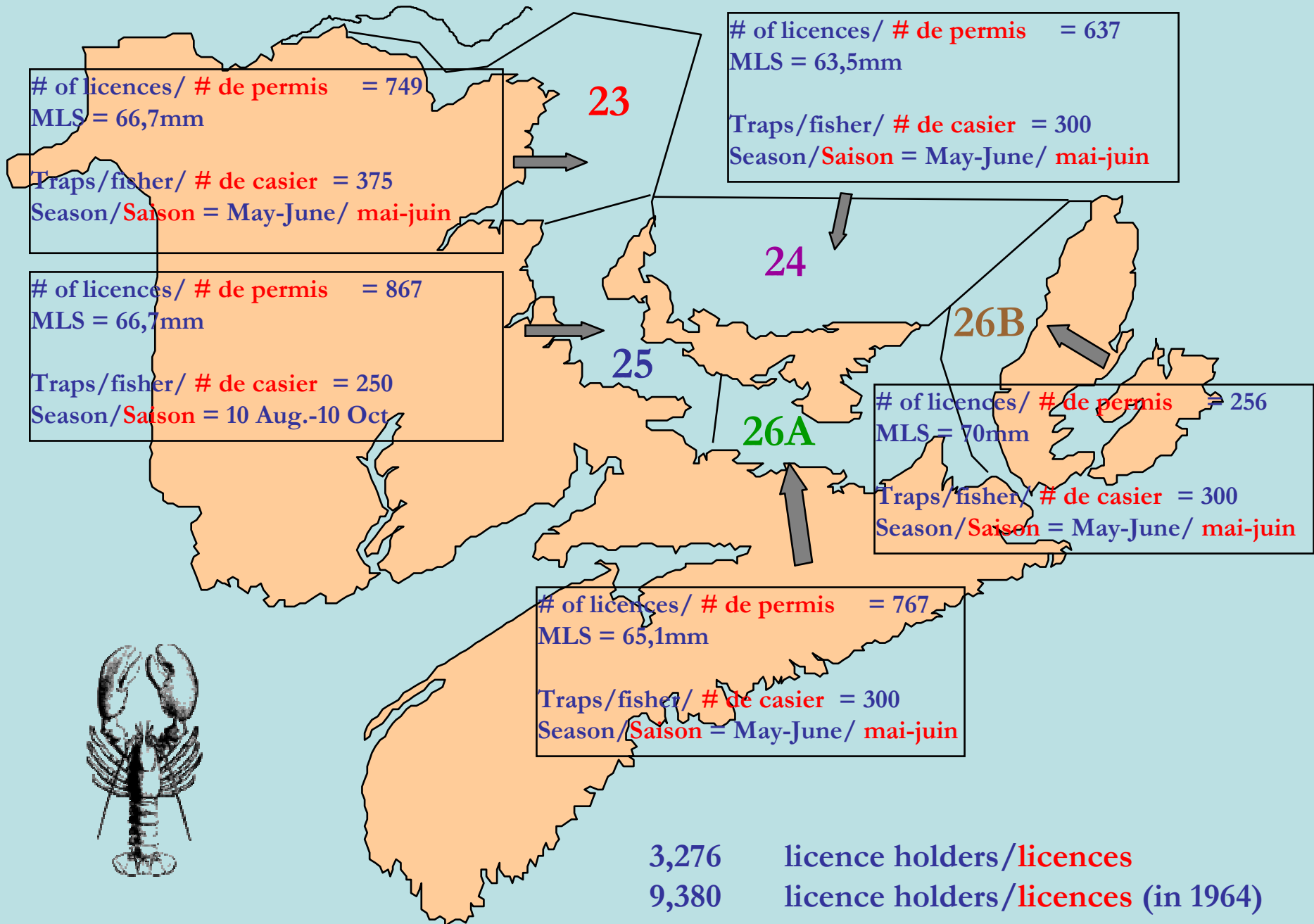


OVERVIEW OF THE LOBSTER FISHERY IN THE GULF REGION: 1995-2005



1995 LOBSTER FISHERY/PÊCHE DU HOMARD 1995



3,276 licence holders/licences
 9,380 licence holders/licences (in 1964)

Gulf Management Measures and Stock Status

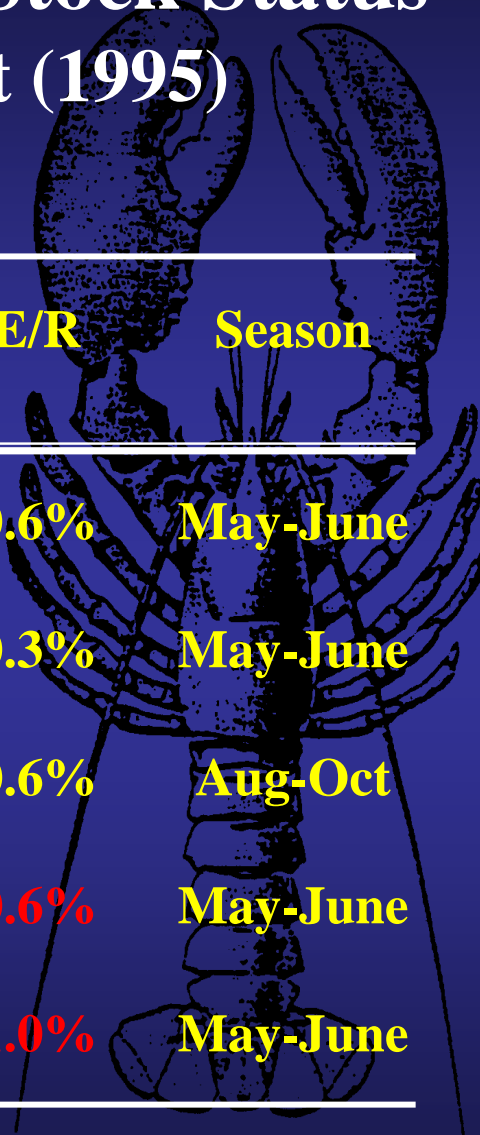
Taken from the FRCC Report (1995)



LFA	MLS	#trap	50% maturity	Exp. rate	E/R	Season
23	67mm	375		80-85%	0.6%	May-June
24	64mm	300		80-85%	0.3%	May-June
25	67mm	250	71mm	80-85%	0.6%	Aug-Oct
26A	65mm	300	78mm	80-85%	0.5%	May-June
26B	70mm	300		80-85%	0.8%	May-June

Gulf Management Measures and Stock Status

Modified from the FRCC Report (1995)



LFA	MLS	#trap	50% maturity	Exp. rate	E/R	Season
23	67mm	375	72mm	65-80%	0.6%	May-June
24	64mm	300	72mm	75-85%	0.3%	May-June
25	67mm	250	72mm	75-85%	0.6%	Aug-Oct
26A	65mm	300	72mm	60-75%	0.6%	May-June
26B	70mm	300	75mm	70-80%	1.0%	May-June

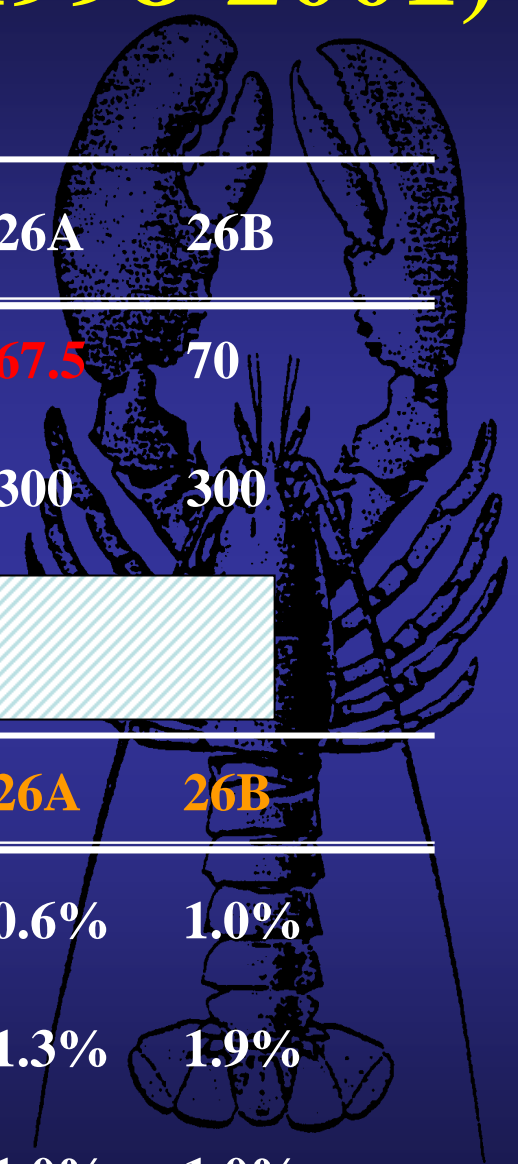
Criteria to establish a multi-year management plan (s)

- Increase egg production
- Reduction of the exploitation rate and effective fishing effort
- Data collection
- Protection of lobster habitat



4-yr Management Plan (1998-2001)

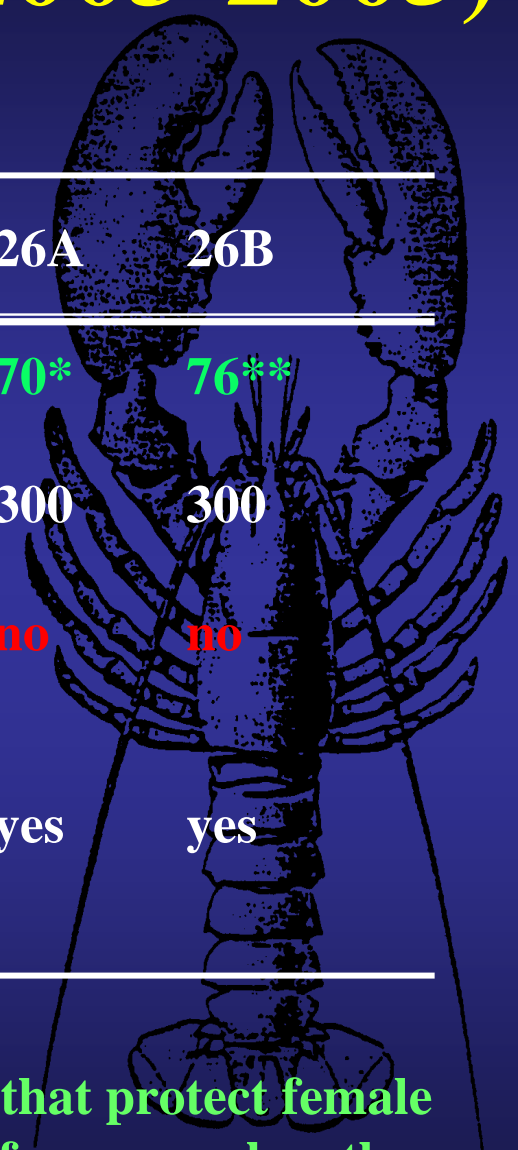
LFA	23	24	25	26A	26B
MLS	67.5	67.5	67.5	67.5	70
Trap/fisher	300	300	250	300	300
[Redacted]					
Egg-per-recruit	23	24	25	26A	26B
1995	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	0.6%	1.0%
2001 (est.)	1.3%	1.0%	1.3%	1.3%	1.9%
2001 (real)	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%



3-yr Management Plan (2003-2005)

LFA	23	24	25	26A	26B
MLS	70*	70	70*	70*	76**
Trap/fisher	300	300	250	300	300
V-notching 50%	no	no	no	no	no
Window size for females	yes	yes	***	yes	yes

Window size for females is a conservation measure that protect female lobster ranging in size between 115mm to 130mm of carapace length. These females can not be kept and have to be return to sea.

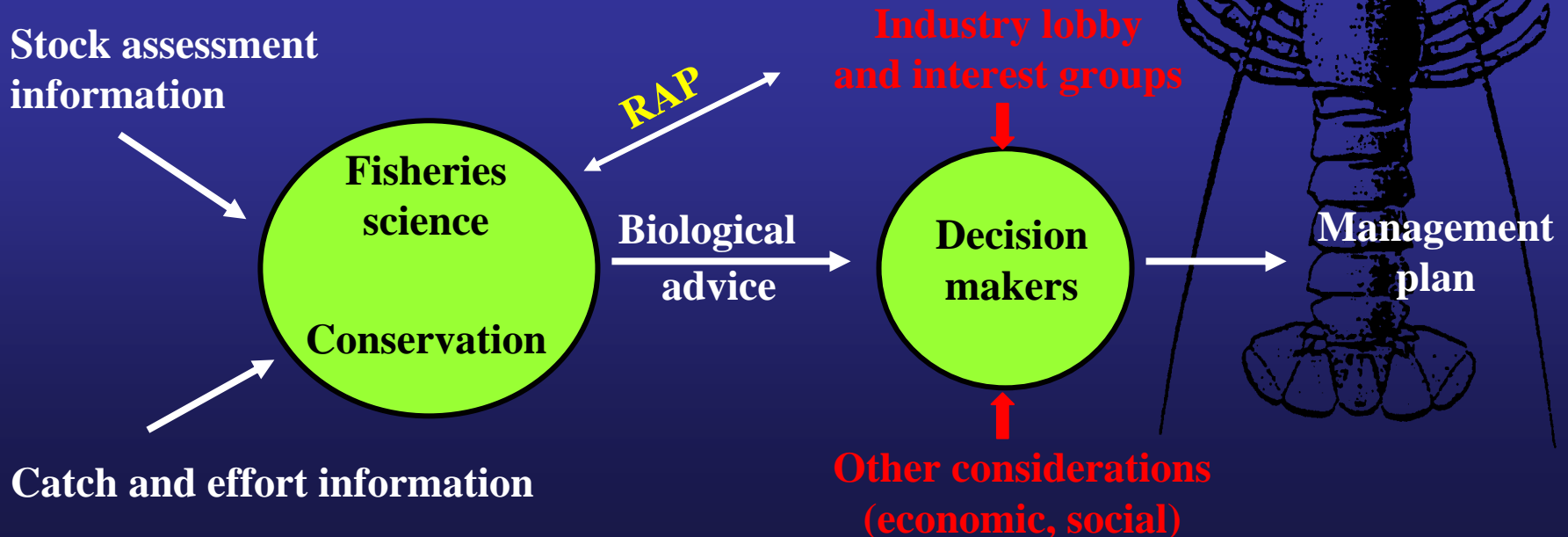


3-yr Management Plan (2003-2005)

LFA 25 style: a case study

	2003	R	2004	2005
MLS	68.5	A	69.5	70
	68.5	P	70	70

2003 The female window size measure was put in place to replace the 50% v-notching.

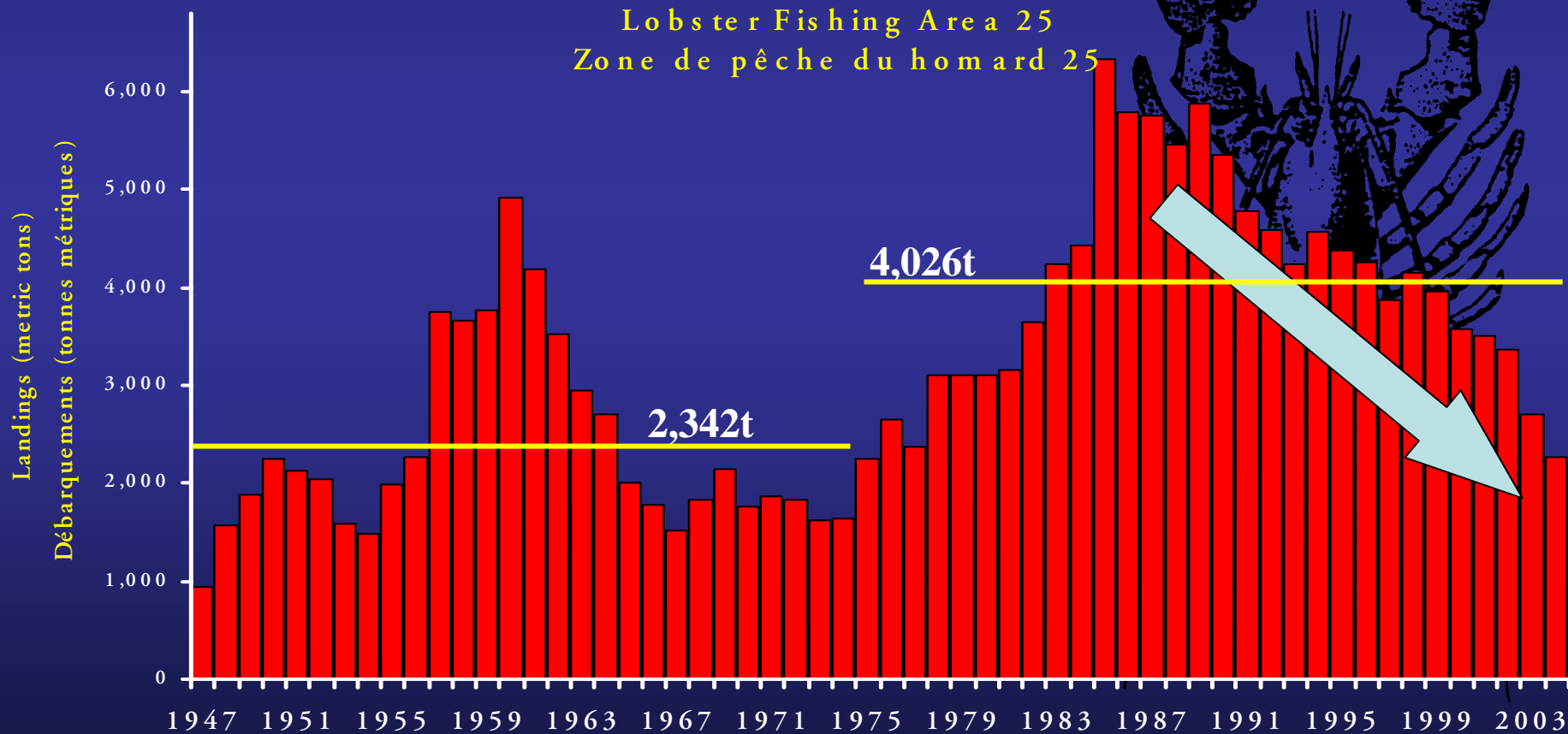


LFA 25 Landings

Highest landing in 1985 at 6,324t

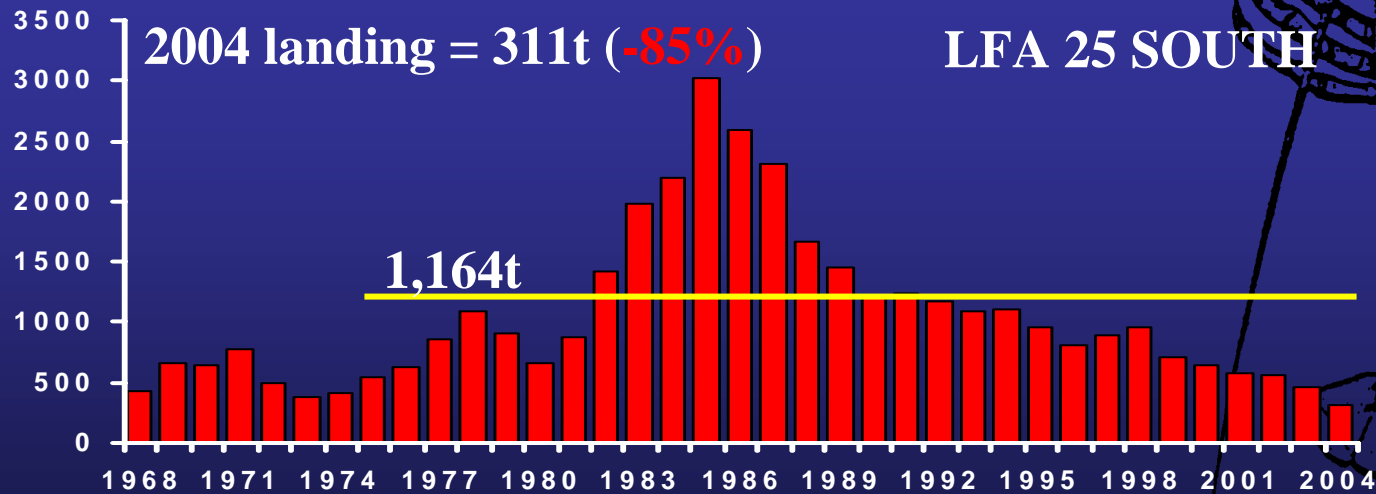
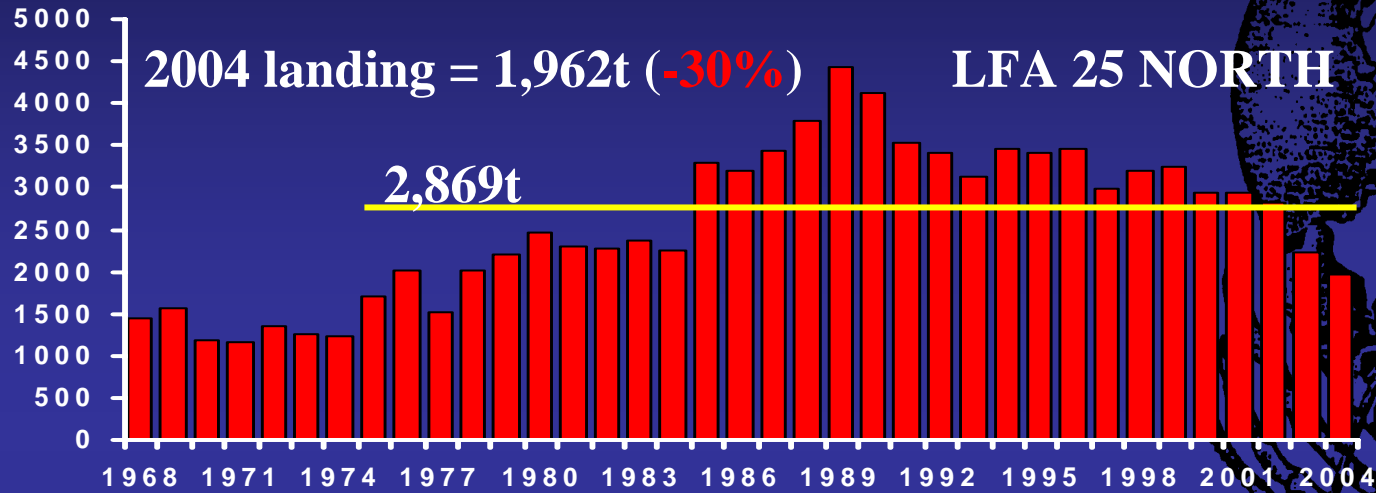
Landings in 2004 = 2,272t a 64% reduction from the highest landing

But still higher than the lowest landing in 941t observed in 1947



LFA 25 Landings

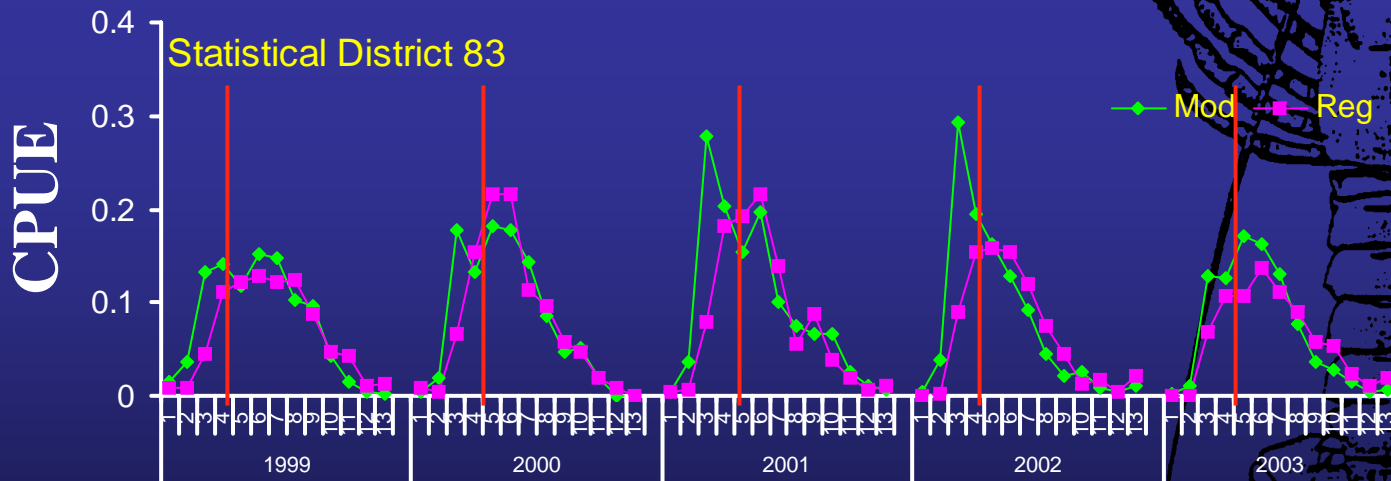
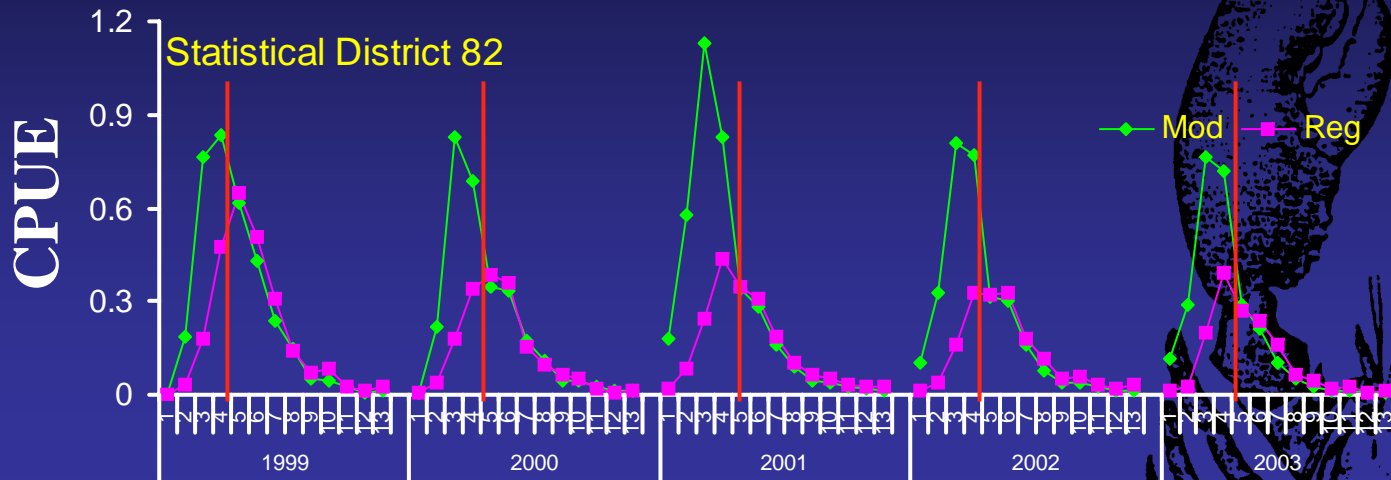
Landings (t)



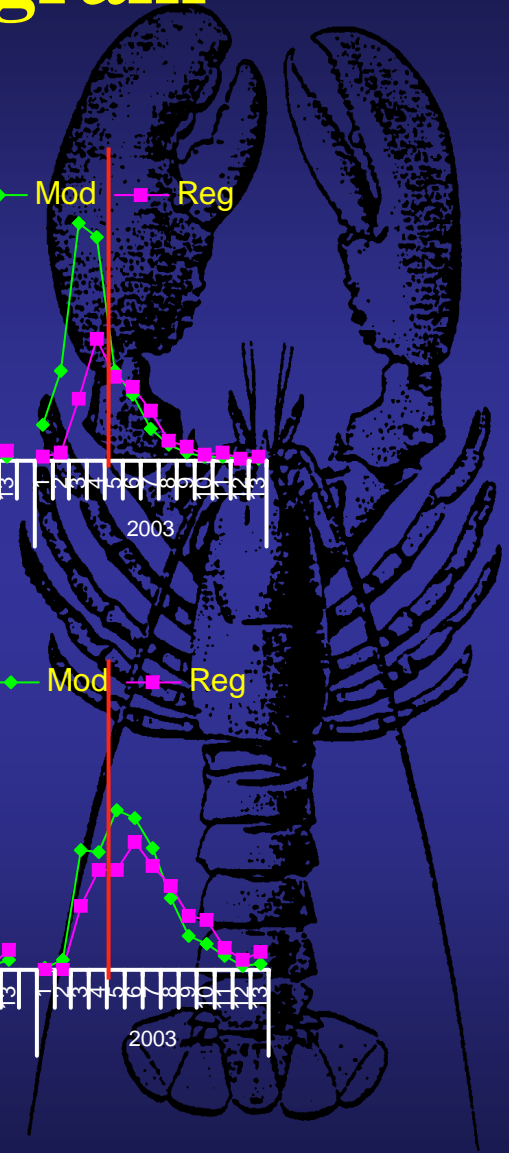
EFFORT ++

EFFORT —

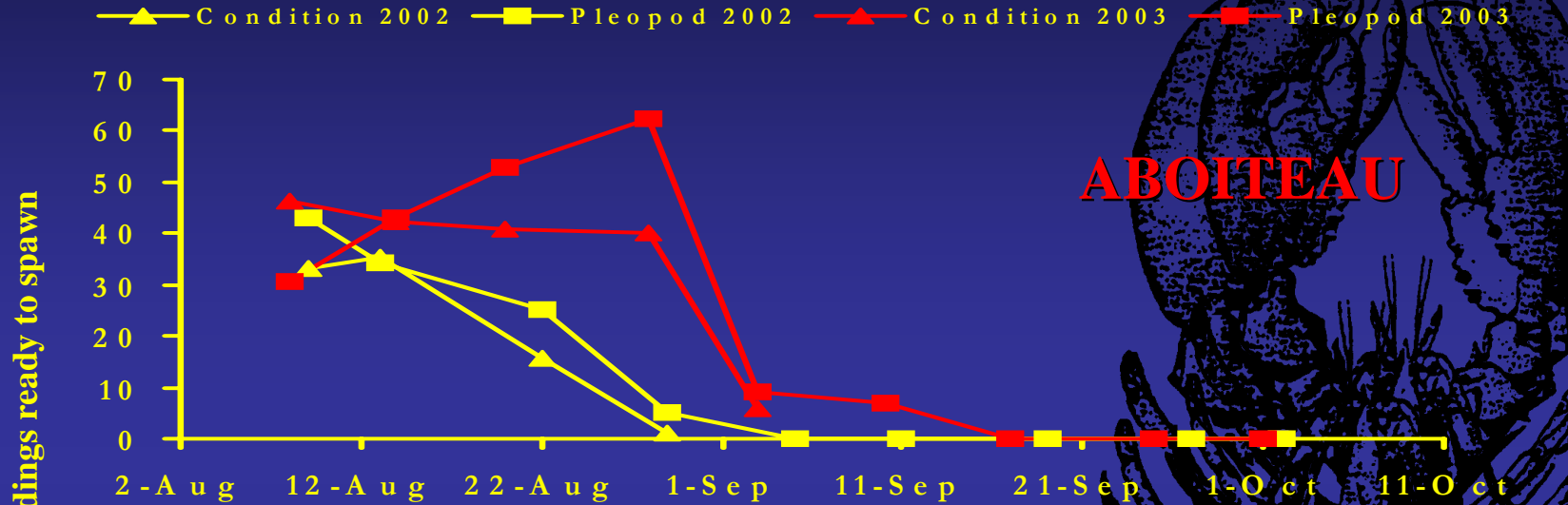
Recruitment-Index Program



YEARS

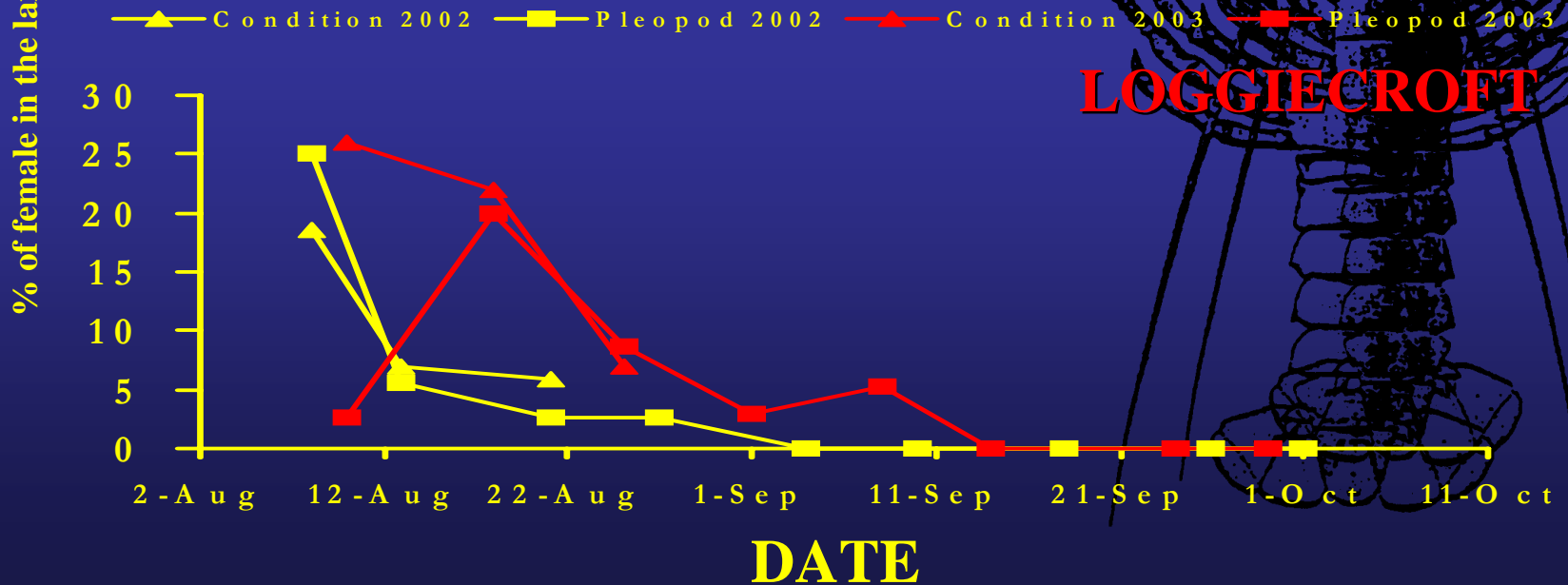


LFA 25 Female Index



ABOITEAU

LOGGIECROFT



Management Recommendations from the 2004 RAP in LFA 25

1. A reduction of the effective effort.
2. The fishing season in LFA 25 should not operate in August.
3. Egg production could be enhanced by (1) further increasing the MLS and (2) implement a maximum size in combination with, or to replace, the window size measure.
4. Information on catch, effort and fishing location from all users is needed to properly assess the stock status and changes in the distribution of fishing effort.



3-yr Management Plan (2003-2005)

LFA 25 style

- 2004
- (1) MLS increased to 70mm in 2004 instead of 2005
 - (2) The female window size measure was replaced by a maximum size of 115mm (all female >115mm were prohibited in the catch).
 - (3) A window size measure for male from 129 to 140mm.
 - (4) Season opening delayed to the 15 August, 2004 (until 15 October).

2005 **Politically driven management**

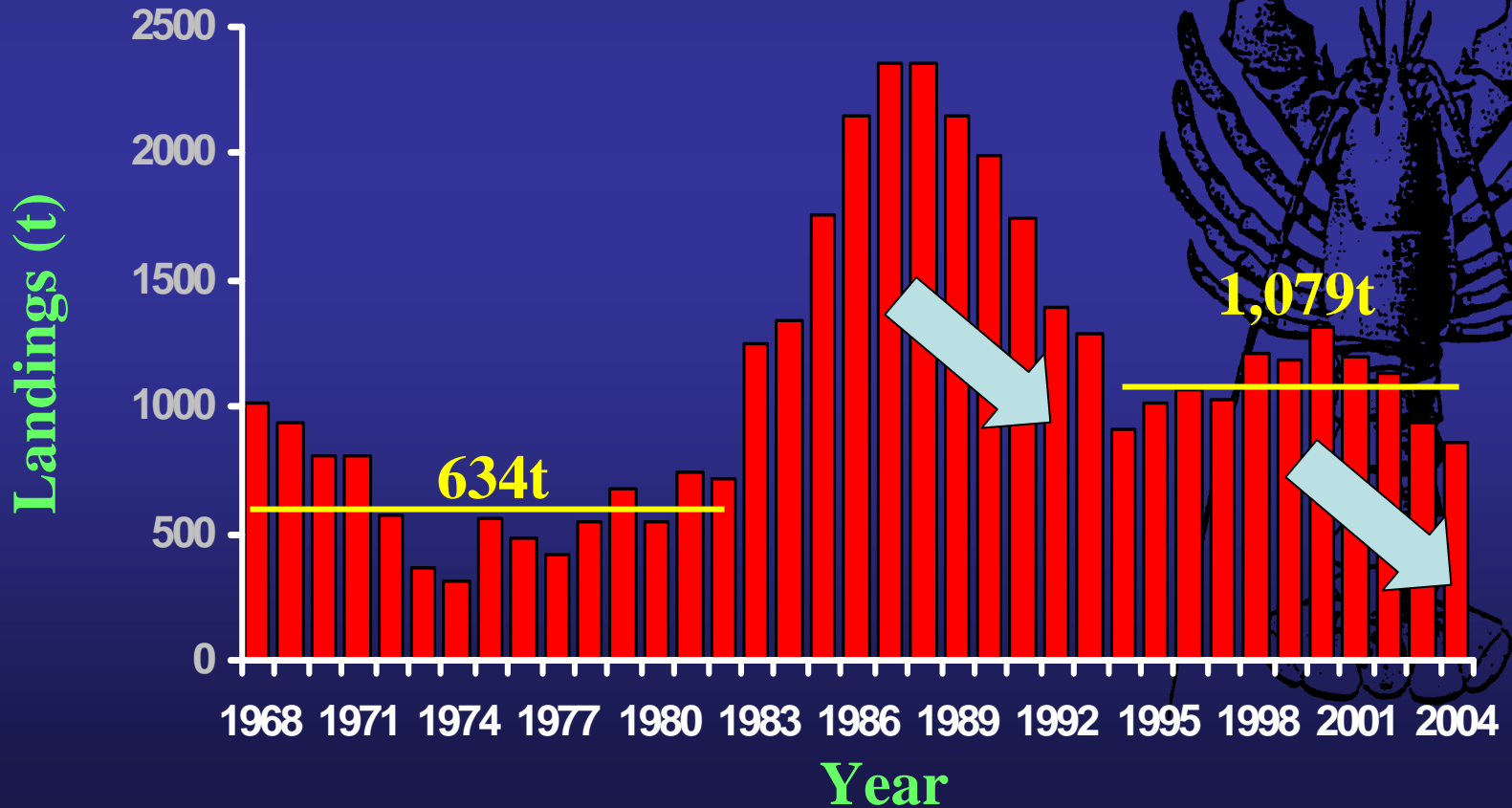
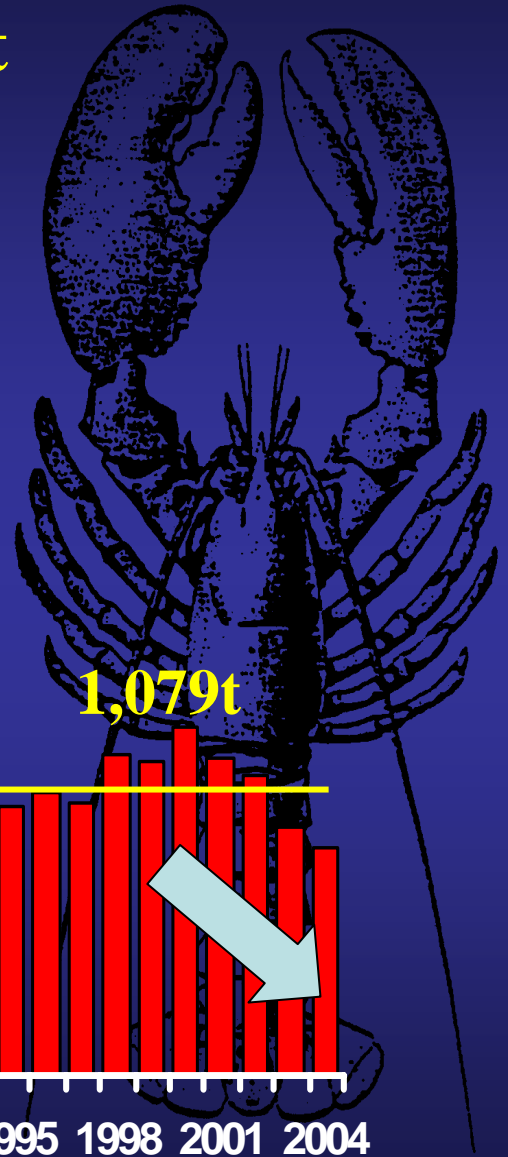
- (1) Maximum size of 115mm for females.
- (2) A maximum hoop size of 152mm to replace the male window size measure.
- (3) Reinstatement of the season opening on 10 August, 2005 (until 10 October, 2005).



LFA 26A Landings Northumberland Strait

Highest landing = 2,362t in 1988

Landing in 2004 = 865t (-20%)

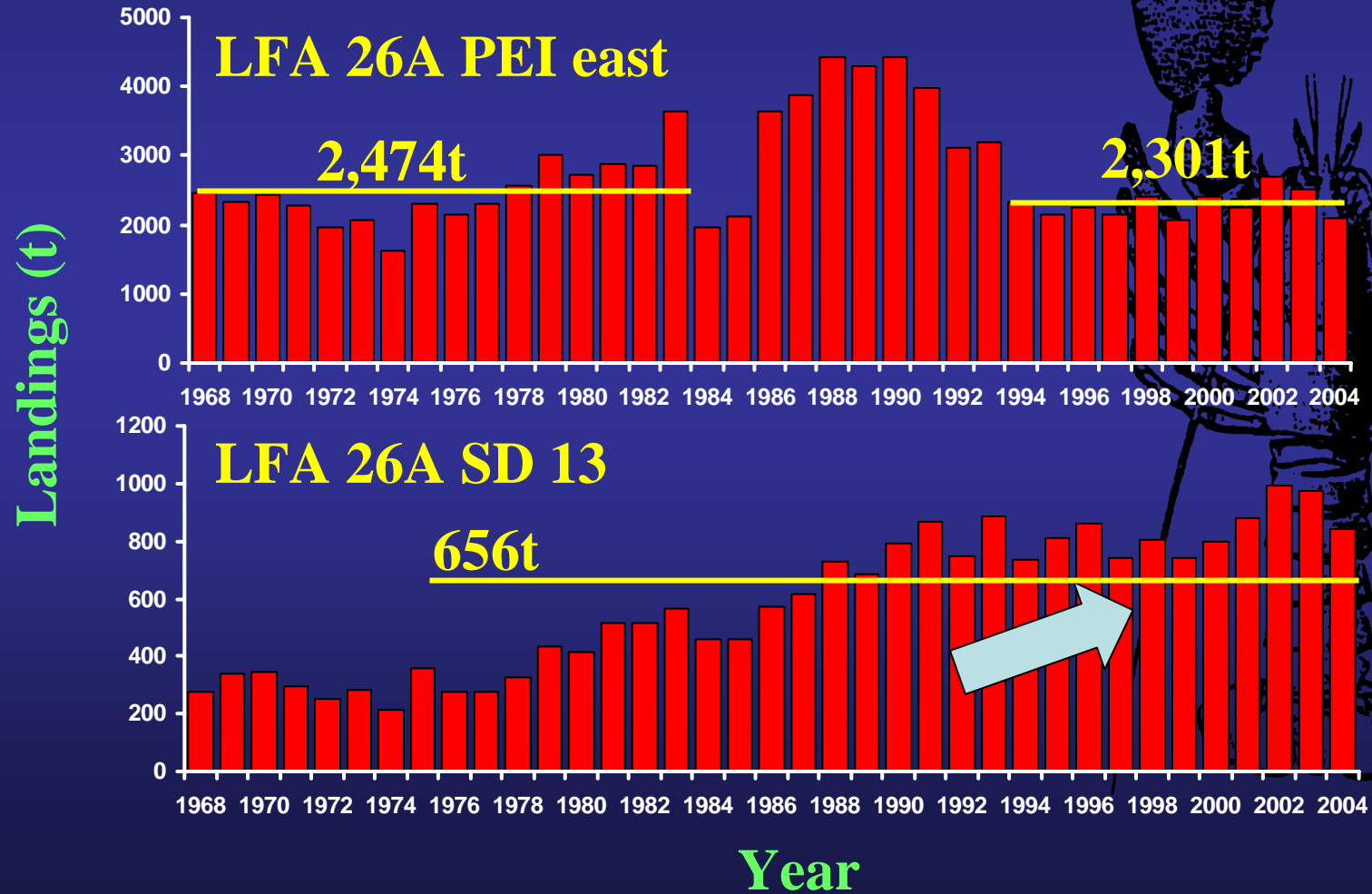


LFA 26A Landings

PEI and SD 13

Highest landing = PEI 4,437t in 1990 SD13 976t in 2003

Landings 2004 = PEI 2,089t (-10%) SD13 845t (+29%)

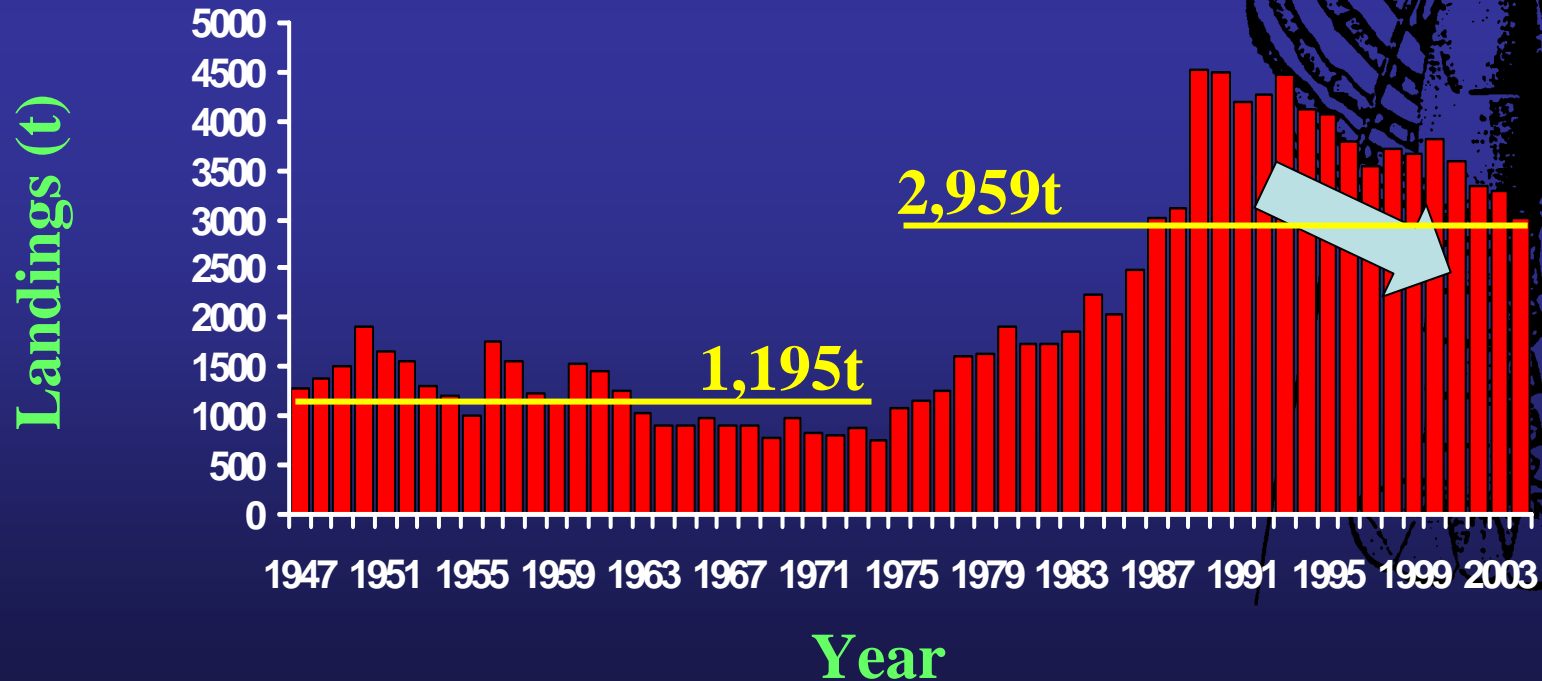


LFA 23 Landings

Landing 2004 = 2,959t (average)

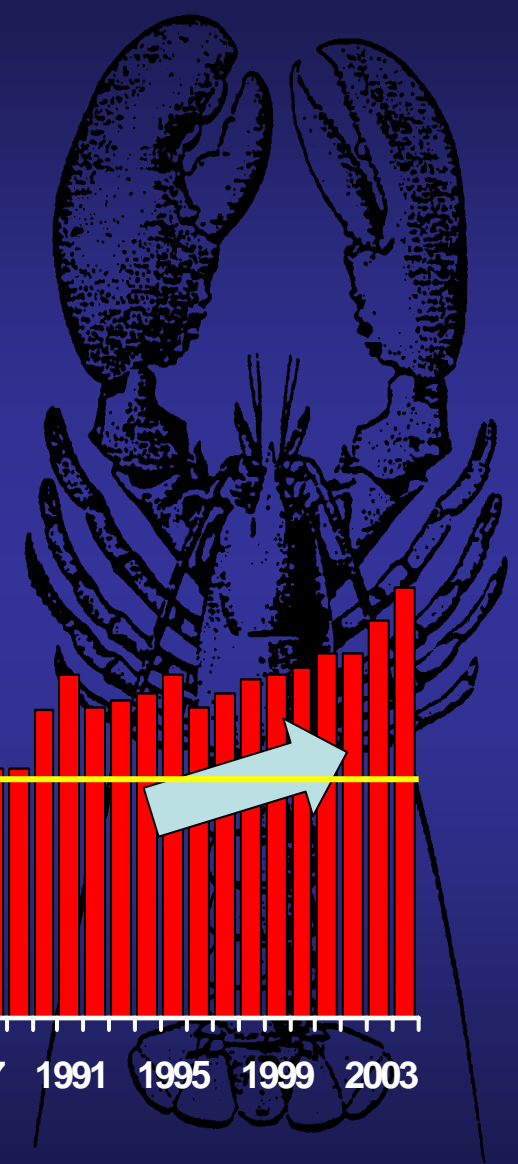
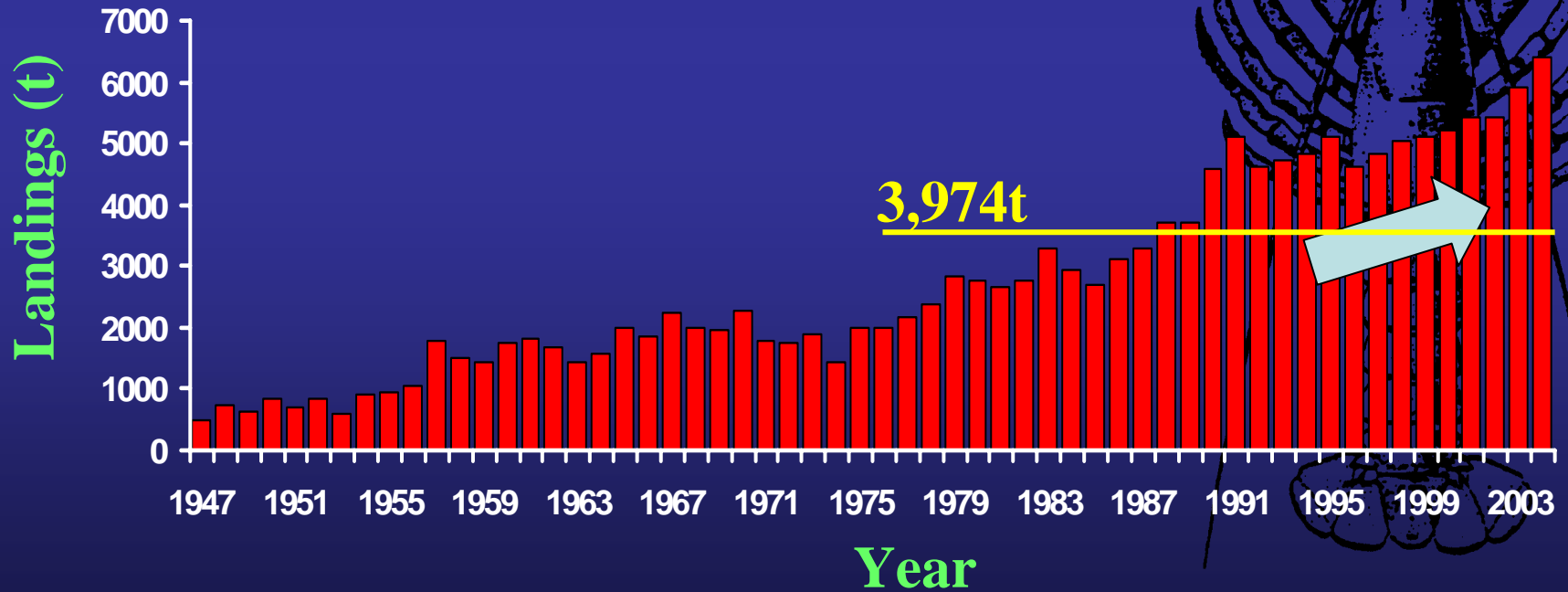
Highest landing = 4,528t in 1989 followed by a steady decline

Transfer of effort from the Baie des Chaleurs to LFA 23 Gulf in the 1990's



LFA 24 Landings

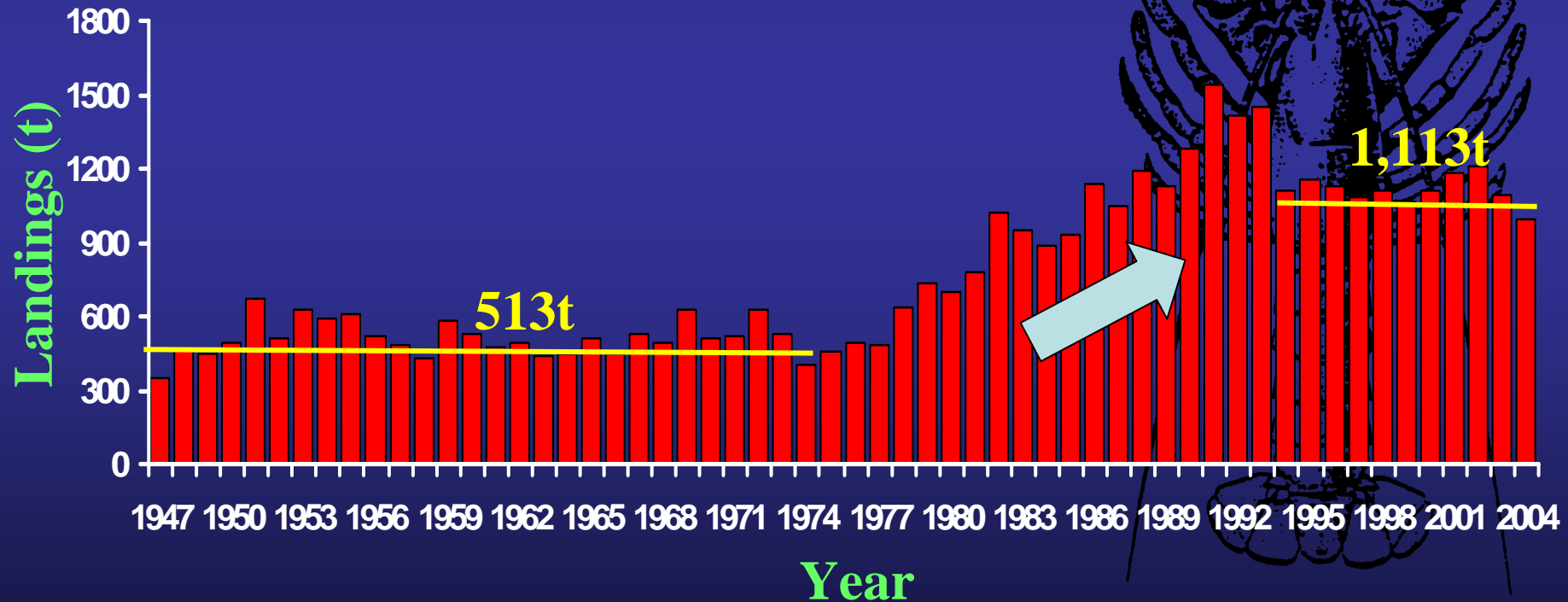
Highest landing = 6,419t in 2004






LFA 26B Landings

Landing 2004 = 993t

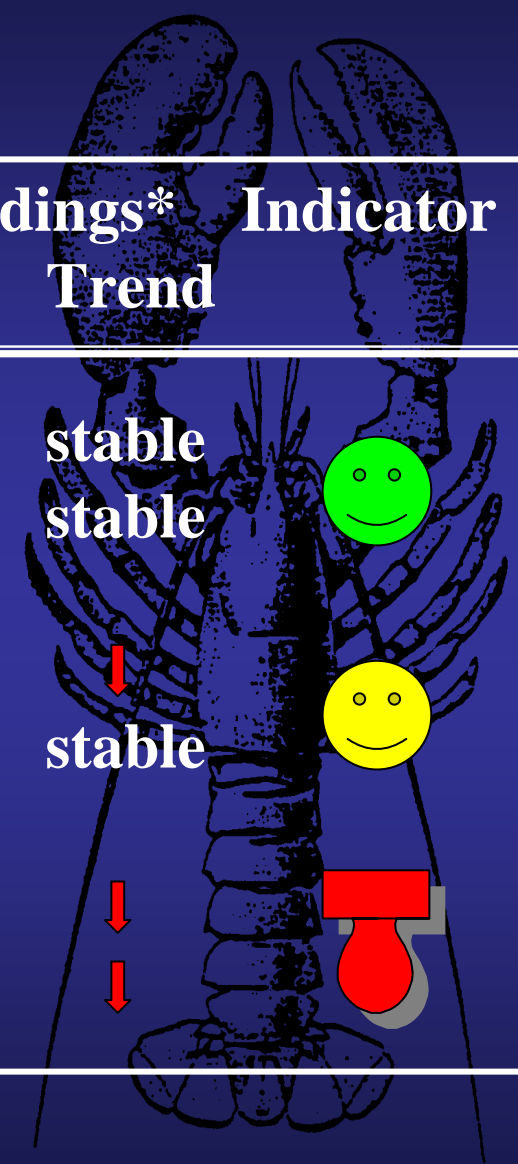
Highest landing = 1,543t in 1991





Indicators

LFA	Size structure			Landings*		Indicator
	1 st	2 nd	3 ⁺	Level	Trend	
26A(east) 1995	76%	21%	3%	ave	stable	
26A(east) 2005	50%	36%	14%	high	stable	
26A(PEIeast) 1995	87%	10%	3%	low	↓	
26A(PEIeast) 2005	75%	19%	6%	low	stable	
26A(NStrait) 1995	55%	26%	19%	ave	↓	
26A(NStrait) 2005	32%	27%	41%	low	↓	

*2004 landings







Indicators

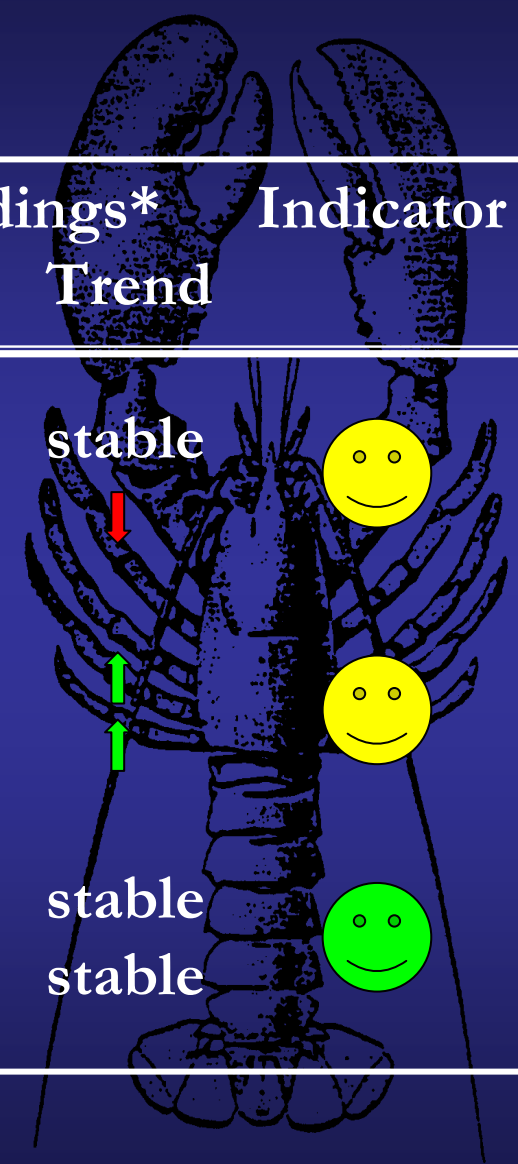
LFA	Size structure			Landings*		Indicator
	1 st	2 nd	3 ⁺	Level	Trend	
25 (north) 1985	89%	8%	3%	high	Peak	
25 (north) 1995	85%	12%	3%	ave	stable	
25 (north) 2005	74%	18%	8%	low	↓	
25 (south) 1985	82%	16%	2%	Peak	Peak	
25 (south) 1995	54%	31%	15%	low	↓	
25 (south) 2005	53%	29%	18%	low(est)	↓	

*2004 landings

Indicators

LFA	Size structure			Landings*		Indicator
	1 st	2 nd	3 ⁺	Level	Trend	
23 1995	77%	14%	9%	high	stable	
23 2003	66%	25%	9%	ave		
24 1995	80%	16%	4%	high		
24 2005	81%	9%	10%	high		
26B 1995	80%	17%	3%	ave	stable	
26B 2003	57%	28%	15%	ave	stable	

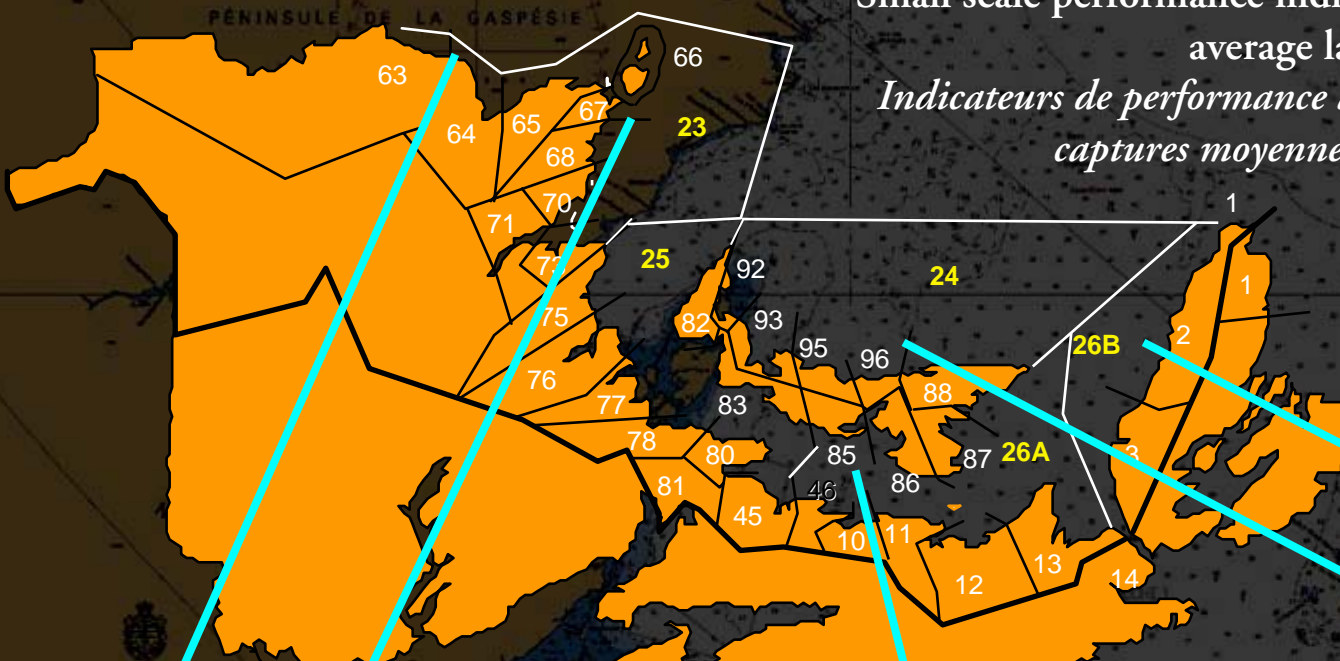
*2004 landings



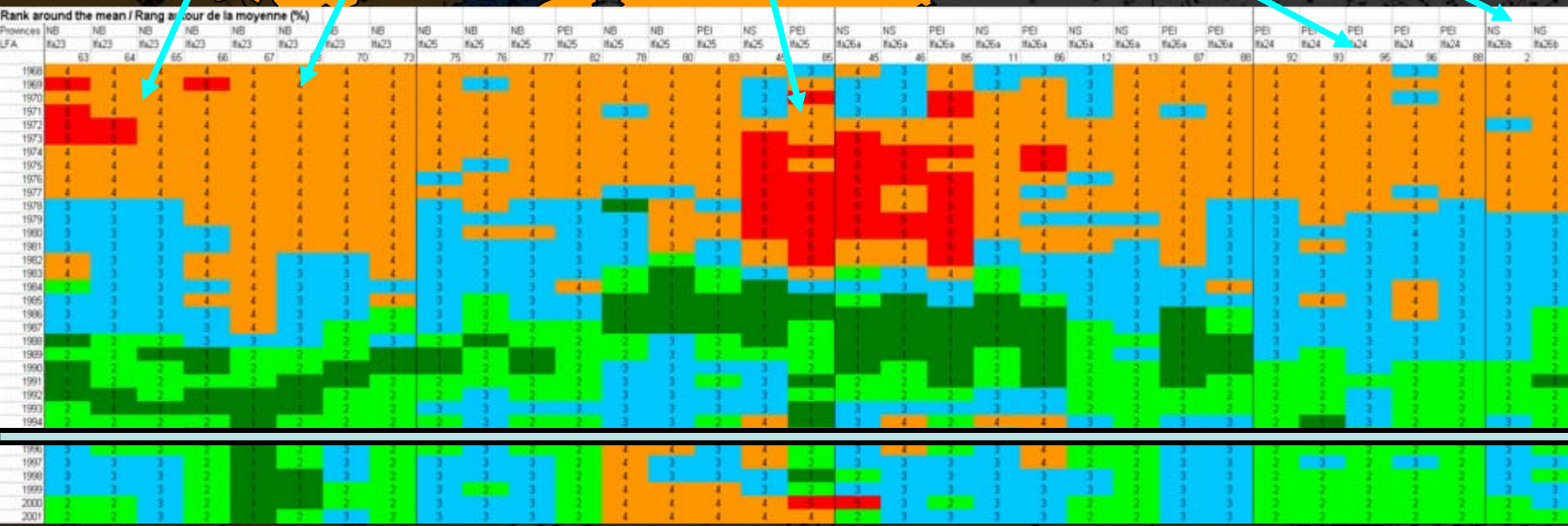
Small scale performance indicators based on 1968-2001

average landings

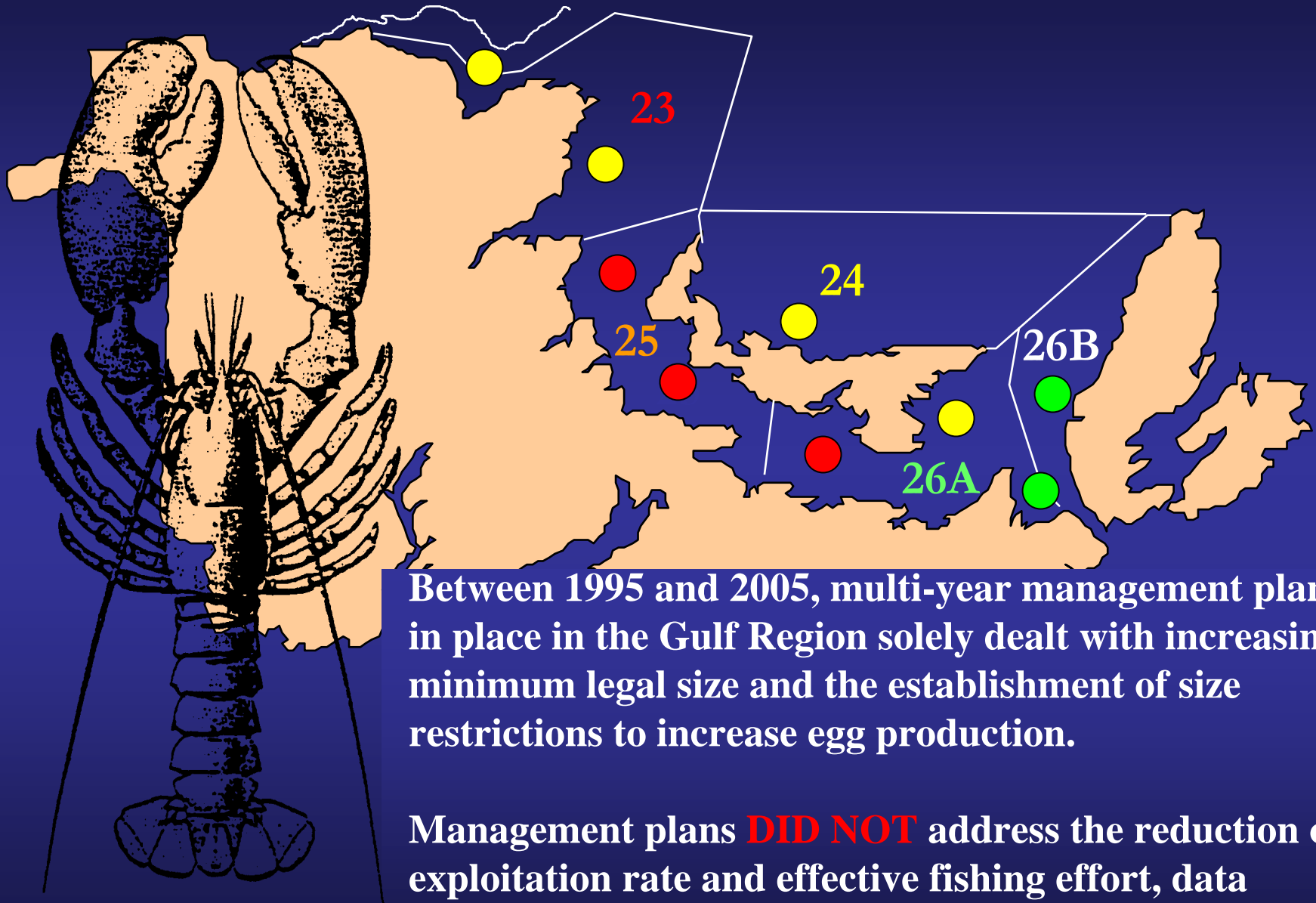
Indicateurs de performance à petite échelle basés sur les captures moyennes de 1968-2001



Rank around the mean	
Rang autour de la moyenne (%)	
75% or more/ou plus	1
25% to/à 74%	2
25% to/à -25%	3
-25% to/à -74%	4
-75% or less/ou moins	5



2005 LOBSTER STOCK STATUS



Between 1995 and 2005, multi-year management plans put in place in the Gulf Region solely dealt with increasing the minimum legal size and the establishment of size restrictions to increase egg production.

Management plans **DID NOT** address the reduction of the exploitation rate and effective fishing effort, data collection and partially addressed the protection of lobster habitat.

