



# *Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2*

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

August 2022 MFC Business Meeting |  
Charlton Godwin, Todd Mathes, Nathaniel Hancock, and Joe Facendola | Aug. 18, 2022

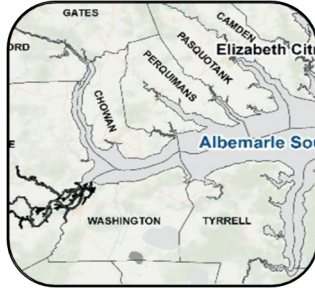


# Striped Bass Amendment 2 FMP Process August 2022



# Amendment 2 FMP Issue and Information Papers Overview

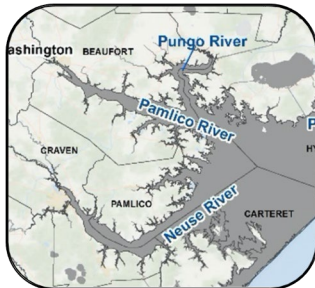
## Sustainable Harvest



### Appendix 2

#### Albemarle-Roanoke

End overfishing and rebuild the spawning stock to achieve long-term sustainable harvest.



### Appendix 3

#### Tar-Pamlico and Neuse Rivers

Promote natural recruitment by expanding the age structure of the stock to achieve a self-sustaining population.



### Appendix 4

#### Cape Fear River

Consider implications of allowing harvest given high hatchery contribution to the stock, low overall abundance, limited natural recruitment, and impediments of locks and dams on spawning migration.

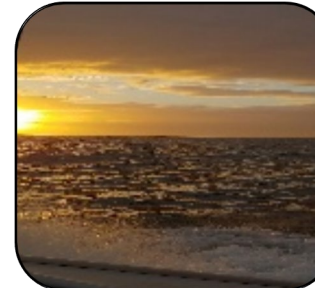
## Across Systems



### Appendix 1

#### Stocking Information Paper

Describes the history of striped bass stocking strategies in North Carolina and gives an overview of future stocking strategies by system. Strategies are developed through the North Carolina Interjurisdictional Fisheries Cooperative (COOP) annual work plans.



### Appendix 5

#### Hook & Line as Commercial Gear

Evaluate the purpose and benefit of hook-and-line as an allowable gear in the commercial striped bass fishery and examine concerns and logistics of implementing the use of hook and line gear.

# *Review MFC Preferred Management Strategies*



# *MFC Preferred Strategy: Appendix 2. Albemarle-Roanoke Stock*

## **1. Manage for sustainable harvest through harvest restrictions**

- A. Continue to use stock assessments and stock assessment projections to determine the TAL that achieves a sustainable harvest for the A-R stock
- B. Implement a harvest moratorium

## **2. Management of striped bass harvest in the commercial fishery as a bycatch fishery**

- A. Status Quo: continue bycatch fishery
- B. Stop managing the ASMA striped bass fishery as a bycatch fishery

# *MFC Preferred Strategy: Appendix 2. Albemarle-Roanoke Stock*

## **3. Accountability measures to address TAL overages**

- A. If total landings exceeds the total TAL by 10% the fishery(ies) contributing to the overage will reduce their TAL by percent contribution to the overage the next year.
- B. If total landings exceeds the total TAL by 5% the fishery(ies) contributing to the overage will reduce their TAL by their percent contribution to the overage the next year.
- C. If the landings in any fishery exceeds their allocated TAL by 5% in a calendar year, any landings in excess of the TAL will be deducted from that fisheries TAL the next year.
- D. If the landings in any fishery exceeds their allocated TAL, landings in excess of the TAL will be deducted from that fisheries TAL the next year.

# *MFC Preferred Strategy: Appendix 2. Albemarle-Roanoke Stock*

## **4. Size limits to expand the age structure of the stock**

- A. Status Quo: In the ASMA 18-inch minimum size and in RRMA 18–22 inch harvest slot, with a no harvest slot of fish 22–27 inches, and only 1 fish greater than 27-inches
- B. Increase minimum size limit in ASMA and RRMA
- C. In ASMA implement an 18–25-inch harvest slot for commercial and recreational
- D. In RRMA maintain 18–22-inch harvest slot, with a no harvest slot of fish 22–40 inches, and only 1 fish greater than 40-inches as a trophy fish
- E. In RRMA, maintain slot limit 18–22-inch and no fish greater than 22 inches



# *MFC Preferred Strategy: Appendix 2. Albemarle-Roanoke Stock*

## **5. Gear modifications and area closures to reduce discard mortality**

- A. Status Quo: Continue commercial harvest of striped bass with gill nets and recreational harvest and catch-and-release fishing in the ASMA and RRMA including on the spawning grounds
- B. Do not allow harvest of striped bass with gill nets in the ASMA
- C. Do not allow harvest or catch-and-release fishing for striped bass in the RRMA on the spawning grounds or other areas of high concentration
- D. Expand the single barbless hook requirement to the entire RRMA during striped bass season
- E. Implement a requirement to use non-offset barbless circle hooks when fishing with live or natural bait in the inland waters of the Roanoke River (upstream of Hwy 258 bridge) from May 1 through June 30





# *MFC Preferred Strategy: Appendix 2. Albemarle-Roanoke Stock*

## **6. Adaptive Management**

- Use peer reviewed stock assessments and updates to recalculate the BRPs and/or TAL. Stock assessments will be updated at least once between benchmarks. A harvest moratorium could be necessary if stock assessment results calculate a TAL that is too low to effectively manage, and/or the stock continues to experience spawning failures.
- If  $F$  exceeds the  $F_{\text{Target}}$  reduce the TAL to the  $F_{\text{Target}}$
- Ability to change daily possession limits to keep landings below the TAL
- Ability to open and close harvest seasons and areas to keep landings below the TAL
- Ability to require gear modifications and area closures to reduce striped bass dead discards

# *MFC Preferred Strategy: Appendix 3. Tar-Pamlico and Neuse Rivers*

## **1. Striped bass harvest**

- A. Continue no-possession measure
- B. Discontinue the no-possession measure in Supplement A to Amendment 1 after reviewing data in 2025 if it can be shown populations are self-sustaining and a level of sustainable harvest can be determined (open harvest)

## **2. Gear Restrictions/Limits**

- A. Maintain gill net closure above ferry lines and maintain the 3-foot tie-downs below the ferry lines

## **3. Adaptive Management**

- In 2025, review data through 2024 to determine if populations are self-sustaining and if sustainable harvest can be determined

# *MFC Preferred Strategy: Appendix 4. Cape Fear River Stock*

## **1. Striped Bass Harvest**

- A. Status Quo: maintain Cape Fear River no-possession measure
- B. Allow seasonal harvest in all Cape Fear River fishing waters (proposed season and limits: open season March 1–April 30; 18-inch TL minimum length limit; 2 fish daily creel limit)
- C. Allow seasonal harvest in joint and inland fishing waters in the mainstem Cape Fear River above the 140 Bridge (proposed season and limits: open season March 1–April 30; 18-inch TL minimum length limit; 2 fish daily creel limit)
- D. Allow harvest in inland fishing waters only above the Joint/Inland Waters boundary on the mainstem of the Cape Fear River (proposed season and limits: no closed season; 20-inch TL minimum length limit; 4 fish per day)



# *MFC Preferred Strategy: Appendix 4. Cape Fear River Stock*

## **2. Adaptive Management**

- Continue YOY surveys and genetic PBT analysis to inform adaptive management
- Management measures which may be adjusted include means and methods, harvest area, season, size, and creel limit.
- Must be evaluated by staff with the MFC Finfish AC consultation.



# *Appendix 5. Use of Hook and Line as a Commercial Gear*

## **1. Hook and Line as a commercial gear**

- A. Do not allow hook and line as a commercial gear for estuarine striped bass
- B. Allow hook and line as a commercial gear for estuarine striped bass

## **2. Adaptive management**

- Triggered by landings or enforcement concerns
- Management options available include means/methods, area, season, size, and limits



# *Draft Amendment 2 Action Item*

**Vote on final adoption of Amendment 2**



# Questions?

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# *Draft Amendment 2 Action Item*

**Vote on final adoption of Amendment 2**





# *MFC Preferred Strategy Overview*

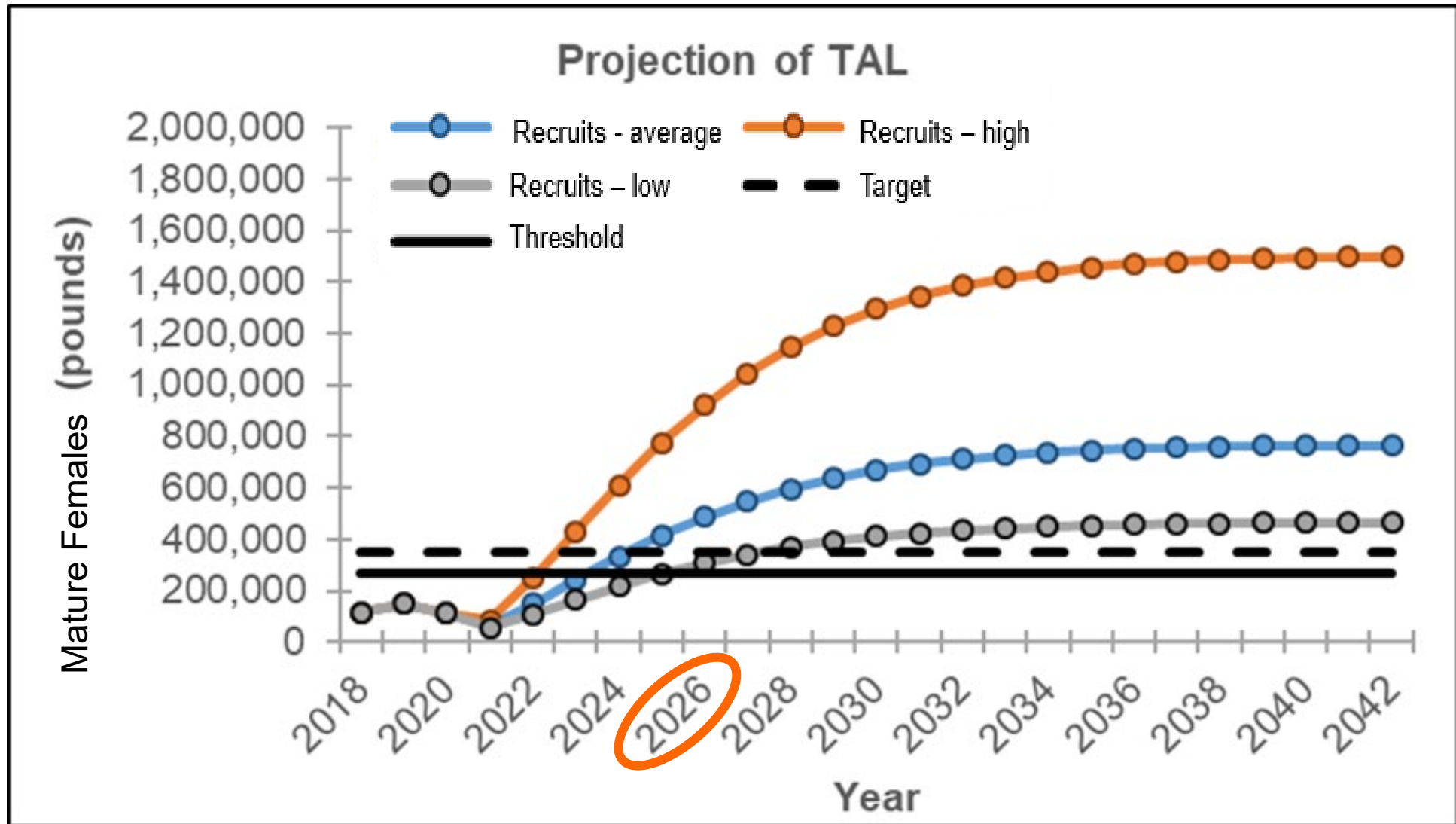
- **Appendix 2**
  - Options 1.A, 2.A, 3.D, 4.C, 4.E, 5.A, 5.E, and 6
- **Appendix 3**
  - Options 1.A, 2.A, and 3
- **Appendix 4**
  - Options 1.A and 2
- **Appendix 5**
  - Options 1.A and 2



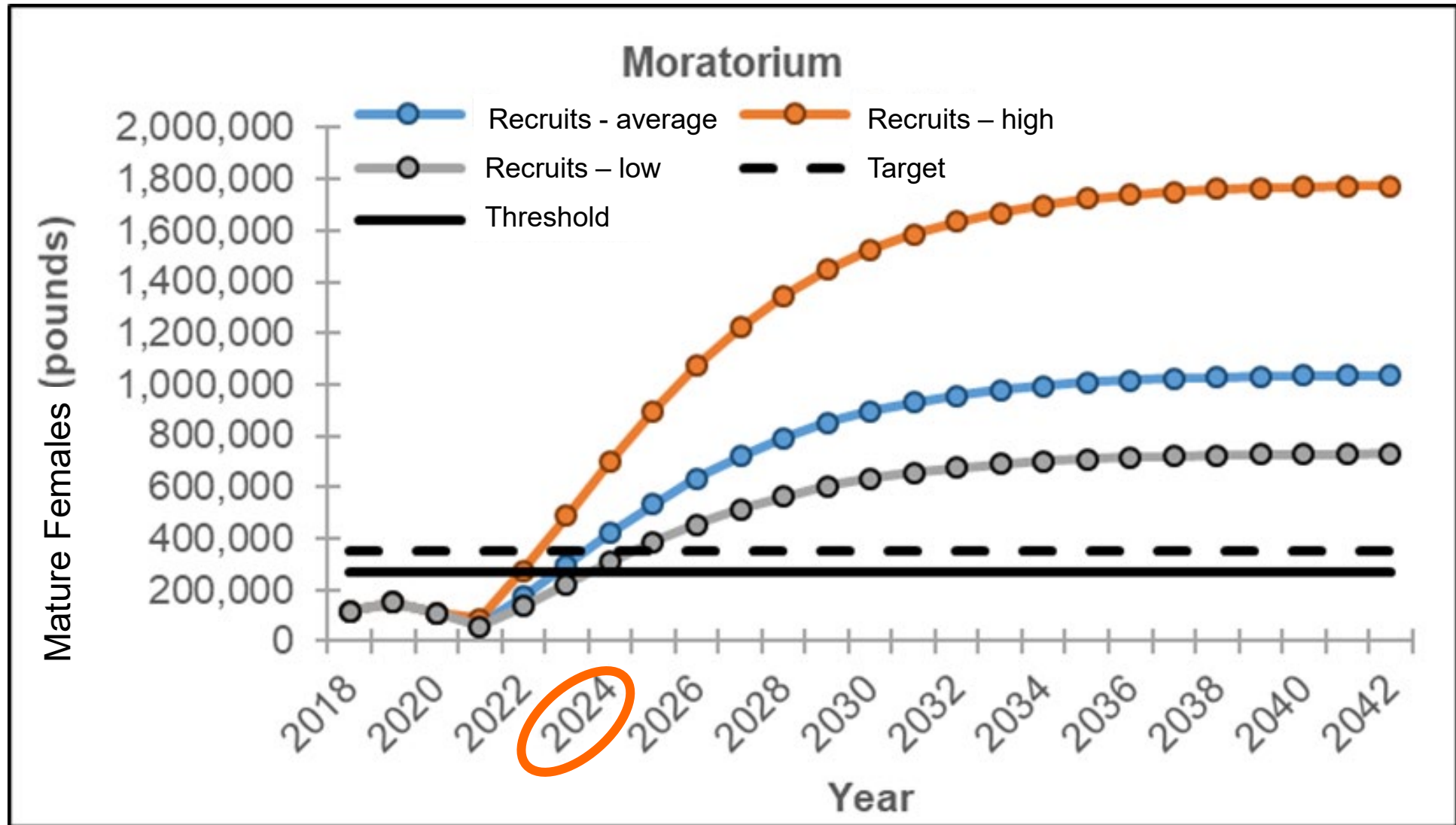
Following are potential pocket slides

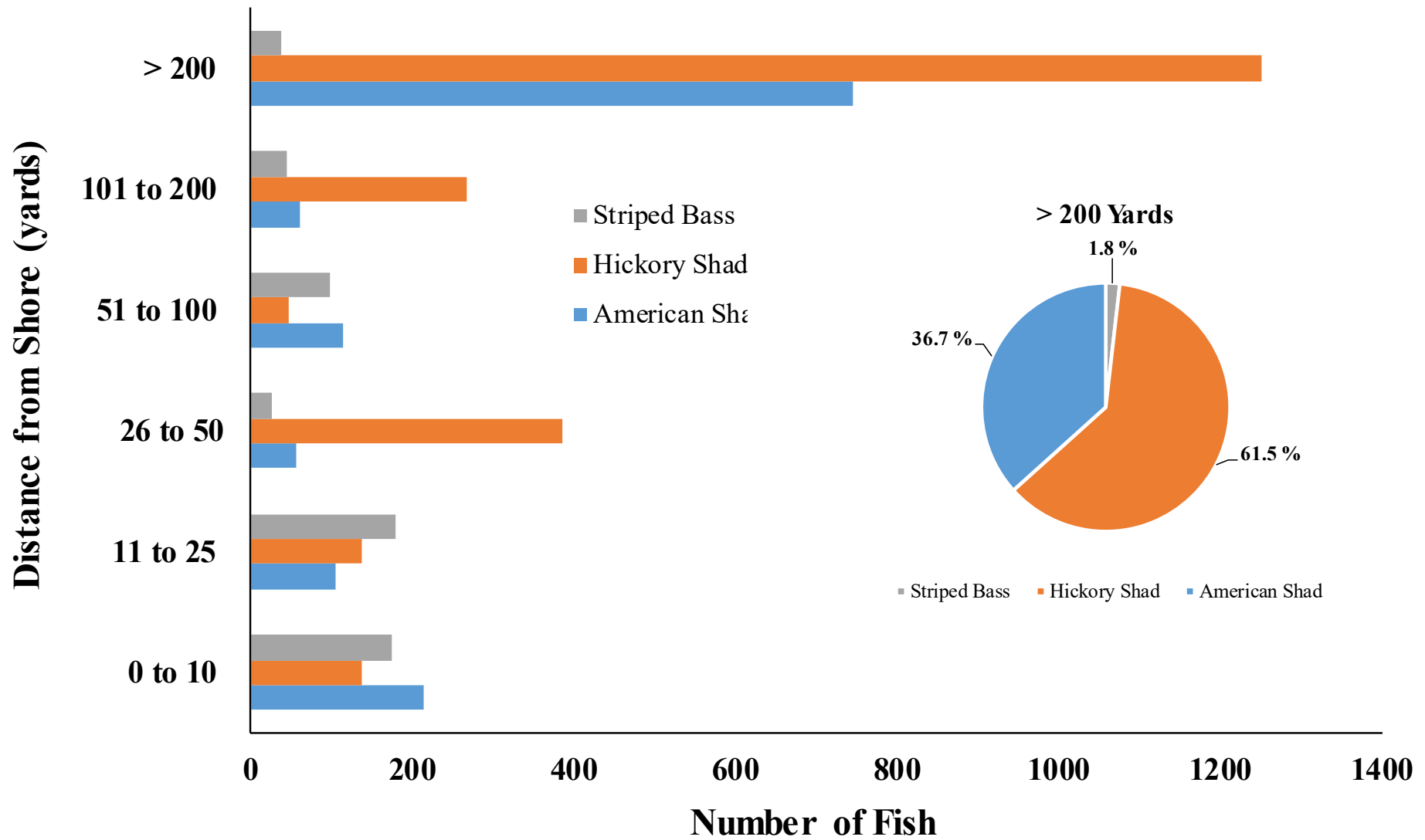


# Appendix 2 Option 1: Sustainable Harvest



# Appendix 2 Option 1: Sustainable Harvest





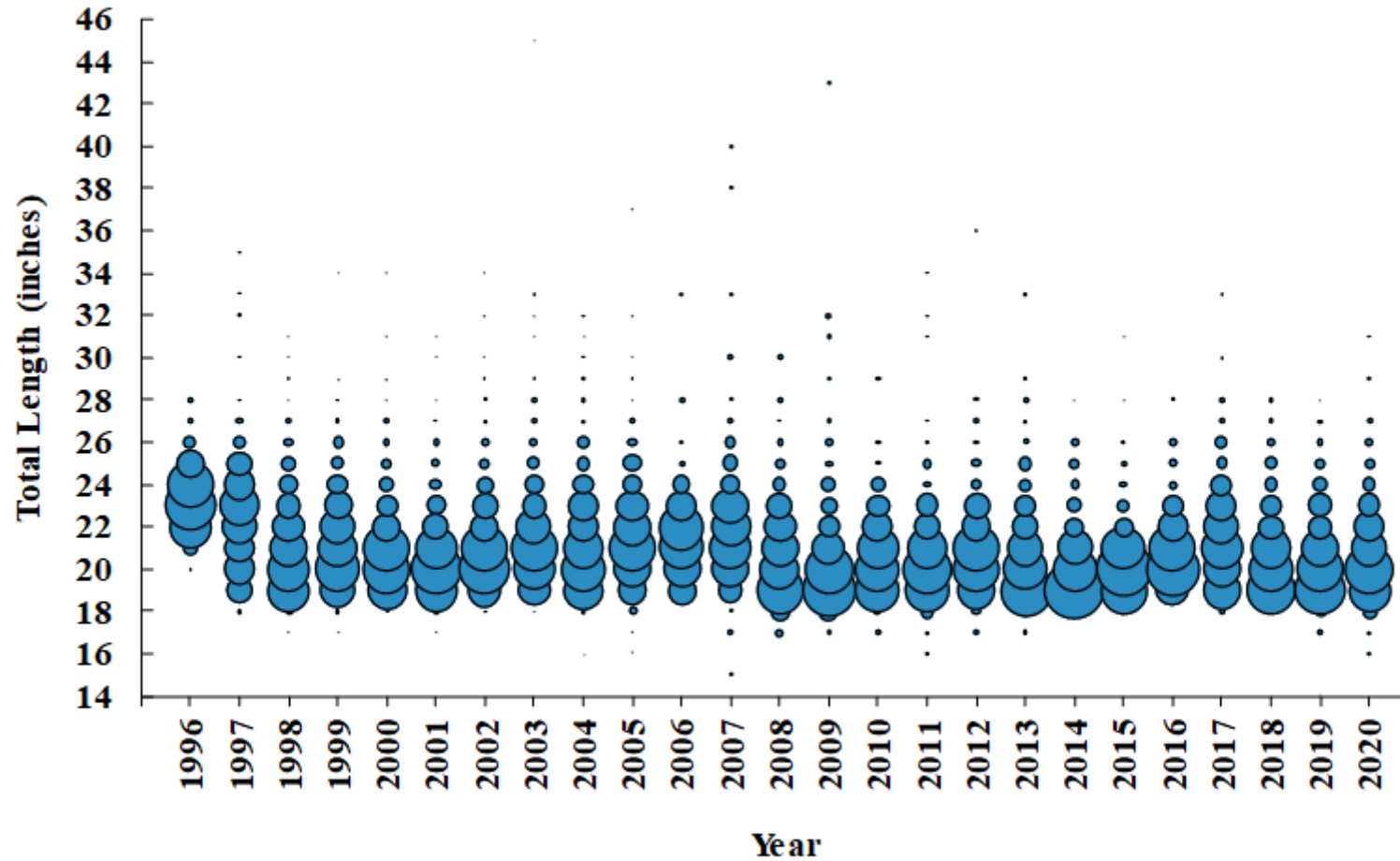


Figure 2.5. Recreational length frequency (total length, inches) of striped bass harvested in the ASMA, NC, 1996–2020. Bubble size represents the proportion of fish at length.

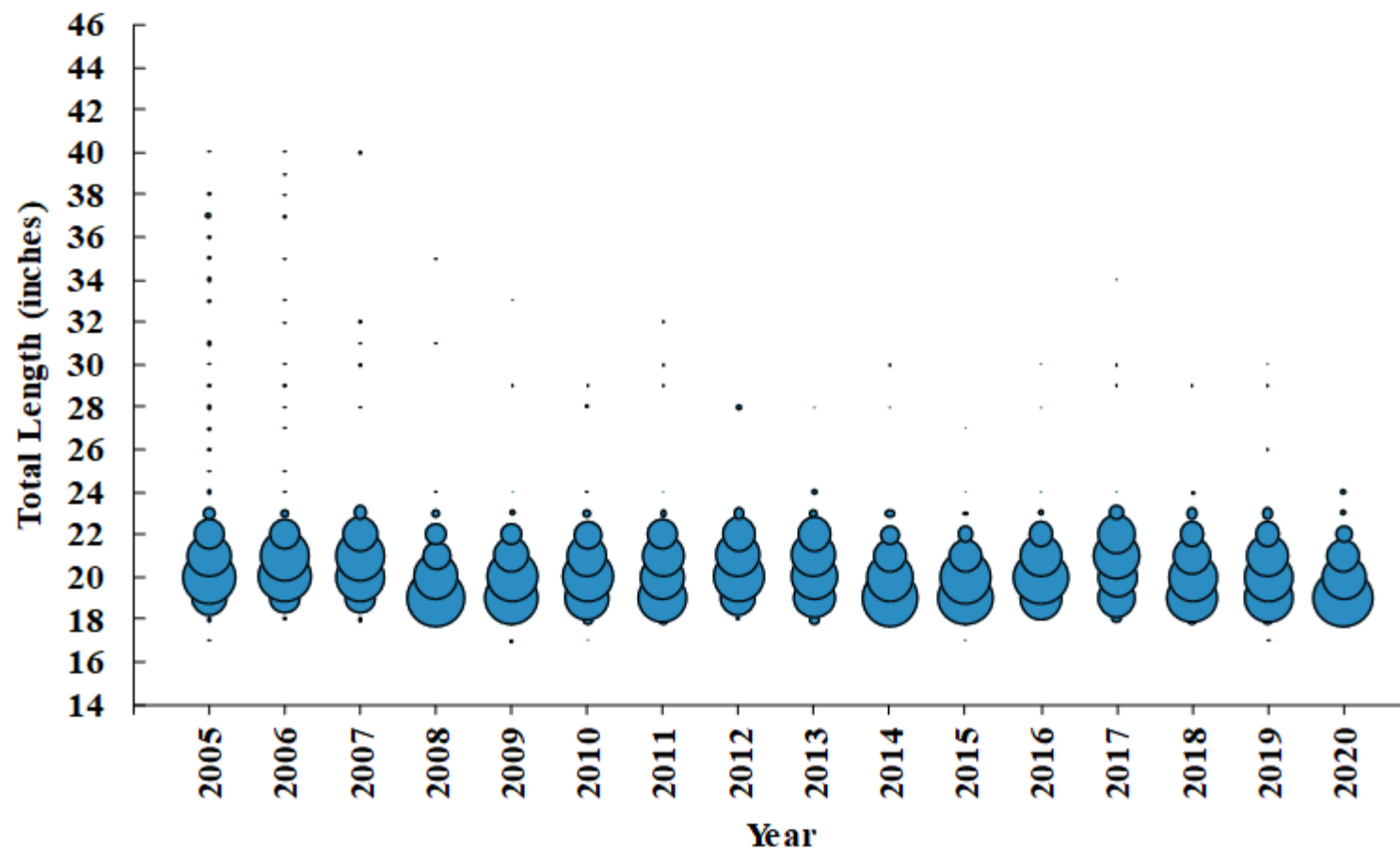


Figure 2.6. Recreational length frequency (total length, inches) of striped bass harvested in the RRMA, NC, 2005–2020. Bubble size represents the proportion of fish at length.

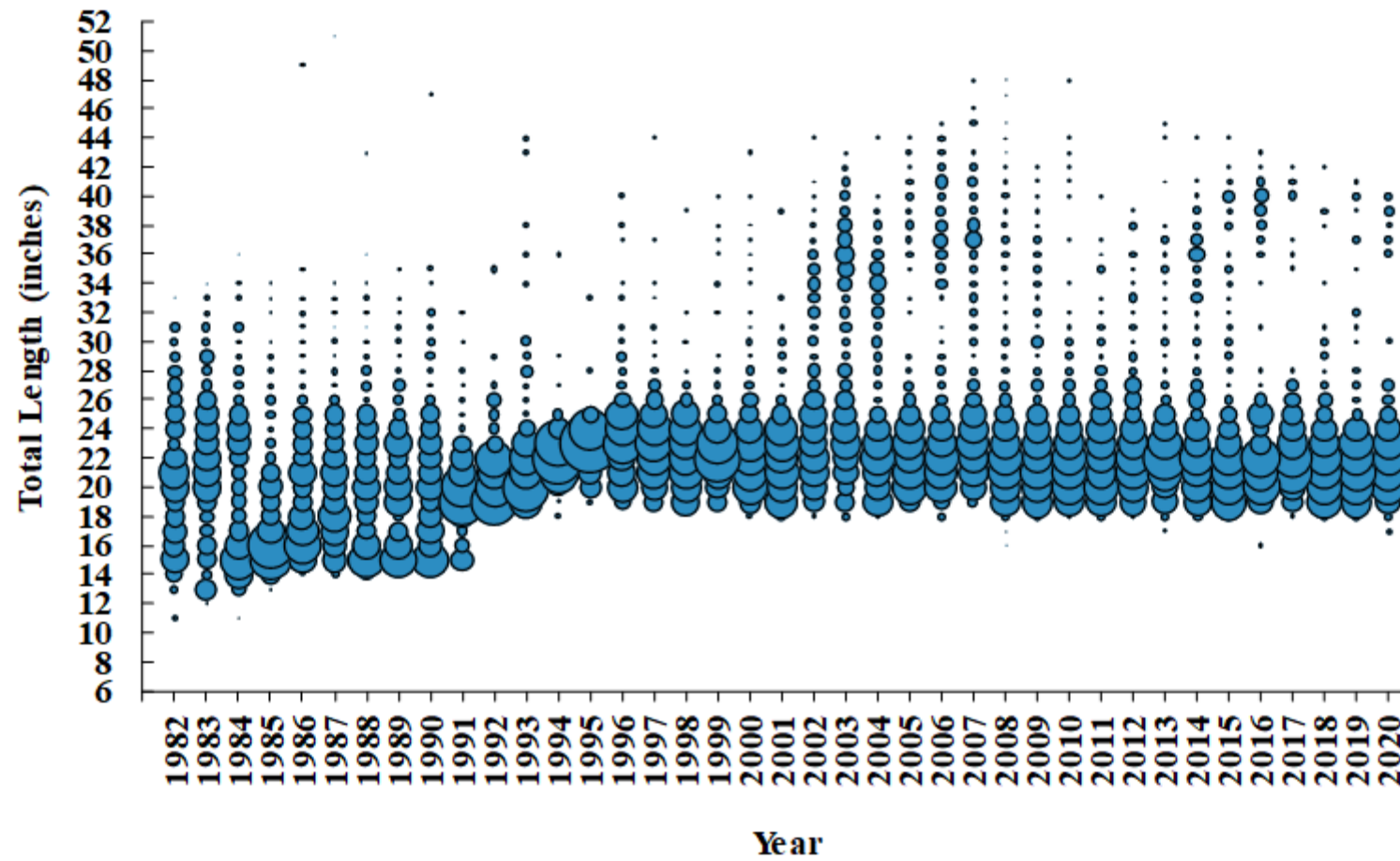


Figure 2.7. Commercial length frequency (total length, inches) of striped bass harvested in the ASMA, NC, 1982–2020. Bubble size represents the proportion of fish at length.



