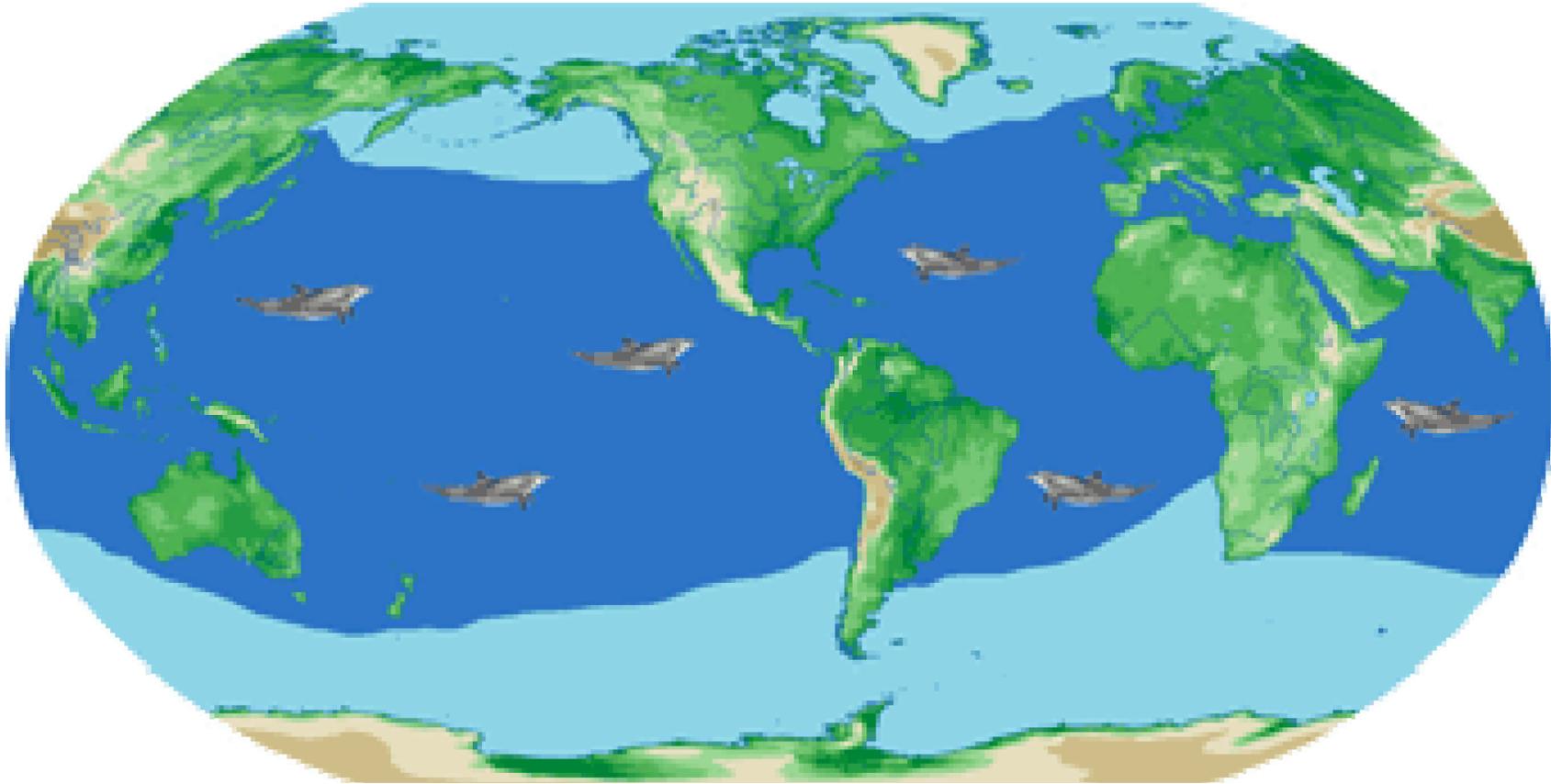


Worldwide Distribution of Bottlenose Dolphins



<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/default.cfm>



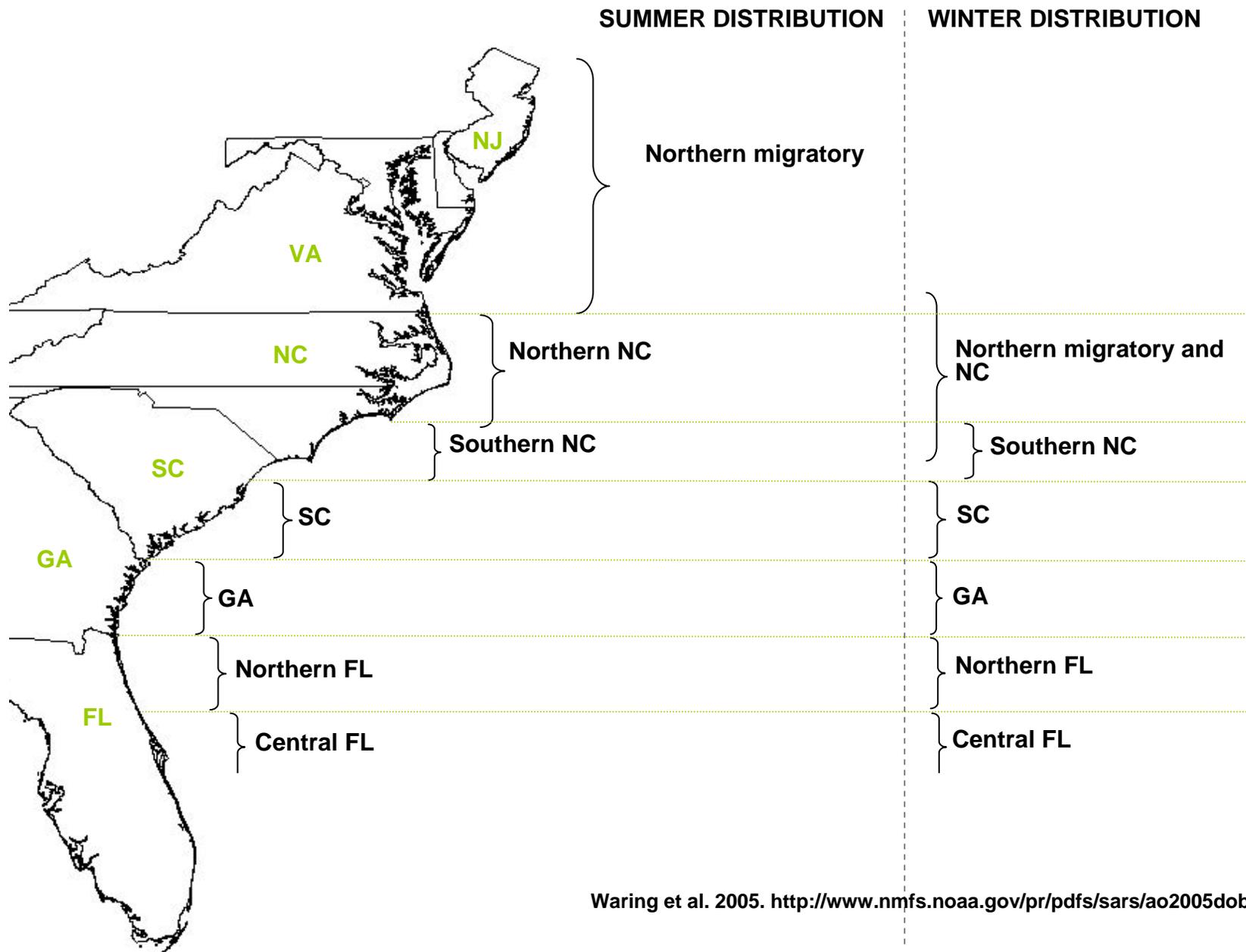
Photo by Jackie Toth Brown

US Atlantic Coast

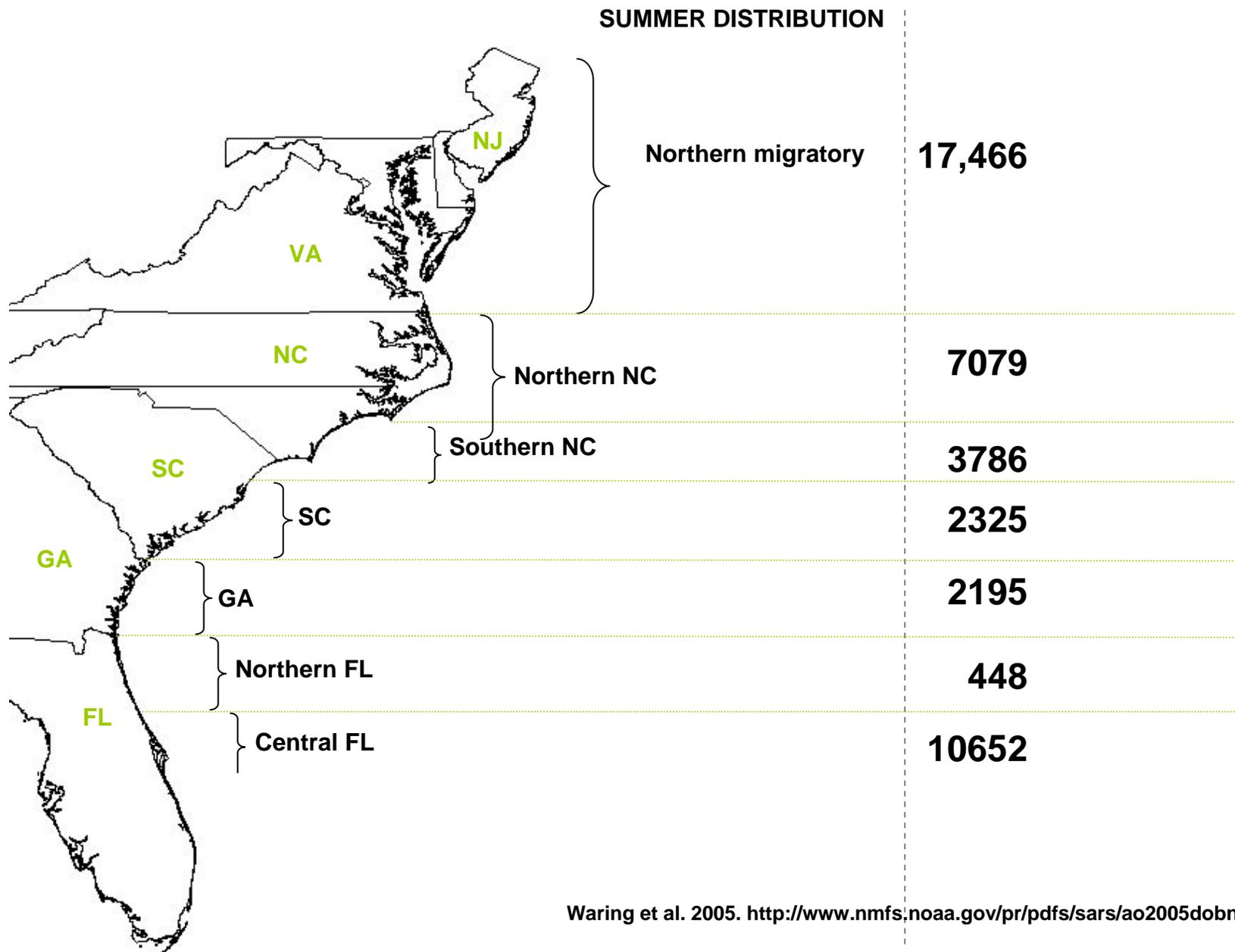
Bottlenose dolphins are

- **most abundant coastal cetacean from New Jersey to Florida**
- **throughout most of their range they are also common in estuarine systems**

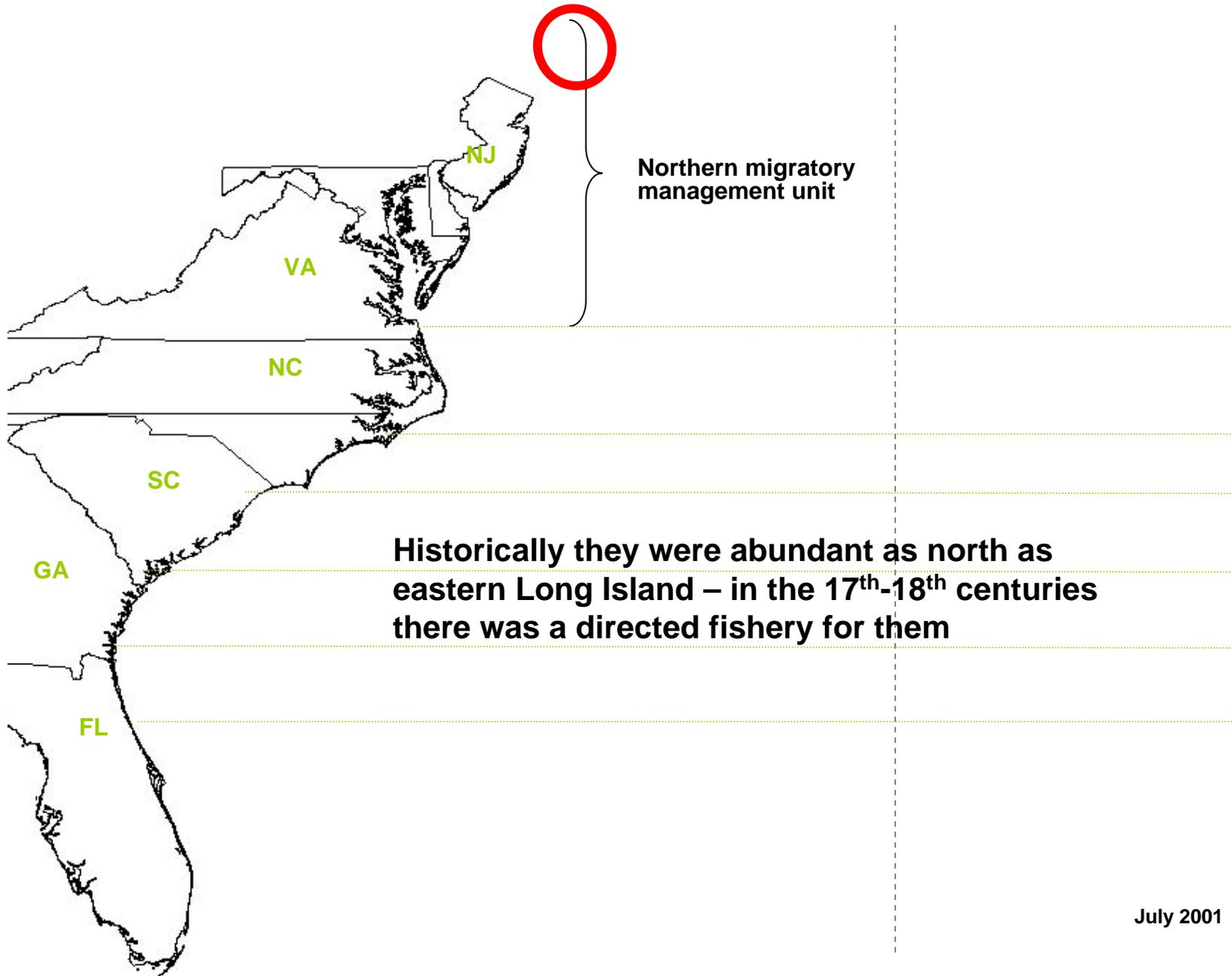
Stocks of the Coastal Morphotype of Bottlenose Dolphin along the Atlantic coast



Summer Abundance Estimates

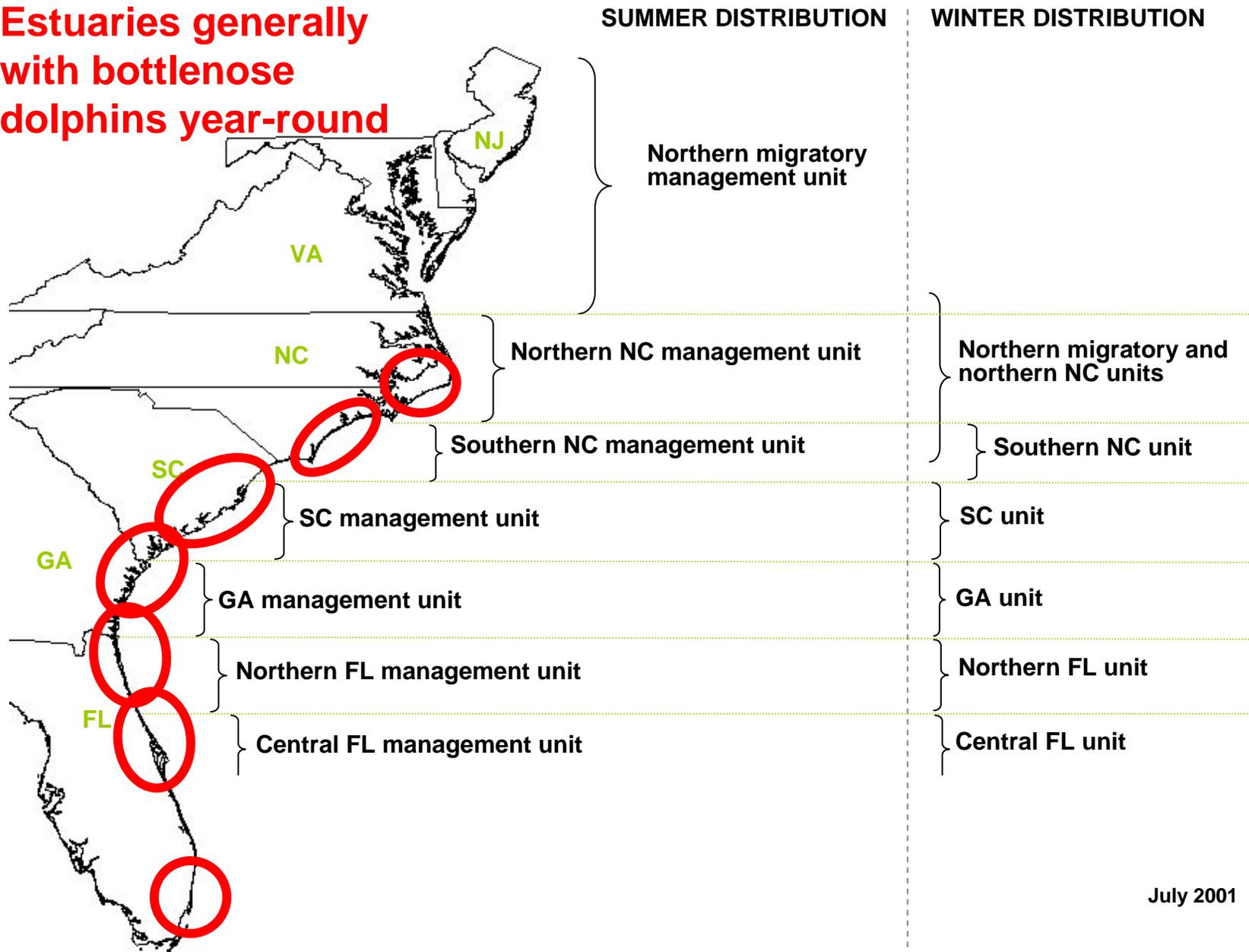


Historical Range

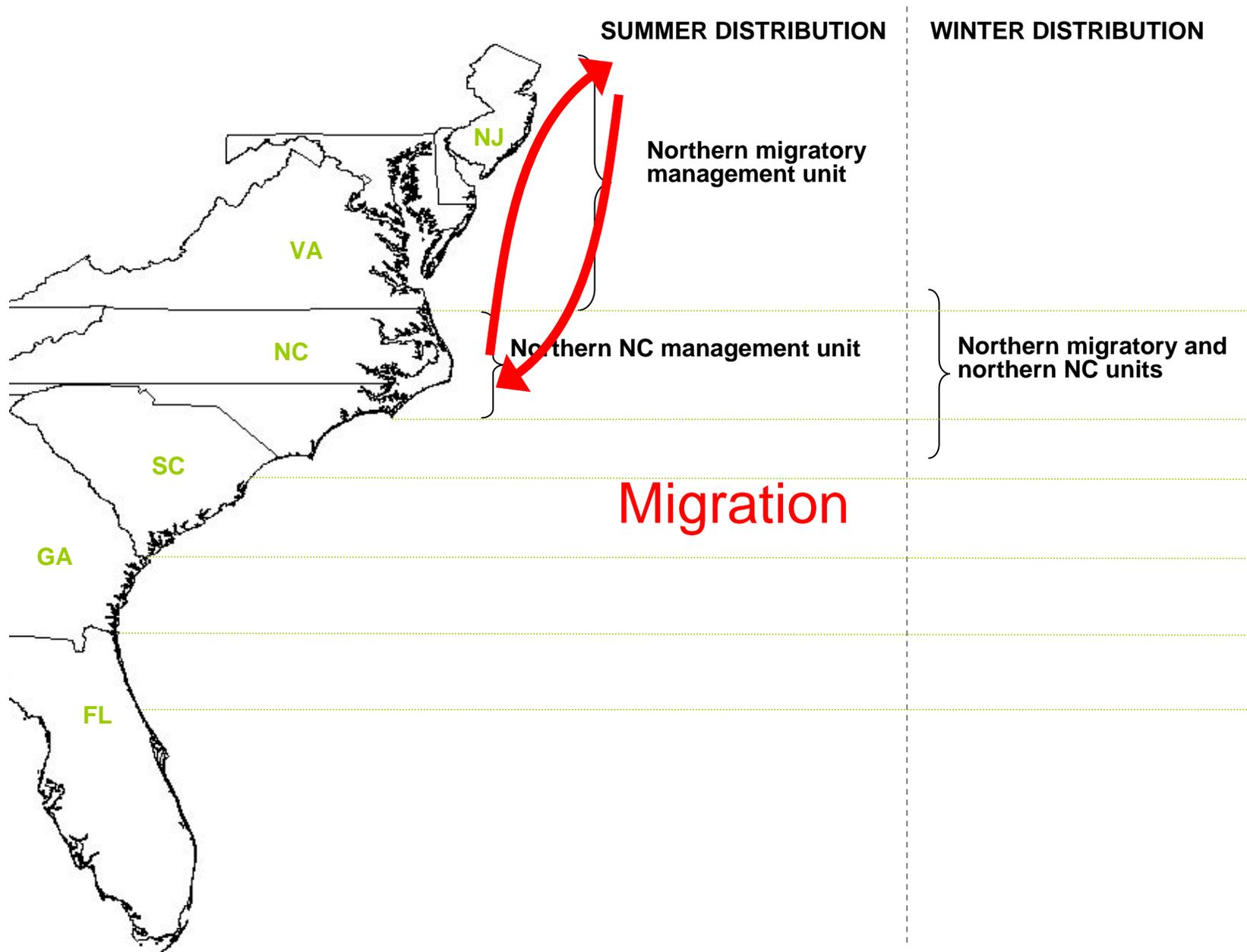


Management Units of the Coastal Morphotype of Bottlenose Dolphin along the Atlantic coast

Estuaries generally with bottlenose dolphins year-round



Migration of Northern Migratory Stock of Bottlenose Dolphins along the Atlantic Coast



Migration of Northern Migratory Stock of Bottlenose Dolphins along the Atlantic Coast

Why do they migrate?

- 1. Prey migrate**
- 2. Thermoregulatory response**

Prey Species of Bottlenose Dolphins from North Carolina*

Sciaenidae

Weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*)

Croaker (*Micropogonids undulatus*)

Spot (*hiortomus xanthurus*)

Silver perch (*Bairdiella chrysoura*)

Engraulidae

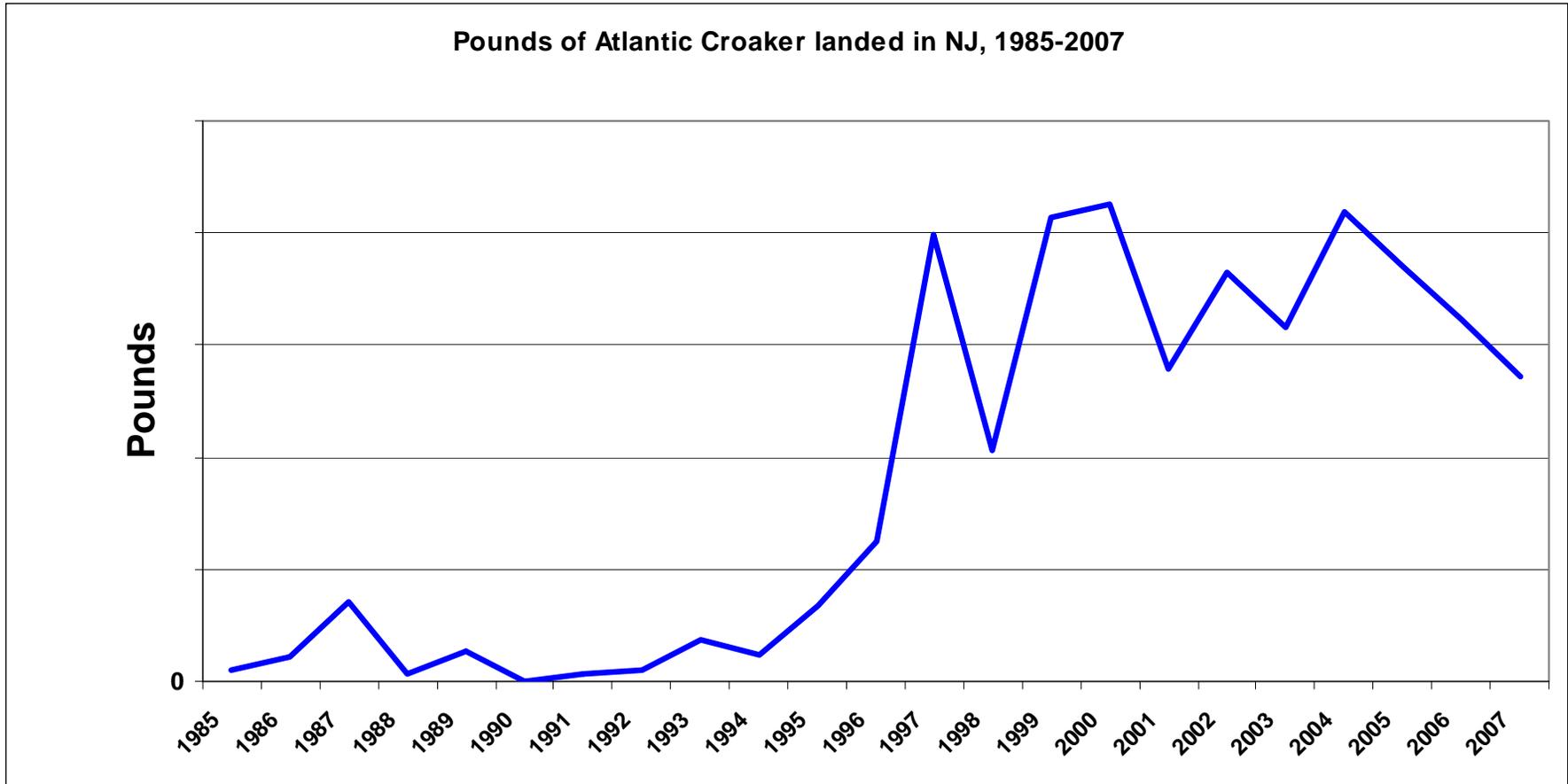
Striped anchovy (*Anchoa hepsetus*)

Clupeidae

Menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*)

*SC through FL mullet is a prey item

Pounds of Atlantic Croaker landed in NJ, 1985-2007



Unpublished data: NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Prey Species of Bottlenose Dolphins in Navesink/Shrewsbury River System



Photo credit: NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Striped bass

Menhaden Partially Eaten by Bottlenose Dolphin



Photo credit: NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Schools of Menhaden in the Navesink/Shrewsbury River System



Photo credit: NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Schools of Menhaden in the Navesink/Shrewsbury River System



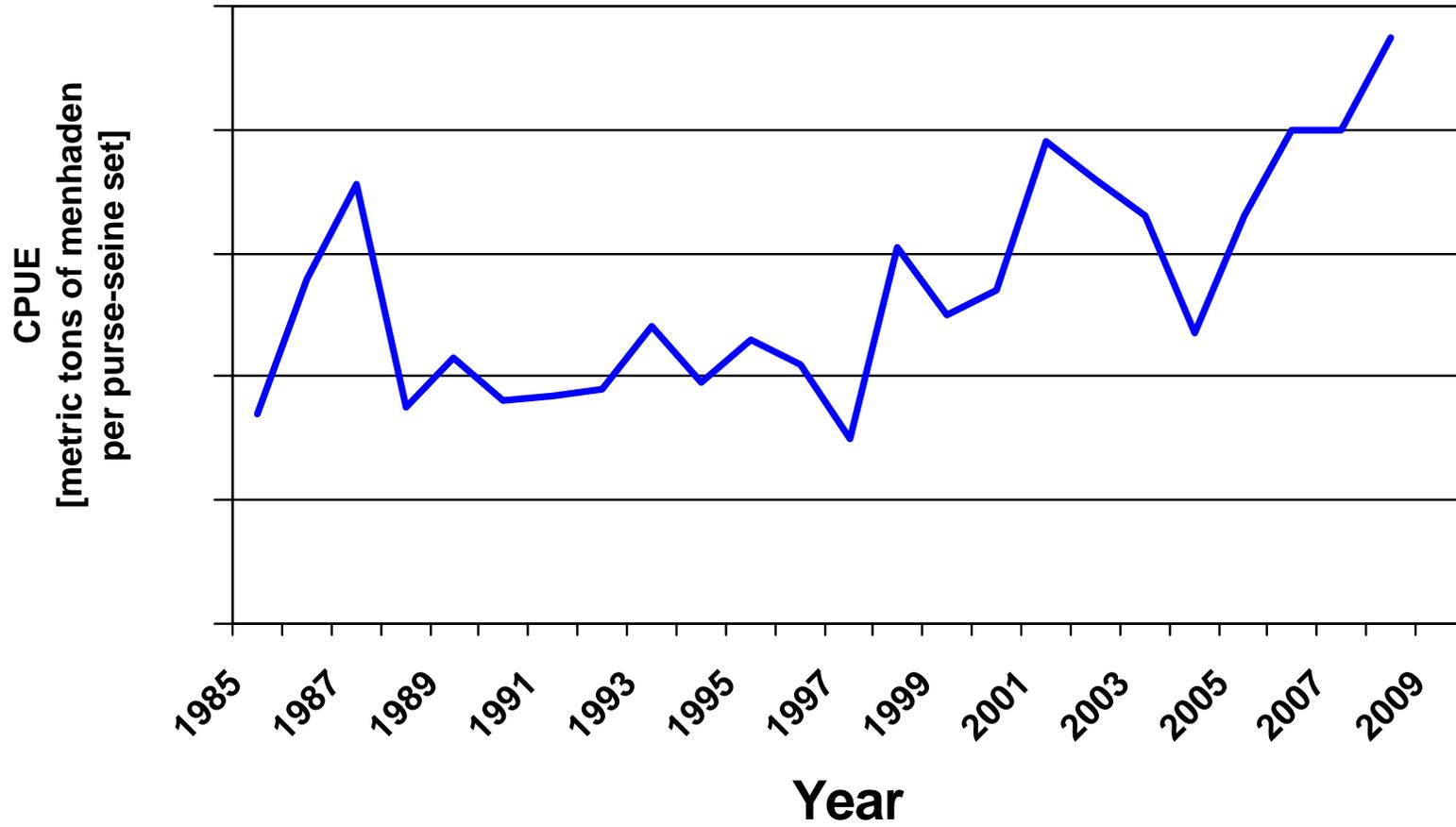
Photo credit: NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Schools of Menhaden in the Navesink/Shrewsbury River System



Photo credit: NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

CPUE of Menhaden Fleet off NJ, 1985-2008



Unpublished data: NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center

What are they eating now?



Photo credit: NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

What are they eating now?



Photo credit: NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

What are they eating now?



Photo credit: NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center