

Amendment 65: Regional Management of Recreational Greater Amberjack Council Meeting October 27th, 2026

Tab B, No 9



**GULF
COUNCIL**

Presentation Outline

- **Red snapper comparison to greater amberjack in regard to regional management**
- **Let's apply some Amendment 50 fundamentals to greater amberjack**
 - Sectors separation (private/for-hire)
 - Regional vs. state management
 - Allocation using landings history
- **Take home points**
- **Discussion**



Amendment 50: Red snapper versus Greater amberjack

State-specific landings histories

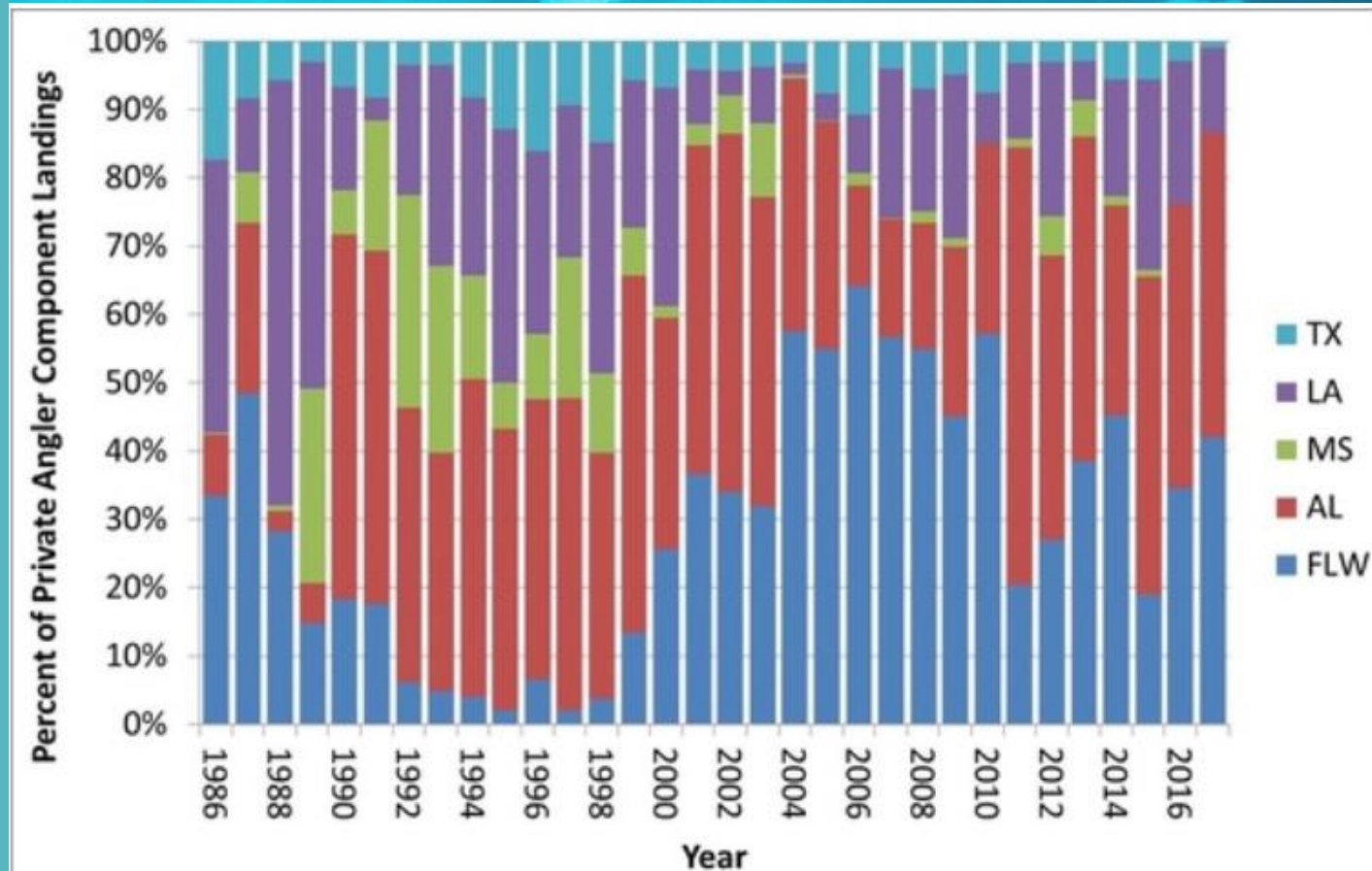
- For red snapper, no state has substantial majority of the landing history
- Not the case for greater amberjack (further in presentation)

Avg. weight caught recreationally

- RS: Ranges 4.5 – 7 lb (Nov. 2025 presentations)
- GAJ: ~25 lb (SEDAR 70; WP-02)

Rebuilding status

GAJ has been overfished for the entirety of its management history



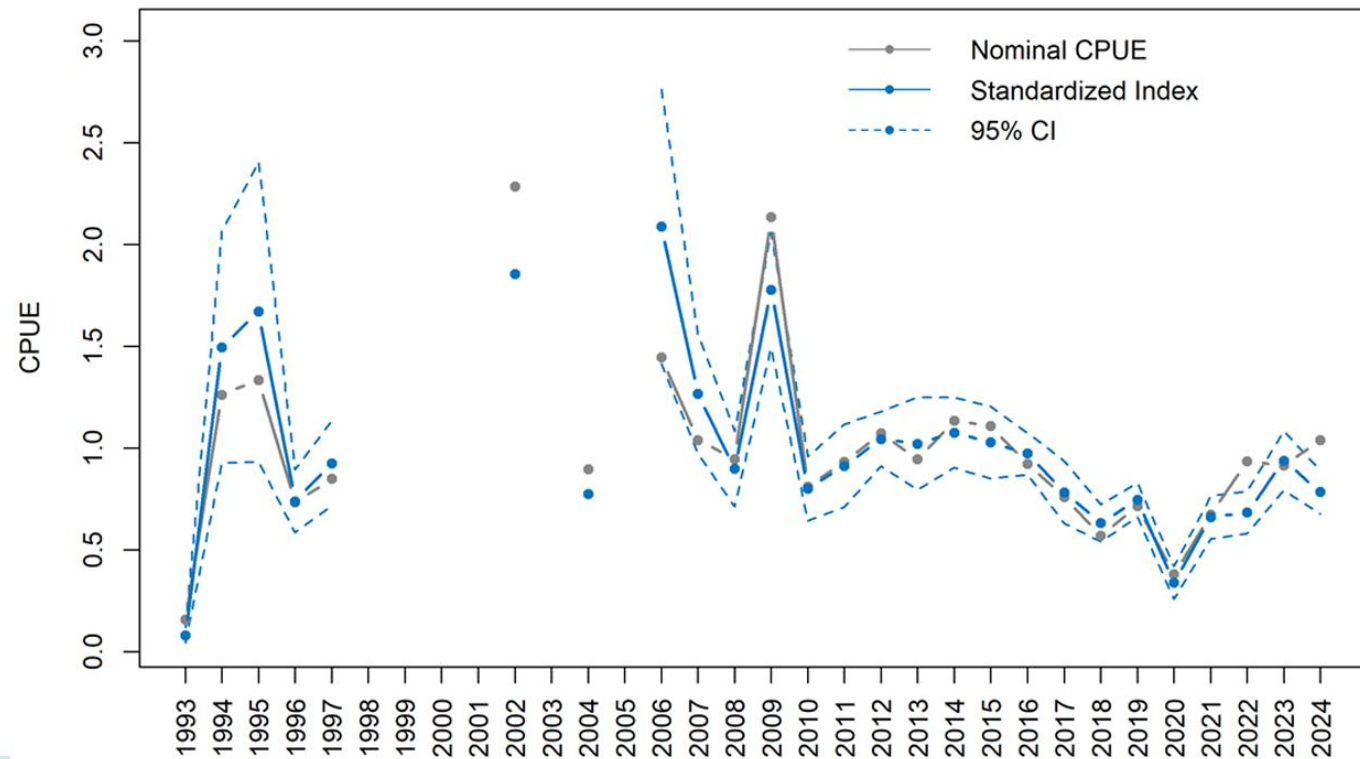
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/sustainable-fisheries/history-management-gulf-america-red-snapper>

Greater amberjack: G-FISHER and Interim Analysis

Presented to SSC in February 2026

(Agenda item number 8)

- **G-FISHER indicates rates of decline have leveled off but not recovered**
 - Most sampling from eastern Gulf
- **Length composition from survey does not show any indication of recent changes in mean length**
- **Stock is overfished and the recreational ACL is 404,000 lbs with no allocations between private and for-hire recreational components**



Council Guidance for document: Start with Amendment 50

Purpose and need statement focused on

- 1. Flexibility**
- 2. Prevent overfishing**
- 3. Provide for sustained participation**

Presentation Focus

- ❖ **State management**
 - **Total recreational or Sector-separation**
- ❖ **Regional management**
 - **Total recreational or Sector-separation**
- ❖ **Allocation**
 - **Landings history**
 - **Stock biomass**
 - **State conducted EFPs**



What would greater amberjack state management look like?

Allocation using landings history

Follow Amendment 50 as guide for allocation alternative

- **Option a: 1986-2025**
- **Option b: 1996-2025**
- **Option c: 2006-2025**
- **Option d: 50% (option a) + 50% (option c)**

“Old” MRIP-FES currency for FL, AL, and MS

LA Creel used beginning in 2014

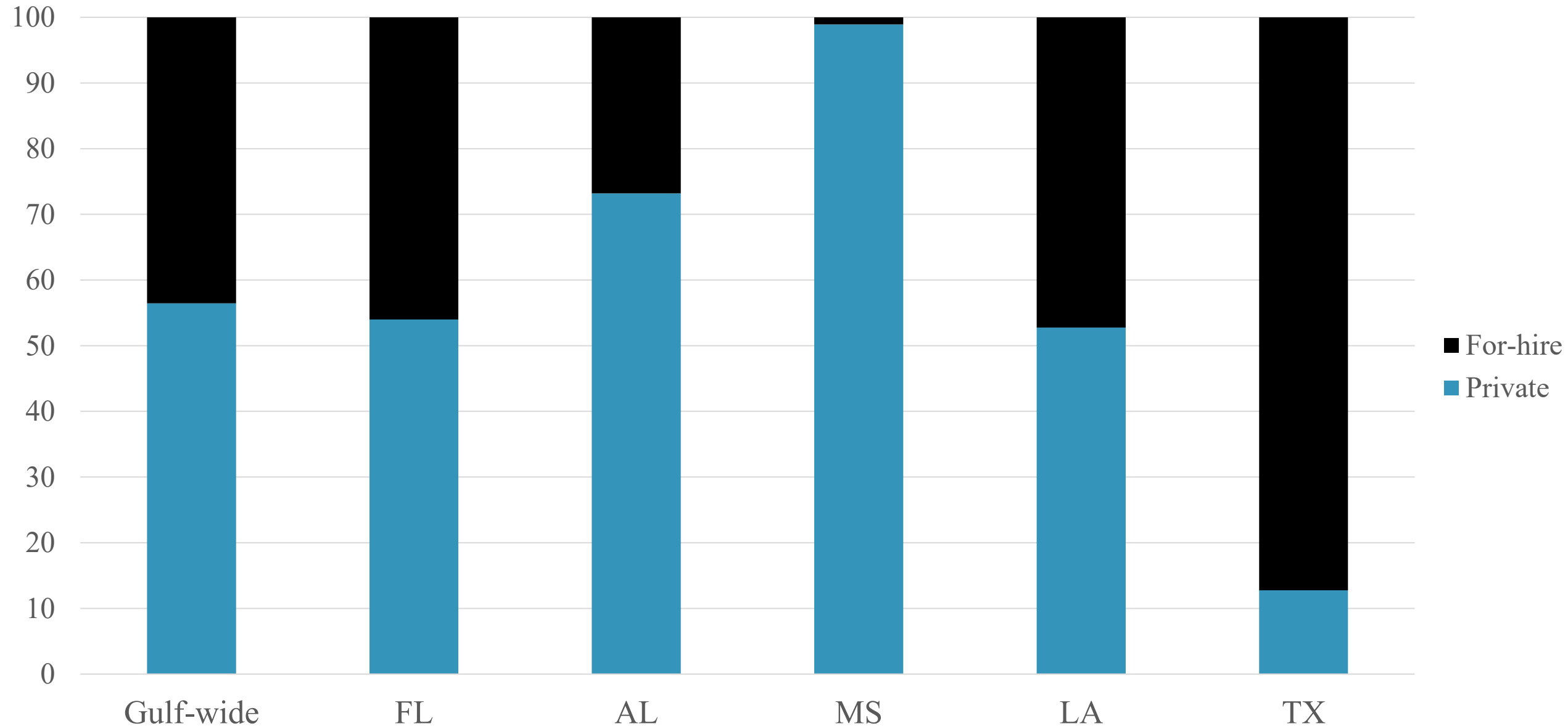
TX data from TPWD

No data calibration was applied for LA Creel and TPWD



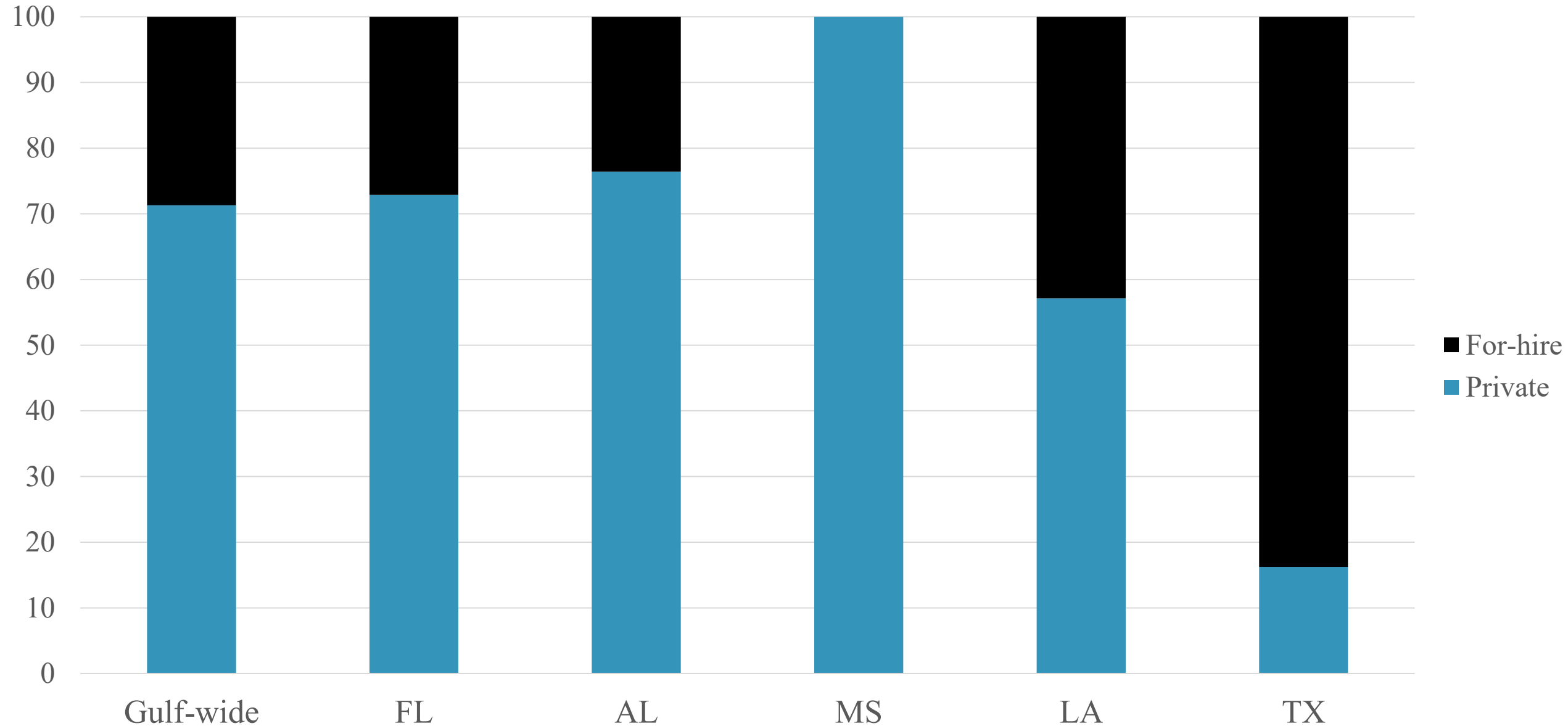
Private and For-hire Landings History

Percentage of historical landings: 1986-2025



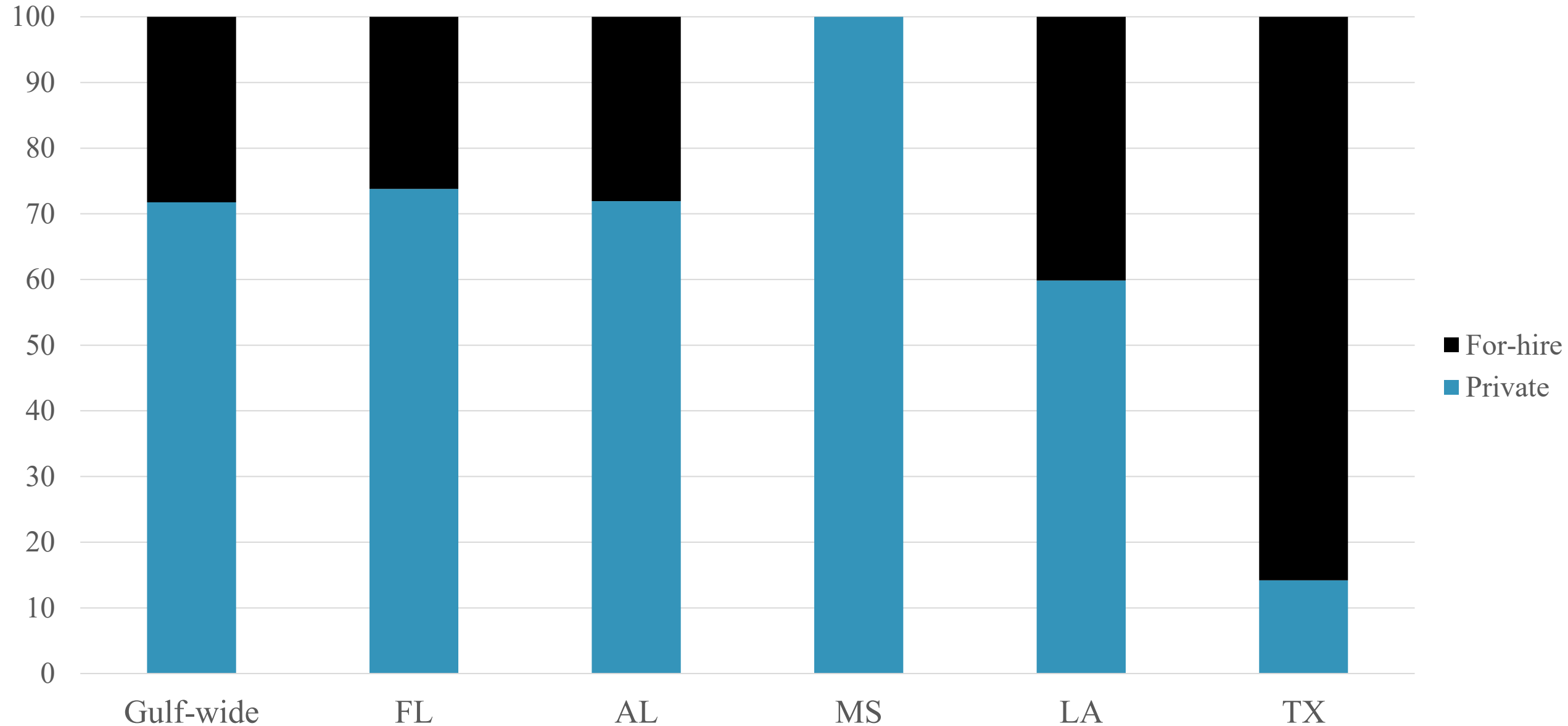
Private and For-hire Landings History

Percentage of historical landings: 1996-2025



Private and For-hire Landings History

Percentage of historical landings: 2006-2025

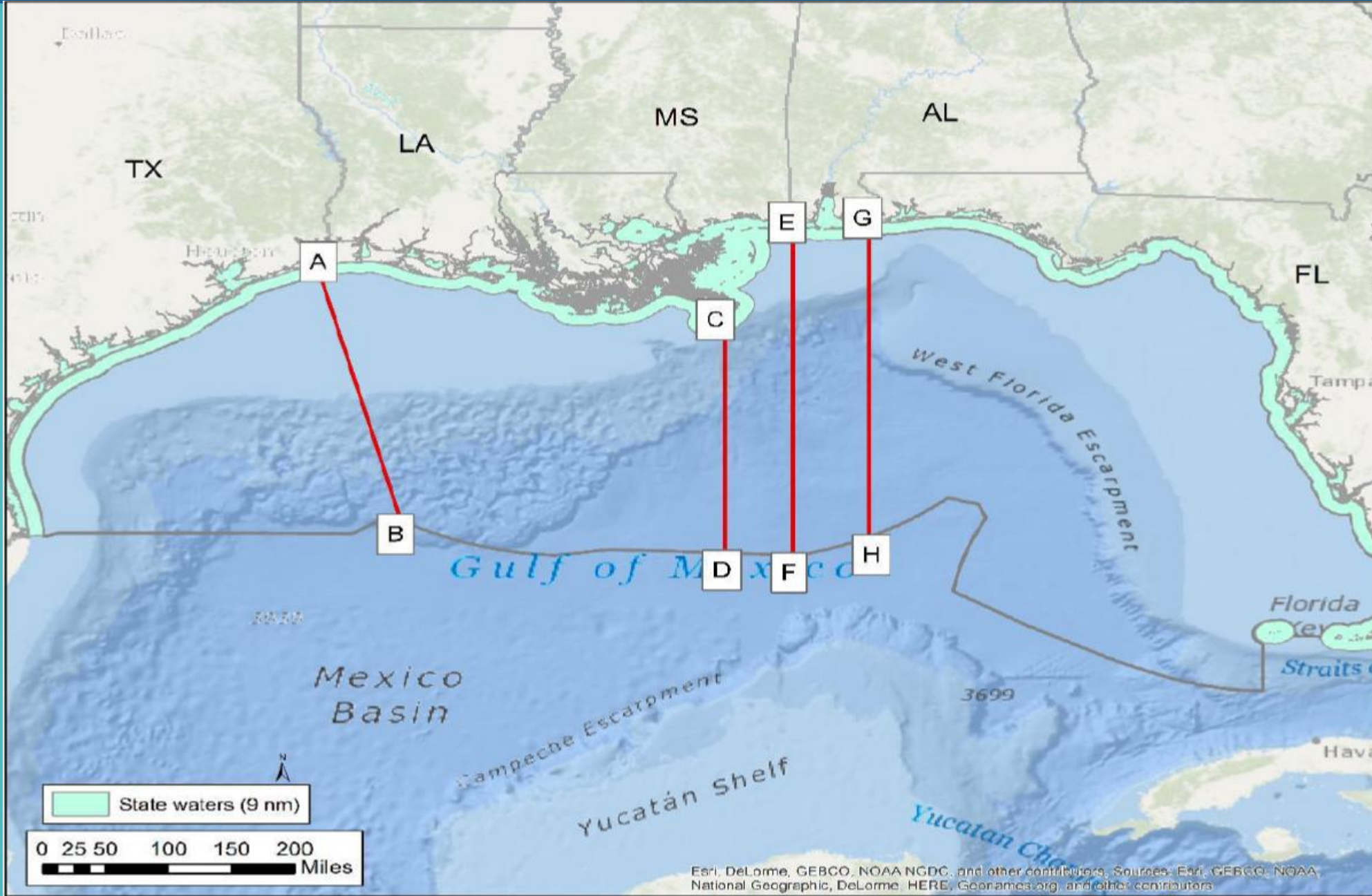


What would sector-separation look like?

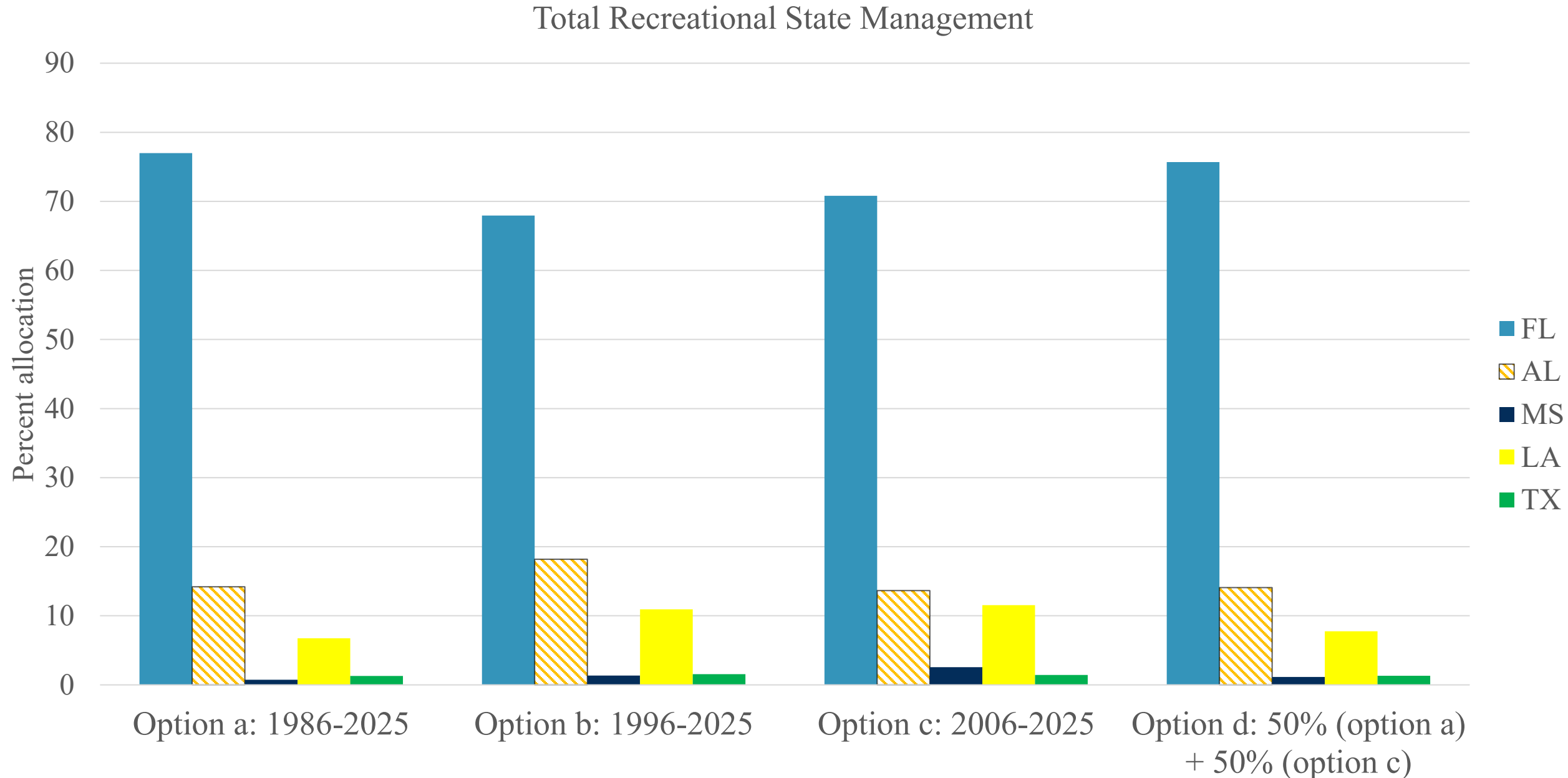
Using landings history is limited for state management AND sector separation

- **Why:**
 - Landings data indicate that MS has only had observed harvest of greater amberjack from its charter sector twice (1991 and 1994) ever from 1986-2025
 - Therefore, any further apportionment into recreational sector-specific ACLs using landings history would leave MS without the ability to harvest a single greater amberjack from its for-hire fleet
- **Does this strategy support the purpose and need?**
 - **Flexibility**
 - **No.** Most states sector-specific ACLs would be very small with the MS for-hire sector shut down.
 - **Prevent overfishing**
 - **Yes**
 - **Provide sustain participation**
 - In the case of MS for-hire fleet, would provide no participation

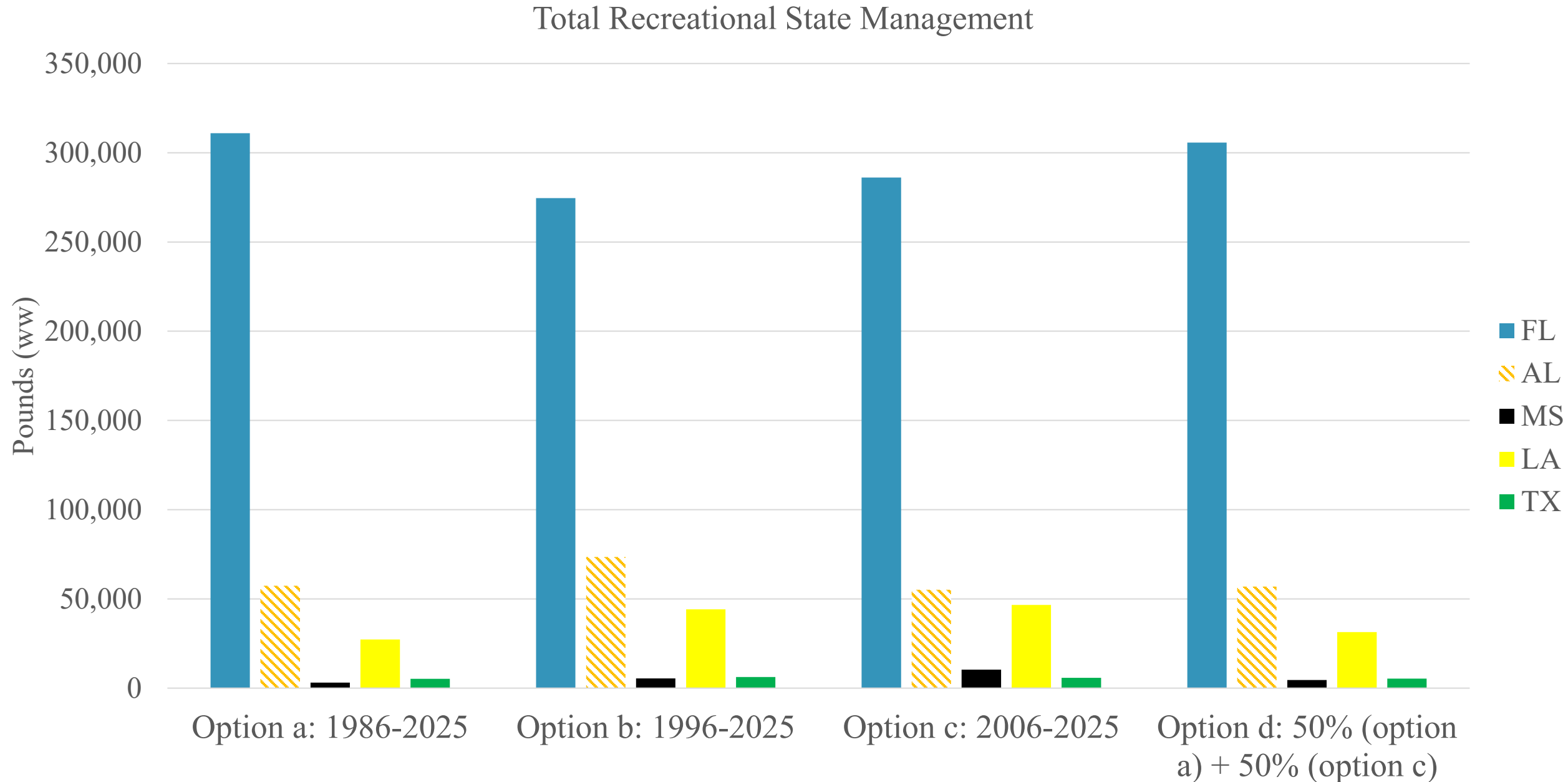
What would total recreational state management look like?



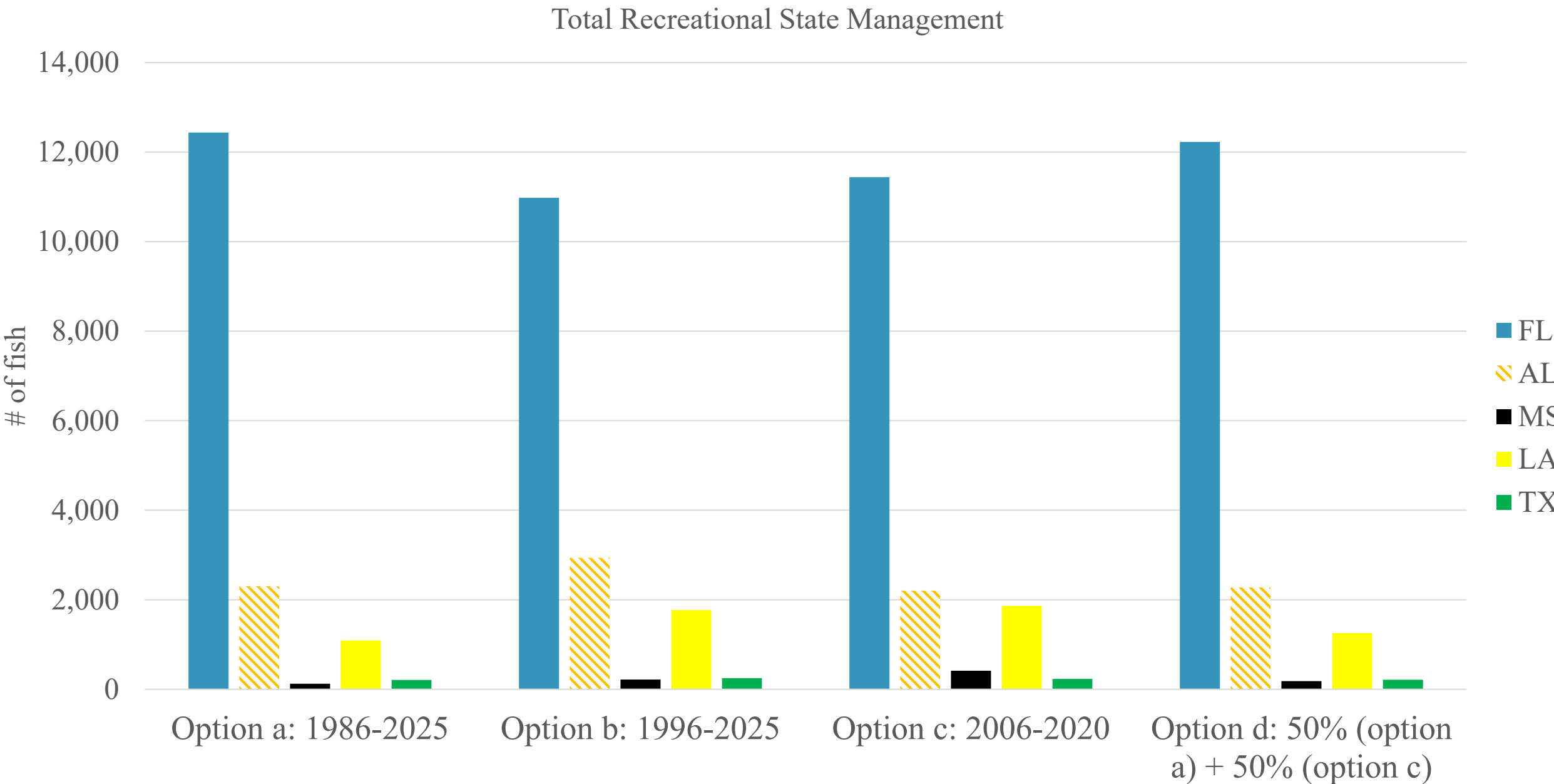
What would total recreational state management look like?



State allocation based on current ACL of 404,000 pounds



State allocation # of fish assuming avg. weight of 25 lb



What would greater amberjack state management look like?

1. Flexibility

- Depends on state

2. Prevent overfishing?

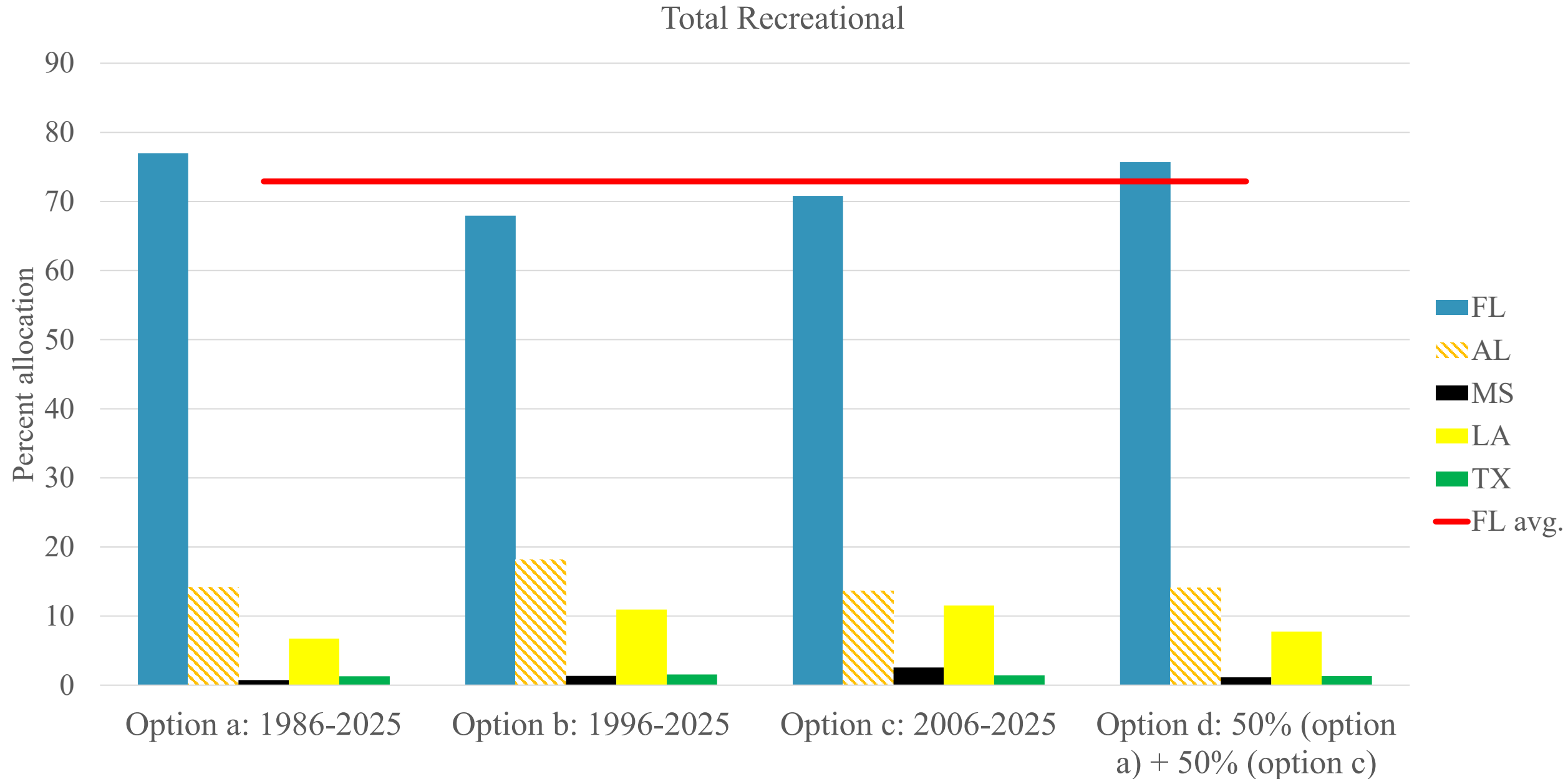
- Yes

3. Provide for sustained participation

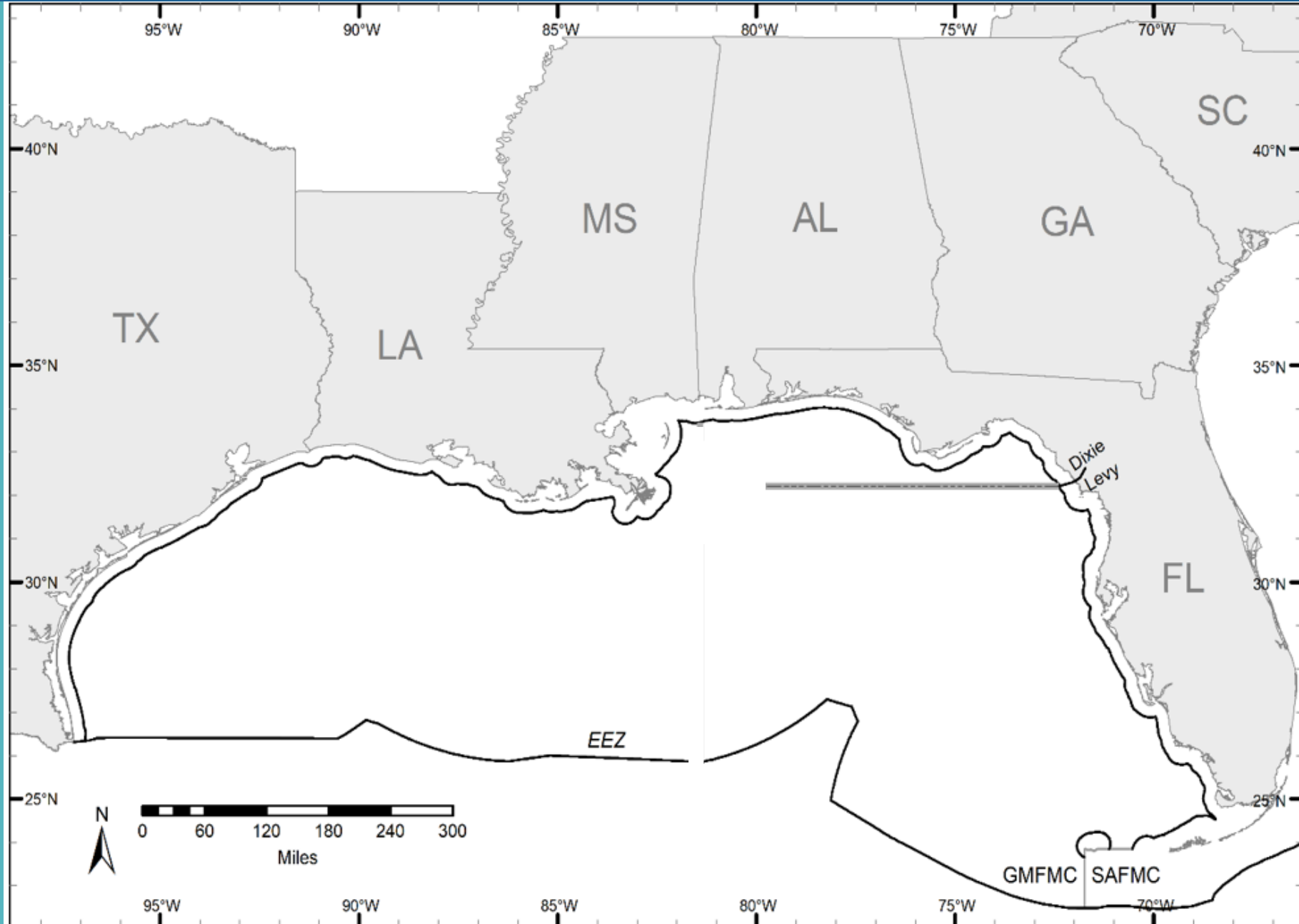
- Depends on state and allocations



What about regional management?

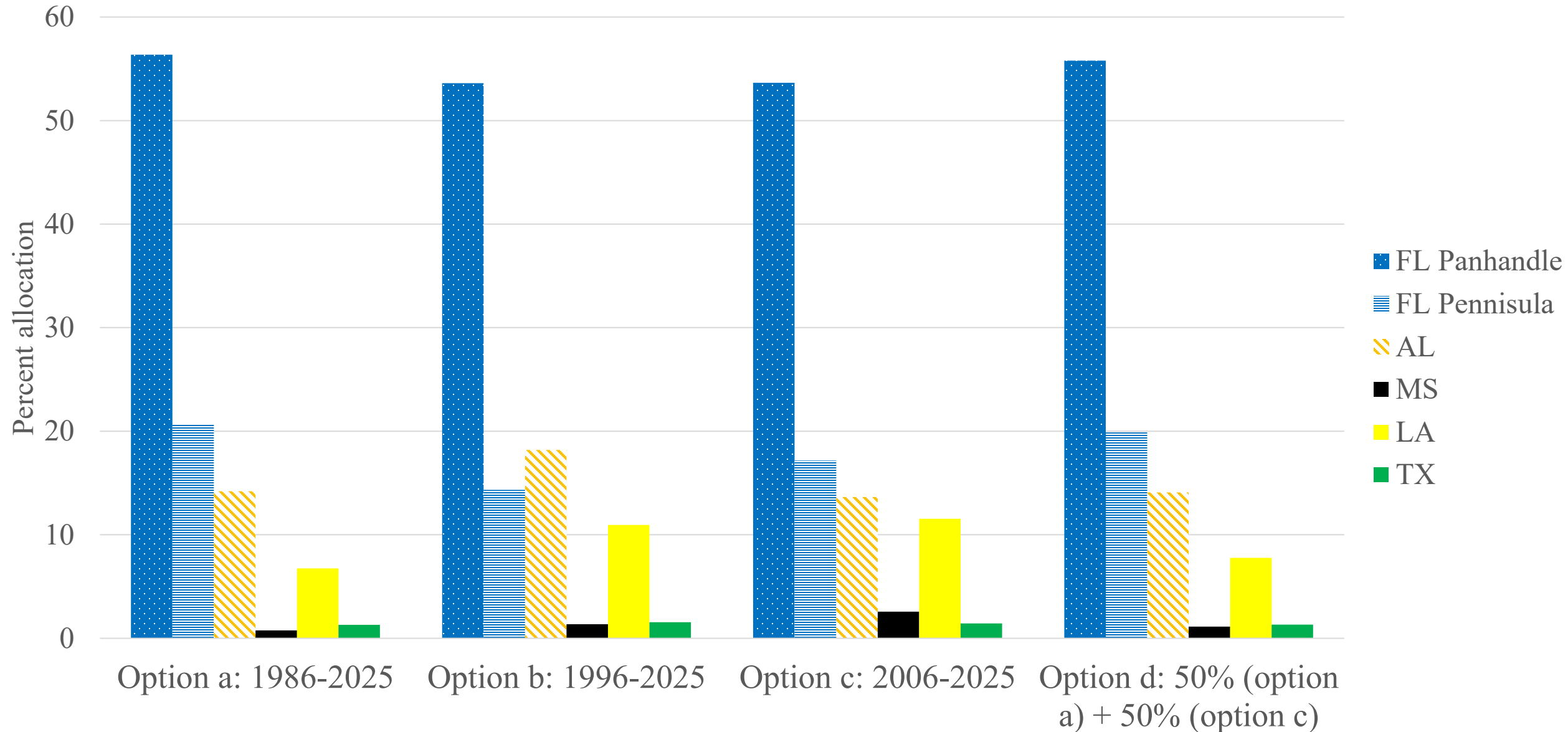


What about regional management? Split Florida



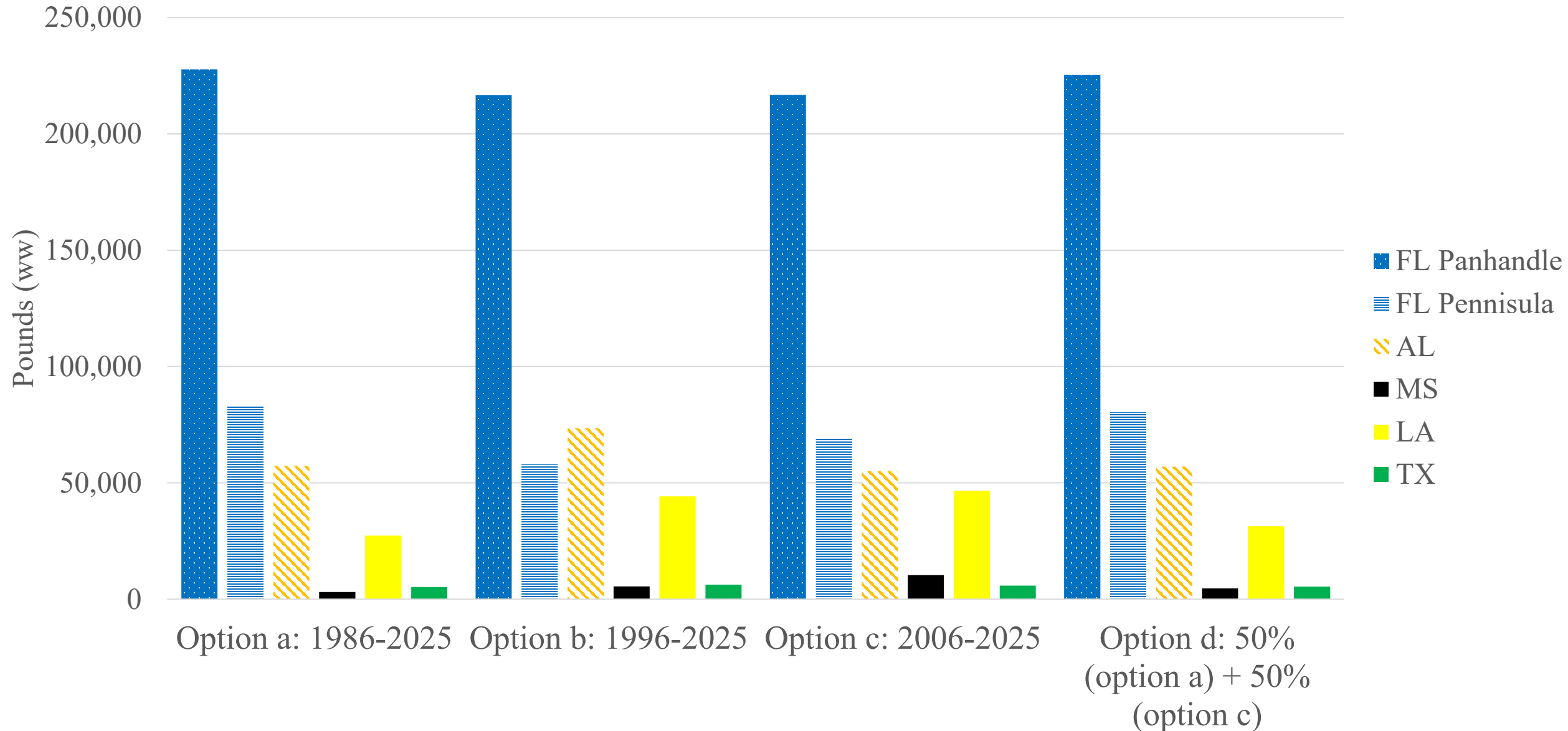
What about regional management? Split Florida

Total Recreational with Florida Split at Levy/Dixie County Line



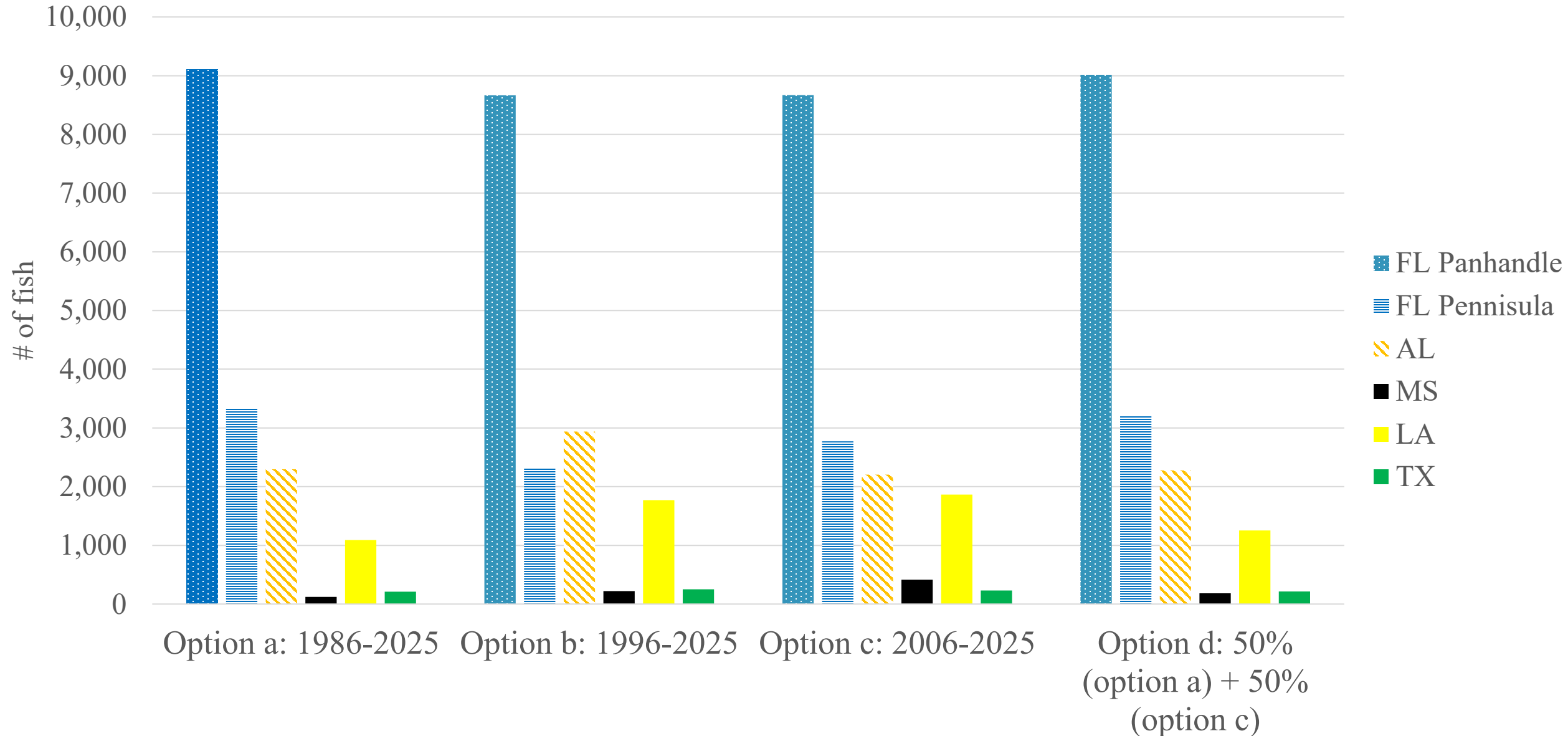
What about regional management? Split Florida

Total Recreational Allocation using ACL of 404,000 lb ww

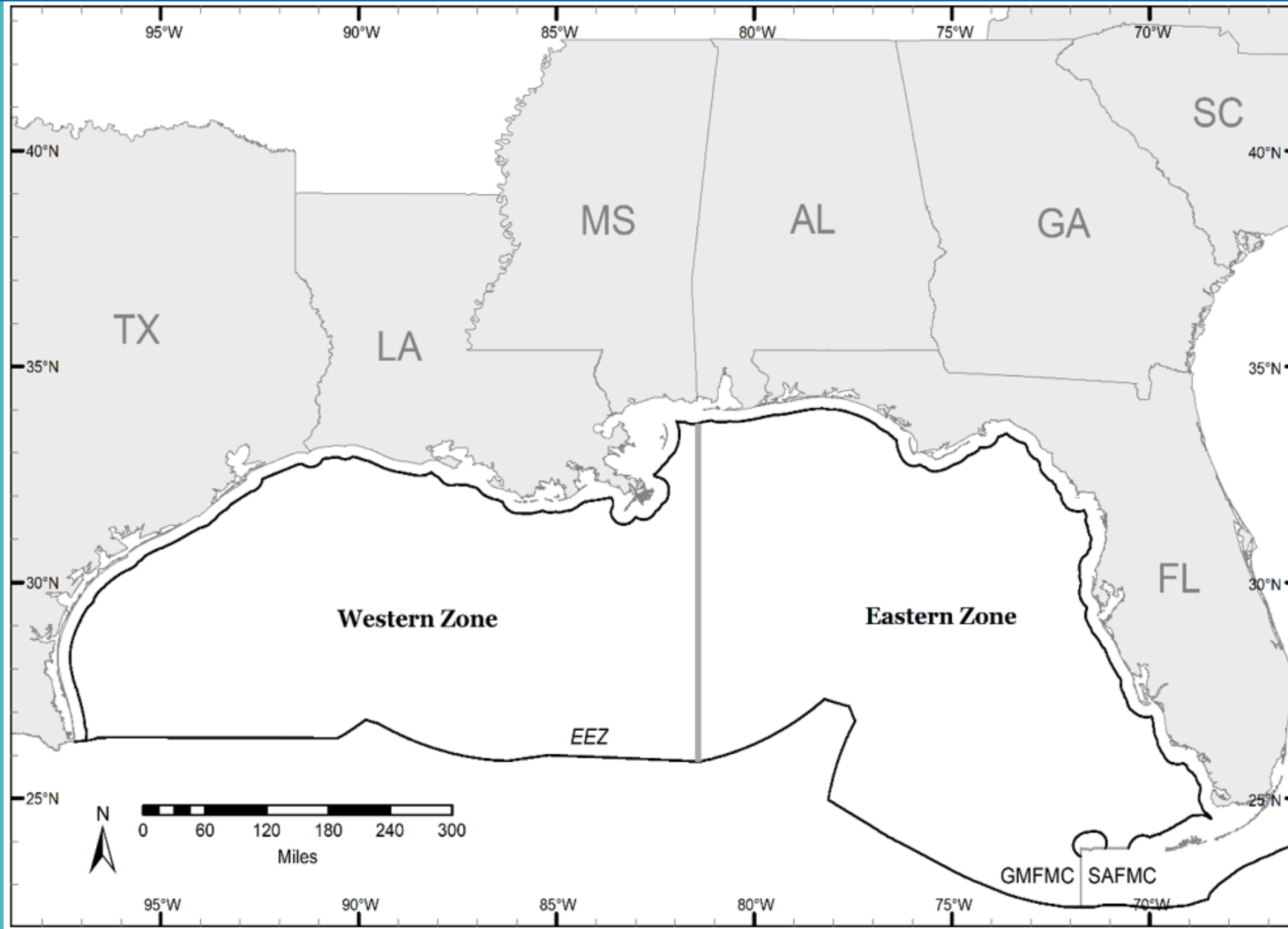


What about regional management? Split Florida

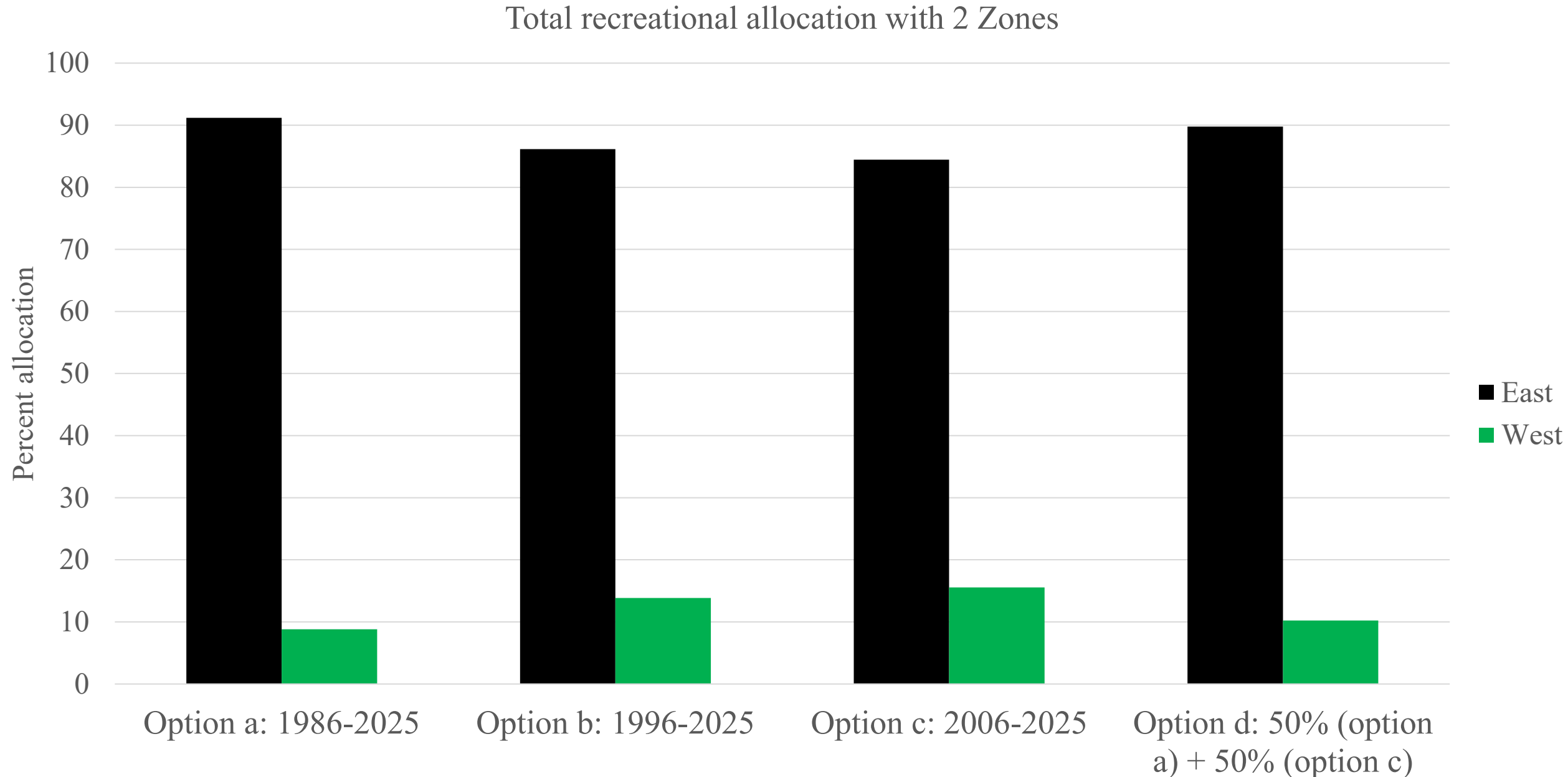
Total Recreational number of fish assuming 25 lb average



What about regional management? East/West Zones

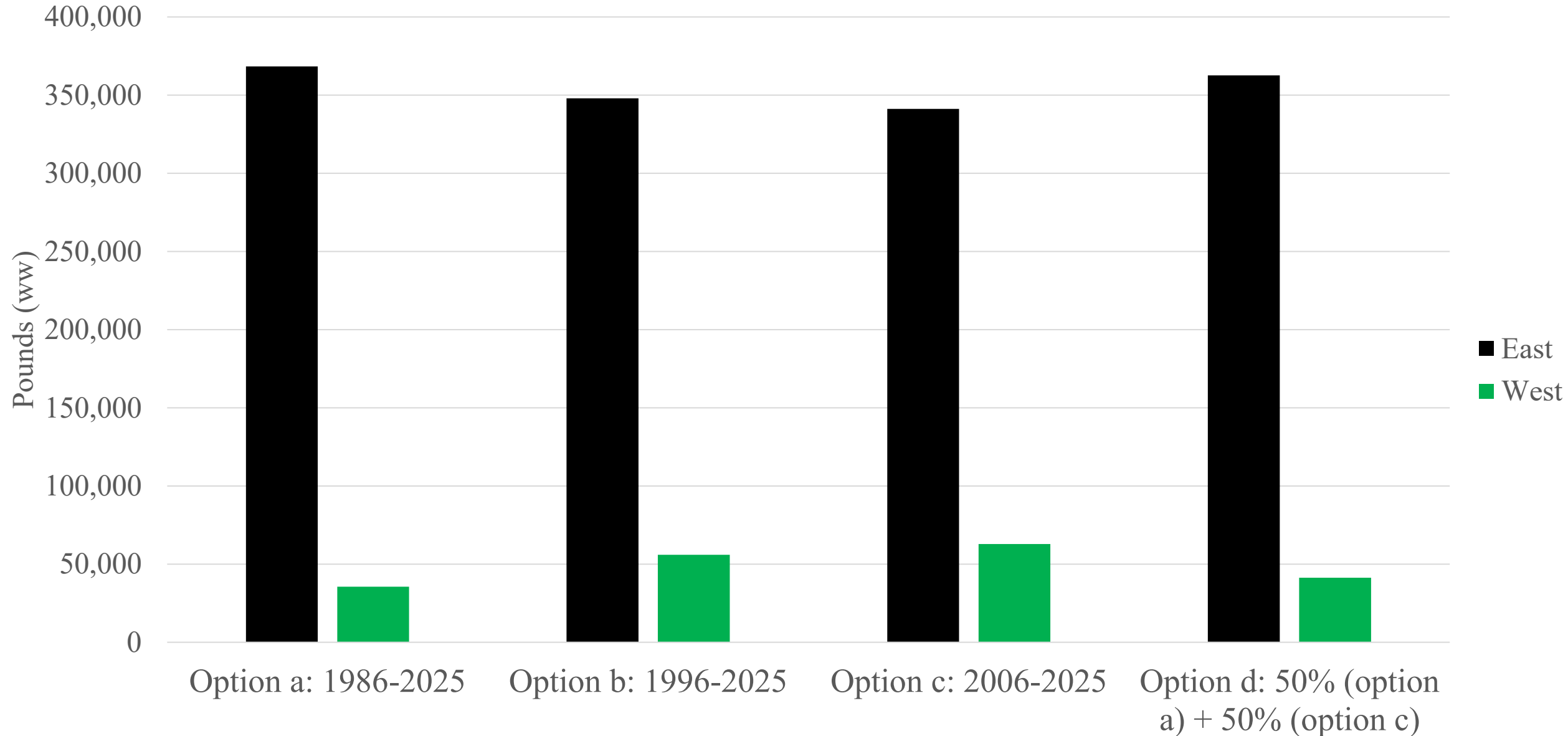


Allocation percentage East (FL, AL) and West (MS, LA, TX)



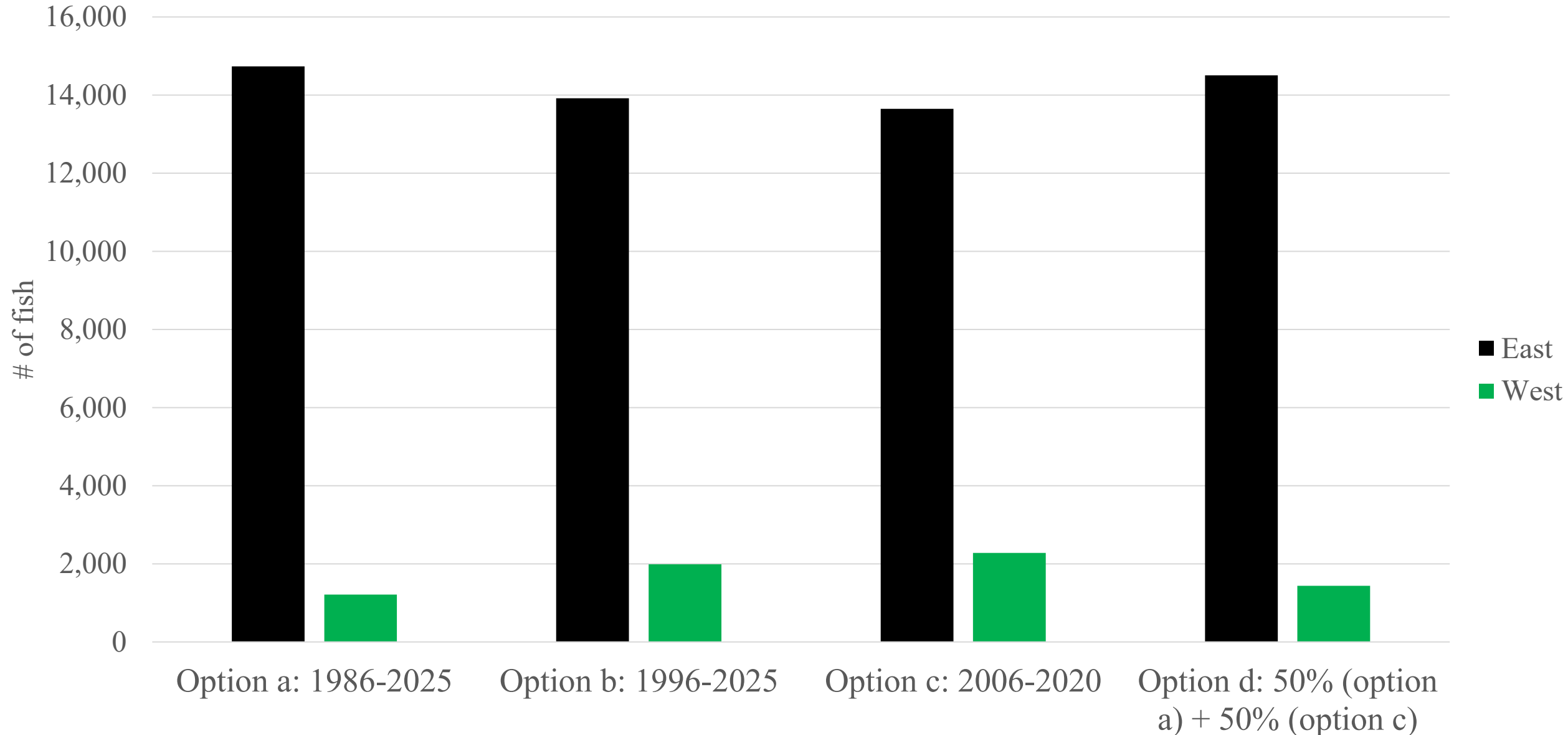
Allocation in pounds East (FL, AL) and West (MS, LA, TX)

Total Recreational allocation with 2 Zones using ACL of 404,000 lb ww

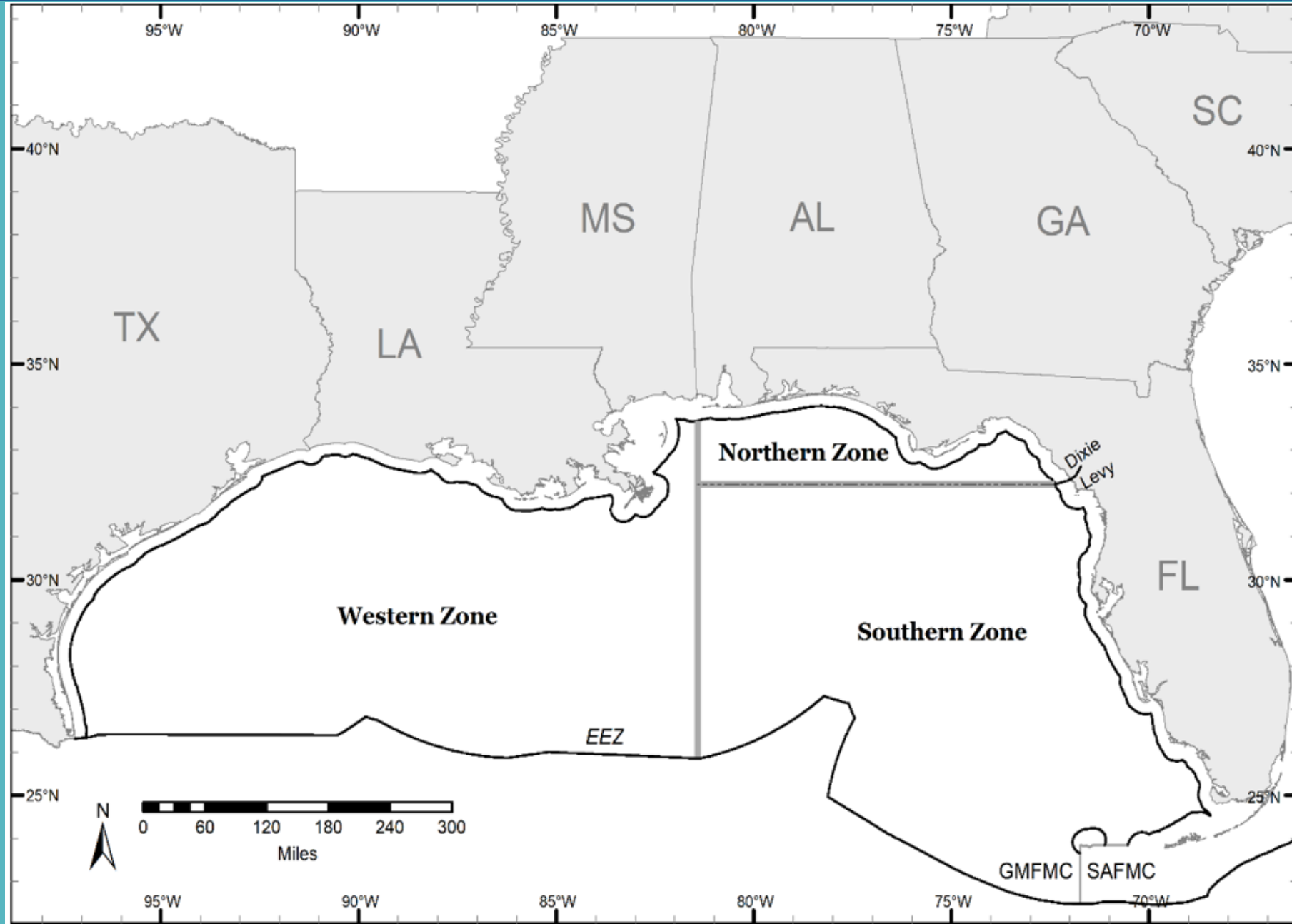


Allocation in # of fish East (FL, AL) and West (MS, LA, TX)

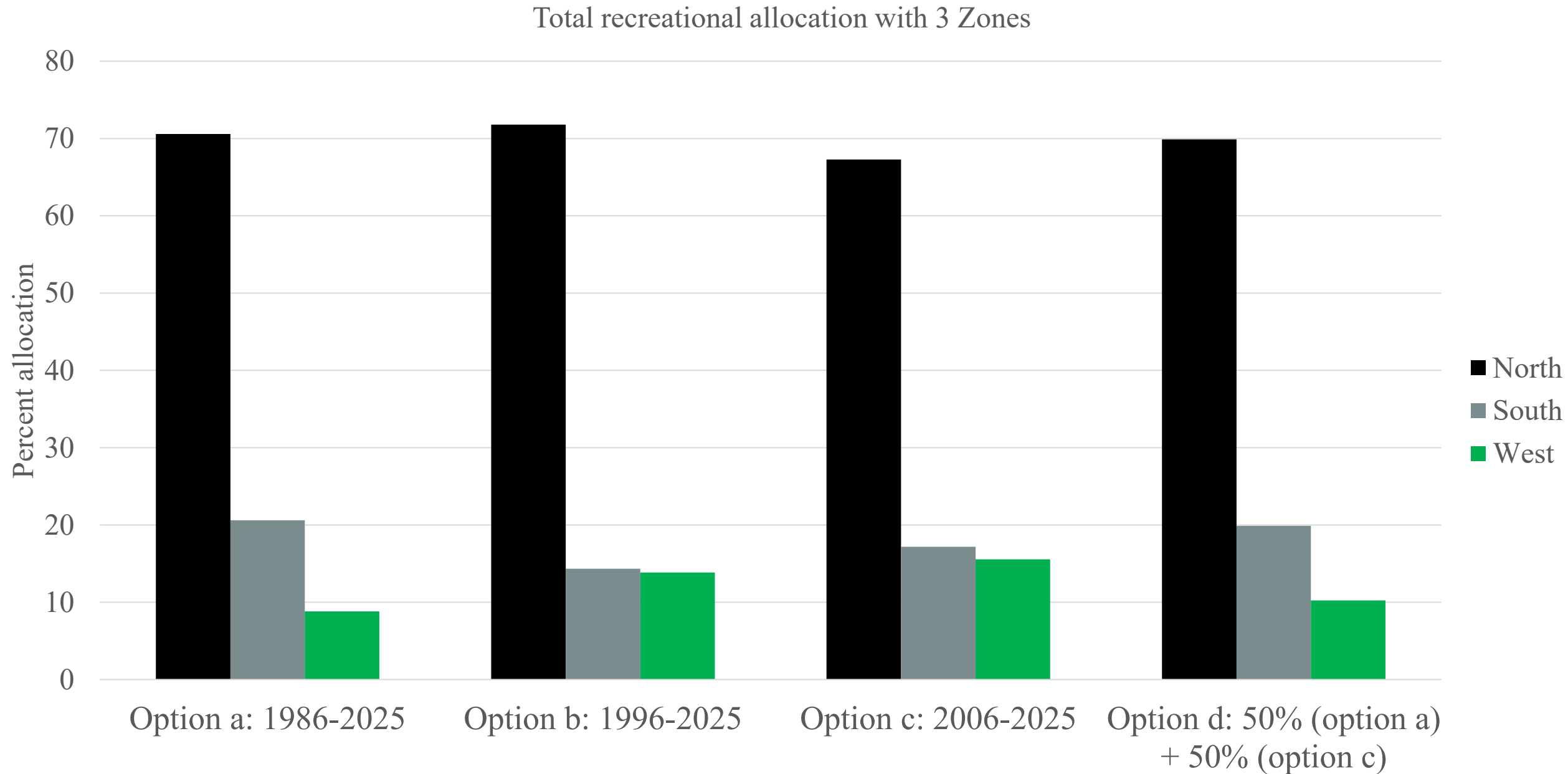
Total Recreational with 2 Zones # of fish assuming 25 lb average



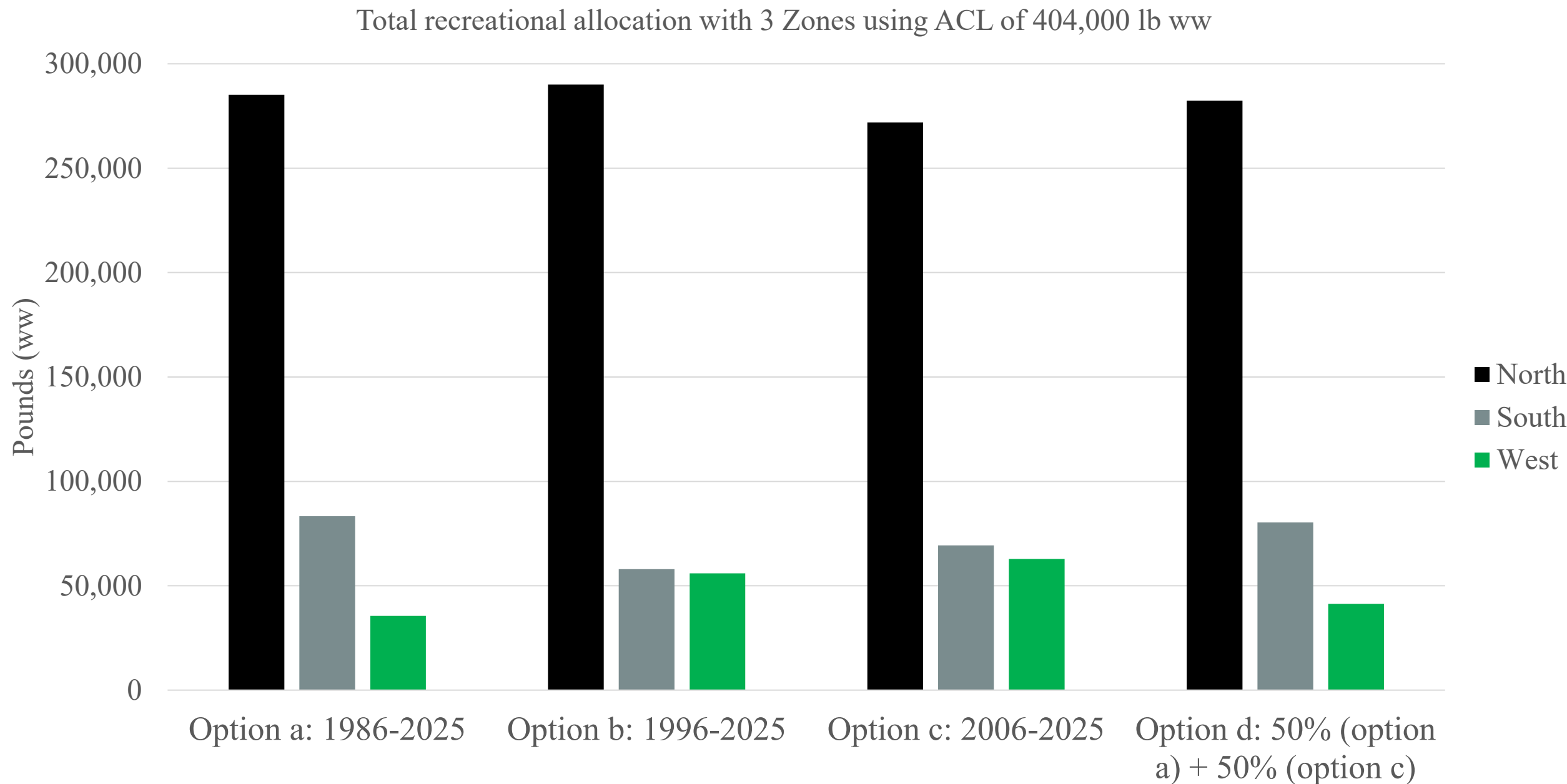
What about regional management? West /North/South Zones



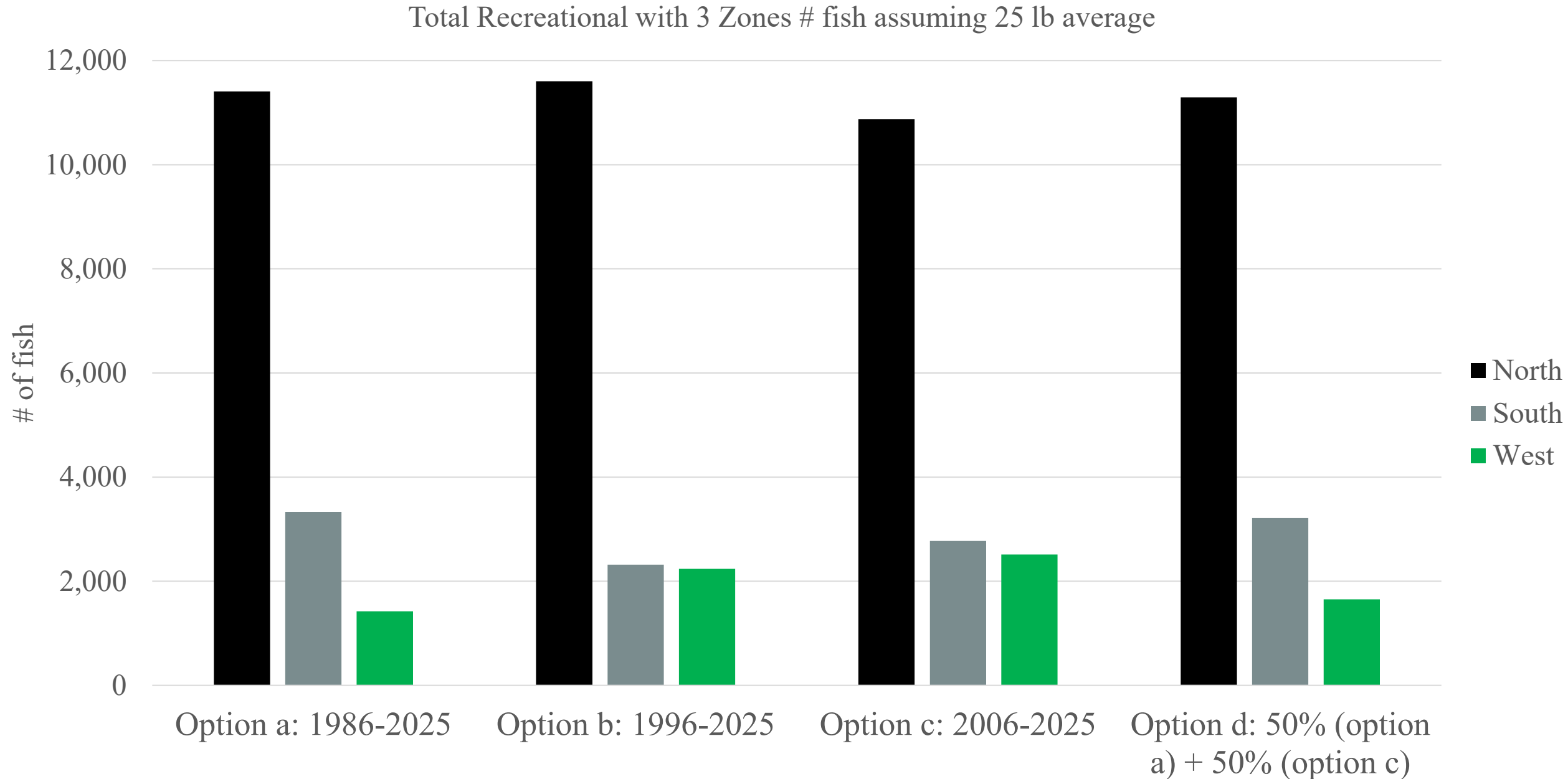
Allocation percentage West (TX, LA, MS), North (Panhandle FL, AL), South (Peninsular FL)



Allocation in pounds West (TX, LA, MS), North (Panhandle FL, AL), South (Peninsular FL)



Allocation in # of fish West (TX, LA, MS), North (Panhandle FL, AL), South (Peninsular FL)



Council Guidance for document: Start with Amendment 50

Can explore other allocation approaches other than landings history as was done in Amendment 50

- **Stock biomass –upcoming stock assessment could be used but will not be available for a couple years**
- **State conducted EFPs –in Amendment 50, the Council ultimately chose this approach for red snapper, Louisiana developing a plan now, would be several years out to conduct EFPs in other states**



Other Considerations

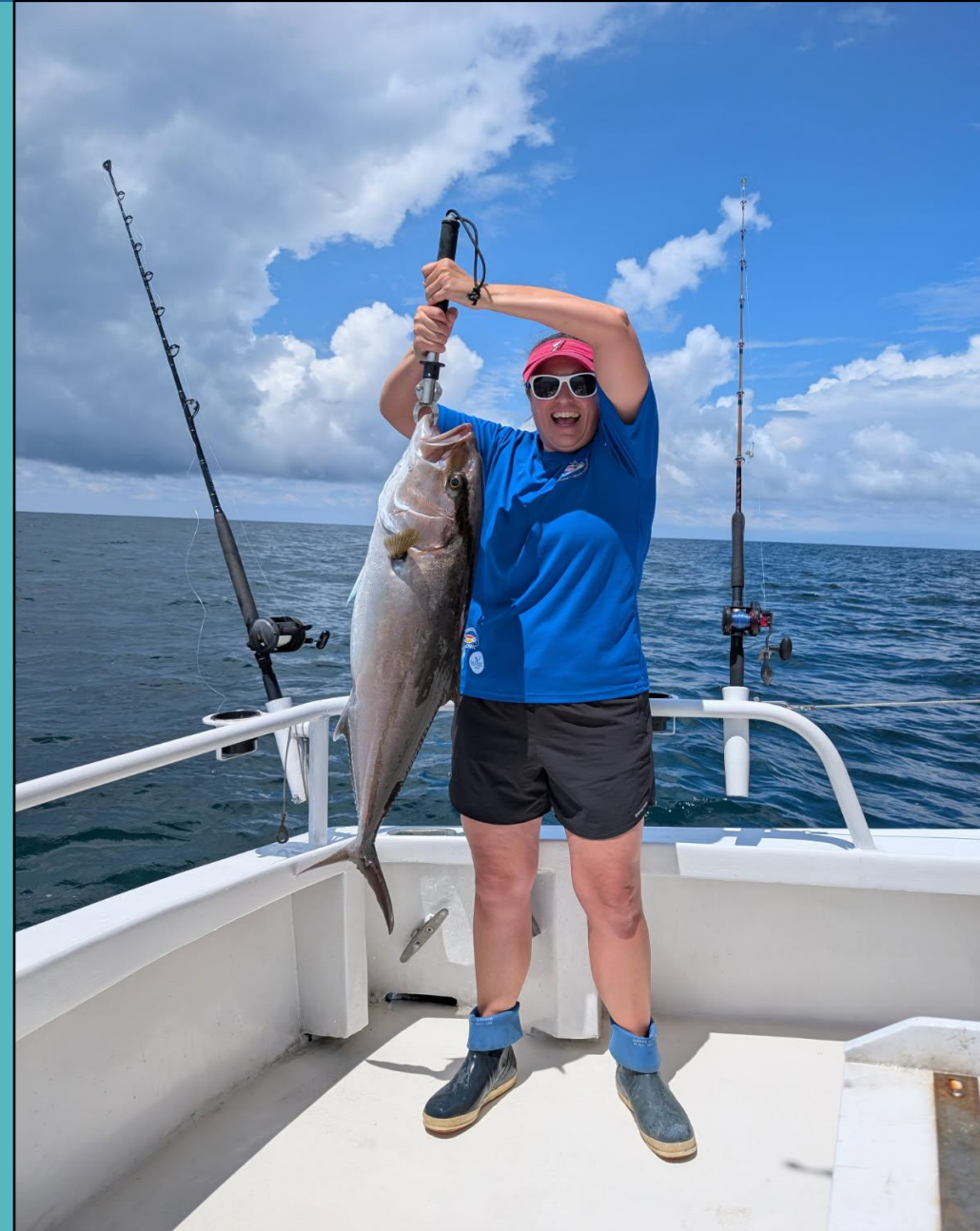
- **Another assessment to be completed in spring of 2028**
 - This changes the goal posts and affects the state/regional allocation numbers
- **Modification of MRIP-FES will be incorporated in stock assessment**
- **Regional management would need cooperation between states**
 - Likely require calibration, how would states communicate and coordinate data collection for tabulation?



Take home messages

Using landings history to inform allocation is complicated for greater amberjack

- Not enough landings to inform sector-specific state management
- Florida has consistent majority of landings history
- Improved data collection by increasing # of intercepts?
 - ❖ Explored through EFPs?
- What would you like to see for the next steps?





QUESTIONS?
