Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Steering Committee Report on Management Objective Process

American Lobster Steering Committee on Management Objectives Process

November 9, 2026

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Background

- October 2023: Addendum XXVII recruitment index declined below the threshold, triggering the implementation of gauge and vent size changes
- May 2025: Addendum XXXII repealed gauge and vent size changes in response to significant industry concern
- October 2025: Benchmark stock assessment reported declining abundance in GOM/GBK stock, fell below Fishery/Industry target
  - TC reiterated recommendation for an MSE to better understand socioeconomic status and concerns and evaluate strategies with buy-in from industry to prevent further stock declines
  - TC highlighted the need to **clearly identify management objectives across all stakeholders** as a first step of a successful MSE

Board Tasks

- Form a Steering Committee (SC) to:
  - Review existing management objectives, as outlined in Amendment #3 and subsequent addenda, relative to the current GOMGBK stock status, and social/economic conditions facing the fishery today.
  - Develop a process that would clearly identify new management objectives (across all stakeholders), to better understand socioeconomic status and concerns, and to identify potential management tools.

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Steering Committee

- SC met three times
- Reviewed management objectives in Amendment 3 and discussed gaps
- Report: recommendations for management objective process
  - Goal
  - Structure
  - General schedule
  - Participants and roles
  - Measures of success/expected outcomes
  - Cost estimates

SC Members	Affiliations
Carl Wilson	ME DMR
Renee Zobel	NHFG
Bob Glenn	MA DMF
Jason McNamee	RI DEM
Kathleen Reardon	ME DMR
Tracy Pugh	MA DMF
Burton Shank	NMFS NEFSC
Todd Guilfoos	URI
John Drouin	NEFSA
Richard Howland	MELA
John Jordan Jr.	ME Lobster Industry
Michael Flanigan	Seaview Lobster Co.
Beth Casoni	MALA
Brendan Adams	OCLA
Hank Soule	AOLA
Jeff Kipp	ASMFC
Caitlin Starks	ASMFC

Recommendations

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Process Goal

- **Identify comprehensive objectives with broad support across stakeholders for future management of the GOM/GBK fishery**
  - At a local and stockwide spatial scale
  - ***Fundamental Objectives***: those that describe the desired vision for the resource and industry
  - ***Means Objectives***: those that guide management in achieving this vision
  - Categorize objectives that are measurable with existing information vs require collection of new information

- Objectives reported to Board following process and could be adopted through Amendment to FMP

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Meeting Structure

- Recommendation: a series of structured stakeholder meetings, sequentially, at three different spatial scales

Tier 1: Local scale

Tier 2: LCMA scale

Tier 3: Stockwide scale

  - Purpose: gather stakeholder input from all factions of the GOM/GBK fishery, recognizing that fishery operation, values, and needs vary widely across different geographic areas
  - Goal of each meeting: produce a list of management objectives that is ranked or prioritized by the participants

- After Tier 3 meeting, the SC recommends additional meetings at Tier 1 level to report back on the outcomes

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Meeting Structure

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 1 Loopback
ME Zone A	LCMA 1	GOM/GBK Stock	LCMA 1 – SA 511
ME Zone B	LCMA 3		LCMA 1 – SA 512
ME Zone C	LCMA OCC		LCMA 1 – SA 513
ME Zone D			LCMA 1 – SA 514
ME Zone E			LCMA 3
ME Zone F			LCMA OCC
ME Zone G			
NH LCMA 1			
MA OCC			
MA LCMA 1 North			
MA LCMA 1 South			
LCMA 3 – Location 1			
LCMA 3 – Location 2			

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Participants

- Process should include broad representation of GOM/GBK fishery and related fishery stakeholders
  - harvesters, dealers, processors, shoreside support, related businesses with a vested interest in the fishery
- Diversity of ages, but especially younger and fully active harvesters that will continue participating in the fishery
- Representation of owner/operators, corporate fleet, all geographic areas, Jonah crab harvesters
- Canadian counterparts should be provided notice of meetings or summaries of meeting outcomes so they can stay informed

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Participants & Roles

- Tier 1 meetings should be open to any fishery stakeholder to participate in identifying and ranking objectives
  - Managers/technical staff should attend in an informational capacity
- Tier 2 and 3 should be limited to a subset of stakeholders representing various fishery interests
  - 10-15 people
  - Selection by peers and groups represented
  - Participant agreement to ensure participants accept roles and responsibilities
  - Managers/technical staff can help identify feasibility, conflicting ideas, challenges, etc. associated with various management objectives
- Tier 2 participants should not default to LCMT members
- Tier 3 participants should fully represent the diversity within the GOM/GBK fishery seen in the Tier 1 level

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Timing and Locations

- General recommendations:
  - Hold Tier 1 meetings at local state agency or industry association facilities to reduce costs
    - Half-day meetings
  - Tier 2 and 3 meetings could be held at “neutral” locations such as hotel meeting spaces
    - 2-3 day workshops
  - Prioritize geographic accessibility for participants
  - Timing should consider input from the facilitator and participants, and minimize participants’ time away from fishing or other jobs
  - Hold virtual sessions before in-person meetings to inform participants of meeting goals, process, and expectations

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Facilitation Needs

- SC strongly recommends third-party facilitators for all meetings
  - Neutral environment and effective conduct to achieve objectives
  - Two facilitators preferred
- Facilitator responsibilities:
  - Develop pre-meeting outreach materials and presentations
  - Develop meeting format and approach
  - Facilitate all stakeholder meetings (*high cost, high reward*)
  - Develop and present final report to Board
- Facilitator qualifications:
  - Experience with structured decision making
  - Experience with fisheries management issues
  - Knowledge of the diversity of the lobster industry

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Outreach and Preparation

1. General outreach with the goal of raising awareness among lobster fishery stakeholders about the MOP
   - collaborative effort between ASMFC, NOAA, state agencies, and industry associations
2. Leading up to Tier 1 meetings, a notice targeting participants to inform them about the upcoming stakeholder meeting, objectives, and expectations of participants
3. Educational webinars for selected Tier 2 and 3 participants
   - Review workshop objectives and goals, expectations of participants, existing lobster management objectives, general structured decision-making terminology
   - Attending/viewing educational webinar and reviewing background materials should be required as a condition of participation

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Additional Considerations

- ***Professional facilitators***: Elicitation of stakeholder input will not be as effective if meeting leaders are not trained in facilitation and strongly recommends professional facilitators for meetings at all spatial levels despite the trade-off of high costs.
- ***Avoid surveys***: Industry burnout with surveys eliciting feedback; recommend survey use in the MOP be minimized or avoided.
- ***Decision processes***: Some SC members did not favor use of the terminology "consensus" in the decision-making process; favored ranking or voting processes.
- ***Stakeholder engagement***: Stakeholder engagement may suffer without clear communication of how the MOP and its outcomes may affect the industry in the future.
- ***Process conflicts***: The SC identified at least two major processes including overlapping participants that pose potential conflicts with the proposed MOP:
  1) Benchmark stock assessment 2028-2030 and conclude in 2030
  2) Ongoing Atlantic Large Whales Take Reduction Team process

Cost Estimation

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Cost Estimates

- Assumptions:
  - Meeting structure as recommended (23 total meetings)
  - Average FY 2027 federal per diem rates for Northeast locations
  - No meeting space costs for Tier 1
  - Average hourly rates for professional facilitators (two) based on recent similar RFPs ($200/hr)
  - 544 person hours for facilitation work
- Estimated Meeting Cost Total (space and travel) = **$112,859**
- Estimated Facilitation Cost **= $110,400**
- **Grand Total = $223,259**

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Cost Estimates

Post-SC meetings

Commission leadership has expressed concern that this estimate is too low compared to some similar recent facilitation projects

- SC acknowledged the possibility for higher realized costs and recommended the Board account for this by identifying a contingency fund
- It may be helpful to request proposal costs for (1) facilitation of all three tiers of stakeholder meetings and (2) facilitation of Tier 2 and 3 meetings only

- **Grand Total = $223,259**

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Next Steps

- Board determines whether to move forward with an MOP
- Search for and identify possible funding sources for the MOP
- Develop an RFP to identify possible facilitation contractors

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Example Timeline

Nov 2026	Develop RFP for Facilitator
Dec 2026	Release RFP
Jan 2027	Review facilitator proposals
Feb 2027	Hire facilitator(s)
Feb-Mar 2027	Initial planning meetings with facilitator(s)
Apr 2027	Begin initial outreach
Jun 2027	Identify local meetings and conduct outreach
Jul 2027	Schedule Tier 1 meetings
Oct 2027	Educational sessions for participants
Nov-Dec 2027	Conduct Tier 1 meetings
Dec 2027	Develop meeting summaries - Tier 1
Dec 2027	Select participants for Tier 2 meetings
Dec 2027	Schedule Tier 2 meetings
Feb 2028	Conduct Tier 2 meetings
Feb 2028	Develop meeting summaries - Tier 2
Mar 2028	Select participants for Tier 3 meeting
Mar 2028	Schedule Tier 3 meeting
May 2028	Conduct Tier 3 meeting
May 2028	Develop meeting summary - Tier 3
Jun 2028	Local loopback meeting planning
Nov 2028	Conduct local loopback meetings
Dec 2029	Develop final report
Feb 2029	Present results to Management Board

Questions?

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Lobster Data Update through 2025

November 9, 2026



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Purpose & indices

- Monitor abundance indicator changes between assessments
- Strictly informational, there is no required action tied to these updates
- Indices:
  - Lobster young-of-year (YOY) settlement indicators (states)
    - Signal of abundance for newly settled juveniles
  - Trawl survey recruit abundance (71-80 mm) (states & NEFSC)
    - Will molt into legal size range in the next year
  - Trawl survey encounter rate (states & NEFSC)
    - Information on how widely distributed lobsters are
  - Ventless Trap Survey (states)
    - Abundance index for lobsters $\geq$ 53 mm (sex specific)
  - Combined recruit index (71-80 mm) (VTS & state trawl surveys)
    - GOM only
    - Combines a fall average, spring average, and VTS into a single recruit index

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Status determination

- Trend-based
  - Looking at change over time
- Status is determined based on the most recent 5-year average, compared to the time series
  - Current status: 2021 – 2025
- We also compare current status to status from the 2025 Assessment

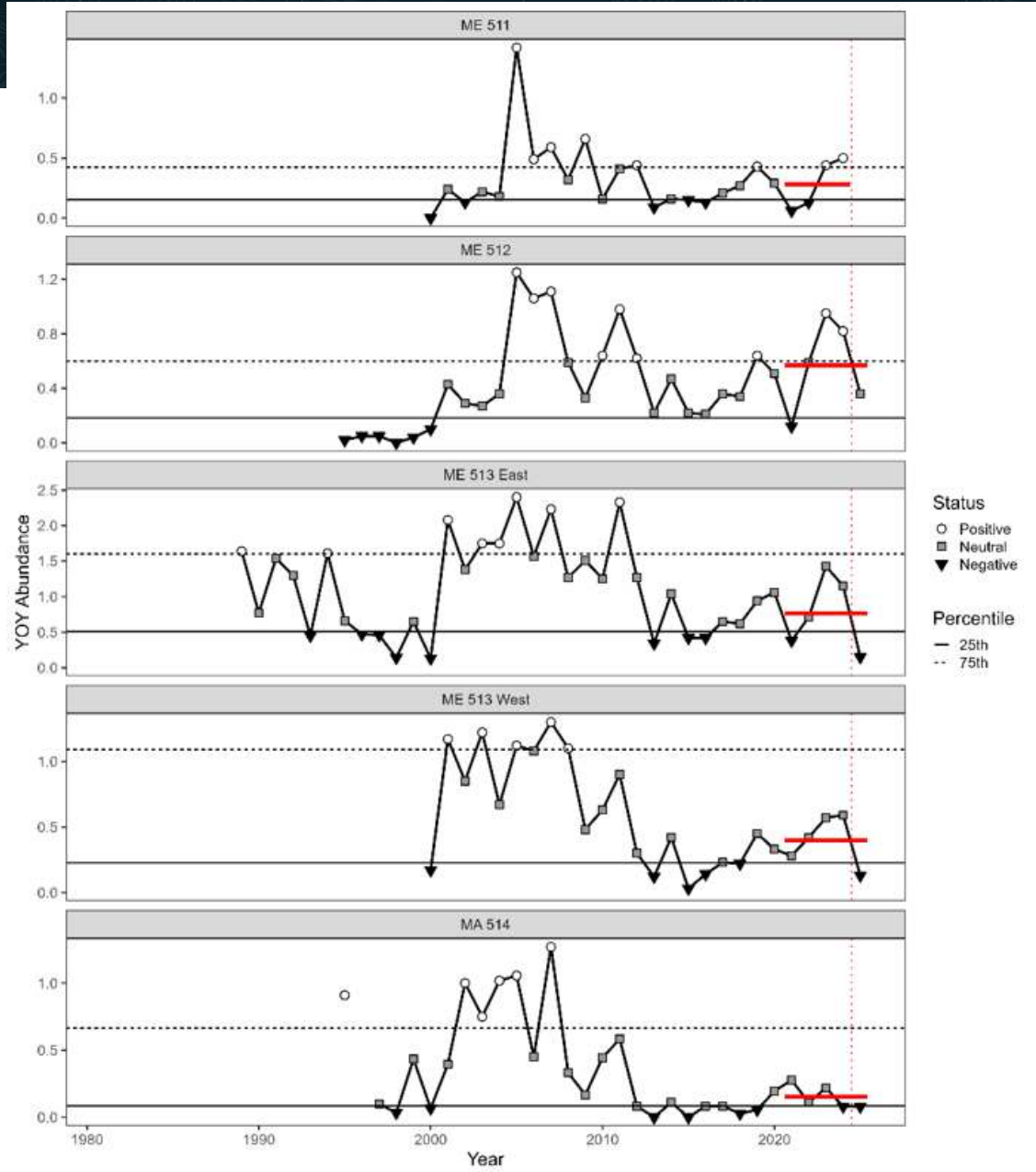
Indicator	< 25th percentile	Between 25th and 75th percentile	> 75th percentile
YOY settlement (larval or YOY)	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Trawl survey recruit abundance	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Trawl survey encounter rate	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Ventless trap survey abundance	Negative	Neutral	Positive

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GOM - YOY

YOUNG-OF-YEAR INDICES					
Survey	*ME*				*MA*
	511	*512*	*513 East*	*513 West*	*514*
2019-2023 mean	0.27	0.56	0.90	0.41	0.17
2024	0.50	0.82	1.15	0.59	0.08
2025		0.36	0.15	0.13	0.08
2021-2025 mean	0.28	0.57	0.76	0.40	0.15
25th	0.16	0.18	0.51	0.23	0.08
median	0.22	0.34	1.26	0.63	0.33
75th	0.43	0.60	1.60	1.09	0.67

- Status is unchanged since stock assessment
- All 5-year means are neutral

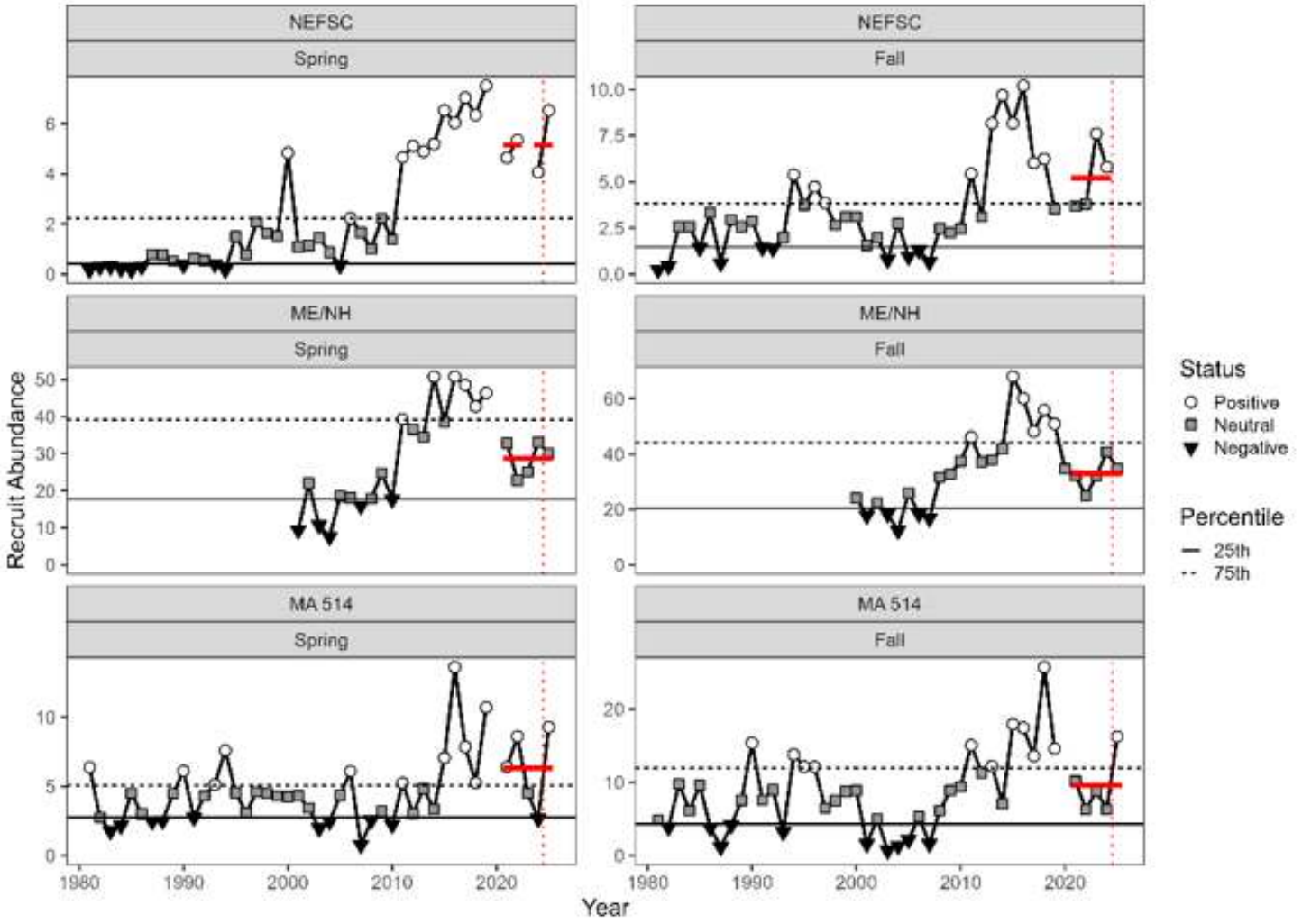


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GOM – trawl survey recruits

RECRUIT ABUNDANCE (SURVEY)						
Abundance of lobsters 71 - 80 mm CL (sexes combined)						
Survey	*NEFSC*		*ME/NH*		*MA 514*	
	Spring	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*
2019-2023 mean	5.84	4.65	31.77	34.93	7.55	9.95
2024	4.06	5.80	33.11	40.73	2.65	6.28
2025	6.54		30.06	34.68	9.28	16.21
2021-2025 mean	5.15	5.22	28.78	32.91	6.29	9.54
25th	0.42	1.47	17.72	20.37	2.73	4.30
median	1.11	2.61	23.36	32.67	4.30	7.53
75th	2.23	3.82	39.07	44.02	5.05	11.90

- Status unchanged since assessment
- ME/NH and MA fall neutral, rest positive

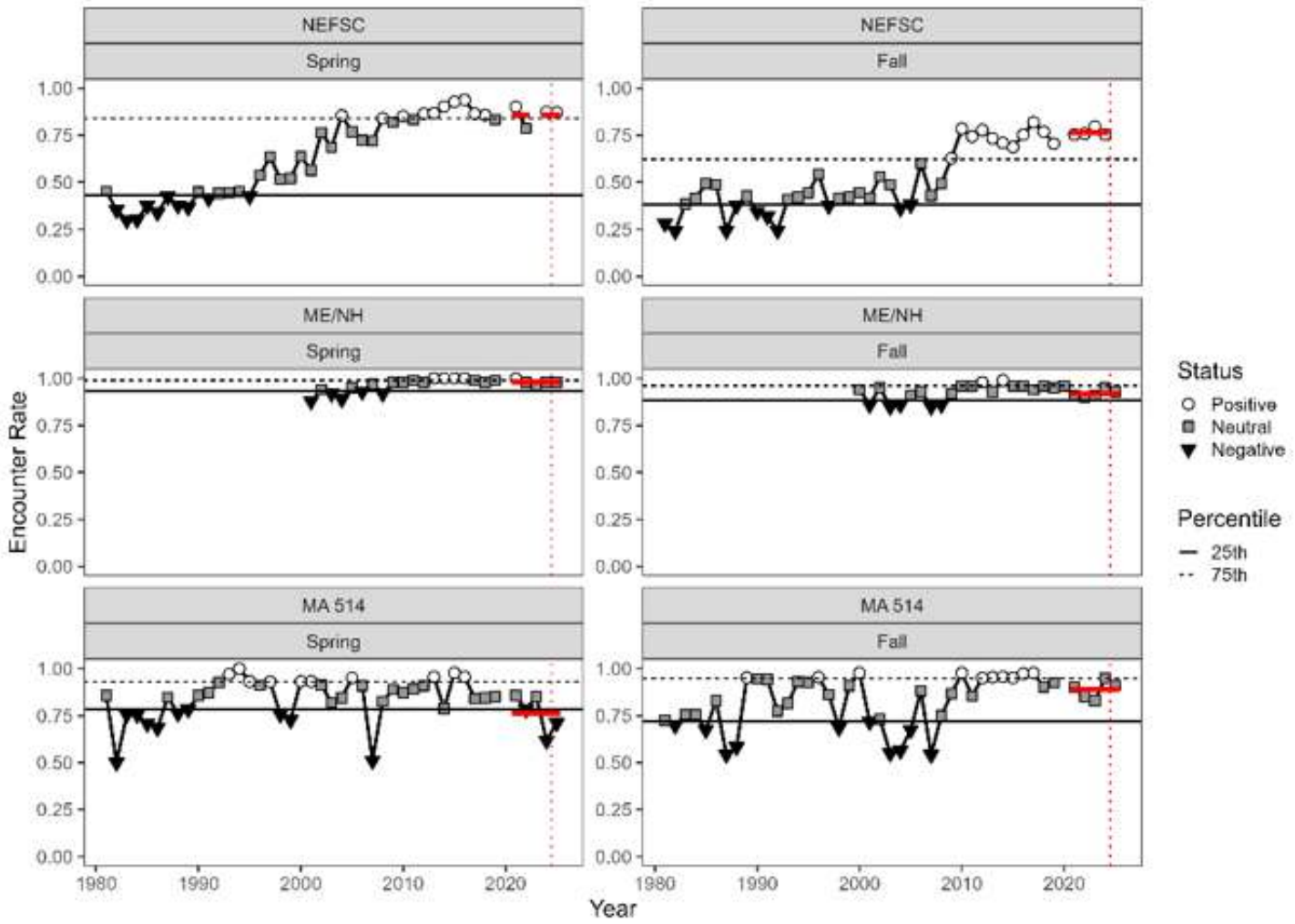


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GOM – encounter rates

SURVEY LOBSTER ENCOUNTER RATE						
Proportion of postive tows						
Survey	*NEFSC*		*ME/NH*		*MA 514*	
	Spring	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*
2019-2023 mean	0.84	0.75	0.98	0.93	0.84	0.88
2024	0.88	0.75	0.98	0.95	0.62	0.95
2025	0.87		0.98	0.93	0.71	0.91
2021-2025 mean	0.86	0.77	0.98	0.92	0.76	0.89
25th	0.43	0.38	0.93	0.89	0.78	0.72
median	0.60	0.44	0.98	0.94	0.86	0.86
75th	0.84	0.62	0.99	0.96	0.93	0.95

- Status of MA spring declined from neutral to negative
- Others unchanged since assessment

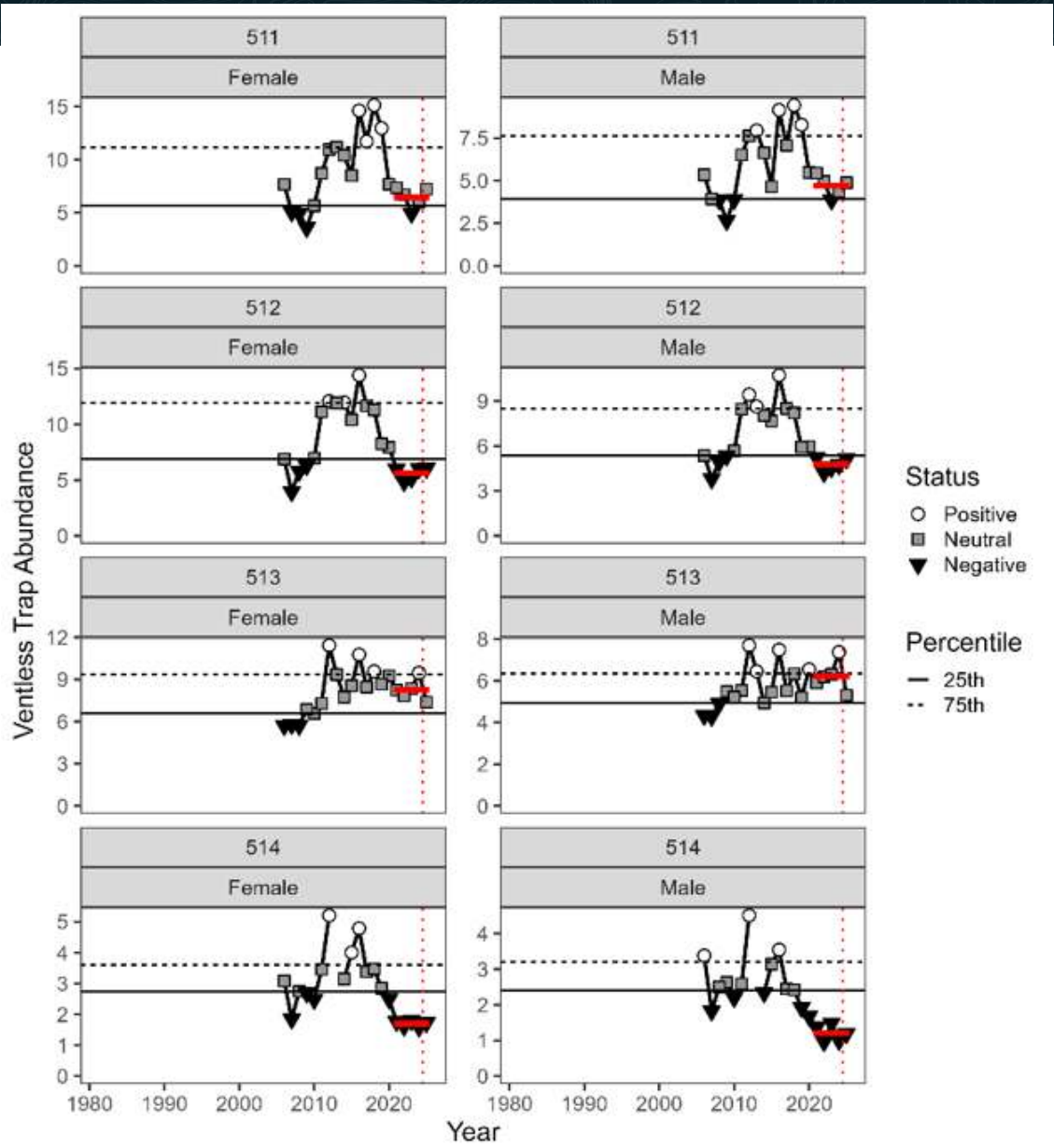


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GOM – VTS indices

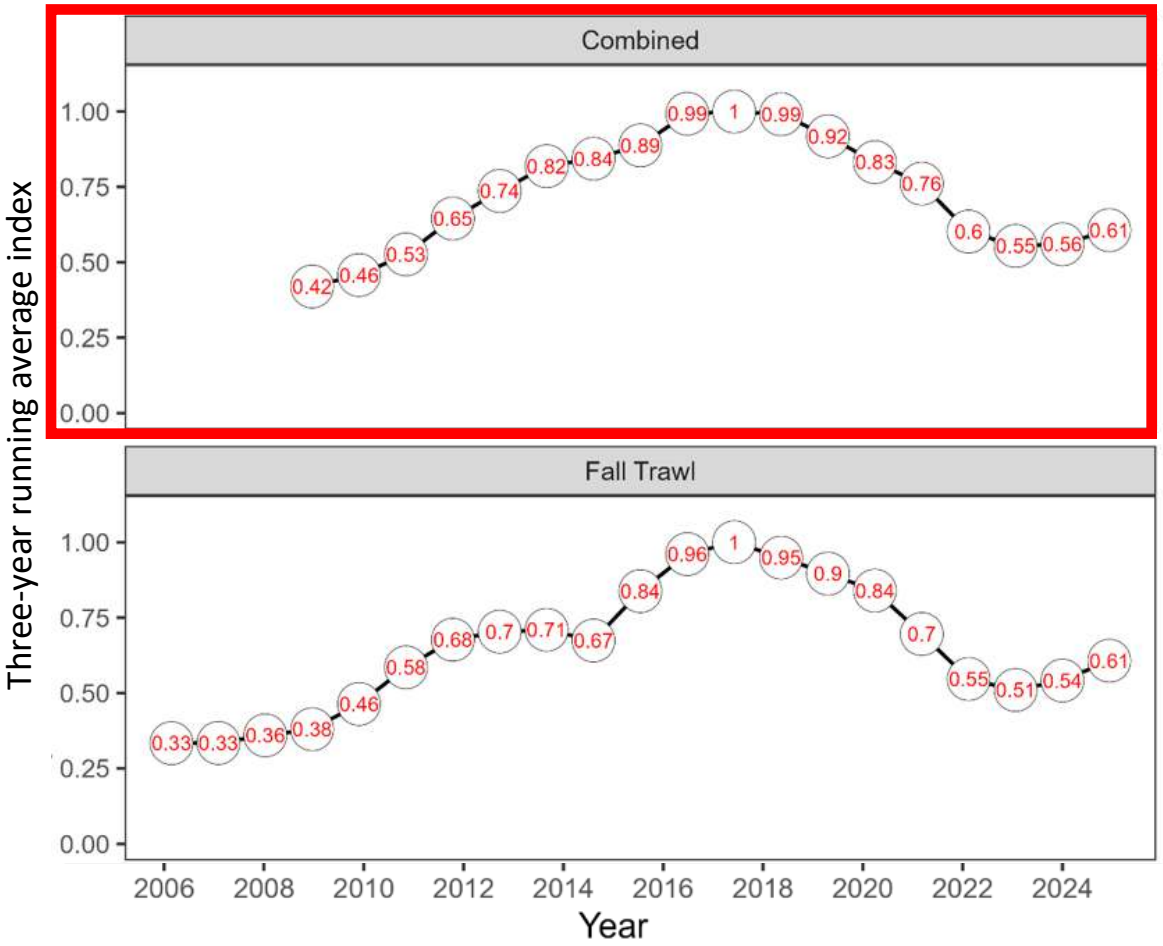
VENTLESS TRAP ABUNDANCE								
Abundance of lobsters ≥ 53 mm CL								
Survey	*511*		*512*		*513*		*514*	
	Female	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
2019-2023 mean	7.93	5.60	6.44	5.18	8.47	6.03	2.10	1.48
2024	5.99	4.36	6.02	4.73	9.48	7.38	1.58	0.99
2025	7.22	4.88	6.05	5.13	7.38	5.31	1.73	1.19
2021-2025 mean	6.44	4.70	5.61	4.77	8.26	6.22	1.70	1.20
25th	5.66	3.92	6.87	5.36	6.59	4.94	2.74	2.40
median	8.70	6.52	11.12	8.03	7.74	5.48	3.26	2.54
75th	11.17	7.63	11.91	8.50	9.35	6.34	3.60	3.20

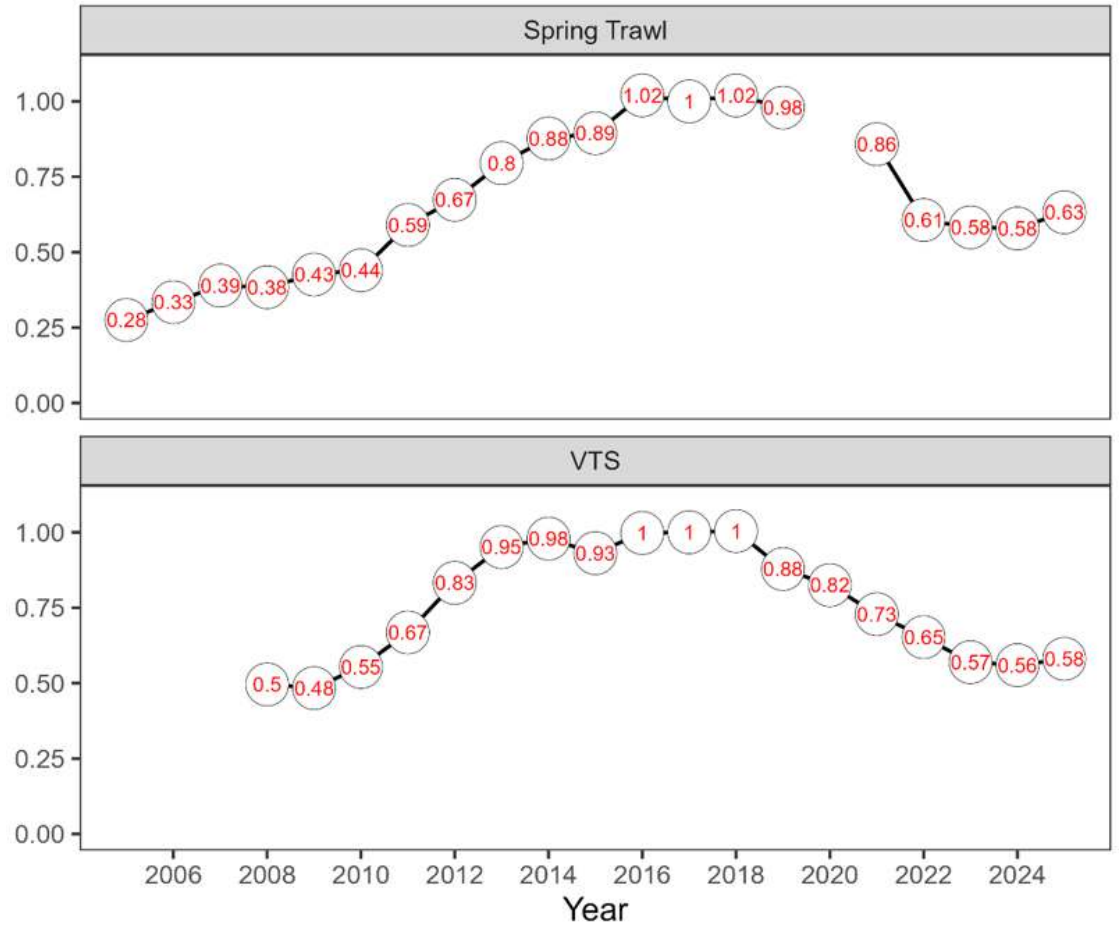
- SA 512 (ME) and 514 (MA) remain negative, others remain neutral
- Note - SA 513 have been more stable over time



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GOM – combined recruit index



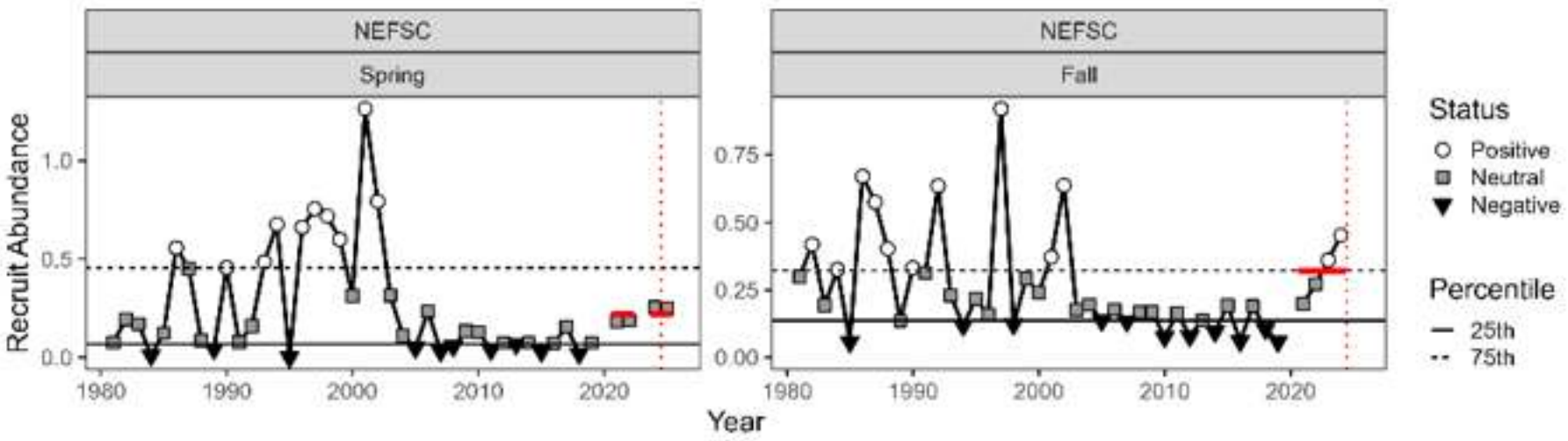


- Values represent proportional change from the combined index peak (three-year average 2015-2017).
- Recent values have stabilized somewhat since the decline
- The 2025 value (average 2023-2025) is 0.61, which is a 39% decline from the index peak

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GBK – recruit abundance

RECRUIT ABUNDANCE (SURVEY)		
Abundance of lobsters 71 - 80 mm CL (sexes combined)		
Survey	*NEFSC*	
	Spring	*Fall*
2019-2023 mean	0.15	0.22
2024	0.25	0.45
2025	0.25	
2021-2025 mean	0.22	0.32
25th	0.07	0.14
median	0.13	0.19
75th	0.45	0.32



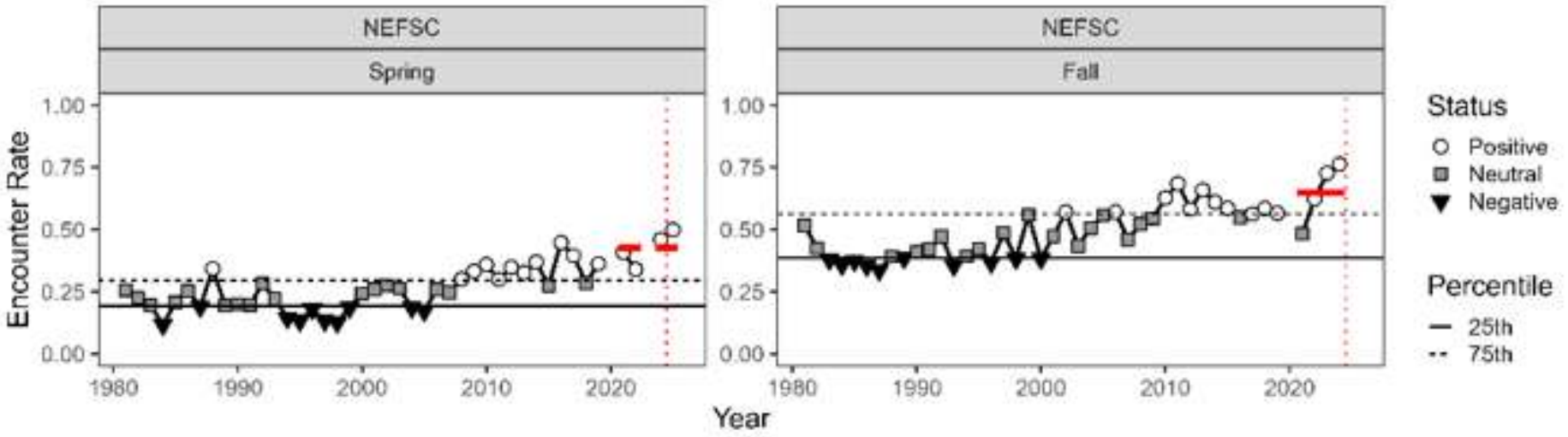
- Status unchanged since assessment
  - Both spring & fall remain neutral
- Note increasing trend in annual values
  - 2024/2025 values highest in more than a decade

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GBK – encounter rates

SURVEY LOBSTER ENCOUNTER RATE		
Proportion of postive tows		
Survey	*NEFSC*	
	Spring	*Fall*
2019-2023 mean	0.37	0.60
2024	0.46	0.76
2025	0.50	
2021-2025 mean	0.43	0.65

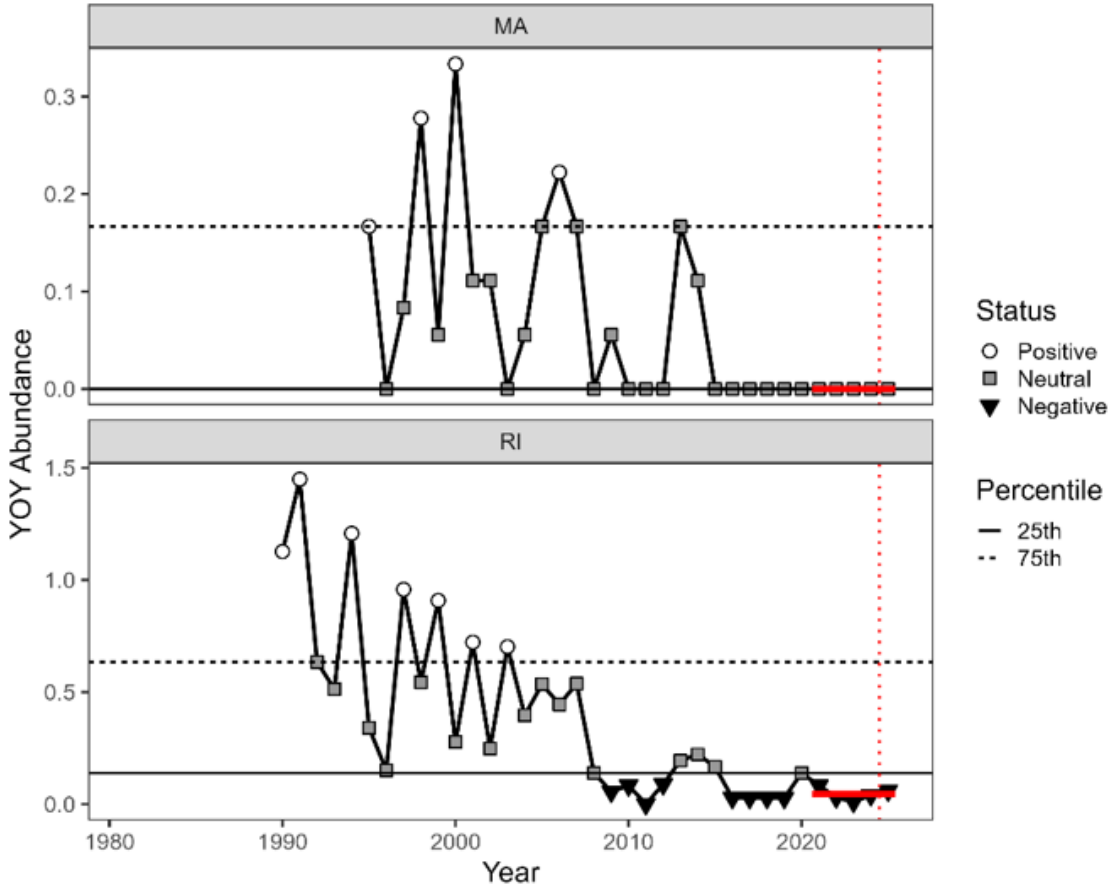
25th	0.19	0.39
median	0.25	0.47
75th	0.30	0.56



- Status unchanged since assessment
  - Spring & fall both positive
- 2024/2025 values were time series highs for both seasons

SNE – YOY

YOUNG-OF-YEAR INDICES		
Survey	*MA*	*RI*
2019-2023 mean	0.00	0.06
2024	0.00	0.04
2025	0.00	0.06
2021-2025 mean	0.00	0.04
25th	0.00	0.14
median	0.06	0.34
75th	0.17	0.63



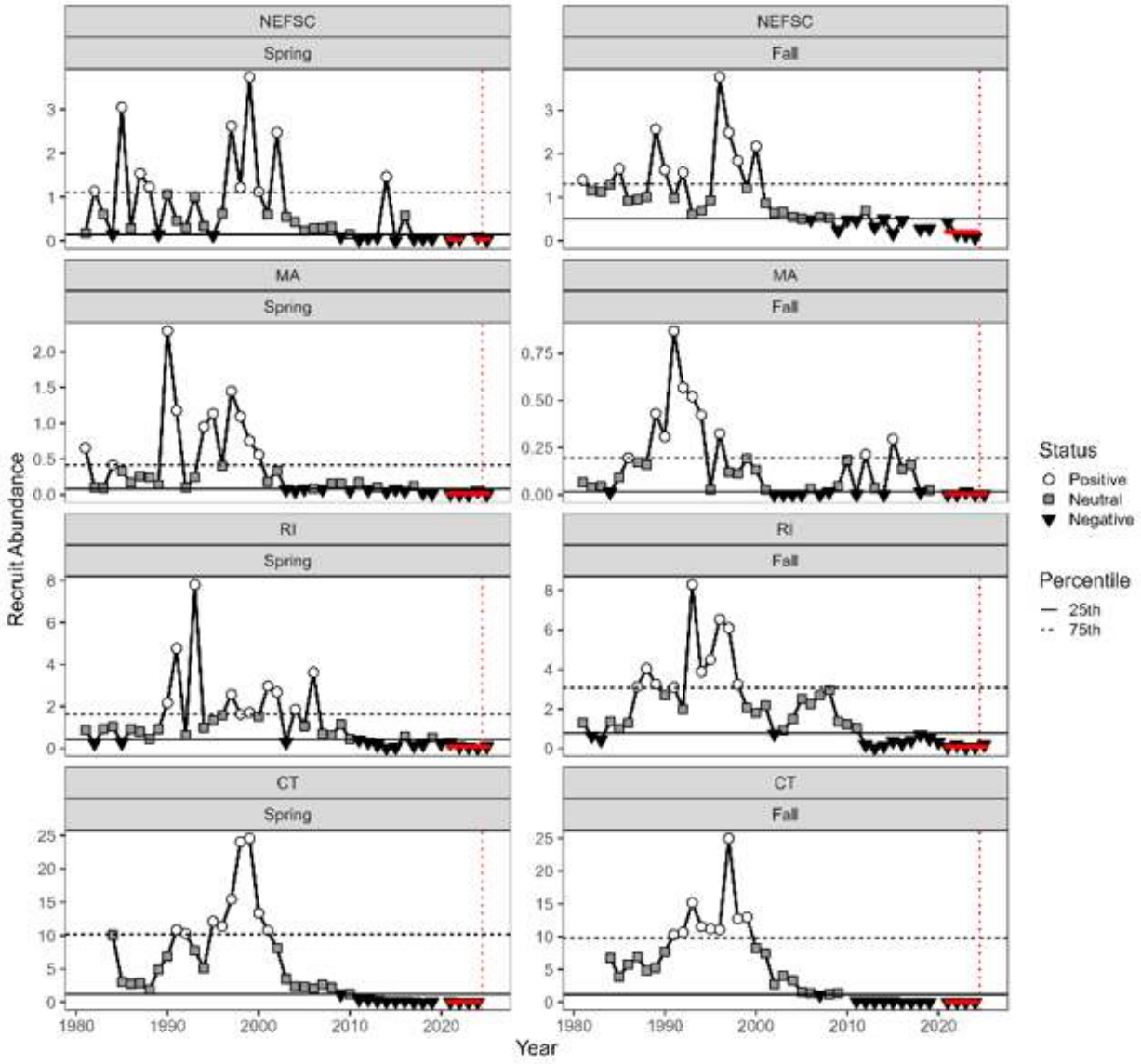
- Status unchanged since assessment
  - Both MA and RI are negative

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SNE – recruit indices

RECRUIT ABUNDANCE (SURVEY)								
Abundance of lobsters 71 - 80 mm CL (sexes combined)								
Survey	*NEFSC*		*MA*		*RI*		*CT*	
	Spring	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*
2019-2023 mean	0.03	0.25	0.01	0.01	0.24	0.22	0.01	0.00
2024	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.01	0.00
2025	0.02		0.00	0.00	0.09	0.18		
2021-2025 mean	0.04	0.20	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.11	0.01	0.00
25th	0.15	0.51	0.08	0.02	0.42	0.78	1.23	1.16
median	0.38	0.86	0.16	0.10	0.91	1.65	2.93	4.48
75th	1.11	1.31	0.41	0.19	1.62	3.07	10.20	9.81

- Status unchanged since assessment
  - All inshore and NEFSC surveys are negative
- 2025 values were time series lows for 3 of these surveys
- Data missing for CT for 2025 and NEFSC for fall 2025

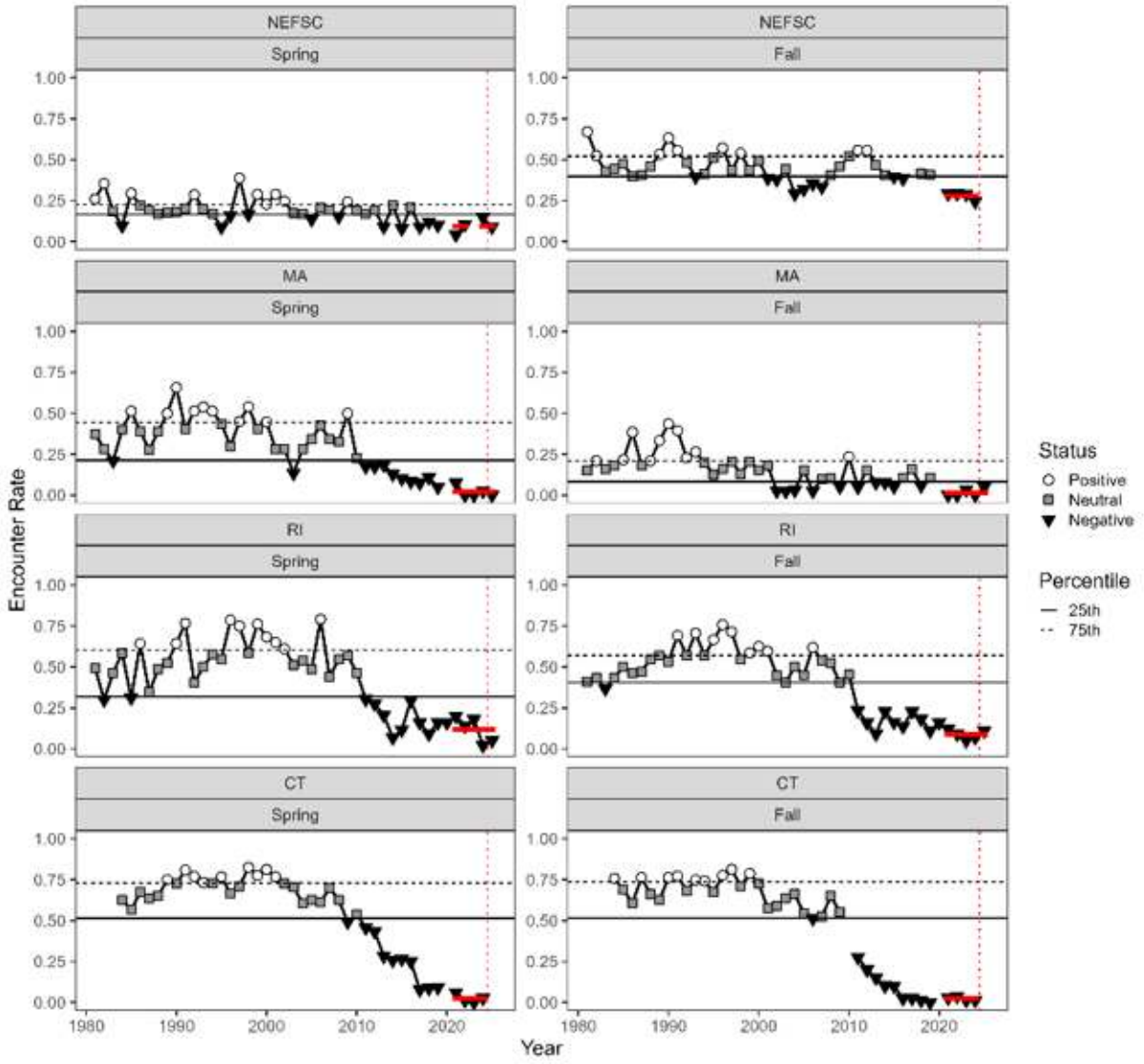


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SNE – encounter rates

SURVEY LOBSTER ENCOUNTER RATE Proportion of postive tows								
Survey	*NEFSC*		*MA*		*RI*		*CT*	
	Spring	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*	*Spring*	*Fall*
2019-2023 mean	0.08	0.32	0.03	0.03	0.17	0.11	0.04	0.02
2024	0.15	0.25	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.03	0.01
2025	0.09		0.00	0.05	0.05	0.11		
2021-2025 mean	0.10	0.28	0.02	0.02	0.12	0.09	0.02	0.02
25th	0.17	0.40	0.21	0.08	0.32	0.41	0.52	0.52
median	0.19	0.44	0.34	0.16	0.51	0.49	0.65	0.64
75th	0.23	0.52	0.44	0.21	0.60	0.57	0.73	0.74

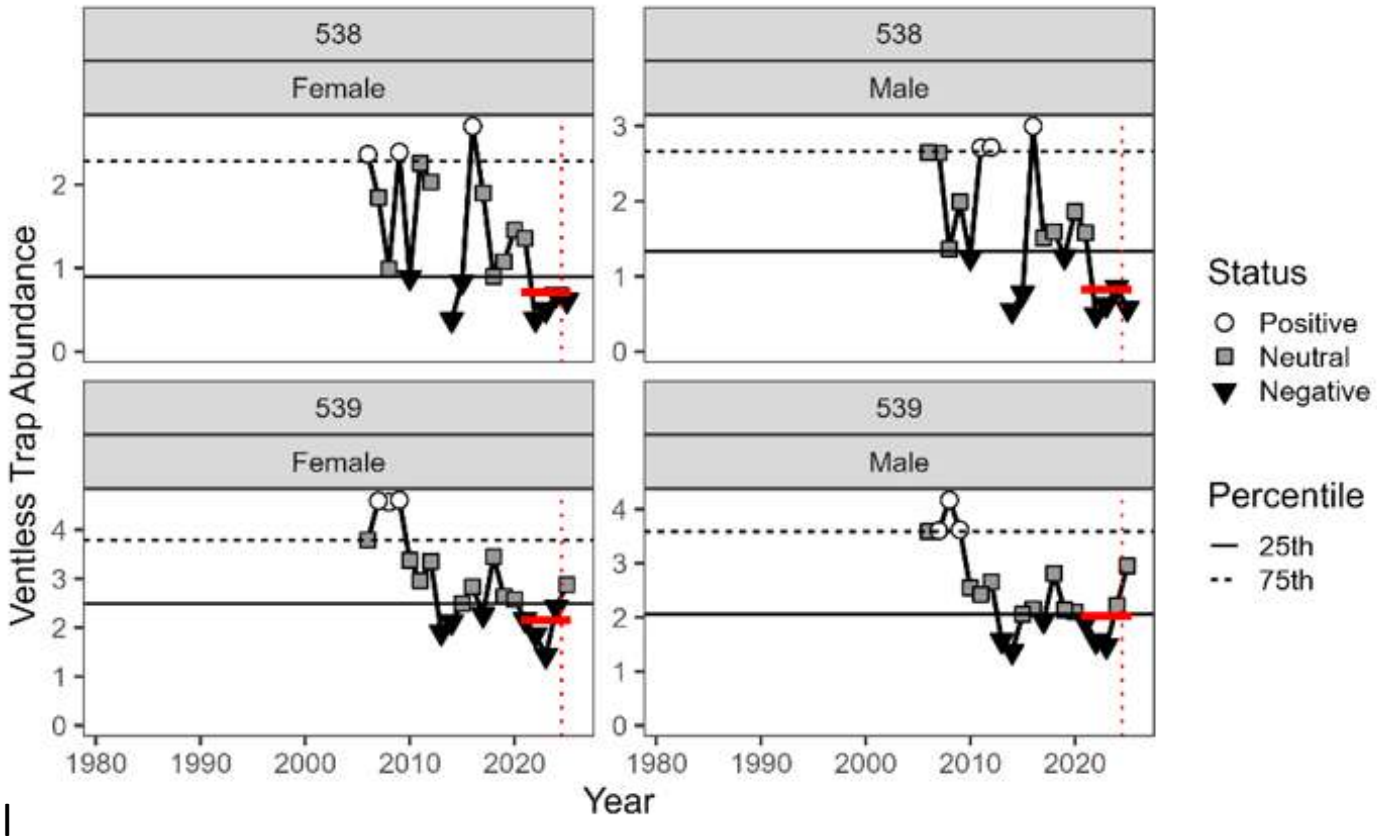
- Status unchanged since assessment
  - All inshore and NEFSC surveys are negative



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SNE – VTS indices

VENTLESS TRAP ABUNDANCE				
Abundance of lobsters ≥ 53 mm CL				
Survey	*538*		*539*	
	Female	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
2019-2023 mean	0.96	1.16	2.13	1.84
2024	0.68	0.85	2.41	2.22
2025	0.62	0.57	2.88	2.95
2021-2025 mean	0.71	0.82	2.15	2.02
25th	0.90	1.33	2.49	2.06
median	1.87	1.79	3.35	2.55
75th	2.28	2.66	3.79	3.59



- Status for SA 538 (MA) females declined from neutral to negative; others have remained negative
- Note SA 539 (RI) saw relatively large increases in 2024 and 2025
- Note survey has short time series, occurring only during depleted stock conditions

Summary

- GOM sub-stock conditions very similar to those reported in the 2025 stock assessment
  - Only one status change since assessment
    - MA fall encounter rate declined from neutral to negative
  - A few improvements observed during previous data update reverted during this data update
    - 512 YOY, 513 VTS males improved last data update and reverted back to assessment status during this update
- GBK sub-stock conditions are unchanged from those reported in the 2025 stock assessment
- SNE conditions remain very similar to those reported in the 2025 stock assessment
  - Only one status change since assessment
    - 538 VTS females declined from neutral to negative

QUESTIONS?

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Technical Committee tasking report

Possible environmental indicators



- In February 2026, the Board discussed additional data that could be updated annually to monitor environmental changes
  - TC Chair and ASMFC staff met with staff at NOAA's Change Ecosystems and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)
    - Identified possible indicators
    - Discussed data processing and refinement requirements to develop/use potential indicators
- For the Board to consider today:
  - Identification of possible indicators for further investigation
  - Clarification of Board's intent to guide next steps of indicator development

- Possible indicators:
  - Bottom temperatures from state and federal trawl surveys
    - Context on potential changes in catchability
  - Empirical ocean climatology data from long-term monitoring buoys
    - Comparison of sub-surface temperatures to long-term average
  - Temperatures and molt timing prediction from Gulf of Maine Research Institute
  - Zooplankton time series (from NOAA State of the Ecosystem reports)
    - Context on food availability for larval lobsters
    - Note lag in data availability (2026 update includes data through 2023)
  - Long-term modeled ocean temperature time series from CEFI
    - Model-based bottom temperature on broad spatial scale

If the Board elects to pursue the addition of environmental indicators, the TC requests clarification of the following:

1. Which of the indicators would be of interest on an annual basis, and which would be more appropriate for the next assessment?
2. Does the Board want to see environmental indicators for one or both stocks?

If the Board elects to pursue the addition of environmental indicators, the TC requests clarification of the following:

3. Is the Board seeking qualitative information or quantitative metrics?
   - Current update is for understanding exploitable abundance conditions in future years
   - Does the Board want to see annual indicators providing qualitative information on conditions experiences by the stock (e.g., temperature indicator)
   - OR does the Board want estimated quantitative impacts to future lobster dynamics (e.g., linkage between temperature and stock trends)?
     - Would require additional analyses and iterative development and testing
     - Cannot be guaranteed; more feasible during stock assessment and review process

If the Board elects to pursue the addition of environmental indicators, the TC requests clarification of the following:

1. Which of the indicators would be of interest on an annual basis, and which would be more appropriate for the next assessment?
2. Does the Board want to see environmental indicators for one or both stocks?
3. Is the Board seeking qualitative information or quantitative metrics?

For additional consideration: how pursuit of annual indicators will interact with other ongoing and upcoming tasks, including development of candidate reference points and identification of management objectives

QUESTIONS?

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

FMP Reviews for the 2025 Fishing Year

American Lobster and Jonah Crab



November 9, 2026



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Outline

1. Status of the FMP
2. Status of the Stock
3. Status of the Fishery
4. Compliance Review for 2025
5. *De Minimis* requests
6. PRT Recommendations
7. Board action

American Lobster



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Status of the FMP

Addendum XXIX (2022)

- Vessel tracking requirements effective December 15, 2023

Addendum XXVII (2023)

- Established management trigger for gauge changes
- rule to issue trap tags equal to harvester allocations until trap loss is documented
- v-notch possession definition for all permit holders in OCC is 1/8” with or without setal hairs

Addendum XXXII (2025)

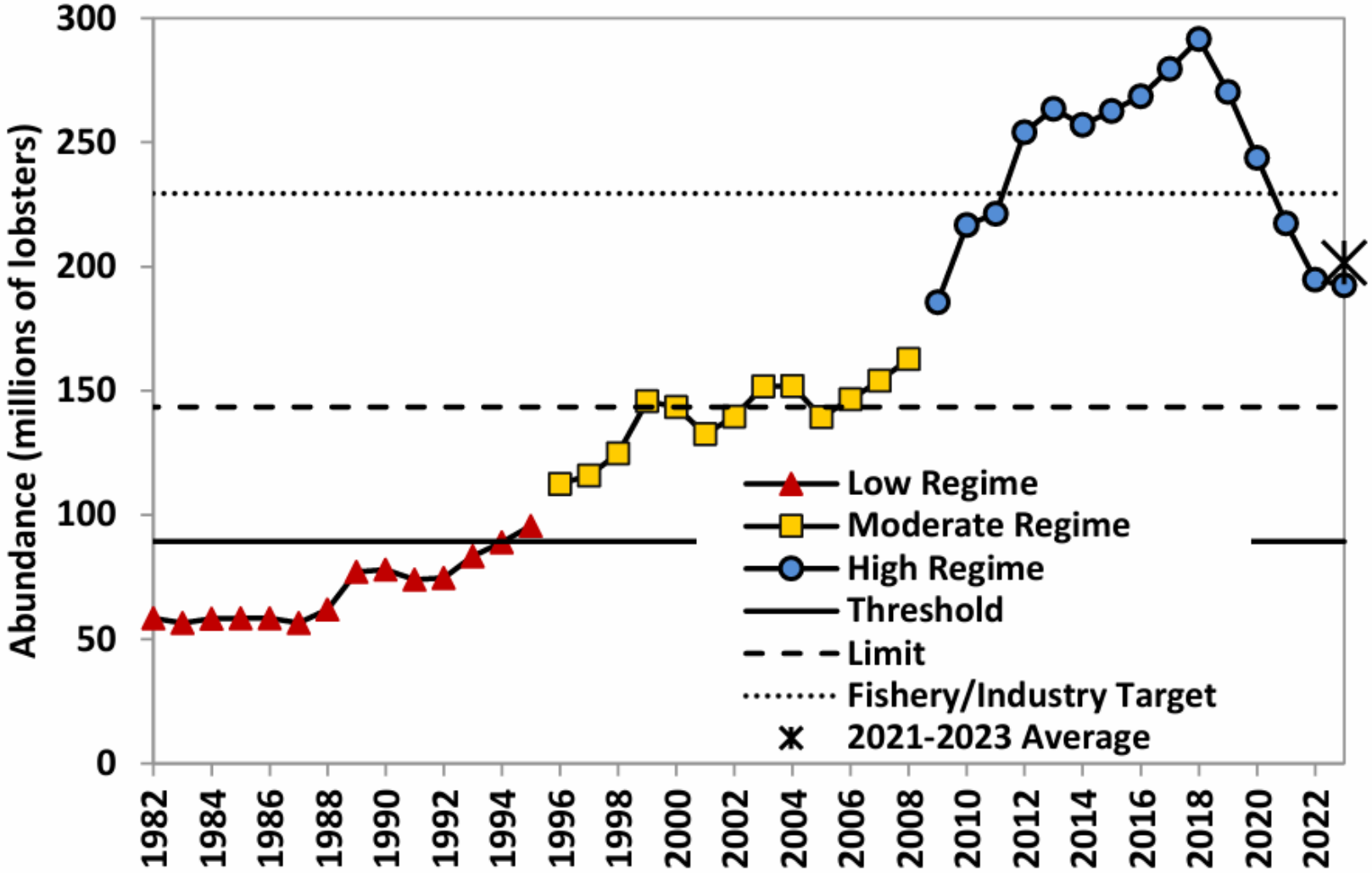
- Repealed all gauge and vent size measures of Addendum XXVII

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Status of the Stocks

GOM/GBK

- Not depleted
  - declined 34% since peak levels in 2018
- Overfishing is occurring
  - exploitation just above the threshold

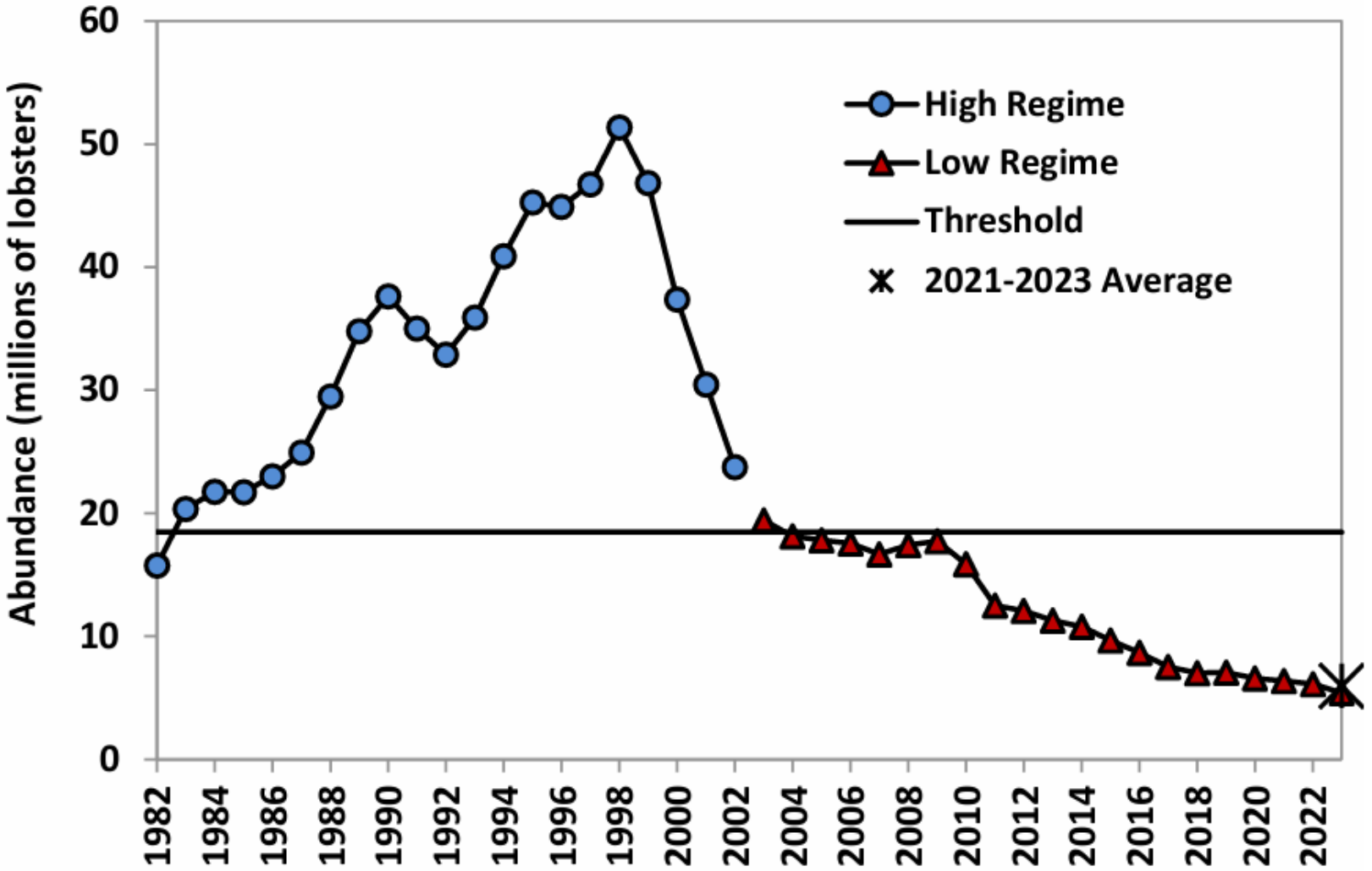


Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Status of the Stocks

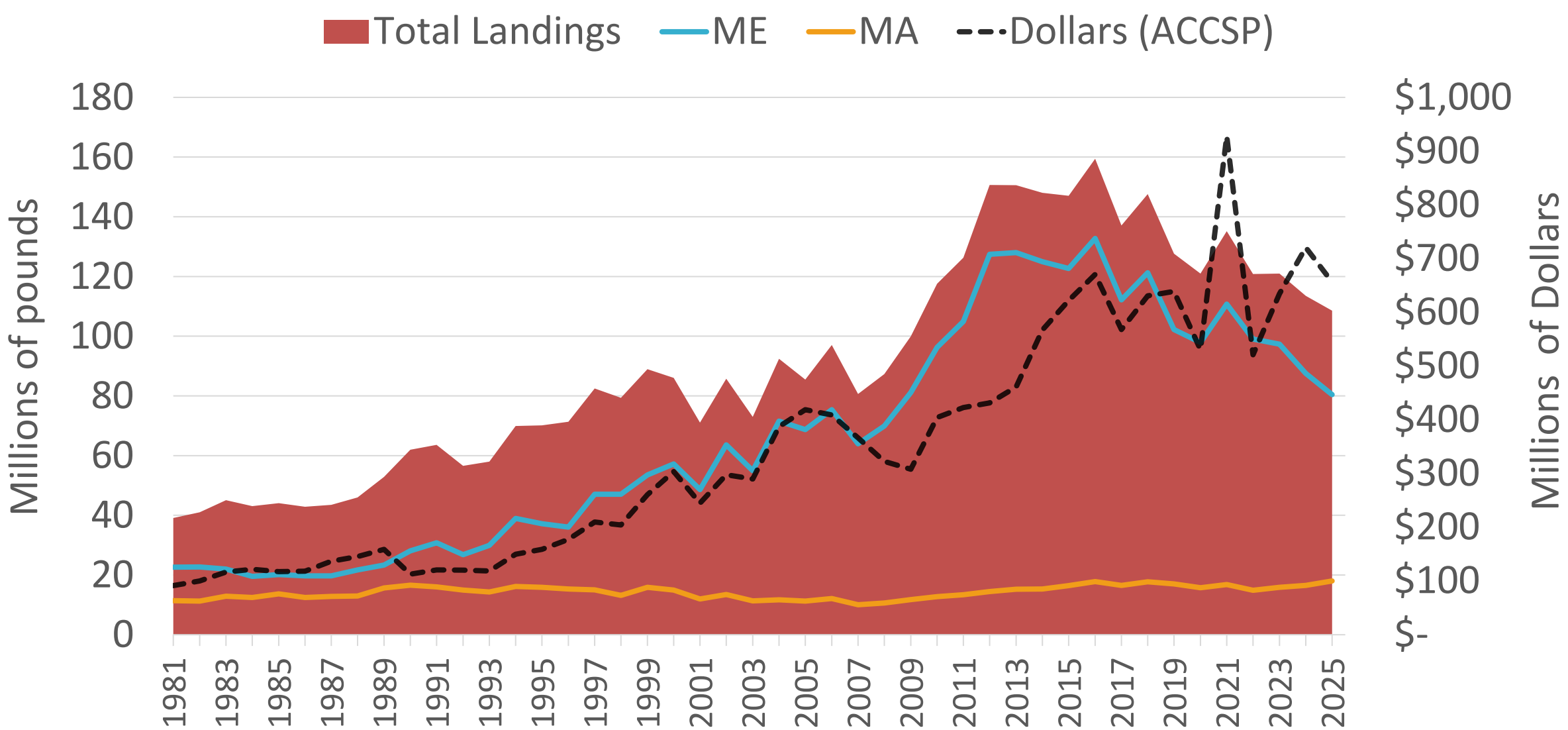
SNE

- Significantly depleted
  - declined 34% since peak levels in 2018
- Overfishing is not occurring



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Status of the Fishery



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

State Compliance

- Connecticut and New Jersey and did not complete Addendum XXVI sea/port sampling requirement
- Massachusetts did not provide all required data by August 1 deadline
- Otherwise, states in compliance with FMP

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

De Minimis Requests

- DE, MD, VA requested and qualify for *de minimis* status
- Criterion: Most recent 2-year average of commercial landings under 40,000 lbs
- The PRT recommends the Board approve the *de minimis* requests

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

PRT Recommendations

- Consider reviewing monitoring requirements in SNE given the status of the stock and the difficulty obtaining sea sampling trips in a fishery with reduced effort

Jonah Crab



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Status of the FMP

FMP (2015)

- 4.75” minimum size, prohibition on retention of egg-bearing females, 50 whole crab recreational limit, permit requirements

Addendum I (2016)

- Established bycatch limit of 1,000 crabs per trip

Addendum II (2017)

- Established coastwide standards for claw harvest

Addendum III (2018)

- Improved data collection and reporting requirements

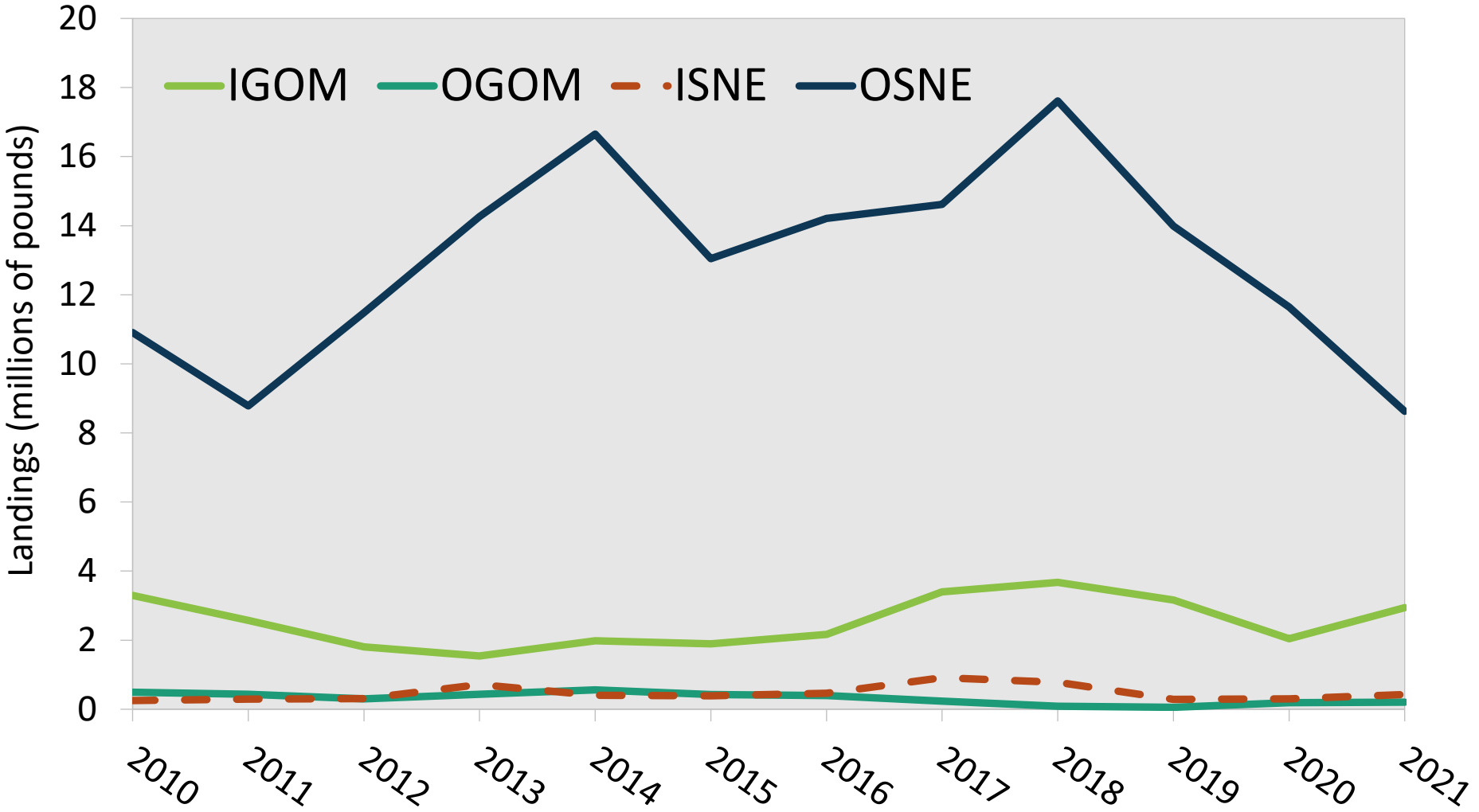
Addendum IV (2022)

- Established electronic tracking requirements for federally-permitted vessels

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Status of the Stock

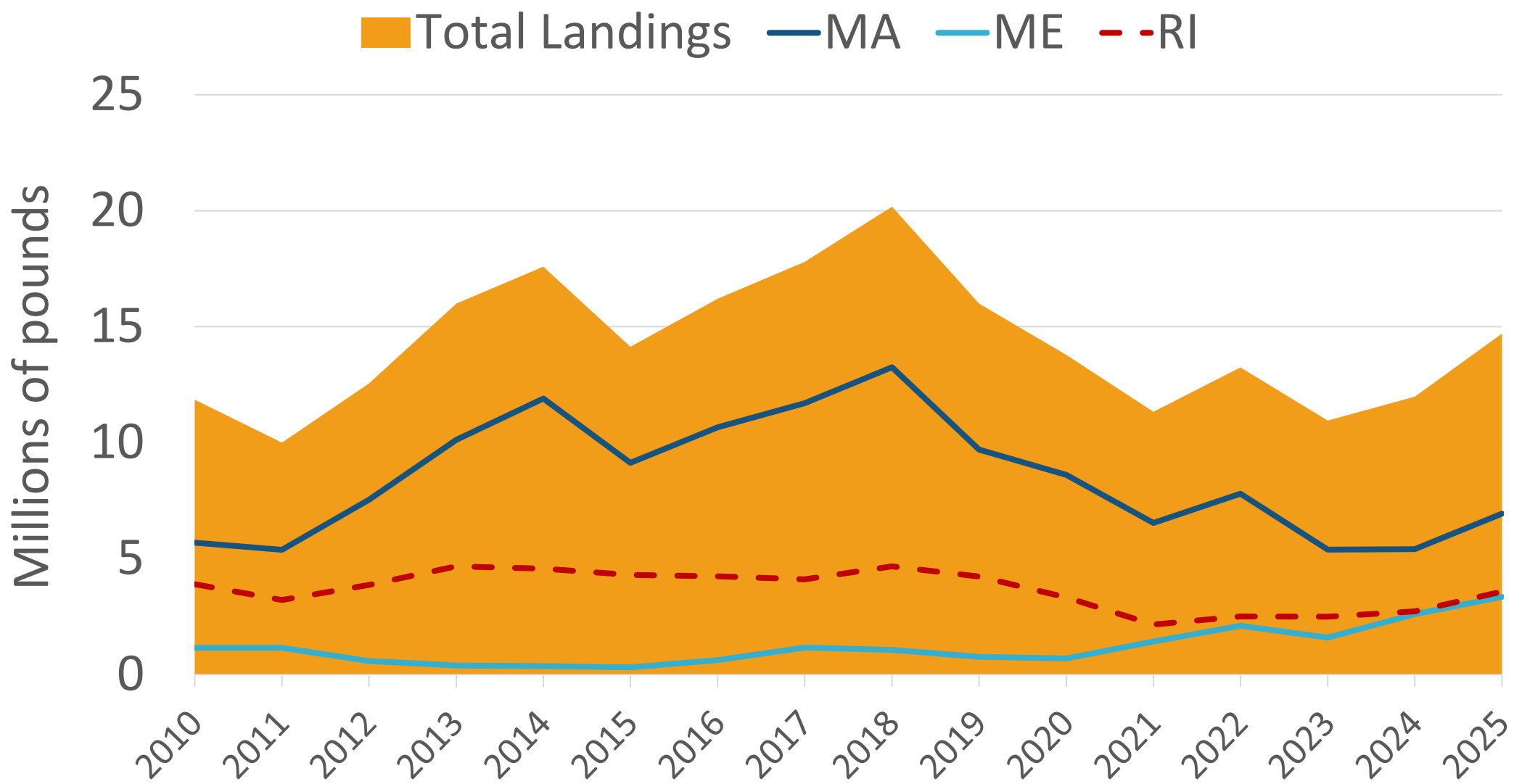
Jonah Crab Commercial Landings by Stock Area



Stock Area	Status
IGOM	Not depleted
OGOM	Not depleted
ISNE	Unknown
OSNE	Not depleted

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Status of the Fishery



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

State Compliance

- Massachusetts has been unable to meet the August 1 deadline for compliance reports for the last seven years

- Connecticut, and New Jersey did not complete the required sea and/or port sampling trips

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

De Minimis Requests

- States may qualify if, for the 3 preceding years, their average commercial landings constitute less than 1% of average coastwide commercial catch
- DE, MD, and VA apply and meet *de minimis* requirement
- The PRT recommends the Board approve the *de minimis* requests

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

PRT Comments

- The 2023 Benchmark Stock Assessment recommended increasing fisheries-dependent monitoring and biosampling, with sampling intensity by statistical area based on landings.
    - The PRT recommends the TC provide recommendations on adequate sampling numbers by statistical area.
- While more fishery-dependent monitoring could improve the stock assessment, some states do not appear to have the capacity to increase sampling.
    - The PRT recommends determining appropriate sampling levels for each state be determined based on landings and capacity.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries COMMISSION

Board Action for Consideration

- Consider approval of the Lobster and Jonah Crab FMP Reviews for the 2025 fishing year, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for DE, MD, and VA.

Questions?

