



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Tautog Management Board Webinar

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*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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Tautog Management Board Webinar  
September 23, 2021

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### Meeting Summaries, Press Releases and Motions

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (SEPTEMBER 23, 2021)..... 2**  
*Meeting Summary..... 2*

## **TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (September 23, 2021)**

### ***Meeting Summary***

The Tautog Management Board (Board) met to provide feedback on the risk and uncertainty decision tool for tautog.

In February, the ISFMP Policy Board approved using tautog as a pilot case for the Risk and Uncertainty Policy. The risk and uncertainty decision tool provides a framework for determining the appropriate level of risk when considering changes in management for a species. Specifically, the decision tool combines information on a stock's biology, ecology, and fishery with risk preferences from the Board to arrive at a recommended level of risk. This recommended level of risk, or the recommended probability of achieving the reference points, can then be used with projections to develop management options that match the Commission's risk tolerance for that stock. The goal of the process is to have a transparent approach for the Commission to determine the appropriate level of risk for a species.

With the tautog pilot case, the Commission is developing decision tools specific to tautog that can be used when considering potential management changes in response to the 2021 Stock Assessment Update. Input from the Board, Technical Committee (TC), Advisory Panel (AP), and Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (CESS) will be incorporated into a tautog-specific decision tool for each management region. Input from the TC, CESS, and AP will be used to characterize the stock status, model uncertainty, management uncertainty, environmental uncertainty, ecological importance, and socioeconomic considerations. Each of these categories will be weighted according to its relative importance, compared to the other categories, and combined through the decision tool to arrive at a recommended risk level. The weightings for each category will be based on the Board's preferences about what information is most important to their decision-making regarding risk in tautog management.

Board members were presented background on the decision tool, including the categories of information used in the tool. The Board was then able to ask questions before providing input on the relative importance of each category through a poll function in the webinar. Responses from the poll will be combined with results from a survey sent to Board members who were unable to attend the webinar to produce preliminary weightings for the decision tool. A preliminary Risk and Uncertainty Report including the preliminary weightings, as well as the technical input from the TC and CESS, will be compiled and presented at the next Board Meeting. The Board will review the report, provide feedback on the report and the Risk and Uncertainty process, and consider whether to take management action in response to the 2021 Stock Assessment Update during the Fall Meeting in October.

For more information on tautog management contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org).