

6. Small Mesh Multispecies (June 19-21, 2012)

#5

**Draft Amendment 19 to the  
Multispecies FMP  
Small-mesh multispecies  
(Whiting)**



Andrew Applegate

Senior Biologist and Plan Coordinator

New England Fishery Management Council

# Amendment 19 Process

- Benchmark assessment produced MSY proxy reference point recommendations – January 2011
- SSC approval of ABCs for northern and southern stocks (assessment update) – August 2011
- Oversight Committee and Advisors developed ACLs and AMs – Sep to Dec 2011
- Council approved alternatives and identified preferred alternatives – Jan 2012
- Public hearings – Apr 2012
- Approve final alternatives – Apr 2012
- Supplement public hearing – May 2012
- Approve final alternatives – June 2012

# Secretarial Amendment Effective May 1, 2012

- Secretarial Amendment will implement ACLs and AMs based on science developed for Amendment 19.
- Status quo/No action
- ACLs with stock wide annual TALs will be implemented on May 1.
- Incidental possession limits apply when landings reach 90% of the TAL – 400 lbs. red hake; 1000 lbs. silver hake.
- Post season AMs: pound for pound reduction in ACL when ACL is exceeded.
- Annual monitoring

# Draft Amendment 19

- Considers a broader range of alternatives
- Would take effect in late 2012/early 2013.
- Small-mesh exemption area landings targets in northern stock area (non-preferred alternative)
- Quarterly TALs in southern stock area (preferred alternative)
- Broader range of in-season AMs, incidental possession limits
- Different annual monitoring process
- Different post-season AMs.

# Summary of Approved Final Alternatives

- New overfishing definitions
- Three-year specifications
- Annual monitoring reports prepared by NMFS and reviewed by Whiting PDT
- Stock-wide annual TAL for northern area
- Stock-wide annual TAL for southern area, with quarterly allocations implemented in the second year after landings exceed 2/3rds of the TAL, after consultation with the Council.

# Summary of Approved Final Alternatives

- In-season AMs become effective when landings  $> 90\%$  of TAL
  - 400 lbs. red hake
  - 2000 lbs. silver hake
- Post season AM reduces the 90% trigger if catch  $> ACL$

# Summary of Approved Final Alternatives

- Year round red hake possession limit 5,000 lbs. in all areas
- Year round southern whiting possession limit increased up to 40,000 lbs. (to be approved?) for vessels using trawls with 3" or larger mesh



# Small-mesh Multispecies Specification Outline

With Initial Allocations for FY 2012-2014

Same as Secretarial Amendment

## Overfishing limit (OFL) - MSY proxy

*Scientific Uncertainty*

*Red hake 40th percentile  
Silver hake 25th percentile*

## Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)

Northern red hake: 280.1 mt; Northern silver hake: 13,177 mt  
Southern red hake: 3,259 mt; Southern whiting: 33,995 mt

*Management Uncertainty*

*95% of ABC*

## Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

Northern red hake: 266 mt; Northern silver hake: 12,518 mt  
Southern red hake: 3,096 mt; Southern whiting: 32,295 mt

*Complete catch accounting*

*TAL = ACL - Discards - State landings*

## Total Allowable Landings (TAL)

Northern red hake: 90.3 mt; Northern silver hake: 8,973 mt  
Southern red hake: 1,336 mt; Southern whiting: 27,255 mt



# Small-mesh Multispecies Specification Outline

With Initial Allocations for FY 2012-2014

Same as Secretarial Amendment

## Overfishing limit (OFL) - MSY proxy

*Scientific Uncertainty*

*Red hake 40th percentile  
Silver hake 25th percentile*

## Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)

Northern red hake: 280.1 mt; Northern silver hake: 13,177 mt  
Southern red hake: 3,259 mt; Southern whiting: 33,995 mt

*Management Uncertainty*

*95% of ABC*

## Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

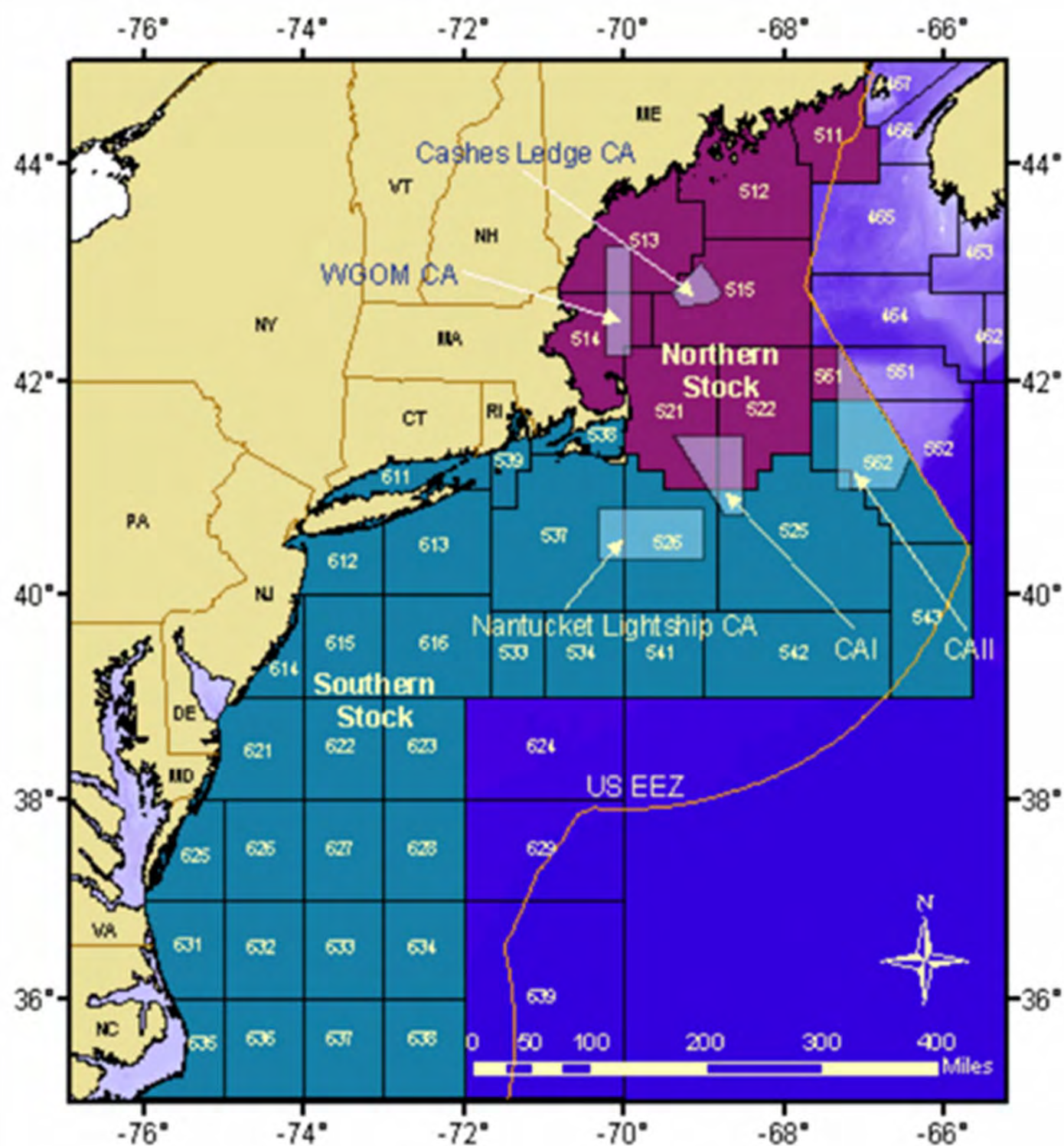
Northern red hake: 266 mt; Northern silver hake: 12,518 mt  
Southern red hake: 3,096 mt; Southern whiting: 32,295 mt

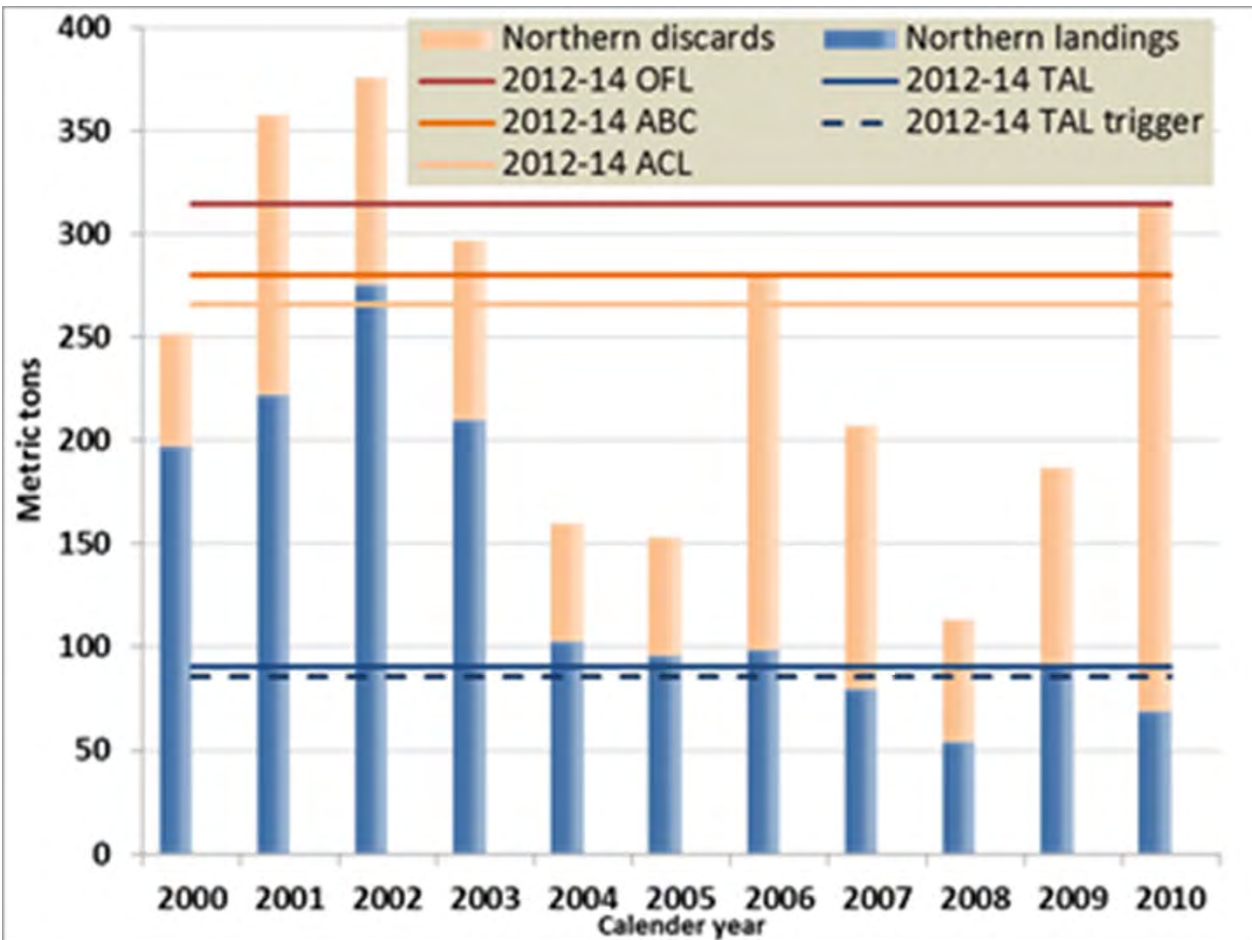
*Complete catch accounting*

*TAL = ACL - Discards - State landings*

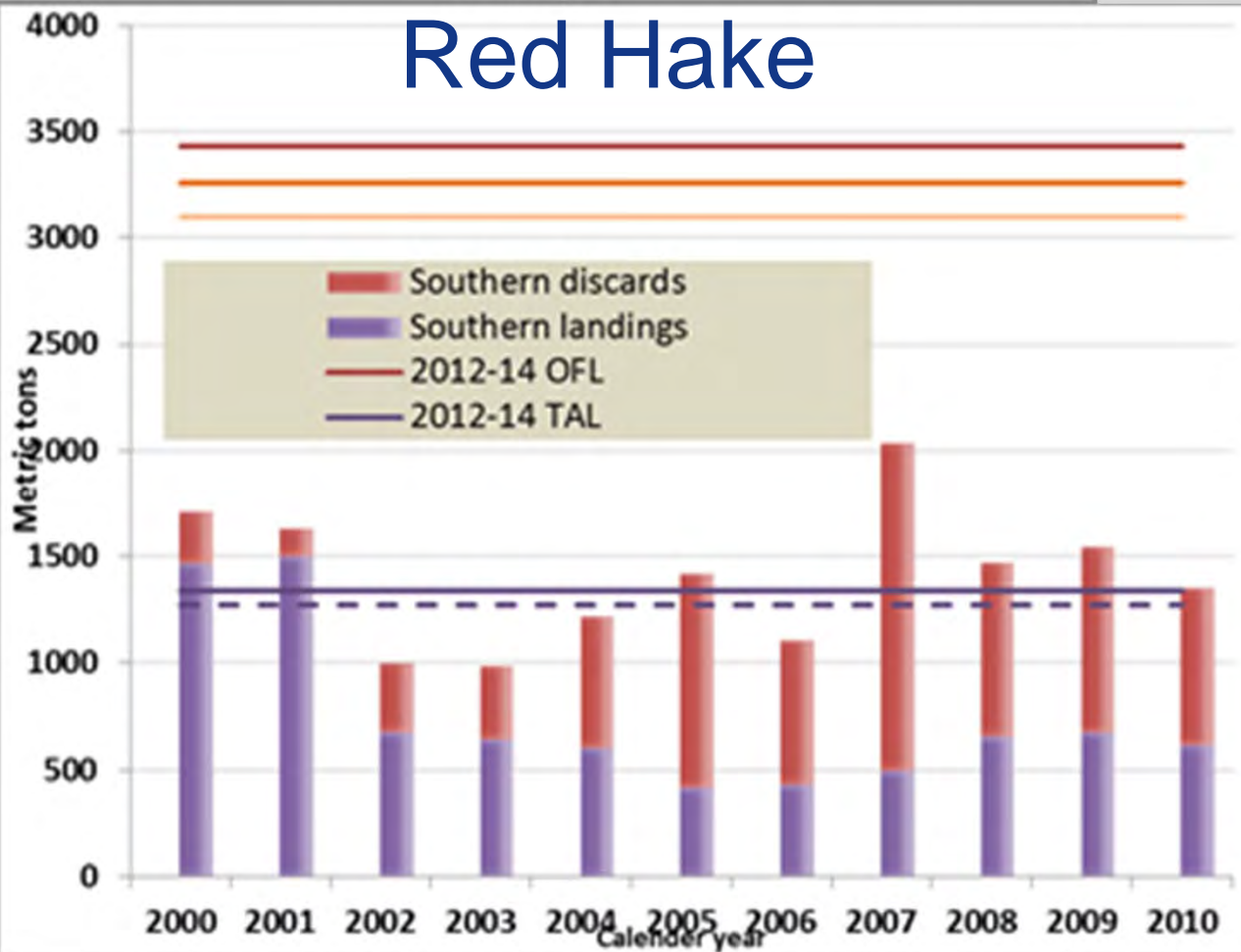
## Total Allowable Landings (TAL)

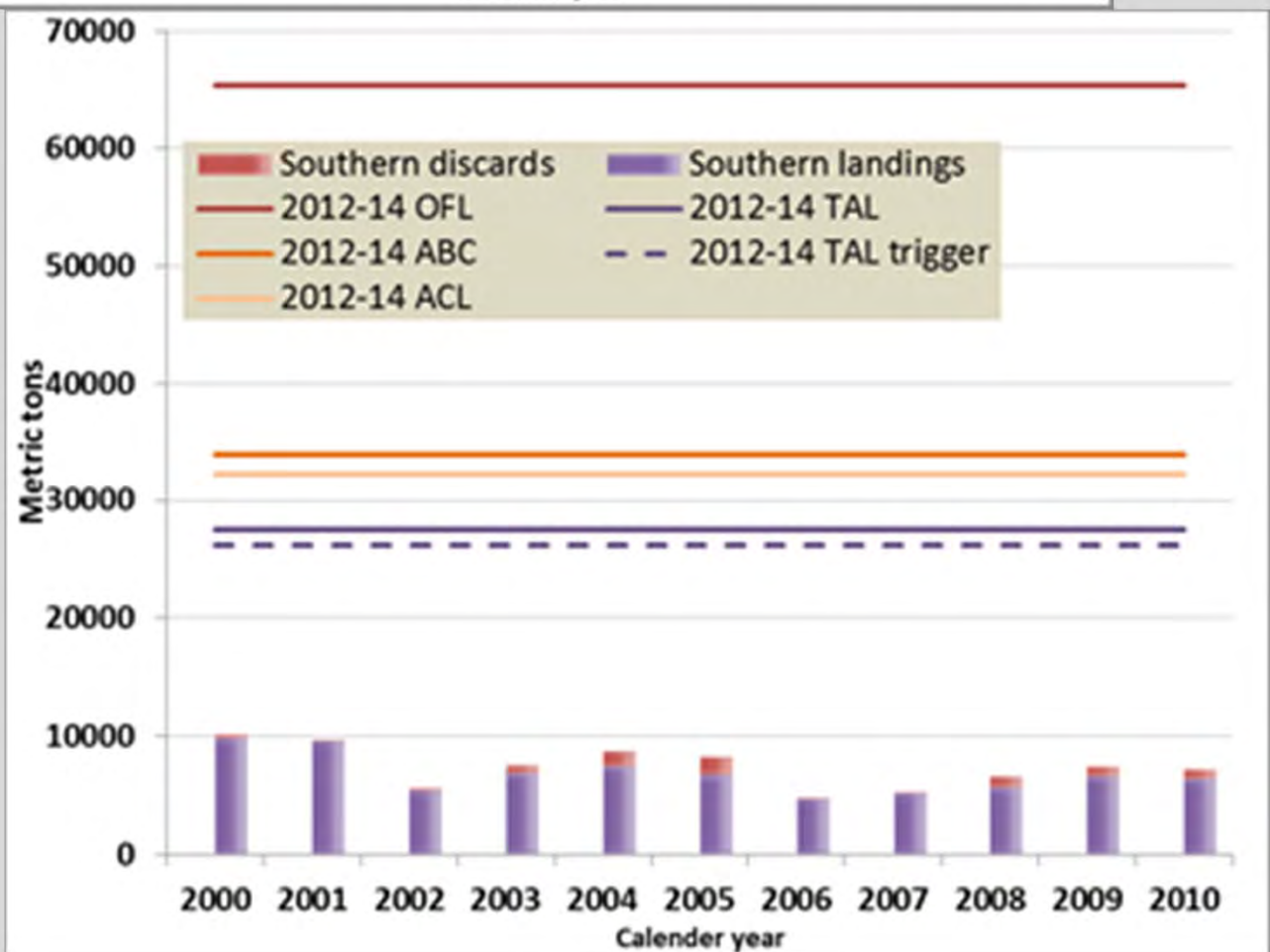
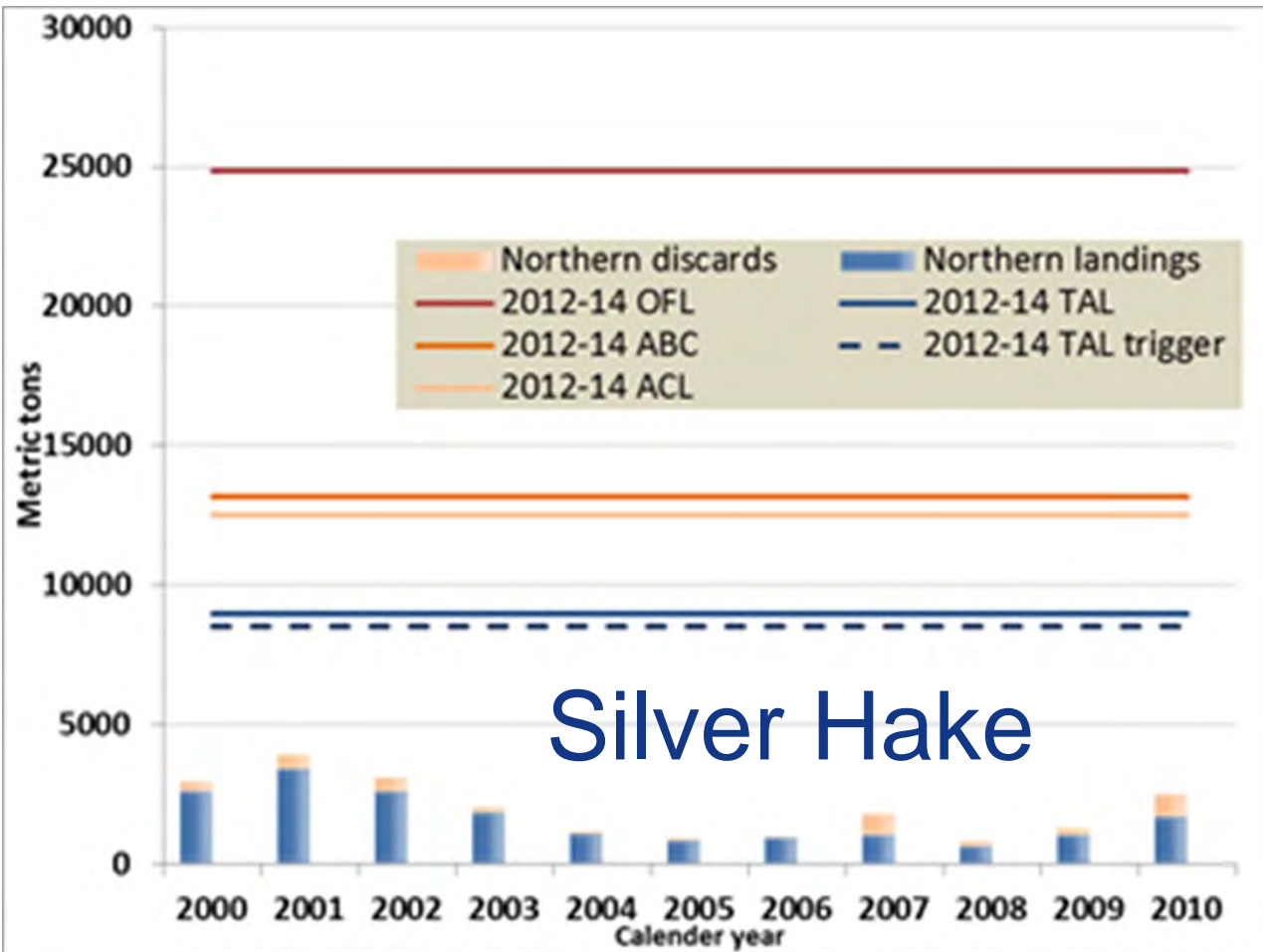
Northern red hake: 90.3 mt; Northern silver hake: 8,973 mt  
Southern red hake: 1,336 mt; Southern whiting: 27,255 mt





# Red Hake





## Southern Stock Area TAL and AM Management Alternatives

Preferred alternative

Non-preferred Alternative

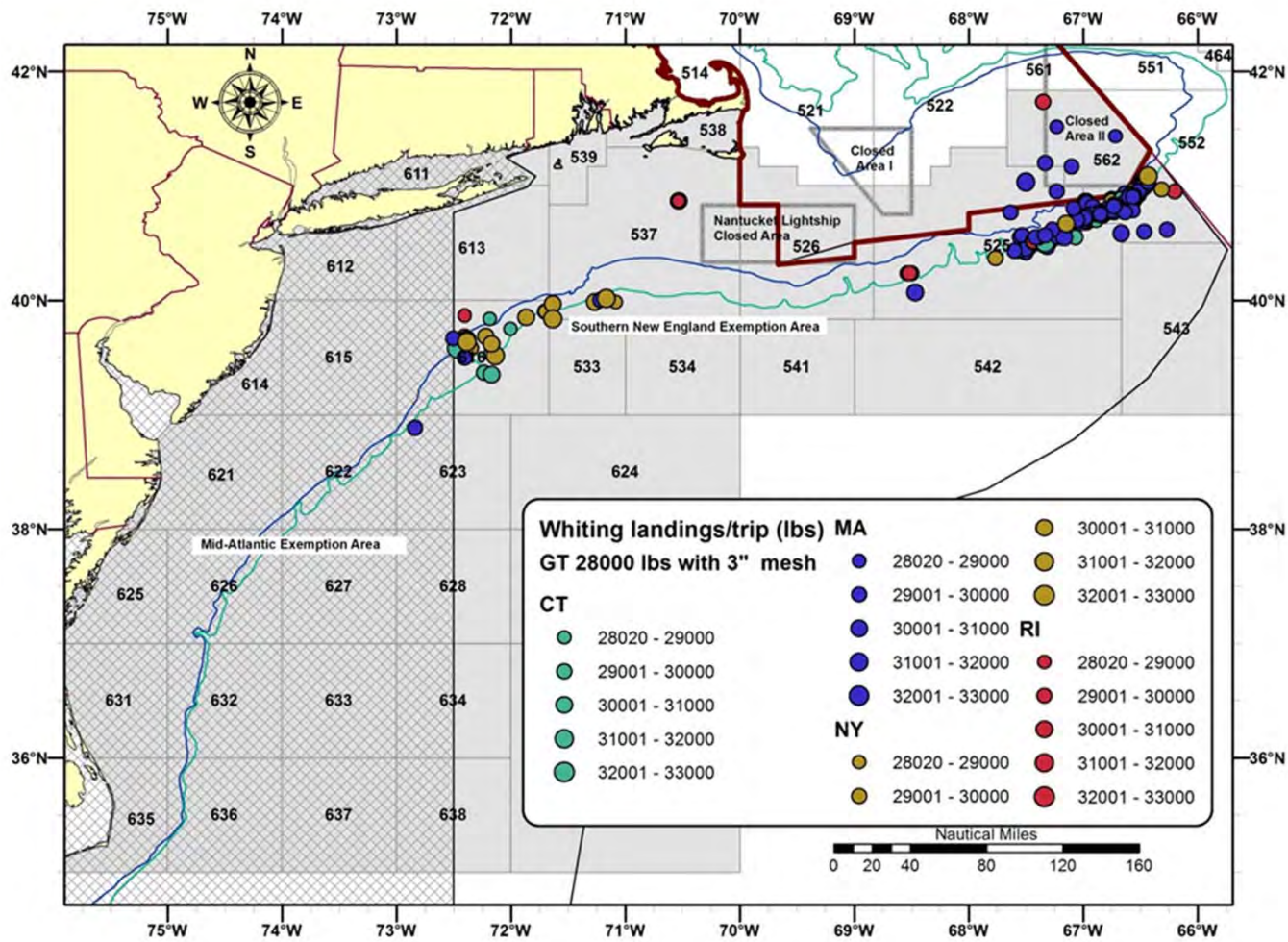
Secretarial Amendment

### Southern whiting possession limit alternatives

Up to 40,000 lbs.  
in all southern  
Exemption Areas  
Section 5.7.4.1

40,000 lbs. in all  
or part of  
Southern New  
England  
Exemption Area  
Section 5.7.4.2

30,000 lbs.  
Status quo  
Section 5.2.2.3



## Southern whiting possession limit

- Increase revenue on distant trips to Georges Bank
  - 36-48 hour trips for one night of fishing to catch 30,000 lbs.
- Counter higher fuel prices and operating costs
- Improve ability of fleet to land optimum yield

## Southern whiting possession limit

- Potential to increase whiting fleet landings by 873,000 lbs. and \$650 thousand.
- Total potential effort shift of 236 trips by 111 vessels, totalling 9.44 million lbs. and \$5.8 million, partly offset by decreased trips in other fisheries.
- 154 of these additional trips by 78 vessels not in whiting fleet.
- Modest price effect (0.6 cents/1-percent landings increase)
- Potential effort increase could be limited by reducing possession limit amount or geographical extent.
- Limits increase of non-target catch of Mid-Atlantic species.



## Southern whiting possession limit

- Potential to increase whiting fleet landings by 873,000 lbs. and \$650 thousand.
- Total potential effort shift of 236 trips by 111 vessels, totalling 9.44 million lbs. and \$5.8 million, partly offset by decreased trips in other fisheries.
- 154 of these additional trips by 78 vessels not in whiting fleet.
- Modest price effect (0.6 cents/1-percent landings increase)
- Potential effort increase could be limited by reducing possession limit amount or geographical extent.
- Limits increase of non-target catch of Mid-Atlantic species.

## Southern whiting possession limit

- Potential to increase whiting fleet landings by 873,000 lbs. and \$650 thousand.
- Total potential effort shift of 236 trips by 111 vessels, totalling 9.44 million lbs. and \$5.8 million, partly offset by decreased trips in other fisheries.
- 154 of these additional trips by 78 vessels not in whiting fleet.
- Modest price effect (0.6 cents/1-percent landings increase)
- Potential effort increase could be limited by reducing possession limit amount or geographical extent.
- Limits increase of non-target catch of Mid-Atlantic species.

## Southern whiting possession limit

- Potential to increase whiting fleet landings by 873,000 lbs. and \$650 thousand.
- Total potential effort shift of 236 trips by 111 vessels, totalling 9.44 million lbs. and \$5.8 million, partly offset by decreased trips in other fisheries.
- 154 of these additional trips by 78 vessels not in whiting fleet.
- Modest price effect (0.6 cents/1-percent landings increase)
- Potential effort increase could be limited by reducing possession limit amount or geographical extent.
- Limits increase of non-target catch of Mid-Atlantic species.

