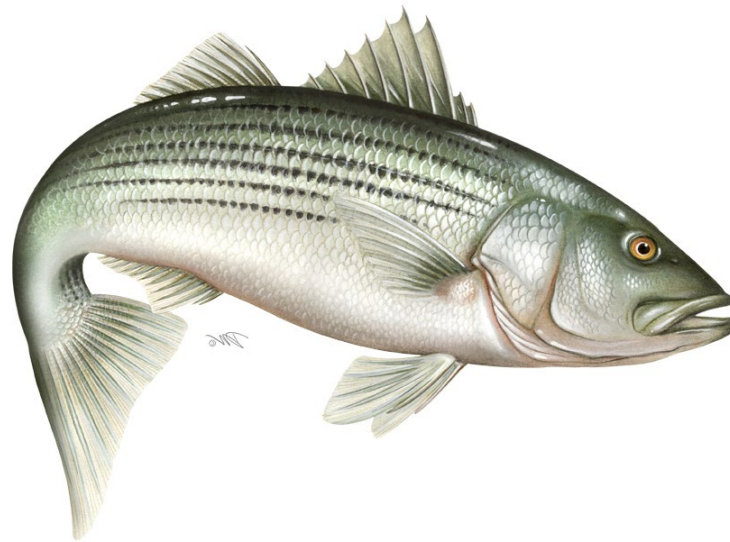




FMP Review for Atlantic Striped Bass 2021 Fishing Year



Striped Bass Management Board
August 2, 2022

Overview



1. Status of the Stock
2. Status of the FMP
3. Status of the Fishery
4. Status of Management Measures
5. PRT Comments and Recommendations

Board action for consideration: approve the 2021 FMP Review and state compliance reports

Status of the Stock



- 2018 Benchmark: Atlantic striped bass stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing
 - Data through 2017, including new MRIP estimates

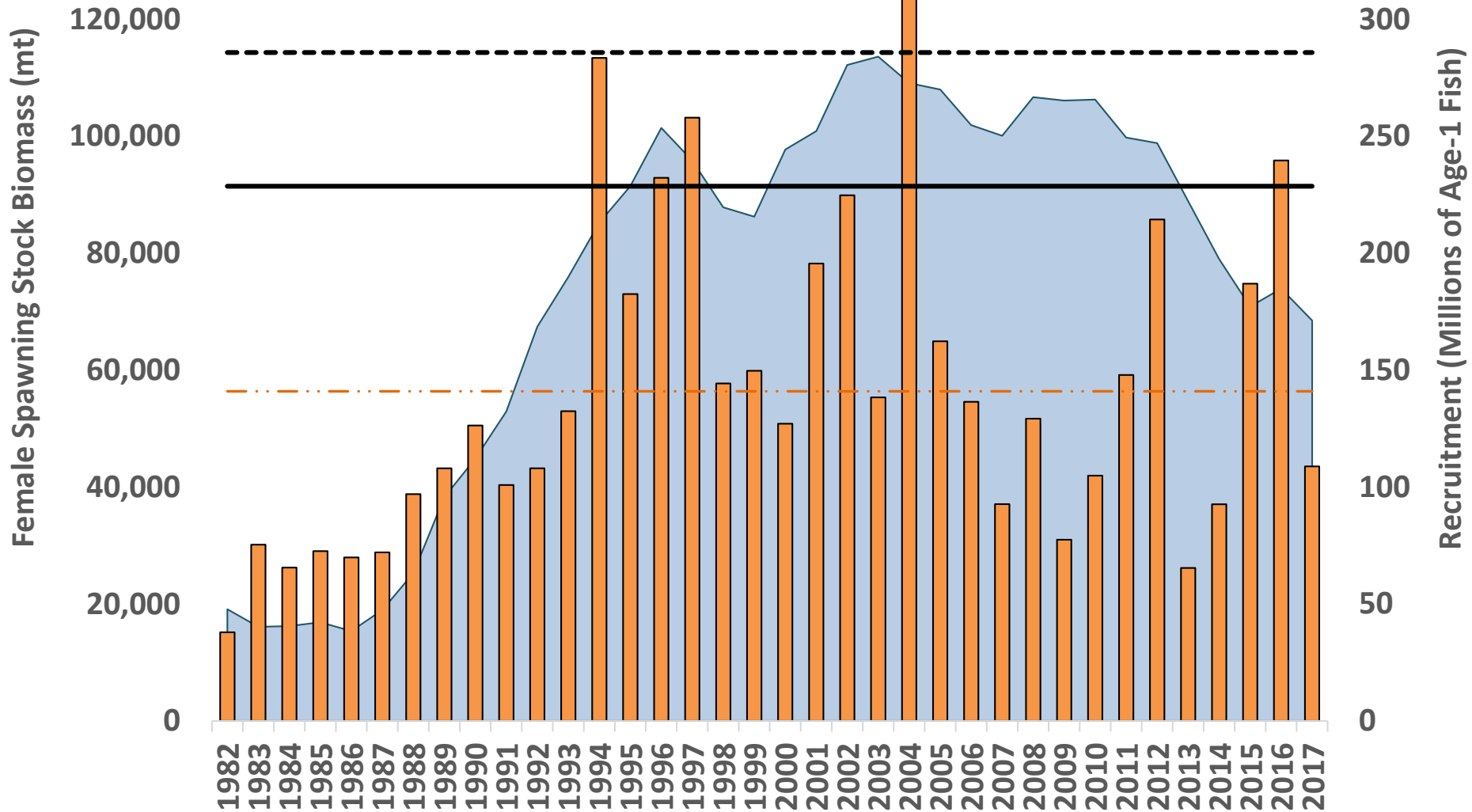
	<i>SSB (MT)</i>	<i>F</i>
2017	68,476	0.31
<i>Threshold</i>	91,436	0.24
<i>Target</i>	114,295	0.20

- 2022 stock assessment update in progress

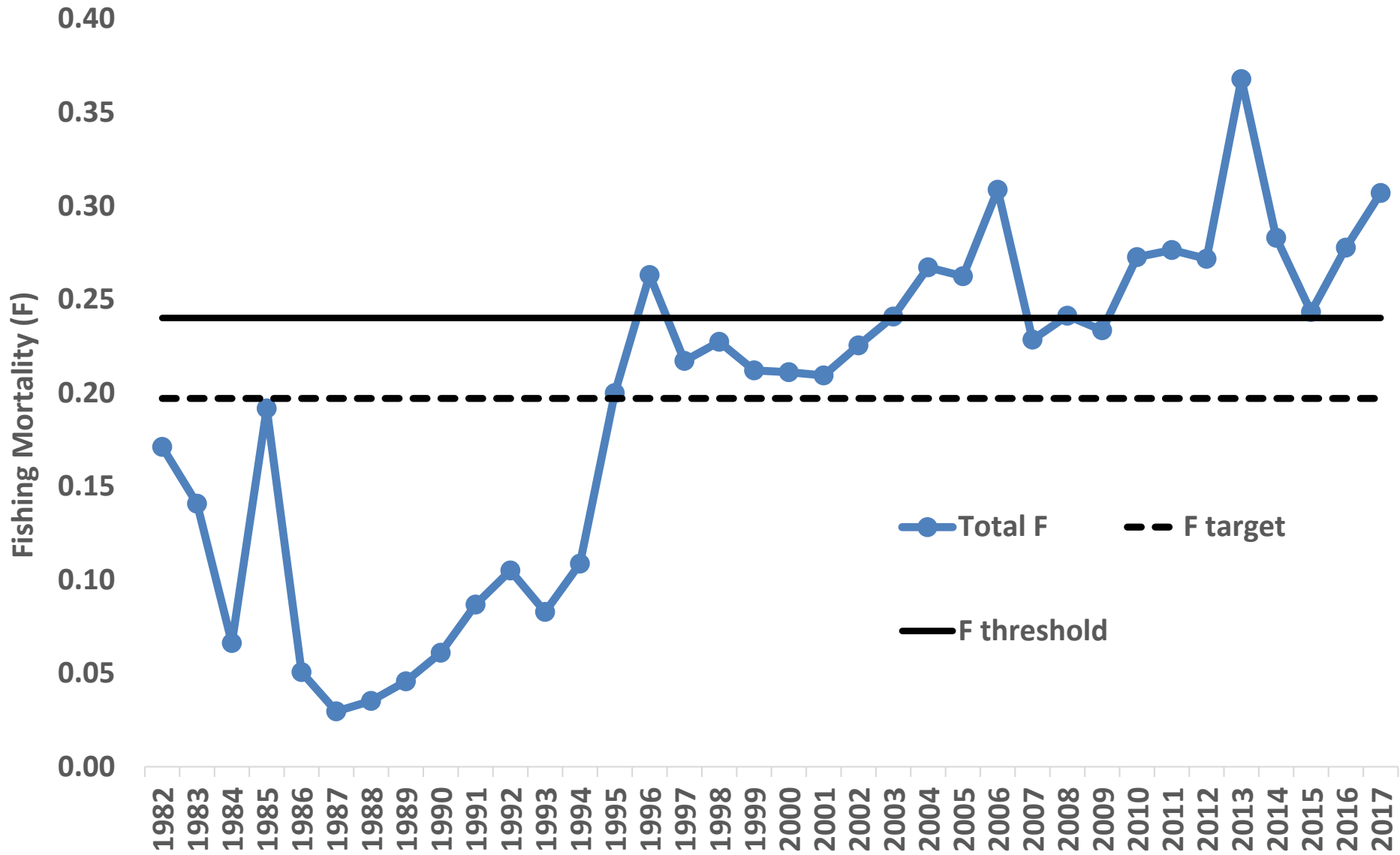
Status of the Stock



Female SSB Recruitment SSB target SSB threshold Average Recruitment



Status of the Stock



Status of the FMP



- 2021 was the second year of Addendum VI implementation
- Addendum VI measures designed to reduce total removals by 18% relative to 2017 levels
 - Implemented by April 1, 2020
 - Commercial: Reduced state quotas by 18%
 - Recreational: Ocean 28" to <35" slot and 1 fish/day
 - Recreational: Chesapeake Bay 18" minimum size limit and 1 fish/day
 - Some states implemented alternative regulations through conservation equivalency to achieve an 18% reduction in total removals statewide

Status of the FMP



- Addendum VI circle hook measures required to be implemented in 2021
 - Circle hooks required when fishing recreationally with bait
 - March 2021: Board clarified definition of bait and methods of fishing that require circle hooks (compliance criterion)
 - March 2021: Board provided guidance on incidental catch when targeting other species with non-circle hooks with bait attached

Status of the FMP

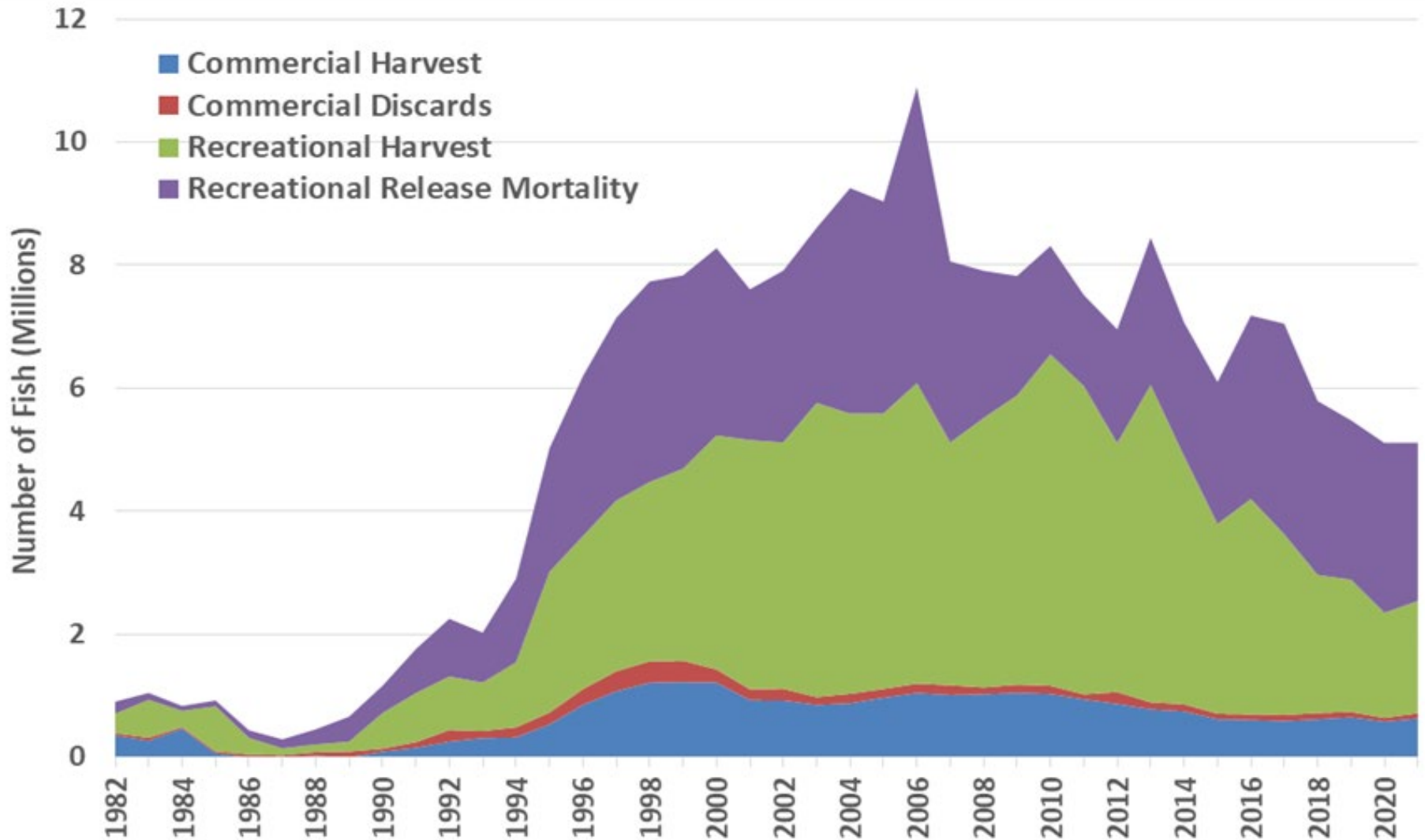


- Amendment 7 approved in May 2022 and builds on Add. VI action to address overfishing and initiate rebuilding
- New requirements established for:
 - Management triggers
 - Conservation equivalency
 - Addressing recreational release mortality
 - Stock rebuilding plan
- Amendment 7 provisions effective May 2022, except gear restrictions (implemented by January 1, 2023)

Status of the Fishery



Total striped bass removals by sector in numbers of fish



Status of the Fishery - 2021



- 2021 total removals = 5.1 million fish
 - About the same as 2020 removals (less than 1% increase)
- Proportion of total removals in numbers of fish

Year	Commercial		Recreational	
	Harvest	Dead Discards	Harvest	Release Mortality
2019	12%	2%	39%	47%
2020	11%	1%	33%	54%
2021	12%	2%	36%	50%

Status of the Fishery - 2021



- Commercial Fishery
 - Harvested 4.29 million lbs. (577,363 fish) in 2021
 - 18% increase by weight from 2020 (9% increase by number)
 - Ches. Bay accounted for 57% of harvest by weight
 - Dead discards estimated 85,676 fish (<2% of total removals)
- Notably, the ocean commercial quota utilization increased to 76% in 2021

Commercial Quota



State	Add VI (base)	2021 Quota [^]	2021 Harvest	Overage	% Utilization
Ocean					
Maine*	154	154	-	-	0%
New Hampshire*	3,537	3,537	-	-	0%
Massachusetts	713,247	735,240	732,071	0	99%
Rhode Island	148,889	148,889	130,308	0	87%
Connecticut*	14,607	14,607	-	-	0%
New York	652,552	640,718	629,491	0	98%
New Jersey**	197,877	215,912	-	-	0%
Delaware	118,970	142,474	140,250	0	98%
Maryland	74,396	89,094	88,652 ⁺	0	99%
Virginia	113,685	125,034	119,921	0	96%
North Carolina	295,495	295,495	0	0	0%
Ocean Total	2,333,409	2,411,154	1,840,693	0	76%
Chesapeake Bay					
Maryland	2,588,603	1,445,394	1,305,276 ⁺	0	90%
Virginia		983,393	729,736	0	74%
PRFC		572,861	400,414	0	70%
Bay Total		3,001,648	2,435,126	0	81%

[^] 2021 quota changed through conservation equivalency

Status of the Fishery - 2021



- Recreational Fishery
 - Harvested 1.82 million fish (15.7 million lbs) in 2021
 - 6% increase in harvest relative to 2020 (# of fish)
 - Released alive 28.6 million fish → 2.6 million fish assumed to have died
 - 7% decrease in live releases from 2020
- Different trends by region
 - Ocean: increased harvest, live releases, directed trips in 2021
 - Chesapeake Bay: decreased harvest, live releases, directed trips in 2021

Status of the Fishery - 2021



- PRT notes several factors likely contributing to levels of commercial harvest and recreational catch/effort, including
 - Year class availability
 - Nearshore availability
 - Angler behavior
 - COVID-19 impacts



STATUS OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Addendum VI



- In 2021, a 27% reduction in total removals coastwide (numbers of fish) was realized relative to total removals coastwide in 2017

	Commercial		Recreational		Total	
	Commercial Removals	% Change from 2017	Rec. Removals	% Change from 2017	Total Removals	% Change from 2017
2017	691,471	-	6,359,021	-	7,050,492	-
2020	641,711	-7%	4,470,204	-30%	5,111,915	-27.5%
2021	720,228	+4%	4,397,415	-31%	5,117,643	-27.4%

Addendum VI: Recreational



State	2021 Realized % Change Recreational Harvest from 2017	2021 Realized % Change Recreational Release Mortality from 2017	2021 Realized % Change Rec. Removals (Harvest + Release Mortality) from 2017	Predicted % Change in Rec. Removals from CE Plan
Maine	-42%	-25%	-26%	NA
New Hampshire	-88%	-71%	-75%	NA
Massachusetts	-54%	-64%	-61%	NA
Rhode Island	-4%	+91%	+62%	NA
Connecticut	-78%	-41%	-48%	NA
New York	-71%	+13%	-42%	-23.8%
New Jersey	+22%	+237%	+76%	-25%
Delaware	-66%	+11%	-31%	-20%
Maryland	-47%	-50%	-48%	-20.6%
Virginia	-52%	-69%	-61%	-23.4%
North Carolina [^]	-	+305%	+305%	NA
Coastwide Total	-38%	-25%	-31%	

[^]Offshore rec. harvest for NC was 0 fish in 2017 and 2021. Offshore release mortality for NC was 463 fish in 2017 and 1,875 fish in 2021.
Note: Increased recreational releases in NY, NJ, and DE contributed to realized reductions in total recreational removals being less than predicted for those states.

Addendum VI: Commercial



State	% Change in Commercial Harvest by weight from 2017	% Change in Commercial Quota ⁺
	2021	Add VI
Ocean		
Maine		
New Hampshire		
Massachusetts	-11%	-18%*
Rhode Island	-26%	-18%
Connecticut		
New York	-10%	-18%*
New Jersey		
Delaware	-1%	-1.8%
Maryland (ocean)	+10%	-1.8%
Virginia (ocean)	-10%	-9.8%
North Carolina [^]	-	-18%
Ocean Total	-10%	
Chesapeake Bay		
Maryland (Ches. Bay)	-9%	-1.8%
PRFC (Ches. Bay)	-17%	-1.8%
Virginia (Ches. Bay)	-12%	-7.7%
Chesapeake Bay Total	-11%	

Note: Some quotas changed through CE, including some states chose a less than 18% commercial quota reduction in exchange for a greater than 18% reduction in recreational removals in their CE plans.

Amend. 7 Recruitment Trigger



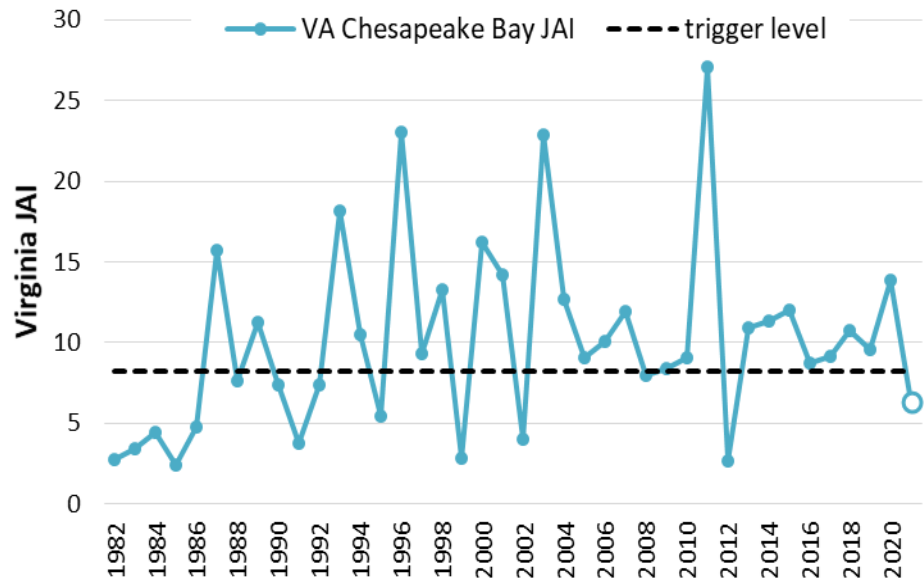
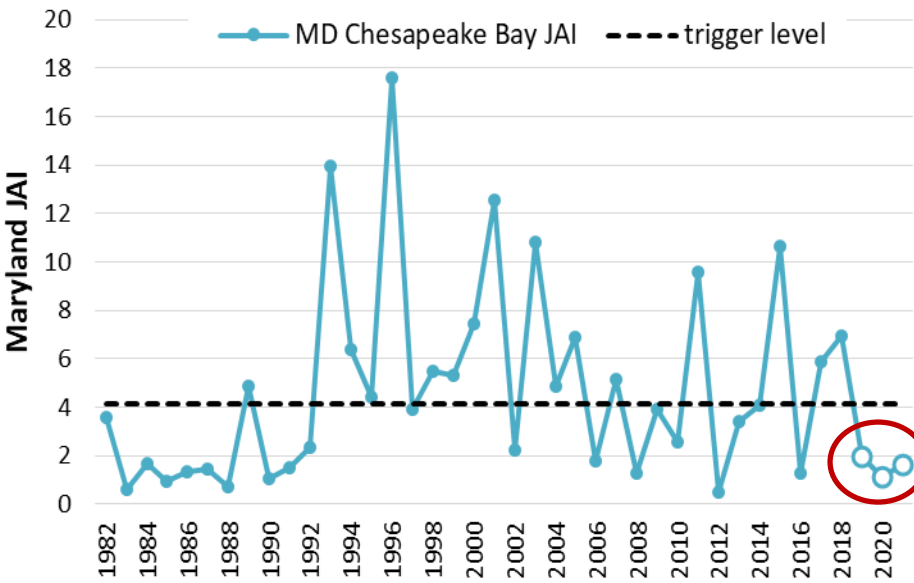
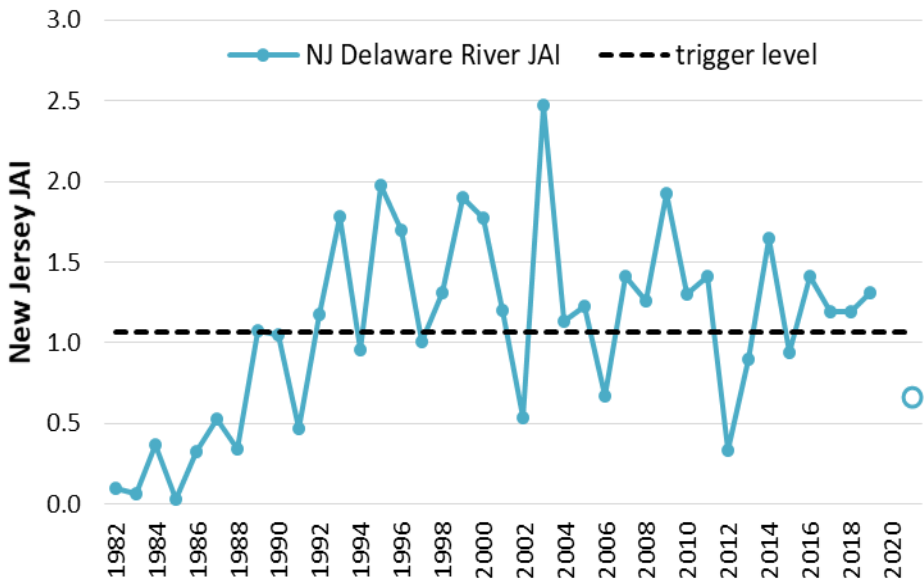
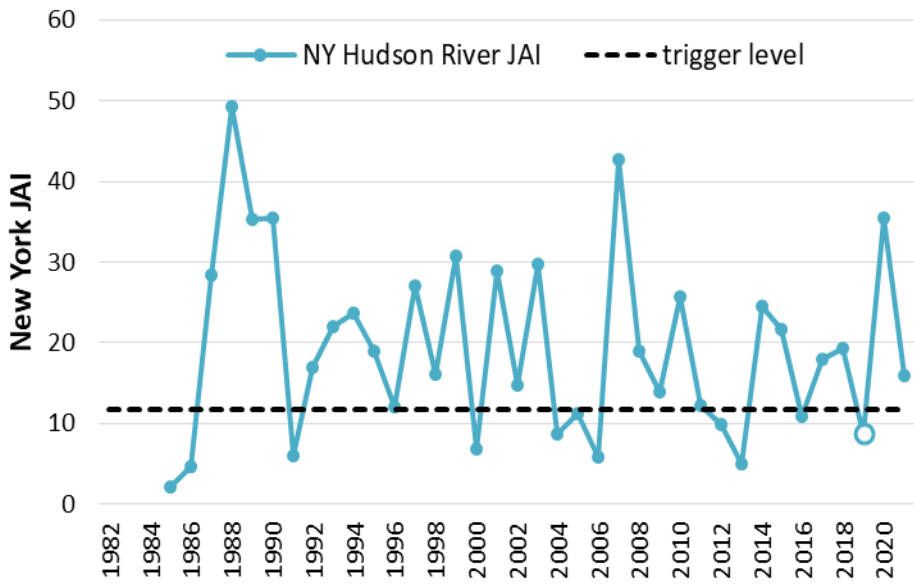
- IF any of the four JAIs used in the assessment (NY, NJ, MD, VA) is below 75% of all values from 1992-2006 (high recruitment period) for three consecutive years...
- THEN interim F reference points calculated using the low recruitment assumption will be implemented

Amend. 7 Recruitment Trigger



- Reviewed 2019, 2020, 2021 JAI values →
- Maryland JAI meets the recruitment trigger criteria
- So, F reference points will be calculated using the low recruitment assumption in the upcoming 2022 assessment update

Amend. 7 Recruitment Trigger



PRT Comments



In 2021, all states implemented a management and monitoring program consistent with the provisions of the FMP, with three inconsistencies:

PRT Comments



- New York's recreational regulations state a slot limit of "28" to 35" TL". This does not explicitly indicate whether the upper limit is inclusive or not.
 - NY's implementation plan predicted a greater than 18% reduction calculating for less than 35" upper bound. If the slot was inclusive of 35", the predicted reduction still would have been greater than 18%.
 - Future reduction calculations to recognize NY's regulation as different from the FMP standard of 28" to less than 35".

PRT Comments



- Maryland's 2021 summer closure period (no targeting July 16-31) is different from their approved 2020 summer closure period (no targeting August 16-31). In August 2021, Maryland stated their intent to continue with the July 16-31 closure period.

PRT Comments



- Pennsylvania implemented the circle hook requirement in the tidal portion of the Delaware River (downstream from the Calhoun St. Bridge), but not in the non-tidal waters upstream from that point.
 - This aligns with Pennsylvania’s approved implementation plan, which specified only a recommendation for the non-tidal portion.
 - Pennsylvania noted the targeted striped bass fishery in the non-tidal portion is very limited with low numbers of striped bass utilizing upriver habitat.

PRT Comments



- Circle hook requirements
 - There are differences among definitions of bait; some states have more restrictive definitions
 - Several states have already implemented the incidental catch guidance (now required by Jan 2023)
- No requests for *de minimis* status

PRT Recommendations



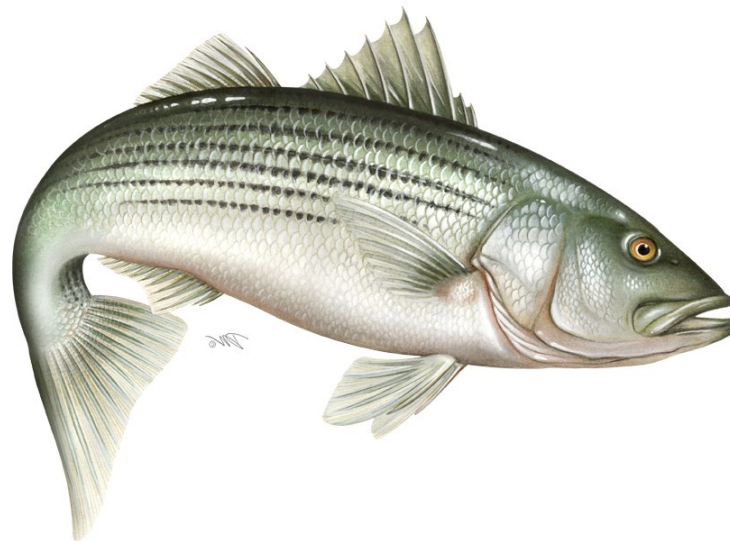
- Update the compliance report template to request updated tag accounting information
- PRT recommends ASMFC staff work with the Law Enforcement Committee to regularly follow-up with all states on tag accounting
- PRT recommends the Board task the PRT with a specific review of the commercial tagging program at a regular interval to review the program components, such as the biological metrics used to allocate tags

PRT Recommendations



- PRT recommends the Board consult with the Law Enforcement Committee to determine what type of enforcement information would be most helpful for states to include in compliance reports
 - Enforcement information currently provided in compliance reports is widely varied

Questions?





Striped Bass TC Request for Guidance

Katie Drew, ASMFC

August 2, 2022

Outline



- Amendment 7 requirements
 - Fast-track response to 2022 update
 - Changes to use of CE plans
- Review assessment update timeline
- Request for guidance to maintain timeline

Amendment 7: Fast Track Response



- IF the assessment update indicates:
 - There is less than a 50% chance of rebuilding the stock by 2029
- AND
- At least a 5% reduction in removals is needed to achieve *F* rebuild
- THEN the Board may adjust measures via Board action (i.e., by voting on measures at a Board meeting)

Amendment 7: CE Changes



- Commercial & recreational measures from Addendum VI are maintained
 - Commercial: 18% reduction from Add. IV quotas
 - Recreational:
 - Ocean: 1 fish at 28" to <35"
 - Bay: 1 fish at 18" minimum size
- All approved Add. VI CE plans are maintained until the measures are changed

Amendment 7: CE Changes



→ CE programs will not be approved for non-quota managed recreational fisheries when the stock is overfished

(With exceptions for the Hudson River, Delaware River, and Delaware Bay recreational fisheries)

2022 Update Timeline



- Jun. 15:** All data submitted
- Aug. 10:** TC call to review preliminary runs and projections
- Week of **Sep. 19:** TC call to approve final report & review proposed measures (if necessary)
- Week of **Oct. 10:** TC call to approve final proposed measures (if necessary)
- Oct. 24:** Final report sent to Board as part of meeting materials
- Week of **Nov. 7:** Board meeting

Request for Guidance



- If the stock assessment indicates a 5% or greater reduction in removals is needed, the TC will provide the Board with a small set of potential options to achieve that reduction, along with the assessment report
- The Board will have the option to approve a set of measures for 2023 at the Annual Meeting in November or at a later meeting
 - Separate stand-alone webinar in late 2022 or early 2023
 - Winter Meeting 2023
 - Board decision

Request for Guidance



- How to handle existing CE plans when starting reduction calculations
- Details on preferred management options for the Bay and ocean

Current CE Measures: Ocean



State	Recreational Fisheries	Commercial Fisheries
ME		
NH		
MA		CE in place
RI		
CT		
NY	CE (Hudson River) in place*	CE in place
NJ	CE in place	CE in place
PA	CE (Delaware River) in place*	n/a
DE	CE (Delaware R./Bay) in place*	CE in place
MD		CE in place
VA	CE in place	CE in place
NC		

**Hudson River and Delaware River/Bay recreational fisheries can use CE under Amendment 7*

Current CE Measures: Bay



State	Recreational Fisheries	Commercial Fisheries
DC		<i>n/a</i>
MD	CE in place	CE in place
PRFC	CE in place	CE in place
VA	CE in place	CE in place

CE Plans Moving Forward



- The TC recommends using the current set of management measures and resulting level of 2021 removals as the starting point for calculating the potential reduction of any measures
- 2021 removals were the result of the 2021 measures, including CE plans

CE Plans Moving Forward



- TC will develop a new set of management measures that would achieve the required reduction relative to the 2021 commercial quotas and 2021 recreational size limits/bag limits/seasons
- Some CE measures could be retained under the new regulations, e.g.,
 - New quotas will be based on 2021 CE quotas
 - Season changes could be maintained if new regs only address size or bag limit changes

CE Plans Moving Forward



- Alternatively, the Board could require all states to revert to the FMP standard and calculate a reduction from there
- This would increase the uncertainty in any reduction calculations, since we don't know what removals would have actually been under the FMP standard

CE Plans Moving Forward



- Final decision on what to do with existing CE measures belongs to the Board

Guidance on Options



- How should the reduction be split between the commercial and recreational sectors?
- What recreational measures should be considered for the ocean and the Bay?
 - Minimum size limit, different slot limit, seasonal closures?
- If considering seasonal closures, would the Board prefer a consistent coastwide closure or flexibility for states to choose closure dates (e.g., within a particular wave)?

Board Discussion



- Guidance on timing for Board vote on new measures (Nov 2022 or early 2023) and implementation timeline for 2023 season
- Guidance on handling existing CE measures when developing new options
- Guidance on preferred management options (sector split, size limits, seasons, Ocean/Bay)



Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum I to Amendment 7 For Board Review

Commercial Quota Transfer for the Ocean Region



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
August 2, 2022

Background/Problem Statement



- In February 2021, the PID for Draft Amendment 7 included the coastal commercial quota allocation issue
- In August 2021, the Board initiated an addendum to consider allowing voluntary commercial quota transfers
 - Transfers of commercial quota only between states with commercial quota
 - Bay jurisdictions have a separate commercial quota from the ocean region
 - Immediate relief for states seeking changes in commercial allocation



Timeline



Date	Action
August 2021	Board initiated Draft Addendum
Aug-Oct 2021	PDT develops Draft Addendum document
October 2021	Board deferred consideration until May 2022 (later postponed until August 2022)
August 2022	Board considers next steps
Aug-Oct 2022	Public comment (if approved for public comment)
November 2022	Consider selecting final measures

Note: This timeline is subject to change per the direction of the Board.



Timeline



October 2021:

Move to defer until May 2022 consideration by the Striped Bass Board of Draft Addendum VII to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Plan to allow further development and review of the transfer options.

now known as Draft Addendum I to Amendment 7



Consider Next Steps



Board action for consideration today: next steps for Draft Addendum I

To move forward, potential next steps are:

- Approve draft addendum for public comment today

OR

- Provide additional guidance to PDT and consider revised draft at future Board meeting



Addendum Outline



1. Introduction
2. Overview
 - Statement of the Problem
 - Background*
3. Proposed Management Program
4. Compliance Schedule

**If Draft Addendum 1 moves forward, the background section will be updated with 2021 data and summary of final Amendment 7 provisions*



Addendum Outline



1. Introduction
2. Overview
 - Statement of the Problem
 - Background
- 3. Proposed Management Program**
4. Compliance Schedule



Proposed Options



- **Option A. Status Quo-no transfers permitted**
- **Option B. Allow voluntary transfers of ocean commercial quota**
 - Occur up to 45 days after last day of calendar year
 - Must receive letter from giving and receiving state
 - No limit on the poundage of a transfer
 - Transfer is approved after written correspondence from commission
 - Transfers are final upon receipt of letters
 - Transfers do not permanently impact state shares
 - States are still responsible for quota overages of transferred quota



PDT Recommendation



- Significant concerns with adding ocean region commercial quota transfers at this time
- If the document is approved, recommend adding the PDT concerns to the draft for public comment
- PDT concerns were previously raised when the same issue was discussed under Draft Add IV in 2014



PDT Concerns



- #1. Concern transfers could undermine the goals and objectives of the Addendum VI reductions
 - Commercial fishery consistently underutilized quota (due to fish availability and state specific measures)
 - Assumed the commercial fishery would perform as it had in the past in order to achieve the commercial reduction
 - This assumption would be violated if transfer are permitted



PDT Concerns



- #2. A pound of commercial quota is not equal across all states
 - Through CE state commercial size limits have been adjusted, resulting in changes to their quota
 - Add VI CE: MA increased its com minimum size limit, which increased its quota
 - Add VI CE: NY lowered its commercial slot limit minimum, which decreased its quota
 - Given additional time the PDT might be able to address this issue



Consider Next Steps



Board action for consideration today: next steps for Draft Addendum I

To move forward, potential next steps are:

- Approve draft addendum for public comment today

OR

- Provide additional guidance to PDT and consider revised draft at future Board meeting





QUESTIONS?