

Science, Service, Stewardship



Atlantic bluefin tuna

Recent fishery trends – landings and bycatch information,
updated through 2012

September 2013

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



2012 and 2013 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Angling Category

Default amount:

1 school, large school, or small medium BFT/vessel/day

2012: January 1-April 6

2013: January 1-April 3

1 school, large school, or small medium BFT/vessel/day (Private boats)

1 school BFT & 1 large school/small medium BFT/vessel/day (CHBs)

2012: April 7-December 31

2013: April 4-December 31

Closure dates for Trophy category fishery

(limit of 1 large medium or giant BFT/vessel/year):

2012: South – April 7

2013: South - April 4



2012 and 2013 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Commercial Categories

- **General Category**

Jan 1 – Jan 22, 2012: **2** large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

Jun 1 – Dec 31, 2012: **3** large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

Dec 15: Quota transfer from Reserve to General category (40 mt)

Jan 1 – Feb 15, 2013: **2** large medium or giant

Jun 1 – Dec 31, 2013: **3** large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

- **Harpoon Category**

Jun 1 – Nov 15: 4 large medium & unlimited giant BFT/vessel/day

Nov 16 – Dec 31: Closed



2012 and 2013 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Commercial Categories

- Purse Seine Category (July 15 through December 31)
 - Large medium BFT (73 to <81" CFL): no more than 15%, by weight, of the total amount of giant BFT/year
 - Giant BFT (81"+): unlimited
 - BFT <73": no more than 1%, by weight, of the skipjack and yellowfin landed on that trip

Observers deployed in 2013 consistent with ICCAT Rec. 10-10, which requires a minimum of 5% coverage of fishing effort, as measured in number of sets or trips



2012 and 2013 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Commercial Categories

- **Longline Category**

- 1 large medium or giant BFT/vessel for 2,000 lb target catch
- 2 large medium or giant BFT/vessel for 6,000 lb target catch
- 3 large medium or giant BFT/vessel for 30,000 lb target catch

Closure and quota adjustment information on next slide

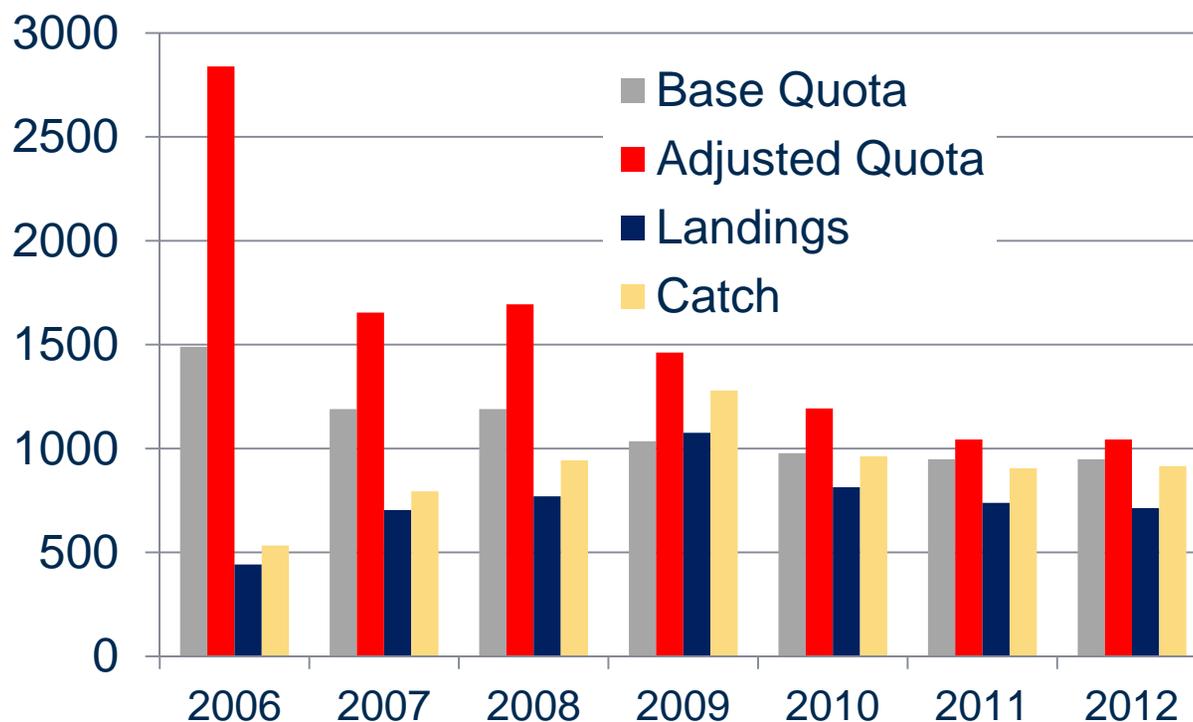


2012 and 2013 Longline Category Quotas and BFT Incidental Fishery Closures

- During preparation of the 2012 final rule, NMFS **closed both the southern area (May 29) and northern area (June 30)** for the remainder of the year when the codified subquotas were reached
- In the final quota specifications (July), NMFS provided 76.2 mt of the allowed 2011 underharvest (94.9 mt) to the Longline category after deducting $\frac{1}{2}$ of the best estimate of dead discards (i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$ of 145.2 mt) from the Longline base quota for an **adjusted quota of 78.4 mt** (the amount landed by the closure dates)
- In the final 2013 quota specifications, NMFS provided all of the 2012 underharvest (90.9 mt) to the Longline category after deducting $\frac{1}{2}$ of the best estimate of dead discards (i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$ of 239.5 mt) from the Longline base quota for an **adjusted quota of 46 mt**, and **closed the southern and northern areas effective June 25**



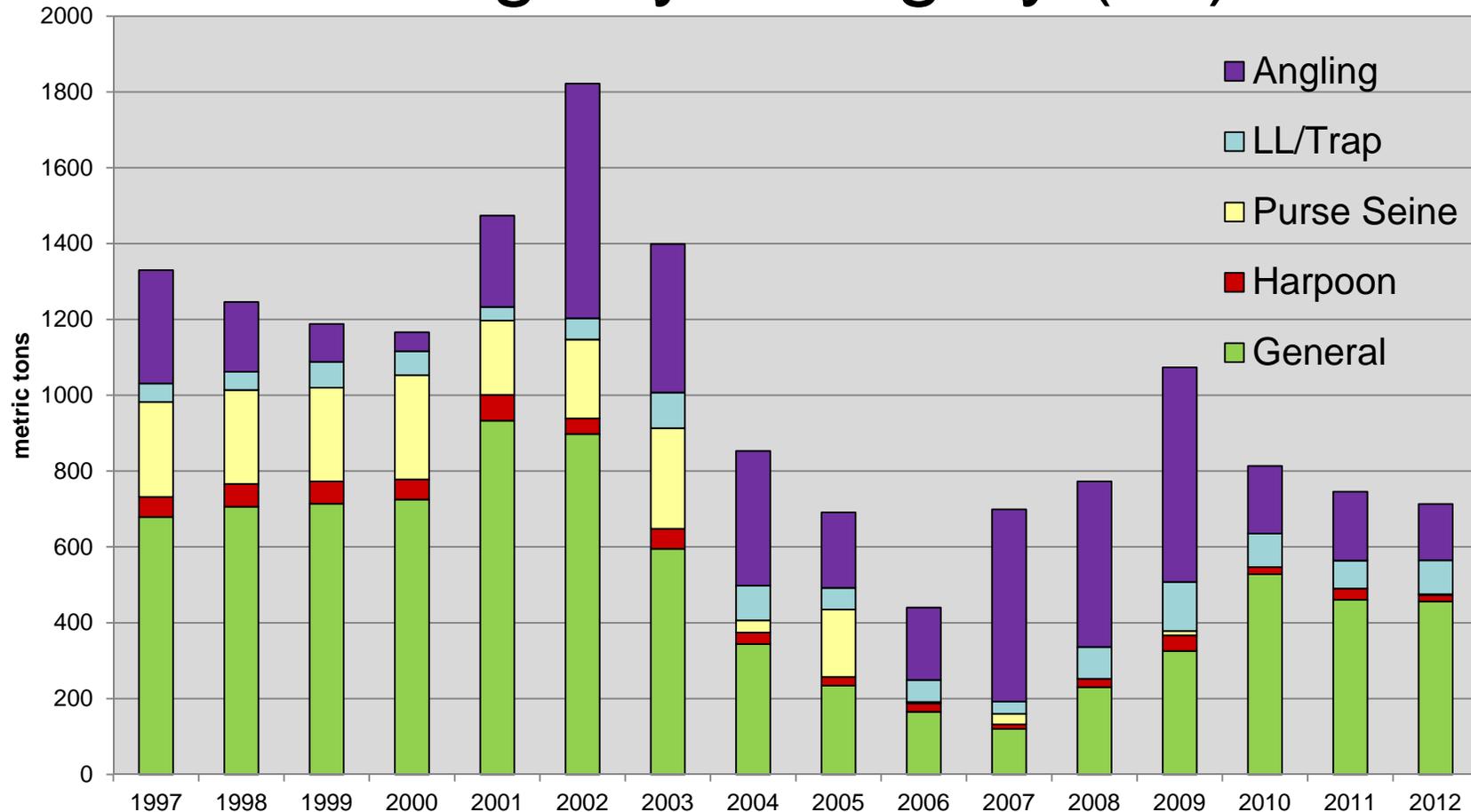
U.S. BFT Landings, Catch, and Quotas (mt)



In 2012, total landings were 713 mt, which corresponded to 68% of the U.S. adjusted quota (1,043.6 mt) and 75% of the base quota (948.7 mt).

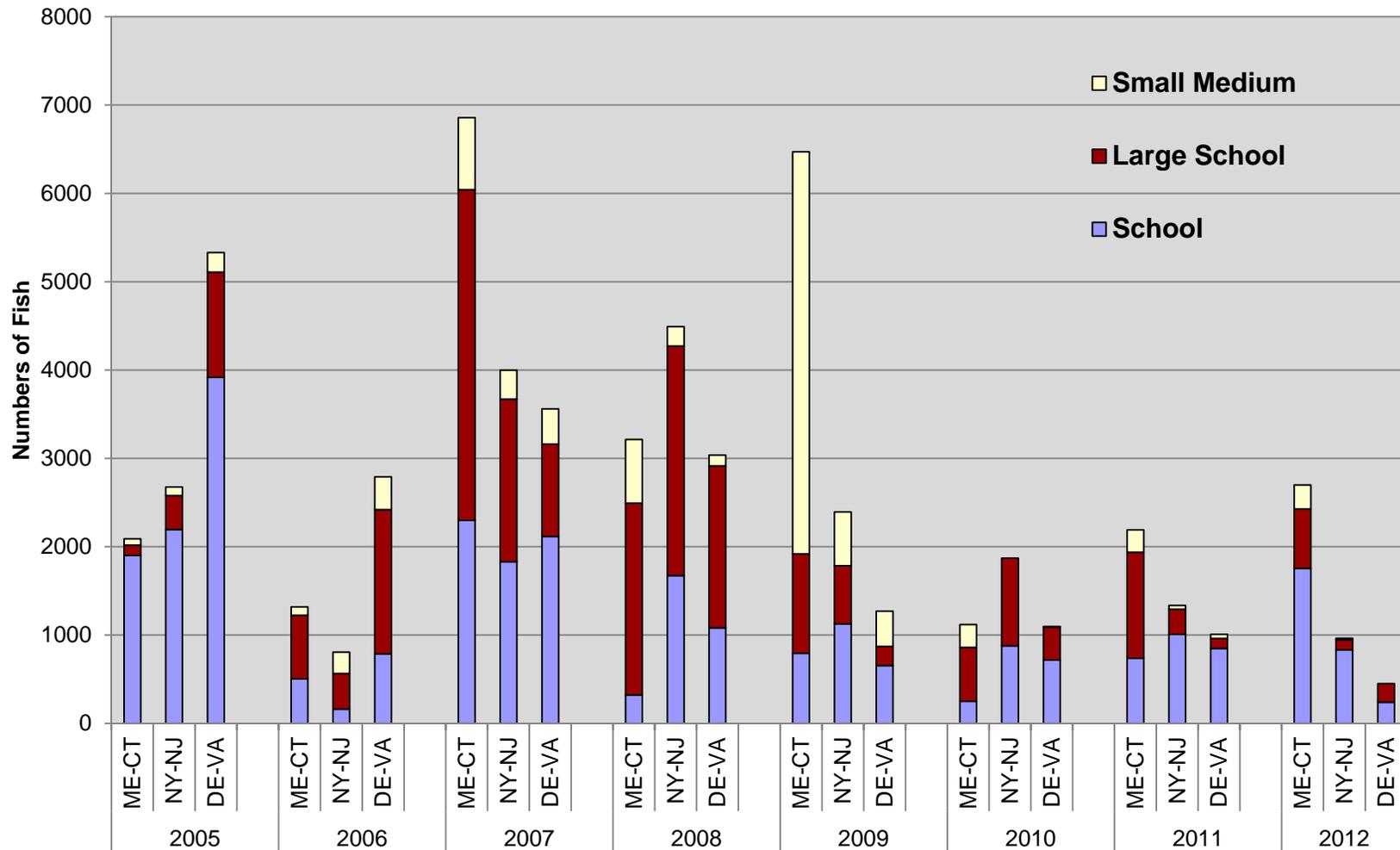
Note: this figure shows the ICCAT U.S. Adjusted Quota for all years. In 2011 and 2012, the adjusted quotas published in the final quota specifications reflected NMFS' accounting for half of the estimated dead discards at the beginning of the fishing year, with the remainder to be accounted for at year-end.

Landings by Category (mt)



Note the decline in General category landings from 2001 through 2007 and the large proportion of Angling category landings 2007 through 2009 (associated with a spike in large school/small medium BFT landings). General category landings grew each year from 2007 through 2010 and decreased in 2011 (although 95% and 96%, respectively, of the 2011 and 2012 adjusted General category subquota was landed).

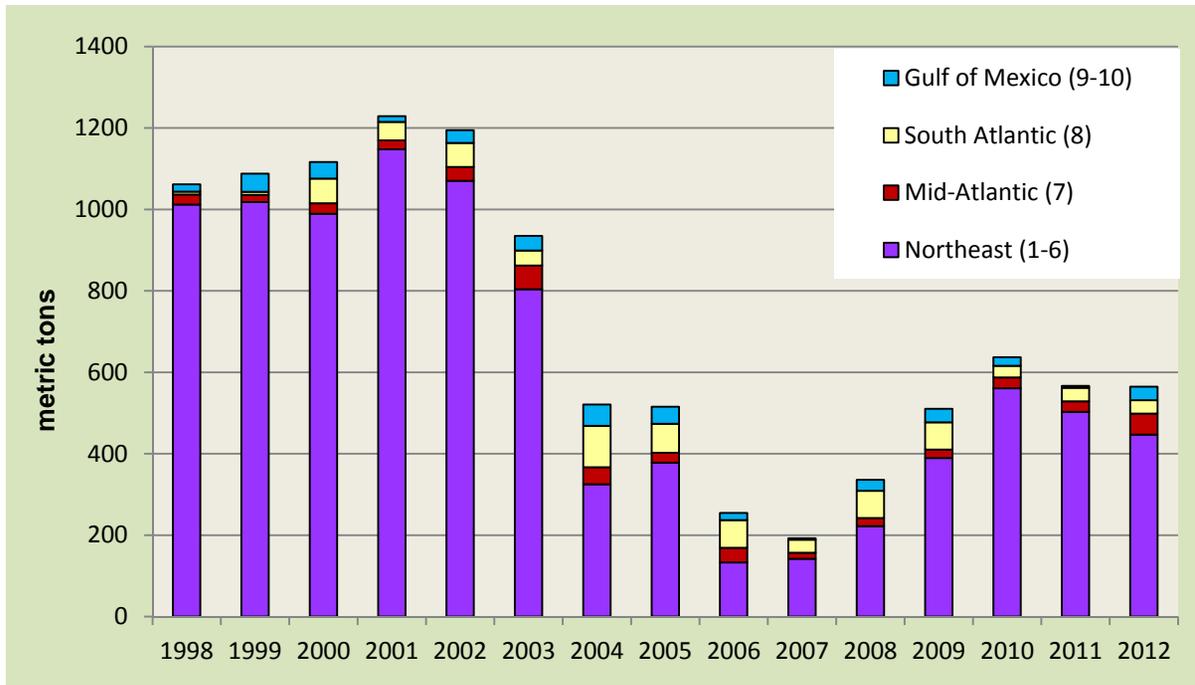
Recreational Landings by Area



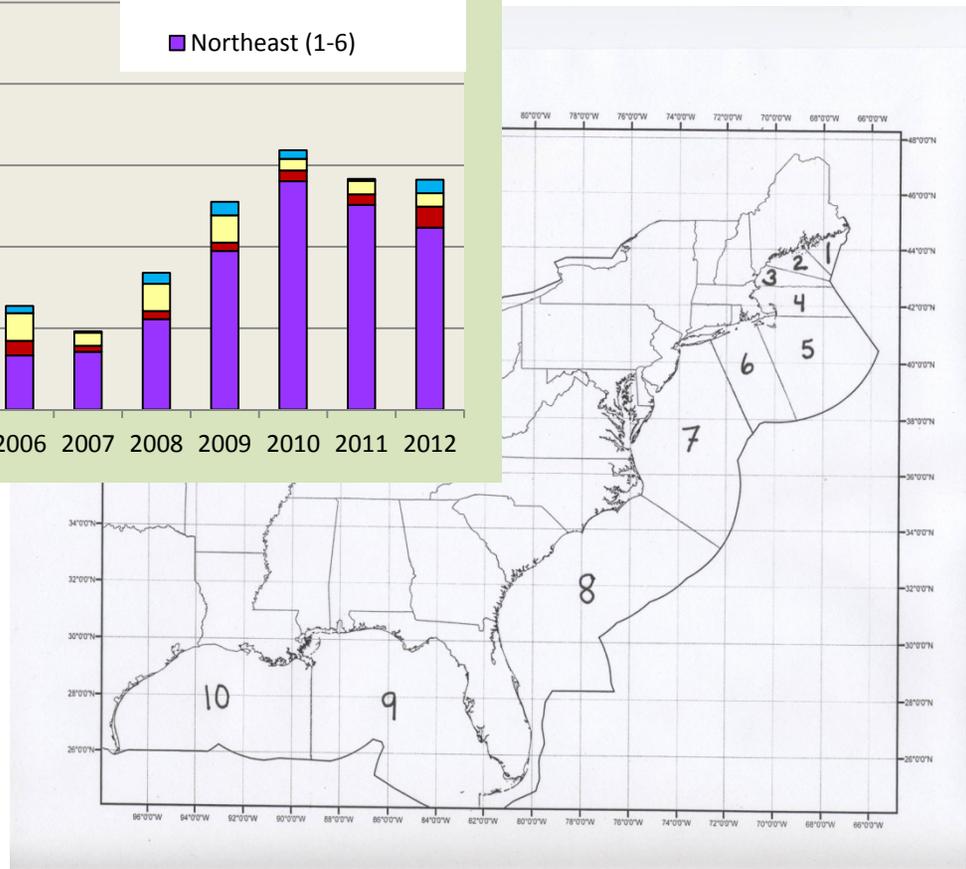
Data source: LPS (for ME-VA only)

Angling category landings of small medium BFT prohibited 6/12-12/31/10 and 4/2-12/31/11

Commercial Landings by Area

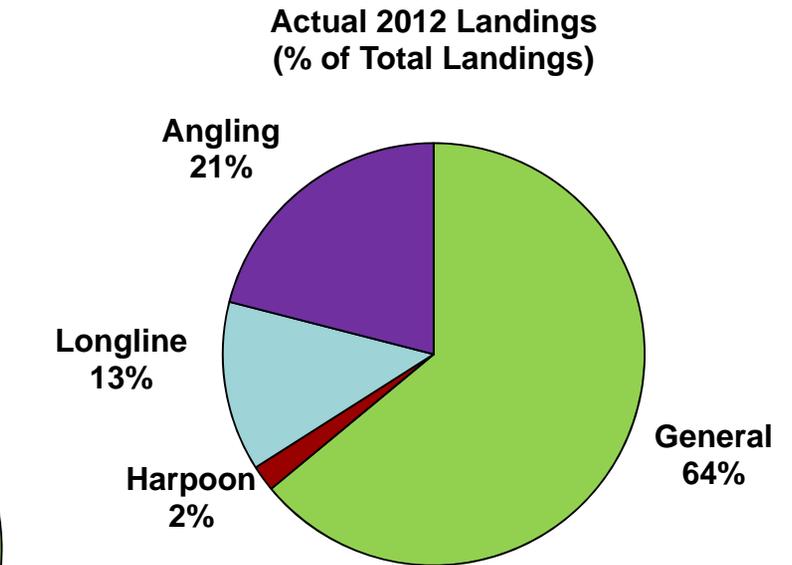
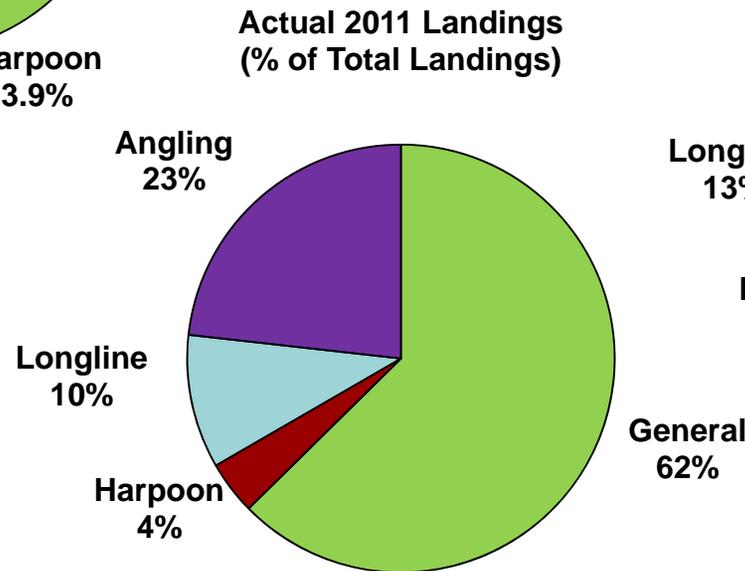
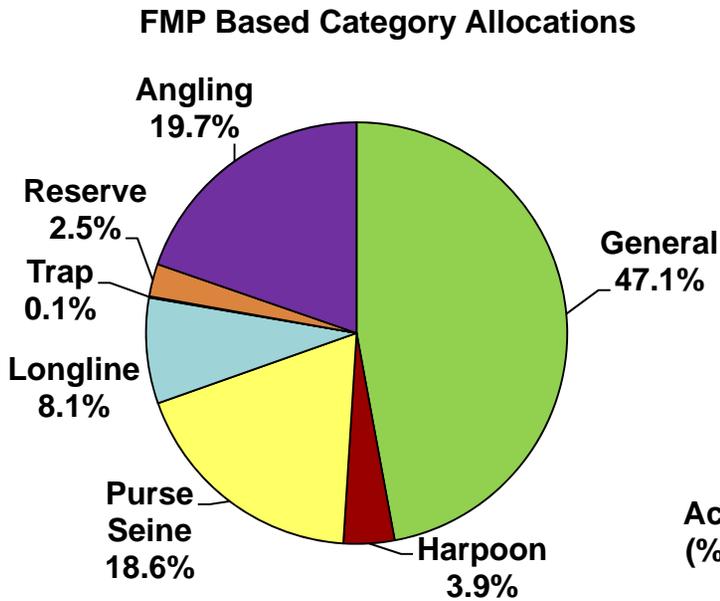


Commercial landings declined from peak in 2001 until 2007, increased from 2007 through 2010, and decreased slightly in 2011.



Comparison of FMP allocations to % of 2011 and 2012 Landings

Recent landings (directed and incidental) by category as a percentage of total landings compared to allocations established in the 1999 HMS FMP (at left).



Base and adjusted BFT quotas, landings, and retention limits, 2010-2012

Category	2010 (January-December)					2011 (January-December)					2012 (January-December)				
	Base Quota	Adj. Quota ¹	Lndgs & LL dd ²	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit
General	448.6	538.9	528.3	98	LM/G: 2: Jan 3: June-Dec	435.1	485.1 ³	460.6	95	LM/G: 2: 1/1-1/31; 11/6-12/31 3: 6/1-11/6	435.1	475.1 ³	456.2	96	LM/G: 2: 1/1-1/22 3: 6/1-12/31
Harpoon	37.1	44.6	18.4	41	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15	36	36	29.3	81	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15	36	36	17.2	48	LM: 4 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15
Longline –	102.1	100	88.5	89		99.8	86.1	74.6	87		99.8	103.4	89.6 ⁴	87	
North & NED	55.9	55	44.7	81		54.9	49.4	38.7	77		54.9	49.4	38.8		
South	46.2	45	43.8	97		44.9	36.7	35.9	100		44.9	36.7	30.8		
dead discards			149.6					166.2					202.3 ⁵		
Trap	1	1.1	0	0		0.9	0.9	0	0		0.9	0.9	0	0	
Purse Seine	177.2	212.8	0	0		171.8	171.8	0	0		171.8	171.8	1.7	1	
Angling	187.6	227.1	178.5	79		182	182	173.4	100		182	182	148.5	82	
School	97.7	97.7	33	34	Varied ⁶	94.9	94.9	56	61	Varied ⁶	94.9	94.9	63.2	67	Varied ⁶
LS/SM	85.6	122.5	139.3	114		82.9	82.9	111.6	144		82.9	82.9	79.1	95	
LM/G	4.3	6.9	6.2	90	1/year ⁷	4.2	4.2	5.8	119	1/year ⁷	4.2	4.2	6.2	148	1/year ⁷
Reserve	23.8	68.6	0			23.1	20.5 ⁸	0.6	3		23.1	1.8 ⁹	0	0	
TOTAL	977.4	1193.2	813.7	68		948.7	982.4⁸	738.5	75		948.7	971⁹	713.2	73	
							1043.6		71			1043.6		68	
<i>TOTAL (incl. DD)</i>	<i>977.4</i>	<i>1193.2</i>	<i>963.3</i>	<i>81</i>		<i>948.7</i>	<i>982.4⁸</i>	<i>904.7</i>	<i>92</i>		<i>948.7</i>	<i>982.4⁹</i>	<i>915.5</i>	<i>93</i>	
							<i>1043.6</i>		<i>86</i>			<i>1043.6</i>		<i>88</i>	

1 For all years shown, adjusted quota reflects quota published in final rule, as modified via inseason transfers during the fishing year.

2 Landings data from the annual reports posted on HMS website and include best available dead discard estimate

3 Reflect transfers of 50 mt and 40 mt from the Reserve category to the General category effective November 6, 2011, and December 15, 2012, respectively

4 Longline category southern area closed May 29, 2012; Longline category northern area closed June 30, 2012

5 2012 dead discard estimate is preliminary and is as reported to ICCAT in July 2013

6 2010 Angling category daily retention limits: 1 S, LS, or SM 1/1-6/11. For 6/12-12/31, limit was 1 S or LS for private vessels, 1 S and 1 LS for CHB vessels;

2011 Angling category daily retention limits: 1 S, LS, or SM 1/1-4/1. For 4/2-12/31, limit was 1 S or LS for private vessels, 1 S and 1 LS for CHB vessels

2012 Angling category daily retention limits: 1 S, LS, or SM 1/1-4/6. For 4/7-12/31, limit was 1 S, LS, or SM for private vessels, 1 S and 1 LS/SM for CHB vessels

7 For the Angling trophy category (large medium and giant BFT) in 2010, the Southern area closed 6/12 and the northern area closed 7/18; 6.9-mt trophy subquota reflects

1.7-mt transfer from Reserve, effective June 12. For 2011, the southern area closed 4/2 and the northern area closed 7/29. For 2012, the southern area closed 4/7.

8 2011 Adjusted Quota published in 76 FR 39019, July 5, 2011 = 982.4 mt, reflecting NMFS' accounting for half of the estimated dead discards at the beginning of the fishing year, with the remainder to be accounted for at year-end; *U.S. Adjusted Quota for ICCAT accounting purposes=1,043.6 mt*

9 2012 Adjusted Quota published in 77 FR 44161, July 27, 2012 = 971 mt, reflecting NMFS' accounting for half of the estimated dead discards at the beginning of the fishing year, with the remainder to be accounted for at year-end; *U.S. Adjusted Quota for ICCAT accounting purposes=1,043.6 mt*

KEY: G = Giant > 81", LM = Large Medium 73-81", SM = Small Medium 59-73", LS = Large School 47-59", S=School 27- 47"

Longline: Incidental limits: 1 BFT / 2,000 lb target catch, 2 BFT / 6,000 lb, and 3 BFT / 30,000 lb. NED = Northeast Distant Gear Restricted Area DD = Dead Discards

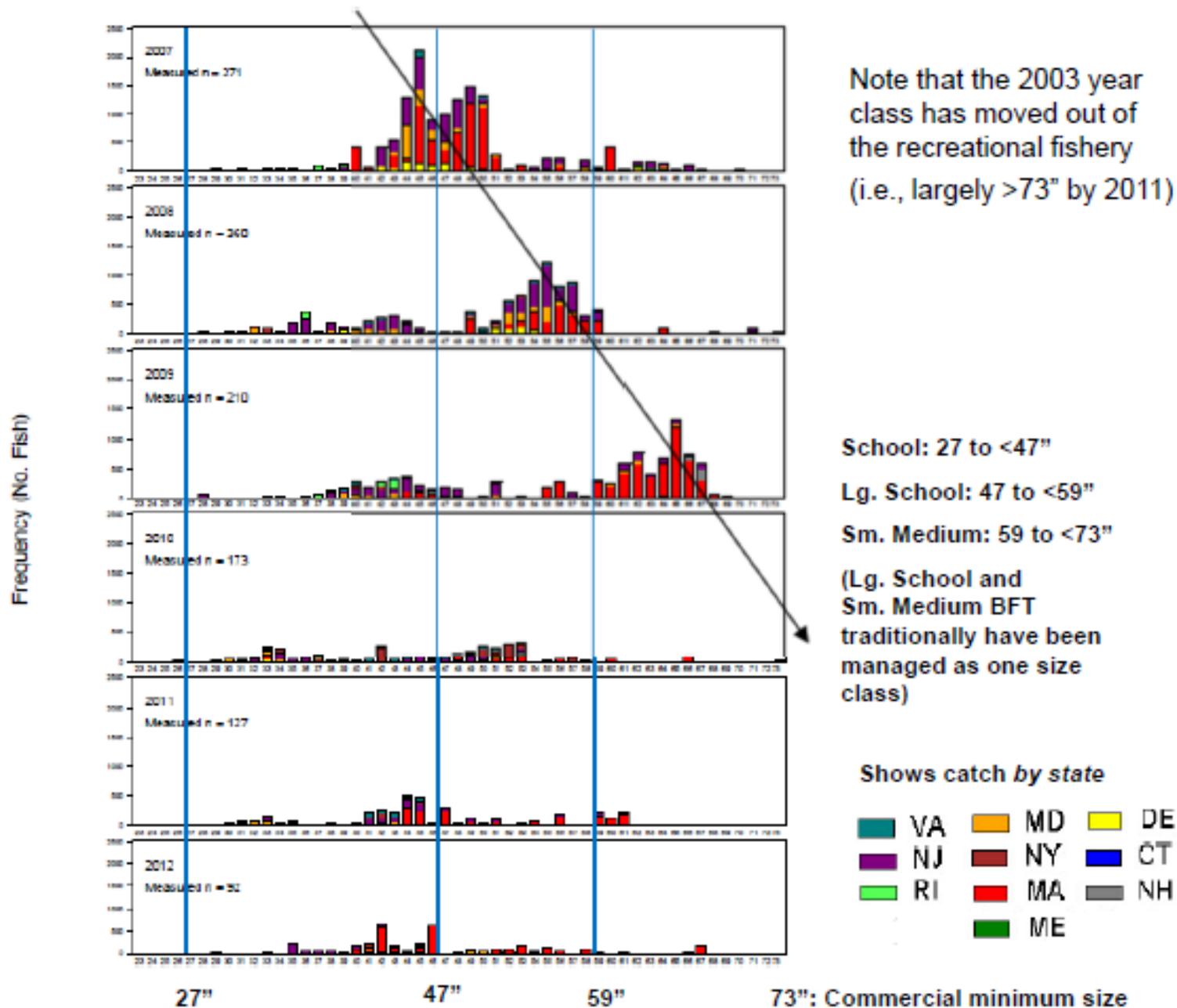
Base and adjusted BFT quotas, landings, and retention limits, 2007-2009

Category	2007 "bridge period" (June 2007-December 2007)					2008 (January-December)					2009 (January-December)				
	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd ¹⁰	% Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit
General	548.8	643.6	122	19	LM/G: 3	548.8	740	235.3	31	LM/G: 3	475.7	623.1	326.5	52	LM/G: 2: Jan 3: June-Dec
Harpoon	45.4	53.3	12	23	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15	45.4	61.2	22	36	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15	39.4	76.6	41.4	54	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15
Longline	119.4	225	35	16	Incidental Only	119.4	81.7	75	92	Incidental Only	106.8	99.3	130.6	132	Incidental Only
North & NED	62.8	105	26	25		62.8	47.7	33	69		57.7	54.7	76.9	141	
South	56.6	120	9	8		56.6	34	42	124		49.1	44.6	53.7	120	
Discards			90					158					204		
Trap	1.2	1.4	0	0	LM/G: 1/y	1.2	1.6	0.3	19	LM/G: 1/y	1	1.3	0	0	LM/G: 1/y
Purse Seine	216.7	254.1	28	11		216.7	292.2	0	0		187.8	246	11.4	5	
Angling	229.5	269.2	507	188		229.5	309.5	437.6	141		199	260.6	565.9	217	1:S,LS,or SM (1/1-5/31)
School	119	119	155	130	1	119	119	54.6	46	1	103.5	103.5	54.4	53	1: 6/1-2/31
LS/SM	105.2	144	351	244	2	105.2	183.4	381.5	208	2: 1/1-2/9; 1: 2/10-12/31	90.9	151.1	510.9	338	1: 6/1-12/31
LM/G	5.3	6.2	1	19	1/year	5.3	7.1	1.5	14	1/year	4.6	6	0.6	10	1/year
Reserve	29.1	207.6	0			29.1	207.6	0			25.2	155.4	0		
TOTAL	1190.1	1654.2	704	43		1190.1	1693.9	770.2	45		1034.9	1462.3	1075.8	74	
<i>TOTAL incl. DD</i>	<i>1190.1</i>	<i>1654.2</i>	<i>794</i>	<i>48</i>		<i>1190.1</i>	<i>1693.9</i>	<i>943.2</i>	<i>56</i>		<i>1034.9</i>	<i>1462.3</i>	<i>1279.8</i>	<i>88</i>	

10 Commercial landings data for 2007 are from the 2009 quota specifications EA (Table 6)

KEY: G = Giant > 81", LM = Large Medium 73-81", SM = Small Medium 59-73", LS = Large School 47-59", S = School 27- 47"
 Longline: Incidental limits: 1 BFT / 2,000 lb target catch, 2 BFT / 6,000 lb, and 3 BFT / 30,000 lb. NED = Northeast Distant Gear Restricted Area DD = Dead Discards

LPIS: Expanded Catch-at-Length Length Distribution of Angling BFT 2007-2012



Longline Quotas, Incidental Landings, Dead Discards and Catch, 2010-2012

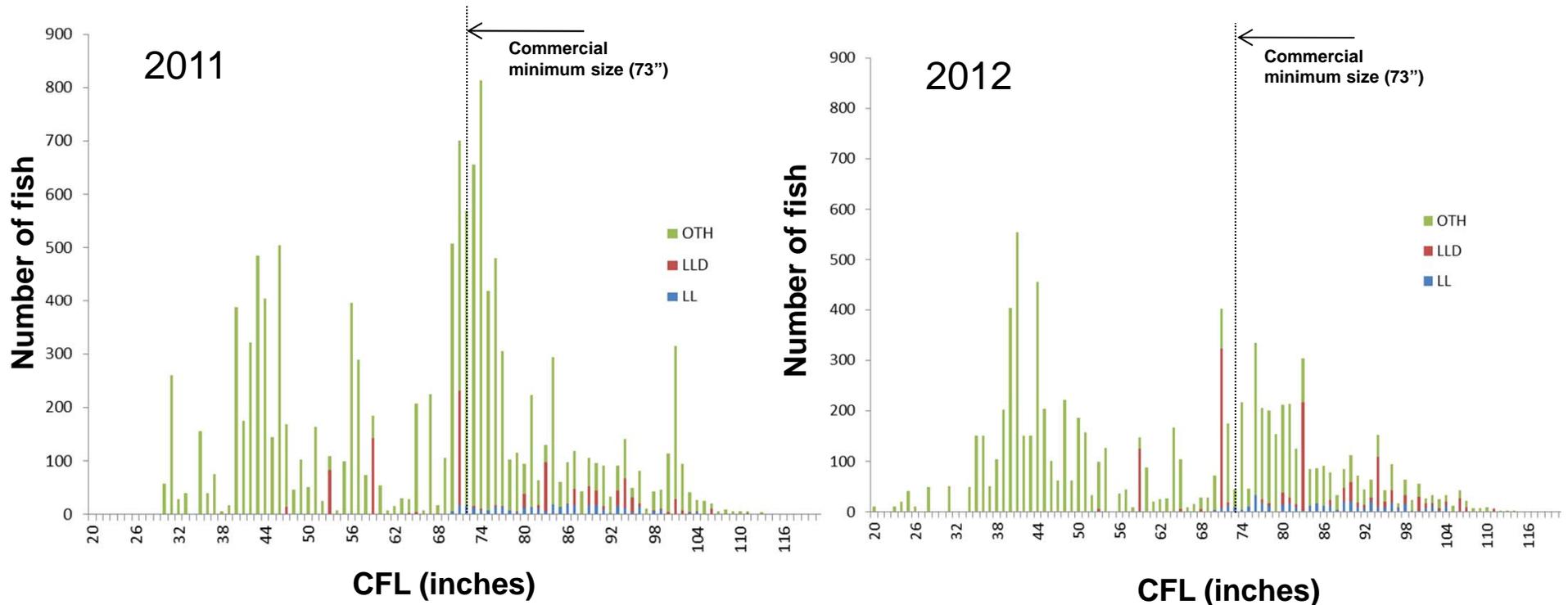
	Area	Metric tons (rounded)			
		Adjusted Quota ¹	Landings ²	Dead Discards ²	Total Catch
2012	NED	25	3.3	0.5	3.8
	East Coast ~ "North"	27.6	53.5	128.7	182.2
	GoM ~ "South"	50.8	31.9	73.1	105
	Total	103.4	88.7	202.3³	291
2011	NED	25	6.2	5	11.2
	East Coast ~ "North"	24.4	64.6	151.7	216.3
	GoM ~ "South"	36.7	3.7	9.5	13.2
	Total	86.1	74.5	166.2	240.7
2010	NED	25	13.8	4	17.8
	East Coast ~ "North"	30	54.6	110.1	164.7
	GoM ~ "South"	45	20.8	35.5	56.3
	Total	100	89.2	149.6	238.8

1 Adjusted quota as published for LLN and LLS in annual quota specifications (N & S of 31°N. lat., near GA/FL line)

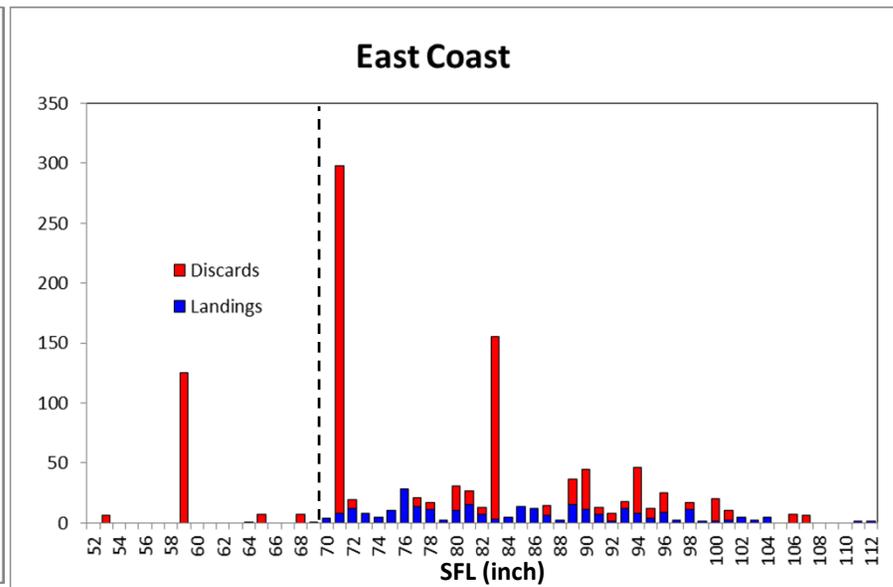
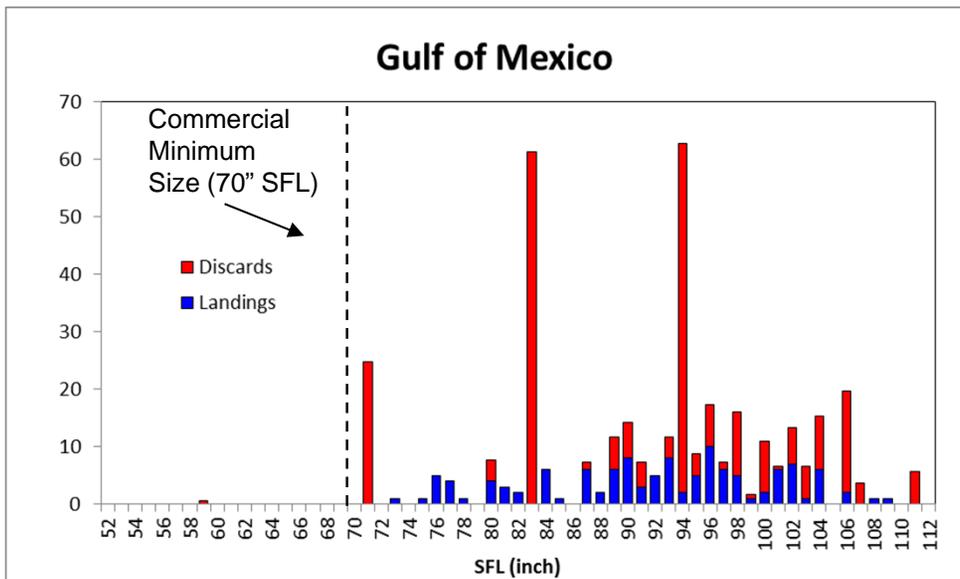
2 Landings and dead discards as reported by ICCAT Statistical Area in 2011-2013 U.S. Reports to ICCAT.

3 2012 dead discards revised since 2013 quota specifications published in June 2013. 2012 dead discards update and 2013 dead discards data will be available June 2014.

Size Frequency Distribution of All U.S. BFT Landings by Gear and Longline Discards, 2011-2012



Size frequency distribution (number of fish) of BFT landed incidentally and discarded dead by the PLL fleet by area (2012)



↑ Most Gulf of Mexico discards >70" SFL

Discards of undersized BFT (<70" SFL) occur mostly outside Gulf of Mexico

70" SFL=73" CFL

Note that Y-axis scale is different in each graph

