



Red Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment Update

November 5, 2015

Background



- Key objective of management is abundance/biomass stock status in addition to overfishing status
- Several limitations with the Statistical Catch-at-Age model developed for SEDAR 18
 - Plus group (7+) includes $\approx 90\%$ of the ages in the northern stock and $\approx 83\%$ of the ages in the southern stock
 - No reliable abundance/biomass estimates
 - Reliance on the tag-based F estimates

SEDAR 18 Recommendations



- Statistical analysis of tag-recapture data, preferably within the assessment model, to inform F estimates
- Fit survey and fishery length data directly due to the sparse coverage of age sampling
- Develop catch compositions with survey- or fleet-specific age samples

Stock Synthesis 3 (SS3)

- Tag-recapture model that informs F estimates
- Integrated design
 - Superior for handling missing data
 - Survey- and fishery-specific age data
 - Fits to survey and fishery length composition data

Challenges with SS3



- Stock Assessment Subcommittee encountered several issues throughout model development that contributed to unstable models
- SAS sought external guidance for improving model stability
- Model instability persisted through a workshop in June, but the SAS agreed continuing work on the SS3 models was the most beneficial path for the assessment

SEDAR 44 Review Workshop



- August 25-27, 2015
- Objective of the workshop modified given the challenges experienced by the SAS
- Peer review panel provided guidance and recommendations
- Peer review panel endorsed the SAS's decision to continue development of models with SS3

Moving Forward



- Recommendations currently being implemented
- The SAS expects to complete work to be reviewed by the end of 2015
- Results presented at February 2016 meeting

Assessment Documents



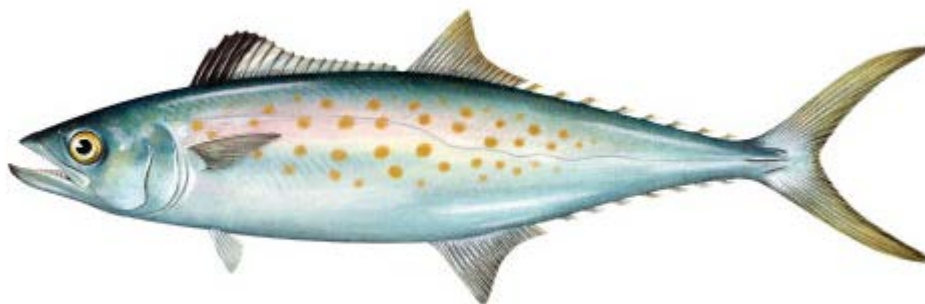
- Individual CIE reviewer reports available at:

<http://sedarweb.org/sedar-44>



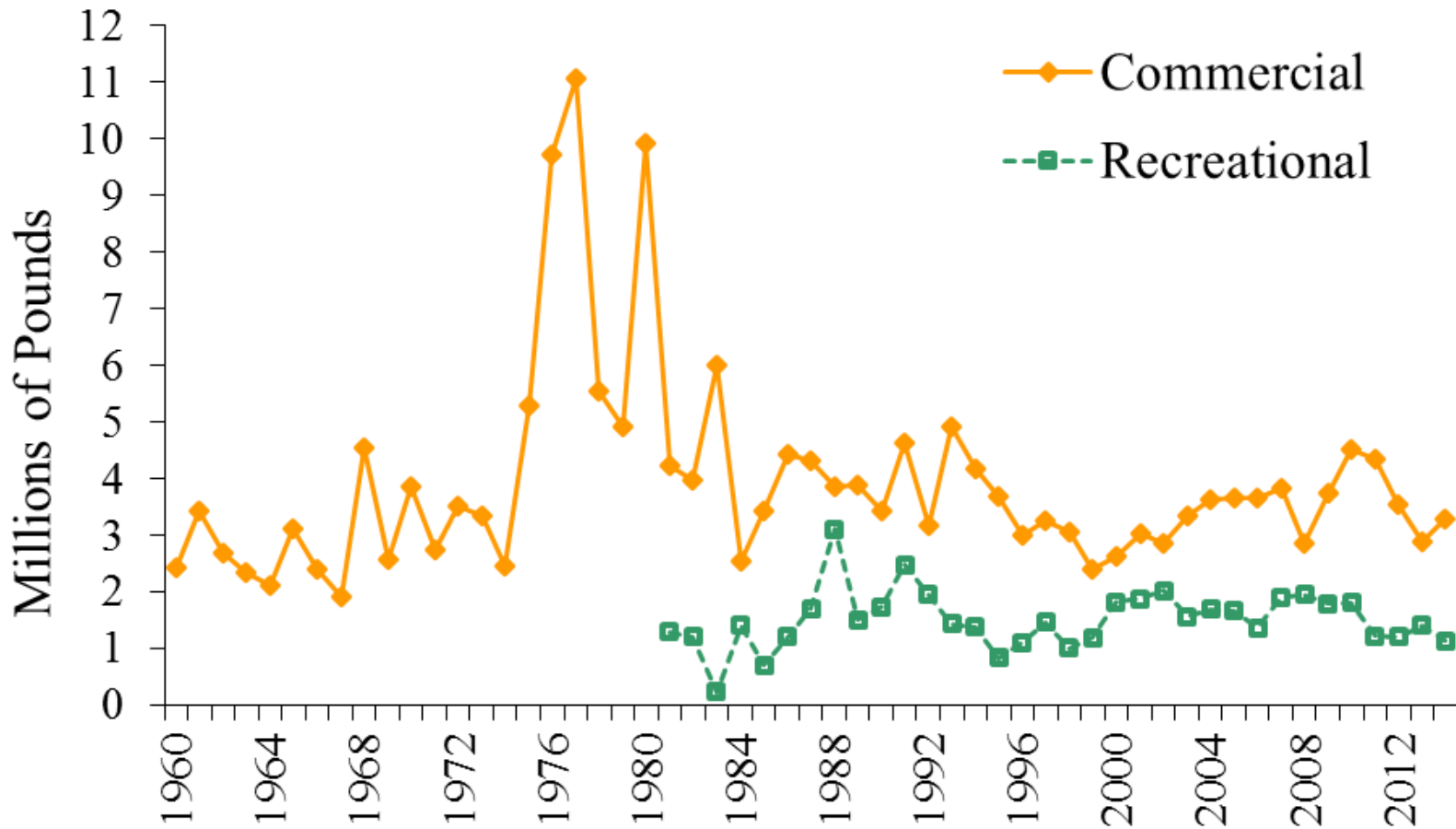
Questions?

Spanish Mackerel 2015 FMP Review

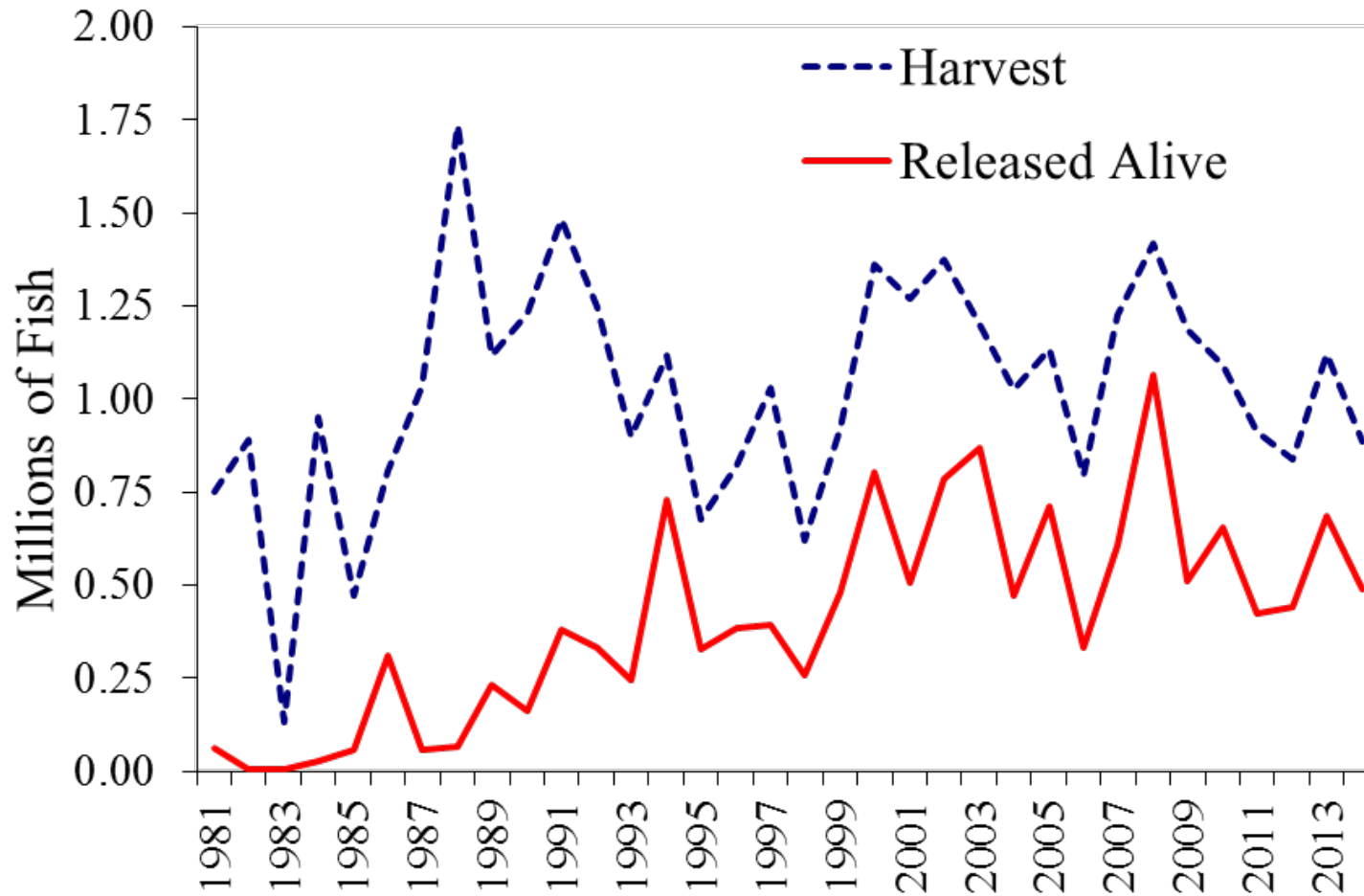


November 5, 2015

Status of the Fishery



Status of the Fishery



Status of Stock



- **2012 Stock Assessment**
 - **SEDAR Review**
 - **Stock is not overfished**
 - **Stock not experiencing overfishing**

Status Of Management



Omnibus Amendment (2011)

- Rec: 12" FL or 14" TL; 15 fish bag limit
- Com: 12" FL or 14" TL, 3500lb trip limit (decreasing for FL as quota is taken)

Addendum I (2013)

- Reduce min size in commercial pound net fishery to 11.5"
- Extended to 2015 and 2016 fishing seasons

Status of Management - Federal



CMP Framework Amendment 1 (2014)

- Increase ACL to 6.063 million pounds

Amendment 20B (2015)

- Separates commercial quota into N/S zones

CMP Framework Amendment 2 (2015)

- Decreased trip limit in SC, GA, FL (3,500; 1,500; 500)

State Compliance



Omnibus Amendment

- All states found in compliance

De Minimis

- 3 year average, combined com and rec, 1%
- Requests from NJ, DE, GA
- States meet requirements

Recommendations



Management

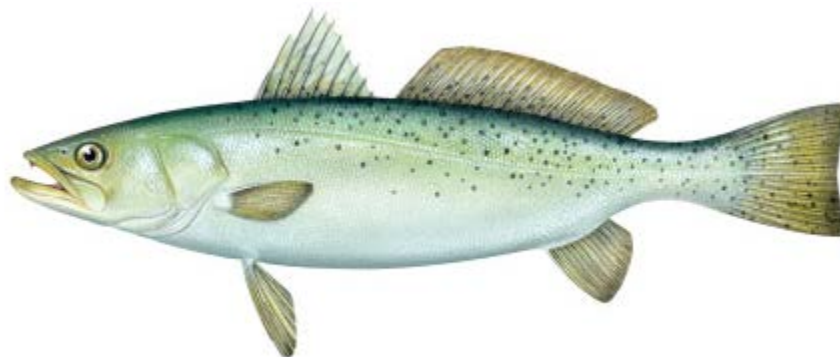
- The PRT recommends the Board approve the 2015 Spanish Mackerel FMP Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for NJ, DE, and GA

Research

- Length, sex, age, and CPUE data are needed for improved stock assessment accuracy
- Provide better estimates of recruitment, natural mortality rates, fishing mortality rates, and standing stock

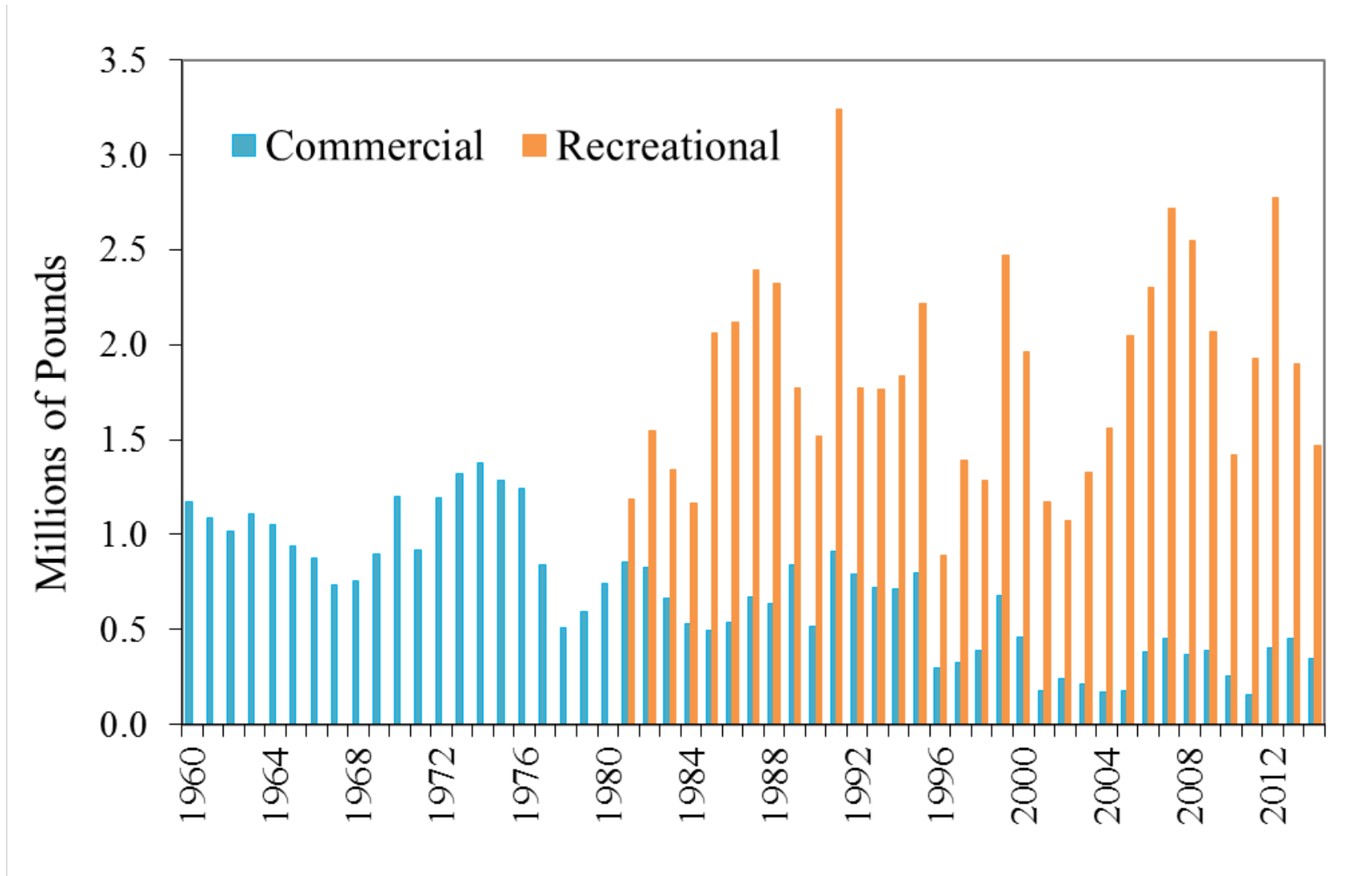


Spotted Seatrout 2015 FMP Review

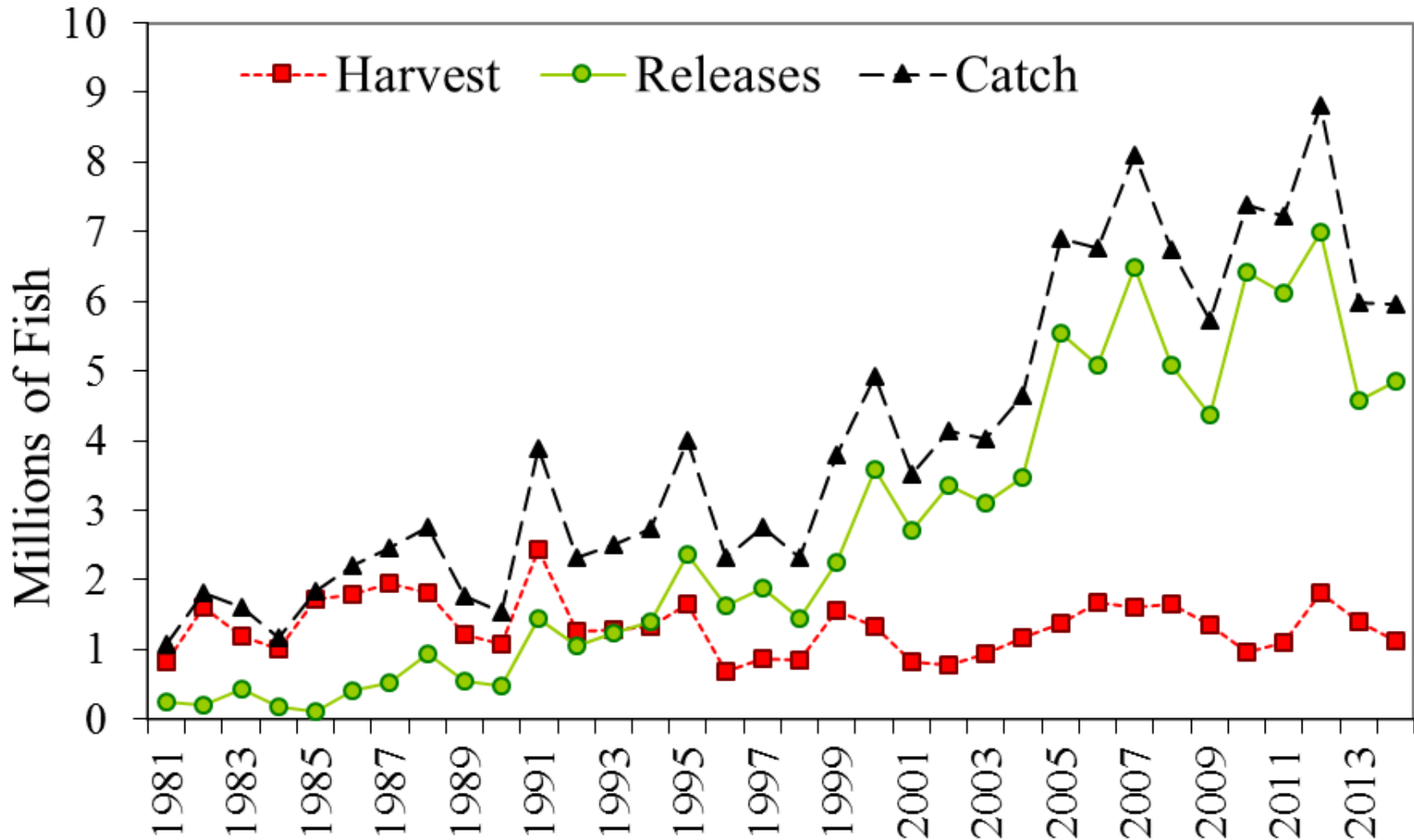


November 5, 2015

Status of Fishery



Status of Fishery



Status of Stock



- **No coastwide stock assessment**
 - Data availability
 - Life history/migration
- **2014 VA/NC Stock Assessment**
 - Age structure expanded in last decade
 - Decline in recruitment after 2010
 - Spawning stock biomass peaked in 2007

Status of Management



Omnibus Amendment (2011)

- 12" TL min size for rec and com fishery
- All states in compliance

De Minimis

- 3 year average, combined com and rec, 1%
- Requests: NJ and DE
- Both states qualify

Recommendations



Management

- The PRT recommends the Board approve the 2015 Spotted Seatrout FMP Review, state compliance reports, and *de minimis* status for NJ and DE

Research

- Increase observer coverage in states with a commercial fishery
- Conduct state-specific stock assessments

Compliance Report Deadlines



Species	Compliance Date
Black Drum	March 1
Atlantic Croaker	July 1
Red Drum	July 1
Spotted Seatrout	September 1
Spanish Mackerel	October 1
Spot	November 1