



Northeast Fisheries
Science Center

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Annual Update Process

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May 20, 2014



MAFMC and ASMFC request annual updates of assessment data (fishery and survey catches) and possibly population model results to inform the FMP annual catch and fishery regulations specification process

MAFMC/ASMFC: Summer flounder/Scup/Black sea bass FMP, bluefish FMP, spiny dogfish FMP

MAFMC only: SC/OQ FMP, Mack/Squid/Butter FMP, Tilefish FMP, Monkfish FMP

For SF/SC/BSB, timing is generally late spring to early summer to provide information for late summer SSC/TC and Council/Board meetings



Recent 'annual updates' have ranged from:

update of fishery and survey catch data only (e.g., black seas bass in 2013), to 'rumble strip' analysis (update of key indices and quantitative evaluation of degree of changes; e.g. scup in 2013), to update of the assessment model and associated projections of OFL (e.g., summer flounder in 2012; spiny dogfish and bluefish in 2013)

Black sea bass currently in 'research' assessment mode - constant catch policy

Scup 'rumble strip' not considered fully satisfactory - approach under further development by SSC



Typical Timing: Summer flounder

Early March: MAFMC/ASMFC inform NEFSC and state agencies of annual 'information needs'

Early May: Fishery and survey catches and ages available to analysts

Early June: Data or 'rumble strip' updates available

**Late June/early July: Model updates available
Static model parameterization, based on previous benchmark assessment**



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Typical Timing: Summer flounder

Late July/Early August:

Updates provided to SSC and TC

Presentation by Council staff

**Lead assessment scientists attend SSC and
TC meetings to answer questions**



Example 2014 data update: Summer flounder

Basis: 2013 SAW 57 benchmark assessment with data through 2012

Evaluation of stock status: not overfished (82% of BMSY proxy), not overfishing (92% of FMSY proxy)

Projection of Jan 1 2013 stock sizes at FMSY proxy to calculate OFLs for 2014-2015

Stock assessment data and analyses and projections provided to the MAFMC SSC and the ASMFC Technical Committee for specification of ABCs given risk policy



Example 2014 data update: Summer flounder

**For 2014: Given published 2014-2015 ABCs, update fishery
and survey data**

Multiple data components:

Commercial trawl fishery landings and discards

Scallop dredge fishery landings and discards

Recreational rod and reel fishery landings and discards

Comm. landings ~50%; Comm. discards ~10%

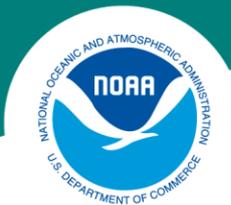
Rec. landings ~35%; Rec. discards ~5%

NEFSC seasonal trawl surveys

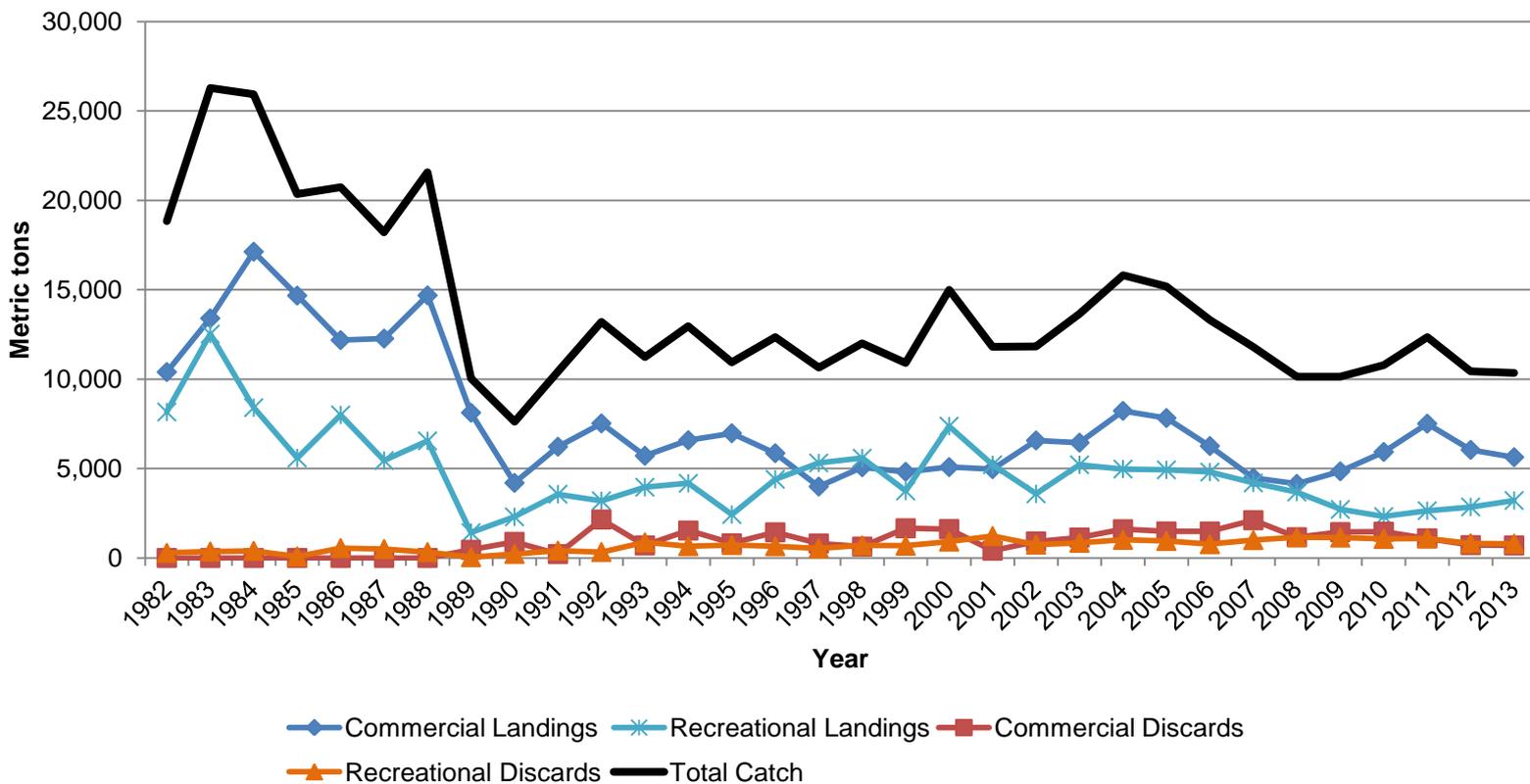
NEFSC larval surveys

State agency trawl surveys

Academic institution trawl surveys

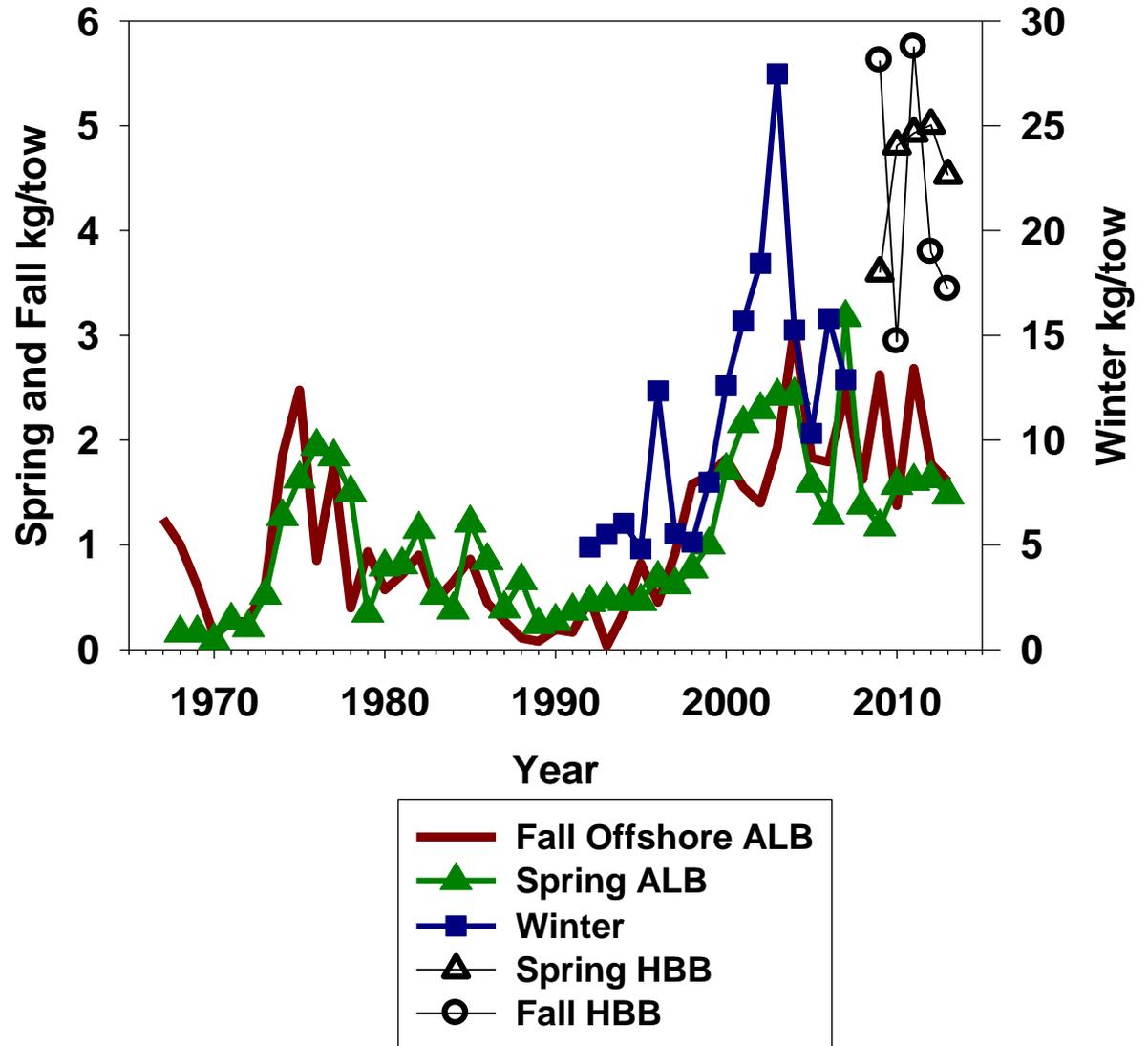


Summer flounder Fishery Catch: 1982-2013



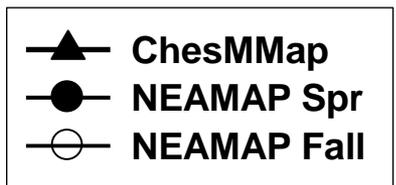
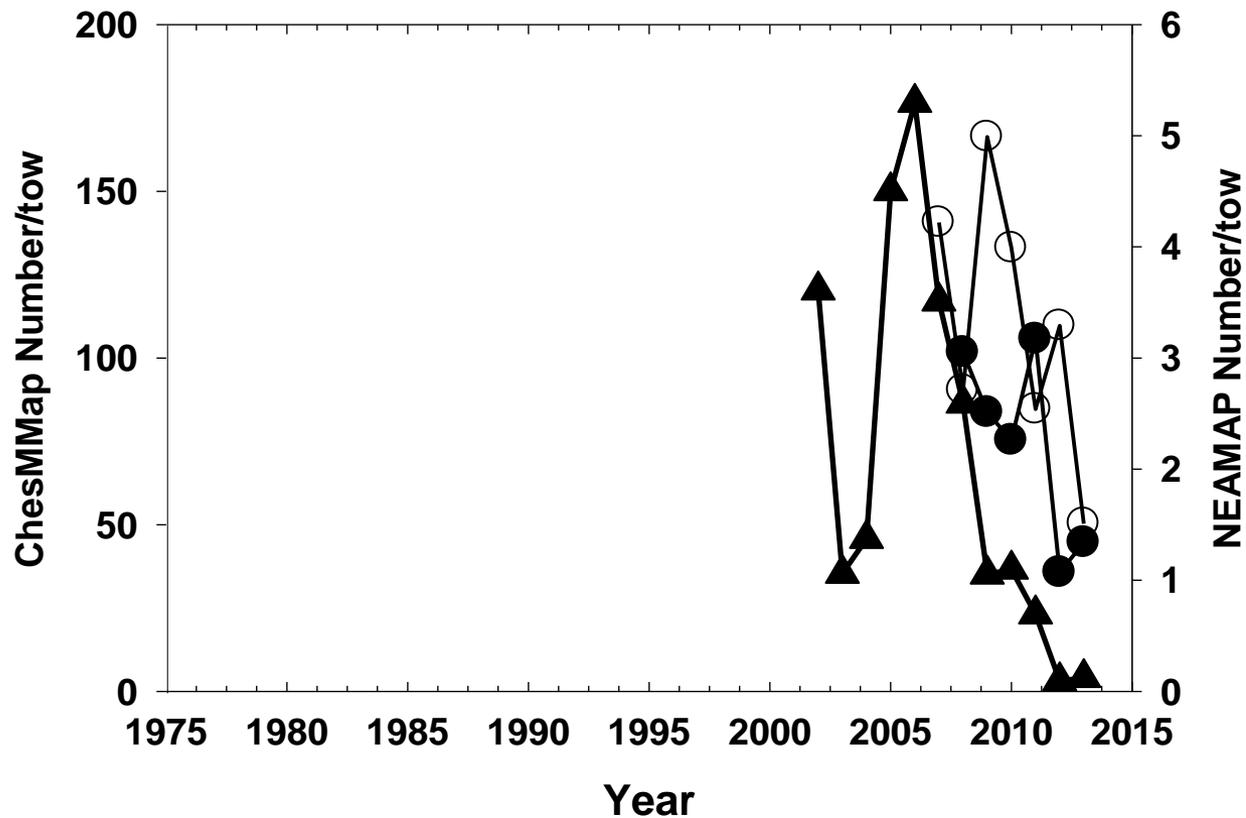


NEFSC Trawl Surveys





ChesMMap and NEAMAP Trawl Surveys





Example 2014 data update: Summer flounder

**Fishery and Survey catch trends will be reviewed by MAFMC
SSC and ASMFC TC in July 2014**

MAFMC and ASMFC Board meet in August 2014

**Review Panels will determine if change in existing 2015 ABC is
required. If so:**

Revise 2015 ABC

Request model update in early 2015

Request new benchmark assessment



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Strengths:

Reduces requirements for annual model updates, by staying 'on top' of the data
Minimizes unexpected stock status and ABC determinations

Challenges:

Ensuring that 'information requirements' are clearly understood and communicated at all levels
Ensuring that the fishery and survey catch and age data are ready for use by early May

Solutions:

More formal structure for the 'Update Process'