

Tab E, No. 9b

Reef Fish For-Hire Permit Transfers



January 2018



Introduction

- ❖ **Amendment 25/17:** indefinite limited access program for federal reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics for-hire permits
- ❖ **Reef Fish Amendment 30B:** federally permitted reef fish vessels comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing in state waters.
- ❖ **Reef Fish Amendment 40:** divided the recreational red snapper quota into a **federal for-hire** component quota (42.3%) and a **private angling** component quota (57.7%)
- ❖ Gulf states establish separate recreational red snapper seasons in state waters each year

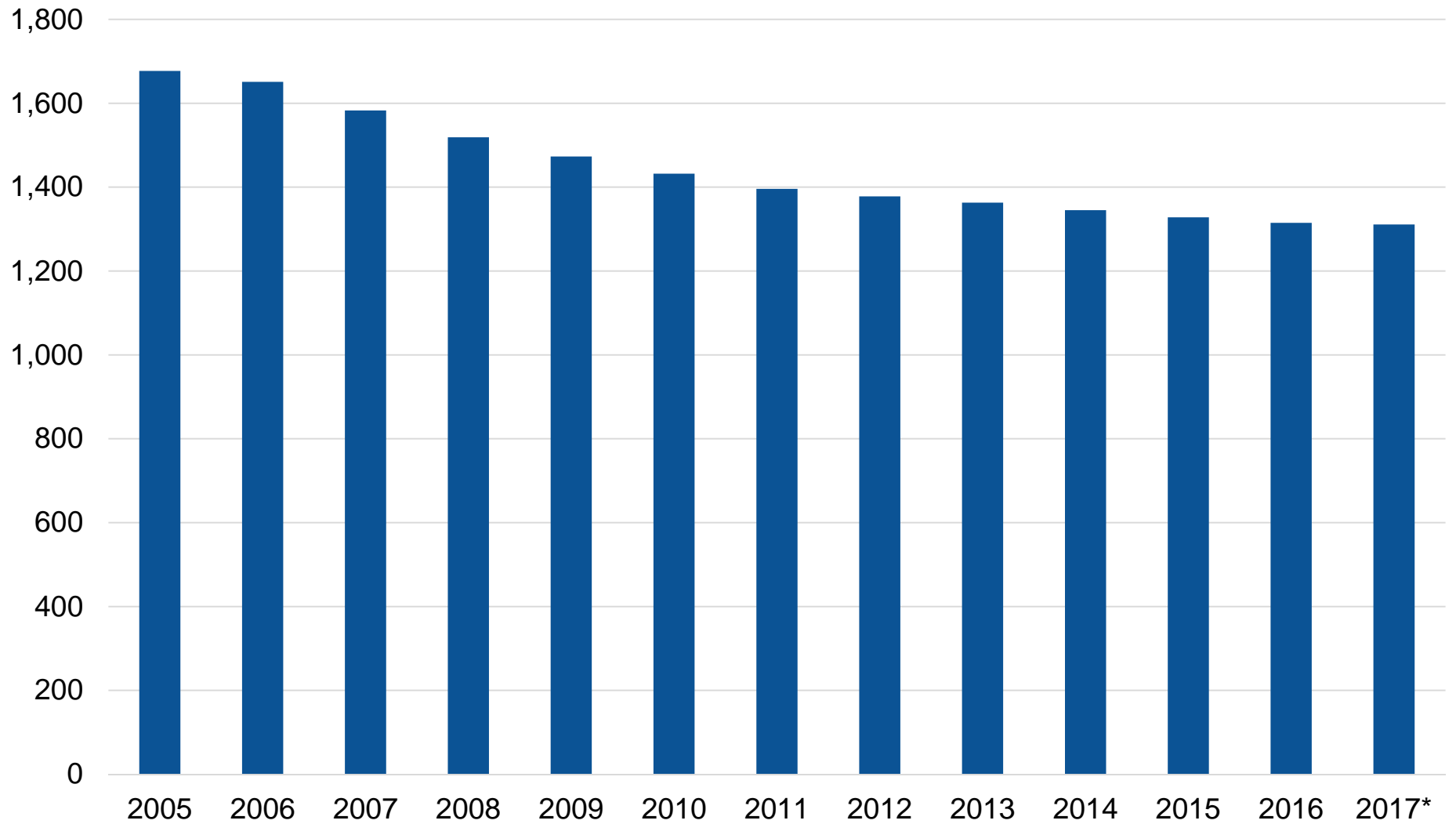
State and Federal Recreational Red Snapper Seasons

	State Season (days)					Federal Season (days)		
Year	FL	AL	MS	LA	TX	Federal	Private Angling	Federal For-Hire
2008	194	66	66	66	365	66		
2009	76	76	76	76	365	76		
2010	78	78	78	78	365	78		
2011	48	48	48	48	365	48		
2012	46	46	46	46	365	46		
2013	58	42	42	113	365	42		
2014	52	21	36	286	365	9		
2015	70	41	118	215	365		10	44
2016	85	66	102	279	365		11	46

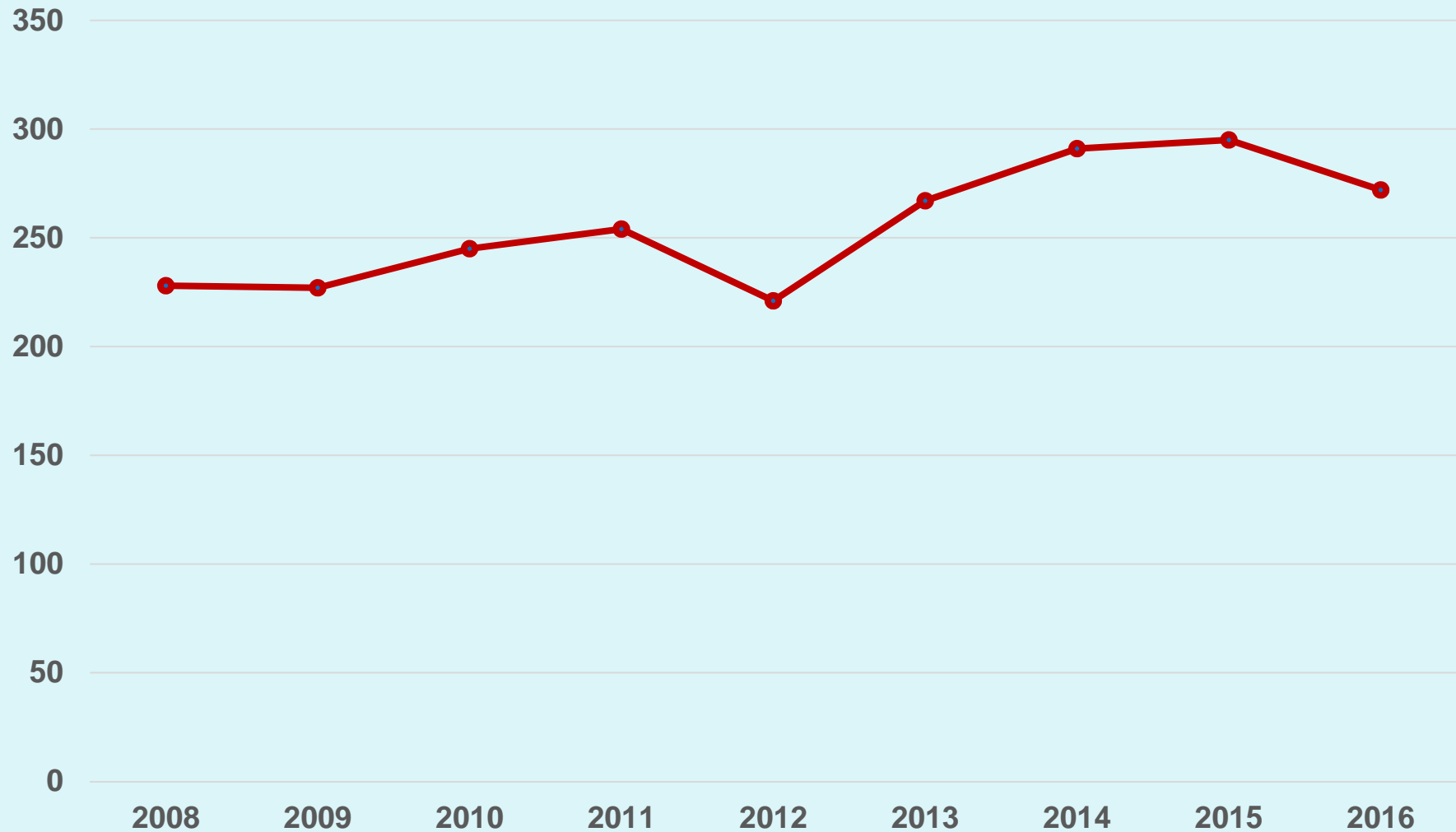
Introduction

- ❖ Federally permitted reef fish for-hire vessels cannot fish in state waters when federal waters are closed.
- ❖ Regulations may provide incentives to strategically transfer federal reef fish for-hire permits and take advantage of both state and federal red snapper seasons
- ❖ Council requested further analyses of federal reef fish permit transfers to discern patterns that could suggest a strategic timing of transfers to fish during federal and state recreational red snapper seasons

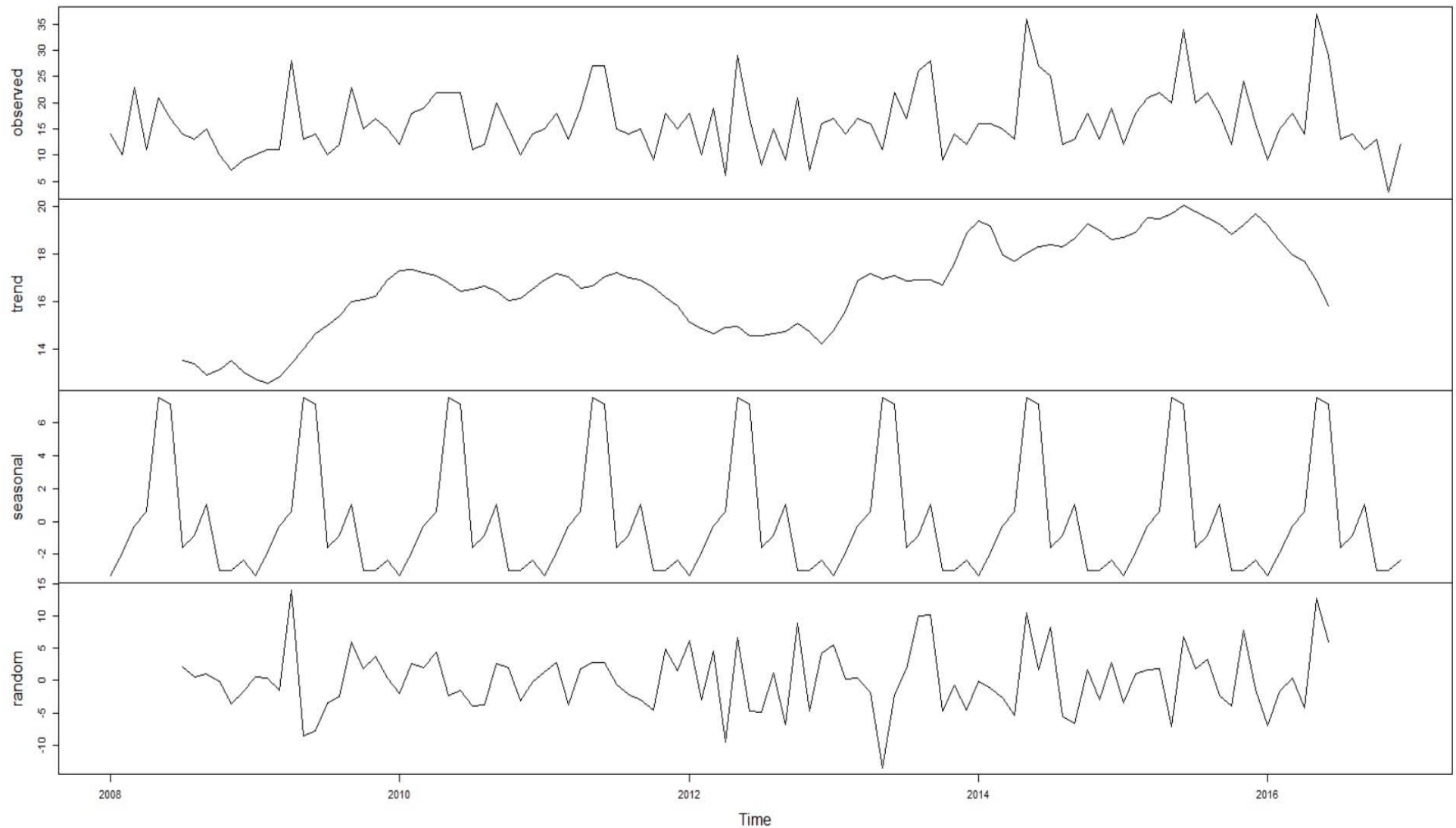
Number of Permits



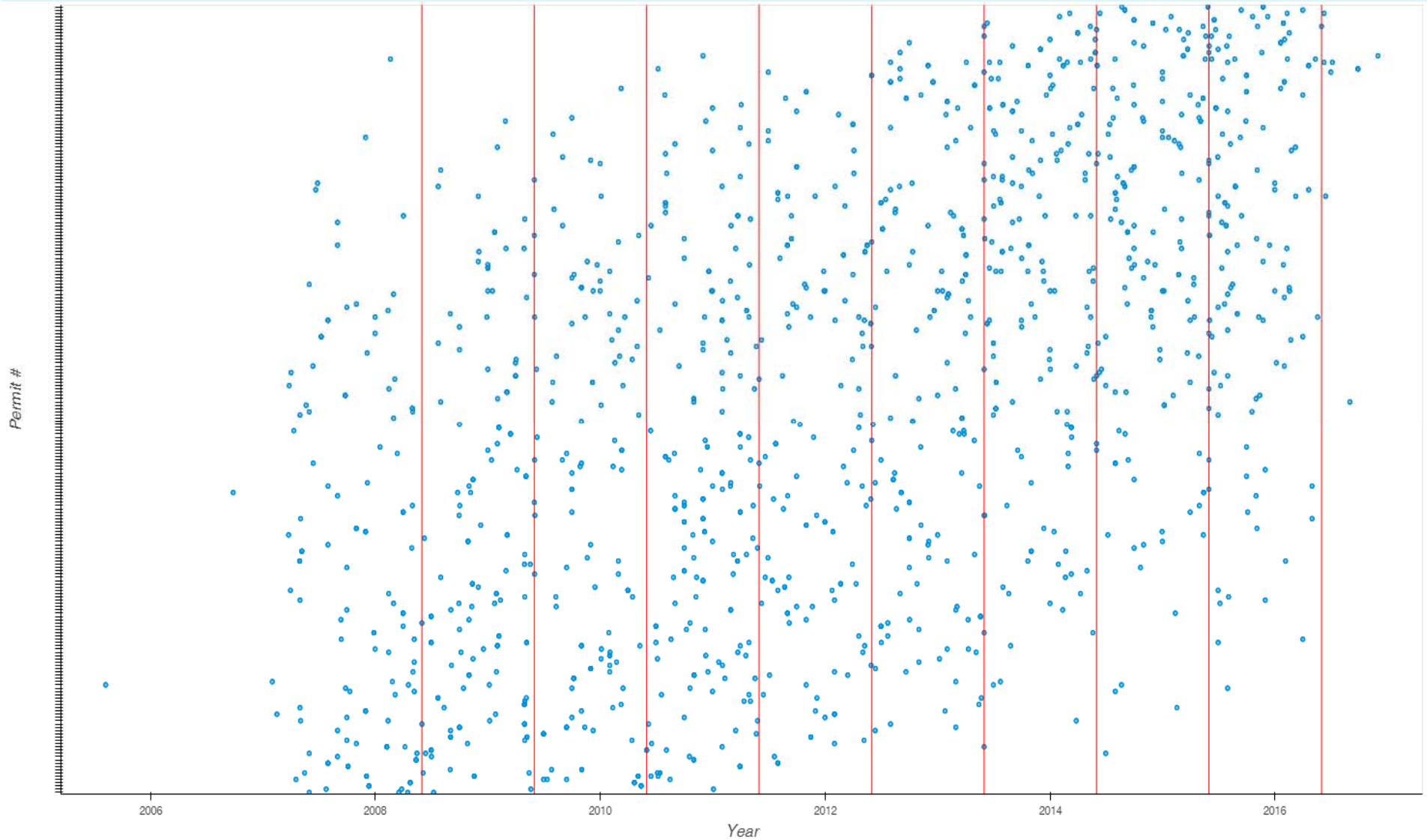
Number of Federal Reef Fish For-Hire Permits Transfers



Time Series Decomposition of Monthly Federal Reef Fish For-Hire Permit Transfers



Effective Dates of Federal Reef Fish For-Hire Permits Transfers



Conclusions

- ❖ Analyses have not revealed patterns of strategic permit transfers to take advantage of state and federal recreational red snapper seasons
- ❖ This does not mean that such a practice does not take place, but that we did not identify operators who may take advantage of both seasons
- ❖ Reef Fish for-hire permits are not red snapper permits; they allow the harvest of many reef fish species (red snapper season in state waters alone may not be a sufficient incentive to forego other reef fish)
- ❖ Council's concerns may be mitigated by amendments in development (For-hire electronic reporting; state management; Amendments 41 and 42)
- ❖ Council may consider further restrictions on for-hire permit transfers

Thank you