

Snapper Grouper Recreational Release Highlights

March 2022

Snapper Grouper Fishery = Variety

55 species, 12 degrees Latitude, 100's feet depth, many habitats

Information presented for last 21 years – 2000-2020

Data from MRIP for the private recreational and charter fisheries – all modes, all waves, all areas

South Atlantic including Monroe County

A= harvested fish observed by samplers

B1=unobserved harvested fish

B2=unobserved, released alive

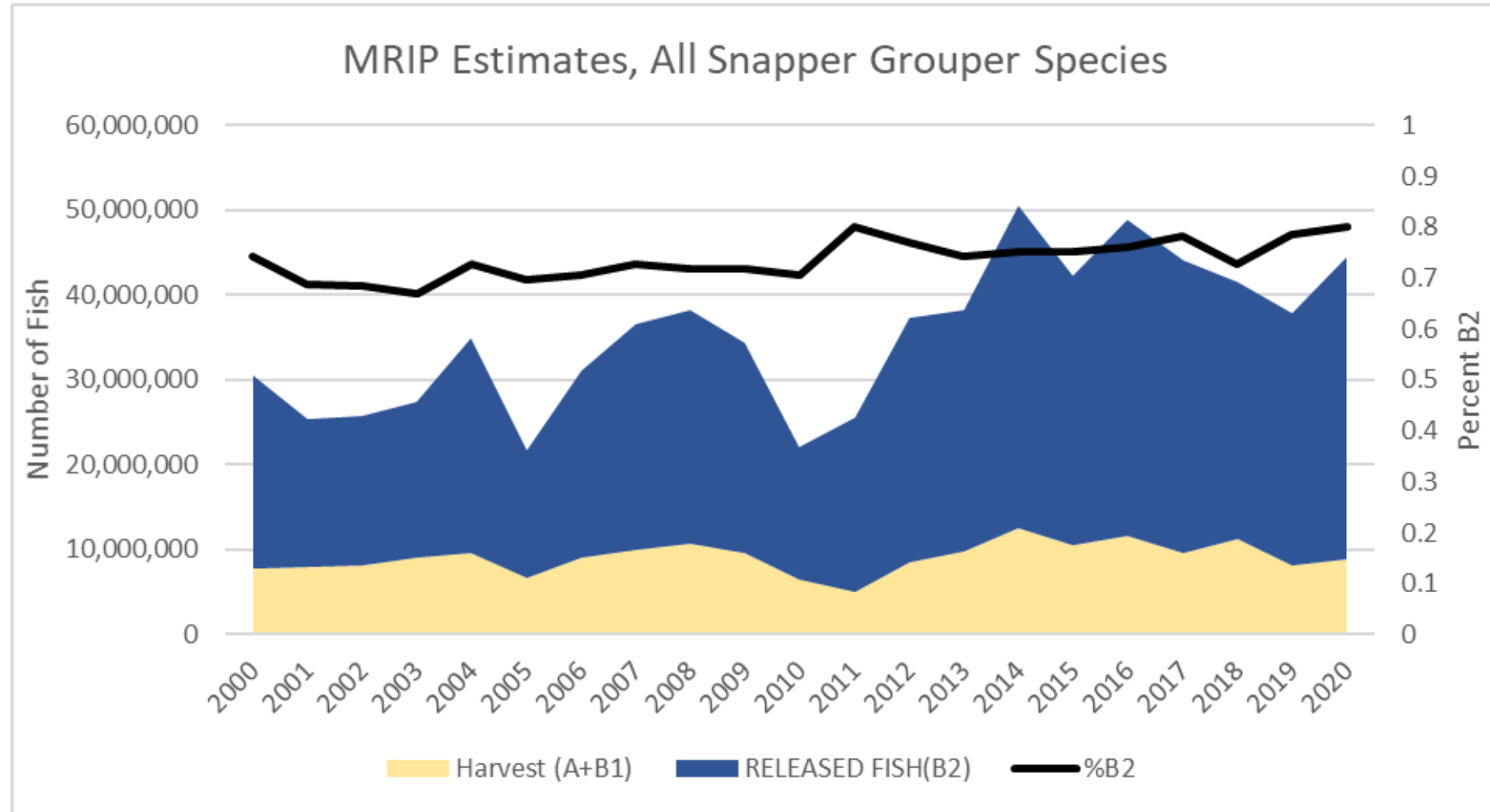
2000 – 2020 Snapper Grouper Fishery

Live Release (B2) is about 3x Harvest

Slight increase in B2% over time: 70% 1st 5y, 77% last 5y

If Release mortality averages 33% across the fishery,

Dead Releases = Harvest



18 High Impact Species

>50% Released + Releases > 500,000 fish + Harvest > 500,000 fish*
93% of harvest, 99% of the releases

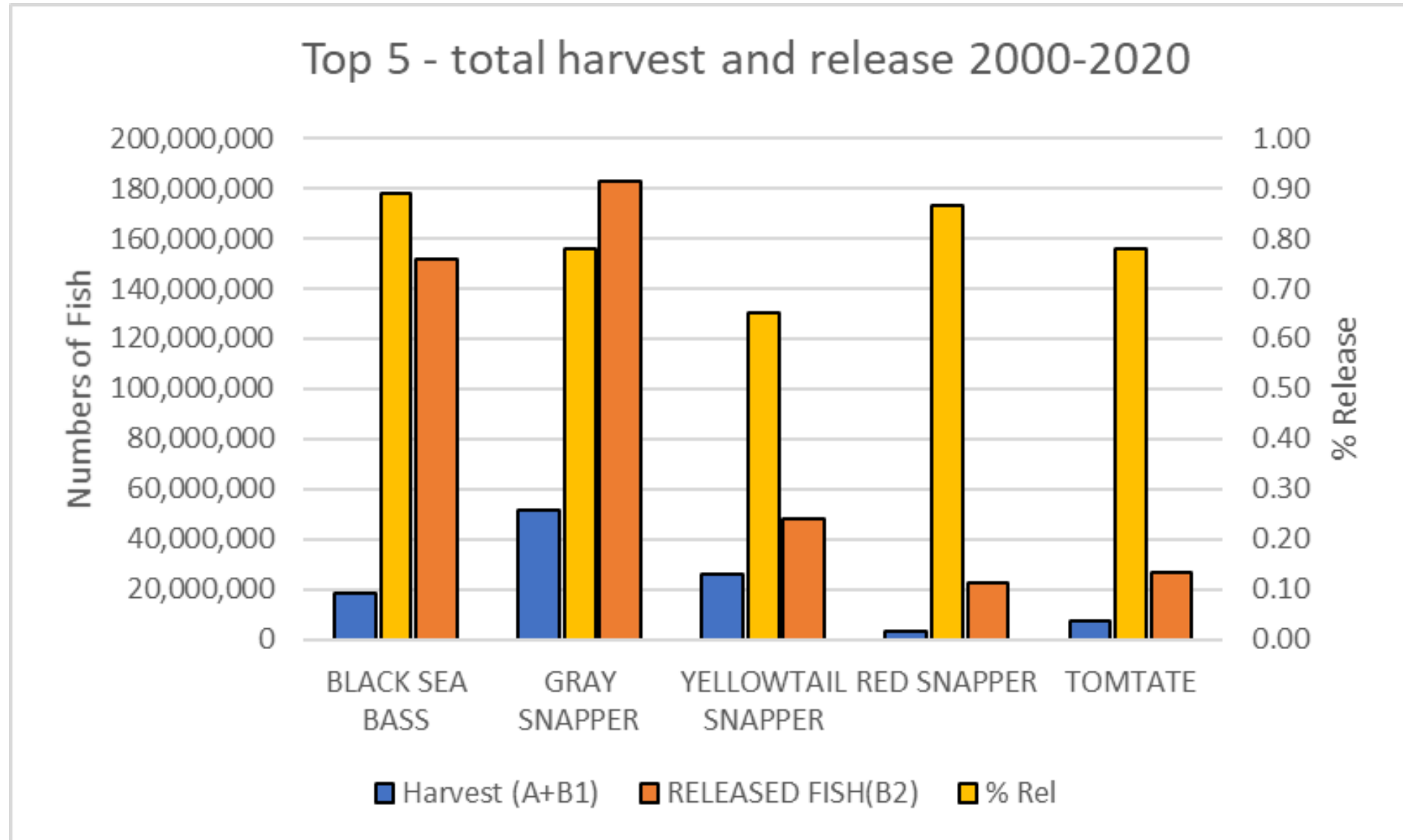
- BLACK SEA BASS
- GRAY SNAPPER
- YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER
- RED SNAPPER
- TOMTATE
- LANE SNAPPER
- MUTTON SNAPPER
- ATLANTIC SPADEFISH
- WHITE GRUNT
- RED GROUPE
- GAG
- VERMILION SNAPPER
- GRAY TRIGGERFISH
- SAILORS CHOICE
- BLACK GROUPE
- GREATER AMBERJACK
- ALMACO JACK
- BAR JACK

Overfished Stocks

Assessed Stocks (9 of 18)

*Values are 2000-2020 Total

Top 5, 2000-2020 harvest & release

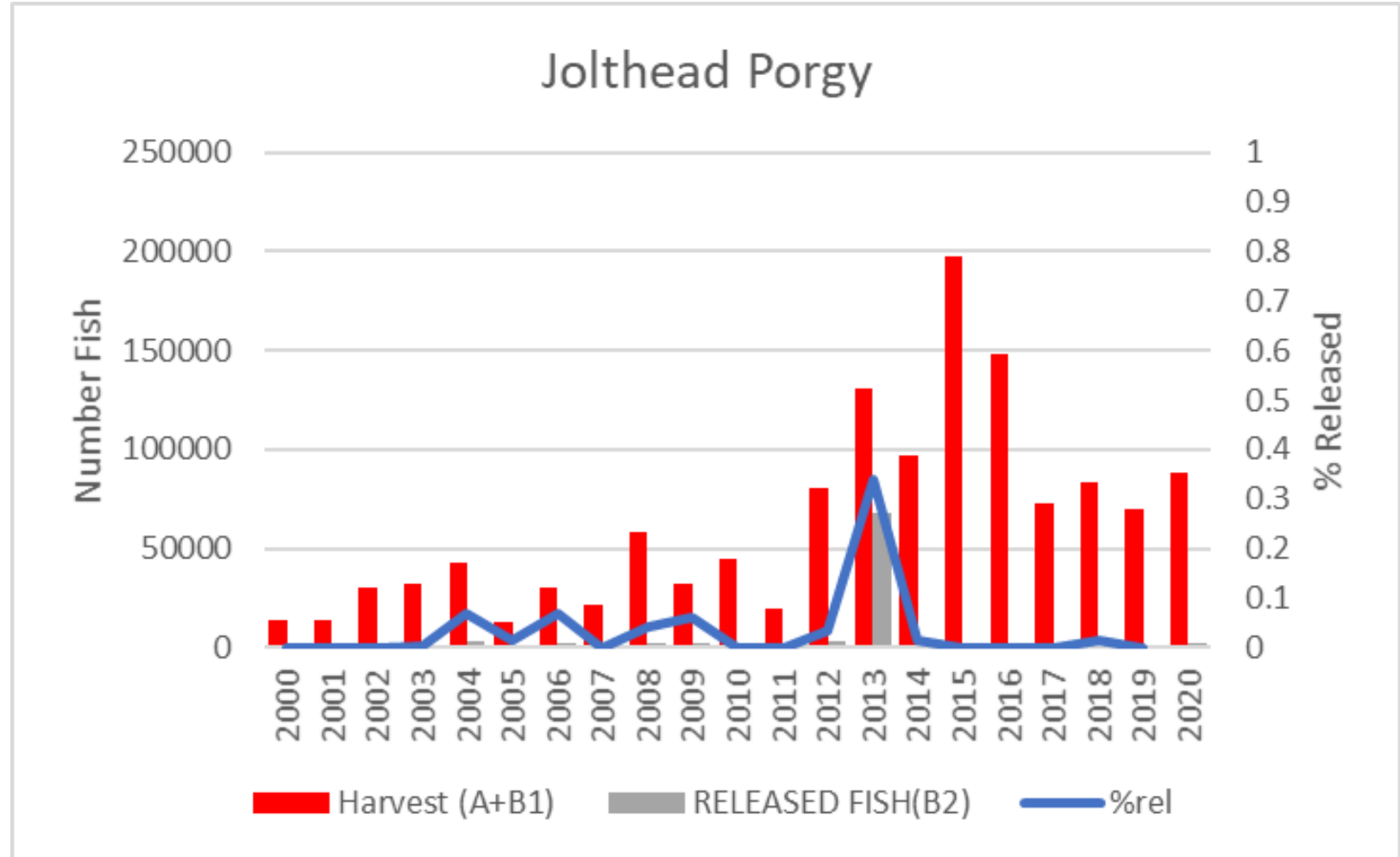


Jolthead Porgy. Low Release

- Very low releases
- Low catch – average around 75,000 fish per year recently

Notable low release species (under 20%):

- Tilefish (6%)
- Blueline Tilefish (9%)
- Snowy Grouper (18%)
- Saucereye Porgy (0%)
- Hogfish (16%)

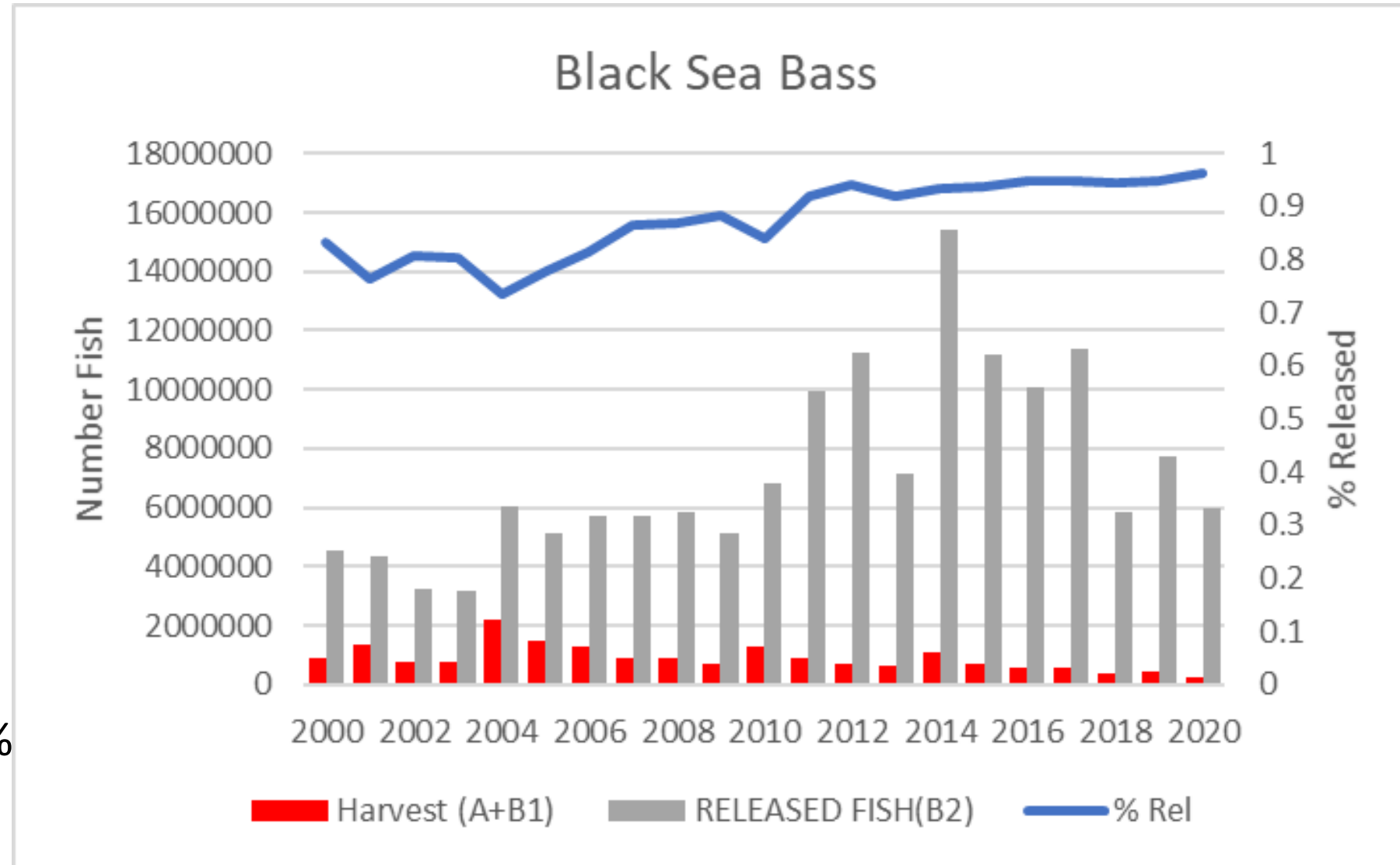


Black Sea Bass. High Release-Varying

- Rise and fall in releases
- Decline in harvest
- Increasing % released

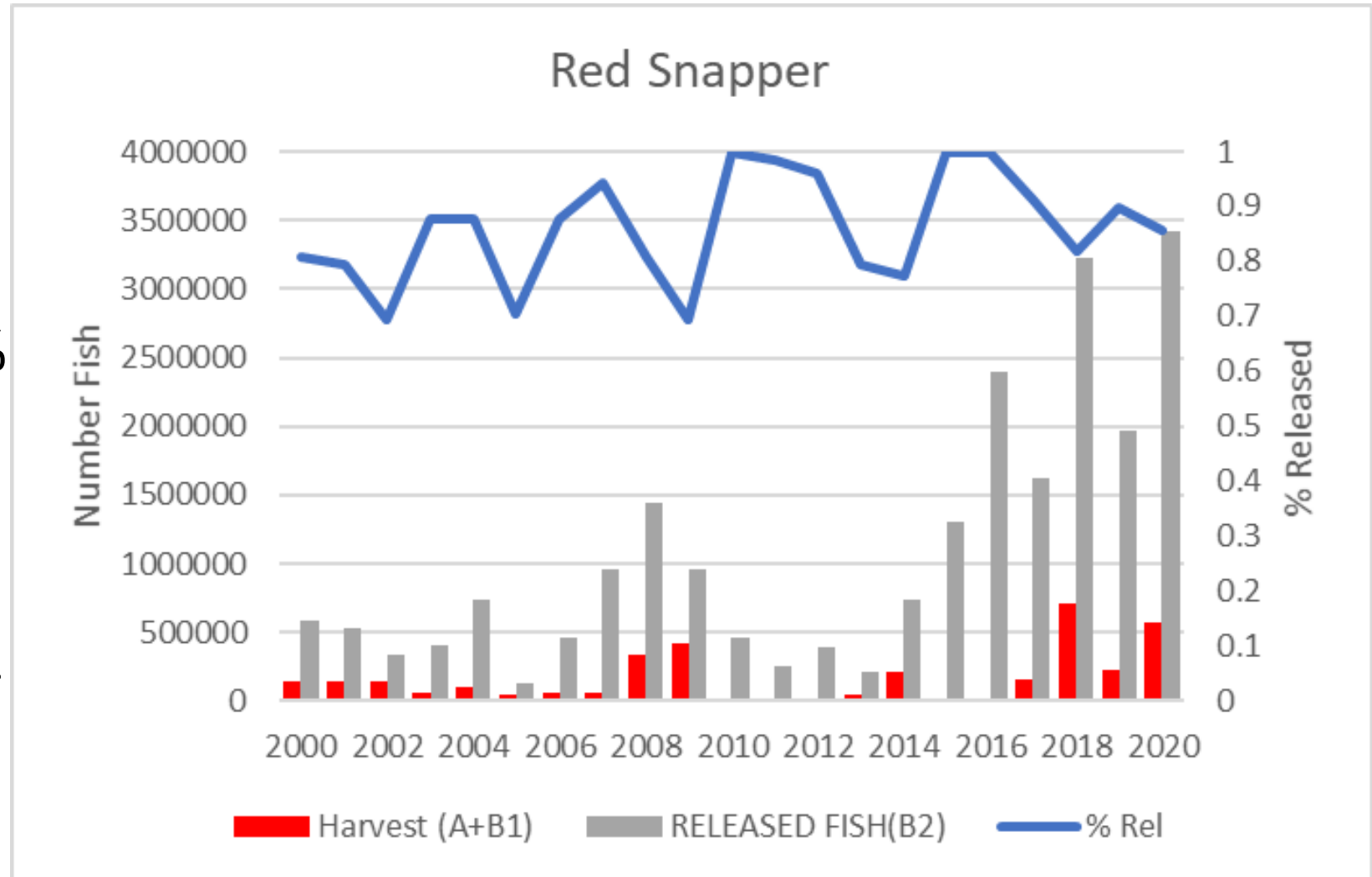
Other High Release species

- Speckled Hind 86%
- Nassau Grouper 98%
- Goliath Grouper 100%



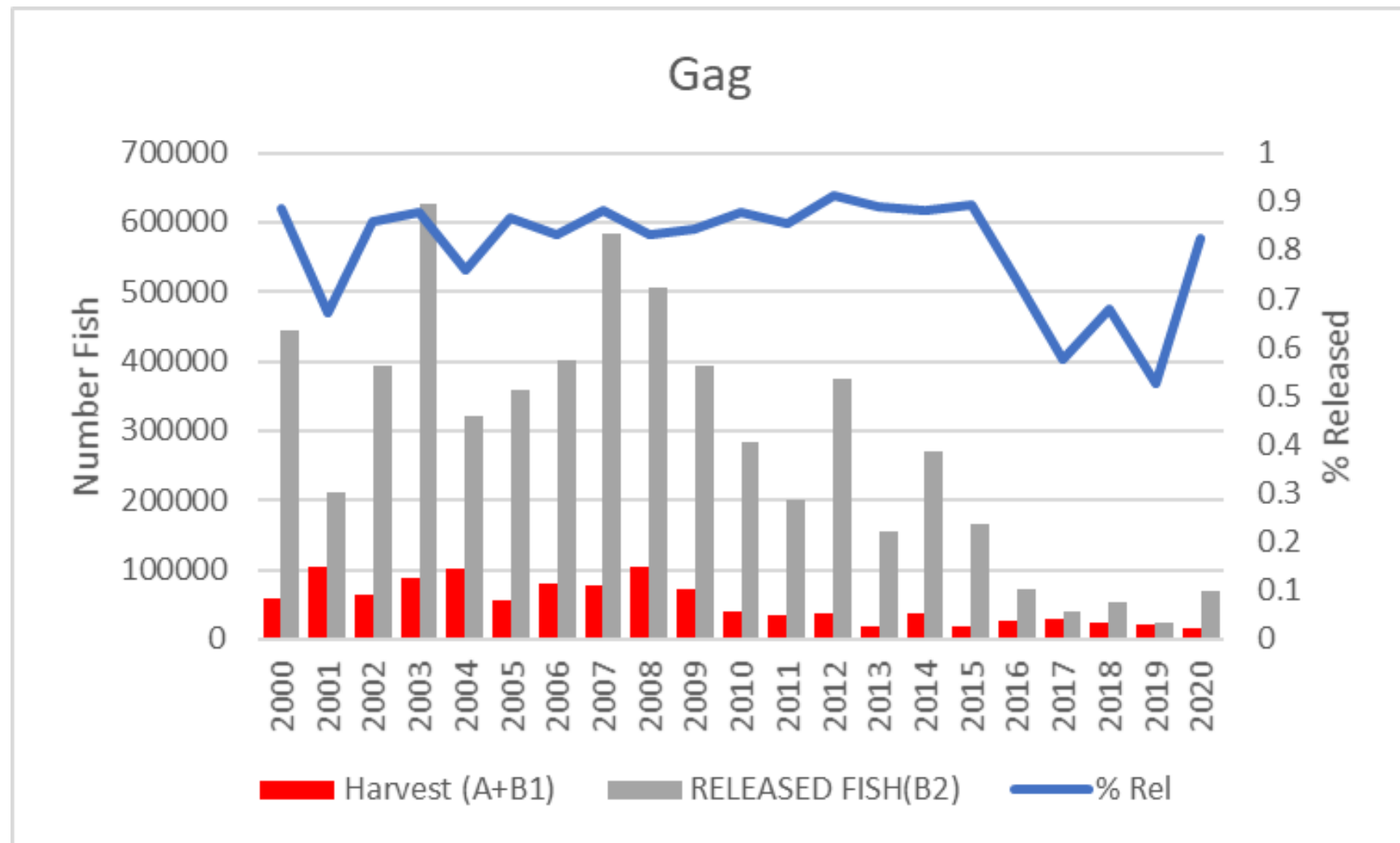
Red Snapper. High Release - Increasing

- Increased Releases coincide with improved recruitment in recent years
- Releases approach 100% due to recent regulations
- Expanded MRIP estimates shown here do NOT represent “mini-season” catch in recent years



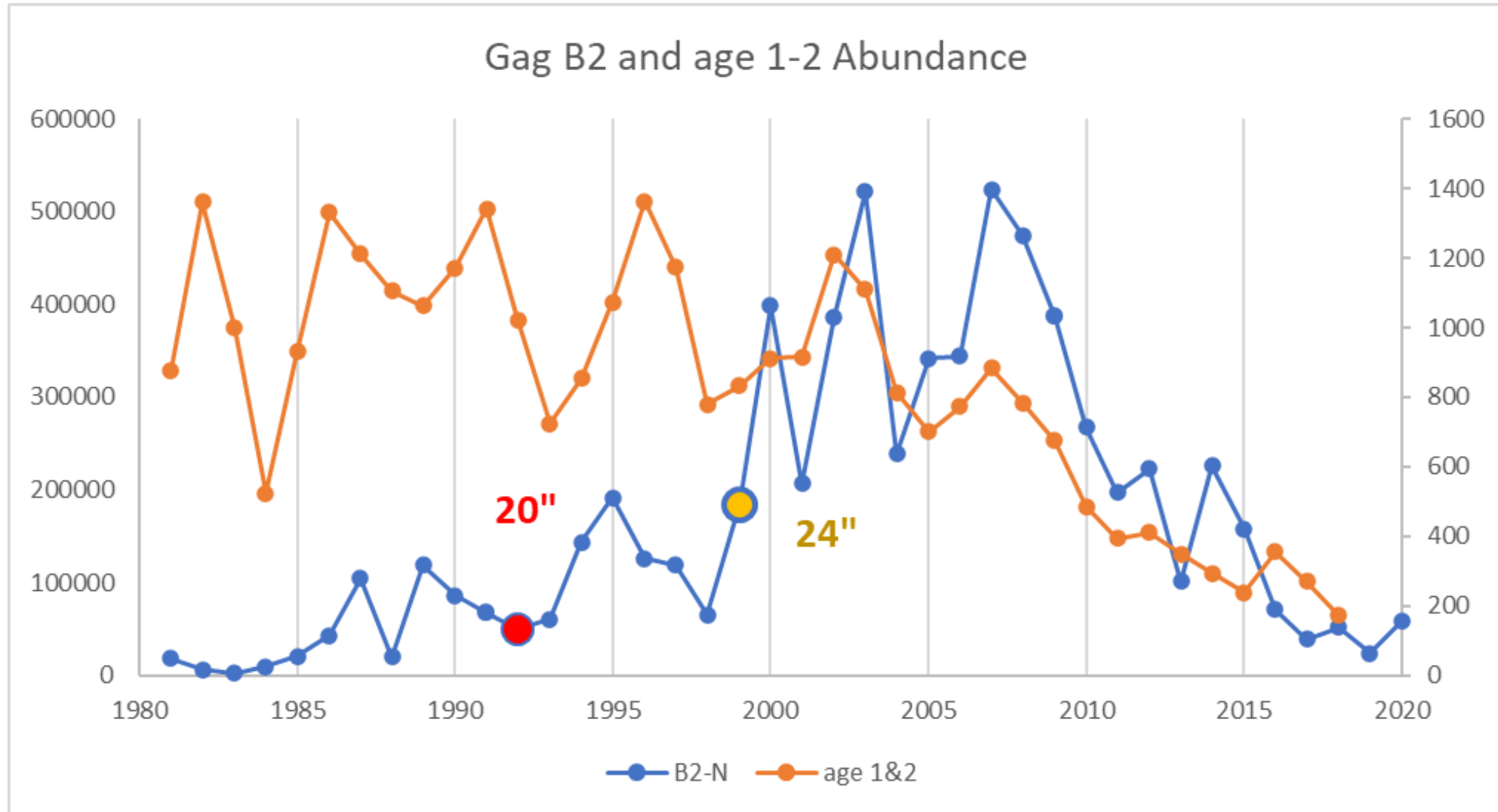
Gag. High Release – Declining

- Recent drop in release %
- Coincides with overall lower encounters
- Due to low recruitment and loss of smaller fish?

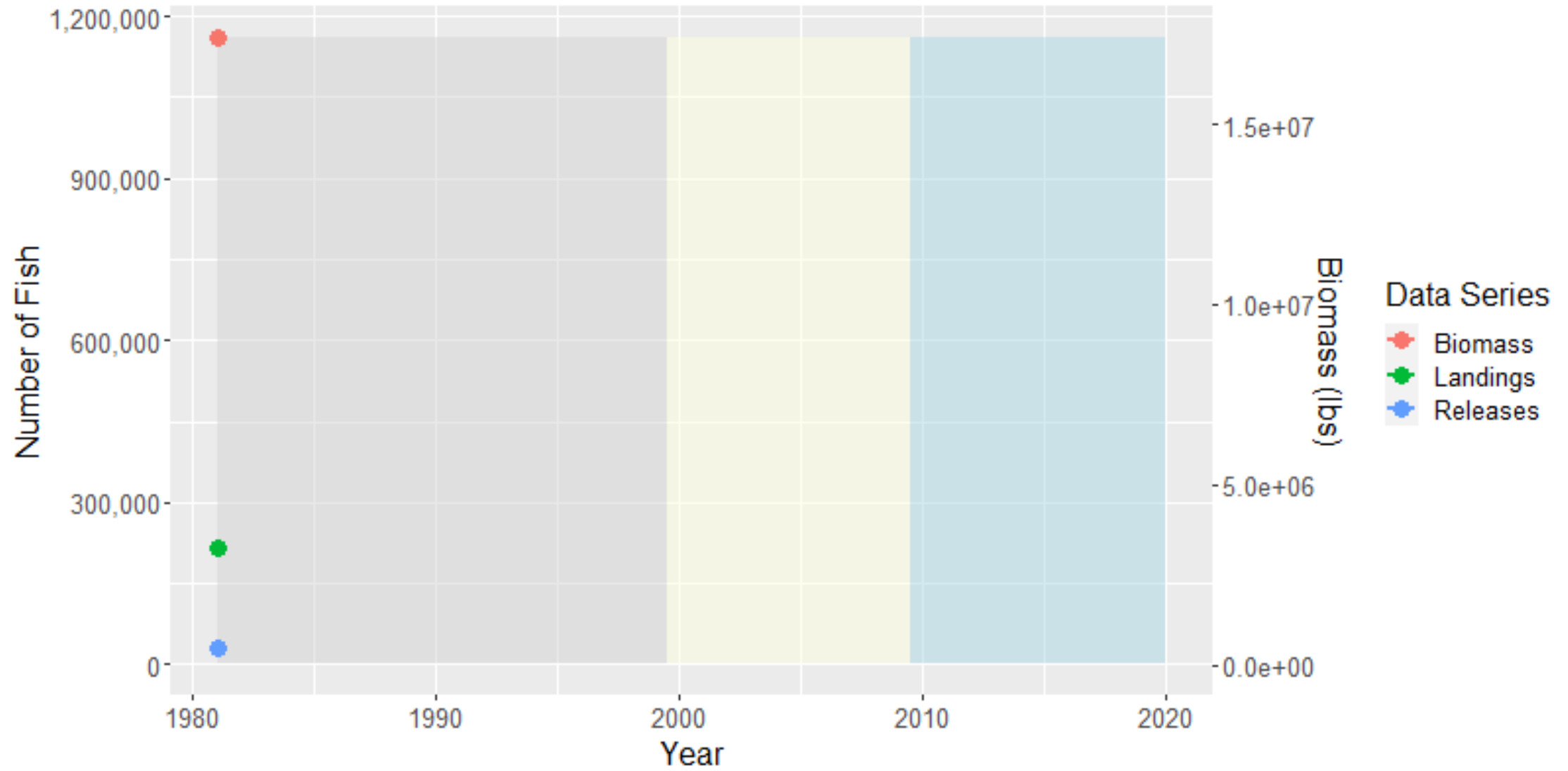


Gag – 1981-2020

releases and abundance



Gag



Won't rebuilding a stock resolve release issues or access concerns?

Most of the time, NO.

- The goal of rebuilding is increased abundance
- Increased abundance = increased availability & range & encounters
- Increased encounters = increased successful effort
and increased interest and directed effort
- Increased successful effort = increased catch
- Increased catch = stricter regulations to stay below ACL
- Stricter regulations = increased discards



Mandated by MSA to manage for OY: $F_{OY} < F_{MSY}$, $SSB_{OY} > SSB_{MSY}$

MSY-OY Conditions Compared

Assume $F_{OY} = 75\% F_{MSY}$

OY compared to MSY

F_{OY} is 25% lower

(25% less effort needed)

OY is only 2% lower

SSB_{OY} is 25% Greater

SPR_{OY} is 33% greater

*OY is precautionary
and optimizes
harvest efficiency*

