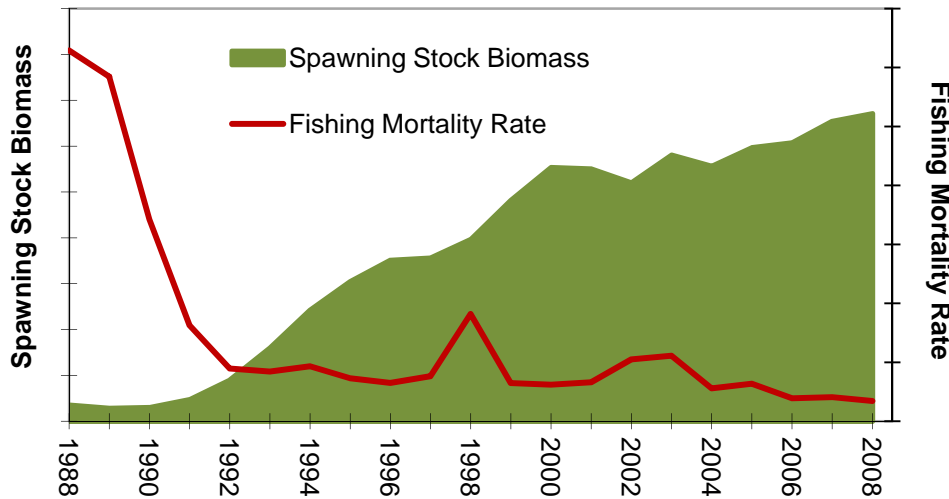
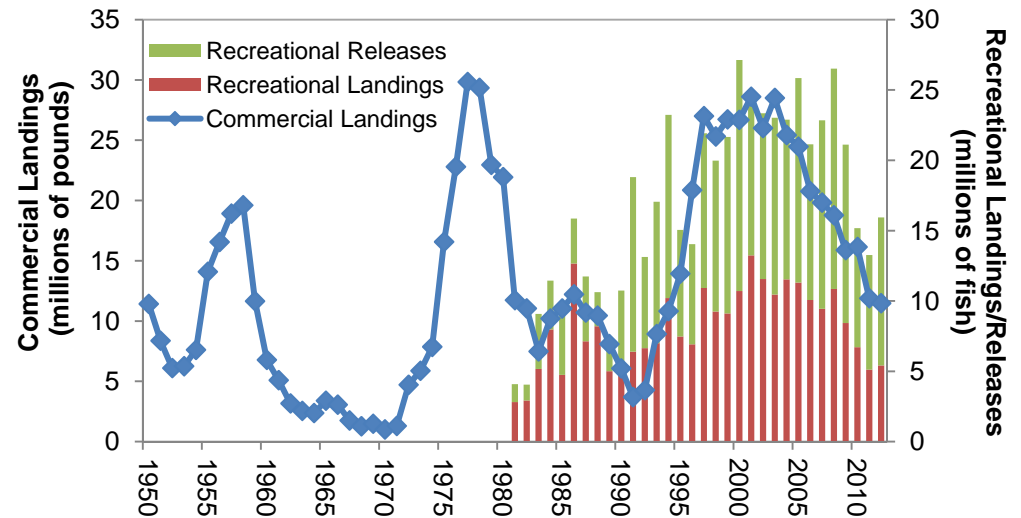


## Overview of Stock Status Atlantic Croaker, *Micropogonias undulatus*

**Trends in Atlantic Croaker Spawning Stock Biomass & Fishing Mortality Rate** (Source: 2010 ASMFC Atlantic Croaker Stock Assessment Report)



**Atlantic Croaker Commercial Landings and Recreational Landings & Releases** (Source: NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division, Silver Spring, MD, 2013)



### Management Considerations:

**Condition:** Not experiencing overfishing. Although model estimates of spawning stock biomass (SSB) were too uncertain to be used to precisely determine overfished stock status, biomass has been increasing and the age-structure of the population has been expanding since the late 1980s.

### FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals (Addendum I):

- Fishing Mortality Rate Threshold =  $F_{MSY}$  (or a reasonable proxy thereof) based upon the best available scientific information.
- Fishing Mortality Rate Target ( $F_{target}$ ) = a fraction of the F threshold. F target is the rebuilding rate.
- Exceeding F threshold constitutes overfishing.
- Biomass target =  $B_{MSY}$  (or a reasonable proxy thereof) based on the best available scientific information. B target is the rebuilt level.
- Biomass threshold = a fraction of the biomass target.
- Falling below B threshold constitutes overfished

### FMP Rebuilding Schedule:

None; FMP specifies rebuilding schedule will be established if necessary

### FMP Status:

Amendment 1 was adopted in November 2005 Addendum I was approved in 2010 to revise the management area (change to coastwide stock versus Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic stock components) and biological reference points.

### Primary Management Measures:

Amendment 1 established biological reference points for the Mid-Atlantic region and established a benchmark stock assessment to be conducted every five years. In each non-assessment year, the Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee is to tasked to conduct a set of "trigger" exercises to review Atlantic Croaker data. Although the plan does not require states to implement specific management measures, some states have implemented size and bag limits.