

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board February 3, 2021



Will start at 1:45 PM
ASMFC Winter Meeting Webinar



TC Report on Release Mortality Sensitivity Runs

Kevin Sullivan, TC Chair

Feb. 3, 2021

- Conduct additional runs of the striped bass stock assessment model using different assumptions about the mortality rate on fish released alive by the recreational fishery
- To explore the sensitivity of the model to this assumption

- TC discussed a number of potential scenarios to explore and decided on four that made the best use of the available catch-at-age data
- For each scenario, the total annual catch-at-age for each region was recalculated using the new assumption about the release mortality rate and the model was rerun
 - New values of the SSB and F threshold were also calculated for each scenario

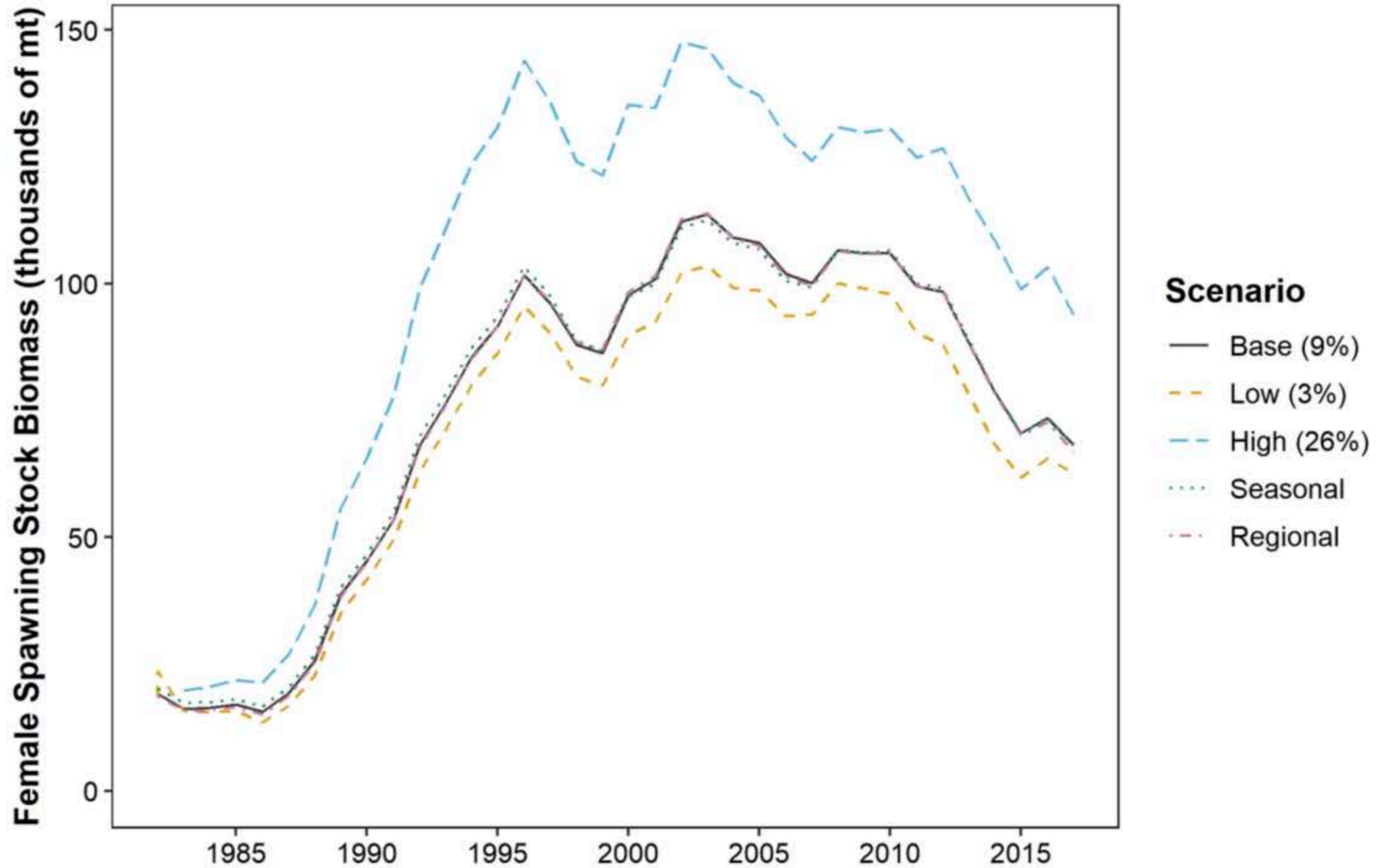
Release Mortality Scenarios



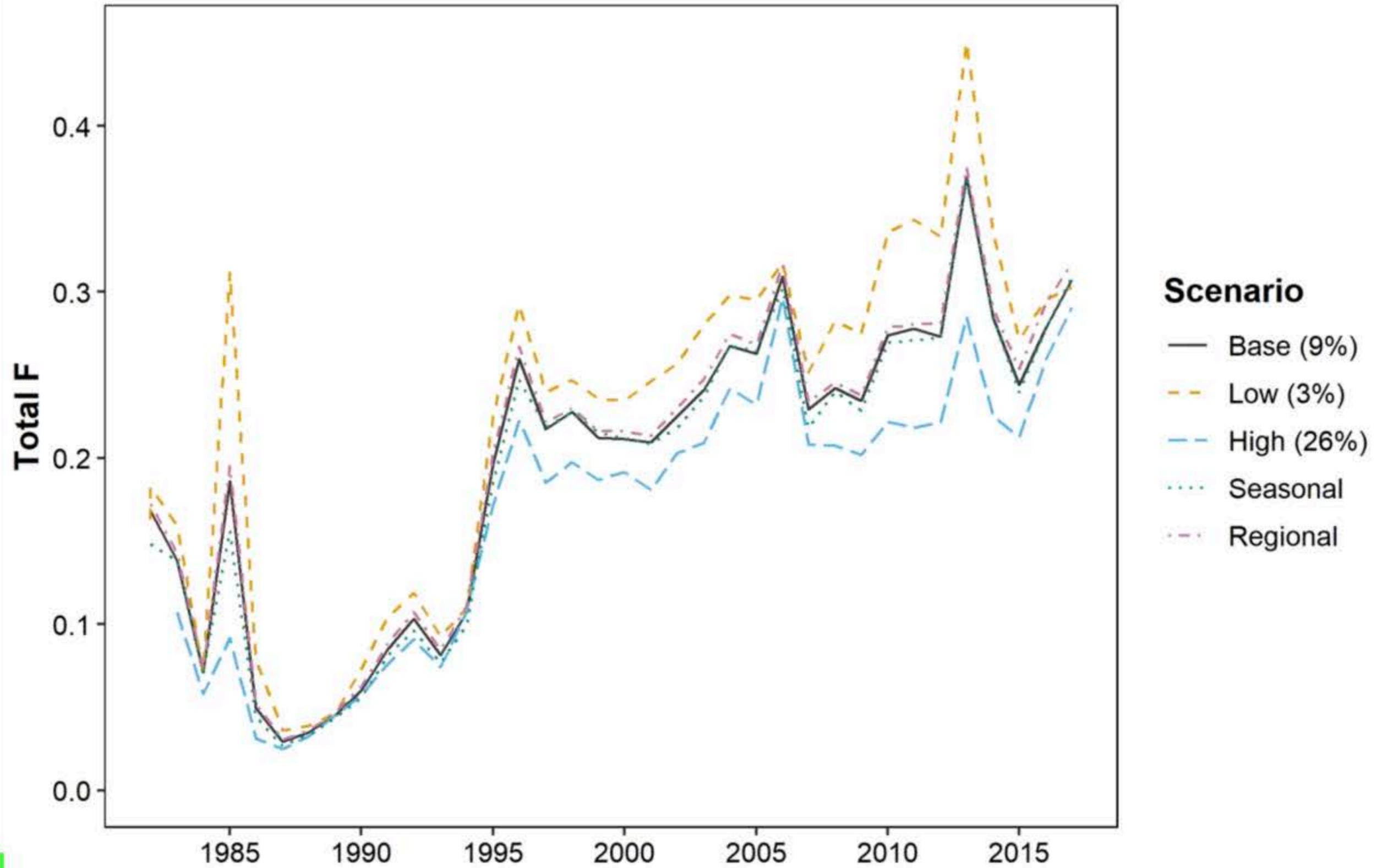
- **Base case:** 9% release mortality rate for all regions and seasons
- **Low release mortality rate:** 3% for all regions and seasons (best case scenario rate)
- **High release mortality rate:** 26% for all regions and seasons (worst case scenario rate)
- **Seasonal release mortality rates:** 5% for January – June, 12% for July – December for both regions
- **Regional release mortality rates:** 16% for the Chesapeake Bay, 9% for the ocean for all seasons

- The low and high release mortality rate assumptions had the biggest effect on the model estimates
- The seasonal and regional scenarios were very similar to the base model run
- Stock status was the same across all scenarios

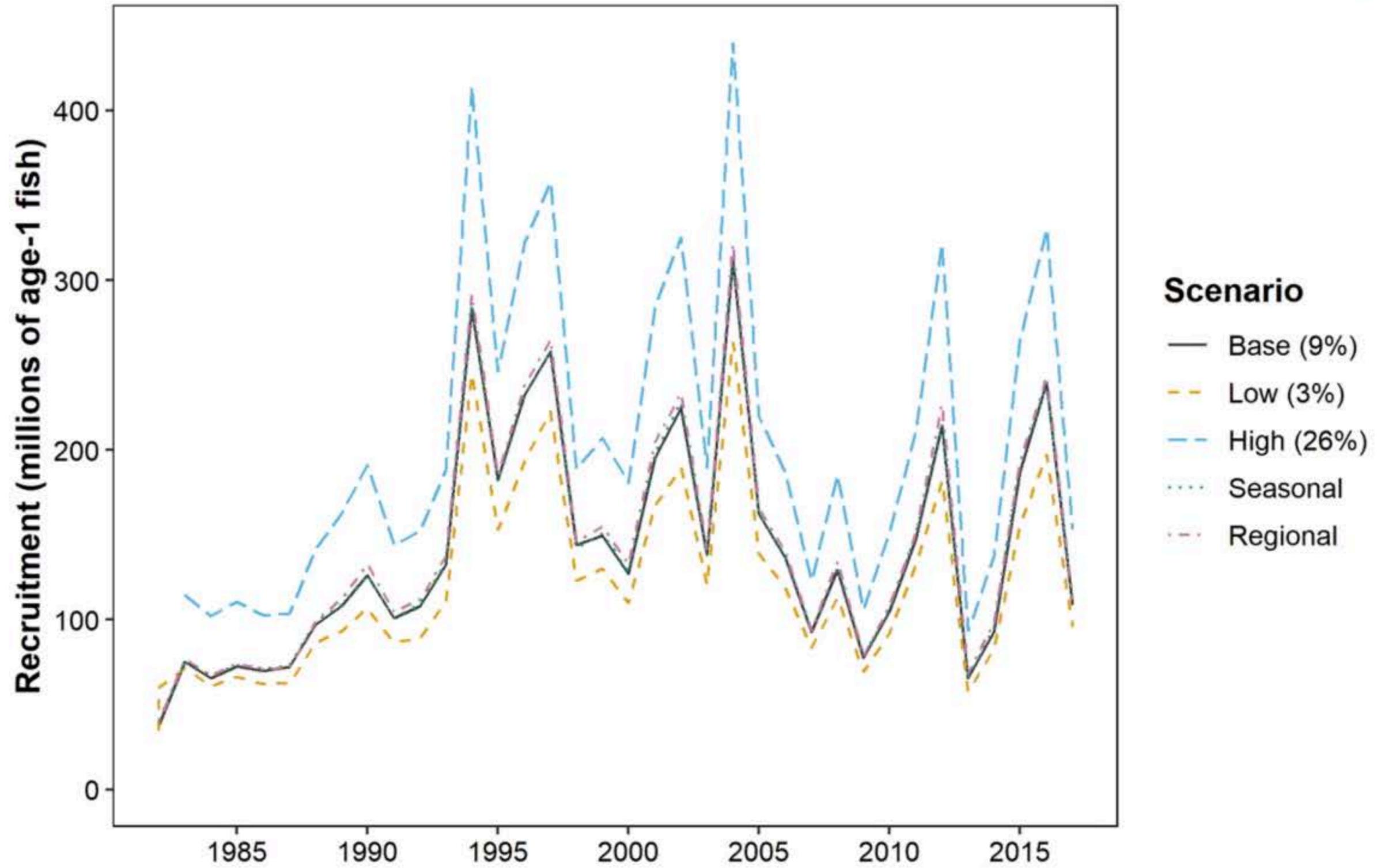
Female SSB



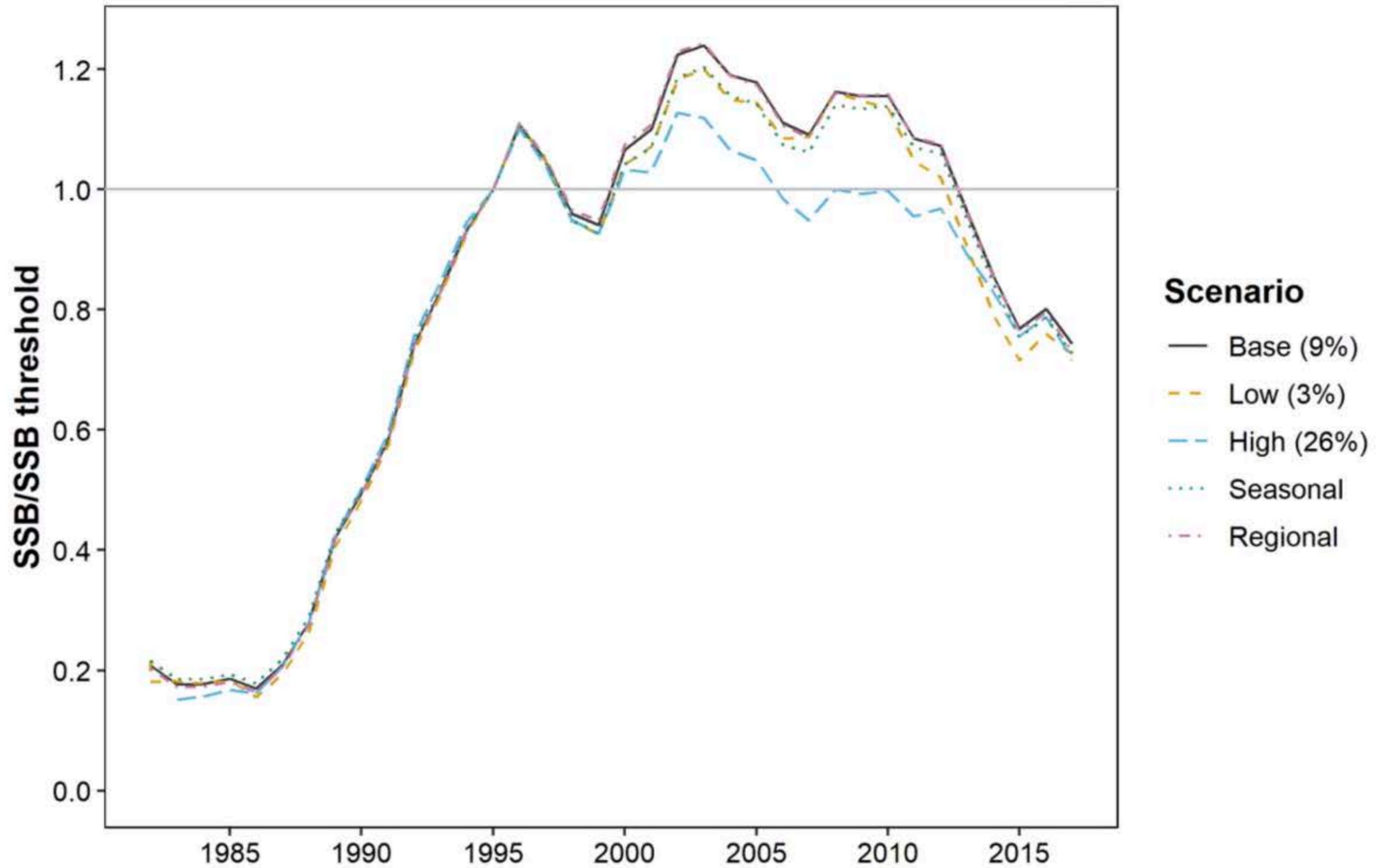
Total F



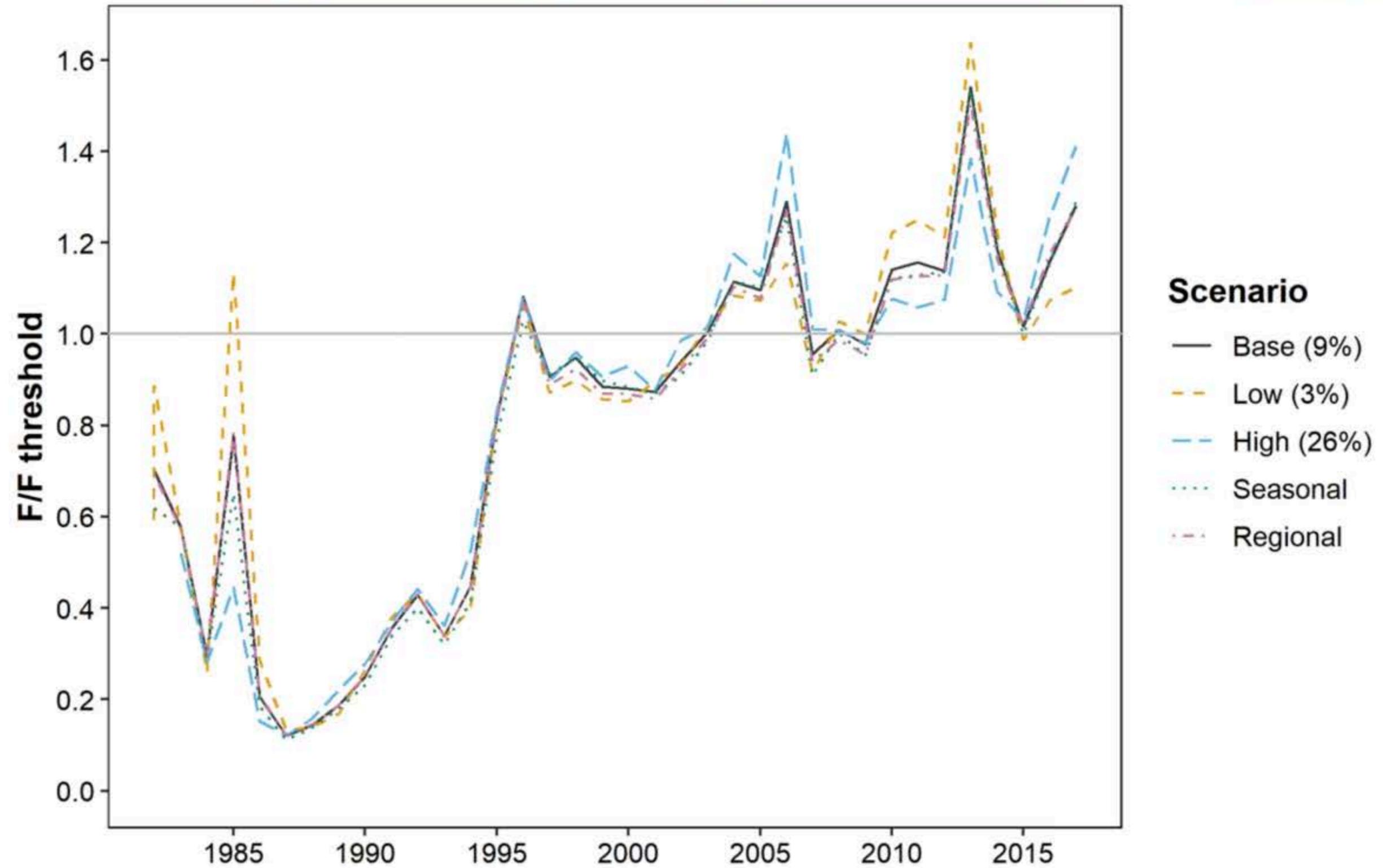
Recruitment



Stock Status: SSB



Stock Status: F



Conclusions



- Significant changes to the release mortality rate resulted in significant changes to the scale of the population, but did not affect the final stock status determination.
- The seasonal and regional release mortality rates had minimal impacts on population scale and stock status

Conclusions



- The TC did not explore time-varying release mortality rates, or different release rates for different sizes/ages of striped bass
- If the release mortality rate has been increasing or decreasing over time (due to warming water temperatures, changes in angler behavior, etc.), or if release mortality rates depend on the size of the fish, the results might be different

Conclusions



- Refining the estimate of the release mortality rate is not expected to have a significant effect on stock status from the assessment model, but the TC will work on it for the next benchmark
- Reducing release mortality through management measures and angler education and outreach is still important for the recovery of the stock

Striped Bass Assessment Update Timeline



- Striped bass was scheduled to have an assessment update in 2021 (terminal year 2020)
- Given the uncertainty in the 2020 data, the TC recommends postponing the assessment update until 2022 (terminal year of 2021)
 - Better data collection
 - More years under the new management measures (Add. VI implemented in 2020)

Draft Amendment 7

Public Information Document



Striped Bass Management Board
February 2021

Move to approve the Public Information Document for Draft Amendment 7 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan for public comment as modified today.

Move to approve the Public Information Document for Draft Amendment 7 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan for public comment as modified today.

Motion by Mr. Fote, second by Mr. Gary

Move to approve the Public Information Document for Draft Amendment 7 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan for public comment as modified today.

Motion by Mr. Fote, second by Mr. Gary

Approved by consensus

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board February 3, 2021



Will Resume at 3:16 PM
ASMFC Winter Meeting Webinar

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board February 3, 2021



Will Resume at 4:35 PM
ASMFC Winter Meeting Webinar

Move to accept the Maine/Massachusetts proposal to study the tube rig fishery and, for the duration of the study, delay implementation of the circle hook requirement for tube rig gear through 2022 for all states in the striped bass management unit. Other states wishing to participate in a study on the tube rig fishery should submit a letter of intent to ASMFC within two weeks to ensure consistency in data collection.

Motion by Ms. Ware, second by Mr. Armstrong

11, 4, 0 abs, 0 null

Charge the technical committee to work with others to develop a definition of bait that would require the use of circle hooks. The TC will report back to the Striped Bass Board at a special Board meeting to take place early March 2021.

Create an ad hoc committee established by the chair to develop a definition of bait that would require the use of circle hooks. This committee will report back to the Striped Bass Board at a special Board meeting to take place early March 2021.

Motion by Mr. Hasbrouck, second by Dr. McNamee

Create an ad hoc committee established by the chair to develop a definition of bait that would require the use of circle hooks. This committee will report back to the Striped Bass Board at a special Board meeting to take place early March 2021.

Motion by Mr. Hasbrouck, second by Dr. McNamee

Move to amend to add method of fishing that would require the use of circle hooks and how to handle incidental catch.

Motion by Mr. Cimino, second by Dr. Davis

15, 0, 0 motion passes

Create an ad hoc committee established by the chair to develop a definition of bait that would require the use of circle hooks and method of fishing that would require the use of circle hooks and how to handle incidental catch. This committee will report back to the Striped Bass Board at a special Board meeting to take place early March 2021 or as soon as possible.

Motion passes by consent

Move to approve Andrew Dangelo and Michael Plaia representing Rhode Island, Dennis Fleming representing the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and Nathaniel Miller representing New York to the Striped Bass Advisory Panel.

Motion by Mr. Gary, second by Mr. Sikorski

Motion adopted by consent