



# **2019 Annual Review of Stock Rebuilding Performance**

Policy Board

August 2019



# Background

- 2019-2023 Strategic Planning
- Commissioners Requested more frequent reviews
- Initiated in 2009
- Task in the 2019 Action Plan



# Objective

- Validate Status/Rate of Progress
- If not acceptable: Identify corrective action



# Outcome

- Direction/feedback to species management boards
- Input into the 2020 action planning process



# Categories

- Rebuilt/Sustainable
- Recovering/Rebuilding
- Concern
- Depleted
- Unknown



# Rebuilt/Sustainable and Recovering/Rebuilding Stocks

## Rebuilt/Sustainable

- GOM/GBK Lobster
- Menhaden
- Black Drum
- Black Sea Bass
- Bluefish
- Cobia
- Horseshoe Crab (SE)
- Scup
- Spanish Mackerel
- Spiny Dogfish

## Recovering/Rebuilding

- Horseshoe Crab (DE Bay)
- Striped Bass
- Red Drum
- Summer Founder
- Tautog (MARI)



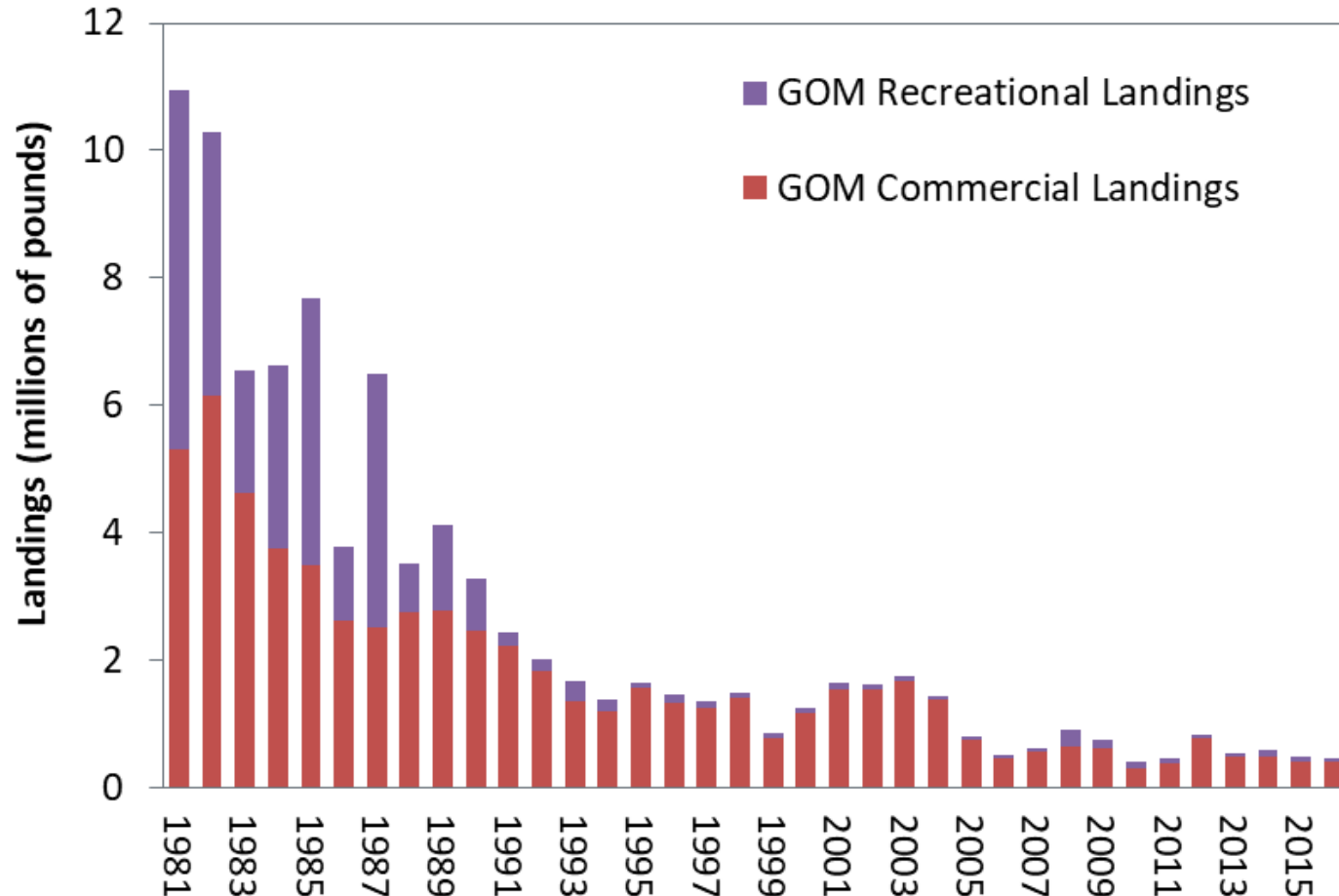
# Species of Concern

- Coastal Sharks
- Winter Flounder (GOM)

# Winter Flounder



**Winter Flounder GOM Commercial & Recreational Landings**  
NEFSC Operational Assessment of 19 Groundfish Stocks, 2017



- Overfished Unknown; Overfishing not Occurring





# Depleted Species

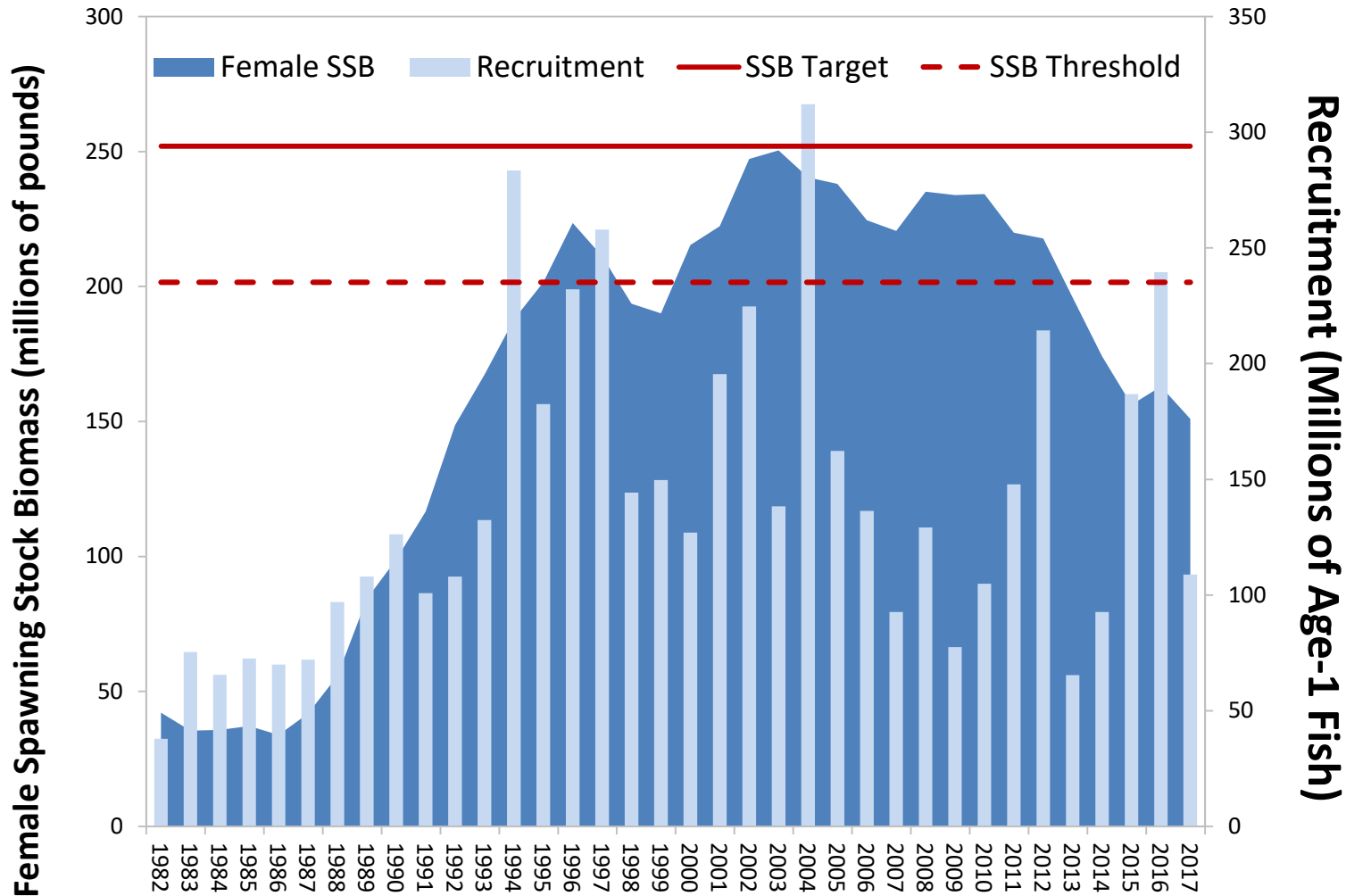
- American Eel
- American Lobster (SNE)
- American Shad
- Atlantic Herring
- Atlantic Sturgeon
- Horseshoe Crab (New York)
- Striped Bass
- Northern Shrimp
- River Herring
- Tautog (LIS, NJ/NY Bight, DelMarVa)
- Weakfish
- Winter Flounder (SNE/MA)

# Striped Bass



## Atlantic Striped Bass Female Spawning Stock Biomass and Recruitment

Source: Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment, 2018

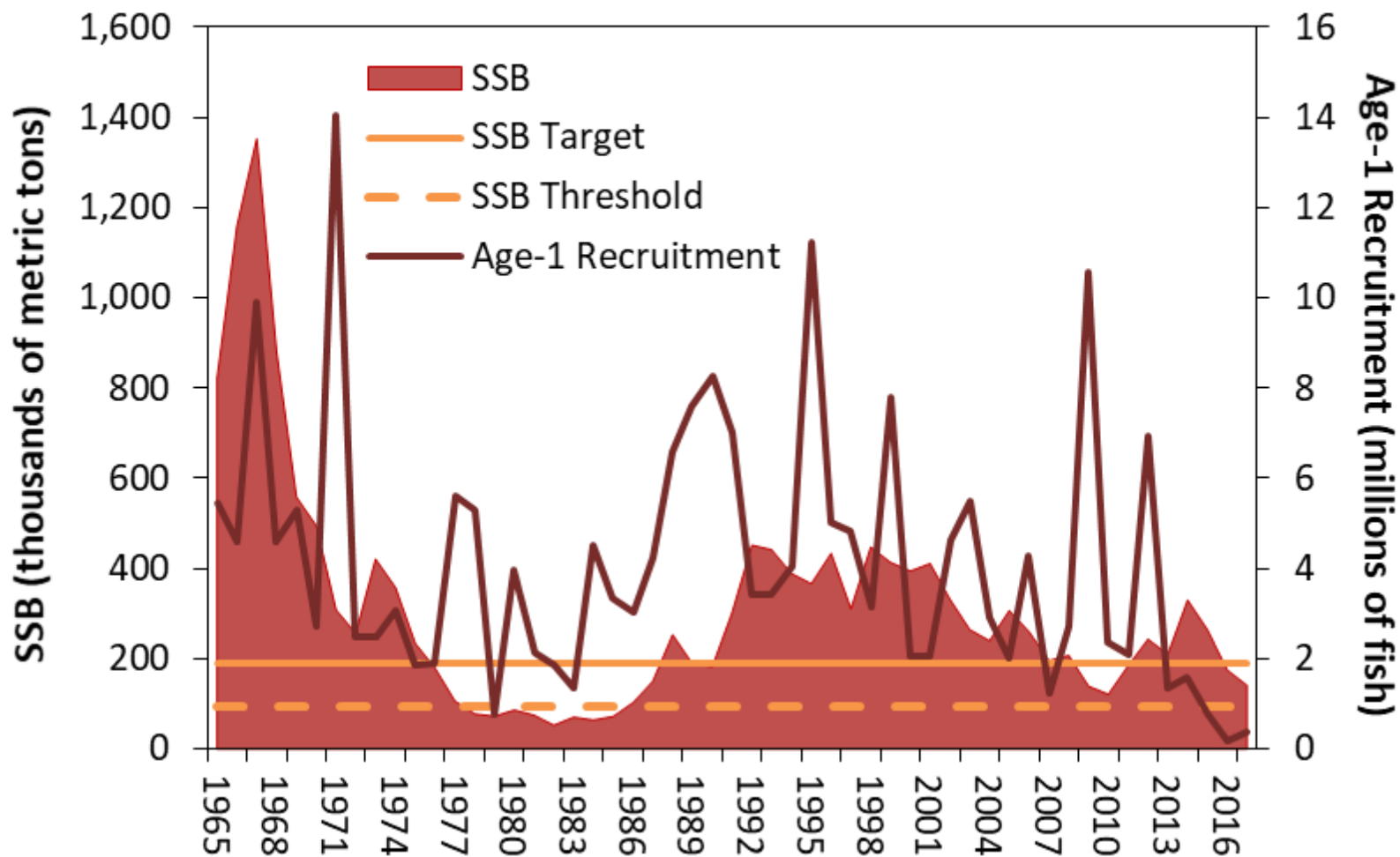


# Atlantic Herring



## Atlantic Herring Spawning Stock Biomass & Recruitment

Source: 65th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop, 2018

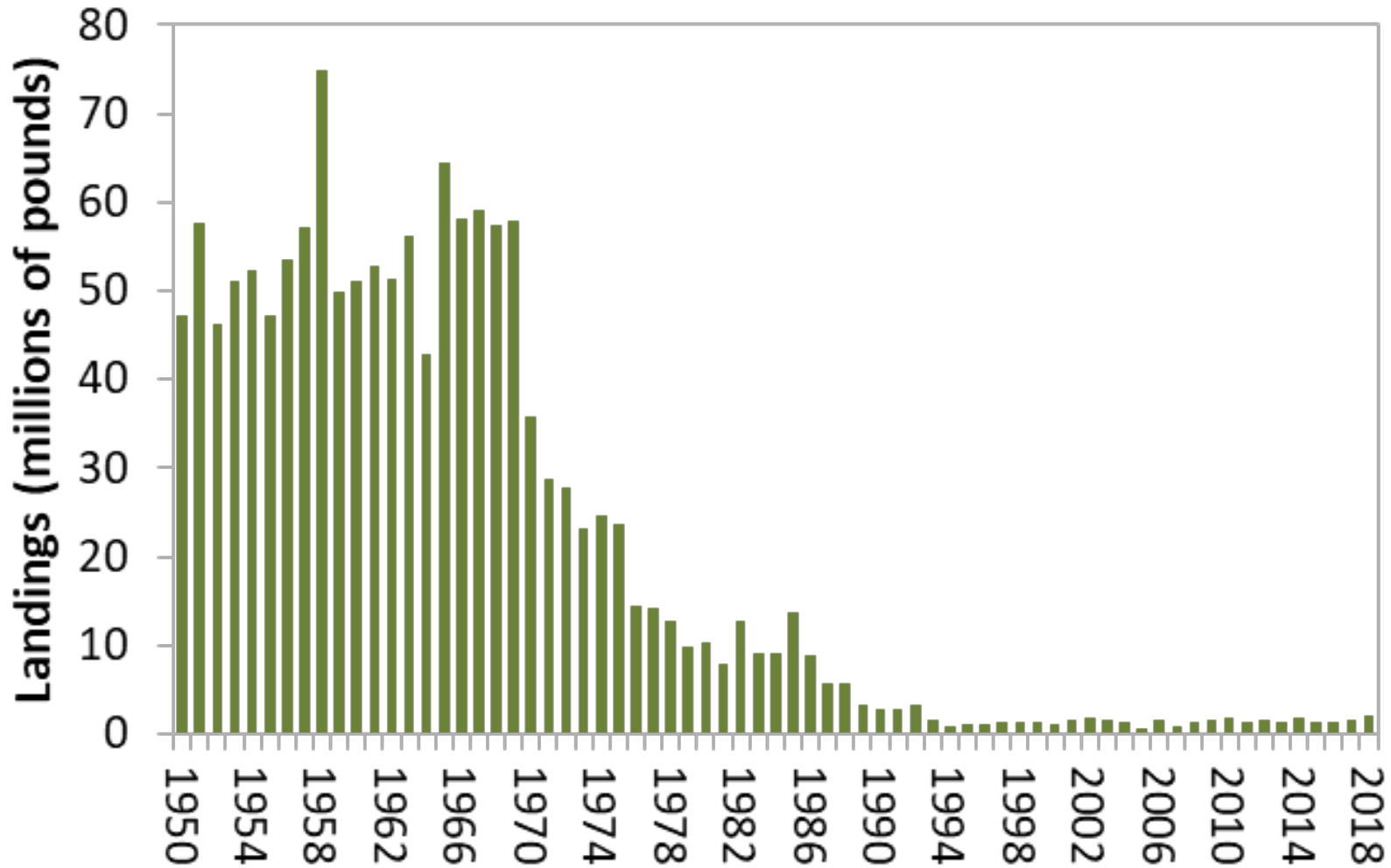


# River Herring



## River Herring Commercial Landings

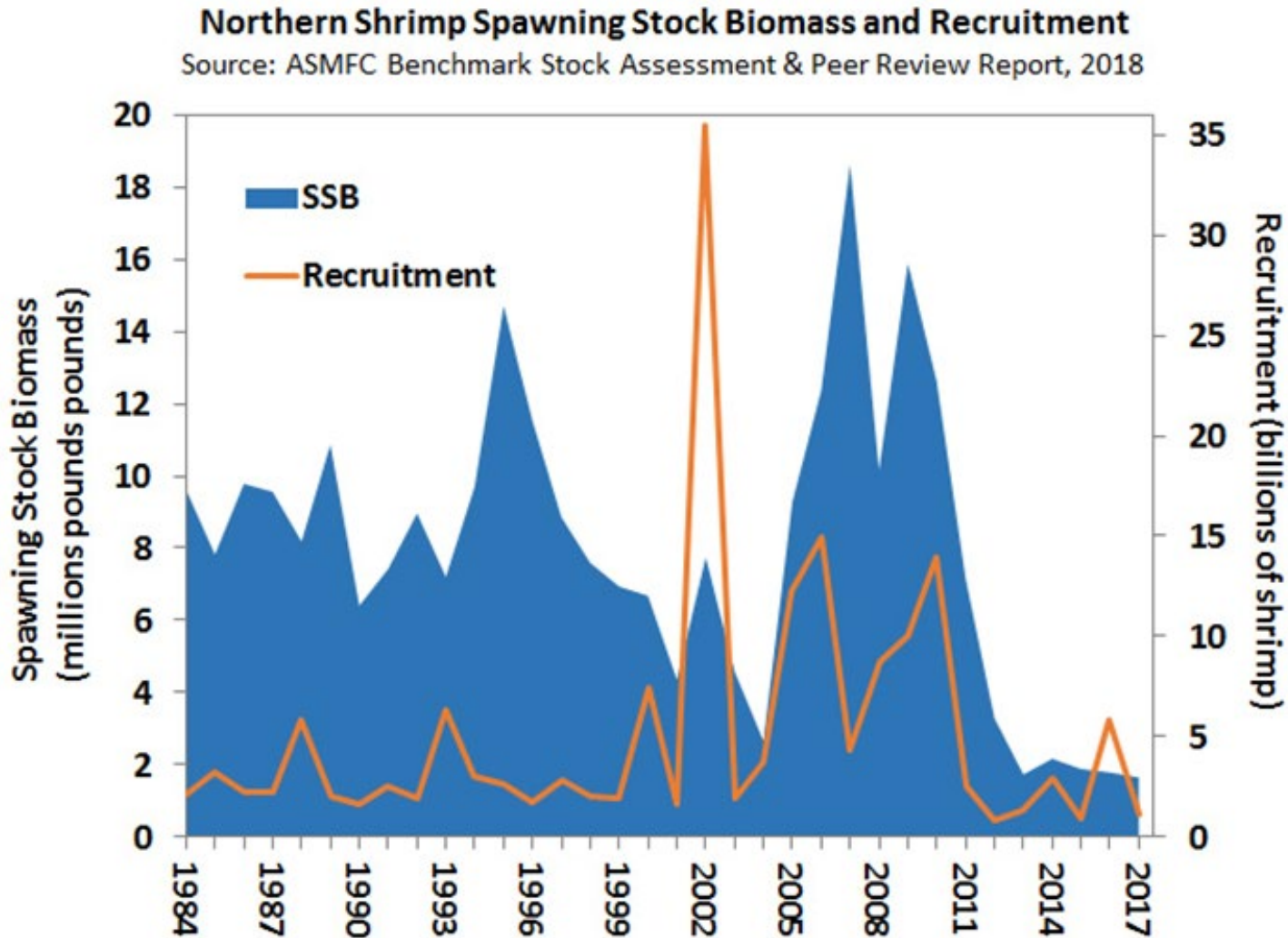
Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse, 2019



# Northern Shrimp



- Following TC advice, moratorium in place since 2015

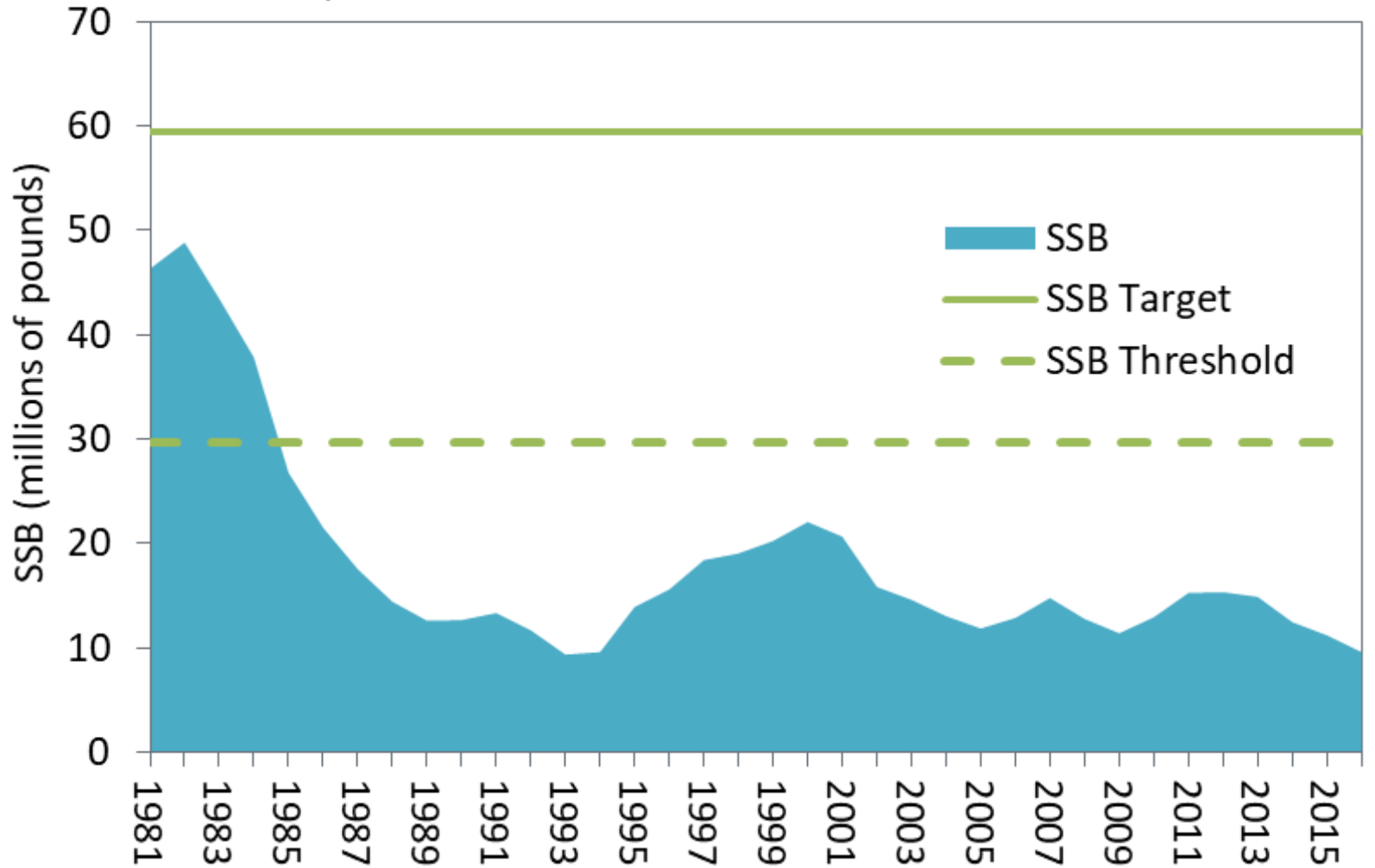


# Winter Flounder SNE/MA



## Winter Flounder SNE/MA Spawning Stock Biomass

NEFSC Operational Assessment of 19 Groundfish Stocks, 2017





# Unknown Species

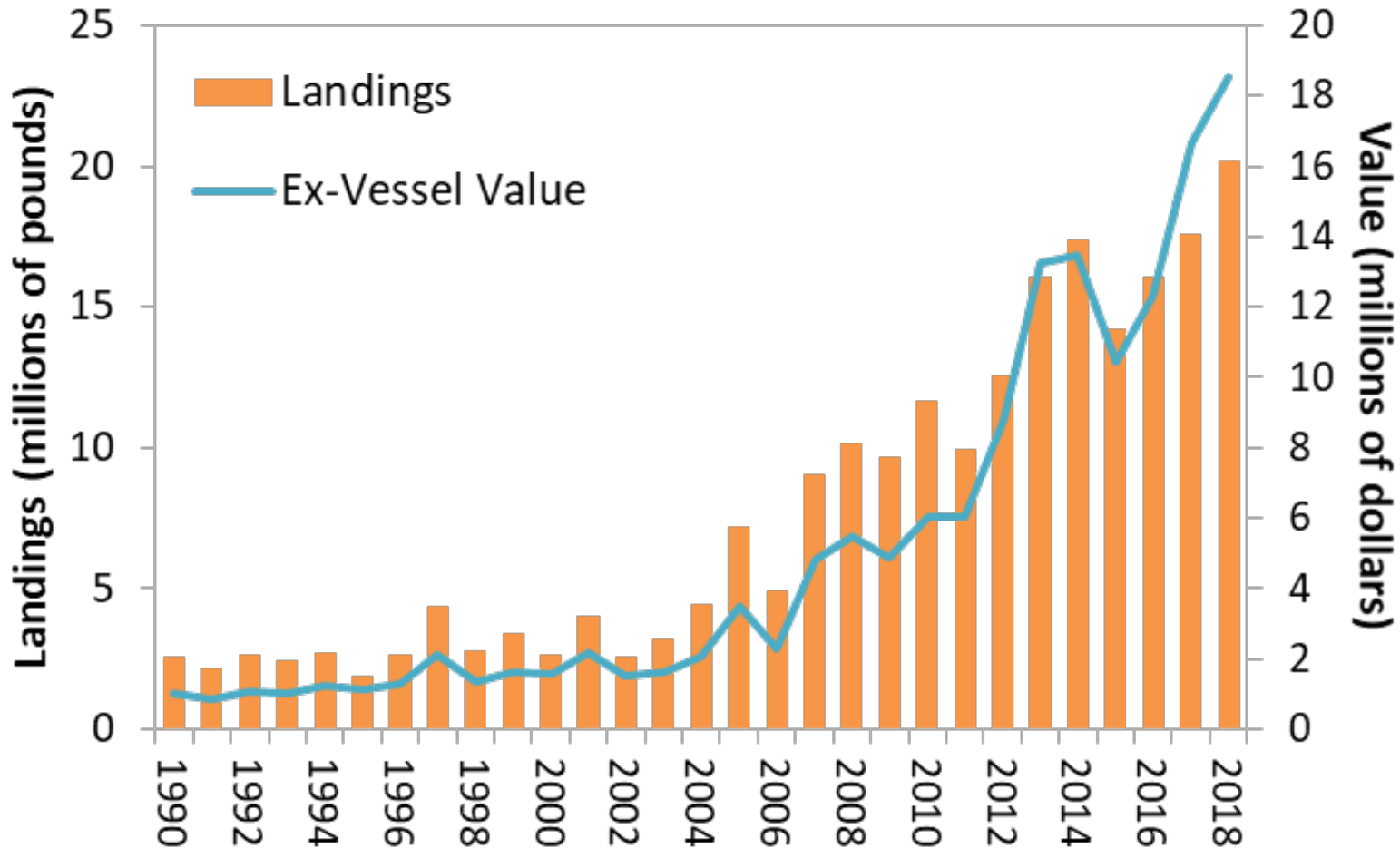
- Atlantic Croaker
- Horseshoe Crab (New England)
- Jonah Crab
- Spot
- Spotted Seatrout

# Jonah Crab



## Commercial Landings and Ex-Vessel Value

Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse, 2019

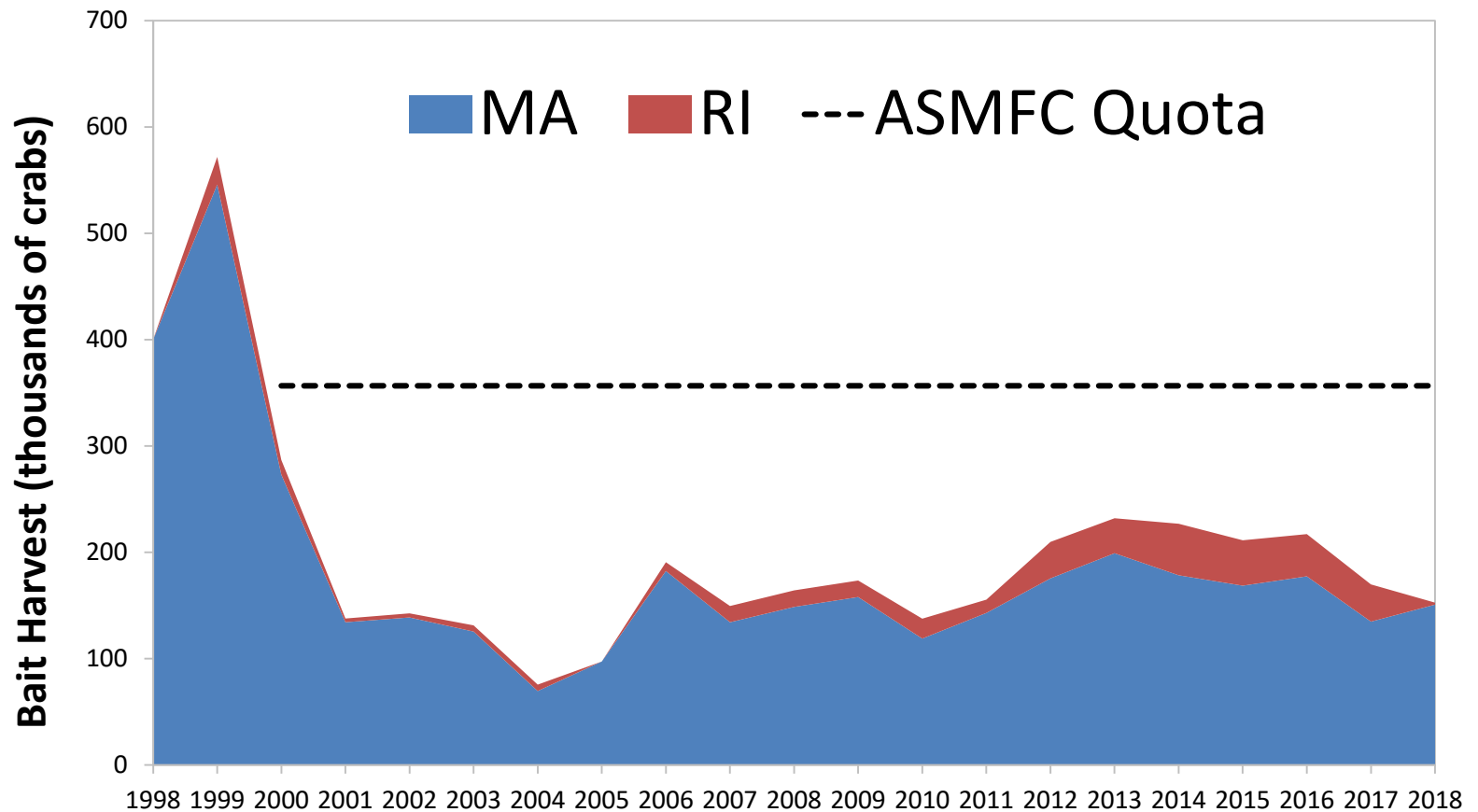




# Horseshoe Crab (NE)



## Northeast Region Horseshoe Crab Bait Harvest





# Guidance Documents

Policy Board

August 2019



# ISFMP Charter

- ACFCMA requires 4 public hearings for FMPs/Amendments
- Change the Charter language from 3 to 4 hearings for FMPs/Amendments



# Technical Guidance Document and Stock Assessment Process

- Adds ACCSP Committees to the document
- Clarifies some sections to provide better guidance on process
  - Committee member expectations for committee meetings as well as the assessment process
  - Methods workshop for assessments
  - Checklist for tracking progress for assessments

# Work Group SOPPS



- Membership: Subset of the Board approved by the Chair or Board
  - Represent diverse perspectives on the issue
  - Can have non-Board members provide information but will not be members
  - Limited membership for efficiency
- Each WG should have a Chair
- The WG Chair will facilitate and lead all meetings
- The Board should fully describe the task or issue the work group is to address.
  - Including clear directive of deliverables and timeline

# WG Purpose



- Established when a Board needs extra time to work through an issue
- WGs are not deliberative nor decision-making bodies They are
  - Intended to explore and present a range of strategies that have the potential to address an issue
- WGs deliver strategies to address issues for Board deliberation.
- Approaches with merit would be fleshed out and analyzed by a TC or PDT as directed by the Board

# WG Function



- Chairs will remind the WG of the task assigned by the Board.
- WG meetings/calls are posted on the web at least 48 hours notice. All meetings/calls are open to the public
- WG should be used to present ideas and engage in constructive discussion.
- WG members will reach out to other Board members for ideas, and the Board will reach out to WG members if they have ideas or are interested in an update
- WG progress reports will be given to the Board when possible
- All ideas are presented to the Board



**Report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries  
Commission**

**ISFMP Policy Board**

**August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**



# Steering Committee Meeting



- Met May 15 – 16<sup>th</sup> in Fernandina Beach, FL
  - Update on FY2019 project funding
  - Update on conservation mapping projects
  - Finalized Business Plan, discussed implementation
  - Discussed outreach and communications initiatives
  - Consensus on Melissa Laser award recipients
  - Reviewed 2017 – 2019 Action Plan



# **FY2020 NFHAP-USFWS On the Ground Conservation Funding RFP is now open**

**Deadline: Sept. 13, 2019**

**[www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/funding-  
opportunities](http://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/funding-opportunities)**

# Black Sea Bass Research



- Completed in the spring
  - Final report received in May
  - Results will be presented later today
  - Came in under budget – no cost extension through 12/31/19
- Continue monitoring sea whip growth
- Present findings at conference
- Publish results
- SCUBA expenses
- Salary

# Project Endorsements



## Fireplace Neck, NY

- Salt marsh habitat restoration
- Brookhaven, NY
- Restoring tidal wetland hydrology to improve coastal resiliency
- Ponding and pool formation increasing with rising sea levels, drowning healthy vegetation & providing less protection from flooding and storm surge

# Project Endorsements



## Fireplace Neck, NY

- Intensive historical grid ditching
- Restoration methods will demonstrate feasibility to other marshes
- Benefit winter and summer flounder, scup, bluefish, striped bass, and many small prey
- Complements other restoration efforts on 500-acre marsh system

# Project Endorsements



## Fireplace Neck, NY

- Part of largest remaining contiguous marsh on Long Island
- NY DEC working with Ducks Unlimited and Henningson, Durham & Richardson Architecture and Engineering, P.C.
- Seeking funding from NOAA Habitat Restoration funding

# Project Endorsements



## AC Oyster Recycling Program

- NJ DEP Bureau of Shellfisheries will work in Atlantic County to collect clean recycled oyster shells from local businesses
- Shells will be placed on Mullica River seed beds on Atlantic coast of NJ
- Last self-sustaining oyster beds on the Atlantic side of NJ

# Project Endorsements



## AC Oyster Recycling Program

- Will enhance the naturally occurring beds and provide more habitat, filter water, and stabilize sediments
- Increased bed size will increase resiliency to storms, disease, predation, and sedimentation



# Project Endorsements

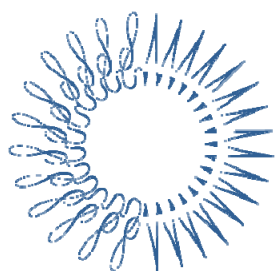


## AC Oyster Recycling Program

- Partners: Atlantic City Hard Rock Café, Jetty Apparel, Jetty Rock Foundation, ReClam the Bay, Inc., Stockton University, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension



# Welcomed two new partners: The Pew Charitable Trusts and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council



THE  
**PEW**  
CHARITABLE TRUSTS





**ACFHP would like to  
thank ASMFC for your  
continued operational  
support**