



White Seabass FMP Review 2022-2023 Season

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Fish and Game Commission Meeting
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Current Management

- Commercial

- Closed season

- March 15 to June 15

- Incidental: 1 fish per day with gill net

- Minimum Size

- 28 inches total length

- Gear: Hook-and-line, set gill net, trawl

- Minimum mesh size is 6 inches

- Recreational

- Open year-round except:

- March 15 to June 15

- 1 fish limit south of Pt. Conception

- Bag Limit: 3 fish

- Minimum Size

- 28 inches total length

- Gear: Hook-and-line and spear



White Seabass FMP Background

- Adopted June 2002
- Annual review with White Seabass Scientific and Constituent Advisory Panel
- Interested stakeholders



Photo Credit: CDFW



WSB FMP Annual Review

- Annual review includes:
 - Fishery dependent and independent data
 - Social and economic structure of recreational and commercial industries
 - Harvest from Mexican waters
 - Other relevant data

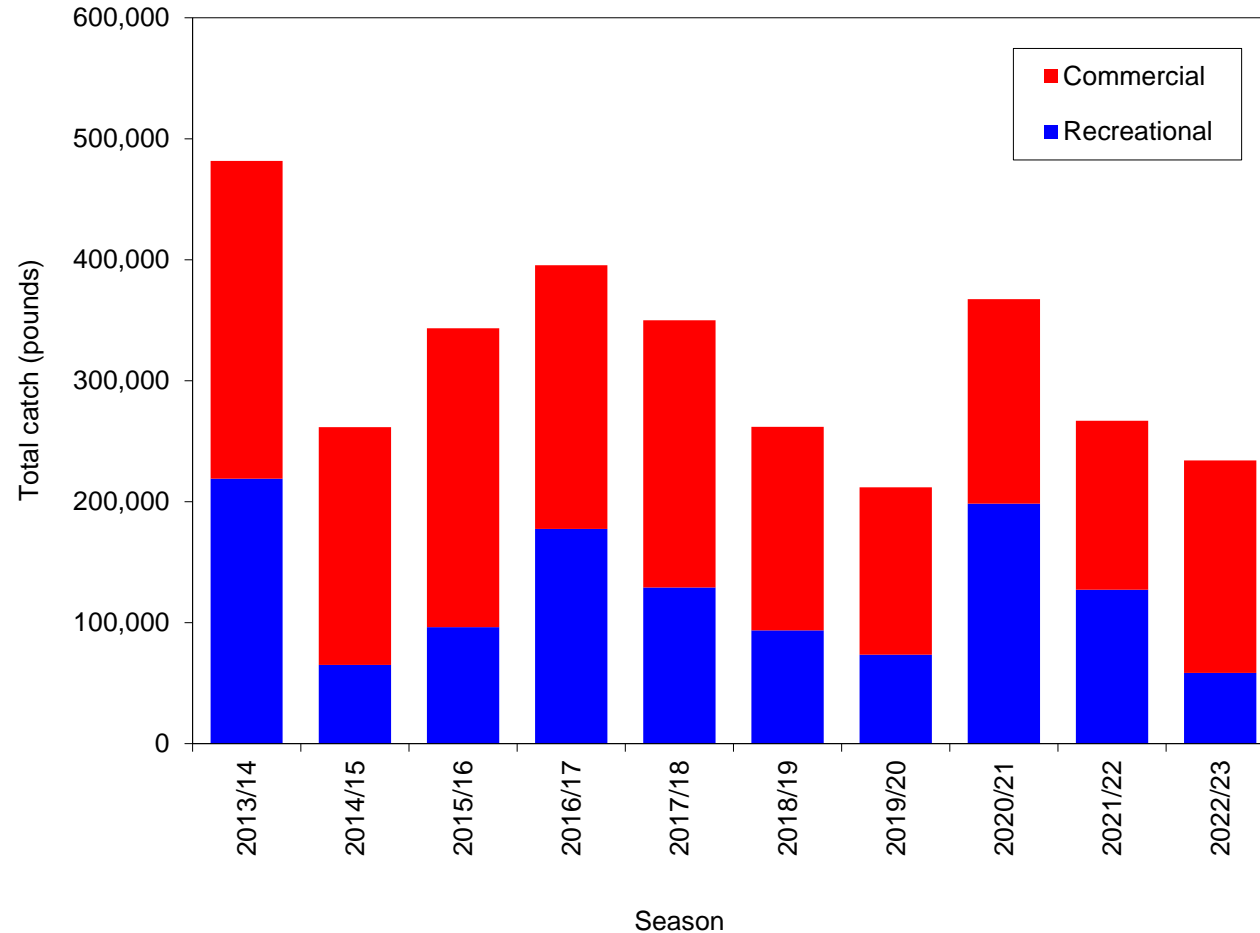


Points of Concern

- Catch is expected to exceed quota
- Adverse change in biological characteristics
- Overfishing exists or is imminent
- Adverse change in status of forage species
- New information is discovered
- An error in data or stock assessment



Total White Seabass Catch



- Optimum yield: 1.2 million pounds
- 2022-23 season: 234,003 pounds
- Percent of OY: 20%



Biological Characteristics

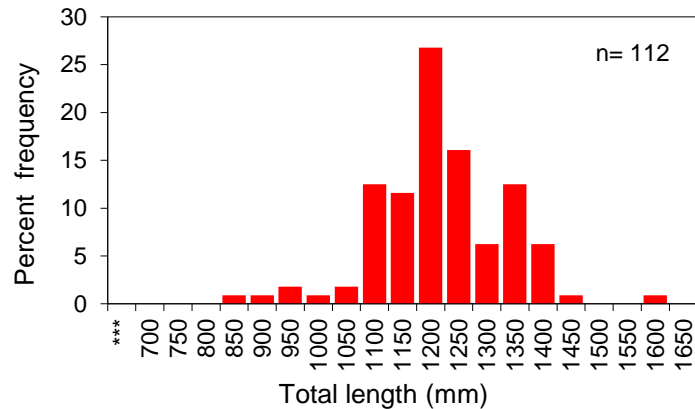
- Length Composition
 - Commercial fishery
 - Recreational fishery
- New information on:
 - Age at maturity



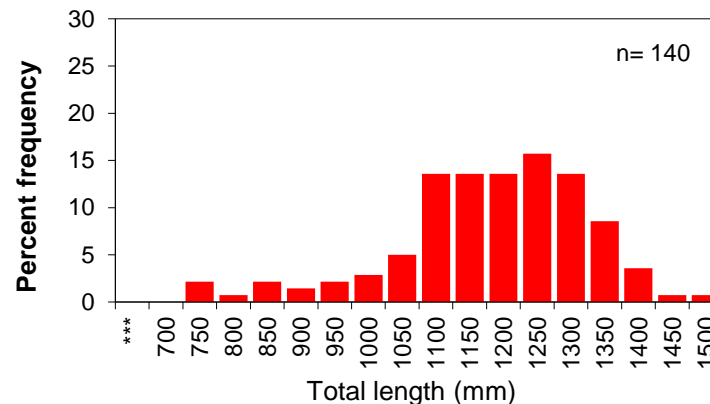


Commercial Length-Frequencies

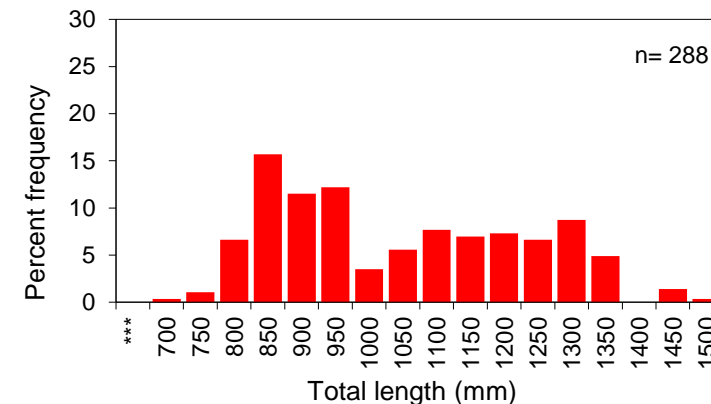
2017/2018



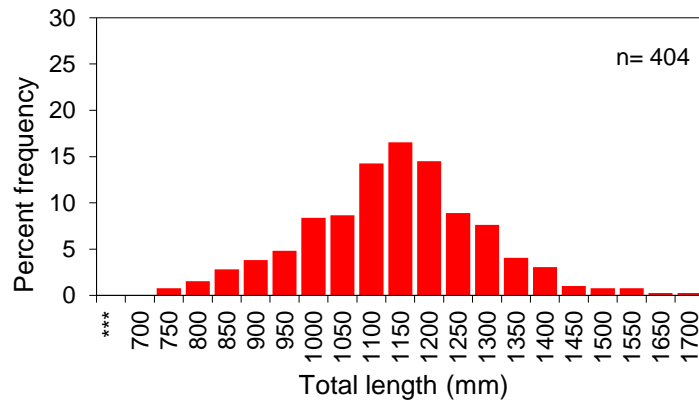
2018/2019



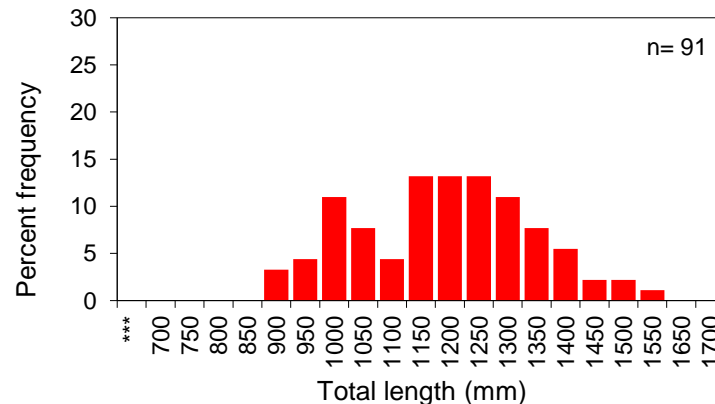
2019/2020



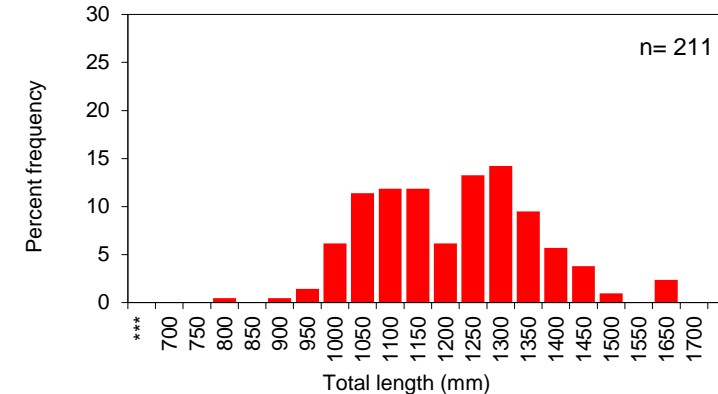
2020/2021



2021/2022

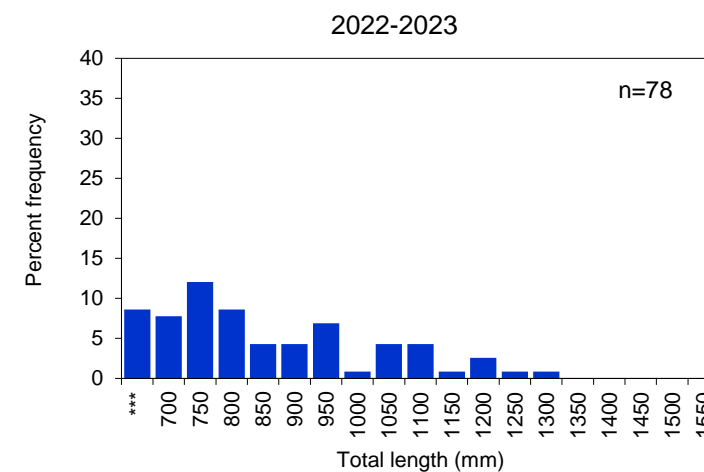
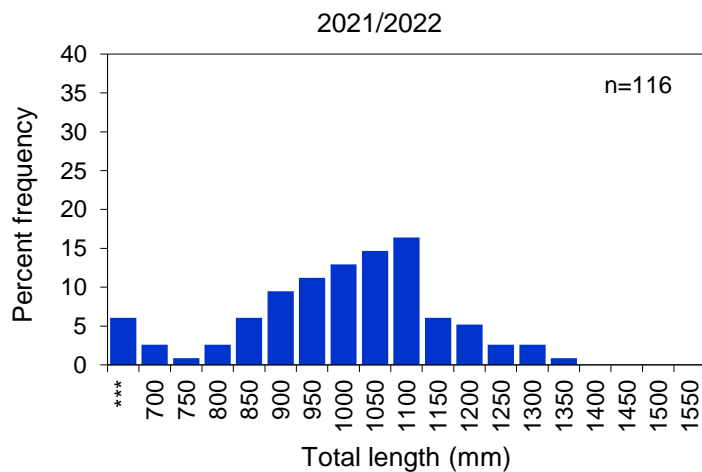
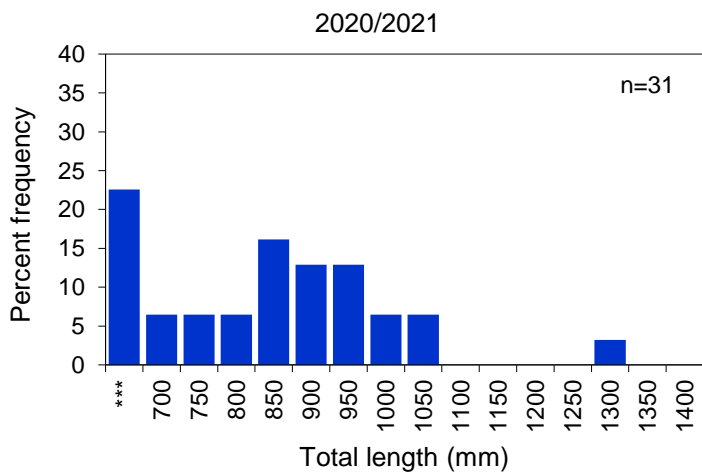
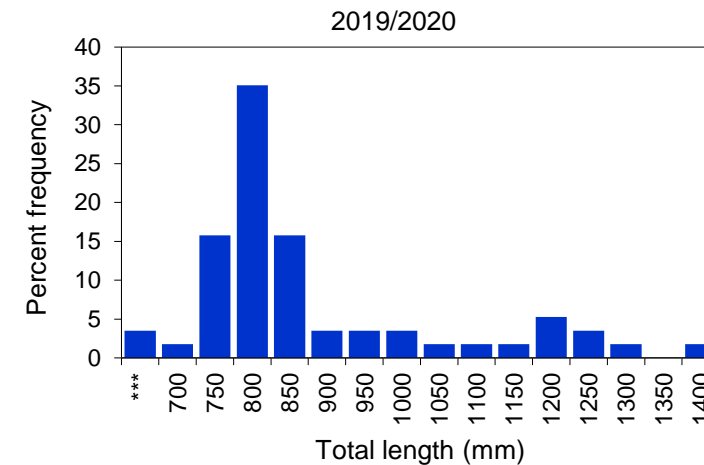
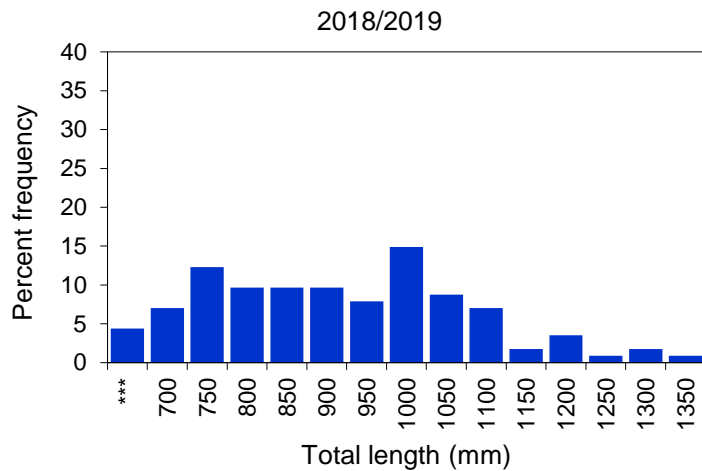
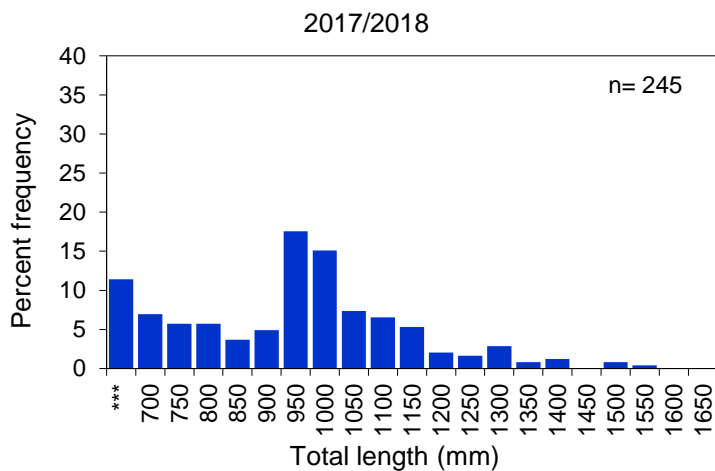


2022/2023





Recreational Length-Frequencies





Overfishing Criteria

- 20% decline in commercial landings
- 20% decline in the recreational number of fish caught and the average weight
- 30% decline in recruitment indices





Commercial WSB Landings

Season	Pounds Landed	Prior 5-season Average	Percent Change from Previous 5-Season Average
2013/14	262,441	431,873	-39
2014/15	196,521	401,469	-51
2015/16	247,195	340,369	-27
2016/17	217,915	285,687	-24
2017/18	220,687	247,921	-11
2018/19	168,077	229,196	-27
2019/20	138,537	210,079	-34
2020/21	168,934	198,482	-15
2021/22	139,664	182,830	-24
2022/23	175,659	167,180	5



Recreational WSB Catch

Season	Total # of Fish Caught	% Change in # of Fish from Prior Season	Average Weight in Pounds	% Change in Weight from Prior Season
2013/14	9,567	-10	22.4	16
2014/15	3,136	-67	18.9	-15
2015/16	3,973	21	23.1	22
2016/17	5,675	50	22.9	-1
2017/18	4,874	-14	23.0	0
2018/19	6,349	30	20.1	-13
2019/20	4,898	-23	19.0	-5
2020/21	9,761	99	18.8	-1
2021/22	6,080	-38	27.8	48
2022/23	3,474	-43	17.8	-36



Recruitment Indices

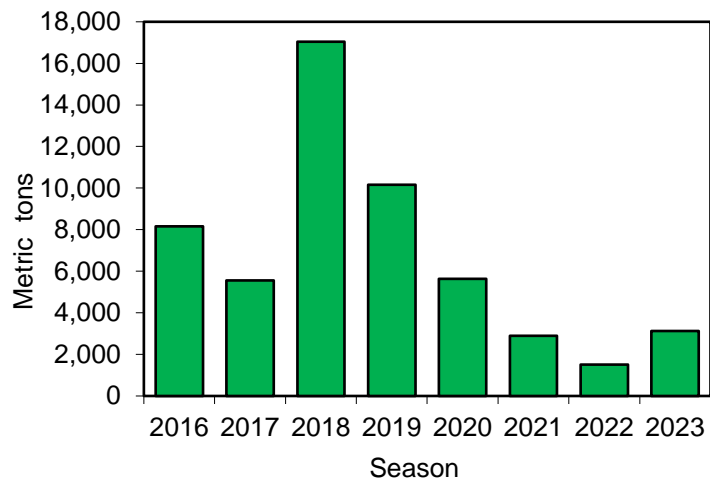
- Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP) juvenile surveys
- No survey effort since 2018/19 season



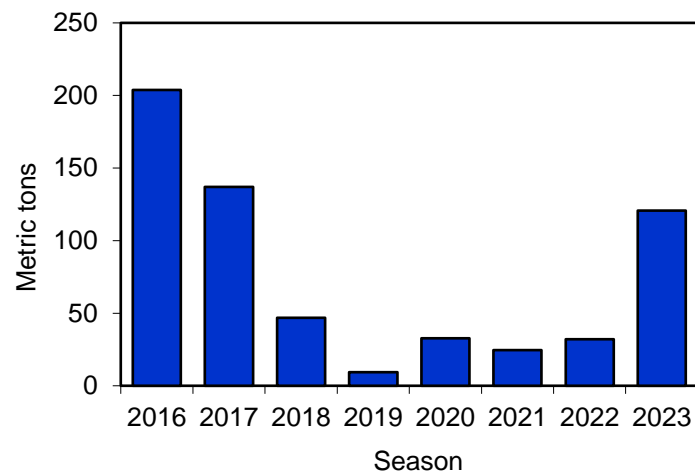


Status of Forage Species

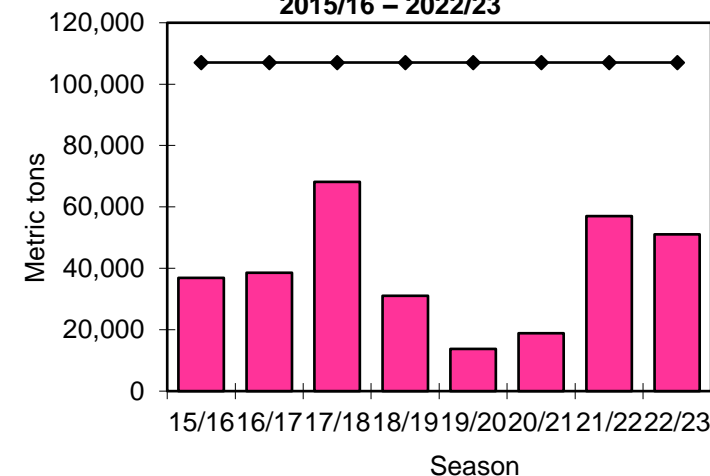
Northern anchovy landings, 2016-2023



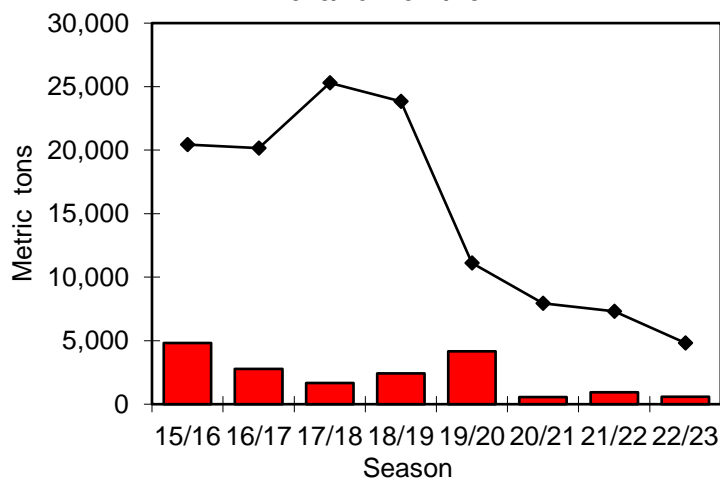
Jack mackerel landings, 2016-2023



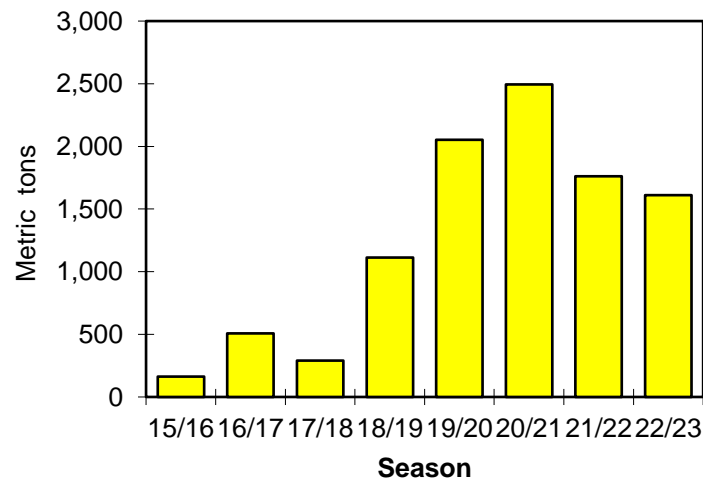
Market squid landings & harvest guideline, 2015/16 – 2022/23



Pacific mackerel landings & harvest guideline, 2015/16- 2022/23



Pacific sardine landings, 2015/16 – 2022/23



Northern anchovy and jack mackerel season is January 1 through December 31.

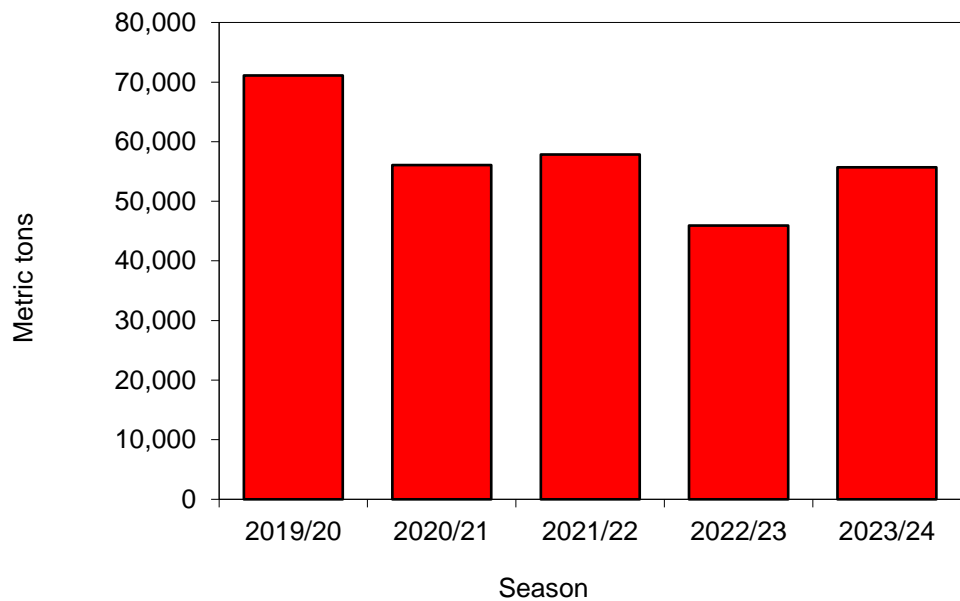
Market squid season is April 1 through March 31 of the following year.

Pacific mackerel and Pacific sardine season is July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

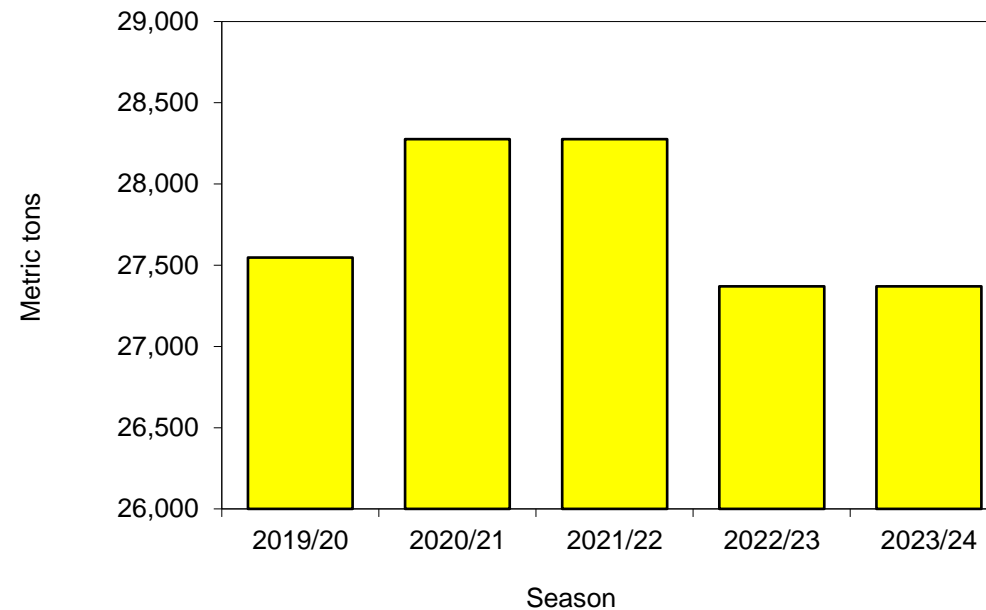


Biomass Estimates

Pacific mackerel



Pacific sardine





Other Points of Concern

- New information on White Seabass
 - Size at Maturity
- Error in the data or stock assessment
 - None discovered





White Seabass Size at Maturity Background



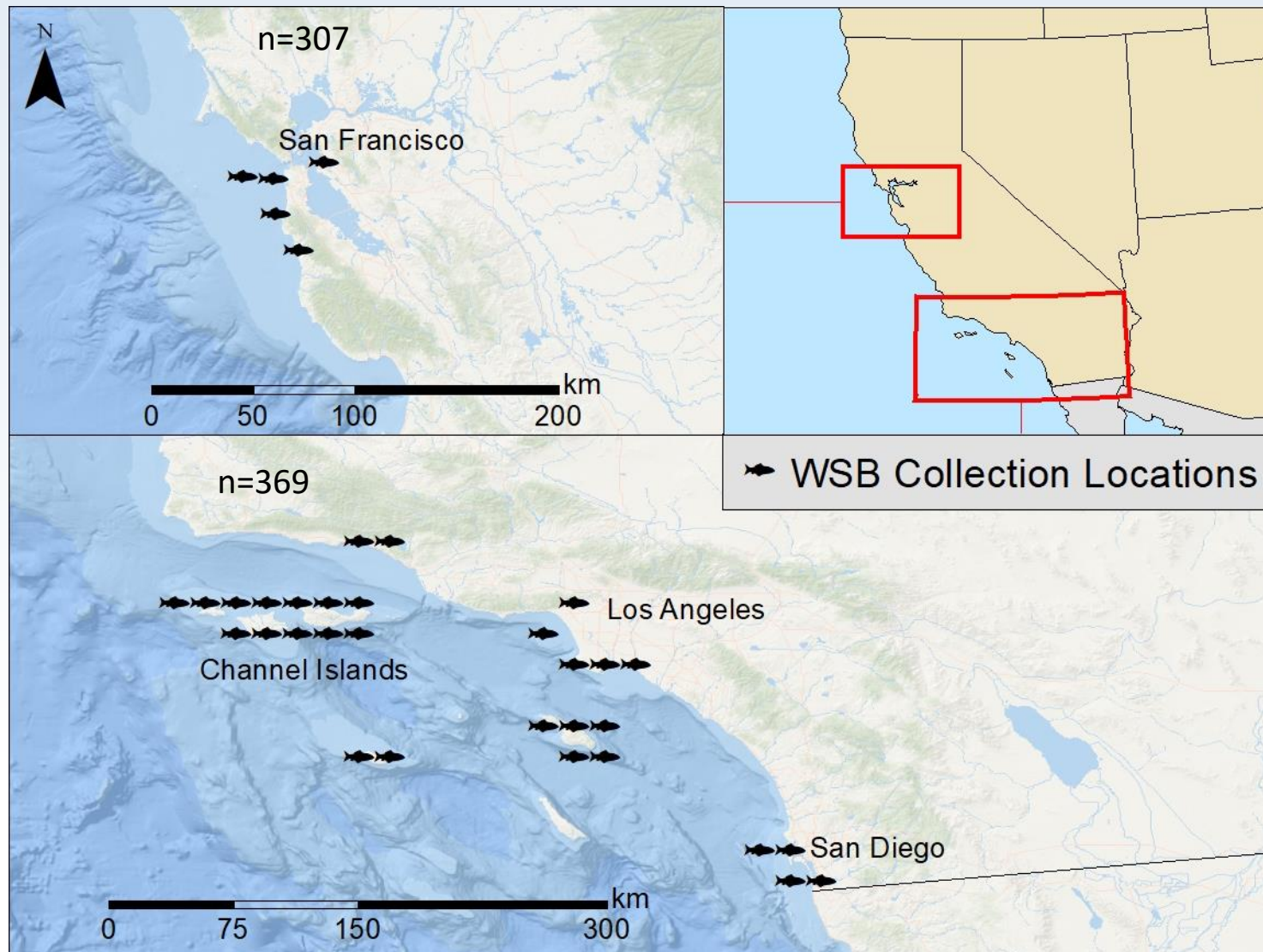
- Current 28-inch size limit based on 1930s study (Clark 1930)
 - 33 females
 - Macroscopic analysis only
- Collaboration between PIER and CDFW to reassess size at maturity
 - Increase sample size
 - Macroscopic and histological analysis





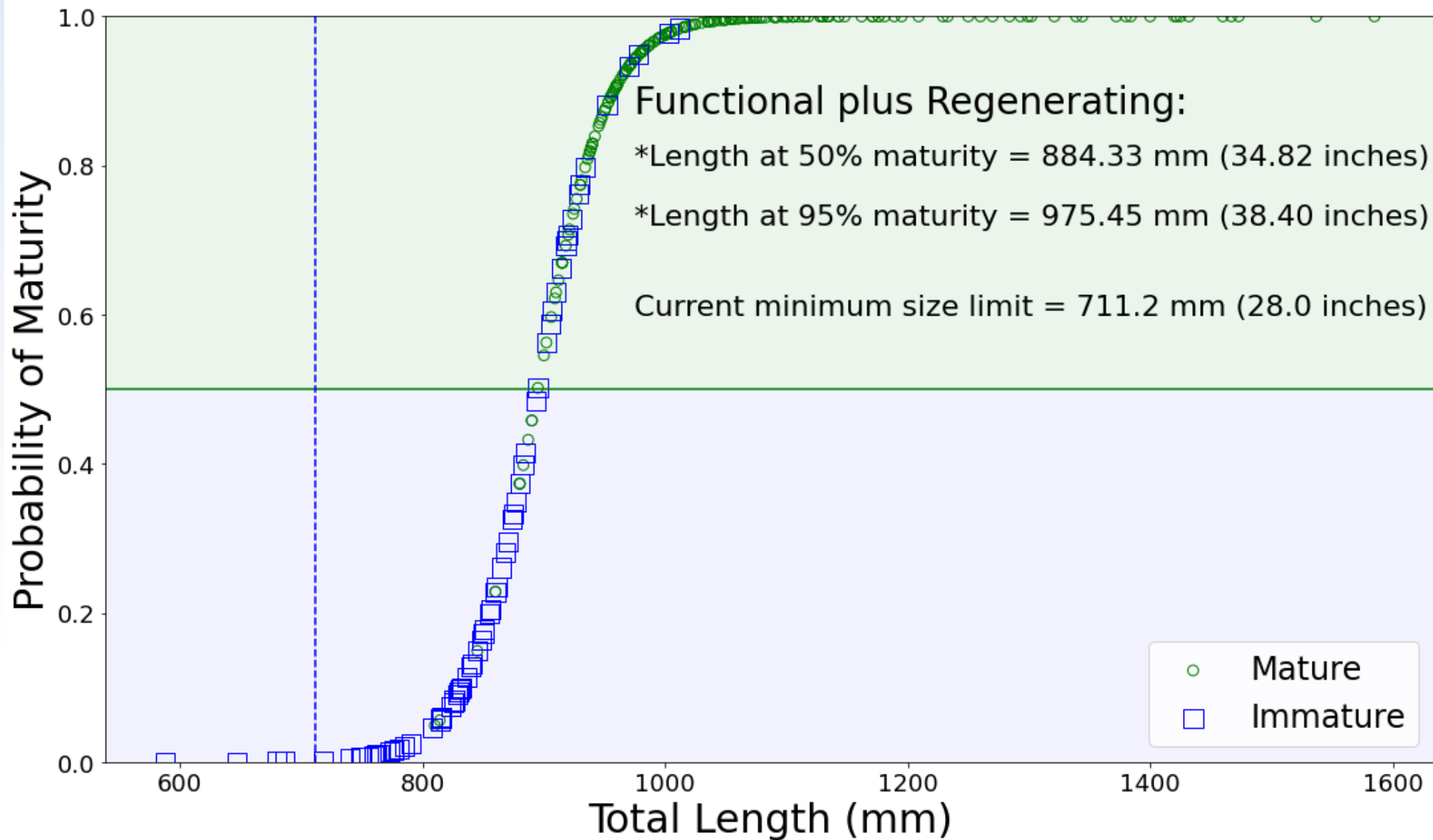
White Seabass Size at Maturity Collections

- 676 WSB collected from 2016-2023
- Primarily during spawning season (March – September)
- Size range: 12-62 inches
 - 393 females
 - 283 males





Size at Maturity Results





Size at Maturity Conclusions

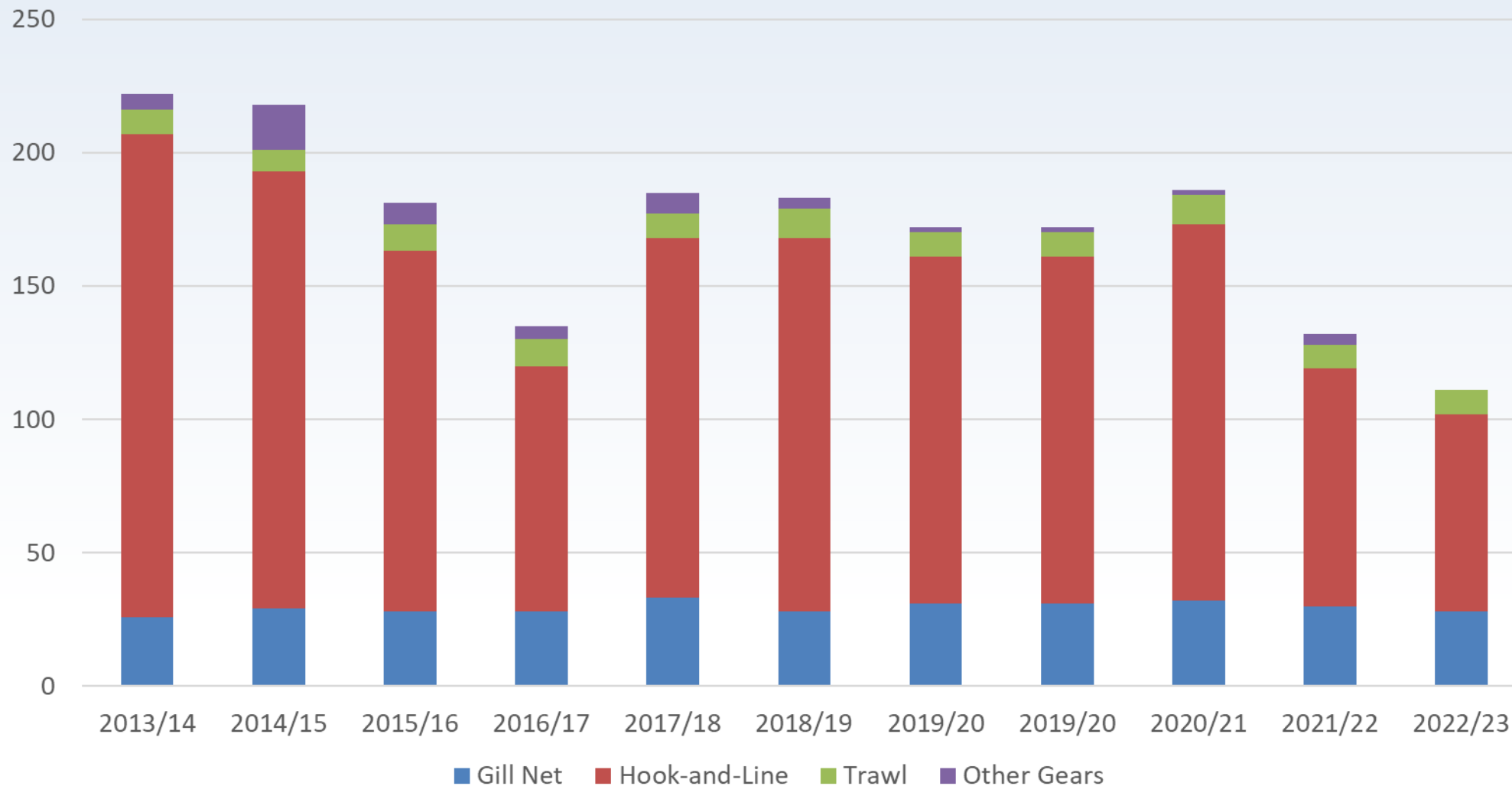
- Current 28-inch minimum size limit does not allow 50% of females an opportunity to reproduce before entering the fishery
 - Aligns with 2016 stock assessment and Clark 1930 recommendations





Socioeconomic Information - Participation

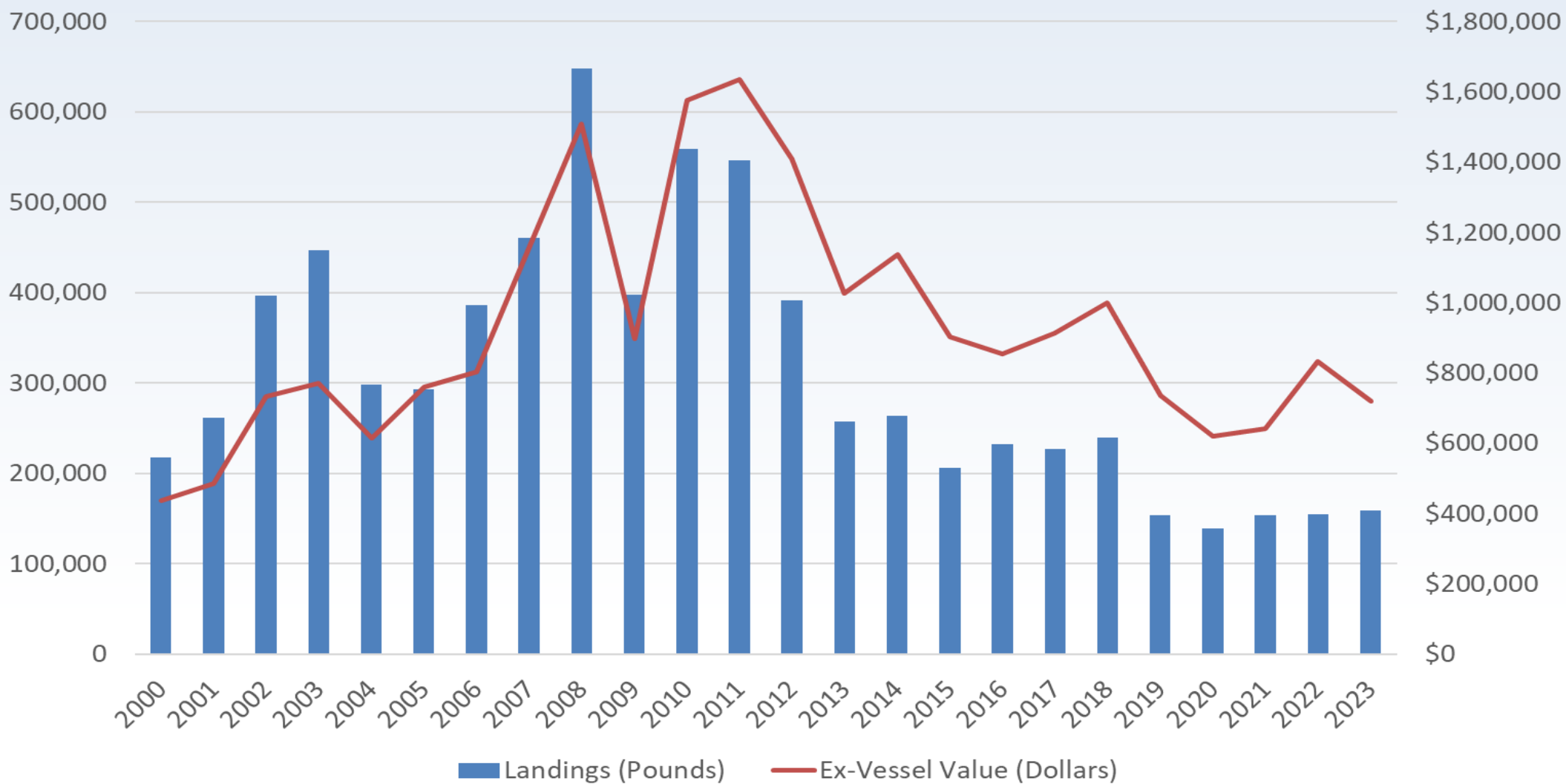
Participation by Gear Type





Socioeconomic Information – Landings and Value

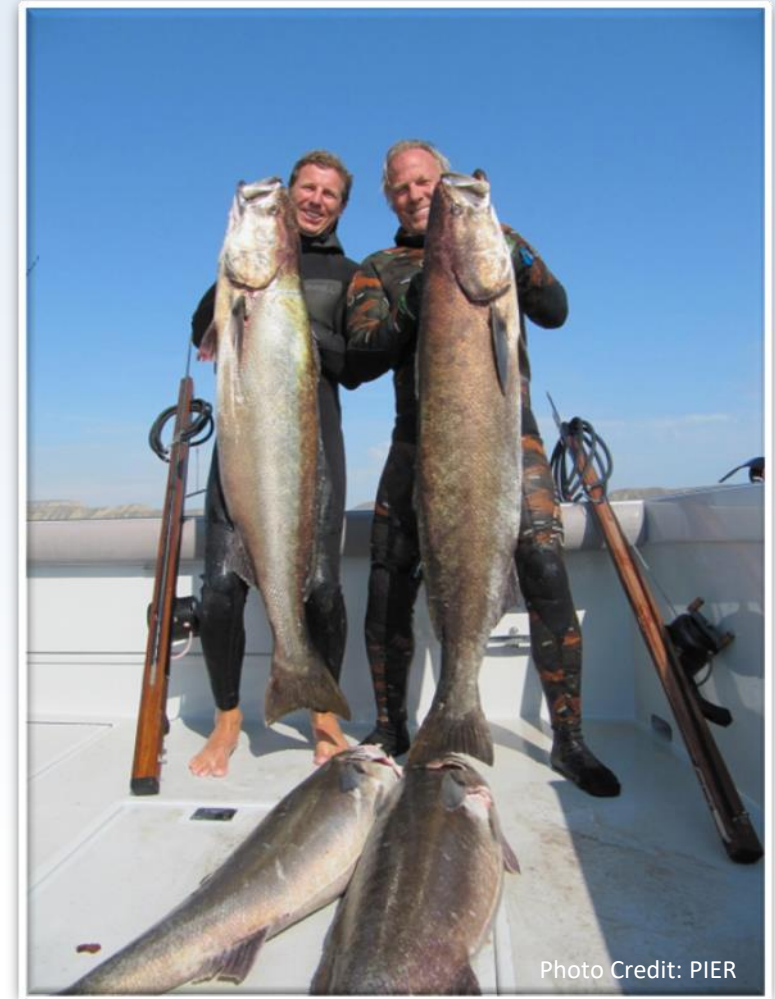
Landing (all gears combined) by ex-vessel value





White Seabass Catch in Mexico

- CA Commercial – prohibited
- Recreational – allowed with Mexican sport fishing license
 - CPFV Logs:
 - 2021-22: 81 reported
 - 2022-23: 55 reported





Next Steps

- Evaluate management framework and size limit
- New tools and additional data since FMP developed
 - Results of the maturity study – minimum size limit
 - Stock assessment
 - Maximum sustainable yield
 - Optimum yield
 - Trigger mechanisms



Thank You

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[https://marinespecies.wildlife.ca.gov/
white-seabasstrue/](https://marinespecies.wildlife.ca.gov/white-seabasstrue/)

