



False Albacore Fishery Growth Scenarios for Potential Management

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

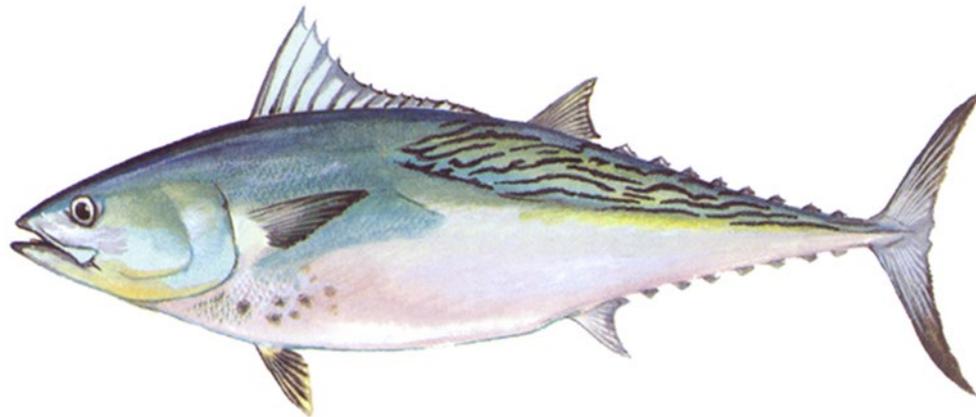
Marine Fisheries

May 2023 MFC Business Meeting | McLean Seward and Anne Markwith | May 25, 2023



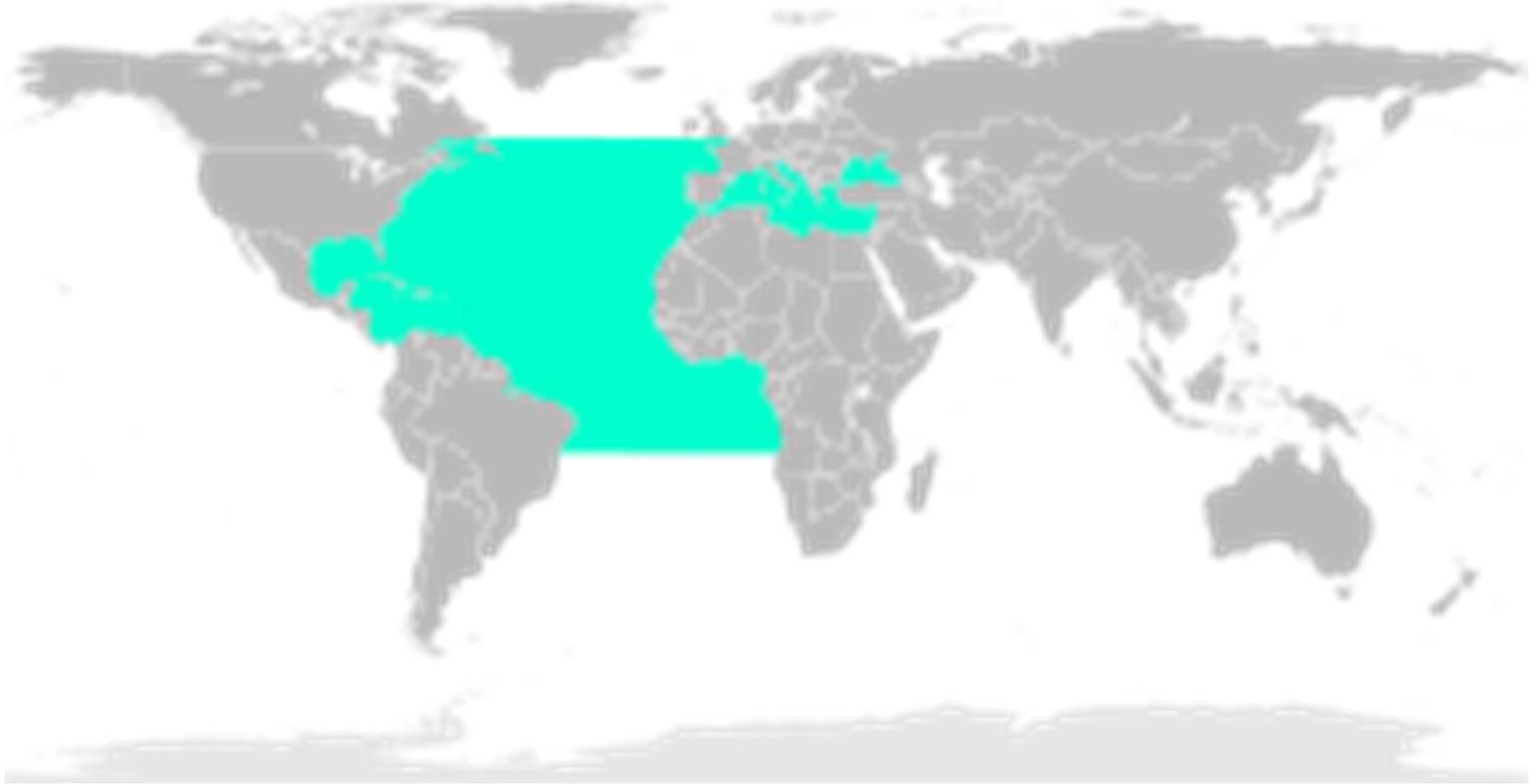
Issue

At its February 2023 business meeting the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (NCMFC) passed a motion that staff come forward with rulemaking language with management options for false albacore starting with status quo and allowing for growth at various percentage points.



Background

- Management is not pursued at the federal level, any caps on harvest would affect North Carolina landings only
- North Carolina
 - 10% of coastwide recreational landings
 - 39% of coastwide commercial landings
- Research and data needs: age and growth, sex and maturity, tagging studies, stock structure.

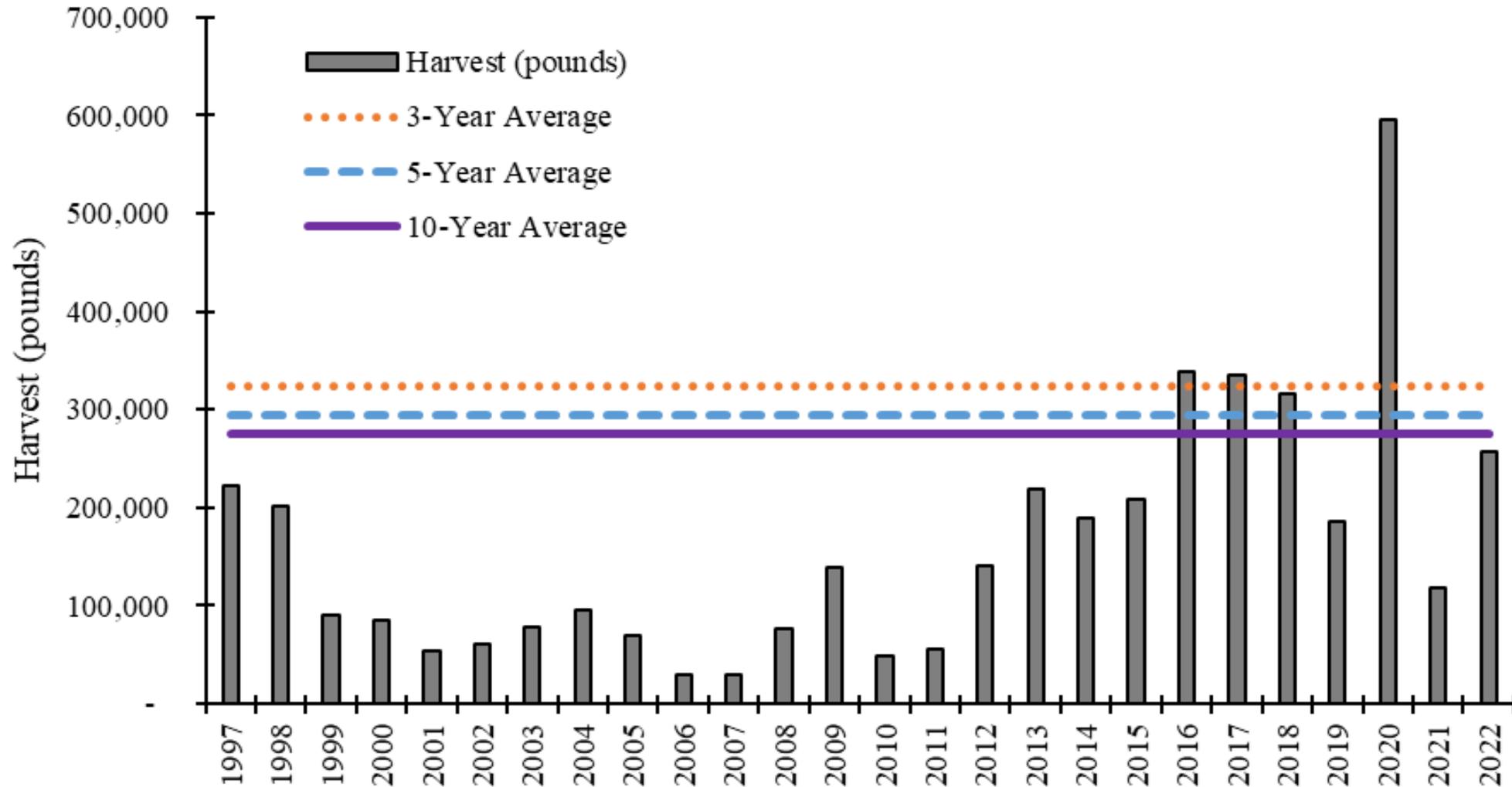


Rationale for Growth Scenarios

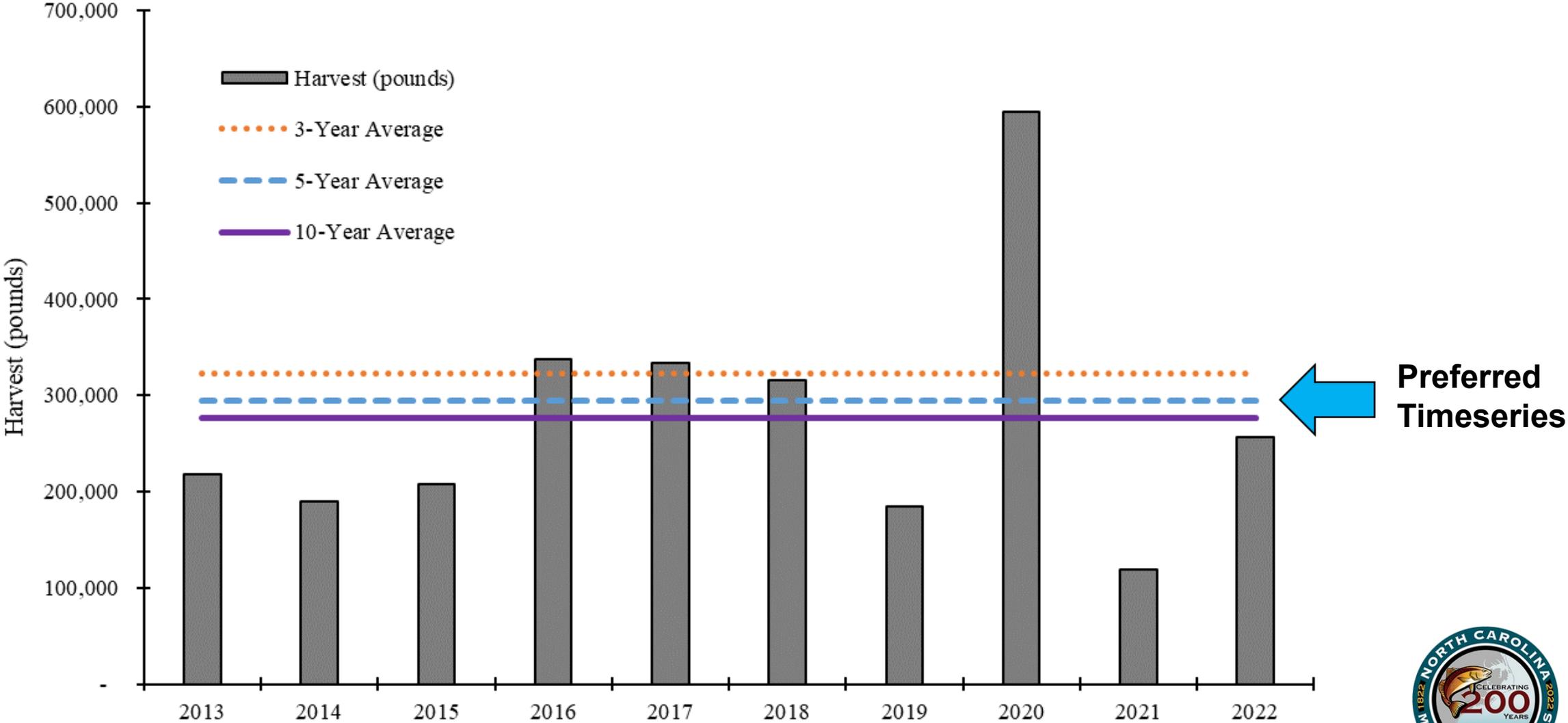
- “Status quo” defined as the five-year average of landings (2018-2022)
- “Various percentage points of growth” as 125%, 150%, 175%, and 200% of status quo



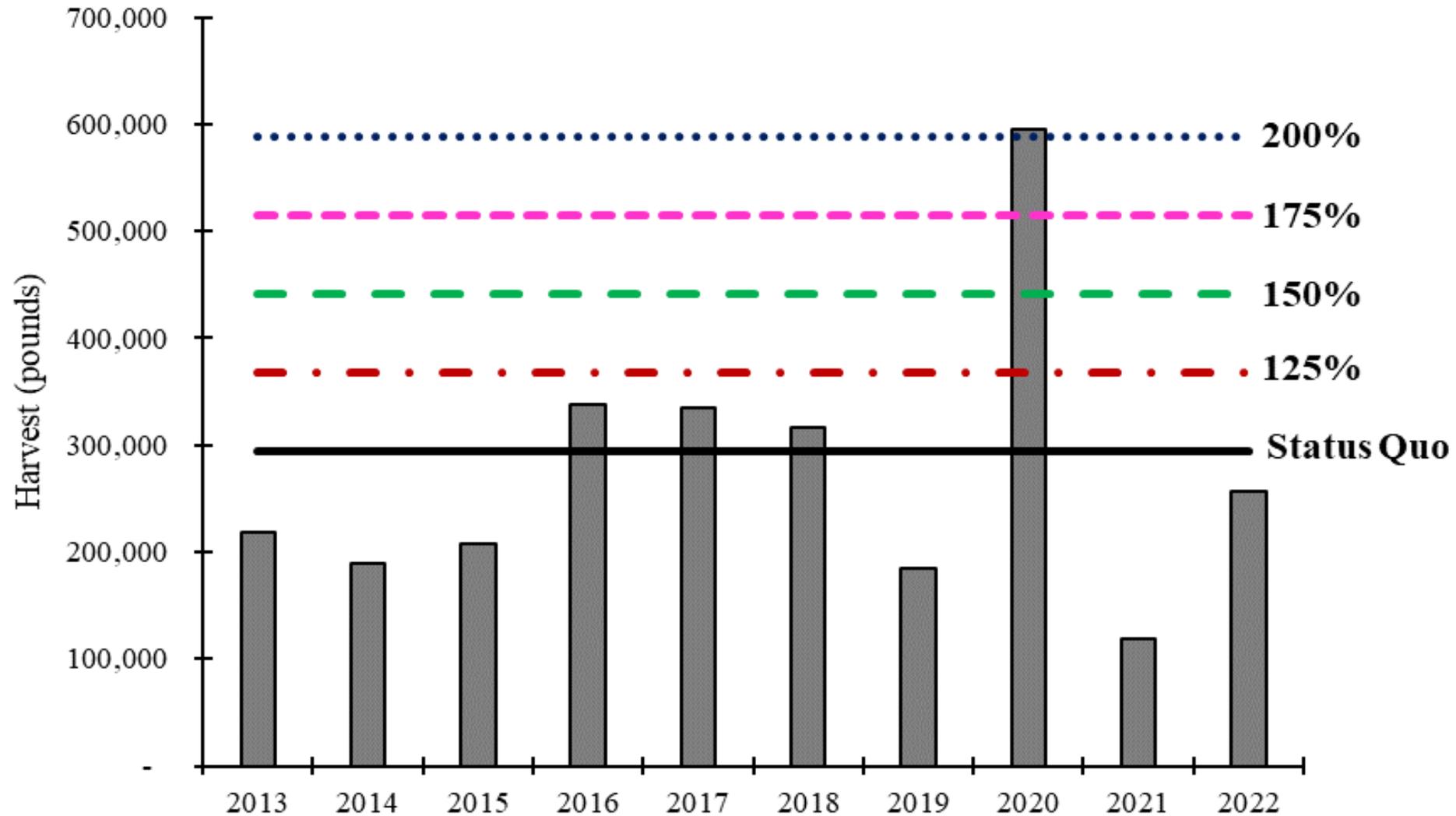
Recreational Landings: 1997-2022



Recreational Landings: 2013-2022



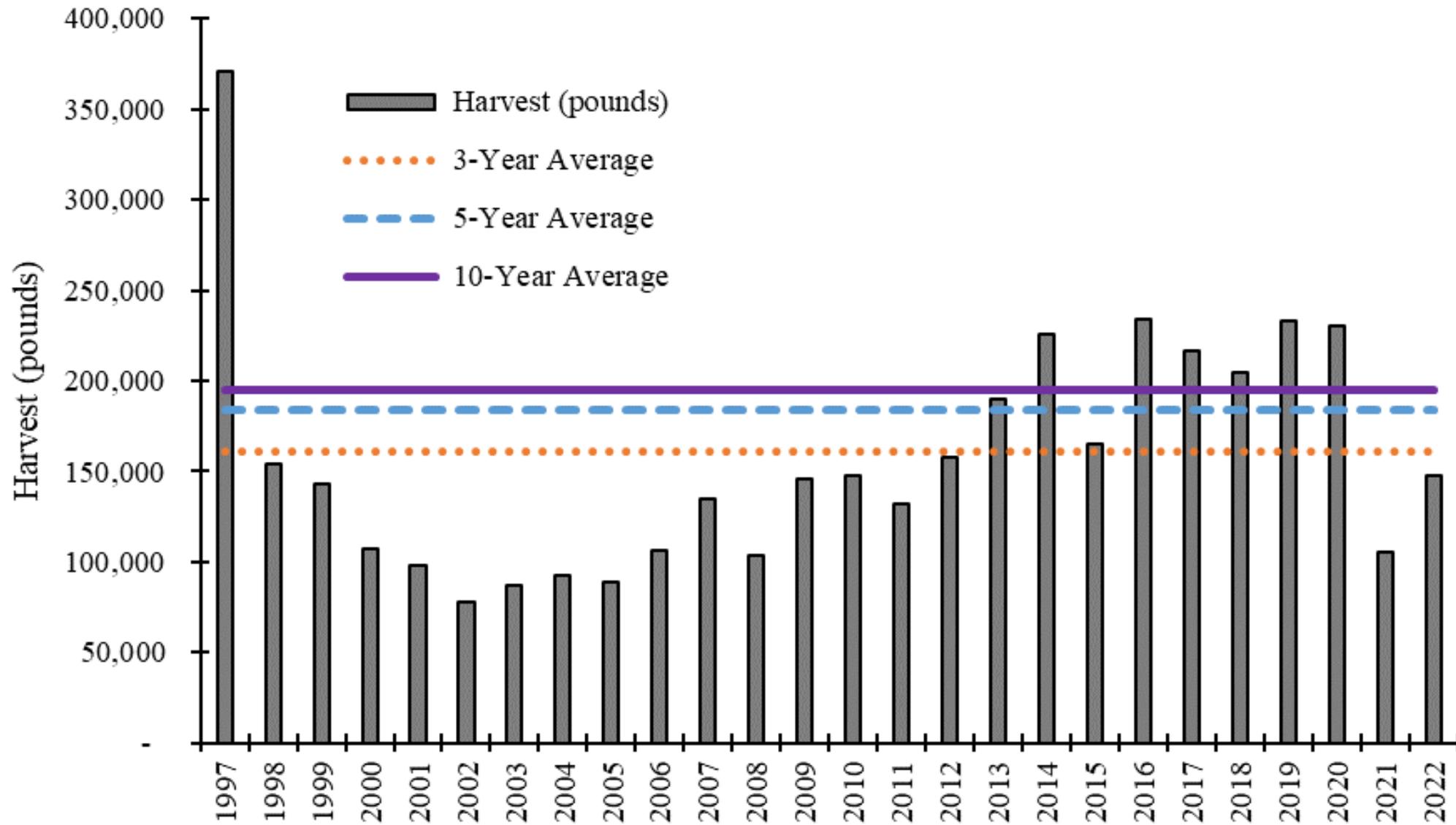
Recreational Growth Scenarios



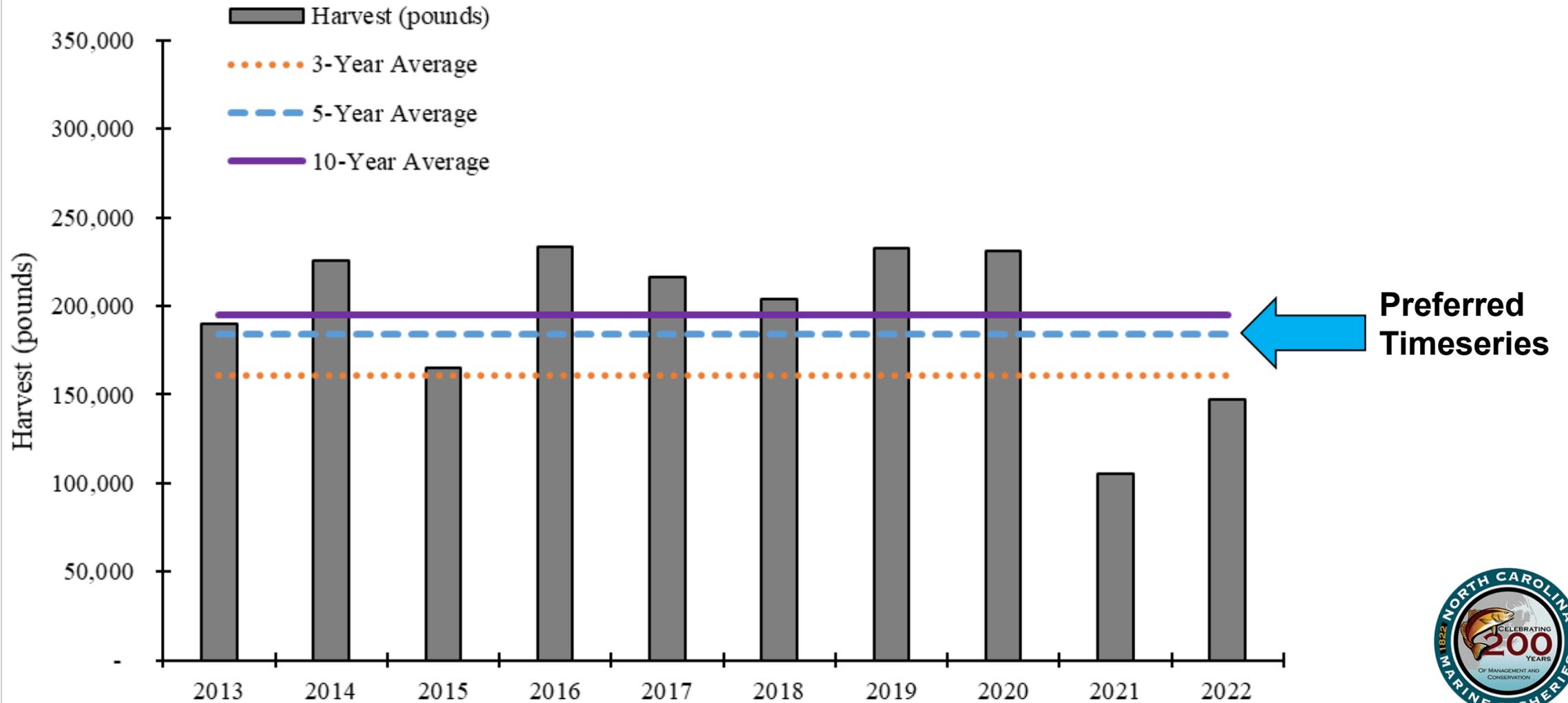
* Percentages based on 5-year average landings (2018-2022)



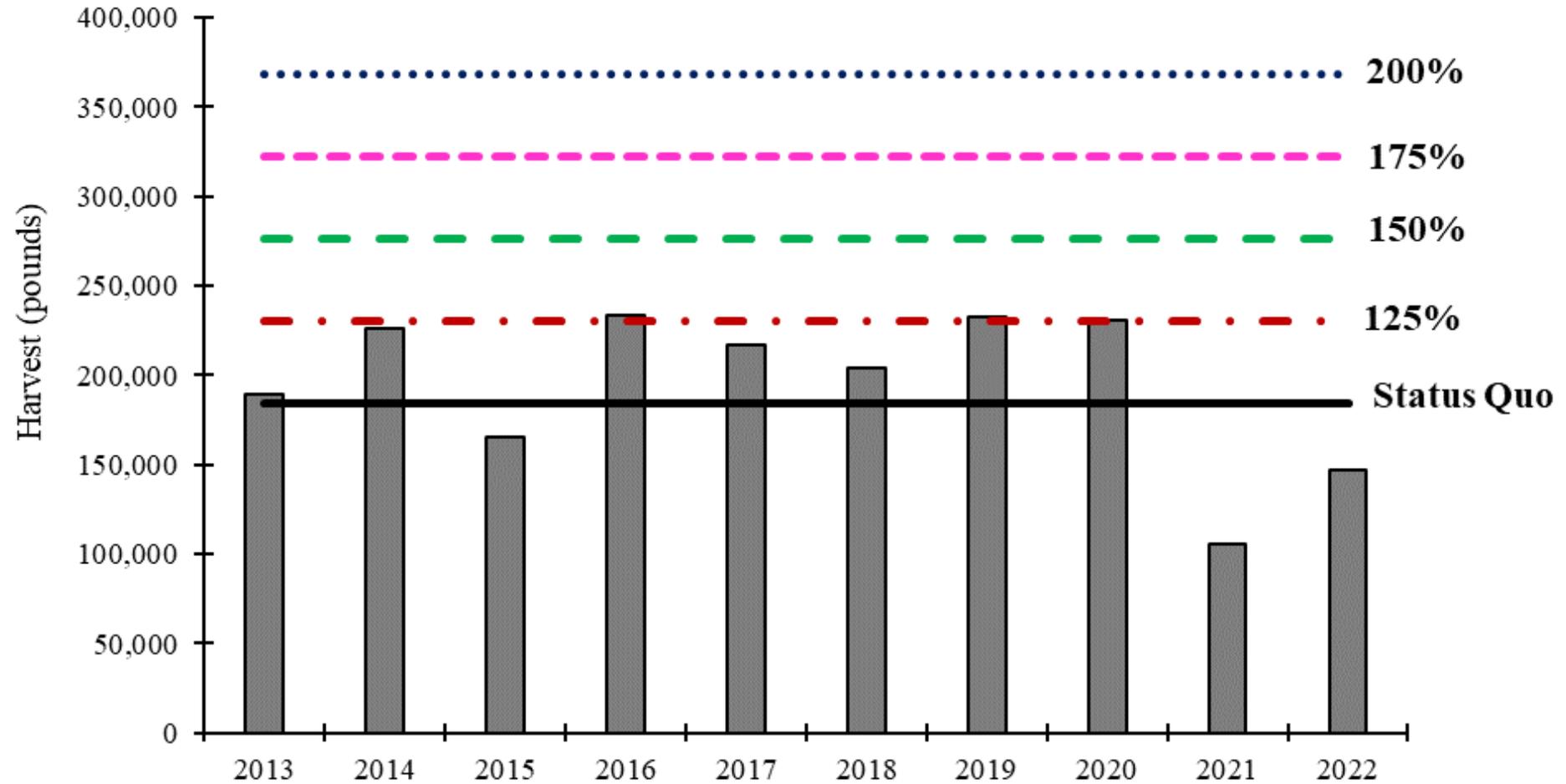
Commercial Landings: 1997-2022



Commercial Landings: 2013-2022



Commercial Growth Scenarios



* Percentages based on 5-year average landings (2018-2022)



MFC Feedback

- Definition of status quo
- Definition of growth at various percentage points



Questions?

