

South Atlantic Board

Activity level: Moderate

Committee Overlap Score: Moderate (American Eel TC, Horseshoe Crab TC, Shad and River Herring TC, Sturgeon TC, Weakfish TC)

Committee Task List

- Black Drum TC – Review 2014 benchmark stock assessment research recommendations and make recommendation for next stock assessment
- Cobia PDT – May – August 2019: Draft Amendment 1 process; current step: Board Review of Draft Amendment 1 for Public Comment
- Cobia TC – Involvement of certain members in SEDAR 58 assessment process
- Red Drum SAS – Develop assessment roadmap and update ASC on progress
- Atlantic Croaker TC - July 1: Compliance Reports Due
- Red Drum TC – July 1: Compliance Reports Due
- Cobia TC – July 1: Compliance Reports Due
- Atlantic Croaker PRT – August 1: Update Traffic Light Analysis
- Spot PRT – August 1: Update Traffic Light Analysis
- Black Drum TC – August 1: Compliance Reports Due
- Spotted Seatrout PRT – September 1: Compliance Reports Due
- Spanish Mackerel PRT – October 1: Compliance Reports Due
- Spot PRT – November 1: Compliance Reports Due

TC Members:

Atlantic Croaker: Chris McDonough (SC, Chair), Kristen Anstead (ASMFC), Michael Schmidtke (ASMFC), Tim Daniels (NJ), Michael Greco (DE), Harry Rickabaugh (MD), Jason Rock (NC), Dan Zapf (NC), Dawn Franco (GA), Joseph Munyandorero (FL),

Black Drum: Harry Rickabaugh (MD, Chair), Jeff Kipp (ASMFC), Michael Schmidtke (ASMFC), Jordan Zimmerman (DE), Chris Stewart (NC), Chris McDonough (SC), Ryan Harrell (GA), Dustin Addis (FL)

Cobia: Michael Schmidtke (ASMFC), Linda Barry (NJ), Angela Giuliano (MD), Alex Aspinwall (VA), Anne Markwith (NC), Mike Denson (SC), Chris Kalinowsky (GA), Christina Wiegand (SAMFC), Michael Larkin (SERO)

Red Drum: Jeff Kipp (ASMFC), Michael Schmidtke (ASMFC), Tim Daniels (NJ), Michael Greco (DE), Robert Bourdon (MD), Lee Paramore (NC), Joey Ballenger (SC), Chris Kalinowsky (GA), Behzad Mahmoudi (FL), Roger Pugliese (SAFMC)

Spanish Mackerel (PRT): Michael Schmidtke (ASMFC), Randy Gregory (NC), BJ Hilton (GA), Dustin Addis (FL), Christina Wiegand (SAFMC), John Hadley (SAFMC)

Spot (PRT): Michael Schmidtke (ASMFC), Harry Rickabaugh (MD), Adam Kenyon (VA), Dan Zapf (NC), Chris McDonough (SC), Dawn Franco (GA)

Spotted Seatrout (PRT): Michael Schmidtke (ASMFC), Douglas Lipton (MD), Steve Poland (NC), Joey Ballenger (SC), Chris Kalinowsky (GA)

SAS Members:

Red Drum: Jeff Kipp (ASMFC), Michael Schmidtke (ASMFC), Angela Giuliano (MD), Lee Paramore (NC), Joey Ballenger (SC), Liz Herdter Smith (FL)



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

April 15, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: ASMFC South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

FROM: David Blazer and Lynn Fegley, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Public input on potential Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission management measures for spot and Atlantic croaker

The South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board (Board) requested member states seek public comment regarding potential management measures for spot and Atlantic croaker that could be considered in response to declining trends in harvest and abundance. Maryland is focusing its efforts on spot because it already has size, creel and season limits in place for croaker, whereas spot are not currently regulated. Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services staff held a public meeting on Jan. 3, 2019. There were approximately 25 attendees from across the state and from a variety of sectors (e.g., charter boat captains, fish potters, recreational fishermen and watermen). Staff provided presentations on the role and process of ASMFC, species life history, stock status, fishery statistics and timelines for potential action.

Summary of Comments:

Attendees from all sectors agreed that the state should not offer nor take the lead on spot management actions until there is further clarity on the factors that are causing problems with the spot population, including the influence of environmental factors on a short-lived stock. The group was particularly concerned with the impacts of shrimp trawl bycatch and wondered if any actions taken within Maryland could offset this source of mortality. They were also hesitant because no magnitude for harvest reduction has been identified. However, the group understood the concept of the ASMFC “book ending the fishery” to try to control the expansion of harvest. All sectors were hesitant to support any of the following tools presented by the department without first knowing what other states might do:

- Reducing any recreational or commercial harvest
- Setting a minimum size limit
- Setting a possession limit or
- Setting a season that would lead to a reduction

All sectors agreed that if regulations for spot are drafted in Maryland, the drafts should be in line, equally impacting and consistent with reductions in the other states.