



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## 2013 Atlantic Croaker & Spot Trigger Exercises Meeting Summary

### Conference call and Webinar

May 14, 2013

Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee Members: Karen, Dawn Franco (GA DNR), Chris McDonough (SCDNR), Kevin Brown (NC DMF), Jen Pyle (NJ DFW), Scott Newlin (DE DFW), Joseph Munyandorero (FL DFW), Wilson Laney (USFWS), Joe Grist (VA MRC)

Spot Plan Review Team Member: 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 review the 2012 Trigger Exercise results (using data from 2011), the South Atlantic State-Federal Board's request from the August 2012 ASMFC meeting, and a plan to carry out an up of the triggers with 2012 data.

### Review of the last year's August meeting & outcomes

#### a) Spot Trigger Exercise & Recommendation to the board

- 5- Triggers as outlined in the Omnibus Amendment, with 10 percentile threshold on two indexes qualifying as a trigger
- After going through the Spot Triggers, the triggers were not tripped and the PRT recommended to not have an assessment done nor management measures implemented.
- After presenting the information & recommendations, the board tasked the PRT to a trigger Exercise for this summer to present at the August Board Meeting

#### b) AC Trigger Exercise & Recommendation to the board

- 5-Triggers, with the hard trigger being less than 70% of previous 2 year average landings (of commercial and recreational)
- After going through the AC Triggers, even though the recreational fishery harvest was below 70% (55 %) the TC recommended not to do a benchmark assessment nor implement any management measures at the moment.
- The Board followed the TC's recommendation, and tasked them with developing an interim assessment and management triggers similar to the Spot FMP

## **Discussion of Triggers**

### *Management measures*

- The group discussed some of the key elements from previous work on the triggers that have kept them from recommending an assessment for Croaker ahead of the scheduled one- as well as removal of Spot from the assessment schedule- due to the caveats that would have to be made for data. While the board had requested the group look at potential management responses, it was brought up that due to the large variation in current state level regulations on creel and size limits, a good recommendation to the board would be more consistent measures across the states. Additionally, it was noted that for a Trigger to actually cause a specific management action, this process would need to be built into the FMP, likely through an addendum.

### *Incorporation of other data*

- There was some discussion of whether to incorporate additional fishing dependent data, such as effort, into the trigger exercises. Some of the issues of doing so centered around how to classify a trip, due to concerns there could be different responses depending the targeted catch (i.e. example of tuna vessels vs. nearshore catch). One response was to look at trips on the basis of zones (areas in which there's higher levels of catch of certain species rather than others).

## **Timetable for next steps/ conducting Trigger Exercises this summer**

- Week of June 3<sup>rd</sup>- email reminder of AC compliance reports & Spot data, as well as doodle for call 2<sup>nd</sup> to last week of June
- Week of June 17<sup>th</sup> – call for discussion of indices, trigger exercise, report to the Board, and Spot preliminary data due
- July 1<sup>st</sup>- Atlantic Croaker Compliance report due