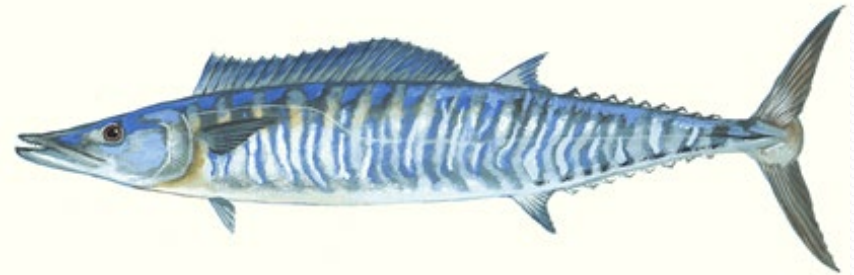




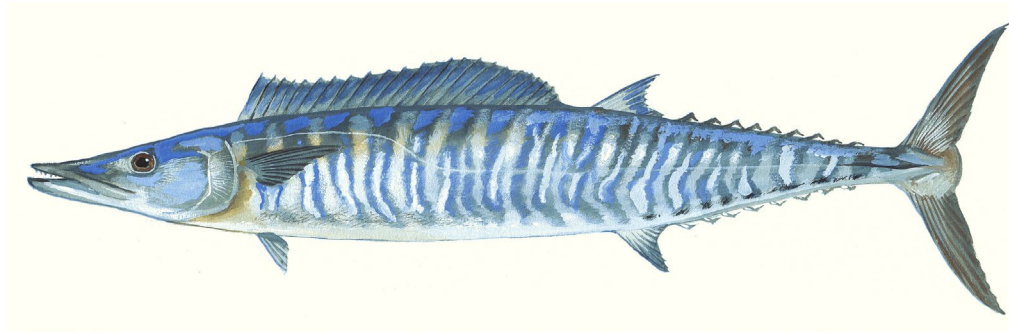
Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic



Scientific and Statistical Committee
April 2021

Outline

- 1) Background on Amendment 10 and why the Council (is taking action
- 2) Actions being proposed in Amendment 10
- 3) Review the use of geometric mean in triggering the recreational accountability measure



Background on Amendment 10

- Initiated in March 2016 in reaction to the commercial ACL being met and a harvest closure occurring on June 30, 2015.
- Development of AM 10 suspended in March 2017 in response to revised recreational landings data from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).
 - Changed survey methods from the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) to the Fishery Effort Survey (FES) method.
 - Greatly affected ability to properly analyze actions.



Background on Amendment 10 (continued)

- Began working again on AM 10 in December 2018.
- In October 2019 and April 2020, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommended a new acceptable biological catch (ABC) level for dolphin and wahoo.
 - No stock assessment available for either species.
 - Use of ORCS discussed but not used due to concerns over method.
 - Updated Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) incorporates:
 - 1) Recreational landings data that includes new FES method.
 - 2) Monroe County, FL recreational landings.
 - 3) Updated commercial landings data.
 - 4) New time series of 3rd highest total landings from 1994-2007.



Why the Council is taking action?

- 1) Incorporate the SSC's new catch level recommendations.
- 2) Address deficiencies in the recreational accountability measures.
- 3) Respond to public input on management changes needed in the fishery.



What are the proposed actions?

- There are currently 12 actions in the amendment.
- Actions can be broken down into three major categories:
 - Accommodate revised recreational data and catch level recommendations (**Actions 1-4**).
 - Change recreational accountability measures (**Actions 5-8**).
 - Implement various management revisions in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery (**Actions 9-12**).



Actions that accommodate revised recreational data and catch level recommendations

A15_PresSlides_DW10_GeoMean

- **Action 1.** Revise the total annual catch limit for dolphin to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level
 - **Preferred Alternative.** The total annual catch limit for dolphin is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level.
- **Action 2.** Revise the total annual catch limit for wahoo to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level
 - **Preferred Alternative.** The total annual catch limit for wahoo is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level.



Actions that accommodate revised recreational data and catch level recommendations

A15_PresSlide_DW10_GeoMean

- **Action 3.** Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for dolphin
 - **Preferred Alternative.** Allocate 93.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the recreational sector. Allocate 7.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for dolphin to the commercial sector.
- **Action 4.** Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for wahoo
 - **Preferred Alternative.** Allocate 97.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the recreational sector. Allocate 3.00% of the revised total annual catch limit for wahoo to the commercial sector.



Actions that change recreational accountability measures

- **Action 5.** Revise the trigger for the post-season recreational accountability measures for dolphin
 - **Preferred Alternative.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if the total (commercial and recreational combined) annual catch limit is exceeded.
- **Action 6.** Revise the post-season recreational accountability measures for dolphin
 - **Preferred Alternative.** Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.



Actions that change recreational accountability measures

- **Action 7.** Revise the trigger for the post-season recreational accountability measures for wahoo
 - **Preferred Alternative.** Implement post season accountability measures in the following fishing year if the recreational annual catch limits are constant and the 3-year mean of landings exceeds the recreational sector annual catch limit. When the recreational sector annual catch limit is changed, use a single year of landings, beginning with the most recent available year of landings, then a two-year average of landings from that single year and the subsequent year, then a three-year average of landings from those two years and the subsequent year, and thereafter a progressive running three-year average to trigger the recreational accountability measure.
 - **Preferred Sub-alternative.** Use the geometric mean to calculate average landings.



Actions that change recreational accountability measures

- **Action 8.** Revise the post-season recreational accountability measures for wahoo
 - **Preferred Alternative.** Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best available science, that it is not necessary.



Actions that implement various management revisions

- **Action 9.** Allow properly permitted commercial vessels with trap, pot, or buoy gear on board that are not authorized for use in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery to possess commercial quantities of dolphin and wahoo
 - **Preferred Alternative.** A vessel in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone that possesses both an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit and valid federal commercial permits required to fish trap, pot, or buoy gear or is in compliance with permit requirements specified for the spiny lobster fishery in 50 C.F.R. §622.400 is authorized to retain dolphin caught by rod and reel while in possession of such gears. A vessel in the Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone that has on board other gear types that are not authorized in the fishery for dolphin may not possess a dolphin. Dolphin retained by such a vessel shall not exceed:
 - **Preferred Sub-alternative.** 500 pounds gutted weight



Actions that implement various management revisions

- **Action 10.** Remove the requirement of vessel operators or crew to hold an Operator Card in the Dolphin Wahoo fishery
 - **Preferred Alternative.** Neither a vessel operator nor any crewmember is required to have an Operator Card for an Atlantic Charter/Headboat for Dolphin/Wahoo Permit to be valid.
 - **Preferred Alternative.** Neither a vessel operator nor any crewmember is required to have an Operator Card for an Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial Permit to be valid.



Actions that implement various management revisions

- **Action 11.** Reduce the recreational vessel limit for dolphin
 - **Preferred Alternative.** The recreational daily bag limit is 10 dolphin per person, not to exceed:
 - **Preferred Sub-alternative.** 48 dolphin per vessel, whichever is less.
- **Action 12.** Reduce the recreational bag limit and establish a recreational vessel limit for wahoo
 - **Preferred Alternative.** The recreational daily bag limit is 1 wahoo per person.



Questions on Actions?

- Next up is a discussion on the use of geometric mean.



Geometric Mean in Amendment 10

- 3-year geometric mean examined as a trigger for the recreational accountability measure in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10
 - Selected as the preferred alternative for the rec. AM trigger for wahoo



Uses of Recreational Data

- Estimating landings for stock assessments
- Monitoring landings relative to catch limits
- Developing management measures



Monitoring Recreational Catch

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10 includes 3 methods to compare catch to ACL and trigger an accountability measure

- Point estimate
- Average
- Geometric Mean



Developing Triggers for AMs

Two competing risks*

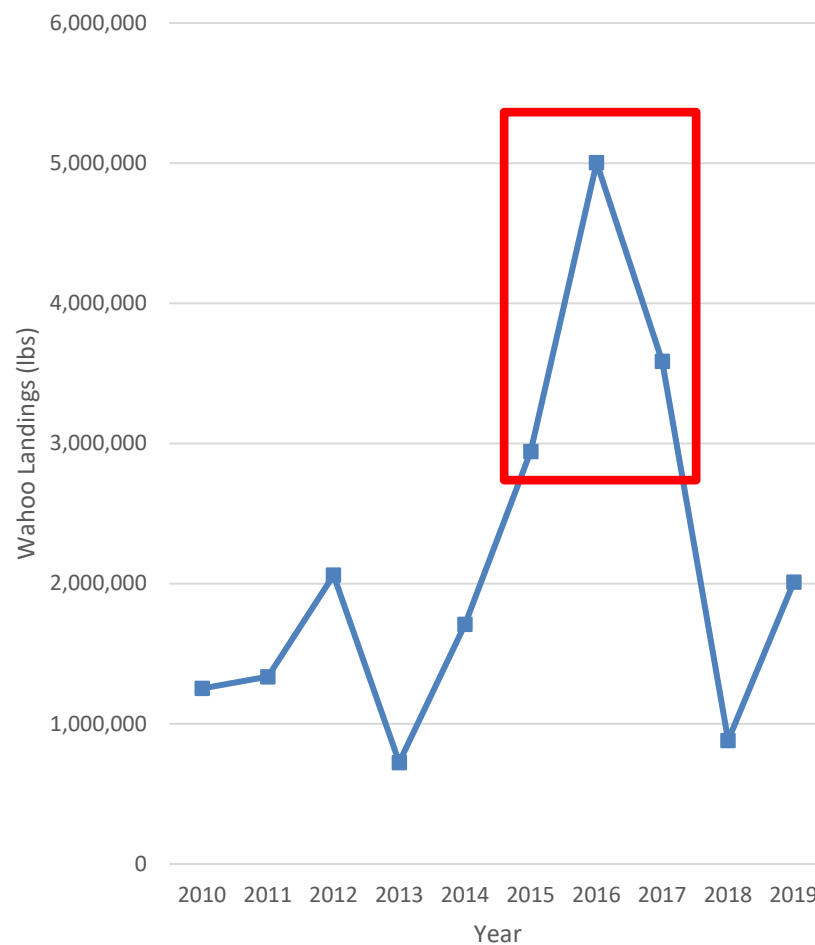
- Risk of overfishing[^] if landings exceed ABC
- Avoid triggering an AM unnecessarily

*Dolphin and Wahoo ABC is set at 3rd highest landings

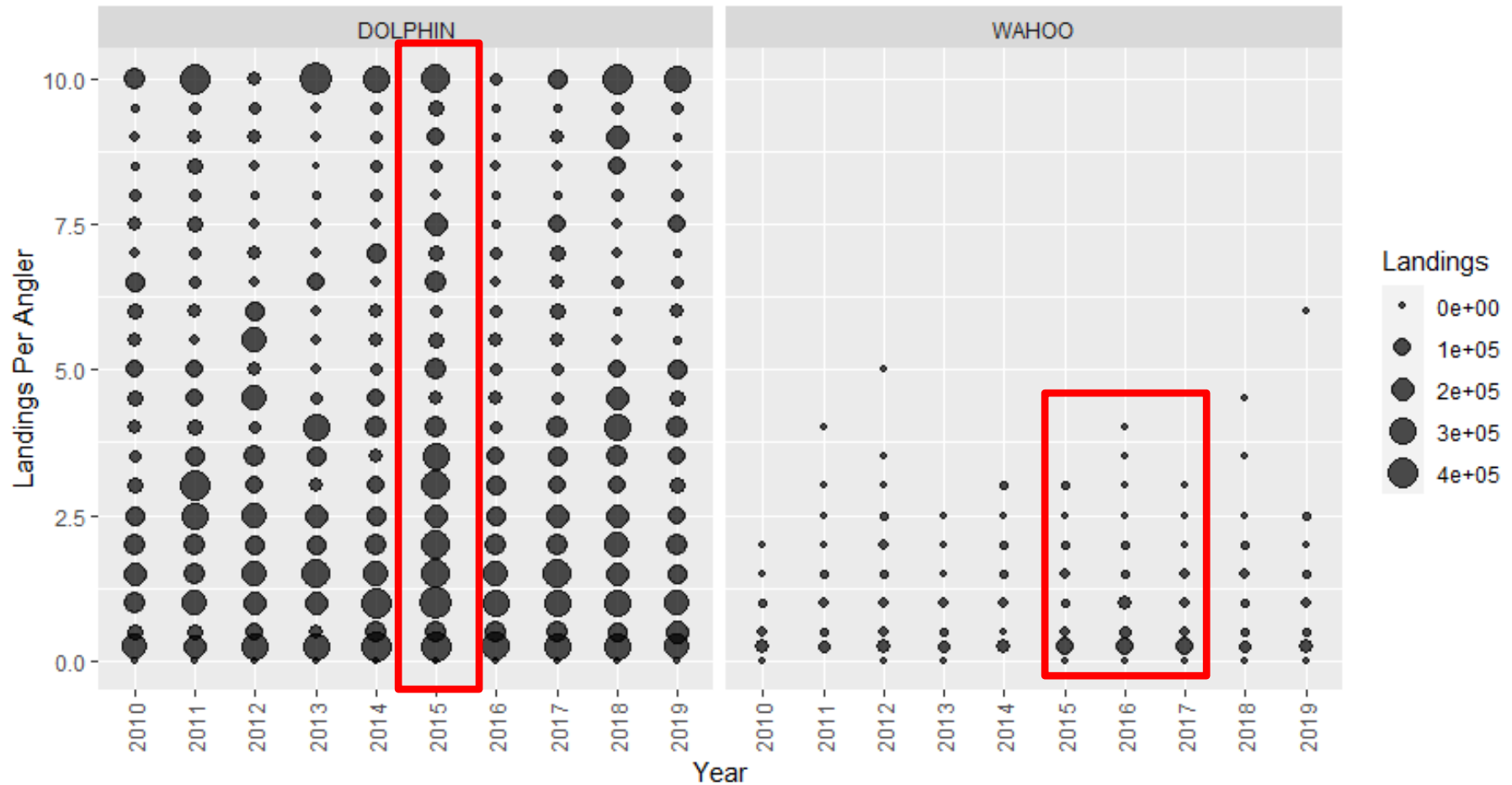
[^]OFL is not defined for Dolphin and Wahoo



Recreational Landings



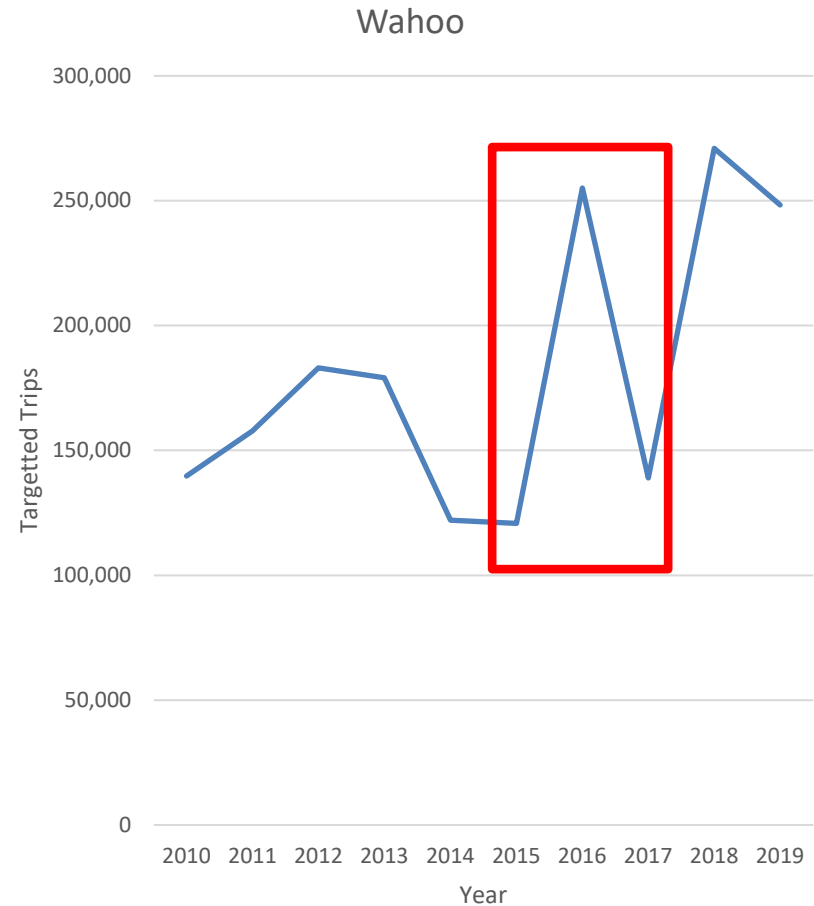
Dolphin and Wahoo Landings Per Trip



Source: MRIP Database adjusted to include Monroe County



Dolphin and Wahoo Recreational Effort

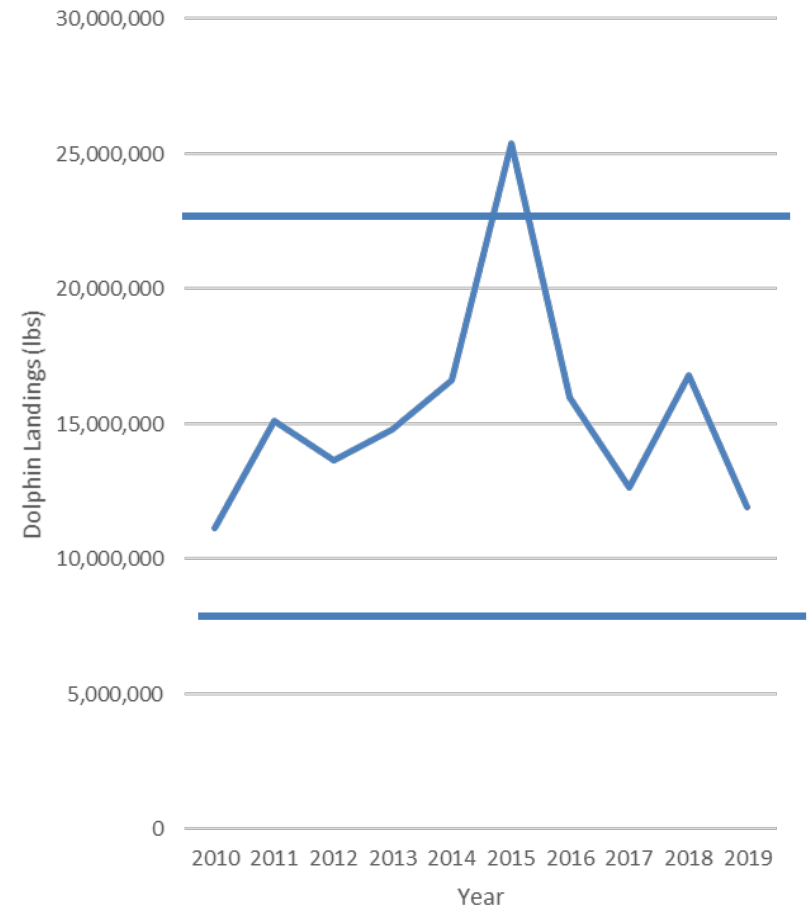


Source: MRIP Database adjusted to include Monroe County

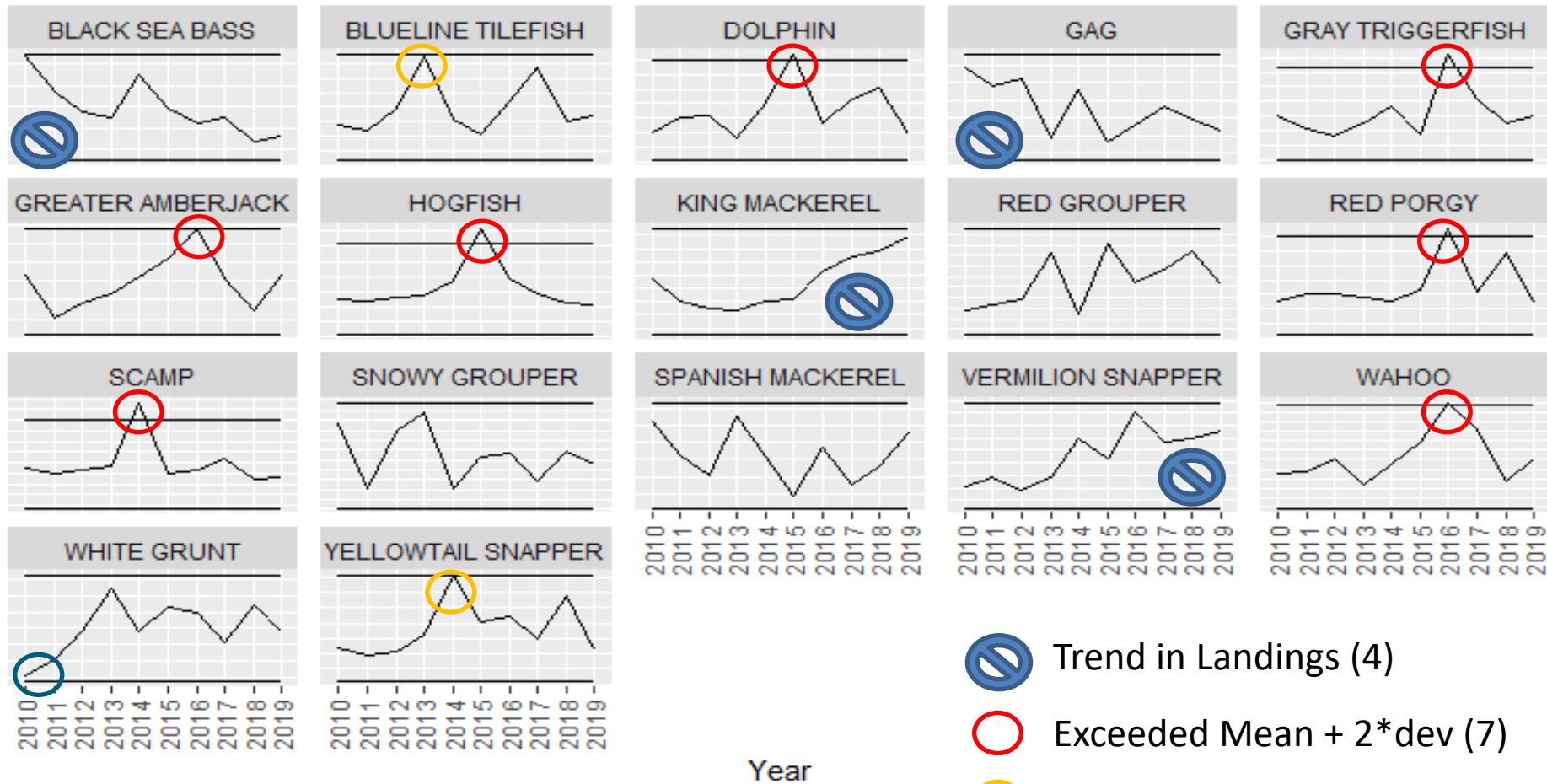


Review Recreational Landings

- Inherent uncertainty in recreational survey
- How often do dips and spikes occur in recreational landings
- Used mean over last 10 years
 - Spike = mean + 2*st dev
 - Dip = mean – 2*st dev



Frequency of Dips and Spikes

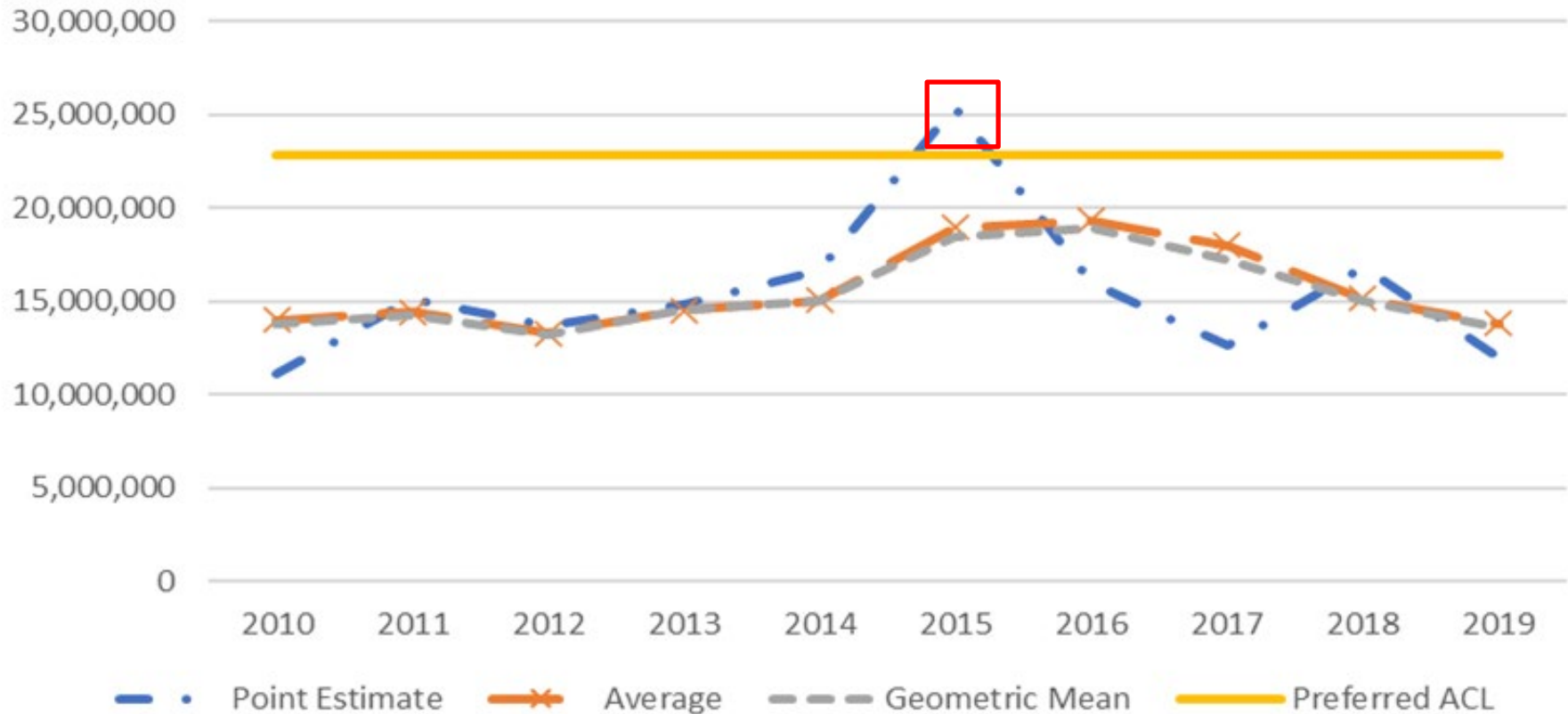


Recreational Data Triggered AMs

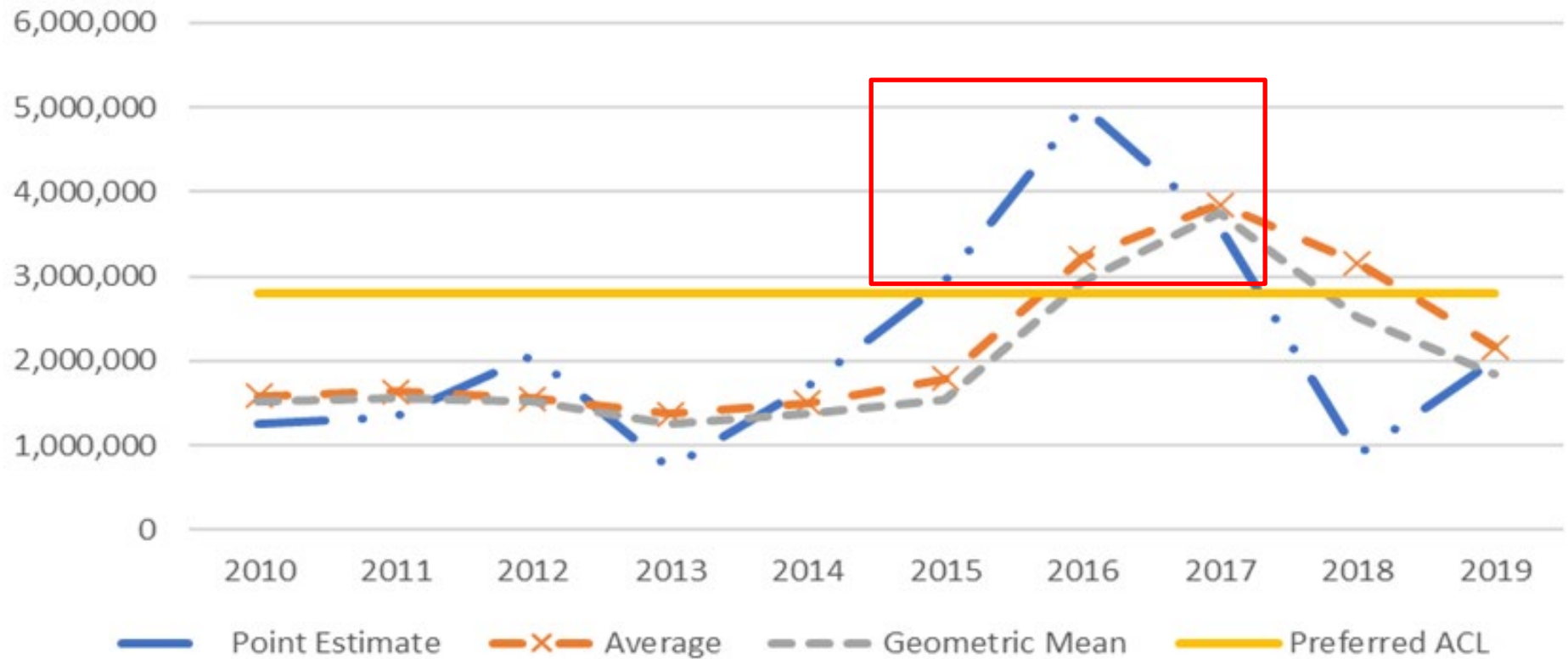
- AMs have been triggered in the past when Council questioned recreational data
 - Blueline Tilefish
 - Greater Amberjack
- The Council has indicated it wants to reduce risk of implementing AMs if possible while preventing overfishing



Recreational Dolphin AM Trigger



Recreational Wahoo AM Trigger



Development of AM Trigger

- Council is balancing risk
 - Avoid overfishing
 - Unnecessary, temporary, restrictive measures
- Multi-year approaches can mitigate some anomalies in data
 - Average
 - Reduces influence of single high year
 - Can persist in data after landings decrease
 - Geometric
 - Typically used for data with abnormally high values or rates
 - Always lower than average
 - Can persist in data after landings decrease



SSC Guidance and Discussion Questions

1. Comment on the use of the geometric mean as a trigger for accountability measures in the Dolphin Wahoo recreational fishery.
 - A. Discuss risk associated with different methods to trigger accountability measures.
 - B. What diagnostics should be reviewed when deciding on an accountability trigger?
 - C. Are there stock or fishery conditions when a method for an accountability measure trigger is more appropriate?
2. Review and comment on any other part of the amendment, as necessary.

