

South Atlantic Octocorals

June 2010

Update

South Atlantic Octocoral Landings 2000-2009

Federal waters

Total = 54,232

Mean = 5,423

Median = 4,970

Max = 10,407

Min = 3,509

State waters

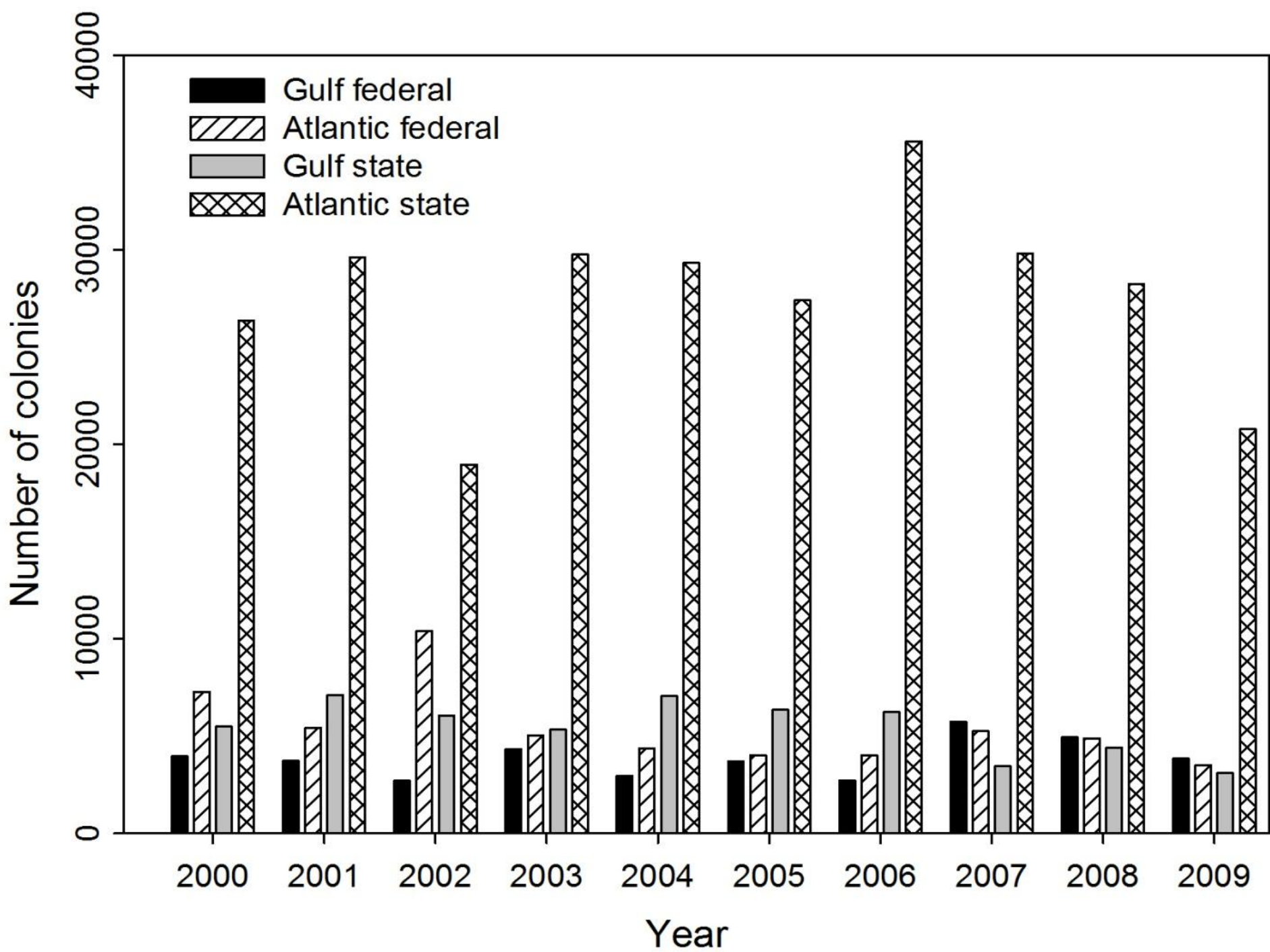
Total = 275,882

Mean = 27,588

Median = 28,785

Max = 35,589

Min = 18,968



SSC Recommendations

FEDERAL WATERS ONLY:

- Overfishing Level = Median landings for 2000-2009 = **4,970 colonies**
- Acceptable Biological Catch = 35% of OFL = **1,740 colonies**

SSC Recommendation

FEDERAL AND STATE COMBINED:

- Overfishing Level = Sum of median values for federal and state waters = **33,755 colonies**
- Acceptable Biological Catch = 35% of OFL = **11,814 colonies**

SAFMC OFL Alternatives

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Specify OFL for octocorals in the South Atlantic based on Coral AP recommendations:

OFL = **MSY**

OFL = **13,114 colonies** (maximum annual harvest for 2000-2008).

OFL = **26,228 colonies** (double the maximum annual harvest for 2000-2008)

Alternative 3. Specify OFL for octocorals in the South Atlantic region based on SSC recommendations:

OFL = **4,970 colonies** (SA Federal waters only)

OFL = **33,755 colonies** (SA Federal and State waters)

SAFMC ABC Alternatives

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Specify ABC for octocorals in the South Atlantic based on Coral AP recommendations:

ABC = **OFL**

ABC = **13,114 colonies** (maximum annual harvest for 2000-2008)

ABC = **26,228 colonies** (double the maximum annual harvest for 2000-2008)

Alternative 3. Specify ABC for octocorals in the South Atlantic region based on SSC recommendations:

ABC = **1,740 colonies** (SA Federal waters only)

ABC = **11,814 colonies** (SA Federal and State waters)

SAFMC ACL Alternatives

Alternative 1. No action.

Alternative 2. Specify ACL for octocorals in the South Atlantic based on Coral AP recommendations:

ACL = **0**

ACL = **ABC**

ACL = **ABC** (but no more than 50K colonies aggregate for state and federal waters)

ACL = **15,000 colonies** (*approximately maximum annual harvest plus 10%*).

ACL = **39,900 colonies** (*mean harvest 2000-2008 for state and federal waters combined*).

SAFMC Management Transfer Alternatives

Alternative 1. No action.

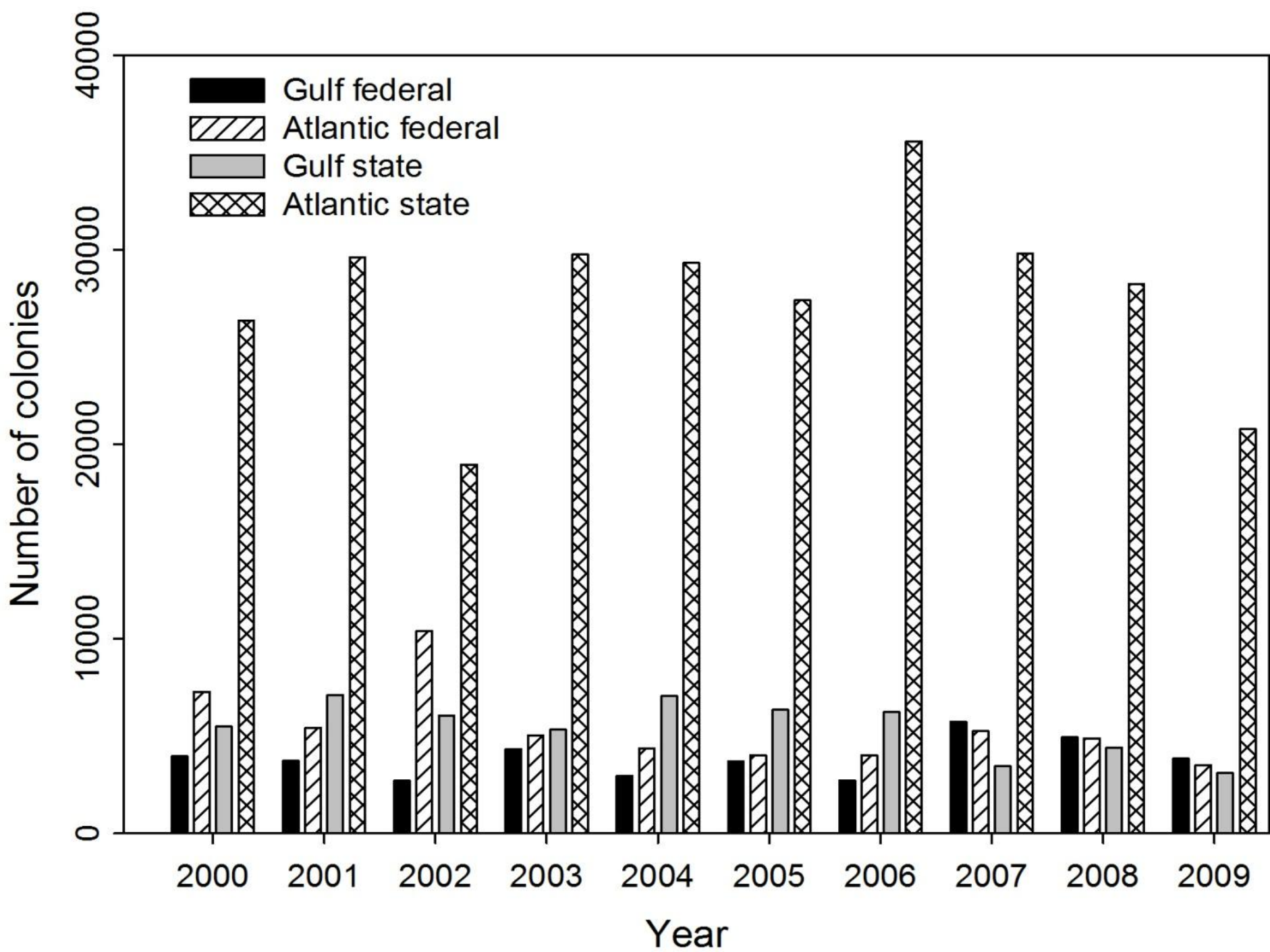
Alternative 2. Delegate all management to Florida, but still set an ACL.

Alternative 3. Delegate certain management criteria to Florida but still set the ACL.

Management criteria to delegate include:

Subalternative a:

Subalternative b:



GMFMC Alternatives

Alternative 1: No action, retain management of octocorals under the Corals and Coral Reefs Fishery Management Plan.

Alternative 2: Delegate management of octocorals to Florida FWC.

Alternative 3: Remove octocorals from the Corals and Coral Reefs Fishery Management Plan and request that the Secretary of Commerce designate the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to manage octocorals throughout their range.

SA & Gulf Combined Alternatives

FEDERAL WATERS ONLY:

- OFL = median of combined SA and Gulf landings for 2000-2009 = **8,765 colonies**
- ABC = 35% of OFL = **3,068 colonies**

SA & Gulf Combined Alternatives OFL

FEDERAL AND STATE COMBINED:

- OFL = Sum of median values for federal and state waters combined = **43,323 colonies**

*(Alternatively, use median of annual landings for SA and Gulf federal and state waters (2000-2009) = **43,429 colonies***

SA & Gulf Combined Alternatives

ABC

- $ABC = 35\% \text{ of OFL} = 15,163 \text{ colonies}$

Alternatively, $ABC = 15,200 \text{ colonies}$

| | OFL | ABC |
|--|--------|--------|
| SA Fed | 4,970 | 1,740 |
| SA Fed and State | 33,755 | 11,814 |
| SA & Gulf Fed | 8,765 | 3,068 |
| SA & Gulf Fed and State | 43,323 | 15,163 |