



Commercial Fishery Possession and Landing Limits

Effective: November 29, 2025

Species	Status	Limit	Comments
American Lobster	OPEN		Lobster Pot Allocation required to take lobsters by pot. During the closed season: Sep 8-Nov 28, both dates inclusive, possession of lobster taken from Long Island Sound (LMA 6) is prohibited. Beginning Nov. 15 th gear may be redeployed but traps cannot be baited until November 22 nd Minimum size: 3 3/8"
American shad	CLOSED		Open: April 1– June 15, except weekends. American Shad may be taken in the Connecticut River only. Maximum gillnet soak time = 4 hours
Atlantic menhaden	OPEN	12,000lb ¹ 120,000 ²	¹ Call-in required when in possession of more than 6,000 lb. Encon Police: 860-424-3503 ² Taken from outside of CT waters. ³ The directed fishery is closed. The incidental fishery remains open with a 6,000-pound possession limit.
Black Sea Bass	OPEN	3,000lb ¹ 60lb ² Effective 0001hrs, Sunday, December 7: 5,000lb ¹ 60lb ²	¹ Black Sea Bass License Endorsement required to take sea bass – INCLUDING from lobster traps. ² Possession limit for the commercial harvest of black sea bass caught in lobster traps and when in possession of lobsters, no license endorsement required. Does not apply to personal use lobster license holders. <u>Call-in required for landings from lobster pots</u> ; provide name, plate number, reporting week ending date and total pounds landed from pots during the reporting week: 860-447-4323. Minimum size: 11" See page 4 for quota status
Bluefish	OPEN	800lb	Minimum size: 9" See page 5 for quota status
Jonah crab	OPEN	Lobster Pot: No Limit Non-trap: 1,000 crabs	Minimum size = 4.75-inch carapace length.
Scup	OPEN	15,000lb ¹	¹ NO Scup License Endorsement letter is required to land scup during the Winter 1 and Winter 2 periods (Jan-April, Oct-Dec) ² Scup License Endorsement required May 1 – Sep 30, EXCEPT: (A) Under a Restricted Commercial Fishing License: 100 fish limit (B) In the commercial Lobster Pot Fishery: 10 fish limit Minimum size: 9" See page 6 for quota status
Spiny dogfish	OPEN	7,500lb ¹	¹ By fisherman agreement first dorsal fin must remain attached to the carcass as required by ASMFC FMP
Smooth dogfish	OPEN	500lb ¹	¹ By fisherman agreement first dorsal fin must remain attached to the carcass as required by ASMFC FMP. See page 8 for quota status
Summer flounder	OPEN	400lb ¹ Effective 0001hrs, Sunday, December 7: 500lb ¹	¹ Summer Flounder License Endorsement required. ² Prior to departure, captains can call Encon Police at 860-424-3503 (24/7) or email: deep.dispatch@ct.gov and provide: vessel name, Captain's name and phone number, departure date and location, estimated return date, time and port of landing. Prior to offloading, Captain's <u>must call</u> Encon Police at 860-424-3503 (24/7) and provide vessel name, Captain's name, return date and time, port of landing and hail weight of summer flounder onboard. Minimum size: 14" See page 7 for quota status
Tautog*	OPEN Closes: 12/25/2025	10 fish ^{1,3} 3 fish ^{2,3}	¹ When fishing under a Limited Access Commercial Fishing License (non-creel limited). ² When fishing under a Restricted Commercial Fishing or a creel-limited license. ³ All commercially harvested Tautog must be tagged with the current year tags provided by the department. Open commercial seasons are: April 1-30, July 1-Aug 31, Oct 8 - Dec 24 Minimum size: 16" *Tautog tagging program mandated for 2025 *APPLICATION*
Winter flounder	OPEN	50lb or 38 fish	State waters closed to harvest March 1 through April 14. Federally permitted vessels are permitted to land the higher federal limits of fish taken from federal waters. Minimum Size: 12"
Weakfish	OPEN	100lb	Minimum size: 16"
Whelk	OPEN		Minimum size: 5" shell length or 2" shell height. Effective January 1, 2026, the minimum size: 5 1/4" shell length or 2 1/8" shell height.

All the possession limits listed above apply to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel per trip or per day whichever is the longer period of time. Transfer of these species between vessels at sea is prohibited. In any instance where there is a violation of the possession limit on board a vessel carrying more than one person when the catch is commingled, the violation shall be deemed to have been committed by the owner of the vessel, or the operator of the vessel, if the owner is not on board. **When any person on a vessel is commercial fishing, the commercial possession limit applies to the entire vessel and no person on that vessel may also possess fish under a recreational creel limit.**

Principal State Quota-Managed Species – 2025 Adjustments.

	Summer Flounder Minimum Size: 14” 2025 quota = 198,393lb (initial) CT share=2.257% of coast-wide annual quota.	Scup Minimum Size: 9” 2025 summer period quota = 240,040lb (initial) CT share=3.154% of summer period coast-wide quota.	Black Sea Bass Minimum Size: 11” 2025 quota = 187,104lb (initial) CT share= 3.12% of coastwide annual quota.	Bluefish Minimum Size: 9” 2025 quota = 35,309lb (initial) CT share= 1.16% of coastwide annual quota.
December 7	500lb	15,000lb	5,000lb, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
November 29	400lb	15,000lb	3,000lb, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
November 16	400lb	15,000lb	3,000lb	800lb
October 14	250lb	CORRECTED: 15,000lb	1,500lb	800lb
October 12	250lb	12,000lb	1,500lb	800lb
October 1	250lb	12,000lb	500lb	800lb
September 8	250lb	2,000lb, 100 Fish RCFL	500lb	800lb
August 24	250lb	2,000lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish lobster pot	500lb, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
August 3	250lb	1,500lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish lobster pot	300lb, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
July 13	200lb	1,500lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish lobster pot	300lb, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
June 5	200lb	1,500lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish lobster pot	CORRECTED: 225lb, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
May 18	200lb	1,500lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish lobster pot	250lb, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
May 1	150lb	1,500lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish lobster pot	250lb, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
March 16	600lb bi-weekly	50,000lb	1,250lb bi-weekly, 60lb from lobster pots	CLOSED
January 1	600lb bi-weekly	50,000lb	1,250lb bi-weekly, 60lb from lobster pots	800lb
Winter 1 Period	Jan 1-April 30 600lb bi-weekly Summer Flounder License Endorsement required.	Jan 1-April 30 50,000lb (Federal Winter 1 guidelines). No Scup License Endorsement Required	Jan 1-April 30 1,250lb bi-weekly, 60lb from lobster pots A black sea bass license endorsement is required to land sea bass except when allowance from	Jan 1-April 30 800lb Possession limits will be adjusted periodically to

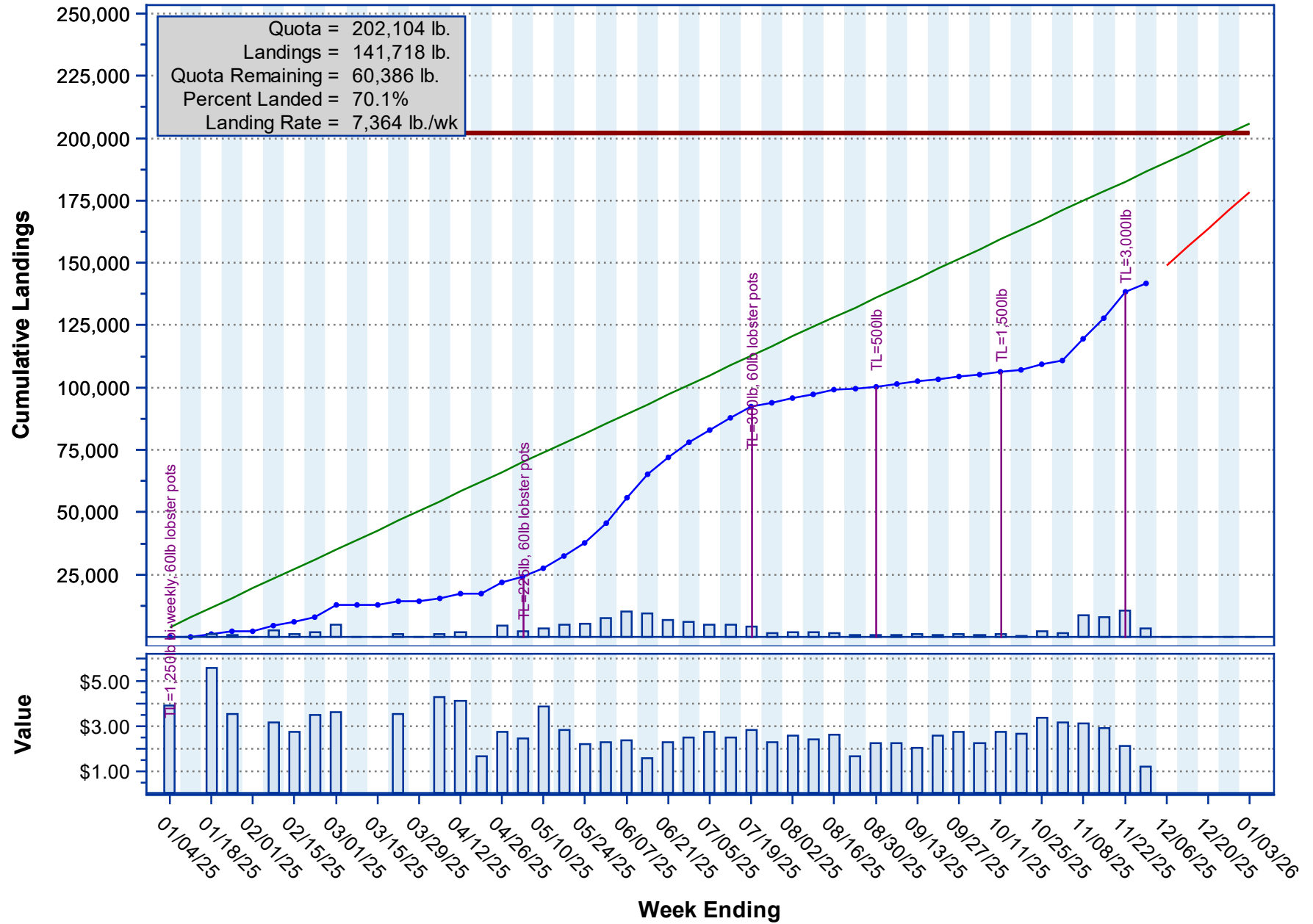
Principal State Quota-Managed Species – 2025 Adjustments.

	<p>The two-week periods begin at 0001 hours on Sunday morning and end on the second Saturday night at 2359. The two-week periods are: 1/1-1/11, 1/12-1/25, 1/26-2/8, 2/9-2/22, 2/23-3/8, 3/9-3/22, 3/23-4/5, 4/6-4/19 etc.</p> <p>Call-in/Call-out is required. Adjust limit to land not more than 20% of the annual quota by April 30. If the period target quota is met before April 30, the possession limit shall be 50lb. Summer Flounder License Endorsement required.</p>	<p>during Winter 1 or Winter 2 periods.</p> <p>Adjust limit to 1,000lb when 80% of the Period quota has been harvested.</p>	<p>lobster pots is permitted and when in possession of lobster.</p> <p>The two-week periods begin at 0001 hours on Sunday morning and end on the second Saturday night at 2359. The two-week periods are: 1/1-1/11, 1/12-1/25, 1/26-2/8, 2/9-2/22, 2/23-3/8, 3/9-3/22, 3/23-4/5, 4/6-4/19 etc.</p> <p>60lb from lobster pots. From lobster pots, when in possession of lobster. No Black Sea Bass license endorsement required. Weekly call-in is required for black sea bass landings from lobster pots. Call 860-447-4323 and leave a message including: fisherman's name, commercial fishing plate number, reporting week ending date and total pounds of black sea bass landed from lobster pots during the reporting week. Deadline of 2359 hours every Monday, commencing Monday, January 6th.</p> <p>Adjust limit to land not more than 20% of the annual quota through April 30.</p>	<p>maintain a steady monthly landing rate and prevent in-season closure, with the goal of landing 100% of the annual quota. The period target quota for Winter 1 shall be 33% of Connecticut's annual quota.</p>
PLANNED Summer Period	<p>May 1 – Oct 31</p> <p>150lb all gears.</p> <p>Summer Flounder License Endorsement required.</p> <p>Adjusted periodically to maintain consistent weekly landings rate and to land not more than 95% of the annual quota cumulatively through October 31.</p>	<p>May 1 – Sep 30</p> <p>1,500lb for Scup License Endorsement Holders, 100 fish without Scup Endorsement <i>and</i> fishing under a Restricted Commercial Fishing License.</p> <p>Commercial lobster pot fisherman may, when in possession of lobster, possess 10 Scup. Does not apply to personal use lobster license holders.</p> <p>Adjusted periodically to maintain consistent weekly landings rate, prevent in-season closure and take 100% of the summer period quota by September 30.</p>	<p>May 1 – Oct 31</p> <p>225lb, 60lb from lobster pots</p> <p>The limit will be adjusted periodically to maintain a steady weekly landing rate with the goal of landing not more than 95% of the annual quota through October 31st.</p> <p>A black sea bass license endorsement is required to land sea bass except when allowance from lobster pots is permitted and when in possession of lobster.</p>	<p>May 1 – Oct 31</p> <p>800lb all gears.</p> <p>Adjusted periodically to prevent in-season closure. To prevent significant change in the character of the fishery, the possession limit will not exceed 800lb. The period target quota for the Summer period shall be 84% of Connecticut's annual quota.</p>
PLANNED Winter 2 Period	<p>Nov 1-Dec 31</p> <p>300lb weekly all gears</p>	<p>Oct 1- Dec 31</p> <p>12,000lb</p>	<p>Nov 1-Dec 31</p> <p>225lb, 60lb from lobster pots.</p>	<p>Nov 1-Dec 31</p> <p>800lb</p>

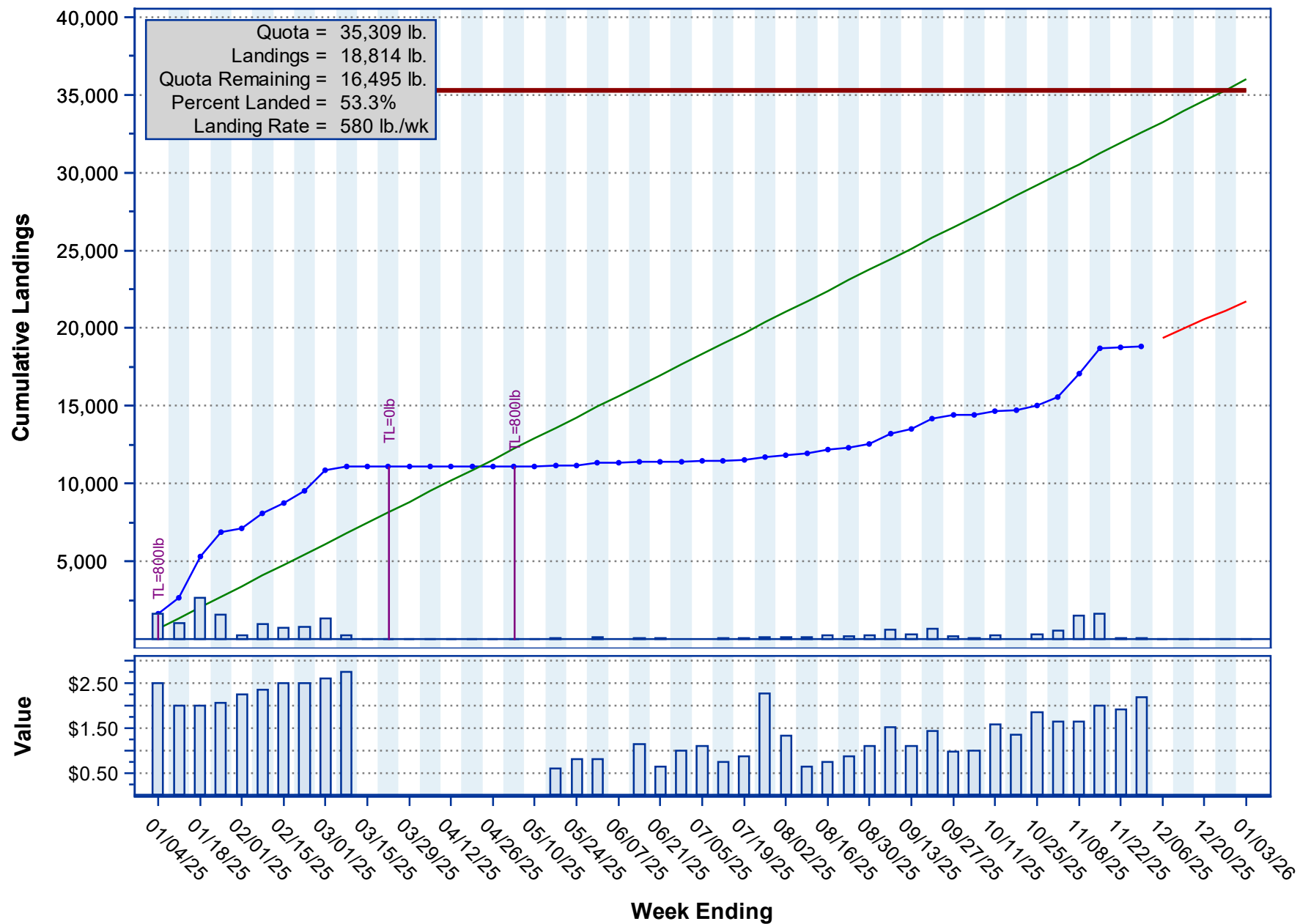
Principal State Quota-Managed Species – 2025 Adjustments.

	Summer Flounder License Endorsement required.	(Federal Winter 2 guidelines). No Scup License Endorsement required during Winter 2.	A black sea bass license endorsement is required to land sea bass except when allowance from lobster pots is permitted and when in possession of lobster.	
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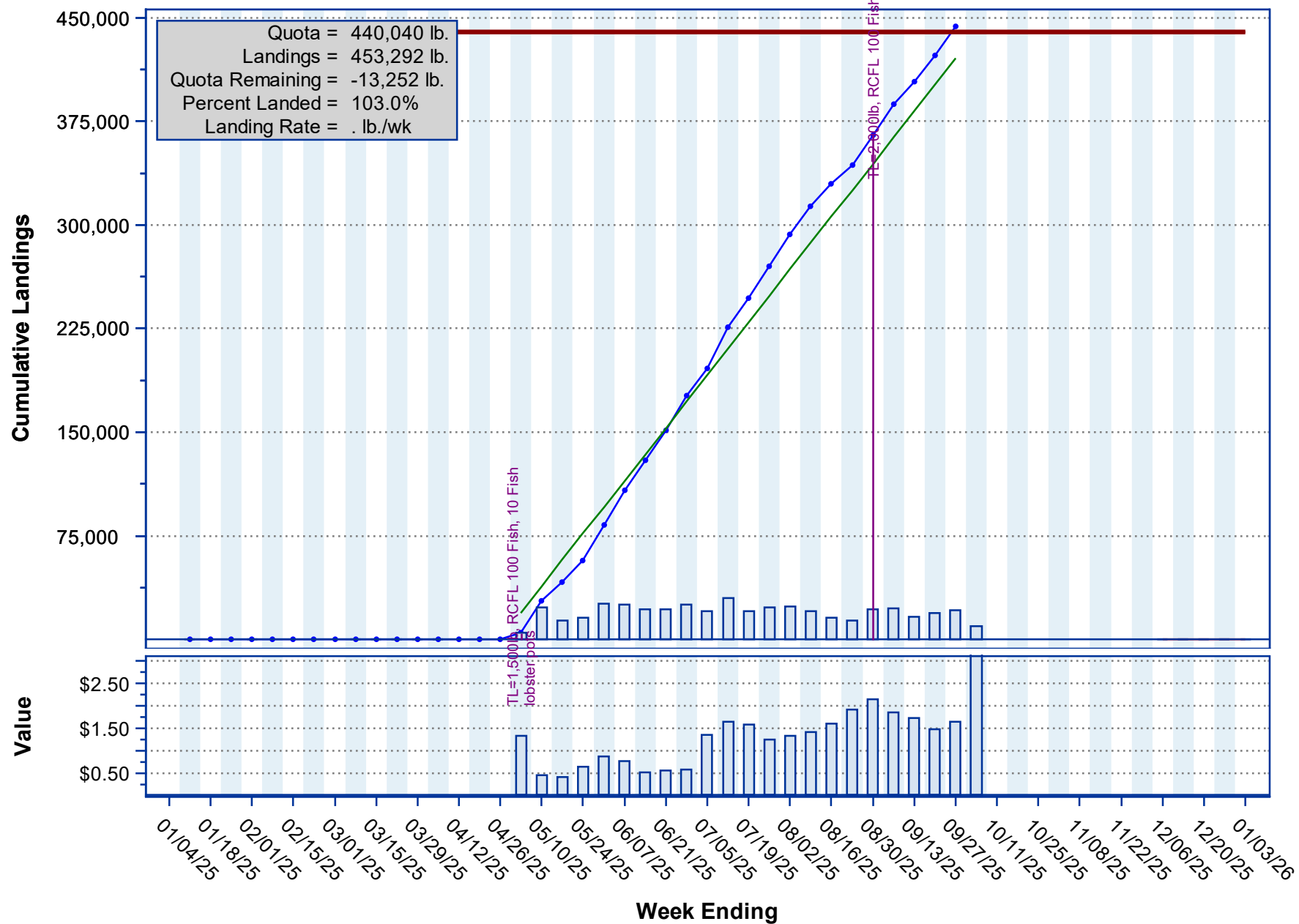
2025 Weekly Black Sea Bass Landings for Quota Monitoring



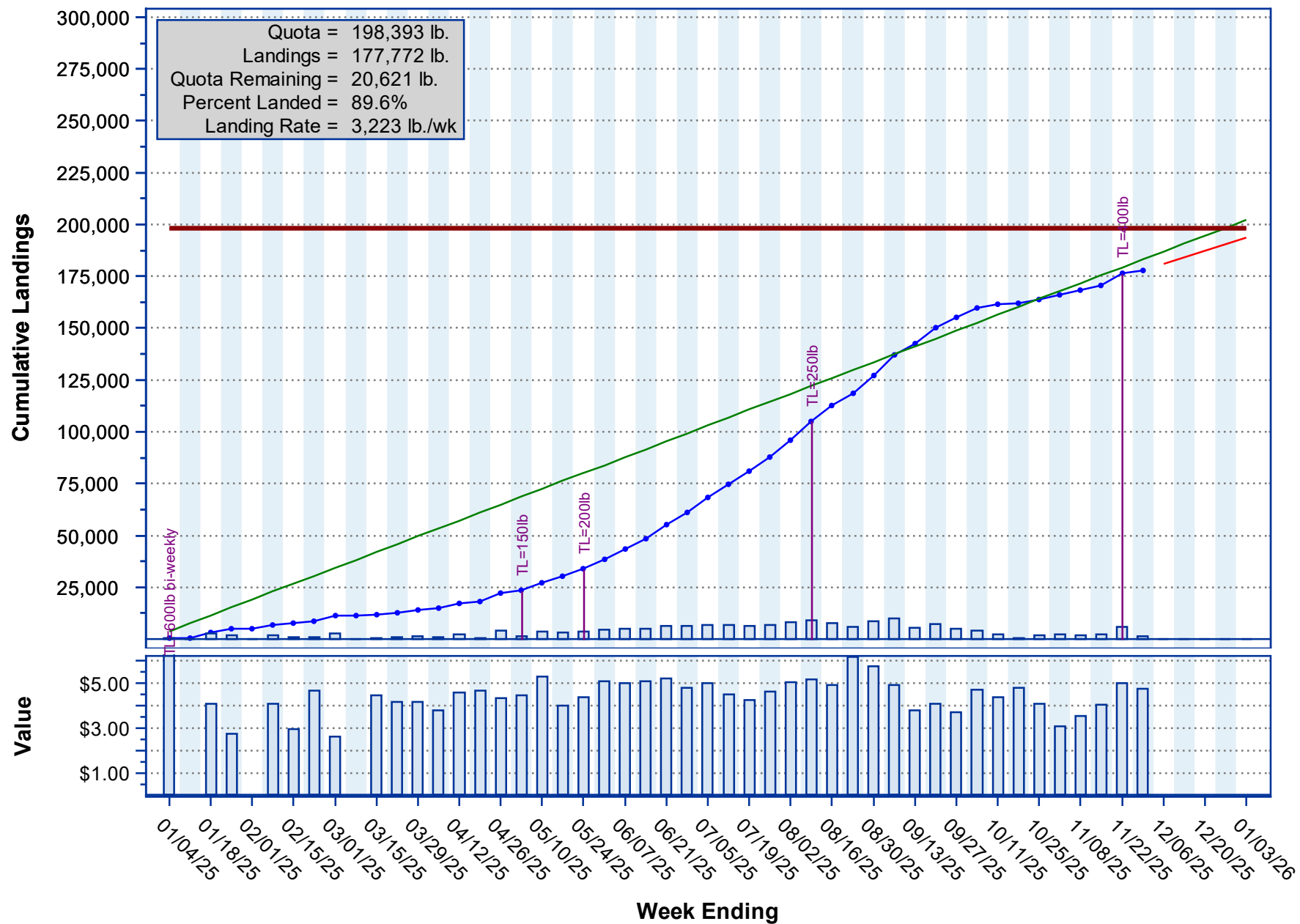
2025 Weekly Bluefish Landings for Quota Monitoring



2025 Weekly Scup Landings for Quota Monitoring



2025 Weekly Summer Flounder Landings for Quota Monitoring



2025 Weekly Smooth Dogfish Landings for Quota Monitoring

