



Can status quo fishery management tools resolve modern-day challenges, *or is it time to change the paradigm?*

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Outline

- Background and Progress Being Made
- Ongoing Challenges
- Differing Sector Objectives
- Changing Baseline
- Better Data
- Building a Bigger Tool Box
- Paradigm Shift

Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act



Foster biological and economic sustainability of marine fisheries.



- Prevent overfishing.
- Rebuild overfished stocks.
- Increase long-term economic and social benefits.
- Ensure a safe and sustainable supply of seafood.

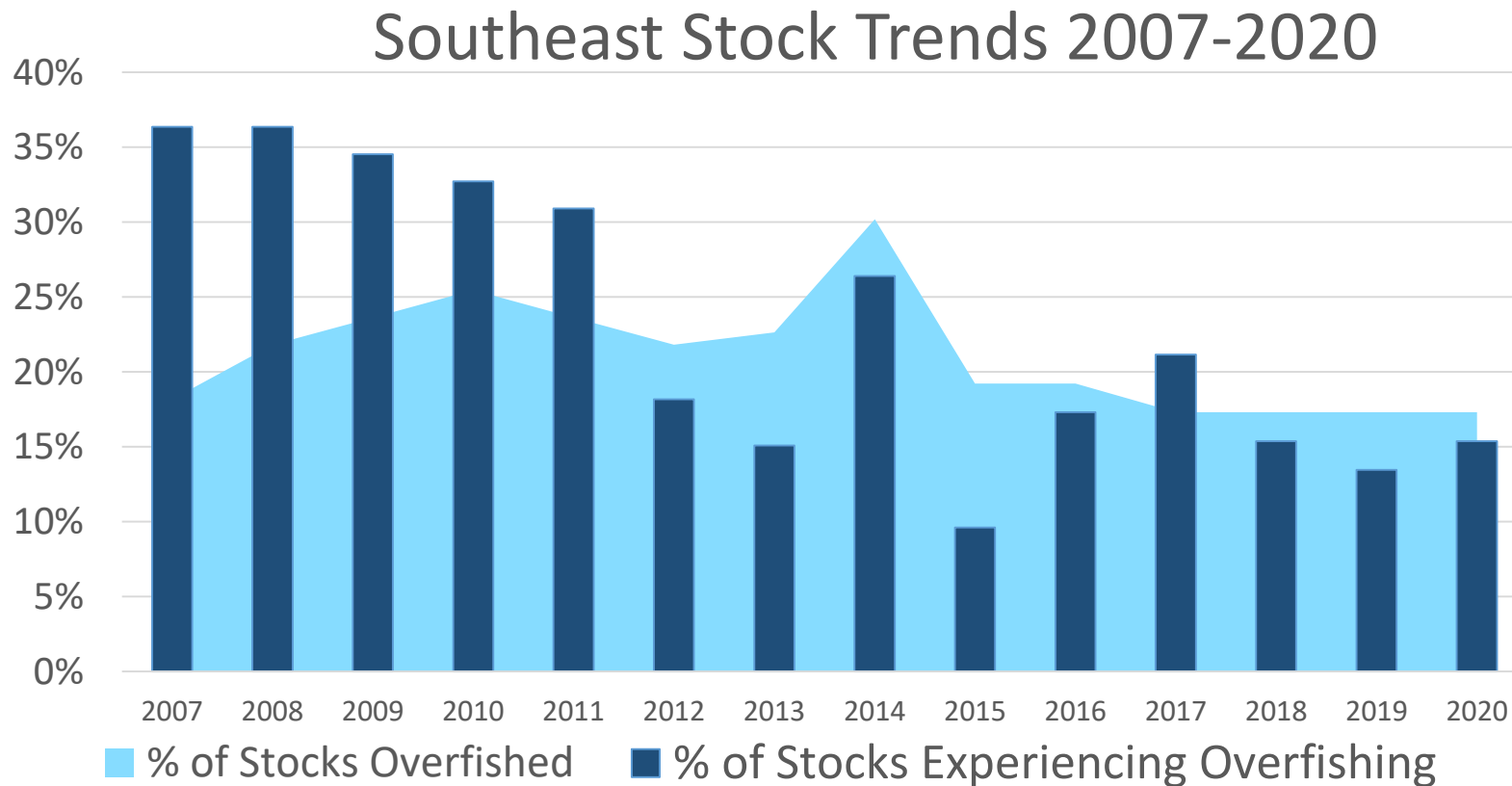


10 National standards lay out principles for federal managers to follow when developing sustainable and responsible fishery management plans for federal fisheries

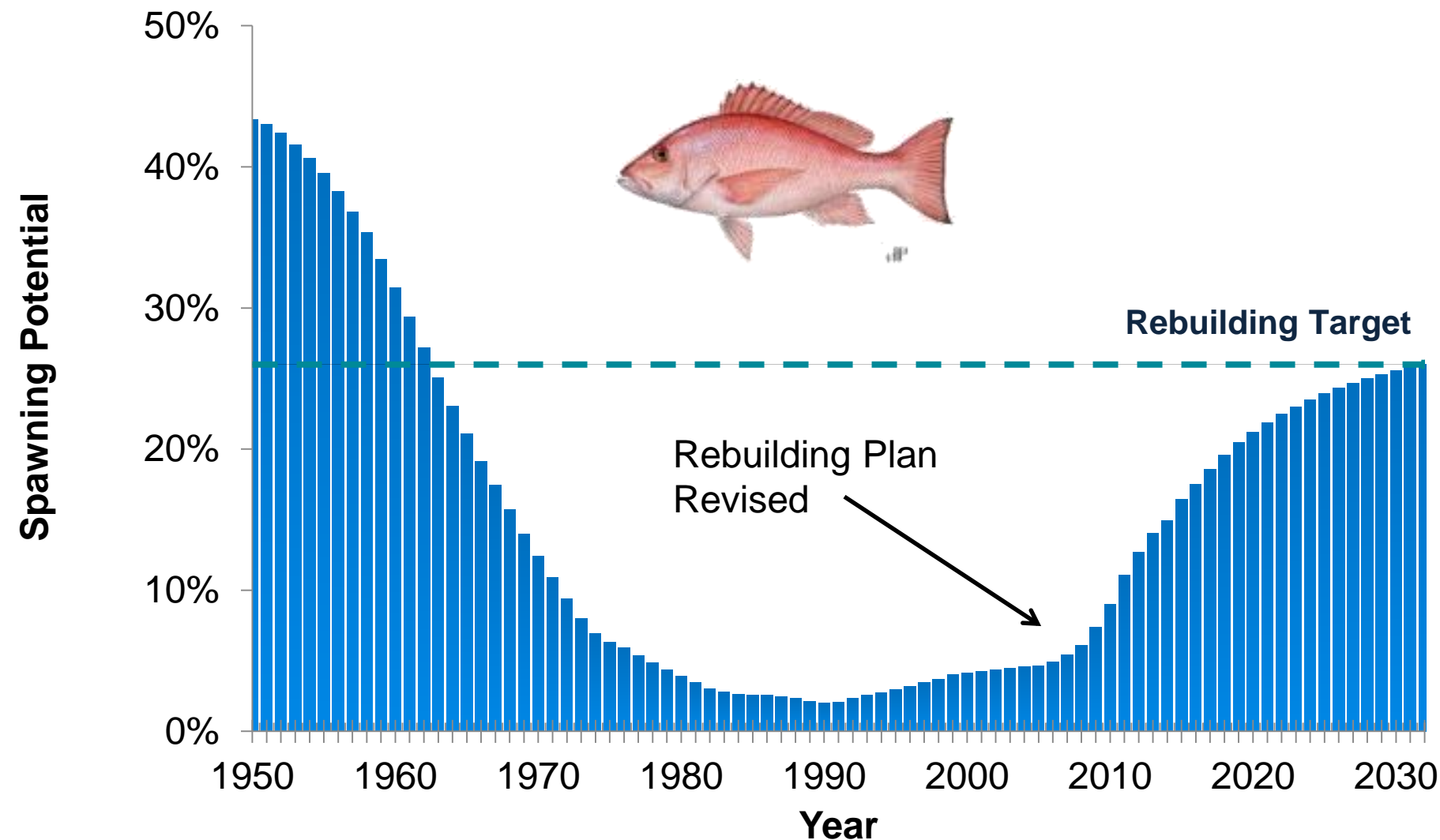


Progress Is Being Made ...

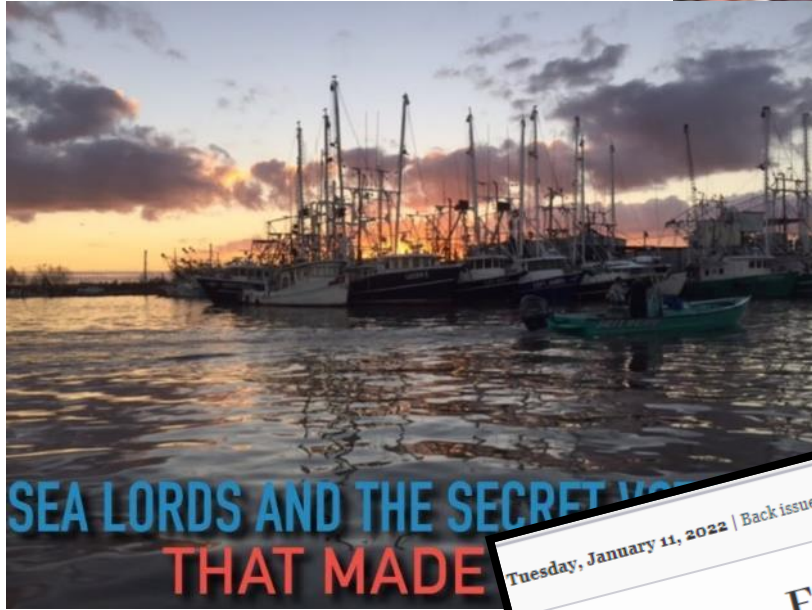
Less stocks overfished and undergoing overfishing



Rebuilding Stocks



But With Success Has Come Challenges ...



Dissatisfaction with Regulations

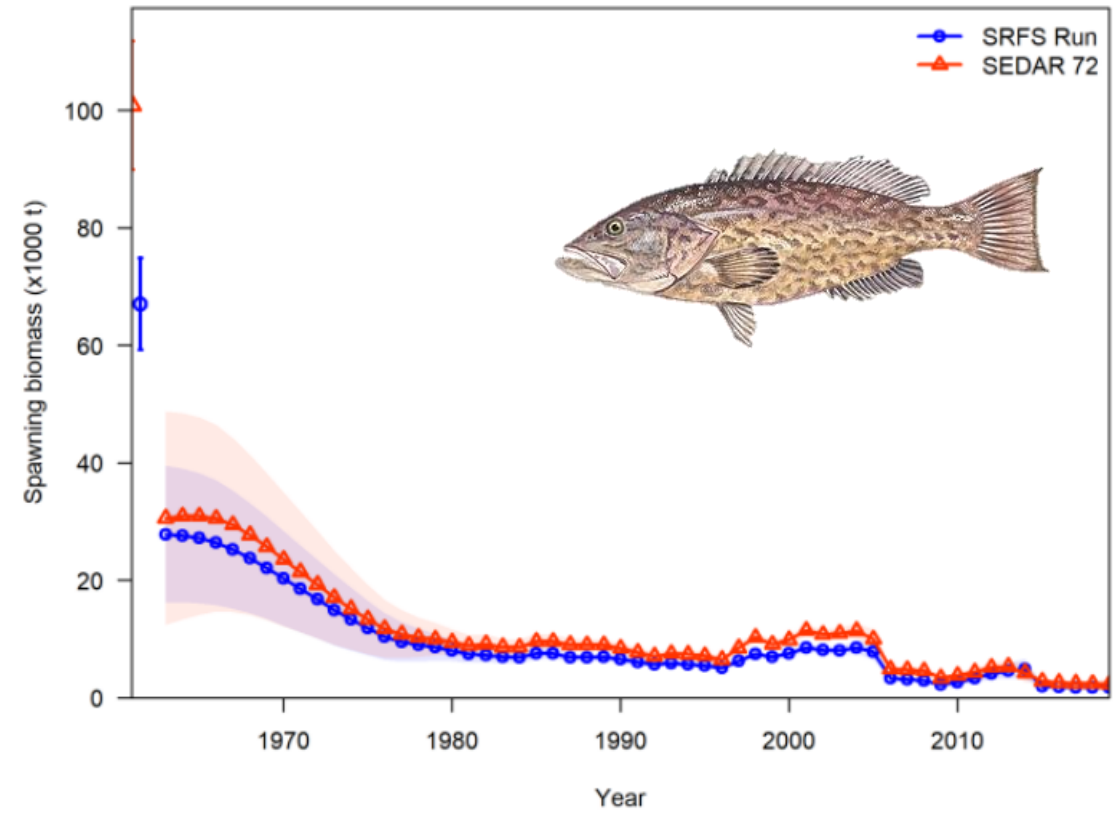
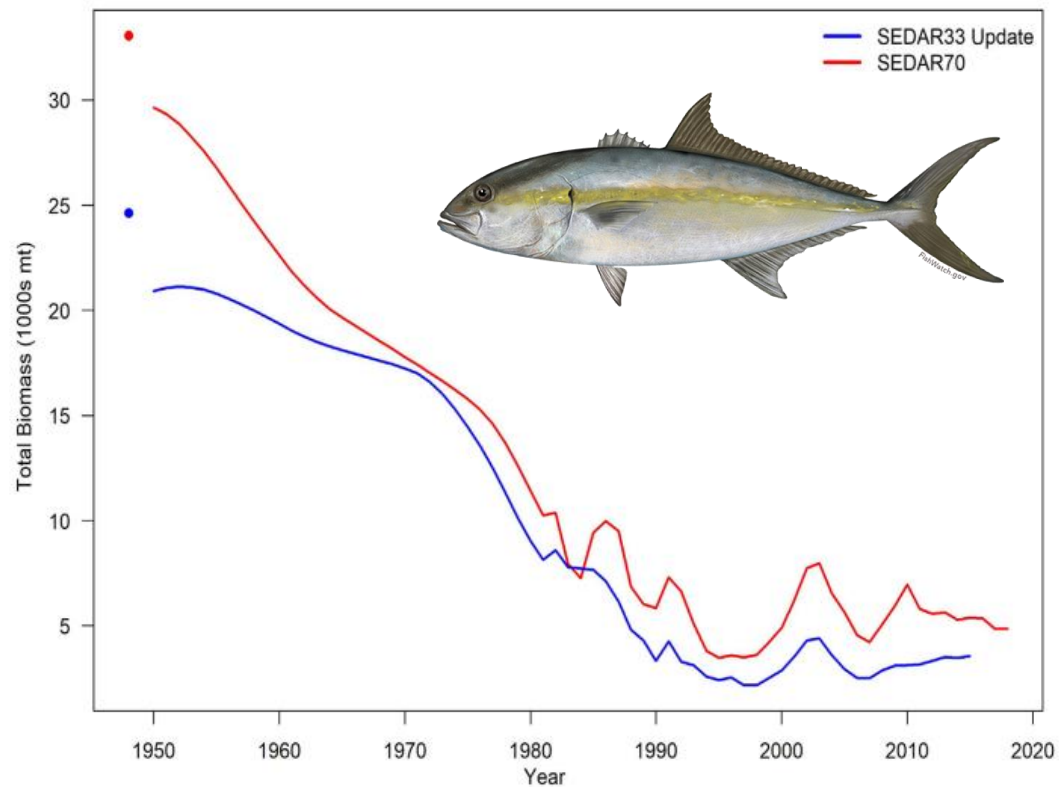
- Short seasons
- Low limits
- Regulatory discards
- In-season closures

Scrutiny of Science

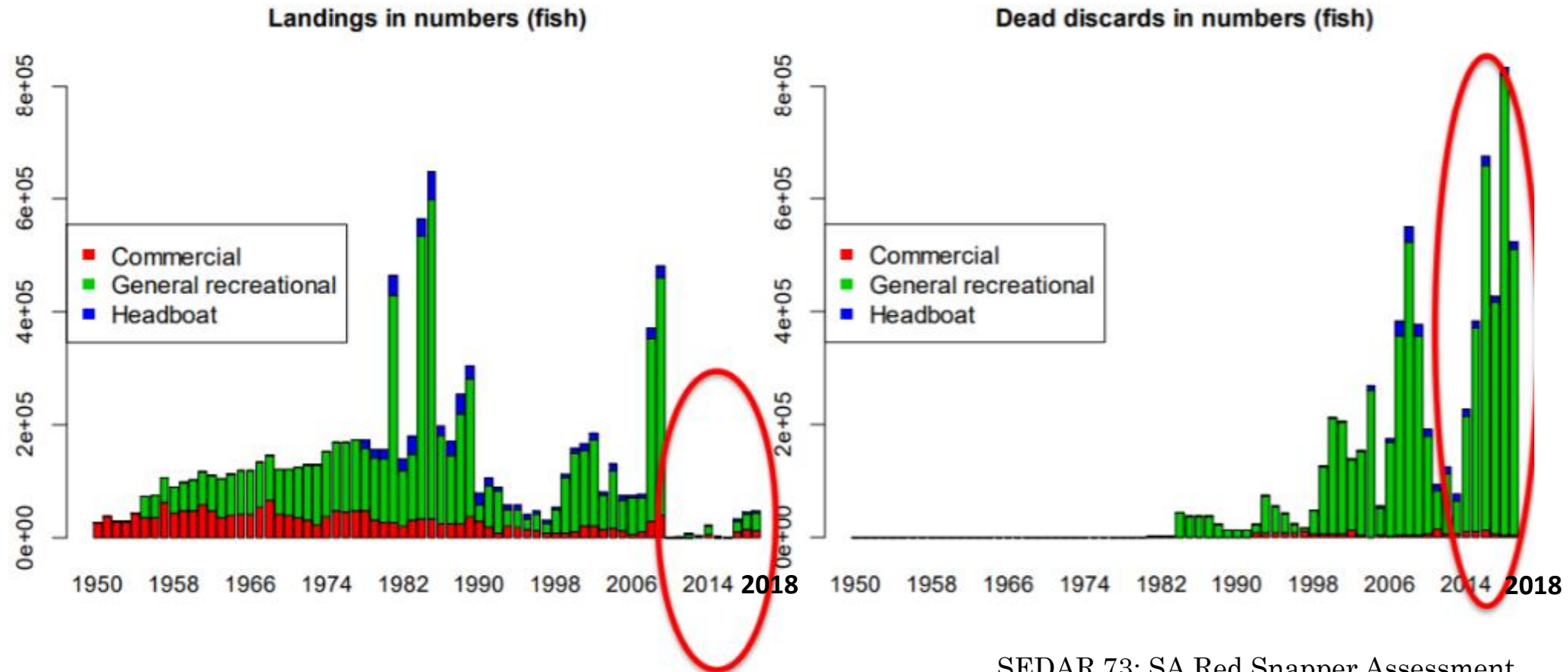
Contentious Allocation Decisions



And Not All Stocks Have Responded So Well




We are Discarding More – A lot More



SEDAR 73: SA Red Snapper Assessment

Differing Sector Objectives



QUOTA = 



ACCESS

Clash of Objectives:

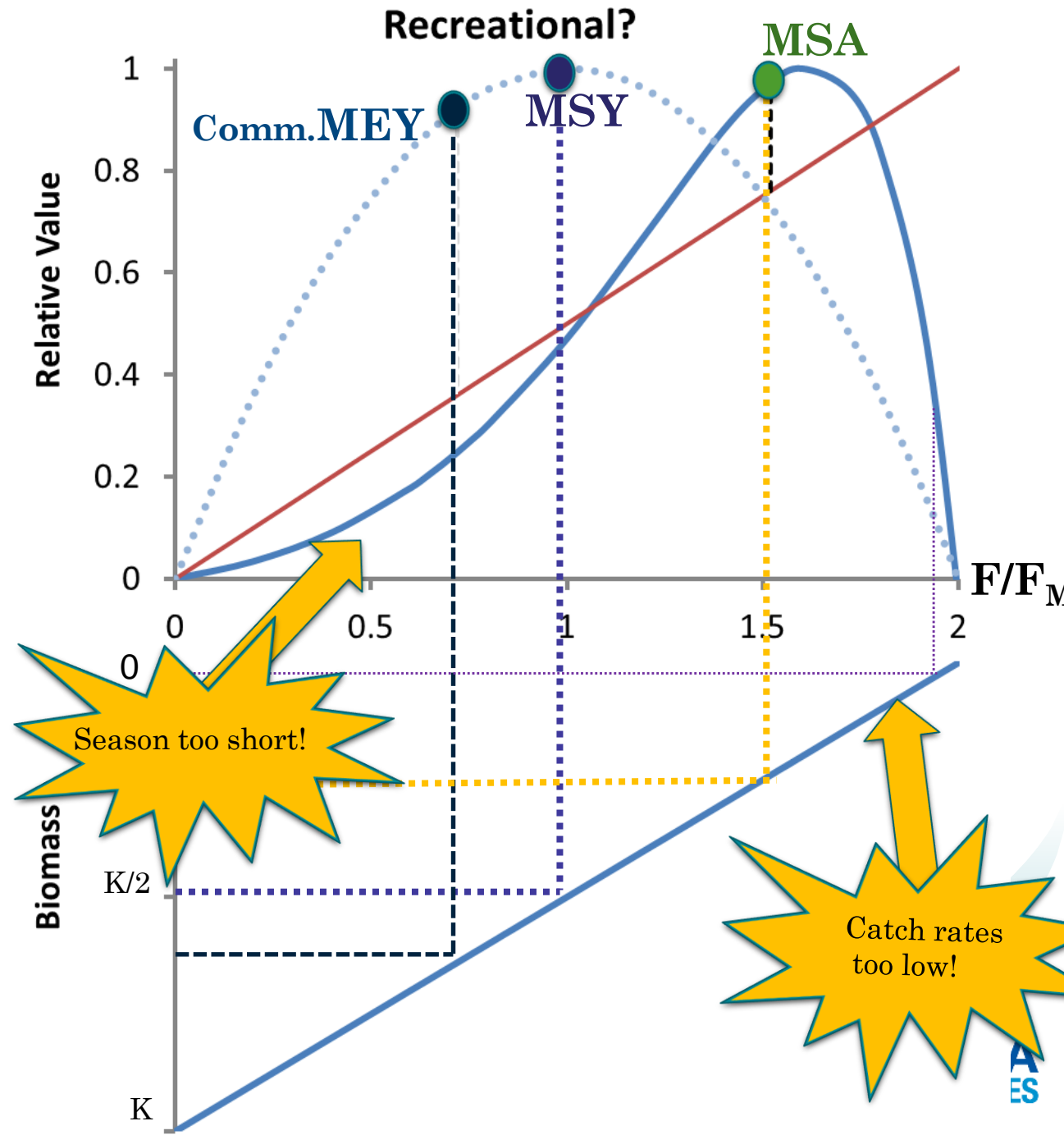
MSY – Max Sustainable Yield

vs.

MEY – Max Economic Yield

vs.

MSA - Max Sustainable Access



Varying Objectives Within Recreational Sector



More Days



More Fish



Better Catch Rates



Larger Fish

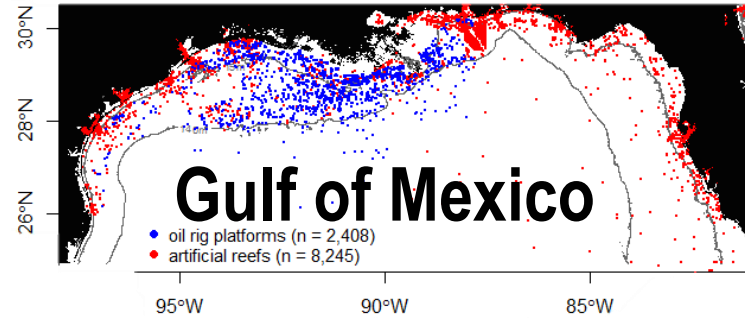


Resource Conservation



All of the Above

And the Baseline is Changing

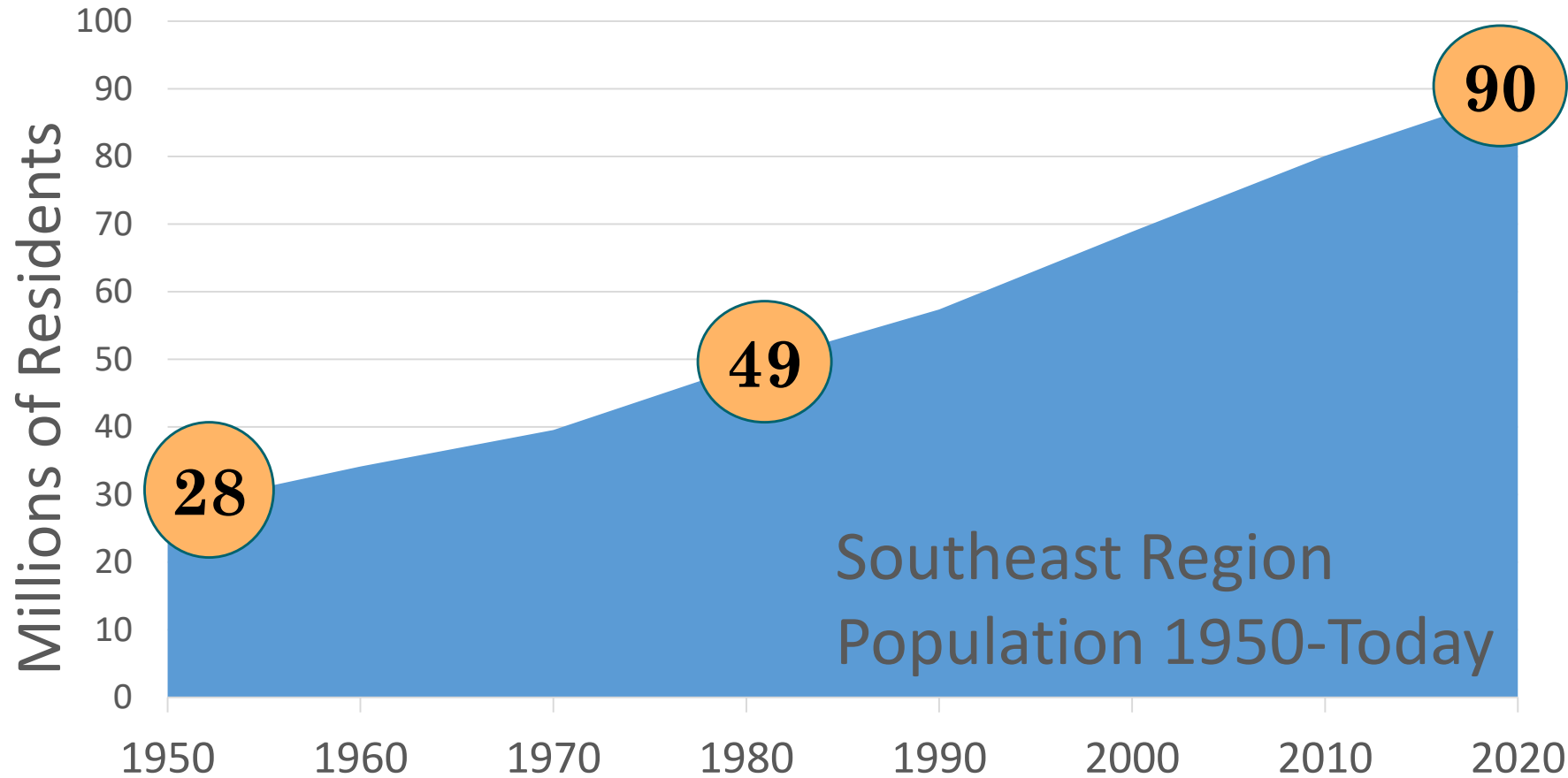


“You implement more and more restrictive measures, but rarely make regulations less restrictive”

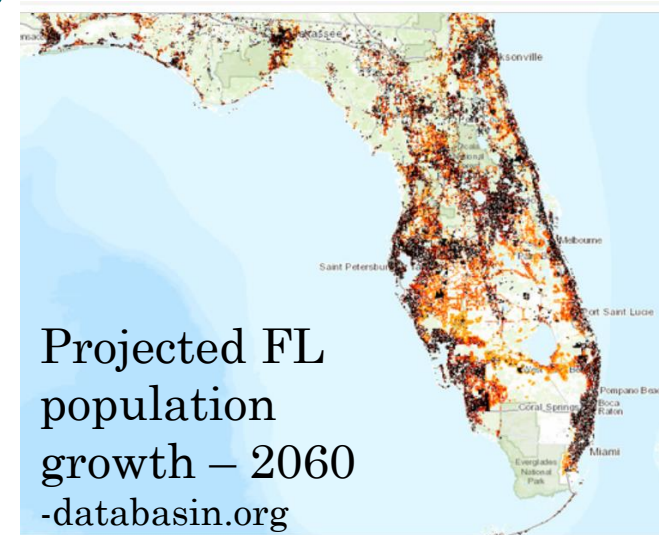
- Anonymous Fisherman



There are More Anglers and Increased Demand for Seafood



Excludes the Caribbean



Expectations and Target Species are Changing

1954

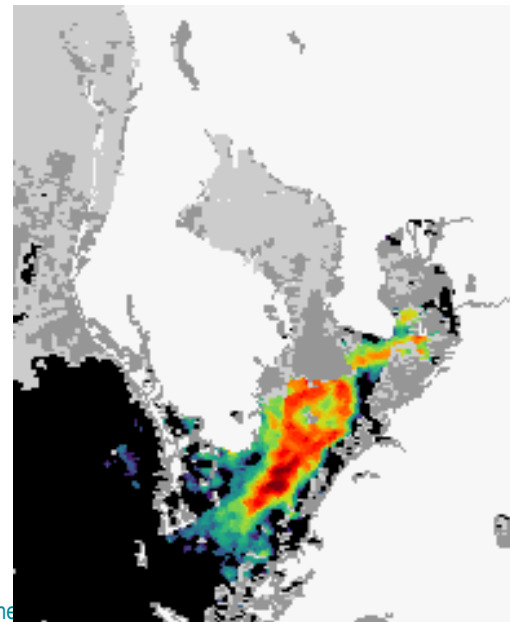
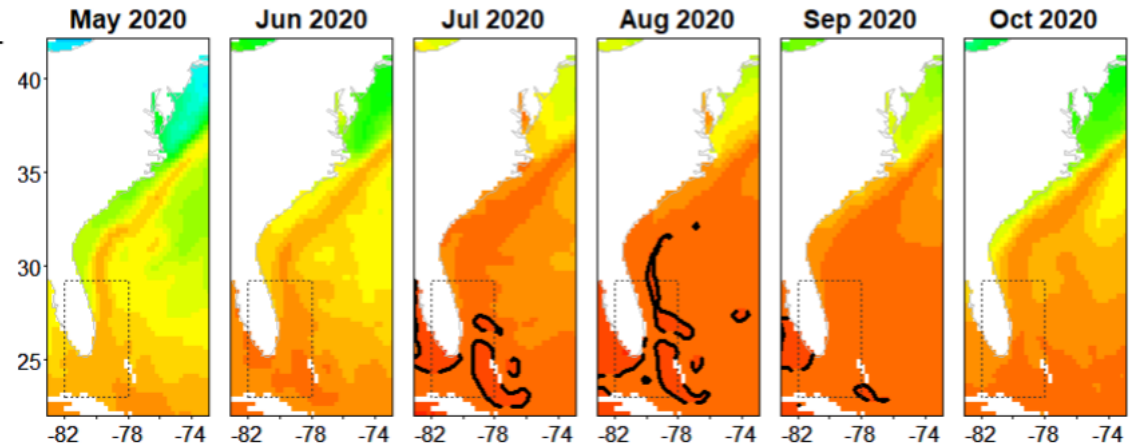
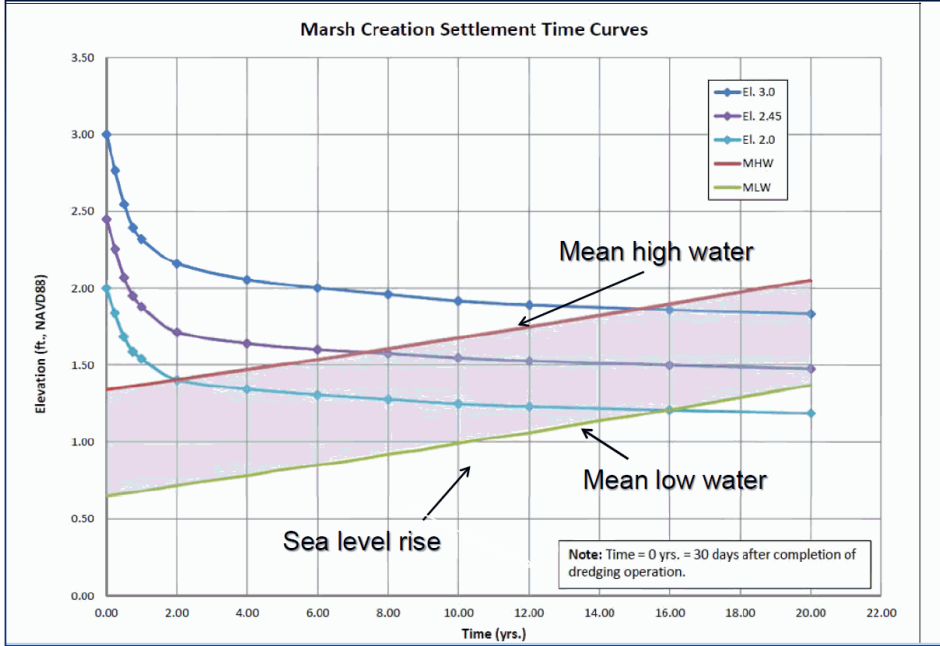
1973

2007



And our Climate is Changing

Oyster Bayou Settlement Curves



Old Tools Are Becoming Less Effective



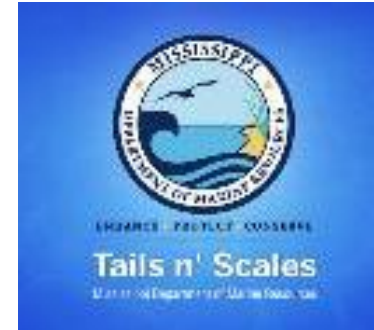
Just Fix the Data!

DATA **is**
WRONG

**... that may help, but it is
not a panacea**

Data Improvements Are Happening

For-hire
Electronic
Reporting



Specialized and
Improved Surveys



But We Need a Bigger Management Tool Box



FREQUENTLY USED TOOLS

- bag, vessel, and trip limits
- size limits
- seasons
- limited access (comm, for-hire)
- season, area closures
- sector allocations
- gear requirements



NOT USED, OR SELDOMLY USED

- multispecies area management
 - by depth? zone?
 - by area? region?
 - by season?
- bottom fish season
- tags, stamps, endorsements
- limited access (all sectors)
- Rationalize effort
- larger conservation or bycatch-reduction areas
- harvest rate management
- pilot studies/EFPs

To Change the Paradigm Will Require ...

- Collaboration and stakeholder engagement, support, and buy-in
- Common understanding of the problem
- Willingness to move beyond traditional management tools
- Resources and science/research, if not currently available, to support management



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FISHERIES

Questions?

- Are there additional major challenges that should be highlighted?
- What is your top concern and how would you address it from a management/science perspective (e.g. discards)?
- Are there additional tools you believe might be beneficial to explore?
- What is a suggested next step(s) to address these issues/challenges?
- What viable tools/approaches can you recommend to address these issues?
- How can NOAA Fisheries, Councils, and fishermen better collaborate to address them?