

**ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**REVIEW OF THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**FOR TAUTOG**  
***(Tautoga onitis)***

**2022 FISHING YEAR**



Prepared by the Plan Review Team

Approved by the Tautog Management Board  
August 2, 2023



*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

**REVIEW OF THE ASMFC FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STATE COMPLIANCE FOR  
TAUTOG (*Tautoga onitis*) FOR THE 2022 FISHERY**

**Management Summary**

Date of FMP: March 1996

**Addenda/Amendments:**

- Addendum I to FMP (May 1997)
- Addendum II to FMP (November 1999)
- Addendum III to FMP (February 2002)
- Technical Addendum I (February 2003)
- Addendum IV to FMP (January 2007)
- Addendum V to FMP (August 2007)
- Addendum VI to FMP (March 2011, revised March 2012)
- Amendment 1 to FMP (October 2017)

Management Unit: US state waters from Massachusetts through Virginia<sup>1</sup>.

States With Declared Interest: Massachusetts-Virginia, excluding Pennsylvania

Additional Jurisdictions: National Marine Fisheries Service

Active Boards/Committees: Tautog Management Board (Board)

- Tautog Plan Development Team (PDT)
- Tautog Plan Review Team (PRT)
- Tautog Technical Committee (TC)
- Tautog Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS)
- Tautog Advisory Panel (AP)

Stock Assessments:

- Benchmark: 1999, 2005, 2015
- Update: 2011 (revised in 2012), 2016, 2021

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<sup>1</sup> North Carolina was originally included in the management unit, but as of 2017 was removed due to insignificant landings. North Carolina's landings will continue to be monitored.

## I. Status of Fishery Management Plan

### [Fishery Management Plan for Tautog](#)

The original FMP responded to concerns about the vulnerability of tautog to overfishing and increasing fishing pressure in the early 1990s. It established goals and objectives for tautog management, and adopted a fishing mortality rate (F) target of 0.15 to rebuild the stocks and prevent overfishing; however, an interim target of 0.24 was applied for two years (1997–1998). States were required to implement state-specific, Board-approved plans to reduce F from the coastwide average of 0.58 (i.e., a 55% reduction), or an alternative state-specific F, if it could be demonstrated as equivalent. Recreational and commercial minimum size limits of 13" in 1997 and 14" beginning in 1998 were required. Tautog pots and traps were also required to have degradable fasteners on one panel or door.

### [Addendum I](#)

Addendum I modified the FMP's compliance schedule to allow all states until April 1, 1998 to implement management measures to reach the interim F target. Several states were having difficulty determining a state-specific F to meet the original compliance schedule due to data deficiencies. In addition, the compliance schedule implemented the interim F target one year earlier in the area north of Delaware Bay (April 1, 1997) than further to the south (April 1, 1998). The addendum also delayed the implementation of management measures to achieve the permanent F target from April 1, 1999 to April 1, 2000. Finally, the Addendum included *de minimis* requirements and corrected several typographical errors in the FMP.

### [Addendum II](#)

Addendum II further extended the compliance schedule to achieve the permanent F target until April 1, 2002 because the effects of the regulations to achieve the interim F target were uncertain. It also listed four issues to be considered in subsequent revisions of the FMP: (1) development of alternative F targets that will allow states to quantify harvest reductions associated with a variety of management approaches, (2) clarification of the F targets to be met by sector or overall state program, (3) monitoring requirements to improve fisheries and biological data collection, and (4) data requirements to analyze management options by fishing modes within commercial and recreational fisheries.

### [Addendum III and Technical Addendum I](#)

Addendum III addressed the four issues listed in Addendum II. It adopted a new F target based on achieving 40% of the spawning stock biomass ( $F_{40\%SSB}$ ), which was estimated at 0.29 (compared to the coastwide average F estimate of 0.41). The addendum required states to maintain current or more restrictive measures for 2002 and implement measures to achieve the new F target—a 48% reduction through restrictions in the recreational fishery only—by April 1, 2003. It also updated information on tautog habitat and established monitoring requirements to support stock assessments, including the collection of 200 age and length samples per state, within the range of lengths commonly caught by the fisheries. Technical Addendum 1 corrected a typographical error in Addendum III.

### [Addendum IV](#)

Addendum IV established SSB target and threshold reference points based on a benchmark stock assessment completed in 2005. The target was set as the average SSB over 1982–1991, and the threshold at 75% of this value. It also set a new F target of 0.20 to initiate rebuilding. States were required to implement recreational management programs to achieve a 28.6% reduction in F relative to 2005 (and maintain existing commercial management programs) by January 1, 2008.

#### Addendum V

As individual states developed management proposals to comply with Addendum IV's mandated reduction in fishing mortality, it became apparent that commercial harvest of tautog had grown in proportion to the recreational fishery in some states. The Board approved Addendum V to give states flexibility for implementing reductions in their recreational *and/or* commercial fisheries to reach the fishing mortality target rate of  $F = 0.20$  established in Addendum IV by January 1, 2008.

#### Addendum VI

Based on the 2011 stock assessment update indicating that tautog were still overfished and experiencing overfishing, Addendum VI reduced the F target to 0.15 to rebuild the stock. States were required to implement Board-approved regulations in their commercial and/or recreational fisheries to reduce harvest by 39%. The addendum also allowed for regional considerations if a state or group of states could demonstrate that the local F is below the rates indicated in the stock assessment update.

#### Amendment 1

Amendment 1 replaced the original FMP, with an implementation date of April 1, 2018 for most measures. Major revisions to the FMP include: new goals and objectives, establishment of four tautog stocks for regional recreational and commercial management, and creation of a commercial harvest tagging program (implementation in 2020).

#### Goals:

- To sustainably manage tautog over the long-term using regional differences in biology and fishery characteristics as the basis for management.
- To promote the conservation and enhancement of structured habitat to meet the needs of all stages of tautog's life cycle.

#### Objectives:

- To develop and implement management strategies to rebuild tautog stocks to sustainable levels (reduce fishing mortality to the target and restore spawning stock biomass to the target), while considering ecological and socio-economic impacts.
- To adopt compatible management measures among states within a regional management unit.
- To encourage compatible regulations between the states and the EEZ, which includes enacting management recommendations that apply to fish landed in each state (i.e., regulations apply to fish caught both inside and outside of state waters).
- To identify important habitat and environmental quality factors that support the long-term maintenance and productivity of sustainable tautog populations throughout their range.

- To promote cooperative interstate biological, social, and economic research, monitoring and law enforcement.
- To encourage sufficient monitoring of the resource and collection of additional data, particularly in the southern portion of the species range, that are necessary for development of effective long-term management strategies and evaluation of the management program.
- To work with law enforcement to minimize factors contributing to illegal harvest.

**Regional Management:** Based on the 2016 regional stock assessment, Amendment 1 delineates the stock into four regions due to differences in biology and fishery characteristics: Massachusetts - Rhode Island (MARI); Long Island Sound (LIS); New Jersey - New York Bight (NJ-NYB); and Delaware - Maryland - Virginia (DelMarVa). The four regions are required to implement measures to achieve the regional fishing mortality target with at least a 50% probability.

The 2016 assessment found that all regions except MARI were overfished, and overfishing was occurring in the LIS and NJ-NYB regions in 2015. As such, Amendment 1 requires the LIS region to reduce harvest by at least 20.3%, and the NJ-NYB region to reduce harvest by at least 2%. The MARI and DelMarVa regions were not required to reduce harvest, but established regional measures.

**Commercial Harvest Tagging Program:** Amendment 1 also establishes a commercial harvest tagging program to address an illegal, unreported, and undocumented fishery. Coastwide implementation of the program began in 2020; more information on the current implementation can be found in Section VI. Status of Management Measures and Issues.

## **II. Status of the Stocks**

Current stock status is based on the 2021 stock assessment update, which uses the methodology that was approved for management use as part of the 2016 benchmark stock assessment. The assessment evaluates each of the four regions—MARI, LIS, NJ–NYB, and DelMarVa—separately using the ASAP statistical catch-at-age model with landings and index data through 2020. This is the first stock assessment for tautog to use recreational catch estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) since major revisions to its methodology. The new MRIP estimates resulted in higher estimates of spawning stock biomass (SSB) and recruitment in all regions, but had less of an impact on fishing mortality.

The 2021 stock assessment update found improvements in most regions since the last assessment (2017). Overfishing was no longer occurring in any region in 2020 (a change for LIS and NJ-NYB), while only the NJ-NYB region remained overfished in 2020 (with LIS and DelMarVa moving out of this category). F was below the target in the DelMarVa and MARI regions, and between the target and threshold in the LIS and NJ-NYB regions. Strong year classes in MARI and LIS in recent years appear to have contributed to increasing trends in spawning stock biomass, while a significant decline in F in DelMarVa since 2012 has resulted in an increase in SSB there. While the NJ-NYB region remains overfished, the SSB has been trending upward since the last assessment. The current overfishing and overfished definitions for management use are shown in Table 1, and fishing mortality and spawning

stock biomass (SSB) for each region relative to the respective targets and thresholds are shown in Figures 1-8.

#### **IV. Status of the Fishery**

##### Total Harvest

Between 1981 and 2022<sup>2</sup>, total coastwide tautog harvest (recreational + commercial) peaked at 22.5 million pounds in 1986. Harvest has since declined significantly, starting before state restrictions were implemented. Total harvest during the ASMFC managed period (1996–2022) has averaged approximately 7.8 million pounds per year (Figure 9, Table 2).

##### Recreational Harvest

Tautog is predominantly taken by the recreational fishery: 96% on average, by weight (Table 2). Coastwide, anglers harvested historic highs of over 20 million pounds of tautog in 1986 and 1992 (Figure 9). Since then, harvest has declined, fluctuating between 3.4 million pounds (in 2018) and 13.2 million pounds (in 2021). In 2022, recreational harvest was over 8.8 million pounds, which was an approximate 33% decrease from 2021. Historically, recreational harvest occurs primarily in September–December. At the state level, Massachusetts through New Jersey account for the vast majority of recreational harvest (Tables 4 and 5), with New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts anglers harvested the most tautog in 2022, although the highest harvesting states does vary year-to-year (Figure 10).

Recreational releases have generally increased relative to harvest over the time series. Prior to the FMP’s implementation in 1996, the number of fish released alive annually was less than harvest, but since then releases have been several times greater than the harvest (Table 4). In 2022, the live releases of 24.4 million fish were more than nine times the estimated harvest of 2.7 million fish. A discard mortality rate of 2.5% is assumed for the recreational tautog fishery, resulting in an estimated 608,882 recreational dead discards in 2022. This equates to approximately 23% of recreational removals.

##### Commercial Landings

Historically, tautog was considered a “trash fish” until the late 1970s, when demand increased, and a directed commercial fishery developed. Landings quickly rose, peaking in 1987 at nearly 1.2 million pounds, then rapidly began to decline. In 1992, states began to implement commercial regulations, which contributed to a decline in landings (Figure 11, Table 2). Non-confidential landings in 2022 were approximately 541,950 pounds. The coastwide average ex-vessel price (dollars per pound) for tautog has increased nearly steadily from the late 1970s, peaking at \$4.54 per pound in 2022 (Figure 11).

Commercial landings accounted for approximately 5.8% of total coastwide harvest in 2022. On a state level, commercial landings comprised no more than 13.2% of a state’s total landings (Table 3). New York had the most commercial landings of tautog in 2022 (73% of the coastwide total), with

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<sup>2</sup> Systematic recreational data collection for tautog began in 1981, while commercial data exists back to 1950.

Massachusetts landing the second greatest amount (approximately 13% of the coastwide total) (Table 6). Data on commercial discards are not available.

## **V. Status of Research and Monitoring**

All states are required to collect the following data to continue support of a coast-wide stock assessment: commercial and recreational catch estimates, and 200 age and length samples per state, within the range of lengths commonly caught by the fisheries. Table 9 lists the number and source of samples collected by states in 2022.

Ongoing fishery-independent and fishery-dependent monitoring programs performed by each state are summarized in Tables 10 and 11, respectively. Details of monitoring results are found in the state compliance reports.

## **VI. Status of Management Measures and Issues**

Amendment 1 to the Tautog Fishery Management Plan was approved by the Board in October 2017, with an implementation deadline of April 2018 for all mandatory measures except the commercial tagging program having a January 2019 deadline. All states adopted regulations compliant with the FMP in time for the April 2018 deadline. The Board subsequently delayed the tagging program implementation deadline to January 2020, which all states met with an exception of Connecticut and New York; these states requested an extension until 2021 due to challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2021, all states have implemented the tagging program.

## **VII. Implementation of FMP Compliance Requirements**

### **A. Submission of Compliance Report**

All states in the tautog management unit submitted state compliance reports for the 2022 fishing year.

### **B. *De Minimis* Status Requests**

A state may apply for *de minimis* status with regards to its commercial fishery. To qualify for *de minimis* status a state must prove that its commercial landings in the most recent year for which data are available did not exceed 10,000 pounds or 1% of the regional commercial landings, whichever is greater. States must request *de minimis* status each year, and requests for *de minimis* status will be reviewed by the PRT as part of the annual FMP review process.

If *de minimis* status is granted, the *de minimis* state is still required to implement the commercial minimum size provision, the pot and trap degradable fastener provision, the commercial tagging program, and regulations consistent with those in the recreational fishery (including possession limits and seasonal closures). The state must monitor its landings on at least an annual basis. If granted *de*

*de minimis* status, a state must continue to collect the required 200 age/length samples. *De minimis* status does not impact a state's compliance requirements in the recreational fishery.

The commercial landings threshold for *de minimis* status for 2022 in each region is 10,000 pounds. The states of Delaware and Maryland have requested and qualify for continued *de minimis* status for the commercial sector. The PRT recommends that the Board approve the states of Delaware and Maryland's requests.

**C. Regulatory Requirements: 14" minimum size limit for recreational and commercial fisheries; degradable fasteners on one panel or door in fish pots and traps; and regional management programs to achieve the required regional target F.**

State regulations are summarized in Tables 7 and 8. Nearly every state needed to adjust their commercial and recreational measures to comply with the provisions of Amendment 1 in 2018.

The only reported regulatory change for the 2022 fishing year occurred in Rhode Island, which implemented a change to their recreational regulations. While the possession limits and minimum size remained unchanged, a maximum size was adopted such that only one fish of the bag limit may be greater than 21-inches. (Massachusetts has implemented a complementary change for 2023.) In 2022, Massachusetts' and Rhode Island's commercial landings exceeded their state quota; the states have adjusted their 2023 quotas to account for these overages.

The PRT finds that each state has met the regulatory requirements and recommends the Board find all states in compliance with the regulatory requirements.

**D. Biological Sampling Requirements: commercial and recreational catch estimates; and 200 age/length samples**

Due to the dispersed and inconsistent nature of the state fishery, Virginia collected 181 of the 200 age/length samples in 2022 as required (Table 9).

The PRT finds that all states met the intent of the sampling requirements and recommends the Board find all states in compliance with the sampling requirements of the FMP. In 2019, the Technical Committee reconfirmed that 200 was the minimum number of biological samples needed for adequate catch characterization. Additionally, the [2023 ASMFC Quality Assurance/Quality Control Fish Ageing Workshop](#) recommended for states to convert from using opercula to using spines and otoliths for ageing tautog.

**Commercial Tagging Program**

All states participated in the commercial tagging program in 2022. State tagging information is summarized in Table 12. The percentage of issued tags that were returned varied between 17% and 66%, and the coastwide return rate was 31%.



The PRT noted that preliminary estimates show there were 12,992 tags unaccounted for coastwide (5.1% of tags issued), primarily in Rhode Island and New York, which is a 30% decrease from 2021 (18,417 unaccounted for tags). The PRT is still recommending that states work to reduce the number of tags unaccounted for and will be amending the compliance report template to include the necessary information in Table 12.

## VIII. Prioritized Research Needs

The following research recommendations are from the [2016 Tautog Regional Stock Assessment and Desk Review Report](#). The Technical Committee identified the research recommendations to improve the stock assessment and our understanding of tautog population and fishery dynamics. Research recommendations are organized by topic and level of priority. Research recommendations that should be completed before the next benchmark assessment are underlined. The Technical Committee will update these recommendations as part of the next benchmark stock assessment.

### 8.1 Fishery-Dependent Priorities

#### *High*

- Expand biological sampling of the commercial catch for each gear type over the entire range of the stock (including weight, lengths, age, sex, and discards).
- Continue collecting opercula from the tautog catch as the standard for biological sampling in addition to collecting paired sub-samples of otoliths and opercula.
- Increase catch and discard length sampling from the commercial and recreational fishery for all states from Massachusetts through Virginia.
- Increase collection of effort data for determining commercial and recreational CPUE.
- Increase MRIP sampling levels to improve recreational catch estimates by state and mode. Current sampling levels are high during times of the year when more abundant and popular species are abundant in catches, but much lower in early spring and late fall when tautog catches are more likely.

### 8.2 Fishery-Independent Priorities

#### *High*

- Conduct workshop and pilot studies to design a standardized, multi-state fishery independent survey for tautog along the lines of MARMAP and the lobster ventless trap survey.
- Establish standardized multi-state long-term fisheries-independent surveys to monitor tautog abundance and length-frequency distributions, and to develop YOY indices.
- Enhance collection of age information for smaller fish (<20 cm) to better fill in age-length keys

### 8.3 Life History, Biological, and Habitat Priorities

### **Moderate**

- Define local and regional movement patterns and site fidelity in the southern part of the species range. This information may provide insight into questions of aggregation versus recruitment to artificial reef locations, and to clarify the need for local and regional assessment.
- Assemble regional reference collections of paired operculum and otolith samples and schedule regular exchanges to maintain and improve the precision of age readings between states that will be pooled in the regional age-length keys.
- Calibrate age readings every year by re-reading a subset of samples from previous years before ageing new samples. States that do not currently assess the precision of their age readings over time should do so by re-ageing a subset of their historical samples.

### **Low**

- Evaluate the potential impacts of climate change on tautog range, life history, and productivity.
- Conduct a tag retention study to improve return rates, particularly in the northern region.
- Define the status (condition and extent) of optimum or suitable juvenile habitats and trends in specific areas important to the species. It is critical to protect these habitats or to stimulate restoration or enhancement, if required.
- Define the specific spawning and pre-spawning aggregating areas and wintering areas of juveniles and adults used by all major local populations, as well as the migration routes used by tautog to get to and from spawning and wintering areas and the criteria or times of use. This information is required to protect these areas from damage and overuse or excessive exploitation.
- Define larval diets and prey availability requirements. This information can be used as determinants of recruitment success and habitat function status. Information can also be used to support aquaculture ventures with this species.
- Define the role of prey type and availability in local juvenile/adult population dynamics over the species range. This information can explain differences in local abundance, movements, growth, fecundity, etc. Conduct studies in areas where the availability of primary prey, such as blue mussels or crabs, is dependent on annual recruitment, the effect of prey recruitment variability as a factor in tautog movements (to find better prey fields), mortality (greater predation exposure when leaving shelter to forage open bottom), and relationship between reef prey availability/quality on tautog condition/fecundity.
- Define the susceptibility of juveniles to coastal/anthropogenic contamination and resulting effects. This information can explain differences in local abundance, movements, growth, fecundity, and serve to support continued or increased regulation of the inputs of these contaminants and to assess potential damage. Since oil spills seem to be a too frequent coastal impact problem where juvenile tautog live, it may be helpful to conduct specific studies on effects of various fuel oils and typical exposure concentrations, at various seasonal

temperatures and salinities. Studies should also be conducted to evaluate the effect of common piling treatment leachates and common antifouling paints on YOY tautog. The synergistic effects of leaked fuel, bilge water, treated pilings, and antifouling paints on tautog health should also be studied.

- Define the source of offshore eggs and larvae (in situ or washed out coastal spawning).
- Confirm that tautog, like cunner, hibernate in the winter, and in what areas and temperature thresholds, for how long, and if there are special habitat requirements during these times that should be protected or conserved from damage or disturbance. This information will aid in understanding behavior variability and harvest availability.

#### **8.4 Management, Law Enforcement, and Socioeconomic Priorities**

##### ***Moderate***

- Collect data to assess the magnitude of illegal harvest of tautog and the efficacy of the tagging program.

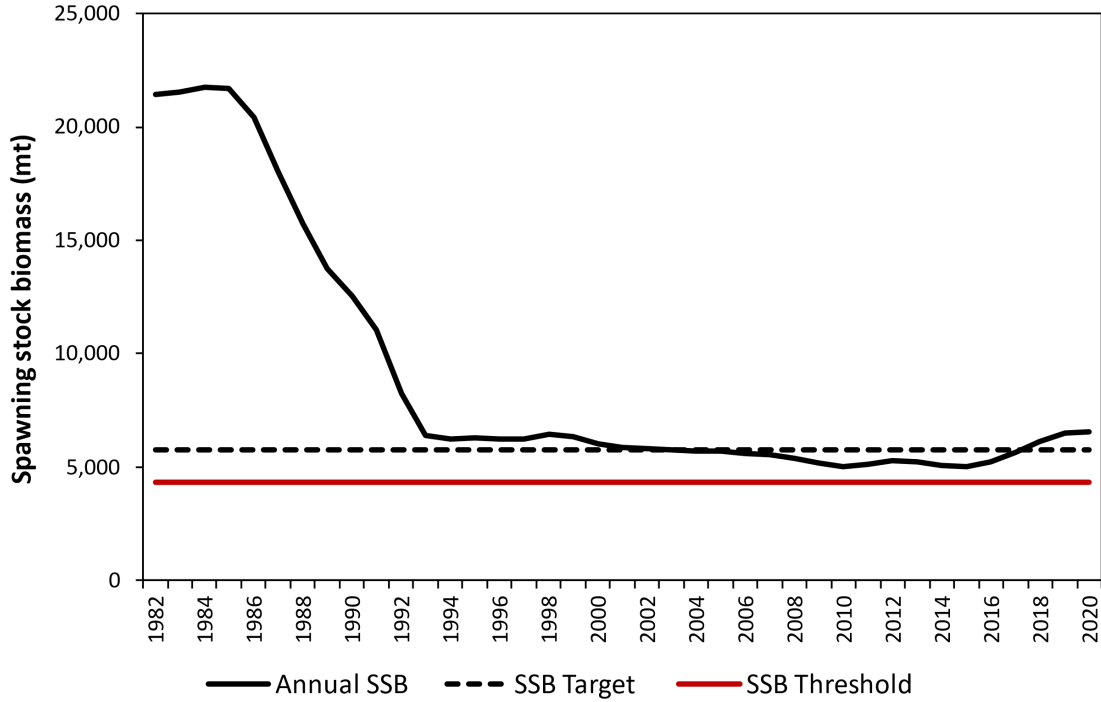
##### ***Low***

- Collect basic sociocultural data on tautog user groups including demographics, location, and aspects of fishing practices such as seasonality.

## Figures & Tables

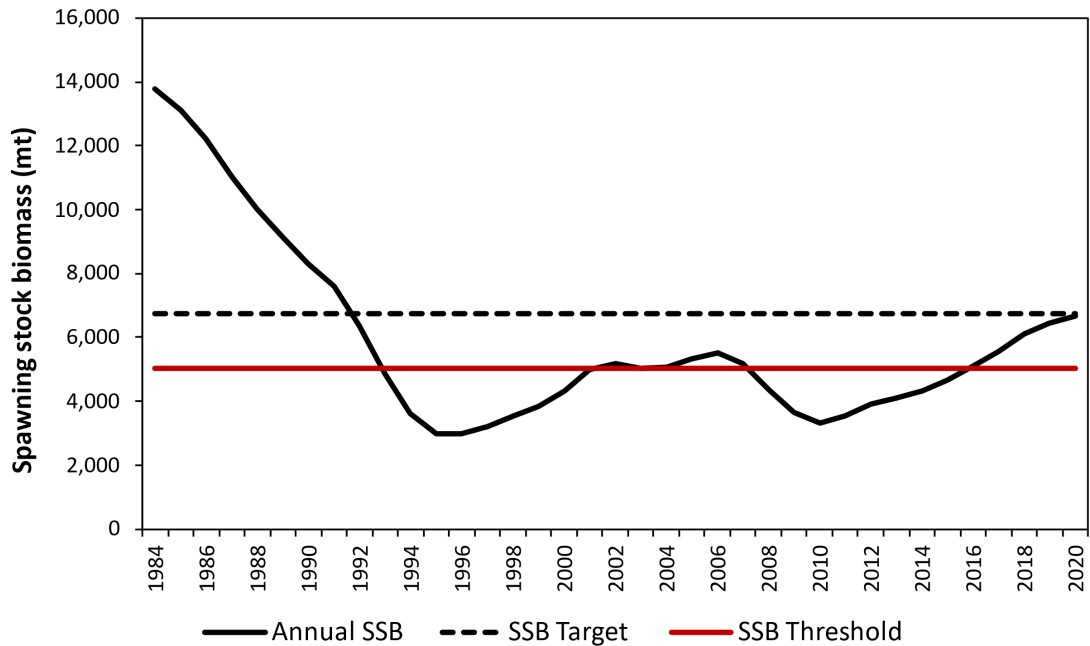
**Figure 1. Estimated spawning stock biomass, with target and threshold levels, for MARI region.**

Source: 2021 ASMFC Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.

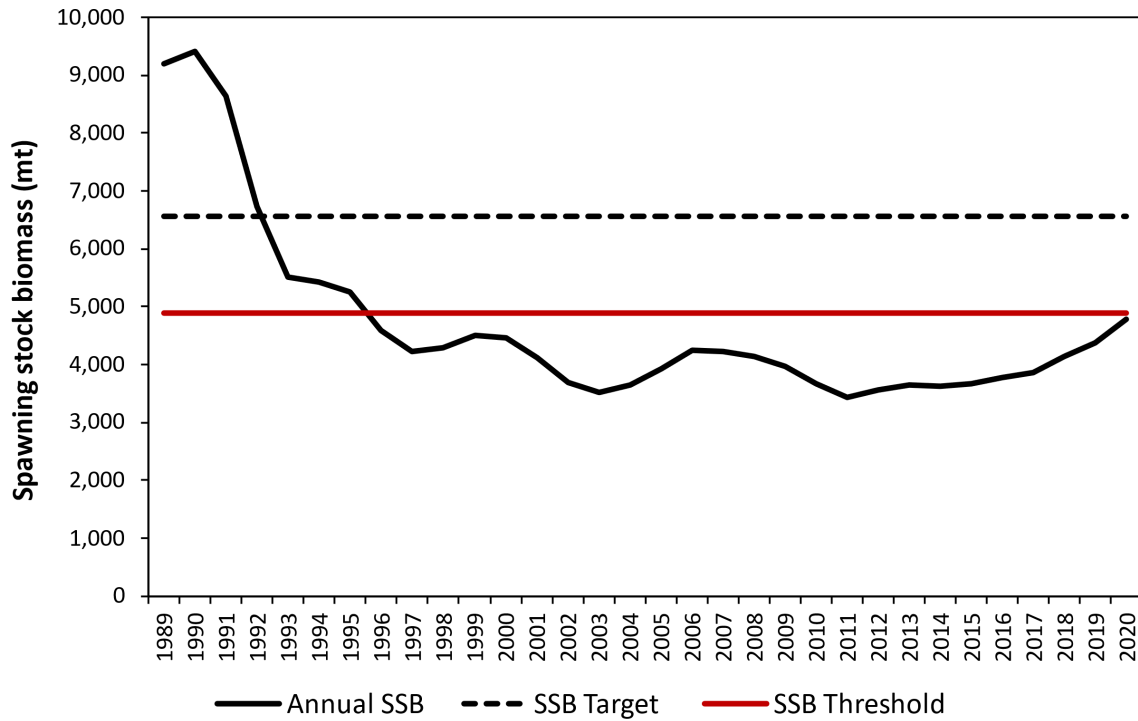


**Figure 2. Estimated spawning stock biomass, with target and threshold levels, for LIS region.**

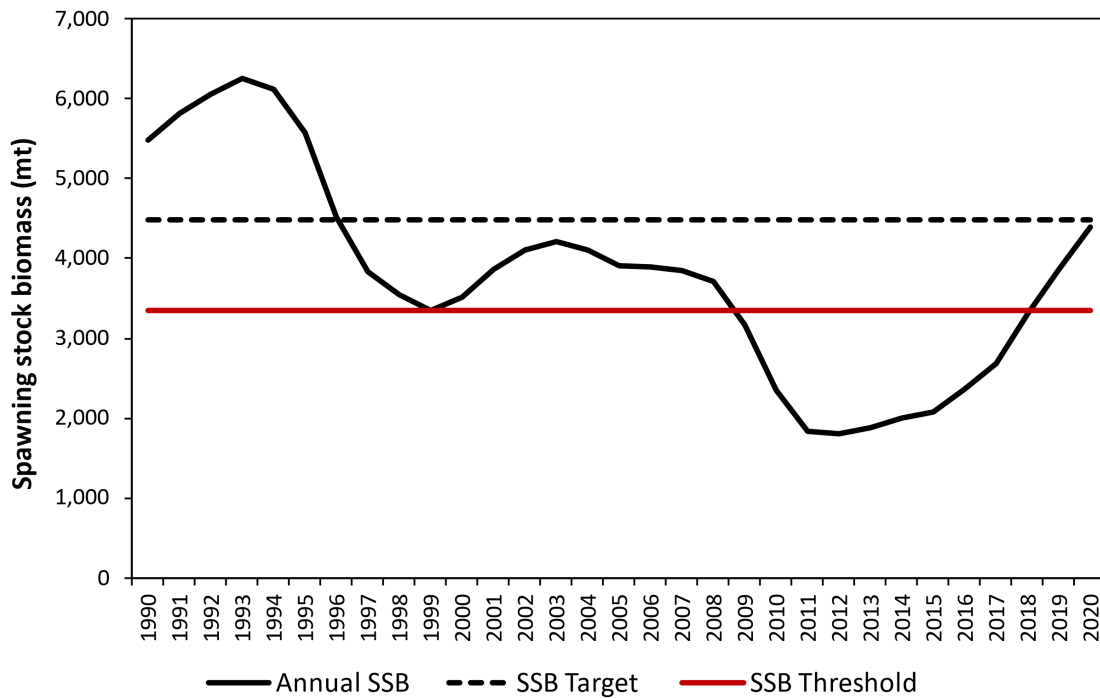
Source: 2021 ASMFC Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.



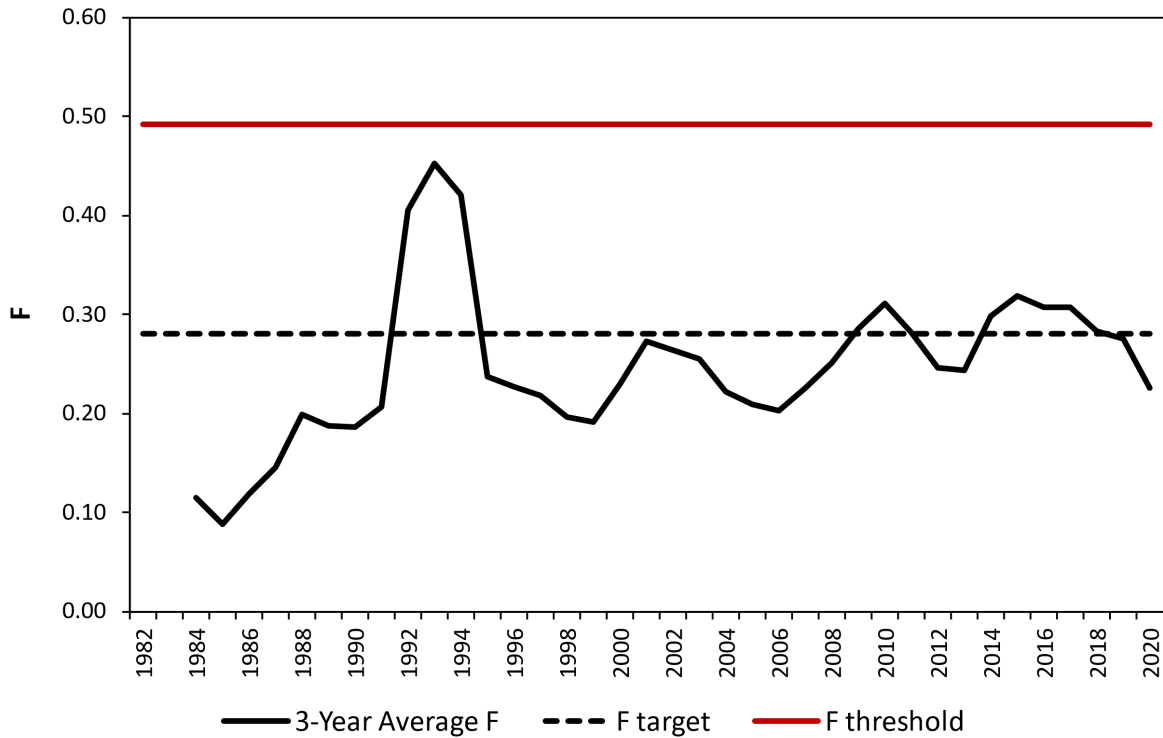
**Figure 3. Estimated spawning stock biomass, with target and threshold levels, for NJ-NYB region.**  
 Source: 2021 ASMFC Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.



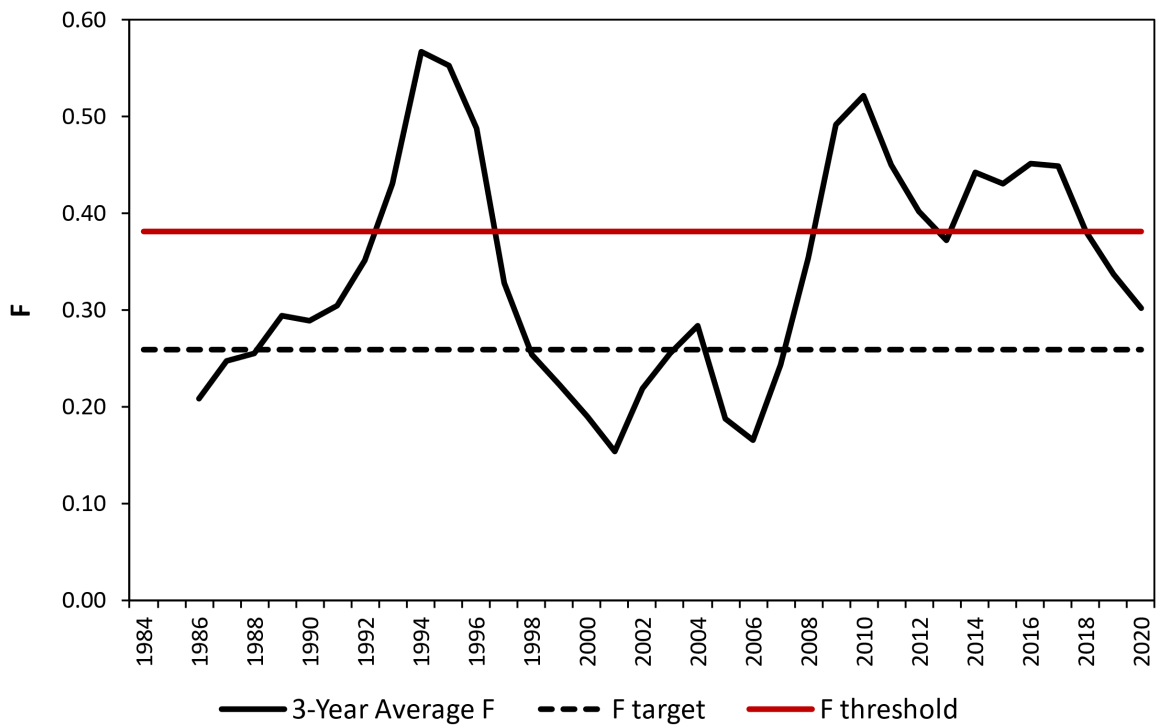
**Figure 4. Estimated spawning stock biomass, with target and threshold levels, for DelMarVa region.**  
 Source: 2021 ASMFC Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.



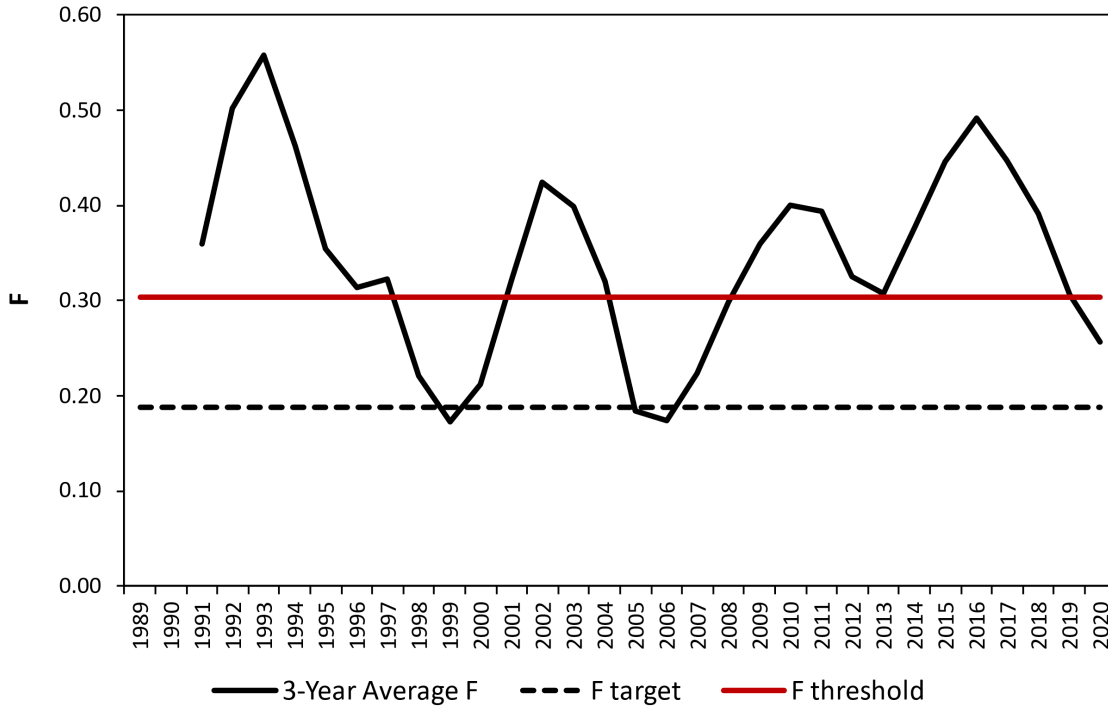
**Figure 5. Three-year average fishing mortality rate plotted with the F target and threshold, for MARI region.** Source: 2021 ASMFC Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.



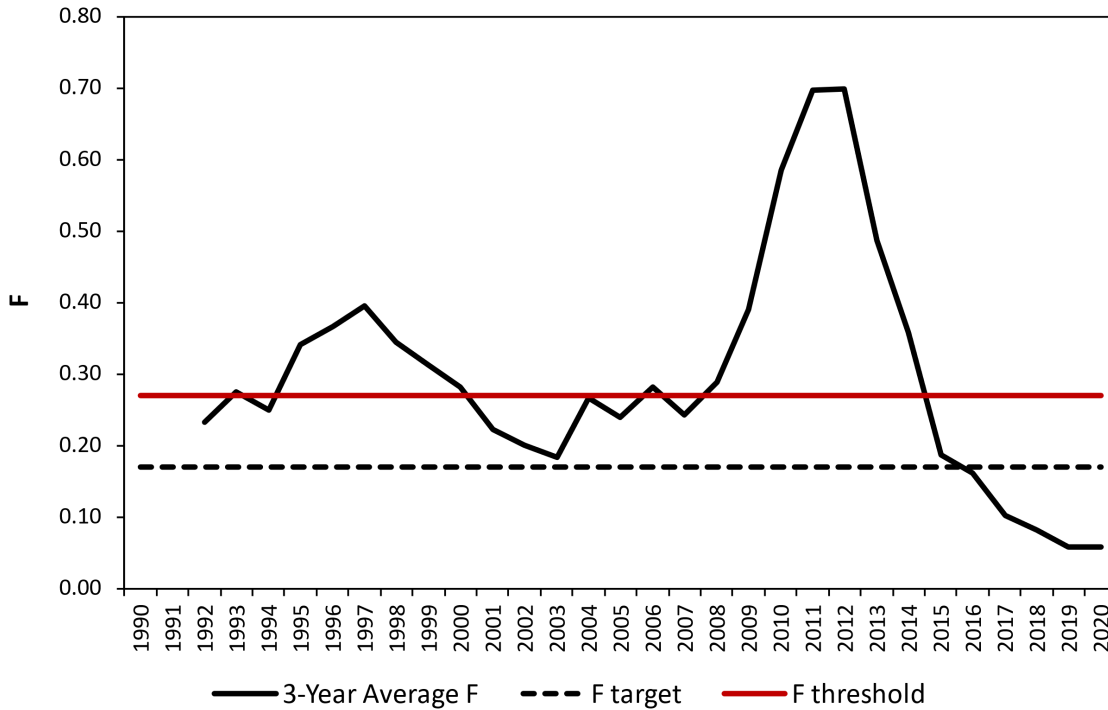
**Figure 6. Three-year average fishing mortality rate plotted with the F target and threshold, for LIS region.** Source: 2021 ASMFC Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.



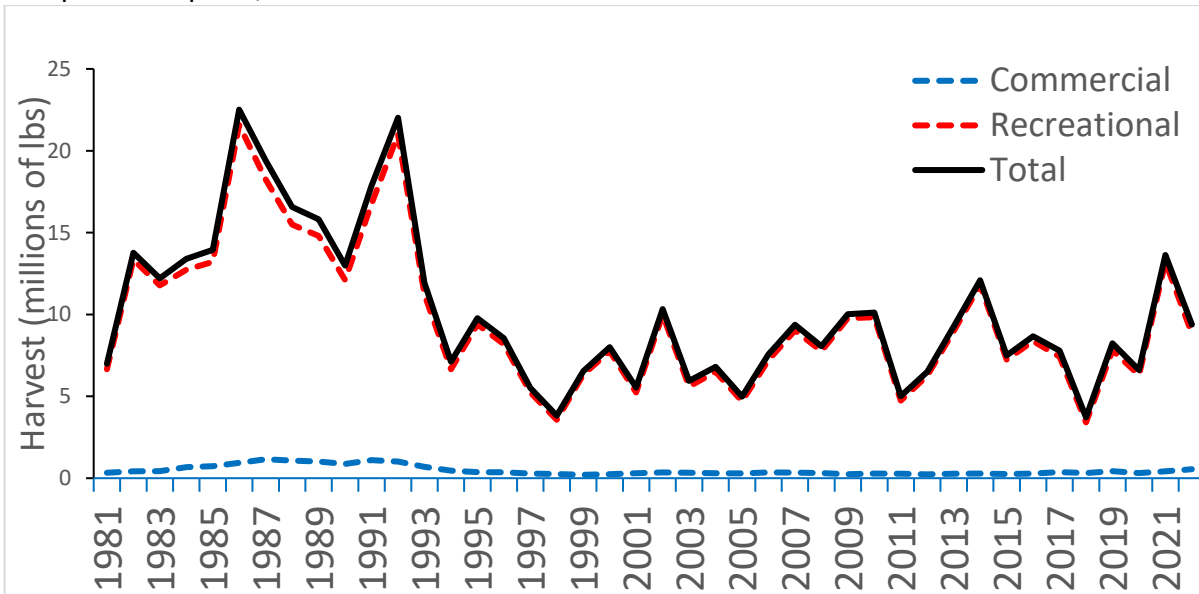
**Figure 7. Three-year average fishing mortality rate plotted with the F target and threshold, for NJ-NYB region.** Source: 2021 ASMFC Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.



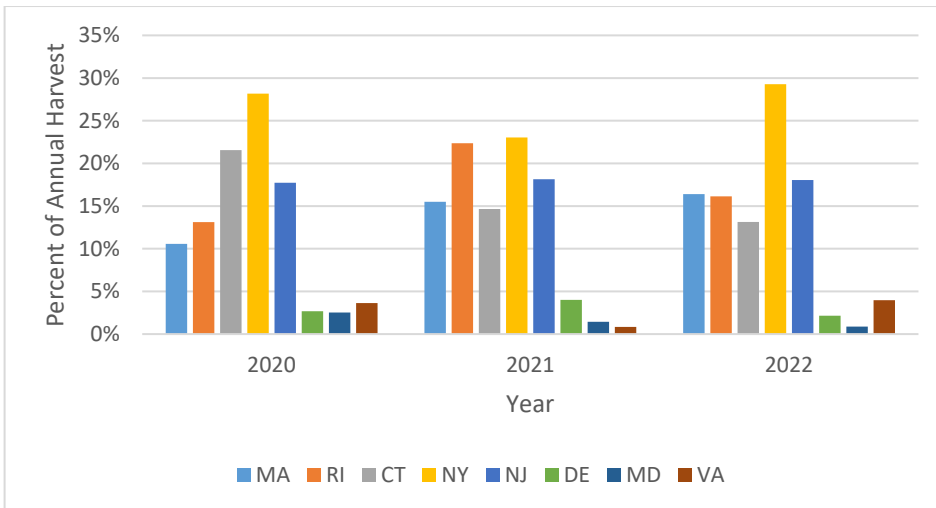
**Figure 8. Three-year average fishing mortality rate plotted with the F target and threshold, for DelMarVa region.** Source: 2021 ASMFC Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.



**Figure 9. Total tautog harvest (recreational and commercial) in weight, 1981–2022.** Source: State compliance reports, MRIP.

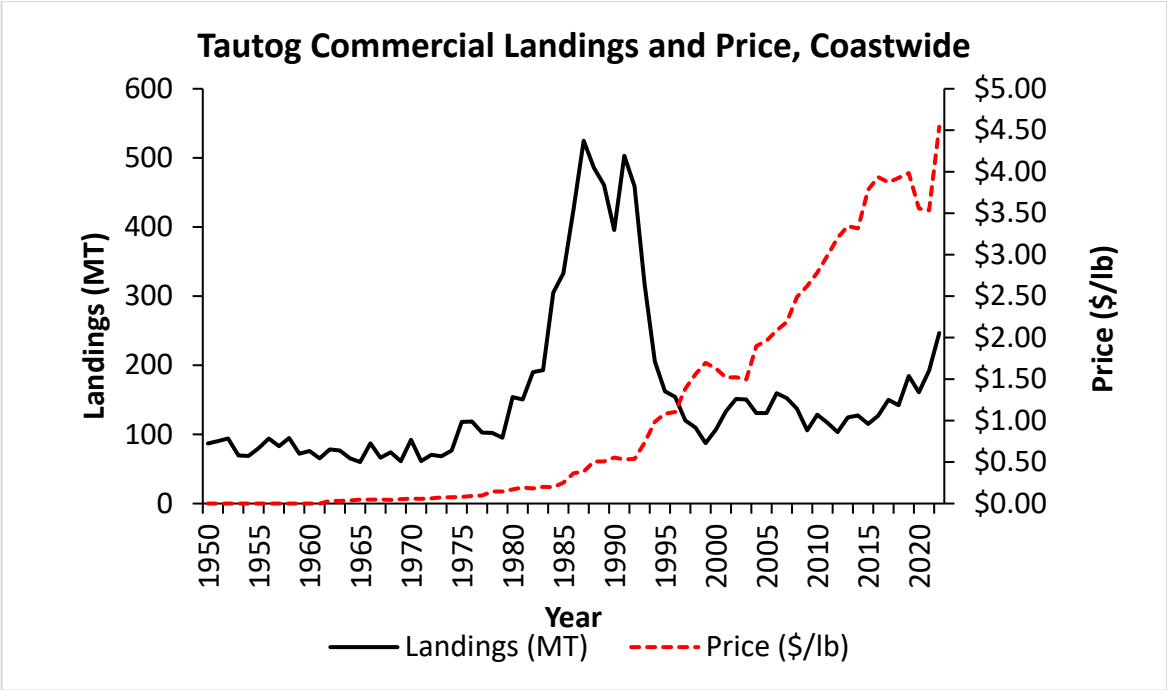


**Figure 10. Percent of annual recreational tautog harvest by state in numbers of fish (2020-2022).** Source: MRIP





**Figure 11. Changes in tautog commercial landings (mt) and price (\$/lb) over time, 1950–2022.**  
Source: ACCSP. Price unadjusted for inflation.



**Table 1. Tautog stock status and reference points by region, 2020.** Source: ASMFC 2021 Tautog Regional Stock Assessment Update.

| Stock Region | Spawning Stock Biomass<br>(in millions of pounds) |           |               | Fishing Mortality |           |                | Stock Status                                 |
|--------------|---|-----------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|--|
|              | Target  | Threshold | 2020 Estimate | Target            | Threshold | 3-year Average | 3-year Average                               |
| MARI         | 10.09   | 7.57      | 14.90         | 0.28              | 0.49      | 0.23           | Not overfished;<br>overfishing not occurring |
| LIS          | 14.83   | 11.12     | 14.70         | 0.26              | 0.38      | 0.30           | Not overfished;<br>overfishing not occurring |
| NJ-NYB       | 14.45   | 10.78     | 10.54         | 0.19              | 0.30      | 0.26           | Overfished;<br>overfishing not occurring     |
| DelMarVa     | 9.90  | 7.40      | 9.66          | 0.17              | 0.27      | 0.06           | Not overfished;<br>overfishing not occurring |

**Table 2. Tautog recreational and commercial landings, 1996–2022, in pounds.**

Source: State Compliance Reports, MRIP, and ACCSP Data Warehouse.

| Year           | Commercial Landings (lb) | Recreational Harvest (lb) | Total Harvest (lb) | % Recreational |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1996           | 357,434                  | 8,218,590                 | 8,576,024          | 95.8           |
| 1997           | 280,912                  | 5,314,384                 | 5,595,296          | 95.0           |
| 1998           | 254,186                  | 3,611,576                 | 3,865,762          | 93.4           |
| 1999           | 207,981                  | 6,350,388                 | 6,558,369          | 96.8           |
| 2000           | 247,177                  | 7,795,564                 | 8,042,741          | 96.9           |
| 2001           | 305,193                  | 5,249,781                 | 5,554,974          | 94.5           |
| 2002           | 350,820                  | 9,998,665                 | 10,349,485         | 96.6           |
| 2003           | 336,685                  | 5,630,853                 | 5,967,538          | 94.4           |
| 2004           | 300,749                  | 6,546,309                 | 6,847,058          | 95.6           |
| 2005           | 289,984                  | 4,755,445                 | 5,045,429          | 94.3           |
| 2006           | 355,504                  | 7,219,077                 | 7,574,581          | 95.3           |
| 2007           | 340,925                  | 9,189,558                 | 9,530,483          | 96.4           |
| 2008           | 310,940                  | 7,758,609                 | 8,069,549          | 96.1           |
| 2009           | 243,644                  | 9,801,365                 | 10,045,009         | 97.6           |
| 2010           | 286,081                  | 9,863,150                 | 10,149,231         | 97.2           |
| 2011           | 263,241                  | 4,740,790                 | 5,004,031          | 94.7           |
| 2012           | 236,974                  | 6,315,699                 | 6,552,673          | 96.4           |
| 2013           | 275,839                  | 9,017,101                 | 9,292,940          | 97.0           |
| 2014           | 282,624                  | 11,831,114                | 12,113,738         | 97.7           |
| 2015           | 255,915                  | 7,246,071                 | 7,501,986          | 96.6           |
| 2016           | 283,906                  | 8,392,901                 | 8,676,807          | 96.7           |
| 2017           | 364,736                  | 7,546,839                 | 7,911,575          | 95.4           |
| 2018           | 309,568                  | 3,413,926                 | 3,723,494          | 91.7           |
| 2019           | 427,078                  | 7,815,557                 | 8,242,635          | 94.8           |
| 2020           | 313,467                  | 6,290,648                 | 6,604,115          | 95.3           |
| 2021           | 423,280                  | 13,211,743                | 13,635,563         | 96.9           |
| 2022           | 543,751                  | 8,835,136                 | 9,378,887          | 94.2           |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>313,230</b>           | <b>7,448,653</b>          | <b>7,761,883</b>   | <b>95.7</b>    |

**Table 3. 2022 tautog landings by sector: percent recreational and commercial by weight.**

| <b>State</b>     | <b>Commercial Landings (%)</b> | <b>Recreational Harvest (%)</b> |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>MA</b>        | 4.6                            | 95.4                            |
| <b>RI</b>        | 3.1                            | 96.9                            |
| <b>CT</b>        | 1.3                            | 98.7                            |
| <b>NY</b>        | 13.2                           | 86.8                            |
| <b>NJ</b>        | 0.1                            | 99.9                            |
| <b>DE</b>        | 0.9                            | 99.1                            |
| <b>MD</b>        | 0.3                            | 99.7                            |
| <b>VA</b>        | 1.0                            | 99.0                            |
| <b>Coastwide</b> | 5.8                            | 94.2                            |

**Table 4. Tautog recreational harvest by state and coastwide discards, in number of fish, 1996-2022.** Source: MRIP (calibrated estimates), queried June 22, 2023. \*indicates PSE above 50. Dead discards are calculated by applying a 2.5% release mortality rate to live releases.

| Year | MA       | RI       | CT      | NY        | NJ        | DE      | MD      | VA       | Coastwide Harvest | Live Releases | Dead Discards |
|------|----------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1996 | 216,698  | 143,609  | 150,523 | 122,153   | 1,186,204 | 116,010 | 72,805* | 636,163  | 2,644,165         | 3,195,947     | 79,899        |
| 1997 | 78,669   | 174,516  | 83,153  | 156,487   | 573,479   | 117,773 | 193,521 | 161,549  | 1,539,147         | 2,443,176     | 61,079        |
| 1998 | 81,038   | 122,830  | 110,246 | 149,594   | 24,693*   | 149,391 | 16,252* | 183,083  | 837,127           | 3,013,870     | 75,347        |
| 1999 | 302,890  | 191,287  | 44,581* | 407,886   | 279,728   | 267,875 | 23,468* | 77,898   | 1,595,613         | 5,412,630     | 135,316       |
| 2000 | 347,448  | 152,459  | 68,080* | 203,145*  | 986,483   | 188,453 | 63,231* | 40,542   | 2,049,841         | 3,524,481     | 88,112        |
| 2001 | 246,811* | 86,818   | 51,941  | 118,267   | 819,588   | 69,987  | 57,984* | 39,132   | 1,490,528         | 4,239,587     | 105,990       |
| 2002 | 232,803  | 177,095  | 180,753 | 1,239,615 | 501,980   | 274,966 | 55,339  | 69,301   | 2,731,852         | 6,328,479     | 158,212       |
| 2003 | 95,969   | 328,392  | 337,867 | 245,762   | 215,920   | 100,802 | 18,223* | 126,406  | 1,469,341         | 4,027,988     | 100,700       |
| 2004 | 39,975*  | 281,619* | 30,930  | 471,302   | 238,123   | 163,916 | 18,286* | 455,060  | 1,699,211         | 3,853,747     | 96,344        |
| 2005 | 155,754  | 311,966  | 75,848  | 153,333   | 110,308   | 98,542  | 63,320  | 165,204  | 1,134,275         | 3,613,609     | 90,340        |
| 2006 | 102,739  | 234,043  | 361,978 | 265,746   | 406,800   | 169,411 | 34,482* | 207,062  | 1,782,261         | 5,019,741     | 125,494       |
| 2007 | 67,432*  | 234,152  | 544,712 | 509,816   | 624,915   | 203,846 | 118,459 | 155,012  | 2,458,344         | 6,687,397     | 167,185       |
| 2008 | 72,171*  | 288,487  | 244,689 | 577,628   | 440,588   | 162,604 | 45,166  | 208,062  | 2,039,395         | 5,765,698     | 144,142       |
| 2009 | 66,280   | 396,835  | 356,881 | 690,545   | 420,012   | 324,157 | 107,289 | 196,142  | 2,558,141         | 7,227,056     | 180,676       |
| 2010 | 153,978  | 369,830  | 274,246 | 540,667   | 716,531   | 182,090 | 289,634 | 323,725  | 2,850,701         | 8,156,500     | 203,913       |
| 2011 | 173,101  | 79,060*  | 42,289  | 322,704   | 313,745   | 117,938 | 64,295* | 153,066  | 1,266,198         | 6,386,822     | 159,671       |
| 2012 | 96,356   | 341,478  | 411,072 | 302,811   | 92,340    | 95,299  | 20,018* | 66,343*  | 1,425,717         | 8,106,883     | 202,672       |
| 2013 | 239,699  | 539,788  | 307,409 | 472,562   | 442,786   | 96,733  | 22,954  | 19,721*  | 2,141,652         | 10,163,182    | 254,080       |
| 2014 | 444,332  | 238,595  | 515,824 | 913,413*  | 533,299   | 131,857 | 1,155*  | 87,315   | 2,865,790         | 10,957,469    | 273,937       |
| 2015 | 188,145* | 295,674  | 389,139 | 581,203   | 339,357   | 29,199  | 12,442* | 24,493   | 1,859,652         | 10,660,411    | 266,510       |
| 2016 | 73,516   | 343,780  | 312,313 | 1,068,979 | 190,163   | 46,330  | 3,775*  | 39,759*  | 2,078,615         | 13,424,789    | 335,620       |
| 2017 | 635,828  | 141,132  | 218,410 | 405,434   | 569,177   | 32,230  | 18,751* | 22,260*  | 2,043,222         | 13,641,858    | 341,046       |
| 2018 | 77,951   | 330,372* | 74,530  | 163,132   | 385,282   | 8,927   | 18,372* | 8,186    | 1,066,752         | 9,568,827     | 239,221       |
| 2019 | 168,766  | 369,450  | 503,529 | 635,866   | 311,363   | 24,065  | 779*    | 27,215*  | 2,041,033         | 13,348,136    | 333,703       |
| 2020 | 184,653  | 228,996  | 376,271 | 491,869   | 309,379   | 46,617  | 44,088  | 63,372   | 1,745,245         | 14,626,537    | 365,663       |
| 2021 | 518,470  | 748,308  | 490,330 | 770,796   | 606,685   | 134,448 | 48,258* | 27,948   | 3,345,243         | 21,985,594    | 549,640       |
| 2022 | 442,457  | 435,013  | 354,364 | 789,620   | 486,833   | 58,142  | 23,546  | 106,959* | 2,696,934         | 24,355,262    | 608,882       |

**Table 5. Tautog recreational harvest by state in pounds, 1996-2022.**

Source: MRIP (calibrated estimates), queried June 22, 2023. \*indicates PSE above 50

| Year | MA         | RI         | CT        | NY         | NJ        | DE        | MD       | VA        | Coastwide Harvest |
|------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1996 | 1,039,911  | 659,785    | 490,239   | 291,482    | 2,681,850 | 350,297   | 98,324*  | 2,579,379 | 8,191,267         |
| 1997 | 308,098    | 666,065    | 215,724   | 749,252*   | 1,712,208 | 440,518   | 497,161  | 644,872   | 5,233,898         |
| 1998 | 310,600    | 605,908    | 391,933   | 485,810    | 70,731*   | 659,866   | 69,541*  | 972,295   | 3,566,684         |
| 1999 | 1,489,331  | 788,279    | 153,339*  | 1,509,978  | 895,556   | 1,049,562 | 42,003*  | 402,028   | 6,330,076         |
| 2000 | 1,301,437  | 689,698    | 256,201*  | 662,491*   | 3,756,593 | 692,466   | 161,426* | 241,231   | 7,761,543         |
| 2001 | 1,052,175* | 392,503    | 205,109   | 506,301    | 2,502,115 | 240,770   | 168,595* | 168,103   | 5,235,671         |
| 2002 | 994,467    | 743,409    | 811,658   | 4,428,842  | 1,530,757 | 948,850   | 140,672  | 385,679   | 9,984,334         |
| 2003 | 527,044    | 1,388,657  | 1,180,217 | 875,271    | 639,109   | 358,999   | 59,071   | 573,623   | 5,601,991         |
| 2004 | 213,380*   | 1,590,436* | 144,278   | 1,687,077  | 639,685   | 563,332   | 41,259*  | 1,624,091 | 6,503,538         |
| 2005 | 744,036    | 1,575,454  | 290,848   | 566,375    | 333,101   | 357,682   | 167,633  | 663,938   | 4,699,067         |
| 2006 | 484,094    | 1,130,146  | 1,589,614 | 1,002,049  | 1,443,680 | 599,179   | 106,148* | 858,131   | 7,213,041         |
| 2007 | 260,548*   | 1,173,787  | 2,109,801 | 1,923,067  | 2,073,632 | 598,291   | 270,530  | 622,935   | 9,032,591         |
| 2008 | 230,549*   | 1,385,061  | 1,077,399 | 2,238,161  | 1,261,010 | 575,319   | 119,209  | 870,249   | 7,756,957         |
| 2009 | 236,974    | 1,648,614  | 1,353,957 | 3,057,551  | 1,273,529 | 1,034,484 | 277,124  | 892,873   | 9,775,106         |
| 2010 | 506,622    | 1,933,773  | 1,073,576 | 1,818,920  | 1,864,817 | 464,859   | 920,773  | 1,246,454 | 9,829,794         |
| 2011 | 803,546    | 328,959*   | 137,565*  | 1,284,037  | 1,008,756 | 380,758   | 189,361* | 604,361   | 4,737,343         |
| 2012 | 403,108    | 1,512,425  | 2,093,847 | 1,285,933  | 312,531   | 341,015   | 62,097*  | 252,111*  | 6,263,067         |
| 2013 | 860,594    | 2,602,962  | 1,290,726 | 2,207,750  | 1,530,776 | 341,896   | 81,662   | 75,449*   | 8,991,815         |
| 2014 | 1,623,717  | 1,017,780  | 2,274,293 | 4,188,165* | 1,849,045 | 485,332   | 3,544*   | 365,657*  | 11,807,533        |
| 2015 | 1,041,058* | 1,105,259  | 1,594,233 | 2,153,150  | 1,100,117 | 100,302   | 45,067*  | 100,143*  | 7,239,329         |
| 2016 | 317,006    | 1,290,428  | 1,368,363 | 4,514,164  | 582,199   | 164,887   | 15,059*  | 126,135*  | 8,378,241         |
| 2017 | 2,883,015  | 600,869    | 908,162   | 1,393,812  | 1,381,992 | 103,000   | 59,918*  | 88,229*   | 7,418,997         |
| 2018 | 300,067    | 1,075,131* | 295,758   | 536,332    | 1,091,046 | 30,240    | 54,332*  | 25,766    | 3,408,672         |
| 2019 | 646,031    | 1,483,123  | 2,133,656 | 2,455,837  | 908,871   | 87,348    | 2,680*   | 98,011*   | 7,815,557         |
| 2020 | 692,588    | 853,470    | 1,462,227 | 1,733,995  | 1,010,011 | 154,065   | 148,760  | 235,532   | 6,290,648         |
| 2021 | 1,895,685  | 2,623,172  | 2,153,889 | 3,058,499  | 2,772,464 | 479,070   | 138,986* | 89,980    | 13,211,745        |
| 2022 | 1,446,707  | 1,617,445  | 1,279,025 | 2,614,264  | 1,275,564 | 171,034   | 70,777   | 360,320*  | 8,835,136         |

**Table 6. Commercial landings for tautog in pounds, by state, 1996-2022.**

Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse and State Compliance Reports. 2022 Landings are preliminary.

| Year | MA      | RI     | CT     | NY      | NJ     | DE     | MD     | VA     |
|------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1996 | 32,579  | 64,817 | 33,327 | 105,466 | 89,435 | 1,599  | 3,622  | 26,137 |
| 1997 | 64,240  | 39,601 | 14,519 | 78,228  | 49,726 | 841    | 7,663  | 25,471 |
| 1998 | 91,319  | 20,304 | 6,905  | 68,892  | 42,426 | 1,715  | 5,682  | 14,770 |
| 1999 | 75,619  | 26,090 | 12,961 | 37,886  | 27,307 | confid | 6,489  | 20,901 |
| 2000 | 96,001  | 43,719 | 8,504  | 39,953  | 39,636 | confid | 3,896  | 14,794 |
| 2001 | 84,330  | 56,065 | 22,259 | 62,795  | 60,152 | confid | 4,591  | 14,587 |
| 2002 | 148,073 | 50,007 | 26,781 | 60,805  | 36,605 | confid | 5,010  | 22,834 |
| 2003 | 86,205  | 54,650 | 40,784 | 72,264  | 66,766 | confid | 5,213  | 10,705 |
| 2004 | 88,192  | 36,581 | 26,037 | 76,606  | 51,057 | 3,064  | 6,049  | 13,079 |
| 2005 | 99,344  | 42,838 | 24,053 | 52,525  | 61,163 | confid | 4,338  | 5,667  |
| 2006 | 147,609 | 47,261 | 16,841 | 71,683  | 58,119 | confid | 5,411  | 8,533  |
| 2007 | 95,820  | 63,441 | 30,002 | 73,797  | 62,979 | 2,814  | 3,297  | 8,588  |
| 2008 | 73,867  | 48,027 | 20,160 | 88,571  | 63,958 | 2,253  | 2,964  | 10,946 |
| 2009 | 54,703  | 50,920 | 21,194 | 87,289  | 14,591 | 2,116  | 1,638  | 11,132 |
| 2010 | 75,317  | 44,054 | 16,948 | 93,153  | 49,213 | confid | 1,285  | 6,077  |
| 2011 | 57,787  | 47,426 | 14,784 | 82,761  | 45,865 | confid | confid | 14,590 |
| 2012 | 67,870  | 50,126 | 6,233  | 76,373  | 20,831 | 1,444  | confid | 13,870 |
| 2013 | 70,157  | 53,428 | 5,887  | 110,849 | 22,079 | confid | 1,458  | 11,776 |
| 2014 | 63,191  | 53,384 | 5,164  | 121,538 | 31,665 | confid | confid | 7,545  |
| 2015 | 61,752  | 47,140 | 7,249  | 111,925 | 17,538 | 2,108  | 1,173  | 6,937  |
| 2016 | 58,095  | 50,680 | 7,651  | 144,650 | 13,367 | 2,083  | 1,098  | 6,252  |
| 2017 | 66,481  | 52,844 | 8,485  | 231,644 | 6,551  | 1,372  | confid | 5,165  |
| 2018 | 61,055  | 51,451 | 7,341  | 186,108 | 1,559  | 654    | 273    | 1,349  |
| 2019 | 67,021  | 46,562 | 18,651 | 289,746 | 2,512  | 646    | confid | 1,982  |
| 2020 | 63,405  | 52,651 | 11,644 | 181,639 | 1,941  | 585    | confid | 2,210  |
| 2021 | 68,865  | 50,164 | 16,504 | 283,872 | 2,219  | confid | confid | 2,196  |
| 2022 | 70,198  | 51,919 | 16,409 | 397,924 | 1,730  | confid | confid | 3,770  |

**Table 7. State recreational regulations implemented for tautog in the 2022 fishing year.**

| STATE         | SIZE LIMIT                                  | POSSESSION LIMITS<br>(fish/person/day)           | OPEN SEASONS<br>(dates inclusive) |
|---------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Massachusetts | 16" min                                     | 3  | Apr 1-May 31                      |
|               |   | 1<br>3   | Jun 1-Jul 31<br>Aug 1-Oct 14      |
|               |   | 5  | Oct 15-Dec 31                     |
|               |   | (10 fish/day/vessel max for private/rental mode) |                                   |
| Rhode Island  | 16" min;<br>only one fish allowed above 21" | 3  | Apr 1 – May 31                    |
|               |   | 3  | Aug 1 – Oct 14                    |
|               |   | 5  | Oct 15 – Dec 31                   |
|               |   | (10 fish/day/vessel max for private/rental mode) |                                   |
| Connecticut   | 16" min                                     | 2  | Apr 1 – Apr 30                    |
|               |   | 2  | July 1 – Aug 31                   |
|               |   | 3  | Oct 10 – Nov 28                   |
| New York      | 16" min                                     | LIS: 2   | Apr 1- Apr 30                     |
|               |   | LIS: 3   | Oct 11-Dec 9                      |
|               |   | NY Bight: 2                                      | Apr 1- Apr 30                     |
|               |   | NY Bight: 4                                      | Oct 15-Dec 22                     |
| New Jersey    | 15" min                                     | 4  | Jan 1 – Feb 28                    |
|               |   | 4  | Apr 1 – Apr 30                    |
|               |   | 1  | Aug 1 – Nov 15                    |
|               |   | 5  | Nov 16 – Dec 31                   |
| Delaware      | 16" min                                     | 4  | Jan 1 – May 15                    |
|               |   |  | Jul 1 – Dec 31                    |
| Maryland      | 16" min                                     | 4  | Jan 1- May 15                     |
|               |   | 2  | Jul 1 – Oct 31                    |
|               |   | 4  | Nov 1 – Dec 31                    |
| Virginia      | 16" min                                     | 4  | Jan 1 – May 15                    |
|               |   |  | July 1 – Dec 31                   |



**Table 8. State commercial regulations implemented for tautog in the 2022 fishing year.**

| STATE         | MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT | POSSESSION LIMITS   | OPEN SEASONS  | QUOTA    | GEAR RESTRICTIONS   |
|---------------|--------------------|---|---|----------|---|
|               |                    | (number of fish)  |   | (pounds) |   |
| Massachusetts | 16"                | 40  | Sept 1 – 100% of Quota  | 60,986*  | Mandatory pot requirements. Area/time closures for specific gear types. |
| Rhode Island  | 16"                | 10  | Apr 1 – May 31 (42.5%)<br>Aug 1 – Sep 15 (15%)<br>Oct 15 – Dec 31 (42.5%) | 51,348   | Mandatory pot requirements.   |
| Connecticut   | 16"                | 3 (restricted licenses) 10 (all other)  | Apr 1 – Apr 30<br>Jul 1 – Aug 31<br>Oct 8 – Dec 24                        | -        | Mandatory pot requirements.   |
| New York      | 15"                | 25<br>(10 fish w/ lobster gear and when 6 lobsters are in possession)   | LIS: May 7 – July 31;<br>Sept 1- Nov 23<br>NY Bight: Apr 16 –Jan 25       | -        | Mandatory pot requirements. Gill or trammel net is prohibited.          |
| New Jersey    | 15"                | > 100 lb requires directed fishery permit;<br><= 100 lb requires either directed or non-directed fishery permit | Jan 1 – May 1<br>Sept 19-Dec 31   | 103,000  | Mandatory pot requirements.   |
| Delaware      | 16"                | 4   | Jan 1 – May 15<br>July 1 – Dec 31   | -        | Mandatory pot requirements.   |
| Maryland      | 16"                | 4<br>2<br>4   | Jan 1-May 15<br>July 1 – Oct 31<br>Nov 1- Dec 31                          | -        | Mandatory pot requirements.   |
| Virginia      | 15"                | -   | Jan 1 – Jan 21<br>Mar 1 – May 15<br>Nov 1 – Dec 31                        | -        | Mandatory pot requirements. Pots prohibited in tidal waters.            |

\*Quotas as adjusted from their base due to overages in 2021 (Massachusetts' base quota = 64,753 lbs).

**Table 9. Number of age/length samples by state in 2022.** Amendment 1 requires all states to collect 200 samples per year. Source: State compliance reports

| State | 2022 Samples               | Sample Sources   |
|-------|----------------------------|--|
| MA    | 503 lengths;<br>314 ages   | Commercial Fishery Market sampling; Pot sampling; Rod and Reel sampling; F-I trawl survey; Lobster ventless trap survey      |
| RI    | 226 lengths<br>and ages    | Recreational fishery sampling, RIDMF Trawl Survey, and Ventless Trap Survey  |
| CT    | 302 lengths<br>and ages    | Long Island Sound Trawl Survey   |
| NY    | 1,213 lengths;<br>267 ages | Commercial markets and recreational sampling; fishery independent surveys  |
| NJ    | 271 lengths;<br>269 ages   | Recreational fishery; NJ Ocean Trawl Survey and Artificial Reef Ventless Trap Survey   |
| DE    | 200 lengths<br>and ages    | Recreational sampling  |
| MD    | 424 lengths;<br>211 ages   | Recreational sampling; Resource Assessment Trawl, Coastal Bays Beach Seine, and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Habitat surveys |
| VA    | 181 lengths<br>and ages    | Commercial markets and recreational sampling   |

**Table 10.** Ongoing fishery-independent surveys, as of 2022. Shaded cells indicate survey data used in the 2021 stock assessment update.

| State | Areas Surveyed   | Survey Type | # of Survey Stations                                       | Dates of Survey   | Initial Year |
|-------|--|-------------|--|---|--------------|
| MA    | MA territorial waters  | Trawl       | 1 station per 19 square nautical miles                     | May and September   | 1978         |
|       | Buzzards Bay, south of the Elizabeth Islands, and portions of Rhode Island Sound                 | Trap        | 42 stations twice per month                                | June through September  | 2015         |
|       | Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound  | Rod & Reel  | 48 stations per month                                      | Spring (Apr-May)<br>Fall (Sep-Nov)                                  | 2016 (fall)  |
| RI    | Narragansett Bay   | Trawl       | 13 stations per month                                      | June through October  | 1990         |
|       | Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island Sound and Block Island Sound                                      | Trawl       | 44 stations  | Spring (April-May)<br>Fall (Sept/October)                           | 1979         |
|       | Narragansett Bay Beach   | Seine       | 18 stations per month                                      | June through October  | 1988         |
|       | Coastal Ponds  | Seine       | 24 stations in 8 coastal ponds per month                   | May through October   | 1994         |
|       | Narragansett Bay   | Trap        | 10 5-pot trawls set per month                              | April through October   | 2013         |
| CT    | Long Island Sound (CT and NY waters)   | Trawl       | 40 stations per month                                      | Spring (April-June)<br>Fall (Sept-Oct)                              | 1984         |
| NY    | Peconic Bay  | Trawl       | 16 stations per week                                       | May through October   | 1987         |
|       | Western Long Island (Little Neck, Manhasset Bay, Jamaica Bay)                                    | Seine       | 5-10 sites, semi-monthly                                   | May through October   | 1984         |
|       | Long Island Sound  | Trap        | 35 stations per week                                       | May through October   | 2007         |
|       | East End Seine   | Seine       | 30 stations per month                                      | June through October  | 2021         |
| NJ    | Nearshore ocean waters between Cape May and Sandy Hook   | Trawl       | 30 tows in Jan; 39 tows per month in Apr, Jun, Aug & Oct   | Jan, Apr, June, Aug & Oct   | Aug-88       |
|       | Nearshore ocean waters within Sea Girt, Manasquan Inlet and Little Egg Artificial Reefs          | Trap        | 48-54 traps set each Spring, Summer, Fall sampling periods | Spring (March-April); Summer (June-August); Fall (October-November) | 2016         |
| DE    | Adult Finfish Abundance Trawl Survey   | Trawl       | 9 stations per month                                       | March through December  | 1990         |
|       | Inland Bays Juvenile Trawl Survey  | Trawl       | 49 sites per month   | April through October   | 1980         |
|       | Ventless Trap Survey   | Trap        | 13 stations per two weeks                                  | May through December  | 2018         |
| MD    | Maryland Coastal Bays  | Trawl       | 20 stations per month                                      | April through October   | 1989         |
|       |  | Seine       | 19 stations per month                                      | June, September   | 1989         |
|       | Submerged Aquatic Habitat in Sinepuxent Bay  | Seine       | 5 zones  | September only  | 2015         |
| VA    | Fisheries independent surveys do not collect tautog in quantities needed for monitoring purposes |             |  |   | NA           |

**Table 11.** Ongoing fishery-dependent monitoring in each state, as of 2022

| State | Fishery Sector | Data Collected           | Data Source   |
|-------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| MA    | Commercial     | Length, Weight           | Market sampling   |
| RI    | Recreational   | Age, Length              | Recreational harvest sampling   |
|       | Commercial     | Age                      | Fish Pot Survey   |
| NY    | Commercial     | Age, Length              | Markets and dockside sampling   |
| NJ    | Commercial     | Age, Length, Weight, Sex | Commercial vessel sampling  |
|       | Recreational   | Age, Length, Sex         | Party/charter boat sampling (retained fish)                                     |
| DE    | Recreational   | Age, Length              | Recreational harvest sampling   |
| MD    | Recreational   | Age, Length, Weight, Sex | Charter boat hook and line sampling   |
| VA    | Commercial     | Age, Length, Weights     | Samples from commercial hook-and-line gear, haul seines, pots/traps, pound nets |
|       | Recreational   | Age, Length, Weights     | VMRC Marine Sport Fish Collection Project                                       |
|       |                | Tagging data             | Game Fish Tagging Program   |

\*Surveys as part of MRIP occur in all states and are not included in the table. All commercial landings monitoring systems are also excluded.

**Table 12.** Tagging Data collected in 2022. Amendment 1 requires all states to implement a commercial harvest tagging program. Source: state Compliance reports.

| State | Number of Participants Receiving Tags | Number of Tags Issued | Number of Tags Returned | Number of Tags Used | Tags Reported Lost | Tags Reported Damaged | Number of Tags Unaccounted for |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| MA    | 145                                   | 33,850                | 10,788                  | 21,527*             | N/A                | N/A                   | 1,535                          |
| RI    | 285                                   | 29,136                | 11,145                  | 12,886              | 542                | 29                    | 4,534                          |
| CT    | 79                                    | 6,850                 | 2,802                   | 3,680               | 126**              | N/A                   | 242                            |
| NY    | 481                                   | 182,950               | 52,020                  | 122,411             | 1,986              | 41                    | 6,492                          |
| NJ    | 9                                     | 1,275                 | 721                     | 529^                |                    |                       | 25^                            |
| DE    | 2                                     | C                     | C                       | C                   | N/A                | N/A                   | C                              |
| MD    | 2                                     | C                     | C                       | C                   | N/A                | N/A                   | C                              |
| VA    | 30                                    | 2,675                 | 1,752                   | 759                 | N/A                | N/A                   | 164                            |

\*Estimate (based on average weight of reported landings).

\*\*Reported number is mostly lost tags but also includes damaged and stolen tags.

^Preliminary estimate due to some tags pending return.