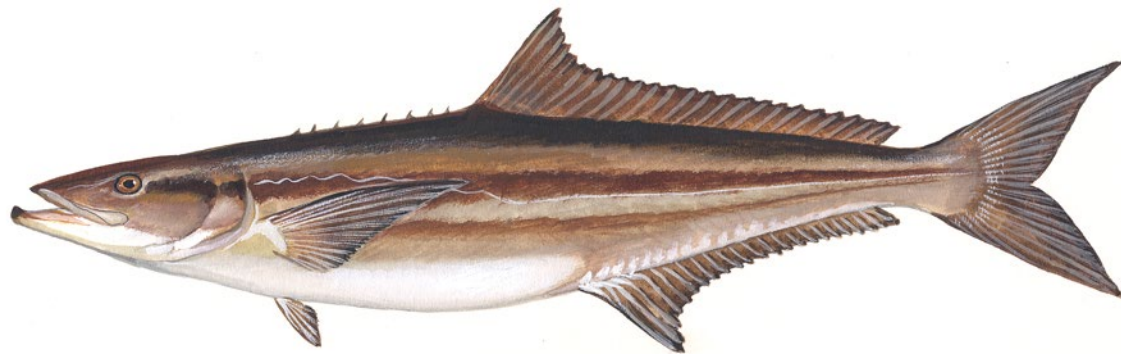




Summary of Public Comment on Public Information Document for Draft Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Cobia Fishery Management Plan



October 2018

Amendment Process - Timeline



<u>Step</u>	<u>Date</u>
Approval of Draft PID by the Board	Aug. 9
Public review and comment on PID	Written: Aug. 10 – Oct. 10 6 Public Hearings
Board review of public comment & direction for Draft Amendment 1 <i>Current step</i>	Oct 2018
Review and approval of Draft Amendment 1 by Board for public comment	May 2019
Public review and comment on Draft Amendment 1	May – Aug 2019
Board review of public comment, review and approval of the final Amendment 1 by the Board, Policy Board and Commission	Aug 2019

Statement of the Problem



- Commission's ISFMP approved in November 2017
 - Designed to complement federal CMP FMP
- During ISFMP development, CMP FMP Amendment 31 initiated
 - Removes Atlantic cobia from CMP FMP; management solely through ASMFC
 - Approved by Gulf & South Atlantic Councils earlier this year, currently awaiting Secretarial review
- ISFMP Draft Amendment 1 initiated in May
 - Needed to replace language dependent on CMP FMP
 - Board desire to consider different management strategies

PID Issues



- Recommended Management for Federal Waters
- Harvest Specification Process
- Biological Monitoring

Public Comment Summary



- Written Public Comment received from Aug. 10 – Oct. 10
- 39 written comments received, majority as signatures of Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association form letter
- Six public hearings: NJ, PRFC/MD, VA, NC (2), GA/SC
 - Total of 10 public attendees
 - 0 public attendees for PRFC/MD and Morehead City, NC, hearings
- AP Conference Call: 2 attendees, no comments additional to those provided by other means
 - Storms may have impacted participation

Notes on Current Policies



- No strong desire to change minimum size or bag limits
- Support for current process of states adjusting vessel limits and seasons to achieve recreational harvest targets
- Support for continued use of 3-year evaluation process for recreational fishery
- Support for continued management using annual commercial quota and recreational harvest targets
- No comments suggested changes to current allocation percentages

Issue 1: Rec. Federal Management



- 36 written comments support management based on state of landing
- Hearing comments geographically split:
 - NC/VA comments support management based on state of landing
 - SC comments support management based on latitudinal extension of state boundaries into EEZ (potential for zoning off of areas)

Issue 2: Harvest Specification Process



- Majority of comments support 3-year for recreational and multi-year for commercial time periods for evaluation and specification of harvest
- Support for evaluation of recreational harvest in numbers instead of pounds
- Several comments expressed concern with difference in regulations between fishing sectors
 - Has led to permitting issues

Issue 2: Harvest Specification Process



- Majority of comments from VA/NC:
 - Desire stability with no Board ability to make in-season changes
 - Support continued coastwide recreational maximum vessel limit of 6 fish
- Majority of comments from SC:
 - Want Board to be able to react quickly to changes in fishery
 - Support consideration of a lower coastwide recreational maximum vessel limit

Issue 3: Biological Sampling



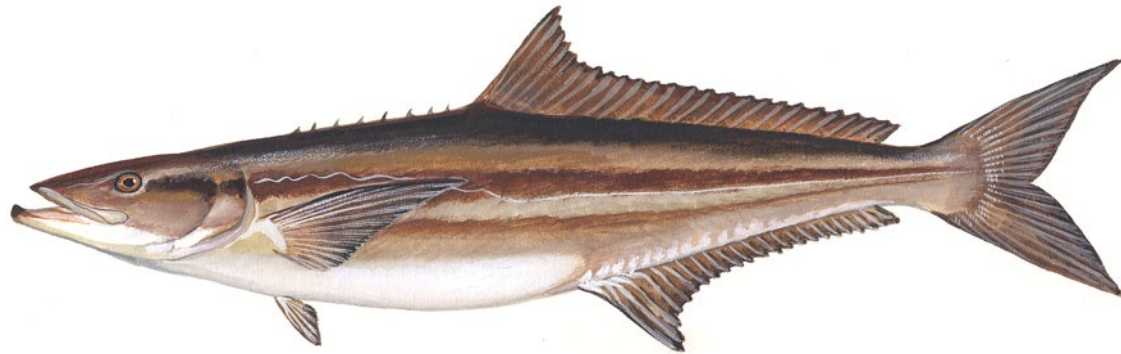
- Majority of comments support voluntary, but not mandatory, sampling of the recreational fishery
- Majority of comments support state establishment or continuation of sampling programs
- VA-GA each have some form of biological sampling in place currently

Other Comments



- Majority of comments support establishment of cobia regulations throughout the management area, GA-NY
- Comments from VA/NC support inclusion of the east coast of FL in the management area or a shifting of quota from this region to the management area
- Comments from VA support changing VA-specific per license holder commercial limits to per vessel limits

Public Comment Questions?



Potential Continuation of Current Policies



- Rec. min. size: 36 in FL (or TL equivalent)
- Rec. bag limit: 1 fish per person
- Coastwide commercial quota
- Coastwide recreational harvest target allocated to *non-de minimis* states and evaluated as 3-year averages
 - States may adjust seasons and vessel limits to achieve target
- Current recreational allocation percentages

Issues Needed in Draft Amd 1



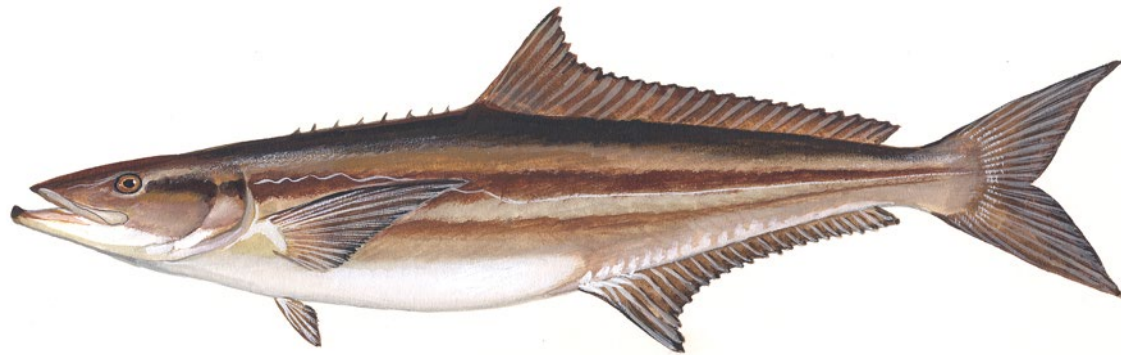
- Recommended measures for federal waters
 - Options: State of landing, Fishing location
- Harvest specification
 - Removal of commercial annual quota or establishment of specification process
 - Removal of recreational annual target or establishment of specification process
 - Specification process options:
 - Measures subject to Board specification
 - Frequency

Issues for Consideration in Draft Amd 1



- Biological Monitoring
 - Require or encourage state data collection on recreational &/or commercial fisheries
- Consideration of changes to previous management measures
 - Ex. Coastwide max vessel limit; Commercial size, possession, or vessel limit; Evaluation of recreational fishery in numbers or pounds
- Others?

Board Direction

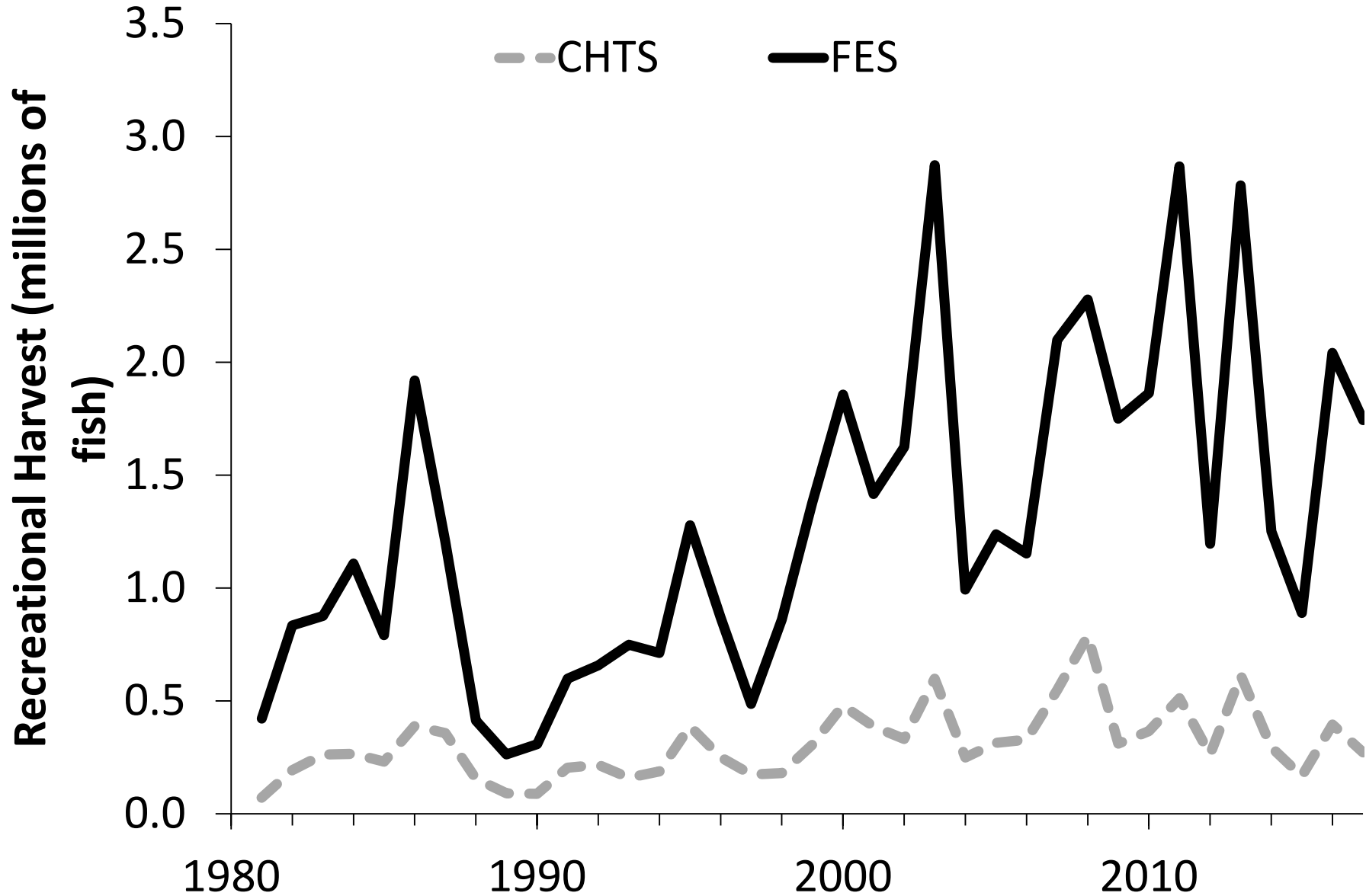




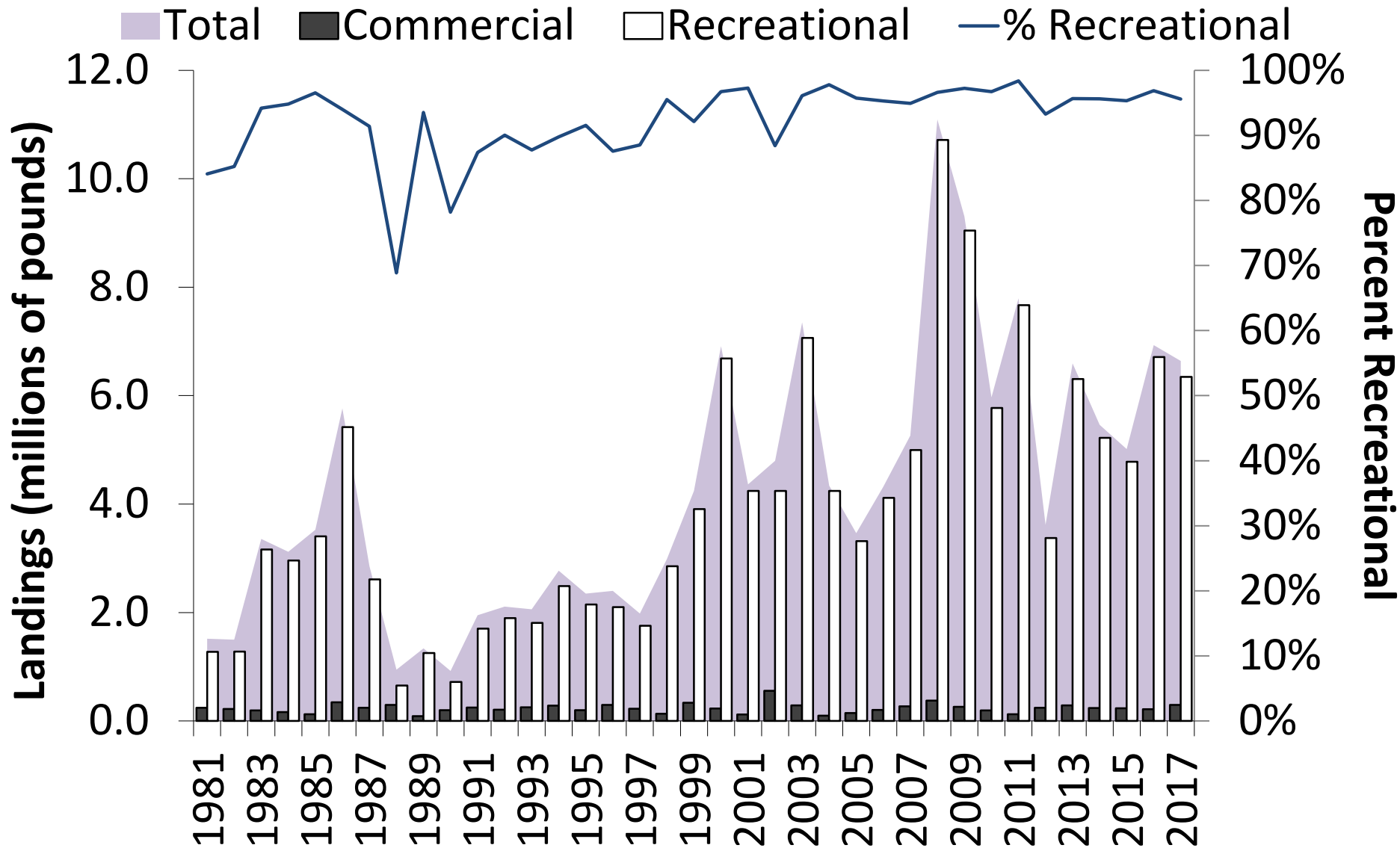
Black Drum 2018 FMP Review

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries
Management Board
October, 2018

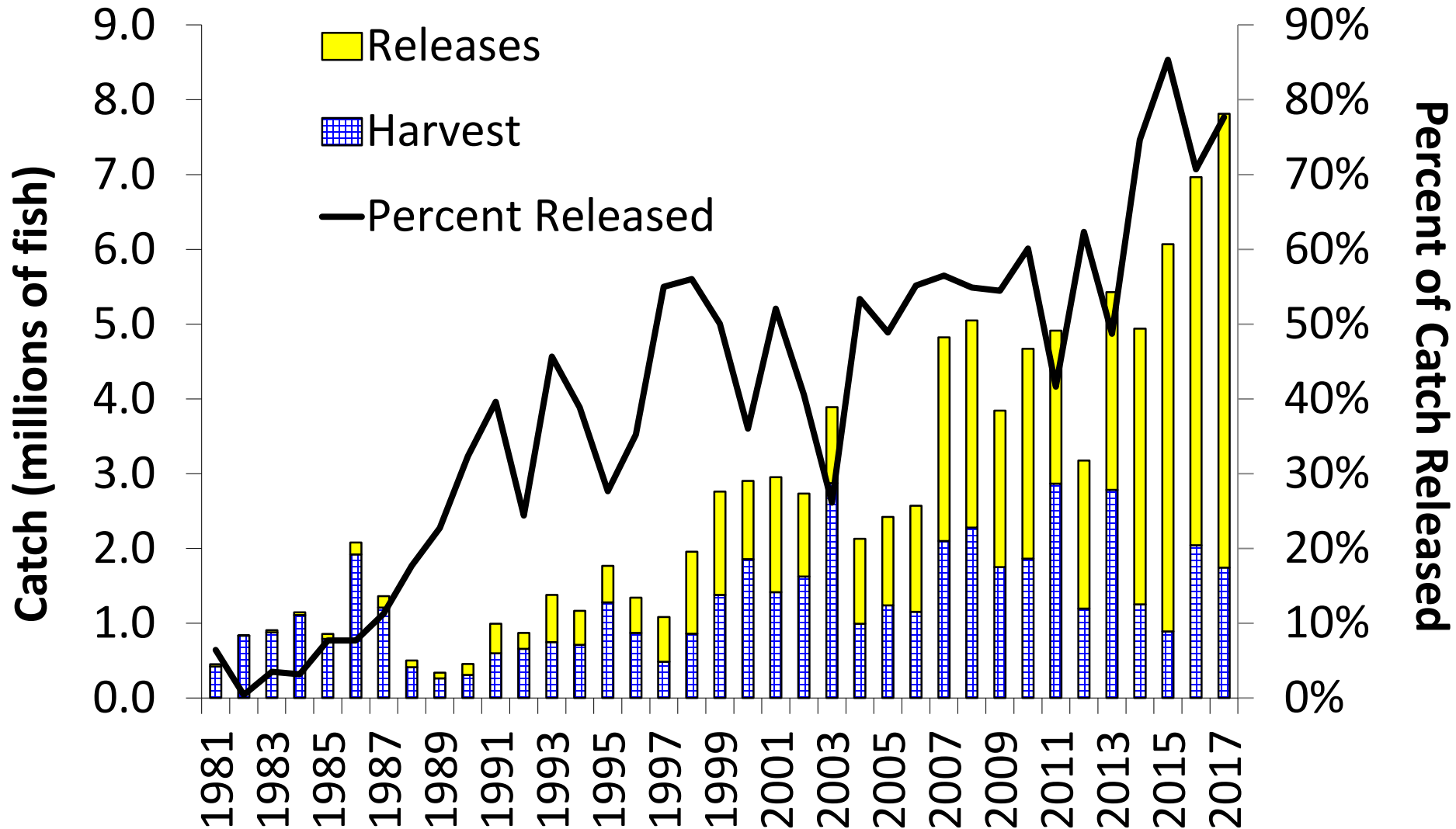
Updated MRIP Estimates



Status of the Fishery - Total Landings



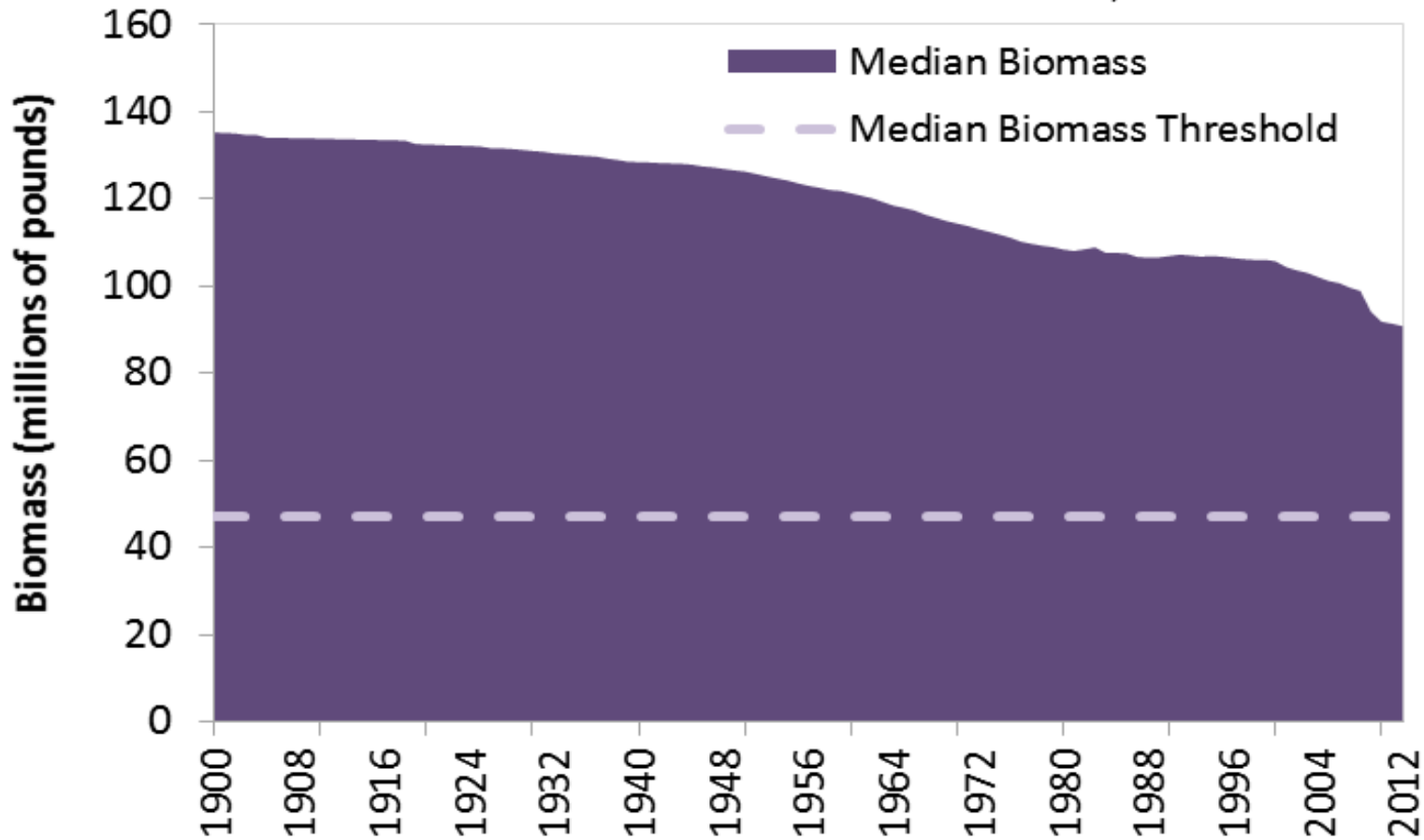
Status of the Fishery - Recreational



Status of the Stock



Black Drum Biomass
ASMFC Black Drum Benchmark Assessment, 2015



Status of Management



Black Drum FMP

- January 1, 2014 - all states must implement a maximum possession limit and a minimum size of at least 12”
- January 1, 2016 - all states must increase the minimum size limit to at least 14”
- **Addendum I (2018)**
 - Allows MD to reopen commercial fishery in Chesapeake Bay

Status of Management



State	Recreational		Commercial			Notes
	Size limit	Bag limit	Size limit	Trip Limit	Annual Quota	
NJ	16" min	3/person/day	16" min	10,000 lbs	65,000 lbs	
DE	16" min	3/person/day	16" min	10,000 lbs	65,000 lbs	
MD	16" min	1/person/day 6/vessel (Bay)	16" min		1,500 lbs Atlantic Coast	Ch. Bay closed to com. harvest. May reopen in the future due to Addendum I.
VA	16" min	1/person/day	16" min	1/person/day*	120,000 lbs	*without Black Drum Harvesting and Selling Permit
NC	14" min - 25" max; 1 fish > 25"	10/person/day	14" min - 25" max	500 lbs		
SC	14" min - 27" max	5/person/day	14" min - 27" max	5/person/day		Commercial fishery primarily bycatch
GA	14" min	15/person/day	14" min	15/person/day		
FL	14" min - 24" max; 1 fish >24"	5/person/day	14" min - 24" max	500 lbs/day		

Compliance and *De minimis*



- All states are in compliance with the FMP
- No state requested *de minimis* status through the annual reporting process.

PRT Recommendations



- PRT recommends the Board approve the 2018 Black Drum FMP Review and state compliance reports.
- Management, Research, and Monitoring Recommendations in FMP Review report
- Recommend the Board schedule an assessment or update in 2020 (5-year trigger) to incorporate recalibrated MRIP estimates



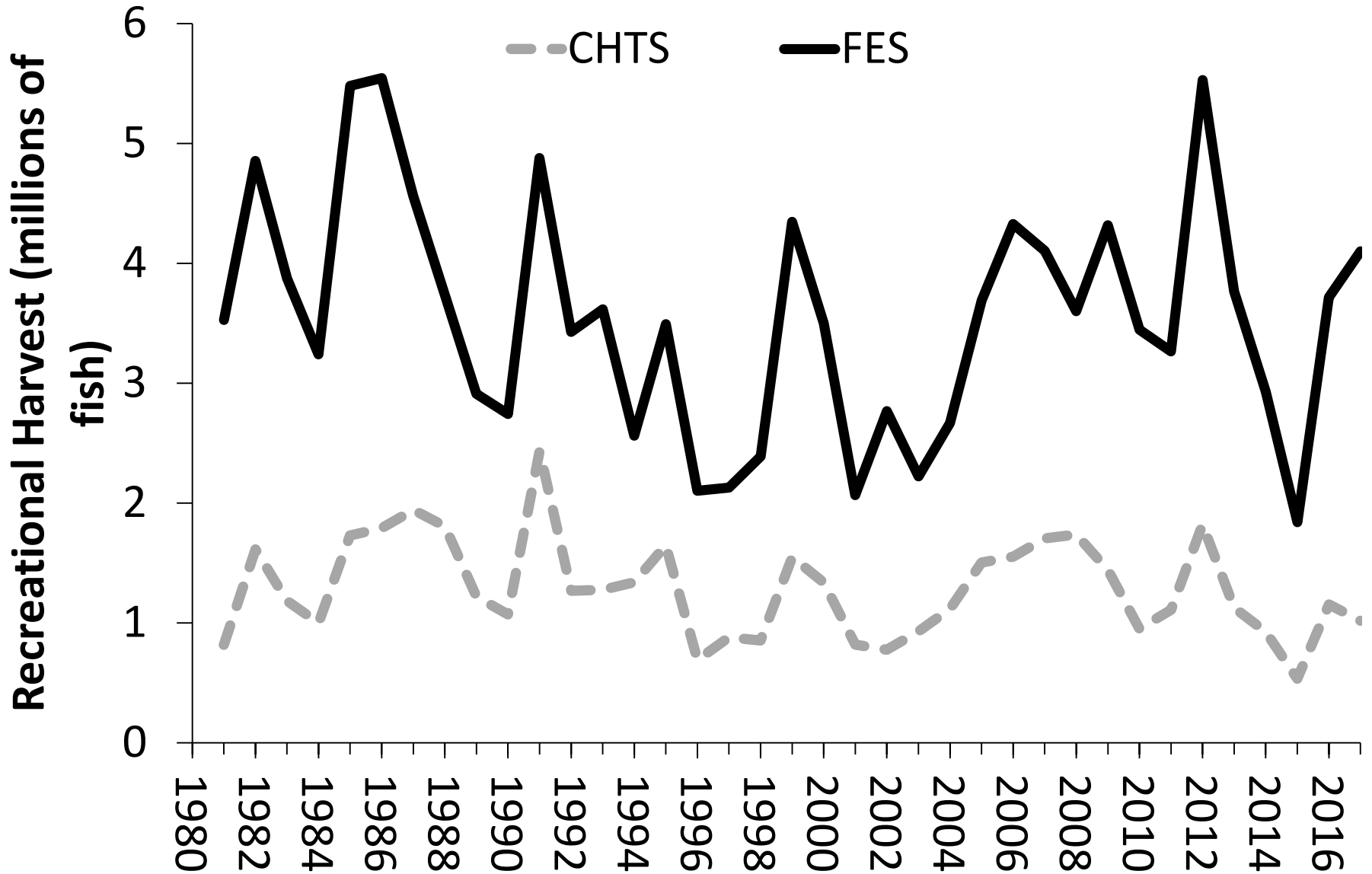
Comments or Questions?



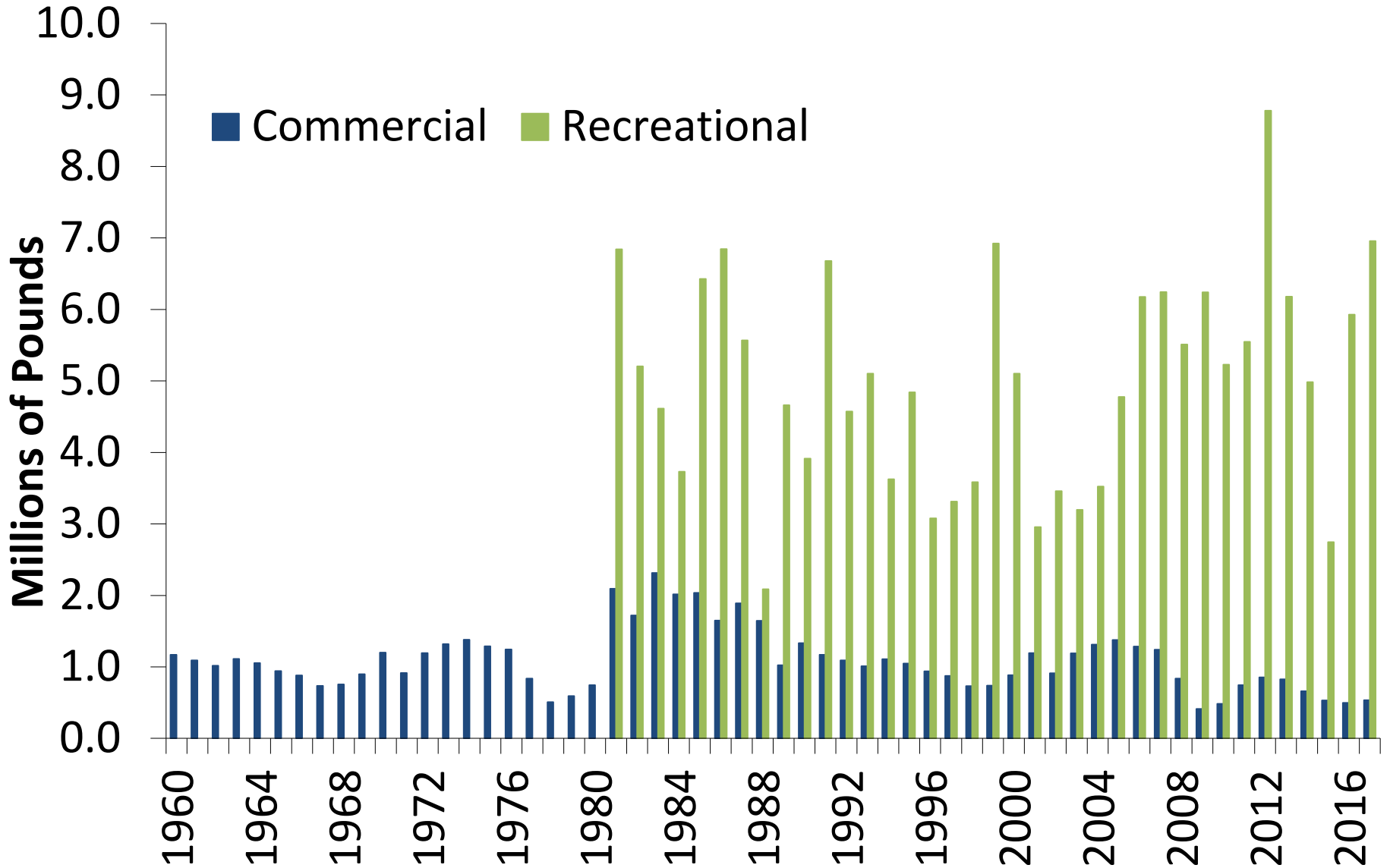
Spotted Seatrout 2018 FMP Review

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries
Management Board
October, 2018

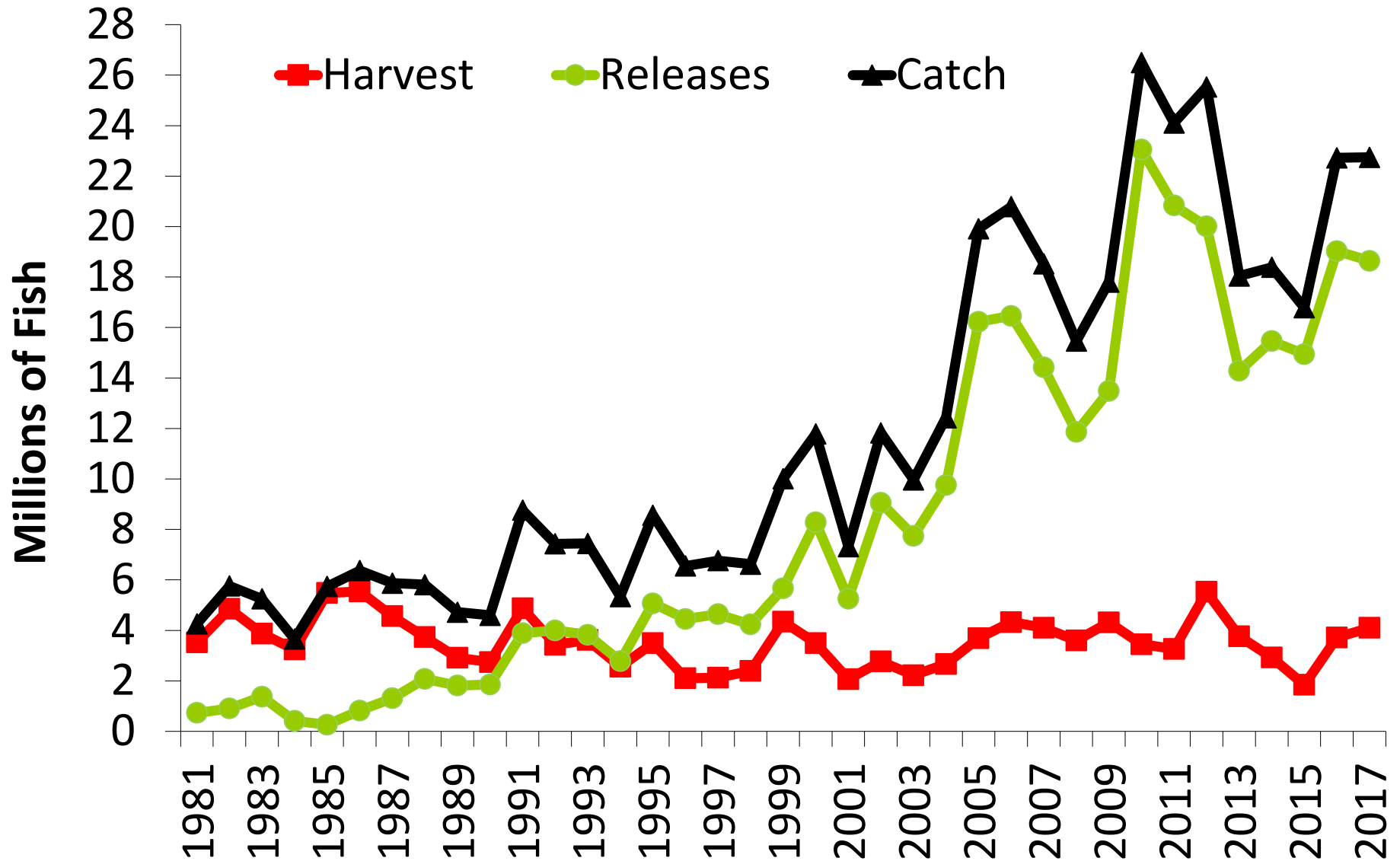
Status of the Fishery - Total landings



Status of the Fishery - Total landings



Status of the Fishery - Recreational



Status of the Stock



- No coastwide stock assessment
 - Life history/migration
 - Data availability
- Several state assessments (SC, NC/VA, FL)
- Recent assessment completed in 2018 for FL (2016)
 - NE FL and SE FL above biomass threshold but below target biomass and not overfishing

Status of Management



State	Recreational	Commercial
New Jersey	13" TL; 1 fish	Gill net, trawl, and pound net: 13"; 100 lb/vessel/day possession and bycatch limit; seasonal closures; monthly reporting. Trawl and gill net mesh size restrictions. Hook & line fishermen must follow rec limits.
Delaware	12" TL	12" TL
Maryland	14" TL; 4 fish	14" TL. 150 lb limit per day or trip (whichever is longer). Trawl and gill net mesh size restrictions.
PRFC	14" TL; 10 fish	14" TL
Virginia	14-24" TL; 1 fish >24" allowed; 5 fish; closed season March-July.	14" TL; pound nets/seines allowed 5% by weight less than 14". Hook & line fishermen must follow rec limits. Quota: 51,104 lbs (Sept-Aug). After 80% reached, 100 lb/vessel/day possession and bycatch limit.
North Carolina	14" TL; 4 fish	14" TL; 75 fish limit. Unlawful to possess or sell Friday 12:00am-Sunday 12:00am.
South Carolina	14" TL; 10 fish. Gig March-Nov.	Gamefish status since 1987; native caught fish may not be sold.
Georgia	14" TL; 15 fish	14" TL; 15 fish. BRD requirement for trawl; gear mesh regulations.
Florida	15-20" TL slot; 1 fish >20" allowed; northeast 6 fish; northwest 5 fish; south 4 fish; hook & line/cast net only.	15-24" TL; Season varies by region; 75 fish limit or 150 fish limit with two or more licensed fishermen on board; hook & line/cast net only.

(Table 1 in FMP Review)

De Minimis



- ***De minimis***
 - 3 year average, combined com and rec, 1%
 - Requests from NJ and DE
 - Both states qualify

PRT Recommendations



- All states are in compliance with the FMP
 - 12” min TL
- That the Board approve the 2018 FMP Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for New Jersey and Delaware.
- Other research/monitoring recommendations found in FMP Review (Section VIII)



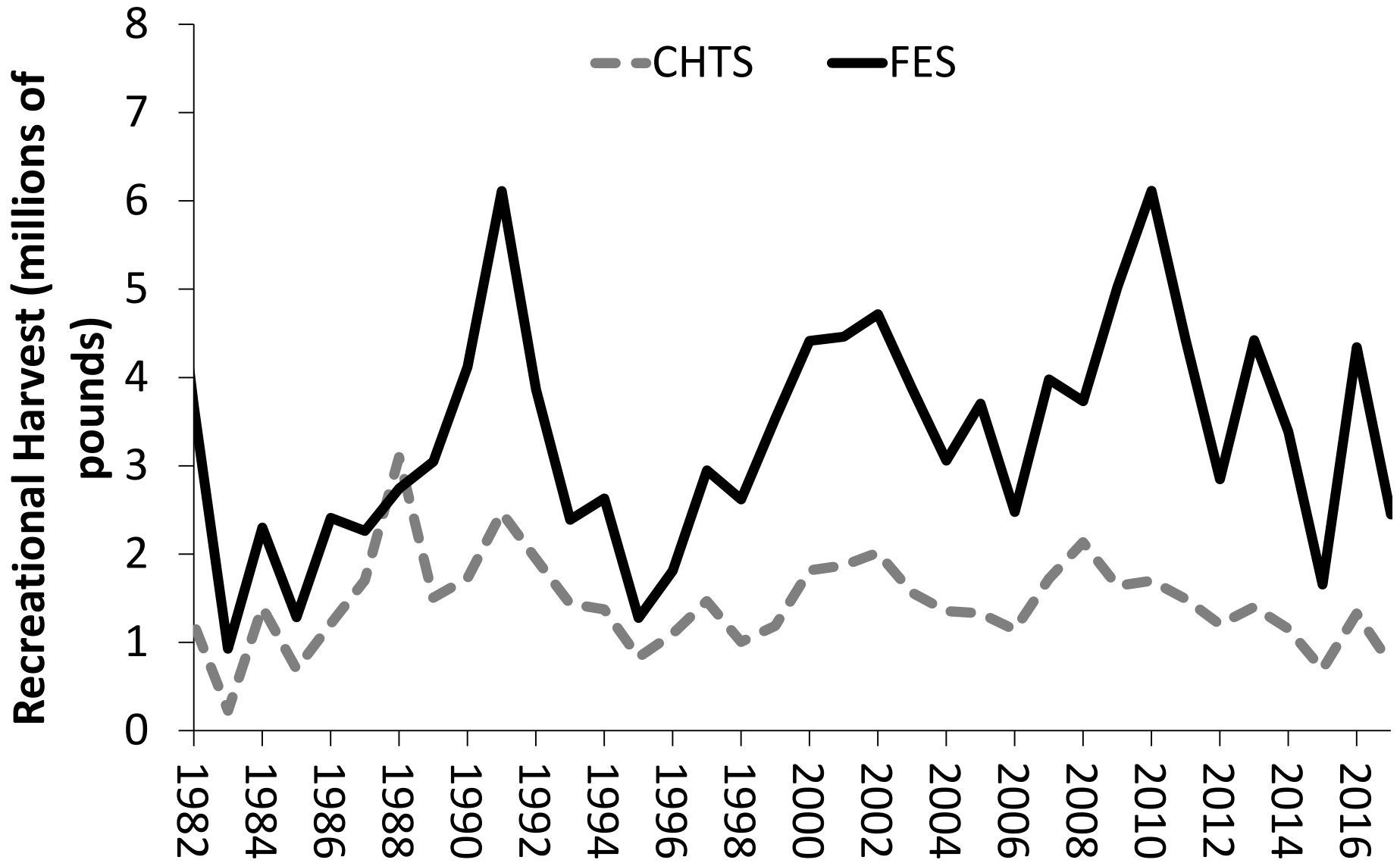
Comments or Questions?



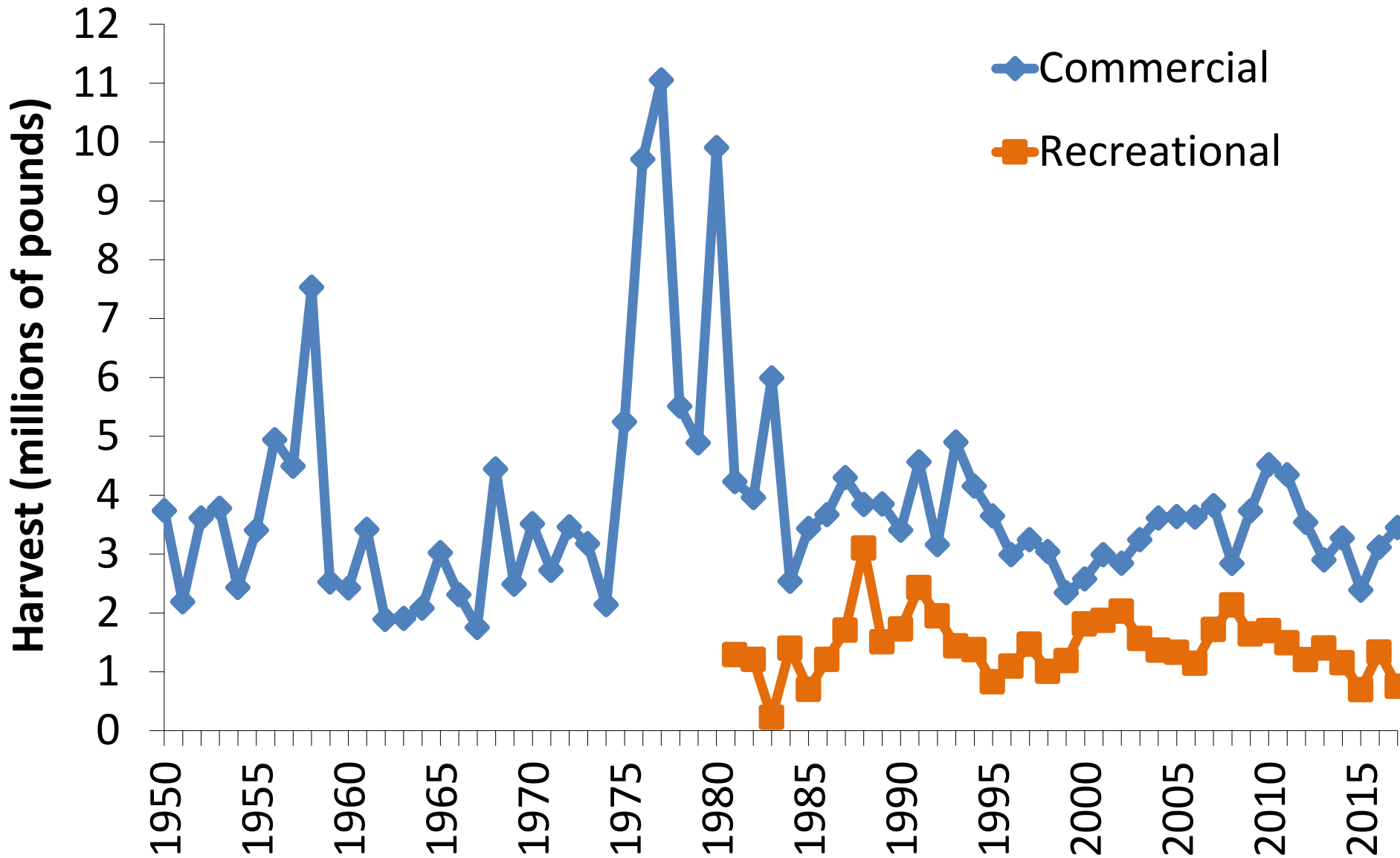
Spanish Mackerel 2018 FMP Review

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries
Management Board
October 25, 2018

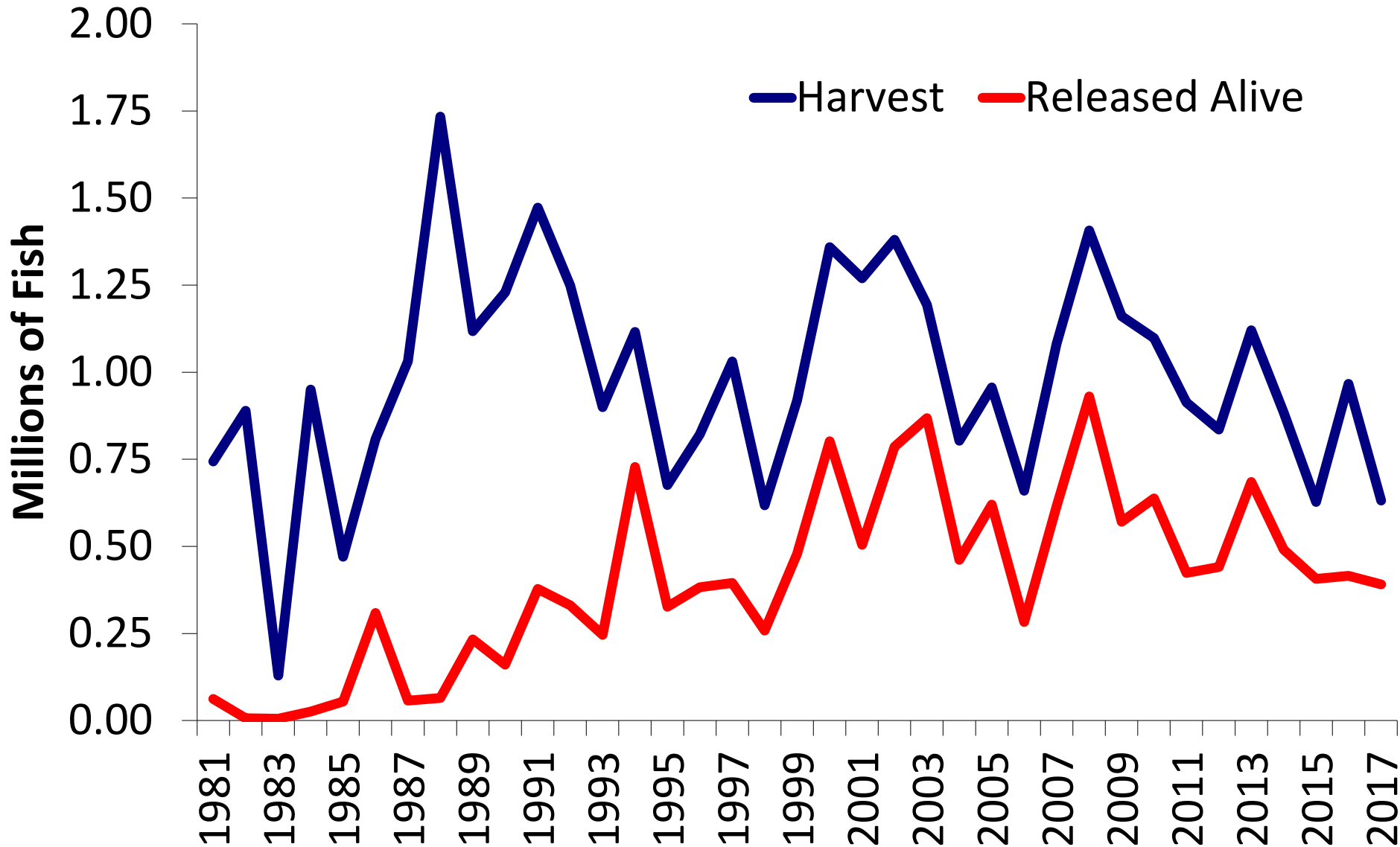
Status of the Fishery



Status of the Fishery



Status of the Fishery- Recreational



Status of the Stock



- 2012 Stock Assessment
 - SEDAR Review
 - Stock is not overfished
 - Stock not experiencing overfishing
- Next SEDAR Assessment scheduled for 2020
 - Will include new MRIP estimates

Status of Management



- Omnibus Amendment (2011)
 - Minimum size: 12" FL or 14" TL
 - 15 fish bag limit
 - 3500 lb trip limit (FL adjusts limits periodically)
- Addendum I (2013)
 - Pilot program for 2015 and 2016 comm seasons
 - Reduce min size in pound net fishery to 11.5" July-Sept. to reduce discards of slightly undersized fish
 - Extended for NC through 2018

Status of Management



State	Recreational	Commercial
NY	14" TL, 15 fish	14" TL. 3,500 lb trip limit.
NJ	14" TL, 10 fish	14" TL. 3,500 lb trip limit.
DE	14" TL, 15 fish	14" TL. 3,500 lb trip limit.
MD	14" TL, 15 fish	14" TL. 3,500 lb trip limit, March-Feb.
PRFC	14" TL, 15 fish	14" TL. Closure if/when MD and VA fisheries close.
VA	14" TL, 15 fish	14" TL. 3,500 lb trip limit. Closure if/when federal waters close.
NC	12" FL, 15 fish	12" FL; 11.5" FL in pound net fishery July 4 th – Sept 30 th , 2016. 3,500 lb trip limit for combined Spanish and king mackerel landings.
SC	12" FL, 15 fish	12" FL. 3,500 lb trip limit. March-Feb. Closure if/when federal waters close.
GA	12" FL, 15 fish	12" FL. 3,500 lb trip limit.
FL	12" FL or 14" TL, 15 fish.	12" FL or 14" TL. 3,500 lb trip limit; trip limits are adjusted as quota is caught.

Compliance and *De minimis*



- All states found in compliance
- De Minimis
 - 3 year average, combined comm and rec, 1%
 - Requests from NJ, DE, GA
 - All states meet requirements

PRT Recommendations



- PRT recommends the Board approve the 2018 Spanish Mackerel FMP Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for New Jersey, Delaware, and Georgia.
- Research and Monitoring Recommendations in FMP Review



Comments or Questions?