



# Long Island Sound Commercial Management Measures for 2018 & Technical Committee Report



Presented to the Tautog Management Board  
May 2018

# Outline



- **Connecticut proposal for 2018 commercial tautog measures**
  - Technical Committee Report
- **New York 2018 commercial tautog measures for Long Island Sound**
  - Technical Committee Report

# Background



- The 2016 regional stock assessment for tautog found that the Long Island Sound (LIS) stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring.
- Amendment 1 to the Tautog FMP requires a 20.3% reduction to total tautog harvest (commercial and recreational) in LIS.
- New York and Connecticut have applied the reduction to their recreational measures, and New York has applied it to their commercial measures.

# Connecticut Proposal



- Connecticut proposes status quo measures for their commercial tautog fishery in 2018
- Rationale:
  - 20.3% reduction creates a greater than expected hardship for CT commercial tautog fishery participants
  - CT reduced average commercial harvest by 66% from 2008-2011 to 2012-2015
  - CT average commercial harvest from 2013-2015 is 6,100 lbs annually, equal to 0.5% of total LIS harvest (commercial and recreational)
- CT's status quo harvest would result in 0.1% projected overage in tautog harvest for the LIS management region in 2018.



# CT 2018 Commercial Tautog Measures

Minimum Length (inches)	Bag Limit	Season Dates	Total Season Days
16	10*	04/01-04/30 07/01-08/3 10/08-12/24	170

**\*Unless holder of a restricted license; then 3 fish**

# Technical Committee Report



- The Technical Committee (TC) met via conference call on April 23, 2018 to review CT's proposal
- TC review found that CT maintaining status quo commercial measures would likely not have a negative impact on the LIS stock.
- Caveat: If 2018 harvest increases from 2017, the measures should be reevaluated.

# Technical Committee Report



- The TC also reviewed New York's 2018 commercial tautog measures for the LIS region
- The TC approved the methodology and agreed that the measures achieve the required reduction

Minimum Length (inches)	Bag Limit	Season Dates	Total Season Days	Projected Harvest (lbs)
15	25*	05/07-07/31 9/01-11/23	170	204,836

\*10 fish per vessel when fishing lobster pot gear and more than six lobsters are in possession

# Next Steps



- Consider approval of the Connecticut proposal for commercial tautog measures in 2018.
- Task the Tautog Technical Committee with exploring means by which more consistent and equitable inter-state commercial LIS tautog measures could be crafted



# QUESTIONS?





# Table 1. Proposed LIS commercial tautog regulations for NY and CT in 2018.

State		Min Length (inches)	Bag Limit	Season Open/Close Dates	Total Season Days
NY	2018 Proposed	15	25*	05/07-07/31 09/01-11/23	170
CT	2018 Preferred	16	10**	04/01-04/30 07/01-08/31 10/08-12/24	170
CT	2018 Non-Preferred	16	10**	04/01-04/30 07/01-08/31 10/10-11/28	142
CT	20.3% Reduction	16	10**	***	114

\*Unless fishing with lobster gear and in possession of >6 lobsters; then 10 fish

\*\*Unless holder of a restricted license; then 4 fish

\*\*\*CT has not yet determined season open/close dates associated with a 114 day commercial season