

Flatfish AM Development

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New England
Fishery Management Council

Flatfish AM PDT rec. options

4.5 Georges Bank Yellowtail and Northern Windowpane:

- 4.5.1 Alternative 1—No Action
- 4.5.2 Alternative 2—Open-area reactive GRA (small/large)
- 4.5.3 Alternative 3—Closed Area II and extension reactive AM
 - 4.5.3.1 Sub-Option 1: Large AM – Year Round GRA in Closed Area II
 - 4.5.3.2 Sub-Option 2: Large AM – Seasonal Closure in Closed Area II

GB AMs apply to LA and LAGC components.

4.7 Southern New England Yellowtail:

- 4.7.1 Alternative 1—No Action
- 4.7.1.1 Alternative 2—Open-area reactive GRA (small/large)

SNE/MA AMs apply to LA and LAGC components, and no scallop trawl fishing is permitted during AM.

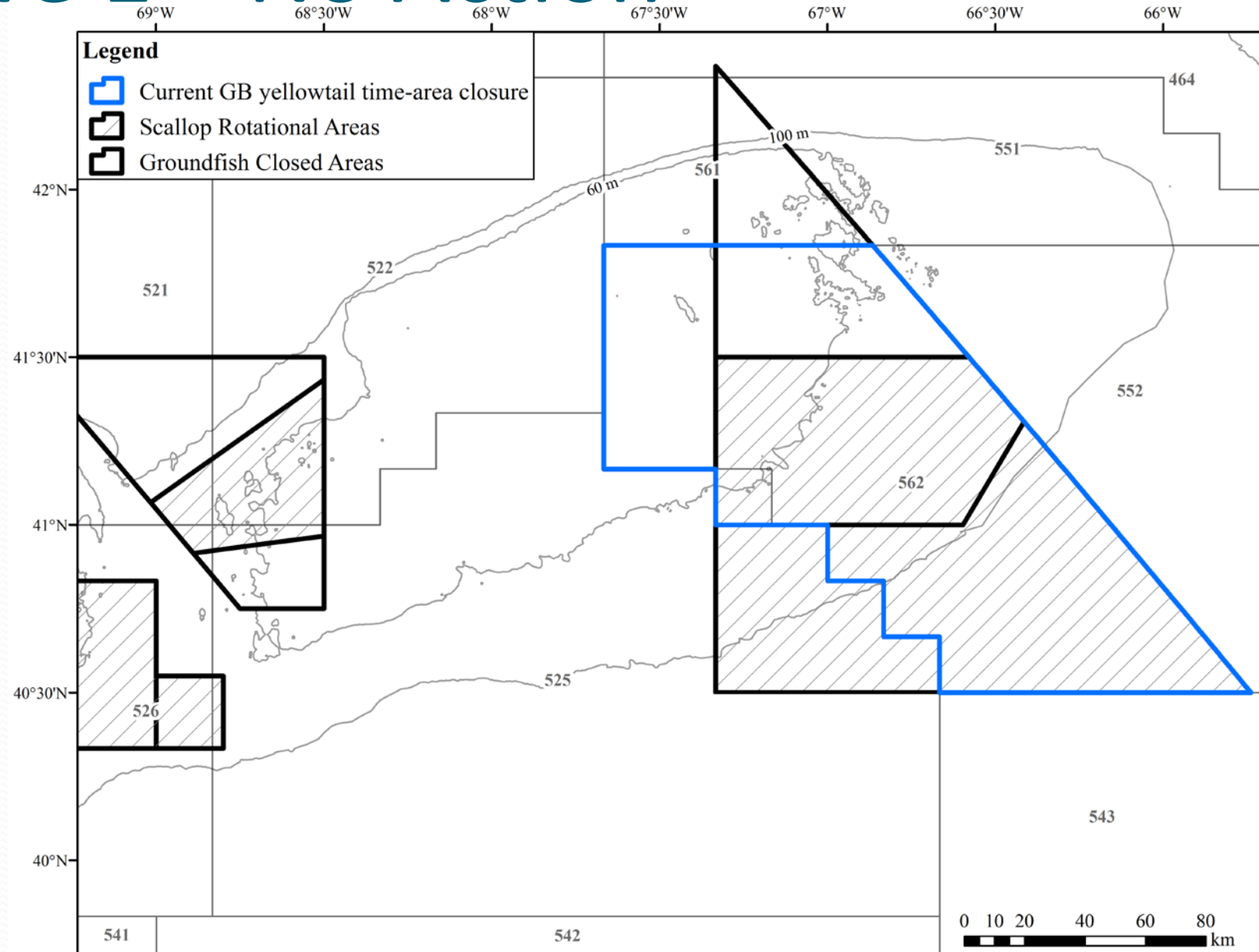
Georges Bank AM Options

Same measures for GB Yellowtail and Northern Windowpane

Rationale: Maximize bycatch savings for both stocks if AM is triggered

4.5.1 Alternative 1—No Action

- **Current GB yellowtail time area closure reactive AM remains. No AM for N. windowpane.**
- AM for N. windowpane is a regulatory requirement for FY2018.

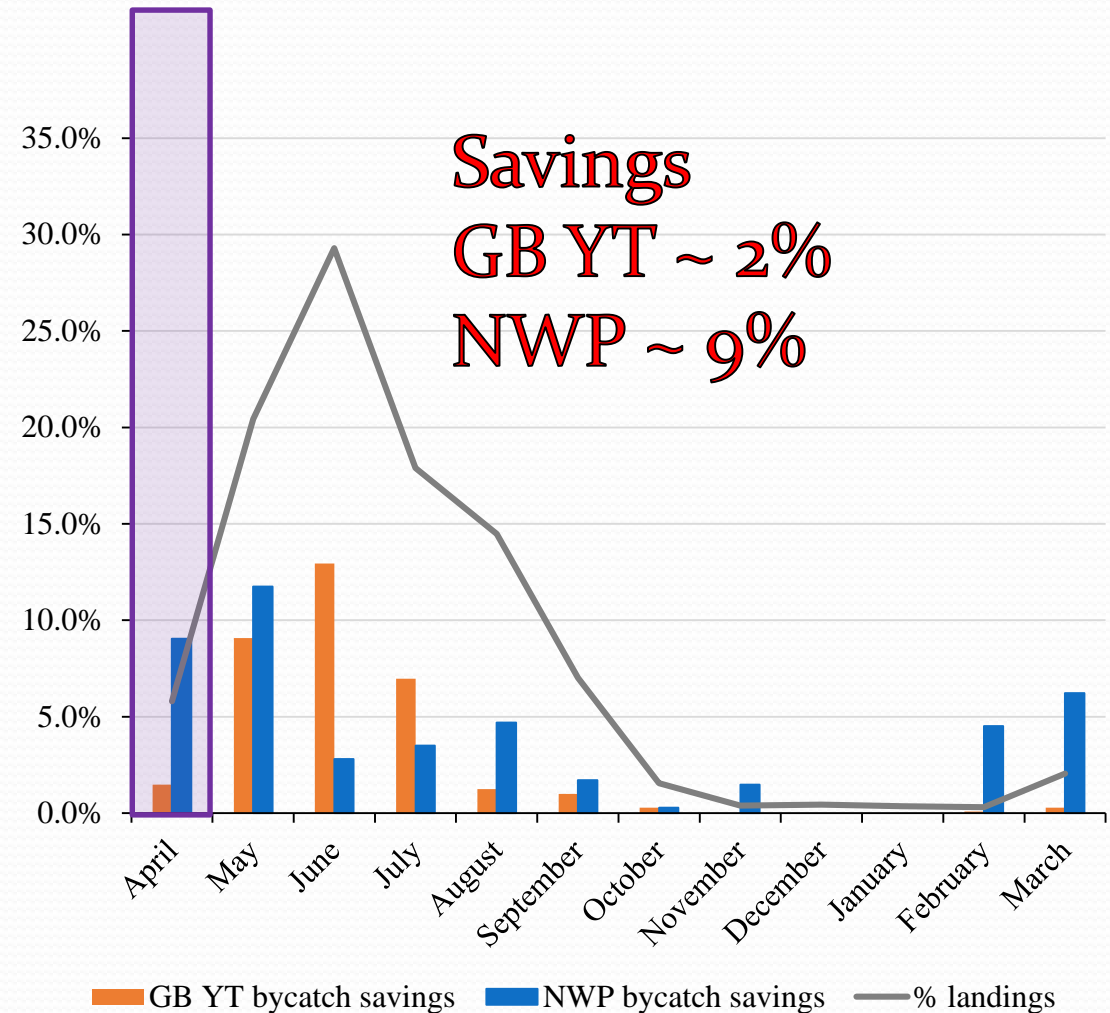


4.5.2 Alternative 2—Reactive AM in GB Open-Areas, Small AM

- **Require GRA in April.**

Rationale:

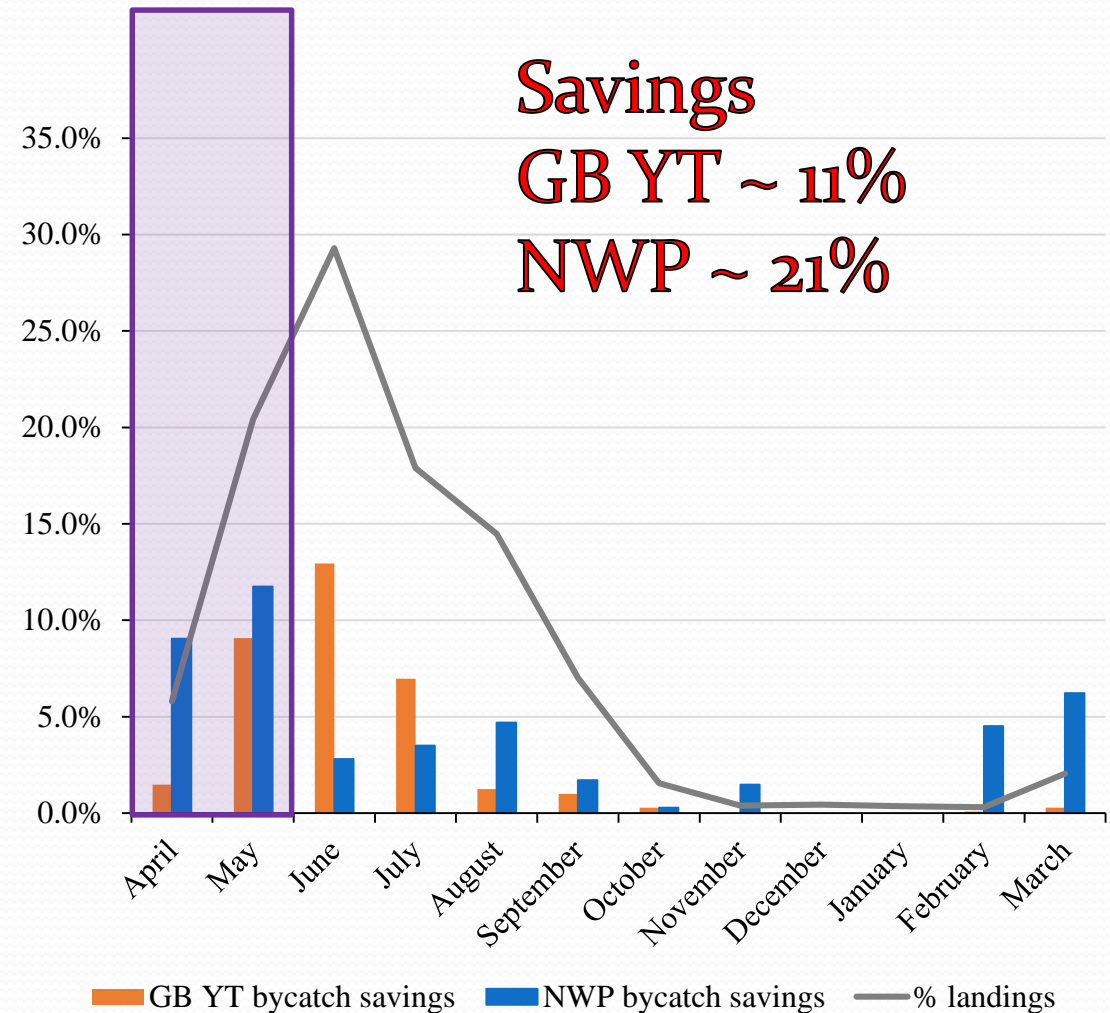
1. Reactive GRA at the beginning of the year avoids having to change gear in middle of the FY.
2. Savings threshold is consistent with SWP.
3. Does not impact highest effort month.
4. GRA savings are expected; however, savings could be greater if GRA acts as disincentive to fish.



4.5.2 Alternative 2—Reactive AM in GB Open-Areas, Large AM

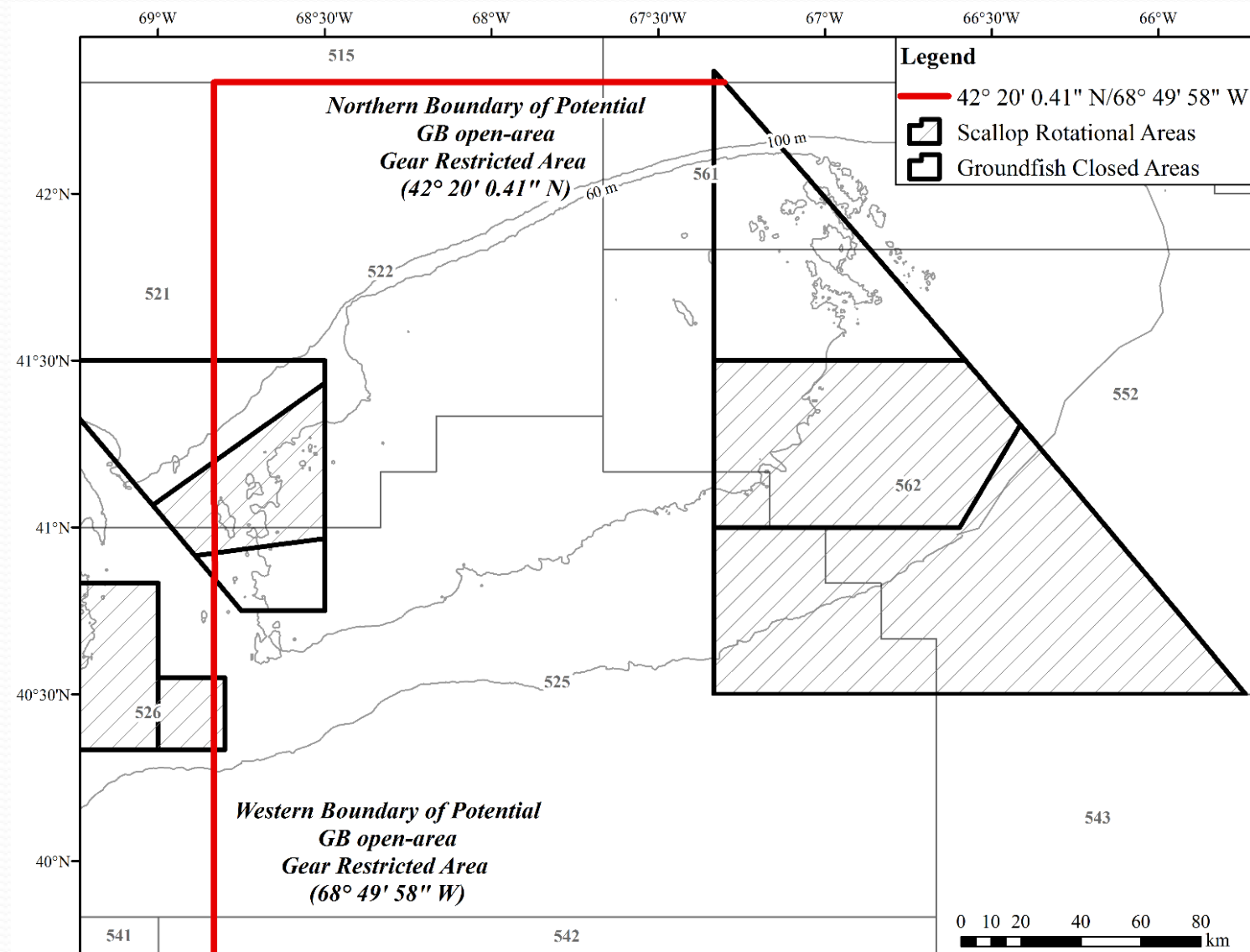
- **Require GRA in April and May.**

Rationale: Reactive GRA at the beginning of the year avoids having to change gear in middle of the FY. Savings threshold is consistent with SWP. Does not impact highest effort month. GRA savings are expected; however, savings could be greater if GRA acts as disincentive to fish.



4.5.2 Alternative 2—Reactive AM in GB Open-Areas

GRA would apply to all open-area south of $42^{\circ} 20' 0.41''$ N and east of $68^{\circ} 49' 58''$ W

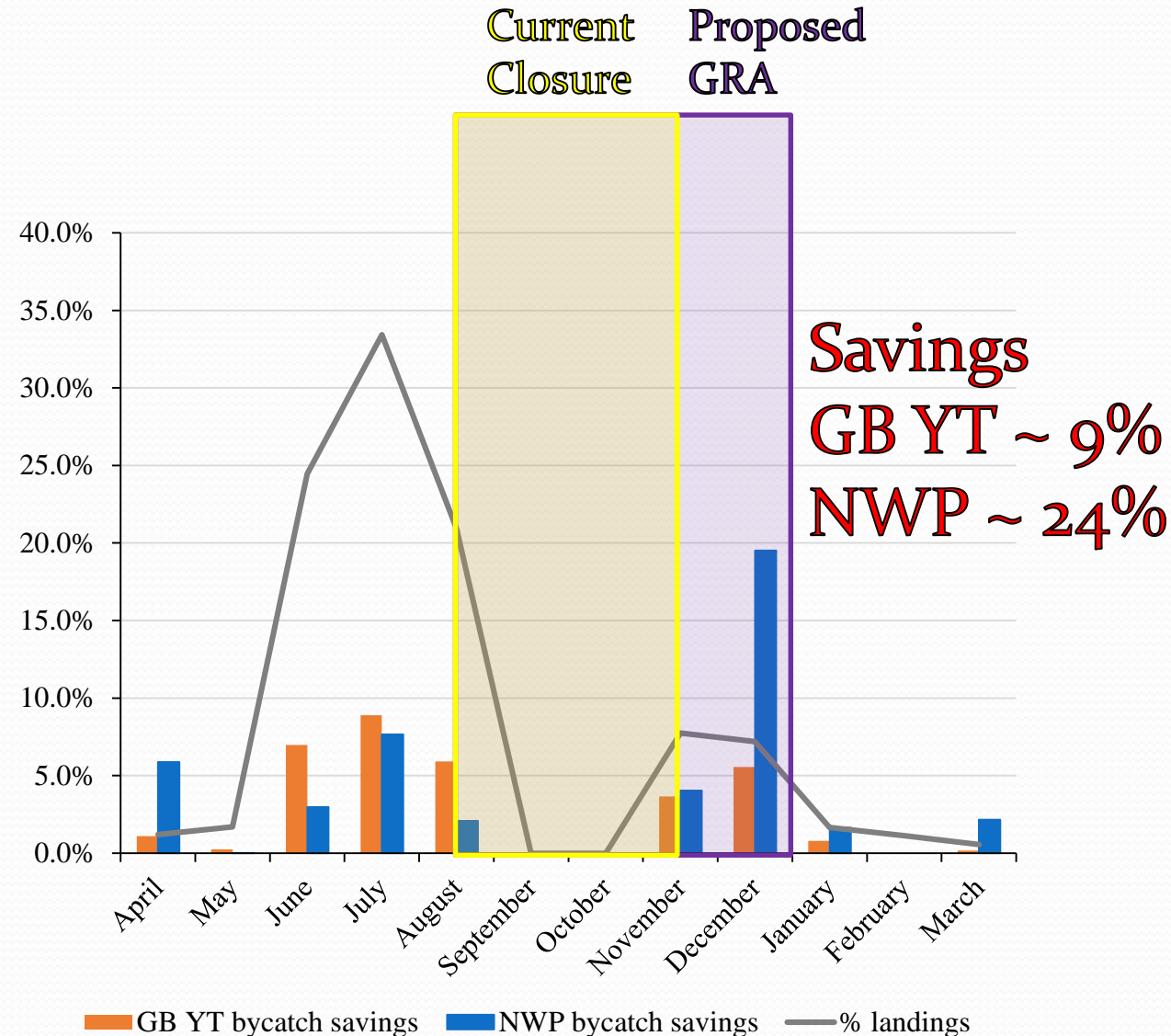


4.5.3 Alternative 3—Reactive AM in CAII and ext., Small AM

- Require GRA from Nov 15th – December 31st and include CAII extension.

Rationale:

- Reactive AM would be a GRA following the seasonal closure already in place.
- GB YT bycatch in CAII ext is highest in Nov-Dec.
- GRA does not impact months with most effort (Jun-Aug).
- If GRA acts as a disincentive to fish, bycatch savings likely fall between GRA values and monthly closure values.

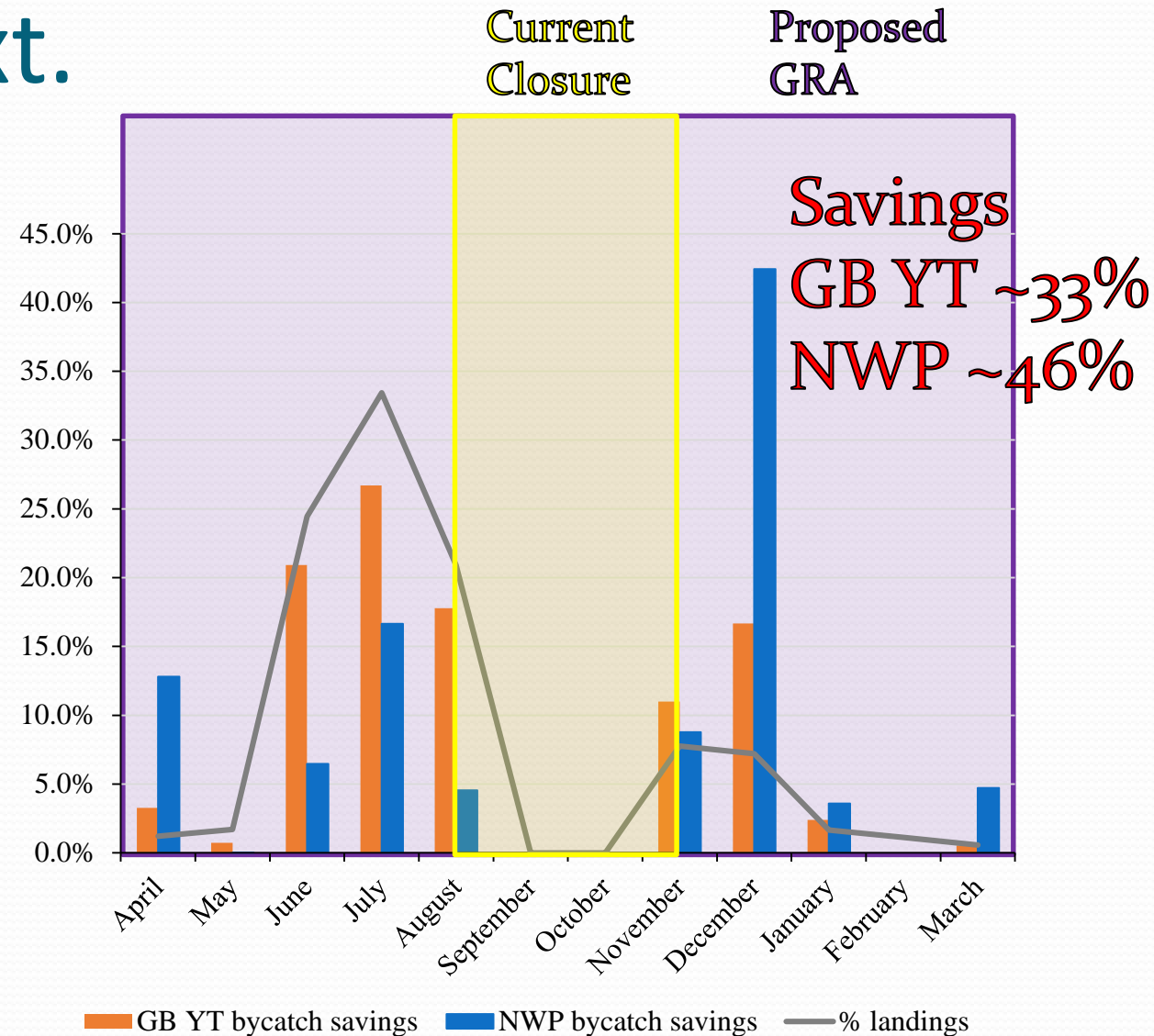


4.5.3.1 Alternative 3, Sub-Option 1: Large AM— Reactive AM in CAI and ext.

- **Require year-round GRA in addition to current seasonal closure and include CAI ext.**

Rationale:

1. Savings gained from a year-round GRA are comparable to a reactive closure from Nov 15th – Dec 31st.
2. Requiring a GRA year-round would be easily enforceable and would ensure the gear is actually used.
3. The GRA reduces scallop catch, but is selective to larger scallops compared to typical industry gear; thus, GRA may be beneficial to overall yield and would leave smaller scallops on the bottom.

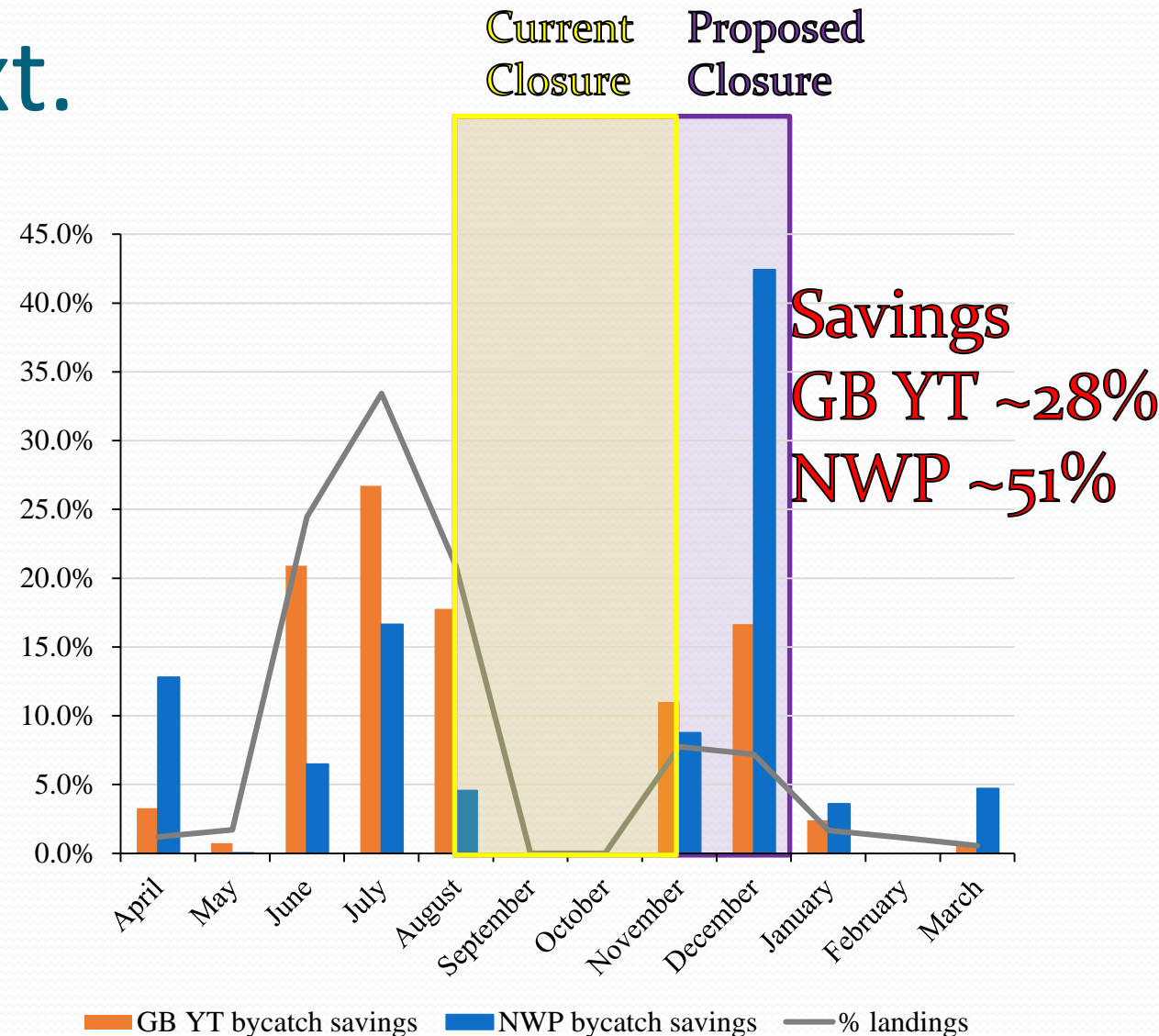


4.5.3.2 Alternative 3, Sub-Option 2: Large AM— Reactive AM in CAI and ext.

- **Extend current seasonal closure (Aug 15th – Nov 15th) to December 31st and include CAI extension.**

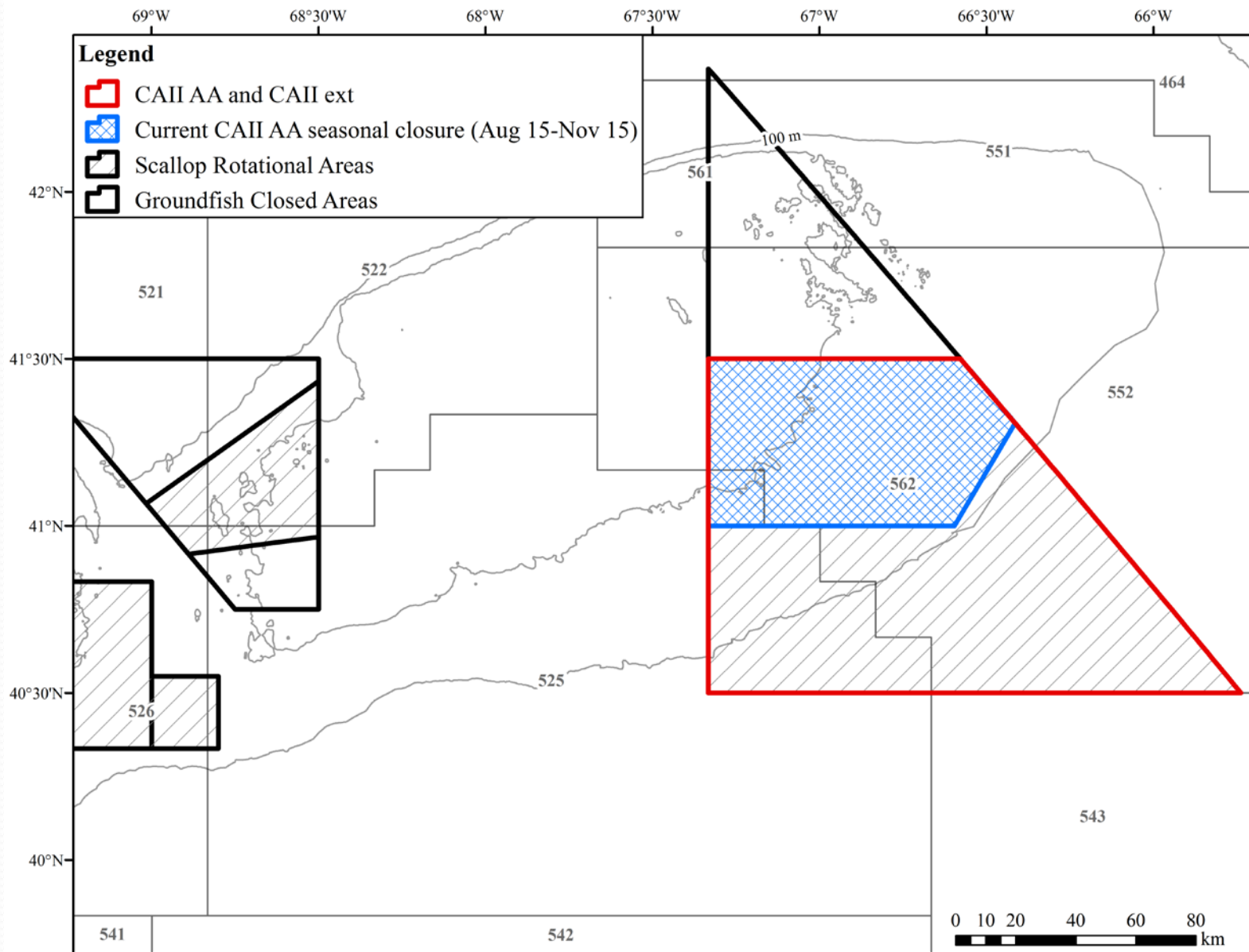
Rationale:

1. Reactive AM would be a continuation of seasonal closure already in place.
2. NWP savings from closing Nov-Dec > using GRA year-round.
3. GB YT savings from closing Nov-Dec are approximately the same as using GRA year-round.
4. Nov and Dec are highest GB YT d/K months in CAI ext.
5. Closure does not impact months with most effort (Jun-Aug).



4.5.3 Alternative 3—Reactive AM in CAII and ext.

Alternative 3 options—
Reactive AM would apply
to CAII AA and CAII
extension (red outline).



GB yellowtail/N. windowpane catch, CAII v. open

- 2013-2014 data were used as example (consecutive years when CAII was fished, with current seasonal closure).
- Majority of GB yellowtail and N. windowpane were caught in CAII
- Roughly 1/3rd of scallops landed were from CAII.

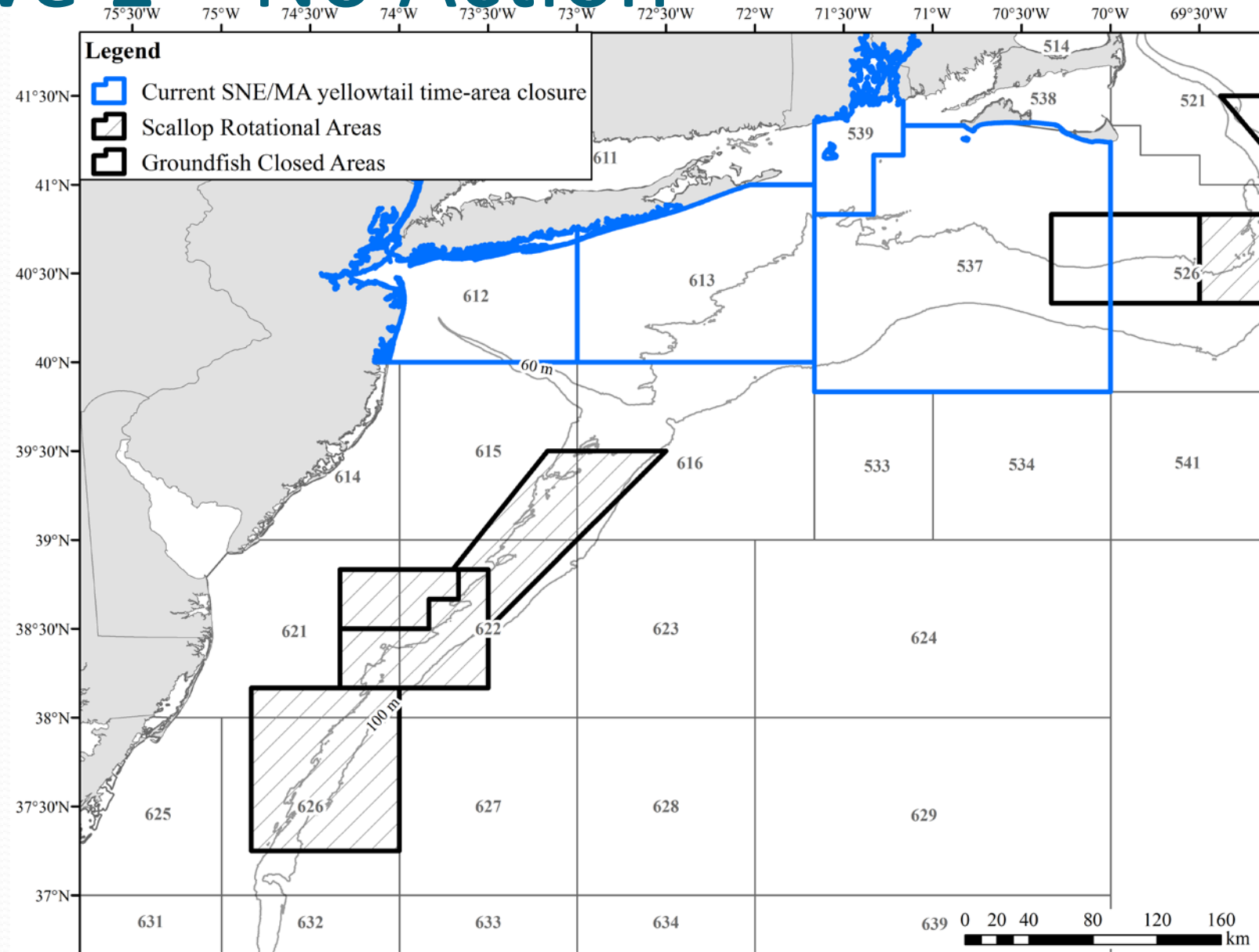
Table 1. The proportion of estimated GB yellowtail, N. windowpane, and scallop catch (round lbs.) from CAII and Georges Bank open-area in FY2013-2014.

FY2013-2014	CAII	OPEN	TOTAL
GB YT CATCH	119,231 58%	85,228 42%	204,459
NWP CATCH	93,049 55%	77,173 45%	170,222
SCALLOP CATCH	39,587,967 37%	67,737,364 63%	107,325,331

Southern New England AM Options

4.7.1 Alternative 1—No Action

- Current SNE/MA yellowtail time area closure reactive AM remains.

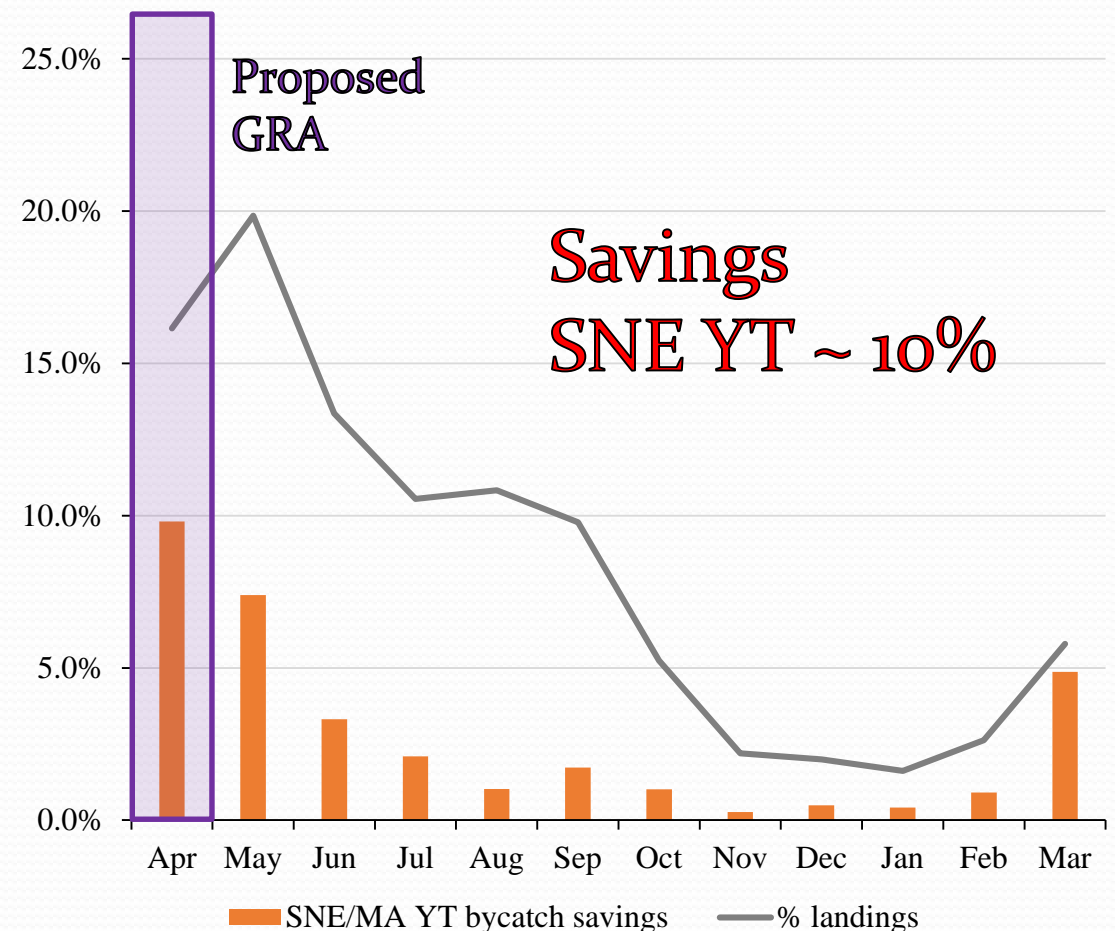


4.7.1.1 Alternative 2 – Reactive GRA Accountability Measures for LA and LAGC, Small AM

- **Require GRA in April.**

Rationale:

1. Reactive GRA at the beginning of the year avoids having to change gear in middle of the FY.
2. Savings threshold is consistent with SWP.
3. If both SNE/YT and SWP AMs were triggered, SNE/YT AM is continuation of current SWP GRA (Feb-Mar).
4. Timing is consistent with proposed GB open-area AM.
5. GRA savings are expected; however, savings could be greater if GRA acts as disincentive to fish.

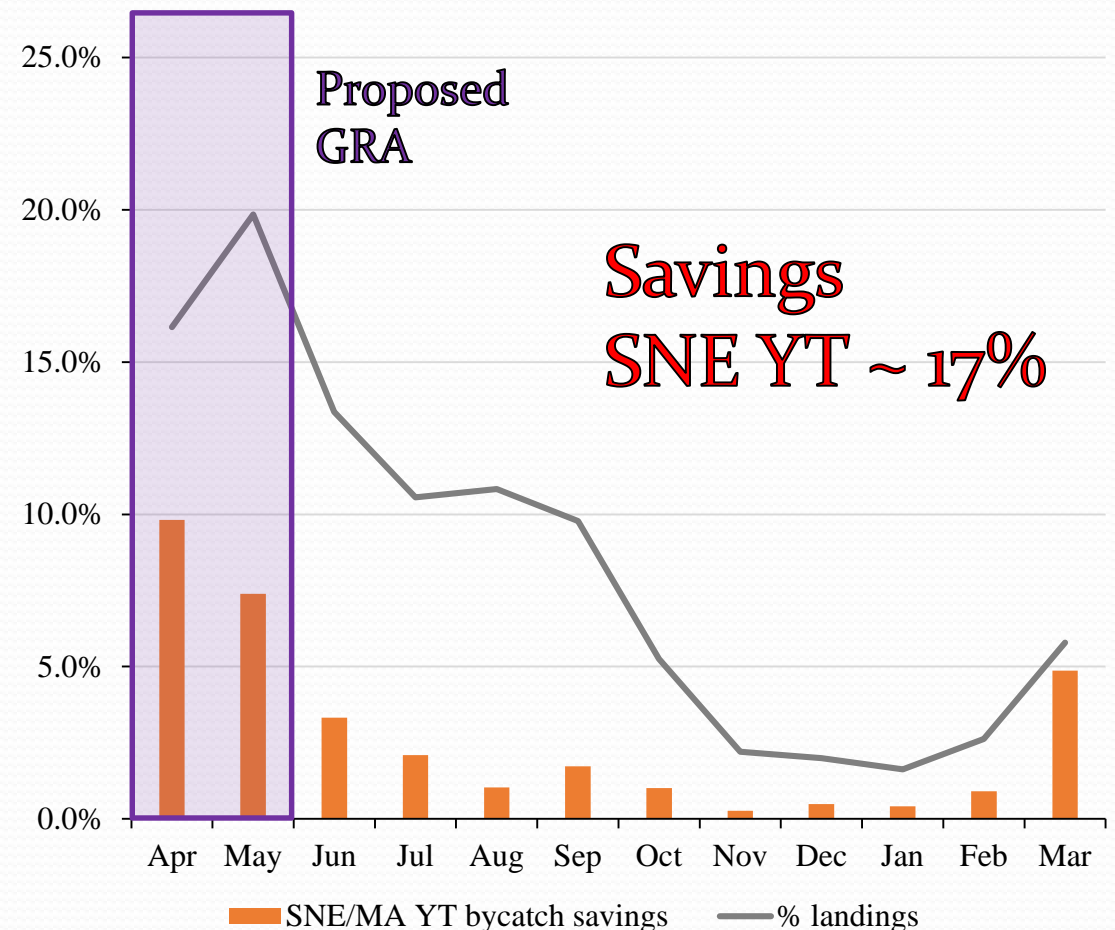


4.7.1.1 Alternative 2 – Reactive GRA Accountability Measures for LA and LAGC, Large AM

- **Require GRA in April and May.**

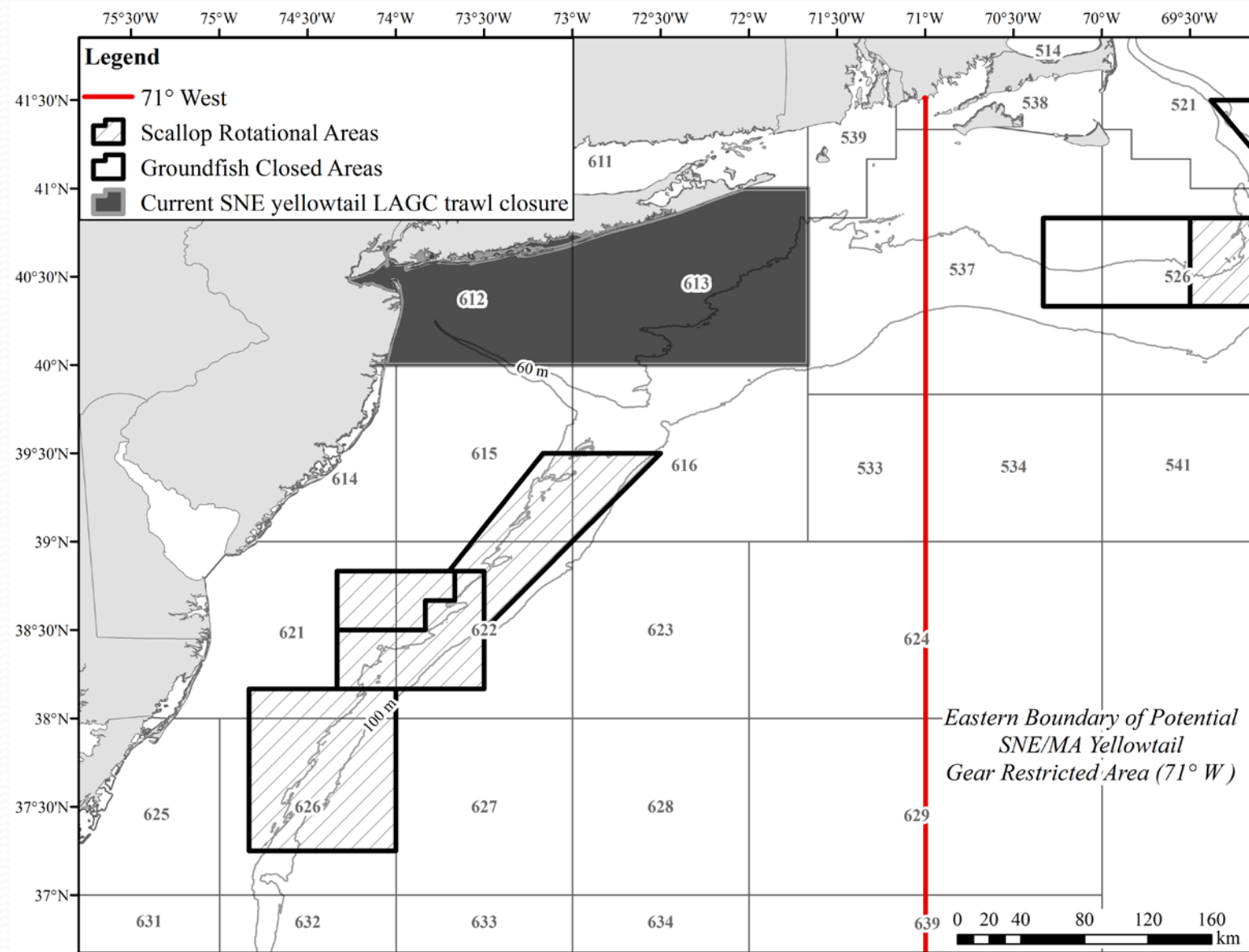
Rationale:

1. Reactive GRA at the beginning of the year avoids having to change gear in middle of the FY.
2. Savings threshold is consistent with SWP.
3. If both SNE/YT and SWP AMs were triggered, SNE/YT AM is continuation of current SWP GRA (Feb-Mar).
4. Timing is consistent with proposed GB open-area AM.
5. GRA savings are expected; however, savings could be greater if GRA acts as disincentive to fish.



4.7.1.1 Alternative 2 – Reactive AM in SNE/MA open-area

4.7.1.1 Alternative 2 would apply to all open-area west of 71° W. Scallop trawl fishing would be prohibited west of 71° W while GRA AM is in place.



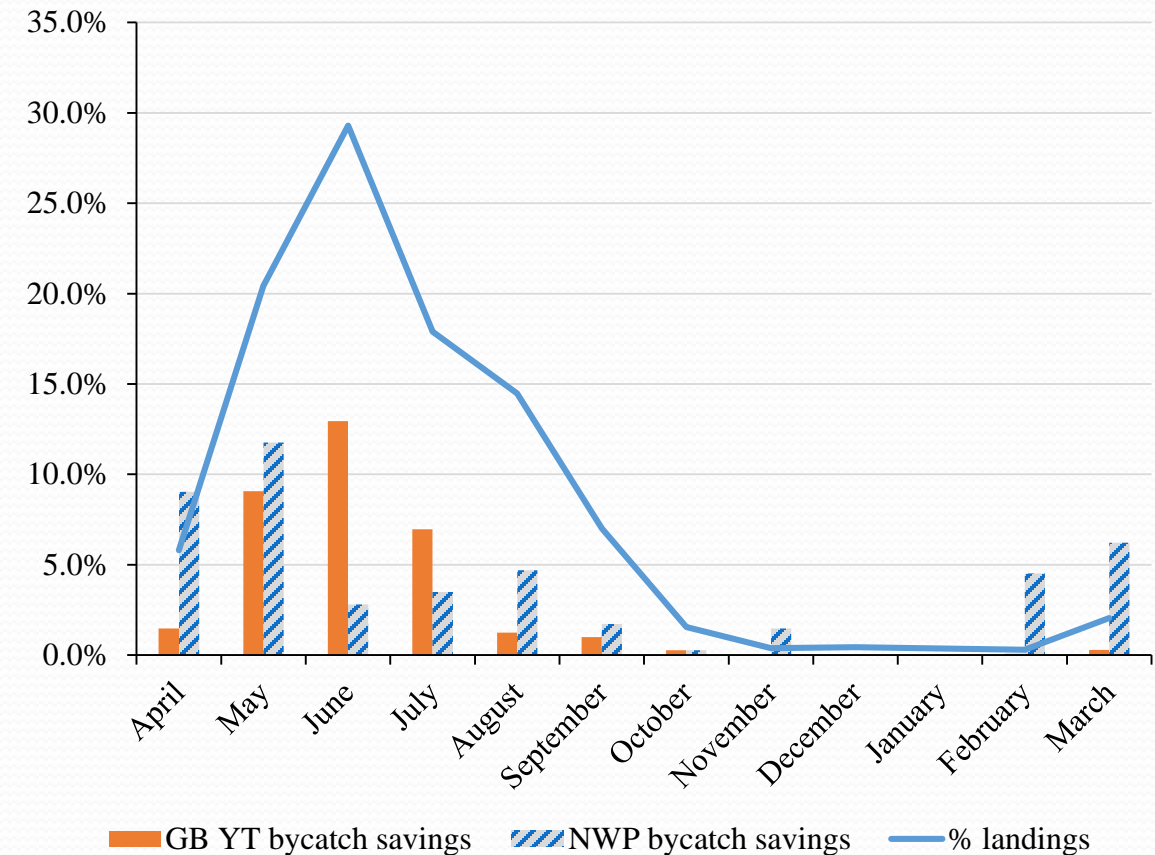
Summary of Proposed AMs

Overall, proposed AM's:

- Consistent with current AM for SWP in both timing and large/small savings threshold.
- Are at start of fishing year so gear modification won't be burdensome to switch back and forth in the middle of the FY.
- Timing of GRAs and(or) closure do not cover an exorbitant amount of time in the FY.
- Bycatch savings are expected to be greater if GRA acts as disincentive to fish.

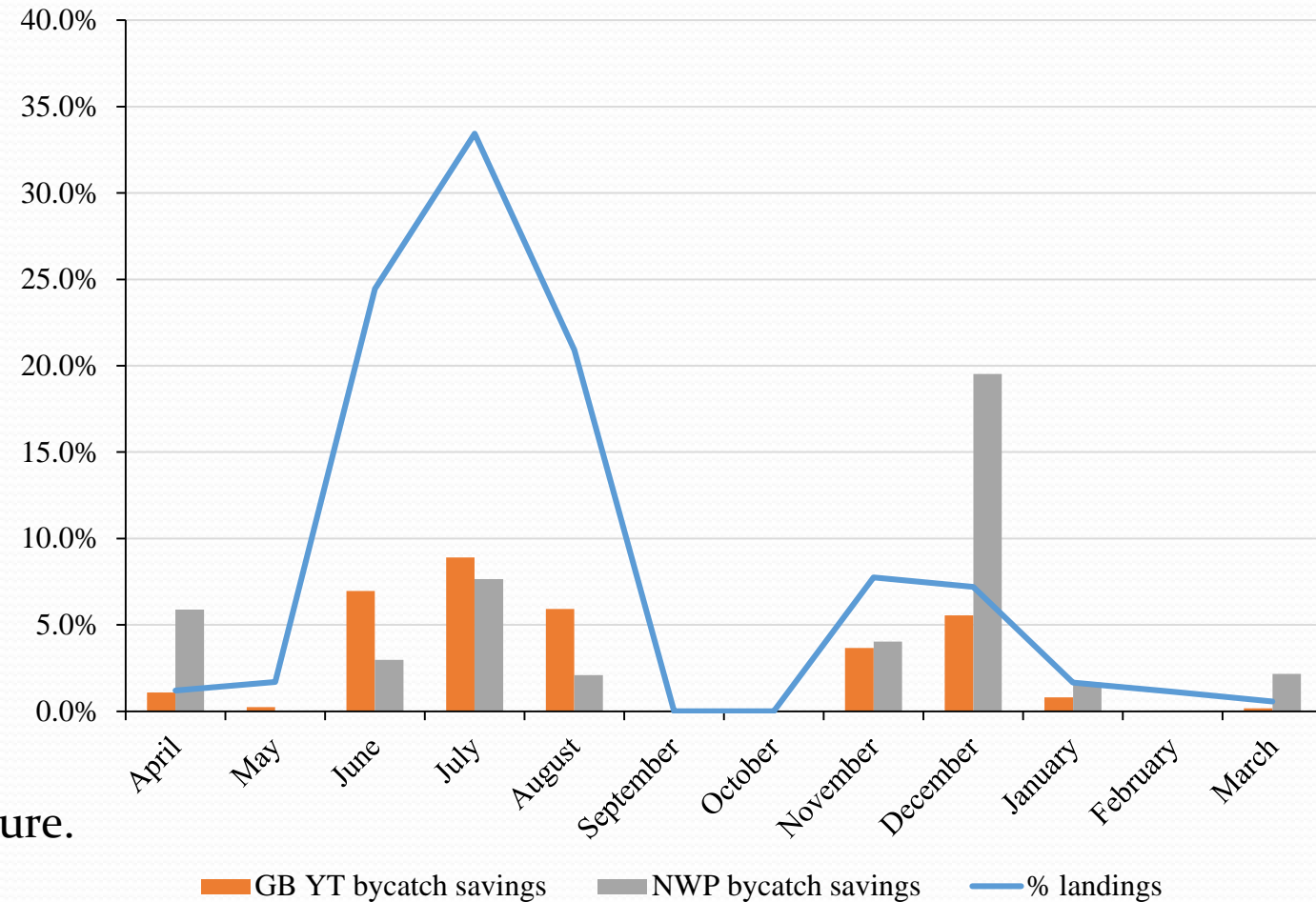
4.5.2 Alternative 2—GB open-area, GRA savings (with CAI ext)

Month	% landings	GB YT bycatch savings	NWP bycatch savings
April	5.8%	1.5%	9.0%
May	20.4%	9.1%	11.8%
June	29.3%	12.9%	2.8%
July	17.9%	7.0%	3.5%
August	14.5%	1.2%	4.7%
September	7.0%	1.0%	1.7%
October	1.6%	0.3%	0.3%
November	0.4%	0.0%	1.5%
December	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
January	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
February	0.3%	0.1%	4.5%
March	2.0%	0.3%	6.2%



4.5.3 Alternative 3—Closed Area II AA, GRA savings

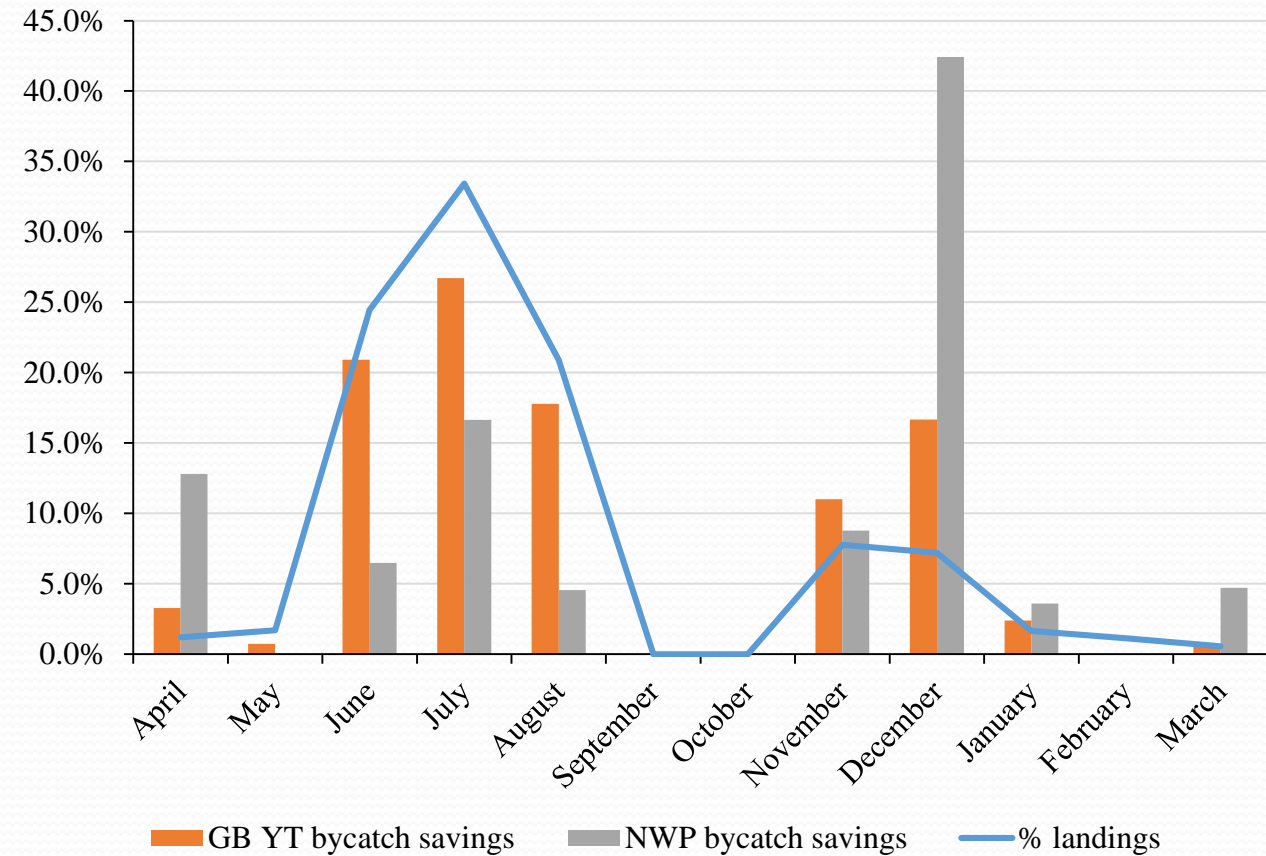
Month	% landings	GB YT bycatch savings	NWP bycatch savings
April	1.2%	1.1%	5.9%
May	1.7%	0.2%	0.0%
June	24.5%	7.0%	3.0%
July	33.4%	8.9%	7.7%
August	20.9%	5.9%	2.1%
September	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
October	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
November	7.8%	3.7%	4.0%
December	7.2%	5.6%	19.5%
January	1.7%	0.8%	1.7%
February	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
March	0.6%	0.2%	2.2%



2013-2015 data reflective of current CAII seasonal closure.

4.5.3.2 Alternative 3, Sub-Option 2—Closed Area II AA, monthly closure savings

Month	% landings	GB YT bycatch savings	NWP bycatch savings
April	1.2%	3.3%	12.8%
May	1.7%	0.7%	0.0%
June	24.5%	20.9%	6.5%
July	33.4%	26.7%	16.6%
August	20.9%	17.8%	4.6%
September	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
October	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
November	7.8%	11.0%	8.8%
December	7.2%	16.7%	42.4%
January	1.7%	2.4%	3.6%
February	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
March	0.6%	0.5%	4.7%



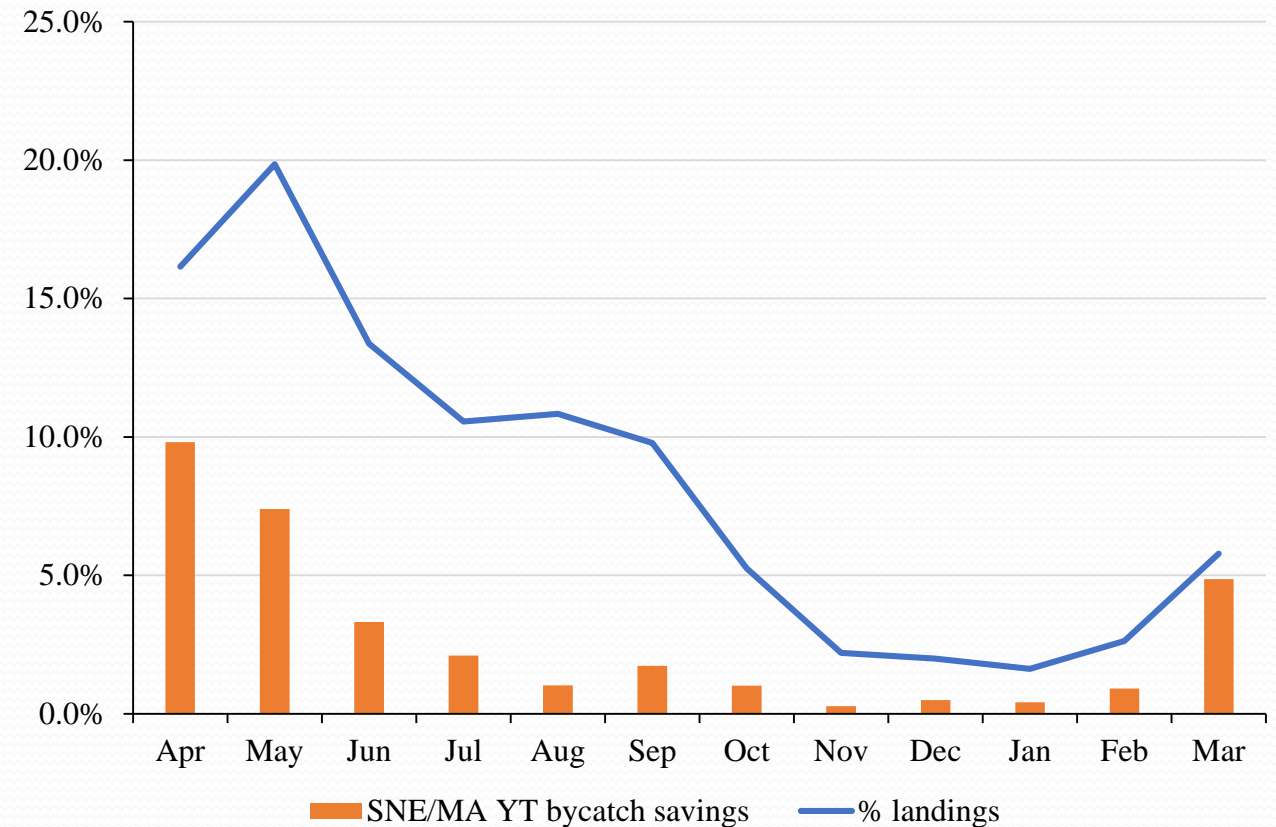
CAI Large AM options: GRA vs. Closure

- Compared to year-round GRA in CAI, closing CAI and ext Nov-Dec offers greater savings for NWP and comparable savings for GB YT.

4.5.3.1 Alt. 3, SubOp. 1: Year-round GRA		4.5.3.2 Alt. 3, SubOp. 2: Nov-Dec Closure		Savings Difference (year round GRA minus Nov-Dec closure)	
GB YT savings	NWP savings	GB YT savings	NWP savings	GB YT savings	NWP savings
33%	46%	28%	51%	5%	-5%

4.7.1.1 Alternative 2—SNE/MA open-area, GRA savings (west of 71°W)

Month	% landings	SNE/MA YT bycatch savings
Apr	16.2%	9.8%
May	19.8%	7.4%
Jun	13.4%	3.3%
Jul	10.6%	2.1%
Aug	10.8%	1.0%
Sep	9.8%	1.7%
Oct	5.2%	1.0%
Nov	2.2%	0.3%
Dec	2.0%	0.5%
Jan	1.6%	0.4%
Feb	2.6%	0.9%
Mar	5.8%	4.9%



Recommended 2018 SNE/MA yellowtail ABC: 52 mt.