ASMFC Stock Status Overview

This document provides an overview of stock status for the Commission’s 24 managed species or species groups. Graphs contain the most recent information available and have been vetted through the relevant species technical committee. Where biomass data is lacking, other fishery indicators are used (i.e., landings, fishing mortality rates). Time frames differ based on data availability.

June 2014

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries
## Quick Guide to ASMFC Species Stock Status

*(Current as of June 2014)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATUS/TRENDS</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>OVERFISHED</th>
<th>OVERFISHING</th>
<th>REBUILDING STATUS &amp; SCHEDULE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>Depleted</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Board approved restrictions to yellow and silver eel fisheries in 2013 and considers limits to glass eel fisheries in 2014 in response to 2012 benchmark assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Gulf of Maine (GOM)</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>GOM and GBK stocks rebuilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Georges Bank (GBK)</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Board approved 10% reduction in exploitation on SNE stock as 1st phase in rebuilding program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Southern New England (SNE)</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Board approved trap reductions in Areas 2 &amp; 3 pending NOAA Fisheries rulemaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>American Shad</td>
<td>Depleted</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Amendment 3 establishes 2013 moratorium unless sustainability can be documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Atlantic Croaker</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Overfished status unknown; however, biomass has been increasing and age structure has been expanding since late 1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Atlantic Herring</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Rebuilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Atlantic Menhaden</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Amendment 2 implements ~25% reduction from 2011 levels, beginning in 2013; benchmark assessment scheduled for 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Atlantic Striped Bass</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Rebuilt since 1995 although female SSB has continued to decline since 2004; Board to consider management response for 2015 implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Atlantic Sturgeon</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>40+ year moratorium; to be rebuilt by ~2038; listed in 2012 under the ESA; benchmark assessment scheduled for 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Status 1</td>
<td>Status 2</td>
<td>Stock Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Rebuilt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Rebuilt</td>
<td>Biomass above threshold but below target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Sharks</td>
<td>Varies by species &amp; species complex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe Crab</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Shrimp</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPR above target and threshold SPRs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Drum</td>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SPR above target and threshold SPRs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Region</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SPR above threshold SPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
<td>Depleted</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Amendment 2 establishes 2012 moratorium unless sustainability can be documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Rebuilt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mackerel</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Rebuilt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiny Dogfish</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Rebuilt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Omnibus Amendment establishes stock status triggers until coastwide assessment can be conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Spotted Seatrout</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Omnibus Amendment includes measures to protect spawning stock and establishes 12” minimum size limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>√</td>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Rebuilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Current biomass at 40% of SSB target; F target reduced to 0.15 to initiate stock rebuilding; benchmark assessment scheduled for 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>Depleted</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>6-year rebuilding period if spawning stock biomass &lt; threshold level; Board approved further harvest restrictions based on 2009 benchmark assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>Gulf of Maine</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓</td>
<td>South New England/Mid-Atlantic</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Current biomass at 16% of SSB target</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What Does a Status Mean?**

**Depleted** - Reflects low levels of abundance though it is unclear whether fishing mortality is the primary cause for reduced stock size

**Overfished** - Occurs when stock biomass falls below the threshold established by the FMP, significantly reducing the stock’s reproductive capacity to replace fish removed through harvest.

**Overfishing** - Occurs when fish are removed from a population at a rate that exceeds the threshold established in the FMP, which over the long-term will lead to declines in the population.

**Rebuilding** - Stock biomass is approaching the target level established by the FMP to ensure population sustainability.

**Rebuilt** - Stock biomass is equal to or above the biomass level established by the FMP to ensure population sustainability.

**Stable/Unchanged** - Stock biomass has been consistent in recent years.

**Unknown** - There is no accepted stock assessment to estimate the stock status.

**Benchmark stock assessment** - A full analysis and review of stock condition, focusing on the consideration of new data sources and newer or improved assessment models. This assessment is generally conducted every 3-5 years and undergoes a formal peer review by a panel of independent scientists who evaluate whether the data and the methods used to produce the assessment are scientifically sound and appropriate for management use.

**Stock assessment update** - Incorporates data from the most recent years into a peer-reviewed assessment model to determine current stock status (abundance and overfishing levels).
Overview of Stock Status
American Eel, *Anguilla rostrata*

**Timeline of Management Actions:** FMP (1999); Addendum I (2006); Addendum II (2008), Addendum III (2013)

**Management Considerations:**
**Condition:** Depleted (2012 Benchmark Stock Assessment Report).

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:** Protect and enhance the abundance of American eel in inland and territorial waters of the Atlantic states and jurisdiction and contribute to the viability of the American eel spawning population and provide for sustainable fisheries by preventing overharvest.

**FMP Status:**
FMP approved in 2000, implemented in 2001. Addendum I, approved in 2006, required mandatory reporting of catch and effort data. Addendum II, approved in 2008, advocates for increased emphasis on improving upstream and downstream passage for American eel. Addendum III, approved in 2013, implements a 9” minimum size limit for recreational and commercial yellow eel fisheries, a seasonal closure of silver eel fisheries, a 25 recreational fish per day creel limit, increased reporting and measures to restrict the development of fisheries on pigmented eels.

**Primary Management Measures:** Recreational fisheries are managed by minimum size limits and possession limits. Commercial fisheries are managed by a minimum size limits and other restrictions such as gear restrictions, possession limits and licenses as determined by each state.

Updated December 2013
Overview of Stock Status
Gulf of Maine & Georges Bank Stocks of American Lobster, *Homarus americanus*

Gulf of Maine Lobster Abundance Reference Points, 1982 - 2007
Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Gulf of Maine Lobster Exploitation Reference Points, 1982 - 2007
Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Georges Bank Lobster Abundance Reference Points, 1982 - 2007
Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Georges Bank Lobster Exploitation Reference Points, 1982 - 2007
Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Timeline of Management Actions: Amendment 3 ('97); Addendum I ('99); Addendum II ('01); Addendum III ('02); Addenda IV & V ('04); Addenda VI & VII ('05); Addenda X & XI ('07); Addendum XIII ('08); Addendum XIV ('09); Addendum XV ('09); Addendum XVI ('10); Addendum XVII ('11); Addendum XVIII ('12); Addenda XIX – XXIII ('03)

December 2013
Overview of Stock Status
Southern New England Stock of American Lobster, *Homarus americanus*

**Southern New England Lobster Abundance Reference Points, 1982 - 2007**

Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

**Southern New England Lobster Exploitation Reference Points, 1982 - 2007**

Source: ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment, 2009

Timeline of Management Actions: Amendment 3 (’97); Addendum I (’99); Addendum II (’01); Addendum III (’02); Addenda IV & V (’04); Addenda VI & VII (’05); Addenda X & XI (’07); Addendum XIII (’08); Addendum XIV (’09); Addendum XV (’09); Addendum XVI (’10); Addendum XVII (’11); Addendum XVIII (’12); Addenda XIX – XXIII (’03)

**Management Considerations:**

**Condition FMP:**
- Gulf of Maine – Favorable abundance; exploitation falls in the middle of the range
- Georges Bank – Abundance and exploitation are in favorable condition
- Southern New England – Abundance is below reference point limit; Board action is required to rebuild stock

**Stock Rebuilding Goals:**

Addendum XVI establishes a four-tiered approach to define abundance reference points in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GBK), a four-tiered approach to define exploitation reference points for all three stock units, and a three-tiered approach to define abundance reference points for Southern New England (SNE). The Board set the SNE abundance reference points to a lower target level than the GOM and GBK stocks because it believes the SNE stock has limited ability to rebuild to higher historical levels.

**FMP Status:**

Amendment 3 (Dec 1997) and Addenda I – XIV, established 7 management areas and specific management measures to meet the rebuilding schedule by 2022. Addendum XII establishes guidelines for areas implementing a transferable trap program. Addendum XIII finalized the Outer Cape Cod’s effort control plan. Addendum XIV alters LCMA trap transfer program. Addendum XV establishes limited entry for LCMA 1 federal water fishermen. Addendum XVI establishes new biological reference points to determine stock status for three stock units. Addendum XVII institutes a 10% reduction in exploitation by all fishing sectors and all gear types starting January 1, 2013 as the first phase in the Board’s efforts to rebuild the Southern New England stock. Addenda XVIII and XIX, address the second phase of rebuilding efforts by proposing area-specific measures to scale the scope of the Southern New England fishery to the size of the resource. Addendum XX, approved in 2013, establishes bottom-sharing in Closed Area 2 in order to protect large concentrations of egg-bearing females and prevent gear conflicts. Addenda XXI and XXII, approved in 2013, implement changes to the trap transferability program for Areas 2 and 3.

**Primary Management Measures:** Lobster is managed through 7 specific management areas. Each area has unique regulations that could include minimum/maximum size limits, trap limits, and v-notching definitions.

December 2013
Overview of Stock Status
Atlantic Herring, *Clupea harengus*

Management Considerations:
Condition: Not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. SSB rebuilt.

FMP Reference Points and Current Values:
- SSB Target = 157,000 mt (345 million lbs)
- SSB Threshold = 78,500 mt (173 million lbs)
- 2011 SSB = 518,000 mt

Fishing Mortality Threshold ($F_{MSY}$) = 0.27
- 2011 $F$ = 0.14

FMP Status:
Amendment 2, approved in January 2006, was developed to achieve optimum yield on a continuing basis for the US fishery and to prevent overfishing of the Atlantic herring resource. Technical Addendum I to Amendment 2 (August 2006) clarifies zero tolerance spawning closures. Addendum I to Amendment 2 (March 2009) gives the Section the flexibility to distribute the Area 1A quota seasonally. Addendum II (November 2010) modified the process to set specifications and the definitions (including associated acronyms) used to set the specifications. Addendum V (October 2012) refined and clarified the spawning regulations through a comprehensive addendum. It specified when closures are triggered based on the % of stage III – V spawn herring that are greater than or equal to 23 cm in length. It also increased the number of samples states are required collect from 50 to 100 (states are currently sampling at this level). Addendum VI (2013) complemented the federal Atlantic Herring FMP’s Framework 2 by allowing consistent measures for the four management areas: seasonal splitting of annual catch limit sub-components, up to 10% carry-over of unused sub-ACLs, triggers to close directed fisheries, and using the specifications process to set triggers.

Primary Management Measures:
Annual total allowable catch is determined based on the optimum yield of the coastal stock complex and divided between 4 management areas. Effort is controlled by selecting ‘days out’ of the fishery, on which fishermen cannot land more than a bycatch allowance of 2,000 lbs; area closures during spawning events; and closure of a directed fishery when 92% of the sub-quota is projected to be reached, and when 95% of the stockwide ACL is projected to be reached. The Section set specifications for the 2013-2015 fishing seasons through consultation with the New England Fishery Management Council.

Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1993); Amendment 1 (1999); Amendment 2 (2006); Addendum I (2009); Addendum II (2010); Addendum V (2010); Addendum VI (2013)
Overview of Stock Status
Atlantic Croaker, *Micropogonias undulatus*

Trends in Atlantic Croaker Spawning Stock Biomass & 
Fishing Mortality Rate (Source: 2010 ASMFC Atlantic Croaker 
Stock Assessment Report)

Spawning Stock Biomass
Fishing Mortality Rate

Atlantic Croaker Commercial Landings and Recreational 
Landings & Releases (Source: NMFS Fisheries Statistics 
Division, Silver Spring, MD, 2013)

Management Considerations:
Condition: Not experiencing overfishing. Although model estimates of spawning stock biomass (SSB) were too uncertain to be used to precisely determine overfished stock status, biomass has been increasing and the age-structure of the population has been expanding since the late 1980s.

FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals (Addendum I):
- Fishing Mortality Rate Threshold = $F_{MSY}$ (or a reasonable proxy thereof) based upon the best available scientific information.
- Fishing Mortality Rate Target ($F_{target}$) = a fraction of the $F$ threshold. $F$ target is the rebuilding rate.
- Exceeding $F$ threshold constitutes overfishing.
- Biomass target = $B_{MSY}$ (or a reasonable proxy thereof) based on the best available scientific information. $B$ target is the rebuilt level.
- Biomass threshold = a fraction of the biomass target.
- Falling below $B$ threshold constitutes overfished

FMP Rebuilding Schedule:
None; FMP specifies rebuilding schedule will be established if necessary

FMP Status:
Amendment 1 was adopted in November 2005 Addendum I was approved in 2010 to revise the management area (change to coastwide stock versus Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic stock components) and biological reference points.

Primary Management Measures:
Amendment 1 established biological reference points for the Mid-Atlantic region and established a benchmark stock assessment to be conducted every five years. In each non-assessment year, the Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee is to tasked to conduct a set of “trigger” exercises to review Atlantic Croaker data. Although the plan does not require states to implement specific management measures, some states have implemented size and bag limits.

July 2013
Overview of Stock Status
Atlantic Menhaden, *Brevoortia tyrannus*

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**Atlantic Menhaden Fecundity**

*Source: ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Update, 2012*

**Atlantic Menhaden Fishing Mortality (Full F)**

*Source: ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Update, 2012*

Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1981); FMP Revision (1991); Amendment 1 (2001); Addendum I (2004); Addendum II (2005); Addendum III (2006); Addendum IV (2009); Addendum V (2011); Amendment 2 (2012); Technical Addendum I (2013)

**Management Considerations**

**Condition:** Based on the terminal year of the assessment (2011), the stock is experiencing overfishing, but it is unknown if the stock is overfished. The uncertainty in the overfished determination comes from conflicting results of sensitivity runs explored in the 2012 stock assessment update.

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**

- Fecundity Target ($SSB_{Target}$) = 61.1 trillion maturing or ripe eggs
- Fecundity Threshold ($SSB_{Threshold}$) = 30.55 trillion maturing or ripe eggs
- Current Fecundity (2011) = 13.3 trillion maturing or ripe eggs

- Fishing Mortality Target (Full F) $F_{30\%MSP}$ = 0.62
- Fishing Mortality Threshold (Full F) $F_{15\%MSP}$ = 1.34
- Current Fishing Mortality (2011) = 4.5

**FMP Status:** Amendment 1 adopted in June 2001. Addendum I established new biological reference points and changed the frequency of assessments to every 3 years. Addendum II initiated a research program to assess the status of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay. Addendum III set a harvest cap in Chesapeake Bay for the reduction fishery, allowing annual adjustments for harvest overages and underages; these provisions were extended through 2013 through Addendum IV. Addendum V established new fishing mortality reference points based on MSP. Amendment 2, adopted in December 2012, establishes a 170,800 MT TAC beginning in 2013 and continuing until completion of, and Board action on, the next benchmark stock assessment, scheduled for 2014. The TAC represents a 20% reduction from the average of landings from 2009-2011 and an approximately 25% reduction from 2011 levels. The Amendment also establishes new biological reference points for biomass based on MSP.

**Primary Management Measures:** A 170,800 MT TAC beginning in 2013, which is allocated on a state-by-state basis based on landings history of the fishery from 2009-2011; allocation will be revisited three years after implementation. States will be required to close their fisheries when the state-specific portion of the TAC has been reached; any overages must be paid back the following year. Further, the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery harvest cap will be reduced by 20% (this is an adjustment of cap which was in place since 2006). Technical Addendum I, approved in 2013, further clarifies Amendment 2’s provisions for episodic events.

**Updated 9/13**
Overview of Stock Status
Atlantic Striped Bass, *Morone saxatilis*

**Atlantic Striped Bass Female Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) & Recruitment (Age-1)**
Source: ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Assessment, 2013

**Timeline of Management Actions:** Amendment 1 & 2 (1984); Amendment 3 (1985); Amendment 4 (1990); Amendment 5 (1995); Amendment 6 (2003); Addendum I (2007); Addendum II (2010); Addendum III (2012)

**Management Considerations**
**Condition:** Not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

**FMP Stock Control Rules:**
- SSB target = 159 million pounds
- SSB threshold = 127 million pounds
- New Proposed F target = 0.18 (or 0.27 in Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle/Roanoke)
- New Proposed F threshold = 0.219

**FMP Status:** Amendment 6 (2003) established new biological reference points and includes triggers for Board action. Addendum I (2007) establishes a data collection program to increase the accuracy of discard and discard mortality estimates and recommends an angler education program to reduce discard mortality. In August 2008, the Board approved new estimates of the Amendment 6 biological reference points and improved estimates of female SSB for 1982-2006. Addendum III (2012) establishes a mandatory commercial tagging program for all states and jurisdictions with commercial striped bass fisheries and recommends increasing penalties for illegally harvested fish. Based on the findings of the 2013 benchmark, the Board has initiated development of Draft Addendum IV to adopt new fishing mortality reference points and consider measures to address declining SSB. Draft Addendum to be considered for public comment in August 2014.

**Primary Management Measures:** The commercial fishery is controlled through state-by-state quotas (for coastal and bay fisheries), minimum size limits, and seasons. The recreational fishery is managed through bag and size limits.
Overview of Stock Status
Atlantic Sturgeon, *Acipenser oxyrinchus*

**Fishery-independent Catch Rates of Juvenile Atlantic Sturgeon in Albemarle Sound**
Source: NC Division of Marine Fisheries, 2013

**Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of Hudson River Juvenile Atlantic Sturgeon**
Source: NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation with Survey Data from Hudson River Power Generating Companies, Hudson River Monitoring Program, 2013

**Timeline of Management Actions:**
FMP (1990); Amendment 1 (1998); Addendum I (2001); Addendum II (2005); Addendum III (2006)

**Management Considerations:**
*Condition:* Overfished; NOAA Fisheries listed Atlantic sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act in 2012.

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:** To have at least 20 protected age classes of females in each spawning stock.

**FMP Rebuilding Schedule:** Approximately 20 to 40 years from initiation of Amendment 1 (1998), depending on a number of factors, including individual spawning stock’s maturity rate; longevity; geographic area; and length of prior fishery closures.

**FMP Status:**
FMP approved in 1990; Amendment 1 to the FMP approved and implemented in 1998; Addendum I approved and implemented in 2001; Addendum II approved in May 2005; Addendum III approved in November 2006. Combined, all three Addenda permit the importation of non-indigenous Atlantic sturgeon as well as the development of private Atlantic sturgeon aquaculture facilities in Florida and North Carolina.

**Primary Management Measures:**
Amendment 1 mandated all Atlantic coastal states to enact a moratorium on harvest and possession of Atlantic sturgeon.
Overview of Stock Status
Black Drum, *Pogonias cromis*

Recreational and Commercial Black Drum Landings along the Atlantic Coast
Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse and MRIP, 2013

Management Considerations

**Condition:** Unknown; coastwide benchmark stock assessment is scheduled for 2014.

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:** None

**FMP Rebuilding Schedule:** None

**FMP Status:** The South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board approved the Black Drum FMP in May 2013.

**Primary Management Measures:** The FMP requires all states to maintain current regulations for black drum and implement a maximum possession limit and minimum size limit (of no less than 12 inches) by January 1, 2014. States will be required to further increase the minimum size limit (to no less than 14 inches) by January 1, 2016. The FMP also establishes a management framework to address future concerns or changes in the fishery or population.
Overview of Stock Status
Black Sea Bass, *Centropristis striata*

**Management Considerations:**

**Condition:** Rebuilt. Current F(2011) is 0.21 and SSB is 24.6 million pounds

**FMP Biological Reference Points:**

SSB Target = 24 million pounds  
Fishing Mortality Threshold = 0.44

SSB Threshold = 12 million pounds

**FMP Status:**


**Primary Management Measures:**

Annual total allowable landings (TAL) divided into a state-by-state commercial quota (49% of TAL) and recreational harvest limit (51% of TAL). Coastwide commercial management measures include minimum fish and mesh sizes, as well as pot/trap specifications. The Commission and the MAFMC determine coastwide recreational bag/size limits each year, but in 2011 they set state-by-state regulations for the first time.
Overview of Stock Status
Bluefish, *Pomatomus saltatrix*

Management Considerations
Condition: Rebuilt; not overfished and overfishing is not occurring

FMP Biological Reference Points:
- Biomass threshold \(1/2 \text{B}_{\text{MSY}} = 162,124,830 \text{ lbs (73,526 mt)}\)
- Biomass target = 324,247,455 lbs (147,051 mt)
- \(\text{Biomass}_{2012} = 277,359,163 \text{ lbs (125,808 mt)}\)

FMP Status:
Joint management with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Amendment I approved in July 2000 and implemented in August 2000. The last benchmark stock assessment was reviewed and approved by SAW/SARC in 2005. Addendum I to Amendment I, approved in February 2012, establishes a coastwide sampling program to improve the quantity and quality of information available for use in future bluefish stock assessments.

Primary Management Measures: Annual total allowable landings (TAL) are divided into a commercial quota (17% of TAL) and recreational harvest limit (83% of TAL). Commercial trip limits and seasons are determined on a state-by-state basis. The coastwide recreational bag limit is 15 fish.
Overview of Stock Status
Coastal Sharks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species or Complex Name</th>
<th>Stock Status</th>
<th>References/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overfished</td>
<td>Overfishing is Occurring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porbeagle</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Porbeagle Stock Assessment, ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics Report (2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dusky</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SEDAR 21 (2011); designated a prohibited species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Coastal Sharks</td>
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<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SEDAR 11 (2006); difficult to assess as a species complex due to various life history characteristics/ lack of available data</td>
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<td>Blacktip</td>
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<td>SEDAR 11 (2006)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandbar</td>
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<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SEDAR 21 (2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic Sharpnose</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<td>SEDAR 34 (2013)</td>
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<td>Blacknose</td>
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<td>Y</td>
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<td>SEDAR 21 (2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonnethead</td>
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<td>SEDAR 34 (2013)</td>
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<td>Finetooth</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<td>Smooth Dogfish</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No assessment; benchmark assessment scheduled for 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management Considerations
Condition: See table (left) for stock status information by species and species group.


Primary Management Measures
Commercial and recreational fishermen are prohibited from possessing silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead sharks species from May 15 – July 15 from VA-NJ to protect pupping females. All fishermen, with the exception of commercial fishermen who land smooth dogfish, are required to keep the fins attached to the carcass through landing. Addendum I modifies the FMP to allow commercial fishermen to process (remove the fins) smooth dogfish at sea from March – June of each year but requires a 95-5% carcass to fin ratio for all dressed smooth dogfish carcasses. Addendum II modifies the FMP to allow commercial fishermen to process smooth dogfish year round but requires a 12-88% fin-to-carcass ratio. Addendum III updated the species groupings to ensure consistency with NOAA Fisheries and increased the recreational size limit for hammerhead sharks.

Recreational fishermen are prohibited from harvesting any species that is illegal to land in federal waters. Smooth dogfish are not prohibited (or currently managed) in federal waters and anglers may harvest them. Recreational fishing is controlled through possession limits with a 4.5’ fork length size limit for all species except for Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, and bonnethead which do not have a size limit. In addition, recreational anglers can only harvest sharks caught with a handline or rod & reel.

The commercial fishery is managed based on MSY using quotas and possession limits to control harvest level and effort. Sharks are split into eight commercial species groups based on fisheries, biology, and stock status — prohibited, research, small coastal, blacknose, aggregated large coastal, hammerhead, pelagic, and smooth dogfish (see table for species by species grouping). ASMFC does not set quotas for the blacknose, hammerhead, SCS, LCS, or pelagic species groups but rather opens and closes the fishery in response to the federal quota. The Board may set a quota for smooth dogfish but is not required to. Fishing effort for the smoothhound, blacknose, hammerhead, SCS, LCS, and pelagic species groups is controlled through possession limits; fishermen may harvest species within these groups as long as the fishery is open and all sharks are caught according to the regulations contained in the FMP.

Commercial fishermen must have a general state commercial fishing license or permit to harvest sharks. Dealers are required to hold a federal Commercial Shark Dealer permit to buy and sell sharks. Federal dealer permits were required in order to monitor the quota as efficiently as possible and reduce the chance of quota overages. Fishermen may use handlines, gillnets, trawl nets, shortlines, pound nets/fish traps, and weirs to harvest sharks commercially. Captains and vessel owners must use circle hooks and attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop offered by NOAA Fisheries in order to harvest sharks using shortlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Groups</th>
<th>Species Within Group</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td>Sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, whale, basking, white, dusky, bignose, Galapagos, night, reef, narrowtooth, Caribbean sharpnose, smalltail, Atlantic angel, longfin mako, bigeye thresher, sharpnose sevengill, bluntnose sixgill, and bigeye sixgill sharks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Sandbar sharks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small coastal</td>
<td>Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, and bonnethead sharks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacknose</td>
<td>Blacknose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregated large coastal</td>
<td>Silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, and nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammerhead</td>
<td>scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead sharks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagic</td>
<td>Shortfin mako, porbeagle, common thresher, oceanic whitetip, and blue sharks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoothhound</td>
<td>Smooth dogfish, Florida smoothhound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview of Stock Status
Horseshoe Crab, *Limulus polyphemus*

**Regional Trends in Horseshoe Abundance**
Source: ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Stock Assessment Update, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Time series duration of longest dataset</th>
<th>Conclusion about population change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>1978 - 2008</td>
<td>Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1987 - 2008</td>
<td>Declined</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaware Bay</td>
<td>1988 - 2008</td>
<td>Increased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>1993 - 2009</td>
<td>Increased</td>
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</table>

**Management Considerations**

**Condition:** Unknown

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals & Schedule:** None

**FMP Status:** FMP approved in 1998 and implemented in 1999. Addendum I (2000) required states to cap harvest at 25% below the 1995-1997 levels of ~3 million crabs and encouraged states with more restrictive measures to maintain those measures. Addendum II (2001) allowed for state-to-state quota transfers. Addendum III (2004) capped annual harvest in NJ and DE at 150,000 crabs/state and set MD’s annual quota at its 2001 landings level (170,653 crabs); the 3 states also prohibited harvest and landings for bait from May 1 to June 7. Addendum IV (2006) established a male-only harvest of up to 100,000 crabs annually from June 8 to December 31 through September 2008 in NJ and DE. It also set an annual closed season in MD waters from January 1 through June 7 through 2008. Addendum IV further restricted Virginia’s ocean harvest to no more than 40% of its quota and required that the sex ratio of the harvest comprise at least 2 to 1 males to females. Its provisions were extended to April 2013 through Addenda V & VI. Addendum VII (2012) implements the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) framework that incorporates both shorebird and horseshoe crab abundance levels when considering the optimized horseshoe crab harvest level for the Delaware Bay area.

**Primary Management Measures:** In 2013, using the ARM Framework, the Board set a harvest limit of 500,000 Delaware Bay male horseshoe crabs and zero female horseshoe crabs for the 2013 season. The harvest limit is allocated by state quota to the states which harvest horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin (NJ, DE, MD, VA).

---

**Timeline of Management Actions:** FMP (1999); Addendum I (2000); Addendum II (2001); Addendum III (2004); Addendum IV (2006); Addendum V (2008); Addendum VI (2010); Addendum VII (2012)

**Please note the following details regarding biomedical harvest numbers:**
- Harvest numbers include all horseshoe crabs brought to bleeding facilities, including those that were harvested as bait and counted against state quotas.
- Most of the biomedical crabs harvested are returned to the water after bleeding; a 15% mortality rate is estimated for all bled crabs.
Overview of Stock Status
Northern Shrimp, *Pandalus borealis*

Fishing Mortality Rate
Biomass (millions of pounds)

Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1986); Amendment 1 (2004); Amendment 2 (2011); Addendum I (2012)

Management Considerations:
Condition: Overfished and overfishing is occurring.

FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:
Amendment 1:
- Fishing Mortality Target = 0.38
- Fishing Mortality Threshold = 0.48
- Fishing Mortality Limit = 0.6

Stock Biomass Threshold = 19.8 million pounds (9,000 mt)
Stock Biomass Limit = 13.2 million pounds (6,000 mt)

FMP Rebuilding Schedule: None. Management action triggered when fishing mortality exceeds F = 0.48 or biomass falls below threshold.

FMP Status:
- Amendment 2, approved in October 2011, includes a new suite of management tools, such as trip limits, trap limits, and days out of the fishery, to control catch rates. The Amendment also modifies the fishing mortality reference points to include a threshold level, includes a more timely and comprehensive reporting system, and allows for the initiation of a limited entry program through the adaptive management addendum process. Addendum I, approved in November 2012, clarifies the annual specification process, and allocates the TAC with 87% for the trawl fishery and 13% for the trap fishery based on historical landings by each gear type.
- The Section placed a moratorium on the fishery for the 2014 fishing season to protect the remaining spawning population and reduce pressure on the collapsed stock.

Primary Management Measures:
Fishery specifications are set annually and primarily consist of seasonal closures, gear restrictions, and catch controls.
**Overview of Stock Status**
**Red Drum, Sciaenops ocellatus**

**Management Considerations**
- **Condition:** Overfishing is likely not occurring

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**
- Fishing Mortality Threshold = F at 30% static spawning potential ratio (SPR)
- Fishing Mortality Target = F at 40% static SPR

**FMP Rebuilding Schedule:** None

**FMP Status:** Amendment 2 approved June 2002 and implemented January 2003

**Primary Management Measures:**
All states have implemented recreational bag and size limits to attain the management goal of 40% SPR, and a maximum size limit of 27 inches total length or less for all red drum fisheries. All states must also maintain current or more restrictive commercial fishery regulations for red drum.

**Timeline of Management Actions:**
- FMP (1984); Amendment 1 (1991); and Amendment 2 (2002); Addendum I (2013)
Overview of Stock Status
Scup, *Stenotomus chrysops*

Updated August 2013

### Commercial and Recreational Scup Landings
Sources: NMFS Statistics Division and ACCSP, 2013

![Graph showing commercial and recreational scup landings from 1979 to 2011.](image)

### Scup Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment
Source: NEFSC Stock Assessment Update, 2012

![Graph showing scup SSB and recruitment from 1984 to 2010.](image)

**Timeline of Management Actions:** FMP (1996); Amendment 13 (2002); Addendum IX (2003); Addenda XI & XIII (2004); Addendum XVI (2005); Amendment 14 (2007); Addendum XX (2009)

**Management Considerations:**
**Condition:** Rebuilt; overfishing not occurring. Current F is 0.040 and SSB is 410 million pounds

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**
SSB target = $SSB_{40\%} = 202.92$ million pounds

$F_{target} = F_{40\%} = 0.177$

**FMP Status:**

**Primary Management Measures:**
Total annual quotas are divided between the recreational fishery (22%) and the commercial fishery (78%). Recreational fishery management measures are developed annually and include a combination of minimum size limits, bag limits, and fishing seasons. A coastwide quota regulates the winter period (November-April), while state-by-state quotas regulate the summer period (May-October). Specific management measures for the commercial fishery include minimum size limits, minimum mesh requirements for trawls, and closed seasons.
Overview of Stock Status
Shad & River Herring

Management Considerations:
Condition: Depleted on a coastwide basis, overfishing status unknown
FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals: Protect, enhance, and restore East Coast migratory spawning stocks of American shad, hickory shad, and river herring in order to achieve stock restoration and maintain sustainable levels of spawning stock biomass.
FMP Rebuilding Schedule: None.
FMP Status: Amendments 2 (River Herring Management) & 3 (American Shad Management) establish 2012 and 2013 moratorium unless sustainability can be documented.
Primary Management Measures:
Shad - Amendment 3 establishes 2013 moratorium unless sustainability can be documented. Commercial ocean-intercept fishery for American shad is closed. Limited ocean bycatch of American shad is permitted. All jurisdictions shall not exceed an aggregate 10 fish daily creel limit in the recreational fisheries for hickory shad.
River Herring – Amendment 2 establishes 2012 moratorium unless sustainability can be documented.

American Shad & River Herring Commercial Landings
Source: Personal communication from NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division, Silver Spring, MD, 2013

Management Considerations:
Condition: Depleted on a coastwide basis, overfishing status unknown
FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals: Protect, enhance, and restore East Coast migratory spawning stocks of American shad, hickory shad, and river herring in order to achieve stock restoration and maintain sustainable levels of spawning stock biomass.
FMP Rebuilding Schedule: None.
FMP Status: Amendments 2 (River Herring Management) & 3 (American Shad Management) establish 2012 and 2013 moratorium unless sustainability can be documented.
Primary Management Measures:
Shad - Amendment 3 establishes 2013 moratorium unless sustainability can be documented. Commercial ocean-intercept fishery for American shad is closed. Limited ocean bycatch of American shad is permitted. All jurisdictions shall not exceed an aggregate 10 fish daily creel limit in the recreational fisheries for hickory shad.
River Herring – Amendment 2 establishes 2012 moratorium unless sustainability can be documented.
## Overview of Stock Status

### Shad & River Herring

**Trends in Stock Status of American Shad Populations from the 2007 and 1998 Benchmark Assessments.** A “?” indicates either insufficient data or various data analyses gave conflicting indications of trend.

Source: ASMFC American Shad Stock Assessment Report, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>River**</th>
<th>2005 Status Trend</th>
<th>1998 Status Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>Merrymeeting Bay</td>
<td>Declining</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kennebec</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Androscoggin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saco</td>
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<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>Exeter</td>
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<td>MA</td>
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<td>Stable</td>
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<td>Stable</td>
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<td>Great Pee Dee</td>
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<td>Santee</td>
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<td>SC &amp; GA</td>
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<td>Altamaha (+ Ocmulgee)</td>
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<td>Ogeechee</td>
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<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>St. Johns</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Status of Select Alewife and Blueback Herring Stocks along the Atlantic coast.** Status relative to historic levels is pre-1970. Recent trends reflect last ten years of data. A = Alewife only; B = Blueback herring only; A,B = Alewife and blueback herring by species. Source: ASMFC River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment Report, 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>River**</th>
<th>Status Relative to Historic Levels / Recent Trends*</th>
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<tr>
<td>ME</td>
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<td>Santee-Cooper</td>
<td>Depleted&lt;sup&gt;B&lt;/sup&gt;, Increasing&lt;sup&gt;B&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** ASMFC American Shad Stock Assessment Report, 2007.
Overview of Stock Status
Spanish Mackerel, *Scomberomorus maculatus*

Updated 8/2013

Management Considerations:
**Condition:** Rebuilt; Not overfished and overfishing is not occurring
**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:** Biomass threshold = (1-M)\*B_{MSY}  
Fishing mortality threshold = F_{30\%SPR}

**FMP Status:**
Complementary management with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) approved in 1990. The Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate FMPs for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout, approved in August 2011, updates the Spanish Mackerel FMP with compliance measures and Commission standards, as well as modifies the Commission's management program so that it is consistent with federal management in the exclusive economic zone. The plan also provides mechanisms to review and track federal management changes. The South Atlantic Board passed Addendum I (modifying minimum size for select gear types and seasons) to the Omnibus Amendment for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout in August 2013.

**Primary Management Measures:**
The annual catch limit (ACL) was set at 5.29 million pounds in the most recent Amendment 18 to the Federal FMP. The ACL is allocated on a 55/45 basis between the commercial and recreational fisheries. The commercial fishery is controlled mainly through an annual quota and trip limits, while the recreational fishery is primarily managed through a maximum bag limit of 15 fish and at least a minimum size limit of 12” fork length (between NY and FL and consistent with federal measures) or 14 inches total length. In addition, both Amendment 18 and the Omnibus Amendment include accountability measures for payback of overages if the total ACL is exceeded and the stock is overfished.

Updated 8/2013
Overview of Stock Status
Spiny Dogfish, *Squalus acanthias*

Spiny Dogfish Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) (>=80 cm)
Source: NEFSC Update on the Status of Spiny Dogfish in 2013 and Projected Harvests at the F_{MSY} Proxy & P_{STAR} of 40%, 2013

Spiny Dogfish Landings
Source: NEFSC Update on the Status of Spiny Dogfish in 2013 and Projected Harvests at the F_{MSY} Proxy & P_{STAR} of 40%, 2013

Timeline of Management Actions: Emergency Action (2000); FMP (2003); Addendum I (2005); Addendum II (2008); Addendum III (2011), Addendum IV (2012)

Management Considerations
Condition: Rebuilt; not overfished/overfishing not occurring

FMP Reference Points:
Female SSB threshold (1/2 SSB max) = 79,644 mt (175 million pounds)  Fishing Mortality Threshold (F_{threshold}) = 0.325
Female SSB target (100% SSB max) = 159,288 mt (351 million pounds)  Fishing Mortality Target (F_{MSY}) = 0.207

Stock Rebuilding 2002 - 2008:
Spiny dogfish were determined to be rebuilt in 2008 when spawning stock biomass (SSB) exceeded the target for the first time since ASMFC management began in 2002. SSB, estimated to be 211,372 mt (466 million pounds), exceeded the target biomass for the fifth year in a row in 2012. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center’s (NEFSC) Update on the Status of Spiny Dogfish in 2013 and Projected Harvests at the F_{MSY} Proxy and P_{STAR} of 40% predicts SSB to remain above the target and then decline because of poor recruitment from 1997 – 2003.

FMP Status:
The 2002 FMP established the annual quota and possession limit system; Addendum I (2005) allowed the Board to set multi-year specifications; Addendum II (2008) established regional allocation of the annual quota with 58% to states from ME – CT; Addendum III established state shares for New York – North Carolina; Addendum IV (2012) aligned the fishing mortality threshold definition with the federal plan.

Primary Management Measures:
Spiny dogfish is managed under an annual quota with possession limits for the commercial fishery only. The ASMFC Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Board approved a 49.37 million pound quota with a maximum possession limit of 4,000 pounds for the 2014/2015 fishing year (May 1 – April 30).

Updated November 2013
Management Considerations

Condition: Unknown

FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals: None

FMP Rebuilding Schedule: None

FMP Status: FMP approved in 1987. The Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout, approved in August 2011, updates the Spot FMP with compliance measures and Commission standards that were developed in response to the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (e.g., adaptive management, de minimis criteria).

Primary Management Measures: The Omnibus Amendment includes a required trigger exercise to monitor the stock status of spot until a coastwide stock assessment can be performed. If triggered, the measure requires consideration of a change in management measures.
Overview of Stock Status  
**Spotted Seatrout, *Cynoscion nebulosus***

**Timeline of Management Actions:** FMP (1985); Amendment 1 (1991); Omnibus Amendment (2011)

**Management Considerations**

**Condition:** Unknown

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:** maintaining Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) of at least 20%

**FMP Rebuilding Schedule:** None

**FMP Status:** FMP approved in 1984; Amendment I approved in 1991. The Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout, approved in August 2011, updates the Spotted Seatrout FMP with compliance measures and Commission standards that were developed in response to the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (e.g., adaptive management, *de minimis* criteria).

**Primary Management Measures:** Coastwide management measures, adopted in the Omnibus Amendment and implemented in July 2012, include a coastwide minimum size of 12 inches total length and comparable mesh size requirements. The Omnibus Amendment retained the goal of a 20% SPR. Florida’s Spotted Seatrout FMP has a goal of 35% SPR, while North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia have adopted the ASMFC’s recommended goal of 20% SPR.
Overview of Stock Status
Summer Flounder, *Paralichthys dentatus*

**Summary**
- Summer Flounder Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)
- Summer Flounder Commercial Landings & Recreational Harvest

**Timeline of Management Actions:**
- FMP (‘88); Amendment 1 (‘91); Amendments 2-5 (‘93); Amendment 6 (‘94); Amendment 7 (‘95); Amendment 8 & 9 (‘96); Amendment 10 (‘97); Amendment 11 (‘98); Amendment 12 (‘99); Amendment 13 (‘03); Addenda VIII & XV (‘04); Addenda XVI & XVII (‘05); Addendum XVIII (‘06); Addendum XIX (‘07); Addendum XXV (2014)

**Management Considerations:**
- **Condition:** Rebuilt; overfishing not occurring. Current fishing mortality is $F=0.285$ and SSB is equal to 112.9 million pounds (2012)

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**
- SSB Target = 137.555 million pounds
- SSB Threshold = 68.8 million pounds

**FMP Rebuilding Schedule:** Rebuilt in 2010

**FMP Status:** Joint management with Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Amendment 12 approved in 1998. Addendum XIII (multi-year TALs) was approved in August 2004. Addendum XVII (August 2005) provides additional management strategies in setting recreational regulations. Addendum XVIII (February 2006) allows states to voluntarily maintain their 2005 recreational management measures in order to transfer savings to states facing severe reductions. In March 2014, in accordance with Addendum XXV, the Board approved regional management measures for the 2014 summer flounder fishery.

**Primary Management Measures:** Annual total allowable landings (TAL) divided into a state-by-state commercial quota (60% of TAL) and recreational harvest limit (40% of TAL). Coastwide commercial management measures include minimum fish and mesh sizes. Recreational bag/size limits and seasons are determined on a state-by-state basis using conservation equivalency.

*Updated 3/2014*
Overview of Stock Status
Weakfish, *Cynoscion regalis*

**Weakfish Maximum Spawning Potential**
Source: ASMFC Weakfish Technical Committee, 2009

- Estimated %MSP
- Threshold (20% MSP)
- Target (30% MSP)

**Commercial and Recreational Weakfish Landings**
Source: ASMFC State Reports, 2013

- Commercial Landings
- Recreational Landings

**Timeline of Management Actions:**
FMP (1985); Amendment 1 (1991); Amendment 2 (1995); Amendment 3 (1996); Amendment 4 (2002); Addendum I (2005); Addenda II & III (2007); Addendum IV (2009)

**Management Considerations:**
**Condition:** depleted, overfishing not occurring

**FMP Stock Control Rules:**
- Spawning Stock Biomass Threshold = 20% Maximum Spawning Potential (MSP; i.e., SSB that is 20% of an unfished stock)
- Spawning Stock Biomass Target = 30% MSP (i.e., SSB that is 30% of an unfished stock)

**FMP Rebuilding Schedule:** 6-year rebuilding period if SSB falls below the threshold level in any given year.

**FMP Status:**  Amendment 4, implemented in 2003, established overfishing and overfished definitions, provided alternative recreational fish size and creel limit options, and increased the commercial bycatch limit. Addendum I (2005) replaced Amendment 4’s biological sampling program. Addendum II (2007) implemented several management measures (i.e., reduced creel and bycatch limits, landings triggers) to control expansion of the fishery in the event that stock status improved. Addendum III altered the bycatch reduction device certification requirements for consistency with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Shrimp FMP. Addendum IV (2009) responded to the most recent stock assessment, and implemented a one fish recreational creel limit, 100 pound commercial trip limit, 100 pound commercial bycatch limit, and 100 undersized fish allowance for finfish trawls. The addendum maintained all previously implemented weakfish management measures, and also removed the fishing mortality reference points and implemented percentage-based spawning stock biomass reference points. States had until May 1, 2010 to implement Addendum IV.

**Primary Management Measures:** The commercial fishery is controlled through minimum size limit, trip limit, closed season, closed area, mesh size, bycatch limit, and bycatch reduction device requirements. The recreational fishery is managed through bag limit and minimum size limit requirements.
Overview of Stock Status
Winter Flounder, *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND/MID-ATLANTIC STOCK

**Management Considerations:**
- **Condition:** Overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Stock is at 16% of target SSB.
- **FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**
  - F Target (75% FMSY) = 0.217
  - SSB Target (BMSY) = 96.2 mil. lbs (43,661 mt)
  - F Threshold (FMSY) = 0.29
  - SSB Threshold (1/2 SSBMSY) = 48.1 mil. lbs (21,831 mt)

**FMP Status:**
- Amendment 1 (2005); Addendum I (2009); Addendum II (2012); Addendum III (2013)

**Primary Management Measures:**
Winter flounder are managed as two separate stocks in state waters; Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) and Gulf of Maine (GOM). Commercial and recreational specifications are set annually for GOM & SNE/MA fisheries. For the GOM, Addendum I establishes a 250 pound possession limit for non-federally permitted commercial fishermen (estimated 31% reduction in harvest). Recreational measures include possession limits and seasons. For the SNE/MA, the Addendum establishes a two fish recreational bag limit with current size limits and seasons maintained and a 50 pound possession limit for non-federally permitted commercial fishermen. Due to stock condition, the Board set these measures to discourage directed fishing while allowing fishermen to retain their bycatch. Addendum II (2012) modifies the commercial and recreational management requirements for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) stock, increasing the commercial trip limit to 500 pounds per trip and expanding the recreational season to year round. These measures apply only to GOM state waters’ fisheries until June 1, 2013.

GULF OF MAINE STOCK

**Management Considerations:**
- **Condition:** Overfished status is unknown and overfishing is not occurring*

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**
- *The SAW/SARC GOM analytical assessment model was not accepted, BMSY and FMSY are unknown, and consequently the F and SSB targets could not be generated. A proxy F Threshold was derived from a length-based yield per recruit analysis. The overfishing status is based on the ratio of 2010 catch to survey based swept area estimate of biomass exceeding 30 cm in length.*

**Primary Management Measures:**

Updated 12/13