Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan

Commercial and Recreational Fishery Allocation

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

MFC Meeting | Michael S. Loeffler and Anne L. Markwith | February 2021

Presentation Overview

- FMP Steps
- Motion
- Background
- Southern Flounder Commercial and Recreational Allocations
- Allocation Considerations

Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 3 Next Steps

- Division holds public scoping period
- Marine Fisheries Commission approve goal and objectives of FMP
- Division draft FMP
- Division hold workshops to further develop draft FMP with plan advisory committee
- **Division update draft plan for Marine Fisheries Commission presentation**
- Marine Fisheries Commission vote to send draft FMP for public and advisory committee review
- Commission advisory committees meet to review draft FMP and receive public comment
- Marine Fisheries Commission select preferred management options
- Department of Environmental Quality secretary and legislature review draft FMP
- Marine Fisheries Commission vote on final adoption of FMP
- Division and Marine Fisheries Commission implement management strategies

Next Step

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Next Step

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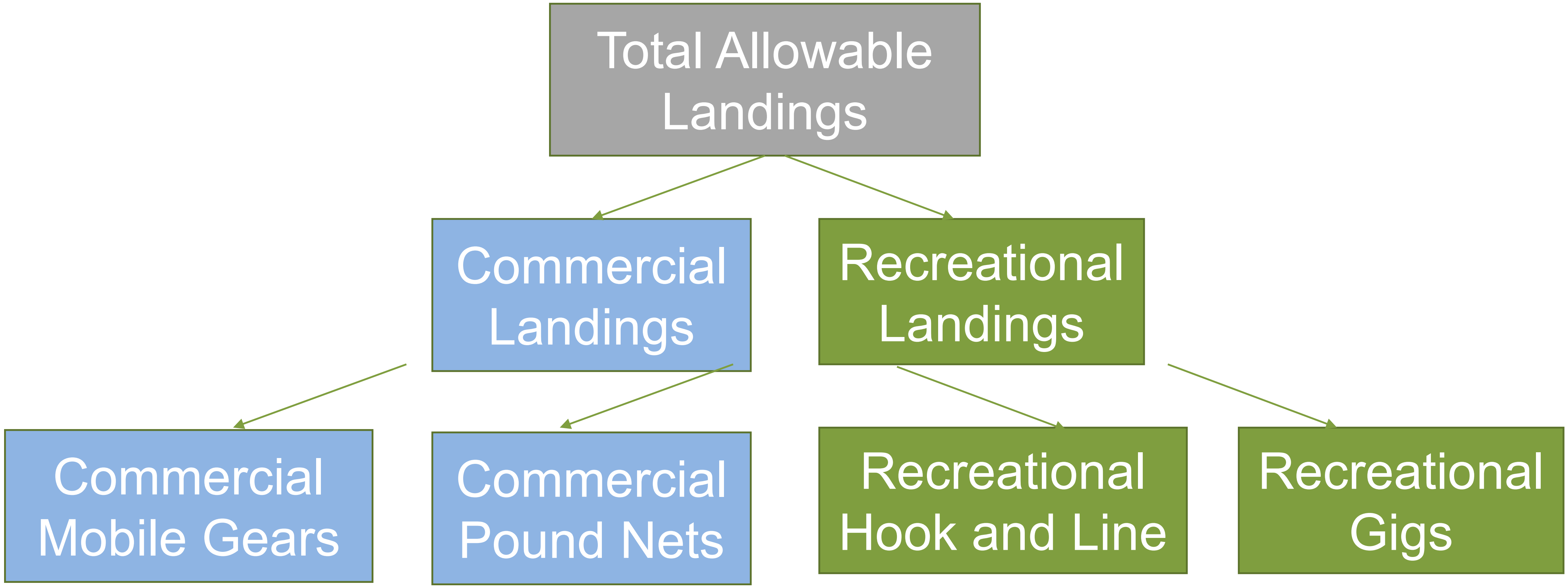
November 2020 MFC Meeting

Motion to consider commercial/recreational allocations in the Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 3 of 70/30, 65/35, 60/30 with 10% allotment for gigging, 60/40, and 50/50.

What is allocation?



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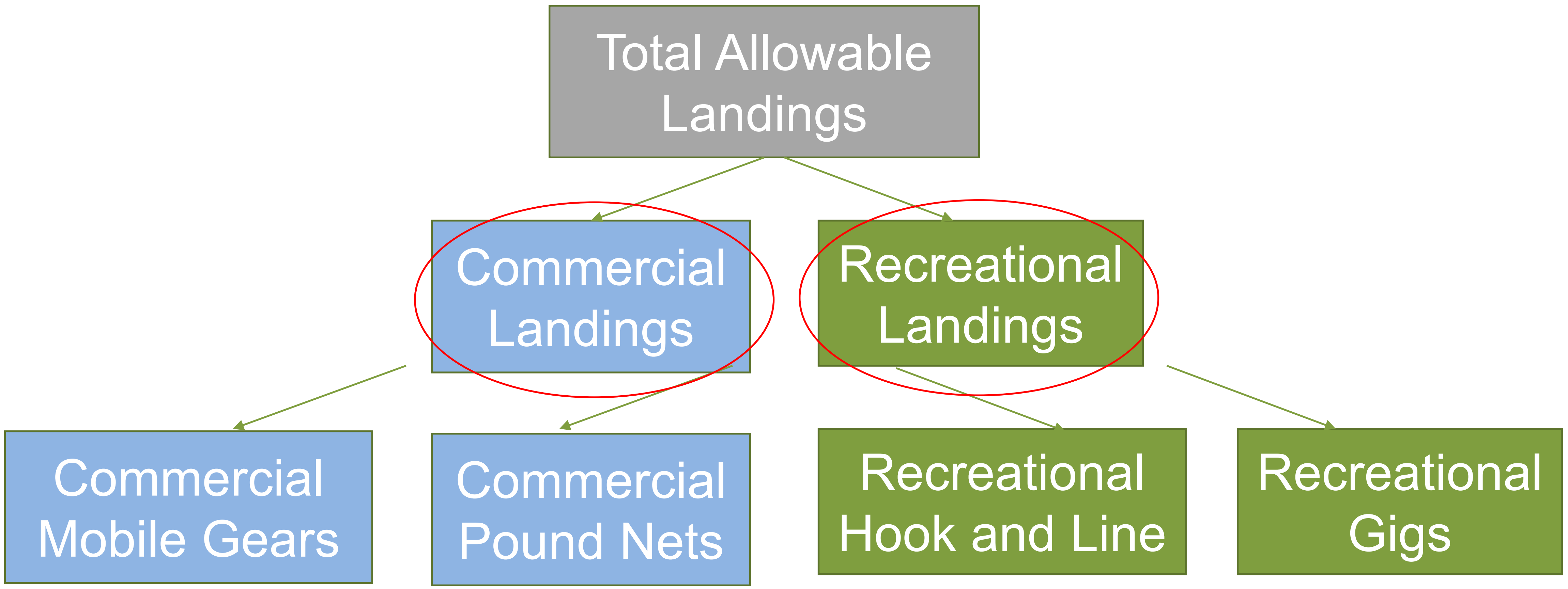


Allocation Background

- Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Councils, ASMFC
  - Development of quota
  - Historical harvest

- MFC/WRC ASMA Striped Bass
  - Development of quota
  - Historical harvest (62.5/37.5)
  - Updated harvest after stock recovered (50/50)

Allocation Background

- Factors to consider
  - Historical landings
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Behavior
- Revisions to allocations can occur
  - Change in quota
  - Stock status changes
  - Changes among user groups

Southern Flounder Commercial and Recreational Allocation

Options

1) 73/27 (Status quo or historical harvest based on 2017)
2) 70/30
3) 65/35
4) 60/30 with 10% allotment for gigging
5) 60/40
6) 50/50

Commercial and Recreational Allocation

	Total Allowable Landings (TAL) in Pounds					
		Commercial		Recreational		
	% Allocation (Comm./Rec.)	TAL	% Reduction	TAL	% Reduction	Change in TAL
Historical Harvest	73/27	390,493	72%	141,859	72%	0
MFC Requested Options	70/30	372,646	73%	159,706	68%	+/- 17,847
	65/35	346,029	75%	186,323	63%	+/- 44,464
	60/30/10*	358,459	74%	173,893	66%	+/- 32,034
	60/40	319,411	77%	212,941	58%	+/- 71,082
	50/50	266,176	81%	266,176	47%	+/- 124,317

* This denotes a 10% allocation for gigs that was further divided out to each sector based on historically based allocation landings (73/27).

Economic Impacts Associated with Commercial Southern Flounder Fishing in North Carolina

Year	Pounds Landed	Ex-vessel Value	Participants	Estimated Sales Impact	Estimated Income Impacts	Estimated Employment Impact	Estimated Value Added Impact
2008	2,602,390	$ 5,650,295	1,235	$ 25,473,137	$ 10,483,954	1,544	$ 19,654,727
2009	2,396,240	$ 4,609,932	1,299	$ 20,547,716	$ 8,550,927	1,545	$ 16,161,407
2010	1,689,557	$ 3,695,889	1,182	$ 15,743,327	$ 6,531,811	1,380	$ 12,223,365
2011	1,247,450	$ 2,753,128	1,039	$ 11,771,643	$ 4,884,958	1,186	$ 9,140,235
2012	1,646,137	$ 4,451,482	1,202	$ 18,795,084	$ 7,827,308	1,440	$ 14,613,360
2013	2,186,391	$ 5,673,190	1,286	$ 23,172,478	$ 9,654,261	1,591	$ 17,977,144
2014	1,673,511	$ 4,839,672	1,222	$ 19,547,618	$ 8,134,986	1,482	$ 15,109,459
2015	1,202,885	$ 3,823,567	1,029	$ 15,852,258	$ 6,621,987	1,235	$ 12,379,619
2016	897,765	$ 3,610,533	945	$ 10,724,064	$ 6,301,409	1,129	$ 11,716,727
2017	1,394,617	$ 5,655,751	1,048	$ 20,489,984	$ 9,494,322	1,335	$ 17,676,161
Average	1,693,694	$ 4,476,342	1,149	$ 18,211,731	$ 7,848,592	1,387	$ 14,665,220

Ex-vessel Value of the Commercial Southern Flounder Fishery by Year and Gear

	Gear				
Year	**Gigs**	**Gill Net**	**Other**	**Pound Net**	**Total**
2008	$ 173,360.40	$ 3,798,463.23	$ 132,612.99	$ 1,545,858.19	$ 5,650,294.81
2009	$ 159,031.29	$ 3,160,714.37	$ 116,727.33	$ 1,173,458.93	$ 4,609,931.91
2010	$ 267,481.76	$ 2,067,067.19	$ 66,800.66	$ 1,294,539.05	$ 3,695,888.65
2011	$ 256,846.25	$ 1,397,565.13	$ 34,239.01	$ 1,064,477.33	$ 2,753,127.72
2012	$ 388,313.40	$ 2,343,199.01	$ 126,800.50	$ 1,593,169.23	$ 4,451,482.14
2013	$ 320,379.72	$ 2,742,686.75	$ 114,816.10	$ 2,495,307.19	$ 5,673,189.76
2014	$ 414,205.88	$ 1,884,626.34	$ 53,262.79	$ 2,487,576.97	$ 4,839,671.98
2015	$ 417,188.88	$ 1,235,835.53	$ 38,535.39	$ 2,132,006.71	$ 3,823,566.52
2016	$ 506,533.39	$ 1,442,921.16	$ 42,422.91	$ 1,618,655.33	$ 3,610,532.80
2017	$ 547,308.32	$ 2,220,594.81	$ 32,975.26	$ 2,854,872.71	$ 5,655,751.10
Total	**$ 3,450,649.29**	**$ 22,293,673.52**	**$ 759,192.93**	**$ 18,259,921.64**	**$ 44,763,437.39**

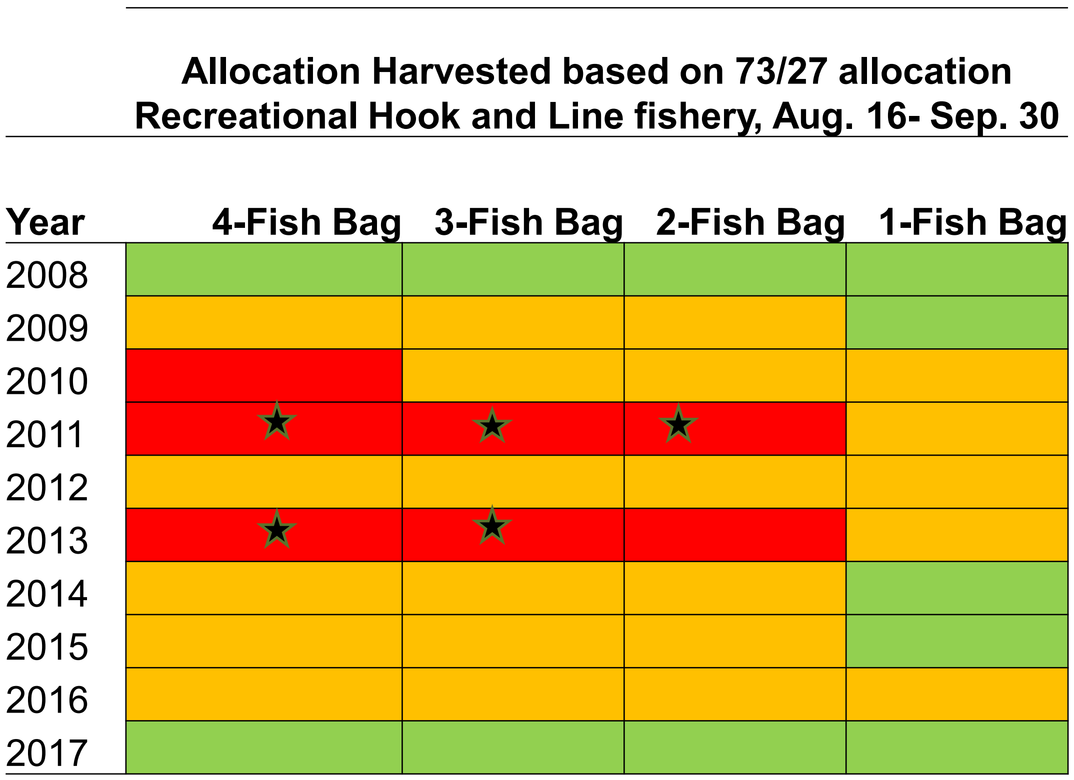
Economic Impacts Associated with Recreational Southern Flounder Fishing in North Carolina

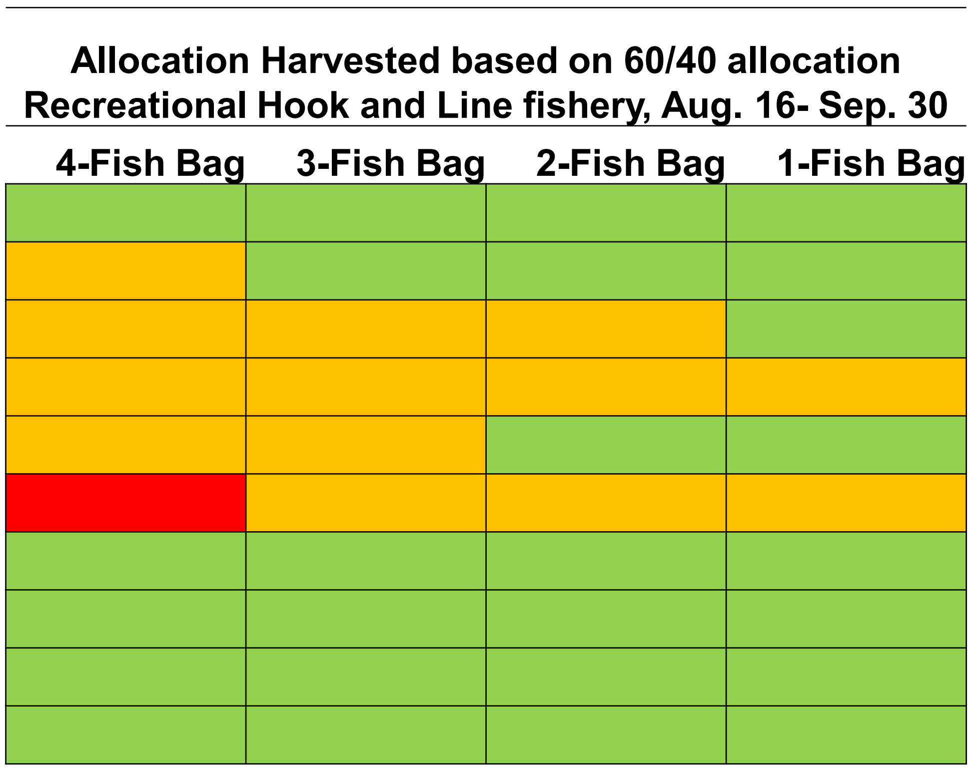
Year	Estimated Total Flounder Trips	Trip Expenditures	Estimated Sales Impact	Estimated Income Impact	Estimated Employment Impact	Estimated Value-Added Impact
2008	2,701,930	$ 403,612,123	$ 376,417,686	$ 135,957,566	3,292	$ 205,722,681
2009	1,482,500	$ 215,695,683	$ 200,699,372	$ 72,448,738	1,770	$ 109,870,023
2010	1,877,504	$ 280,546,465	$ 262,481,379	$ 95,039,325	2,312	$ 143,569,612
2011	1,796,204	$ 283,056,149	$ 250,861,698	$ 90,609,485	2,212	$ 137,255,698
2012	1,744,458	$ 277,772,559	$ 244,156,371	$ 88,393,860	2,159	$ 133,589,470
2013	1,707,904	$ 273,226,860	$ 238,202,597	$ 86,449,024	2,105	$ 130,332,132
2014	1,639,593	$ 269,763,604	$ 229,373,566	$ 83,466,334	2,027	$ 125,444,042
2015	1,708,499	$ 279,669,886	$ 228,724,518	$ 83,228,735	2,037	$ 125,250,995
2016	1,714,200	$ 279,905,674	$ 232,116,853	$ 84,789,195	2,079	$ 127,093,283
2017	1,250,216	$ 210,976,279	$ 171,358,430	$ 62,652,077	1,532	$ 93,793,106
Average	1,762,301	$ 77,422,528	$ 243,439,247	$ 88,303,434	2,153	$ 133,192,104

What impact would shifting the allocation have?

- Not based on biological need or rebuilding schedule
- Does not change the total amount of fish that can be removed annually
- Commercial fishery
  - Potentially shorter harvest window
- Recreational fishery
  - Buffer against overages
  - Season may not be extended
  - Bag limit concerns

What impact would shifting the allocation have? Recreational Hook and Line Fishery





No change next year

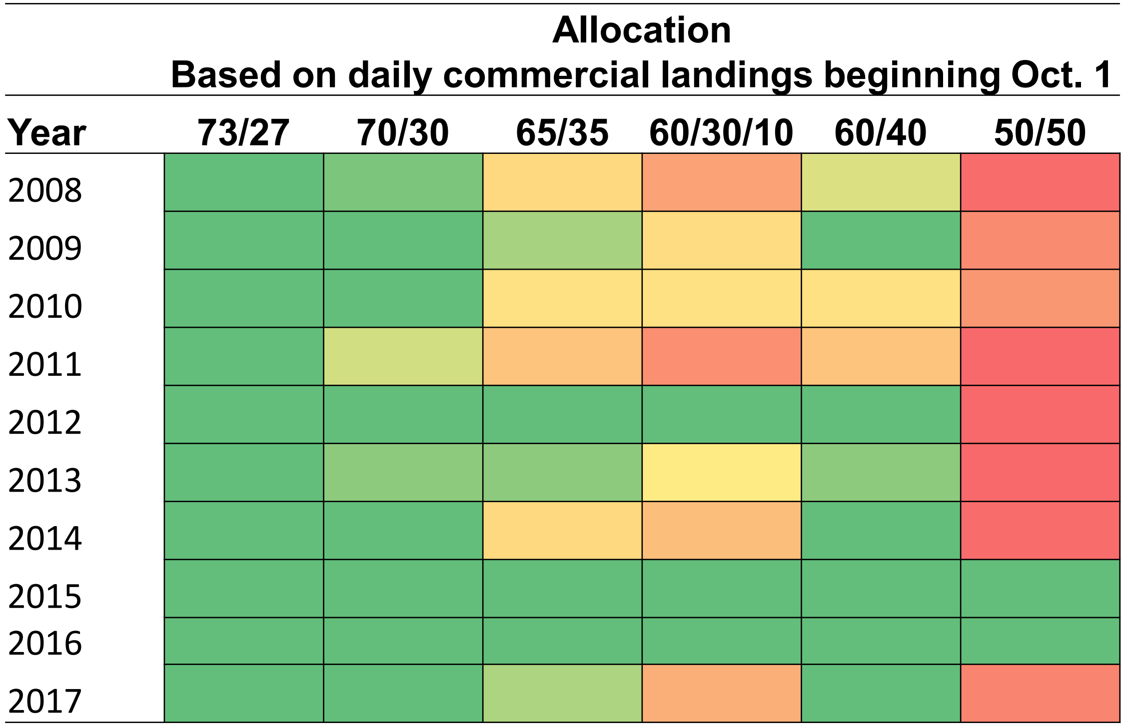
Reduction in TAL next year

No season next year

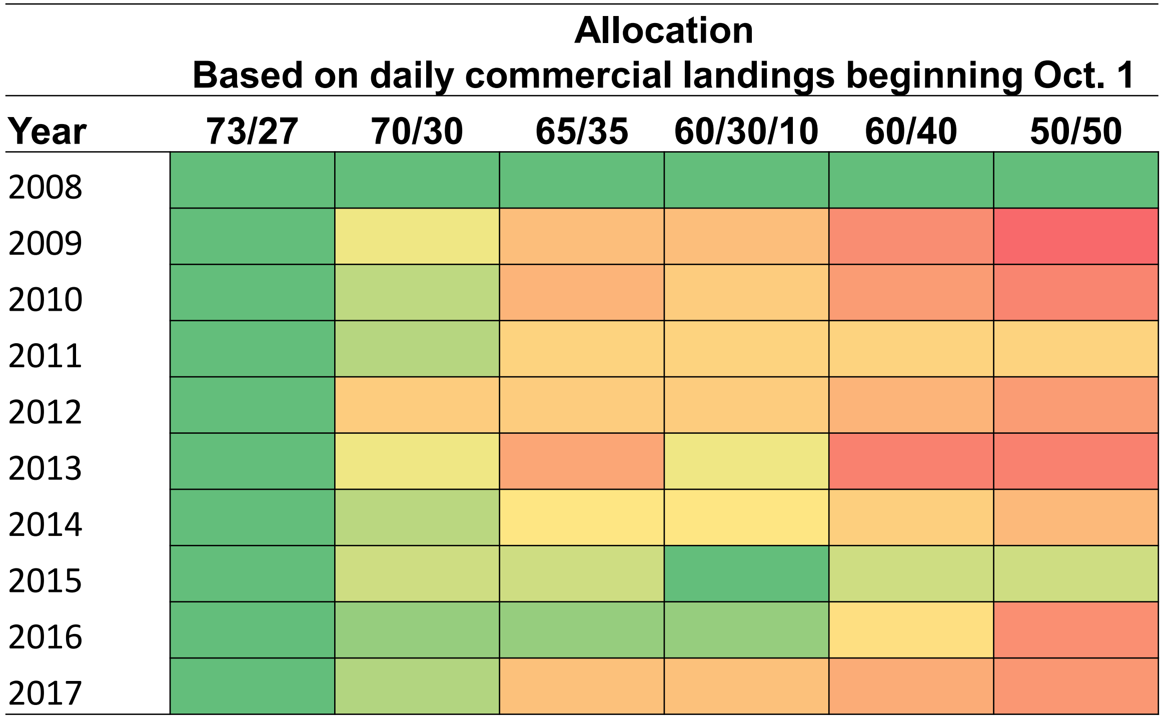
★ Situation where may be multiple years without harvest

What impact would shifting the allocation have?
Southern Region Commercial Fishery

Mobile Gears



Pound Nets



No change in number of fishing days based on allocation

Less than 25% reduction in fishing days based on allocation

Greater than 25% reduction in fishing days based on allocation

Commercial and Recreational Sub-Allocations

	Commercial (lb)		Recreational (lb)	
NCMFC Option	**Mobile Gear**	**Pound Net**	**Hook-and-Line**	**Gig**
Historical Harvest 73/27	195,105	195,388	126,315	15,544
70/30	186,188	186,458	142,206	17,500
65/35	172,889	173,140	165,907	20,416
60/30/10*	180,228	178,231	159,706	14,187
60/40	159,590	159,821	189,608	23,333
50/50	132,992	133,184	237,010	29,166

*This denotes a 10% allocation for gigs that was further divided out to each sector based on historically based allocation (73/27).

Pros and Cons of Allocation Shift

- \+ Mitigates some economic impact to the recreational fishery.
- \+ May buffer against recreational overages.
- +/- Allocation not based on biological need.
- +/- Allocation other than historical harvest not based on historical landings.
- +/- May not impact the season dates, season lengths, or bag limits for the recreational fishery.

Pros and Cons of Allocation Shift

- May exacerbate economic impact of the commercial fishery.
- Provides additional harvest to the sector with the least precise estimates.
- Changes in allocation may alter rebuilding schedule
- May be significant impacts to the commercial seasons.
- May be necessary to adjust allocations within a sector to maintain specific gear-based fisheries.
- May increase the chance of the commercial sector exceeding their allocation.

Final Considerations

- Limited southern flounder TAL.
- Unintended social and economic consequences noticeable at the finer level of specific fisheries within each sector.
- Consider allocating future quota increases towards one sector over the other as SSB expands.
  - This can be achieved in future amendments with methodic increases until the preferred allocation is achieved.

Questions?

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