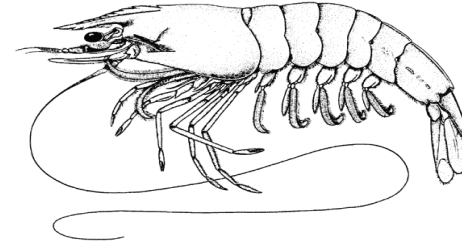


EMERGING SHRIMP FISHERY IN VIRGINIA



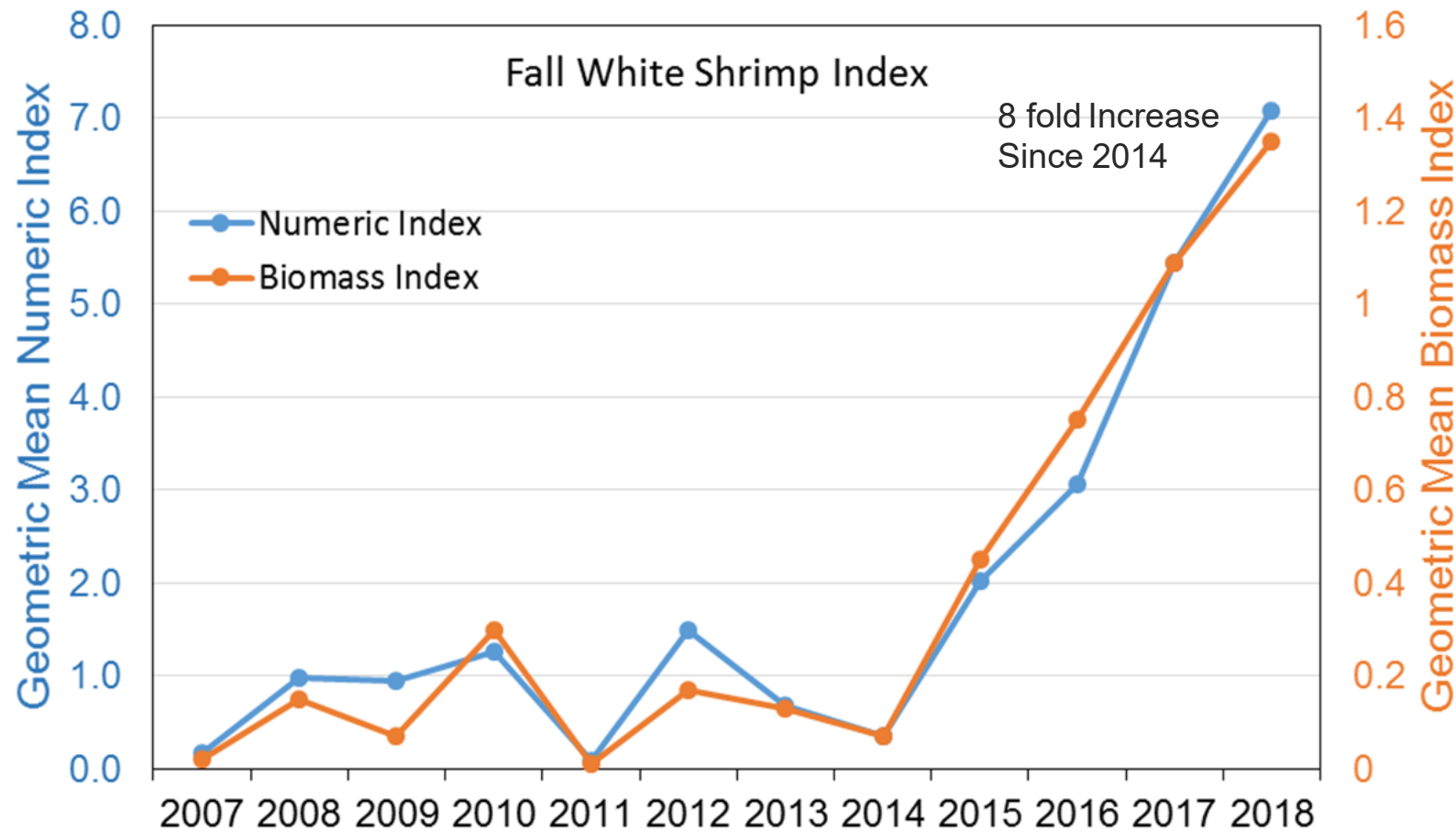
PENAEID SHRIMP



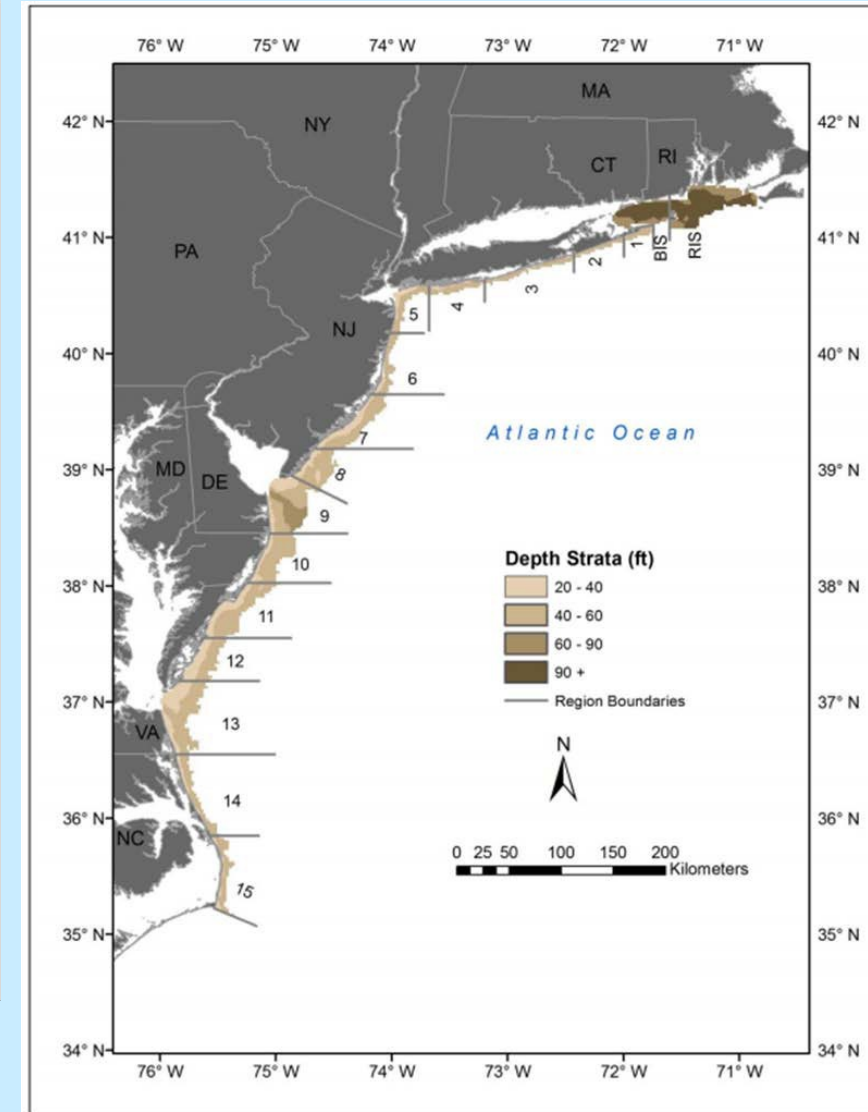
- Increasing number of reports and observations of food shrimp (*Penaeid* sp.) in Virginia Waters
- VIMS has documented shrimp from surveys since the 1970's.
 - Juvenile Trawl Survey annual catches appear to be increasing
 - NEAMAP reported 382 lbs in one 20 minute trawl east of CBBT – 9/18.
- VMRC was approached by industry leadership about starting a fishery.



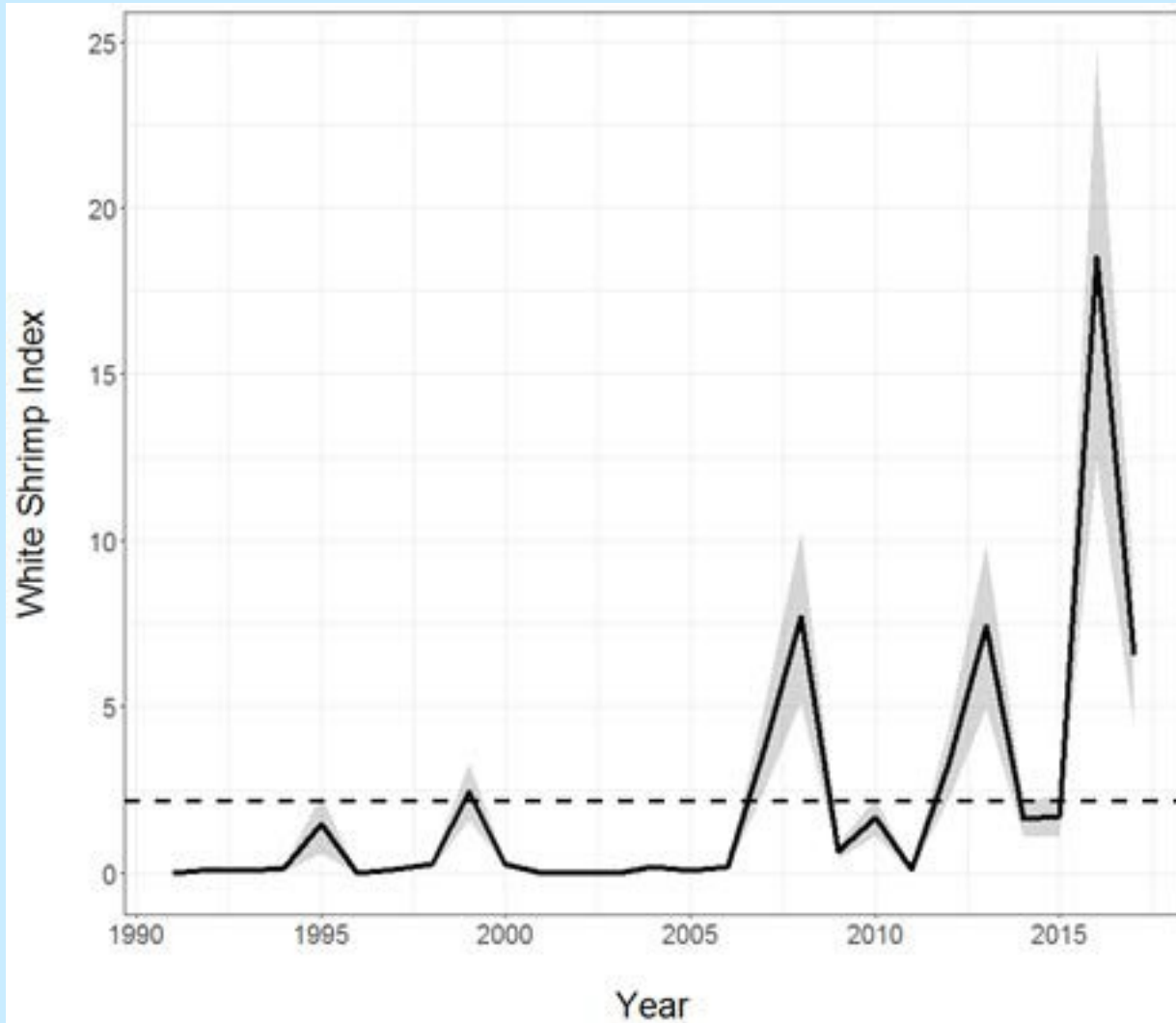
NORTH EAST MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



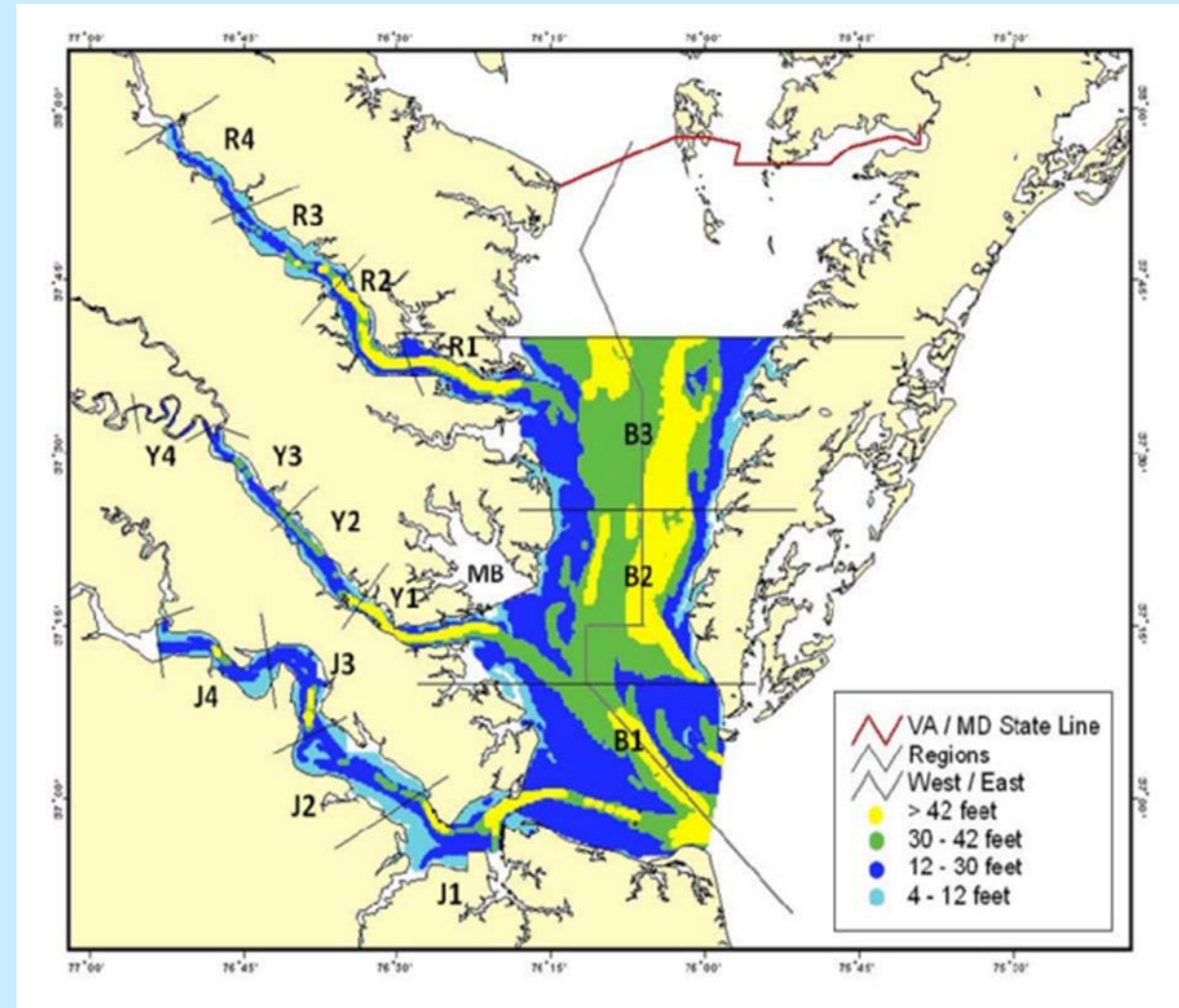
Source: C. Bonzek, VIMS



JUVENILE FISH & BLUE CRAB TRAWL SURVEY

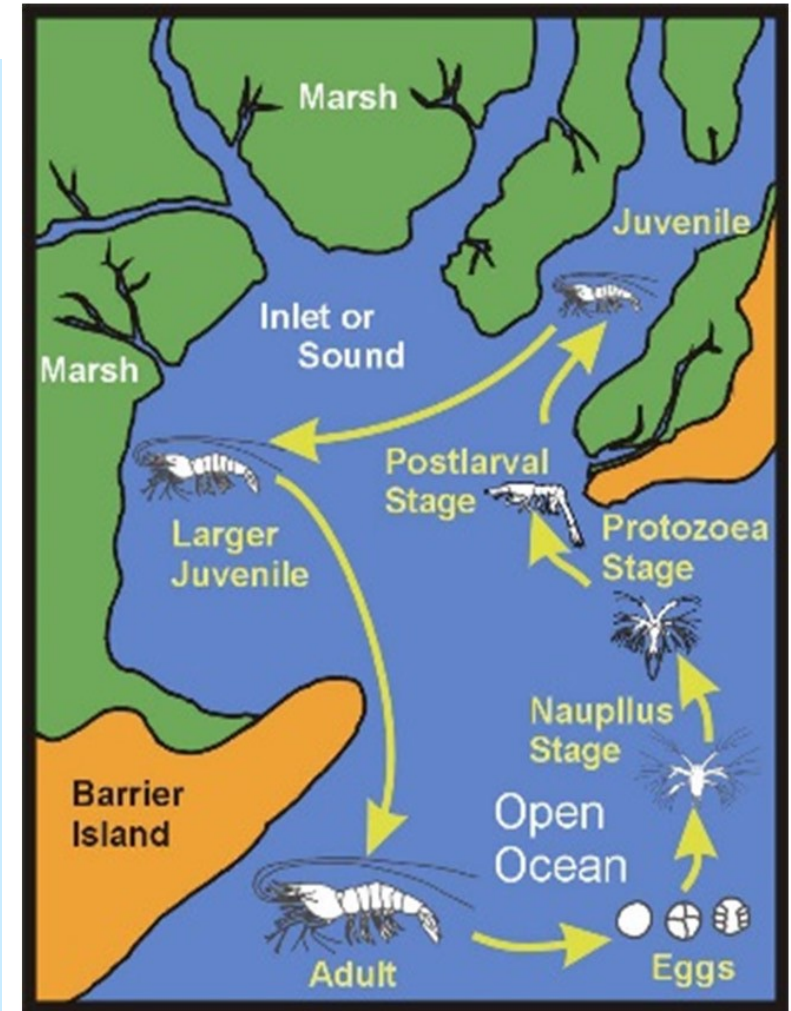


Tuckey et al., *in prep*



HOW DO SHRIMP RECRUIT TO CHESAPEAKE BAY?

- Most likely via larval transport from NC spawners
- Warmer waters, along with favorable tides, winds, and currents
- Nutrient rich conditions in the bay allow for rapid growth
- Shrimp leave creeks and rivers and migrate offshore as waters cool in the fall



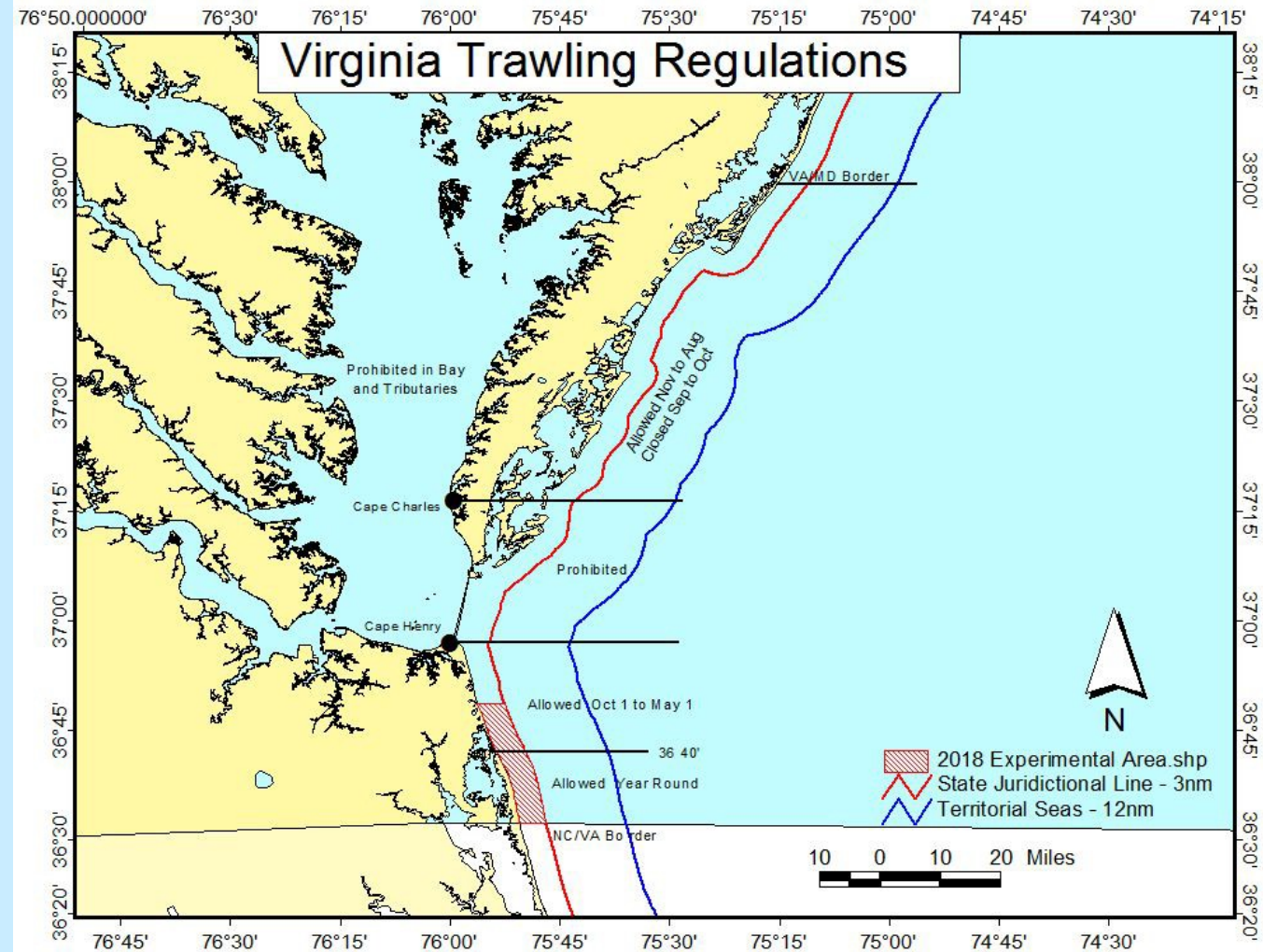
BACKGROUND – VA TRAWLING REGULATIONS

§ 28.2-314. Trawl nets and drag nets prohibited; sale of fish; penalty (1992)

Except as may be provided in § 28.2-315...

§ 28.2-315. Fishing with trawl net within three-mile limit; license fee (2009)

- *Commission may issue licenses to trawl within the three-mile limit.*
 - Cape Charles to MD Border: Nov-Aug
 - Cape Henry to 36°40': Oct 1 -May 1
 - 36°40' south to NC Border: All Year
 - Experimental Area (red): Dam Neck Rd to NC Border (~89 sq miles)



CREATING A NEW FISHERY

Permits: Special Experimental Fishing Permits

Who: 2017: 1 Boat. 2018: 2 Boats. 2019: 6 Boats

When: VA Beach: September 1 to December 31.
Eastern Shore: November 1 to December 31. (2019)

Area: VA Beach: South of Dam Neck Annex
Eastern Shore: Ocean Side: Cape Charles to VA/MD Line (2019)

Gear: 16' Beam Trawl w/ approved BRD. Tow Duration \leq 30 minutes.

Monitor: VMRC Observers aboard vessel for trips

Reporting: Call-in Daily Shrimp Harvest and Bycatch Estimate. Mandatory Monthly Reporting.

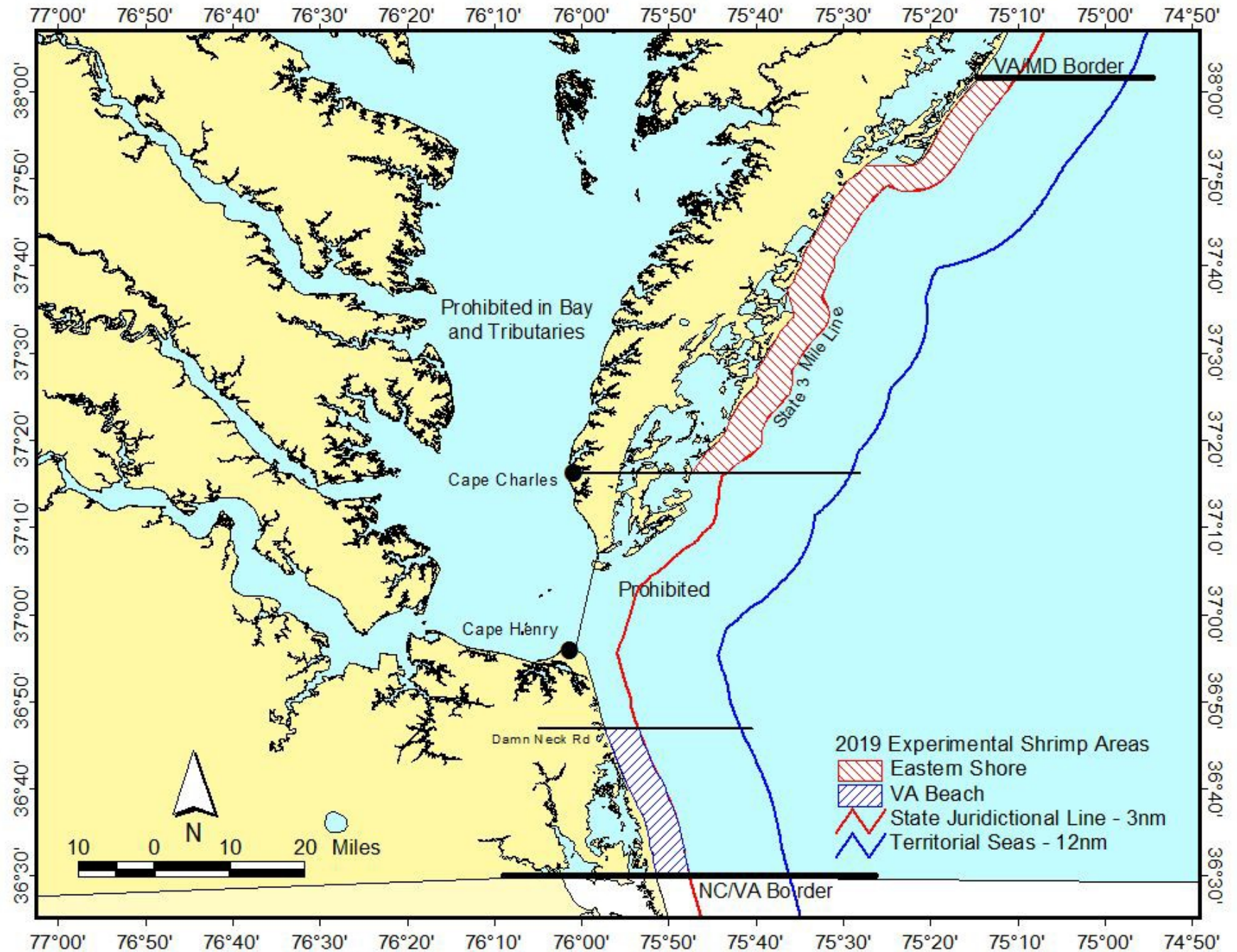


FISHING GEAR

16 FT BEAM TRAWL

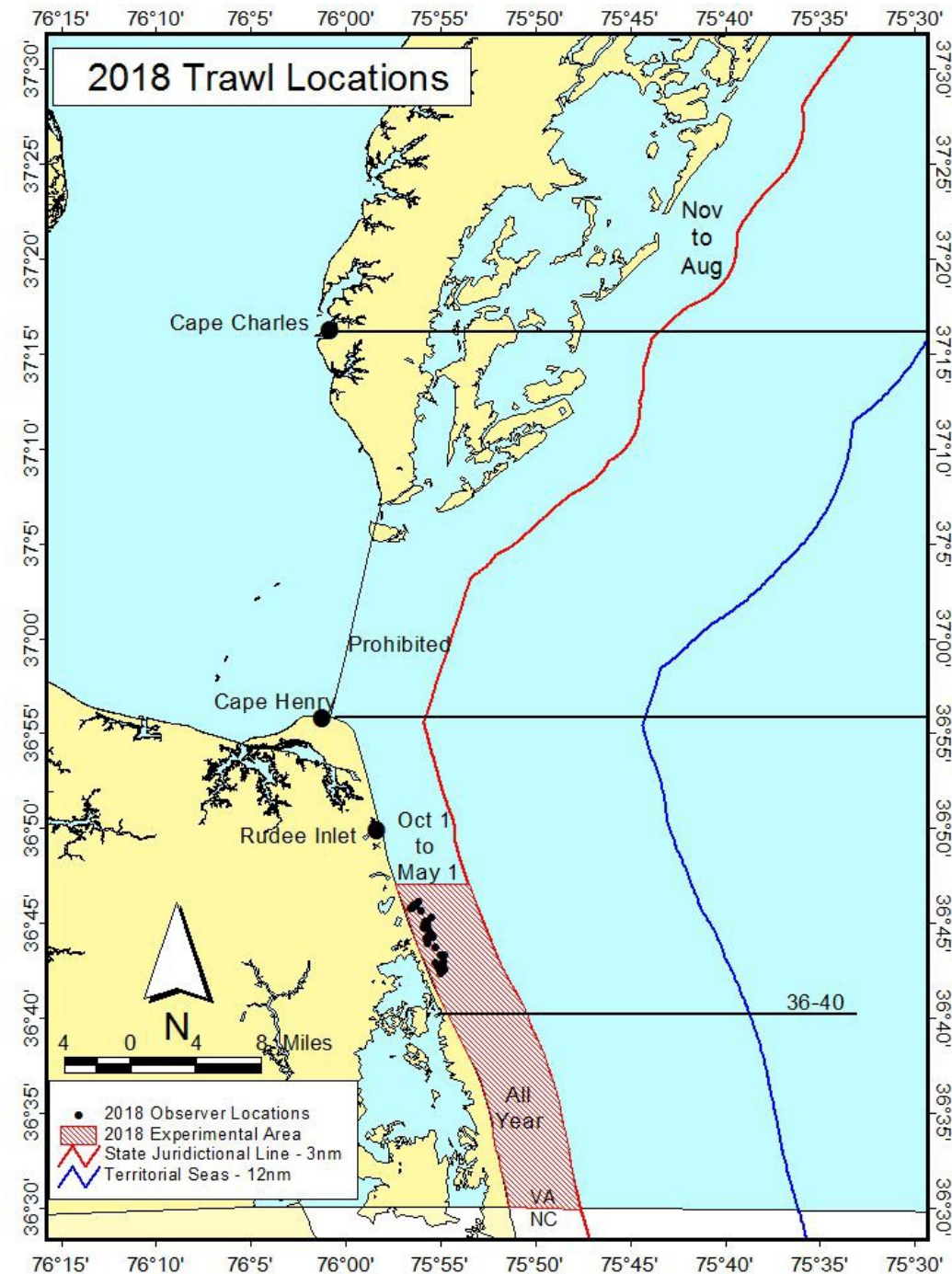


2019 FISHING AREA



2018 RESULTS (OCT 23 – DEC 12)

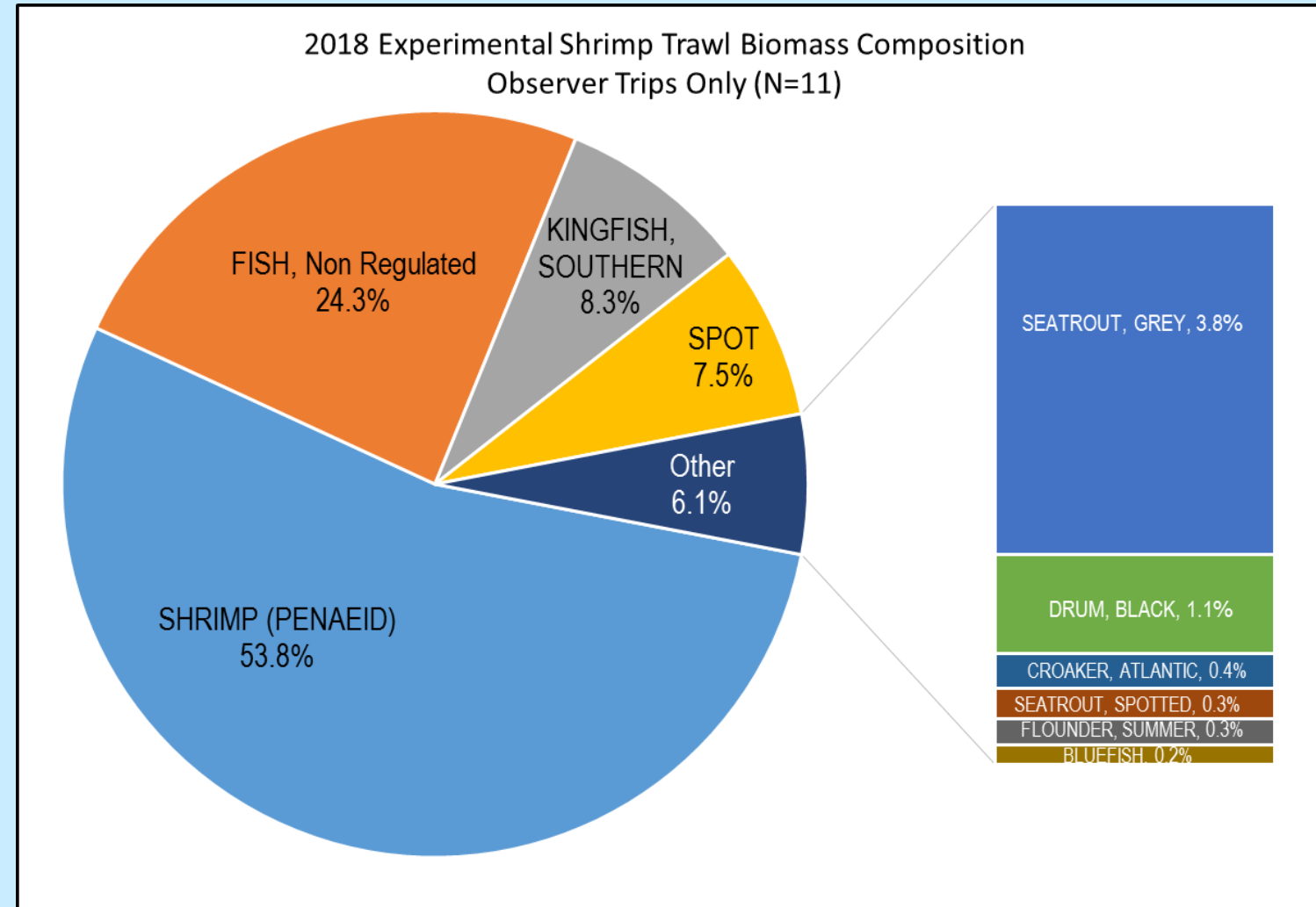
- 35 fishing trips
- 13 observer trips over 11 days
 - 71 trawls observed for catch – see map
- Catch Statistics
 - *Confidential
- Bycatch Statistics N=22
 - Bycatch Ratio: 0.46 lbs : 1 lbs shrimp



RESULTS – CATCH COMPOSITION

- Observer Trips through Nov 30 (N=11)
- Other Fish are non-regulated species (N=22)

Atlantic Moonfish	Harvestfish
Atlantic Spadefish	Hogchoker
Atlantic Stingray	Lookdown
Banded Drum	Pinfish
Bay Anchovy	Silver Perch
Blackcheek Tonguefish	Smallmouth Flounder
Bullnose Ray	Smooth Butterfly Ray
Butterfish	Spotted Hake
Clearnose Skate	Striped Anchovy
Cownose Ray	Striped Burrfish
Florida Pompano	Windowpane



2019 RESULTS TO DATE (OCTOBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 22, 2019)

- VA Beach: 72 trips, 8 observed. Eastern Shore: No Activity
- Total Shrimp: 52,558 lbs
- Total Bycatch: 10,324 lbs



GOALS FOR 2019 AND BEYOND

- Maintain Experimental Fishery Status for 2019
- Allow for a small increase in permits each year
- Develop participation eligibility requirements – limited entry
- Maintain present stipulations on Gear, Season, Reporting
- Continue Observer Coverage
- Improve Marketing



ISSUES

- Managing Federal Waters
- SAFMC Shrimp FMP extends only to North Carolina
- How do should larger vessels with larger nets fishing off Virginia be managed?
 - More Bycatch
 - More Shrimp – competing against the small state fishery



QUESTIONS

TAB 03: VAShrimpFishery

