Science, Service, Stewardship

HMS Advisory Panel Yellowfin Tuna Review

Preliminary/Draft

August 26, 2009

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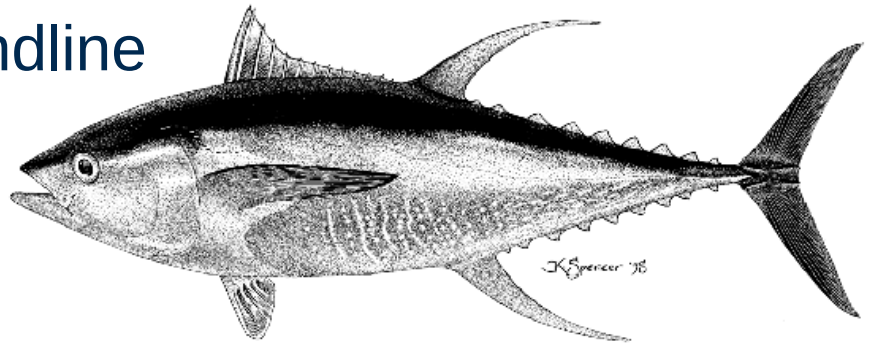
Domestic YFT Management & Fisheries

- 27” CFL Minimum Size
- 3 fish/person/trip Retention Limit for Angling cat. or For-hire trips

- <u>Commercial</u> – longline, handline
- <u>Recreational</u> – rod & reel



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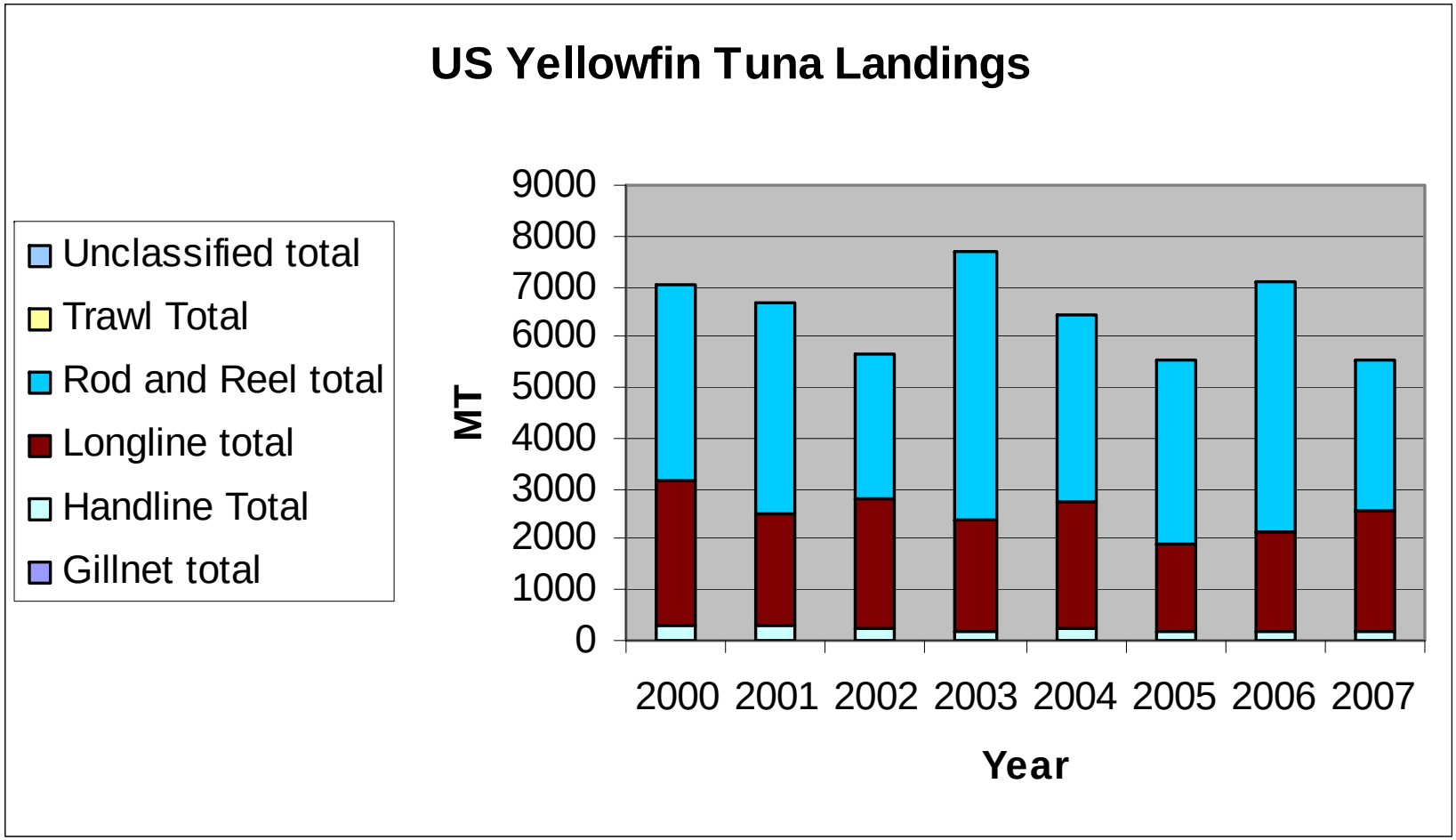
U.S. YFT Landings by Gear

2008 SAFE Report, U.S. National Report to ICCAT, 2008



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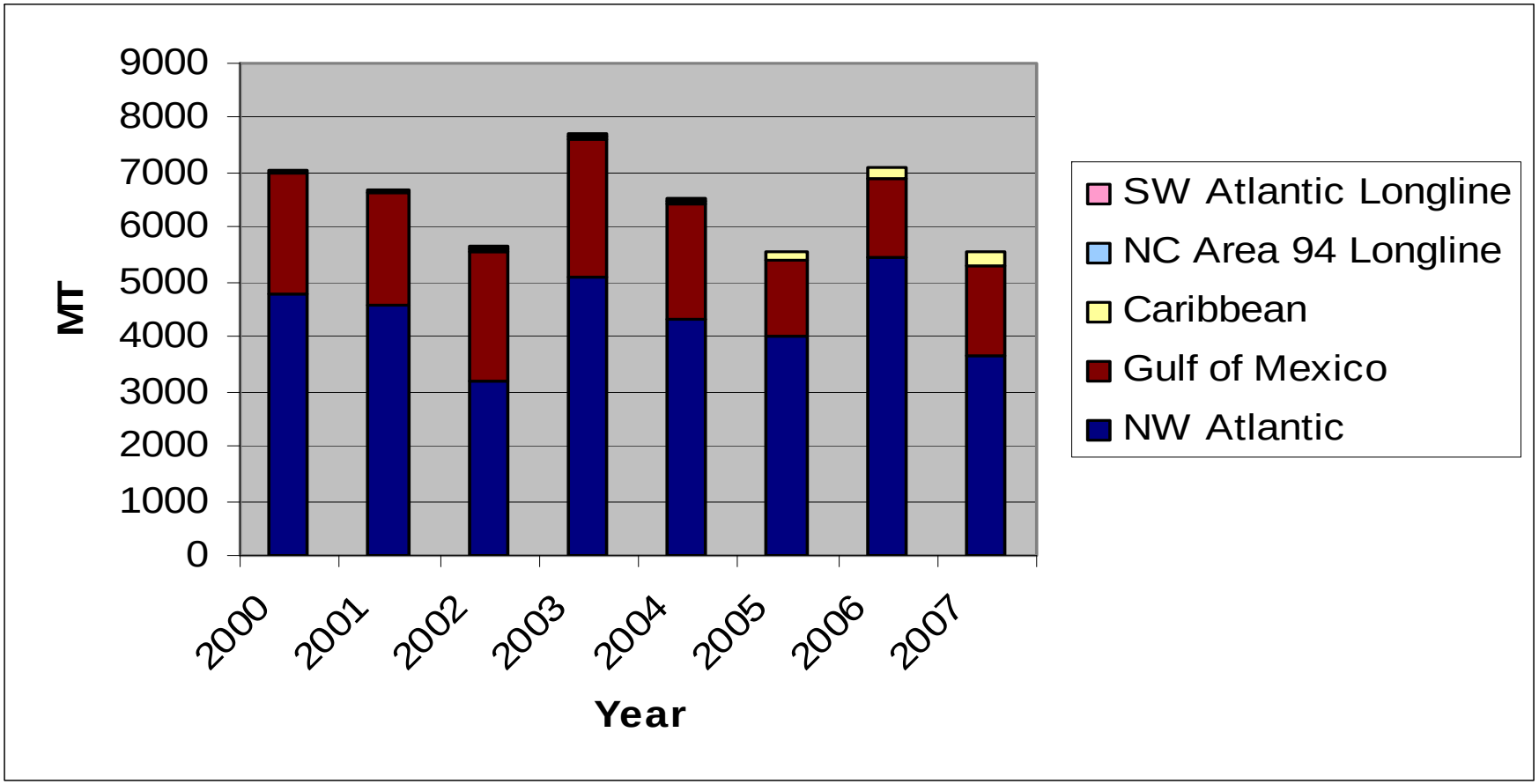
U.S. YFT Landings by Area

2008 SAFE Report, U.S. National Report to ICCAT, 2008



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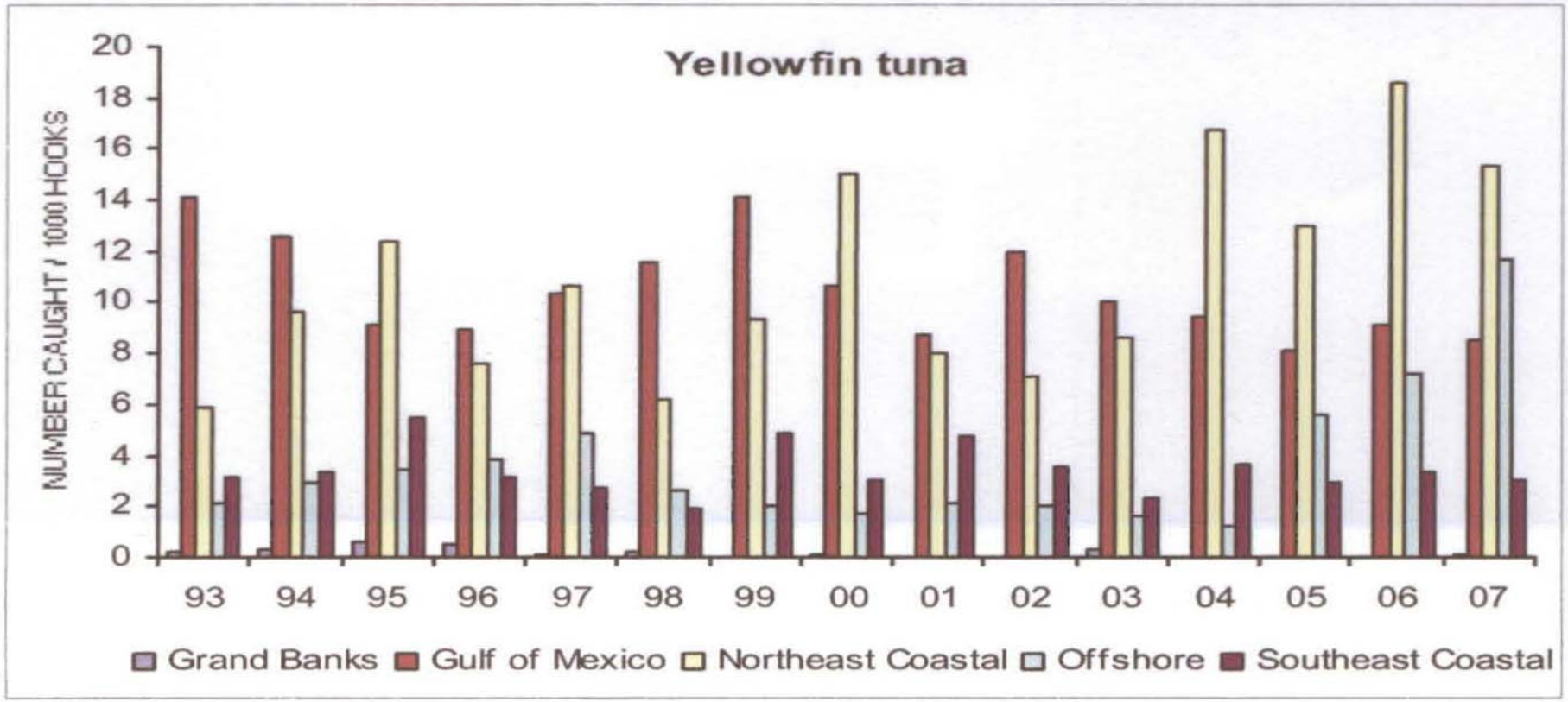
U.S. Longline Catch Rates of YFT

U.S. National Report to ICCAT, 2008



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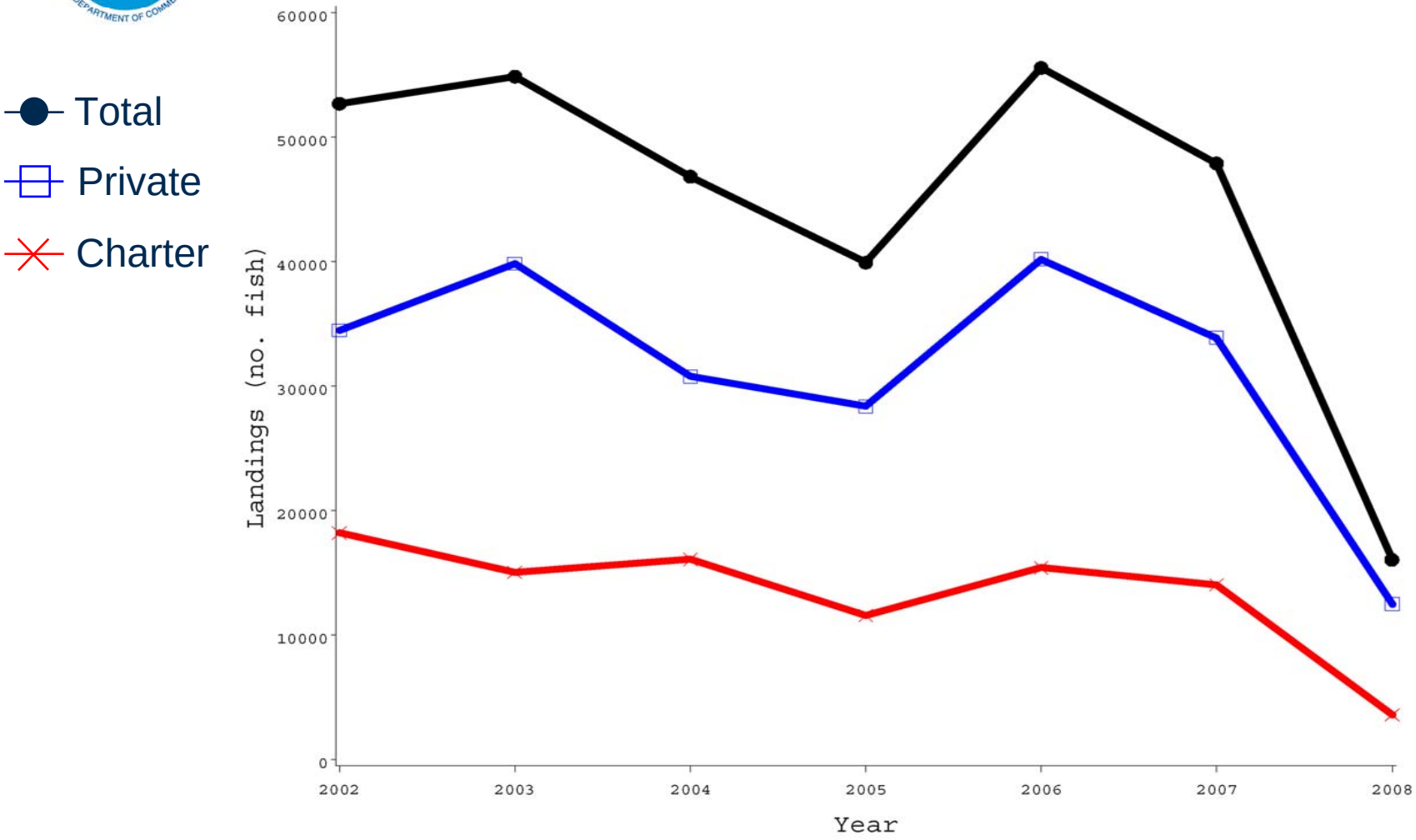
YFT Recreational Landings

ME-VA (LPS)



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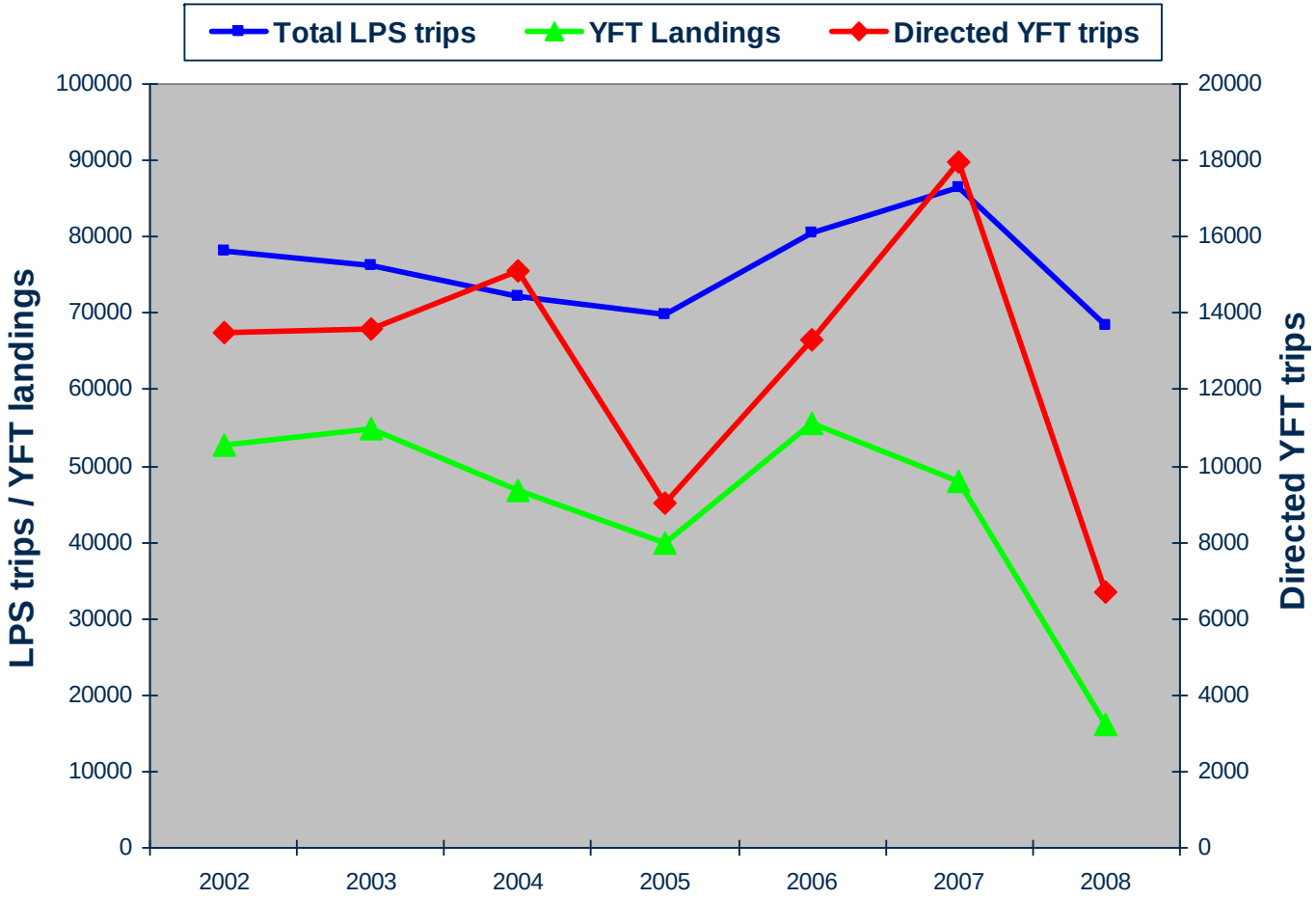
Trips, Directed YFT Trips & YFT Landings (ME-VA, LPS)



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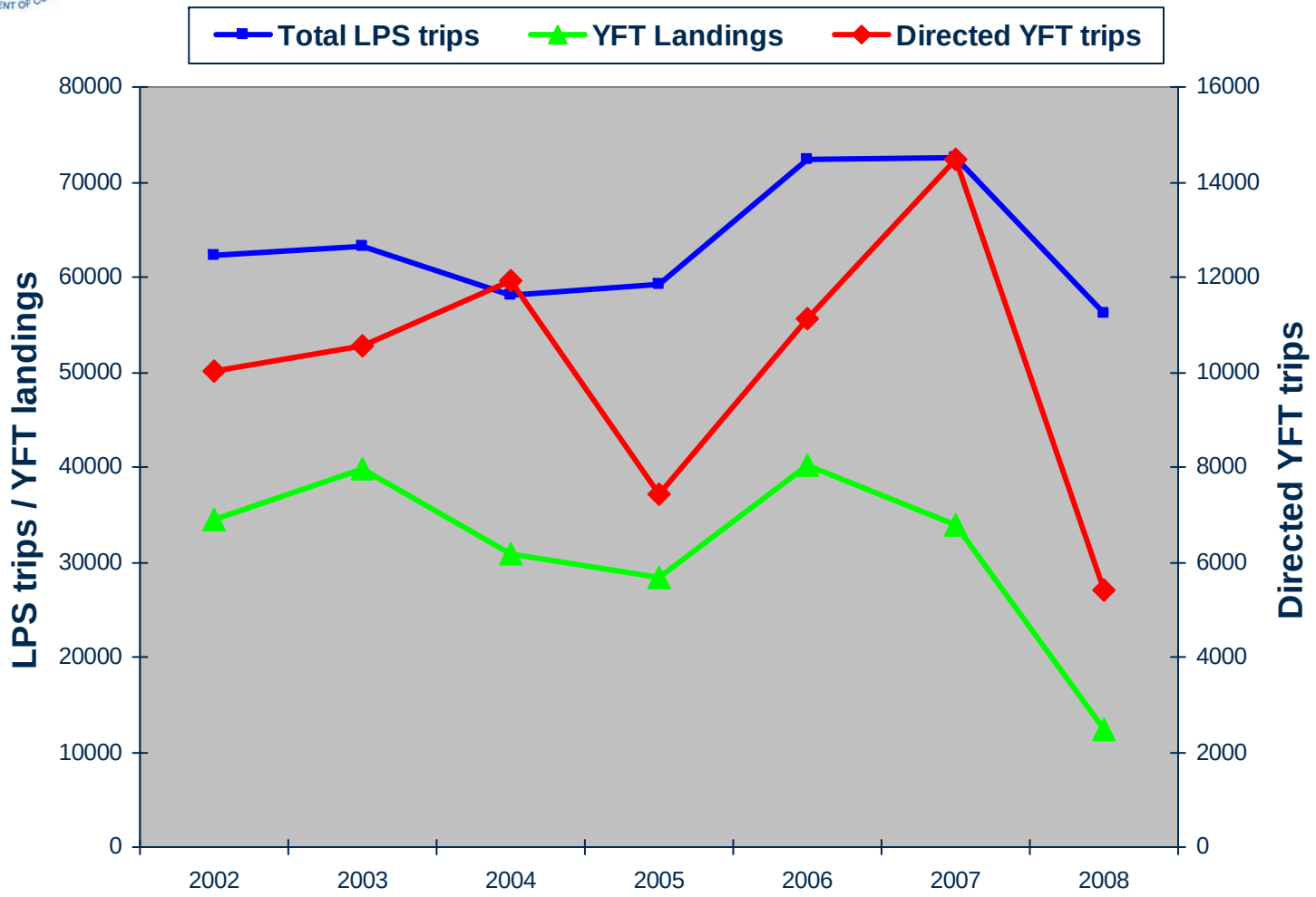
Private Boat Trips, Directed YFT Trips and YFT Landings *(ME-VA, LPS)*



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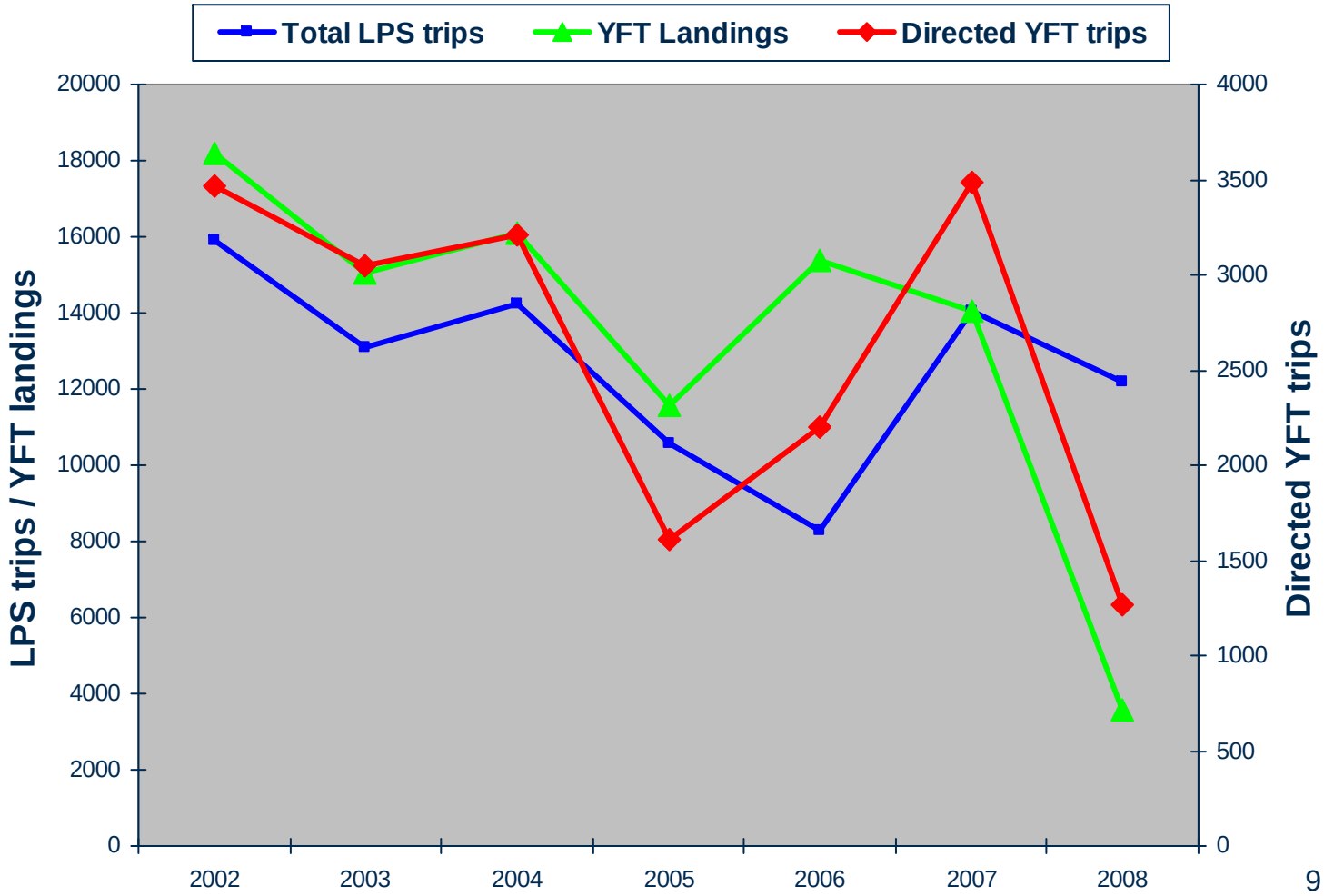
Charterboat Trips, Directed YFT trips and YFT landings (*ME-VA, LPS)*



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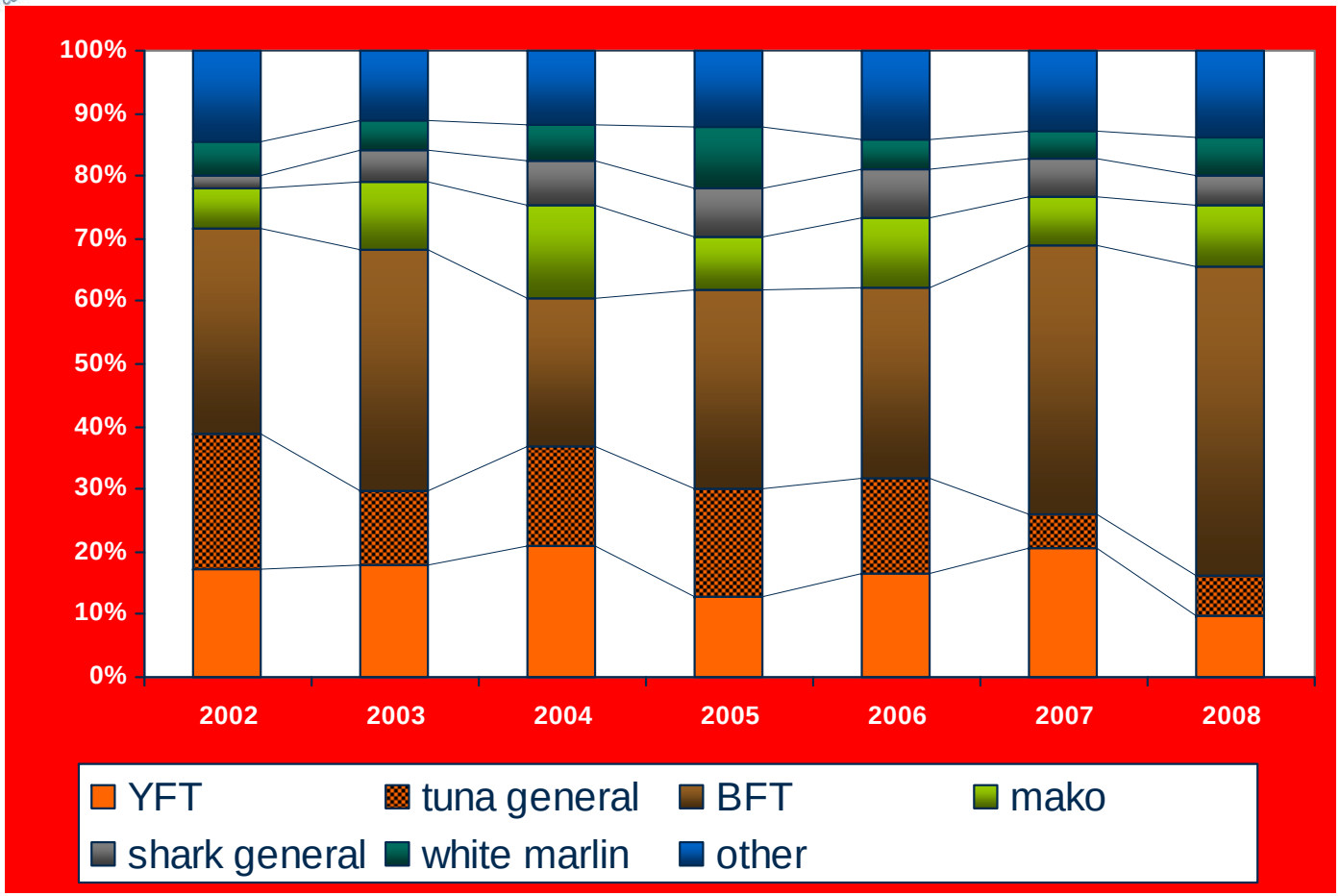
Responses to LPS Primary Target Question (Proportional)



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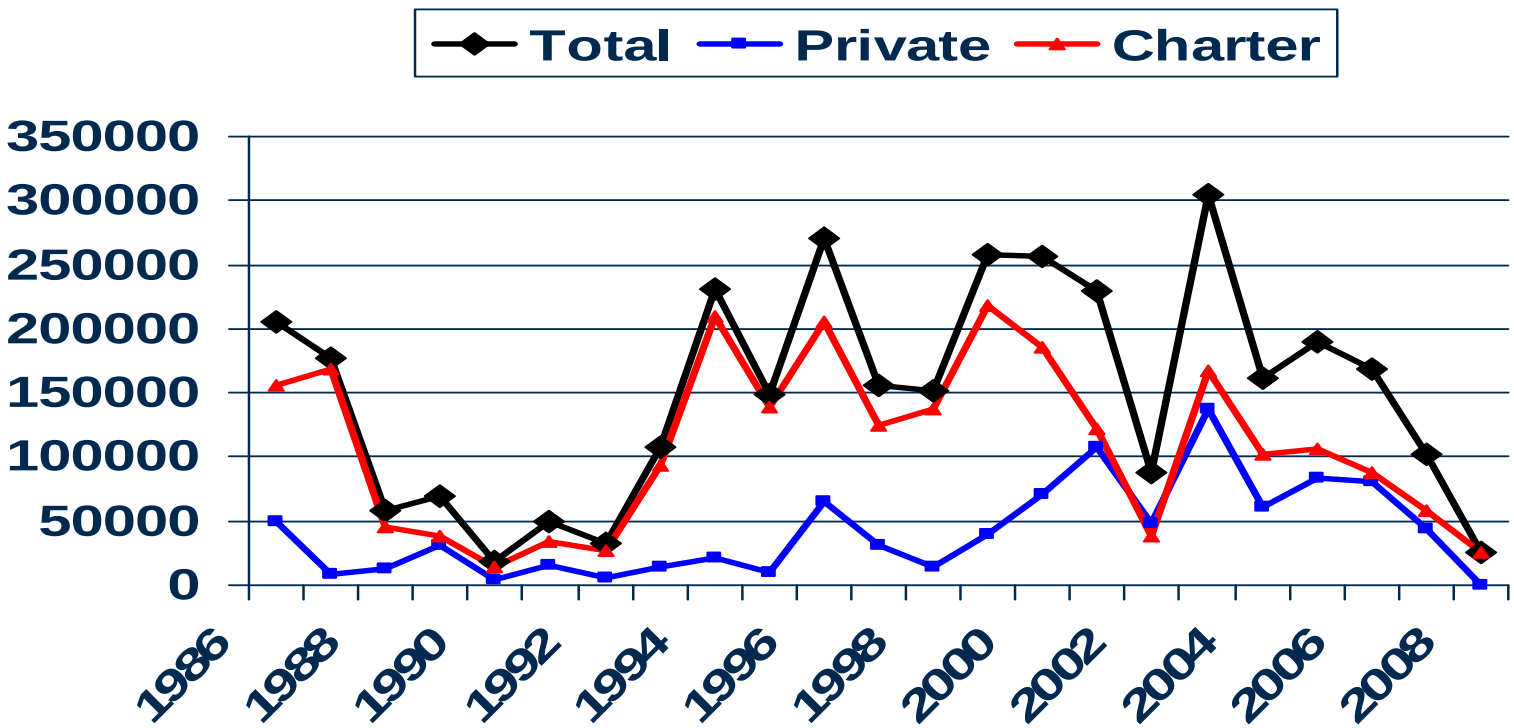
MRFSS YFT Landings Estimates

South Atlantic (NC- E. FL)
Waves 1-5 (Jan-Oct)



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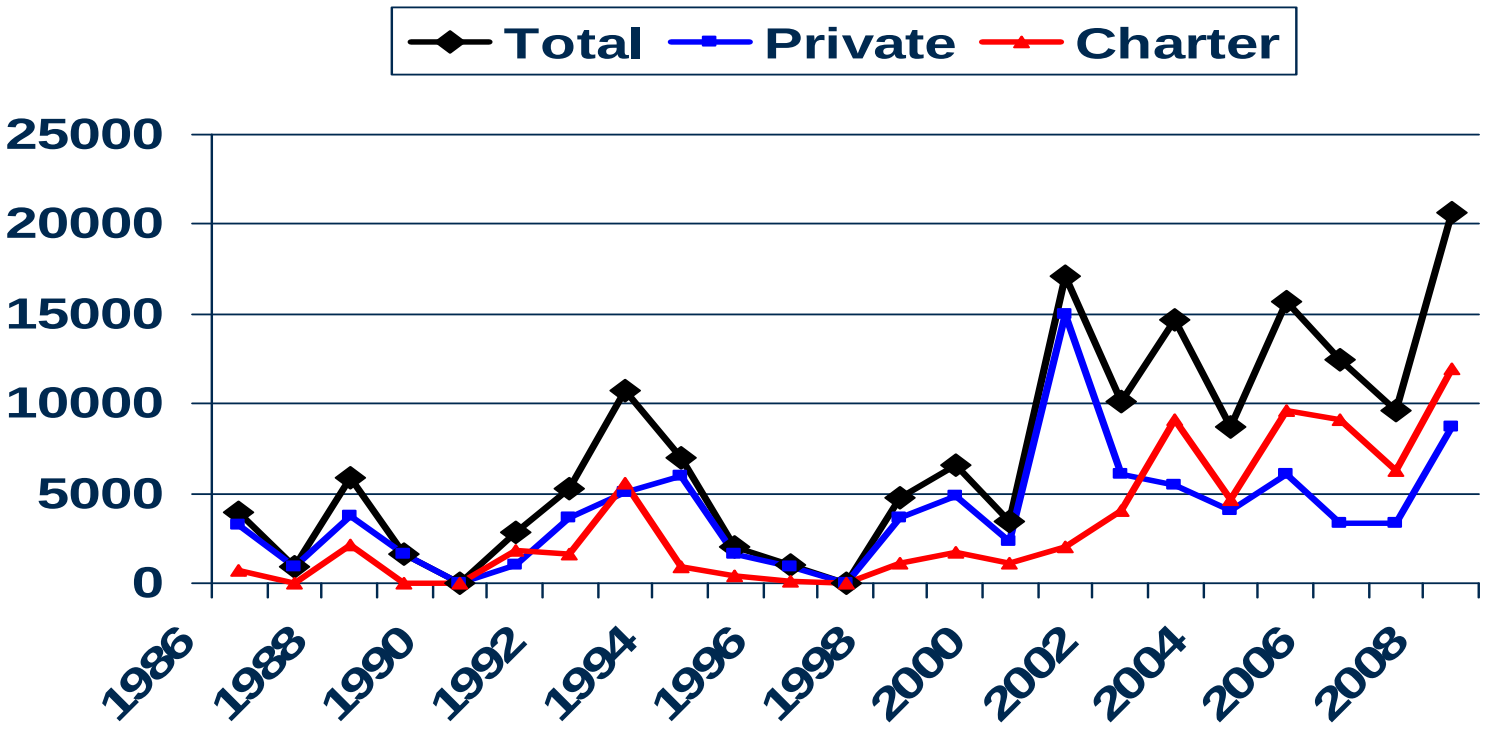
MRFSS YFT Landings Estimates

Gulf of Mexico (W. FL - LA)

Waves 1-5 (Jan-Oct)



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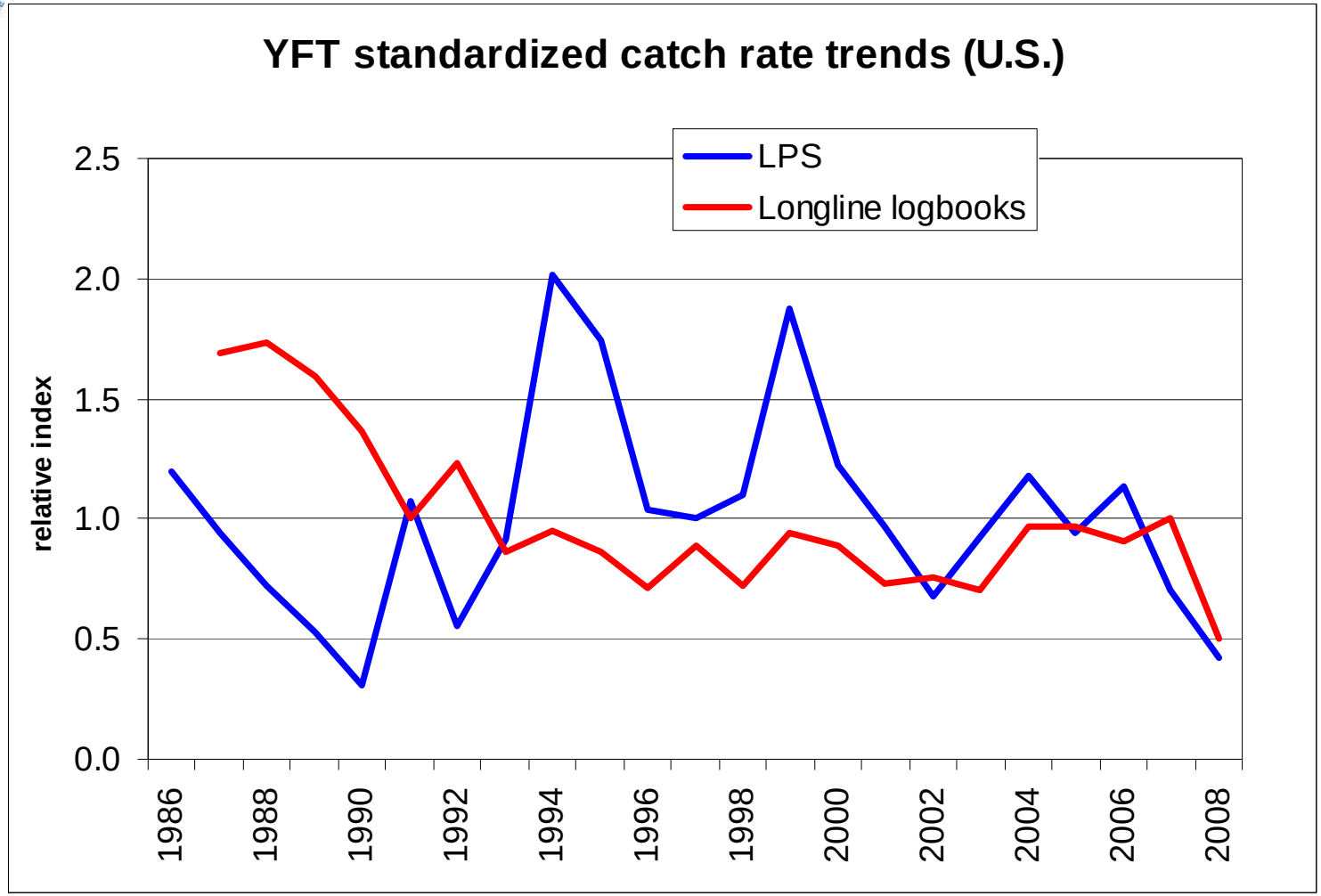
U.S. Catch Rates



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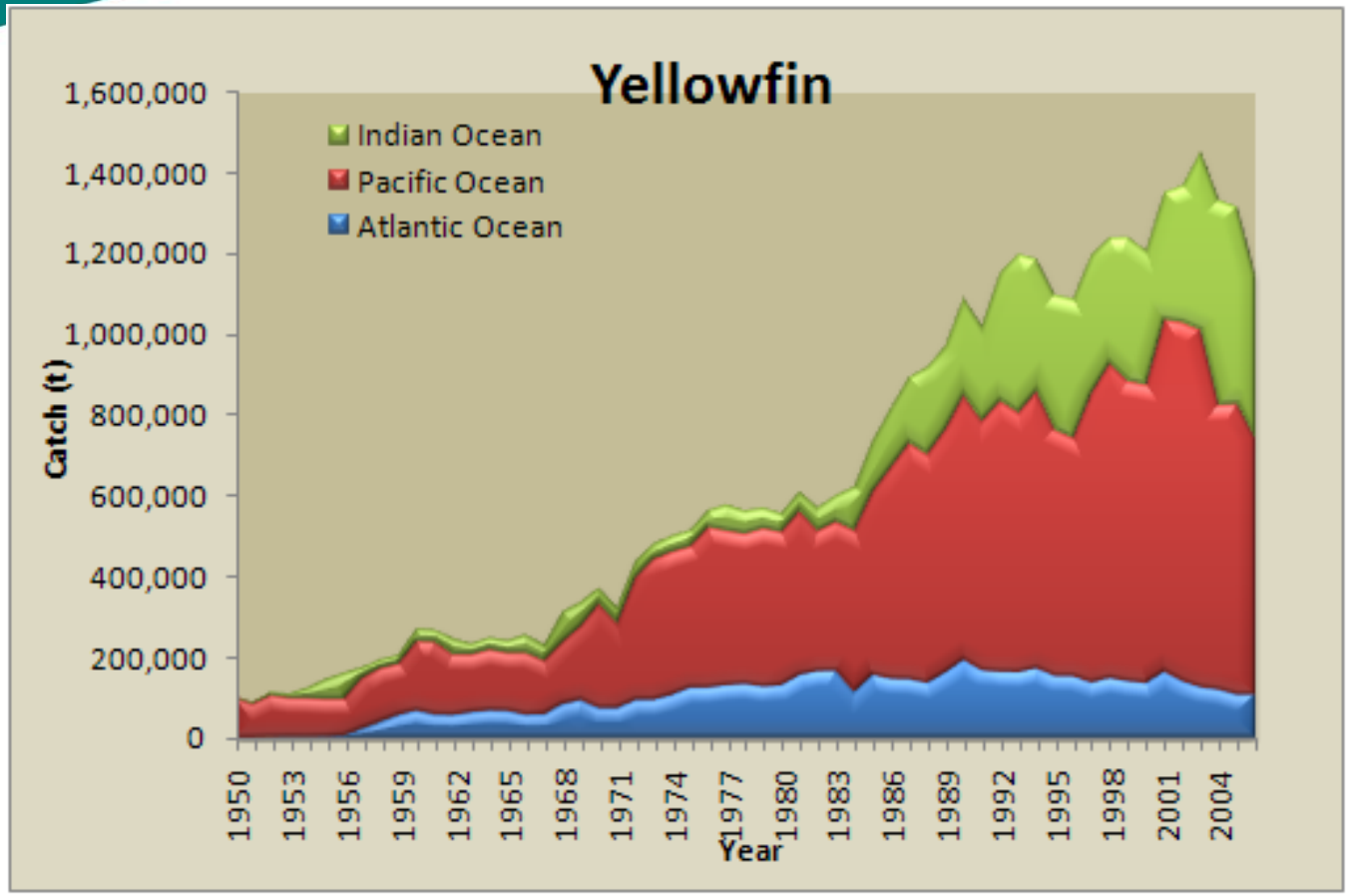
Yellowfin Worldwide

ICCAT Meeting 2008, SCRS



Atlantic Tropical Tuna production is less than 10% of the world production and has been in decline over the past decade.

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Atlantic Yellowfin Tuna Biology

- Tropical and subtropical in distribution (15˚ N to 15˚ S)
- Maturity at 100 cm (39.4”) - approx. 3 years old
- Primary spawning area – Gulf of Guinea equatorial zone Relative importance of other spawning areas (Gulf of Mexico, southeastern Caribbean Sea, off Cape Verde) unknown
- Juveniles form mixed schools with bigeye and skipjack in surface waters
- Larger fish school in surface and subsurface waters

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YFT International Fisheries

- Longline
- Purse seine
- Baitboat
- Other

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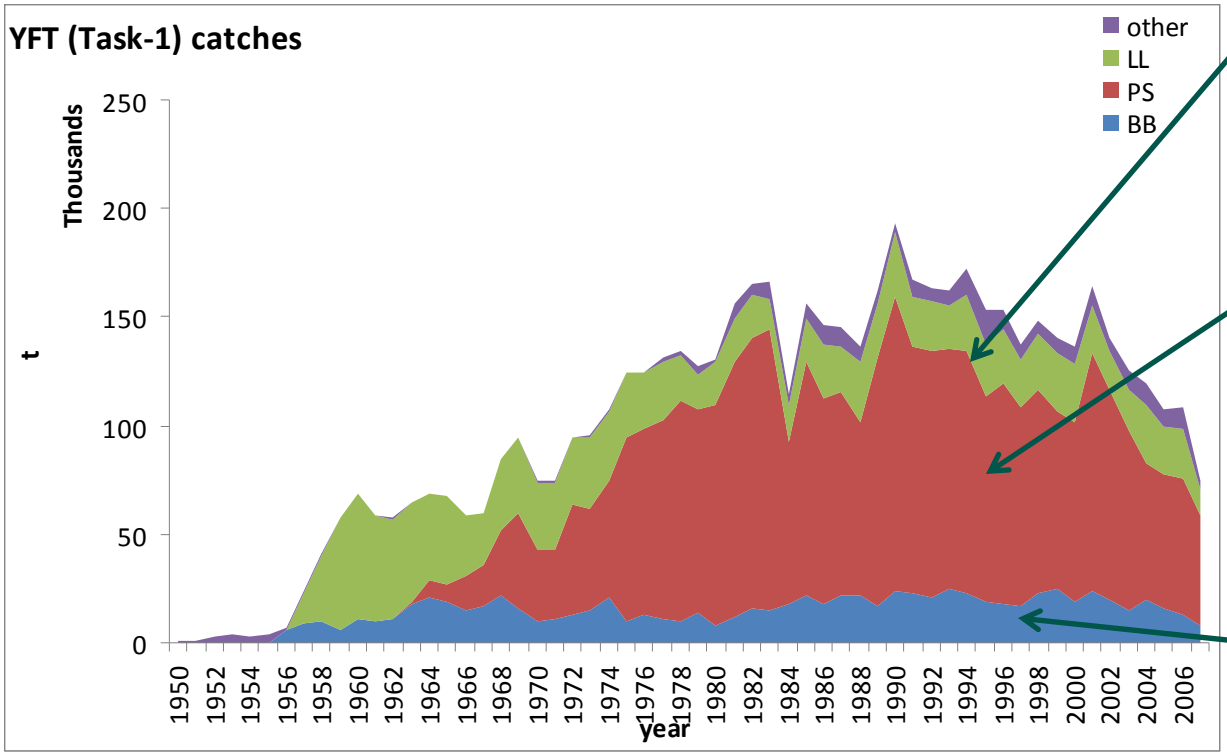
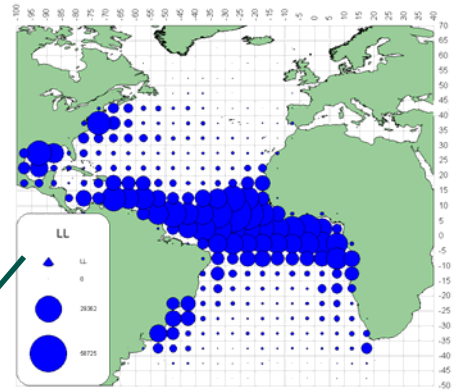
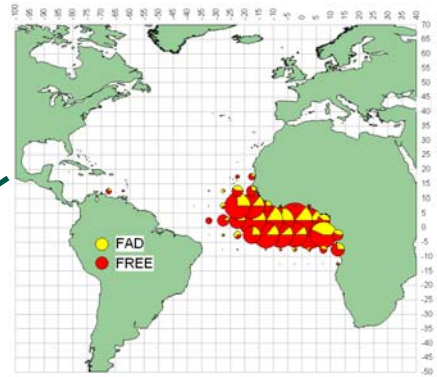
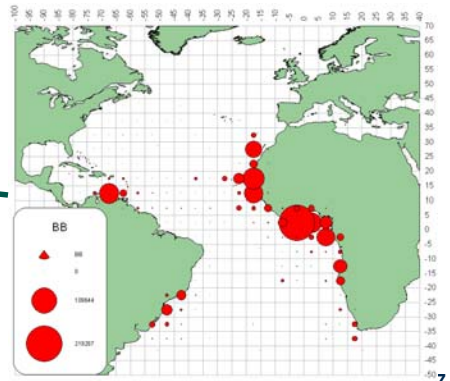
Atlantic YFT Fisheries

IAC YFT Stock Assessment Update









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2008 ICCAT Yellowfin (and Skipjack) Stock Assessment

- Florianopolis, Brazil, 21-29 July
- Catch & effort data through 2006
- 30 Scientists from Angola, Brazil, France, Ghana, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Uruguay, USA
- Objective: To assess yellowfin (whole Atlantic) and skipjack (East and West)
- Results were endorsed by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics in October, 2008

Last assessed in 2004 (YFT)

No new major information on biology was presented

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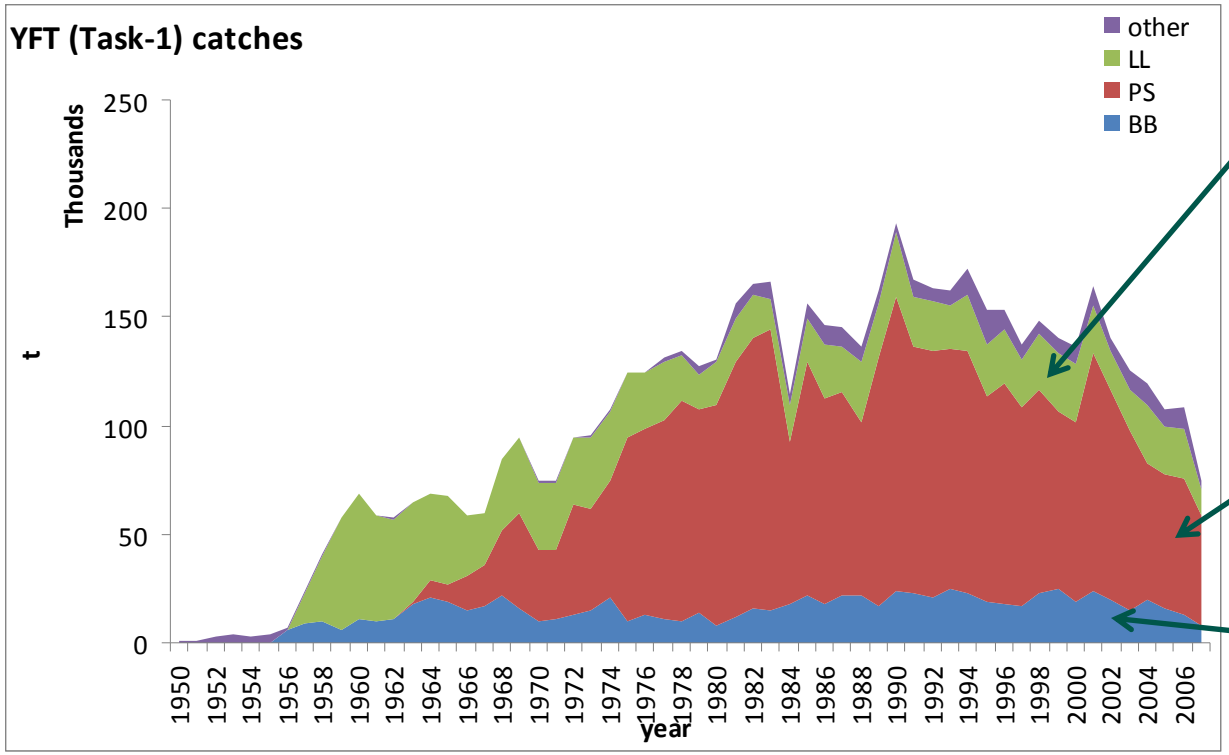
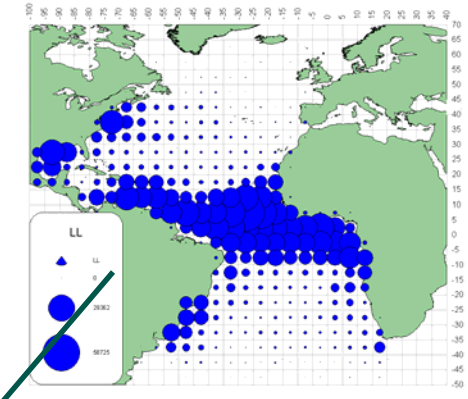
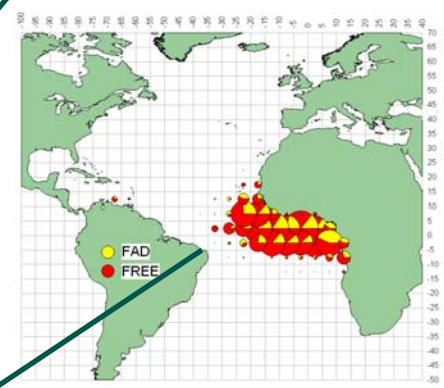
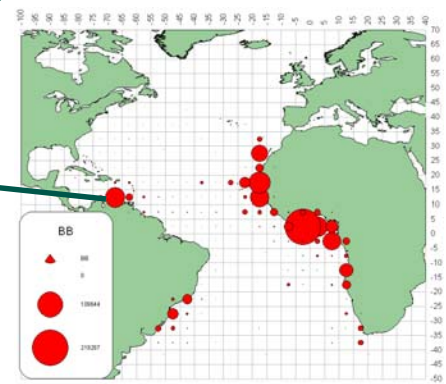
Atlantic YFT Fisheries

IAC YFT Stock Assessment Update









- Catches have declined 34% since 2001, 44% since peak in 1990's

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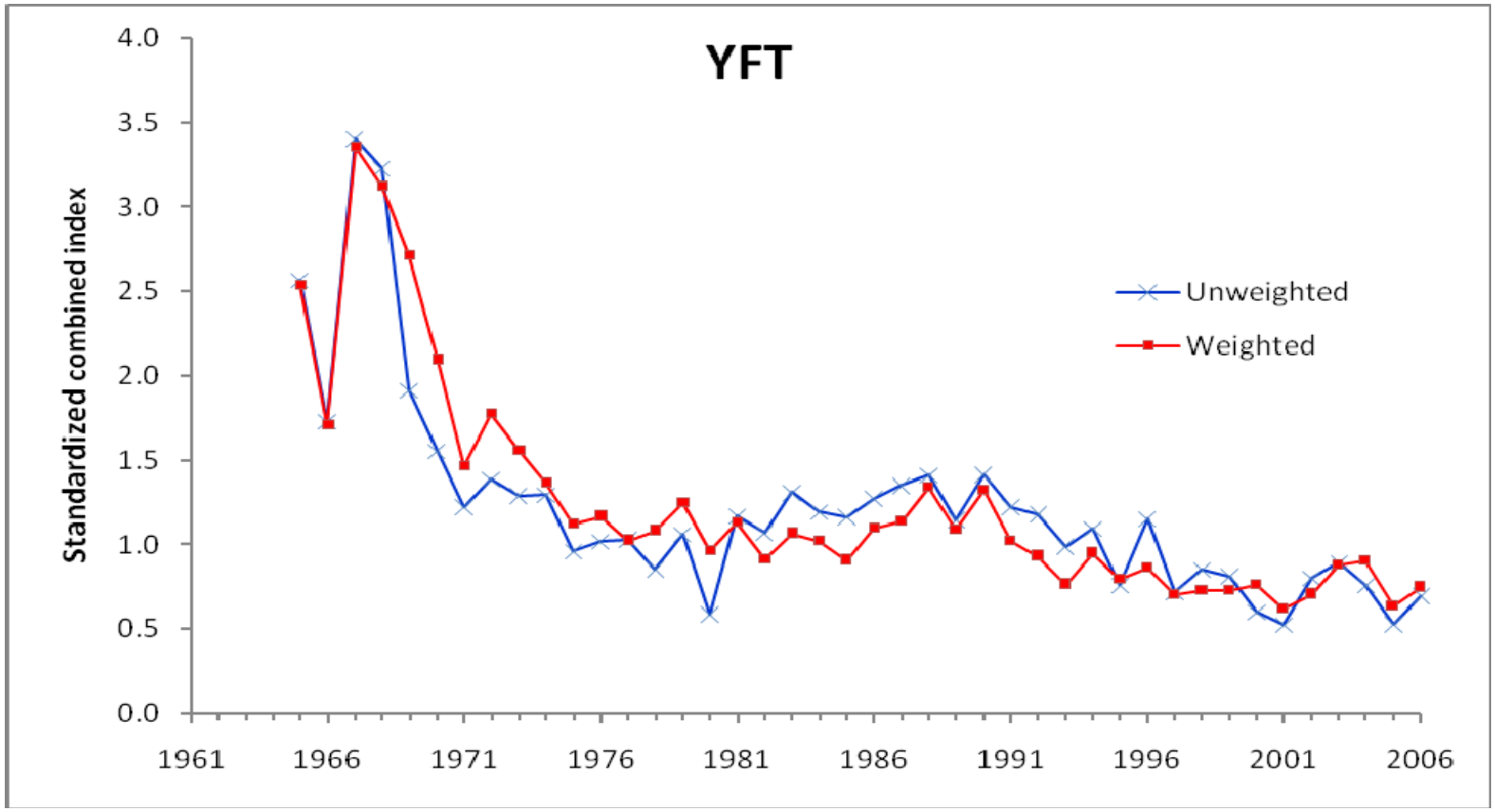
ICCAT Yellowfin Assessment

SCRS, 2008



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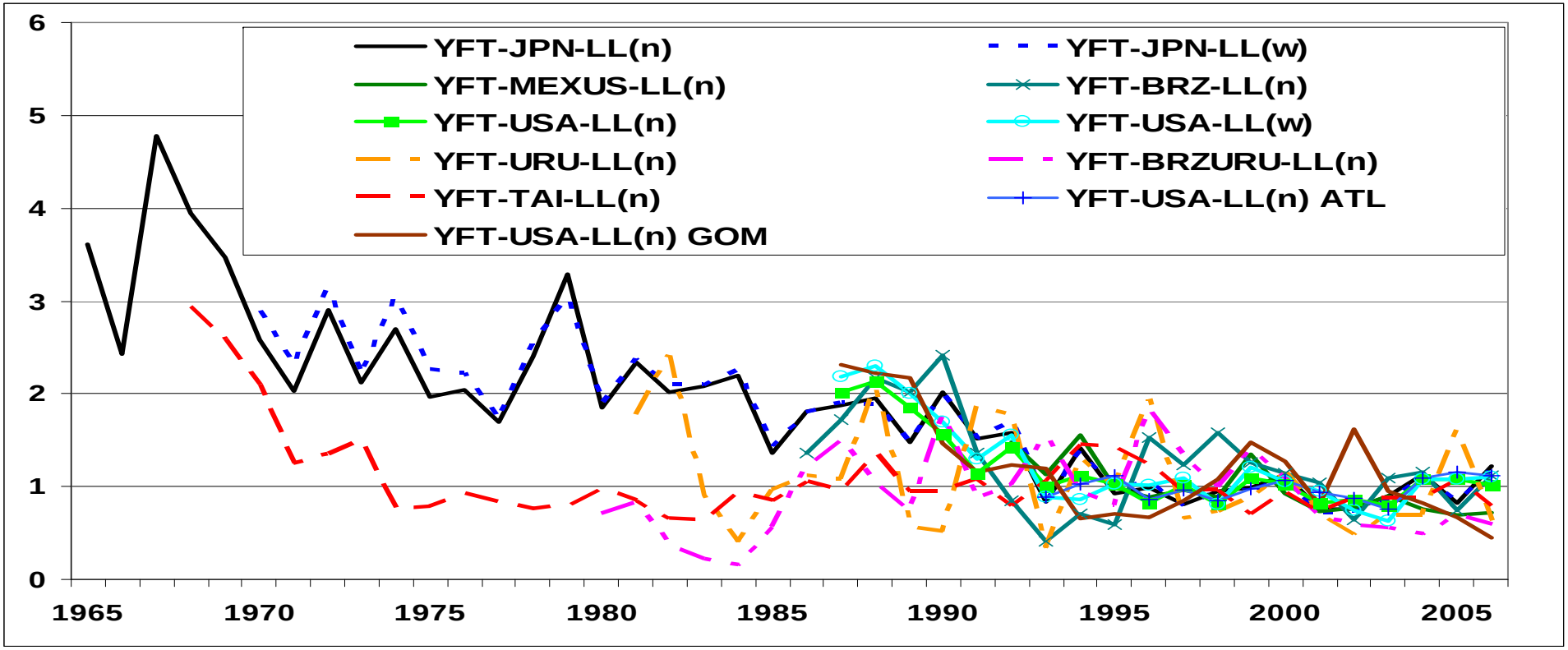
ICCAT Yellowfin Assessment

SCRS 2008

LL indicators - depletion to about a quarter of the mid-1960s level of spawners



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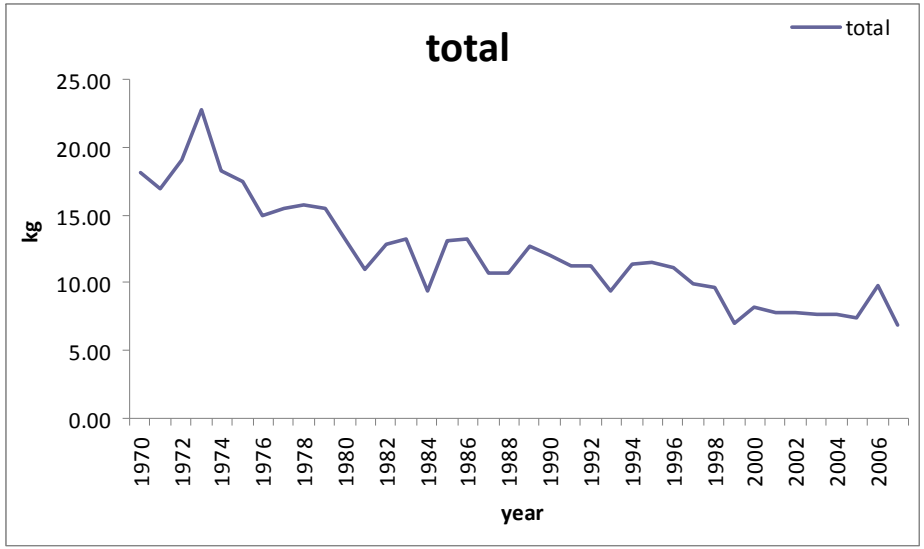
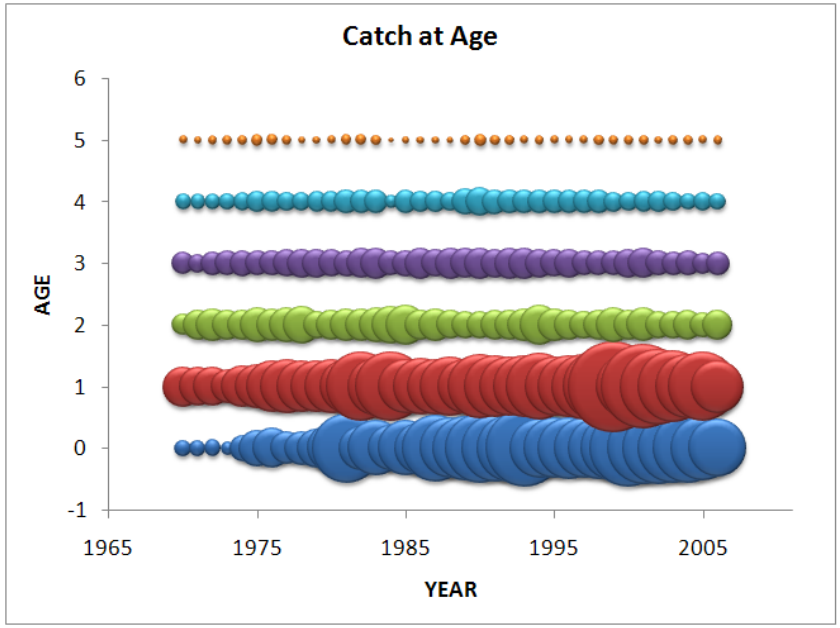
ICCAT Yellowfin Assessment

SCRS, 2008



The mean weight in the catch has decreased, partly due to selectivity



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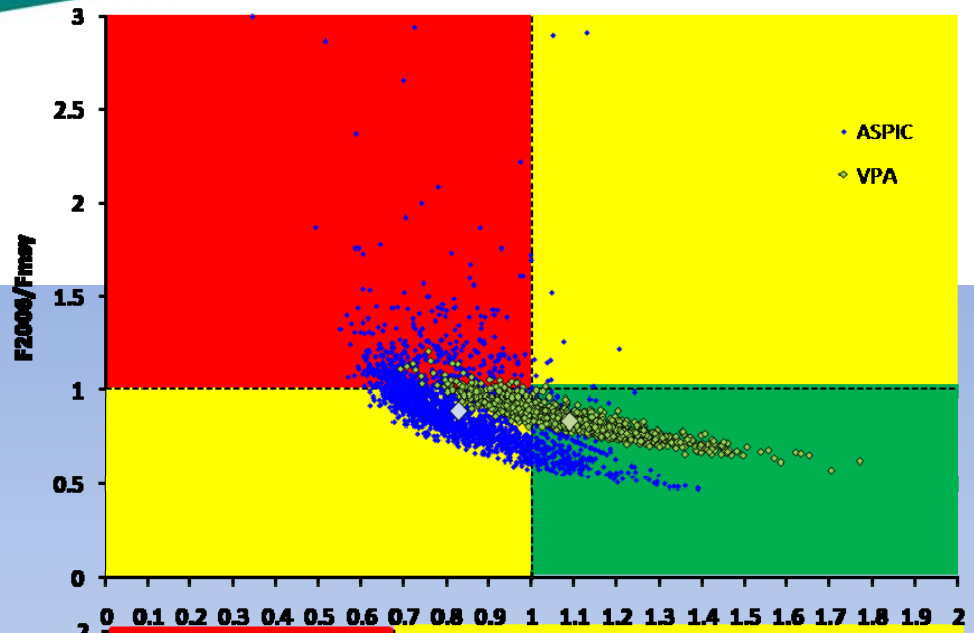
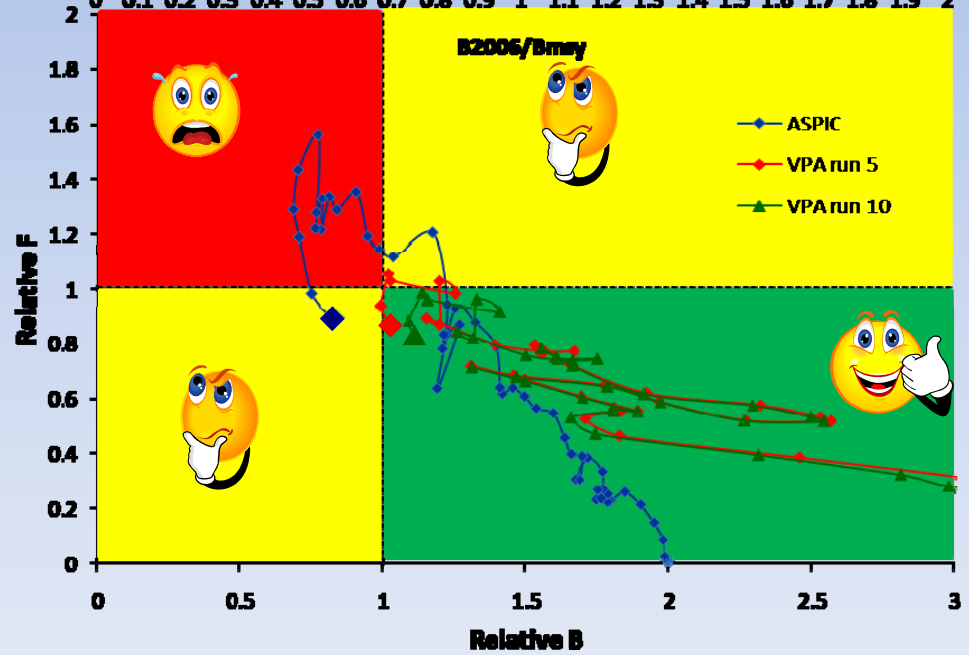
Yellowfin Assessment

ICCAT Annual Meeting, 2008, SCRS





B/Bmsy ~ 0.96

F/Fmsy ~ 0.86

TAC: N/A

2007 catch: ~ 100,000 t

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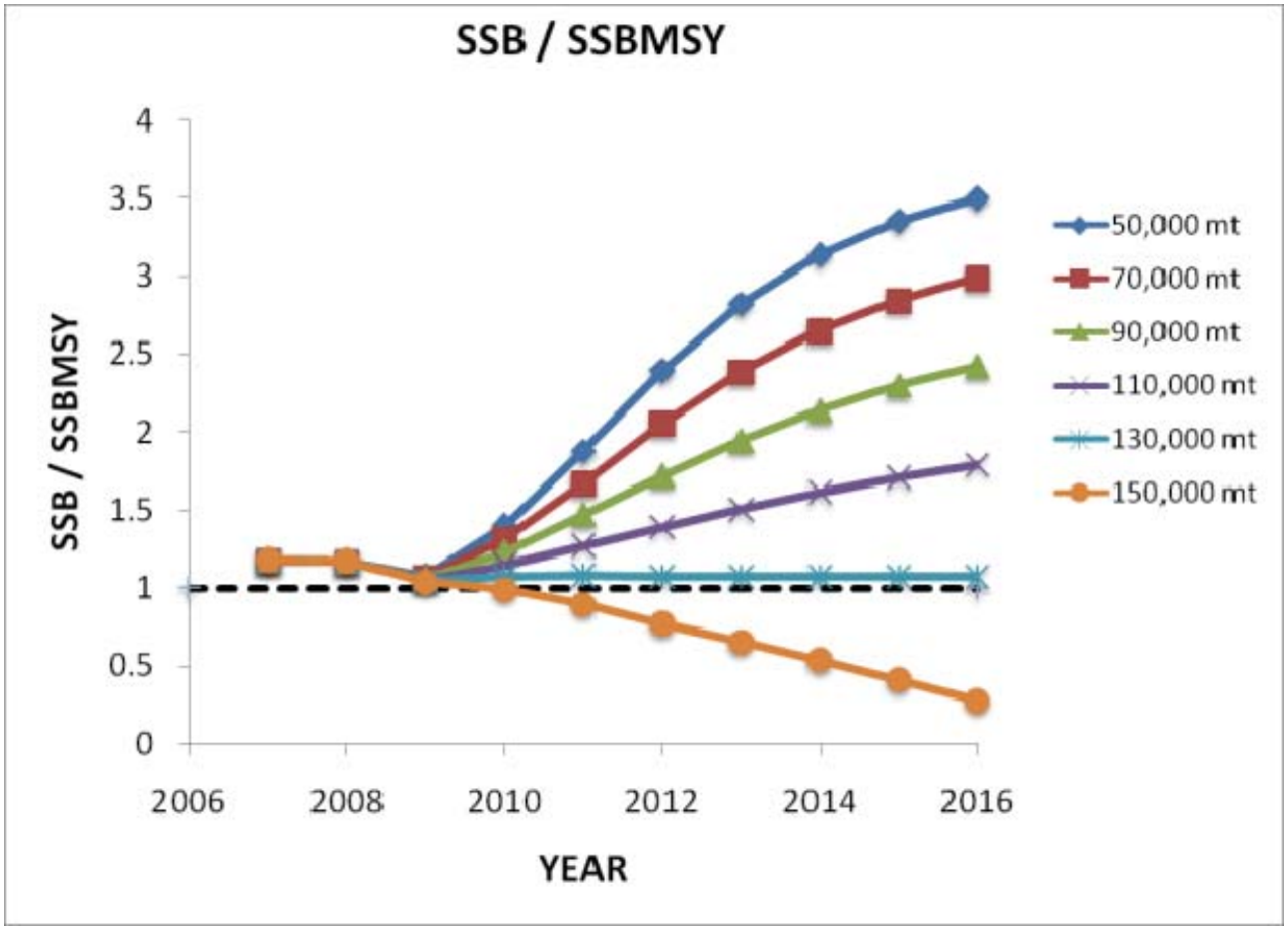
Projections

ICCAT Annual Meeting, 2008, SCRS



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Conclusions/Next Steps

- Update ’08 commercial landings data (Summer 2009)
- Outline history of U.S. Management
- Other (?)