



2025 Annual FMP Review Update and Draft FMP Review Schedule

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

Marine Fisheries Commission | Charlton Godwin, Daniel Zapf | August 2025



Overview



FMP Annual Review Contents



Review Select Species



Management



Draft FMP Schedule



Acknowledgements

- Division wide collaborative effort
- Fisheries Management
 - Data collection
 - Data analysis
 - Report writing
- Trip Ticket/MRIP
 - Data Collection
 - Data analysis
- Habitat and Enhancement
- Data Management/IT Staff
- Public Information
- Shellfish Sanitation
- Marine Patrol



Where is the FMP Review Located?

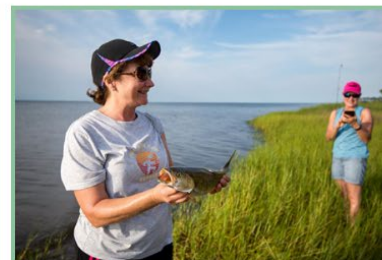
Contents



Rules, Proclamations, and
Size and Bag Limits



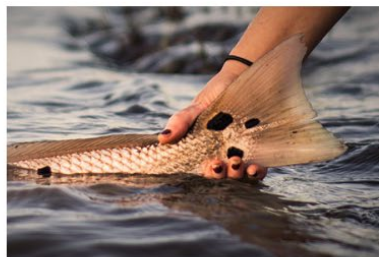
Licenses, Permits, and
Leases



Public Information and
Education



Habitat Information



Managing the Fisheries



Science and Statistics



Shellfish Sanitation and
Recreational Water Quality



Grant Programs



Marine Fisheries
Commission



Where is the FMP Review Located?

Fishery managers have a range of goals. They strive to maintain healthy fish populations and a healthy fishing industry – recreational and commercial. To achieve their goals, managers rely on a variety of tools, including quotas, size limits, gear restrictions, fishing seasons and area closures. Managers also provide outreach about their activities so those in the fishing industries and the general public can better understand what goes into management decisions. How do North Carolina's managers determine which combinations of tools will best accomplish their goals?

To choose the best approach to managing a fish stock, managers must equip themselves with as much information as possible. The collection and analysis of such data is a large part of the day-to-day operations of the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Quick Links

[2024 FMP Review \(August 2025\)](#) 

[FMP Plan Review Schedule](#) 



Fisheries
Management and
You



Fishery
Management Plans

American Eel		+		
American Shad		+		
Atlantic Croaker		+		
Atlantic Menhaden		+		
Atlantic Sturgeon		+		
Black Drum		+		
Black Sea Bass (N of Hatteras)		+		+
Black Sea Bass (S of Hatteras)			+	

Management
Authority for
Interjurisdictional
Species



Fisheries
Management Staff
Publications



Analysis and Annual FMP Review

- Individual chapters are updated for:
 - 12 state-managed species or species groups
 - 21 ASMFC or Federal Council species or species groups
 - 2 species managed by rule



Analysis and Annual FMP Review

- Individual chapters are updated for:
 - 12 state-managed species or species groups
 - 21 ASMFC or Federal Council species or species groups
 - 2 species managed by rule
- For each species or species group:
 - Summarize data for each chapter
 - Draft updated chapter
 - Review trends in data
 - Review and assess management based on data



Annual FMP Review-Data Analysis and Contents

North Carolina
Division of Marine Fisheries

2024 Fishery Management Plan
Review

August 2025



Presented during August MFC meeting
Available on the website

For each species:

- History of the plan;
- Management unit;
- Goal and objectives;
- Description of the stock;
- Description of the fishery;
- Monitoring program data;
- Research needs;
- Management strategy; and
- Recommendation for FMP Schedule Changes





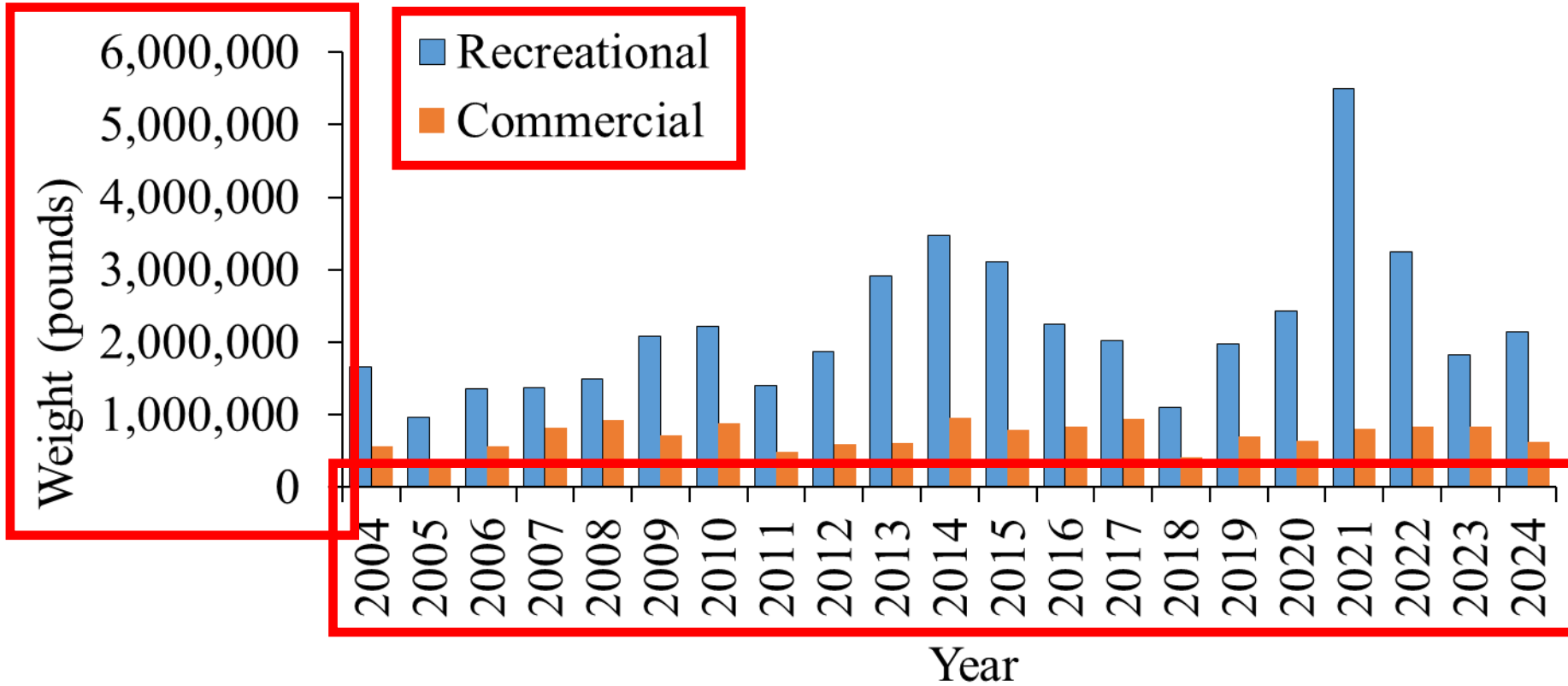
Species Highlights

Kingfishes - Review in 2025

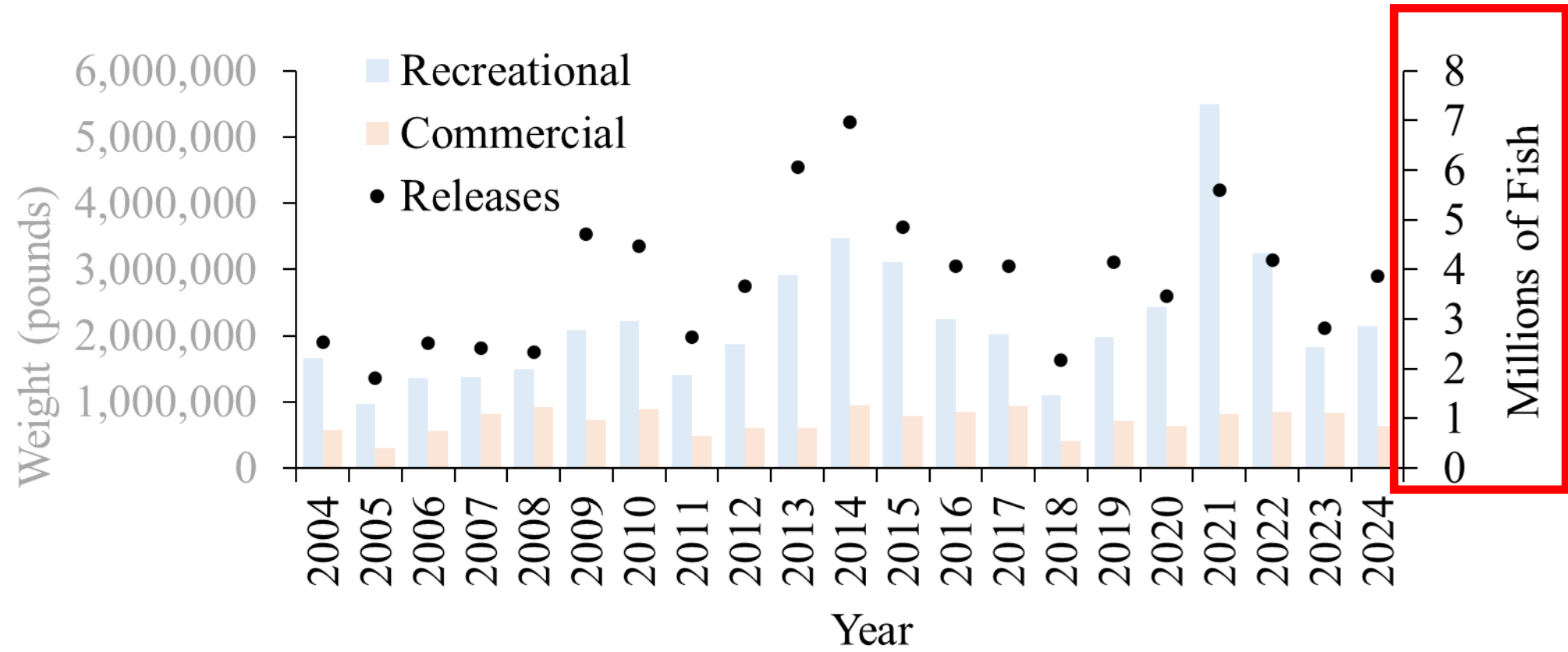
- Stock assessment not available
- Overfishing/overfished status not determined
- FMP uses triggers to inform management decisions about kingfish
- Next scheduled plan review is in 2025



Kingfishes - Commercial and Recreational Harvest

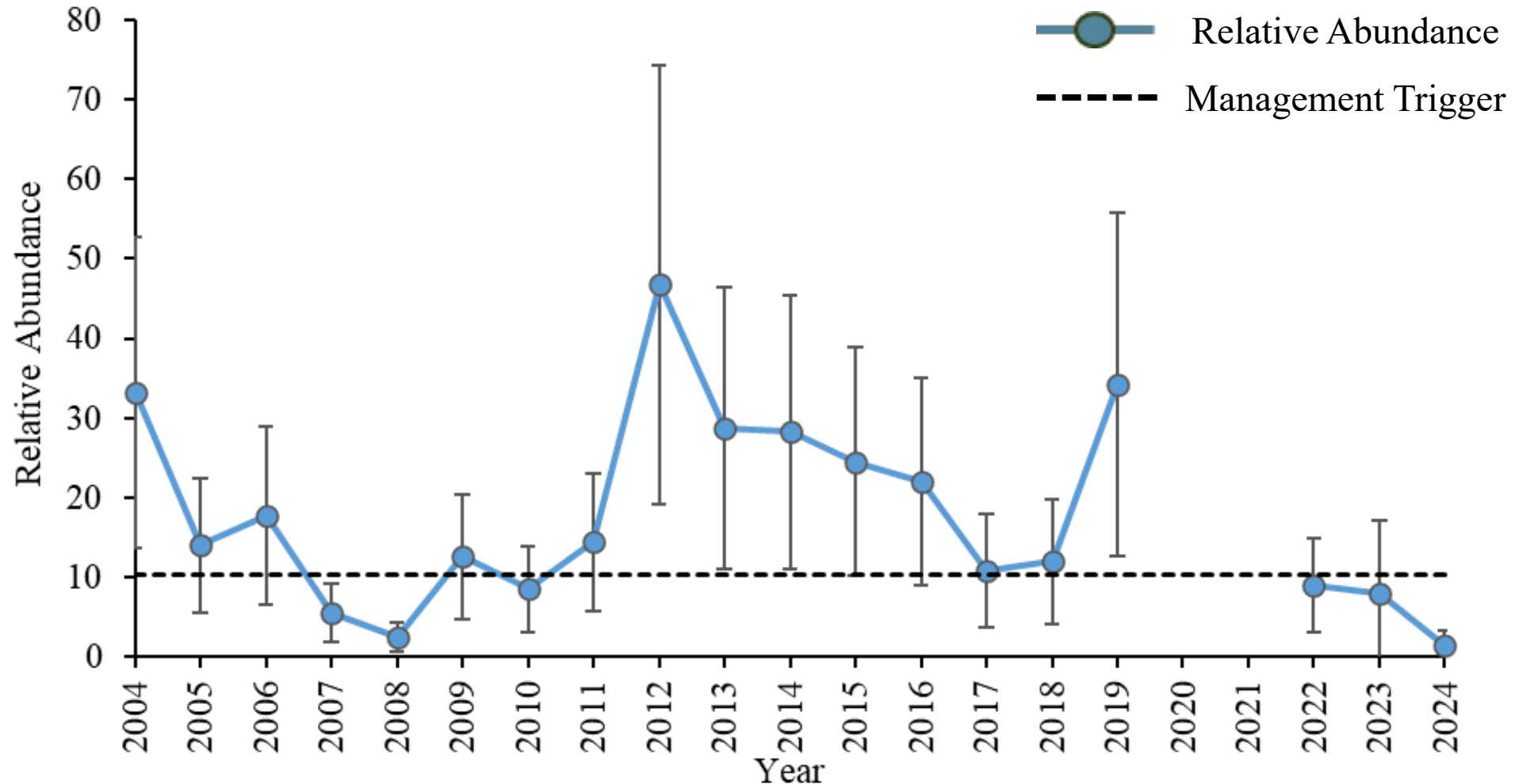


Commercial and Recreational Harvest & Recreational Releases



Kingfishes - Management Summary

- Seven triggers evaluated annually



Kingfishes - Management Summary

- Seven triggers evaluated annually
- Activation of two triggers, two years in a row warrants further evaluation to determine if potential management action is warranted
- Two triggers have now been triggered two years in a row
- Changes to the SEAMAP Coastal Trawl Survey have made the survey less informative about kingfish relative abundance
- Pamlico Sound Survey suspended
- New management triggers will have to be developed
- Plan review begins in 2025
 - Will include comprehensive review of available data
 - Re-evaluation of management triggers



Red Drum - Review in 2025

- Plan review begins 2025
- Managed under
 - Amendment 1 to the N.C. Red Drum FMP
 - Amendment 2 to the ASMFC Interstate FMP for Red Drum
- ASMFC benchmark stock assessment completed in 2024 with data through 2021
- Northern stock (which includes N.C.) not overfished, overfishing not occurring, although concerning trends are apparent
- Southern stock (SC-FL) overfishing is occurring, stock is overfished
- ASMFC initiated development of Addendum II to Amendment 2
 - Tentative adoption October 2025
- Any changes to state FMP must comply with ASMFC FMP
- Review of state plan aligns with ASMFC adoption of Addendum II



Shrimp – Review in 2027

- Amendment 2 was adopted in February 2022
- Management has been implemented through proclamations
- May 2024 Revision: documents MFC rationale for not pursuing SAV protection under Amendment 2 and recommending examination of issues and development of management actions related to the broader conservation of SAV consistent with the CHPP
- MFC motion to seek additional methods and funding sources for a long-term shrimp observer program
- No schedule change recommended

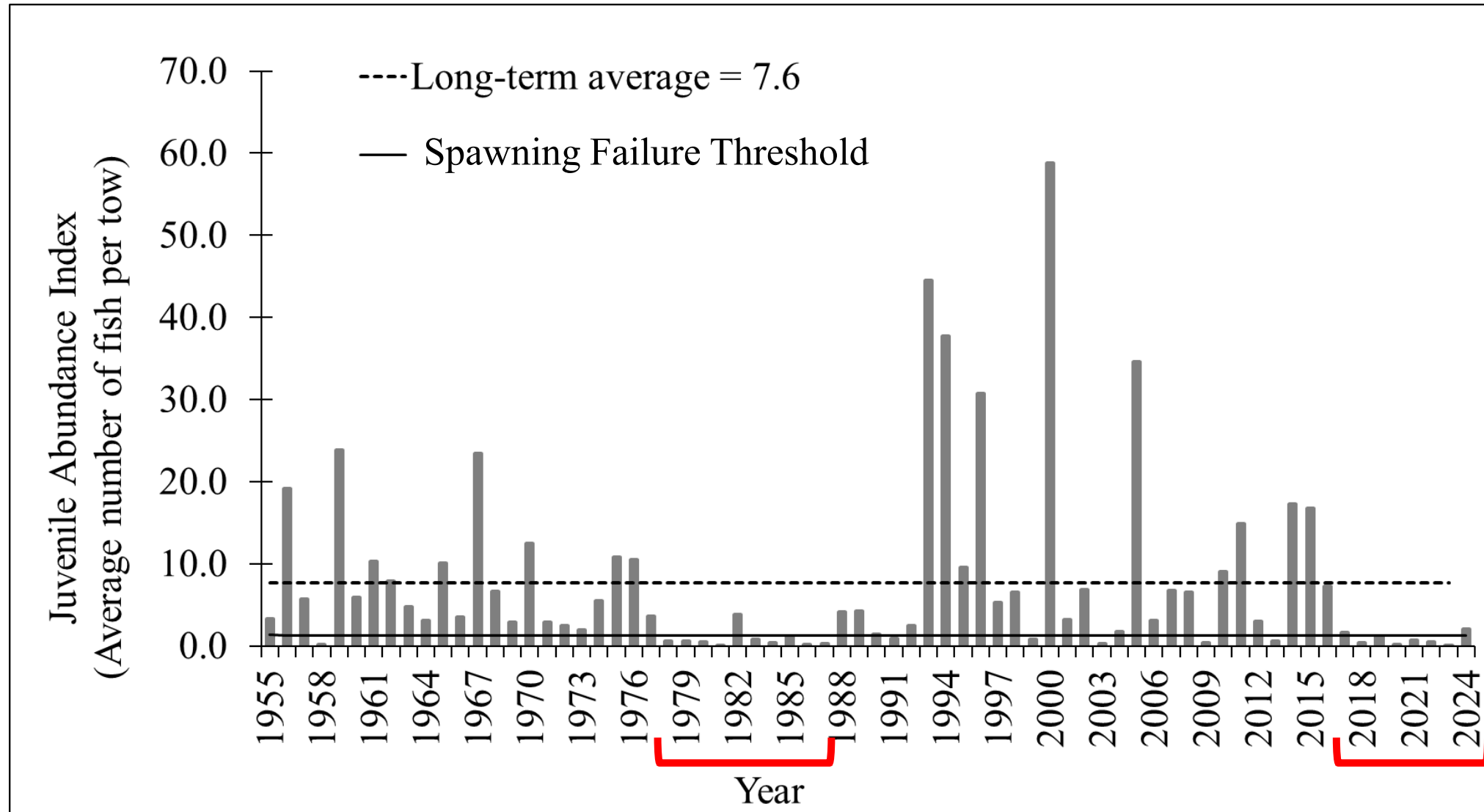


Estuarine Striped Bass - Review in 2027

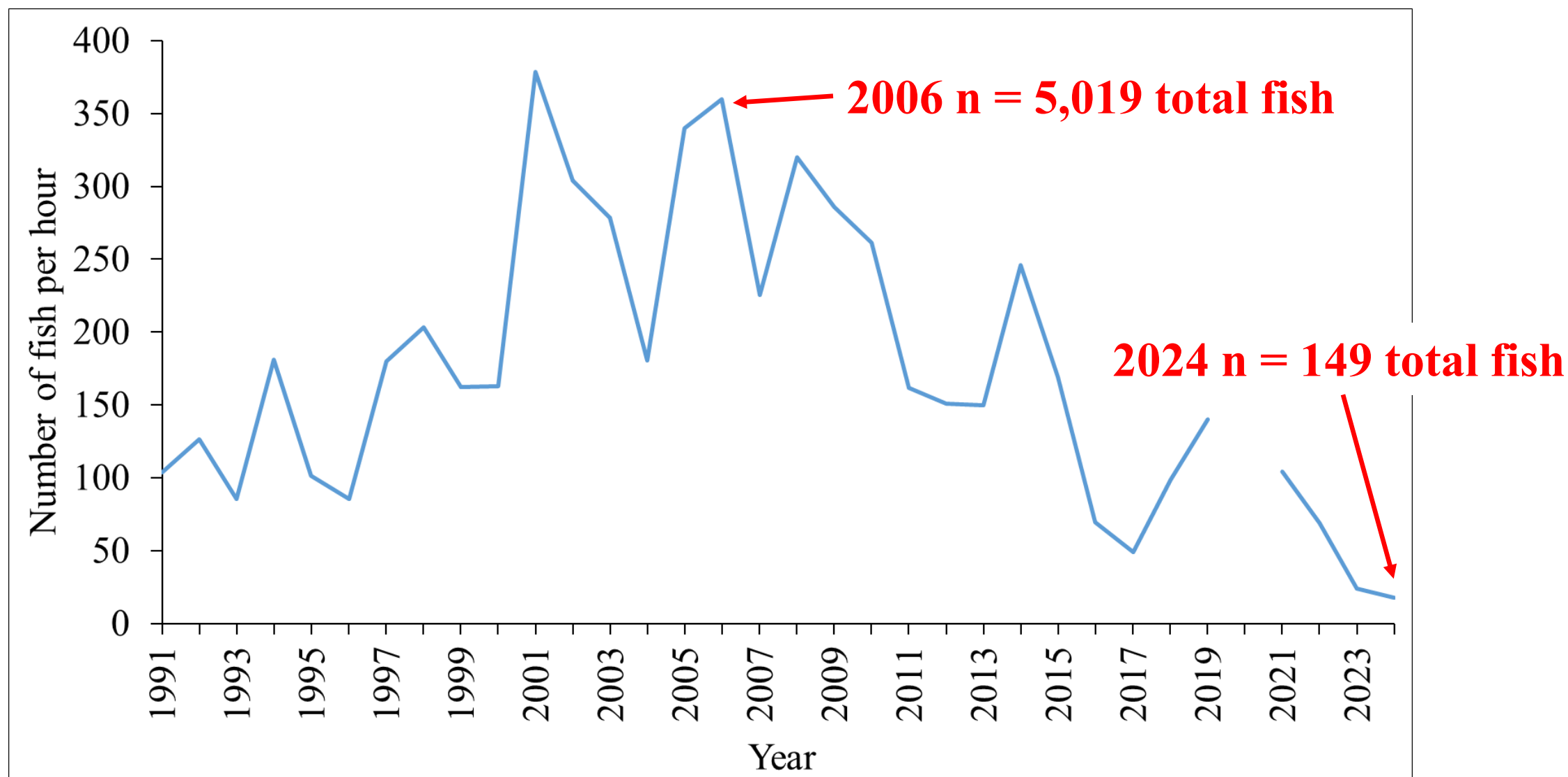
- Amendment 2 adopted by MFC November 2022
- No schedule change recommended
- Tar-Pamlico and Neuse stocks are undergoing data review to determine if stock conditions have improved since harvest moratorium and gill net closure
- 2024 Revision to Amendment 2 implemented a harvest moratorium for the Albemarle-Roanoke (A-R)



Albemarle-Roanoke Striped Bass DMF JAI



Albemarle-Roanoke Striped Bass WRC Electrofishing



Albemarle-Roanoke Striped Bass Research and Recovery Efforts

- Stocking in Albemarle Sound by DMF, WRC, USFWS in 2023–2025
- Stocked fish genetically marked for future evaluation
- In 2023 JAI=0.1
 - 97% of the young-of-year fish (YOY) were hatchery origin
- In 2024 JAI = 2.1 still low, but above the spawning failure threshold of 1.3
 - Only 3% of YOY were hatchery origin



Albemarle-Roanoke Striped Bass Research and Recovery Efforts

- 2023 & 2024 DMF larval and zooplankton sampling
 - 2023 results = very few larval striped bass but plenty of zooplankton
 - 2024 results pending
- WRC is testing for various toxins
 - Results = PFAS type toxins in all ovaries examined and mother passes on to larval fish
 - Do not know at this point if this is having any effect on larval growth and development

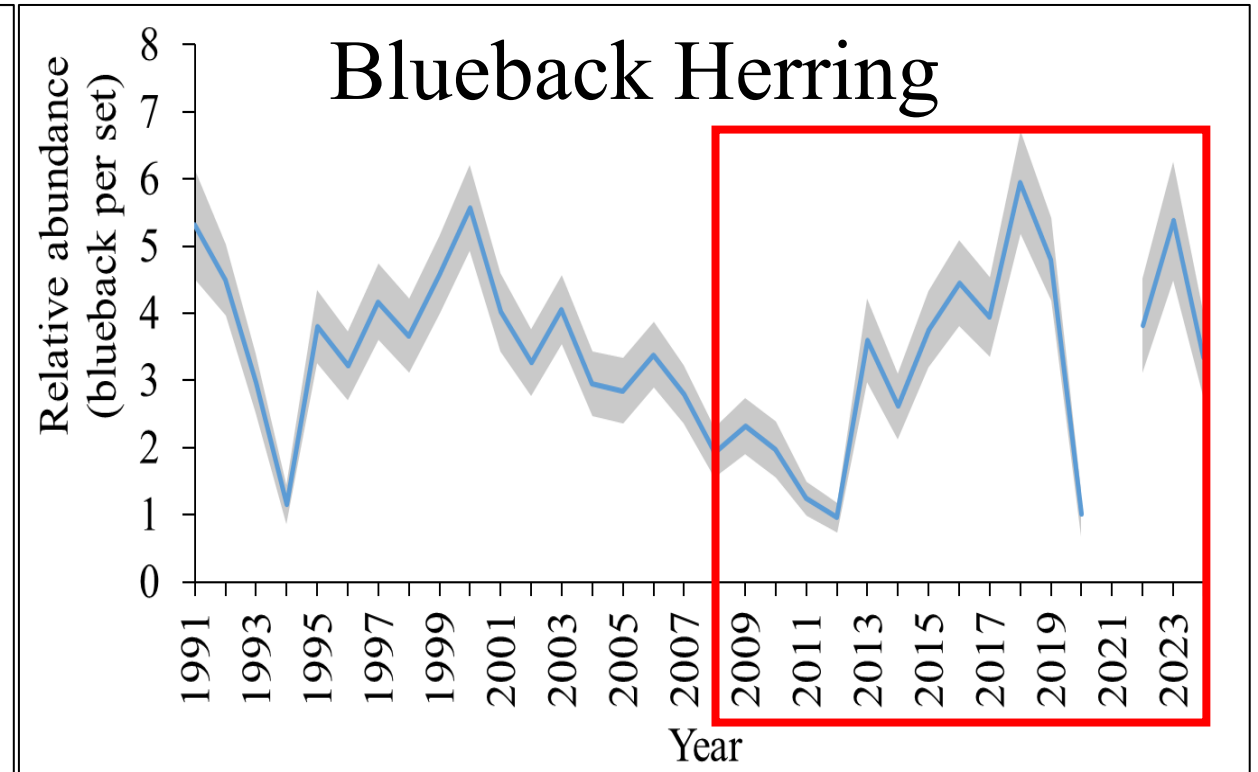
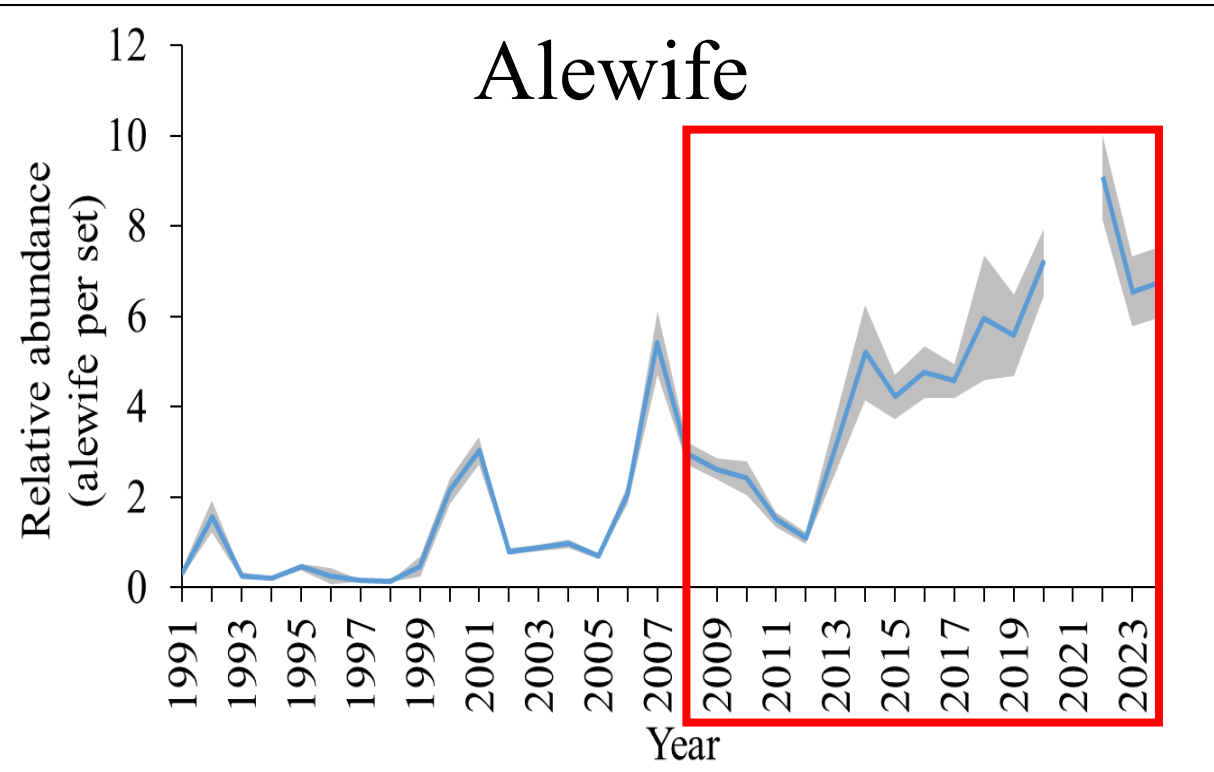


River Herring - Review in 2027

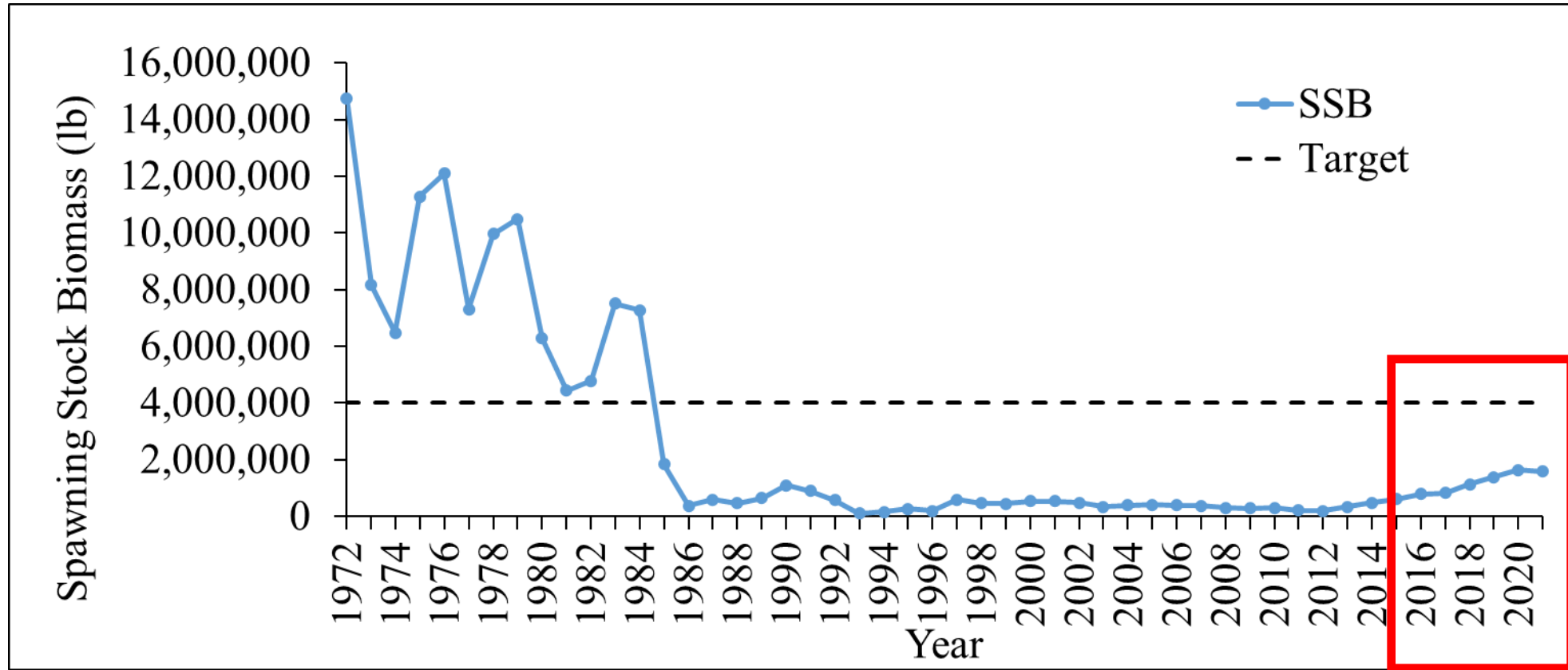
- Managed under three FMPs
 - Amendment 2 to the N.C. River Herring FMP
 - N.C. FMP for Interjurisdictional Fisheries
 - ASMFC Amendment 2 to Interstate FMP for Shad and River Herring
- ASMFC 2024 coastwide assessment indicates river herring remain depleted coast-wide
- Albemarle Sound-Chowan River stock is overfished but overfishing is not occurring, and stock size is increasing slowly



River Herring - Albemarle Sound Gill Net Survey



ASMFC Chohan River Blueback Stock Assessment



River Herring - Review in 2027

- Next scheduled plan review is in 2027
- All management strategies will be maintained as outlined in the two State FMPs and ASMFC FMP
- Division recommends transitioning management from the N.C River Herring FMP and maintaining management solely through the North Carolina FMP for Interjurisdictional Fisheries with the ASMFC
- This action will achieve efficiencies by addressing redundancy between the ASMFC Interstate FMP and two separate North Carolina FMPs

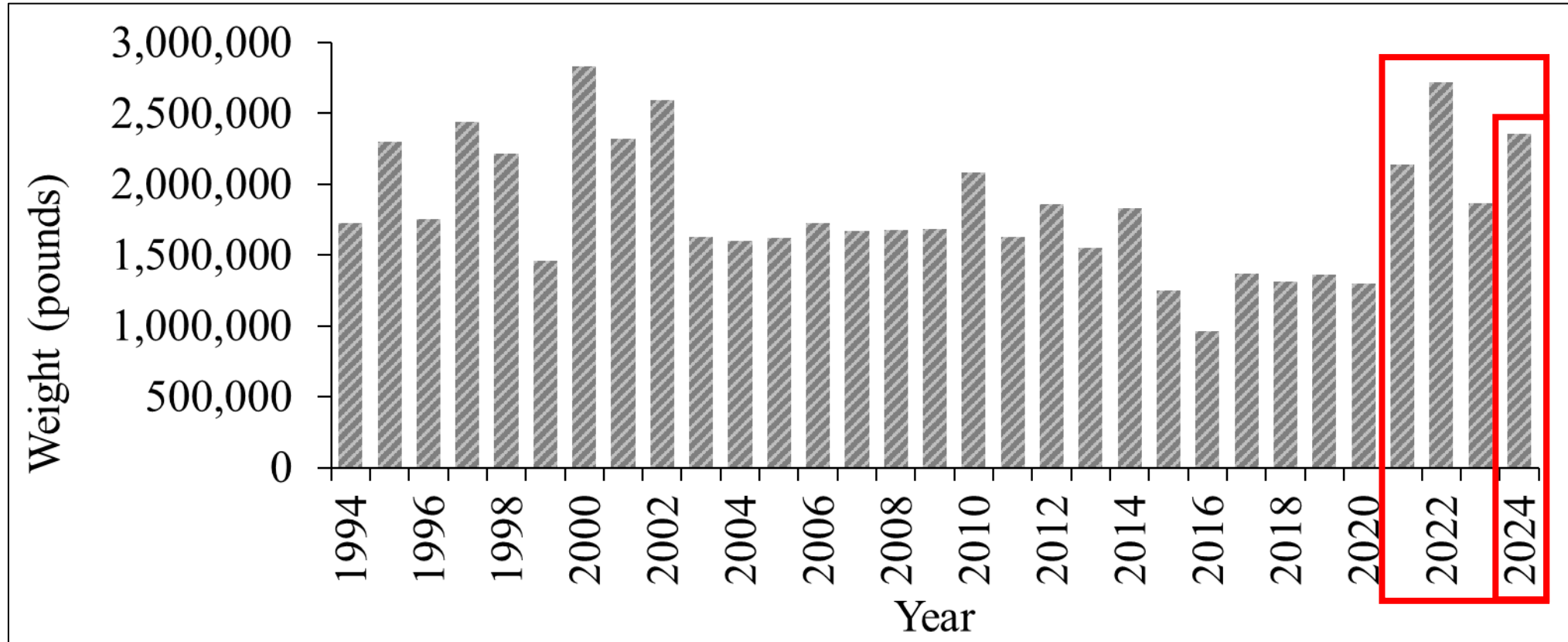


Striped Mullet - Review in 2029

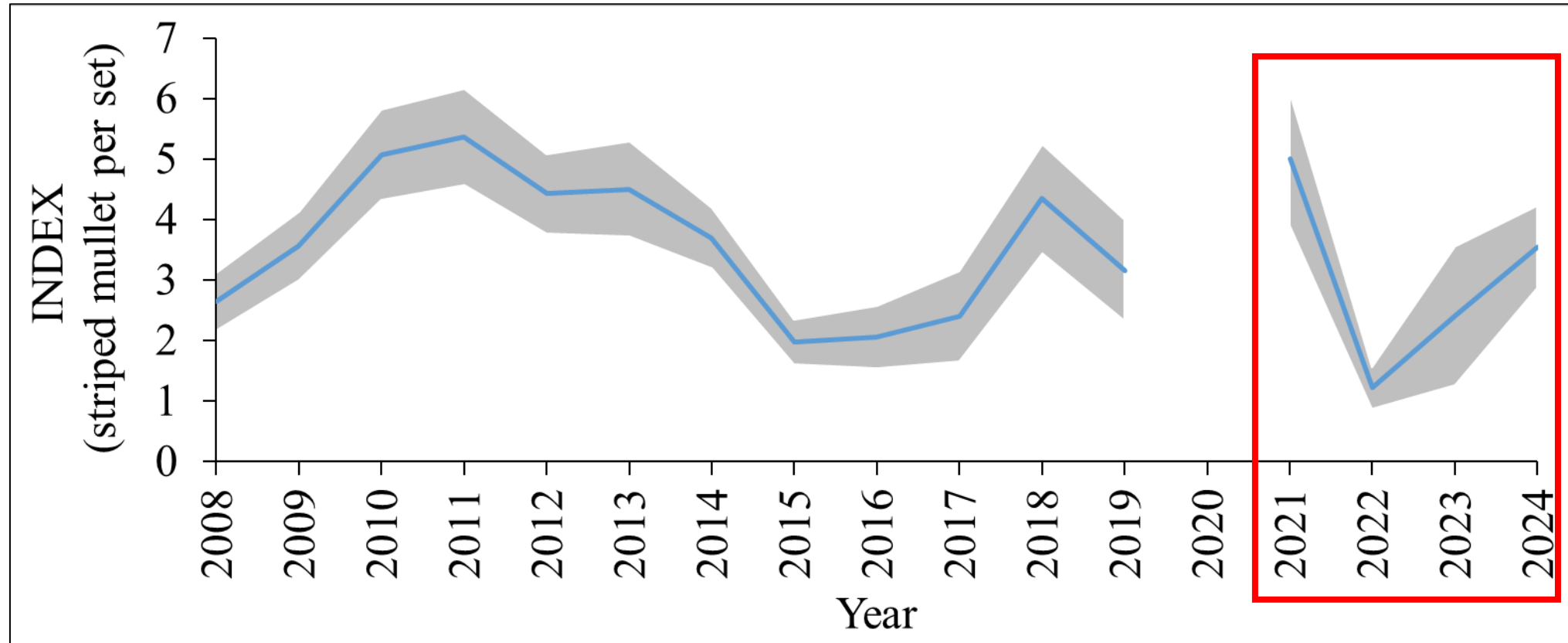
- Amendment 2 adopted in May 2024
- Regulations: commercial weekend closures and recreational possession limit
- Adaptive Management: season closures, day of week closures, trip limits, and gill net regulations
- 2024 commercial harvest increased, but FI indices of abundance also increased
- No management changes are recommended
- No schedule change recommended



Striped Mullet - Commercial Landings



Striped Mullet - Program 915 gill net survey





Interjurisdictional Species



Interjurisdictional Species

- **Atlantic Croaker:** Stock assessment is currently underway, results expected 2026. Currently using a Traffic Light Approach (TLA) to inform management
- **Bluefish:** 2023 stock assessment update not overfished not overfishing; Stock assessment update is ongoing
- **Spot:** Benchmark assessment expected in next couple of years. Currently using a TLA to inform management
- **Weakfish:** 2025 stock assessment update will not be used for management recommended to initiate a new benchmark in 2026



Annual FMP Review - Management Updates

Data informs the need to adjust management for state-managed species

- Adaptive management measures are:
 - Adopted by the MFC in an FMP; and
 - Implemented by the Fisheries Director's proclamation authority
- Other management changes require a change to the FMP Review Schedule, including for:
 - Timing of stock assessments and assessment updates
 - Emerging issues that necessitate action earlier than scheduled; or
 - Ensuring there are not too many FMPs occurring at once
- If a schedule change is needed:
 - DMF requests a schedule change from the DEQ Secretary based on available data
 - Only the DEQ Secretary can revise the FMP Review Schedule



Pamlico Sound Survey



N.C. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW SCHEDULE (July 2025–June 2030)

SPECIES (Date of Last Action)	2025–2026	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER (5/22) *					
RED DRUM (8/17) **					
KINGFISHES (8/20)					
BLUE CRAB (2/20) *					
BAY SCALLOP (8/20) **					
SHRIMP (2/22)					
ESTUARINE STRIPED BASS (11/22)					
RIVER HERRING (8/22)					
INTERJURISDICTIONAL (5/22) **					
STRIPED MULLET (5/24)					
SPOTTED SEATROUT (3/25)					
EASTERN OYSTER (5/25)					
HARD CLAM (5/25)					

2025 FMP Annual Review



Contact Information



Questions?