

DRAFT

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Tautog Technical Committee Meeting

April 3, 2003

Conference Call Minutes

Participants:

Paul Caruso, MA Chair

Lydia Munger, ASMFC

Paul Piavis, MD

Peter Himchak, NJ

Jason McNamee, RI

Alice Weber, NY

The conference call began at 10 am with a review of the first agenda item, the draft minutes of the February 20, 2003 conference call. With some minor changes, the minutes were approved by consensus.

Prior to the next agenda item, Peter Himchak asked for a clarification of the compliance deadline relating to the monitoring requirements. He specifically requested whether the compliance report due May 1, 2003 needs to include the results of the aging of the 2002 biological samples collected as described under the monitoring requirements of Addendum III. Lydia Munger will review the Addendum III requirements and report back to the Technical Committee.

Discussion of draft memo on aGuidelines for catch curve estimates@

Paul Caruso reviewed the revised memo on guidelines for catch curve estimates of F , incorporating editorial and technical comments and revisions provided to him by the technical committee. The chair provided a review of each major point within the proposed guidelines, and the committee had follow up discussions relating to the preferred and less preferred catch curve methods, the issue of stock discreteness, the use of corroborative evidence of recent fishing activity as it relates to estimates of F , and the level of precision required as described in the FMP. Paul will incorporate any final revisions on each of these points as agreed upon by the Technical Committee.

The group also heard and discussed comments provided by the Delaware technical committee representative, Jeff Tinsman as described by Lydia Munger, which included a recommendation that the guidelines need to

maintain technical committee flexibility in reviewing state-level assessments, and concern that the new guidelines may be setting a higher standard for conducting state-level assessments, which may make it difficult for states to continue to use existing approaches.

Paul Caruso will revise the current document as a final draft and will circulate to the Technical Committee. The >catch curve guidelines= memo will also be distributed by Lydia Munger to the Stock Assessment Committee for their review.

Discussion of Next Stock Assessment

The Technical Committee agreed to add this item to the agenda. After initial discussions, the group agreed that the next assessment would best be postponed until 2005 to allow for at least two years of data under the current addendum. Although this would delay a new assessment for another year beyond the scheduled assessment date, the Technical Committee supports this approach as it would allow two full years of new data collected under the Addendum III monitoring requirements to be included in any new assessment.

The Technical Committee members agreed that the most useful approach for peer review of any new tautog assessment would be through a non-traditional SARC review, which would be expected to provide a critique of the assessment methodology and how it might be improved, an approach similar to that recently employed for the striped bass stock assessment review. The Technical Committee recommended the external peer review process be considered as a less preferred alternative to a non-traditional SARC review.

Paul Caruso agreed to draft a brief memo to the Board describing the Technical Committee=s recommendations relative to the peer review and timing of the next tautog stock assessment.

The call was adjourned at 11:15 am.