



**Draft Addendum I to the Omnibus
Amendment for Spot and Draft
Addendum II to Amendment I to
the Atlantic croaker FMP**

South Atlantic State/Federal Management
Board

May 14, 2014



Board Initiated Draft Addenda

February 2014

Board Review of Draft Addenda for Public Comment

May 2014

Public Comment

May-June 2014

Board Considers Final Addenda

August 2014



Statement of the Problem

- Current annual Trigger Exercises don't illustrate long-term declines or increases in abundance
- Both species lack an effective management framework to respond to changes in the fishery



Background

- Small, sciaenid forage species
- Migrate seasonally along the coast
- Last Atlantic croaker stock assessment: 2010
 - Spot has never had a coastwide stock assessment
- Annual Trigger Exercises
- Bycatch concern



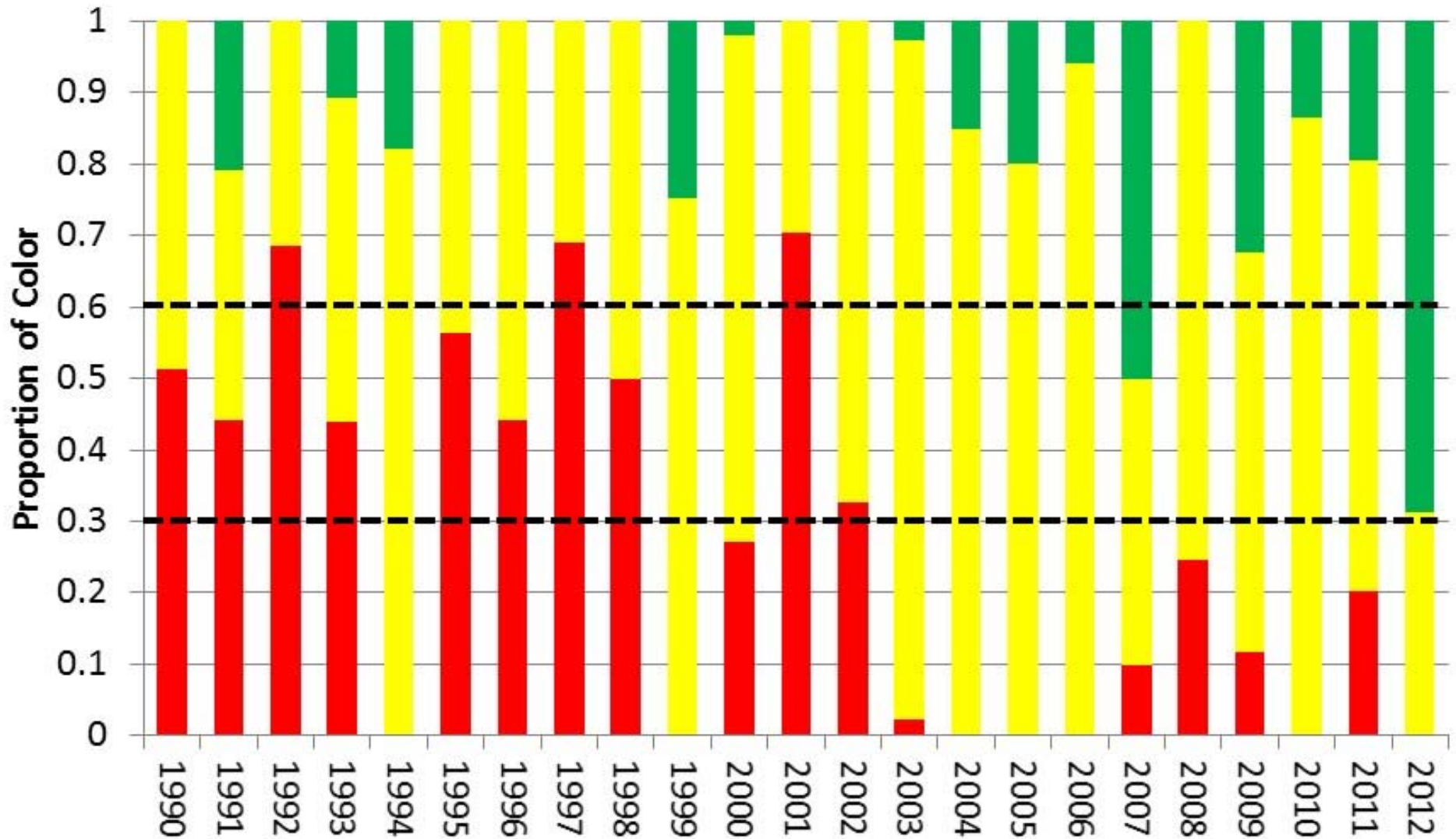
Traffic Light Approach (TLA)

- Developed for data poor fisheries
- Three colors
 - Green/yellow boundary set at long-term mean
 - Yellow/red boundary set at 60% of long-term mean, indicating 40% decline
- North Carolina Blue Crab Adaptive Management Program

Atlantic croaker TLA



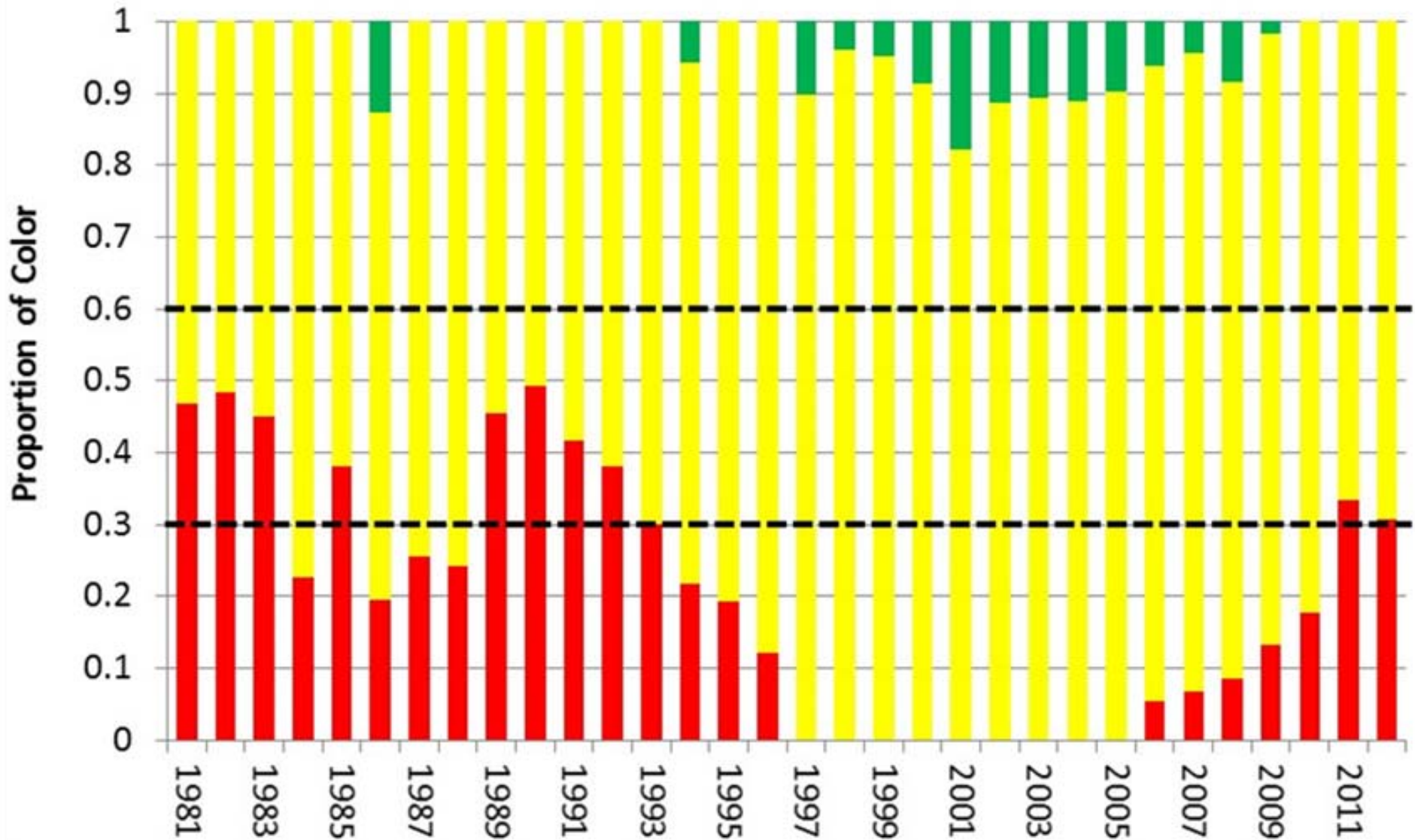
Adult abundance characteristic TLA for Atlantic croaker



Atlantic croaker TLA



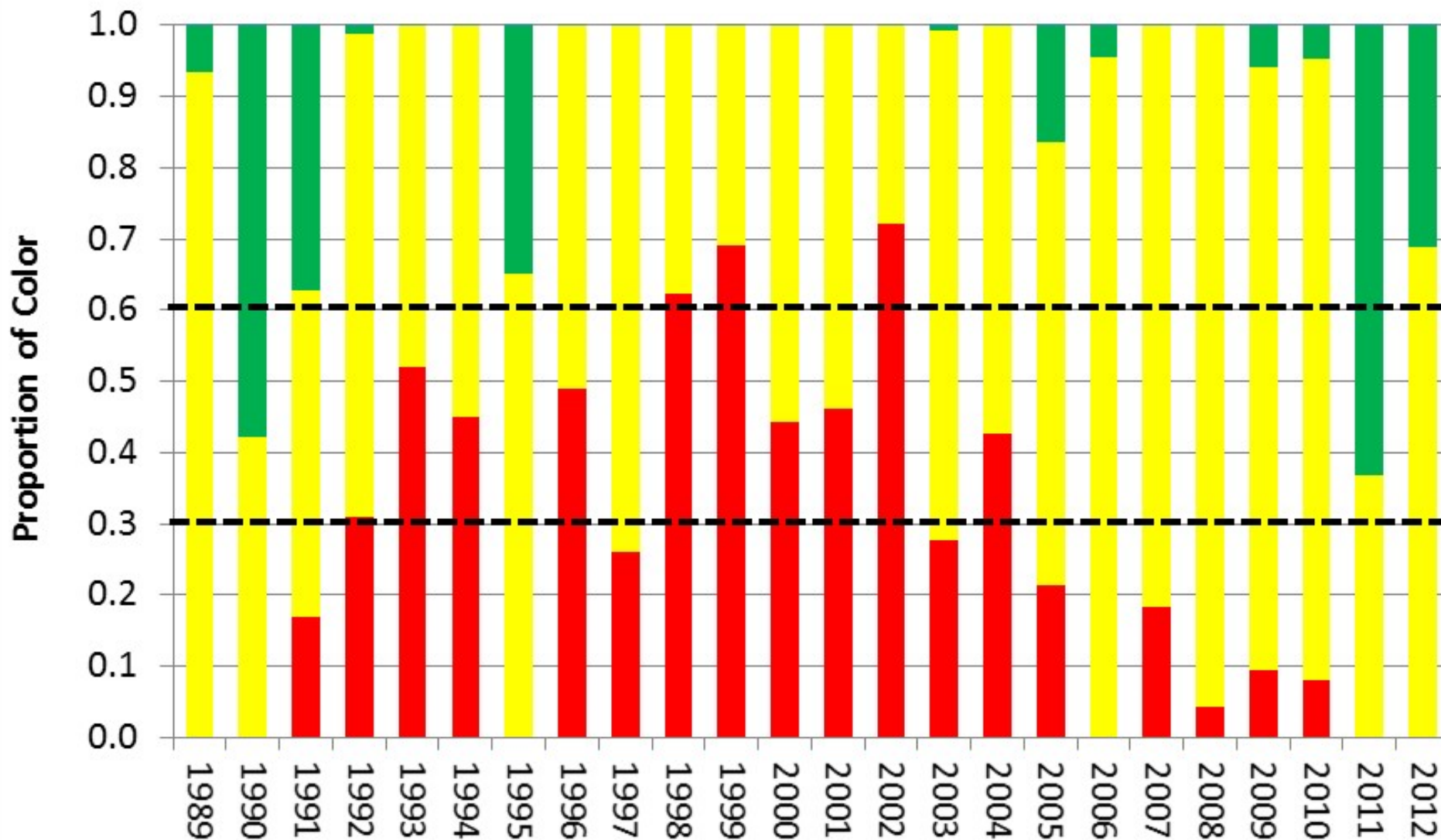
Harvest characteristic TLA for Atlantic croaker



Spot TLA



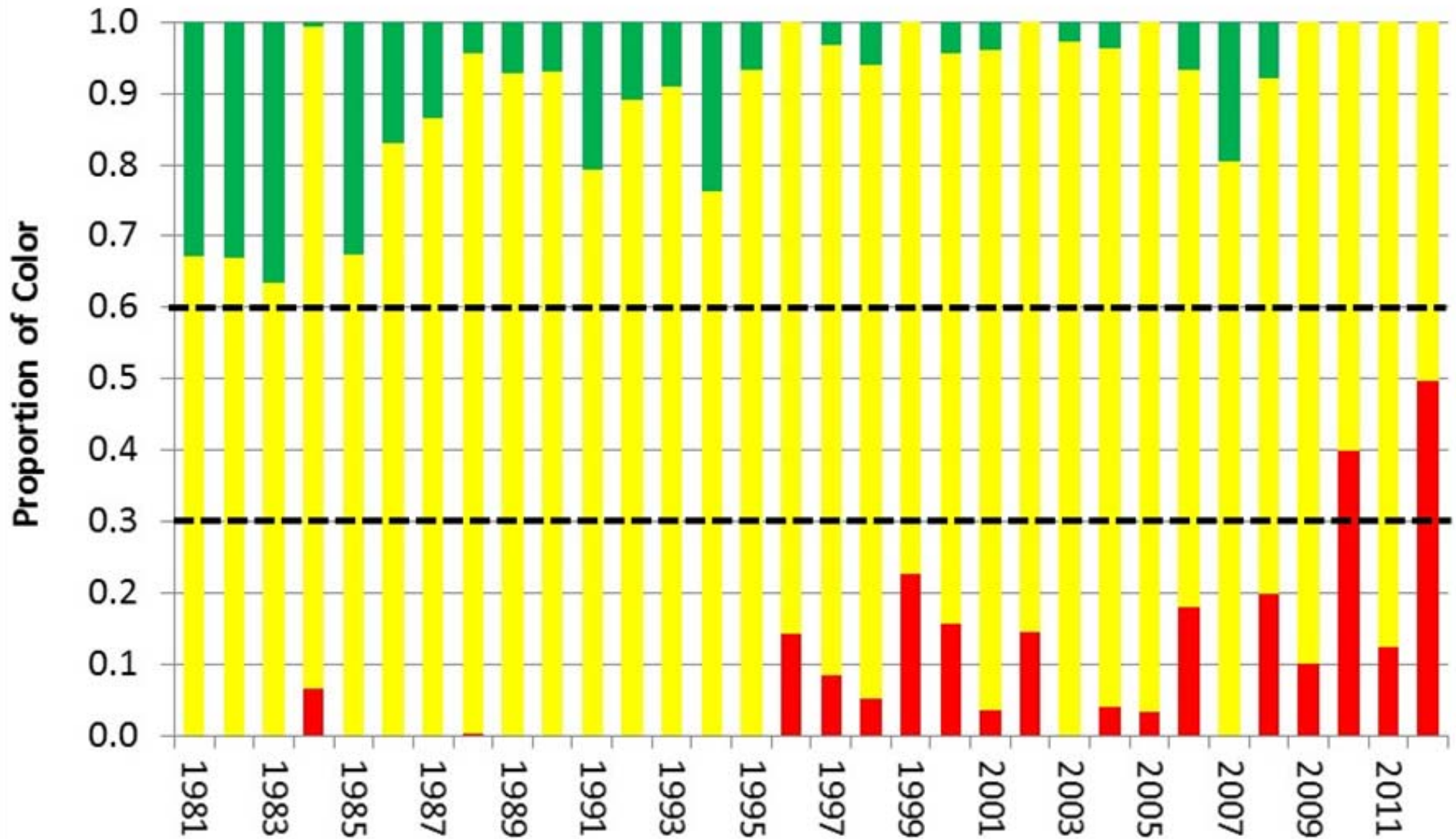
Adult abundance characteristic TLA for spot



Spot TLA



Harvest characteristic TLA for spot



Management Options



- **Option 1: Status Quo**
- **Option 2: Coastwide Management Framework**
- **Option 3: State-by-State Management Framework**

Management option #1



Continue annual trigger exercises

- Atlantic croaker: maintain comparison of recent year's landings & harvest to 70% avg of previous two years
- Spot: maintain updating relative abundance indices and comparing to the 10th percentile of the data's time series

Management Options Atlantic croaker: #2 Coastwide Measures



Population Characteristic	Moderate management level (at least 30% red for 3 consecutive years)		Elevated management level (at least 60% red for 3 consecutive years)	
<p>Adult abundance</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Harvest</p>	<p><u>Recreational</u></p> <p>Size limit: 8” minimum (coastwide)</p> <p>Bag limit: X number/day limit (coastwide)</p> <p>Closures: state specific areas closure for 20 days after May 1 & before Oct 1</p>	<p><u>Commercial</u></p> <p>Catch limit: 8” minimum (coastwide);</p> <p>Trip Limit: X pounds/day limit (coastwide)</p> <p>Closures: NA</p>	<p><u>Recreational</u></p> <p>Size limit: 9” minimum (coastwide)</p> <p>Bag Limit: X number/day limit (coastwide)</p> <p>Closures: state specific areas closure from Aug 1-Sept 1</p> <p>Gear Restrictions: (e.g., landings from gillnets prohibited from August 1-30)</p>	<p><u>Commercial</u></p> <p>Catch limit: 9” minimum (coastwide);</p> <p>Trip Limit: X pounds/day limit (coastwide)</p> <p>Closures: state specific areas from Sept 1-Nov 1</p> <p>Gear Restrictions: (e.g., landings from gillnets prohibited from August 1-30)</p>

Management Options Spot: #2 Coastwide Measures



Population Characteristic	Moderate management level (30% red for 2 consecutive years)		Elevated management level (60% red for 2 consecutive years)	
	<u>Recreational</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Recreational</u>	<u>Commercial</u>
Adult Abundance Or Harvest	Minimum Size Limit: 6" Bag Limit: X" Closures: May 1- June 15	Trip limit: X pounds/trip Closures: NA	Minimum Size Limit: 6" Bag Limit: X Closures: Sept 1- Oct 15	Trip limit: <X pounds/trip Closures: Sept 1- Oct 1 Gear Restrictions: (e.g., gillnets prohibited from Sept 1-30)

Management Option #3: State-by-state measures



Proportion Thresholds

Thresholds for the proportion of red in either population characteristic would be the same as under the Coastwide Management Framework (30% and 60%)

Management Measures

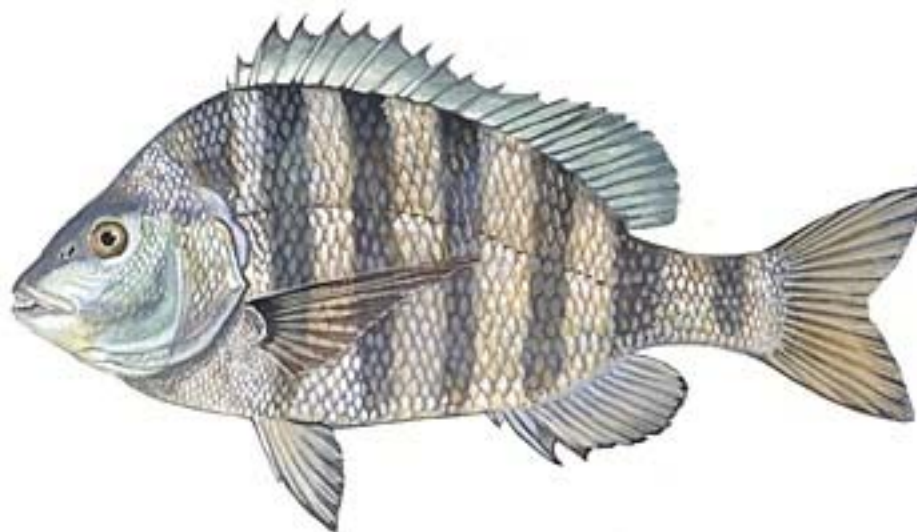
- The TC would determine the percent reduction of harvest
- These measures would be determined on a state-by-state basis.
- The harvest percentage reduction would be proportional to the magnitude of exceeding the threshold
- Combination of management tools (size limits, bag/trip limits, seasonal closures, and gear restrictions).



Questions?



Sheepshead Fishery Overview



South Atlantic State/Federal Management Board

May 2014

Life History



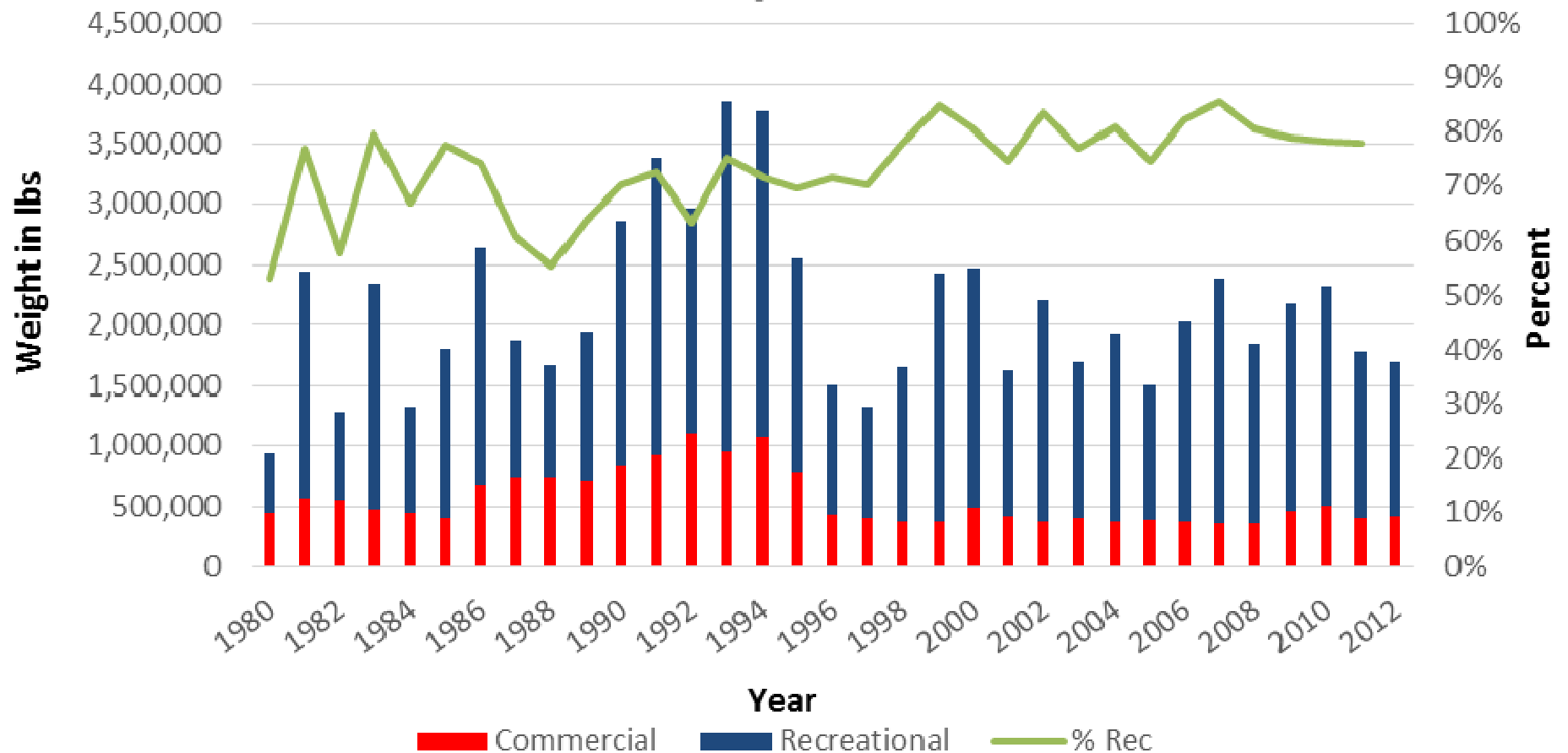
- **Range from Nova Scotia to Brazil**
- **Adults mature: 2-5 years**
- **Pilings, reefs, and wrecks primary habitat**
- **Unclear if truly migratory**



Landings



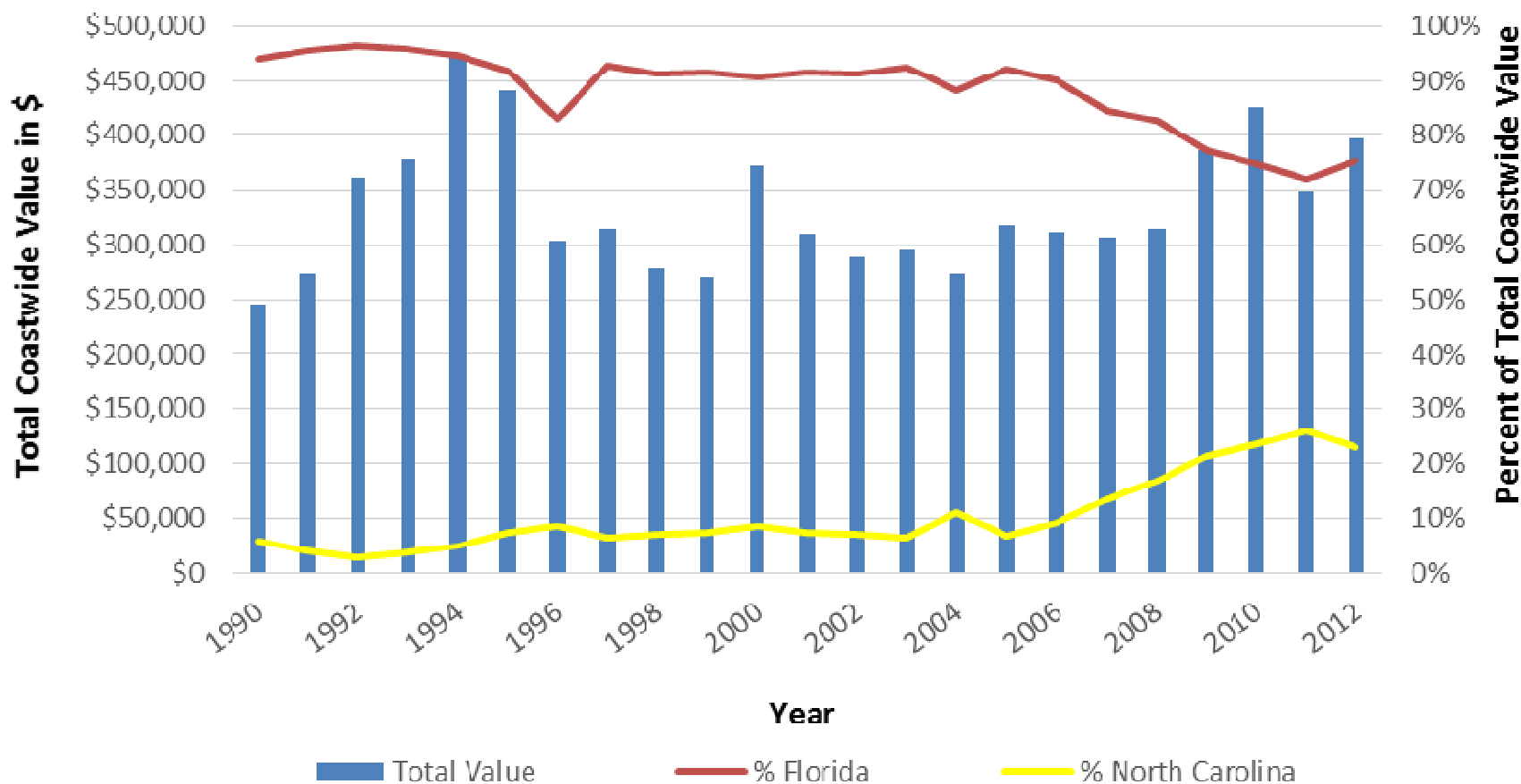
Coastwide Commerical Landings vs. Recreational Harvest for Sheephead: Atlantic Coast



Landings cont'd.



Value of the Sheephead Fishery on the Atlantic Coast



Management



- **SAFMC removal from Snapper-Group FMP in 2012**
- **State by state measures**

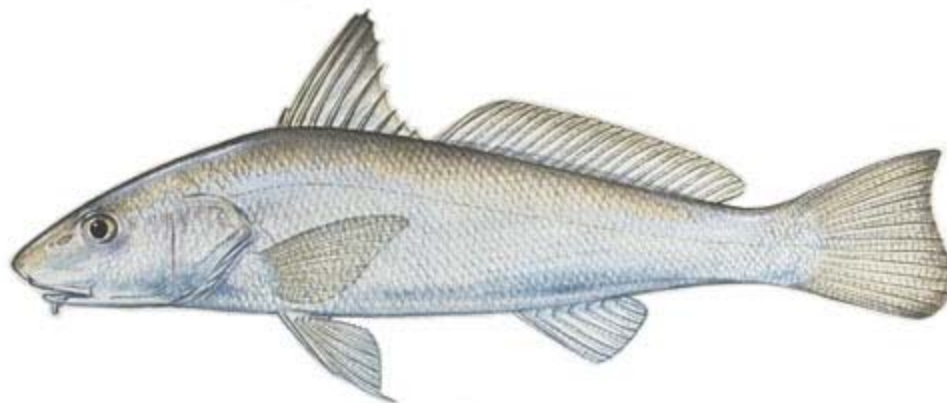
State	Recreational	Commercial
New Jersey	none	none
Delaware	none	none
Maryland	none	none
Virginia	4 fish possession limit	500 lbs trip limit
North Carolina	none	none
South Carolina	14" TL; 10 fish possession limit, not to exceed 30 per boat per day	none; bycatch allowance
Georgia	10" FL; 15 fish possession limit	10" FL; 15 fish possession limit
Florida	12"; 15 fish possession limit	12"; restricted species endorsement required; multiple hook restriction; must remain in whole condition until landed ashore; allowable incidental bycatch up to 50 lbs in shrimp trawls



Questions?



Southern Kingfish Fishery Overview



South Atlantic State/Federal Management Board

May 2014

Life History



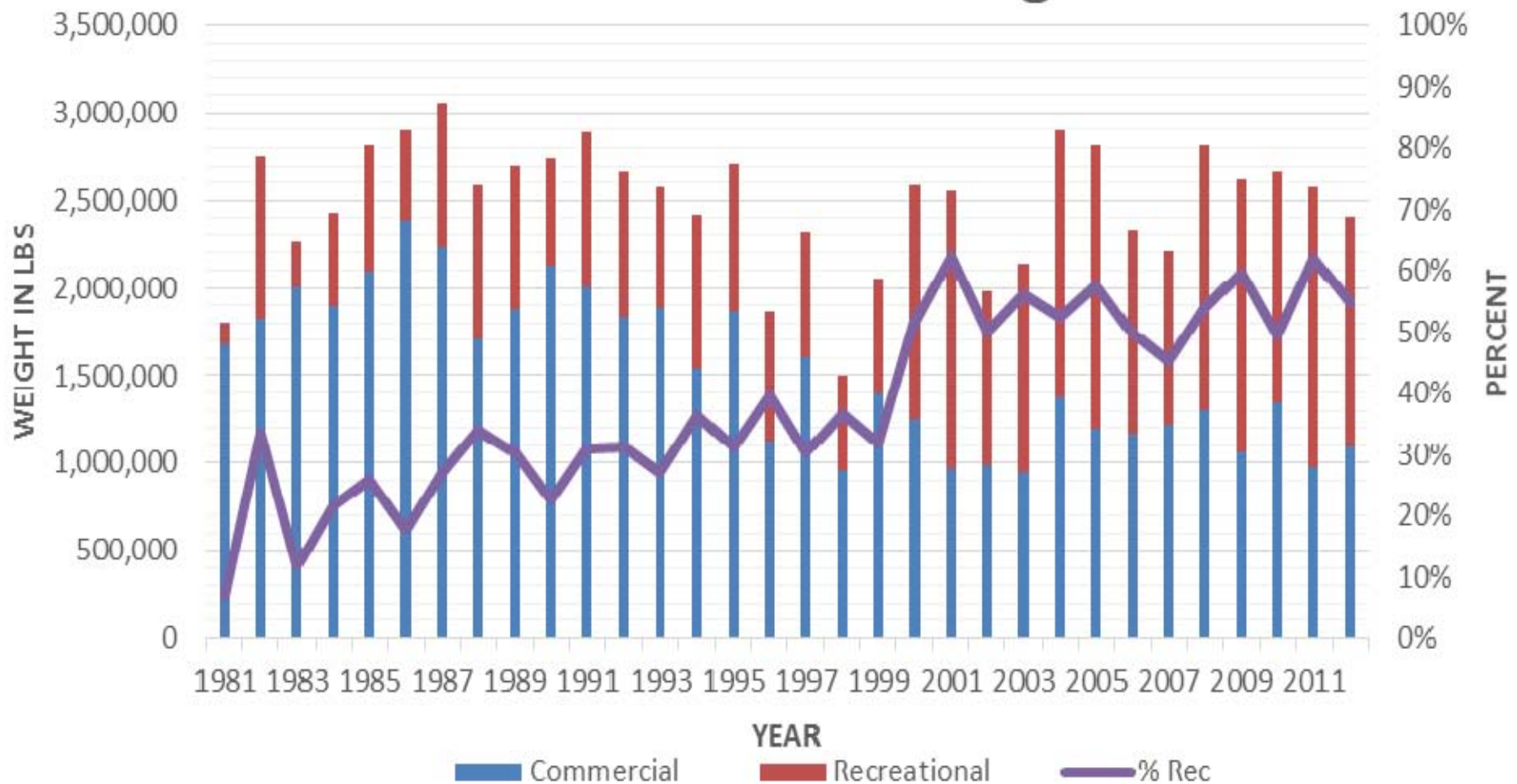
- **Short-lived, fast maturing sciaenid**
- **Maximum age is approx. 8 years**
- **Questions around abundance and distribution**
 - **Little data on migration patterns**



Landings



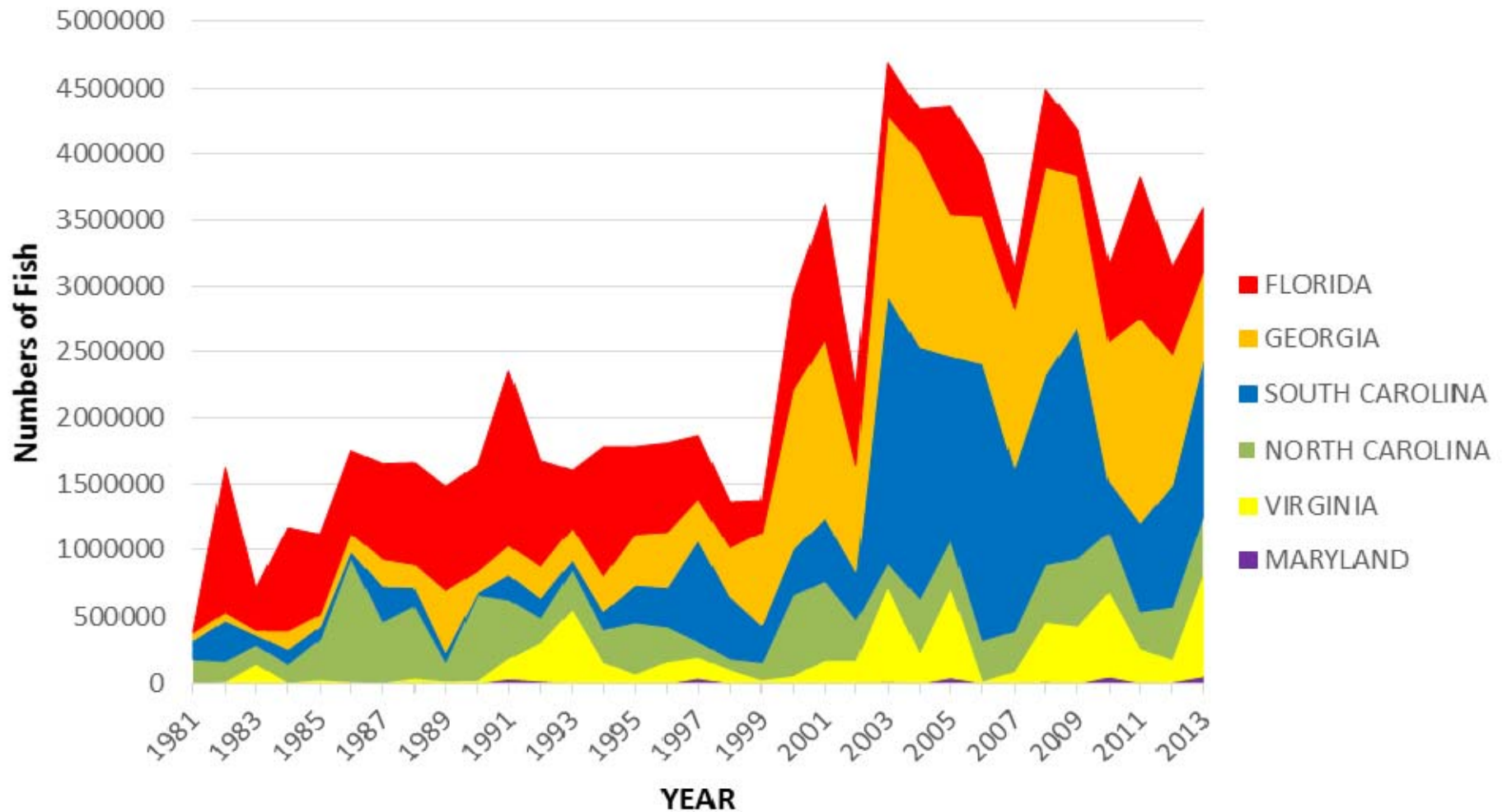
Commercial Landings vs. Recreational Harvest: Southern Kingfish



Landings cont'd.



Southern Kingfish Recreational Harvest South Atlantic Region





Management

- **Currently no management measures**
- **Previously reviewed by the Board before**
 - **2008 Board meetings and TC tasks**

Research Updates



- Aggregate commercial data for *Menticirrhus* species
 - Work has been completed in NC; monitoring efforts along the coast continue
- Time series of commercial effort data in SC & GA
 - Currently have 10 years from SC, 12 from GA; 15 years was requested
- Recreational release mortality
 - 30% 2000-2013 based on NMFS website data
- Limited movement and migration data
 - No known tagging studies.
- Identification errors in MRFSS & MRIP among species
- Otolith projects (NC commercial & GA rec)



Questions?



South Atlantic Species Advisory Panel and Red Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee

**South Atlantic State/Federal Management Board
May 2014**

Overview



Poor AP attendance in recent years

- **Need for states to consider representation**
- **2015 Red Drum Stock Assessment**
 - **Need to appoint a chair and populate subcommittee**



2009 ASMFC Red Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee

First Name	Last Name	Role
Carolyn	Belcher	Member
Nichola	Meserve	Staff
Joseph	Grist	Member
Lee	Paramore	Member
Mike	Murphy	Chair
Mike	Denison	Member

Name = No longer on Red Drum Technical Committee



Questions?