



# North Carolina Addendum III Implementation



American Eel Management Board  
October 2014

# Background



- The Board approved Addendum III in August 2014, which required all states to implement a  $\frac{1}{2}$  x  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch mesh requirement (or escape panel) in eel pots/traps in the commercial yellow eel fishery.
- The Board also approved an increase in the minimum size to 9 inch minimum size for the commercial yellow eel fishery (which approximately corresponds to the  $\frac{1}{2}$  x  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch mesh restriction).
- State or jurisdictions with more conservative regulations at the time of approval are required to maintain those regulations unless approved by the Board.



# Request



- At the time of approval, the state of North Carolina had a 1 x ½ inch mesh escape panel requirement in place.
- North Carolina requests consideration to become less restrictive with their regulations and implement the minimum requirements as specified by Addendum III (i.e. change their requirements from a 1 x ½ inch escape panel to a ½ x ½ inch escape panel) in their commercial yellow eel fishery.



# Background



- Analysis provided by North Carolina and included in Draft Addendum III for Public Comment shows that with a 1 x ½ inch mesh escape panel, approximately 7% of the catch is comprised of eels less than 11 inches in length. For pots with ½ x ½ inch mesh, approximately 13% of the catch is comprised of eels less than 11 inches in length.



# Board Action

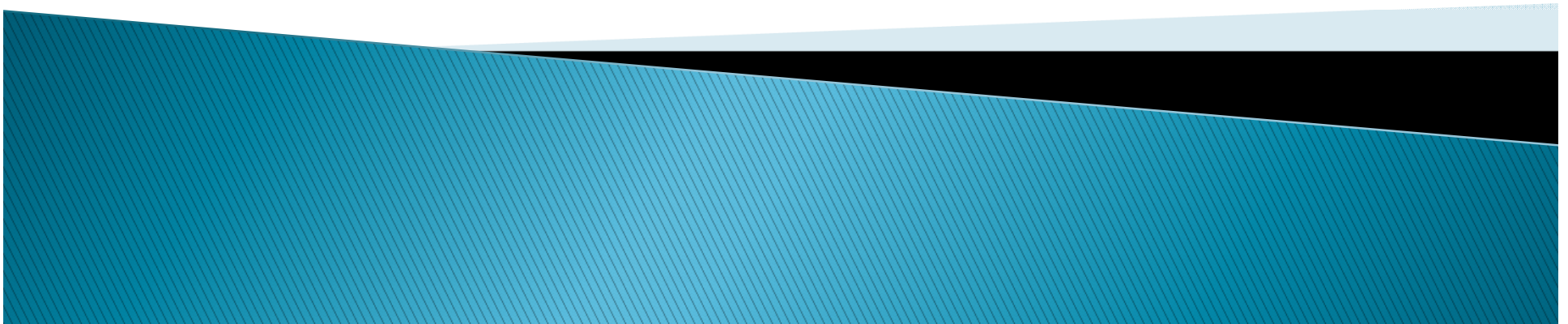


- Consider approval of North Carolina's yellow eel regulations



# American Eel Technical Committee Report

ASMFC Management Board Meeting  
October 2014



# Quota Recommendation

- ▶ TC continues to recommend reduction from 1998-2010 levels (average) for **ALL** life stages
  - Time period considered for the Stock Assessment
  - Includes variability in the fishery
- ▶ **Yellow Eel – 907,669 lbs**
- ▶ **Glass Eel – 5,293 lbs**



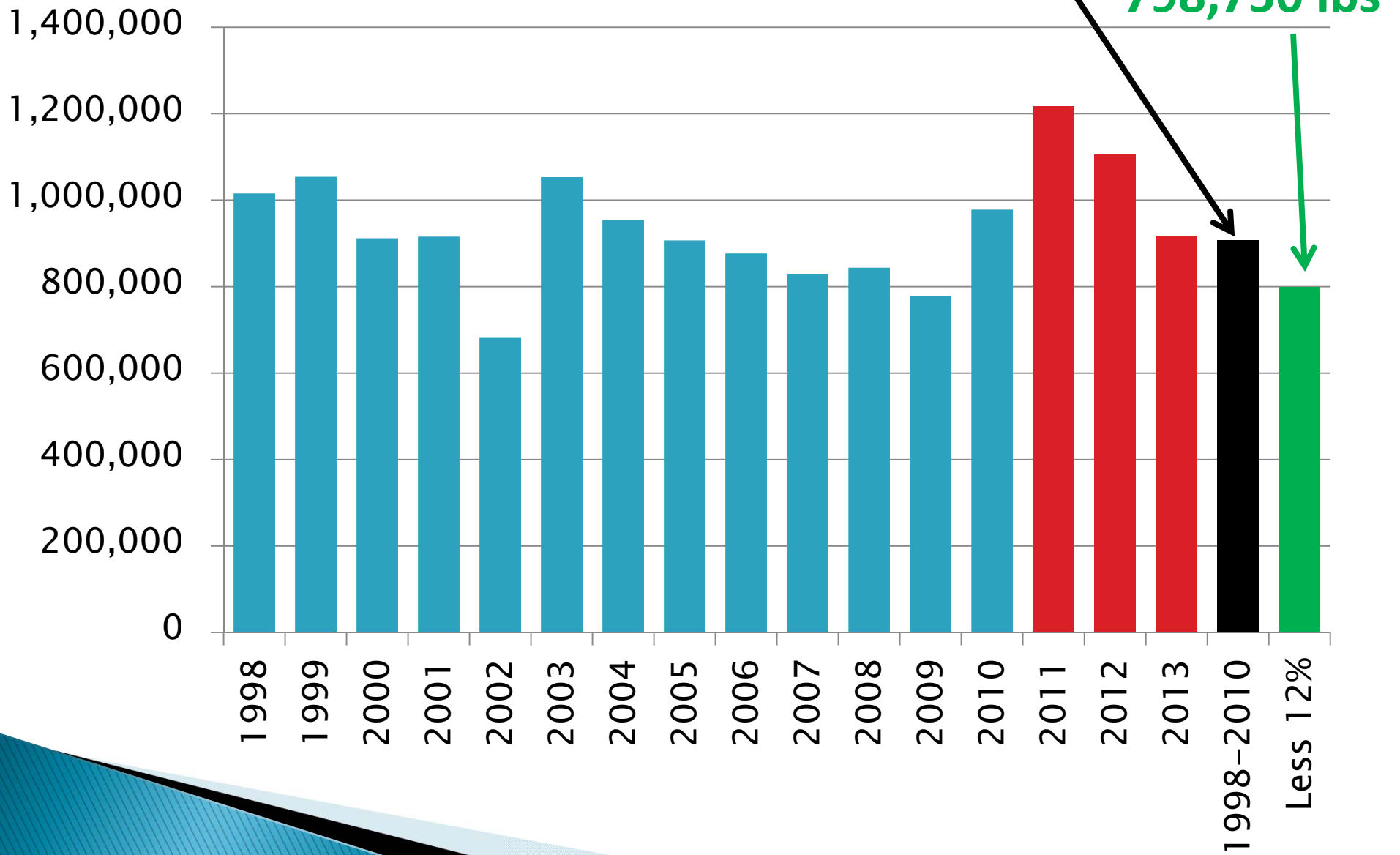
# Yellow Eel

- ▶ The Stock Assessment does not recommend a specific level of harvest reduction
- ▶ 12% reduction offered as a “measurable reduction” based on annual variability in fishery



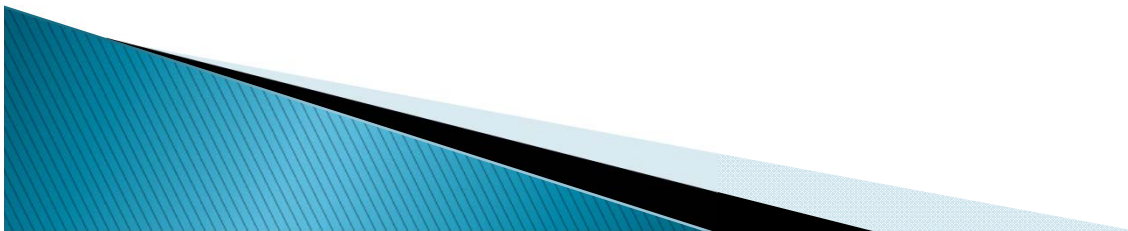


# Yellow Eel

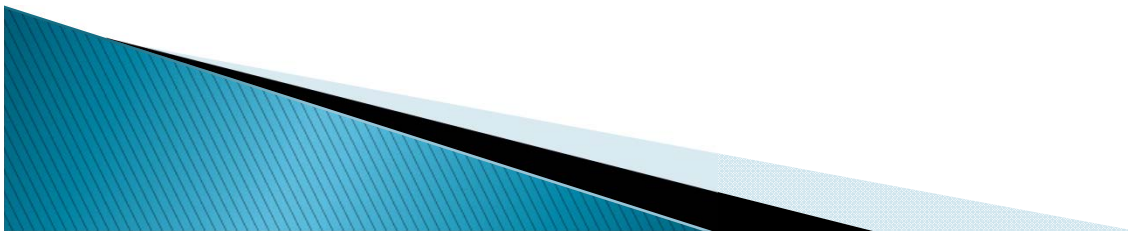
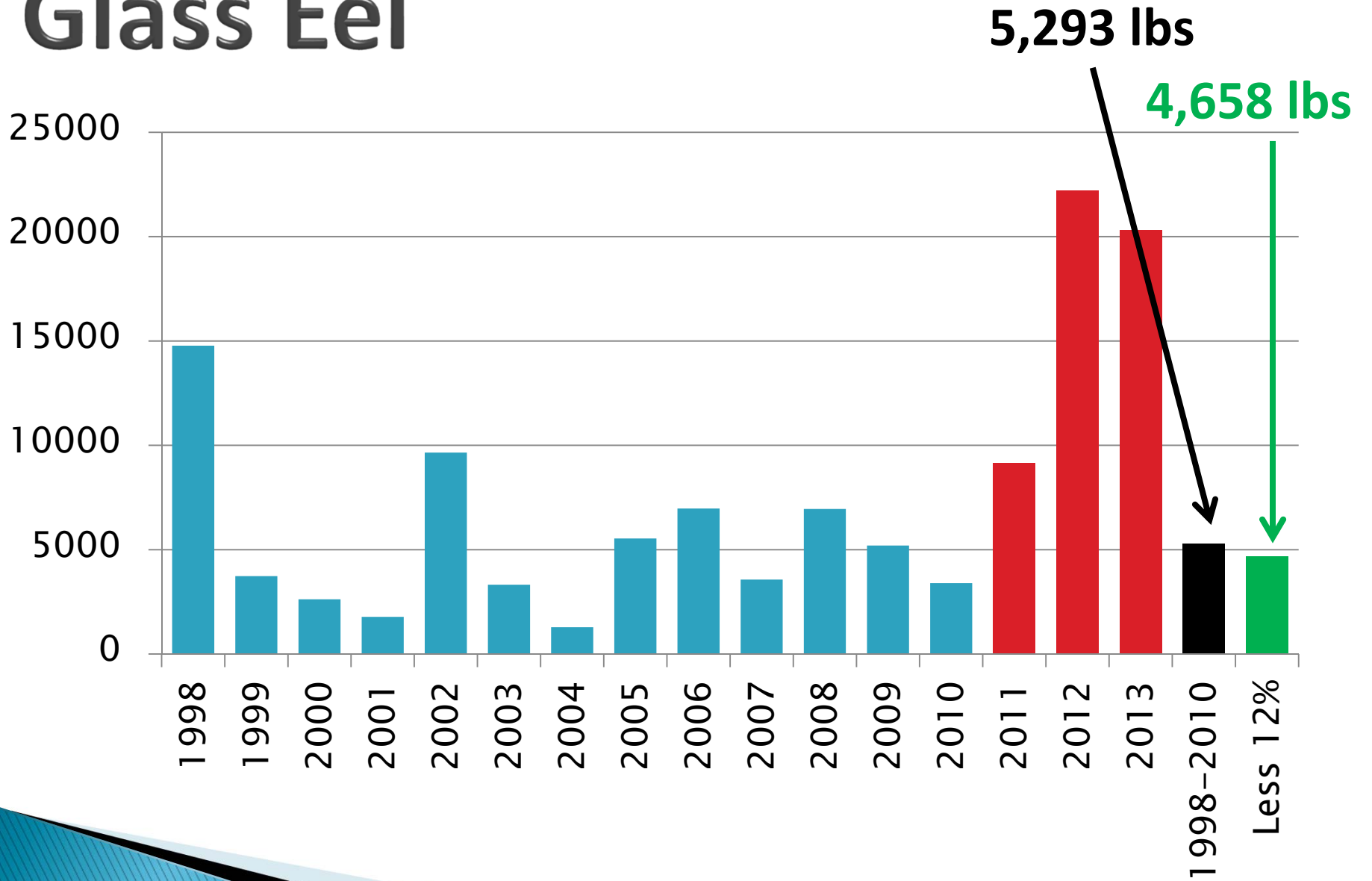


# Glass Eel


- ▶ Using the same method (CV) as the yellow eel fishery, would result in 70% reduction (high annual variability)
- ▶ 12% reduction is considered a precautionary approach by TC



# Glass Eel



# Identification of Glass Eels

- ▶ Misidentification not a significant issue
  - ▶ Speckled Worm Eel most common
    - Most likely to occur from NC to FL
    - FL and NC already accounting
    - GA does yellow eel survey
    - SC samples 40km upstream
      - Will verify samples are American Eels
  - ▶ TC will assess collections as needed
- 

# Review of Dr. Cadrin's White Paper

- ▶ This paper does not present new information to justify changes of Stock Assessment Recommendation
- ▶ The paper supports the Depleted Status from the SA and Peer Review
  - Issues
    - Geographic Range
    - Positive Stock indicators
    - FWS's 2007 ESA review more accurate





# Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment



American Eel Management Board  
August 2014

# Draft Addendum IV



- **Commercial Fishery Management Program**
  - Glass Eel Fisheries
  - Yellow Eel Fisheries
  - Silver Eel Fisheries
- **Most options are not mutually exclusive**



# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 1 – Status Quo**
- **Option 2 – 2014 Management Measures**
  - The current 2014 fishing regulations for glass eel fisheries in Maine and South Carolina will be required to be maintained
    - In Maine this would include the ~11k quota along with dealer and harvester reporting requirements
    - In South Carolina the fishery is limited to ten individuals, with fishing restricted to one river





# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 3 - Closure of the fishery**
  - Immediate
  - Delayed
  - Timeframe specified by the Board



# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 4 – Quota based on landings**
  - Sub Option 4a – Average Landings from 2004 – 2013
  - Sub Option 4b - 20% reduction from 2004 - 2013
  - Sub Option 4c - 2010 Landings

	Sub-option 4a: Average 2004 - 2013 Landings	Sub-option 4b: 20% reduction	Sub-option 4c: 2010 Landings
Maine	8,008	6,406	3,158
South Carolina	250	200	239
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,257</b>	<b>6,606</b>	<b>3,397</b>

# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 5 – Quota Overages**

- *This option is only applicable if quota management is chosen (Option 4 of this Section).*
- If a quota system is implemented in a state, the Board may choose to implement a mechanism to address quota overages. If overages occur, the state will be required to deduct their entire overage from the quota the following year, pound for pound.



# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 6 – Glass Eel Harvest Allowance Based on Stock Enhancement Programs**
  - Under this option any state can request an allowances for harvest of glass eels based on stock enhancement programs implemented after January 1, 2013. Stock enhancement programs must show a measurable increase in glass eel passage and/or glass eel survival.
  - Examples of stock enhancement programs include, but are not limited to, habitat restoration projects, fish passage improvements, or fish passage construction.



# Glass Eel Fishery



- Sub-Option 6a – 5% Harvest Cap – A state shall not exceed 5% of the quantified contribution provided by the stock enhancement program.
- Sub-Option 6b – 10% Harvest Cap - A state shall not exceed 10% of the quantified contribution provided by the stock enhancement program
- Sub-Option 6c – 25% Harvest Cap – A state shall not exceed 25% of the quantified contribution provided by the stock enhancement program.



# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 7 – Aquaculture Quota**

- Under this option, the Board may choose to allocate a percentage of the total quota for approved aquaculture purposes.
- This amount would first be deducted from the total glass eel quota (as specified under Options 2 or 4), then the remainder of the quota would be distributed as specified under the option.



# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 8 – Aquaculture Permitting**
  - Any harvest of glass eels for commercial aquaculture purposes must be collected under an approved Aquaculture Permit issued by the states the collection will occur in and subject to any monitoring and reporting requirements.



# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 9 – Reporting Requirements**
  - implement daily trip level reporting with daily electronic accounting to the state for harvesters and dealers in order to ensure accurate reporting of glass eel harvest.
- **Option 10 – Monitoring Requirements**
  - states or jurisdictions with a commercial glass eel fishery must implement a fishery independent life cycle survey covering glass, yellow, and silver eels within at least one river system.





# Yellow Eel Fishery



- **Option 1 – Status Quo**
  - **Regulations as specified under Addendum III**
    - 9 inch minimum size
    - ½ by ½ inch mesh requirement



# Yellow Eel Fishery



- **Option 2 – Adjusted Yellow Eel Quota (Allocation Base Years = 2011 – 2013)**
  - The coastwide quota is set at the 2010 harvest levels
  - Filtering criteria :
    1. States be allocated a min quota 2,000 pounds.
    2. No state is allocated a quota that is more than 10,000 pounds above its 2010 harvest.
    3. No state is allocated a quota that is more than a 15% reduction from its 2010 harvest.



# Table 5, page 19



	2010 Landings	Allocation	Option 2a: No Reduction	Option 2b: 10% Reduction	Option 2c: 20% Reduction
Maine	2,624	0.47%	4,597	4,137	3,677
New Hampshire	80	0.01%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Mass	277	0.04%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Rhode Island	4642	0.16%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Connecticut	164	0.19%	2,000	2,000	2,000
New York	13,220	4.26%	23,220	23,220	23,220
New Jersey	107,803	10.19%	99,659	91,633	91,633
Delaware	68,666	6.97%	68,167	61,350	58,366
Maryland	511,201	56.72%	521,201	499,251	443,779
PRFC	57,755	4.67%	49,092	49,092	49,092
Virginia	78,076	9.58%	88,076	84,323	74,954
North Carolina	122,104	4.94%	103,788	103,788	103,788
South Carolina	2		2,000	2,000	2,000
Georgia	103	0.11%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Florida	11,287	1.69%	16,528	14,875	13,223
<b>Total</b>	978,004		<b>986,286</b>	<b>937,701</b>	<b>868,939</b>

# Yellow Eel Fishery



- **Option 3 – Adjusted Yellow Eel Quota (Allocation Base Years = 2002 -2012)**
  - The coastwide quota is set at the 2010 harvest level
  - **Same filtering criteria as Option 2**



# Table 6, page 21



	2010 Landings	Allocation	Option 3a: Average Landings	Option 3b: 10% Reduction	Option 3c: 20% Reduction
Maine	2,624	1.54%	12,624	12,624	12,036
New Hampshire	80	0.01%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Mass	277	0.37%	3,620	3,258	2,896
Rhode Island	4642	0.44%	4,310	3,946	3,946
Connecticut	164	0.32%	3,118	2,806	2,494
New York	13,220	3.18%	23,220	23,220	23,220
New Jersey	107,803	11.31%	110,642	99,578	88,514
Delaware	68,666	10.28%	78,666	78,666	78,666
Maryland	511,201	43.43%	434,521	434,521	434,521
PRFC	57,755	8.84%	67,755	67,755	67,755
Virginia	78,076	8.79%	86,006	77,405	68,805
North Carolina	122,104	10.15%	103,788	103,788	103,788
South Carolina	2	0.01%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Georgia	103	0.05%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Florida	11,287	1.27%	12,457	11,211	9,965
<b>Total</b>	978,004		<b>946,726</b>	<b>924,777</b>	<b>902,605</b>

# Yellow Eel Fishery



- **Option 4 - Yellow Eel Quota based on 2010 Landings**
  - The coastwide quota is set at the 2010 harvest levels.
  - Allocation is based on the average of the three highest landing values from 2002 – 2012.
  - No filtering



# Table 7, page 23



	2010 Landings	Allocation	Option 4a: Average Landings	Option 4b: 10% Reduction	Option 4c: 20% Reduction
Maine	2,624	1.54%	15,045	13,541	12,036
New Hampshire	80	0.01%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Massachusetts	277	0.37%	3,620	3,258	2,896
Rhode Island	4642	0.44%	4,310	3,879	3,448
Connecticut	164	0.32%	3,118	2,806	2,494
New York	13,220	3.18%	31,083	27,975	24,866
New Jersey	107,803	11.31%	110,642	99,578	88,514
Delaware	68,666	10.28%	100,543	90,489	80,435
Maryland	511,201	43.43%	424,712	382,240	339,769
PRFC	57,755	8.84%	86,427	77,784	69,141
Virginia	78,076	8.79%	86,006	77,405	68,805
North Carolina	122,104	10.15%	99,298	89,368	79,438
South Carolina	2	0.01%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Georgia	103	0.05%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Florida	11,287	1.27%	12,457	11,211	9,965
<b>Total</b>	978,004		<b>983,260</b>	<b>885,534</b>	<b>787,808</b>

# Yellow Eel Fishery



- **Option 5 – Weighted Yellow Eel Quota**
  - The coastwide quota is set at the 2010 harvest levels.
  - Allocation to states and jurisdictions is based on a weighted distribution.
  - The three highest landings from the period 2004 – 2013 were averaged and then weighted at 30%.
  - This was combined with the average landings from 2011 – 2013, which was weighted at 70%.





# Table 8, page 25



	Allocation	Option 5a: No Reduction	Option 5b: 10% Reduction	Option 5c: 20% Reduction
Maine	0.9%	8,314	7,483	6,651
New Hampshire	0.01%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Mass	0.2%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Rhode Island	0.3%	2,549	2,294	2,040
Connecticut	0.2%	2,292	2,063	2,000
New York	3.9%	38,360	34,524	30,688
New Jersey	10.6%	103,423	93,081	82,739
Delaware	8.1%	79,546	71,591	63,637
Maryland	52.2%	510,264	459,238	408,211
PRFC	5.9%	57,997	52,197	46,398
Virginia	9.3%	90,819	81,737	72,655
North Carolina	6.8%	66,337	59,703	53,069
South Carolina	0.01%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Georgia	0.1%	2,000	2,000	2,000
Florida	1.6%	15,498	13,949	12,399
<b>Total</b>	100.00%	<b>983,399</b>	<b>885,859</b>	<b>788,486</b>

# Yellow Eel Fishery



- **Option 6 – Quota Overages**

- If overages occur, the state will be required to reduce their following year's quota by the same amount the quota was exceeded, pound for pound.

- **Option 7 – Quota Transfers**

- States or jurisdictions implementing a commercial quota for American eel may request approval to transfer all or part of its annual quota to one or more states.
- States that receive the automatic 2,000 pound quota would not be eligible to participate in these transfer management measures.



# Yellow Eel Fishery



- **Option 8 – Catch Cap**

- Based off the 2010 harvest levels.
- States and jurisdictions would be allowed to fish until the cap is reached.
- Once the cap or threshold is reached, all states and jurisdictions would be required to close all directed fisheries and prohibit landings.
- Controls amount of mortality without needing allocation
- Still need timely reporting, no state specific payback mechanism, promote derby style fishery, potential loss of historic fall/winter fisheries.

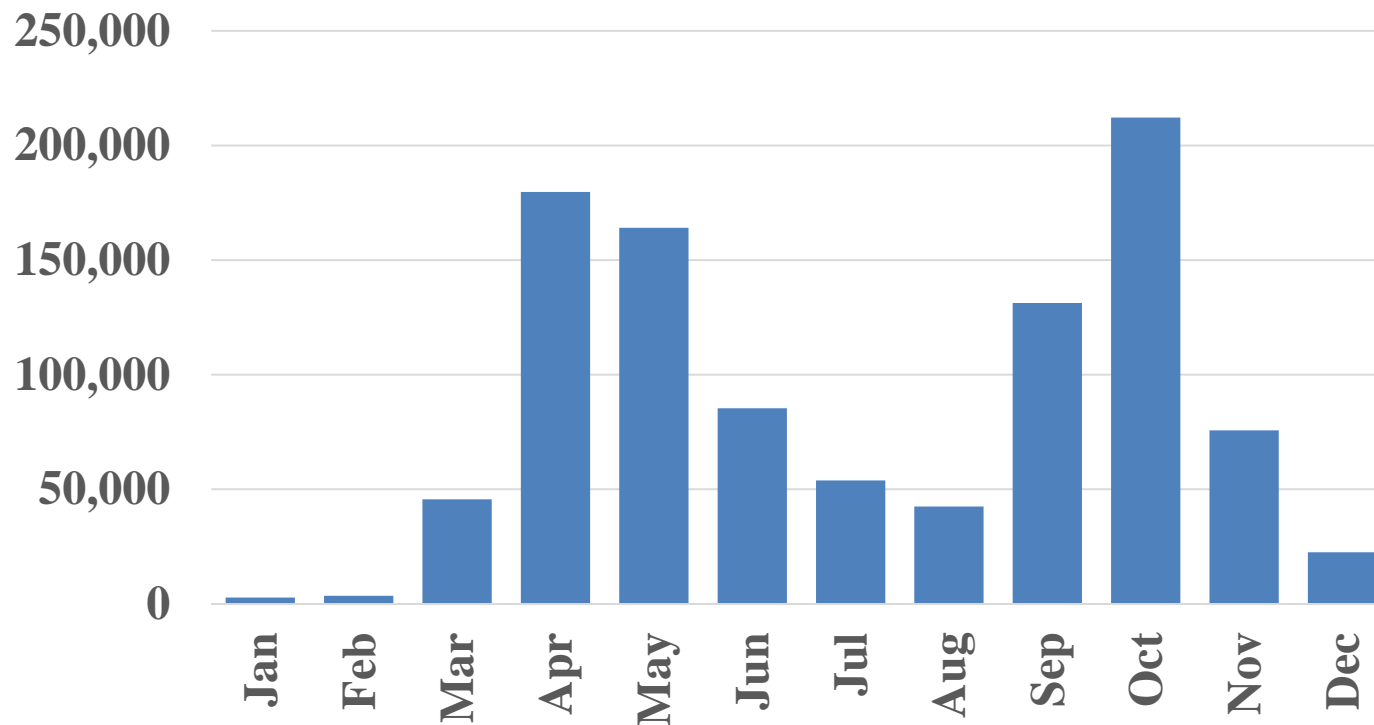


# Yellow Eel Fishery



- **Option 8 – Catch Cap**

- Sub-option 6a – 2010 harvest level: **978,004 pounds**
- Sub-option 6b – 10% reduction: **880,203 pounds**
- Sub-option 6c – 20% reduction: **782,403 pounds**



# Silver Eel Fishery



- Under Addendum III:
  - *States and jurisdictions are required to implement no take of eels from September 1st through December 31st from any gear type other than baited traps/pots or spears (e.g. fyke nets, pound nets, and weirs). These gears may still be fished, however retention of eels is prohibited*
  - **NY was granted a one year exemption from the requirements under Addendum III**



# Silver Eel Fishery



- **Option 1 – Status Quo**
  - Current regulations would remain and the one year exemption in NY would expire on Dec 31, 2014.
- **Option 2 – Extension of the sunset provision**
  - Timeframe specified by Board



# Silver Eel Fishery



- **Option 3- Effort Reductions/Time Closures**

- No take of eels in the Delaware River and its tributaries within New York from August 15th through September 30th from any gear type other than baited traps/pots, or spears and weirs (e.g. fyke nets, pound nets).

Month	Average Landings
July	139
August	1,005
September	2,574
October	1,653
November	2



# Silver Eel Fishery



- **Option 4 – License Cap**

- The Delaware River weir fishery would be limited to those permitted New York participants that fished and reported landings anytime during the period from 2010 – 2013.





# State Sustainable Fishing Plans



- States or jurisdictions would be allowed to manage their American eel fishery (glass, yellow, or silver) through an alternative program to meet the needs of their current fishermen while providing conservation benefit for the American eel population.



# Fishing Mortality Plan



- States must assess the mortality occurring within their jurisdiction.
- Once assessed, they could re-allocate a portion of that mortality to any fishery (even if the state does not currently participate in that fishery), for aquaculture, or for research purposes provided there is an overall net gain to conservation through an increase in survival in other areas (e.g. reducing turbine mortality, habitat quality, etc...).



# Aquaculture Plan



- States would be allowed to harvest a maximum of 200 pounds of glass eel annually from within their waters for use in domestic aquaculture facilities provided they can objectively show that the harvest will occur from a watershed that minimally contributes to the spawning stock of American eel.



# Transfer Plan



- If states or jurisdictions are unable to assess the current level of mortality and abundance with certainty, and the Board chooses to adopt quota management, then a state would be allowed to request a transfer of quota from one fishery to another (e.g. from yellow to glass) based on the life history characteristic inherent to that area





# Questions?



# Glass Eel Measures



- Option 1 – Status Quo
- Option 2 – 2014 Management Measures
- Option 3 – Closure of the Glass Eel Fisheries
- Option 4 – Glass Eel Quota
- Option 5 – Quota Overages
- Option 6 - Glass Eel Harvest Allowance Based on Stock Enhancement Programs
- Option 7 – Aquaculture Quota
- Option 8 – Aquaculture Permitting
- Option 9 – Reporting Requirements
- Option 10 – Monitoring Requirements



# Glass Eel Fishery



- **Option 4 – Quota based on landings**
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# Yellow Eel Measures



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- Option 4 - Yellow Eel Quota based on 2010 Landings
- Option 5 - Weighted Yellow Eel Quota
- Option 6 – Quota Overages
- Option 7 – Quota Transfers
- Option 8 – Catch Cap







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# Silver Eel Measures



- Option 1 – Status Quo
- Option 2 – Extension of Sunset Provisions
- Option 3 – Effort Reduction/Time Closures
- Option 4 – License Cap



# Current Management



- The Board initiated the development of Draft Addendum III in response to the Stock Assessment in August 2012.
- The Board approved Addendum III in 2013.
  - 9 inch minimum size limit for commercial and recreational fishery
  - ½ by ½ inch commercial mesh requirement (3 year phase in)
  - 25 fish recreational bag limit (exemption for charter boats)
  - Pigmented eel restrictions
  - Silver eel fishery restrictions
- And initiated Draft Addendum IV



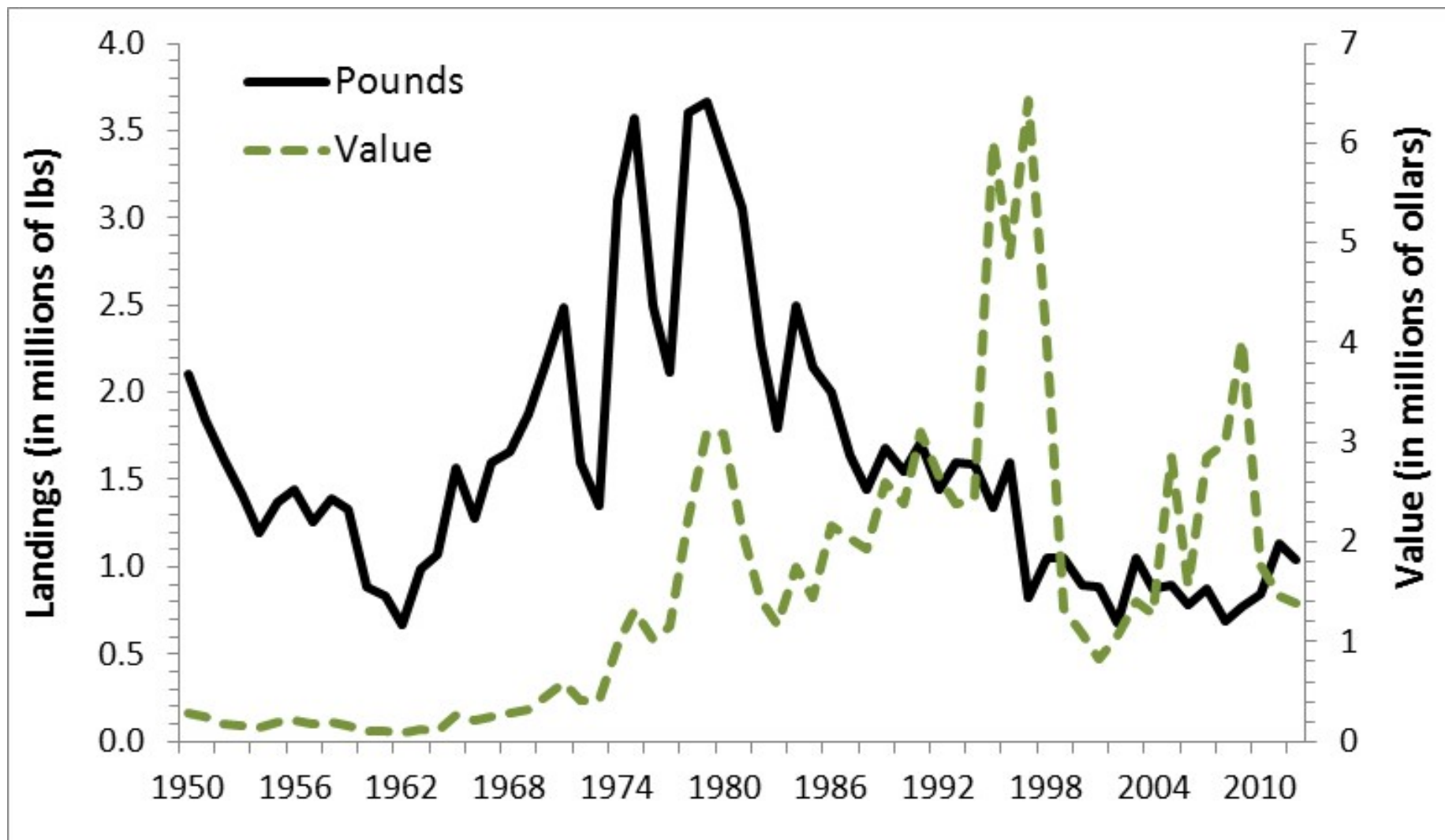
# Status of the Stock



- Stock Assessment completed and accepted for management in 2012.
- The Stock Assessment found the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted.



# Status of the Fishery







# Draft Addendum IV Working Group Recommendations



American Eel Management Board  
October 2014

# Background



- Working Group met via conference call and in-person to discuss options in Draft Addendum IV.
- Recommendations on:
  - Glass eel fishery
  - Yellow eel fishery
  - Sustainable Fishing Plans
  - Silver Eel Fisheries
  - TC Guidance



# Glass Eel Fisheries Recommendations



- **Option 2 - 2014 Management Measures, with modification**
  - Quota for the 2014 in Maine =11,479 pounds
  - Actual harvest was 9,688 pounds.
  - Recommendation that the quota for Maine from 2015 – 2017 be set at 9,688 pounds annually. Under this option, management measures in South Carolina would remain the same as 2014.
  - Quota re-evaluated after three years (for the 2018 fishing year) to incorporate information collected through Maine's life cycle monitoring program



# Glass Eel Fisheries Recommendation



- **Option 5 - Quota Overage Payback**
- **Option 6 - Glass Eel Harvest Allowance Based on Stock Enhancement Programs with a 25% cap and any stock enhancement programs implemented after January 1, 2011 be included**
- **Option 8 - Aquaculture permitting**



# Glass Eel Fisheries Recommendation



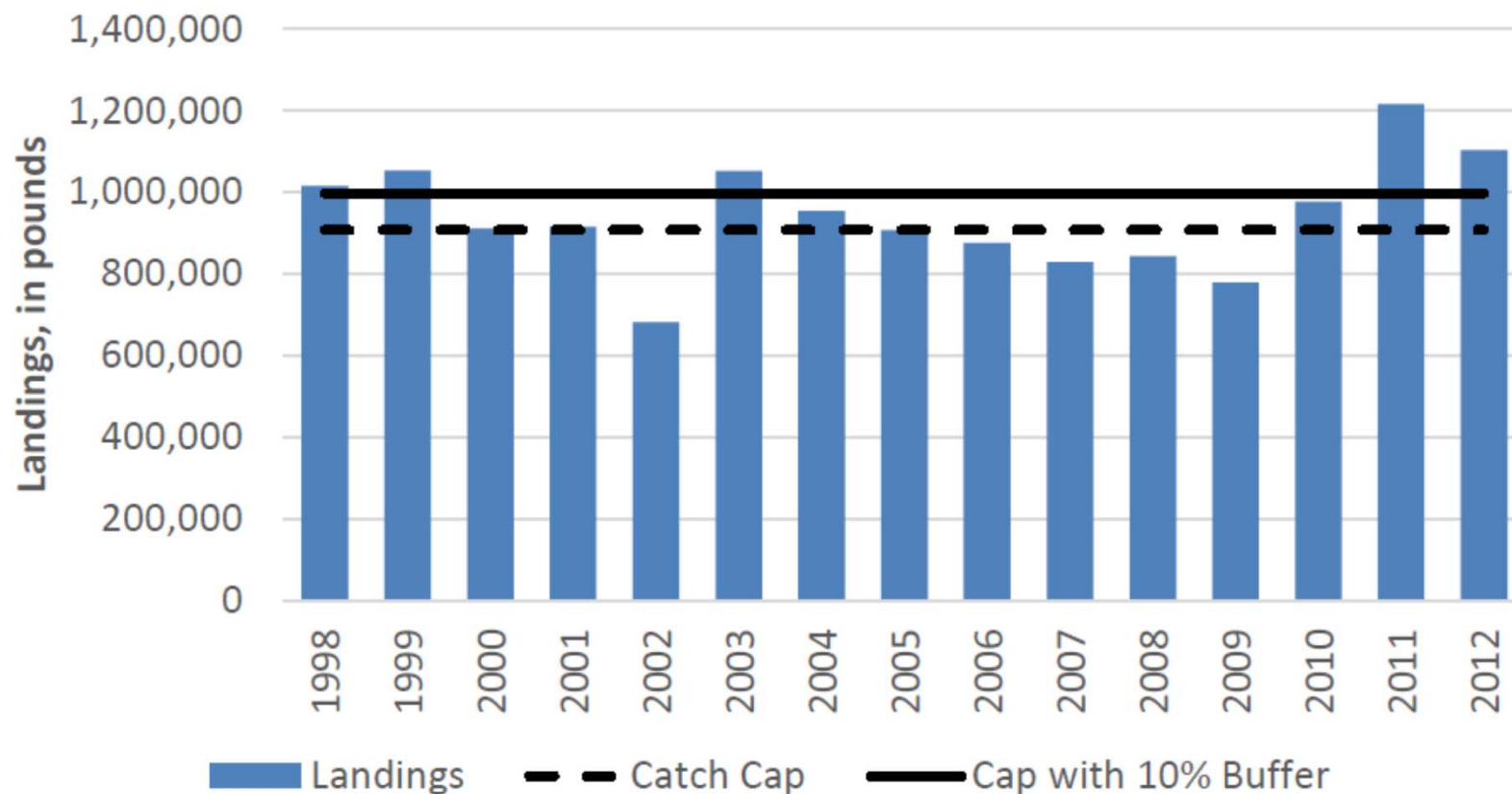
- **Option 9 – Daily Trip Level Reporting, with modification**
  - states with a commercial glass eel fishery harvesting less than 750 pounds be exempt
- **Option 10 – Life Cycle Monitoring, with modification**
  - states with a commercial glass eel fishery that harvests less than 750 pounds be exempt from this requirement



# Yellow Eel Fisheries Recommendations



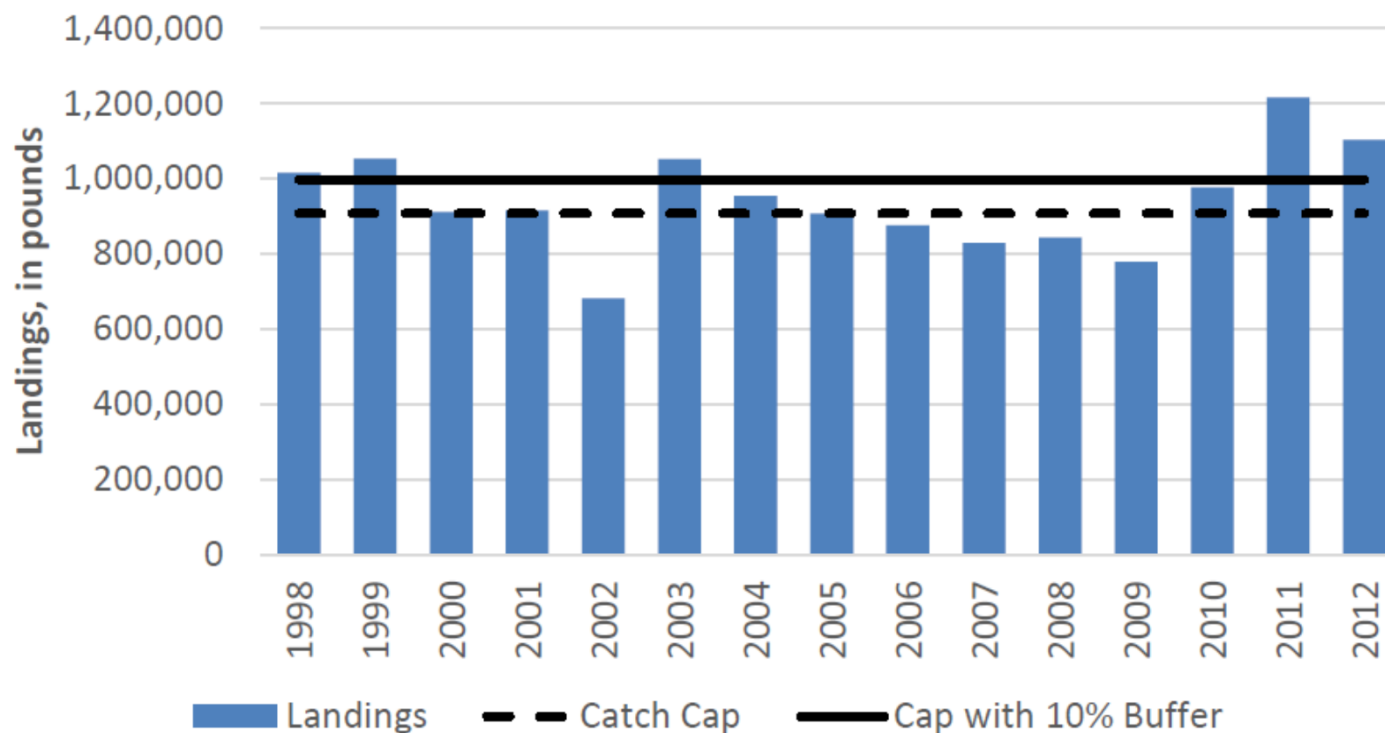
- **Option 8 – Catch Cap, with modification**
  - the initial catch cap will be set at the 1998 – 2010 harvest level (907,671 pounds) for 2015 fishing year



# Yellow Eel Fisheries Recommendations



- **Trigger 1:** If the catch cap is exceeded by more than 10% in a given year (998,438 pounds)
- **Trigger 2:** If the catch cap is exceeded for two consecutive years regardless of percent over.



# Yellow Eel Fisheries Recommendations



- **Management Action: Option 2 (Adjusted Yellow Eel Quota, with Allocation Base Years = 2011 – 2013) with a 16% reduction and modification**
  - After including the updated filtering criteria, the coastwide quota would be set at 907,669 pounds



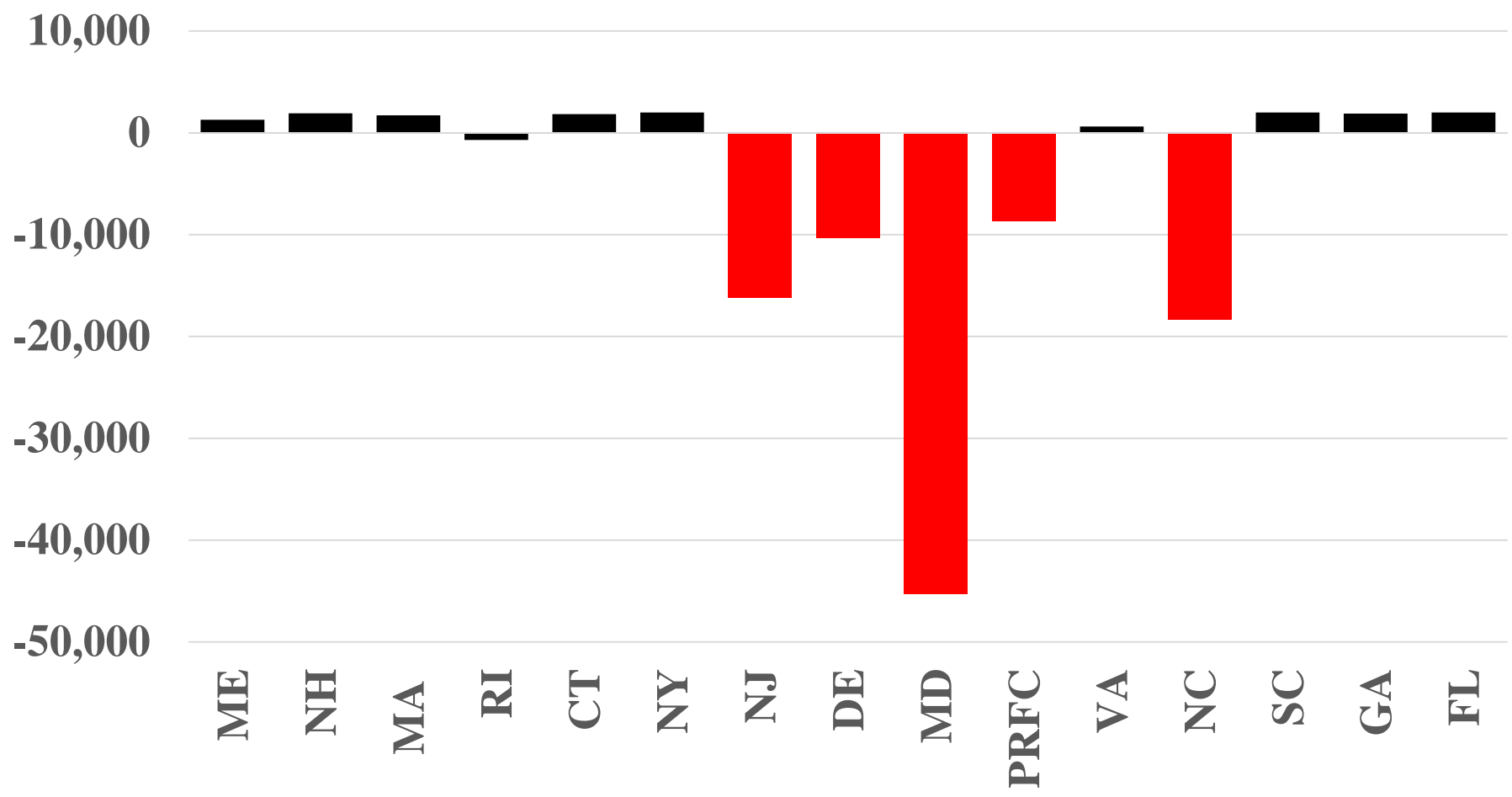


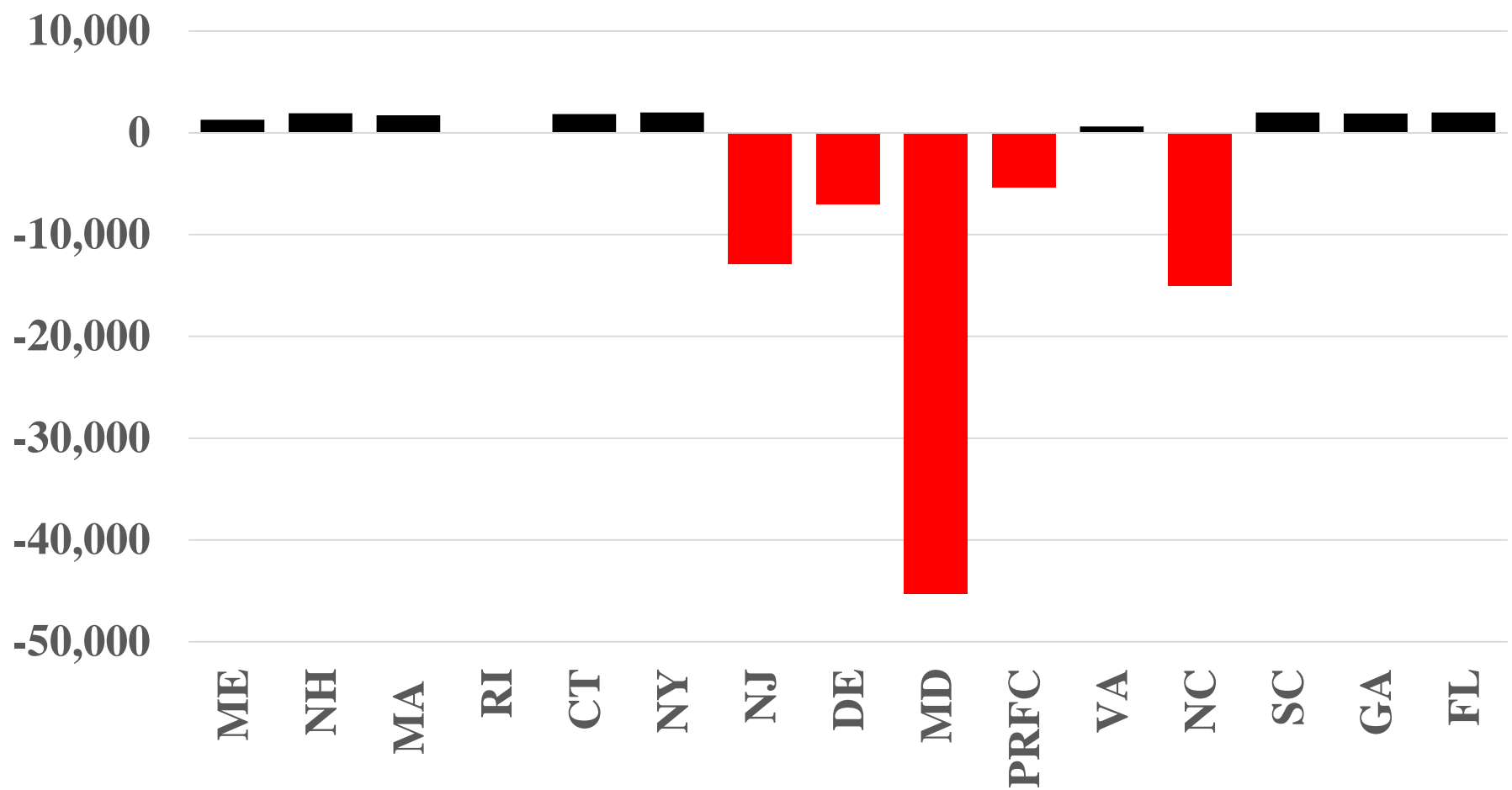
# Yellow Eel Fisheries Recommendations



- **Modification to filtering method:**
  - no state is allocated a quota that is more than 2,000 pounds above its 2010 harvest.
- **Modification to quota:**
  - Under this new filtering method the initial quota would be set at 893,909 pounds.
  - The difference between this amount and the recommended TC baseline is split equally among the states that will be negatively impacted with the exception of Maryland



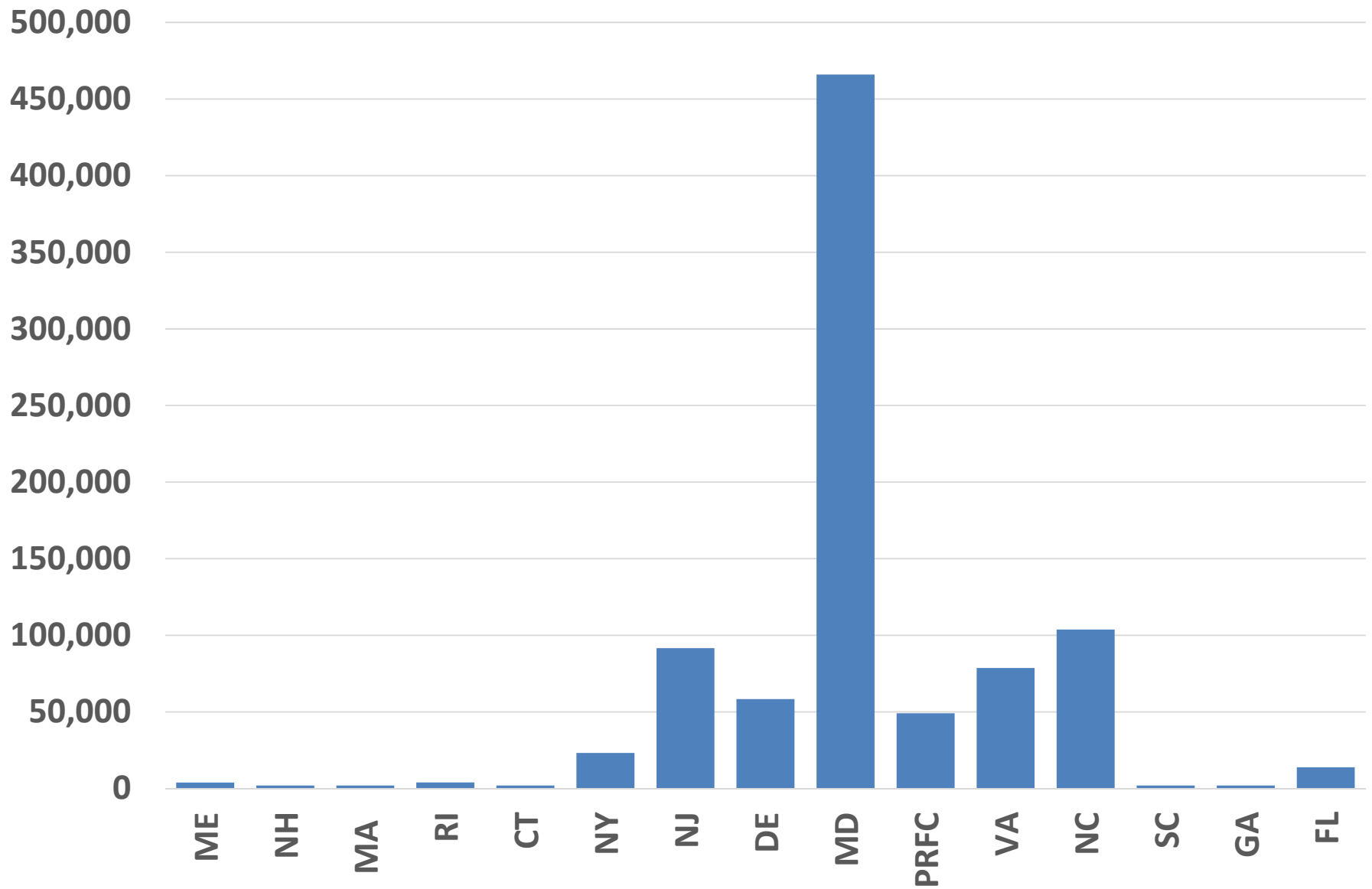




**RI – 696 pounds**

**NJ, DE, PRFC, and NC each get 3,266 pounds**





	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>2010 Landings</b>	<b>Updated Quota</b>
<b>Maine</b>	0.90%	2,624	3,907
<b>New Hampshire</b>	0.01%	80	2000
<b>Massachusetts</b>	0.20%	277	2000
<b>Rhode Island</b>	0.30%	4642	4642
<b>Connecticut</b>	0.20%	164	2,000
<b>New York</b>	3.90%	13,220	15,220
<b>New Jersey</b>	10.60%	107,803	94,899
<b>Delaware</b>	8.10%	68,666	61,632
<b>Maryland</b>	52.20%	511,201	465,968
<b>PRFC</b>	5.90%	57,755	52,358
<b>Virginia</b>	9.30%	78,076	78,702
<b>North Carolina</b>	6.80%	122,104	107,054
<b>South Carolina</b>	0.01%	2	2,000
<b>Georgia</b>	0.10%	103	2,000
<b>Florida</b>	1.60%	11,287	13,287
<b>Total</b>	100%	978,004	907,669



# Yellow Eel Fisheries Recommendations



- Jurisdictions be required to approve regulations that would allow for the implementation of a quota management and timely monitoring of harvest no later than March 2016 to ensure that if a management trigger is activated in the first year of implementation (2015) then the required management action could be taken.
- **Option 6 – Overages**
- **Option 7 – Transfers**



# State Sustainable Fishing Plans



- The Working Group supports the plans as described under Section 3.1.4 State Specific Sustainable Fishing Plans.
- Encourages all request for aquaculture harvest be filed first through the state and not directly to the Commission.
- Any plans with a for-profit component, monitoring should include a contribution from or a partnership with the industry to help defray state research costs.



# Other Recommendations



- **Silver Eel Fishery** - the Board consider a re-evaluation of New York's silver eel fishery in 2015 or when new becomes available on the composition of the harvest.
- **Stock Assessment** - begin discussions with the TC to determine when the next stock assessment should be pursued, taking into consideration when there will be sufficient new information to invest the resources to initiate.





# Board Action



- Specify management options and consider approval of Addendum IV

