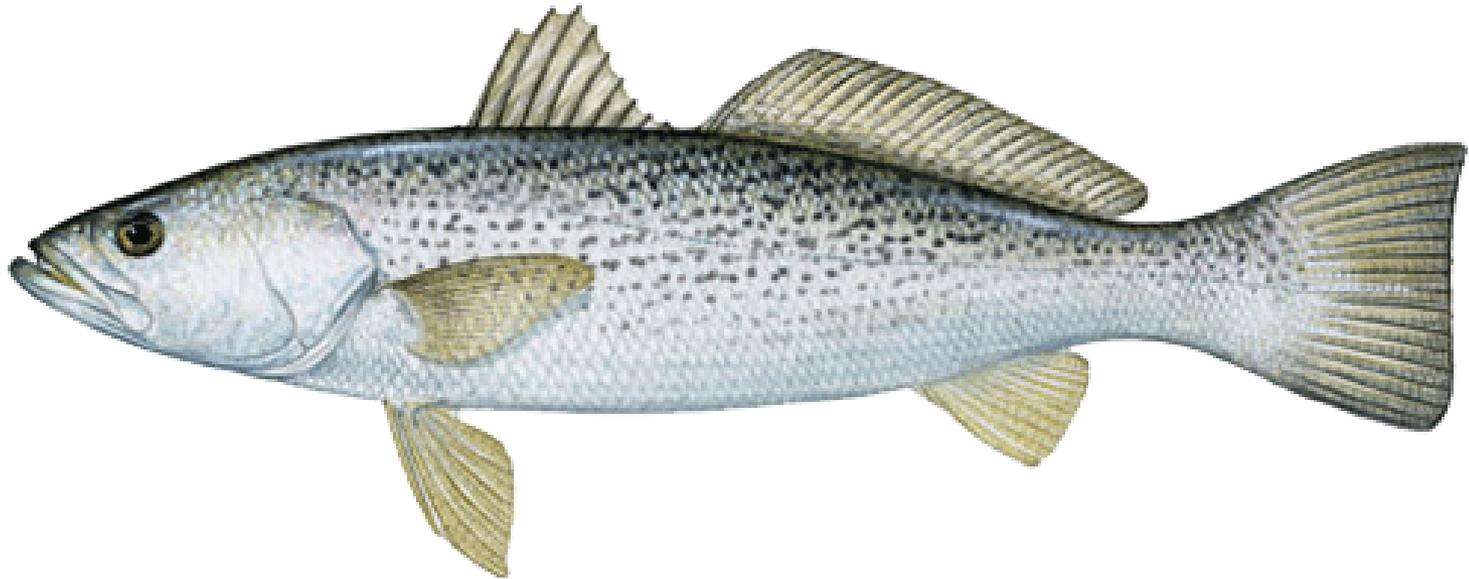


Weakfish Stock Status Update



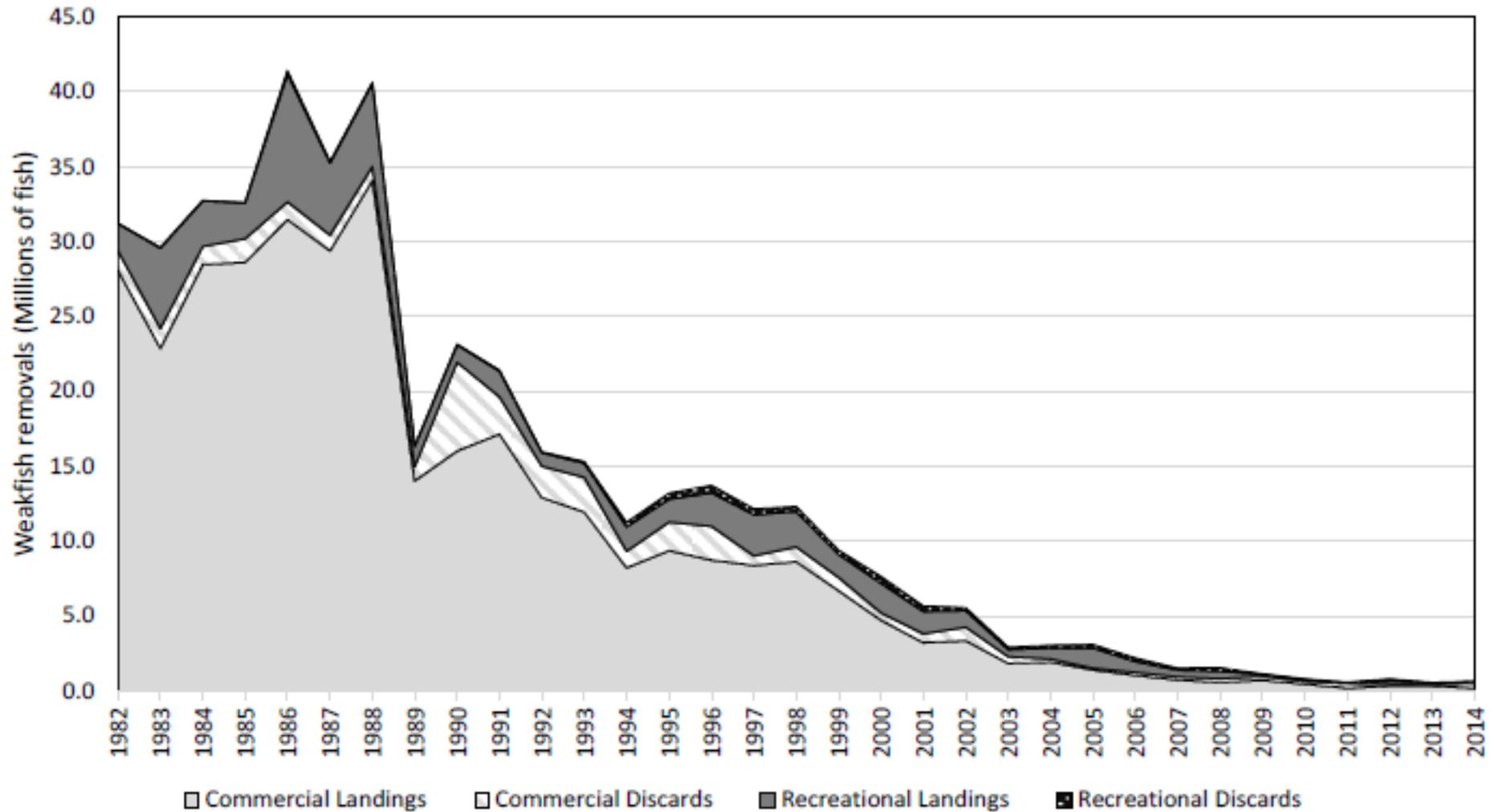
Angela Giuliano
MD DNR

Status of the Current Assessment

- Benchmark assessment finished this year
- Peer reviewed at the end of March
- Will be presented to the ASMFC Weakfish Management Board at May meeting
 - Still needs approval by the Management Board for management use

Benchmark Assessment

- Previous Assessment (2009)
 - Stock size at all time low, increase in M
 - Projections showed stock wouldn't recover rapidly even under a moratorium unless M decreased
- New model—Bayesian Statistical Catch-at-Age
 - Allows for changing natural mortality
 - Accounts for spatial heterogeneity of stock



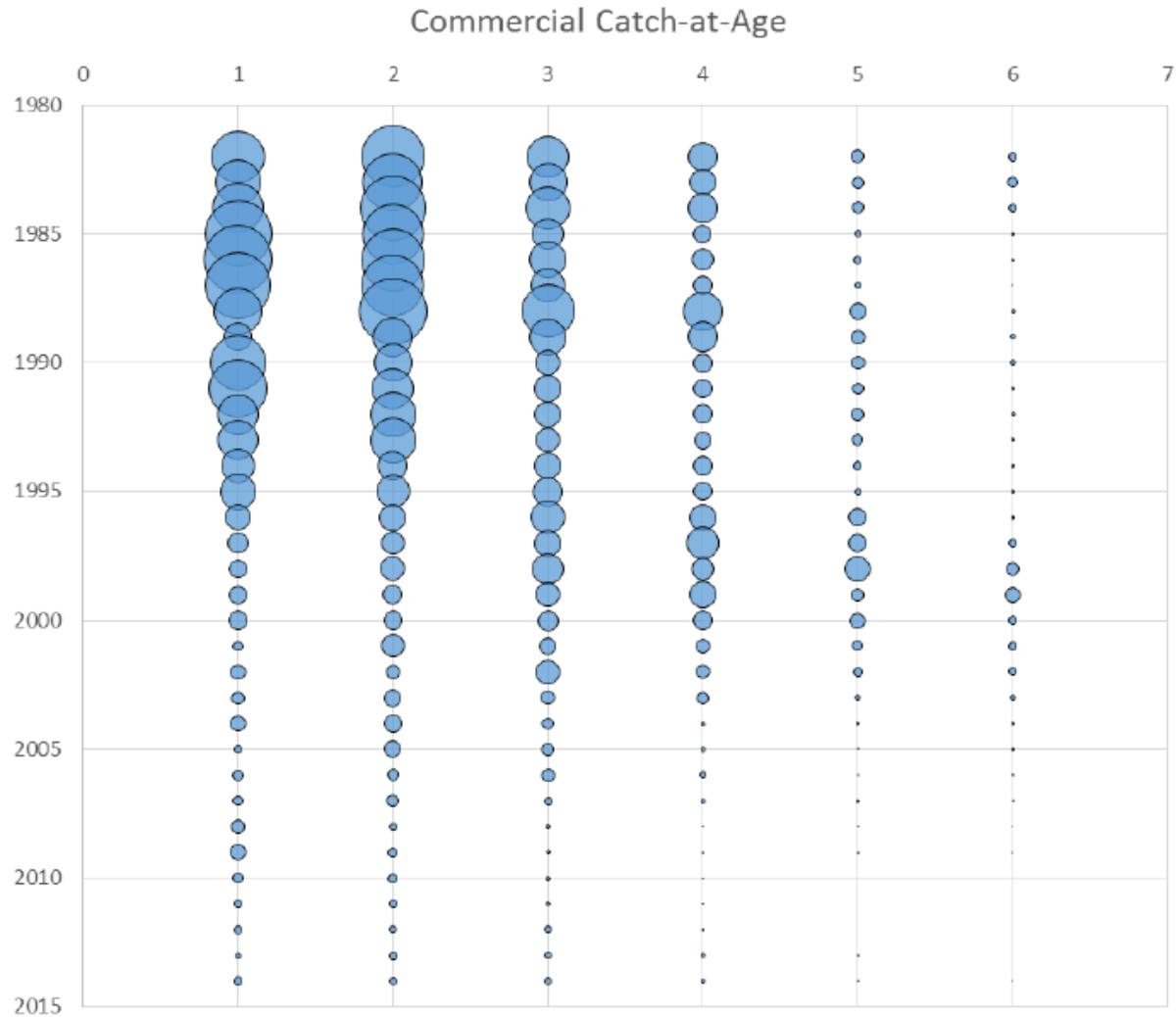
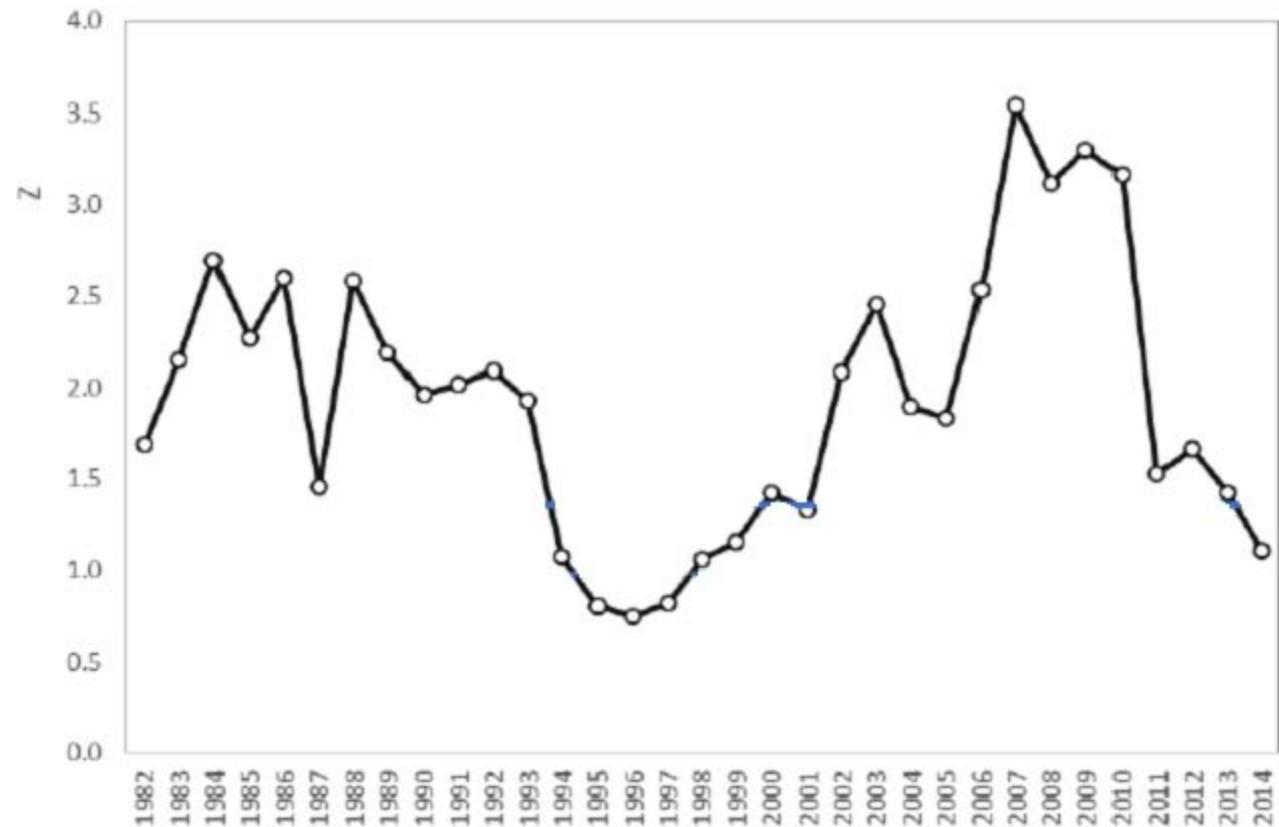
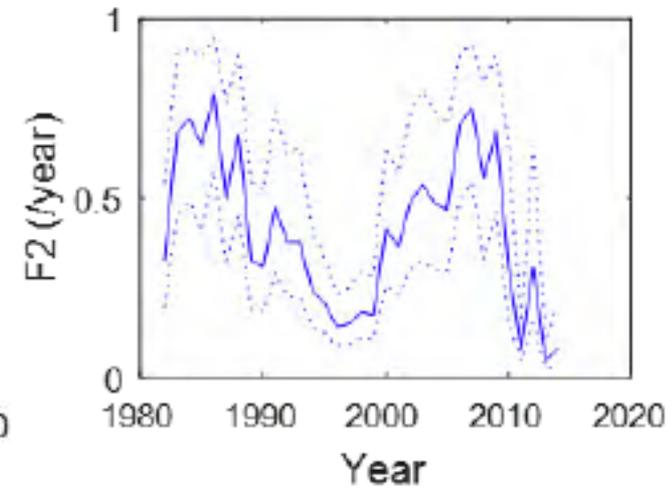
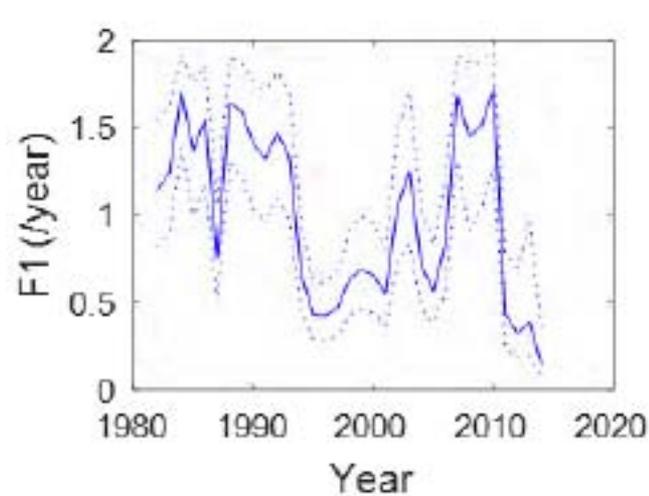
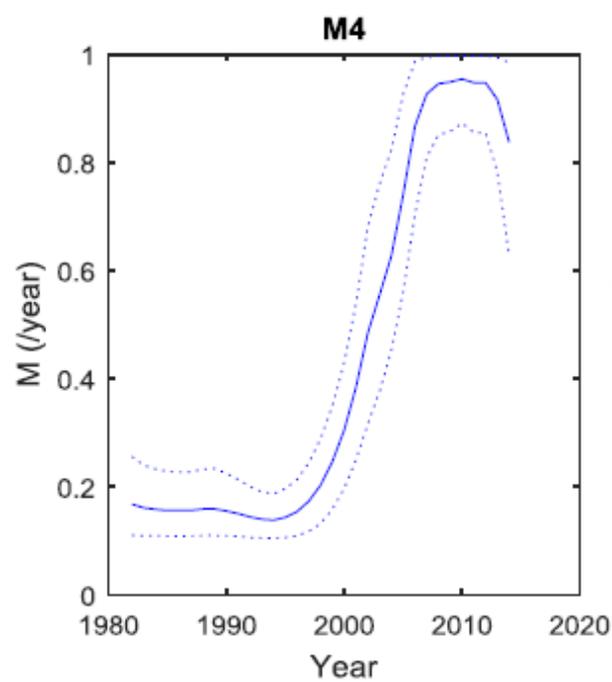


Figure 5.3.1. Commercial catch-at-age input to the age-structured models.



Total Mortality
=
Natural Mortality
+
Fishing Mortality

New Reference Points Proposed

- Based on total mortality of the stock
 - Assumes average M of 0.43
 - Threshold $Z_{20\%}$ and target $Z_{30\%}$
- Peer review recommended using SSB to provide additional info on when further precaution should be taken

	Threshold	Target	2014 Value
Z	1.36	0.93	1.11
SSB	6,880 MT	n/a	2,548 MT

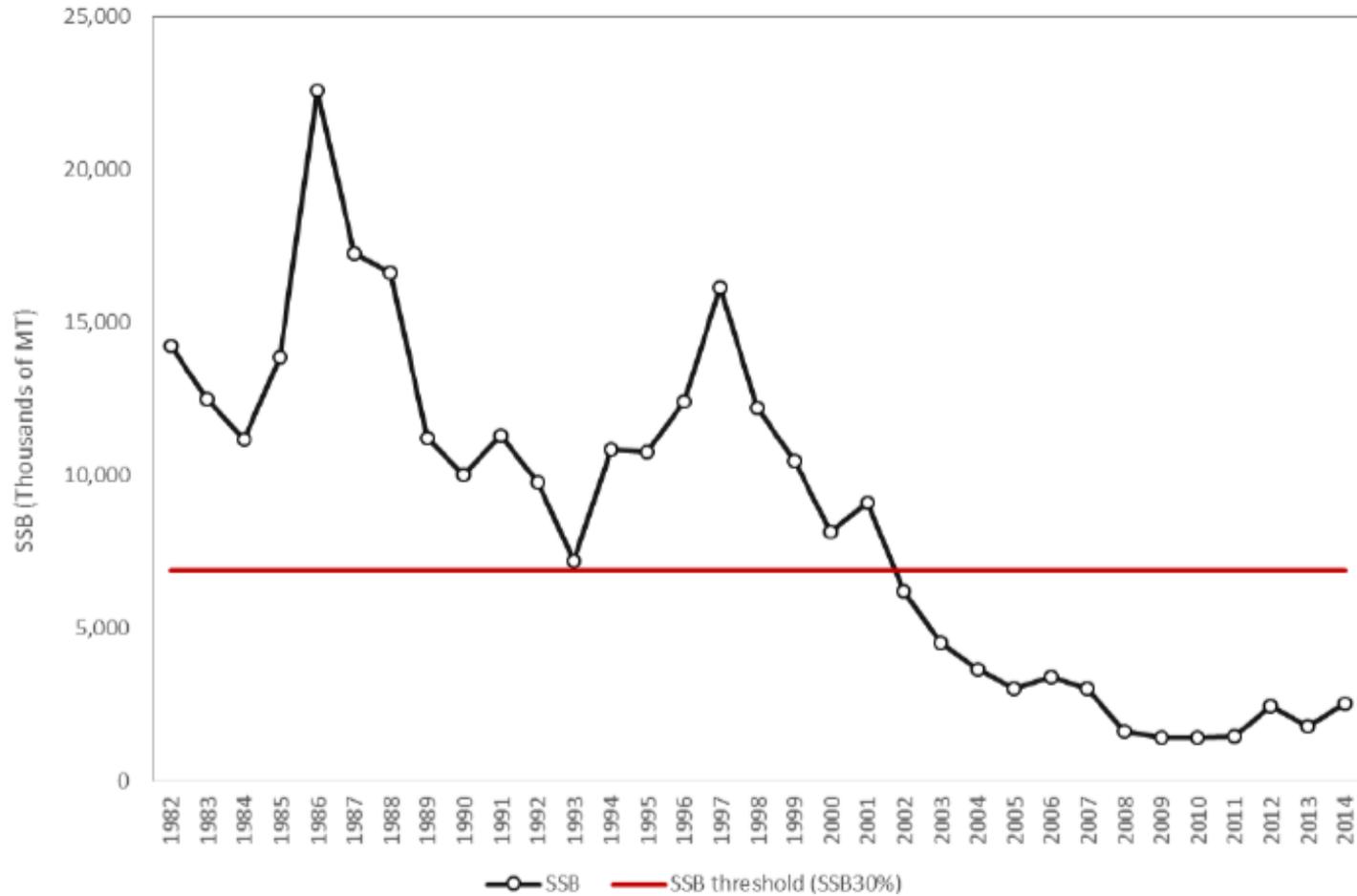


Figure 9.2.1. SSB from the preferred run of the Bayesian model and the SSB threshold.

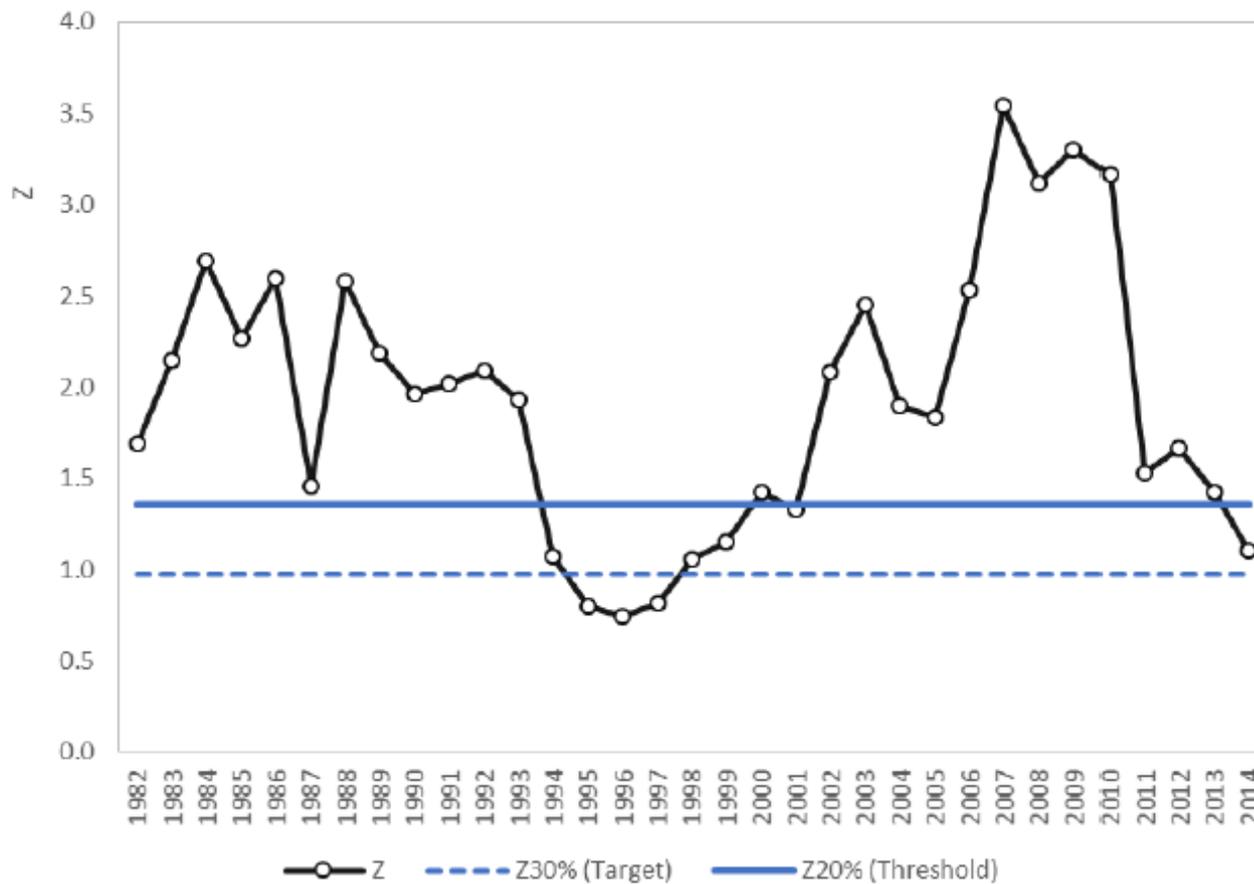


Figure 9.2.2. Total mortality from the preferred run of the Bayesian model and Z target (dashed line) and threshold (solid line).

Stock Status

- Reference points still need to be approved by the Management Board
 - Would need an addendum to do this
- Total mortality (2014) is above the target but below the threshold
 - TC recommends Z below threshold for >1 yr before management is changed
 - Previous years (2002-2013) above threshold
- Stock is still below SSB threshold and therefore depleted