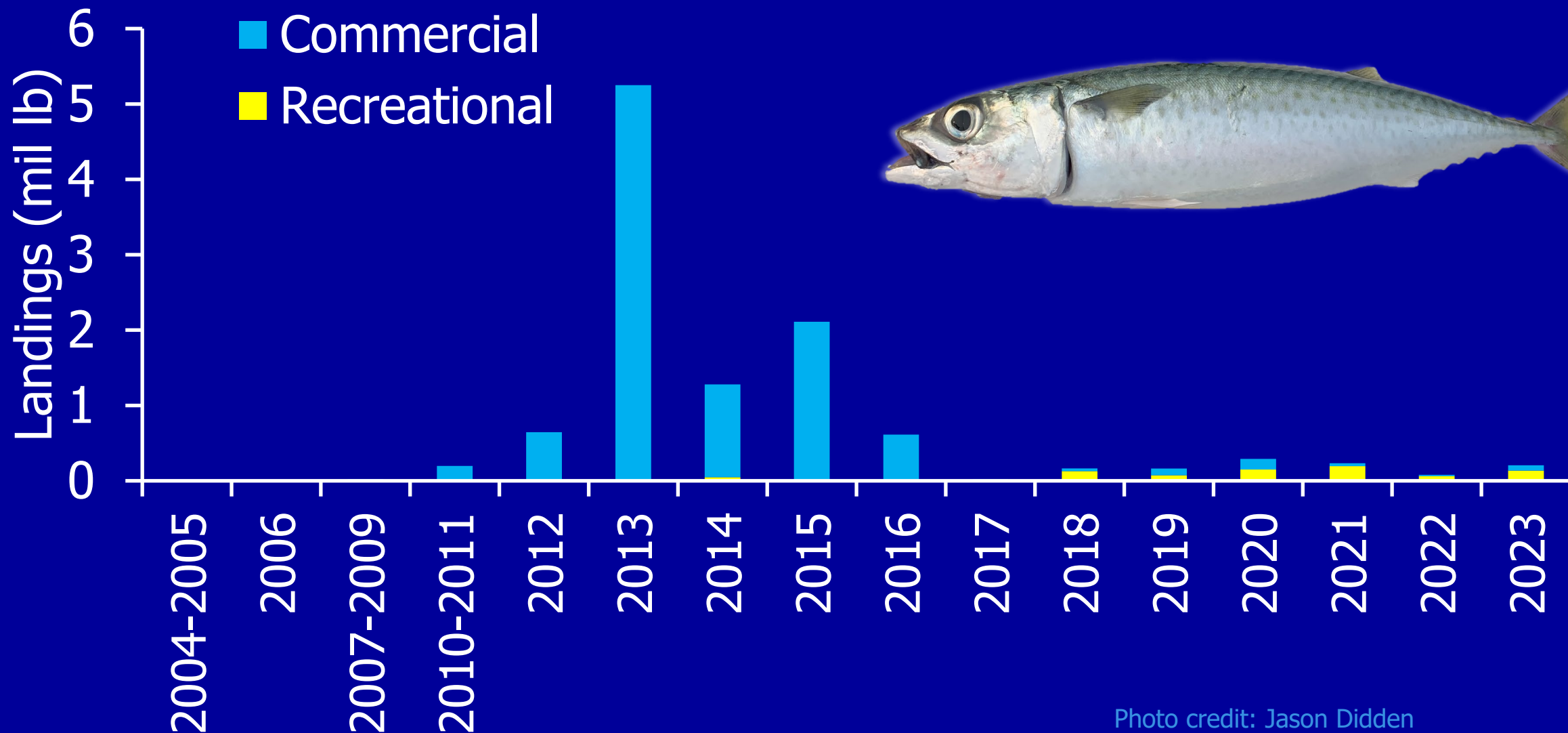
...until the Council has had an adequate opportunity to assess the scientific information... and consider potential impacts to existing fisheries, fishing communities, and the marine ecosystem.



# 1,700 pound possession limit

- Anchovies
- Argentines/Smelt Herring
- Greeneyes
- Halfbeaks
- Lanternfishes
- Round Herring
- Scaled Sardine
- Atlantic Thread Herring
- Spanish Sardine
- Pearlsides/Deepsea Hatchetfish
- Sand Lances
- Silversides
- Cusk-eels
- Atlantic Saury
- Unmanaged pelagic mollusks except sharptail shortfin squid
- Species under 1 inch as adults (e.g., copepods, krill, amphipods)

# Atlantic Chub Mackerel Landings



# Unmanaged Landings Reports

- Goal: Monitor for signs of developing unmanaged commercial fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic.
- High-level summary.
- Determine if further evaluation or consideration of a mgmt. response is needed.



Atlantic silverside  
© Cyric on inaturalist.org

# “Unmanaged”

Where there is none of the following:

Possession  
Limit

Size  
Limit

Seasonal  
Closure

Limited  
Access



# Data

- Catch Accounting Monitoring System (CAMS)
- Federal dealer reports
- State-only dealer reports
- Commercial Vessel Trip Reports





Common Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg
MUSSEL, BLUE	11,578,836	10,480,326	5,642,701	879,771	1,486,785	C	5,276,183	7,241,004
CATFISH, BLUE	4,123,824	5,199,117	5,093,143	5,120,580	4,778,063	6,909,340	7,562,032	5,309,837
ROCKWEED	C	6,166,155	9,228,619	C	C	0	C	5,131,591
HAGFISH	1,871,110	1,558,255	C	C	2,248,887	1,321,527	C	1,840,876
WHELK/CONCH	637,991	1,141,947	2,356,279	1,839,724	1,153,229	1,462,175	1,578,521	1,513,706
MULLET, STRIPED	461,742	778,353	832,924	896,851	691,531	1,225,434	1,745,312	905,610
FINFISH	1,326,414	732,296	890,175	735,921	193,148	231,193	199,565	781,627
KING WHITING	603,991	841,548	337,555	512,955	448,161	511,765	664,020	561,477
CUTLASSFISH, ATL	61,042	50,843	158,763	287,906	514,418	1,150,385	1,034,479	430,144
CRAB	106,262	304,579	703,303	925,424	403,624	125,227	22,032	344,258
CONCH	129,909	272,061	182,361	165,369	191,365	361,146	210,789	273,973
SHRIMP, N. WHITE	147,183	C	171,843	C	447,251	582,809	C	269,817
TUNA, LITTLE	222,374	280,381	232,617	252,816	260,400	119,495	148,626	216,221
DORY, JOHN	214,663	250,586	125,259	104,418	64,196	73,821	57,500	137,389
DEALFISH	39,313	25,992	C	159,984	225,264	63,015	250,219	128,866
KELP, SUGAR	C	101,571	99,301	256,646	C	C	C	114,380
FINFISH	15,394	13,411	2,745	666	23,398	457,512	337,473	107,290
CLAM, BLOOD ARC	104,888	212,303	98,894	128,054	97,976	48,079	24,034	103,444
PERCH, WHITE	139,261	79,294	99,327	117,733	87,908	65,936	83,223	100,988
CLAM, N. QUAHOG	180,655	159,961	57,390	23,238	41,186	108,939	44,067	91,661
SCALLOP, BAY	C	C	C	68,775	257,249	C	23,353	87,344
SEA ROBIN	201,521	147,470	80,085	76,732	32,386	20,041	25,503	86,307
HARVESTFISH	115,112	68,791	98,258	74,044	78,428	55,560	35,133	86,305
CRAB, GREEN	23,885	14,964	52,659	64,887	132,675	173,717	142,107	78,971
CRAB, ATL ROCK	379,234	61,673	43,888	46,603	11,255	13,905	13,184	15,336

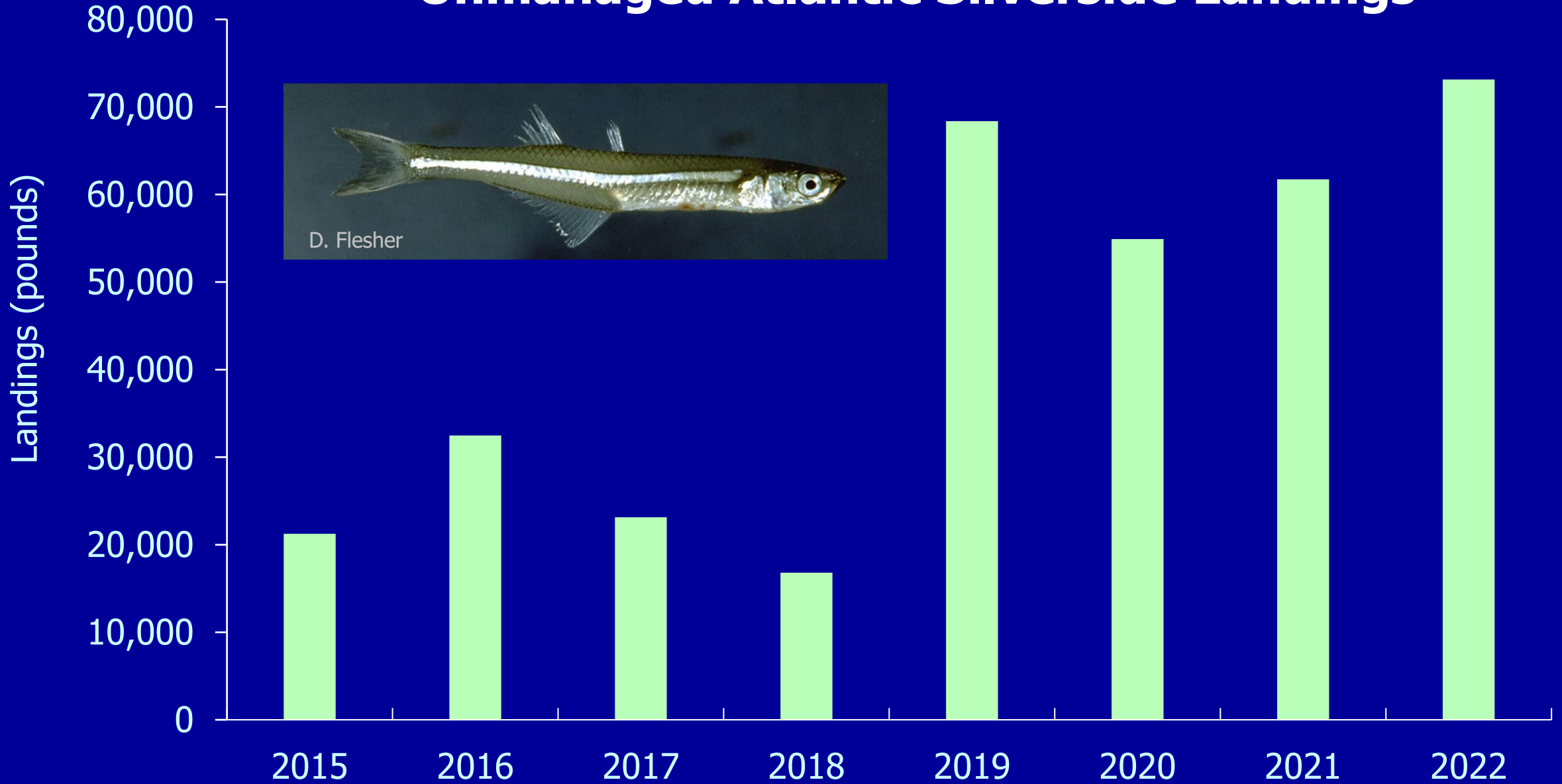
- Top 25 species
- Highest unmanaged landings
- Increasing rank order
- Consistent increases
- Landings over 1 mil lb/year

Blue catfish

© michaelhild on inaturalist.org



# Unmanaged Atlantic Silverside Landings



# Top 25 Species

Common Name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016-22 Avg
MUSSEL, BLUE	5,642,701	879,771	1,486,785	C	5,276,183	7,241,004
CATFISH, BLUE	5,093,143	5,120,580	4,778,063	6,909,340	7,562,032	5,309,837
ROCKWEED	9,228,619	C	C	0	C	5,131,591
HAGFISH	C	C	2,248,887	1,321,527	C	1,840,876
WHELK/CONCH	2,356,279	1,839,724	1,153,229	1,462,175	1,578,521	1,513,706
MULLET, STRIPED	832,924	896,851	691,531	1,225,434	1,745,312	905,610
FINFISH	890,175	735,921	193,148	231,193	199,565	781,627
KING WHITING	337,555	512,955	448,161	511,765	664,020	561,477
CUTLASSFISH, ATL	158,763	287,906	514,418	1,150,385	1,034,479	430,144
CRAB	703,303	925,424	403,624	125,227	22,032	344,258
CONCH	182,361	165,369	191,365	361,146	210,789	273,973
SHRIMP, N. WHITE	171,843	C	447,251	582,809	C	269,817
TUNA, LITTLE	232,617	252,816	260,400	119,495	148,626	216,221
DORY, JOHN	125,259	104,418	64,196	73,821	57,500	137,389
DEALFISH	C	159,984	225,264	63,015	250,219	128,866
KELP, SUGAR	99,301	256,646	C	C	C	114,380
FINFISH	2,745	666	23,398	457,512	337,473	107,290
CLAM, BLOOD ARC	98,894	128,054	97,976	48,079	24,034	103,444
PERCH, WHITE	99,327	117,733	87,908	65,936	83,223	100,988
CLAM, N. QUAHOG	57,390	23,238	41,186	108,939	44,067	91,661
SCALLOP, BAY	C	68,775	257,249	C	23,353	87,344
SEA ROBIN	80,085	76,732	32,386	20,041	25,503	86,307
HARVESTFISH	98,258	74,044	78,428	55,560	35,133	86,305
CRAB, GREEN	52,659	64,887	132,675	173,717	142,107	78,971
CRAB, ATL ROCK	46,603	11,255	13,905	13,184	15,336	73,135

# Top 25 Finfish Species

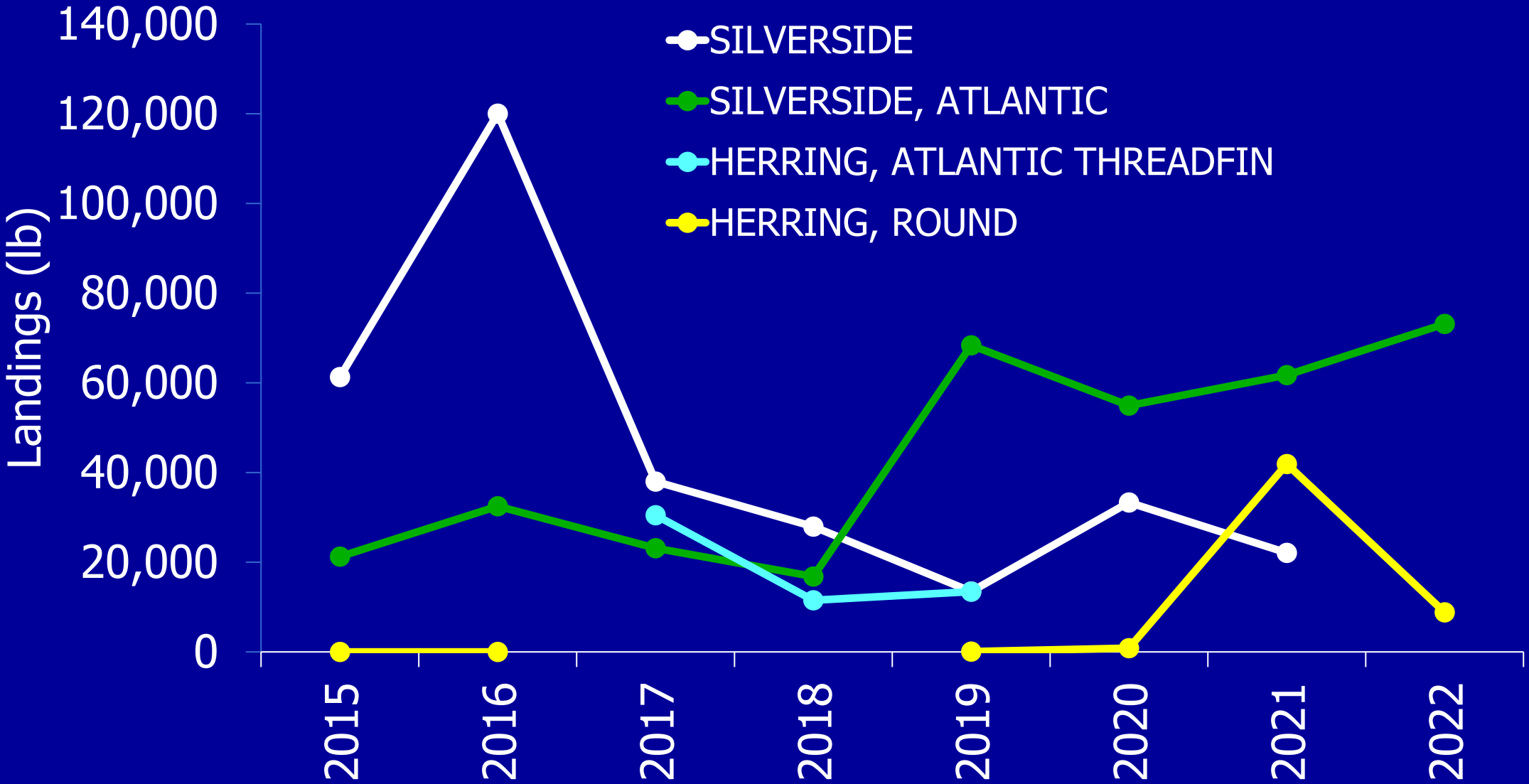
Common Name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016-22 Avg
CATFISH, BLUE	5,093,143	5,120,580	4,778,063	6,909,340	7,562,032	5,309,837
HAGFISH	C	C	2,248,887	1,321,527	C	1,840,876
MULLET, STRIPED	832,924	896,851	691,531	1,225,434	1,745,312	905,610
FINFISH	890,175	735,921	193,148	231,193	199,565	781,627
KING WHITING	337,555	512,955	448,161	511,765	664,020	561,477
CUTLASSFISH, ATL	158,763	287,906	514,418	1,150,385	1,034,479	430,144
TUNA, LITTLE	232,617	252,816	260,400	119,495	148,626	216,221
DORY, JOHN	125,259	104,418	64,196	73,821	57,500	137,389
DEALFISH	C	159,984	225,264	63,015	250,219	128,866
FINFISH	2,745	666	23,398	457,512	337,473	107,290
PERCH, WHITE	99,327	117,733	87,908	65,936	83,223	100,988
SEA ROBIN	80,085	76,732	32,386	20,041	25,503	86,307
HARVESTFISH	98,258	74,044	78,428	55,560	35,133	86,305
PUFFER, NOTHERN	70,710	89,427	36,787	14,757	12,009	64,921
EEL, CONGER	94,842	55,773	57,676	45,046	62,865	60,408
CUSK	50,115	44,143	51,423	70,046	57,377	59,175
HARVESTFISH	31,796	25,145	24,489	20,302	37,026	51,209
BONITO, ATL	42,791	64,304	61,024	23,475	13,415	47,423
SILVERSIDE	27,934	13,466	33,319	22,085	C	45,155
SILVERSIDE, ATL	16,810	68,371	54,914	61,732	73,128	43,976
RIBBONFISH	C	49,228	38,855	38,199	73,490	37,591
HERRING	53,235	1,947	95,999	841	2,097	33,948
MULLET	9,283	14,529	30,952	65,634	25,870	29,765
SPADEFISH	26,012	30,492	26,122	29,756	26,580	27,538
TUNA, BLACKFIN	15,882	19,985	20,011	30,837	22,318	18,833

# Ecosystem Component Species

(Unmanaged Forage Amendment Species)

Common Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg
<b>SILVERSIDE</b>	120,019	37,976	27,934	13,466	33,319	22,085	C	45,155
<b>SILVERSIDE, ATL</b>	32,471	23,132	16,810	68,371	54,914	61,732	73,128	43,976
<b>HERRING</b>	49,567	C	53,235	1,947	95,999	841	2,097	33,948
<b>HERRING, ATL THREADFIN</b>	C	30,482	11,515	13,432	C	C	C	18,476
<b>HERRING, ROUND</b>	0	C	C	70	844	41,893	8,815	8,604
<b>SQUID, LOLIGINIDAE</b>	10,940	4,526	C	1,393	2,131	1,981	2,403	3,463
<b>ANCHOVY, BAY</b>	926	C	C	C	C	223	19	389
<b>SAND LANCE</b>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	0
<b>ARGENTINE</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>UNCLASSIFIED SQUID</b>	0	C	0	C	C	C	C	0

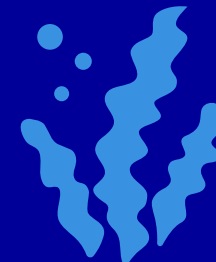
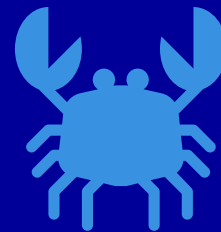
# EC Species



# Developing Fisheries?

## Two ways of monitoring:

- **Increasing rank order over time**
  - Can show “big movers”
- **Consistently increasing landings over time**
  - Captures steady increases, regardless of scale or pace of increase

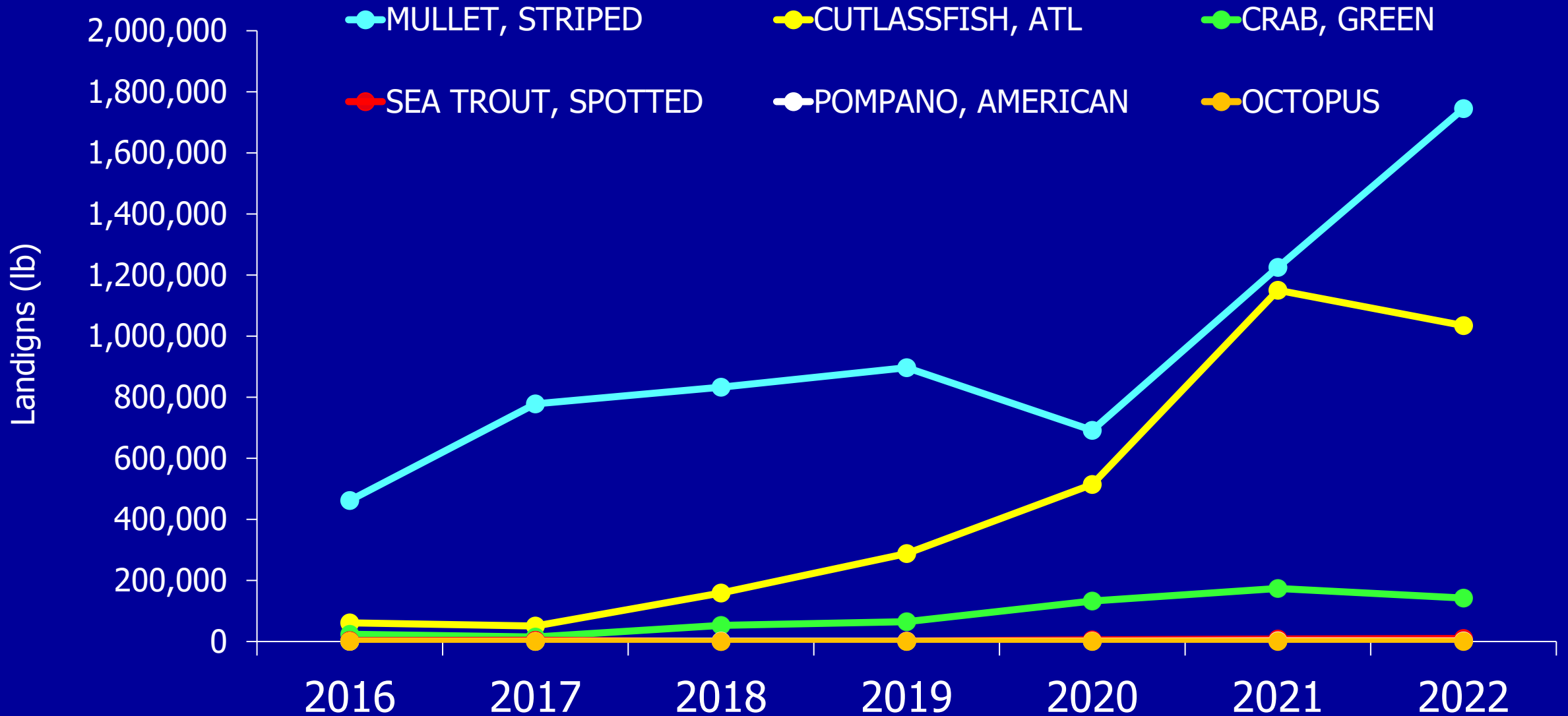




# Increasing Rank Order, 2018-2022

Common Name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016-22 Avg
<b>CATFISH, BLUE</b>	5,093,143	5,120,580	4,778,063	6,909,340	7,562,032	5,309,837
<b>MULLET, STRIPED</b>	832,924	896,851	691,531	1,225,434	1,745,312	905,610
<b>CUTLASSFISH, ATL</b>	158,763	287,906	514,418	1,150,385	1,034,479	430,144
<b>CRAB, GREEN</b>	52,659	64,887	132,675	173,717	142,107	78,971
<b>SEA TROUT, SPOTTED</b>	943	1,770	5,379	8,345	9,905	4,774
<b>POMPANO, AMERICAN</b>	1,189	947	1,327	2,206	1,998	1,233
<b>OCTOPUS</b>	79	129	124	274	277	285
<b>MUMMICHOG</b>	C	C	C	C	232	232
<b>TRIGGERFISH, QUEEN</b>	C	77	C	C	241	116
<b>GROUPE, MARBLED</b>	32	C	32	80	79	45
<b>CLAM, N. QUAHOG</b>	0	0	0	C	C	C
<b>UNCLASSIFIED SEABASS</b>	0	0	0	C	C	C

# Increasing Rank Order, 2018-2022



# Increasing Landings Every Year, 2018-2022

Common Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg
<b>KELP, SUGAR</b>	C	101,571	99,301	256,646	C	C	C	152,506
<b>SEA TROUT, SPOTTED</b>	3,018	4,055	943	1,770	5,379	8,345	9,905	4,774
<b>MUMMICHOG</b>	C	C	C	C	C	C	232	232
<b>CLAM, N. QUAHOG</b>	0	0	0	0	0	C	C	C
<b>UNCLASSIFIED SEABASS</b>	C	0	0	0	0	C	C	C
<b>CLAM, FALSE QUAHOG</b>	C	0	0	0	0	C	C	C
<b>CLAM, RAZOR</b>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

# Increasing Landings In New States?

Increasing/stable rank order or increasing landings and >1 mil lb landings in at least one year:

- **Blue catfish**
- **Striped mullet**
  - Nearly all landings in NC
- **Atlantic cutlassfish**
  - Most landings in NC, lesser amounts in VA
- Negligible landings of striped mullet and cutlassfish in other states.





# Questions/Discussion

- Are the previously included metrics useful?
  - E.g., top 25 species, increasing rank order, landings greater than 1 mil lb in at least one recent year.
- What, if any, other metrics or thresholds should we consider?
- Do you recommend any other revisions to the reports?

# Next Steps

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2024 unmanaged landings report

June 4-6, 2024 Council meeting

Riverhead, NY

# Backup Slides

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# EFP Application Review

- Guidance document adopted December 2023.
- Standard process for Council review of EFP applications for Forage Amendment Ecosystem Component species.
- Outlines information needed to inform Council review.
- Available at [mafmc.org/forage](https://mafmc.org/forage)