

Survey of State Landed Species: Briefing for ASMFC

★ AK

★ HI

The Nature Conservancy  Jay Odell
2/6/2020
Alexandria, VA

Image Landsat / Copernicus

St. Pierre and Miquelon
Saint-Pierre

Northumberland Strait

Bay of Fundy

Ottawa

Lake Ontario

Washington

Bermuda

Nassau
The Bahamas

BACKGROUND

- ➔ Status of federally managed fisheries is well studied
- ➔ Federal fisheries dominate the news and national narrative
- ➔ There is no comparable summary for unmanaged/state managed stocks
- ➔ State managed fisheries and state fishery managers are overlooked & underappreciated

Sports

Fishing Report: Most of U.S. stocks not overfished, NOAA report says

By Dave Monti / Special to the Journal

Posted Aug 15, 2019 at 6:56 PM

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Fisheries division's 2018 Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, delivered Aug. 2, shows 91 percent of U.S. fish stocks are not subject to overfishing and 82 percent of fish stocks are not overfished.

Status of Stocks 2018

Annual Report to
Congress on the
Status of U.S. Fisheries

JULY 30, 2019

THE SURVEY (1/2)

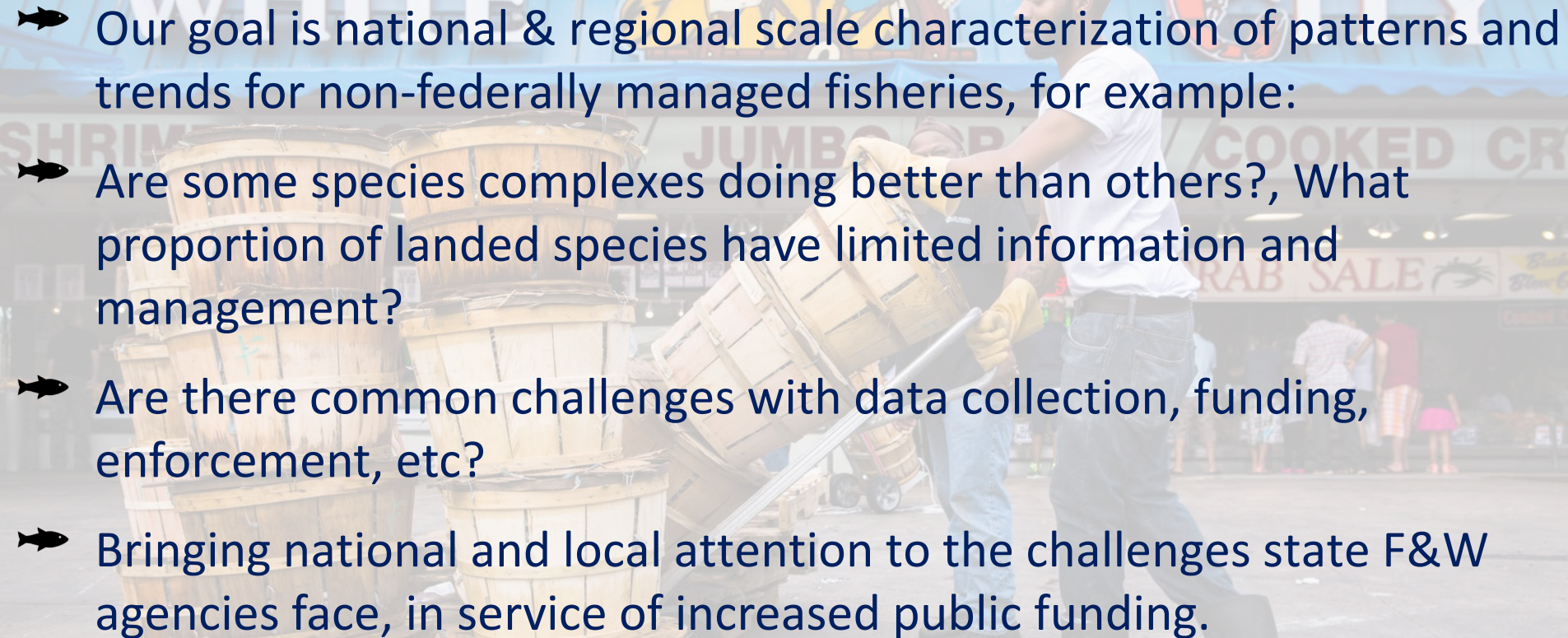
A close-up photograph of a lobster being weighed in a clear plastic weighing scale. The scale is suspended by a chain and is filled with white sand. The lobster is positioned inside the scale, and its weight is being measured. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a laboratory or office setting with various equipment and papers.

- ➔ Expert survey using 'Fishery Management Index' methodology, developed by Ray Hilborn and Mike Melnychuk at the University of Washington
- ➔ Covers Monitoring & Assessment, Stock Condition, Management Practice, Enforcement, Socioeconomic attributes
- ➔ Sampling design for top US fisheries based on volume, value, & cultural importance
- ➔ All coastal states & US territories, aiming for 250-300 species

THE SURVEY (2/2)

- ➔ Will not include any species covered by a federal FMP
- ➔ Will include many species that are essentially unmanaged.
- ➔ Survey covers explanatory variables largely beyond agency control, e.g. habitat/climate issues, funding levels, etc.
- ➔ We don't think it's realistic to expect every species landed will have a management plan

Benefits

- 
- Our goal is national & regional scale characterization of patterns and trends for non-federally managed fisheries, for example:
 - Are some species complexes doing better than others?, What proportion of landed species have limited information and management?
 - Are there common challenges with data collection, funding, enforcement, etc?
 - Bringing national and local attention to the challenges state F&W agencies face, in service of increased public funding.

In Closing

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of fishing gear. In the foreground, there are several large, light-colored clams with distinct ridges on their shells, resting on a bright orange fishing net. To the left and in the background, there are sections of blue and purple fishing nets, creating a textured, layered effect.

- We are mindful that helping with this survey is outside the regular duties of agency staff
- We are hopeful the results will be useful in diverse ways, including bringing useful attention to your vital and underfunded work
- Please be on the lookout for a letter from UW/TNC asking for your help to suggest staff most qualified to fill out the survey for specific species in your state
- We are grateful for your consideration and assistance!



Survey of 2019 ASMFC Progress

Interstate Fisheries Management Program
Policy Board

February 6, 2020

About the Survey



Initiated in 2009 to evaluate Commission progress

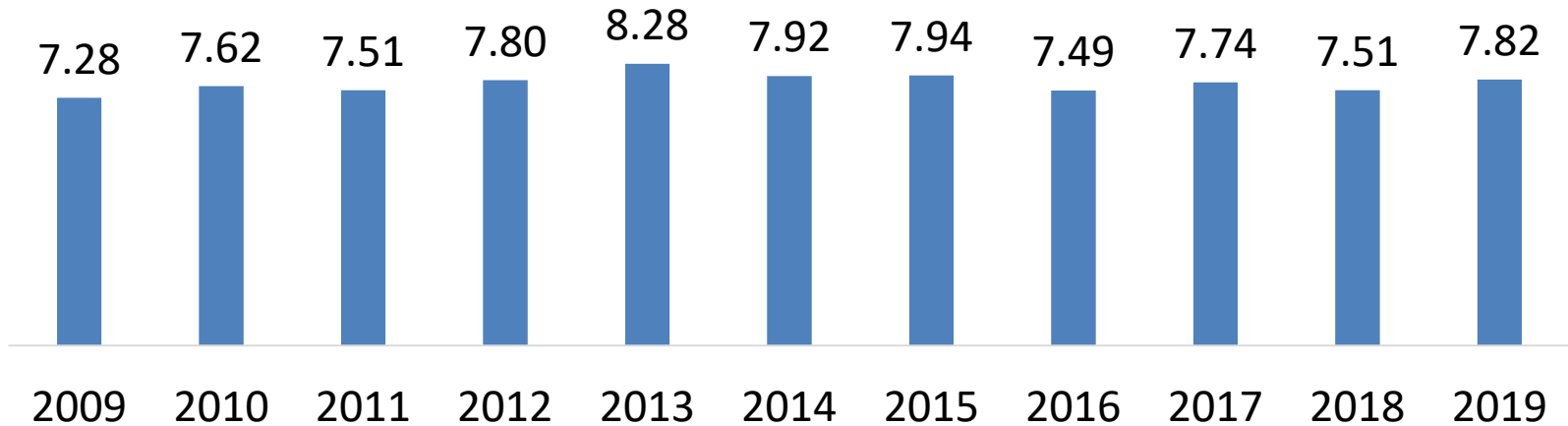
2019 data collected January 6-20, 2020

Comprised of 15 'rating' questions and five 'comment' questions

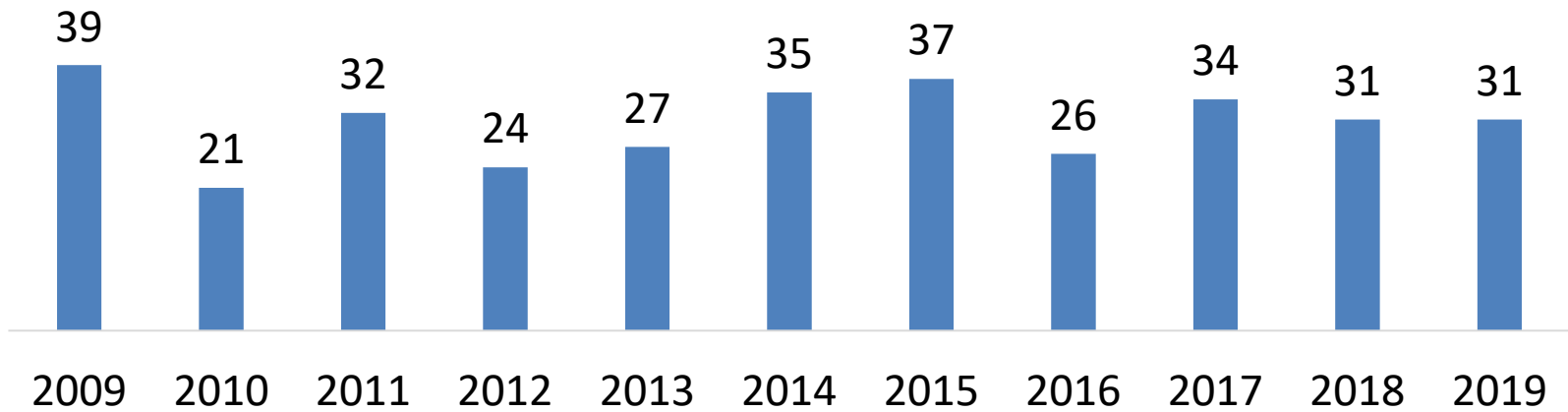
Overview of Results



Average Score by Year



Survey Responses by Year



Biggest (Only) Declines, 2018 to 2019



Is tracking the number of stocks where overfishing is no longer occurring a clear metric of progress? **(-.19)**

How satisfied are you with the Commission's progress to end overfishing? **(-.29)**

Biggest Gains (>.5), 2018 to 2019



Commission's actions reflect progress toward its Vision? **(+.90)**

Cooperation with federal partners **(+.74)**

Cooperation between Commissioners **(+.74)**

Clear and achievable plan to reach the Vision **(+.51)**

Best Scores (>8), 2019



Use of fiscal and human resources (8.65)

Appropriate amount of resources spent on issues within Commission control (8.58)

Products of the ISFMP Department (8.50)

Products of the Science Department (8.45)

Securing fiscal resources to support management and science needs (8.39)

Worst Scores, 2019



Ability to manage rebuilt stocks (6.61, **+0.16**)

Cooperation between Commissioners (7.19, **+0.74**)

Progress to end overfishing (7.19, **-0.29**)

Themes from Comment Section



1. Obstacles to rebuilding stocks
2. Most useful Commission products
3. Requests for additional products
4. Issues the Commission should focus on
5. Additional comments

Themes from Comment Section



Obstacles & Challenges

- Impacts of climate change on stock distribution; management implications
- Cooperation among states/Commissioners
- Cooperation between ASMFC, Councils and NOAA Fisheries
- Response times to new information (ex. stock assessments, MRIP FES)
- Balancing socioeconomic and conservation
- Balancing commercial and recreational interests
- Conservation equivalency
- Prioritizing species groups

Themes from Comment Section



Areas for Increased Focus & Resources

- Stock distribution and abundance shifts/allocation
- Stock assessment frequency
- Technical analysis of juvenile indices, environmental variables, habitat
- Law Enforcement Committee input
- Improving conservation practices (e.g., circle hook awareness, discourage gaffing)
- Risk and Uncertainty Policy
- Addressing discrepancies between MSA and ACFCMA
- Federal legislation to align stock distribution and allocation

Themes from Comment Section



Most Useful Commission Products

Technical Documents

- Meeting materials & summaries; stock assessments & summaries; technical reports; FMP reviews

Publications

- Annual Report; public information documents; ASMFC website; press releases; media clippings

Staff Support

- Staff expertise/guidance; travel logistics; science trainings/workshops

Themes from Comment Section



New Products to Make Your Job Easier

- Tables for annual quotas and state regulatory changes
- Web-based primer on fishery management
- Quota monitoring information for species with allocations not covered by federal quota monitoring webpage (black sea bass, scup, horseshoe crab)
- Up-to-date status dashboard for all managed stocks
- Summaries of draft Addenda/Amendments for stakeholders
- Occasional press releases geared towards the general public updating issues and advising what the Commission is doing to address those issues

Themes from Comment Section



Meeting Logistic Improvements

- Electronic motions
- Reduce comment monopolization by a few Commissioners at Board and Committee meetings

Technical Improvements

- Ability to copy/paste graphs and tables
- Consistent stock assessment executive summary format
- Structure management documents like a regulatory package where you work from a single document and make your additions/deletions in that single document instead of creating new documents each time.



Questions



Incorporating Ecosystem Management into the Interstate Fisheries Management Process

Katie Drew and Toni Kerns

ISFMP Policy Board

February 6, 2020

Outline



- Review of the 2020 ERP Assessment for menhaden
- Implications for other species
- Potential strategies for moving ecosystem based management into the ASMFC process

2020 ERP Assessment



- Accepted model was the NWACS-MICE: an EwE model with a limited predator and prey field, focused on key species
 - Predators: striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, spiny dogfish
 - Prey: menhaden, Atlantic herring, bay anchovies
- Allows managers examine the tradeoffs between menhaden harvest and predator biomass

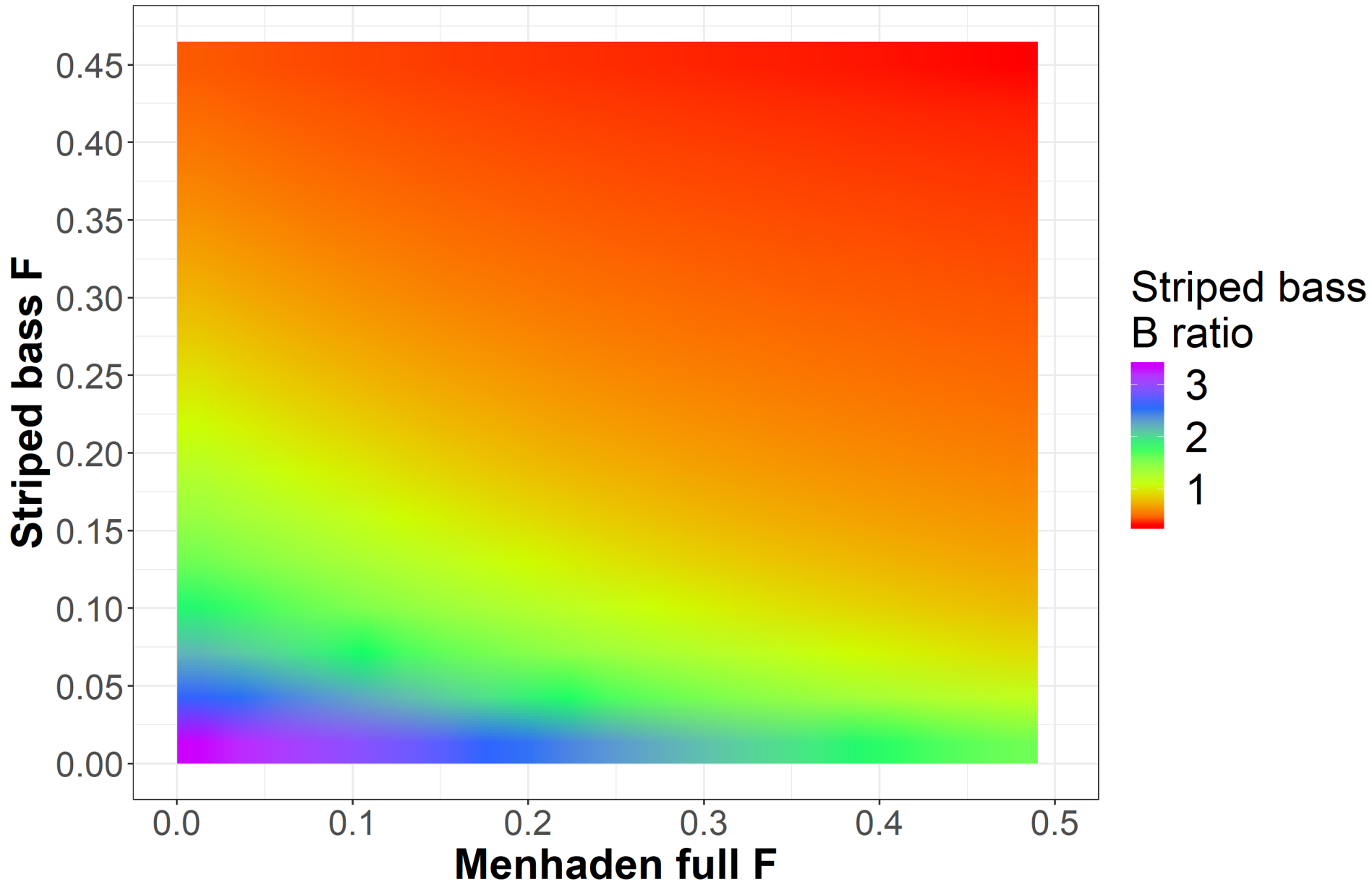
2020 ERP Assessment



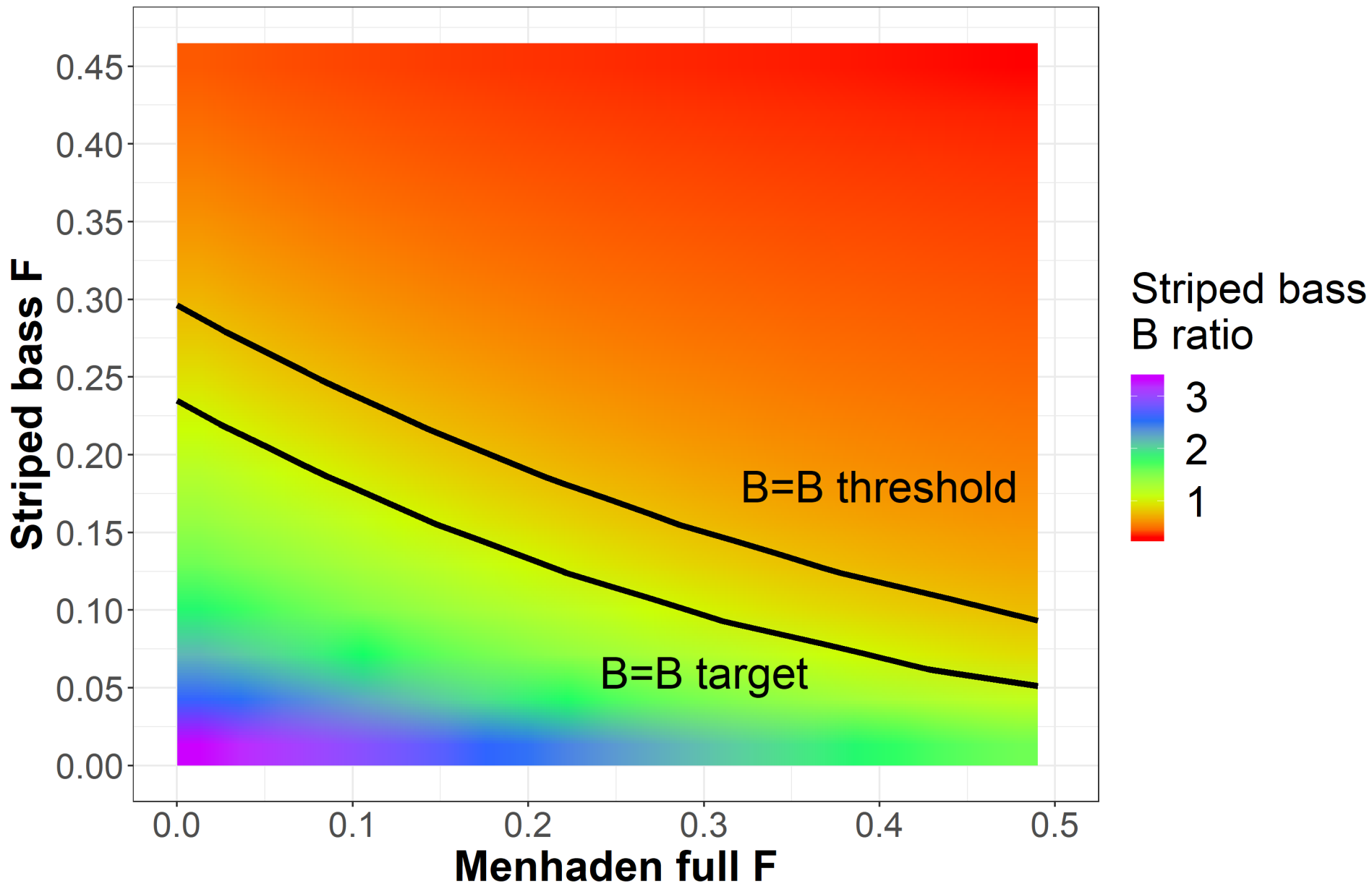
- There is no one right answer for ERPs!

- It depends on the management objectives for the ecosystem
 - What do you want your predator populations to look like?
 - What do you want your predator fisheries to look like?
 - What do you want your prey fisheries to look like?

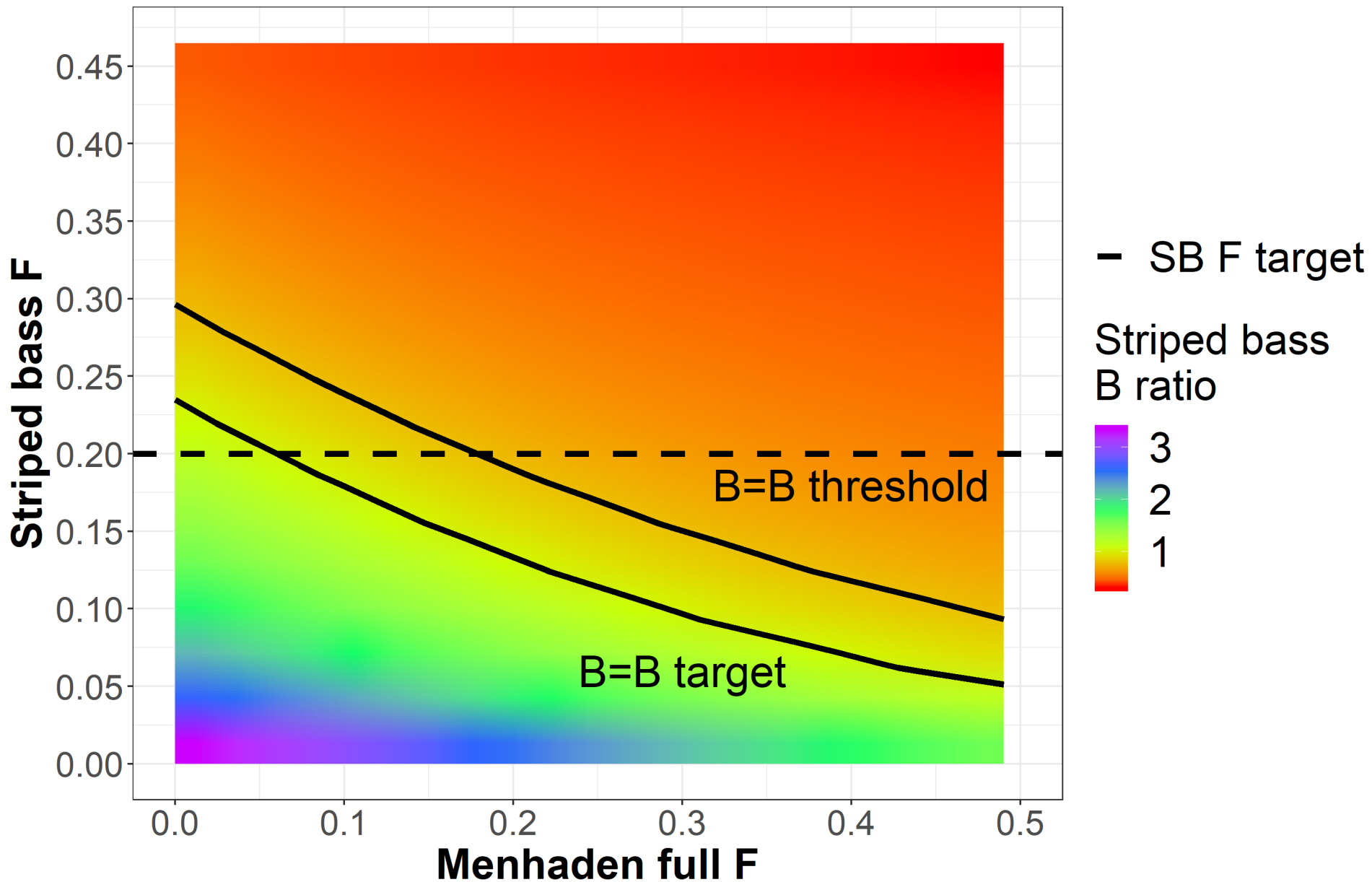
NWACS-MICE Tradeoff Plot



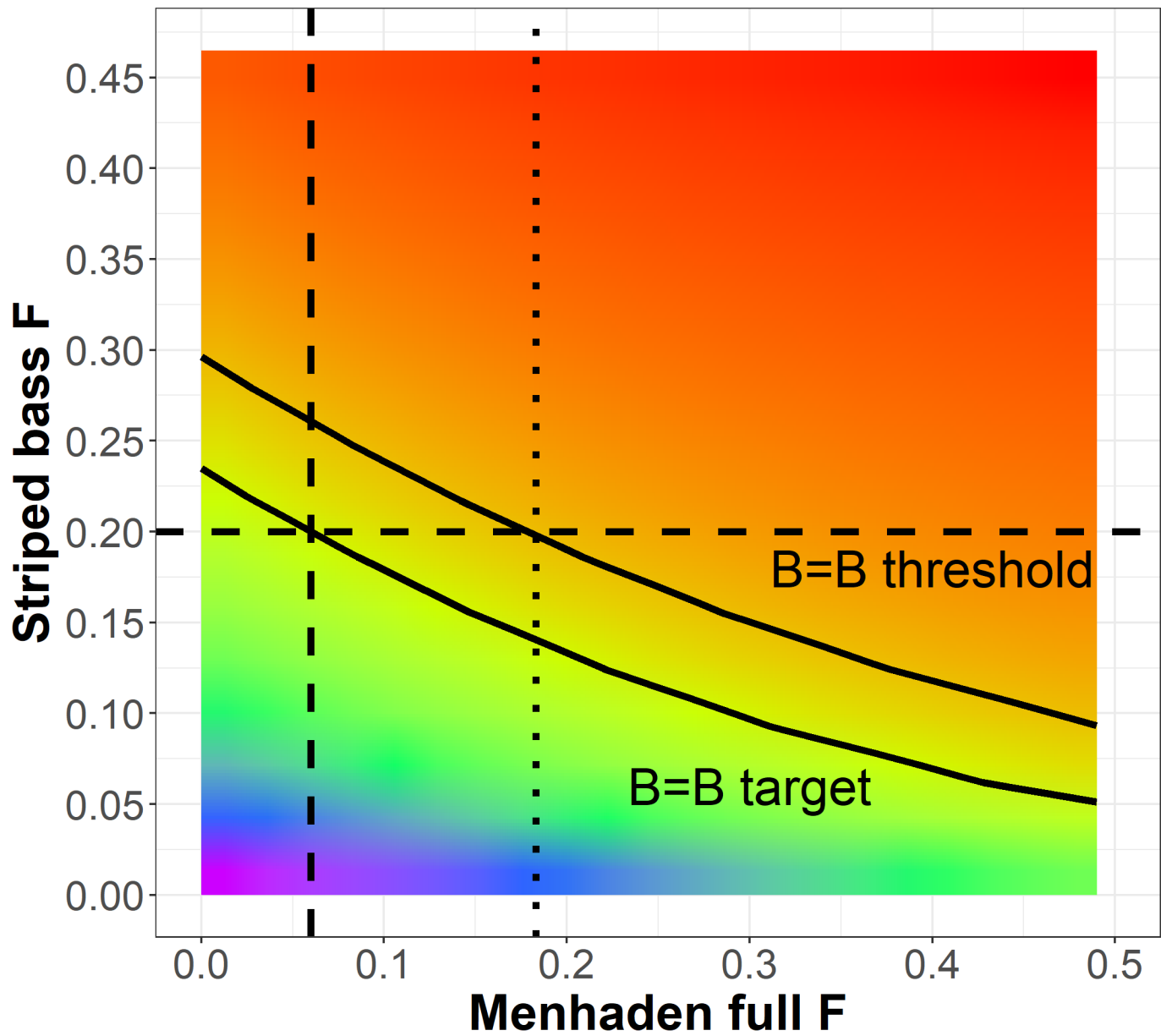
NWACS-MICE Tradeoff Plot



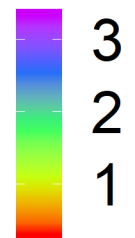
NWACS-MICE Tradeoff Plot



NWACS-MICE Tradeoff Plot



Striped bass
B ratio



- ERP Target
- ERP Threshold
- SB F target

ERP Tradeoffs



- Menhaden Board will go forward with ERPs that allow other species to meet the reference points in their own FMPs
- Menhaden ERPs are a huge step forward for ecosystem-based management, but they're only the first step

ERP Tradeoffs



- The other species' reference points are set without considering ecological tradeoffs or ecosystem management objectives
- How do we bring that conversation into the Commission's management process?

Future Ecosystem Management



- Does the Policy Board want to task a workgroup with developing potential strategies to integrate ecosystem management within the Commission Framework?
 - If so what is the Commission's Goal?
 - E.g. NOAA Definition: The goal of **EBFM** is to maintain ecosystems in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition so they can provide the services humans want and need.
 - MAFMC: The goal of **EAFM** is to manage for ecologically sustainable utilization of living marine resources while maintaining ecosystem productivity, structure, and function.

Future Ecosystem Management



- Policy Board will need to determine the framework for how to integrate ecosystem management within the Commission's framework. Issues to think about:
 - Determine a goal for EM
 - How many species to include?
 - If non commission managed species are included, how do we incorporate councils?

Example Ecosystem Management



- Striped bass may reconsider BRPs and management objectives in the next Amendment
 - If striped bass BRPs change, ERPs values as defined now will change
 - Should there be a joint striped bass-menhaden Board or sub-committee of the Policy Board to consider striped bass-menhaden tradeoffs in setting both sets of reference points?



Stock Categories

ASMFC Policy Board

February 2020



Current Categories

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



- Under the current categories Depleted was the only one that addressed overfished/overfishing
- Depleted is specific to stock where it is unclear whether fishing mortality is the primary cause for reduced stock size

Recommended New Categories



- **Overfished:** Occurs when stock biomass falls below the threshold established by the FMP, impacting the stock's reproductive capacity to replace fish removed through harvest, and that decline is driven primarily by fishing mortality.
- **Overfishing:** Removing fish from a population at a rate that exceeds the threshold established in the FMP, impacting the stock's reproductive capacity to replace fish removed through harvest.