



Striped Bass TC Report

May 5, 2020

Background



- Add. VI laid out new regulations to reduce total striped bass removals by 18% relative to 2017
- Intended to reduce F to the target in 2020 to address overfishing
- The 18% reduction predicted for the measures in Add. VI is based on all states implementing the Add. VI measures

Background



- Several states elected to pursue conservation equivalency (CE)
- With some states implementing Add. VI measures and some states implementing CE measures, the predicted total removals in 2020 would be different

Board Task



Evaluate the effect of CE measures on the predicted reduction of total striped bass removals in 2020

TC Analysis



1. Calculate the expected reduction in total removals based on the measures each state implemented in 2020, commercial and recreational
2. Update projections for F and SSB based on:
 - New predicted 2020 removals
 - Updated 2018 data
 - Preliminary 2019 data

Final 2020 Measures



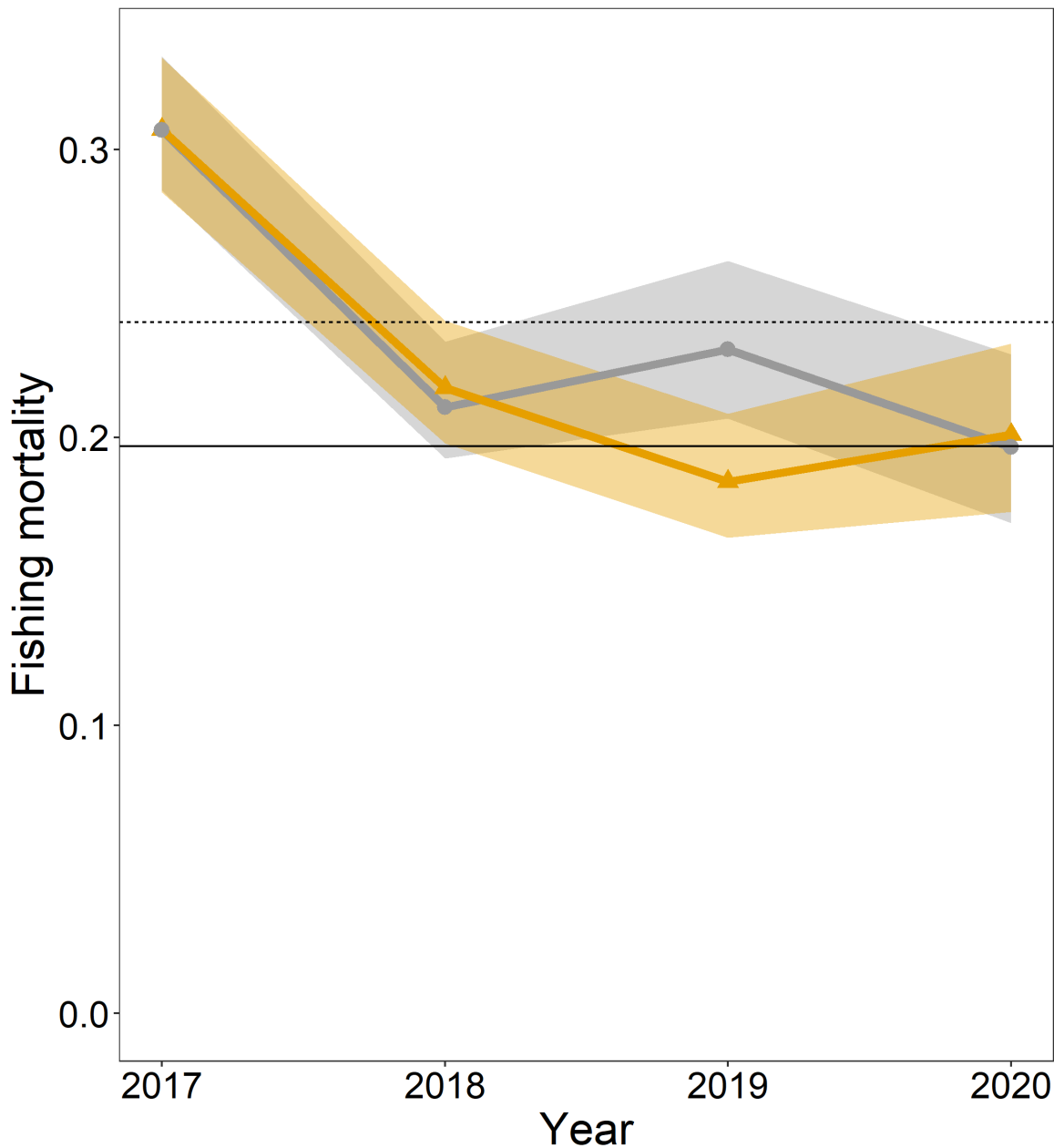
- ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, PA, DC, and NC implemented Add. VI measures
- NJ, DE, MD, VA, and PRFC implemented approved CE measures

Predicted Reductions



- The new predicted total removals in 2020 is a 15% reduction from 2017 levels, compared to the 18% reduction predicted for the consistent coastwide Add. VI measures
- The updated projections indicated a 42% chance of being at or below the F target in 2020, compared to a 50% chance calculated with the original projections

Projections – F



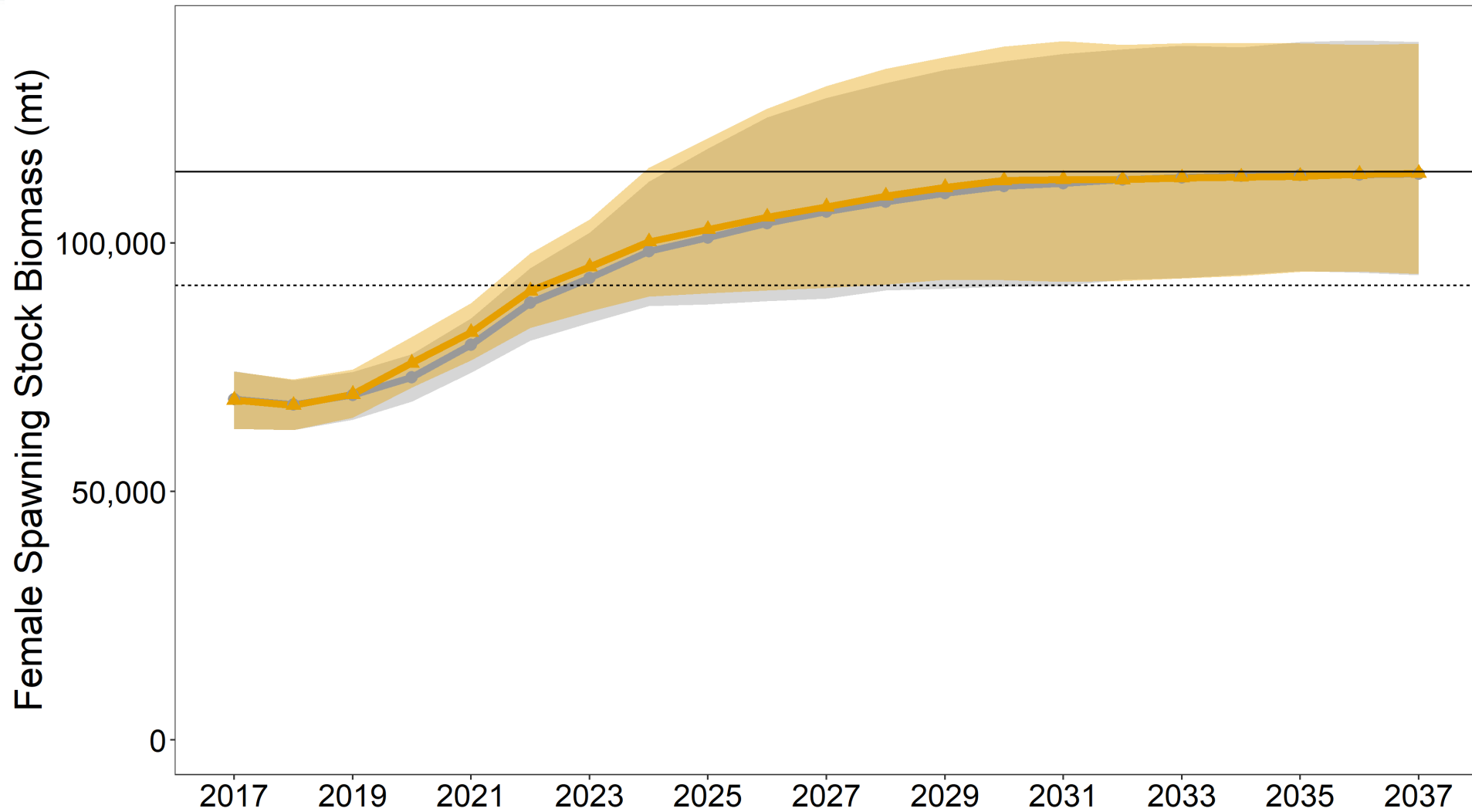
Reference Points

- F target
- F threshold

Removals

- Original analysis
- Final 2020 measures with CE

Projections – SSB



Reference Points

- SSB target
- SSB threshold

Removals

- Original analysis
- ▲ Final 2020 measures with CE

Conclusions



- Relative to consistent coastwide measures, the combination of Add. VI and CE measures implemented in 2020 result in:
 - Lower predicted reduction relative to 2017: **15% vs. 18%**
 - Lower probability of achieving F target in 2020: **42% vs. 50%**
- Overall, does not significantly undermine the Board's efforts to reduce F and end overfishing in 2020

Caveats



- The 15% reduction calculated for 2020 relies on the assumption that effort in 2020 will be similar to effort in 2017
- 2018 and 2019 both had significantly lower total removals than 2017 under the same Add. IV measures
- Cannot predict the effects of COVID-19 on total removals



QUESTIONS

State-Specific Reductions (Rec)



Add. VI Measures

ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NC (Ocean)
-2%	-3%	-8%	-14%	-8%	0%

CE Measures

NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA
-24%	-25%	-20%	-21%	-23%



Next Steps for Striped Bass Management

May 5, 2020



Next Steps: Postponed Motions

Postponed Motion from February 2020:

Move to task the Plan Review Team to review state reductions in the Fishery Management Plan Review of the 2020 fishing year. If a state is below their predicted target reduction, the Board may direct a state to modify measures for the following fishing year to achieve the target reduction.

Postponed Motions from April 2019:

Maine Motion: Move to initiate an amendment to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan to address the needed consideration for change on the issues of fishery goals and objectives, empirical/biological/spatial reference points, management triggers, rebuilding biomass, and area-specific management. Work on this Amendment will begin upon the completion of the previously discussed addendum to the management plan.

Motion to Amend: move to amend to add reallocation of commercial quota between states.



Next Steps: Postponed Motions

- ➔ Commission Leadership decided to further postpone these motions until the August meeting
- ➔ Delaying action on these postponed motions does not pose any significant impact on implementation of possible actions

Next Steps: Management Issues



- Stock rebuilding (SSB to target by 2029)
- Fishery goals and objectives
- Reference points (empirical/biological/spatial)
- Management triggers
- Regional management (e.g., Ocean vs ChesBay)
- Commercial allocation
- Conservation equivalency
- Accountability for the recreational fishery
- Others?????

Next Steps: Work Group?



→ Commission Leadership recommends the Board form a work group of Board members to further explore these issues, and develop recommendations for Board consideration



QUESTIONS