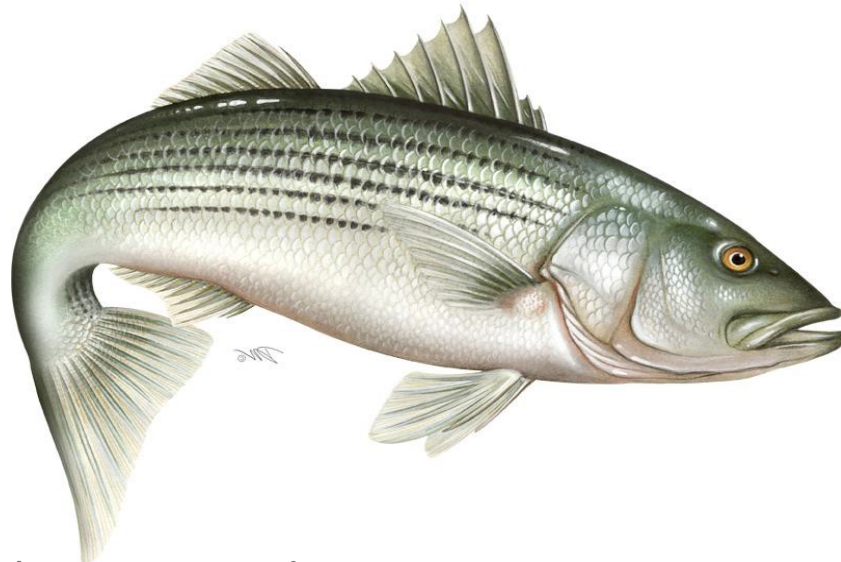




Technical Committee Report on Striped Bass Management Board Tasks



Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

February 2, 2017

Outline



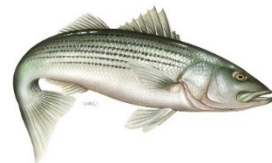
- Background
 - October 2016 Management Board Meeting
 - Management Board tasks
- Task 1
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion
- Task 2
 - TC Recommendation



Background



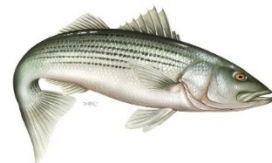
- October 2016 Management Board Meeting
 - 2016 Striped Bass Stock Assessment Update
 - Stock not overfished, overfishing not occurring
 - SSB estimated at 129 million lbs
 - Above the threshold (SSB = 127 million lbs)
 - Below the target (SSB = 159 million lbs)
 - F estimated at 0.16
 - Below the threshold (F=0.22)
 - Below the target (F=0.18)



Background



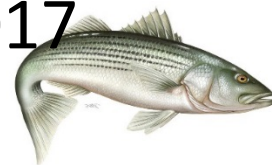
- Task 1
 - Determine the percent liberalization in harvest that would increase fishing mortality (F) from the 2015 terminal year estimate of 0.16 to the FMP target F of 0.18
- Task 2
 - Recommend a preferred dataset using updated length-frequency data for states to use when preparing conservation equivalency proposals for recreational regulations



Task 1 - Methods



- Project striped bass population starting in 2015 through 2017
 1. Scenario 1:
 - Preliminary 2016 removals
 - Fishing mortality (F) of 0.18 (i.e., F target) in 2017
 - Estimate total removals in 2017
 2. Scenario 2:
 - Constant F of 0.156 in 2015
 - F of 0.18 in 2016 and 2017
 - Estimate total removals in 2016 and 2017



Task 1 - Results



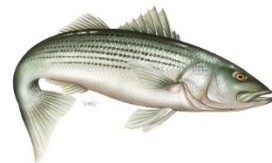
- Preliminary 2016 removals estimated at 3,557,510 fish
 - 18% increase from 2015
- Fishing at $F=0.18$ in 2017 results in a harvest of:
 - 3,329,752 fish (scenario 1)
 - 3,321,030 fish (scenario 2)



Task 1 - Results



- Total removals of ~3.3 million fish in 2017 represents a 10-11% increase from 2015, BUT a 6% decrease from preliminary 2016 removals
 - 2016 removals likely an underestimate



Task 2



- Task 2
 - Recommend a preferred dataset using updated length-frequency data for states to use when preparing conservation equivalency proposals for recreational regulations



Task 2 – TC Recommendation



- Pursue development of a length-based projection model as an ideal approach
- Until such a model is developed, use the most recent 3 years of size-frequency data for CE proposals
 - A state may opt to use less than 3 years provided it can be justified to, and approved by the TC





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