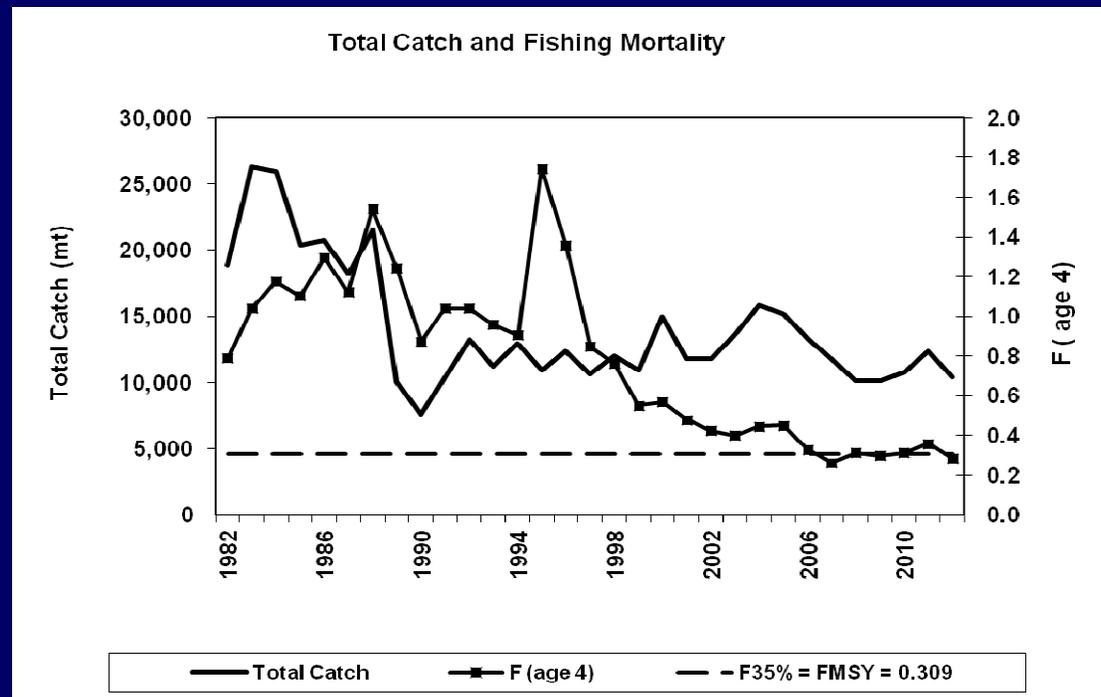


**Summary of Summer
Flounder Stock Status, 2013
Rhode Island Commercial
Fishery Performance, and
DFW Recommendations for
the 2014 Summer Flounder
Fishery**



Summer Flounder Stock Status

- ♦ **Stock Status:**
 - ♦ **Benchmark in 2013: SAW/SARC 57 and peer review**
 - ♦ **The summer flounder stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring relative to biological reference points.**
 - ♦ **Further summer flounder is considered rebuilt.**
 - ♦ **Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.285 in 2012, below the threshold F reference point = 0.309 but above the F target = 0.255.**



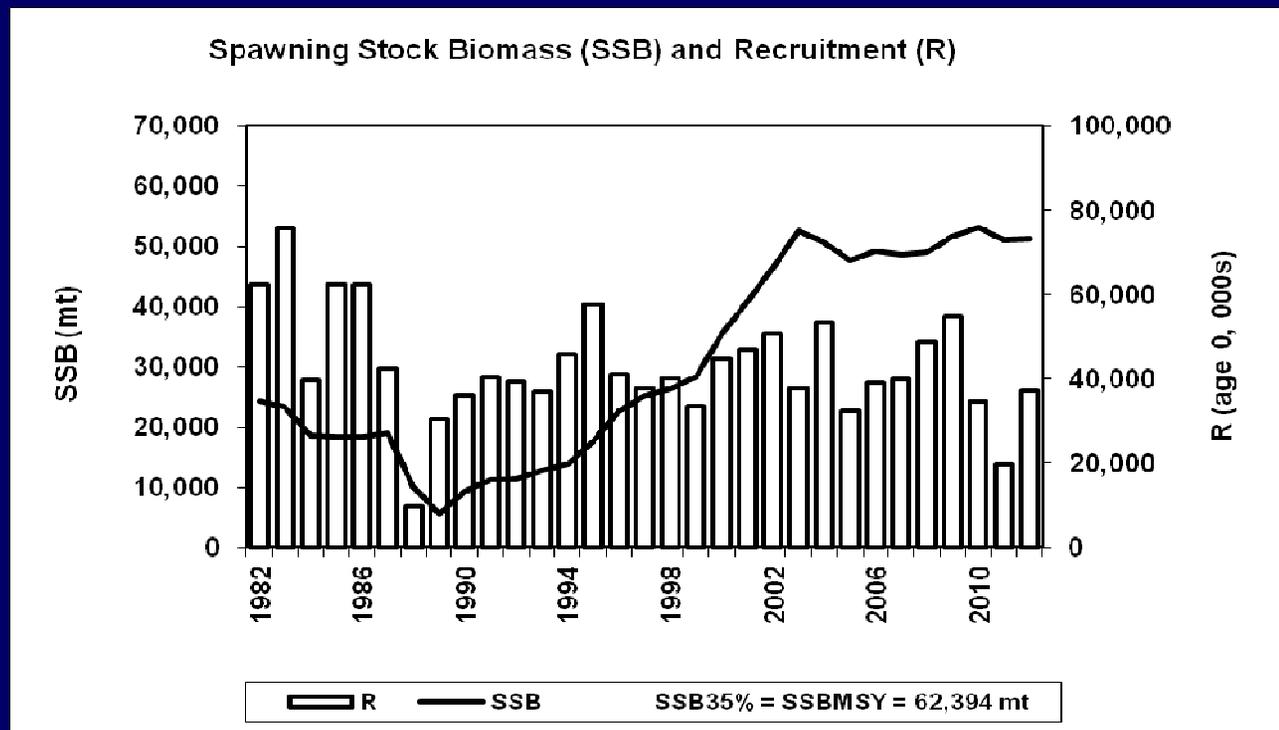
Summer Flounder Stock Status

- ♦ **Stock Status:**

- ♦ SSB estimated to be 113 m lbs in 2012, below the SSB reference point = 137.6 m lbs but above the SSB threshold = 66.2 m lbs.

- ♦ The 2011 year class is currently estimated to be about 26 million fish, below the average of 42 million fish

- ♦ A retrospective pattern in recruitment is evident, the 2008 and 2009 large year classes have dropped significantly in recent updates



Summer Flounder Management Measure Recommendations 2014

- Multi-year specifications in place for 2013 and 2014
- 2013 ABC derived using: $SSB/SSB_{MSY} = 92\%$; $P^* = 0.364$; lognormal OFL distribution with $CV = 100\%$
- Constant $F=0.224$ to derive 2014 ABC
 - 2014 needs re-evaluation due to recent stock assessment
- Level 3 stock assessment
- 3 year ABC recommendations
- ABC calculations:
 - Applied 60% CV instead of default 100%
 - Based on presentation of the distribution of CV's in published simulation experiments in which assessment model fully reflected the underlying population dynamics
 - MC did not recommend addition of management uncertainty



Summer Flounder Management Measure Recommendations 2014

Year	OFL	Total Catch ABC	Landings	Discards	F	SSB
2013	29.8	22.3	18.5	3.8	0.250	124.9
2014	26.8	21.9	18.1	3.9	0.248	130.0
2015	27.1	22.8	18.4	4.3	0.255	136.0
2016	28.1	24.2	19.6	4.7	0.263	140.8



♦ Table in millions of pounds

Summer Flounder Management Measure Recommendations 2014

	2014	2015
ABC	21.94 mil lb (9,950 mt)	22.77 mil lb (10,329 mt)
Commercial ACL = ACT	12.94 mil lb (5,869 mt)	13.42 mil lb (6,085 mt)
Recreational ACL = ACT	9.00 mil lb (4,081 mt)	9.36 mil lb (4,244 mt)
Commercial Quota (adj)	10.51 mil lb (4,767 mt)	10.74 mil lb (4,870 mt)
Rec. Harvest Limit (adj)	7.01 mil lb (3,178 mt)	7.16 mil lb (3,247 mt)



Summer Flounder Management Measure Recommendations 2014

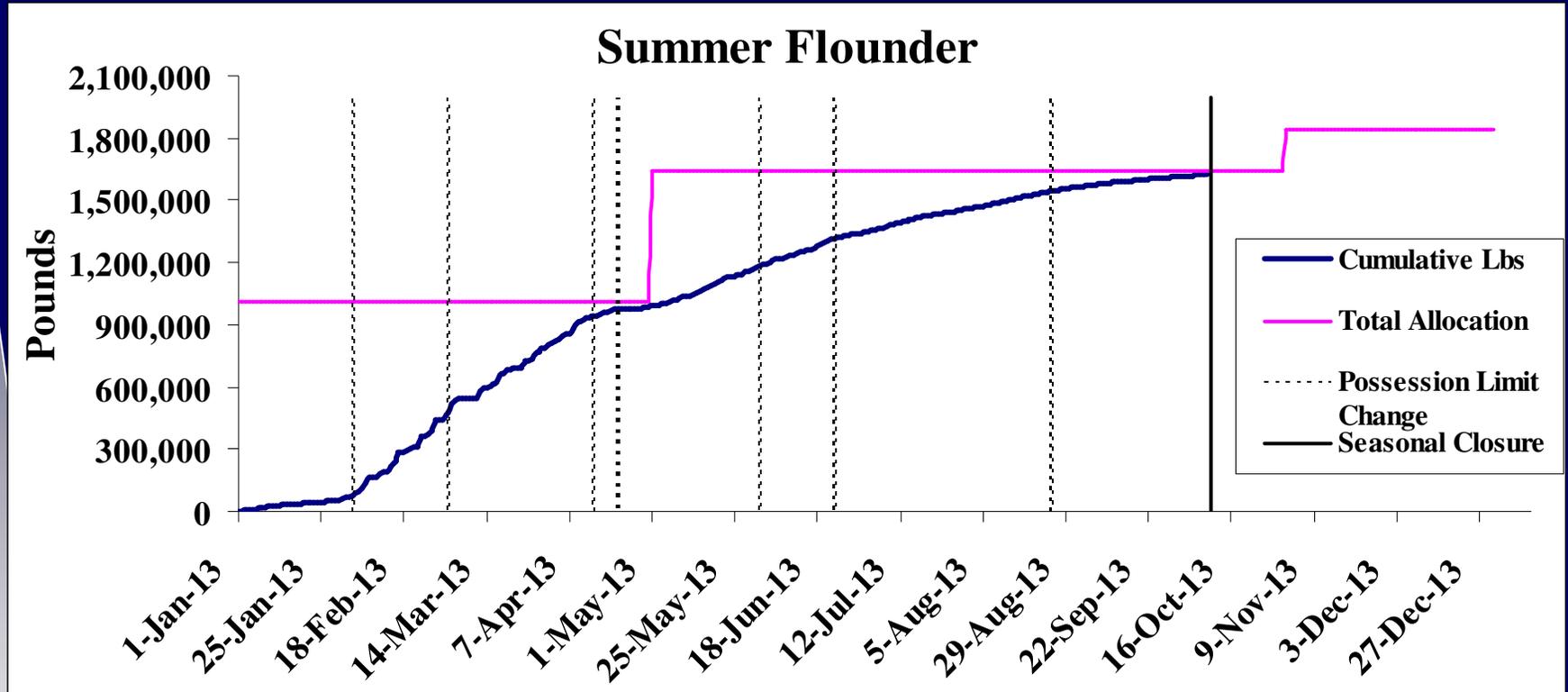
	2013	2014 (current)	2014 (staff recom. revised)	% change (2014 staff rec. revised vs. 2014 current)
ABC (mlbs)	22.3	22.2	21.9	-1.4%

• No changes to current minimum size (14 in), gear requirements, or exemption programs

• Up to 3% of TAL be made available to RSA program



RI Fishery Performance - Commercial Landings

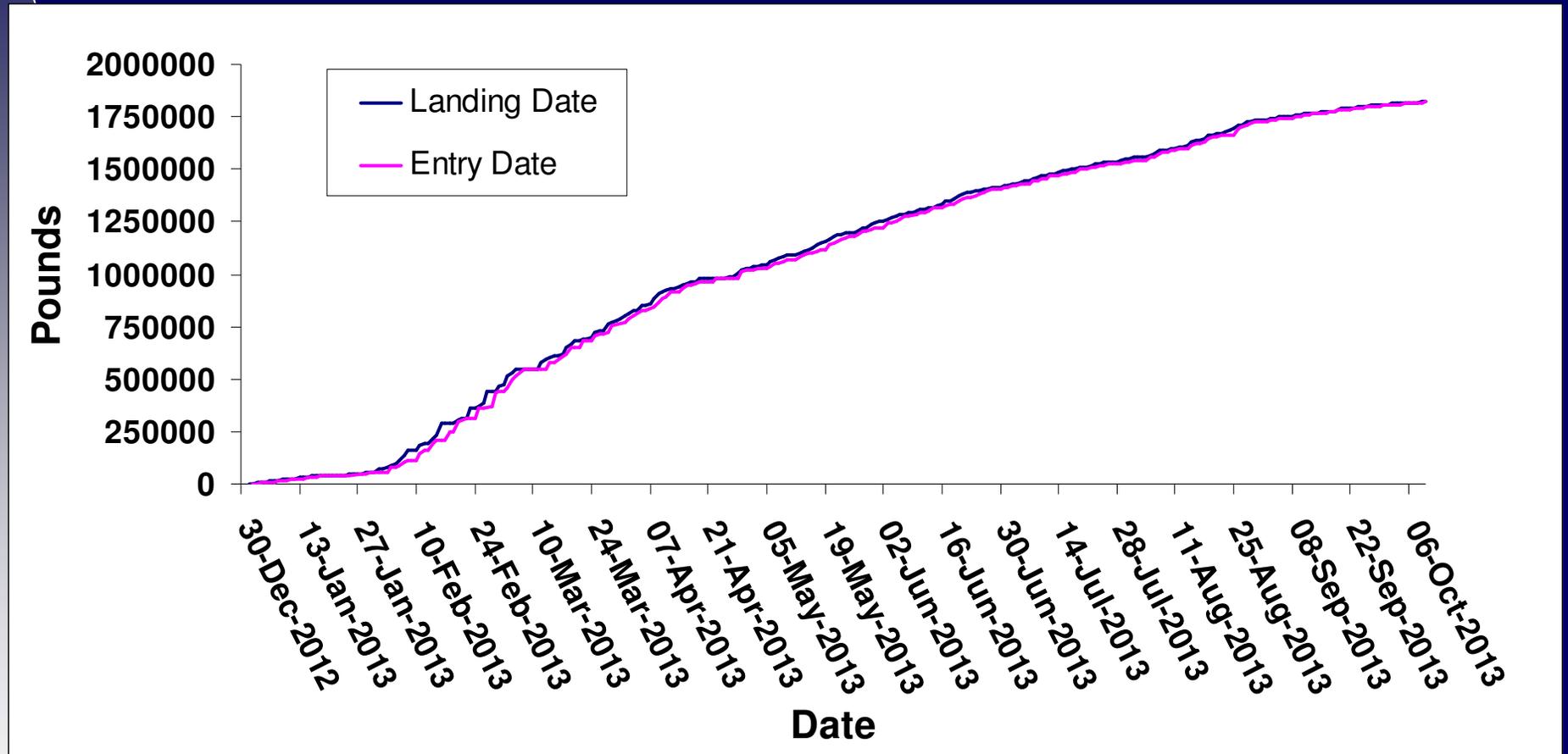


Possession Limit Changes:

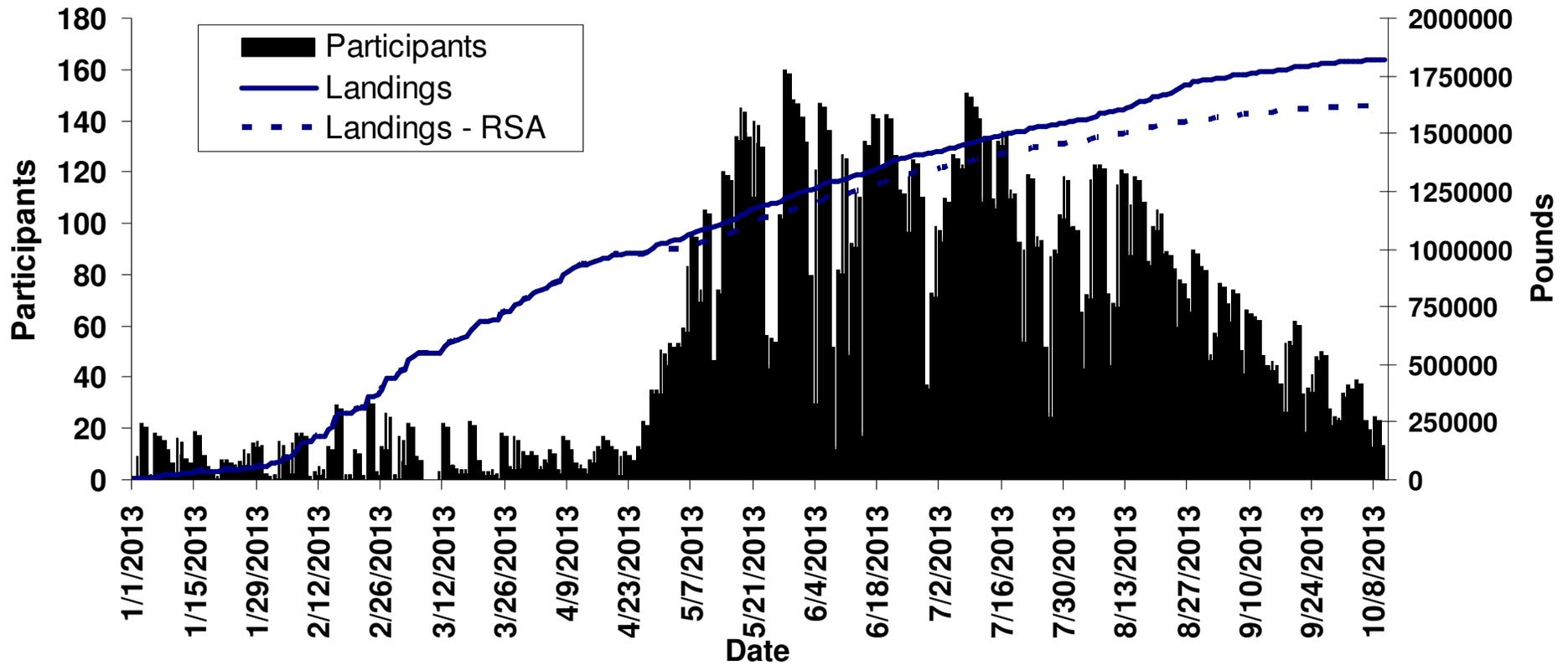
- 1/1/13 - Began @ 300 lbs/day
- 2/3/13 - Winter aggregate began @ 2500 lbs/wk; Daily limit remained @ 300 lbs/day
- 3/3/13 - Aggregate dropped to 2000 lbs/wk; Daily limit remained @ 300 lbs/day
- 4/14/13 - Dropped to 1000 lbs/wk (aggregate); 200 lbs/day
- 4/21/13 - Closed Winter aggregate and dropped to 100 lbs/day
- 6/1/13 - Summer Aggregate began @ 700 lbs/wk; Daily limit remained @ 100 lbs/day
- 6/23/13 - Dropped to 350 lbs/wk (aggregate); 50 lbs/day
- 8/25/13 - Closed Summer Aggregate and remained @ 50 lbs/day
- 10/10/13 - CLOSED



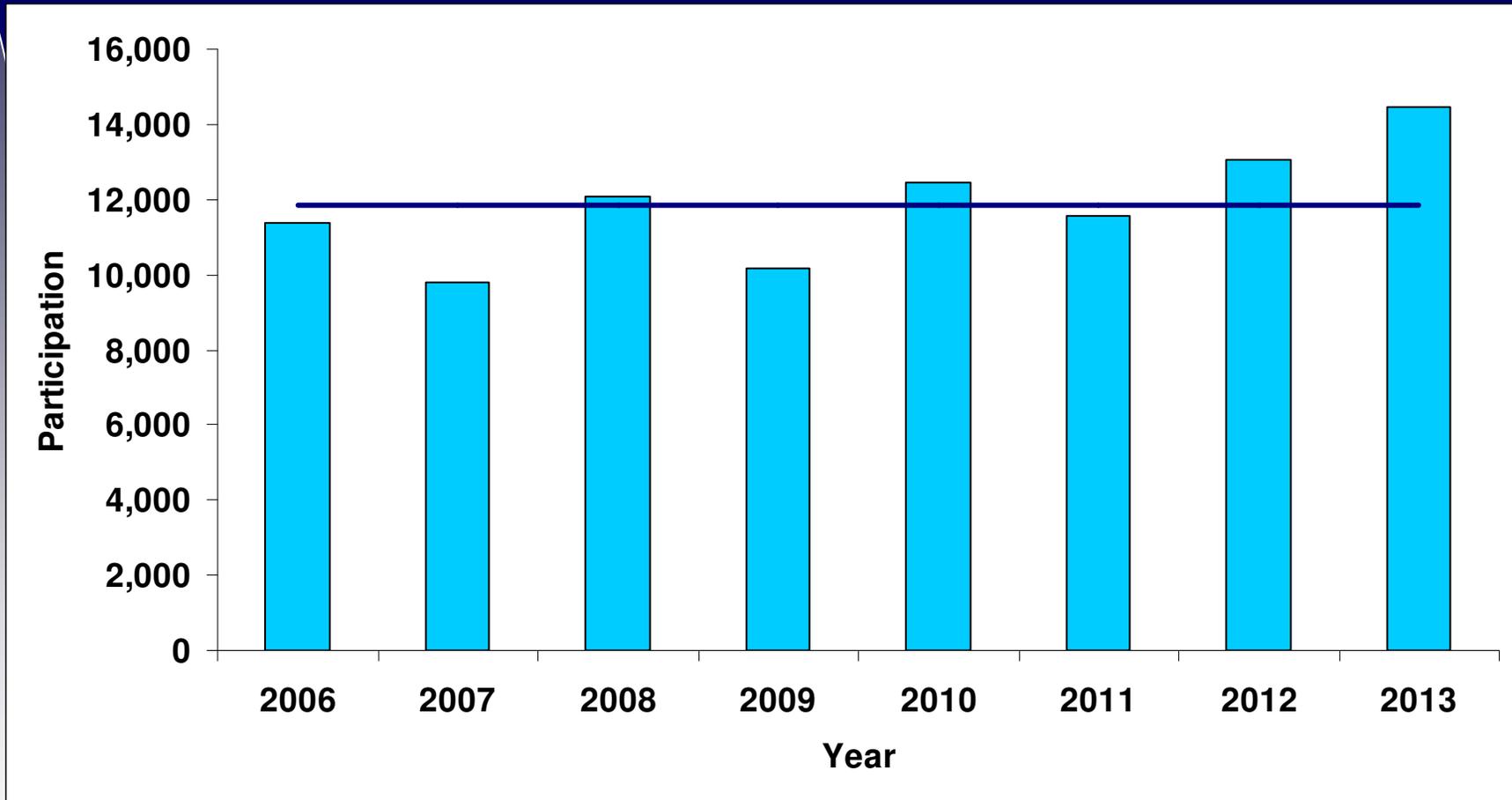
RI Fishery Performance – Dealer Reporting



Commercial Landings – Change in Effort Within Season 2013



Commercial Landings – Change in Effort Between Years



• Data is only through late September in each year

Commercial Landings – Aggregate Program

- ♦ Total participation was 55 in the Winter Aggregate Program and 12 in the Summer Aggregate Program
- ♦ Total times participants landed over the weekly aggregate amount were 7
- ♦ The total additional pounds landed for entire state period (to date) were 2,238 lbs (less than 1% of Allocation)



RI Commercial Fishery Performance

- ◆ There was a 28,042 pound underage in first period (3% of total quota)
- ◆ This underage was split between the two remaining sub periods per regulation, therefore each sub period gained 14,021 lbs
- ◆ The possession limit dropped below 100 pounds on 6/23/13 in the summer sub period in an effort to avoid an overage or closure
- ◆ The summer sub period CLOSED on 10/10/13 despite efforts to avoid this, as of today's meeting there is 6,065 lbs remaining to be rolled into the last sub-period
- ◆ Effort to date reached a maximum of 160 participants per day on May 28th



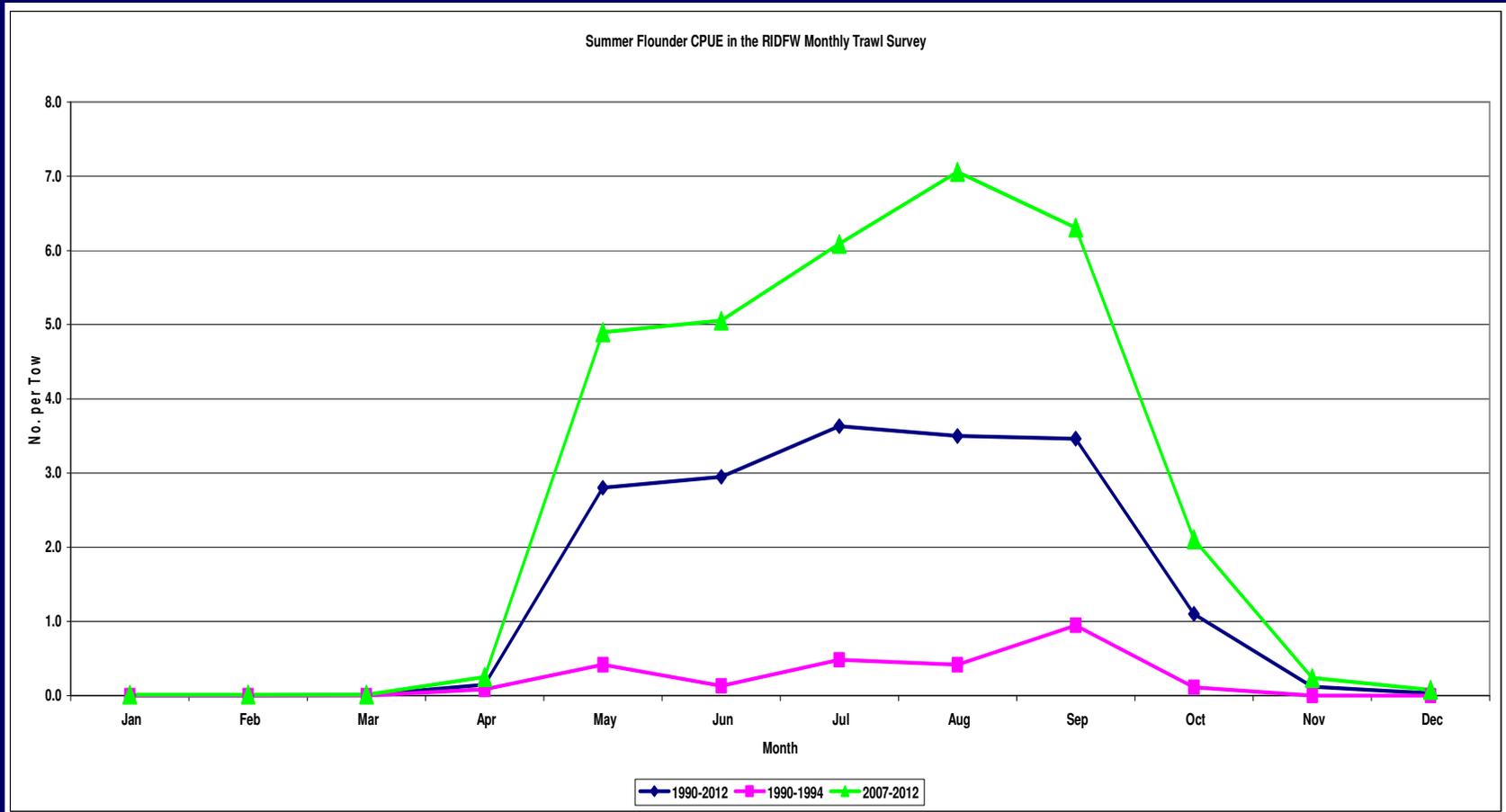
Preliminary 2013 Commercial Allocations

- ♦ RI 2014 Projected Commercial Quota (-RSA) = 1,758,218 lbs
- ♦ RI 2013 Commercial Quota = 1,794,100 lbs
- ♦ 2014 has a decrease of 35,882 lbs (2% decrease)
- ♦ 2014 Allocations based on estimated RI Quota:
 - ♦ Winter 1 54% = 949,438 lbs
 - ♦ Summer 35% = 615,376 lbs
 - ♦ Winter 2 11% = 193,404 lbs
- ♦ For reference, 2013 adjusted allocations:
 - ♦ Winter 1 54% = 968,814 lbs
 - ♦ Summer 35% = 627,935 lbs
 - ♦ Winter 2 11% = 197,351 lbs



DEM/Marine Fisheries Proposed Changes

- ♦ The Division feels that the current long summer sub period is not accommodating to the different user groups participating in the beginning and the end of the period
- ♦ As well the Division feels the current long summer sub period does not reflect the biological characteristics, e.g. the migratory patterns, of the current stock when in local waters



DEM/Marine Fisheries Proposed Changes

- ◆ The Division recommends the following starting possession limits for 2014:
 - ◆ Winter 1 = 200/day; Aggregate Period 2,000/week or 200/day
 - ◆ Summer = 100/day; Aggregate Period 700/week or 100/day
 - ◆ Winter 2 = 200/day
- ◆ Further the Division proposes 2 options for altering the sub periods as follows:
 - ◆ Option 1:
 - ◆ Winter 1 (1/1 – 4/30; 54%) = 200/day; Aggr Period 2,000/week or 200/day
 - ◆ Summer (5/1 – 9/15; 35%) = 100/day; Aggr Period 700/week or 100/day
 - ◆ Winter 2 (9/16 – 12/31; 11%) = 200/day
 - ◆ Option 2:
 - ◆ Winter 1 (1/1 – 4/30; 54%) = 200/day; Aggr Period 2,000/week or 200/day
 - ◆ Summer (5/1 – 9/15; 28%) = 100/day; Aggr Period 700/week or 100/day
 - ◆ Winter 2 (9/16 – 12/31; 18%) = 200/day
- ◆ As well, in an effort to look towards providing fishermen with more flexibility, the Division offers the following for consideration:
 - ◆ Review existing exempt certificates
 - ◆ If not active for 5 years, add to latent permit list
 - ◆ Allow application for these latent exempt certificates and distribute via lottery



DEM/Marine Fisheries Additional Proposal

- ◆ **During 2014, DEM will begin to formulate a hybrid sector proposal to be brought forward during the 2015 specification setting process**
 - ◆ **Based on results of symposium and workshop, most agreed that the program met 3 main goals: safety, resource benefits, economic benefits**
 - ◆ **There was still much hesitancy and comment stating that these benefits could be achieved through other means**
 - ◆ **Other approaches to flexibility were offered, none were embraced**



DEM/Marine Fisheries Additional Proposal

- ♦ **A hybrid program will be developed with the following general characteristics:**
 1. **35% of the states quota will remain in a common pool fishery and can not be allocated in to a sector.**
 2. **Quota remaining after calculation of the vessels applying to be in a sector will be added to the common pool fisheries allocation.**
 3. **Vessel allocations determined by SAFIS landings for 2011 - 2013 to determine recent historical landings rates for each vessel.**
 4. **An additional amount will be added that considers vessel size.**
 5. **Each sector must consist of a min of two independently owned vessels, with a max being ten vessels. Must have a sector manager.**



DEM/Marine Fisheries Additional Proposal

- ♦ **Characteristics cont.:**
 6. **Require an annual application for inclusion in the sector program.**
 7. **Require a legally binding contract for each individual sector.**
 8. **Application deadline December 1 annually for January 1 implementation.**
 9. **The contract must include language allowing the state to re-acquire the allocation of a vessel that was removed from the sector.**
- ♦ **Many hurdles remain:**
 - ♦ **Develop a fee structure for sectors to fund the admin costs**
 - ♦ **Determine how to fund observer coverage**
 - ♦ **Further development of anti-consolidation measures**

