

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee

October 3, 2012

## ***Specification Recommendations for May 2013 – April 2016***

This report summarizes the recommendations and discussions from a joint meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee (TC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee (MC). The meeting was held in Warwick, Rhode Island, on October 3, 2012. This report summarizes recommendations of the TC. Please see the MC report for its recommendations and details on the federal process.

### *TC Attendance:*

J. Armstrong (MAFMC), P. Rago (NEFSC), M. Cieri (ME DMR), A. Willey (MD DNR), R. Babb (NJ DEP), E. Schneider (RI DFW), M. Gates (CT DEP), H. White (NC DMF), S. Newlin (DE DNREC) and D. Chesky (ASMFC Staff).

### *MC Attendance (not on TC):*

D. McKiernan (MADMF), E. Brazer (CCCHFS), P. Haring (NEFMC), and T. Curtis (NMFS NERO).

### *Observers:*

K. Sosebee (NEFSC), J. Lugar (Marine Stewardship Council), and J. Whiteside, Jr. (Sustainable Fisheries Association).

### **TC Recommendations for 2013/2014+ Specifications:**

The TC recommends setting three seasons of specifications for the spiny dogfish fishery. The recommended seasonal commercial quotas recommended are listed below. The TC does not recommend altering the possession limits, at this time, but recommends reconsidering the possession limits next year, after considering the results of the 2012/13 season.

<b>Season</b>	<b>Recommended Commercial quota Millions of pounds</b>
2013-14	40.841896
2014-15	41.783807
2015-16	41.578491

## Status of the Stock:

Spawning stock biomass (SSB) was estimated at 215,444 metric tons in 2012 and SSB has exceeded the target (159,288 mt) for the last 5 years. Fishing mortality (F) is estimated to be 0.093 in 2010 and 0.114 in 2011, which are well below the threshold (0.2439). Therefore spiny dogfish are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

## Quota Calculation:

The method used by the TC to calculate the 2013/2014+ quota recommendations is:

- Total harvest (MAFMC ABC)
- estimated dead discards
- estimated Canadian landings
- estimated recreational landings
- Management uncertainty

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= Annual Commercial Quota

## Total Harvest

Following implementation of the Reauthorized Magnuson Stevens Act of 2006 the MC is required to follow recommendations of the MAFMC Science and Statistical Committee (SSC). The SSC met September 26 – 27 and recommended setting the ABC based on the P\*40% method established in the MAFMC's Omnibus ACL/AM Amendment. The MAFMC's ABC is equivalent to total harvest as specified by the TC in the past.

The TC is comfortable using the P\*40% method to generate total harvest because it should allow for consistent future quotas while preventing SSB from dropping below the target. Projections estimate that under a P\*40% strategy, SSB will remain above the target through 2016 even with the SSB drop from the 1997 – 2003 recruitment deficit. Members of the TC also agree that consistent management measures in state and federal waters are beneficial and recommending a quota based on P\* increases the probability of consistent state and federal quotas.

After agreeing that total harvest should be set based on P\*40%; the TC discussed discards, Canadian catch, and the recreational fishery.

## Discards

Dead discards were estimated as the average of the previous ten years of discards. The TC noted that despite significant differences in total catch over the decade, dead discards remained relatively stable around 5,000 metric tons.

TC members felt the decline in the discard ratio would continue to drop, due to the recommended increase in quota, as well as the longer season and lack of regulatory discards that likely will come with the increased quota. From 2010 to 2011, commercial landings increased by 74%, and although total dead discards increased by 17%, the discard ratio declined by 33%.

The TC recommends using the average of the previous ten years of discards (2002-2011), amounting to 5,306 metric tons, as the estimate for the 2013 – 2015 fishing seasons to best account for anticipated discards.

### **Canadian Landings**

Canadian landings dropped significantly from 1,572 metric tons in 2008 to 113 metric tons in 2009, and have remained low since (6 mt in 2010; 124 mt in 2011). The joint TC/MC felt Canadian landings would not increase significantly in 2012 and beyond because the infrastructure to transport and process Canadian dogfish was gone. The TC estimated Canadian landings for the 2013-2015 fishing seasons based on the average of 2009-11 landings.

### *Recreational Landings*

Recreational Landings account for around 1-2% of total landings. The status update noted that the relation between the recreational numbers under MRFSS were similar to the numbers calculated under the new MRIP system and concluded no adjustments were necessary. The TC agreed that the average recreational landings since 2010 should be used to account for recreational catch in the 2013-15 seasons.

### **Possession Limits**

The TC agrees that there is little scientific justification for a large or small possession limit and feel that possession limit amounts are a policy/management decision. **As such the TC did not make a possession limit recommendation.** However, the TC did express interest in reviewing the 2012/13 fishery data next year, to see how the current possession limit, coupled with a much larger quota, affected season length.

## 2012/2013 Annual Quota Recommendation

Table 1. Spiny dogfish management measures for 2013-2015 as recommended by the ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee.

2013 Measures	Basis	M lb	Mt
OFL	$F_{MSY} (0.2439)$	67.576	30,652
ABC	Constant F (0.19528)	54.474	24,709
Canadian Landings	= ave 2009-2011	0.179	81.0
Domestic ABC	= ABC - Canadian Landings	54.295	24,628
ACL	= Domestic ABC	54.295	24,628
Mgmt Uncertainty Buffer	Ave of quota overages (pct) in 2010-2011 (3.99%)	1.697	770
ACT	= Domestic ACL - management uncertainty	52.598	23,858
U.S. Discards	= ave 2002-2011	11.698	5,306
TAL	ACT - Discards	40.900	18,552
U.S. Rec Landings	= ave 2010-2011	0.058	26.5
Comm Quota	TAL - Rec Landings	40.841896	18,526

2014 Measures	Basis	M lb	Mt
OFL			
ABC	Constant F (0.19528)	55.455	25,154
Canadian Landings	= ave 2009-2011	0.179	81.0
Domestic ABC	= ABC - Canadian Landings	55.277	25,073
ACL	= Domestic ABC	55.277	25,073
Mgmt Uncertainty Buffer	Ave of quota overages (pct) in 2010-2011 (3.99%)	1.737	788
ACT	= Domestic ACL - management uncertainty	53.540	24,285
U.S. Discards	= ave 2002-2011	11.698	5,306
TAL	ACT - Discards	41.842	18,979
U.S. Rec Landings	= ave 2010-2011	0.058	26.5
Comm Quota	TAL - Rec Landings	41.783807	18,953

2015 Measures	Basis	M lb	Mt
OFL			
ABC	Constant F (0.19528)	55.241	25,057
Canadian Landings	= ave 2009-2011	0.179	81.0
Domestic ABC	= ABC - Canadian Landings	55.063	24,976
ACL	= Domestic ABC	55.063	24,976
Mgmt Uncertainty Buffer	Ave of quota overages (pct) in 2010-2011 (3.99%)	1.728	784
ACT	= Domestic ACL - management uncertainty	53.335	24,192
U.S. Discards	= ave 2002-2011	11.698	5,306
TAL	ACT - Discards	41.637	18,886
U.S. Rec Landings	= ave 2010-2011	0.058	26.5
Comm Quota	TAL - Rec Landings	41.578491	18,860