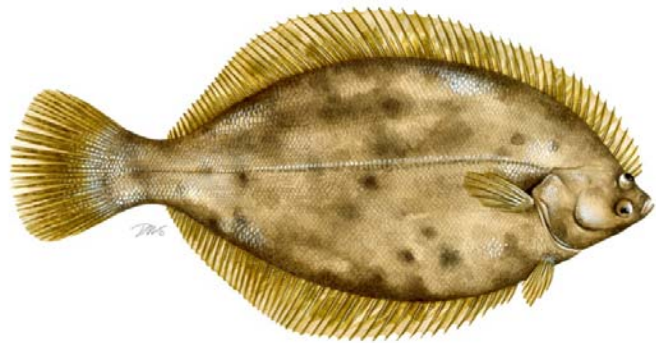




Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015

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**

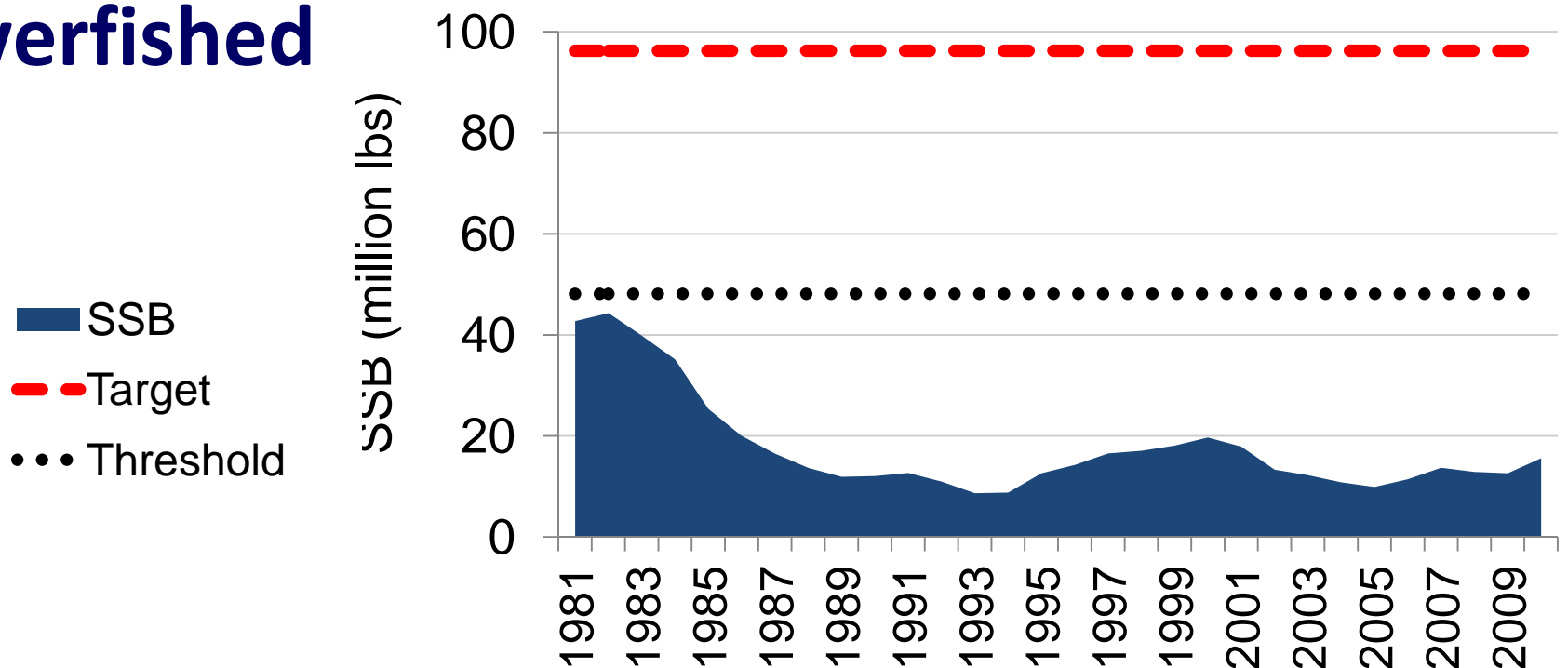


Status of Stocks

Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic

Not experiencing overfishing

Overfished

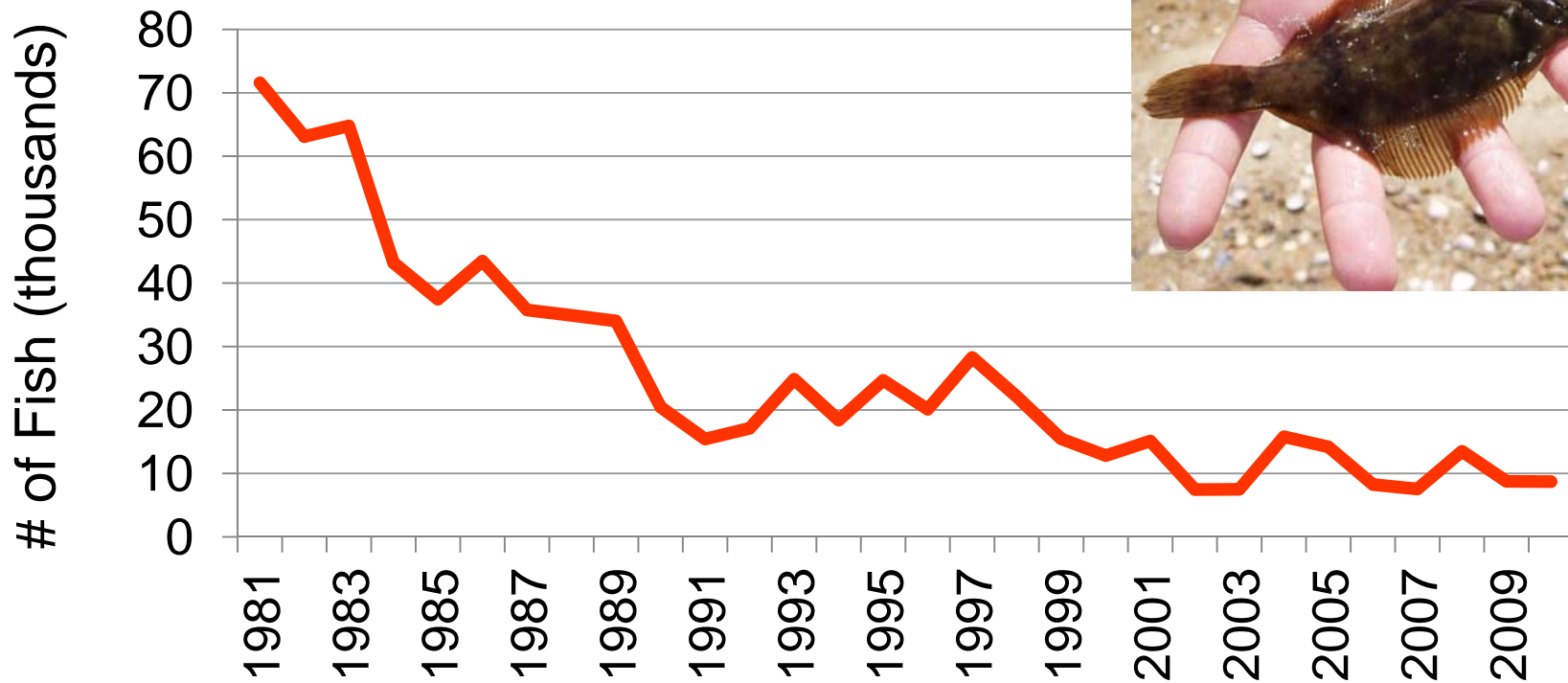


Source: SAW52



Status of Stocks

Recruitment (Age 1 Fish)

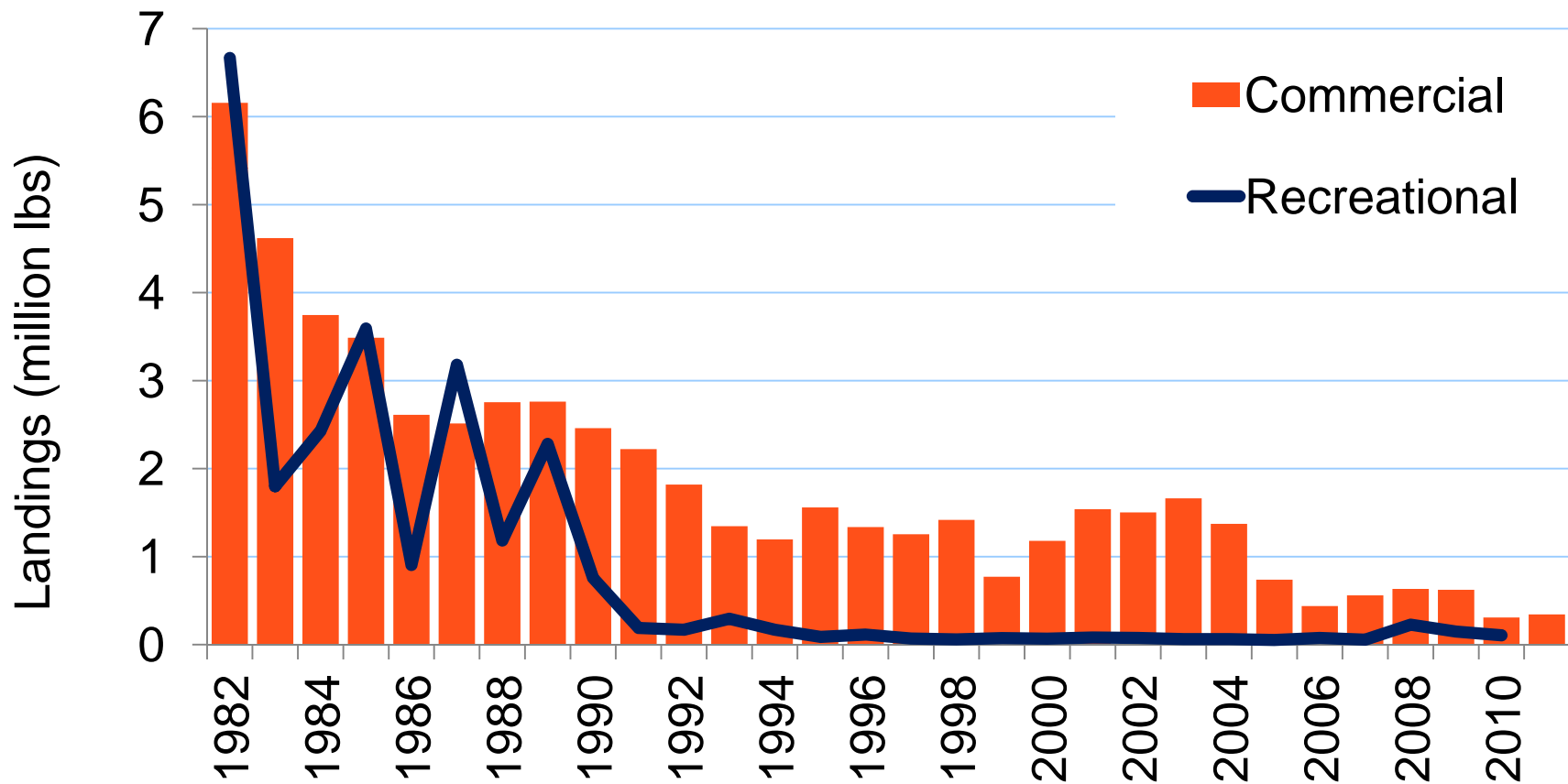


➤ **Low recruitment may be due to warmer winter temperatures.**



Status of Fishery: GOM

Winter Flounder Landings

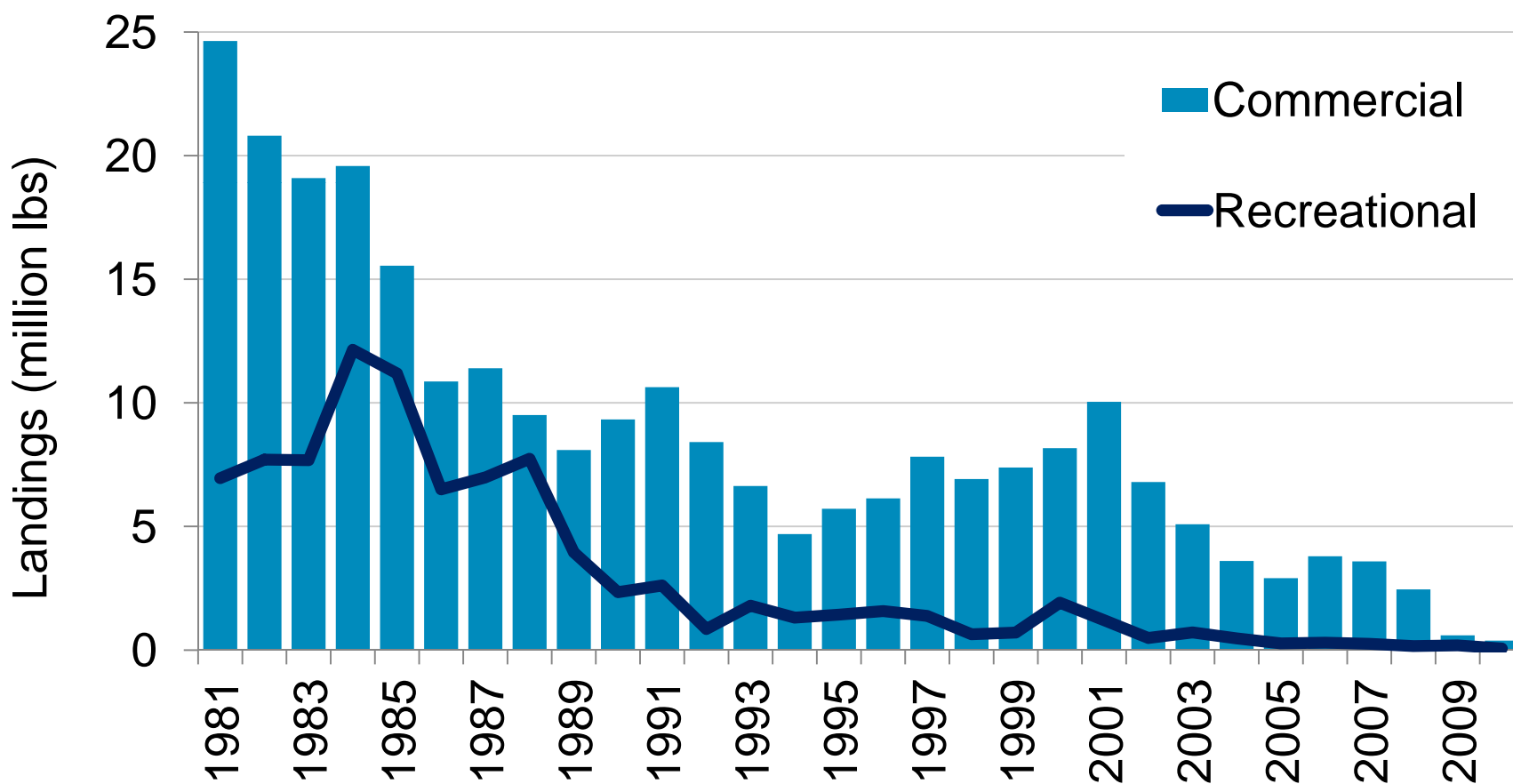


Source: SAW52, state compliance reports



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

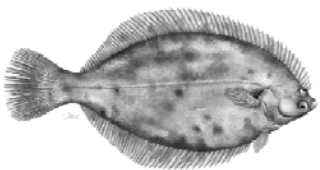
- PDT recommends granting *de minimis* status to Delaware
 - Commercial landings = 0%
 - Recreational landings = 0%



*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

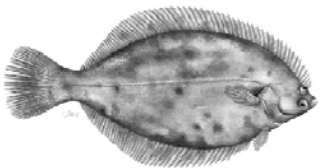
**Winter Flounder Management Board
February 2013**





Purpose

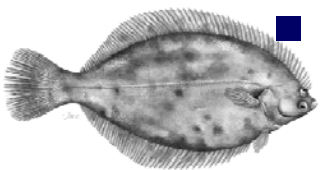
- **Consider changes to the specification process for winter flounder commercial and recreational fisheries**
- **Consider in-season accountability measures for the commercial fishery**





Background

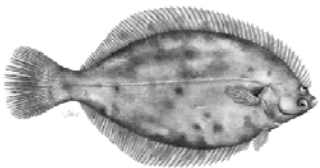
- **With the NEFMC, NOAA Fisheries sets specifications for winter flounder**
 - 3 year specifications, subject to review
 - Set Sector and sub-sector ACLs
 - Federal ACLs are subject to AM
- **State water landings are estimated to account for state water harvest**
 - NOT AN ACL and not subject to AMs





Background

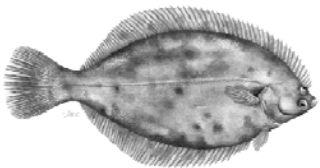
- **State water harvest is controlled by output controls**
 - Trip limits
 - Seasons
 - Size and bag limits





Statement of the Problem

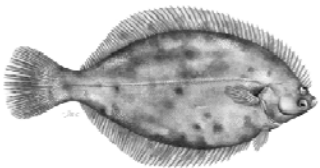
- **To respond to changes in the federal ACL, an addendum must be initiated to change state water management measures**
 - Potential to not fully utilize state water harvest
 - Example: Estimated state water harvest for GOM winter flounder, FY 2013 is 272 MTs





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**

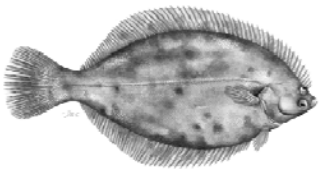




Proposed Measures

Commercial and Recreational Measures

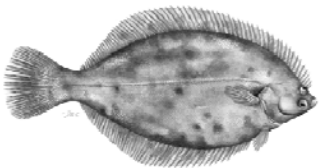
- **Option 1: Status quo**
 - Addendum process to change measures
- **Option 2: Specification Process**
 - Set annual or multi-year specification based on the federally estimated state water harvest





Annual Specifications

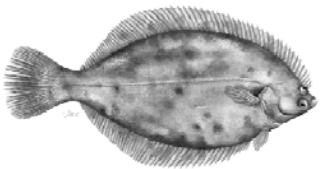
- **Commercial measures that could be adjusted through Board action:**
 - Trip limits
 - Size limits
 - Season





Annual Specifications

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

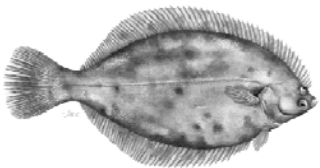




Proposed Measures

Accountability Measures

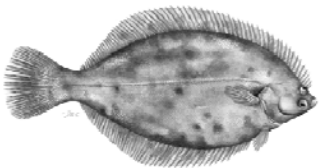
- **Option 1: Status quo**
 - No AMs in place for state water harvest





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

