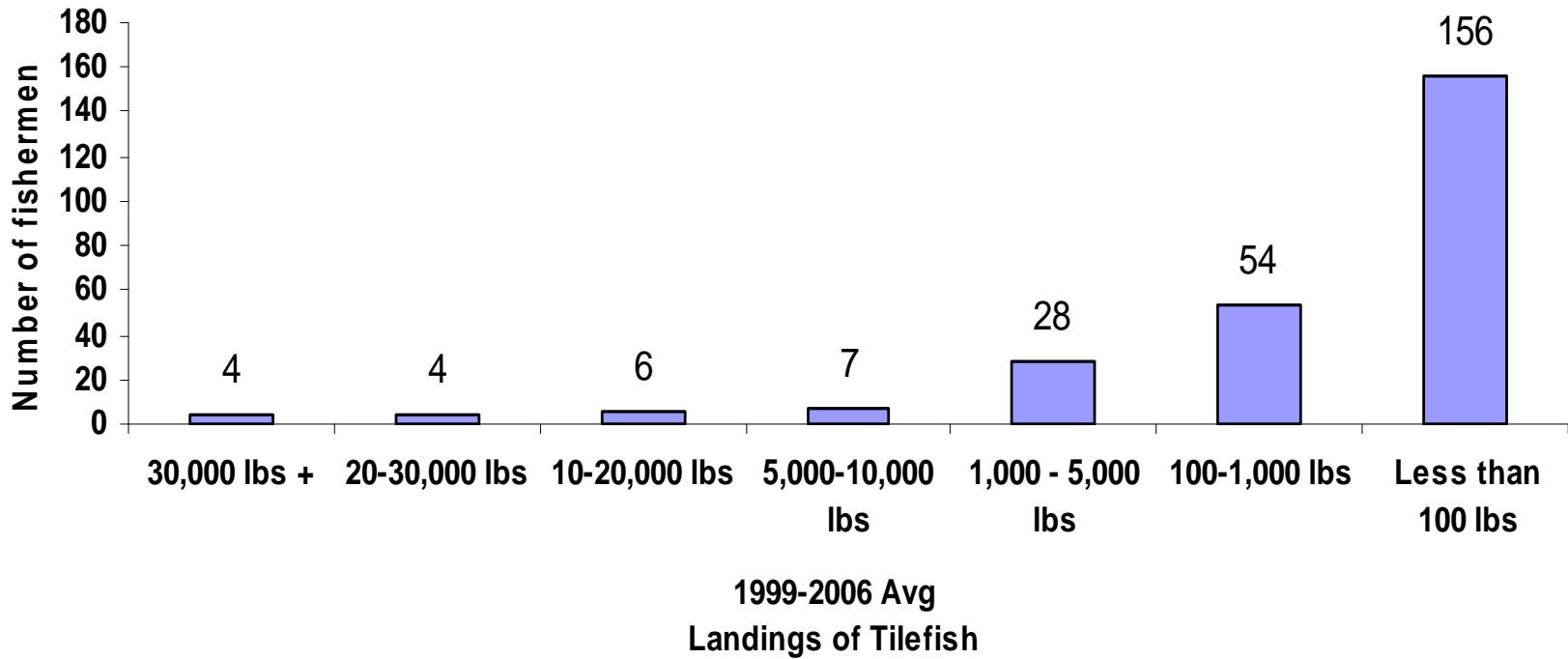


Fishermen Preferences for a LAP for Golden Tilefish

1999-2006 Average Golden Tilefish Landings by Individuals



Methodology

- Approximately 240 vessels have caught at least 1 tilefish on average from 1999-2006
- Spoke informally with fishermen with average logbook landings of golden tilefish of 500 pounds/year or greater
 - 26 fishermen
 - 33 vessels/permits
- Fishermen spoken to landed on average 92% of the total catch of golden tilefish over the period 1999-2006.
- Owners of approximately 206 permits not spoken to due to inability to contact them, expired permits, or landings were below 500 pounds/year on average. Approximately 156 vessels landed less than 100 pounds/year on average.

Methodology (cont'd)

- Fishermen provided background information on LAPs and an update on Council consideration of LAPs. Fishermen then asked if a LAP is something they would like used in management of golden tilefish.
- Regional characteristics (19 longline, 16 H & L)
 - 3 NC permits (1 longline, 2 hook & line)
 - 5 SC permits (4 longline, 1 hook & line)
 - 22 FL permits (10 longline, 12 hook & line)
 - 2 NY permits (longline)
 - 1 NJ permits (longline)
- Note: Not all fishermen contacted currently target golden tilefish. However, all had average historical landings of golden tilefish higher than 500 pounds/year associated with their permit (s).

Summary of Results

1 vote per vessel:

- 63.6% (21 vessels) in favor of a LAP
- 21.2% (7 vessels) opposed to a LAP
- 15.2% (5 vessels) only for a LAP if there is a new stock assessment or only interested in sector allocation

Summary of Results (cont'd)

1 vote per pound landed on avg. 1999-2006:

- 61.6% (21 vessels) in favor of a LAP
- 21.9% (7 vessels) opposed to a LAP
- 16.5% (5 vessels) only for a LAP if there is a new stock assessment (16%) or only interested in sector allocation (0.5%)

Longliner Results – 19 vessels

- 1 vote per vessel
 - 66.7% (12 vessels) in favor
 - 11.1% (2 vessels) opposed
 - 22.2% (5 vessels) want new stock assessment
- 1 vote per pound landed on avg 1999-06
 - 61.8% in favor
 - 21.5% opposed
 - 16.7% want new stock assessment

Longliner Reasons Given

- In favor:
 - Lengthen season
 - Avoid derby fishery that brings lower prices
 - Avoid bad weather
 - Want to sell to restaurants
 - Want to see family more
 - Need to fish in Sept-Nov
 - SC wants to get fair share of quota
- Opposed:
 - Will eliminate trip limits that benefit hardest workers
 - LAPs cap what individual can catch without purchase

Hook & Line Results – 15 vessels

- 1 vote per vessel
 - 60.0% (9 vessels) in favor
 - 33.3% (5 vessels) opposed
 - 6.7% (1 vessels) want sector allocation program
- 1 vote per pound landed on avg 1999-06
 - 61.7% in favor
 - 25.0% opposed
 - 13.3% want sector allocation program

H & L Reasons Given

- In favor:
 - Allow them to fish before longliners meet commercial quota and season is closed
 - Increased ex-vessel prices
 - Need to fish in Sept-Nov
- Opposed:
 - Current trip limit of 300lbs is fine
 - Don't like LAPs in Gulf red snapper
 - Without increased enforcement, LAPs will not have conservation benefits

Review of LAP Workgroup Informal Questionnaire

- LAP Workgroup response to the statement that they see “a strong potential in adopting a LAP program for the snapper grouper fishery...”
 - 55% agree
 - 18% disagree
 - 27% undecided

Review of LAP Workgroup Informal Questionnaire (cont'd)

- LAP Workgroup response to the statement that “the Council should move forward with development of alternatives for a LAP program under an amendment to the Snapper Grouper FMP”
 - 46% agree
 - 18% disagree
 - 36% undecided