

2021-2022 Commercial Public Fishery Oyster Season

Harvest Analysis

(Based on Reported Maryland Seafood Dealer Buy Tickets)

Oyster Advisory Commission Meeting: 6/14/2022



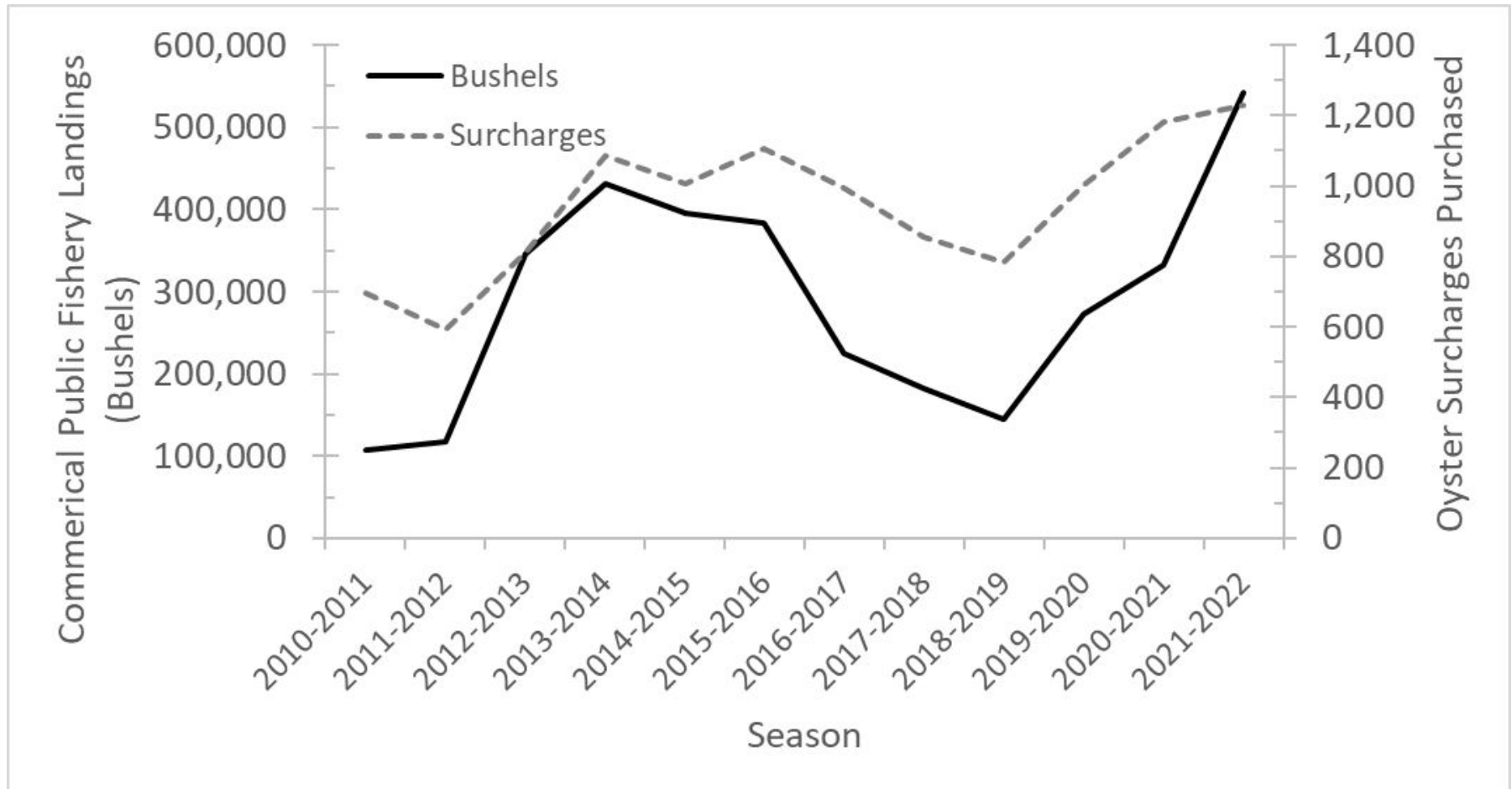
Background

Commercial Public Fishery Oyster Season

- Started on October 1, 2021 (except power and sail dredge which started on November 1)
- Ended March 31, 2022

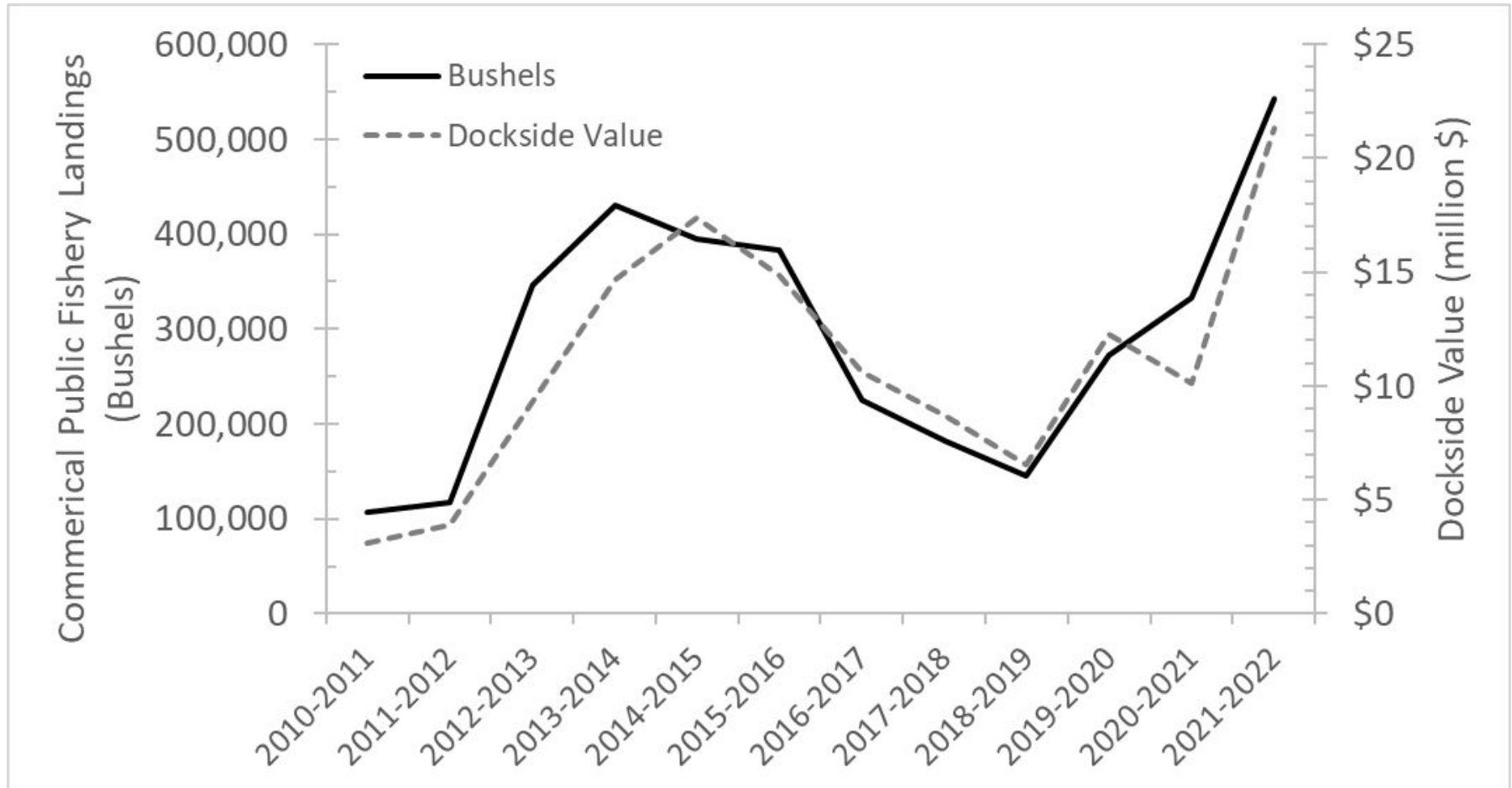


Bushels and Surcharges

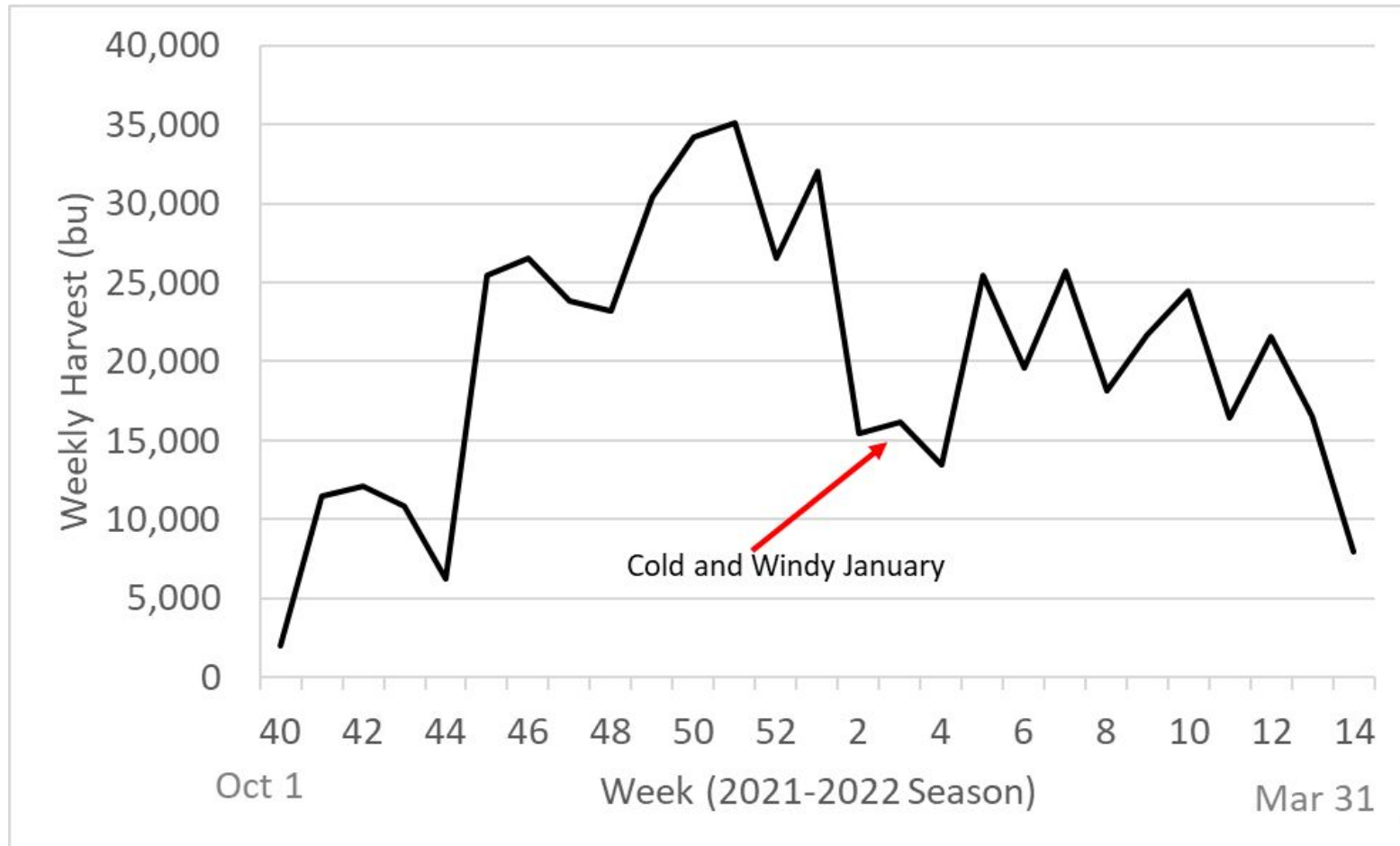




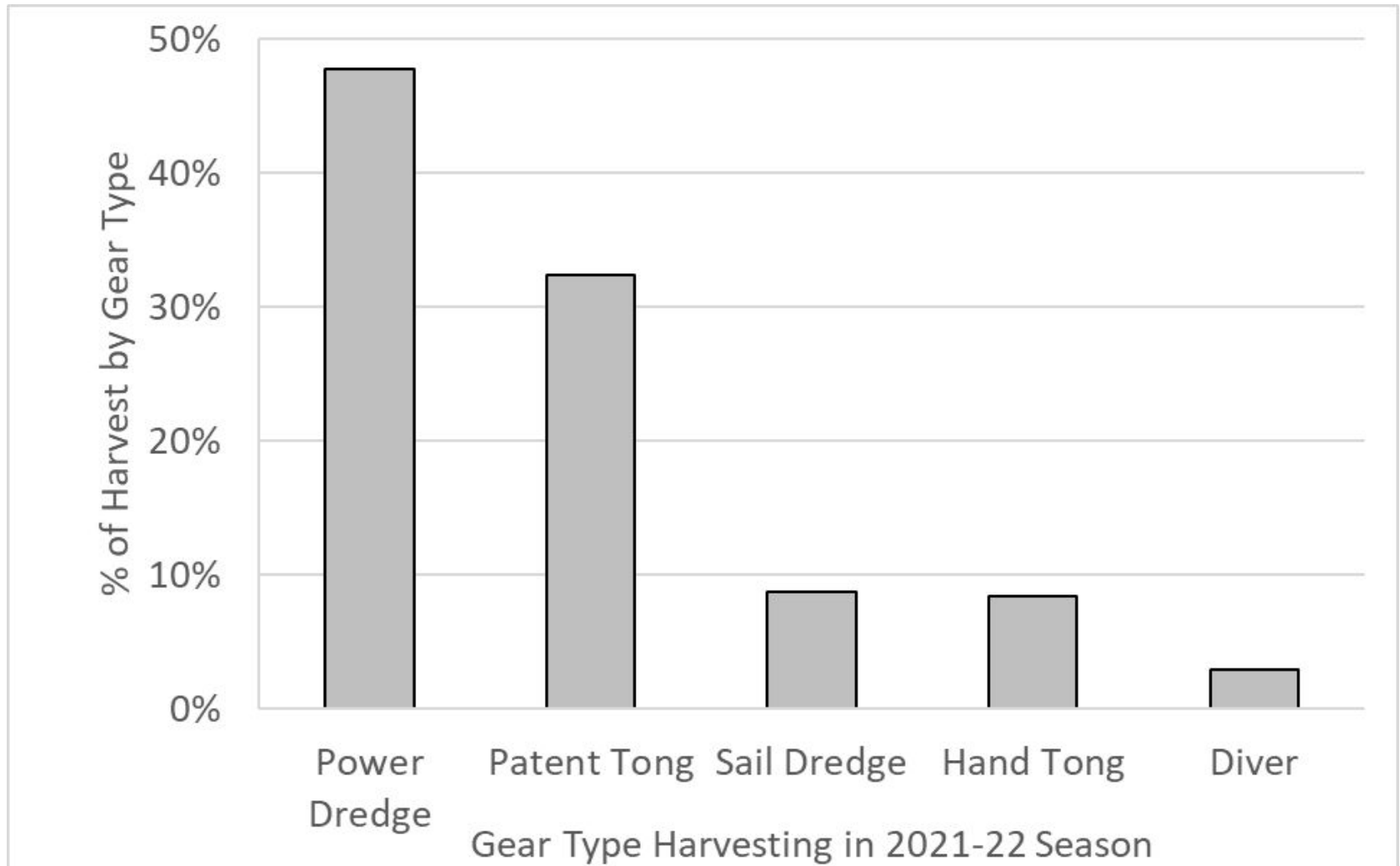
Estimated Dockside Value



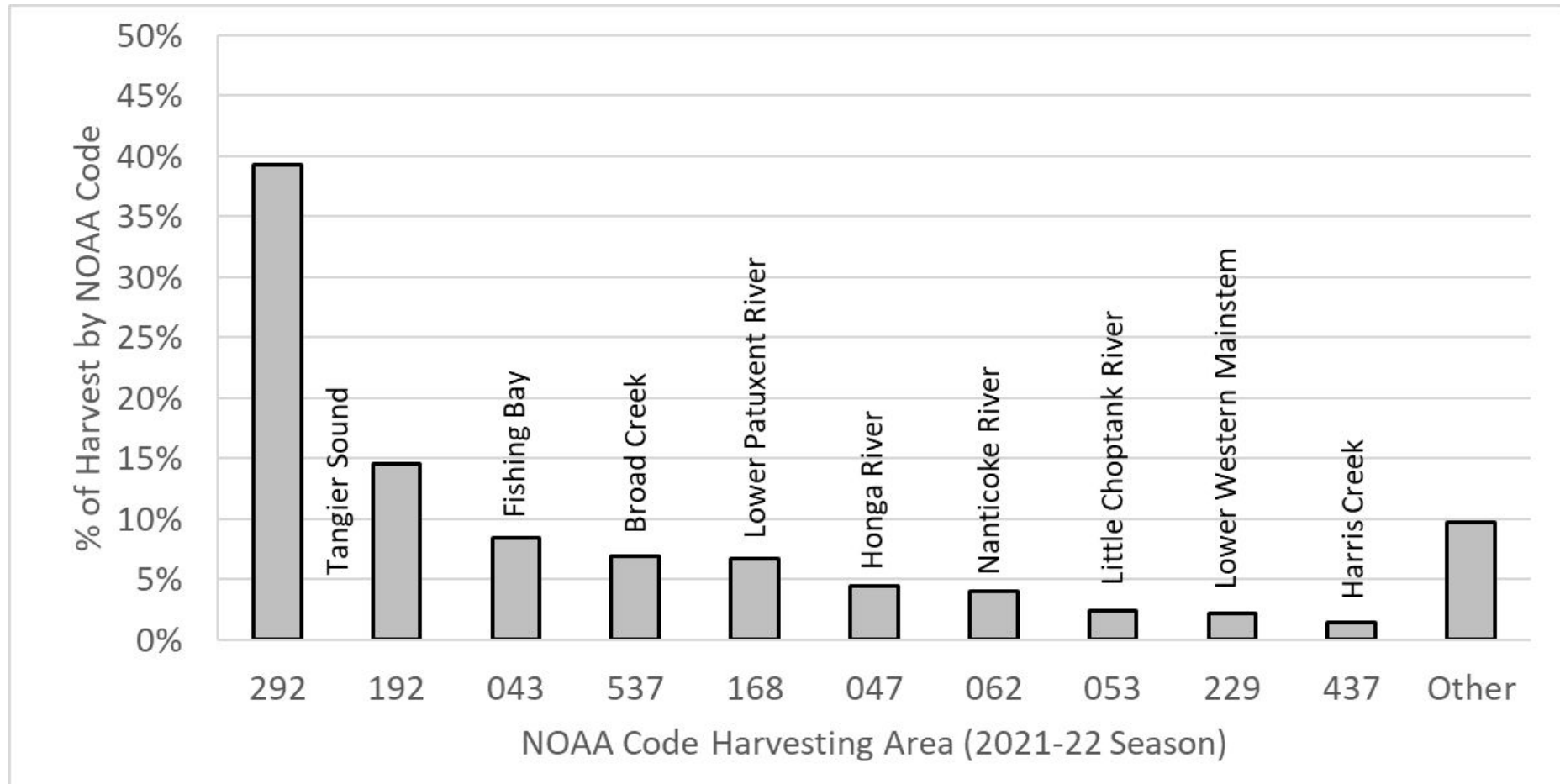
Weekly Harvest



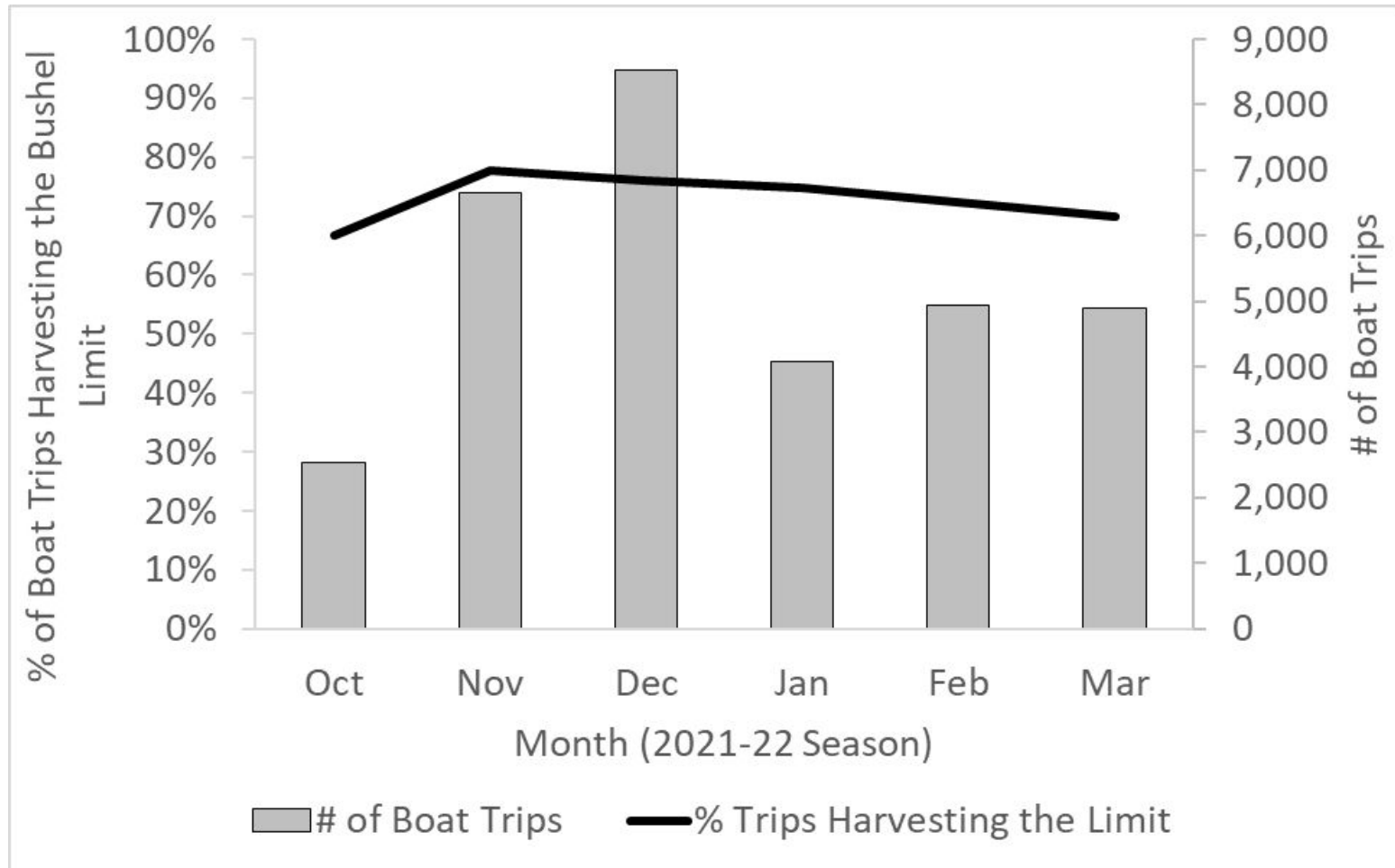
Harvest Per Gear



NOAA Code Harvest

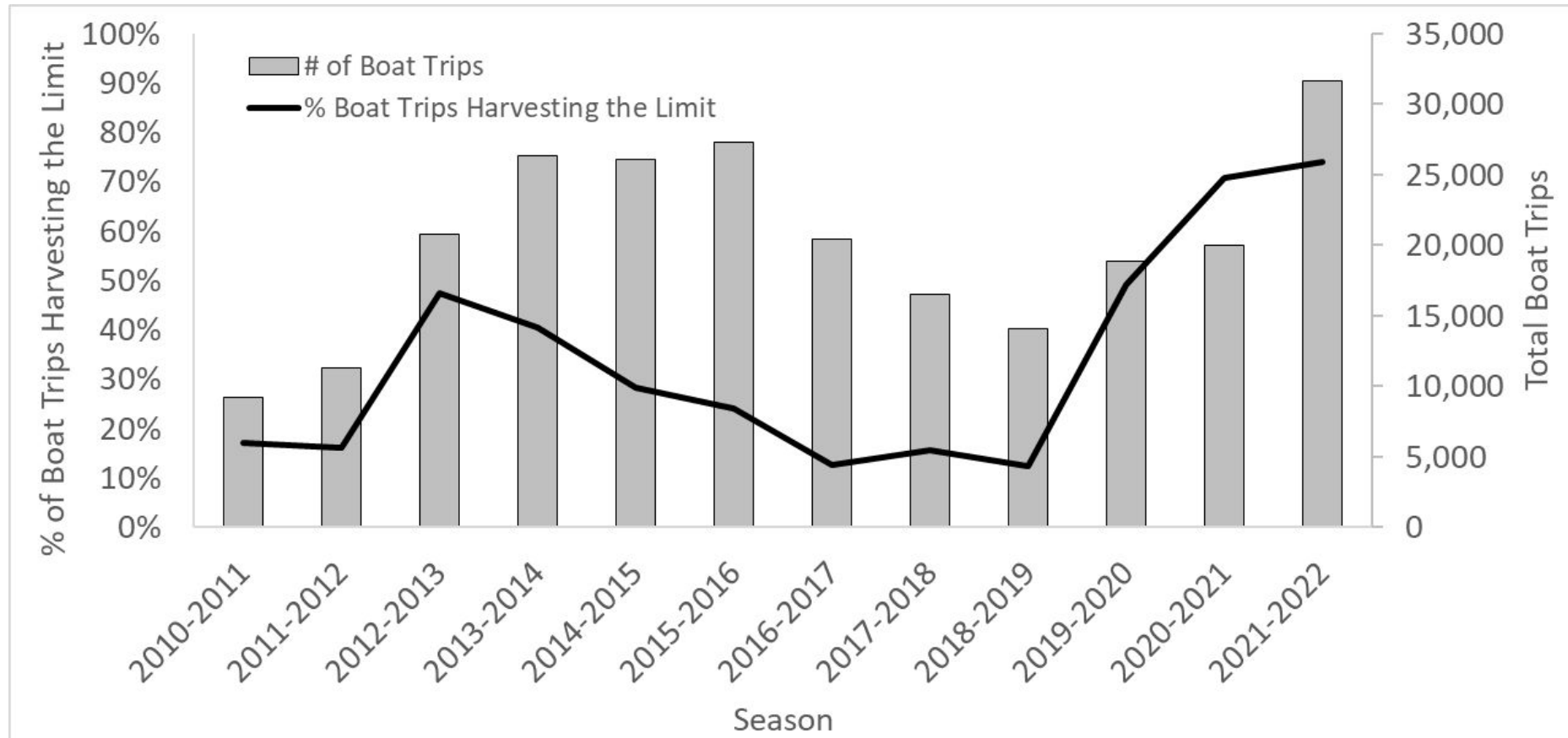


Trips Harvesting Limit

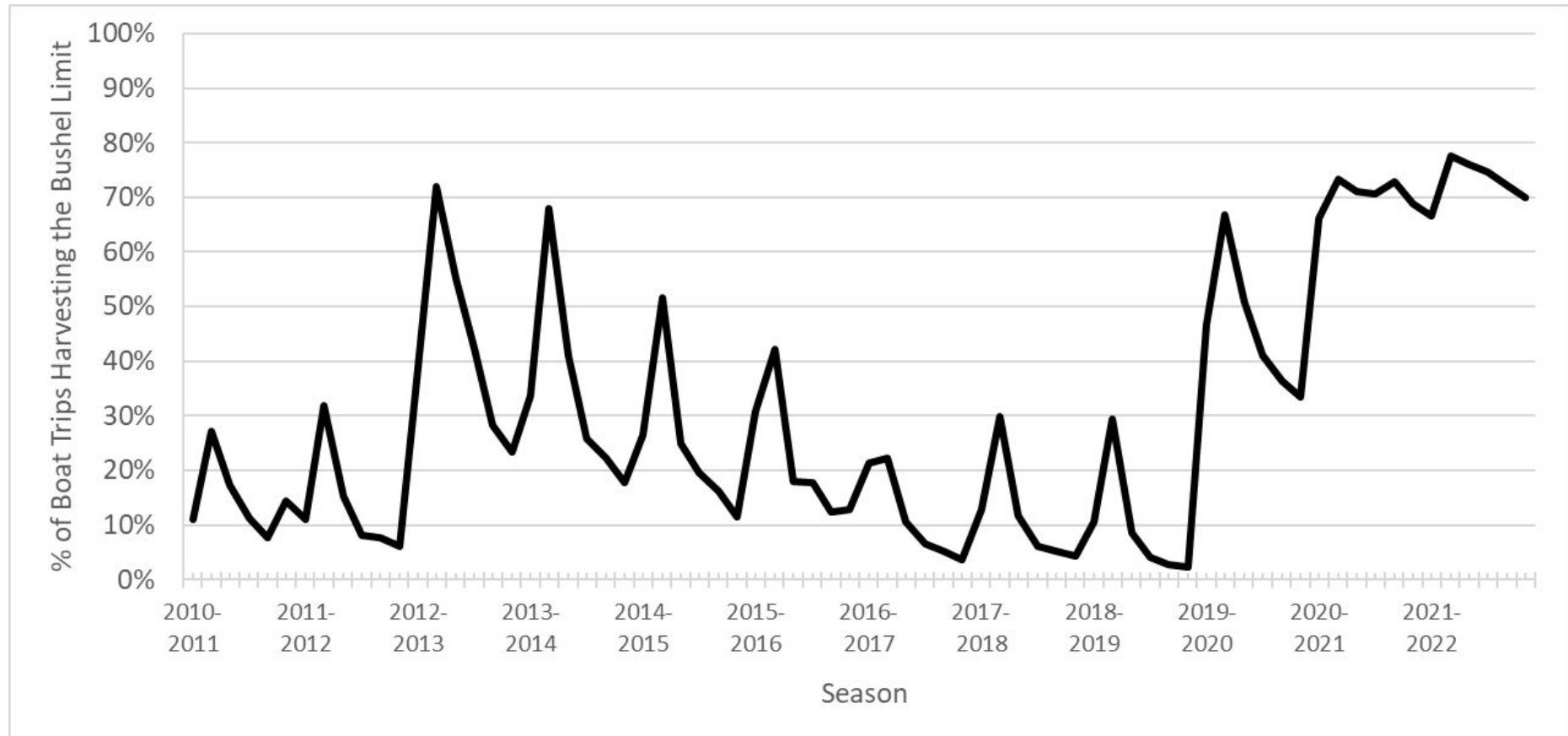




Trips Harvesting Limit



Trips Harvesting Limit





Summary

- 542 thousand bushels harvested in 2021-22 season
- Power dredging and patent tong gear
- 10 NOAA Code harvest areas = 90% of harvest
- Most harvesters caught the limit throughout the season

2022-2023 Oyster Season

Proposed Harvest Limits and Temporary Closures

Oyster Advisory Commission Meeting: 6/14/2022



Objectives

- Present proposed harvest limits for 2022-2023 season
- Solicit feedback on these proposed limits
- Publish the harvest limit public notice by 7/1/2022

Goals

Goals:

- Continue progress toward a sustainable fishery
- Manage the oyster fishery prudently to avoid unintended consequences to it and other fisheries and resources

Proposal Considerations

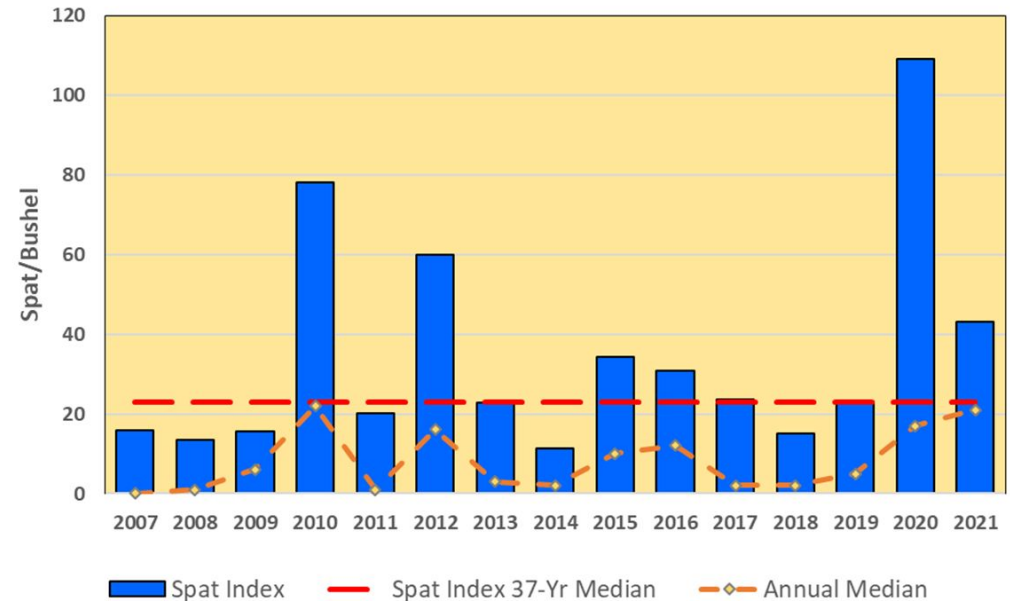
Fall Survey Results:

- 2020 and 2021 strong spat sets
- Excellent survival
- Spat yield future oysters
- Smalls & markets still on bars for next season
- Biomass Index, up

Harvest Results:

- Consistency of catch
- Many caught the limit throughout the season
- Major areas keep producing over time

Maryland Spatfall Index, 2007-2021





Last Season Limits

Commercial Season

Oct. 1 - Mar. 31 (Patent tong, Hand tong, Diver)

Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 (Power Dredge, Sail Dredge)

Commercial Days

Monday through Friday

Commercial Bushel Limits

Skipjack: 100 bushels/boat/day

Patent tong, Hand tong, Diver: 12 bushels/person/day not to exceed 24 bushels/boat/day

Power Dredge: 10 bushels/person/day not to exceed 20 bushels/boat/day

Recreational Season/Days/Limits

Oct. 1 - Mar. 31

Monday through Saturday

100 oysters per person/day

Next Season Limits

Proposed: Same as Last Year

Commercial Season

Oct. 1 - Mar. 31 (Patent tong, Hand tong, Diver)

Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 (Power Dredge, Sail Dredge)

Commercial Days

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Commercial Bushel Limits

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Temporary Closure



For the 2022-2023 oyster season:

Close areas above the Bay Bridge

Any public fishery areas planted with hatchery spat-on-shell or wild seed between 3 to 6 years ago could be open to harvest



Feedback

In addition to feedback received tonight, the department would like to solicit feedback on the 2022-23 proposed harvest limits.

Please submit comments to DNR

By June 21, 2022

Note: Feedback weblink will be sent via email. Will also be posted on social media and DNR's website