



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

August 1, 2012

To: South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board

From: Spot Plan Review Team (Danielle Chesky, Chair)

Subject: Spot Triggers for 2011 – Did Not Trigger

The Spot Plan Review Team met June 20-21, 2012, and reviewed the Spot Management Triggers, as included in the Omnibus Amendment, for the 2011 fishing year. Although the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Seine Survey Index fell below the 10th percentile, the management trigger was not tripped, as none of the other four trigger indices fell below the 10th percentile. However, the commercial landings for spot have dipped below the 10th percentile five of the past seven years, and this year's value was just above the trigger mark (11th percentile). This value continues an overall decreasing trend in commercial landings over the past decade.

The Spot Plan Review Team remains concerned about the trend seen in the commercial landings data; however, the other two fishery-independent indices (NMFS Survey, 97th percentile in 2011, and SEAMAP Survey, 91st percentile in 2011) have generally remained above the trigger mark in the past decade. **The Plan Review Team does not recommend management action at this time but recommends the Board review the trigger data mid-year, rather than wait until compliance reports are due November 1.** This approach will allow identification of any significant management issues in time to address them for the following fishing year, minimizing delay in implementation.

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