

Review of Biological Sampling Requirements

Lindy Barry – Chair, Tautog Technical Committee
ASMFC Annual Meeting – Tautog Management Board
October 25, 2018



Courtesy ASMFC

October 2017 –Tautog Technical Committee (TC) tasked to evaluate biological sampling requirements

- Requested by Plan Review Team due to several states falling short of minimum sampling requirements during last few years
- Issues obtaining samples
- Reliable age-length information critical for stock assessment process which uses age-structured model

Tautog Annual Biological Sampling Requirement

- Implemented with Addendum III in 2002
 - Required all states to collect data to support coast-wide stock assessment until data and analyses sufficient for regional assessment approaches
 - Specified each state collect minimum 200 age and length samples each year
 - 5 fish per centimeter within range of lengths commonly caught by fisheries

Sample Size Analysis

Age	CV 0.25	CV 0.1
1	-244	-153
2	283	-955
3	295	11,447
4	212	1,721
5	169	1,395
6	244	1,832
7	314	2,364
8	377	3,820
9	302	4,939
10	1,333	-96,217
11	713	-24,309
12	1,634	-2,972
13	2,407	-3,514
14	-4,855	-1,619
15	33,225	-22,699
17	-59	-56

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries 2016 Sample Data

- Trawl survey n = 56
- Ventless trap survey n = 144
- Rod and reel survey n = 368

Analysis performed to determine sample sizes required to achieve certain levels of precision around length at age estimates.

- ❖ Most ages required sample sizes > 200 with CV 0.25.
- ❖ All ages required sample sizes > 200 with CV 0.1.

Sampling Requirements

Regional Level vs. State Level

➤ Advantages

- Would align with regional stock structure of stock assessment
- Potentially alleviate sample shortage situations for some states

➤ Disadvantages

- Potentially reduce the quantity of samples overall
- Negatively impact stock assessment if some states are consistently under-sampled

TC Conclusions for Biological Sampling Requirements

- Maintain state level requirements
 - Ensure adequate sample numbers throughout management regions
 - State samples continue to be pooled for regional age-length keys
 - Documentation of sampling efforts
- Maintain minimum 200 age and length samples
 - Wide overlap of ages and lengths as tautog age
 - Sample size analysis showed precision of length at age estimates suffered for many age categories with sample sizes < 200
 - Sample size reduction may lead to widening of data gaps in age-length distributions
- Reevaluate sampling requirements if a region is consistently under-sampled

Discussion of Pelvic Fin Spines as Ageing Structure

➤ Advantages

- Recent studies show promise as alternative ageing structure for tautog
- Non-lethal sampling method
 - Possible to collect samples from harvest intended for live market
 - Allay concerns of lethal sampling in regions with overfished stock status
- Allow states to obtain required samples if lethal sampling methods become less feasible

TC Conclusions for Pelvic Fin Spines as Ageing Structures

- Need full evaluation of age information to ensure compatibility with current structures
 - Collect and compare paired samples of pelvic fin spines and opercula
 - Perform ageing exchange with positive results from comparisons
 - Some states may have budgeting and staffing issues for collection and comparisons
- Current considerations
 - Collect paired samples for comparative studies
 - Supplement age sample sizes if collection of preferred structures is limited
- First Step: States to determine ability and interest in paired exchange

TC Recommendations to the Tautog Management Board

- Maintain state level biological sampling requirements
- Maintain minimum number of 200 age and length samples per state
- Have states determine their ability and interest level in participating in paired exchanges of ageing structures involving pelvic fin spines.

Questions?





Tautog Commercial Harvest Tagging Program: Draft Implementation Guidelines



Presented to ASMFC Tautog Management Board
October 25, 2018

Outline



- Background
- Tagging program requirements
- Draft implementation guidelines
 - Tag distribution
 - Tag application
 - Accounting
 - Reporting and tag expiration
 - Penalties and outreach
- Implementation timeline

Tagging Program Requirements



- Amendment 1 language requires:
 - Uniform single use tags with unique numbers
 - Application prior to offloading
 - Allocation of tags based on biological metric
 - Return unused tags no later than February 15
 - Annual Commercial Tag Report

*Originally required implementation by January 2019

Draft Implementation Guidelines



- Staff worked with Board chair, LEC and TC to develop draft implementation guidelines to:
 - Provide guidance on program administration
 - Encourage consistency between state programs
 - Enhance enforceability
- Recommended procedures for tag distribution, application, accounting, reporting, tag expiration, penalties, outreach

Tag Distribution



- States acquire tags from manufacturer and distribute to licensed/permitted harvesters
- Issue consecutive tag numbers to each harvester
- Number of tags based on biological metric
- Tags non-transferable
- Unlawful to reuse, counterfeit, alter, modify tags

Tag Application



- Harvester must apply tags on the day of harvest before offloading **or carrying**
- Tags applied consistently to one location
- Recommend harvesters apply tags in numerical order
- Tags must remain on fish until final sale
- Need to restrict tag application during closures

Tag Accounting and Expiration



- Unused tags returned by February 15 of following year **or within 90 days of end of season, whichever is sooner**
- Harvesters should document tags lost and broken
- Annual commercial tag report should include this information
- Tags expire at the end of the fishing year

Penalties and Outreach



- States determine appropriate penalties:
 - suspension or revocation of the commercial license/permit, wholesale dealer permit, retail dealer permit, or authorization to purchase tautog
 - confiscation of all tautog caught, possessed or sold in violation
 - seizure and forfeiture of all property used in violation
 - fines
- Outreach to raise awareness of tagging program

Tentative Timeline



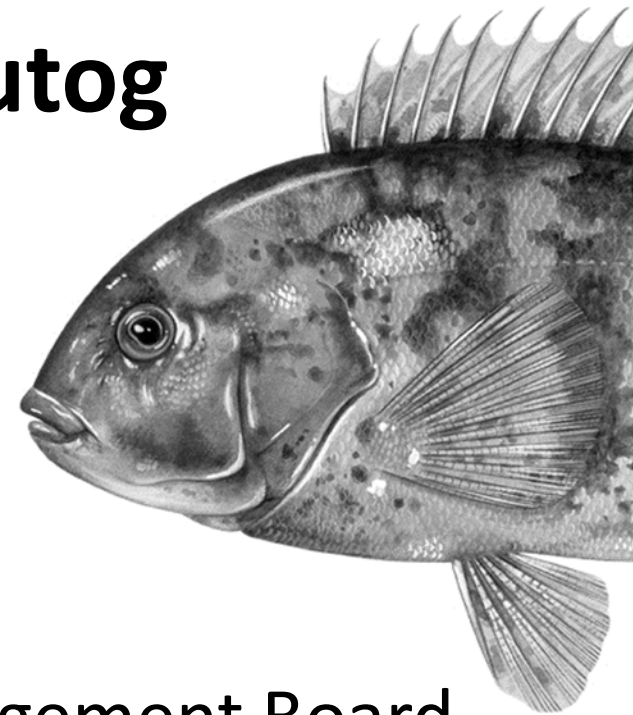
- Issues with securing tag applicator
- Many state regulatory processes are longer than would allow implementation in January 2019
- Recommend new required start date of January 2020
- Begin trial period in 2019

Questions?





2017 FMP Review and Compliance for Tautog *(Tautoga onitis)*



Presented to ASMFC Tautog Management Board
October 25, 2018

Outline



- Changes to Management
- Landings trends
- Compliance & *de minimis*

Management Measures



- No changes to federal commercial or recreational measures
 - 14” minimum size
 - Degradable fasteners on one panel or door in pots and traps
 - State-specific management programs to achieve target F

State Management Measures



Commercial

STATE	SIZE LIMIT (inches)	POSSESSION LIMITS (number of fish)	OPEN SEASONS	QUOTA (pounds)	GEAR RESTRICTIONS
MA	16"	40	Sept 1 – 100% of Quota	64,643*	Mandatory pot requirements. Limited entry and area/time closures for specific gear types.
RI	16"	10	Apr 15 – May 30 Aug 1 – Sept 15 Oct 15 – Dec 31	51,348**	Harvest allowed by permitted gear types only.
CT	16"	4 (restricted licenses) 10 (all other)	Apr 1 – Apr 30 Jul 1 – Aug 31 Oct 8 – Dec 24	-	Mandatory pot requirements.
NY	15"	25 (10 fish w/ lobster gear and when 6 lobsters are in possession)	Jan 1 – Feb 28 Apr 8 – Dec 31	-	Mandatory pot requirements. Gill or trammel net is prohibited.
NJ	15"	> 100 lb requires directed fishery permit	Jan 1 – 15 June 11 – 30 Nov 9 – Dec 31	103,000	Mandatory pot requirements.
DE	15"	5 3 5 5	Jan 1 – Mar 31 Apr 1 – May 11 July 17 – Aug 31 Sept 29 – Dec 31	-	Mandatory pot requirements.
MD	16"	4 2 4	Jan 1 – May 15 May 16 – Oct 31 Nov 1 – 26	-	Mandatory pot requirements.
VA	15"	-	Jan 1 – Jan 21 Mar 1 – Apr 30 Nov 1 – Dec 31	-	Mandatory pot requirements. Pots prohibited in tidal waters.

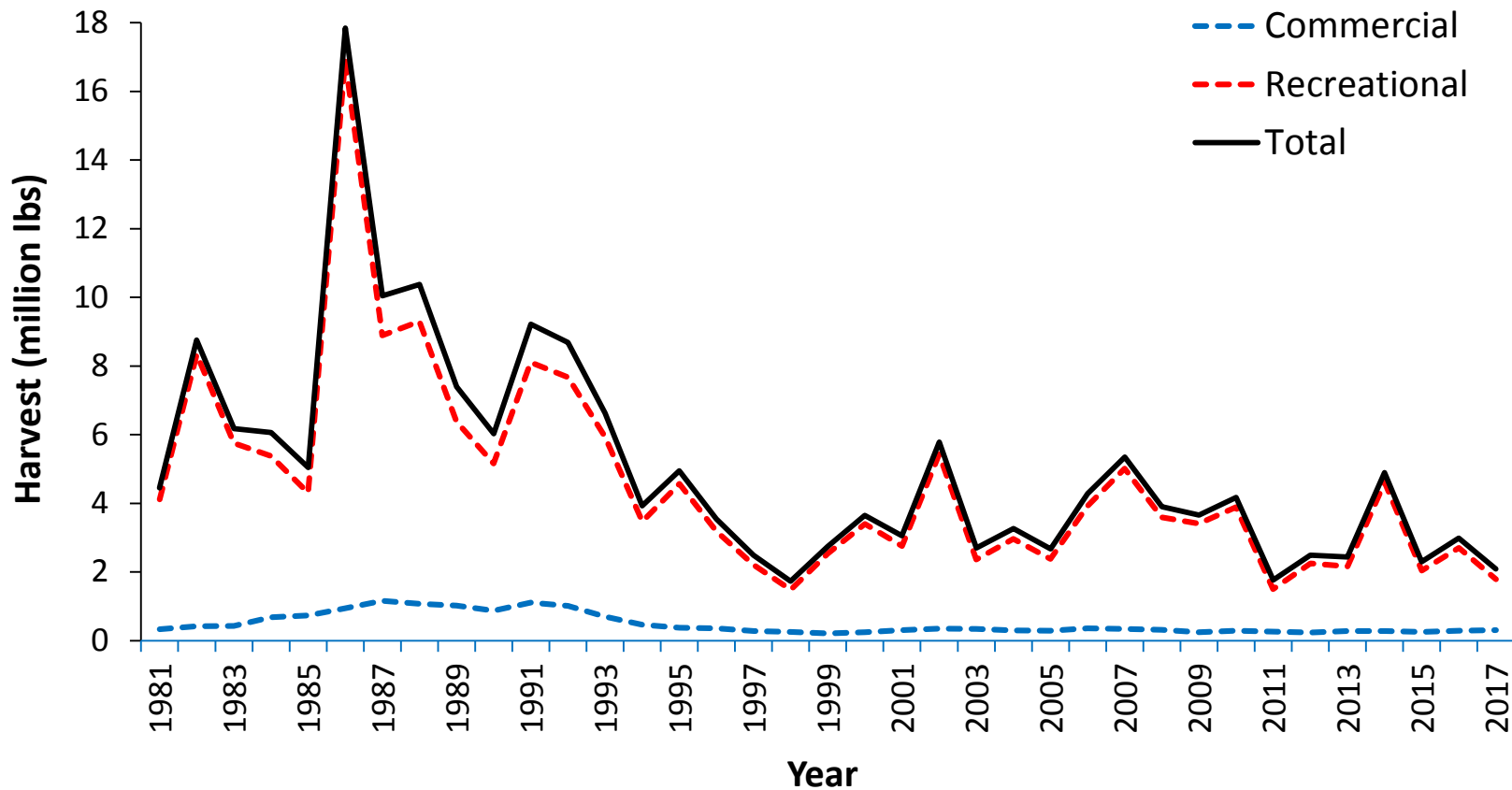
Recreational

STATE	SIZE LIMIT (inches)	POSSESSION LIMITS (fish/person/day)	OPEN SEASONS (dates inclusive)
MA	16"	3	Jan 1 – Dec 31
RI	16"	3	Apr 15 – May 31
		3	Aug 1 – Oct 15
RI	16"	6 (10 fish/day/vessel max for private/rental mode)	Oct 16 – Dec 15
		2 2 3	Apr 1 – Apr 30 July 1 – Aug 31 Oct 10 – Nov 23
CT	16"	2 2 3	Apr 1 – Apr 30 July 1 – Aug 31 Oct 10 – Nov 23
NY	16"	4	Oct 5 – Dec 14
NJ	15"	4 4 1 6	Jan 1 – Feb 28 Apr 1 – Apr 30 Jul 17 – Nov 15 Nov 16 – Dec 31
		5 3 5 5	Jan 1 – Mar 31 Apr 1 – May 11 July 17 – Aug 31 Sept 29 – Dec 31
DE	15"	4 2 4	Jan 1 – May 15 May 16 – Oct 31 Nov 1 – 26
MD	16"	4 2 4	Jan 1 – May 15 May 16 – Oct 31 Nov 1 – 26
VA	16"	3	Jan 1 – Apr 30 Sept 20 – Dec 31

Commercial & Recreational Harvest



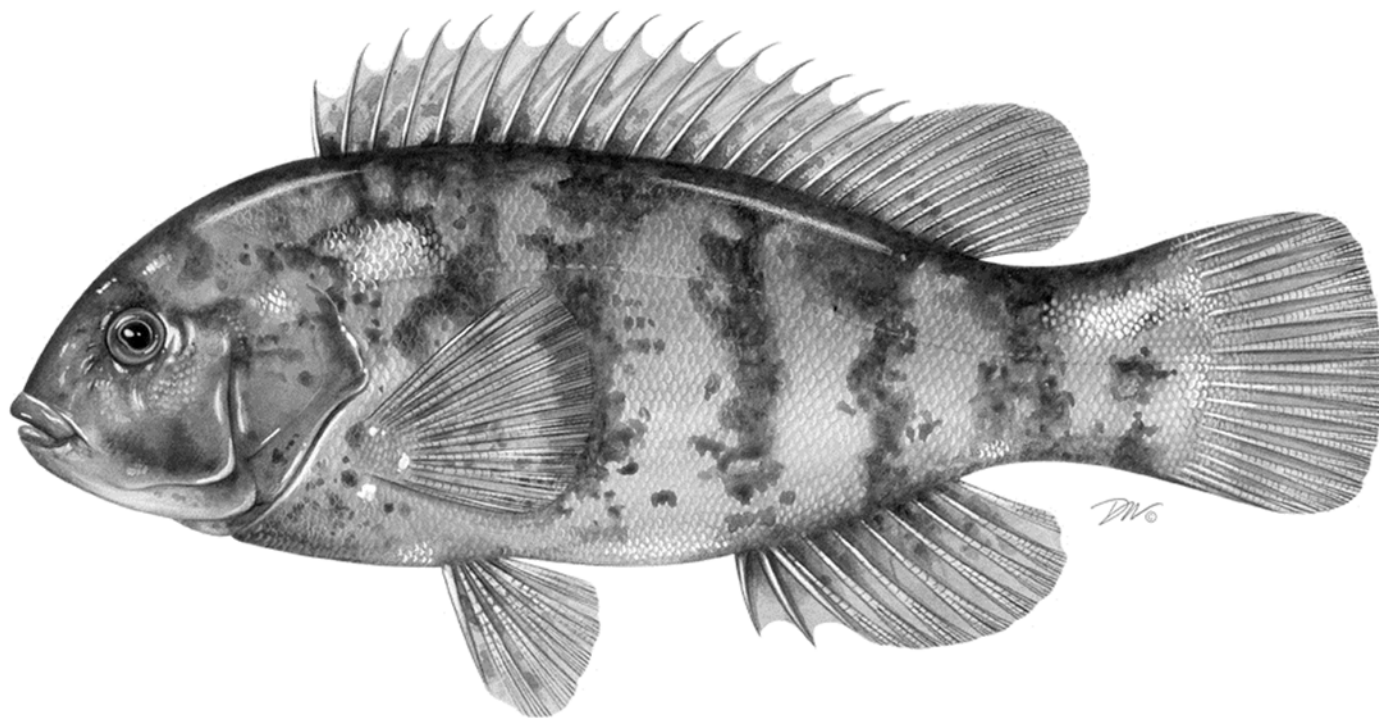
Coastwide Tautog Harvest (1981-2017)



Compliance and De Minimis Request



- *De Minimis* requests: Delaware, Maryland
 - DE and MD qualify for continued *de minimis* status for the commercial sector. The PRT recommends that the Board approve the states of Delaware and Maryland's requests.
- The PRT recommends the Board find all states in compliance with the sampling requirements of the FMP.



Questions?