



**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)
- Action 10: Gag

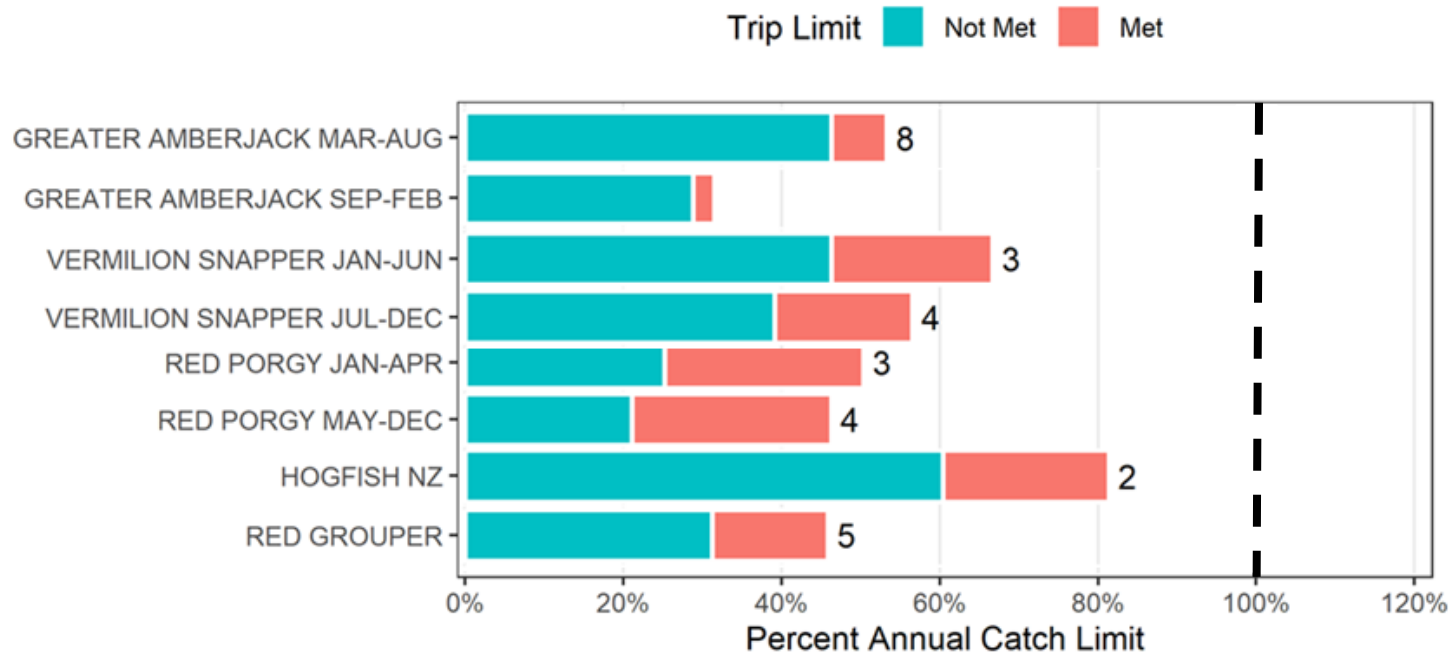


Propose specific trip limit changes **AND** propose additional flexibility for setting trip limits be granted to the regional administrator



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

Proportion of ACL Landing Trip Limits



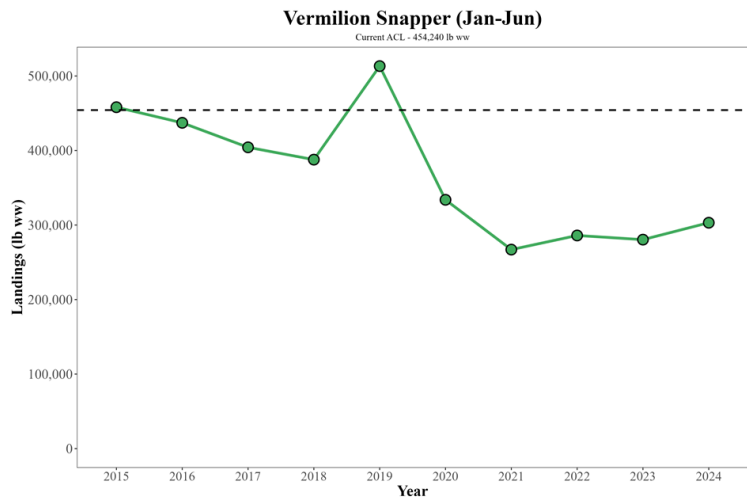
Dettloff 2026

- 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



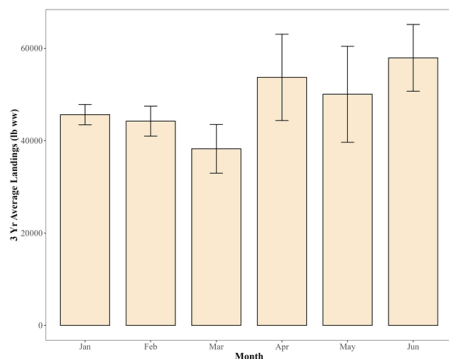
Trip Limit **Increase**



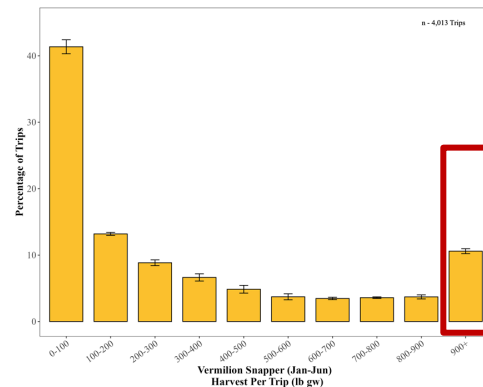
$$* \quad \% \text{ Change} \quad =$$



2)



3)



4)

Month	1000	2000	3000	4000	5000	6000	7000	8000	9000	10000	11000	12000	13000	14000	15000	16000	17000	18000	19000	20000	21000	22000	23000	24000	25000	26000	27000	28000	29000	30000	
Jan 1																															
Jan 2																															
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Action 3: Greater Amberjack



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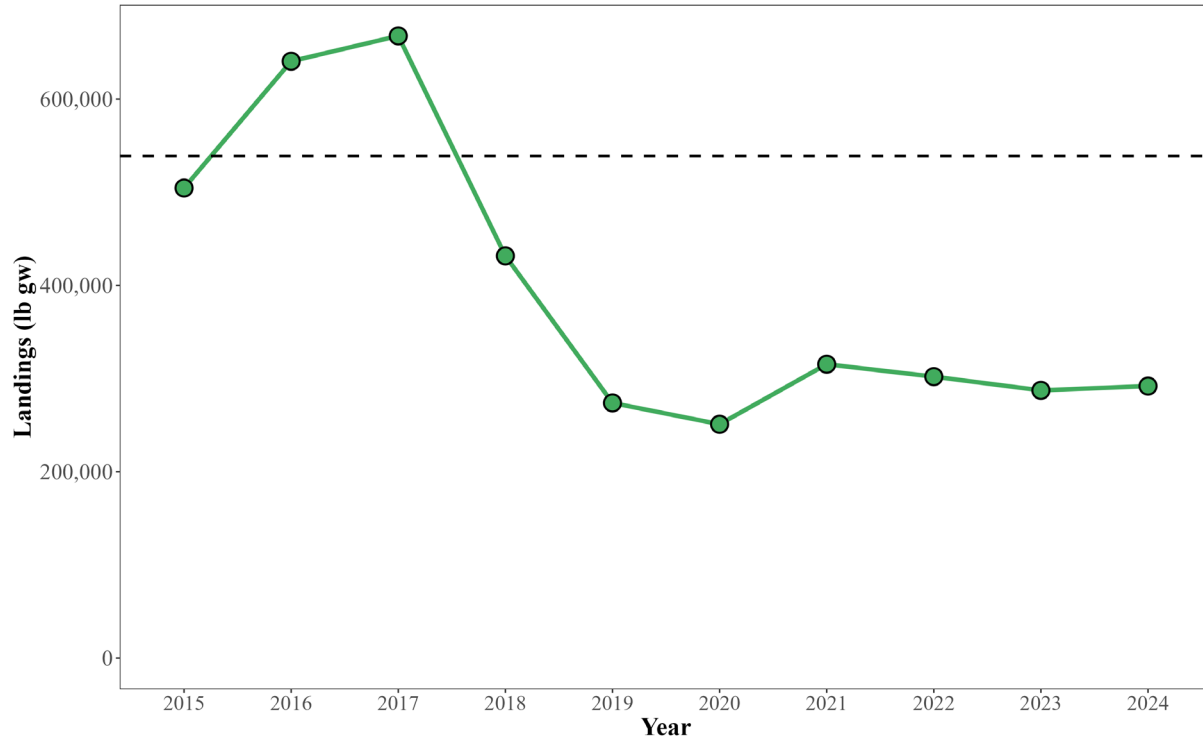


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Landings History – Greater Amberjack

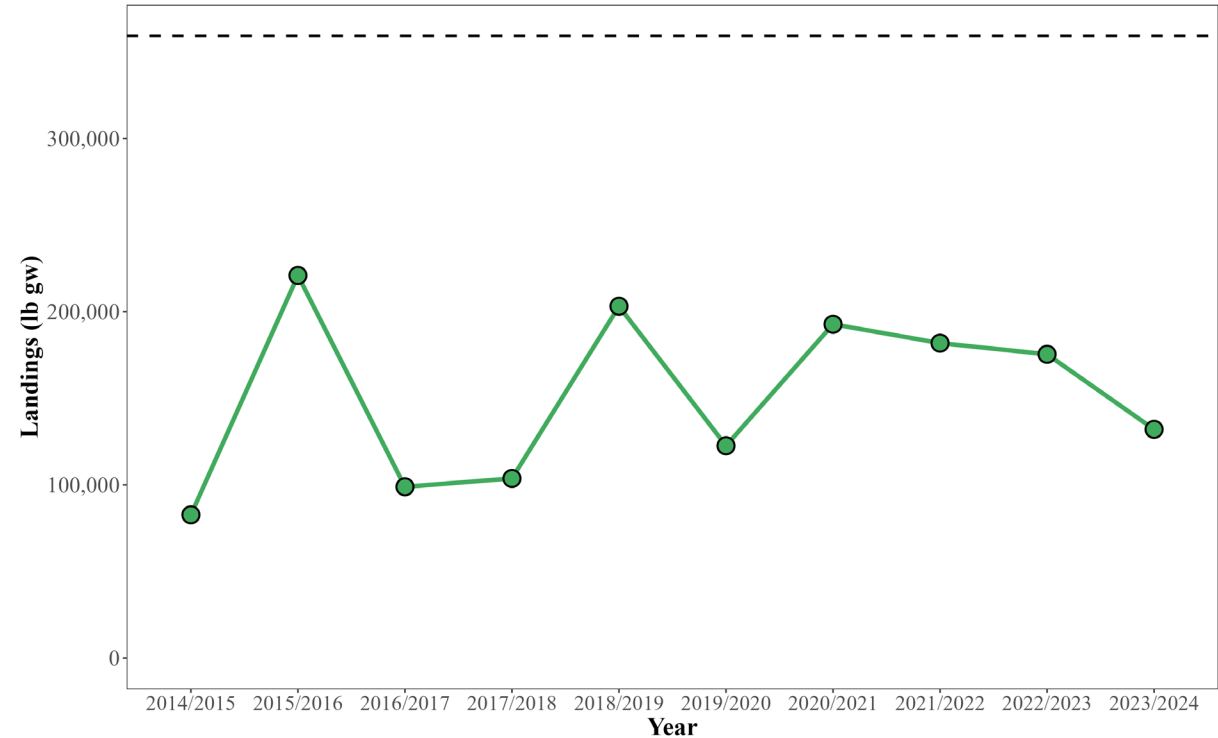
Greater Amberjack (Mar-Aug)

Current ACL - 538,933 lb gw



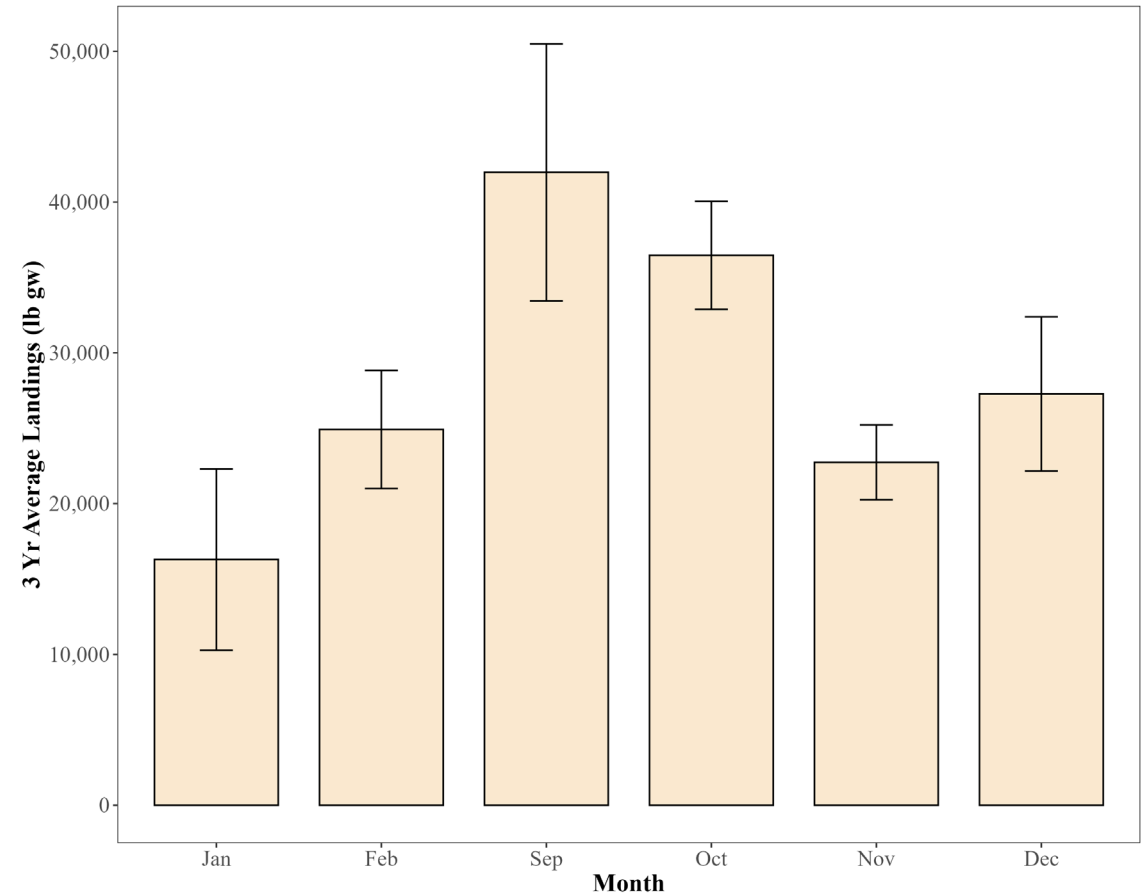
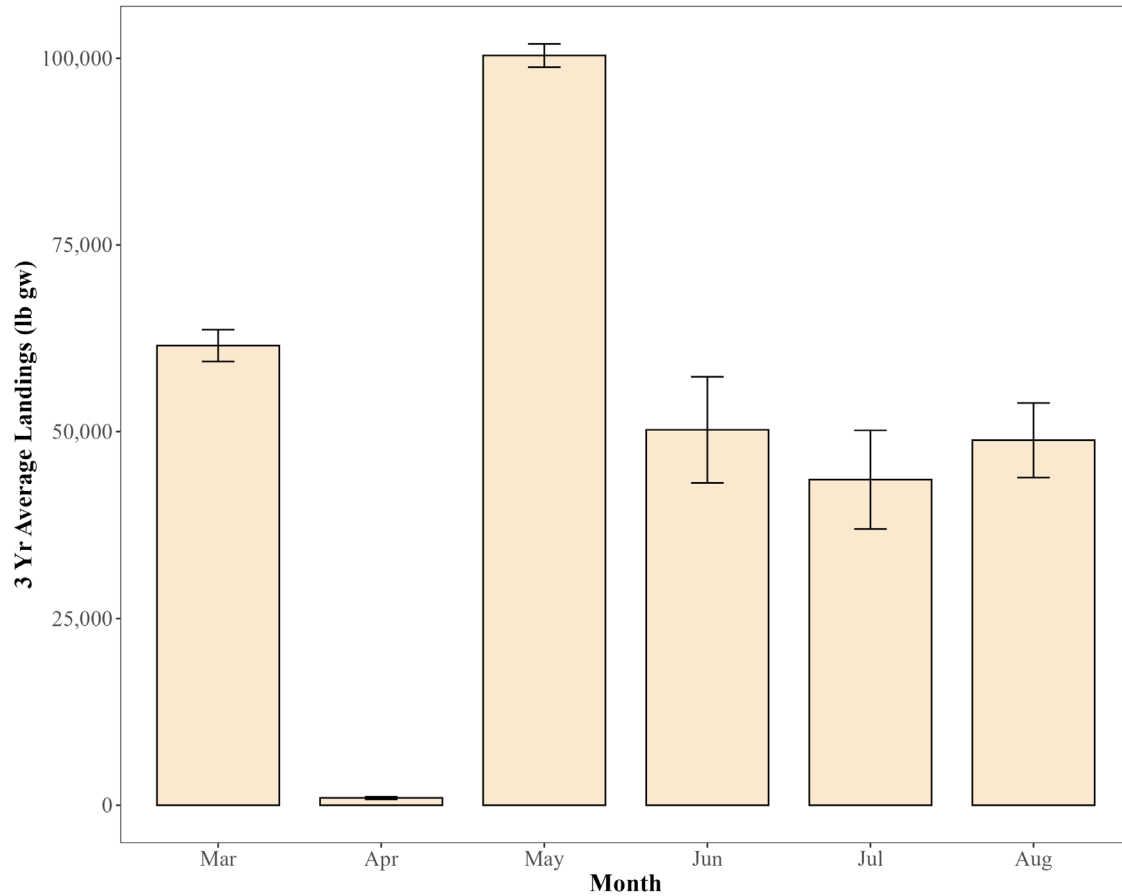
Greater Amberjack (Sep-Feb)

Current ACL - 359,288 lb gw



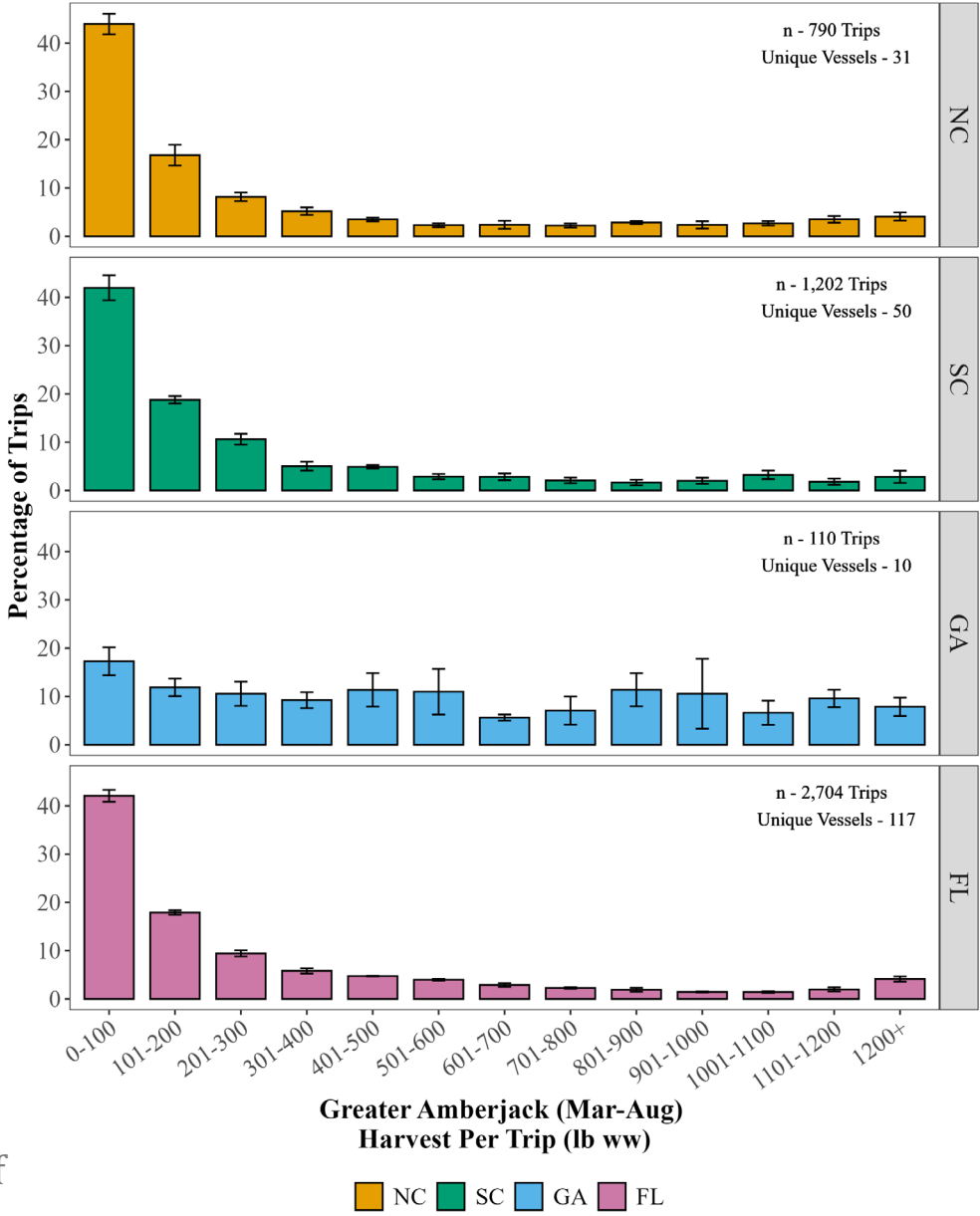
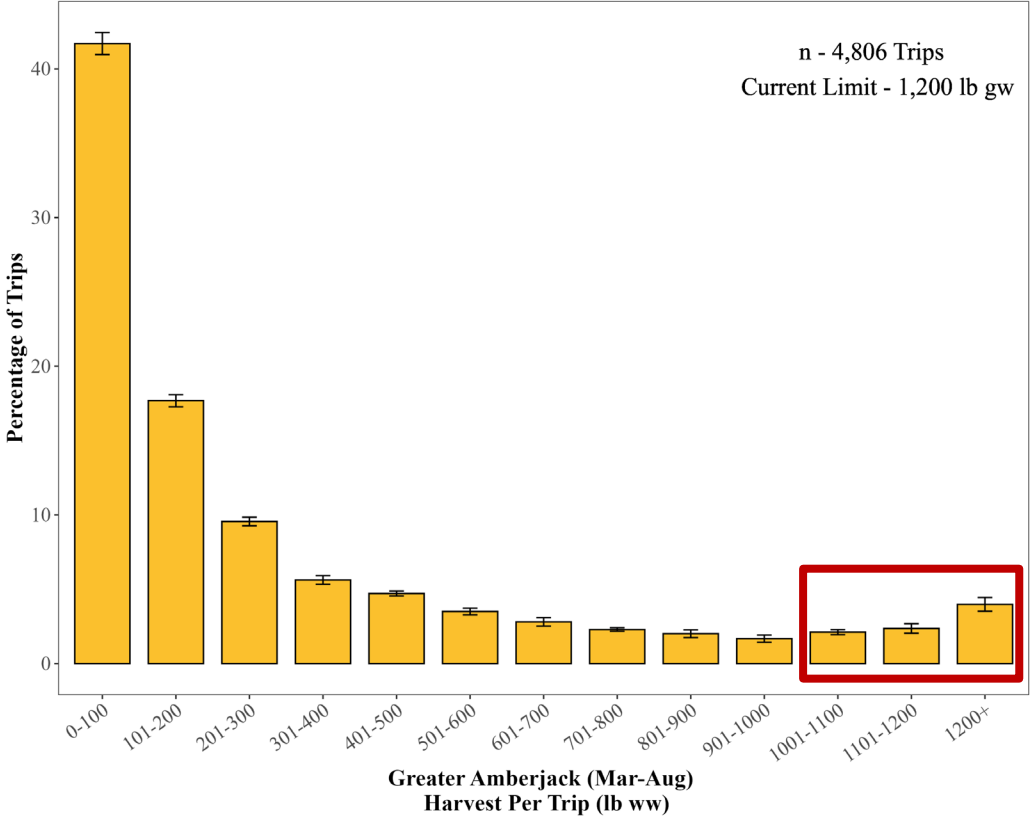
- Landings trends have been flat since a drop in 2019 for Season 1 (March-August)
- Landings for Season 2 (September to February) have been flat, oscillating between 100,000-200,00 lb gw over the last 10 years

Landings Used for Projections – Greater Amberjack



- Monthly landings are highest in May, immediately following the April closure month in Season 1 (March-August), but remain near 50,000 lb gw for the other months of that season.
- Season 2 (September-February) landings range between 10,000-40,000 lb gw per month, on average

Trip Distribution: Greater Amberjack (Mar-Aug)



- 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



Trip Limit Scalars: Greater Amberjack (Mar-Aug)

Action 3 - Alternatives	Scalars				
	<i>SATL</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>FL</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 1,200 lb ww Trip Limit	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alternative 2a - 1,500 lb ww Trip Limit	118%	122%	116%	126%	117%
Alternative 2b - 2,000 lb ww Trip Limit	130%	136%	126%	142%	128%

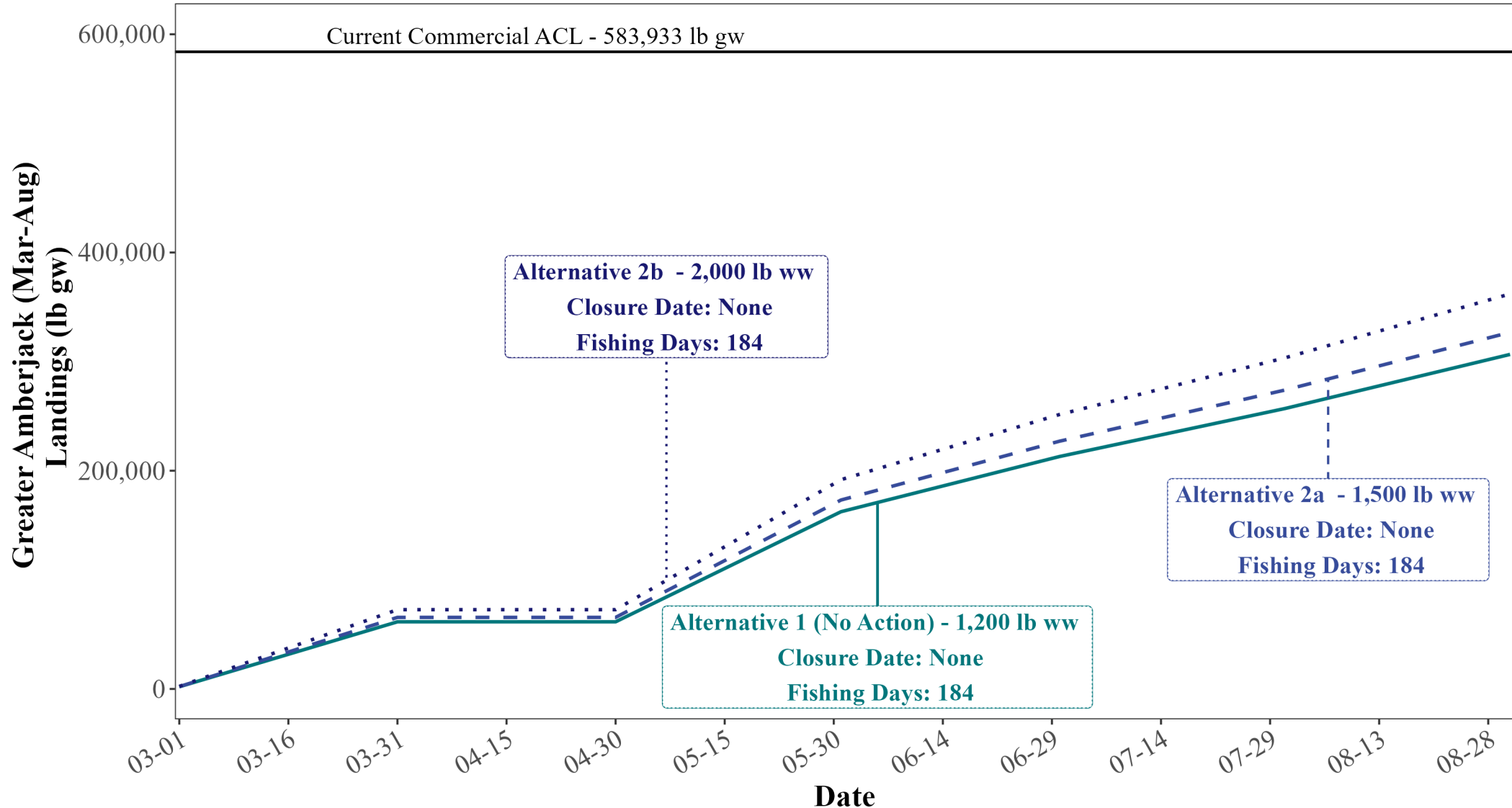
- Trips within 10% of the trip limit ($\geq 1,080$ lb ww per trip) were altered to match the proposed trip limit value
- Few differences in scalars at state versus the regional level
- Biggest differences seen in Georgia scalars, which represent a small proportion over the overall trip records (~ 10%)

Projected Closures: Greater Amberjack (Mar-Aug)

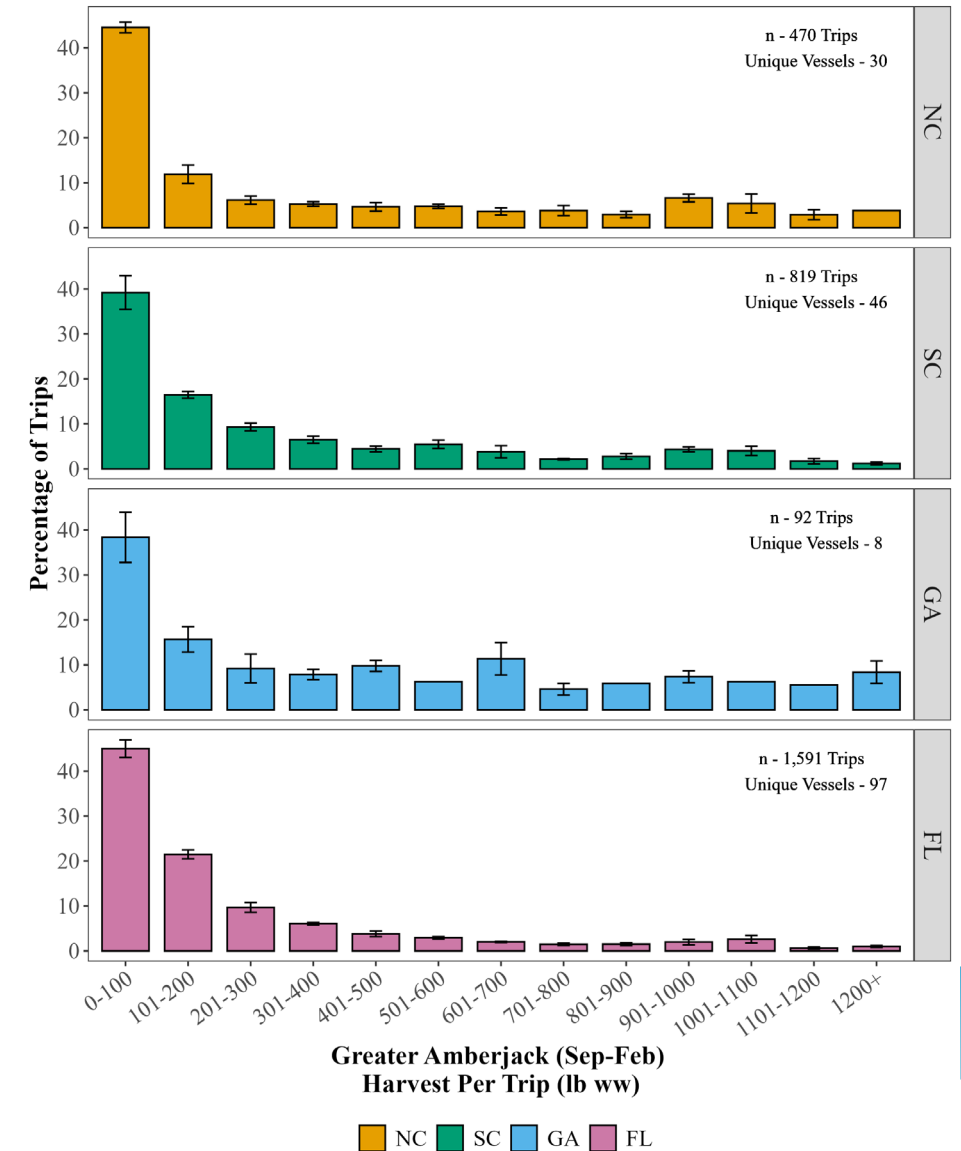
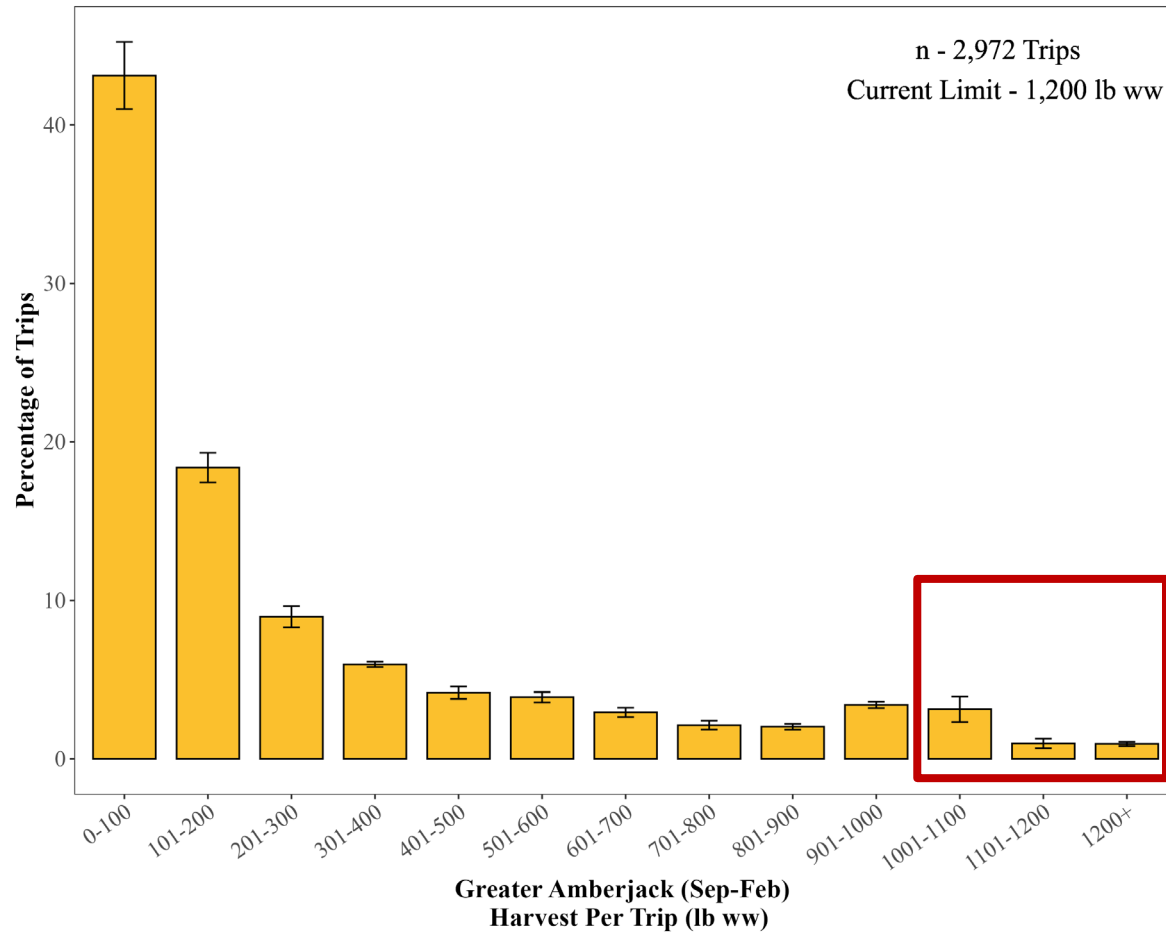
Action 2 Alternatives	Average Landings - 1 Standard Error		Average Landings		Average Landings + 1 Standard Error	
	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 1,200 lb ww	-	184	-	184	-	184
Alternative 2a - 1,500 lb ww	-	184	-	184	-	184
Alternative 2b - 2,000 lb ww	-	184	-	184	-	184

- No closures projected
 - SEFSC preliminary analysis indicated an **8X** increase in trip limit was needed to reach the ACL
- No difference in outcomes when using state specific scalars vs regional scalars

Greater Amberjack (Mar-Aug) Projections



Trip Distribution: Greater Amberjack (Sep-Feb)



- 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)



Trip Limit Scalars: Greater Amberjack (Sep-Feb)

Action 3 - Alternatives	Scalars				
	<i>SATL</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>FL</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 1,200 lb ww Trip Limit	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alternative 3a - 1,500 lb ww Trip Limit	102%	103%	102%	105%	102%
Alternative 3b - 2,000 lb ww Trip Limit	106%	107%	104%	116%	106%

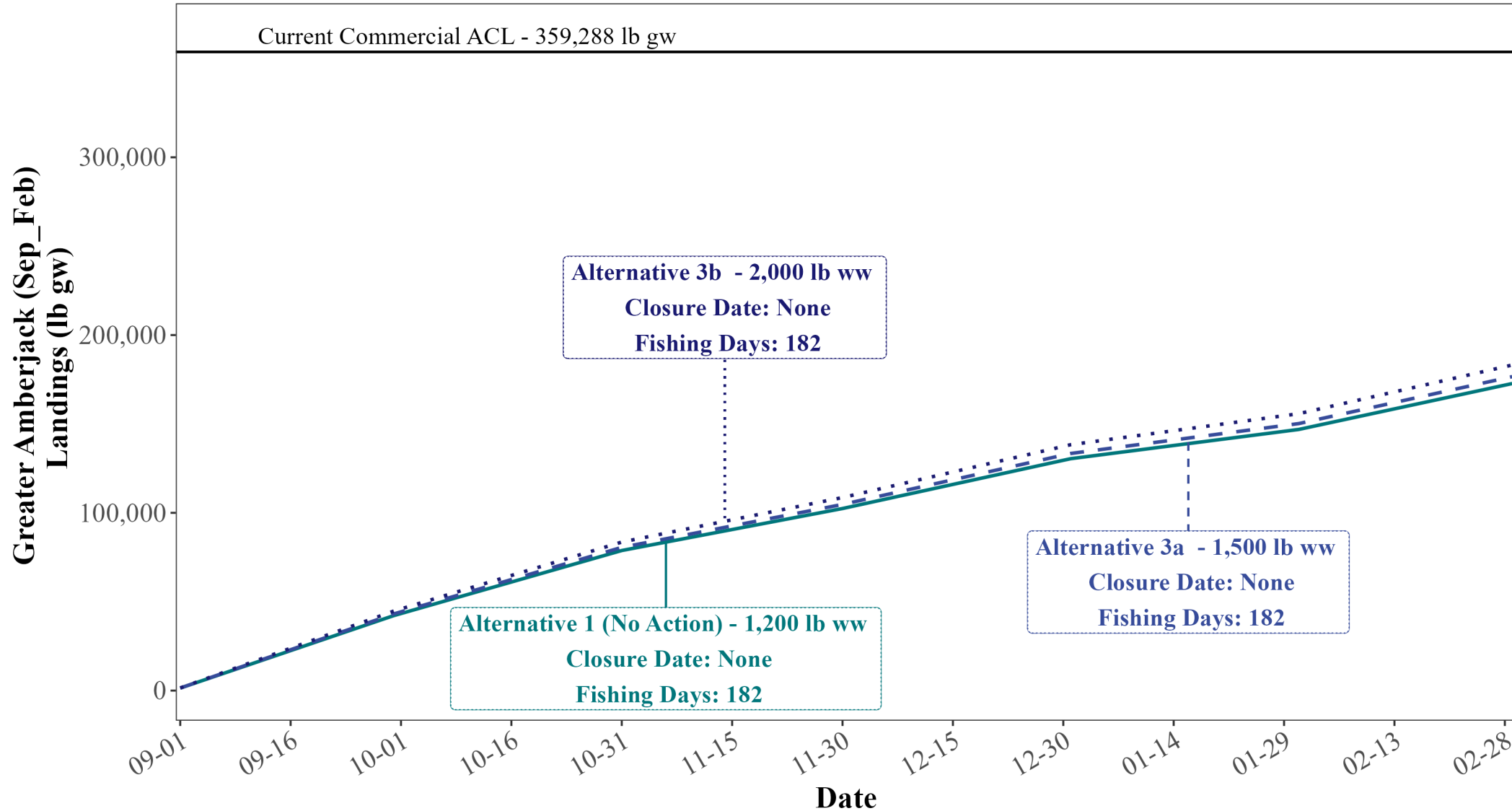
- Trips within 10% of the trip limit ($\geq 1,080$ lb ww per trip) were altered to match the proposed trip limit value
- No difference in outcomes when using state specific scalars vs regional scalars
- Much lower percentage increase expected in the second greater amberjack season

Projected Closures: Greater Amberjack (Sep-Feb)

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>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 1,200 lb ww	-	182	-	182	-	182
Alternative 3a - 1,500 lb ww	-	182	-	182	-	182
Alternative 3b - 2,000 lb ww	-	182	-	182	-	182

- No difference in outcomes when using state specific scalars vs regional scalars
- No closures projected
 - SEFSC preliminary analysis indicated a **10X** increase in trip limit was needed to reach the ACL

Greater Amberjack (Sep-Feb) Projections



Action 4: Vermilion Snapper



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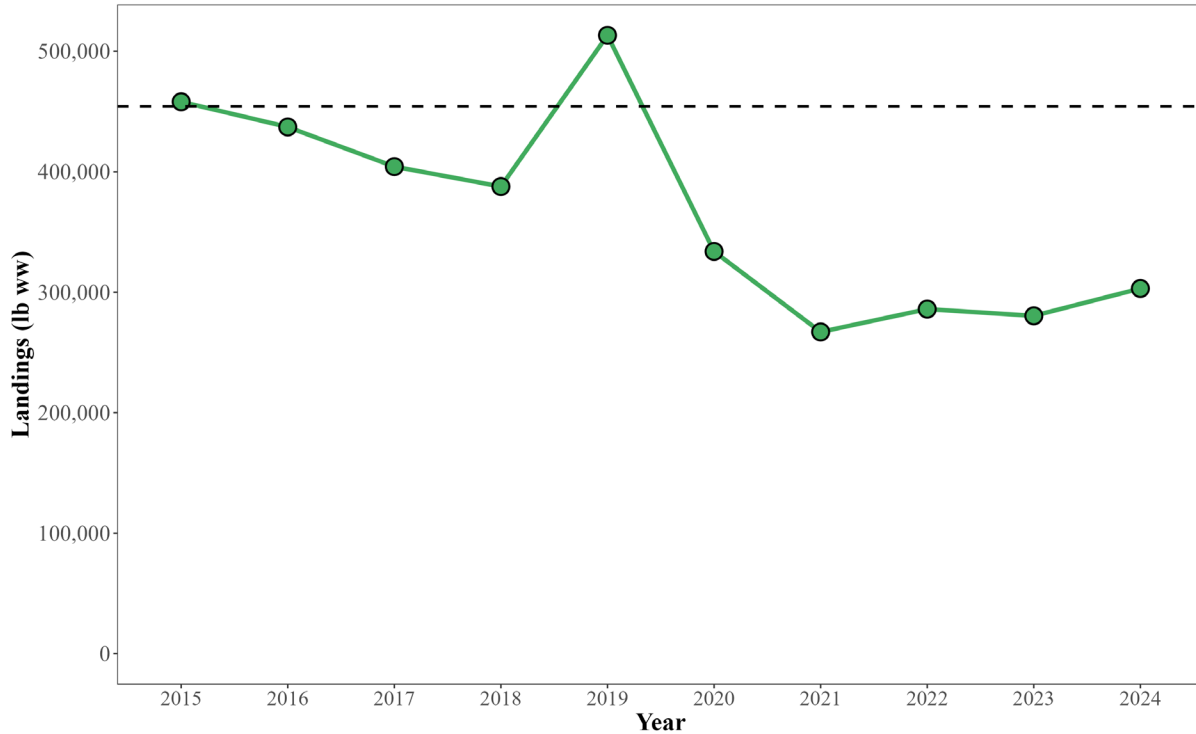


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Landings History – Vermilion Snapper

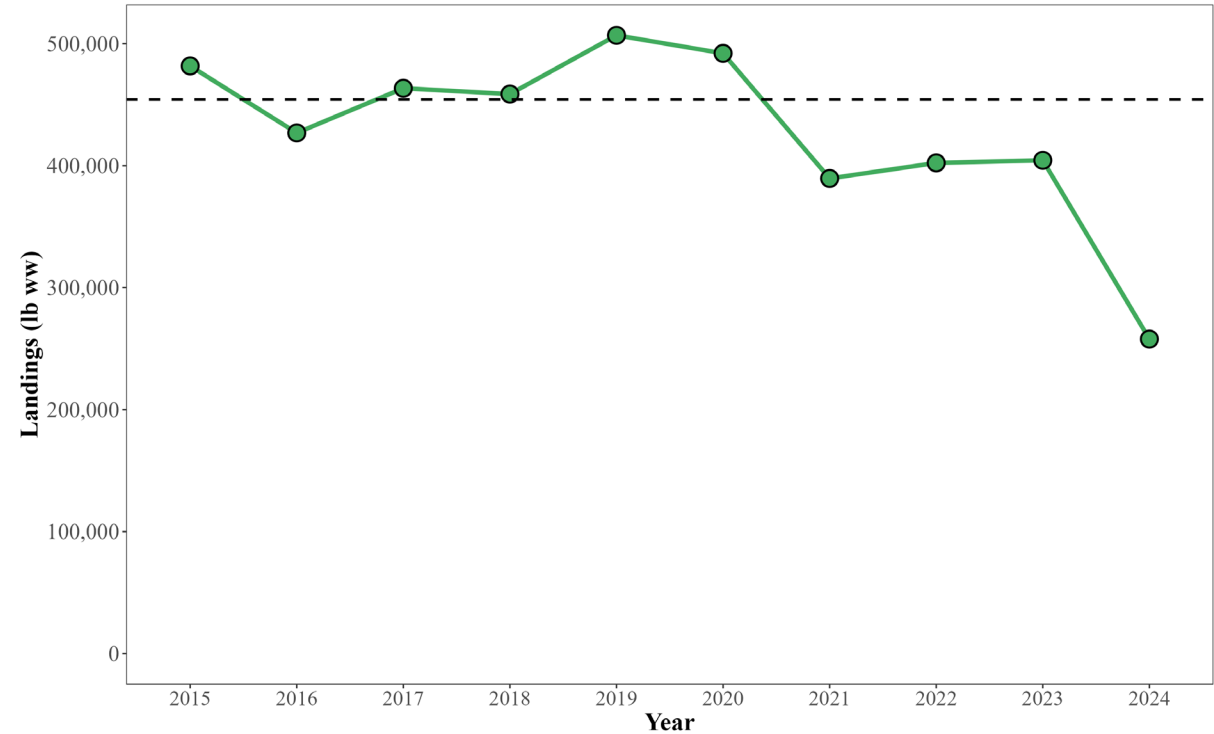
Vermilion Snapper (Jan-Jun)

Current ACL - 454,240 lb ww



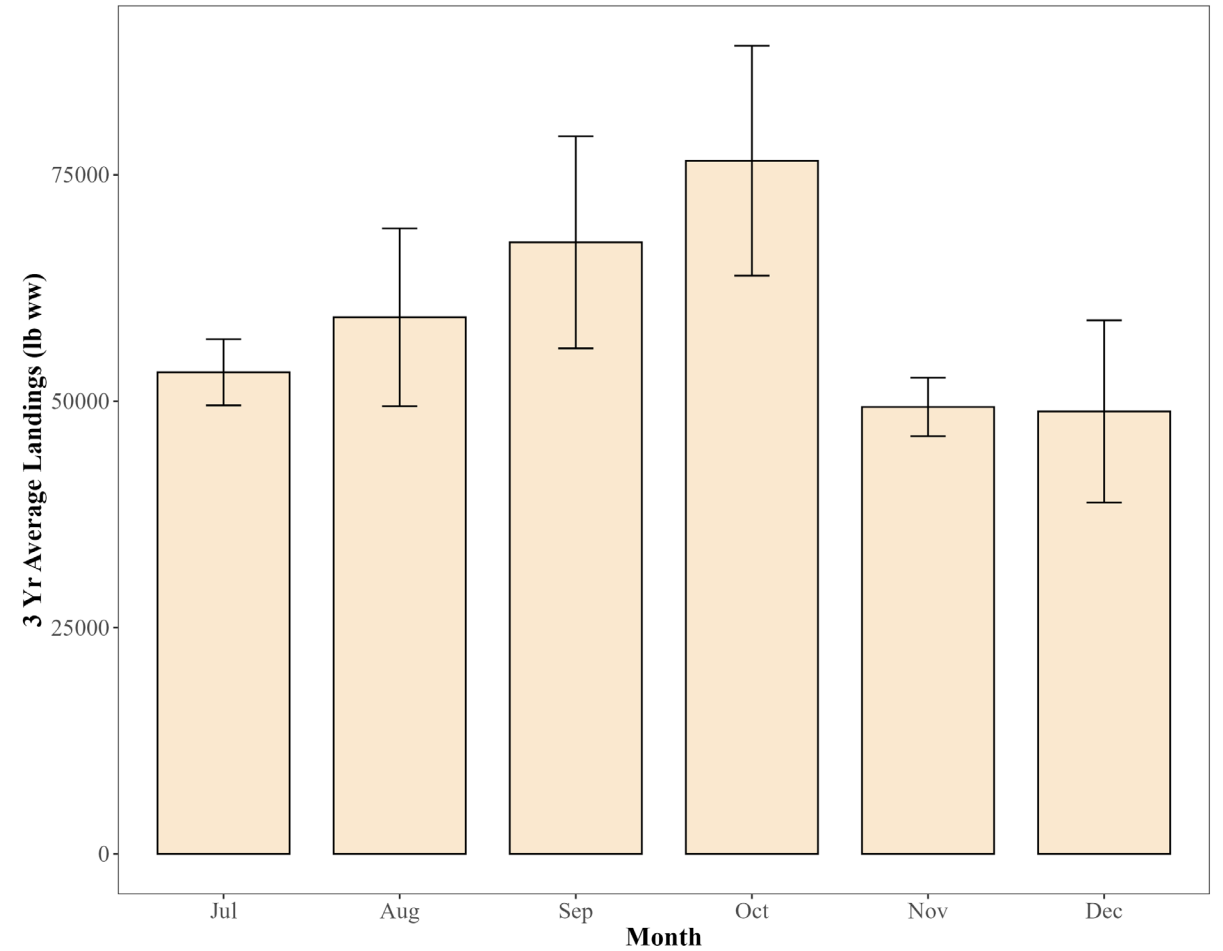
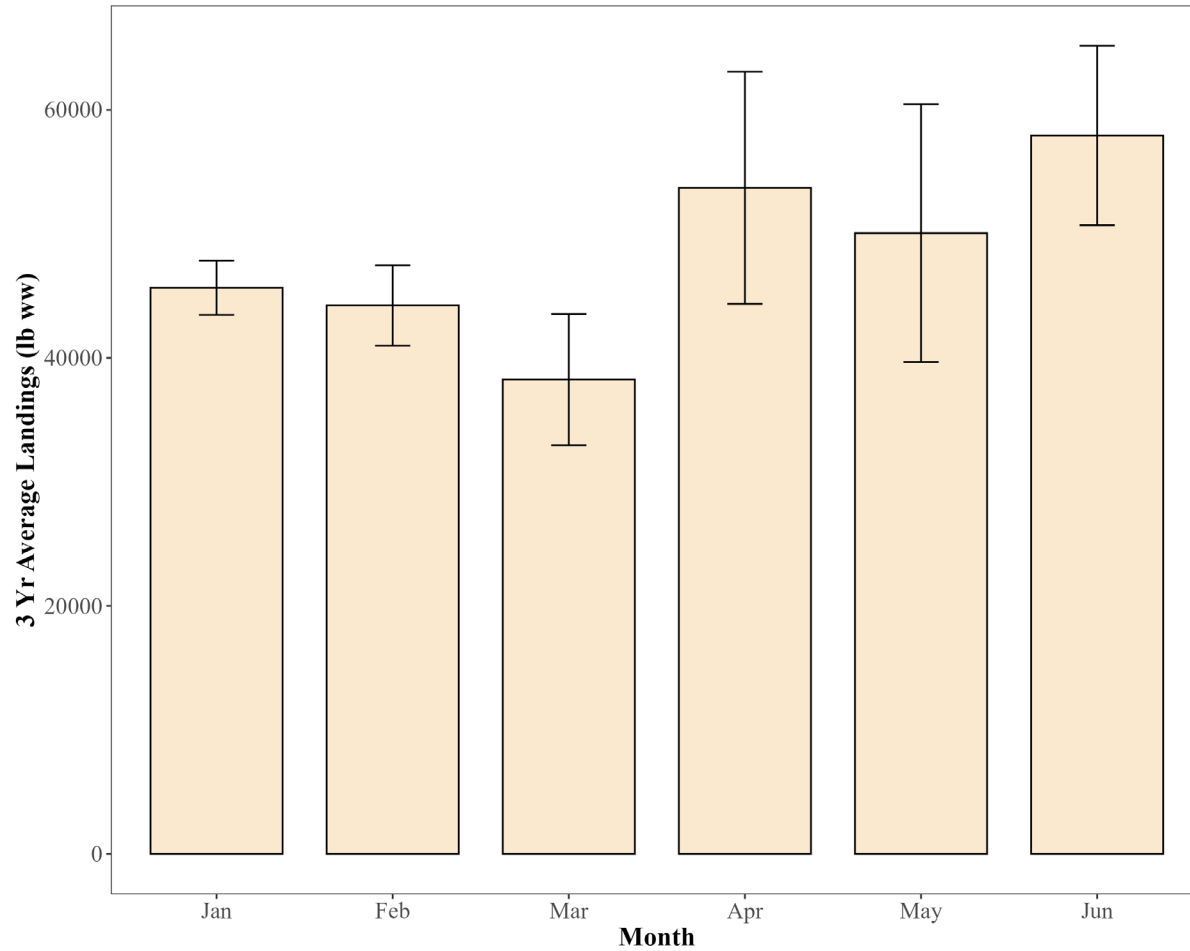
Vermilion Snapper (Jul-Dec)

Current ACL - 454,240 lb ww



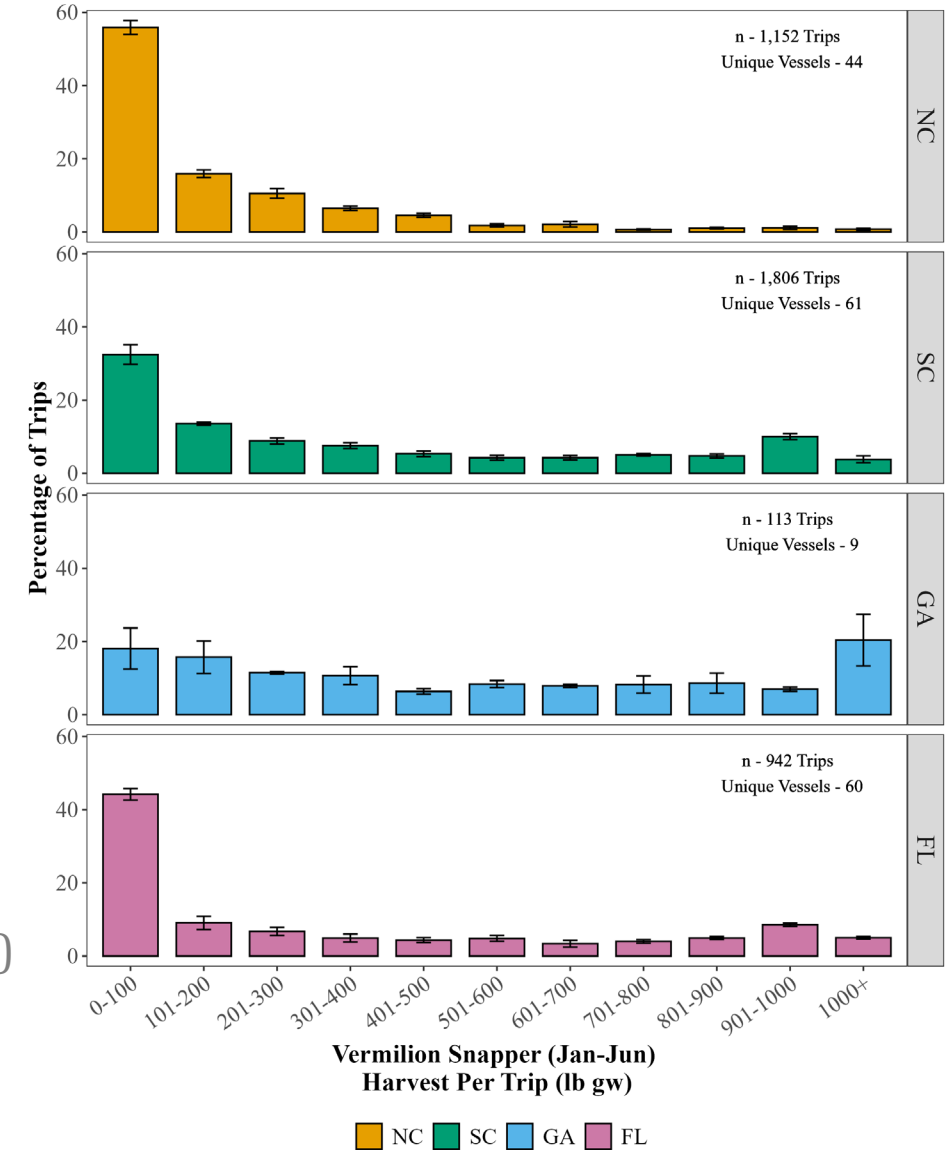
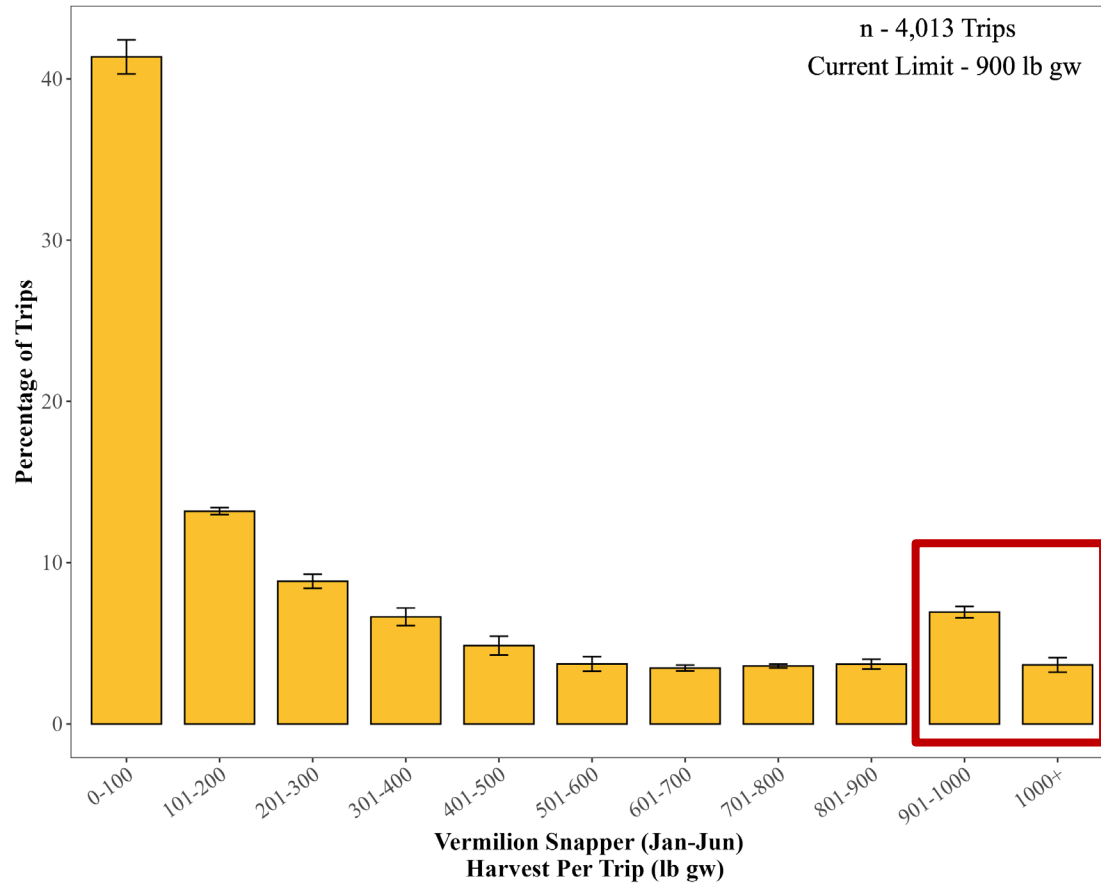
- Lower annual landings in the last 4-5 years, with higher landings in Season 2 (July to December)

Landings Used for Projections – Vermilion Snapper



- Monthly landings range between 40-60,000 lb ww in Season 1 (January-June) and 50-75,000 lb ww per month in Season 2 (July-December)

Trip Distribution: Vermilion Snapper (Jan-Jun)



- 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.



Trip Limit Scalars: Vermilion Snapper (Jan-Jun)

Action 4 - Alternatives	Scalars				
	<i>SATL</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>FL</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 1,000 lb gw Trip Limit	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alternative 2a - 1,250 lb gw Trip Limit	109%	102%	110%	112%	111%
Alternative 2b - 1,500 lb gw Trip Limit	117%	103%	119%	124%	121%
Alternative 2c - 2,000 lb gw Trip Limit	134%	107%	137%	149%	141%

- Trips within 10% of the trip limit (≥ 900 lb gw per trip) were altered to match the proposed trip limit value
- North Carolina has the smallest proportion of trips with >900 lb gw, therefore the lowest scalar values
- Georgia scalars are the highest in magnitude, but only emphasize a small proportion of the landings

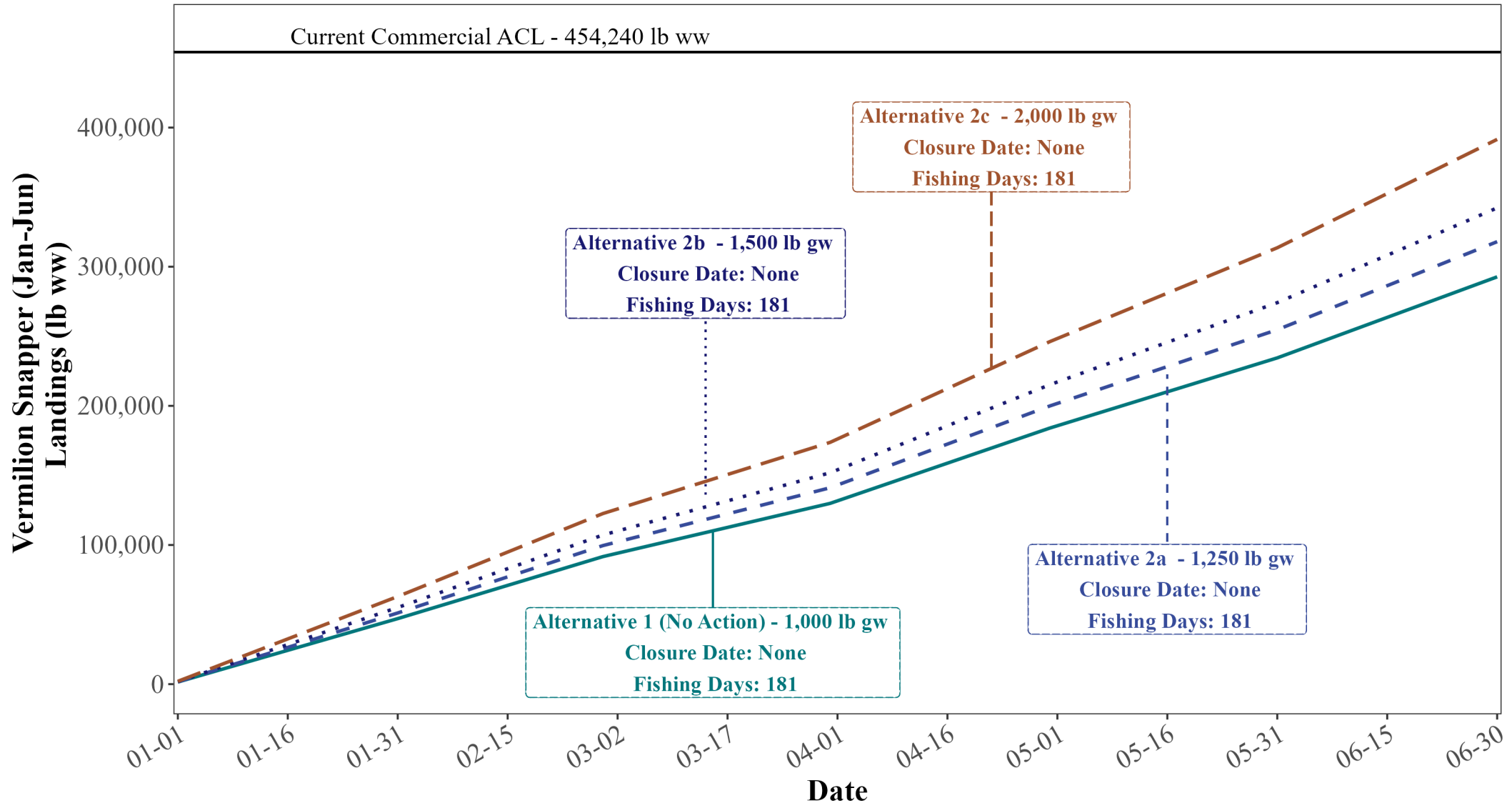


Projected Closures: Vermilion Snapper (Jan-Jun)

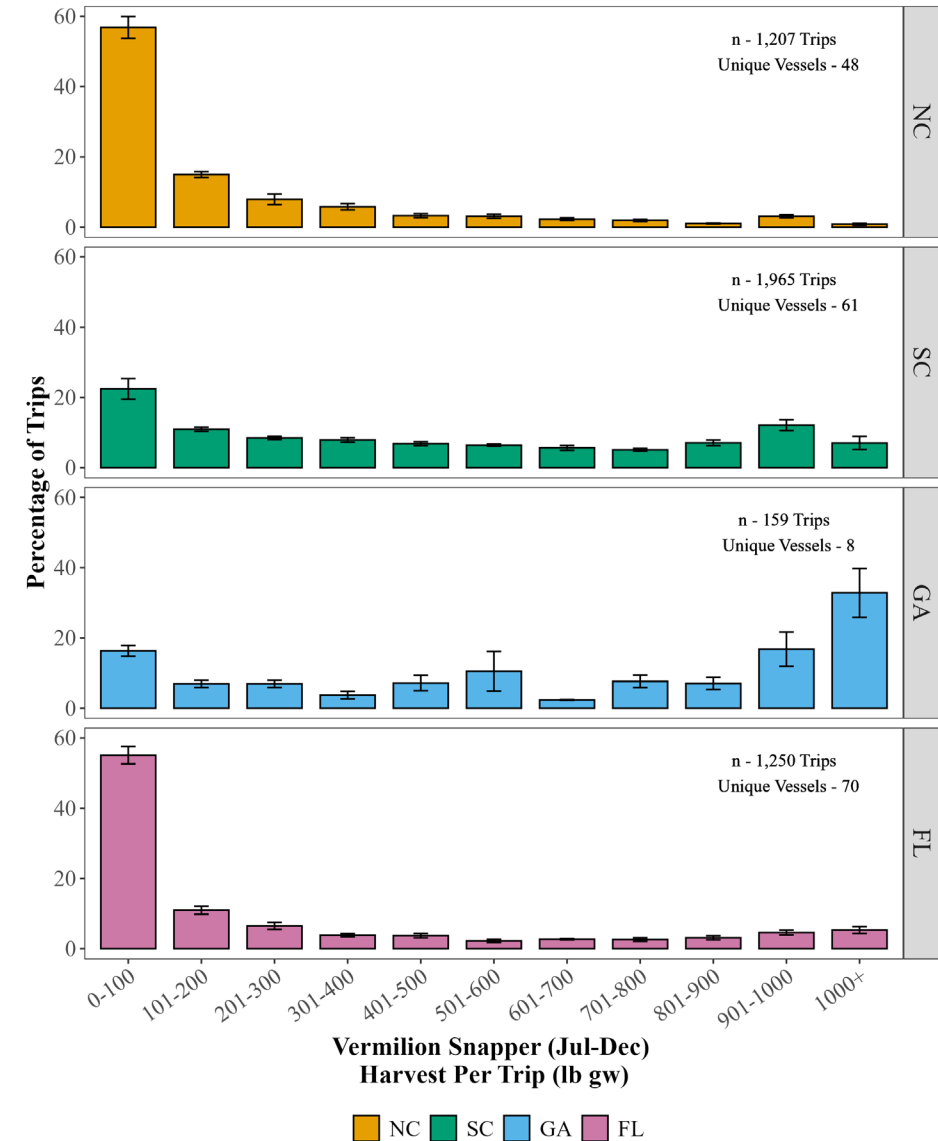
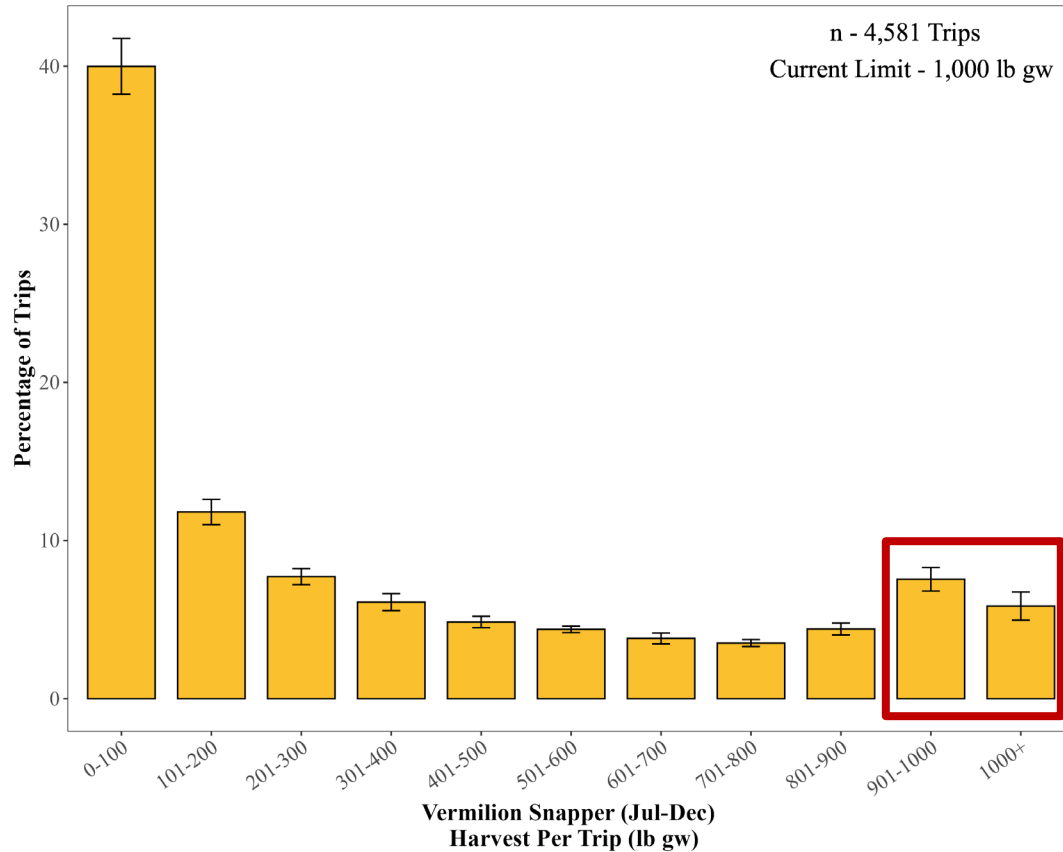
Action 3 Alternatives	Average Landings - 1 Standard Error		Average Landings		Average Landings + 1 Standard Error	
	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 1,000 lb gw	-	181	-	181	-	181
Alternative 2a - 1,250 lb gw	-	181	-	181	-	181
Alternative 2b - 1,500 lb gw	-	181	-	181	-	181
Alternative 2c - 2,000 lb gw	-	181	-	181	26-Jun	176

- Closures only projected in the high landings scenario, with the highest trip limit proposed
- Only a 3 day difference in season length was estimated when using state specific scalars for the high landings scenario

Vermilion Snapper (Jan-Jun) Projections



Trip Distribution: Vermilion Snapper (Jul-Dec)



- Approximately **13.5%** 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

Trip Limit Scalars: Vermilion Snapper (Jul-Dec)

Action 4 - Alternatives	Scalars				
	<i>SATL</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>FL</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 1,000 lb gw Trip Limit	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alternative 3a - 1,250 lb gw Trip Limit	109%	104%	110%	115%	109%
Alternative 3b - 1,500 lb gw Trip Limit	118%	109%	119%	130%	118%
Alternative 3c - 2,000 lb gw Trip Limit	138%	118%	140%	165%	137%

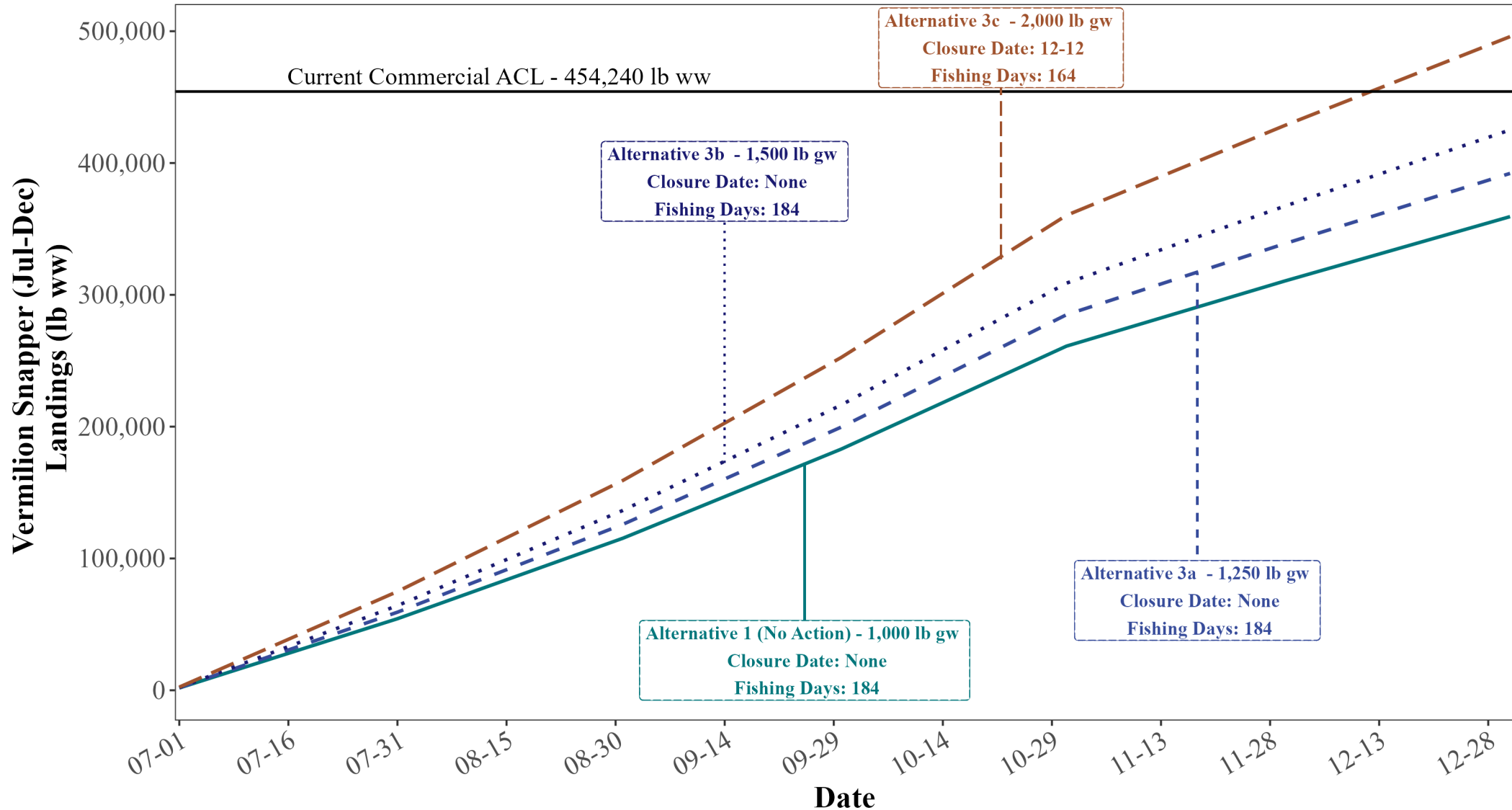
- Season 2 scalars are higher in magnitude than in Season 1, for each state
- Highest scalars seen in Georgia, due to the higher proportion of trips landings >900 lb gw, but these scalars are used on a low proportion of overall landings

Projected Closures: Vermilion Snapper (Jul-Dec)

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>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 1,000 lb gw	-	184	-	184	-	184
Alternative 3a - 1,250 lb gw	-	184	-	184	24-Dec	176
Alternative 3b - 1,500 lb gw	-	184	-	184	7-Dec	159
Alternative 3c - 2,000 lb gw	-	184	12-Dec	164	8-Nov	130

- Projected closures generally only observed in the highest landings or highest trip limit alternatives

Vermilion Snapper (Jul-Dec) Projections



Action 5: Red Porgy

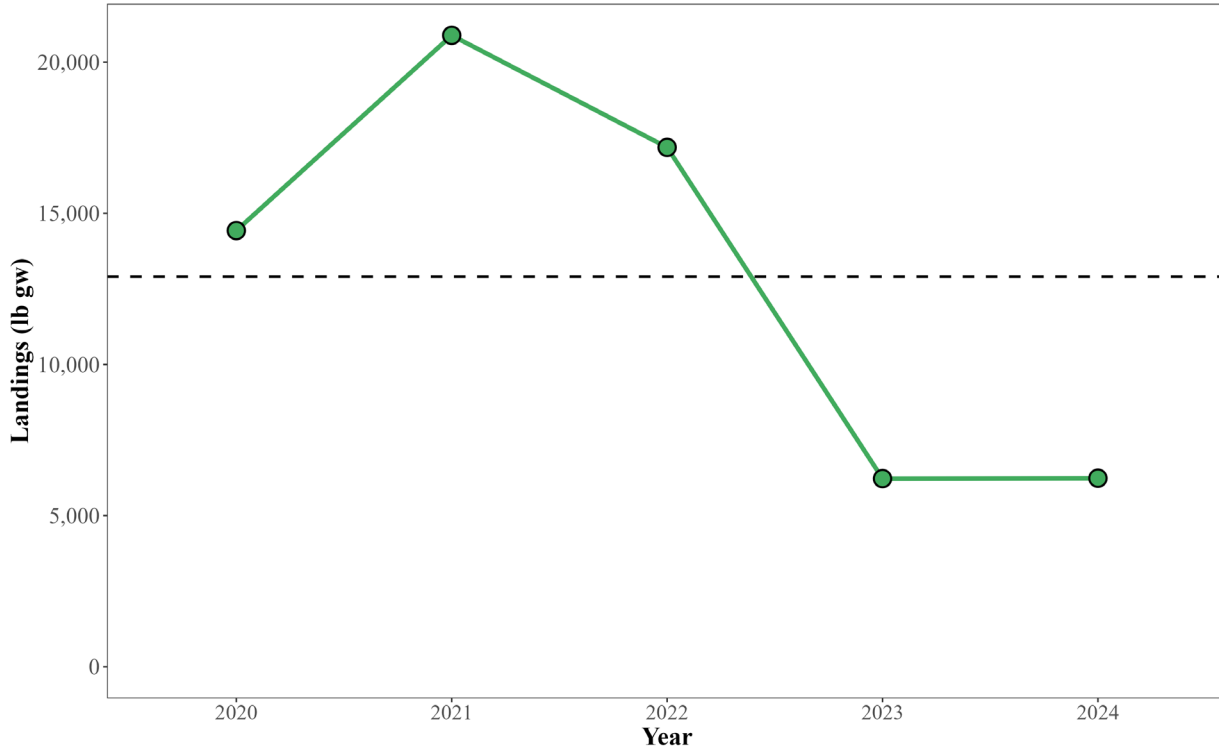


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Landings History – Red Porgy

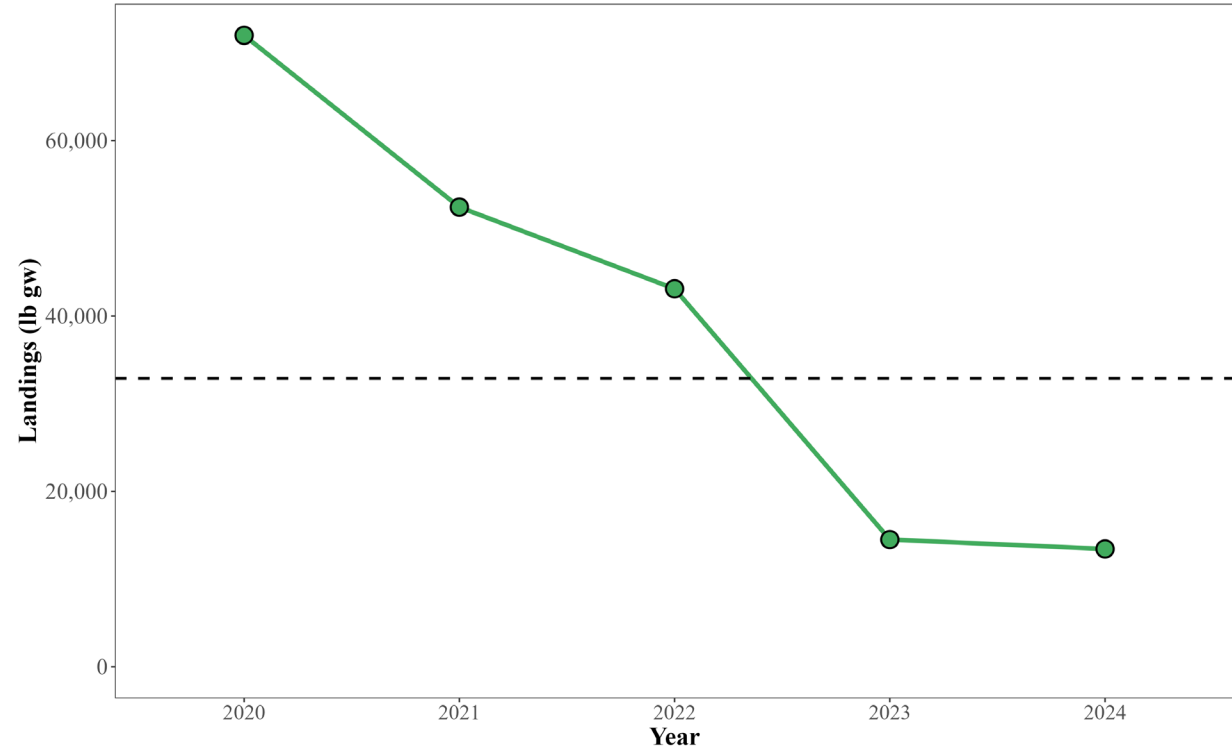
Red Porgy (Jan-Apr)

Current ACL - 12,907 lb gw



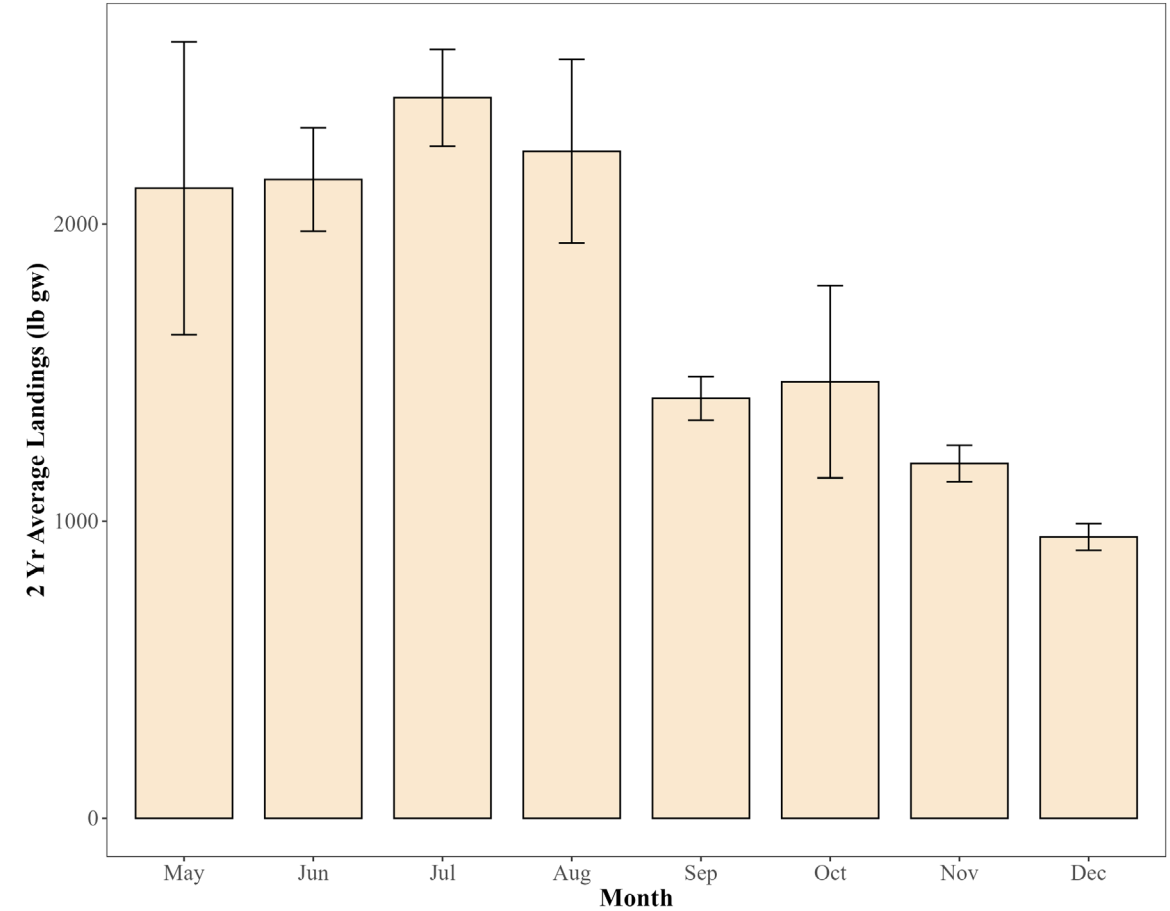
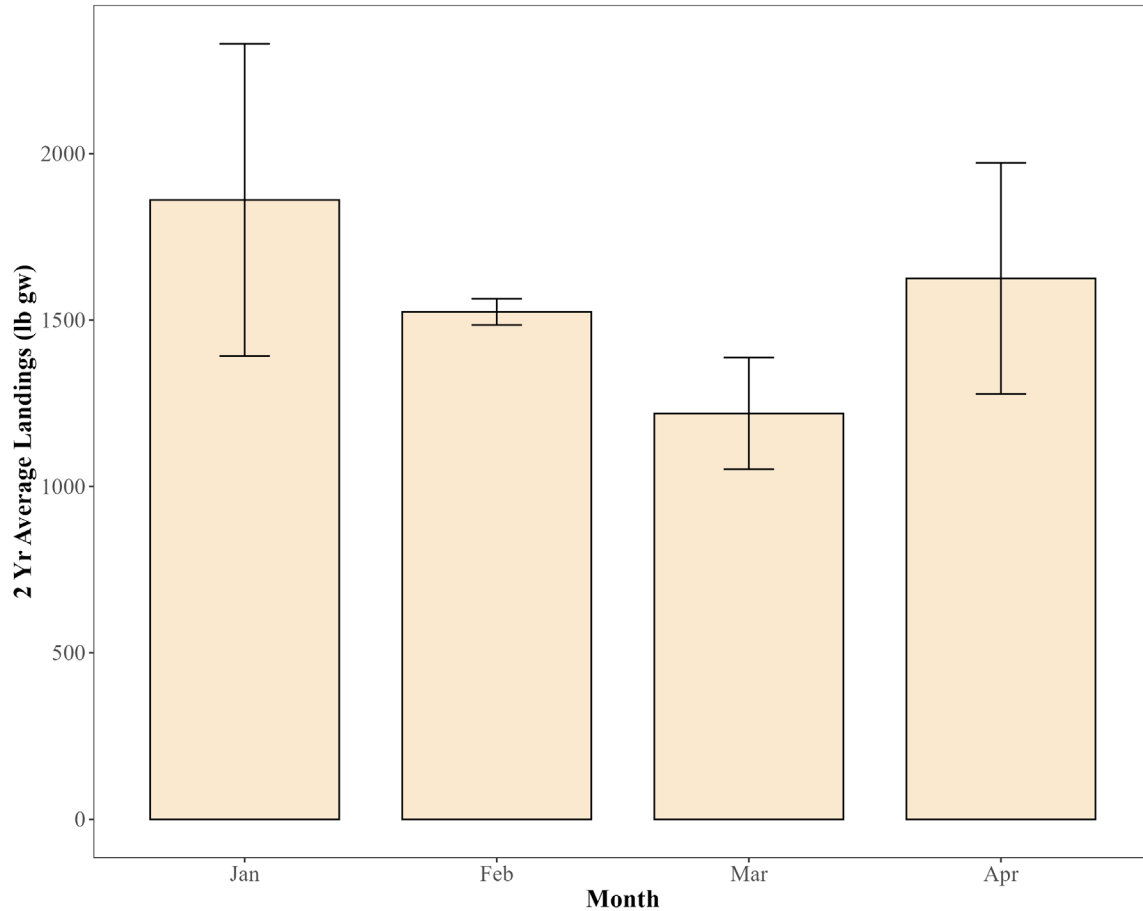
Red Porgy (May-Dec)

Current ACL - 32,886 lb gw



- Split season was implemented in 2020, truncating landings history
- Season 2 (May-Dec) landings are ~ 3x higher than Season 1 (January-April)

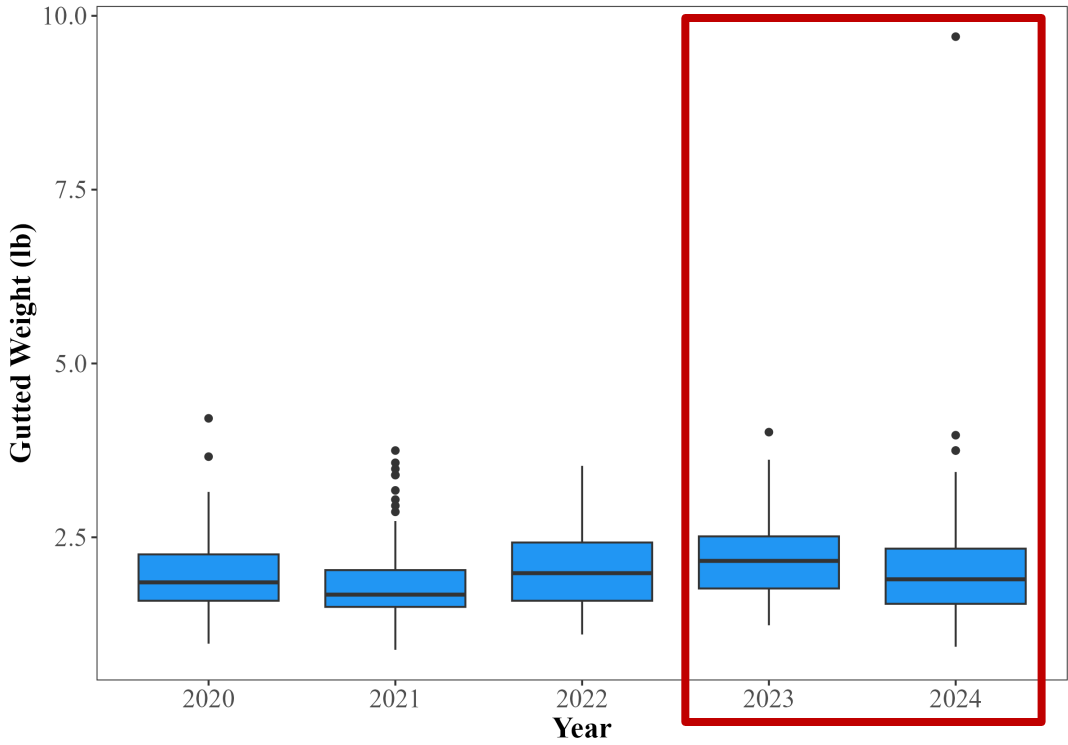
Landings Used for Projections - Red Porgy



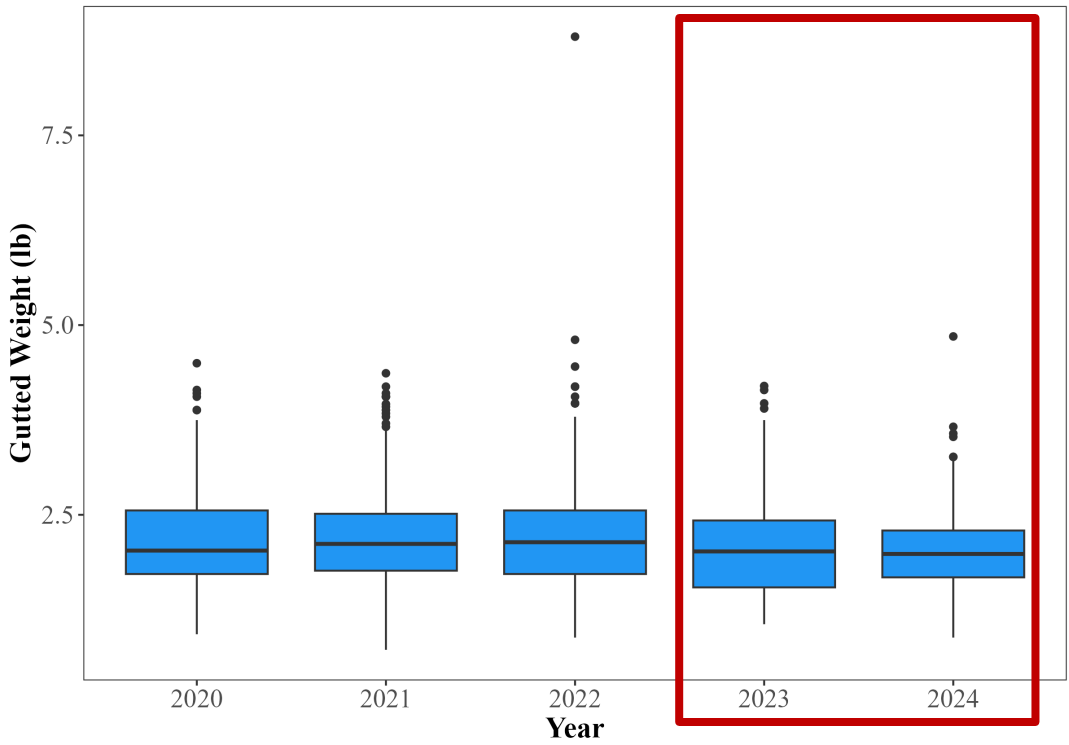
- Two-year average used to characterize landings, as a regional closure was in place the year prior
- Monthly landings lower from September through December

Average Weight – Red Porgy

Red Porgy (Jan-Apr)



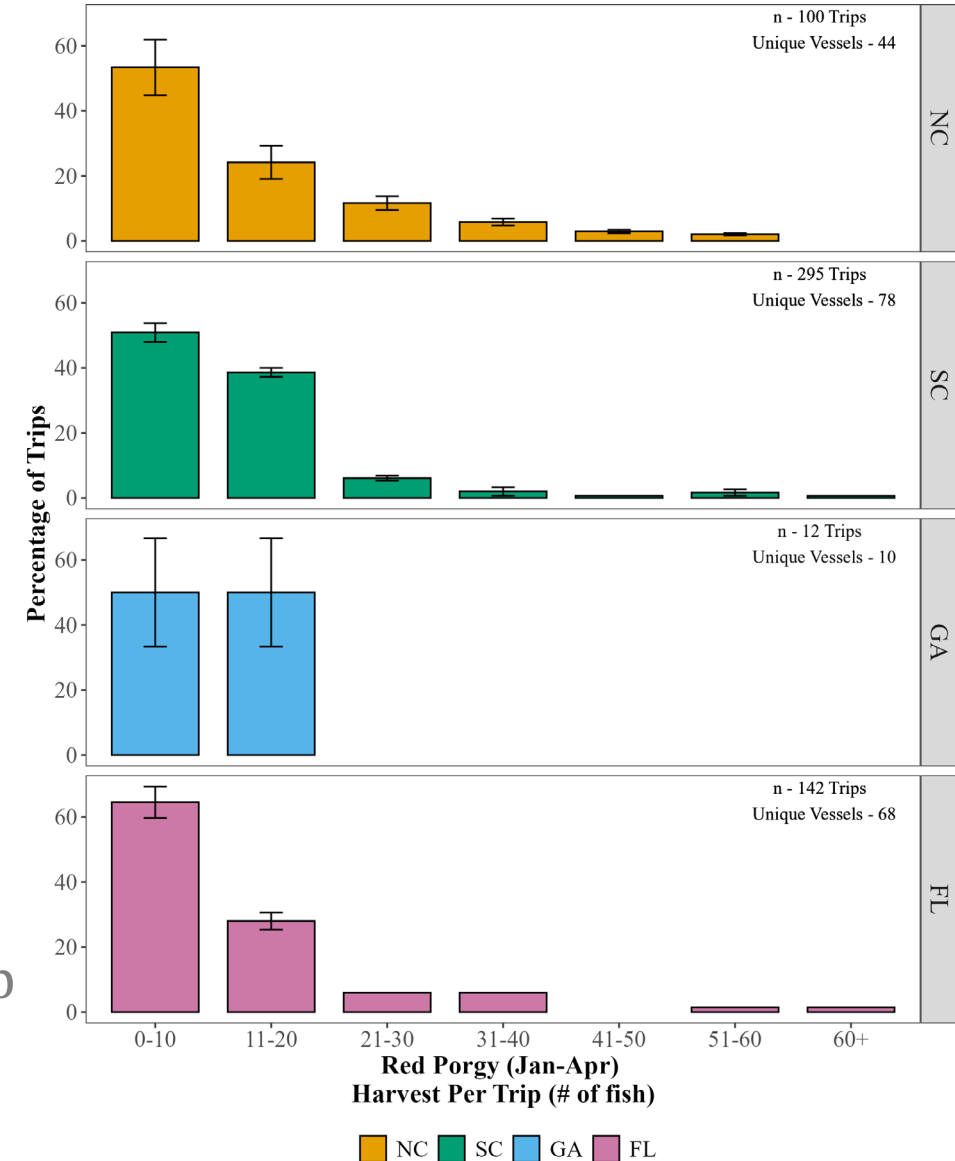
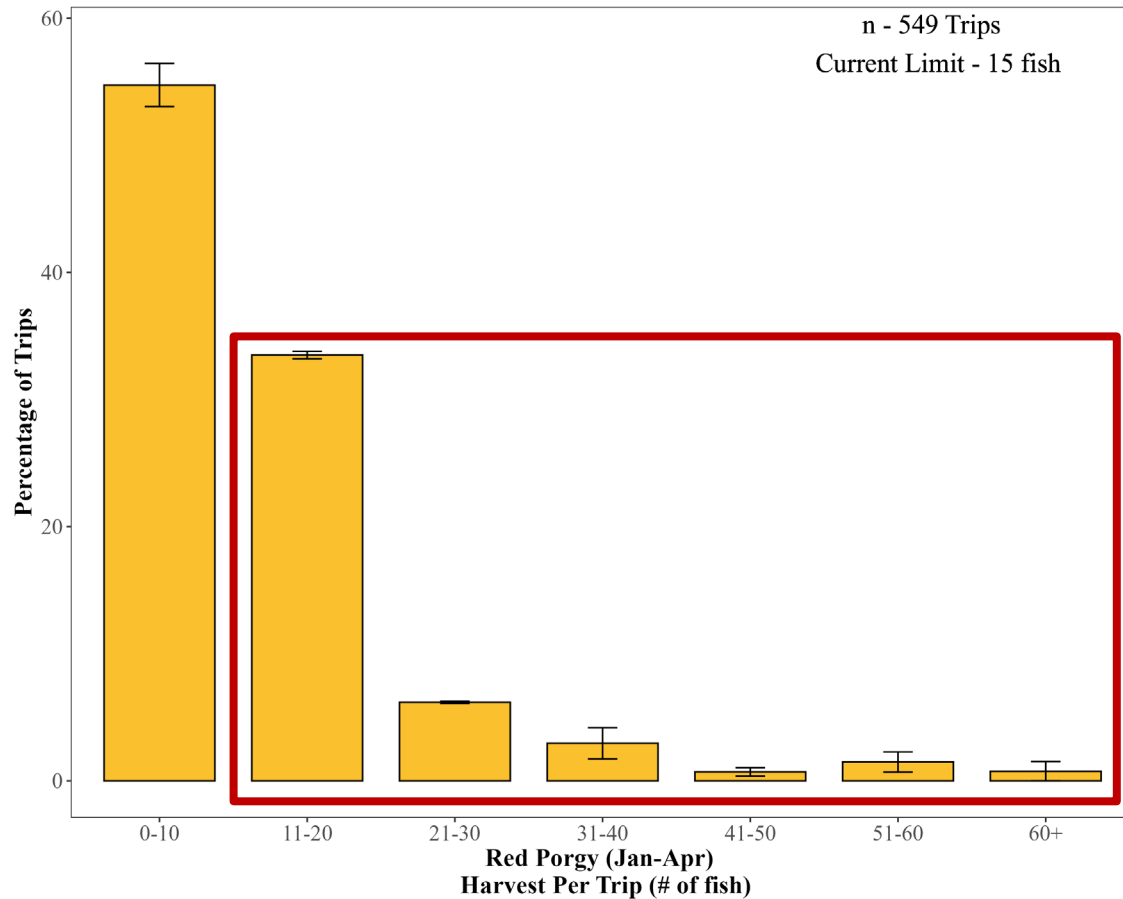
Red Porgy (May-Dec)



- Aggregated Trip Interview Program records used to determine average weight for red porgy by season, to determine the approximate number of fish landed per trip
- Two-year average weight for Season 1 – 2.09 lb gw / Season 2 – 2.05 lb gw



Trip Distribution: Red Porgy (Jan-Apr)



- Approximately **45%** of trips catch more than 10 fish per trip
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States, with the exception of Georgia

Trip Limit Scalars: Red Porgy (Jan-Apr)

Action 5 - Alternatives	Scalars				
	<i>SATL</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>FL</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 15 fish Trip Limit	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alternative 2a - 30 fish Trip Limit	128%	116%	134%	141%	124%
Alternative 2b - 45 fish Trip Limit	175%	162%	185%	187%	162%

- Trips within 10% of the trip limit (≥ 13 fish per trip) were altered to match the proposed trip limit value
- South Carolina trips are driving the regional scalar, as more than 50% of trip records come from that state

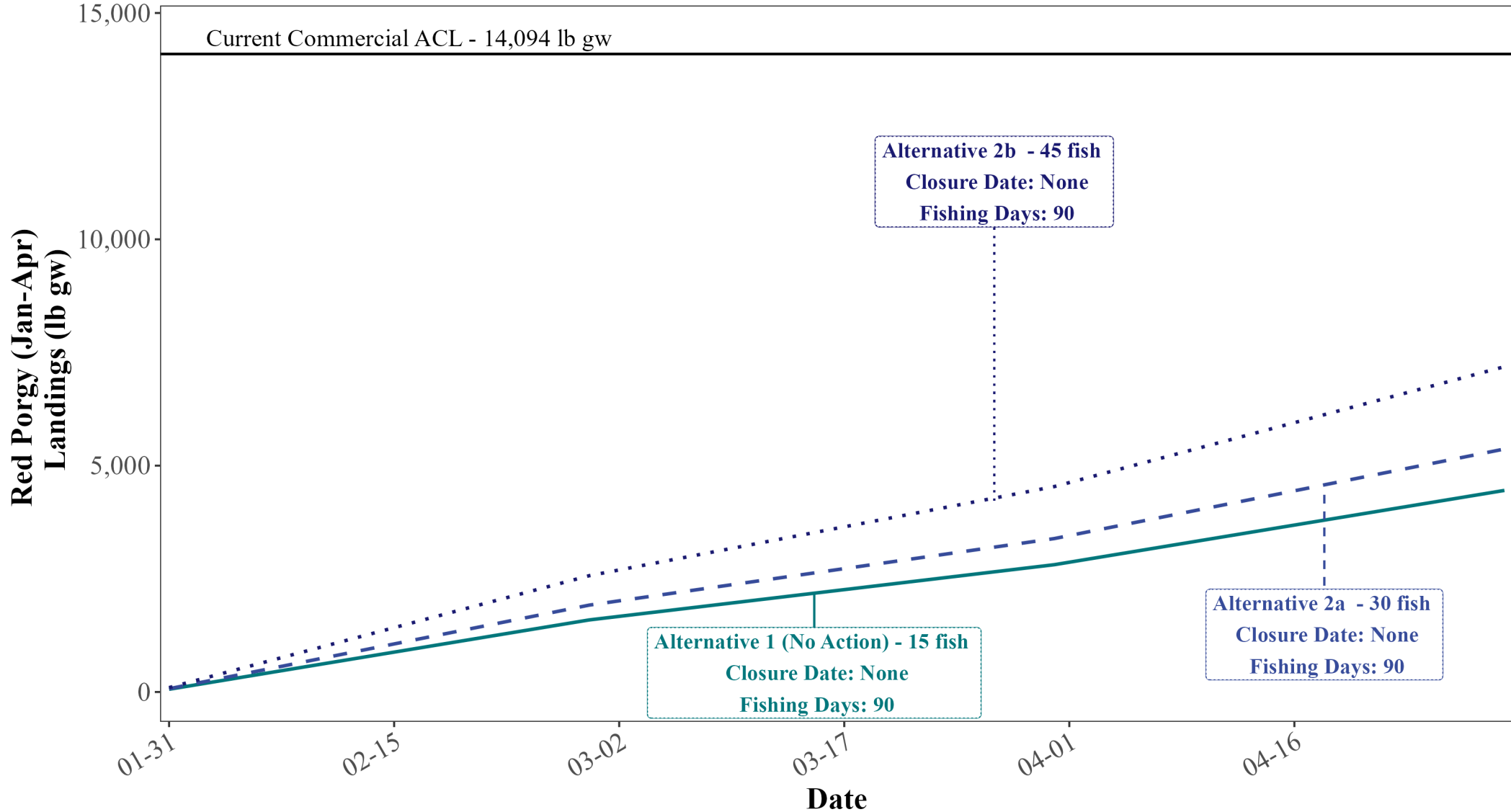
Projected Closures: Red Porgy (Jan-Apr)

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>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 15 fish	-	90	-	90	-	90
Alternative 2a - 30 fish	-	90	-	90	-	90
Alternative 2b - 45 fish	-	90	-	90	-	90

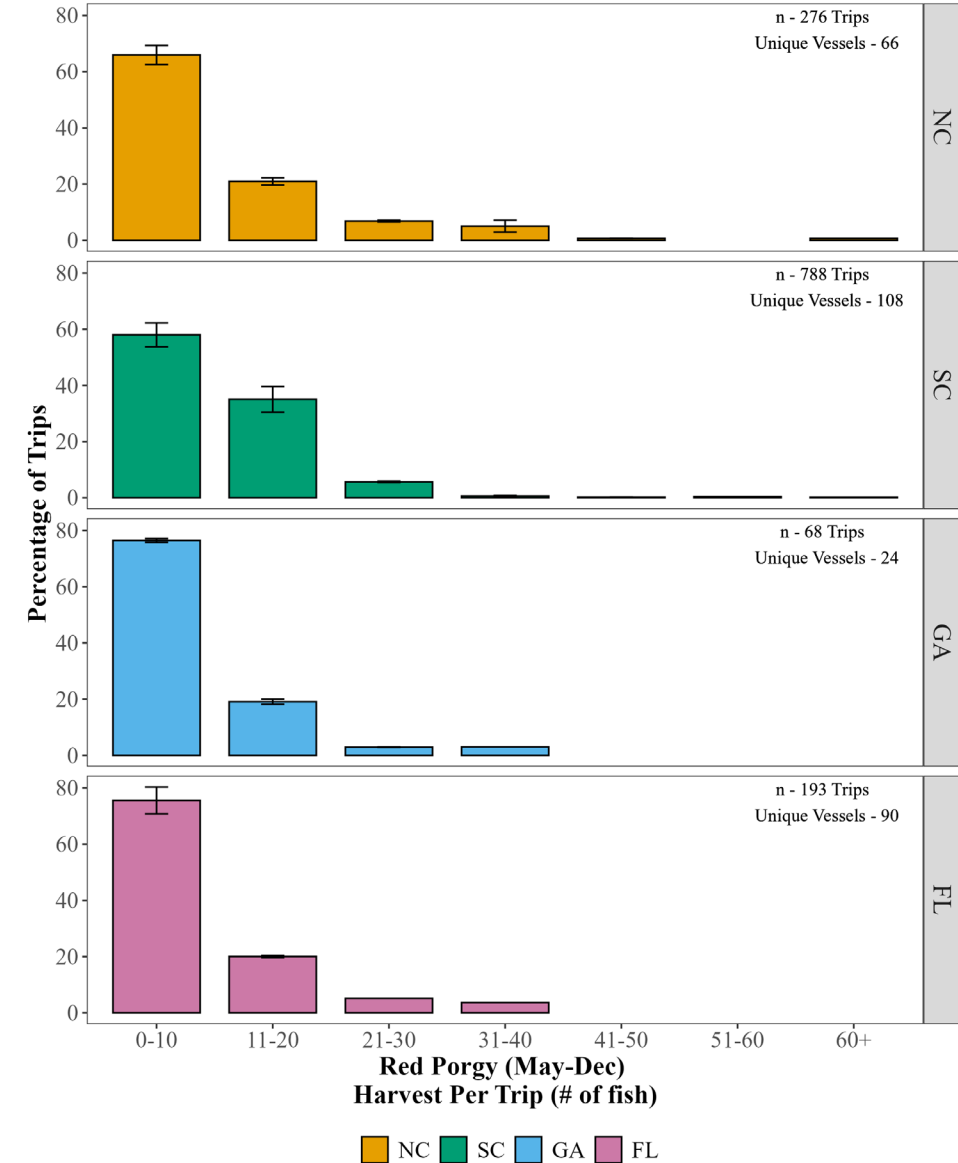
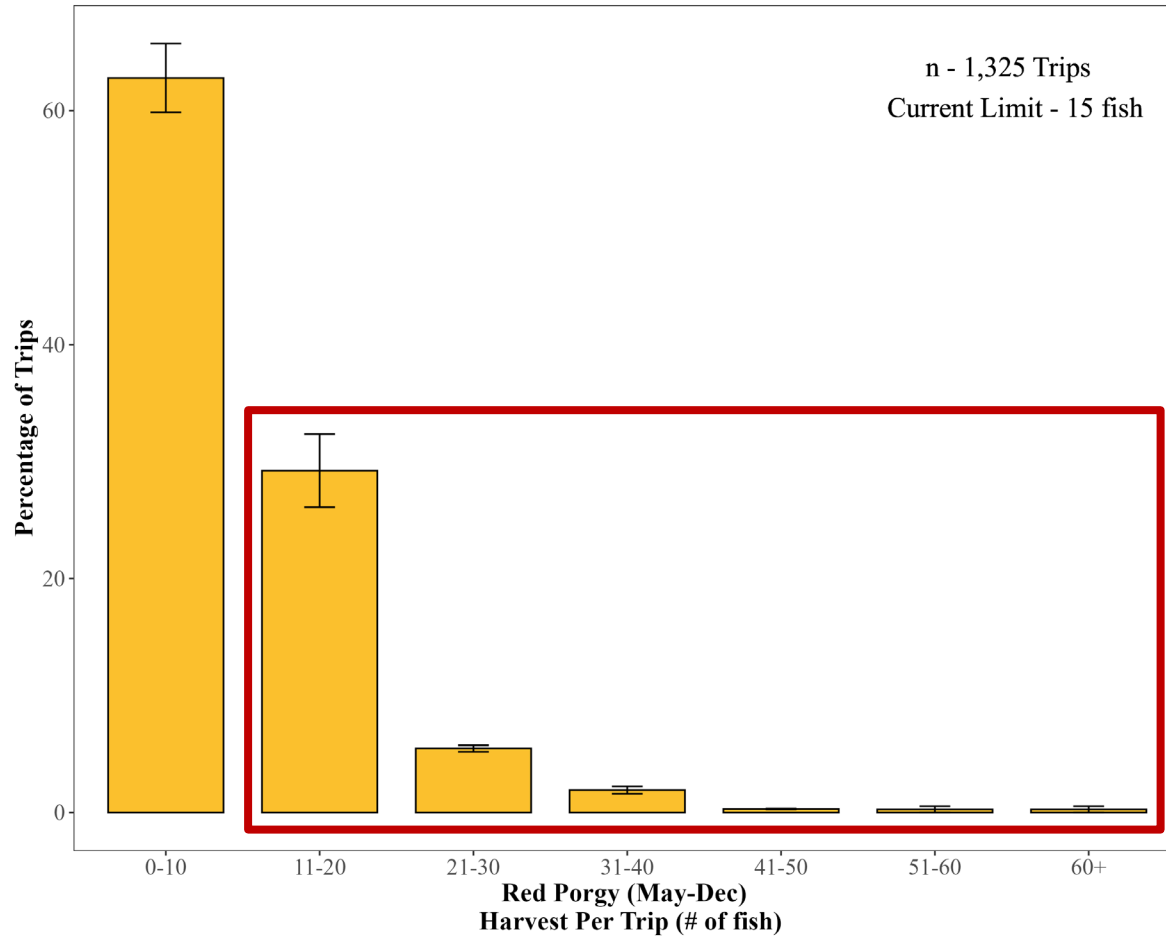
- No closures are projected, even with alternatives that are **3x** the current trip limit (projected increase needed to reach the ACL)
- The average weight per fish used only represent fish observed in North Carolina and Florida, while the most commercial trip records come from South Carolina
 - Stakeholder input on the size of fish caught in South Carolina and Georgia might impact the average weight, scalars and overall projection



Red Porgy (Jan-Apr) Projections



Trip Distribution: Red Porgy (May-Dec)



- Approximately **38%** of trips catch more than 10 fish per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States

Trip Limit Scalars: Red Porgy (May-Dec)

Action 5 - Alternatives	Scalars				
	<i>SATL</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>FL</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 15 fish Trip Limit	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alternative 3a - 30 fish Trip Limit	139%	124%	145%	139%	132%
Alternative 3b - 45 fish Trip Limit	189%	171%	199%	185%	175%

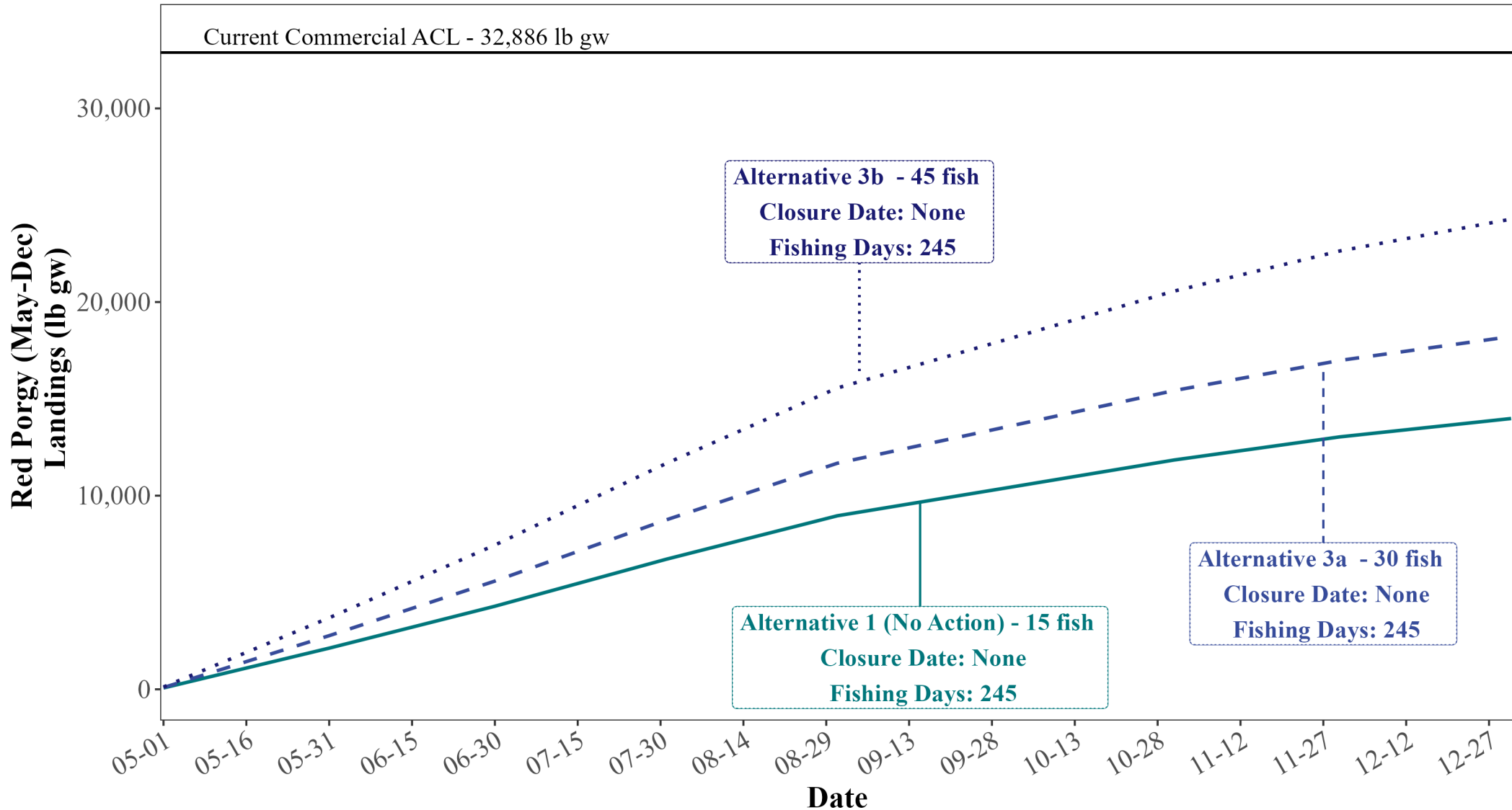
- Trips within 10% of the trip limit (≥ 13 fish per trip) were altered to match the proposed trip limit value
- Similar to Season 1, South Carolina trips make up more than half of trip records used to estimate scalars.

Projected Closures: Red Porgy (May-Dec)

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>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 15 fish	-	245	-	245	-	245
Alternative 3a - 30 fish	-	245	-	245	-	245
Alternative 3b - 45 fish	-	245	-	245	-	245

- No closures are projected, even with alternatives that are **3x** the current trip limit (projected increase needed to reach the ACL)
- Average weight per fish mostly represent fish observed in North Carolina and Florida, while the most commercial trip records come from South Carolina
 - Stakeholder input on the size of fish caught in South Carolina and Georgia might impact the average weight, scalars and overall

Red Porgy (May-Dec) Projections



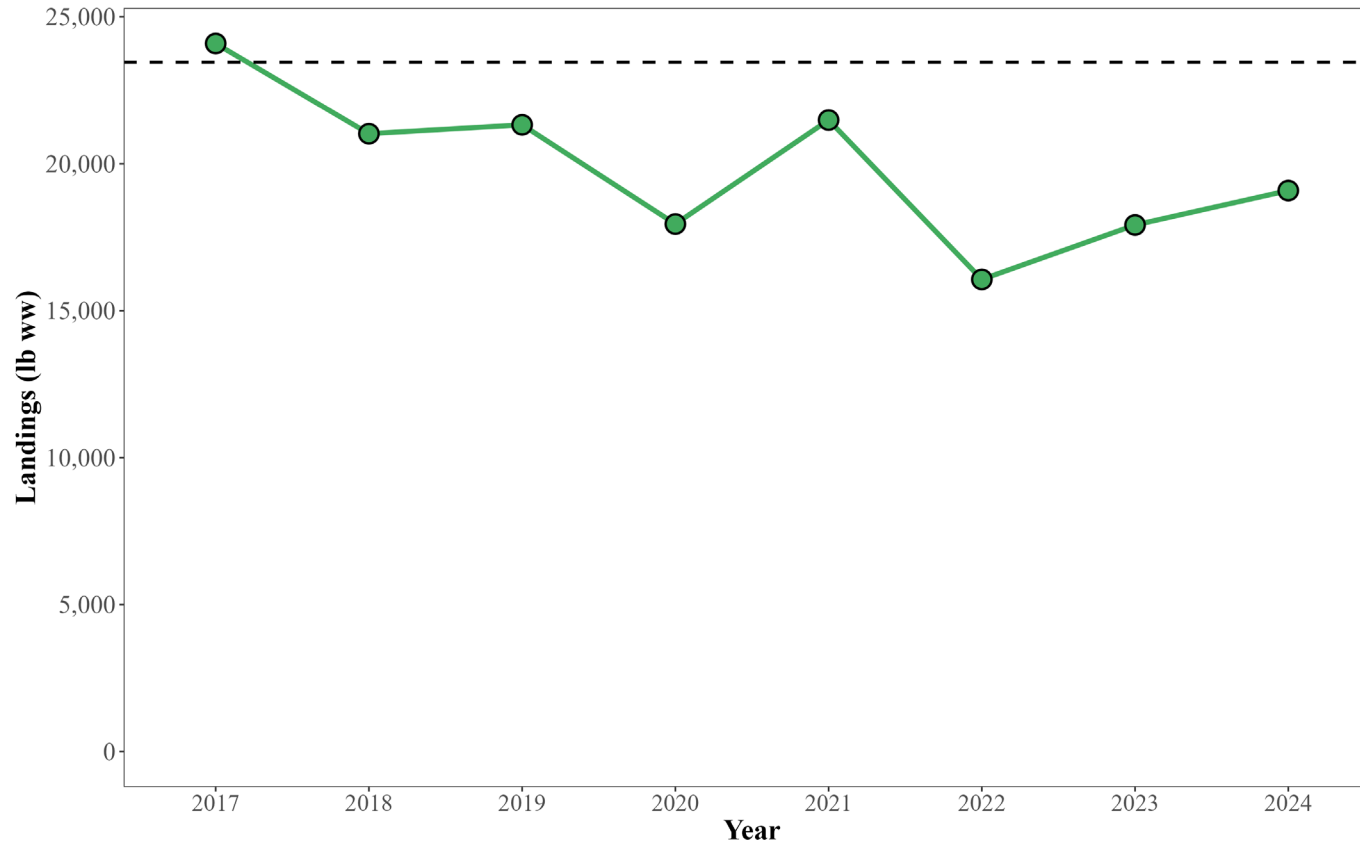
Action 6: Hogfish (NC-GA)



Landings History – Hogfish (NC-GA)

Hogfish (Georgia through North Carolina)

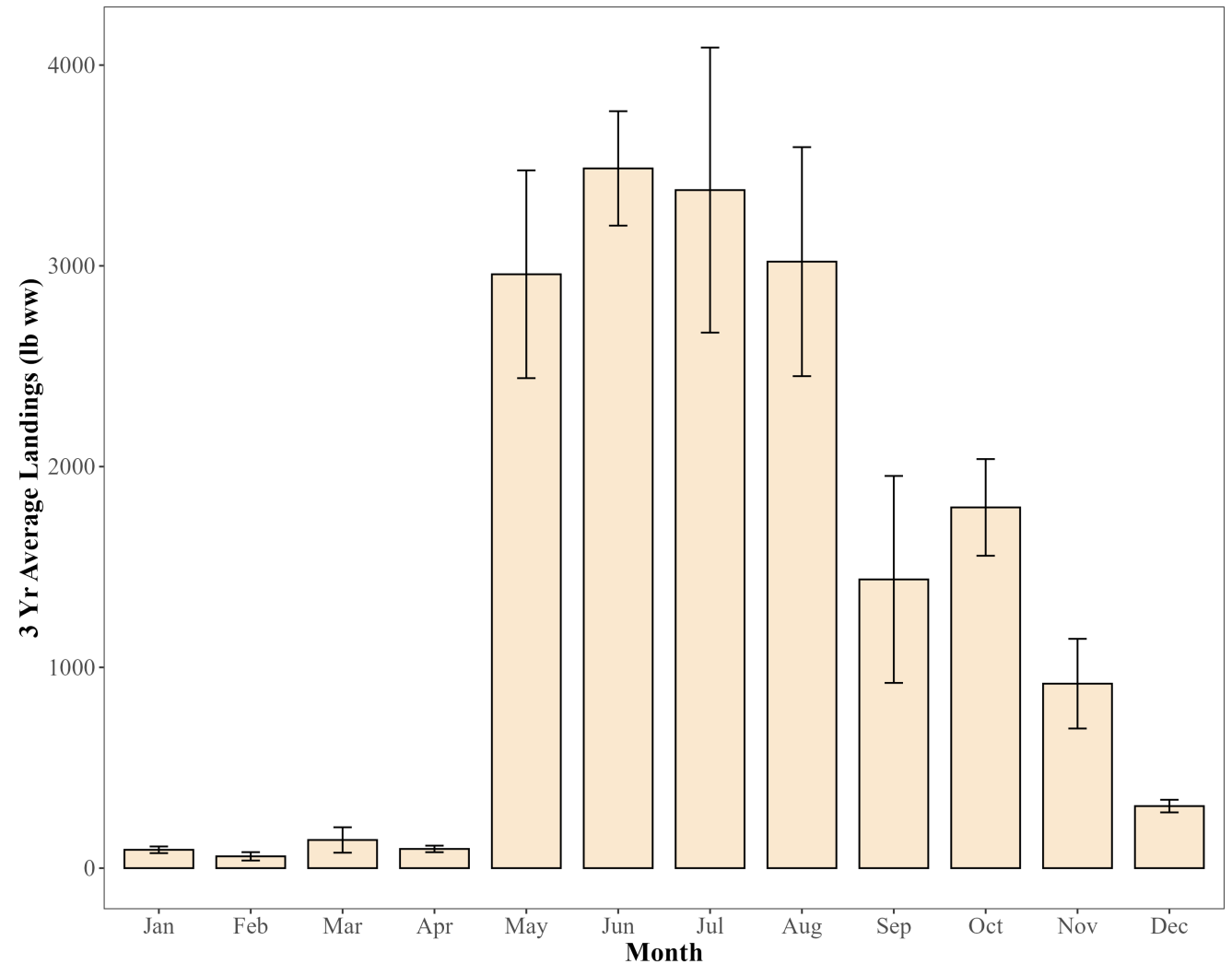
Current ACL - 23,456 lb ww



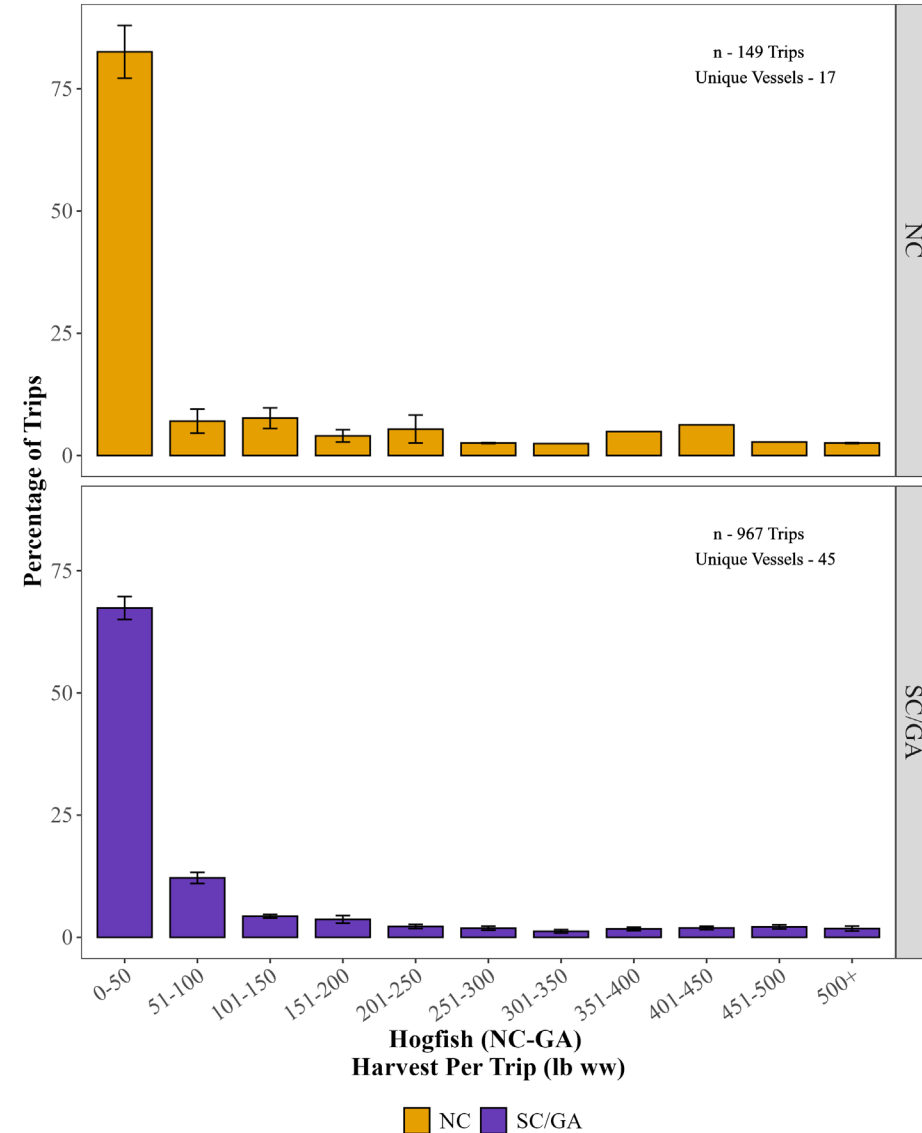
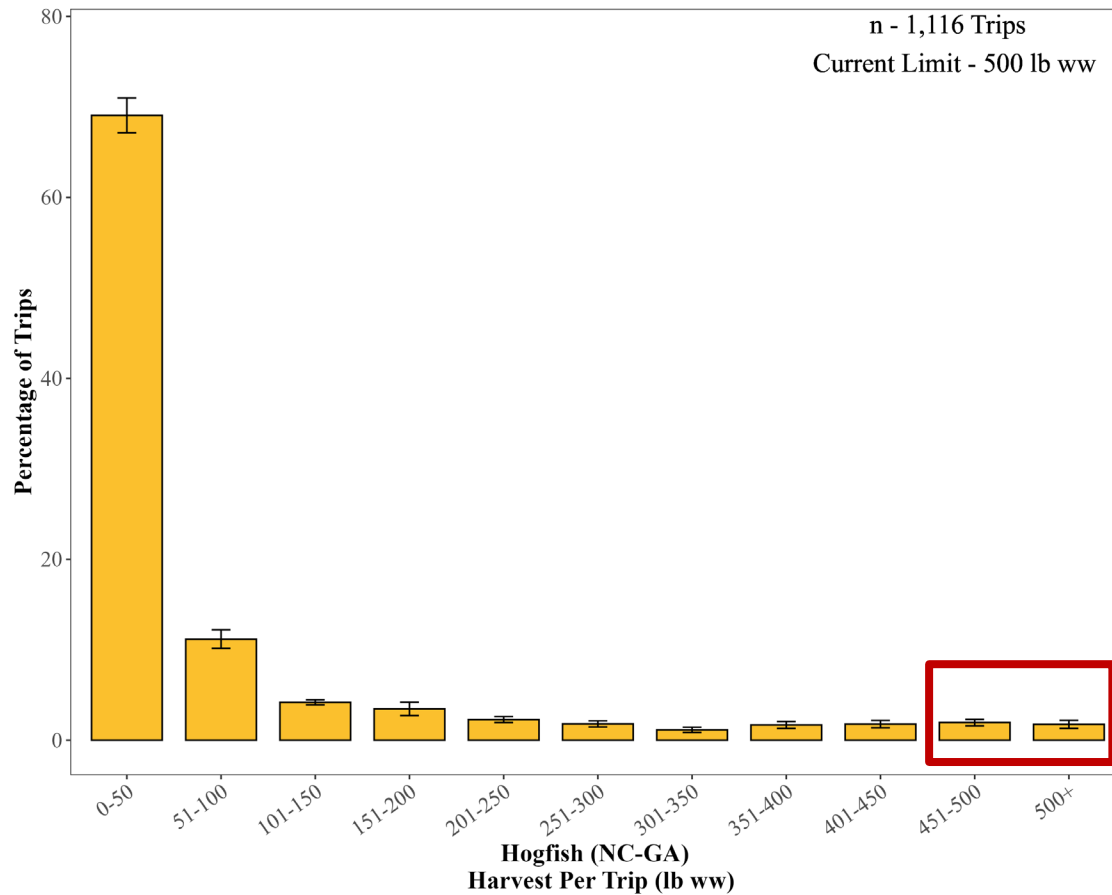
- Landings history truncated to account for the regional split introduced to the fishery
- Low ACL associated with the fishery, with landings ~ 5,000 lbs below the current ACL

Landings Used for Projections – Hogfish (NC-GA)

- Minimal landings between January and April each month, despite a year-round fishery
- Highest landings in warmer months between May and August
- Landings decline in the later months of the year (September through December)



Trip Distribution: Hogfish (NC-GA)



- Approximately **6%** of trips catch more than 450 lb ww per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States

Trip Limit Scalars: Hogfish (NC-GA)

Action 6 - Alternatives	Scalars		
	<i>SATL</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>SC/GA</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 500 lb gw Trip Limit	100%	100%	100%
Alternative 2 - 1,000 lb gw Trip Limit	122%	119%	122%

- Trips within 10% of the trip limit (≥ 450 lb gw per trip) were altered to match the proposed trip limit value
- Scalars similar across states included (North Carolina through Georgia)

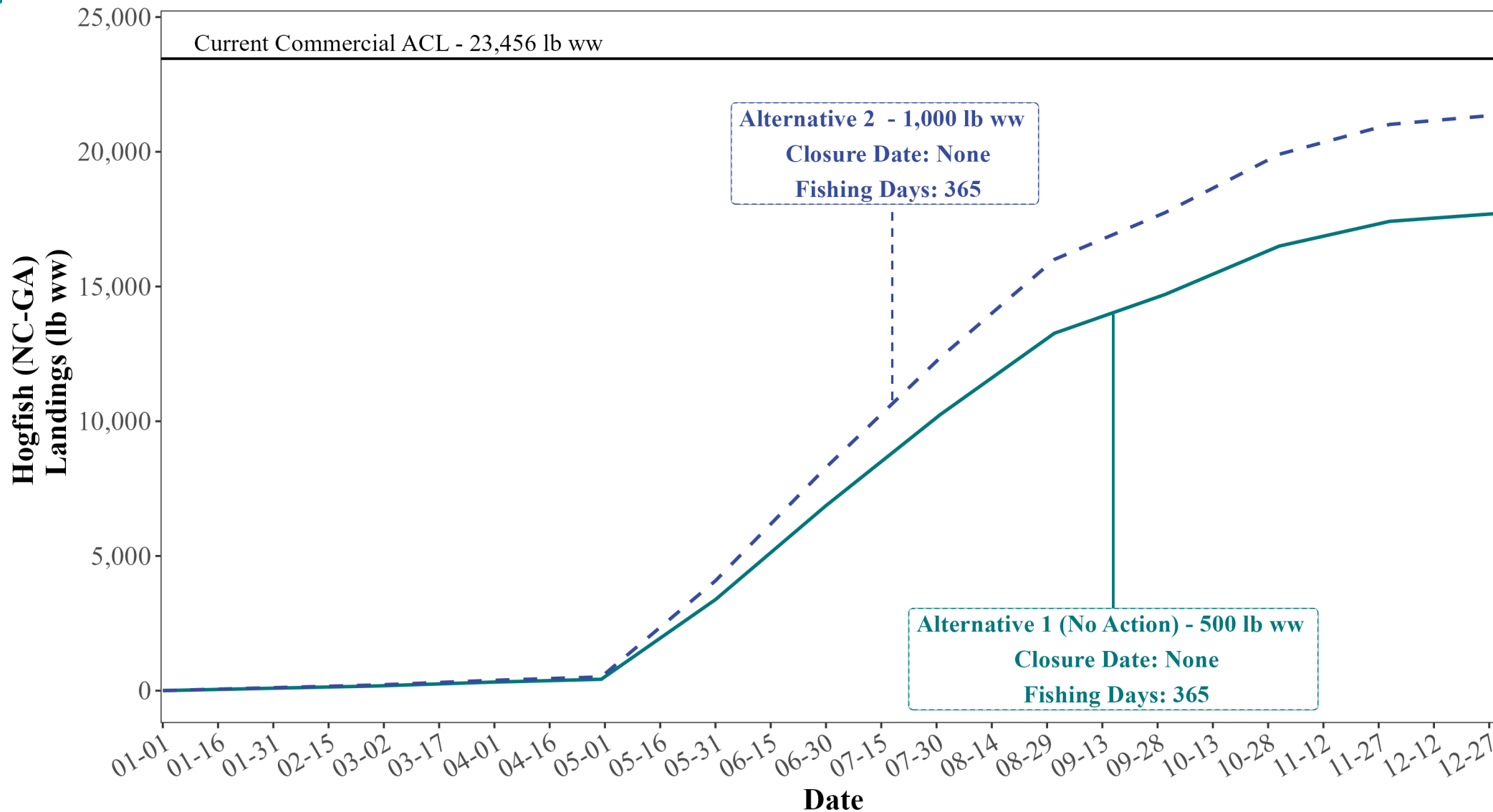


Projected Closures: Hogfish (NC-GA)

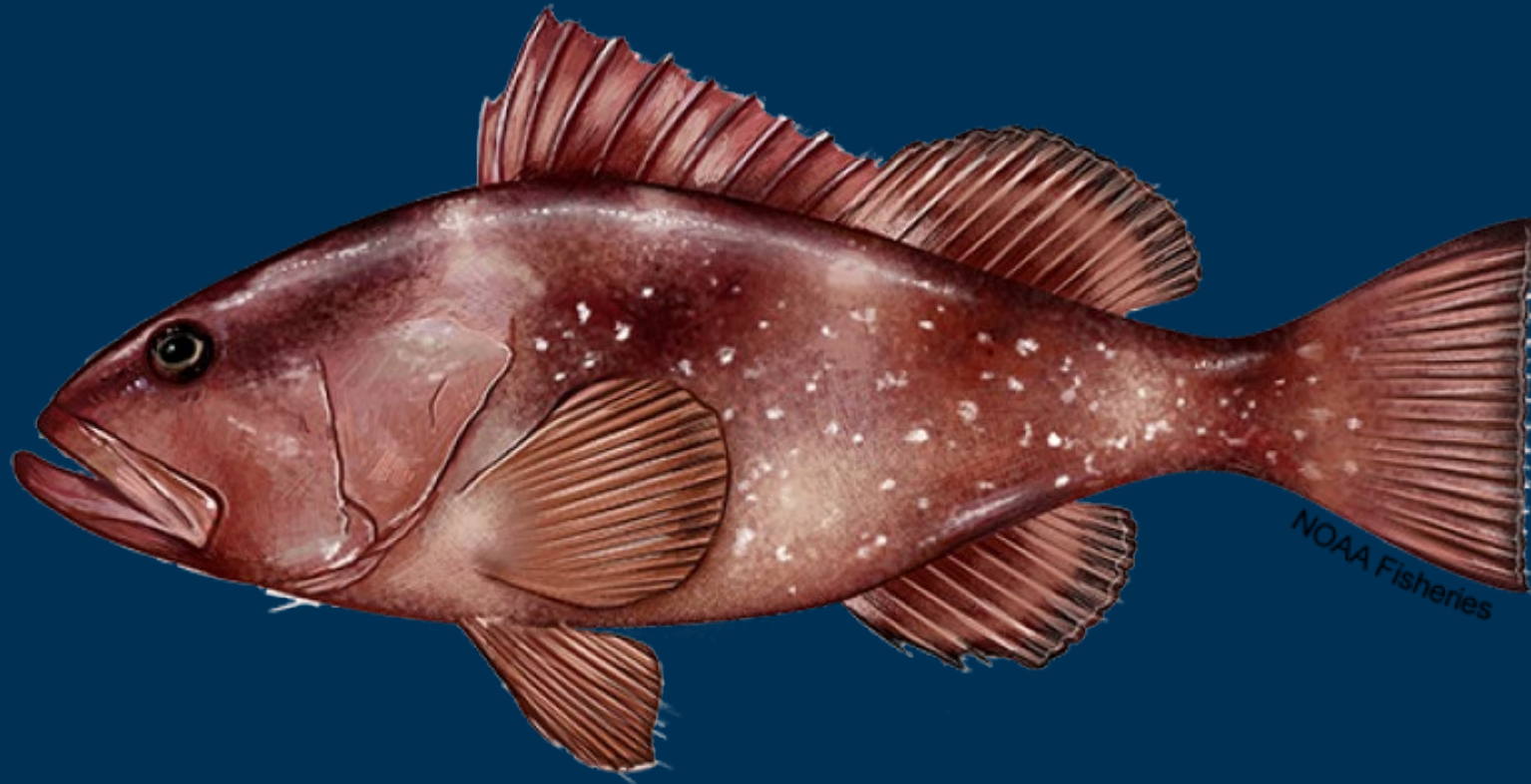
Action 3 Alternatives	Average Landings - 1 Standard Error		Average Landings		Average Landings + 1 Standard Error	
	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>Closure Date</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 500 lb ww	-	365	-	365	-	365
Alternative 2 - 1,000 lb ww	-	365	-	365	20-Oct	292

- Closure is only projected for the high landings scenario
- No difference in outcomes when using state specific scalars vs regional scalars

Hogfish (NC-GA) Projections



Action 7: Red Grouper

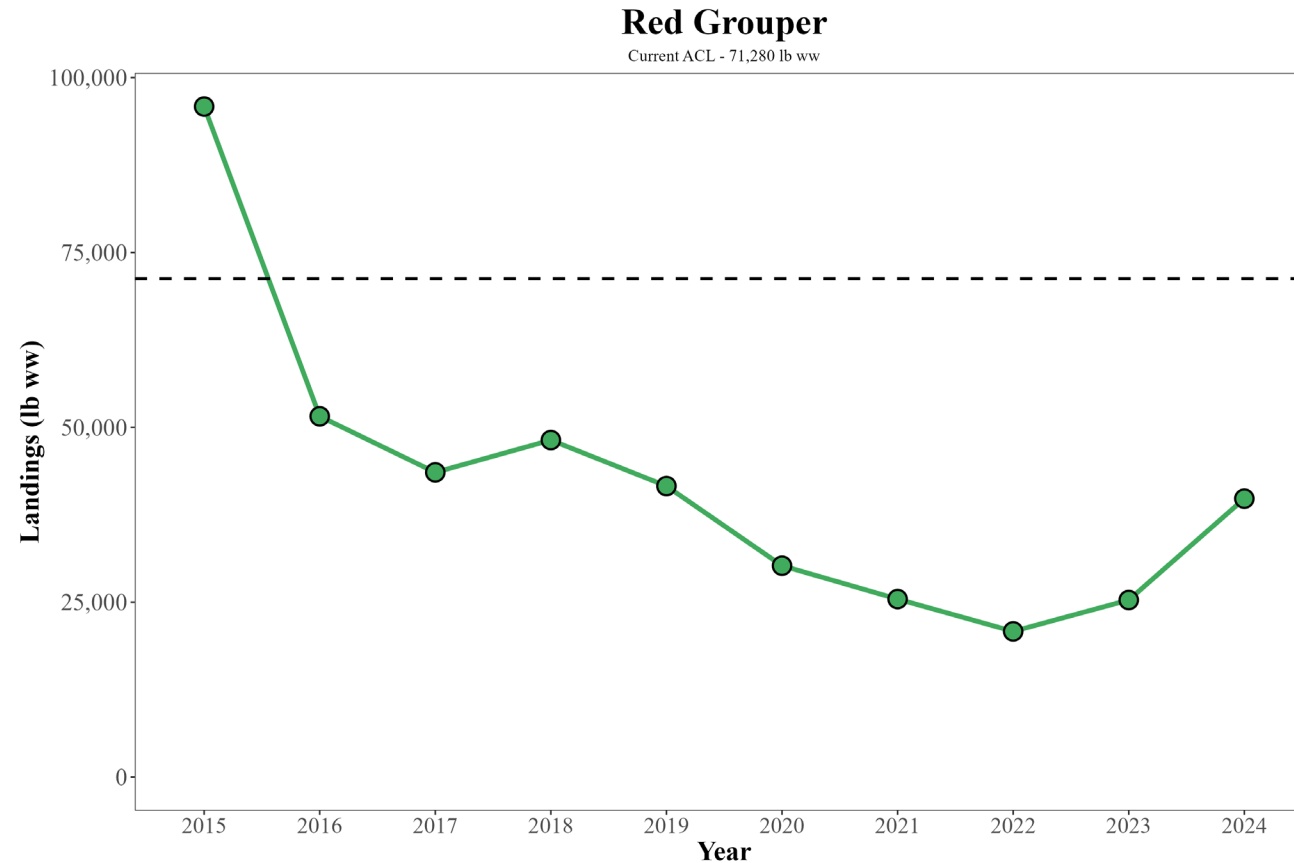


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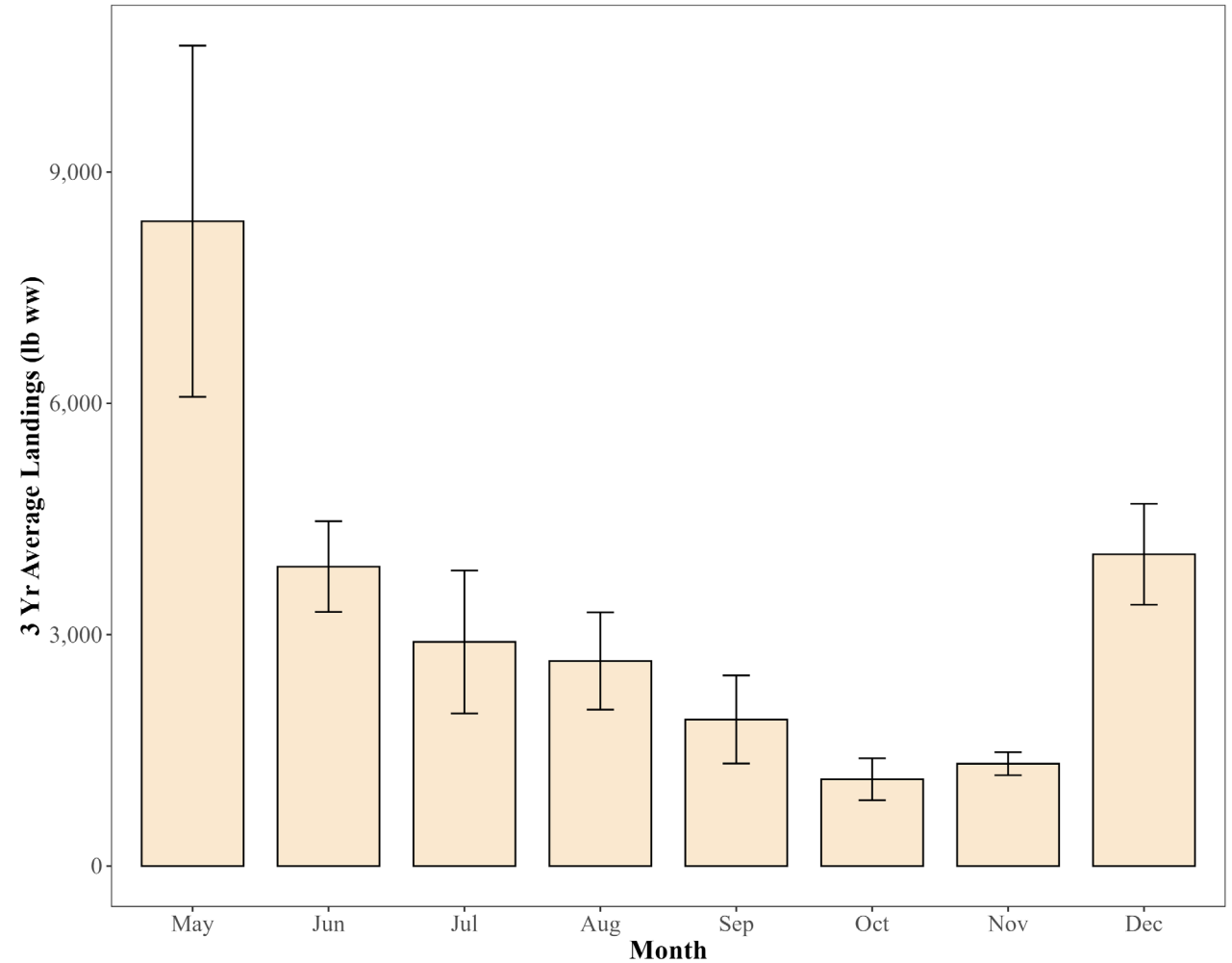
Landings History – Red Grouper



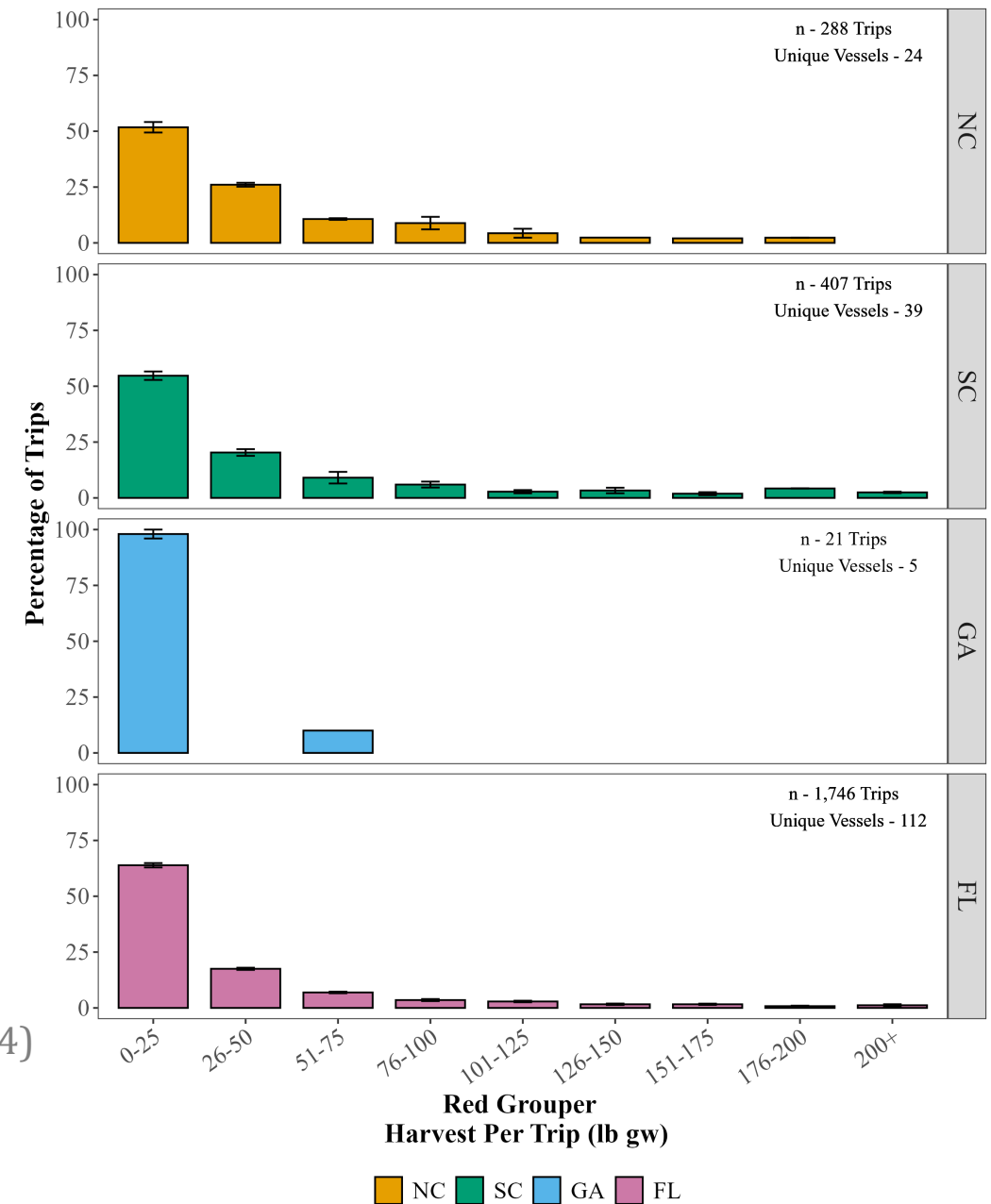
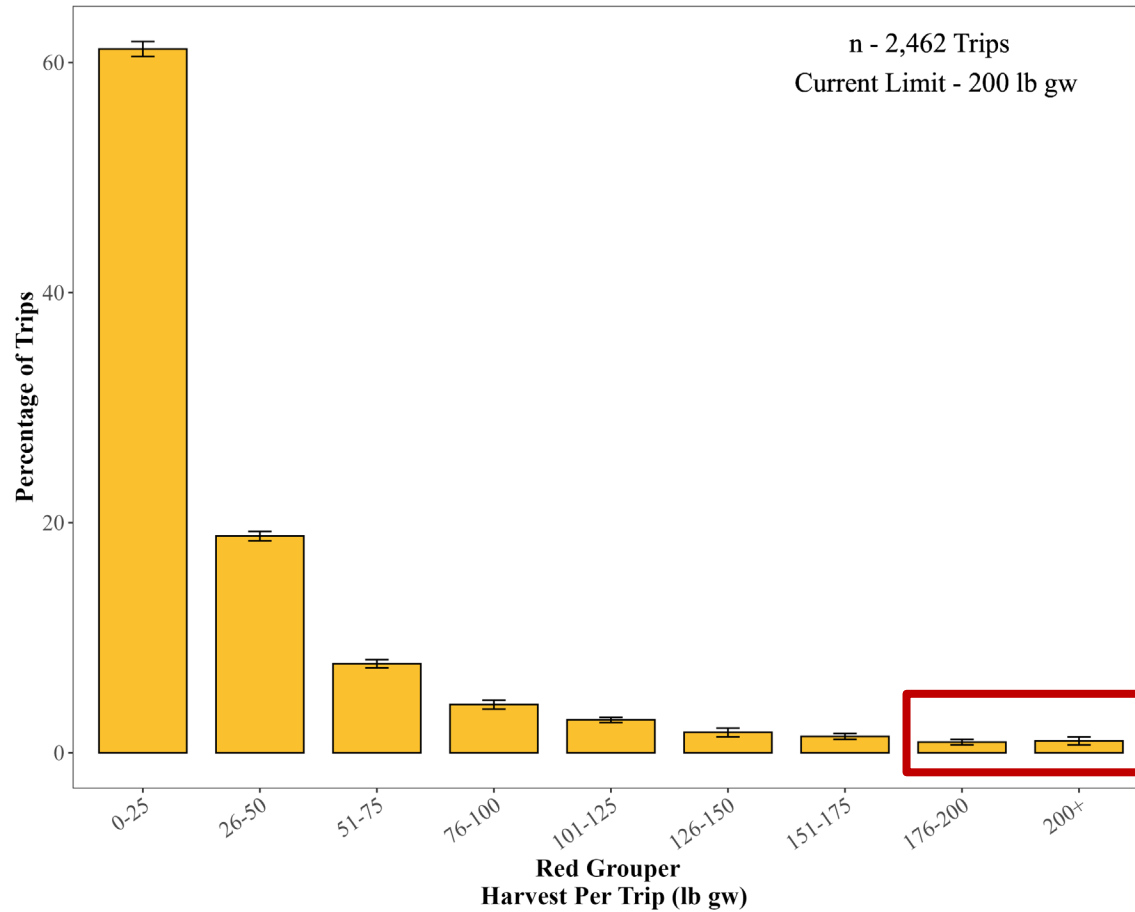
- Landings range between 25,000 and 50,000 lb ww since 2016

Landings Used for Projections – Red Grouper

- Shallow water grouper closure from January through April
- Highest landings occur in May, immediately after 4 month closure period
- Landings decline throughout the year, with the exception of December



Trip Distribution: Red Grouper



- Approximately **2%** of trips catch more than 175 lb ww per trip (2020-2024)
- Very similar landing behavior among South Atlantic States, with the exception of Georgia

NC SC GA FL



Trip Limit Scalars: Red Grouper

Action 7 - Alternatives	Scalars				
	<i>SATL</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>FL</i>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 200 lb gw Trip Limit	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alternative 2 - 300 lb gw Trip Limit	104%	101%	106%	100%	103%

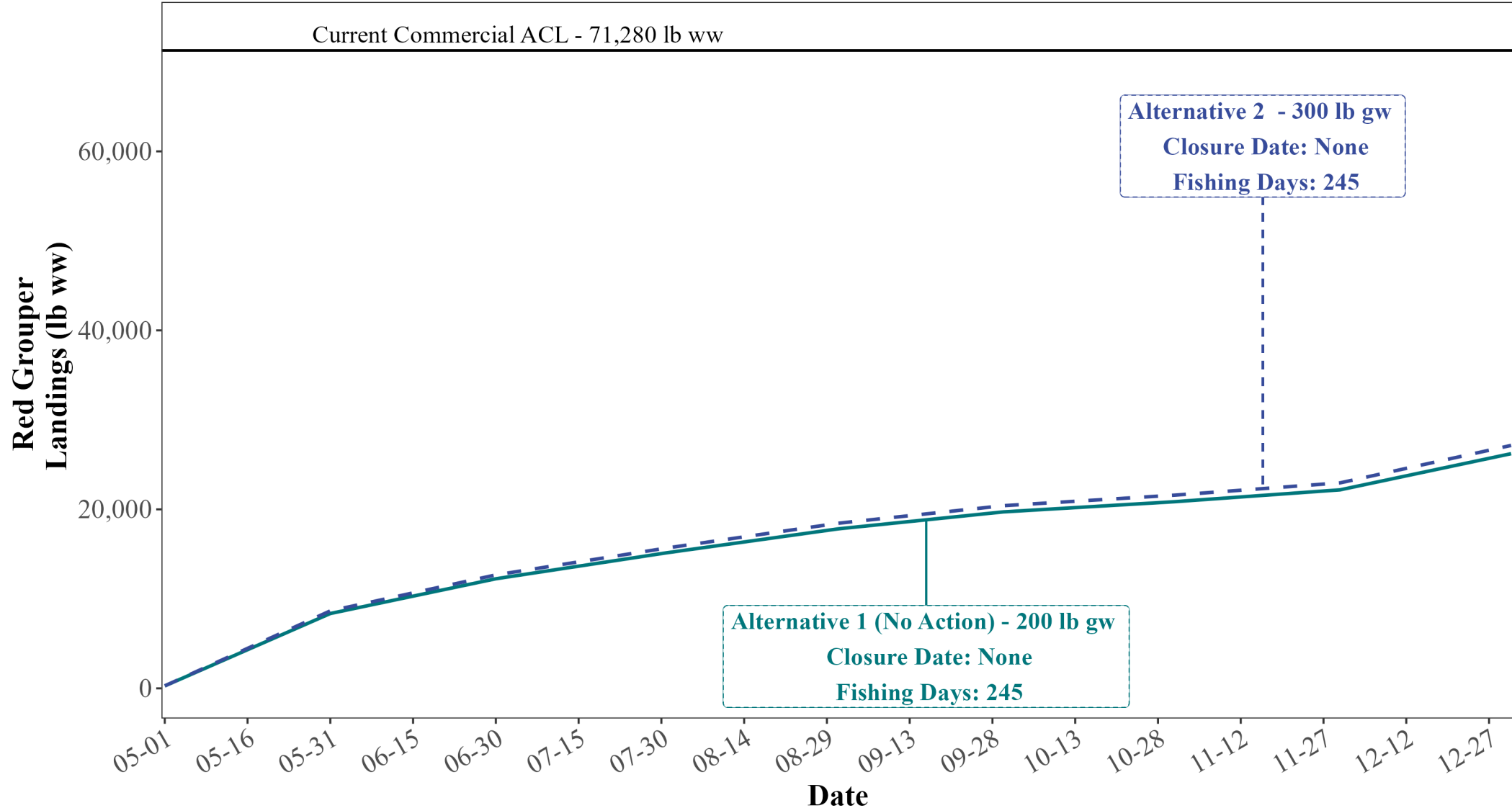
- Trips within 10% of the trip limit (≥ 180 lb gw per trip) were altered to match the proposed trip limit value
- Scalar magnitude is very low for all South Atlantic states

Projected Closures: Red Grouper

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>
Alternative 1 (No Action) - 200 lb gw	-	245	-	245	-	245
Alternative 2 - 300 lb gw	-	245	-	245	-	245

- No closures projected
 - Low magnitude scalars result in very limited change from the No Action alternative
 - SEFSC preliminary analysis indicated a **5X** increase in trip limit was needed to reach the ACL

Red Grouper Projections



Conclusions

- 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 alternatives for greater amberjack, red porgy, and red grouper may not be large enough increases to achieve annual landings close to the ACLs:
 - Greater Amberjack (March-August)
 - Largest Proposed: 2,000 lb ww →
 - ***Needed: 9,600 lb ww (8x)***
 - Greater Amberjack (September-February)
 - Largest Proposed: 2,000 lb ww →
 - ***Needed: 12,000 lb ww (10x+)***
 - Red Porgy (May to December)
 - Largest Proposed : 45 fish →
 - ***Needed: 60 fish (4x)***
 - Red Grouper
 - Largest Proposed: 500 lb gw →
 - ***Needed: 1,000 lb gw (5x)***



Questions?



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