

Sustainable Fisheries

“Significant gains despite confusion and uncertainty”

**Paul Howard, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council**

**Cooperative Fisheries Science Forum I
Scallops**

Action by Secretary (NMFS)

- **Notify Council that fishery is overfished or approaching**
- **Council within 12 months prepare FMP: end overfishing and rebuild, prevent overfishing if approaching overfished condition**
- **If Council does not submit in 12 mos. Secretary prepares within 9 mos.**

Required Contents of FMPs

- **Contain measures to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks**
- **Description of fishery**
- **Specify MSY, OY, and capacity**
- **Specify data requirements**
- **EFH assessment**
- **Bycatch assessment**
- **Fishery impact statement**
- **Specify overfishing definitions**

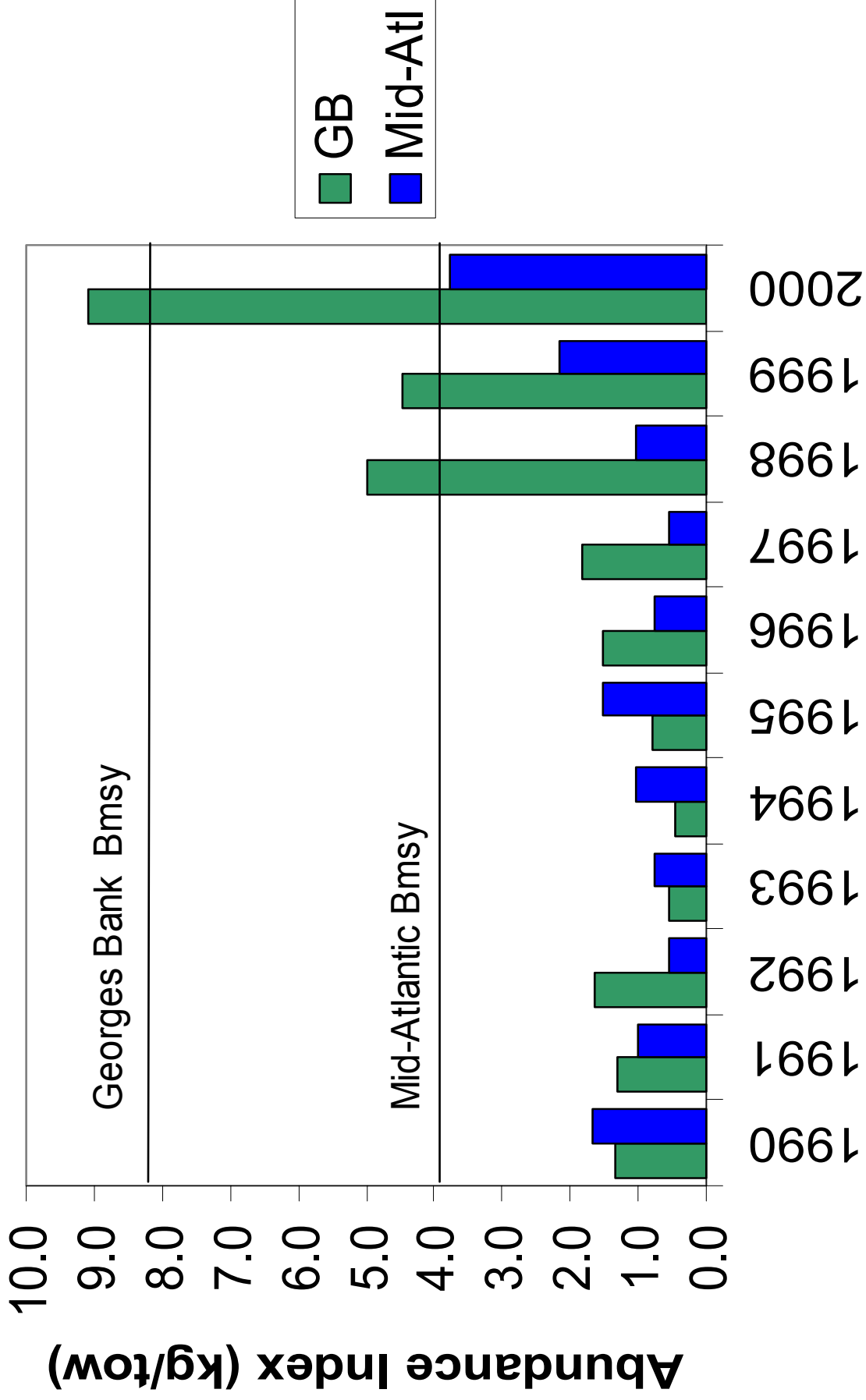
National Standards

- Overfishing
- Scientific information
- Manage throughout range
- Fair and equitable
- Efficiency
- Variations
- Minimize costs avoid duplication
- Fishing communities
- Minimize bycatch
- Promote safety

Primary Tenets of Sustainable Fisheries

- **End overfishing and rebuild stocks**
- **Eliminate overcapitalization & excess capacity**
- **Protect essential fish habitat**
- **Minimize bycatch**

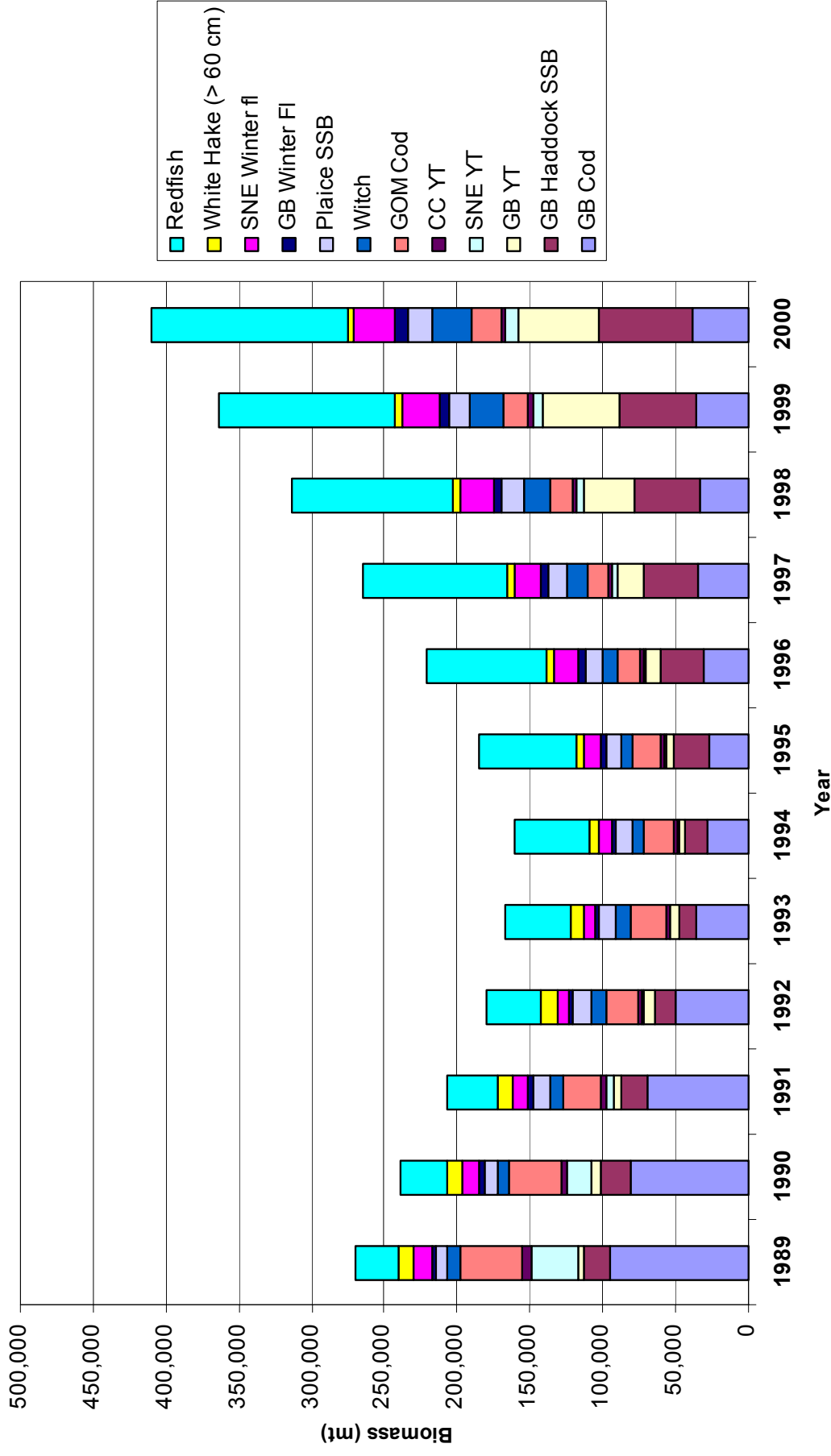
Scallop Abundance



Groundfish Biomass

Biomass of 12 Multispecies Stocks
1989-2000

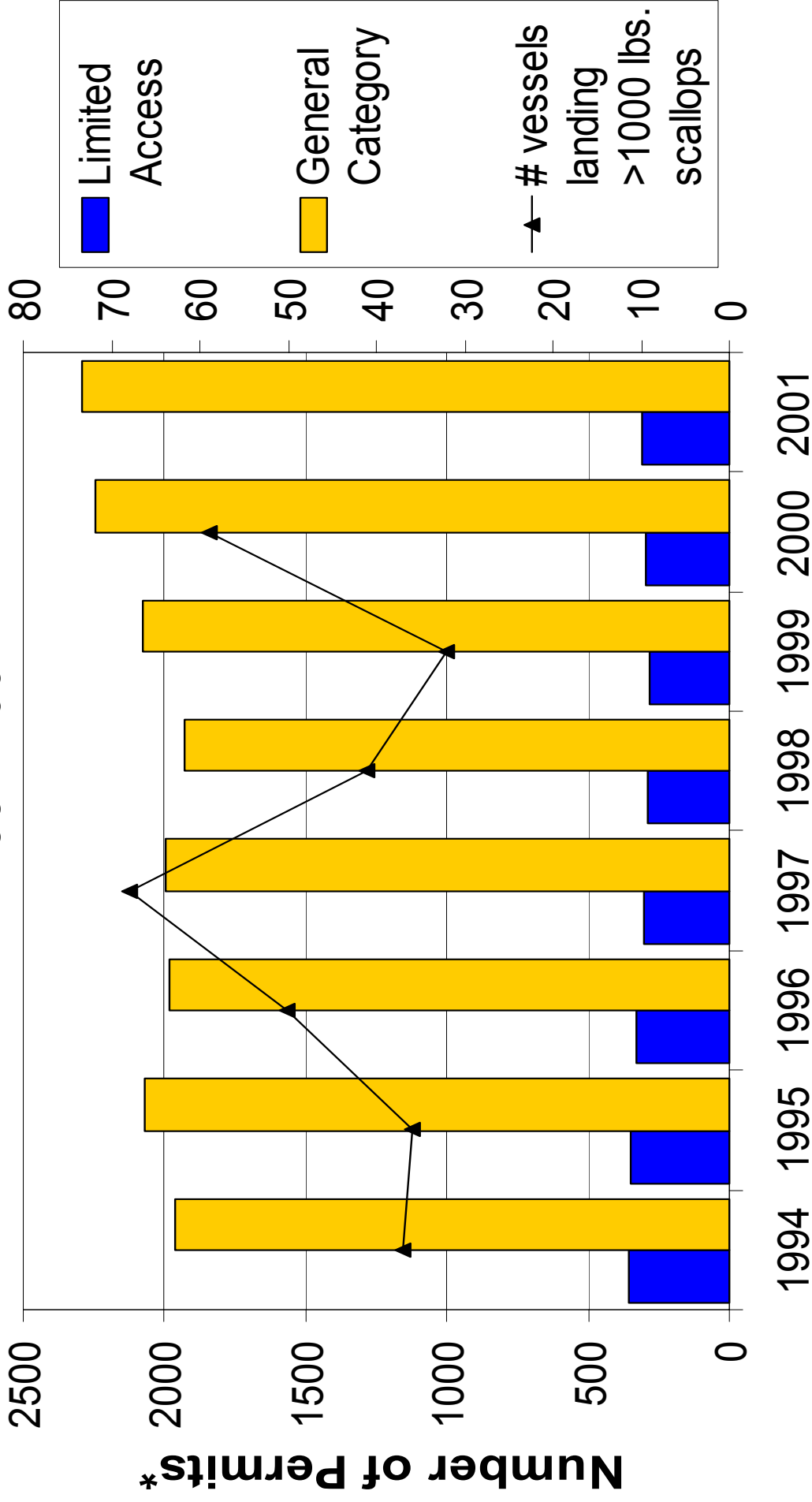
(Total Stock Biomass unless indicated in legend)



Source: Various assessment documents. Compiled by NEFMC staff.

Scallop Vessels in Limited Access and General Permit Categories

1994-2001

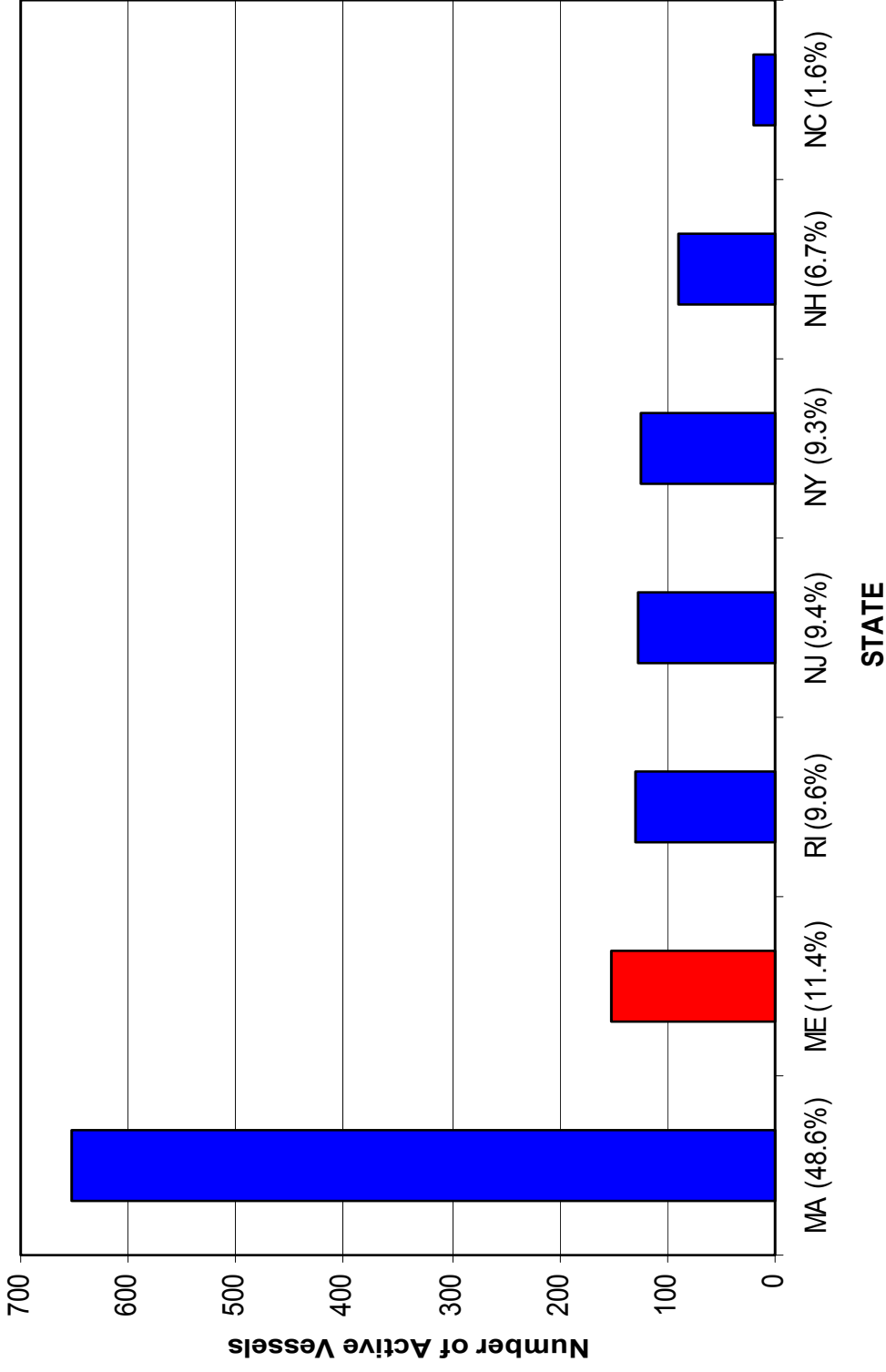


* Excluding Confirmation of Permit Histories

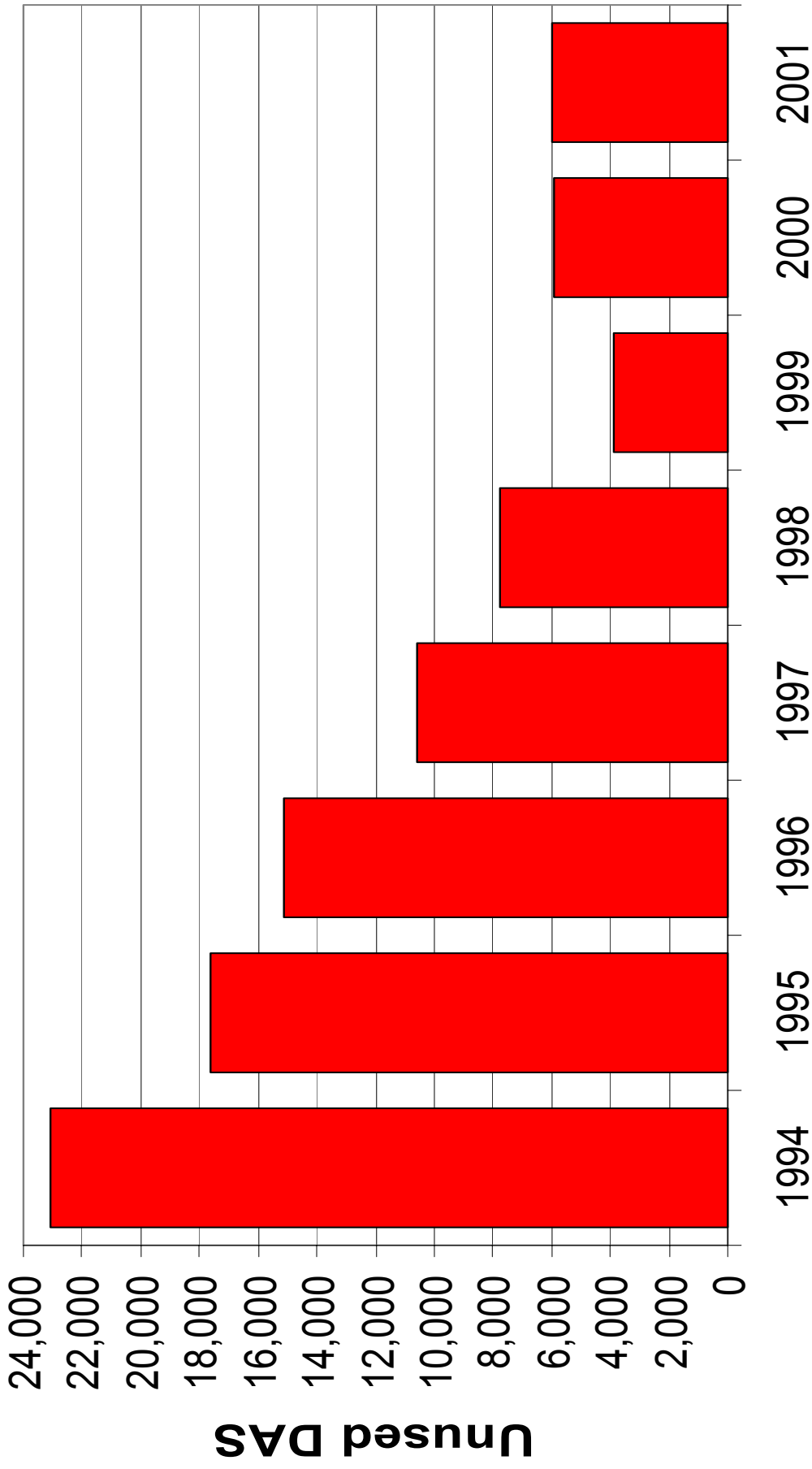
Source: NMFS Dealer Log Database (CFDETS)

Number of Active Vessels in the Groundfish Fishery

Number of Active Groundfish Boats During the 2000 Fishing Year (1,344 of a total 3,626)



Latent Effort for Limited Access Scallop Vessels 1994-2001

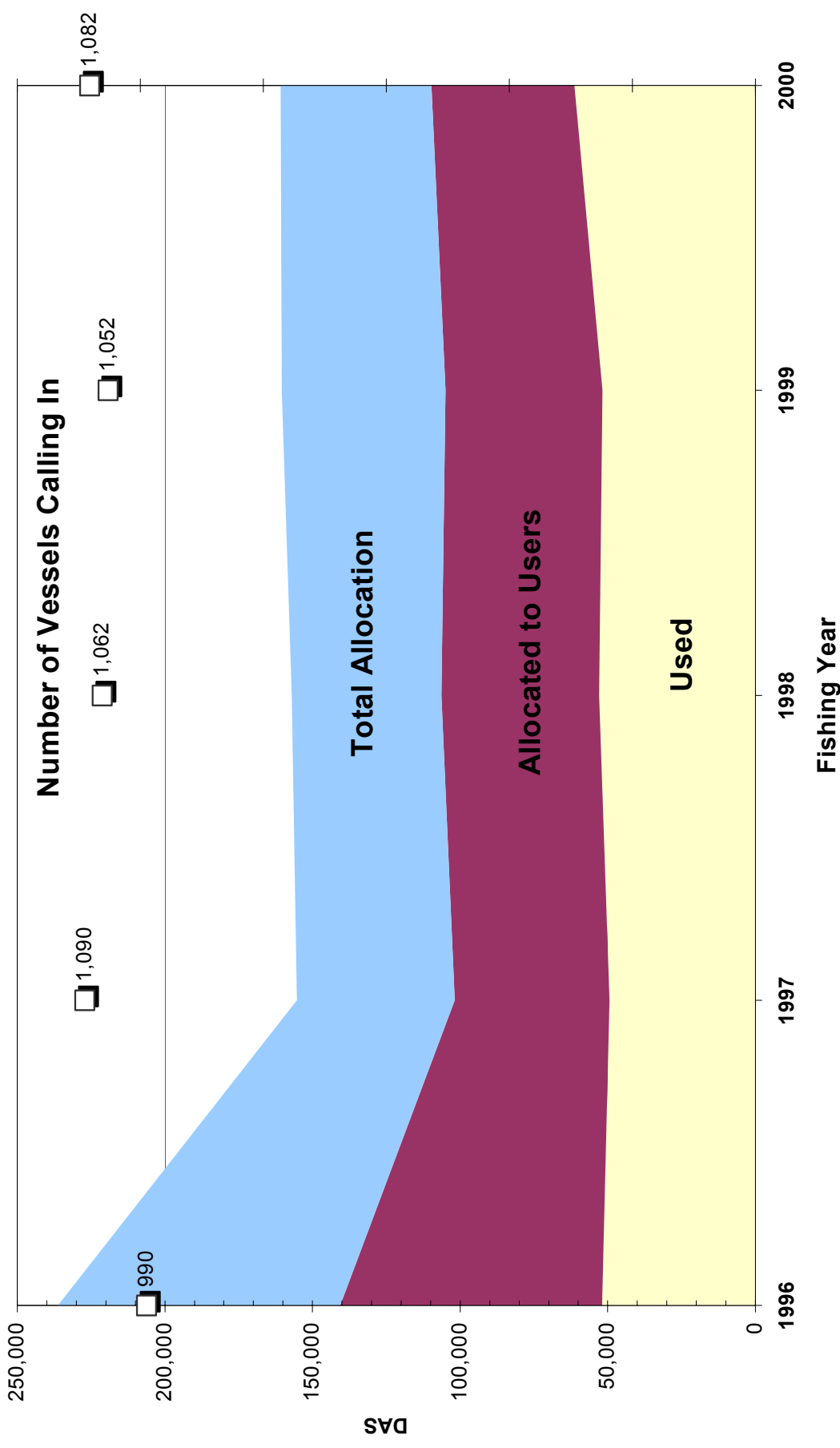


*Note: Confirmation of Permit Histories not included

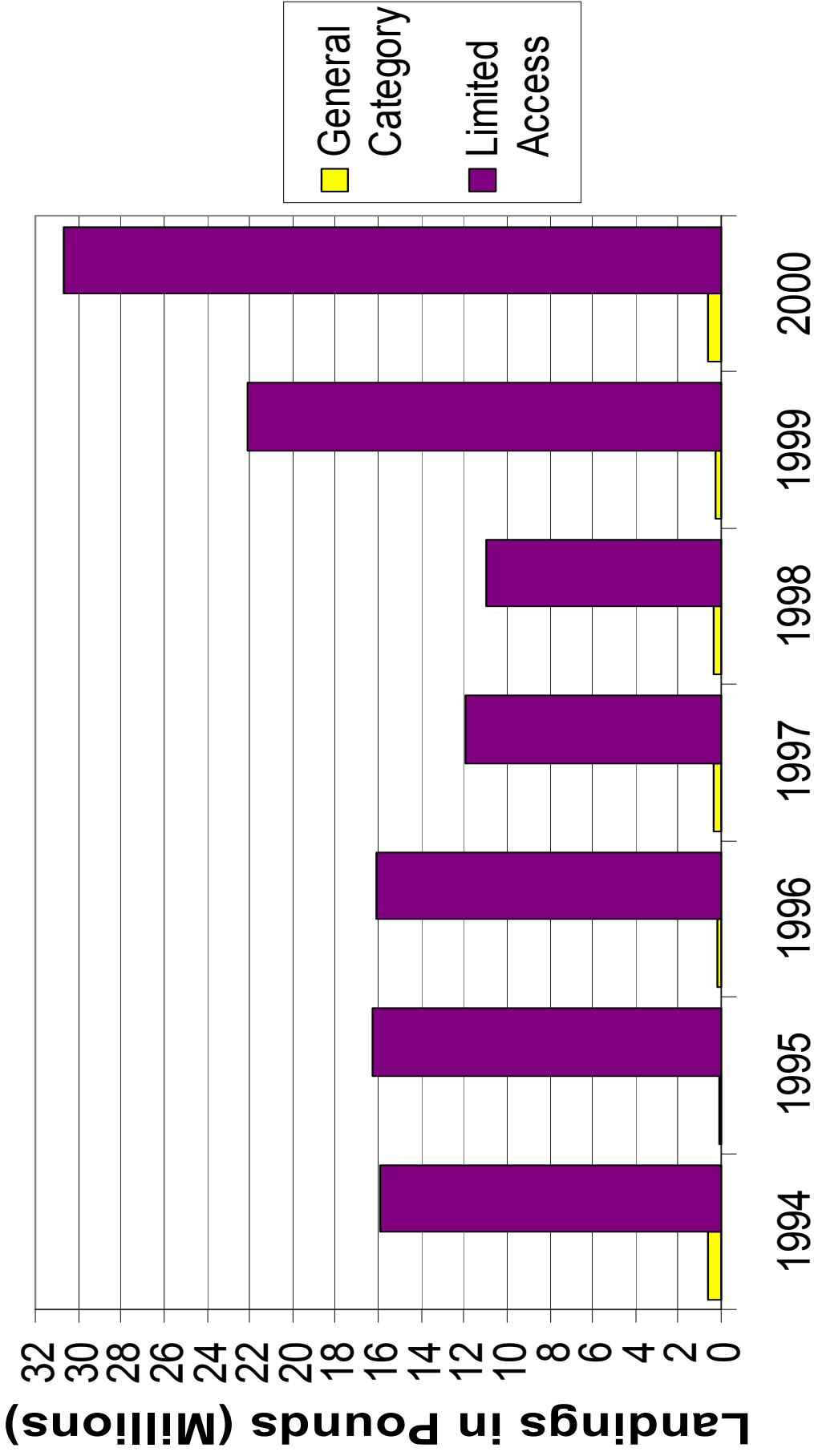
Source: NMFS Dealer Log Database (CFDETS)

Latent Effort in the Groundfish Fishery

Recent DAS Levels

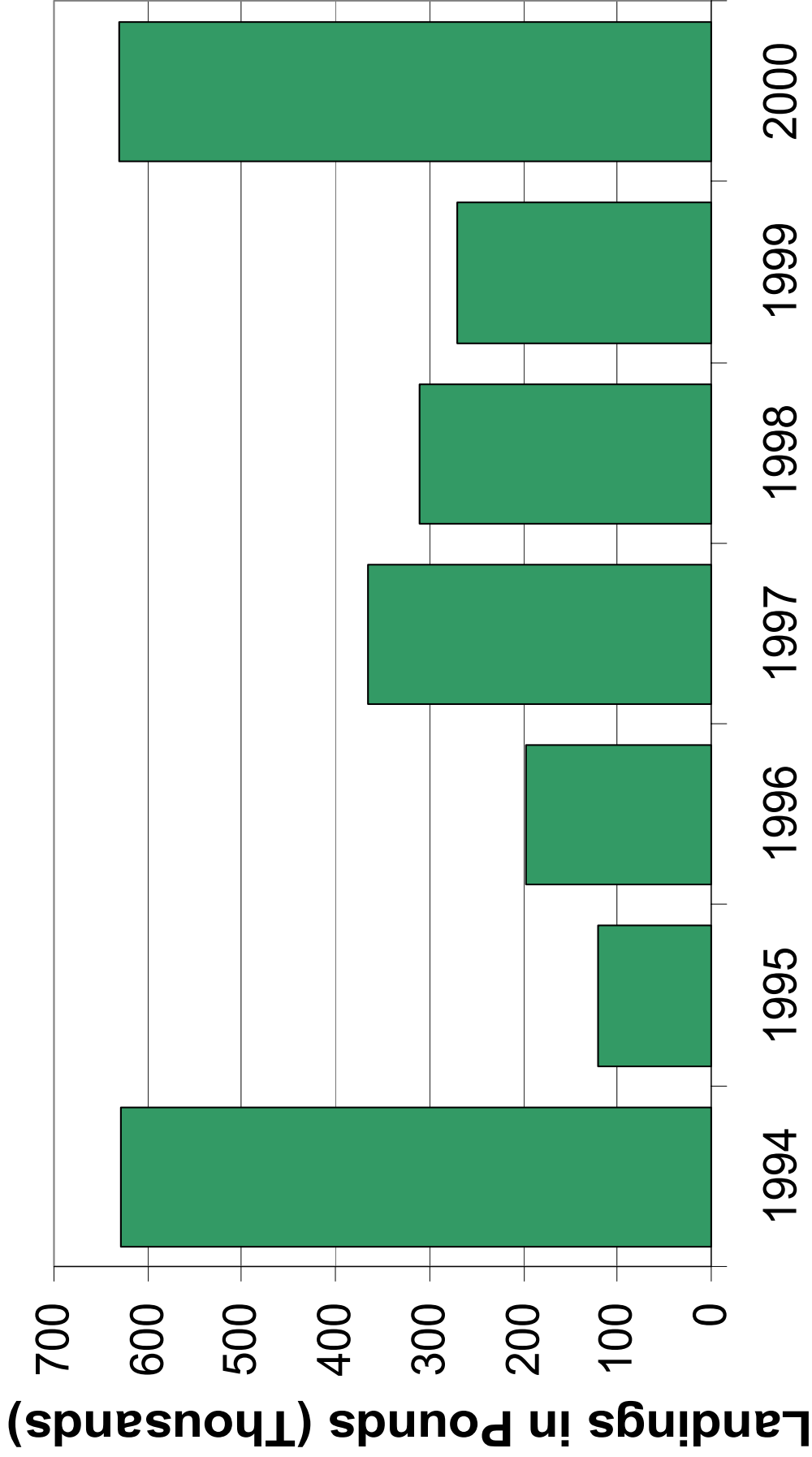


General Category and Limited Access Scallop Vessel Landings 1994-2000



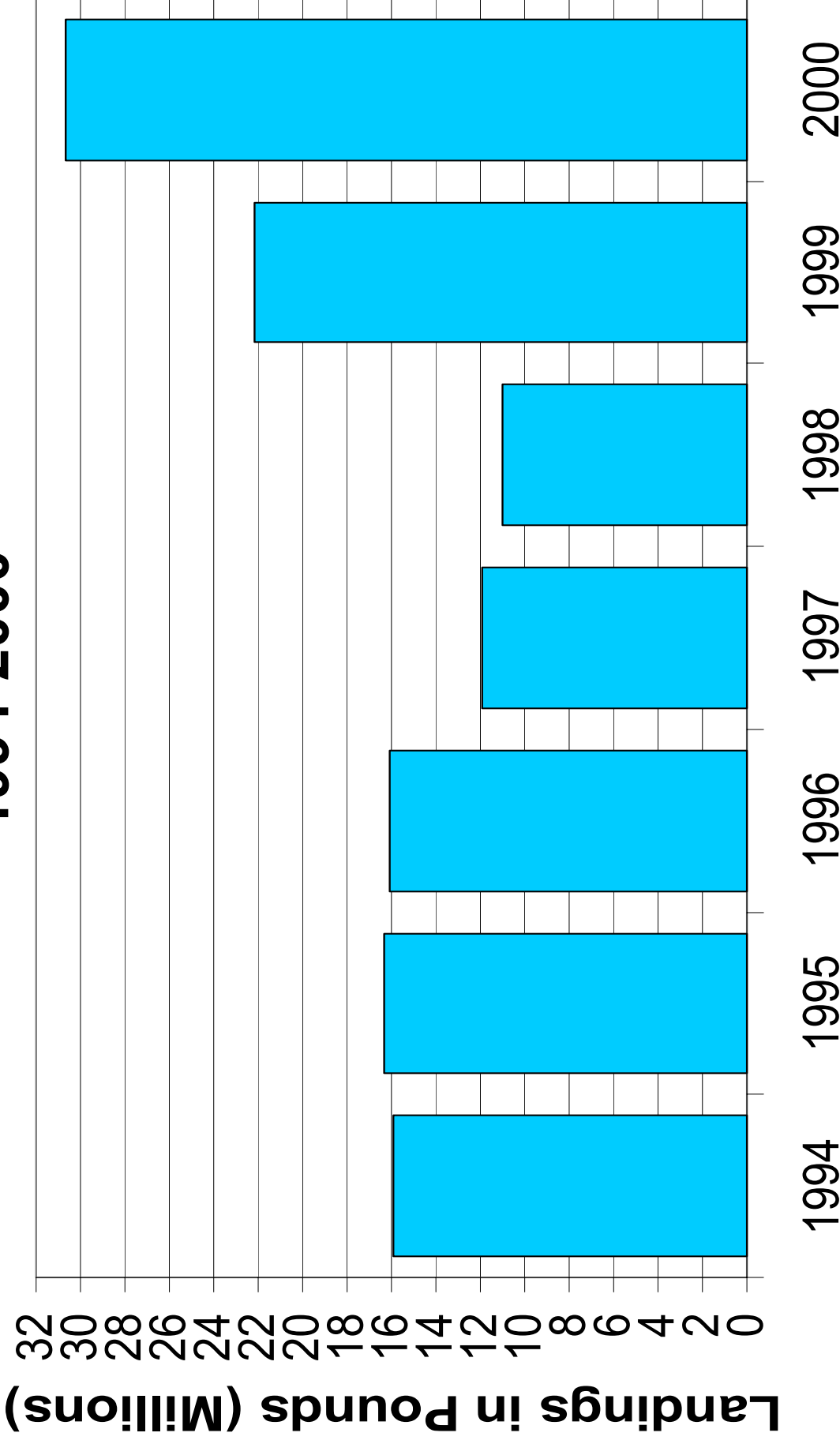
Source: NMFS Dealer Log Database (CFDETS)

General Category Scallop Vessel Landings 1994-2000



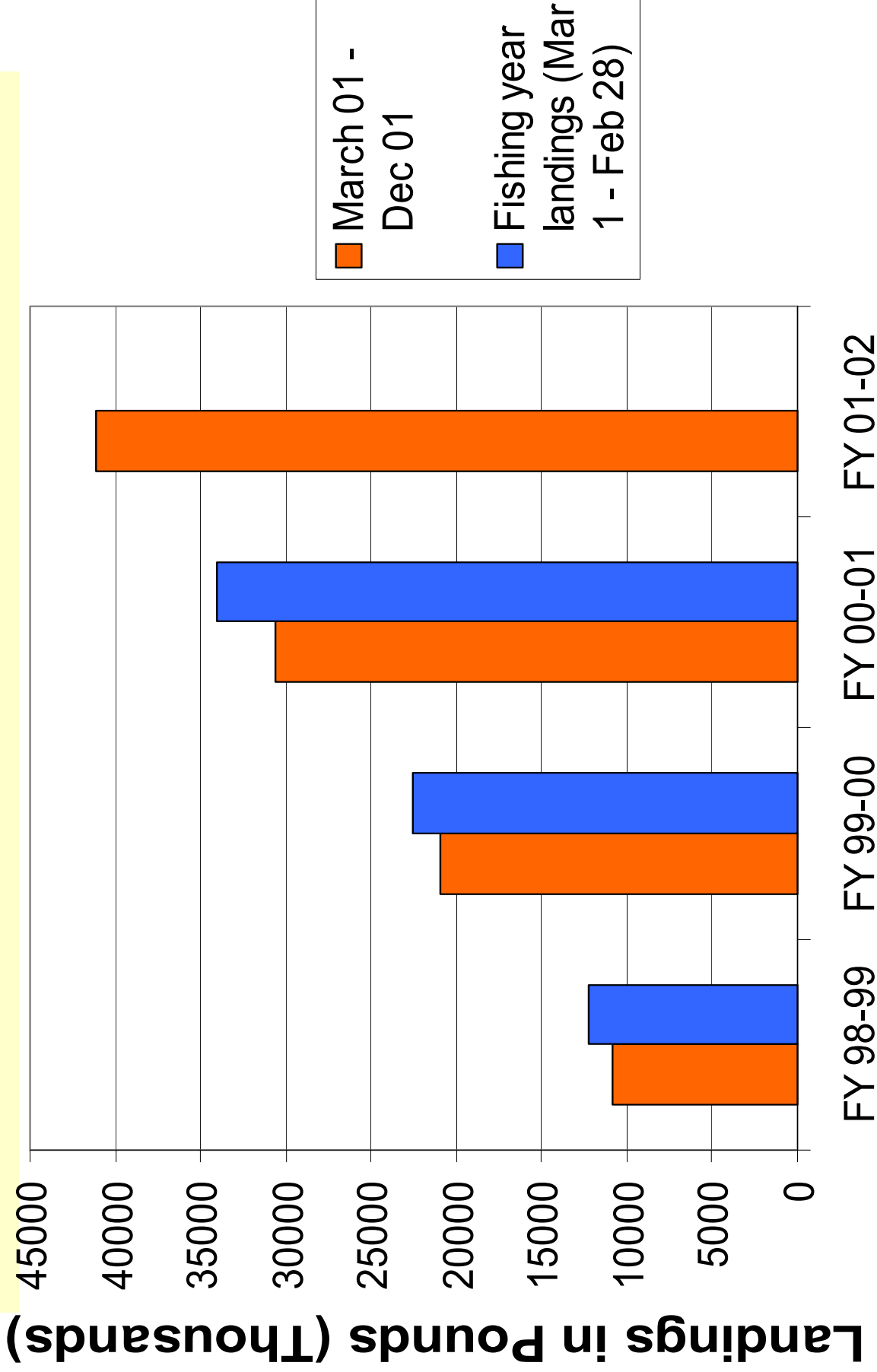
Source: NMFS Dealer Log Database (CFDETS)

Limited Access Scallop Vessel Landings 1994-2000



Source: NMFS Dealer Log Database (CFDETS)

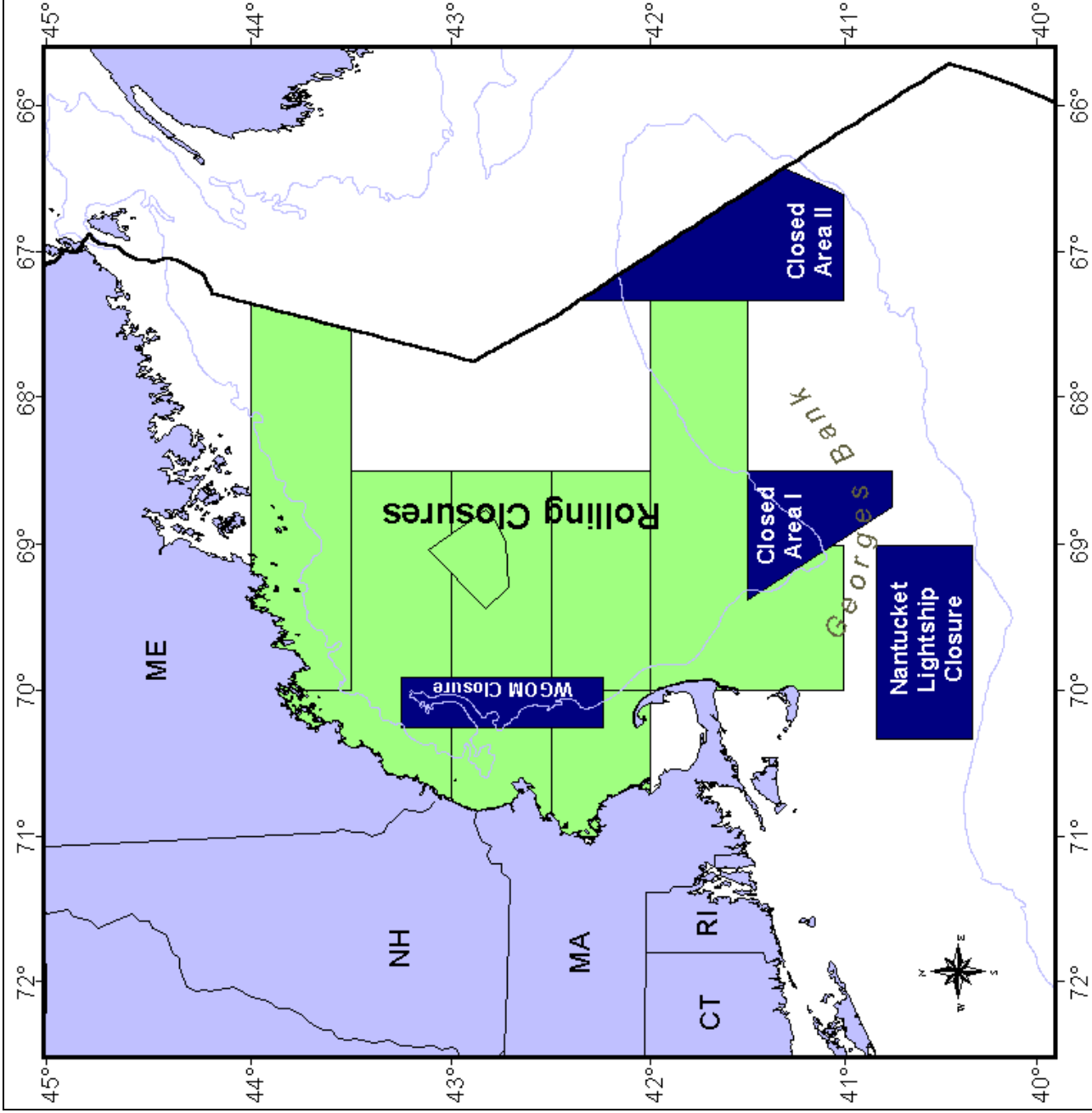
Scallop Landings by Fishing Year



Describe and Identify EFH

- **FMPs must include measures that minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on EFH caused by fishing**
- **Identify actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of EFH**
- **FMP must contain assessment of potential adverse effects of all fishing equip types**
- **50 CFR 600.815 options for managing adverse effects from fishing...equip restrictions, time,area closures, harvest limits.**

Groundfish Closed Areas



Minimize Bycatch

- **Promote devel of bycatch database and bycatch mortality in the fishery**
- **For each measure, assess the effects on amount and type of bycatch and bycatch mortality in the fishery**
- **Select measures, to the extent practical, that will minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality**
- **50 CFR 600.350 “Practicable” should consider many factors...**

Summary

- **Times have changed**
- **Plans subj to many more legal challenges**
- **Reqs for plan approval more demanding**
- **Most lawsuits about process...must adhere to MS/SFA and NEPA requirements**
- **Huge consequences of not getting the job done right and on time.**