

NOAA
FISHERIES

Southeast
Region

Gulf Headboat Collaborative Exempted Fishing Permit



Biloxi, MS
March-April 2015

Timeline

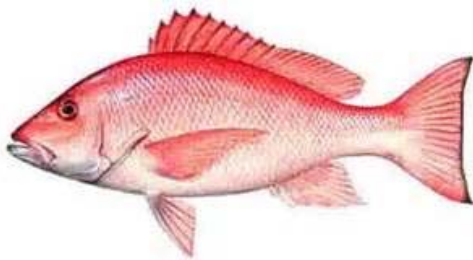
- Collaborative members submitted EFP for a two-year pilot program for red snapper and gag
- Council recommended approval April 2012
- NMFS approved EFP Aug 2013
- EFP began Jan 2014

Goals and Objectives

- Assess if an allocation-based management program can better achieve conservation and economic goals
- Evaluate effectiveness of new electronic data collection for next to real-time catch and effort data
- Conduct a comparative socio-economic study to assess impacts

Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Details

- Valid January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015
- Prominently display permit onboard each vessel
- Must present permit for inspection upon request to a law enforcement officer
- Vessels can not join or leave program mid-year; otherwise forego privileges to harvest red snapper or gag for the remainder of the year.



Exemptions

- **What is exempted?**
 - Recreational season closures for red snapper and gag
 - Closure of gag when catch target reached
- **What is not exempted?**
 - Size and bag limits
 - February-March shallow-water grouper closure > 120 ft
 - Red snapper harvest prohibition once NOAA Fisheries determines quota is met (MSA Sec 407(d))

Participating Vessels



17 Vessels participating in 2014

Vessels can not join/leave program mid-year

Additional vessels may be added for 2015, total maximum of 20

Calculation of Quotas

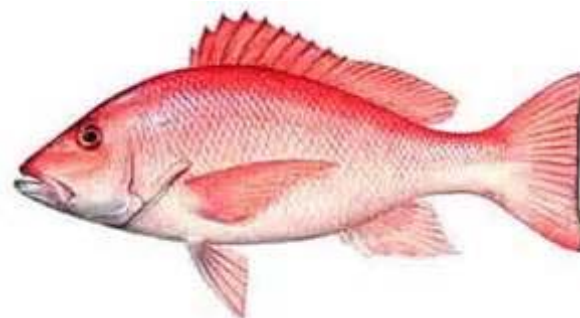
$$\frac{2011 \text{ Collaborative landings}}{2011 \text{ Recreational Landings}^*} \times 2014 \text{ recreational quotas}$$



$$\frac{2014 \text{ Collaborative pounds}}{\text{Pre-season avg pounds}} = \# \text{ of fish}$$



2.8343%
43,053 lbs gw
6,017 fish

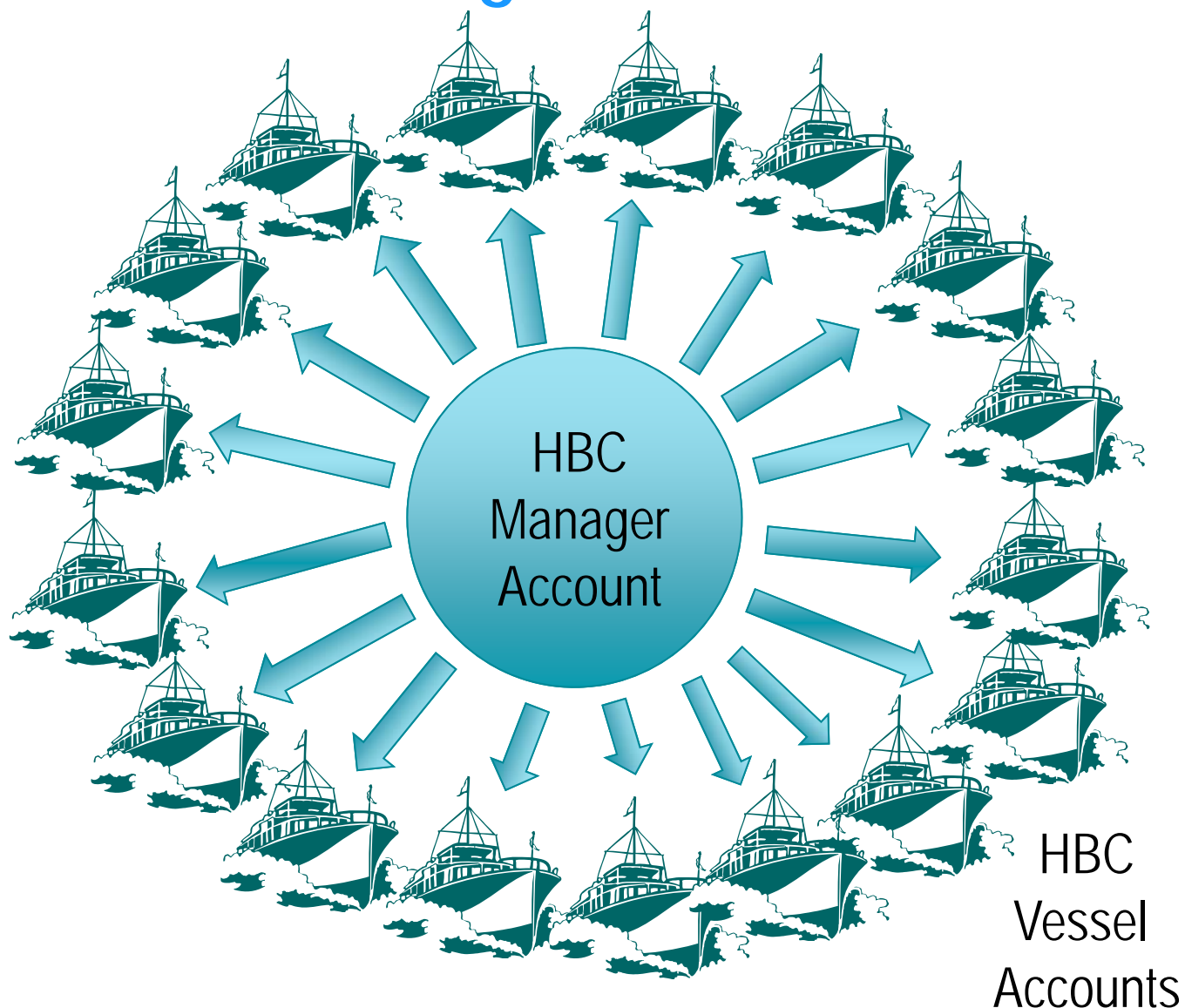


5.3146%
286,457 lbs ww
55,527 fish

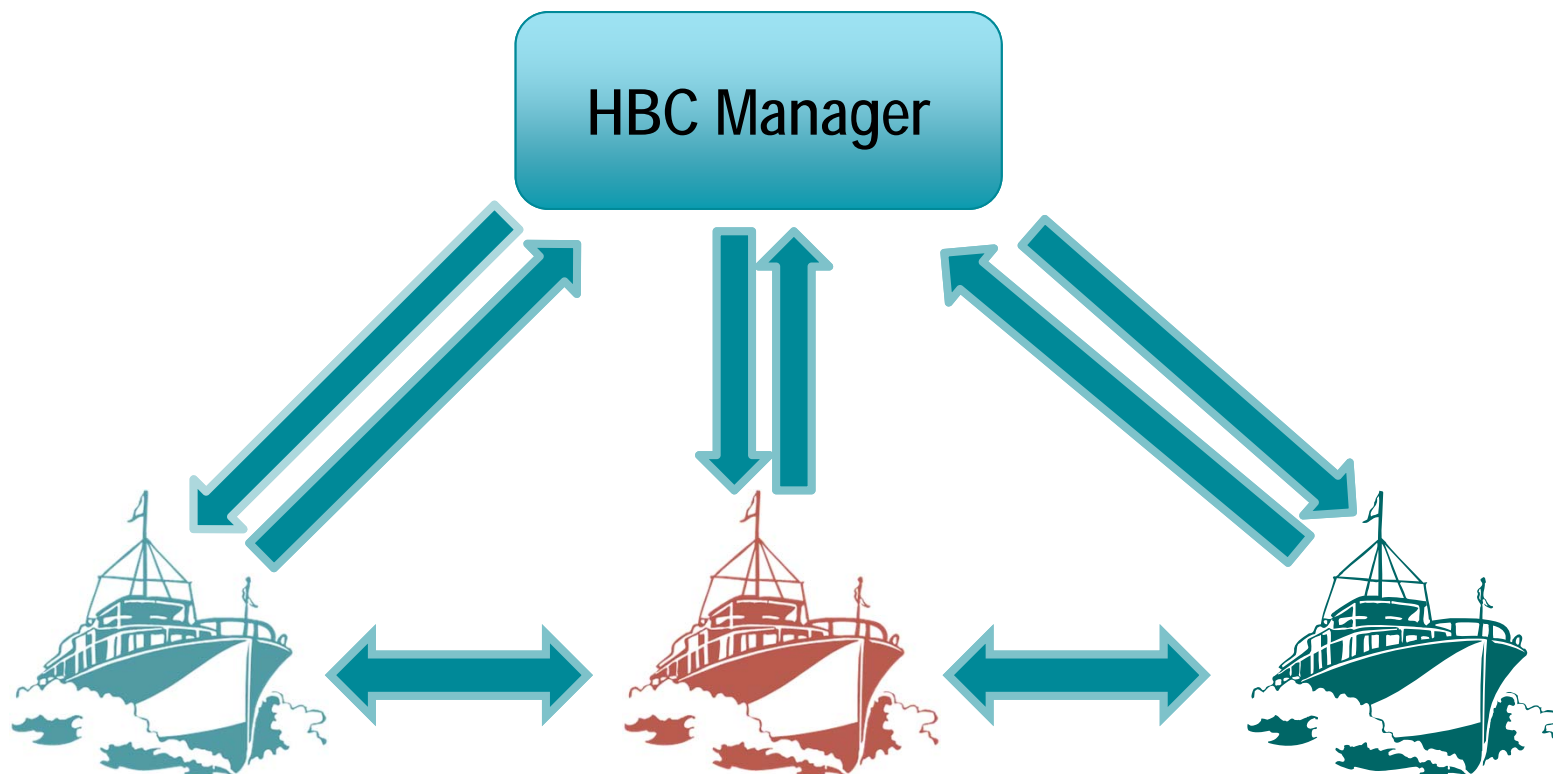
* Landings not calibrated based on new dockside intercept methodologies for 2014 Collaborative allotment; MRIP calibration completed in late-2014

Distribution of Quota Among Vessels

Quota distributed by HBC manager to vessel account on or after January 1



Transfer of Quota Allocation



HBC Vessel Accounts

Program Requirement and Monitoring

- Management measures and reporting requirements constrain the Headboat Collaborative to its allotment
 - VMS tracking and approved landing locations
 - Daily reporting, dockside validation
- Headboat Collaborative participants agreed to:
 - 5% hold back in Manager's account at start of year
 - Tag system to verify legally caught species
 - 25 cents/tag; paid by Collaborative members



HBC Reporting



VMS Trip Declaration

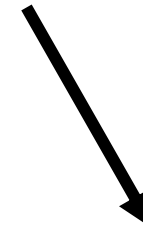
 E-mail to LE and dockside samplers



1-hour advanced landing notification thru VMS



 E-mail to LE and dockside samplers



Land only at a pre-approved location



Submit e-Log on same day as trip




Landings uploaded to the SE Region's online system and deducted from each vessel's quota



Daily Landing Updates

<https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/cs/>

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 **NOAA FISHERIES** | SERO Catch Shares Programs
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL v4.0.6

Home View Dealers View Approved Landing Locations Additional Information Forgot PIN Log In

Welcome to the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) Catch Share Programs - Public Home

This page is home to the Commercial Red Snapper and Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) programs and the Headboat Collaborative pilot (HBC) program. These programs are intended to reduce the race to catch quotas by allocating individual fishermen (IFQ) or groups of fishermen (HBC) quota that can be harvested at the fishermen's discretion. The programs are intended to achieve both conservation and economic goals through more efficient and more profitable harvesting and marketing practices.

Important Messages IFQ Landings **HBC Landings** About

HBC Landings for 2014 in numbers of fish

Share Category	Quota	2014 Landings to Date	% Quota Landed	Quota Remaining
HBC GAG	6,017	1,636	27.1	4,381
HBC RED SNAPPER	55,527	26,204	47.1	29,323

Updated immediately after landings processed

Customer Support Toll-Free 866-425-7627
Customer Support Email NMFS.SER.CatchShare@noaa.gov

OMB Control No. 0648-0551 Exp. Date 11/30/2014

WARNING: Using the browser's refresh or back button will log you out of the application. All unsaved transactions will be lost.

Data Validation and monitoring

- SERO staff monitoring trips from hail-out to e-Log
- Dockside sampling
 - Sampling staff in Florida, Alabama, and Texas
 - E-mail notifications when hailing out and hailing in to inform them of sampling opportunities.
 - Use existing dockside and at-sea methodologies to validate reported harvest information.
 - Biological sampling of red snapper and gag catches is a priority.



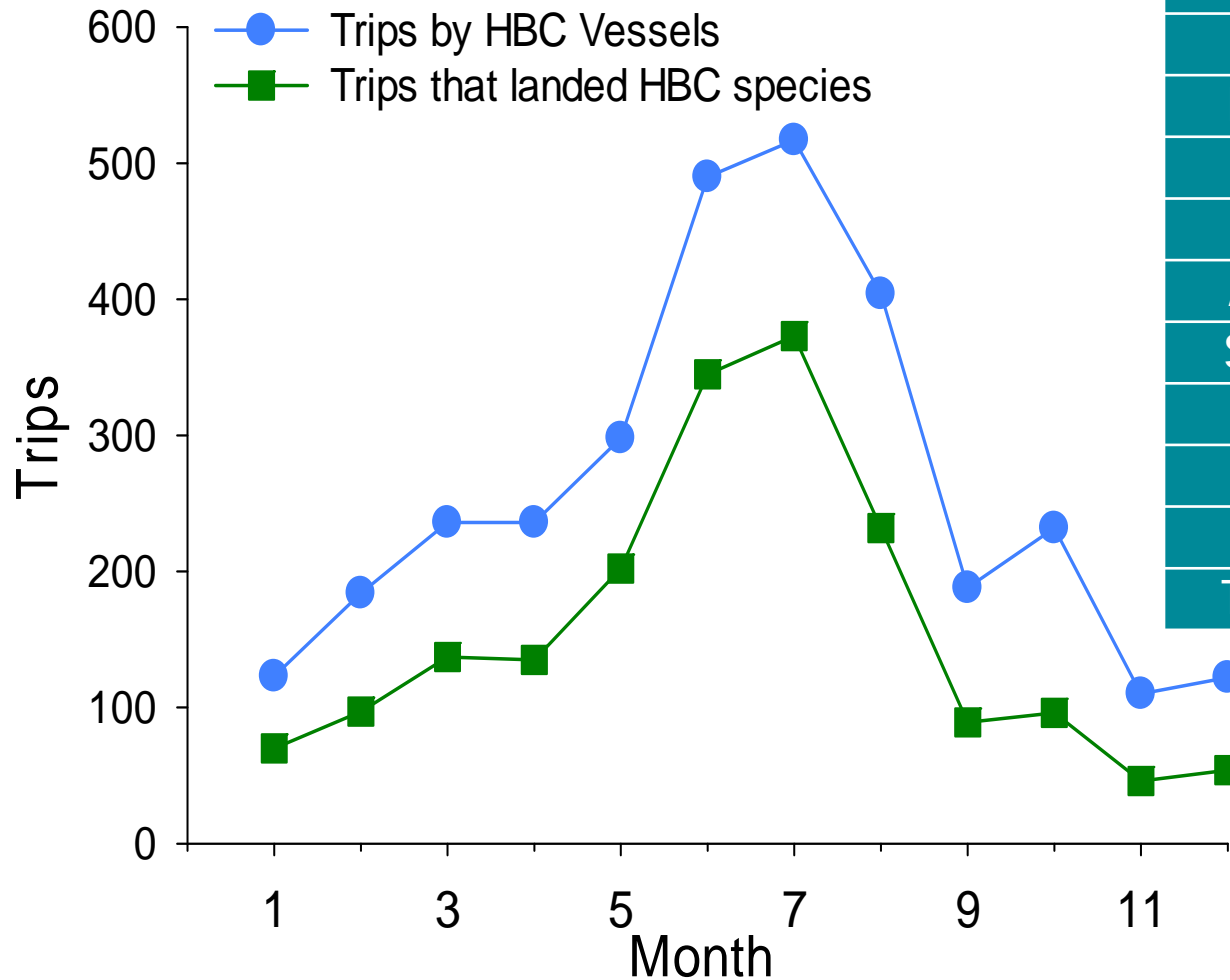
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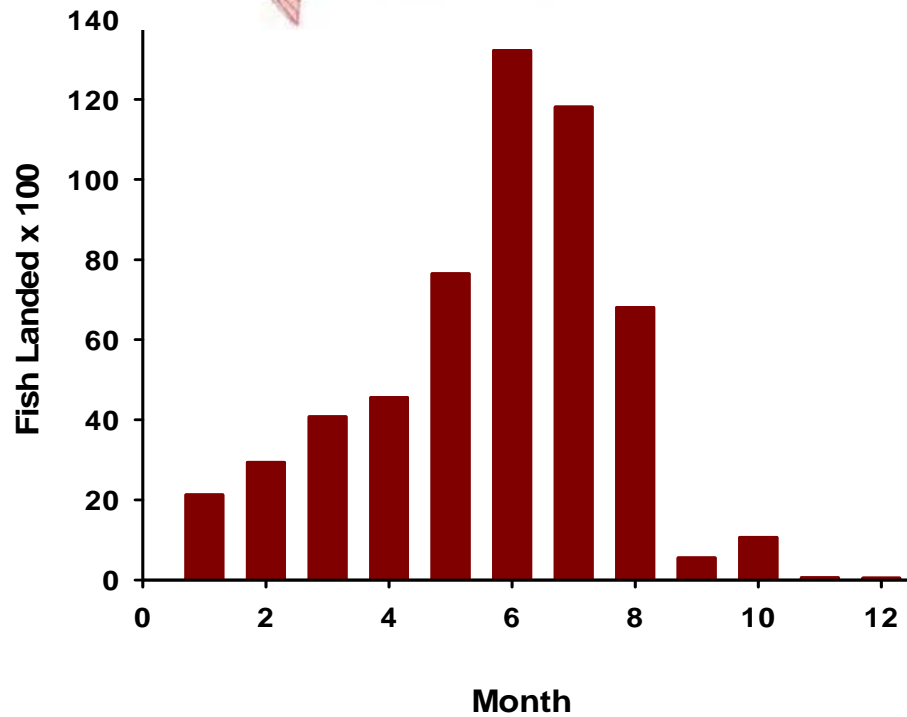
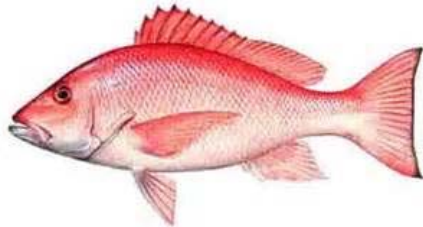
Andy Strelcheck, 9/17/2013

Trip Level Information

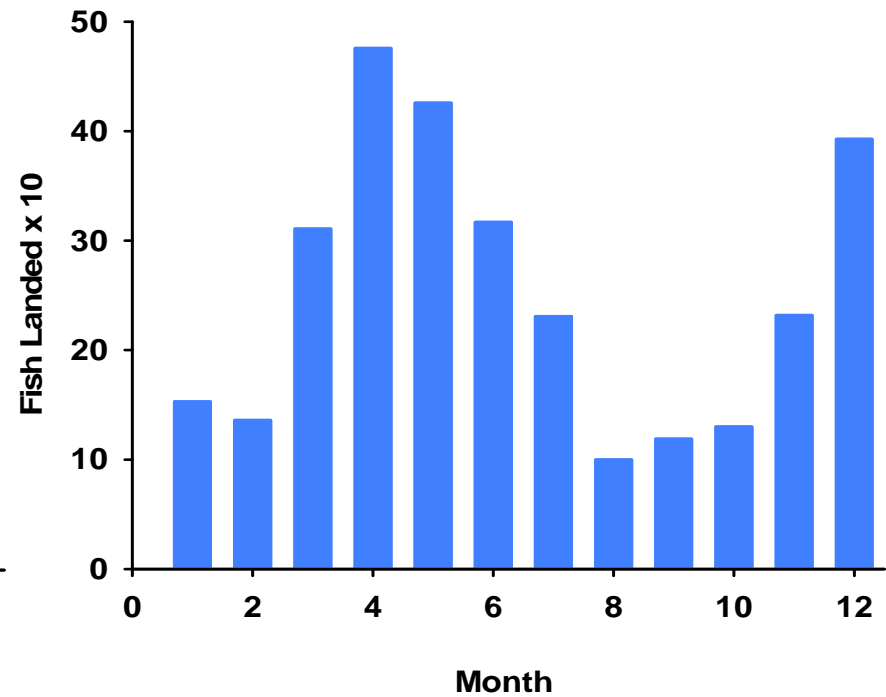
Month	Trips	RS	GG
Jan	123	39	39
Feb	184	68	43
Mar	236	89	51
Apr	236	88	61
May	298	146	79
Jun	490	287	77
Jul	517	312	80
Aug	404	185	54
Sept	188	39	51
Oct	232	38	64
Nov	110	3	44
Dec	122	1	54
Total	3,140	1,295	697



Total fish landed per month



54,907 fish landed (98.9% quota)



3,024 fish landed (50.3% quota)

Program Requirement and Monitoring

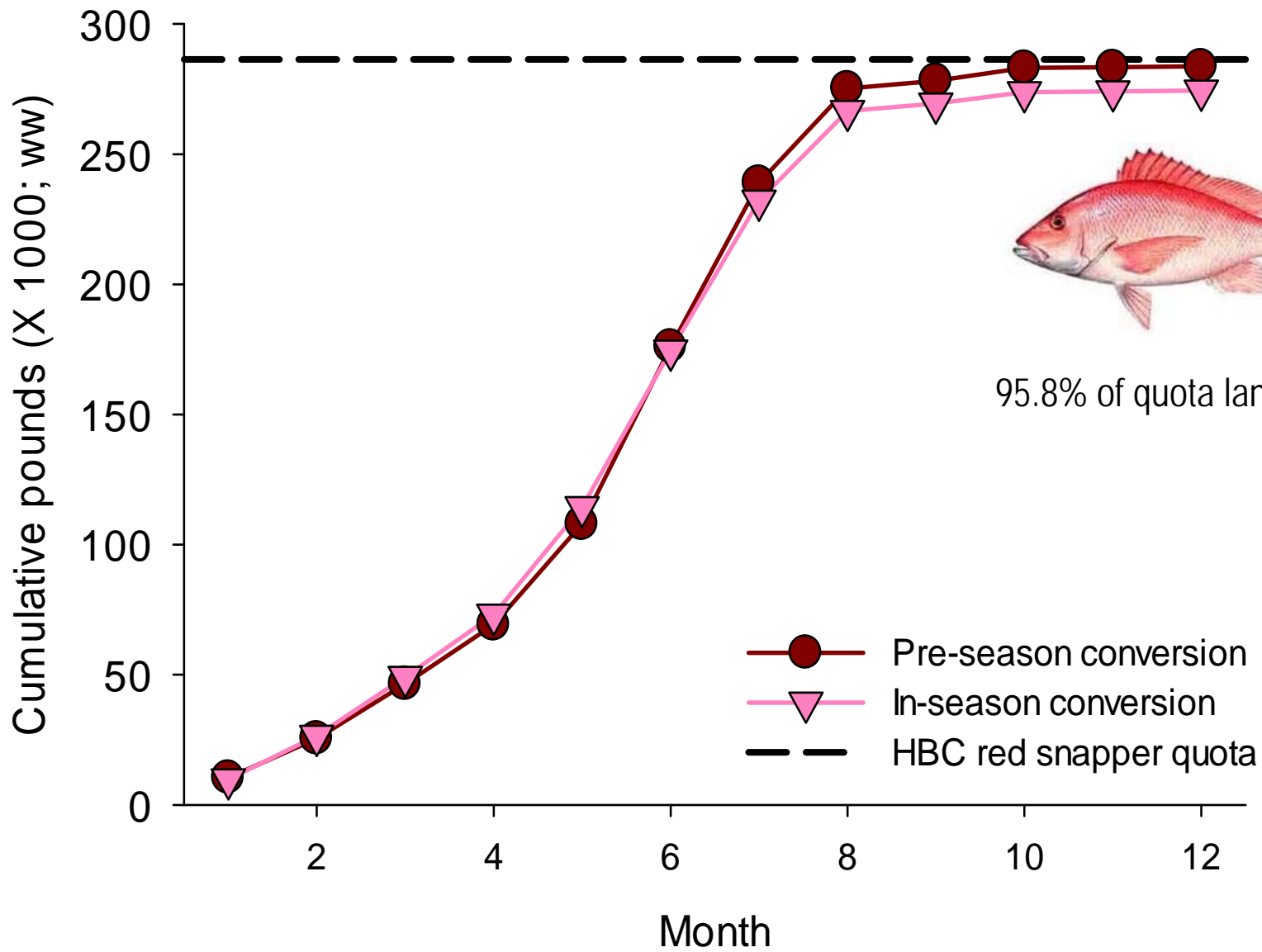
- If NMFS estimates the Headboat Collaborative's allotment *in pounds* has been harvested or determines the red snapper recreational quota has been met, then retention will be prohibited for the remainder of the fishing year, even if the Collaborative has allocation remaining

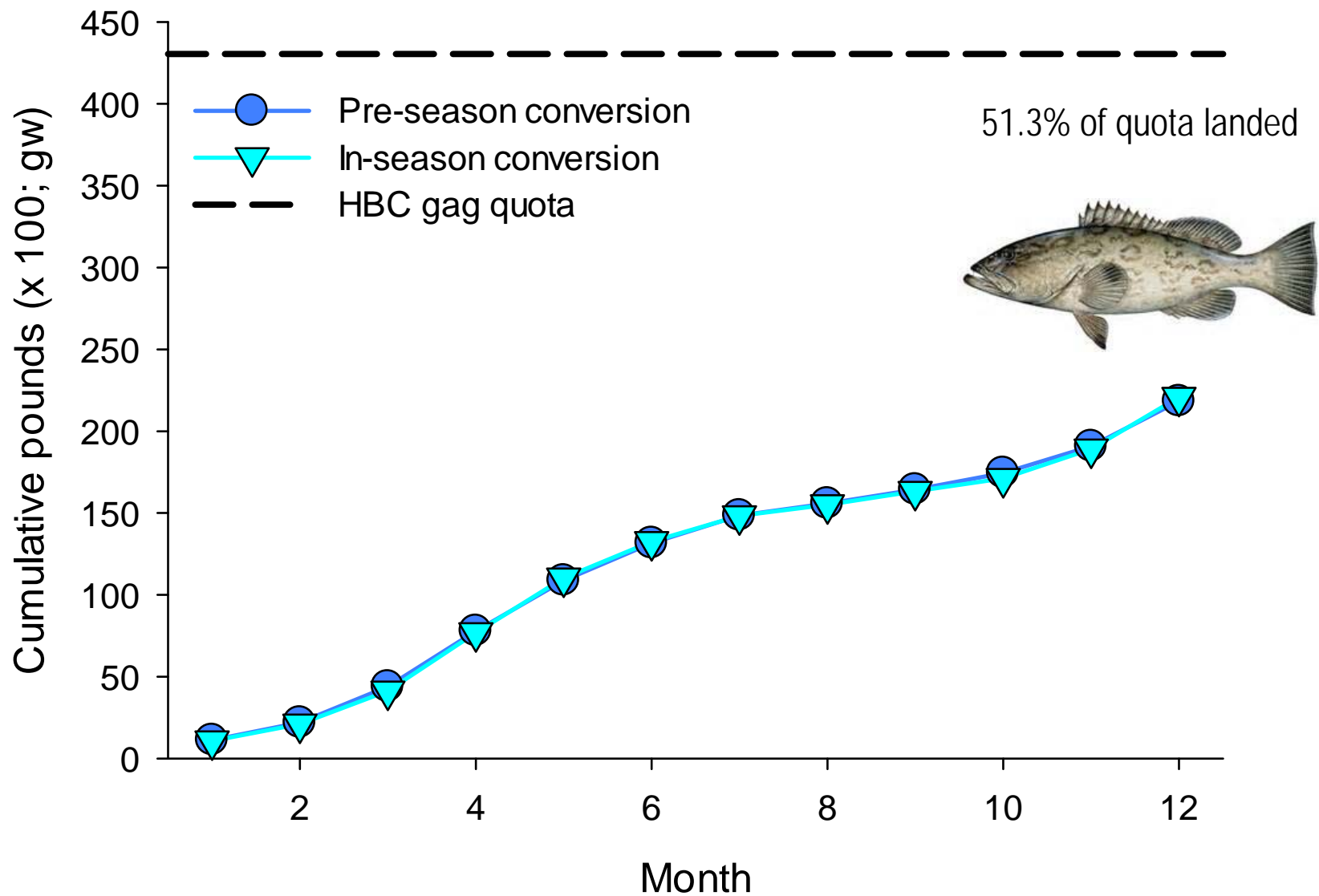
Converting Fish to Pounds

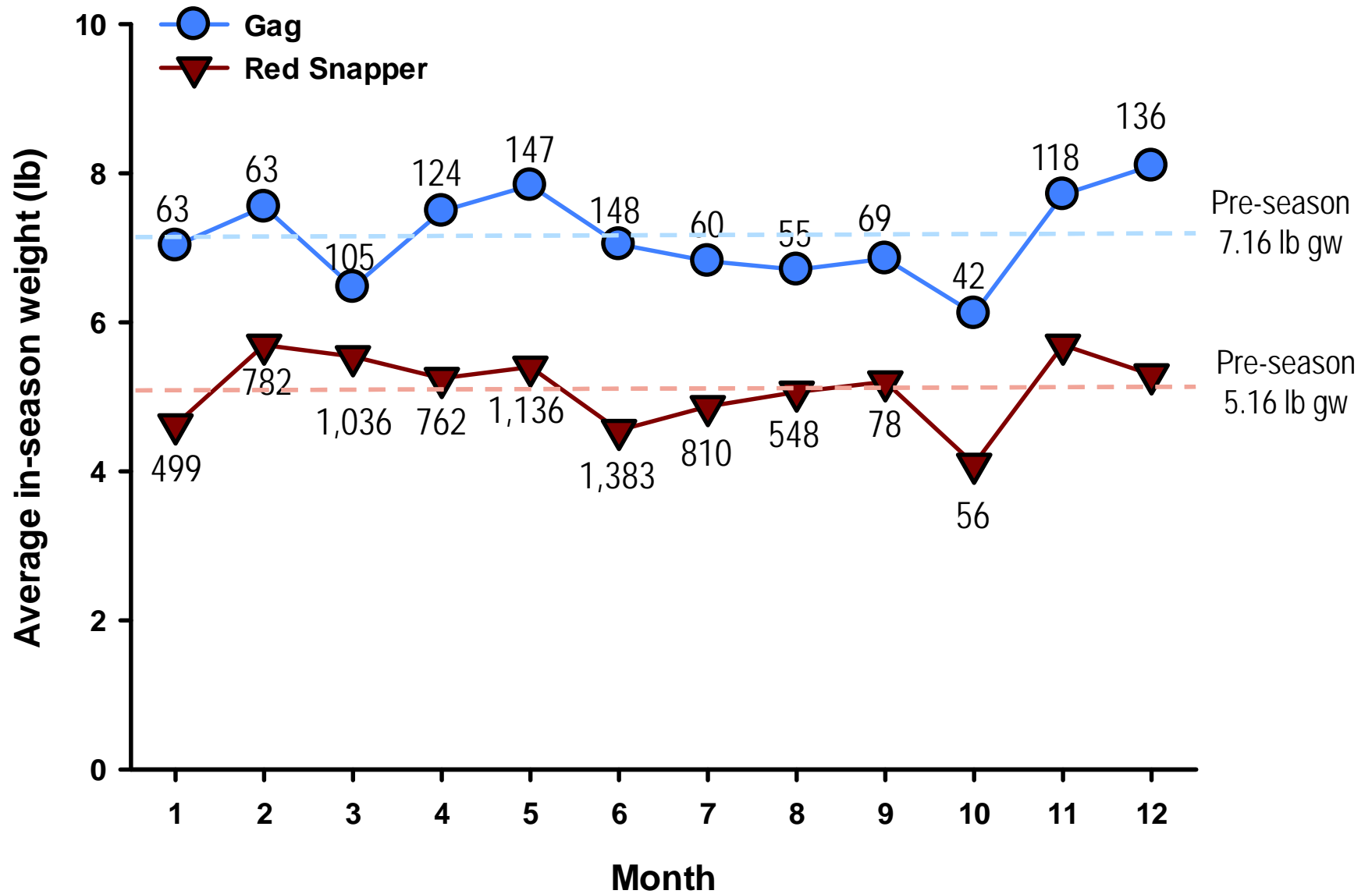
- Pre-season conversion
 - Prior to the start of the program across all months by region
- In-season conversion
 - Current year's dockside sampling for HBC vessels per month by region
 - Updated every 15-30 days

Pre-season to In-season comparison

Month	Red Snapper		Gag	
	In-season to Pre-season Difference	% Difference	In-season to Pre-season Difference	% Difference
Jan	-596	-5.7%	-47	-4.2%
Feb	1,686	11.2%	-40	-3.7%
Mar	1,596	7.6%	-189	-8.6%
Apr	1,140	5.0%	168	5.0%
May	2,642	6.8%	258	8.4%
Jun	-7,972	-11.7%	-53	-2.3%
Jul	-5,364	-8.5%	-107	-6.4%
Aug	-1,816	-5.0%	-63	-8.6%
Sep	1	0.0%	-28	-3.3%
Oct	-589	-11.9%	-221	-21.8%
Nov	-4	-1.3%	151	9.2%
Dec	-40	-13.0%	421	15.3%
Total	-9,316	-3.3%	249	1.1%







Allocation transfers

- 31 vessel to vessel transfers
 - Gag: 3 transfers totaling 49 gag
 - Red snapper: 28 transfers totaling 3,228 red snapper
- Transfer reason most commonly listed: Barter
 - Remaining were Sale or No Comment
- Majority of transfers (23) within the same region

Reporting Compliance

- 707 trips validated (23%)
- 23 trips with discrepancies
 - Max 6 fish different
 - Gen. 1-2 fish off
 - Over- and under-counts
- All discrepancies corrected by e-Log submission

Month	Trips Validated	% Validated
Jan	58	47%
Feb	65	35%
Mar	62	26%
Apr	44	19%
May	74	25%
Jun	63	13%
Jul	55	11%
Aug	97	24%
Sep	52	28%
Oct	60	26%
Nov	42	38%
Dec	35	29%
Total	707	23%

Reporting Compliance

- Discrepancies occurred due to:
 - Capt./mate unfamiliar with software
 - Misidentification or entry of wrong species
 - Transposing numbers
 - Confusing two trips on same day
 - Miscounting

Reporting Compliance

- 6% of trips missed submitting a hail-out
 - Most due to technical problems
- 5% of trips missed hail-ins
 - Most due to technical problems
- 2% of e-Logs submitted late
 - Due to technical glitches, new captains unaware of more stringent daily reporting requirement, or forgetfulness
 - All resolved after phone calls from SERO staff

Enforcement and Port Agent Feedback

- Hail-out and hail-ins helped prioritize sampling
 - Greater than 1 hr hail-in requested from agents
- Hail-in expected number of fish was extremely helpful in dockside validations
- Cooperation and relationship with captains was very good.
- Suggested improvement: separate snapper/grouper on boats to reduce counting time, increase counting accuracy, and increase time for biological sampling

Program Challenges

- Learning curve for new captains/participants
- Some technical problems with VMS (e.g., bluetooth connectivity)
- Data connectivity between e-Log and SERO online system
- Sufficient biological sampling by regions and months

What did work

- In-season weights were similar to pre-season weight estimates
- VMS allowed dockside sampling and trip validation
- Near real-time deduction of fish and self-monitoring by HBC members
- Allocation transfers allowed for flexibility
- Trips made year round

2015 Headboat Program

- 2 new additional vessels
 - America II (AL) and New Buccaneer (TX)
- Quota allocated changed based on MRIP calibration for red snapper
 - Red snapper:
 - Jan 1: 215,027 lb ww (42,690 fish)*
 - Gag: 41,669 lb gw (5,925 fish)

* Will increase once quota increase approved/implemented

Questions?



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