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Discard Logbook Reliability Update from SEFSC

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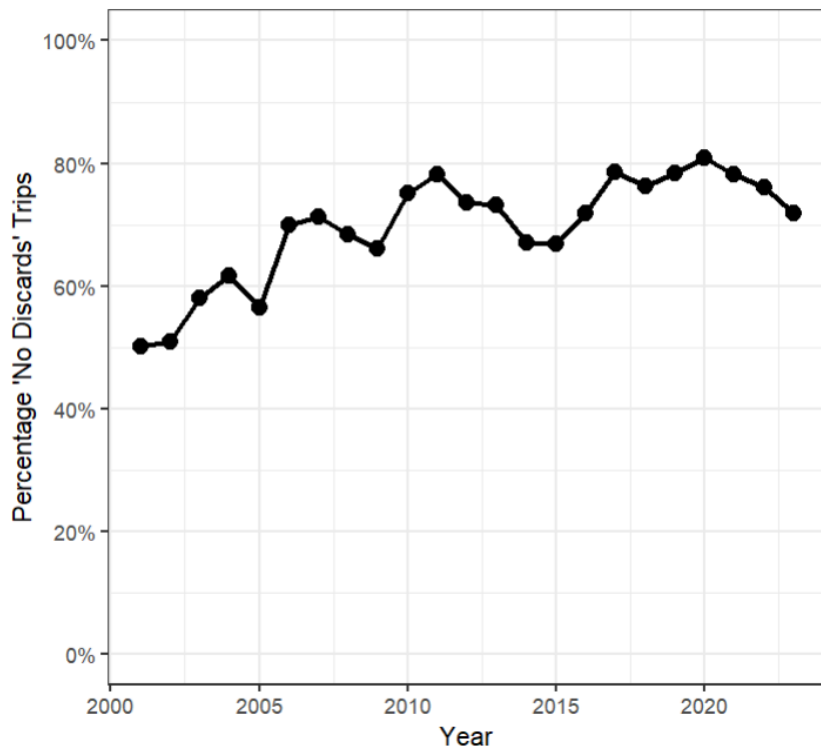
Discard Logbook Data Issues/Limitations

- Little validation and accountability of discard logbook data
 - Logbook reporting compliance not affected by discard reporting
 - Self-selection in submitted discard logbooks (~15% of vessels reporting in last decade)
 - Limited observer program coverage for comparisons
- Limited usable data
 - Program is a 20% subsample of permitted vessels
 - Zero discard reporting rate increasing over time
 - 2023 had 72% reports claiming no discard interactions

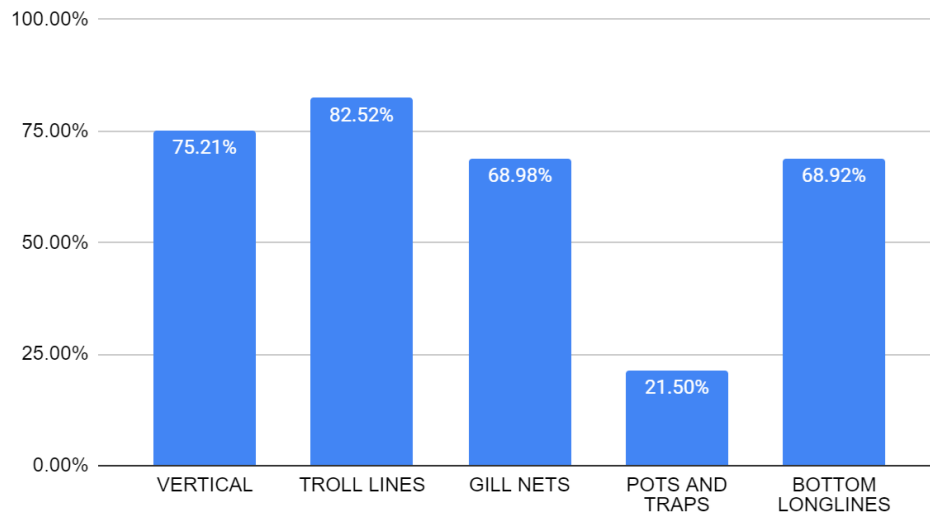


Zero Discard Reporting Rates

Overall Percentage 'No Discards' Trips Overtime

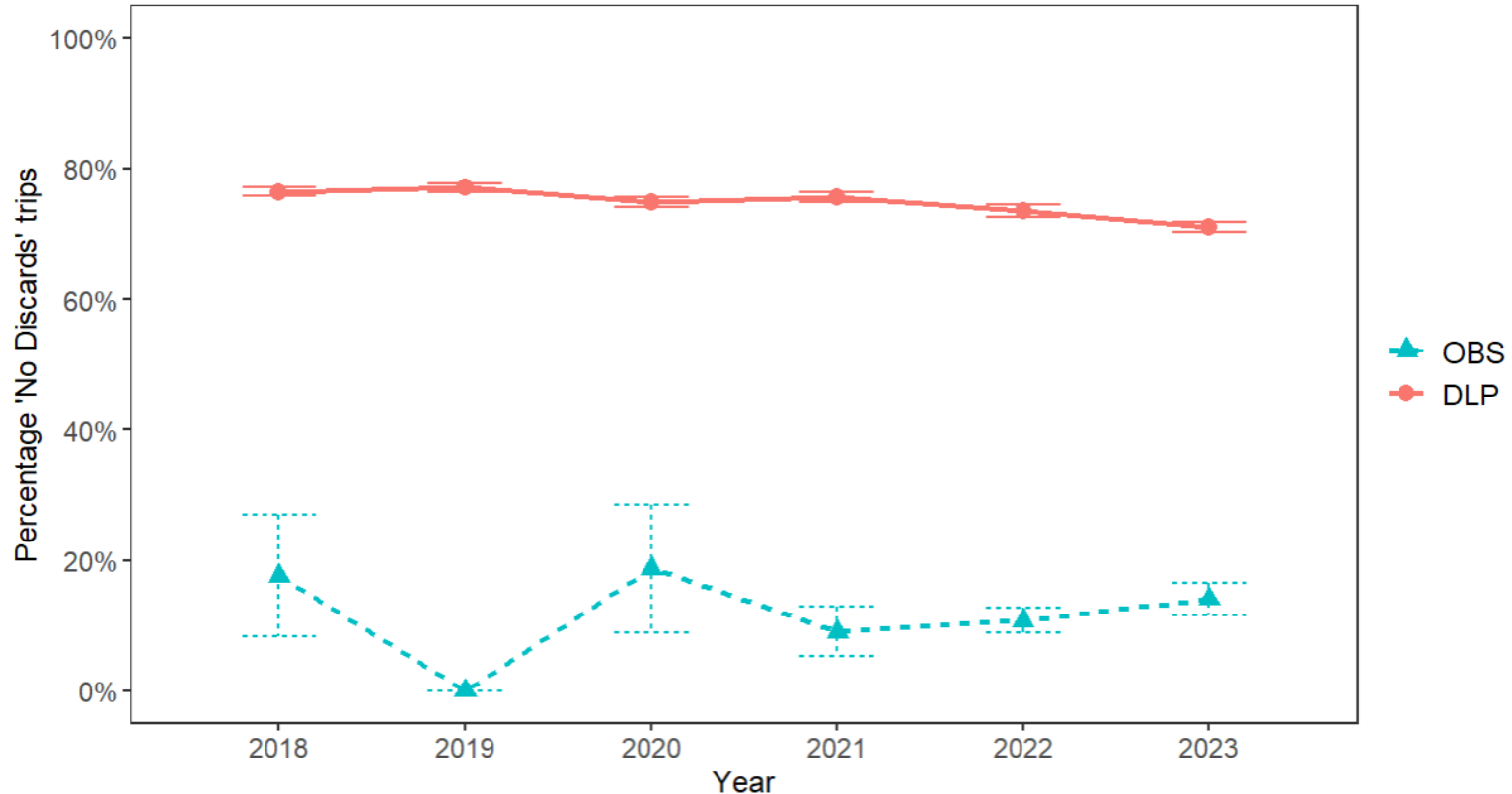


Percentage 'No Discards' Trips by Gear Type in S Atlantic



Zero Discard Reporting Rates

Handline Observer (OBS) and Discard Logbook (DLP) Trips Reporting 'No Discards'



Conclusion

- Owing to the (1) lack of a historical validation survey to verify 'no discard' trips and (2) the increase in 'no discard' reports through time, **SEFSC does not recommend using discard logbook data for discard estimates**
- Without a representative validation survey, there is no effective means of measuring or adjusting for this bias
- Observer data since 2018 indicates higher discard rates compared to discard logbook data
- Current observer coverage rates may limit our ability to make discard estimates across all levels of stratification in which SATL fisheries operate
- Increased observer coverage (through increased funding) could allow for more representative sampling spatially and temporally

