

Weakfish Advisory Panel Conference Call

Alexandria, VA

Thursday, August 3, 2000

4:00PM

Conference Call Participants:

Ernie Bowden, Chair

Heather Stirratt, ASMFC Staff

Walter Burroughs

Billy Farmer

Felix Heald

Bradley Loewen

Bob Pride

Topics of Discussion

- Current Commercial Management Measures
 - Fishing Mortality Targets/Suggested Changes by SAS/TC
 - Quotas
 - AP Recommendations
- Current Recreational Management Measures
 - Creel Limits
 - Equity Issues/Regional Splits
 - AP Recommendations
- Table 2 Revisions
- Other Business
 - John Mihale's Comments – NY 150lb bycatch limit not applicable to hook-and-line fishermen
 - Virginia's closed season and associated discard mortality

Recommendations

1. AP wants to establish creel limits on all sizes of fish
2. AP wants to investigate option of conservation equivalency for Southern region. Is it possible to increase number of fish available at smaller sizes ~12 inch, if the creel limit for larger sized fish is reduced?
3. AP concerned about discard mortalities associated with closed seasons. AP would appreciate investigation into other options for those states that employ closed seasons.