

**ASMFC Weakfish AP
Conference Call Summary
August 23, 2002**

ATTENDEES:

AP members -

Wayne Lee (chair) – NC
Bradley Loewen – NY
Robert Christensen – NJ
Charles Law – NJ
Marvin Kahl (proxy for Gerry Blakeslee) – DE
Felix Heald – MD
George David Bradley – PRFC
Robert Pride – VA
Billy Farmer – NC
Fred Kinard – SC
Gene Neville – GA

Public –

Michael Doble

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

To review draft Amendment #4 and develop recommendations for the Weakfish Management Board of changes the AP would like to see to the document before it goes to public hearing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Section 4.1 – Recreational Fisheries Management Measures

Creel Limit/Minimum Size Options – NC and NJ proposals:

If NC and NJ options are acceptable to the technical committee, the AP would like those options included in the public hearing draft of Amendment #4.

Some AP members had concerns with the NJ options as presented. They felt they were not clear and another AP member had conservation concerns and therefore they felt the NJ options should not be included.

Reasonable Maximum Creel Limit:

The AP recommends that a third option be added which would provide another reasonable maximum creel limit that the technical committee determines that takes into account changing angler success rates.

Section 4.2 – Commercial Fisheries Management Measures

Section 4.2.1 – Bycatch - Commercial Hook and Line

The AP recommends adding a third option which reads: The commercial hook and line fishery is permitted a bycatch allowance of 20% of their total landings in weight per day up to 150 pounds.

Section 4.2.1 – Bycatch – Southern Penaeid Shrimp Fishery

The AP recommends adding a fourth option reads: The southern penaeid shrimp fishery is permitted 150 pounds of weakfish as a bycatch allowance.

Section 4.2.2 – Minimum Fish Size

The AP recommends adding another section of options to address allowing ten inch fish to be landed through conservation equivalency programs. These would read:

Option 1: Pound net and haul seine fisheries within internal waters are allowed to harvest fish smaller than 12 inches total length, however, catches from these fisheries must be monitored and accounted for in each state's proposal.

Harvest of smaller fish requires that states comply with conservation equivalencies as listed in section 4.5.2.

Option 2: There will be no allowances the harvest of fish smaller than 12 inches total length through conservation equivalency.

Section 4.2.8 – Bycatch Reduction Devices

The AP recommends that a fourth option be added that indicates that no requirements, incentives, or penalties related to escape panels in pound nets be included in Amendment 4. The AP also recommends that another suite of options be added under this section which would read:

Option 1: All escape panel for pound net requirements in Amendment 4 apply to all states covered under Amendment 4.

Option 2: All escape panel for pound net requirements in Amendment 4 apply to all states south of New York.