

# Overview of GOM Cod Assessment and Management

Groundfish Oversight Committee

January 18, 2012

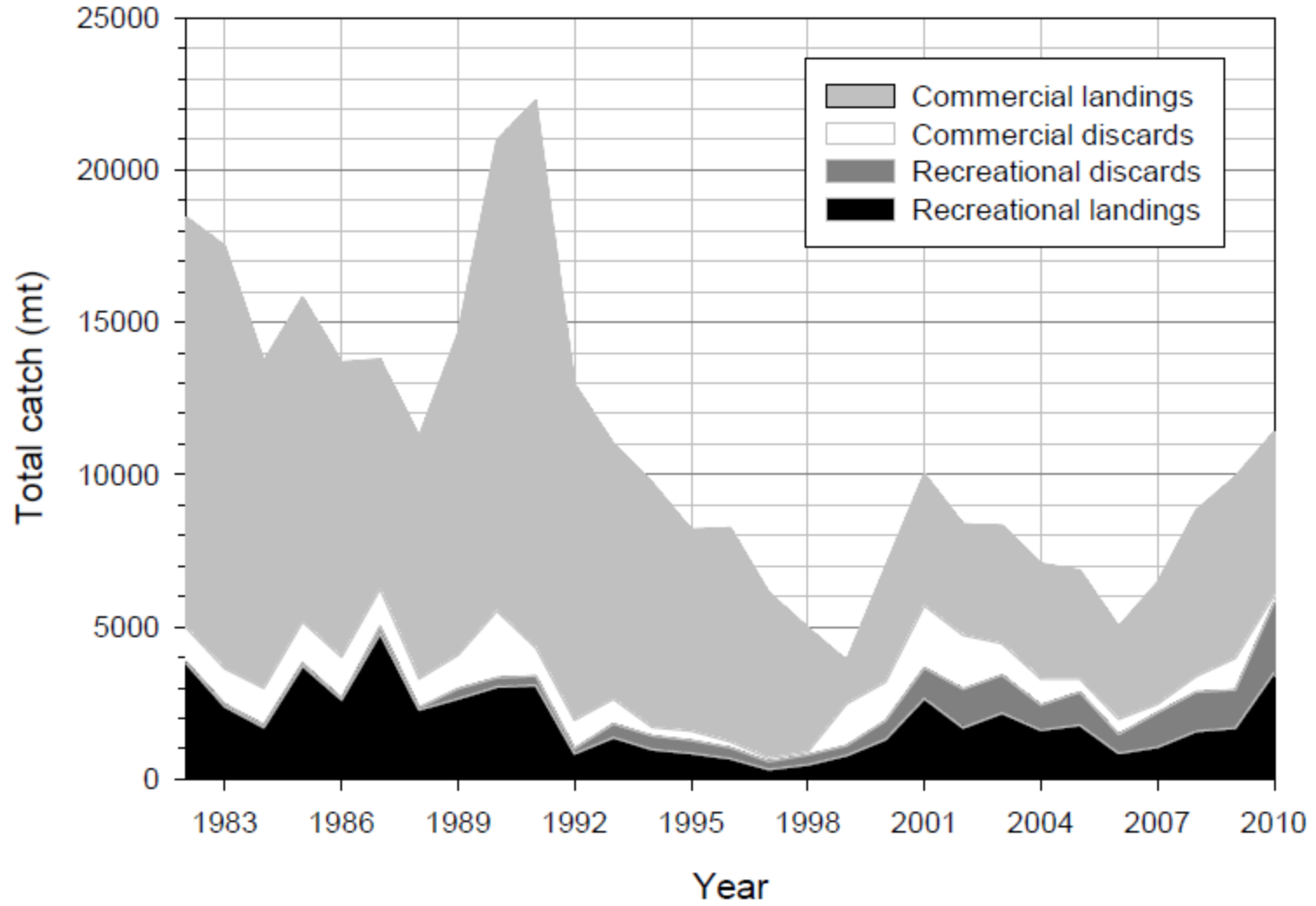
# Summary

- Stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring
- Status determination criteria/reference points have changed slightly
- Stock cannot rebuild by 2014 in the absence of all fishing
- All model formulations reviewed by SARC gave same perception of status
- Assessment accepted for use

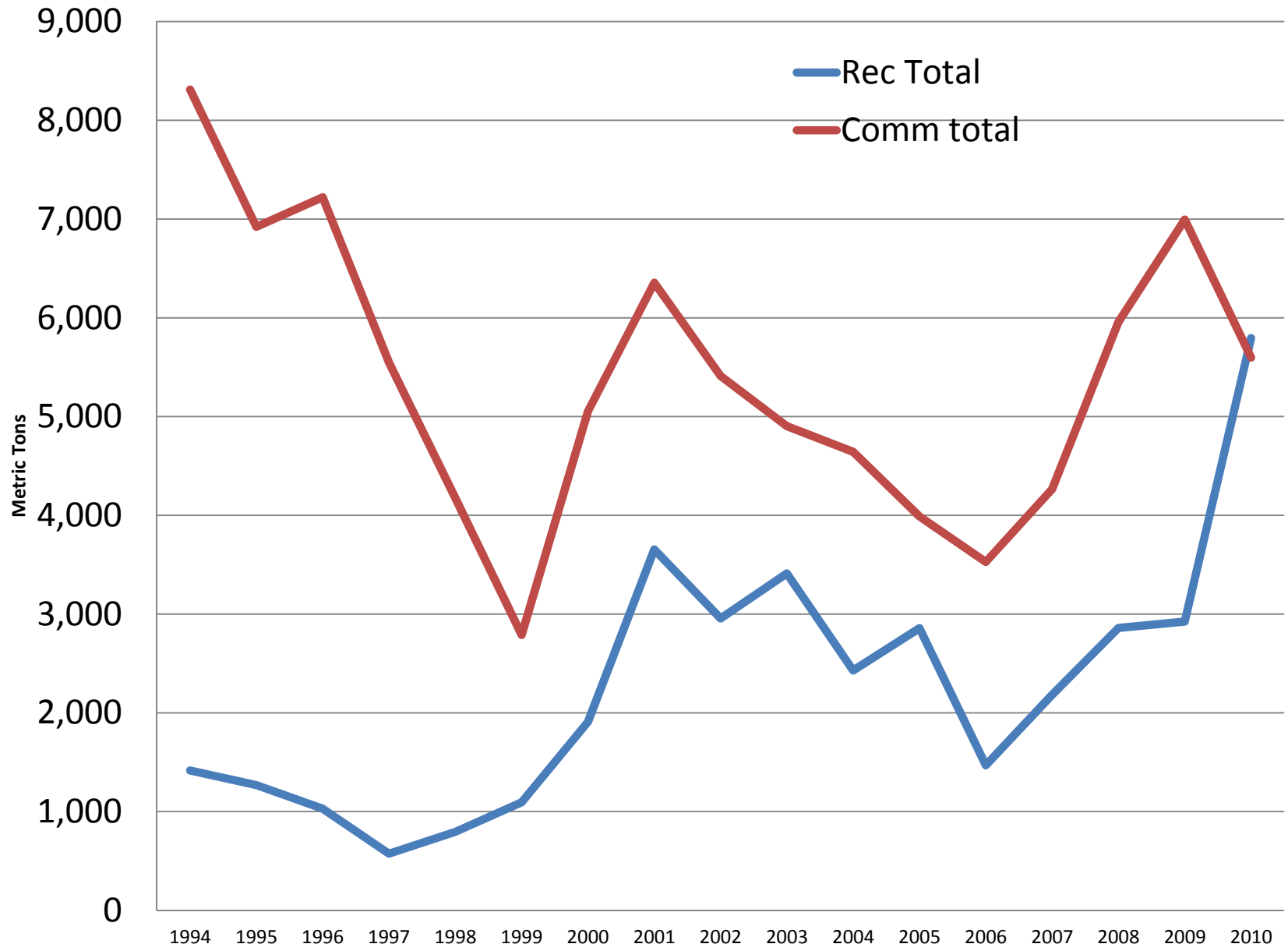
# Changes

- Different assessment model: ASAP vs. VPA
  - Allows quantitative incorporation of data uncertainties
- Included recreational discards (B2), commercial discards for entire time series
- Changed (reduced) weights-at-age
- Additional years of data

# Catches



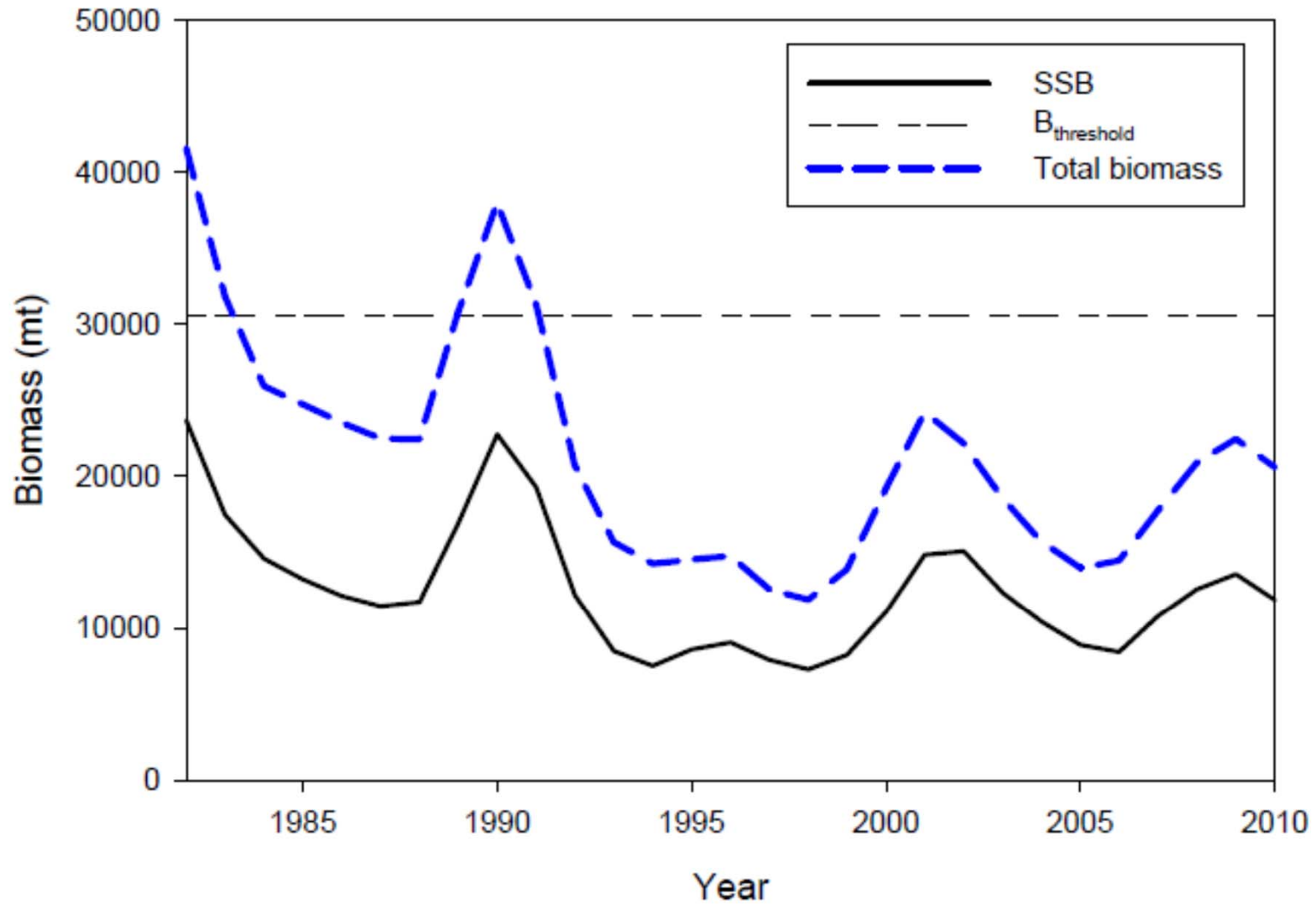
# GOM Cod Catches



# Fishing Mortality



# Total and Spawning Biomass



Where did all that  
GARM III biomass go?

***It was never there!***

Two primary reasons for conclusion:

- Revision in weights at age
- More years of survey data/incorporation of survey uncertainty



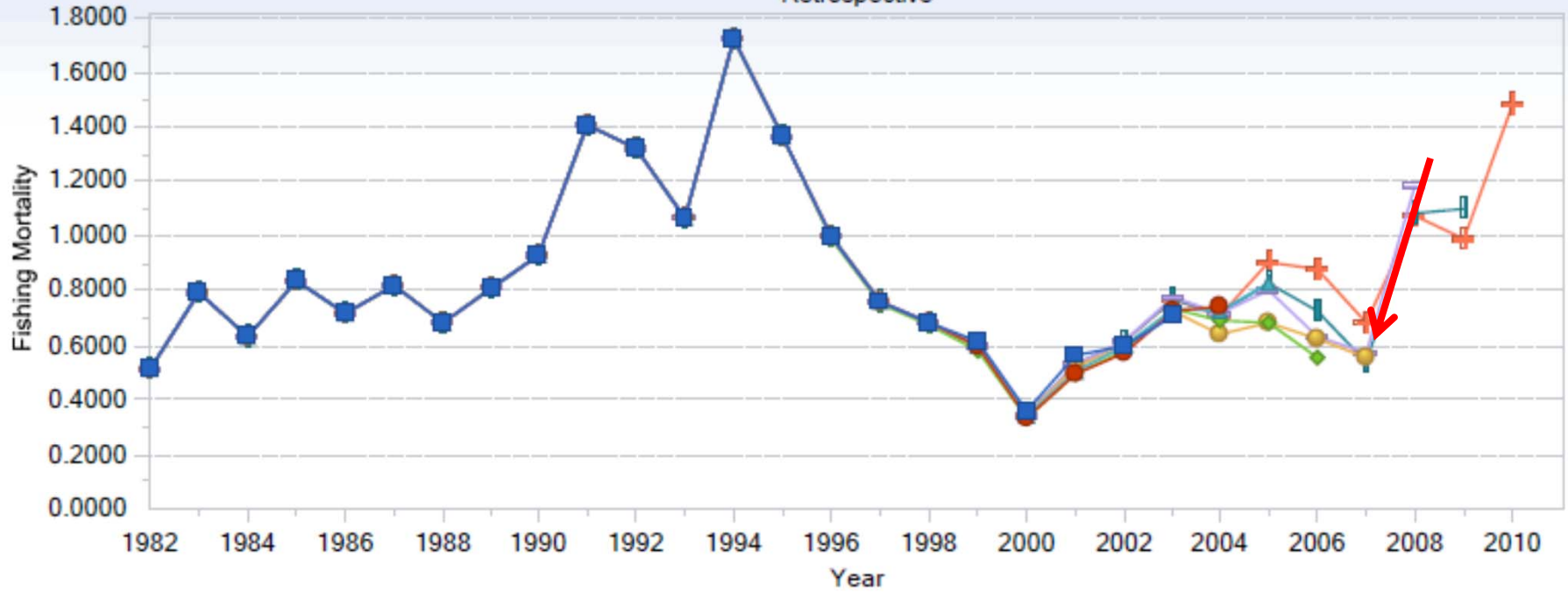






# SARC 53

Average F Ages 5 - 7  
Retrospective





# Future Catches(?)

	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>
F=0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
75%Fmsy	<b>1.462</b>	<b>1.961</b>
Fmsy=0.2	<b>1.915</b>	<b>2.512</b>
Catch "Constant" 2yr	<b>0.714</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Catch "Constant" 3yr	<b>1.93</b>	<b>3.55</b>
Catch "Constant" 4yr	<b>3</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Increase Jan 1 Biomass 10% to 2014	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.075</b>
Maintain Jan 1 Biomass to 2014	<b>7.97</b>	<b>8.302</b>

# Issues Explored by GOM Cod Working Group

- Possible changes to recreational catches: how will this affect assessment?
- How should assessment be interpreted/applied?
- What happens to rebuilding plan?
- What are legal requirements? What policy options are there?

# Planned Next Steps

- NEFSC evaluate revised rec estimates
- SSC meet to discuss assessment, review catch projections, advise on science issues
- NOAA Fisheries provide legal/policy guidance
- Council consider SSC recommendations, plan future meetings (if any), possibly request emergency action
- NOAA Fisheries respond to emergency action request
- Council take action for future fishing year



Questions?