

Kingfish Fishery Management Plan



Marine Fisheries Commission
Aug. 20, 2015



Background

- The 2007 Kingfish Fishery Management Plan
 - Management strategy included trend analysis and management triggers.
 - Stock assessment status designated as “Unknown” due to the lack of a regional stock assessment.
- This document is an information update to the 2007 Kingfish Fishery Management Plan.
- Plan covers three species: southern, northern and Gulf kingfishes. Southern is indicator species.



Information Update

- All sections updated with current literature, research, and data through 2013.
- Protected Species and Aquaculture sections added.
- Issues are incorporated into the applicable sections from the original plan.
- Research recommendations categorized as high, medium, or low



Management Strategy

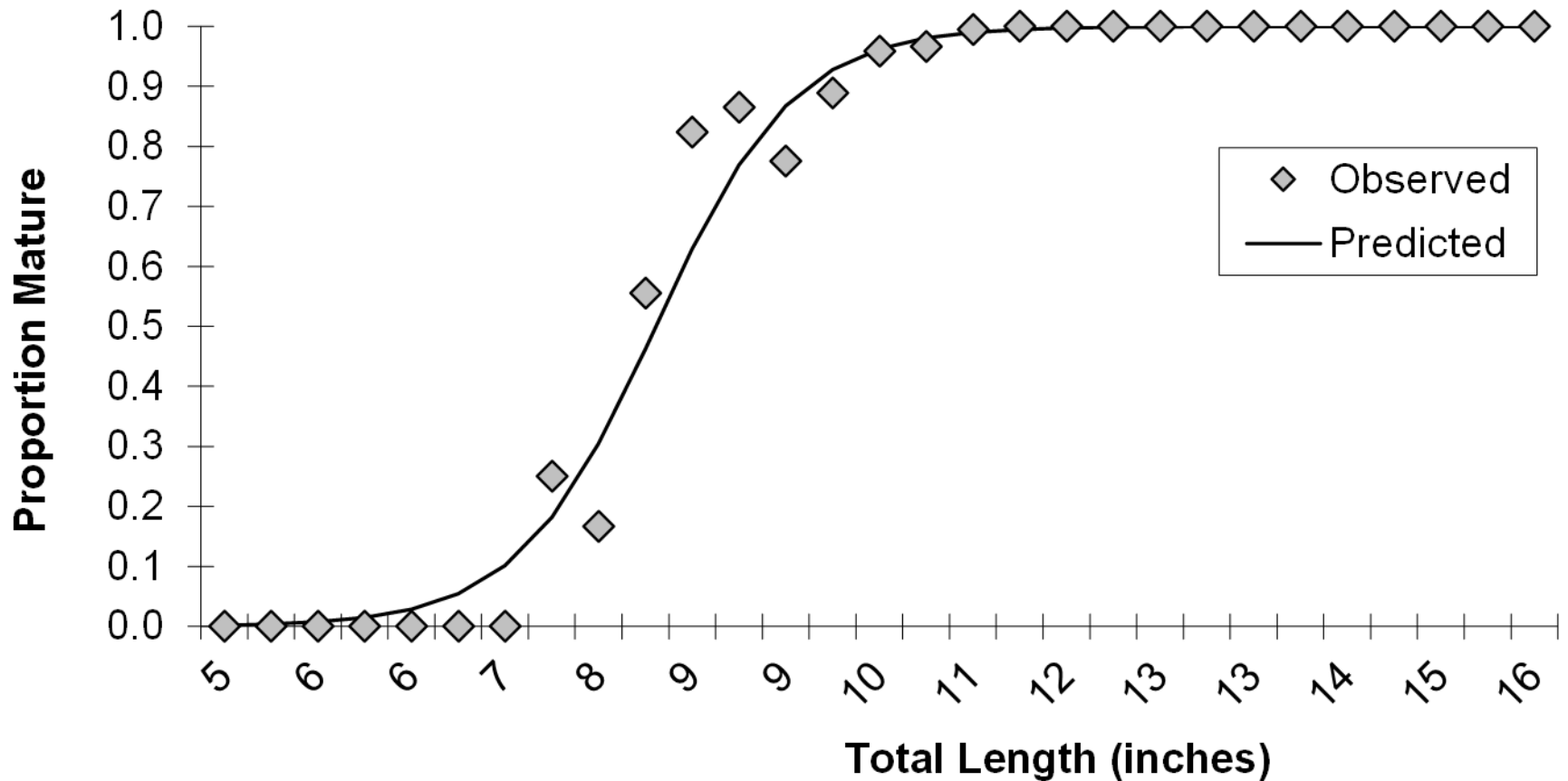
- Trend analysis and management triggers
 - Refined and modified with the best available data and techniques to better assess population trends.
- Management triggers are based on:
 - Biological Monitoring
 - Fisheries-independent surveys – juvenile and adult
 - Relative fishing mortality (F)
- Activation of any two triggers two years in a row warrants further data evaluation and potential management action.
- Stock is considered “Viable”



Life History

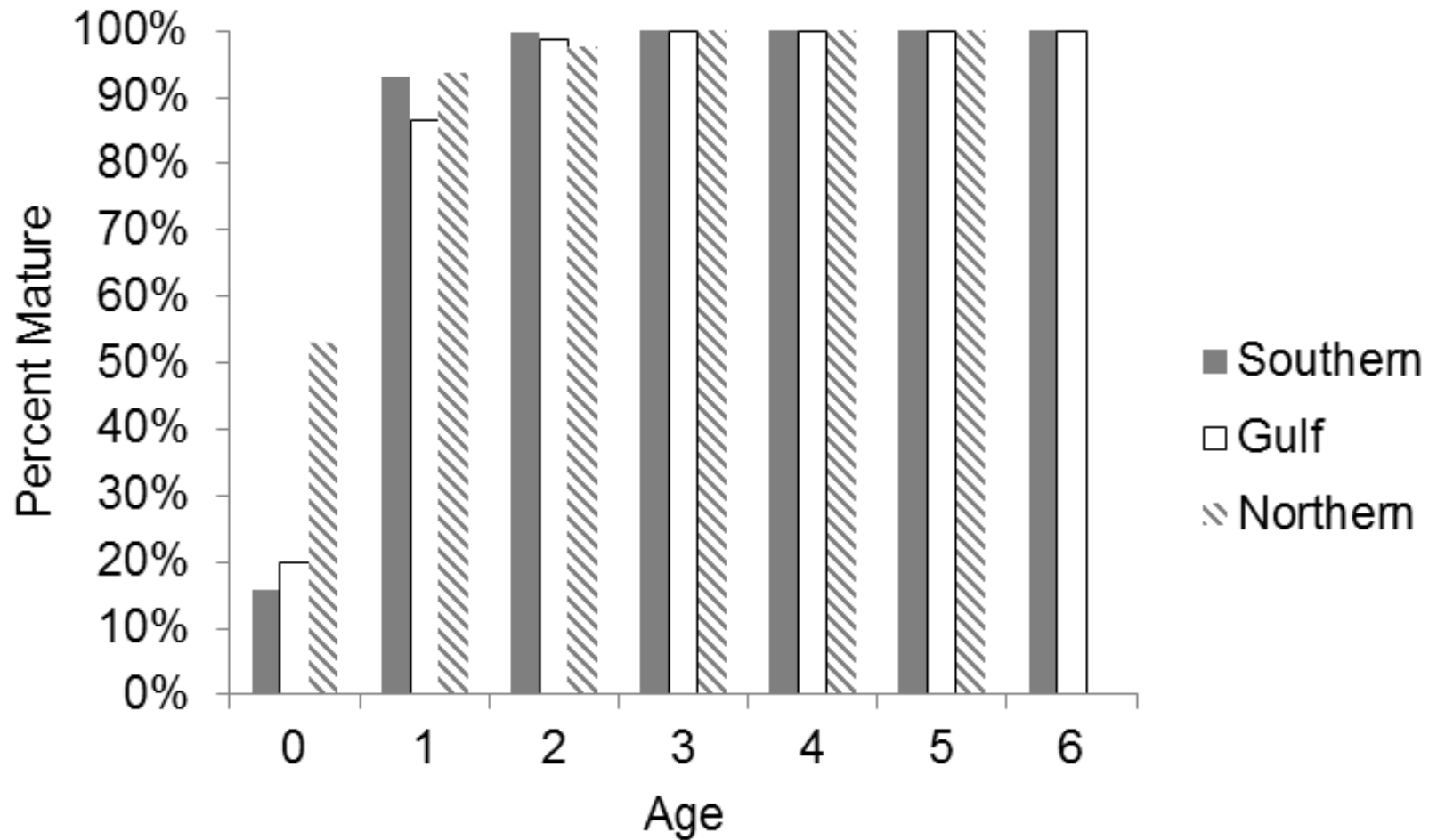
Size at Maturity

Southern kingfish

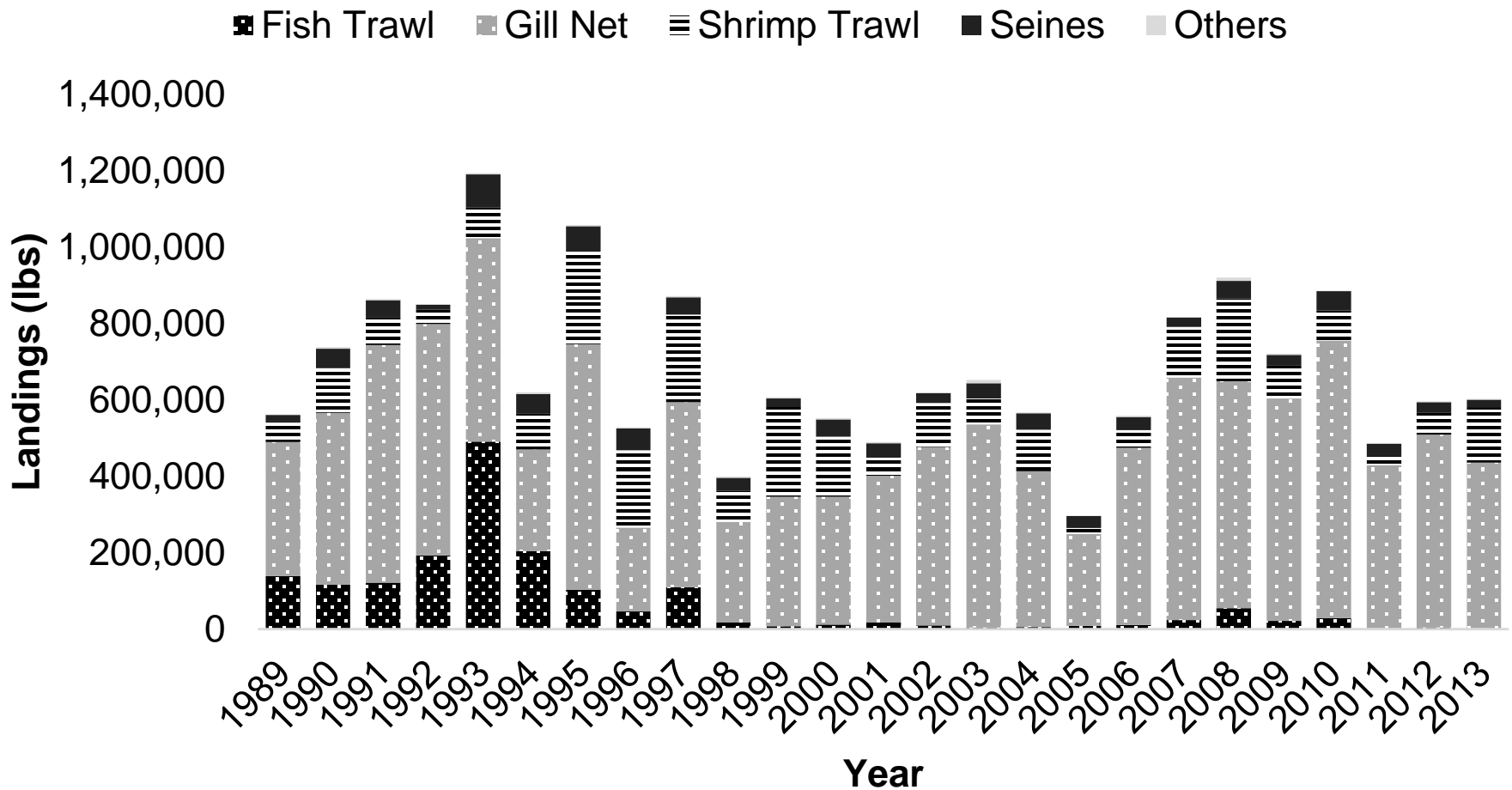


Life History

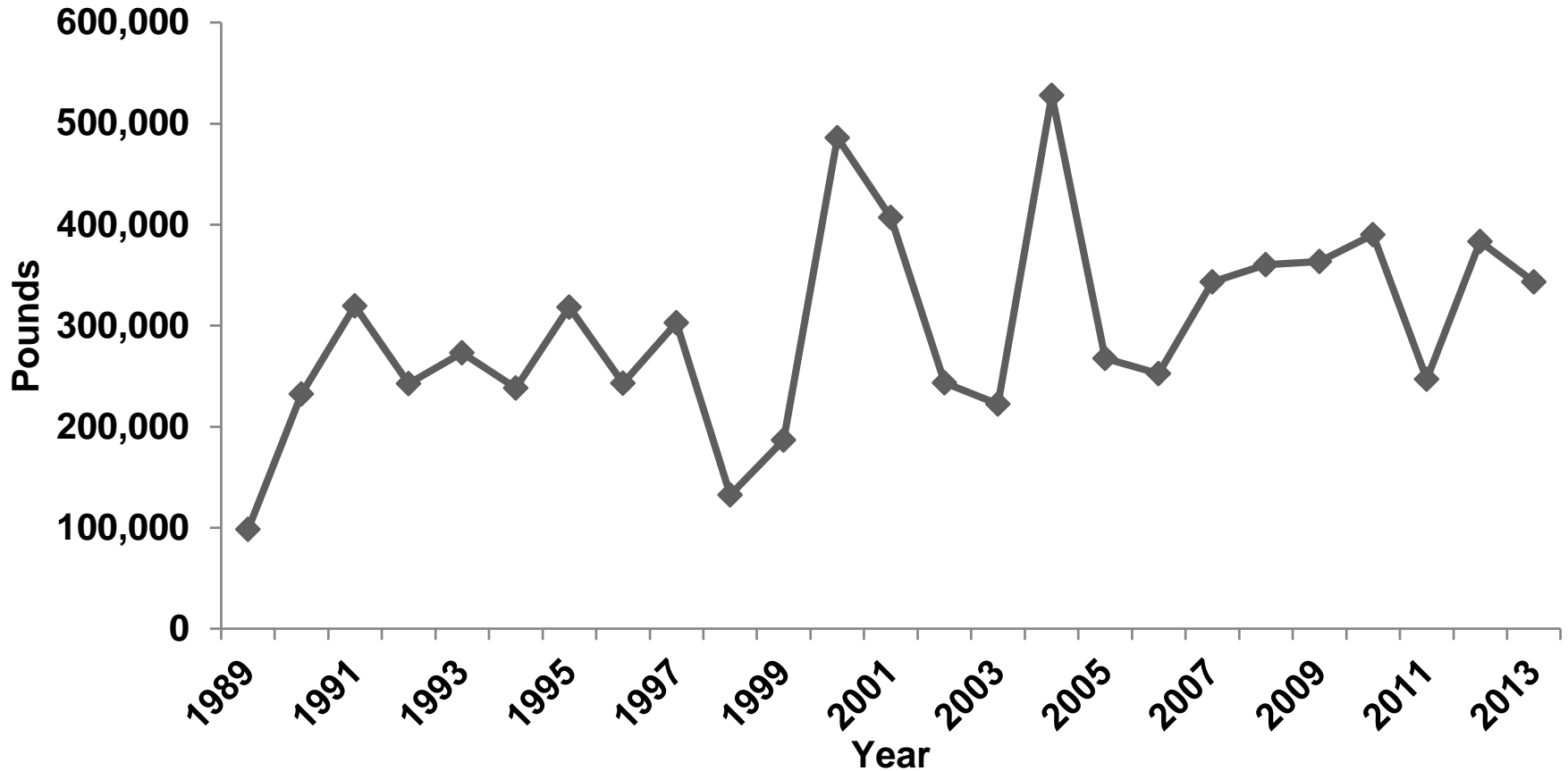
Age at Maturity



Commercial Fishery



Recreational Fishery



Economic Factors

Commercial

- From the 1970s to the mid-1990s, price per pound showed an increasing trend.
- Since the mid-1990s, prices have decreased slightly but remain relatively stable.
- Kingfishes were less than 5 percent of the total ex-vessel value for any trip landing a kingfish.
- 2013 estimated economic impacts of landings of kingfishes is \$2.6 million

Recreational

- 2013 estimated economic impacts associated with trips directing for or catching kingfishes is \$21.6 million



Environmental Factors

- Diverse habitat preferences
 - shifts due to season and life stage
- Found in most habitats identified by the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan
 - Water column
 - Soft bottom
 - Submerged aquatic vegetation
 - Hard bottom
- Maintenance and improvement of habitat and water quality are critical to ensuring sustainable harvest.



Research Recommendations

High Priority

- Conduct a coast-wide stock assessment of southern kingfish along the Atlantic Coast including estimation of biological reference points for sustainable harvest.
- Validate young-of-the-year and adult indices used in trend analysis.
- Develop a fisheries-independent survey in the ocean for juvenile and adult kingfishes.
- Collect observer data from commercial fishing operations to estimate at-sea species composition of the catch, discard rates, and lengths.
- Improve recreational data collection, particularly the species composition of releases, release rates and associated biological data.
- Develop tagging study to estimate natural and fishing mortality, to investigate stock structure, and to understand movement patterns.
- Collect histological data to develop maturity schedule with priority to southern kingfish.
- Conduct an age validation study with priority to southern kingfish.

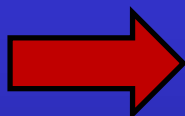


Timeline

TIMELINE FOR KINGFISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW 2014

(Revised Feb. 24, 2015)

MILESTONES	PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE
1. Activate plan development team, co-leads, mentor	August 2013
2. Review management unit, goal and objectives	September 2013
3. Assess update FMP data	December 2014
4. Assess whether any FMP management measures need to be changed or new issues addressed	March 2015
5. Review and update all sections of FMP	April-June 2015
6. Present timeline and results of FMP review to MFC	May 21, 2015
7. Present FMP information update to MFC	**Aug. 20, 2015**
8. Post FMP information update on website for 30 days	September 2015
9. Present FMP information update to MFC for final approval	Nov. 19, 2015
10. If FMP information update is approved, post on website	December 2015
11. If information update is not approved and management changes are proposed, proceed with amendment process	December 2015



Next Step

Vote to send out the 2015 Kingfish Fishery Management Plan Information Update for public review



Questions?

