## ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

## REVIEW OF THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN <br> FOR WEAKFISH <br> (Cynoscion regalis)

2013 FISHING YEAR


Prepared by the Plan Review Team

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## I. Status of the Fishery Management Plan

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) adopted its first Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Weakfish in 1985. Amendment 1 to the FMP (1992) unsuccessfully aimed to improve the status of weakfish. Amendment 2 (1995) resulted in some improvement to the stock, but several signs indicated that further improvement was necessary. Thus, Amendment 3 (1996) was implemented to increase the sustainability of the fishery. Addendum I to Amendment 3 was approved in 2000 in order to extend the management program until the next amendment was implemented.

Amendment 4, approved in 2002, strives to establish two goals. One is the utilization of interstate management so that Atlantic coastal weakfish recover to healthy levels that will maintain commercial and recreational harvest consistent with a self-sustaining spawning stock. The second goal is to provide for restoration and maintenance of essential habitat (ASMFC 2002). The management objectives are to:

1) establish and maintain an overfishing definition which includes target and threshold fishing mortality rates and a threshold spawning stock biomass in order to prevent overfishing and to maintain a sustainable weakfish population;
2) restore the weakfish age and size structure to that necessary for the restoration of the fishery;
3) return weakfish to their previous geographic range;
4) achieve compatible and equitable management measures among jurisdictions throughout the fishery management unit, including states' waters and the federal EEZ;
5) promote cooperative interstate research, monitoring, and law enforcement necessary to support management of weakfish;
6) promote identification and conservation of habitat essential for the long term stability in the weakfish population; and
7) establish standards and procedures for both the implementation of Amendment 4 and for determination of states' compliance with provisions of the management plan.

Amendment 4 established target and threshold fishing mortality rates and a threshold spawning stock biomass level to determine overfishing and overfished stock status. The amendment requires states to implement recreational and commercial management measures to achieve annual fishing mortality targets. Some management measures are specified (e.g., minimum size limit, minimum mesh size, bycatch limit), while the amendment provides the states flexibility in implementing other regulations (e.g., trip limits, area or season closures). States may request implementation of alternative management plans with conservationally equivalent measures. States deemed to have insignificant landings were exempt from the recreational and commercial requirements, with the exception of the bycatch reduction device requirements.

The Commission adopted Addendum I to Amendment 4 (2005) to replace the biological sampling program in section 3.0 of Amendment 4. In response to a significant decline in stock abundance and increasing total mortality since 1999, the Commission approved Addendum II to Amendment 4 (2007) to reduce the recreational creel limit and commercial bycatch limit, and set landings levels that when met will trigger a re-evaluation of management measures. Addendum III to Amendment 4 (2007) altered the bycatch reduction device certification requirements in Section 4.2.8 of Amendment 4 for consistency with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Shrimp FMP. The Commission approved Addendum IV to Amendment 4 in 2009 to respond to the results
of the 2009 benchmark stock assessment (additional information is provided in Section VI. Status of Management Measures and Issues).

Weakfish are managed under this plan as a single stock throughout their coastal range. All Atlantic coast states from Massachusetts through Florida and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission have a declared interest in weakfish; Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia do not. See Table 1 for a summary of state-by-state regulations in 2013.

## II. Status of the Stock (see also Appendix A)

According to the last stock assessment, completed in 2009, the weakfish stock is depleted and overfishing is not occurring (NEFSC 2009a, NEFSC 2009b). While overfishing has not occurred in recent years, harvest was reduced by an estimated $60 \%$ in Addendum IV to reduce additional mortality from fishing and poise the stock for a quicker recovery should natural mortality decline.

Between 1982 and 1990, age 1+ weakfish biomass ${ }^{1}$ declined drastically from 113.1 million pounds to 17.6 million pounds (Figure 1). Overfishing was the main cause of this decline, with fishing mortality ( F ) accounting for about $60-90 \%$ of total mortality (fishing plus natural mortality) during the period. Fishing mortality ${ }^{2}$ peaked at 1.01 in 1989, but with the implementation of management measures in the early to mid-1990s, F declined to 0.24 in 1995 and biomass responded favorably by increasing to a peak of 62.1 million pounds in 1996 (Figure 1). While F remained relatively stable (between 0.26 and 0.58 ) after that time, the stock began another drastic decline in 2001 to the time-series low of 10.8 million pounds in 2008 . However, the contribution of fishing mortality to total mortality was substantially reduced during this period; from 2004-2007 only 10-20\% of total mortality is attributed to fishing mortality. Conversely, natural mortality has risen substantially since 1995 (Figure 1), and factors such as predation, competition, and changes in the environment are thus believed to be having a stronger influence on recent weakfish stock dynamics than fishing mortality. Bycatch and under-reported catches would have to be much greater than those estimated, growing from about 3-4 times the estimates in 1996 to 15-20 times in the most recent years, to account for the biomass decline. Thus far, there is no evidence available of an Atlantic coast fishery capable of generating additional unreported weakfish discards of this magnitude.

The 2009 stock assessment determined that the stock's spawning potential is at only $4 \%$ of an unfished stock, well below the $20 \%$ spawning potential threshold and $30 \%$ spawning potential target adopted in Addendum IV. Trends in F indicate a stable and modest fishing mortality. Thus, while the stock biomass is depleted, overfishing is not occurring. The results of the 2015 benchmark stock assessment will be reviewed in the fall of 2015, and may determine that the status of the stock has changed.

## III. Status of the Fishery

At 518,386 pounds, the total coastwide landings of weakfish in 2013 are a drastic increase from the lowest-on-record landings from 2011 ( $160,542 \mathrm{lbs}$ ), and a slight decrease from 2012 landings (539,318 lbs). Total landings are still below the most recent ten-year (2004-2013) average of 1.7

[^0]million pounds. The commercial fishery ( $354,146 \mathrm{lbs}$ ) accounted for $68 \%$ of the total 2013 landings, and the recreational fishery ( $164,240 \mathrm{lbs}$ ) for $32 \%$ (Table 2).

## Commercial Fishery

Commercial data are cooperatively collected and compiled by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and state fishery agencies from state mandated trip-tickets, landing weigh-out reports from seafood dealers, federal logbooks, shipboard and portside interviews, and biological sampling of catches. Landings from the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division are used within this report unless a state reports alternative values in its compliance report to the Commission, in which case these values are used (see notes for Table 3).

Between 1982 and 2013, coastwide commercial weakfish landings have ranged from the high of 21.1 million pounds in 1986 to the low of 133,085 pounds in 2011 (Table 3). Since 1988, the overall trend is declining except for during the period of 1990-1998 when landings hovered between 6.1 and 9.1 million pounds (Figure 2). Landings in 2013 were 354,146 pounds.

North Carolina (29\%) and New York (25\%) landed the largest shares of the 2013 coastwide commercial weakfish landings (Figure 3). Some states (VA, PRFC, MD, DE, NJ, CT, RI) reported increases in landings since 2011, but that is only because recent landings are very low, so in comparison the increased landings are not significant (Table 3).

The dominant commercial gears in 2013 were gill nets (about 55\% of the total commercial landings, respectively; NMFS 2013). There has been a shift in the dominant source of landings from trawls in the 1950s-1980s to gill nets in the 1990s-present. The majority of commercial landings tend to occur in the fall and winter months, presumably as the fish congregate to migrate to over-wintering grounds in the South Atlantic (Hogarth et al. 1995).

## Recreational Fishery

Recreational catch statistics are collected by the NMFS. Effort data are collected through telephone interviews. Catch expansions are based on angler interviews and biological sampling conducted by trained interviewers stationed at fishing access sites. All recreational data in this report are from the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division queried from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP; 2012), except as noted in section VI of this report for Florida's estimates.

Since 1982, coastwide recreational landings have ranged from the high of 11.4 million pounds in 1983 to the low of 27,436 pounds in 2011 (Table 4). Landings averaged 7.8 million pounds from 1982-1988, before falling to between one and four million pounds from 1990-2002. In 2003, recreational landings dropped below one million pounds (Figure 2). Landings have averaged 241 thousand pounds (or 194 thousand fish) from 2008-2012 (Table 5), and are estimated at 164,240 pounds (438,199 fish) in 2013. The number of fish released alive by anglers remained above 1 million fish from 1992 to 2008, peaked at over 5 million in 1996, and decreased to 347,000 fish in 2013 (Table 6, Figure 4). In 2010, all states implemented a one fish bag limit, which impacted landings and discards from that point on.

New Jersey anglers consistently harvested the most weakfish by pounds along the coast until 2009. In the 1980s and 1990s, anglers in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia often took the next largest shares of the recreational total amount. In the 2000s, New Jersey anglers led in the harvest, whereas anglers in Virginia and North Carolina tended to take the second and third largest amounts (Tables

4 and 5). However, from 2009-2011, North Carolina anglers landed the largest share while South Carolina and Virginia had the next largest shares of the recreational harvest. This trend appears to have ended though, as New Jersey harvested the most fish (by pounds) in 2012 and 2013. More specifically, New Jersey fished $47 \%$ of the coastwide harvest, followed by North Carolina anglers with $21 \%$ and New York anglers with $17 \%$ (by pounds; Figure 5). The size class of the fish sampled to provide the MRIP weight estimates was considerably different between New York and New Jersey compared to North Carolina, and all states from Virginia south, where the annual mean weight of fish sampled were 1 pound or less. In 2012 the mean weight for fish sampled in New Jersey and New York were 1.4 and 3 pounds respectively. In 2013 although the mean weight sampled for states from Virginia south remained at 1 pound or lower for New Jersey the annual mean weight was 2.6 pounds and for New York it was 4.1 pounds.

The recreational fishery catches weakfish using live or cut bait, jigging, trolling, and chumming. The majority of recreationally harvested weakfish are caught in state waters ( $99.2 \%$ in 2013 by pounds). In 2013, nearly all recreationally harvested fish were caught from private or rental boats (57\%) or from shore ( $40 \%$ ).

## IV. Status of Assessment Advice

The 2009 assessment was completed by the Weakfish Stock Assessment Subcommittee (NEFSC 2009a, NEFSC 2009b) and peer reviewed by the $48^{\text {th }}$ Stock Assessment Review Committee (Sullivan et al. 2009) at the $48^{\text {th }}$ Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW). The assessment includes fishery data and survey indices through 2007. A benchmark stock assessment is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2015.

## V. Status of Research and Monitoring

## Fishery-Independent Data

Young-of-year indices of relative abundance are provided by Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida. Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida provide age- 0+ or 1+ indices of relative abundance. The Northeast Fisheries Science Survey Groundfish Trawl Survey also produces an age-structured index for the Mid-Atlantic coast, while the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) survey produces another for the South Atlantic Coast. The Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) began spring and fall surveys between Martha's Vineyard and Cape Hatteras in the fall of 2007, and will provide an index in the future. The Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program (ChesMMAP), which began in 2002, collects data on relative abundance, length, weight, age, sex, and trophic interactions in the Bay. See Table 9 for the indices provided in the 2013 compliance reports.

## Fishery-Dependent Data

The coastal states and the NMFS collect data on commercial and recreational landings. Addendum I to Amendment 4 requires the collection of otoliths and lengths to characterize the catch; the number of samples required is based on the magnitude of each state's fisheries. Each spring, the states are required to submit biological sampling plans, and each fall, through the compliance reports, the states are required to provide the actual sampling levels completed. See Section VII for more information.

## VI. Status of Management Measures and Issues

## Fishery Management Plan

Addendum IV to Amendment 4 was approved in November 2009, and was implemented in May 2010. In response to the 2009 stock assessment results, the addendum implements more appropriate biological reference points in response to recent stock dynamics and reduces harvest while attempting to minimize unnecessary bycatch waste, thus poising the stock for recovery should natural mortality decrease. Addendum IV requires all states in the management unit (including those that are de minimis) to implement a recreational creel limit no greater than 1 fish, commercial trip and bycatch limits no greater than 100 pounds, and a finfish trawl fishery allowance for up to 100 undersized fish. The addendum adopted percentage based biological reference points with an overfished/depleted threshold of $20 \% \mathrm{SSB}$ and a target of $30 \% \mathrm{SSB}$. The biological sampling requirements under Addendum I are unchanged, and all regulations previously enacted to protect weakfish and reduce bycatch are to remain effective.

No additional amendments or addenda are under development.

## Florida Management Area and Landings Data

In November 2009, the Management Board approved a proposal from Florida to reduce the state's weakfish management area to a small area in northeast Florida where pure weakfish are known to occur based on genetics data. The revision is intended to address the misidentification of weakfish, sand seatrout, and their hybrids, and the consequential law enforcement issue. Inside the newly established weakfish management area (St. Mary's River only), any fish that resembles weakfish will be considered weakfish for enforcement purposes, both for commercial and recreational limits. Outside the weakfish management area, all fish that resemble weakfish will be considered sand seatrout.

As a result of the approved proposal, the commercial and recreational landings data provided in Florida's 2013 compliance report represent the best estimate of pure weakfish landings in the state. Commercial landings data from Florida's trip ticket program and recreational landings from the NMFS's Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey include only weakfish landed in Nassau and Duval counties, as revised on the basis of the genome proportions within the Cynoscioncomplex found in the counties ( $48 \%$ weakfish in Nassau County and $17 \%$ in Duval County). The landings, tables, and figures in this report use the landings as reported by Florida.

## De Minimis Status

Amendment 4 permits states to request de minimis status if, for the last two years, their combined average commercial and recreational landings (by weight) constitute less than $1 \%$ of the coastwide commercial and recreational landings for the same two year period. The de minimis threshold for 2013, calculated with 2012 and 2013 harvest data, is 5,289 pounds.

Four states requested de minimis status in their 2013 compliance reports: Florida, Georgia, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Each of these states has had a previous de minimis request approved and qualify for de minimis status (Florida $0.41 \%$, Georgia $0.31 \%$, Connecticut $0.28 \%$, and Massachusetts $0.07 \%$ ). If any de minimis state were to lose its designation as such, the state would be required to implement the regulatory and monitoring requirements from which it was previously exempt.

## Addendum II Management Triggers

In 2010, the recreational and commercial management measures in Addendum IV replaced those in Addendum II. However, the Plan Review Team will continue to include an evaluation of the two management triggers as they provide perspective on the magnitude of fishery landings (but hitting a trigger will not require Board reconsideration of the management measures).

Addendum II established two management triggers that would require the Board to consider modifying management measures if reached. First, commercial management measures are to be re-evaluated if coastwide commercial landings exceed $80 \%$ of the mean commercial landings from 2000-2004, or 2.99 million pounds. Second, commercial and recreational management measures are to be re-evaluated if any single state's landings exceed its five-year mean by more than $25 \%$ in any single year.

The 2013 coastwide commercial landings are 354,146 pounds, thus the first trigger has not been exceeded. The second trigger was met in five states because their landings increased by more than $25 \%$ in any single year (DE, NY, CT, RI, MA), however, this drastic increase is due to extremely low landings in previous years and is not cause for concern (Table 7).

## VII. Implementation of FMP Compliance Requirements for 2013

Mandatory compliance elements for 2013 were provided by Amendment 4 and its four addenda.

## Regulatory Requirements

The management program includes regulatory requirements for non de minimis states as follows:

- Recreational management measures including minimum size limits and a maximum creel limit of one fish(see Addenda II and IV to Amendment 4)
- Commercial management measures including minimum size limits, minimum mesh size limits, landings limits, trip limits, bycatch limits, closed seasons and areas, and bycatch reduction device requirements (see Section 4.2 of Amendment 4, and Addendum IV)

The PRT finds all states to have implemented the plan's compliance requirements.
See Table 1 for a summary of state commercial and recreational regulations in 2013.

## Monitoring Requirements

Addendum I implemented monitoring requirements for non de minimis states as follows:

- Maintenance of at least the 2005 level of recreational sampling of individual lengths through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey;
- Collection of six individual fish lengths for each metric ton of weakfish landed commercially;
- Collection of three individual fish ages for each metric ton of total weakfish landed, with a maximum of 1000 ages annually per state.

Table 8 provides the otolith and length collection requirements for 2013. These are based on the best available 2013 landings data provided to the Commission by the NMFS and the states. Table 8 also provides the number of otoliths and lengths collected by the states in 2013.

## VIII. Recommendations of the Plan Review Team

## Management Recommendations

- That the Board consider the de minimis requests from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Georgia, and Florida.


## Research Recommendations

## Fishery-Dependent Priorities

High

- Increase observer coverage to identify the magnitude of discards for all commercial gear types from both directed and non-directed fisheries. ${ }^{1}$


## Moderate

- Continue studies on temperature, size, and depth specific recreational hook and release mortality rates, particularly catches from warm, deep waters. Investigate methods to increase survival of released fish.
- Continue studies on mesh size selectivity, particularly trawl fisheries. ${ }^{2}$

Low

- Determine the onshore versus offshore components of the weakfish fishery.
- Collect catch and effort data including size and age composition of the catch, determine stock mortality throughout the range, and define gear characteristics. In particular, increase length frequency sampling in fisheries from Maryland and further north.
- Develop latitudinal, seasonal, and gear specific age length keys coast wide. Increase sample sizes for gear specific keys.


## Modeling / Quantitative Priorities

High

- Evaluate predation of weakfish with a more advanced multispecies model (e.g., the ASMFC MSVPA or Ecopath with Ecosim) to validate estimates calculated by production models with predation-competition extensions.
- Develop a bioenergetics model that encompasses a broader range of ages than Hartman and Brandt (1995) and use it to evaluate diet and growth data.
- Analyze the spawner-recruit relationship and examine the effects of the relationship between adult stock size and environmental factors on year class strength.
- Quantify trawl bycatch. Refine estimates of discard mortality based on factors such as distance from shore and other geographical differences for all sizes including below minimum size.


## Life History, Biological, and Habitat Priorities <br> High

- Develop a coast wide tagging program to identify stocks and determine migration, stock mixing, and characteristics of stocks in over wintering grounds. Determine the relationship between migratory aspects and the observed trend in weight at age. ${ }^{3}$
- Monitor weakfish diets over a broad regional and spatial scale.


## Moderate

- Identify and delineate weakfish spawning habitat locations and environmental preferences to quantify spawning habitat.
- Compile data on larval and juvenile distribution from existing databases to obtain preliminary indications of spawning and nursery habitat location and extant.
- Examine geographical and temporal differences in growth rate (length and weight at age).

Low

- Determine the impact of power plants and other water intakes on larval, post larval, and juvenile weakfish mortality in spawning and nursery areas. Calculate the resulting impact on adult stock size. ${ }^{4}$


## Management, Law Enforcement, and Socioeconomic Priorities <br> Moderate

- Assemble socioeconomic data as it becomes available from ACCSP.

Low

- Define restrictions necessary for implementation of projects in spawning and over wintering areas and develop policies on limiting development projects seasonally or spatially.


## IX. References

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). 2002. Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery management Plan for Weakfish. Washington (DC): ASMFC Fishery Management Report No. 29. 84 p.
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## X. Tables

Table 1. Summary of state regulations for weakfish in 2013.

| State | Commercial | Recreational | Implementation Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MA | 16", open 1/1-12/31, 100 lb possession limit. | 16", 1 fish | June 2010 |
| RI | 16 "; open $6 / 1-6 / 30 \& 8 / 7-11 / 8,100 \mathrm{lb}$ possession limit. Trawl: codend mesh size $\geq 4.5$ " diamond or $4.0^{\prime \prime}$ square. 100 lb bycatch limit \& $50 \%$ bycatch rule (except hook and line: 0 lb bycatch). | 16", 1 fish | April 28, 2010 |
| CT | 16"; open 1/1-12/31, 100 lb possession limit. | 16", 1 fish | April 25, 2010 |
| NY | 16" (12" dressed \& 10" filleted); Hook and line open 4/1-6/24 \& 8/28-11/15; 0 lb bycatch limit. All other gears open 4/1-6/24 and $8 / 28-11 / 15 ; 100 \mathrm{lb}$ bycatch limit. | 16" (12" dressed, 10 " fillet), 1 fish | By May 1, 2010 |
| NJ | Gill net: 13 "; open 1/1-5/20 \& 9/3-10/19 \& 10/27-12/31, 100 lb possession limit; mesh $\geq 3.25^{\prime \prime}$ stretched except 2.75-3.25" allowed within 2 nm for permitted fishermen doing monthly reporting. Otter trawl: 13 "; open 1/1-7/31 \& 10/13-12/31, 100 lb possession limit; mesh $\geq 3.75$ " diamond or 3.375 square. Pound net: 13 "; open 1/1/-6/6 \& 7/1-12/31, 100 lb possession limit. 100 lb bycatch limit \& $50 \%$ rule. Hook \& line: 13 ", 1 fish, open 1/1-12/31. | 13", 1 fish | March 25, 2010 |
| DE | Gill net: 12 "; only nets with stretch mesh $\geq 3.125$ " allowed in water 4/1-6/30, none permitted weekends and legal holidays 5/10-9/30, 100 lb possession limit. Drift gill net: open 1/112/31 except 34 specified days of gear out of water in May and June. Anchor gill net: open 1/1-5/9 and 10/1-12/31, otherwise gear out of water. Hook \& line: 13"; 100 lb possession limit 4 days/week during 5/1-10/31, 1 fish creel limit all other times. | 13 ", 1 fish | April 11, 2010 |
| MD | 12 ". Ocean all gears: 100 lb bycatch limit \& $50 \%$ rule. Chesapeake Bay hook \& line: open 8/1-11/30, 50 lb possession limit, 0 lb bycatch. Chesapeake Bay all other gears: 50 lb bycatch limit \& $50 \%$ rule. Gillnet: mesh $\geq 3.0^{\prime \prime}$ stretched. Trawl: mesh $\geq 3.375^{\prime \prime}$ square or $3.75^{\prime \prime}$ diamond. | 13 ", 1 fish | June 28, 2010 |
| PRFC | 12"; open 7/28-12/31, 50 lb possession limit; 50 lb bycatch limit \& $50 \%$ rule for certified pound nets with approved cull panels, and 0 lb bycatch for all other gears. Pound net: limited entry. | 12", 1 fish | January 1, 2010 |
| VA | Gill net: 12 "; open 3/16-5/13 \& 10/21-12/30, 100 lb possession limit. Pound net: no minimum size; limited entry; open 4/1-4/30 \& 5/23-9/12 unless exempted by license forfeit, 100 lb possession limit. Haul seine: no minimum size; open 4/16-6/10 \& 8/21-9/24, 100 lb possession limit. Out of state trawl: 12" except 300100 undersized fish allowed; open 4/1$9 / 25,100 \mathrm{lb}$ possession limit; codend mesh $\geq 3.0^{\prime \prime}$. Hook \& line: 12 "; open $1 / 1-12 / 31,100 \mathrm{lb}$ possession limit. 100 lb bycatch limit (per vessel), $50 \%$ rule. | 12", 1 fish | May 1, 2010 |


|  | $12 "$, except 10" for long haul seines \& pound nets in internal <br> waters 4/1-11/15; open 1/1-12/31, 1,000 lb possession limit, <br> and 10\% rule. Gill net: mesh $\geq 2.875 "$ stretch. Flynet: gear <br> requirements \& area closure south of Cape Hatteras. Gill nets <br> and flynets that do not meet mesh requirements have 100 lb <br> bycatch limit \& 10\% rule. Long haul seine: culling panel <br>  <br> $50 \%$ rule. BRDs in shrimp trawls. Hook \& line:1 fish. | $12 ", 1$ fish | August 20, 2010 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| SC | $12 ", 1$ fish. BRDs in shrimp trawls. | $12 ", 1$ fish | July 1, 2010 |
| GA | $13^{\prime \prime}, 1$ fish. BRDs in shrimp trawls. | $13^{\prime \prime}, 1$ fish | June 3, 2010 |
| FL | $12^{\prime \prime}, 100$ lb possession limit. BRDs in shrimp trawls. | $12^{\prime \prime}, 1$ fish | July 27, 2010 |

Table 2. Comparison of commercial and recreational Atlantic coast weakfish landings from 1982 to 2013 (see Tables 3 and 4 for source information and state-specific landings).

| Year | Recreational Landings (lbs) | Commercial Landings (lbs) | Total Landings (lbs) | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { Comm } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1982 | 8,285,323 | 19,493,321 | 27,778,644 | 70\% |
| 1983 | 11,391,635 | 17,485,501 | 28,877,136 | 61\% |
| 1984 | 6,655,261 | 19,652,279 | 26,307,540 | 75\% |
| 1985 | 5,467,698 | 16,833,896 | 22,301,594 | 75\% |
| 1986 | 10,043,641 | 21,097,068 | 31,140,709 | 68\% |
| 1987 | 6,705,462 | 16,947,925 | 23,653,387 | 72\% |
| 1988 | 6,244,994 | 20,431,283 | 26,676,277 | 77\% |
| 1989 | 2,069,062 | 14,018,067 | 16,087,129 | 87\% |
| 1990 | 1,293,187 | 9,087,481 | 10,380,668 | 88\% |
| 1991 | 2,051,533 | 8,381,774 | 10,433,307 | 80\% |
| 1992 | 1,349,200 | 7,332,282 | 8,681,482 | 84\% |
| 1993 | 995,410 | 6,689,118 | 7,684,528 | 87\% |
| 1994 | 1,650,411 | 6,120,441 | 7,770,852 | 79\% |
| 1995 | 1,813,279 | 7,060,567 | 8,873,846 | 80\% |
| 1996 | 2,908,627 | 7,216,860 | 10,125,487 | 71\% |
| 1997 | 3,628,760 | 7,237,666 | 10,866,426 | 67\% |
| 1998 | 4,026,244 | 8,400,173 | 12,426,417 | 68\% |
| 1999 | 3,047,216 | 6,863,765 | 9,910,981 | 69\% |
| 2000 | 4,046,525 | 5,345,618 | 9,392,143 | 57\% |
| 2001 | 2,684,146 | 5,007,329 | 7,691,475 | 65\% |
| 2002 | 2,135,034 | 4,770,229 | 6,905,263 | 69\% |
| 2003 | 843,357 | 1,983,239 | 2,826,596 | 70\% |
| 2004 | 891,399 | 1,540,456 | 2,431,855 | 63\% |
| 2005 | 1,490,205 | 1,250,239 | 2,740,444 | 46\% |
| 2006 | 848,282 | 1,104,031 | 1,952,313 | 57\% |
| 2007 | 562,613 | 897,531 | 1,460,144 | 61\% |
| 2008 | 665,943 | 470,630 | 1,136,573 | 41\% |
| 2009 | 171,675 | 364,553 | 536,228 | 68\% |
| 2010 | 71,991 | 199,780 | 271,771 | 74\% |
| 2011 | 27,436 | 133,085 | 160,521 | 83\% |
| 2012 | 265,712 | 273,606 | 539,318 | 51\% |
| 2013 | 164,240 | 353,665 | 518,386 | 68\% |

Table 3. Commercial landings (pounds) of weakfish by state, 1982-2013 (Source: NMFS 2014, except as noted below table).

| Year | FL | GA | SC | NC | VA | PRFC | MD | DE | NJ | NY | CT | RI | MA | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1982 | 176,203 | 596 | 443 | 12,052,232 | 1,856,920 | 307,230 | 249,297 | 1,294,500 | 2,073,500 | 1,257,100 | 25,600 | 176,800 | 22,900 | 19,493,321 |
| 1983 | 117,720 | 2,749 |  | 10,233,734 | 2,483,777 | 119,394 | 390,227 | 901,800 | 2,172,700 | 850,000 | 42,800 | 163,700 | 6,900 | 17,485,501 |
| 1984 | 923 | 862 |  | 12,990,726 | 2,022,123 | 90,166 | 325,279 | 782,400 | 2,751,600 | 484,500 | 31,300 | 167,600 | 4,800 | 19,652,279 |
| 1985 | 7,747 | 82 |  | 9,821,188 | 2,014,376 | 72,666 | 316,320 | 990,817 | 3,030,100 | 386,200 | 28,200 | 163,100 | 3,100 | 16,833,896 |
| 1986 | 9,162 | 75 |  | 14,309,372 | 1,886,254 | 116,197 | 337,064 | 723,444 | 3,208,600 | 359,900 | 13,700 | 127,600 | 5,700 | 21,097,068 |
| 1987 | 11,719 | 189 |  | 11,508,389 | 1,722,441 | 265,942 | 328,510 | 577,735 | 2,094,100 | 329,100 | 29,500 | 78,600 | 1,700 | 16,947,925 |
| 1988 | 13,283 |  |  | 15,091,878 | 1,383,218 | 96,765 | 832,636 | 530,603 | 2,332,800 | 124,500 | 2,400 | 19,400 | 3,800 | 20,431,283 |
| 1989 | 21,376 |  | 113 | 10,115,747 | 1,001,324 | 28,653 | 731,313 | 543,741 | 1,458,500 | 103,500 | 2,300 | 9,600 | 1,900 | 14,018,067 |
| 1990 | 17,433 | 33 |  | 5,802,159 | 1,192,321 | 18,510 | 416,130 | 625,006 | 968,318 | 19,924 | 1,281 | 24,646 | 1,720 | 9,087,481 |
| 1991 | 21,344 |  |  | 5,308,574 | 1,047,106 | 13,798 | 153,632 | 503,289 | 1,174,181 | 111,629 | 21,300 | 25,009 | 1,912 | 8,381,774 |
| 1992 | 24,655 |  |  | 4,862,551 | 532,482 | 19,961 | 384,999 | 362,042 | 940,695 | 168,087 | 3,500 | 30,277 | 3,033 | 7,332,282 |
| 1993 | 19,580 |  |  | 4,309,249 | 1,049,946 | 37,828 | 141,926 | 195,216 | 834,446 | 88,379 | 1,477 | 9,991 | 1,080 | 6,689,118 |
| 1994 | 27,835 |  |  | 3,489,929 | 1,264,263 | 28,958 | 223,288 | 262,263 | 695,280 | 99,470 | 11,000 | 18,155 |  | 6,120,441 |
| 1995 | 5,609 |  |  | 4,113,260 | 1,448,372 | 38,138 | 64,829 | 291,010 | 867,262 | 172,431 | 6,431 | 52,690 | 535 | 7,060,567 |
| 1996 | 387 |  |  | 3,977,633 | 1,487,069 | 99,493 | 97,068 | 317,317 | 822,041 | 365,307 | 6,937 | 43,522 | 86 | 7,216,860 |
| 1997 | 875 |  |  | 3,561,060 | 1,521,517 | 35,239 | 144,659 | 558,910 | 1,036,470 | 336,752 | 10,958 | 31,171 | 55 | 7,237,666 |
| 1998 | 952 |  |  | 3,354,008 | 1,796,487 | 81,744 | 221,048 | 552,947 | 1,804,618 | 496,403 | 14,482 | 77,074 | 410 | 8,400,173 |
| 1999 | 779 |  |  | 2,617,580 | 1,610,484 | 68,749 | 192,750 | 441,176 | 1,291,319 | 489,935 | 22,172 | 126,271 | 2,550 | 6,863,765 |
| 2000 | 448 |  |  | 1,869,042 | 1,311,298 | 68,574 | 145,918 | 328,269 | 1,071,428 | 352,832 | 7,920 | 189,362 | 527 | 5,345,618 |
| 2001 | 1,201 |  |  | 1,960,324 | 1,124,707 | 44,219 | 153,865 | 190,093 | 837,550 | 578,797 | 6,774 | 109,568 | 231 | 5,007,329 |
| 2002 | 394 |  |  | 1,828,150 | 1,129,158 | 57,818 | 79,734 | 164,064 | 863,088 | 513,977 | 10,223 | 122,781 | 842 | 4,770,229 |
| 2003 | 288 |  |  | 848,822 | 454,841 | 5,273 | 31,215 | 91,195 | 340,269 | 144,416 | 3,059 | 63,337 | 524 | 1,983,239 |
| 2004 | 192 |  |  | 685,463 | 325,832 | 1,986 | 50,519 | 48,905 | 204,587 | 178,414 | 6,206 | 38,284 | 68 | 1,540,456 |
| 2005 | 553 |  |  | 421,779 | 361,874 | 1,004 | 30,983 | 70,788 | 205,692 | 109,861 | 6,118 | 41,587 |  | 1,250,239 |
| 2006 | 337 |  |  | 363,078 | 261,619 | 689 | 32,417 | 34,429 | 206,450 | 152,867 | 7,012 | 45,133 |  | 1,104,031 |
| 2007 | 888 |  |  | 175,579 | 406,392 | 20 | 18,060 | 24,570 | 162,656 | 86,656 | 1,910 | 20,800 |  | 897,531 |
| 2008 | 996 |  |  | 170,469 | 171,153 | 74 | 5,815 | 11,185 | 55,949 | 44,275 | 1,012 | 9,702 |  | 470,630 |
| 2009 | 453 |  |  | 156,145 | 61,089 | 17 | 5,340 | 2,976 | 28,891 | 102,861 | 495 | 6,286 |  | 364,553 |
| 2010 | 73 |  |  | 106,319 | 57,326 | 80 | 2,148 | 2,339 | 12,053 | 13,105 | 899 | 5,380 | 58 | 199,780 |
| 2011 | 608 | 45 |  | 65,897 | 26,014 | 45 | 423 | 1,100 | 13,324 | 17,143 | 2,105 | 5,766 | 636 | 133,106 |
| 2012 | 1,998 | 0 | 0 | 91,382 | 45,790 | 98 | 1,227 | 29,367 | 19,291 | 61,206 | 4,723 | 17,908 | 616 | 273,606 |
| 2013 | 1,055 | 38 | 0 | 120,198 | 55,524 | 24 | 3,158 | 9,357 | 14,432 | 108,693 | 5,960 | 31,826 | 3,400 | 353,665 |

Notes: FL: state-reported landings 1984-present (NMFS-reported landings limited to Nassau and Duval Counties and adjusted on the basis of the genome proportions of weakfish within the Cynoscion-complex in those counties' waters). NC: state-reported landings 1994-present. VA: NMFS-reported landings minus the PRFC-reported harvest landed in VA 1982-1992; state reported landings 1993-present (exclude Potomac River harvest). PRFC: agency-reported landings 1982-present (fish caught in Potomac River and landed in MD and VA). MD: state-reported landings 1982-present (exclude Potomac River harvest). DE: state-reported landings 1985-present. NJ: state-reported landings 2005-present. CT: state-reported landings 1995-present. RI: SAFIS landings 2005-present.

Table 4. Recreational landings (pounds) of weakfish by state, 1982-2013 (NMFS 2014, except as noted below table).

| Year | FL | GA | SC | NC | VA | PRFC | MD | DE | NJ | NY | CT | RI | MA | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1982 | 48,137 |  | 14,786 | 276,047 | 2,994,879 |  | 2,127,679 | 1,330,769 | 613,223 | 725,194 |  | 154,609 |  | 8,285,323 |
| 1983 | 9,190 | 12,165 | 4,515 | 338,100 | 738,671 |  | 1,215,376 | 2,205,140 | 6,080,018 | 164,227 | 12,976 | 588,805 | 22,452 | 11,391,635 |
| 1984 | 9,719 |  | 5,150 | 189,031 | 850,169 |  | 254,962 | 1,279,594 | 3,987,542 | 51,464 | 11,358 |  | 16,272 | 6,655,261 |
| 1985 | 578 | 3,422 | 105,151 | 184,485 | 508,980 |  | 898,313 | 1,102,095 | 1,876,608 | 638,913 | 17,269 | 131,884 |  | 5,467,698 |
| 1986 | 2,661 | 12,621 | 44,185 | 417,470 | 2,032,394 |  | 2,406,643 | 1,598,932 | 3,184,095 | 242,217 | 61,281 | 41,142 |  | 10,043,641 |
| 1987 | 1,205 | 9,491 | 23,781 | 710,002 | 647,692 |  | 831,615 | 1,072,198 | 3,353,362 | 51,830 | 4,286 |  |  | 6,705,462 |
| 1988 | 2,349 |  | 1,841 | 359,606 | 1,677,694 |  | 1,679,702 | 1,664,477 | 833,198 | 26,127 |  |  |  | 6,244,994 |
| 1989 | 2,933 | 8,175 | 5,963 | 139,979 | 424,463 |  | 344,658 | 521,648 | 575,110 | 46,133 |  |  |  | 2,069,062 |
| 1990 | 1,466 | 961 | 11,186 | 63,420 | 256,690 |  | 388,662 | 207,131 | 358,457 | 4,317 |  | 897 |  | 1,293,187 |
| 1991 | 2,142 | 5,597 | 25,210 | 99,824 | 280,075 |  | 278,176 | 427,778 | 896,800 | 35,931 |  |  |  | 2,051,533 |
| 1992 | 1,350 | 1,014 | 40,459 | 27,363 | 206,710 |  | 121,403 | 232,204 | 677,811 | 19,824 | 908 | 20,154 |  | 1,349,200 |
| 1993 | 2,899 | 12,791 | 6,929 | 78,982 | 89,992 |  | 173,952 | 291,627 | 312,839 | 18,889 | 6,510 |  |  | 995,410 |
| 1994 | 3,934 | 783 | 25,163 | 149,159 | 142,265 |  | 300,831 | 319,491 | 706,206 | 2,579 |  |  |  | 1,650,411 |
| 1995 | 1,146 | 21,283 | 22,875 | 72,412 | 211,494 |  | 141,511 | 419,527 | 898,564 | 24,467 |  |  |  | 1,813,279 |
| 1996 | 454 | 5,060 | 4,980 | 79,317 | 194,485 |  | 185,074 | 690,121 | 1,730,055 | 19,081 |  |  |  | 2,908,627 |
| 1997 | 1,734 | 34,356 | 1,728 | 165,032 | 463,652 |  | 188,339 | 734,800 | 1,817,034 | 220,718 | 1,367 |  |  | 3,628,760 |
| 1998 | 508 | 690 | 11,288 | 192,210 | 839,245 |  | 377,820 | 616,422 | 1,910,868 | 63,298 | 9,808 |  | 4,087 | 4,026,244 |
| 1999 | 2,245 | 1,614 | 4,383 | 161,291 | 399,588 |  | 544,474 | 484,157 | 1,374,169 | 63,058 | 6,371 | 5,866 |  | 3,047,216 |
| 2000 | 2,943 | 3,503 | 6,312 | 87,926 | 496,205 |  | 696,662 | 635,339 | 1,916,093 | 164,525 | 35,095 | 1,922 |  | 4,046,525 |
| 2001 | 1,323 | 2,983 |  | 158,423 | 373,206 |  | 567,625 | 172,969 | 1,251,150 | 151,584 | 4,883 |  |  | 2,684,146 |
| 2002 | 1,576 | 683 | 50,141 | 82,747 | 295,397 |  | 174,064 | 243,156 | 1,213,557 | 58,627 | 11,285 | 3,801 |  | 2,135,034 |
| 2003 | 580 | 1,327 | 4,306 | 161,474 | 215,522 |  | 24,698 | 57,866 | 333,690 | 37,106 | 3,536 | 2,379 | 873 | 843,357 |
| 2004 | 948 | 11,153 | 118,352 | 273,683 | 102,629 |  | 43,576 | 6,726 | 315,101 | 19,231 |  |  |  | 891,399 |
| 2005 | 2,719 | 7,659 | 94,205 | 157,977 | 20,439 |  | 8,814 | 39,438 | 1,149,891 | 606 |  | 8,457 |  | 1,490,205 |
| 2006 | 2,075 | 3,305 | 8,014 | 139,392 | 51,749 |  | 575 | 19,292 | 571,589 | 13,766 |  | 38,525 |  | 848,282 |
| 2007 | 2,706 | 3,847 | 46,103 | 125,459 | 55,580 |  | 19,434 | 4,204 | 297,138 | 8,142 |  |  |  | 562,613 |
| 2008 | 961 | 5,853 | 21,296 | 139,368 | 39,293 |  | 2,194 | 4,054 | 338,913 | 114,011 |  |  |  | 665,943 |
| 2009 | 1,945 | 4,797 | 10,375 | 103,230 | 21,548 |  | 1,506 | 9,868 | 18,406 |  |  |  |  | 171,675 |
| 2010 | 474 | 2,829 | 10,379 | 49,903 | 3,267 |  | 1,810 | 46 | 1,989 | 1,294 |  |  |  | 71,991 |
| 2011 | 253 | 430 | 3,089 | 17,621 | 3,267 |  | 134 | 21 | 2,449 | 172 |  | 0 | 0 | 27,436 |
| 2012 | 556 | 3,625 | 12,244 | 46,081 | 20,952 |  | 6,192 | 4,442 | 156,495 | 15,125 |  |  | 0 | 265,712 |
| 2013 | 757 | 952 | 5,572 | 34,731 | 1,781 |  | 3,518 | 9,659 | 77,394 | 28,051 |  | 1,825 |  | 164,240 |

Notes: FL: state-reported landings 1983-present (NMFS-reported estimates limited to Nassau and Duval Counties and adjusted on the basis of the genome proportions of weakfish within the Cynoscion-complex found in those counties' waters).

Table 5. Recreational landings (numbers) of weakfish by state, from 1982 to 2013 (NMFS 2014, except as noted below table).

| Year | FL | GA | SC | NC | VA | MD | DE | NJ | NY | CT | RI | MA | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1982 |  |  | 17,342 | 200,045 | 715,892 | 440,146 | 217,821 | 104,066 | 88,234 | 11,769 | 18,614 |  | 1,813,929 |
| 1983 | 16,716 | 17,209 | 6,807 | 387,871 | 354,846 | 595,286 | 1,009,899 | 2,857,093 | 36,934 | 6,363 | 74,608 | 2,732 | 5,366,364 |
| 1984 | 26,564 |  | 7,836 | 489,468 | 782,848 | 104,057 | 593,107 | 1,026,043 | 20,133 | 1,561 |  | 2,237 | 3,053,854 |
| 1985 | 2,356 | 4,811 | 61,788 | 217,671 | 505,223 | 305,799 | 365,693 | 812,839 | 89,538 | 2,874 | 17,092 |  | 2,385,684 |
| 1986 | 8,084 | 18,130 | 78,315 | 611,363 | 2,418,046 | 1,947,394 | 914,489 | 2,500,622 | 34,582 | 7,315 | 4,595 |  | 8,542,935 |
| 1987 | 4,185 | 10,802 | 18,841 | 624,160 | 1,015,413 | 824,883 | 638,342 | 1,666,619 | 7,447 | 777 |  |  | 4,811,469 |
| 1988 | 5,106 |  | 1,834 | 438,148 | 2,297,053 | 1,163,766 | 974,712 | 642,032 | 13,215 |  |  |  | 5,535,866 |
| 1989 | 7,534 | 8,245 | 6,810 | 190,193 | 357,864 | 226,505 | 254,170 | 303,289 | 6,436 |  |  |  | 1,361,046 |
| 1990 | 4,071 | 2,273 | 8,027 | 91,300 | 286,458 | 370,528 | 179,837 | 216,385 | 3,057 |  | 407 |  | 1,162,343 |
| 1991 | 6,575 | 4,954 | 19,616 | 140,826 | 351,947 | 221,242 | 366,464 | 545,665 | 28,072 | 18,695 |  |  | 1,704,056 |
| 1992 | 5,814 | 1,751 | 23,501 | 35,490 | 265,645 | 137,260 | 100,561 | 311,659 | 5,282 | 434 | 9,624 |  | 897,021 |
| 1993 | 7,414 | 14,752 | 7,360 | 106,737 | 108,392 | 238,768 | 235,312 | 203,915 | 12,610 | 2,460 |  |  | 937,720 |
| 1994 | 11,856 | 718 | 46,858 | 177,965 | 169,740 | 332,846 | 300,211 | 591,571 | 1,872 |  |  |  | 1,633,637 |
| 1995 | 4,173 | 22,437 | 29,897 | 62,475 | 226,682 | 88,695 | 406,730 | 671,850 | 22,310 |  | 1,568 |  | 1,536,817 |
| 1996 | 2,878 | 5,413 | 5,695 | 90,704 | 193,861 | 183,408 | 633,920 | 1,104,251 | 16,320 |  |  |  | 2,236,450 |
| 1997 | 10,891 | 44,202 | 2,039 | 184,954 | 557,809 | 162,900 | 647,529 | 1,028,334 | 112,986 | 517 | 1,415 |  | 2,753,576 |
| 1998 | 2,617 | 718 | 15,838 | 191,181 | 463,525 | 290,051 | 455,603 | 920,558 | 21,392 | 2,183 |  | 618 | 2,364,284 |
| 1999 | 5,532 | 1,679 | 3,941 | 127,163 | 229,209 | 340,096 | 224,307 | 583,883 | 18,347 | 1,606 | 2,296 |  | 1,538,059 |
| 2000 | 8,827 | 4,181 | 5,585 | 71,247 | 286,752 | 475,348 | 311,553 | 760,279 | 42,406 | 7,342 | 712 |  | 1,974,232 |
| 2001 | 4,083 | 3,316 |  | 158,605 | 175,872 | 302,719 | 72,451 | 736,069 | 28,126 | 715 | 2,301 |  | 1,484,257 |
| 2002 | 3,955 | 852 | 90,245 | 90,170 | 178,110 | 100,467 | 121,884 | 492,876 | 24,962 | 1,796 | 1,420 |  | 1,106,737 |
| 2003 | 2,331 | 1,573 | 4,162 | 153,753 | 86,112 | 41,048 | 20,124 | 151,101 | 9,234 | 443 | 298 | 109 | 470,288 |
| 2004 | 4,510 | 9,815 | 153,589 | 237,395 | 103,181 | 29,645 | 6,967 | 183,649 | 7,596 |  |  |  | 736,347 |
| 2005 | 3,546 | 5,764 | 129,575 | 163,265 | 30,346 | 22,164 | 19,031 | 1,053,005 | 359 |  | 1,009 |  | 1,428,064 |
| 2006 | 6,709 | 3,501 | 7,123 | 153,696 | 58,814 | 470 | 11,158 | 417,527 | 9,123 |  | 3,297 |  | 671,418 |
| 2007 | 1,910 | 4,712 | 71,230 | 114,332 | 44,624 | 10,316 | 4,182 | 209,310 | 7,120 |  |  |  | 467,736 |
| 2008 | 2,170 | 5,909 | 25,794 | 137,564 | 29,016 | 2,590 | 4,212 | 269,858 | 30,543 |  |  |  | 507,656 |
| 2009 | 2,313 | 8,664 | 10,952 | 81,643 | 18,090 | 2,314 | 5,431 | 10,688 |  |  |  |  | 140,095 |
| 2010 | 528 | 3,113 | 9,672 | 50,932 | 5,325 | 2,833 | 83 | 3,302 | 2,682 |  |  |  | 78,470 |
| 2011 | 1,097 | 973 | 4,107 | 13,464 | 4,374 | 237 | 27 | 3,003 | 111 |  |  |  | 27,393 |
| 2012 | 799 | 4,603 | 13,593 | 40,299 | 21,791 | 11,401 | 4,603 | 114,330 | 5,055 |  |  | 0 | 216,474 |
| 2013 | 1,368 | 9,441 | 13,314 | 142,857 | 83,509 | 11,912 | 27,866 | 120,313 | 12,768 |  | 14,851 |  | 438,199 |

Notes: FL: state-reported landings 1983-present (NMFS-reported estimates limited to Nassau and Duval Counties and adjusted on the basis of the genome proportions of weakfish within the Cynoscion-complex found in those counties' waters).

Table 6. Recreational releases (numbers) of weakfish by state, from 1982 to 2013 (NMFS 2014, except as noted below table).

| Year | FL | GA | SC | NC | VA | MD | DE | NJ | NY | CT | RI | MA | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1982 |  |  |  | 44,134 | 126,514 | 2,139 | 12,712 | 1,695 |  |  |  |  | 187,194 |
| 1983 | 1,141 | 173 |  | 10,560 | 45,565 | 15,642 | 8,912 | 155,116 | 15,870 |  |  |  | 252,979 |
| 1984 | 357 |  | 1,561 | 17,381 | 202,791 | 8,934 | 1,163 | 4,464 |  |  | 5,214 |  | 241,865 |
| 1985 | 426 | 152 | 3,279 | 2,138 | 82,071 | 12,114 | 2,085 | 246,284 |  |  |  |  | 348,549 |
| 1986 | 1,219 |  | 2,873 | 354,095 | 692,462 | 327,841 | 9,637 | 895,044 | 4,556 |  |  |  | 2,287,727 |
| 1987 | 773 | 89 |  | 71,659 | 233,441 | 299,172 | 46,064 | 182,019 | 1,266 |  |  |  | 834,483 |
| 1988 | 34 | 4,196 |  | 109,489 | 484,782 | 155,255 | 59,980 | 5,144 |  | 634 |  |  | 819,514 |
| 1989 | 0 |  | 1,019 | 34,074 | 52,191 | 53,148 | 13,924 | 22,841 | 1,980 |  |  |  | 179,177 |
| 1990 | 143 |  |  | 20,669 | 198,948 | 142,055 | 41,765 | 32,863 | 570 |  |  |  | 437,013 |
| 1991 | 1,556 |  |  | 11,457 | 361,768 | 40,349 | 65,685 | 238,646 | 33,046 | 2,108 |  |  | 754,615 |
| 1992 | 2,121 | 362 | 4,598 | 27,052 | 244,817 | 71,040 | 61,886 | 249,846 | 8,362 |  | 98 |  | 670,182 |
| 1993 | 2,041 | 840 | 267 | 52,468 | 245,211 | 225,510 | 255,968 | 281,450 | 20,995 |  |  |  | 1,084,750 |
| 1994 | 1,862 | 21,588 |  | 147,616 | 652,571 | 583,059 | 560,999 | 1,051,931 | 45,537 | 1,013 |  |  | 3,066,176 |
| 1995 | 2,006 | 572 |  | 154,008 | 939,970 | 178,937 | 1,088,353 | 1,613,831 | 81,236 |  | 98 |  | 4,059,011 |
| 1996 | 1,303 | 307 |  | 188,263 | 814,573 | 492,402 | 1,567,046 | 1,859,049 | 84,990 |  | 780 |  | 5,008,713 |
| 1997 | 6,596 |  | 2,938 | 209,122 | 1,404,092 | 323,653 | 897,625 | 975,280 | 90,549 | 1,213 | 163 |  | 3,911,231 |
| 1998 | 1,721 | 1,468 | 329 | 131,537 | 1,244,949 | 461,518 | 613,544 | 778,180 | 29,836 | 360 | 1,921 |  | 3,265,363 |
| 1999 | 2,818 |  | 13,616 | 149,377 | 818,959 | 753,266 | 372,479 | 551,283 | 35,459 |  | 8,436 |  | 2,705,693 |
| 2000 | 5,551 | 12,895 | 15,869 | 346,212 | 935,594 | 1,209,290 | 465,496 | 1,605,024 | 68,531 | 1,285 | 931 |  | 4,666,678 |
| 2001 | 2,541 | 13,537 |  | 886,943 | 633,443 | 737,240 | 227,214 | 1,064,609 | 69,123 |  | 358 |  | 3,635,008 |
| 2002 | 2,113 | 9,540 | 1,019 | 336,709 | 888,337 | 286,182 | 101,282 | 350,810 | 62,803 |  | 1,932 |  | 2,040,727 |
| 2003 | 1,556 | 21,212 | 1,966 | 153,563 | 504,129 | 180,827 | 39,314 | 631,438 | 7,286 | 1,233 |  |  | 1,542,524 |
| 2004 | 1,114 | 12,249 | 107,177 | 240,298 | 528,200 | 132,087 | 79,238 | 607,393 | 40,254 | 5,470 | 248 |  | 1,753,728 |
| 2005 | 1,539 | 29,623 | 56,663 | 241,674 | 266,879 | 55,270 | 110,717 | 1,279,930 | 193,556 |  |  |  | 2,235,851 |
| 2006 | 1,578 | 6,149 | 21,917 | 295,415 | 456,270 | 57,394 | 120,930 | 1,231,102 | 11,732 |  |  |  | 2,202,487 |
| 2007 | 961 | 19,890 | 90,224 | 148,938 | 172,068 | 106,308 | 18,811 | 581,435 | 200,574 |  | 1,574 |  | 1,340,783 |
| 2008 | 1,460 | 13,229 | 105,401 | 127,333 | 314,118 | 30,260 | 61,364 | 1,254,625 | 26,851 |  |  |  | 1,934,641 |
| 2009 | 2,028 | 12,438 | 40,292 | 125,649 | 69,274 | 6,700 | 5,243 | 82,282 | 6,038 |  |  |  | 349,944 |
| 2010 | 489 | 11,483 | 25,559 | 250,369 | 142,502 | 104,421 | 17,329 | 78,053 | 3,107 |  |  | 1,542 | 634,854 |
| 2011 | 522 | 14,576 | 5,165 | 109,483 | 288,304 | 18,500 | 6,568 | 99,964 | 55,172 |  |  |  | 598,254 |
| 2012 | 799 | 37,247 | 50,026 | 165,891 | 102,245 | 24,898 | 84,856 | 731,563 | 11,454 |  |  | 0 | 1,208,979 |
| 2013 | 0 | 8,362 | 7,602 | 109,006 | 81,263 | 10,078 | 20,413 | 90,268 | 5,974 |  | 14,520 | 0 | 347,486 |

Notes: FL: state-reported landings 1983-present (NMFS-reported estimates limited to Nassau and Duval Counties and adjusted on the basis of the genome proportions of weakfish within the Cynoscion-complex found in those counties' waters).

Table 7. Evaluation of the Coastwide Management Trigger (Section 3.3.1 of Addendum II to Amendment 4): percent change of each state's 2013 total landings to its five-year (2008-2012) mean total landings

|  | FL | GA | SC | NC | VA | PRFC | MD | DE | NJ | NY | CT | RI | MA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2008-2012 | 1,663 | 3,516 | 11,477 | 189,283 | 89,940 | 63 | 5,358 | 13,080 | 129,552 | 73,838 | 1,847 | 9,008 | 262 |
| 2013 | 1,812 | 990 | 5,572 | 154,929 | 57,305 | 24 | 6,676 | 19,016 | 92,307 | 136,744 | 5,960 | 33,651 | 3,400 |
| \% change | 9\% | -72\% | -51\% | -18\% | -36\% | -62\% | 25\% | 45\% | -29\% | 85\% | 223\% | 274\% | 1198\% |

Table 8. Biological sampling of weakfish in 2013, Massachusetts-Florida (Sampling requirements are based on Addendum I to Amendment 4 and 2012 landings data; values highlighted with red bold font do not meet sampling requirements).

|  | Samples Required |  | Samples <br> Completed |  | Fisheries Sampled |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Otoliths | Lengths | Otoliths | Lengths |  |
| MA* $^{2}$ | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | commercial, RIDFW Trawl Survey |
| RI | 24 | 49 | 24 | 49 | CT DEEP fall trawl survey |
| CT* $^{2}$ | 6 | 13 | 0 | 611 | commercial (GN, TR, PN, H\&L) |
| NY | 83 | 167 | 332 | 336 | NJ Ocean Trawl Survey/ research surveys |
| NJ | 26 | 53 | 212 | 216 | MRFSS |
| DE | 40 | 80 | 86 | 86 | commercial (PN, GN) |
| MD | 2 | 3 | 85 | 100 | NA |
| PRFC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | commercial (GN, PN, HS) |
| VA | 62 | 125 | 313 | 1,167 | also |
| NC | 124 | 249 | 532 | 3,147 | commercial (HS, GN, TR, PN, BS), otolith count includes samples from rec |
| SC | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | recreational |
| GA* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| FL* | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | NA |

* de minimis in 2013; not required to conduct sampling; sample numbers provided to show from what states were exempt

NA=not applicable, $\mathrm{GN}=$ gill net, $\mathrm{TR}=$ trawl, $\mathrm{PN}=$ pound net, $\mathrm{H} \& \mathrm{~L}=$ hook and line, $\mathrm{HS}=$ haul seine, $\mathrm{BS}=$ beach seine

Table 9. Indices of relative weakfish abundance from 1980 to 2012 (reported in the 2013 state compliance reports).

| Yr | RI Tr | CT Tr | CT Tr | NY Tr | NJ Tr | NJ Tr | DE Tr | DE Tr | DE Tr | MD Tr | MD Tr | VA Tr | NC Tr | NC Gn | GA Tr | FL Tr | FL Tr |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Coast | LIS | LIS | Coast | DE Bay | Ocean | DE Bay | Inland | DE Bay | ChesBay | Coast | ChesBay | Pamlico | Pamlico | Coast | Jax | IR\&Jax |
|  | YOY | YOY | 1+ | YOY | YOY | 1+ | YOY | YOY | 1+ | YOY | YOY | YOY | YOY | 1+ | 0+ | YOY | 1+ |
|  | \#tow | GM\#/tow | GM\#/tow | AM\#/tow | GM\#/tow | GM\#/tow | GM\#/tow | GM\#/tow | \#/nm | GM\#/tow | GM\#/ha | GM\#/tow | \#/tow | \#/set | \#/obs hr | med/tow | med/tow |
| 1980 | 17.1633 | * | * * | * * | * | * | 4.15 | * | * * | * * | * * | * | * | * * | * | * | * |
| 1981 | 36.4416 | * | * * | * * | * | * | 5.98 | * | * * | * * | * * | * | * | * * | * | * | * |
| 1982 | 19.5507 | * | * * | * * | * | * | 11.49 | * | * * | * * | * * | * | * | * * | * | * | * |
| 1983 | 3.13235 | * | * * | * * | * | * | 4.47 |  | * * | * * | * * | * | * | * * | * | * | * |
| 1984 | 5.03226 | 1 | 0.55 * | * | * | * | 6.67 | * | * * | * * | * * | * | * | * * | * | * | * |
| 1985 | 19.1774 | 6.19 | 0.24 * |  | * | * | 9.25 | * | * * | * * | * | * | * | * * | * | * | * |
| 1986 | 2 | 13.17 | 0.24 * |  | * | * | 12.79 | 1.14 | * * | * * | * | * | * | * * | * | * | * |
| 1987 | 1.31373 | 0.63 | 0.11 | 1.5 * |  | * | 5.82 | 1.26 |  | * * | * | * | 12.14 | * * | * | * | * |
| 1988 | 10.8571 | 2.9 | 0.06 | 0.2 * |  | * | 4.73 | 0.81 |  | * | * | 8.13 | 101.5 | * * | * | * | * |
| 1989 | 1.16667 | 8.69 | 0.02 | 6.9 * |  | 2.23 | 11.11 | 2.2 | * | 0.44262 | 0.87025 | 11.74 | 14.2 | * * | * |  | * |
| 1990 | 25.5333 | 5.56 | 0.08 | 2.3 * |  | 1.01 | 8.73 | 2.95 | * | 0.9505 | 1.72023 | 4.46 | 50.2 | * * | * | * | * |
| 1991 | 25.4103 | 11.95 | 0.31 | 56.5 | 2.2 | 1.01 | 20.07 | 5.87 | 31.43 | 0.78479 | 1.89331 | 3.16 | 36.96 | * | * | * | * |
| 1992 | 14.5143 | 3.03 | 0.18 | 23.4 | 1.01 | 1.4 | 14.72 | 2.51 | 23.83 | 3.23863 | 1.81496 | 6.78 | 42.71 | * * | * | * | * |
| 1993 | 7.5 | 4.08 | 0.12 | 4.4 | 1.01 | 0.89 | 14.79 | 0.63 | 80.1 | 1.59272 | 0.91273 | 5.81 | 8.7 | * * | * | * | * |
| 1994 | 15.1667 | 11.19 | 0.06 | 70.9 | 1.4 | 5.43 | 11.47 | 1.47 | 206.5 | 2.33092 | 1.83884 | 2.51 | 68.06 | * | * | * | * |
| 1995 | 0.2619 | 5.21 | 0.7 | 4.7 | 0.89 | 6.2 | 13.49 | 4.24 | 150 | 5.95141 | 4.44469 | 5.95 | 38.21 | * | * | * | * |
| 1996 | 124.667 | 15.23 | 0.56 | 220.4 | 5.43 | 3.95 | 12.13 | 1.18 | 233.8 | 6.39549 | 3.18307 | 7.26 | 72.07 |  | * | * | * |
| 1997 | 88.8333 | 12.38 | 0.89 | 82.4 | 6.2 | 3.48 | 15.4 | 2.07 | 110.4 | 4.28432 | 3.05986 | 6.81 | 32.79 | * | * | * | * |
| 1998 | 13.5122 | 5.02 | 0.28 | 4.8 | 3.95 | 0.59 | 11.35 | 1.35 | 102.07 | 5.8682 | 2.79961 | 7.6 | 70.44 | * | * | * | * |
| 1999 | 3.68293 | 30.93 | 0.39 | 40.5 | 3.48 | 1.05 | 13.51 | 1.99 | 92.56 | 3.25744 | 2.76387 | 6.78 | 99.9 |  | * | * | * |
| 2000 | 9.375 | 63.31 | 0.3 | 167.1 | 0.59 | 2.36 | 14.14 | 1.64 | 179.12 | 6.53832 | 2.33775 | 8.35 | 62.99 | * | * | * | * |
| 2001 | 19.3333 | 40.09 | 0.52 | 113.7 | 15.03 | 0.68 | 7.56 | 1.53 | 80.7 | 8.10129 | 2.55858 | 5.09 | 30.3 | 1.42 | * | 1.71 | 0.04 |
| 2002 | 8.4 | 41.35 | 0.16 | 145.2 | 19.7 | 1.59 | 5.96 | 1.31 | 144.98 | 3.91977 | 0.61066 | 6.93 | 22 | 1.4 | * | 2.40 | 0.02 |
| 2003 | 198 | 49.41 | 0.07 | 69.8 | 3.11 | 0.08 | 10.44 | 2.44 | 65.78 | 4.89255 | 5.64104 | 9.23 | 23.93 | 1.22 | 105.44 | 5.55 | 0.02 |
| 2004 | 1.88095 | 58.98 | 0.21 | 43.9 | 8.48 | 1.79 | 8.39 | 3.32 | 48.88 | 1.62152 | 3.39291 | 6.66 | 28.75 | 1.32 | 94.42 | 8.18 | 0.04 |
| 2005 | 128.925 | 25.86 | 0.12 | 226.5 | 20.6 | 0.46 | 16.82 | 3.84 | 29 | 3.54587 | 4.98447 | 5.69 | 28.76 | 1.24 | 32.08 | 4.10 | 0.05 |
| 2006 | 0.35714 | 1.05 | 0.29 | 55.1 | 12.24 | 0.19 | 5.35 | 1.6 | 106.31 | 2.41125 | 1.50213 | 6.34 | 39.09 | 0.92 | 79.96 | 1.36 | 0.03 |
| 2007 | 36.0976 | 63.93 | 0.06 | 92.12 | 25.53 | 0.83 | 13.7 | 2.98 | 43.16 | 1.6 | 2.32 | 5.35 | 56.8 | 0.43 | 159.64 | 1.35 | 0.01 |
| 2008 | 0.54762 | 9.07 | 0.08 | 51.5 | 7.86 | 0.35 | 6.74 | 1.02 | 45.94 | 0.79 | 0.23 | 5.77 | 50.3 | 0.49 | 75.55 | 3.26 | 0.01 |
| 2009 | 7.29 | 6.48 | 0.3 | 13.3 | 7.29 | 0.33 | 8.56 | 5.91 | 35.83 | 1.42 | 1.33 | 6.18 | 58.89 | 0.31 | 104.76 | 4.61 | 0.04 |
| 2010 | 7.95 |  | - | 15.3 | 10.51 | 0.69 | 11.98 | 3.49 | 43.57 | 1.68 | 2.16 | 14.11 | 32.45 | 0.48 | 128.48 | 1.06 | 0.03 |
| 2011 | 70.63 | 11.64 | 0.68 | 34.5 | 15.8 | 22.32 | 7.89 | 3.3 | 89.22 | 2.04 | 1.9 | 5.23 | 33.69 | 0.36 | 104.2 | 0.77 | 0.01 |
| 2012 | 122.3 | 21.96 | 0.73 | 9.4 | 1.26 | 0.23 | 7.55 | 3.44 | 106.43 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 3.02 | 40.66 | 0.92 | 91.64 | 3.42 | 0.02 |
| 2013 | 13.2 | 7.01 | 0.52 | 22.6 | 15.55 | 0.39 | 13.49 | 4.47 | 71.78 | 2.15 | 1.02 | 9.41 | 58.53 | 0.69 | 131.52 | 1.29 | 0.00 |

## XI. Figures

Figure 1. Estimated weakfish age 1+ biomass, fishing mortality, and natural mortality from 1982 to 2008 (NMFS 2009a, NMFS 2009b).


Figure 2. Commercial and recreational weakfish harvest (pounds), from 1982 to 2013 (see Tables 3 and 4 for source information and values).


Figure 3. Percent total weakfish landings (pounds) by state, from 2009 to 2013.


Figure 4. Recreational weakfish harvest and releases (number of fish), from 1983 to 2013 (see Tables 5 and 6 for source information and values).



[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Biomass estimates are for January 1 stock size. All mortality rates are also based on January 1 stock size.
    ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~F}$ estimates are based on age $1+$ biomass and are therefore affected by partial recruitment and can not be comparable to the F target and threshold in Amendment 4 which are for fully recruited ages only.

