



# NOAA FISHERIES

Sustainable Fisheries Branch  
NMFS Beaufort Laboratory  
Beaufort, NC

## 2020 Gulf Menhaden Fishery Update



GSMFC - Fall Meeting  
September 24, 2020  
Virtual

# 2020 Landings through August 31\*

- 344,478 metric tons or 1.13 billion standard fish
  - Decreased **8.5%** from 2019 (376,399 mt) for equivalent time
  - Decreased **8.8%** from previous 5-yr average (377,764 mt) for equivalent time



THE MACKEREL FISHERY.

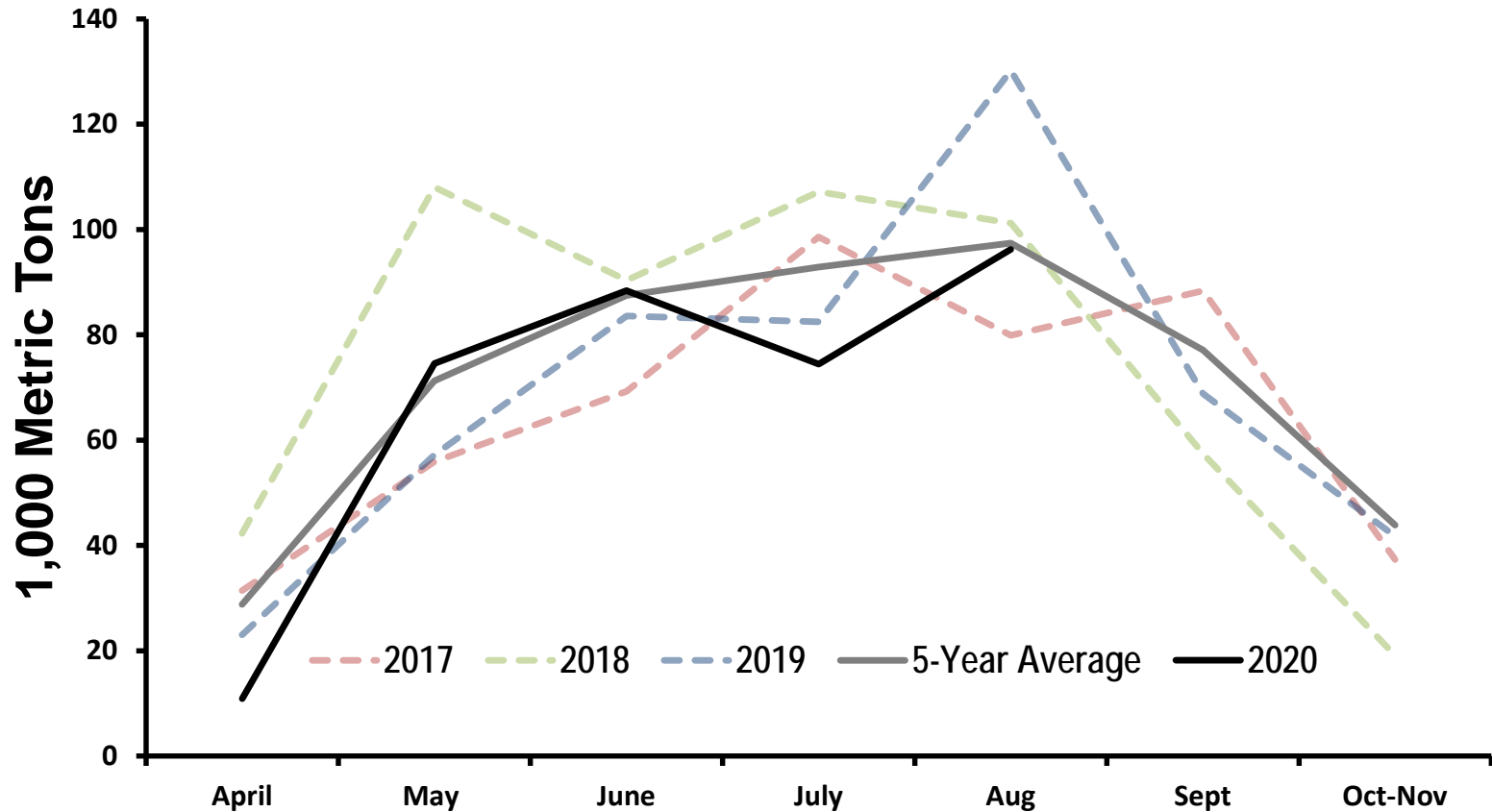
Group of fishermen in the hold of a vessel sorting the fish by size. (Reed, Y, 1914, p. 101.)  
Reproduction by G. W. Brown.

# 2020 Landings by Month

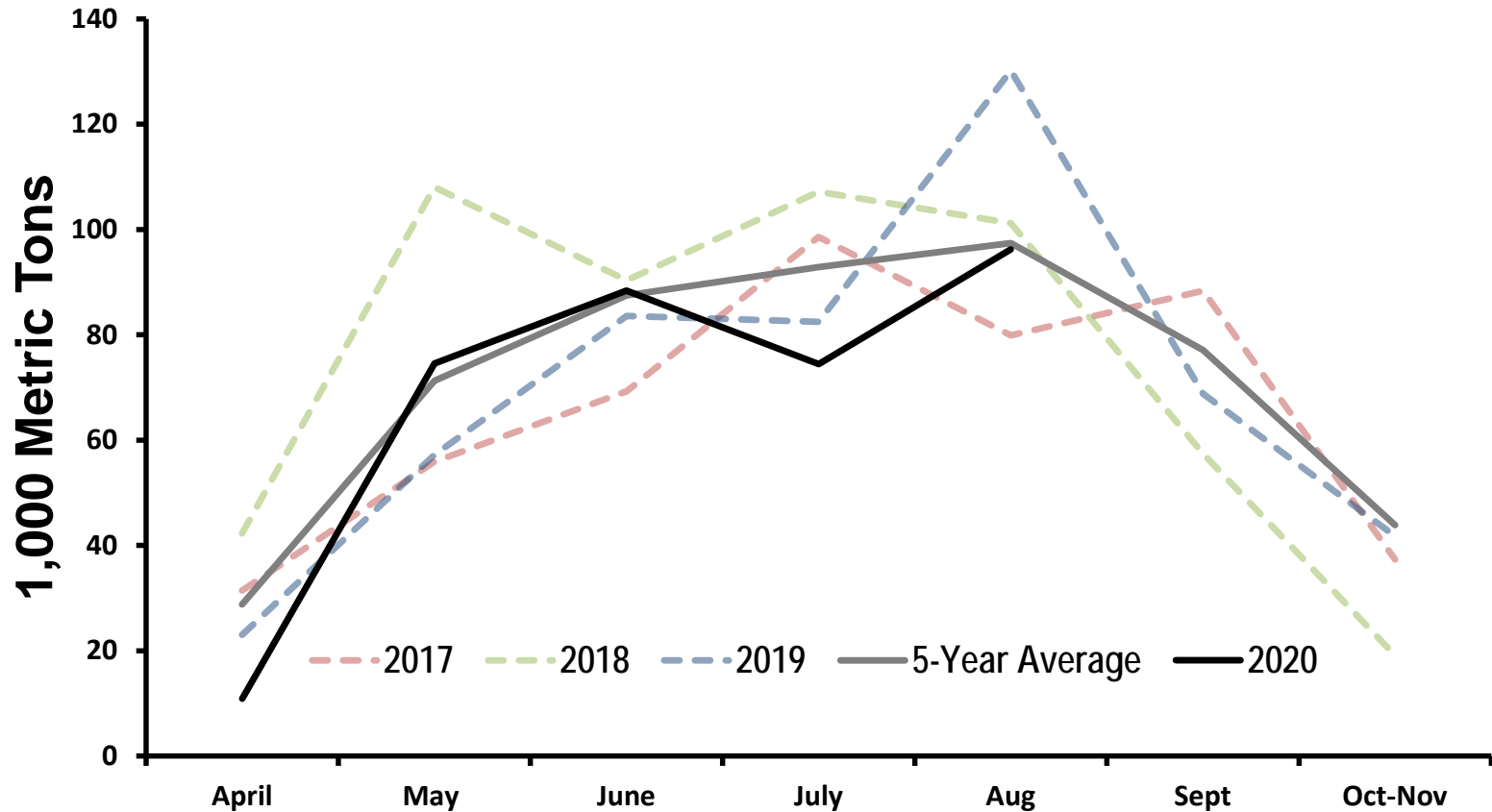
Month	Landings (Metric tons)
April	10,919
May	74,562
June	88,366
July	74,419
August	96,213
September	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>344,478</b>



# 2020 Landings by Month



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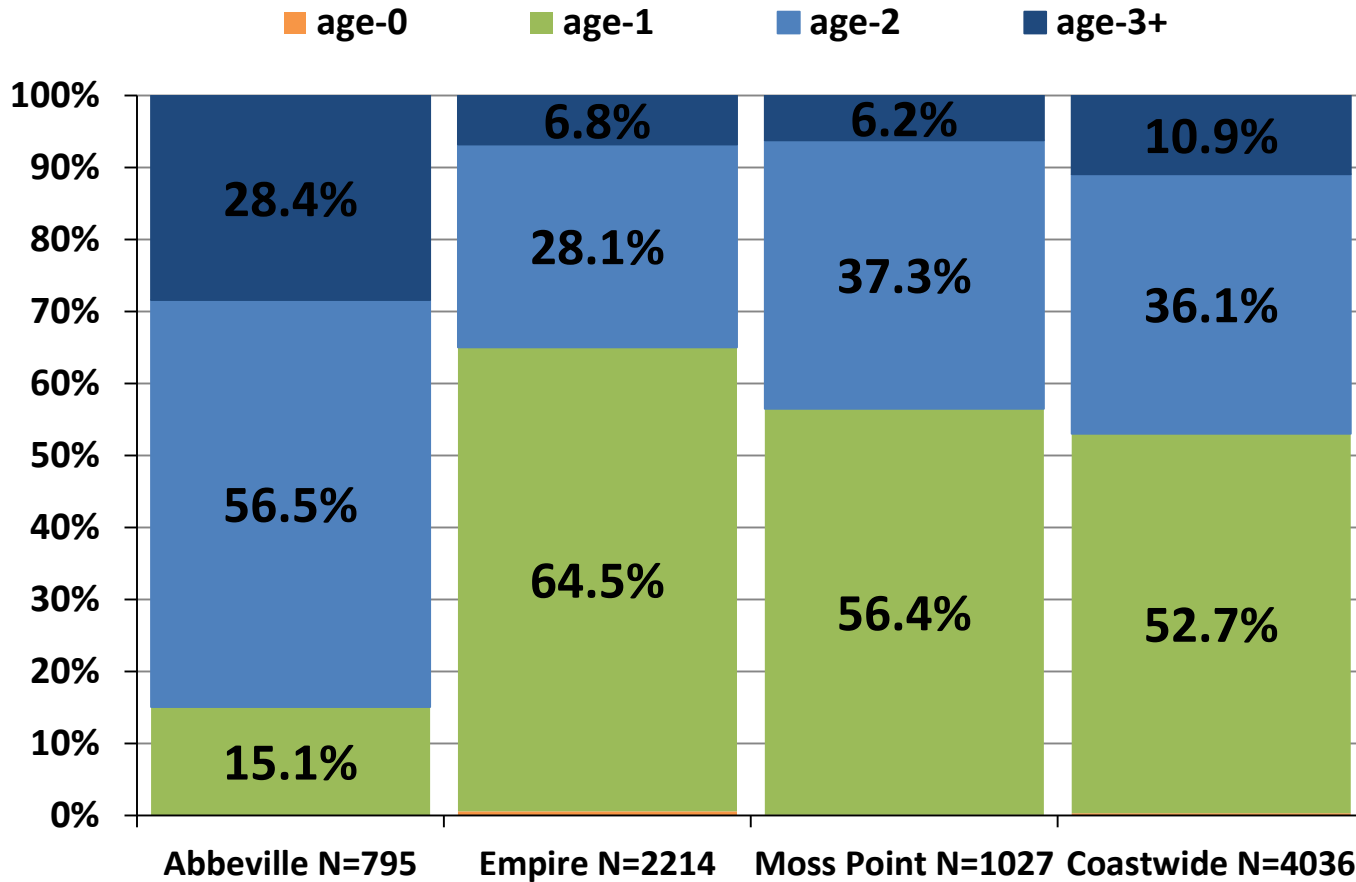


Average September/October landings  
121,210

# Preliminary Age Compositions of 2020 Port Samples

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

# Preliminary Age Compositions of 2019 Port Samples\*





# 2020 – Vessel Participation

- 36 vessels fishing in 2020
- A total of six run boats operated in the Gulf reduction fishery in 2020





# Estimate of Nominal Fishing Effort through August, 2020\*

- Nominal Fishing Effort through Aug 2020 ~168,900 v-t-wks
- Nominal Fishing Effort through Aug 2019 221,845 v-t-wks
- Decreased ~23.8% from 2019

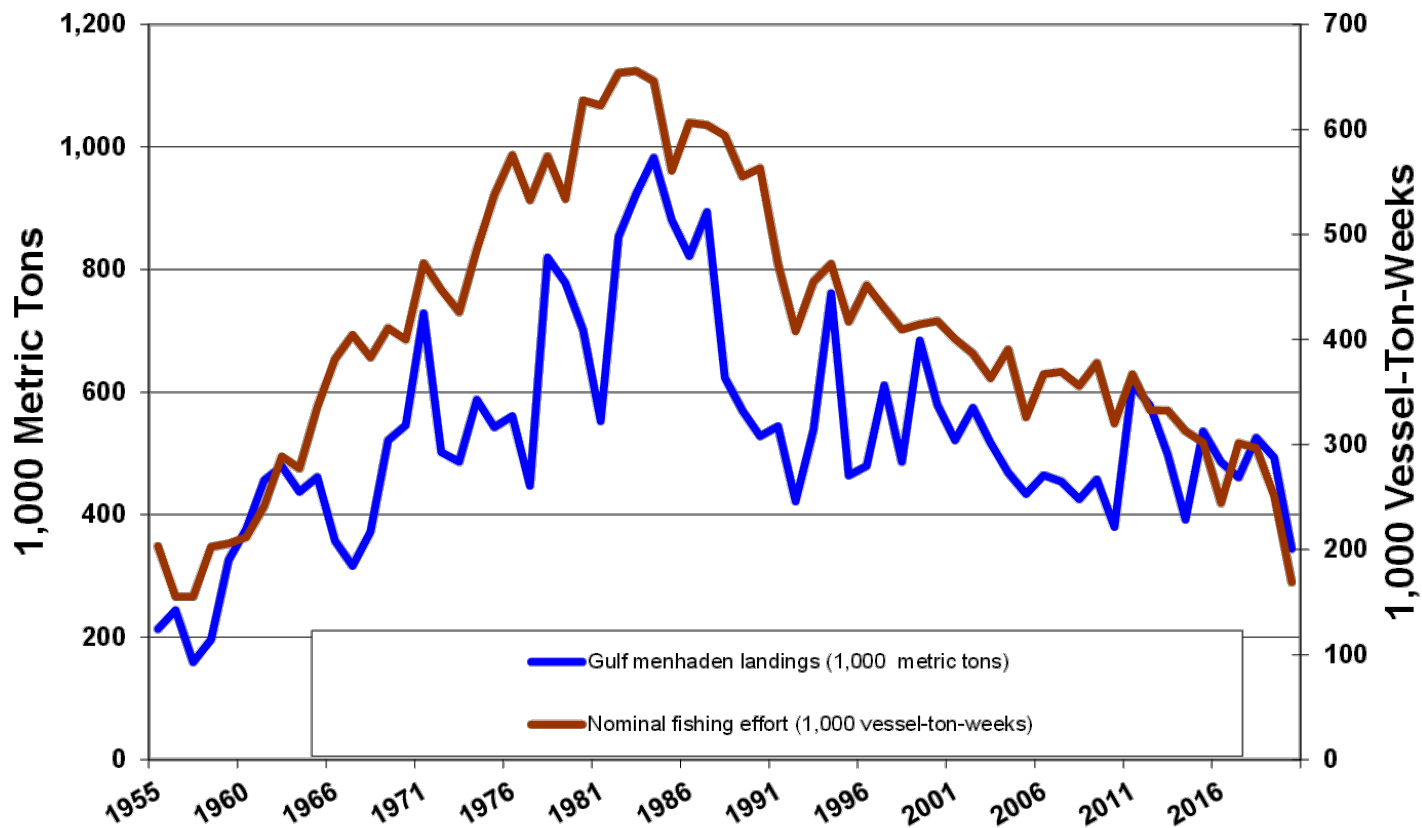


# 2020 Projected Total Landings

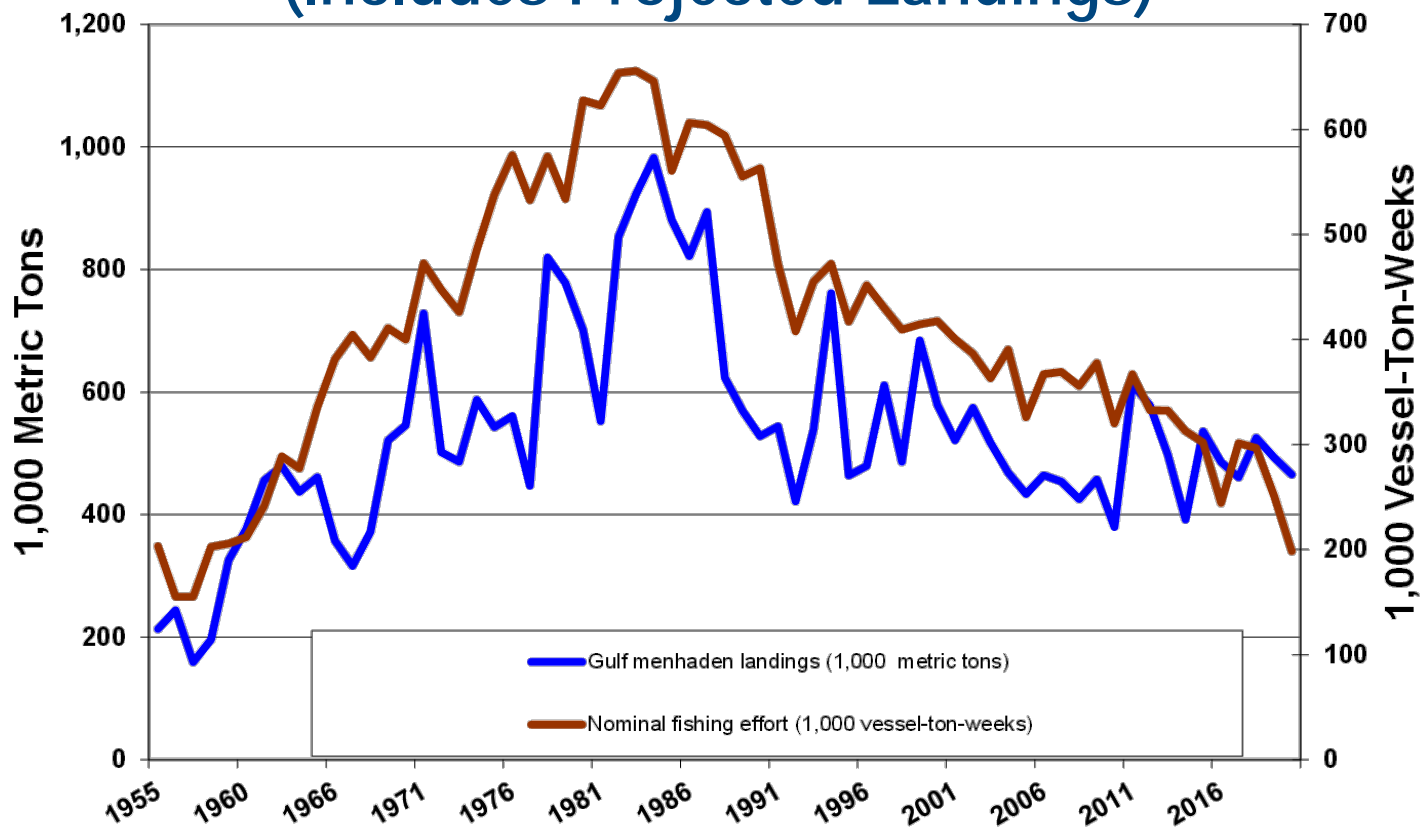
- Reported landings through August 2020 344,478
  - Mean landings for Sept/October 2015-2019 + 121,210
  - 2020 Projected Landings 465,688
- 
- Decrease of 4.3% from 2019 (486,974mt)
  - Decrease of 6.7% From 5-year Average (498,974mt)



# Historical Landings and Nominal Fishing Effort, 1955-2020\*



# Historical Landings and Nominal Fishing Effort, 1955-2020\* (Includes Projected Landings)



# How do “projected” 2020 landings compare to the March 2020 Forecast?

- 2020 projected landings 465,688 mt
- Forecast for 2020 season 434,000 mt
- 2020 landings may be 7.3% higher than our Forecast in March 2020

# Preliminary 2021 Forecast

- **Assuming:**

- Projected 2020 landings ~465,700 mt
- 2020 nominal fishing effort ~198,300 v-t-wks
  
- 2021 nominal fishing effort estimate of (same as in 2020) ~198,300 v-t-wks

- Preliminary Forecast for 2021 ~380,000 mt

# Upgrades and Updates

- Research Progress
  - Microscope calibration study is complete
    - Provisionally accepted to Fishery Bulletin
- Upgrades
  - Port sampler electronic reporting manual being developed/written



Questions ?