

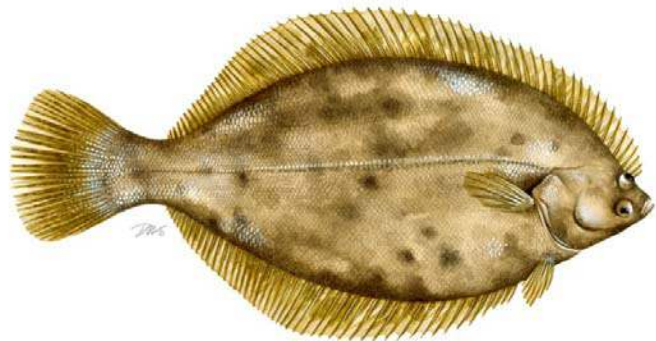


---

Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations  
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful  
restoration well in progress by 2015

---

# **Review of ASMFC's Inshore Winter Flounder FMP and State Compliance**



**Winter Flounder Management Board  
February 2013**



---

# Status of Stocks

---

- **Northeast Regional SAW52 (2011)**
- **Gulf of Maine**
  - **Not experiencing overfishing**
  - **Overfished status unknown**

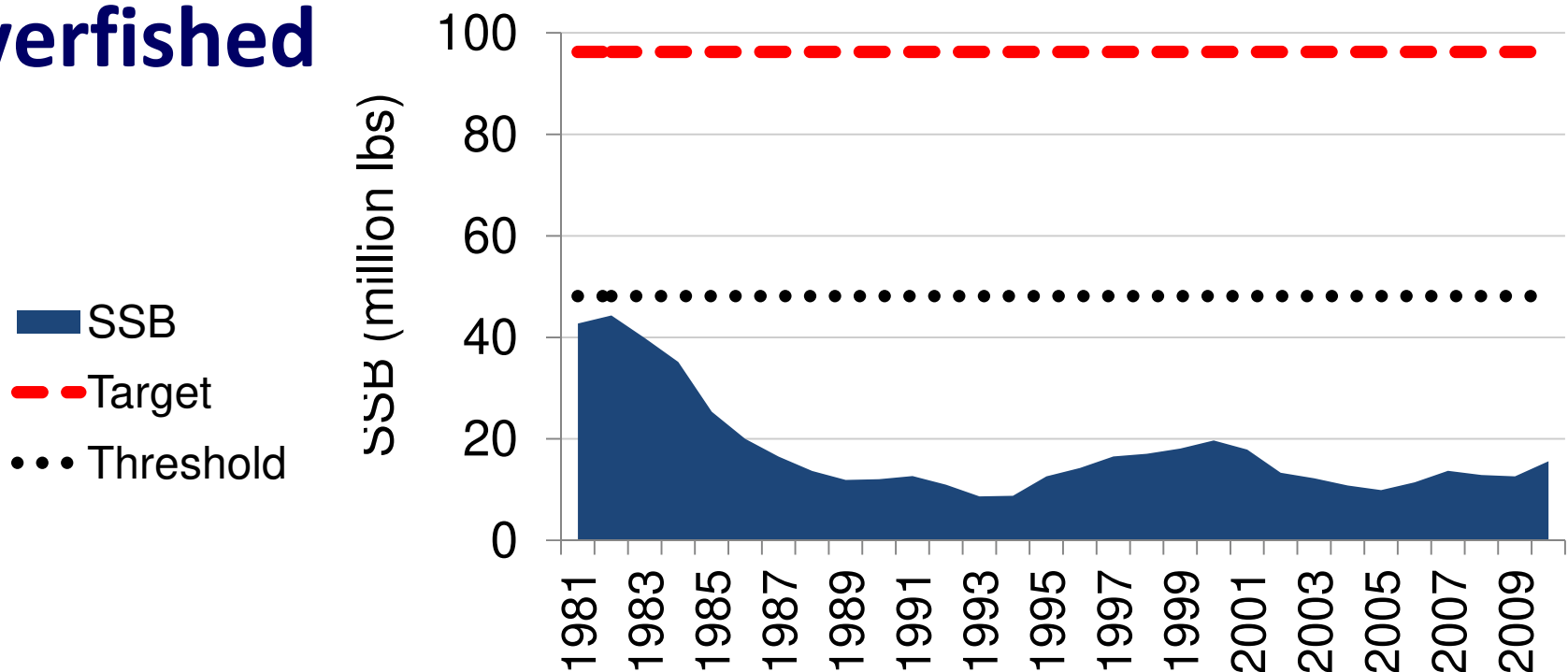


# Status of Stocks

## Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic

Not experiencing overfishing

Overfished

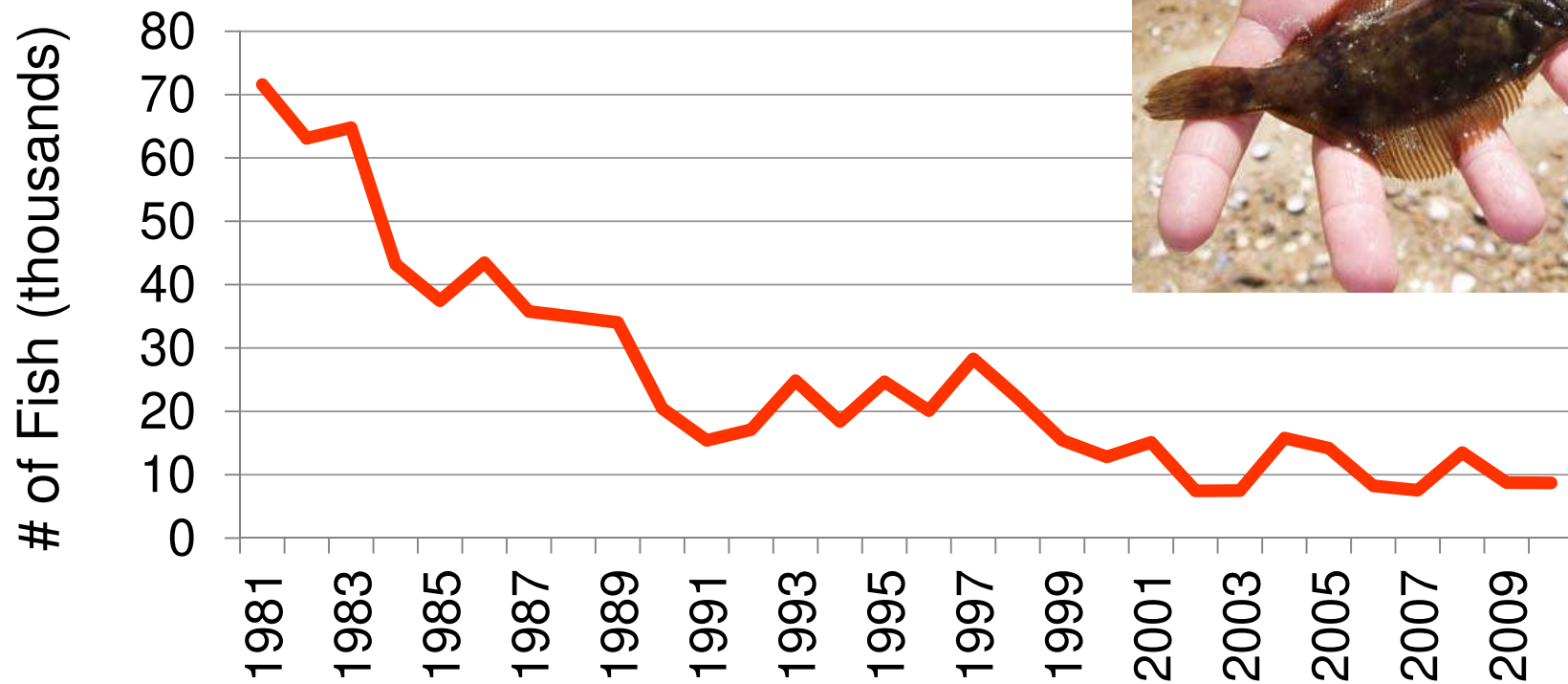


Source: SAW52



# Status of Stocks

## Recruitment (Age 1 Fish)

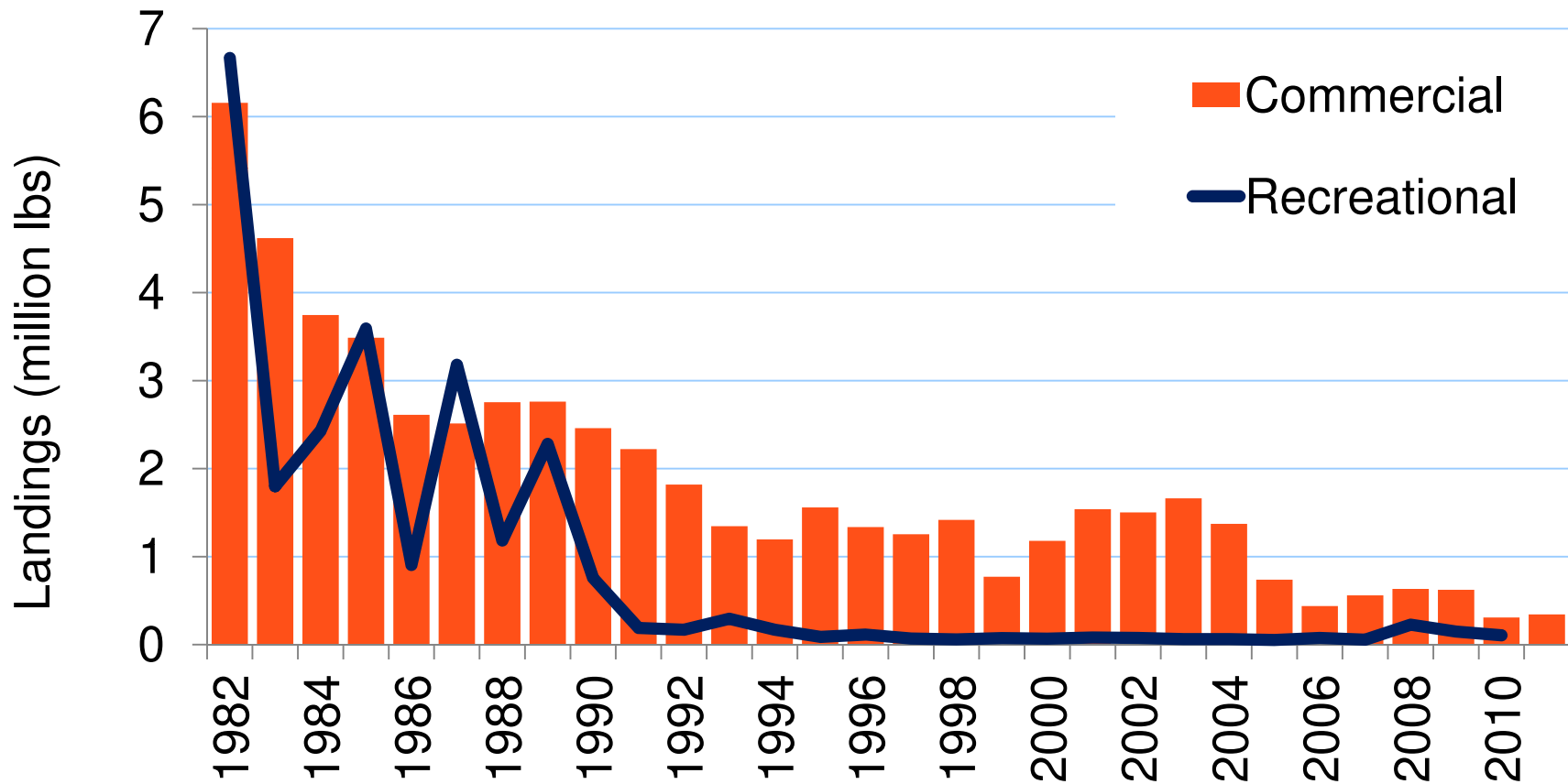


➤ **Low recruitment may be due to warmer winter temperatures.**



# Status of Fishery: GOM

## Winter Flounder Landings

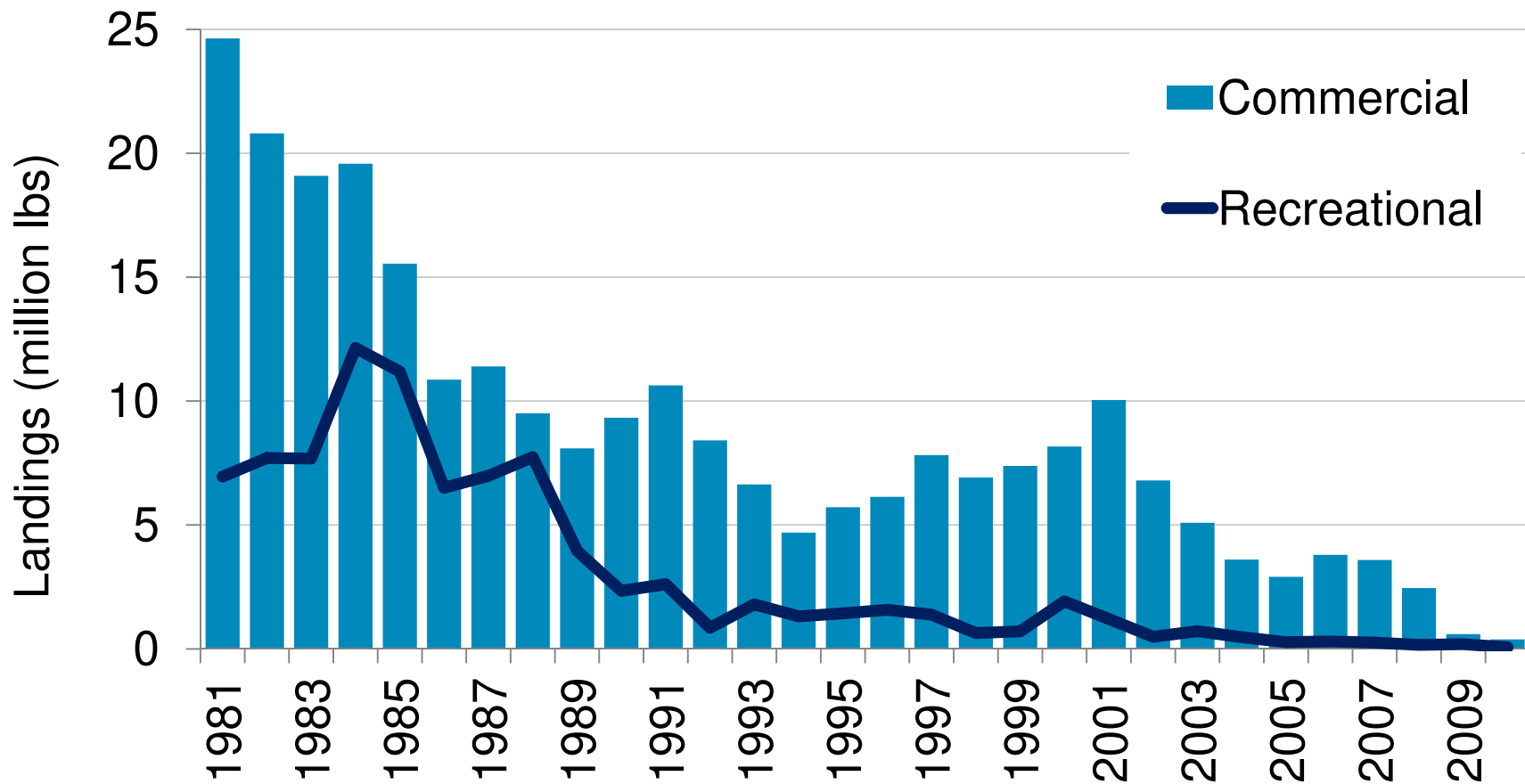


Source: SAW52, state compliance reports



# Status of Fishery: SNE/MA

## Winter Flounder Landings



Source: SAW52 , NMFS



---

# Status of Management

---

- **Amendment 1 (2005)**
- **Addendum I to Amendment 1 (2009)**
- **Addendum II was implemented for 2012 fishing year**



---

# Commercial Management Measures

---

- **Gulf of Maine**
  - 250-lb trip limit for non-federal permits
  - 12" size limit
  - Minimum 6.5" square or diamond mesh in cod-end
  - Maintain seasonal closures
- ✓ **Plan Review Team (PRT) found states' management programs consistent with FMP.**



---

# **Commercial Management Measures**

---

- **Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic**
  - ☑ 50-lb possession limit for non-federal permits
  - ☑ 12" size limit
  - ☑ Minimum 6.5" square or diamond mesh in cod-end
    - ☑ 100-lb "mesh trigger"
  
- ✓ **States' management programs were consistent with FMP.**



---

# Recreational Management Measures

---

- **Gulf of Maine**
  - 12" minimum size limit
  - 8 fish creel limit
  
- **Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic**
  - 2 fish bag limit
  - 60-day open season
  - 20 days closed during March-April
  
- ✓ **States' management programs were consistent with FMP.**



---

# Monitoring & Research

---

- **Plan-specific requirements:**
  - **Annual Juvenile recruitment**
    - MA, NY, RI, and DE
  - **Spawning stock biomass**
    - MA, RI, CT, and NJ
- ✓ **States' management programs were consistent with FMP.**



---

# Request for *De minimis*

---

## ➤ Amendment 1

- Criteria: 3 year-average commercial or recreational landings is less than 1% of coastwide landings

## ➤ Delaware requests *de minimis* status

- PDT recommends granting *de minimis* status to Delaware
  - Commercial landings = 0%
  - Recreational landings = 0%

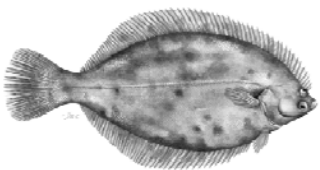


*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations  
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful  
restoration well in progress by 2015*

# **Draft Addendum III Winter Flounder Specifications for Public Comment**

**Winter Flounder Management Board**

**February 2013**

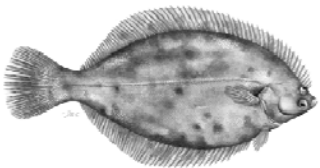




# Purpose

---

- **Consider changes to the specification process for winter flounder commercial and recreational fisheries**
- **Consider in-season accountability measures for the commercial fishery**



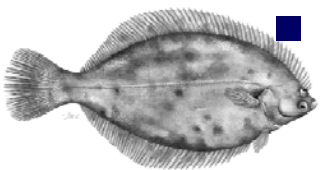


---

# Background

---

- **With the NEFMC, NOAA Fisheries sets specifications for winter flounder**
  - 3 year specifications, subject to review
  - Set Sector and sub-sector ACLs
  - Federal ACLs are subject to AM
- **State water landings are estimated to account for state water harvest**
  - NOT AN ACL and not subject to AMs

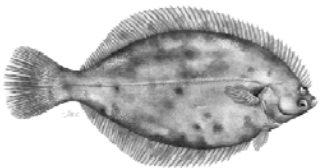




# Background

---

- **State water harvest is controlled by output controls**
  - Trip limits
  - Seasons
  - Size and bag limits



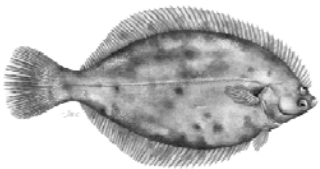


---

# Statement of the Problem

---

- **To respond to changes in the federal ACL, an addendum must be initiated to change state water management measures**
  - Potential to not fully utilize state water harvest
  - Example: Estimated state water harvest for GOM winter flounder, FY 2013 is 272 MTs

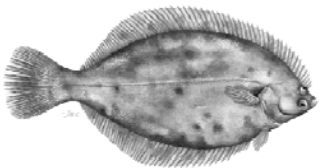




# Statement of the Problem

---

- **No quota or AMs in state waters**
- **Commercial fishery**
  - Use trip limits to control harvest
- **TC recommended AM to control harvest to the federal estimated state water harvest**





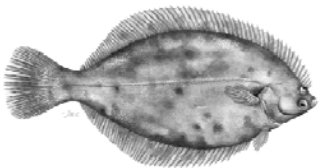
---

# Proposed Measures

---

## Commercial and Recreational Measures

- **Option 1: Status quo**
  - Addendum process to change measures
- **Option 2: Specification Process**
  - Set annual or multi-year specification based on the federally estimated state water harvest



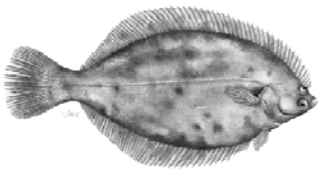


---

# Annual Specifications

---

- **Commercial measures that could be adjusted through Board action:**
  - Trip limits
  - Size limits
  - Season



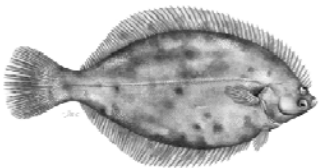


---

# Annual Specifications

---

- **Recreational measures that could be adjusted through Board action:**
  - Size limits
  - Bag limits
  - Season





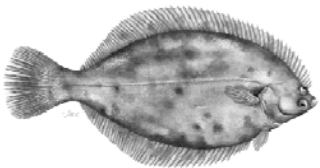
---

# Proposed Measures

---

## Accountability Measures

- **Option 1: Status quo**
  - No AMs in place for state water harvest



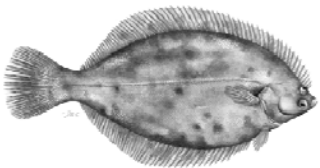


---

# Proposed Measures

---

- **Option 2: Commercial AMs**
  - Establish a trigger for state water trip limits that reduces trip limits when trigger is reached.
  - A trigger is met when X% (options below) of the estimated state water harvest
    - 75%
    - 85%
    - 90%





---

# NEFMC Update

---

- **Groundfish Oversight Committee recommendations for SNE/MA winter flounder:**
  - An alternative strategy to rebuild by 2023
  - Allowing commercial and recreational landings
  - ABC = 1,676 mt for FY2013

