Overview of Stock Status
Tautog, *Tautoga onitis*

**Management Considerations:**
**Condition:** Overfished and overfishing is occurring (based on 2011 assessment update and previous $F_{\text{target}}$ of 0.20 (coastwide $F = 0.26$)).

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**
SSB threshold (75% target) = 20,100 mt (44.3 million pounds)   
SSB target = 26,800 mt (59.1 million pounds)

**FMP Status:** FMP (1996); Addendum I (1997); Addendum II (1999); Addendum III (2002); Addendum IV (2007); Addendum V (2007); Addendum VI (2011). Addendum VI established a new $F_{\text{target}} = 0.15$ for 2012 and beyond. All states in the management unit must implement measures to achieve $F = 0.15$ by January 1, 2012, which is estimated to be a 39% reduction relative to the 2008-2009 average total harvest. The Board reduced the target $F$ in response to the 2011 assessment update findings. Tautog’s SSB has remained at low levels for the last decade and continued to be overfished and experiencing overfishing; therefore, the TC recommendations that $F = 0.15$ or lower is necessary to rebuild the stock. The tautog benchmark stock assessment will be peer reviewed in 2014.

**Primary Management Measures:**
Tautog is managed as a single coastwide stock. The FMP requires a fishing mortality rate of 0.15 to be controlled by recreational and commercial possession limits, size limits (a 14-inch minimum is required by the FMP), and seasonal closures.

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