



Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board Activities and Actions



Presented to ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup
and Black Sea Bass Board
May 1, 2019

Recent Actions



1. Summer Flounder Amendment

- Board approved and Council recommended approval at joint March meeting

2. Addendum XXXI

- Board and Council approval December 2018

3. Addendum XXXII

- Board approval December 2018

Ongoing Activities/Actions



1. Summer Flounder Amendment
 - Business Section to consider final approval
2. Black Sea Bass Commercial Management PDT
 - Board Review of PDT report today
 - Possible action
3. Black Sea Bass Recreational Reform WG
 - Commission/Council WG meetings, Summer 2019
4. Black Sea Bass & Scup Operational Assessments
 - Scheduled for Board Review in October 2019

Plan Development Team Report: Black Sea Bass Commercial Management



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Presentation Outline



1. Background
2. Review of Working Group Problem Statement
3. PDT Analysis of Potential Management Strategies
 - TMGC Approach
 - Trigger Approach
 - ASQ Approach
 - Hybrid Approaches
4. Decision Points
5. Next Steps
6. Questions

Background



- ASMFC Board established Commercial Black Sea Bass WG in August 2018
 - Purpose: identify issues and management strategies for the commercial fishery related to changes in black sea bass abundance and distribution
- PDT formed in February 2019
 - Purpose: further develop and analyze management strategies proposed by commercial WG and Board members to address commercial issues identified by the WG

Background



Date	Activity/Action
February 2019	Board formed PDT
March 2019	Joint Board and Council Meeting: reviewed Board work on commercial black sea bass. Council initiated amendment for commercial issues.
March-April 2019	PDT development and analysis of management strategies
April 2019	Joint AP meeting to review PDT work
May 2019	Board review of PDT and AP Reports

WG Statement of the Problem



1. State commercial allocations do not reflect current resource distribution

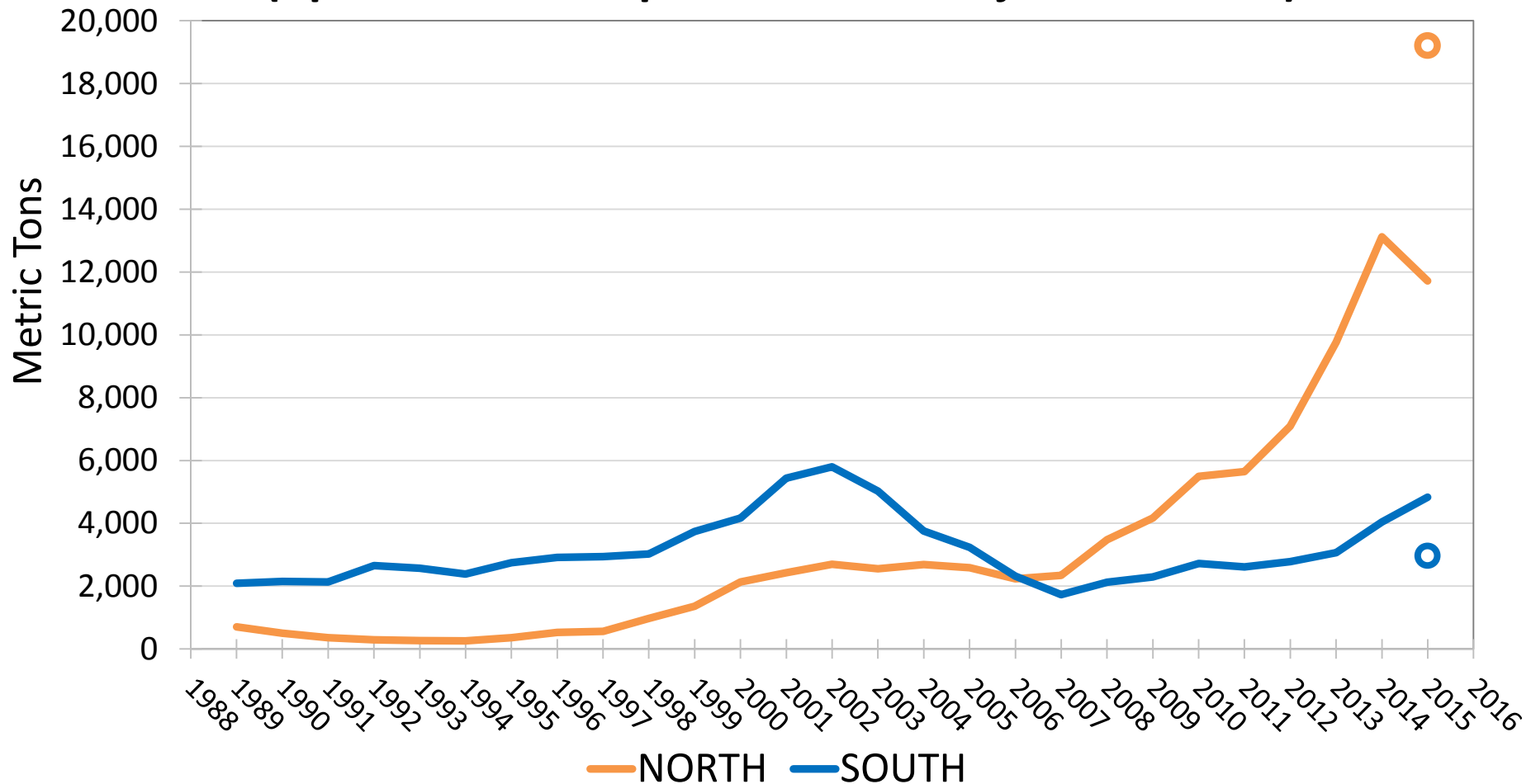
- Set in 2003, loosely based on landings from 1980-2001
- 33% to ME-NY and 67% to NJ-NC
- Scientific evidence of shifts in fishery and stock abundance and distribution
- Management is not responsive to these changes

State	% Allocation
ME	0.5
NH	0.5
MA	13.0
RI	11.0
CT	1.0
NY	7.0
NJ	20.0
DE	5.0
MD	11.0
VA	20.0
NC	11.0

WG Statement of the Problem



Black Sea Bass SSB by Region as of 2016 Benchmark Stock Assessment (open markers represent retro-adjusted values)



2. Coastwide black sea bass quota management by NOAA Fisheries

- All states in the management unit are subject to fishery closures if a coastwide quota overage occurs
- Can leave states with remaining commercial quota unable to utilize their full allocation

Potential Management Strategies



1. Status quo
2. Strategies for adjusting state by state allocations
 - a. Dynamic approach modeled after the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) approach
 - b. Trigger-based allocation approach
 - c. Auctioned seasonal quota (ASQ)
 - d. Hybrid approaches
3. Timeline or trigger for reevaluating allocations

Potential Management Strategies



1. Status quo
2. Strategies for adjusting state by state allocations
 - a. Dynamic approach modeled after the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) approach
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3. Timeline or trigger for reevaluating allocations

“TMGC” Approach



- Formula for gradually transitioning the basis for allocations from resource utilization (allocations, landings) to resource distribution (regional biomass, abundance)
- Starts with more weight on resource utilization, and shifts weight to stock distribution over time
- Flexible, multidirectional
- Control rule can be used to limit annual allocation changes

“TMGC” Approach

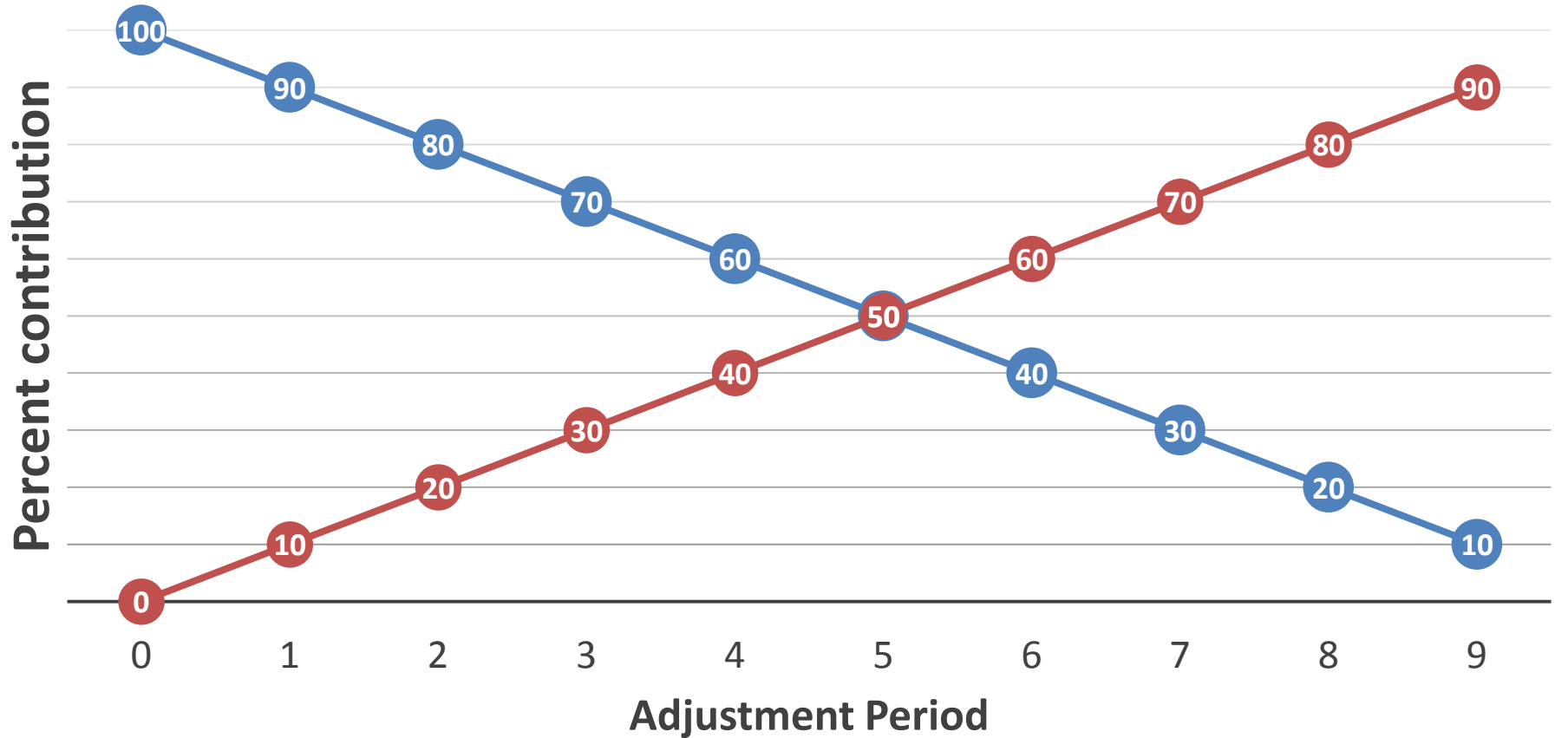


- Formula has several “dials” that can be adjusted to determine how allocation changes over time:
 - Weighting of resource utilization and distribution (e.g. 90:10 → 10:90)
 - Frequency of adjustments (e.g. annual/bi-annual adjustments)
 - Transition time from start to end weights (e.g. 5 years)
 - Initial state allocations (e.g. adjust CT/NY)
 - Control rule (i.e. maximum % change per adjustment)

“TMGC” Resource Utilization/Distribution



Input Weights of Resource Information in TMGC Approach



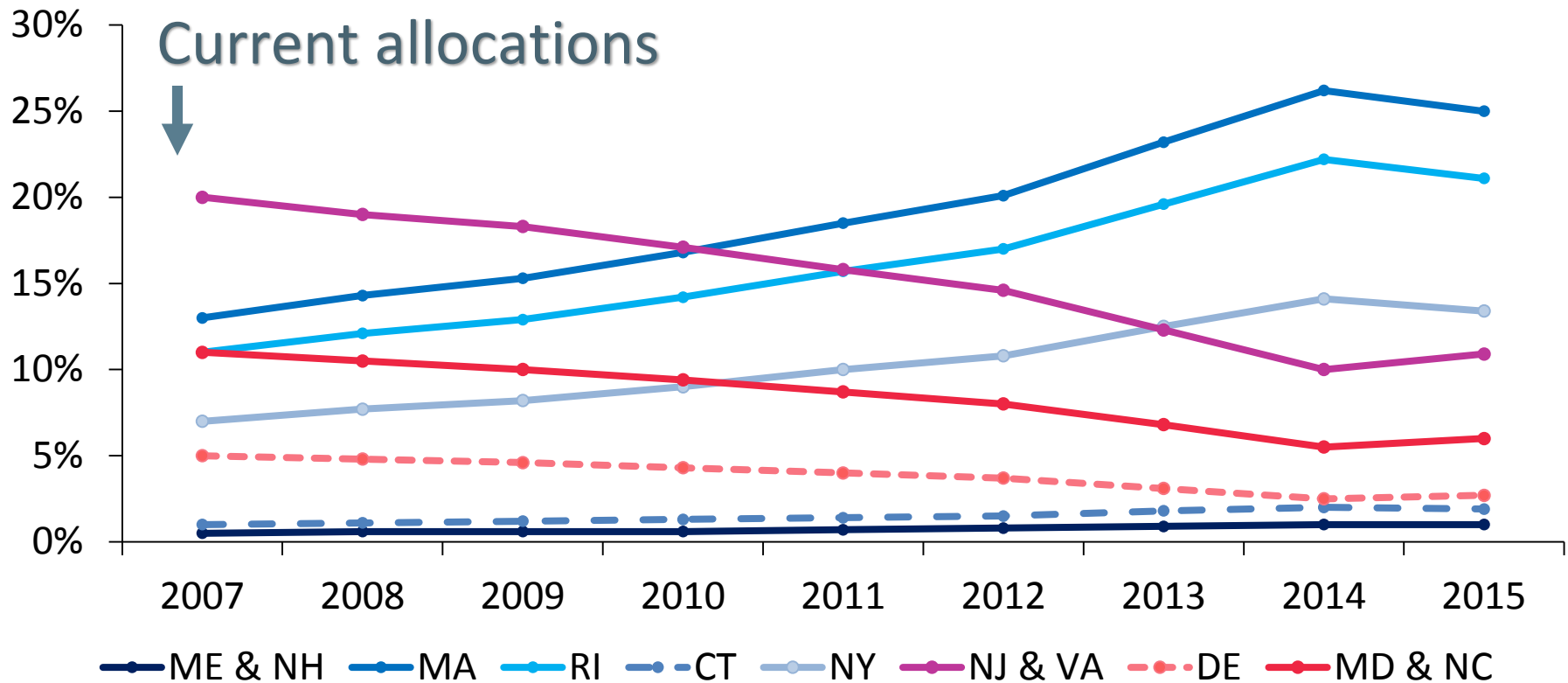
● % allocation based on historic resource utilization (current allocations)

● % allocation based on resource distribution (regional biomass)

“TMGC” Example



- Retrospective example of TMGC (2008-2015)
- Resource distribution information from last assessment
- Transition from 90:10 to 10:90 weights for utilization:distribution
- 3% control rule



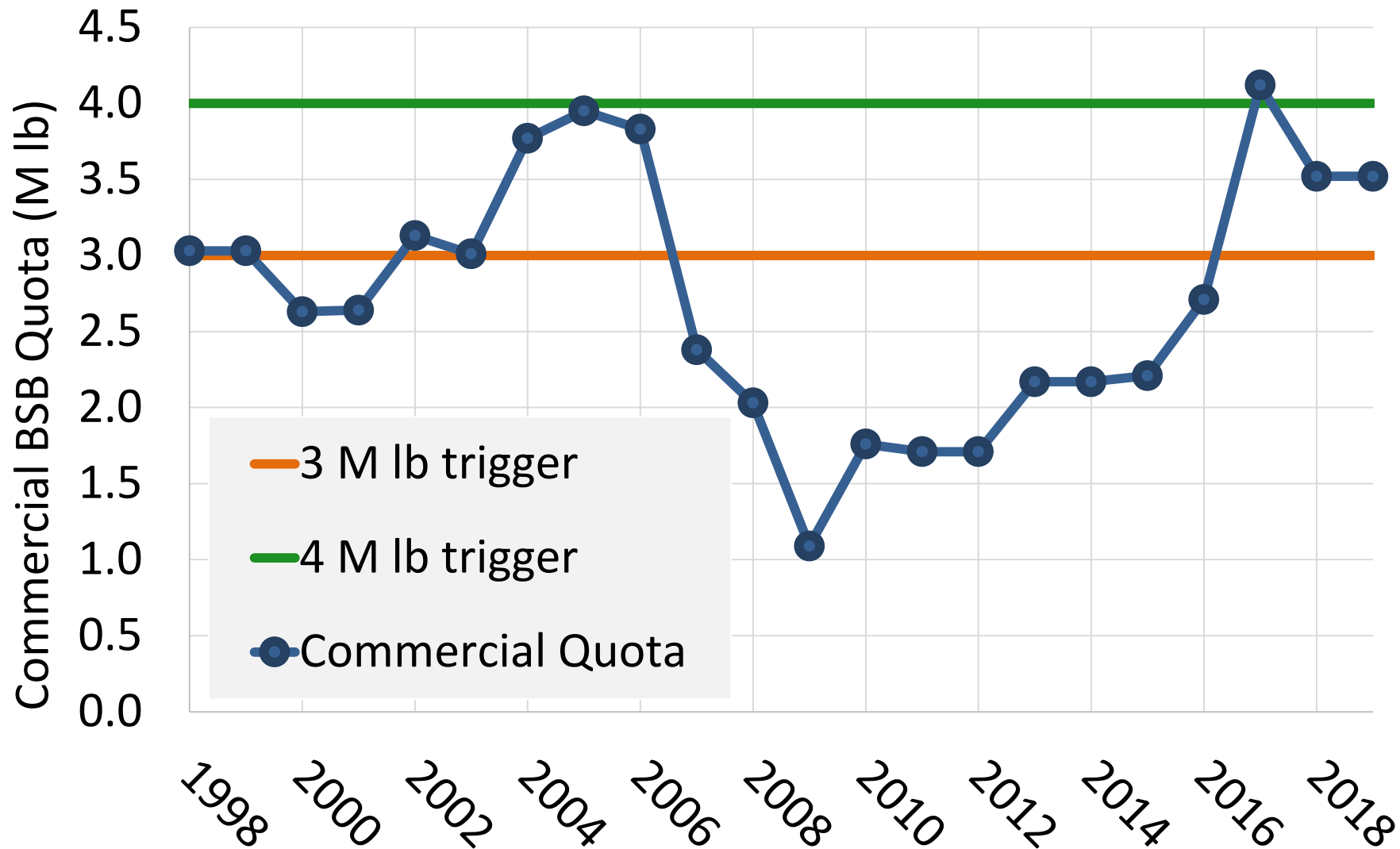
Trigger-based Allocation Approach



- Establishes a coastwide quota value that would “trigger” reallocation of quota
 - 3 million pounds (average quota 2003-2018)
 - 4 million pounds (based on highest coastwide quota)
- Quota up to the trigger value would be distributed using current state allocations
- Quota exceeding the trigger value would be distributed equally to the states (MA-NC)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{(Quota up to trigger*current allocation \%)} \\ & + \text{(Quota above trigger*equal allocation \%)} \\ & \underline{\hspace{10em}} \\ & = \text{State Allocation} \end{aligned}$$

Triggers Versus Recent Quotas



Trigger Approach Example



State	Allocation of quota <u>up to and including</u> the trigger	Allocation of quota <u>above</u> the trigger
ME	0.5%	1.00%
NH	0.5%	1.00%
MA	13%	10.89%
RI	11%	10.89%
CT	1%	10.89%
NY	7%	10.89%
NJ	20%	10.89%
DE	5%	10.89%
MD	11%	10.89%
VA	20%	10.89%
NC	11%	10.89%
Total	100.00%	100.00%

Trigger Approach Example



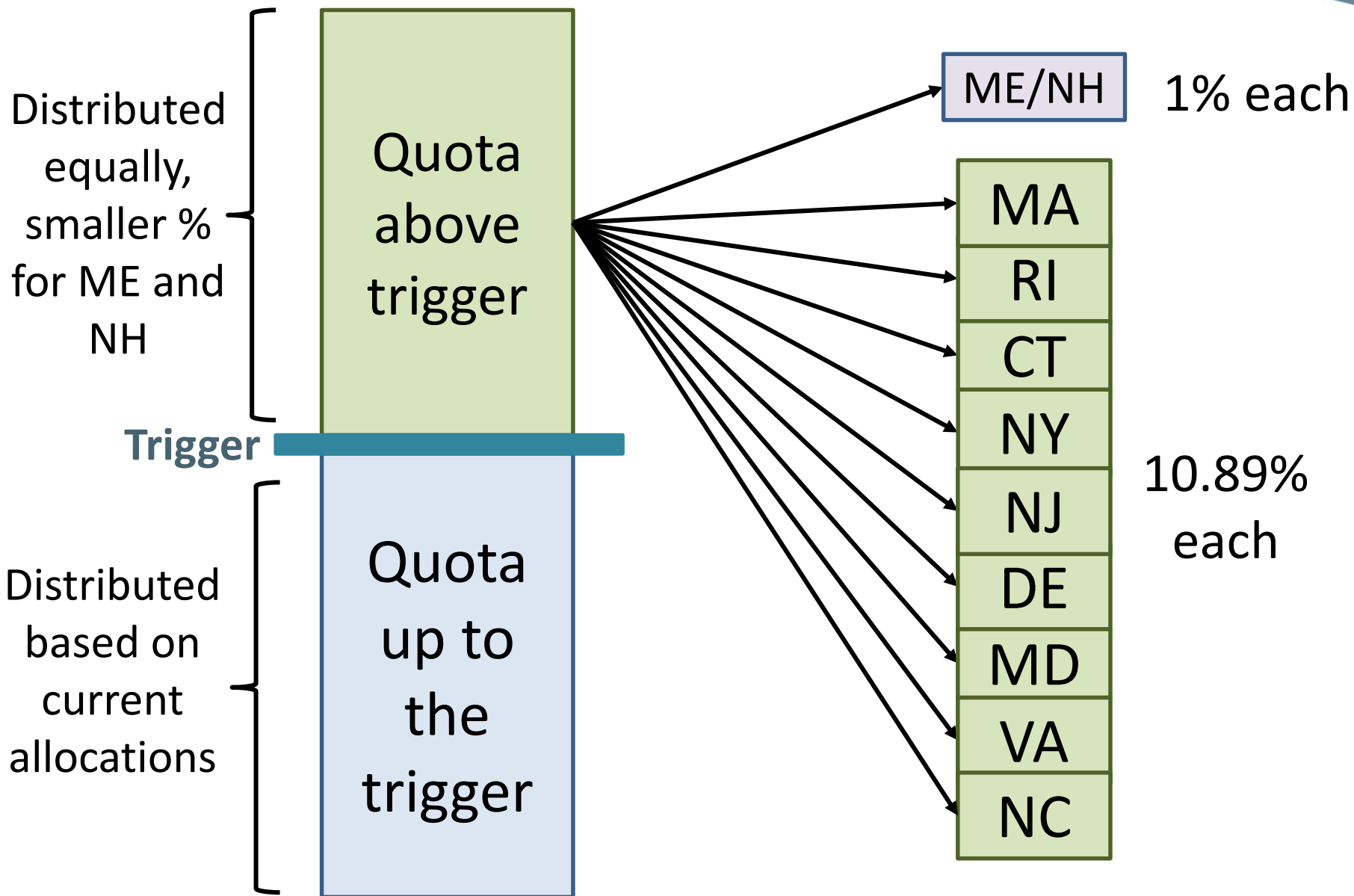
State	Allocation of quota up to and including 3 mil lb	Total allocation under the 2017 commercial quota (4.12 mil lb.)	Change in allocation
ME	0.5%	0.64%	+0.14%
NH	0.5%	0.64%	+0.14%
MA	13%	12.43%	-0.57%
RI	11%	10.97%	-0.03%
CT	1%	3.69%	+2.69%
NY	7%	8.06%	+1.06%
NJ	20%	17.52%	-2.48%
DE	5%	6.60%	+1.60%
MD	11%	10.97%	-0.03%
VA	20%	17.52%	-2.48%
NC	11%	10.97%	-0.03%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	

Trigger Approach Modifications

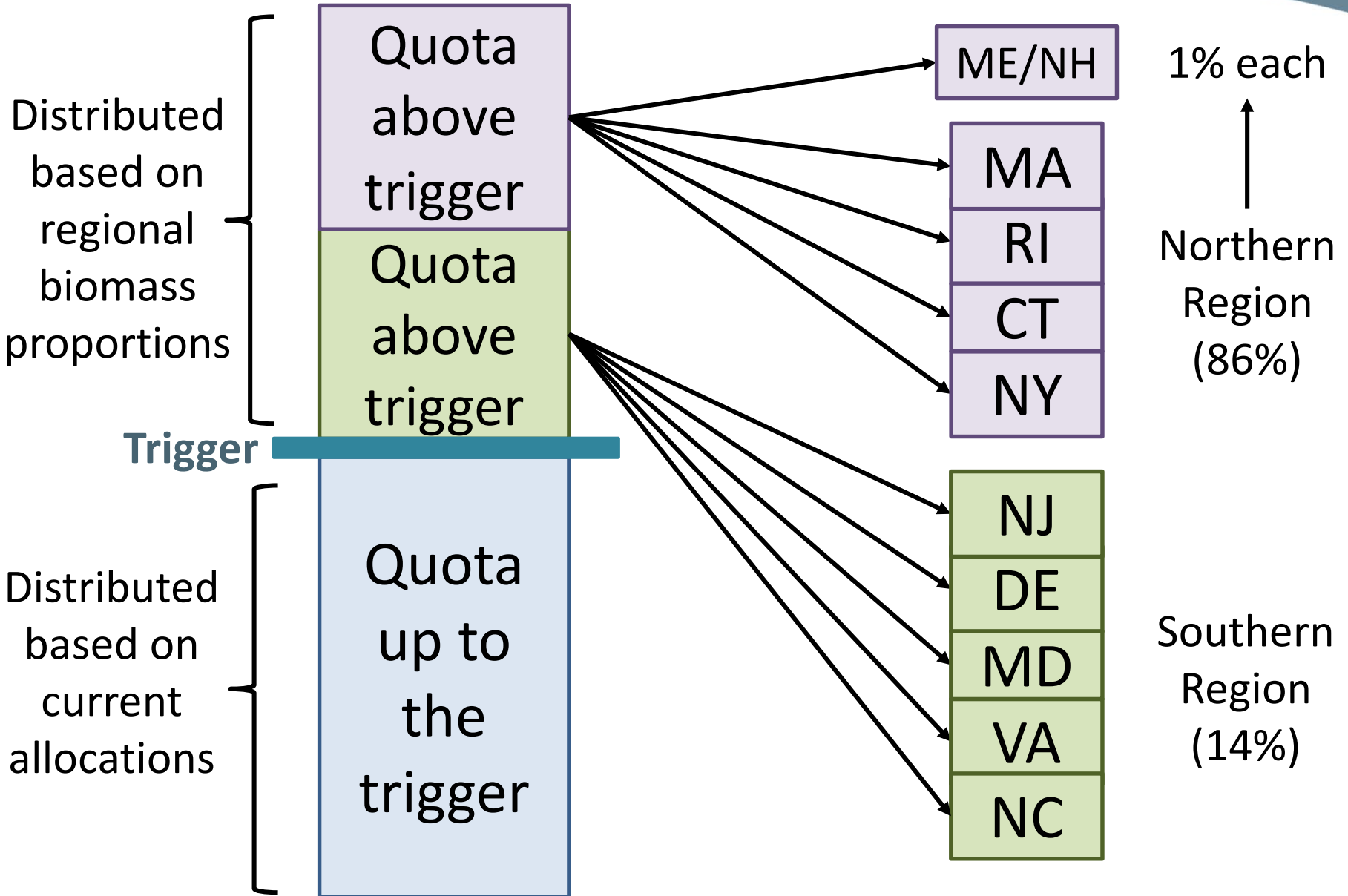


- Quota up to the trigger value would be distributed using current state allocations
- Quota exceeding the trigger value would be distributed based on regional biomass
 - 2015 Rho adjusted regional biomass from assessment:
 - Northern region: 86%
 - Southern region: 14%
- Quota within a region distributed to states equally or based on historic allocations

Trigger Approach – Equal Allocation



Trigger Approach – Regional Biomass



Trigger Approach Considerations



- Appropriate trigger value
 - 3 million lbs, 4 million lbs, other?
- How to allocate quota above the trigger
 - equal, regional biomass, other?
- “Hard” vs. “soft” triggers
 - set number of pounds vs. % of quota

Auctioned Seasonal Quota (ASQ)



- Annual auction of part of the total coastwide commercial quota (~10-20%)
- Auction would be open to all fishers in the black sea bass management unit with the required permits
- Quota for auction would be divided into auction blocks; rules could limit number of blocks 1 permittee can get
- High bidders are awarded auction blocks
- Funds used to administer and enforce program

PDT Considerations for ASQ



Potential Benefits

- Increased fishery efficiency
- Flexible method of allocation

Concerns

- NOAA & ASMFC concerns with administration and enforcement
 - NOAA could only establish for federal moratorium permit holders
 - Not able to monitor vessel-specific landings
- Risk of quota consolidation
- Impacts to ITQ systems
- Limited ability to predict outcome

Hybrid Approaches



- Two or more methods could be combined
- Example: 50% of quota allocated using status quo allocations, 50% using TMGC or Trigger
- Important to weigh flexibility vs increased complexity and potential confusion

Decision Points



- Clarify Board's intentions with regard to reallocation
- Equal vs proportional allocations to states within regions?
- Regional biomass information may change
- Regional configuration (ME & NH, NJ)
- Definition of "stability" in state quotas

Next Steps for Board



- Consider initiation of a management action
 - Establish objectives
 - Specify which management strategies should be considered
 - Consider potential timeline for document development

Potential Timeline



Date	Activity/Action
May 2019	Initiate addendum to address commercial black sea bass state allocations
August 2019	Review draft management options
October 2019	Review operational assessment; consider draft addendum for public comment
Nov-Dec 2019	State public hearings on draft addendum
February 2020	Consider addendum for final approval; potential implementation in 2020 or 2021?



Questions?

Advisory Panel Report



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May 1, 2019

Advisory Panel Meeting



- Commission and Council AP conference call on April 2, 2019 to review potential management options for commercial black sea bass
- 12 Commission advisors; 16 Council Advisors
- 14 commercial, 10 recreational, 3 both
- 6 comments sent by email

AP Feedback – Status Quo



- 10 supported status quo
 - Southern states are catching full quotas
 - Too much uncertainty
- 2 opposed status quo
 - Resource availability is high in northern states, but current quotas do not allow access

AP Feedback - TMGC



- 6 opposed TMGC approach
 - Uncertainty about results of approach
 - Unfair for southern states
 - Does not actually change based on real-time data
 - Concerns about using trawl survey information
- 2 supported TMGC approach
- Other comments
 - Need a minimum allocation so states don't go too low

AP Feedback – Trigger Approach



- 3 supported trigger approach
 - Protects investment
 - Expansion areas should get excess quota
 - A start toward more flexibility
- 6 supported continued evaluation of approach
 - Needs more evaluation
 - Should focus first on updated stock information

AP Feedback - ASQ



- 8 opposed ASQ approach
 - Same issues as RSA with a different name
 - “Will produce more Carlos Rafaelis”
 - Those with more money should not get more fish
- 1 supported ASQ approach
 - Could use an LOA to help enforcement

AP Feedback – General Comments



- Need updated stock assessment before making changes to allocations
- Stock is not shifting north, but expanding
- Including NJ as part of the Northern Region makes more sense
- Need to reduce bycatch mortality; could subdivide quotas by gear
- Abundance should be considered in addition to biomass

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Questions?

