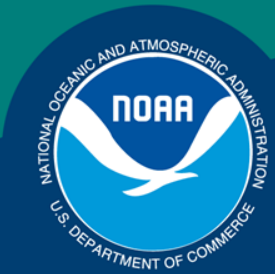


Science, Service, Stewardship



Amendment 7 - Scoping

**Issues and Alternatives for the Future
Management of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna**

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

NOAA



Scoping

A public process:

To identify the significant issues relating to the management of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS), with a focus on Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT)



General Question

- Are the current management measures the best way to achieve the management objectives of the bluefin tuna fishery and provide flexibility to address change for the future?



A quota managed species

Landings + Dead Discards \leq Quota

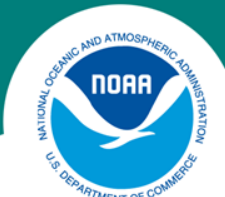


Why Consider Amending the Fishery Management Plan?

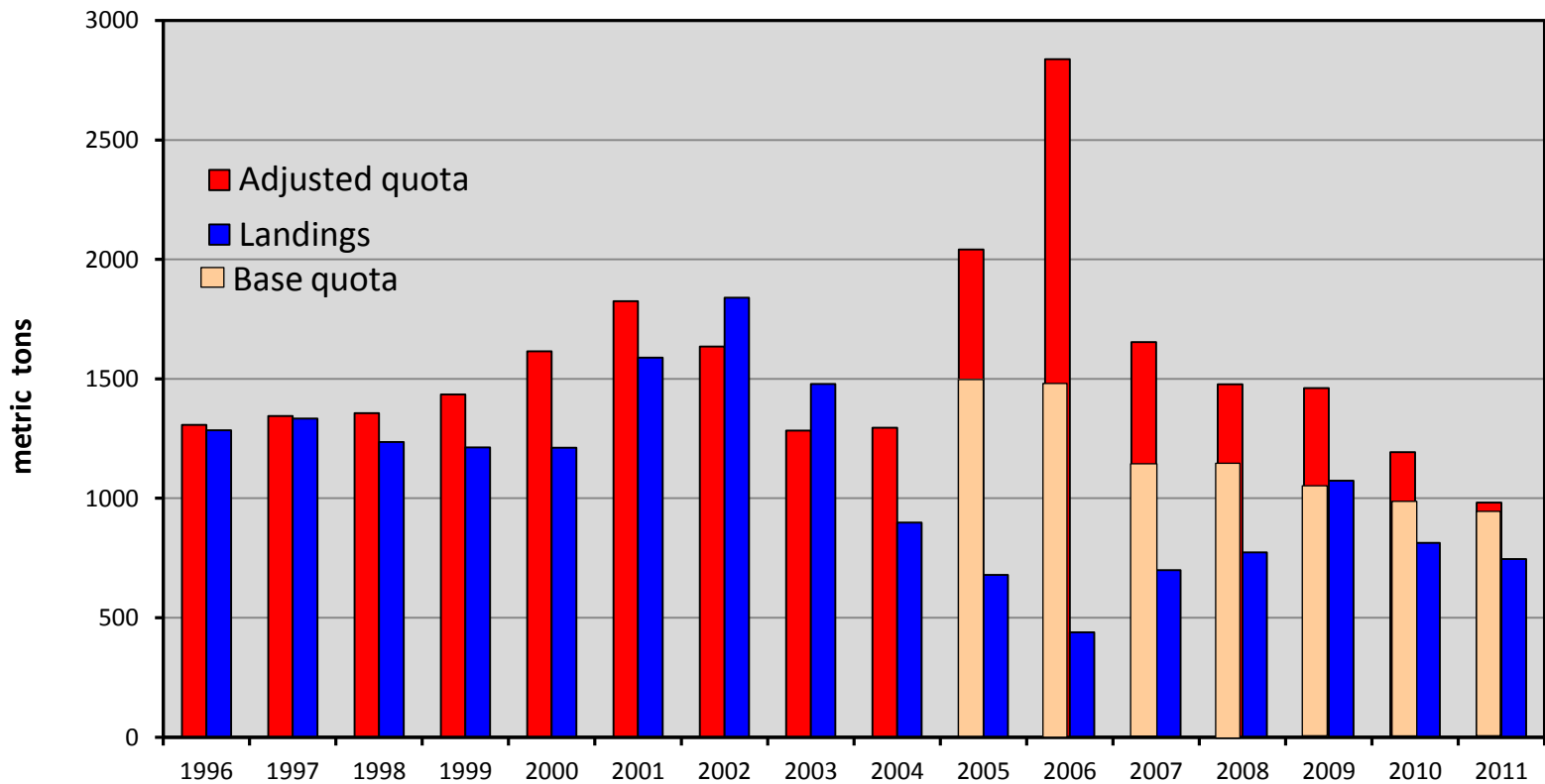
Atlantic bluefin tuna: a **CHANGING** FISHERY:

- Landings increasing (overall trend);
- Quota declining;
- Dead discards must be counted

(ICCAT Rec 10-03: allocation of total allowable catch is inclusive of dead discards; required to monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.)



U.S. BFT Landings vs. Base, & Adjusted Quotas (mt)

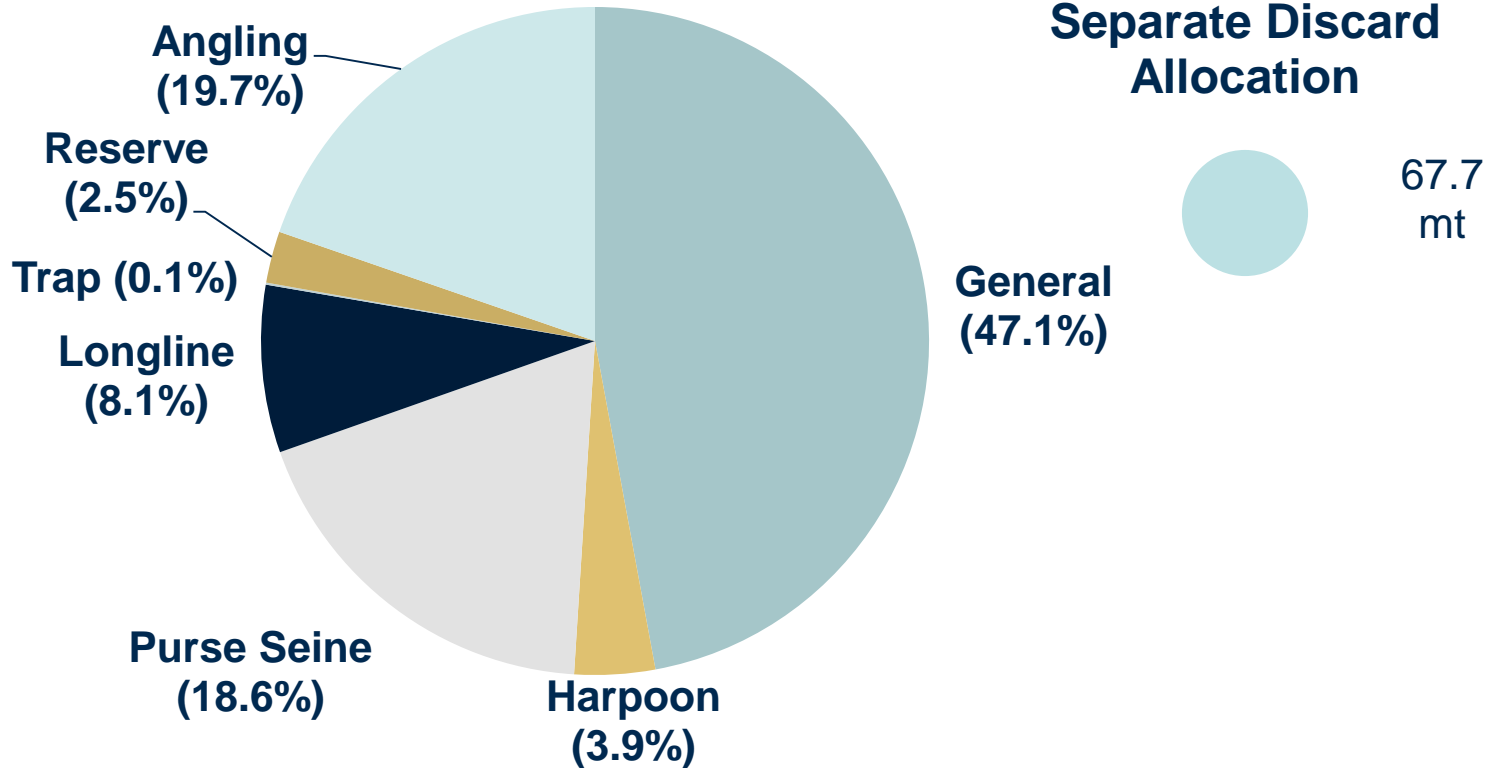


U.S. base quotas for 2005 - 2011 shown as beige bars to illustrate relation of recent landings to base quotas.



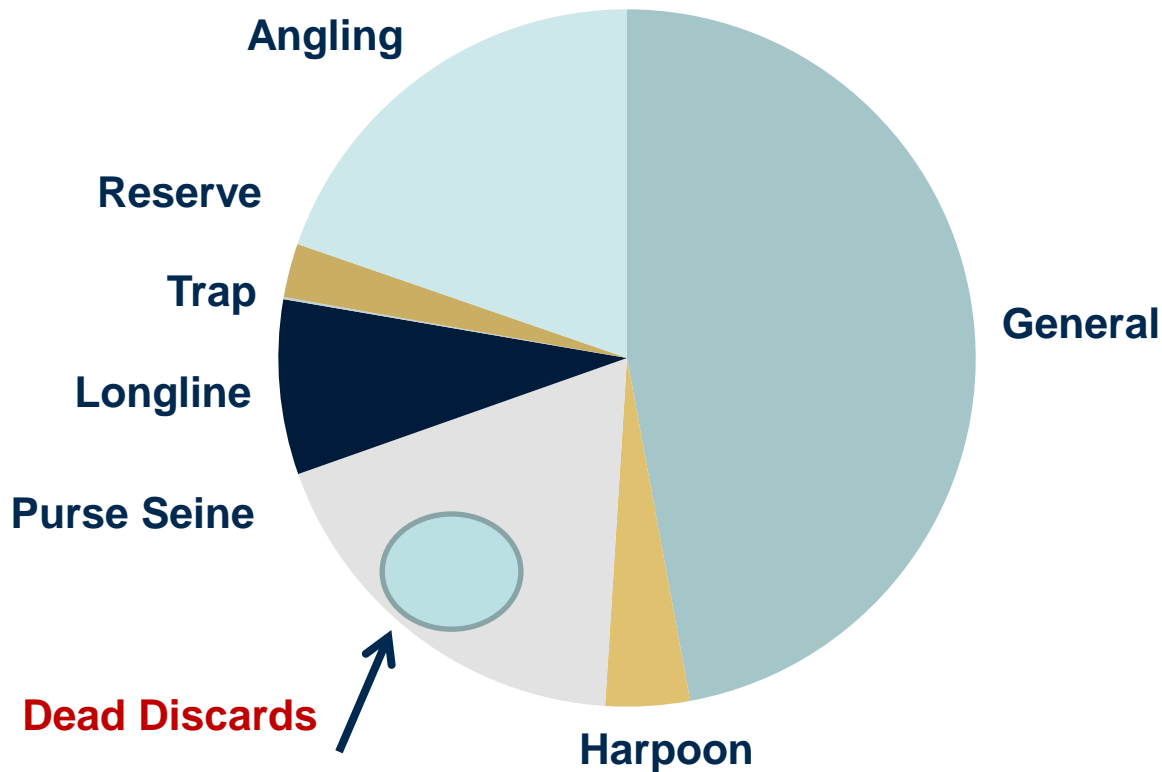
Accounting for Dead Discards – BEFORE 2007 (extra BFT – 2 pies)

Quotas by Category (landings)



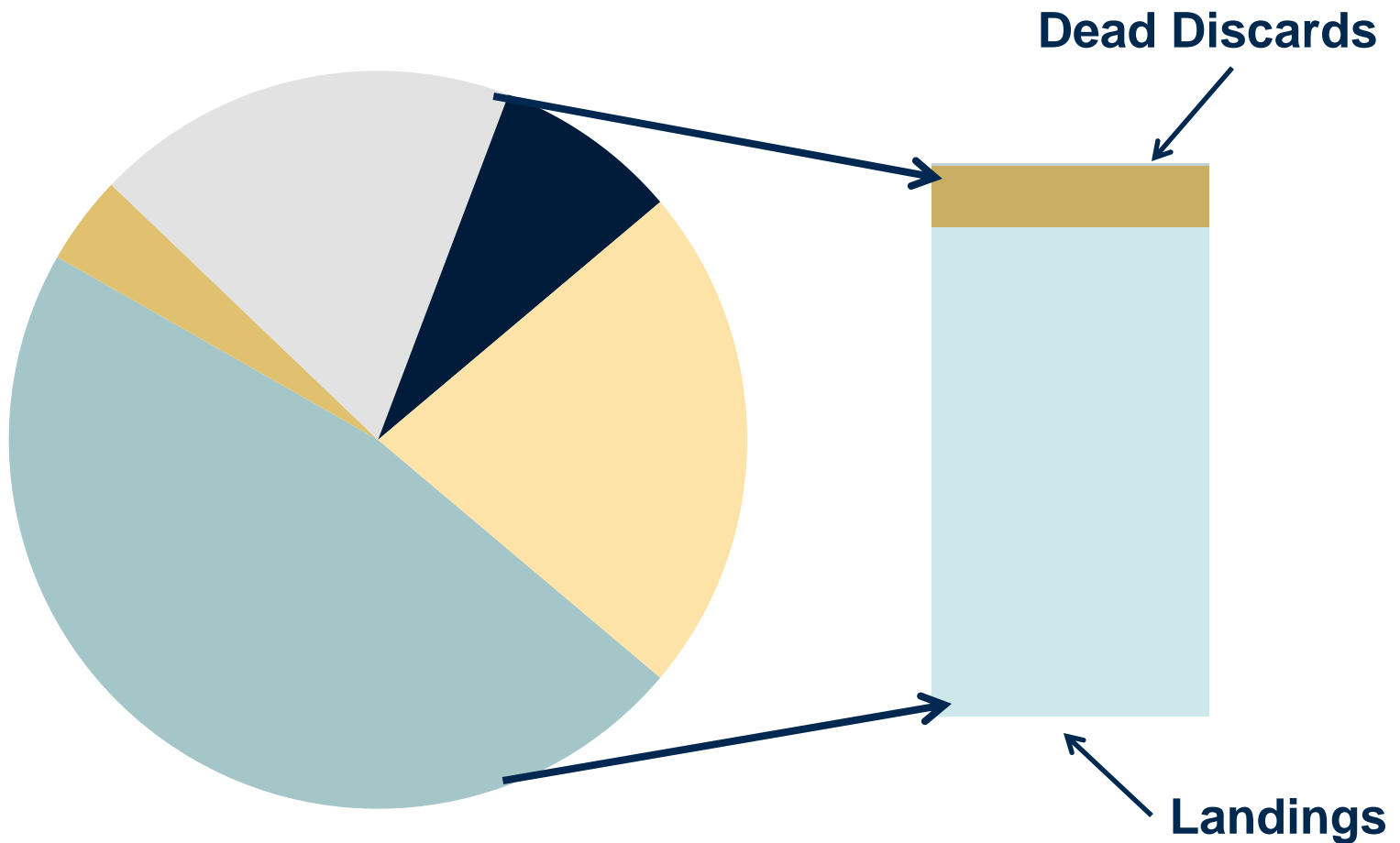


Accounting for Dead Discards – NOW (no second pie or increase in pie; discards covered by unused quota)



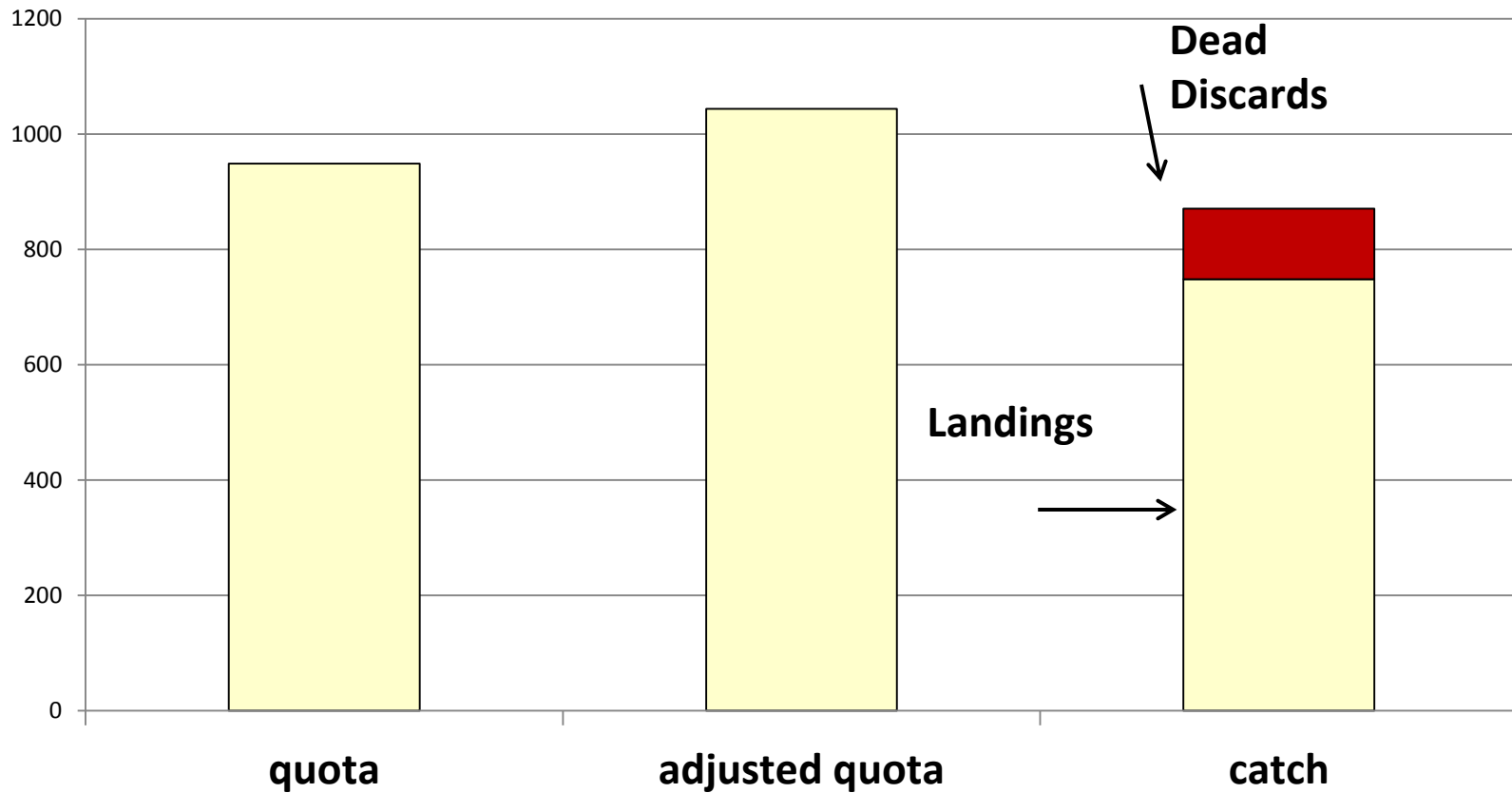


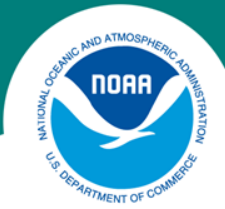
Now looking at total allocation pie with a bar graph..



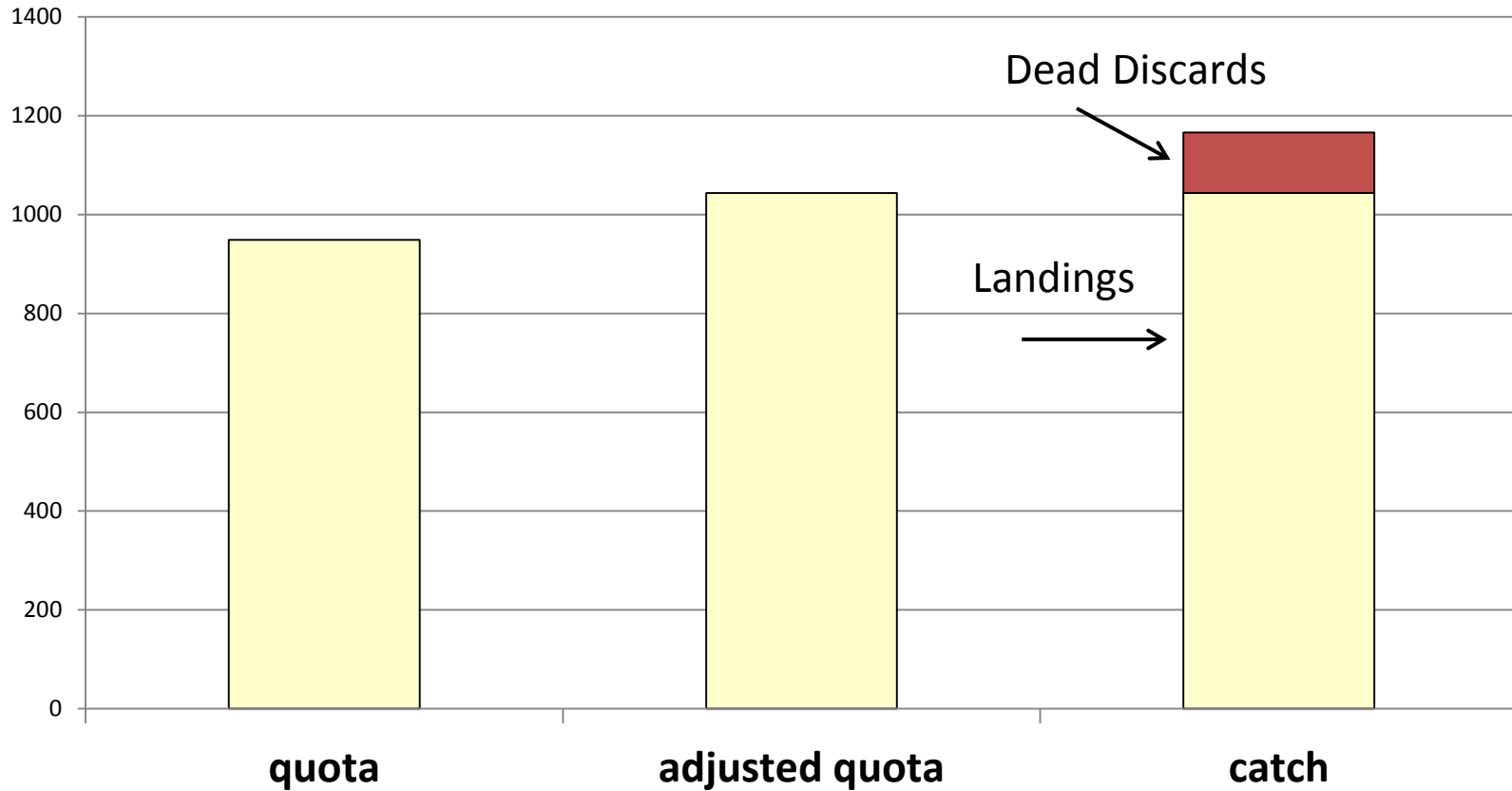


2011 Quota, Adjusted Quota and Catch (dead discards and landings)(mt)





Hypothetical 2011 Catch if All Quota Categories Caught their Subquotas (mt)





Potential Objectives

- **Optimize Fishing Opportunity and Account for Dead Discards**
- **Enhance Reporting**
- **Reduce BFT Dead Discards**
- **Other**



Discards

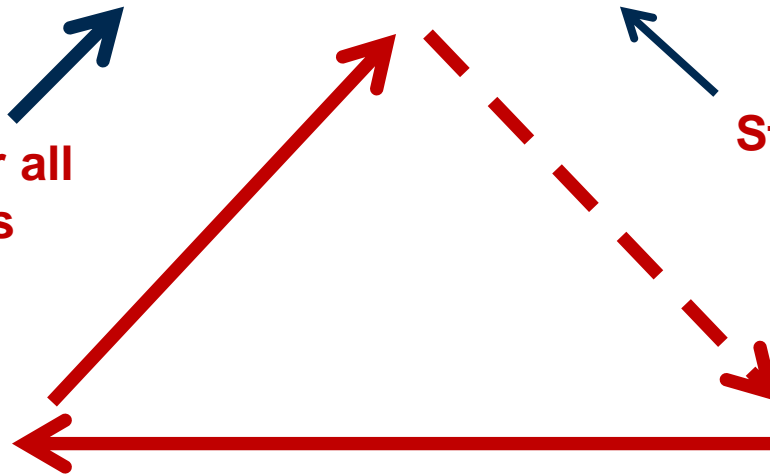
Account for Dead Discards
(Landings + **Discards** \leq Quota)

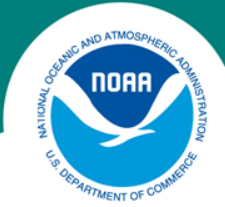
Provide Optimal
Opportunities for all
Quota Categories

Stay within the Quota

Report and
Monitor Dead
Discards

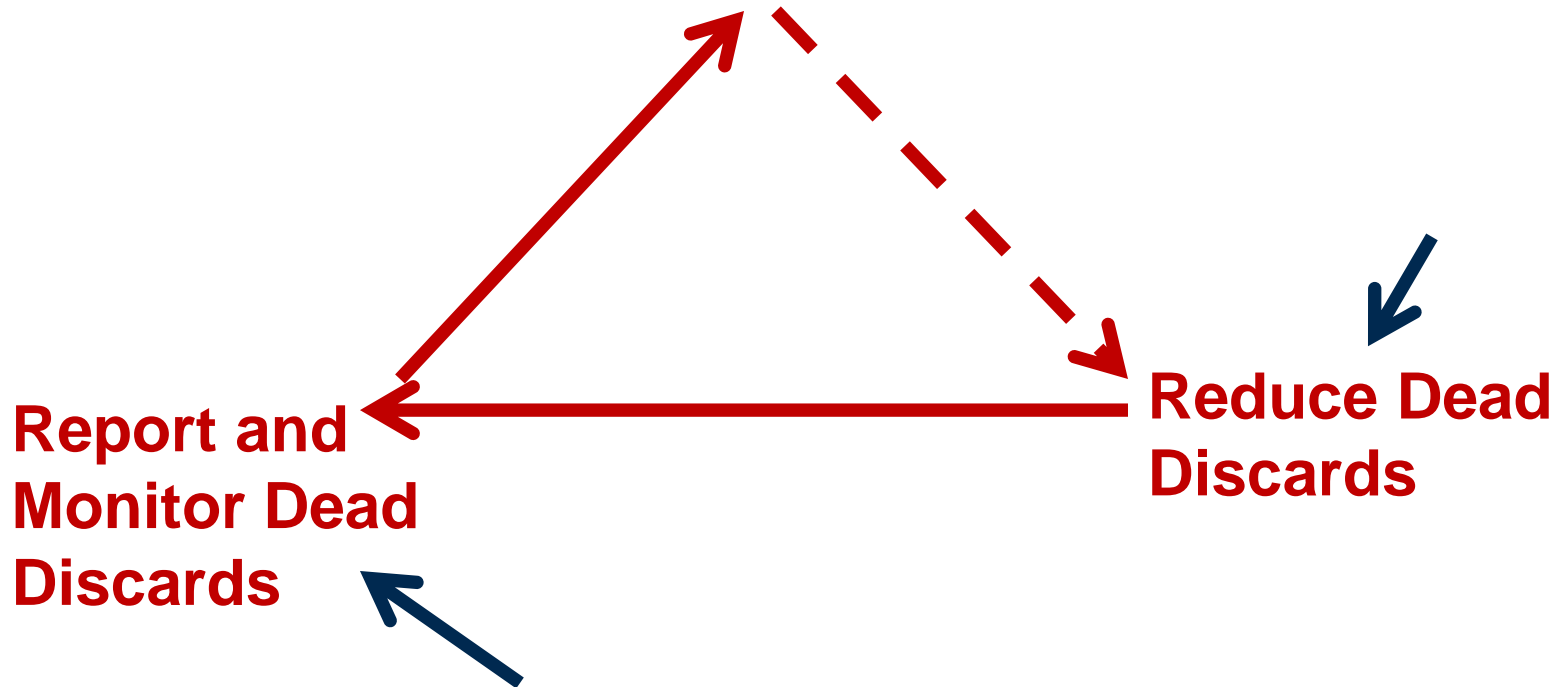
Reduce Dead
Discards





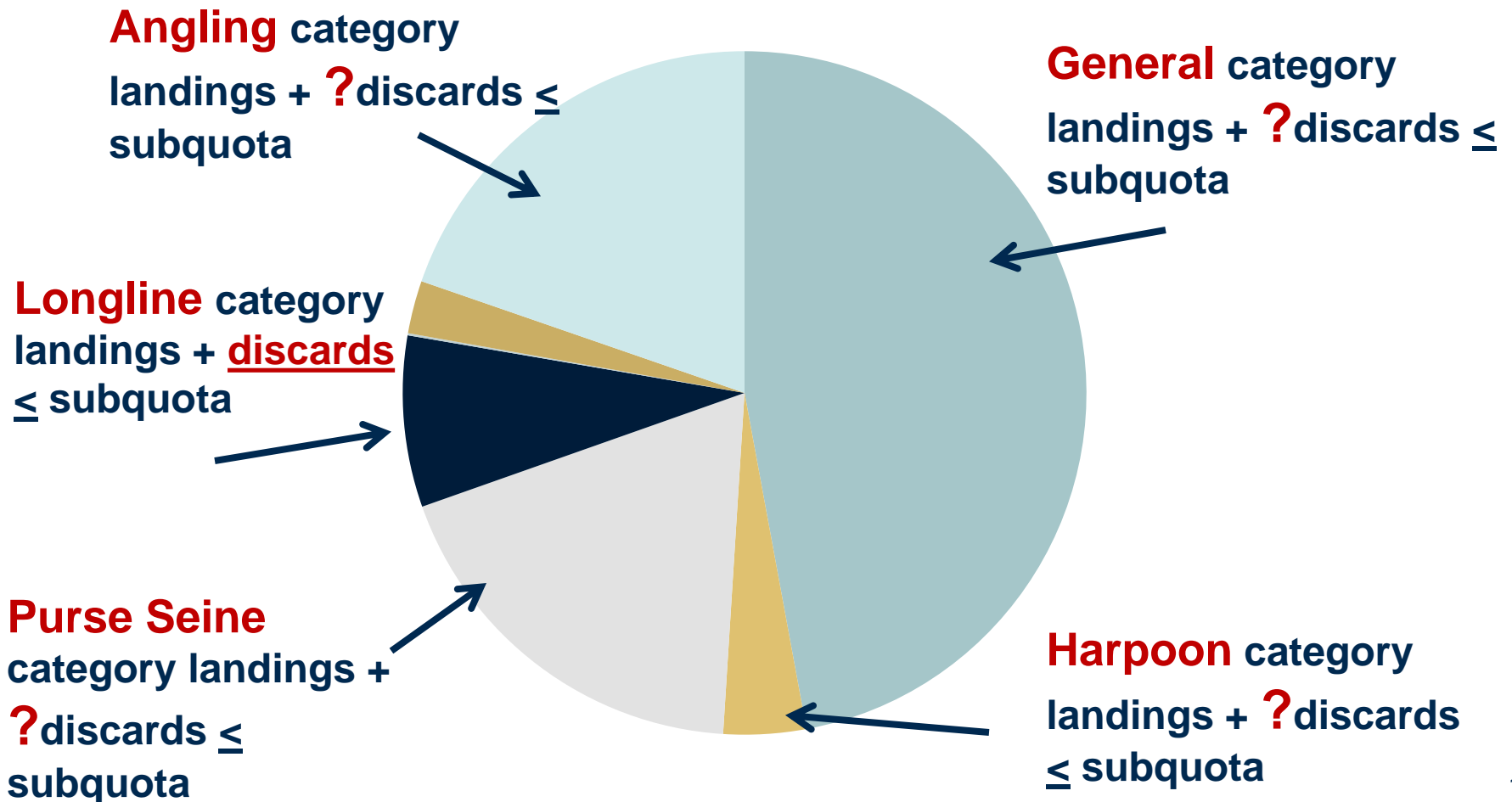
Discards

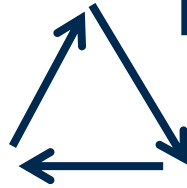
Account for Dead Discards
(Landings + Discard \leq Quota)





Account for Dead Discards (Total Landings + Total Discard \leq Total Quota)

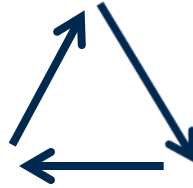




Potential Management Measures

Reducing Dead Discards

- **Implement pelagic longline (PLL) BFT catch cap – regional or individual**
- **Modify or establish new pelagic longline closed areas**
- **Gear Solutions**
- **Eliminate target catch requirements of BFT for Longline category**
- **Require retention of all legal-sized BFT by PLL vessels**

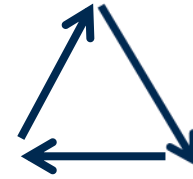


Reducing Dead Discards

- **Reduce BFT minimum sizes for all commercial categories**
- **Modify tolerance rules for Purse Seine and Harpoon categories**
- **Specify a maximum BFT catch limit for Angling category**
- **Facilitate a process for fishing industry communication of BFT hot spots (PLL vessels)**



Report and Monitor Dead Discards



- **Enhance BFT reporting
(consider needs for each category)**

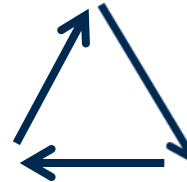


Provide Opportunity

Account for
Dead Discards

Stay within the
quota

$$\text{Landings} + \text{Discards} \leq \text{Quota}$$



- Deduct BFT Dead Discards from each quota category
- Revise BFT quota allocations
- Modify BFT subquota rules



Next Steps

➤ **SEND COMMENTS** to NMFS until **July 15, 2012**

- Electronically: <http://www.regulations.gov>

“submit a comment” ; “NOAA-NMFS-2012-0082”

- Fax: 978-281-9340, Attn: Tom Warren

- Mail:

Tom Warren, Highly Migratory Species Management
Division, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester,
MA 01930



Next Steps – and potential timing

- **Proposed Rule – Environmental Impact Statement**; specific management measures proposed and complete analyses;
- followed by **another comment period**
(approximately early 2013)
- **Final Rule** – final management measures
(approximately late 2013)
- **Implementation** – (approximately early 2014)

