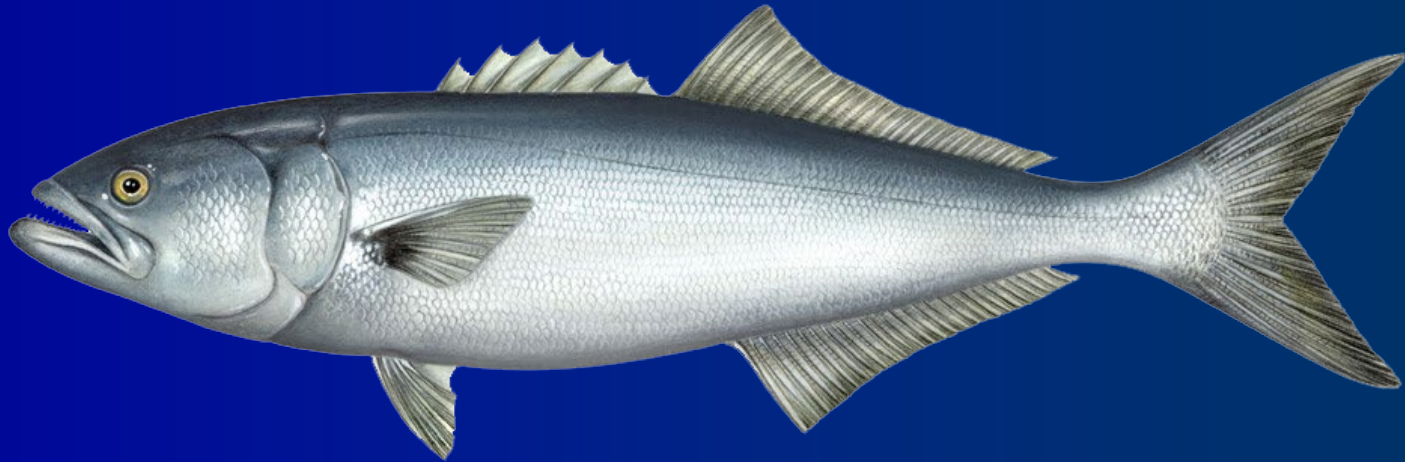


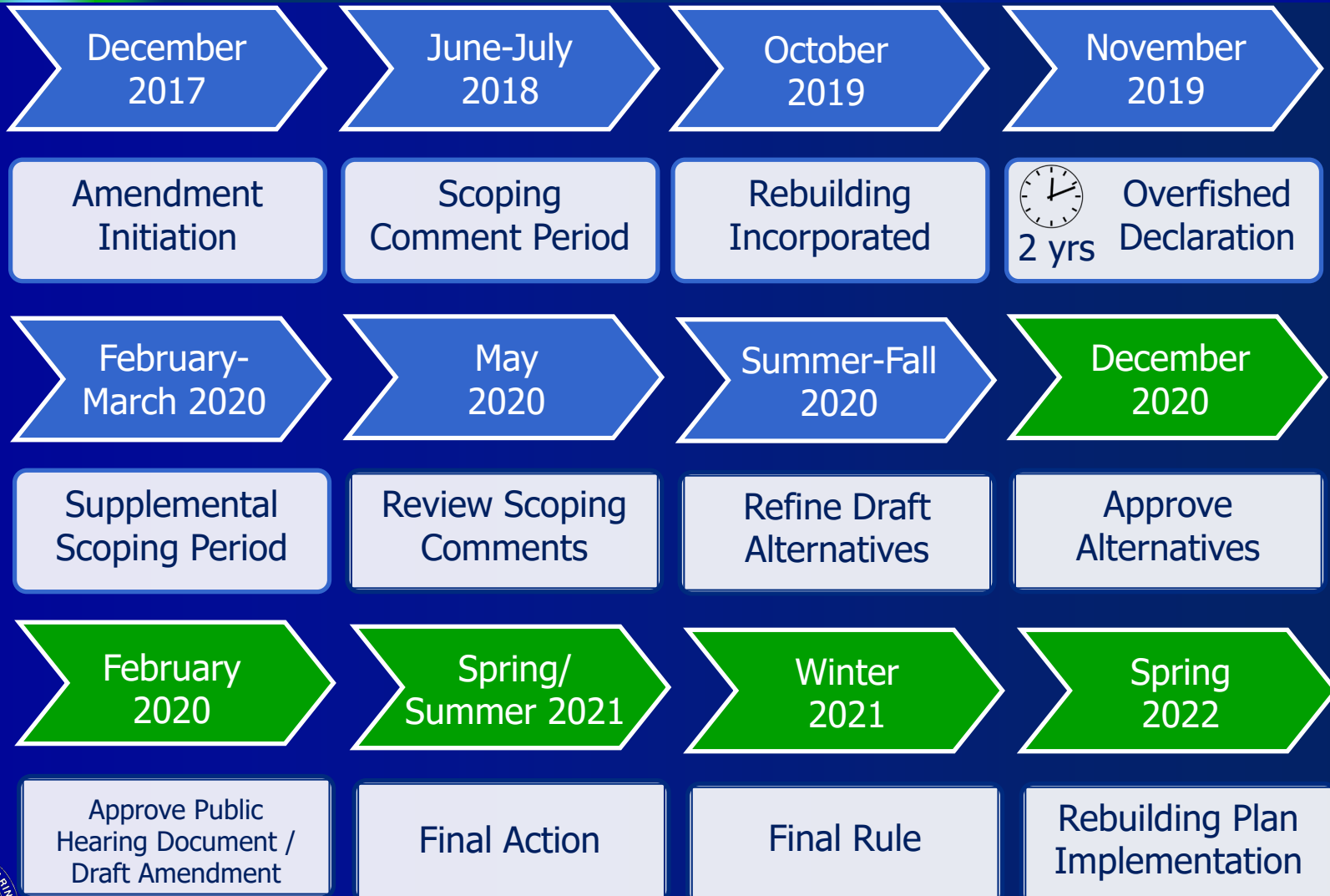


Atlantic Bluefish



Joint Council/Board Meeting
August 6, 2020

Timeline

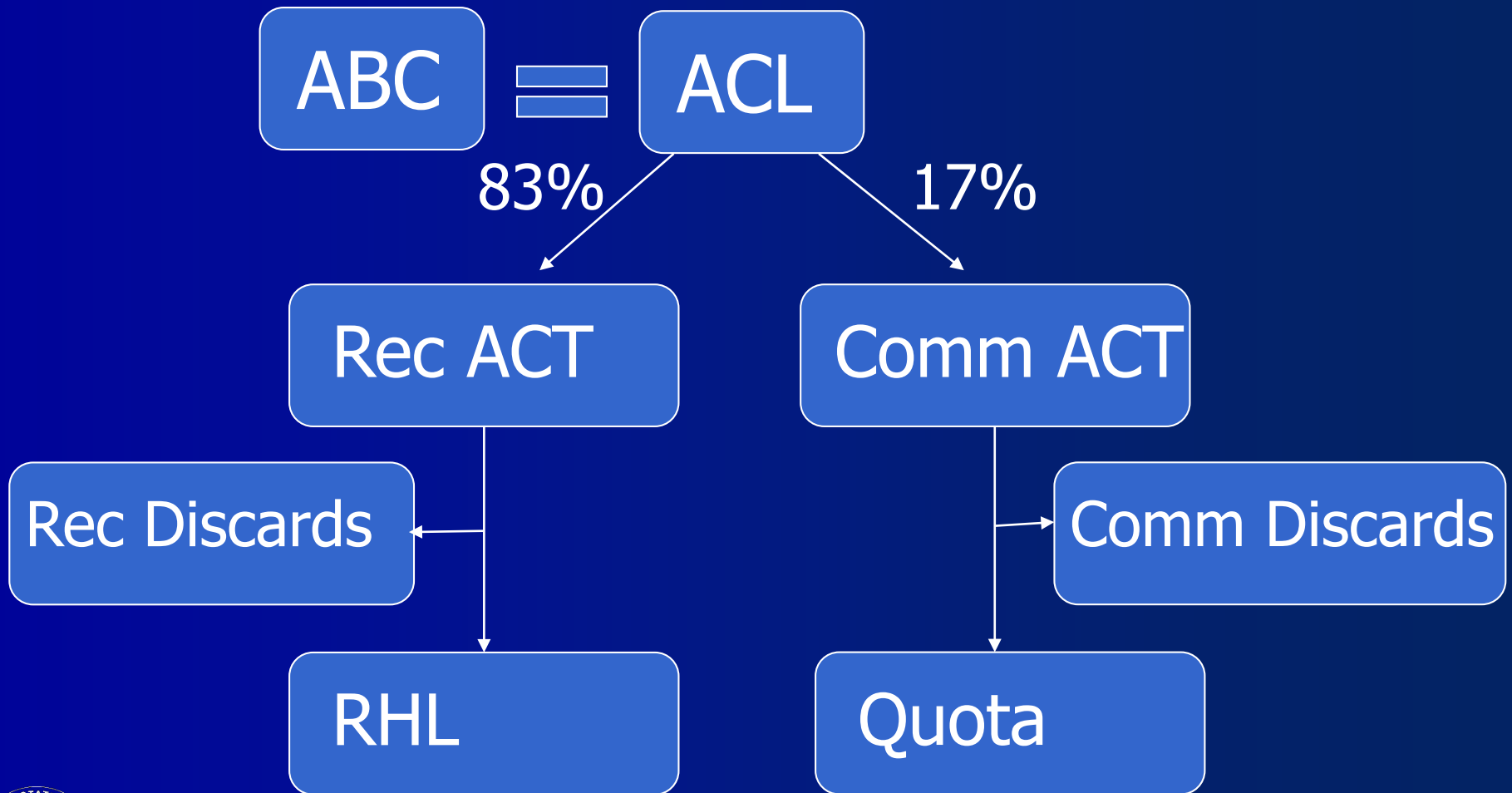


Outline & Objectives

- FMAT summary and discussion of draft alternatives
 1. FMP Goals and Objectives
 2. Commercial and Recreational Sector Allocations
 - Phase-in & Trigger Approaches
 3. Commercial Allocations to the States
 - Phase-in, Trigger, and Minimum Default Allocation Approaches
 4. Regional Commercial Allocations
 5. Rebuilding Plan
 6. For-Hire Sector Separation
 7. Sector Transfers
 8. Commercial State-to-State Transfers (Refereed Approach)
 9. Management Uncertainty
 10. De minimis



Issue 2: Sector Allocations



Issue 2: Sector Allocation Alternatives

Alternative	Allocations based on catch data, MRIP Discards	Recreational Allocation	Commercial Allocation
Status quo	1981-1989 (Landings-based)	83%	17%
2.02	5 year (2014-2018)	89%	11%
2.03	10 year (2009-2018)	89%	11%
2.04	20 year (1999-2018)	87%	13%
2.05	Full Time Series (1981-2018)	86%	14%

Alternative	Allocations based on landings data	Recreational Allocation	Commercial Allocation
2.10	5 year (2014-2018)	86%	14%
2.11	10 year (2009-2018)	86%	14%
2.12	20 year (1999-2018)	84%	16%
2.13	Full Time Series (1981-2018)	84%	16%



Issue 2: Sector Allocations Phase-in Approach

- Both sectors are impacted by a reduced quota
 - Overfished designation
 - Sector transfers from recreational to commercial sector halted
- Alternatives currently in development decrease the commercial allocation
- Phasing in allocation changes allows for commercial/recreational allocation percentages to transition slowly over time.
 - Potential to reduce economic burden
- FMAT recommends streamlining phase-in timeline with rebuilding timeline
- Changing allocations on a continual basis during a rebuilding plan may unnecessarily overcomplicate management.



Issue 2: Sector Allocations Trigger Approach

- May create more complexity for management
- The FMAT is concerned about the tradeoff between perceived benefit and added complexity
- Not an appropriate management tool during rebuilding
- What is an appropriate trigger threshold level?
 - Recent biomass levels have remained low
 - Reallocation scheme above trigger is a policy decision: the FMAT was unsure of how to reallocate.



Issue 2: Sector Allocations

Issue	Approach	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
Sector Allocations	Phase-in	Keep for further development Streamline the timing with the selected rebuilding duration
	Trigger	Remove from Amendment Include a provision that would allow future implementation via a framework.



Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Landings-Based Allocation Alternatives						
	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6
State	Status quo (1981-1989)	5 year (2014-2018)	10 year (2009-2018)	20 year (1999-2018)	Time Series (1981-2018)	1/2 '81-'89 1/2 '09-'18
ME	0.67%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.43%	0.49%
NH	0.41%	0.03%	0.12%	0.17%	0.65%	0.33%
MA	6.71%	10.64%	10.16%	7.53%	7.18%	7.66%
RI	6.80%	11.81%	9.64%	8.00%	7.96%	7.59%
CT	1.26%	1.18%	1.00%	0.73%	1.12%	1.19%
NY	10.37%	20.31%	19.94%	19.44%	14.76%	13.01%
NJ	14.79%	11.23%	13.94%	15.23%	15.57%	14.57%
DE	1.88%	0.58%	0.40%	0.39%	1.09%	1.47%
MD	3.00%	1.50%	1.84%	1.54%	2.10%	2.68%
VA	11.86%	4.62%	5.85%	6.92%	8.79%	10.26%
NC	32.01%	32.06%	32.38%	36.94%	33.52%	32.13%
SC	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.03%
GA	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
FL	10.04%	6.07%	4.75%	3.10%	6.91%	8.59%
Total	100.00%	100.01%	100.03%	100.02%	100.10%	100.00%



Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Phase-in Approach

- Same FMAT comments for Issue 2 apply here
 - Phasing in allocation changes allows for commercial state allocation percentages to transition slowly over time.
 - Potential to reduce economic burden
 - The commercial sector is impacted by a reduced quota
 - Overfished designation
 - Sector transfers from recreational to commercial sector halted
 - Changing allocations on a continual basis during a rebuilding plan may unnecessarily overcomplicate management.
 - FMAT recommends streamlining a phase-in timeline with rebuilding timeline



Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Trigger Approach

	Baseline	Option 1 (0.05%)	Option 2 (0.10%)	Option 3 (0.25%)	
State	Allocation of baseline quota ≤8.84 M lbs, 8.21 M lbs, or 6.67 M lbs	Allocation of <u>additional</u> quota beyond either 8.84 M lbs, 8.21 M lbs, or 6.67 M lbs	Allocation of <u>additional</u> quota beyond either 8.84 M lbs, 8.21 M lbs, or 6.67 M lbs	Allocation of <u>additional</u> quota beyond either 8.84 M lbs, 8.21 M lbs, or 6.67 M lbs	Revised state quotas
ME	0.67%	0.05%	0.10%	0.25%	Dependent on total annual coastwide quota; state percent shares vary with amount of "additional" quota in a given year.
NH	0.41%	0.05%	0.10%	0.25%	
MA	6.71%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
RI	6.81%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
CT	1.27%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
NY	10.38%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
NJ	14.81%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
DE	1.88%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
MD	3.00%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
VA	11.94%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
NC	32.03%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
SC	0.04%	0.05%	0.10%	0.25%	
GA	0.01%	0.05%	0.10%	0.25%	
FL	10.06%	9.98%	9.96%	9.90%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	

Issue 3: Sector Allocations Trigger Approach

- Same FMAT comments for Issue 2 apply here
 - May create more complexity for management
 - The FMAT is concerned about the tradeoff between perceived benefit and added complexity
 - Not an appropriate management tool during rebuilding
 - What is an appropriate trigger threshold level?
 - Recent biomass levels have remained low
 - Reallocation scheme above trigger is a policy decision: the FMAT was unsure of how to reallocate.
- Refine the equity across states
- FMAT recommends further development



Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Trigger Approach

Range of Baseline Quota	Associated Additional Quota Allocations
0-1%	0.25%
>1-5%	3.00%
>5%	12.86%

	Baseline	Option 4 (0.25%)
State	Allocation of baseline quota ≤8.84 M lbs, 8.21 M lbs, or 6.67 M lbs	Allocation of <u>additional</u> quota beyond either 8.84 M lbs, 8.21 M lbs, or 6.67 M lbs
ME	0.67%	0.25%
NH	0.41%	0.25%
MA	6.71%	12.86%
RI	6.81%	12.86%
CT	1.27%	3.00%
NY	10.38%	12.86%
NJ	14.81%	12.86%
DE	1.88%	3.00%
MD	3.00%	3.00%
VA	11.94%	12.86%
NC	32.03%	12.86%
SC	0.04%	0.25%
GA	0.01%	0.25%
FL	10.06%	12.86%
Total	100%	100%



Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Minimum Default Allocation

- Modeled after Amendment 3 for Atlantic Menhaden
 - “The Atlantic menhaden commercial TAC is managed with jurisdictional quotas. Each jurisdiction is allocated a 0.5% fixed minimum quota and the remainder of the TAC is allocated based on a three-year average of historic landings from 2009-2011”.
- Sufficient range of percentages (0.10%, 0.25%, 0.50%, 1.0%)
- Minimum default allocations were applied to each state by allocating a baseline quota of 0.10-1.00% to each state
- Then, the rest of the annual commercial quota is allocated based on historic landings under different time series



Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Minimum Default Allocation

		0.10% Minimum Default Allocation					
State	True Status quo 1981-1989	Status quo 1981-1989	5-year 2014-2018	10-year 2009-2018	20-year 1999-2018	Time Series 1981-1989	1/2 '81-'89 -1/2 '09-'18
ME	0.67%	0.76%	0.10%	0.11%	0.11%	0.52%	0.58%
NH	0.41%	0.51%	0.13%	0.22%	0.27%	0.74%	0.42%
MA	6.71%	6.72%	10.59%	10.12%	7.53%	7.18%	7.65%
RI	6.81%	6.81%	11.74%	9.61%	7.98%	7.95%	7.58%
CT	1.27%	1.35%	1.26%	1.09%	0.82%	1.20%	1.28%
NY	10.38%	10.33%	20.12%	19.76%	19.27%	14.65%	12.93%
NJ	14.81%	14.70%	11.17%	13.85%	15.11%	15.45%	14.46%
DE	1.88%	1.95%	0.67%	0.49%	0.48%	1.17%	1.55%
MD	3.00%	3.06%	1.57%	1.92%	1.62%	2.17%	2.75%
VA	11.94%	11.88%	4.65%	5.87%	6.93%	8.77%	10.22%
NC	32.03%	31.68%	31.71%	32.03%	36.52%	33.15%	31.78%
SC	0.04%	0.13%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.12%	0.13%
GA	0.01%	0.11%	0.10%	0.10%	0.11%	0.11%	0.11%
FL	10.06%	10.02%	6.08%	4.78%	3.16%	6.91%	8.57%



Issue 3: Commercial Allocations to the States

Issue	Approach	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
Commercial Allocations to the States	Phase-in	Keep for further development Streamline the timing with the selected rebuilding duration
	Trigger	Keep for further development, but refine the equity across states
	Minimum Default Allocations	Keep for further development Sufficient range of percentages (0.10%, 0.25%, 0.50%, 1.0%)



Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

Alternative	Time Series	New England (ME-CT)	Mid-Atlantic (NY-VA)	South Atlantic (NC-FL)
4.1	Status quo: 1981-1989	15.86%	42.00%	42.13%
4.2	2014-2018	23.66%	38.23%	38.13%
4.3	2009-2018	20.93%	41.97%	37.13%
4.4	1999-2018	16.44%	43.53%	40.05%
4.5	1981-2018	17.34%	42.31%	40.45%
4.6	½ '81-'89 -½ '09-'18	17.25%	41.99%	40.75%



Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

- Originated as a proposal from FL
- Regionalization: NE, MA, SA
 - Race to fish?
 - Biological basis?
 - Landings as a proxy for abundance?
 - Lacking biological backing, there is less technical merit
 - Trip limit step downs and/or adjusted quotas
 - Requires a high level of state buy-in
 - Transfer approval may be less likely to occur



Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

Pound Bin	New England Trips			Mid-Atlantic Trips			South Atlantic Trips		
	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017
5000+	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
4000-4999	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
3000-3999	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
2000-2999	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%
1000-1999	<1%	<1%	1.25%	<1%	2.45%	1.45%	1.58%	1.13%	1.26%
500-999	2.34%	1.42%	3.42%	2.29%	3.12%	3.31%	3.69%	3.08%	2.99%
<500	95.84%	96.69%	94.10%	97.20%	94.40%	95.20%	94.31%	95.33%	94.76%

New England (ME-CT)		Mid-Atlantic (NY-VA)		South Atlantic (NC-FL)	
Harvest Trigger	Trip Limit (lbs)	Harvest Trigger	Trip Limit (lbs)	Harvest Trigger	Trip Limit (lbs)
0%	3,500	0%	2,000	0%	10,000
75%	1,500	75%	1,500	50%	3,500
90%	500	90%	500	75%	1,500
-	-	-	-	90%	500



Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

- CFR § 648.162 Bluefish Specifications
 - Two or more states implementing a state commercial quota for bluefish may request approval from the Regional Administrator to combine their quotas, or part of their quotas, into an overall regional quota.



Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations

Issue	Approach	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
Regional Commercial Allocations	Regional Allocations	<p>FMAT will evaluate whether regional approach has biological basis. Lacking biological backing, the FMAT recommends removal.</p> <p>Regional allocations will lead to loss of autonomy and reduce the flexibility to manage their own fisheries at the state level.</p>
	Trip Limit Step Downs	<p>Refine trip limit analysis to identify if most bluefish landings are coming from a small number of trips with very high landings or many trips with a low amount of landings. Then, reassess the proposed trip limits. Adjusted quotas can be used to ensure the regional commercial quota is not exceeded.</p>



Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan

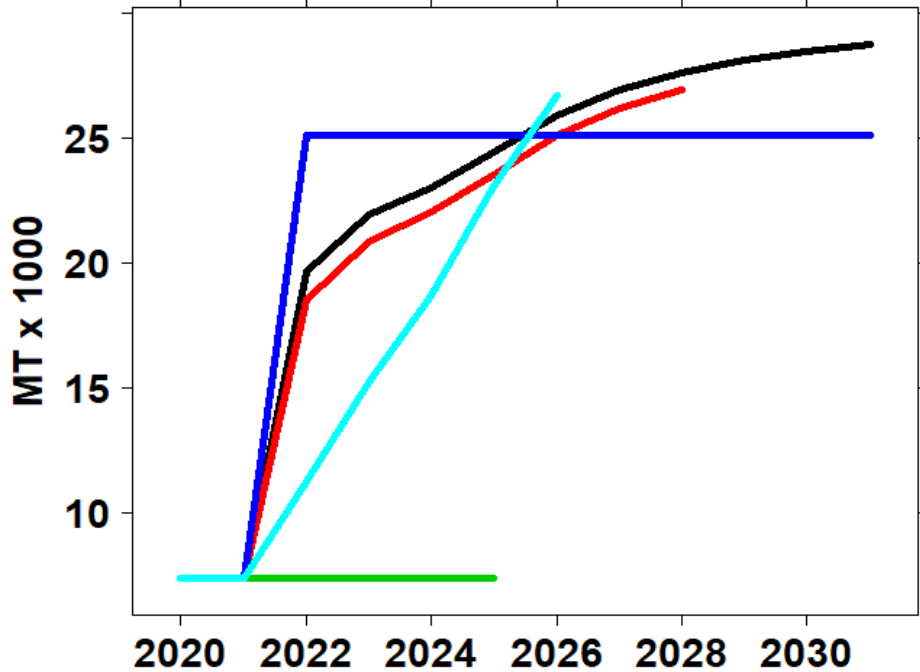
- Adjustments to the Council's risk policy (for bluefish only) are necessary under alternatives 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5.
- Environmental basis: wait to see how the stock responds to the selected rebuilding plan.
 - Additional measures
 - Research
 - Reviews
- Reassessed each year through specifications



Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan

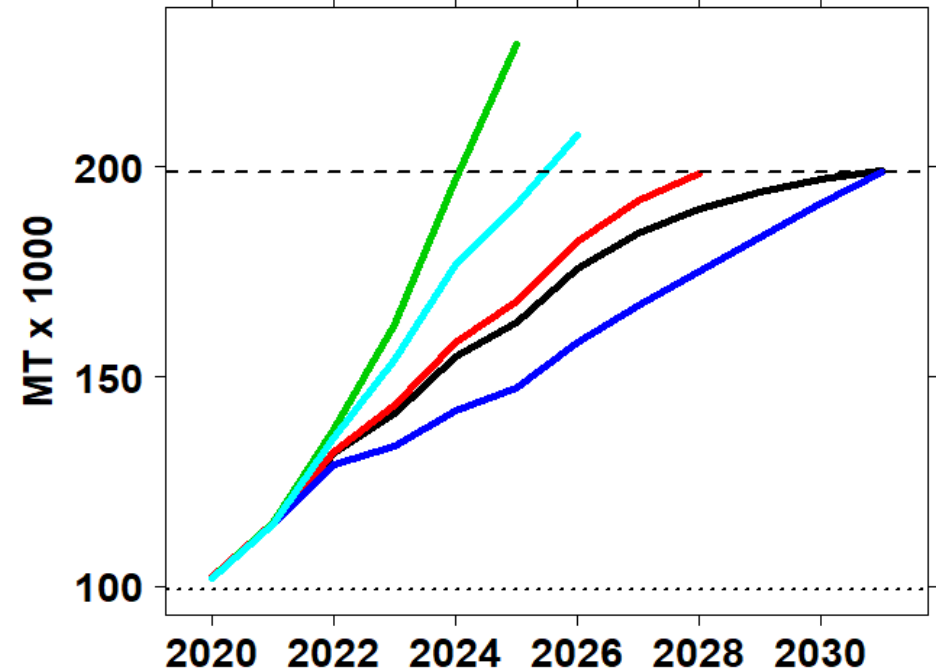
Catch

constF10yrs ——— constHarvHigh ———
constF7yrs ——— Pstar ———
constHarv ———



SSB

constF10yrs ——— constHarvHigh ———
constF7yrs ——— Pstar ———
constHarv ———



Issue 5: Rebuilding Plan

Alternative	Rebuilding Plan	Duration	*Adjustment to Council Risk Policy	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
5.1	Status Quo	N/A	N/A	Must include in amendment. FMAT is requesting further guidance on which alternatives (if any) be removed.
5.2	Constant Harvest	4 years	No	
5.3	Constant Fishing Mortality	10 years	Yes	
5.4	Constant Fishing Mortality	7 years	Yes	
5.5	Constant Harvest (Highest Catch)	10 years	Yes	
5.6	P* (Council Risk Policy)	5 years	N/A	

*Adjustment to the Council Risk Policy will be done through development of the Environmental Assessment and adds minimal work.



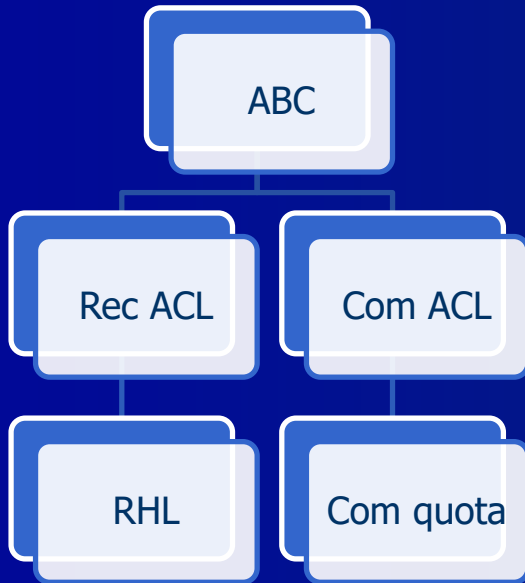
Issue 6: For-Hire Sector Separation

■ Allocation Structure

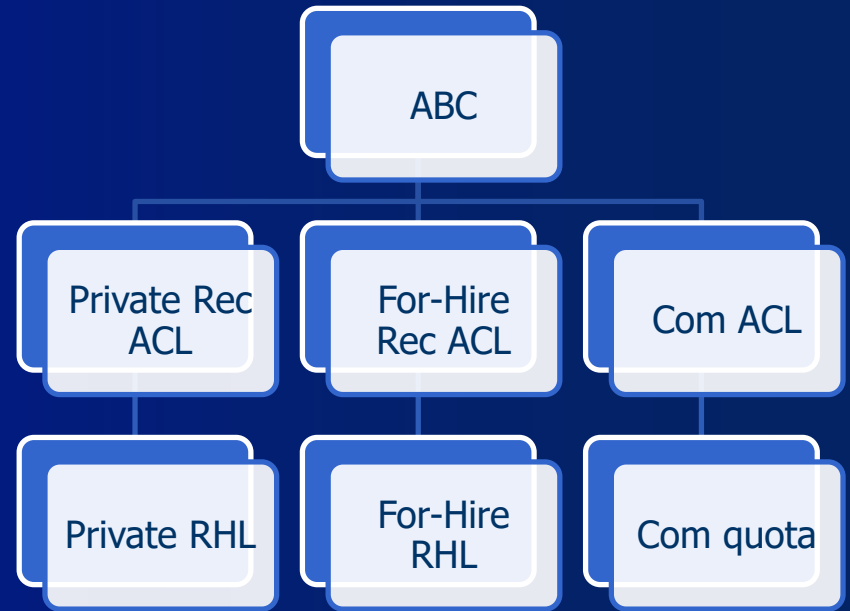
- 3 different potential structures for division of for-hire vs. private allocation:
 - ACL level
 - Sub-ACL level
 - RHL level
- FMAT discussed implications on accountability and developing allocations for each structure



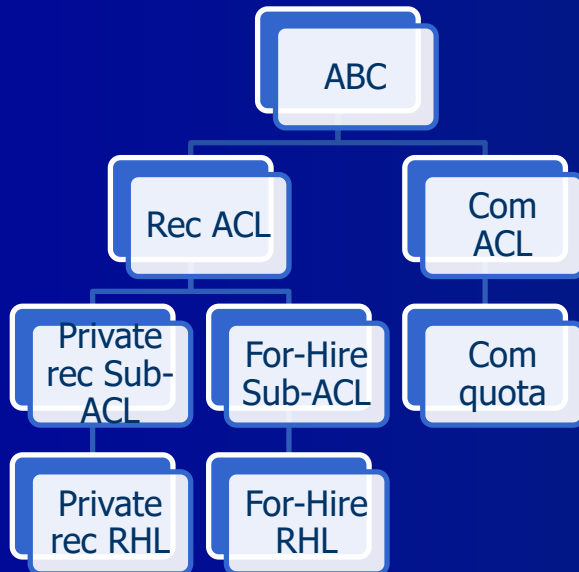
A: Status quo



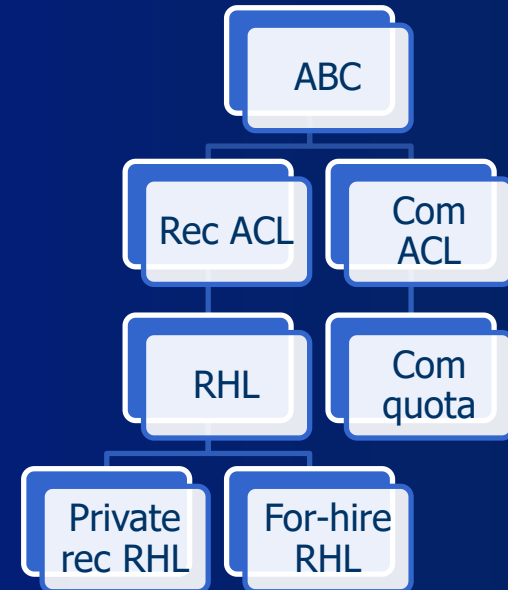
B: ACT Level



C: Sub-ACT Level



D: RHL Level

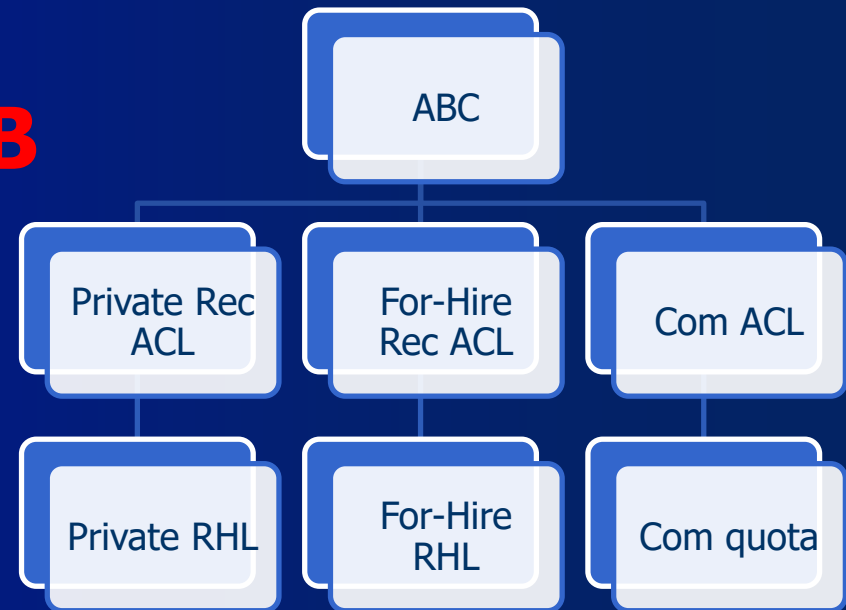


FMAT Recommends

Removal of Structure B

- Would require development of these three allocations & development of separate accountability measures

B: ACT Level



FMAT Recommends

Removal of Structure D

- Includes separate management of harvest only
- Accountability is problematic under this structure

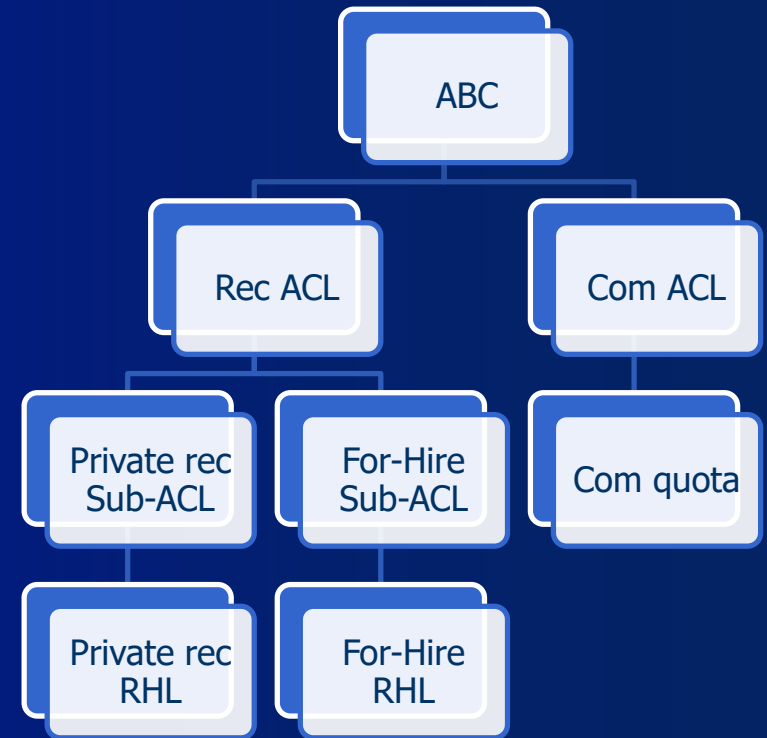
D: RHL Level



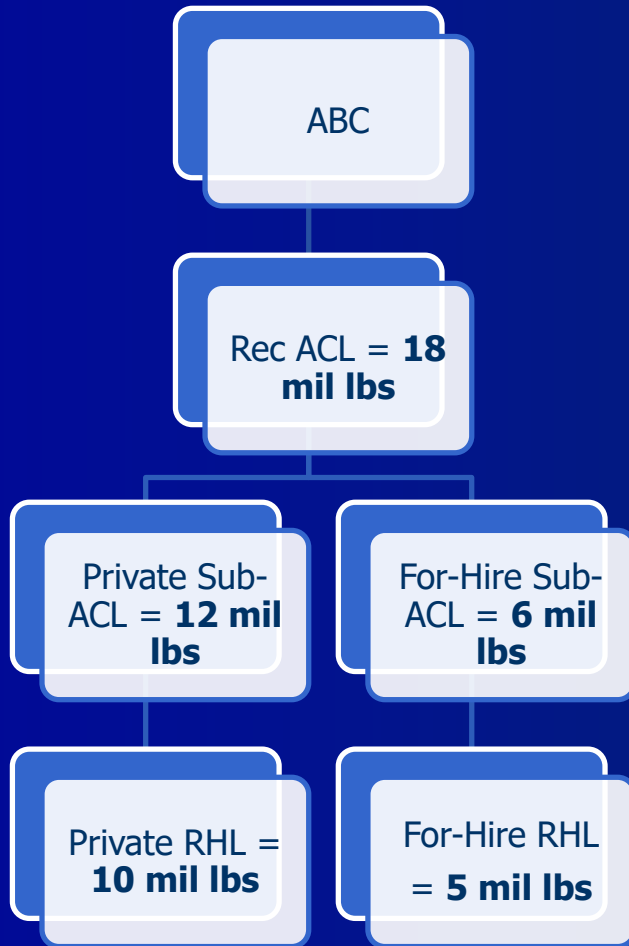
FMAT Recommends Development of Structure C

- Accountability measures applied at sub-ACL level
- “True” sector separation

C: Sub-ACT Level



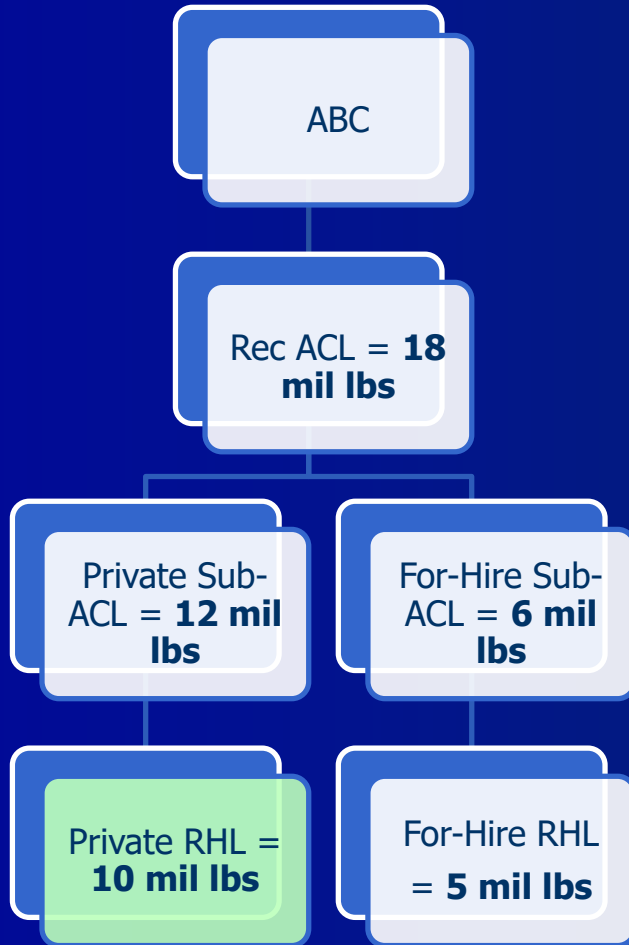
C: Sub-ACL Level



D: RHL Level



C: Sub-ACT Level



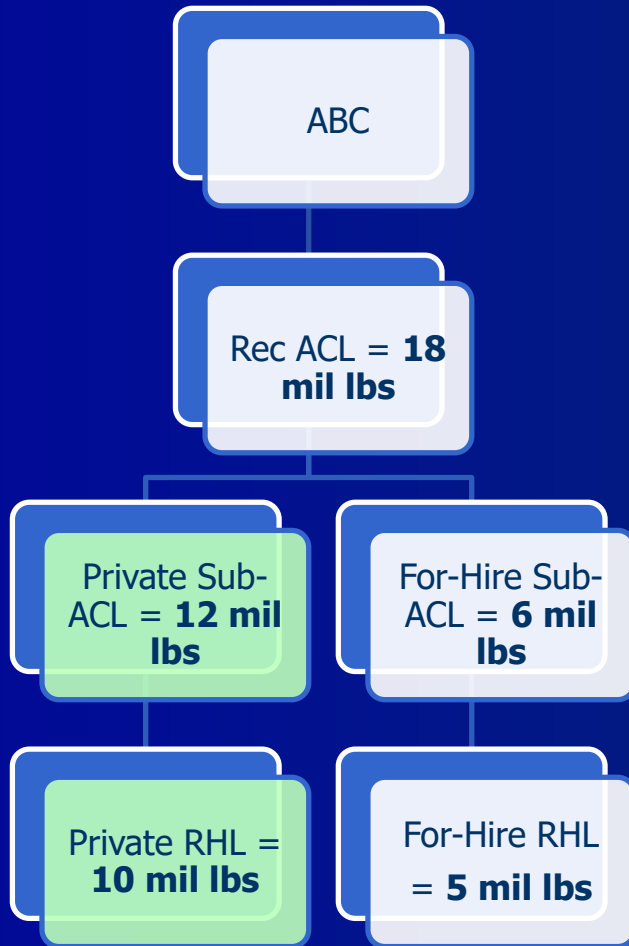
D: RHL Level



Private Rec Sector: 10 mil lbs (landings)



C: Sub-ACT Level



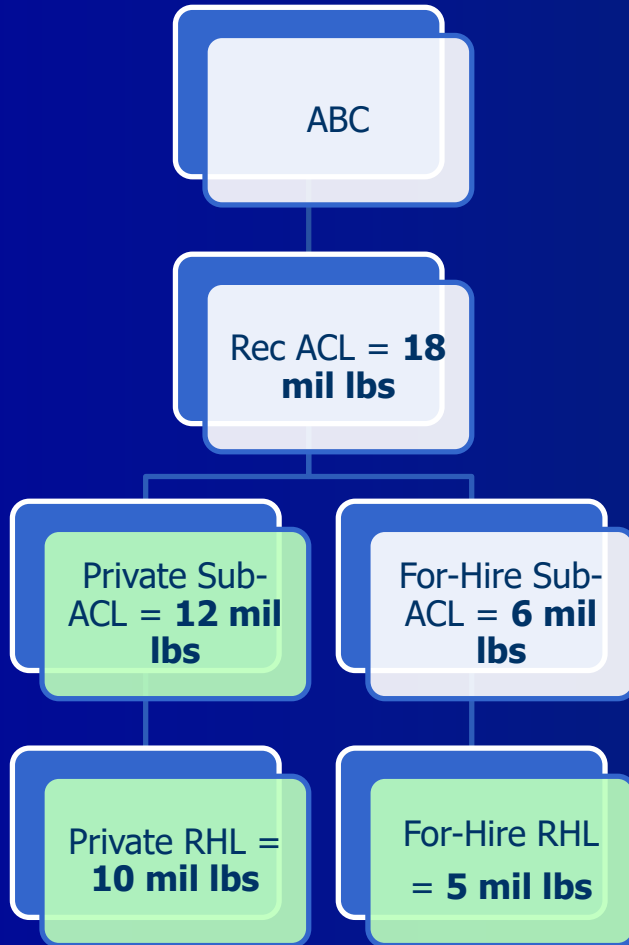
D: RHL Level



Private Rec Sector: 10 mil lbs (landings) 2 mil lbs (discards)



C: Sub-ACT Level



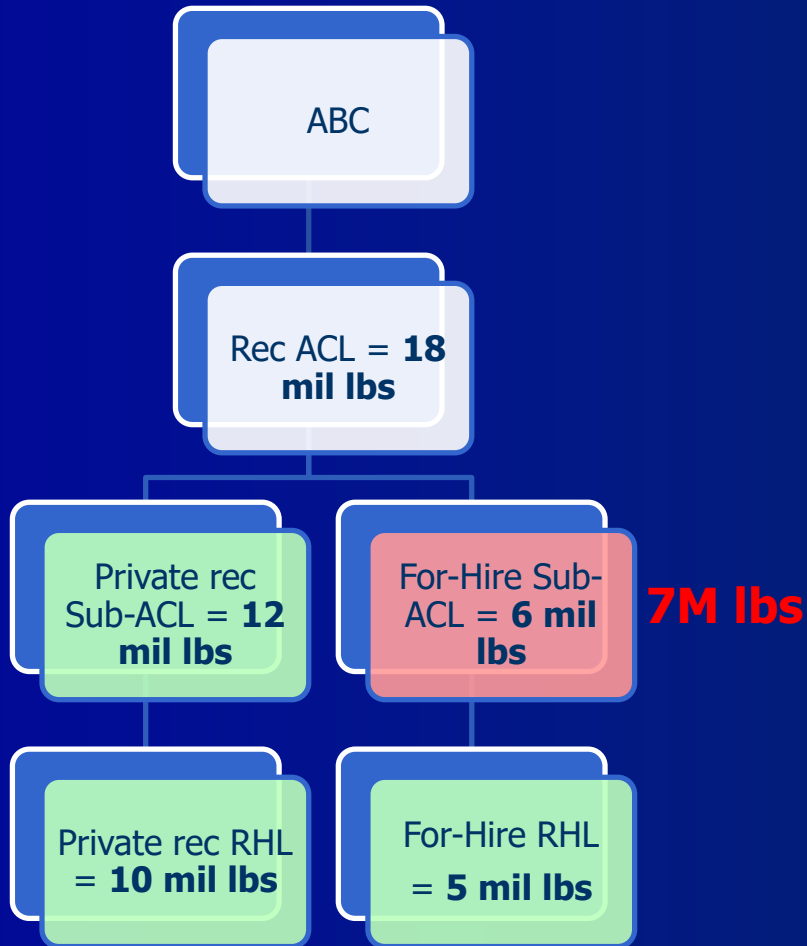
D: RHL Level



Private Rec Sector: 10 mil lbs (landings) 2 mil lbs (discards)
For-Hire Sector: 5 mil lbs (landings)



C: Sub-ACT Level



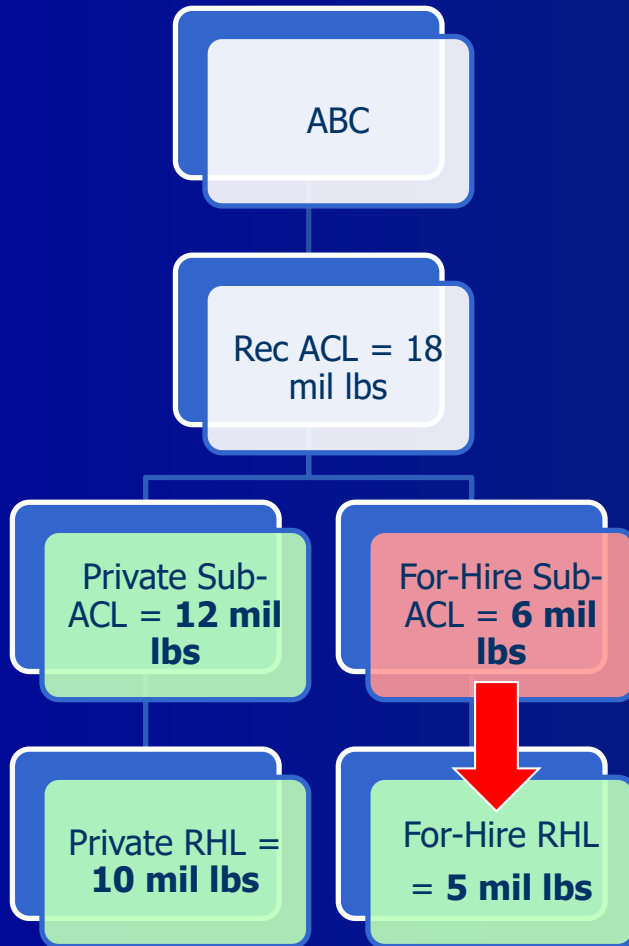
D: RHL Level



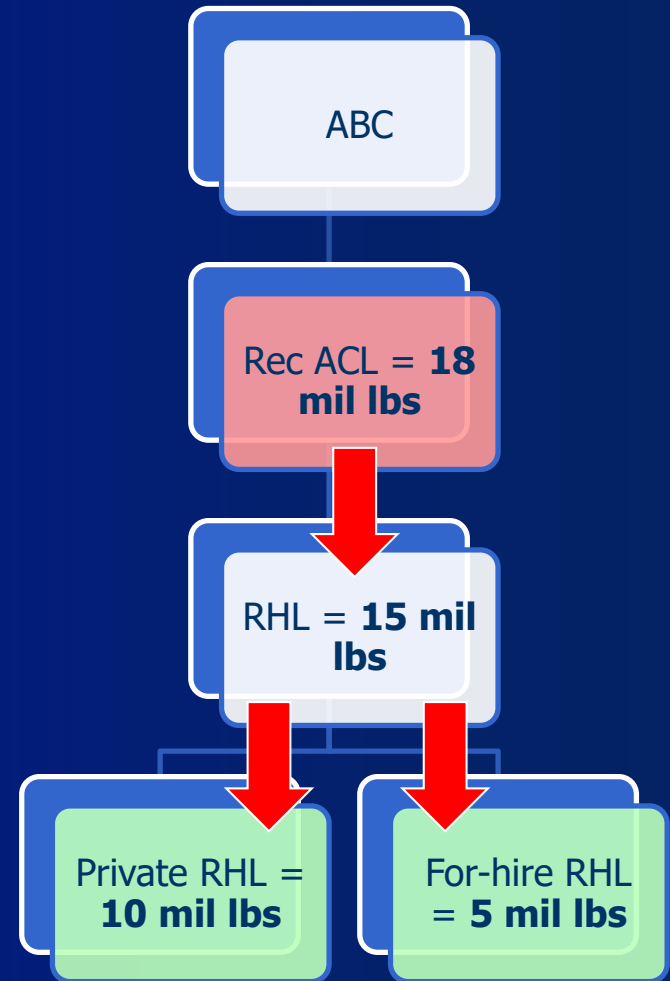
Private Rec Sector: 10 mil lbs (landings) 2 mil lbs (discards)
For-Hire Sector: 5 mil lbs (landings) 2 mil lbs (discards)



C: Sub-ACT Level



D: RHL Level



Private Rec Sector: 10 mil lbs (landings) 2 mil lbs (discards)

For-Hire Sector: 5 mil lbs (landings) 2 mil lbs (discards)

 **= Accountability Measures**



Issue 6: For-Hire Sector Separation

Alternative	Landings Data	For-Hire Allocation	Private/Shore Allocation
6.2.02	5 year (2014-2018)	7%	93%
6.2.03	10 year (2009-2018)	9%	91%
6.2.04	20 year (1999-2018)	12%	88%

Alternative	Catch Data, MRIP Discards	For-Hire Allocation	Private/Shore Allocation
6.2.05	5 year (2014-2018)	6%	94%
6.2.06	10 year (2009-2018)	8%	92%
6.2.07	20 year (1999-2018)	10%	90%

- FMAT recommends using catch data to develop allocations under for-hire sector separation structure C

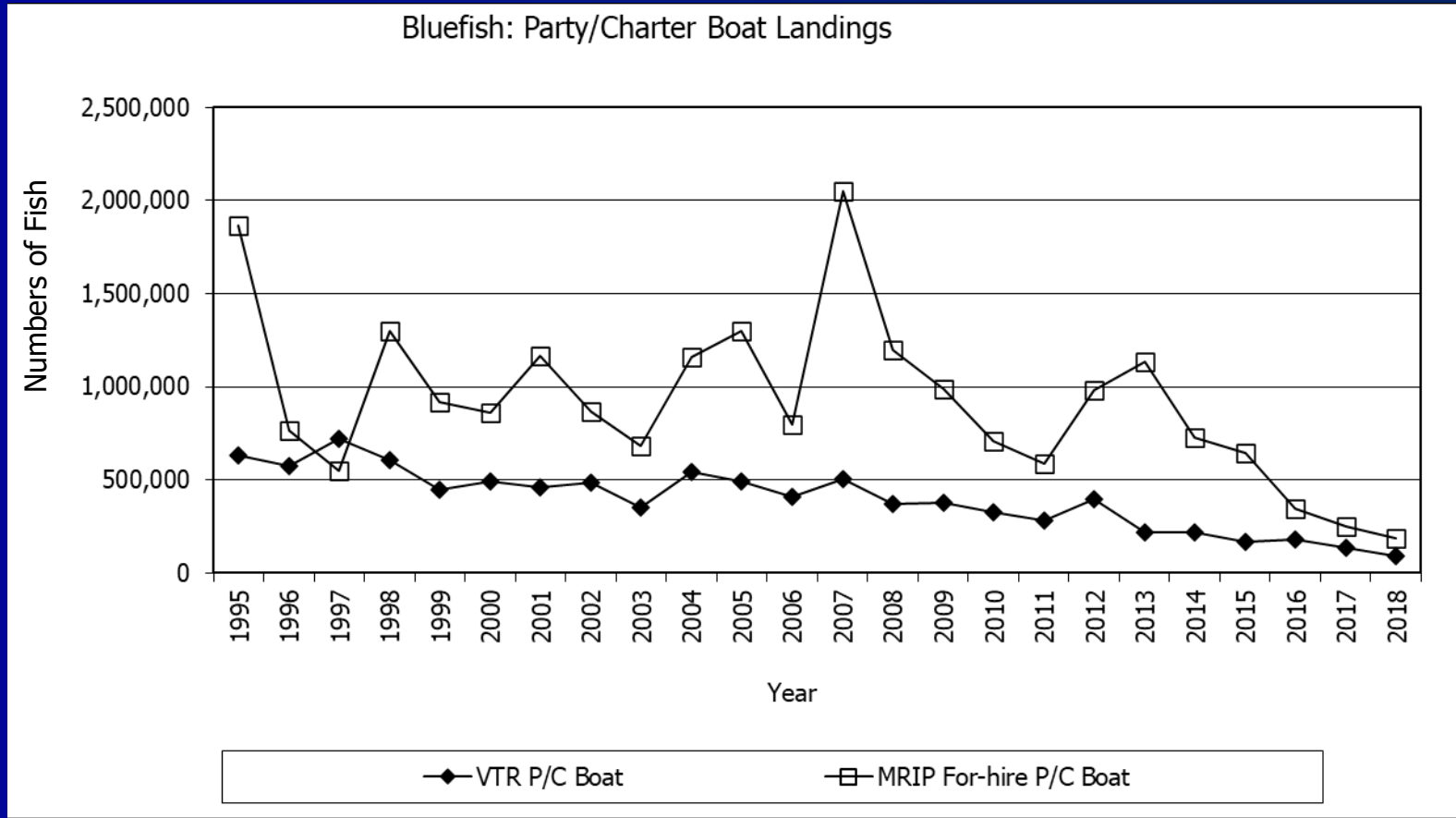


Issue 6: Data Concerns

- During scoping, the public was in support of using VTR data for management, however:
- FMAT did not develop allocation alternatives using VTR data because most states do not require catch reporting from for-hire vessels operating within state waters
- FMAT recommends utilizing MRIP data for accountability first
 - Could be replaced by VTR accounting once states have implemented reporting requirements
- FMAT has concerns about the reliability of MRIP data at the mode level (high PSEs).
 - FMAT previously recommended removal of for-hire sector separation



Issue 6: VTR versus MRIP Data



AP Comments on For-Hire Sector Separation

- 2 AP members in support, 1 AP member opposed
- VTR versus MRIP data
 - If people do not submit VTRs they should not be part of the for-hire allocation
- Committee of for-hire members to help inform management
 - Discuss setting seasons, bag limit, min size, etc.
- Differing bag limits are not fair

Issue 6: For-Hire Sector Separation

Issue	Approach	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
For-Hire Sector Separation	Allocations based on landings data	Keep for further development.
	Allocations based on catch data, MRIP discards	Keep for further development.
	Sector separation flow chart structure	Remove options B and D (i.e. approve option C).
	Data: MRIP vs. eVTRs	Relying on eVTRs and ensuring all states implement the same requirements in a timely manner is a large undertaking, which will require significant administrative effort and stakeholder buy in. Developing eVTR reporting may also be necessary prior to implementing for-hire sector separation.

Issue 7: Sector Transfers

- Need for transfer addressed annually through the specifications process
- Prior to August meeting, MC develops projections for next years landings for each sector

Scenario	Commercial Sector	Recreational Sector	Outcome
1	Projected to achieve quota	Projected to achieve RHL	No transfer
2	Projected to achieve quota	Projected to not achieve RHL	Transfer to comm
3	Projected to not achieve quota	Projected to achieve RHL	Transfer to rec
4	Projected to not achieve quota	Projected to not achieve RHL	No transfer



Issue 7: Timing and Process

- Existing bluefish transfer process
 - implements specifications in January for the new fishing year
 - NOAA Fisheries reassesses transfer amount in February based on new data and an adjustment notice is released in March/April
- Post-specifications adjustment problematic
 - Recreational measures set in December
- Without adjustments, projections are based off of incomplete data from prior year, increasing potential for overages

Issue 7: Transfer Cap

- Transition from old uncalibrated MRIP to new calibrated MRIP complicate analysis of transfer cap
- FMAT suggested 5-15% of ABC as a reasonable range of alternatives.

Issue 7: Criteria for Prohibiting a Transfer

- Transfers could be prohibited when:
 - Stock is overfished
 - Overfishing is occurring
 - Stock is rebuilding
- FMAT seeking feedback on appropriateness of these criteria

Issue 7: Sector Transfers Under For-Hire Sector Separation

- Transfers under for-hire sector separation
 - Option 1: Transfers prohibited
 - Option 2: Tri-directional
 - Option 3: Transfers between comm. and combined rec. ACL
 - Landings are projected for the for-hire sector, private angler sector, and the commercial sector individually and compared to their respective limits
 - If transfer is rec->com, any projected underage is added together and transferred from the recreational ACL to the commercial ACL
 - If transfer is com->rec, the transferred quota is allocated between the private angler and for-hire sectors based on predefined allocation percentages



AP Comments on Sector Transfers

- The delay in the release of MRIP estimates will cause problems for projecting recreational harvest
- Commercial data is a census and not an estimate

Issue 7: Sector Transfers

Issue	Approach	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
Transfers	No Action/Status quo: Maintain current transfer provisions	Must include in amendment.
	Transfer Cap: Set a transfer cap as a fixed percentage of the ABC.	Keep for further development.
	Bi-directional: Allow the Council and Board the ability to determine if quota transfers should occur in either direction.	Keep for further development.
	Criteria for prohibiting a transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stock is overfished -Overfishing is occurring -Stock is rebuilding
Transfers (For-hire sector separation)	Option 1: Prohibit Option 2: Tri-directional Option 3: Comm. to/from Combined Rec. ACL	Keep for further development. Seeking Board/Council input on options #1-3



Issue 8: Commercial State-to-State Transfers

■ Status quo

- Any state implementing a state commercial quota for bluefish may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part or all its annual quota to one or more states.
- Requests for a transfer must be made by individual or joint letters



Issue 8: Commercial State-to-State Transfers: Refereed

- This alternative offers that a neutral party (ASMFC Staff) match up transfer partners to ensure one or more states are not requesting too much quota or requesting transfers too early in the year
- States to project their own landings to determine when a transfer is needed
- Once a state reaches 75% of their own quota, state personnel may notify neutral party
- ASMFC staff maintains landings projections by state
- Transfers would be modified by the neutral party



Issue 8: Commercial State-to-State Transfers: Refereed

- Transfer rule:
- Any transfer requested by a state is reduced by multiplying the requesting states percent share of the coastwide projected overage. The remaining quota is not transferred and stays with the state as a surplus of quota in reserve for other states to request.



Issue 8: Commercial State-to-State Transfers: Refereed

Average Commercial Landings (lbs) by Month (2017-2019)

STATE	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Grand Total
ME						30							30
NH													0
MA	340	826	4,155	9,020	42,775	124,754	175,418	248,429	91,331	37,962	9,281	120	744,411
RI	4,357	4,378	3,783	4,289	38,328	80,135	139,385	169,082	296,233	405,911	148,362	6,099	1,300,340
CT	2,633	271	584	262	3,628	7,946	9,119	23,363	37,656	31,804	9,591	1,498	128,354
NY	3,373	916	24,743	56,820	522,066	383,907	238,115	181,534	195,442	134,882	89,268	6,275	1,837,341
NJ	48,205	26,009	36,919	12,458	214,602	26,653	5,894	15,928	35,099	51,250	79,974	12,102	565,092
DE				4,609	8,253	1,209	834	4,554	2,322	563	192	356	22,892
MD	1,177	949	112	13,626	13,715	3,242	5,458	7,077	13,719	6,991	13,546	2,517	82,129
VA	1,724	786	10,860	23,851	73,983	25,595	28,197	77,163	86,467	82,712	15,995	12,700	440,032
NC	209,629	514,572	192,818	701,469	336,959	160,212	242,351	405,948	345,452	363,810	74,927	13,883	3,562,031
SC	8	7	46	51	20	8	54	17					210
GA													0
FL	79,183	109,796	173,318	96,795	23,528	10,795	7,043	6,376	19,345	75,042	204,018	144,780	950,018
COAST	350,629	658,509	447,336	923,250	1,277,856	824,486	851,868	1,139,471	1,123,065	1,190,927	645,154	200,329	9,632,879



Issue 8: Commercial State-to-State Transfers: Refereed

State Commercial Landings Projections (lbs)

STATE	Percent share	2020 Quota (lb)	Sum of 2017-19 landings occurring from Jan-June	Proportion of 2017-19 landings occurring from Jan-June	2020 landings to date	Projected Landings	Underage/Overage
ME	0.67	18,496	30	100%	0	0	18,496
NH	0.41	11,468	0	0%	0	0	11,468
MA	6.72	185,838	181,871	24%	18,905	77,378	108,460
RI	6.81	188,366	135,269	10%	51,729	497,274	308,908
CT	1.27	35,036	15,324	12%	2,457	20,577	14,459
NY	10.39	287,335	991,826	54%	250,060	463,232	175,897
NJ	14.82	409,934	364,845	65%	82,416	127,650	282,284
DE	1.88	51,966	14,071	61%	822	1,337	50,629
MD	3	83,054	32,821	40%	2,946	7,372	75,682
VA	11.88	328,682	136,798	31%	43,196	138,948	189,734
NC	32.06	887,058	2,115,659	59%	450,740	758,889	128,169
SC	0.04	974	139	66%	40	60	914
GA	0.01	263	0	0%	0	0	263
FL	10.06	278,332	493,414	52%	89,007	171,373	106,959
COAST	100	2,766,801	4,482,066	47%	992,317	2,132,693	634,108



Issue 8: Commercial State-to-State Transfers: Refereed

■ FMAT Comments:

- Recommends removal
- States lose autonomy and flexibility under this approach
- Refereed approach may provide unfair advantage to states that harvest their quota earlier in the year
- Proposed method may simply replicate current process with added restrictions and analysis requirements



AP Comments on State-to-State Transfers

- 2 AP members supported the continued development of the refereed approach
- AP member was concerned that transfers could lead to localized depletion
- Another AP member emphasized that if the refereed approach is not adopted, state transfers should remain in the plan
 - Much needed flexibility
 - Provides stability for states with reduced quotas

Issue 8: Commercial State-to-State Transfers (Refereed Approach)

Issue	Approach	Summary of FMAT Recommendation
Transfers	Status quo	Must keep in Amendment.
	Refereed Approach	This approach reduces state flexibility/autonomy and is likely to create administrative burden. The FMAT recommends removal of this approach.



Summary

- FMAT recommendation for **removal**
 - Issue 2: Sector Allocations - Triggers
 - Issue 4: Regional Commercial Allocations
 - Pending the lack of biological basis
 - Issue 6: Structure B and D (i.e. keep C)
 - Issue 8: Refereed Transfer Approach

Next Steps

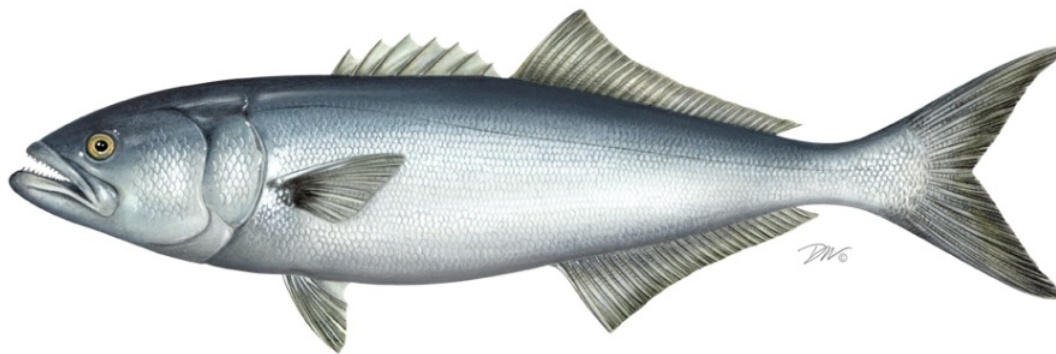
- August-December: FMAT further refines draft alternatives
- December 2020: Approve a final range of alternatives
- February 2021: Approve Draft Amendment for public comment (public hearing document)
- September 2021: Formal submission to NOAA Fisheries





FMP Review for Bluefish:

2019 Fishing Season



Bluefish Management Board
August 6, 2020

Overview



1. Status of FMP
2. Status of the Stock
3. Status of the Fishery
4. Status of Research and Monitoring
5. Status of Management Measures and Issues
6. Compliance Requirements
7. Research Needs
8. PRT Comments & Recommendations



Status of the FMP



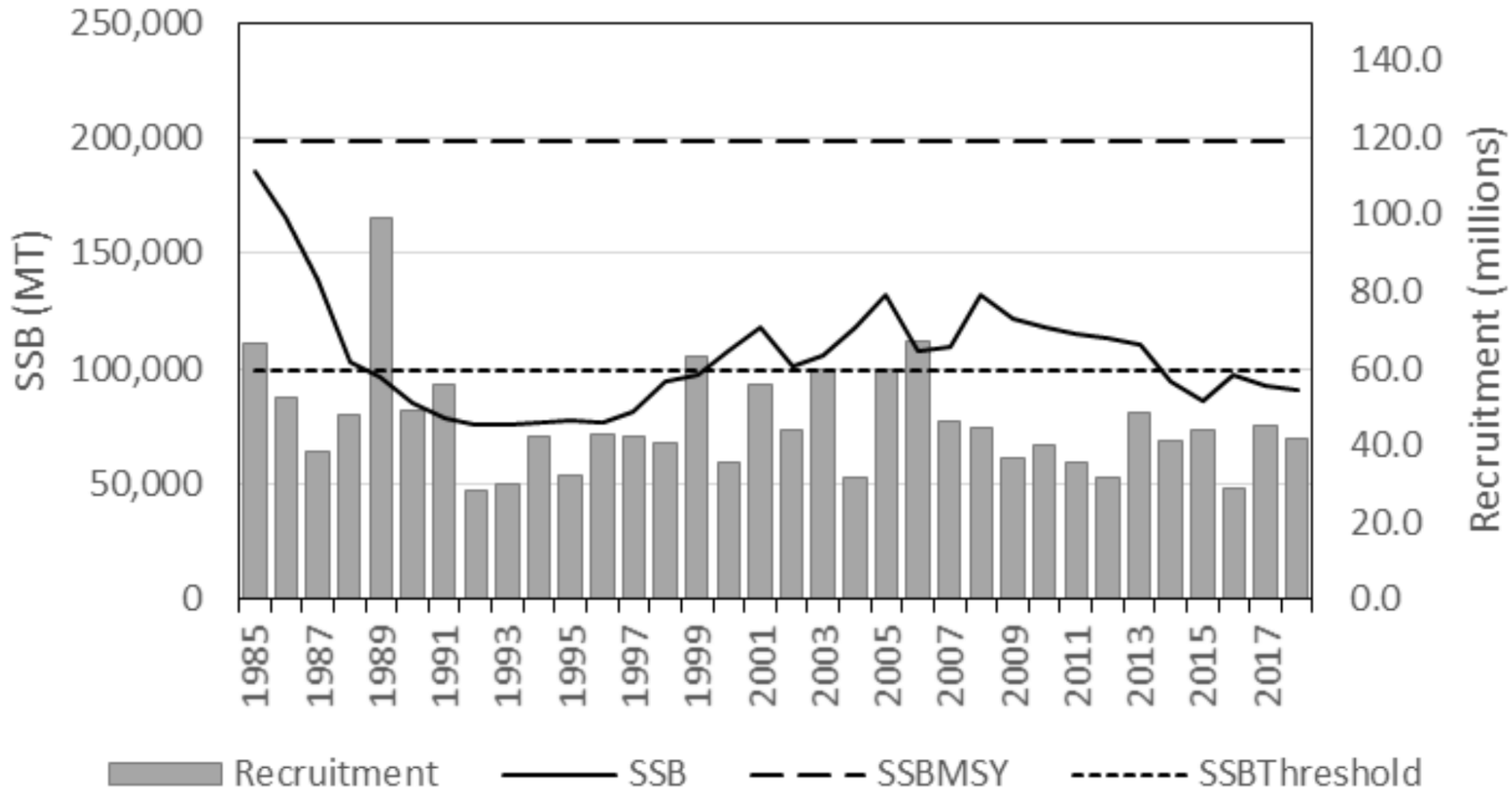
- Bluefish is currently managed under Amendment 1 (1998) to the FMP.
- In February 2012, the Board approved Addendum I
 - Established a coastwide biological monitoring program to improve the quantity and quality of information available for use in bluefish stock assessments.



Status of the Stock



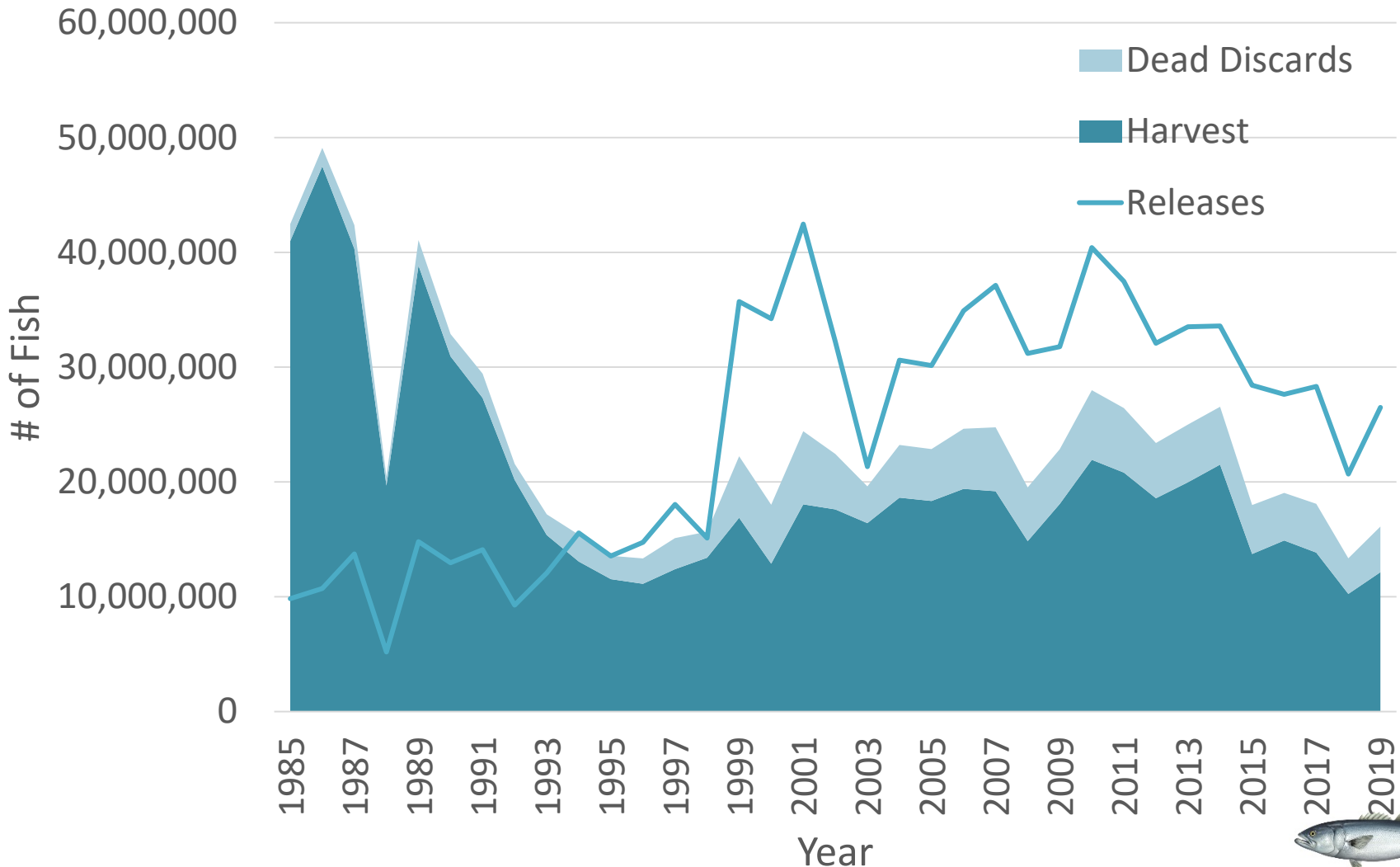
Atlantic bluefish SSB and Recruitment



Status of the Fishery



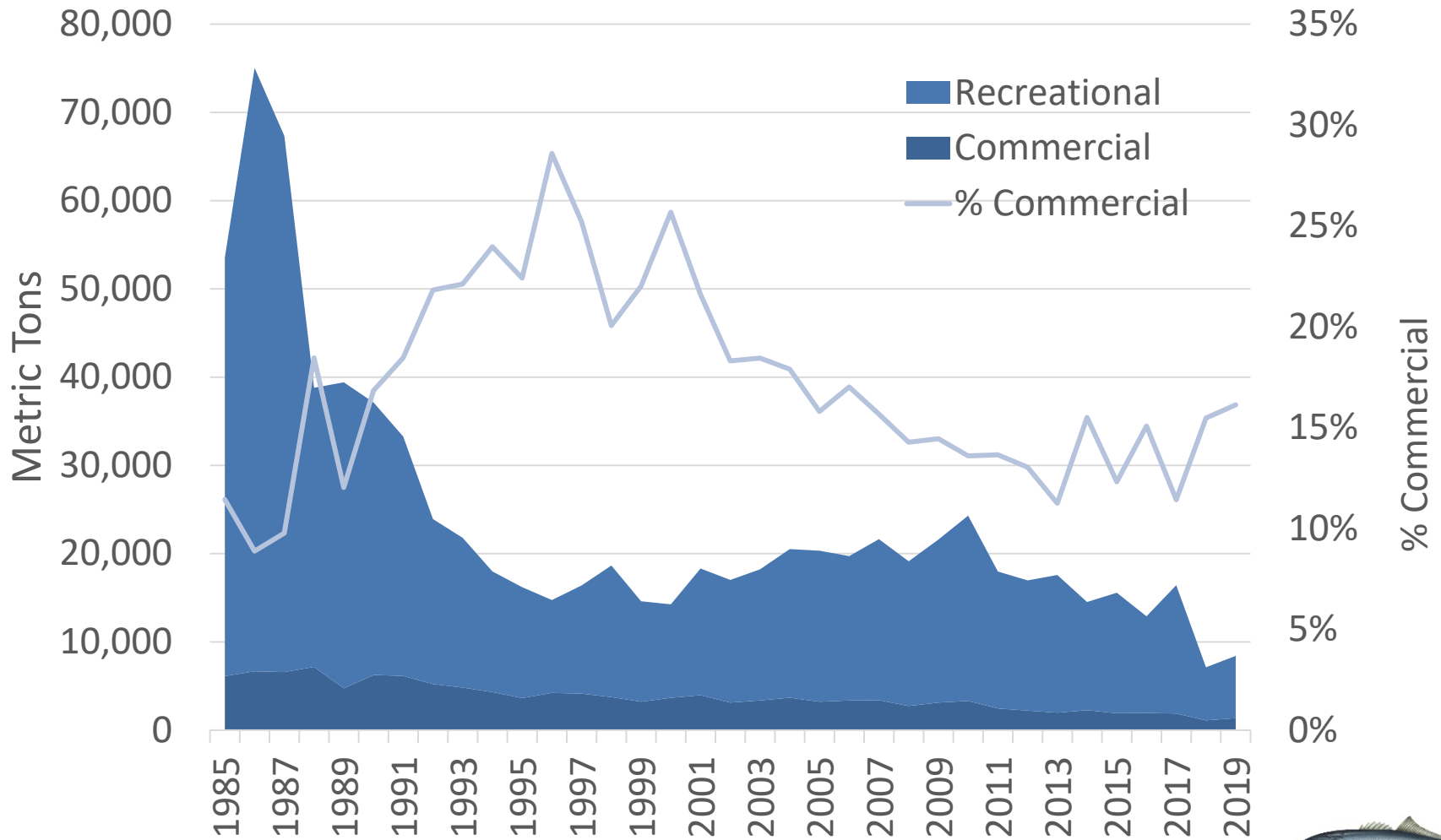
Estimated recreational bluefish harvest, releases and dead discards by recreational anglers in numbers of fish, 1985-2019



Status of the Fishery



Bluefish recreational harvest and commercial landings by weight, 1985-2019.



Status of Management Measures and Issues



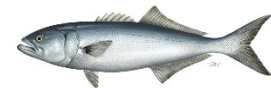
- 2019 ACL 21.8 mil lbs.
- 4.0 mil lbs. transfer from recreational sector to commercial sector
 - Commercial quota 7.7 mil lbs.
 - Commercial landings 3.0 mil lbs.
 - RHL 11.6 mil lbs. (set using uncalibrated MRIP estimates)
 - Recreational landings 15.6 mil lbs. (calibrated MRIP estimates)
 - No federal accountability measures have been triggered for 2020



FMP Compliance



- **Requirements**
 - Recreational possession limit 15-fish
 - Restrict the commercial fishery to the quota
 - Monitor commercial and recreational fishery
 - Vessel & Dealer permitting requirements
 - Addendum I (2012): Biological Sampling Program
 - Annual compliance reporting
- **All states and jurisdictions have met the intent of the FMP compliance requirements in 2019.**



Addendum I: Bio Sampling Program



Addendum I: Sampling Effort Results, 2019

State	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	VA	NC
# of samples	96	123	140	205	201	399	965

- Purpose: improve age and length data used in stock assessment
- Requirement: collect a min. of 100 ages
 - 50 from January-June, 50 from July-December
- MA unable to collect 100 samples



PRT Recommendations



- The PRT recommends that the Board task the TC with reviewing the effectiveness of the Addendum I sampling design and reevaluate the optimal geographic range and sample size for bluefish age data.
- Additionally, the PRT recommends that the TC look into the increased importance of recreational discards in stock assessments. Generating reliable discard length data from recreational anglers could improve the robustness of stock assessments moving forward.



de minimis Requests



- *De minimis* requirement: state commercial landings < 0.1% of coastwide landings
- Maine, South Carolina, and Georgia requested *de minimis* status for 2020
- The PRT finds these states meet the requirements for *de minimis* status



PRT Recommendations



- Recommend Board approval of the FMP Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* requests for Maine, South Carolina and Georgia's commercial fisheries.





Questions?

