

# Review of Kingfish Fishery Management Plan



Marine Fisheries Commission  
May 21, 2015



# Overview of Kingfish Fishery Management Plan

- 2007 Kingfish Fishery Management Plan goal and objectives
- Management triggers evaluation
- Refined and updated triggers through 2013
- Public comments
- Division responses and recommendation
- Timeline
- Next steps



# 2007 Kingfish Fishery Management Plan Goal and Objectives

- The goal of the 2007 Kingfish Fishery Management Plan is to determine the status of the stock and ensure the long-term sustainability for the kingfishes stock in North Carolina.
- The objectives of the Kingfish Fishery Management Plan update are the same as in the original fishery management plan.



# Current Kingfish Regulations

- 15A NCAC 03M .0518

Delegates proclamation authority to the Fisheries Director to manage kingfish

- 15A NCAC 03J .0202(5)

Provides an exception to allow 300 pounds of kingfish to be taken south of Bogue Inlet from Dec. 1 through March 31 without the requirement for the take of shrimp and crabs to exceed the weight of finfish.



# 2007 Sustainable Harvest

- Overfishing/overfished reference points unknown due to deficiencies in the data required for a stock assessment
- The kingfish population is managed for sustainable harvest through management triggers.



# Trend Analysis

- Division recommends continued use of management triggers as basis to manage kingfishes
- 2007 management triggers were refined and modified to better assess population trends
- Changes to management triggers do not alter the basic strategic concept of the trigger management set forth by the 2007 plan
- Management triggers were updated using data through 2013



# Management Trigger Evaluation

## Relative Fishing Mortality Management Trigger

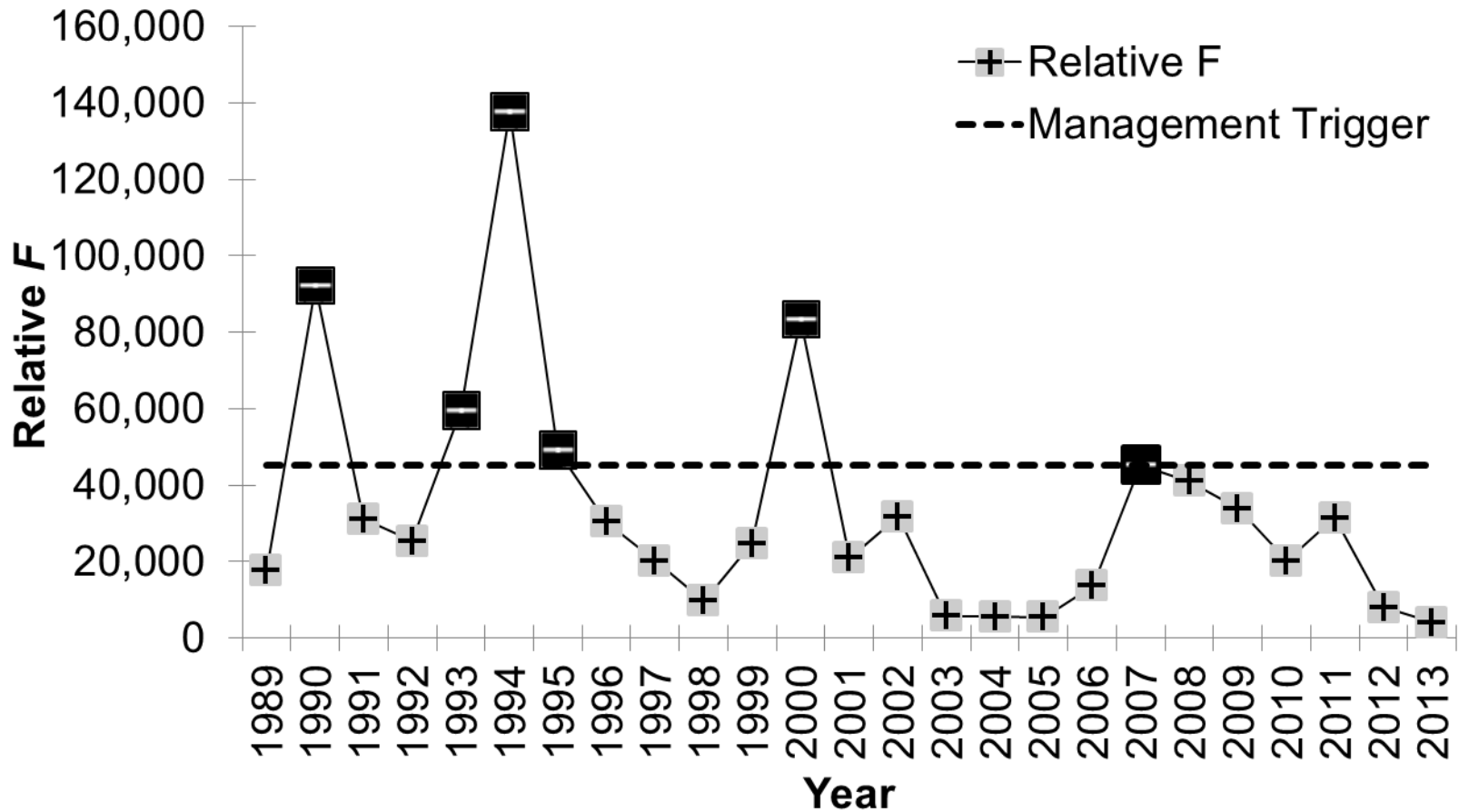
Management trigger is tripped when relative  $F$  rises above the average relative  $F$  for the time series (through 2013) plus one-third

### Data Sources

- Commercial harvest + recreational harvest
- Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) adult spring index



# Relative $F$





# Management Trigger Evaluation

## Fisheries Independent Surveys – Juvenile and Adult Management Trigger

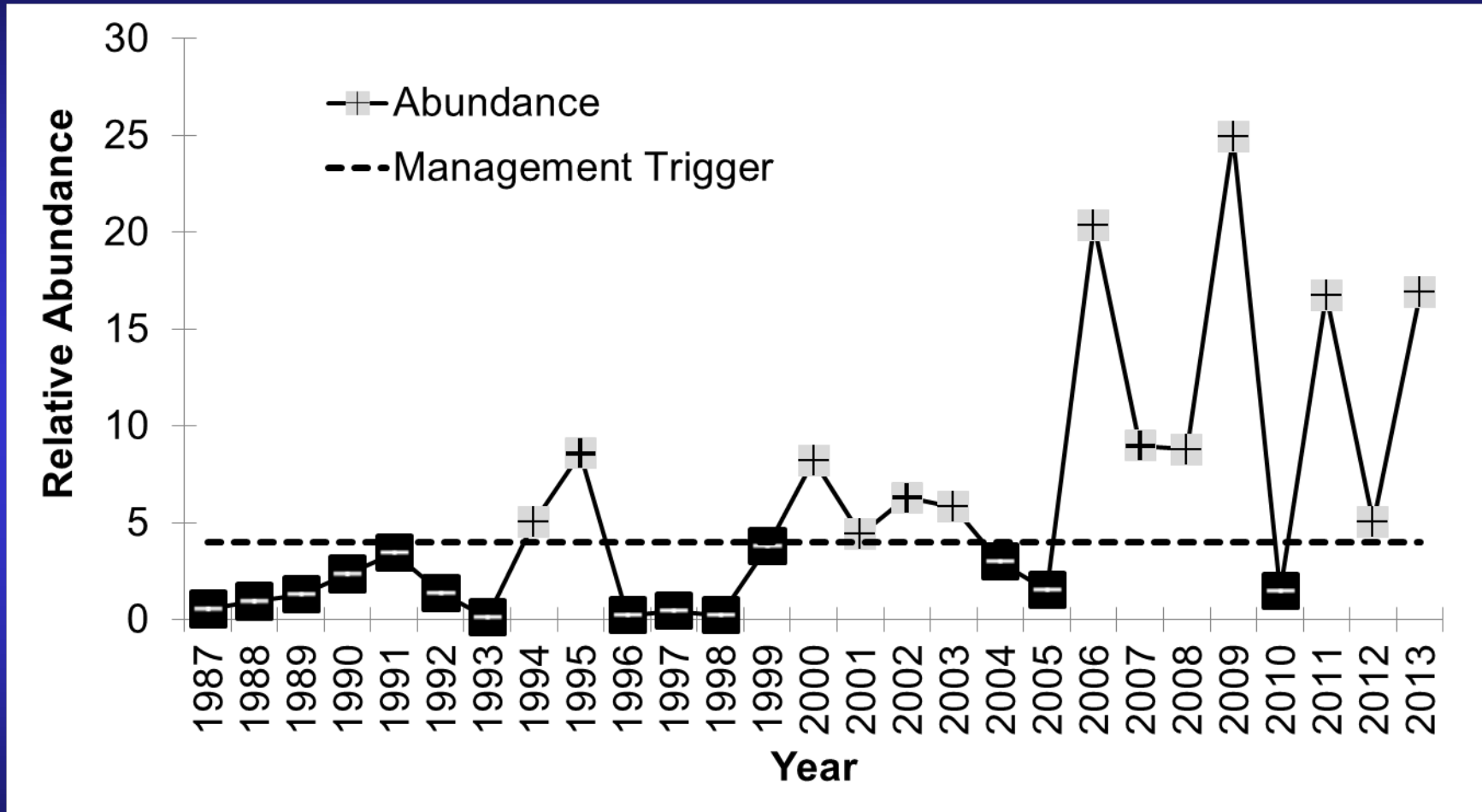
Management trigger is tripped when index falls below  $2/3$  of the average for the time series

### Data Sources

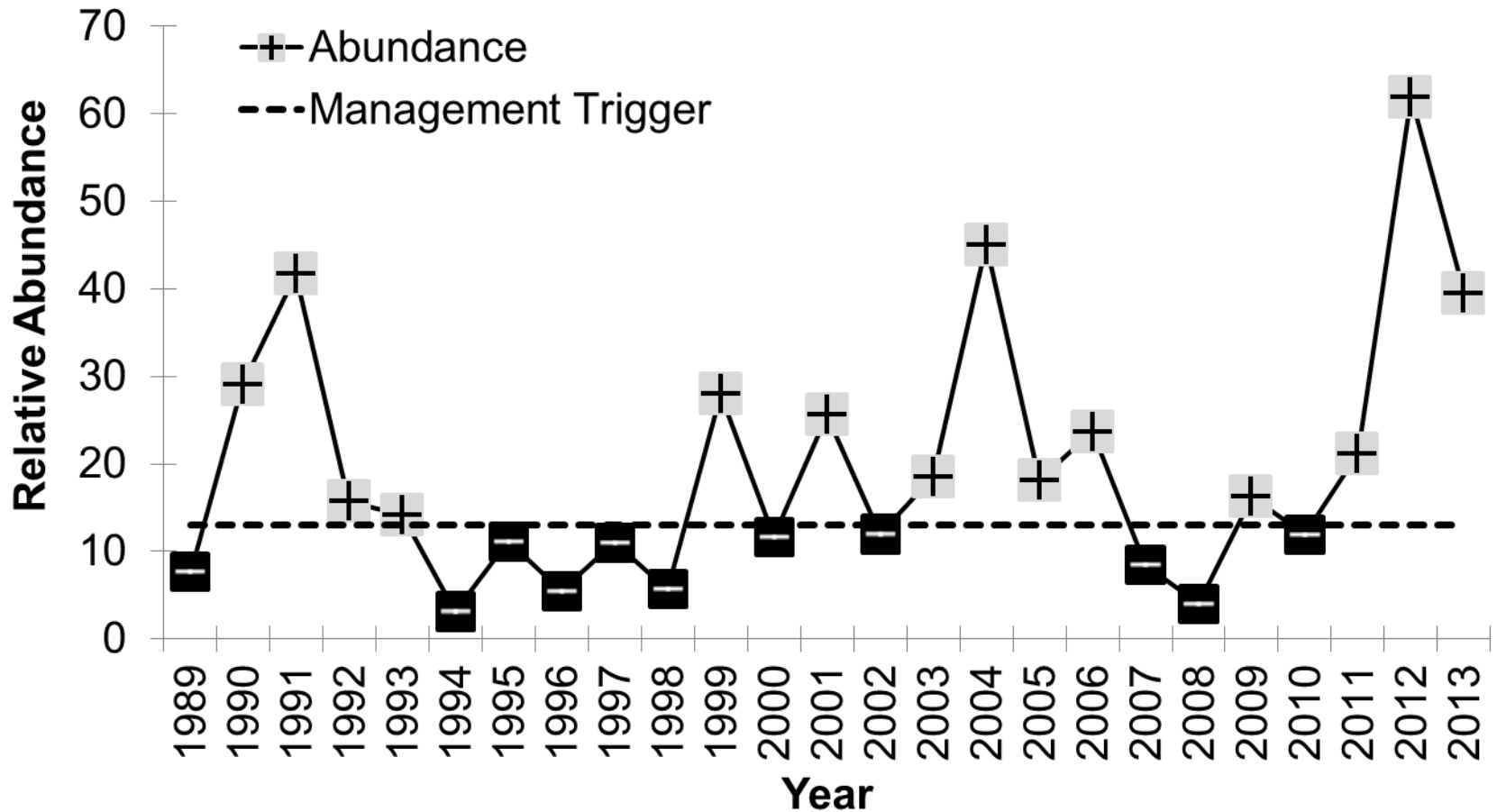
- Program 195 – September index for young-of-year abundance
- SEAMAP – Summer index of adult abundance
- SEAMAP – Fall index of young-of-year



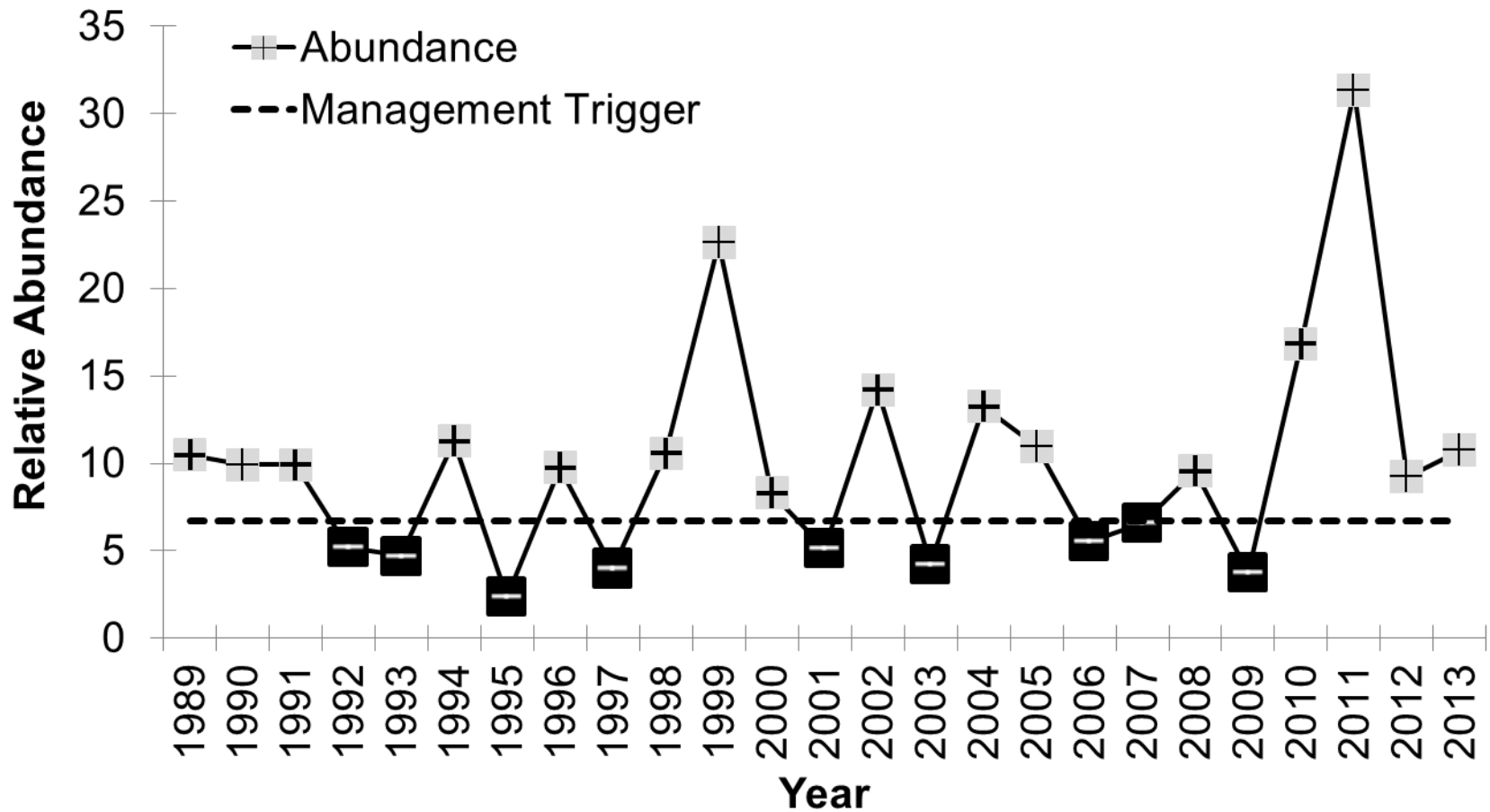
# Young of Year, Program 195, September



# Adult SEAMAP, Summer



# Young of Year SEAMAP, Fall



# Management Trigger Evaluation

## Biological Monitoring Management Trigger

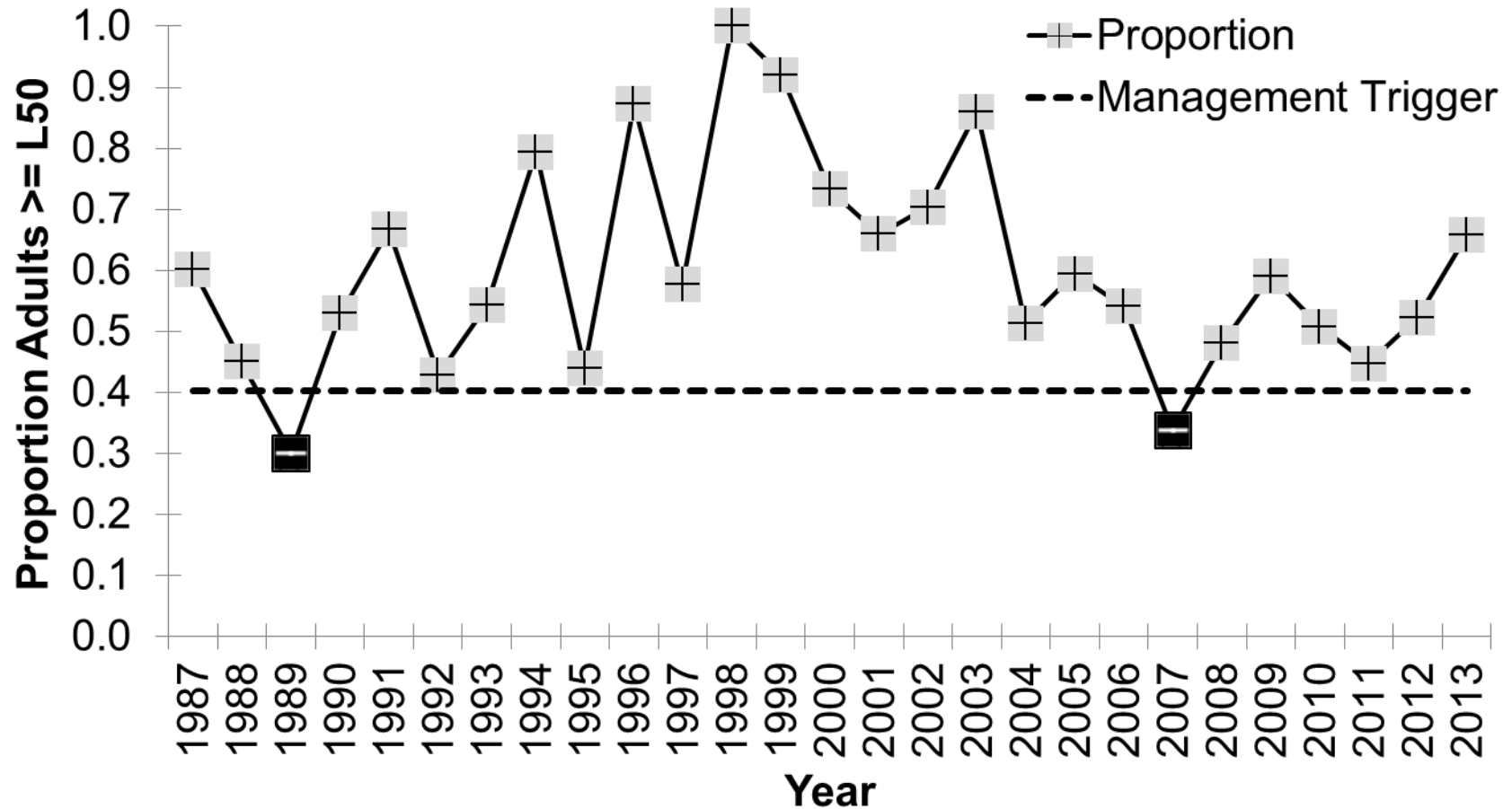
Management trigger is a conservative proportion of adults in the population

### Data Sources

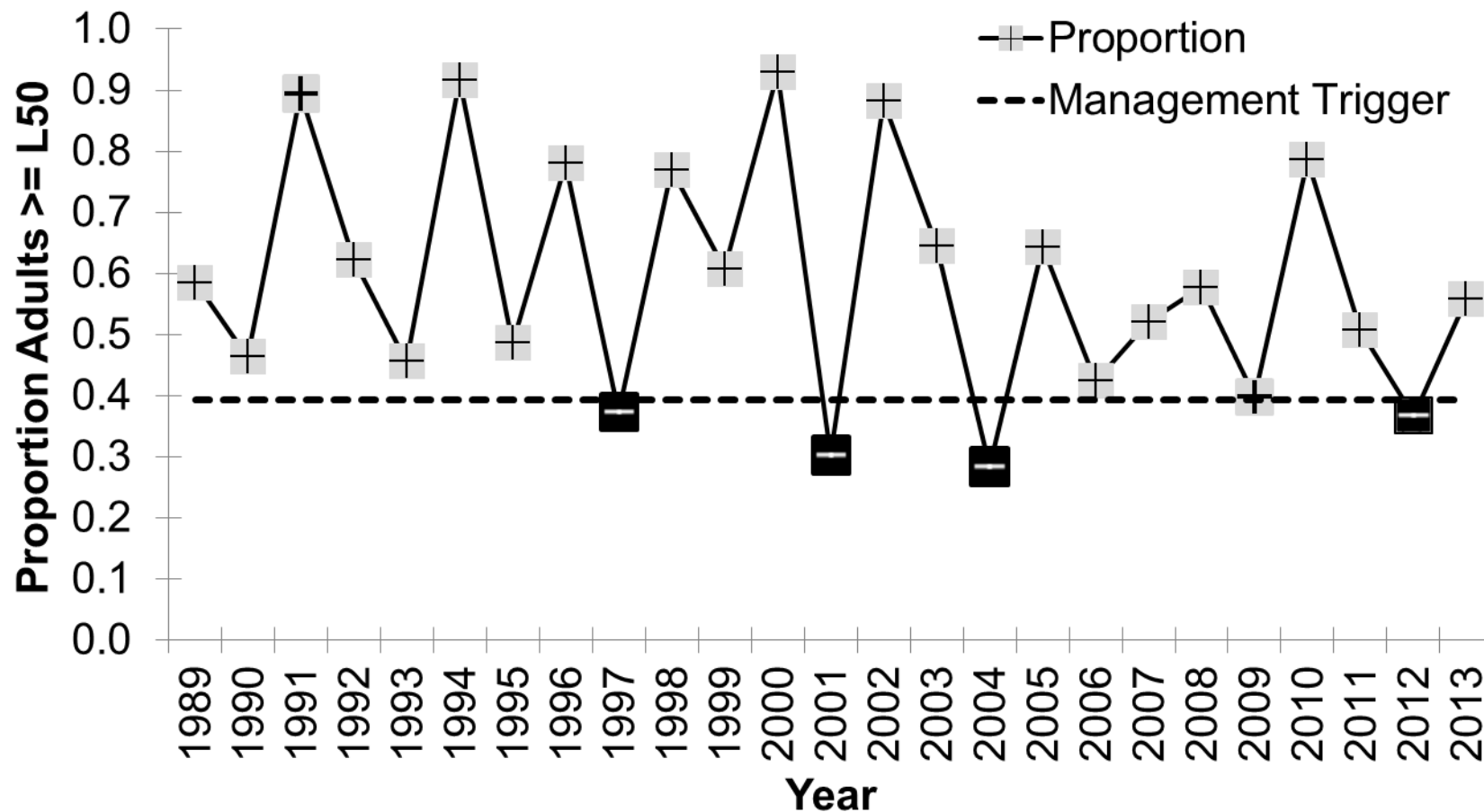
- Program 195 – Pamlico Sound Trawl Survey
- SEAMAP Trawl Survey (ocean survey)



# Program 195, June



# SEAMAP, Summer



# Management Trigger Evaluation

## Modification to criteria for considering management action

### 2007 Fishery Management Plan

If one management trigger is “tripped” then the division will consider management action

### 2015 Update

If any two triggers trip two years in a row, then data will be re-evaluated and management action may be considered





# 2015 Sustainable Harvest

- No triggers were tripped in 2013.
- Consideration of management action is not warranted at this time, based on triggers as indicators of stock condition.



# Public Comments

- News release (Jan. 26, 2015)
- Five respondents
  - Status quo (4)
  - Size limit (1)
  - Aquaculture (1)
  - Predation by spiny dogfish (1)



# Division Recommendation

- Based on positive trends in abundance triggers and relative  $F$ , the division recommends no further management action and suggests that the Kingfish Fishery Management Plan review should proceed as an information update.
- An “information update” has previously been referred to as “revision” when changes in factual and background data are made to a fishery management plan, excluding management changes.



# Timeline

TIMELINE FOR KINGFISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) 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 changes 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 Marine Fisheries Commission	May 21, 2015
7. Present FMP information update to Marine Fisheries Commission	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
* For FMP review, a press release is issued soliciting public comment on fishery issues.	



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are  
here**



# Next Step

**Vote to move forward with an information update or initiate amendment**



# Questions?

