

# Blue Crab Accomplishments 2014-2025

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Ingrid Braun-Ricks(PRFC),  
Chesapeake Bay Stock  
Assessment Committee Chair

# 2014 CB Agreement Goals




- **Blue Crab Abundance:** Maintain a sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

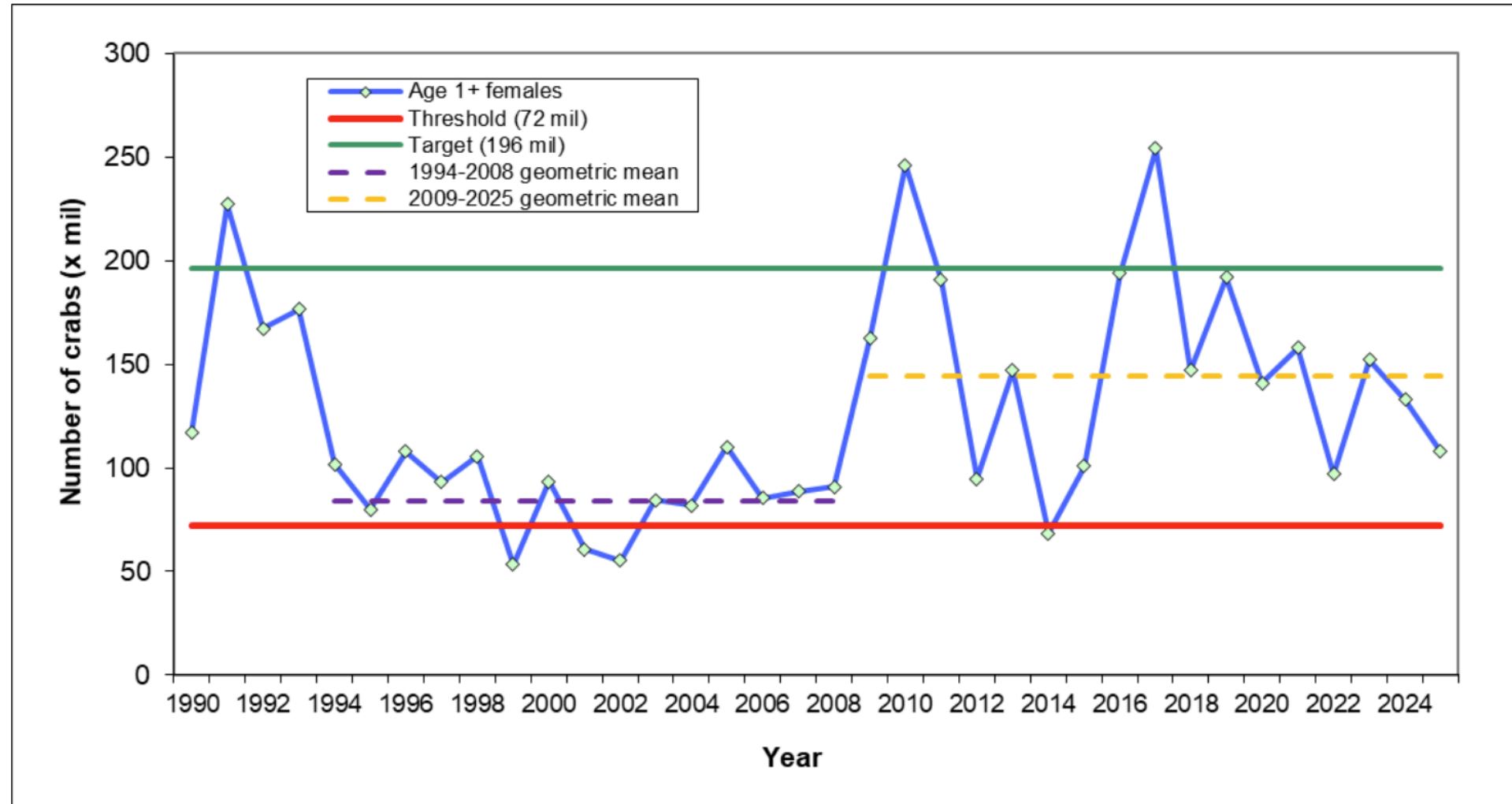


- **Blue Crab Management Outcome:** Manage for a stable and productive crab fishery including working with the industry, recreational crabbers and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability. By 2018, evaluate the establishment of a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework with annual levels set by the jurisdictions for the purpose of accounting for and adjusting harvest by each jurisdiction.

# Blue Crab Abundance



- 2012 SA
  - Spawning stock Abundance Target: 215 mil females
  - Threshold: 70 mil females
- 2017 SA Update
  - Target: 196 mil females
  - Threshold: 72.5 mil females
- Stock is not overfished 



# Blue Crab Abundance



- Ranking Ecosystem Impacts on Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) – Aug. 2019
- Evaluation of Environmental Factors Influencing Blue Crab Populations- Oct. 2020
- Blue Crab Population Drivers and Stock Assessment in Chesapeake Bay – Apr. 2023
- A Population Simulation Model for Blue Crab Stock Assessment Performance Evaluation – Nov. 2024

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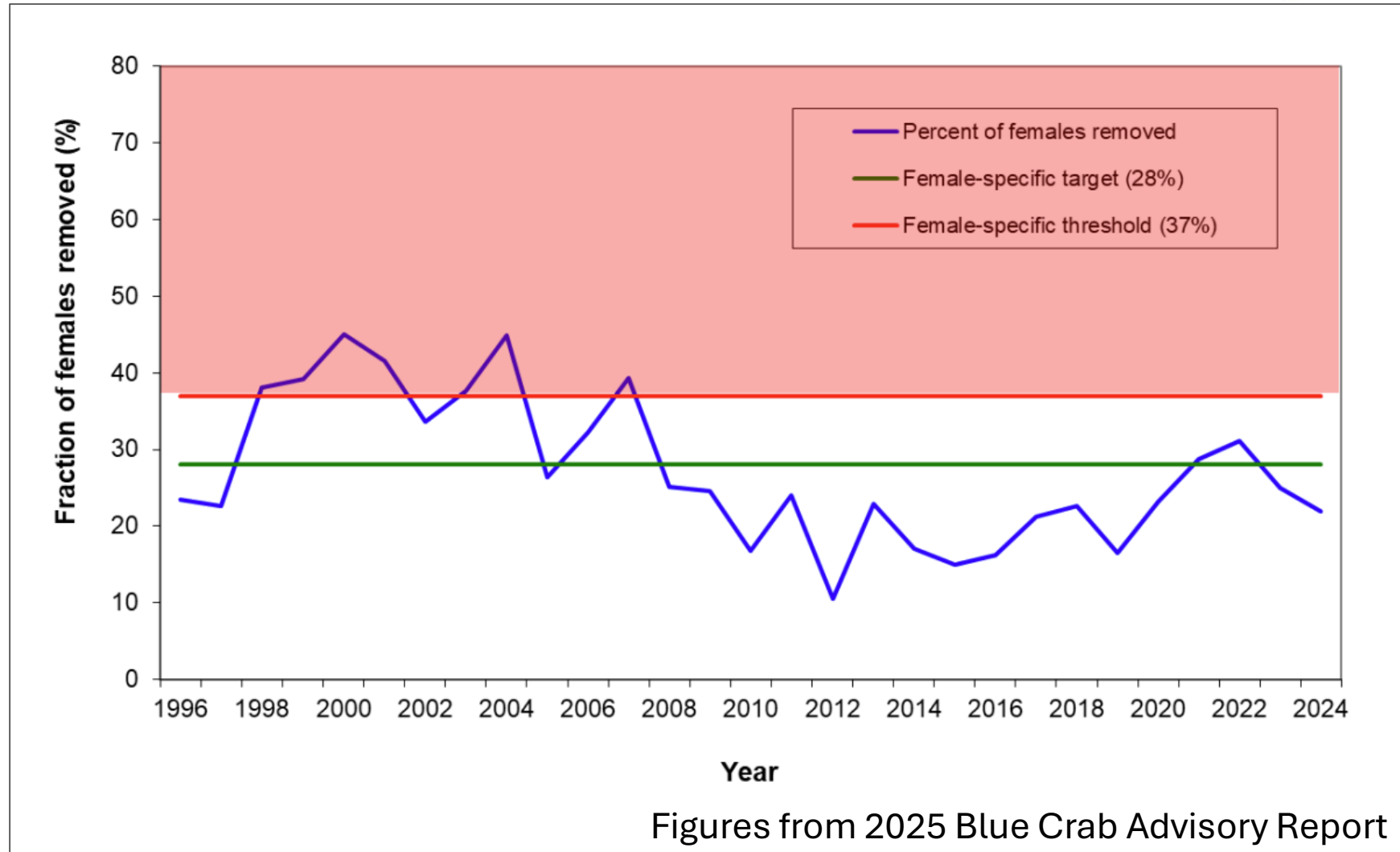


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# Blue Crab Management Outcome



- 2012 SA
  - Female Exploitation Target: 25.5%
  - Threshold: 34%
- 2017 SA Update
  - Target: 28%
  - Threshold: 37%
- Overfishing is not occurring



# Blue Crab Management



- Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework – 2016-17
  - After gathering stakeholder feedback, the jurisdictions decided to continue under the current female-specific biological reference points and the conservation trigger for male crabs.
- Blue Crab Harvest Reporting Efforts – Dec. 2021
- Testing Blue Crab Management: Simulating the Present to Sustain the Future – May 2025
- MD DNR, PRFC, VMRC Joint Management
- 2026 Benchmark Stock Assessment
  - Data Workshop – Dec. 2023
  - Peer Review – Apr. 2026
    - **Passed!**