



# 2014 Bay Wide Winter Dredge Blue Crab Survey

May 1, 2014

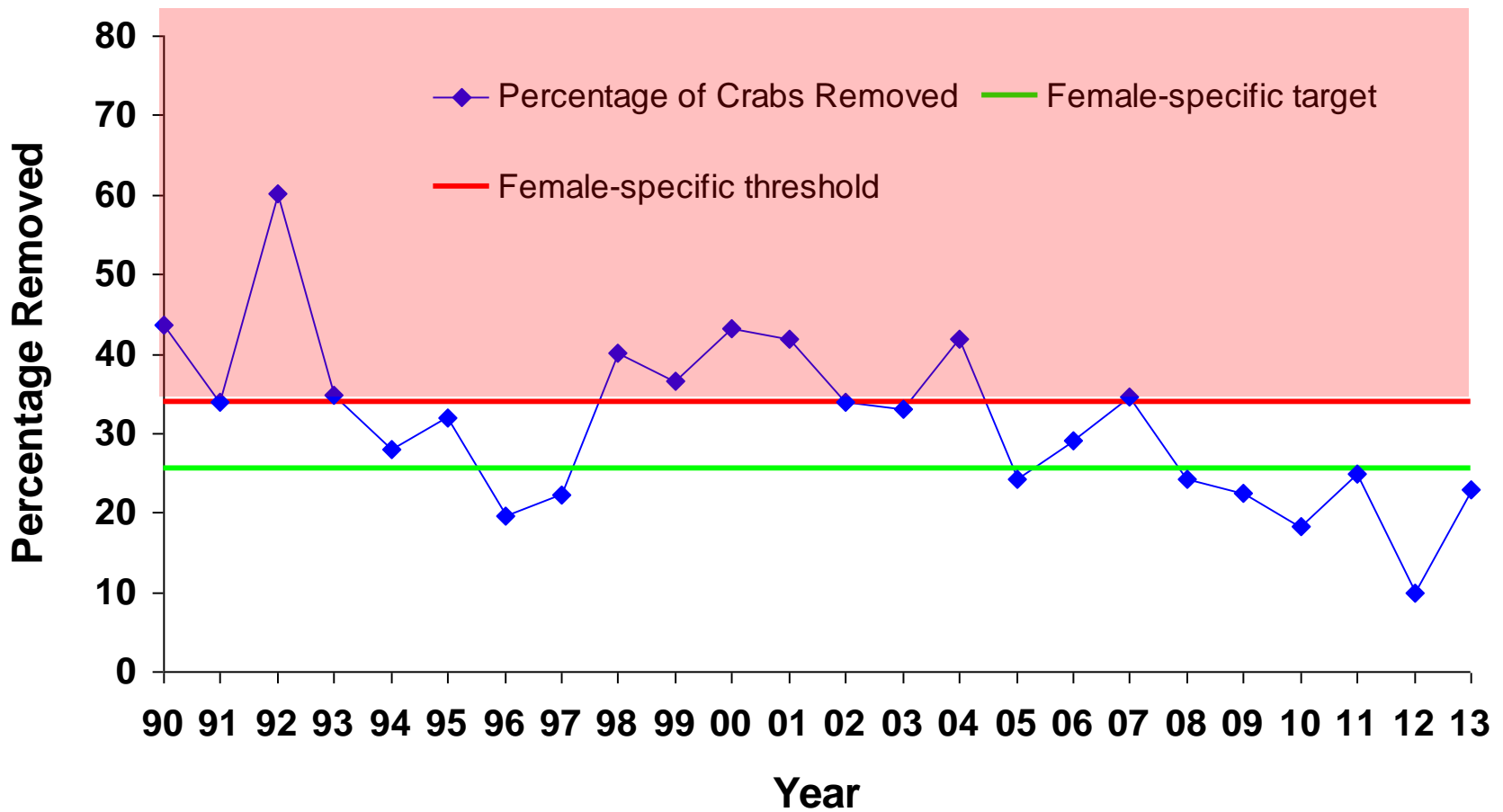
A banner for the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. The background is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water. The text "POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION" is overlaid in white, serif font.

POTOMAC RIVER  
FISHERIES COMMISSION

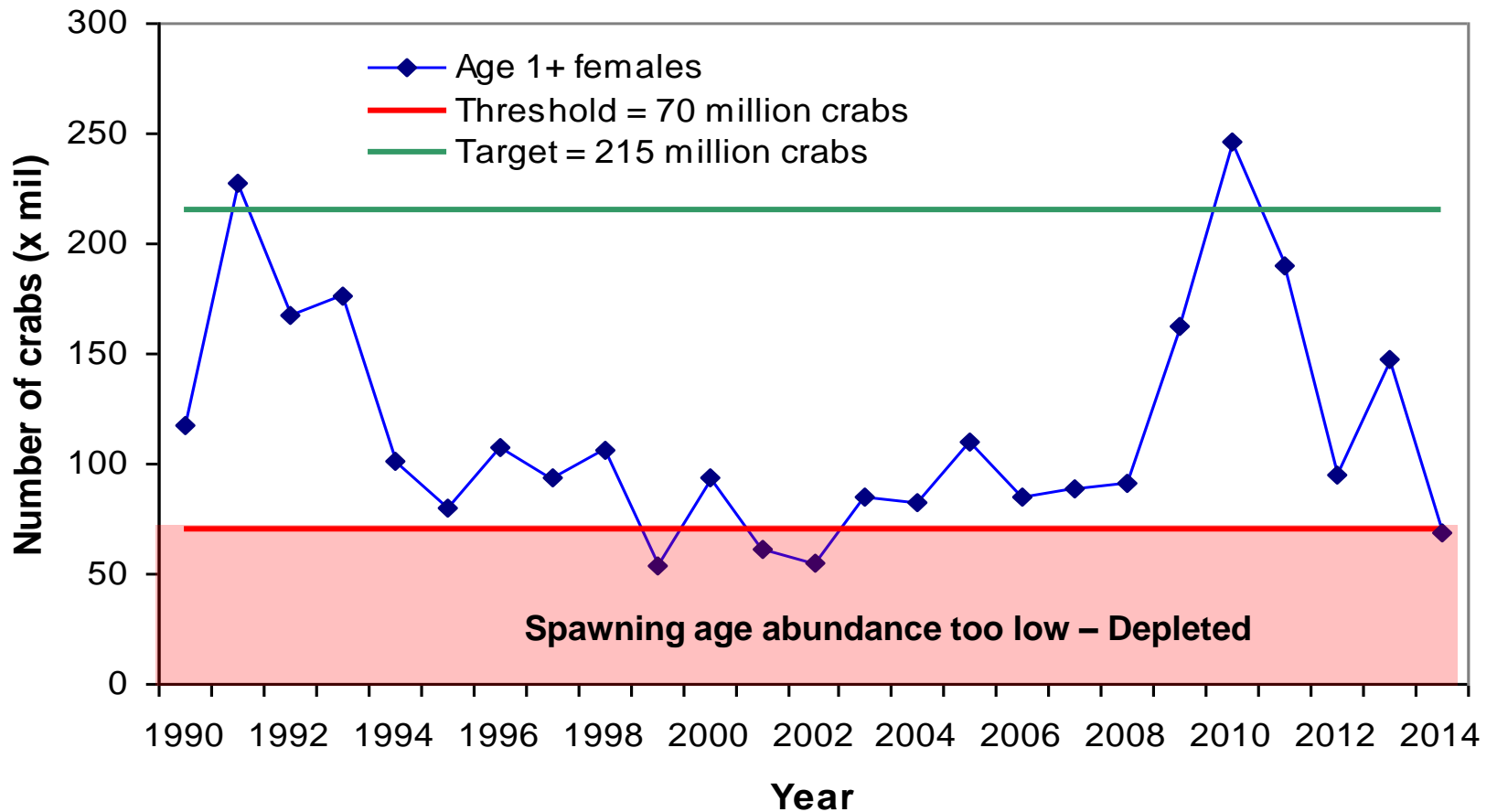
*A new beginning...  
in the peaceful management of a once troublesome body of water*



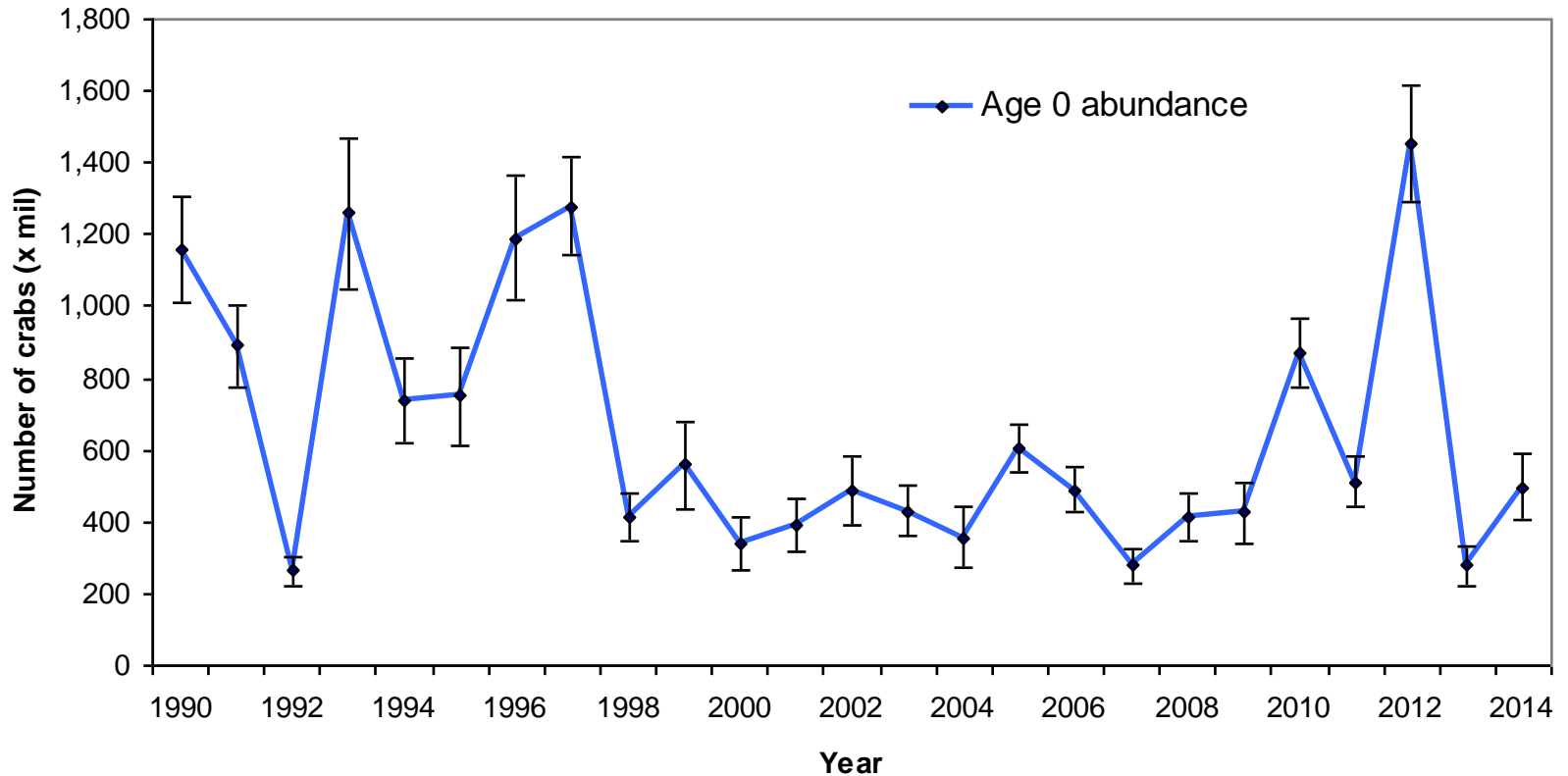
**Figure 1.** The percentage of female blue crabs removed from the population each year by fishing relative to the female-specific target (25.5%) and threshold (34%) exploitation rates, 1990 through 2013. Exploitation rate (% removed) is the number of female crabs harvested within a year divided by the female population (age 0 and age 1+) estimated at the beginning of the year.



**Figure 2.** Winter dredge survey estimate of **abundance of female blue crabs age one year and older** (age 1+) 1990-2014 with female-specific reference points. These are female crabs measuring greater than 60mm across the carapace and are considered the 'exploitable stock' that will spawn within the coming year.

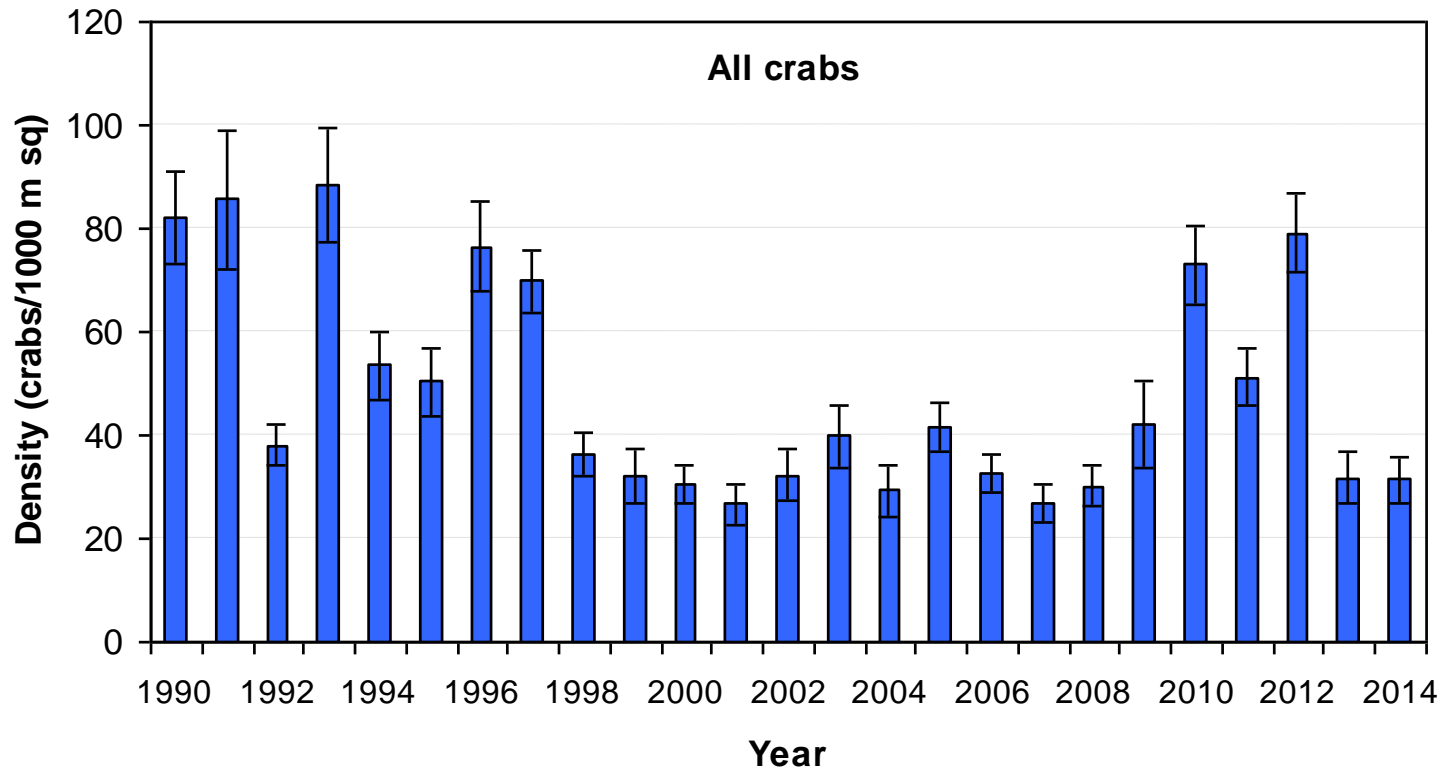


**Figure 3.** Winter dredge survey estimate of **abundance of juvenile blue crabs (age 0)**, 1990-2014. These are male and female crabs measuring less than 60mm across the carapace. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

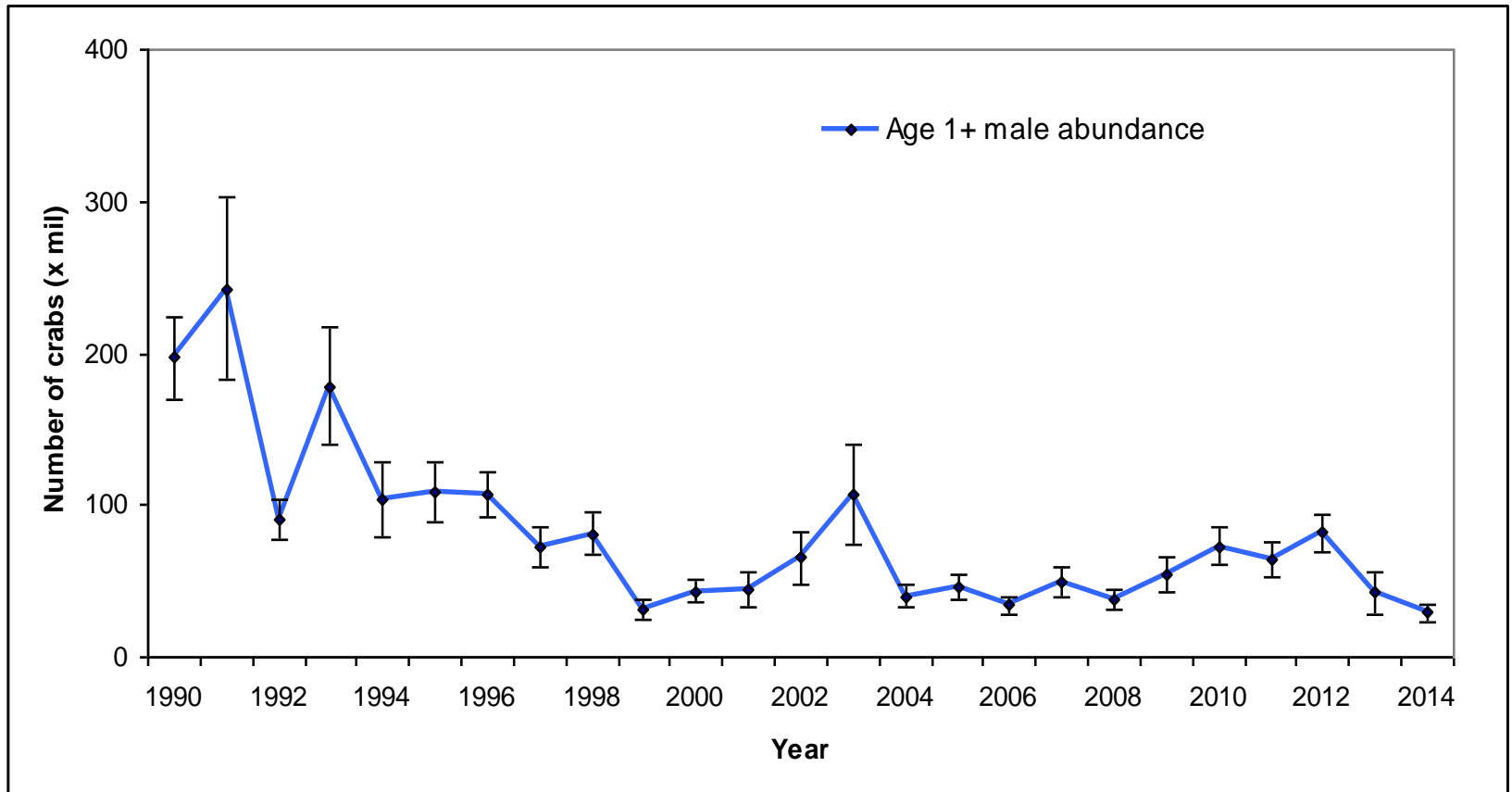


Abundance calculated using catchability adjustment from 2011 stock assessment

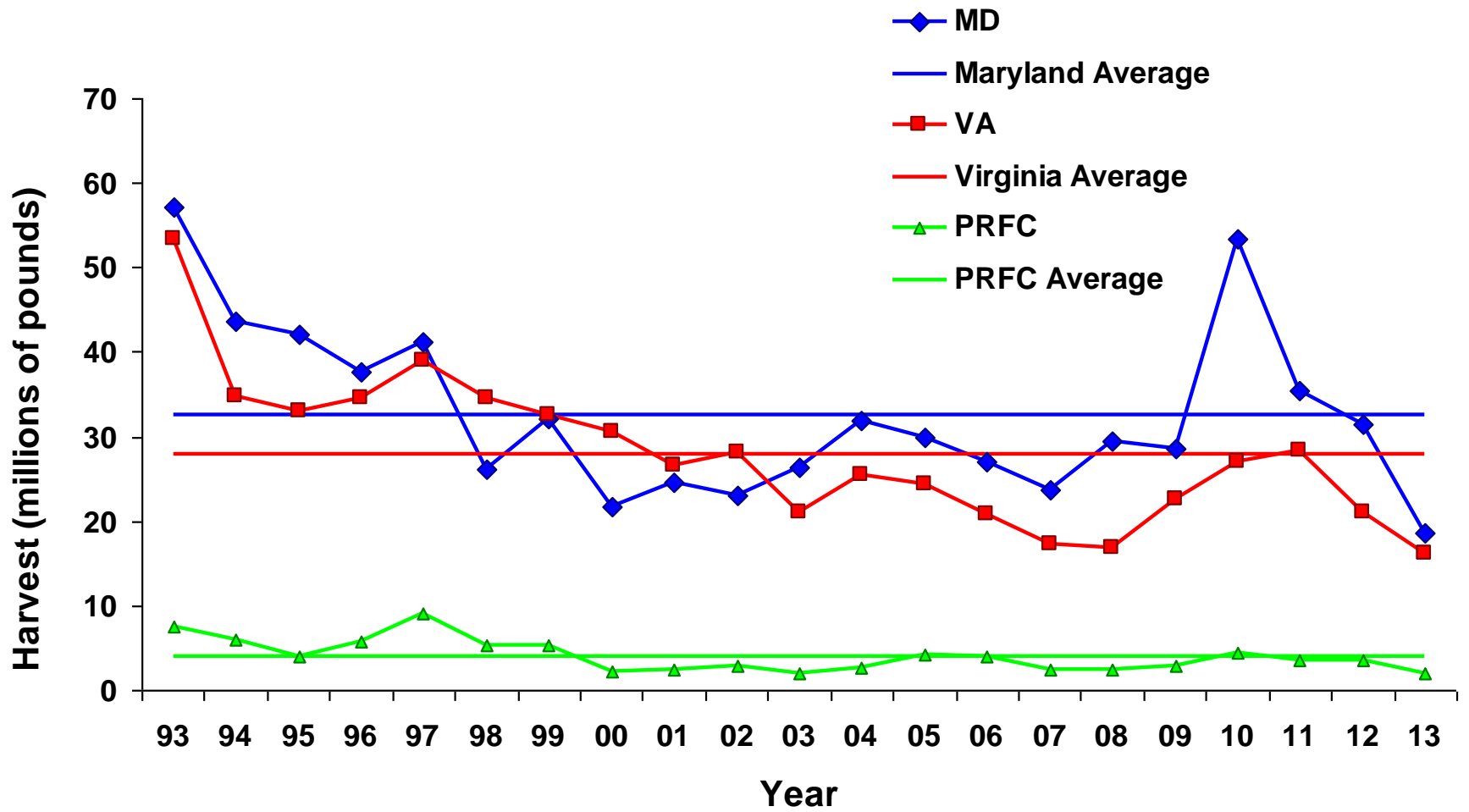
**Figure 4.** Winter dredge survey index of total blue crab abundance (density of males and females, all sizes combined) in Chesapeake Bay, 1990 through 2014. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.



**Figure 5.** Winter dredge survey estimate of **abundance of male blue crabs age one year and older (age 1+)** 1990-2014. These are male crabs measuring greater than 60mm across the carapace and are considered the 'exploitable stock' capable of mating within the coming year. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.



**Figure 6.** Maryland and Virginia Chesapeake Bay commercial blue crab harvest in millions of pounds, 1993-2013.



**Figure 7.** Percent of dead mature crabs found in late winter dredge samples in Maryland 1996 to 2014. *Mature crabs are defined as sexually mature females and males  $\geq 120$  mm*

