



False Albacore Information Paper Update

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

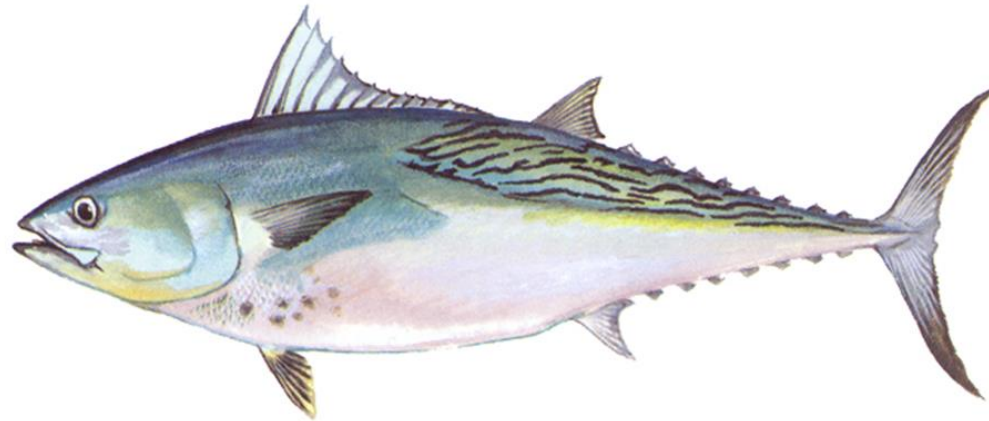
Marine Fisheries

February 2023 MFC Business Meeting | McLean Seward and Anne Markwith | February 23, 2023



Origination

At its August 2022 business meeting the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (NCMFC) requested staff update an information paper on false albacore to frame potential management options for future consideration.



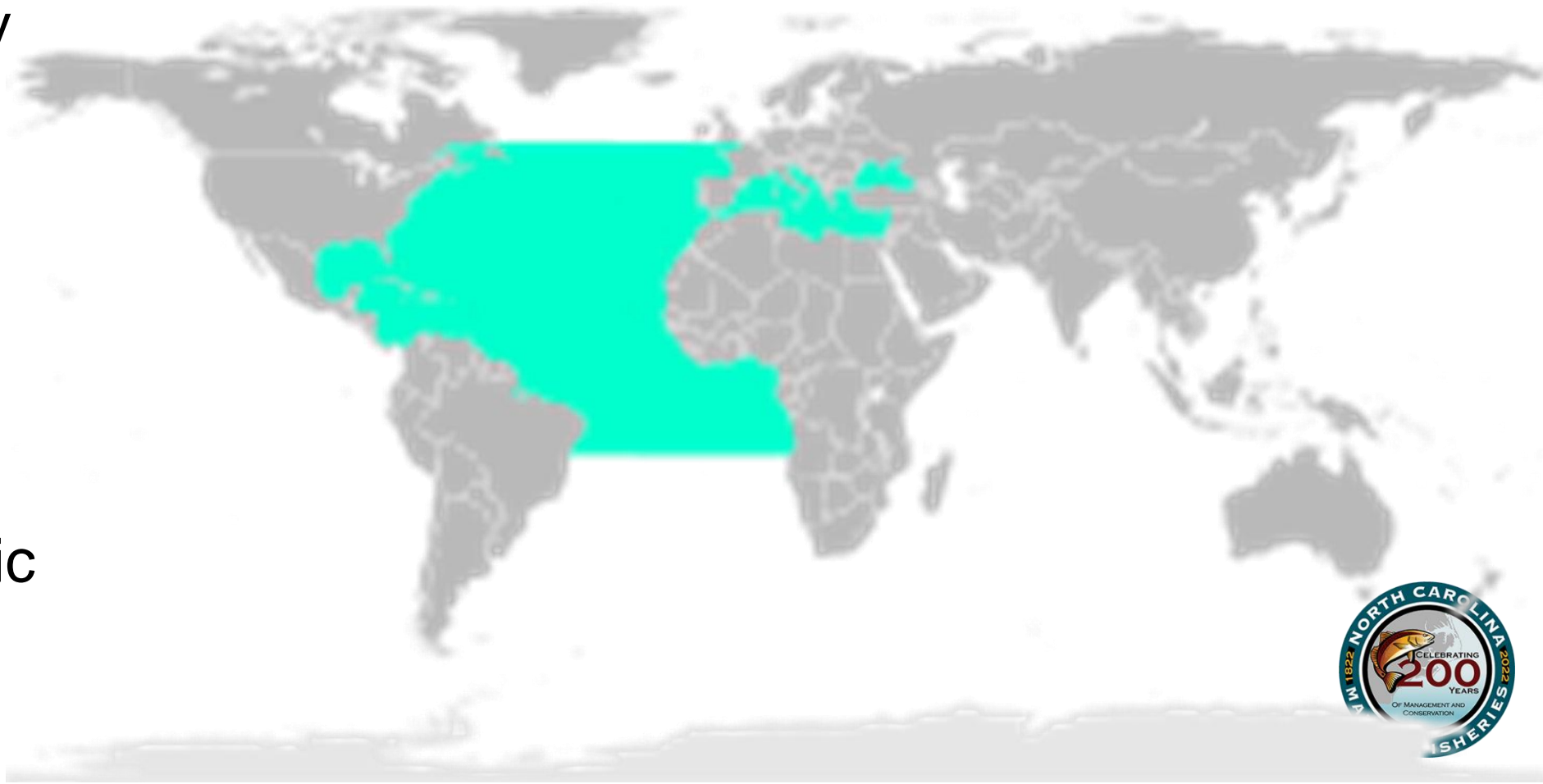
Presentation Overview

- Life history
- Stock status and management history
- Landings information
- DMF recommendation and data needs



Life History

- Widely distributed
- Habitat: Mainly oceanic
- Fast growing
- Live up to 5 years
- Lack of life history information in western Atlantic

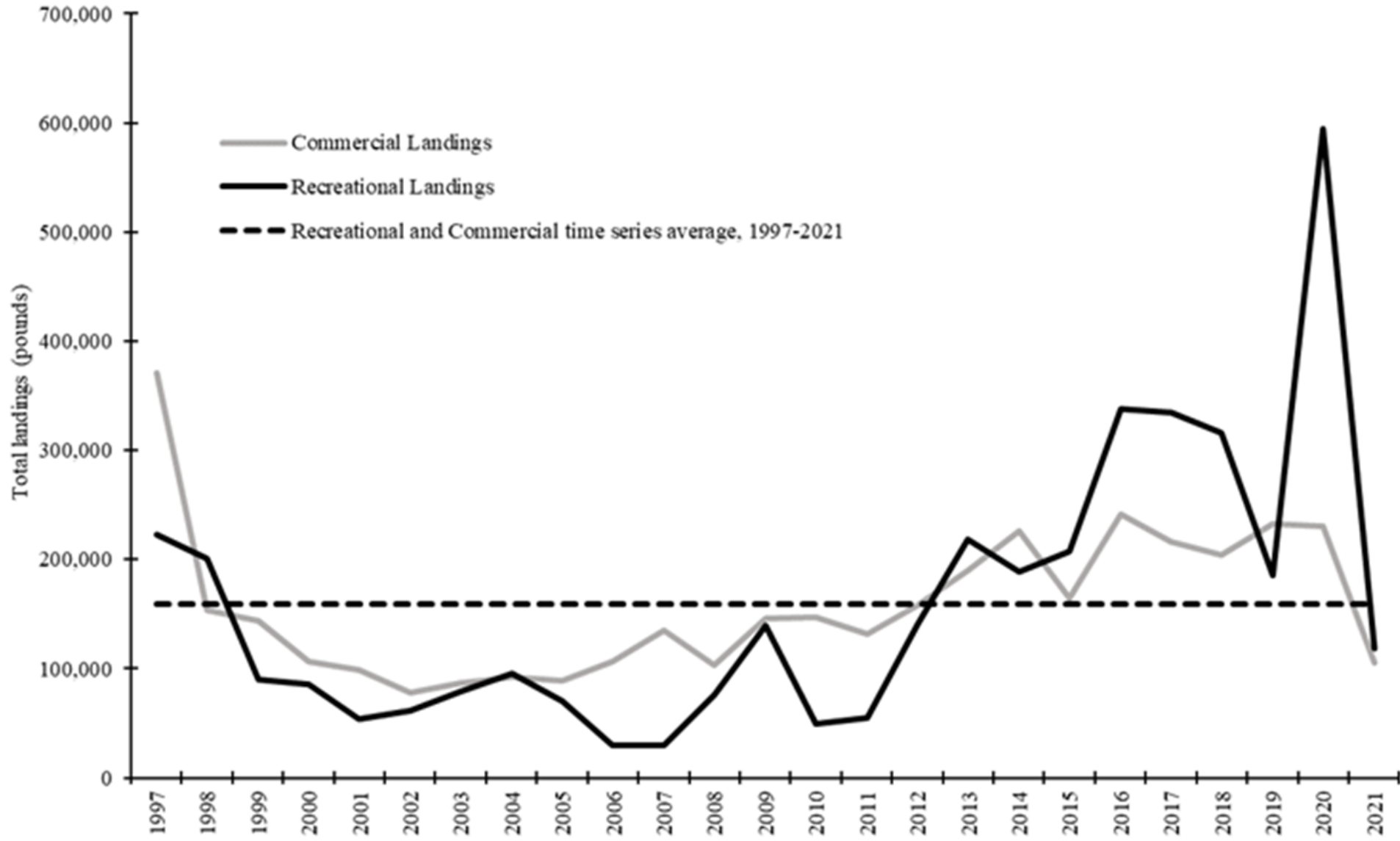


Stock Status and Management History

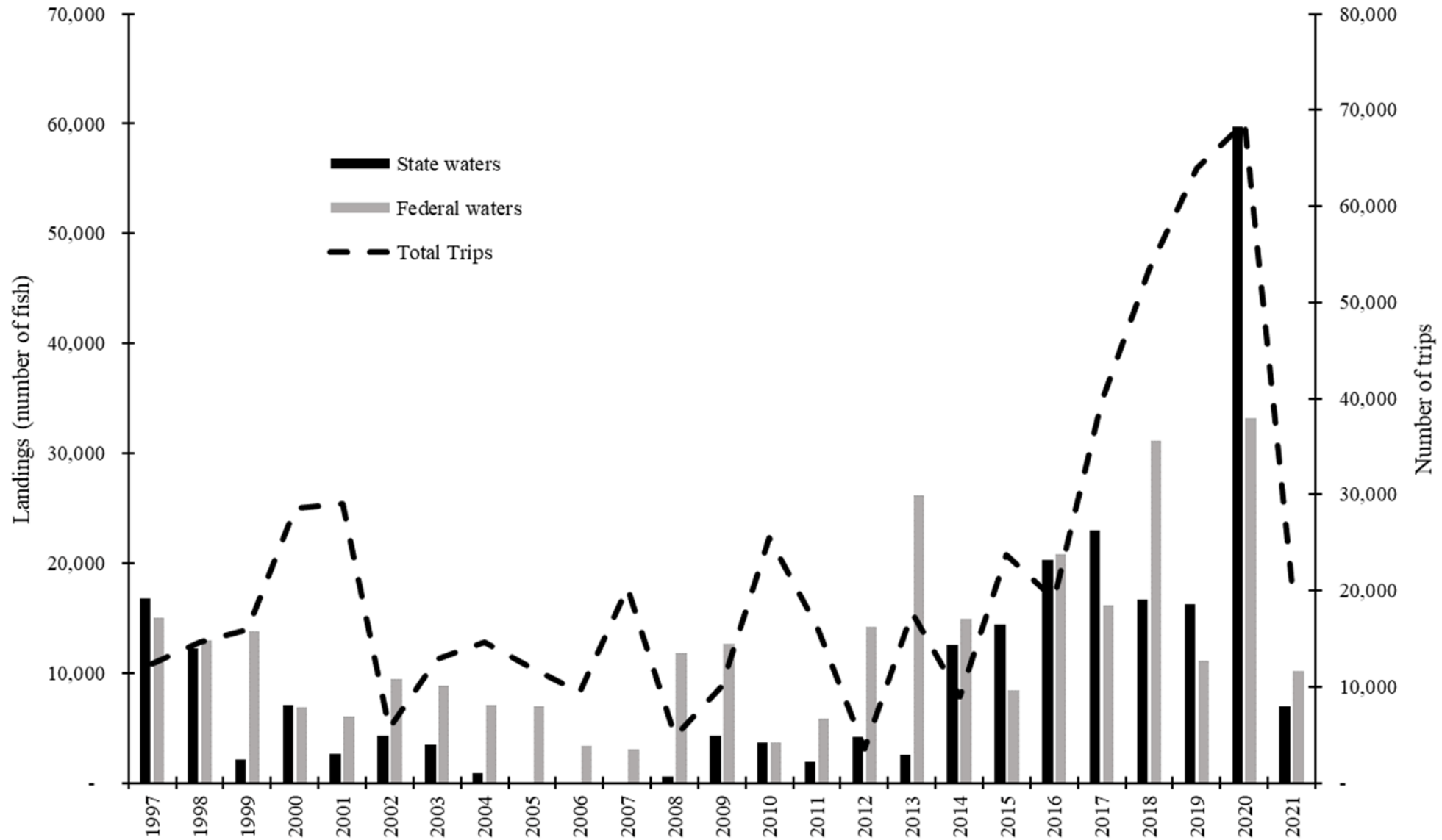
- No assessment for western Atlantic; stock status unknown
- Removed from SAFMC Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP in 2011
 - December 2022, Fishery Performance Report will be given to the Council to monitor trends
- MAFMC considered management but ultimately did not include
- Currently no rules for management are in place for false albacore in North Carolina, or coastwide



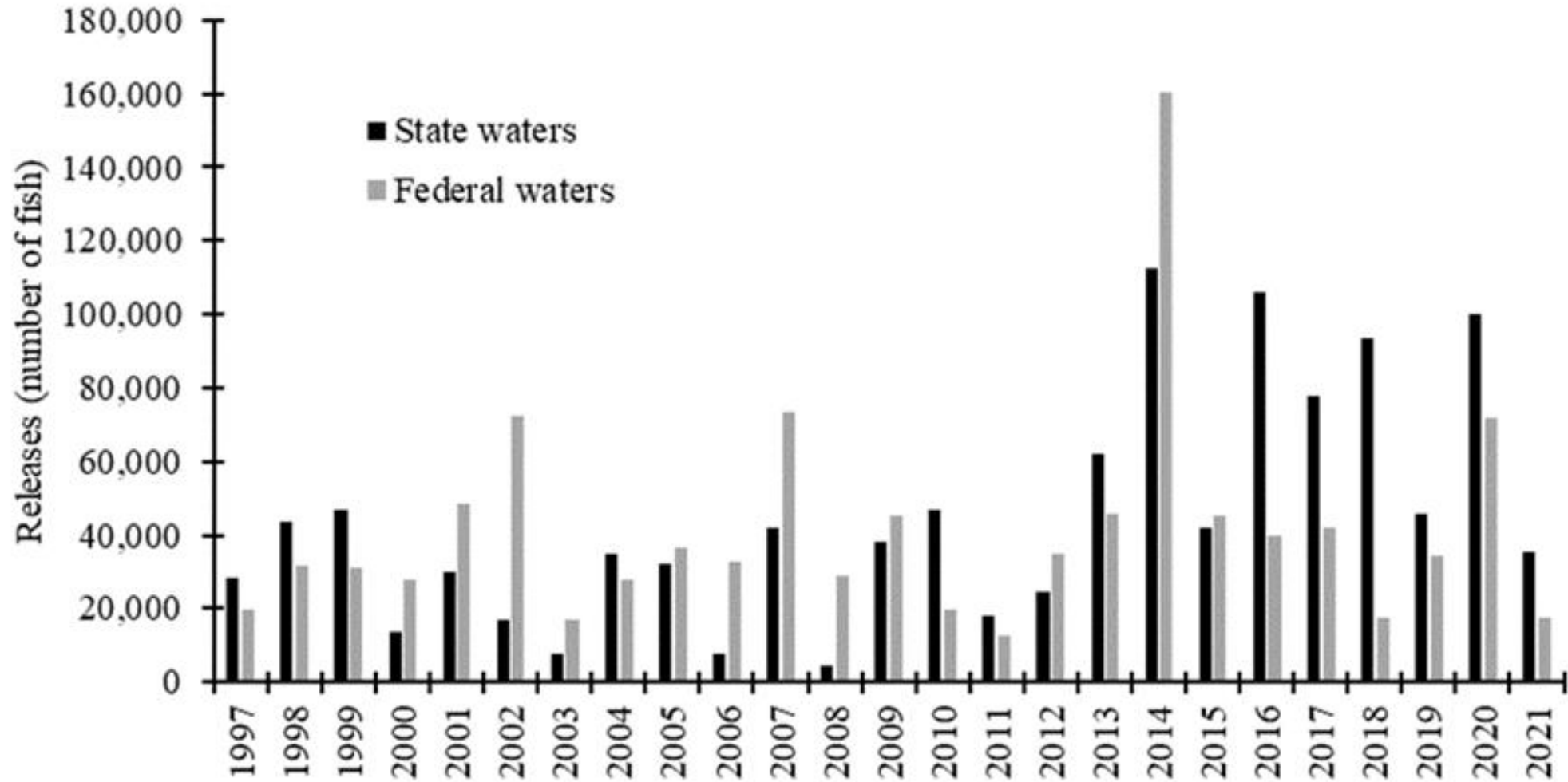
North Carolina Landings



North Carolina Recreational Fishery-Harvest

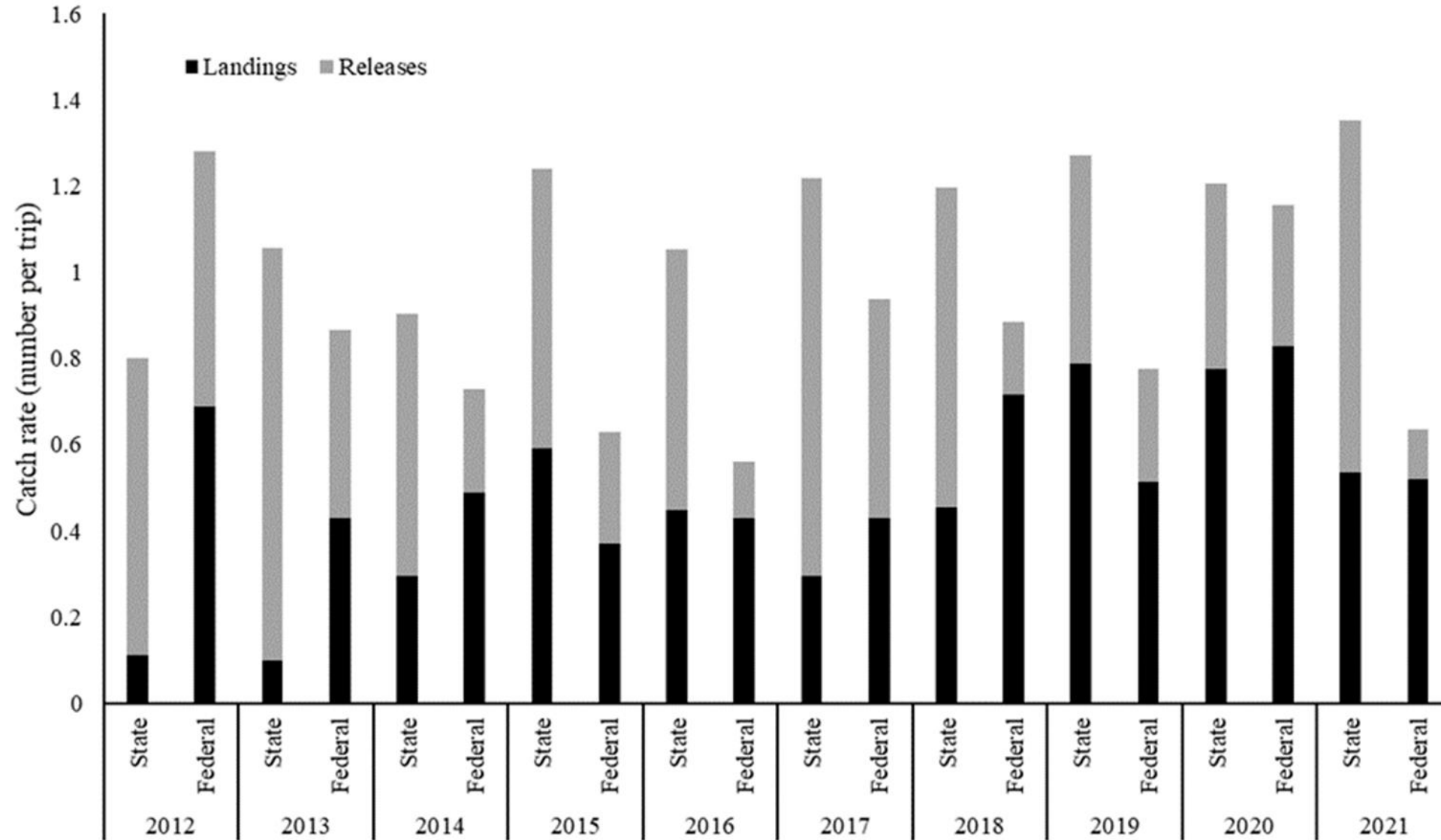


North Carolina Recreational Fishery-Releases

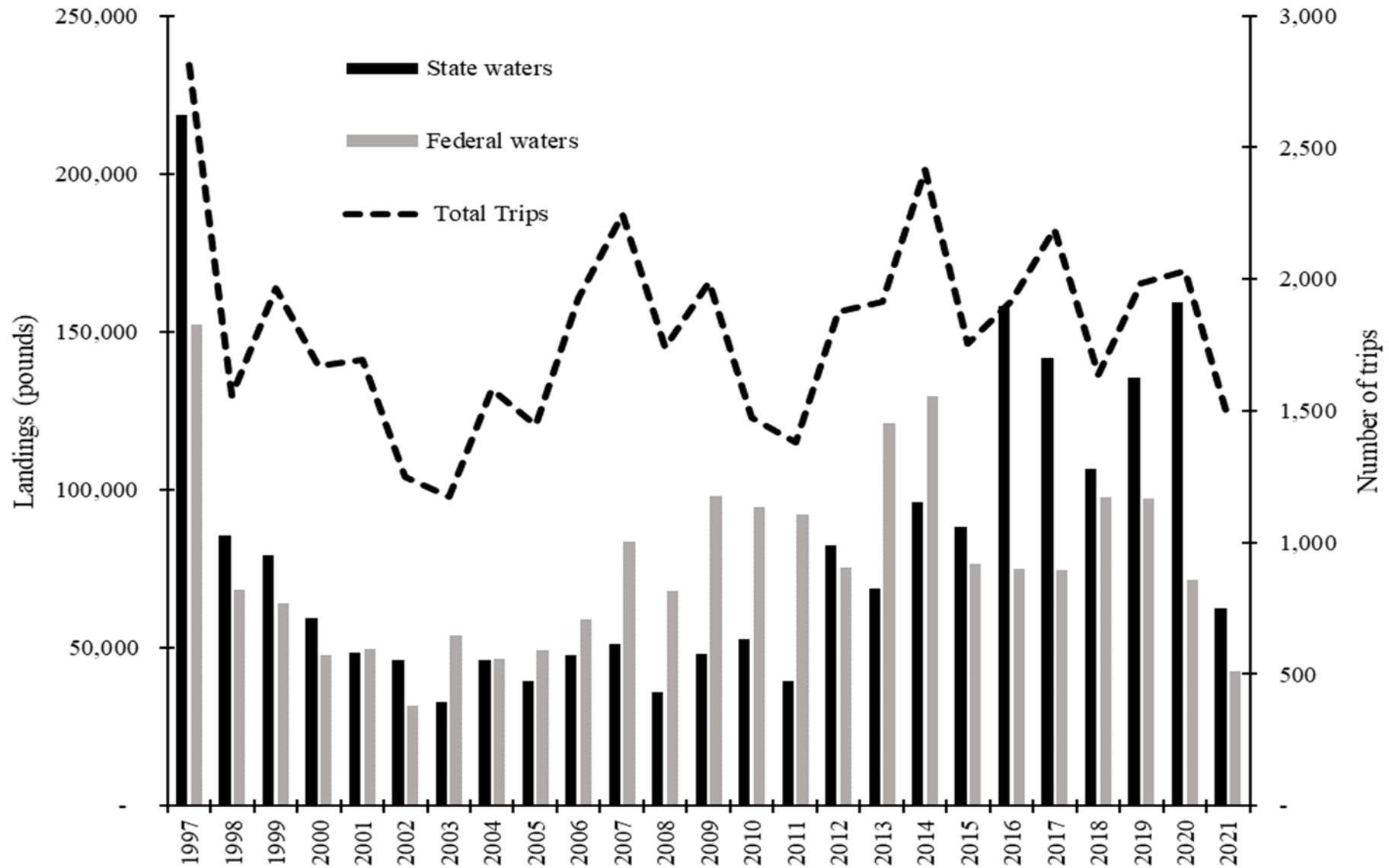


B

North Carolina Recreational Fishery-Catch Rates

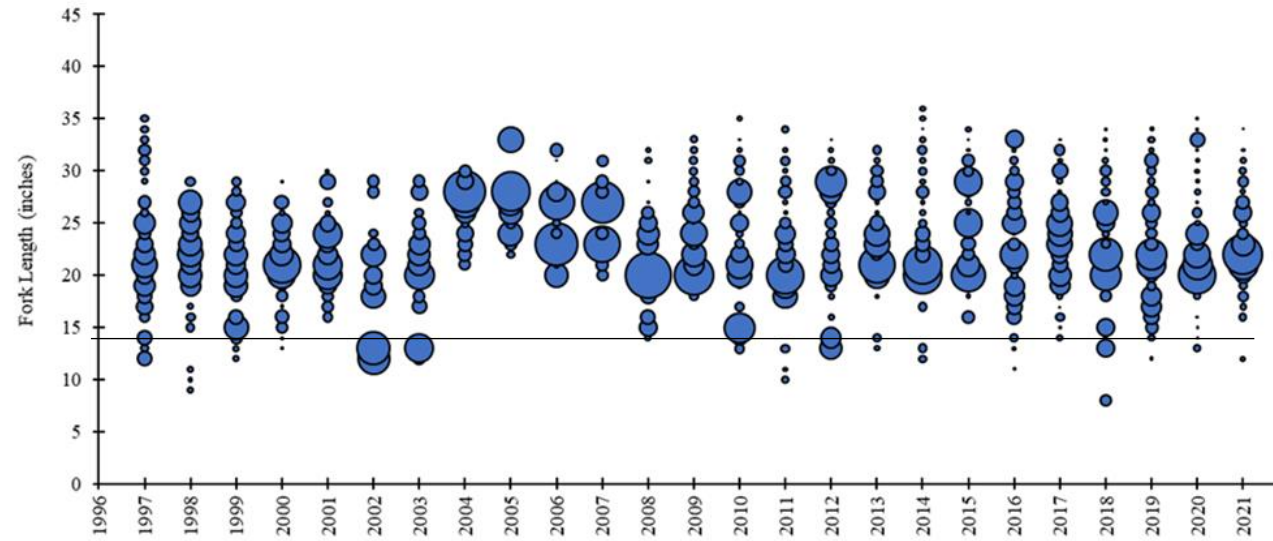


North Carolina Commercial Fishery

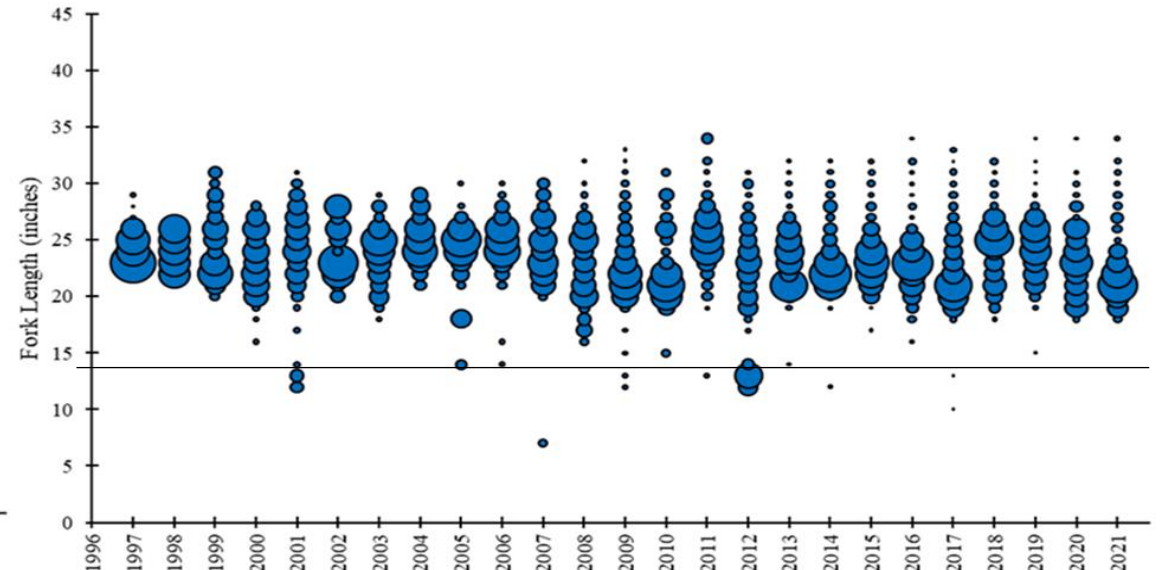


Length Frequency

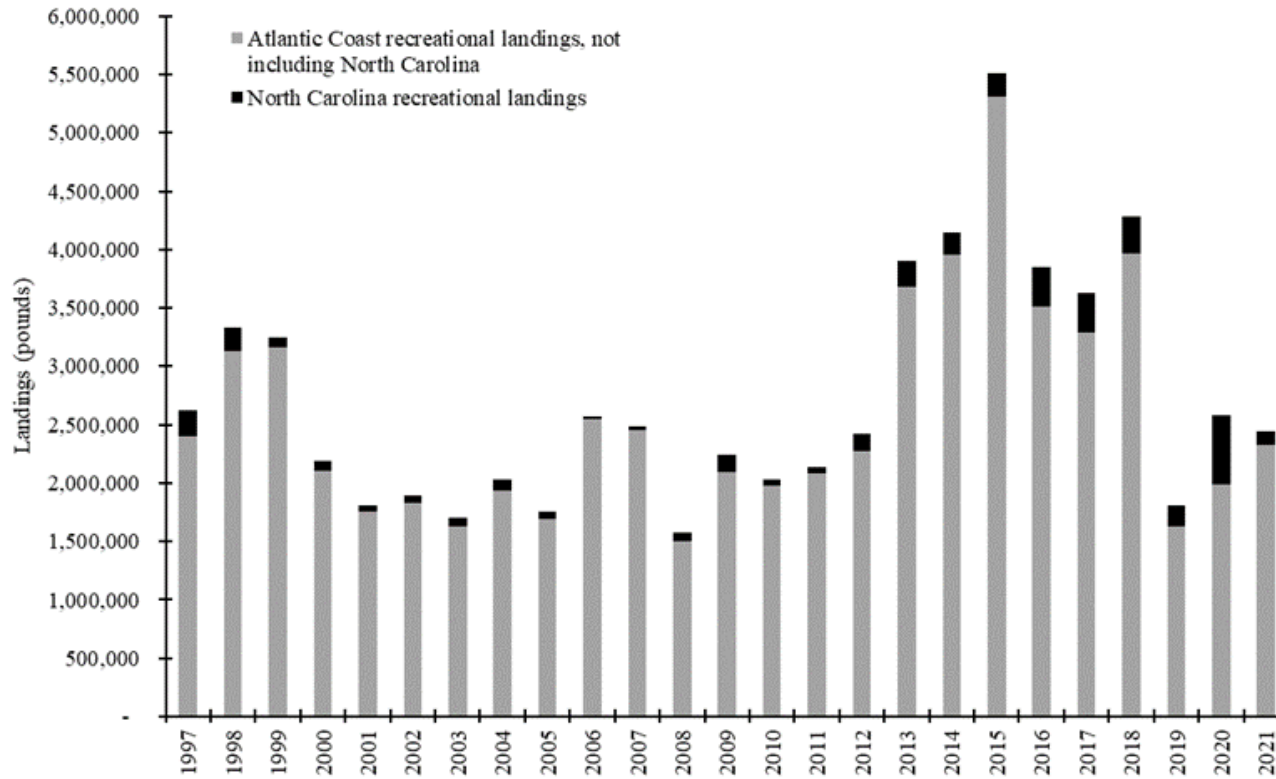
Recreational



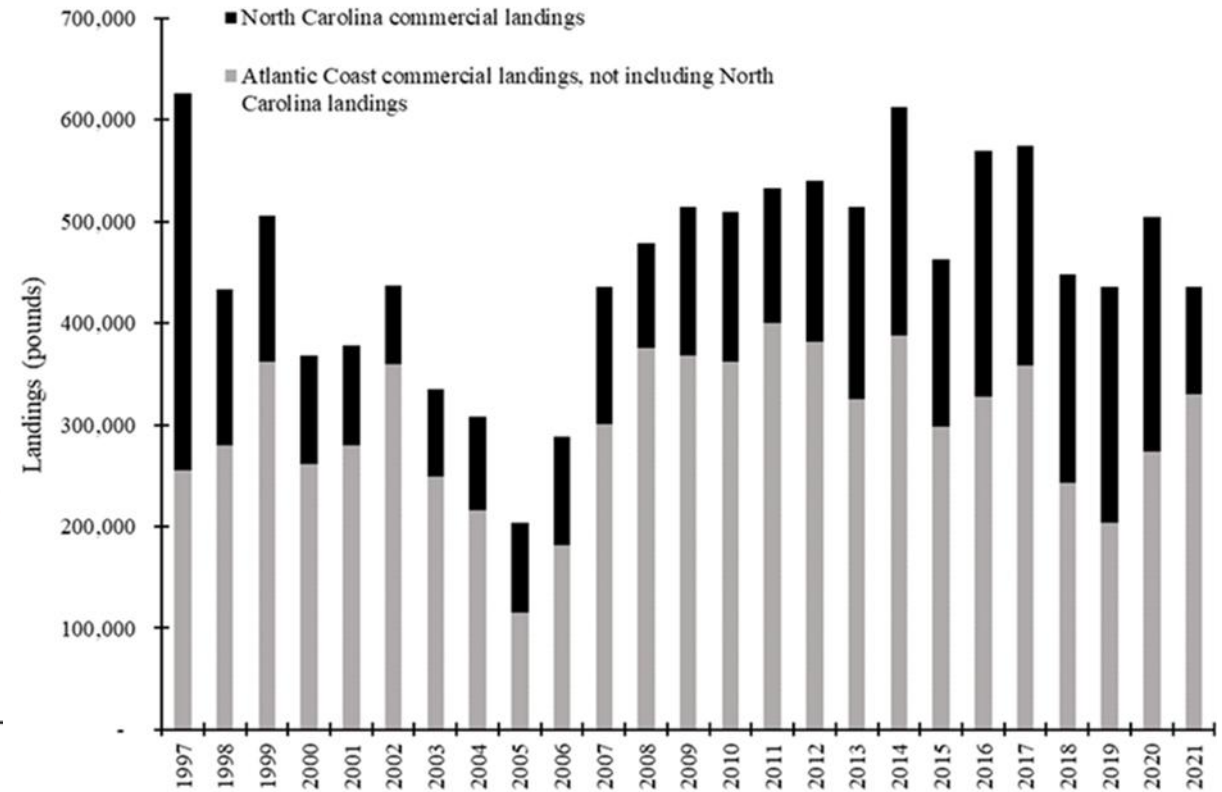
Commercial



Atlantic Coast Landings

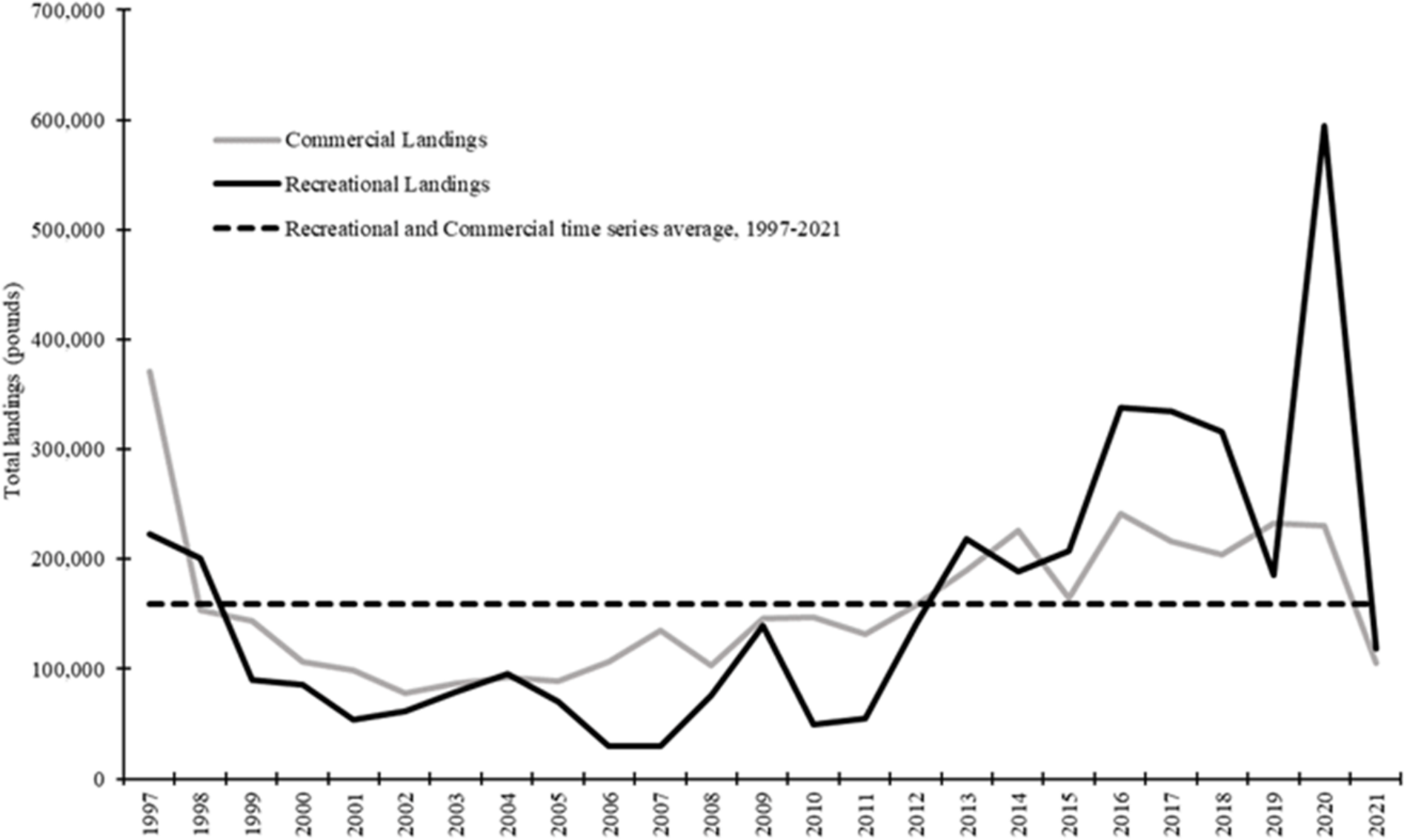


Recreational

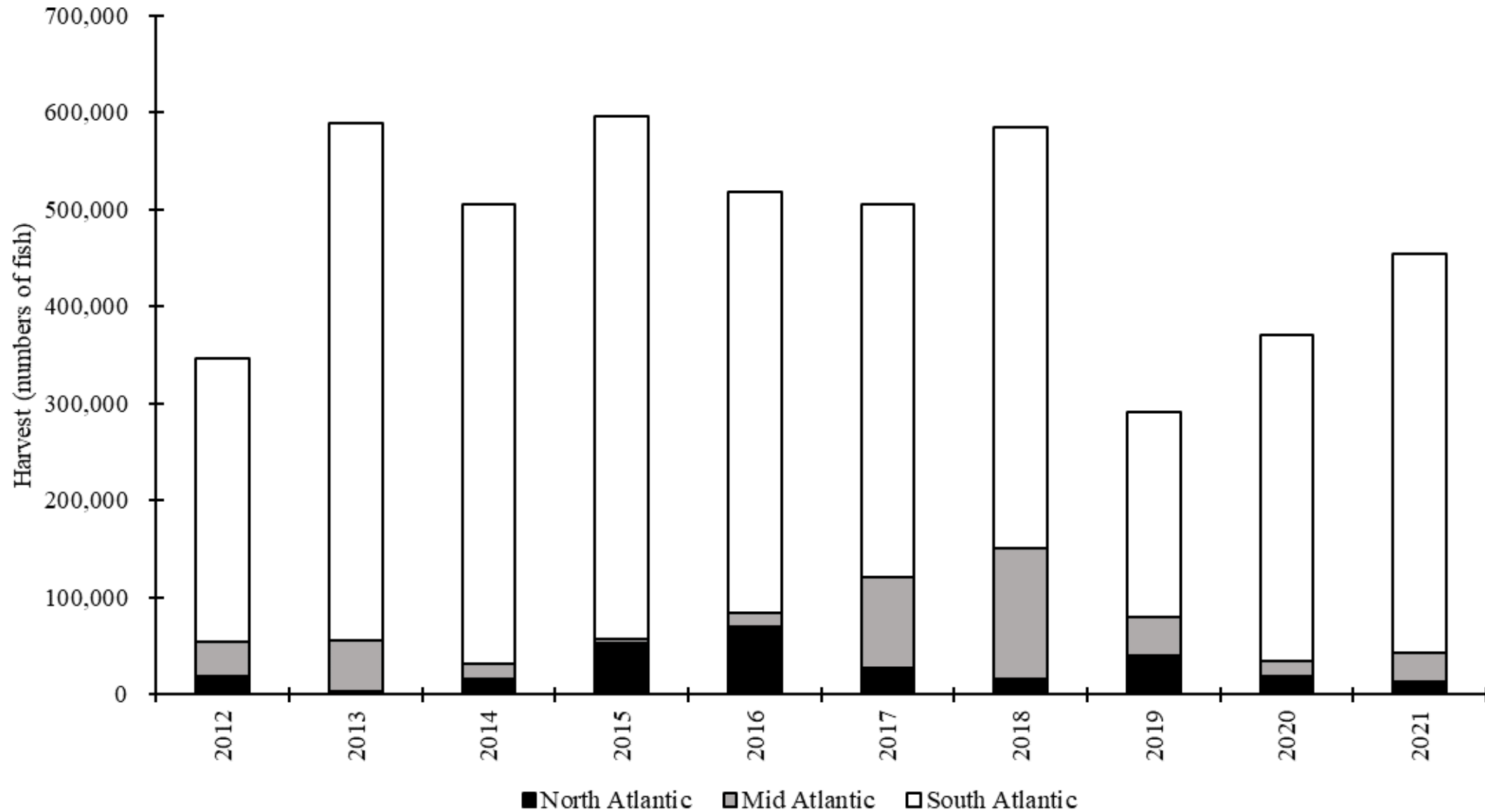


Commercial

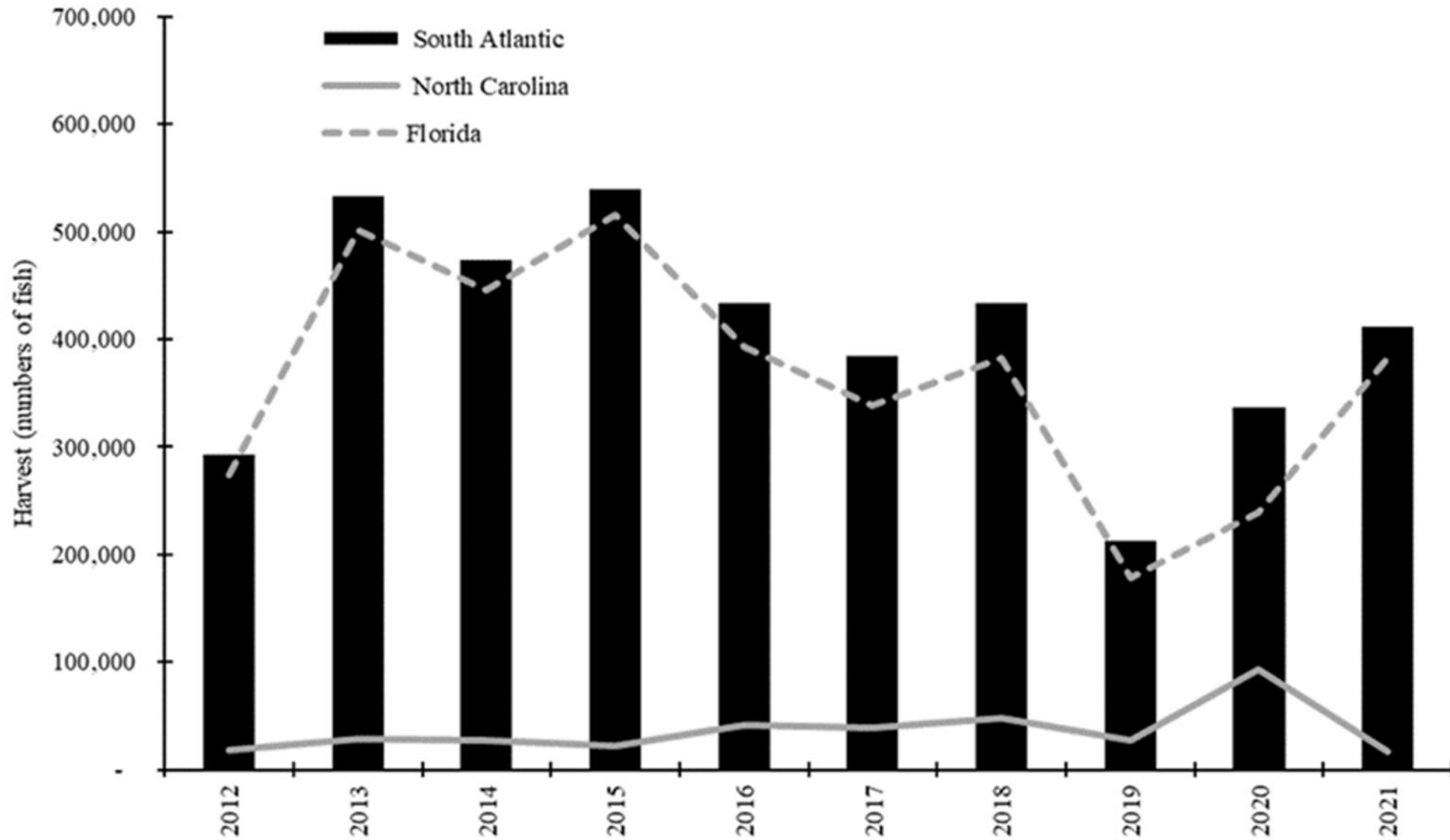
North Carolina Landings



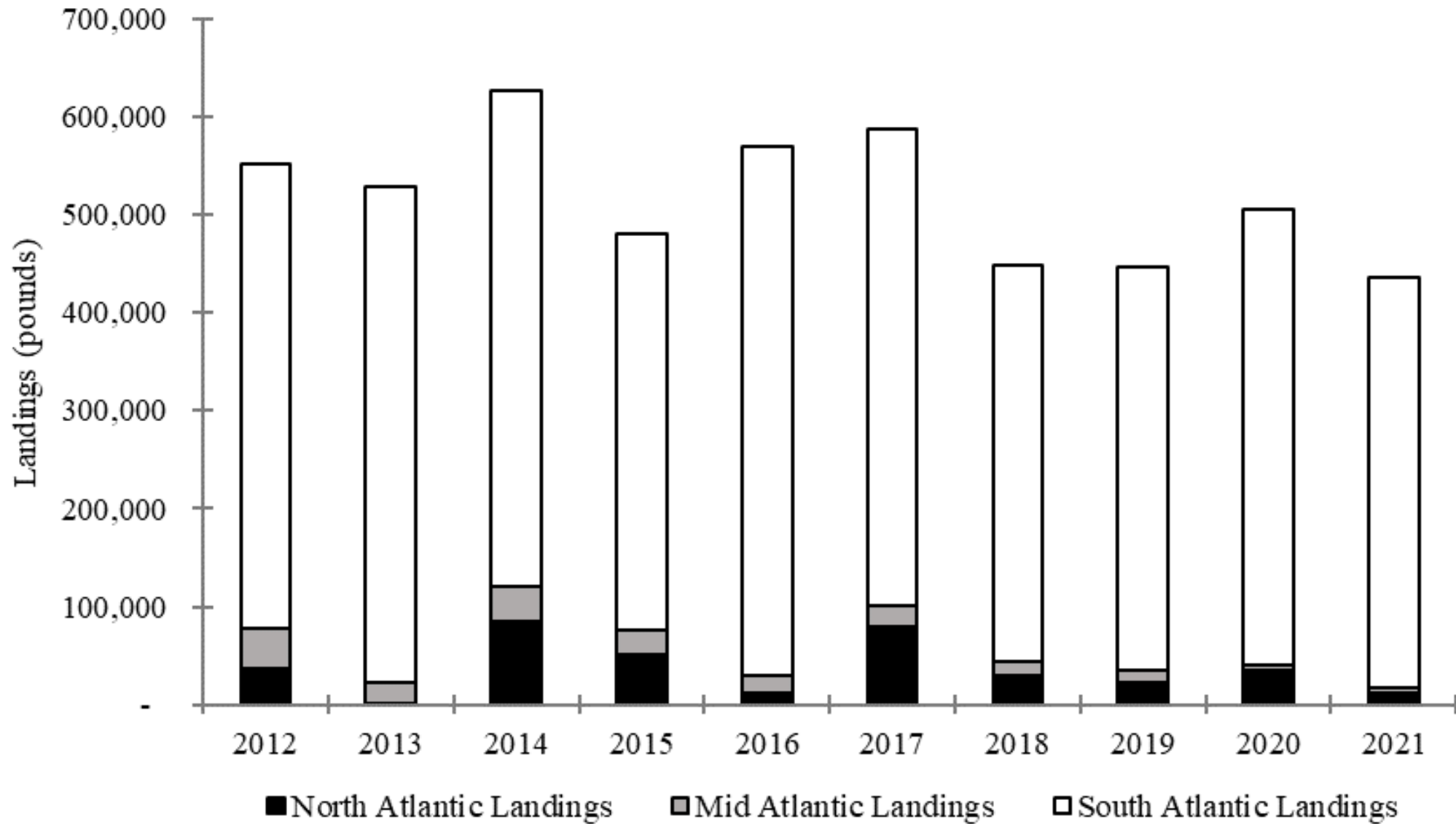
Atlantic Coast Recreational Fishery



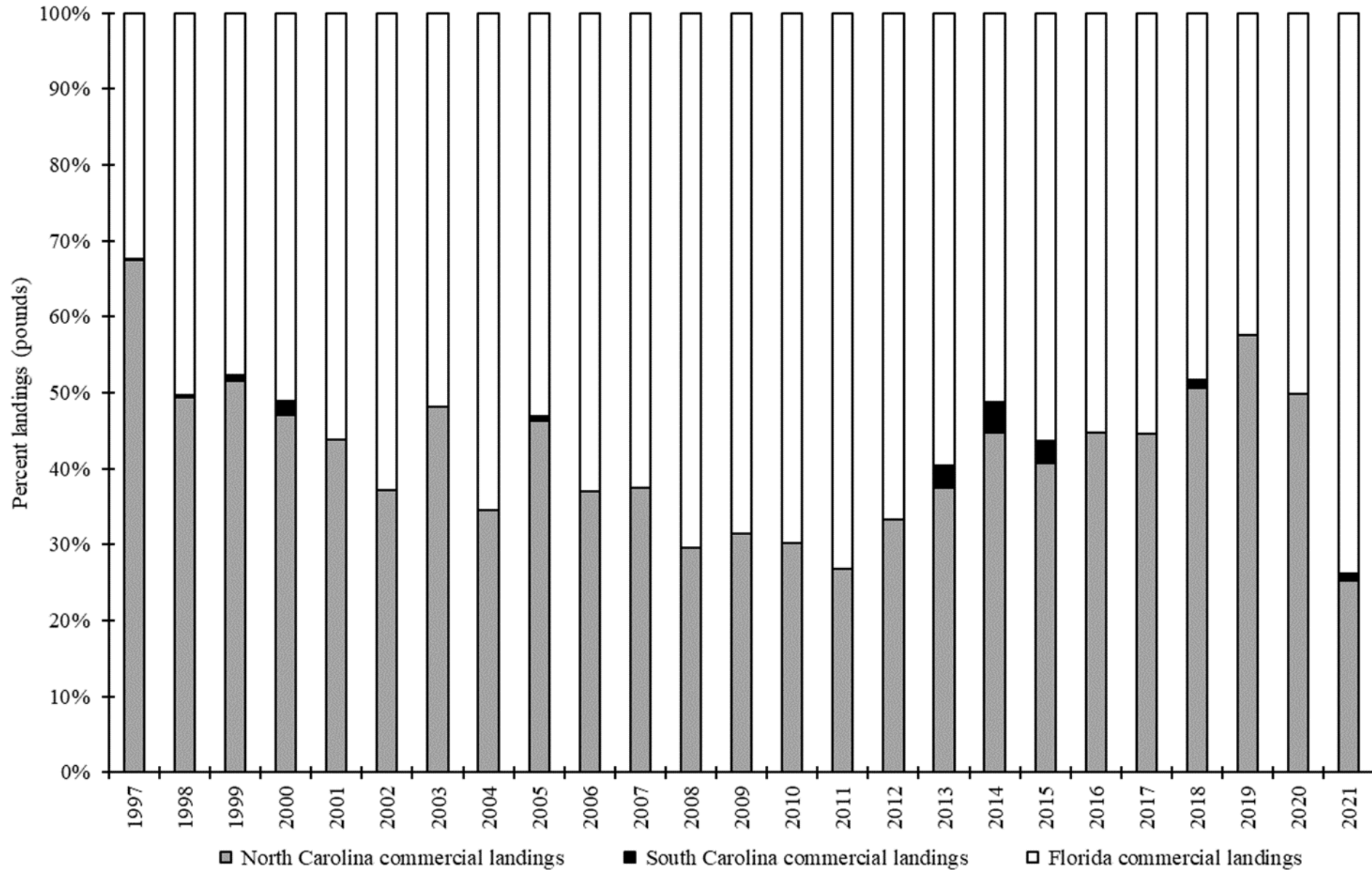
South Atlantic Recreational Fishery



Atlantic Coast Commercial Fishery



South Atlantic Commercial Fishery



False Albacore Data Needs

- Age and growth
- Sex and maturity
- Tagging
- Stock structure



*Need is coastwide



DMF Recommendation and Rationale

- Do not pursue state specific management at this time
 - NC small proportion of coastal landings
 - Average size landed well over size at maturity
 - Management discussions at federal level



Questions?

