Overview of Stock Status
Tautog, *Tautoga onitis*

**Management Considerations:**

**Condition:** Overfished on a coastwide basis (based on 2011 assessment update). 2015 benchmark assessment presented stock status based on 3 regions; Board to take final action on regional stock units in May 2015.

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**
- SSB target = 26,800 mt (59.1 million pounds)
- SSB threshold (75% target) = 20,100 mt (44.3 million pounds)
- Fishing Mortality Target $F_{\text{target}} = 0.15$

**FMP Status:** 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. SSB has remained at low levels for the last decade and continued to be overfished and experiencing overfishing; therefore, the Technical Committee recommends $F = 0.15$ or lower to rebuild the stock.

**Primary Management Measures:**
Tautog is managed as a single coastwide stock (this may change based on May 2015 Board action regarding regional stock units). 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.

Updated March 2015