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MARYLAND - VIRGINIA
"Potomac River Compact of 1958"

Potomac River Fisheries Commission

P.O. Box 9
Colonial Beach, Virginia 22443
www.prfc.us

OFFICERS:

MARTIN L. GARY
Executive Secretary

MICHAEL C. MAYO, ESQ.
Legal Officer

TELEPHONE:
(804) 224-7148
(800) 266-3904

FAX:
(804) 224-2712

E-MAIL:
contactprfc@gmail.com

March 5, 2020

PRFC Implementation Plan for Spot and Atlantic Croaker Addendum III Requirements

De Minimis Petition for PRFC's Spot and Atlantic Croaker Fisheries

PRFC has no commercial or recreational fishing regulations for Spot, and harvest have been negligible relative to coastwide landings over the past five years. PRFC meets the *de minimis* criteria for Spot, as defined in Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans (FMP) For Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout (2011):

States may apply for de minimis status, if for the preceding three years for which data are available, their average combined commercial and recreational landings (by weight) constitute less than one percent of the average combined coastwide commercial and recreational landings for the same period.

PRFC petitions the Sciaenid Board to grant PRFC *de minimis* status for its Spot fishery in 2021. PRFC qualifies for de minimis status under spot for the 2021 fishing year. To qualify, combined commercial and recreational landings from the last three years must be less than 1% of the past 3-years average of the coastwide combined commercial and recreational catch. PRFC has .73% of the coastwide combined landings for spot over the last three years.

PRFC petitions the Sciaenid Board to grant PRFC *de minimis* status for its commercial Atlantic Croaker fishery in 2021. To qualify, the recreational or commercial landings from the last three years must be less than 1% of the past 3-years average of the coastwide landings for the recreational or commercial fishery.

States may apply for de minimis status if, for the preceding three years for which data are available, their average commercial landings or recreational landings (by weight) constitute less than 1% of the coastwide commercial or recreational landings for the same two year period.

In the past three years, PRFC has seen a sharp decline in total commercial harvest. PRFC currently has 1.3% of the total 3-year coastwide average, but this request would allow the PRFC time to determine if the landings were an aberration, or if the Atlantic croaker fishery is truly de minimis.

From: RHaddock
To: Comments
Subject: [External] Sceinaid Board
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 11:11:17 AM

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what measures are you considering to reduce the impacts of shrimp trawling on spot and croaker stocks? There are more spot and croaker killed in the Pamlico Sound alone each year as shrimp trawl bycatch than the total annual recreational and commercial harvest of those two species combined?

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