NY Commercial Food Fish Landing License

- Allows any person to land and sell fish for commercial purposes in NY legally taken outside of state waters, including the EEZ.
- This license does not allow holders to take fish or to land fish taken within State waters.
- Opportunity for non-commercial licensed fishermen to take, land and sell commercial quantities of fish.
  - NY is in the process of developing a solution to their license loophole.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TOTAL # OF LICENSES</th>
<th>CORPORATE</th>
<th>NY RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012*</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concern about commercial landings of tautog harvested from federal waters.

Suspicion that increased commercial effort is leading to an increase in F in NY

Do other states have possible loopholes?
Federal Water Regulations?

- There is no federal fishery management plan for tautog, nor are there any rules or restrictions for federal waters.

- Would Federal regulations help close loopholes?
Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by 2015

Tautog Ageing Exchange and Workshop

May 2012
Outline

- Tautog Ageing Background
- Workshop Goals
- Results and Conclusions
- Future Work
Tautog Ageing

Tautog have traditionally been aged with opercular bones

Image: http://palacos.com
In 2001, Old Dominion University modified their ageing technique for tautog. Used paired otolith and opercular samples to “train” readings of opercula.

Image: ODU CQFE
TC had concerns about VA’s small size-at-age

Could not resolve issue of geographic differences vs. ageing method differences

VA’s 2001-2003 samples were excluded from 2005 Benchmark Assessment

An ageing exchange and workshop was organized to resolve differences prior to next benchmark
Ageing Exchange

- 9 labs from 8 states participated:
  - ODU, VIMS, MD, DE, NJ, NY, CT, RI, & MA
- 10-12 matched pairs of tautog otoliths and opercula from each state
- Each state aged samples using their protocols
- Consistency between states and between otolith and operculum ages was examined
Ageing Workshop

- In-person workshop after exchange

- Goals:
  - Review exchange results
  - Recommend best practices for tautog ageing
Exchange Results

- 154 tautog samples (82 opercula, 72 otoliths)
- 5.5 inches – 30.5 inches
- Most 12 – 24 inches
Exchange Results

- ODU was not significantly biased compared to most states

Operculum Ages

- N = 82
- CV = 9.5%
- 40.2% exact agreement
- 87.8% agreement within 1 year
- Bowker's test p = 0.426
Exchange Results

- ODU was not significantly biased compared to most states.
Exchange Results

- MA aged tautog younger than most other states
- Missing the 1st annulus in some samples
Exchange Results

- Operculum ages and otolith ages agreed over the range of ages examined

Figure 2: Mean operculum age vs. otolith age for ODU. Error bars = standard deviation.
Exchange Results

- Operculum ages and otolith ages agreed over the range of ages examined

Figure 5: Mean operculum age vs. otolith age for NJ. Error bars = standard deviation.
Exchange Results

- Overall precision
  - Operculum ages: 13.2% CV
  - Otolith ages: 13.6% CV
Conclusions

- VA’s ages should be included in the next assessment
- Operculum collection should remain the standard for biological sampling of the tautog catch, but paired sub-samples of otoliths should be added.
Future Work

- Spot-check historical samples
  - ASMFC staff will coordinate with states after the fall field season
- Assemble regional reference collections of paired operculum and otolith samples
- Conduct exchanges in the future to ensure consistency across regions
Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by 2015

Tautog Assessment Scoping Workshop

September 19 – 20, 2012
Workshop Summary

- Workshop Motivation and Goals
- 2005 Peer Review Recommendations
- Review of potential new models to use
- TC/SASC Recommendations for next benchmark assessment
Motivation and Goals

➢ Given a lack of confidence in the continued use of a coast wide approach and use of the VPA model for tautog assessments - develop recommendations to move forward.

➢ Draft recommendations for the Board for a new benchmark assessment timeline and possible ways to address previous assessment shortcomings.
Data Concerns/Issues

- Lack of commercial catch and biological samples
- Limited recreational length sampling, especially in early years and late years of the time series
- Trawl surveys may not be appropriate for tautog
- No fisheries independent indices south of NJ
- Discard mortality rate assumptions
- Geographic differences in growth and maturity
Model Concerns/Issues

- Coastwide model may not be best approach for a population with sub-stock structure
- VPA assumes catch is known without error
Potential New or Improved Data

- State angler based data programs to supplement MRIP length frequency data
- Standardize indices with GLMs to account for seasonal and environmental factors
- Explore MRIP CPUE as an index
- Explore NEFSC trawl survey, URI GSO trawl survey, state juvenile seine surveys, and other data sources as indices
New Model Types

- Statistical Catch-at-Age
- Data Poor Models
SCAA Model

- Addresses many of the concerns with the VPA model structure, including the assumption that catch is known without error
- Still a data-intensive model
3 Data Poor Models

- Data Corrected Average Catch, Depletion Based Stock Reduction Assessment, Martell and Froese’s Simple Method (2012)
- Used for setting OFLs on the west coast for data-poor species (e.g., rockfish species)
- DBSRA used in recent eel and river herring assessments
- Require time-series of catch and expert knowledge about stock dynamics
TC/SASC Recommendations

- Data-poor models could potentially make a regional assessment approach more feasible
- Multiple models should be considered for the assessment
- Regional splits should be based on examination of available tagging, genetic, and life history data
- Some regions may support more sophisticated models than others, which will affect management options
Proposed Timeline

- Winter 2012: planning call for Data Workshop
- Spring 2013: Data Workshop
- Fall 2013: Data/Modeling Workshop or Webinar if necessary
- Winter 2013: Assessment Workshop
- Summer 2014: Peer Review