



Effort Controls for Jonah Crab-only Trap Fishermen



November 2, 2015

Jonah Crab Effort Controls



*“Participation in the directed trap fishery is limited to only those vessels and permit holders that already hold a lobster permit; **or can prove prior participation in the crab fishery before the control date of June 2, 2015**”*

Jonah Crab Effort Controls



What we know:

- Fishermen in RI, NY, and MD
- ~15 fishermen in total
- State and federal waters
- Total landings ~143,000 lbs

Jonah Crab Effort Controls



- Is the goal to cap effort at current levels?
- What is an effective effort control? Is it trap allocations?
- What data is needed to establish the effort control?
- What criteria can be used to identify these fishermen?
- Is it necessary to identify these traps differently from lobster traps?

Bycatch Limit for Non-Trap Gear



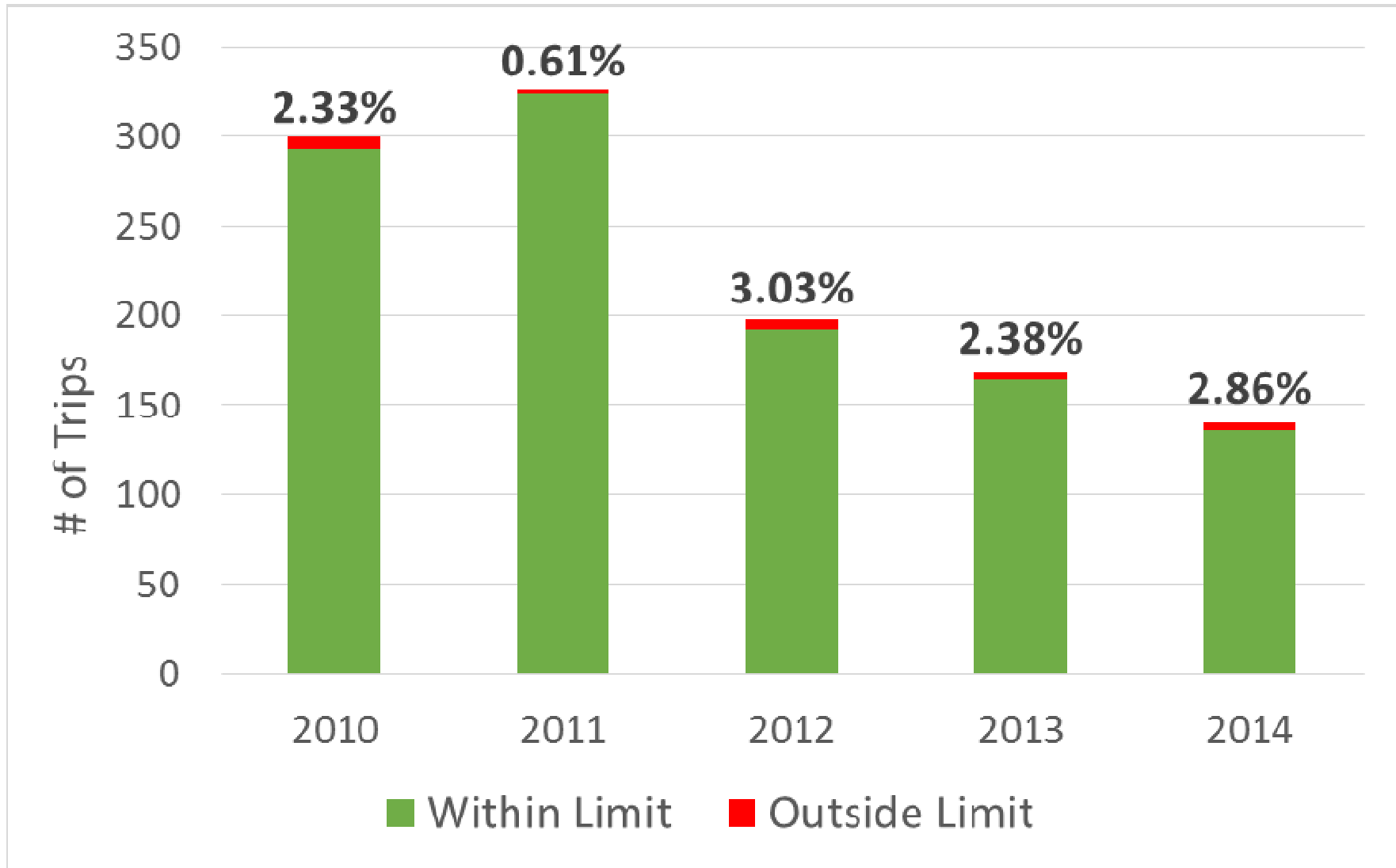
Jonah Crab FMP

“There is a 200 crabs per calendar day, 500 crabs per trip incidental bycatch limit for non-trap gear”

Lobster FMP

“No more than 100 lobsters per day (based on a 24-hour period) up to a maximum of 500 lobsters per trip, for trips 5 days or longer”

Bycatch Limit for Non-Trap Gear



Bycatch Limit for Non-Trap Gear



GARFO

- May 1, 2013-August 31, 2015
- 372 trips
- 98% within ASFMC limit
- 95% landed < 200 crabs
- 7 trips exceeded ASMFC limit, 3 trips over 900

Jonah Crab Claw Exemption



“Only whole crabs may be retained and sold with the exception of individuals who can prove a history of claw landings before the June 2, 2015 control date in the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia”

Jonah Crab Claw Exemption



What we know:

- Fishermen in NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA
 - NY not exempt
- ~46 fishermen in total
 - More than expected
- State and federal waters
- Not all reports distinguish between claws and whole crabs

Jonah Crab Claw Exemption



- Are the current claw exemptions appropriate?
- If no, are other management measures more appropriate? Min size? Max poundage?
- What data do we need to support these management measures?
- What criteria should be used to exempt a fishermen to land claws?

NEFMC Data



Table 2. 2014 Jonah Crab Landings for Non-Trap Vessels

State	No. of Permits	Pounds	Value
RI	71	7,346	3,647
MA	18	5,433	1,107
NY	22	410	494
CT & NJ	4	117	110
Total	115	13,306	5,358

0.07% of total landings in 2014

NEFMC Data



Table 17. Trips Affected by ASMFC Limit

Year	Min # of days fished	Max # of days fished	Avg. # of days fished	# of Trips Constrained by ASMFC trip limit	% of trips constrained by crab limit
2010	0.1	9.54	1.17	7/300	2.33%
2011	0.04	9.56	1.72	2/326	0.61%
2012	0.04	9.4	1.26	6/198	3.03%
2013	0.1	8.83	1.18	4/168	2.38%
2014	0.13	10.48	1.23	4/140	2.86%

GARFO Data



- Queried VTR database for all non-trap gear
- May 1, 2013 - August 31, 2015
- 372 trips reported Jonah crab landings
 - 98% were within ASMFC trip limit
 - 95% landed less than 200 crabs
 - 7 trips exceeded ASMFC trip limit (300-2300 crabs)
 - 3 trips landed over 900 crabs

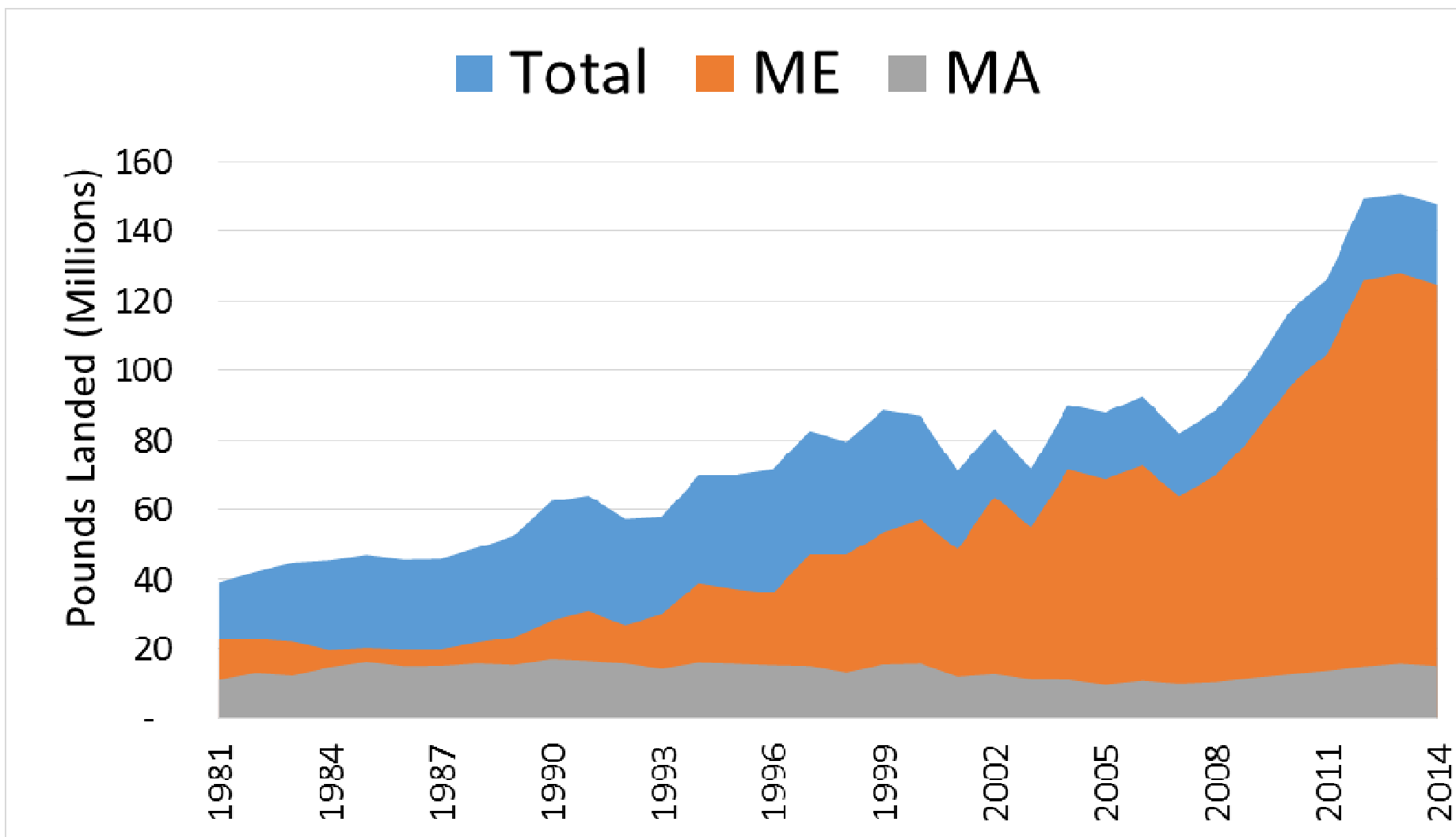


American Lobster 2015 FMP Review

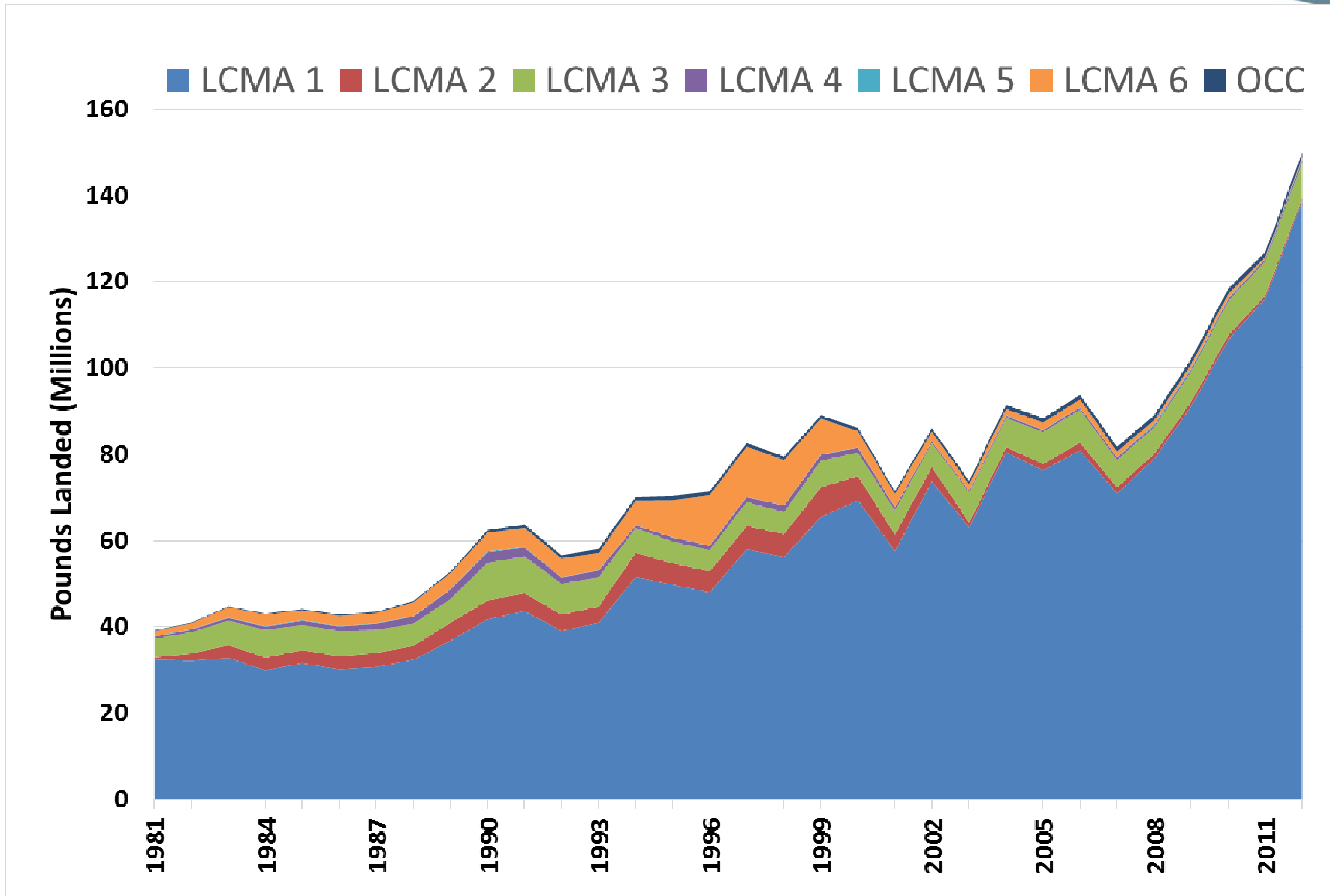


November 2, 2015

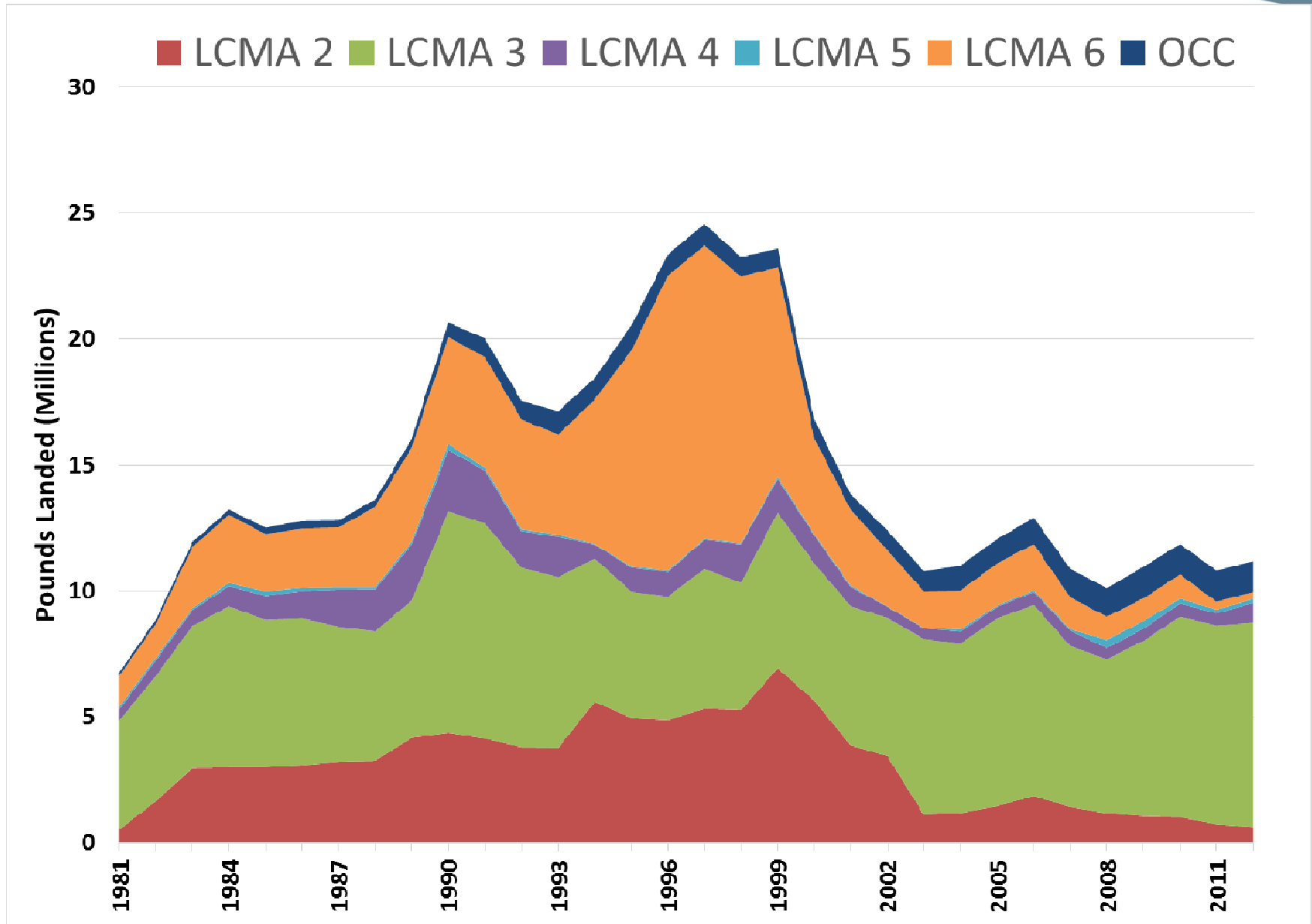
Commercial Landings



Landings by LCMA



Landings by LCMA



Status of Stock



- 2015 Stock Assessment
- GOM/GBK
 - Not overfished and overfishing is not occurring
 - Record high abundance
- SNE
 - Overfished but overfishing is not occurring
 - Record low abundance, particularly inshore
 - Recruitment failure

Monitoring



Table 3, page 8

Addendum X

- 100% dealer reporting and 10% active harvester reporting
- Port and sea sampling
- Fishery independent data (annual trawl survey, ventless trap survey, YOY survey)

States met sampling requirements

Status of Management



Table 6, pg 20

Amendment 3, Addenda I-XXIV

Recent Changes

- Addendum XXIV: aligned state and federal measures for trap transfers in LCMA's 2, 3 and OCC
- NOAA: Proposed rule to change Area 4 season closure to April 30-May 31

State Compliance



Compliance

- All states found to be in compliance with Amendment 3, Addenda I-XXIV

De Minimis

- Com landings, 2 year average, under 40,000 lbs
- Requests: DE, MD, VA
- VA and DE qualify
- MD's two year average above 40,000 lbs, does not qualify

Recommendations



Management

- The PRT recommends the Board approve the 2015 Lobster FMP Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for DE and VA
- Address inconsistencies between state and federal OCC regulations

Research

- Investigate stock connectivity between inshore and offshore areas, especially in SNE



State	100% Dealer reporting	10% Harvester Reporting	Sea Sampling	Port Sampling	Ventless Trap Survey	Settlement Survey	Trawl Survey
ME	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
NH	✓	✓ (100%)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (ME)
MA	✓	✓ (100%)	✓		✓	✓	✓
RI	✓	✓ (100%)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CT	✓	✓ (100%)	✓			✓	✓
NY	✓	✓ (100%)	✓ (none conducted 2013-2014)	✓			✓ (CT)
NJ	✓	✓	✓				✓
DE	✓	✓		✓			✓ (no lobsters encountered)
MD	✓	✓	✓				✓ (no lobsters encountered)
VA	✓	✓					



Mgmt Measure	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	OCC
Min Gauge Size	3 1/4"	3 3/8"	3 17/32"	3 3/8"	3 3/8"	3 3/8"	3 3/8"
Vent Rect.	1 15/16 x 5 3/4"	2 x 5 3/4"	2 1/16 x 5 3/4"	2 x 5 3/4"	2 x 5 3/4"	2 x 5 3/4"	2 x 5 3/4"
Vent Cir.	2 7/16"	2 5/8"	2 11/16"	2 5/8"	2 5/8"	2 5/8"	2 5/8"
V-notch requirement	Mandatory for all eggers	Mandatory for all legal size eggers	Mandatory for all eggers above 42°30'	Mandatory for all eggers	Mandatory for all eggers	None	None
V-Notch Definition ¹ (possession)	Zero Tolerance	1/8" with or w/out <u>setal hairs</u> ¹	1/8" with or w/out <u>setal hairs</u> ¹	1/8" with or w/out <u>setal hairs</u> ¹	1/8" with or w/out <u>setal hairs</u> ¹	1/8" with or w/out <u>setal hairs</u> ¹	State Permitted fisherman in state waters 1/4" without <u>setal hairs</u> Federal Permit holders 1/8" with or w/out <u>setal hairs</u> ¹
Max. Gauge (male & female)	5"	5 1/4"	6 3/4"	5 1/4"	5 1/4"	5 1/4"	State Waters none Federal Waters 6 3/4"
Season Closure				April 30- May 31 ² ----- Federal: Feb 1-Mar 31	February 1- March 31 ³	Sept 8- Nov 28 ⁴	Feb 1-April 30