

## Monkfish Operational Assessment Meeting – Review Meeting

June 20 2016, Wood Hole

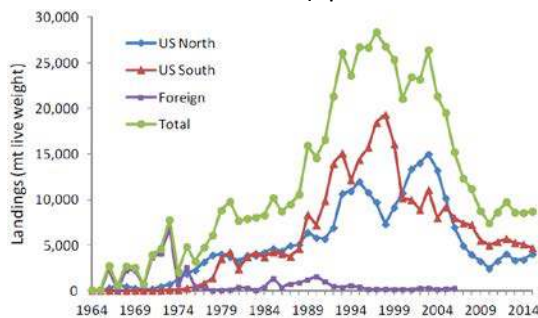
- Panel: Wendy Gabriel (chair), Chris Legault (NE SSC), Jake Kritzer (NE SSC), Jim Weinberg (SAW chair)
- Monkfish WG: Anne Richards (assessment lead), Mark Terceiro (WG chair), Fiona Hogan (NEFMC), Steve Cadrin, Crista Bank
- Others: Mike Simpkins (NEFSC), Sheena Steiner (NEFSC), Naomi Jainarine (SMAST), Samantha Meek (SMAST), Greg DiDomenico (webinar) Willy Witmore (GARFO, webinar)

Introductions and logistics – Jim

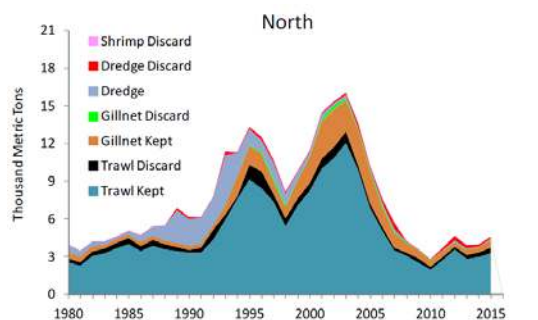
- AOP decided that the update will no include an analytical assessment (SCALE), reference points or status determination
- The Panel is responsible for addressing 4 topics:
  - Comment on whether the data update has been completed properly and documented in a written report
  - Comment on the appropriateness and adequacy of the work that was carried out to support the SSC in making its ABC recommendation
  - Identify key sources of uncertainty
  - Identify important research needs

Review of Data Update results – Anne

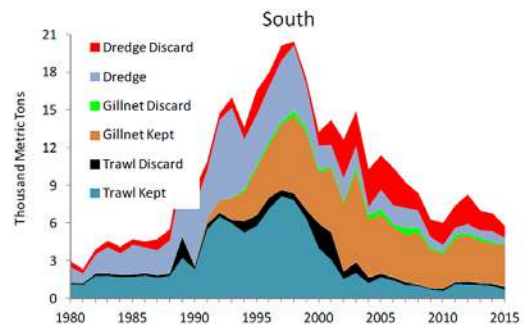
- TOR1 update catch statistics
  - 2015 data now available (update includes 2012-2015)



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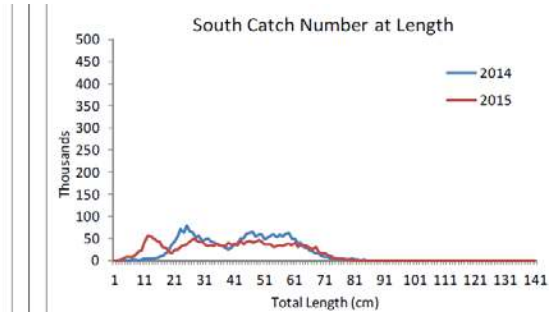
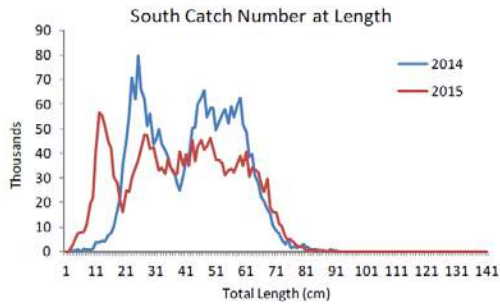
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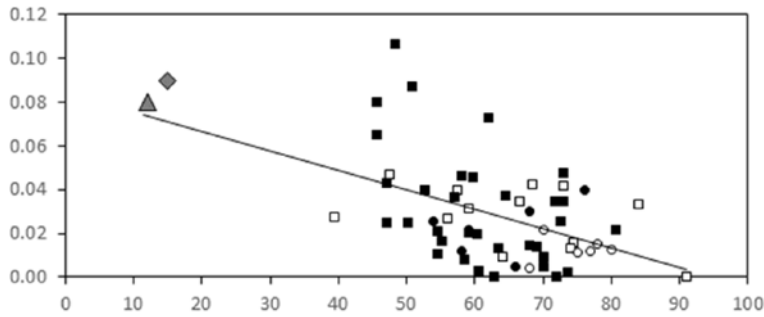
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- 2015 catch statistics are similar to recent years (low discards, gear type, etc.), except that the catch at size has a peak of small fish.

- 2015 18% discards

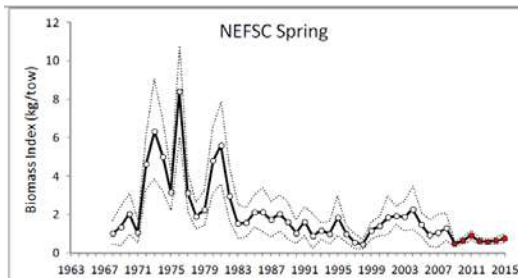
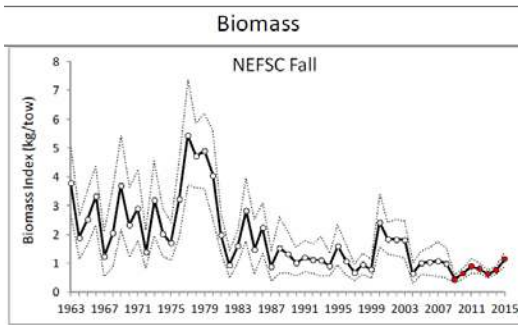


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- Tag-based estimates of growth indicate that the ~12cm length mode will grow to 30-45cm in 2016 (0.08-0.09cm/day), and most likely recruited to the fishery (>43cm) by 2017 (0.04cm/day; ~45-60cm).
- Cm/day by length (cm) from tag recaptures (squares) and lab (diamond & triangle)



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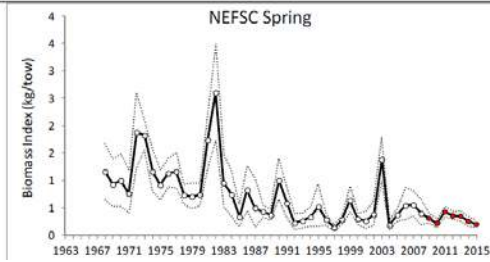
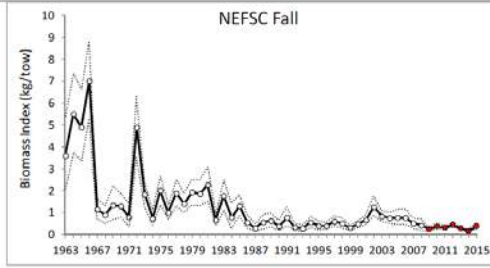
- TOR2 update surveys  
North



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South

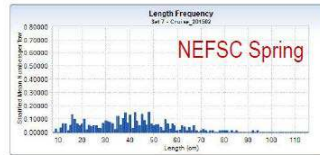
Biomass



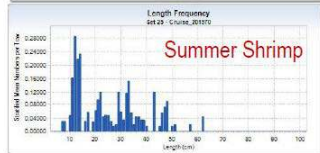
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North

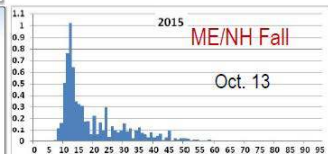
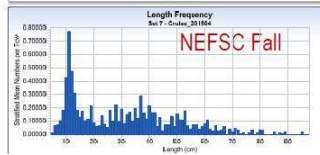
April 24



Aug 1



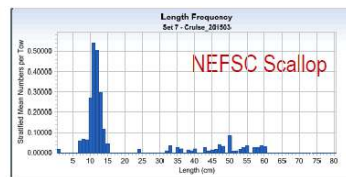
Oct 20



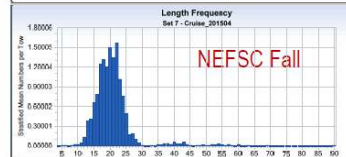
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South

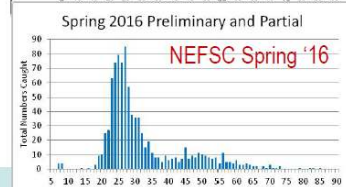
June 10



Sept 20



Mid-May

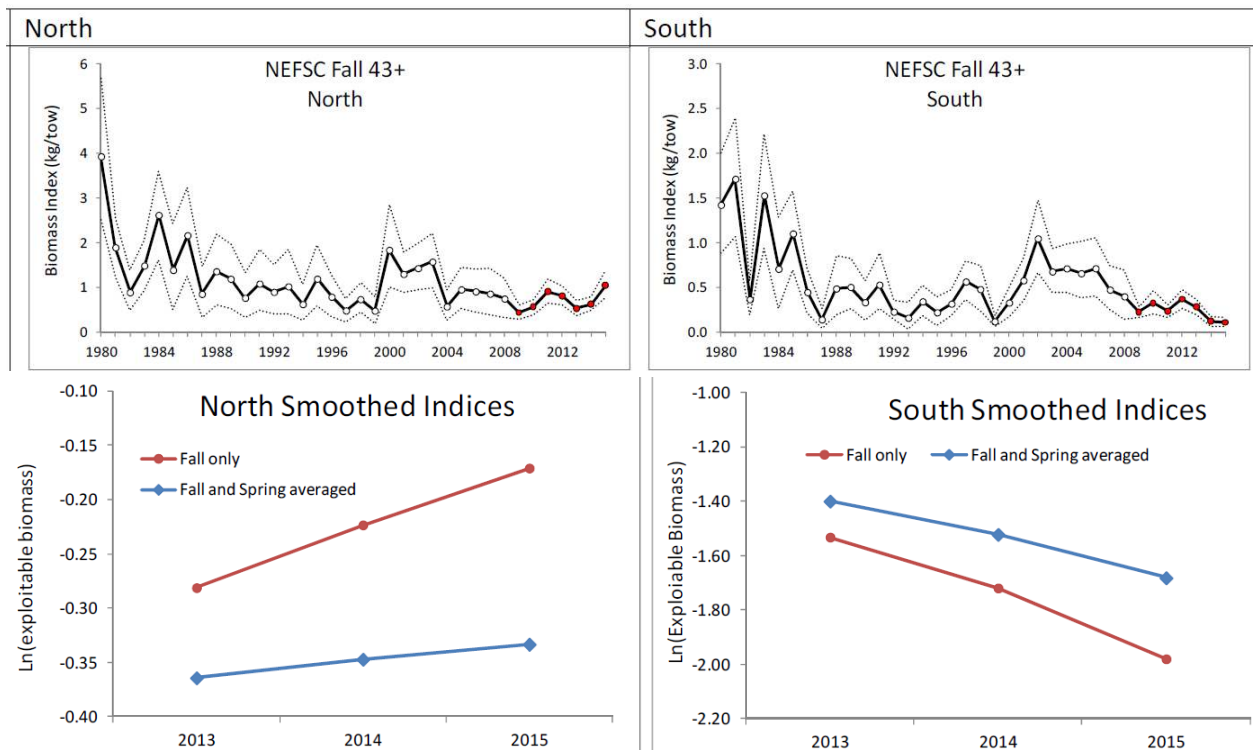


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• Preliminary spring 2016 survey suggests growth to a mode of ~27cm.

- TOR3 evidence for biological change – no evidence of large-scale distributional shift or change in condition factor.
- TOR4 compare catch and ACLs
  - 2013-2014 catch was ~60% of ACLs, 2015 catch was 70% of TAL in north, and 53% of TAL in south
  - TAC was revised to TAL in 2009
  - Need to address TOR by comparing catch to ACL
  - ACL is by fishing year (May-April)
  - SSC 2010: “Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) cannot be derived from uncertainty in OFL estimates. Using the currently accepted ABC control rule, ABC is 7,592 mt in the northern area and 12,316 mt in the southern area.”
- TOR5 support for ABC recommendation

Review of work done to support the SSC in making an ABC recommendation



- GB cod method produces a 2% increase in north and a 13% decrease in the south
  - TRAC is reconsidering survey adjusted status quo catch (e.g., years in smoother, smoother options, survey options, ...)
- Fiona – need specification on how GB cod smoother will be applied.
  - ABC, ACL, ACT, TAL?
- Anne – should we update the 2016 spring survey?
  - Chris – not part of WG or review

Panel Discussion

- Jake – leaning toward status quo ABC
- Wendy – the calculated increase and decrease are within measurement error

#### Public Comment

- Greg – Garden State Seafood Assoc., RI, NY, VA monkfish fishermen
  - Track record of collaborative research
  - Series of management decisions based on stabilizing the fishery
  - Industry has advocated for DAS limits that are far below the effort possible within ACL, so lack of uptake is not a sign of low availability
  - Status Quo recommendation makes sense, because we don't have enough information to support any alternative

#### Writing: Panel Conclusions and Comments