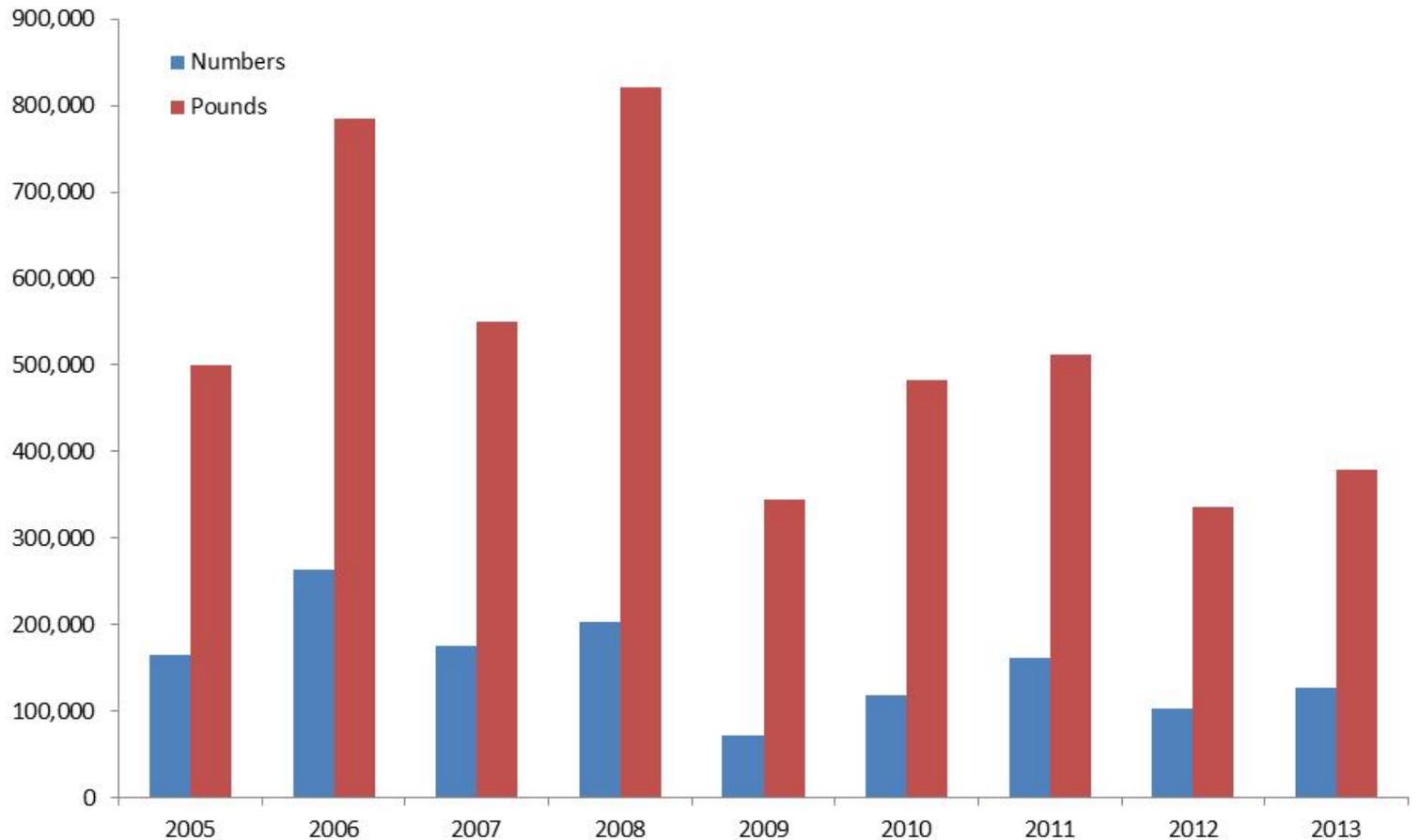


Summary of the Rhode Island Recreational Summer Flounder Fishery



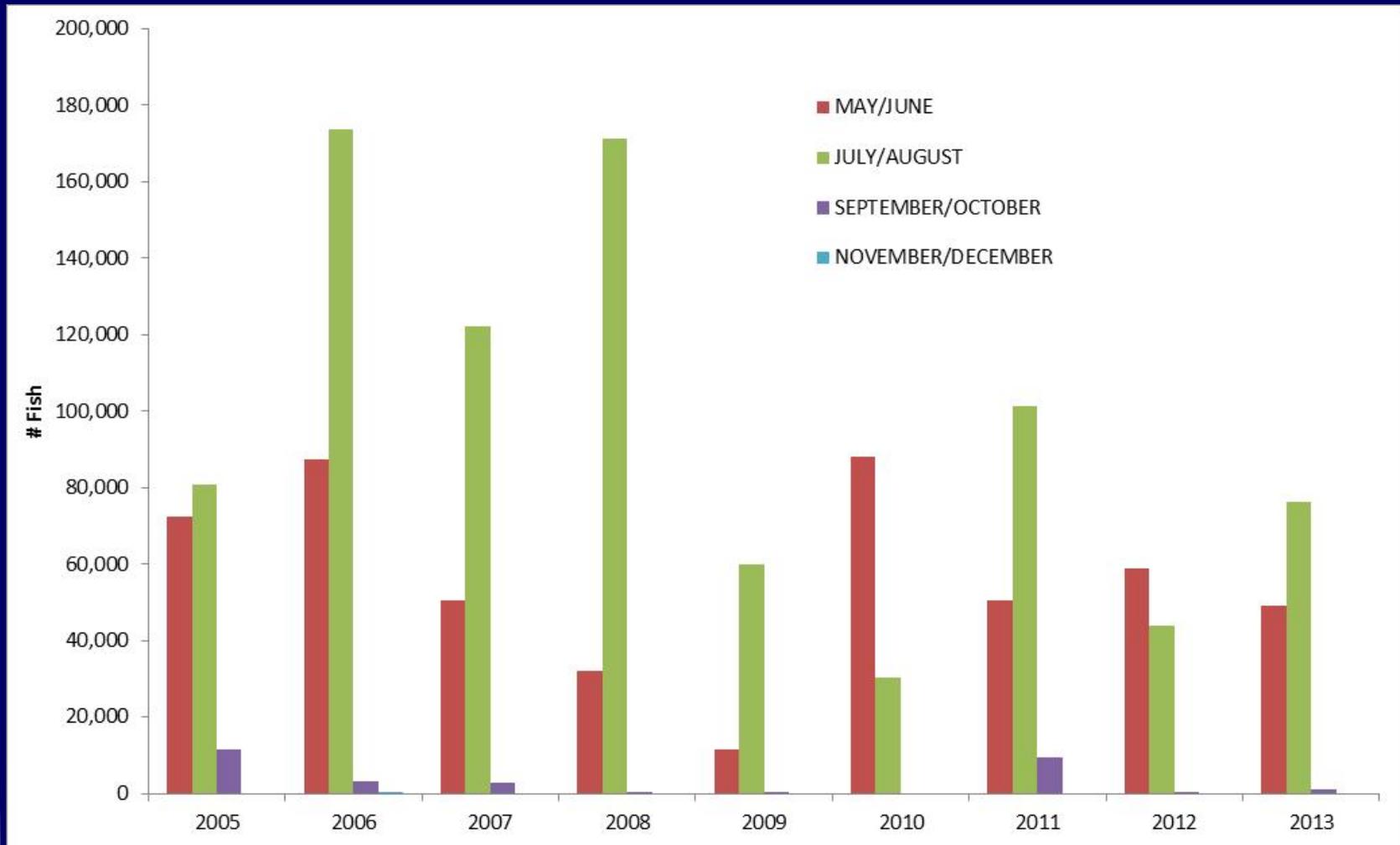
Recreational Harvest - Summer Flounder

***Note: 2013 data preliminary, all waves represented**



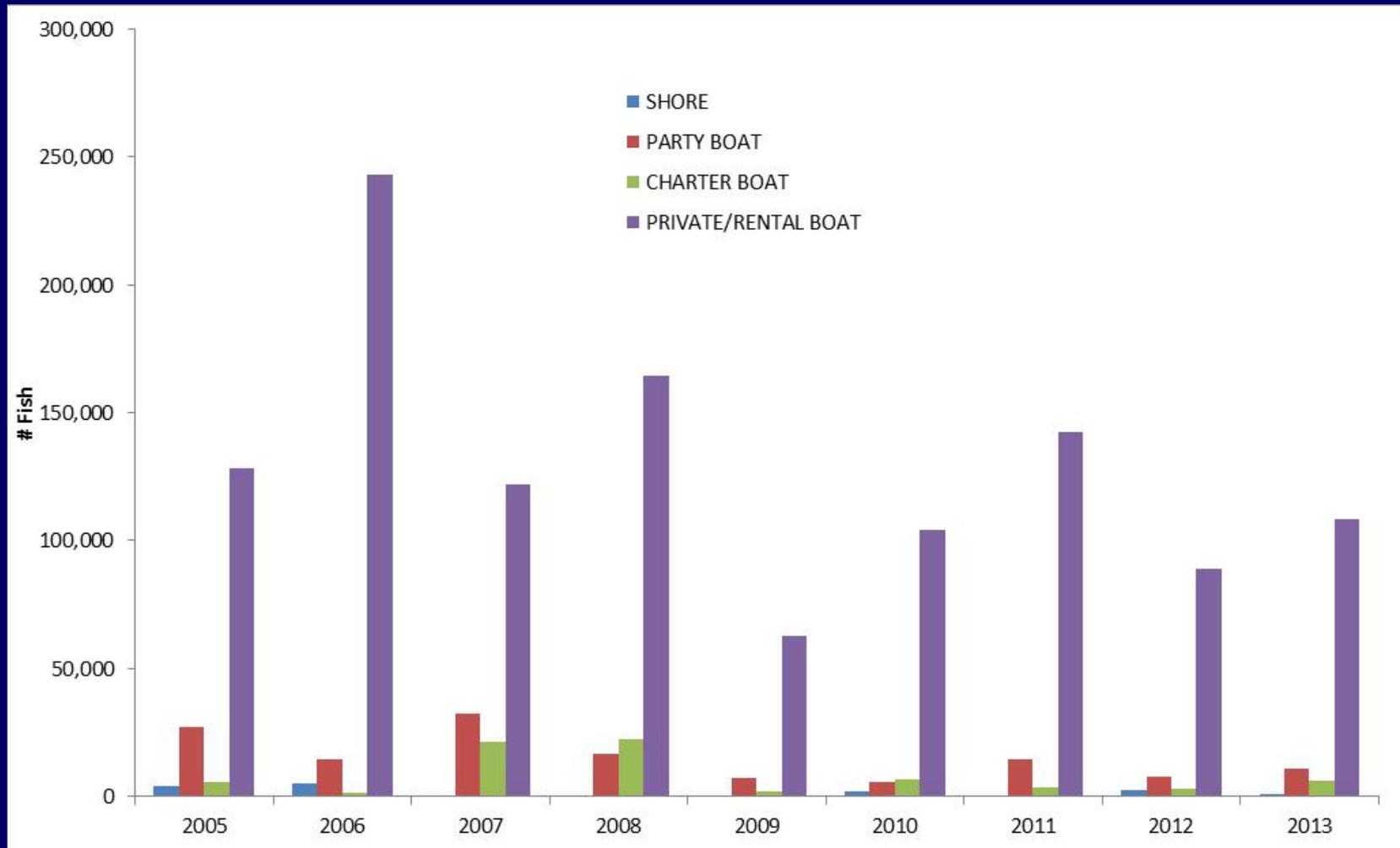
Recreational Harvest By Wave – Summer Flounder

***Note: 2013 data preliminary, all waves represented**



Recreational Harvest By Mode – Summer Flounder

*Note: 2013 data preliminary, all waves represented



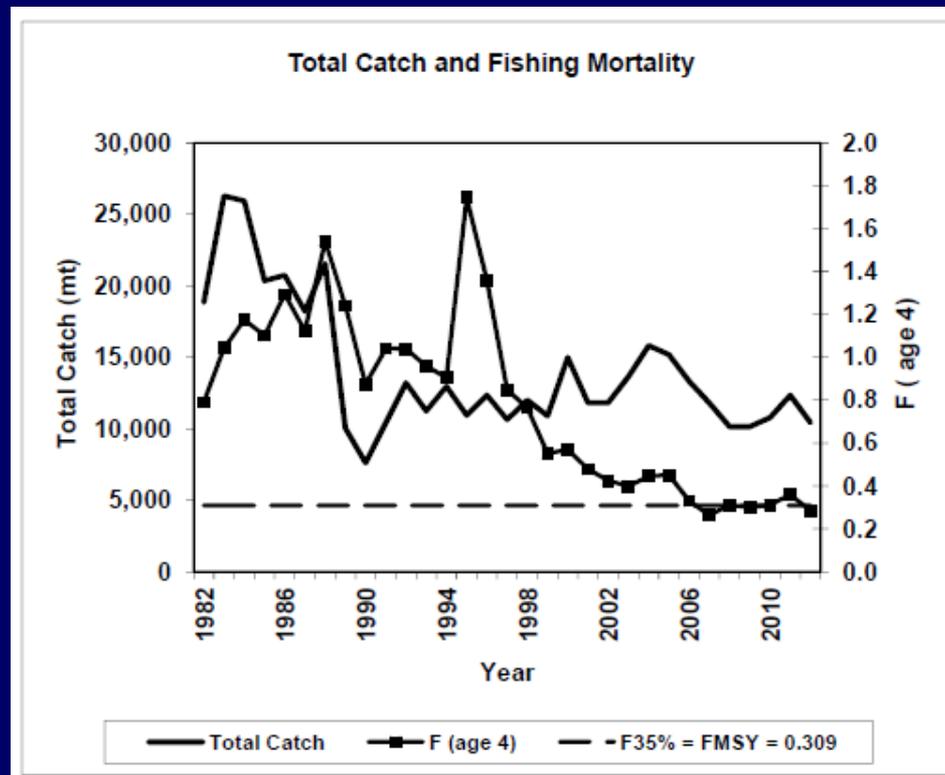
Rhode Island Recreational Fishery Performance – Summer Flounder

- ◆ Landings and targets were analyzed on a state by state basis in the summer flounder fishery until 2014
- ◆ The landings target for 2013 for RI approximately 142,000 fish
- ◆ The projected landings in 2013 for RI 126,725 fish
- ◆ This is approximately a 10% underage



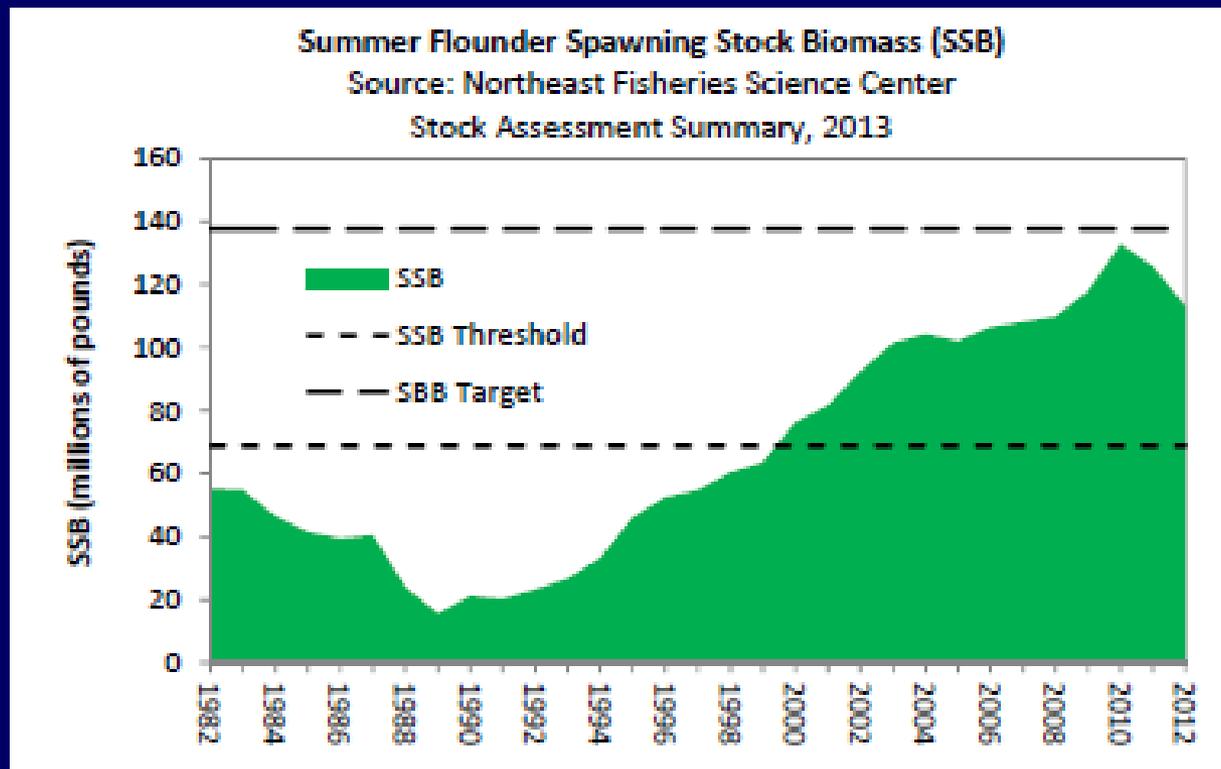
Stock Status – Summer Flounder

- ◆ The summer flounder stock: not overfished, overfishing not occurring according to output of 2013 benchmark stock assessment
- ◆ Fishing mortality (F) ranged between 1.0 and 2.0 during 1982-1996
- ◆ F estimated at 0.285 in 2012; below the threshold fishing mortality reference point $F_{MSY} = F_{35\%} = 0.309$



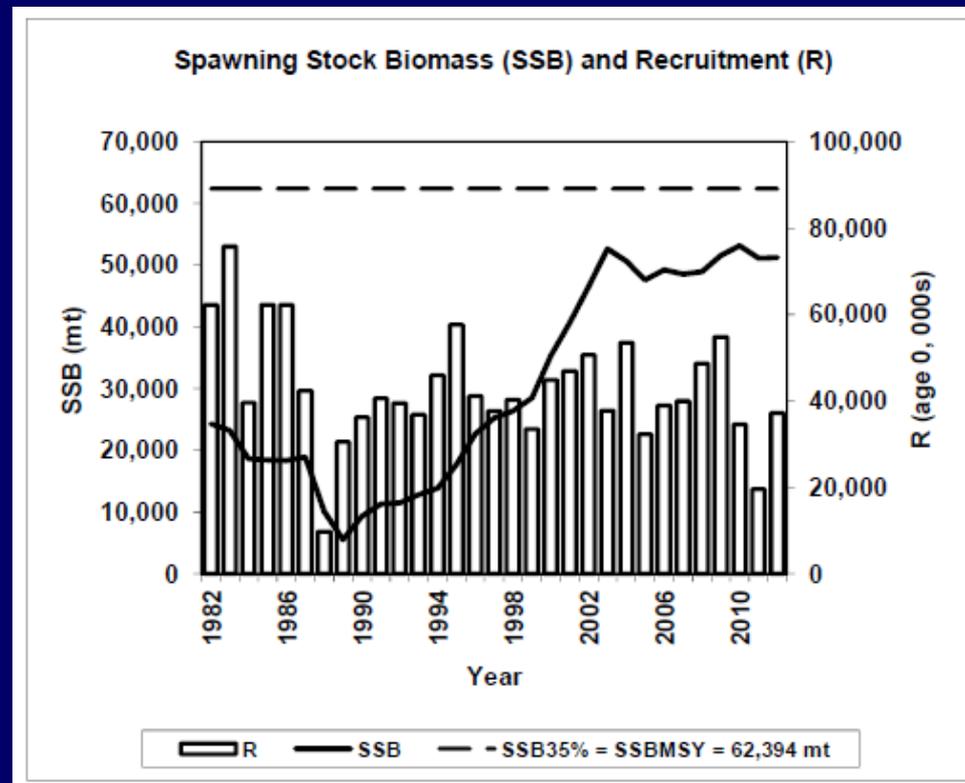
Stock Status – Summer Flounder

- ◆ Spawning stock biomass (SSB) decreased from 60 mlbs in the early 1980s to less than 20 mlbs in 1989
- ◆ SSB estimated at 112.9 mlbs in 2012; about 82% of the SSB_{MSY} = SSB_{35%} reference point = 137.6 mlbs but above the threshold of 68.8 mlbs



Stock Status – Summer Flounder

- ◆ The arithmetic average recruitment 1982 to 2012: 43 mil fish at age 0
- ◆ The 2009 year class currently estimated at 37 million fish; 14% below average
- ◆ This “retrospective pattern” in each subsequent stock assessment update is the reason for the decreasing quotas



Summer Flounder Addendum XXV

- ◆ Summer Flounder Management Board approved Addendum XXV to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan
- ◆ Establishes regional recreational management for the 2014
- ◆ Approved summer flounder regions are Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Connecticut through New Jersey; Delaware through Virginia; and North Carolina



Summer Flounder Addendum XXV

- ◆ Addendum initiated to address a concern that current management measures not providing recreational fishermen equitable harvest opportunities
- ◆ Under this approach, all states within a region will be required to have the same possession limit, size limit, and season length
- ◆ Technical Committee will work with the states to develop, for Board consideration and approval, measures for each region that will collectively achieve, but not exceed, the recreational harvest limit
- ◆ Adaptive regional management approach has been approved for the 2014 fishing year only.



2013 Rhode Island Summer Flounder Recreational Measures

- ◆ **All Modes:**
 - ◆ **Minimum size = 18"**
 - ◆ **Season: May 1 – December 31**
 - ◆ **Possession Limit = 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 and dropping bag limit

Option has to be coordinated with MA, but DFW is seeking AP input on preferred option metrics

In addition the DFW is concerned about risk of overage, Addendum XXV states that the accountability is still relative to a states RHL as set from 1998 allocations

Options:

1. Min size = 17"; season = 132 days; bag limit = 5 fish
2. Min size = 17"; season = 132 days; bag limit = 8 fish
3. Min size = 16.5"; season = 132 days; bag limit = 3 fish
4. Min size = 16.5"; season = 132 days; bag limit = 5 fish
 - ♦ Note: regional seasons can be different, length must be same

