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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1444 Eye St., NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

MEETING SUMMARY

Tautog Advisory Panel
Tuesday, October 8, 2002
1:00 PM

Participants:

Heather Stirratt
Bill Lister

Robert Rogean
John Mihale

Denise Wagner
TC Members

Motions:

No motions were presented during the meeting.

Summary:

Review and Comment on State Proposals to Meet F_{40%}SSB

Following review of proposals by state personnel, the Advisory Panel was asked to provide comment to the Tautog Management Board on the proposals presented to meet the plan target of F_{40%} SSB. The Panel offered the following comments by state:

Massachusetts

Panel members raised concern that the stock appeared to be doing very well in terms of abundance and biomass. They noted that these levels were much higher than the latest stock assessment suggests. Panel members noted a preference for continuing to catch fish with no further reductions. Given the choice of the options presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Panel noted support for Option 5.

Rhode Island

The Panel discussed at length the status of Tautog stocks in Rhode Island. The Panel agreed that the stock assessment accurately reflects abundance (e.g., high/increasing biomass) as noted on the water. As such, the Panel did not offer any concern about Rhode Island's request for status quo management.

Connecticut

The Panel supported Option 1 as presented by the State of Connecticut.

New York

The Panel supported Option 1 as presented by the State of New York.

New Jersey

The Panel commented that fishermen in New York would rather eliminate the 1 fish during the summer (June – October), as this minimal catch is insignificant in terms of maintaining the

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recreational fishery. No official recommendation was offered with regard to the recreational options as presented by the State of New Jersey. The Panel supported Option 1 as presented by New Jersey to achieve commercial fishery reductions.

Delaware

The Panel supported Option 1 as presented by the State of Delaware.

Maryland

The Panel supported the State of Maryland's proposal as presented during the meeting.

Virginia

The Panel concurred with the Technical Committee's decision to support Virginia's catch-curve analysis, which suggested that the fishing mortality rate in Virginia is well below the target in the plan. The Panel recommended that the ASMFC fund further tagging studies to corroborate the catch-curve findings presented by Virginia during the meeting.

North Carolina

The Advisory Panel reviewed North Carolina's request for removal from the management unit and recommended that if North Carolina wished to remain unregulated then the state and its fishers should not be permitted to harvest/land Tautog.

Advisors Comments (General in Nature)

1. Each Advisor commented on feelings that the stock assessment was out of touch with observations on the water. Everyone felt as though abundance was much greater than estimated in the latest stock assessment.