

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

March 13, 2007

TO: Tautog Management Board
Tautog Advisory Panel
Tautog Technical Committee

FROM: Chris Vonderweidt, FMP Coordinator

SUBJECT: State Proposals for Tautog Addendum IV

The Tautog Technical Committee held a conference call this morning to discuss state reduction proposals required in Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The Addendum requires states to submit proposals to achieve a fishing mortality rate $F = 0.20$ (28.6% reduction), by April 6, 2007.

After deliberation, the TC clarified several points of possible confusion:

(1) MRFSS data from 2005 is to be used as the base year for reductions, as *Section 4.1* of Addendum IV specifies.

(2) States that propose reductions based on state specific F must also include a reduction proposal based on the coastwide assessment. The coastwide assessment is required in the case that the TC disapproves the state specific assessment. State specific assessments only have to include data through 2004 for consistency with the coastwide assessment, which has a terminal year F estimate of 2004. State specific estimates may include more recent data if available. Virginia, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts are likely to submit state specific assessment data.

(3) The TC will consider increasing size limits to reach $F = 0.20$ granted a state can demonstrate the decrease in F will be sustained rather than just delaying the higher F rate by a few years.

(4) A TC meeting to review state proposals has been scheduled for 10:00 am on April 24, in Providence, Rhode Island.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance (cvonderweidt@asmfc.org or (202)-289-6400).

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