https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL
Marine Fisheries Program
Tel: 860-434-6043
deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

Commercial Fishery Possession and Landing Limits
Effective: September 8, 2026

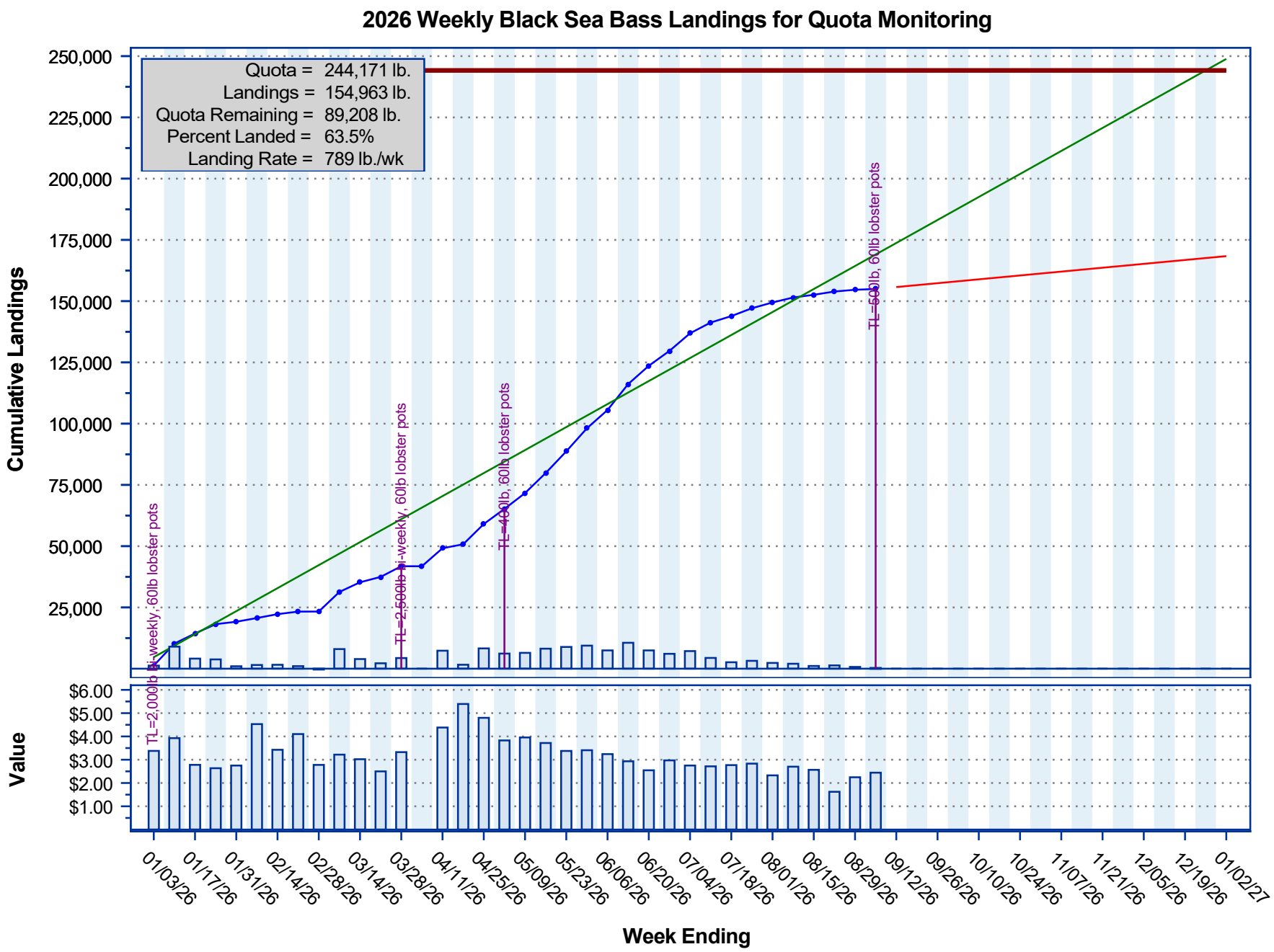
Species	Status	Limit	Comments
American Lobster	**CLOSED**		Lobster Pot Allocation required to take lobsters by pot. During the closed Season: Sep 8-Nov 28, both dates inclusive, possession of lobster taken from Long Island Sound (LMA 6) is prohibited. Beginning Nov. 15th, gear may be redeployed but traps cannot be baited until Nov. 22nd 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**	500lb[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. Call-in required for landings from lobster pots: 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**	1,000lb	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**	3,000lb[2] 100 Fish[A] 10 Fish[B]	[1] NO Scup License Endorsement letter is required to land scup during the Winter I and Winter II 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**	3,500lb[1,2] per week	[1] Summer Flounder License Endorsement required. [2] Prior to departure, captains must 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 must call 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*	**CLOSED**	3 fish[2,3] 10 fish[1,3]	[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 2026** *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**		**Effective: January 1, 2026, the Minimum size: 5 ¼" shell length or 2 1/8" shell height.**

All the possession limits listed above apply to the aggregate of all people 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.***

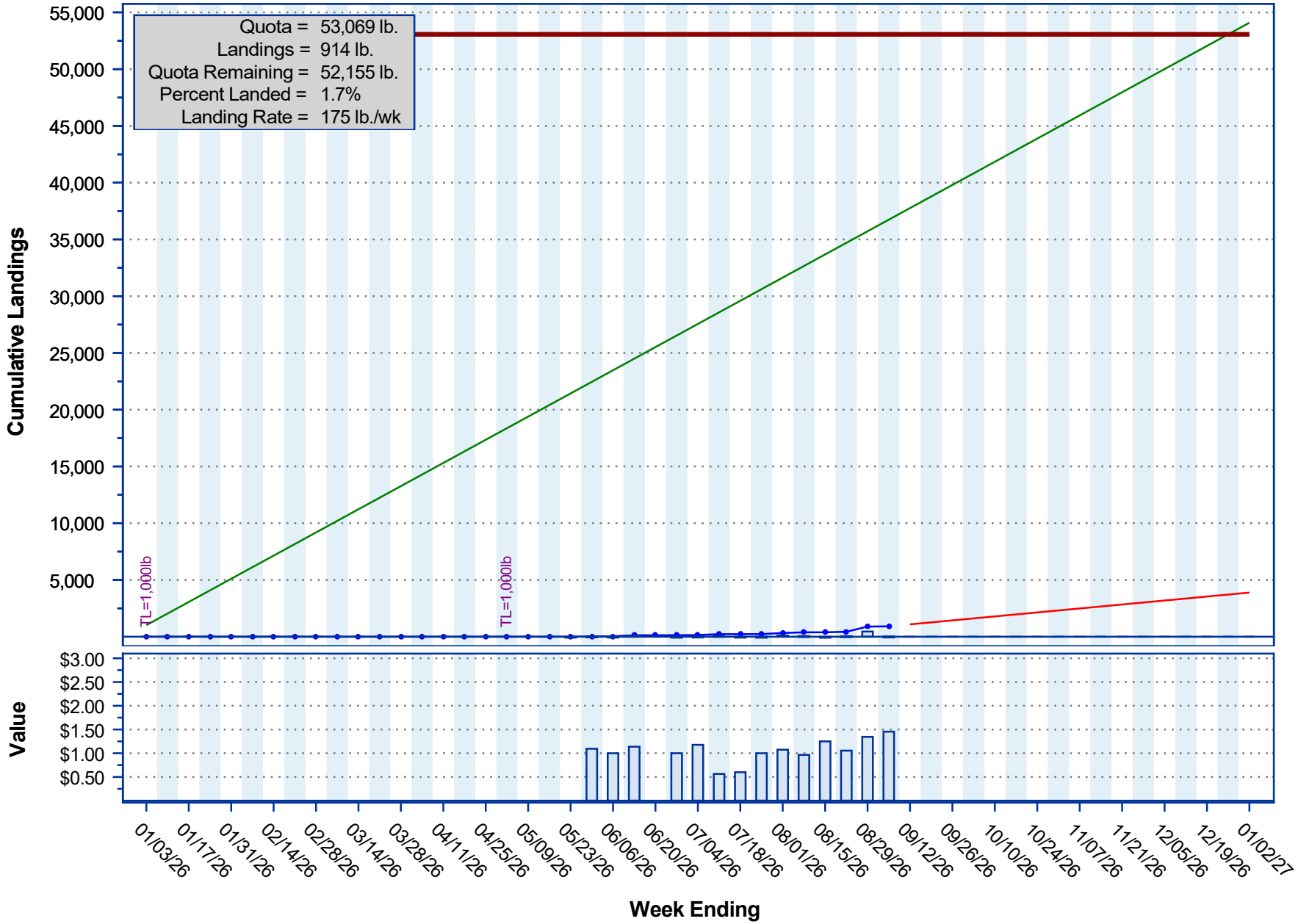
Principal State Quota-Managed Species – 2026 Adjustments.

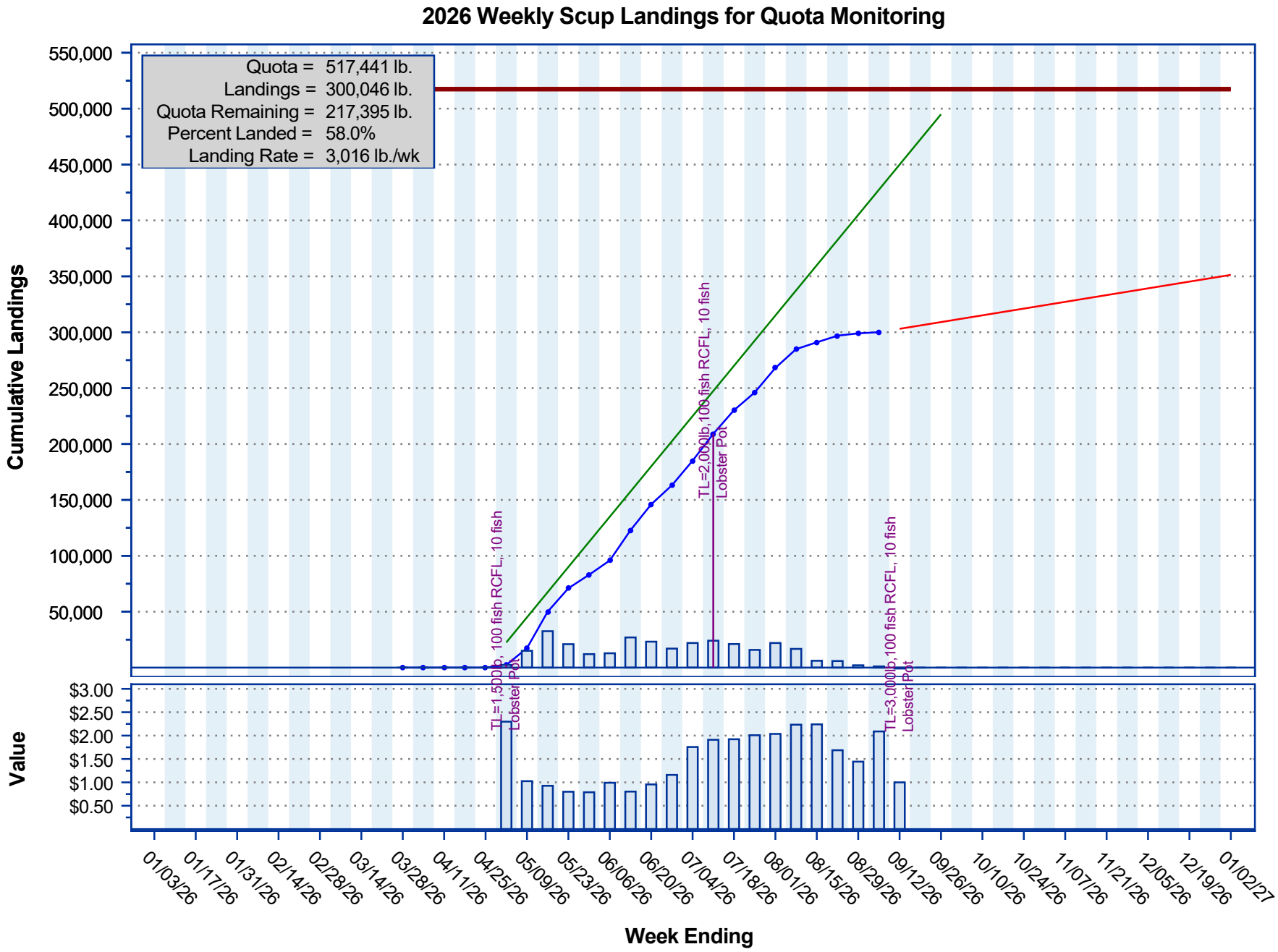
Date	**Summer Flounder** Minimum Size: 14” 2026 quota = 614,693lb (initial) CT share=12.375% of coast-wide annual quota.	**Scup** Minimum Size: 9” 2026 summer period quota = 217,441lb (initial) CT share=3.154% of summer period coast-wide quota.	**Black Sea Bass** Minimum Size: 11” 2026 quota = 244,171lb (initial) CT share= 3.12% of coastwide annual quota.	**Bluefish** Minimum Size: 9” 2026 quota = 53,069lb (initial) CT share= 1.14% of coastwide annual quota.
September 6	3,500lb weekly	3,000lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish Lobster Pot	500lb, 60lb Lobster Pot	1,000lb
August 30	3,500lb weekly	2,000lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish Lobster Pot	500lb, 60lb Lobster Pot	1,000lb
July 5	3,500lb weekly	2,000lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish Lobster Pot	400lb, 60lb Lobster Pot	1,000lb
May 1	700lb	1,500lb, 100 Fish RCFL, 10 Fish Lobster Pot	400lb, 60lb Lobster Pot	1,000lb
March 22	4,000lb bi-weekly	50,000lb	2,500lb bi-weekly, 60lb from lobster pots	1,000lb
January 1	3,000lb bi-weekly	50,000lb	2,000lb bi-weekly, 60lb from lobster pots	1,000lb
Winter 1 Period	Jan 1-April 30 3,000lb bi-weekly Summer Flounder License Endorsement required. The first bi-weekly period begins Thursday, January 1st and ends Saturday, January 10th. The subsequent two-week periods begin 0001 hours on Sunday and end on the second Saturday at 2359 hours. The two-week periods are: 1/11-1/24, 1/25-2/7, 2/8-2/21, 2/22-3/7, 3/8-3/21, 3/22-4/4, 4/5-4/18, 4/19-4/30 Call-in/Call-out is required. Adjust limit to	Jan 1-April 30 50,000lb (Federal Winter 1 guidelines). No Scup License Endorsement Required during Winter 1 or Winter 2 periods. Adjust limit to 1,000lb when 80% of the Period quota has been harvested.	Jan 1-April 30 2,000lb bi-weekly, 60lb from lobster pots 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. The first bi-weekly period begins Thursday, January 1st and ends Saturday, January 10th. The subsequent two-week periods begin 0001 hours on Sunday and end on the second Saturday at 2359 hours. The two-week periods are: 1/11-1/24, 1/25-2/7, 2/8-2/21 2/22-3/7, 3/8-3/21, 3/22-4/4, 4/5-4/18, 4/19-4/30 60lb from lobster pots. From lobster pots, when in possession of lobster. No Black	Jan 1-April 30 1,000lb Possession limits will be adjusted periodically to maintain a steady monthly landing rate and prevent in-season closure, with the goal of landing 100% of the annual quota.

	land not more than 35% 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.		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 5th. Adjust limit to land not more than 30% of the annual quota through April 30.	
PLANNED Summer Period	May 1 – Oct 31 500lb all gears. Summer Flounder License Endorsement required. Adjusted periodically to maintain consistent weekly landings rate and to land not more than 95% of the annual quota cumulatively through October 31.	May 1 – Sep 30 1,500lb for Scup License Endorsement Holders, 100 fish without Scup Endorsement *and* fishing under a Restricted Commercial Fishing License. Commercial lobster pot fisherman may, when in possession of lobster, possess 10 Scup. Does not apply to personal use lobster license holders. Adjusted periodically to maintain consistent weekly landings rate, prevent in-season closure and take 100% of the summer period quota by September 30.	May 1 – Oct 31 400lb, 60lb from lobster pots The limit will be adjusted periodically to maintain a steady weekly landing rate with the goal of landing not more than 100% of the annual quota through October 31st. 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.	May 1 – Oct 31 1,000lb all gears. Possession limits will be adjusted periodically to maintain a steady monthly landing rate and prevent in-season closure, with the goal of landing 100% of the annual quota.
PLANNED Winter 2 Period	Nov 1-Dec 31 300lb weekly all gears Summer Flounder License Endorsement required.	Oct 1- Dec 31 12,000lb (Federal Winter 2 guidelines). This limit may be adjusted based on Winter I fishery performance. No Scup License Endorsement required during Winter 2.	Nov 1-Dec 31 50lb weekly, 60lb from lobster pots. 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.	Nov 1-Dec 31 1,000lb Possession limits will be adjusted periodically to maintain a steady monthly landing rate and prevent in-season closure, with the goal of landing 100% of the annual quota.

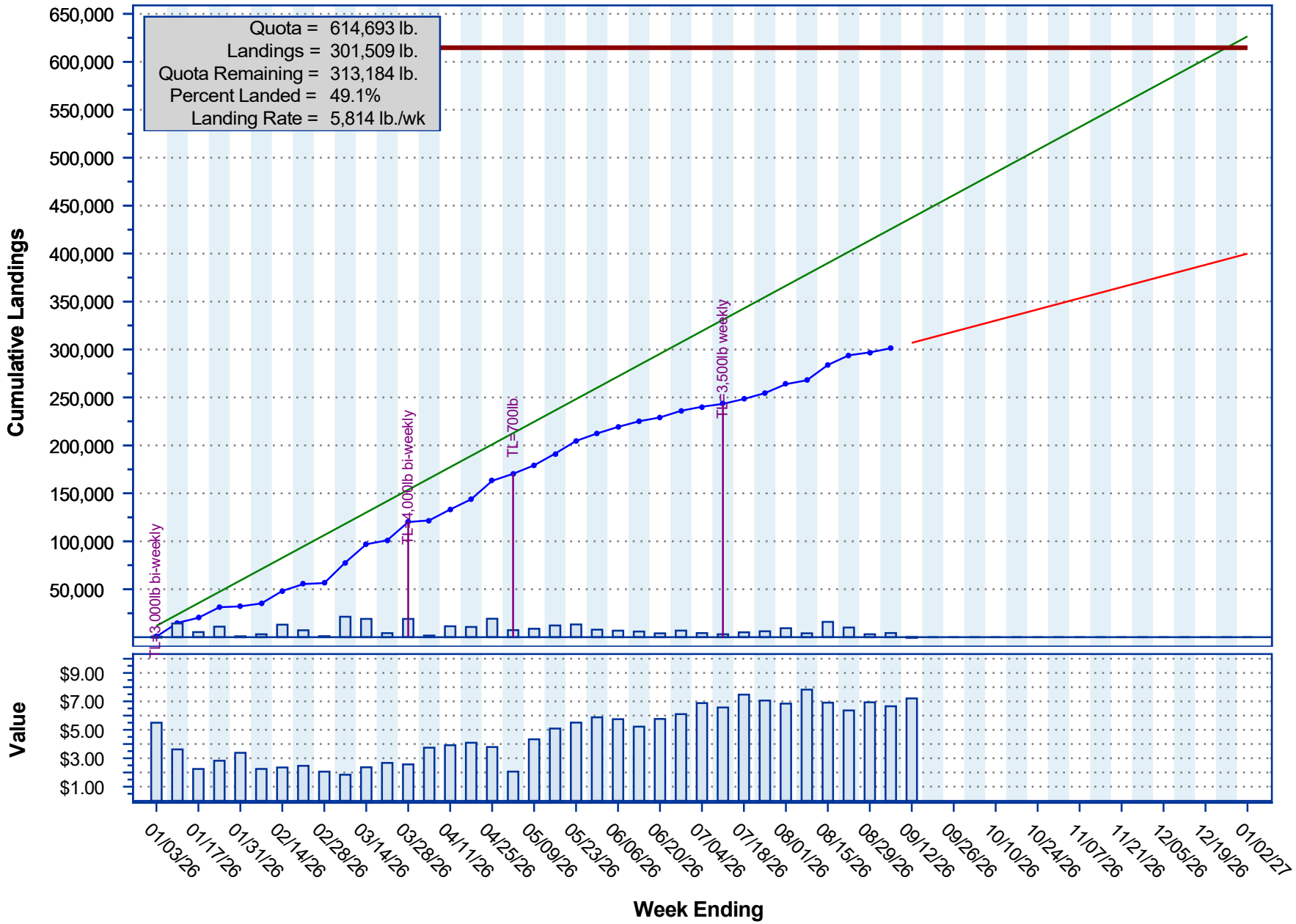
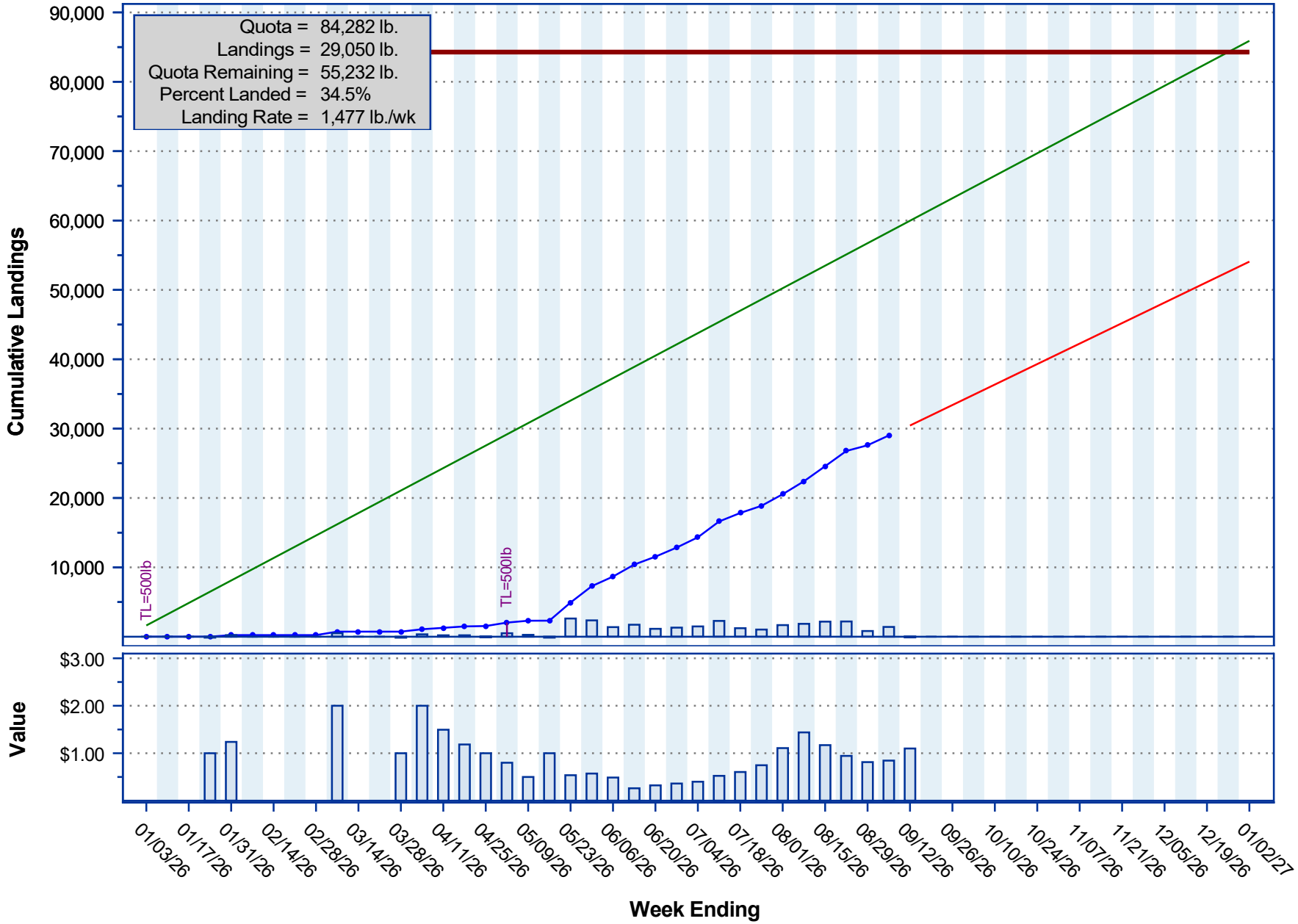

2026 Weekly Black Sea Bass Landings for Quota Monitoring
Quota = 244,171 lb.
Landings = 154,963 lb.
Quota Remaining = 89,208 lb.
Percent Landed = 63.5%
Landing Rate = 789 lb./wk
Cumulative Landings
250,000
225,000
200,000
175,000
150,000
125,000
100,000
75,000
50,000
25,000
TL=2,000lb, bi-weekly, 60lb lobster pots
TL=2,500lb, bi-weekly, 60lb lobster pots
TL=4,000lb, 60lb lobster pots
TL=6,000lb, 60lb lobster pots
Value
$6.00
$5.00
$4.00
$3.00
$2.00
$1.00
01/03/26
01/17/26
01/31/26
02/14/26
02/28/26
03/14/26
03/28/26
04/11/26
04/25/26
05/09/26
05/23/26
06/06/26
06/20/26
07/04/26
07/18/26
08/01/26
08/15/26
08/29/26
09/12/26
09/26/26
10/10/26
10/24/26
11/07/26
11/21/26
12/05/26
12/19/26
01/02/27
Week Ending

2026 Weekly Bluefish Landings for Quota Monitoring




2026 Weekly Scup Landings for Quota Monitoring
Quota = 517,441 lb.
Landings = 300,046 lb.
Quota Remaining = 217,395 lb.
Percent Landed = 58.0%
Landing Rate = 3,016 lb./wk
Cumulative Landings
550,000
500,000
450,000
400,000
350,000
300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
TL=1,500lb,100 fish RCFL, 10 fish
Lobster Pot
TL=2,000lb,100 fish RCFL, 10 fish
Lobster Pot
TL=3,000lb,100 fish RCFL, 10 fish
Lobster Pot
Value
$3.00
$2.50
$2.00
$1.50
$1.00
$0.50
01/03/26
01/17/26
01/31/26
02/14/26
02/28/26
03/14/26
03/28/26
04/11/26
04/25/26
05/09/26
05/23/26
06/06/26
06/20/26
07/04/26
07/18/26
08/01/26
08/15/26
08/29/26
09/12/26
09/26/26
10/10/26
10/24/26
11/07/26
11/21/26
12/05/26
12/19/26
01/02/27
Week Ending

2026 Weekly Summer Flounder Landings for Quota Monitoring



2026 Weekly Smooth Dogfish Landings for Quota Monitoring