



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Amendment 60: Updated Trip Limit Analysis

Southeast Regional Office
LAPP/DM Branch

Actions 3 – 10

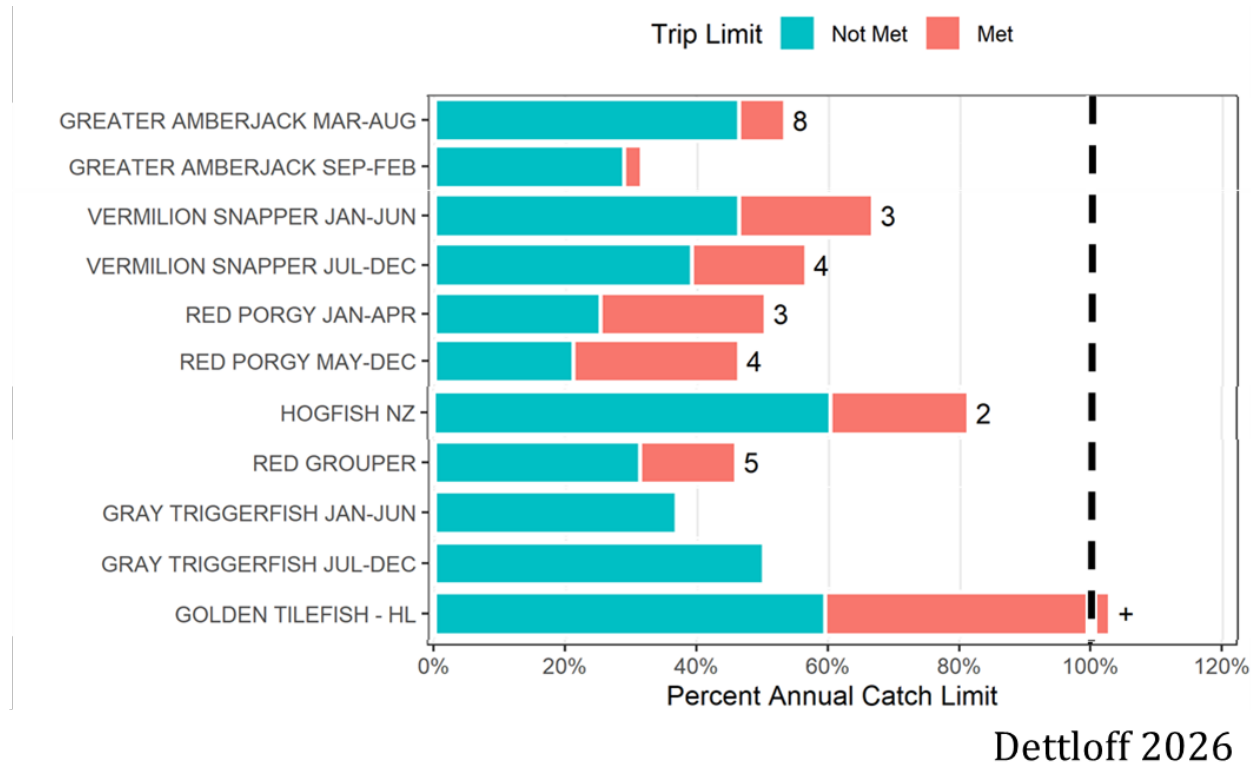
- Action 3: Greater Amberjack
- Action 4: Vermilion Snapper
- Action 5: Red Porgy
- Action 6: Hogfish (NC-GA)
- Action 7: Red Grouper
- **Action 8: Gray Triggerfish**
- **Action 9: Golden Tilefish (Hook and Line)**

Propose specific trip limit changes **AND** propose additional flexibility for setting trip limits be granted to the regional administrator

- Action 10: Gag

Propose additional flexibility for setting trip limits be granted to the regional administrator

Proportion of ACL Landing Trip Limits

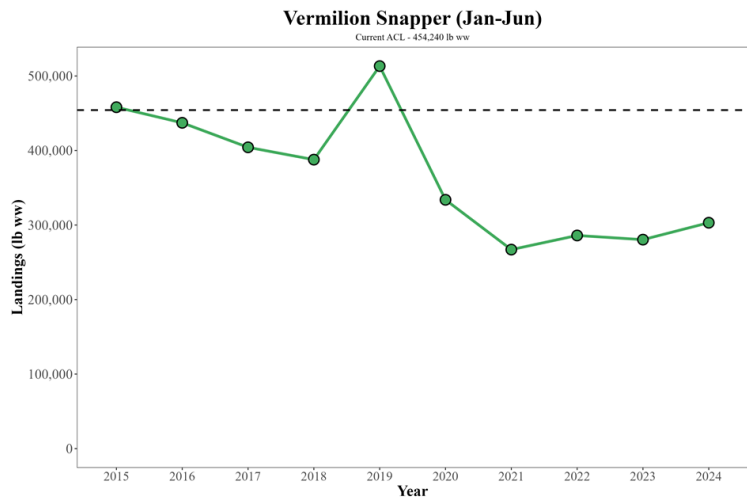


- Commercial landings reported on trip tickets (2024 only) were aggregated based on whether the trip limit was reached, for Snapper Grouper species
- Results
 - Bars marked by numbers indicate the estimated increase in trip limit needed to meet the ACL
 - No number indicates that a 10X trip limit increase is necessary to reach the ACL

Analysis Methodology

- 1) Review annual landings history in reference to ACL (~ 10 yrs)
- 2) Review magnitude of recent average monthly landings (2022-2024)
- 3) Plot distribution of recent trip landings (2020-2024)
 - a) **Summarize regionally and by state**
 - b) Calculate scalar value to represent expected change for each alternative
 - i. **Summarize regionally and by state**
- 4) Cumulatively sum scaled projected landings, for each alternative and compare to ACL to predict closure dates

1)



Trip Limit Analysis



Trip Limit **Increase**



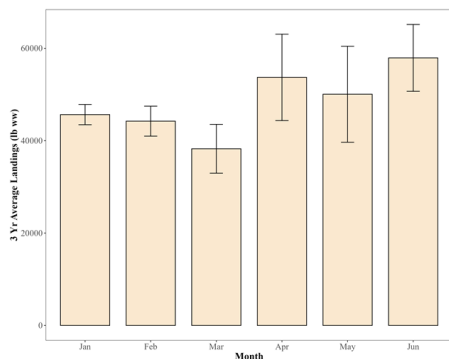
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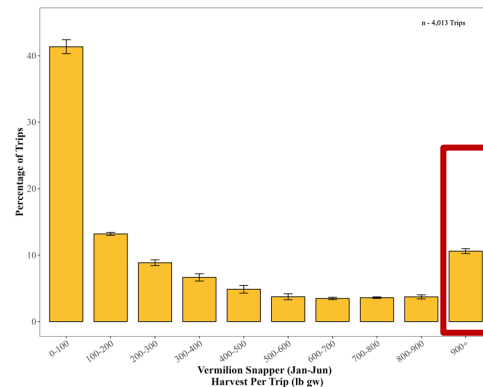
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2)



3)



4)

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Jan																																
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Mar																																
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Action 8: Gray Triggerfish



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DRP

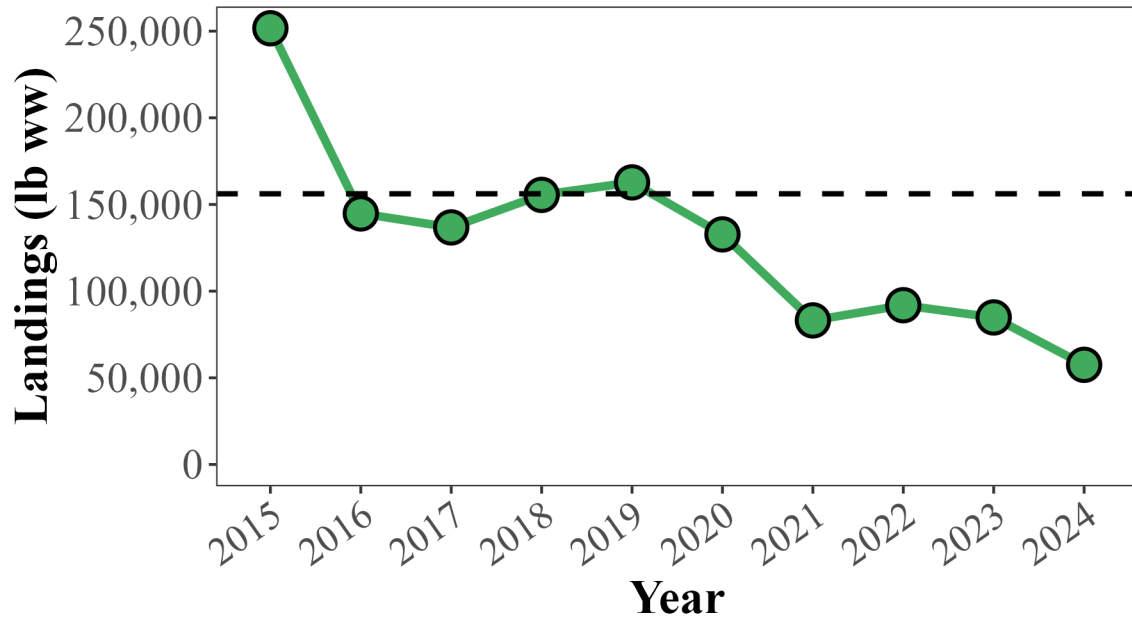


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Landings History – Gray Triggerfish

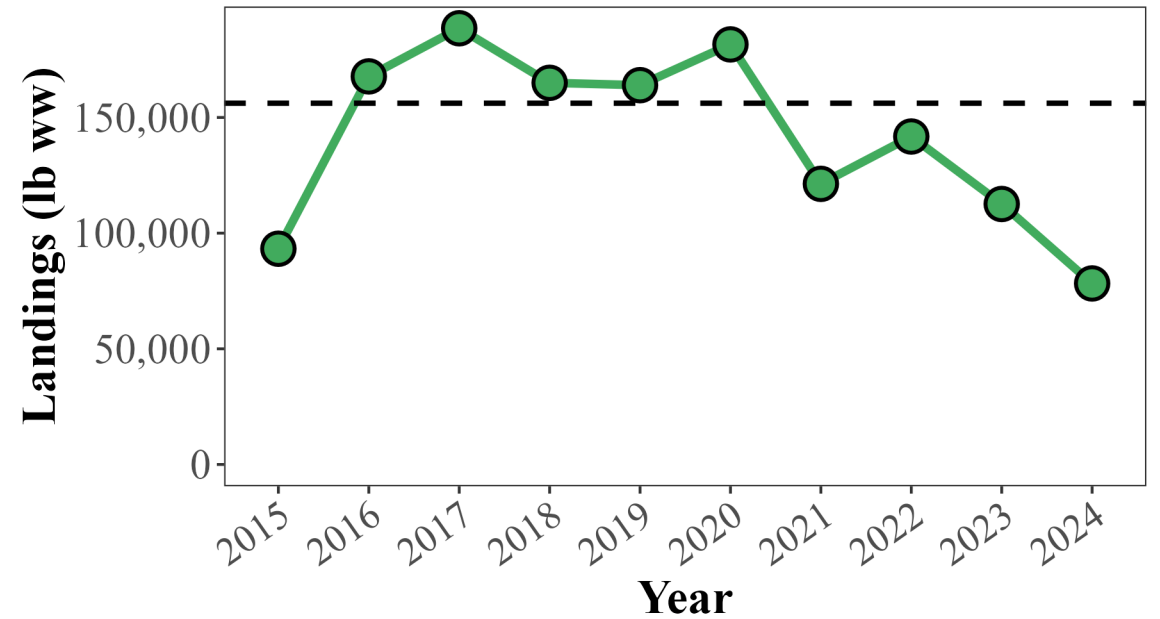
Gray Triggerfish (Jan-Jun)

Current ACL - 156,162 lb ww



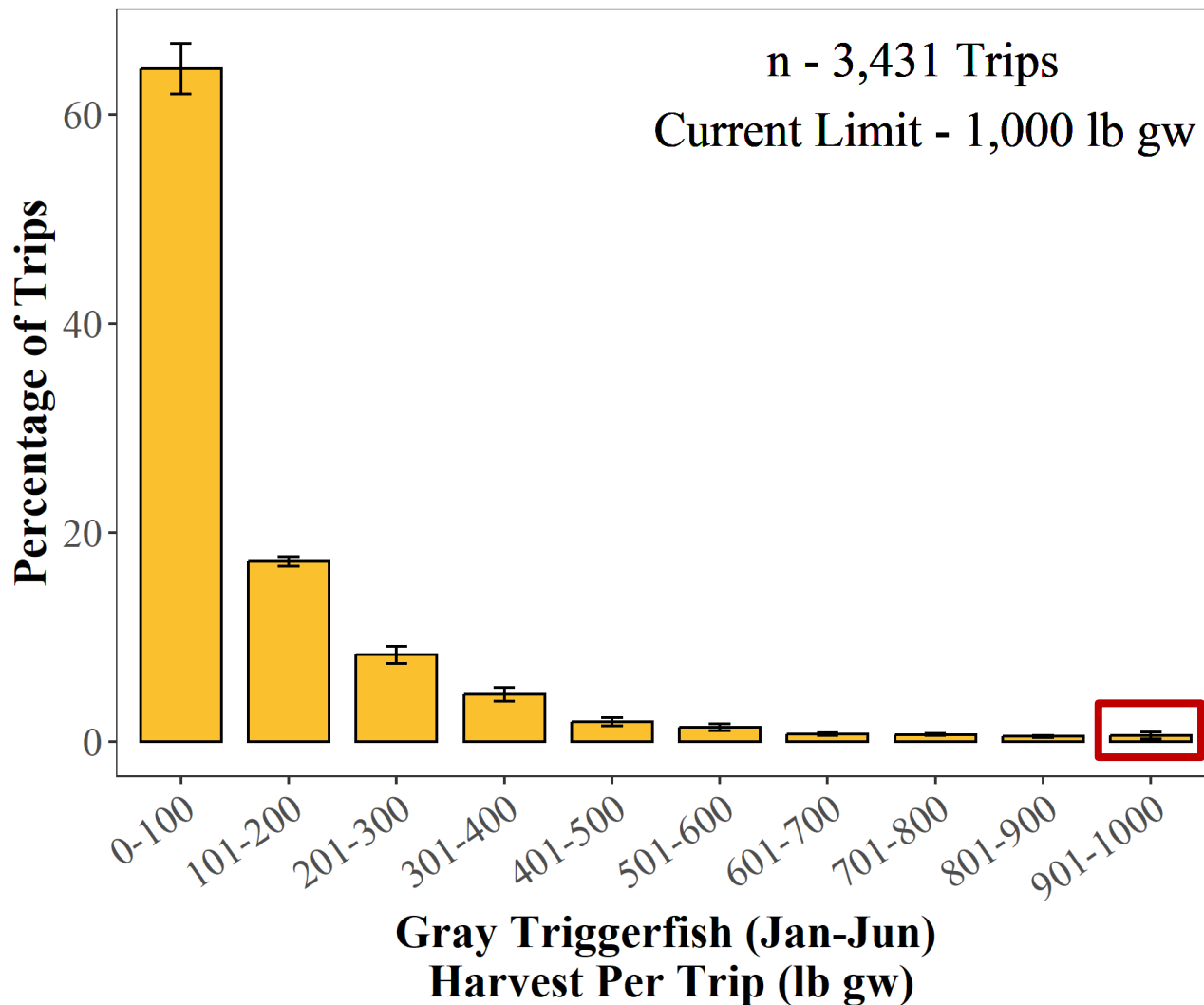
Gray Triggerfish (Jul-Dec)

Current ACL - 156,162 lb ww

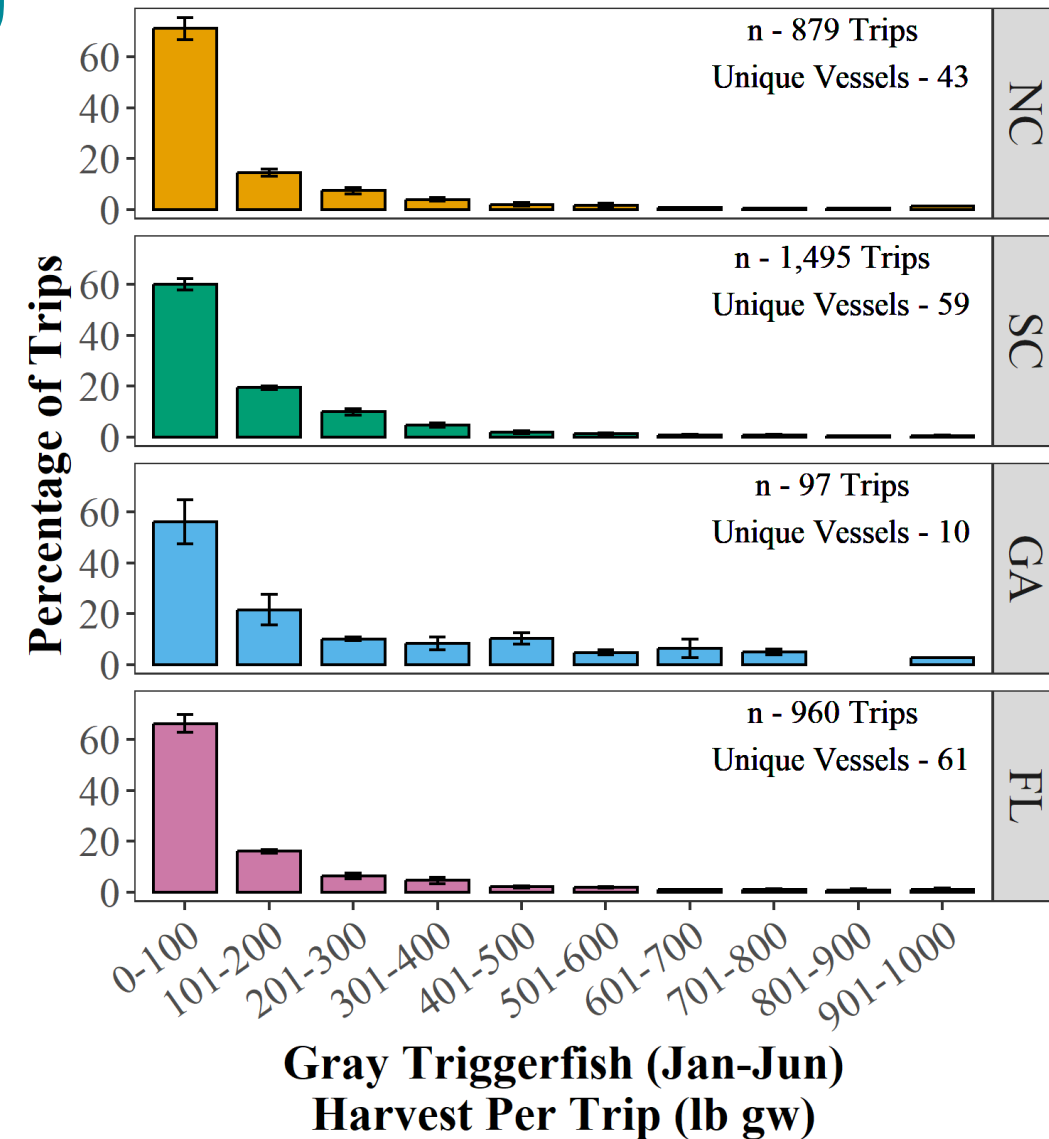


- Landings have fallen below the ACL since 2020/2021 for each season, respectively

Trip Distribution: Gray Triggerfish (Jan-Jun)

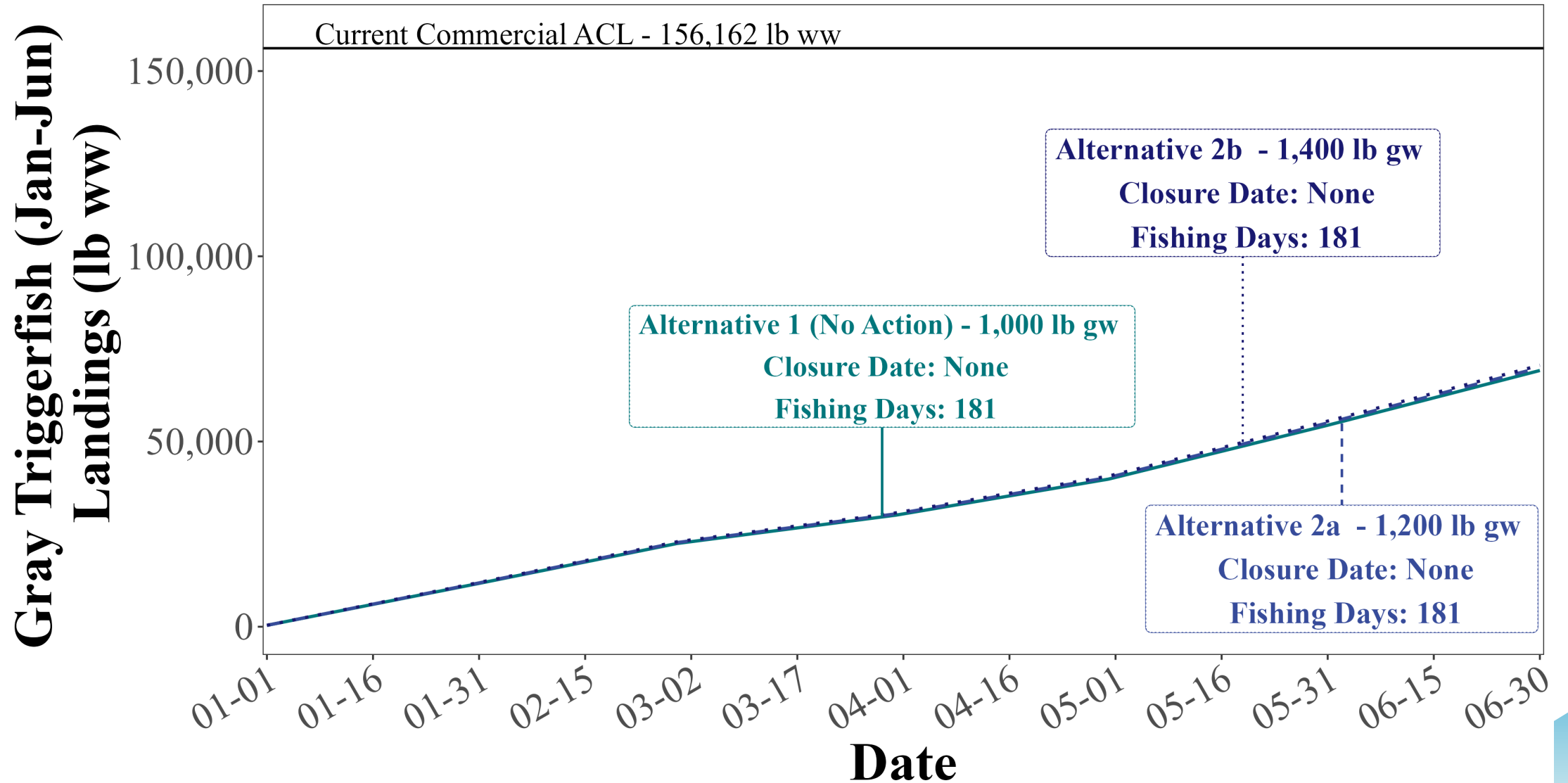


- Less than **1%** of trips land more than 900 lb gw per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States

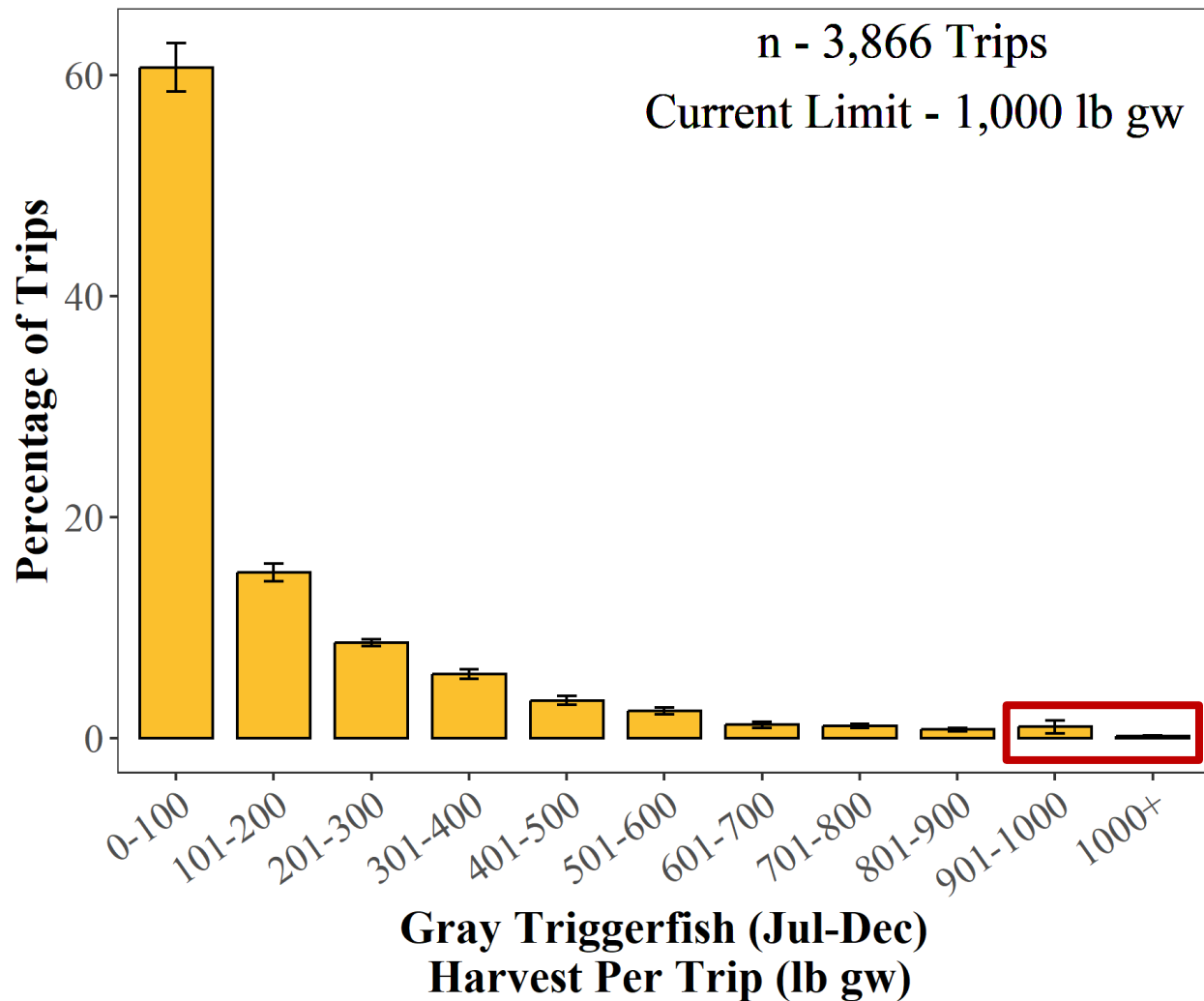


■ NC ■ SC ■ GA ■ FL

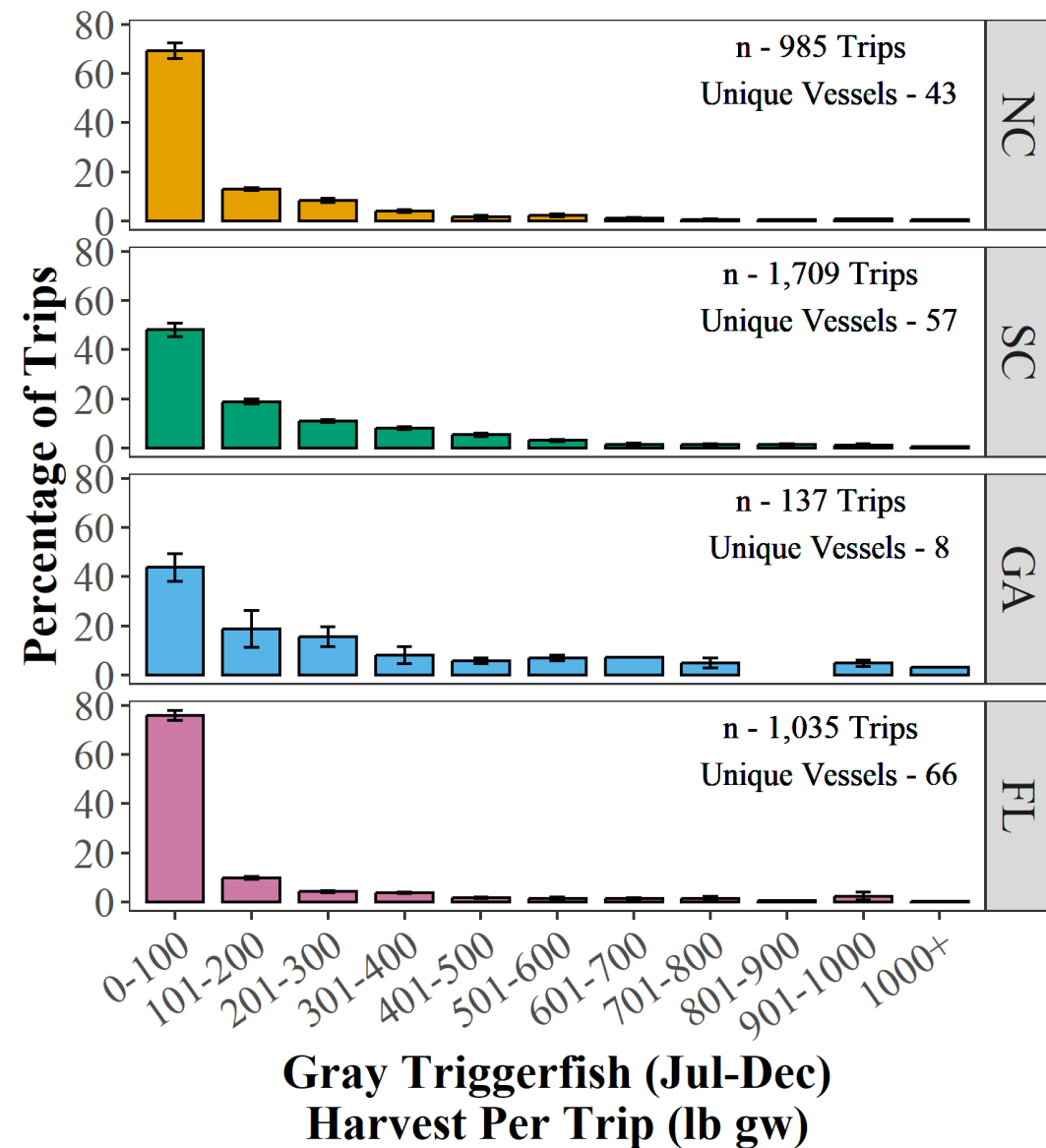
Gray Triggerfish Projections (Jan-Jun)



Trip Distribution: Gray Triggerfish (Jul-Dec)

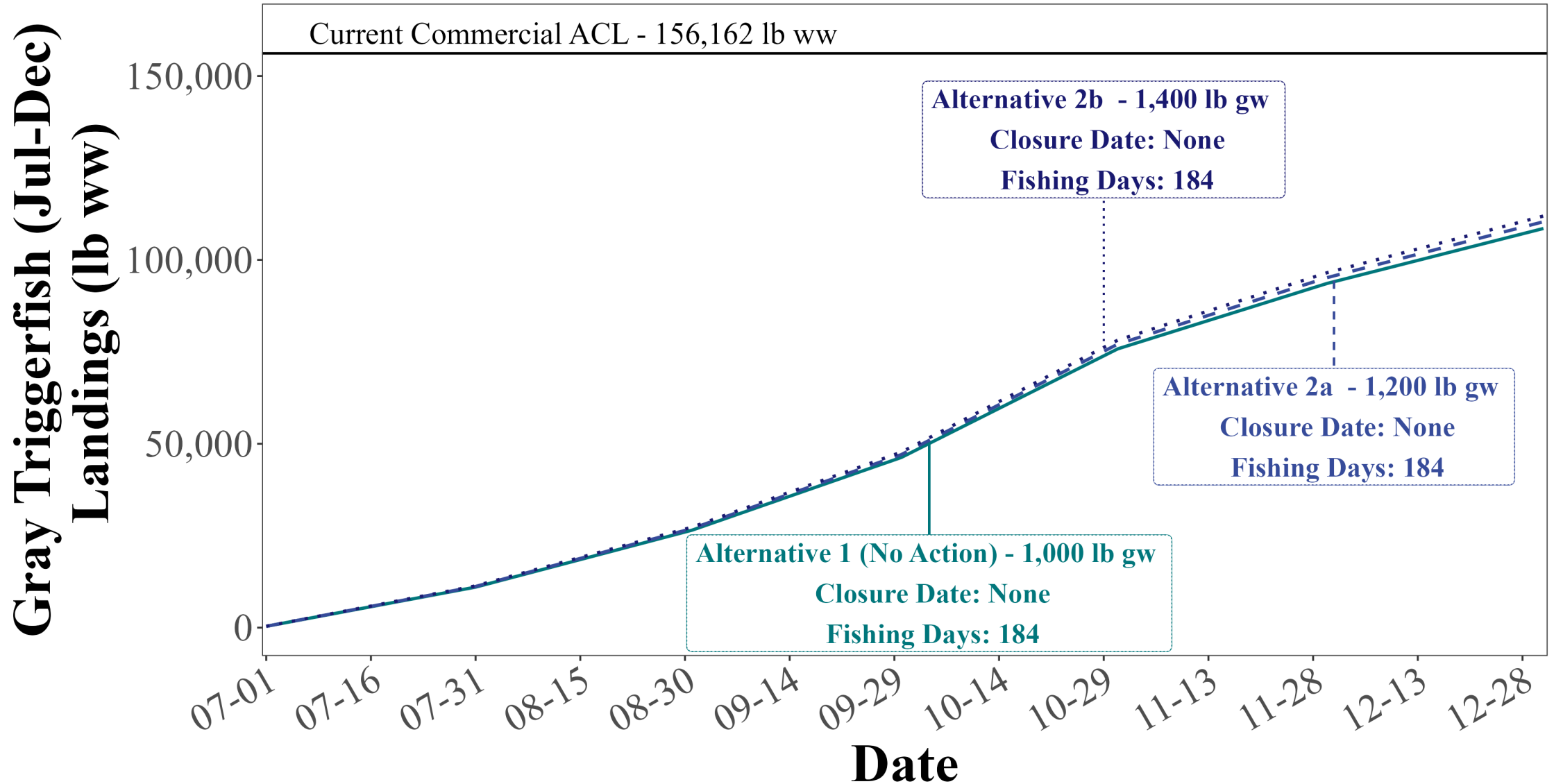


- Less than **1%** of trips land more than 900 lb gw per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States



■ NC
 ■ SC
 ■ GA
 ■ FL

Gray Triggerfish Projections (Jul-Dec)



Action 8: Golden Tilefish



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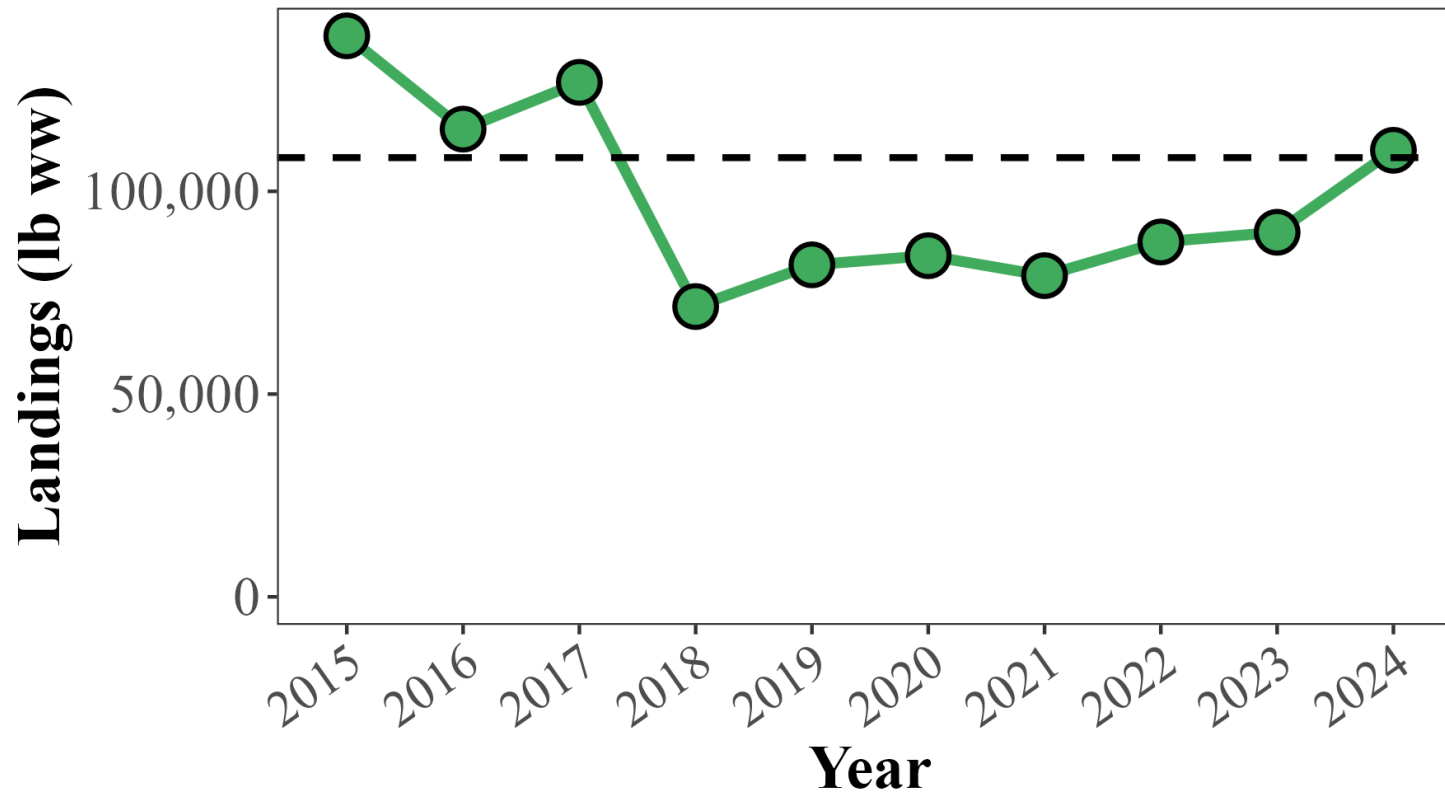


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Landings History – Golden Tilefish (Hook and Line)

Golden Tilefish (Hook-n-Line)

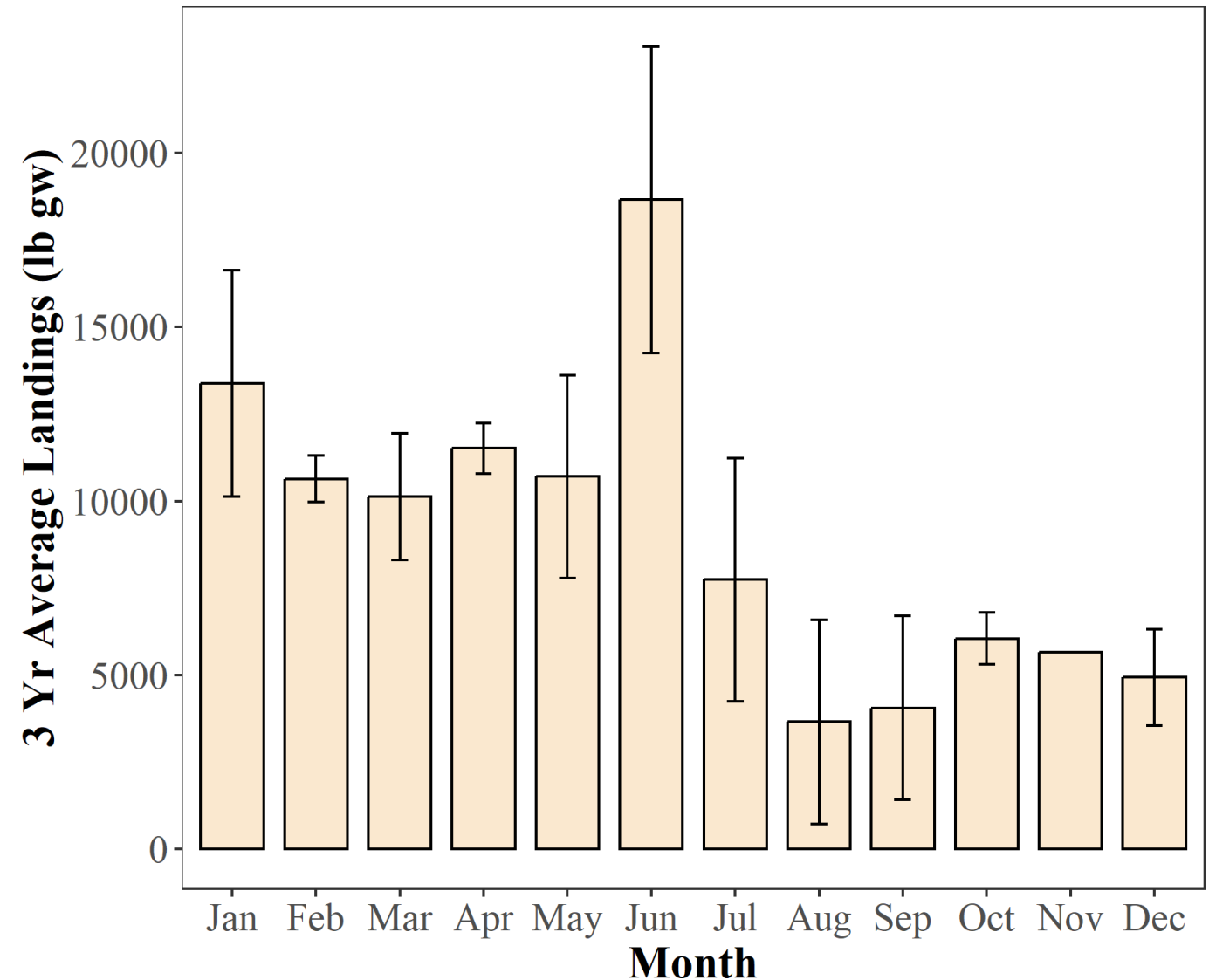
Current ACL - 108,304 lb ww



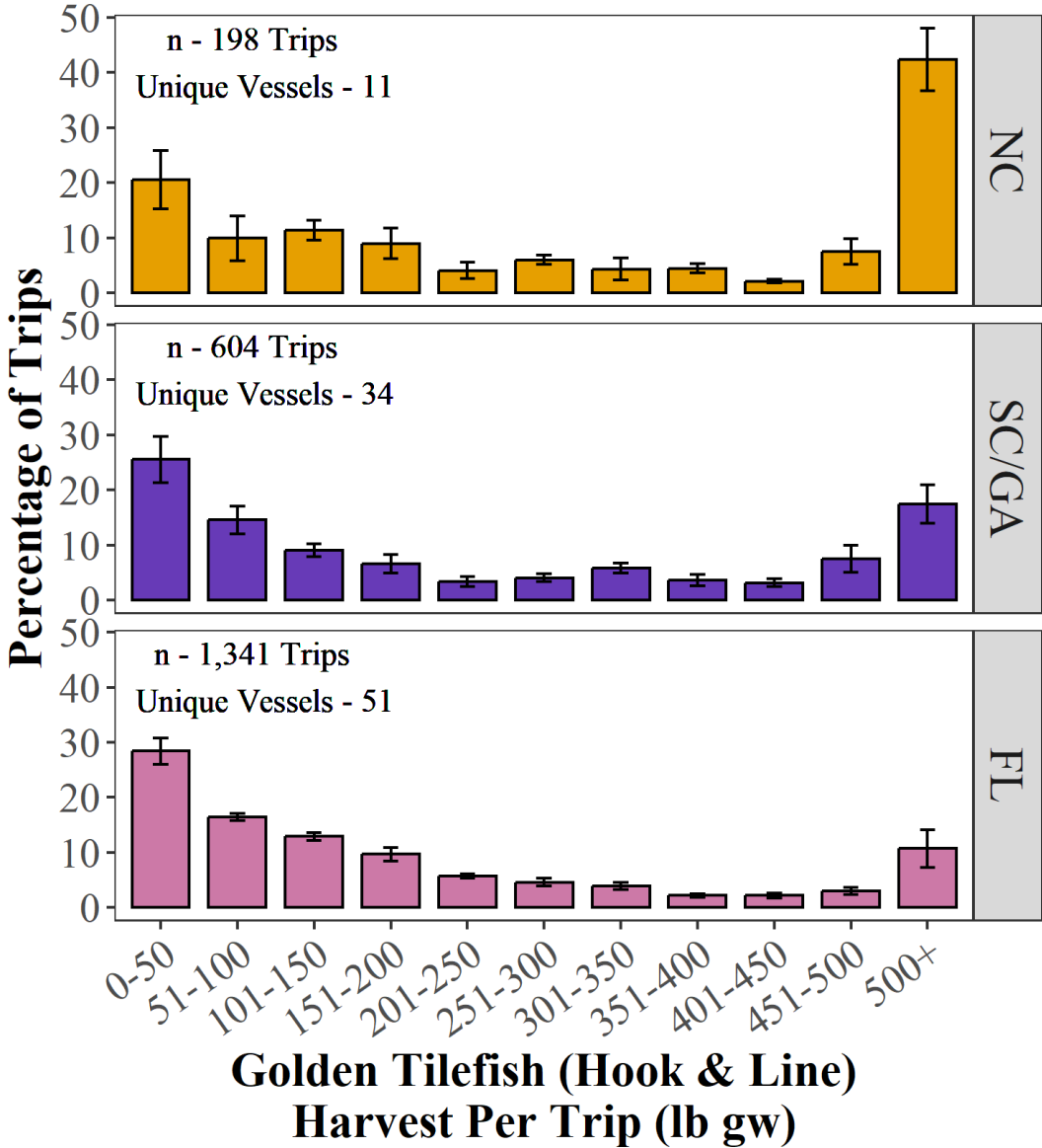
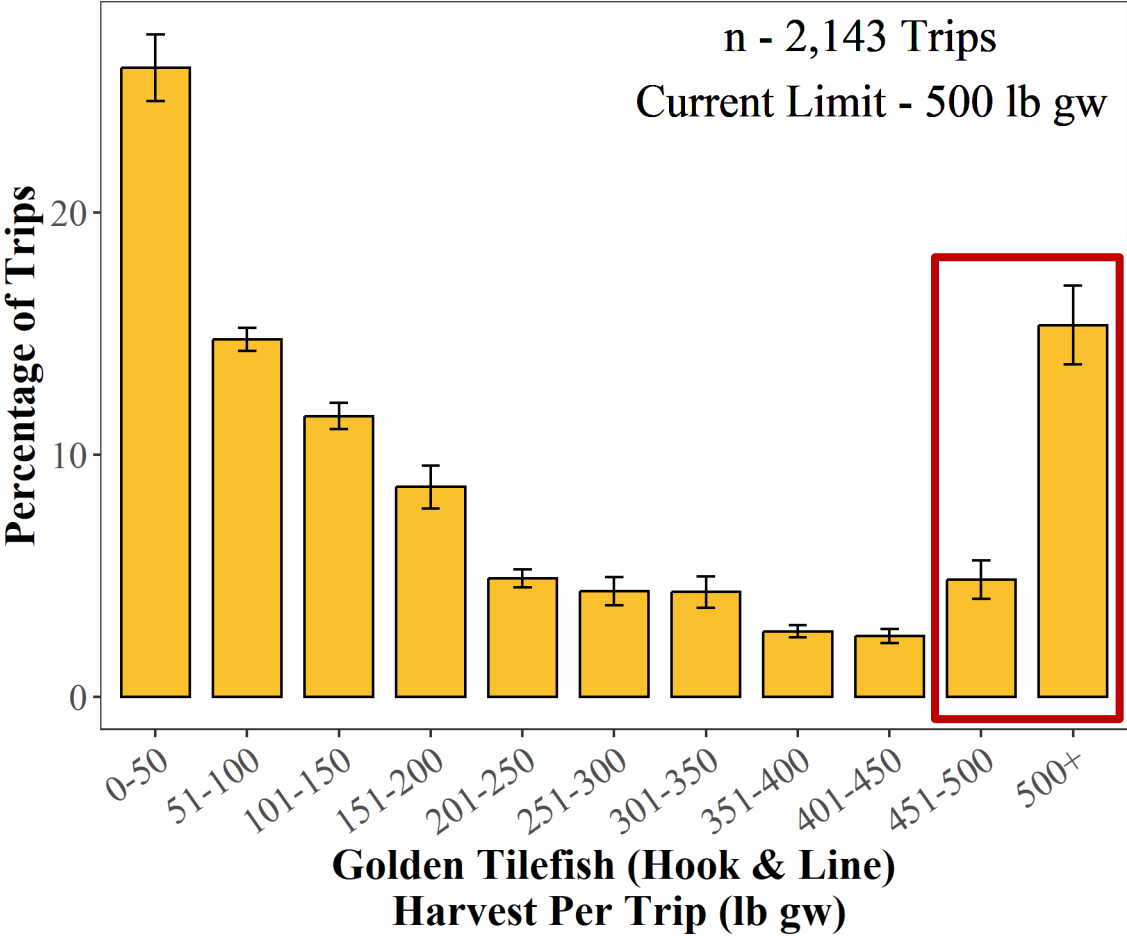
- Several closures projected in recent years, but landings only exceeded the ACL in 2024

Landings Used for Projections – Golden Tilefish (Hook and Line)

- Variable landings throughout the year
 - Particularly in later months, when closures are regularly projected.
- Highest landings occur in June



Trip Distribution: Golden Tilefish (Hook and Line)



NC SC/GA FL

- Approximately **15%** of trips land more than 450 lb gw per trip (2020-2024)

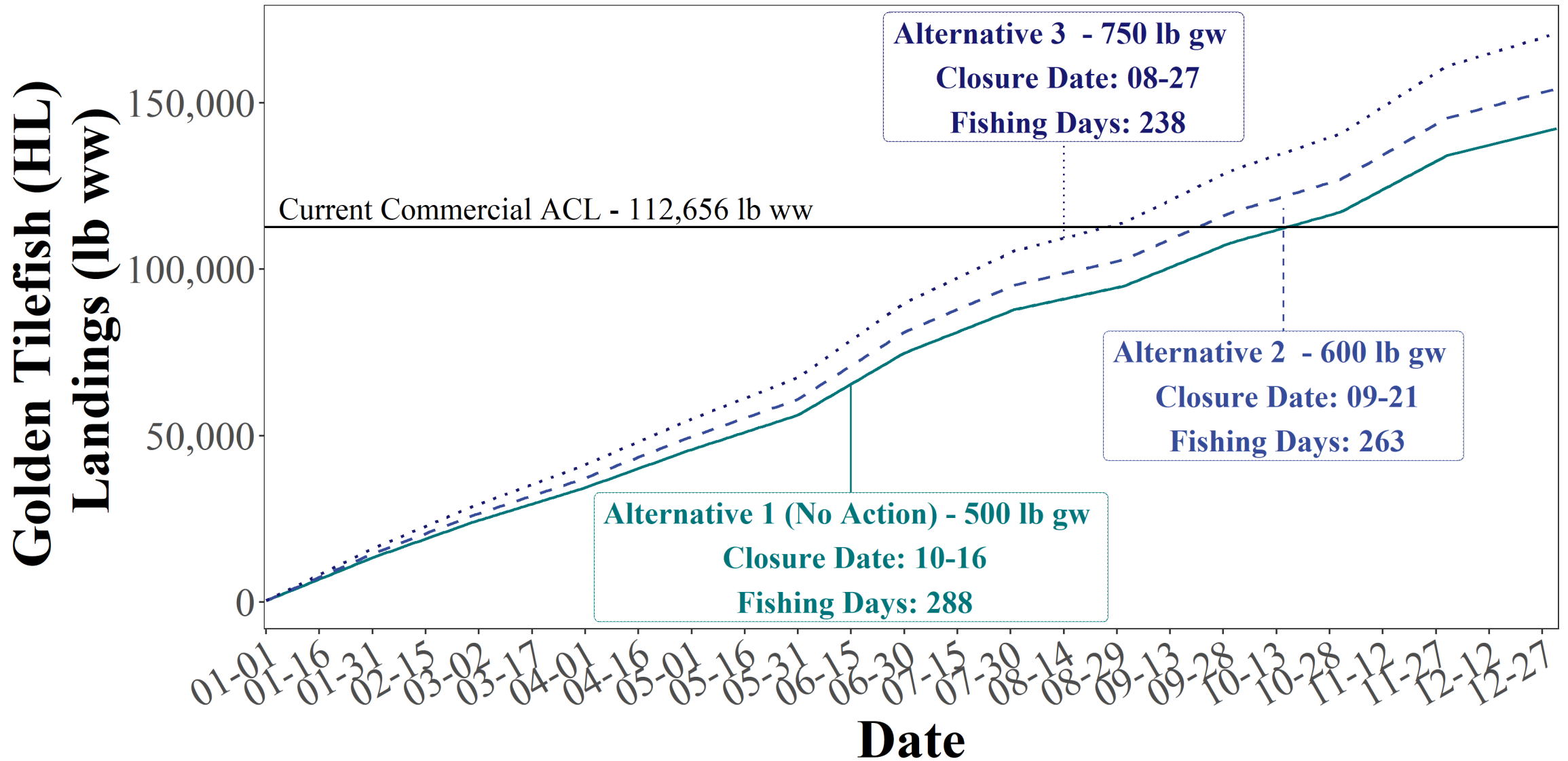


Projected Closures: Golden Tilefish (Hook and Line)

Action 3 Alternatives	Average Landings - 1 Standard Error		Average Landings		Average Landings + 1 Standard Error	
	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>
<i>Alternative 1 (No Action) - 500 lb gw</i>	-	365	16-Oct	288	22-Jul	202
<i>Alternative 2 - 600 lb gw</i>	-	365	21-Sep	263	8-Jul	188
<i>Alternative 3 - 750 lb gw</i>	-	365	27-Aug	238	24-Jun	174

- Multiple closures projected
 - Variable and high landings mid year, will likely continue early closures for the fishery

Golden Tilefish (Hook and Line) Projections



Action 3: Greater Amberjack

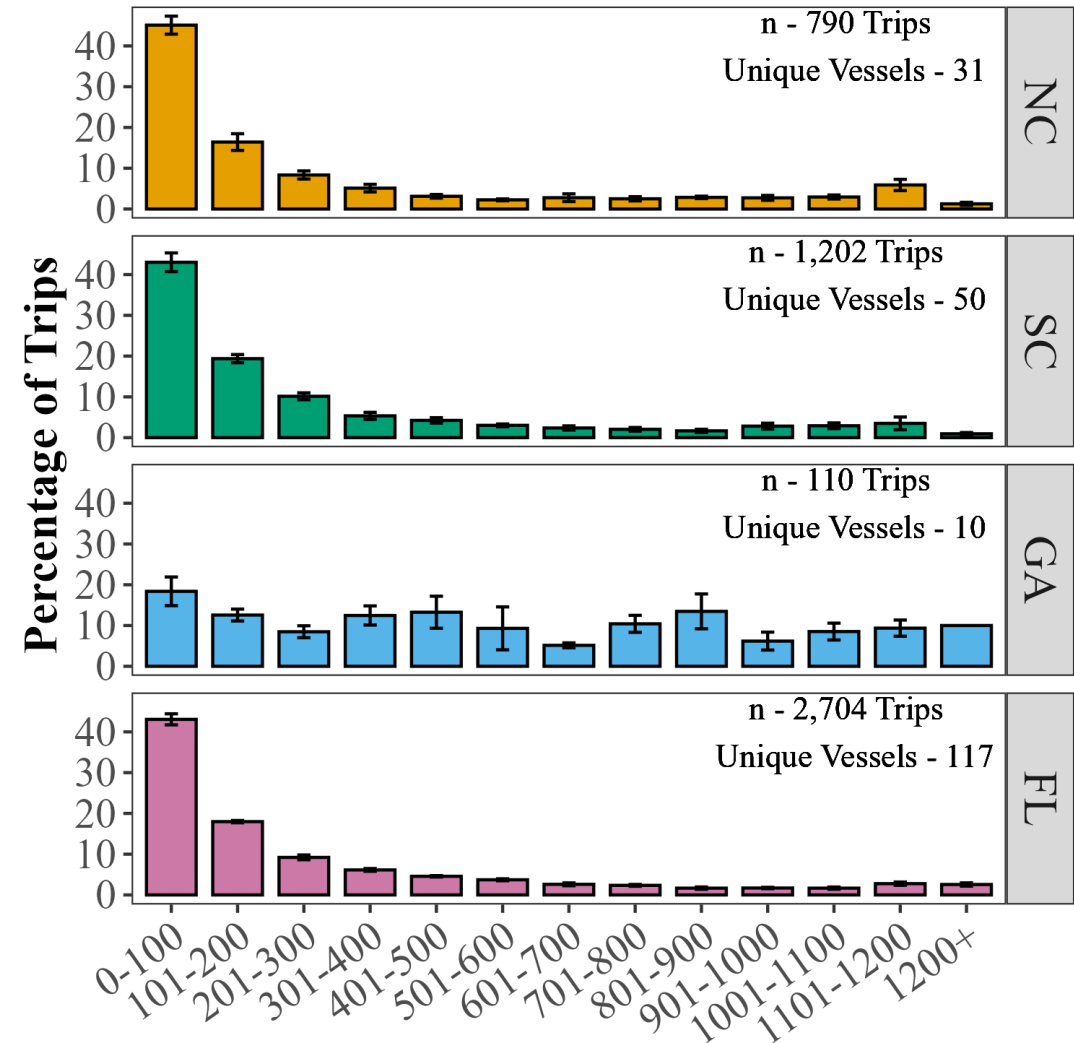
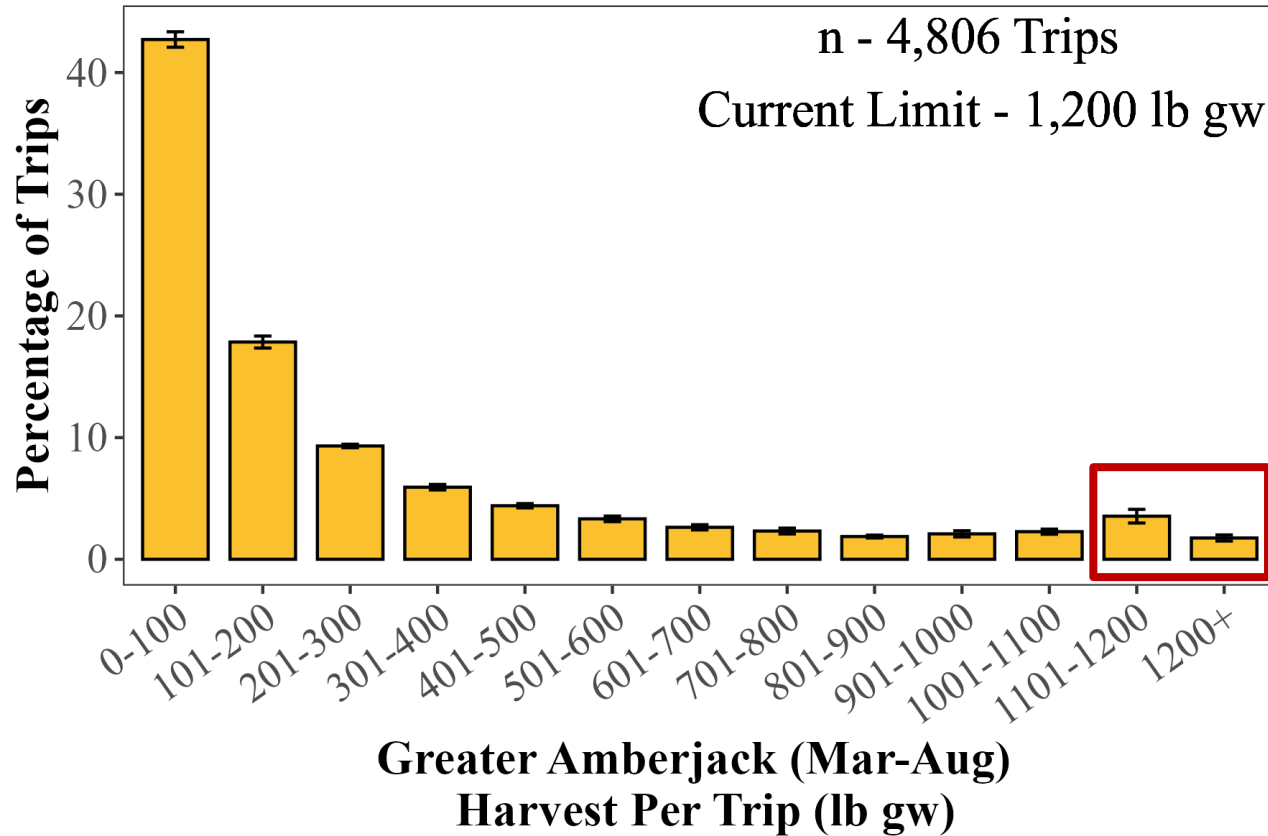


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Trip Distribution: Greater Amberjack (Mar-Aug)



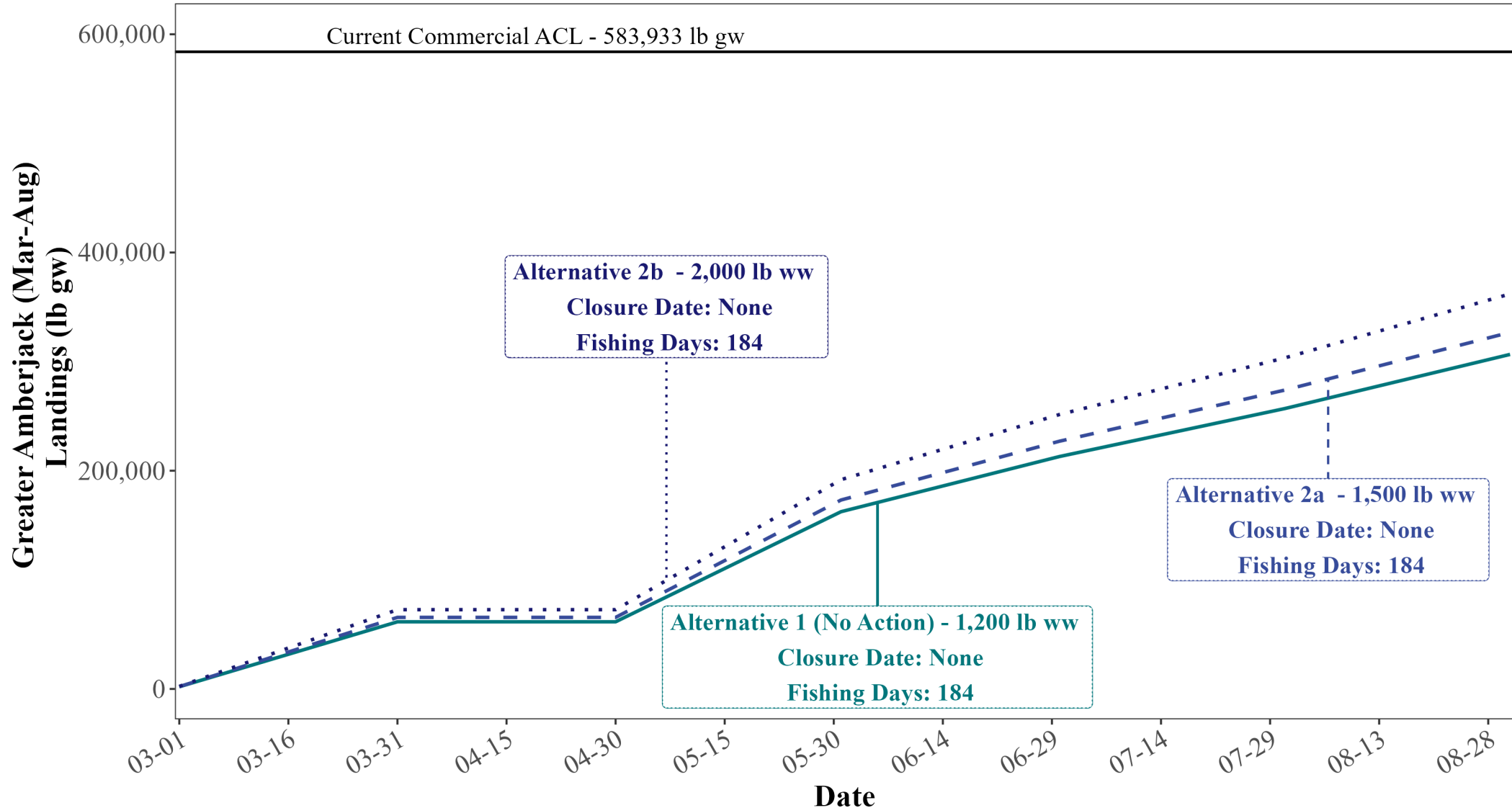
**Greater Amberjack (Mar-Aug)
Harvest Per Trip (lb gw)**

NC SC GA FL

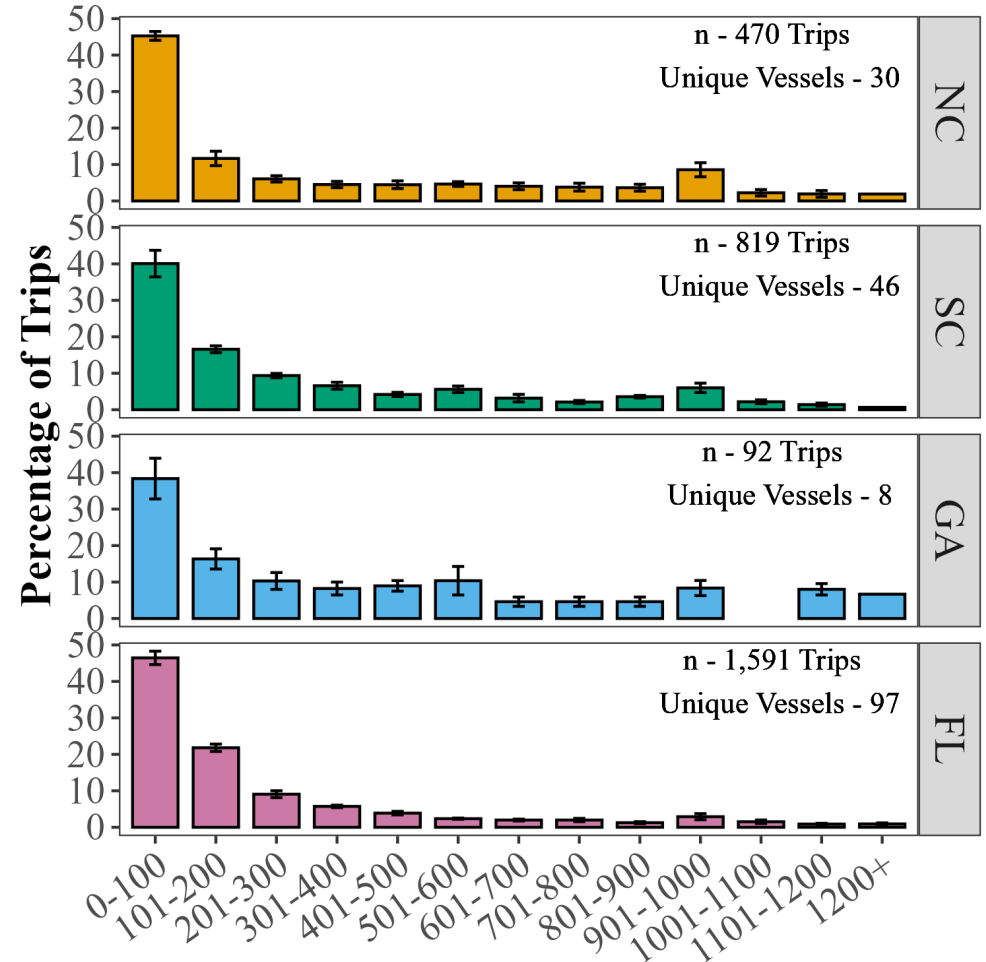
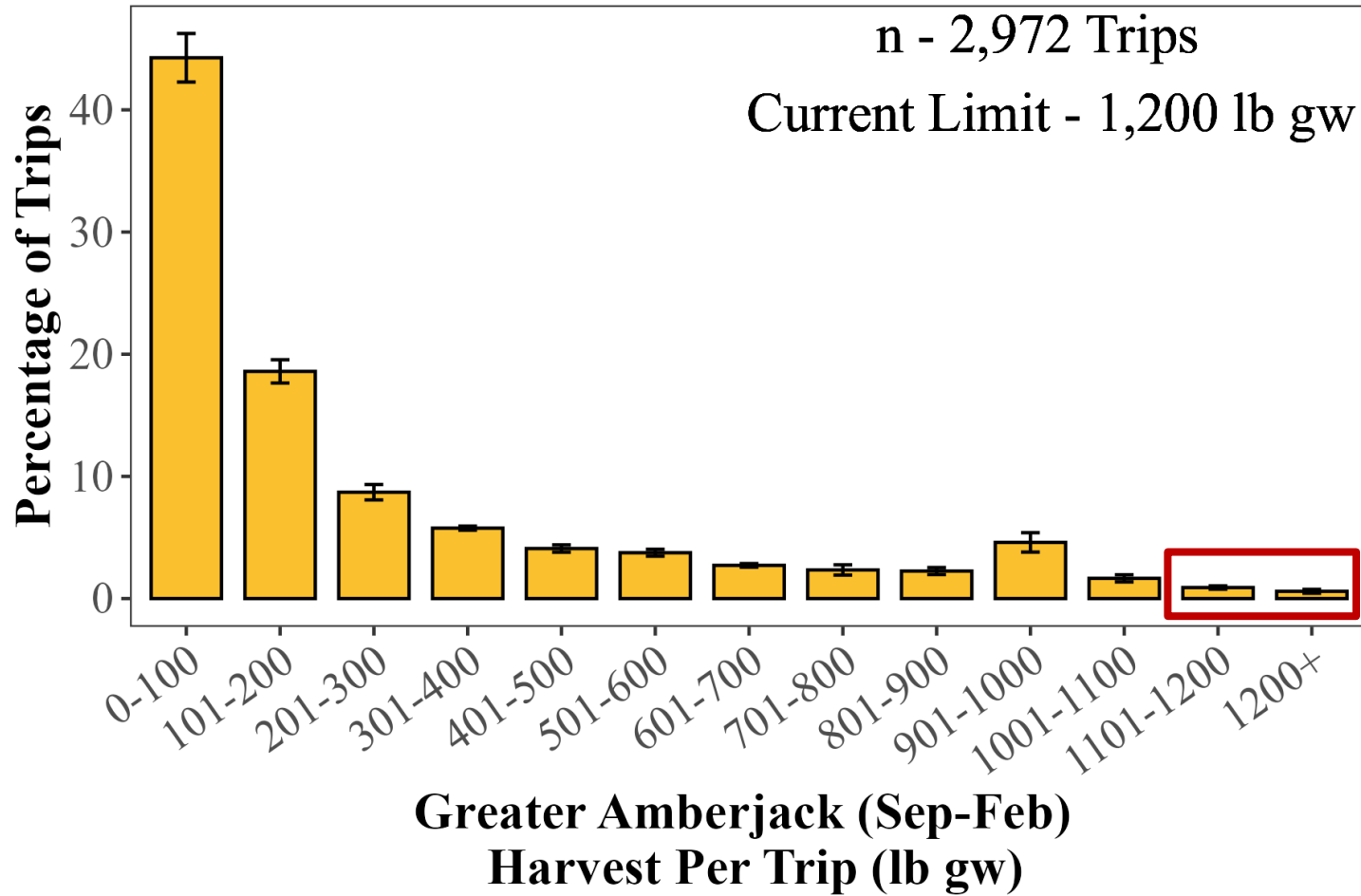
- Approximately **6%** of trips catch more than 1,100 lb ww per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States, with the exception of Georgia



Greater Amberjack (Mar-Aug) Projections



Trip Distribution: Greater Amberjack (Sep-Feb)



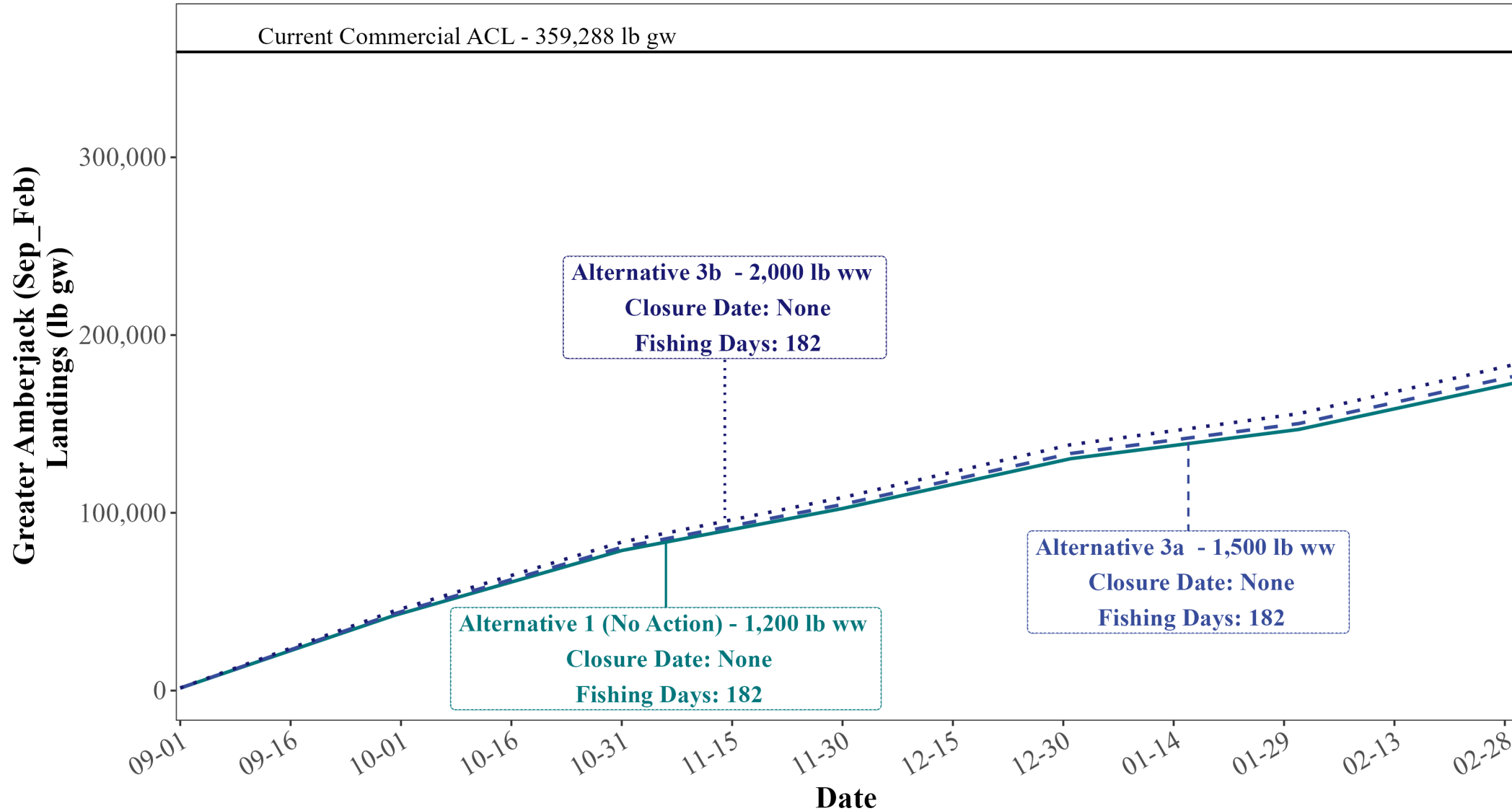
**Greater Amberjack (Sep-Feb)
Harvest Per Trip (lb gw)**

NC SC GA FL

- Very similar landing behavior among all South Atlantic States
- Less than **2%** of trips catch more than 1,100 lb ww per trip (2020-2024)



Greater Amberjack (Sep-Feb) Projections



Action 4: Vermilion Snapper

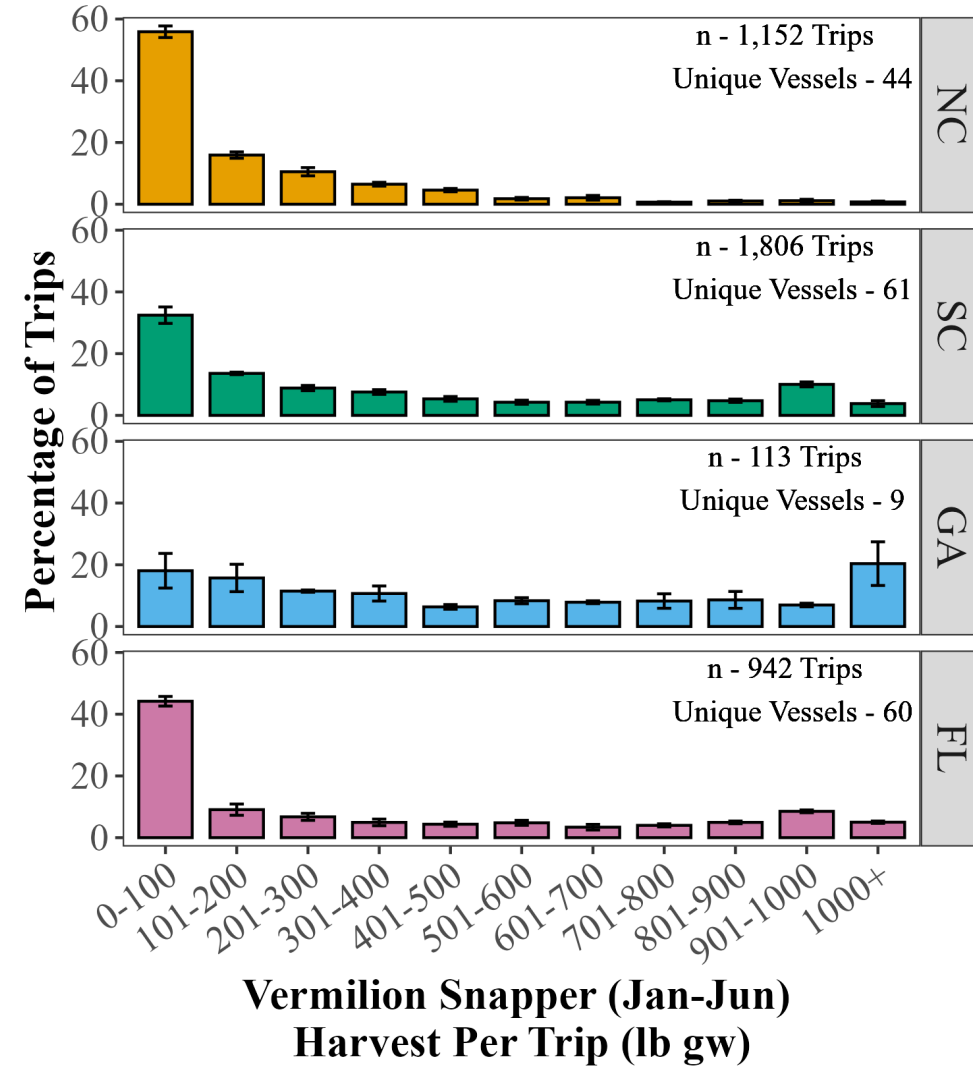
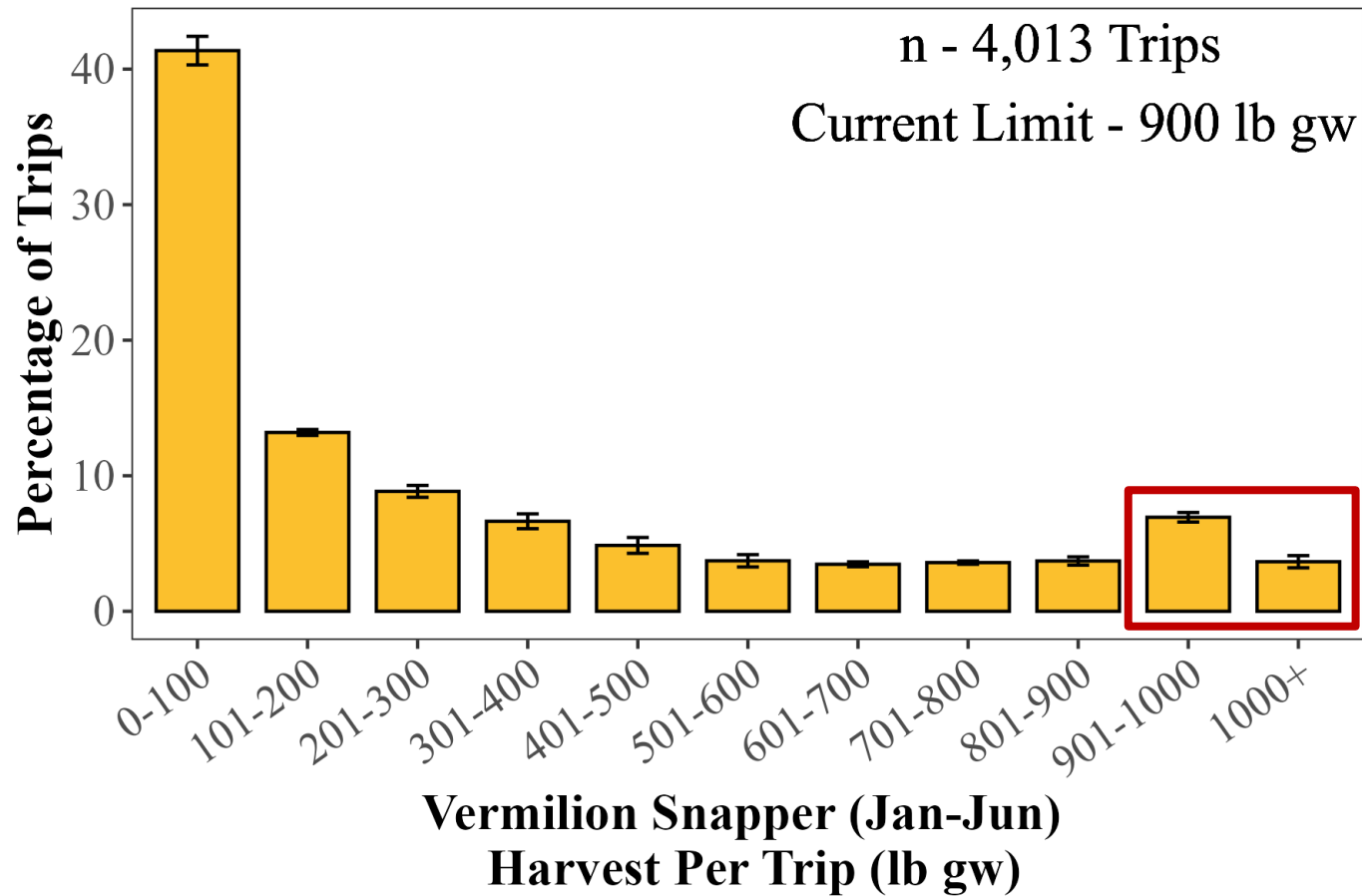


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Trip Distribution: Vermilion Snapper (Jan-Jun)

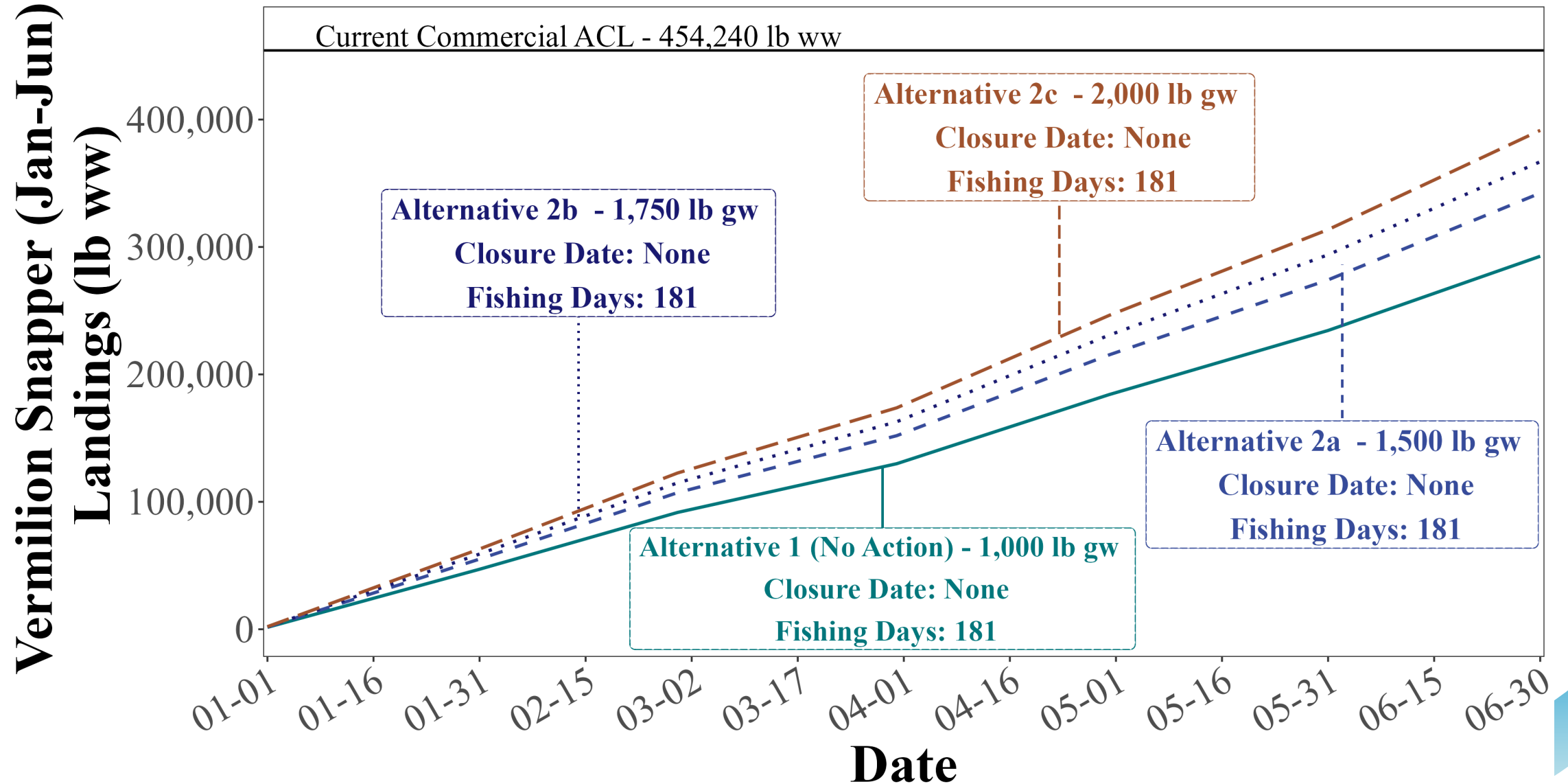


Legend: NC (Orange), SC (Green), GA (Blue), FL (Purple)

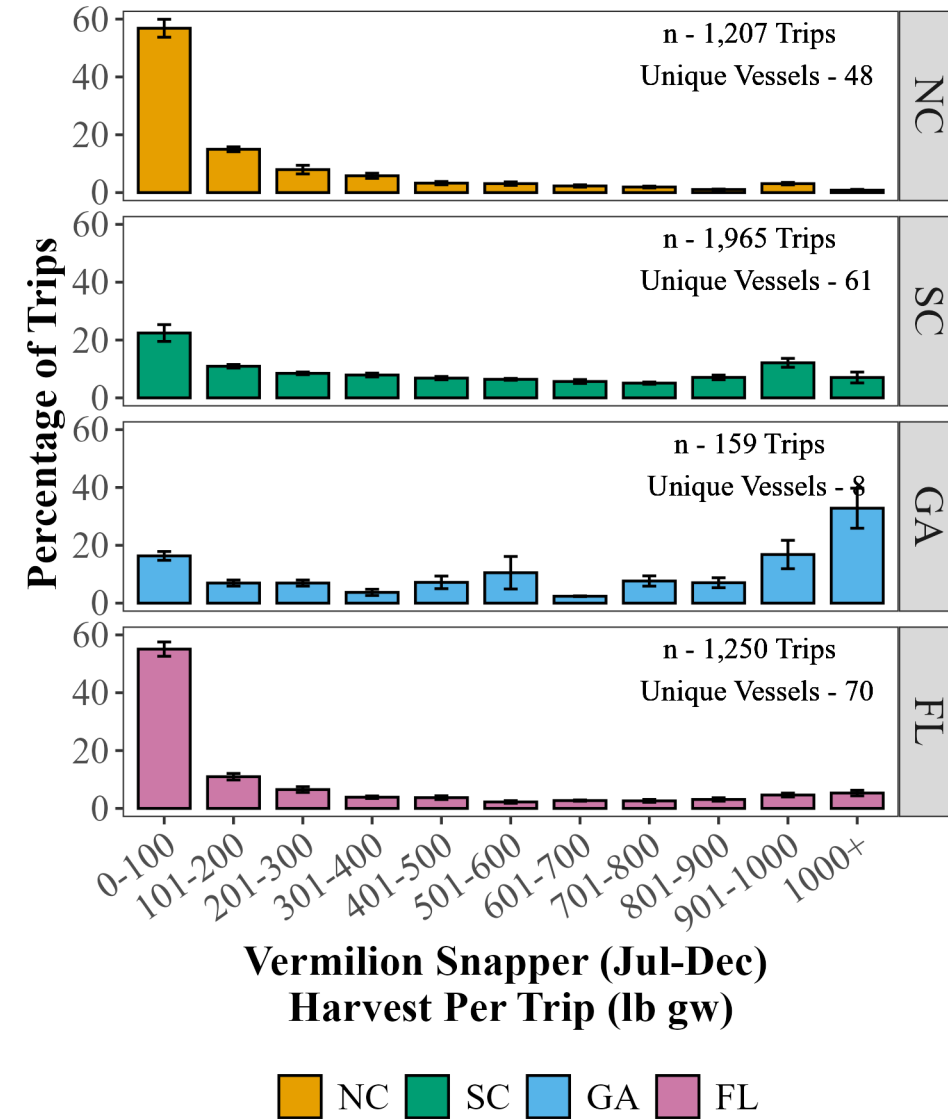
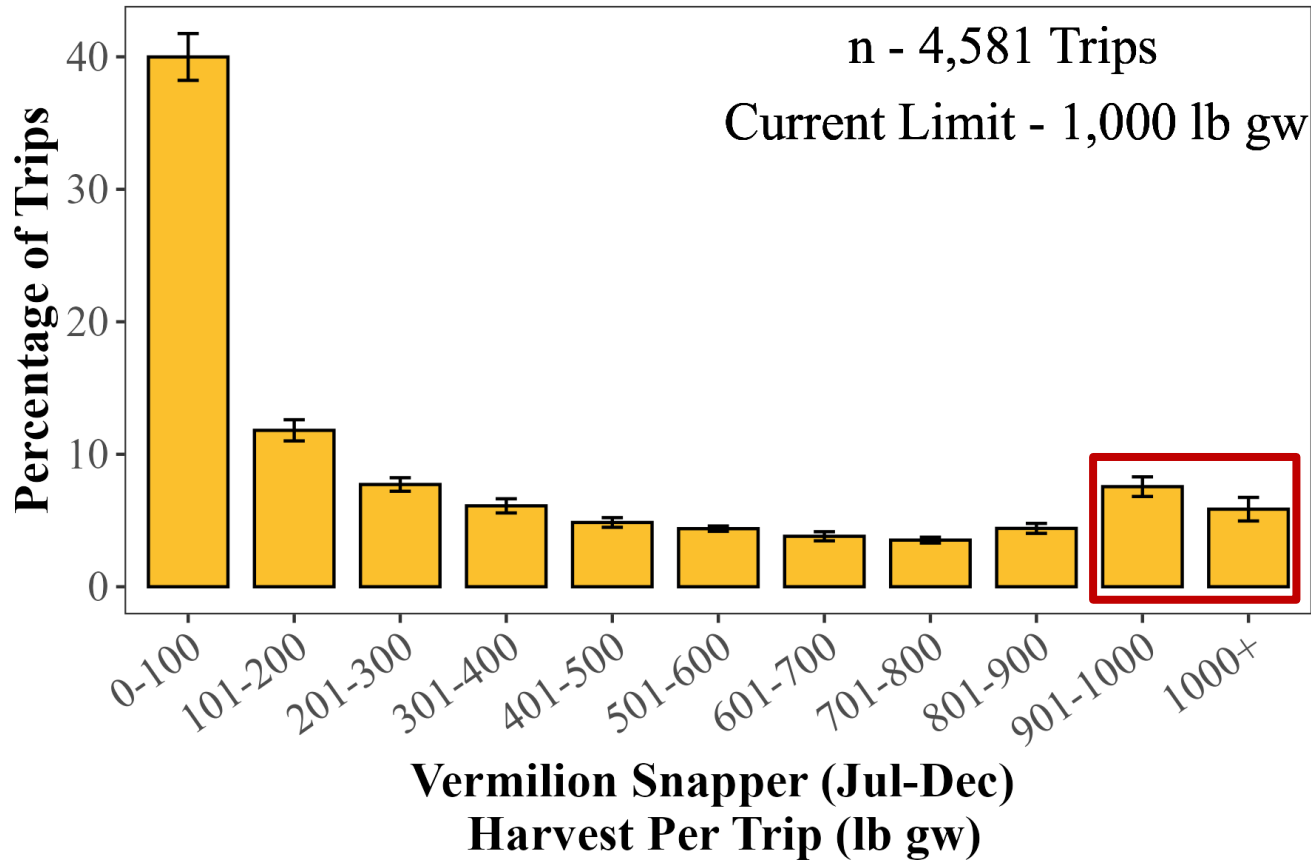
- Approximately **11%** of trips catch more than 900 lb gw per trip (2022-2024)
- North Carolina has the highest proportion of trips landings less than 100 lb gw per trip, whereas SC/FL have about 40% of trips landings <100 lb gw.



Vermilion Snapper (Jan-Jun) Projections

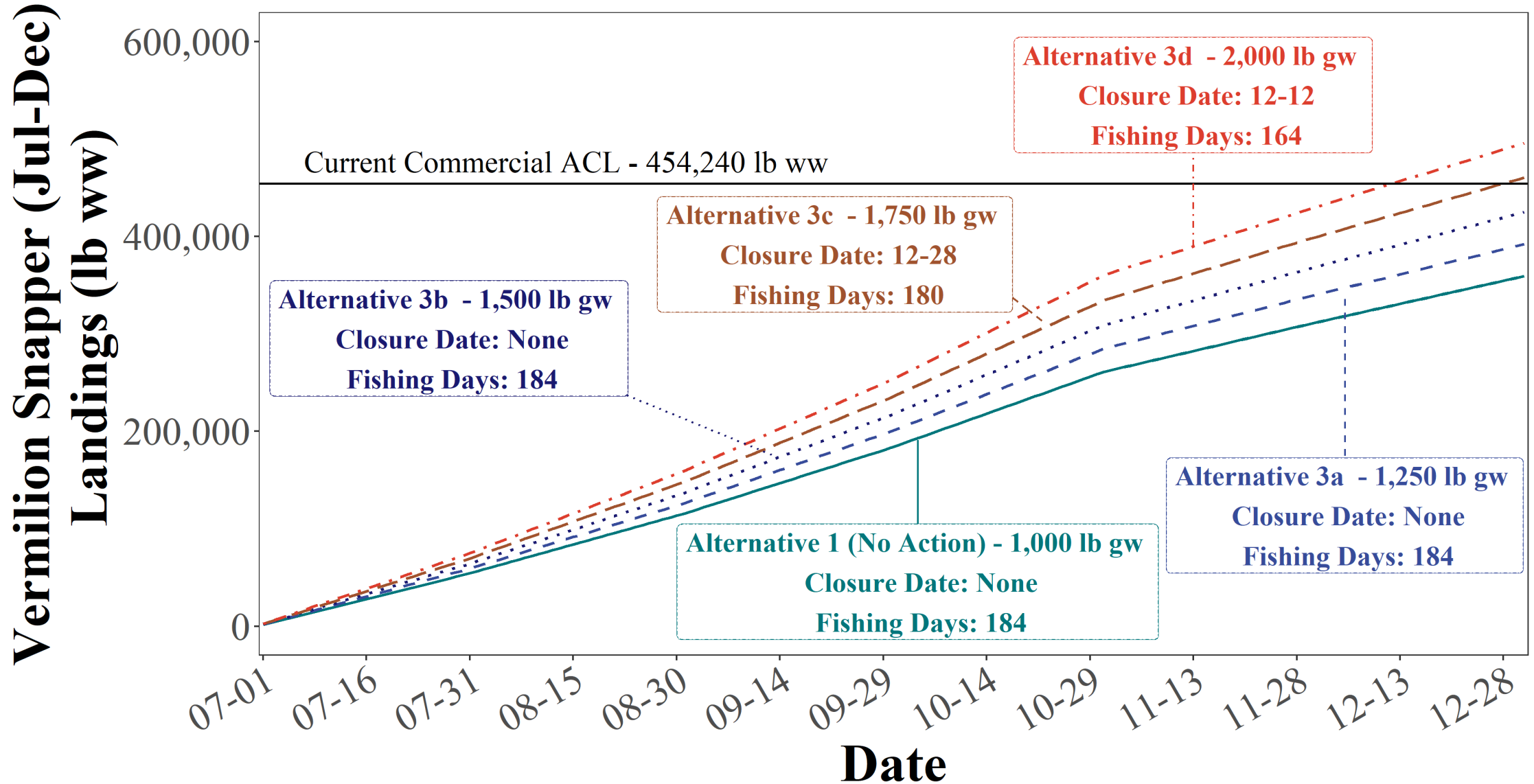


Trip Distribution: Vermilion Snapper (Jul-Dec)



- Approximately **14%** of trips catch more than 900 lb gw per trip (2020-2024)
- South Carolina and Georgia have similar, more uniform distributions, whereas North Carolina and Florida have more than 50% of trips landings <100 lb gw

Vermilion Snapper (Jul-Dec) Projections

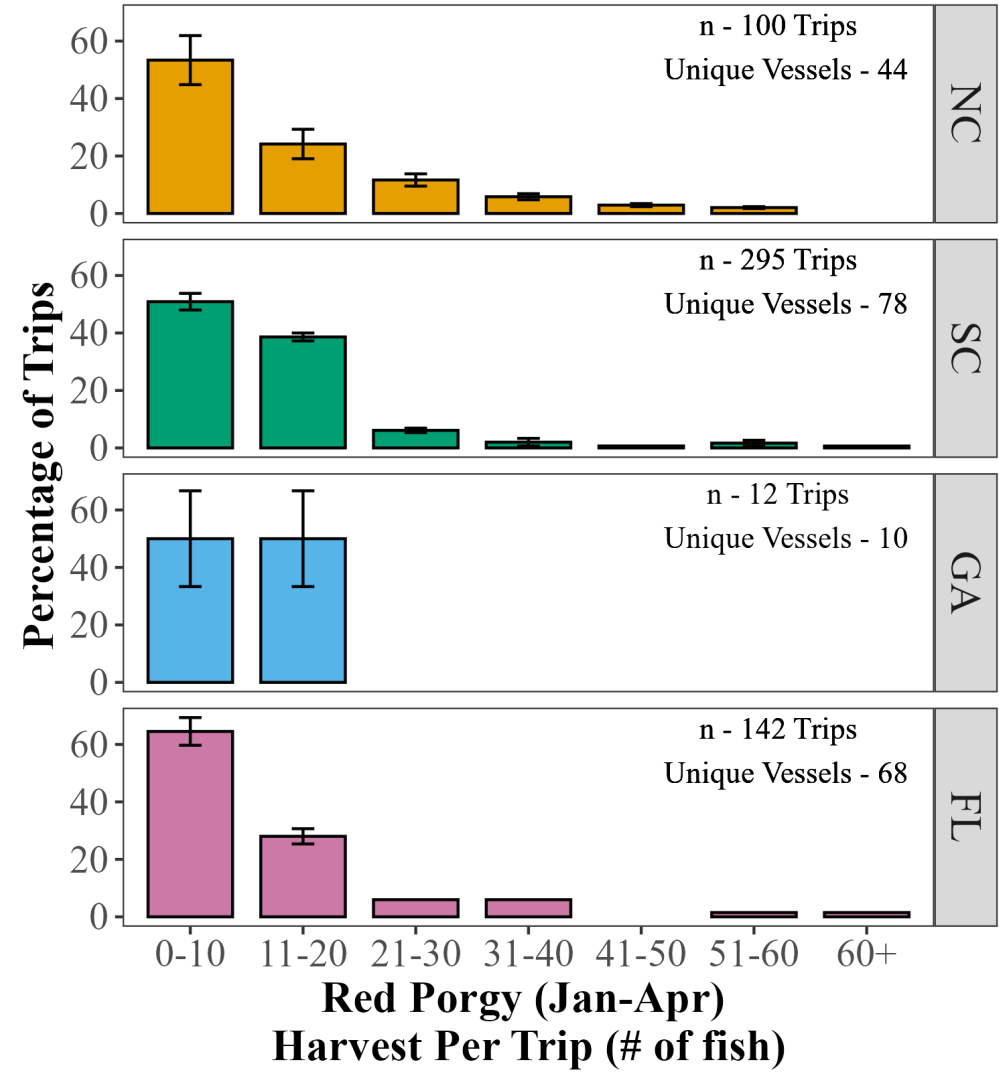
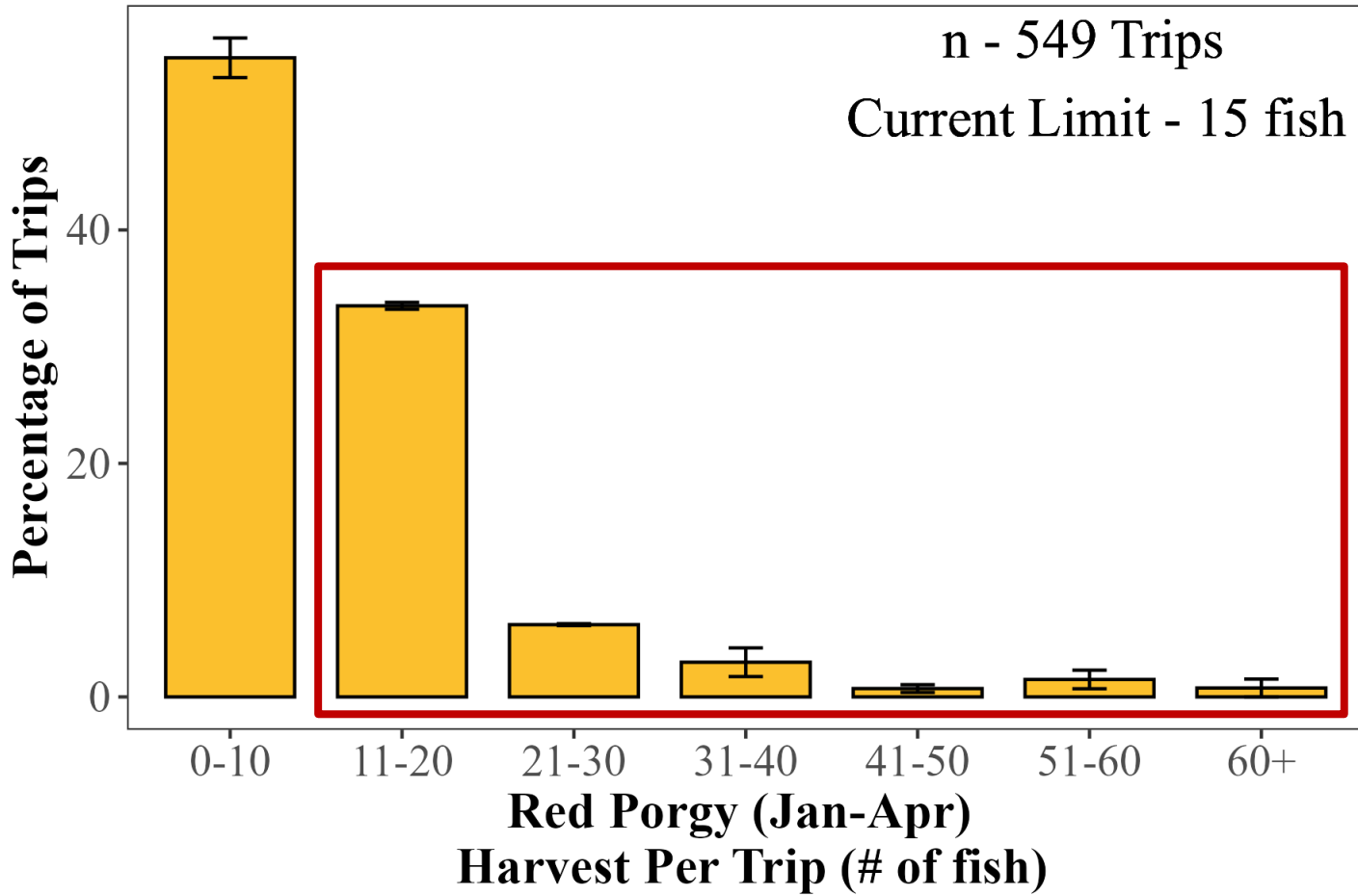


Action 5: Red Porgy



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Trip Distribution: Red Porgy (Jan-Apr)

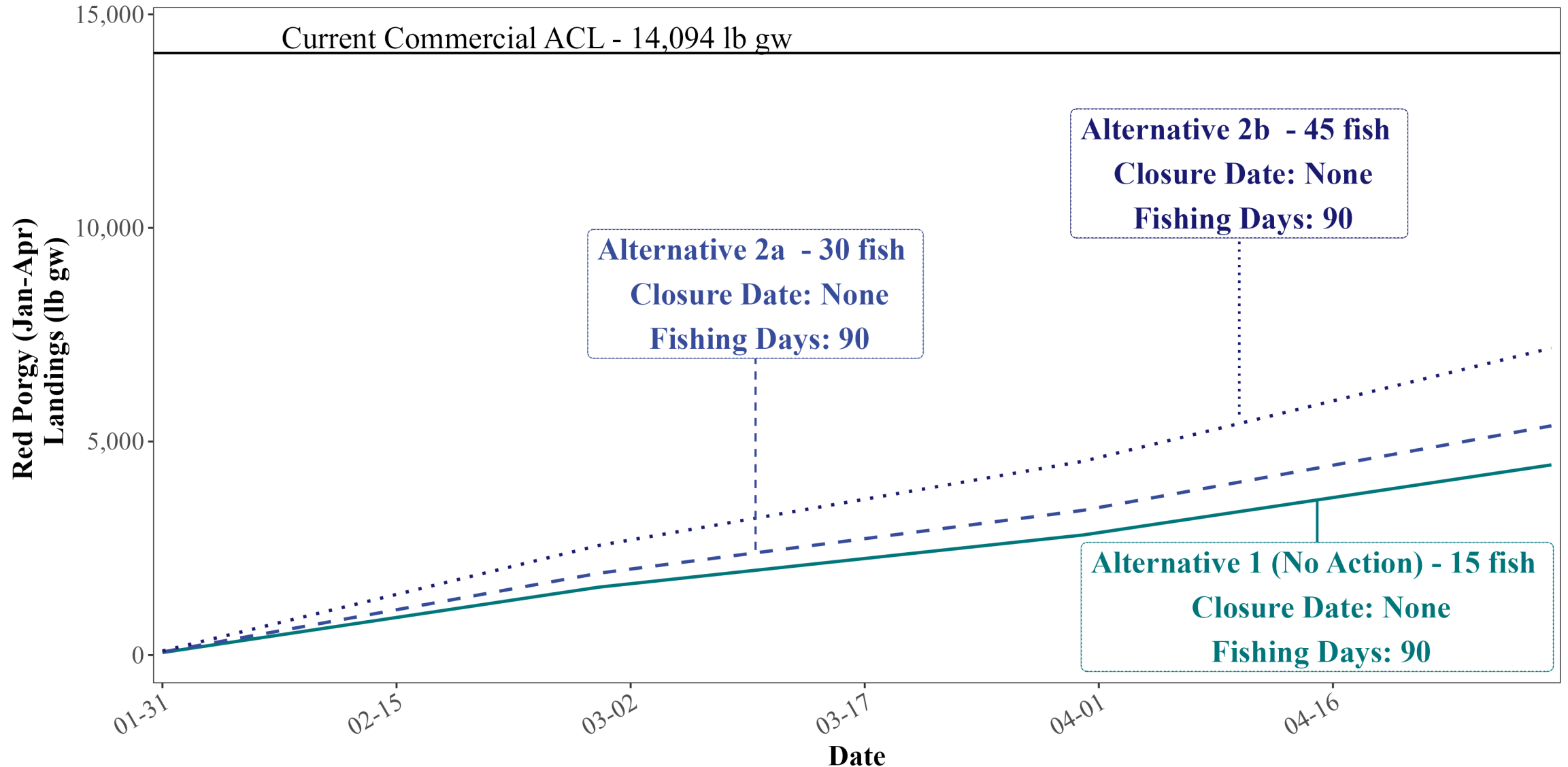


- Approximately **47%** of trips land 13 or more fish per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States, with the exception of Georgia

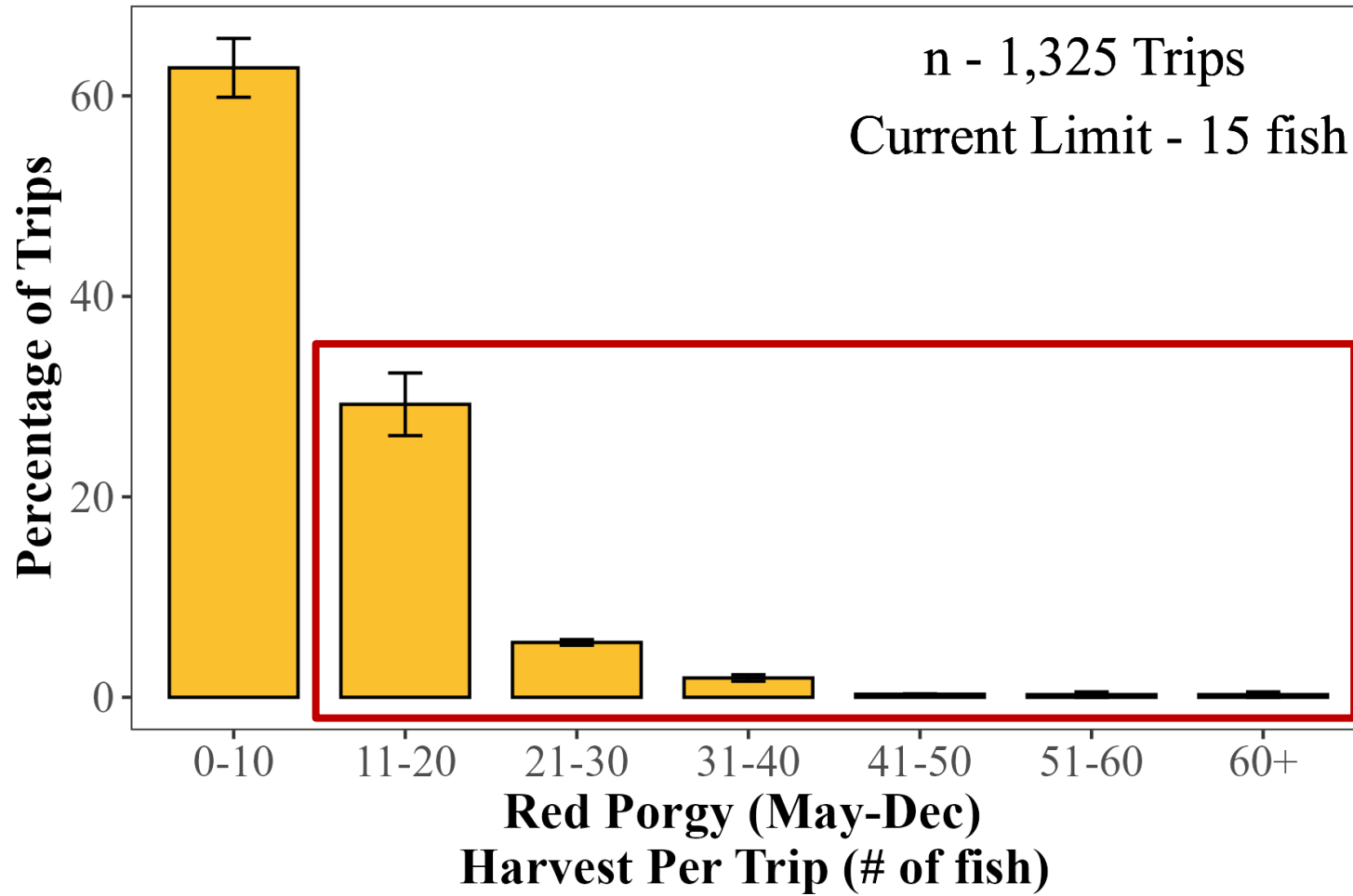
NC SC GA FL



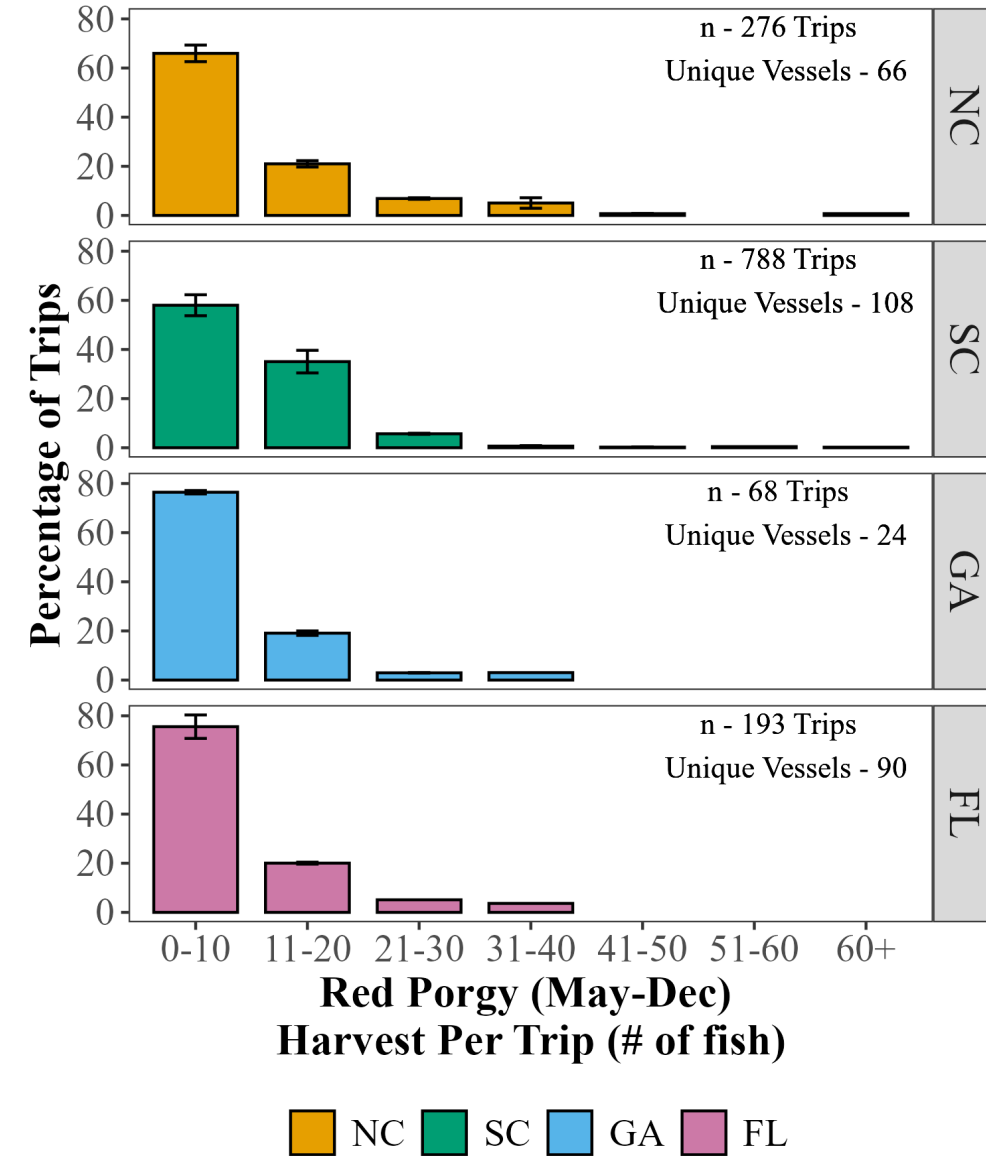
Red Porgy (Jan-Apr) Projections



Trip Distribution: Red Porgy (May-Dec)

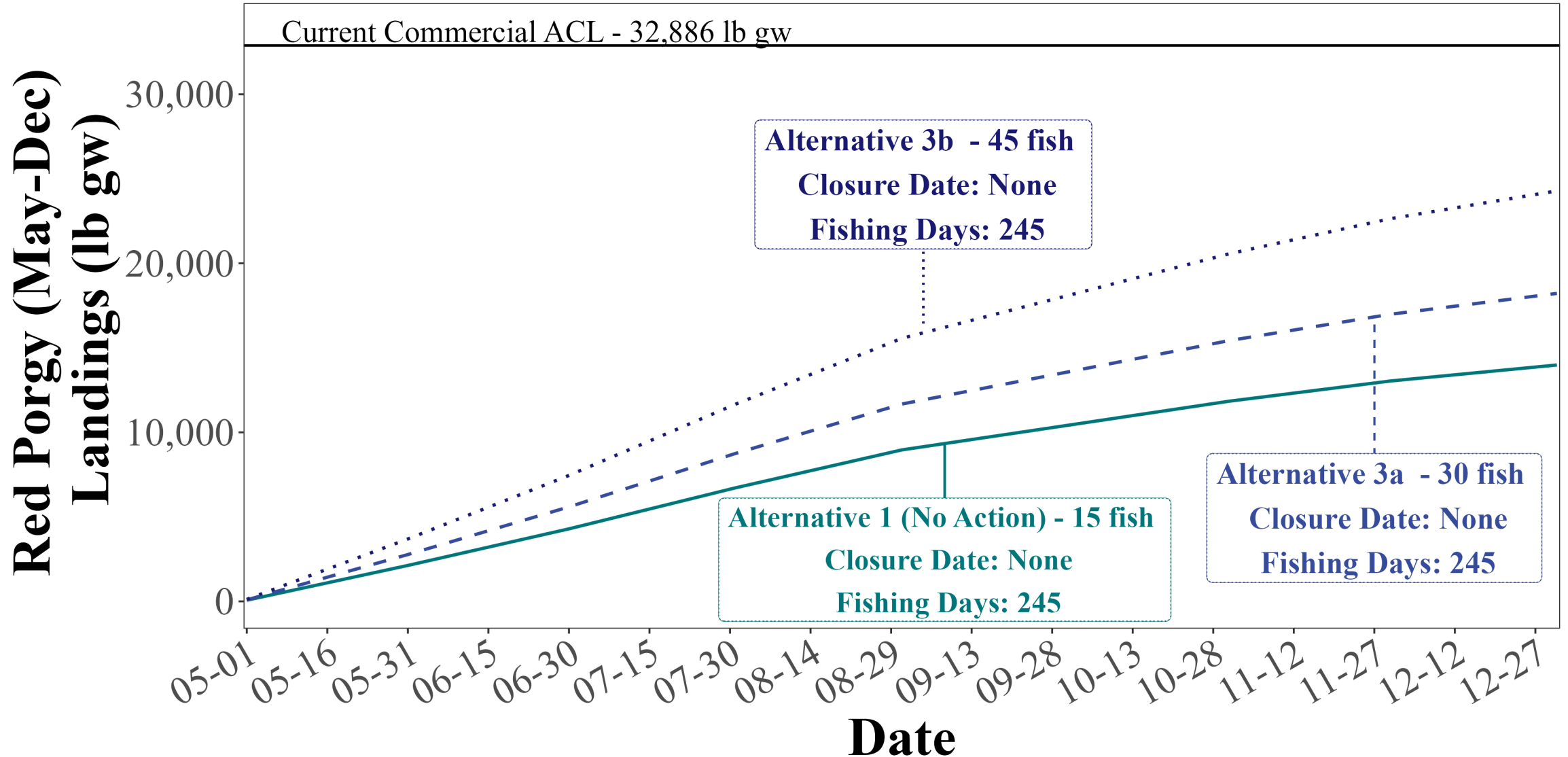


- Approximately **44%** of trips land 13 or more fish per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States



■ NC
 ■ SC
 ■ GA
 ■ FL

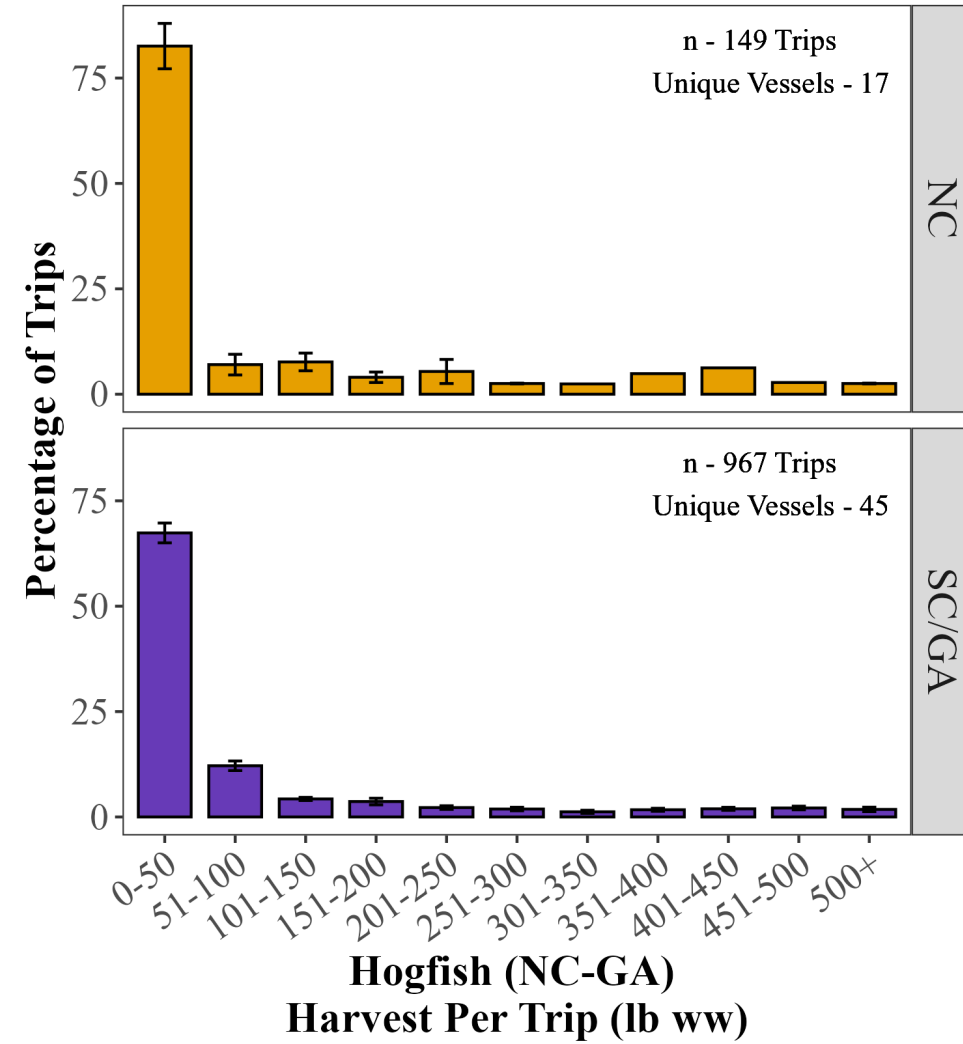
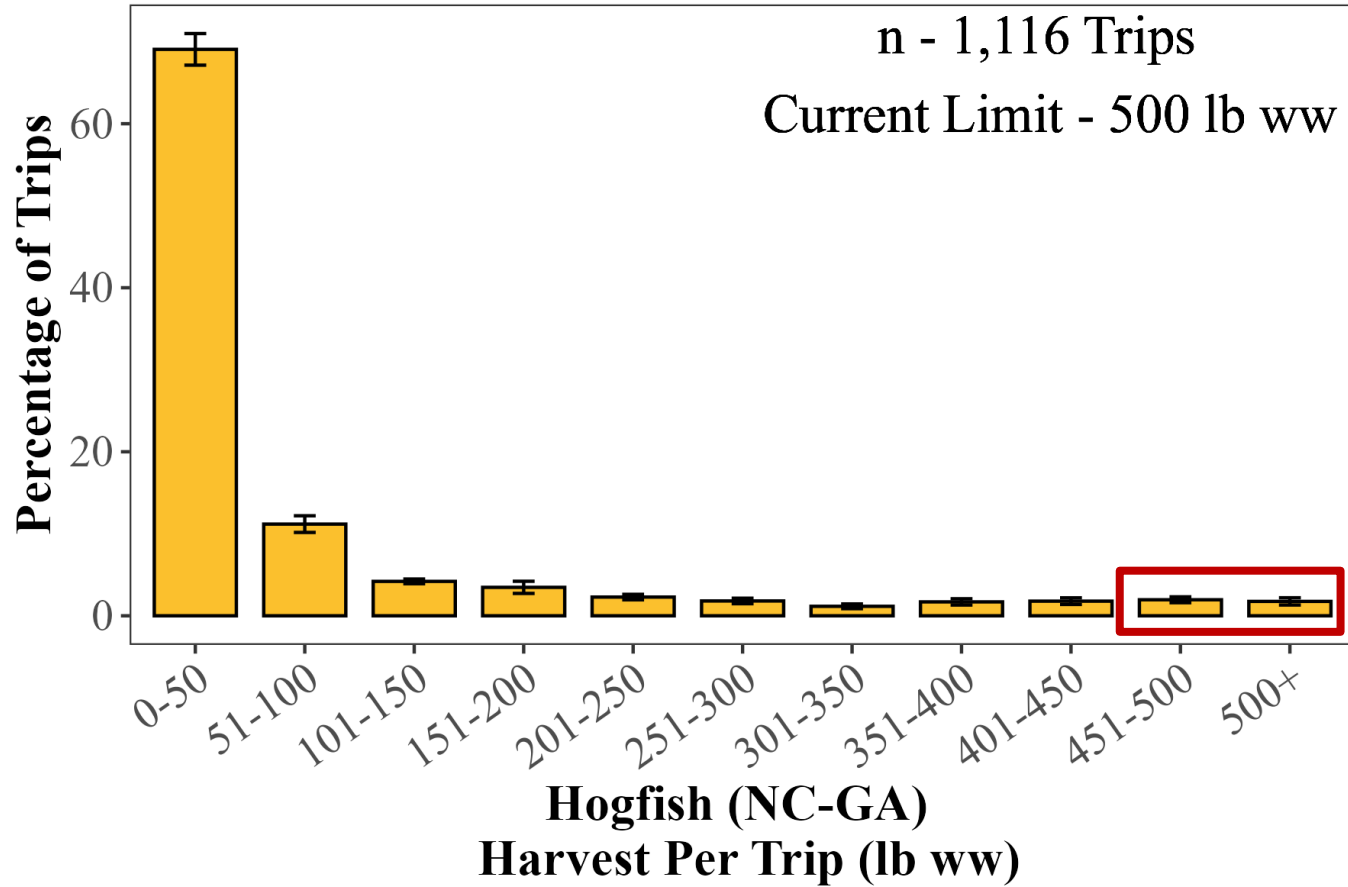
Red Porgy (May-Dec) Projections



Action 6: Hogfish (NC-GA)



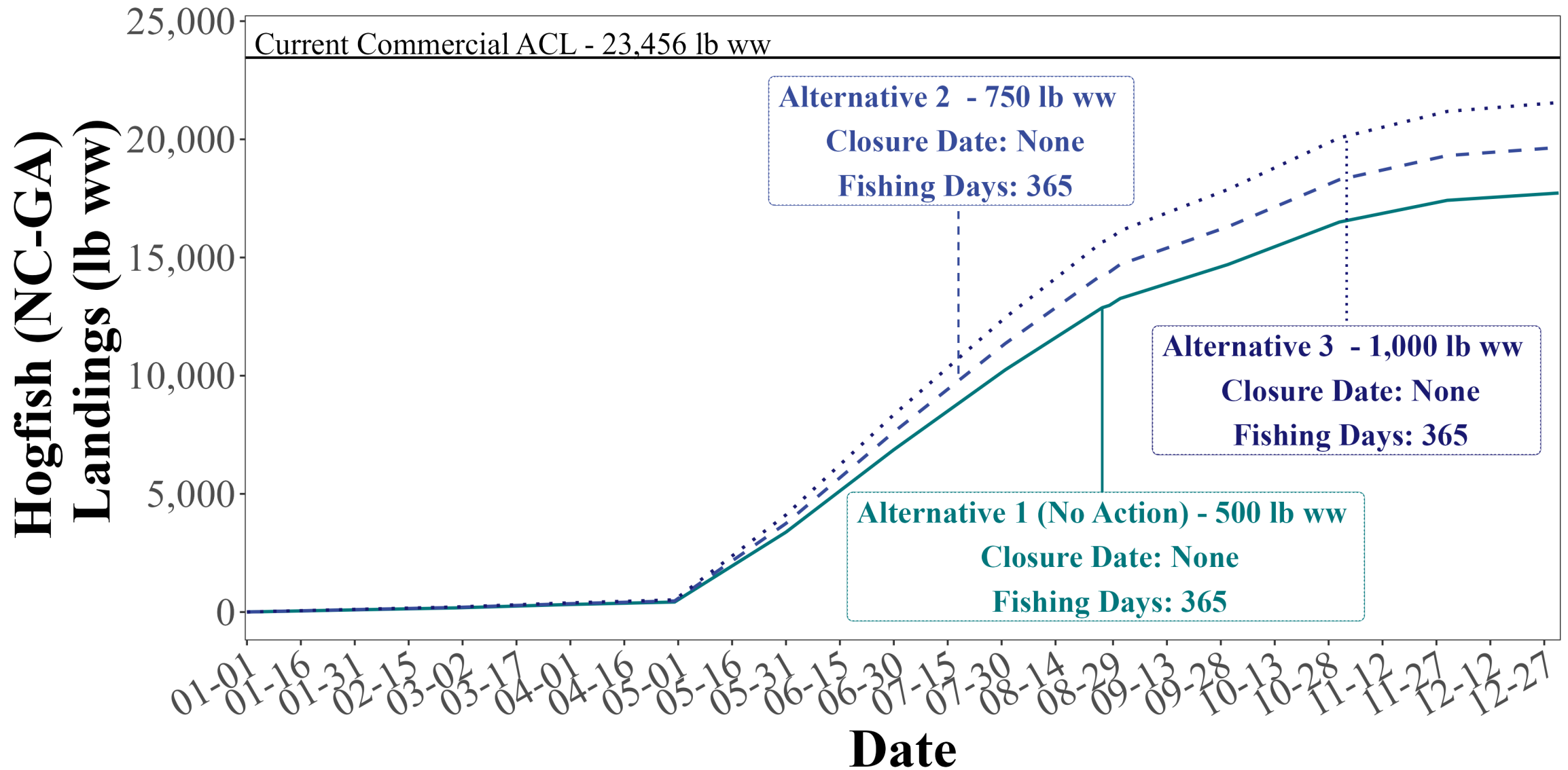
Trip Distribution: Hogfish (NC-GA)



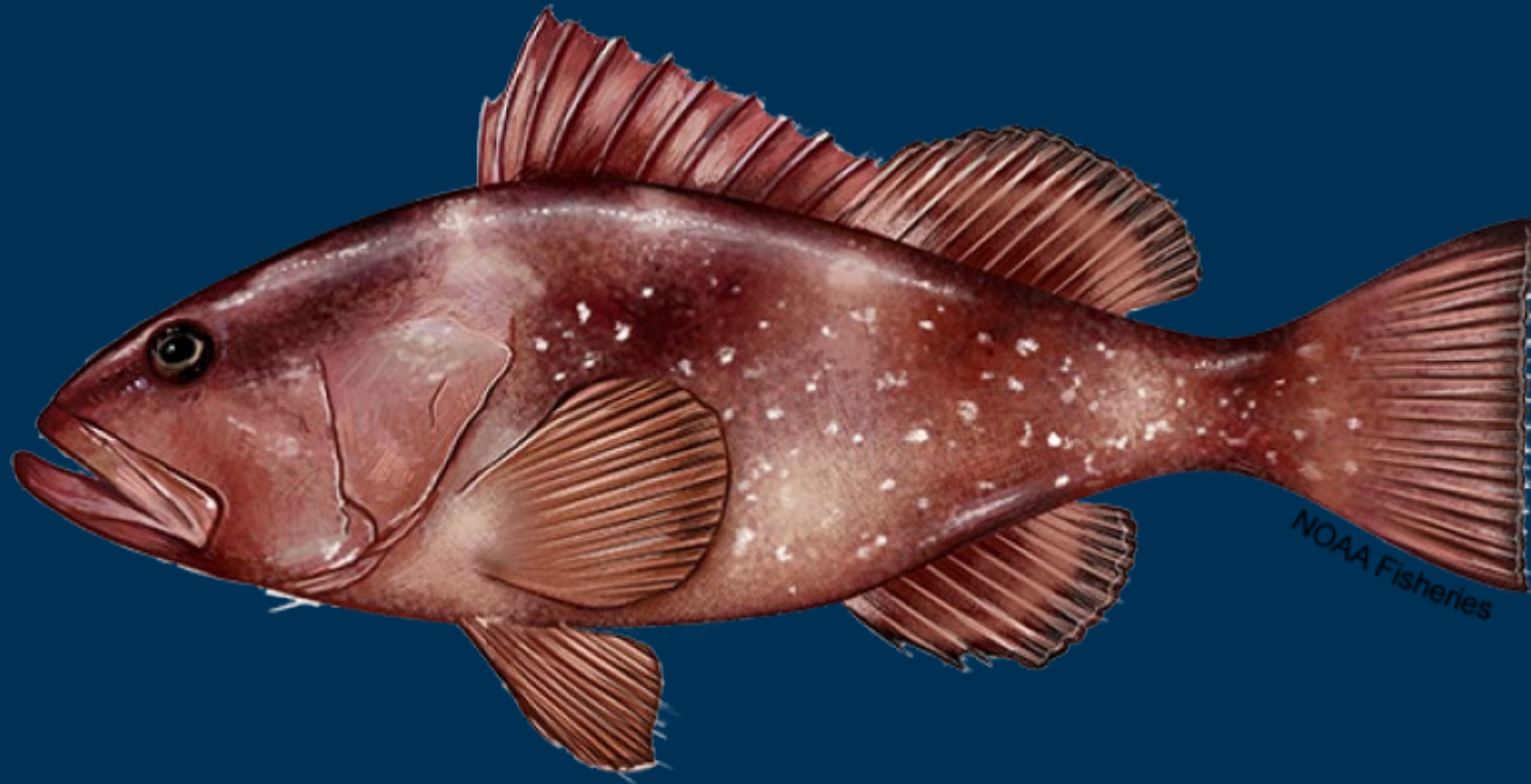
- Less than **2%** of trips catch more than 450 lb ww per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States

■ NC ■ SC/GA

Hogfish (NC-GA) Projections



Action 7: Red Grouper

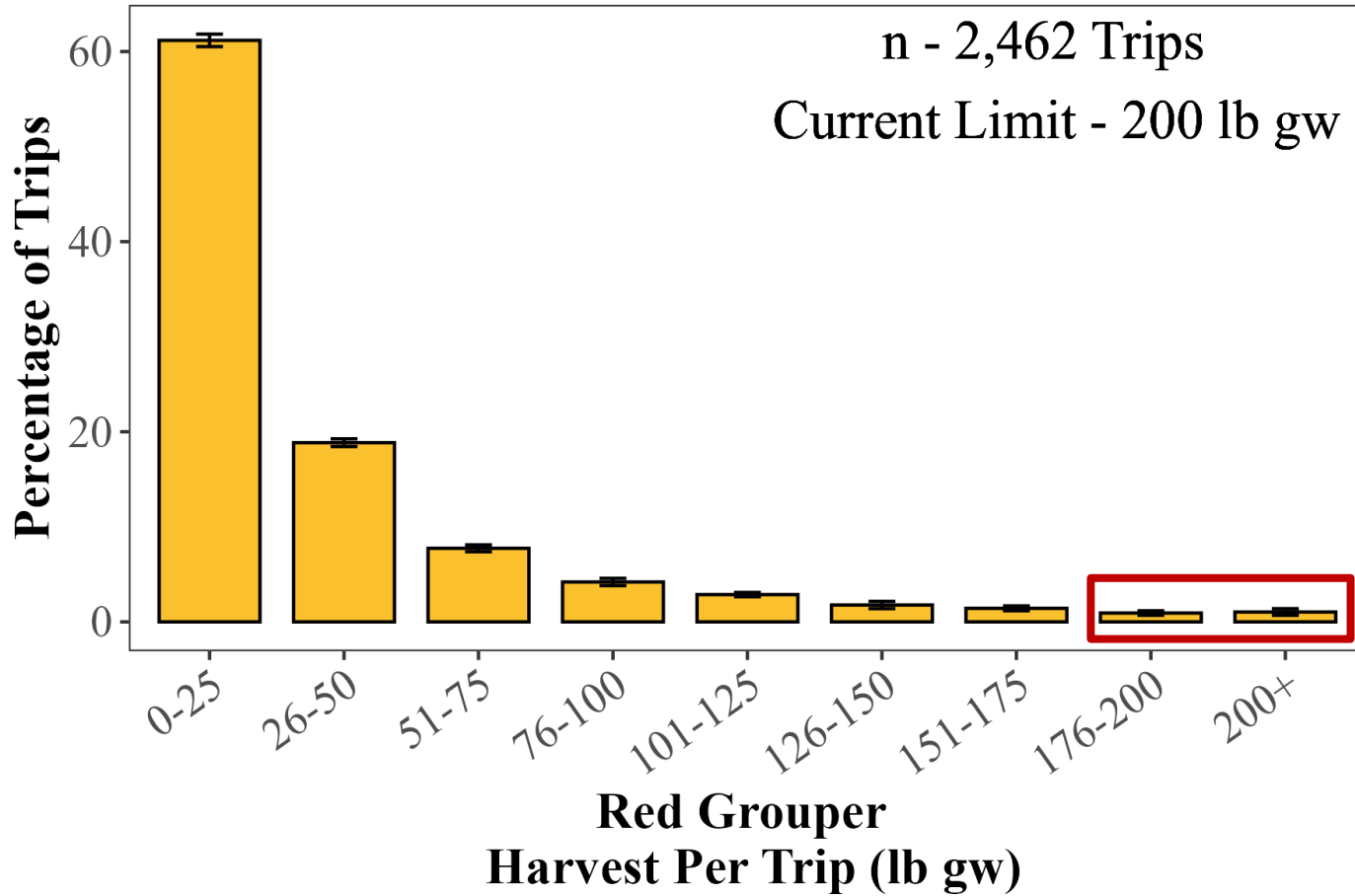


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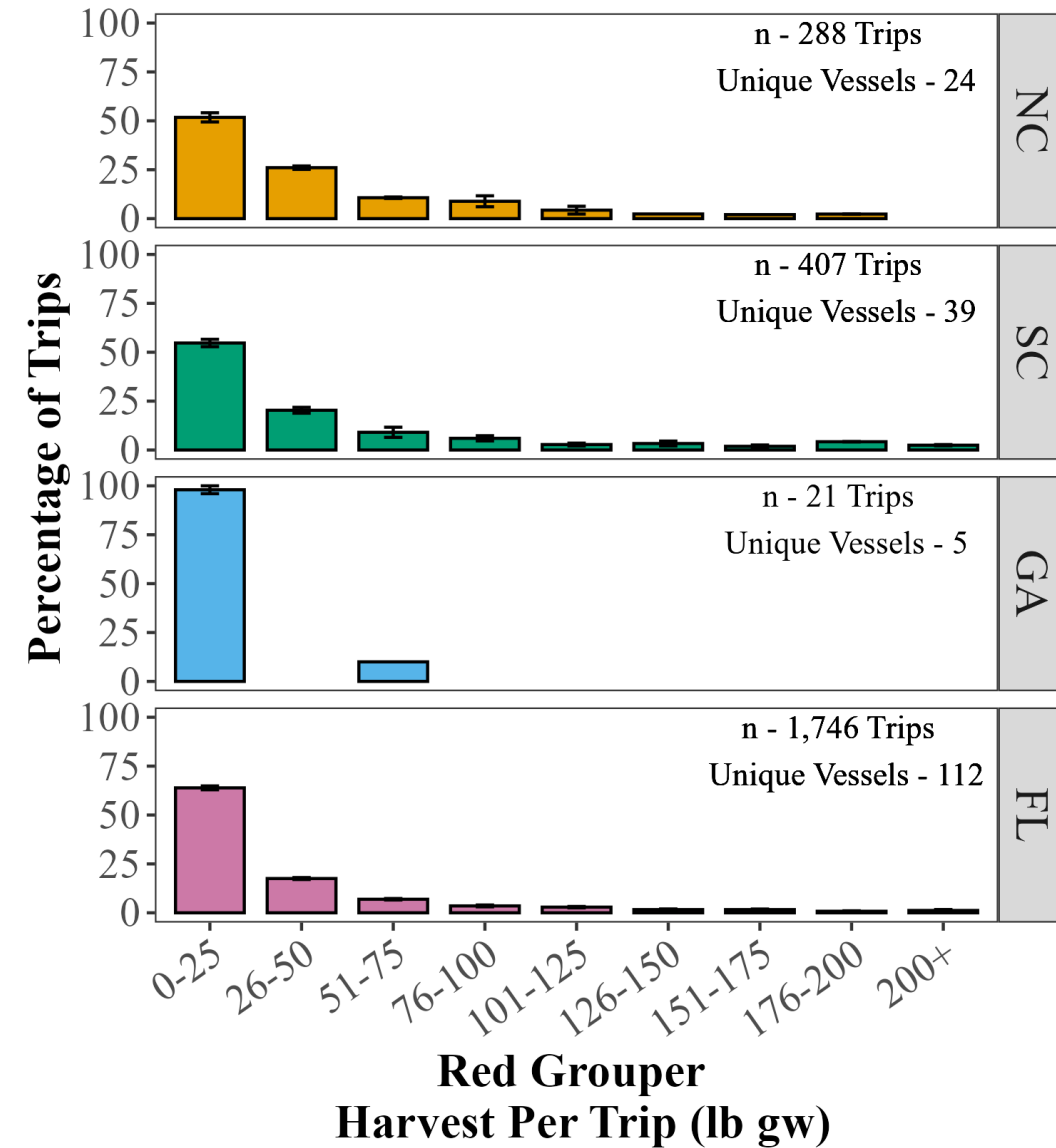


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Trip Distribution: Red Grouper

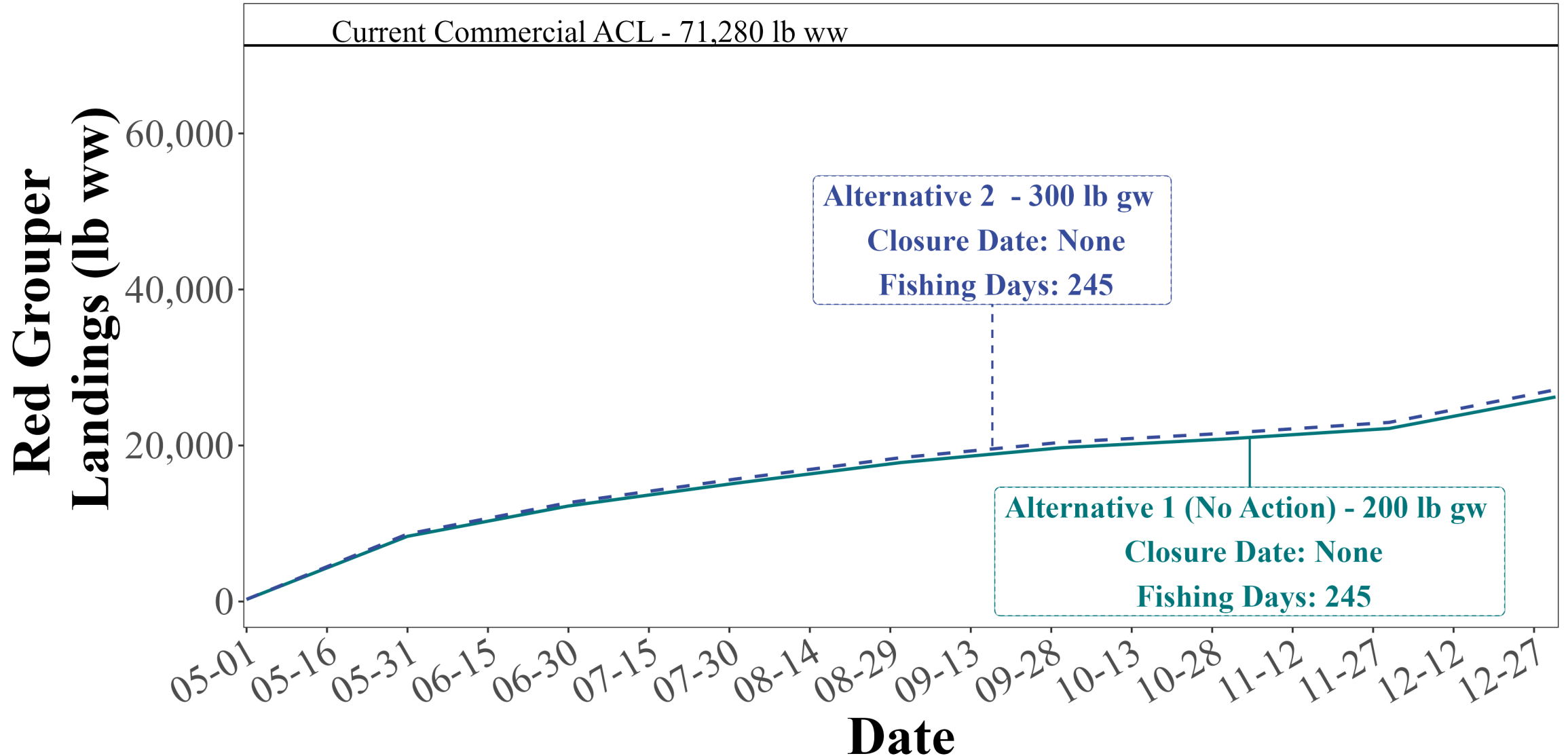


- Less than **2%** of trips land more than 180 lb ww per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States, with the exception of Georgia



NC SC GA FL

Red Grouper Projections



Conclusions

- Golden tilefish landings come close to the ACL in most years, and a change in baseline trip limit may lead to early closures for the fishery
- Baseline trip limit increases for vermilion snapper and hogfish (NC-GA) are the most likely to increase landings and more closely achieve the ACL for each species
- Proposed trip limit alternatives for greater amberjack, red porgy, red grouper, and gray triggerfish do not provide large enough increases to achieve annual landings close to the ACLs:
 - Greater Amberjack (March-August)
 - Largest Proposed: 2,000 lb ww
 - **8x increase needed**
 - Greater Amberjack (September-February)
 - Largest Proposed: 2,000 lb ww
 - **10x+ increase needed**
 - Red Porgy (May to December)
 - Largest Proposed : 45 fish
 - **4x increase needed (~ 60 fish)**
 - Red Grouper
 - Largest Proposed: 500 lb gw
 - **5x increase needed (~1,000 lb gw)**
 - Gray Triggerfish (January-June)
 - Largest Proposed: 1,400 lb gw
 - **10x+ increase needed**
 - Gray Triggerfish (July-December)
 - Largest Proposed: 1,400 lb gw
 - **10x+ increase needed**



Questions?



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