



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

August 11, 2023

Tautog Technical Committee (TC) Meeting Summary

TC Attendees: Craig Weedon (MD, Chair), Sam Truesdell (MA, Vice Chair), Lindy Barry (NJ), Sandra Dumais (NY), Josh McGilly (VA), and Coly Ares (RI)

Staff: James Boyle and Katie Drew

Other Attendees: Jesse Hornstein and Rachel Sysak (NY DEC)

The Commission's Tautog Technical Committee (TC) met via conference call on Friday, August 11th, in response to a task from the Management Board to evaluate the feasibility of using the smaller version of the current commercial tag and any tag that has not been previously tested that may meet the goals and objectives of the tagging program.

Identify Potential Alternative Tags and Discuss Methods for Evaluation

The TC discussed a number of tag options and how to study the effectiveness of those tags both within and beyond the timeframe to the Annual Meeting. The TC noted that conducting a study in time for the Annual Meeting in October limited the duration of the study, as well as the number of different tag types that could be included. Rachel Sysak presented the format for the potential study where New York would distribute 50 tags each to a number of participating dealers and harvesters, who would then provide daily survey responses and semiweekly photos to document any possible health outcomes to the fish. NY noted that if results are needed for the Annual Meeting, then it would only be possible to study the smaller version of the current tag, and the study could last no longer than two weeks. The TC decided that if results are needed for October, then they would proceed with studying the smaller tag, but that it should consider studying the T-Bar and Petersen tags over a longer period in 2024.