

Draft Addenda to the Atlantic Croaker and Spot FMPs



October 2019

Addenda Process and Timeline



May 2019	South Atlantic Board Tasks PDT to Develop Draft Addendum III
May 2019 – October 2019	PDT Develops Draft Addendum III for Public Comment
<u>October 2019</u>	<u>South Atlantic Board Reviews Draft Addendum III and Considers Its Approval for Public Comment</u>
October 2019 – January 2020	Board Solicits Public Comment and States Conduct Public Hearings
February 2020	Board Reviews Public Comment, Selects Management Options and Considers Final Approval of Addendum III
TBD	Provisions of Addendum III are Implemented

Introduction



- Add II for Atlantic croaker & Add II for spot established the Traffic Light Approach (TLA) for each species
 - Data poor approach that uses red, yellow, and green to characterize population indicators such as harvest and abundance indices
 - If too much red (low harvest or abundance) for too long, management action is required
- Recent significant declines in harvest and reports of poor fishing not reflected by fishery-independent survey indices used in TLA
- 2018: Croaker TC & Spot PRT recommended several TLA updates
- Joint Croaker and Spot PDT also reported on potential triggered management responses

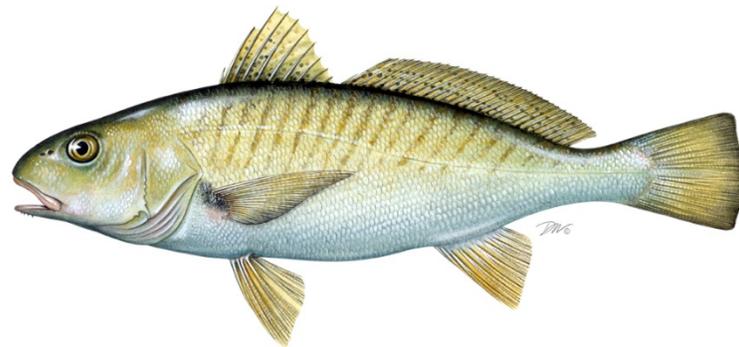
Background – Add II TLAs



- Separate TLA conducted for each species
- Harvest Characteristic – Commercial and Recreational Harvest
- Abundance Characteristic – NEFSC Multispecies Bottom Trawl Survey and Southeast Area Monitoring Assessment Program (SEAMAP)
- Management Trigger – Proportions of red for both characteristics meet or exceed the threshold level for each of the 3 most recent years (croaker) or 2 most recent years (spot)
- 30% Threshold – Moderate concern/response
- 60% Threshold – Significant concern/response

Draft Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate FMP for Atlantic Croaker

Revisions to Management using the Traffic Light Approach



October 2019

Statement of the Problem



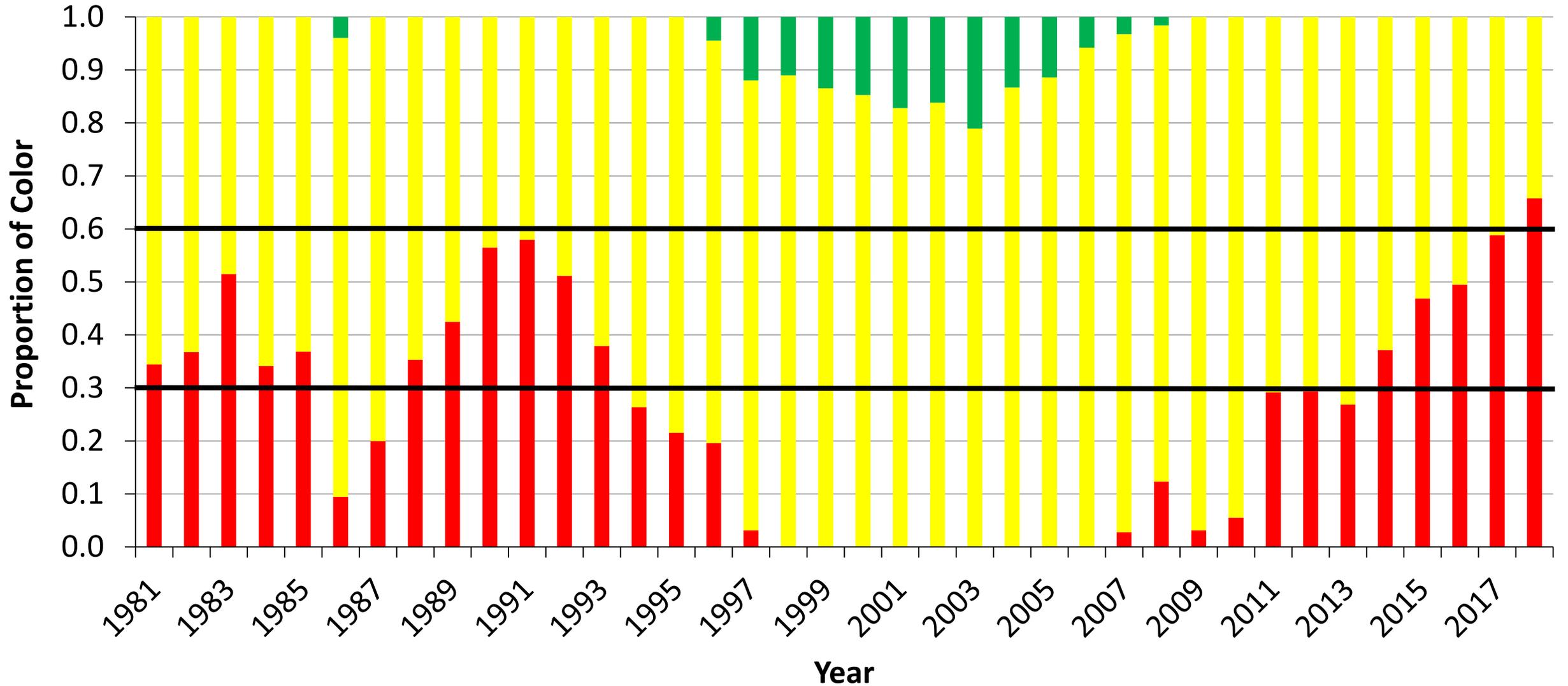
- Some of the TC recommendations impact management
- Lack of clear direction in Add II on triggered management responses
- **Draft Add III incorporates TC-recommended updates and considers revisions to management triggers and responses**

Background – Recommended TLA Updates

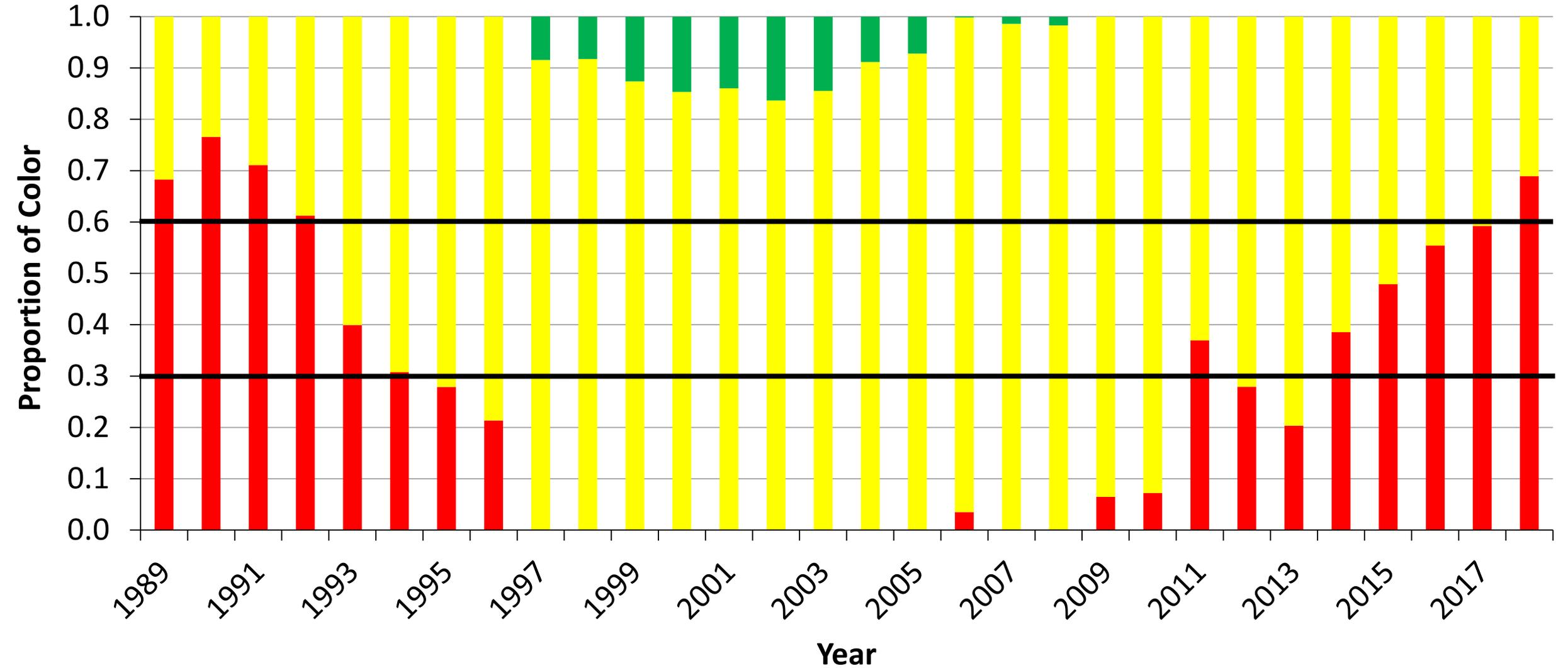


1. Abundance Metric Surveys: Add ChesMMAAP and SCDNR Trammel Net and keep NEFSC and SEAMAP
2. Revise above surveys by using age-length keys and length composition to estimate the number of adult (age 2+) individuals caught by each survey
3. Use regional metrics to characterize the fisheries north and south of the Virginia-North Carolina state border; North (Mid-Atl): ChesMMAAP and NEFSC; South: SCDNR Trammel Net and SEAMAP
4. Change/establish the reference time period for all surveys to be 2002-2012
5. Trigger management at the 30% red and 60% red thresholds if both the abundance and harvest thresholds are exceeded in any 3 of the 4 terminal years

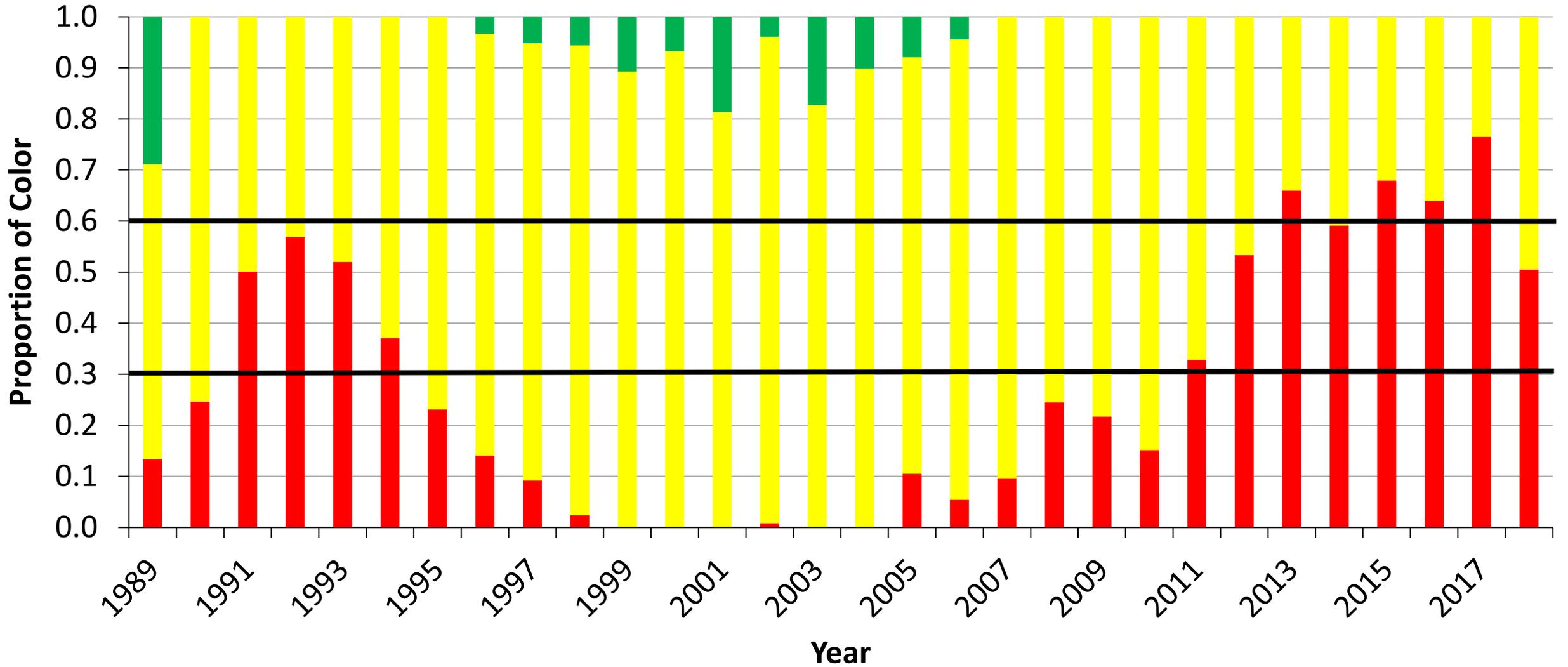
Add II TLA – Harvest Characteristic(Fig. 1)



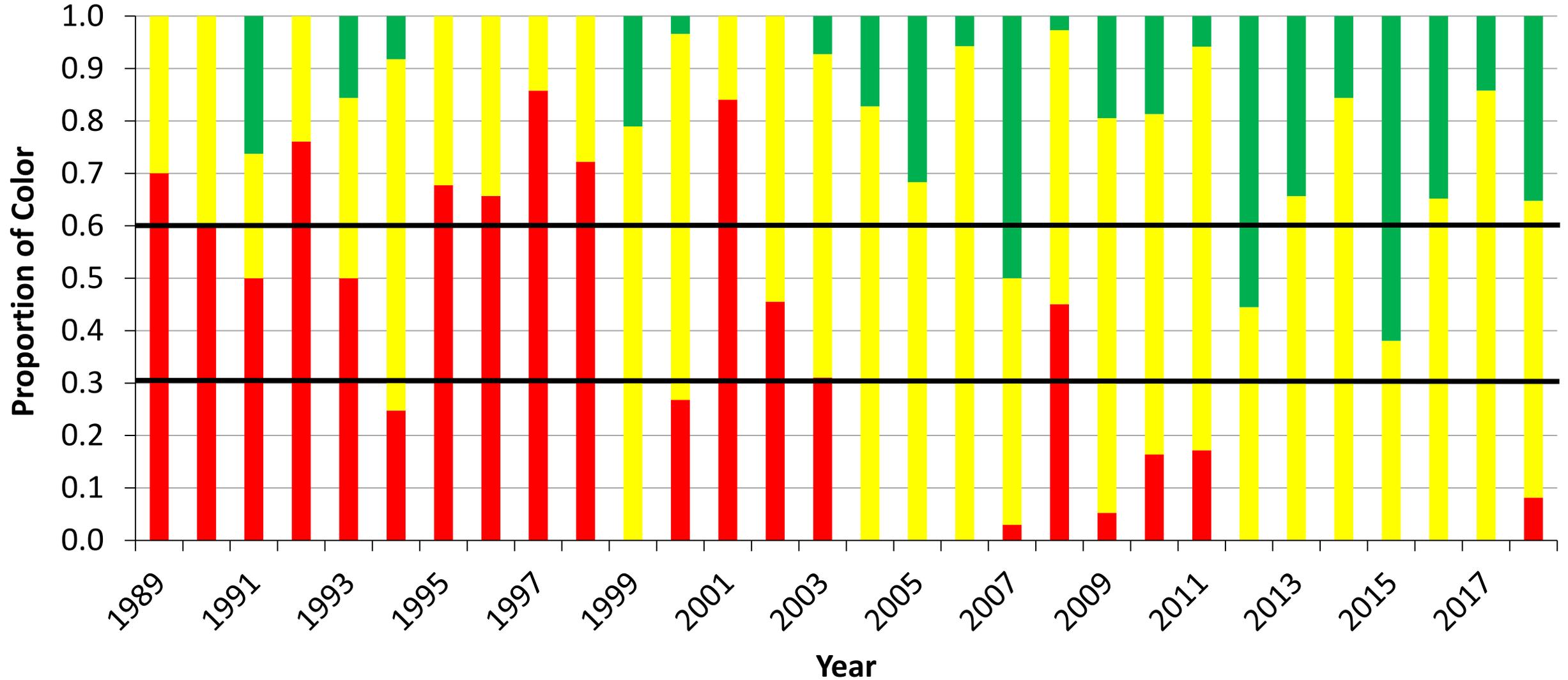
Updated TLA – Mid-Atl Harvest Metric (Fig. 2)



Updated TLA – S Atl Harvest Metric (Fig. 3)

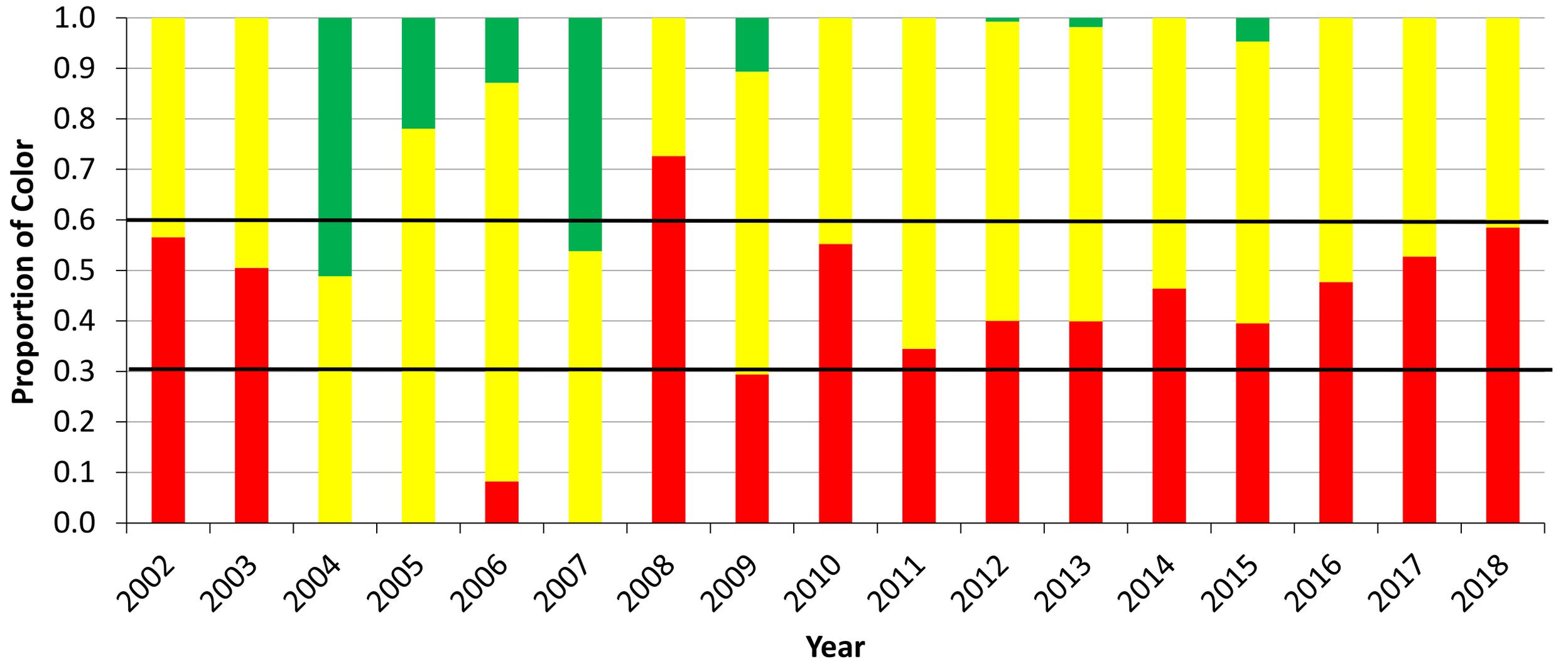


Add II TLA – Abundance Characteristic (Fig. 4)



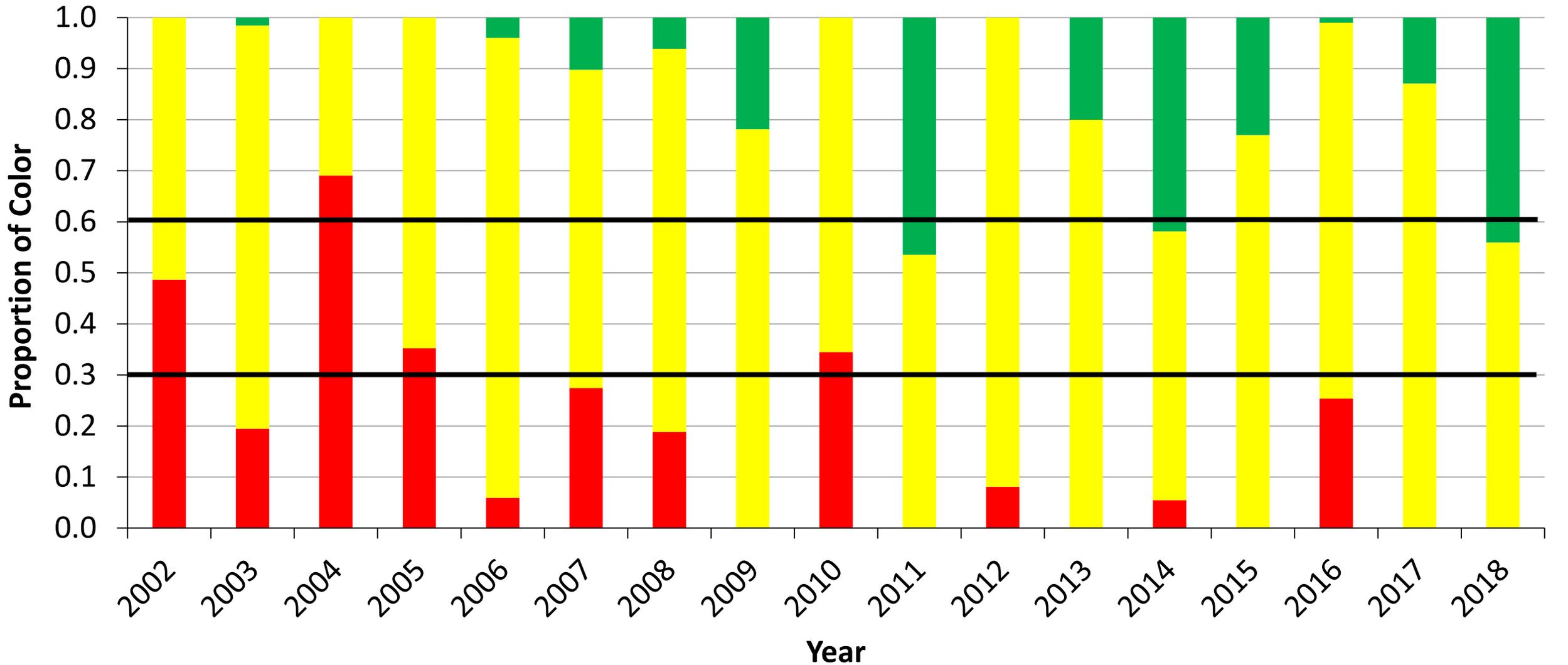
Harvest Term. Years: >30%, >30%, >60%

Updated TLA – Mid-Atl Abundance Metric (Fig. 5)



Harvest Term. Years: >30%, >30%, >30%, >60%

Updated TLA – S Atl Abundance Metric (Fig. 6)



Harvest Term. Years: >60%, >60%, >60%, >30%

3.1 Management Triggers



Issue 1: Management Trigger Based on Proportion Red Options

Option A. If red proportions for both population characteristics (adult abundance and harvest) in a regional, with both characteristics being for the same region, or a coastwide TLA meet or exceed the proportion of a threshold for the **three terminal (most recent) years**, then management action will be taken.

Option B. If red proportions for both population characteristics (adult abundance and harvest) in a regional, with both characteristics being for the same region, or a coastwide TLA meet or exceed the proportion of a threshold for **any three of the four terminal years**, then management action will be taken. (TC recommendation from *Section 2.2.3*)

Thresholds for both options are listed below:

30% - this represents moderate concern to the fishery with moderate management response

60% - this represents significant concern to the fishery with elevated management response

3.2 Management Response to Triggers



Issue 2: Recreational Management Trigger Response Options

Option A. (Status Quo) TC recommends state percent reductions and measures to achieve an overall harvest percentage reduction proportional to the magnitude of exceeding the trigger.

Option	30% Threshold Response	60% Threshold Response
B	Bag Limit: up to 50 fish Non- <i>de minimis</i> states (all)	Bag Limit: up to 40 fish All states
C	Bag Limit: up to 40 fish Non- <i>de minimis</i> states	Bag Limit: up to 30 fish All states
D	Bag Limit: up to 30 fish Non- <i>de minimis</i> states	Bag Limit: up to 20 fish All states

States with more restrictive measures are encouraged to maintain those.

3.2 Management Response to Triggers



Issue 2: Recreational Management Trigger Response Options

All options:

- For-hire vessels may possess live croaker for use as bait
- Vessel may possess up to the sum of the bag limits for the number of paying customers allowed onboard
- During a trip, bag limits apply, according to the number of paying customers aboard
- E.g. 50 fish bag limit, vessel licensed for 6 customers = 300 croaker allowed onboard
 - If 4 customers onboard, up to 200 of 300 allowed onboard may be harvested (i.e. dead, not in a live well)

3.2 Management Response to Triggers



Issue 2: Recreational Management Trigger Response Options

- Live lining LEC comments:
 - Difficult to enforce an essential boat limit of hundreds of live fish
 - Maximum size (4 inches) could be applicable to croaker kept live for bait & enforced by checking a sample
 - Number of croaker kept alive onboard limited by size of live well & vessel
 - Recommend bag limit on harvested (dead) fish only & no restriction on number of live fish (possibly size)
- Bait disposition in 2018 was 6% of commercial landings
 - Limited data for recreational disposition

3.2 Management Response to Triggers



Issue 3: Commercial Management Trigger Response Options

Option A. (Status Quo) TC recommends state percent reductions and measures to achieve an overall harvest percentage reduction proportional to the magnitude of exceeding the trigger.

3.2 Management Response to Triggers



Issue 3: Commercial Management Trigger Response Options

Option B. 30% Threshold Response: quantifiable measures (e.g. season, trip limit, or size limit) to achieve 1% com harvest reduction from previous 10-year average for commercial non-*de minimis* states (*de min*: DE, SC, GA, FL) without a minimum size or possession limit

Sub-Option	60% Threshold Response: Commercial quantifiable measures for each state to achieve a
B1	5% reduction from previous 10-year average
B2	10% reduction from previous 10-year average
B3	20% reduction from previous 10-year average

Seasons must be TC-reviewed and Board-approved

3.2 Management Response to Triggers



3.2.3 Alternative Management Response

If management action triggered at the 60% threshold & Board determines more restrictive actions than those selected through Issues 2 or 3 are necessary, Board may task the TC to determine an alternative reduction and measures to achieve it.

3.3 Evaluation of Fishery Response



Issue 4: Evaluation of Fishery Response to Triggered Measures Options

Option A. (Status Quo) Management measures set in response to any trigger will remain in place for three years... Once management action has been taken, the thresholds will not be applied to the harvest characteristics in assessing the fishery for three years...

- No clear direction for after 3 years

3.3 Evaluation of Fishery Response

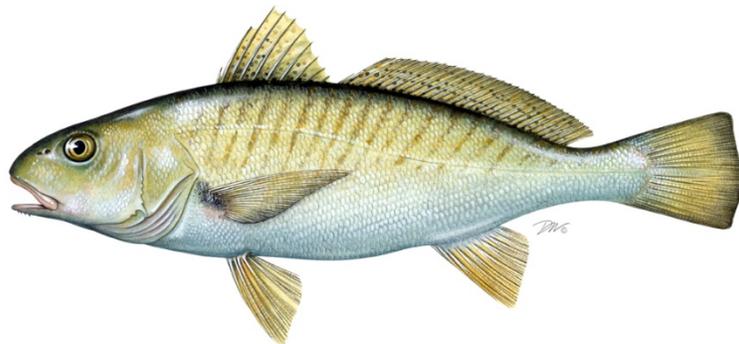


Issue 4: Evaluation of Fishery Response to Triggered Measures Options

Option B.

- Triggered measures in place for at least 3 years
- During triggered measures, harvest characteristics not used for management, but abundance characteristics can trigger action at a higher level
- After at least 3 years, if no more triggers, no more triggered measures and harvest characteristics used in TLA again
- If triggered measures in place for a minimum of 4 years, the TC will evaluate abundance trends and recommend if more restrictive measures are necessary

Comments or Questions?





Draft Addendum III to the Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate FMPs for Spot, Spotted Seatrout, and Spanish Mackerel

Revisions to Spot Management using the Traffic Light Approach



October 2019

Statement of the Problem



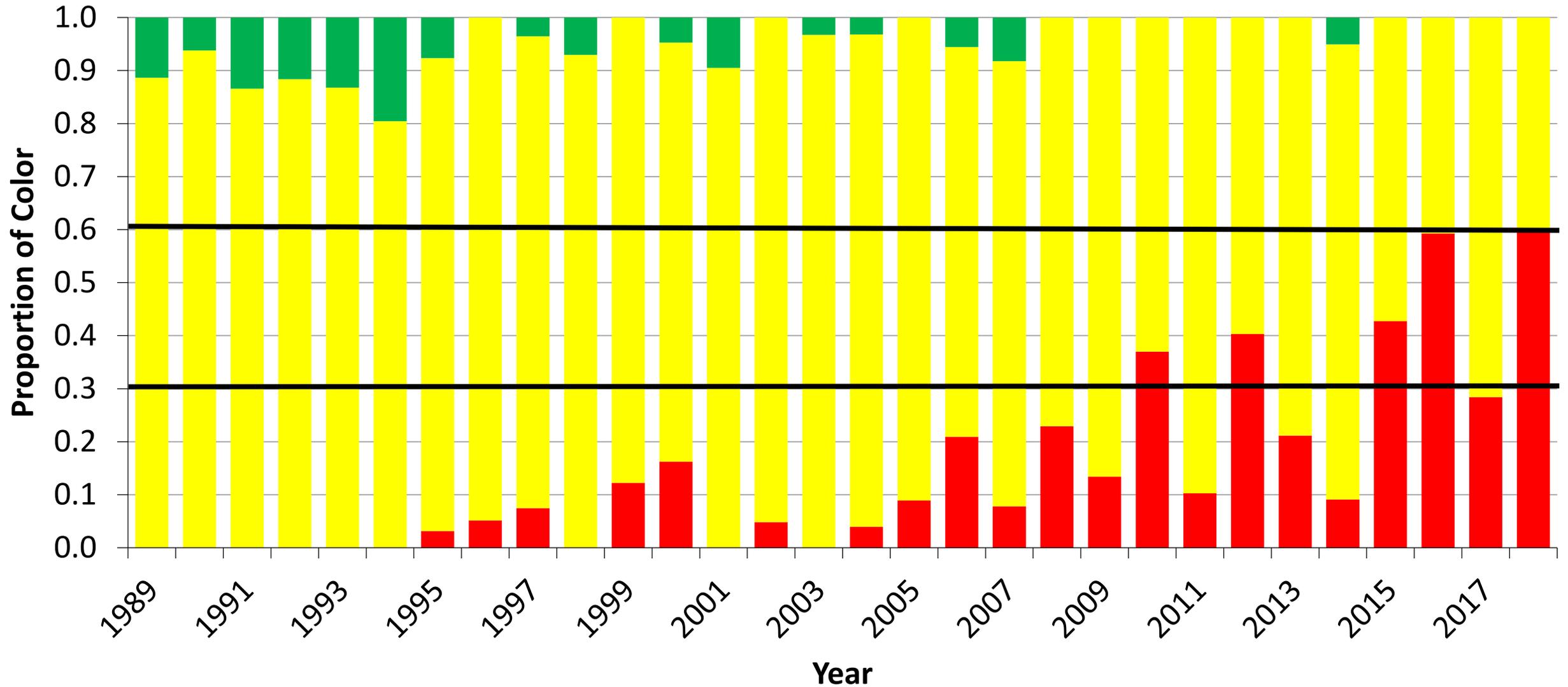
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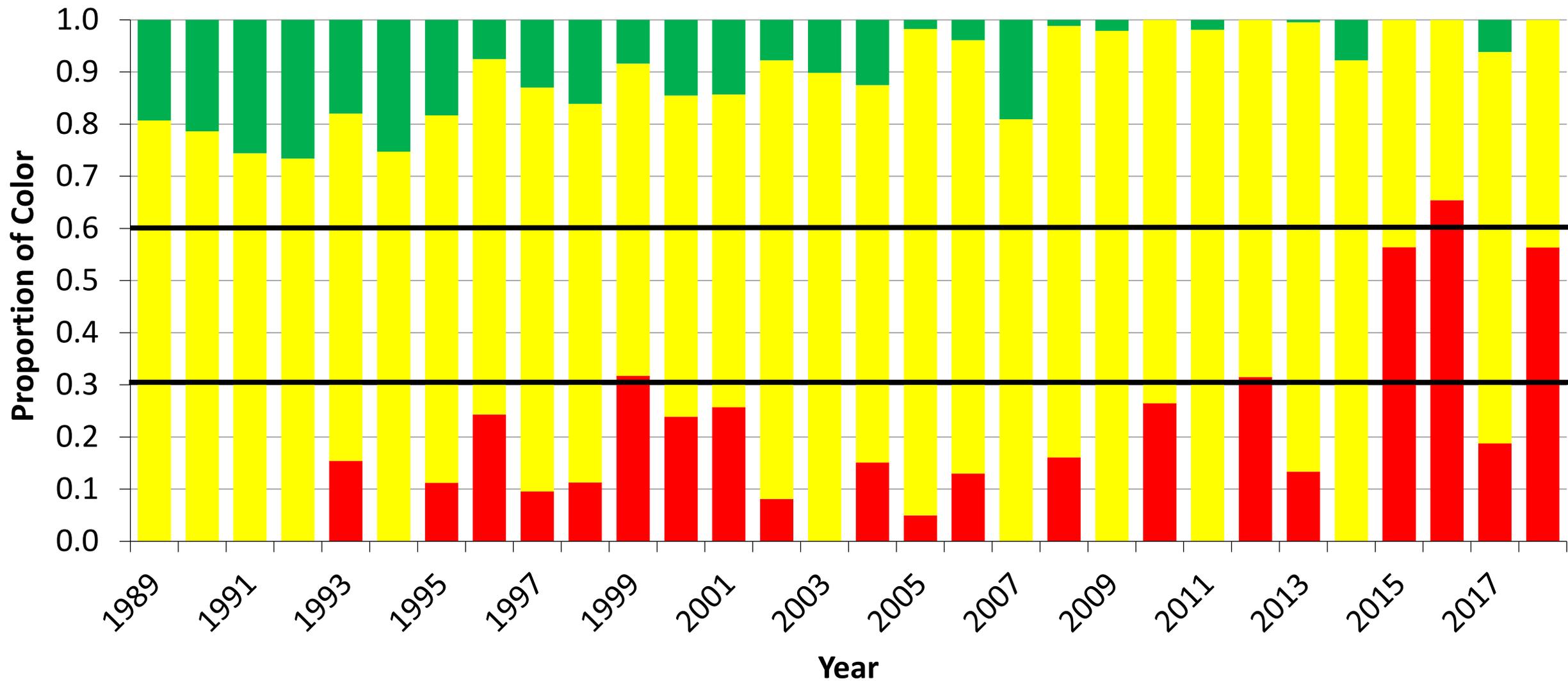


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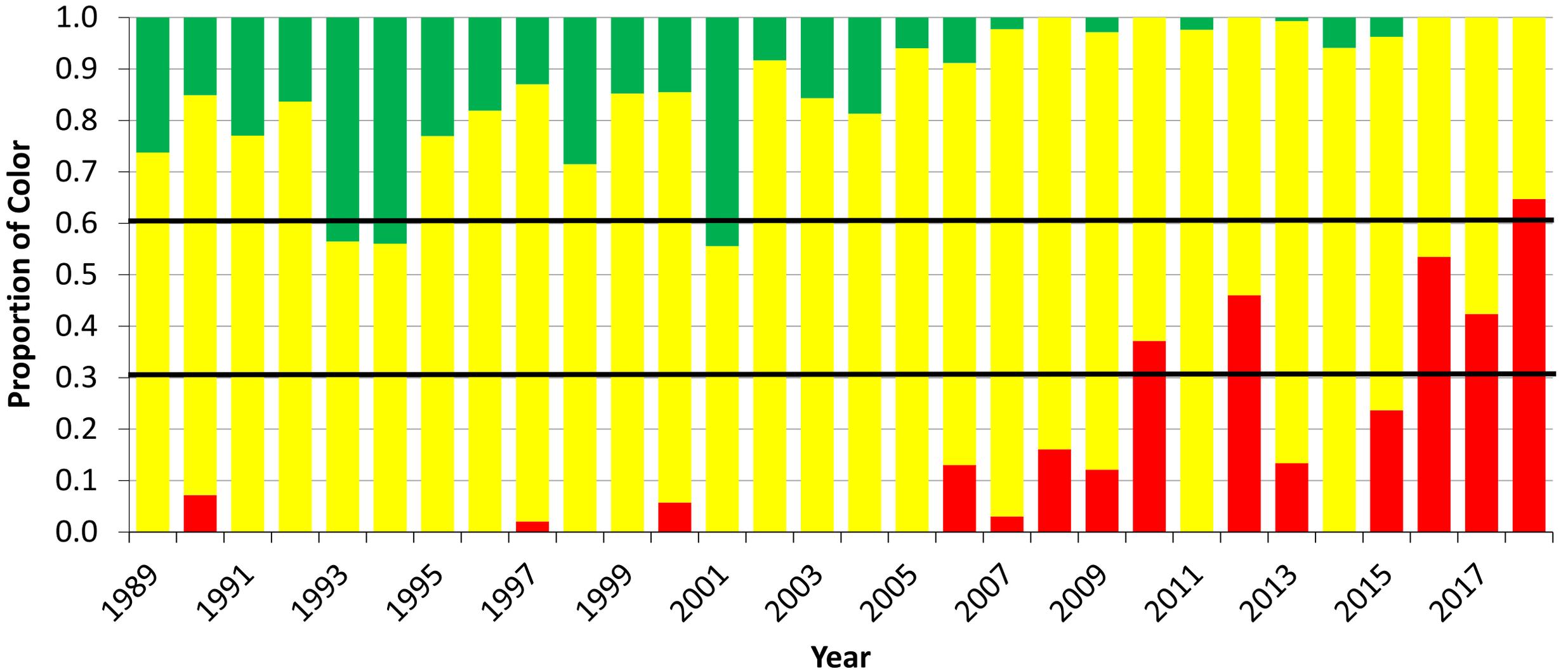
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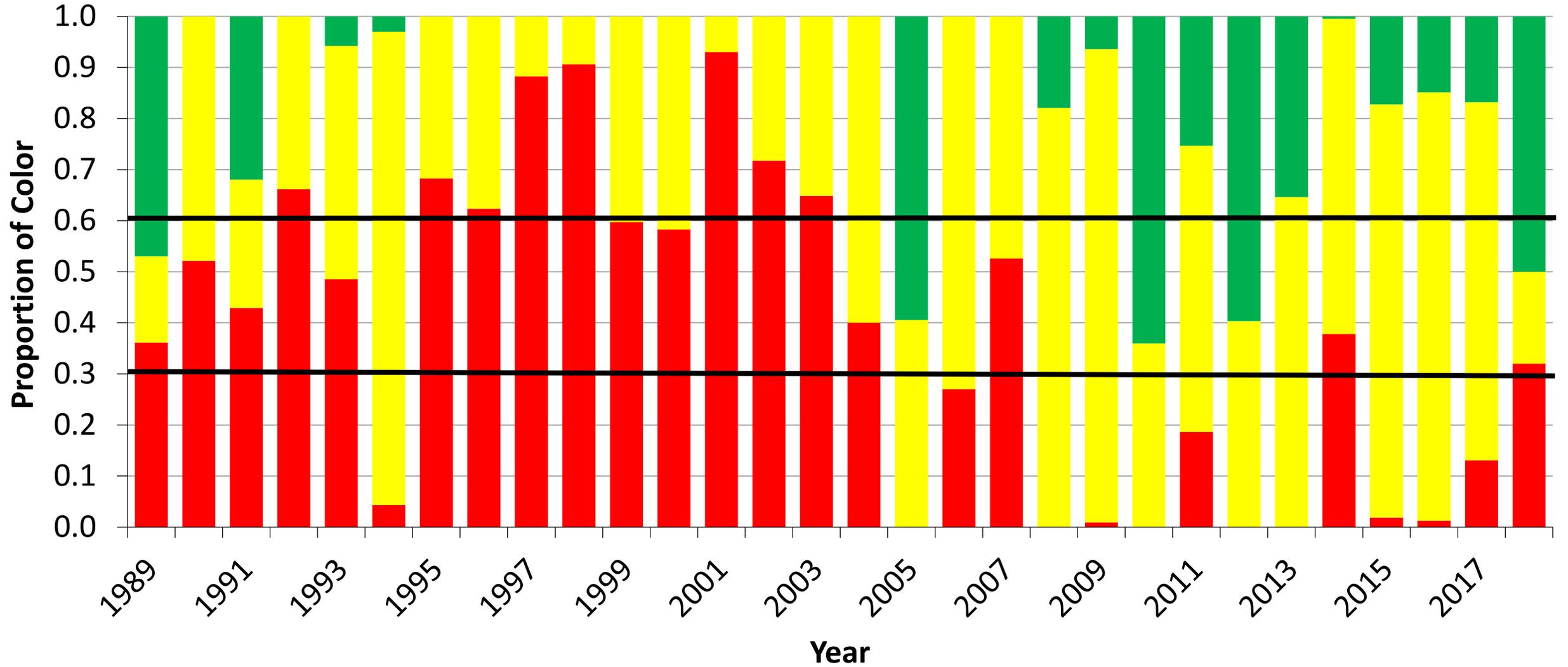
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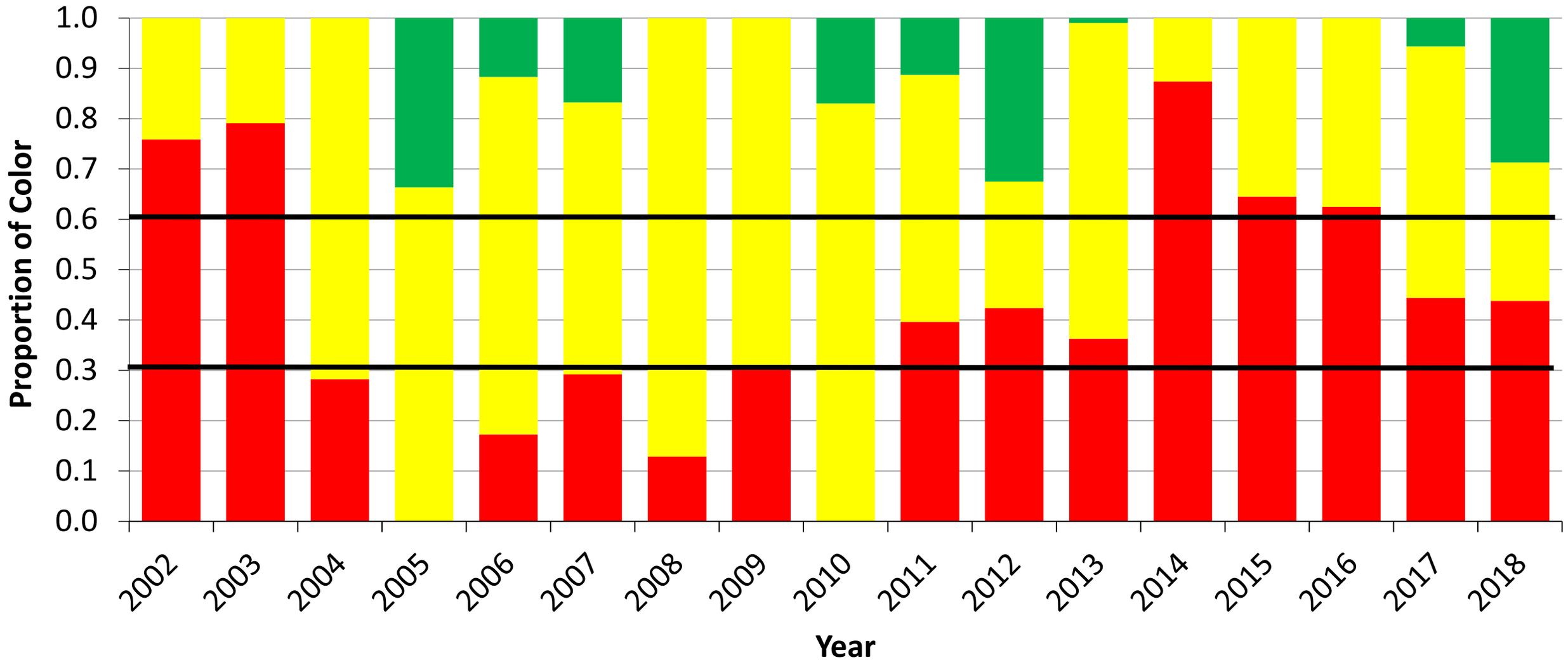


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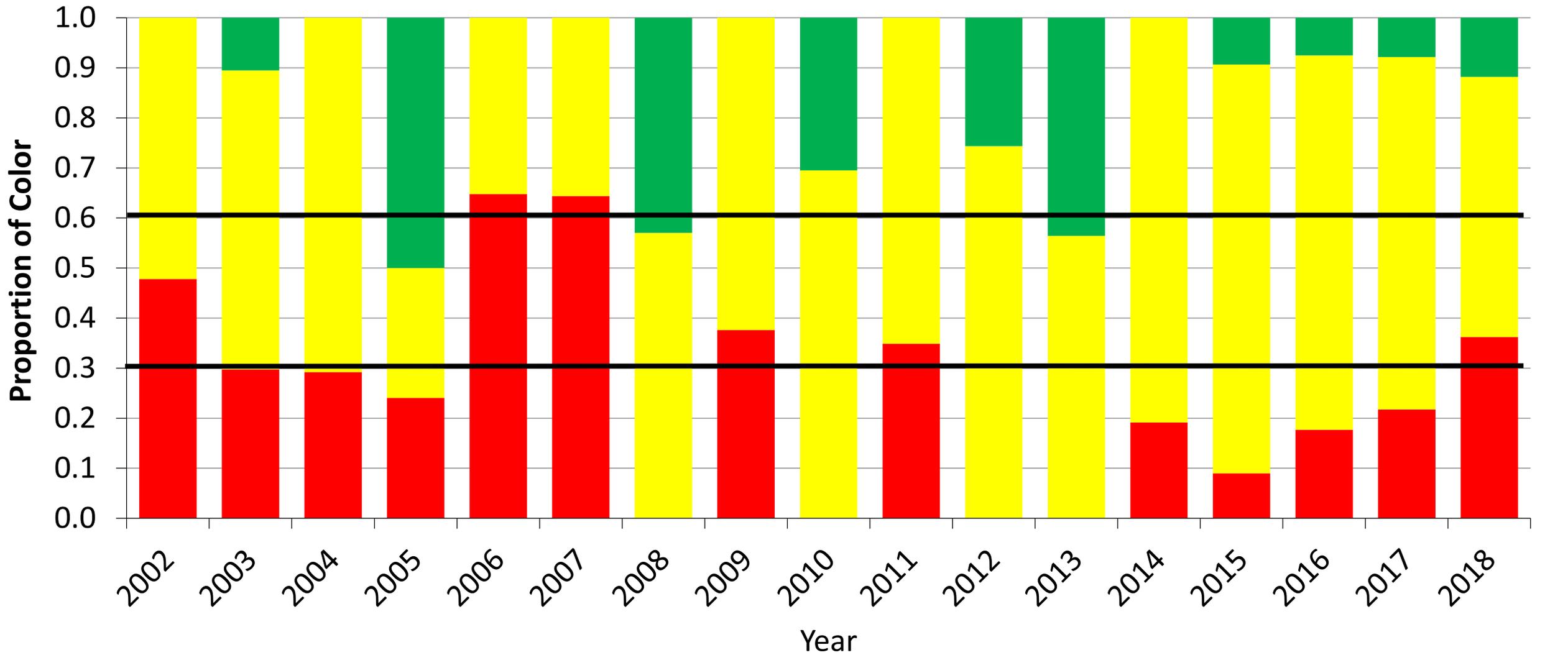
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Spot TC would be formed & seasons must be TC-reviewed and Board-approved

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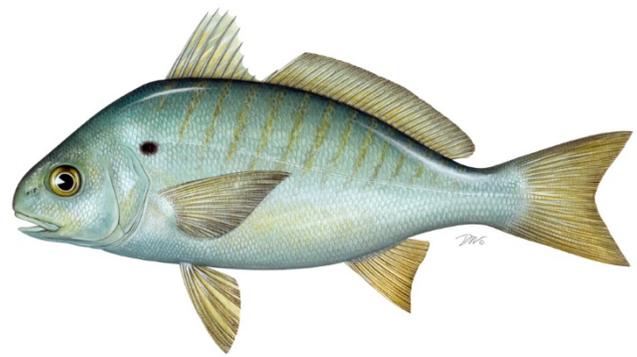


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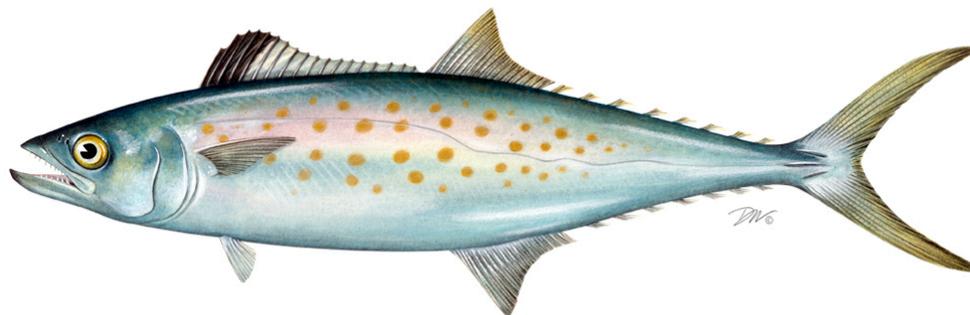
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Comments or Questions?





Spanish Mackerel Management



South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries
Management Board
October 2019

2019 N Zone Closure



- August, 2019 – Federal closure of N Zone (NY-NC) Spanish mackerel due to ACL being reached
- Omnibus Amendment does not require states to close during fed closure

Management Differences



- Commercial regional management zones
 - Omnibus Amd Border: GA/FL
 - CMP FMP: NC/SC (Amd 20B)
- S Zone commercial measures
 - Both plans describe step-down process of lowered trip limits (normally 3,500 lb) at 75% of adjusted quota (1,500 lb) and 100% of adjusted quota (500 lb)
 - CMP FMP also closes fishery when 100% of full ACL is achieved

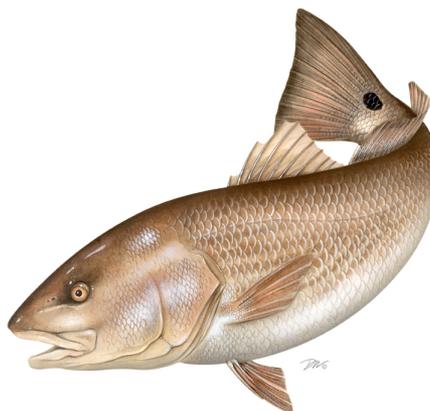
CMP FMP Framework Amd 9



- Proposes modifications to the commercial Spanish mackerel accountability measures to allow a 500 pound trip limit after commercial zones have met their respective quotas until the total ACL (commercial and recreational) has been met, at which point the entire fishery would be closed.

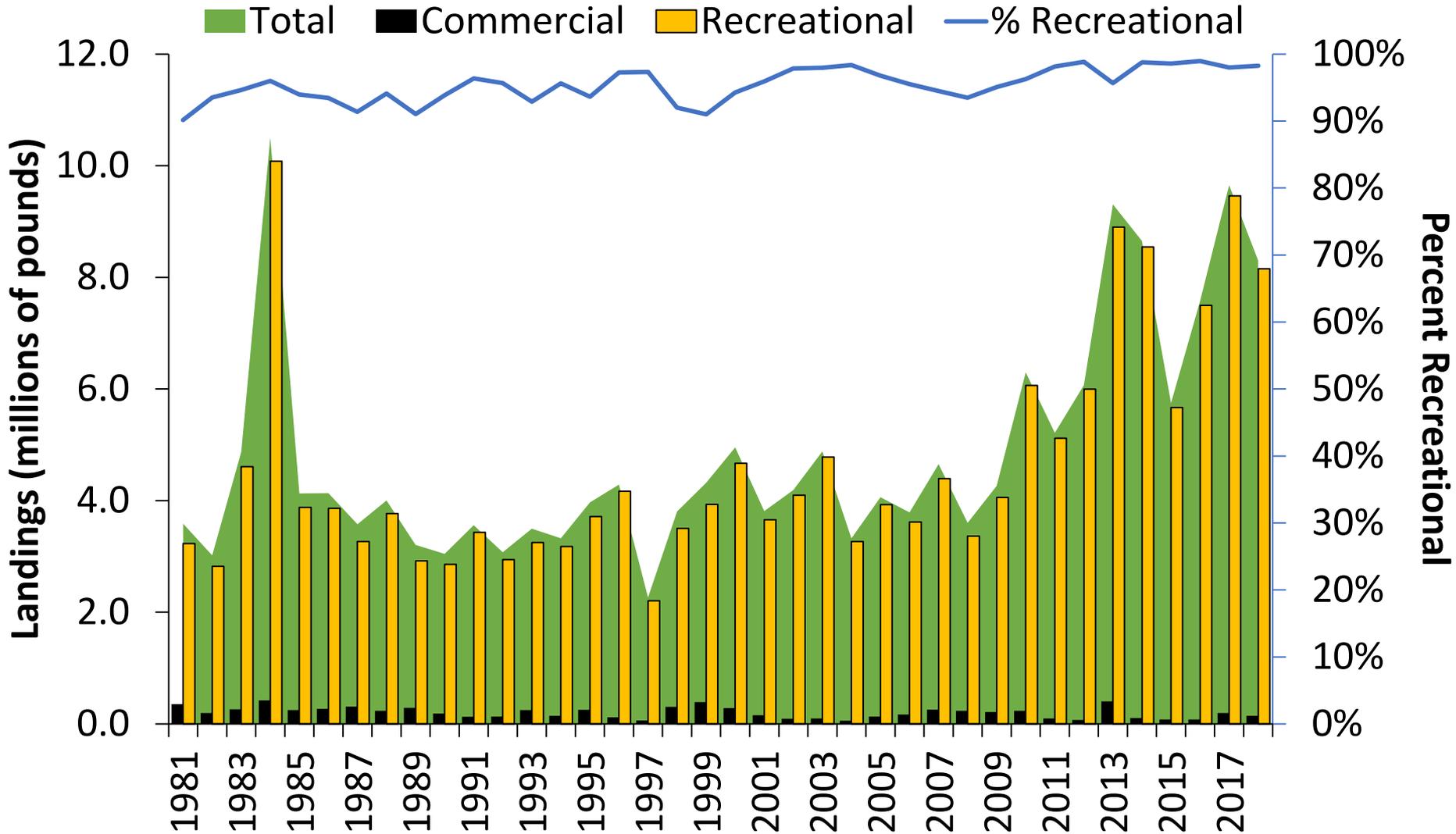


Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Review



Red Drum Plan Review Team
September, 2019

Status of the Fishery - Total Landings

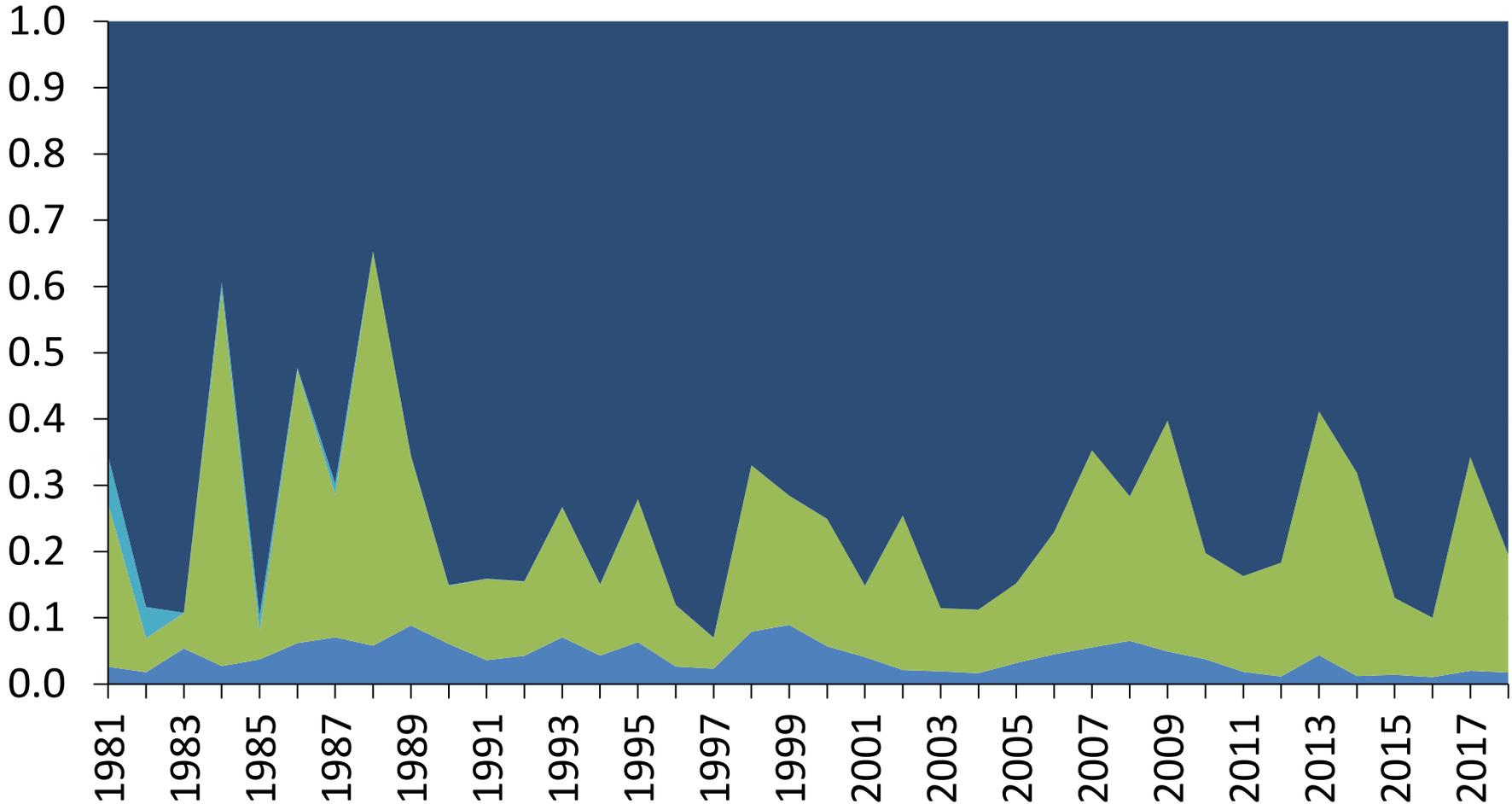


Status of the Fishery – Mid v. South Atlantic

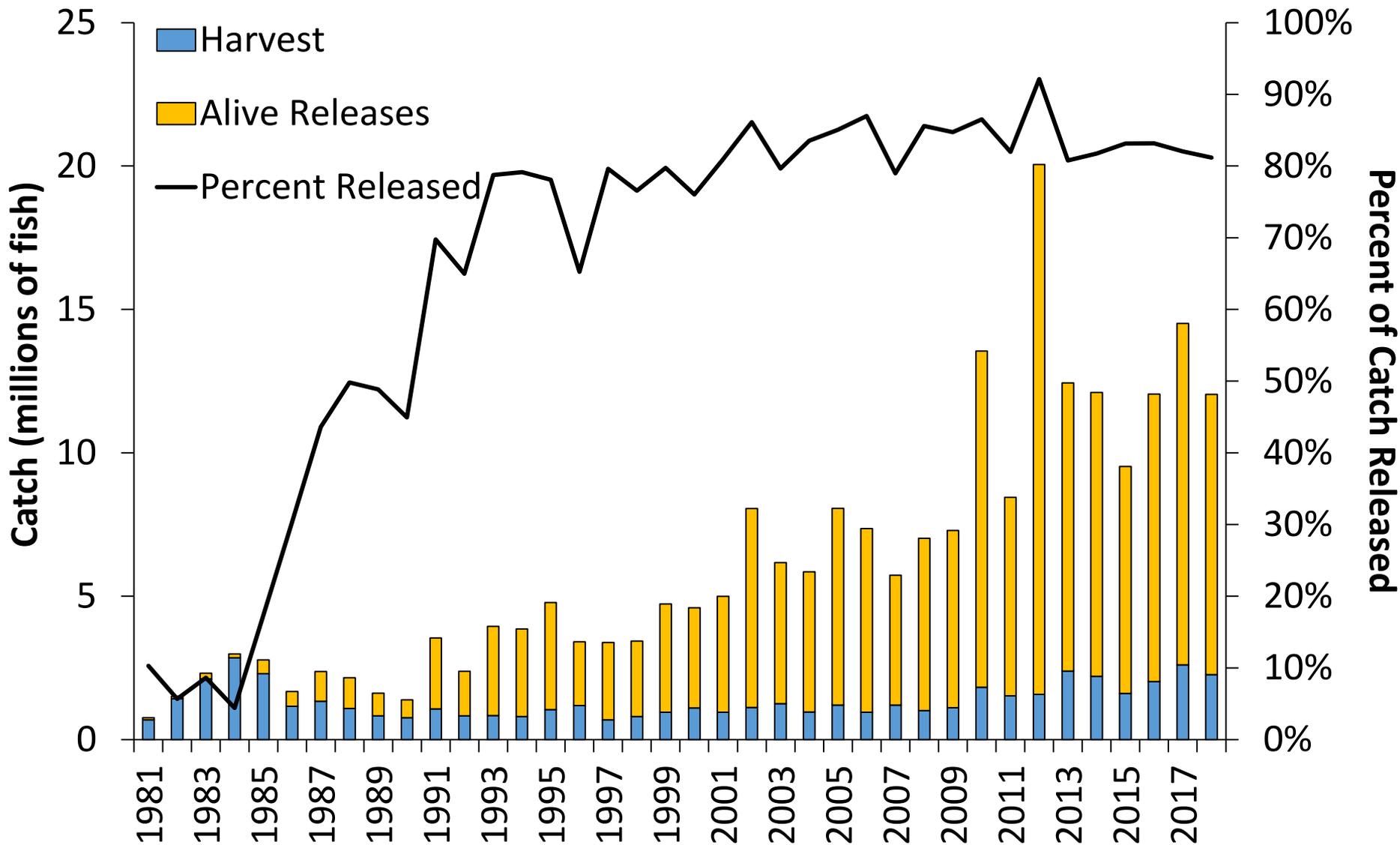


- Mid-Atlantic Commercial
- South Atlantic Commercial
- Mid-Atlantic Recreational
- South Atlantic Recreational

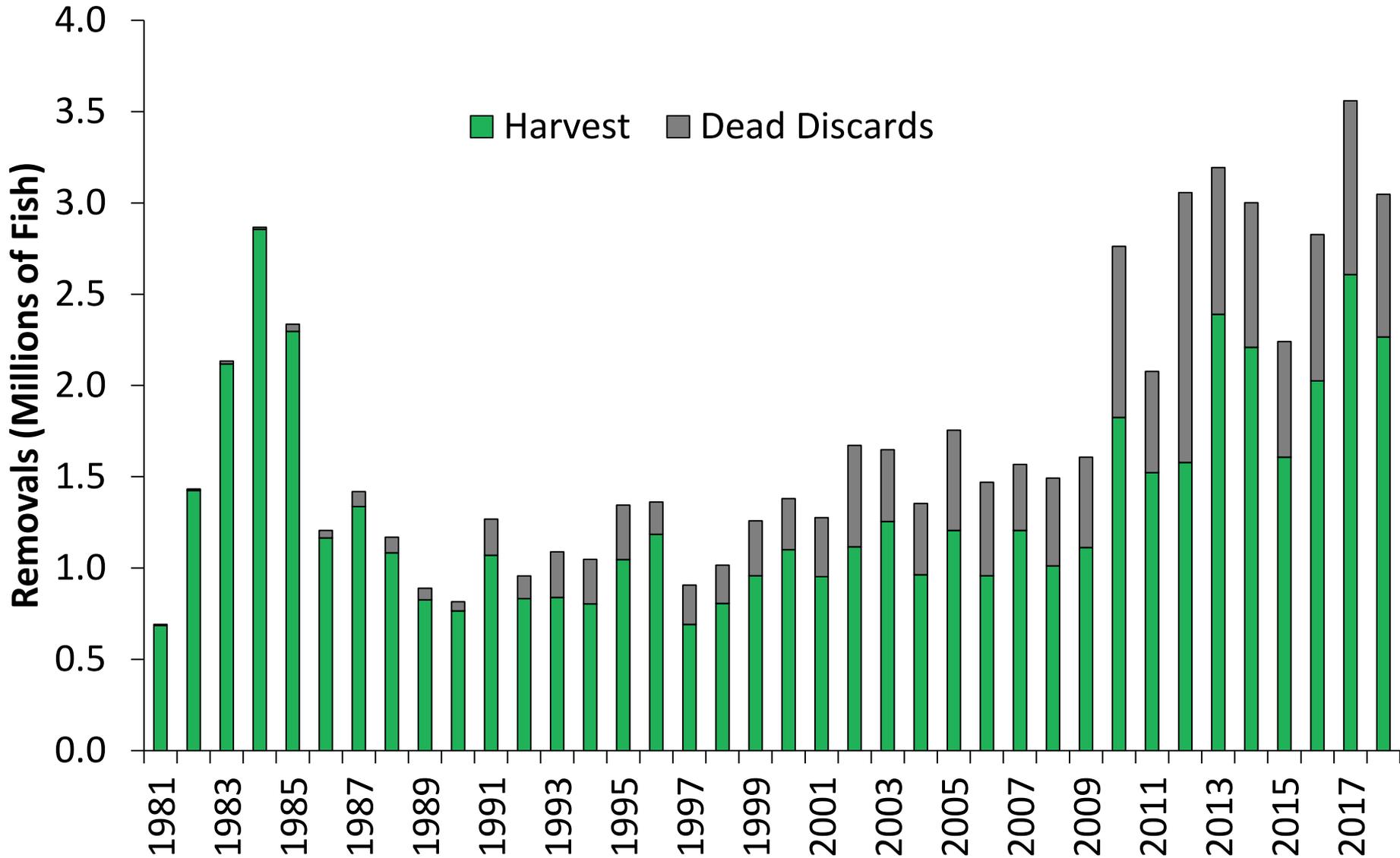
Proportion of Total Coastwide Landings



Status of the Fishery - Recreational



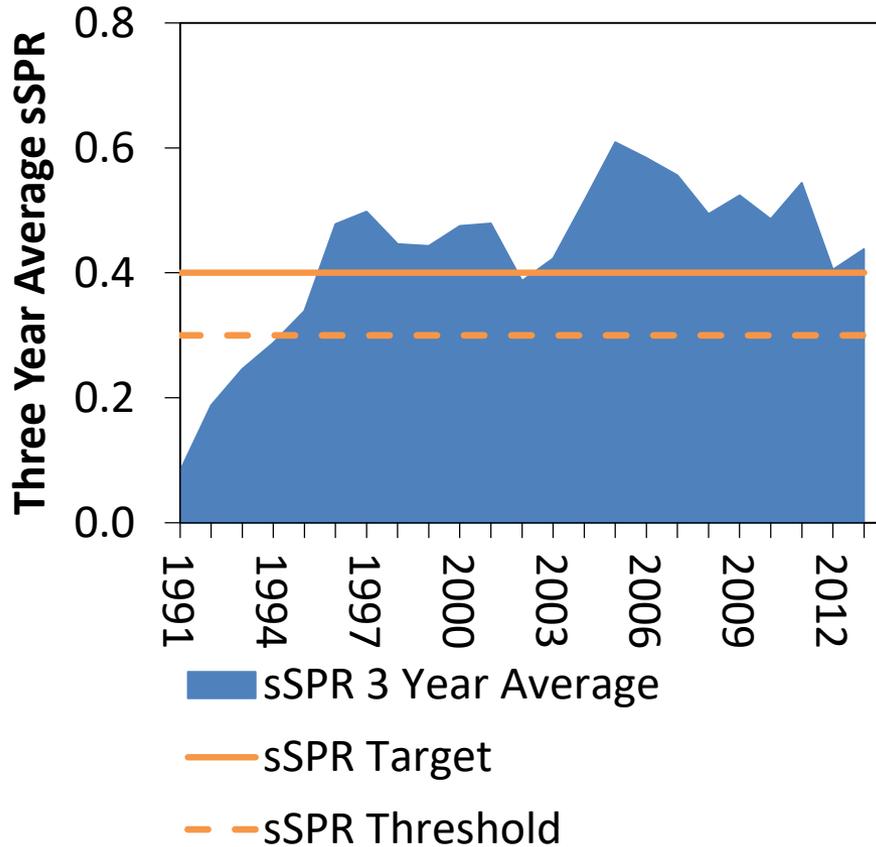
Status of the Fishery – Rec Removals



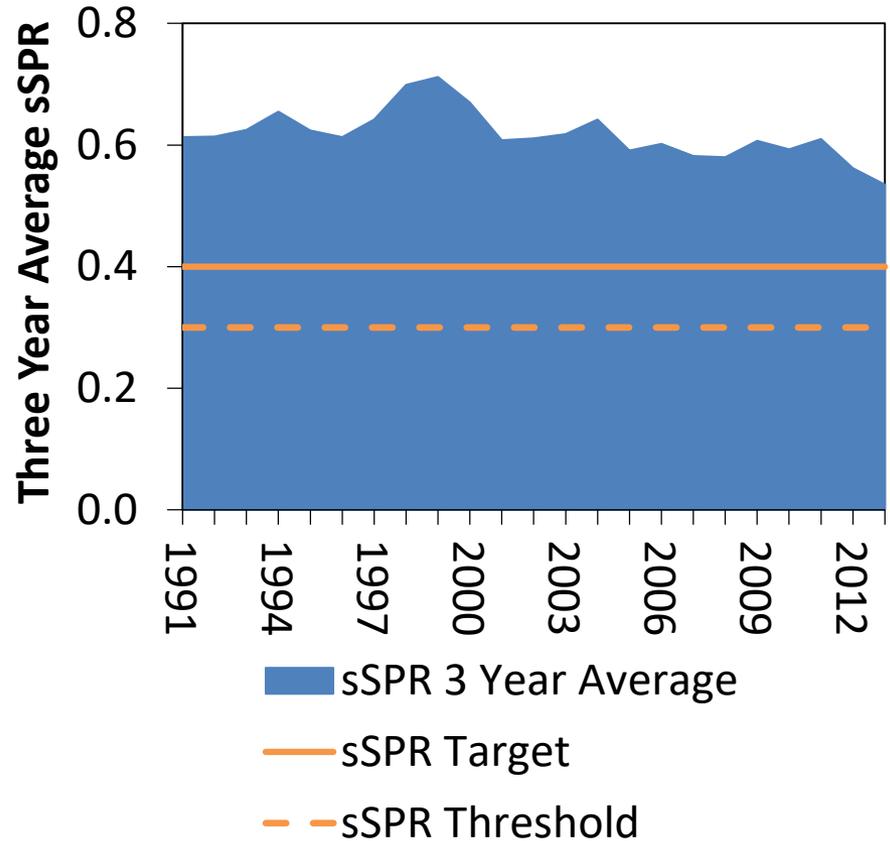
Status of the Stock



Red Drum Northern Stock



Red Drum Southern Stock



2017 – SC completed a state-specific assessment that indicated that the SC population of red drum was experiencing overfishing

Status of Management



FMP for Red Drum (1984)

- Florida to Maryland
- 1988 all states (ME-FL) implement recommended mgmt. measures

Amendment 1 (1991)

- Optimal yield: 30% SSBR

Amendment 2 (2002)

- Optimal yield: sSPR at or above 40%, 27" max size

Addendum I (2013)

- Habitat

2018 Management (Table 1)



State	Recreational	Commercial
NJ	18" - 27" , 1 fish	18" - 27" , 1 fish
DE	20" - 27" , 5 fish	20" - 27" , 5 fish
MD	18" - 27" , 1 fish	18" - 25" , 5 fish
PRFC	18" - 25" , 5 fish	18" - 25" , 5 fish
VA	18" - 26" , 3 fish	18" - 25" , 5 fish
NC	18" - 27" , 1 fish	18" - 27"; 250,000 lb harvest cap with overage payback (150,000 lbs Sept 1- April 30; 100,000 lbs May 1-Aug 31); harvest of red drum allowed with 7 fish daily trip limit; red drum must be less than 50% of catch (lbs); small mesh (<5" stretched mesh) gill nets attendance requirement May 1 - November 30. Fishing year: September 1 – August 31.
SC	<u>15" - 23" , 2 fish per person per day bag limit and 6 fish per boat per day boat limit (as of July 1, 2018)</u>	Gamefish Only
GA	14" - 23" , 5 fish	Gamefish Only
FL	18" - 27"; Northern Region – 2 fish, Southern Region – 1 fish	Sale of native fish prohibited

De Minimis



	NJ	DE
2017-2018 Average	Confidential	0
% of Total	<1%	0%
Qualify?	Yes	Yes

PRT Recommendations



- All states have implemented requirements of Amendment 2
- Approve state compliance reports and *de minimis* status for New Jersey and Delaware
- Additional research/monitoring recommendations found in FMP Review document



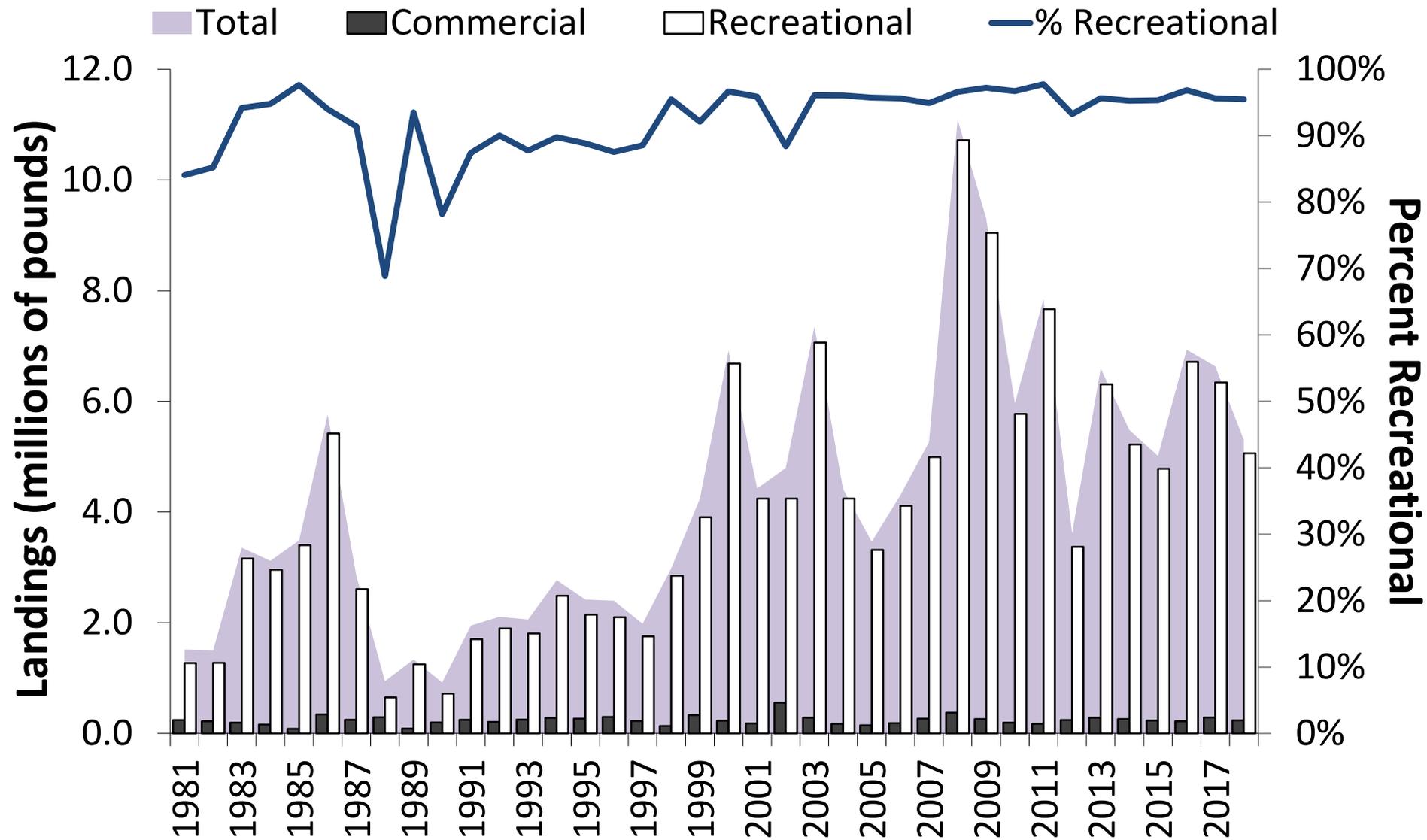
Comments or Questions?



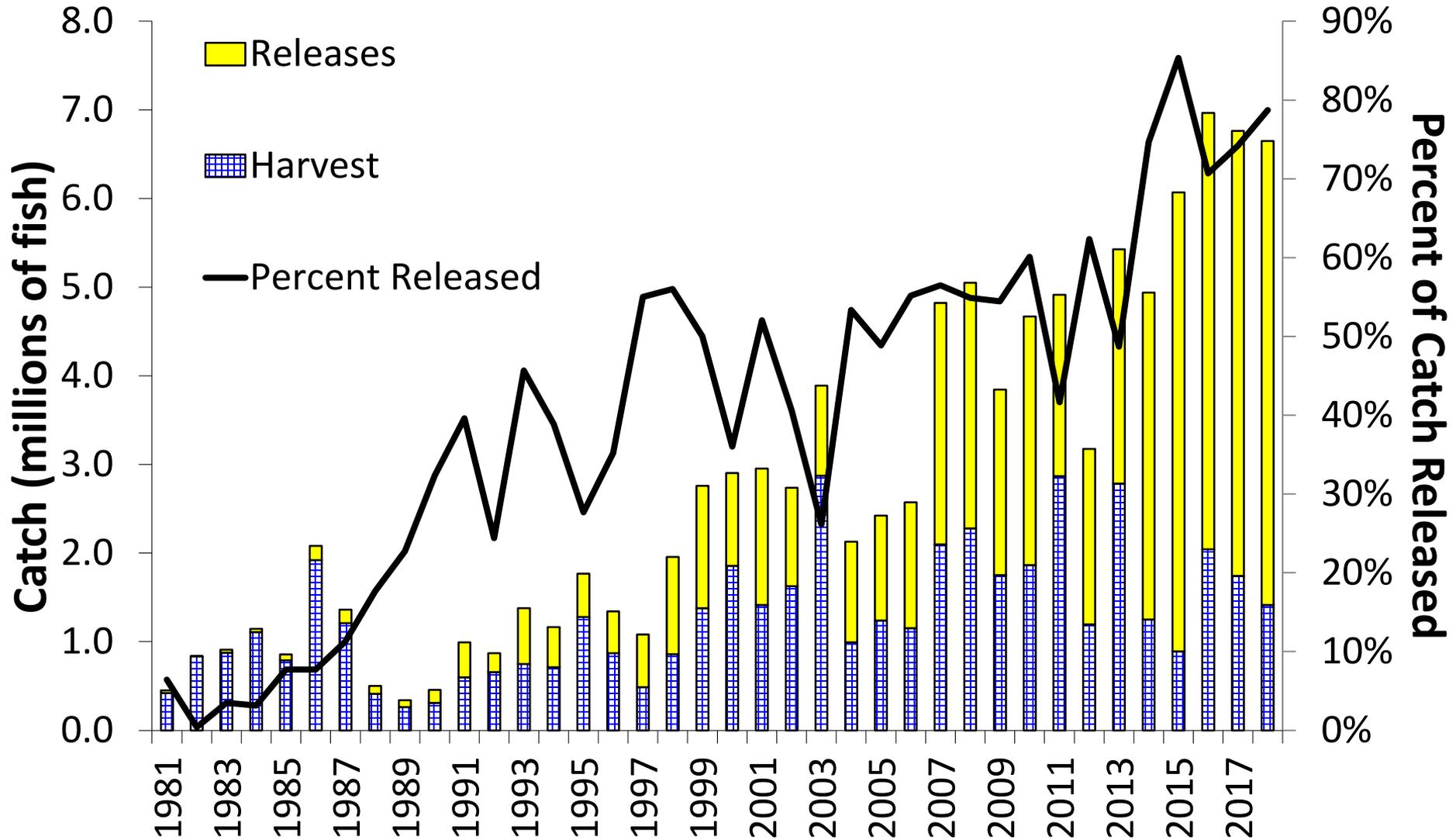
Black Drum 2019 FMP Review

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries
Management Board
October, 2019

Status of the Fishery - Total Landings



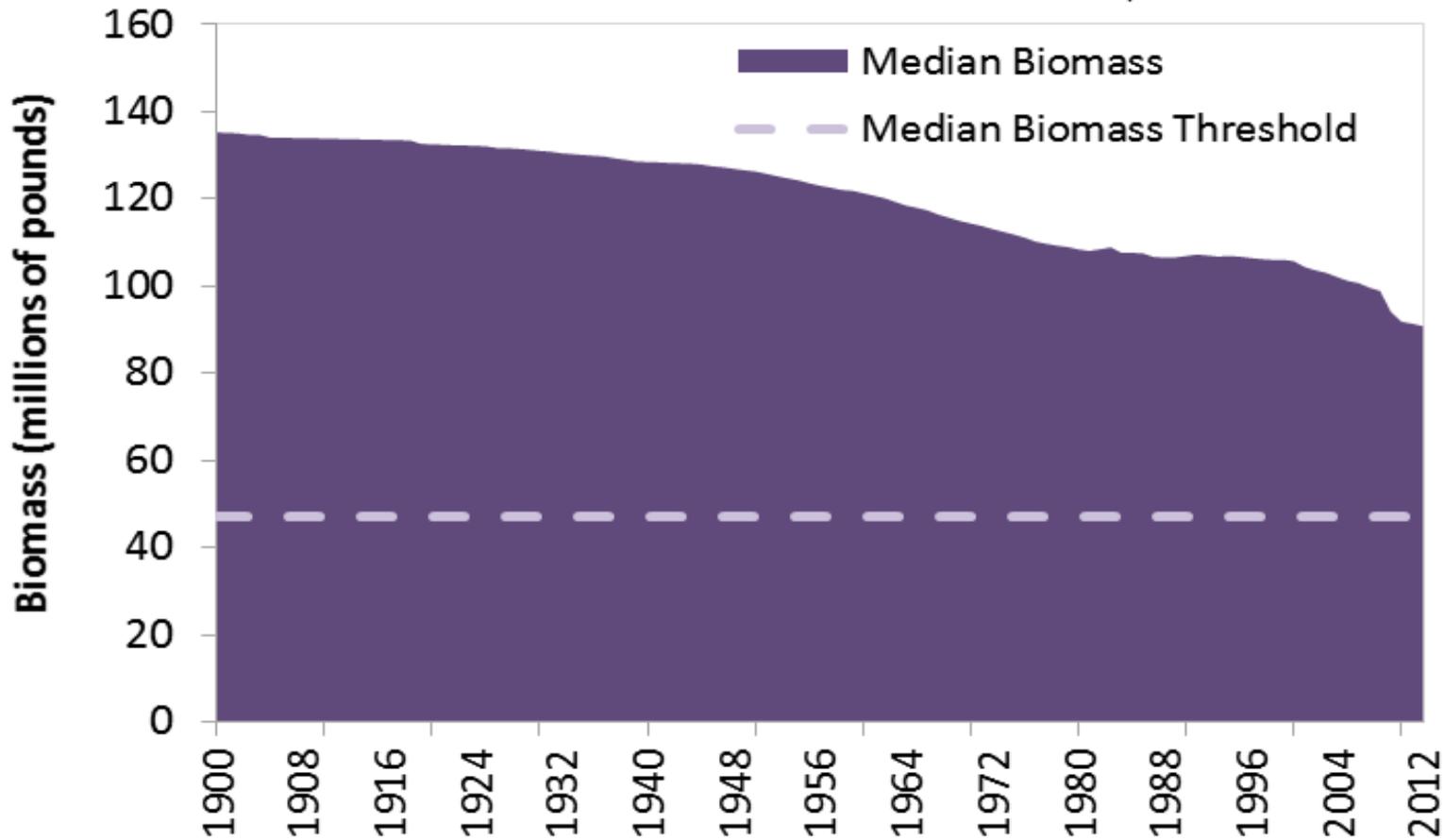
Status of the Fishery - Recreational



Status of the Stock



Black Drum Biomass
ASMFC Black Drum Benchmark Assessment, 2015



Status of Management



Black Drum FMP

- January 1, 2014 - all states must implement a maximum possession limit and a minimum size of at least 12"
- January 1, 2016 - all states must increase the minimum size limit to at least 14"
- **Addendum I (2018)**
 - Allowed MD to reopen commercial fishery in Chesapeake Bay

2018 Management (Table 1)



State	Recreational		Commercial			Notes
	Size limit	Bag limit	Size limit	Trip Limit	Annual Quota	
NJ	16" min	3/person/day	16" min	10,000 lbs	65,000 lbs	
DE	16" min	3/person/day	16" min	10,000 lbs	65,000 lbs	
MD	16" min	1/person/day 6/vessel (Bay)	16" min		1,500 lbs Atlantic Coast	Chesapeake Bay closed to commercial harvest. Reopened on Feb. 25, 2019, details in Sec. VI.
VA	16" min	1/person/day	16" min	1/person/day*	120,000 lbs	*without Black Drum Harvesting and Selling Permit
NC	14" min - 25" max; 1 fish > 25" may be retained	10/person/day	14" min - 25" max	500 lbs		
SC	14" min - 27" max	5/person/day	14" min - 27" max	5/person/day		Commercial fishery primarily bycatch
GA	14" min	15/person/day	14" min	15/person/day		
FL	14" min - 24" max; 1 fish >24" may be retained	5/person/day	14" min - 24" max	500 lbs/day		

Compliance and *De minimis*



- All states are in compliance with the FMP
- No state requested *de minimis* status through the annual reporting process.

PRT Recommendations



- PRT recommends the Board approve the 2019 Black Drum FMP Review and state compliance reports.
- Management, Research, and Monitoring Recommendations in FMP Review report
- Recommend to the Board that assessment scheduling for black drum be postponed for three years then reconsidered. Whenever the next assessment is conducted, it should be a benchmark that, at minimum, attempts to modify the DBSRA model and incorporates new information (e.g. observer discards and new surveys). (TC rec to ASC)



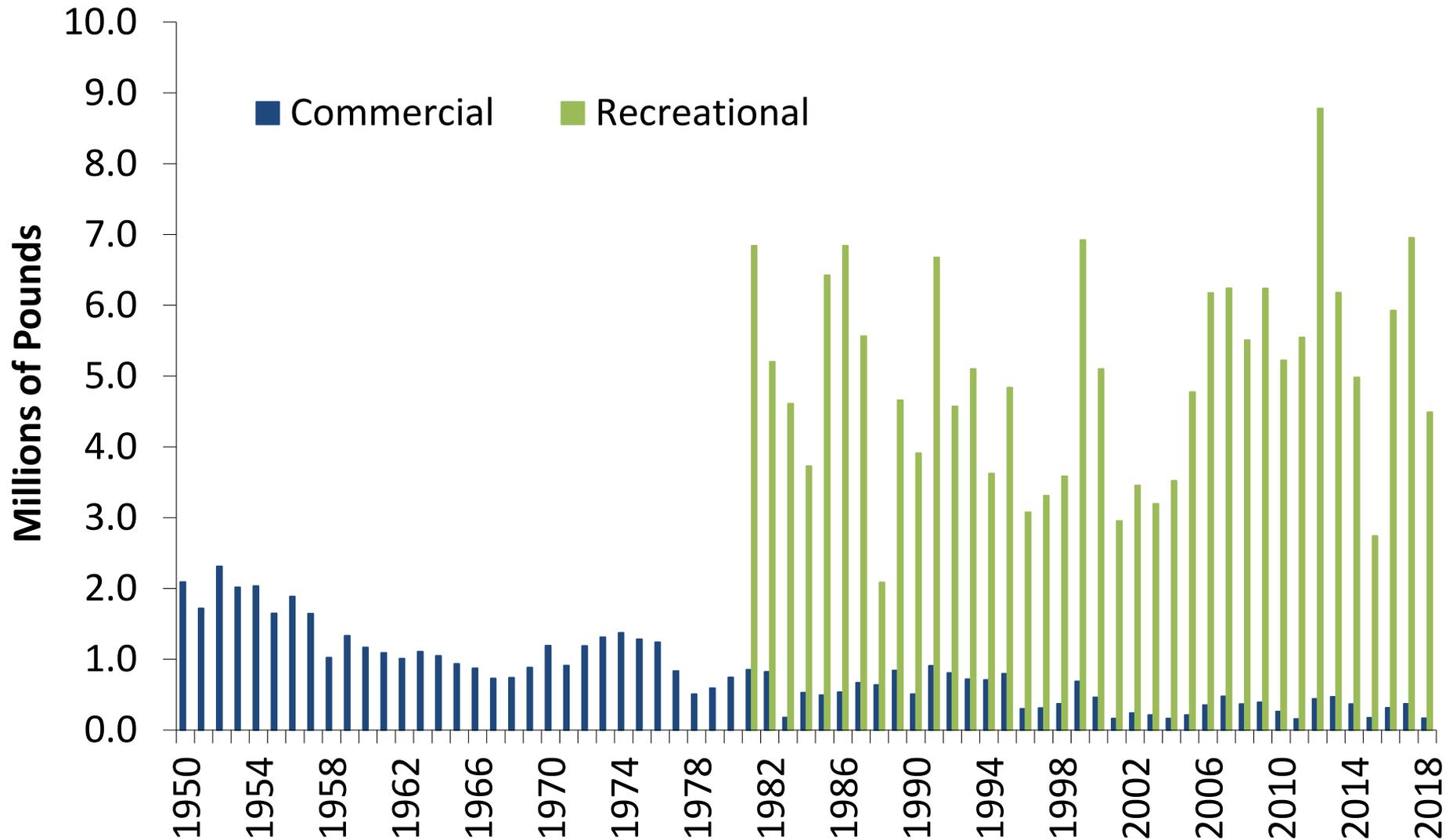
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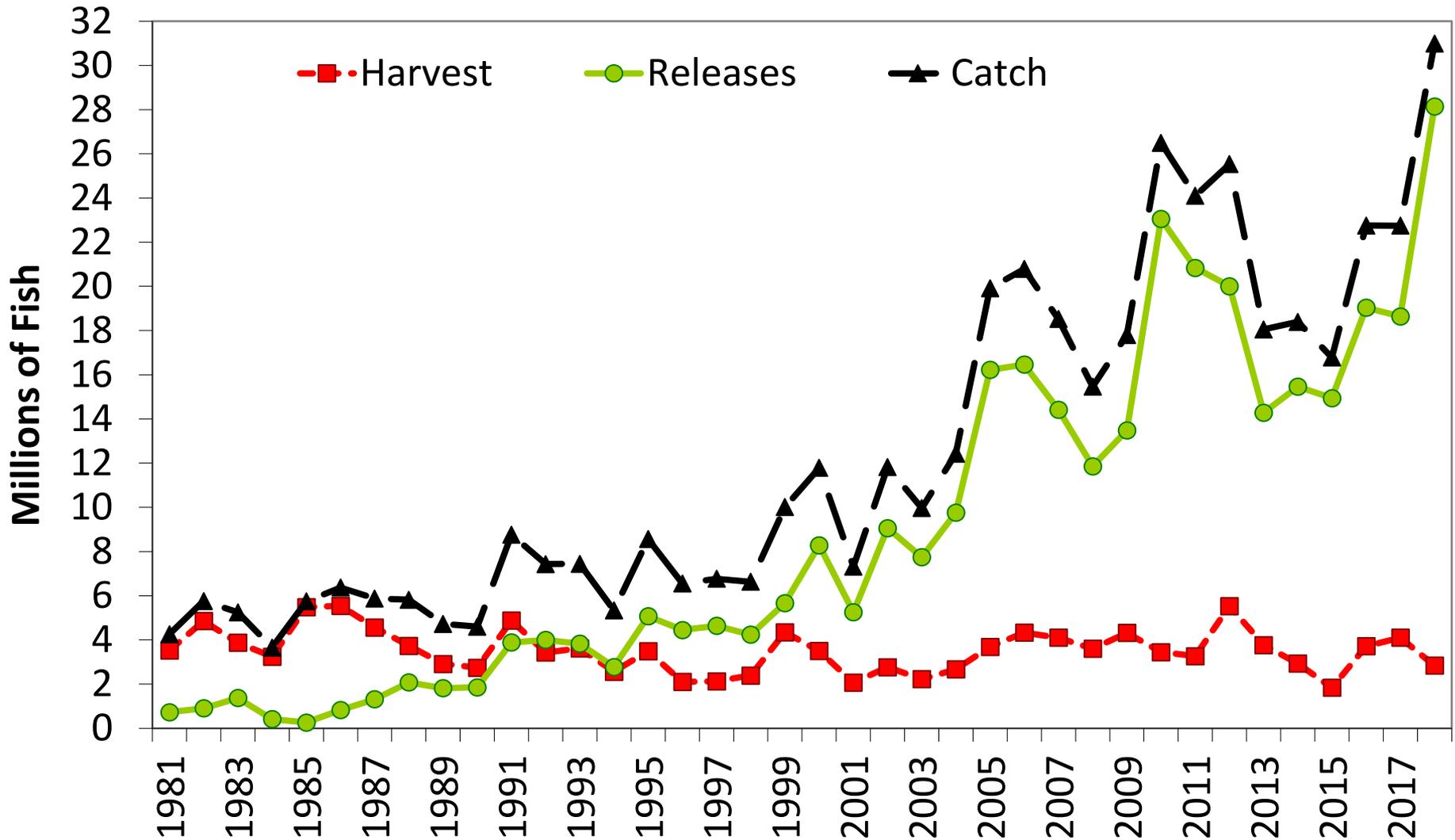
Spotted Seatrout 2019 FMP Review

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries
Management Board
October, 2019

Status of the Fishery - Total landings



Status of the Fishery - Recreational



Status of the Stock



- No coastwide stock assessment
 - Life history/migration
 - Data availability
- Several state assessments (SC, NC/VA, FL)
- Recent assessment completed in 2018 for FL (2016)
 - NE FL and SE FL above biomass threshold but below target biomass and not overfishing

Status of Management



State	Recreational	Commercial
New Jersey	13" TL; 1 fish	Gill net, trawl, and pound net: 13"; 100 lb/vessel/day possession and bycatch limit; seasonal closures; monthly reporting. Trawl and gill net mesh size restrictions. Hook & line fishermen must follow rec limits.
Delaware	12" TL	12" TL
Maryland	14" TL; 4 fish	14" TL. 150 lb limit per day or trip (whichever is longer). Trawl and gill net mesh size restrictions.
PRFC	14" TL; 10 fish	14" TL
Virginia	14-24" TL; 1 fish >24" allowed; 5 fish; closed season March-July.	14" TL; pound nets/seines allowed 5% by weight less than 14". Hook & line fishermen must follow rec limits. Quota: 51,104 lbs (Sept-Aug). After 80% reached, 100 lb/vessel/day possession and bycatch limit.
North Carolina	14" TL; 4 fish. Fishery closed by proclamation from January 5 – June 15	14" TL; 75 fish limit. Unlawful to possess or sell Friday 12:00am-Sunday 12:00am. Fishery closed by proclamation from January 5 – June 15
South Carolina	14" TL; 10 fish. Gig March-Nov.	Gamefish status since 1987; native caught fish may not be sold.
Georgia	14" TL; 15 fish	14" TL; 15 fish. BRD requirement for trawl; gear mesh regulations.
Florida	15-20" TL slot; 1 fish >20" allowed; northeast 6 fish; northwest 5 fish; south 4 fish; hook & line/cast net only.	15-24" TL; Season varies by region; 75 fish limit or 150 fish limit with two or more licensed fishermen on board; hook & line/cast net only.

(Table 1 in FMP Review)

De Minimis



- ***De minimis***
 - 3 year average, combined com and rec, 1%
 - Requests from NJ and DE
 - Both states qualify

PRT Recommendations



- All states are in compliance with the FMP
 - 12” min TL
- That the Board approve the 2019 FMP Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for New Jersey and Delaware.
- Other research/monitoring recommendations found in FMP Review (Section VIII)



Comments or Questions?