

# Fishing Capacity and Efficient Fleet Configuration for the Tuna Purse Seine Fishery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: An Economic Approach

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# Organization

- 1. Background
- 2. Basic Question
- 3. Basic Approach
- 4. Data
- 5. Results



# 1. Background...(1)

- Two Definitions of Capacity Used:
- (1) FAO Capacity = fishing capacity
  - Interpreted here as maximum potential catch per vessel
- (2) IATTC Capacity = well capacity (m<sup>3</sup>)
- This analysis excludes FADs on explicit basis
- But FADs are indirectly accounted for as technical change that shifts efficient production frontier each year

# Background...(2)

- Economic efficiency in this study is the maximum possible catch per vessel.
- By adjusting days at sea, each vessel catches as much as most efficient vessels of same size class & DML/non-DML.
- Not maximum possible profit.



# 2. Basic Question



# Basic Question

- What is the minimum purse seine well capacity ( $\text{m}^3$ ) required to catch specified levels of
  - skipjack, bigeye, and yellowfin tunas
- when vessels maximize potential catches by adjusting their annual vessel days?
- We analyze for each year, 1993-2010
- Essentially a more formal but similar method to IATTC approach that gives 158,000  $\text{m}^3$  well capacity.



# 3. Basic Approach



# Two-Stage Analysis

- 1. First Stage
  - All vessels maximize their potential catch to full fishing capacity by adjusting their days
- 2. Second Stage
  - Minimize well capacity required to catch MSYs when vessels are catching at full fishing capacity
  - Subject to total fishing capacity catch for each species summed over all vessels so that for each year:
    - ❖ Yellowfin capacity catch  $\leq$  MSY
    - ❖ Bigeye capacity catch  $\leq$  MSY
    - ❖ Skipjack capacity catch  $\leq$  Observed catch



# Data/Model Differentiates by Vessel Size Class & DML

- (1) Classes 2 and 3
- (2) Classes 4 and 5
- (3) Class 6 for vessels not holding DML
- (4) Class 6 vessels holding DML
- Vessel size & DML/non-DML implicitly stratifies catch by area
  - North-South, inshore-offshore

# Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA)

- Linear programming model for each vessel for each year
- Establishes best-practice frontier for vessels of similar size
- Deterministic, not stochastic

# First Stage

- 1. Vessels efficiently harvest fishing capacity levels of catch
  - By adjusting days at sea given measures of vessel size, biomass, sea surface temperature
  - Remove technical efficiency (skipper skill) from capacity catch level
    - Lowers maximum potential catch
    - Because largely constant between vessels
- Vessel-level data

# Second Stage

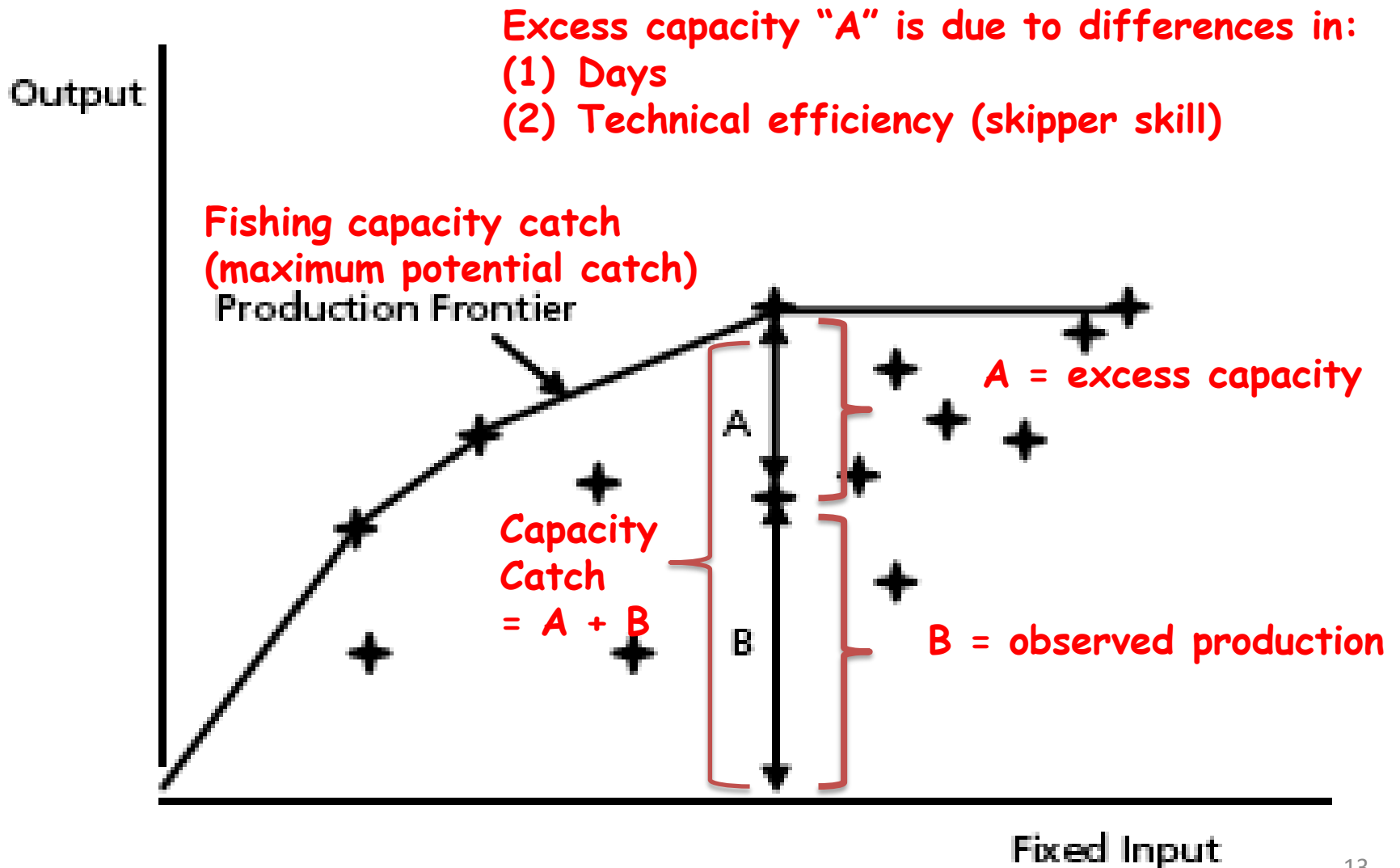
- 2. Given capacity catch per vessel, what is minimum well capacity required?
  - After requiring total catches  $\leq$  MSYs for bigeye and yellowfin and observed total catch for skipjack.
- Intuition
  - Most efficient vessels kept in the fleet
  - Inefficient vessels either removed or their operations scaled back subject to maintaining total production (MSYs).

# FAO Technical Notion of Fishing Capacity for First Stage

- "Fishing capacity is the maximum amount of fish over a period of time (a year or season) that can be produced by a fishing fleet if fully utilized, given the biomass and age structure of the fish stock and the present state of technology. Fishing capacity is the ability of a vessel or vessels to catch fish (FAO 1998, 2000)."

# FIGURE 2.1

## Data envelopment analysis





# Day Restrictions

- Model also compares three different day restriction policies as X% of observed days for each vessel:
  - (1) 80% (least restrictive)
  - (2) 70%
  - (3) 60% (most restrictive)
- Below 60%, vessels could not catch MSYs

# 4. Data



# IATTC Data

- Annual vessel-level purse seine data from EPO tuna purse seine fishery for 1993-2010.
- Landings (mt retained catch) for yellowfin, bigeye, & skipjack tunas.
- Vessel gross tonnage and other measures of vessel size
  - cubic meters of well capacity, net weight, or length, weight, & depth in meters, engine size
- Trip lengths (days, arrival date minus departure date for trip), & number of sets.

# 5. Results

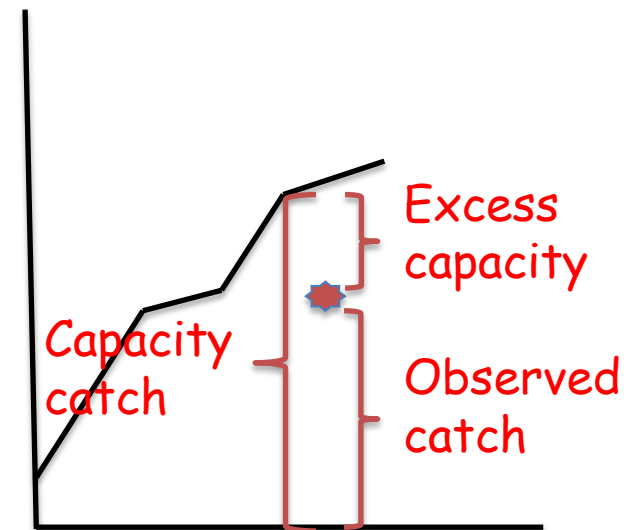


# Year-by-Year Estimation

- Accounts for Changes in:
  - Biomass,
  - TACs/MSYs,
  - Environmental conditions,
  - Market conditions,
  - Technology,
  - FAD numbers & design,
  - Total days fished.
  - Regulations (e.g. closures),
  - No steady-state equilibrium, follows IATTC practice of periodically re-evaluating TACs

# First Stage Results: Average Capacity Utilization

- Capacity utilization (CU)  
= Observed catch/fishing  
capacity catch
- All vessels: 86%
  - Total fish catch could be increased by 14% if all vessels operated on best-practice efficient frontier by adjusting days.
- Non-DML vessels: 83%
- DML vessels: 89%



$$CU = \frac{\text{observed catch}}{\text{capacity catch}}$$



# Summary of Overall Results

- Average observed level: 219,000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- IATTC recommendation: 158,000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- Model optimum: 167,000 m<sup>3</sup>
  - Similar to IATTC Due to similarities of approach
- Model indicates:
  - vessel number reductions of 22% to 24%, depending on TAC & catch restriction imposed.
  - m<sup>3</sup> well capacity reductions of 18% to 24%, depending on TAC & catch restriction.

# DML vs. Non-DML

- Prior to the year 2000, DML vessels were responsible for the majority of this excess capacity.
- Since 2000, DML and non-DML vessels have each contributed roughly half of the excess capacity.

# Observed and efficient well capacity: All vessels

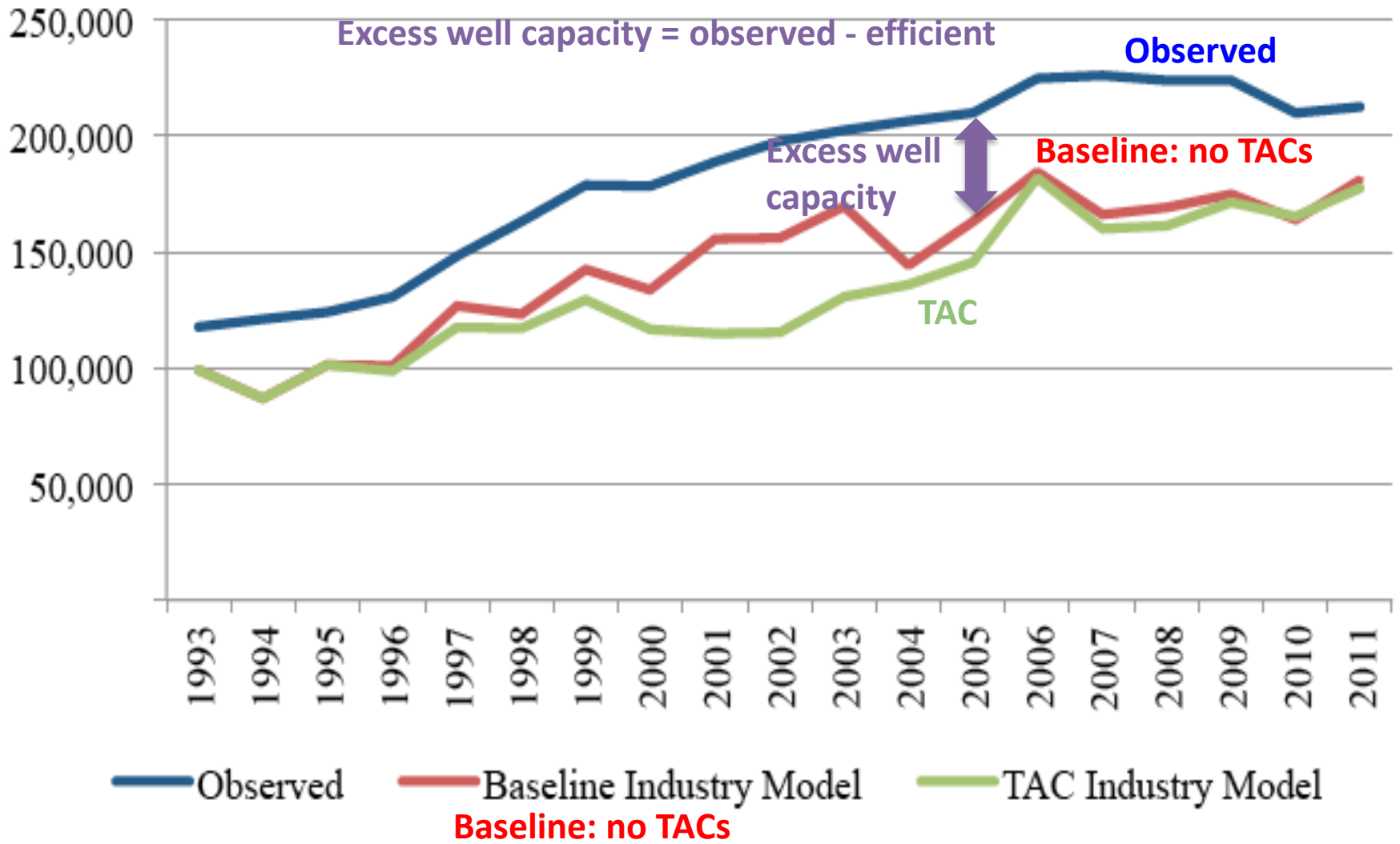


Figure 1

# Observed and efficient well capacity: Non-DML

Excess well capacity = observed - efficient

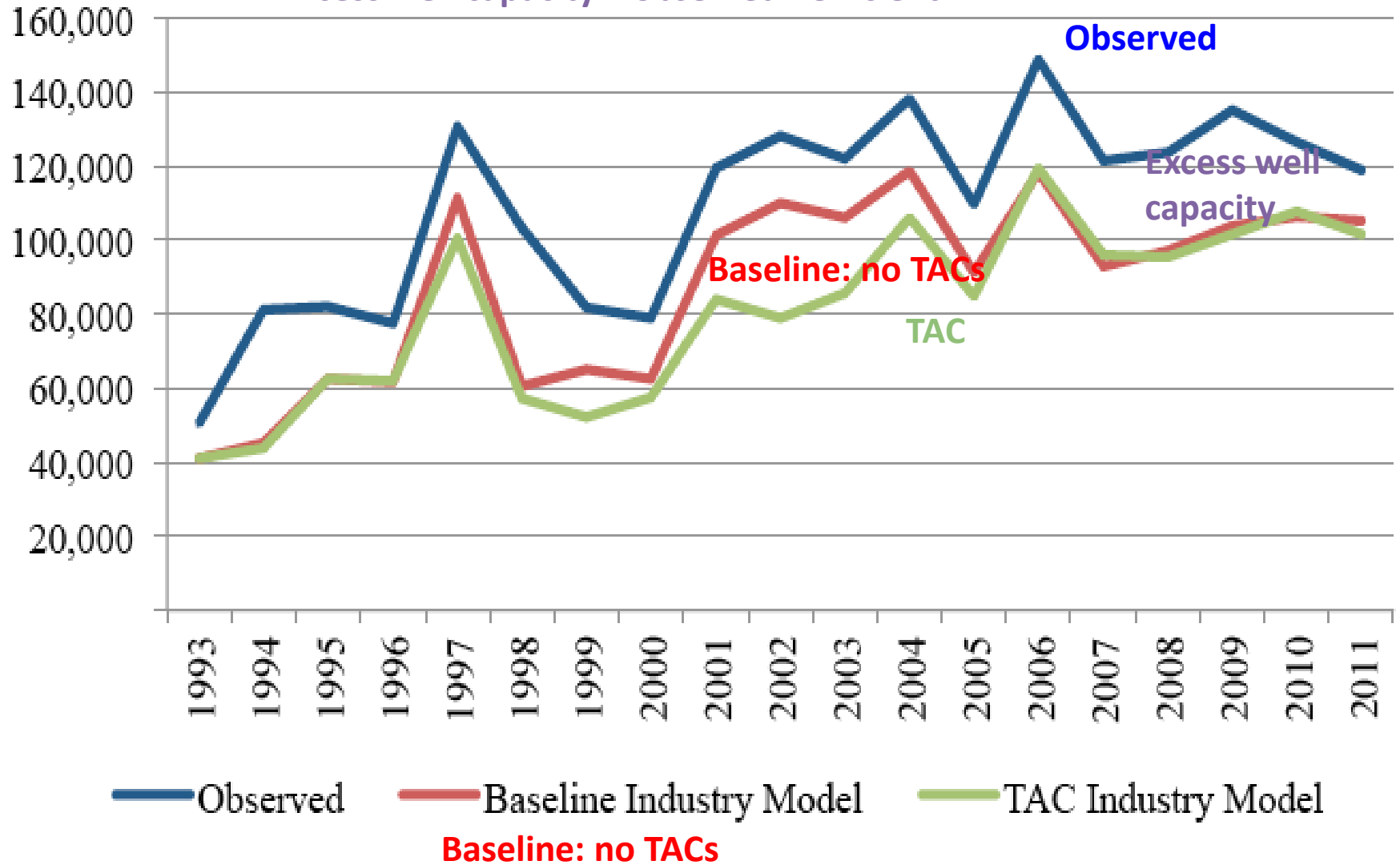


Figure 2

# Observed and efficient well capacity: DML

Excess well capacity = observed - efficient

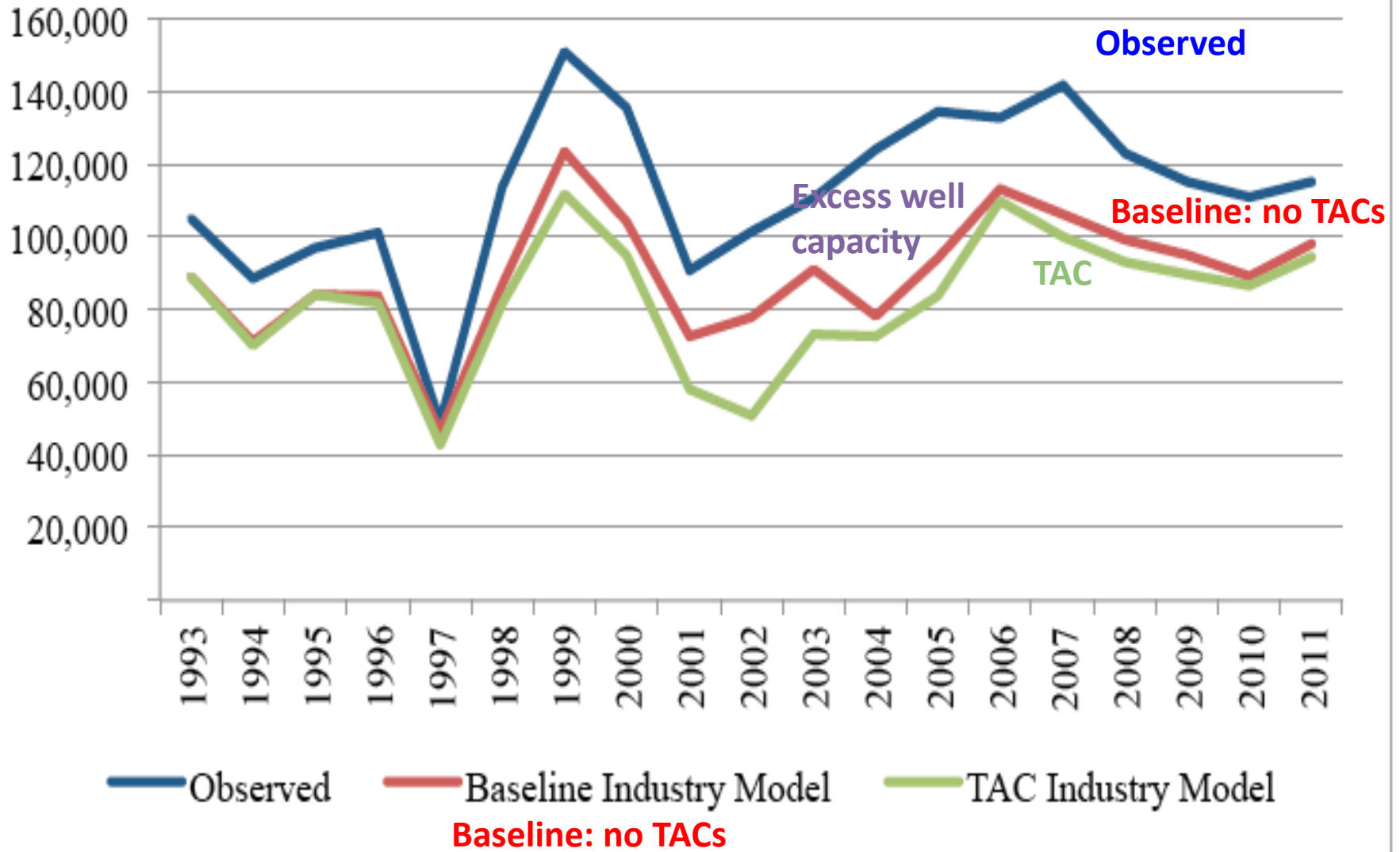


Figure 3

# Excess vessels: All vessels

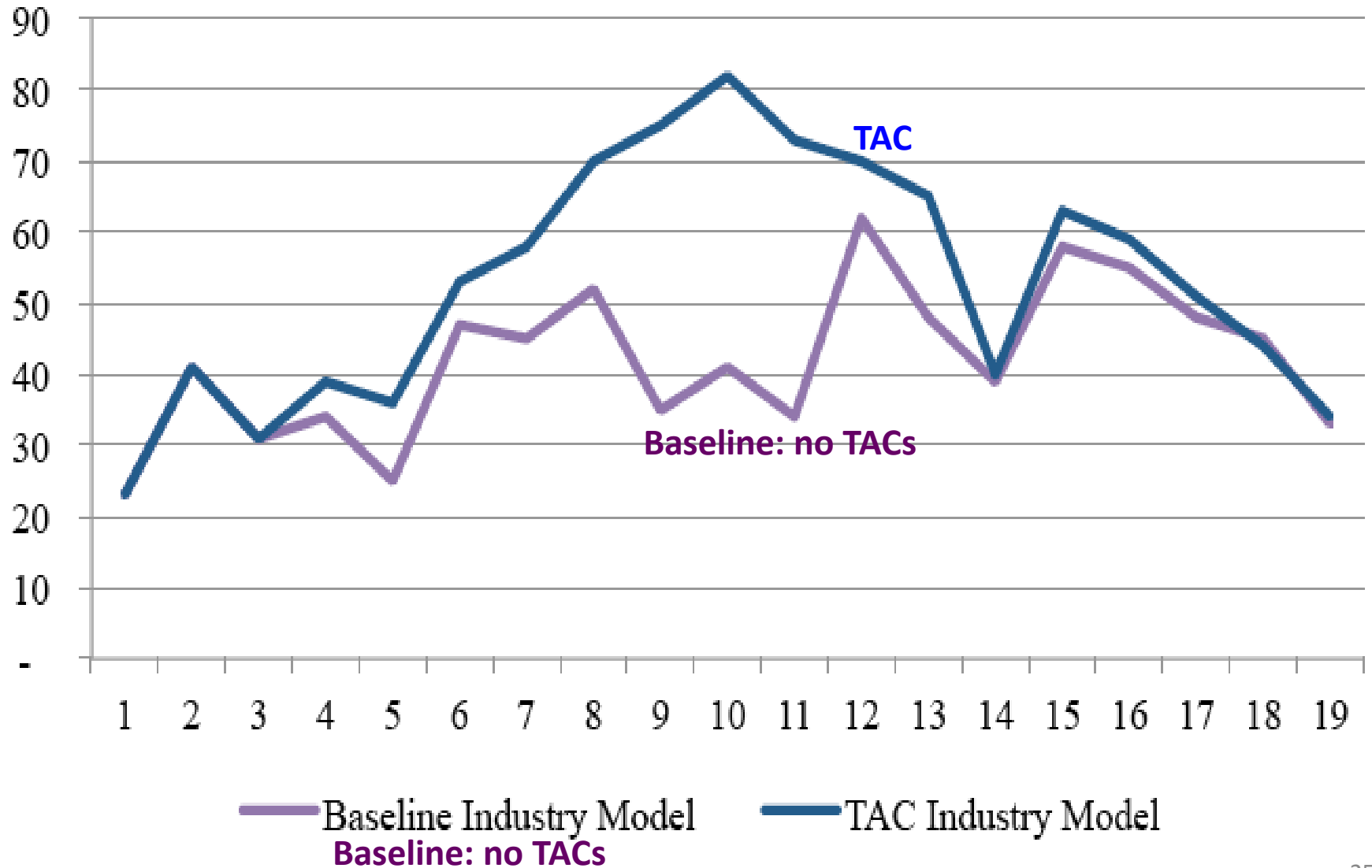


Figure 4



## Excess vessels: Non-DML

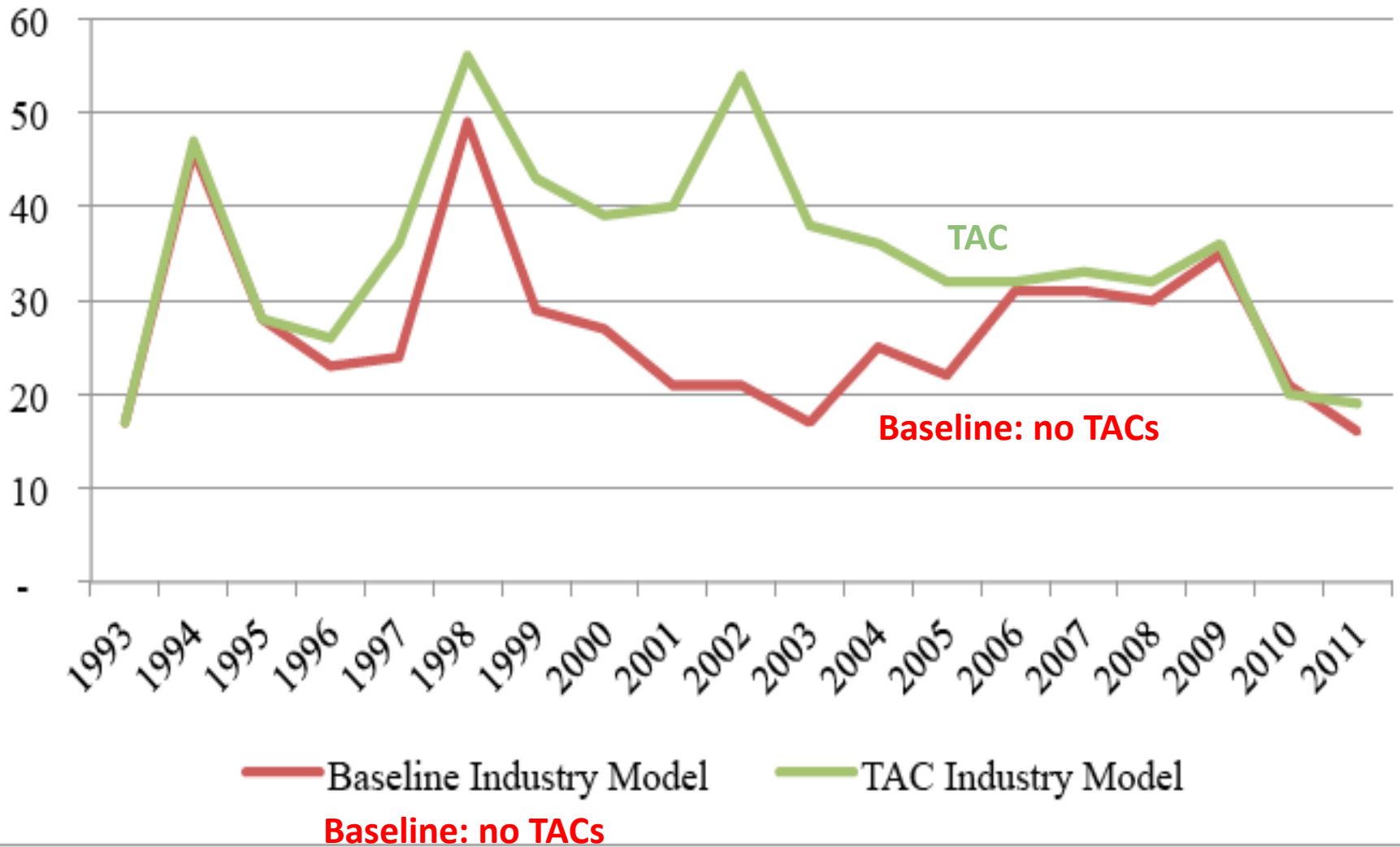


Figure 5

## Excess vessels: DML

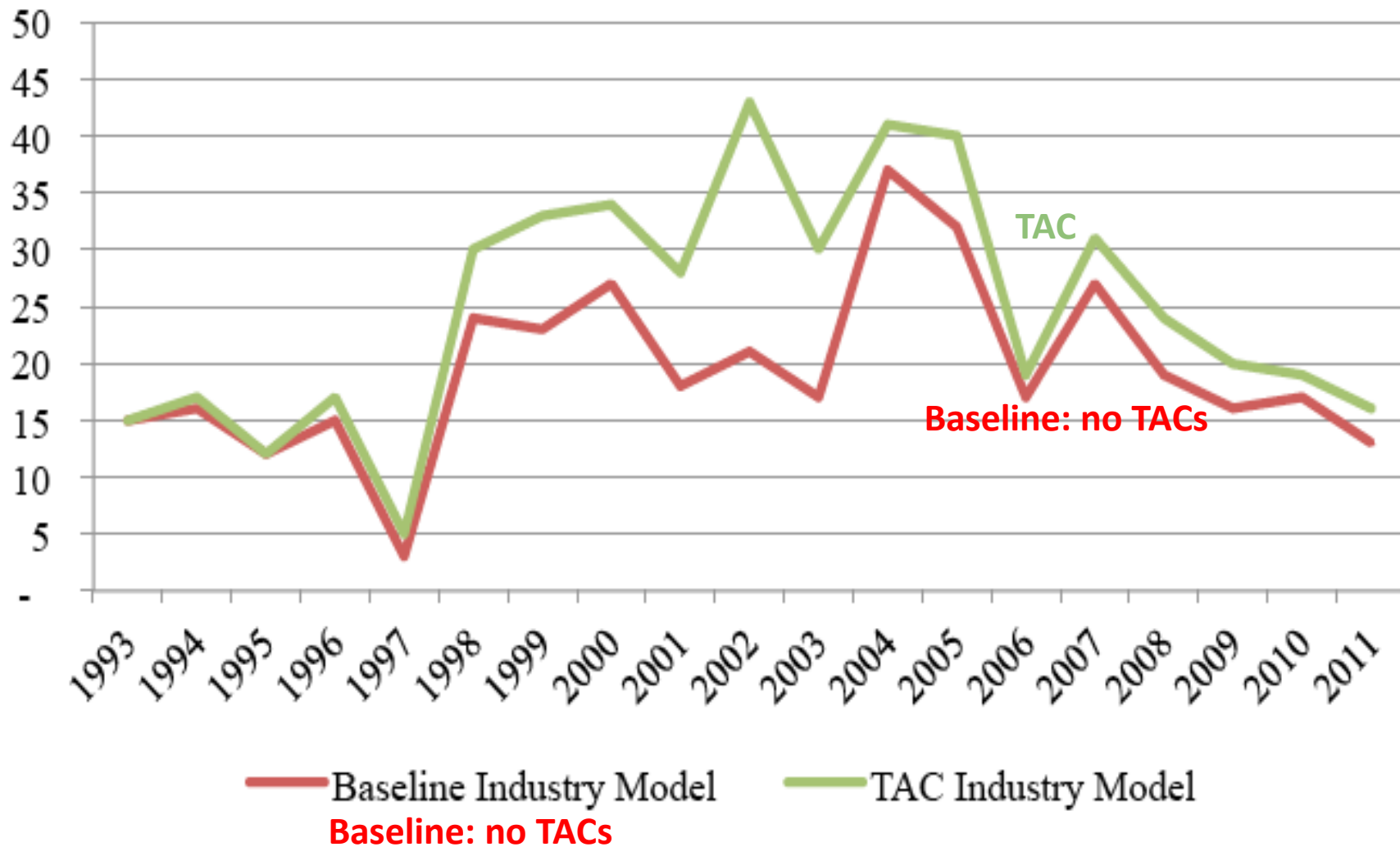
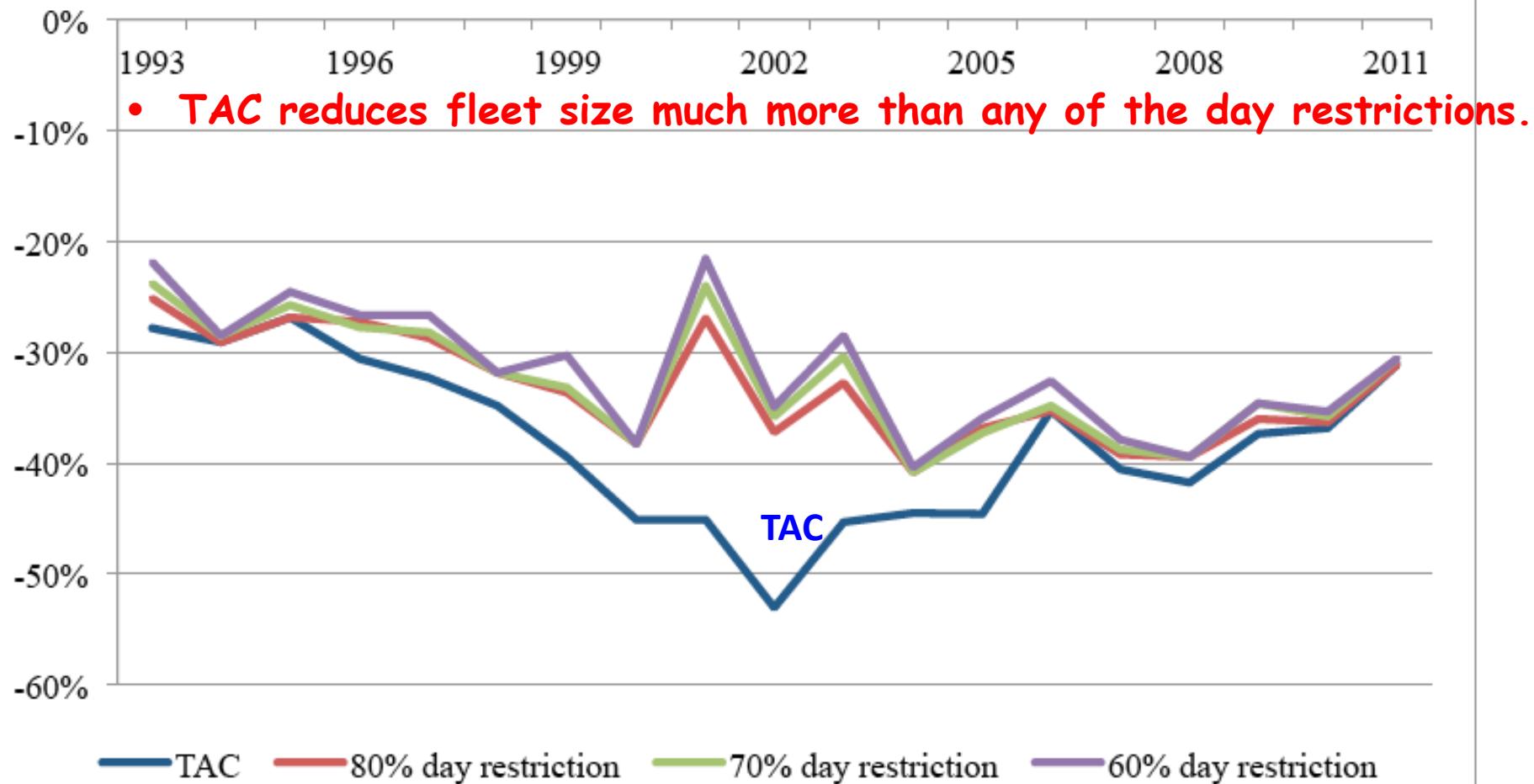


Figure 6

Figure 7

### Comparison of TAC and Day Restrictions: Reduction in number of vessels



Note: All values are percentage reduction in the number of vessels relative to the observed number in the fishery. “TAC” refers to the total allowable catch policy discussed above. Each day restriction line is discussed in the text. “80% day restriction” is the loosest policy and “60% day restriction” is the strictest<sub>28</sub>

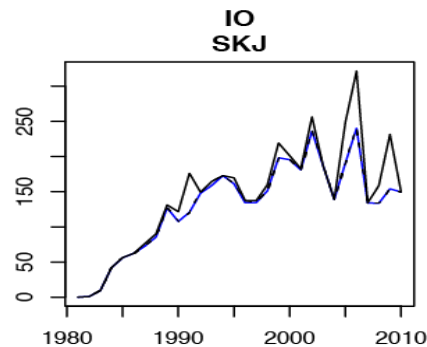
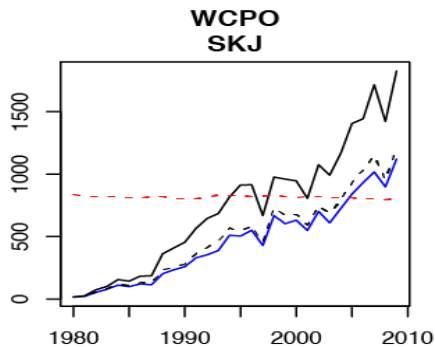
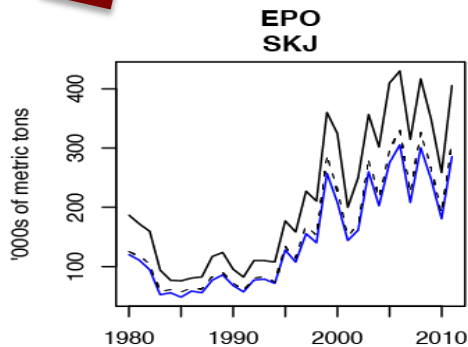
# Fleet Structure

- Relative number of vessels in each group remains about the same.
- About same proportion of vessels/well capacity is reduced for each vessel group.

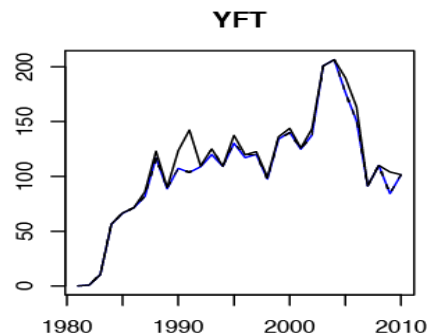
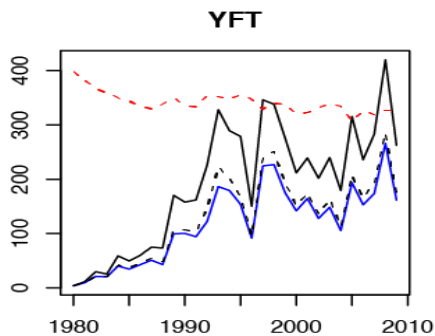
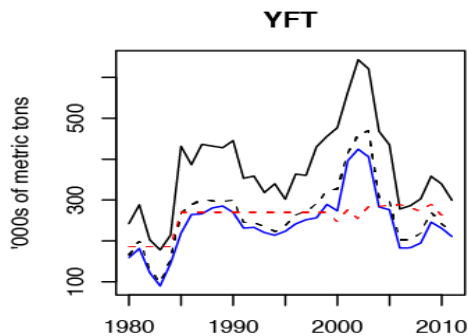


# Fishing Capacity vs. MSYs: Overcapacity

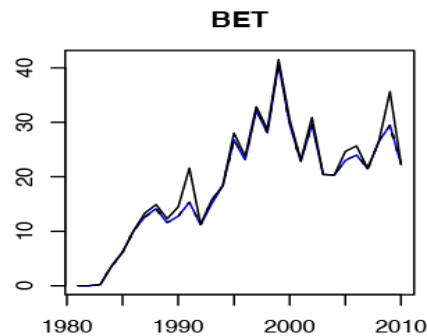
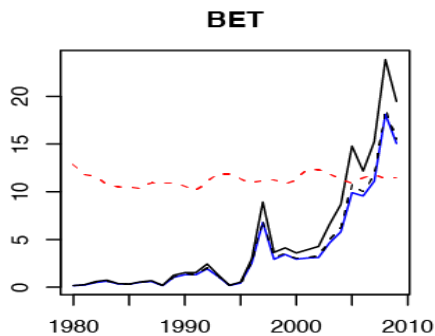
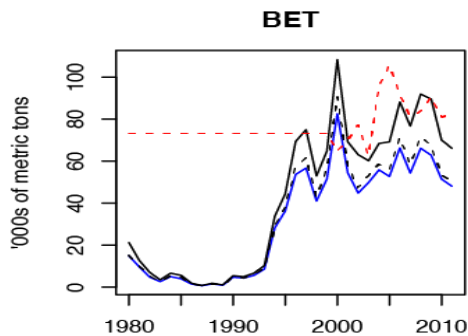
Similar to Deriso analysis, recent fishing capacity close to MSY



**Black:**  
**Maximum potential catch (fishing capacity)**



**Blue:**  
**Observed**



**Red:**  
**MSY**

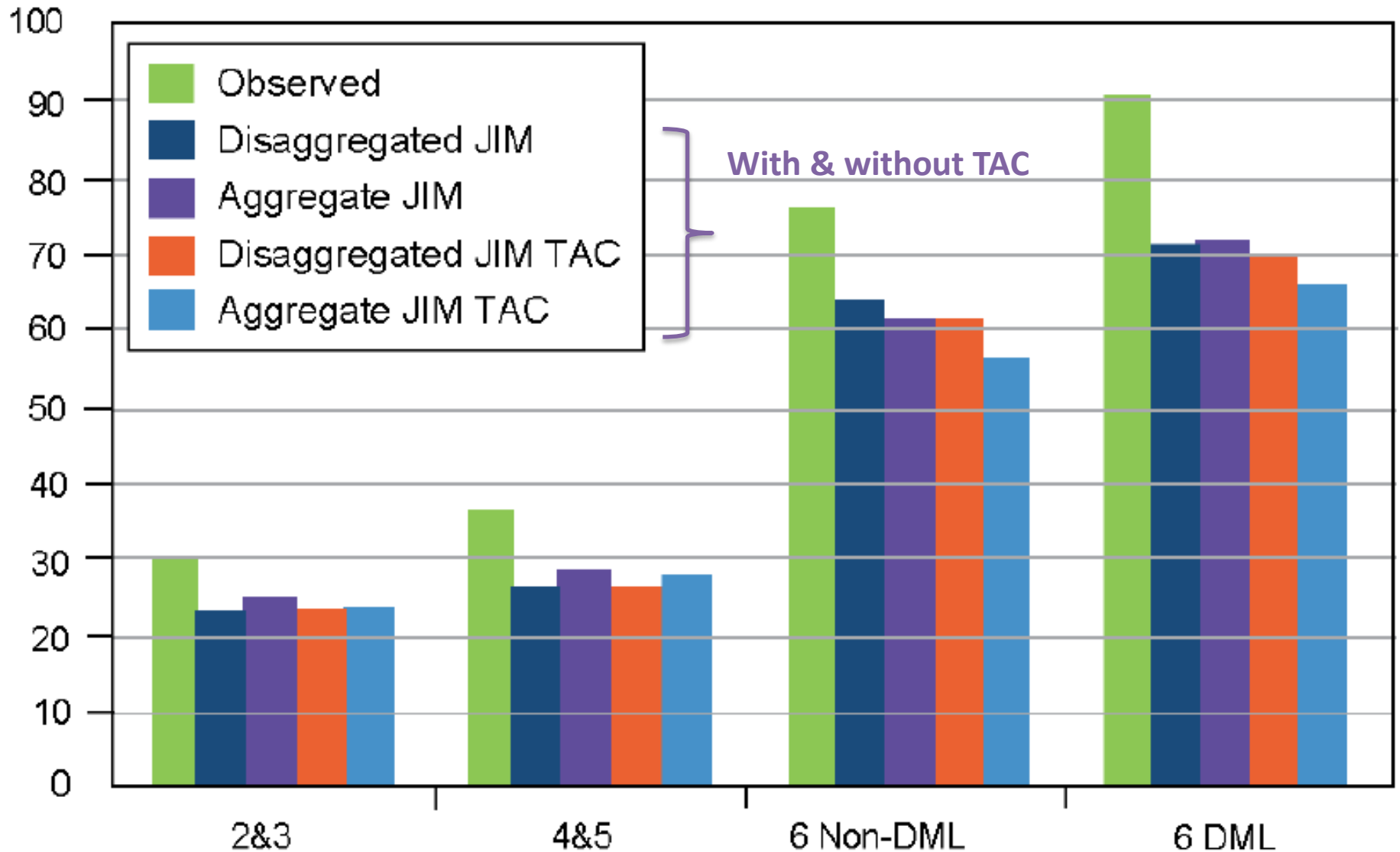


# Thanks! . . . Questions?





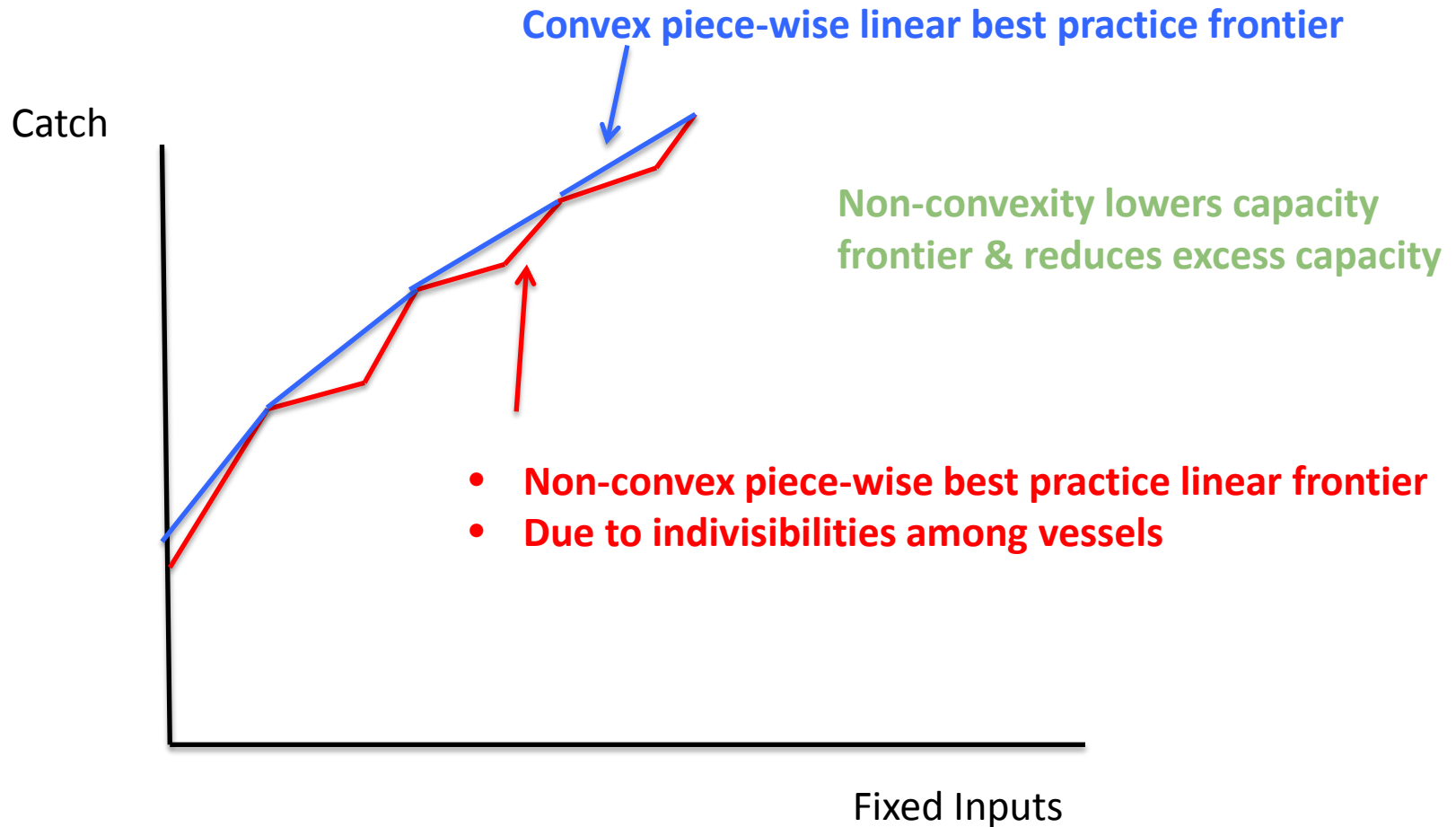
# Average number of vessels



# Day Restrictions

- TAC reduces fleet size much more than any of the day restrictions.
- More restrictive day policies leave more vessels in the fishery than the less restrictive policies.
- Why?
- When vessels are free to fish any number of days, more efficient vessels will fish more often.
- Once days are restricted, vessels are no longer able to employ as much effort,
- Disproportionally impacts high efficiency vessels.
- To maintain catch levels, total industry must compensate by either increasing fishing days of less efficient vessels, add more vessels, or both.

# Non-Convex Frontier



# Sources of Non-Convexities

- Non-convexities due to lumpy (discrete) fixed factors
- Non-convex frontier
  - Best-practice catch capacity frontier not piece-wise linear, but like step function
  - Lowers capacity frontier & hence first-stage excess capacity
- Fleet divided into:
  - (1) DML & non-DML holders
  - (2) Vessel size classes