

# Tautog PID for Amendment 1

Presented to the Tautog Board

August 5, 2015





# Commission's Process & Timeline

February 2015	Board Initiates Plan Amendment and Tasks PDT to Develop Public Information Document (PID)
<b>August 2015</b>	<b>Board Reviews Draft PID and Considers Approval for Public Comment</b>
September-October 2015	Board Solicits Public Comment on the PID and States Conduct Public Hearings
November 2015	Board Reviews Submitted Public Comment and Advisory Panel Input and Provides Guidance to PDT on Development of Draft Amendment 1
February 2016	Management Board Reviews Draft Amendment 1 and Considers Approval for Public Comment
March-April 2016	Board Solicits Public Comment on Draft Amendment 1 and States Conduct Public Hearings
May 2016	Board Reviews Submitted Public Comment and Input from its Advisory Panel and the Law Enforcement Committee. Full Commission Considers Final Approval of Amendment 1



# Draft Amendment 1 Background

- Initiated at the May 2015 Board meeting
- Based on the Benchmark Stock Assessment findings that tautog is overfished and overfishing is occurring on a coastwide scale
- Recommended management action:  
Delineation of separate, regional stock units



# Public Information Document

1. Purpose
2. Management
3. Description of resource
4. Issues for public comment

# 1. Purpose

- How would you like the tautog fishery to look in the future?
- And more specifically, what do you think is the best regional breakdown for tautog management moving forward?

## 2. Management Issues

- Tautog is overfished and overfishing is occurring on a coastwide scale
- The estimated three-year (2011-2013) fishing mortality is  $F = 0.30$
- Addenda I-VI have tried to reduce  $F$ , most recently Addendum VI required a 39% harvest reduction (2012)

# Addenda Overview

Addendum	Goal
I (1997)	Reduce harvest to F target = 0.15 by 2000
II (1999)	Deadline to achieve F target = 0.15 extended to 2002
III (2002)	Modified the F target to $F_{40\%SSB} = 0.29$
IV (2007)	New F target = 0.20
V (2007)	Added state flexibility to achieve F target
VI (2012)	Established a new F target = 0.15

## 3. Description of Resource

- Non-migratory with a preferred home site
- 90% of total harvest is from the recreational fishery
- Recreational catch location (MRIP):
  - Rhode Island is primarily from Narragansett Bay
  - Connecticut is primarily from Long Island Sound
  - New York is split between open water (~35%) and Long Island Sound (~57%)
  - New Jersey is primarily from open water



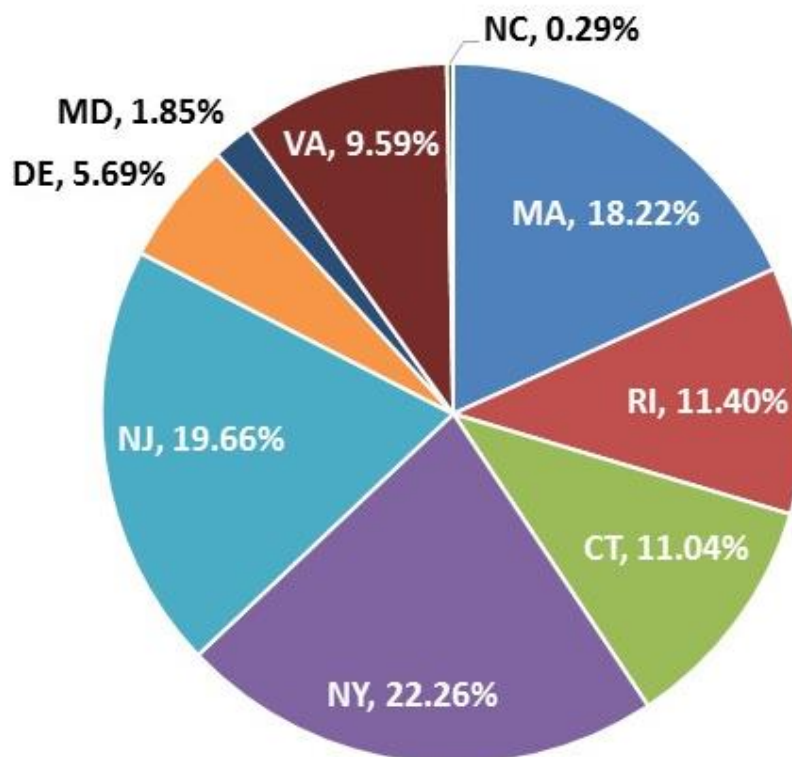


# Recreational harvest in pounds (2004-2014)

Year	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC	Total
<b>2004</b>	107,905	698,737	77,219	966,022	283,109	240,288	21,633	524,251	31,226	2,950,390
<b>2005</b>	382,866	807,715	145,342	314,691	144,423	220,642	84,538	242,650	30,277	2,373,144
<b>2006</b>	294,785	380,009	842,213	793,999	726,554	406,499	47,484	468,246	3,204	3,962,993
<b>2007</b>	333,668	621,747	1,384,528	823,257	1,064,250	298,500	137,026	246,802	58,480	4,968,258
<b>2008</b>	109,932	491,953	720,575	1,081,693	520,100	380,729	69,331	222,485	1,535	3,598,333
<b>2009</b>	85,414	323,717	303,047	1,431,273	408,567	387,643	108,297	268,102	18,006	3,334,066
<b>2010</b>	162,488	923,690	412,775	502,526	1,067,379	146,044	201,753	479,462	9,389	3,905,506
<b>2011</b>	129,669	80,300	88,728	450,171	381,449	152,895	33,859	173,871	1,555	1,492,497
<b>2012</b>	94,699	534,716	982,891	252,745	133,048	171,329	17,670	49,988	11,687	2,248,773
<b>2013</b>	197,775	593,304	392,146	355,232	395,539	138,051	18,681	23,836	9,636	2,124,200
<b>2014</b>	399,812	297,955	1,470,133	1,211,285	579,934	187,915	3,004	121,352	9,472	4,280,862
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,299,013</b>	<b>5,753,843</b>	<b>6,819,597</b>	<b>8,182,894</b>	<b>5,704,352</b>	<b>2,730,535</b>	<b>743,276</b>	<b>2,821,045</b>	<b>184,467</b>	<b>35,239,022</b>

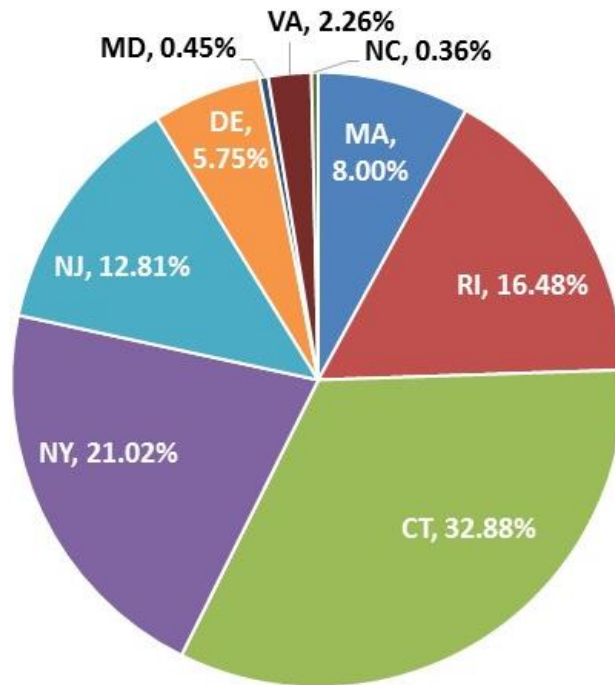
Source: MRIP

# Recreational Landings by State (1981-2014 Average Landings)



*Historically, New York and New Jersey account for 41.9% of total harvest*

## Recreational Landings by State (2012-2014 average landings, represents landings after Addendum VI went into effect)



*Since 2012, the majority of recreational landings (53.9%) are attributed to Connecticut and New York*



# Commercial harvest in pounds (2004-2014)

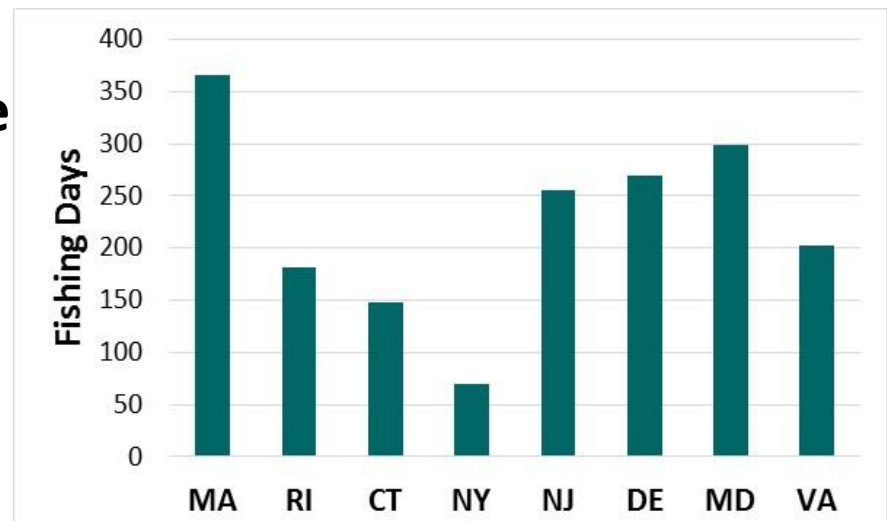
Year	Southern New England	Mid-Atlantic	DelMarVa + North Carolina	Total (Coastwide)
2004	150,810	127,663	22,276	300,749
2005	166,235	113,688	12,271	292,194
2006	211,477	123,964	14,424	349,865
2007	189,263	136,777	14,886	340,925
2008	142,054	152,529	16,357	310,940
2009	126,817	101,880	14,947	243,644
2010	136,318	142,366	9,170	287,855
2011	120,000	128,626	17,758	266,384
2012	124,229	97,257	16,581	238,067
2013	129,479	118,512	15,829	263,820
2014	121,740	109,591	9,817	241,148
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,618,422</b>	<b>1,352,853</b>	<b>164,316</b>	<b>3,135,591</b>

Source: NOAA Fisheries and ACCSP

# Recreational Management Measures

Recreational Fishery	Regulations
Size limits	15-16"
Possession limits	1-6 fish per person depending on the season and state
Open seasons	See figure below

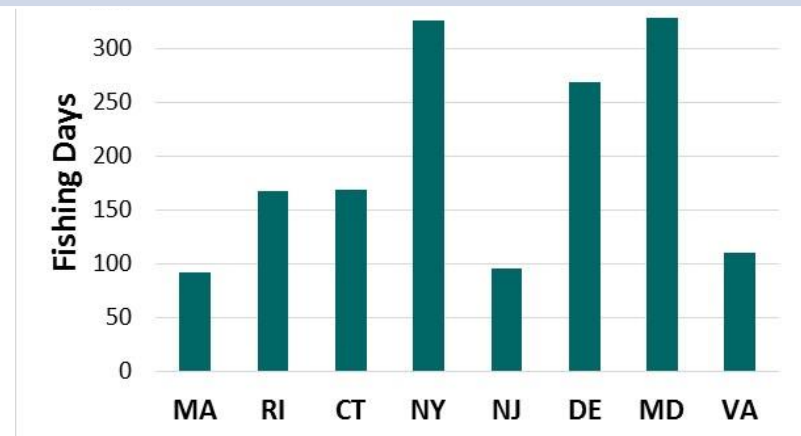
**Recreational Fishing Days by State**  
*(Measured by Length of Open Season)*



# Commercial Management Measures

Commercial Fishery	Regulations
Size limits	15-16"
Possession limits	2-40 fish depending on the season and state
Quota (lbs)	MA, RI and NJ have quotas
Gear Restrictions	Varies by state; all have mandatory pot requirements
Open seasons	See figure below

**Commercial Fishing Days by State**  
*(Measured by Length of Open Season)*





## 4. Issues for Public Comment

1. Regional stock management areas
2. FMP goals and objectives
3. Management measures
4. Reference points and rebuilding timeframes
5. Other issues

# 1. Regional Stock Management Areas

Currently fishery has one stock unit (MA – NC)

## Management Question:

- Do you support option 1 (status quo), option 2, option 3?



# Option 1: Status Quo

Stock Region	Stock Status
Coastwide (MA – VA)	Overfished, Experiencing Overfishing

SSB Target (lbs)	SSB Threshold (lbs)	SSB 2013 (lbs)
45,441,681	34,081,261	<b>10,762,968</b>

F Target	F Threshold	F Avg. (2011-2013)
0.10	0.13	<b>0.30</b>



# Option 2

Stock Region	SSB* Target	SSB* Threshold	SSB* 2013	F Target	F Threshold	F Avg.
MA, RI, CT	8,560,550	6,419,861	<b>3,999,185</b>	0.15	0.20	<b>0.48</b>
NY, NJ	7,870,503	5,820,204	<b>4,854,579</b>	0.17	0.26	<b>0.24</b>
DelMarVa	4,607,661	3,483,304	<b>3,377,482</b>	0.16	0.24	<b>0.16</b>

\* Numbers are in pounds



# Option 3

Stock Region	SSB* Target	SSB* Threshold	SSB* 2013	F Target	F Threshold	F Avg.
MA, RI	5,804,771	4,354,130	<b>3,553,852</b>	0.16	0.19	<b>0.38</b>
CT, NY, NJ	11,375,853	8,642,121	<b>5,200,705</b>	0.17	0.24	<b>0.34</b>
DelMar Va	4,607,661	3,483,304	<b>3,377,482</b>	0.16	0.24	<b>0.16</b>

\* Numbers are in pounds

## 2. FMP Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives should be reviewed to ensure they are consistent with the needs of the tautog fishery

### **Management Questions:**

- Are the goals and objectives still appropriate for the tautog fishery and resource?
- What changes to the goals and objectives need to be made to reflect the needs of the fishery and resource?
- Which five objectives do you feel are the most important?

## 3. Management Measures

Management measures should be reviewed to ensure they are consistent with the needs of the tautog fishery

### Management Questions:

- Do you support the use of regional management measures?
- What are the most effective management measures in place?
- Are there management measures that can be improved upon to better achieve FMP goals and objectives?
- Are there additional state management efforts that should be included in the FMP?

## 4. Reference Points and Rebuilding Timeframes

To increase SSB and yield to the fishery, new reference points and rebuilding timeframes will be considered

### Management Questions

- Do you support the ability to change reference points based on the latest peer-reviewed stock assessment recommendations without the need of a management document?
- Do you support the use of regional reference points?
- Do you support stock rebuilding timeframes that correspond to the needs of each regional management area?

## 5. Other Issues

- Additional issues that have been discussed by stakeholders, scientists, and managers regarding the future of the fishery include:
  - Adaptive management to achieve the FMP goals and objectives
  - Landings and biological monitoring requirements
  - Illegal fishing of undersized tautog

## 5. Other Issues

### Management Questions

- Do you support the use of adaptive management to meet the goals and objectives of the fishery?
- Do you support increased monitoring to improve our understanding of tautog life history and stock dynamics as well as aid in the development of future stock assessments?



## E. Other Issues

### Management Questions (cont.)

- Are undersized tautog harvested for recreational bait or the live fish market in your state? If so, is this a concern to you?
- As a structure orientated species, do you have regional habitat recommendations, recognizing the Commission and the states have limited regulatory authority for habitat?
- What other changes should be made to the tautog fishery that are not covered in this document?

# Questions?



# Recreational Regulations by State



STATE	SIZE LIMIT (inches)	POSSESSION LIMITS (number of fish/person/day)	OPEN SEASONS
Massachusetts	16"	3	Jan 1 – Dec 31
Rhode Island	16"	3	Apr 15 – May 31
		3	Aug 1 – Oct 15
		6 (up to 10 per vessel)	Oct 16- Dec 15 (private)
Connecticut	16"	2	Apr 1-Apr 30
		2	July 1 – Aug 31
		4	Oct 10 – Dec 6
New York	16"	4	Oct 5 – Dec 14
New Jersey	15"	4	Jan 1 – Feb 28
		4	Apr 1 – Apr 30
		1	Jul 17 – Nov 15
		6	Nov 16 – Dec 31
Delaware	15"	5	Jan 1 – Mar 31
		3	Apr 1 – May 11
		5	July 17 – Aug 31
		5	Sept 29 – Dec 31
Maryland	16"	4	Jan 1- May 15
		2	May 16 – Oct 31
		4	Nov 1 – 26
Virginia	16"		Jan 1 - Apr 30
		3	Sept 20 - Dec 31
North Carolina	-	-	-

# Commercial Regulations by State



STATE	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS (number of fish)	OPEN SEASONS	2015 QUOTA (LBS)	GEAR RESTRICTIONS*
Massachusetts	16"	40	April 16 – May 23 Sept 1 – Oct 31	54,984	Yes
Rhode Island	16"	10	Apr 15 – May 31	17,116	Yes
			Aug 1 – Sept 15	13,390	
			Oct 15 – Dec 31	17,116	
Connecticut	16"	10	Apr 1 - Apr 30 July 1 – Aug 31 Oct 8 – Dec 24	-	Yes
New York	15"	25 (except, 10 per vessel when fishing lobster pot gear and more than six lobsters are in possession)	Jan 1 – Feb 28 Apr 8 – Dec 31	-	Yes
New Jersey	15"	>100 lbs requires directed fishery permit	Jan 1 – 15 Jun 11 - 30 Nov 1 – Dec 31	103,000	Yes
Delaware	15"	5	Jan 1 – Mar 31	-	Yes
		3	Apr 1 – May 11		
		5	July 17 – Aug 31		
		5	Sept 29 – Dec 31		
Maryland	16"	4	Jan 1- May 15	-	Yes
		2	May 16 – Oct 31		
		4	Nov 1 – 26		
Virginia	15"	-	Jan 1 – Jan 21 Mar 1 – Apr 30 Nov 1 – Dec 31	-	Yes
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	Yes

\* FMP regulations: A pot and trap used to catch tautog shall have hinges or fasteners on one panel or door made of one of the following degradable materials: 1) Untreated hemp or jute string of 3/16 inch in diameter or smaller; 2) Magnesium alloy fasteners; or 3) Ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire of 0.094-inch diameter or smaller.