



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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2013 Atlantic Croaker & Spot Trigger Exercises Meeting Summary

Conference call and Webinar

June 20, 2013

Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee Members: Chris McDonough (SCDNR), Dawn Franco (GA DNR), Harry Rickabaugh (MDDNR), Heather Corbett (NJ DFW), Joe Grist (VA MRC), Joseph Munyandorero (FL FWRI), Wilson Laney (USFWS)

Spot Plan Review Team Member: Harry Rickabaugh (MDDNR), Joe Grist (VA MRC)

ASMFC Staff: Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Katie Drew

Public: Mary Fabrizio (VIMS)

The Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee and Spot Plan Review Team held a conference call to follow up on the May 2013 conference call regarding updating the Trigger Exercises. On this call the group reviewed the stoplight methodology using Atlantic Croaker data provided by the SCDNR, discussed the merits of its use in the Trigger Exercises, and thought through a tentative schedule to provide the South Atlantic State Federal Management Board with recommendations from the group in time for the August 2013 meeting.

Discussion

- The group was in favor of incorporating the stoplight approach in the Croaker trigger assessments, specifically because it might better illuminate the longer term trends in the fishery while also accounting for more complexity. For next call, the group agreed to consider other data sources that are not included in the trigger exercises may be in need of consideration after applying traffic light method to them.
- The complexity issue spurred the group to note the need to look at environmental factors (droughts, climate, etc.) potentially impacting the fishery. This both the Atlantic Croaker TC & SPot PRT would like to communicate to the Board their interest in delving into this topic further moving forward.

Timetable for next steps/ conducting Trigger Exercises this summer

- Draft the Atlantic Croaker & Spot Annual Review of Assessment Triggers draft and share with the TC & PRT **first week of July (1-5)**
- Schedule call the following week (**July 8-12**) to discuss & think through any recommendations to the provide the South Atlantic State Federal Management Board