Potential workshop on Inshore Scallop Fishery Issues

Deirdre Boelke, NEFMC Staff,
Scallop PDT Chair

Scallop Committee Meeting
May 28, 2015

New England
Fishery Management Council

Background

- **Council Motion (November 2014)**

Motion 18b. Motion postponed from September:

to move to amend priorities by adding to the list of scallop priorities: measures to address localized depletion of inshore areas and to mitigate impacts on the LAGC IFQ fishery.

Motion 18c. Ms. Goethel moved to substitute and Mr. Preble seconded:

to move to amend priorities by having a workshop and to continue with a white paper for possible future action to address localized depletion of inshore areas and to mitigate impacts on the LAGC IFQ fishery.

The motion to substitute ***carried*** on a show of hands (16/0/0).

The main motion to amend as substituted ***carried*** on a show of hands (16/0/0).

Document #4 and #4a

- **Section 2.0 – Problem Statement and Potential Goals of Workshop (p.5)**
- **Section 4.0 – Range of Potential Measures for Discussion (p.35)**
- **Section 5.0 – Data Needs (p.37)**
- **Section 6.0 – Workshop Logistics (p.38)**

- **Goal of Meeting Today**

Review AP input for white paper and workshop and discuss ideas for Council to consider in June if necessary

2.0 Problem Statement

- Inshore areas typically deplete faster than offshore areas
- Segments of LAGC concerned with periodic increases in LA fishing nearshore
- If unable to harvest quota nearshore may need to fish farther offshore with potentially negative impacts on bycatch, safety, gear conflict, and profits.
- Some interest in having an in-depth dialogue about these concerns and identifying measures to promote more stable resource conditions nearshore.

2.0 Goals of Workshop

- Provide an opportunity for all participants in fishery to discuss concerns, potentially including scientific experts and fishery managers
- Identify next steps to address concerns of all components of the scallop fishery
- Draft discussion topics:

1. LAGC fishery has changed, management may need to as well, Identify measures that minimize the need for LAGC to fish offshore, promote safety, reduce bycatch and gear conflicts
2. Any biological benefits if fishing mortality reduced nearshore?
3. Are there ways to increase incentive for LA vessels to fish offshore?

Summary of data currently available

- Permits

About 350 LA permits (40 also have IFQ permit)

About 200 LAGC IFQ permits

- Active vessels

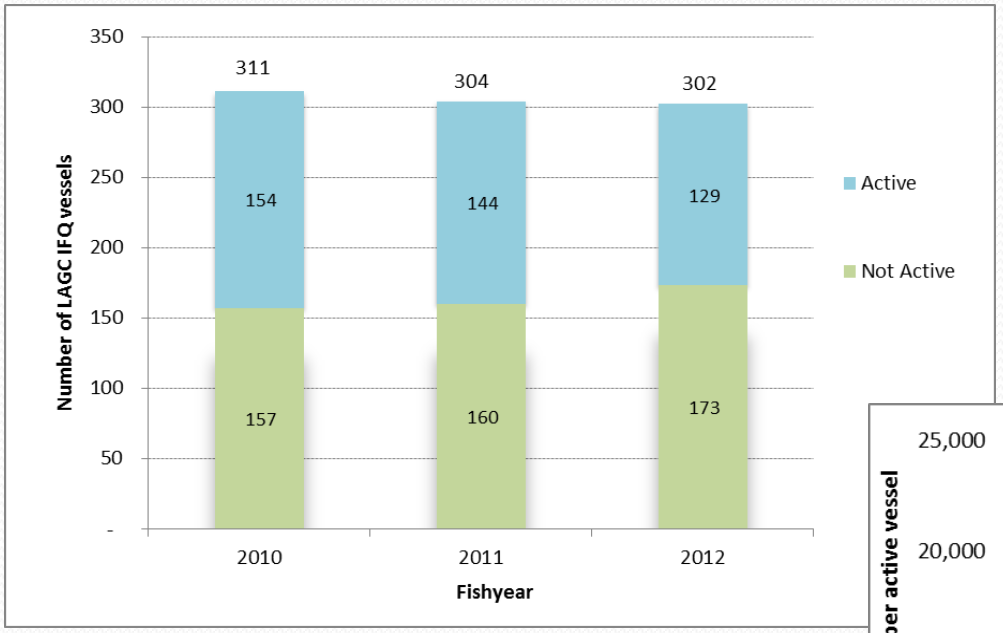
All LA vessels active – About 110 active IFQ vessels

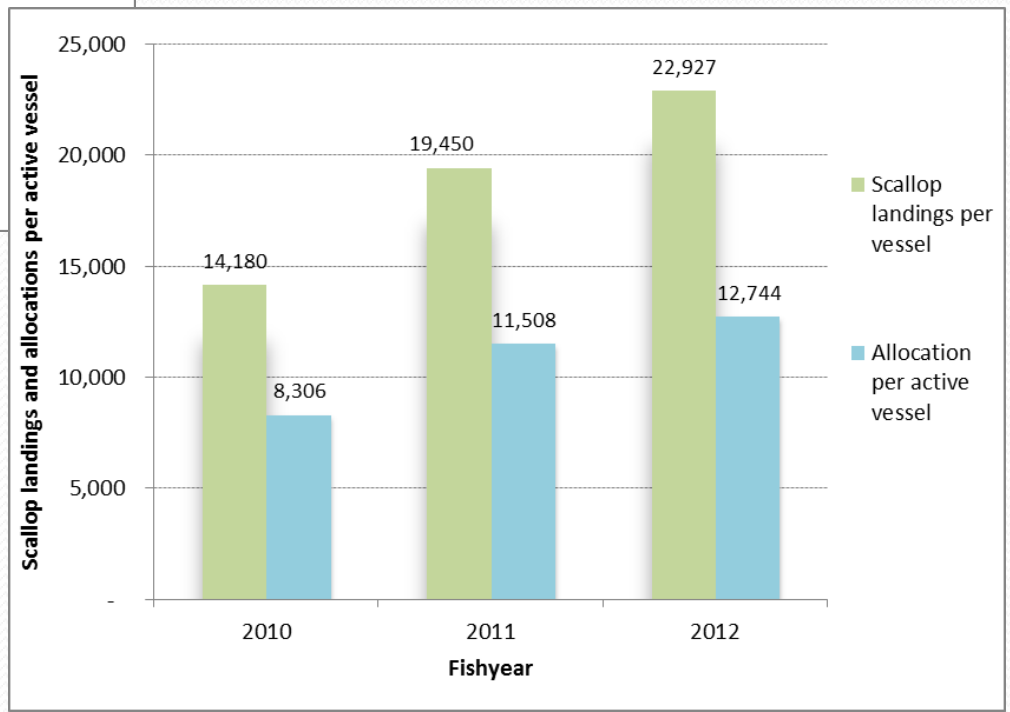
- Trends in landings and revenues

Since 2002 landings have been at or above 50 million pounds, fell to 40 million in 2013 and lower in 2014

Fleet revenues have increased dramatically from $250 million in 2002 to just over $600 in 2011. IN 2013 it was $464 million.

From LAGC IFQ Report – Some consolidation





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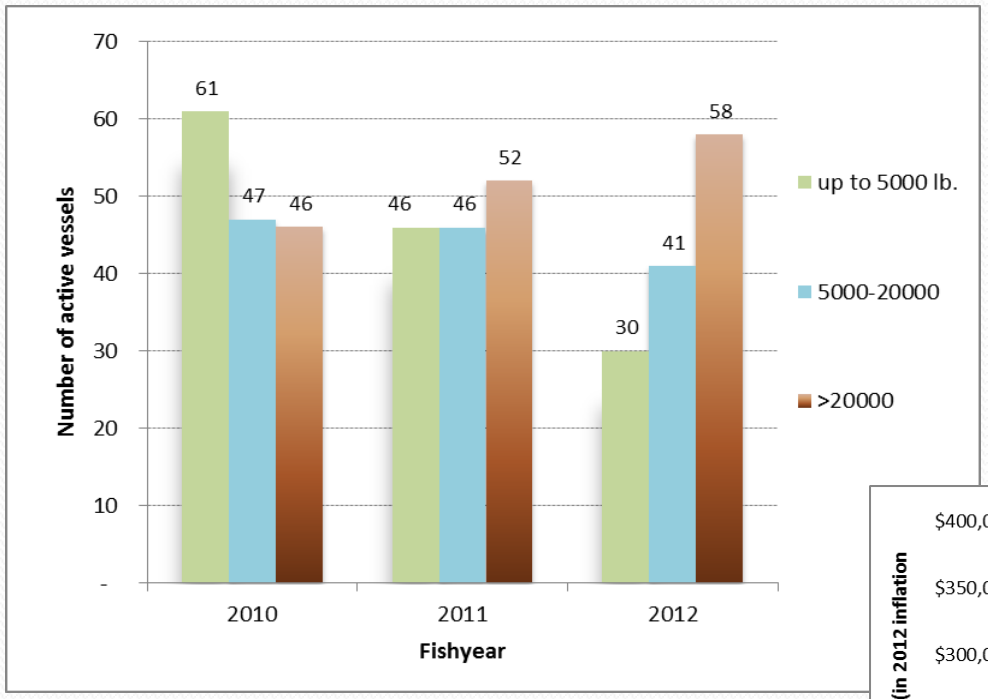
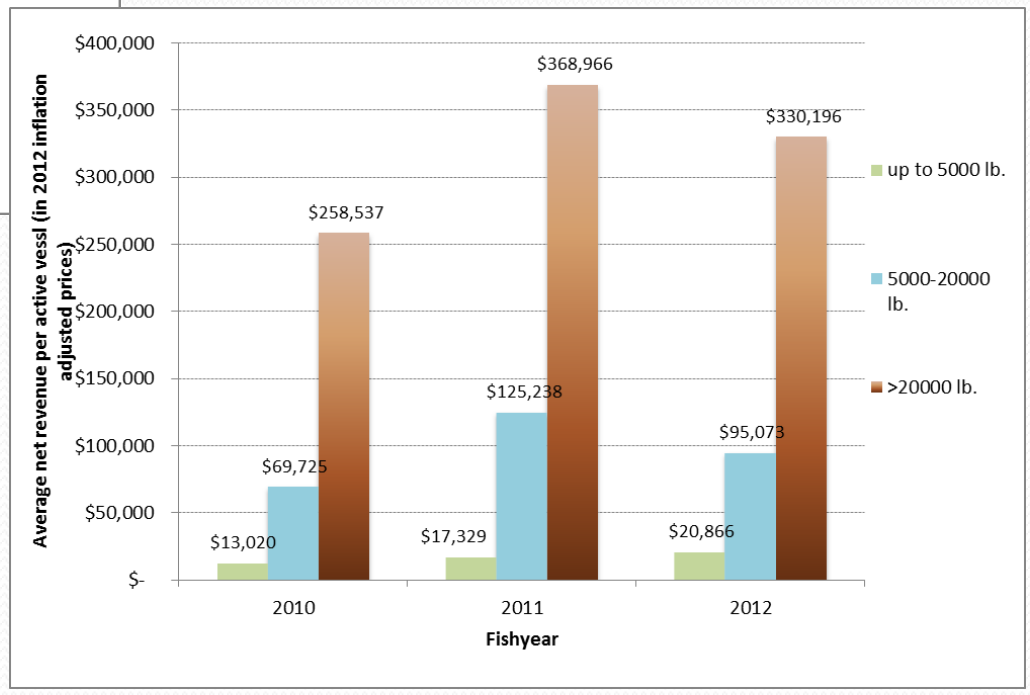
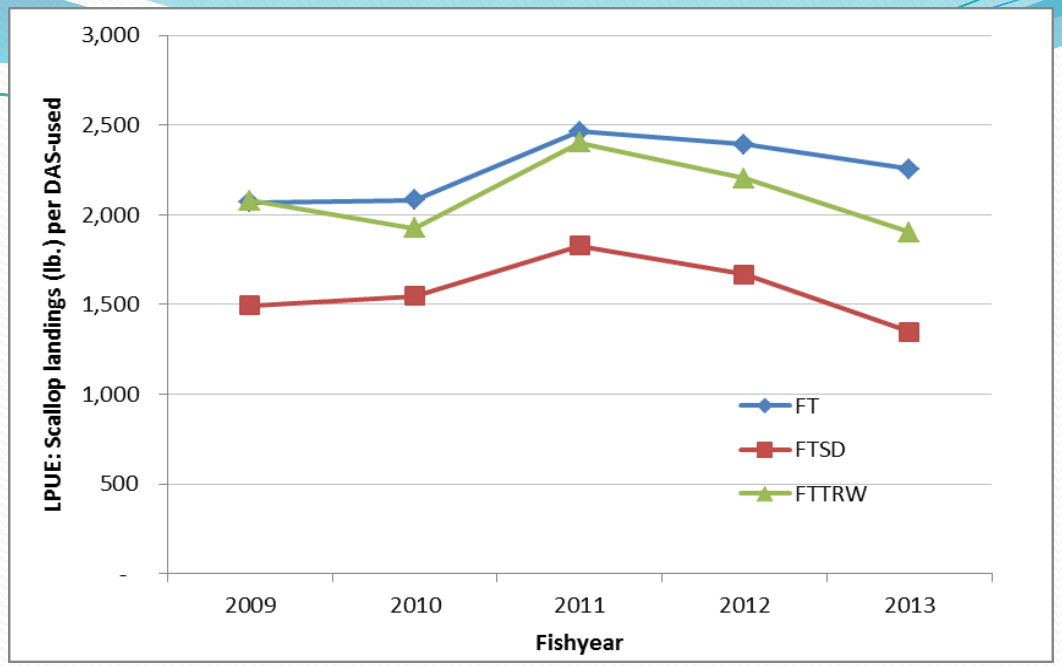


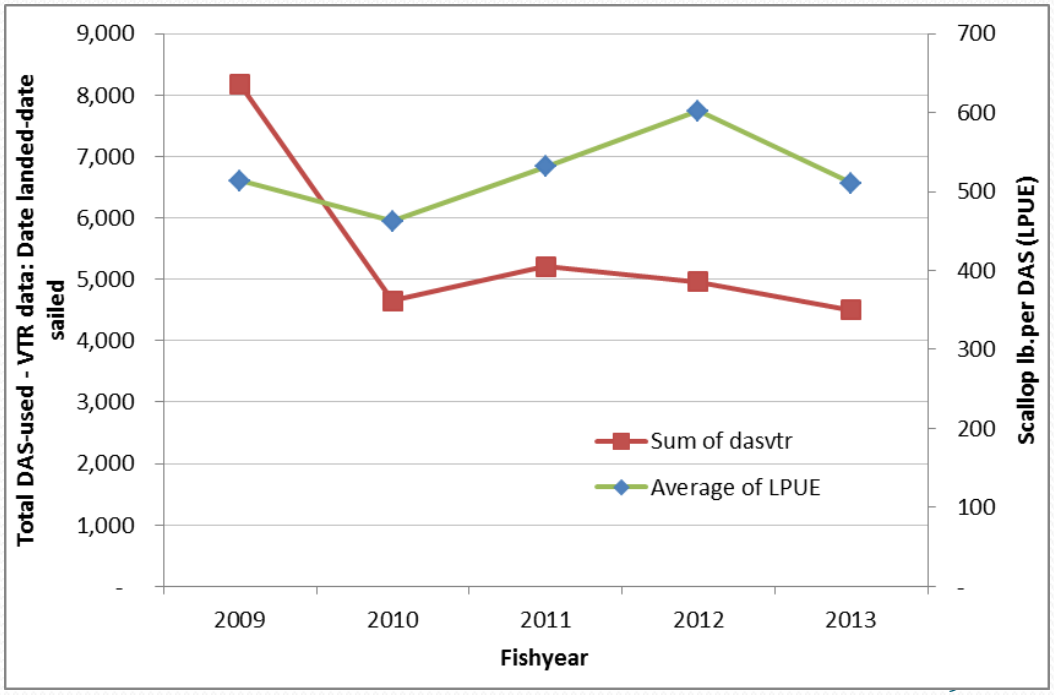


LPUE by Permit category

LA (top)
LAGC (bottom)

This LPUE estimate includes steaming time, for both open and access areas combined



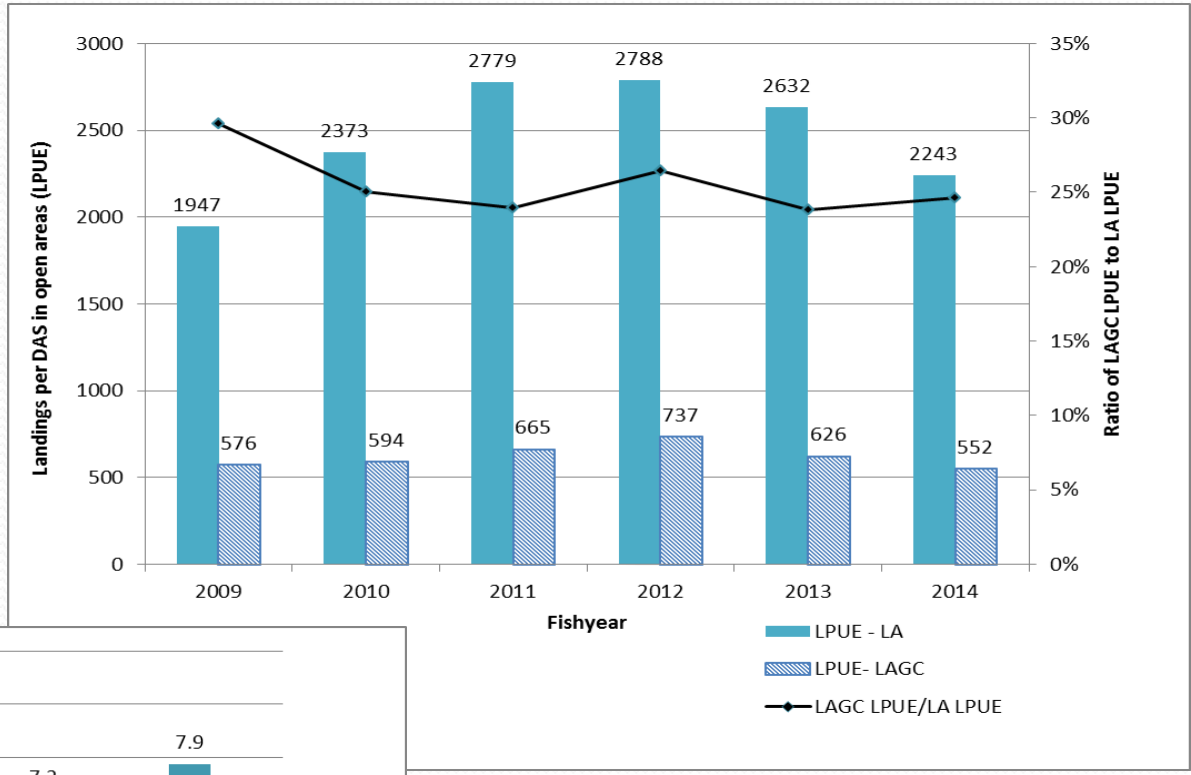


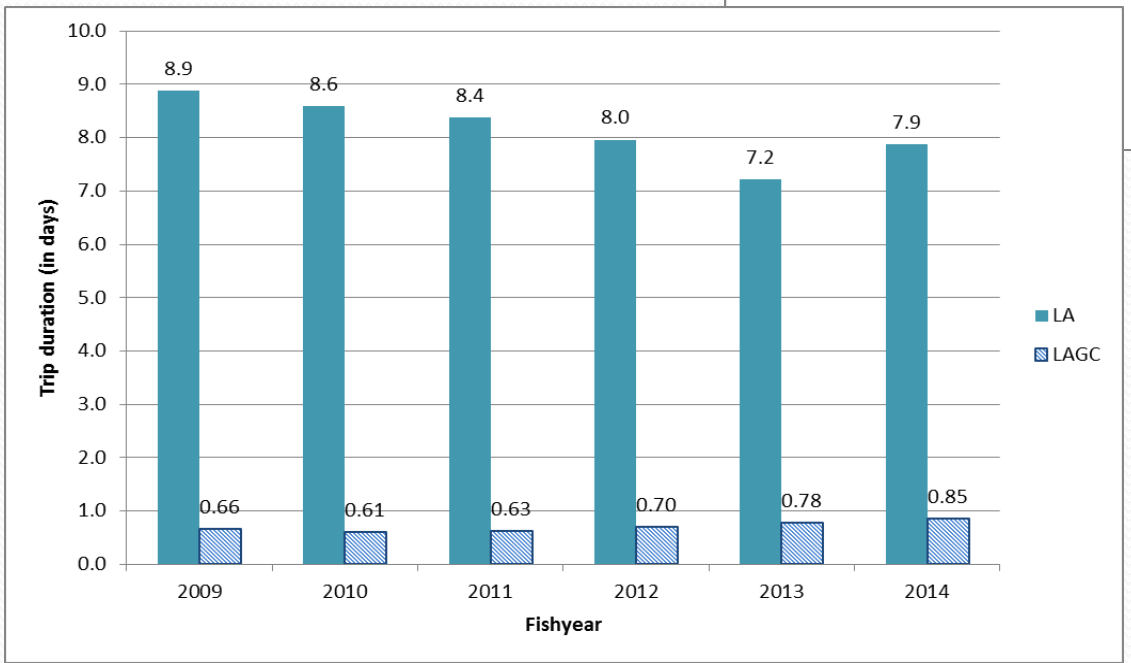
LPUE by Area

- 2013 – Open Area catch higher than in previous years: 78% of LA catch compared to about 60%, and 98% for LAGC compared to 75-85%
- Average open area trip duration fell for LA vessels and increased for IFQ vessels in 2013 compared to 2012

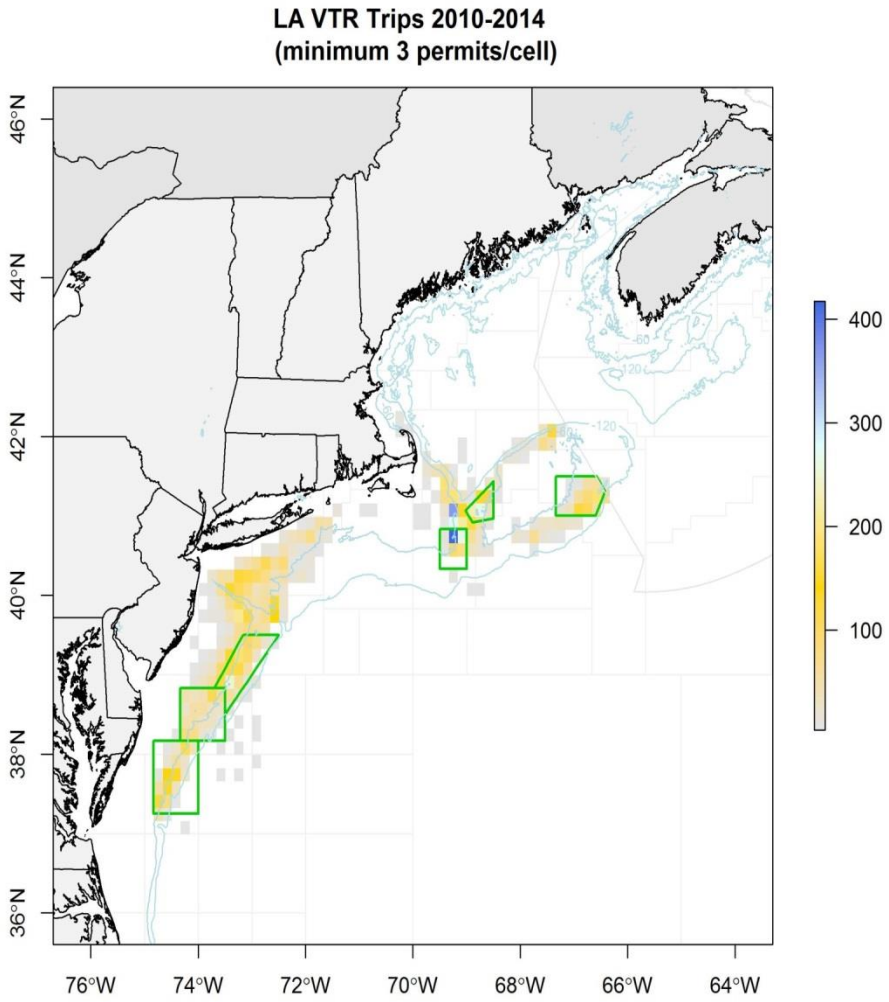
Area	Fishyear	LA Vessels			LAGC vessels			Grand Total
		Landings	% of all LA	% of total	Landings	% of all LAGC	% of total	
Access	2009	24,935,719	51%	96%	1,112,532	24%	4.3%	26,048,251
	2010	20,502,755	41%	97%	570,764	23%	2.7%	21,073,519
	2011	23,844,124	46%	98%	388,610	13%	1.6%	24,232,734
	2012	22,357,381	44%	100%	66,375	2%	0.3%	22,423,756
	2013	7,555,568	22%	99%	38,886	2%	0.5%	7,594,454
	2014	5,483,873	22%	96%	237,800	14%	4.2%	5,721,673
Open	2009	24,108,835	49%	88%	3,440,981	76%	12.5%	27,549,816
	2010	29,638,612	59%	94%	1,872,252	77%	5.9%	31,510,864
	2011	28,493,791	54%	92%	2,498,858	87%	8.1%	30,992,649
	2012	28,127,128	56%	90%	2,964,520	98%	9.5%	31,091,648
	2013	26,793,224	78%	92%	2,410,585	98%	8.3%	29,203,809
	2014	19,439,861	78%	93%	1,405,581	86%	6.7%	20,845,442

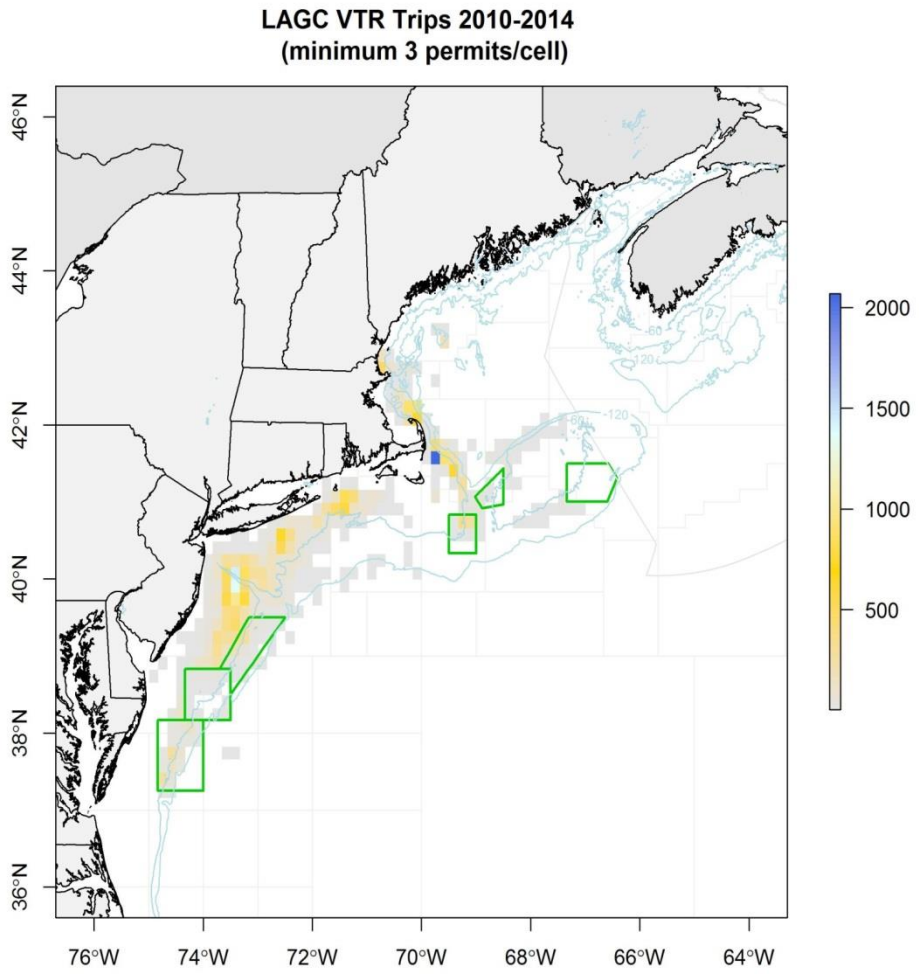
Average LPUE and trip length in open areas





of Trips from VTR (LA and LAGC)

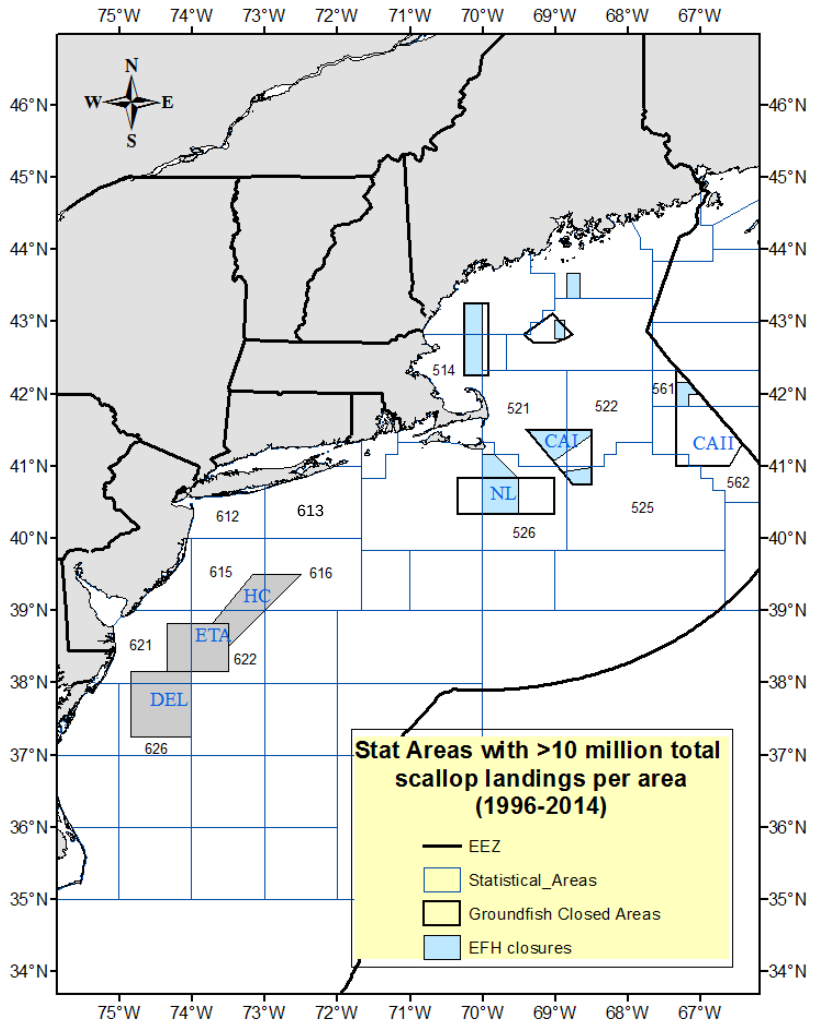




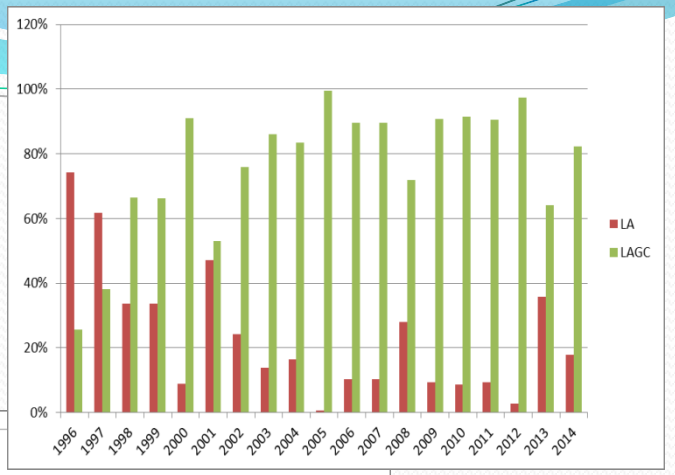
Individual years in Document #4a

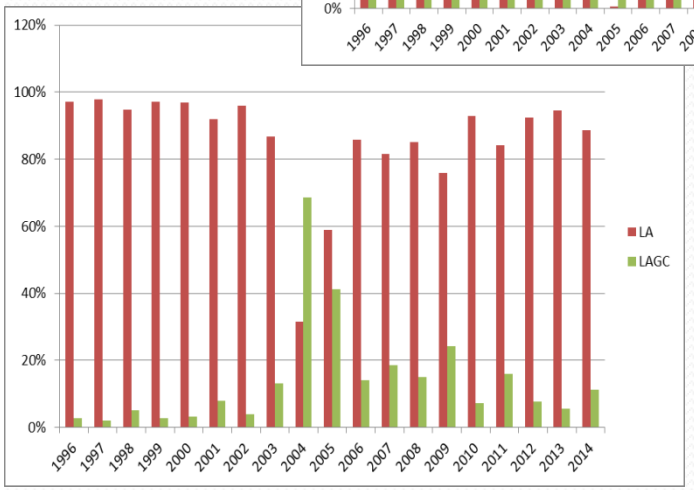

Areas >10 million pounds 1996-2014 (VTR landings)
514
521
522
525
526
561
562
612
613
615
616
621
622
626
Scallop Meats(millions of pounds)
0
5
10
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
Fishing Year
Fishery
LA
LAGC

Proportion of landings by area

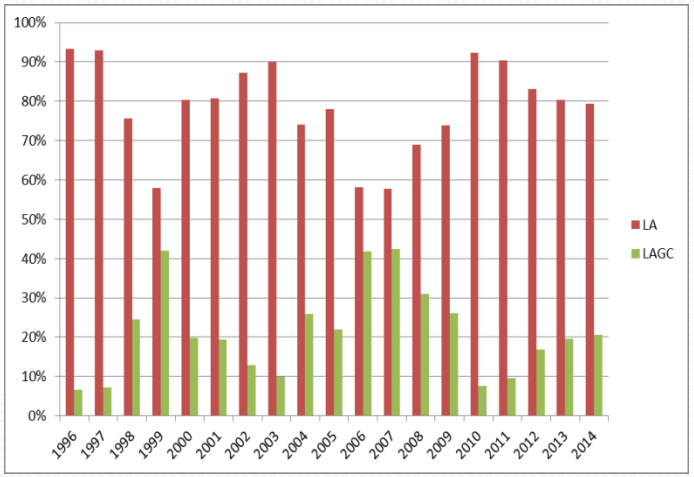


Area 514



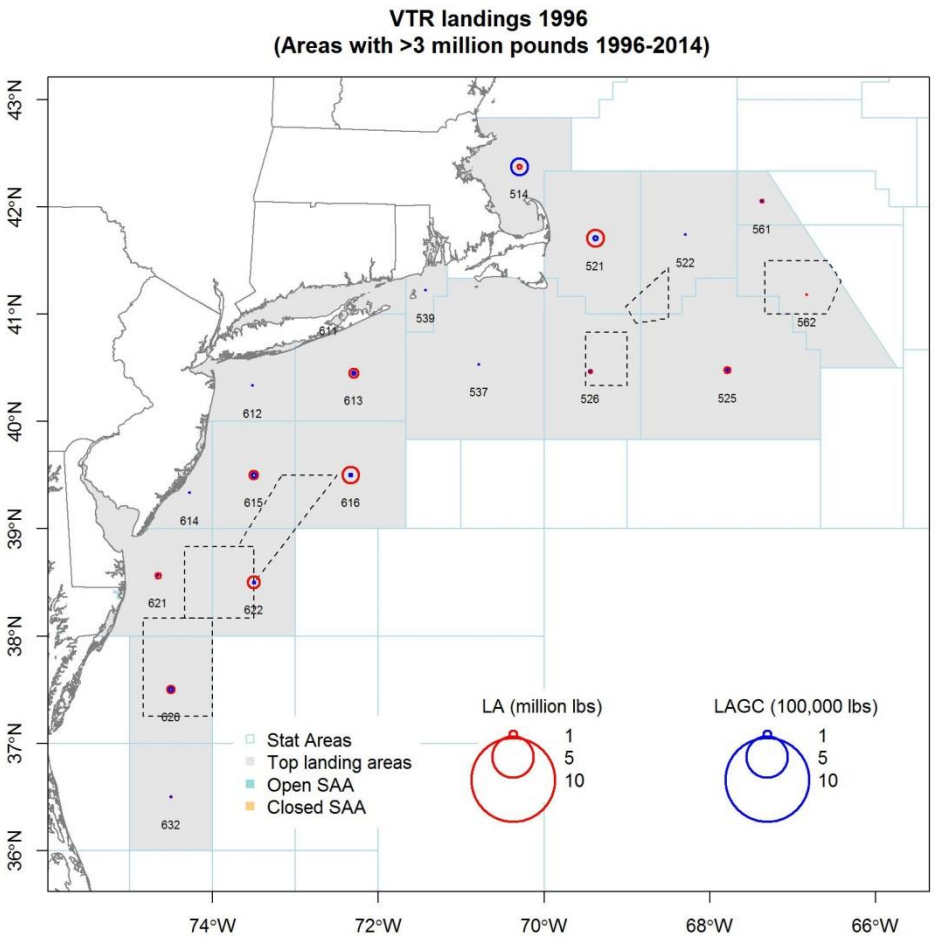


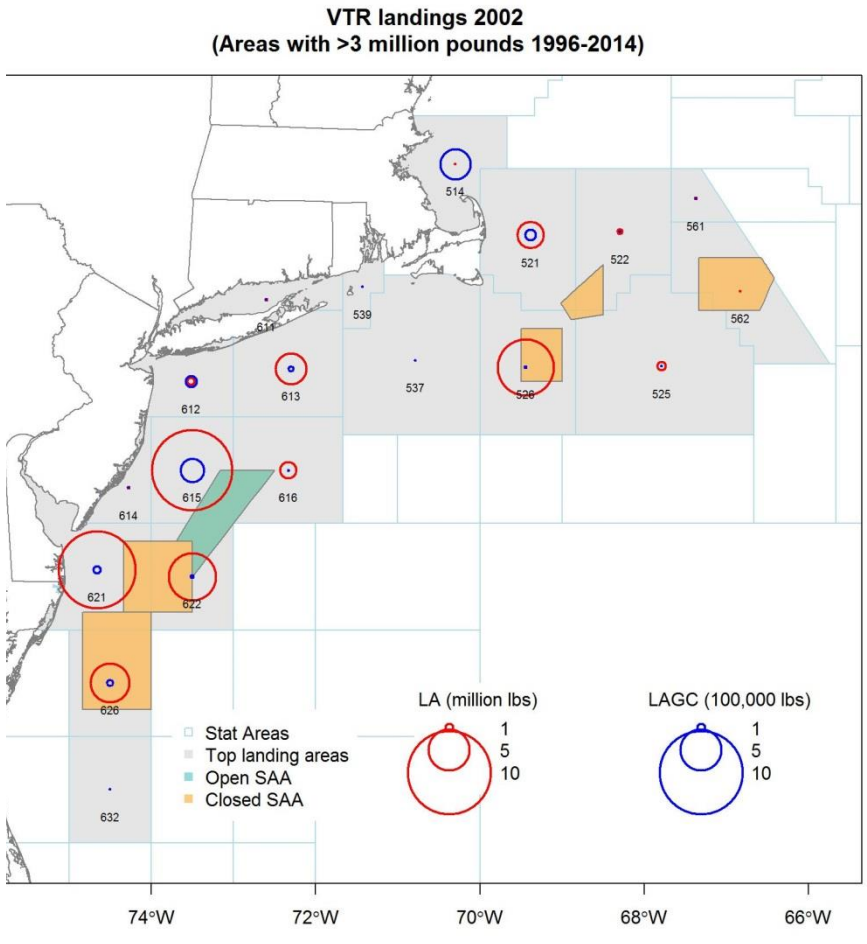
Area 521



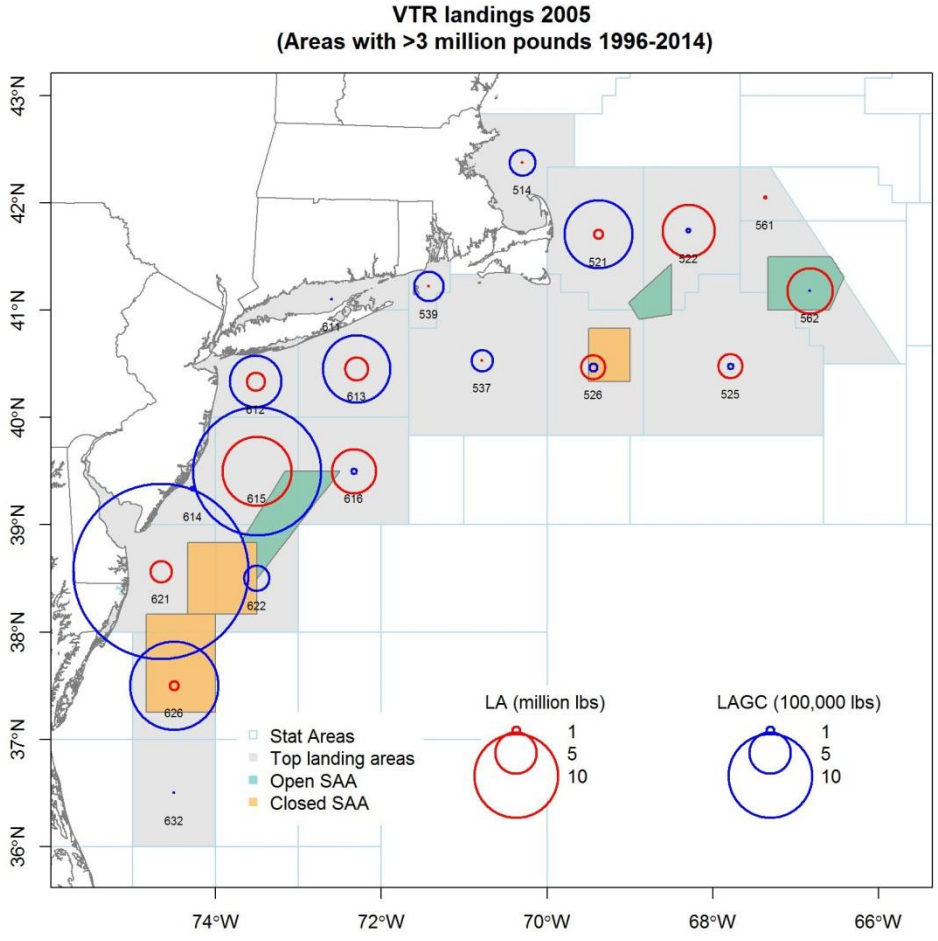
Area 613

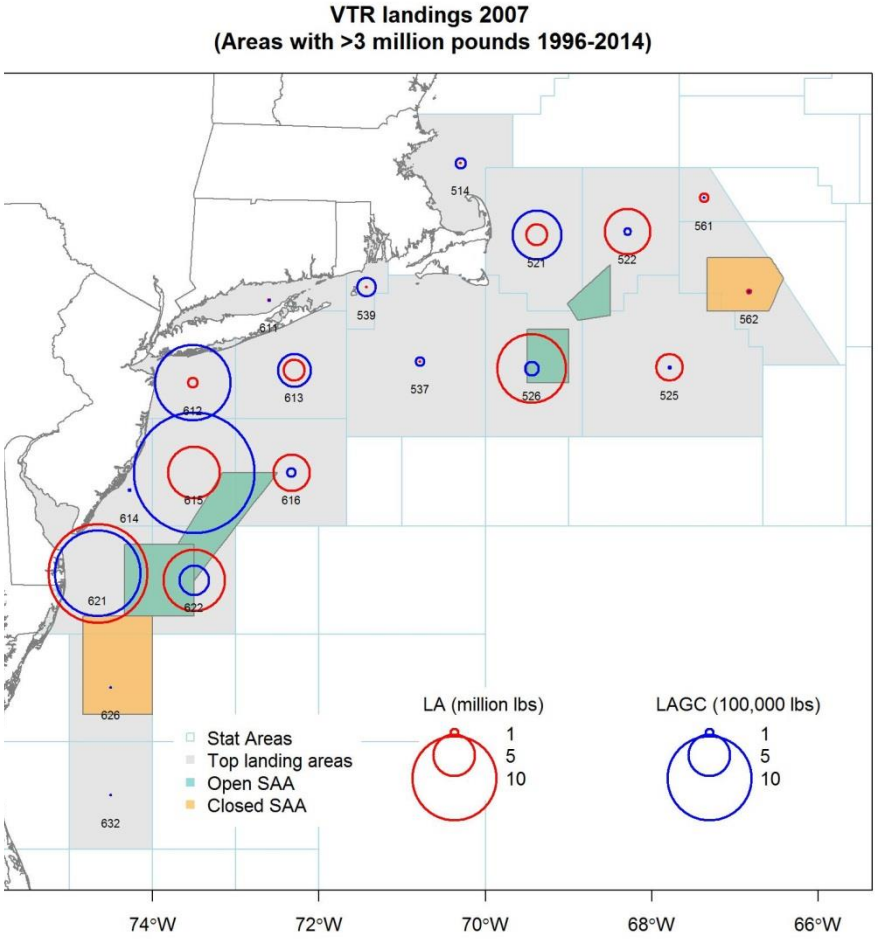
VTR Landings by permit





VTR Landings by permit





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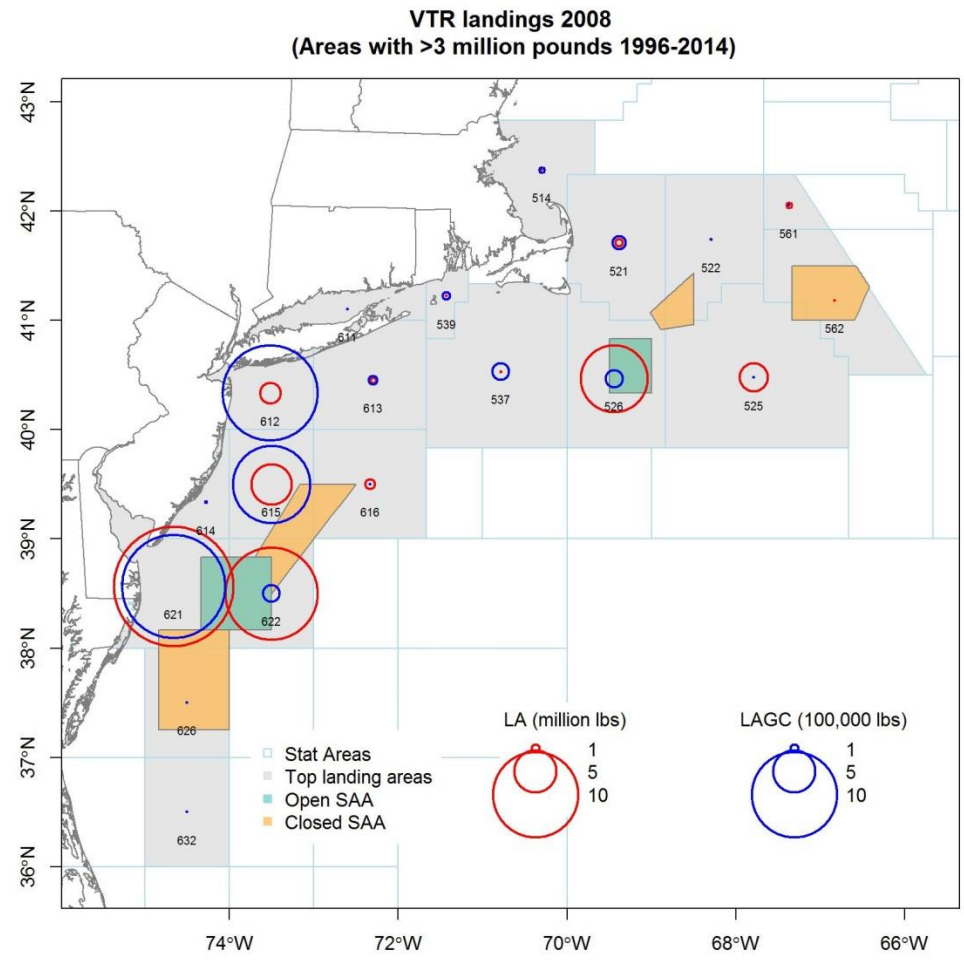

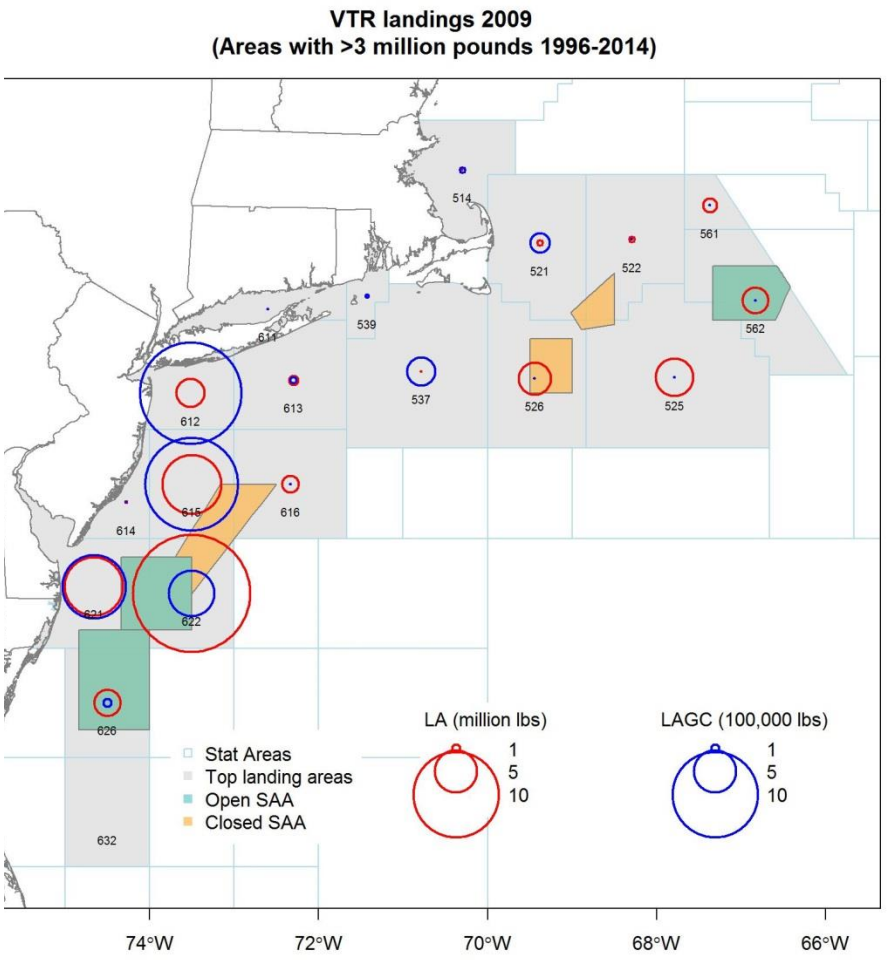

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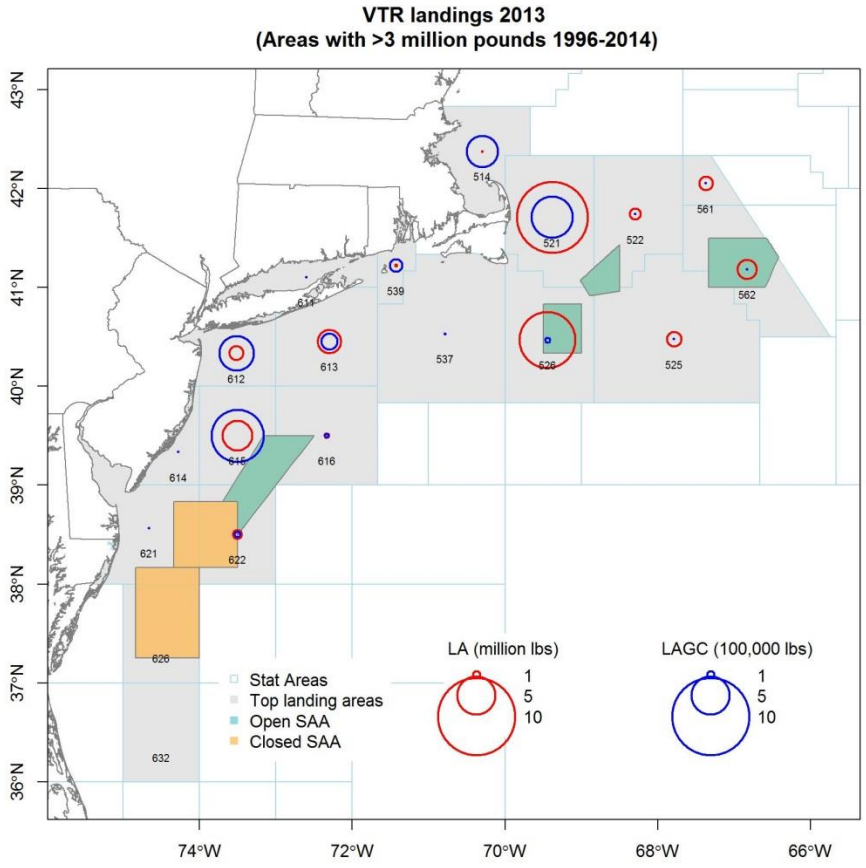

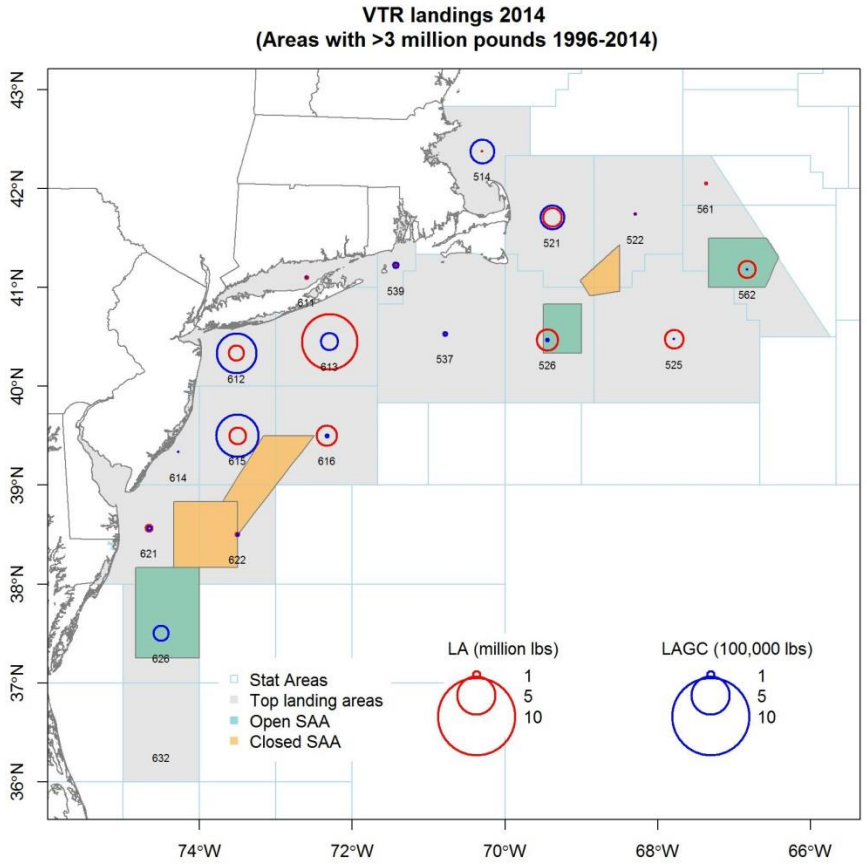

4.0 Potential measures for discussion

- No Action
- Inshore fishing zone
- Max # of DAS inshore
- Differential DAS usage inshore/offshore
- Flexible allocation of inshore areas
- Close inshore to LA when catch rates fall under threshold
- Area rotation program in near shore areas
- Adjust possession limits
- Others?

AP recommends leaving all options in for discussion

5.0 Data Needs

- VMS data
- Trends in quota per platform, IFQ allocations
- Evaluate realized F in near shore areas
- Vessel characteristics
- Trip length and costs

AP recommends LPUE by area

6.0 Workshop Logistics

- Who? Where? When?
- Format?
- Professional facilitator?
- Next steps?

AP recommends that more than one day may be needed, mixed input on 1 or 2 meetings, support professional facilitator.

Cmte Agenda Item

- Review AP input in draft white paper
  - Draft problem statement and goals
  - Input on range of potential measures to discuss
  - Input on data needs
  - Input on workshop logistics

- Any specific input on draft white paper or workshop format for Council to consider in June?