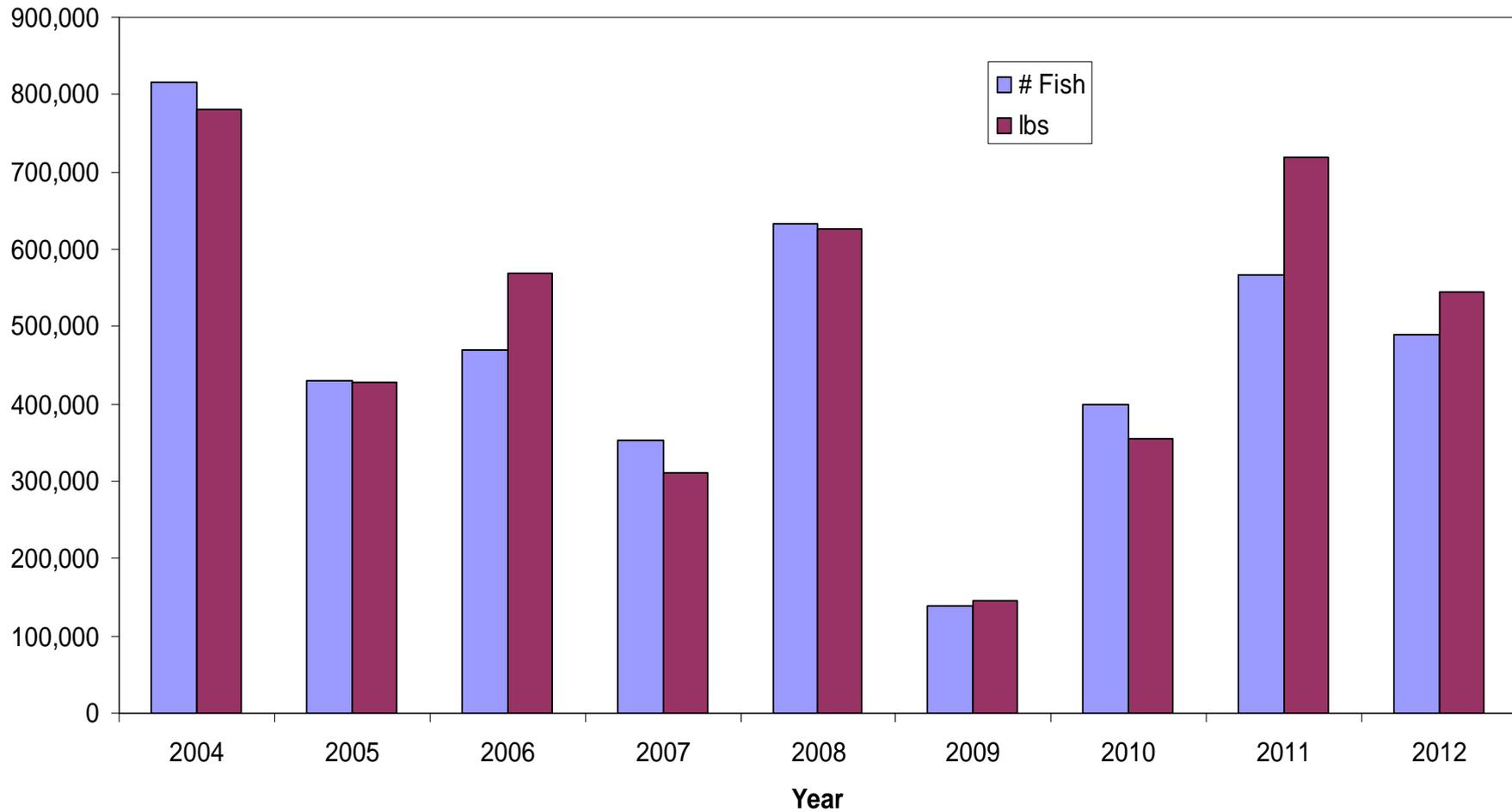


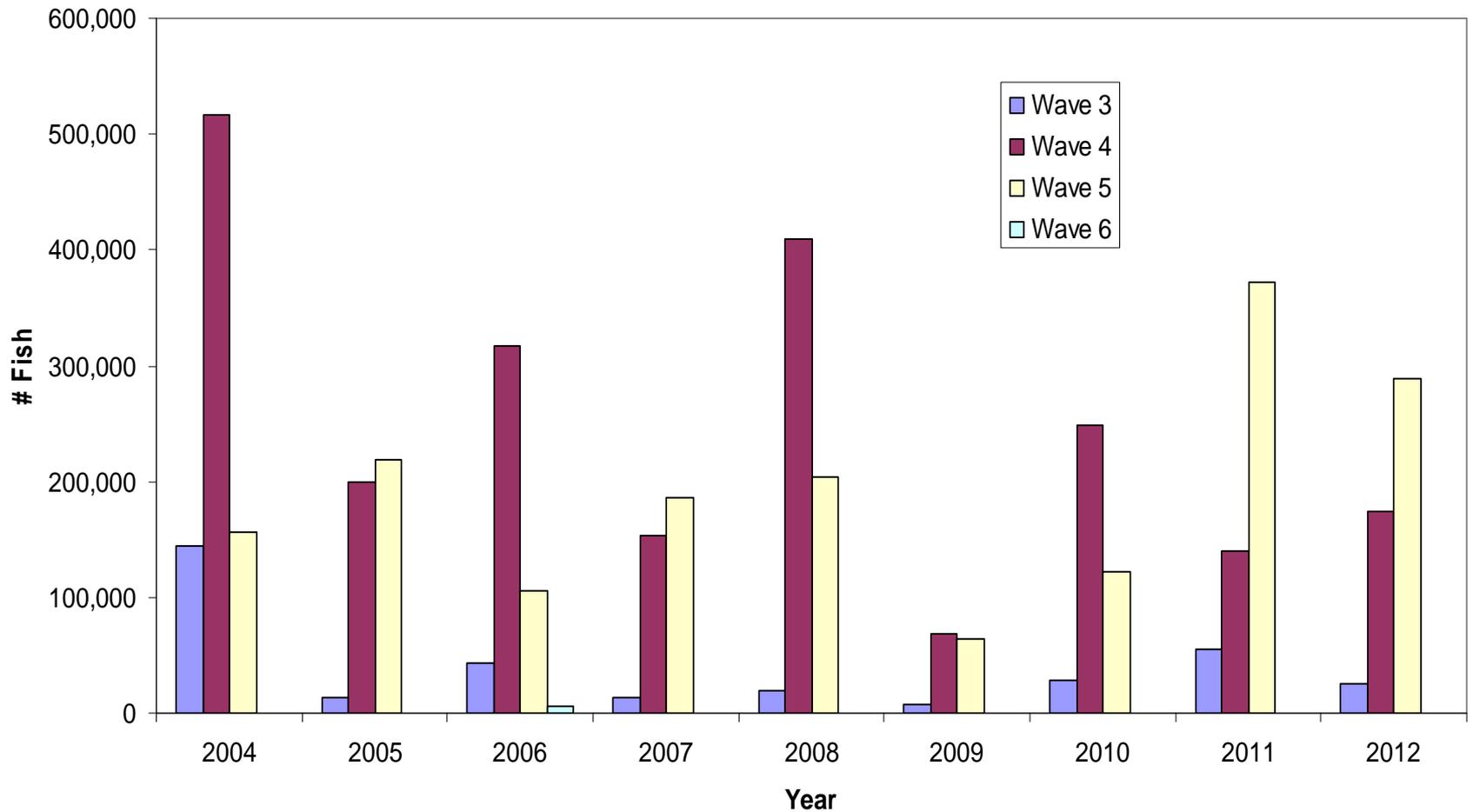
Summary of the Rhode Island Recreational Scup and Black Sea Bass Fisheries



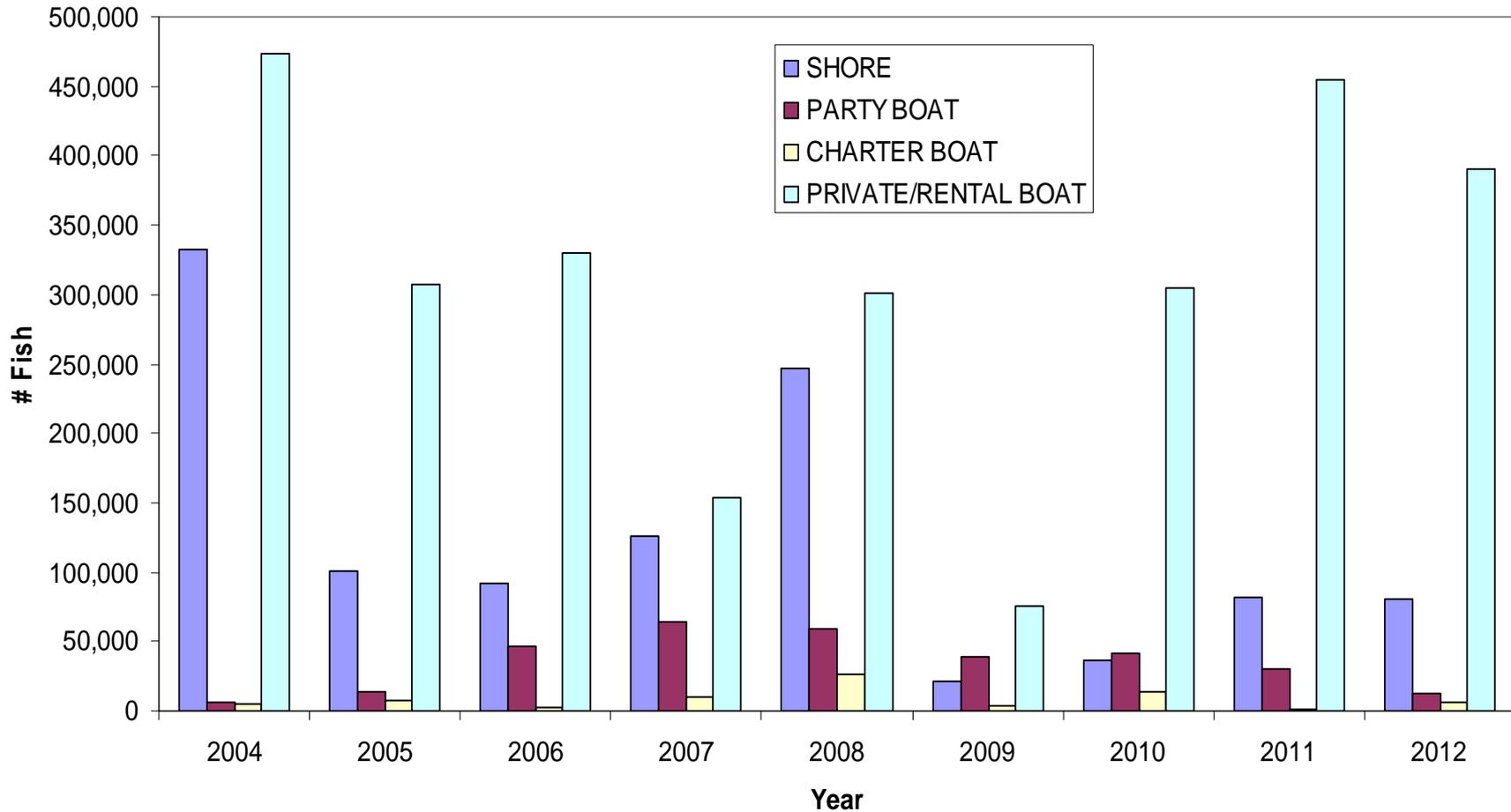
Recreational Harvest - Scup



Recreational Harvest By Wave - Scup



Recreational Harvest By Mode - Scup



Rhode Island Recreational Fishery Performance - Scup

- ◆ Landings and targets are analyzed on a regional basis in the scup fishery. Our region is MA – NY
- ◆ The landings target for 2012 for this region was 6,946,186 fish
- ◆ The projected landings in 2012 for the region are 3,908,903 fish
- ◆ This is approximately a 78% underage



Stock Status - Scup

- ◆ **At the December 2008 Northeast Data Poor Stocks Peer Review a new scup assessment approach was implemented.**
- ◆ **The new model is called an age structured assessment program (ASAP)**
- ◆ **This scup stock assessment model uses widely-accepted and commonly used fishery science principles to analyze the population size.**
- ◆ **Scup is no longer considered a data poor stock, however, there are still gaps in information that will need to be addressed through improved data collection and fish sampling programs.**
- ◆ **The fishing mortality rate estimated for 2011 is 0.034, which is below the fishing mortality threshold reference point F40% (0.177).**
- ◆ **Spawning stock biomass was estimated to be 190,424 mt in 2011, which is above the biomass target of 92,044 mt (SSB40%).**
- ◆ **The stock is considered rebuilt and the stock is not considered overfished and is not currently experiencing overfishing.**



2012 Rhode Island Scup Recreational Measures

- ◆ **Party Charter:**
 - ◆ **Minimum size = 11”**
 - ◆ **Season: May 1 – August 31 at 20 fish**
 - ◆ **Season: September 1 – October 31 at 40 fish**
 - ◆ **Season: November 1 – December 31 at 20 fish**

- ◆ **General category**
 - ◆ **Minimum size = 10.5”**
 - ◆ **Possession Limit of 20 fish**
 - ◆ **Open Season: May 1 – December 31**



Division of Fish and Wildlife Proposed Changes

The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife will recommend an option derived collaboratively with the Northern Region partners and is subsequently approved by ASMFC.

Preliminary discussions are centered around decreasing the minimum size, with particular regard to shore mode fishery

A potential option will be reviewed that brings all modes to a single set of rules:

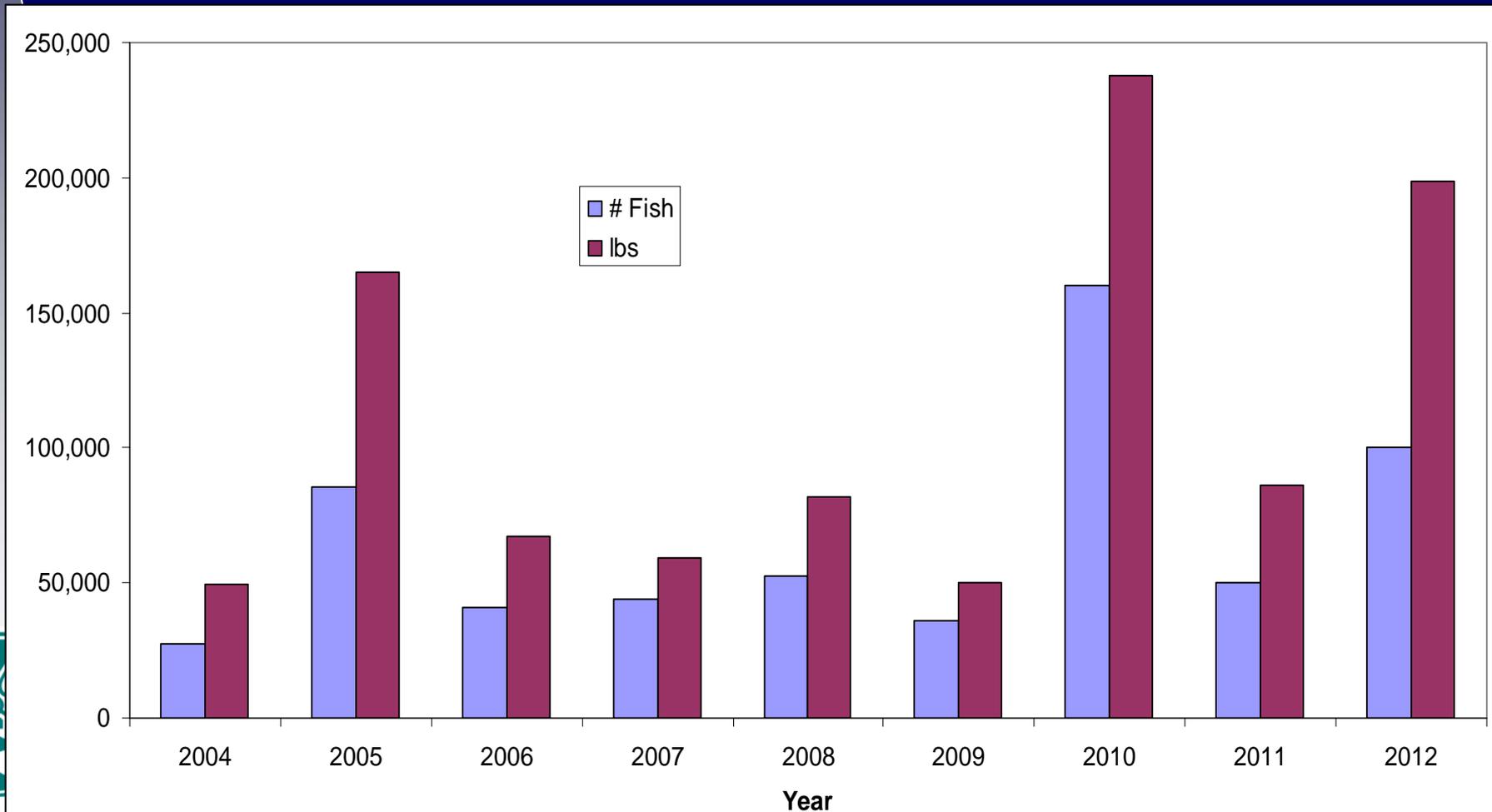
May 1 – December 31

Minimum size = 10"

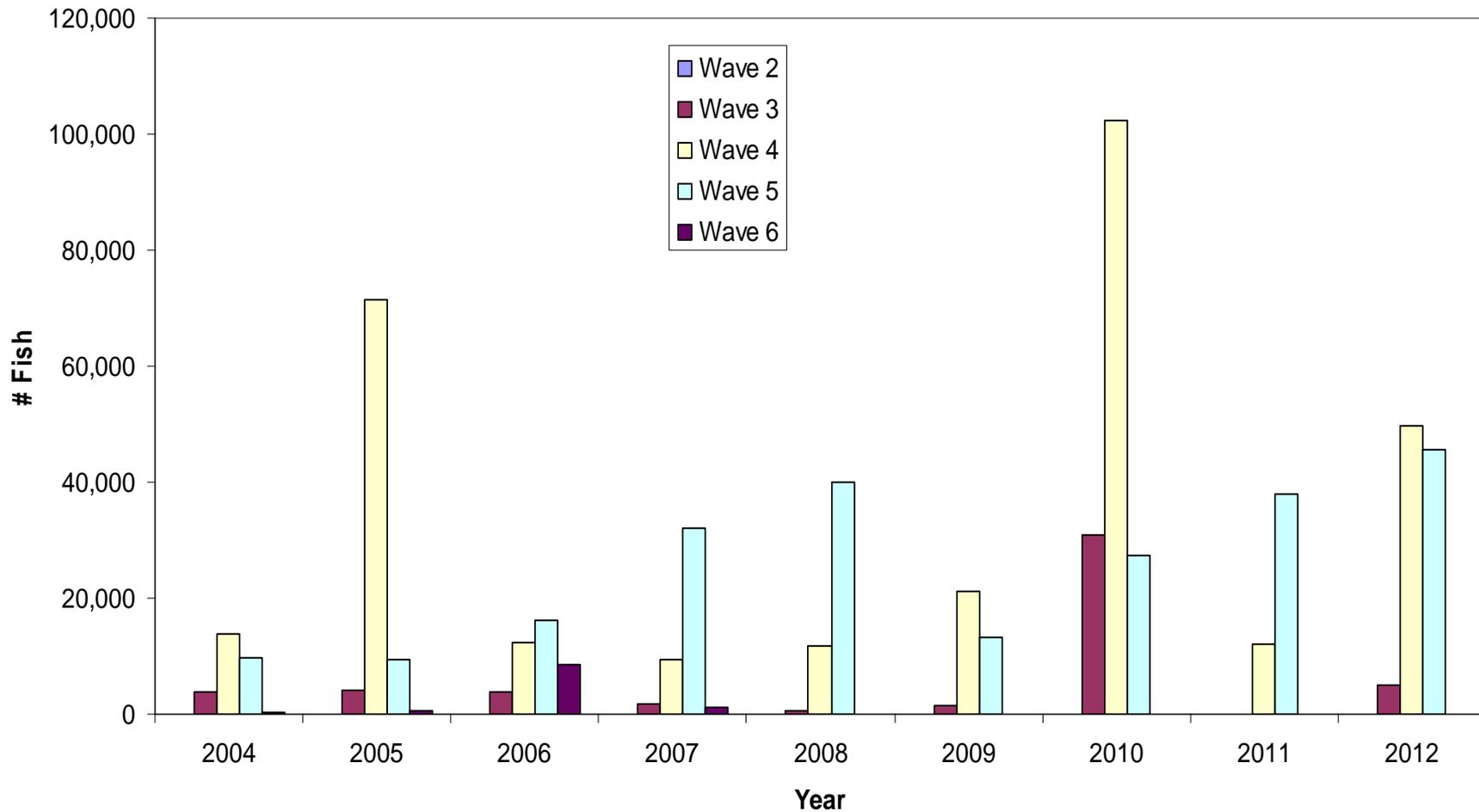
Bag Limit 30 fish



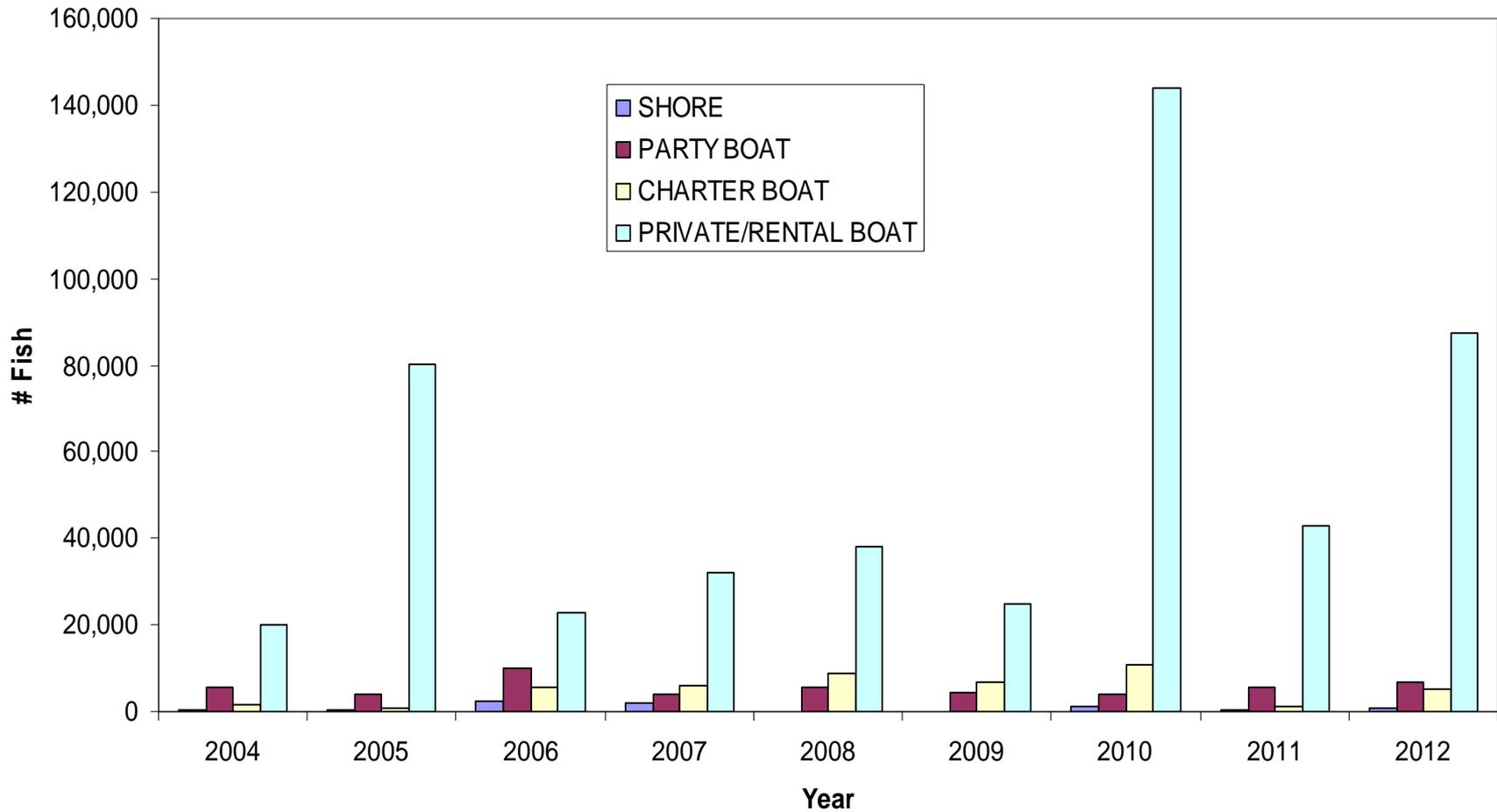
Recreational Harvest - Black Sea Bass



Recreational Harvest By Wave – Black Sea Bass



Recreational Harvest By Mode – Black Sea Bass



Rhode Island Recreational Fishery Performance – Black Sea Bass

- ◆ Landings and targets were analyzed on a coastwide basis in the recreational Black Sea Bass fishery until 2011
- ◆ The landings had been at or under harvest targets since 2002 until 2009, where the harvest target was exceeded by 104%
- ◆ The coastwide landings in 2010 were projected to be 3.12 million lbs while the harvest limit was 1.83 million lbs. This represented a 70% overage, thus instigating ASMFC Addendum XXI
- ◆ Addendum XXI set forth state-by-state measures allowing the southern states to remain at status quo regulations and allowing northern states to tailor their reductions in a way that best suited each individual state
- ◆ Addendum XXI was in place for 2011, a similar Addendum was in place for 2012, and now Addendum XXIII will come forward for 2013 (meeting on this Friday evening)



Rhode Island Recreational Fishery Performance – Black Sea Bass

- ◆ The crux of the problem is and remained an exceptionally small quota, for what appears to be a healthy stock, which was in place for 2012
- ◆ The 2012 harvest target was 1,320,000 mlbs, and harvest was projected to be 3,600,000 mlbs, largely driven by the northern region states
- ◆ This is over 100% in overage
- ◆ On January 23rd, the SSC met and changed the constant catch reference period, raising the total catch target by 1 mlbs (applied to both commercial and recreational fisheries)
- ◆ While this is a positive development, restrictions will still be required for the recreational fishery in 2013 and 2014, however the impending complete shut down looming for 2014 has been avoided



Stock Status – Black Sea Bass

- ◆ **The limited information on black sea bass was integrated into a mathematical model called a statistical catch at length model (SCALE).**
- ◆ **Despite the applied modeling approach it is still considered a “data poor” stock. There are still gaps in critical life history information for black sea bass and the current sampling gear may not be optimal to assess the population.**
- ◆ **A benchmark assessment was performed in December of 2011 which integrated updated and new biological research as well as additional fishery independent information in to a statistical catch at age model (ASAP). This assessment was rejected by the peer review panel.**



Stock Status – Black Sea Bass

- ◆ The December 2008 data poor stock peer review set the rebuilding goal as 27.6 million pounds of spawning stock biomass, to be achieved by January 1, 2010.
- ◆ The current spawning stock size is at or above the biomass goal based on both assessment models.
- ◆ Because of the recent rejection of the benchmark assessment, and the fact that the peer review panel did not have time to review the updated SCALE model, the stock assessment defaults back to the original SCALE configuration.
- ◆ Black sea bass is about to have an operational assessment performed on it beginning in 2013



2012 Rhode Island Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures

- ◆ **All Modes:**
 - ◆ **Minimum size = 13"**
 - ◆ **Season: June 15 – December 31 at 15 fish**



Division of Fish and Wildlife Proposed Changes

The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife will recommend any option establishing restrictions that will meet approval by ASMFC

The Division would like some feed back on where these restrictions should be taken (season, bag limits) though would like to go on record to state that increasing the minimum size should be avoided

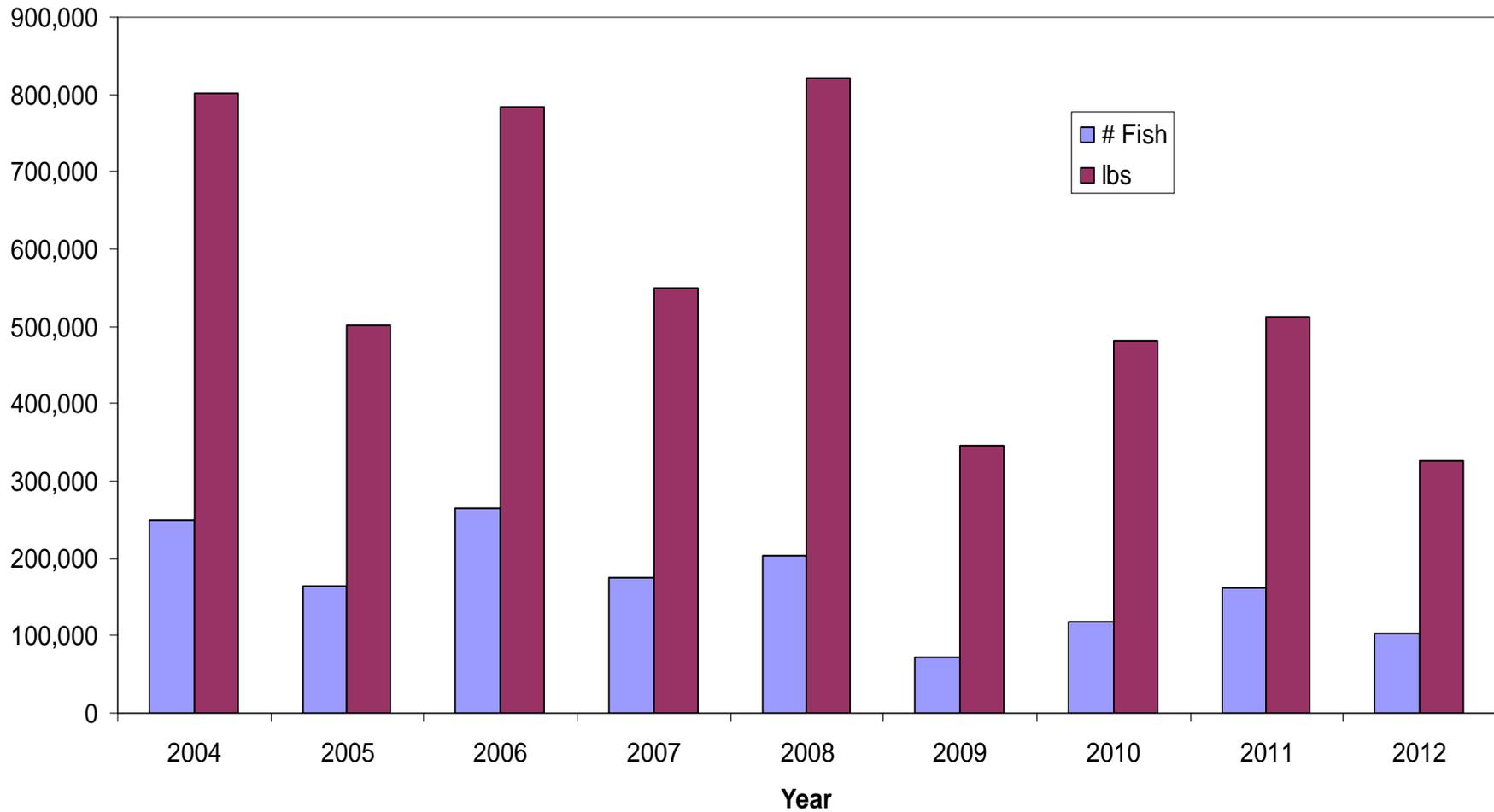
One additional proposal is to change the current fish measurement regulation to include language about the black sea bass caudal fin tendril. This tendril should not be included in the total length measurement



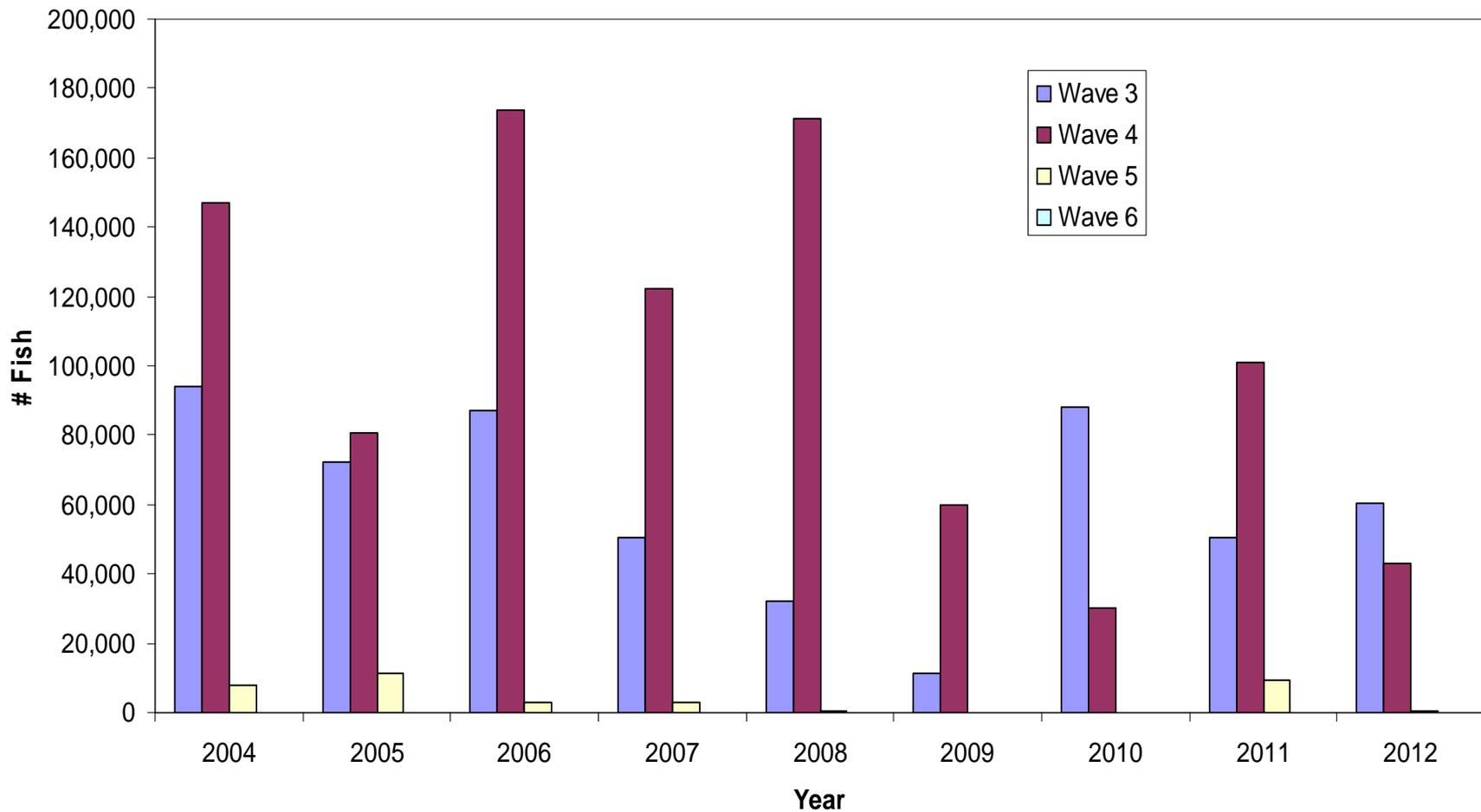
Summary of the Rhode Island Recreational Summer Flounder Fishery



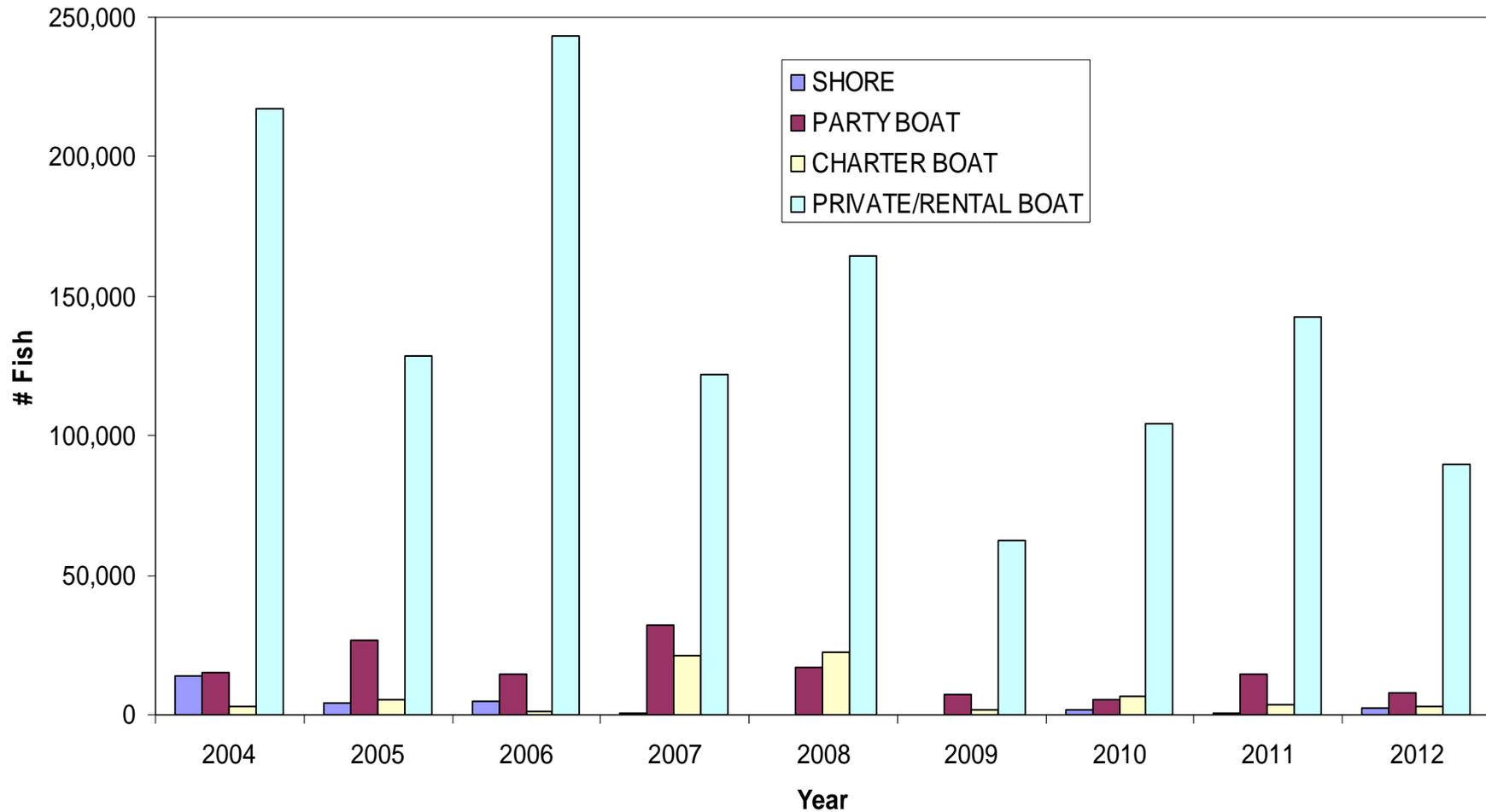
Recreational Harvest - Summer Flounder



Recreational Harvest By Wave – Summer Flounder



Recreational Harvest By Mode – Summer Flounder



Rhode Island Recreational Fishery Performance – Summer Flounder

- ◆ Landings and targets are analyzed on a state by state basis in the summer flounder fishery
- ◆ The landings target for 2012 for RI was 157,885 fish
- ◆ The projected landings in 2012 for RI 103,669 fish
- ◆ This is approximately a 36.6% underage



Stock Status – Summer Flounder

- ◆ The summer flounder stock: not overfished, overfishing not occurring according to output of 2011 stock assessment update and relative to SAW 47 biological reference points
- ◆ According to 2011 stock assessment update, stock considered rebuilt, ahead of scheduled deadline.
- ◆ Fishing mortality (F) ranged between 1.0 and 2.0 during 1982-1996
- ◆ F estimated at 0.241 in 2011; below the threshold fishing mortality reference point $F_{MSY} = F_{35\%} = 0.310$
- ◆ Spawning stock biomass (SSB) decreased from 25,000 mt in the early 1980s to 7,000 in 1989, increased above 40,000 mt by 2002
- ◆ SSB estimated at 57,020 mt in 2011; about 95% of the $SSB_{MSY} = SSB_{35\%}$ reference point = 60,074 mt



Stock Status – Summer Flounder

- ◆ The arithmetic average recruitment 1982 to 2011: 42 mil fish at age 0
- ◆ The 2009 year class currently estimated at 47 million fish; 10% above average
- ◆ This is 50% below the original estimate
- ◆ Current recruitment is estimated to be slightly below average
- ◆ This “retrospective pattern” in each subsequent stock assessment update is the reason for the decreasing quotas



2012 Rhode Island Summer Flounder Recreational Measures

- ◆ **All Modes:**
 - ◆ **Minimum size = 18.5”**
 - ◆ **Season: May 1 – December 31 at 8 fish**



Division of Fish and Wildlife Proposed Changes

The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife will recommend an option that will be approved by ASMFC.

Preliminary discussions are centered around decreasing the minimum size

A drop of 1/2" was examined, see the tables below

Table 1a. The projected effects of various size limits on the 2013 summer flounder recreational landings in the state of RI, calculated as percent increase from current management configuration. Based on data from RI trawl survey data.

Possession Limit	18"	18.5"
8 fish	28%	0%

Table 1b. The projected effects of various size limits on the 2013 summer flounder recreational landings in the state of RI, calculated as percent increase from current management configuration. Based on harvest records from RI eRec logbook

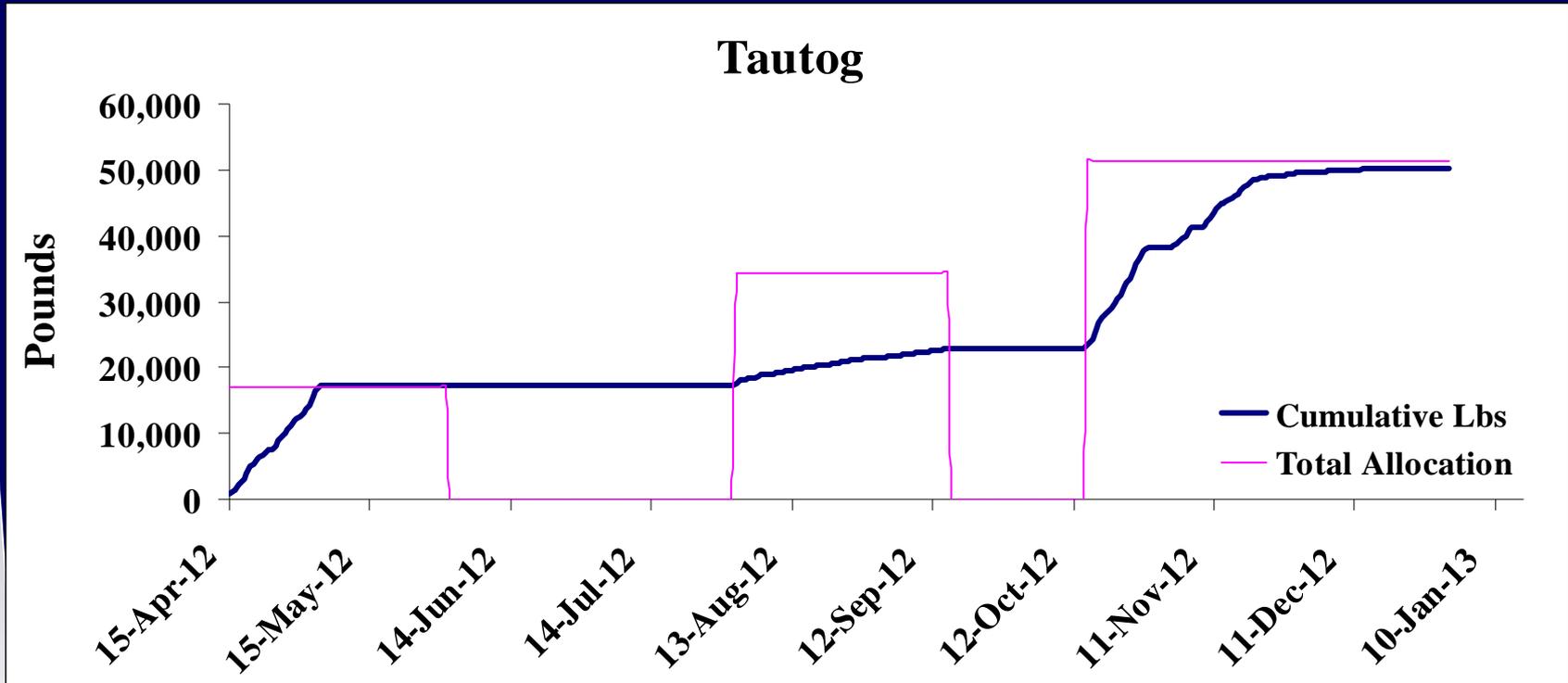
Possession Limit	18"	18.5"
8 fish	9%	0%



Summary of the Rhode Island Commercial and Recreational Tautog Fishery



Commercial Landings



- Overage in Spring of 172 lbs
- Underage of 1,330 lbs for year



Commercial Quota

Period	Period Allocation	Quota Allocation
Year 2012		51,348 lbs
Apr 15 – May 31	33.3%	17,116 lbs
Jul 15 – Aug 29	33.3%	17,116 lbs
Oct 15 – Dec 31	33.3%	17,116 lbs
		50,018 lbs

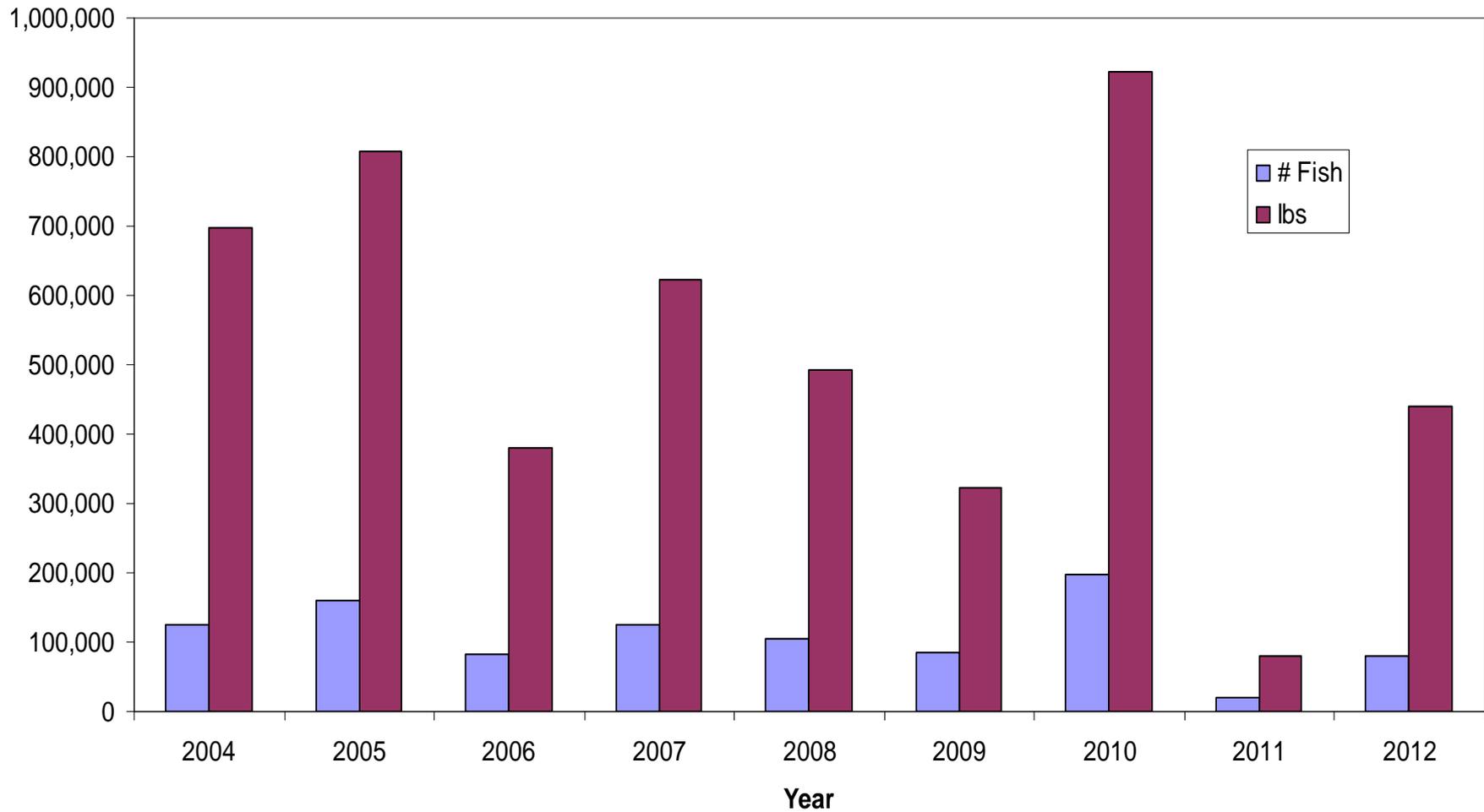


Division of Fish and Wildlife Proposed Changes

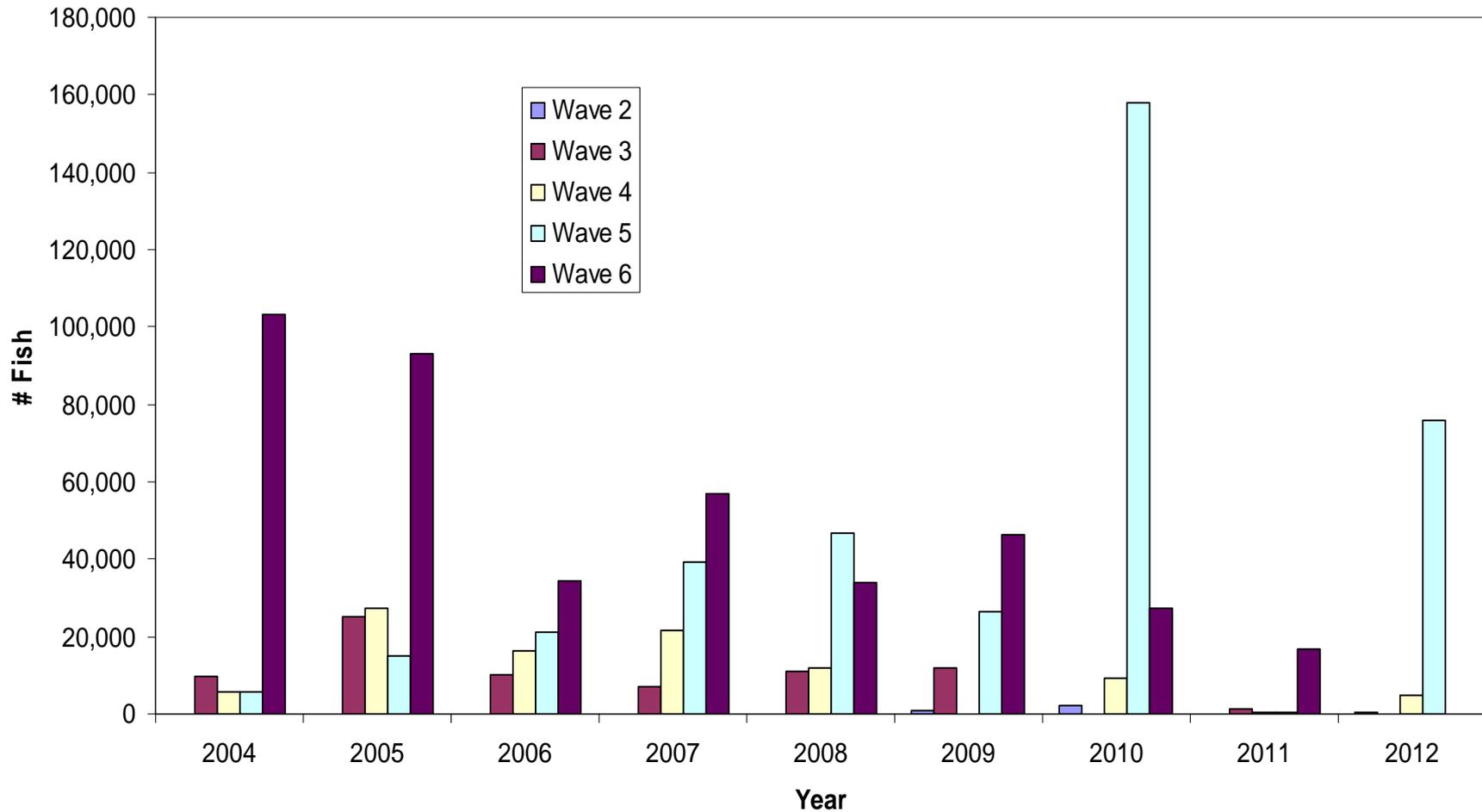
- ◆ **The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife proposes no changes to the commercial fishery in 2012**
 - ◆ **Commercial landings are constrained by a quota**
 - ◆ **Only represents approximately 9% of the total state harvest of tautog**



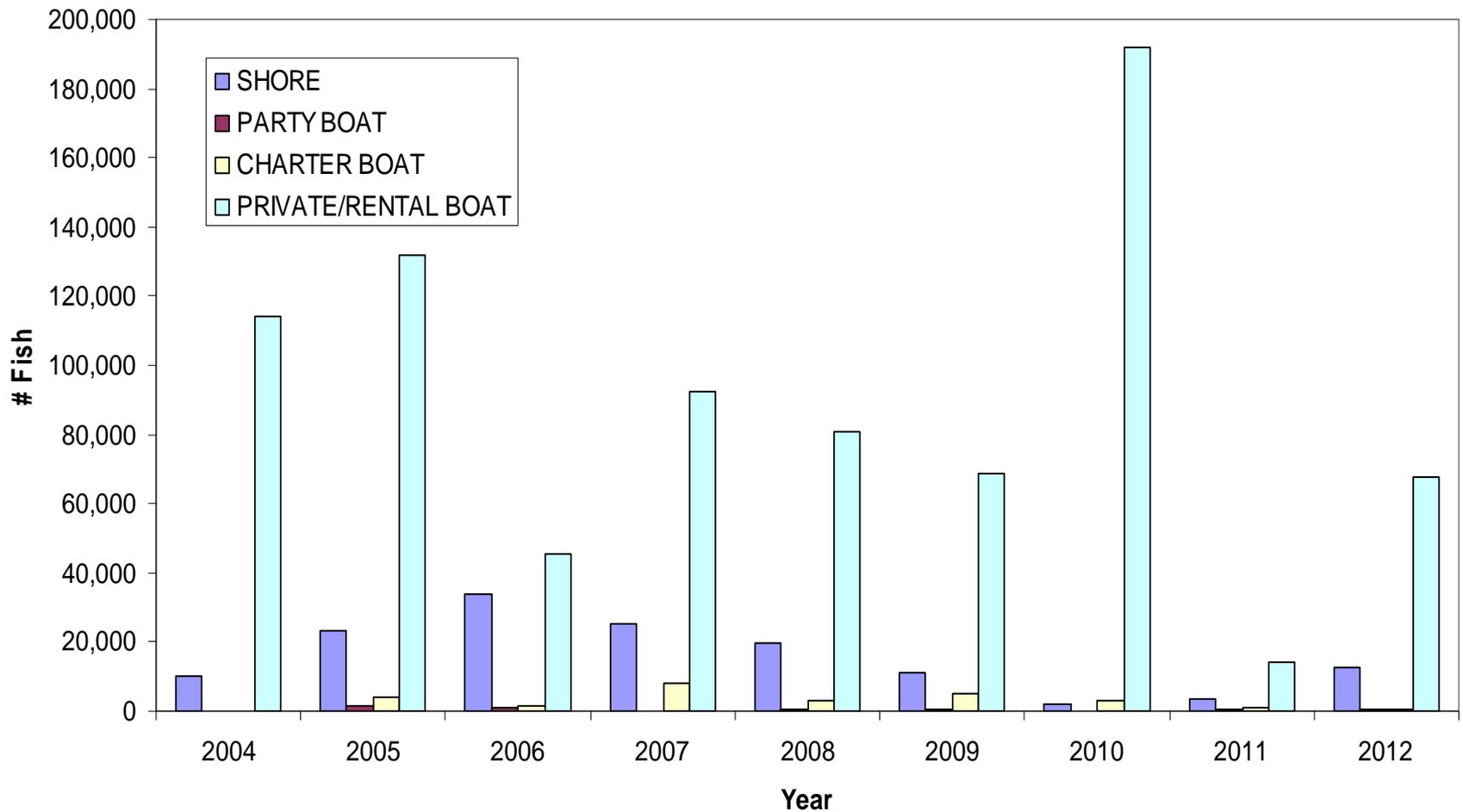
Recreational Harvest - Tautog



Recreational Harvest By Wave – Tautog



Recreational Harvest By Mode – Tautog



Stock Status – Tautog

- ◆ **The tautog stock coastwide: overfished, overfishing occurring according to output of 2011 stock assessment update**
- ◆ **The tautog stock regional: overfished, overfishing not occurring according to output of 2011 regional stock assessment update**
- ◆ **A benchmark assessment is scheduled for tautog beginning in 2013, therefore no assessment updates were performed in 2012**
- ◆ **Alternative models will be tested in this benchmark**



2012 Rhode Island Tautog Recreational Measures

- ◆ **All Modes:**
 - ◆ **Minimum size = 16"**
 - ◆ **Season: April 15 – May 31 at 3 fish**
 - ◆ **Season: June 1 – July 31 CLOSED**
 - ◆ **Season: August 1 – October 19 at 3 fish**
 - ◆ **Season: October 20 – December 31 at 6 fish**
 - ◆ **A vessel max of 10 fish in place for all open periods**
 - ◆ **P+C sector does not have a vessel limit but must report to eLogbook**



Division of Fish and Wildlife Proposed Changes

The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife does not recommend any changes at this time

