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# Stock Projections to Inform 2027-2029 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Levels

Caitlin Craig, NY DEC

Atlantic Menhaden TC Chair

November 10, 2026

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# Outline

- Background: stock status, ERPs, and TAC specification process
- Projection methods and scenarios
- Projection results

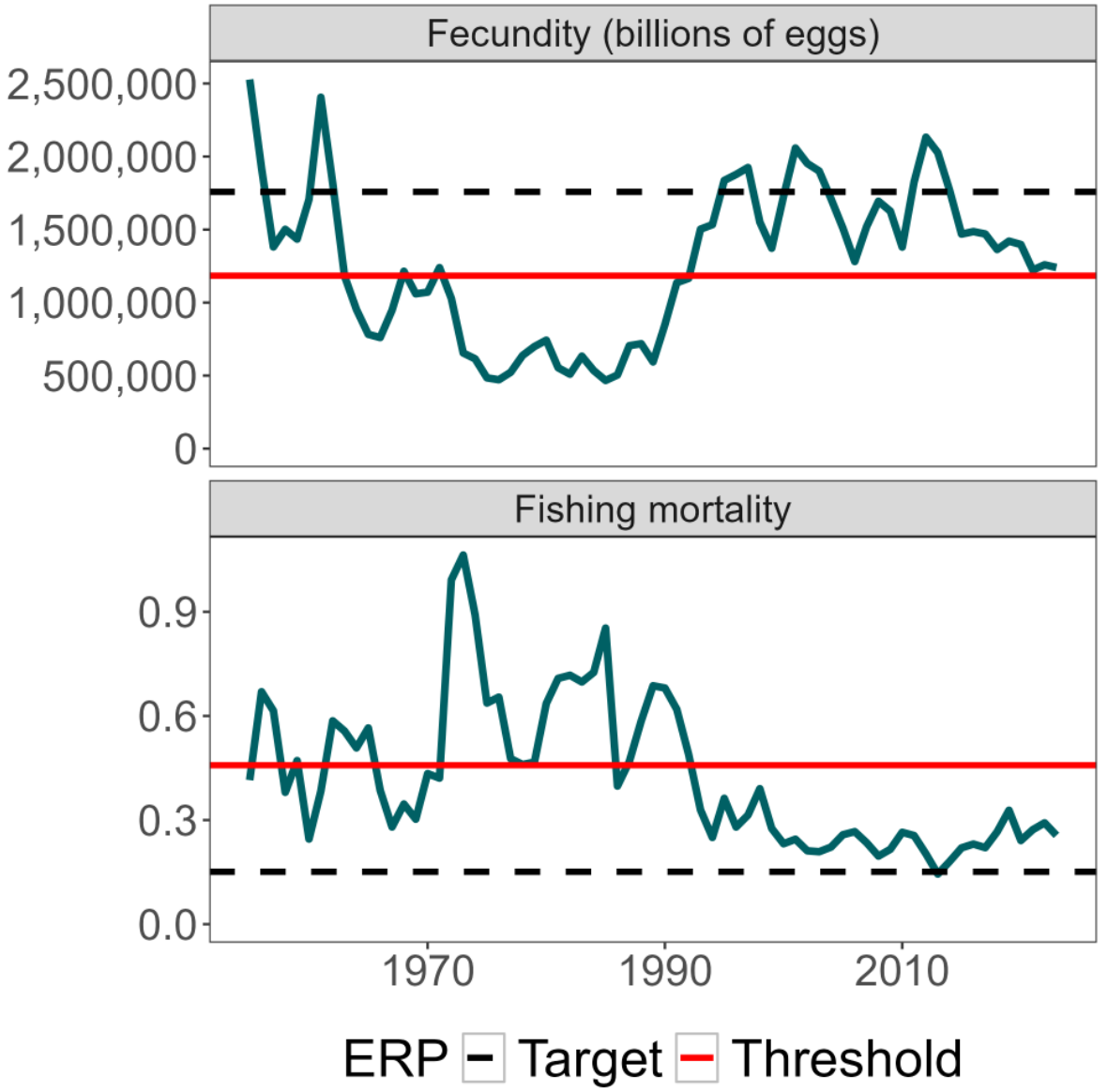
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# Stock Status

- Based on 2025 single-species assessment update, which used reference points from the 2025 ERP benchmark assessment

➢Not overfished

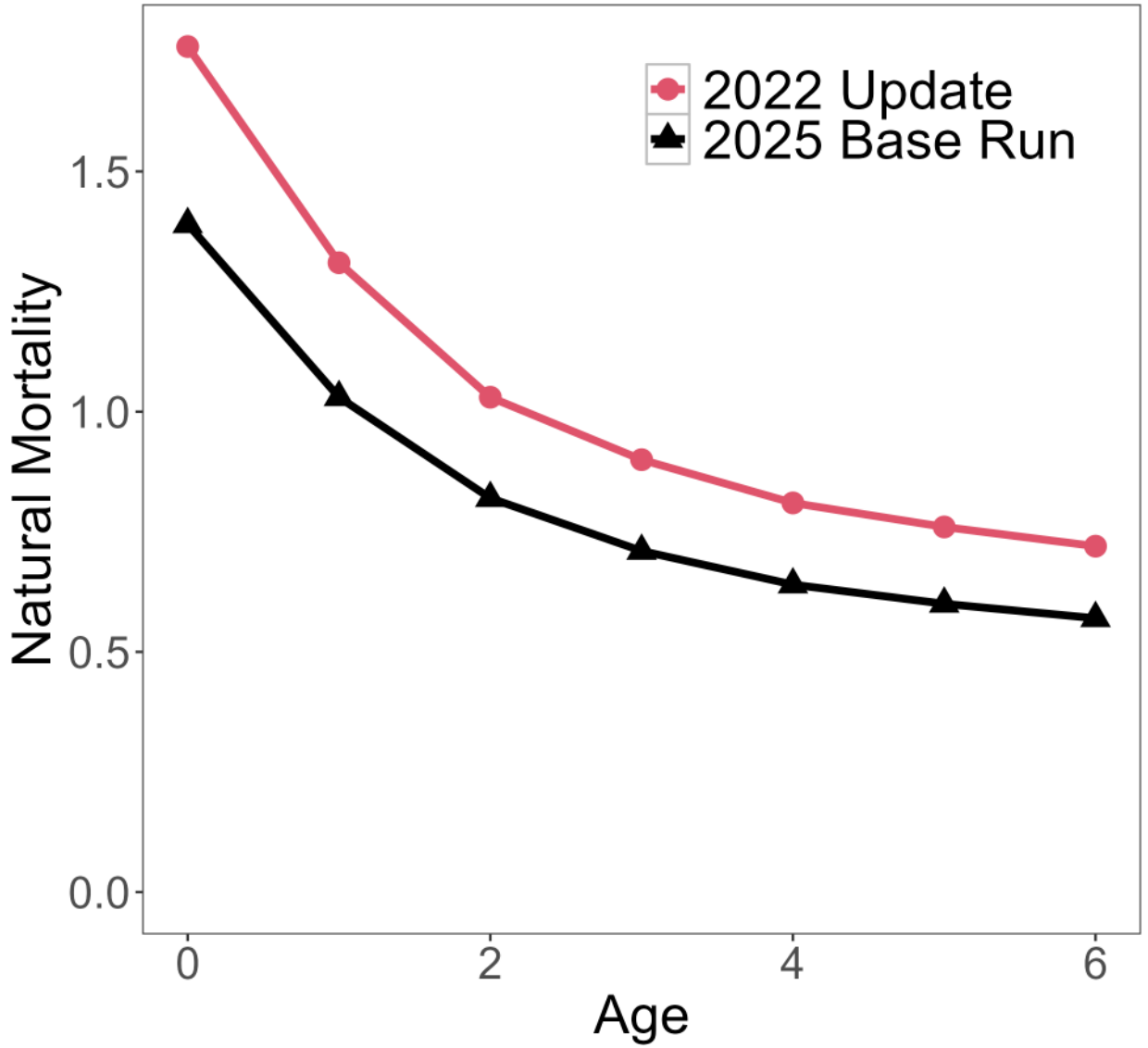
➢Overfishing not occurring



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# Stock Status

- 2025 update used a lower estimate of natural mortality (M) than the 2020 single-species benchmark assessment
- New M estimate was peer reviewed through the SEDAR 102 process during the 2025 ERP benchmark assessment



# Stock Status

- New M resulted in a lower overall estimate of population size, which contributed to the lower TAC estimates in 2025 and 2026 compared to the last update in 2022

- ERP *F* target and threshold also slightly lower from 2025 benchmark compared to 2020 benchmark

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# ERP Definitions

- **ERP *F* target:** Menhaden F rate that will allow striped bass to stay at their biomass target when striped bass are fished at their F target

- **ERP *F* threshold:** Menhaden *F* that allows striped bass to remain at their biomass threshold when striped bass are fished at their F target

→ All other species in the model are fished at status quo (2023) levels

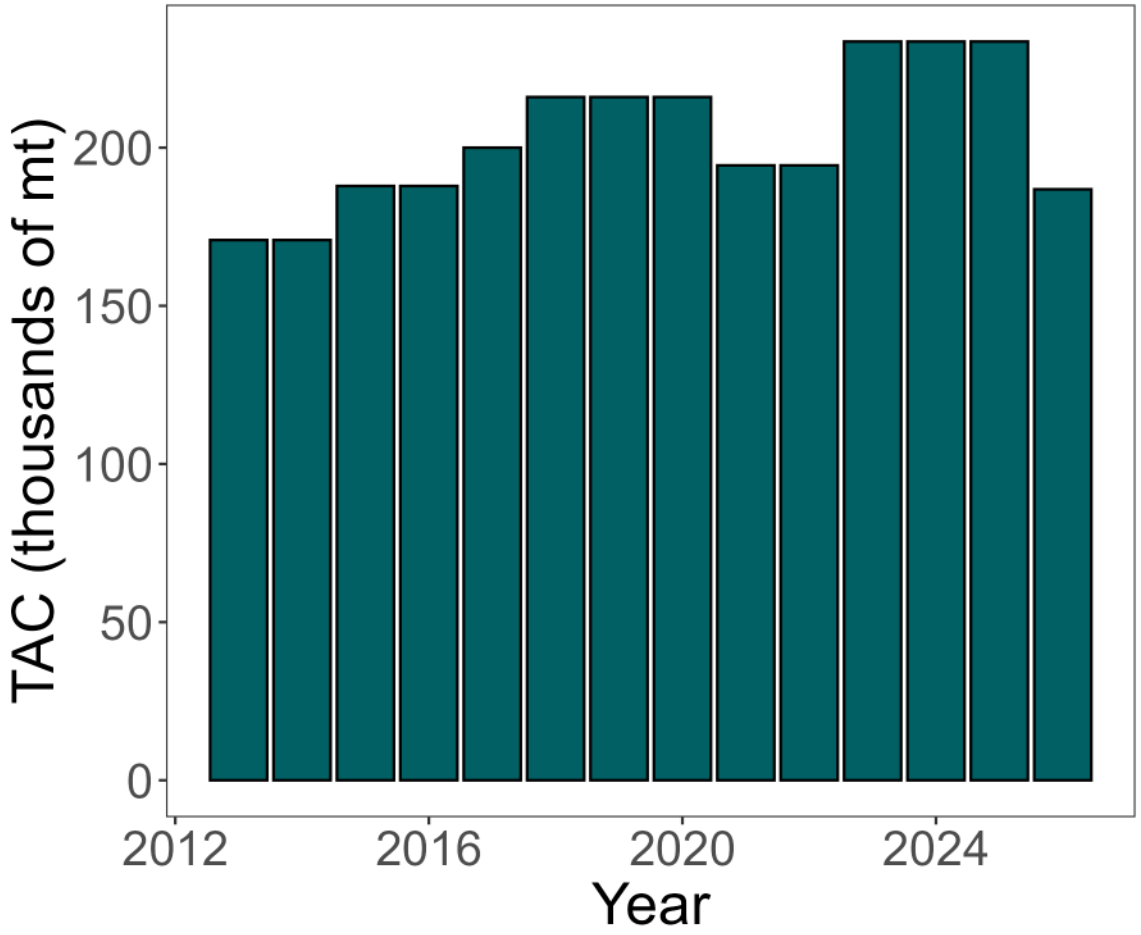
| Reference point | | F |
|---|---|---|
| Target | Single species | 0.35 |
| | ERP | 0.15 |
| Threshold | Single species | 0.91 |
| | ERP | 0.46 |

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# TAC Specification Process

- Set an annual or multi-year TAC through Board action based on best available science (e.g. projection analysis)

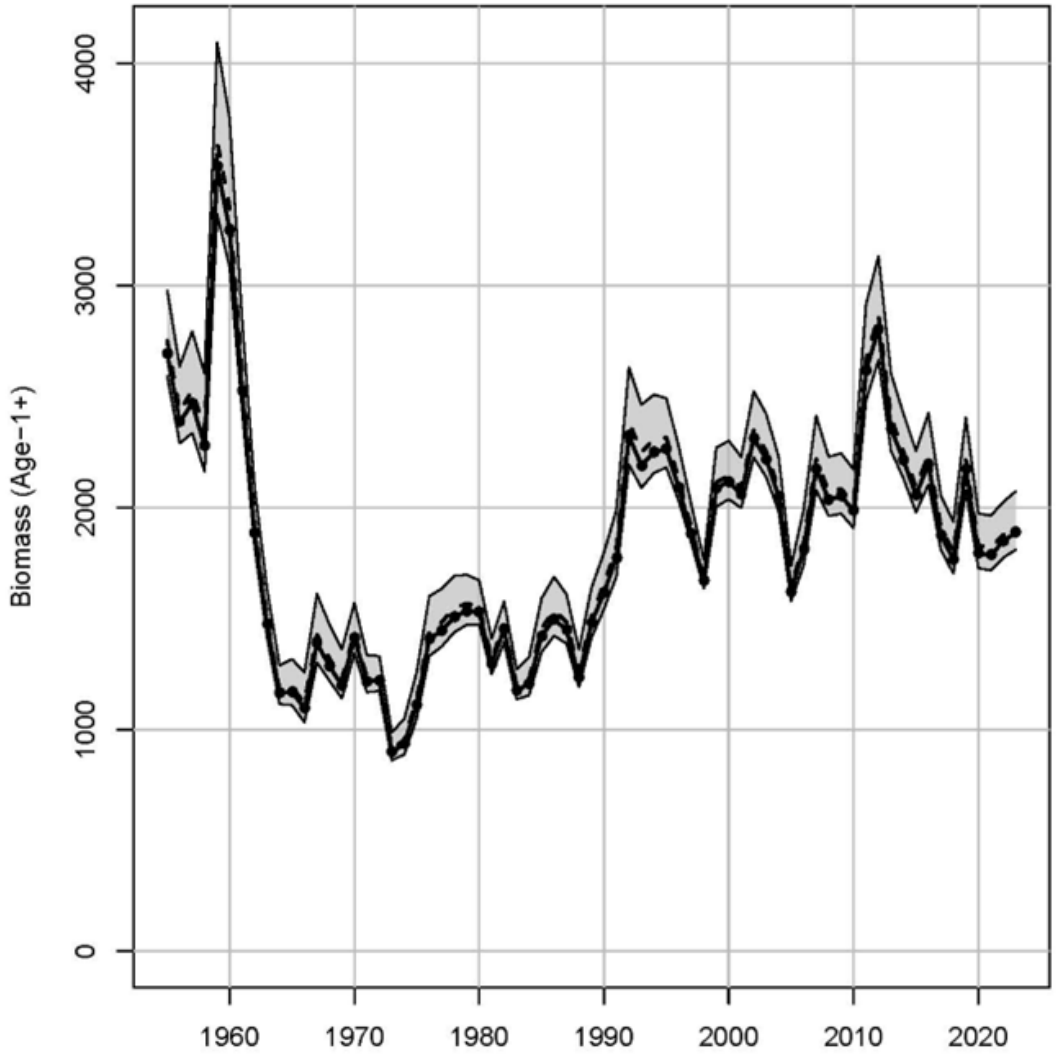
- If the Board is unable to approve a TAC for the subsequent fishing year by December 31st of the current year, the TAC for the subsequent year will be set at the current year's TAC (186,840 mt)



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# Projection Methods

- Monte Carlo Bootstrap (MCB) runs used to seed the projections
- M- and fecundity-at-age re-sampled from the uncertainty around those parameters and the BAM is refit using those new values
- Creates a distribution of results, including estimates of recruitment for the time-series and population size at the start of 2024

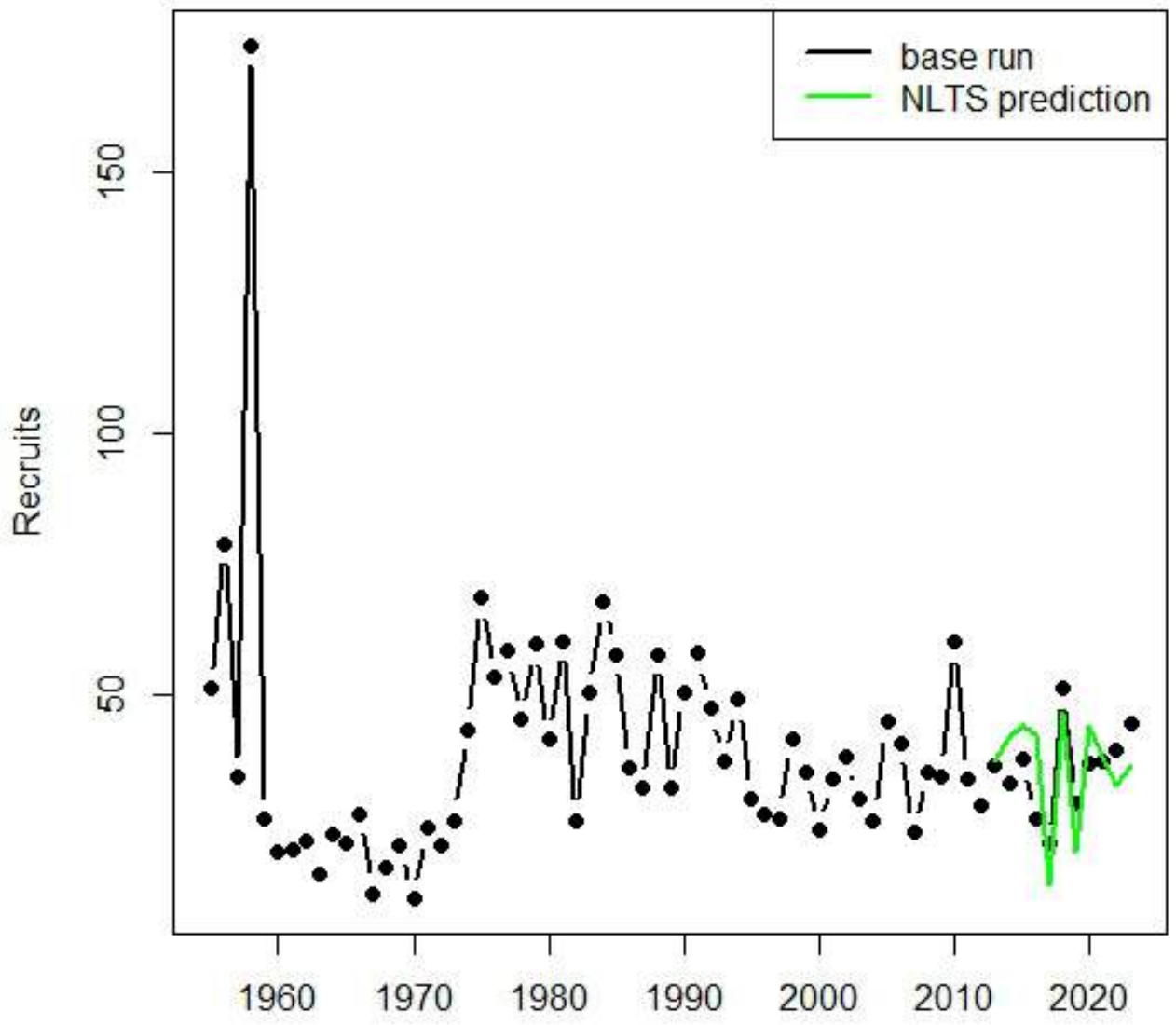


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# Projection Methods

- Recruitment for 2024-2028 predicted from a non-linear time-series analysis for each MCB run

- Better predictive power than just using the time-series median



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# Scenarios

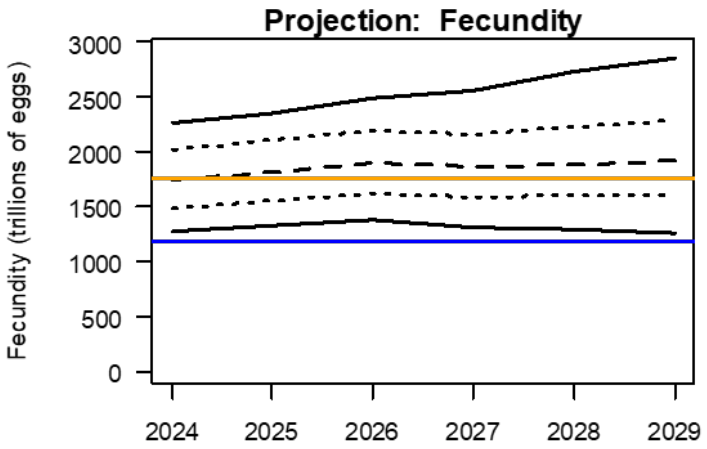
- Board requested the TC examine a range of TACs and associated risk to reference points

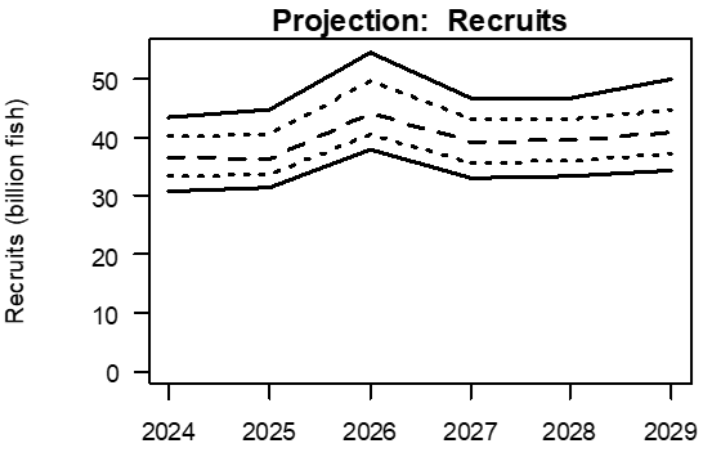
  - ❑ 40-60% probability of exceeding ERP target (5% increments)
    - 2027-2029 combined, and as separate years
  - ❑ Percent risk of exceeding ERP target for TACs ranging from a 30% decrease to a 20% increase from the current TAC, including status quo, in 5% increments
  - ❑ Sensitivity run: assume 80% quota utilization for 2026 instead of 100%

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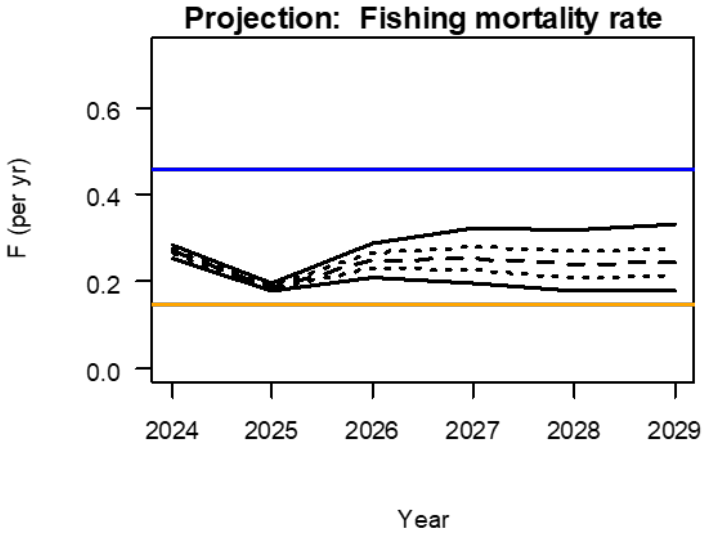
# Results: Status Quo TAC

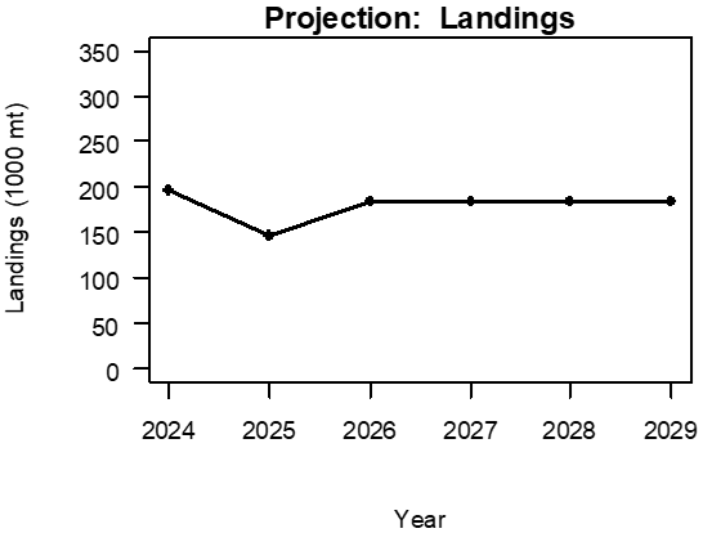
- 99.5% probability of being above the F target and a 0% chance of exceeding the F threshold in 2029




- 36.5% probability of being below the fecundity target and a 2.5% chance of being below the fecundity threshold in 2029



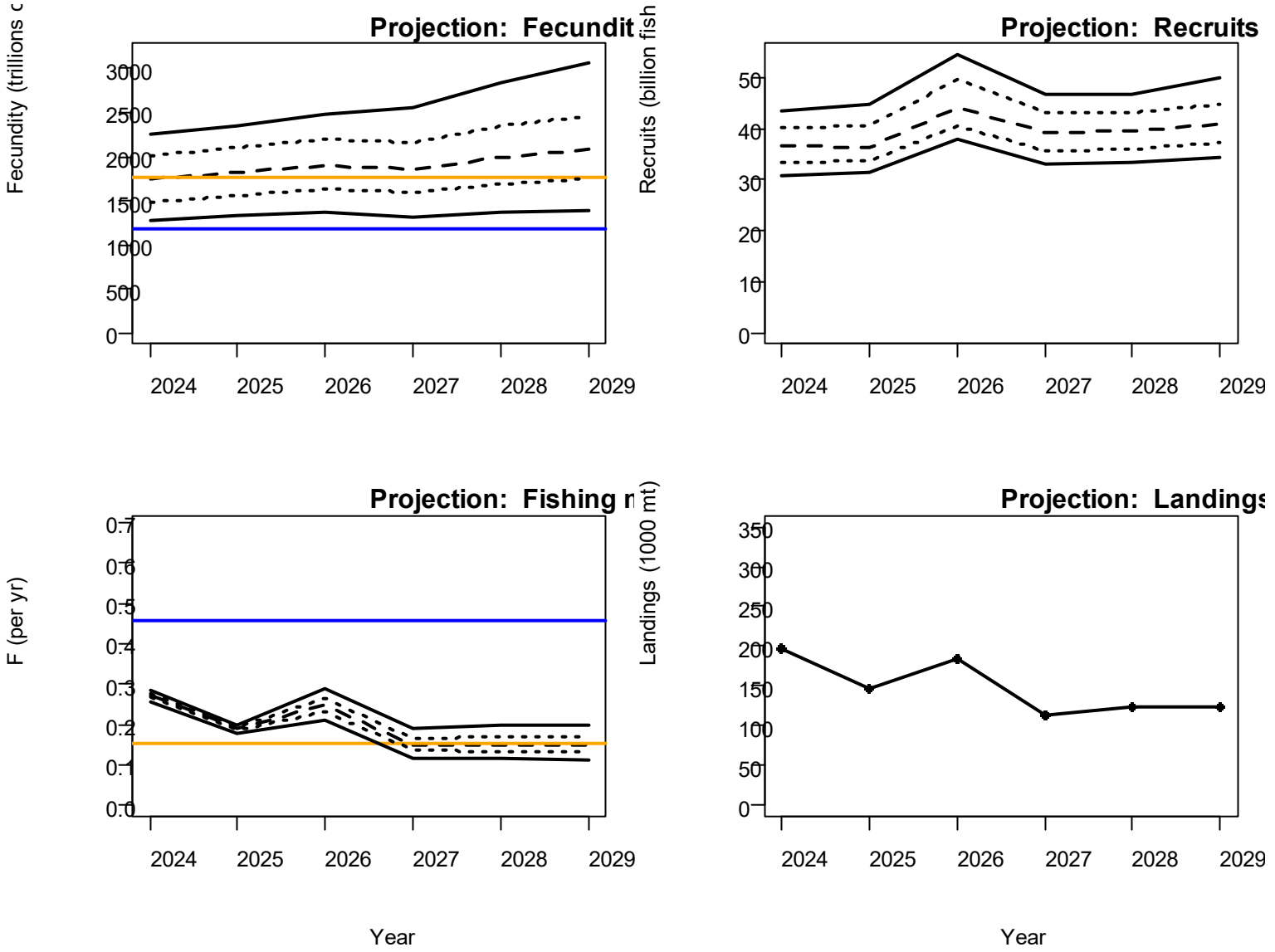



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# Results: 50% Probability

- TAC for 2027-2029 = 114,200mt - 124,800mt

- 50% probability of exceeding the ERP F target and 0% probability of exceeding the F threshold

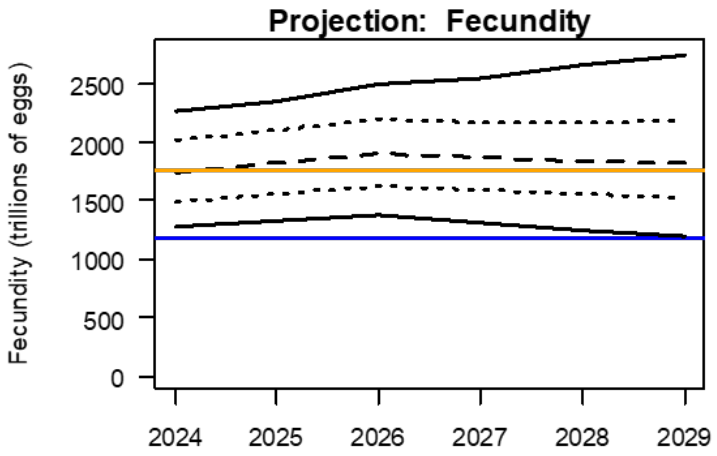


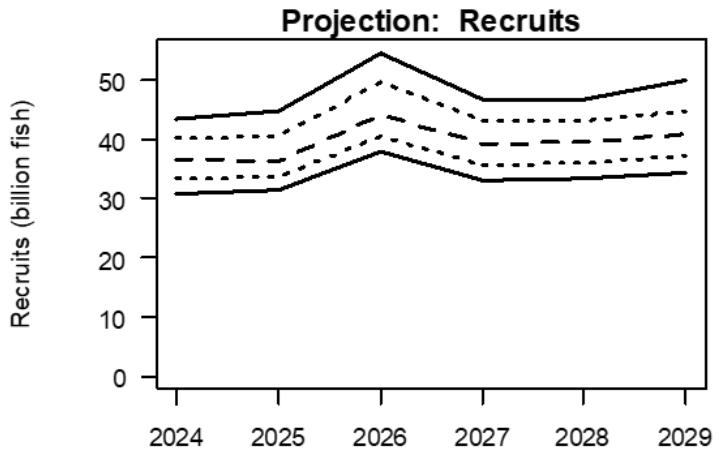
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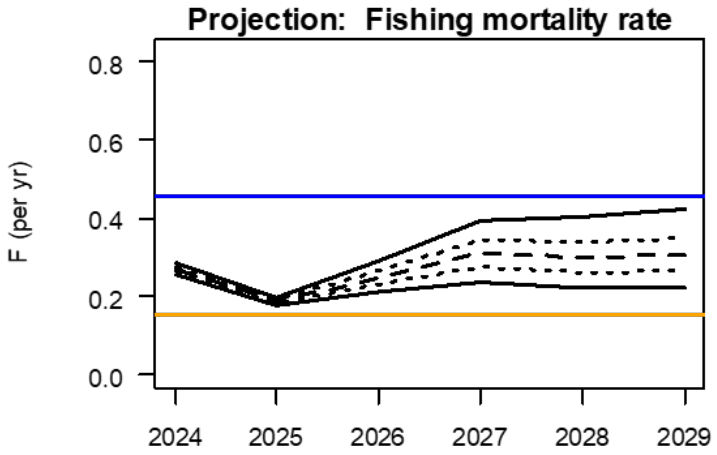
# Results: 20% Increase

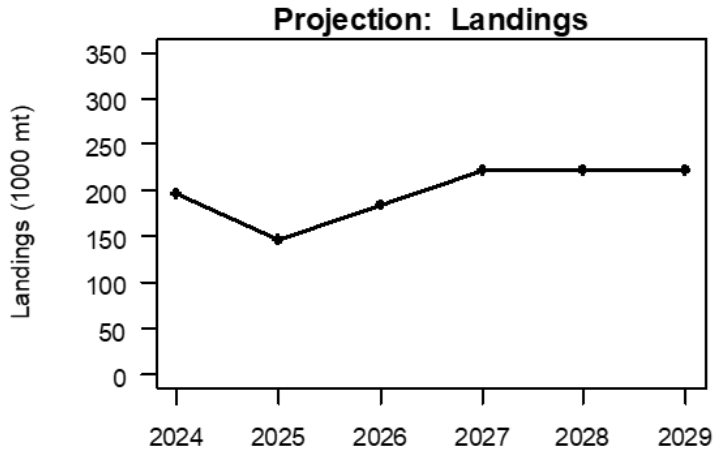
- 99.5% probability of being above the ERP F target and 1.5% probability of being above the ERP F threshold in 2029

- 44.5% probability of being below the fecundity target, 4.5% probability of being below the fecundity threshold



# Results

| Probability of exceeding the ERP F Target | TAC for 2027-2029 | 2027 TAC | 2028 TAC | 2029 TAC | Percent change from 2026 TAC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40% | 110,200 | 110,200 | 120,300 | 120,500 | -41% |
| 45% | 112,200 | 112,200 | 122,900 | 122,700 | -40% |
| **50%** | **114,200** | **114,200** | **124,800** | **124,800** | **-39%** |
| 55% | 116,000 | 116,000 | 127,300 | 127,300 | -38% |
| 60% | 118,200 | 118,200 | 129,800 | 129,800 | -37% |

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# Results

| TAC (Status quo -/+) | Probability of Exceeding the ERP F Target | | | Probability of Exceeding the ERP F Threshold | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 |
| 130,788 (-30%) | 72% | 63% | 62.5% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 140,130 (-25%) | 92% | 77% | 77% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 149,472 (-20%) | 97% | 87.5% | 88.0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 158,814 (-15%) | 99% | 94% | 94.5% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 168,156 (-10%) | 99.5% | 98% | 98% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 177,498 (-5%) | 99.5% | 99.5% | 99.5% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| **186,840 (0%)** | **99.5%** | **99.5%** | **99.5%** | **0%** | **0%** | **0%** |
| 196,182 (+5%) | 99.5% | 99.5% | 99.5% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 205,524 (+10%) | 99.5% | 99.5% | 99.5% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 214,866 (+15%) | 99.5% | 99.5% | 99.5% | 0% | 0% | 0.5% |
| **224,208 (+20%)** | **99.5%** | **99.5%** | **99.5%** | **0%** | **0.5%** | **1.5%** |

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# Sensitivity Runs

- Using the lower landings estimates for 2026 did not have a significant impact on the TACs

| Probability of exceeding the ERP F Target | TAC for 2027-2029 | 2027 TAC | 2028 TAC | 2029 TAC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50% (Base run) | 114,200 | 114,200 | 124,800 | 124,800 |
| 50% (80% TAC utilization in 2026) | 116,500 | 116,500 | 125,600 | 125,000 |

| Scenario | TAC (Status quo -/+) | Probability of Exceeding the ERP F Target | | | Probability of Exceeding the ERP F Threshold | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 |
| Base run | 186,840 (0%) | 99.5% | 99.5% | 99.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| 80% TAC utilization in 2026 | 186,840 (0%) | 99.5% | 99.5% | 99.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

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# Sources of Uncertainty

- Single-species model
  - Some uncertainty around key parameters like M, fecundity, and recruitment is included, but this approach doesn't capture the full range of potential uncertainty
  - Projections assume no changes in fishing effort, no changes to the timing or make-up of the fishery, no changes in menhaden growth
  - No structural model uncertainty in projections
  - Retrospective pattern present; not significant enough to warrant adjustment but still a source of uncertainty

→ Terminal year of the update was 2023, so by 2029, most of the fish in the exploitable biomass are from projected not observed recruitment

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# Sources of Uncertainty

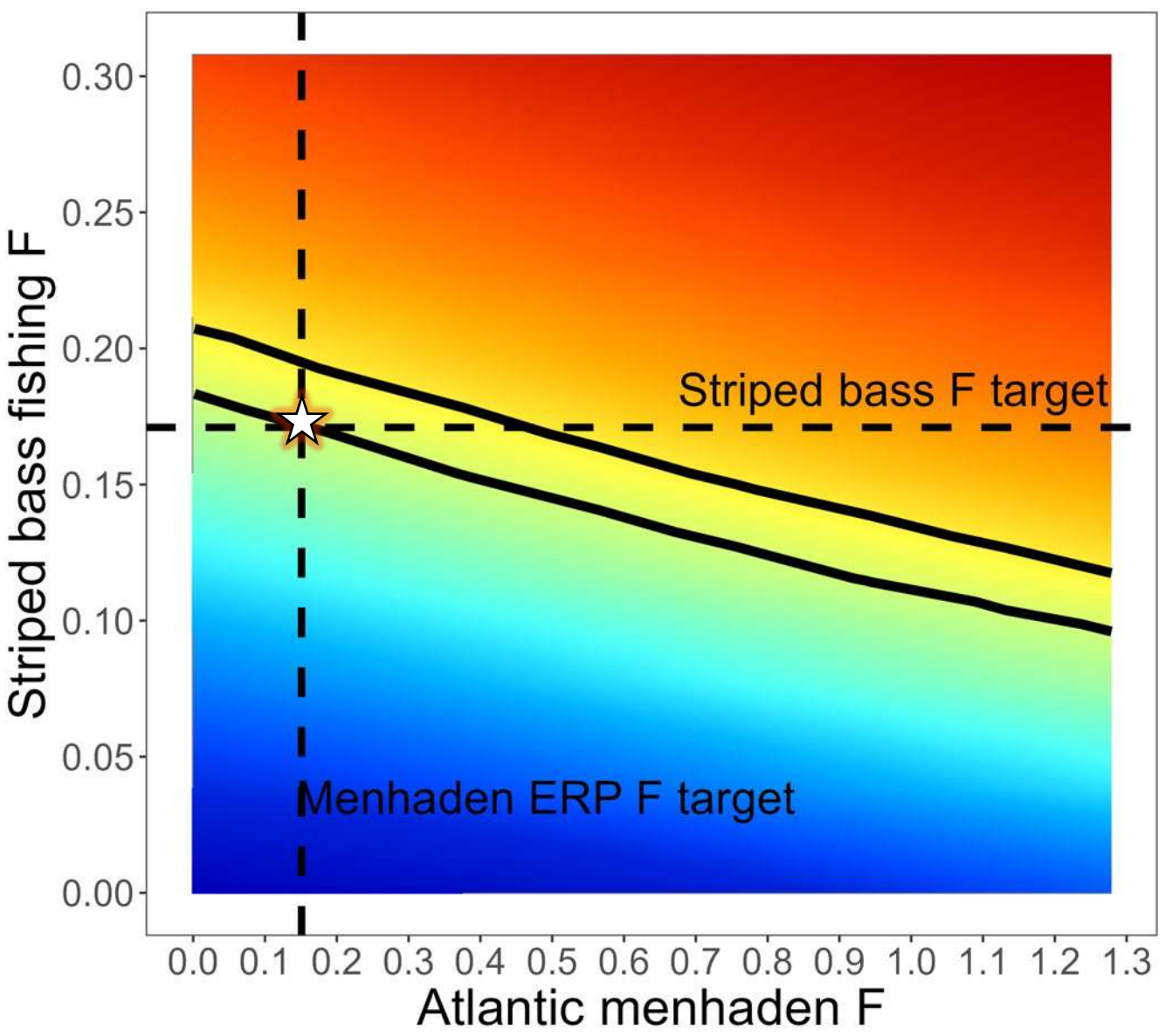
- ERP model: Projections do not incorporate any uncertainty around the ERP target and threshold values
  - ERP model is sensitive to the relationship between spiny dogfish and striped bass
  - Uncertainty about future ecosystem conditions: ERPs currently defined based on current (~2023) population levels for other species in the ERP model

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# ERP Definitions

- Results reflect the current definition of the ERPs

- If the Board redefined the ERP target and threshold, the values of the reference points and the associated TACs could change

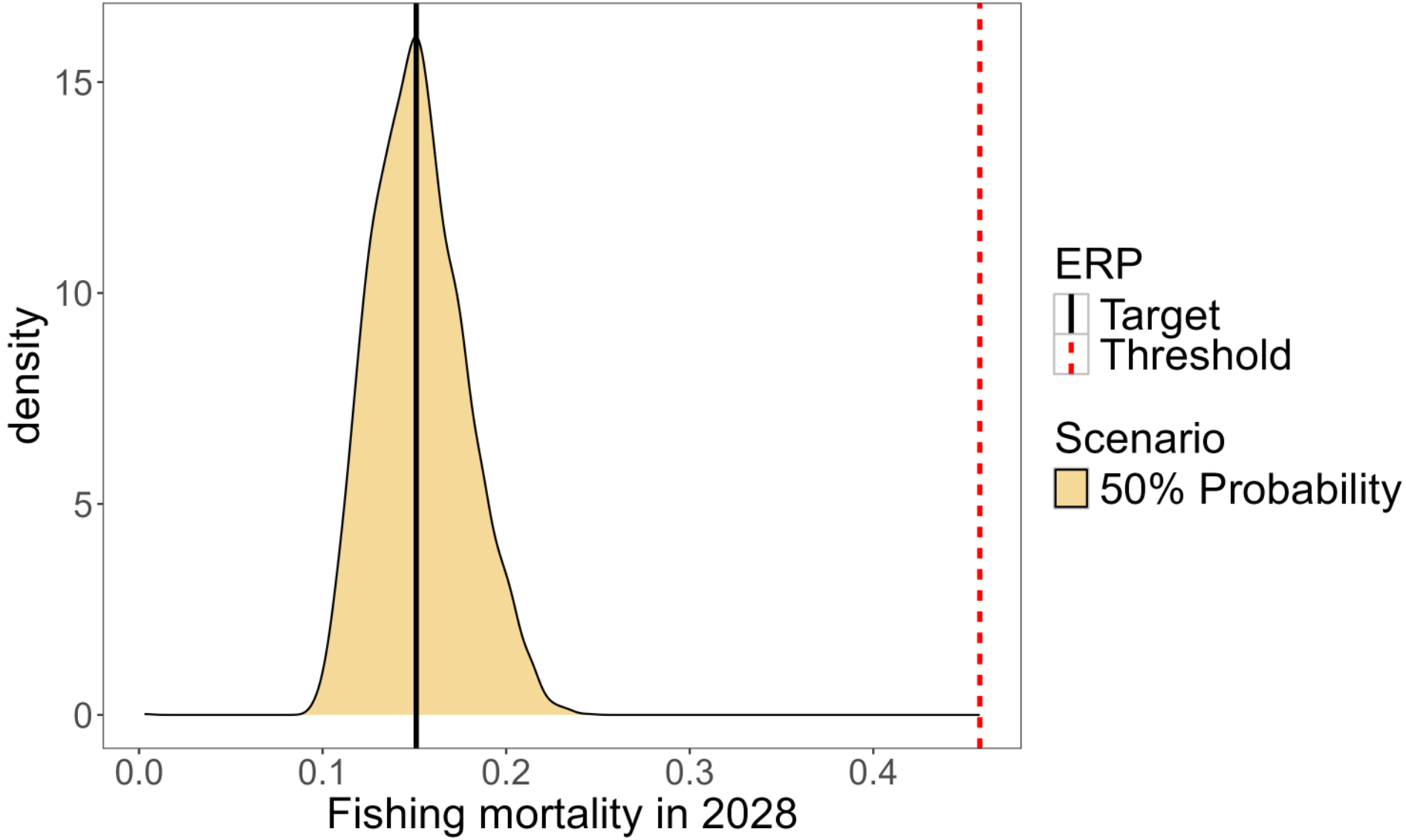


# Questions

# Additional Slides

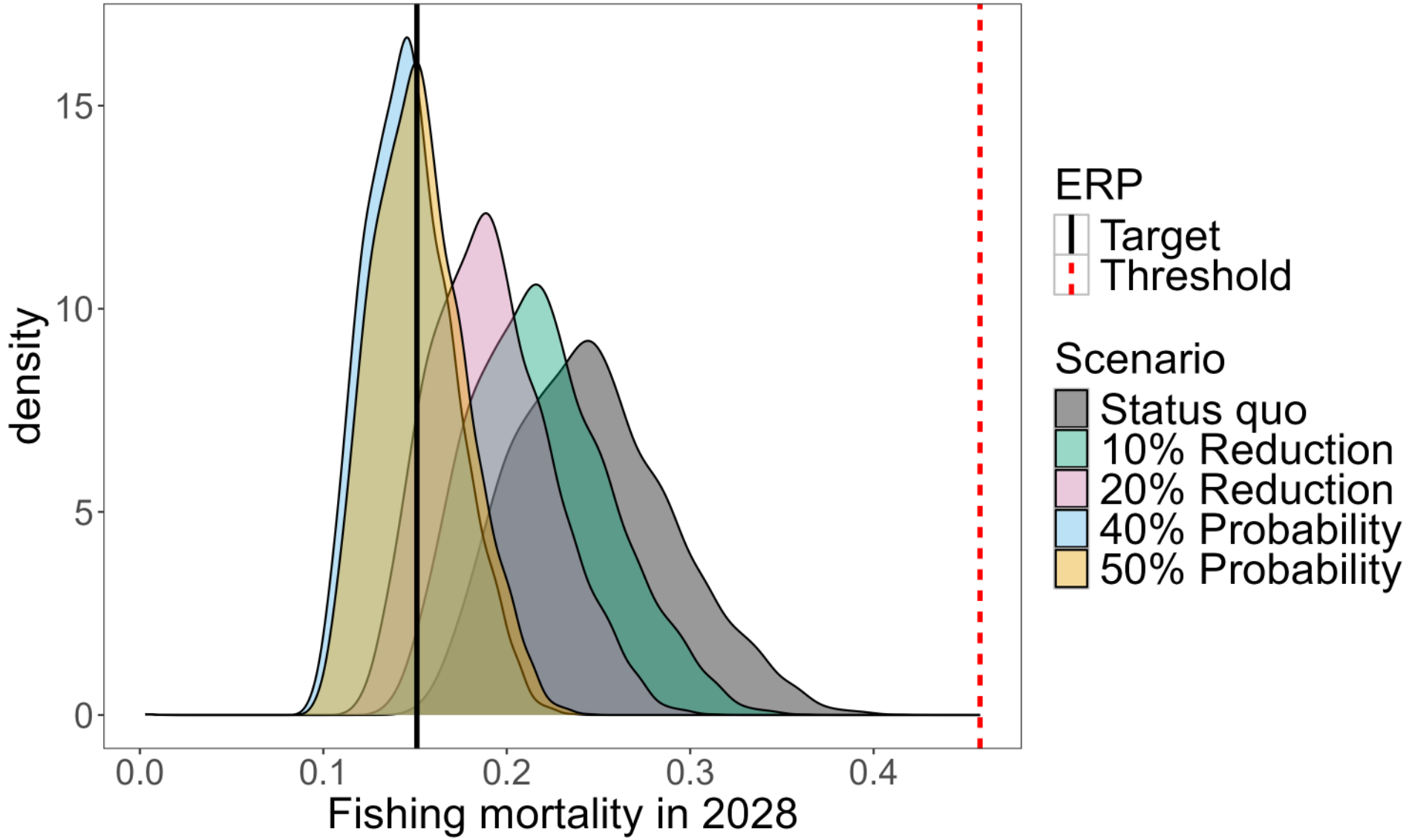
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# Understanding Probability in Projections



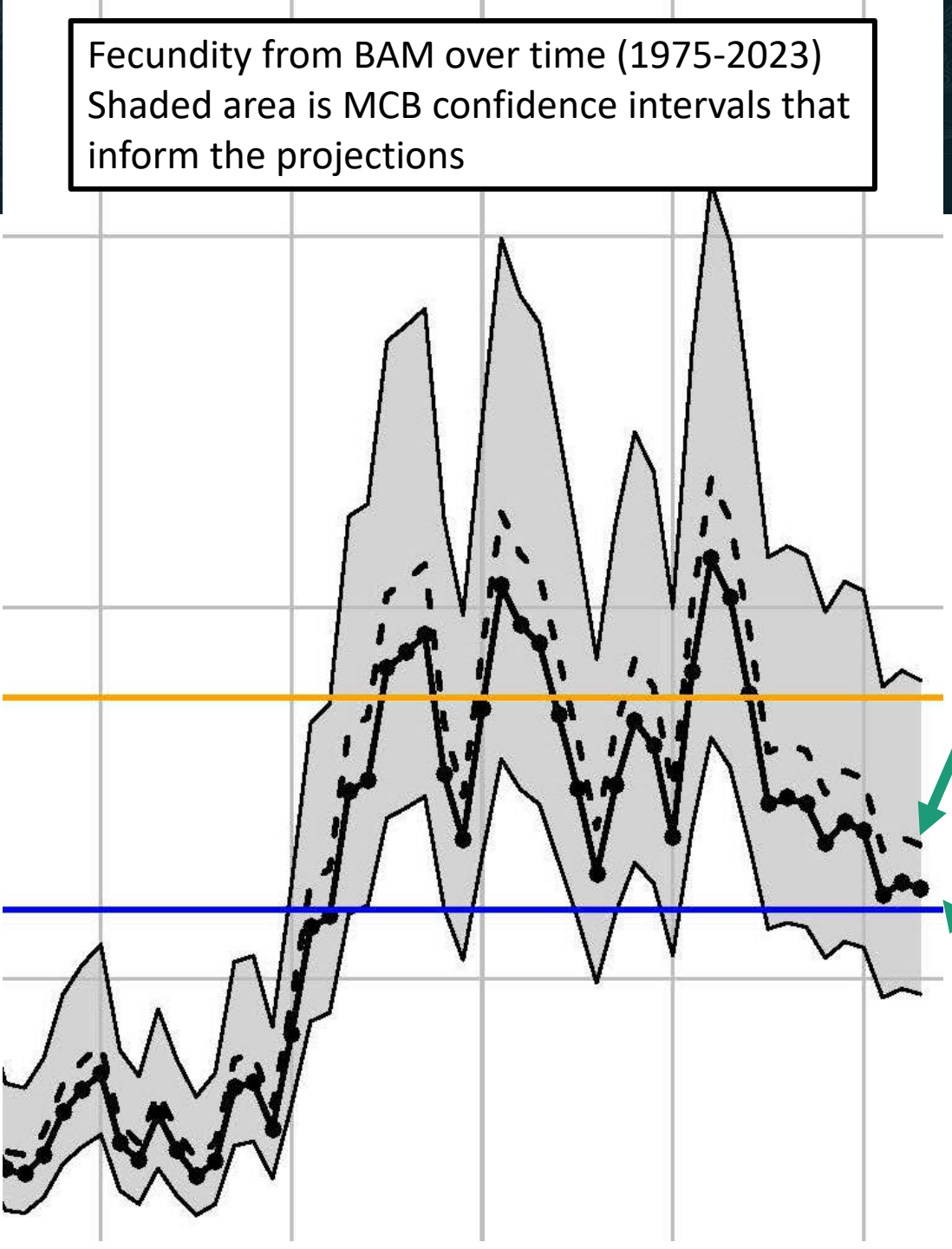
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# Understanding Probability in Projections

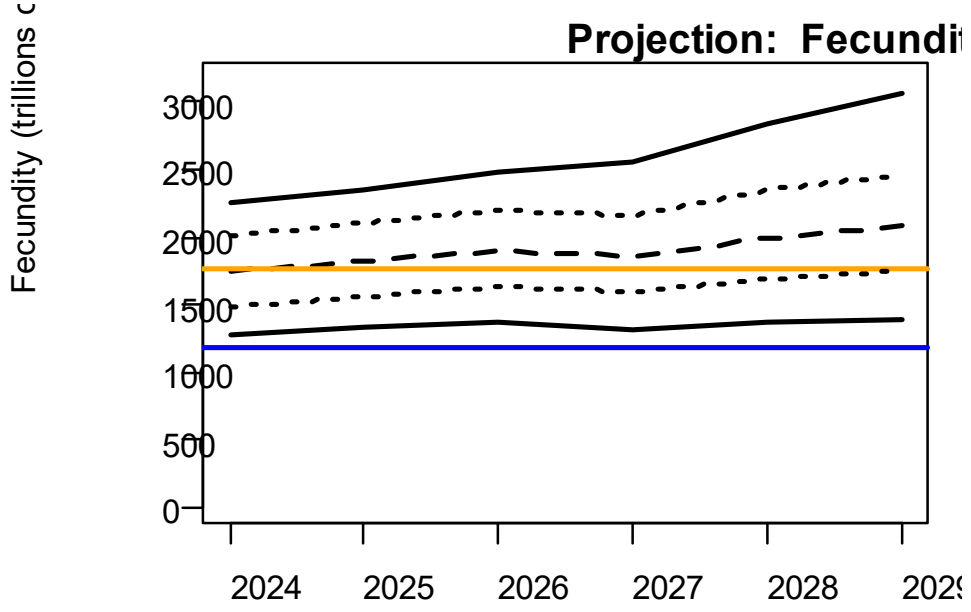


# Fecundity: 2023 vs. 2024

Fecundity from BAM over time (1975-2023)
Shaded area is MCB confidence intervals that inform the projections



Median 2023 terminal year from MCB runs (for projections)




2023 terminal year from assessment (for stock status)

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# Atlantic Menhaden Reallocation



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# Background

- According to Amendment 3, quota allocations will be revisited every three years.
- Current allocations approved in October 2022 and
  - Reviewed in October 2025 where the Board chose to revisit the issue in 2026
- A change to the FMP would be needed for any changes to the allocation structure. Maintaining the current allocations would not require action.

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# Current Allocations

- 1% of TAC set aside for EESA

**Step 1: Minimum Allocation**

**Three-Tiers**

**1st Tier (0.01%): PA**

**2nd Tier (0.25%): CT, DE, NC, SC, GA, FL**

**3rd Tier (0.5%): ME, NH, MA, RI, NY, NJ, MD, PRFC, VA**

**Step 2: Timeframe to allocate remaining TAC**

**Recent Years**

**2018, 2019 & 2021**

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# Relinquished Quota

| State | 2018 Relinquished Quota | 2019 Relinquished Quota | 2020 Relinquished Quota | 2021 Relinquished Quota | 2022 Relinquished Quota | 2023 Relinquished Quota | 2024 Relinquished Quota | 2025 Relinquished Quota |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delaware | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,100,000 | 1,700,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| South Carolina | 2,347,183 | | | | | | | |
| Georgia | 2,357,183 | 2,357,183 | 2,357,183 | | | | | |
| Total | 6,704,366 | 4,357,183 | 4,457,183 | 1,700,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |

- First implemented under Amendment 3
- Delaware is the only state to relinquish quota every year

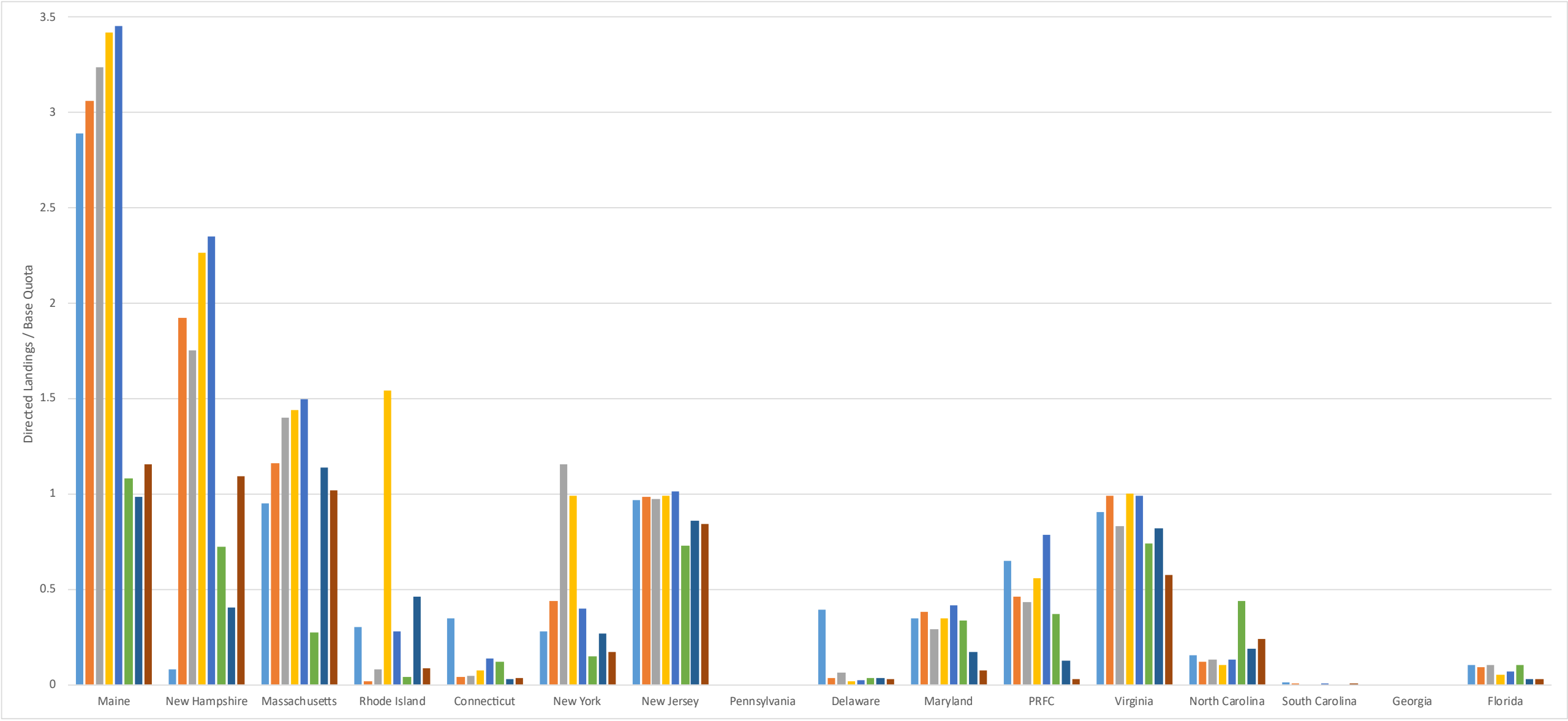
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# Total Landings as % of Coastwide Total

| Jurisdiction | Amendment 3 Directed Landings Allocations (%) | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Addendum I Directed Landings Allocations (%) | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maine | 0.52% | 3.48% | 4.91% | 6.33% | 5.12% | 5.99% | 4.80% | 7.96% | 6.60% | 9.95% |
| New Hampshire | 0.50% | | 0.99% | | 1.12% | 1.16% | 1.19% | 1.19% | | 2.05% |
| Massachusetts | 1.27% | 1.35% | 1.51% | 2.17% | 2.31% | 2.42% | 2.12% | 0.81% | 3.01% | 3.76% |
| Rhode Island | 0.52% | 0.17% | 0.01% | 0.05% | 0.83% | 0.14% | 0.81% | 0.04% | 0.46% | 0.11% |
| Connecticut | 0.52% | 0.20% | 0.02% | 0.03% | 0.04% | 0.07% | 0.33% | 0.05% | 0.01% | 0.02% |
| New York | 0.69% | 0.22% | 0.31% | 1.00% | 0.75% | 0.27% | 0.84% | 0.18% | 0.28% | 0.23% |
| New Jersey | 10.87% | 11.95% | 10.95% | 12.27% | 10.62% | 10.89% | 11.00% | 11.11% | 11.72% | 14.70% |
| Pennsylvania | 0.50% | | | | | | 0.01% | | | |
| Delaware | 0.51% | 0.04% | 0.02% | 0.04% | 0.01% | 0.01% | 0.27% | 0.01% | 0.01% | 0.01% |
| Maryland | 1.89% | 0.74% | 0.73% | 0.64% | 0.65% | 0.78% | 1.17% | 0.54% | 0.25% | 0.14% |
| PRFC | 1.07% | 0.79% | 0.51% | 0.54% | 0.59% | 0.83% | 1.09% | 0.56% | 0.17% | 0.05% |
| Virginia | 78.66% | 80.79% | 79.86% | 75.70% | 77.84% | 77.27% | 75.21% | 77.28% | 76.78% | 68.82% |
| North Carolina | 0.96% | 0.17% | 0.12% | 0.15% | 0.10% | 0.13% | 0.37% | 0.22% | 0.09% | 0.14% |
| South Carolina | 0.50% | | | | | | 0.25% | | | |
| Georgia | 0.50% | | | | | | 0.25% | | | |
| Florida | 0.52% | 0.06% | 0.05% | 0.06% | 0.03% | 0.04% | 0.29% | 0.04% | 0.01% | 0.01% |
| **Total** | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |

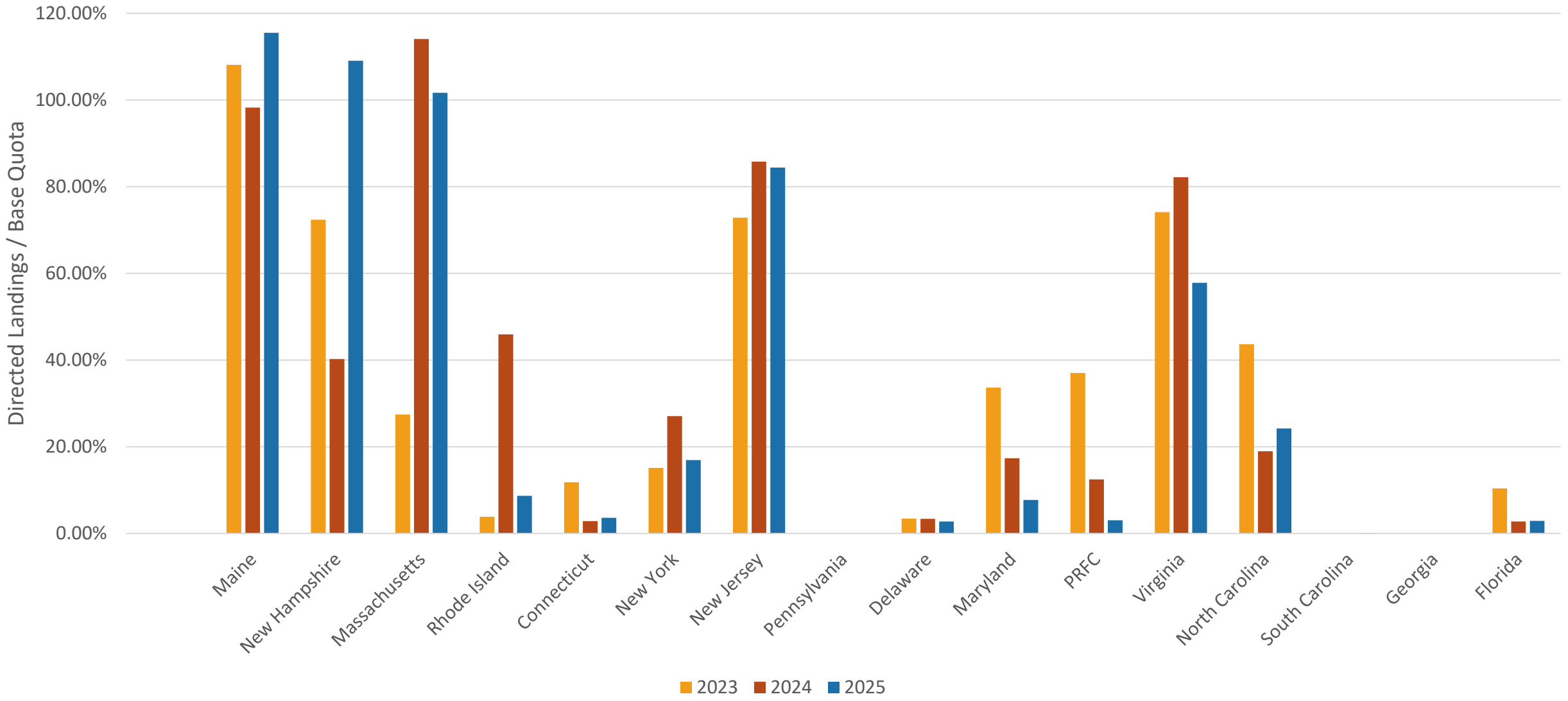
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# State Quota Utilization



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# State Quota Utilization



# EESA

| Year | States Declared Participation | EESA Quota (MT) | Landed (MT) | % EESA Quota Used |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2018 | ME | 2,031 | 2,103 | 103.6% |
| 2019 | ME | 2,160 | 1,995 | 92.4% |
| 2020 | ME, MA | 2,160 | 2,080 | 96.3% |
| 2021 | ME, MA, RI | 1,944 | 2,213 | 113.8% |
| 2022 | ME, MA | 1,944 | 1,992 | 102.4% |
| 2023 | ME | 2,317 | 1,274 | 55.0% |
| 2024 | ME | 2,336 | 1,389 | 59.5% |
| 2025 | ME, MA | 2,336 | 2,223 | 95.2% |

- 1% of the TAC set aside annually to address ‘episodic’ events
- Available for states if quota is met prior to September 1
- Eligible states: Maine-New York

# IC/SSF

| State | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ME | 2,995 | 10,751 | 13,605 | 11,771 | 15,602 |
| MA | | | 49 | 174 | 595 |
| RI | | | | C | |
| CT | | | | C | |
| NY | | | 282 | 310 | |
| NJ | 204,240 | | 20 | C | |
| DE | | | | | |
| MD | | | | | |
| PRFC | | | | | |
| VA | 110,281 | | | | 1,784 |
| FL | | | | | |
| Total | 3,215 | 10,751 | 13,957 | 12,336 | 16,152 |

- No reported IC/SSF landings in 2023-2025

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# Quota Transfers

| Jurisdiction | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Pre-Addendum I Total | Pre-Addendum I Average | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Post-Addendum I Total | Post-Addendum I Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maine | 5,400,000 | 6,573,592 | 5,450,000 | 5,437,698 | 5,380,000 | **28,241,290** | **5,648,258** | 1,150,000 | 2,000,000 | 3,250,000 | **6,400,000** | **2,133,333** |
| New Hampshire | 0 | 3,373,592 | 2,300,000 | 2,686,318 | 3,070,000 | **11,429,910** | **2,285,982** | 0 | -2,000,000 | 1,000,000 | **-1,000,000** | **-333,333** |
| Massachusetts | 0 | 1,300,000 | 2,350,000 | 2,492,791 | 3,020,000 | **9,162,791** | **1,832,558** | -100,000 | 1,700,000 | 160,000 | **1,760,000** | **586,667** |
| Rhode Island | 0 | -400,000 | -1,800,000 | 1,240,675 | -1,460,000 | **-2,419,325** | **-483,865** | -300,000 | -500,000 | -410,000 | **-1,210,000** | **-403,333** |
| Connecticut | -500,000 | -2,400,000 | -2,000,000 | -2,000,000 | -2,110,000 | **-9,010,000** | **-1,802,000** | -750,000 | 0 | -1,500,000 | **-2,250,000** | **-750,000** |
| New York | -1,000,000 | -1,900,000 | 500,000 | 0 | 0 | **-2,400,000** | **-480,000** | 0 | 0 | -1,000,000 | **-1,000,000** | **-333,333** |
| New Jersey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 275,000 | 1,850,000 | **2,125,000** | **425,000** | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** | **0** |
| Pennsylvania | 0 | 0 | -500,000 | -1,086,318 | -1,300,000 | **-2,886,318** | **-577,264** | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** | **0** |
| Delaware | -150,000 | 0 | -100,000 | 0 | -870,000 | **-1,120,000** | **-224,000** | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** | **0** |
| Maryland | -1,500,000 | -1,000,000 | -1,350,000 | -1,000,000 | -2,500,000 | **-7,350,000** | **-1,470,000** | 0 | 0 | -1,000,000 | **-1,000,000** | **-333,333** |
| PRFC | 0 | 0 | 0 | -900,000 | -1,000,000 | **-1,900,000** | **-380,000** | -1,992,297 | 0 | 0 | **-1,992,297** | **-664,099** |
| Virginia | -1,000,000 | -1,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 4,310,000 | **2,310,000** | **462,000** | 1,992,297 | 0 | 0 | **1,992,297** | **664,099** |
| North Carolina | 0 | -600,000 | -1,800,000 | -2,000,000 | -2,950,000 | **-7,350,000** | **-1,470,000** | 0 | 0 | -500,000 | **-500,000** | **-166,667** |
| South Carolina | 0 | -2,347,184 | -1,650,000 | -1,775,000 | -2,120,000 | **-7,892,184** | **-1,578,437** | 0 | -700,000 | 0 | **-700,000** | **-233,333** |
| Georgia | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1,971,164 | -2,000,000 | **-3,971,164** | **-794,233** | 0 | -500,000 | 0 | **-500,000** | **-166,667** |
| Florida | -1,250,000 | -1,600,000 | -1,400,000 | -1,400,000 | -1,320,000 | **-6,970,000** | **-1,394,000** | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** | **0** |

# Questions?

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# Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3

## Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery



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# Outline

- Timeline of Draft Addendum II
- Review Proposed Management Options
  - Reducing the Chesapeake Bay Cap
  - Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution
  - Revisit Chesapeake Bay Cap
- Public Comment Overview
- AP Report (B. Garrity-Blake)
- Consider Final Approval of Draft Addendum II

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# Draft Addendum II Timeline

| Date | Action |
|---|---|
| October 2025 | Atlantic Menhaden Board Initiates Draft Addendum II |
| November 2025 – July 2026 | Plan Development Team Develops Draft Addendum II for Board Review |
| August 2026 | Atlantic Menhaden Board Reviews Draft Addendum II and Considers Its Approval for Public Comment |
| August– October 2026 | Public Comment Period, including Public Hearings |
| **November 2026** | **Board Reviews Public Comment, Selects Management Options and Considers Final Approval of Addendum II** |
| TBD | Provisions of Addendum II are Implemented |

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# Public Hearing Overview

## Public Hearings

- 7 public hearings were held for 11 jurisdictions
- 861 public participants

## Written Comment

- A total of 48,320 comments received
- 43,202 received through form letters
- 145 organizations submitted comments
- 44 government signatories
- Remaining (4,923) generally came from individual stakeholders, including commercial/recreational fishers and concerned citizens

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# Options Categories

***Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap Amount*** *(Section 3.1)*

**Option A (Status Quo):** Bay Cap remains 51,000 mt

**Option B (One-time reduction):** B1. 45,900 mt; B2. 40,800 mt; B3. 35,700 mt; B4. 25,500 mt

**Option C (Link Bay Cap to TAC):**

1. <u>Proportion of TAC</u>

C1a. 27.3%; C1b. 24.6%; C1c. 21.8%; C1d. 19.1%; C1e. 13.6%

<u>2. Upper and Lower Limits to Cap</u>

C2a. 0-51,000mt; C2b. 25,500-51,000mt; C2c. 0-87,216mt; C2d. 25,500-87,216mt; C2e. 29,000-75,000mt

***Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution*** *(3.2.1)*

**Option A: (SQ)** Annual measure with no quota periods

**Option B: Three quota periods:**

B1. Even length/Even harvest; B2. Even length/Uneven harvest; B3. Uneven length/Uneven harvest

***Quota Period Overages and Underages*** *(3.2.2)*

**Option A. (SQ)** No paybacks

**Option B.** Quota period overage payback with rollover of unused quota within a fishing year

**Underage Sub Option 1:** Even rollover to quota periods 2 and 3

***Bay Cap Revisit Provision*** *(3.3)*

**Option A: (SQ)** No set timeframe for revisiting the Bay Cap

**Option B:** Bay Cap revisited every three years

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# 3.1 Bay Cap Amount

- Option A. Status Quo: Chesapeake Bay Cap remains at 51,000 mt.
- Option B. One-time Reduction in the Bay Cap
  - Sub Option B1: Reduce by 10% to 45,900 mt
  - Sub Option B2: Reduce by 20% to 40,800 mt
  - Sub Option B3: Reduce by 30% to 35,700 mt
  - Sub Option B4: Reduce by 50% to 25,500 mt

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# 3.1 Bay Cap Amount

- Option C. Linking the Bay Cap to Coastwide TAC

| Option | Proportion | Basis | Cap in 2027 under 2027 TAC (170,000 mt) |
|---|---|---|---|
| C1a | 27.3% | 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC | 46,403 mt |
| C1b | 24.6% | 10% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC | 41,763 mt |
| C1c | 21.8% | 20% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC | 37,123 mt |
| C1d | 19.1% | 30% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC | 34,482 mt |
| C1e | 13.6% | 50% reduction to 2026 Bay Cap : 2026 TAC | 23,202 mt |

| Option | Upper Limit | Lower Limit | Basis |
|---|---|---|---|
| C2a. | 51,000 mt | None | Upper: Current Bay Cap<br>Lower: n/a |
| C2b | 51,000 mt | 25,500 mt | Upper: Current Bay Cap<br>Lower: Maximum Reduction Under Consideration |
| C2c. | 87,216 mt | None | Upper: Highest Cap since management with TAC<br>Lower: n/a |
| C2d. | 87,216 mt | 25,500 mt | Upper: Highest Cap since management with TAC<br>Lower: Maximum Reduction Under Consideration |
| C2e. | 75,000 mt | 29,000 mt | Upper/Lower: Approximate 95% confidence intervals around the approximate 2012-2016 mean Chesapeake Bay reduction harvest. Note: if Sub-Option C1e is selected, the lower limit for this option will be 25,500 mt. |

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# Bay Cap Amount Comment Overview

| | Option A | Option B1 | Option B2 | Option B3 | Option B4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Written Total | 46 | 7 | 29 | 46 | 2,221 |
| Hearing Total | 19 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 62 |

| | Option C1a | Option C1b | Option C1c | Option C1d | Option C1e | Option C2a | Option C2b | Option C2c | Option C2d | Option C2e |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Written Total | 92 | 18 | 34 | 43 | 41,466 | 41,174 | 171 | 11 | 32 | 64 |
| Hearing Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

- Most commenters preferred Options C1e and C2a to set Bay Cap as 13.6% of the TAC with 0-51,000 mt bounds
- Many discussed protecting menhaden's ecosystem function, particularly regarding osprey

# 3.2 Chesapeake Bay Cap Distribution

## 3.2.1 Quota Periods

## 3.2.2 Overages and Rollovers

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# 3.2.1 Quota Periods

- Option A. Status Quo. The Bay Cap remains an annual measure.

| Option | Description | Length of Quota Periods | 2027 Time of Year Example* | Percent of total Bay Cap |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B1** | Even Length & Even Harvest | 9 weeks | May 3–Jul 4 | 33% |
| | | 10 weeks | Jul 5–Sep 12 | 33% |
| | | 9 weeks and 5 days | Sep 13–Nov 19 | 34% |
| **B2** | Even Length & Uneven Harvest | 9 weeks | May 3–Jul 4 | 25% |
| | | 10 weeks | Jul 5–Sep 12 | 25% |
| | | 9 weeks and 5 days | Sep 13–Nov 19 | 50% |
| **B3** | Uneven Length & Even Harvest | 11 weeks | May 3–Jul 18 | 33% |
| | | 6 weeks | Jul 19–Aug 29 | 33% |
| | | 11 weeks and 5 days | Aug 30–Nov 19 | 34% |

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# 3.2.2 Overages and Underages

- Option A. Status Quo. No paybacks
- Option B. Quota period overage payback with rollover of unused quota within a fishing year.
  - Underage Sub Option 1. Even rollover to Quota Periods 2 and 3

# Example

**Example**:

- Quota Periods of 5,000/5,000/10,000 pounds
  - If the fishery catches 7,000/3,000/10,000 pounds (i.e., a Period 1 overage with no Bay Cap overage), then the following year, Period 1 would be reduced by 2,000 pounds and Period 3 would be increased by 2,000 pounds, resulting in allocations of 3,000/5,000/12,000 pounds.

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# Distribution Comment Summary

| Quota Periods | Option A | Option B1 | Option B2 | Option B3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Written Total | 168 | 570 | 41,591 | 170 |
| Hearing Total | 19 | 28 | 26 | 2 |

| Overages/Underages | Option A | Option B | Option B + Sub Option 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Written Total | 345 | 41,019 | 484 |
| Hearing Total | 15 | 10 | 20 |

- Most comments support even length/uneven harvest (25%/25%/50%) quota periods and rollover to period 3
- Many commenters emphasized minimizing fishing pressure in spring and summer

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# 3.3 Revisit Bay Cap

- Option A. Status Quo. There is no set timeframe for the Board to revisit the Bay Cap.
- Option B. Revisit Provision. The Chesapeake Bay Cap will be revisited every three years following implementation of this draft addendum.

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# Revisit Comment Overview

| | Option A | Option B |
|---|---|---|
| Written Total | 177 | 42,141 |
| Hearing Total | 13 | 47 |

- Most commenters prefer a requirement to revisit in 3 years, although many specified that they would support more frequently

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# LEC Feedback

- No preferred option for 3.1 (Bay Cap Amount) and 3.3 (Revisit Provision)
- 3.2.1 Option B (Quota Periods) is enforceable, but it presents two enforcement challenges:
    - Varied opening dates and closures may create uncertainty about whether the fishery is open.
    - Quota carryover between periods requires tracking and regular public outreach to keep the regulated community informed.

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# Atlantic Menhaden Advisory Panel Report

November 10, 2026



# Background

## Advisory Panel Meeting October 21, 2026:

- 10 AP members in attendance
- Reviewed Draft Addendum II and a preliminary summary of public comments
- Additionally, discussed potential reallocation and the 2027-2029 TAC

# Advisory Panel Input

## 3.1 Bay Cap Amount

- 3 AP members support Option A (status quo)
  - No scientific justification; wait for research to be completed
- 2 AP members support Option B4 (50% reduction)
  - Observed decline in menhaden abundance in NY and need to allow more fish to migrate out of the Bay and north

# 3.2 Bay Cap Distribution

- 2 AP members support Option A (status quo)
  - Environmental conditions keeping menhaden offshore
  - Reduction fishery by moving later is already operating after critical osprey nesting period
- 2 AP members expressed support for Bay bait fisheries
  - No specific option selected to avoid speaking for those harvesters

# 3.3 Revisit Provision

- AP supports Option B (3-year provision) by consensus.
- 1 member noted that the timeline should be timed with new data to develop a scientifically-based Cap.

# Quota Reallocation

- 1 member supports maintaining current allocations; successful implementation since 2023
- 1 member supports adjusting the minimum allocations to provide more to states that are meeting their quotas
- 2 members support more quota being allocated to ME and MA to support bait fisheries
    - 1 member also supports shifting quota from VA and NJ as the vast majority of allocation
- 2 members support more quota allocated to bait fisheries but concerned about losing quota due to highly variable landings depending on the chosen timeframe
    - 1 additional member supports more frequent revisit of allocations to accommodate annual variability

# Total Allowable Catch

- 5 members support maintaining or increasing TAC
  - Maintain healthy fishery in ME
  - 0% probability of overfishing under current TAC from 2025 projections. Allocate more quota to growing bait fisheries without removing from NJ or VA
  - Oppose cutting quotas to smaller bait fisheries; if Board wants to reduce the TAC, then remove more from states with most quota

# Questions?

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# Options Categories

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***Bay Cap Revisit Provision*** *(3.3)*

**Option A: (SQ)** No set timeframe for revisiting the Bay Cap

**Option B:** Bay Cap revisited every three years