



Determining the Need for Conservation and Management

**Prepared for the Snapper Grouper
Committee**

December 2020

Magnuson Requirements



Councils must prepare a fishery management plan for each fishery that requires conservation and management.



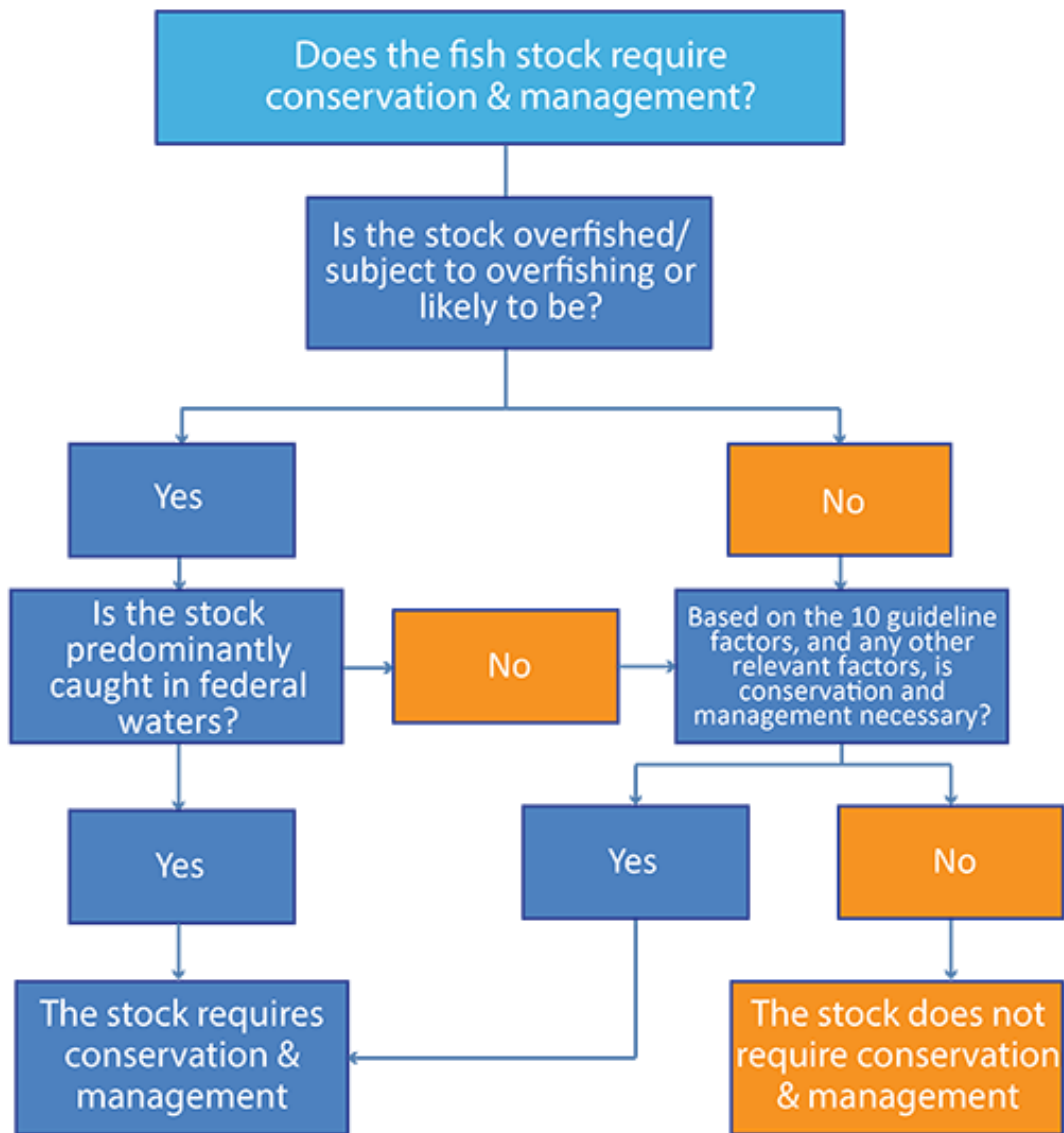
Stocks that are predominately caught in federal waters and are overfished/overfishing or likely to become o/o require conservation and management.



Beyond such stocks, Councils must determine need based on 10 factors.



Conservation & Management Determinations



Adding/removing stocks to/from an existing FMP

- One or more factors and any additional considerations can provide the basis for determining that a stock requires conservation and management.
- SAFMC has not added a stock to existing FMPs.
- SAFMC has removed several species from FMPs



Evaluation factors

1. Is the stock an important component of the marine environment?
2. Is the stock caught by the fishery?
3. Could an FMP improve or maintain the condition of the stock?
4. Is the stock the target of a fishery?
5. Is the stock important to commercial, recreational, or subsistence users?



Evaluation factors (cont'd)

6. Is the stock important to the Nation or to the regional economy?
7. Is there a need to resolve competing interests and conflicts among users?
8. Considering the economic condition of the fishery, could and FMP produce more efficient utilization?



Evaluation factors (cont'd)

9. Considering the needs of the developing fishery, could an FMP foster orderly growth?
10. Is the fishery adequately managed by states, state/federal programs, or by federal regulations under other FMPs, international commissions or industry self-regulation?

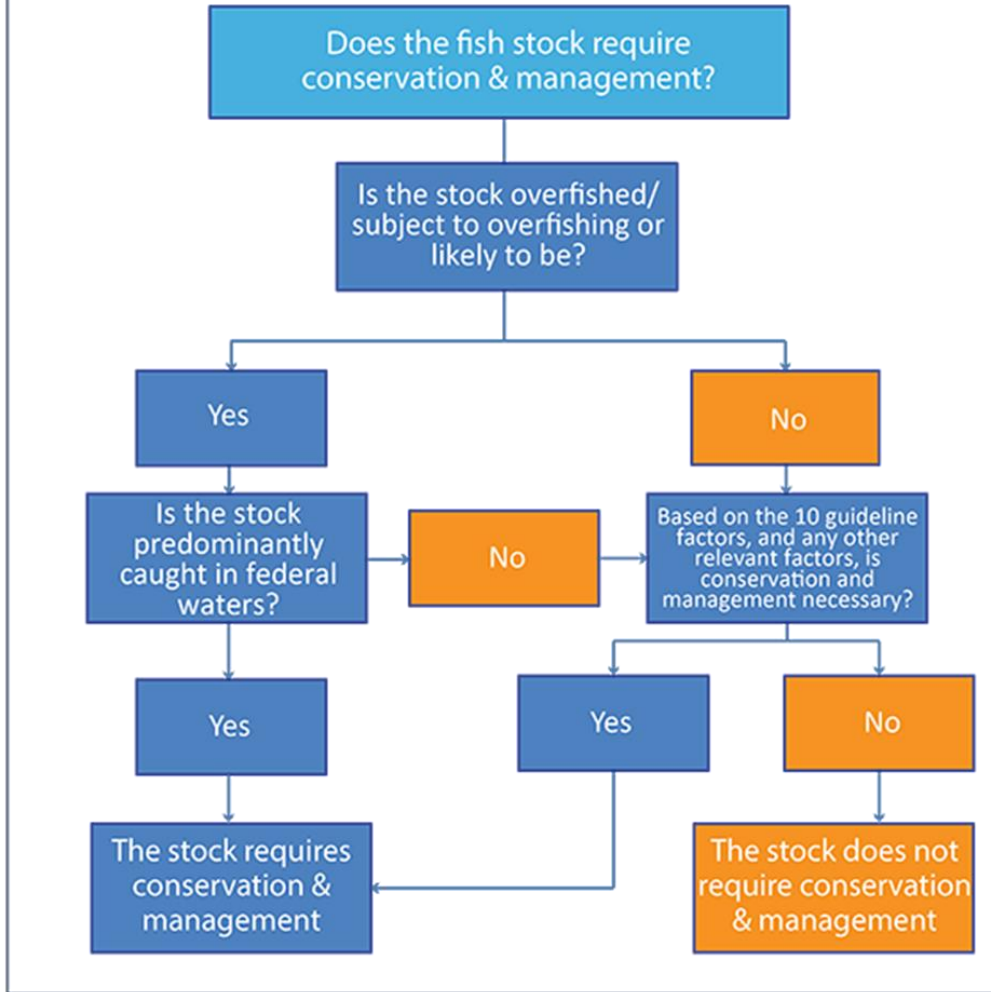


Ecosystem Component Species

Stocks that a Council has determined **do not require conservation and management** but listing in an FMP would help achieve ecosystem management objectives



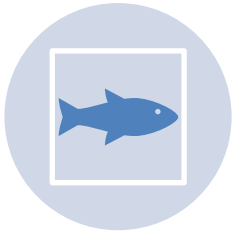
Conservation & Management Determinations



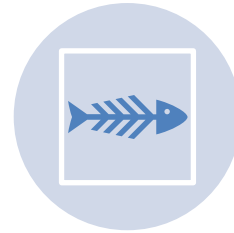
Remove from FMP
Ecosystem Component



EC evaluation factors



Non-target species or stock



Not overfishing, overfished
or approaching
overfishing/overfished



Not likely to become o/o in
the absence of conservation
and management



Not generally retained for
sale or personal use

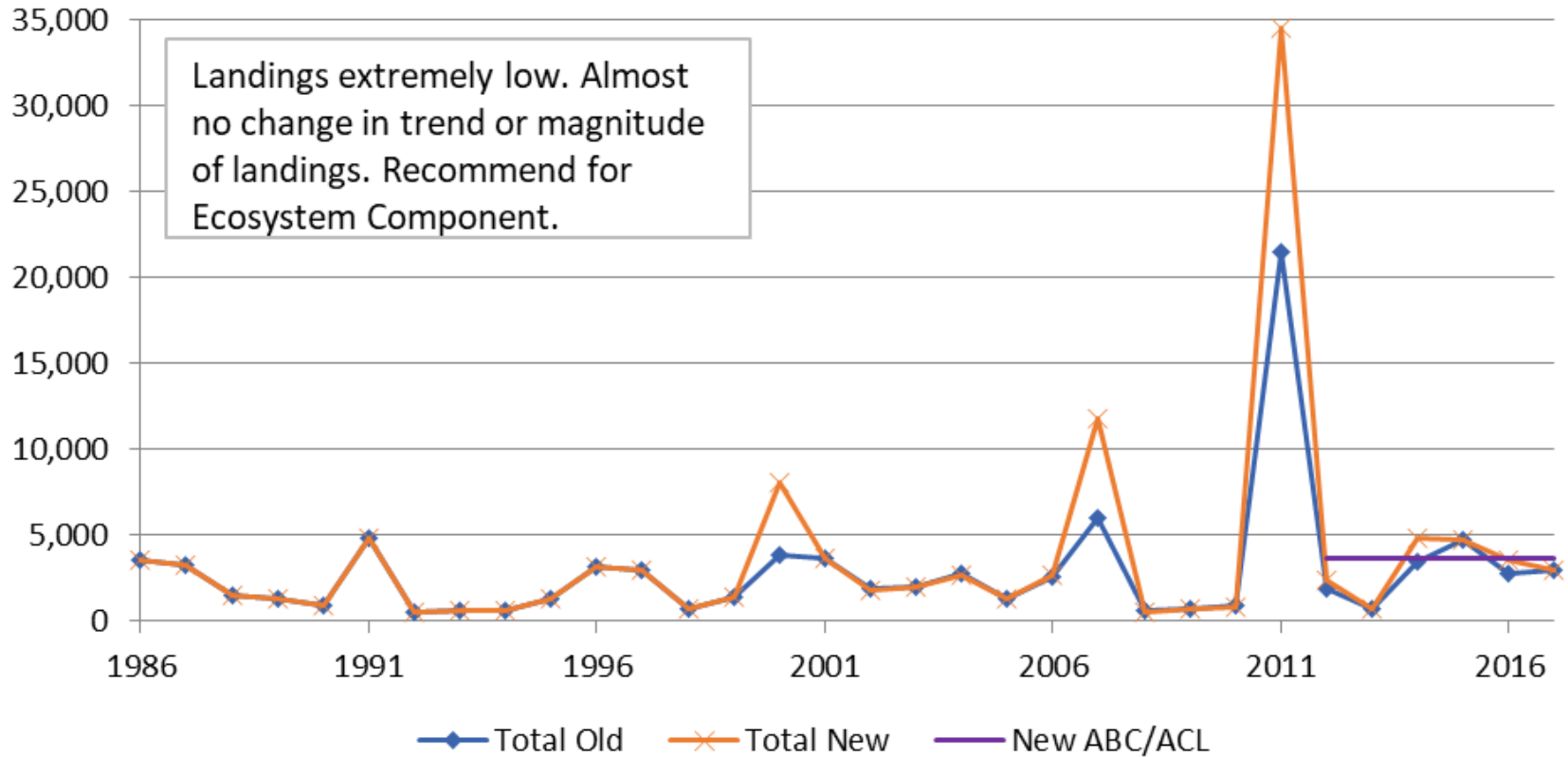


SSC Recommendation

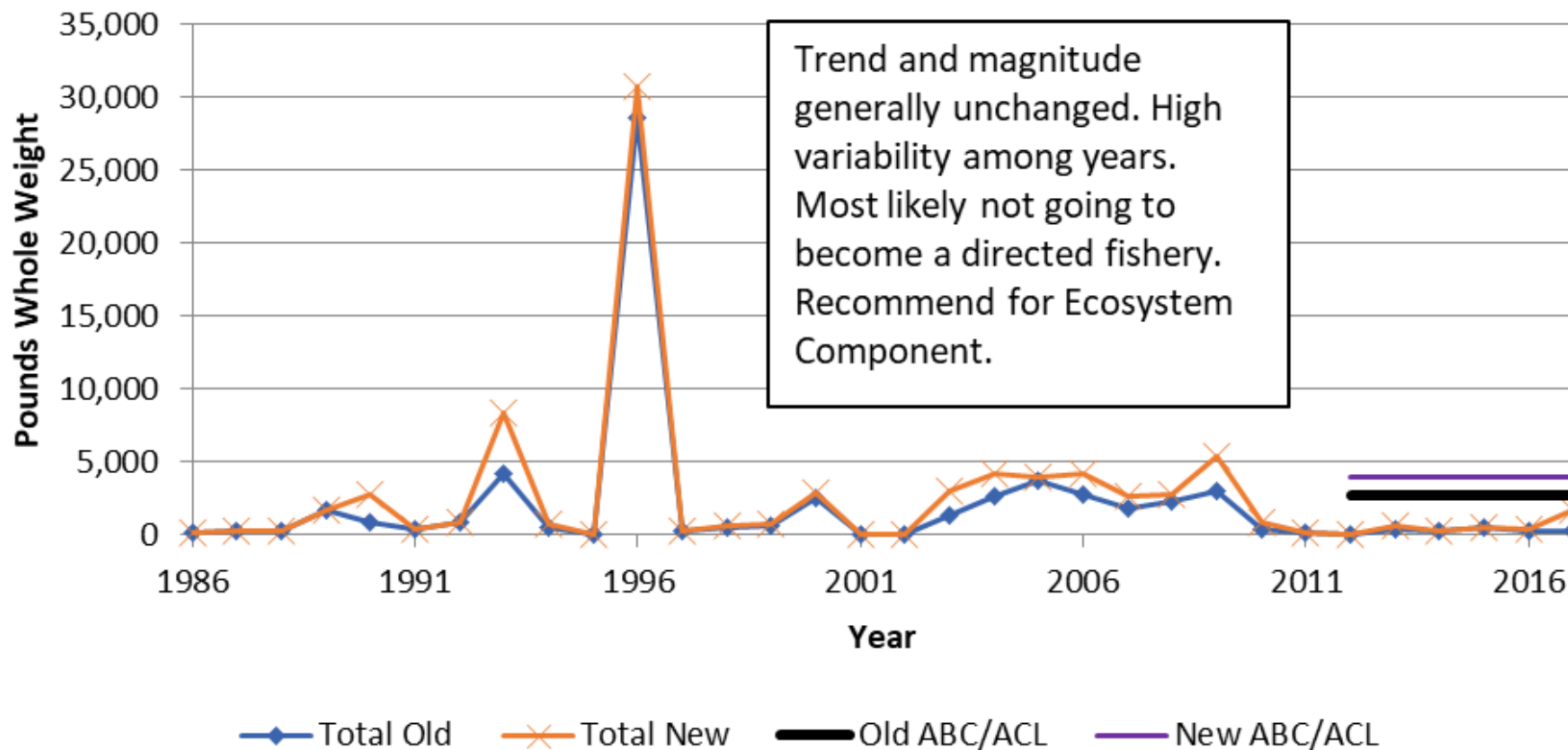
- In October 2019, the SSC recommended possibly designating 9 SG species as Ecosystem Component species.
 - To pursue such designation, the Council still needs to conduct an evaluation based on the 10 factors.
1. Blackfin Snapper
 2. Coney
 3. Cubera Snapper
 4. Margate
 5. Misty Grouper
 6. Saucereye porgy
 7. Silk snapper
 8. Yellowedge Grouper
 9. Yellowfin Grouper



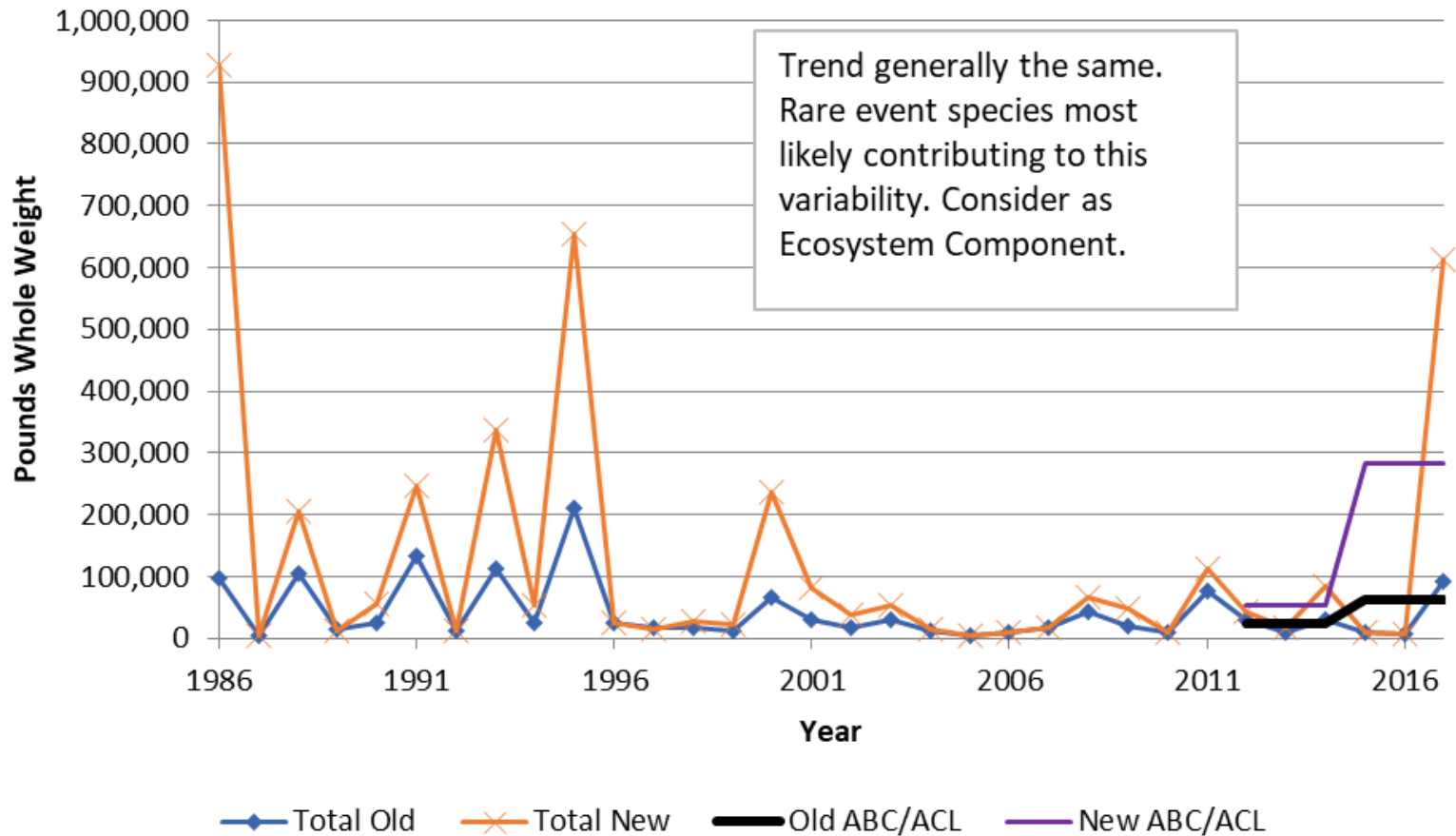
Blackfin Snapper



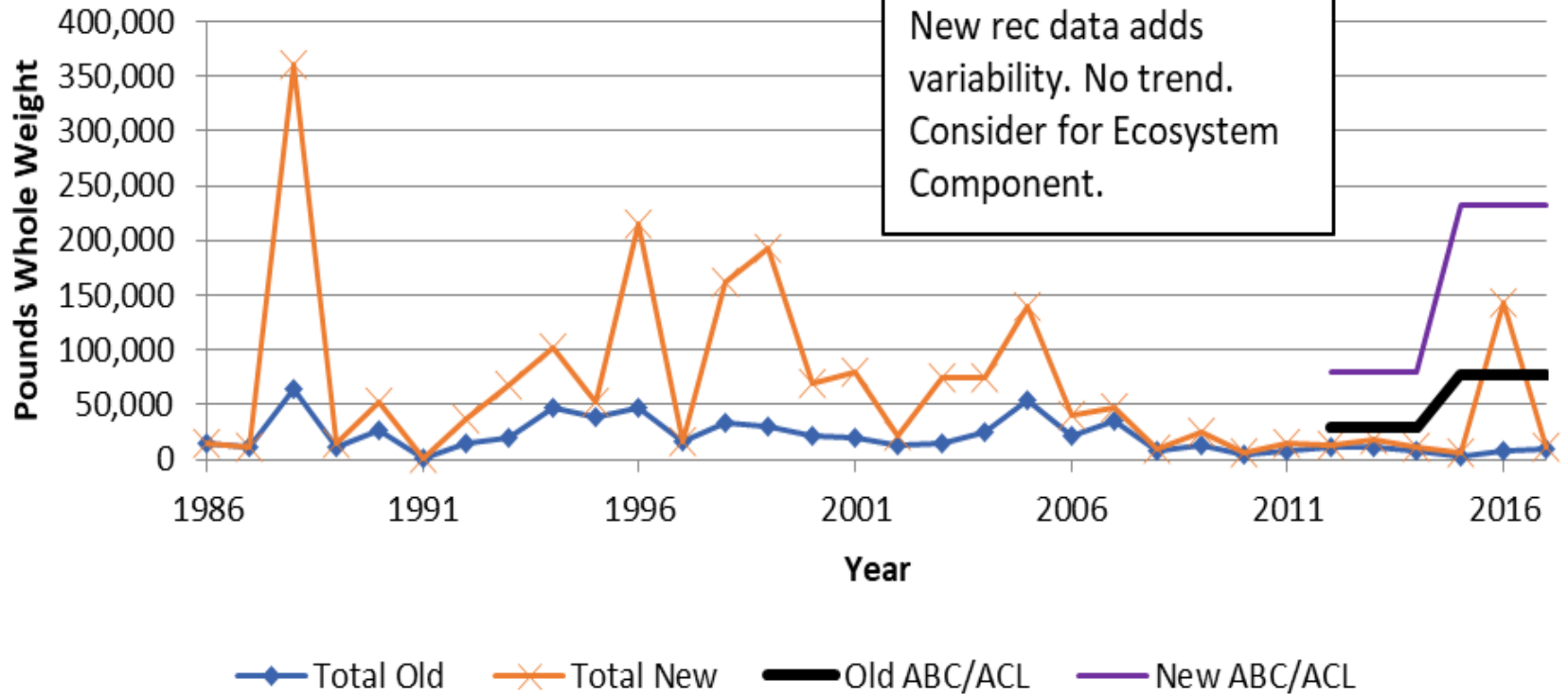
Coney



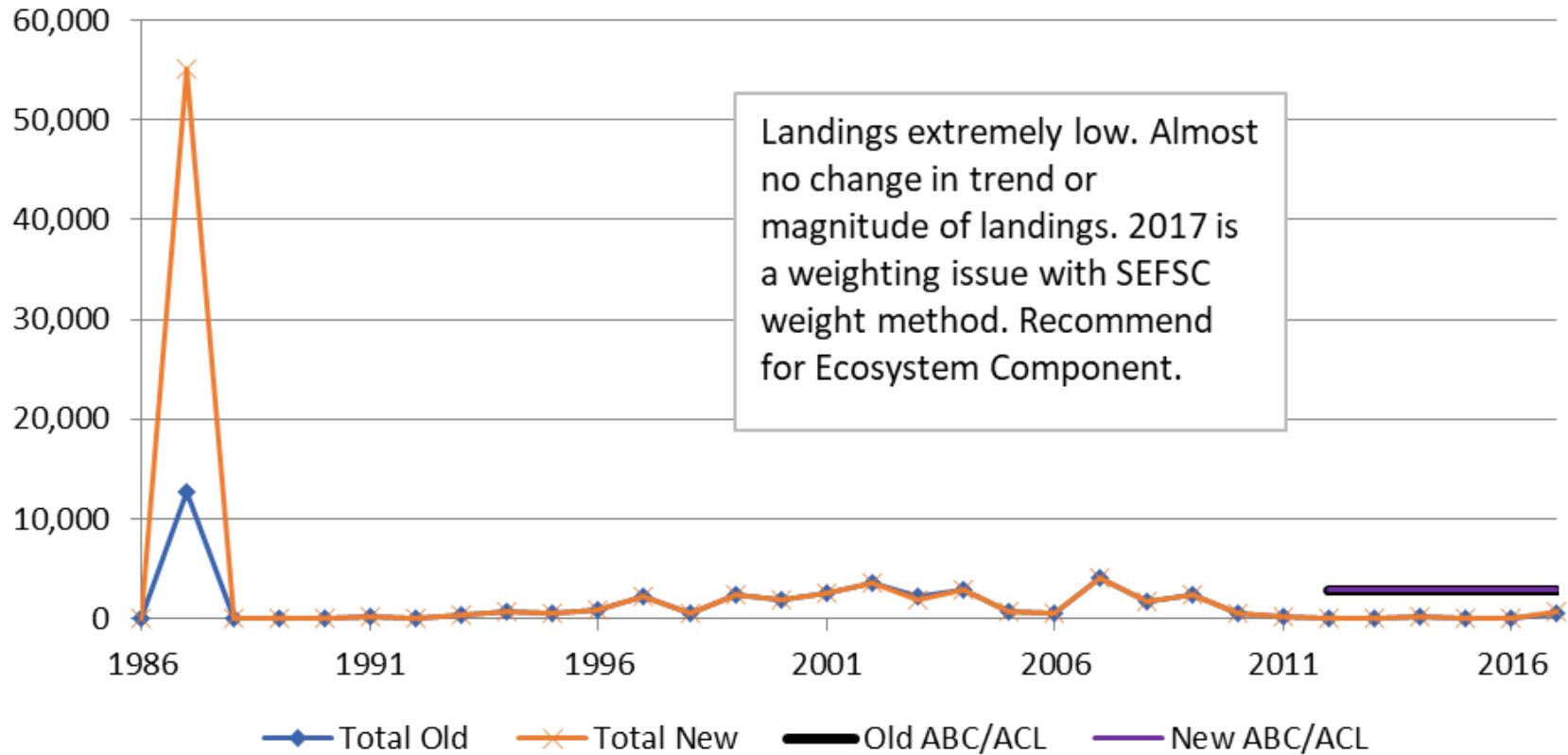
Cubera Snapper



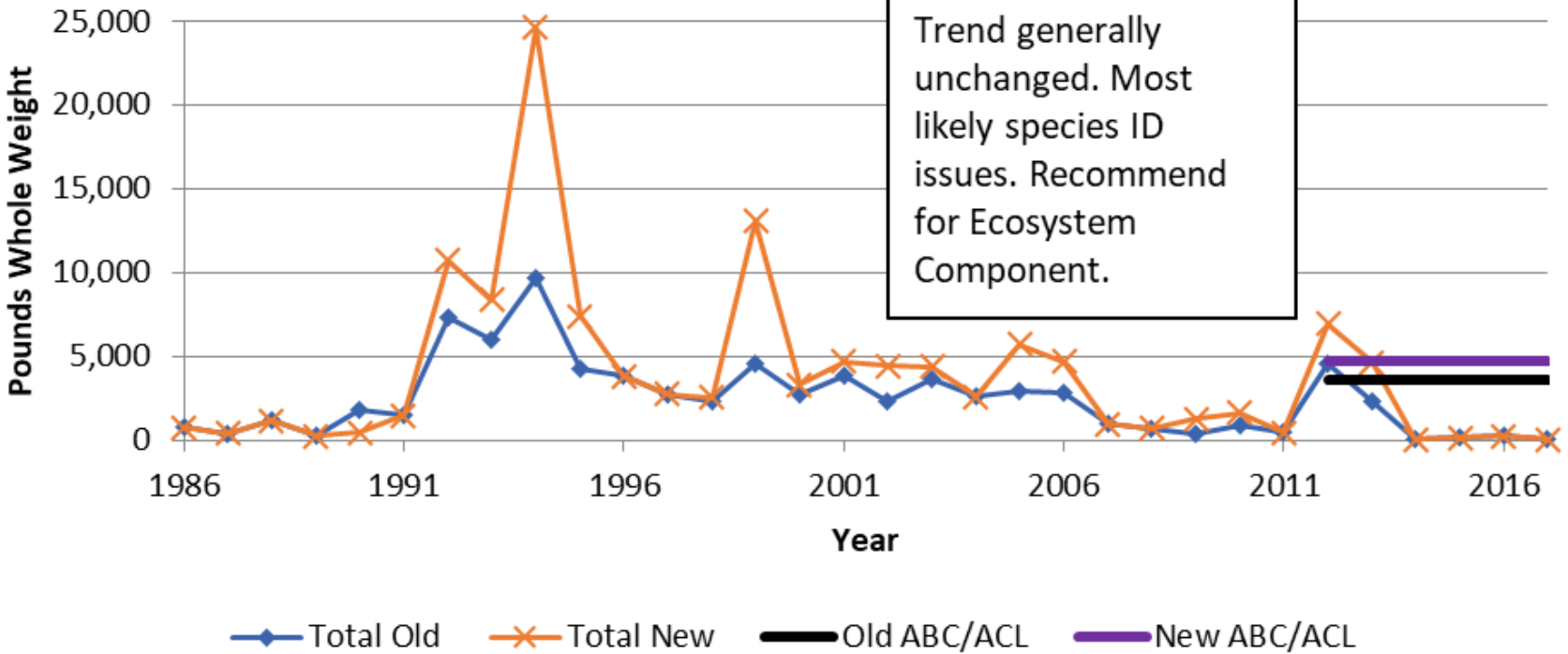
Margate



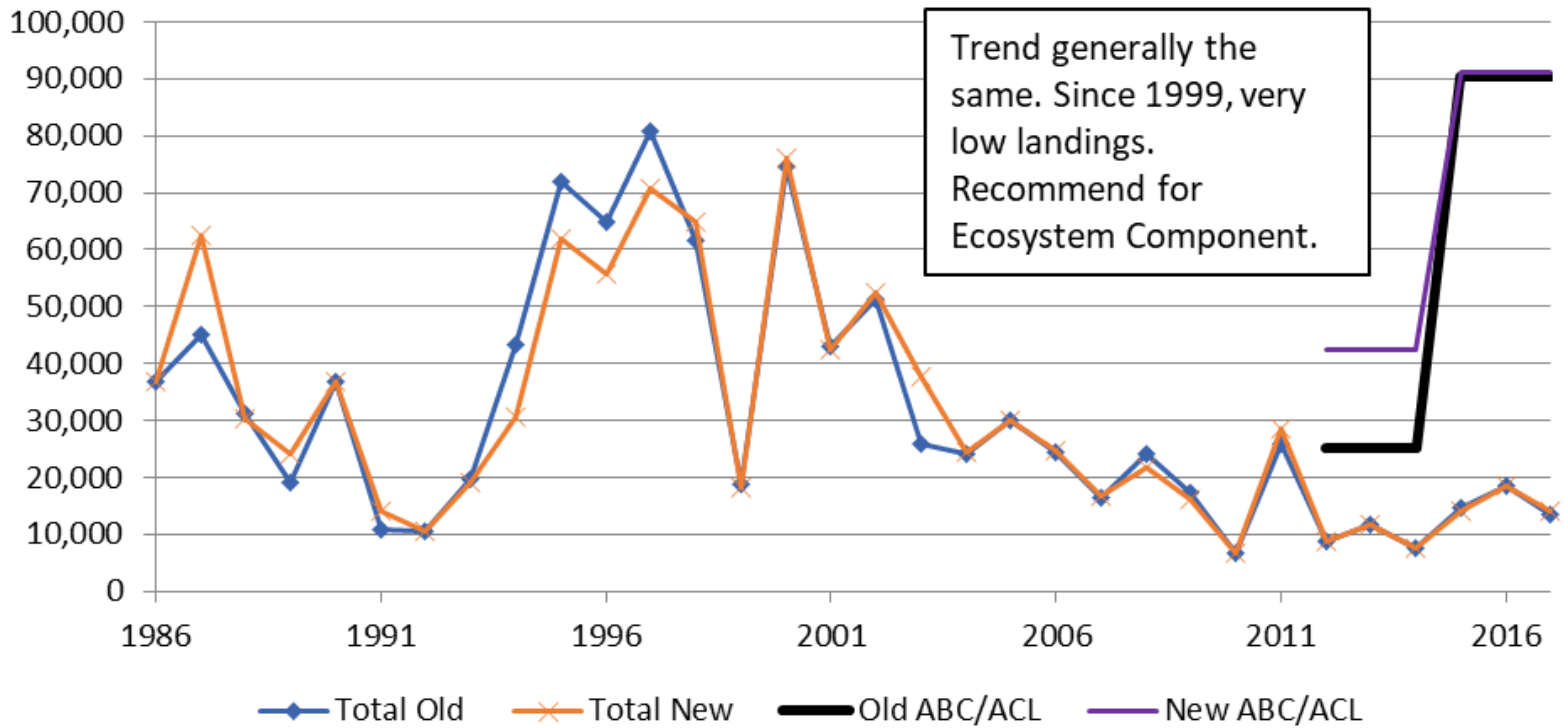
Misty Grouper



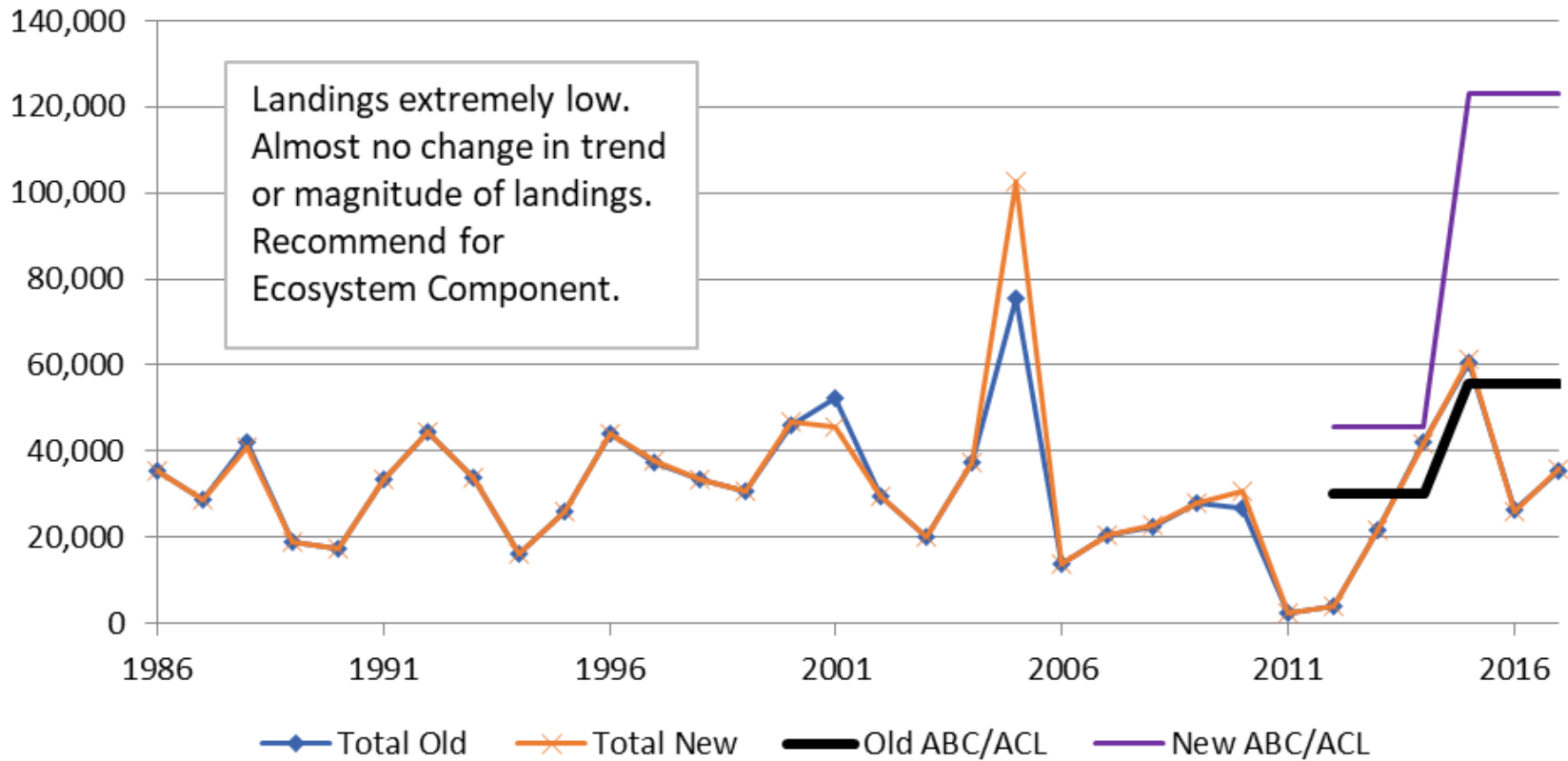
Saucereye Porgy



Silk Snapper

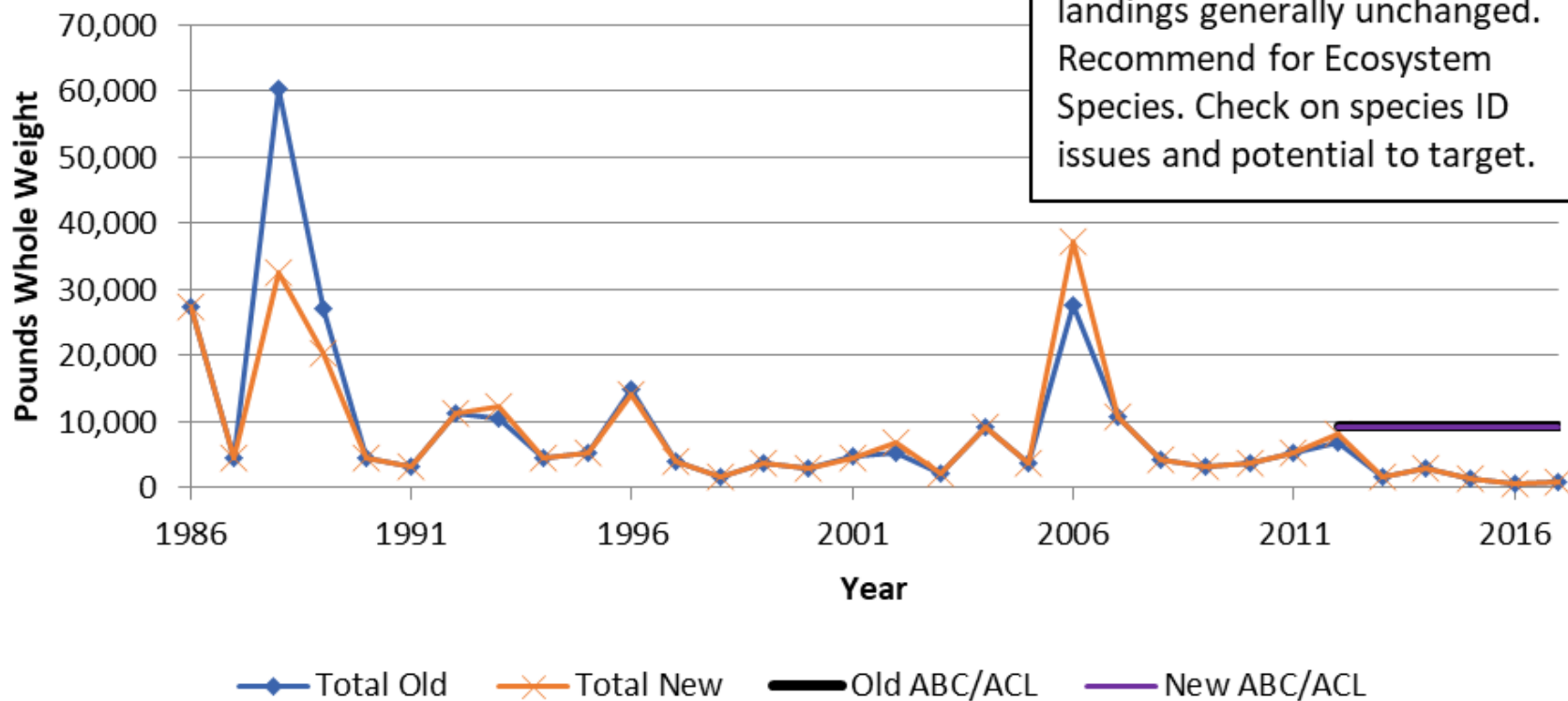


Yellowedge Grouper



Yellowfin Grouper

Trend and magnitude of landings generally unchanged. Recommend for Ecosystem Species. Check on species ID issues and potential to target.



To assist with evaluation

<https://data.safmc.net/MgmtNeedEval2020/>



Questions for the Committee

- Do you want staff to initiate a plan amendment to evaluate whether these 9 species require federal management or can be designated as EC?
- Include action in amendment to revise ABCs for unassessed species?
- Are there species that should be excluded/included?

