



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration
well in progress by the year 2015*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC Finds New Jersey Out of Compliance with the Tautog FMP *Noncompliance Finding to be Forwarded to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior*

Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has found the State of New Jersey out of compliance with the mandatory management measures contained in Addenda IV and V of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The Commission will be notifying the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior of its finding. This action is taken pursuant to the provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993.

The State of New Jersey has not implemented Addenda IV and V's mandatory harvest reductions, which require the state to implement a management program that will achieve a 25.6 percent reduction in exploitation by January 1, 2008. This reduction is necessary to initiate rebuilding of the overfished tautog stock and to maintain effective cooperative management of the tautog resource. According to the 2006 peer-reviewed stock assessment, the tautog resource continues to be at low biomass levels. Since the mid-1980s tautog has undergone a substantial decrease in total and spawning stock biomass, with both currently at levels about one-third of their historical averages.

To come back into compliance, New Jersey must implement management measures that reduce fishing exploitation by 25.6 percent. Upon notification by the Commission, the Secretary of Commerce has 30 days to review the recommendation and determine appropriate action, which may include a federal moratorium on fishing for tautog in New Jersey's state waters.

For more information, please contact Robert Beal, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program, at (202) 289-6400.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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