

Update on the 2019 Gulf Menhaden Fishery

NOAA
FISHERIES

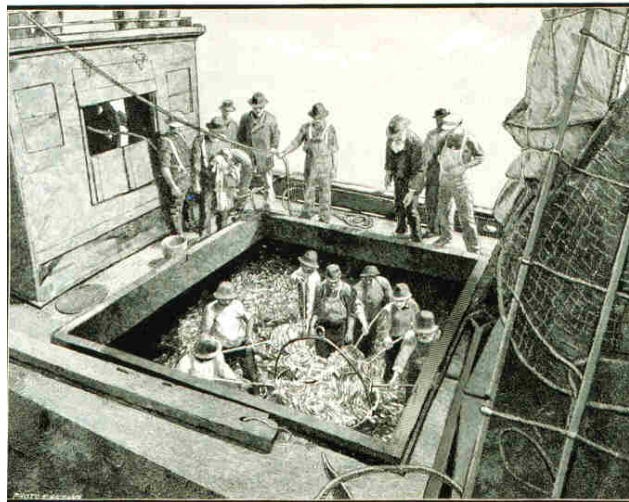
Sustainable Fisheries Branch
NMFS Beaufort Laboratory
Beaufort, NC



GSMFC - Fall Meeting
October 15, 2019
Biloxi, MS

2019 Landings through September 30

- 445,183 metric tons or 1.46 million standard fish
 - Decreased 12.1% from 2018 (506,492 mt) for equivalent time
 - Increased 3.1% from previous 5-yr average (431,768 mt) for equivalent time



THE MENHADEN FISHERY.

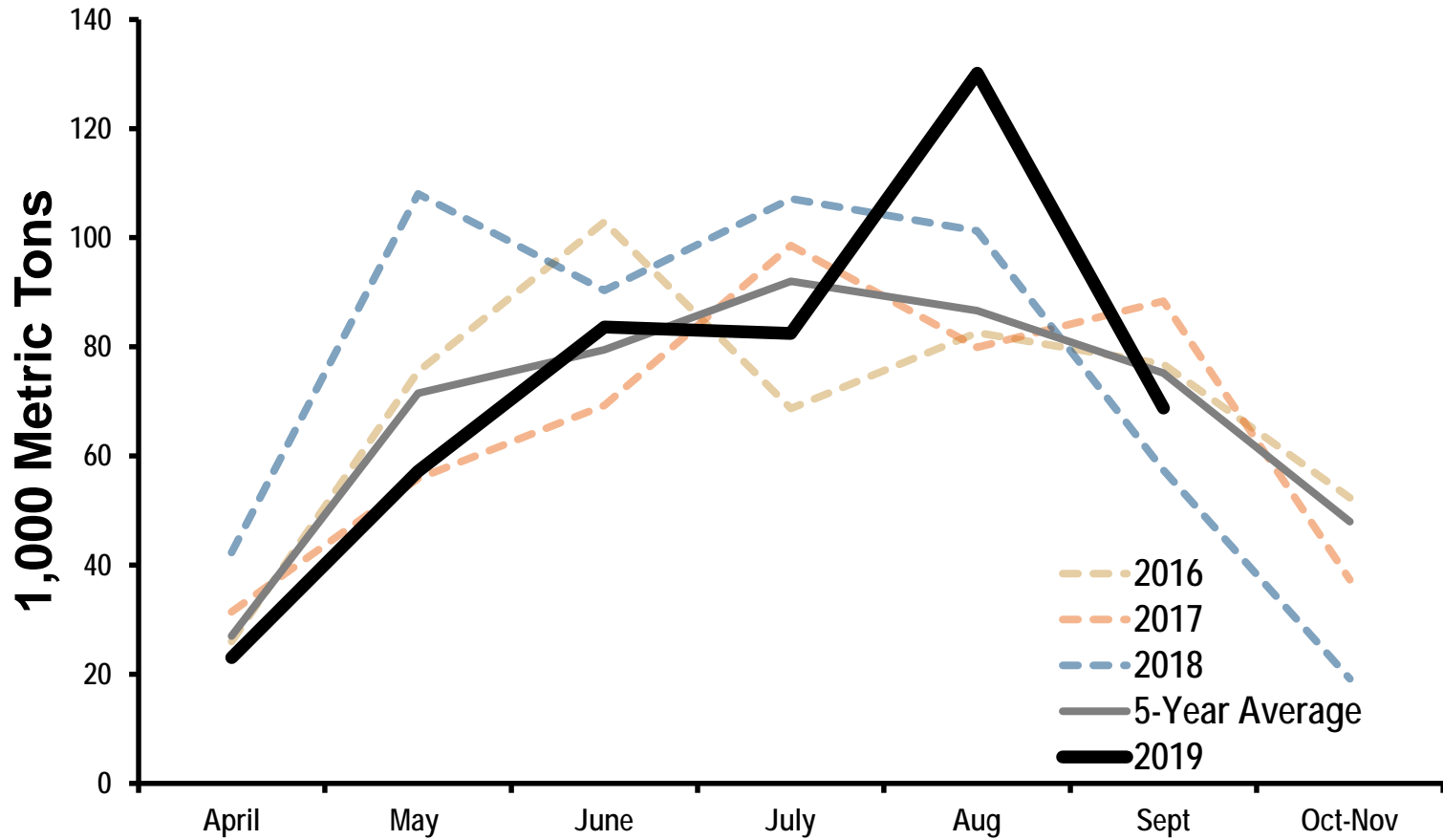
Boat of Portuguese in hold of steamer filling the baiting-bins. (Fish. v. 11, p. 307.)
From a photograph by T. W. Smith.

2019 Landings by Month

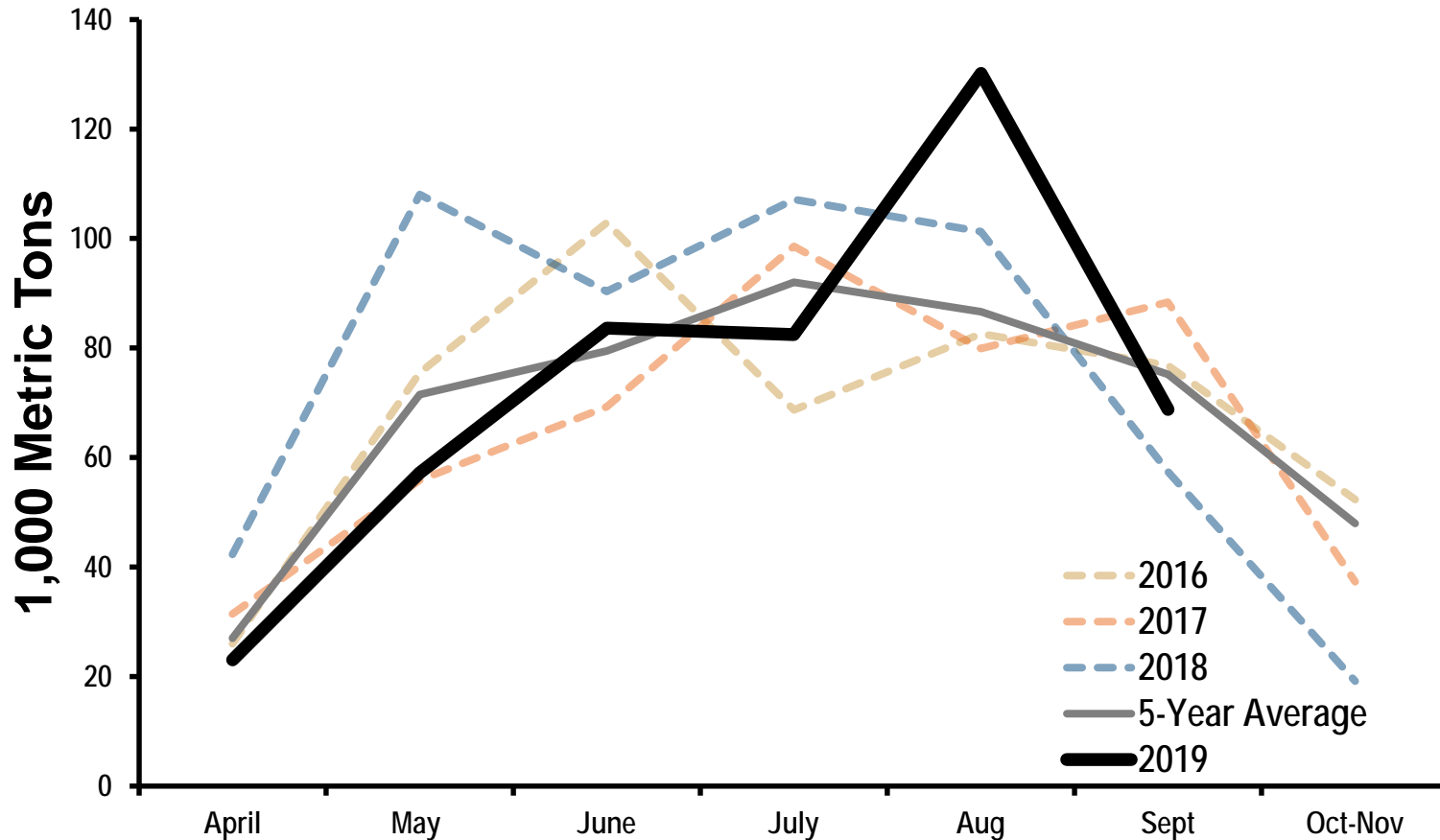
Month	Landings (Metric tons)
April	23,023
May	57,179
June	83,601
July	82,450
August	130,145
September	68,785
Total	445,183



2018 Landings by Month



2019 Landings by Month

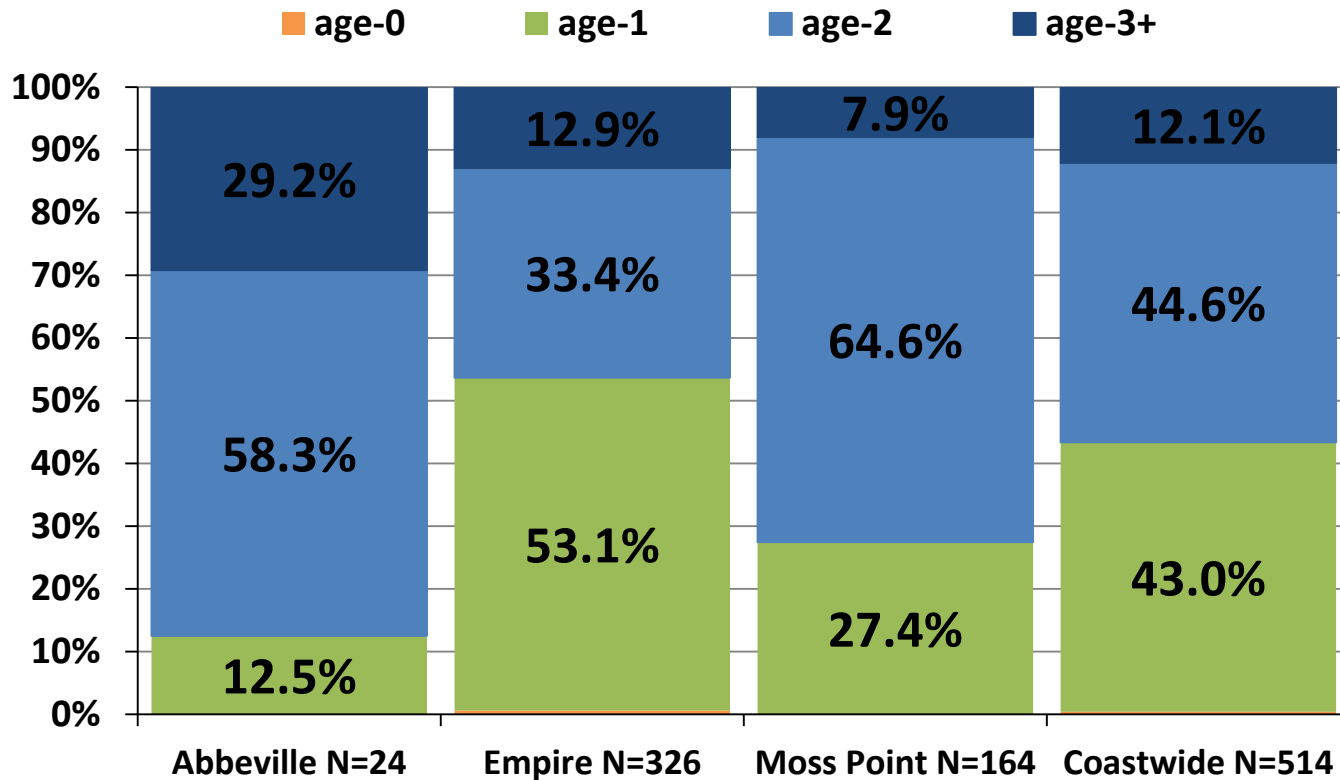


Average October landings
47,958

Preliminary Age Compositions of 2019 Port Samples

- Transition to microscope age estimation underway
- Electronic reporting
 - Integration expected 2020

Preliminary Age Compositions of 2019 Port Samples



2019 – Vessel Participation

- 28 vessels fishing in 2019
- Also, five run boats and one bait boat (AB) unloaded fish for reduction



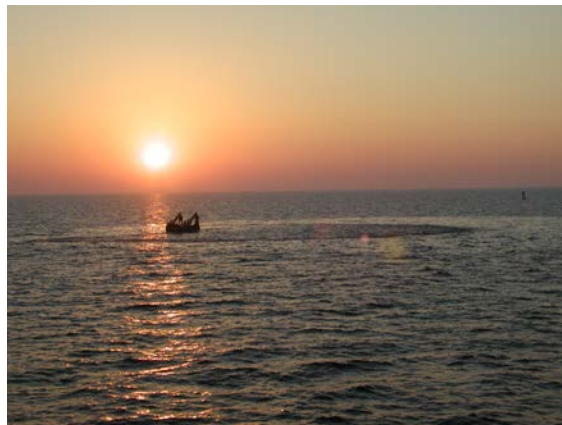
Estimate of Nominal Fishing Effort through September, 2019

- Nominal Fishing Effort through Sep 2019 ~251,200 v-t-wks
- Nominal Fishing Effort through Sep 2018 254,200 v-t-wks
- Decreased ~1.2% from 2018

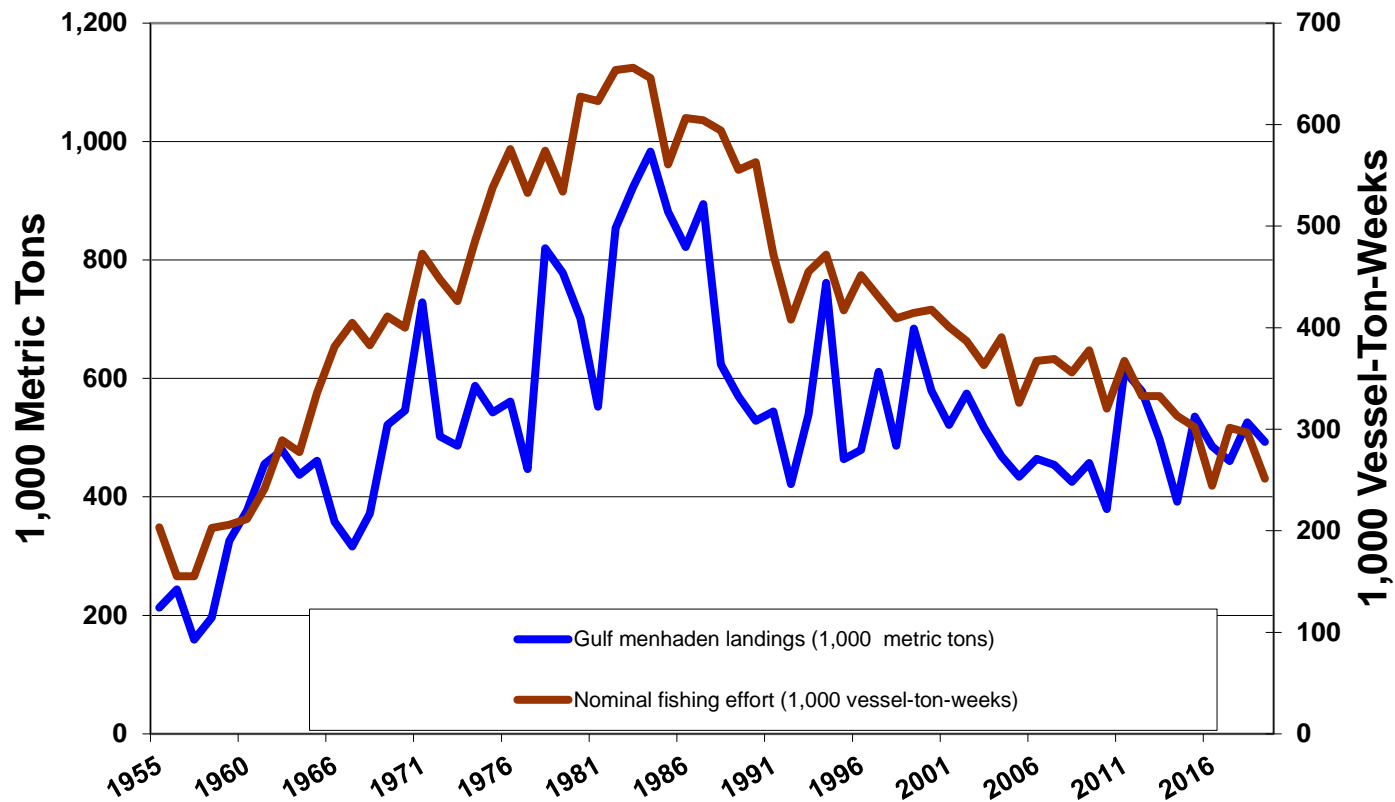


2019 Projected Total Landings

- Through September 2019 445,183
 - Mean landings for October 2014-2018 + 47,958
 - 2019 Projected Landings 493,141
-
- Decrease of 6.2% from 2018 (525,635mt)
 - Increase of 2.7% From 5-year Average (479,948mt)



Historical Landings and Nominal Fishing Effort, 1955-2019*



How do “projected” 2019 landings compare to the March 2019 Forecast?

- 2019 projected landings 493,141 mt
- Forecast for 2019 season 454,000 mt
- 2019 landings may be 8.6% higher than our Forecast in March 2019

Preliminary 2020 Forecast

- **Assuming:**

- Projected 2019 landings ~493,000 mt
- 2019 nominal fishing effort ~251,000 v-t-wks
- 2020 nominal fishing effort estimate of (same as in 2019) ~251,000 v-t-wks

- Preliminary Forecast for 2020 ~467,000 mt

Upgrades and Updates

- Research Progress
 - Preliminary results show that microscope ages are comparable with Eberbach ages
 - Measurement comparisons to be conducted this winter
- Upgrade
 - Port Sampler electronic reporting equipment contracts awarded
 - Oracle database to be constructed to integrate system

Questions ?