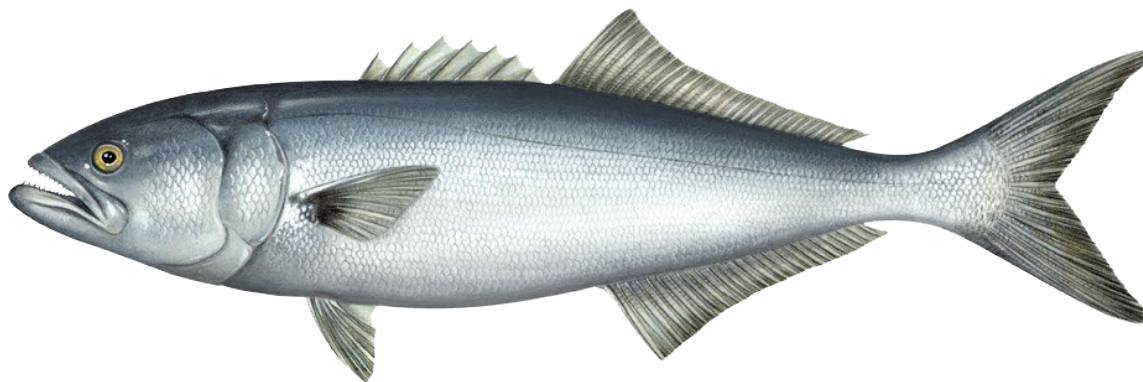




# Recommended Revisions to the Addendum I Biological Monitoring Program



Bluefish Management Board  
February 4, 2021

# Outline



- Background
- Technical Committee (TC) Recommended Revisions to Addendum I
- Length Frequency Data Recommendations
- Board Action: Consider Revisions to Addendum I Biological Monitoring Program

# Background



- In August 2020, the Bluefish Board tasked the TC with reviewing the effectiveness of the Addendum I sampling design and reevaluating the optimal geographic range and sample size for bluefish age data.
- In September, Bluefish TC met to discuss recommended revisions to sampling protocols

# Addendum I Requirement



- Under Addendum I, states that account for more than 5% of total coastwide bluefish harvest for the 1998-2008 period (in addition to Virginia) are required to collect a minimum of 100 bluefish age samples (50 from January through June, 50 from July through December).

# Coastwide Bluefish Removals (com and rec landings and dead discards) by State 2010-2019



State	% Contribution to Coastwide Bluefish Removals by weight		
	Full year	Spring	Fall
ME	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%
NH	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
MA	12.5%	3.60%	15.0%
RI	4.10%	2.70%	6.8%
CT	8.40%	2.10%	11.2%
NY	20.7%	17.9%	21.2%
NJ	17.7%	20.9%	19.5%
DE	1.3%	2.3%	1.0%
MD	1.6%	0.5%	3.2%
VA	1.9%	2.3%	2.6%
NC	13.7%	18.2%	8.2%
SC	1.9%	2.9%	1.0%
GA	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
FL	15.8%	26.6%	9.5%

# Background



- In December, staff presented TC recommendations and the Board initiated Addendum II.
- After further review of Addendum I, staff determined it is possible to make revisions to the biological monitoring program through Board Action via a motion

# Proposed Revisions



- Change the threshold for required participation in the age sampling program from 5% of total coastwide bluefish harvest (1998-2008) to 4% of total coastwide bluefish removals (recreational and commercial landings and dead discards; 2010-2019).
- Addition of Florida; Virginia also required
- Required states: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida

# Proposed Revisions



- Change the seasonal spread of the data from a requirement to a target but maintain the required annual collection of 100 samples.
- The seasonal availability of fish will be taken into consideration by the Plan Review Team and Board when reviewing annual compliance reports.



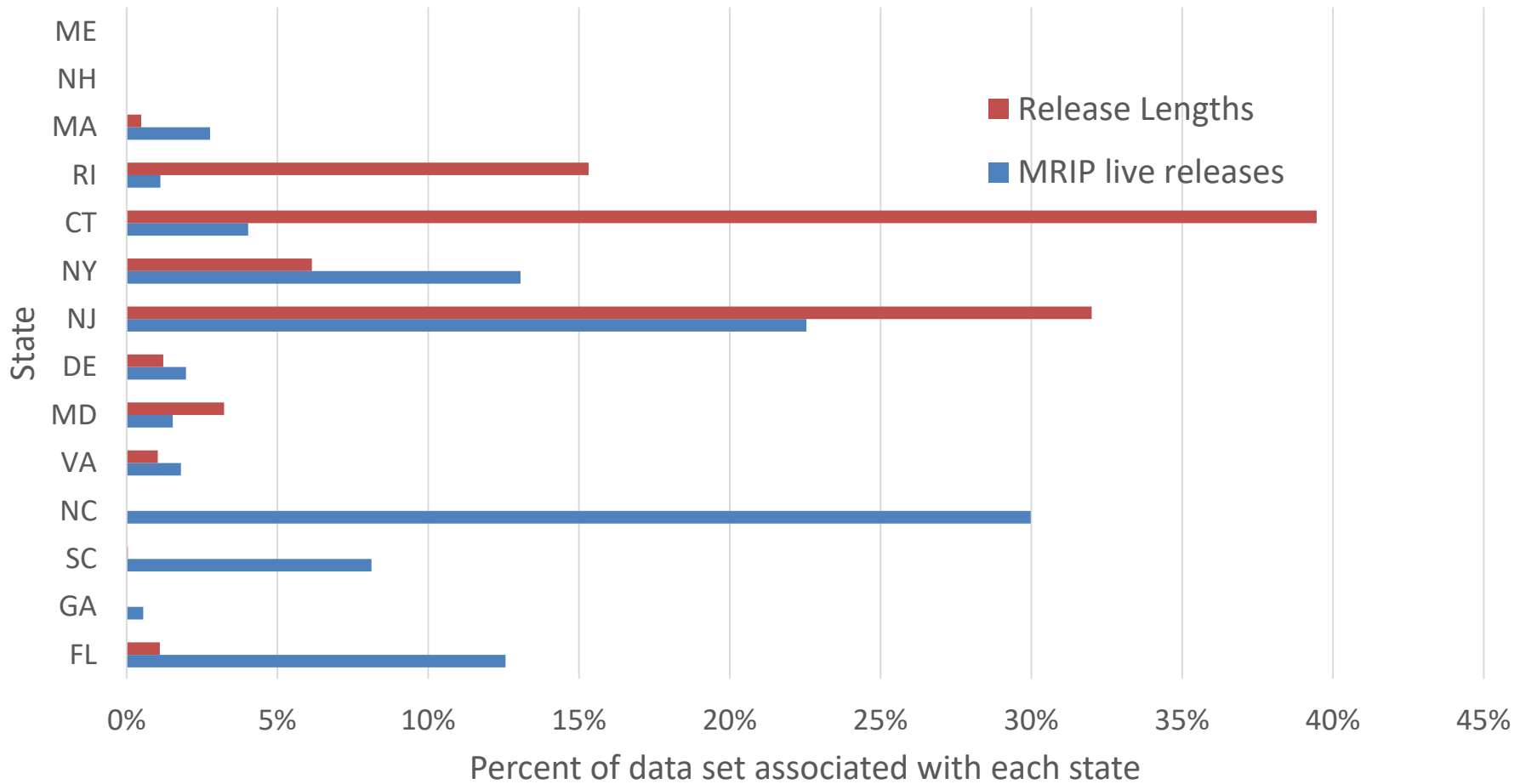
# Length Frequency Data



- Board tasked TC with reviewing the increased importance of recreational discards in stock assessments
- RI, CT, and NJ volunteer angler survey programs provide release length data

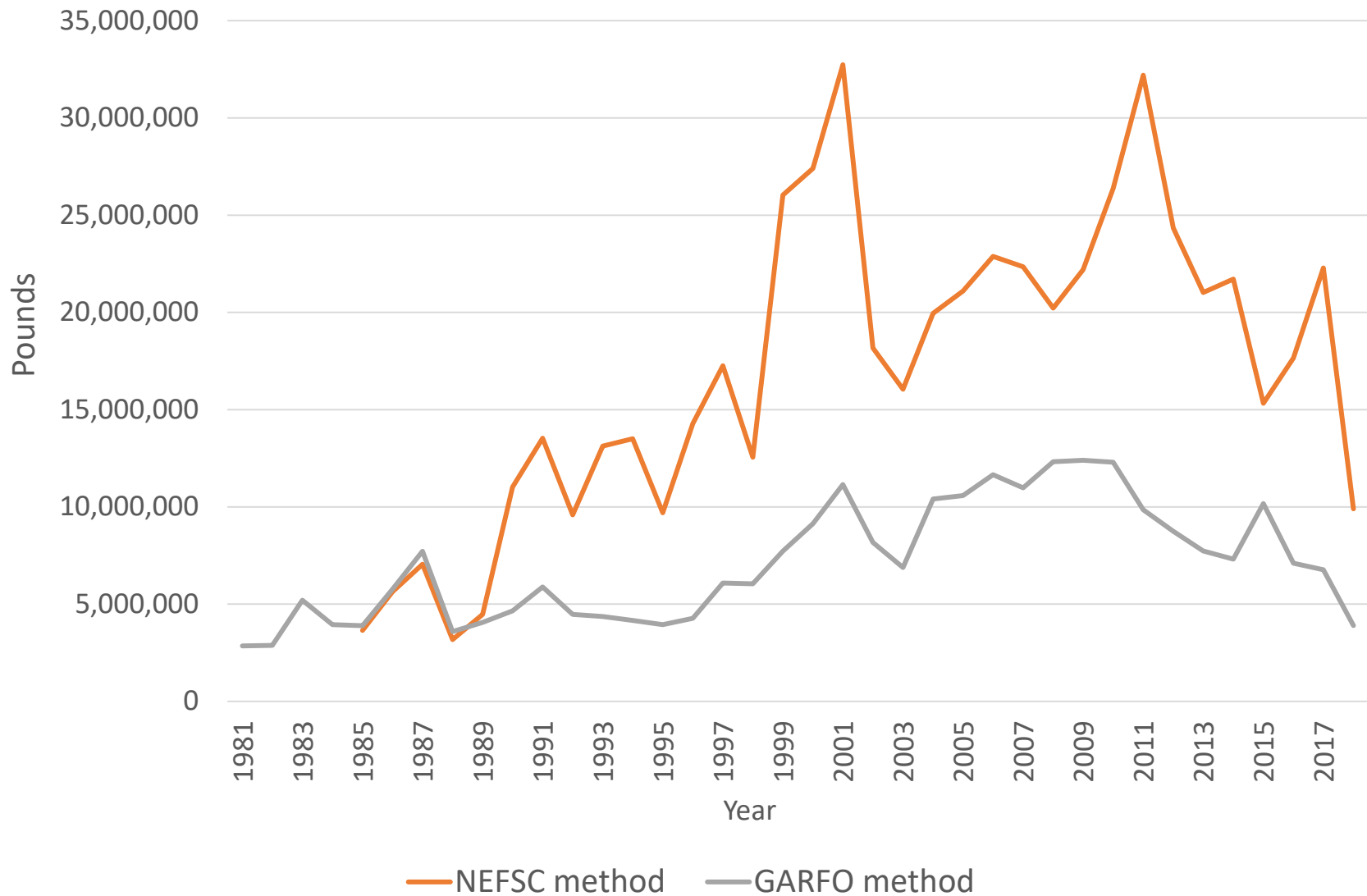


## Spatial distribution of bluefish live releases vs. release length data expressed as a percent across states (2016-2018)





# Recreational Dead Discard Estimates



# Length Frequency Data



- States that comprise greater than 4% of coastwide removals for the period 2010-2019 are encouraged to collect recreational release length data (MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, NC, FL)
- These data include length measurements of recreational bluefish releases from anglers fishing from shore, private, rental, party, or charter boats.
- States are encouraged to consult with the TC for assistance with designing and establishing voluntary angler survey programs to collect these data.

# Summary



## Recommended Addendum I Revisions

- Change the seasonal spread of the data from a requirement to a target but maintain the required annual collection of 100 samples.
- Change the threshold for required participation in the age sampling program from 5% of total coastwide bluefish harvest (1998-2008) to 4% of total coastwide bluefish removals (recreational and commercial landings and dead discards; 2010-2019).

## TC Recommendation

- MA, NY, NC, FL are encouraged to collect recreational release length data

**Questions?**

