

*Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

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**MEMORANDUM**

July 9, 2010

**TO:** Tautog Management Board

**FROM:** Mike Howard, LEC Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Review of the Tautog FMP and Enforcement Efforts

The Law Enforcement Committee has been surveyed to determine the current status of Tautog poaching along the eastern seaboard. They have looked at the past history and trends including the recreational/commercial live markets. As a result, there is a consensus among states which is stated below.

Tautog poaching remains constant throughout the species range with no significant increase or decrease in recreational or commercial regulations. Tautog's value as a live fish in certain markets makes it a likely target for poachers and states are working together on a regular basis to minimize illegal harvests, There have been several recreational/commercial hook and line cases that are similar to those in years pass that involve undersize and over the limit. Overall, the rules and regulations are enforceable for tautog and enforcement is aggressive.

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