# Stock Assessment Update

# Progress to-date

- Data workshop (February 2024)
  - External researchers presented data
  - SAS and TC members presented data
- Assessment Workshop #1 (July 2024)
  - Progress on modeling
    - Updated data into basecase model
    - Progress in major improvements to coding
  - Updates on growth work
    - Incorporating new data
    - Examining new growth model and improvements to the existing growth matrices
  - Examination of environmental data series and work towards incorporating these into the 2025 assessment
  - Examination of options for VAST modeling to improve our understanding of spatial dynamics and change over time
- Ongoing calls and webinars, at least bi-weekly

# Upcoming scheduled meetings

- Oct 29 – ½ day webinar, model-free indicators
- Dec TBD – at least ½ day webinar pre-workshop call
- Jan TBD – update on socio-economics work from U. Maine
- Feb 11 – 13 2025 (tentative) – Assessment Workshop #2

# Timeline

- Data Workshop: February 15, 26-27 (virtual)
- Assessment Workshop 1: July 22-24 in New Bedford, MA
- Assessment Workshop 2: February 2025
- Peer Review Workshop: August 2025
- Present Assessment and Peer Review Reports to the Board: October 2025

# QUESTIONS ?

# 2024 Lobster Data Update

Gulf of Maine / Georges Bank

Southern New England

# Purpose

- Recommended during the 2020 Stock Assessment
- Monitor changes in abundance indicators in between assessments
- Indices:
  - Lobster young-of-year (YOY) index (SCUBA survey, states)
    - Signal of abundance for newly settled juveniles
  - Trawl survey recruit abundance (71-80 mm) (states & NEFSC)
    - Will molt into legal size range in the next year
  - Trawl survey encounter rate (states & NEFSC)
    - Information on how widely distributed lobsters are
  - Ventless Trap Survey (states)
    - Abundance index for lobsters > 53 mm (sex specific)

# Status determination

- Trend-based
  - Looking at change over time
- Status is determined based on the most recent 5-year average, compared to the time series
  - Current status: 2019 - 2023
- We also compare current status to status from the 2020 Assessment

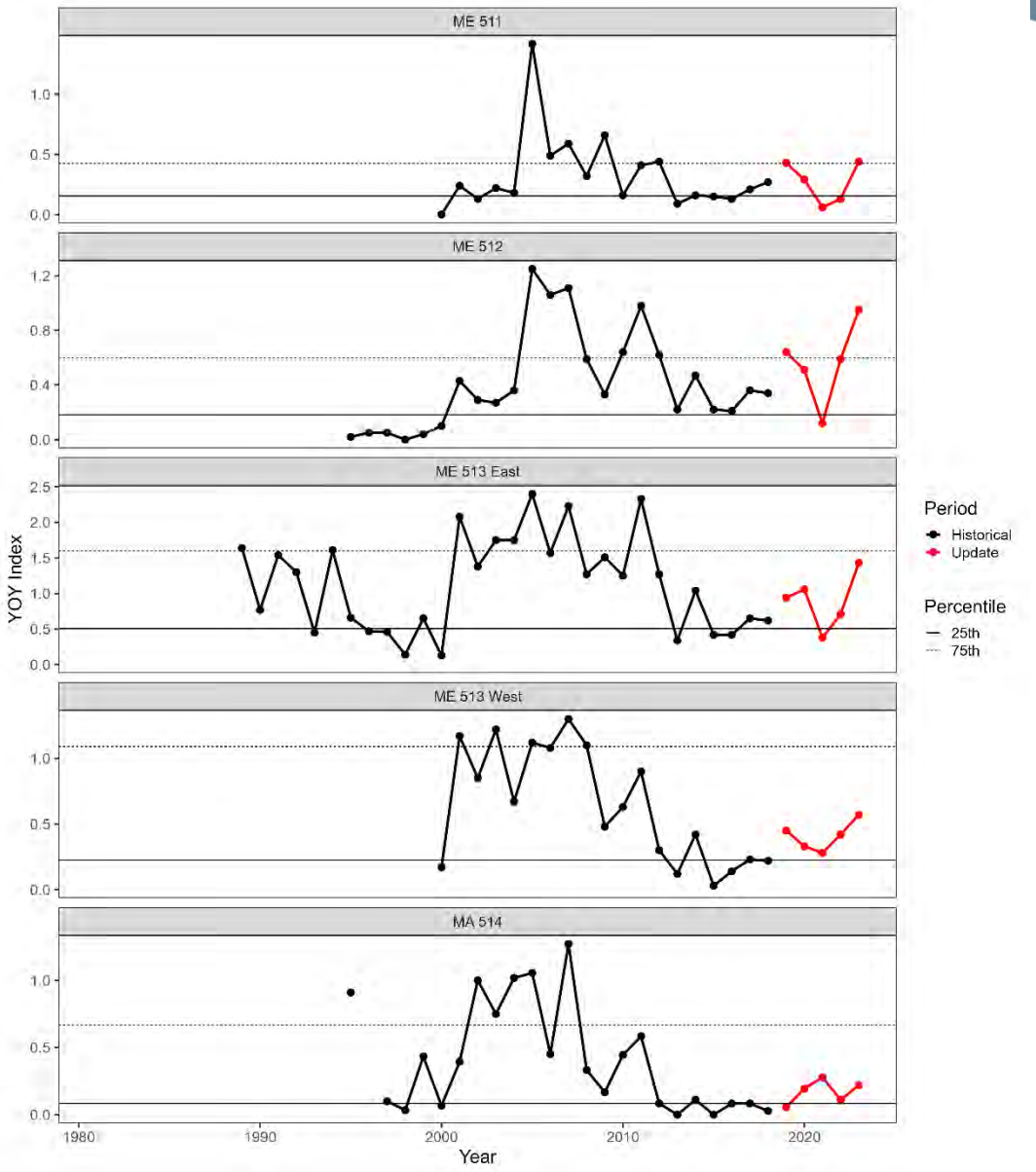
| Indicator | < 25th percentile | Between 25th and 75th percentile | > 75th percentile |
|---|---|---|---|
| YOY settlement (larval or YOY) | Negative | Neutral | Positive |
| Trawl survey recruit abundance | Negative | Neutral | Positive |
| Trawl survey encounter rate | Negative | Neutral | Positive |
| Ventless trap survey abundance | Negative | Neutral | Positive |

# Quick summary

- GOM/GB stock was at record highs in the 2020 stock assessment
  - GOM indicators for recruits and adults have declined since the assessment, YOY indicators show improvement
  - GBK indicators have not been updated with 2023 data (NEFSC survey)
    - Update in 2022 indicated slight improvements since the stock assessment
- SNE stock was at record lows in the 2020 stock assessment
  - SNE indicators show continued unfavorable conditions, most at or near time series lows

# GOM: YOY Indices

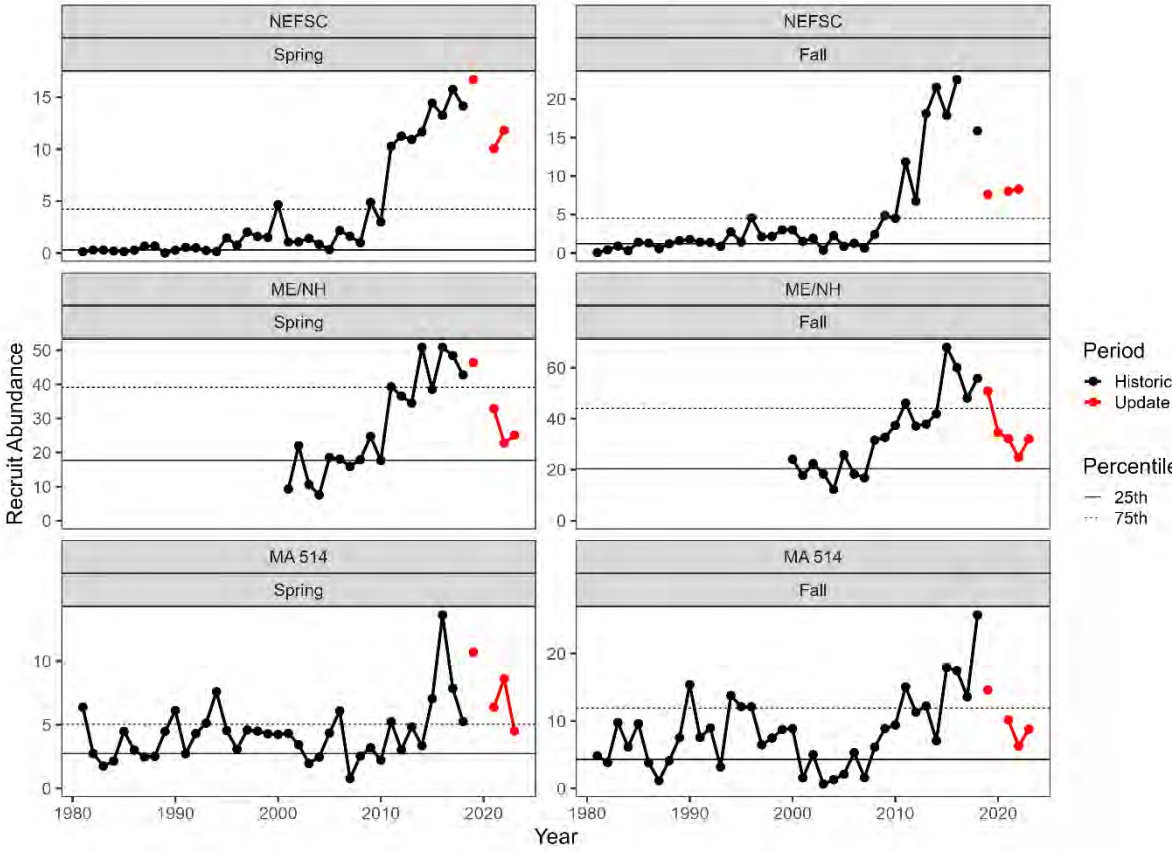
| YOUNG-OF-YEAR INDICES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Survey* | *ME* | | | | *MA* |
| | *511* | *512* | *513 East* | *513 West* | *514* |
| **2014-2018 mean** | 0.18 | 0.32 | 0.63 | 0.21 | 0.06 |
| **2019** | 0.43 | 0.64 | 0.94 | 0.45 | 0.06 |
| **2020** | 0.29 | 0.51 | 1.06 | 0.33 | 0.19 |
| **2021** | 0.06 | 0.12 | 0.38 | 0.28 | 0.28 |
| **2022** | 0.13 | 0.59 | 0.71 | 0.42 | 0.11 |
| **2023** | 0.44 | 0.95 | 1.43 | 0.57 | 0.22 |
| **2019-2023 mean** | 0.27 | 0.56 | 0.90 | 0.41 | 0.17 |
| **25th** | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.51 | 0.23 | 0.08 |
| **median** | 0.22 | 0.34 | 1.26 | 0.63 | 0.33 |
| **75th** | 0.43 | 0.60 | 1.60 | 1.09 | 0.67 |




- Improvements since the SA
  - 5-yr means have all increased since SA, now all neutral
  - Increases for last 2 years in all ME indices since recent low in 2021
  - Reminder - Signals in YOY indicators won't be detected in recruit indicators for several years

# GOM: Recruit Abundance

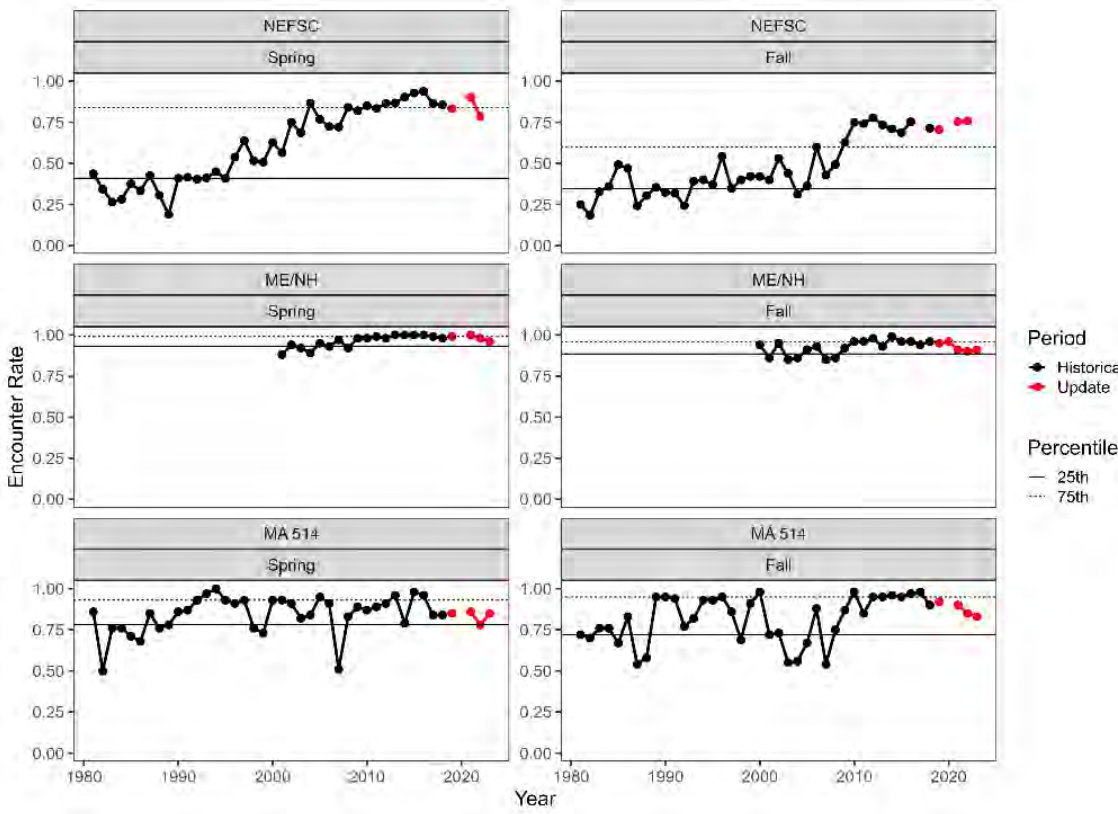
| RECRUIT ABUNDANCE (SURVEY) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abundance of lobsters 71 - 80 mm CL (sexes combined) | | | | | | |
| Survey | NEFSC | | ME/NH | | MA 514 | |
| | Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall |
| 2014-2018 mean | 13.84 | 19.46 | 46.26 | 54.80 | 7.42 | 16.34 |
| 2019 | 16.69 | 7.62 | 46.37 | 50.85 | 10.69 | 14.59 |
| 2020 | | | | 34.65 | | |
| 2021 | 10.05 | 8.04 | 32.86 | 32.19 | 6.39 | 10.16 |
| 2022 | 11.82 | 8.29 | 22.78 | 24.86 | 8.61 | 6.27 |
| 2023 | | | 25.08 | 32.09 | 4.51 | 8.78 |
| 2019-2023 mean | 12.85 | 7.98 | 31.77 | 34.93 | 7.55 | 9.95 |
| 25th | 0.30 | 1.21 | 17.72 | 20.37 | 2.73 | 4.30 |
| median | 1.07 | 1.76 | 23.36 | 32.67 | 4.30 | 7.53 |
| 75th | 4.23 | 4.53 | 39.07 | 44.02 | 5.05 | 11.90 |




- Signs of decline in recruits (71-80 mm) since peaks observed during the SA
  - Three means changed from positive to neutral (all inshore)
    - No 2023 data for NEFSC (status remains positive)

# GOM: Encounter Rates

| SURVEY LOBSTER ENCOUNTER RATE<br>Proportion of postive tows | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Survey* | *NEFSC* | | *ME/NH* | | *MA 514* | |
| | *Spring* | *Fall* | *Spring* | *Fall* | *Spring* | *Fall* |
| **2014-2018 mean** | 0.90 | 0.72 | 0.99 | 0.96 | 0.88 | 0.95 |
| **2019** | 0.83 | 0.71 | 0.99 | 0.95 | 0.85 | 0.92 |
| **2020** | | | | 0.96 | | |
| **2021** | 0.90 | 0.75 | 1.00 | 0.91 | 0.86 | 0.90 |
| **2022** | 0.79 | 0.76 | 0.98 | 0.90 | 0.78 | 0.85 |
| **2023** | | | 0.96 | 0.91 | 0.85 | 0.83 |
| **2019-2023 mean** | 0.84 | 0.74 | 0.98 | 0.93 | 0.84 | 0.88 |
| **25th** | 0.41 | 0.35 | 0.93 | 0.89 | 0.78 | 0.72 |
| **median** | 0.60 | 0.42 | 0.98 | 0.94 | 0.87 | 0.86 |
| **75th** | 0.84 | 0.60 | 0.99 | 0.96 | 0.93 | 0.95 |

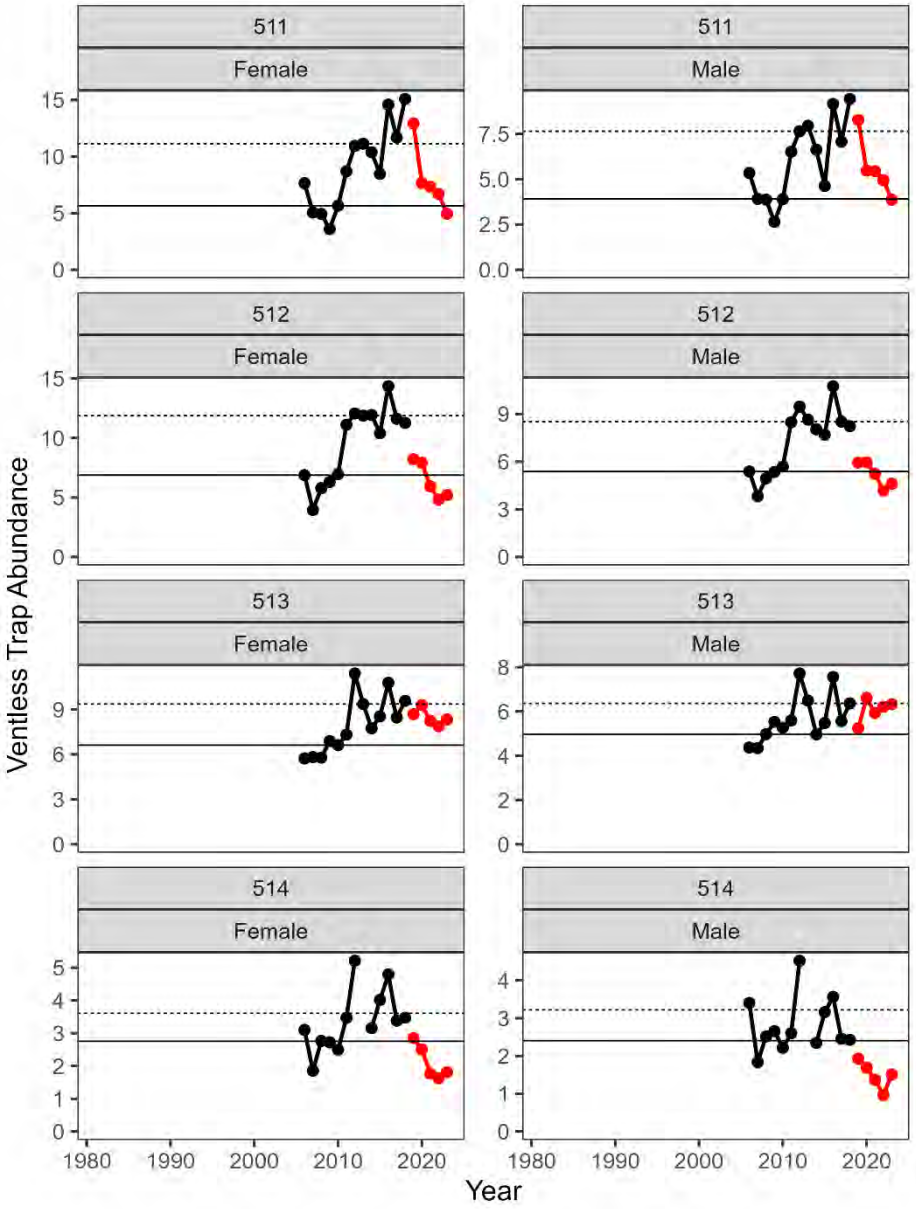



- Declines in inshore encounter rates since the SA
  - All inshore means neutral
    - No 2023 data for NEFSC (status remains positive)
  - ME/NH values remain relatively high & stable, 90% or more of tows are positive

# GOM: VTS Indices

| VENTLESS TRAP ABUNDANCE<br>Abundance of lobsters ≥ 53 mm CL | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Survey | 511 | | 512 | | 513 | | 514 | |
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| 2014-2018 mean | 12.05 | 7.38 | 11.90 | 8.65 | 9.02 | 5.99 | 3.76 | 2.79 |
| 2019 | 12.93 | 8.27 | 8.22 | 5.94 | 8.68 | 5.25 | 2.85 | 1.93 |
| 2020 | 7.66 | 5.47 | 7.91 | 5.96 | 9.29 | 6.61 | 2.50 | 1.69 |
| 2021 | 7.34 | 5.44 | 5.94 | 5.23 | 8.24 | 5.93 | 1.77 | 1.37 |
| 2022 | 6.69 | 4.95 | 4.83 | 4.18 | 7.88 | 6.21 | 1.63 | 0.96 |
| 2023 | 4.94 | 3.86 | 5.20 | 4.61 | 8.33 | 6.33 | 1.81 | 1.51 |
| 2019-2023 mean | 7.91 | 5.60 | 6.42 | 5.18 | 8.48 | 6.06 | 2.11 | 1.49 |
| 25th | 5.66 | 3.91 | 6.87 | 5.38 | 6.61 | 4.97 | 2.76 | 2.41 |
| median | 8.70 | 6.52 | 11.10 | 8.04 | 7.74 | 5.53 | 3.27 | 2.56 |
| 75th | 11.14 | 7.64 | 11.87 | 8.52 | 9.36 | 6.37 | 3.61 | 3.22 |

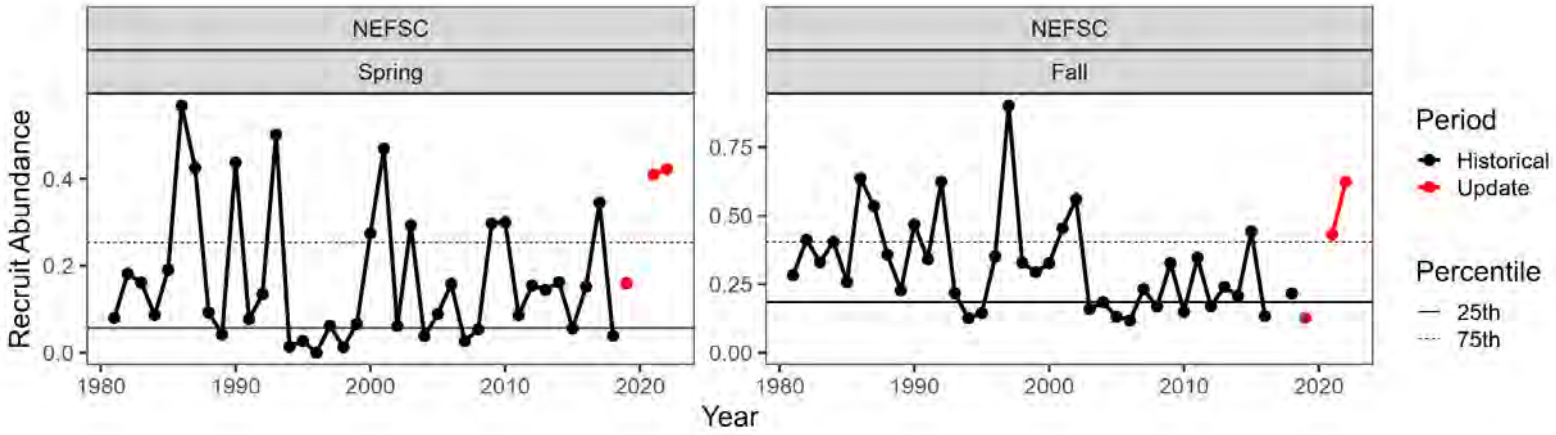
- Declines since the SA
  - Four of eight means declined to negative status
  - 2023 values slight uptick relative to 2022 in all but 511, but still low compared to time series



# GBK: Recruit Abundance

- Slight improvement since the SA
  - One 5-year mean changed status from neutral to positive
    - No 2023 data for NEFSC
  - 2021 & 2022 values were both relatively high

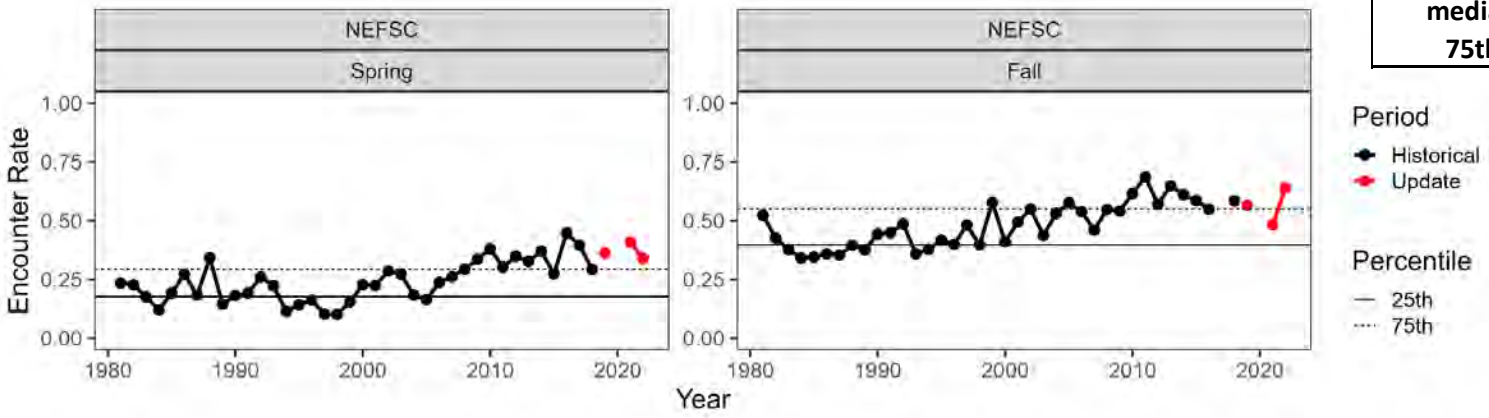
| RECRUIT ABUNDANCE (SURVEY) | | |
|---|---|---|
| Abundance of lobsters 71 - 80 mm CL (sexes combined) | | |
| *Survey* | *NEFSC* | |
| | *Spring* | *Fall* |
| **2014-2018 mean** | 0.15 | 0.25 |
| **2019** | 0.16 | 0.13 |
| **2020** | | |
| **2021** | 0.41 | 0.43 |
| **2022** | 0.42 | 0.62 |
| **2023** | | |
| **2019-2023 mean** | 0.33 | 0.39 |
| **25th** | 0.06 | 0.18 |
| **median** | 0.11 | 0.29 |
| **75th** | 0.25 | 0.40 |



# GBK: Encounter Rates

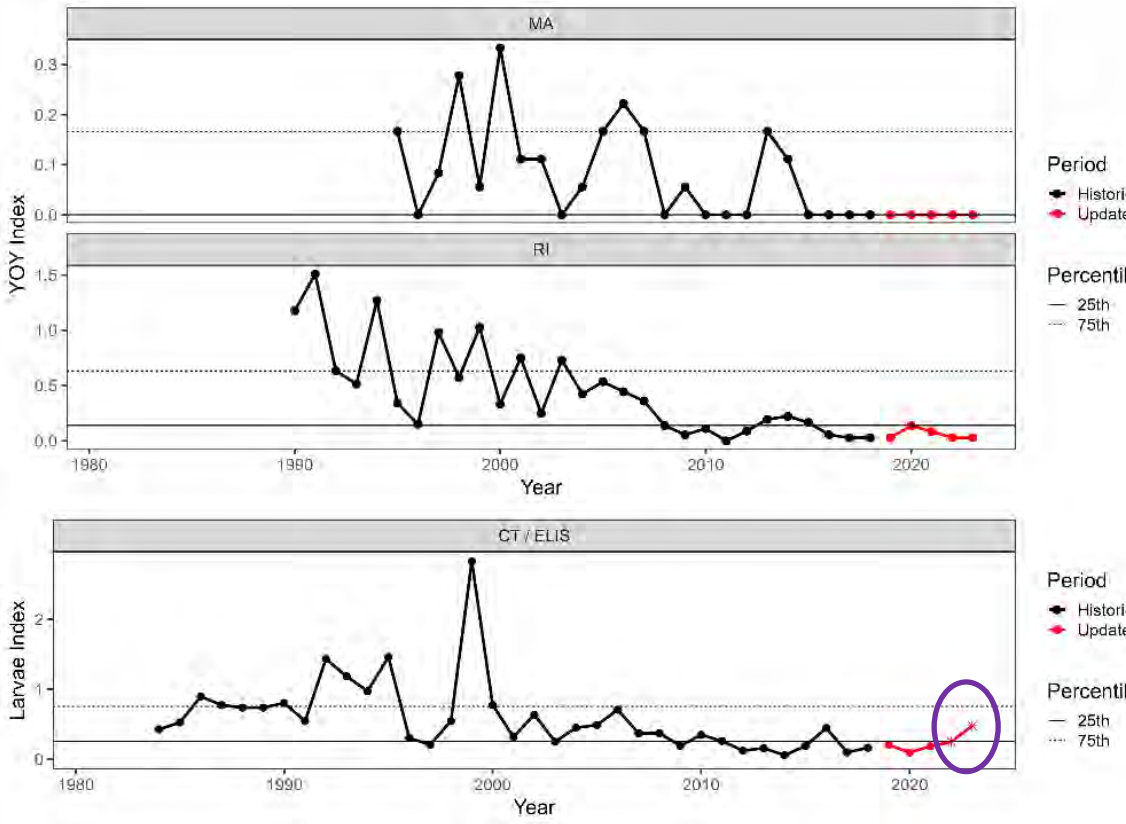
- Conditions similar to the SA
  - Means both remained positive
    - No 2023 data for NEFSC

| SURVEY LOBSTER ENCOUNTER RATE | | |
|---|---|---|
| Proportion of postive tows | | |
| *Survey* | *NEFSC* | |
| | *Spring* | *Fall* |
| **2014-2018 mean** | 0.36 | 0.58 |
| **2019** | 0.36 | 0.57 |
| **2020** | | |
| **2021** | 0.41 | 0.48 |
| **2022** | 0.34 | 0.64 |
| **2023** | | |
| **2019-2023 mean** | 0.37 | 0.56 |
| **25th** | 0.18 | 0.40 |
| **median** | 0.23 | 0.48 |
| **75th** | 0.29 | 0.55 |



# SNE: YOY Indices

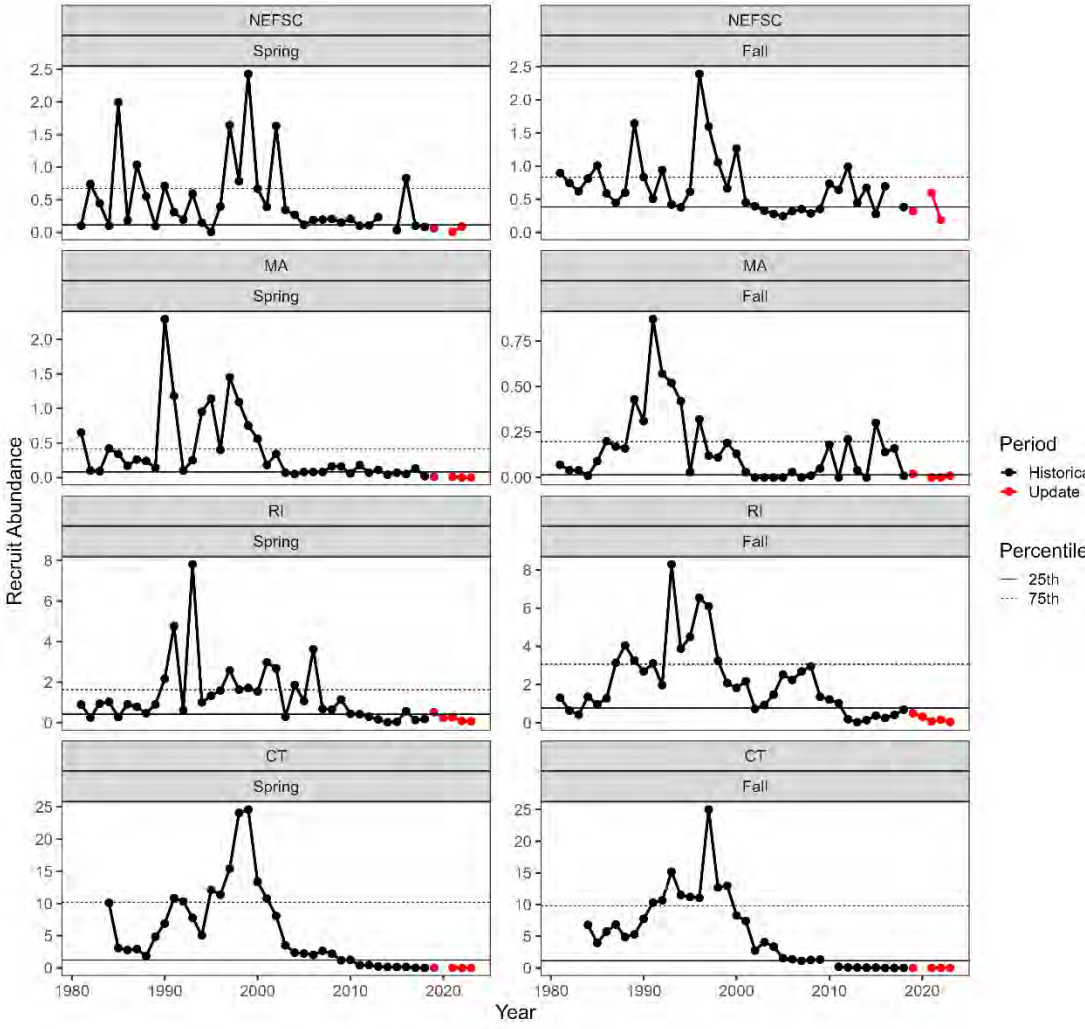
| YOUNG-OF-YEAR INDICES | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Survey* | *MA* | *RI* | *CT / ELIS Larvae* |
| **2014-2018 mean** | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.19 |
| **2019** | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.21 |
| **2020** | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.10 |
| **2021** | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.19 |
| **2022** | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.25 |
| **2023** | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.48 |
| **2019-2023 mean** | 0.00 | 0.06 | 0.24 |
| **25th** | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.26 |
| **median** | 0.06 | 0.34 | 0.45 |
| **75th** | 0.17 | 0.63 | 0.76 |




- Negative conditions across the stock with some decline since the SA
  - All 5-yr means are now negative
  - No YOY caught during MA survey for the last nine years
  - CT/ELIS survey methods changed in 2022; 2022 and 2023 values represent only one and two observed larvae, respectively (lowest ever)

# SNE: Recruit Abundance

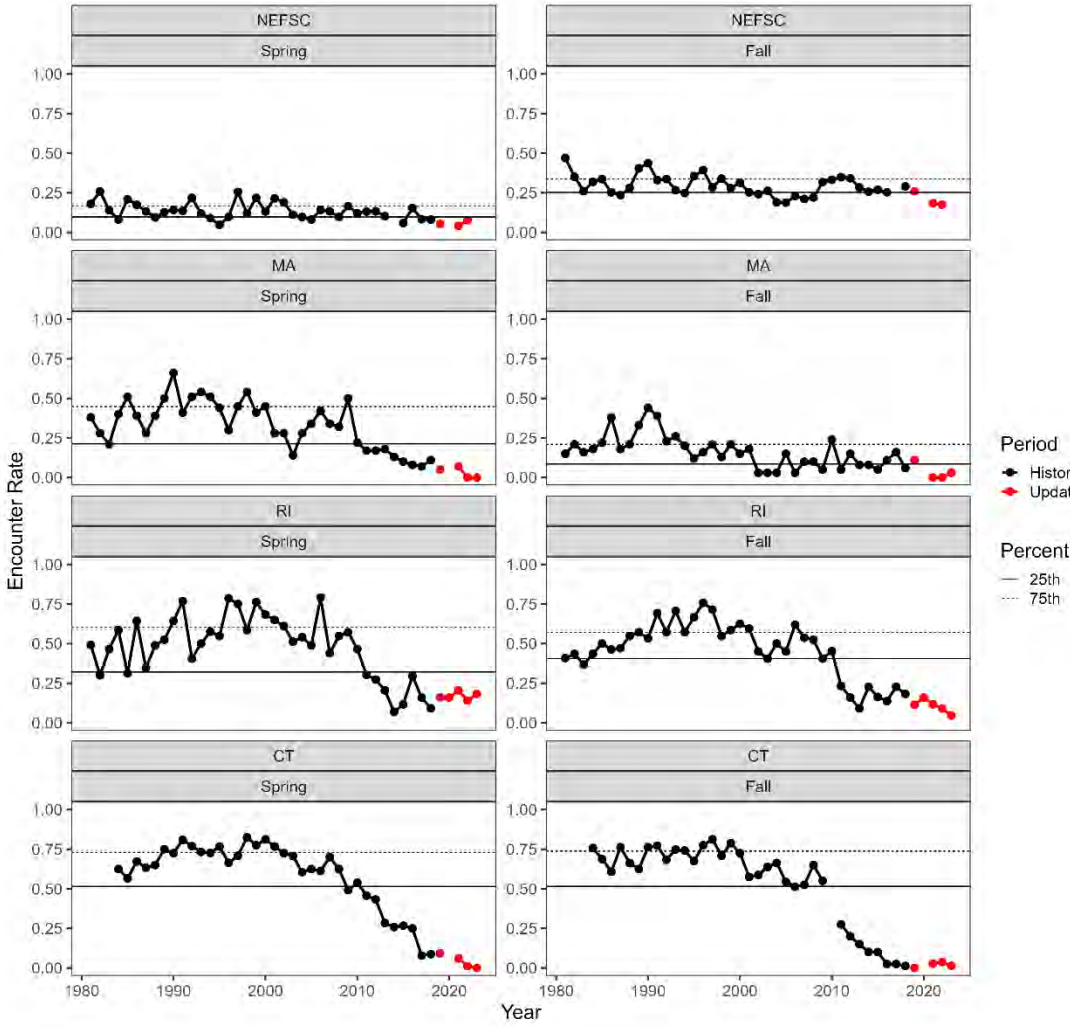
| RECRUIT ABUNDANCE (SURVEY) | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abundance of lobsters 71 - 80 mm CL (sexes combined) | | | | | | | | |
| *Survey* | *NEFSC* | | *MA* | | *RI* | | *CT* | |
| | *Spring* | *Fall* | *Spring* | *Fall* | *Spring* | *Fall* | *Spring* | *Fall* |
| **2014-2018 mean** | 0.26 | 0.51 | 0.06 | 0.12 | 0.19 | 0.37 | 0.10 | 0.03 |
| **2019** | 0.06 | 0.32 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.52 | 0.50 | 0.03 | 0.00 |
| **2020** | | | | | 0.23 | 0.32 | | |
| **2021** | 0.01 | 0.59 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.00 |
| **2022** | 0.09 | 0.19 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.09 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| **2023** | | | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **2019-2023 mean** | 0.05 | 0.37 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| **25th** | 0.11 | 0.38 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.42 | 0.78 | 1.23 | 1.16 |
| **median** | 0.23 | 0.61 | 0.17 | 0.10 | 0.91 | 1.65 | 2.93 | 4.48 |
| **75th** | 0.67 | 0.83 | 0.42 | 0.20 | 1.62 | 3.07 | 10.20 | 9.81 |




- Declines since the SA
  - All 5-yr means are now negative
    - No 2023 data for NEFSC
  - No recruit lobsters were observed in 2022 or 2023 for three of the six inshore surveys

# SNE: Encounter Rates

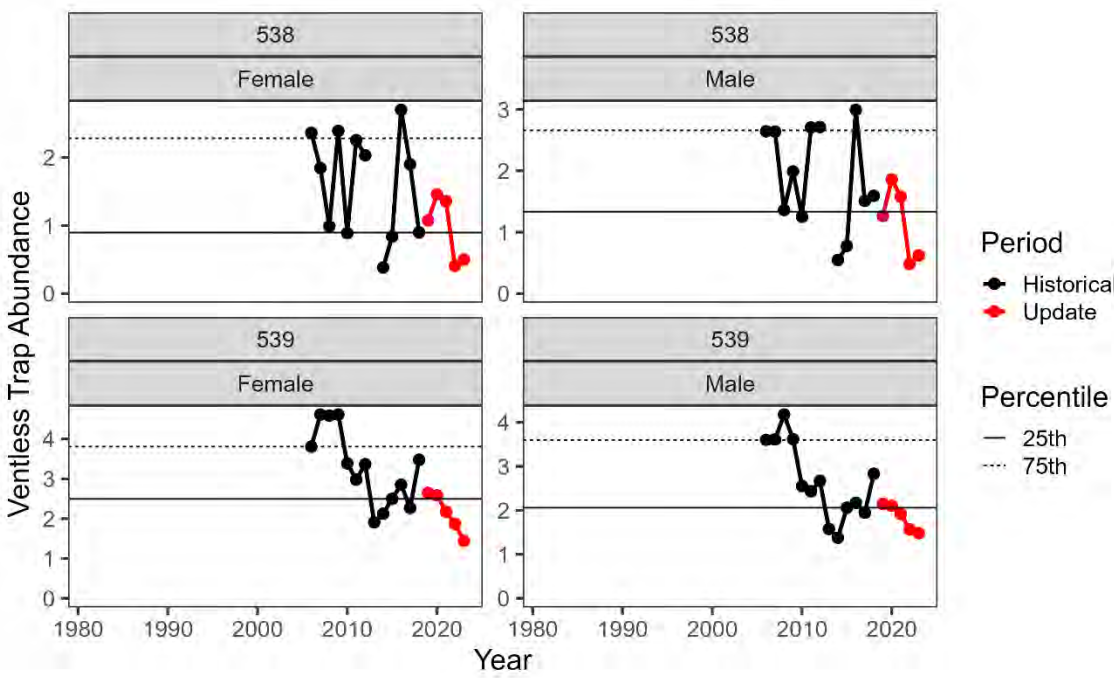
| SURVEY LOBSTER ENCOUNTER RATE<br>Proportion of postive tows | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Survey* | *NEFSC* | | *MA* | | *RI* | | *CT* | |
| | *Spring* | *Fall* | *Spring* | *Fall* | *Spring* | *Fall* | *Spring* | *Fall* |
| **2014-2018 mean** | 0.09 | 0.27 | 0.10 | 0.09 | 0.15 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.05 |
| **2019** | 0.05 | 0.26 | 0.05 | 0.11 | 0.16 | 0.11 | 0.09 | 0.00 |
| **2020** | | | | | 0.16 | 0.16 | | |
| **2021** | 0.04 | 0.18 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 0.03 |
| **2022** | 0.08 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.04 |
| **2023** | | | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.18 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| **2019-2023 mean** | 0.06 | 0.21 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.17 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 0.02 |
| **25th** | 0.10 | 0.25 | 0.21 | 0.09 | 0.32 | 0.40 | 0.52 | 0.52 |
| **median** | 0.13 | 0.28 | 0.34 | 0.16 | 0.51 | 0.49 | 0.65 | 0.64 |
| **75th** | 0.17 | 0.34 | 0.45 | 0.21 | 0.60 | 0.57 | 0.73 | 0.74 |




- Declines since the SA
  - All 5-yr means are now negative
    - No 2023 data for NEFSC
  - No lobsters of any size were observed in 2022 or 2023 for two of six inshore surveys

# SNE: VTS Indices

| VENTLESS TRAP ABUNDANCE<br>Abundance of lobsters ≥ 53 mm CL | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Survey* | *538* | | *539* | |
| | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* |
| **2014-2018 mean** | 1.34 | 1.48 | 2.64 | 2.08 |
| **2019** | 1.08 | 1.26 | 2.65 | 2.14 |
| **2020** | 1.46 | 1.86 | 2.58 | 2.10 |
| **2021** | 1.36 | 1.58 | 2.18 | 1.92 |
| **2022** | 0.41 | 0.48 | 1.87 | 1.57 |
| **2023** | 0.50 | 0.62 | 1.44 | 1.48 |
| **2019-2023 mean** | 0.96 | 1.16 | 2.14 | 1.84 |
| **25th** | 0.90 | 1.33 | 2.49 | 2.06 |
| **median** | 1.87 | 1.79 | 3.37 | 2.55 |
| **75th** | 2.28 | 2.66 | 3.81 | 3.60 |



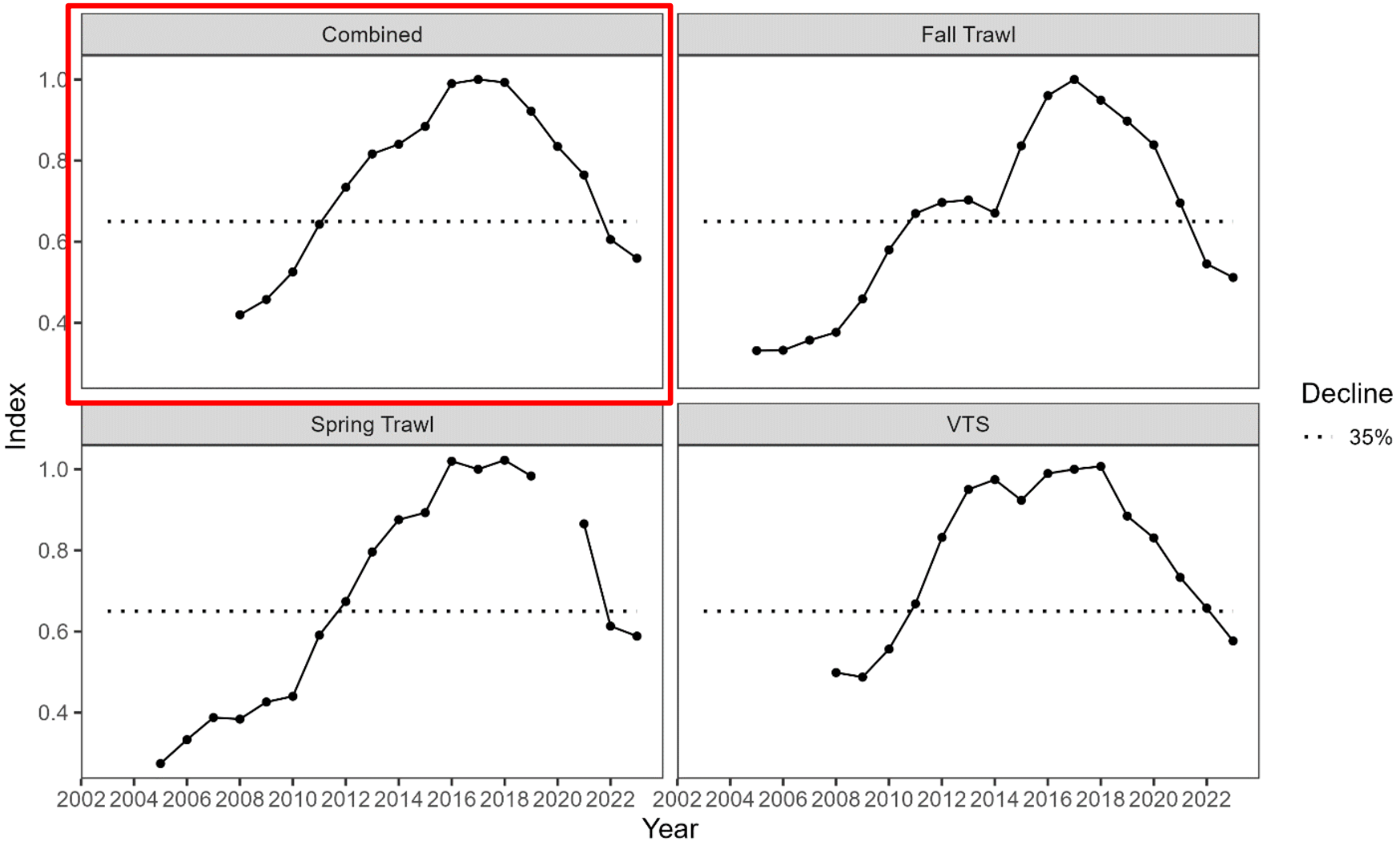

- Declines since the SA
  - Three of the 5-yr means changed from neutral to negative
  - Annual values for both sexes in 2022 and 2023 values were all negative

# Questions?

# Addendum XXVII – Trigger Index

- Component of Addendum XXVII
  - Provided managers with a mechanism on which to fix a specific management action in response to changing stock conditions
    - Definition of the index and the threshold to initiate action were all part of Addendum XXVII
  - Represents change in conditions for the GOM/GB stock since the 2020 stock assessment (specifically recruit abundance)
- Calculated based on combination of inshore surveys
  - VTS, spring and fall trawl surveys (ME/NH and MA)
- Each value represents a running 3-yr average of the underlying indices
  - Most recent value is the 2021-2023 average
  - Using the average makes the index less sensitive to interannual variations
- Addendum XXVII has passed
  - Trigger index no longer has policy action attached to it
  - Addendum XXXI to delay implementation date is on today's agenda
- Presenting the updated index here in response to multiple requests

# Addend. XXVII - Trigger Index




NOTE – the NEFSC survey is not included in the index, so the lack of 2023 data from that survey is not impacting calculation of the index

# American Lobster Draft Addendum XXXI

## *Postponing Measures of Addendum XXVII*

American Lobster Management Board
October 2024

# Outline

1. Background
2. Addendum Timeline
3. Addendum Objective
4. Proposed Management Options
5. Public Comment Summary
6. Advisory Panel Report
7. Next Steps

# Background

- Addendum XXVII (2023) for increasing protection of GOM/GBK spawning stock
  - established a trigger mechanism to implement a series of gauge and vent size changes when a trigger is reached
- Trigger = 35% decline in the trigger index from the reference period (2016-2018)
  - Trigger index declined by 39% with inclusion of 2022 data
- Board delayed implementation of Addendum XXVII measures to January 1, 2025

# Addendum XXVII Measures

| Changes to Management Measures Initiated When 35% Trigger Level is Reached | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Area** | **LCMA 1** | **LCMA 3** | **OCC** |
| **Current Measures (Year 0)** | Min gauge: 3 ¼”<br>Max gauge: 5”<br>Vent size: status quo | Min gauge: $3^{17}/_{32}$”<br>Max gauge: 6 ¾”<br>Vent size: status quo | Min gauge: 3 3/8”<br>Max gauge: 6 ¾” (state), none (fed)<br>Vent size: status quo |
| **Measures for Year 1 (Jan 1, 2025)** | Min gauge size: $3\ ^{5}/_{16}$” (84 mm) | Status quo | Status quo |
| **Measures for Year 3 (Jan 1, 2027)** | Min gauge size: $3\ ^{3}/_{8}$” (86 mm) | Status quo | Status quo |
| **Measures for Year 4 (Jan 1, 2028)** | Vent size: 2 x $5\ ^{3}/_{4}$” rectangular; $2\ ^{5}/_{8}$” circular | Status quo | Status quo |
| **Measures for Year 5 (Jan 1, 2029)** | Status quo | Max gauge size: 6 ½” | Max gauge size: 6 ½” |

# Addendum XXX (August 2024)

- Magnuson-Stevens prohibits import/sale of whole, live lobsters smaller than the minimum possession size in effect under the Commission FMP (Mitchell Provision)

- Commission recommends imports from other countries be restricted to the smallest LCMA minimum size in effect

  – 3 $^{5}/_{16}$" in 2025, and 3-$^{3}/_{8}$" in 2027

  – Minimum size of live lobster coming into the US would not be any smaller than smallest lobster that can be legally landed by US industry

# Addendum XXXI

- Draft Addendum XXXI considers further delaying the biological measures (size limits and v-notch definitions) an additional six months to July 1, 2025
- Aims to reduce negative impacts to the US and Canadian lobster industries in 2025 and allow Canada more time to consider implementing complementary management measures.

# Action Timeline

| Date | Action |
|---|---|
| August 2024 | Board initiated Draft Addendum XXXI |
| | Draft Addendum developed |
| | Board approved Addendum for Public Comment |
| September – Oct 2024 | Public hearing and comment period |
| **October 2024** | **Board considers final approval of Draft Addendum XXXI** |

# Proposed Management Options

# Proposed Management Options

- **Option A**
  - Status Quo
- **Option B**
  - Postpone implementation of some Addendum XXVII measures until July 1, 2025

# Option A: Status Quo

| Addendum XXVII implementation dates | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Area** | **LCMA 1** | **LCMA 3** | **OCC** |
| **Current Measures** | Min gauge: 3 ¼”<br>Max gauge: 5”<br>Vent size: status quo | Min gauge: $3\,^{17}/_{32}$”<br>Max gauge: 6 ¾”<br>Vent size: status quo | Min gauge: $3\,^{3}/_{8}$”<br>Max gauge: 6 ¾”<br>(*state*), none (*fed*)<br>Vent size: status quo |
| **January 1, 2025** | **Min gauge size: $3\,^{5}/_{16}$” (84 mm)** | Status quo | **Max gauge: 6 ¾” (*state and federal*)** |
| **January 1, 2027** | **Min gauge size: $3\,^{3}/_{8}$” (86 mm)** | Status quo | Status quo |
| **January 1, 2028** | **Vent size: 2 x $5\,^{3}/_{4}$” rectangular; $2\,^{5}/_{8}$” circular** | Status quo | Status quo |
| **January 1, 2029** | Status quo | **Max gauge size: 6 ½”** | **Max gauge size: 6 ½”** |

# Option B: Postpone to July 1, 2025

| New proposed implementation dates | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Area** | **LCMA 1** | **LCMA 3** | **OCC** |
| **Current Measures** | Min gauge: 3 ¼”<br>Max gauge: 5”<br>Vent size: status quo | Min gauge: $3^{17}/_{32}$”<br>Max gauge: 6 ¾”<br>Vent size: status quo | Min gauge: $3\ ^{3}/_{8}$”<br>Max gauge: 6 ¾”<br>(*state*), none (*fed*)<br>Vent size: status quo |
| **July 1, 2025** | Min gauge size:<br>$3\ ^{5}/_{16}$” (84 mm) | Status quo | Max gauge: 6 ¾”<br>(state and federal) |
| **July 1, 2027** | Min gauge size:<br>$3\ ^{3}/_{8}$” (86 mm) | Status quo | Status quo |
| **July 1, 2028** | Vent size:<br>2 x $5\ ^{3}/_{4}$” rectangular;<br>$2\ ^{5}/_{8}$” circular | Status quo | Status quo |
| **July 1, 2029** | Status quo | Max gauge size: 6 ½” | Max gauge size: 6 ½” |

# Option B: Postpone to July 1, 2025

**★ Option B would <u>NOT</u> postpone trap tag provision:**

*"No surplus trap tags for LCMAs 1 and 3 will be automatically issued to permit holders for these areas until trap losses occur and are documented."*

- This would still be implemented January 1, 2025

# Public Comments

# Public Comment Summary

- Comment deadline: 11:59 PM, October 6
- One webinar public hearing
  - 26 public attendees
  - Attendee poll (15/19 supported Option B)
  - 5 comments
- 81 written comments submitted
  - 5 organizations
  - 76 individuals

# Public Comment Summary

| Total Comments Received | |
|---|---|
| Organization Letters | 5 |
| Individual Comments | 76 |
| Total Written Comments | 81 |

| Management Options | Public Hearing | Letters | Individual Comments | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Option A. Status Quo | 2 | | 2 | **4** |
| Option B. Postpone Implementation | 15 | 5 | 28 | **48** |
| Oppose Gauge Change | | | 42 | **42** |
| Other | | | 4 | **4** |

# Support for Option A

- Increasing the measure is a good conservation idea
- Previous increase to the gauge size did not hurt the industry
- Science not emotion should dictate the actions necessary to protect a healthy lobster population
- Gulf of Maine warming and low recruitment rates

# Support for Option B

- The minimum gauge size should change for Canada and the US at the same time
- More time needed to figure out marketing, enforcement, and give fisherman a chance to plan for how this will affect their businesses
- A delay will allow more data to be collected

# Advisory Panel Report

# Advisory Panel Comments

- The AP met via webinar September 23rd
- All advisors in attendance supported Option B, postpone implementation of the Addendum XXVII measures
  - Concerns about negative impacts of LCMA 1 gauge increase to industry if smaller lobster can come in from Canada
  - Want to see an economic analysis of impacts
  - Observing much higher abundances of sublegal lobsters
- Two advisors do not think the gauge size needs to change
- LCMTs should have been involved in developing management measures for the LCMAs

# Next Steps

- Select Management Program

- Consider approval of Addendum XXXI

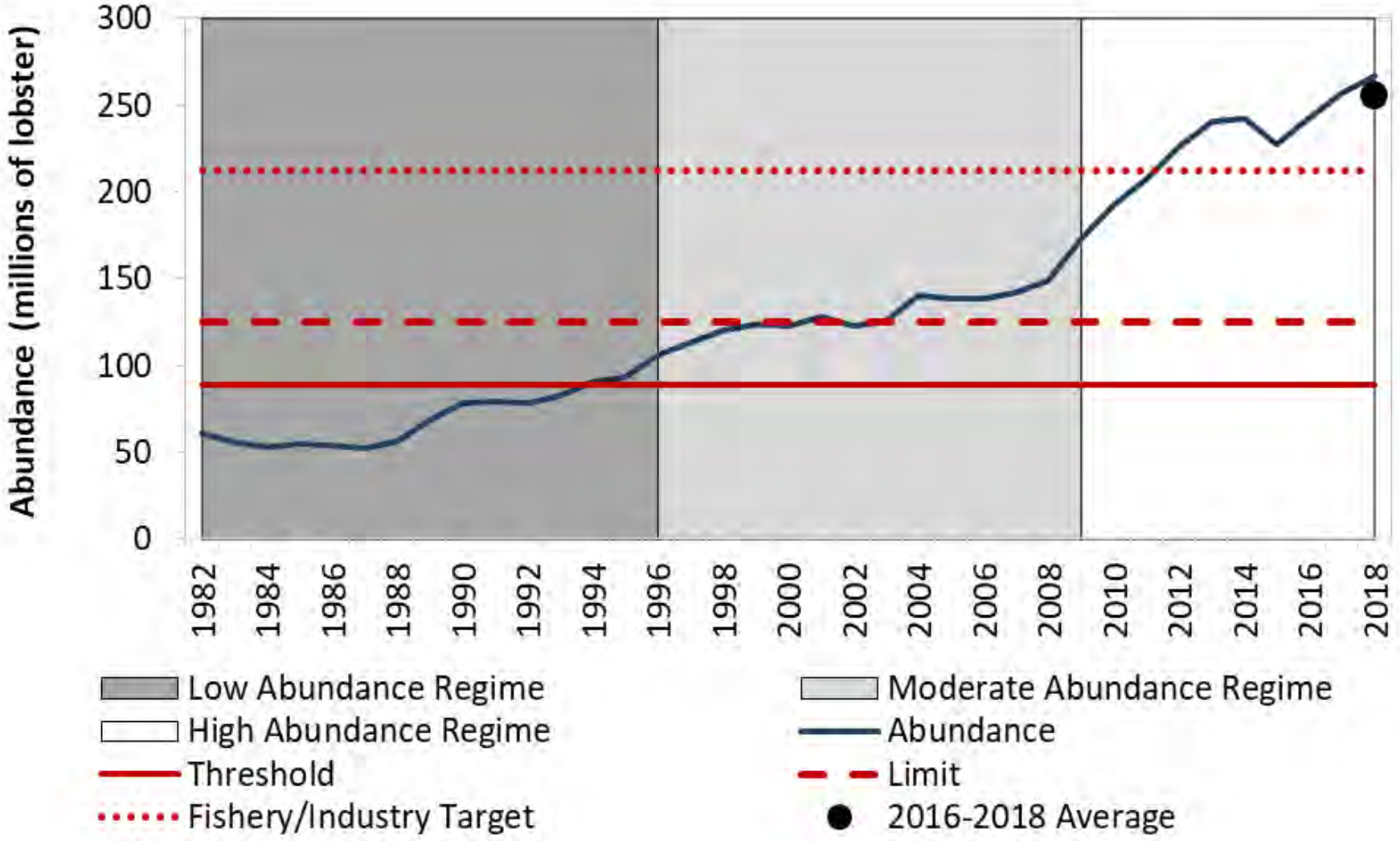
# Questions?

# American Lobster
# FMP Review for the 2023 Fishing Year

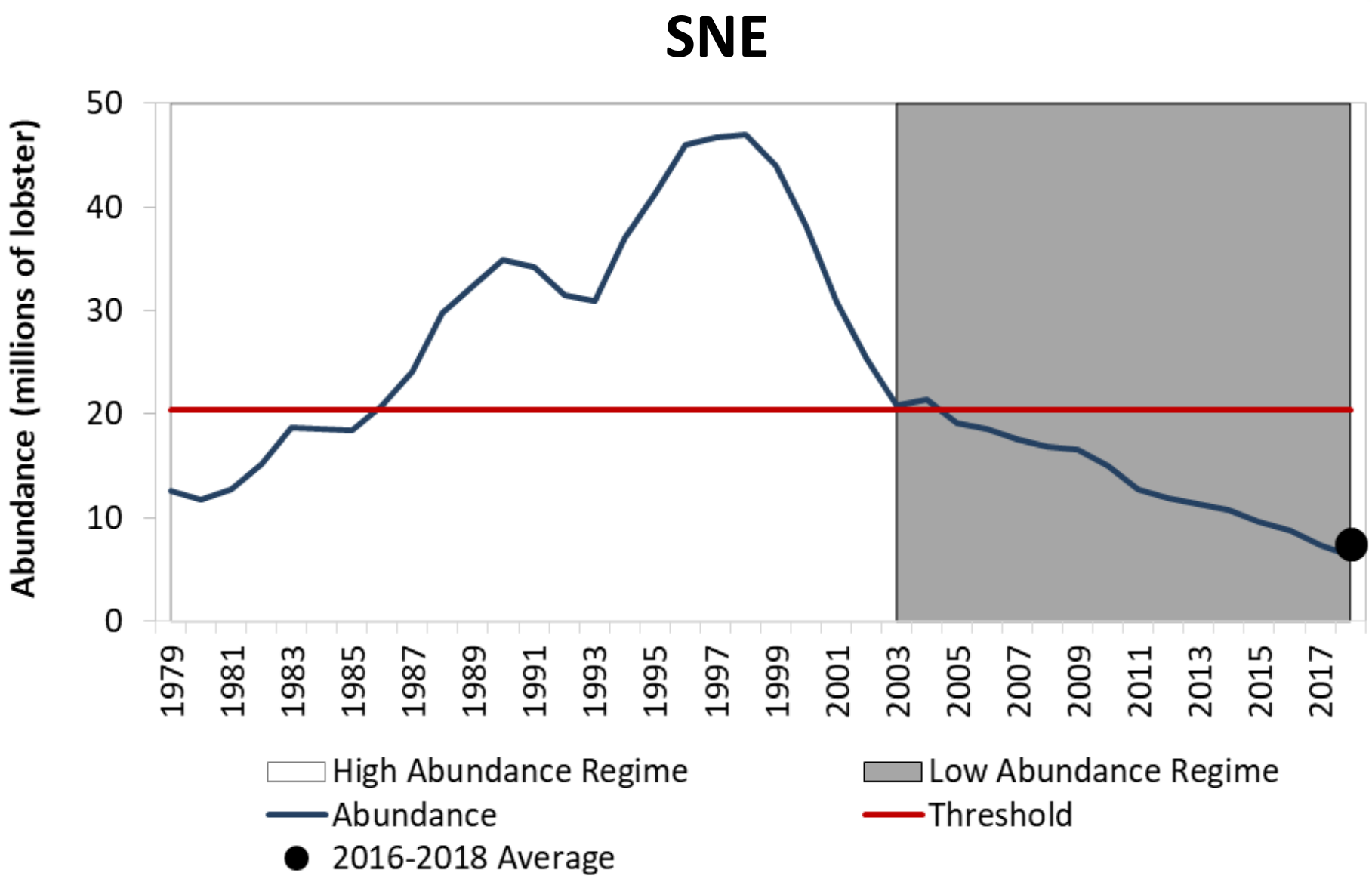
American Lobster Management Board
October 21, 2024

# Status of the Stock

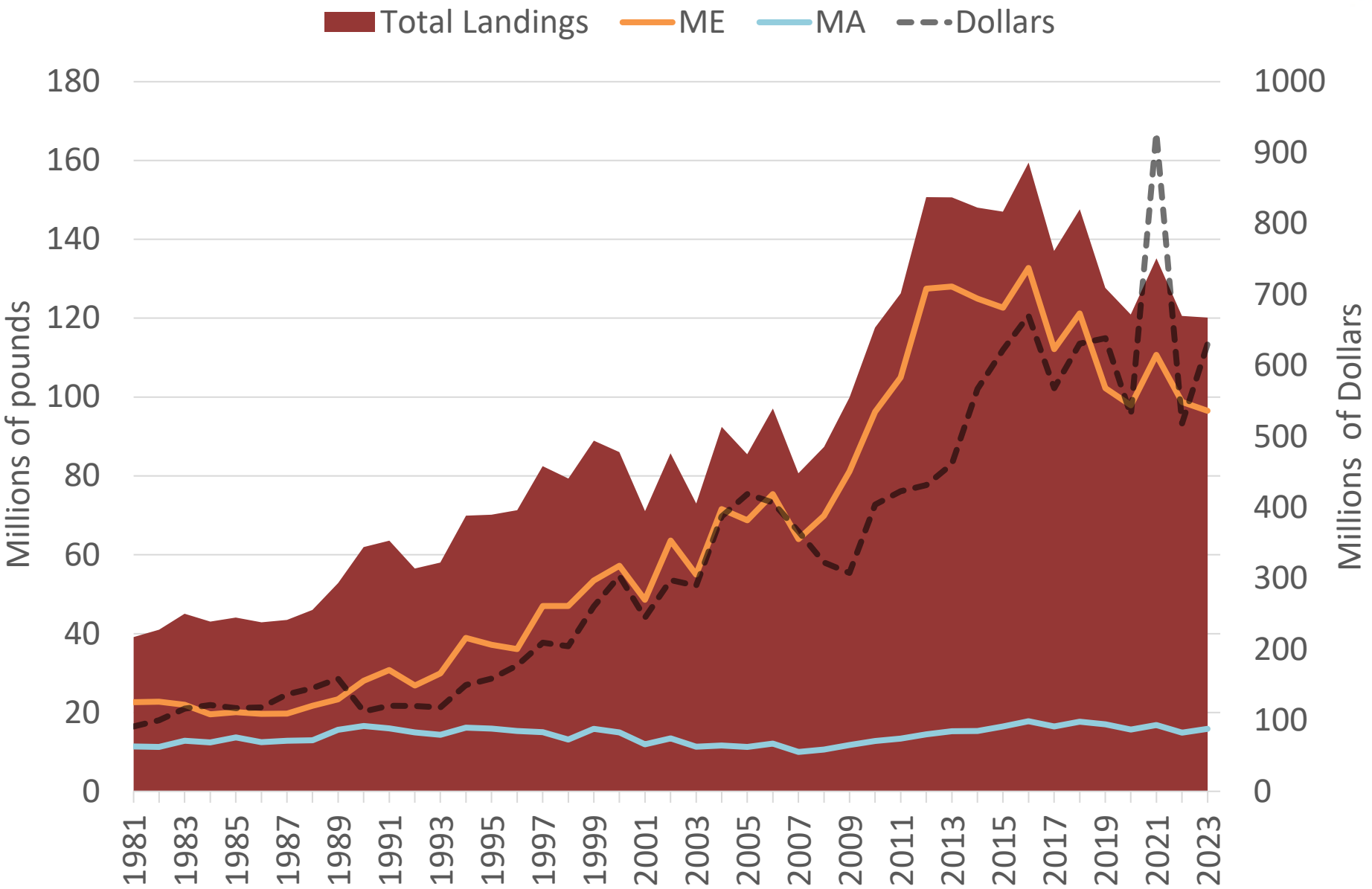
## GOM/GBK



# Status of the Stock



# Commercial Landings



# Status of Management

Addendum XXVI (2018)

- Implemented 100% harvester reporting in 2023

Addendum XXIX (2022)

- Vessel tracking requirements effective December 15, 2023

Addendum XXVII (2023)

- Established management trigger for gauge changes

# State Compliance

- Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey and did not meet the Addendum XXVI minimum requirement of ten sea/port sampling trips
  - No trips completed for NJ and CT
  - 9 trips for RI
- Massachusetts did not provide all required data by August 1 deadline
- Otherwise, states in compliance with FMP

# De Minimis

- Most recent 2 year average of commercial landings under 40,000 lbs
- Requests: DE, MD, VA
- All three states qualify

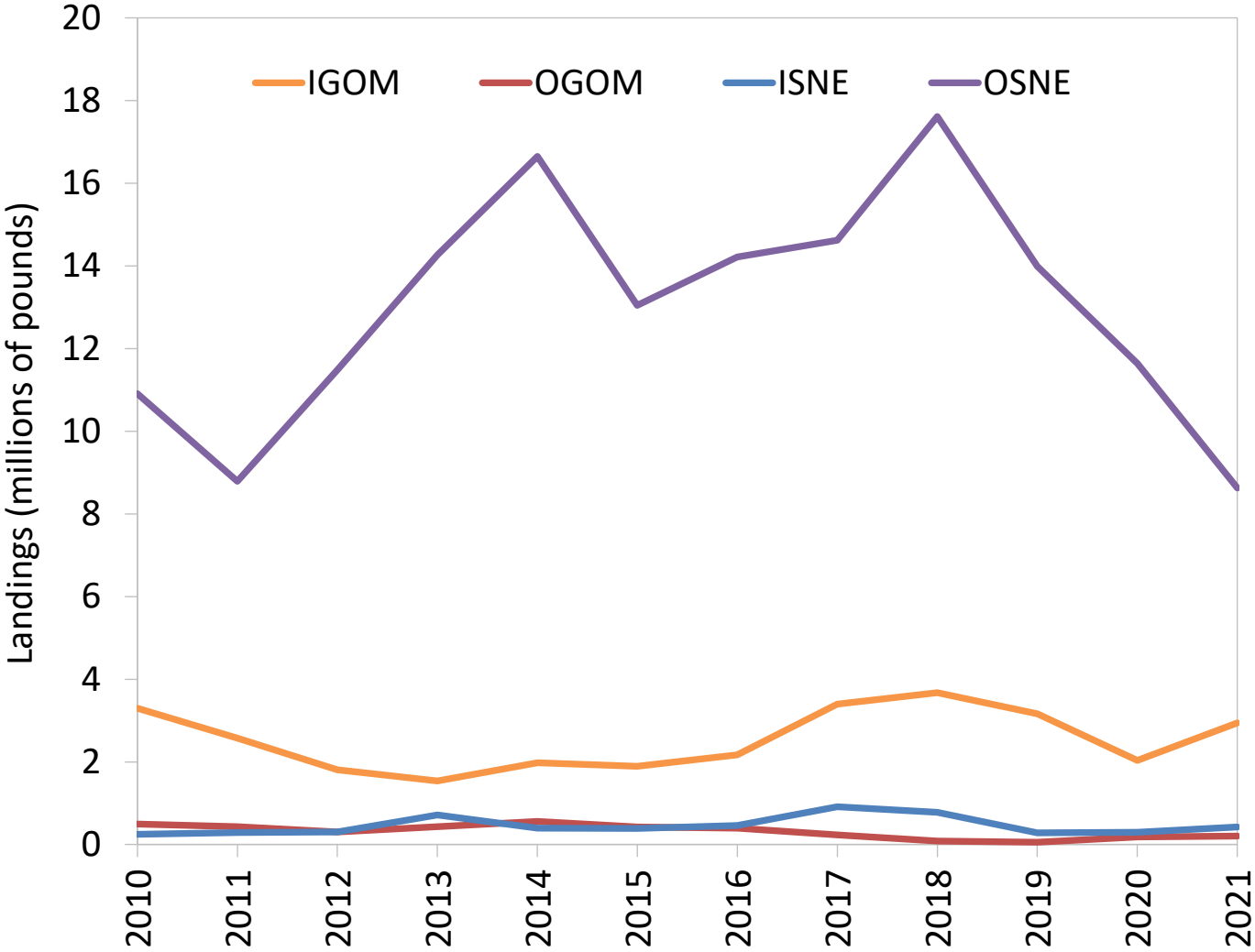
- The PRT recommends the Board approve the *de minimis* requests

# Jonah Crab
# FMP Review for the 2023 Fishing Year

# Status of the Stock

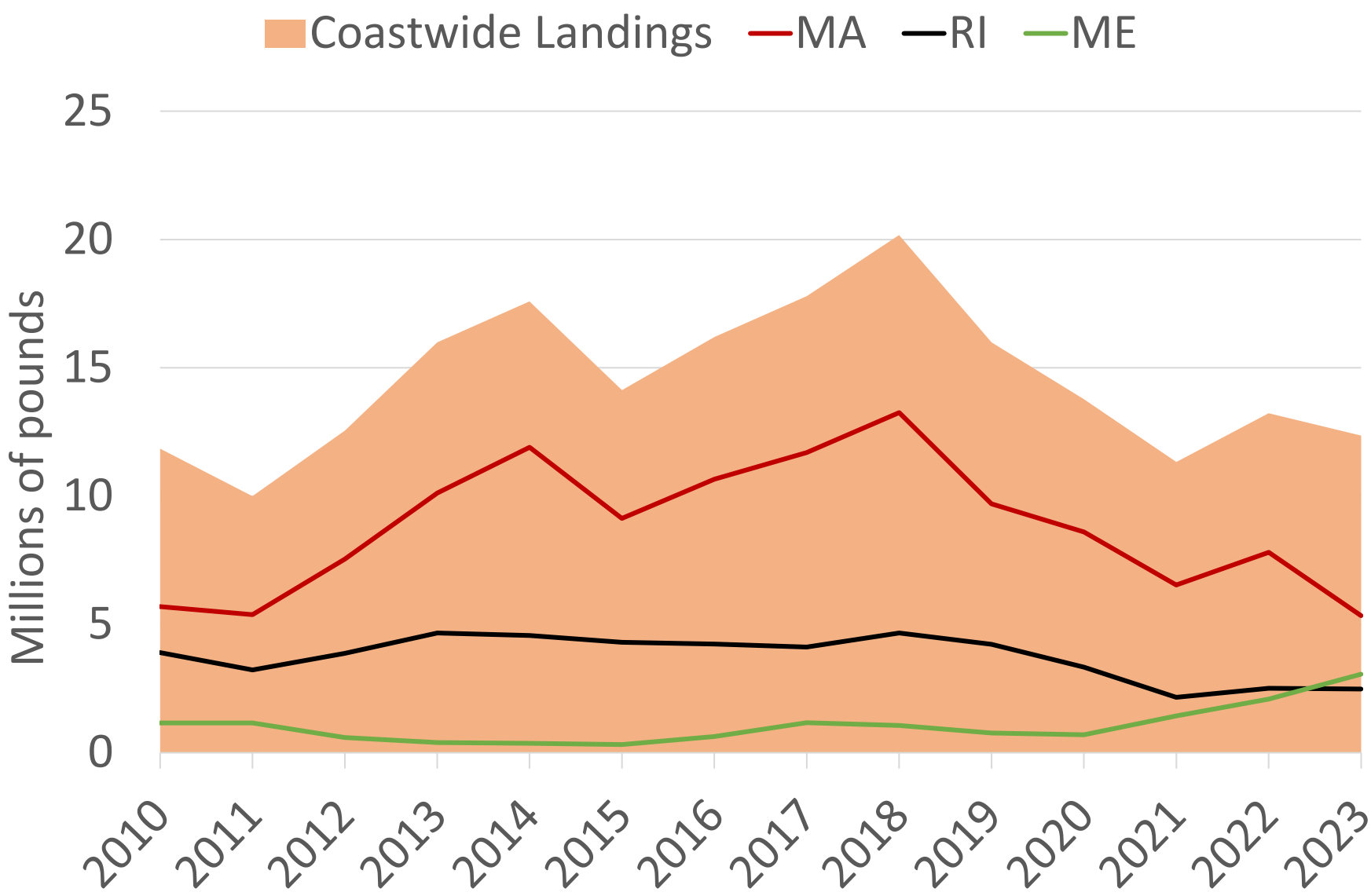
**Jonah Crab Commercial Landings by Stock Area**

Source: ASMFC Jonah Crab Benchmark Stock Assessment & Peer Review Report, 2023




| Stock Area | Status |
|---|---|
| **IGOM** | Not depleted |
| **OGOM** | Not depleted |
| **ISNE** | Unknown |
| **OSNE** | Not depleted |

# Commercial Landings



# Status of Management

**FMP**

- Permits and participation
- 4.75” minimum size, no tolerance
- Prohibition on retention of egg-bearing females
- 50 whole crab recreational limit

**Addendum I**

- 1,000 crab bycatch limit for non-trap gear and non-lobster trap gear

**Addendum II**

- Coastwide standard for claw harvest and definition of bycatch

**Addendum III**

- Improved harvester reporting and data collection

**Addendum IV**

- Vessel tracking requirement for federal permit holders

# De Minimis

- States may qualify if, for the 3 preceding years, their average commercial landings constitute less than 1% of average coastwide commercial catch
- DE, MD, and VA apply and meet *de minimis* requirement
- The PRT recommends the Board approve the *de minimis* requests

# State Compliance

- Massachusetts has been unable to meet the August 1 deadline for compliance reports for the last five years
- Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey were not able to complete the required sea and/or port sampling trips

## Board Action:

- Consider approval of the Lobster and Jonah Crab FMP Reviews for the 2023 fishing year, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for DE, MD, and VA.

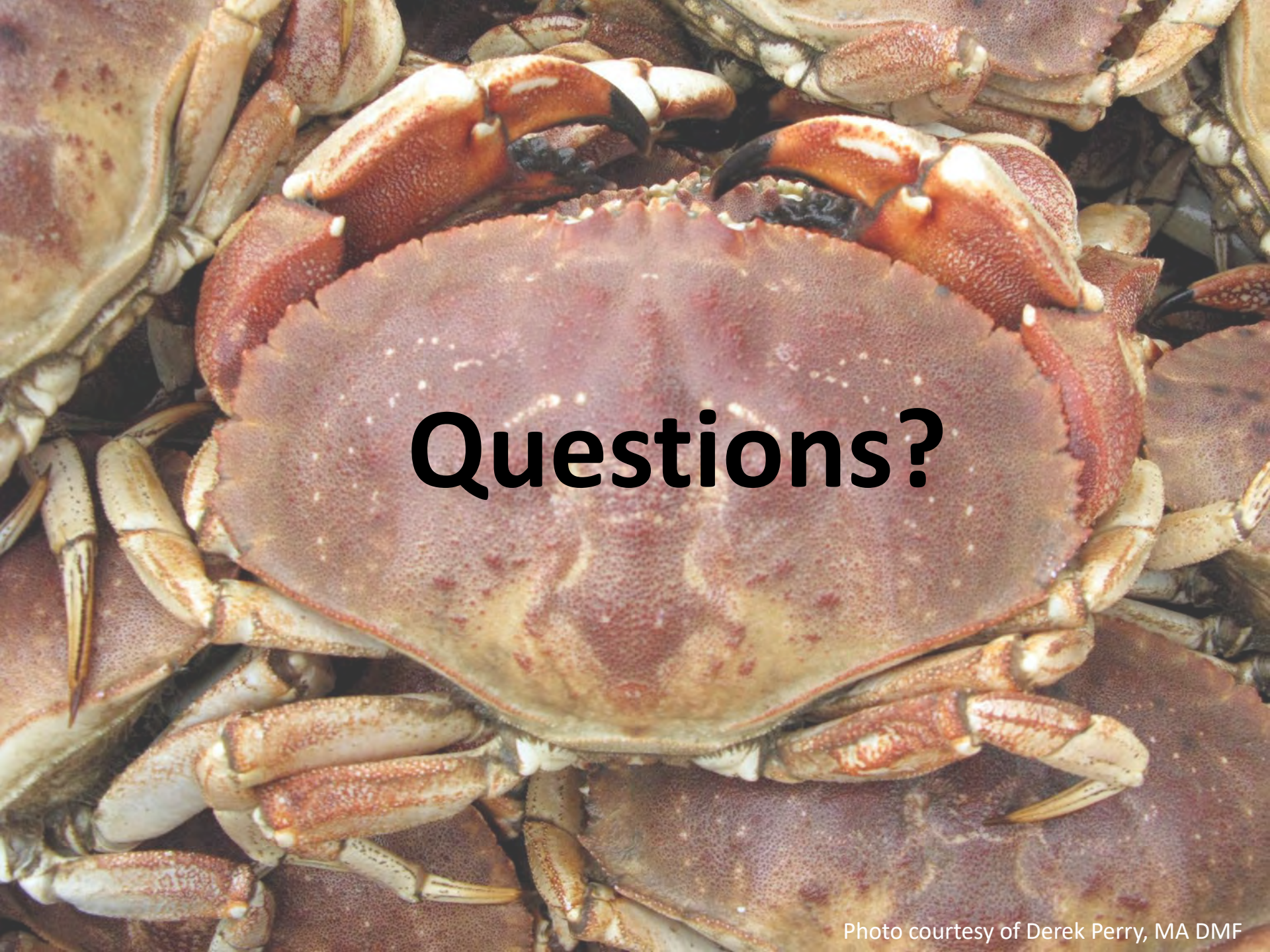



Photo courtesy of Derek Perry, MA DMF

# American Lobster
# Vessel Tracking Work Group Report

August 2024

# Background

- Board task to address privacy concerns with Addendum XXIX:
  - *Move to task the Addendum XXIX vessel tracking implementation workgroup, with input from the LEC, to investigate modifications to the 24/7 vessel tracking requirement which still ensure monitoring of fishing activity while acknowledging that fishermen also use boats for personal/non-fishing reasons. This should include a review of existing processes for when VMS devices can be turned off.*

# Possible Modifications

- Geofencing
  - Defining an area or boundary within or beyond which the device ping rate changes
- "Snooze" function
  - Process for setting a device to not collect spatial data for a pre-determined period of time

# Enforcement Concerns

- Permit holders should not have the ability to turn devices on/off themselves
  - Difficult to prove if a device failed or was turned off
- If trackers only have to be on while fishing, need to establish rules for defining non-fishing trips
  - What (e.g., gear, bait, or lobster on board) should be considered fishing vs not fishing?

# LEC Meeting 10/1/24

- LEC tasked with thinking about definition of fishing as it relates to vessel tracking in the federal lobster fishery
- Different definitions for federal permits and states
- Magnuson-Stevens:
  - (A) the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish
  - (B) the attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of fish; (C) any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish
  - (D) any operations at sea in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (C)

# LEC Meeting 10/1/24

- How would enforcement show a fisher/vessel is engaged in the lobster/Jonah crab fishery?
  - Presence of bait, gear, targeted species on vessel
  - Working condition of vessel,
  - Working condition of captain/crew
- Trackers need visual indicator to see when it is on
- Who has the burden of proving whether vessel is fishing/not fishing?
- Hailing in/out of the fishery

# Questions?