



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Sciaenid Management Board Webinar Summary

*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

Sciaenid Management Board  
March 18, 2021

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### Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

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## SCIAENID MANAGEMENT BOARD (MARCH 18, 2021)

### ***Meeting Summary***

The Sciaenid Management Board met to review and approve the spot annual Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* requests and to consider approval of spot and croaker state implementation plans.

Staff presented the 2019 Fishing Year FMP Review for spot. The Board approved the annual FMP review, state compliance reports, and all *de minimis* requests. *De minimis* requests were approved for 2021 recreational and commercial spot fisheries in New Jersey, Delaware, PRFC, and Georgia. The Board discussed the recommendation of revising the *de minimis* process for spot, but postponed action until after the ISFMP Policy Board reviews the Commission's *de minimis* process.

Staff presented state implementation plans which were in response to the traffic light approach (TLA) where data indicated a management response was required for both spot and Atlantic croaker. For both species, states are required to institute a 50 fish bag limit for their recreational fishery, and must make changes to their commercial fishery that are projected to reduce the 10-year average state commercial harvest by 1%. *De minimis* states, which have minimal commercial and/or recreational fisheries, are not required to change their measures. All states, with the exception of Florida, examined weekly or daily average catch rates, and then removed enough days or weeks to meet their required reduction. Florida looked at annual reductions and selected a vessel limit that would meet the required reduction. All states used landings from state and federal waters to calculate their reductions.

The Board approved Atlantic croaker plans submitted by Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida to implement the recreational bag limit, and plans submitted by Virginia and North Carolina to implement a commercial season to reduce harvest. PRFC applied for, and the Board approved, temporary *de minimis* for the commercial Atlantic croaker fishery due to the significant decline in commercial harvest in recent years to allow more time to evaluate harvest trends before making significant management changes. The Board approved spot plans submitted by Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida to implement the recreational bag limit and commercial harvest reduction. All proposals for both species are projected to meet the required reduction. States will finalize and implement the new measures prior to the end of the 2021 fishing year. States are continuing to work through internal regulation processes, and state-specific information will be communicated at the state level.

During other business, staff reviewed the recommendation from the Black Drum Plan Review Team for the Board to consider the use of a TLA to evaluate stock status. A TLA would allow the Board to monitor stock status in the absence of a new stock assessment. The stock assessment has been postponed due to the lack of new data. The Board tasked the TC to look into the feasibility of a TLA for black drum and provide a report at the Commission's summer meeting.

For more information, please contact Savannah Lewis, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [slewis@asmfc.org](mailto:slewis@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

***Motions***

**Motion to approve the 2019 fishing year spot FMP review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* requests for the 2021 recreational and commercial spot fishery for New Jersey, Georgia, Delaware, and PRFC.**

Motion made by Mr. Gary, second by Mr. Estes. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

**Motion to approve the *de minimis* request for the commercial Atlantic croaker fishery for 2021 for PRFC.**

Motion made by Mr. Greer and second by Mr. Gary. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

**Motion to approve Atlantic croaker state implementation plans for Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida.**

Motion made by Mr. Greer and seconded by Mr. Haymans. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

**Motion to approve spot state implementation plans for Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida.**

Motion made by Mr. Haymans and seconded by Dr. Rhodes. Motion approved by unanimous consent.