



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Tautog Management Board Webinar Summary

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Tautog Management Board
September 1, 2020

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Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

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TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (September 1, 2020)

Meeting Summary

The Tautog Management Board met to receive updates on (1) the implementation of the commercial tagging program in 2020 and into 2021 and (2) progress on the development of the 2021 stock assessment update. Starting in March 2020, a number of states indicated the need to delay distribution of tags or implementation of the program entirely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ultimately, Connecticut and New York did not implement the tagging program in 2020 but intend to do so in 2021. In planning for the 2021 fishing season, staff outlined considerations for the states in coordinating the ordering and delivery of tags and applicators to ensure that these items are received by the states in enough time prior to the start of the fishing season. With the exception of New York, all states intend to purchase new tags with the year 2021 indicated on the tags. New York did not distribute any tags to its commercial harvesters and requested the Board allow an exception for them to use 2020 tags for the 2021 fishing season. Staff summarized comments provided by the Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) that supported New York's request so long as it was an exception for one year and for only one state, otherwise it could present enforcement challenges. With enough notice and only one state exempt from using 2021 marked tags, the LEC indicated this would not pose enforcement issues. After an extensive discussion, the Board approved New York's request. The Board is committed to fully implementing the tagging program in 2021. Staff will follow up with the states to help coordinate the shift to states ordering the tags and applicators directly from National Band and Tag Company.

The Board was also given a progress update on the 2021 Stock Assessment Update. Staff highlighted that the Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) has been repopulated and work to evaluate state data and revised MRIP recreational harvest estimates has begun. The SAS will continue work through the fall, with initial evaluation of model runs in early 2021 using data through 2019. Once data from 2020 is available, the goal will be to incorporate that into the assessment as well. The 2021 Assessment Update is tentatively scheduled to be completed by the early fall 2021 for the Board's consideration at the 2021 Annual Meeting. This schedule may change depending on data availability.

Lastly, the Board elected Mike Luisi (MD) as Vice-Chair. For more information please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to approve New York's request to use 2020 tags for the 2021 fishing season as part of the Commercial Harvest Tagging Program. Only commercial tags with the indicated year of '2020' will be allowed in New York; all other states will use commercial tags with the year '2021'.

Motion made by Ms. Davidson and seconded by Mr. McKiernan. Motion passes (7 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 null).

Move to elect Mike Luisi as Vice-Chair of the Tautog Management Board

Motion made by Dr. Davis and seconded by Mr. McKiernan. Motion approved by consensus.