

RI Commercial Summer Flounder Fishery

Current Status, Future Directions



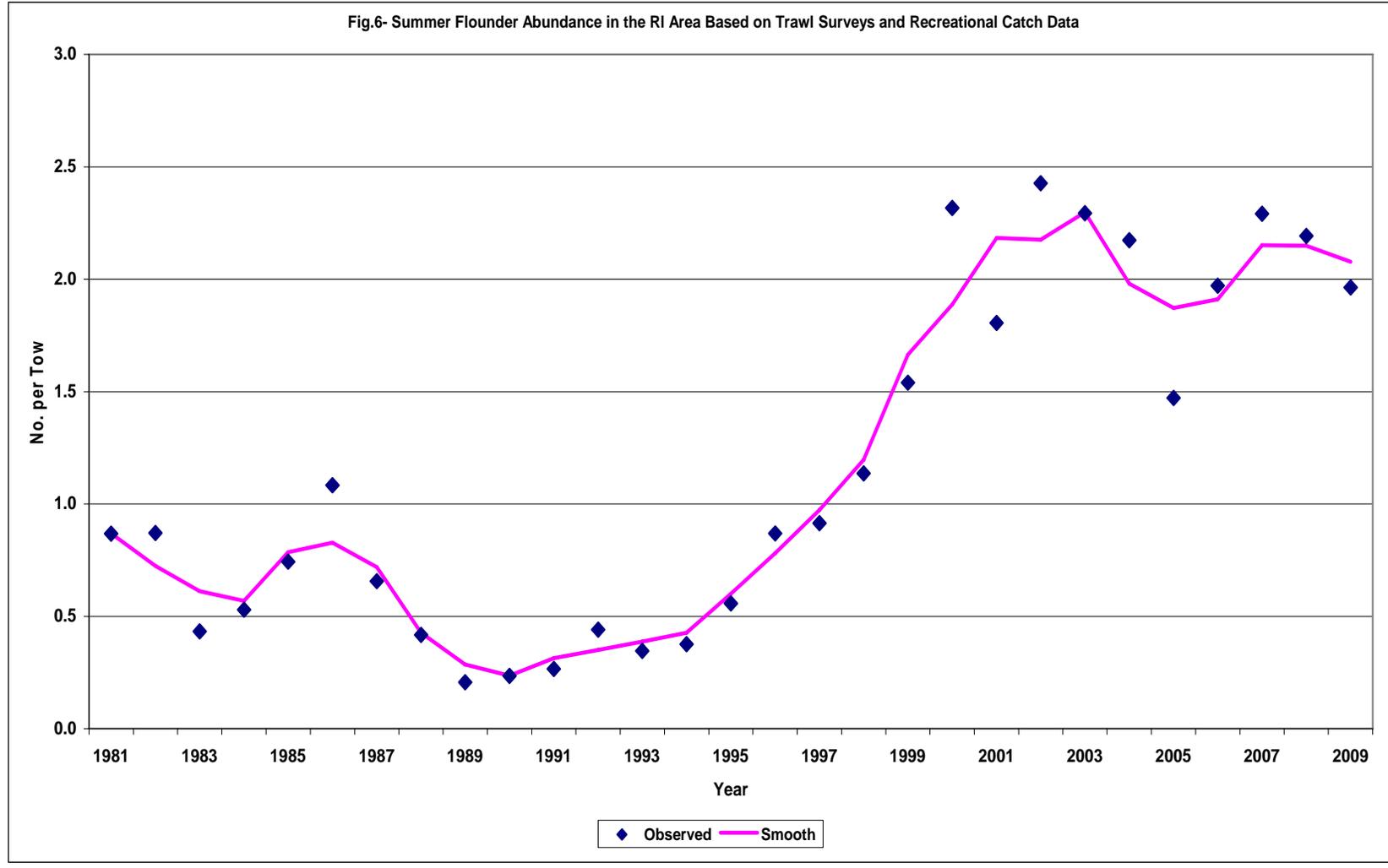
Summer Flounder Stock Status

- ♦ **Stock Status:**
 - ♦ **Spawning stock biomass (SSB) decreased from about 55.1 m lbs in the early 1980s to about 15.45 m lbs in 1989, then increased to above 88.2 m lbs by 2002. SSB was estimated to be 117.8 m lbs in 2009, about 89% of the SSB reference point = 132.4 m lbs and above the SSB threshold = 66.2 m lbs. There is a 50% chance that SSB in 2009 was between 111.5 million lbs and 123.5 million lbs.**
 - ♦ **The 2009 year class is currently estimated to be about 82 million fish, the largest in the assessment time series and twice the average.**



Summer Flounder Stock Status – Local Info

Fig.6- Summer Flounder Abundance in the RI Area Based on Trawl Surveys and Recreational Catch Data



Summer Flounder Management Measure Recommendations 2011

- The summer flounder stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring relative to the biological reference points established in the 2008 SAW 47 assessment.
- Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.237 in 2009, below the threshold F reference point = 0.310 and the F target = 0.255. There is a 50% probability that F in 2009 was between 0.224 and 0.250.
- The MAFMC and ASMFC have recommended a TAL of 29.48 m lbs (roughly 25% increase from 2010).
- RSA assumed to be 3% of coastwide TAL (884,400 lbs), decreases amount available to states to 28,595,600 lbs.
- A commercial quota (based on 60% of the overall TAL) in the range of 17,157,360 lbs, and allocated to the states based on 1980-89 adjusted landings data (RI gets 15.7% = 2,693,706 lbs).



RI Summer Flounder Quota Management Program

- **Winter 1 = 54% of state allocation**
Recommended Possession Limits:
300/day; Aggregate Period 3,000/week or 500/day
- **Summer = 35% of state allocation**
Recommended Possession Limits:
100/day; Aggregate Period 350/week or 100/day
- **Winter 2 = 11% of state allocation**
Recommended Possession Limits:
600/day

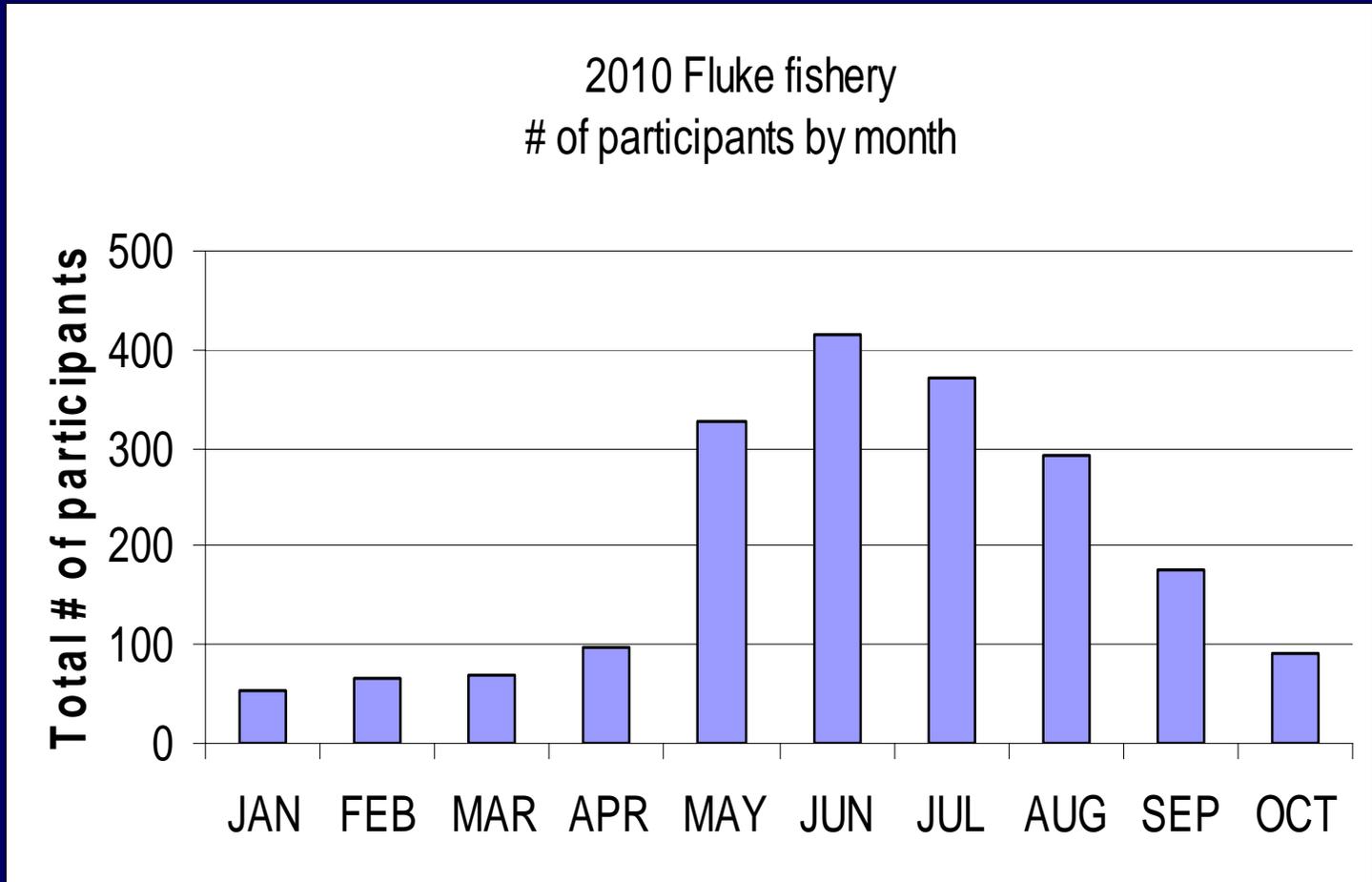


RI Licenses & Landing Permits that Allow for the Commercial Harvest & Landing of Fluke in RI

License Category	# of Licenses	# Landing Fluke	% Active in Fishery
MPL (Resident Only)	890	356	40%
PEL w/RFF Residents Non-Residents	246	143 75 68	58%
CFL w/RFF (Residents)	18	9	50%
Resident Landing Permits	39	14	36%
Non-Res Landing Permits	8	4	50%
Totals Residents Non-Residents	1201	526 454 72	44%



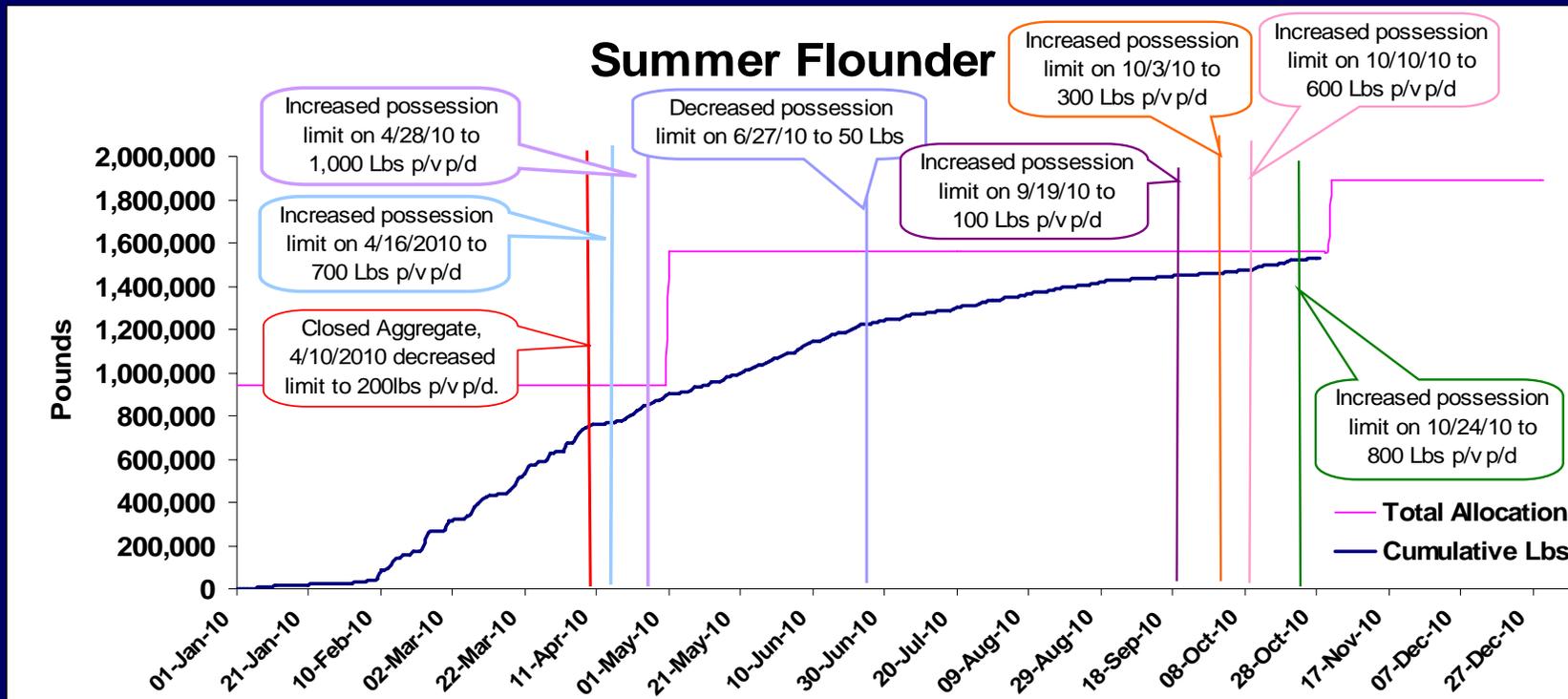
Commercial Participation – 2010



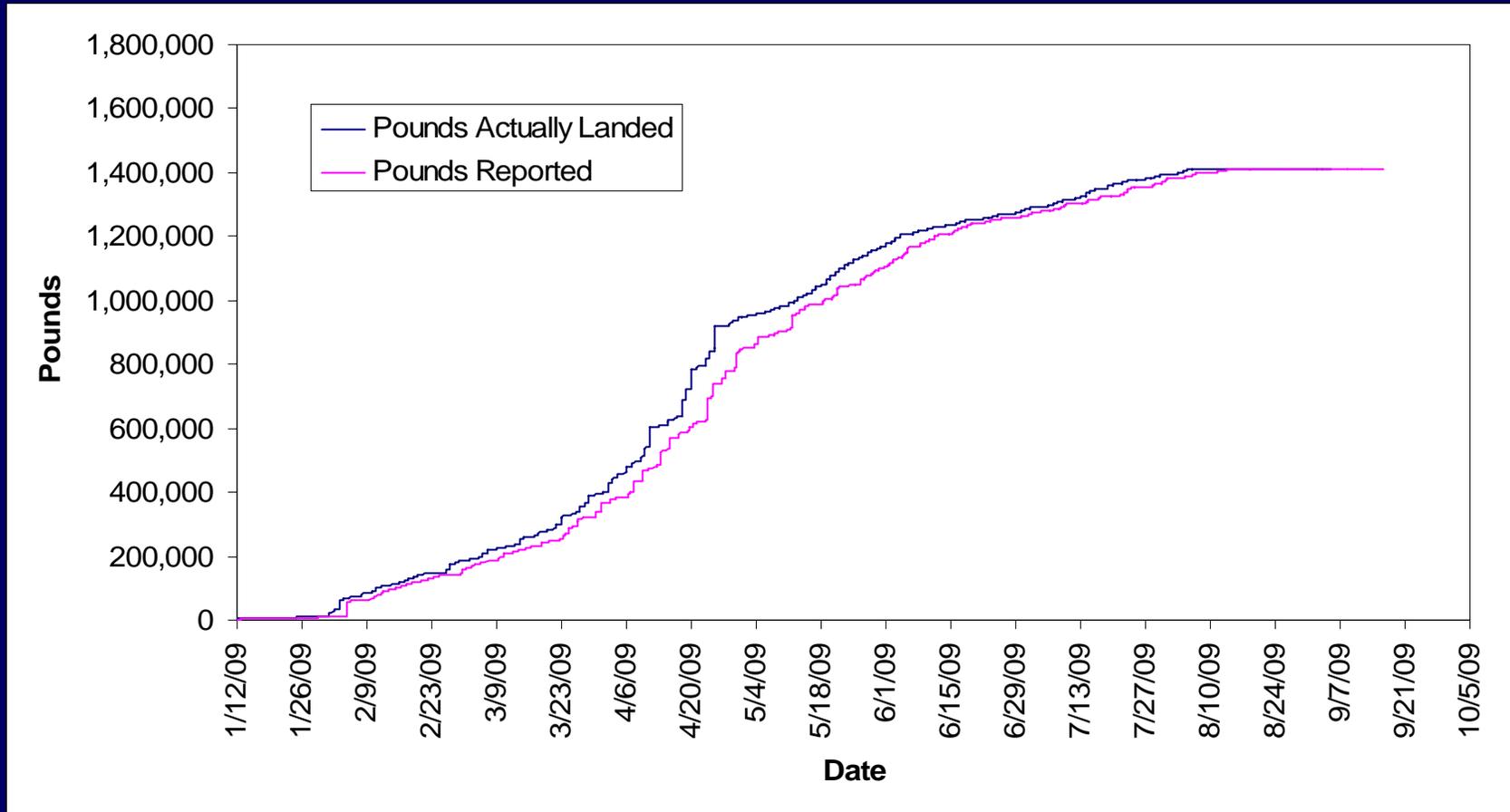
• This chart represents the total # of RI licenses landing Fluke at RI dealers from Jan 1, 2010 to date



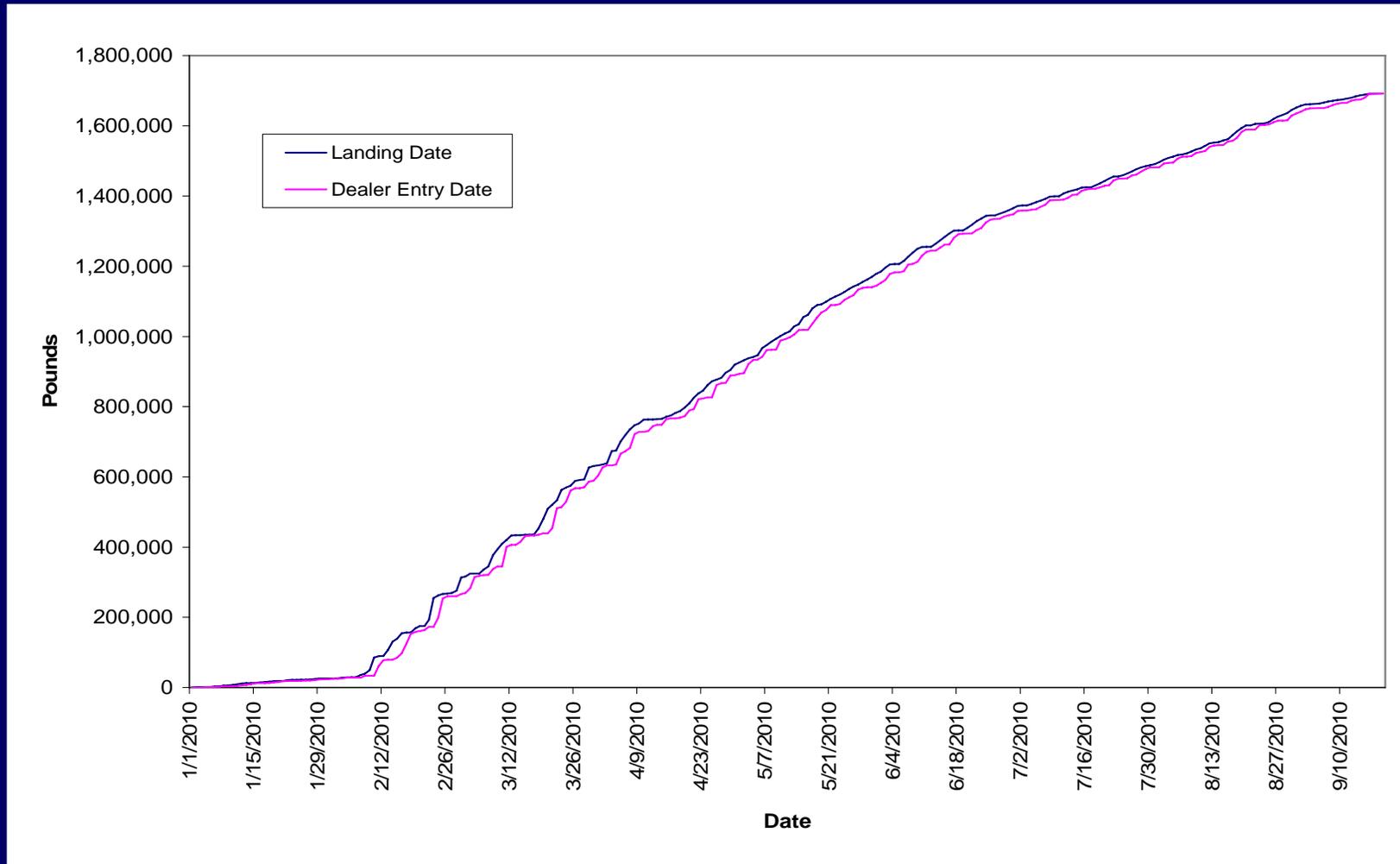
RI Fishery Performance - Commercial Landings



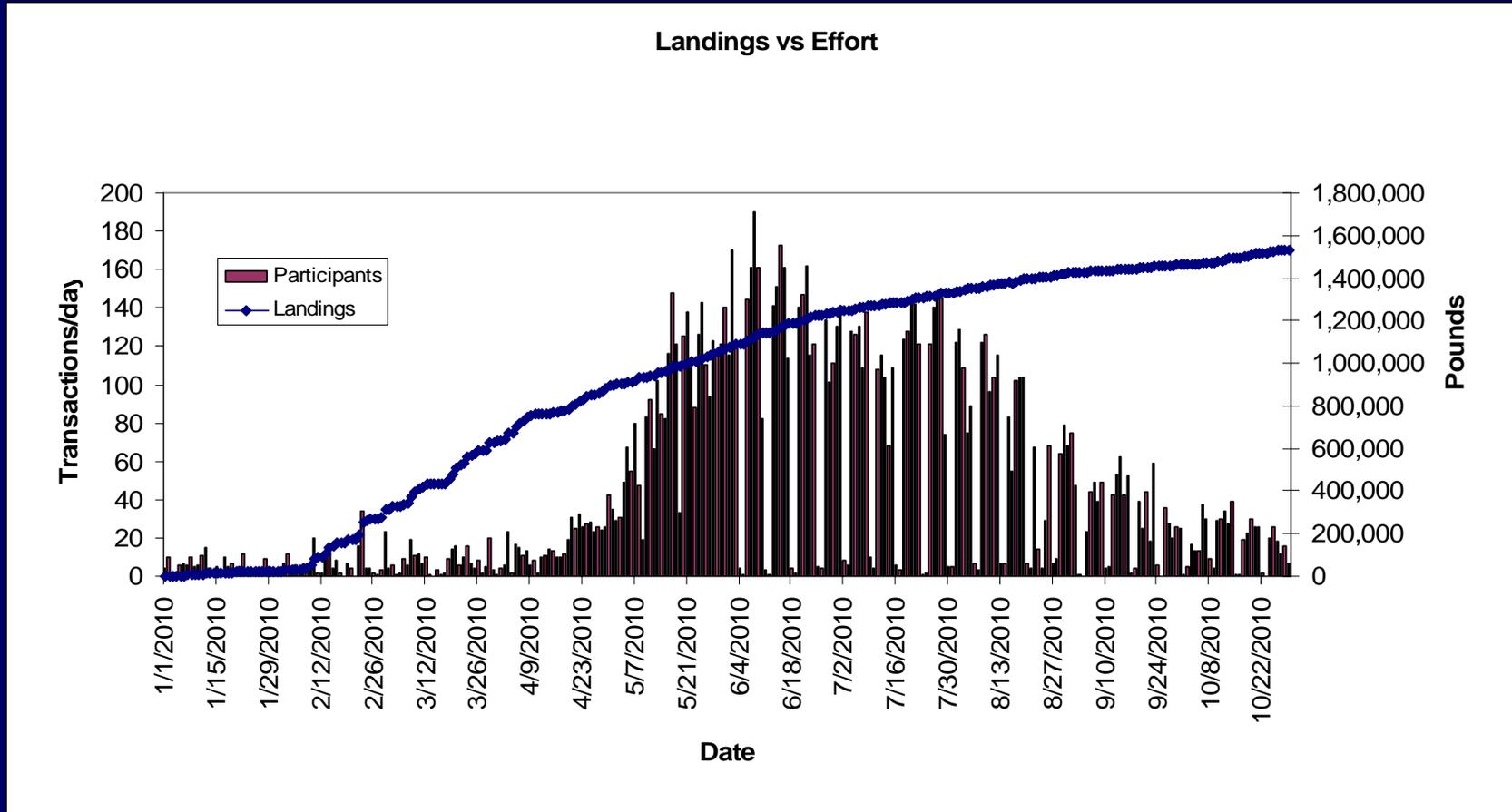
Commercial Landings – Monitoring Lag 2009



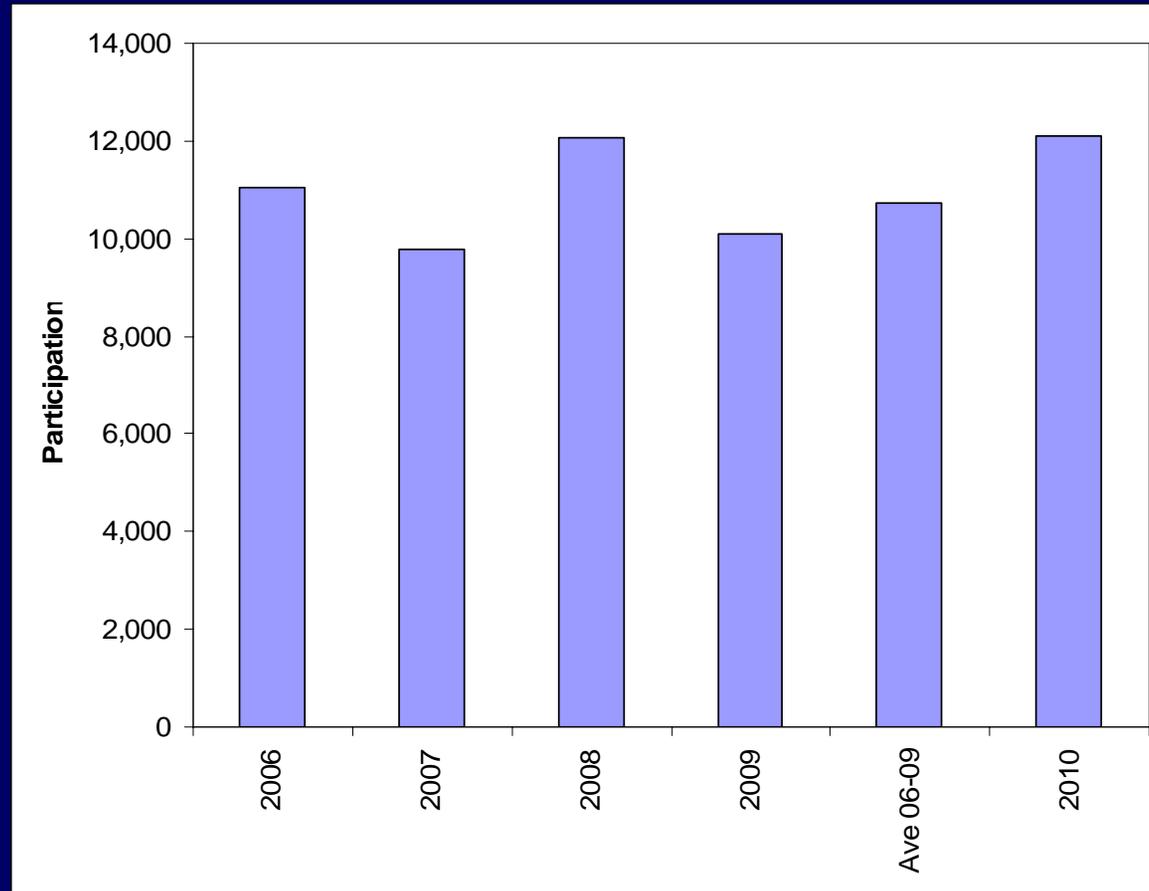
Commercial Landings – Monitoring Lag 2010



Commercial Landings – Change in Effort Within Season



Commercial Landings – Change in Effort Between Years



•Data is only through September 16 in each year

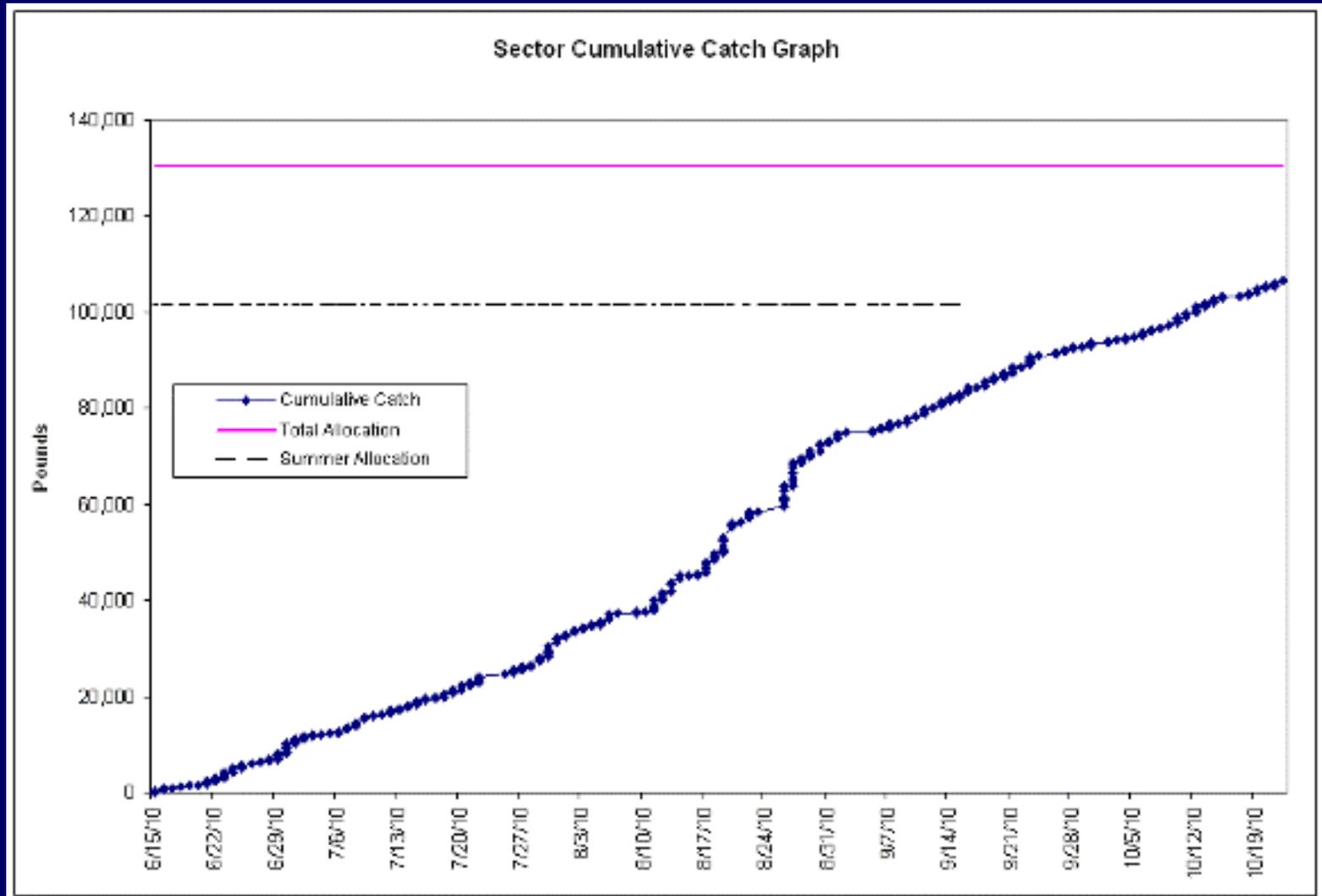


Sector Info – Background Info

- One group applied to become a summer flounder sector pilot program participant in 2010, the RI Fluke Conservation Cooperative
- The sector was approved and began operations on June 15, 2010.
- The sector is comprised of 11 vessels.
- The allocation given to the sector was approximately 13.7% of the state's total allocation, based on the historical landings of the 11 vessels during the historical period of May – December 31; 2004 – 2008.
- In pounds the adjusted allocation = 130,227 lbs.



Preliminary Sector Info – Cumulative Landings



Summer Flounder November 10 Public Hearing Items

- ♦ **Public Hearing Item 1 - Summer flounder quota management proposals:**
 - ♦ Four alternate management proposals incl status quo
 - ♦ Proposal to remove dealer section of aggr program, modification of aggr trigger
 - ♦ Proposal to change logbook requirement
 - ♦ Proposal to remove Friday and Saturday closures
 - ♦ Proposal to repeal or modify the 3-year penalty provision in aggr program
- ♦ **Public Hearing Item 2 – Proposal to continue/expand/modify summer flounder sector allocation program in 2011:**
 - ♦ Proposal for status quo, with program from Jan 1 – Dec 31
 - ♦ Proposal to repeal or modify the 3 year penalty provision
 - ♦ Proposal to adoption of a percentage cap on the size of individual sectors
- ♦ **Public Hearing Item 3 – Proposal to modify the control date for the commercial summer flounder fishery:**
 - ♦ Proposal to modify the control date to December 31, 2010



DEM/Marine Fisheries Management Program Evaluation Proposal

• The Division proposes initiating a series of open forum round table meetings to engage all stakeholders in the process of discussing and formulating a 2012 program proposal. The discussions will give full consideration to all ideas for best managing the RI commercial summer flounder fishery.

- **1st Meeting - February 2011**

- Review status of the stock and fishery
- Review goals and objectives for managing the fishery
- Outline various management strategies for meeting the goals and objectives as offered by the industry, DEM, others
 - free and open fishery
 - traditional quota management
 - catch share approach
 - hybrid catch share-traditional management
 - other?



DEM/Marine Fisheries Management Program Evaluation Proposal

• 2nd Meeting - March 2011

- Evaluate various management strategies drawing upon:
 - data and analysis pertaining to the fishery and,
 - models of how the various strategies might play out



DEM/Marine Fisheries Management Program Evaluation Proposal

- ◆ **3rd Meeting - April 2011**
 - ◆ **Seek consensus on one or more preferred approaches.**
 - ◆ **Identify further analysis needed to better understand the effects of the approaches on the resource and the industry**



DEM/Marine Fisheries Management Program Evaluation Proposal

- ◆ **4th Meeting - June 2011**
 - ◆ **Present fully developed approach(es);**
 - ◆ **Discuss/resolve issues associated with the approach(es);**
 - ◆ **Prepare for ensuing public hearing & Council review process.**



Potential Goals and Objectives for Managing the RI Commercial Fluke Fishery in Accordance with the State's Interests

- Keep the fishery open year-round
- Keep the daily/weekly possession limits from falling below certain levels
- Reduce/eliminate discard mortality
- Enhance flexibility and opportunity for current participants; reduce regulatory constraints
- Maximize economic efficiencies for current participants
- Promote safe fishing operations
- Promote new job opportunities; maximize participation in the industry
- Achieve a steady flow of fresh, high-value product to the market
- Maintain the historical distribution of landings according to season
- Maintain the historical distribution of landings among gear types
- Provide for equity among all current participants

