



Update on the 2020 Atlantic Menhaden Fishing Season

NOAA FISHERIES

Sustainable Fisheries Branch
NMFS Beaufort Laboratory
Beaufort, NC

GSMFC Spring Meeting
Teleconference
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2020 Landings for Reduction

- One factory on Atlantic coast at Reedville, VA, since 2005
- Coastwide Total Allowable Catch limit (TAC) raised (216,000 metric tons)
 - 152,392 mt allocated for reduction (prior to set-aside)
- Landings for 2020 reduction fishery:
 - 124,604 mt (or 479 million standard fish)
 - Decreased 17.4% from 2019 (150,825 mt)
 - Decreased 11.2% from previous 5-yr average (140,387 mt)

Vessel Participation for 2020

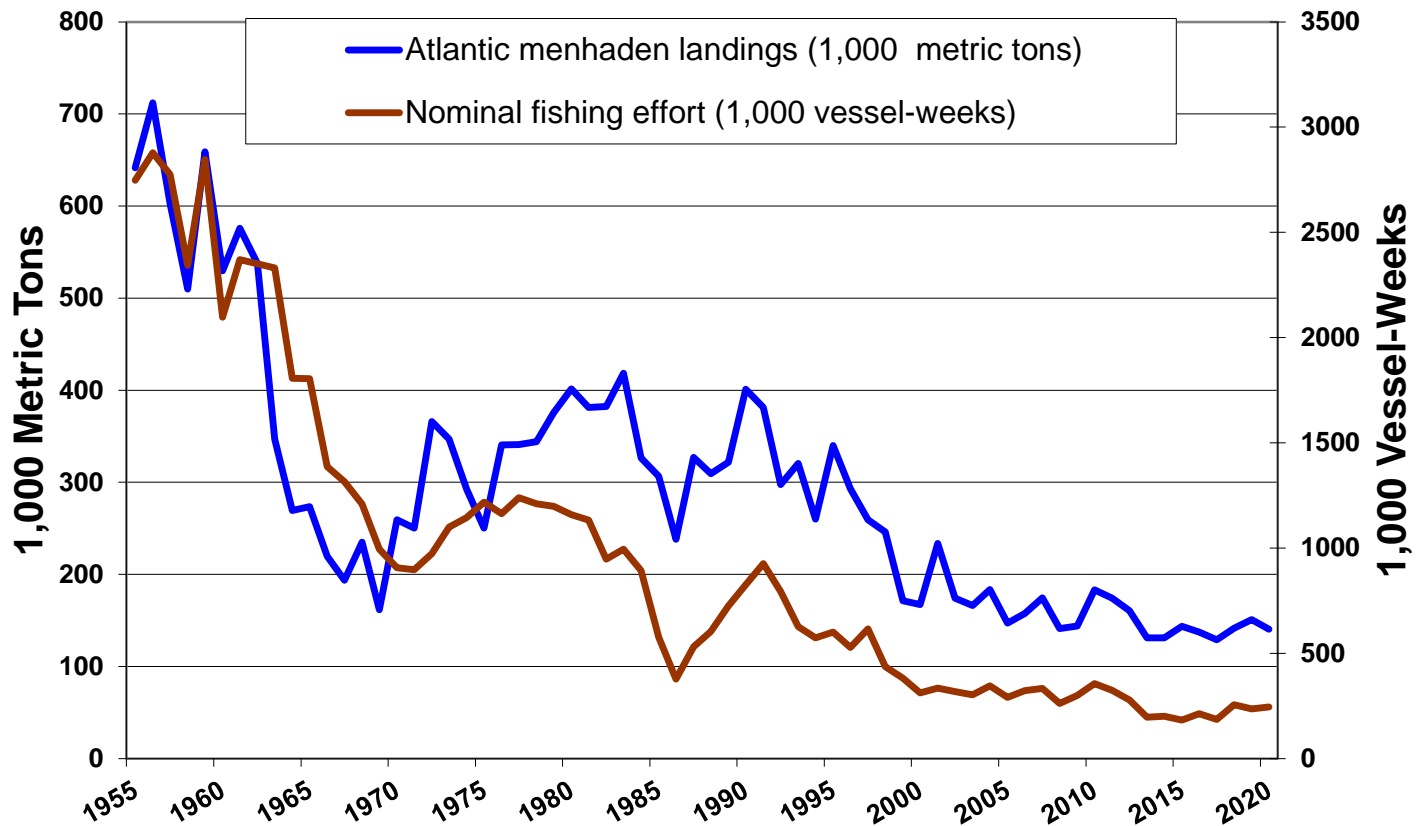
- 10 Omega Protein vessels unloaded Atlantic menhaden for reduction in 2019 at Reedville
- 1 VA 'snapper-rig' boat (bait vessel) also unloaded for reduction at Omega
 - One landed for **bait** only
- ~2 purse-seiners reported catch for **bait** in Atlantic



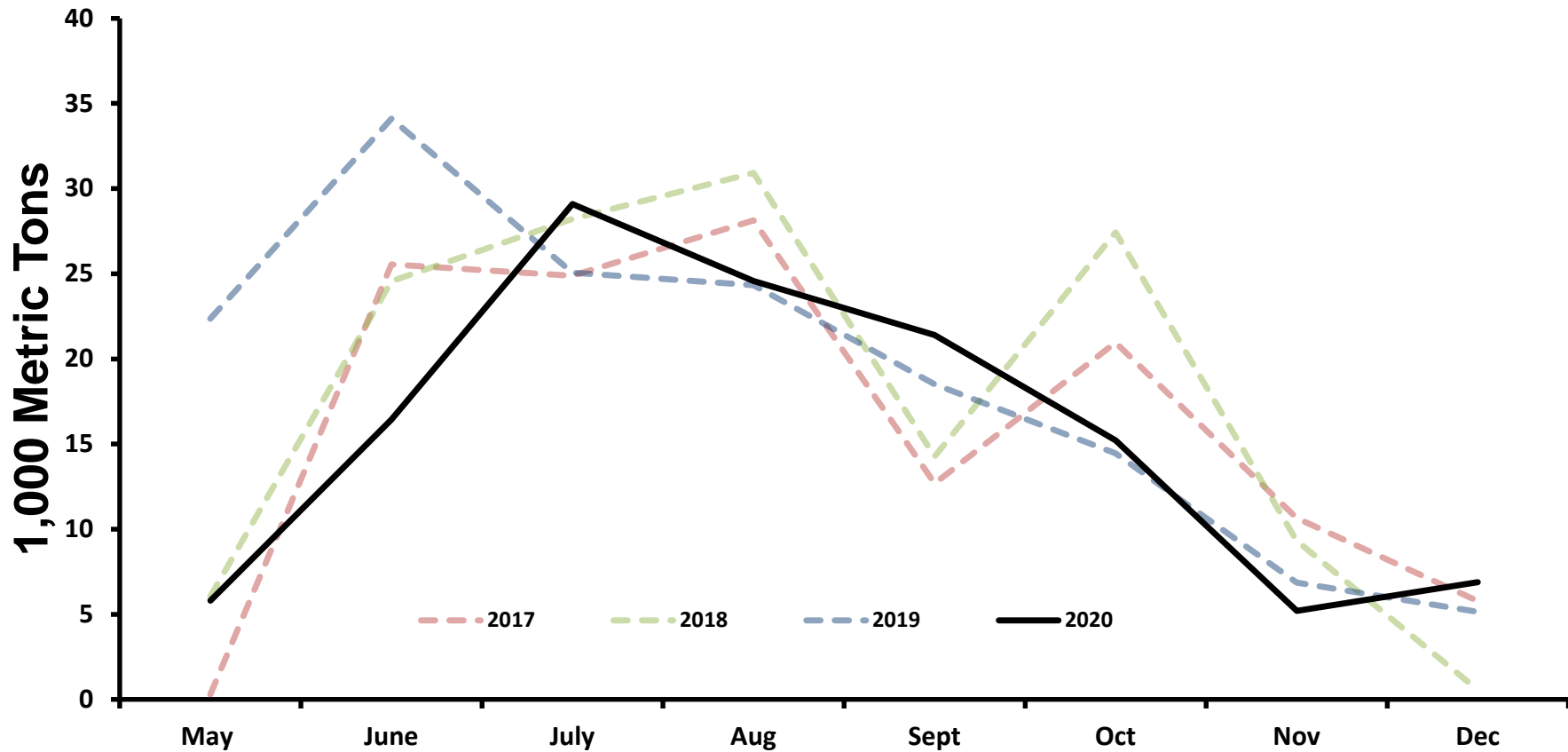
Coastwide Stock

- Fifth year in a row of large menhaden landings in Northeast
 - “Episodic Event” declared for bait fishing
- Bait fisheries
 - New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine participated in the episodic event this season
- First months of season proceeded below average
 - After June, landings remained close to the 5-year average
- Relatively few direct tropical cyclone strikes, many indirect effects from cyclones

Reduction Landings and Nominal Fishing Effort



2020 Landings by Month



Age Compositions in 2020 by Fishing Area

from preliminary catch-at-age matrix

- Critical equipment failure at the beginning of the 2018 fishing season
- Data collection complete for all years
 - Age estimation complete for 2019
- Results of age estimation research are in press
- 2018, 2020 age estimates will be started soon

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 - 2012 Established an 170,800 mt coastwide Total Allowable Catch
 - 2015 increase in TAC (187,880 mt)
 - 2017 TAC increased to 200,000 mt
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- 2019 benchmark assessment
 - Single-species stock assessment passed peer review
 - Multi-species stock assessment also passed
- Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
 - Reduced TAC 10% for 2021 and 2022 fishing seasons

2021 Atlantic Menhaden TAC, by allocation unit

Unit	Percent of TAC	2019 (1,000 Metric Tons)
ME	0.52%	995
NH	0.5%	962
MA	1.3%	2,453
RI	0.52%	996
CT	0.52%	993
NY	0.69%	1,330
NJ	10.9%	20,925
PA	0.5%	962
DE	0.51%	986
MD	1.9%	3,634
PRFC	1.1%	2,066
VA (Reduction)	70.8%	136,253
VA (Bait)	7.9%	15,139
NC	1.0%	1,840
SC	0.5%	962
GA	0.5%	962
FL	0.52%	997
Total		192,456*

* Does not include the 1% episodic set-aside