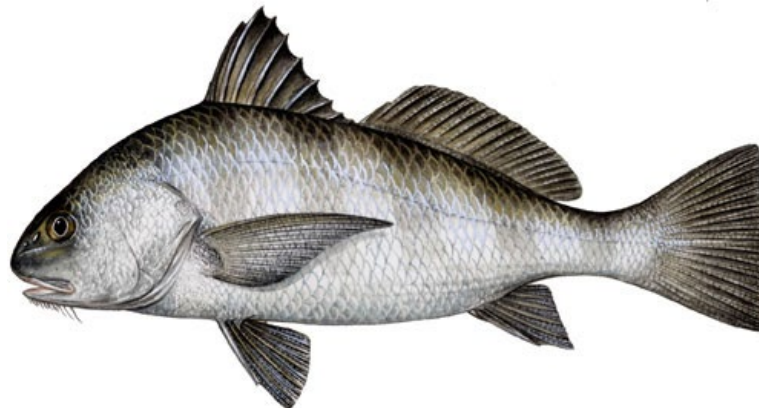




2023 Black Drum Empirical Stock Indicator Update

October 19, 2023



Data Update Process



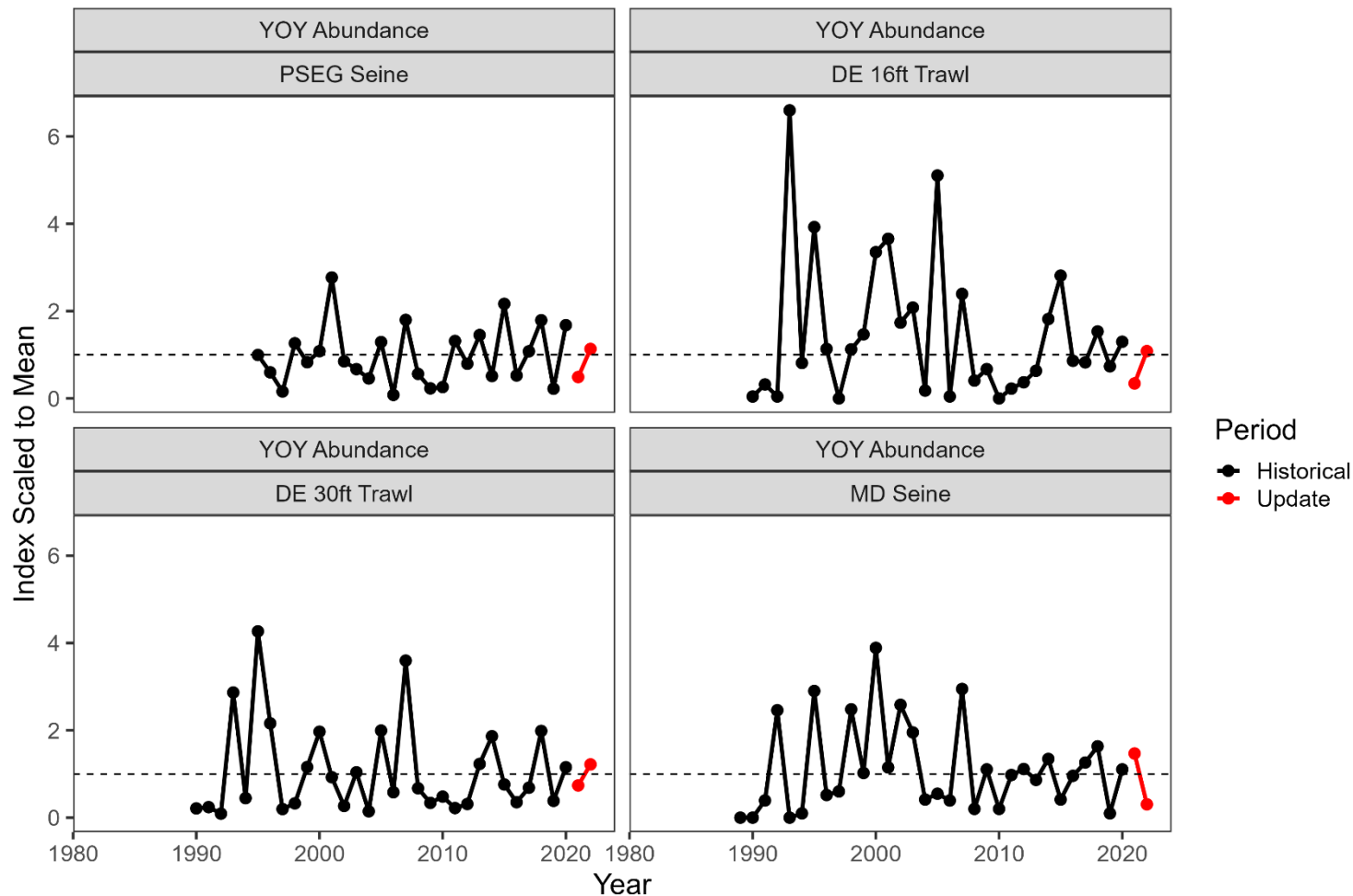
- Black drum stock determined to not be overfished nor experiencing overfishing in 2020
 - Empirical indicators overall did not appear negative
- Lack of contrast in black drum data sets coupled with high uncertainty in model-based estimates
- TC recommended monitoring of empirical stock indicators annually between stock assessments
- Next assessment in 2027, but TC may recommend expediting based on data update

Data Update Process

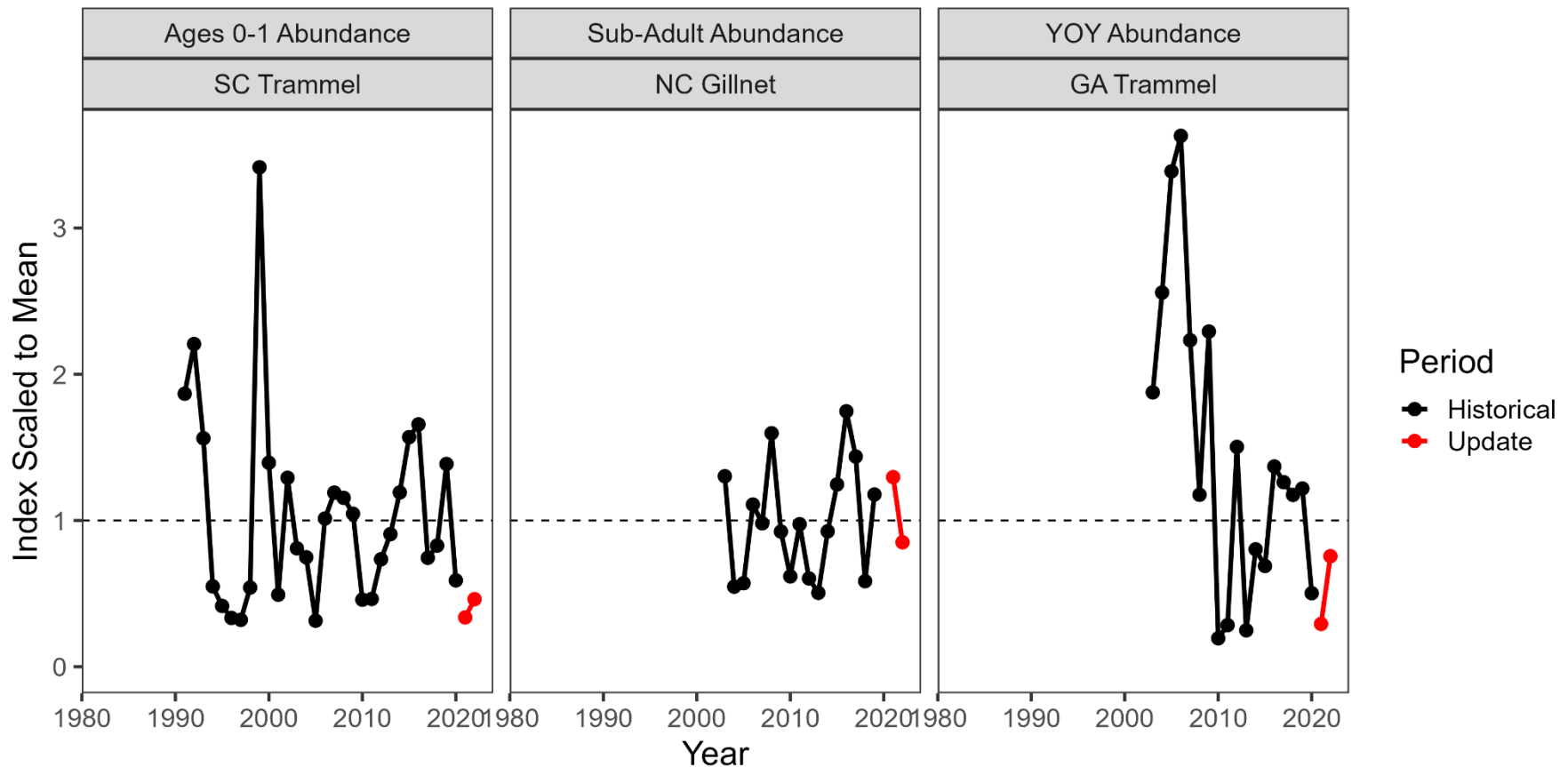


- Recommended indicators:
 - Abundance
 - YOY, age 0-1, subadult, exploitable abundance
 - Range expansion
 - Fishery catch
 - Recreational live releases
 - Recreational harvest
 - Commercial landings
 - Structured by region
- Update years include 2021 and 2022
- Time series mean included for reference

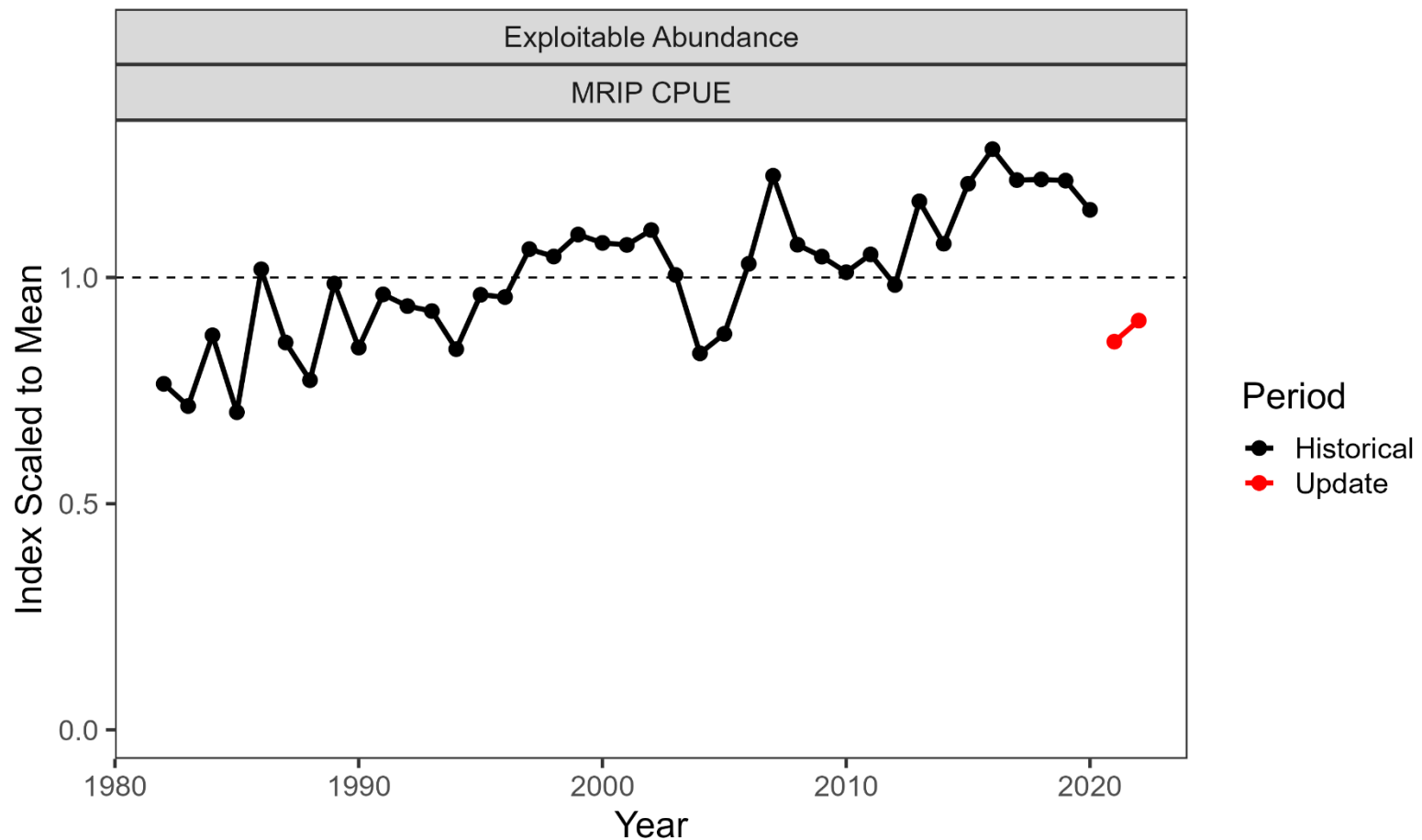
2023 Data Update – Mid-Atlantic Abundance



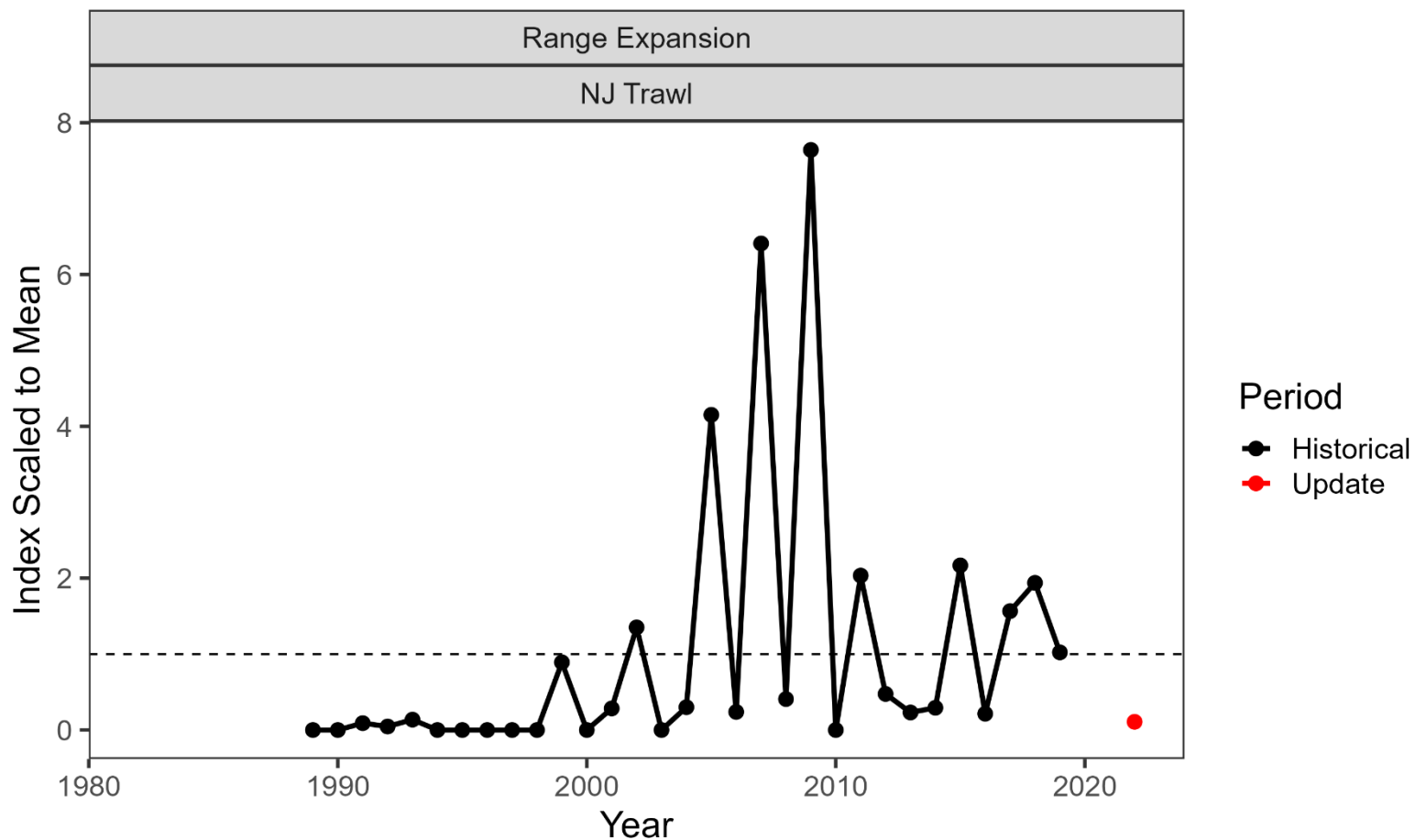
2023 Data Update – South Atlantic Abundance



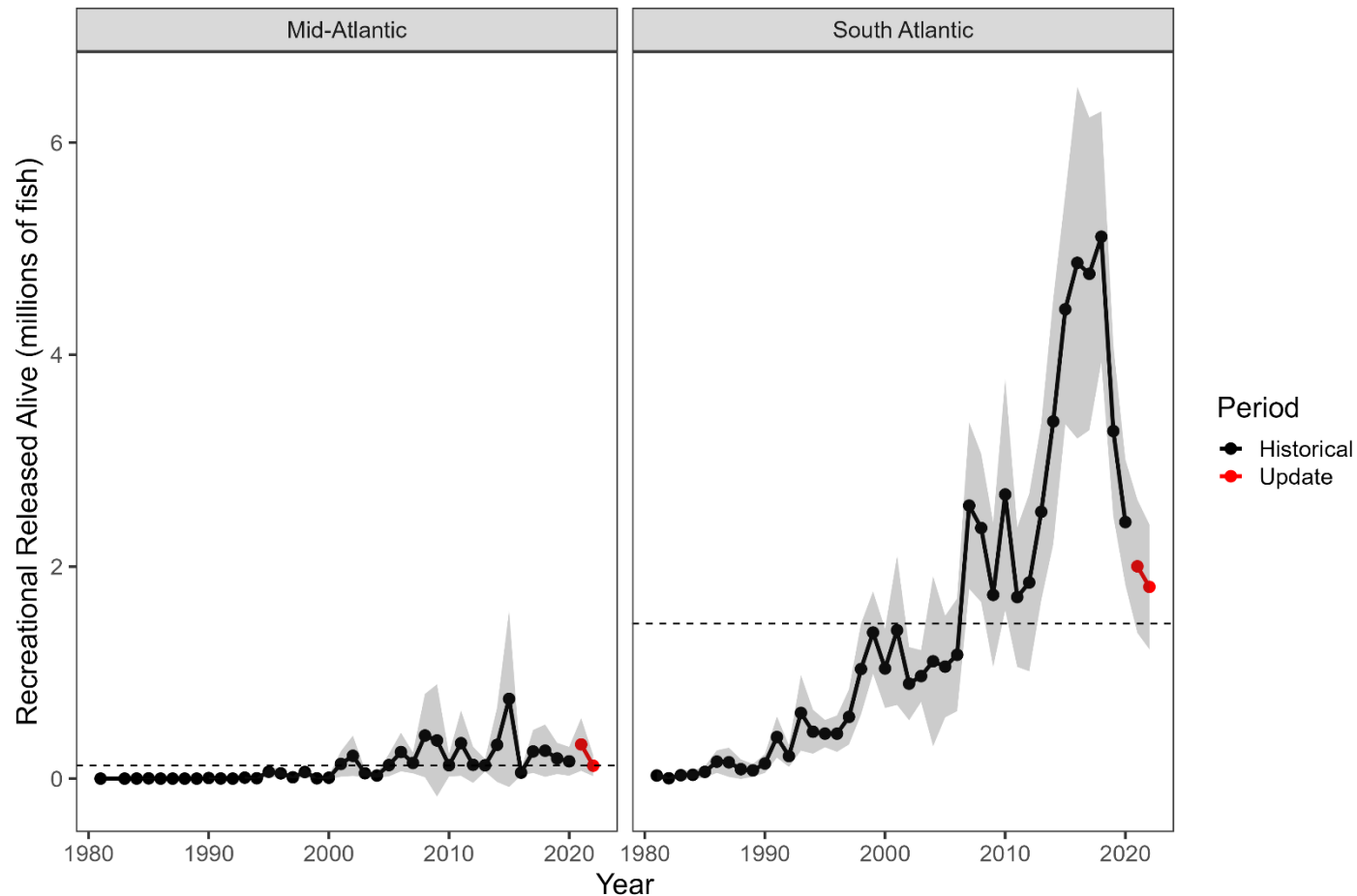
2023 Data Update – Exploitable Abundance



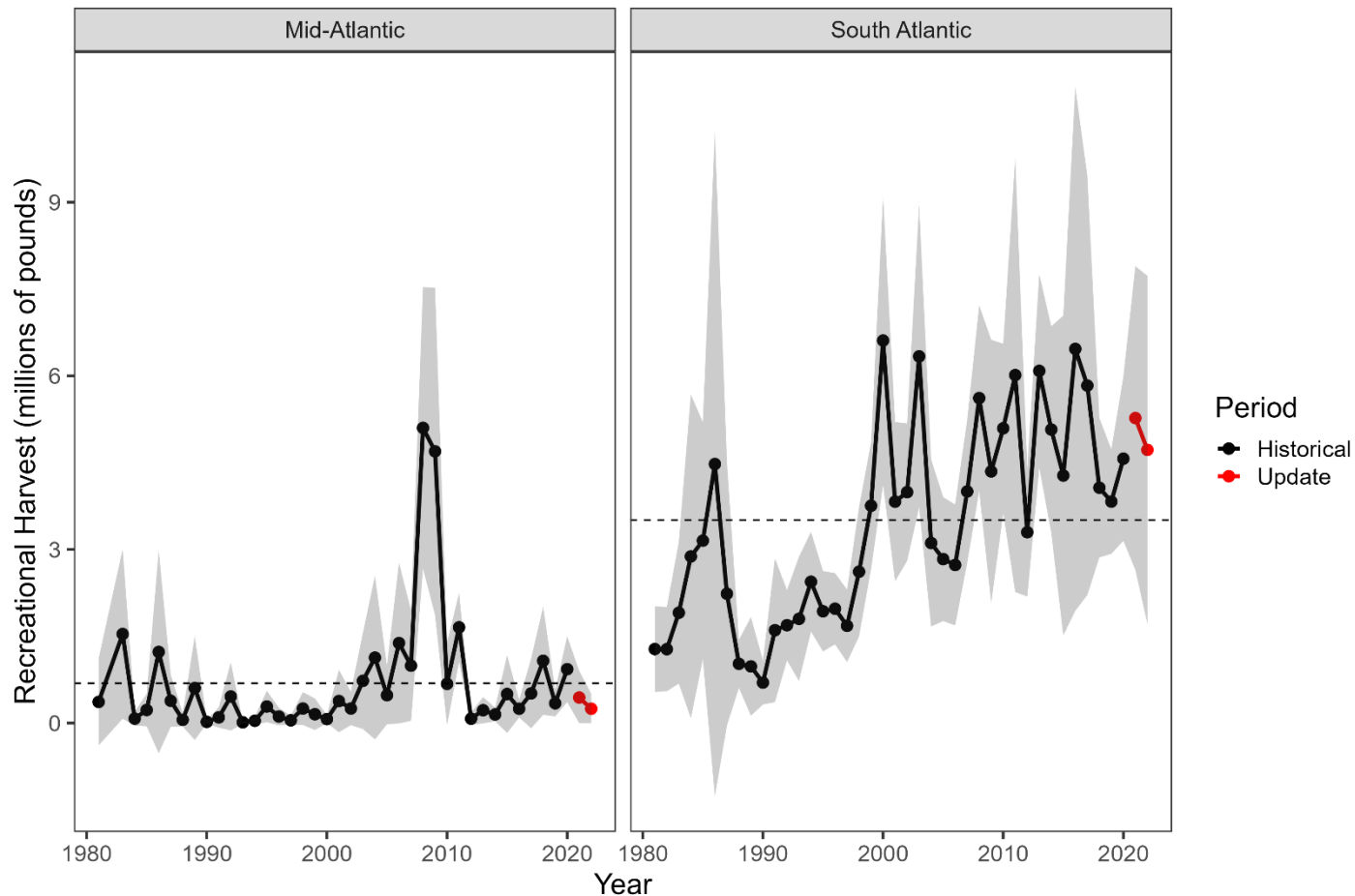
2023 Data Update – Range Expansion



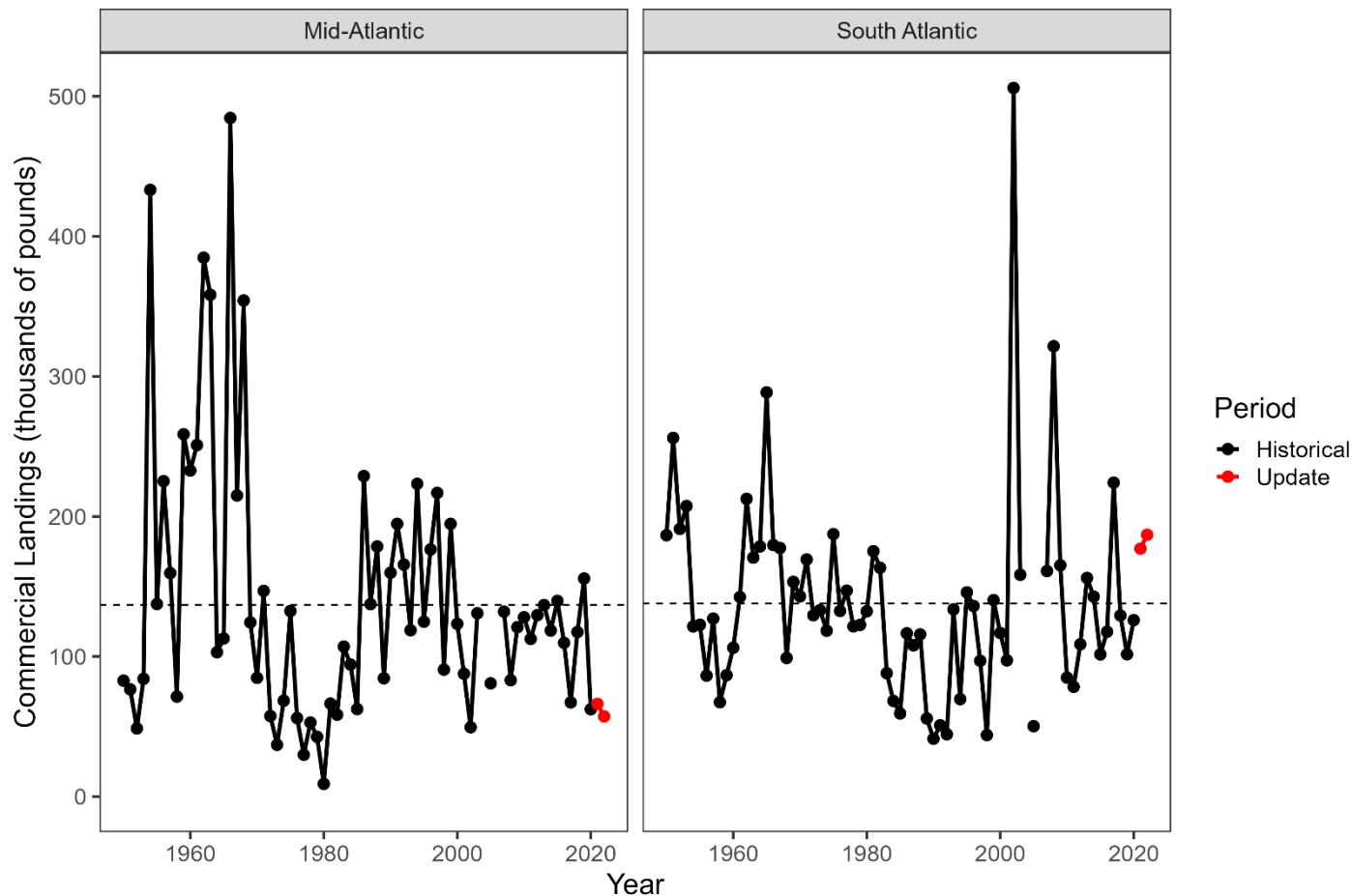
2023 Data Update – Recreational Live Releases



2023 Data Update – Recreational Harvest



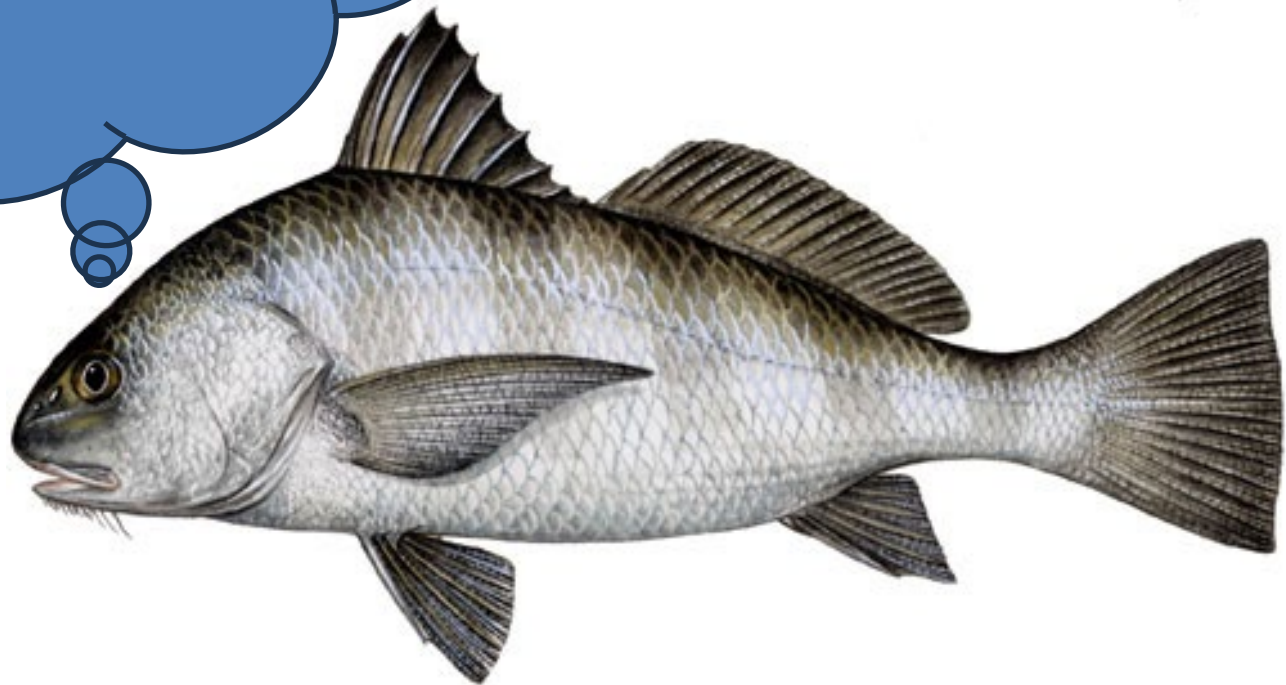
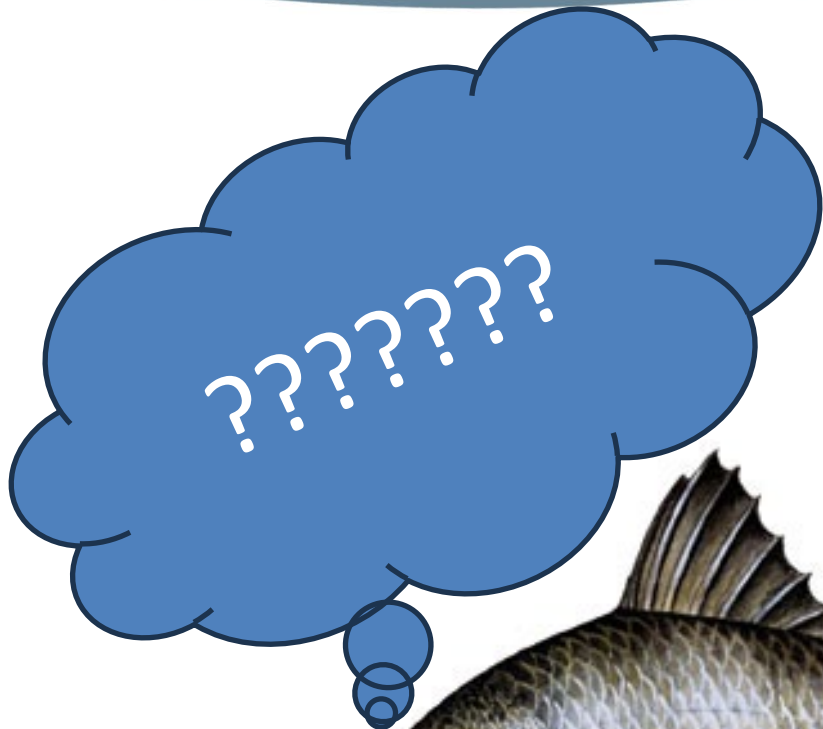
2023 Data Update – Commercial Landings



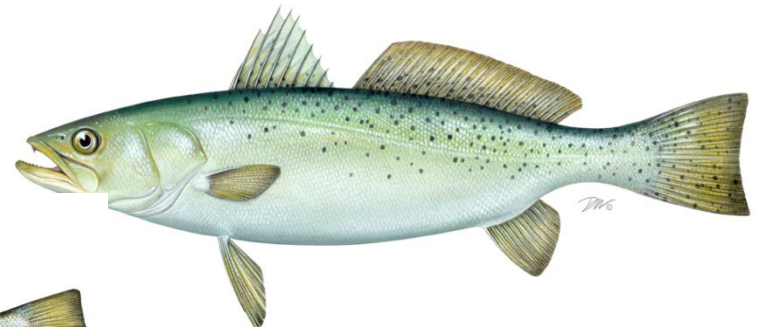
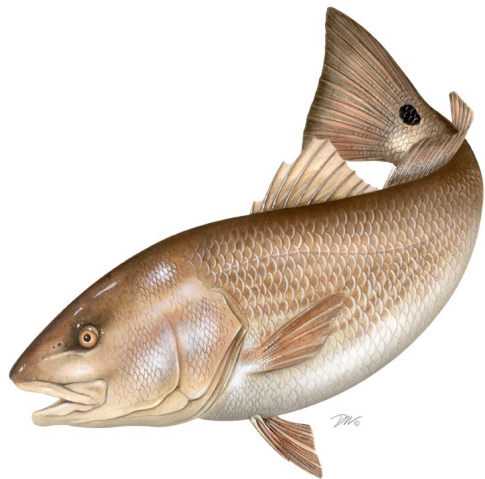


Summary and Recommendation

- Overall, indicators show mixed signs of stability and declines since the assessment
- Only two additional years of data for a long lived species.
- Lower values are still within range of historical range of values.
- **While the declining trends will need to be monitored in the future the TC does not recommend initiating a stock assessment at this time.**



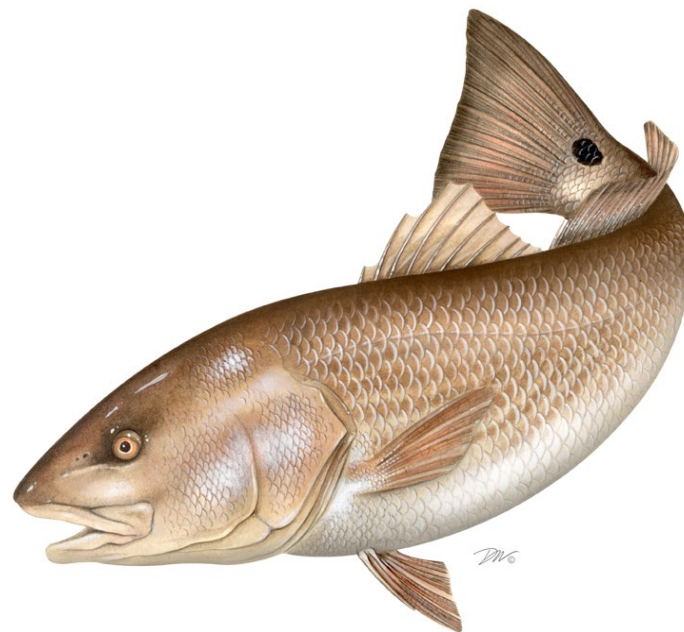
Red Drum, Atlantic Croaker, and Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Review



Sciaenids Management Board
October 19, 2023

Red Drum

Fishery Management Plan Review



Status of the FMP



- Amendment 2 to the Interstate FMP (2002) and Addendum I (2013)
- Amendment 2 Requirements
 - Recreational regulations designed to achieve at least 40% sSPR
 - Maximum size limit of 27 inches or less
 - Maintain current or implement more stringent commercial regulations.



Photo credit: Ken Neill

Status of the Stock



- 2017 Red Drum Stock Assessment – Both northern and southern stock of red drum are not experiencing overfishing; overfished status could not be determined
 - Terminal year 2013
- 2020 Florida Red Drum Assessment – Florida red drum stock on the Atlantic Coast was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring
 - Terminal year 2019

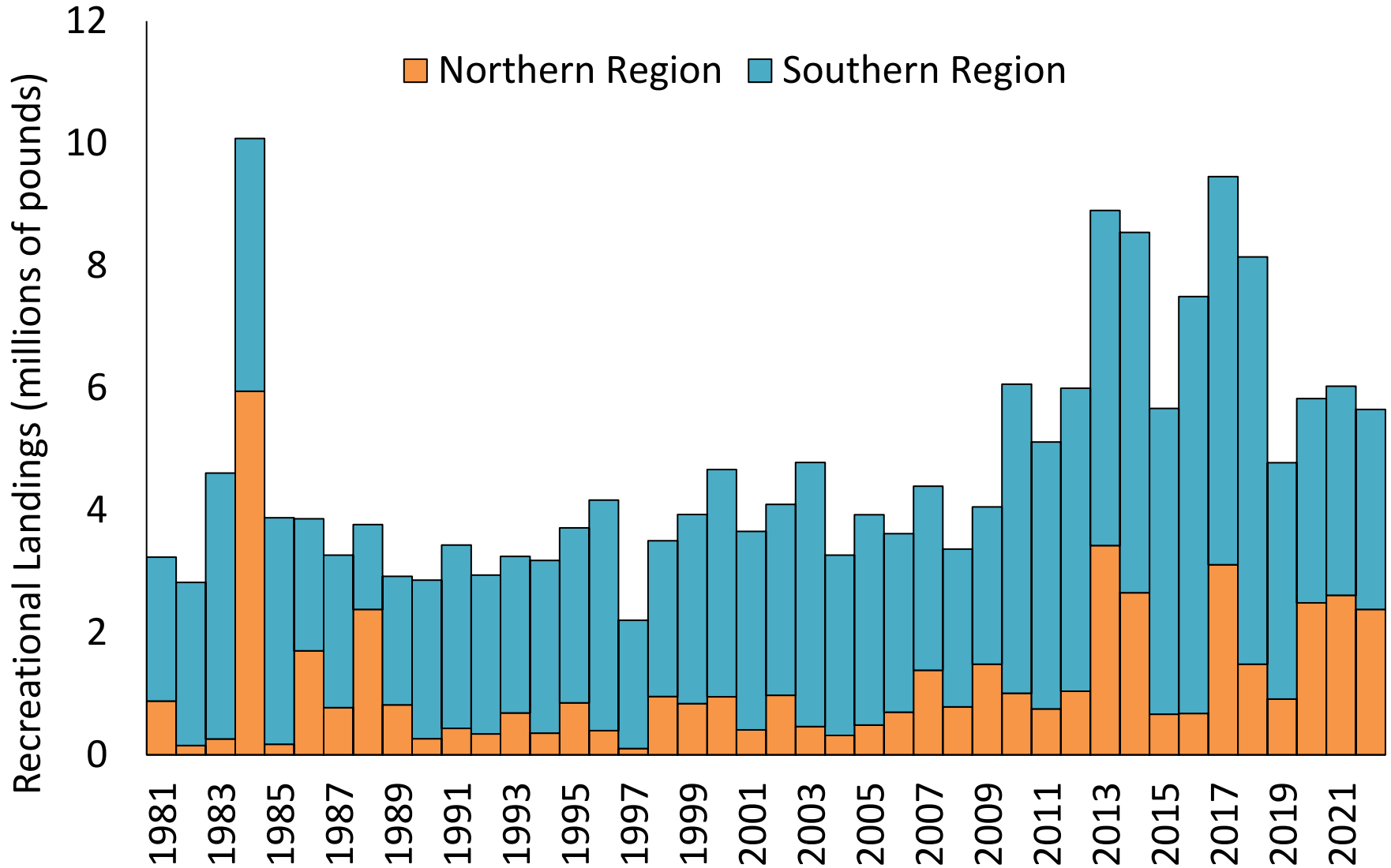
Status of the Fishery



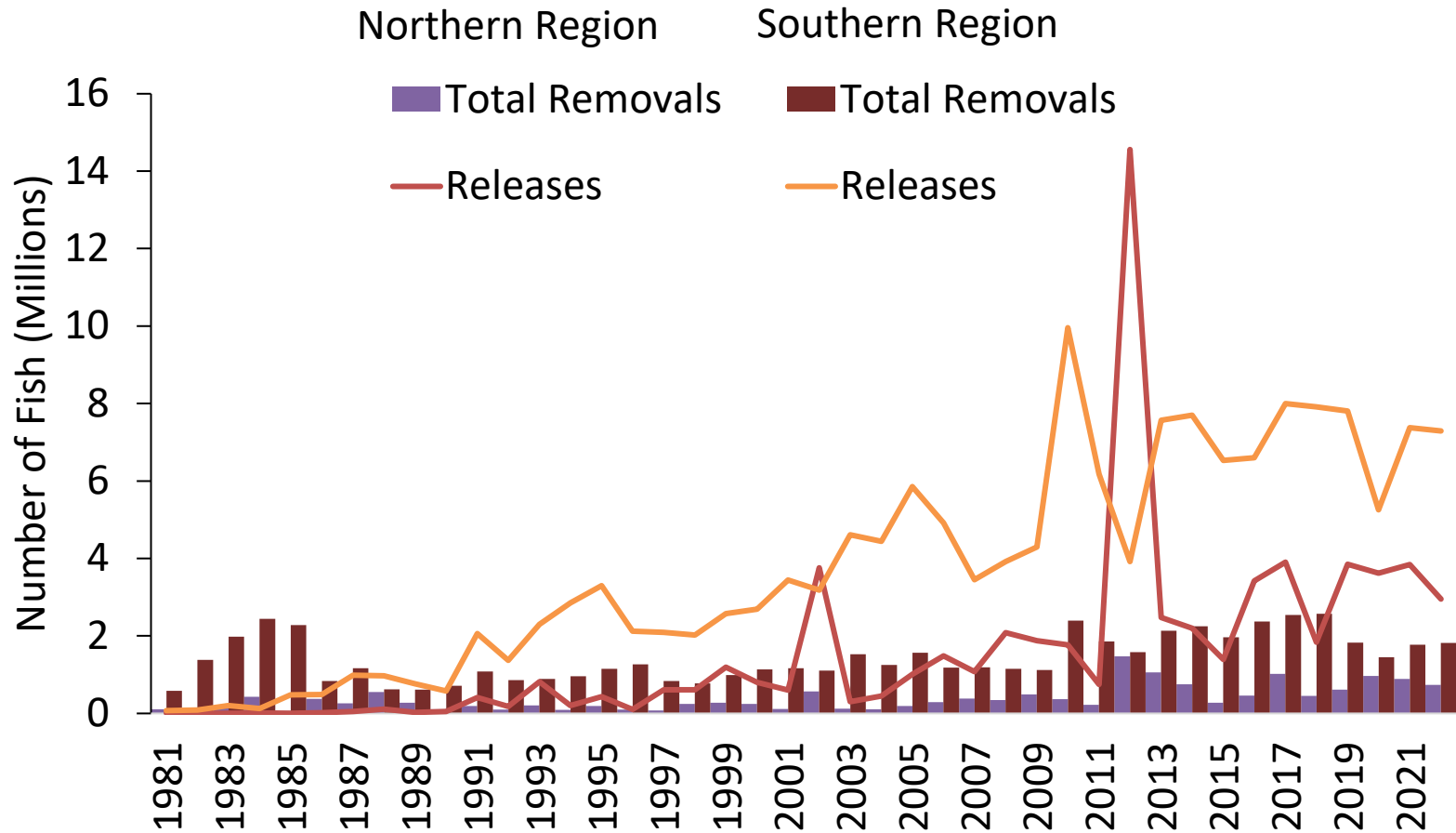
- Total landings in 2022: 5.8 million pounds
- In 2022, 56% of the total landings from southern region, 44% from northern region
- Commercial landings – 192,496 pounds (7% of total northern region landings)



Status of the Fishery - Recreational Landings



Status of the Fishery – Recreational Removals and Releases



Status of Management Measures and Issues



- Changes to State Measures:
 - On September 1, 2022, the following regulation changes went into effect in Florida for red drum:
 - Northeast Region – Reduced the daily bag limit to 1 fish per person per day and reduced the vessel limit to 4 fish.
 - Indian River Lagoon Region – Catch-and-release only until metrics improve.
 - Southeast Region – Maintained a daily bag limit of 1 fish per person per day and reduced the vessel limit to 2 fish.

PRT Recommendations

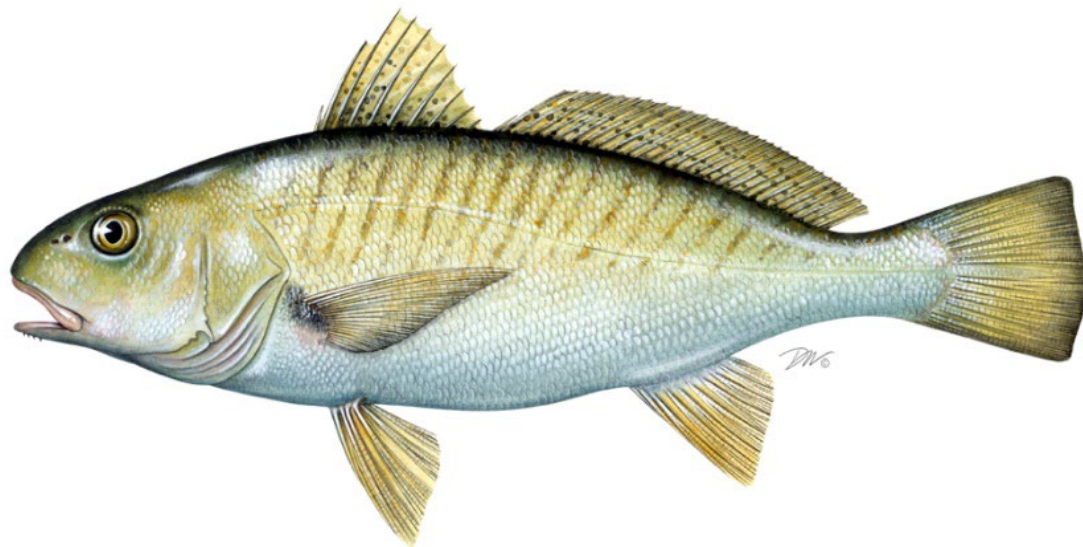


- Found no inconsistencies from the FMP
- PRT recommends the approval of state compliance reports and *de minimis* status for New Jersey and Delaware
- Additional research/monitoring recommendations found in FMP Review document and Red Drum Simulation Assessment and Peer Review Report document



Photo credit: Ken Neill

Atlantic Croaker Fishery Management Plan Review



Status of the FMP



- Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Croaker FMP (2005) and Addenda I-III (2011, 2014, 2020)



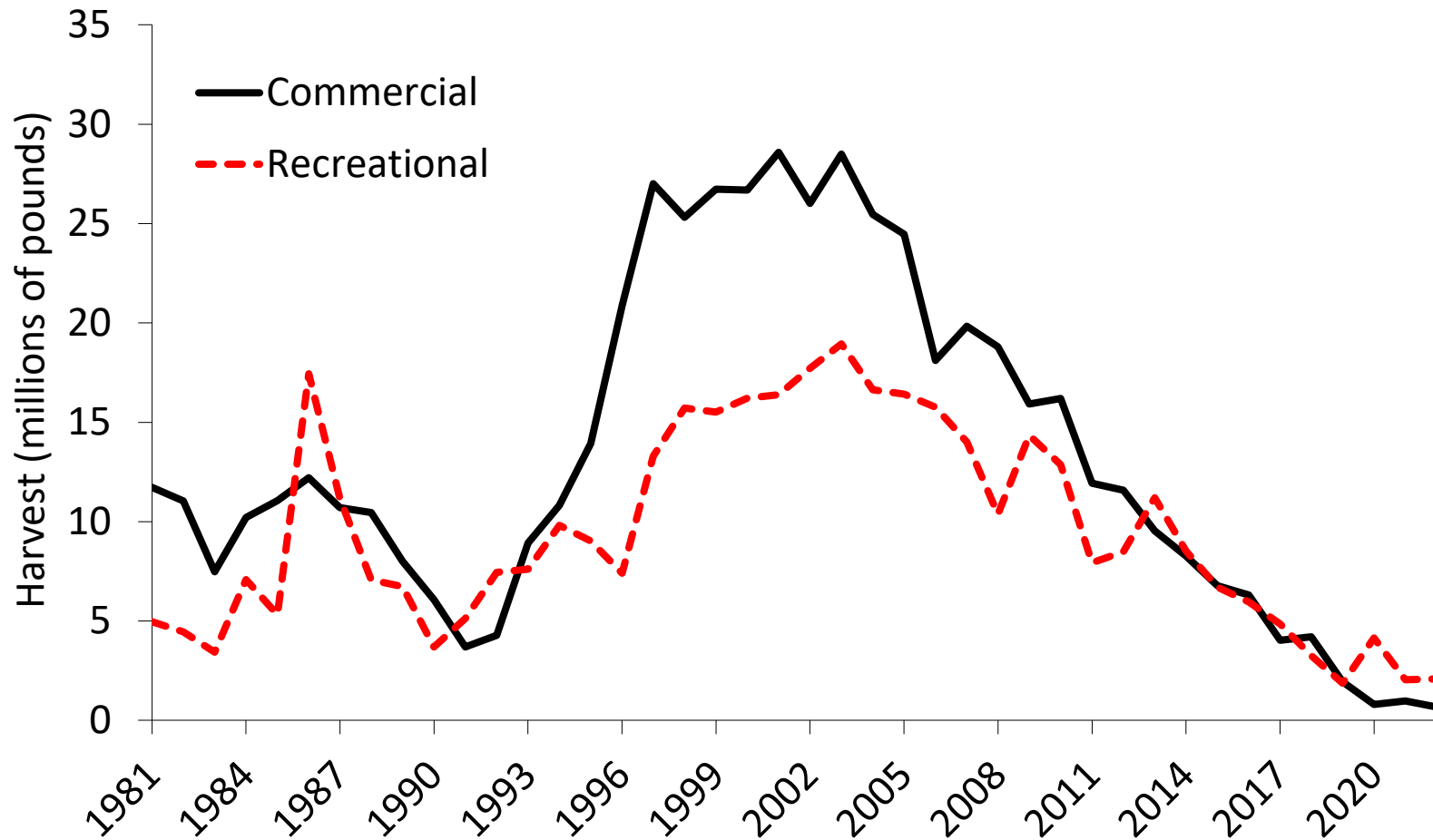
Status of the Stock



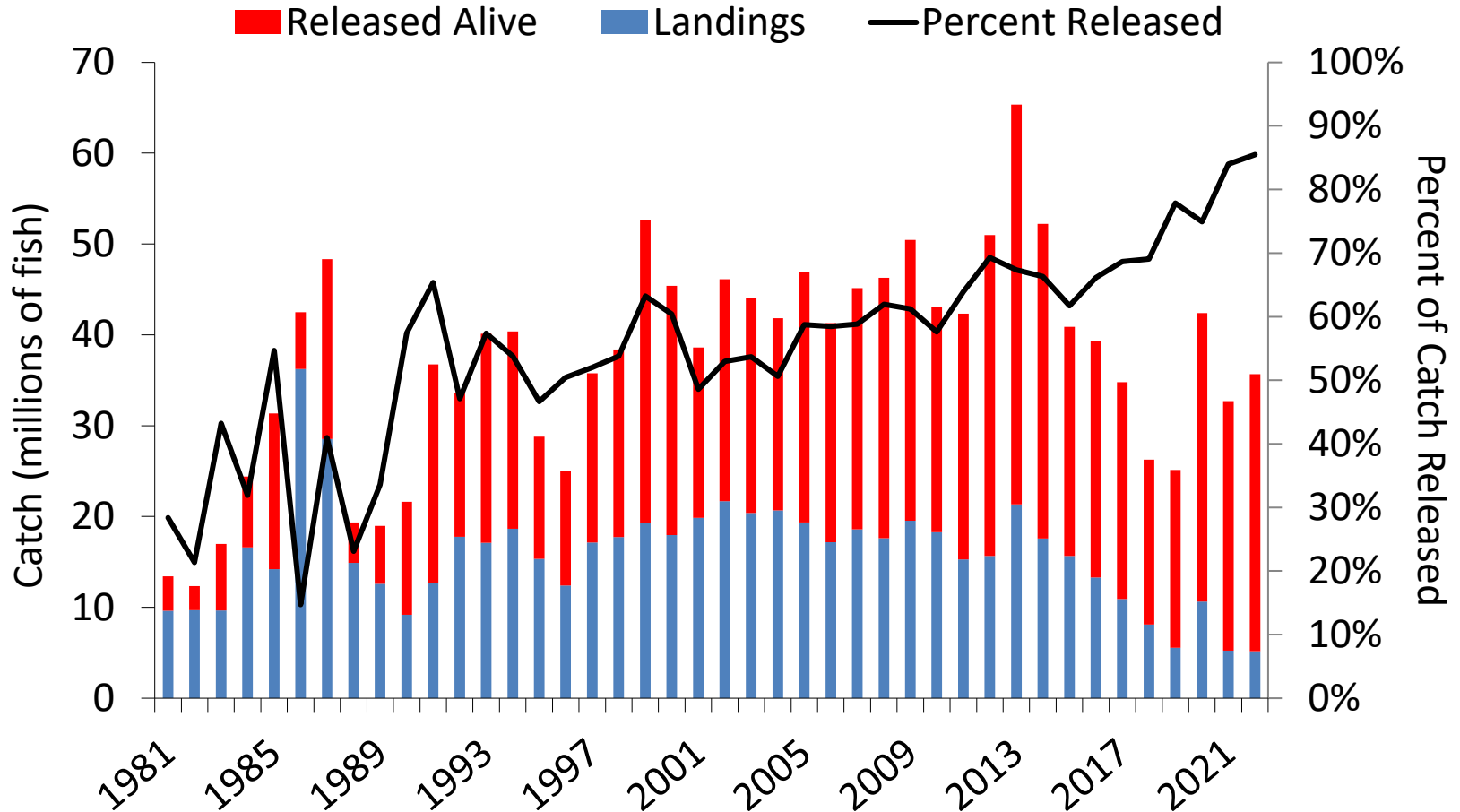
- 2010 Atlantic Croaker Stock Assessment – Atlantic croaker was not experiencing overfishing. Overfished status could not be determined.
 - Terminal year 2008
- Traffic Light Analysis since 2014



Status of the Fishery: Atlantic Croaker Landings



Status of the Fishery: Atlantic Croaker Recreational Landings and Releases

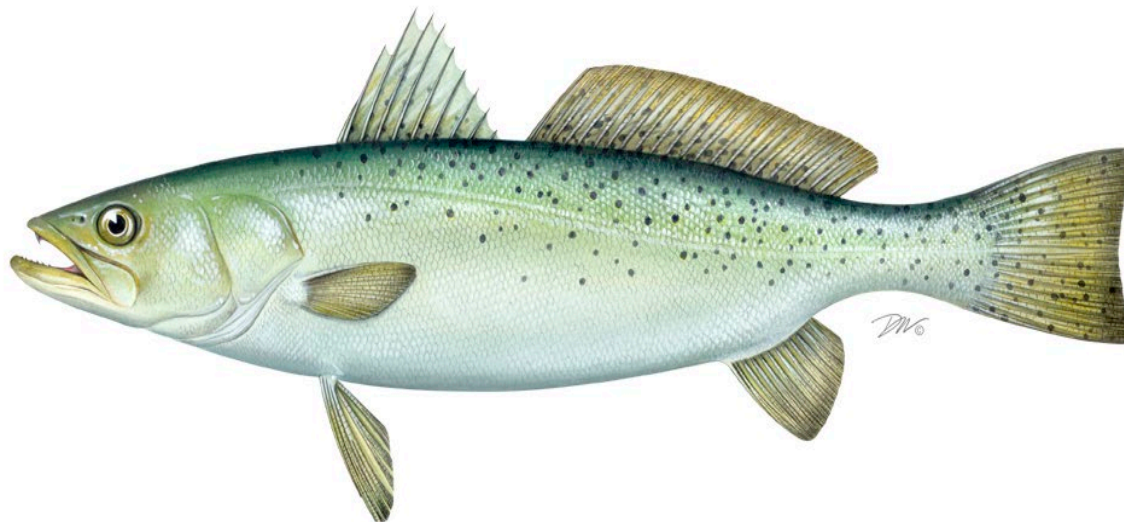


PRT Recommendations



- No inconsistencies found among states with regard to FMP requirements
- PRT recommends approval of state compliance reports and *de minimis* status for:
 - New Jersey, Delaware, South Carolina, and Georgia commercial fisheries.
 - New Jersey and Delaware recreational fisheries
- Additional research/monitoring recommendations found in FMP Review document

Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Review



Status of the FMP



- Omnibus Amendment to the Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout FMPs (2011)



Status of the Stock

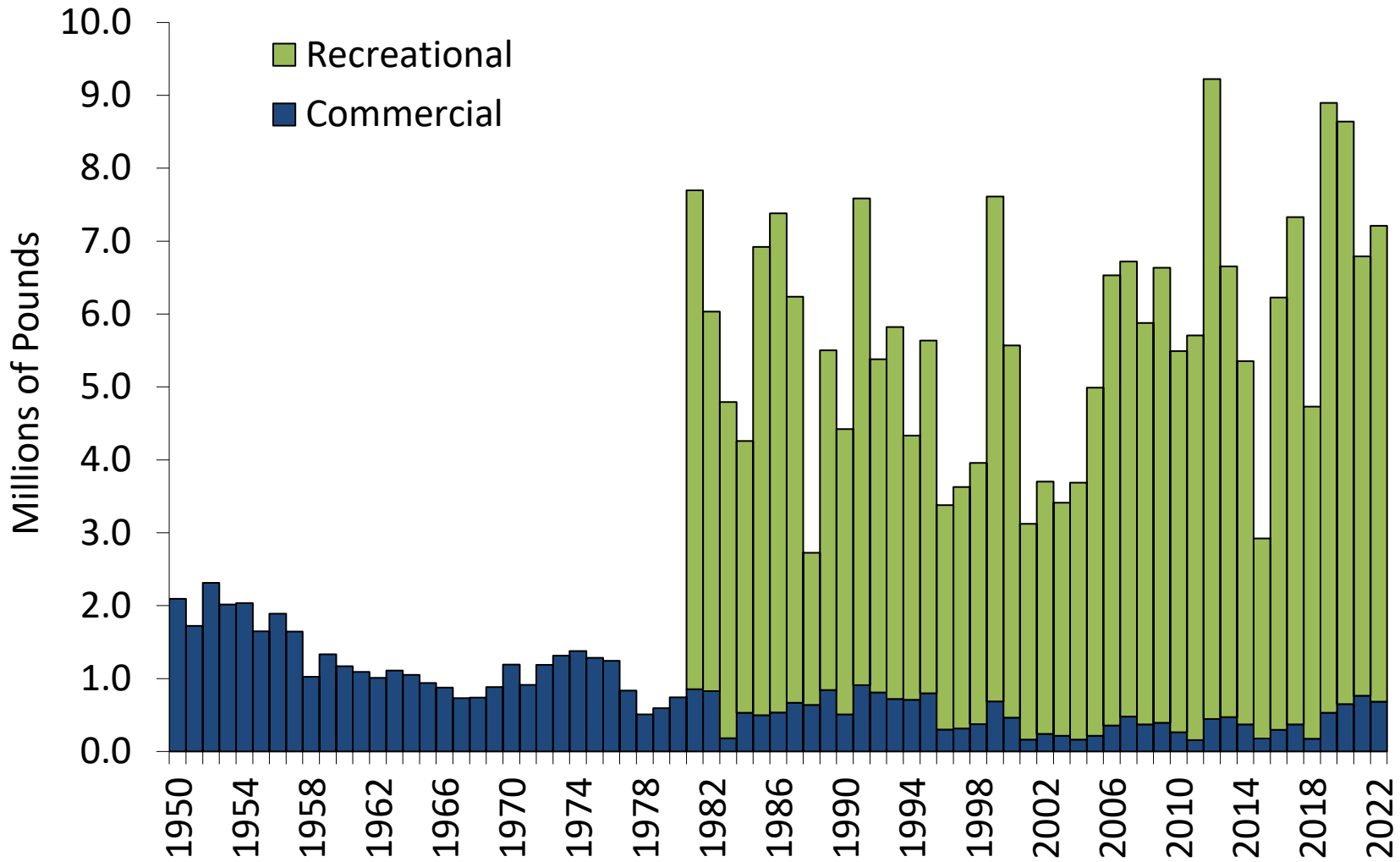


- 2019 Florida Spotted Seatrout Stock Assessment Update
 - Terminal year 2017
- 2022 North Carolina Spotted Seatrout Stock Assessment: the stock is not overfished but overfishing is occurring
 - Terminal year 2019

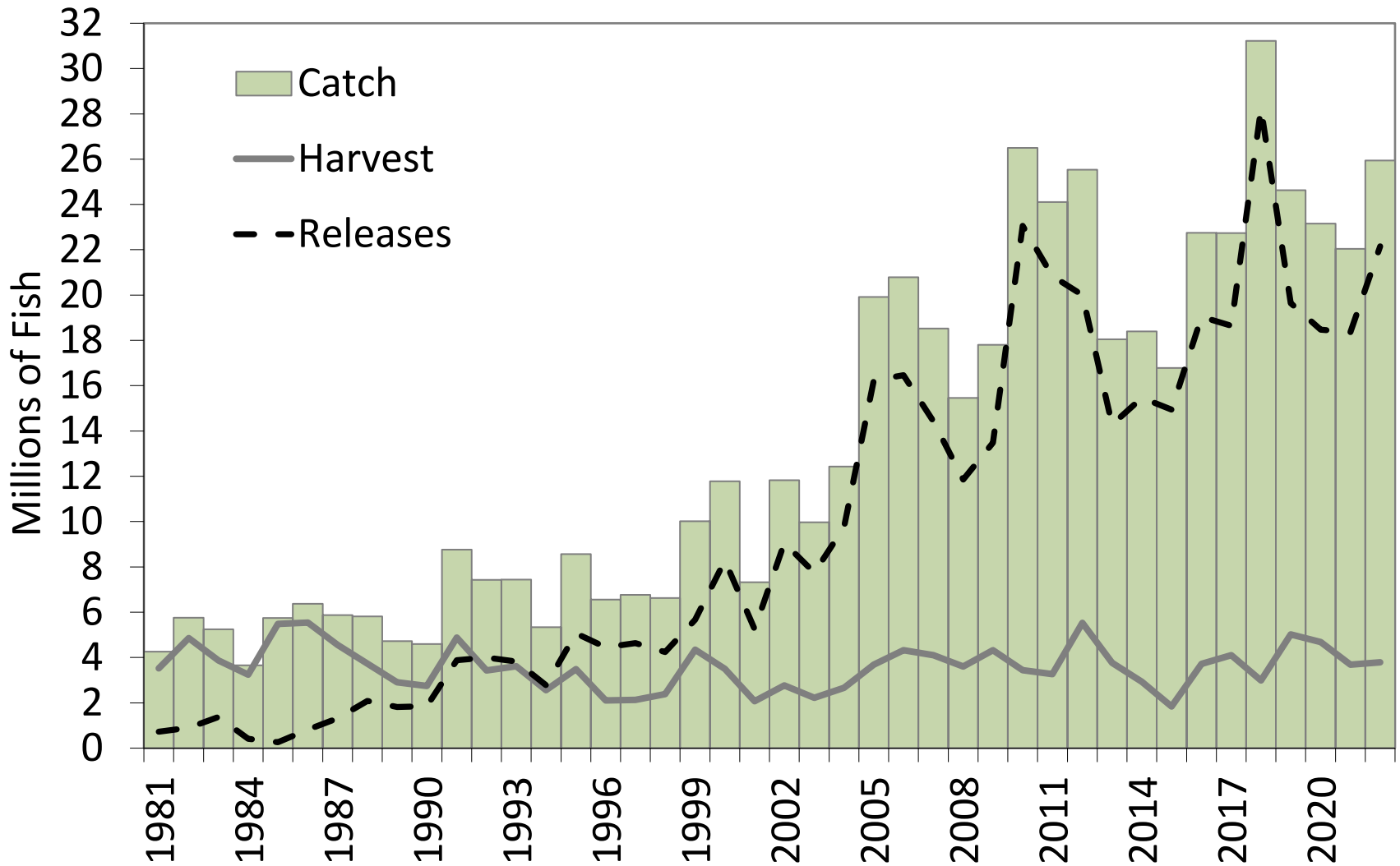


Photo credit: SCDNR

Status of the Fishery: Commercial and Recreational Harvest



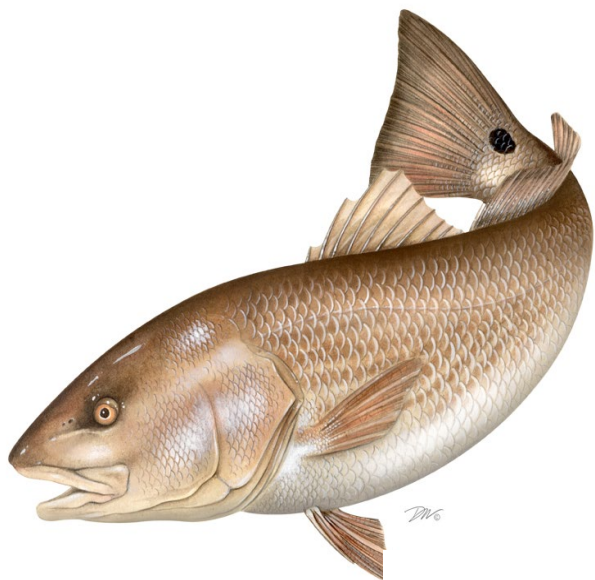
Status of the Fishery: Recreational Catch



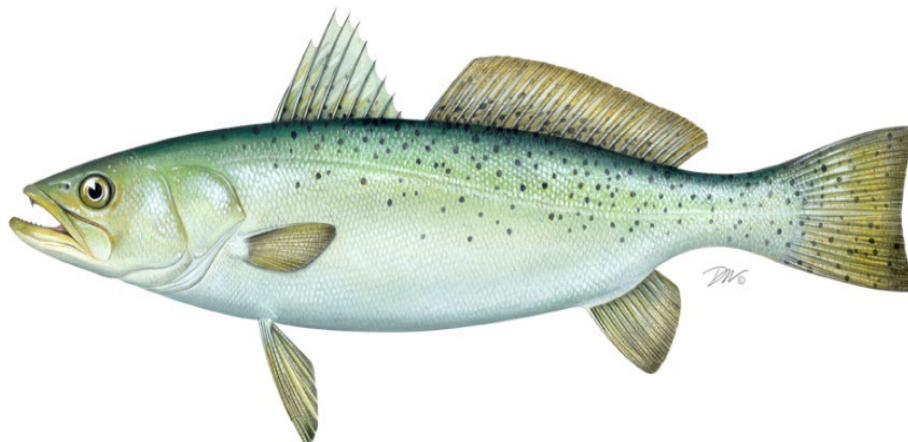
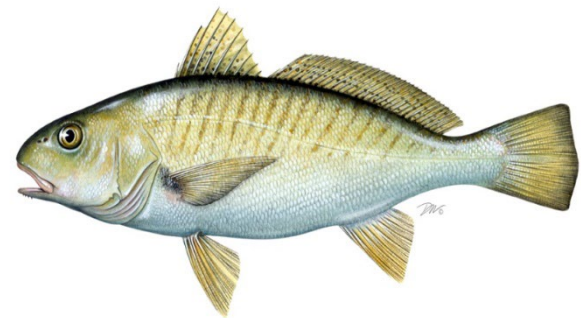
PRT Recommendations



- No inconsistencies found among states with regard to FMP requirements
- PRT recommends approval of state compliance reports and *de minimis* status for New Jersey and Delaware.
- Additional research/monitoring recommendations found in FMP Review document



Questions?

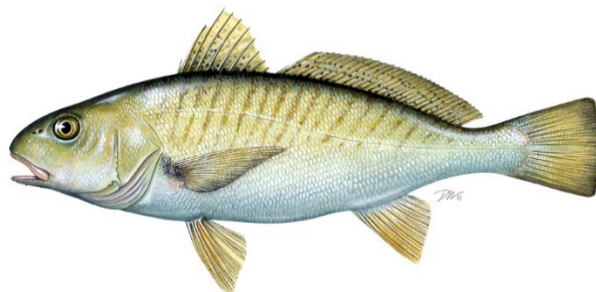
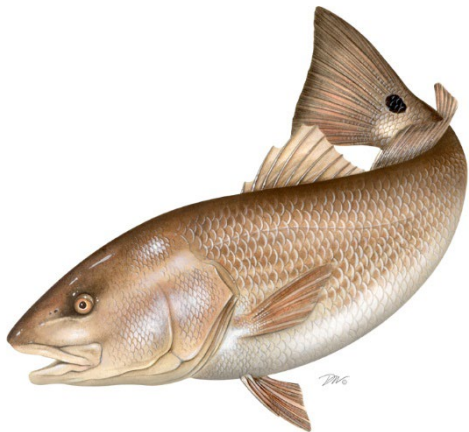


Board Actions and Next Steps



- Motion on approval/disapproval of FMP reviews, state compliance reports, and de minimis requests for red drum, Atlantic croaker, and spotted seatrout.

Progress Updates on Red Drum, Atlantic Croaker, and Spot Stock Assessments



October 19, 2023

Outline



- Red Drum Assessment Progress Update (No Action)
- Spot and Croaker Assessment Progress Update and Proposed Timeline Change (No Action)
- Update to Atlantic Croaker and Spot Stock Assessment Subcommittee Membership (Action)

Red Drum Stock Assessment



- *Data deadline: May 30, 2023*
- *Data Workshop: June 7-8 & 14, 2023*
 - *Virtual*
 - *Reviewed data sources and identified data development tasks*
 - *Switched from calendar year to Sept-Aug fishing year*
- **Assessment Workshop I: November 6-9, 2023**
 - **In-person (Charleston, SC)**
 - **Follow-ups from Data Workshop**
 - **Review model development**

Red Drum Stock Assessment



- Assessment Workshop II : March 2024
 - Finalize model results/stock status determination
- SEDAR Peer Review Workshop: Week of August 12, 2024
- Present Assessment and Peer Review Reports to the Board: Annual Meeting 2024

Spot and Croaker Assessments



- *March 2023: Data templates due with a 2022 terminal year*
- *May 15-17, 2023: Data Workshop*
 - *Virtual*
 - *Reviewed data sources and identified data development tasks*
- **Lead Analyst for croaker taking a new position and will not be able to continue role**
- *September 11-14, 2023: Assessment Workshop I*
 - *Virtual*
 - *Follow-ups from Data Workshop*
 - *Croaker model development*

Spot and Croaker Assessments



- TCs Recommendations:
 - Decouple croaker and spot assessments
 - Complete croaker assessment on original timeline
 - Conduct spot assessment following completion of croaker assessment
- Remaining croaker timeline
 - February 2024: Assessment Workshop II (in-person)
 - July/August 2024: Peer Review Workshop
 - Annual Meeting 2024: Present Assessment and Peer Review Reports to the Board

Spot and Croaker Assessments



- Spot timeline
 - November 2024-January 2025: Re-examine available data and develop model(s)
 - February 2025: Assessment Workshop III
 - July/August 2025: Peer Review Workshop
 - Annual Meeting 2025: Present Assessment and Peer Review Reports to the Board

Spot and Croaker SAS



- Existing SAS:
 - Lindy Barry (NJ)
 - Harry Rickabaugh (Spot TC Chair, MD)
 - Jeff Kipp (ASMFC)
 - Kristen Anstead (ASMFC)
 - Somers Smott (Croaker TC Chair, VA)
 - Brooke Lowman (VA)
 - *Laura Lee (NC)*
 - Margaret Finch (SC)
- Proposed addition to SAS:
 - Trey Mace (MD)

Questions?

