



2016 Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Update

Presented to: Marine Fisheries Commission
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

| Lee Paramore | August 17, 2017



2016 Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Update

Fishery Management Plan Update Outline

- Status of Fishery Management Plan
- Status of Stock
- Status of Fishery
- Monitoring Program Data
- Management Strategy
- Research Needs
- Schedule Recommendations

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Status of the Fishery Management Plan(s) for North Carolina:

- Amendment 2 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Red Drum Fishery Management Plan (2002)
- Amendment 1 to the North Carolina Red Drum Fishery Management Plan (2009)

Both plans have a management threshold (overfishing) and management target of 30 percent and 40 percent static spawning potential ratio

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Amendment 2 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Red Drum Fishery Management Plan (2002)

Compliance Requirements:

- Implement harvest controls in order to achieve/maintain the minimum 40 percent spawning potential ratio.
- Establishing a maximum size limit of 27 inches or less in all red drum fisheries.
- Maintain current or more restrictive commercial fishery regulations.

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Amendment 1 to the North Carolina Red Drum Fishery Management Plan (2009)

- Maintained current recreational and commercial limits for red drum
 - No harvest of adult red drum
 - Recreational bag and size limits
 - Commercial harvest limits
- Maintained/established measures to reduce/minimize release mortality from both commercial and recreational fisheries.
 - Recreational targeting of adult red drum
 - Bycatch in estuarine gill net fishery

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- Stock Status – “Recovering”
- Basis for status – 2017 Benchmark Red Drum Stock Assessment
 - Conducted by Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
 - No overfishing since mid-1990s and management targets are being achieved
 - “Recovering” status remains because red drum are long-lived and adult biomass is unknown

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Red Drum Data Trends and Stock Assessment

Stock Unit: North Carolina and north

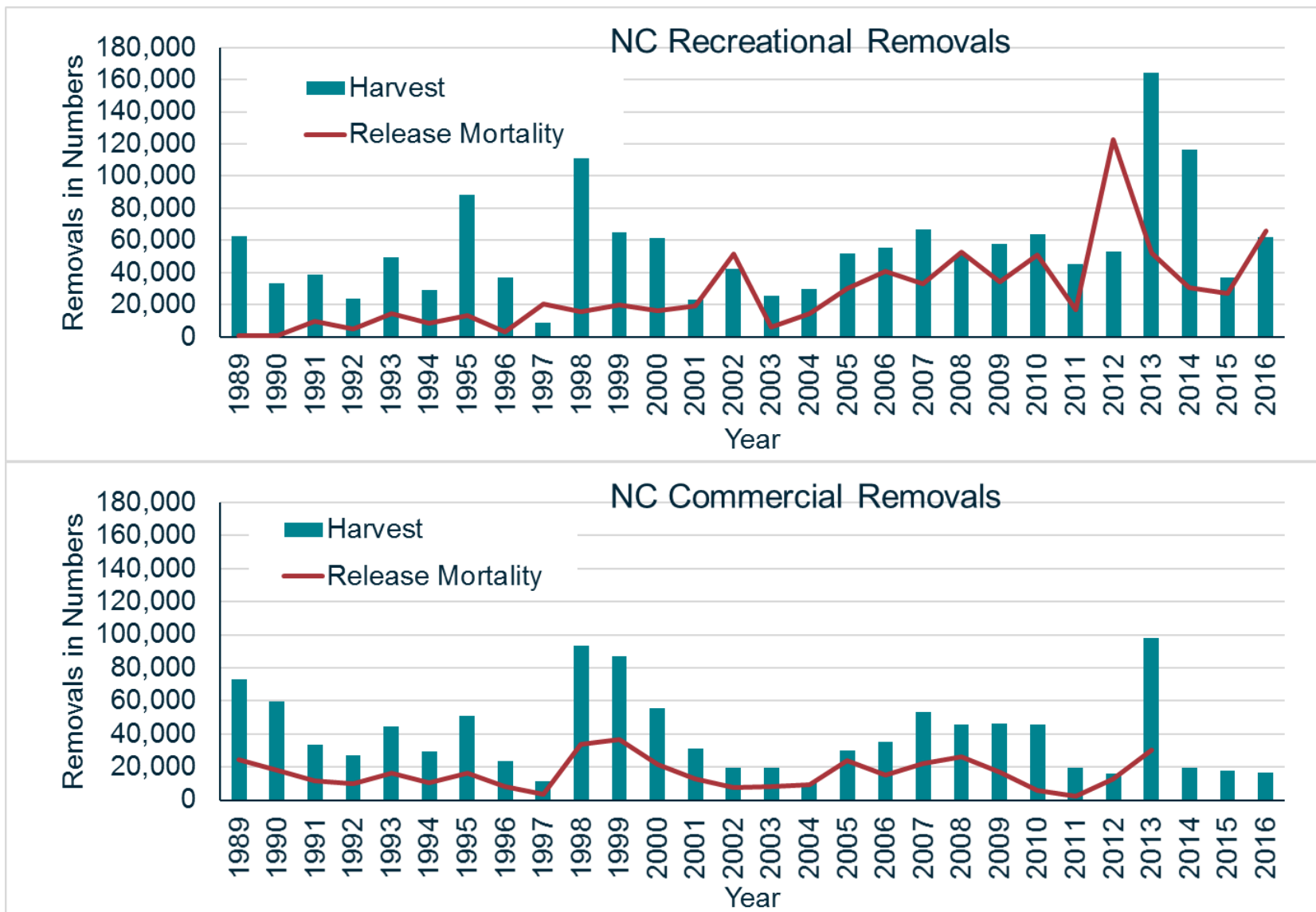
Dependent Data Inputs:

- Recreational removals (harvest and releases)
- Commercial removals (harvest and releases)

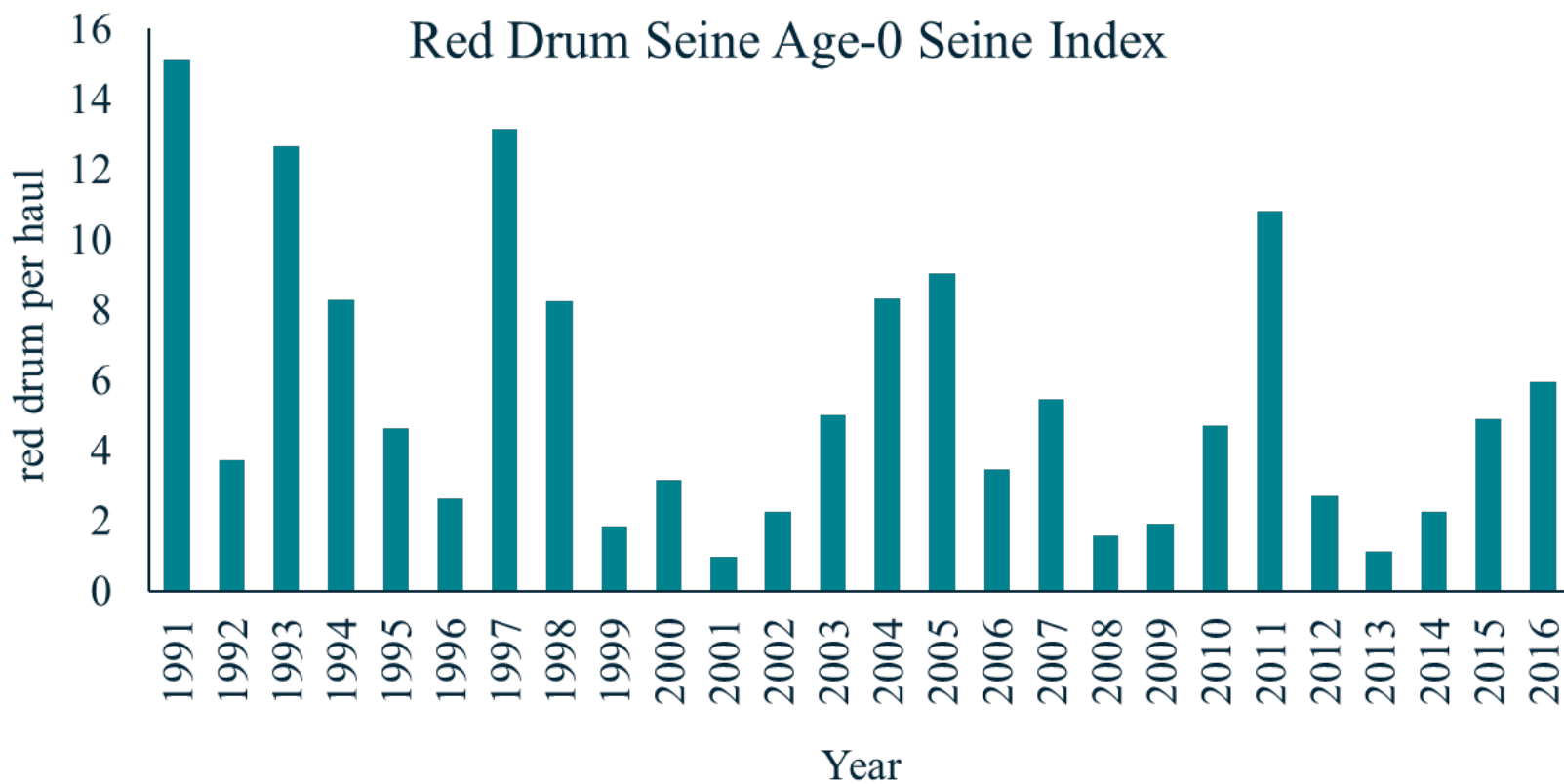
Independent Data Inputs:

- Age-0 juvenile abundance index
- Age-1 and Age-2 sub-adult index
- Tagging data
- Adult index

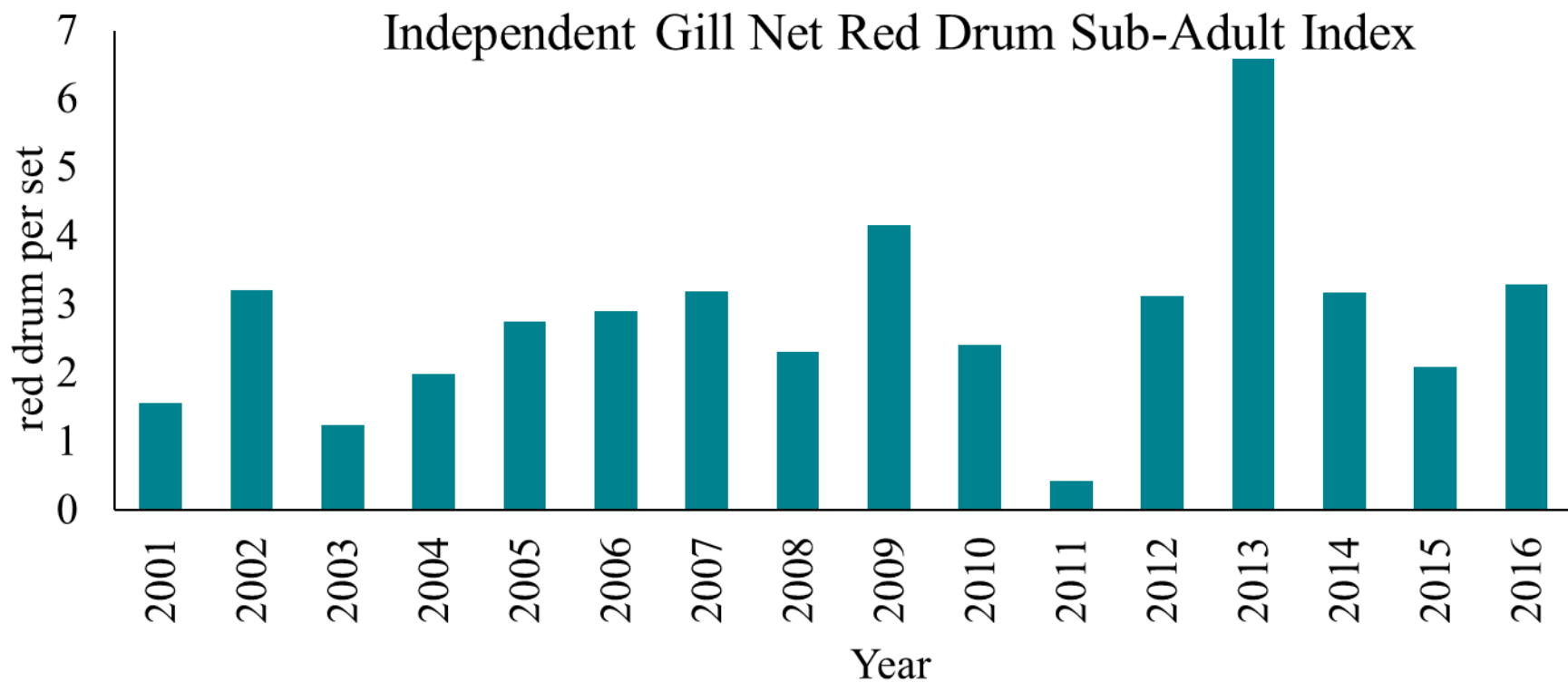
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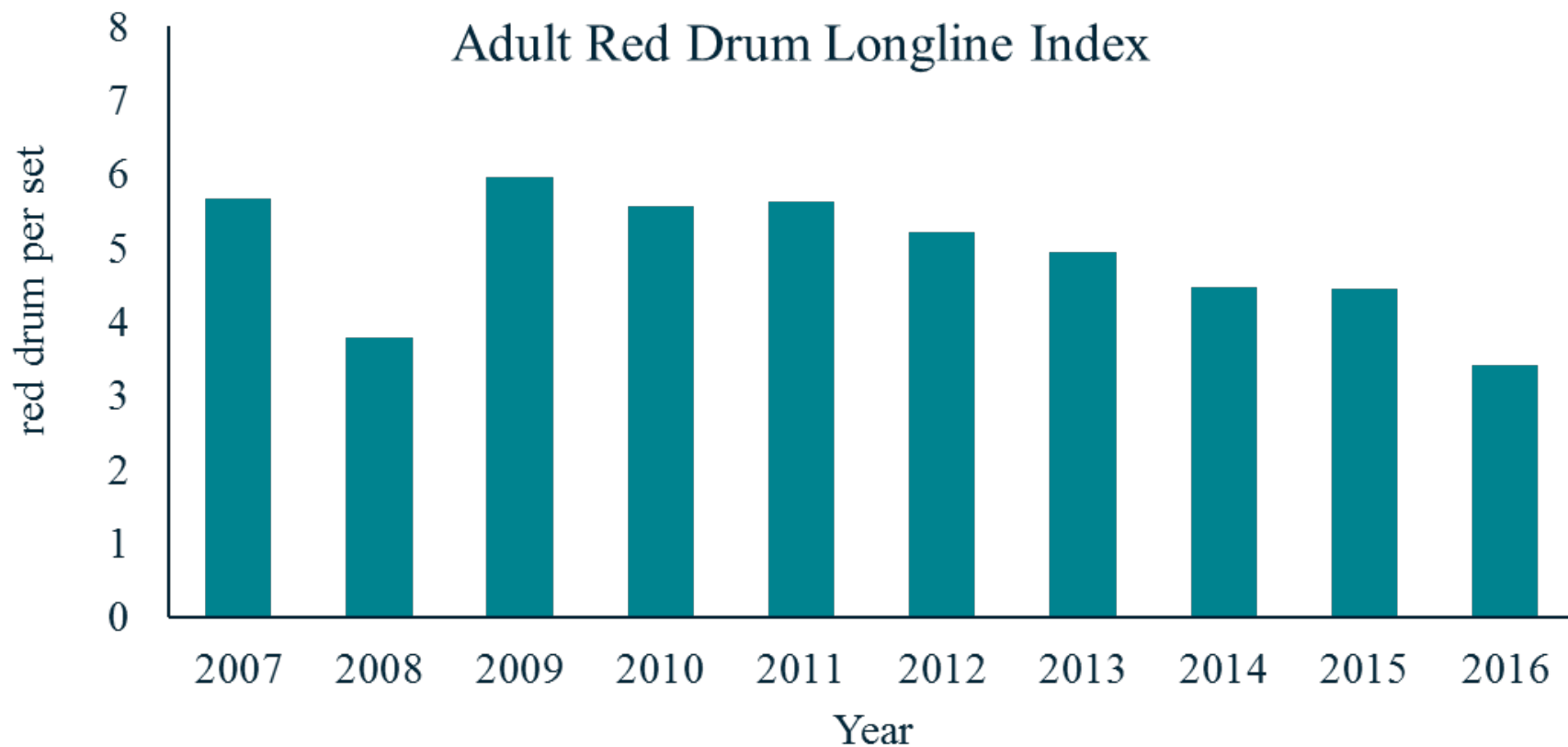
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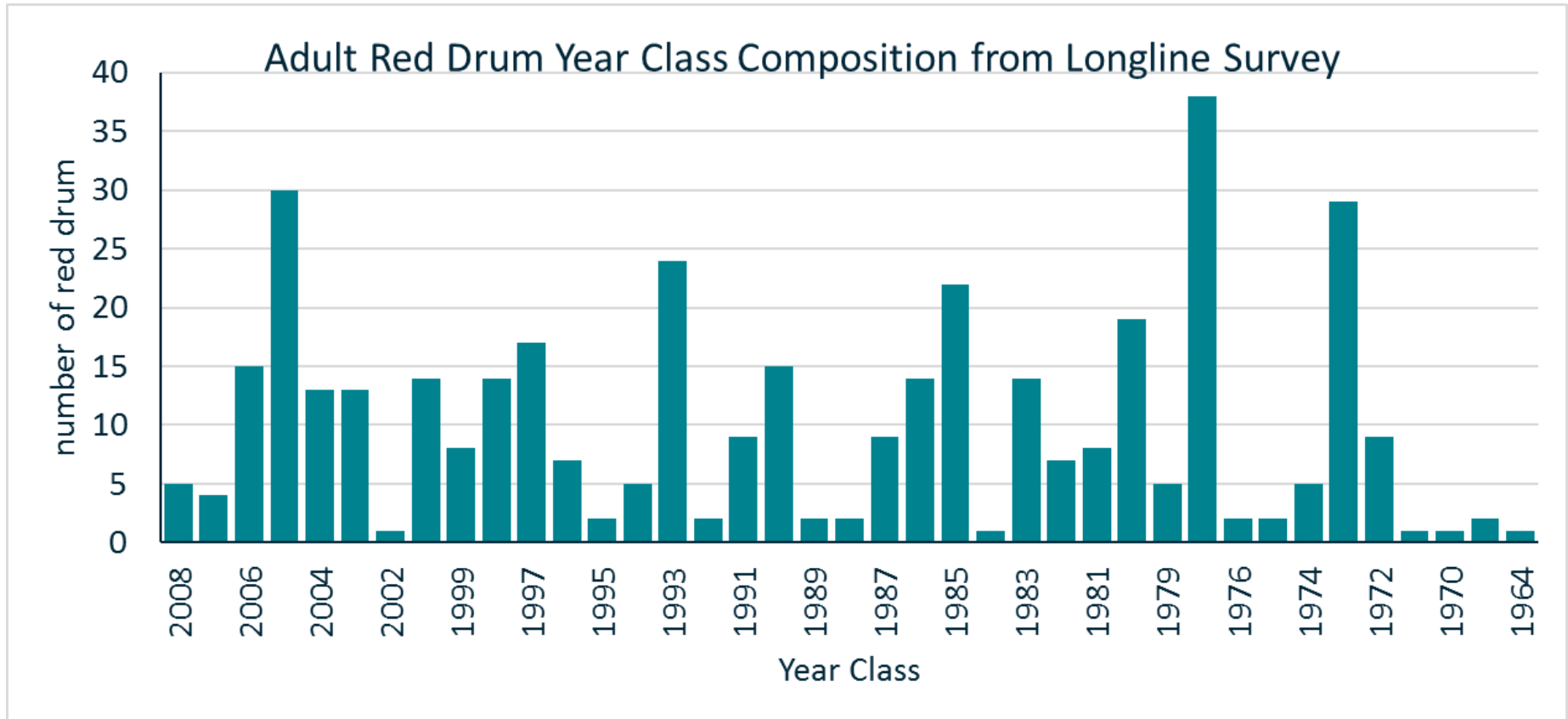
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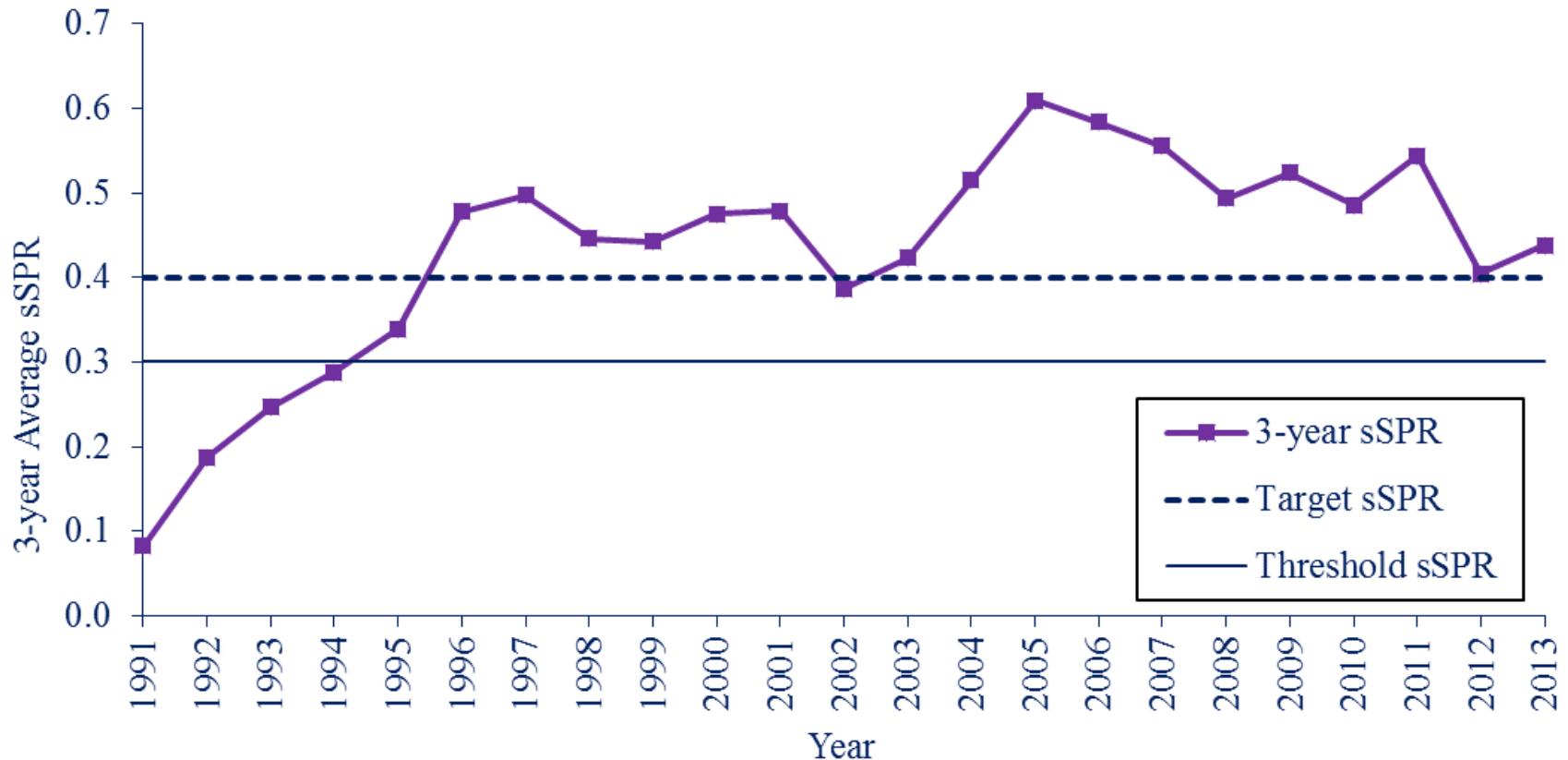
Red drum longline age structure for fish collected from 2007 to 2013

Age structure graphed below shows year in which fish collected were spawned (year class)



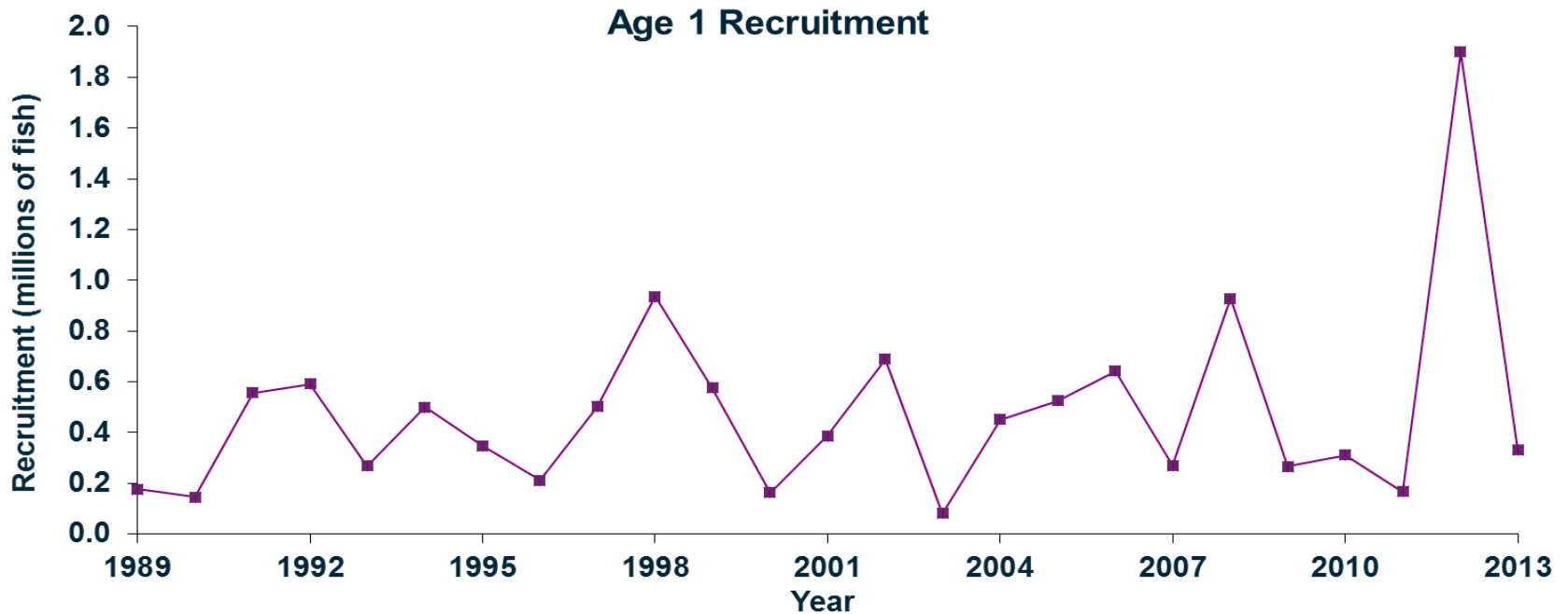
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Red Drum Stock Stock Assessment Results



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Red Drum Stock Assessment Results



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Red Drum Stock Assessment Results

Peer Review Panel Findings:

- Stock assessment acceptable for management use
- No overfishing and overfished status undetermined
- No major signs of trouble with stock
- Caution against increase in fishing mortality, particularly on older fish, as this could quickly lead to overfishing

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Red Drum Management moving forward:

- The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission opted to take no further action on red drum management given the assessment results
- The management program and compliance requirements of Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Red Drum will continue

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Review of Amendment 1 to the North Carolina Red Drum Fishery Management Plan

Considerations:

- Red drum will continue under dual management of both a state and interjurisdictional plan
- Compliance requirements of interjurisdictional plan will remain in force
- Management program in place for the last 20 years has resulted in management targets being met
- Caution by reviewers against increases in fishing mortality

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Review of Amendment 1 to the North Carolina Red Drum Fishery Management Plan

Division Recommendation:

- Use the 2016 Fishery Management Plan update as the formal review of Amendment 1 to the North Carolina Red Drum Fishery Management Plan
- Continue to monitor trends annually through subsequent Fishery Management Plan updates



QUESTIONS?