

NOAA
FISHERIES

Ocean Pout (*Zoarces americanus*)

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NEFSC

Groundfish Operational Assessment Review Meeting
Woods Hole, MA
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Ocean Pout

Background

Last assessed in 2012

Index-based assessment, same as 2008 benchmark assessment

USA total catch (landings and discards) for 1968 to 2010

NEFSC Spring survey used

Ocean pout was overfished but overfishing did not occur in 2010

Ocean Pout

Changes for this assessment

Landings Updated 2010, added 2011 – 2014

Discards Updated 1989 - 2010, added 2011 - 2014

Large-mesh otter trawl fleet

Small-mesh otter trawl fleet

Gillnet

Scallop Dredge

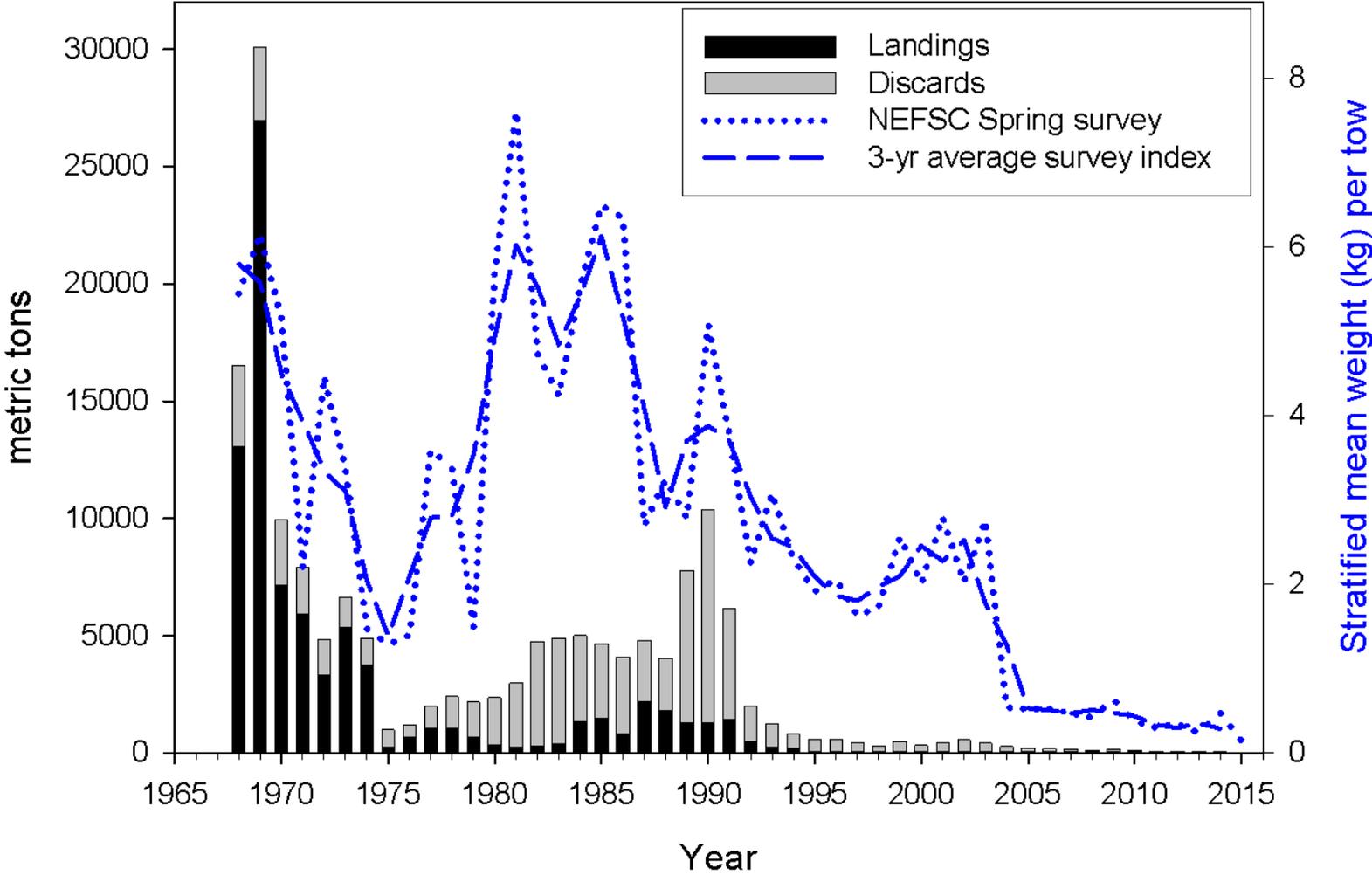
NEFSC Surveys: Updated Spring 2009 – 2011; added Spring 2012 – 2015

Used TOGA criteria for 2009 onward

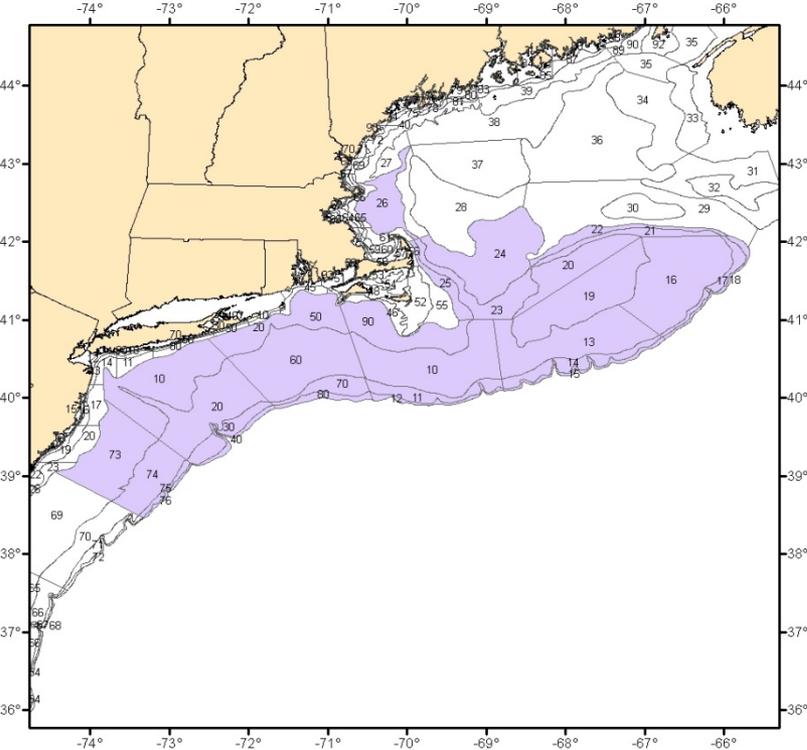
Recreational landings were updated and found to be negligible and not included

NOTE: 2014 US landings (2.0 mt) was investigated; this was found to be a data error. Database correction has not yet occurred.

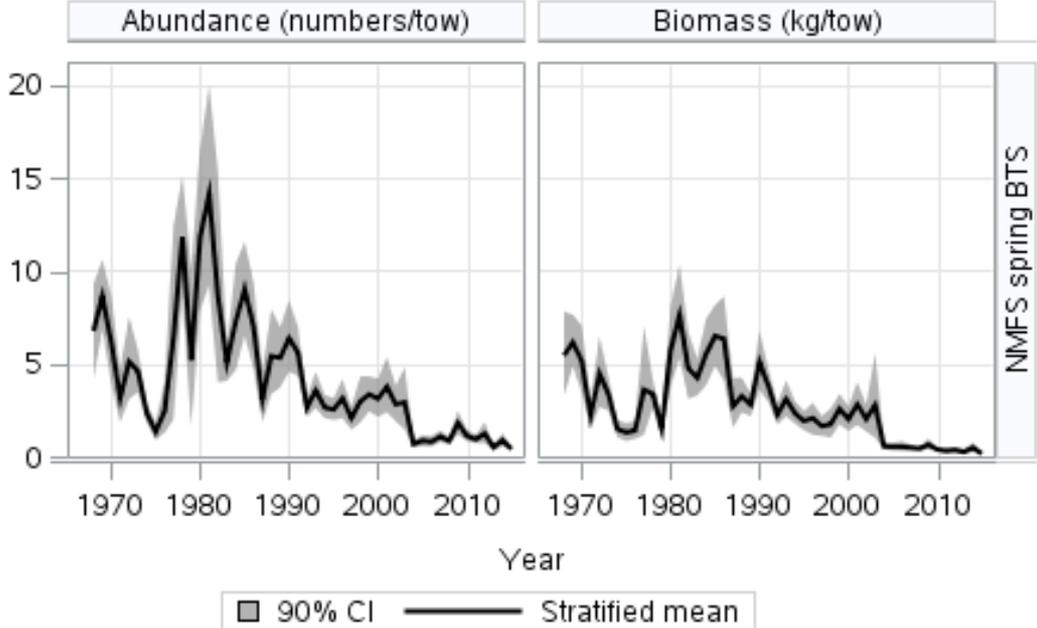
Ocean Pout



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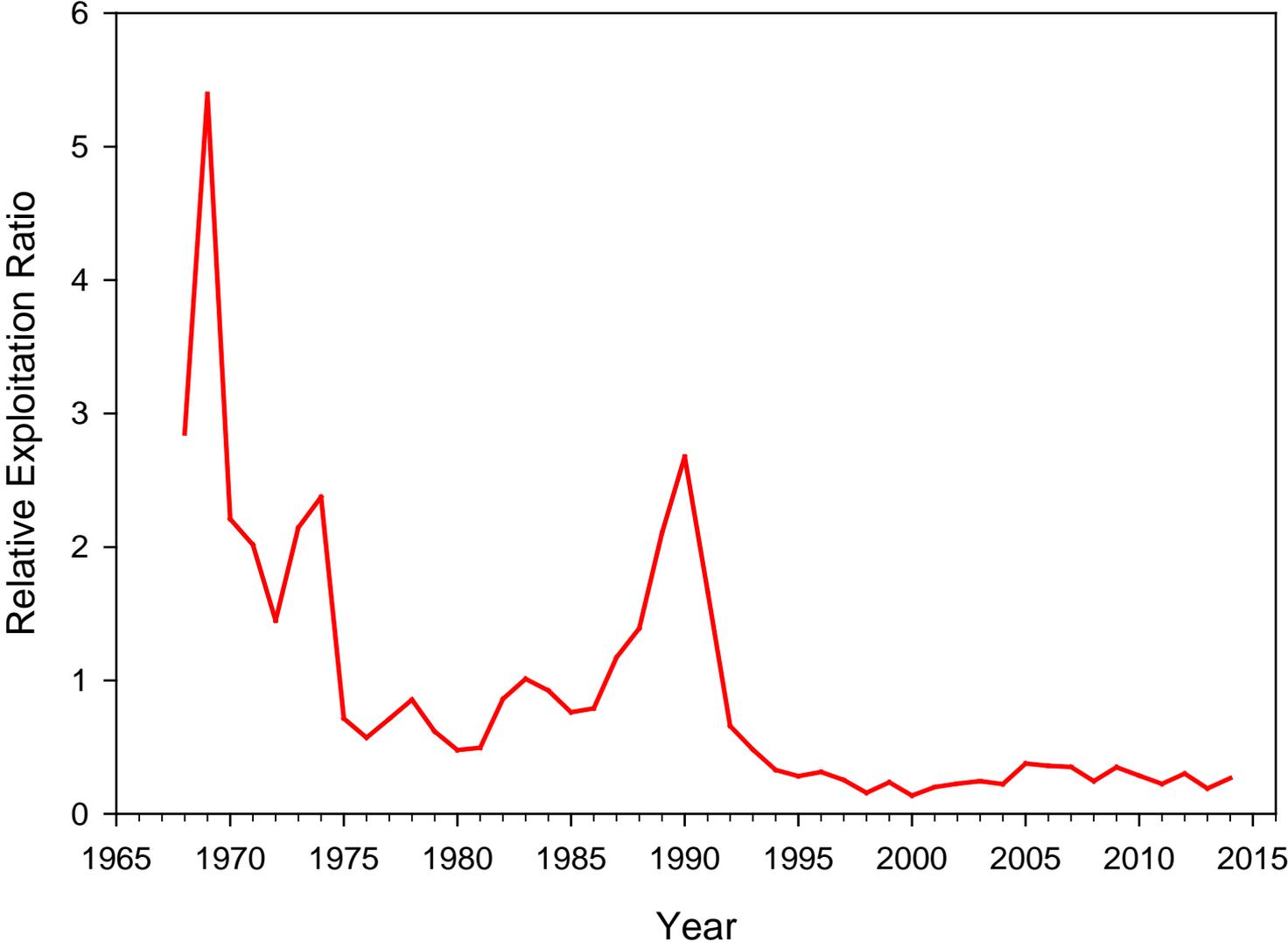
Stratified mean survey indices



NEFSC offshore strata 1-26; 73-76

Ocean Pout

Relative Exploitation Ratio = Catch / 3-yr average of NEFSC Spring biomass indices



Ocean Pout

Biological Reference Points

Bmsy proxy = 4.9 kg/tow median survey biomass (1980-1991)

MSY = 1,500 mt

Fmsy proxy = 0.31 (1.5/4.9)

Overfishing Definition Panel (Applegate et al. 1998)

visually inspected landings and survey trends

chose Bmsy and MSY values that appeared to be sustainable

With estimates of discard, the BRPs were updated at GARM 2008 using:

Bmsy proxy: median survey biomass

Fmsy proxy: median exploitation ratio

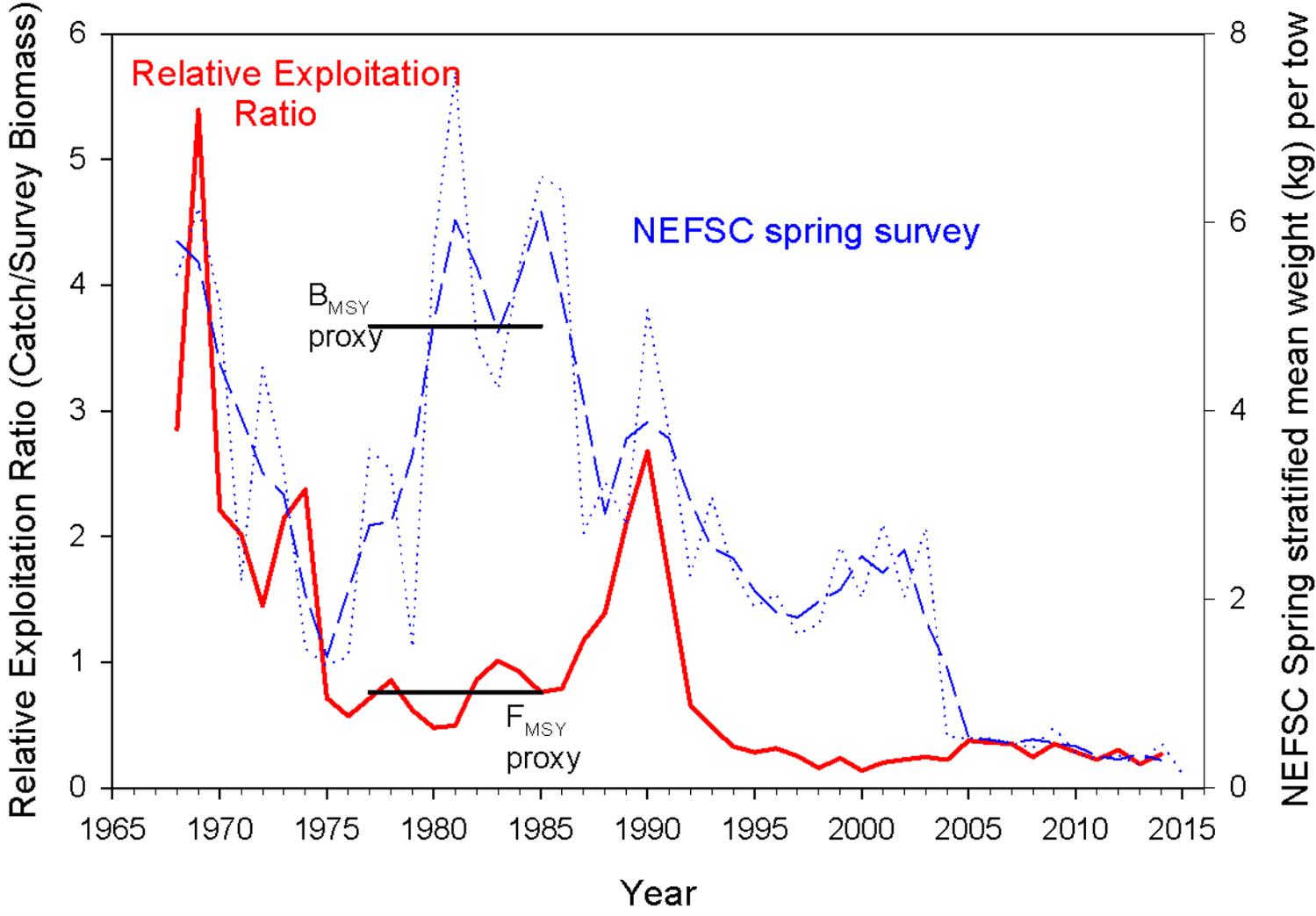
1977-1985 time period used (replacement ratio > 1 and biomass increased)

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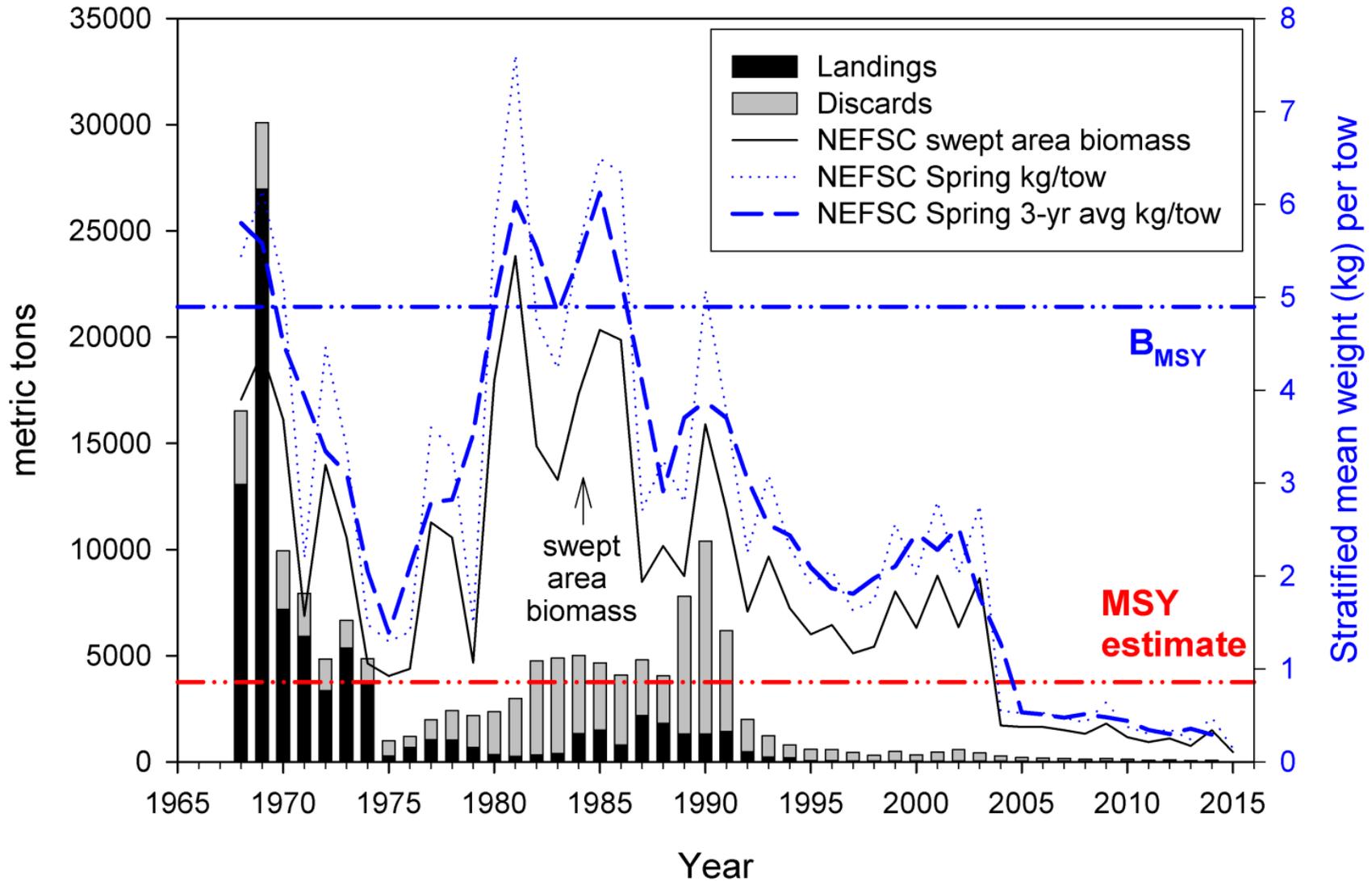
GARM 2005 using landings	GARM 2008 using catch	Update 2015 Update 2012
Bmsy = 4.9 kg/tow Fmsy = 0.31 MSY = 1,500 mt	Bmsy = 4.94 kg/tow Fmsy = 0.76 MSY = 3,754 mt	Same as GARM 2008

No change from April 2008 BRP meeting

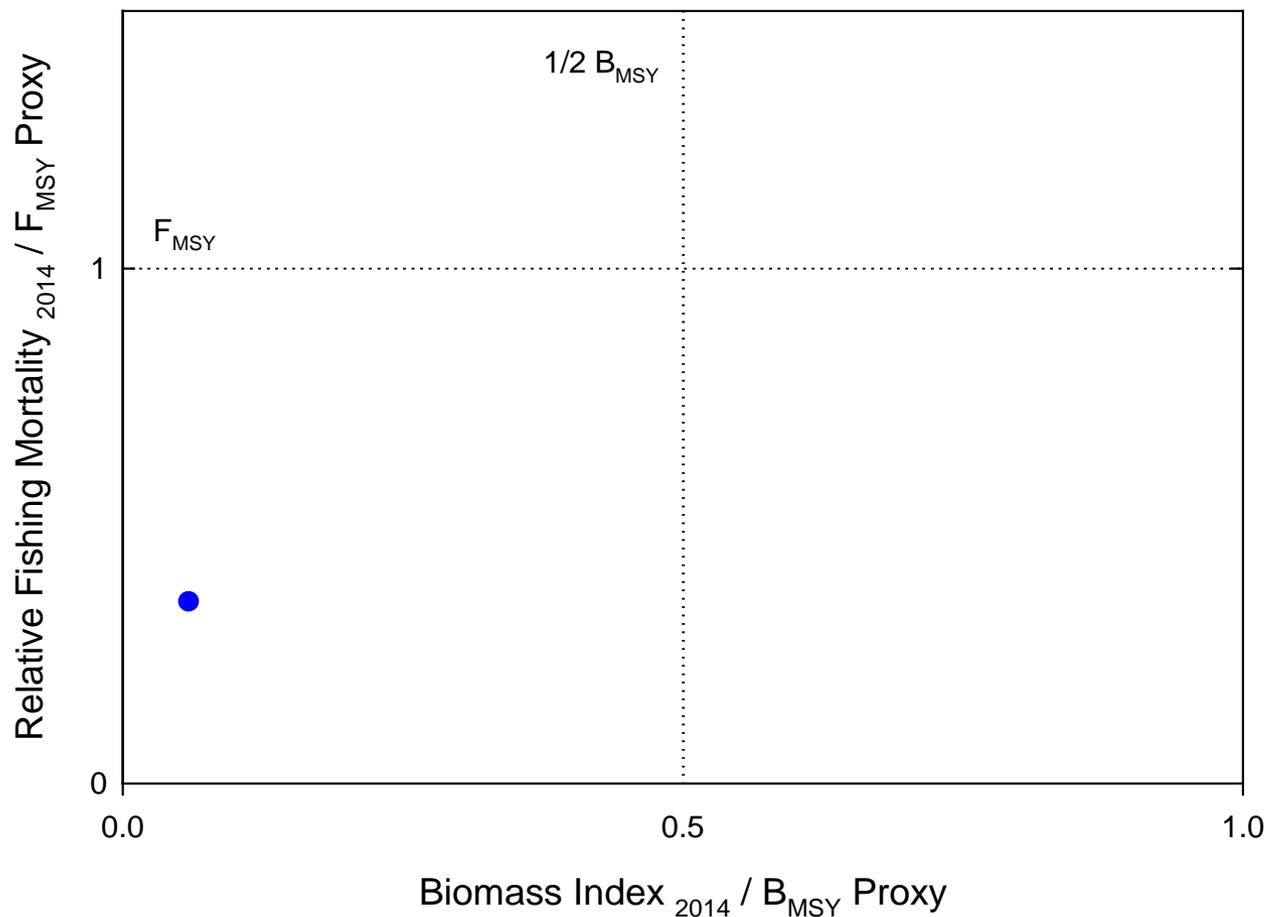
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NOTE: when 2 mt of landings are corrected, Relative Exploitation Ratio will become 0.262; stock status will not change.

2014 3yr moving average of NEFSC Spring index = 0.290 kg/tow (2013,2014, 2015)

2014 relative exploitation ratio = 0.269 (catch/3yr moving avg index)

Overfished but overfishing did not occur in 2014.

Ocean Pout

- No projections conducted
- Sources of Uncertainty
 - Stock has not responded to low catch as expected.
 - Discards are based on both direct and indirect methods
- Summary
 - Catch is low (majority is discards due to no possession regs)
 - Survey indices are low