



Spiny Dogfish Framework (FW)

***2026-2027 Specifications
and
Accountability Measures (AMs)***

February 2026 at ASMFC

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Abbreviations 1 of 2

- SSC = Scientific and Statistical Committee
- OFL = Overfishing Level (threshold catch)
- ABC = Acceptable Biological Catch
 - P^* = MAFMC risk policy
<https://www.mafmc.org/actions/risk-policy-framework>
- FW = Framework adjustment action
- AM = Accountability Measure

Abbreviations 2 of 2

- MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- NEFMC = New England Fishery Management Council
- MT = Metric Ton = about 2,205 pounds
 - 500 MT = 1.1 million pounds
 - 1000 MT = 2.2 million pounds
 - 10,000 MT = 22 million pounds

Agenda

- 2026-2027 Specifications
- Changes to Accountability Measures

Agenda

- 2026-2027 Specifications
 - Review current (2025 fishing year)
 - Assessment and data update
 - Recent fishery performance
 - Adopted specifications

2025 Specifications

Table 1. Spiny Dogfish Specifications for 2025 Fishing Year

2025 Specification	Pounds	Metric Tons
Overfishing Limit (OFL)	16,812,432	7,626
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	16,812,432	7,626
Canadian Landings	8,818	4
Domestic ABC	16,803,614	7,622
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	16,803,614	7,622
Management Uncertainty Buffer	0%	0%
Amount of buffer	0	0
Annual Catch Target (ACT)	16,803,614	7,622
U.S. Discards (commercial + recreational)	7,220,131	3,275
Total Allowable Landings (TAL)	9,583,483	4,347
U.S. Recreational Landings	244,713	111
Commercial Quota	9,338,770	4,236

Assessment Overview

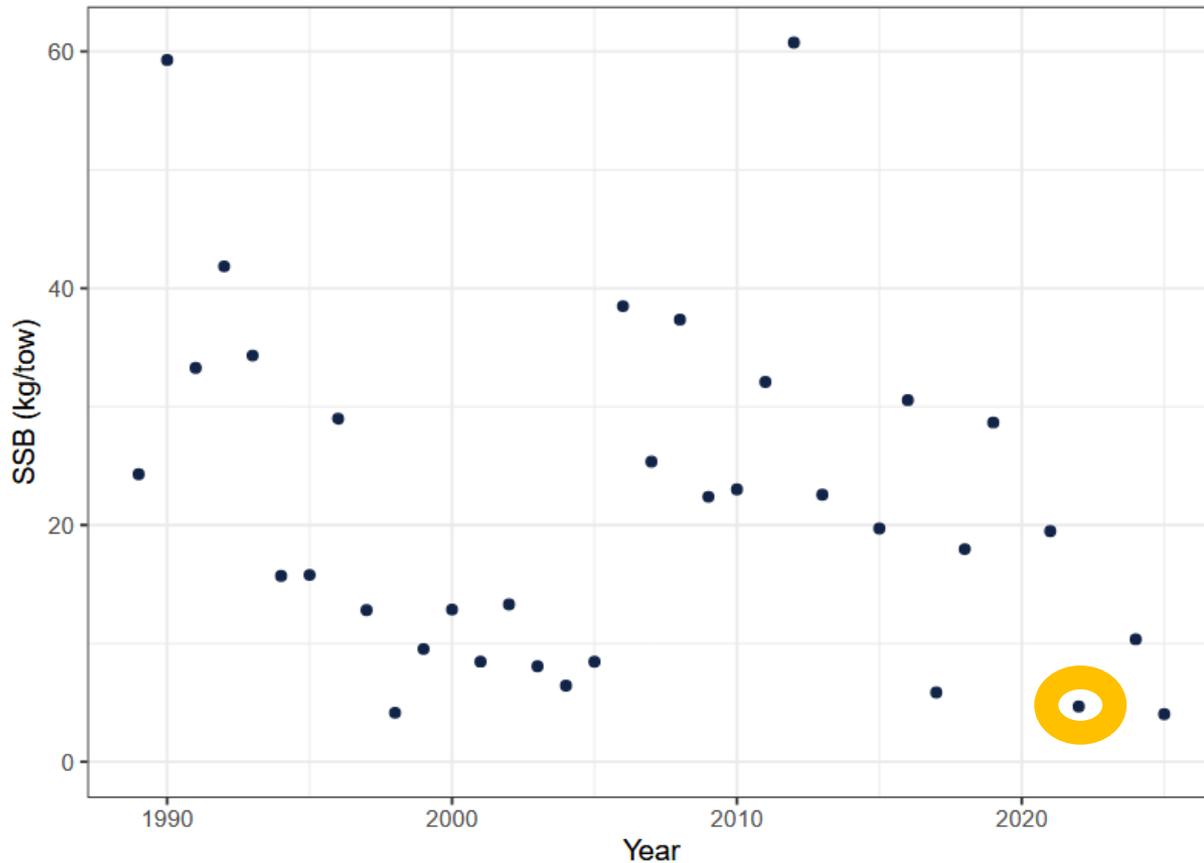
- At the target in 2022, but lower annual productivity – mostly due to fewer of the biggest females
 - *Not none, but fewer than in past*
- Future is uncertain, but current productivity appears to support ABCs around 7,500 MT
 - First round of projections after 2022 assessment
 - Analytical assessment – stock synthesis 3 (SS3)

NEFSC Data Update

- 2022 was terminal year for assessment
- Data update is not an assessment
 - Next assessment was planned for 2027 (???)
- Updated projections just use new catch data
 - Not a new assessment
 - Not all the other data (lengths, survey, etc.)

NEFSC Data Update Highlights

Spiny Dogfish Female Spawning Stock Biomass Estimates



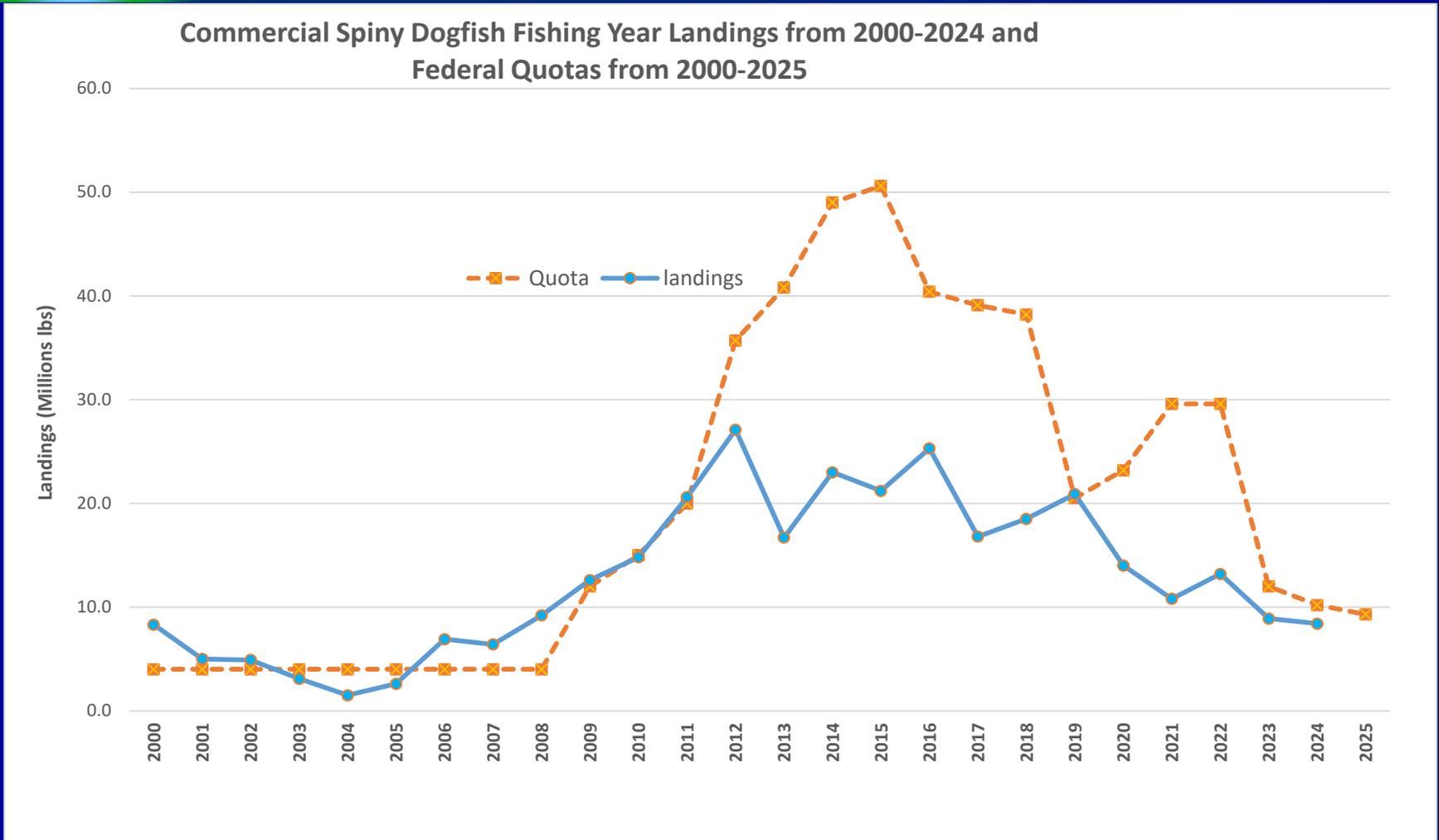
knife-edge
maturity at
80 cm for
1989-2011
and 74 cm
for 2012+



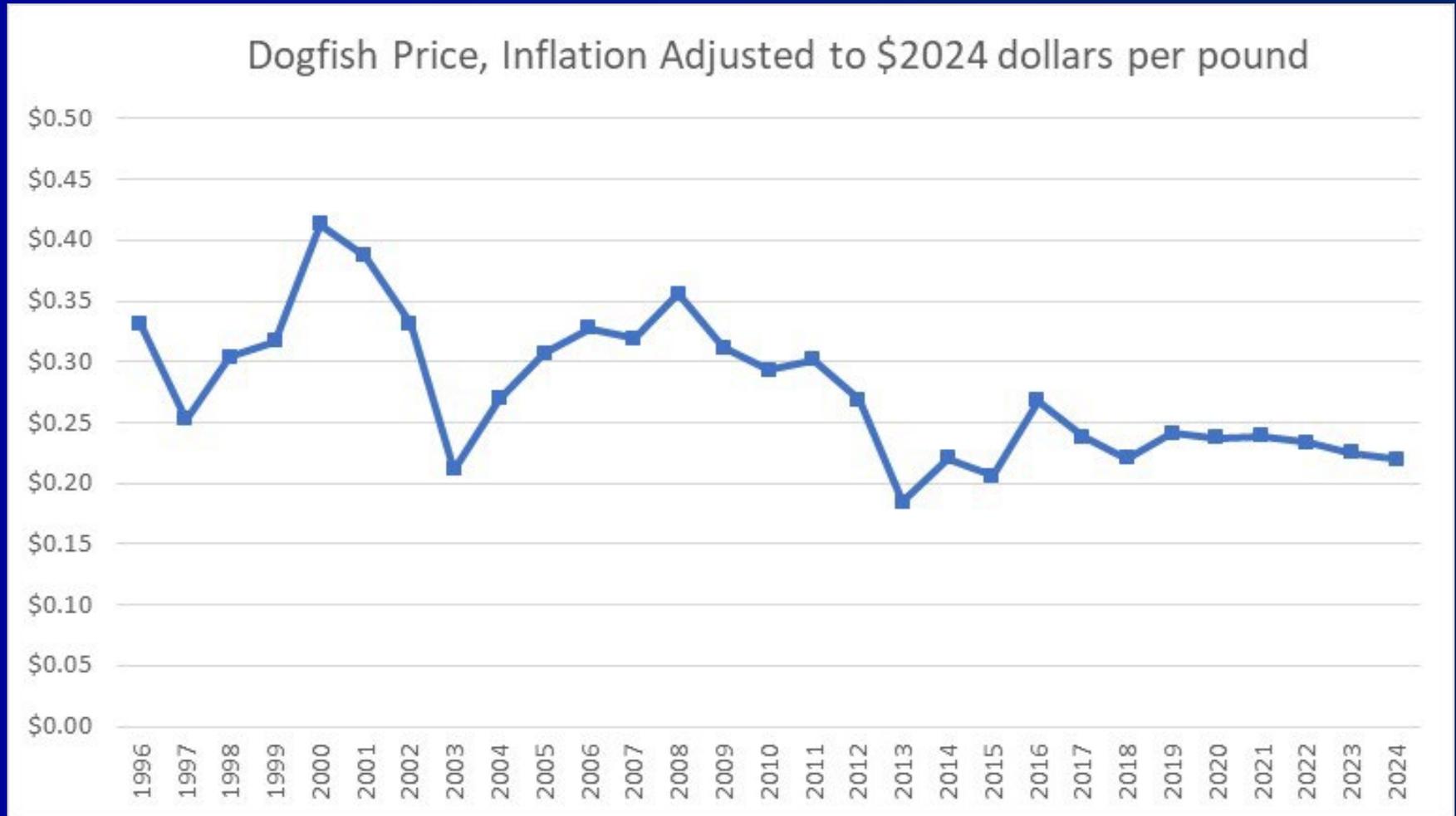
= Last data in
assessment

Figure 3: Spiny Dogfish Female Spawning Stock Biomass (kg/tow) from the NEFSC Spring Bottom Trawl Survey from 1989 through 2025. Survey was incomplete in 2014, 2020, and 2023; no estimates available.

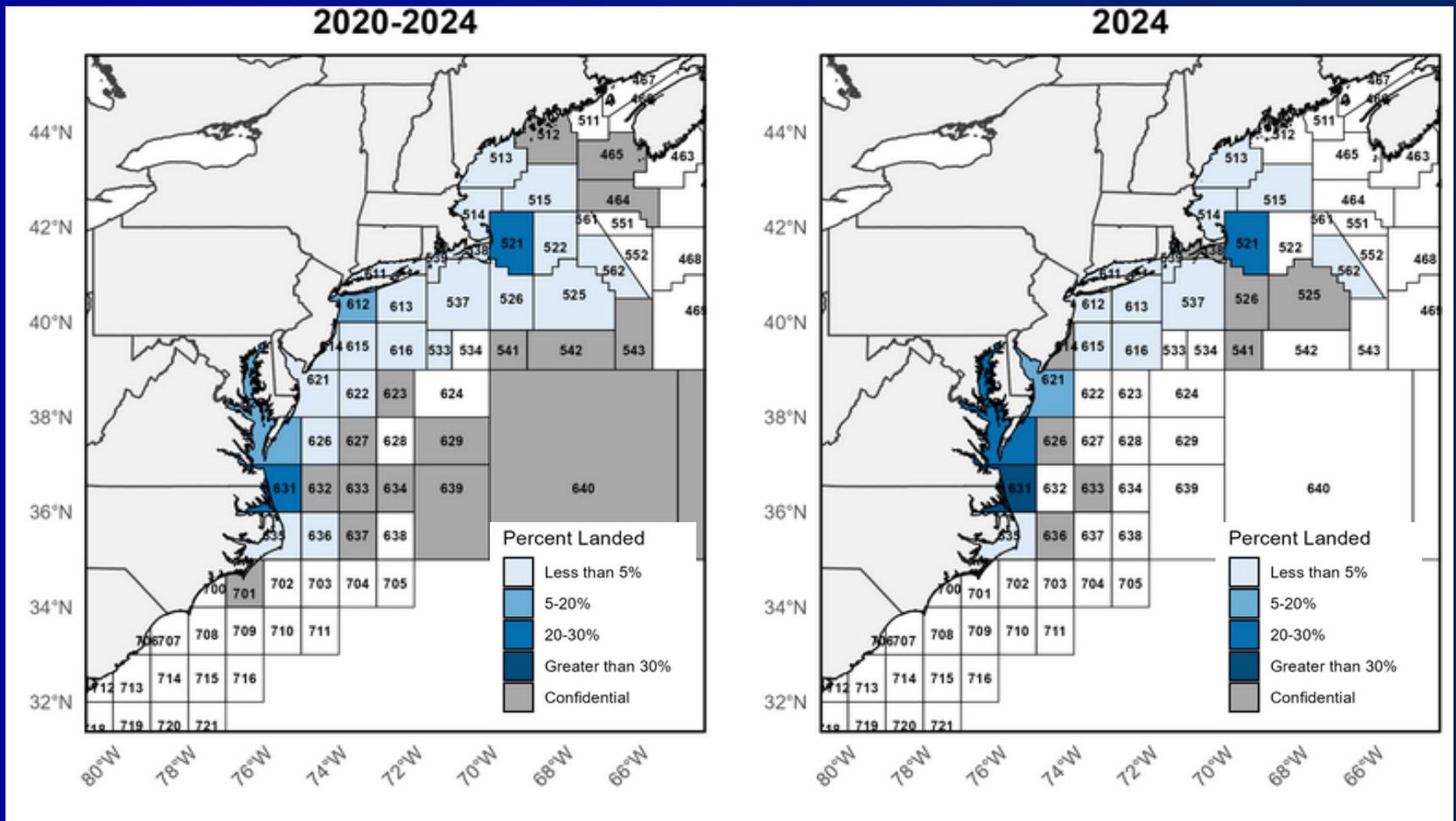
Fishery Performance



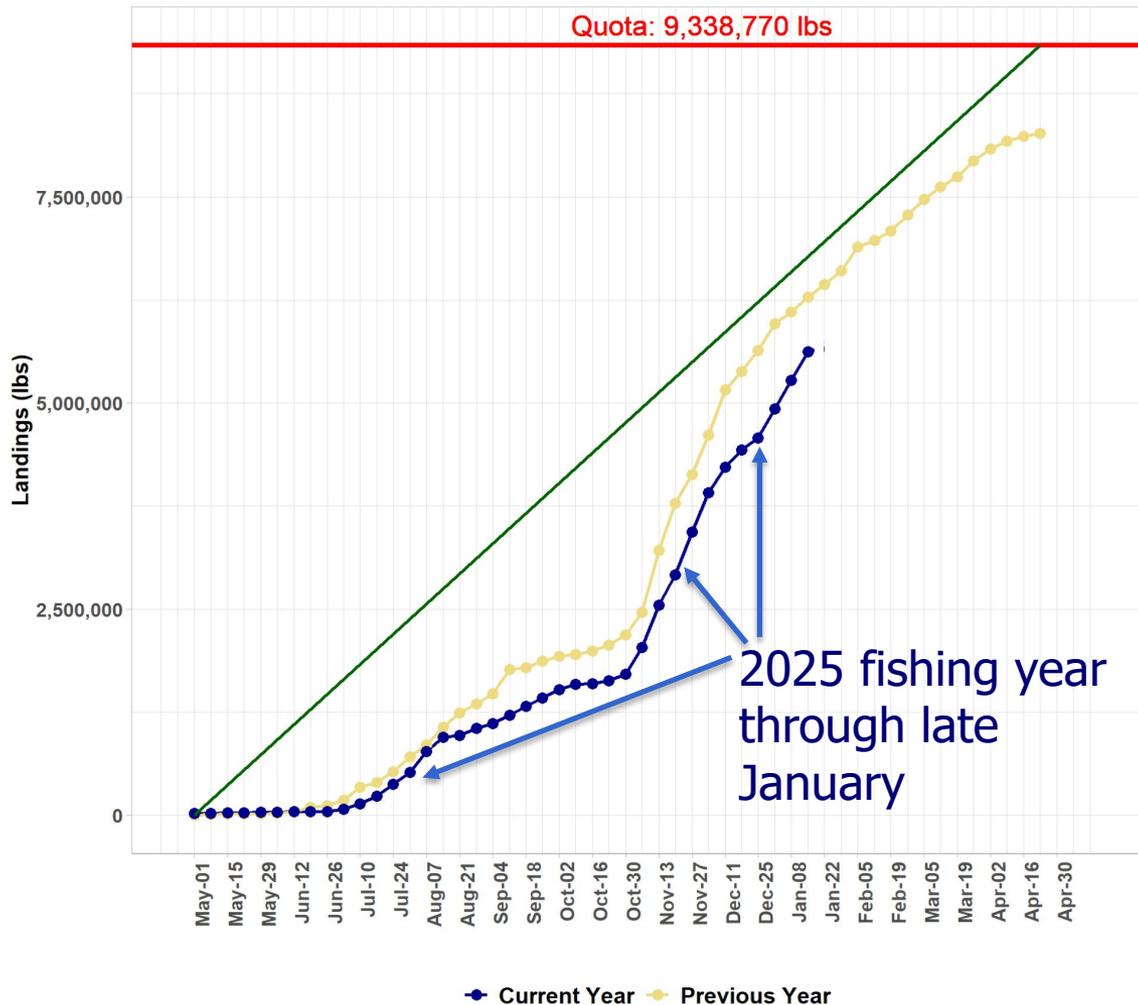
Fishery Performance: Price



Fishery Performance: Area



Fishery Performance: 2024/2025



<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/commercial-fishing/quota-monitoring-greater-atlantic-region>

Fishery Performance Report

- Previous available at <https://www.mafmc.org/dogfish>
- Demand low but stable recently
 - Marketing challenges
- Processing and shipping challenges
 - Processor not maxed out
- Weather constrains Virginia landings

Fishery Performance Report

- Rollercoaster-style management destroys fisheries → shoreside gentrification
 - Losing last processor will end the fishery
- Regulatory restrictions limit production
- Fishermen perceive spiny dogfish abundance differently than assessment
- Discard #s seem unreasonably high
- Suspending risk policy concerning given the inherent vulnerability of spiny dogfish

Fishery Performance Report

- Also provided some specific alternative recommendations – Advisory Panel input considered by Committee and Councils

2026-2027 ABCs

Average P*	2026 OFL	2025 OFL
7,332 MT	8,084 MT	7,626 MT
46%	50%	48%

(last row = approximate chance overfishing)

SSC strongly cautioned against full OFL

Post SSC Process Summary

- Monitoring Committee
 - ...measures needed to ensure that the specifications will not be exceeded
- Joint Committee
 - Recommendations to Councils
- Councils

What did the Councils Adopt for Specifications?

Adopted Specifications

- Constant 2026-2027 specifications with ABCs same as 2025
- Set aside slightly more discards versus 2025
 - 9.2 million-pound quotas (2025 = 9.3 million pounds)

MAFMC Specifications

Specifications	2026-27 (pounds)	2026-27 (mt)	Basis
OFL (from SSC)	17,822,148	8,084	SSC
ABC (from SSC)	16,812,432	7,626	SSC suggestion
Canadian Landings	8,818	4	= 2020-2023 average
Domestic ABC	16,803,614	7,622	= ABC – Canadian Landings
ACL	16,803,614	7,622	= Domestic ABC
Mgmt Uncert Buffer	0.0%	0.0%	Higher risk of ACL overages but minimizes immediate disruption to industry
Amount of buffer	0	0	
ACT	16,803,614	7,622	= ACL - mgmt uncert buffer
U.S. Discards	7,359,022	3,338	Assessment Projection Percentage (43.8%) applied to ABC
TAL	9,444,592	4,284	ACT – Discards
U.S. Rec Landings	246,917	112	= 2020-2024 average
Comm Quota	9,197,675	4,172	TAL – Rec Landings

Other Framework Alternatives

- Now: 100% payback of any Annual Catch Limits (ACL) overages – likely reduces quotas
- Change: Avoid disruption from AM paybacks that aren't necessary to keep stock near target
 - 1.1 million pound payback in 2024 due to 2023
 - Wasn't binding but impacts could have been around \$242,000 in ex-vessel revenues

ASMFC Note

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) staff noted that there could be disconnects between the federal approach and the ASMFC, resulting in double paybacks

Will have to monitor and adjust if needed

What did the Councils Adopt for AM modifications?

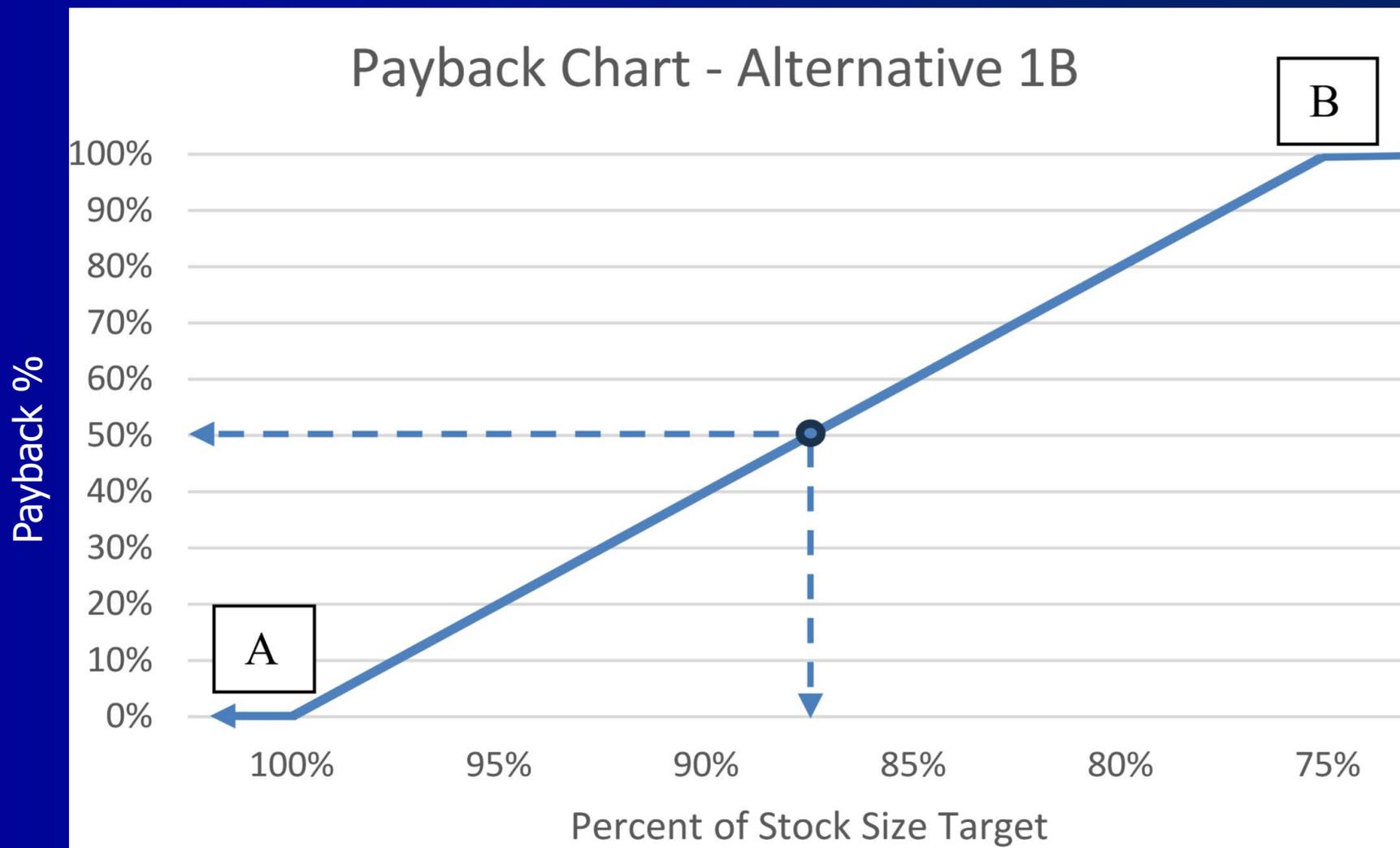
Set 1-Biomass and paybacks: 1B

At or above target biomass: No payback would be required for ACL overages.

At or below 75% of target biomass: 100% paybacks would be required - from the next applicable year

Between 75% and 100% of target biomass: The payback amount would be calculated on a sliding scale based on biomass level

Set 1-Biomass and paybacks: 1B



Set 2-Overage Sources: no action

All catch sources treated the same

A 100MT discard overage has the same probable stock effect as a 100 MT landings overage

Set 3-When Rebuilding: 3A

Always pay back ACL overages fully if stock is in a rebuilding plan

Alt Set 4-Averaging: 4B

Use 3-year averages to calculate ACL overages

(and most recent projected biomass in the 3-year average for scaling)

Alt Set 5-105% closure

Close federal waters at 105% - designed to ensure access across all states

MAFMC rescinded – NMFS indicated too risky for ongoing overages

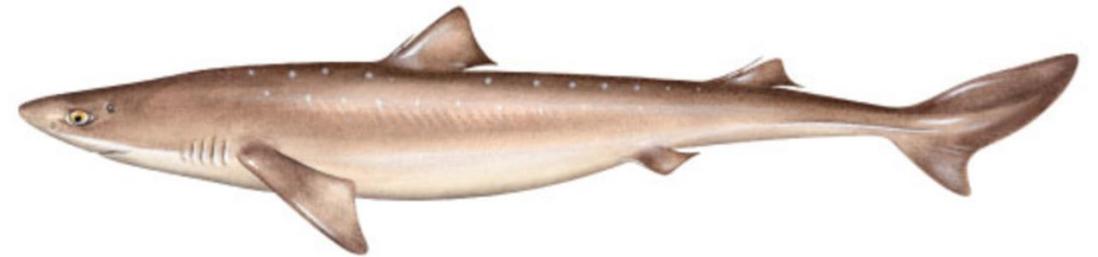
Questions?



Atlantic States
Marine Fisheries
COMMISSION

Spiny Dogfish Federal and State Management

February 3, 2026



ISFMP Overage Paybacks

- When the quota allocated to a region or state is exceeded in a fishing season, the amount over the allocation will be deducted from the corresponding region or state in the subsequent fishing season.

1. Stock at or above biomass target (current situation)
 - Commercial overages paid back by state/region in subsequent FY by ISFMP
2. Stock below biomass target
 - If overage due to only discards, reduction in quota by federal FMP
 - If overage due to commercial landings, paid back by state/region in subsequent FY by ISFMP and deducted from ACL by federal FMP

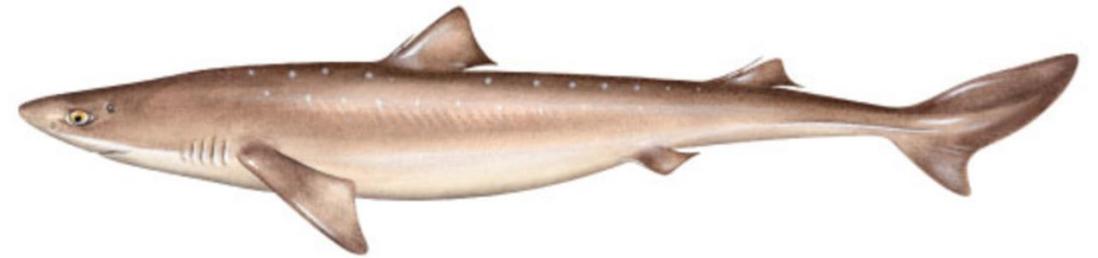
- No action
- Consider initiating addendum to incorporate provisions into ISFMP
 - 3-year averaging of landings and quotas
 - Scaled paybacks
- Other?

Questions?



Spiny Dogfish Specifications

February 3, 2026



Board Action for Consideration

- Commission set the trip limit for the Northern Region to 7,500 lbs for the 2024/2025, 2025/2026, and 2026/2027 FY
- Federal limit remains 7,500 lbs unless changed
- If approve quota beyond FY 2026/2027, then the Commission will need to set trip limit

Board Action for Consideration

- Council recommendation:
 - 2026 and 2027 FY: 9,197,675 pounds

	Northern Region (ME-CT)	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC
Possession Limit	7,500	To be specified by the individual southern region states					
Allocation	58%	2.71%	7.64%	0.90%	5.92%	10.80%	14.04%
2026/2027 and 2027/2028	5,334,652	249,054	703,131	82,415	544,505	992,909	1,291,010