

# 2022 Recreational Measures

Council and Board  
December 14, 2021



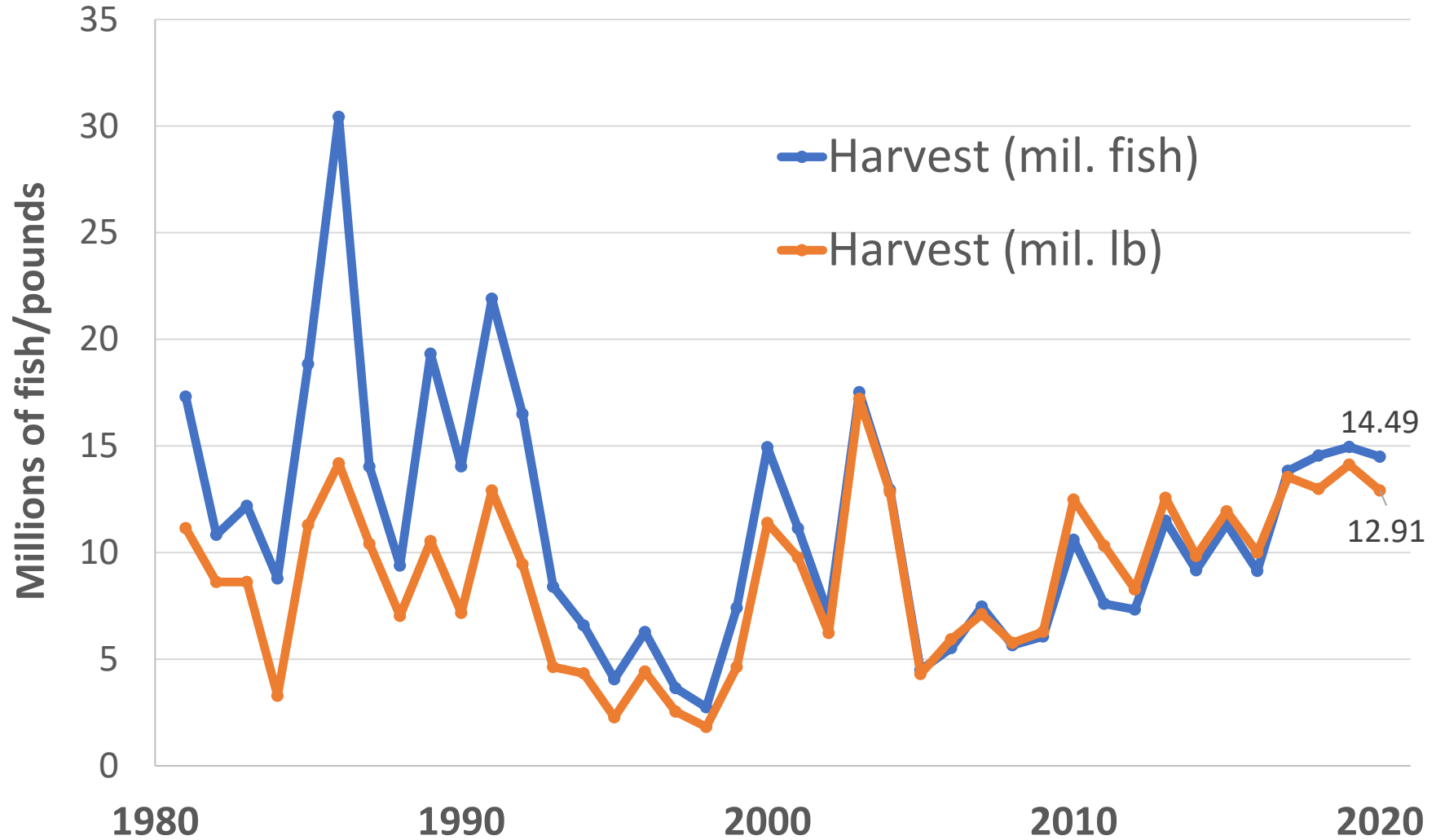
# Meeting Objectives

- Review recreational fishery performance and recreational measures
- Review staff, Monitoring Committee, and Advisory Panel recommendations
- Adopt 2022 recreational measures for scup

# 2022 Scup RHL

- 2022 RHL: 6.08 mil lb
  - 0.01 mil lb higher than 2021 RHL (6.07 mil lb)
  - 2022-2023 RHLs adopted based on 2021 assessment results
  - Biomass is high although declining
  - Recruitment low in recent years

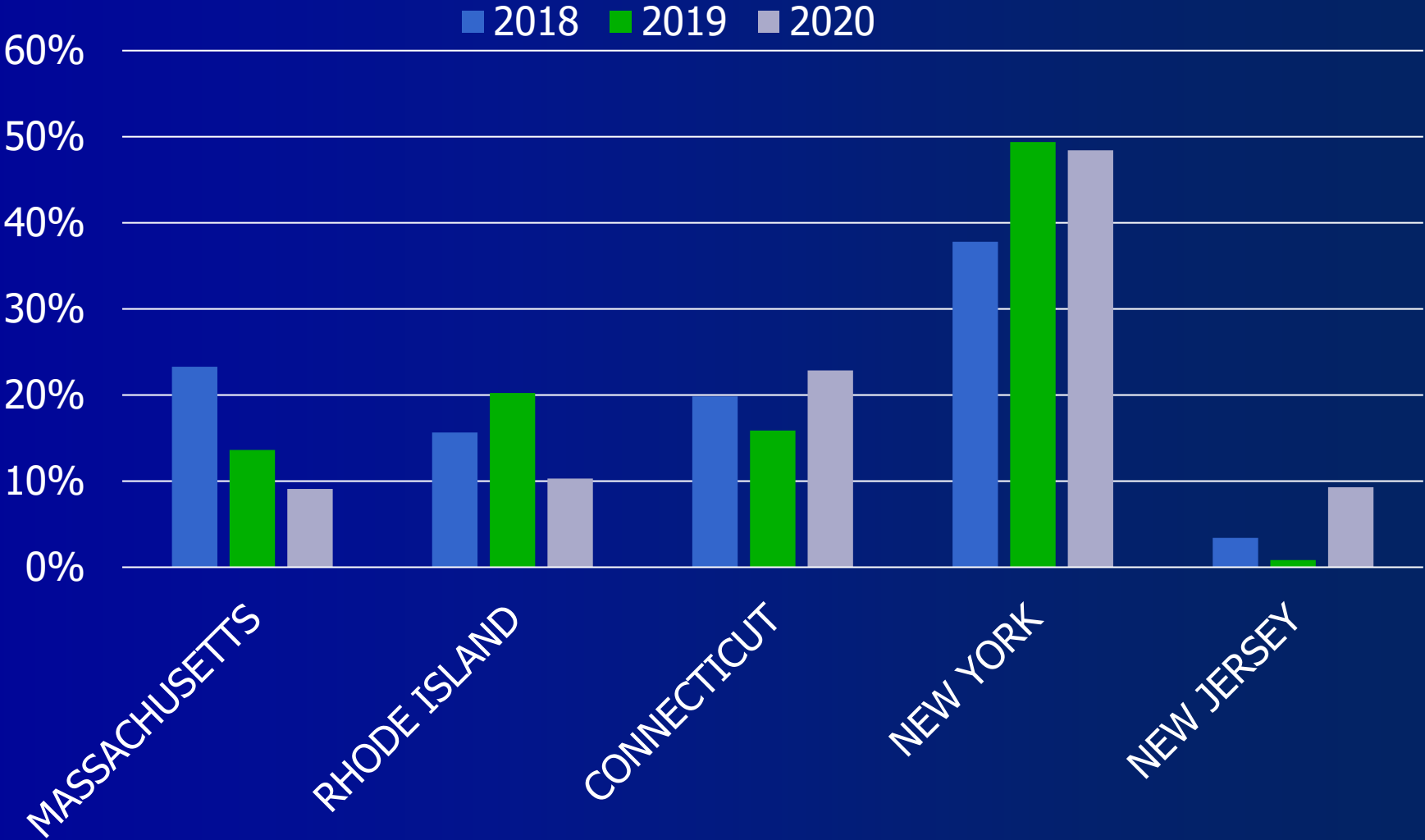
# Recreational Scup Harvest 1981-2020



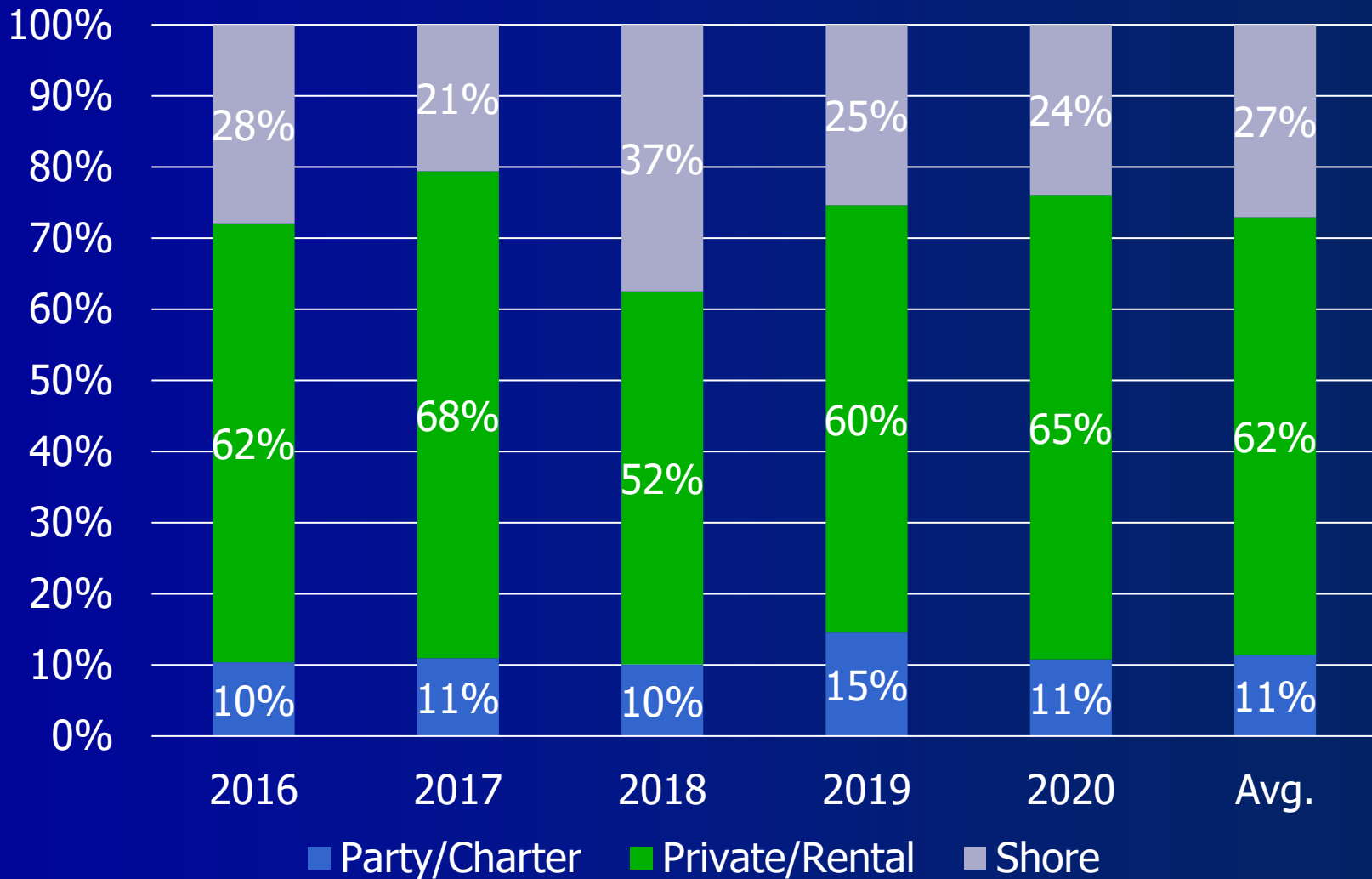
# RHL Performance

Year	RHL	Rec. harvest (Old MRIP)	% over/ under RHL	Rec. harvest (New MRIP)
2015	6.8	4.41	-35%	11.93
2016	6.09	4.26	-30%	10.00
2017	5.50	5.42	-1%	13.53
2018	7.37	5.61	-24%	12.98
2019	7.37	5.40	-27%	14.12
2020	6.51	x	+98%	12.91
2021	6.07	x	x	x
2022	6.08	x	x	x

# Recreational Harvest by State as % of Coast



# Harvest By Mode



# 2021 Projections and Expected 2022 Harvest

Harvest estimate basis	Value (pounds)	Difference from 2022 RHL
Average of final 2019 - 2020 MRIP harvest estimates	13,515,290	122%
2021 state by state harvest projection (Table 7 in rec. memo)	14,543,322	139%
2021 coastwide harvest projection	14,683,231	142%
2019-2021 average (2021 projected state by state)	13,857,785	128%
2019-2021 average (2021 projected coastwide)	<b>13,904,422</b>	129%



# Federal Recreational Measures 2015-2021

Possession  
limit

- 50 scup

Size limit

- 9 inches total length

Season

- January 1-December 31

# 2021 Recreational measures by state

State	Minimum Size (in)	Possession Limit	Open Season
<b>MA (private &amp; shore)</b>	9	30 fish; 150 fish/vessel with 5+ anglers on board	January 1-December 31
<b>MA (party/charter)</b>	9	30 fish	April 13-April 30; July 1-December 31
		50 fish	May 1-June 30
<b>RI (private &amp; shore)</b>	9	30 fish	January 1-December 31
<b>RI shore program (7 sites)</b>	8		
<b>RI (party/charter)</b>	9	30 fish	January 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		50 fish	September 1-October 31
<b>CT (private &amp; shore)</b>	9	30 fish	January 1-December 31
<b>CT shore program (45 sites)</b>	8		
<b>CT (party/charter)</b>	9	30 fish	January 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		50 fish	September 1-October 31
<b>NY (private &amp; shore)</b>	9	30 fish	January 1-December 31
<b>NY (party/charter)</b>	9	30 fish	January 1-August 31; November 1-December 31
		50 fish	September 1- October 31

# 2021 Recreational measures by state, cont'd

State	Minimum Size (inches)	Possession Limit	Open Season
NJ	9	50 fish	January 1- December 31
DE	8	50 fish	January 1-December 31
MD	8	50 fish	January 1-December 31
VA	8	30 fish	January 1-December 31
NC, North of Cape Hatteras (N of 35° 15'N)	8	50 fish	January 1-December 31

# 2019 Council and Board

- Rec. harvest greater than previously thought
- Management response with allocation amendment
- Recommended status quo rec measures for 2020
- Avoid imposing additional restrictions on anglers for management issue
- SSB was 200% of the target in 2018

# 2020 Council and Board

- Status quo recreational measures for scup in 2021
  - No 2020 prelim. harvest estimates to project harvest for the year
  - Changing bag, size, and season in 2021 would have highly uncertain outcomes
  - Availability may have declined in 2020 due to lower than average recruitment 2016-2018, limiting comparisons to 2019 estimates

# 2021 Staff Memo for 2022

- 2019 and 2020 were emphasized as a temporary approach
  - Allocation amendment and rec reform are ongoing. Amendment final action is expected Dec. 2021 with 2023 implementation
  - Unknown impacts of these actions for 2023, neither can be used for 2022
- Repeated rec. overages may pose risk to stock
- NMFS has indicated that SQ measures may not be justified in 2022

# 2021 Staff Memo for 2022

- 2021 management track assessment
  - Scup stock is healthy with SSB estimated to be about 2 times the SSBMSY proxy reference point in 2019
  - Lowest recruitment of time series in 2019
- 2022 expected rec. harvest = 13.90 mil lb, 2022 RHL=6.08 mil lb
  - 56% reduction in harvest to prevent overage
  - 6% of harvest in federal waters (5 yr average)

# 2021 Staff Memo for 2022

## Seasonal Considerations

State	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6
ME	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NH	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
MA	0%	0%	35%	22%	44%	0%
RI	0%	0%	22%	41%	37%	0%
CT	0%	0%	23%	39%	38%	0%
NY	0%	0%	32%	45%	21%	2%
NJ	0%	0%	0%	1%	98%	0%
DE	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
MD	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	87%
VA	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
NC	0%	92%	4%	0%	1%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>1%</b>



# 2021 Staff Memo for 2022

- Bag limit considerations

Bag Limit	Percent coastwide reduction in harvest
50 (status quo)	0%
25	-3%
20	-6%
15	-12%
10	-28%
7	-51%
6	-62%

# 2021 Staff Memo for 2022

- Minimum size considerations
- Staff rec: if the MC deems restrictions appropriate, **coastwide min size of 10 inches TL** and additional restrictions achieved by states through bag, size, and season as needed

Minimum size	Percent coastwide reduction in harvest
10 inches	-33%
11 inches	-56%
12 inches	-71%

# MC Recommendation

- Not comfortable with the 56% reduction in harvest that may be needed to prevent an RHL overage as described in the Council staff memo
  - Socioeconomic repercussions, scup biomass is still nearly double the target level
- Discussed status quo rec measures until outcomes of ongoing Rec. Reform and Allocation Amendment are known
  - Any outcome of the allocation amendment is still likely to result in some need for rec. harvest reductions based on rough estimates

# MC Recommendation

- Ultimately, MC members felt there was a need for some reduction in harvest, particularly due to the recent years of low recruitment
- Recommended **increasing the minimum size by one inch in state and federal waters**
  - Federal and most states move from 9 in TL to 10 in TL, some shore programs and southern states from 8 in TL to 9 in TL
  - Result in approximately 33% reduction in harvest

# AP Comments/Recommendations

- Multiple advisors: prefer minimum size increase over any changes to bag size and season
  - Bag limit reduction definitely not preferred
  - Good to move harvest closer to RHL
  - Reduce harvest of immature fish
- One advisor asked % of scup that are mature at 9 inches vs 10 inches
- One advisor disagreed due to more dead discards, lower min size

# AP Comments/Recommendations

- Frustration with the use of MRIP data in management, unrealistic
  - Long Island Sound the fishing days were reduced due to bad weather and freshwater input. fewer opportunities for anglers, regulations should be liberalized
- MSA doesn't address what we do during a pandemic, catastrophic times should be factored into management. We don't have the ability to do things business as usual.
- We need status quo for stability

# AP Comments/Recommendations

- On the water trends in scup availability
  - earlier in the year scup seemed to be more out to the east, have had to travel further offshore
  - First wave seemed to start earlier and move off earlier, large run of fish
  - Wind patterns can disperse the scup
  - NEAMAP survey has seen consistent recruitment across the survey range

# Decision Point

- Adopt recreational measures
  - Current fed. measures: 50 scup bag limit, 9 inch TL min size, Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 season

## MC Recommendation:

- Recommended **increasing the minimum size by one inch in state and federal waters**
  - Federal and most states move from 9 in TL to 10 in TL, some shore programs and southern states from 8 in TL to 9 in TL
  - Result in approximately 33% reduction in harvest



# Extra Slides

---

**Table 6. Preliminary scup Winter I landings, January 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021**

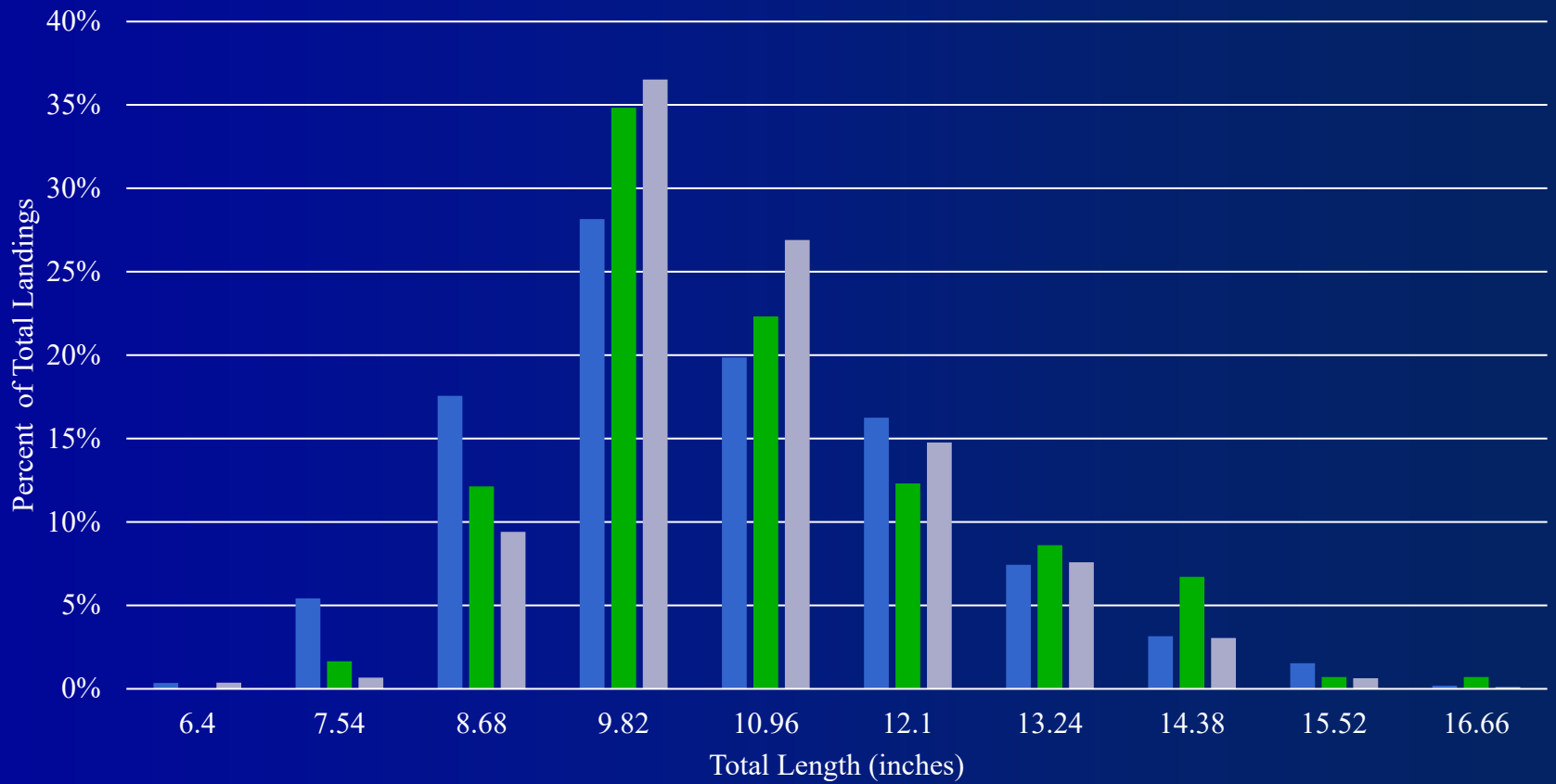
State	Landings (pounds)	Landings from Winter I sold in Summer (pounds)	Total landings (pounds)
RI	1,236,412		1,236,412
NC	45,832		45,832
CT	185,943		185,943
MD	58,663		58,663
MA	179,685		179,685
VA	261,361		261,361
NY	1,999,942	30,431	2,030,373
NJ	1,851,448		1,851,448
Total			5,849,717

Source: commercial fisheries dealer reports queried on November 3, 2021.

**Table 7. Preliminary scup Summer landings, May 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021**

State	Landings (pounds)
RI	2,316,100
NC	1,282
CT	446,219
MD	1
MA	532,530
VA	7,998
NY	1,294,740
NJ	125,019
Total	4,723,889

Source: commercial fisheries dealer reports queried on November 3, 2021.



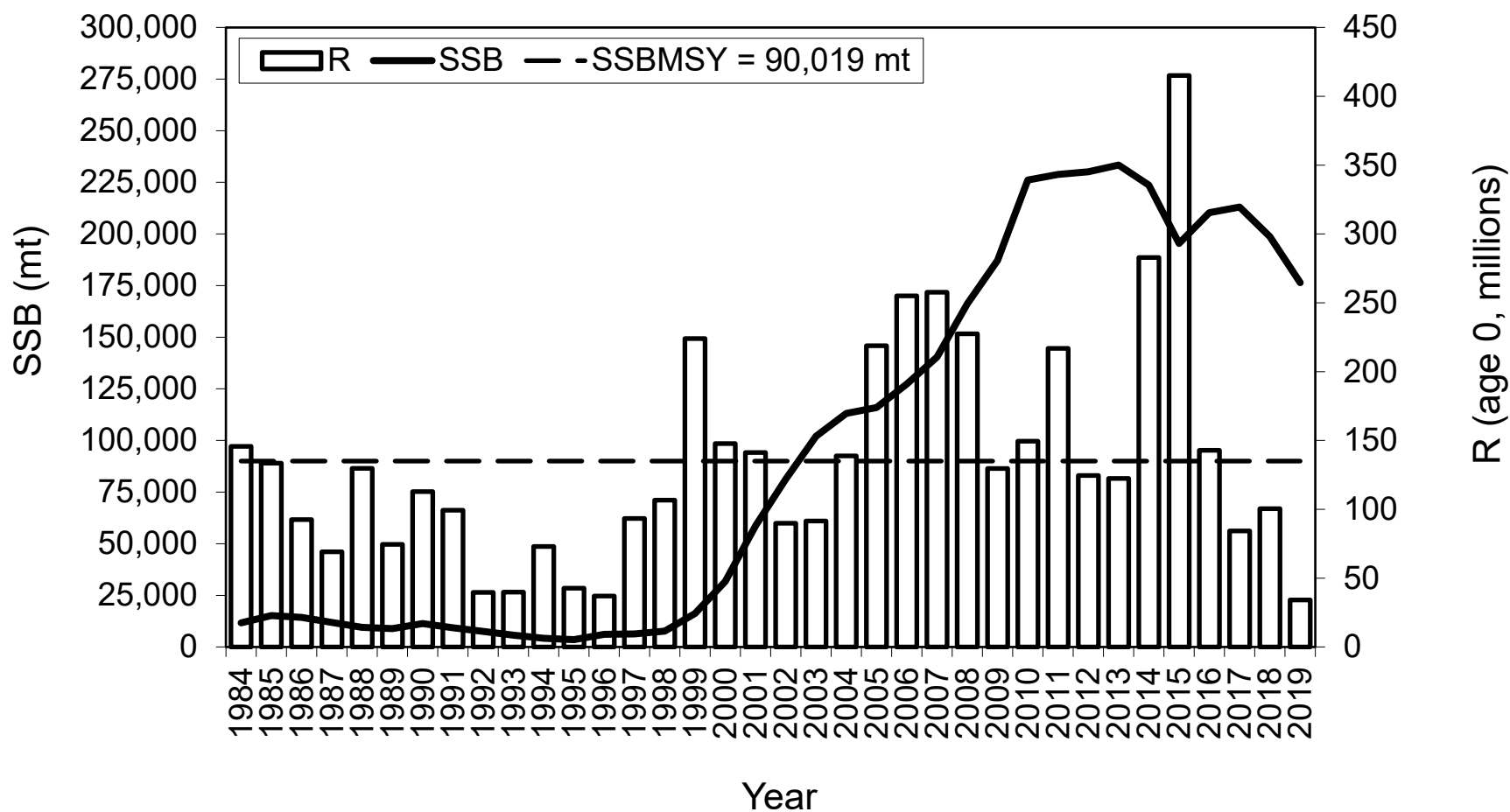
■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020

# 2022-2023 Catch and Landings Limits

Mgmt measure	2021		2022 (Varying ABCs)		2023 (Varying ABCs)		Basis
	mil lb	mt	mil lb	mt	mil lb	mt	
OFL	35.30	16,012	32.56	14,770	30.09	13,648	Assessment projections
ABC	34.81	15,791	32.11	14,566	29.67	13,460	Assessment projections & risk policy
ABC discards	8.24	3,740	5.65	2,564	6.39	2,900	Assessment projections
Com. ACL	27.15	12,317	25.05	11,361	23.15	10,499	78% of ABC (per FMP)
Com. ACT	27.15	12,317	25.05	11,361	23.15	10,499	Set equal to commercial ACL (MC recommendation)
Projected com. discards	6.65	3,018	4.67	2,117	5.28	2,394	82.6% of ABC discards (avg. % of dead discards from commercial fishery, 2017-2019)
Com. quota	20.50	9,299	<b>20.38</b>	<b>9,245</b>	<b>17.87</b>	<b>8,105</b>	Commercial ACT minus discards
Rec. ACL	7.66	3,474	7.06	3,205	6.53	2,961	22% of ABC (per FMP)
Rec. ACT	7.66	3,474	7.06	3,205	6.53	2,961	Set equal to recreational ACL (MC recommendation)
Projected rec. discards	1.59	722	0.99	447	1.12	506	17.4% of the ABC discards (avg. % of dead discards from rec. fishery, 2017-2019)
RHL	6.07	2,752	<b>6.08</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>5.41</b>	<b>2,455</b>	Recreational ACT minus discards

# SSB and Recruitment

Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment (R)



# Commercial Quota and Landings

Year	Quota (mil lb)	Landings (mil lb)	% of quota landed
2015	21.23	17.03	80%
2016	20.47	15.76	77%
2017	18.38	15.44	84%
2018	23.98	13.37	55%
2019	23.98	13.78	57%
2020	22.23	13.58	61%
2021	20.50		

# % Reduction Calculation

- ~33% achieved through coastwide min size increase to 10 inches TL
- 34% additional reduction needed by states
- $(0.34 + 0.33) - (0.34 \times 0.33) = 0.56$

# Annual PSEs

## Your Query Parameters:

**Query:** MRIP CATCH TIME SERIES  
**Year:** 2017 - 2021  
**Wave:** ANNUAL  
**Species:** SCUP  
**Geographic Area:** NORTH AND MID-ATLANTIC  
**Fishing Mode:** ALL MODES COMBINED  
**Fishing Area:** ALL AREAS COMBINED  
**Type of Catch:** HARVEST (TYPE A + B1)  
**Information:** WEIGHT OF FISH (POUNDS)

\*\* Due to COVID-related disruptions to the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey and subsequent gaps in catch records, 2020 Columns labeled 'Contribution of Imputed Data to {ESTIMATE} rate' represent the weighted percentage of catch rate information derived from imputed data.

Note: This does \*not\* represent the percent difference between the estimate with and without imputed data incorporated. If you are interested in the percent difference, please contact the data manager.

[Return to Query Page](#)

Estimate Status	Year	Common Name	Harvest (A+B1) Total Weight (lb)	PSE	Landings (no.) without Size Information	** Contribution of Imputed Data to Total Harvest Rate
FINAL	2017	SCUP	13,526,072	13.7	0	0%
FINAL	2018	SCUP	12,976,999	11	0	0%
FINAL	2019	SCUP	14,113,586	8.8	0	0%
FINAL	2020	SCUP	12,912,462	8.8	0	25%
PRELIMINARY	2021	SCUP	11,805,173	14.4	0	2%



# PSEs by wave

## Your Query Parameters:

**Query:** MRIP CATCH TIME SERIES  
**Year:** 2019 - 2021  
**Wave:** BY WAVE  
**Species:** SCUP  
**Geographic Area:** NORTH AND MID-ATLANTIC  
**Fishing Mode:** ALL MODES COMBINED  
**Fishing Area:** ALL AREAS COMBINED  
**Type of Catch:** HARVEST (TYPE A + B1)  
**Information:** WEIGHT OF FISH (POUNDS)

\*\* Due to COVID-related disruptions to the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey and subsequent gaps in catch records, 2020 catch estimates are based in part on imputed data. Columns labeled 'Contribution of Imputed Data to {ESTIMATE} rate' represent the weighted percentage of catch rate information that can be attributed to imputed data.

Note: This does \*not\* represent the percent difference between the estimate with and without imputed data incorporated. If no such column appears in your query results, it means that no imputed data was used for that estimate.

[Return to Query Page](#)

Estimate Status	Year	Wave	Common Name	Harvest (A+B1) Total Weight (lb)	PSE	Landings (no.) without Size Information	** Contribution of Imputed Data to Total Harvest Rate
FINAL	2019	MAY/JUNE	SCUP	4,037,381	18.2	0	0%
FINAL	2019	JULY/AUGUST	SCUP	5,611,147	12.6	0	0%
FINAL	2019	SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER	SCUP	4,297,852	16.3	0	0%
FINAL	2019	NOVEMBER/DECEMBER	SCUP	167,206	47.7	0	0%
FINAL	2020	MAY/JUNE	SCUP	2,623,491	17.7	0	51%
FINAL	2020	JULY/AUGUST	SCUP	6,452,987	12.3	0	19%
FINAL	2020	SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER	SCUP	3,709,975	17.6	0	15%
FINAL	2020	NOVEMBER/DECEMBER	SCUP	126,009	23.1	0	51%
PRELIMINARY	2021	MARCH/APRIL	SCUP	1,568,136	60.8	0	0%
PRELIMINARY	2021	MAY/JUNE	SCUP	5,807,750	21.6	0	4%
PRELIMINARY	2021	JULY/AUGUST	SCUP	4,429,287	14.3	0	0%

# Size at maturity using 2018-2019 survey data

Survey data are in FL and size regulations are in TL so a conversion equation and rounding to the nearest inch is shown here.

<b>FL (inches)</b>	<b>TL (inches, rounded)</b>	<b>% Mature</b>
7	<b>8 (SQ DE through VA and some special shore programs)</b>	<b>57%</b>
8	<b>9 (SQ federal waters and NJ through MA)</b>	<b>84%</b>
9	<b>10</b>	<b>98%</b>

# Rec. Accountability Measures

- 1. If the stock is overfished, under a rebuilding plan, or stock status is unknown:** Exact overage amount must be paid back as soon as possible.
- 2. If biomass is above the threshold, but below the target, and the stock is not under a rebuilding plan:**
  - **If only the ACL exceeded:** Adjust bag/size/season, taking into account performance of the measures and conditions that precipitated the overage.
  - **If the ABC is also exceeded:** Single year deduction will be made as a payback, scaled based on biomass, where  $\text{payback} = (\text{overage amount}) * (B_{msy} - B) / \frac{1}{2} B_{msy}$ .
- 3. If biomass is above the target:** Adjustments to bag/size/season are considered, taking into account the performance of the measures and conditions that precipitated the overage.

State	2019-2020 avg. w1-4 harvest as % of annual	2021 preliminary w1-4 harvest	2019-2020 avg. annual harvest	2021 projected annual harvest	% of projected 2021 total harvest
ME	0%	0	0	0	0%
NH	0%	0	0	0	0%
MA	72%	1,930,245*	1,549,497	2,687,224	18%
RI	65%	1,645,762	2,093,428	2,534,176	17%
CT	75%	1,541,105	2,597,253	2,045,057	14%
NY	70%	5,045,677	6,612,177	7,257,791	50%
NJ	51%	7,399	659,888	14,536	0%
DE	0%	0	316	316	0%
MD	0%	0	511	511	0%
VA	0%	512	229	512	0%
NC	85%	2,709	1,992	3,199	0%
<b>Total state by state proj.</b>	69%	10,173,409	13,515,290	14,543,322	100%
<b>Coastwide</b>				14,683,231	

# Harvest Control Rule FW/Addendum

- **Policy Board/Council review and approve final range of options and draft addendum for public comment (Feb 2022)**
- Public hearings (March - April 2022)
- Continued development of models to inform measure setting (winter - spring 2022)
- Completion of NEFSC socioeconomic survey (spring 2022)
- FMAT/PDT and APs meet to consider recommendations for final action (May 2022)
- **Policy Board/Council take final action on FW/addendum (June 2022)**
- Development of NEPA document for framework and federal rulemaking (June 2022 – late 2022)
- NEFSC socioeconomic survey data used to update models used to inform measure setting (summer/fall 2022)
- **MC and AP meetings to provide input on 2023 measures (fall 2022)**
- **Board, Council set 2023 recreational management measures based on HCR option selected (Dec 2022)**

# Recreational Harvest Control Rule FW/Addendum

- **Goal:** establish a process for setting rec. bag/size/season limits for SF, S, BSB, and BF such that measures
  - Aim to prevent overfishing,
  - Are reflective of stock status,
  - Appropriately account for uncertainty in the rec. data,
  - Take into consideration angler preferences, and
  - Provide an appropriate level of stability and predictability in changes from year to year.
- **Will not change the MSA requirements for ACLs and prevention of overfishing.**

# 2019 ACL Evaluation

## FY2019 scup Annual Catch Limit And Commercial Quota Accounting

	Pounds	Metric tons	Percent of ACL (12,891mt)
scup commercial landings	11,650,166	5,284	41.0%
scup state-permitted only vessel landings	2,133,914	968	7.5%
scup estimated dead discards	5,241,897	2,378	18.4%
<b>scup commercial catch</b>	<b>19,025,977</b>	<b>8,630</b>	<b>66.9%</b>

Source: commercial fisheries dealer accessed on November 10, 2020; and observer reports accessed on July 25, 2020.

	Pounds	Metric tons	Percent of Commercial quota (10,877 mt)
scup commercial landings (including commercial Research Set-Aside landings)	13,784,080	6,252	
scup commercial Research Set-Aside landings	0	0	
scup commercial landings (excluding commercial Research Set-Aside landings)	13,784,080	6,252	57.5%

Source: commercial fisheries dealer reports database and Research Set-Aside landings database, accessed on November 10, 2020.

	Pounds	Metric tons	Percent of RACL (3,633 mt)
scup recreational landings	5,404,647	2,452	67.5%
scup recreational dead discards	1,234,589	560	15.4%
<b>scup recreational catch</b>	<b>6,639,235</b>	<b>3,012</b>	<b>82.9%</b>

Source: MRIP precalibrated data, sent by Ryan Kitts-Jensen on November 17, 2020; Mark Terceiro, personal communication, November 12, 2020.

# Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board and Council Meeting Backup Slides



December 14, 2021



# Scup Recreational Measure Setting Process Timeline



- **December:** Board/Council decide whether to specify coastwide measures to achieve the coastwide RHL or whether to let states develop measures, which in combination are expected to achieve the coastwide RHL
- **January:** TC meets to recommend guidelines for the states to use in developing regional proposals
- **January-February:** States collaborate to develop regional proposals.
- **January Commission Meeting:** Board approves a methodology for the states to use in developing regional proposals
- **February:** TC reviews proposals.
- **February/March SFSBSB Board Meeting:** Board reviews state proposals, TC recommendations, and establishes final measures.

# Scup Recreational Landings



## Scup Rec Landings by State and Year Expressed as a % of Coastwide Total

State	2018	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
MASSACHUSETTS	23.3%	13.6%	9.1%	30.2%	18.7%
RHODE ISLAND	15.6%	20.2%	10.3%	13.9%	15.2%
CONNECTICUT	19.8%	15.9%	22.9%	13.1%	18.0%
NEW YORK	37.8%	49.4%	48.4%	42.7%	44.7%
NEW JERSEY	3.4%	0.8%	9.3%	0.1%	3.4%
DELAWARE	0.003%	0.000%	0.002%	0.000%	0.001%
MARYLAND	0.003%	0.003%	0.004%	0.000%	0.003%
VIRGINIA	0.000%	0.002%	0.000%	0.004%	0.001%
NORTH CAROLINA	0.003%	0.019%	0.010%	0.023%	0.014%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Addendum XXXII: Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Measure Setting Process Timeline



- **December:** Board/Council decide whether to specify coastwide measures to achieve the coastwide RHL or conservation equivalent management measures.
- **January:** TC meets to recommend guidelines for the states to use in developing regional proposals
- **January-February:** States collaborate to develop regional proposals.
- **January Commission Meeting:** Board approves a methodology for the states to use in developing regional proposals
- **February:** TC reviews proposals.
- **February/March SFSBSB Board Meeting:** Board reviews state proposals, TC recommendations, and establishes final measures.
- **March:** Commission sends a letter to the Regional Administrator certifying the Board-approved measures, in combination, will achieve but not exceed the RHL.