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# **Marine Protected Areas and Fishery Management**

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# Definition of MPA

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Executive Order 13158 defines an MPA as:

*"any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein"*

May 26, 2000

(FR 65:34909-34911)

# Types of MPAs

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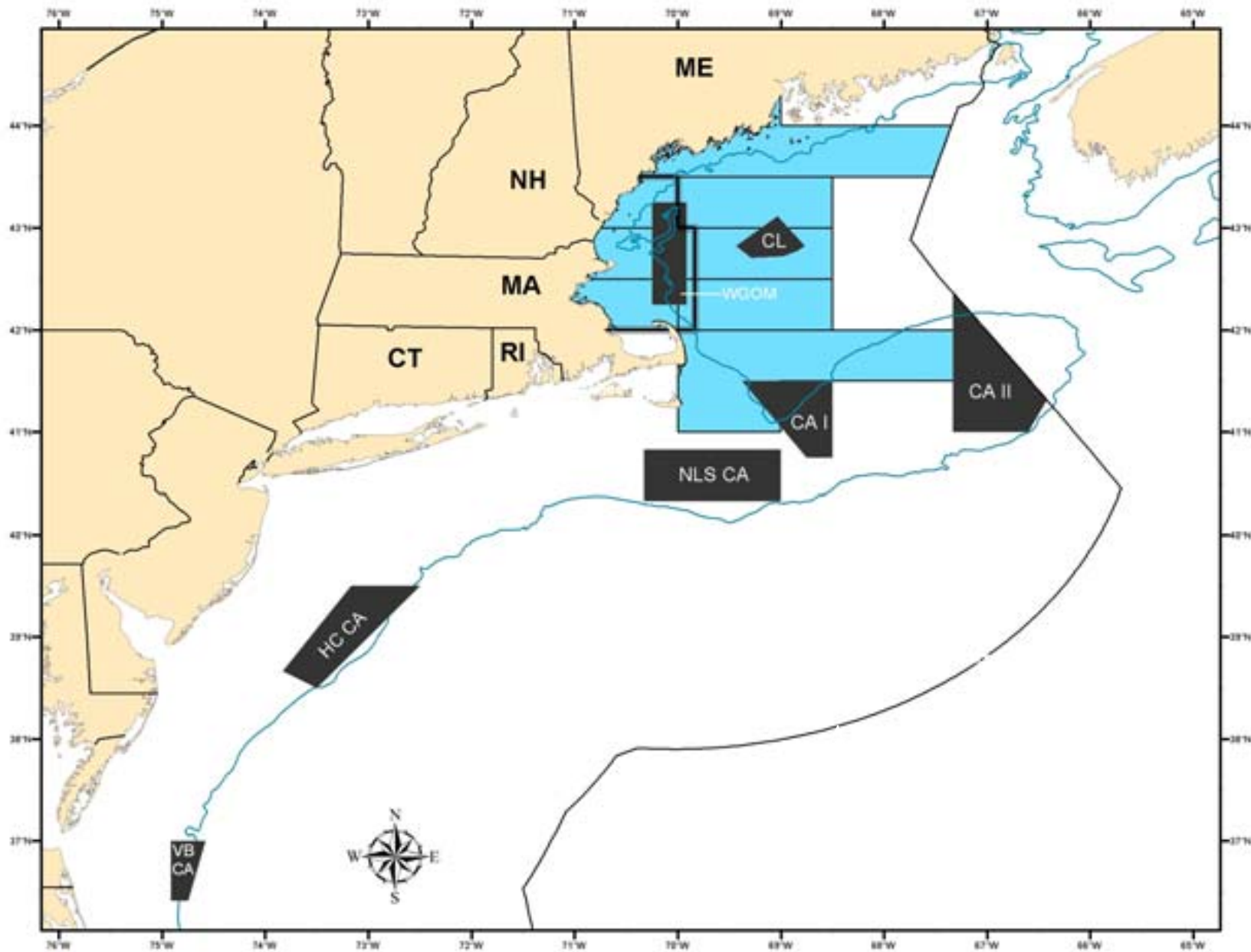
There are several types of MPAs:

- I. Strict protection (i.e. Strict Nature Reserve)
- II. Ecosystem conservation and recreation (i.e. National Park)
- III. Conservation of natural features (i.e. National Monument)
- IV. Conservation through active management (i.e. Habitat/Species Management Area)**
- V. Land/seascape conservation and recreation (i.e. Protected Landscape/Seascape)
- VI. Sustainable use of natural ecosystems (i.e. Managed Resource Protected Area)**

# MPA's – Not a New Concept

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- New England Fishery Management Council has many management areas which meet various criteria for an MPA.
  - Groundfish Closed Area I
  - Groundfish Closed Area II
  - Nantucket Lightship Closed Area
  - Cashes Ledge Closed Area
  - Western Gulf of Maine Closed Area
  - Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area
  - Hudson Canyon Scallop Closed Area
  - Virginia Beach Scallop Closed Area

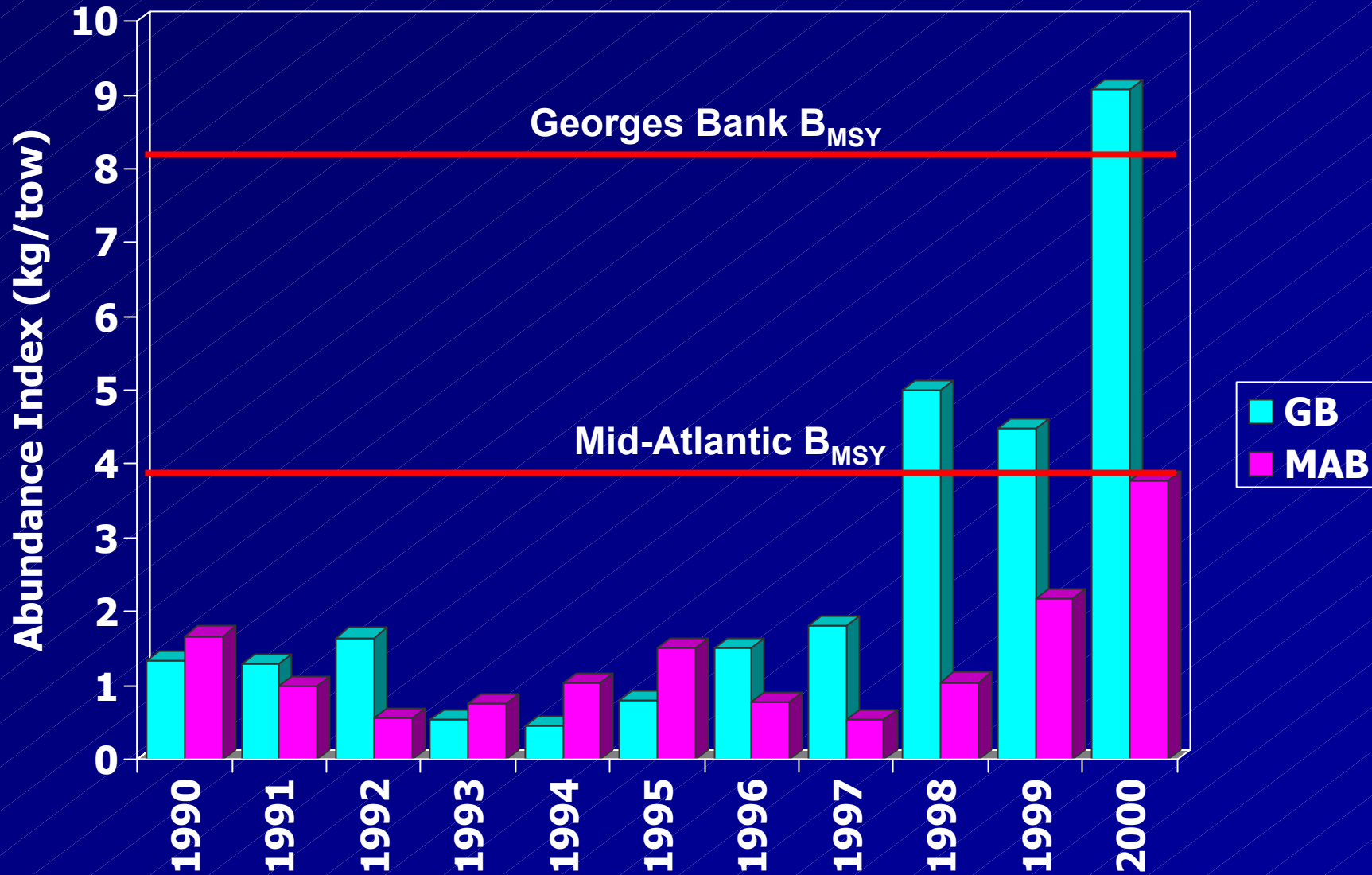


# Effectiveness of MPA's

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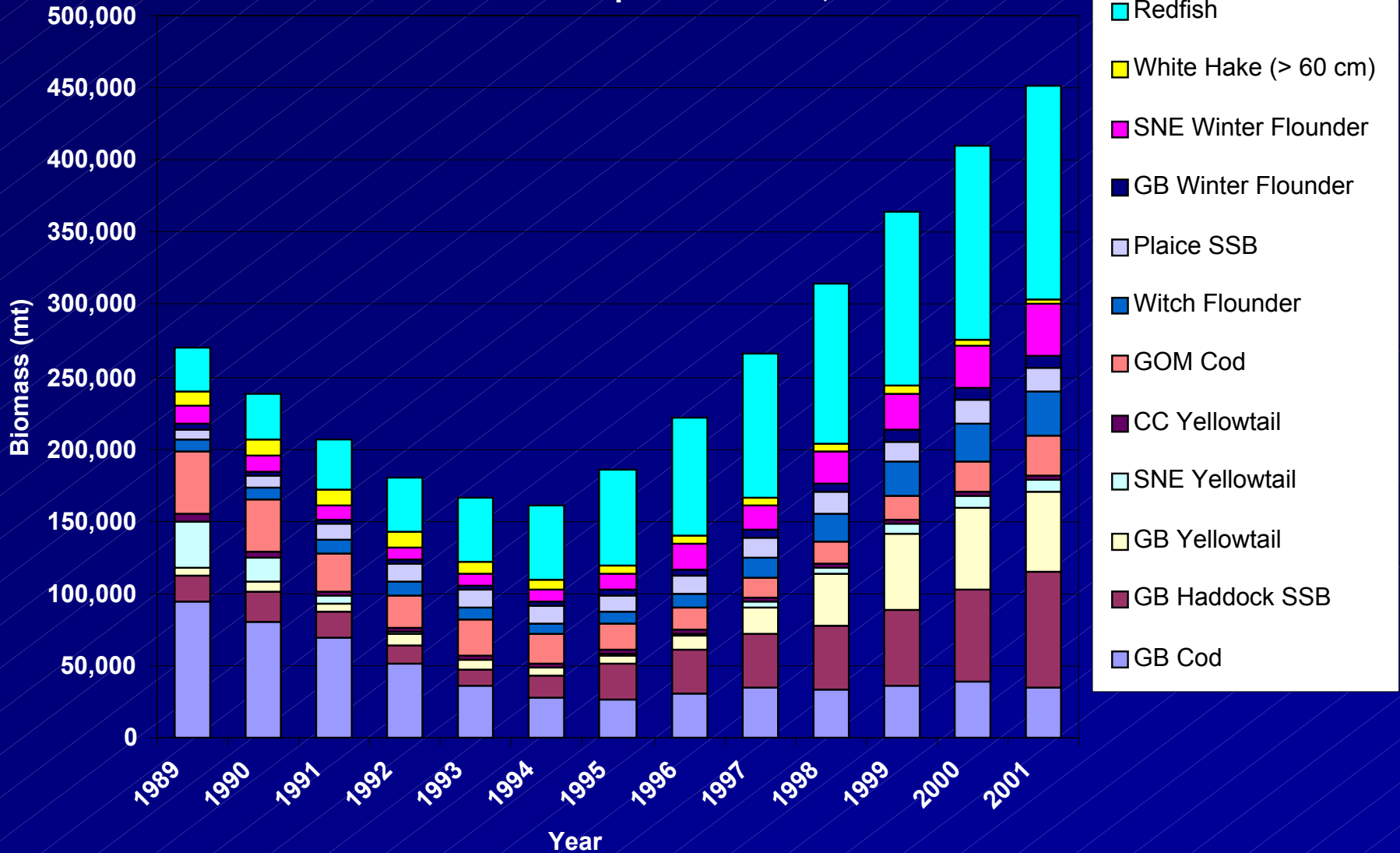
- Beginning in 1994, the Council increased its use and reliance on closed areas as a management tool to enhance rebuilding and protect habitat.
- The Council's closed areas on Georges Bank and in the Gulf of Maine have contributed to stock rebuilding.
- In combination with effort reductions and controls, gear restrictions, and other measures, stocks have shown remarkable recovery.
- Additional research is encouraged to quantify effectiveness of closed areas as management tool.

# Sea Scallop Recovery



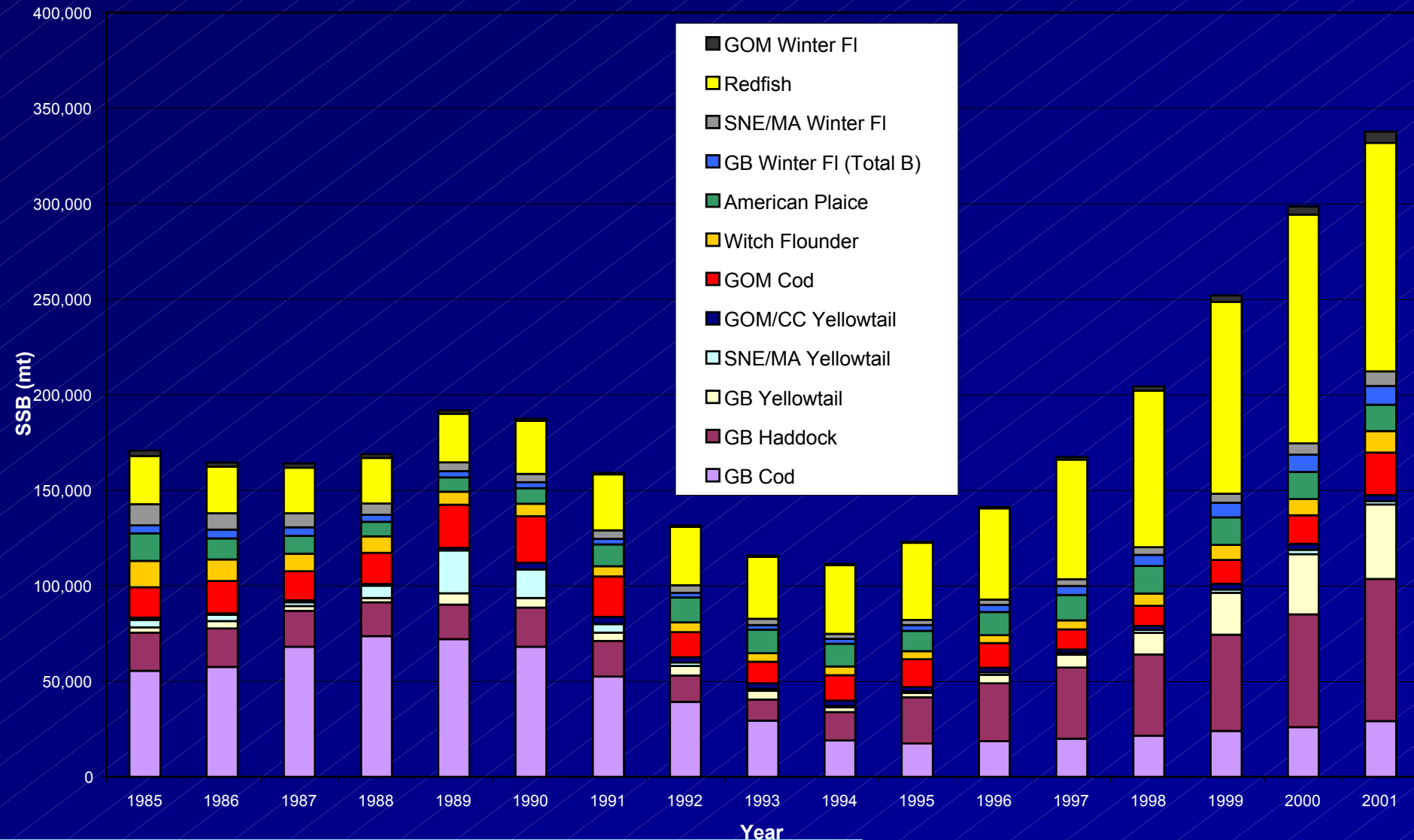
# Groundfish Rebuilding

Biomass of 12 Multispecies Stocks, 1989-2001



# Groundfish Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)

## Spawning Stock Biomass of 12 Groundfish Stocks, 1985-2001



# MPA's in Fisheries Management

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- Closed and restricted areas are an important element of most fishery management programs in the Northeast.
- The continued use of closed and restricted areas demonstrates that the concept of an MPA is not new to fisheries managers.
- What may be new to some is the term MPA to describe these common management actions.
- Fisheries managers will continue to use closed and restricted areas where and when they are appropriate.

# MPA's – Not Just About Fishing

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- Comprehensive MPA should address all activities with potential to adversely affect marine biodiversity, fish populations, and habitats.
- Narrow authority granted Councils/NMFS to regulate only commercial and recreational fishing.
- Other concerns include: sand and gravel mining, ocean dumping, oil, gas and mineral exploration and extraction, channel dredging, dredge material disposal, pipeline/cable installation, and pollution.
- Control/regulation of these activities is critical to overall success of any proposed MPA.

# MPA System

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- An ideal MPA system should provide for integrated management of the area.
- Councils manage and control fishing activities, but currently have no control over many non-fishing related activities.
- Other agencies with management authority include: ACOE (dredging), MMS (oil, gas, mineral exploration), and EPA (ocean dumping).
- Ideal MPA system would integrate and coordinate management authority.
- Recommend a regional advisory board: Council, NMFS, NOS, EPA, ACOE, MMS, and USFWS (DOI).

# Role of the Regional Councils

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- Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Regional Fishery Management Councils will continue to protect fish stocks and habitats in most appropriate ways, including use of closed and restricted areas.
- The use of management areas closed and restricted to fishing activities at the sole discretion of the Regional Councils is consistent with an integrated approach for implementation and management of MPA's.
- Fishery management decisions should remain with the Regional Councils as intended by Congress.

# MPA Committee

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- Purpose/Role of MPA Committee:
  - Develop Council policy and strategy on MPAs
  - Apprise Council of MPA-related developments
  - Formal link between Council & relevant MPA activities and Federal advisory panel
  - Ensure coordination with DOC and DOI
  - Keep the public and other agencies informed of Council roles and responsibilities

# Summary

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- No new comprehensive authority associated with MPA Executive Order. Each agency retains it's regulatory authority
- Council and NMFS regulate fishing activities in EEZ under Magnuson Act authority (finfish and scallops)
- ASMFC and NMFS regulate lobster activities in EEZ under Atlantic Coastal Act
- DOC's National Ocean Service has authority to regulate all activities within a Congressionally established marine sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuary Act (must consult with Council)

# Summary

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- Fishermen are most important and most impacted stakeholder group.
- To achieve success fishermen must understand the need and support MPAs. They must be at the table from the beginning.
- MPAs are not necessarily “no take zones.”
- All MPAs are not the same and should not be managed in the same way. Define the problem!
- Use existing regulatory authorities for MPAs. We do not need new and redundant authorities.
- If MPAs are to be established to help fisheries, the Councils are the appropriate place.