

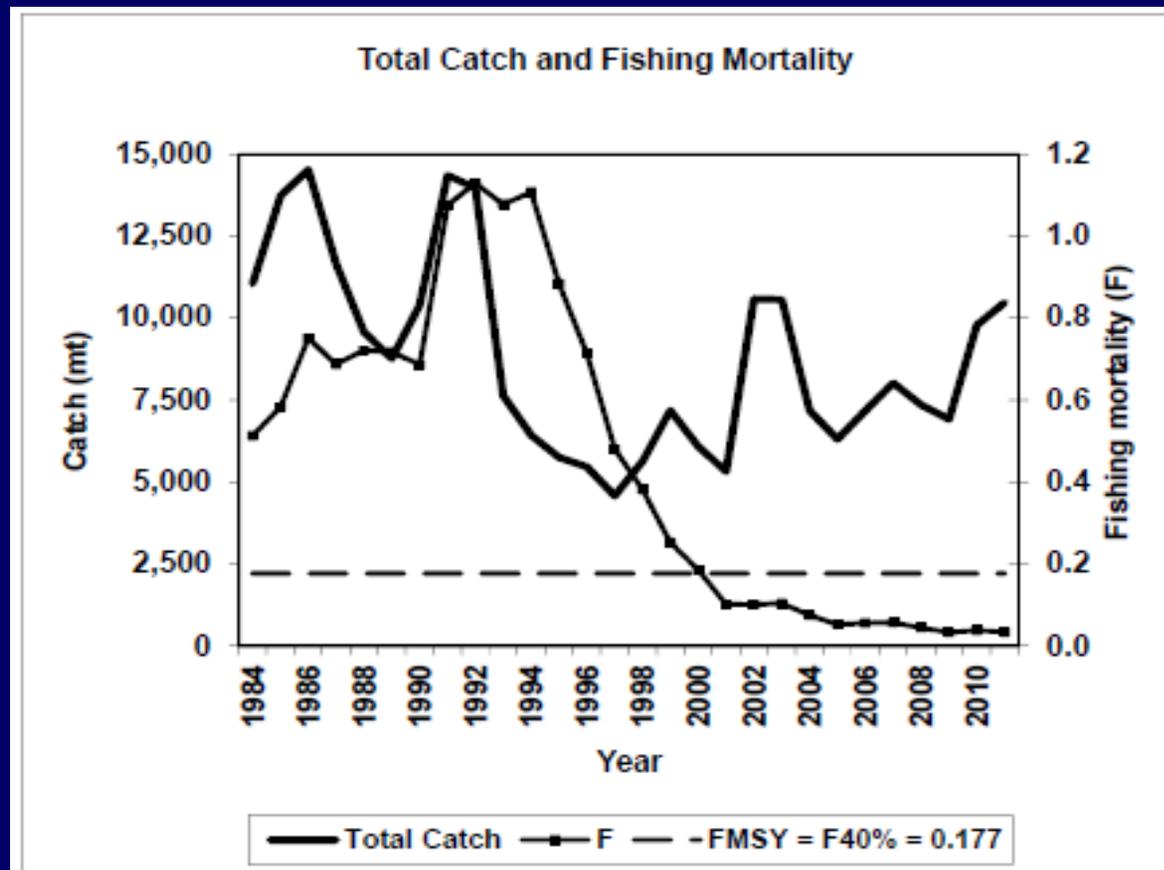
**Summary of Rhode Island Scup  
and Black Sea Bass Stock  
Status, 2013 Commercial Scup  
and Black Sea Bass Fishery  
Performance, and Division of  
Fish and Wildlife  
Recommendations for 2014**



# Scup Stock Status

## Stock Status:

- Relative to the DPSWG biological reference points, the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.
- There is a 50% probability that  $F$  in 2011 was between 0.026 and 0.042 . The fishing mortality threshold is  $F_{MSY} = 0.177$ .

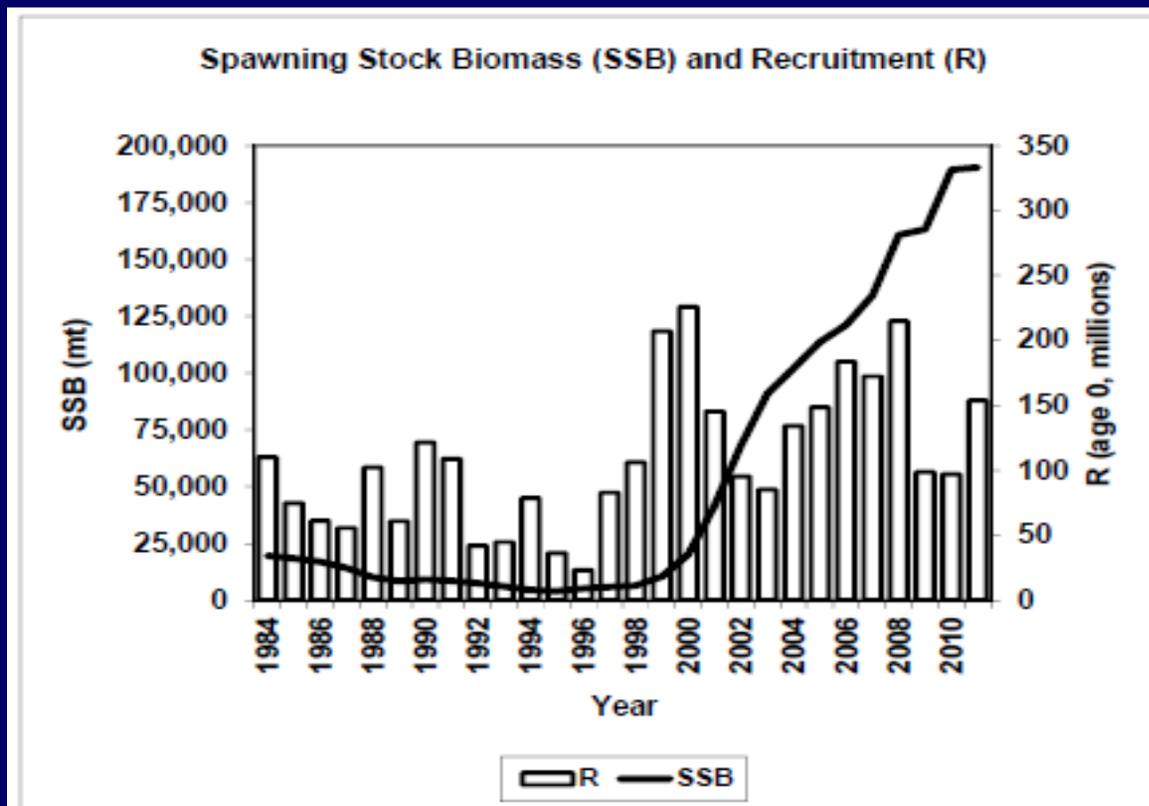


# Scup Stock Status

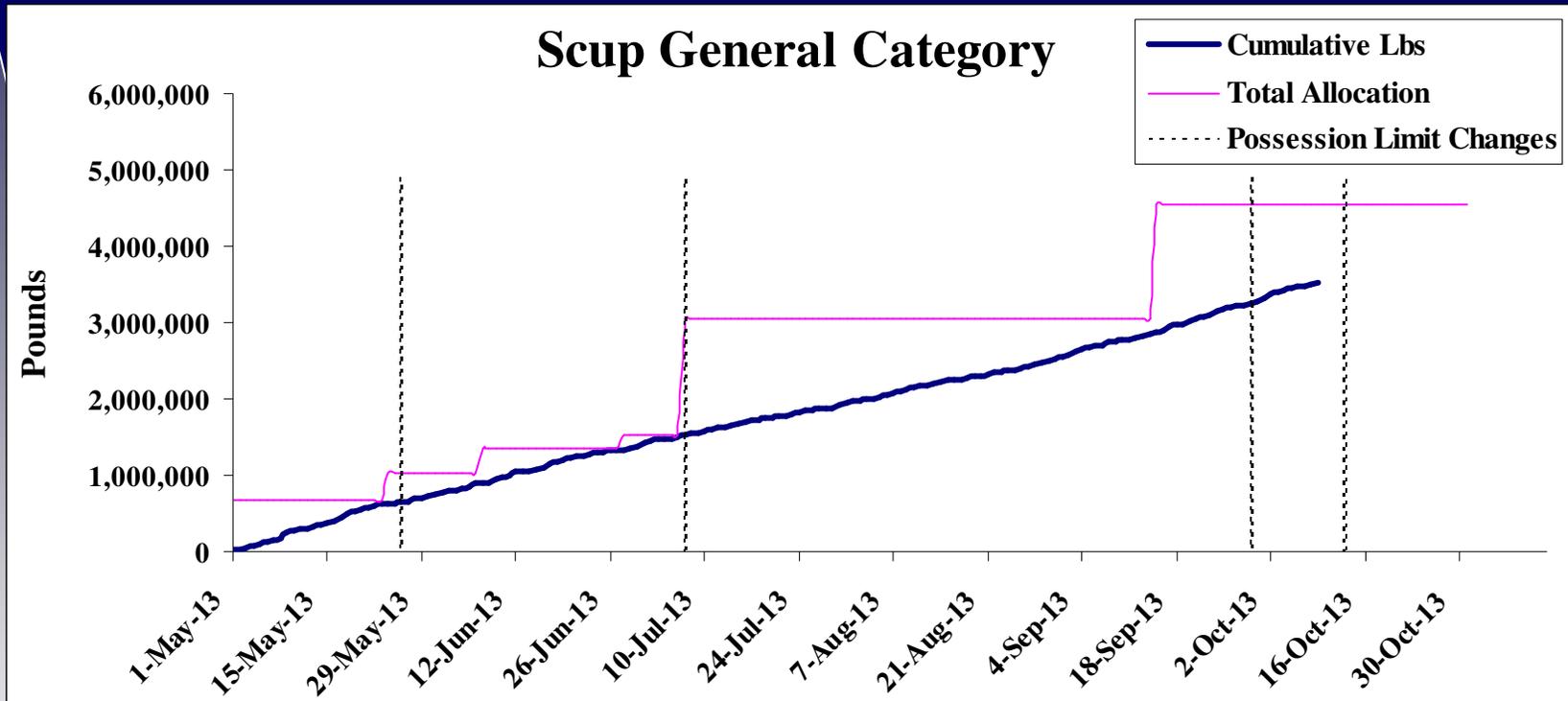
- **Stock Status:**

- SSB has steadily increased to about 418.8 m lbs in 2011 (slightly down from 2008) . The SSB reference point is  $SSB_{MSY} = 202.9$  m lbs. The minimum stock size threshold, one-half  $SSB_{MSY}$ , is estimated to be 101.5 m lbs.

- Recruitment exceeded the 1984-2011 average of 104 million in 2011.



# Commercial Landings – Scup General Category



## Possession Limit Changes:

- 5/1/13 - 10,000 lbs/wk
- 5/26/13 - 5,000 lbs/wk
- 7/7/13 - 10,000 lbs/wk
- 9/29/13 - 15,000 lbs/wk
- 10/13/13 - 20,000 lbs/wk

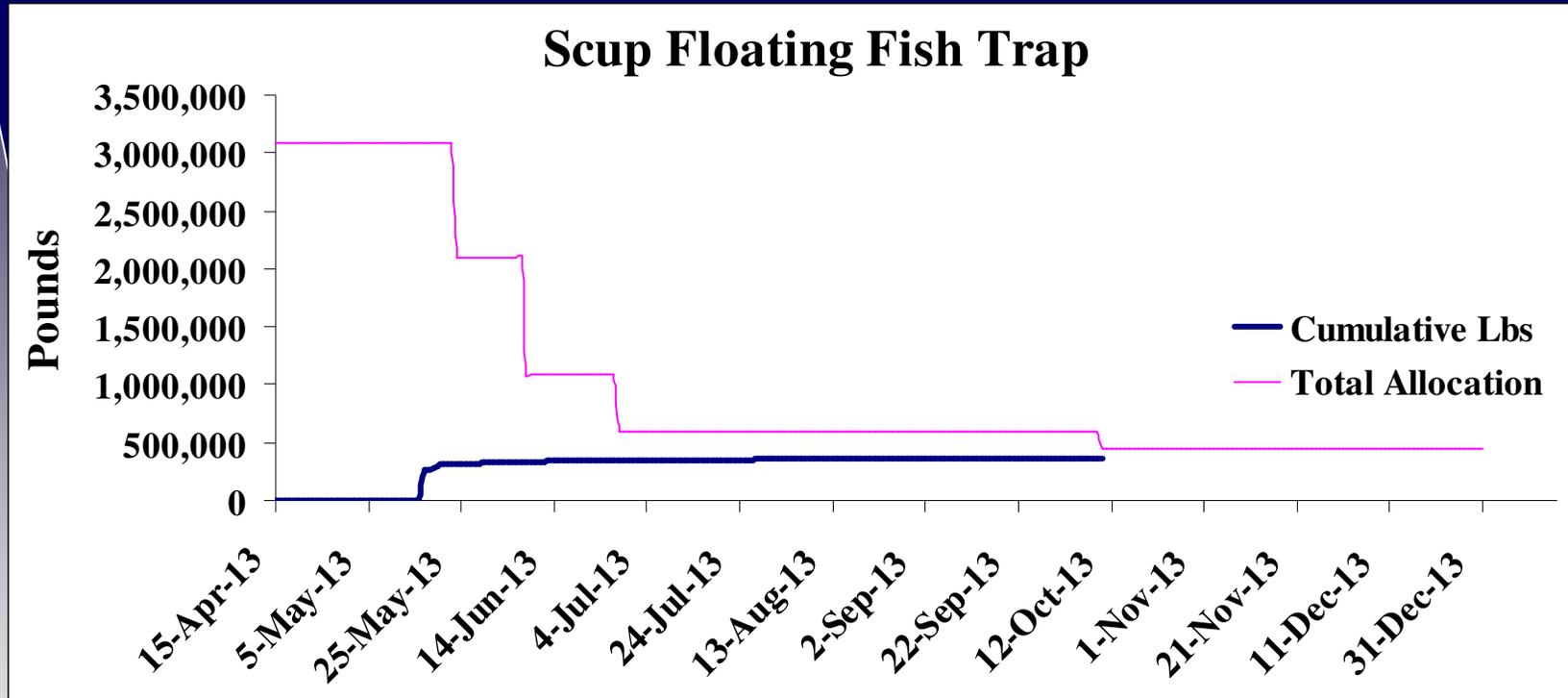


# Commercial Landings – Scup General Category

- ◆ A total of 2,500,000 lbs was rolled from FFT's to the GC in 2013. This resulted in each of the three sub-periods receiving 833,333 additional lbs of scup.
- ◆ There was a 22,960 pound underage in the first period (less than 2% of sub-period quota). This underage was split equally between the two remaining sub-periods, therefore each remaining sub-period received 11,480 lbs.
- ◆ There was a 173,181 pound underage in the second period (~11% of total quota). This underage was rolled into the third sub-period.
- ◆ Currently the third sub-period has ~1,039,199 lbs remaining with just over two weeks remaining



# Commercial Landings – Scup Floating Fish Traps



## Trap Rollovers:

5/24/13 - 1,000,000 lbs

6/7/13 - 1,000,000 lbs

6/28/13 - 500,000 lbs

10/10/13 - 150,000 lbs transferred to NY



# Commercial Landings – Scup Floating Fish Traps

- ◆ A total of 2,500,000 lbs was rolled from FFT's to the GC in 2013. This resulted in a remaining quota of 589,509 lbs for the FFT's.
- ◆ So far the FFT's have harvested 357,203 lbs.
- ◆ After transferring 150,000 lbs to NY, the FFT's have ~ 82,306 lbs remaining for 2013.



# Commercial Landings – Compliance with the Aggregate program

- ♦ Total participation was 389 vessels to date (w/o unknown or from shore)
- ♦ Total times participants landed over the weekly aggregate amount were 10 to date
- ♦ The total additional pounds landed for entire state period (to date) were 41,870 lbs (~2% of Gen. Cat. Allocation)



# Scup Management Measure Recommendations 2014

- ♦ “Rumble Strips” Indicators:
  - ♦ NEFSC spring and fall survey biomass indices
  - ♦ Mean lengths from NEFSC spring and fall surveys
  - ♦ Relative F for spring and fall
  - ♦ Rumble strips = 65% CI around 2004-2011 mean
  - ♦ During 2004-2011,  $SSB \geq SSB_{MSY}$  and  $F \leq F_{MSY}$
  - ♦ 65% CI provided contrast in scores between periods of different stock status
- ♦ 2 of 6 indicators were outside of rumble strips in 2012
  - ♦ Fall index  $>$  upper rumble strip bound
  - ♦ Fall relative F  $<$  lower rumble strip bound



# Scup Management Measure Recommendations 2014

- ♦ Multi-year specifications for 2013-2015
- ♦ 2013 OFL = 47.80 million lb (21,680 mt)
- ♦  $SSB/SSB_{MSY} = 212\%$ ;  $P^* = 0.4$ ; lognormal OFL distribution with  $CV = 100\%$ 
  - ♦ 2013 ABC ~81% of OFL
- ♦ Constant F applied to derive 2014 and 2015 ABCs



# Scup Management Measure Recommendations 2014

	<b>ABC</b>	<b>Commercial ACL = ACT</b>	<b>Rec ACL = ACT</b>
<b>2013</b>	38.71 mil lb (17,557 mt)	30.19 mil lb (13,694 mt)	8.52 mil lb (3,863 mt)
<b>2014</b>	35.99 mil lb (16,325 mt)	28.07 mil lb (12,732 mt)	7.92 mil lb (3,592 mt)
<b>2015</b>	33.76 mil lb (15,320 mt)	26.34 mil lb (11,950 mt)	7.43 mil lb (3,370 mt)



# Preliminary 2014 Commercial Allocations

- ♦ **Coastwide Commercial Quota = 28,070,000 lbs**
- ♦ **Coastwide Summer Allocation (-RSA) = 10,605,267 lbs**
- ♦ **RI 2014 Commercial Quota (56.19%) = 4,645,614 lbs (7% decr from 2013 quota)**
- ♦ **2013 Floating Fish Trap allocation = 2,787,368 lbs**
- ♦ **2013 General Category = 1,858,245 lbs**
  - ♦ **May 1 – June 30 = 619,414 lbs**
  - ♦ **July 1 – Sept 15 = 619,414 lbs**
  - ♦ **Sept 16 – Oct 31 = 619,414 lbs**



# Division of Fish and Wildlife Proposed Changes

♦ The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife proposes maintaining the current starting aggregate limits. The Division recommends the following:

- ♦ May – June 30 = 10,000 lbs/wk
- ♦ July 1 – Sept 15 = 10,000 lbs/wk
- ♦ Sept 16 – Oct 31 = 10,000 lbs/wk

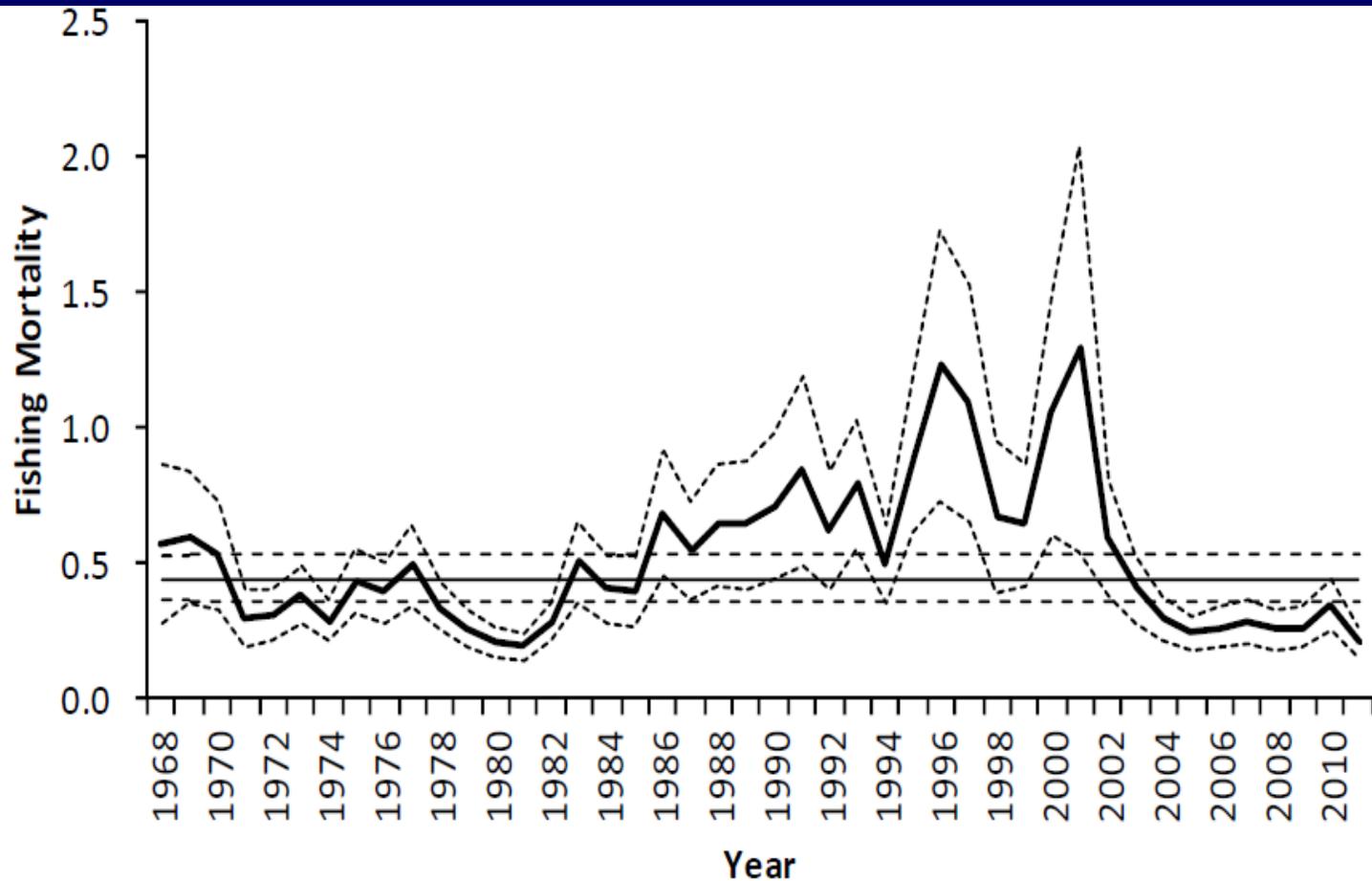


# Black Sea Bass Stock Status

- **Stock Status:**

- Relative to the DPSWG biological reference points, the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

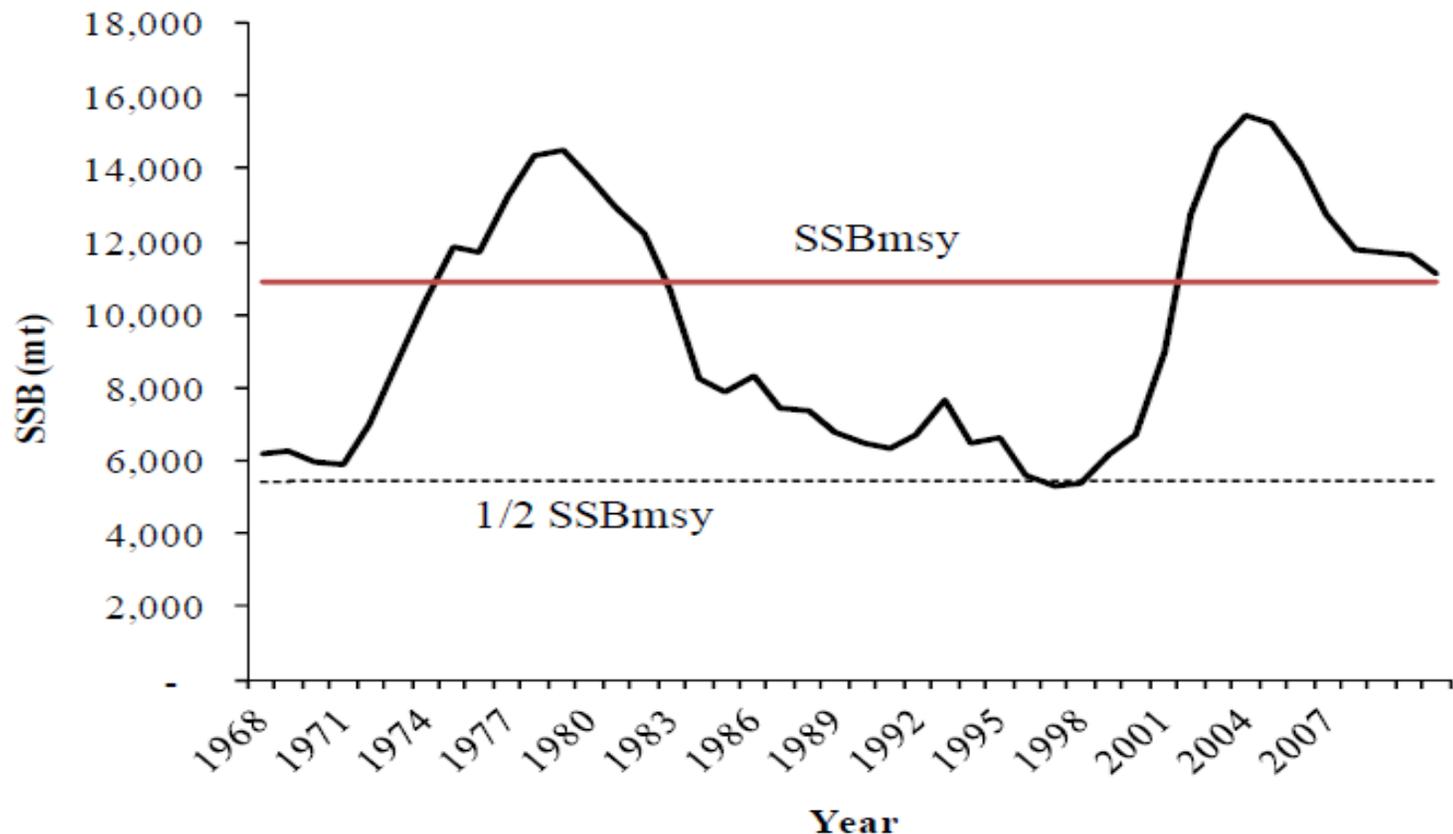
- Fishing mortality  $F = 0.21$  in 2011, less than the threshold  $F = 0.44$



# Black Sea Bass Stock Status

## Stock Status:

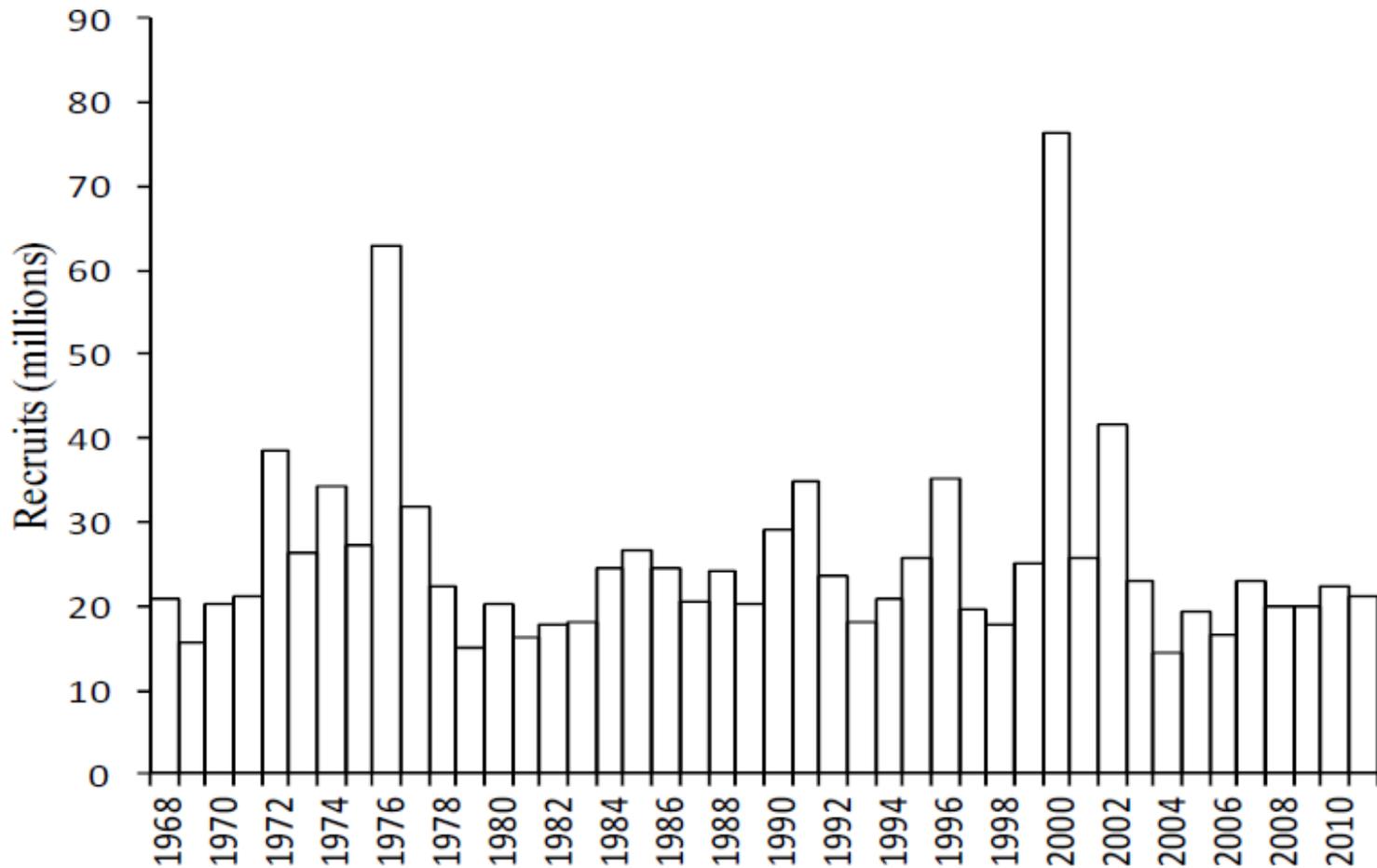
SSB was 24.6 million lbs in 2011. The SSB reference point is  $SSB_{MSY} = 24.9$  million lbs. The minimum stock size threshold, one-half  $SSB_{MSY}$ , is estimated to be 12.5 million lbs.



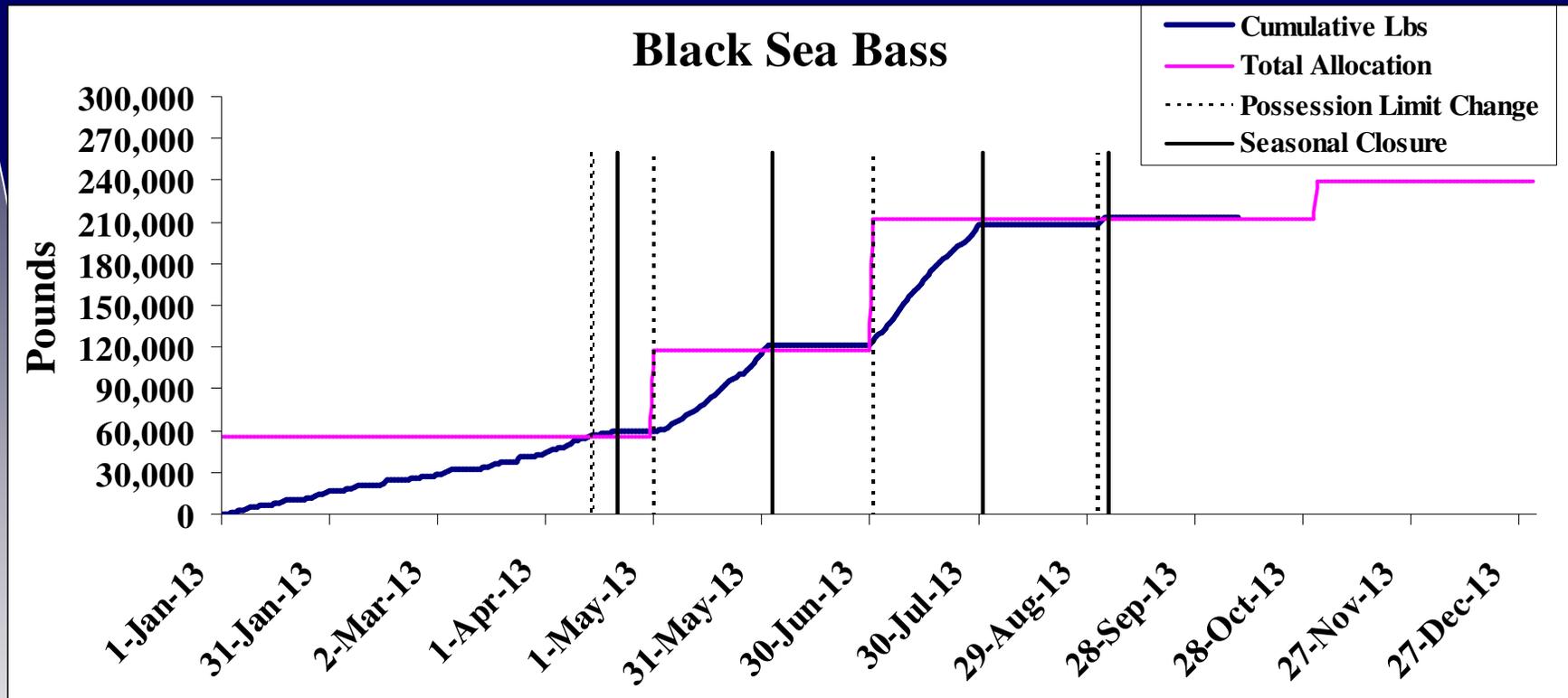
# Black Sea Bass Stock Status

• Stock Status:

• 2011 recruitment was 21 million fish, recent years have been near average.



# Commercial Landings – Black Sea Bass



## Possession Limit Changes:

- 1/1/13 - 750 lbs/day
- 4/14/13 - 200 lbs/day
- 4/21/13 - CLOSED
- 5/1/13 - 50 lbs/day (new sub period)
- 6/3/13 - CLOSED
- 7/1/13 - 50 lbs/day (new sub period)
- 7/31/13 - CLOSED
- 9/1/13 - 50 lbs/day
- 9/4/13 - CLOSED



# Commercial Landings – Black Sea Bass

- ◆ There was a 2,817 pound overage in first period (5% of sub-period quota). This overage was split equally between the three remaining sub-periods, therefore each remaining sub-period lost 939 lbs.
- ◆ There was a 1,831 pound overage in second period (3% of sub-period quota). This overage was split equally between the two remaining sub-periods, therefore each remaining sub-period lost 916 lbs.
- ◆ There was a 646 pound underage in third period (less than 1% of sub-period quota). This underage will be rolled into the remaining sub-period.



# Black Sea Bass Management Measure Recommendations 2014

- ♦ 2012: SSC recommended ABCs for 2013-2015
  - ♦ Council/Commission implemented only 2013
- ♦ Level 4 assessment designation
- ♦ ABC recommendations based on constant catch approach (4.5 mil lb)
- ♦ December 2012: Council requested SSC revisit 2013-2014 recommendations
  - ♦ Re-examine assessment level, review additional data
- ♦ January 2013 SSC meeting
  - ♦ Reviewed additional fishery-independent indices compiled by Technical Committee
  - ♦ Updated catch and landings information



# Black Sea Bass Management Measure Recommendations 2014

- ♦ January 2013 SSC conclusions:
  - ♦ Little information to support change from Level 4 or constant catch approach
  - ♦ However, re-evaluated constant catch level used from 2010-2012
  - ♦ Continued application overly conservative; recommended 2013-2014 ABC constant catch level of 5.50 mil lb (2,494 mt)



# Black Sea Bass Management Measure Recommendations 2014

- ♦ Review of state and federal fishery independent and dependent data; additional research and projects
- ♦ Developed short and long term research recommendations to address assessment concerns
- ♦ Conclusions:
  - ♦ No additional data/analyses in short term that would likely result in elevation of assessment level
  - ♦ Highly unlikely that an assessment update would change perception of uncertainty; continued application of ad-hoc approach likely
  - ♦ Recommended delay of 2014 benchmark to 2016 or later to allow progress on analyses and modeling approaches



# Black Sea Bass Management Measure Recommendations 2014

- ♦ No changes to BSB ABCs in 2014
- ♦ Recommended same ABCs for 2015, subject to review next year
- ♦ Formed subcommittee to address dealing with data poor stocks as applied to black sea bass
- ♦ MC did not add any management uncertainty to the ABC calculations



# Black Sea Bass Management Measure Recommendations 2014

- ♦ **RI 2014 Commercial Quota (11%, -RSA) = 189,827 lbs**
- ♦ **2014 Sub period allocations**
  - ♦ **January 1 – April 30 = 47,457 lbs**
  - ♦ **May 1 – June 30 = 47,457 lbs**
  - ♦ **July 1 – Oct 31 = 74,033 lbs**
  - ♦ **November 1 – December 31 = 20,880 lbs**



# Division of Fish and Wildlife Proposed Changes

- ♦ The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife proposes one potential change to the black sea bass commercial fishery in 2014:
  - ♦ Take existing July sub period and break it in to 2 sub periods with equal allocations and decrease Winter 2 period possession limit
  - ♦ July 1 – July 31 = 19.5% at 50 lbs per vessel per day
  - ♦ September 1 – October 31 = 19.5% at 50 lbs per vessel per day
  - ♦ November 1 – December 31 = 11% at 100 lbs per vessel per day
- ♦ The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife believes that this stock can accommodate more harvest than is currently being removed from the stock, and will continue to work on improving the uncertainty estimates in the stock assessment as well as continuing to improve the stock assessment itself, so that harvest levels can be increased in the future.

