

Science, Service, Stewardship



NOAA

Domestic Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Review

**HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
Silver Spring, MD
September 21, 2011**

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Challenge Presented by 2011 BFT Quota Rule

Adjusted bluefin tuna (BFT) quota for 2011 was insufficient to cover base allocations plus anticipated dead discards



Topics for BFT Management Review

Measures suggested in public comments on
Proposed 2011 BFT Quota Rule:

- Increase use of directed BFT quotas
- Change domestic allocations among fishing categories
- Decrease BFT bycatch
- Modify permit structure
- Improve monitoring of all landings and discards
- Decrease dead discards in pelagic longline (PLL) fishery



Topics for BFT Management Review

- The Agency is in the process of examining the regulations that affect *all* BFT fisheries, both commercial and recreational, including fisheries that catch BFT as bycatch.
- Review of PLL-related issues is a step in that process.
- The white paper focuses on landings and dead discards of BFT in the PLL fishery as a first step.



Topics for Discussion with HMS AP

NMFS is looking for your input on measures related to the following themes, which may warrant further consideration:

- Reduce PLL BFT interactions
 - Fishing gear
 - Time/area closures
 - Hard caps
- Adjust quota allocations among categories
- Reduce waste by reducing/prohibiting discards
- Establish PLL sectors (regional/ITQ)
- Expand use of monitoring tools in all categories
- Encourage industry collaboration



Background: PLL Fishery



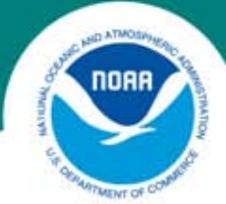
Vessels

- 242 Permits
- 116 Active vessels

Economic Value:

- \$13.4 million worth of HMS products
- 37% of \$36.3 million for commercial Atlantic HMS landings fleet wide

(All figures for 2010)



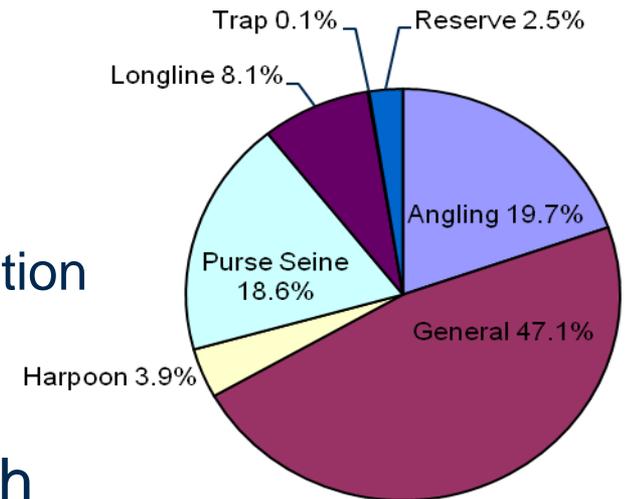
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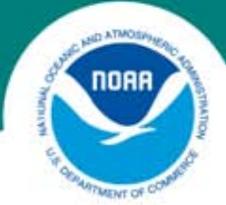
Target Species: swordfish, yellowfin tuna

Incidental BFT Allocation: 8.1%

- Based on landings during 1983 – 1991
- Dead discards were not included in calculation

Management Objective: balance utilization of incidentally caught BFT with decreasing dead discards and curbing potential for targeting BFT





BFT Catch in the PLL Fishery

Convergence of 3 Factors:

- 1) Adjustments to the ICCAT western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program recommendations
 - Reductions in TAC
 - Decreases in “carry-forward”
 - Discontinuation of dead discard allowance
- 2) Estimates of U.S. dead discards in the PLL fishery are up due, in part, to change in methodology
- 3) U.S. landings are up, including PLL landings

Factor 1: Changes to ICCAT's Western BFT Recommendations

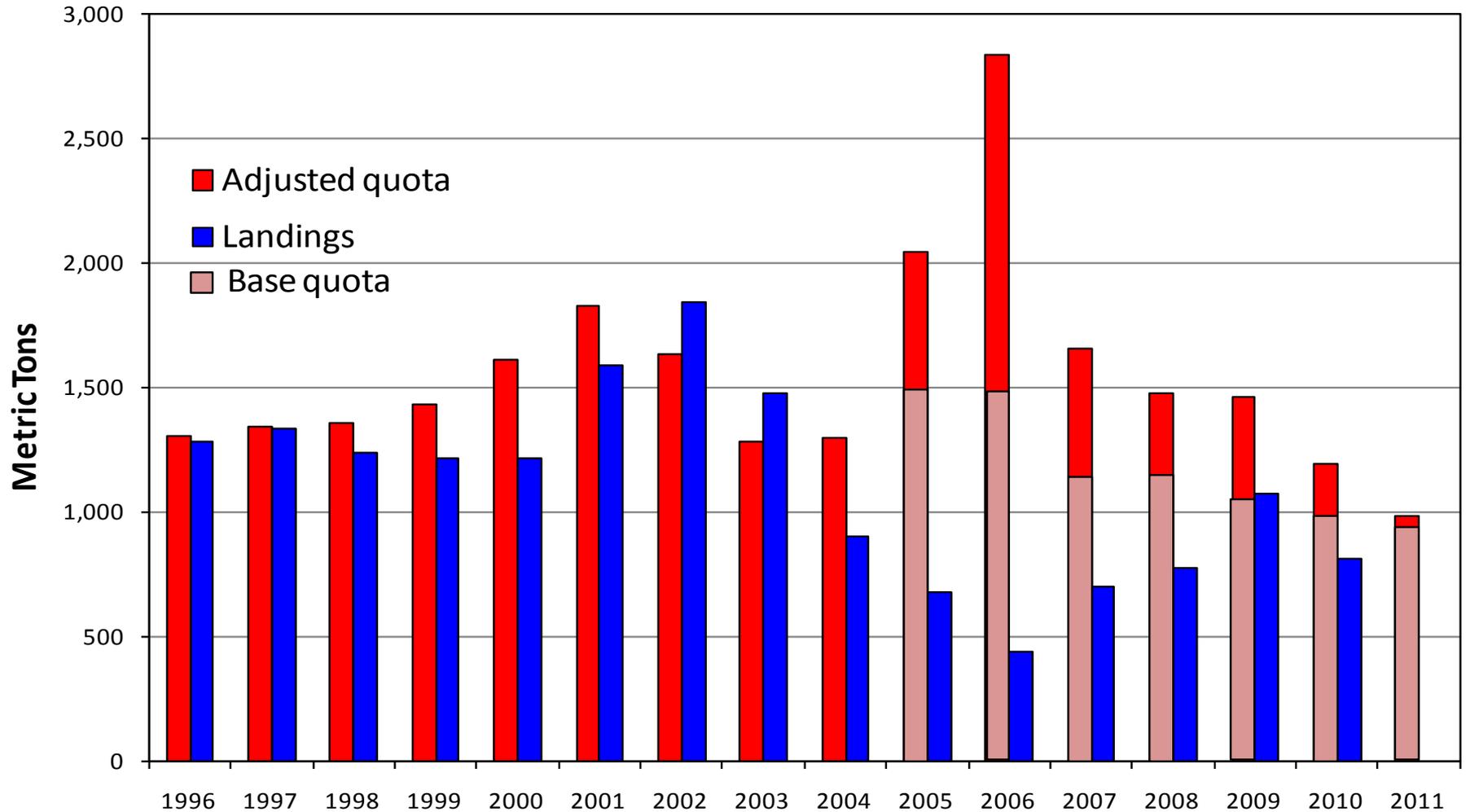
| ICCAT Rec No. | Quota Year | TAC (mt) | U.S. Quota (mt) | % "carry-forward" | U.S. Dead Discard Allowance |
|---------------|------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 98-07 | 1999-2002 | 2500 | 1387 | unrestricted | 67.7 mt (85.7% of 79 mt) |
| 02-07 | 2003-04 | 2700 | 1489.6 ¹ | unrestricted | 67.7 mt |
| 04-05 | 2005-06 | 2700 | 1489.6 | unrestricted | 67.7 mt |
| 06-06 | 2007-08 | 2100 | 1190.1 | 50% (up to 595.1 mt) | None |
| 08-04 | 2009 | 1900 | 1034.9 | 50% (up to 517.5 mt) | None |
| | 2010 | 1800 | 977.4 | 50% (up to 488.7 mt) | None |
| 10-03 | 2011 | 1750 | 948.7 | 10% (up to 94.9 mt) | None |
| | 2012 | 1750 | 948.7 | 10% (up to 94.9 mt) | None |

¹ all quotas after Rec. 02-07 incl. 25 mt for bycatch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary (i.e., in the NED)

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U.S. BFT Quotas and Landings 1996-2011

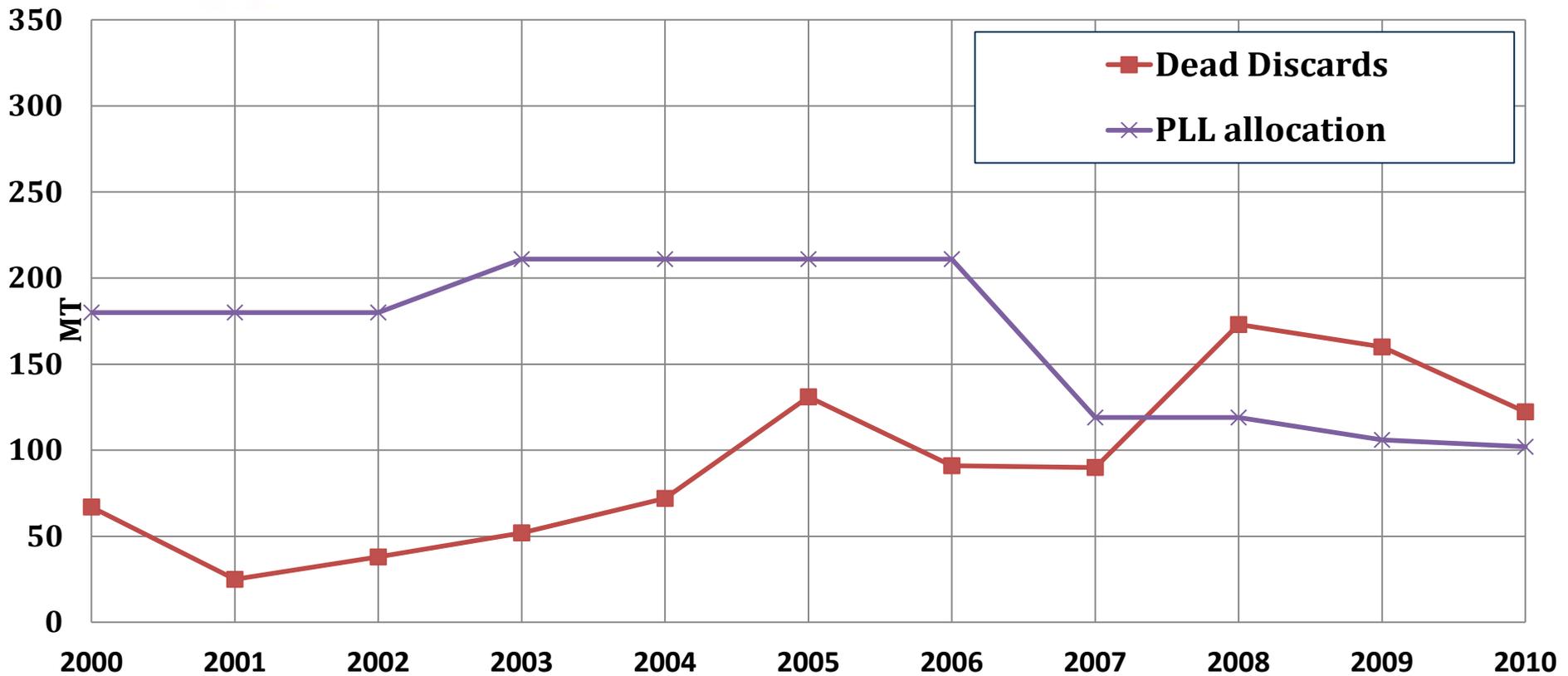


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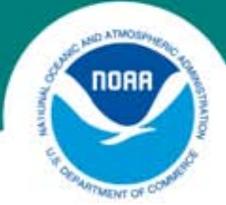
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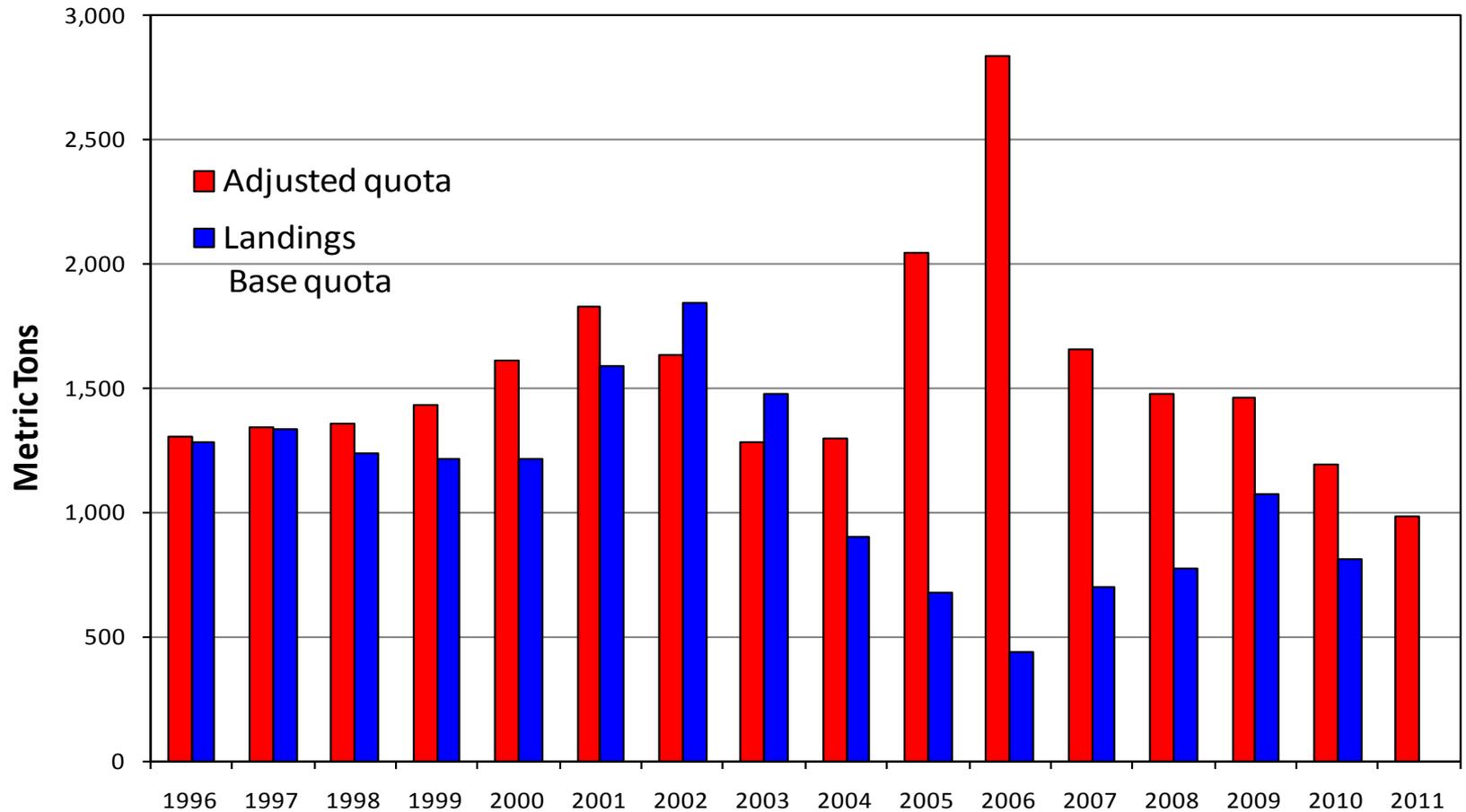
Factor 2: Estimates of U.S. Dead Discards are Up



* "PLL allocation": 8.1% Longline base quota + 25 mt for the NED (2003-2010) + the 68-mt allowance from ICCAT for PLL bycatch (2000-2006)

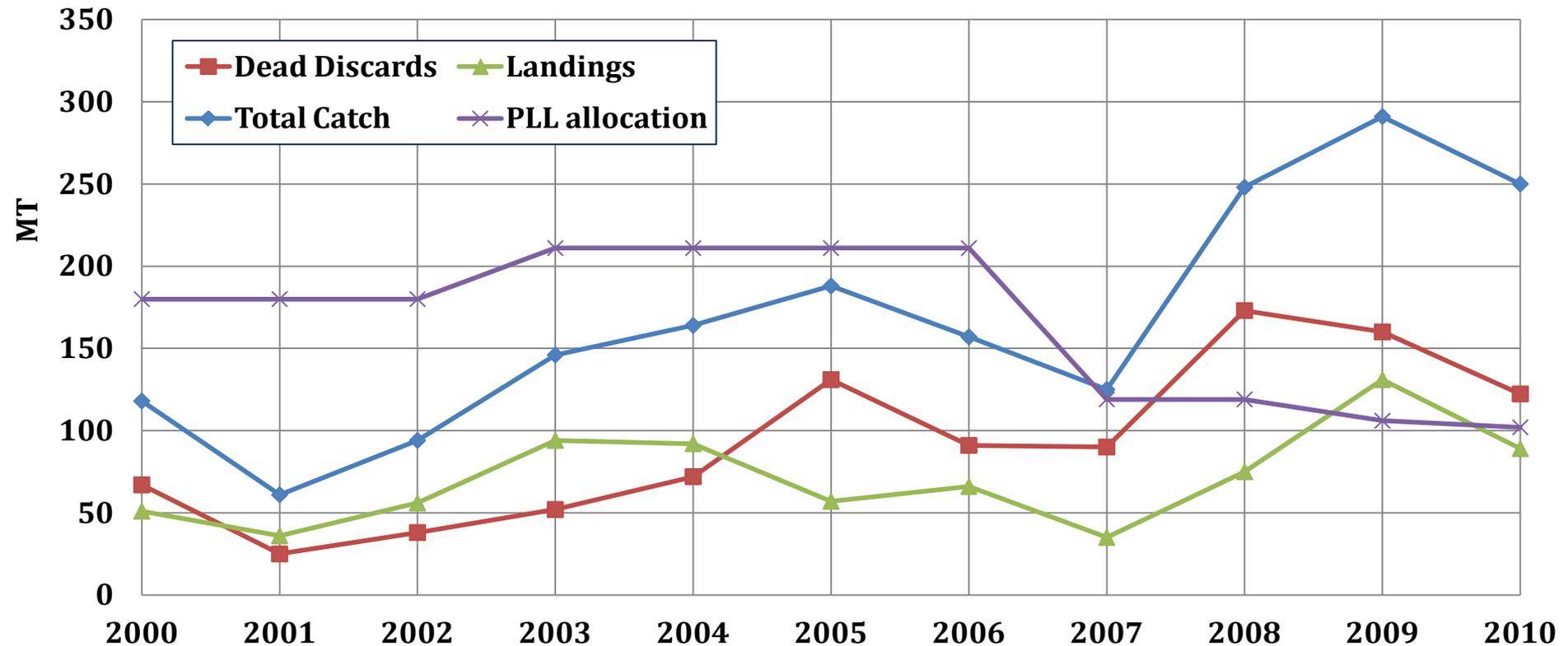


Factor 3: U.S. Landings are Up



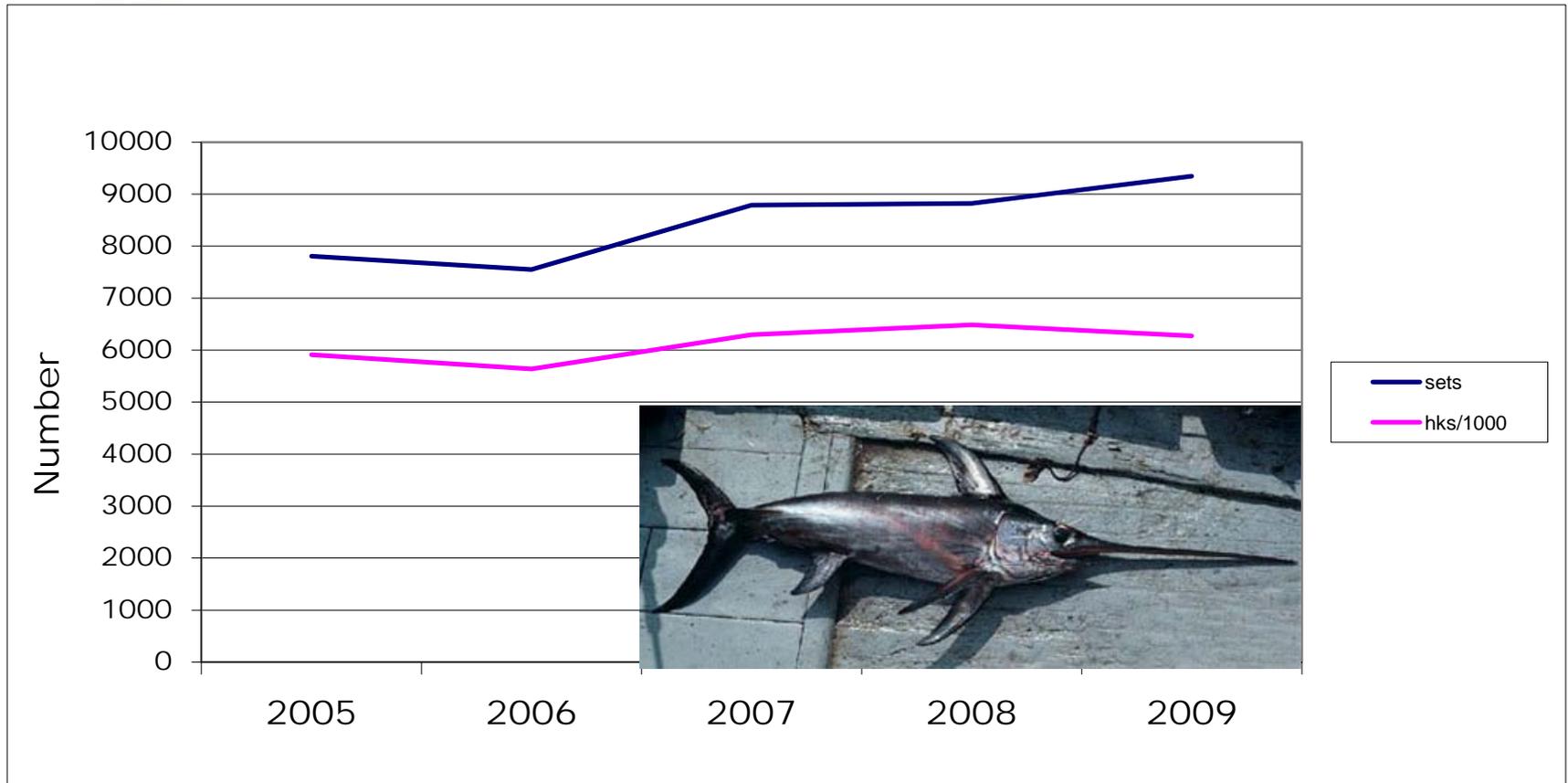


Factor 3: U.S. Landings are Up, including PLL Landings





PLL Effort 2005-2009





PLL Interactions with BFT (No. of Fish)



| Year | Landed | Discarded Dead | Discarded Alive | Total |
|------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 1095 | 749 | 1000 | 1549 |
| 2007 | 1702 | 769 | 1103 | 2061 |
| 2008 | 1760 | 936 | 1289 | 2292 |
| 2009 | 1919 | 1276 | 1883 | 2769 |



Case Studies

Examples of management approaches used in other fisheries facing similar issues regarding bycatch and dead discards.

| Fishery | Management Approach | Monitoring | Status of Management Program |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gulf of Mexico Shrimp/Red Snapper | Area closures implemented the following season if bycatch reduction targets exceeded | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - observers - logbooks - port samples | Bycatch reduction targets have been met due to reduced effort; no closures |
| Northeast Sea Scallop/Yellowtail Flounder | Rotational access to 5 areas w/hard bycatch caps. If cap is hit, access areas closed, vessels allocated DAS in open areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - observers - logbooks - dealer reports | SMAST collaboration has been successful at keeping areas open; scallop pop. healthy |
| Bering Sea Pollock/Chinook Salmon | Transferrable prohibited species catch limits; level of catch limit informed by IPA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -100% observer coverage -annual reports from sectors | Pollock/Chinook salmon healthy |

| Fishery | Management Approach | Monitoring | Status of Management Program |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Northeast Groundfish/Cod, Hake, etc | Sector allocations that allow transfers; discards of legal sized groundfish prohibited; closure when allocation for any species is met | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -observers -logbooks -dealer reports | After first year no hard cap closures necessary; no overages |
| Canadian PLL Fishery (SWO, tunas) | Incidental quota; transfers btw incidental/directed categories; all BFT must be landed for concurrent trips | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -hail in landings/tag #s -logbooks -dockside monitors -observers | -low discards |



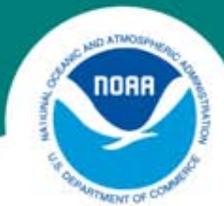
Other Management Approaches and their Application to HMS?

- Quota for incidental BFT and closed areas in subsequent seasons (shrimp/snapper)
- SMAST/industry model to identify areas of high bycatch (scallop/yellowtail)
- Additional time/area closures and application of hard caps w/real time monitoring (scallop/yellowtail)

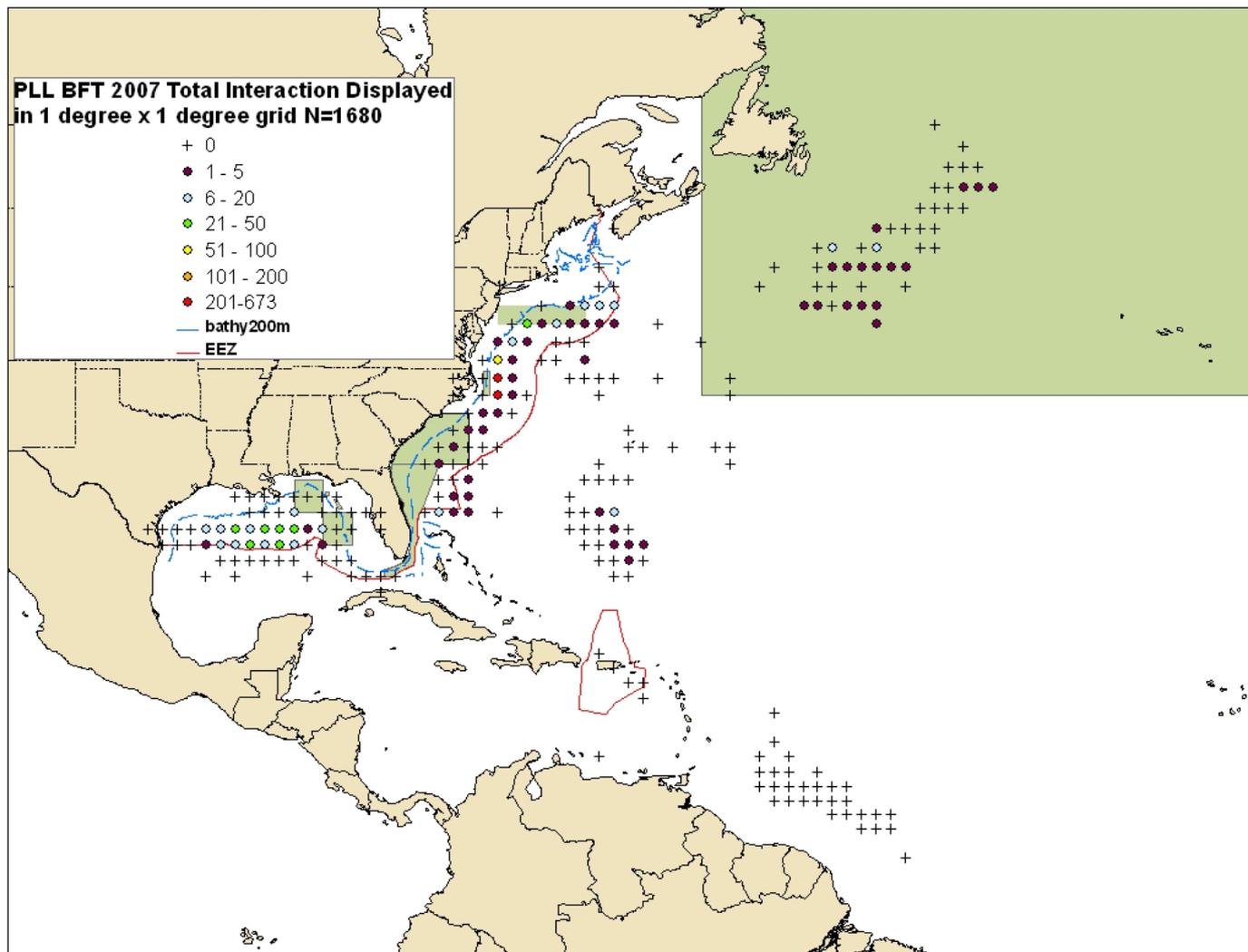


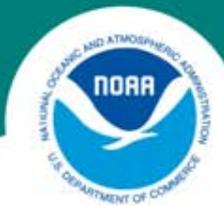
Other Management Approaches and their Application to HMS?

- Sectors and/or distribution of individual BFT catch limits based on Incentive Plan Agreements (IPA) developed by industry (pollock/salmon)
- Sectors within PLL fishery or individual, transferrable bycatch allocations (NE groundfish)
- Increased incidental quotas; ITQs; allocation of BFT tags to individual vessels (Canadian PLL)

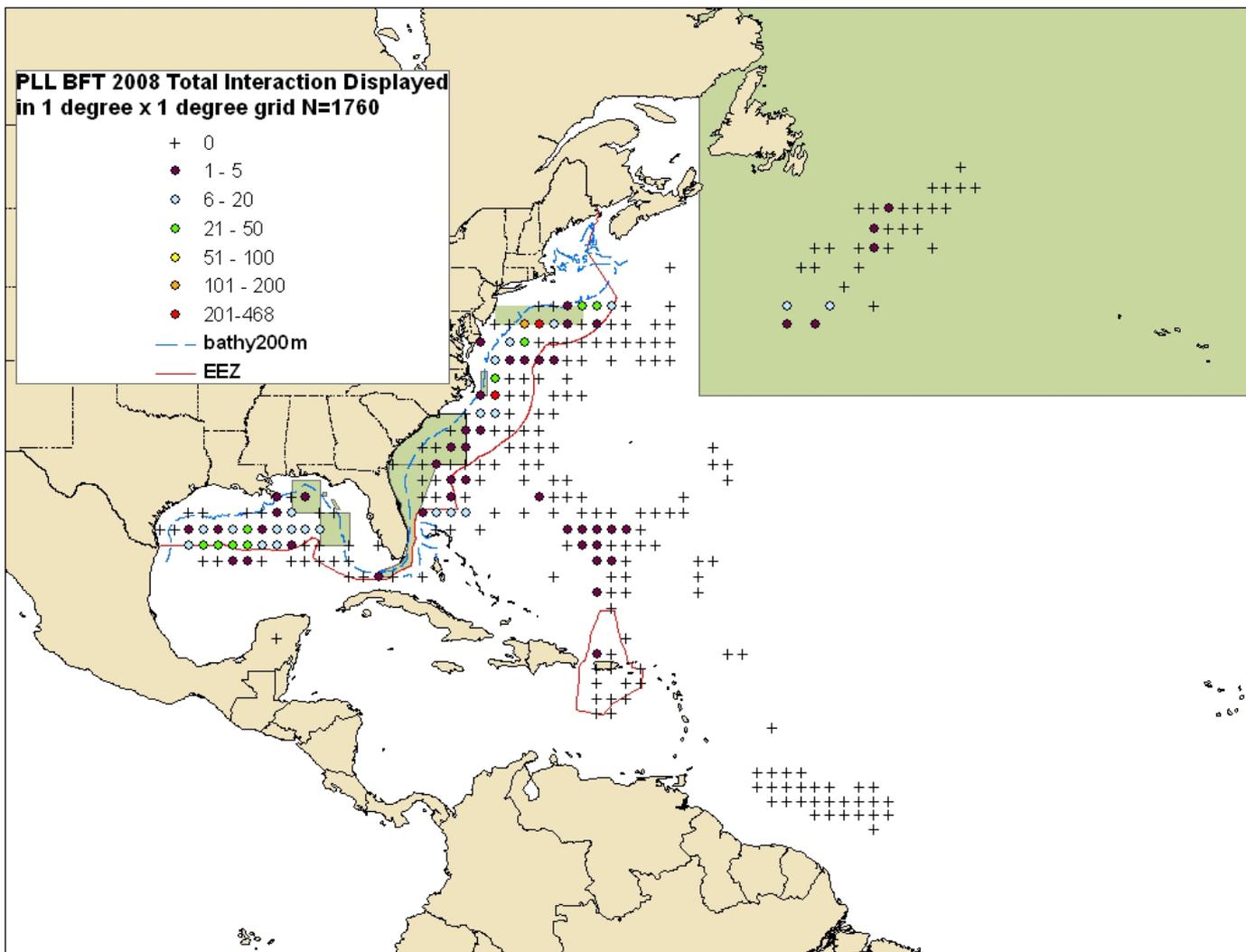


2007 BFT PLL Interactions



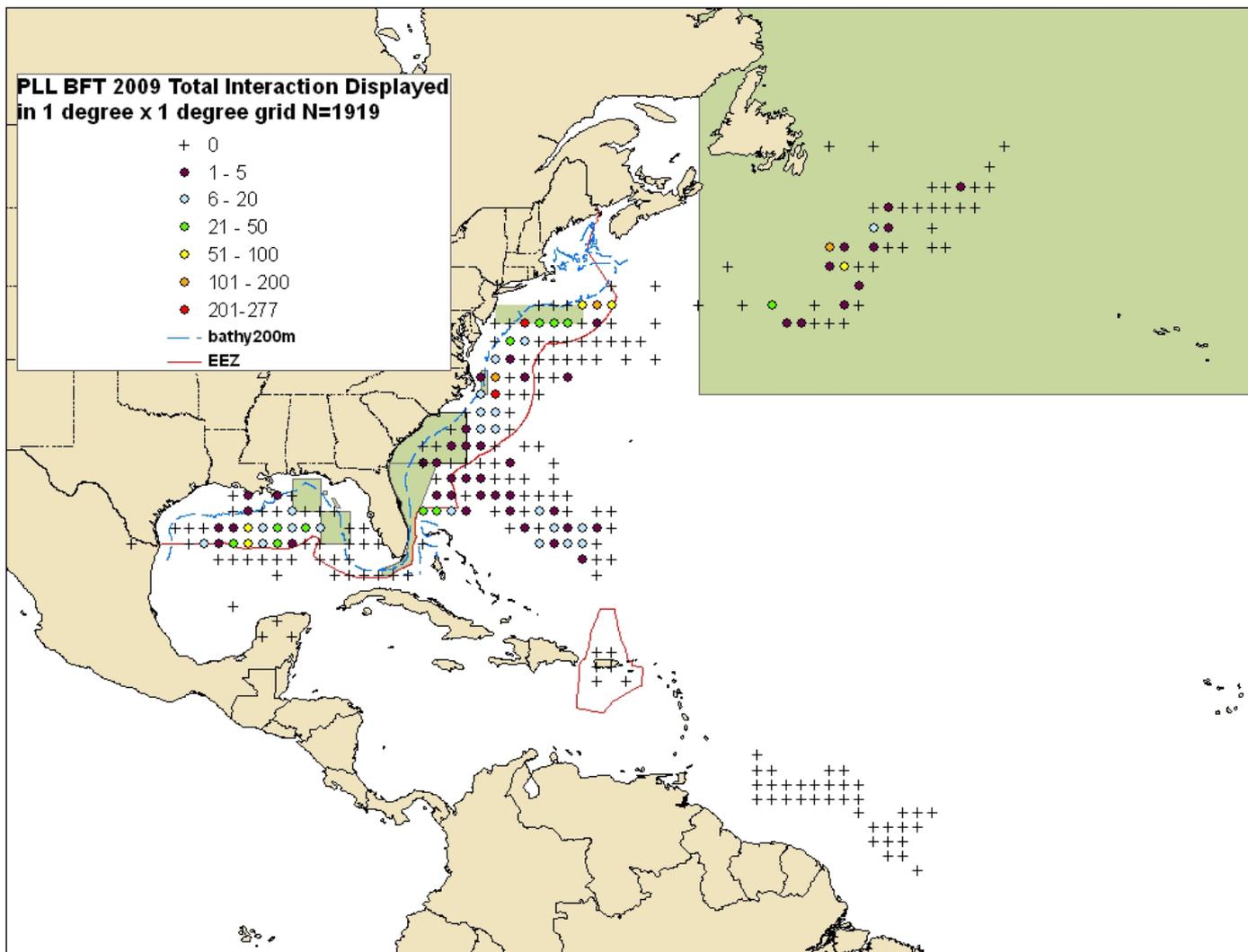


2008 BFT PLL Interactions



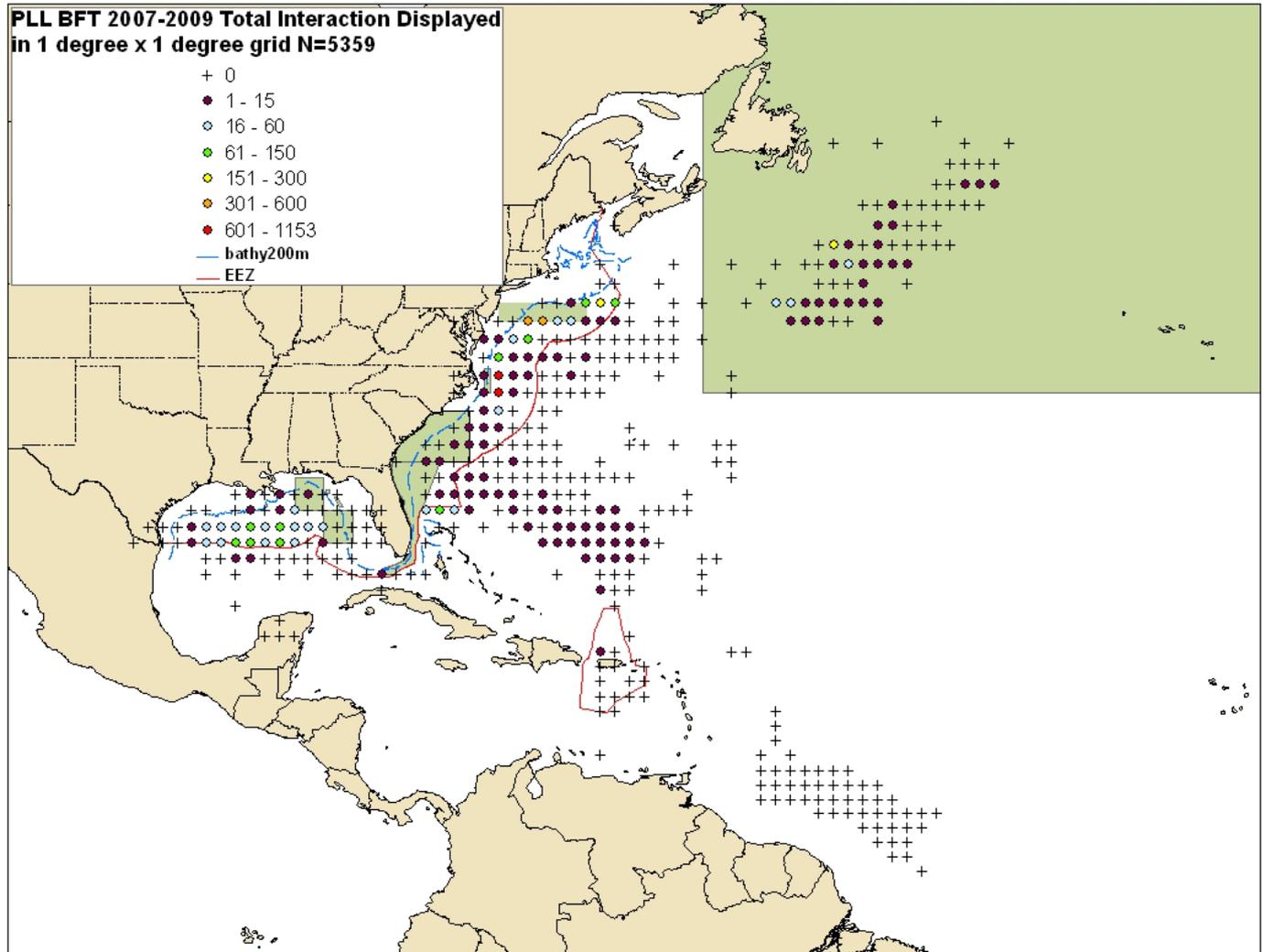


2009 BFT PLL Interactions





2007-2009 BFT PLL Interactions



Longline Quotas, Landings, Dead Discards and Catch, 2008-2010

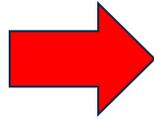
| | Area | Metric tons (rounded) | | | |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | | Adjusted Quota ¹ | Landings ² | Dead Discards ² | Total Catch |
| 2010 | NED | 25 | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| | East Coast ~ "North" | 30 | 35 | 84 | 120 |
| | GoM ~ "South" | 45 | 44 | 34 | 78 |
| | Total | 100 | 88 | 122 | 211 |
| 2009 | NED ³ | 25 | 51 | 5 | 56 |
| | East Coast ~ "North" | 30 | 46 | 77 | 123 |
| | GoM ~ "South" | 45 | 33 | 78 | 111 |
| | Total | 100 | 131 | 160 | 291 |
| 2008 | NED | 25 | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| | East Coast ~ "North" | 23 | 40 | 67 | 107 |
| | GoM ~ "South" | 34 | 26 | 86 | 112 |
| | Total | 82 | 75 | 158 | 233 |

1 Adjusted quota as published for LLN and LLS in annual quota specifications (N & S of 31°N. lat.)

2 Landings and dead discards as reported by ICCAT Statistical Area in U.S. National Reports to ICCAT

3 NMFS applied target catch requirements when 2009 NED set-aside met, effective Oct. 20-Dec. 31.

4 Totals subject to rounding error.



Adjusted BFT quotas may be insufficient to cover all sources of current mortality.

Topics for Discussion

NMFS is looking for your input on measures related to the following themes, which may warrant further consideration:

- Reduce PLL BFT interactions
 - Fishing gear
 - Time/area closures
 - Hard caps
- Adjust quota allocations among/within categories
- Reduce waste by reducing/prohibiting discards
- Establish PLL sectors (regional/ITQ)
- Expand use of monitoring tools in all categories
- Encourage industry/academia collaboration
- Others?



Questions?

