

St. Thomas Fishermen's Association
Comments on CFMC
Proposals for Quotas

Sudden Changes

For the last 3 Years

- Separate Quotas for each Island Group
- ACLs for:
 - Snapper Unit 1 (deep water snappers)
 - Grouper Unit 4 (yellowfin groupers)
 - Parrotfish
 - Conch

March 2010 Meeting

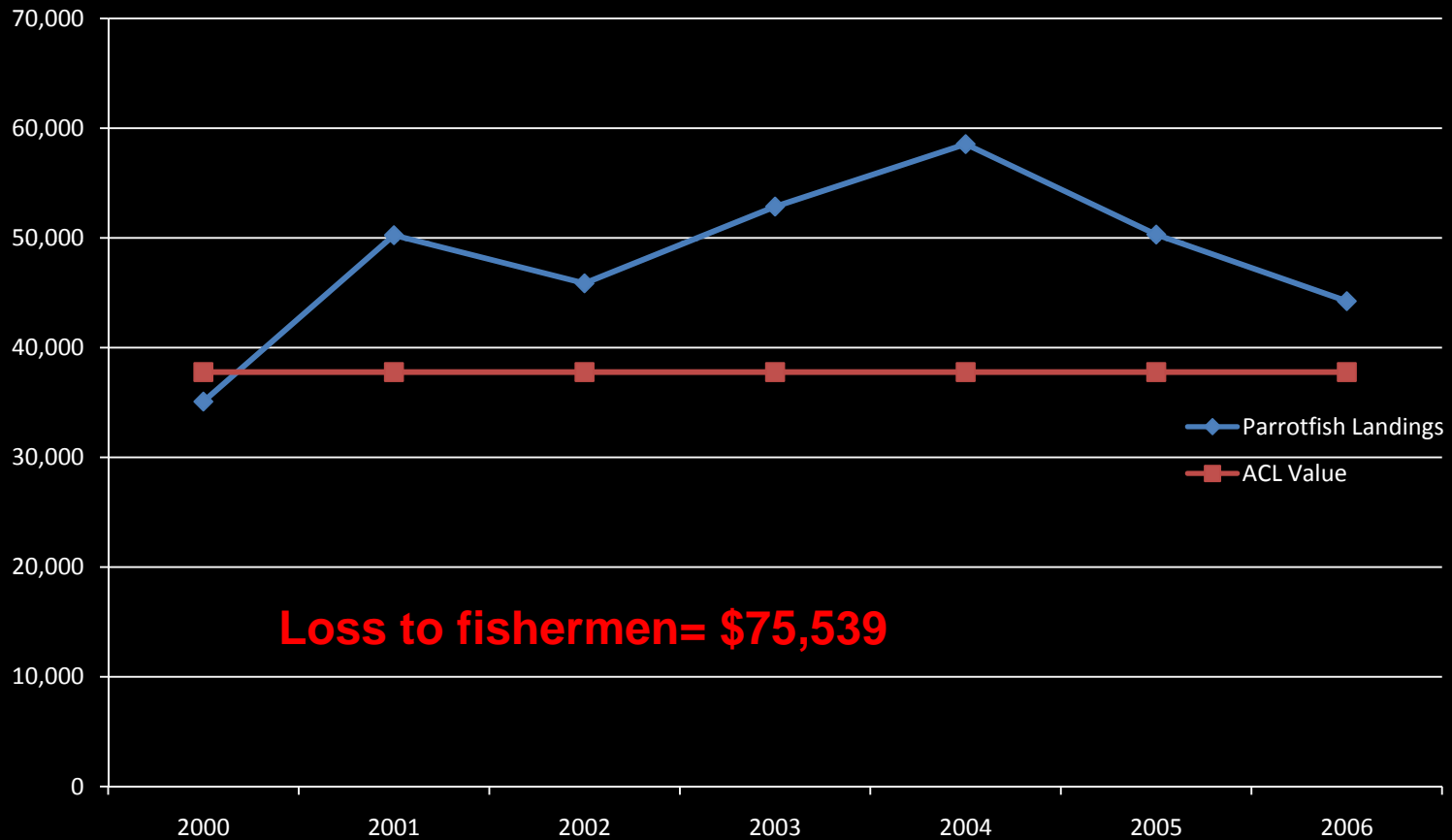
- Single Quota for Caribbean Area
- ACLs for:
 - All Snappers
 - All Groupers
 - Parrotfish
 - Conch

Other Changes

- Fish reported where they are landed not where they are caught.
- 75% Current landings = “Preferred” Option.
- “Accountability Measures” if ACL exceeded for 3 years.

Parrotfish ACL

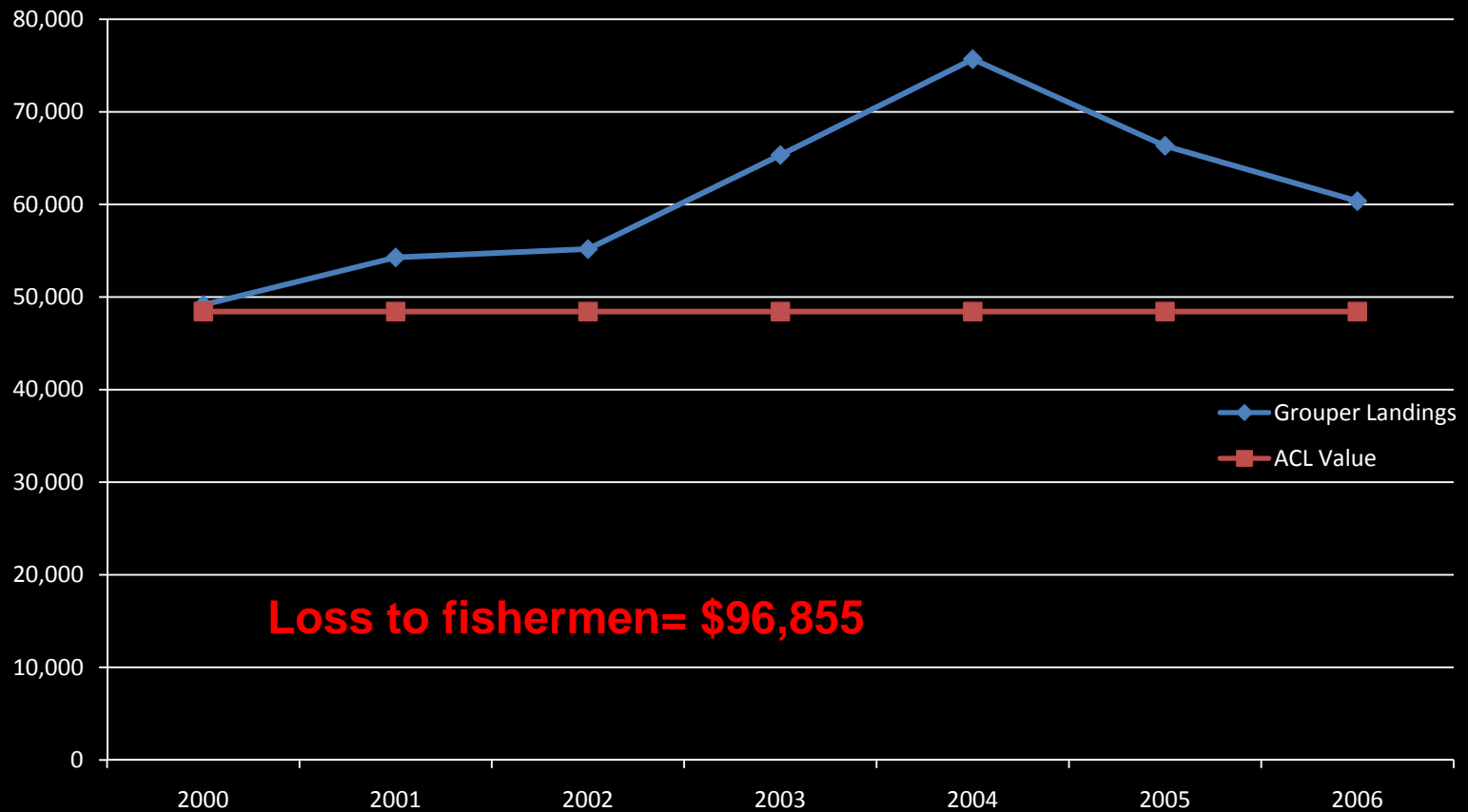
Year to Year Variation= 15%



Loss to fishermen= \$75,539

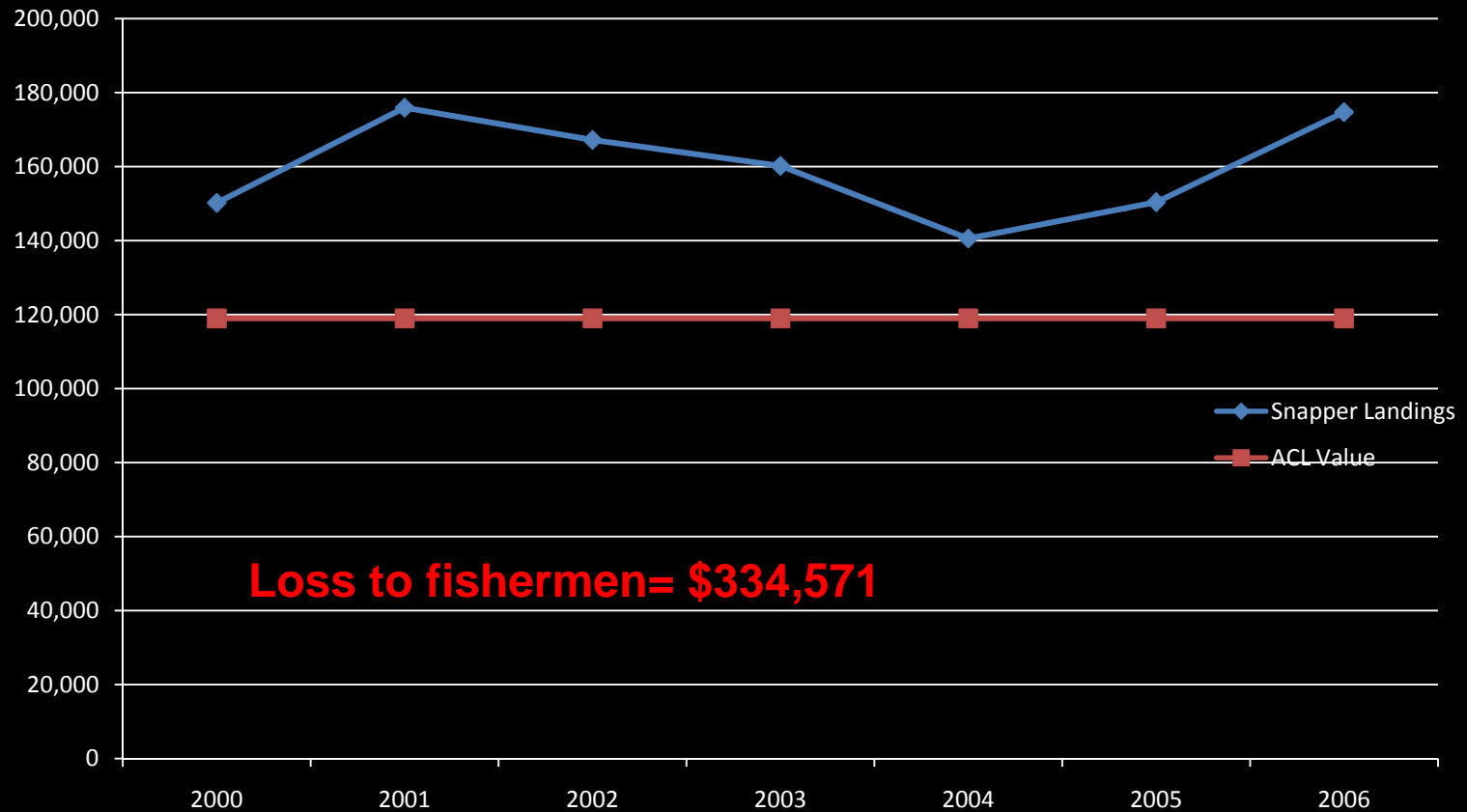
"Grouper" ACL

Year to Year Variation= 15%



Snapper ACL

Year to Year Variation= 8%



Spiny Lobster ACL

Year to Year Variation= 18%



Accountability Measures in Every Case

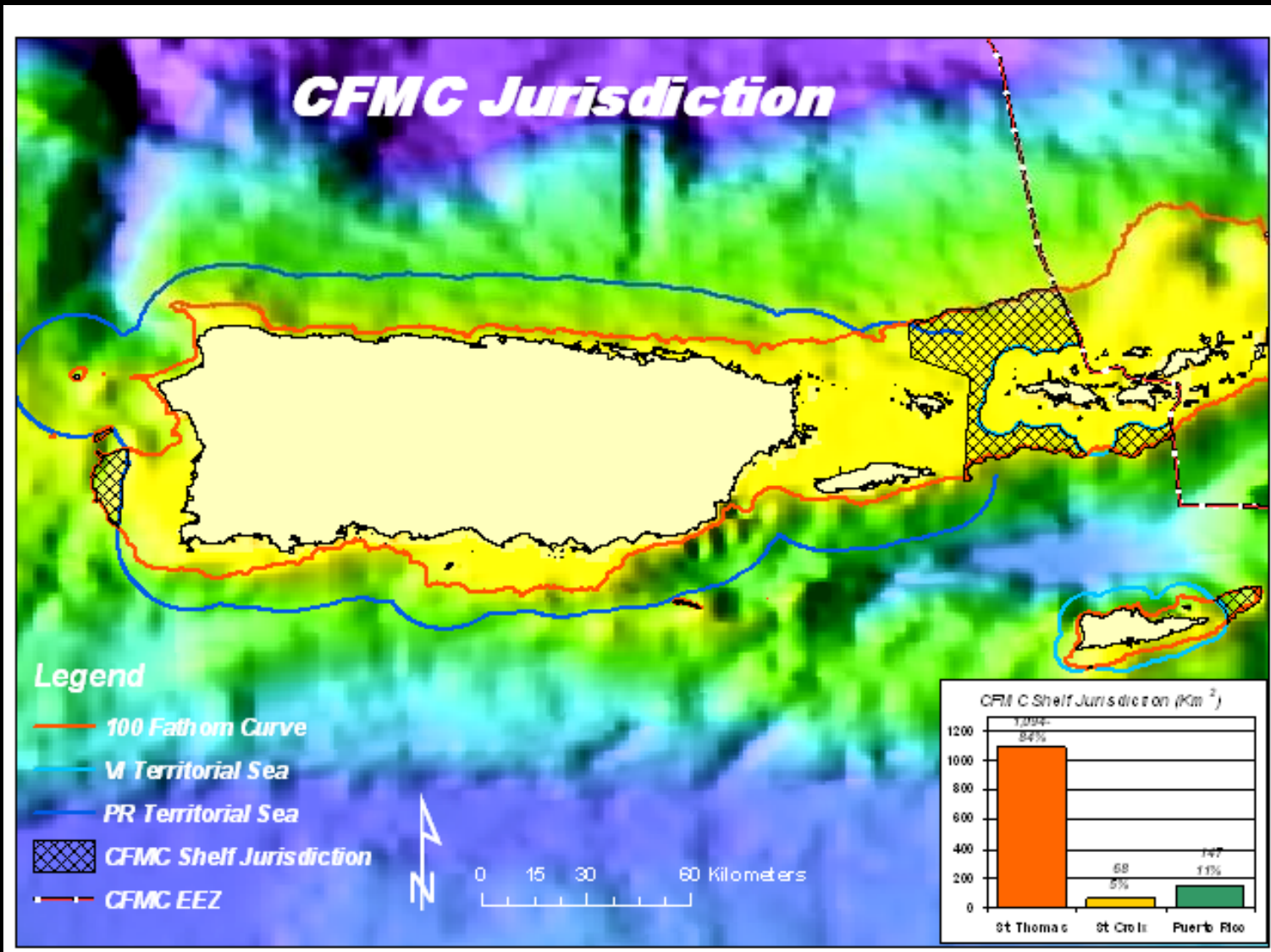
Why 75% ?

- Data Uncertainty
- DFW and SEFSC have been collecting (and supposedly reviewing) data since 1974.
- In 2009 they suddenly decided that it was too uncertain to use so fishermen must be punished with catch reductions.
- “New” proposed data program is just a version of the old one but it would be a big pain in the ass for fishermen.
- It too, will fail so NMFS can finally shut down Virgin Islands fisheries.

Conspiracy to Close VI Fisheries?

- STFA Trap Reduction proposal co-opted by NMFS.
- Pay Tony Iarocci but not STFA.
- Tony Iarocci made proposal to J. Magner, J. Magras, D. Olsen and E. Schuster to import seafood from Nicaragua.

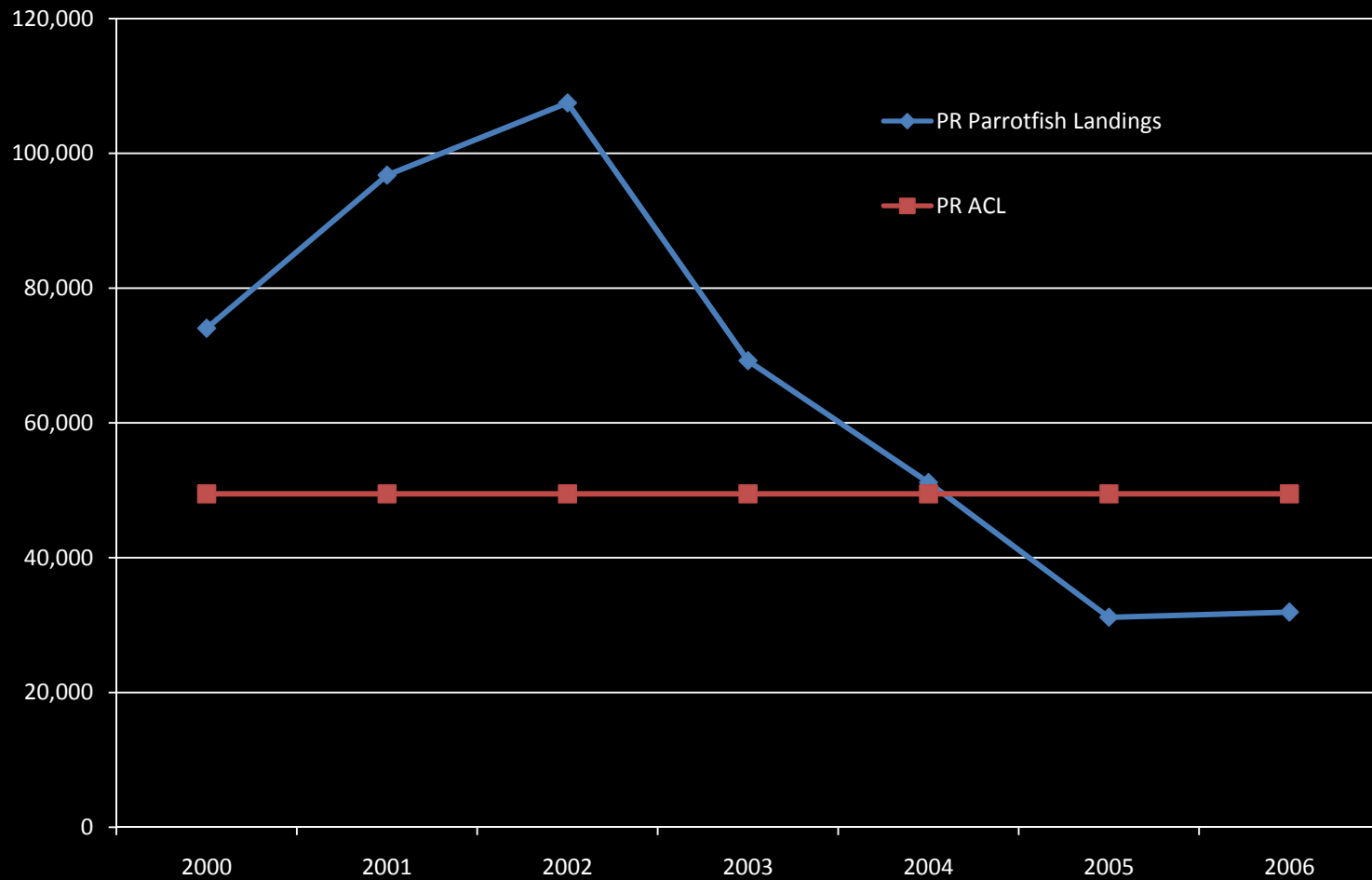
CFMC Jurisdiction



Discrimination Against STT/STJ

- 85% of Council Jurisdiction in STT/STJ waters.
- Last Year spent money in PR by a ratio of 5 to 1.
- Only 2 persons with any ties to VI employed in last 35 years.
- Illegal payments to Prior DFW Directors to influence voting.
- ACL impacts in PR are minimal.

Puerto Rico Parrotfish



What's Next?

- Register to vote and vote for whoever comes out in support of the fishing industry.
- Remove DFW Director.
- Remind VI representatives that they are supposed to represent the VI and not simply support Federal agencies.
- Let people know in the community that if we don't fight this, they will no longer be able to buy local seafood.
- Attend next CFMC Public Hearing.