

# **Whiting PDT Report and recommendations for OFL and ABC Specifications for 2020-2023**

**Andrew Applegate  
NEFMC Staff**

**Whiting PDT Chair**

**Scientific and  
Statistical Committee  
November 12, 2020**



**New England  
Fishery Management Council**

# Small-mesh multispecies Specifications Package Presentations today

- Context
  - Specifications process
  - Management background
- Northern silver hake and southern whiting (Alade)
  - Management track assessment
  - OFL and ABC recommendations
- Red hake stocks (Chute)
  - Research track assessment
  - Management track assessment
- Red hake OFL options (Applegate)
- ABC and estimating scientific uncertainty (Alade)



# Specifications Package Adjustments for 2021-2023

- NEFSC prepares management track assessment using previously approved methods **Sep 2020**
- GARFO prepares report on ACL accounting and fishery performance: **Oct 2020**
- Whiting PDT prepares Draft SAFE Report and recommends specifications: **Nov 2020**



# Specifications Package Adjustments for 2021-2023

- SSC review and approval of ABC recommendations
  - Nov 12
- Committee and advisors identify management adjustment options'
  - Nov 16
- Council approval of proposed management adjustments
  - Dec 2020



# Specifications Package

## Adjustments for 2021-2023

- Staff and PDT prepares draft specifications document
- Council approves final measures and specifications document
  - Jan 2021
- Adjustments become effective
  - May 1, 2021



# Current measures

Table 4. Mesh size dependent possession limits

<u>Codend Mesh Size</u>	<u>Silver and offshore hake, combined, possession limit</u>	<u>Northern red hake</u>	<u>Southern Red Hake</u>
<b>Smaller than 2.5"</b>	3,500 <u>lb</u>	3,000 <u>lb</u> /1500 <u>lb</u>	5,000 <u>lb</u>
<b>Larger than 2.5", but smaller than 3.0"</b>	7,500 <u>lb</u>	3,000 <u>lb</u> /1500 <u>lb</u>	5,000 <u>lb</u>
<b>Equal to or greater than 3.0"</b>	30,000 <u>lb</u> (40,000 <u>lb</u> in Southern Area)	3,000 <u>lb</u> /1500 <u>lb</u>	5,000 <u>lb</u>

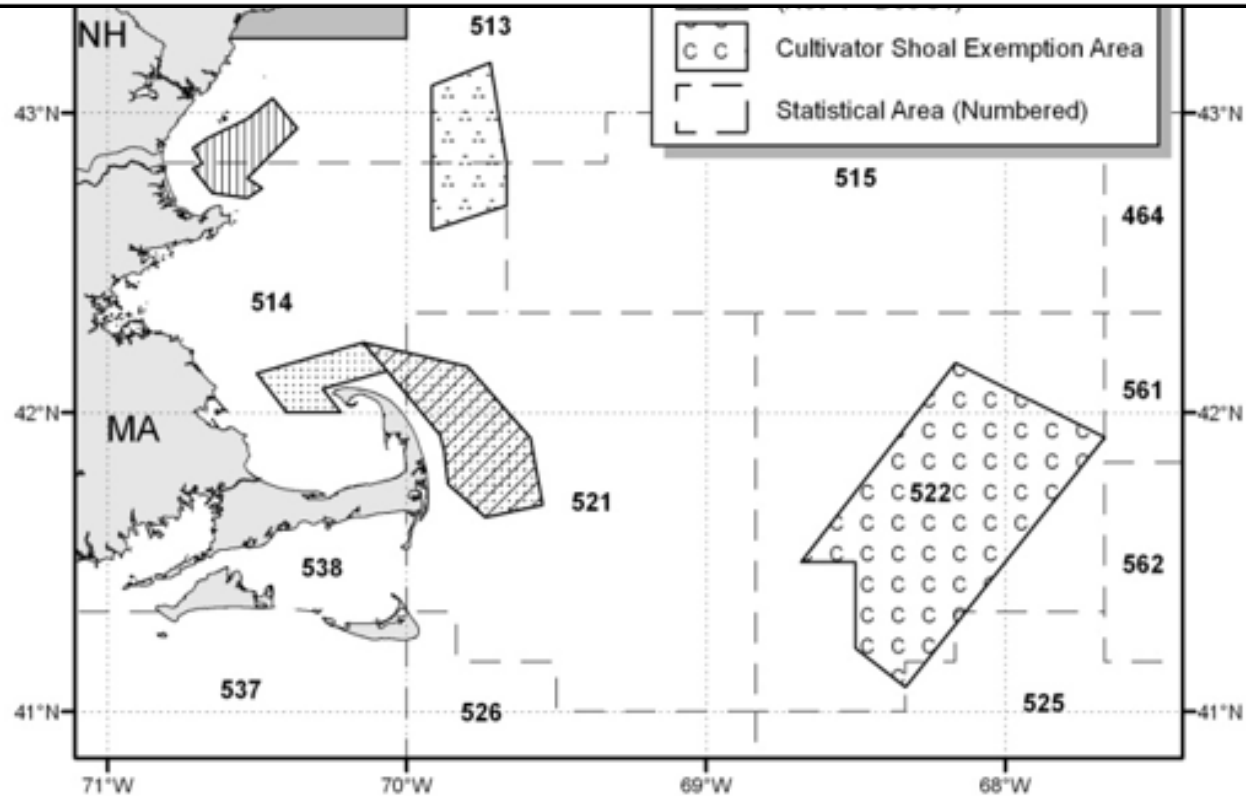
# Map 1. Small-mesh exemption areas in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank

Table 3. Northern area exemption program seasons

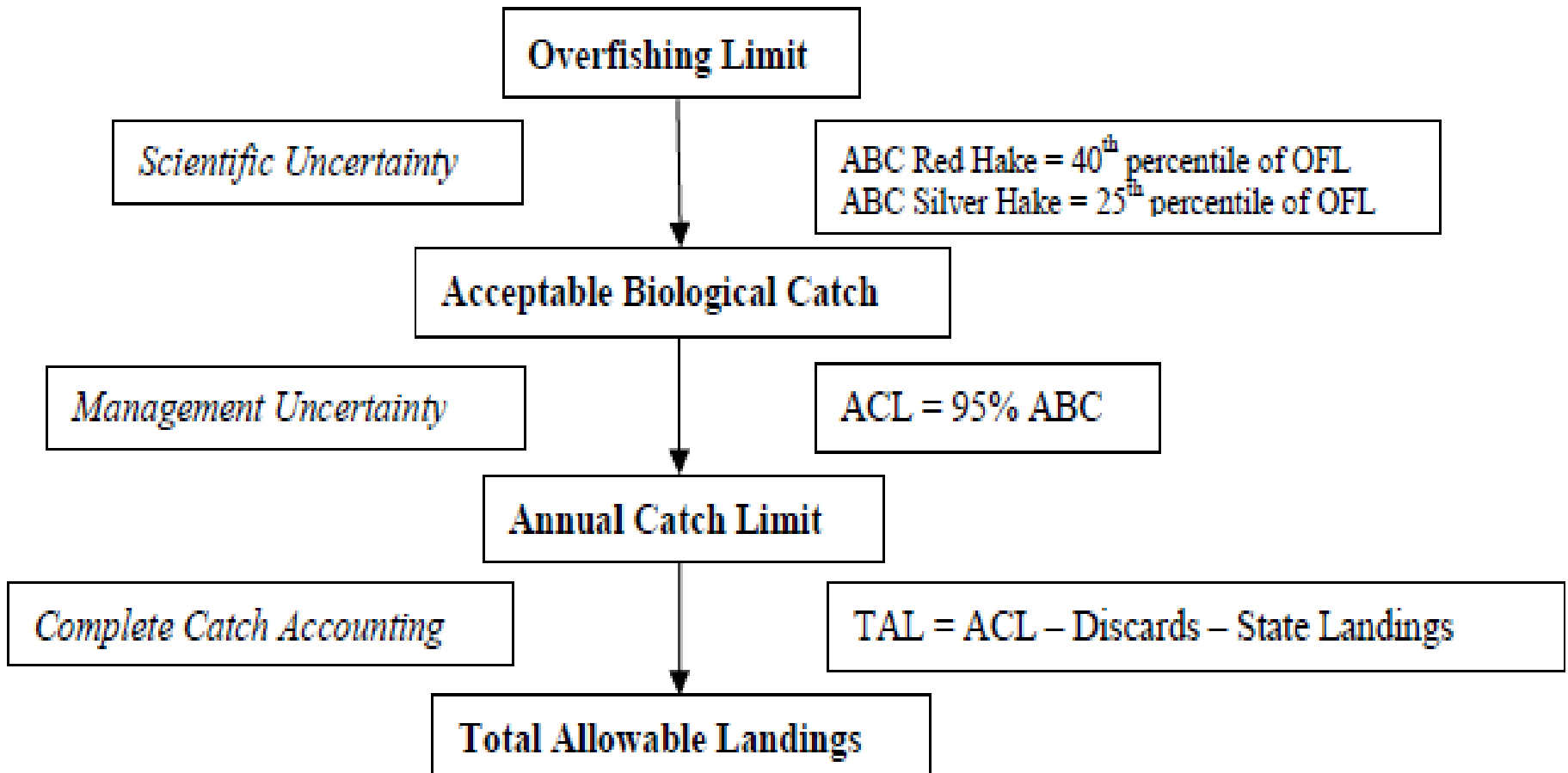
	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Cultivator			June 15 – October 31									
GOM* Grate			July 1 – November 30									
Small I			July 15 – November 15									
Small II	– June 30								January 1 –			
Cape Cod					Sept 1 – Nov 20							
RFT†					September 1 – December 31							

\* GOM = Gulf of Maine

† RFT = Raised Footrope Trawl



# Small-mesh Multispecies ACL Framework



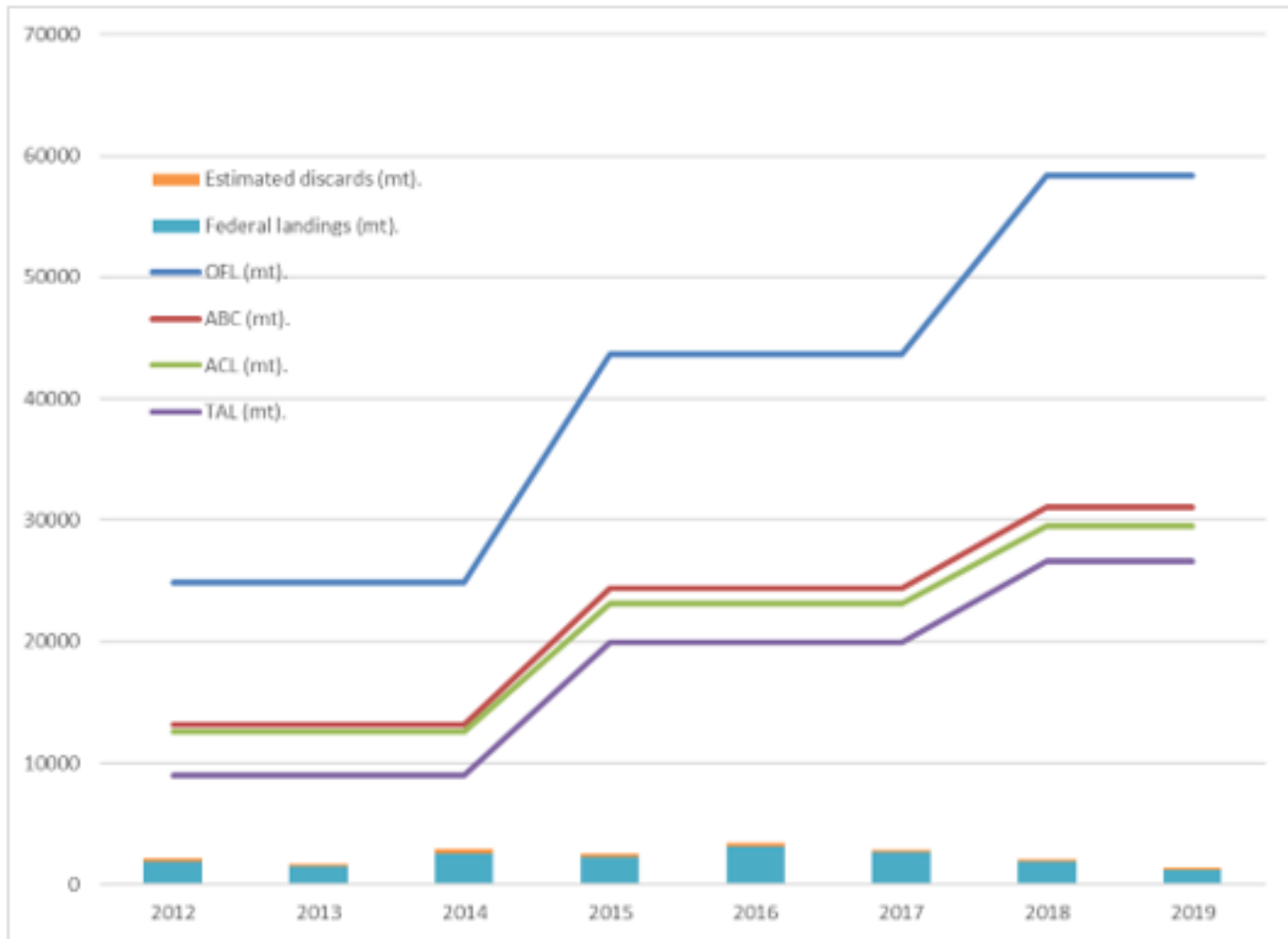


# 2018-2019 specifications

Fishing year	2019						
Row Labels	OFL (mt).	ABC (mt).	ACL (mt).	TAL (mt).	TAL trigger (mt).	TAL trigger (%)	
Northern silver hake	58,350	31,030	29,475	26,604	23,944	90%	
Southern whiting	37,110	20,170	19,162	15,043	13,539	90%	
Northern red hake	807	720	684	273	104	38%	
Southern red hake	1,120	1,060	1,007	305	274	90%	

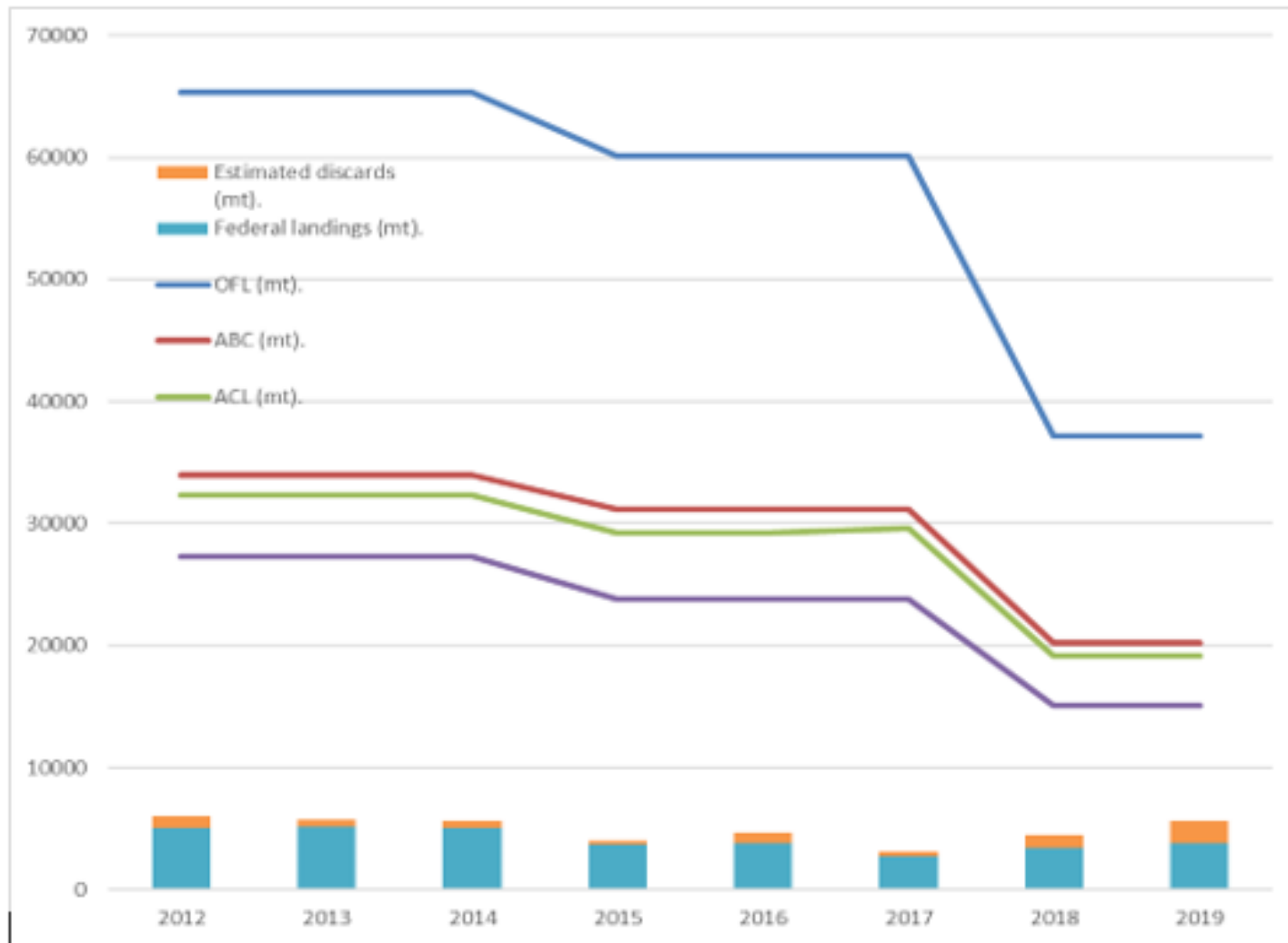
# Northern silver hake

Figure 1. Specifications and catch by fishing year: **Northern silver hake.**



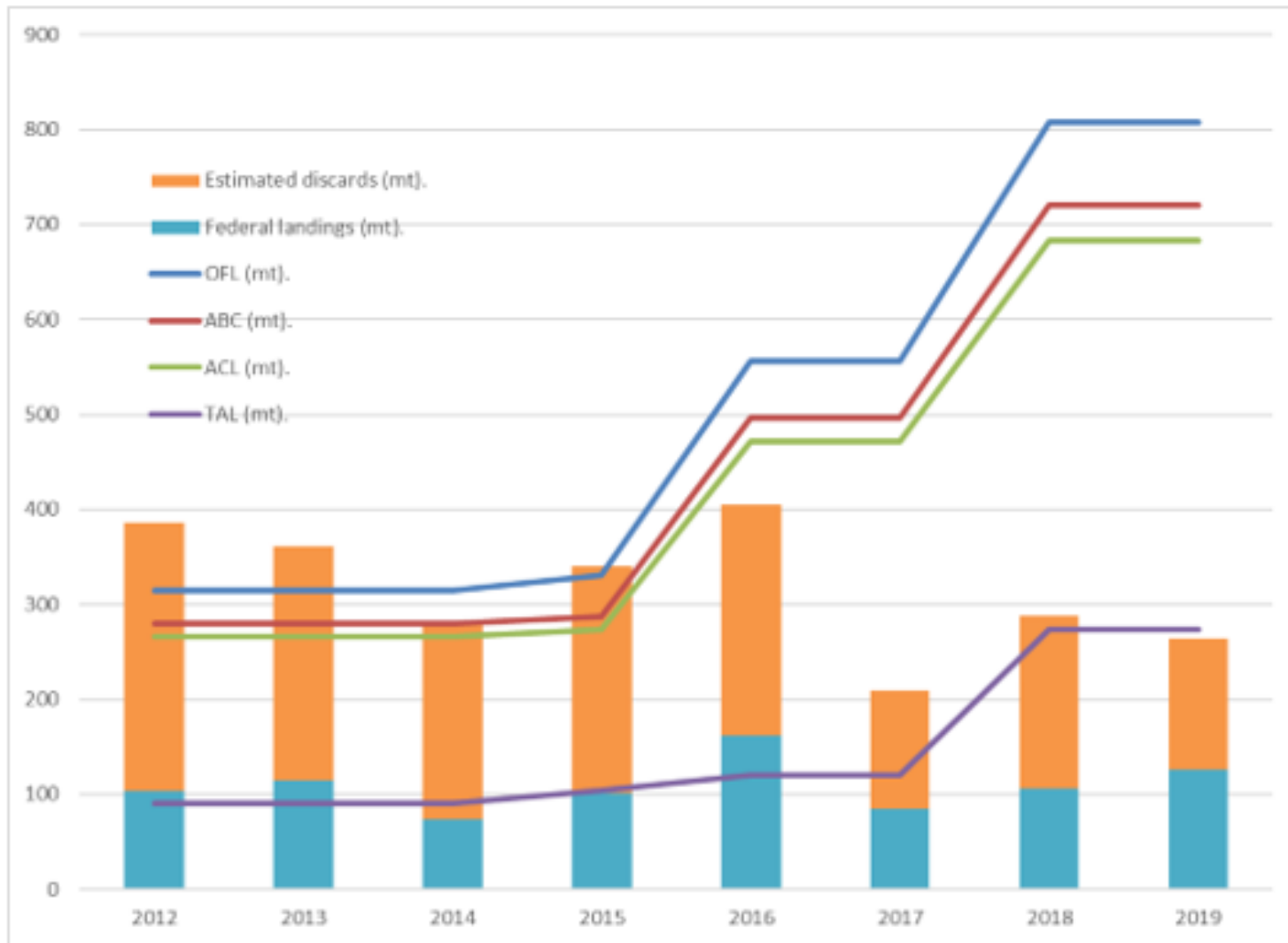
# Southern whiting

Figure 2. Specifications and catch by fishing year: **Southern silver hake**.



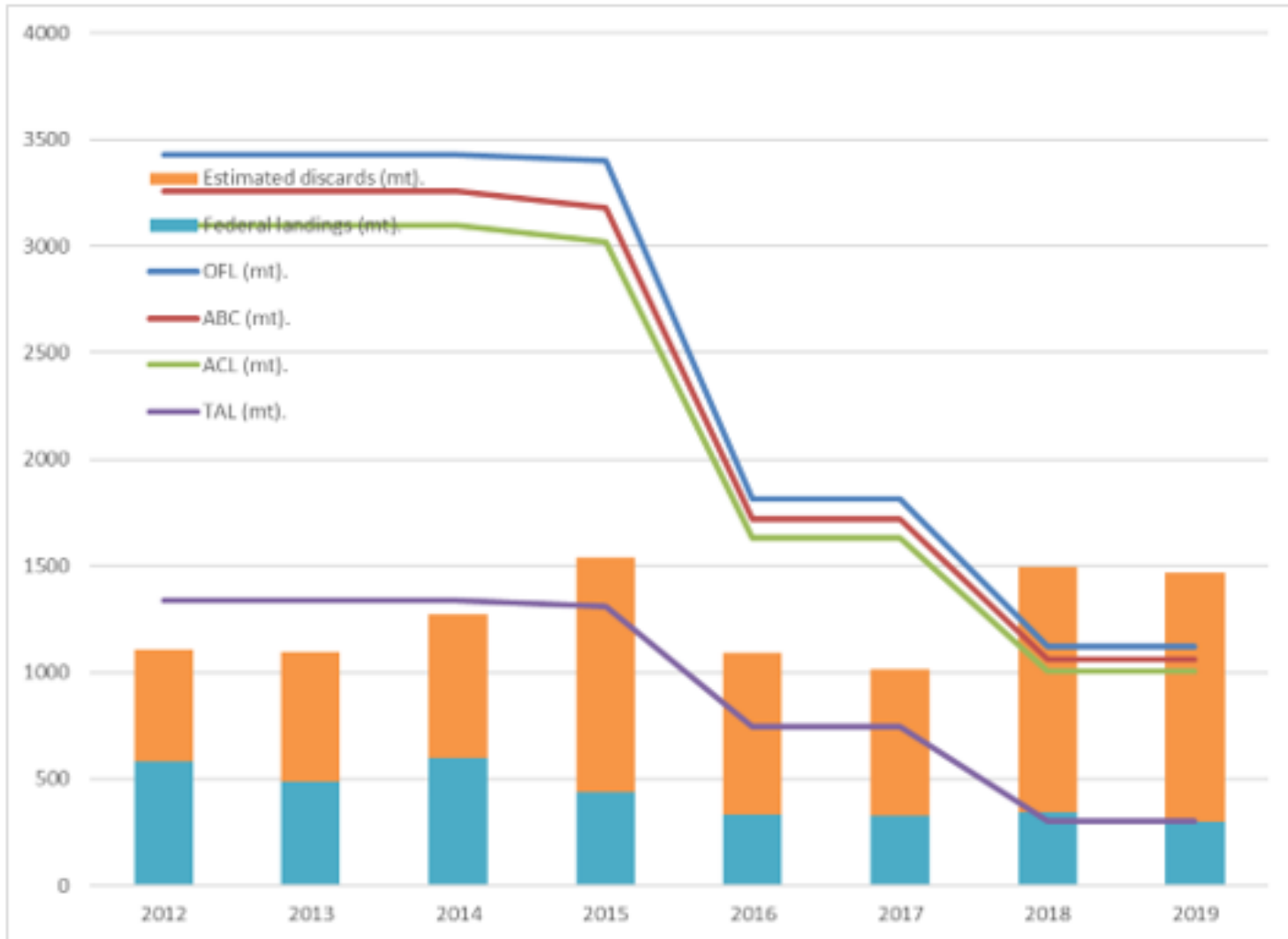
# Northern red hake

Figure 3. Specifications and catch by fishing year: Northern red hake.



# Southern red hake

Figure 4. Specifications and catch by fishing year: **Southern red hake**.



# Draft SAFE Report

## Fishery Performance Report

- Document Chapters
  - Executive summary
  - Summary of ABC specifications
    - PDT recommendations
    - SSC approval
    - Stock structure and sampling issues
  - Advisory Panel discussion

# Draft SAFE Report

## Fishery Performance Report

- Document Chapters
  - Fishery performance
    - ABC accounting for FY 2019
    - Permit trends
    - Revenue and ports
    - Fishery dependence
    - Landings trends
    - Groundfish and red hake bycatch rates
  - Economic trends in the small-mesh multispecies fishery

# Draft SAFE Report

## Fishery Performance Report

- Document Chapters
  - Stock assessment results
    - Stock status
    - OFL and ABC specifications, scientific uncertainty
    - Risk analysis
  - Stock assessment data and methods (Appendix I)



# Stock Assessments

- Update existing model with new data
- Northern (Level I) and Southern silver hake (Level II)
  - Survey data through Fall 2019 (2017 incomplete)
  - Catches through CY 2019
  - Not overfished; overfishing not occurring
- Northern and southern red hake (Level III)
  - Research track assessment
    - Stock structure
    - Survey trawl catch efficiency
  - Survey data through Spring 2019
  - Catches through CY 2019
  - Overfished status unknown; overfishing status unknown



# Catches associate with OFL and ABC

- Estimate OFL, associated with Fmsy proxy
- Estimate scientific uncertainty profile
- Estimate ABCs at various levels of estimated scientific uncertainty and probabilities of overfishing
  - Silver hake: 25<sup>th</sup> percentile
    - Southern silver hake ABC adjusted to account for mixed catch of offshore hake
  - Red hake: 40<sup>th</sup> percentile



# Catches associate with OFL and ABC

- Silver hake
  - Customary methods
  - Fall 2017 survey missing in southern management area
  - 4% southern management area adjustment to account for offshore hake
- Red hake
  - 'Plan B' not reviewed by the management track panel
  - Options developed by the Whiting PDT
  - Applications of the Plan B Smooth Approach
  - No specific PDT recommendation

