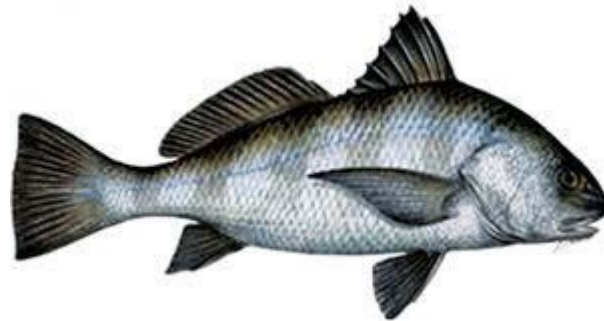




Draft Addendum I to the Black Drum Interstate Fishery Management Plan



May 2018

Document Development



Board Initiated Addendum I	October 2017
Plan Development Team Developed Draft Addendum I	October 2017- January 2018
Board Considers Draft Addendum I for Public Comment	February 2018
Public Comment on Draft Addendum I	February 7-March 23, 2018
Board Considers Final Action on Draft Addendum I	May 2018
(Pending Board Approval) Addendum I Implementation	April 1, 2019

Background



- Historical MD commercial fishery in Ches. Bay
 - Average annual harvest (1973-1997): 11,475 lbs
- Tagging study conducted in late 1990's to collect biological and migration information
 - No commercial take, but commercial net fishermen were paid for fish tagged & released from their nets
 - Program ended prior to 2000 fishing season
- Commercial fishery never re-opened and closure continued in perpetuity by ISFMP in 2013
 - Prohibits relaxation of commercial measures

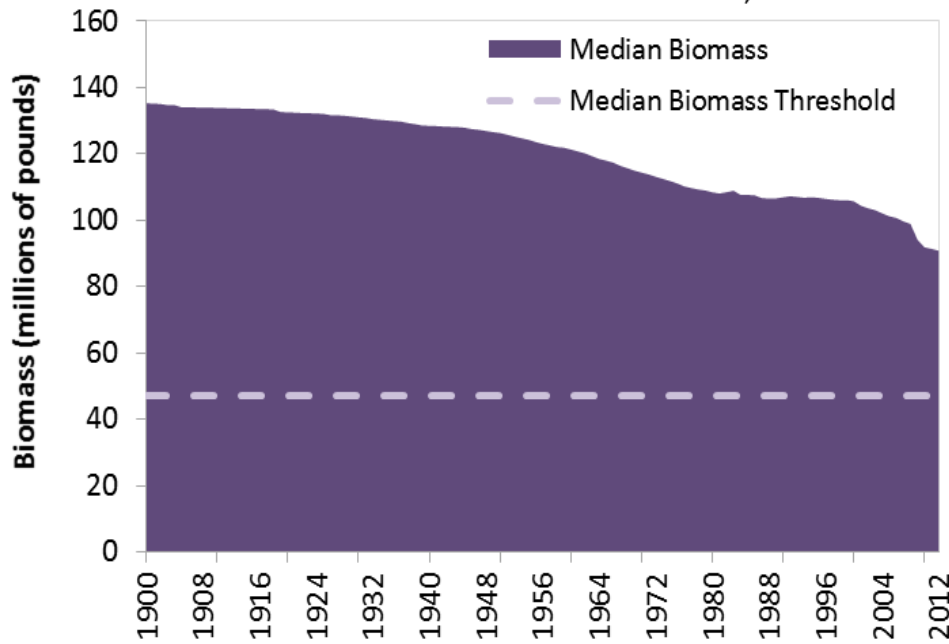
Background



- Current Ref. Points (2015 assessment) and Harvest
 - Status: Not overfished and overfishing not occurring
 - Harvest Target: 2.12 million lbs
 - Harvest Threshold: 4.12 million lbs
 - 2016 Total Harvest: 1.53 million lbs

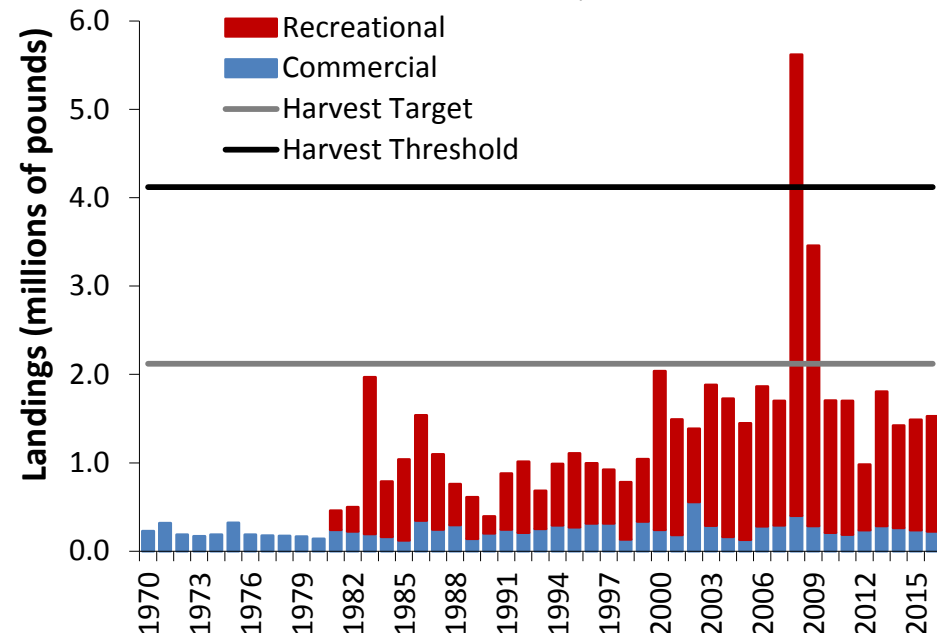
Black Drum Biomass

ASMFC Black Drum Benchmark Assessment, 2015



Black Drum Harvest

ASMFC FMP Review, 2017



Current Regulations (Table 1)



State	Recreational		Commercial			Notes
	Size limit	Bag limit	Size limit	Trip Limit	Annual Quota	
ME - NY	-	-	-	-	-	
NJ	16" min	3/person/day	16" min	10,000 lbs	65,000 lbs	
DE	16" min	3/person/day	16" min	10,000 lbs	65,000 lbs	
MD	16" min	1/person/day 6/vessel (Bay)	16" min		1,500 lbs Atlantic Coast	Chesapeake Bay closed to commercial harvest
VA	16" min	1/person/day	16" min	1/person/day*	120,000 lbs	*without Black Drum Harvesting and Selling Permit
NC	14" min - 25" max; 1 fish > 25" may be retained	10/person/day	14" min - 25" max	500 lbs		
SC	14" min - 27" max	5/person/day	14" min - 27" max	5/person/day		Commercial fishery primarily bycatch
GA	14" min	15/person/day	14" min	15/person/day		
FL	14" min - 24" max; 1 fish > 24" may be retained	5/person/day	14" min - 24" max	500 lbs/day		

Management Options



- 1. Status Quo:** Current FMP remains in place, with Chesapeake Bay closed to commercial harvest by the state of Maryland.
- 2. Reopen Maryland's commercial fishery for black drum in the Chesapeake Bay with a 10 fish daily vessel limit and a 28 inch minimum total length size limit.**

Technical Committee Input



- TC reviewed Maryland's proposal prior to the development of Draft Add I
- TC maintains previous recommendation that reopening MD's commercial black drum fishery in Ches. Bay (Option 2) would not likely lead to overfishing
 - From last assessment (2012), stock is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing
 - Predicted additional harvest small relative to coastwide harvest; would not have approached harvest threshold for the last 7 years
 - **Recommends that MD conduct biological monitoring of fish caught by this fishery for future stock assessments**

Public Comment Summary



Written Comments

Fourteen (14) written comments received. Majority (13) supported Option 1 (status quo), with one (1) supporting Option 2.

- Black drum more valuable to the recreational fishery than commercial
 - Poor meat quality from large individuals
- Targeting of large individuals
 - Reduced spawning productivity or numbers of large fish
- Disruption of rec fishing activities
 - Pound net locations, reduced availability of fish, alternative fishing target to striped bass
- Comment supporting Option 2 suggested limiting the gear to only pound nets

Public Comment Summary



Public Hearing

- One public hearing held in MD; no comments received

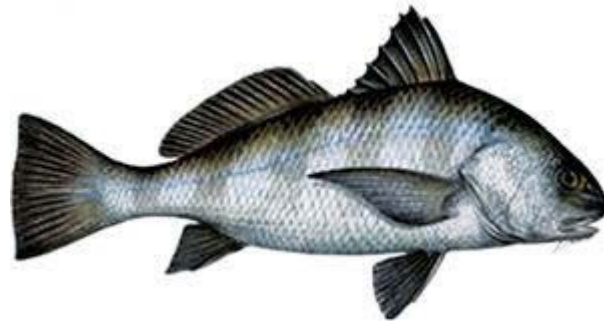
Public Comment Summary



Advisory Panel Comment

- Conference call was solicited to discuss the AP's preferred option; no members responded to schedule the call
- AP Chair, Tom Powers, provided a written response expressing concern about increased fishing effort with no cap on number of entrants or quota for a slow-growing species

Questions and Discussion



Management Options

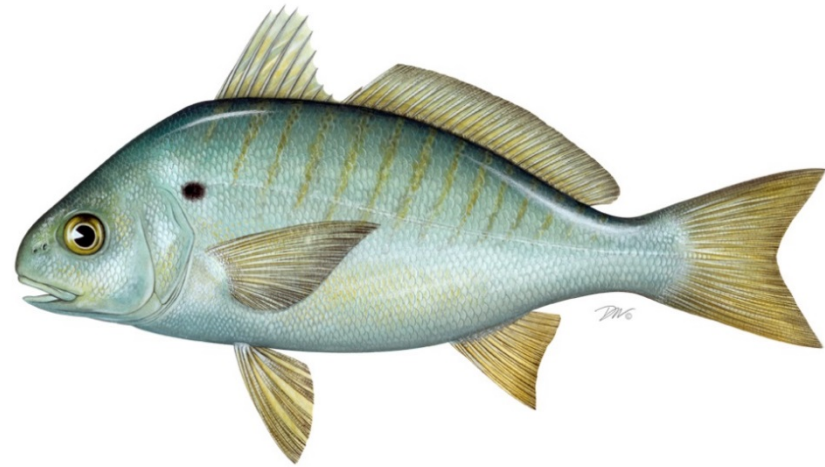
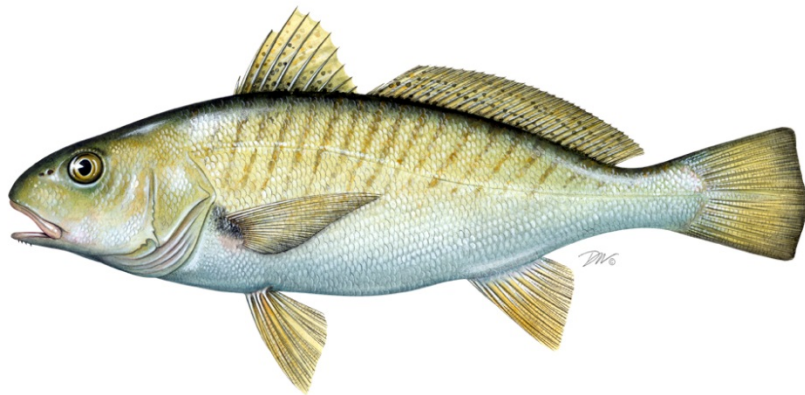


- 1. Status Quo:** Current FMP remains in place, with Chesapeake Bay closed to commercial harvest by the state of Maryland.
- 2. Reopen Maryland's commercial fishery for black drum in the Chesapeake Bay with a 10 fish daily vessel limit and a 28 inch minimum total length size limit.**



Proposed Changes to the TLA for Spot and Atlantic Croaker

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
South Atlantic Fisheries Management Board
Spring Meeting: Arlington, Virginia
May 3, 2018



Background



- Spot/croaker underwent a benchmark assessment in 2017
 - Not endorsed by the peer review panel for management due in part to conflicting signals from abundance and harvest time series.
- Both species monitored using an annual traffic light approach (TLA) established in 2014
 - TLA assigns a color (red, yellow, or green) to categorize relative levels of indicators on the condition of the fish population (abundance metric) or fishery (harvest metric)
 - Management action if both abundance and harvest are tripped for 2 consecutive yrs (spot) or 3 consecutive yrs (croaker) : >30% red moderate concern, >60% red significant concern

TLA Concerns



- Current TLAs have not triggered management action despite declining trends in harvest, to some of the lowest values on record
- Several abundance indices developed for the assessments are not included in the current TLA
- TLA-SC began re-evaluating all available data for spot and croaker
 - Redeveloped to split indices into recruitment indices and adult indices
 - Reconsidered which indices should be included in TLA (inshore vs offshore, Mid-Atlantic vs South Atlantic)

TC Recommendations for Spot TLA

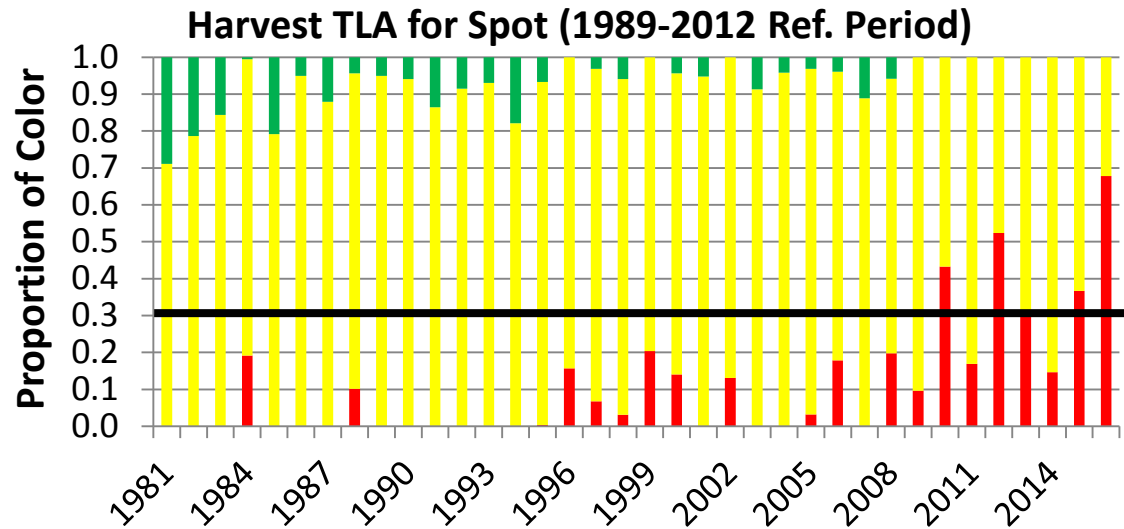


- 1. Add 2 indices, ChesMMAP and NCDMF Pamlico Sound Survey (Program 195), to currently used NEFSC Bottom Trawl Survey and SEAMAP to form composite adult abundance index.**
- 2. Use age-length keys and length composition information to estimate the number of adult (age 1+) individuals caught by each survey.**
- 3. Use regional metrics to characterize fisheries north and south of the VA-NC border separately. ChesMMAP and NEFSC surveys would characterize north of the border; NCDMF and SEAMAP surveys would characterize south of the border.**
- 4. Use recruitment index TLA (currently used) and annual southeastern shrimp trawl fishery bycatch estimates as auxiliary information.**
- 5. Change/establish the reference time period for all surveys to be 2002-2012.**
- 6. Change the triggering mechanism to the following: Management action will be triggered according to the current 30% red and 60% red thresholds if both the abundance and harvest thresholds are exceeded in any 2 of the 3 terminal years.**

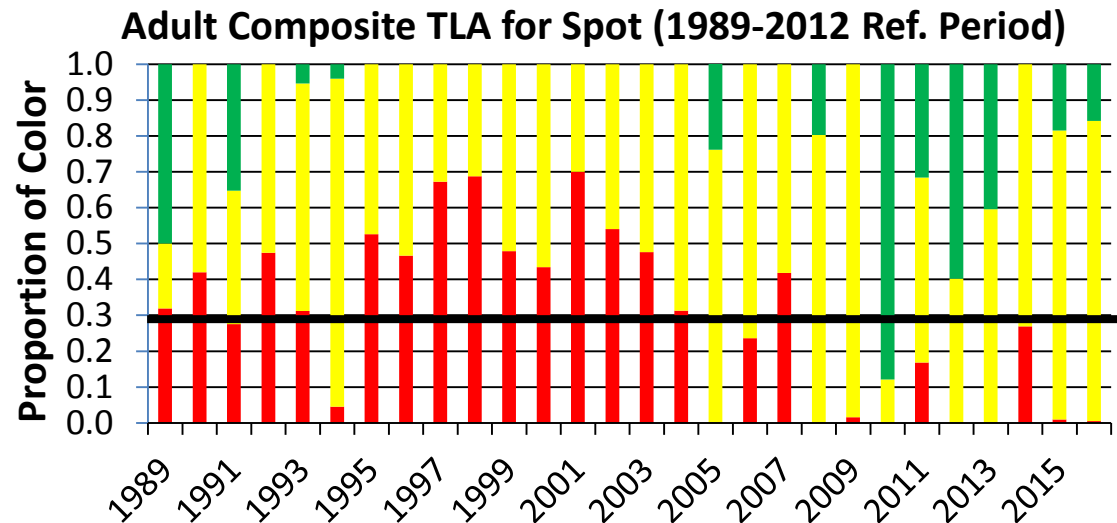
2016 TLA for Spot (status quo)



- Harvest (commercial and rec) – tripped in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016



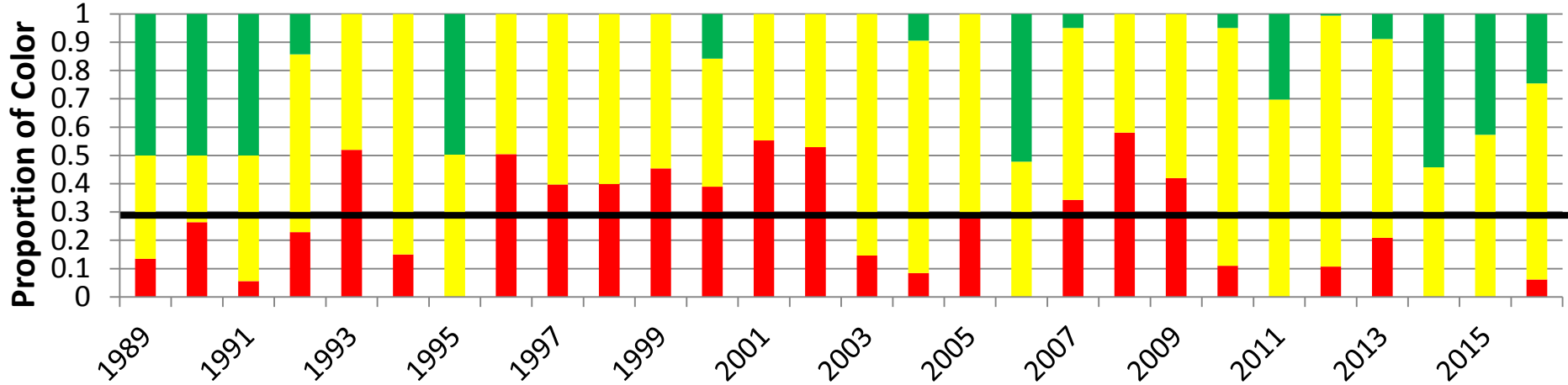
- Adult abundance composite (NMFS and SEAMAP surveys) – hasn't tripped since 2007



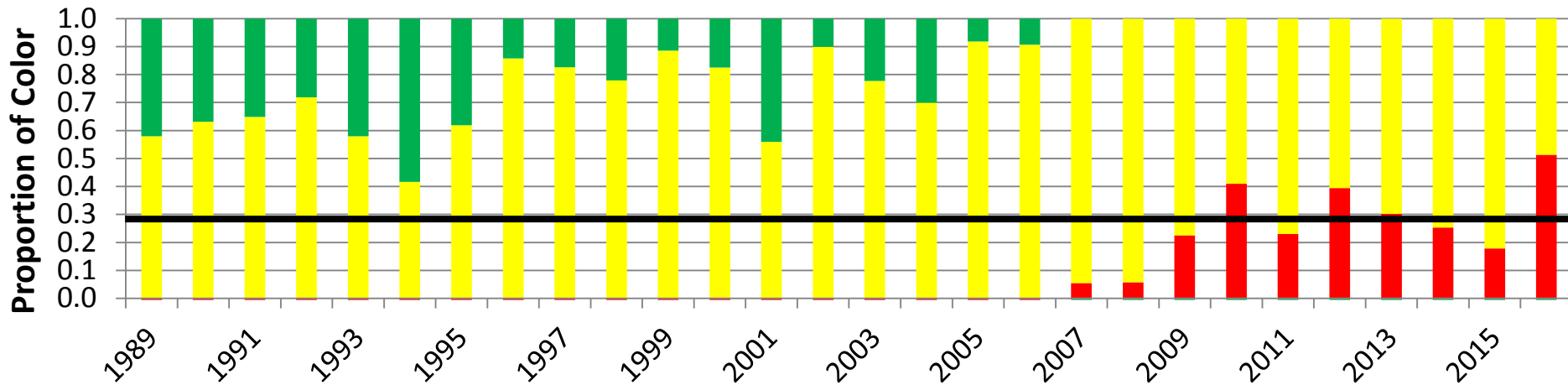
3. Regional TLA w/Revised Indices



South Atlantic Adult Composite TLA for Spot (2002-2012 Ref. Period)



South Atlantic Harvest TLA for Spot (2002-2012 Ref. Period)

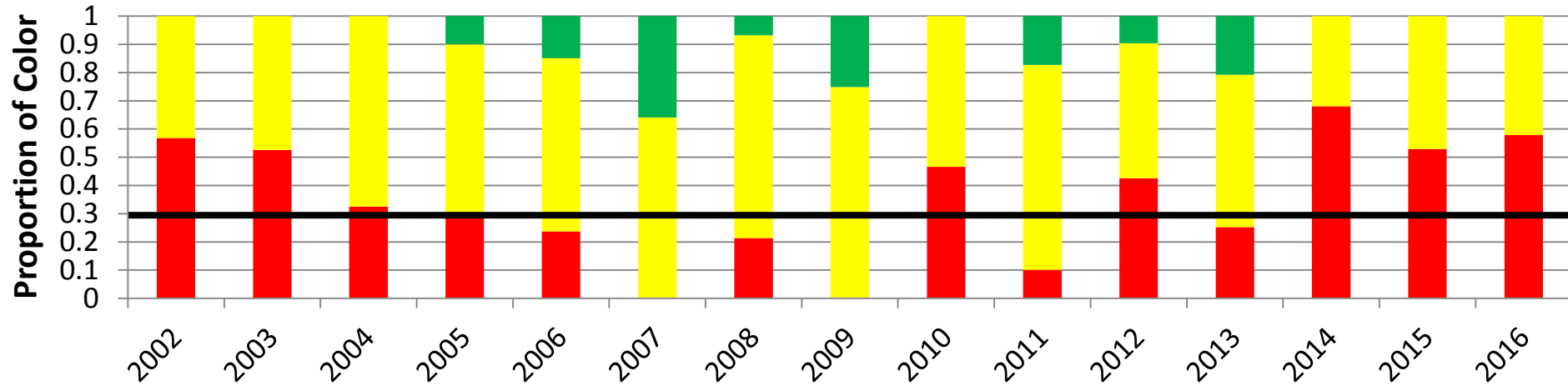


- S Atl adult composite would be cause for concern in 1993, 1996-2002, 2007-2009
- S Atl harvest would be cause for moderate concern 2010, 2012-2013, 2016

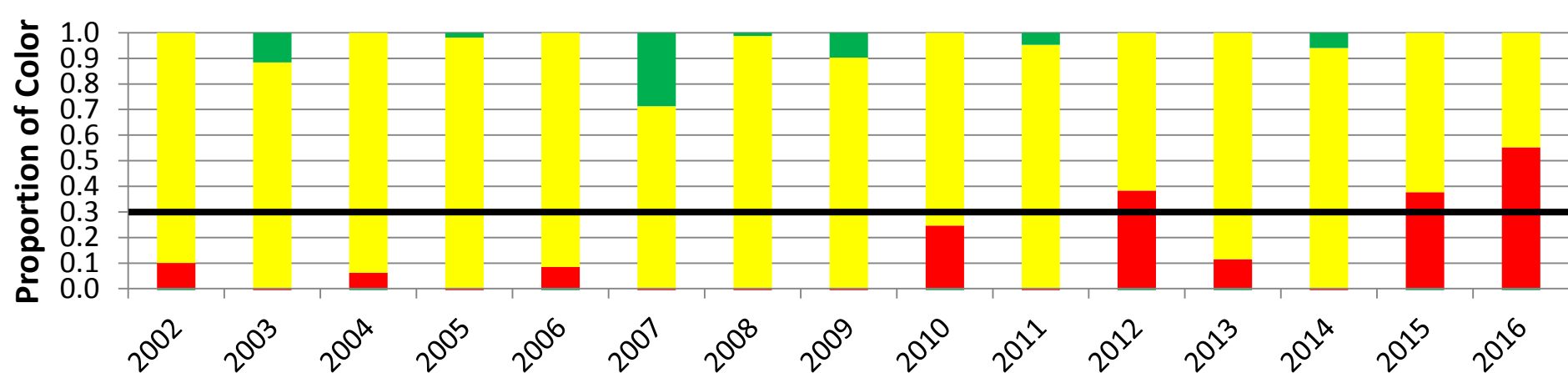
3. Regional TLA w/Revised Indices



Mid-Atlantic Adult Composite TLA for Spot (2002-2012 Ref. Period)



Mid-Atlantic Harvest TLA for Spot (2002-2012 Ref. Period)



- Adult composite would cause concern in 2002-2005, 2010, 2012, 2014-2016
- Mid-Atl harvest would cause moderate concern in 2012, 2015-2016

TC Recommendations for Croaker TLA



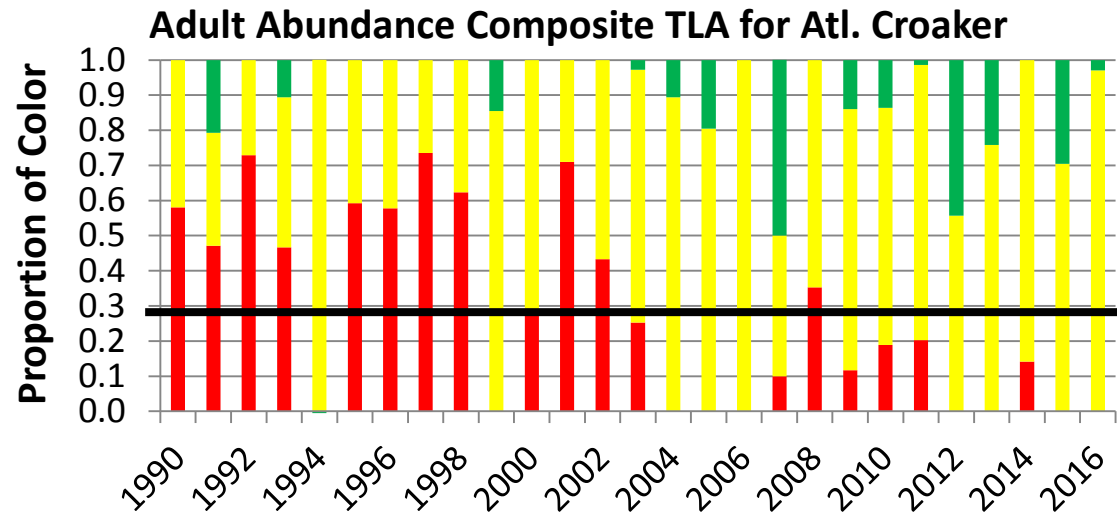
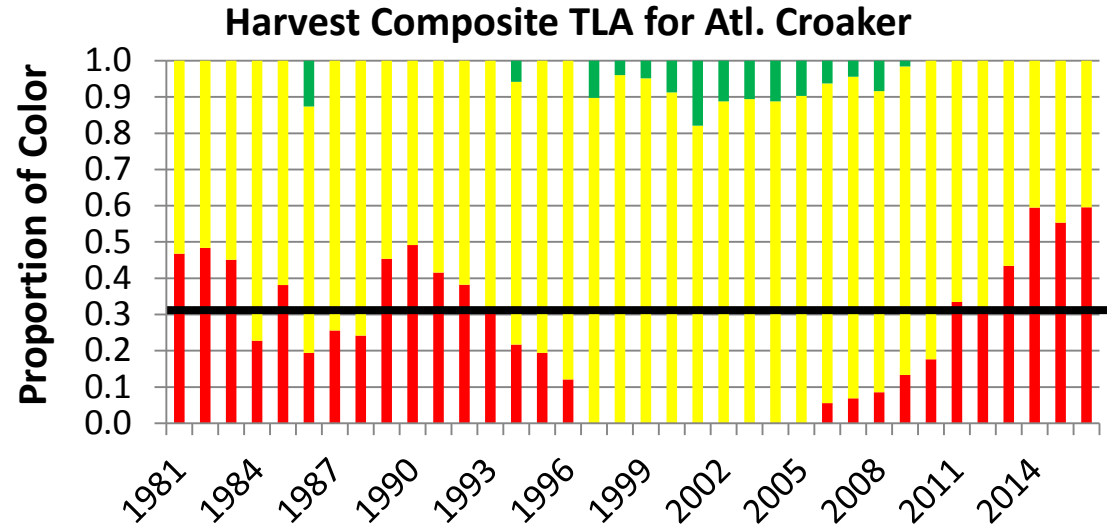
1. Add 2 indices, ChesMMAP and SCDNR Trammel Net Survey, to currently used NEFSC Bottom Trawl Survey and SEAMAP to form composite adult abundance index.
2. Use age-length keys and length composition information to estimate the number of adult (age 2+) individuals caught by each survey.
3. Use regional metrics to characterize fisheries north and south of the VA-NC border separately. ChesMMAP and NEFSC surveys would characterize north of the border; SCDNR and SEAMAP surveys would characterize south of the border.
4. Use recruitment index TLA (currently used) and annual southeastern shrimp trawl fishery bycatch estimates as auxiliary information.
5. Change/establish the reference time period for all surveys to be 2002-2012.
6. Change the triggering mechanism to the following: Management action will be triggered according to the current 30% red and 60% red thresholds if both the abundance and harvest thresholds are exceeded in any 3 of the 4 terminal years.

*Underline indicates difference from Spot TLA Recommendations

2016 TLA for Croaker (status quo)



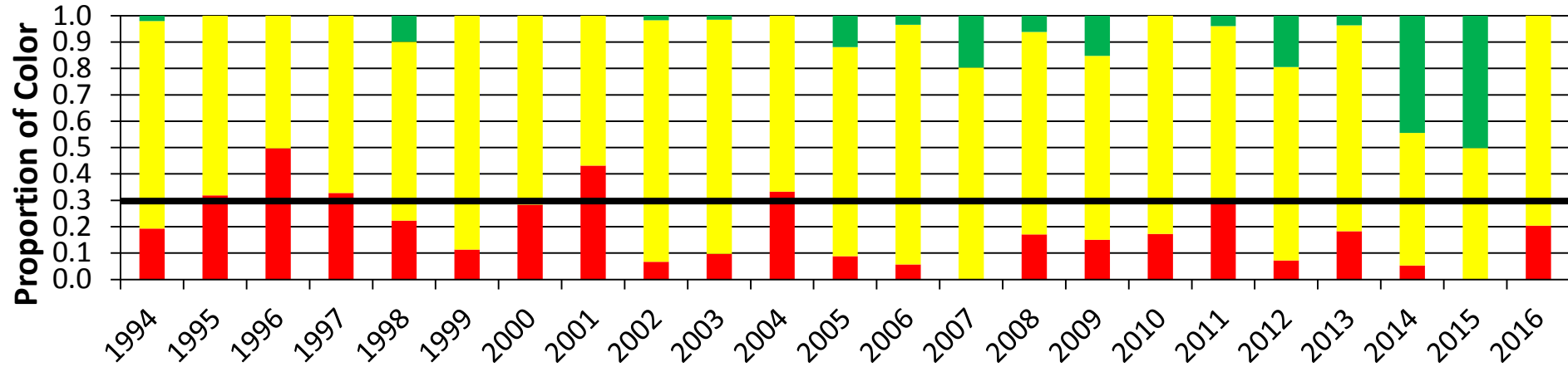
- Harvest (commercial and rec) metric tripped for the sixth consecutive year
- Adult abundance composite (NMFS and SEAMAP surveys) no concern since 2002



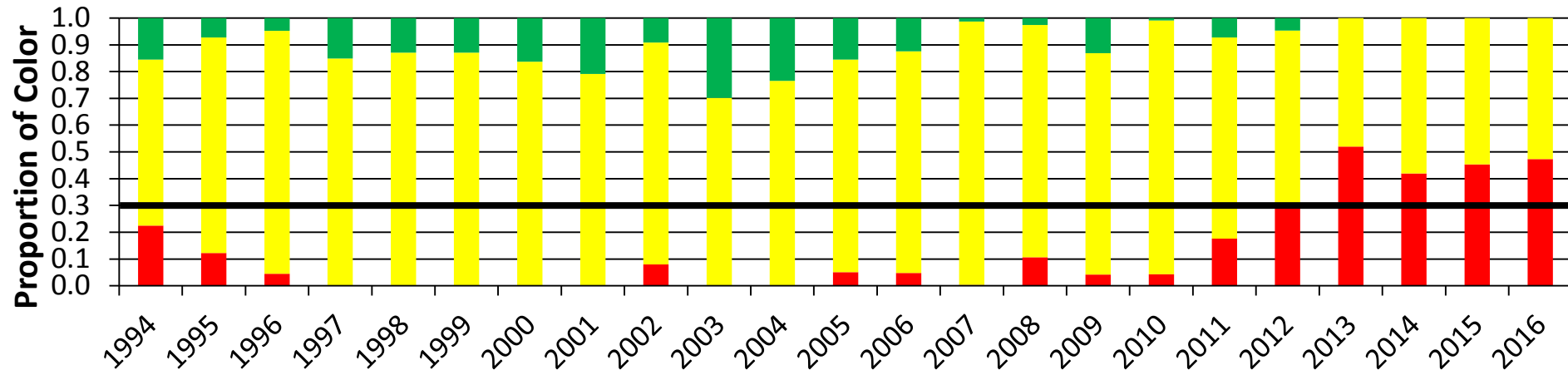
3. Regional TLA w/Revised Indices



South Atlantic Adult Composite TLA for Atl. Croaker (2002-2012 Ref. Period)



South Atlantic Harvest TLA for Atl. Croaker (2002-2012 Ref. Period)

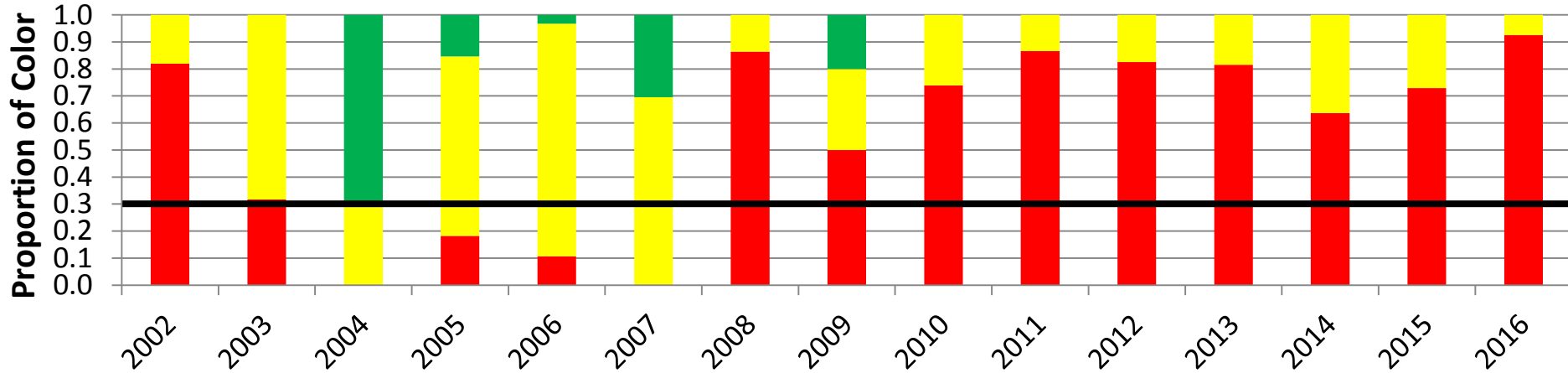


- S Atl adult composite would be cause for concern 1995-1997, 2001, 2004, 2011
- S Atl harvest would be cause for concern for 2012-2016

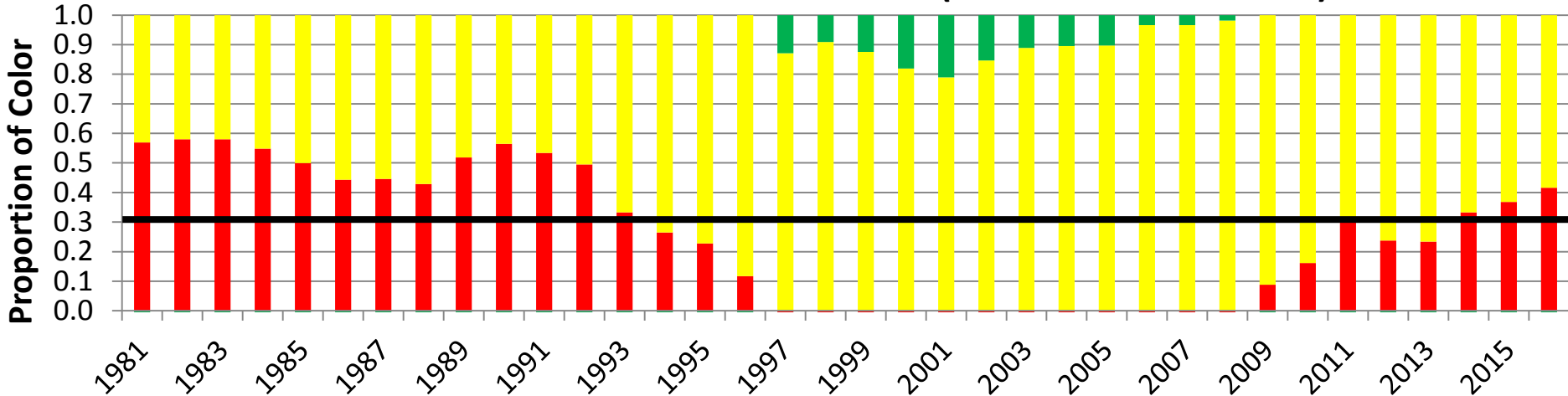
3. Regional TLA w/Revised Indices



Mid-Atlantic Adult Composite TLA for Atl. Croaker (2002-2012 Ref. Period)



Mid-Atlantic Harvest TLA for Atl. Croaker (2002-2012 Ref. Period)



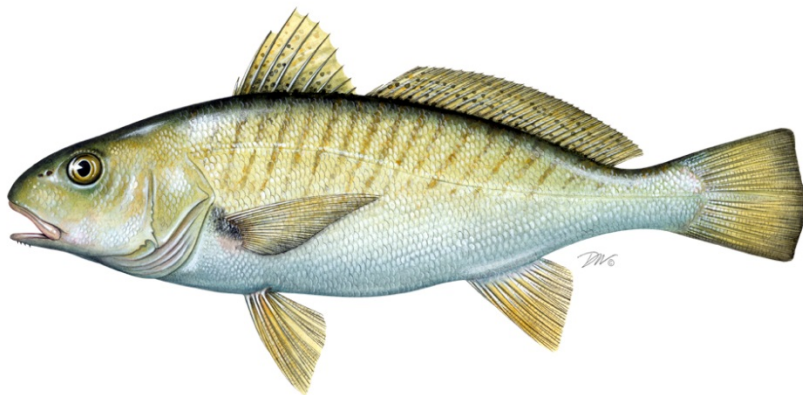
- Mid-Atl adult composite would be cause for concern 2002-2003, 2008-2016
- Mid-Atl harvest would be cause for concern 1981-1993, 2014-2016

Summary/Potential Next Steps



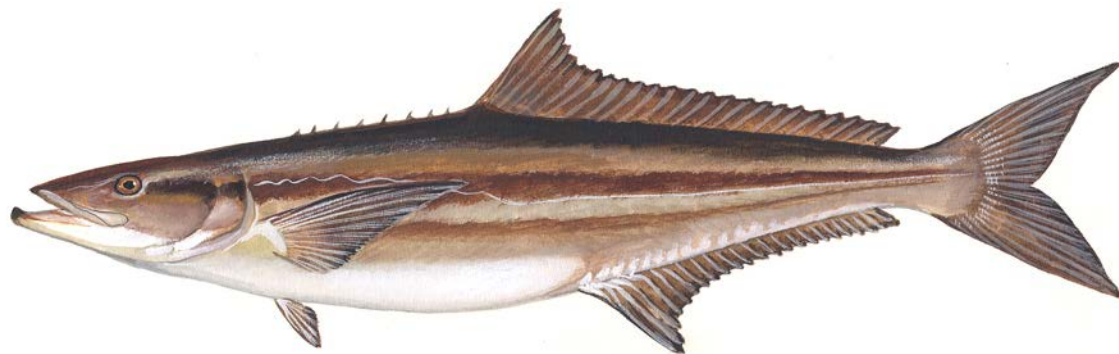
- **TC recommended several changes to annual spot/croaker TLAs: additional indices, age-partitioning, regional approach, additional auxiliary information, new ref. time period, revised triggering mechanism**
 - Incorporation of all recommendations would trigger moderate concern management action in 2018 for both species in the Mid-Atlantic (VA north)
 - Incorporation of all recommendations would require an addendum to the Spot and Croaker FMPs
- **Previously discussed course of action:**
 1. Today – Task PDT to investigate potential management responses to triggers from revised TLA
 2. August – Review 2018 (2017 fishing year) TLAs and potential management responses from PDT; Initiate addendum (includes adoption of TLA revisions and management response to Mid-Atl. trigger)
 3. October – Review Draft Addendum for public comment
 4. October-February 2019 – Public Comment
 5. February 2019 – Review Public Comment & Vote on Final Approval

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION





Cobia Assessment and Management



October 2017

SEDAR 58 Stock ID Workshop



- Stock ID Workshop held in April in Charleston, SC
 - Report deadline in May, with Peer Review Workshop scheduled for June 5-7 in Charleston, SC
 - PRELIMINARY results indicate mixed area between Brevard County, FL, and Brunswick, GA, with distinct biological stocks to north and south (with southern stock extending into the Gulf of Mexico)
 - Results do not disagree with current management boundary
 - Substructure within the Atlantic stock refined and improving tagging information

Cobia TC Board Tasking



- Winter Meeting: Move to recommend that the TC evaluate state specific management options in pounds and numbers of fish, and to provide directions to use alternative techniques such as in the black sea bass fishery. Evaluate the best method (i.e. pounds or numbers of fish) by which to determine the harvest impact of the management measures.
- Call held in April
- TC determined that call with MRIP staff necessary before deciding specific analyses to evaluate methods and timeline for completion

SEDAR 58 Stock Assessment



- Draft ToRs and Schedule included in Briefing Materials
 - Data Workshop: Nov. 27-30, 2018 (Charleston, SC)
 - Review Workshop: July 30-Aug. 1, 2019 (Atlantic Beach, NC)
 - Final Report Submitted: Sep. 6, 2019
 - Recommended edits today or via email to Michael Schmidtke by 5:00 pm on May 10
- ASMFC Staff working with SEDAR/Council Staff to draft list of suggested participants; appointment information to follow via email

SEDAR 58 Stock Assessment



- Draft ToRs and Schedule included in Briefing Materials
 - Recommended edits today or via email to Michael Schmidtke by 5:00 pm on May 10
- Staff working with SEDAR/Council staff to draft list of suggested participants; appointment information to follow via email

SAFMC CMP FMP Amendment 31



- Letter from SAFMC (Briefing):
 - When will the ASMFC request NMFS implement regulations in Federal waters under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA)?
 - When will you know what specific regulations ASMFC will request?
 - Do you know the approximate length of time for NMFS to implement such regulations once ASMFC makes the request?
 - **i.e., How/when will ASMFC request NOAA Fisheries to manage cobia in federal waters in the absence of a Council FMP?**

SAFMC CMP FMP Amendment 31



- Letter from SERO (Supplemental):
 - Cobia ISFMP supports complementary management, but not management of federal waters w/o the CMP FMP
 - Request to **amend the ISFMP** to address Atlantic cobia management in fed waters
 - ASMFC would develop measures through ISFMP amendment & request NOAA Fisheries implement in fed waters
 - Options for federal waters: Coastwide measures (all commercial, bag limit, rec size limit), consistent federal season, compliance with landing state's measures, others?

Potential Amendment Timeline



- Begin development of PID – Motion today contingent upon approval CMP FMP Amendment 31
- Review Draft PID for Public Comment (PC) – Aug. 2018
- PC Period on PID – Aug.-Oct. 2018
- Review PID PC & Begin development of Draft Amendment (Am.) – Oct. 2018
- Review Draft Am. for PC – Feb. 2019
- PC Period for Draft Am. – Feb.-May 2019
- Review Draft Am. PC & **Final Action – May 2019**
- Assessment Complete - Sep. 6, 2019
- Initiate Addendum – Oct 2019?

If CMP FMP Am. 31 Approved...



- How will ASMFC request NOAA manage federal waters (options for amendment of ISFMP)?
 - Management measures
 - Amendment to ISFMP
 - Temporary measures in place until approval/implementation of ISFMP amendment