

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## South Atlantic State/Federal Management Board

*August 7, 2014  
12:30-2:30 p.m.  
Alexandria, Virginia*

### Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*P. Geer*) 12:30 p.m.
2. Board Consent 12:35 p.m.
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Proceedings from May 2014
3. Public Comment 12:40 p.m.
4. Spot and Atlantic Croaker Trigger Exercises Update (*C. McDonough*) 12:50 p.m.
5. Consider Draft Addendum I to the Spot Omnibus Amendment and Draft Addendum II to the Atlantic Croaker Amendment I for Public Comment for Final Approval **Final Action** 1:05 p.m.
  - Review of the Draft Addenda (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
  - Public Comment Summary (*K. Rootes-Murdy*)
  - Consider final approval of the Draft Addenda
6. Consider Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance (*K. Rootes-Murdy*) **Action** 2:05 p.m.
  - Atlantic Croaker
  - Red Drum
7. Review and Consider Approval of 2015 Red Drum Stock Assessment Terms of Reference **Action** (*J. Kipp*) 2:15 p.m.
8. Other Business/Adjourn 2:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia; 703-683-6000

# MEETING OVERVIEW

**South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 7, 2014**  
**12:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.**  
**Alexandria, Virginia**

Chair: Pat Geer (GA) Assumed Chairmanship: 10/13	Technical Committee Chairs Atlantic Croaker: Chris McDonough (SC) Red Drum: Mike Murphy (FL)	Law Enforcement Committee Rep: Doug Lewis (GA)
Vice Chair: Jim Estes (FL)	Advisory Panel Chair: Tom Powers (VA)	Previous Board Meeting: May 14, 2014
Voting Members: NJ, DE, MD, PRFC, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS, SAFMC (12 votes)		

## 2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from May 2014

**3. Public Comment** – At the beginning of the meeting, public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

## 4. Spot and Atlantic Croaker Trigger Exercises Update (12:50 -1:05 p.m.) Action

### Background

- Trigger exercises were established for both species for each non-assessment year to review trends in the fisheries.
- The Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee and Spot Plan Review Team met via conference call in July to review the 2013 data.
- The 2013 data update does not appear to have tripped the triggers for the past year, but this is based on preliminary data. The TC and PRT remain concerned about the trends in landings and length at age data. (**Supplemental materials**)

### Presentations

- Update of the Atlantic Croaker & Spot Trigger Exercises by K. Rootes-Murdy

## 5. Consider Draft Addendum I to the Spot Omnibus Amendment and Draft Addendum II to the Atlantic Croaker Amendment I for Public Comment for Approval (1:05-2:05 p.m.) Final Action

### Background

- At the May 2014 meeting, the Board approved a draft addenda to consider the use of a Traffic Light Approach (TLA) in assessing and managing the Spot and Atlantic croaker fisheries.

- The draft addenda proposes management options for Spot and Atlantic croaker fisheries that would apply the TLA to a management framework in assessing the species. Based on the annual updates, the Atlantic Croaker TC and Spot PRT would make recommendations on management measures to enact if needed. The TLA and management framework would replace the current annual trigger exercises if approved.
- The public provided comments through public hearings held in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia, as well as through written comments (**Meeting materials**).

**Presentations**

- Review of the Draft Addenda by K. Rootes-Murdy
- Public Comment Summary by K. Rootes-Murdy

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- Consider final approval of the Draft Addenda

**6. Consider FMP Review and State Compliance Reports (2:05-2:15 p.m.)**

**Background**

- Compliance reports were due July 1, 2014 (**Meeting materials**).
- The Atlantic Croaker Plan Review Team reviewed each state report and compiled the Fishery Management Plan Review (**Meeting materials**).
- The Red Drum Plan Review Team reviewed each state report and compiled the Fishery Management Plan Review (**Supplemental materials**).

**Presentations**

- Overview of the Fishery Management Plan Review Reports by K. Rootes-Murdy

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- Approval of the 2014 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports.

**7. Review and Consider Approval of 2015 Red Drum Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (2:15-2:30 p.m.) Action**

**Background**

- Red Drum is scheduled for a Benchmark Stock Assessment to be completed by August 2015. At the May 2014 Board meeting, the Red Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) was appointed by the Board.
- The Red Drum SAS has met twice via conference call to plan, determine a timeline, form working groups, and draft Terms of Reference to guide the Assessment process (**Meeting materials**).

**Presentations**

- Overview of the 2015 Red Drum Stock Assessment Terms of Reference by J. Kipp

**Board actions for consideration at this meeting**

- Approval of the 2015 Red Drum Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

**8. Other Business/Adjourn**

**DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATE/FEDERAL FISHERIES  
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**The Crowne Plaza Hotel – Old Town  
Alexandria, Virginia  
May 14, 2014**

**These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board. The Board will review the minutes during its next meeting.**

**Draft Proceedings of the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board Meeting  
May 2014**

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**INDEX OF MOTIONS**

1. **Approval of Agenda by Consent** (Page 1).
2. **Motion to approve proceedings of February 6, 2014** by Consent (Page 1).
3. **Move to release Spot Addendum I and Atlantic Croaker Addendum II for public comment with the changes discussed today** (Page 15). Motion by Adam Nowalsky; second by Joe Grist. Motion carried (Page 15).
4. **Adjourn by Consent** (Page 22).

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Asm. Andrzejczak (LA)	Louis Daniel, NC (AA)
John Clark, DE, proxy for D. Saveikis (AA)	Mike Johnson, NC, proxy for Sen. Jenkins (LA)
Roy Miller, DE (GA)	Robert Boyles, Jr., SC (AA)
Bernie Pankowski, DE, proxy for Sen. Venables (LA)	Ross Self, SC, proxy for Sen. Cromer (LA)
Tom O'Connell, MD (AA)	Patrick Geer, GA, proxy for Rep. Burns (LA)
Bill Goldsborough, MD (GA)	Nancy Addison, GA (GA)
Russell Dize, MD, proxy for Sen. Colburn (LA)	Jim Estes, FL, proxy for J. McCawley (AA)
Joe Grist, VA, proxy for J. Bull (AA)	Martin Gary, PRFC
Cathy Davenport, VA (GA)	Wilson Laney, USFWS

**(AA = Administrative Appointee; GA = Governor Appointee; LA = Legislative Appointee)**

**Ex-Officio Members**

Chris McDonough, Croaker Technical  
Committee Chair

**Staff**

Bob Beal	Melissa Yuen
Kirby Rootes-Murdy	Toni Kerns

**Guests**

Loren Lustig, ASMFC GA	Paul Bierman, NCFA
Doug Grout, ASMFC AA	Thomas McArthur, NCFA
Jack Travelstead, CCA	Taylor Smith, NCFA
Jimmy Kellum, Kellum Maritime	Pam Schill, NCFA
Adriene Divertie, MD DNR	Marty Frost, Salter Path, NC
Justin LeBlanc, NCFA	Jerry Burns, Beaufort, NA
Jerry Schill, NCFA	Bradley Styron, Cedar Island, NC
Brent Fulcher, NCFA	Richard Barlow, Cedar Point, NC
Johnathan Fulcher, NCFA	C.R. Frederick, Swansboro, NC
Emily Knortz, NCFA	Kenneth Seigler, Hubert, NC
Gurney Lee Collins, NCFA	Jarrett Moore, Ocracoke, NC
Jeremy Gurthrie, NCFA	Adam Tyler, Smyrna, NC
Josh Salter, NCFA	Arnold Leo, E. Hampton, NC
Dan Garrish, NCFA	Aron Styron, Jr. NCFA
Aron Styron, NCFA	

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**Draft Proceedings of the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board Meeting  
May 2014**

The South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Presidential Ballroom of the Crown Plaza Hotel Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia, May 14, 2014, and was called to order at 9:25 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Patrick Geer.

**CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIRMAN PATRICK GEER: Welcome to the South Atlantic Board Meeting. My name is Pat Geer; I'm the chairman. I will do my best to try to get us back on schedule; but I think that is going to be virtually impossible at this point.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Let's start off with the approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda, any modifications? Hearing none; the agenda is accepted.

**APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

Approval of the proceedings from the February 2014 meeting; heading no objection to those; we will consider those approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

We're going to have a brief public comment period. We have the North Carolina Fisheries Association members that have come up to the meeting today. I'm estimating about 20 of you.

Since we're pressed for time; we're going to take two public comments now. If we have time at the end, we'll consider others at that time. We're going to have Jerry Schill and Justin LeBlanc speak very briefly, five minutes apiece, and we'll go from there. I think, Jerry, you're up first. Please state your name and your affiliation.

MR. JERRY SCHILL: Mr. Chairman, my name is Jerry Schill with the North Carolina Fisheries Association. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on red drum management. Also in the room are a few Tarheel fishermen who are attending an ASMFC meeting for the first time. They're here because they have been very much

affected by the issues related to red drum; and they want to make sure they have a voice in the future management of the species.

For background and for the benefit for those whom I have not yet met, I was president of NCFA 18 years, from 1987 to 2005 when I resigned to pursue other interests. My successor, Sean McKeon, resigned last fall. I agreed in the interim to help the organization rebuild and re-energize; but after three months I realized that I was having so much fun aggravating Louis Daniel that I begged the board to let me come back fulltime.

That is the reason I'm back. It is a life's mission; and I'm having a lot of fun doing it, Louis. This trip is costing our group and our fishermen thousands of dollars in travel expenses and lost fishing time and should highlight how important it is to the commercial fishing community and to our state.

Commercial fishermen have sacrificed greatly in the rebuilding of red drum. While it is not directed fishery, it is an important source of income to large-mesh gill netters while targeting flounder; yet we took an unprecedented action at a recent NCFA board meeting. After a four-hour very spirited discussion, our board voted unanimously to recommend an immediate closure to large-mesh anchored gill nets due to the tremendous population of red drum in the water.

Since our 250,000 pound cap had been exceeded for the fishing year, our fishermen cannot land red drum, which means regulatory discards. That amounts to waste, which the fishermen abhor, but it could also lead to a public relations and a political nightmare. DMF Director Louis Daniel reacted to our request by issuing a proclamation prohibiting the use of large-mesh gill nets effective May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Many fishermen have only one thing to do this time year and that is fishing with this gear. They would be fishing for flounder, black drum and sheepshead, but today they are fishing for concern for their future. I've only mentioned the

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fishermen and yet what they provide is also important to dealers, restaurants and retail markets.

Only a few short weeks ago we took another huge step with a proposal to fund observers for the gill net fishery due to the interaction with sea turtles as a requirement for our state's ITP. That program would totally fund the observer program with no tax dollars by doubling our commercial license fees. That proposal will be considered by our state legislature, which convenes today.

The science will dictate what our cap will be in the future; but even if it is large increase, which we project it will be, the lack of flexibility in the plan is a huge problem. Without flexibility, staying in compliance with the plan will be difficult; but even if we do go out of compliance, do you all realize that it would be the very first time our state has gone out of compliance with an ASMFC Fishery Management Plan? That's right; we're in the minority in that regard.

Esse quam videri or to be rather than to seem; that is our state's motto. Yes, we can be a bit rambunctious at times and a tad excitable; but in addition to being hard working and very passionate about what we do, we know conservation and we practice it. Because of that, we like conservation equivalency measures and the flexibility given to managers that can reward fishermen for their extraordinary efforts such as what we are doing in North Carolina.

That flexibility is especially needed with a recovering or recovered stock. Red drum, for example, is playing havoc with our juvenile blue crab population. We sincerely hope that you will have some time at the end of your meeting to take comments from our fishermen who have made great sacrifices to be here. There is a real problem with how we deal with a recovering species.

Congratulations; now what? I don't care if you're talking about the increasing population of sea turtles or red drum; it is hard. I sat around a

table like this when I was on the South Atlantic Council. It is really difficult when you're dealing with a recovering or recovered species. I would like to introduce Justin LeBlanc of Ocracoke, North Carolina, who is doing some work on behalf of NCFCA and will speak to the technical aspects of red drum management. Thank you.

MR. JUSTIN LEBLANC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the opportunity comment; I appreciate it. North Carolina commercial fishermen, many of them here today, have concerns about the North Carolina red drum cap of 250,000 pounds and the need for a better understanding of the abundance and age structure of the adult red drum population particularly in the northern management unit.

The SEDAR 18 report from 2009 states that given the data on the static spawning potential ratio over the past many years, it is likely that overfishing on red drum is not occurring. In fact, current data and opinion documents indicate that a recovered status for the northern stock is warranted. The assessment that is currently underway needs to address the uncertainty documented in SEDAR 18 regarding the abundance of older fish so that an updated FMP can reflect not only the health of the one to three year olds but the health of the adult population as well.

Since 1994 red drum have been under a successful FMP that has met or exceeded its target SPR of 40 percent. We are at the 20-year threshold estimated to be the timeline for recovery of this stock. North Carolina Department of Marine Fisheries Data suggests the spawner biomass for the stock is healthy and stable.

The current North Carolina cap of 250,000 pounds was established using commercial landings as a proxy. The landings' data used were obtained during the time period when the stock was depleted and was not derived from a biological framework. In our opinion the current harvest structure does not allow us to

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obtain optimal yield and is not reflective of the stock's current health.

As Jerry mentioned, this year North Carolina commercial fishermen took the unprecedented step to close their large-mesh fishery because the yearly red drum cap had been harvested and bycatch mortality could have been very high due to the very large cohort moving through the slot right now. This action will significantly lower bycatch mortality to this large year class and will likely result in recruitment to the adult spawning biomass.

In addition, we believe that there is a very little bycatch mortality associated with the large-mesh gill nets for adult red drum. We also believe that a better understanding of hook-and-release mortality in the recreational sector is needed. Recreational fishing effort in this fishery often peaks during the hottest months of the year when oxygen is low and water temperatures are high, potentially increasing mortality.

We believe that the current review needs to take into account the reduction in fishing days and soak times mandated by the sea turtle compromise and the Section 10 Agreement with NMFS that we operate under. In conclusion, we believe that the current North Carolina cap needs to be increased as well as the North Carolina recreational bag limit.

All user groups in North Carolina have sacrificed to rebuild the stock. We should develop an FMP that allows us to maximize optimum yield. We also ask that the FMP be developed in such a way that North Carolina has the ability to manage the commercial TAC with some flexibility so that when large year classes are moving through the slot size, red drum do not become a choke species for the southern flounder fishery. We encourage the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to apply all resources available to complete the red drum assessment in a timely manner. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Thank you very much, Jerry and Justin. Are there any questions for Jerry or Justin; any comments? Louis.

DR. LOUIS B. DANIEL, III: Just a comment; this has been an extraordinary year for the northern group, particularly for Virginia and North Carolina with what may be certainly a decadal year class if not a century year class coming through the fishery. I don't believe it is being seen similarly down in the southern region, at least not at this point. We know after 20 years of management that we're continuously rebuilding or continuing to rebuild the adult spawning stock. I think the information that we have through the longline survey should maybe give us that Holy Grail of spawning stock biomass estimates that could result in some actual quotas that are derived based on the stock assessment and population ecology.

It is true that the industry has really stepped up in North Carolina in last three months. I'm not going to say it is because Jerry is back; but it probably has something to do with it. But in terms of the increase in the license fees, the proposed closure and some modifications for this summer to try to reduce the discards I think is an excellent move on their behalf.

But as we move forward with our stock assessment on red drum, we've got to get a stock assessment. We've have got to get a northern and a southern stock assessment; and I am hopeful that we will be in a position to declare red drum recovered at the end of this upcoming stock assessment. Heads are nodding in relative agreement; but we won't know until we get the stock assessment.

But at that point I think we do need to start thinking outside of the box and recognizing that for the vast majority of us when we're harvesting red drum, we're really only harvesting one year class. It is kind of like an annual crop that lives to be 60 years old. Some years we have poor recruitment and in other years we have extraordinary recruitment and then in some years it is off the charts.

How can we collectively come up with a management plan that allows us to take advantage of those year classes but still protect those very strong year classes and to the

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spawning stock? I have explained to some folks that have called me on this that our grandchildren will be aging the fish that are coming through the system right now; and it could be a major anchor to the northern group spawning stock for at least the rest of our lifetimes.

I just indicate to you that North Carolina is taking it very seriously. We're going to be developing a new fishery management plan to try to impart the flexibility that we can, but we're going to need some help from the commission as we move forward with I guess it would be Amendment 3, which should be an interesting exercise.

I appreciate the folks from North Carolina coming up and hope we will have some time at the end of the discussion to hear from some of the individual fishermen as well; because it has been a pretty tough pill to swallow to have those fish as abundant as they are but be unable to take advantage of that bounty this year. Thank you.

MR. SCHILL: Mr. Chairman, very quickly, and I know you're pressed for time; the kudos need to be given to the guys in the back, the fishermen. I didn't come up with this proposal. The fishermen themselves came up with the proposal to close the large-mesh gill net fishery. The fishers themselves have chosen to double their license fees in order to pay for these observers in the time of budget restrictions.

One thing that I have noticed that is the difference between my first 18 years in this, since I'm a retread now, other than my white hair is the change in the attitude of being engaged. This is the first time we have ever brought a delegation of fishermen to an ASMFC meeting. I think it is refreshing and I think it is important that they see the process and be engaged in that. Again, we appreciate the time. I did say to Chairman Daniel earlier that if you all would just change your policy, allow the public to talk as long as they want and limit the amount that you all talk, we would probably get out of here faster. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Point well taken. Thank you very much, Jerry and Justin; we greatly appreciate that. I want to move on so that we can finish up the items on our agenda and then hopefully have time for members of the association to speak.

**ATLANTIC CROAKER DRAFT  
ADDENDUM I AND SPOT DRAFT  
ADDENDUM II FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The next item on the agenda is Draft Addendum I for Atlantic Croaker and Draft Addendum II for Spot. We presented it to you at the last meeting. We want it to go out for public comment soon. The technical committee looked it over and they're got some suggestions today. I will turn it over to Kirby at this point.

MR. KIRBY ROOTES-MURDY: I will go through the draft addendum in its current form as quickly as possible but to allow also questions at the end if any crop up. Back in February the board initiated a draft addendum based on the technical committee's management memo outlining the traffic light approach in conjunction with a precautionary management framework.

Up on the screen right now is a potential timetable for how this addendum could move forward if approved today for public comment. Moving to the statement of the problem, the goal of the addendum is to address what the technical committee and plan review team for spot have termed as a current issue with the annual trigger exercises.

Under the current management program for Atlantic croaker, annual changes in the recreational and commercial landings are compared against the previous two years index values. If that index value falls below 70 percent of that two-year average, then at a minimum management action needs to be taken or the data examined further but without any specifications on how that would move forward.

For spot the index values, both fishery-dependent and fishery-independent indexes are

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compared against a 10 percentile of their data time series. What we have found is that both of these triggers in themselves are limited in their ability to illustrate long-term trends, whether they be long-term declines or increases in stock abundance, as well as the fact that there is a high degree of variability in the year-to-year index values.

These things in combination make it difficult to respond to gradual but persistent changes without a formal management framework. To give just a little bit of background, both Atlantic croaker and spot are small sciaenid forage species that support commercial and recreational fisheries in the Mid and South Atlantic.

Both species migrate seasonally along the coast, moving northward and inshore to estuaries and bays during the warmer months of spring through fall and then southward and offshore in the more oceanic waters during the winter. Both species reach maturity fairly quickly at an average of about two years of age.

While spot are considered to be short-lived, living to a maximum of about six years; croaker can live up to 17 years but are more commonly seen at about ten years of age. The last benchmark stock assessment for croaker was conducted in 2010. What happened at that stock assessment was a change from looking at two different stocks to one coast-wide stock.

The assessment indicated that the resource is not overfished or experiencing overfishing, the biomass has increased, the biomass has increased and that the age structure had expanded since the 1980's. However, there were issues in trying to determine the stock status given model estimates were difficult in trying to incorporate concerns around shrimp bycatch in the shrimp trawl fishery as well as fishing mortality.

While state-level stock assessments for spot had been conducted over the years, a coast-wide benchmark stock assessment has not been conducted for spot; and as such their stock status remains unknown. Through the current

management framework, as I mentioned earlier, for spot the triggers require that if the index values fall below the 10 percentile, then they're compelled to take management action, but there isn't a specific management action that is specified; and so this creates a little bit of cycle of not quite knowing what to do.

What the Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee and the Spot Plan Review Team wanted to do is move to looking at models and analyses that could better highlight trends. As such, the group decided to investigate the traffic light approach, which has been developed for data-poor fisheries. Basically, it is a three-color system where you have red, yellow and green.

The green and yellow boundary that you will find in the analysis is set at the long-term mean of the data that you're using whereas as the yellow and red boundary is set at 60 percent of the long-term mean, which can help indicate whether there has been a decline. Approximately it would be equivalent to a 40 percent decline.

In trying to use this type of analysis in conjunction with a more formal management approach, we looked at the North Carolina Blue Crab Adaptive Management Program and have tried to model the management options proposed in this addendum off of that. The important thing to note, as I'll go through kind of how these look for spot and croaker, in the case of North Carolina Blue Crab Management Program, they used the traffic light approach as a stock assessment essentially; and we are not trying to do that here.

Really, the goal of this is to try to provide analysis and highlight trends with management options in the interim between now and when a stock assessment gets completed. We've moved to characterize these things not as stock characteristics but as population characteristics. In looking at Atlantic croaker we focused on two specific types of population characteristics.

The first one is an abundance characteristic. This is comprised of fishery-independent data;

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specifically the New England Fishery Groundfish Trawl Survey, the VIMS Juvenile Fish; and Blue Crab Survey; the North Carolina Program 195 Survey and the SEAMAP Trawl Survey. The hashed lines you see up there are marked at the 60 percent threshold of the reference period, which for croaker is set at 1996 through 2008.

This was a reference period that was actually highlighted in the 2010 stock assessment as being able to encapsulate both highs and lows in the fishery in terms of abundance. The upper bound is the 60 percent so essentially twice that of the lower bound. This is similar to how the North Carolina Blue Crab Management Program was developed, but they set theirs as 75 percent and 50 percent. Essentially these thresholds are when management action would have to be triggered or would essentially be triggered based on having them exceeded for a certain amount of time that I will go over in the management options; but this is for the adult abundance.

The next one is the harvest characteristic. Generally, in applying the traffic light approach, it has been done to stock characteristics, as I mentioned. In lieu of not having comprehensive stock characteristics to use, we wanted to incorporate a harvest characteristic given that the current trigger exercises used commercial and recreational data.

This is just slight deviation, as I said, from how the approach has been applied in other fisheries. As I mentioned, we have the surveys that were applied for the annual triggers currently used, but the hope is that the technical committee and PRT would be able to review this analysis annually and be able to move to incorporate the best available data as it becomes readily available.

One data source in particular that we would like to incorporate down the road would be the NEAMAP Trawl Survey. I will just quickly show you what it looks like for spot, the adult abundance. The reference period for the spot traffic light approach is based on the 1989 to 2012 time period; and this is really because of

what we have in terms of available data; so we figured that this is able to incorporate again the highs and lows in the figure that effectively capture that range.

For the adult abundance, the fishery-independent indexes that are used is again the Groundfish Trawl Survey, the Maryland Chesapeake Bay Seine Survey and the SEAMAP Trawl Survey. We have it also for the harvest characteristic, which again is based on the commercial and recreational data.

Next I want to go through the management options that are being proposed in the addendum. There are only three. The first one and the last one are kind of uniform in how they would be applied. The second one has a little bit more detail, and I will go through that. For the first management option, status quo; this would simply allow the triggers to stay in their current form without incorporating the traffic light approach. This is done annually but there would be in turn no changes.

For the second management option, I will go first through the Atlantic croaker one and then the spot. We have this set up, as I said, similar to how it has been proposed in other adaptive management frameworks. Essentially this would be a coast-wide measure that would be applied based on the 30 percent threshold being crossed.

For Atlantic croaker that would be for three years of consecutively exceeding that 30 percent threshold of the proportion of red in the analysis. We have listed up here a number of measures that could be applied. These are not currently set so that they would be these across the board. For example, we don't have bag limits specified in here; and we need some guidance from the board on what appropriate bag limits could be incorporated.

The 30 percent threshold that is tripped for three years for either the adult abundance characteristic or the harvest characteristic would cause these measures to be enacted coastwide. Once they have been established, the harvest

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characteristic could not be used to annually update and compare to determine increases or decreases because of the possibility of management action having an influence on that indices basically.

The timetable for this would be, as I said, three years of consecutively exceeding the 30 percent threshold, interim management measures would be in place for three years, after which they could be taken off based on improvements in those indices. For spot we decided to look at a two-year time period rather than three given the life history characteristics I mentioned earlier. We focused on primarily a size limit and closures.

For both species the closures that are proposed in here are based on recreational data we have, wave data over the last two years in terms of when landings have been highest. Again, for both croaker and for spot, Option 2 is applying a coast-wide set of measures for all those states that have a declared interest.

The last option, Option 3, instead of applying a coast-wide measure of set of measures, it would be a state-by-state approach where the technical committee and plan review team would determine what the percent reduction would be needed to achieve a reduction that gets that indices under the 30 percent threshold.

Essentially it would be proportional to how much that indices has exceeded the threshold. As such, the states would be able to determine what measures would be most appropriate for them to implement in order to meet these reductions as needed. The timetables could be set as similar to the coast-wide measures that were proposed.

Again, I just want to reiterate that the hope is for both species to be added to the stock assessment schedule and that the management frameworks proposed in Options 2 and 3 are intended to provide guidance in the interim period between now and when those stock assessments get completed. One other thing just to note is that regardless of which option may be taken later on

if the document is approved, the annual trigger exercises will be conducted this year; and there is the possibility of having an updated traffic light analysis with that presented at potentially the August meeting. If you have any questions, just let me know.

CHAIRMAN GEER: I have a quick question probably for Chris. Looking at these graphics, it appears that the abundance characteristics of both the croaker and the spot are doing okay; whereas, the harvest characteristics is showing a decline.

MR. CHRIS McDONOUGH: Yes, actually we covered a little bit of this in the report from the February meeting. The discrepancy between the harvest characteristic and the fishery-independent indices goes to the age structure of each of those. Essentially the fishery-independent indices are primarily age two fish or younger; and the recreational and the commercial harvest are age three-plus. Plus, a lot of the increased – you know, they have been increasing in the independent indices in recent years. A lot of that is driven by the Mid-Atlantic at the coast-wide level.

MR. JOHN CLARK: I just have a question on these spot measures. Are these just examples of what could be put in place; because a minimum size limit of six inches would eliminate using spot as bait in a lot of areas for recreational fishermen that catch spot to use as bait?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: The minimum sizes that we have listed in the current coast-wide measures are based on first maturity essentially to allow for a year class to come through and reach full maturity. As I mentioned, these are just a set of options that are currently being proposed; and we're looking for feedback from the board on what could work for those sets of coast-wide measures; whether it be size limit, bag limit and season closures are two of those.

MR. ROBERT H. BOYLES, JR.: Kirby, good job on this. I want to make sure just operational as this is going to public comment; but should this approach be approved? I'm concerned by

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those of us who are blessed with having to manage fish through the legislative process and the timing associated and the timeframes associated with these triggers and the timing in which we would have to respond; can you comment on what this plan could contemplate? Let me ask it a little bit more directly. If we find a yellow or a red based on that three-year review, how quickly are we going to need to respond in order to remain compliant? Has that been contemplated yet?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: I would say at this point of the document we haven't fully tried to capture that yet. We're just really laying out what potential measures would be, but that is something we could consider in this or would ask for feedback on.

DR. DANIEL: A couple of points and some suggestions. Delaware brought up the spot bait issue with the recreational fishery; and there needs to be some characterization of the bait component of the commercial fishery as well. At least for North Carolina and Virginia those would be significant impacts to the bait industry; and we don't need to ignore that.

There have been circumstances where for stock rebuilding and stock recovery we've had to forego using some species as bait. River herring is the one that comes immediately to mind. It is certainly something that we will hear in public meetings in North Carolina and Virginia about; I can assure you.

The other point that I think is important at this stage – and we've had some conversation about it. Kirby did a good job getting a paragraph in the document on shrimp trawl bycatch. The ultimate document I think needs to flesh that out some more. From the discussions around this board and this table, there seems to be this general thought that we've done a lot in shrimp trawl bycatch reduction. It is really kind of confounding everyone as to what more we can do.

I provided information at the last meeting on what North Carolina is doing, and we are

working with industry over the next three years to try to develop more appropriate bycatch reduction devices. There is a general sense at least in some of our jurisdictions that shrimp trawl bycatch is the sole culprit for the decline in weakfish, croaker and spot.

I believe this board needs to clarify that for the public; because that is what we're going to hear a lot about is that, well, if you just get rid of shrimp trawls, your spot, croaker and weakfish problems go away. I don't believe there is any evidence that any of us have collectively around this board that would suggest that's the case.

Chris, we talked about this at the last meeting. I don't think we know what the absolute impact of the shrimp trawl fishery is on those three big species. I think we need to be forthcoming in what we do know and any concerns that we do have. When I look at the information that we have, I don't know what component or mortality shrimp trawling makes up.

We will be asked those questions; and I think we need to have a board response to that part of this plan. It is going to be a very difficult plan to develop. I don't think anybody thinks that a spot/croaker plan is to be a cakewalk. It will not be. Perhaps just bag limits may be more appropriate – bag limits and seasons may be more appropriate management tools than size limits; but we'll see when we go to the public. I just felt like those were some points that needed to be on the record as we move forward.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: Thank you, Louis. One of the goals I think of this addendum is that if we were to go forward with some of the measures that are proposed in it, as you had highlighted at the previous meeting, this could serve as really a way to trying to eliminate what those unknowns are.

If we are able to put measures in place and not see responses in the fishery that would show improvement, then that could indicate that the lone culprit is something like shrimp trawl bycatch. If we are able to do something like put measures in place and not see improvements,

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then that might also be telling as well; so we are considering that with this addendum.

MS. TONI KERNS: I just wanted to go back to Robert's question of timing of implementation. I think that there is sort of two tracks that the board could take here. One is that you could set a timeframe now to include in the public comment how fast you need to respond; or if one of those thresholds in the stop light is hit, then when the board is deciding which measure to respond with, you could indicate a timeframe in which you need to respond at that time that you choose the measure.

MR. JOE GRIST: It ties into what Robert is asking. In order to have a timely response in any management, the data is going to have to be timely, too. When are the independent indices available to run the stop light? Currently the state reports are not due, which you would get the harvest from, until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Are we also talking about needing to move those up to have some type of ability that if this is tripped and we have to take action, that we can find out the second half, let's say, a year for the next year; are we talking about an overwinter and a rush in the spring to try and do something? I mean, when is the data going to be available to actually know when we may have to do something?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: I'll comment and then may Chris might be able to further expand. Joe, as you know, we have the annual trigger exercises and we try to get them in the summer. With Atlantic croaker we have our compliance reports due July 1<sup>st</sup>. We also have the spot compliance reports due in November.

The goal of having those trigger exercises done in the summer was to help anticipate whether or not management action may be needed to be taken; and if so adequate time would be allowed. I think we anticipate being able to have this information available from a previous year in a timely enough manner to make the board aware of management actions as they might need to come up for the following year.

MR. ADAM NOWALSKY: My question was with regards to the use of the management framework in the options that you had put up on the board and the accompanying text in the current addendum proposed. A management action should be enacted when either one of the population characteristics consecutively achieve or exceed a threshold. Could you comment on the merits of either one versus both of them and what would be the benefit to us as managers to act when either one versus both of them and how it might actually reflect what is going on in the stock status as well.

MR. McDONOUGH: Okay, I want to make sure I got the whole thing. You're asking basically between both the harvest characteristic being tripped as well as the fishery independent from that? Okay, the way we have done the trigger exercise in the past where we've essentially – say, with croaker, you had to trip one of the harvest indices, either commercial or recreational, as well as one of the fishery-independent – I can't remember now; I think it was one or it might have been two – it was just one, okay – and I think what we had in mind was to keep a similar working model in place in the sense that both would have to be evaluated.

If it was just the harvest characteristic that tripped with the declines that are showing now in both data sets in that analysis versus what shows up in the fishery-independent indices and that characteristic, the technical committee would then have to kind of pick it apart and see, okay, is this really something that is going to warrant a management response; and then able to kind of pull that back into the traffic light and say, okay, the independent indices are coming up.

If we can separate it out on an age basis or something like that where we can account for that, then we can say, all right, there is this decline going on. However, these other indicators I would say that a response isn't warranted, which is something we actually did a couple of years ago with the trigger exercise.

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However, with the traffic light, because it is a little more sensitive, and looking at these over two-year period for spot and three-year period for croaker, if we indeed are seeing these changes or declines, then that gives us hopefully a little more lead time into implementing a management response as well as giving us just more information, hopefully.

Some of the data as it is available – and this kind addresses what Joe said – even though the spot report is not due until the end of the year, that was done mainly just because we already have so many reports due in the middle of summer, we pushed it back; but we're still doing those trigger exercises at the same time because the data is available and it has to be done. Usually by the August meeting we're presenting that stuff; so it is usually pretty available.

MR. ROY MILLER: I have a comment. I have a concern about the implementation of coast-wide measures. If you will indulge me with just a moment two or history, Atlantic croaker stocks are hugely important in the Delaware Bay Region, both on the New Jersey side the Delaware side and up along the New Jersey coast.

Their abundance over the years historically you could show a correlation with winter weather events; namely, cold winters, juvenile croaker that invade Delaware Bay in the fall have poor survival; and so a year class will be virtually wiped out by an exceedingly cold winter. That has been the history of the species.

Consequently, croaker in our region have waxed and waned mostly in regard winter weather conditions over the years. A series of tough winters like in the late 1970's, once the mature croaker that were present passed on, there were no juveniles to replace them and the species greatly declined.

Now, if we're tied to coast-wide management measures, then it doesn't really recognize the migratory nature of the species; you know, invading the northern ranges of its habitat in response to weather events, climate change,

whatever you want to call it. Sometimes I think that any conservation measures that we may take on croaker locally in the Delaware Bay Region would be meaningless in terms of a population impact. I just am concerned that we would have to needlessly implement let's say a higher size limit or a higher bag limit when in fact everything is weather-driven at the northern end of the range.

I don't really know how to adjust the proposed management. I appreciate the elegance of the traffic light approach. I think it is a way of at least taking some prescriptive action in lieu of a stock assessment, but I would just appreciate any suggestions you might have for those of us who have jurisdictions in the northern range of the species. What I said for croaker also applies to a certain extent for spot. Thank you.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: We are aware of the fact that there might be environmental factors that contribute to abundance. One of the goals we hope to have achieved through this addendum is addressing those sources of data possibly down the road, if needed. That is a possible element of what the traffic light could incorporate. As I mentioned before, we want to have the best available data used when available. I guess what I'm trying to say is the hope is that possibly down the road we could be considering environment factors in that traffic light approach as well.

MR. NOWALSKY: Just to follow up on my last question; I appreciate all the information. It was certainly very helpful. I guess it doesn't answer for me, though, the question that the current option in addendum says that we would take action if the population characteristics, either the adult abundance or the harvest, if either one of those traffic light approaches indicated a need for action.

My question would be what are the merits of the "or" approach versus "and" approach; and is it just purely a management question for us or is there a real biological reason to use the "or" approach and would it be beneficial to take this document out for public comment with both in

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as options, using the “or” approach and the “and” approach and getting comment from the public on when we should be responding.

MR. McDONOUGH: Okay, I get what you’re saying, kind of doing one or the other might paint us back into a corner a bit more than doing an “and” approach. The one thing, though, is that with the – with the sensitivity of doing it with the triggers or even with the traffic light is that if you set the – I guess the difficult with an “and” approach is that with both of them, if you have to trip both of them, then it becomes really conservative and it hardly ever gets tripped. Whereas, the “or” approach – and I guess maybe we could come up with something in between or some type of combination. Right now they’re weighted equally; and so maybe further refinement of it would help clarify that. I know that doesn’t answer your question very well.

MR. NOWALSKY: No; I think it leads me perhaps to an approach of “or” would bring this discussion before the board to decide whether action is warranted; but “and” might require us to take action.

MR. McDONOUGH: I guess that is a good interpretation.

DR. WILSON LANEY: To add to Adam’s question – and I will defer to Chris and Kirby on this; but I guess I was looking at these, Chris, from the perspective that you mentioned earlier, which is that the fishery-independent index tells us more about what is going on with regard to the year class strength, because we’re looking at age two and younger in those indices.

Whereas, the harvest parameter maybe is telling us more about what is going on with year class survival and the adult fish once they’ve reached maturing. I was looking at it from the perspective that given the “or” gives the board a little bit more flexibility in addressing one or the other of those two life stages, if you want to look at them as separate life stages.

If we had recruitment failure a couple of years in a row, then we would expect the fishery-

independent index to trip the trigger earlier. If on the other hand something is going on with the upper end – to pick up on comments made earlier in week; maybe striped bass are eating all the spot; and all of a sudden on the harvest end we see a big decline or something like that, then we could deal with one or the other end of the life cycle appropriately through appropriate management measures.

I do kind of like what Adam just suggested is that maybe we could look at it from the perspective of the “or” being the normal case; but if we do get an “and”, if both of them are tripped at the same time, that would seem to indicate a more critical need for some sort of management action because we would be experiencing possibly some sort of recruitment failure on the one end and reduction of adult spawning stock biomass on the other end.

I don’t know; I guess we haven’t thought about it in those terms, and maybe that’s something the technical committee needs to discuss and talk about. It seems to have some merit. I agree with you; it would make it more difficult. If they both tripped at the same time, that would mean something really significant was going on, but it probably would be less likely that they would both trip at the same time. I will defer to you guys on that; but does that make sense?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: Wilson, I would just point out that one of the issues we have been dealing with in the current annual trigger exercise is that it has been a very high bar to cross to enact some kind of either consideration of management for spot or to start a stock assessment for croaker.

Because of that and the fact that data can be revised annually that further compounds or confuses what was a previous year’s assessment based on those bars, it becomes much more difficult to respond as well as it creates – I would argue that it further makes it difficult to effectively address declines that we might be seeing or increases. Having them weighted more toward – when you have it as an “and”,

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then you create much more complexity in trying to force an action.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Are there any other comments? I believe what the technical committee is looking for is, first of all, the measures that are on there, should any of them be removed or anything else be considered. They're looking for items on that. I have heard some people say that maybe the size would be problematic. I'm looking to you folks.

MR. McDONOUGH: Yes; that was put there as an example mainly because it is an option. With the species like these, for most people bag limits are much more palatable and more easily to understand. And the same with the seasonal closures; it is options that are available; so we want to make sure you guys have everything you can consider.

MR. GRIST: And just a little more clarification on the moderate management versus elevated management; what type of level reduction, if that could be a little clearer as to what that represents, because you actually put in eight inch versus nine inch. Are those just examples and just off the hip or was there some calculation to say this is more than the other and one inch will make a significant difference and that type of thing?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: You're speaking to the current measures that are in place for croaker, for example?

MR. GRIST: I'm looking at Table 2, size limit, 8-inch recreational and commercial for a moderate; elevated management, 9 inches; so again are those just you plugged in some numbers for examples; is there something behind those two numbers? They're very specific versus if you look at all the other options, you have Xs in there and not available. How did those get there so that the public understands those aren't fixed?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: The 8-inch size limit; that would be actually just a minimum measure, right, so not every state in the management

range has a size limit in place currently. That would be really forcing a size limit across the management range. That is where that number came from. The elevated one I think was plugged in and kind of looked at more in conjunction with other measures that might be added on. You have the seasonal closure as well as a bag limit and the size. In that regard it would be a more elevated response. But in terms of the specific; in this stage the document can be adjusted to reflect a more appropriate size limit based on the board's response.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Joe, were you suggesting that things like the bag limit and trip limit, where there is an X there is an actual number put there?

MR. GRIST: No; unless that work has been done; I don't think so. Unless we can say a moderate management level represents a 10 percent reduction in overall or 20 percent; I don't think there is anything we can put there. We have specific numbers placed in other spots, so I was just trying to clarify what those represent; because what does moderate mean.

Moderate to three different people means three different things. To some it could be very significant; and to some people it would be nothing. That is what saying, just a little more clarity on the moderate versus the elevated, what that really means for the public's benefit; so when they provide us comment, they know what they're commenting on.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: So, again, the moderate response would be putting in essentially in the context of – you know, we'll start with croaker, well, and to a certain degree, spot. These would be minimum measures across the board. For the elevated response, this is trying to be a much more restrictive response; and as such there are more options that are added on – there are more management measures that would be added on; and as such it is constraining effort much more.

In turn it is a tiered approach, the first one being only two measures whereas the second is the

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more restrictive one. For spot we have it as being – well, for both species we have it as being closures in the recreational and gear restrictions in the commercial. So, again, it is a tiered approach where the moderate response is to try to have an initial minimum measure response; and the elevated is to be much more restrictive in terms of trying to address a much more essentially worse trend.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Okay, we're running short on time and I'm going to try to stay on schedule. The goal was to try to get this to the point where it is ready to go out for public comment. Are there any changes that you want done to this; is it ready for public comment; and let's forward with that. Adam.

MR. NOWALSKY: I would like to move to add an option under both – and before we begin typing, I'll express what I'd like to see and then we can try to consolidate that in words. I would like to see the option for both the spot and the croaker where the management action would take place if both of the population characteristics were triggered, both of them versus "or".

Now, whether we structure that and you want the motion crafted as we have in Option 2 for each where it is "or"; Option 2 is "and"; and then we have a sub-option for each one as a statewide versus a coastwide or how you would like to do that and how you'd like me to craft it. I know you need a valid motion to have discussion, but I don't want to sit here and talk about describing the entire motion, rewording Option 2 and Option 3 as they currently exist under each one, just changing the word "or" to "and". Maybe I could get some help from staff on how to best move forward with that in an easy-to-craft manner.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: It's pretty tricky, but I think there have been other comments around the table that folks seem to be comfortable with the direction you're going in, Adam; to provide some more flexibility to the board and not paint the board

quickly in a corner with only one of these triggers being met.

I think on the record you have described what you'd like to see pretty well; and if there is no objection to that around the table, I think staff can – and I don't know if you necessarily need to try to capture all your thoughts in one motion. If there is no objection to that, staff can work with Kirby and get that option included. If Kirby feels he has clear guidance I guess is the other part of it.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: To answer your question, Adam, I think a clear option could be a tiered one to the previous set of options, which would be applying it to whichever one is decided; such that if Option 2 is decided, depending on the species; that it would be instead of an "or", it would be an "and" whether it is coast-wide or state-by-state measures, if that makes sense. Going through kind of a decision tree, you make a decision on the first option and then off of that determine whether it would be an "and" or "or". Does that capture what you were hoping for?

MR. NOWALSKY: I'm fine with that; and I'm just amazed how friendly we can do things at the South Atlantic Board. (Laughter)

CHAIRMAN GEER: We had a long discussion about that last night. Robert.

MR. BOYLES: Let me ask a question; another and/or question, Kirby, just to make sure; because I think what Adam is – the path he is going, and I agree with him, is that – and I may have missed this – these potential management measures; are they "and" or "or" – I think what I'm interested in is giving the board the maximum flexibility to respond to the data and to the situation as it is presented to us with the FMP review each year. Would we potentially have to implement a size limit and a bag limit and a seasonal closure or are those just a suite of options; just clarify that for me if you could, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN GEER: I believe those are just all options; is that correct?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: Again, to get back to what Pat had mentioned before, with the table we have currently set up, it would be most helpful probably moving forward if in that table for the coast-wide measures what options you would prefer not have to in there; because right now it would be set at if the proportion of red is triggered for three years, then those three would go into place; whereas if you wanted to make a change in that language so that only two of them go into place. Now, for the Option 3, it is left up to the states to determine what suite of measures they would like to have. I mean, it could be just one measure; it could be three or four. It is just a question of what would be most appropriate at the state level to meet that percent reduction and harvest.

DR. DANIEL: Listening around the table, I want to speak in favor of as much flexibility as we can have to the board; so I agree with those comments. While the size limit does give me some pause potentially with the commercial side and not as much with the recreational side, and there may be options that you could do different things for different sectors. We've done that oftentimes and we do it a lot in North Carolina.

I think keeping as much in there for the public to comment on is a good thing. My not concern but my questions are really centered around what Joe brought up in terms of we need to be clear that this is not a stock assessment. We're not getting population biomass estimates on these two species.

The measures that we're proposing similar to the blue crab stop light in North Carolina is to try to do something that would reduce harvest. There is not a percentage attached to it and that could raise some questions to the public, well, what percentage and why do you need that percentage. I'm not sure we can answer those questions without a full-blown stock assessment.

This is sort of the preliminary stage; this is sort of the mid-state between doing nothing and

maintaining status quo, which we have done for these two species and ultimately getting a stock assessment that we may have or may not in the near future. I don't know that you can assign a percent reduction that is consistent across the board for all jurisdictions.

I'm also intrigued with the winter issue for the northern region. We have been dealing with that with speckled trout in North Carolina and have closed the fishery if we have a major cold stunt event with the hope that those fish that are left over and did make it through the winter would have the greatest likelihood of spawning.

I don't know whether that's a similar circumstance that could be taken or similar track that could be taken in the northern region on spot and croaker or even if the jurisdictions up there would want to take that move. Those are kind of my comments on it, Mr. Chairman. I think the big thing is getting as much flexibility and as many options out there as we can, the best information that we can, and look at what other states are doing.

Robert just told that their legislature is getting ready to go with I think a 50-fish aggregate limit for spot, croaker, and kingfishes in South Carolina. We're getting ready to talk about kingfishes here in just a little while. Are there lessons we can learn from what some of the other states that have taken management action on these species that we might be able to glean from so that those that have been proactive and done something aren't going to go back and change, and maybe we can adapt to them.

MR. GRIST: I'll be brief. Going on this this and/or slant here such as on Table 2; maybe the language should be "could include" such as with your moderate recreational. As I understood Kirby to say a size limit and a bag limit and a closure; it could include one of them; it could include all three of them, but keep that extremely flexible; so maybe that type of language is what you need; because there would definitely would be a debate as we would need all three of those in an option if it is just saying moderate.

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CHAIRMAN GEER: All right, we're running out of time. Adam.

MR. NOWALSKY: Would you like a motion to send this out for comment with the changes that have been discussed here today, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN GEER: I would love something, yes.

MR. NOWALSKY: I so move.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Can you clarify that a little bit.

MR. NOWALSKY: **Move to release the addendum for public comment with the changes discussed today.**

CHAIRMAN GEER: I've got a second from Joe Grist. All those in favor raise your right hand; those opposed; any null votes; abstentions. **The motion carries.** Kirby will work on those changes; and I'm assuming it will be on the agenda in the August meeting as well. All right, thank you very much for that conversation.

**OVERVIEW OF SHEEPSHEAD AND  
KINGFISH FISHERIES**

CHAIRMAN GEER: We're going to move on now. As Louis said, we're going to continue the top with our underloved sciaenids; and we're going to be talking about the potential of adding sheepshead and whiting as management plans. Kirby.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: I have two species' overviews that I'll go over through fairly quickly, but I'll have time for questions at the end of each. I would ask for the discussion of these two to wait until after I get through both of them. The first one is the sheepshead fishery overview. Sheepshead are a common marine fish found from Nova Scotia down through Brazil.

The population that ranges from Nova Scotia to Florida is actually regarded as a subspecies of the *Archosargus probatocephalus*. They can be

found near jetties, wharves, pilings, shipwrecks and waters warmer than 15.5 degrees Celsius. Adults mature between the ages of two and five with approximate size for males reaching between 7 to 14 inches and 9 to 14 inches in females.

They can grow up to about 35 inches total length with a weight of possibly 22 pounds; though average size and weight vary along the Atlantic Coast. Sheepshead also have been found to live as long as 35 years based on aging work. Sheepshead spawn in near and offshore waters and proximate reefs and wrecks during the late winter and early spring with juveniles inhabiting grassy flats and dispersing to high-relief hard-bottom areas as they mature.

They're omnivorous but feed mostly on crustaceans. Studies have shown that prey type may influence the strength of their jaw. They have incisors and molars as well. It is unclear whether sheepshead are truly a migratory species. Evidence suggests in the Gulf and the Atlantic that sheepshead migrate from nearshore to offshore waters, but generally inhabit state waters.

Little evidence has shown for whether they migrate north to south. Regarding coast-wide commercial landings versus recreational landings, primarily sheepshead is a recreational fishery with about 74 percent of the total landings between the two being of recreational harvest. Recreational harvest has averaged about 1.5 million pounds annually over the last ten years with Florida having the highest proportion of the catch as on the next slide I'll show you; and second two being South Carolina and North Carolina at approximately 11 and 10 percent.

In terms of the value of sheepshead, commercial landings have averaged about 550,000 pounds over the last three years; as I mentioned with Florida and increasingly North Carolina making up the bulk of these landings. 2012 commercial landings were valued at approximately \$397,000. Regarding management, sheepshead were formerly managed by the South Atlantic

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Fishery Management Council under the Snapper Grouper Reef Fish Complex, but were removed in 2012 largely due to most of the landings being found in state waters rather than federal waters. Currently up on the board right now are the state-by-state measures that are in place for commercial and recreational fisheries. If you have any questions on what I just presented, let me know.

MR. BOYLES: Just a clarification; Kirby, would you put that last slide up, please, on the commercial management measures. Our management measures in South Carolina, that 14-inch minimum size and 10-fish possession and 30-fish boat applies to both recreational and commercial.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: Thank you. If there are any points of clarification or corrections, I appreciate that.

MR. JIM ESTES: Kirby, is there any evidence that our stocks mix from state to state?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: I can't speak to that. I don't have a tremendous amount of background in sheepshead; but from what I understand, there hasn't been shown a lot of evidence that they migrate north to south, so I'm not sure of the influence of northern found species to those in southern areas.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Moving on to whiting.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: Next I will just go through southern kingfish quickly. Southern kingfish, *Menticirrhus americanus*, are a short-lived sciaenid. Some kingfish begin spawning in their first summer with most kingfish maturing by about age one. The spawning season for kingfish ranges from May through October.

Most kingfish that are landed commercially are around age three with a maximum age observed at approximately eight years old. Southern kingfish stock abundance has not been assessed due to a lack of biological and to a certain degree landings' data. Problems with data

include aggregate commercial landings for the three *Menticirrhus* species, a lack of time series especially in biological data and no or limited measurements from dominant commercial fisheries, as well as questionable identification and landings' estimates in the recreation fishery.

Regarding distribution, there is also limited data and evidence of whether they're truly migratory or not between southern, northern and Gulf species. Looking at commercial and recreational landings, over the last ten years it has been approximately a 50/50 split. Commercial landings have been approximately 1.14 million pounds over the last decade, having declined from approximately 2.5 million pounds in the mid-eighties.

Florida and North Carolina have had the highest proportion of these landings. It is important note that for the commercial landings they're listed as an aggregate kingfish of king whiting; so there is not a different listing in terms of commercial landings of northern or southern or Gulf by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

In looking at the recreational harvest in the South Atlantic, recreational estimates have peaked in 1983 at about 2.6 million pounds; reaching a low of about 577,000 pounds in 1998 and have been maintained at about an average of 1.5 million pounds during the time series. During this period of time, the southern states, primarily Florida, Georgia and South Carolina have made up the bulk of the harvest.

In 2013 South Carolina had the largest estimated harvest at about 550,000 pounds followed by Florida at 238,000. In terms of management, there is currently no management measures in place along the Atlantic Coast for kingfish; but I wanted to go through just very briefly that this species has been looked at by the board previously.

In 2008 there was a Kingfish Technical Committee that was formed and presented to the board a memo outlining available data on kingfish. Due to impediments and lack of available data, they moved at that time to not

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initiate a stock assessment; but based on the information provided to the board, the technical committee was tasked with developing a list of research priorities and needs.

I have just a short list that I'll go through in terms of how those have been updated since 2008. Aggregate commercial data has increased. There has been work completed in North Carolina to better seek identification information with few errors observed. Effort along the coast continues to be monitored in both commercial and recreational catches.

Regarding the time series of data needed for commercial effort in South Carolina and Georgia, back in 2008 it was indicated that approximately 15 years of data was needed. Currently we are at ten years for South Carolina and twelve years for Georgia. Recreational release mortality has been estimated about 30 percent for the last thirteen years based in information provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

As I mentioned earlier, there is limited information on the movement and migration of the species in part due to a lack of tagging studies by the states. As I mentioned earlier, the identification errors do persist within the MRFSS and MRIP data. There have been otolith projects completed both in North Carolina and Georgia in terms of aging. That is where some of those high and medium research priorities that were identified back in 2008 stand currently. If you have any questions, just let me know.

DR. DANIEL: I guess not so much a question but a couple of comments. The sheepshead issue really stems from the South Atlantic Council removing them from the management unit in the Snapper Grouper Complex. What that did was that basically removed any management plan that included sheepshead. One of the thoughts here was whether or not this board wanted to move forward and try to implement some measures to protect sheepshead.

I think the only measures were a 20-fish bag limit, I believe was the measure that was in place; but with the commercial fishery you had to have a snapper grouper commercial permit, which is extremely limited and very expensive to get. It has opened up some opportunities for the commercial fishery by removing them from the management unit.

That is kind of where that came from. With the *Menticirrhus* species, North Carolina went forward with a Kingfish FMP in North Carolina. We did stock assessments I believe on all three. We had those go out to peer review and they were rejected because of the lack of information from the other states with the assumption that they're fairly migratory; and I think they are.

The question really came up then, well, if we're going to do anything with *Menticirrhus* it needs to be done interjurisdictionally. There is that potential of lumping them in with sort of a sciaenid groundfish complex might be a simple way to do it, if that is something the board is interested in doing, and lumping them in with spot and croaker.

The final thing is based on my experience with sheepshead – and this mostly was out of South Carolina – they tend to move inshore or offshore as opposed to up and down the beach. Sheepshead may be a little more state-specific than at least *Menticirrhus* species. This is just for the board's consideration and comment.

MR. BOYLES: Mr. Chairman, a finer point on Dr. Daniel's point – and I'm sorry Chris had to leave to catch a flight – with our trammel net survey on sheepshead from 1991 through 2013, 2,344 sheepshead tagged; 193 recaptures; 8.23 percent recapture rate; distance traveled by recapture fish ranged from zero to 90 miles with the average distance of 5.6 miles.

The majority of the fish were recaptured by recreational anglers. We've got evidence of one interstate movement in our tagged sheepshead; so I think just to put some data for the board and answer Jim's question about tagging studies. Unfortunately, we don't have similar data on

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whiting; but I think it is safe to say that we see sheepshead as more of a cross-shelf species than an interstate species.

DR. LANEY: In answer in Jim's question, also, with regard to sheepshead, I'm looking at a table here, Jim, from a study that was done by FMRI scientists in northern Indian River Lagoon; and they had tagged – let's see, it looks like, inside the no-take zone they tagged 597. They tagged 520 outside. The bottom line is they got 32 or 2.9 percent of 1,117 fish tagged.

I haven't had time to look through the rest of the report and see how far they moved; but it looks like from the figure they have in here that they didn't move very far; so it seems to confirm the same sort of results that South Carolina found in their study. I know, Joe, Virginia has an angler tagging program. I looked at your – I don't know whether I was looking at a most recent report or not; you may want to say something about the Virginia sheepshead tagging results from angler-based tagging program.

MR. GRIST: I can only give a general comment and more backing up what Robert said. I don't have the specific information with me as far as how much have been crossing the state; but the last I remember, speaking with this with Louis Gillingham – he is part of the tagging project – is it was more of an out and back in type of move. I would have to look at the data specifically, Wilson, to comment further.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Okay, are there any other comments? Robert.

MR. BOYLES: I appreciate the situation that everyone finds themselves in. Particularly with sheepshead; you take it out of the FMU of the South Atlantic Council and it kind of slips below the stock assessment radar. We're very concerned about it in South Carolina. As you saw, our legislature implemented some management measures for both recreational and commercial fisheries.

As Louis alluded to as well, our General Assembly is now considering a small sciaenid

aggregate bill which would take into account spot, croaker and whiting; very, very important species recreationally; some commercial landings in South Carolina mostly in the form of shrimp trawl bycatch; something again we're concerned with in terms of just keeping a finger on the pulse.

I think the question before the board is are we interested in engaging in more formal interstate management. I guess I'll be the first to say is I'm not very interested right now. Again, I recognize the situation that we all find ourselves with in terms of rejected stock assessments. We don't want any of us to be in those situations; but I think with where we are with respect to our resources and the budgets that we have I'm not sure that the juice is going to be worth the squeeze here.

I think this is a very helpful discussion for us to have. Kirby, I appreciate your pulling all this information together for us; but from my perspective from where we sit – and I hate to say this, but I think we're okay going it alone for the moment given all the other pressures and requirements on the commission.

DR. LANEY: Well, just a point of information for the board; the Habitat Committee is currently working on a sciaenid source document that I think may be of use to the board in the future when we get that completed. Melissa Yuen has been pulling together all of the habitat sections from all of the existing commission sciaenid plans.

I believe we're going to add kingfishes to that because they were on the ASMFC's Species of Interest List, I think. That will be a pretty complete document. I, for one, would be interested, Robert, in hearing from you in the future about how your sciaenid plan moves forward and what sort of results you see from that.

MR. GRIST: Going back to what Robert said; I agree on going it alone at this time. Back in 2007 our industries came together in front of our Finfish Advisory Committee and they put forth

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the idea for Virginia to have management on sheepshead; and that is where we are with the four-fish recreational and the 500-pound trip limit on the commercial. I definitely think at this point going it even just to the states is the best plan, but I appreciate the update on the information. That is some good work.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Is there anybody who feels we should move forward? I'm not seeing much. All right, I would say we don't need a motion on that. We've got one last item on the agenda. We have to populate some of our committee memberships at this time. We have to get some members for the South Atlantic Advisory Panel as well as our stock assessment subcommittee for red drum.

**POPULATE SOUTH ATLANTIC SPECIES  
COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP**

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: This will be really quick. I just wanted to bring two things to the board's attention; the first being the South Atlantic Species Advisory Panel; and the second being the need to populate the Red Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee. First on the AP, attendance has been fairly poor in the past few years. Between this year of 2014 and 2013 we've had two calls. While we don't have tremendous work in terms of engaging them, those calls have been poorly attended. The request is for the states to really consider who their current members are on the advisory panel; and if they have changes they'd like to make, to let us know down the road.

The second is that with the 2015 Red Drum Stock Assessment set to begin planning and coordination, we need to populate our subcommittee. If people have members they would like to nominate today, that would be great – we also need a Chair – but if not, that can be communicated to us at a later date. The last item was just to show who was on the subcommittee the last time and the need to replace them given that people have moved on to other positions.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Does the yellow mean that they're going to participate in this one?

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: The yellow means that they were on the last subcommittee. The subcommittee is technically dispersed after the stock assessment is completed. The yellow is indicating the people who had been on the stock assessment but are no longer even part of the Red Drum Technical Committee.

MR. GRIST: For Virginia I would like to definitely get my name off that list; and I would like to place in my stead Sally Roman from our staff.

MR. BOYLES: I would like to replace Mike Denson. I think Mike has a lot to offer here, but I suggest to you Dr. Steve Arnott of our staff.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Jim, have you got anybody?

MR. ESTES: I assume by what I read there that Mike Murphy is remaining on the committee.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: Yes; he will need to be appointed, but, yes, he has so far taken part in the planning call.

MR. ESTES: If we're repopulating, I would suggest Mike, if he is willing to do that.

MR. ROOTES-MURDY: And for Georgia I would recommend Carolyn Belcher. Louis, anybody from North Carolina?

DR. DANIEL: I would like to keep Lee on there.

MR. THOMAS O'CONNELL: If you're looking for more members, I would be happy to recommend Harry Rickabaugh from Maryland.

CHAIRMAN GEER: Okay, we need a chairman, but I don't think anybody was willing to jump up and be chairman unless it is one of those folks that was named. I know Carolyn was not interested in chairing the committee.

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If any of those folks just desperately want to lead this crew, please come forward and let one of us know. Is that enough? Is there any objection to this group? Hearing none; all right. I'm sure our staff members are going to say thank you very much for this great honor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FROM NORTH  
CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**

Okay, we promised the North Carolina Fisheries Association a few more minutes to speak. They're going to have three speakers; they're going to have three minutes apiece. We're running late; so, guys, keep on time. We have Brent Fulcher, Bradley Styron and Ken Siegler.

MR. BRENT FULCHER: Mr. Chair, my name is Brent Fulcher. I'm from North Carolina, Acting Chairman of the North Carolina Fishery Association; also support between our two businesses in coastal North Carolina over 300 coastal fishermen. I have also have large ocean-going trawlers that work from Massachusetts to Florida and participate in many fisheries.

I'd like to say again thank you, Mr. Chair and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Board, for taking the opportunity to allow us to speak and allowing our delegation of North Carolina fishermen to attend and participate in your process. North Carolina fishermen are and always have been in favor of sustainable fisheries as it is necessary for them to have long-term employment in the fishing industry.

One thing I heard here earlier, when you were speaking about the spots, I heard you speaking briefly about size limits. And, especially when you start to talk about size limits recreationally – and I'm going to just touch briefly on that and then I'm going to pass the microphone to Mr. Bradley Styron and Mr. Siegler that is here to speak about the drum issue, also.

From talking to many fishermen, recreational and commercial, when you speak to recreational fishermen – just last week I spoke to individuals came in one of my retail stores and he had been off on a headboat catching black sea bass. I had

asked them what they were catching. I figured triggerfish and he said triggerfish and black sea bass.

He said but the black sea bass, they were catching them as hard as they could, but they were throwing them back because they were a half inch too short. I kind of looked down and mumbled and he said, "What's wrong?" I said, "It's just said you throwing those fish back; they probably won't live." He said, "Them fish couldn't have lived; their bladders were hanging out of their mouth."

That brings me to what I want to talk about. It is the belief of many commercial fishermen that the mortality rate in the recreational fishery is extremely high due to the release mortality of undersized fish. Most times those fish are plenty large enough for food consumption, but they had to be returned because of being to the illegal size.

Please consider recommending creel limits or bag limits and not necessarily size limits when you come up with management plans especially recreationally. You need to implement mandatory retention to prevent high grading if you do that. I think that it would possibly mitigate excessive mortality and at the same time increase the maximum economic yield to all the coastal communities that you represent. I thank you for your time and I am going to turn the microphone over to Bradley Styron.

MR. BRADLEY STYRON: My name is Bradley Styron. I am a commercial fisherman from Cedar Island, North Carolina. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. On this red drum issue, we've been locked in the 250,000 pound cap since the nineties. For several years we failed to even meet that with as low as 61,000 pounds out of a possible 250,000.

Last year we did; we went over 110,000. But, you know, you can look at that in several ways. We look at it as the management plans have worked; that we have an abundance. It is the first year and probably the first year in three or

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four we even come close. I think in 2012 we landed 61,000 pounds; in 2011 we landed 91,000.

Over the years we've left a lot of fish on the table; and now it is an opportunity for us to have a chance to get something back, but we're locked into this cap that we went over last year. We agreed voluntarily – and it didn't come without a lot of heartache – to shut down the fishery to address the overage. We're good stewards of the resource. I think we have proven that.

It is time I think for us to get something back. We have almost 16 years in this; and out of the 16, 15 we've been at 40 percent SPR. That speaks highly of the regulatory process. It is time now for us to get something back. We're here today to put a face on the plight; and we're looking for options and we're looking for some flexibility. To try to keep us in this fishery; we're certainly not rich people. We're just hard-working people that deserve a chance. Do any of you have any questions? Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

MR. KEN SIEGLER: Mr. Chairman, my name is Ken Siegler. I'm from Hubert, North Carolina, and a commercial fisherman in the community. It was estimated it would take 15 to 20 years to recover the northern regional red drum stocks. Presently you'd be hard pressed to find an estuary or a backwater creek, point or marsh, moisture rock, river, bay, sounds/inlet in North Carolina that does not have some number of red drum present; looking at any shoal or any inlet and see a robust stock of three- to five-year-old fish in preparation of joining the offshore spawning stock.

Listen to the radios of vessels as they transit the EEZ with color scopes and hear of schools stacked fathoms deep, a mile or more in length. In 1990 a harvest cap of 300,000 pounds that was based on historical landings was set for the industry; the SPR, 1.3 percent. In 1991 a harvest cap was reduced to 250,000 pounds in concert with the one-fish creel limit and slot size limitations and the populations began to expand.

In 1994 a 30 percent SPR goal was set and the overfished threshold for the northern region was met. Then a new goal was set of 40 percent SPR and that goal was met in 1996. In 2001 North Carolina instituted a bycatch provision for red drum with populations at moderate levels. The regulation appeared to have merit.

As the population increased, additional harvest could be allowed to avoid wasting of resources and regulatory discards. Currently the red drum population is robust profound. Such strong year classes of fish present significant issues for both fishermen and managers; managers bound by decade-old federal guidelines and fishermen trying not to catch fish they can't avoid simply because of their sheer numbers.

At this point a bycatch provision appeared to be no longer an appropriate management strategy. If employed to control harvest, the provision becomes counterproductive. With such an abundance of fish present, reducing the number of fish allowed to be harvested serves only to relegate how many fish must be wasted to harvest a few.

A commercial fisherman's desire has always been to conserve resources. We can no longer rely upon reactionary management through antiquated provisions which relegate and mandate waste of resources to control harvest. Future management strategies must be based in science, must be sound, flexible and not be mandated to waste such priceless fisheries resources. Our very jobs and livelihoods depend upon parameters and we can no long afford the loss of jobs that support our communities and fragile economy.

Members of the commission, red drum stocks are recovered. We applaud a job well done. What is required now is management of a recovered fishery; management that acknowledges such extraordinary abundance and doesn't put fishermen out of work because there are so many fish in the water.

Approaches to management we'd like you to consider is looking at changing the beginning

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year date – fishing date from September to April 1. The spring and the summer months are the times when the water temperatures are the highest and the fish are most prone to not survive the encounter. Fall temperatures are cooler; and if the fish have to be let out of the net, then those fish would most likely have a better chance of survival.

In 2012 we left 150,000 pounds of fish unharvested. In 2011 we left 115,000 pounds of fish unharvested. In 2010 we left 80,000 pounds of fish unharvested. That is over 190,000 pounds of unharvested fish. It is felt that some flexibility here can be looked at to where we have such under fish we need some acknowledgement of that fact and with some kind of roll-forward provision not for harvest but merely to cover any overage that may occur in the following year would be a big help. Thank you.

**ADJOURNMENT**

CHAIRMAN GEER: Thank you very much, all three of you, for coming. I greatly appreciate and I wish we could have given you some more time. Are there any comments or questions for the three gentlemen? We are moving forward with stock assessments. Is there any other business before the board? We're adjourned.

— — — —

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 o'clock a.m., May 14, 2014.)

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**Draft Addenda for Public Comment**

*Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

**DRAFT ADDENDUM I TO THE OMNIBUS AMENDMENT FOR  
SPOT AND DRAFT ADDENDUM II TO AMENDMENT I TO THE  
INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC  
CROAKER**



*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

**Approved for Public Comment  
May 2014**

# Draft Addenda for Public Comment

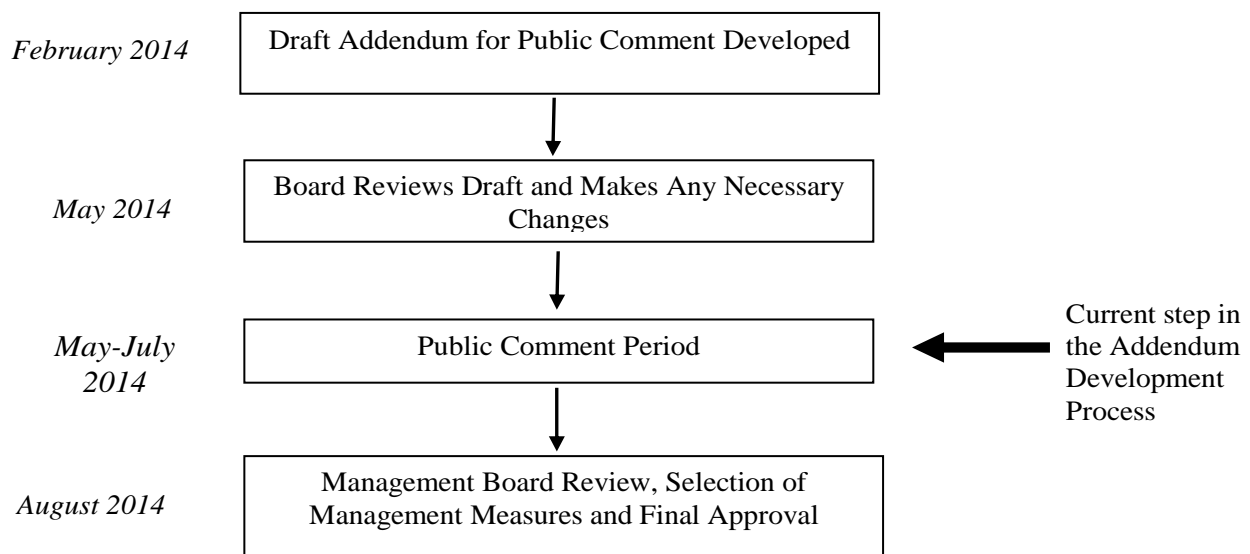
## Public Comment Process and Proposed Timeline

In February 2014, South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board (herein after referred to as “Board”) approved a motion to initiate the development of an addendum to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans (FMP) for Atlantic Croaker and Spot to employ the traffic light approach in order to better manage these species. This draft addenda presents background on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s (ASMFC) management of Atlantic croaker and spot, the addendum process and timeline, and a statement of the problem. This document also provides options for Atlantic croaker and spot management for public consideration and comment.

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding this document at any time during the public comment period. The final date comments will be accepted is **July 2, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments received after that time will not be included in the official record. You may submit public comment in one or more of the following ways:

1. Attend public hearings in your state or jurisdiction.
2. Refer comments to your state’s members on the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board or Advisory Panel, if applicable.
3. Mail, fax, or email written comment to the follow address:

Mail: Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission      Email: [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)  
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N      (Subject: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum)  
Phone: (703) 842-0740      Fax: (703) 842-0741  
Arlington, VA 22201



# Draft Addenda for Public Comment

## 1.0 Introduction

ASMFC has coordinated interstate management of Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*) and spot (*Leiostomus xanthurus*) from 0-3 miles offshore since 1987. The management area extends from New Jersey to the east coast of Florida for Atlantic croaker and Delaware to the east coast of Florida for spot. Atlantic croaker is currently managed under Amendment 1 (2005) to the Atlantic Croaker FMP. Spot is managed under the Omnibus Amendment (2011) to the Spot, Spotted Seatrout, and Spanish Mackerel FMPs. Management authority from 3-200 miles from shore lies with NOAA Fisheries.

The purpose of this draft addenda is to consider alternative management programs for Atlantic croaker and spot with the application of the Traffic Light Approach (Caddy and Mahon, 1995; Caddy, 1998, 1999) as a precautionary management framework. The Board initiated this addenda at its February 2014 meeting following the development of the Traffic Light Approach (TLA) report and management memo by the Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee (TC) and Spot Plan Review Team (PRT). The TC and PRT recommend both species for a benchmark stock assessment with the proposed Traffic Light Approach providing guidance in the interim period.

## 2.0 Overview

### 2.1 Statement of the Problem

Under the current management program for Atlantic croaker, annual changes in recreational and commercial landings are compared with the average of the previous two years' index value. If the index value drops below 70% of the previous two year average, at a minimum, examination of the data is required by the TC.

Under current management program for spot, index values are compared to the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of the indices time series. If two of these indices (one of which must be fishery-independent) are below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile the PRT is to recommend to the Board that it consider management action.

Both the Atlantic croaker and spot management triggers are limited in their ability to illustrate long-term declines or increases in stock abundance. Under the current annual trigger exercises, the high degree of variability in year to year index values make it difficult to respond to gradual but persistent decreases in the trigger indices without a formal management framework in place.

### 2.2 Background

Atlantic croaker and spot are small sciaenid forage species that support commercial and recreational fisheries in the Mid- and South Atlantic regions. Both species migrate seasonally along the coast, moving northward and inshore to estuaries and bays during warmer months (spring-fall) and southward and offshore to more oceanic waters in the winter. Both species feed on planktonic organisms as post-larvae and young of the year, and as juveniles and adults prey on bottom dwelling organisms such as worms and crustaceans. While both species reach maturity by approximately age two, spot are considered a short-lived species rarely living beyond six years. Atlantic croaker can live up to 17 years, but more commonly live no longer than 10 years.

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

The last benchmark stock assessment for Atlantic croaker was conducted in 2010. Unlike previous assessments it evaluated the resource as a single coastwide stock. The assessment indicated that the resource is not experiencing overfishing, biomass has increased, and age-structure has expanded since the late 1980s. However, it could not determine stock status given uncertain model estimates due to limited data on shrimp trawl bycatch and fishing mortality. While state level stock assessments for spot have been conducted over the years, a coastwide benchmark assessment has not yet been done. As such the stock status of spot is unknown.

Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Croaker FMP tasks the TC with conducting annual trigger exercises to assess the stock in years between benchmark stock assessments. This level of monitoring - with the stipulation of initiating a stock assessment based on the results of the trigger exercises - was enacted to enable the Board to better monitor changes in stock abundance. The Omnibus Amendment initiated annual trigger exercises to monitor the status of spot resource while also directing the Board to consider management action depending on the results of the trigger exercise. Without coastwide minimum management measures for either species, the current trigger exercises do little to provide effective management in between stock assessments.

Additional concerns have been raised over the significant level of bycatch and discards that may be occurring through the shrimp trawl fishery for both spot and Atlantic croaker (ASMFC 2010, 2011). While bycatch monitoring programs have been enacted in some states, such efforts have not encompassed the entire management range for either species. Though bycatch reduction devices have been introduced in the shrimp trawl fishery, there has not been observed increases in abundance for either spot or Atlantic croaker in recent years. Addressing these bycatch concerns, as well as the potential for increased regulatory discards in directed fisheries caused by changing the current management program for both species will need to be considered by the Board.

In relatively short-lived species like spot or a fast-growing, early maturing species like Atlantic croaker it is preferable to respond to persistent periodic declines that occur over several years rather than respond to rapid annual changes. Declines that occur over several years require close monitoring in order to anticipate when or if management action may be required. With this in mind, management responses that use techniques showing multi-year changes and trends would be more useful than simply examining year to year changes. Knowing the level at which to respond or initiate some type of management action should be based on long-term knowledge of general stock indications as well as how that stock has changed over time. The Traffic Light Approach offers the ability to illustrate trends based on relevant stock characteristics that can include historical abundance, life history parameters, and response to fishing pressure; this approach can also incorporate assessment based reference points.

### *Traffic Light Approach (TLA)*

The TLA was originally developed as a precautionary management framework for data poor fisheries whereby reference points could be developed that would allow for a reasonable level of resource management. The name comes from assigning a color (red, yellow, or green) to categorize relative levels of different indicators for either a fish population or a fishery. These indicators can be combined to form composite characteristics within similar categories and can include biological indicators, such as growth and reproduction; population level indicators, such as abundance and stock biomass estimates; or fishery indicators, such as harvest/landings and

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

fishing mortality. However, each indicator must be evaluated separately to determine its appropriateness for use in management.

In general practice when applying the TLA, the green/yellow boundary is typically set at the long-term mean of the data series reference period (Halliday et al., 2001) of the indicator and the yellow/red boundary is set at 60% of the long-term mean, which would indicate a 40% decline from the series mean. Index values in the intermediate zone can be represented by a mixture of either yellow/green or yellow/red depending on where they fall in the transition zone. Since increasing proportions of red reflect decreasing trends away from the time series mean, the relative proportion of red of the indicator may offer one way of determining if any management response is necessary.

### *North Carolina Blue Crab Adaptive Management Framework*

One current example of the TLA was recently implemented for the North Carolina blue crab fishery (Table 1) by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF). The NCDMF developed a management framework that applies the TLA to stock characteristics (adult abundance, recruit abundance, and production) derived from fishery-independent data (NCDMF surveys). Within the management framework, two levels of management response were developed based on the relative proportion of red within each characteristic. A moderate response is required when the traffic light characteristic meets or exceeds 50% red for three consecutive years and can result in actions that limit harvest such as restricting trip level harvest for sponge crabs, institution of minimum and/or maximum size limits for female crabs, or seasonal closures in spawning areas. An elevated management level response is initiated when the traffic light characteristic meets or exceeds 75% proportion of red for three consecutive years and can result in more restrictive management actions such as prohibition of sponge crabs, no peeler harvest, or closure of the fishery through season closures, gear restrictions or both.

**Table 1. North Carolina Blue Crab Adaptive Management Framework**

Stock Characteristic	Moderate management level (50% red)	Elevated management level (75% red)
<b>Adult abundance</b>	A1. Increase in minimum size limit for male and immature female crabs A2. Reduction in tolerance of sub-legal size blue crabs (to a minimum of 5%) and/or implement gear modifications to reduce sublegal catch A3. Eliminate harvest of v-apron immature hard crab females	A4. Closure of the fishery (season and/or gear) A5. Reduction in tolerance of sub-legal size blue crabs (to a minimum of 1%) and/or implement gear modifications to reduce sublegal catch A6. Time restrictions
<b>Recruit abundance</b>	R1. Establish a seasonal size limit on peeler crabs R2. Restrict trip level harvest of sponge crabs (tolerance, quantity, sponge color) R3. Close the crab spawning sanctuaries from September 1 to February 28 and may impose further restrictions	R4. Prohibit harvest of sponge crabs (all) and/or require sponge crab excluders in pots in specific areas R5. Expand existing and/or designate new crab spawning sanctuaries R6. Closure of the fishery (season and/or gear) R7. Gear modifications in the crab trawl fishery
<b>Production</b>	P1. Restrict trip level harvest of sponge crabs (tolerance, quantity, sponge color) P2. Minimum and/or maximum size limit for mature female crabs P3. Close the crab spawning sanctuaries from September 1 to February 28 and may impose further restrictions	P4. Prohibit harvest of sponge crabs (all) and/or require sponge crab excluders in pots for specific areas P5. Reduce peeler harvest (no white line peelers and/or peeler size limit) P6. Expand existing and/or designate new crab spawning sanctuaries P7. Closure of the fishery (season and/or gear)

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### *Applying the Traffic Light Approach to Atlantic Croaker & Spot*

The TLA has utility in addressing declines in harvest or production of Atlantic croaker and spot fisheries. Additionally, some of the management tools utilized in the blue crab adaptive management framework could be applied to the Atlantic croaker and spot fisheries, particularly size limits, possession limits, and seasonal closures. While the Blue Crab Adaptive Management Framework uses the TLA as a stock assessment, the TLA can provide management guidance in lieu of a current stock assessment for either spot or Atlantic croaker. The TC and PRT recommend both species for a benchmark stock assessment with the proposed TLA providing guidance in the interim period.

For Atlantic croaker and spot, the TC and PRT determined a more appropriate production characteristic for both species would be a ‘harvest’ characteristic comprised of composite commercial landings and recreational harvest data. These indices are currently used in the annual trigger exercises for these species. Similarly, a composite of fishery-independent survey indices could be used to derive the adult abundance characteristic. As the TLA is not considered a stock assessment for either species, the characteristics would be understood as population characteristics rather than stock characteristics. For both species, the TC and PRT would utilize the best available data and modify the TLA as needed in an annual review and update.

### **3.0 Management Options**

If options 2 or 3 are approved by Board action, they will replace the current annual trigger exercises for Atlantic croaker (under Amendment 1) and spot (under the Omnibus Amendment).

#### **3.1 Atlantic Croaker Management Options**

##### **Option 1 - Status Quo**

Under this option, there is no change to the annual trigger exercises. The current trigger exercises specify that if either the most recent year’s commercial landings or recreational harvest are less than 70% of the previous two year average for their respective category a new stock assessment will be initiated. Additionally, if the TC notices substantial changes in one or more of the remaining trigger categories (biological data monitoring, commercial fisheries effort vs. landings, recreational catch rates, or surveys), the TC can also request that a stock assessment be conducted.

##### **Option 2 - Coastwide Management Framework based on threshold**

The thresholds for the proportion of red in the population characteristic that would determine a management response would be as follows:

30% - this represents moderate concern to the fishery with moderate management response

60% - this represents significant concern to the fishery with elevated management response

The TC determined that these thresholds currently serve as adequate proxies based on fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data during the last 30 years. A minimum threshold significantly higher than 30% may not work effectively in addressing declining trends. An example of when these thresholds have been met or exceeded during the last 20 years are provided in figures 1 and 2.

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

**Sub-Option 2A. Single Population Characteristic criteria for Management Action**  
Management action should be enacted when either one of the population characteristics consecutively achieve or exceed a threshold during a three year period.

**Sub-Option 2B. Multiple Population Characteristic criteria for Management Action**  
This management option would require that both population characteristics achieve or exceed the proportion of threshold (Adult abundance 'AND' Harvest) for the specified three year period.

**Under option 2A or B** management measures would remain in place for three years to promote consistent coastwide measures and allow for sufficient time to evaluate population response (Table 2). Once management action has been taken, the thresholds will not be applied to the harvest characteristics in assessing the fishery for three years, as the fishery-dependent data may be influenced by management action.

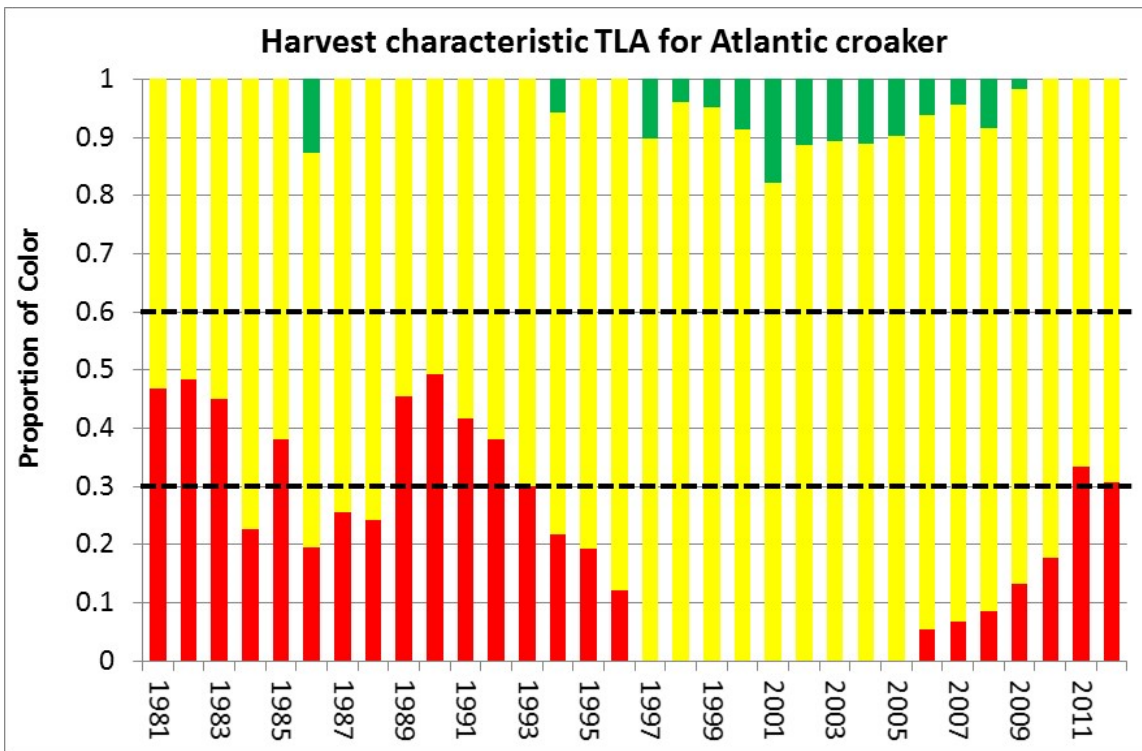


Figure 1. Composite TLA using Commercial Landings and Recreational Harvest for Atlantic Croaker with Management Thresholds of 30% and 60% Proportion Red (Base years 1996 – 2008).

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

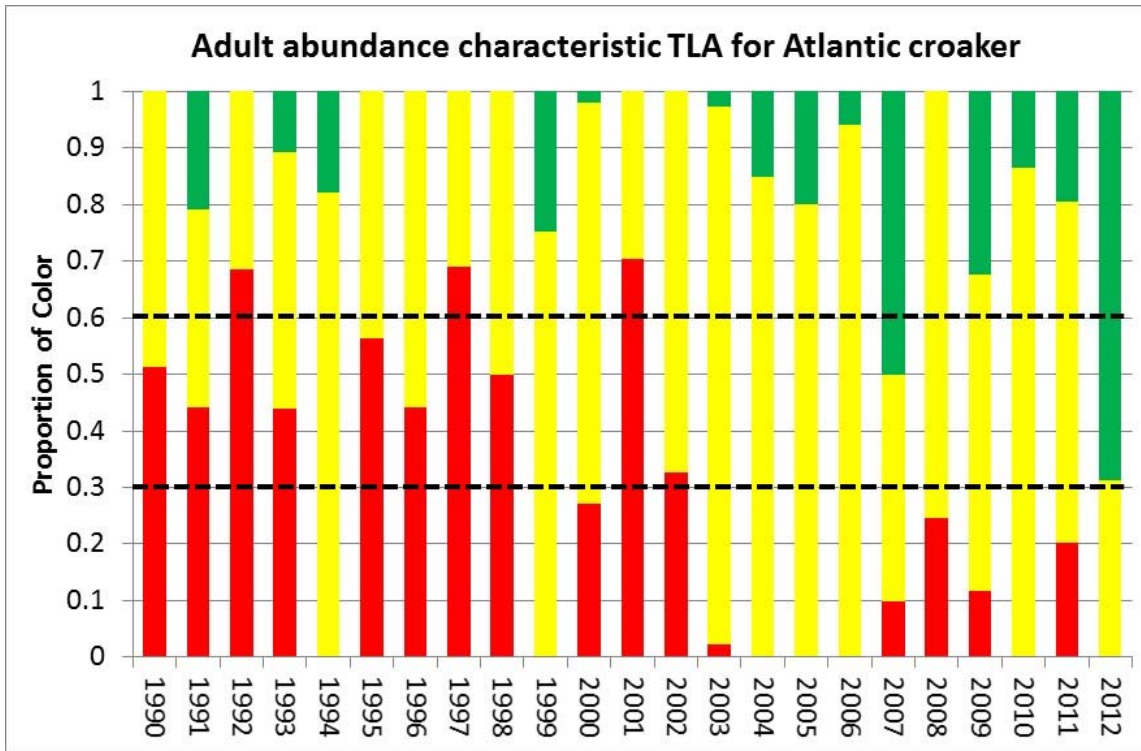


Figure 2. Composite TLA using Fishery-independent Surveys and Index for Atlantic Croaker with Management Thresholds of 30% and 60% proportion red (Base years 1996 – 2008).

### ***Management Measures***

The TC would recommend the appropriate percent reduction in harvest needed and measures to achieve the harvest reduction on a coastwide basis to be approved by the Board.

Under this option, possible management tools for consideration once the above thresholds are exceeded include bag limits, size restrictions, time & area closures, and gear restrictions. An example of each of these tools is provided in Table 2. Seasonal closures were determined from inspection of coastwide recreational harvest estimates during 2010-2012 and assessed based on the time period during which harvest was highest. Size limits were determined based on evidence of size at first maturity. Please note that the listed management tools under each sector (recreational and commercial) are considered as a set of measures to be implemented together. The Board will determine which set of measures, in consultation with the TC, are most appropriate for the needed management action, if this management option is approved.

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

**Table 2. Coastwide Fishery Management Measures for Atlantic Croaker Management Framework**

Population Characteristic	Moderate management level (at least 30% red for 3 consecutive years)		Elevated management level (at least 60% red for 3 consecutive years)	
<b>Adult abundance Or Harvest</b>	<u><b>Recreational</b></u> Size limit: 8” minimum (coastwide)  Bag limit: X number/day limit (coastwide)  Closures: state specific areas closure for 20 days after May 1 & before Oct 1	<u><b>Commercial</b></u> Catch limit: 8” minimum (coastwide); Trip Limit: X pounds/day limit (coastwide)  Closures: NA	<u><b>Recreational</b></u> Size limit: 9” minimum (coastwide)  Bag Limit: X number/day limit (coastwide) Closures: state specific areas closure from Aug 1-Sept 1  Gear Restrictions: (e.g., landings from gillnets prohibited from August 1-30)	<u><b>Commercial</b></u> Catch limit: 9” minimum (coastwide);  Trip Limit: X pounds/day limit (coastwide)  Closures: state specific areas from Sept 1-Nov 1  Gear Restrictions: (e.g., landings from gillnets prohibited from August 1-30)

### **Option 3 – State-by-State Management Framework Based on Threshold**

#### ***Proportion Thresholds***

Under this option, thresholds for the proportion of red in either population characteristic would be the same for initiating management action as under the Coastwide Management Framework (Table 2). These thresholds are listed below:

- 30%- this represents moderate concern to the fishery with moderate management response
- 60%- this represents significant concern to the fishery with elevated management response

#### **Sub-Option 3A. Single Population Characteristic criteria for Management Action**

This management option would require management action be enacted when either one of the population characteristics consecutively achieve or exceed a threshold during a three year period.

#### **Sub-Option 3B. Multiple Population Characteristic criteria for Management Action**

This management option would require that both population characteristics achieve or exceed the proportion of threshold (Adult abundance ‘AND’ Harvest) for the specified three year period.

**Under Sub-option 3A or B,** management measures would remain in place for three years to promote consistent measures and allow for sufficient time to evaluate population response.

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

### *Management Measures*

The TC would recommend the appropriate percent reduction in harvest needed and measures to achieve the harvest reduction on a state-by-state basis rather than be applied coastwide to be approved by the Board. This allows the states to meet the individual needs of their state's fisheries. The application of an overall harvest percentage reduction would be proportional to the magnitude of exceeding the trigger, using a combination of management tools that include size limits, bag/trip limits, seasonal closures, and gear restrictions.

### **3.2 Spot Management Options**

#### **Option 1 - Status Quo**

Under this option, there is no change to annual trigger exercises. The current trigger exercises specify that the Board will be prompted to consider new management action when the terminal value in two of the relative abundance indices are equal to or below their respective data set's 10<sup>th</sup> percentile (for the entire time series). At least one of the relative abundance indices must be a fishery-independent index.

#### **Option 2 – Coastwide Management Framework based on threshold**

##### ***Proportion Thresholds***

The thresholds for the proportion of red in the population characteristic that would determine management response would be as follows:

30% - this represents moderate concern to the fishery with moderate management response

60% - this represents significant concern to the fishery with elevated management response

The PRT determined that these thresholds currently serve as adequate proxies based on fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data during the last 30 years. A minimum threshold significantly higher than 30% may not work effectively in addressing declining trends. An example of when these thresholds have been met or exceeded during the last 20 years are provided in figures 3 and 4.

##### **Sub-Option 2A. Single Population Characteristic criteria for Management Action**

This management option would require management action be enacted when either one of the population characteristics consecutively achieve or exceed a threshold during a two year period

##### **Sub-Option 2B. Multiple Population Characteristic criteria for Management Action**

This management option would require that both population characteristics achieve or exceed the proportion of threshold (Adult abundance 'AND' Harvest) for the specified two year period.

**Under sub-option 2A or B,** Management measures would remain in place for two years to promote consistent measures and allow for sufficient time to evaluate population response (Table 3). Once management action has been taken, the thresholds will not be applied to the harvest characteristics in assessing the fishery for two years, as the fisheries dependent data may be influenced by management action.

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

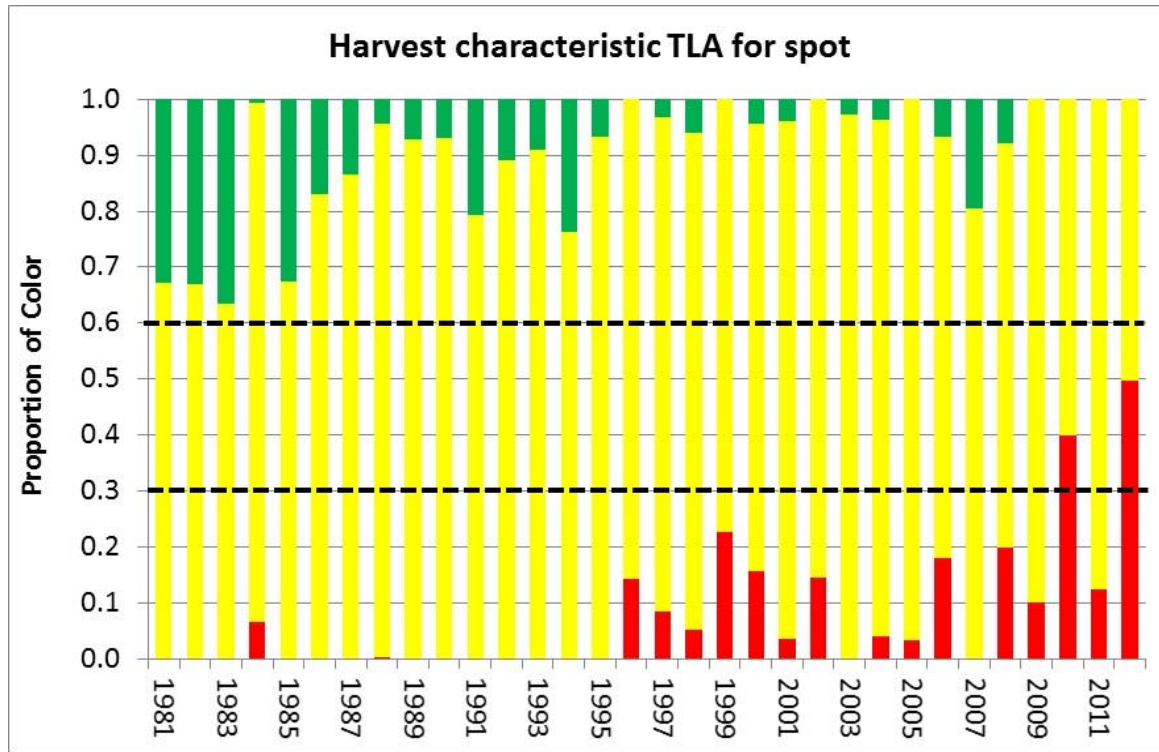


Figure 3. Composite TLA using Commercial Landings and Recreational Harvest for Spot with Management Thresholds of 30% and 60% Proportion Red (Base years 1989 – 2012).

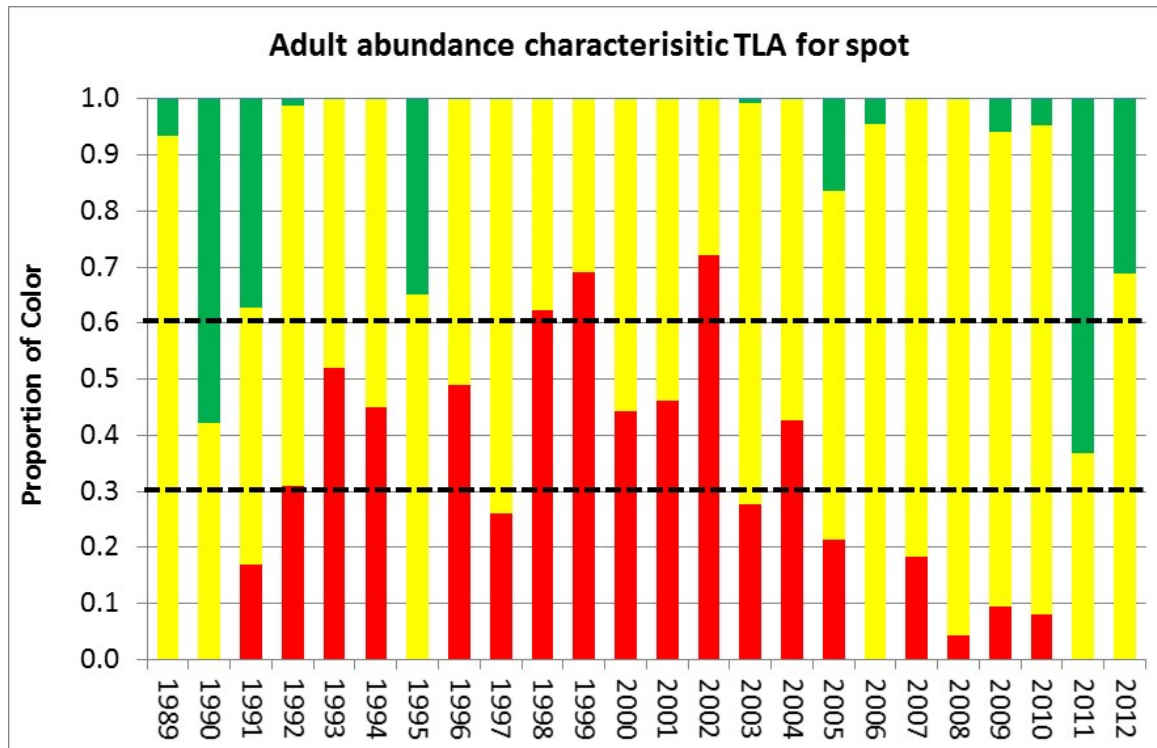


Figure 4. Composite TLA using Fishery-independent Surveys and Index for Spot with Management Thresholds of 30% and 60% Proportion Red (Base years 1989 – 2012).

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

### *Management Measures*

The PRT would recommend the appropriate percent reduction in harvest needed and measures to achieve the harvest reduction on a coastwide basis to be approved by the Board.

Because the Omnibus Amendment does not have reference points for spot management it is difficult to determine the impact of proposed measures particularly in light of the observed natural cycles of abundance. Limited options are available to constrain effort in spot fisheries. Reduction of landings through seasonal closures and timed gear restrictions may provide some benefits for production of the stock. An example of how each of these measures may be implemented is provided in Table 3. Seasonal closures were determined from inspection of coastwide recreational harvest estimates during 2010-2012 and assessed based on when harvest is highest. Each level of management response could be enacted based on observed characteristics during two consecutive years and subsequently hold management measures in place for two years to provide consistent coastwide measures and allow for sufficient time to evaluate population response. A two year period rather than three was considered more appropriate given the short life span of spot. Implementation of these measures, while potentially improving abundance, may allow for an expansion of the age structure for spot, as current data indicate that few spot are observed beyond age three although this species may live four or more years.

Please note that the listed management tools under each sector (recreational and commercial) are considered as a set of measures to be implemented together. The Board will determine which set of measures, in consultation with the PRT, are most appropriate for the needed management action, if this management option is approved.

**Table 3. Coastwide Fishery Management Measures for Spot Management Framework**

Population Characteristic	Moderate management level (30% red for 2 consecutive years)		Elevated management level (60% red for 2 consecutive years)	
	<u>Recreational</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Recreational</u>	<u>Commercial</u>
<b>Adult Abundance Or Harvest</b>	Minimum Size Limit: 6” Bag Limit: X” Closures: May 1- June 15	Trip limit: X pounds/trip Closures: NA	Minimum Size Limit: 6” Bag Limit: X Closures: Sept 1- Oct 15	Trip limit: <X pounds/trip Closures: Sept 1- Oct 1 Gear Restrictions: (e.g., gillnets prohibited from Sept 1-30)

### **Option 3 – State-by-State Management Framework Based on Threshold**

Under this option, thresholds for the proportion of red in either population characteristic would be as the same for initiating management action as under the Coastwide Management Framework (Table 3). These thresholds are listed below:

- 30%- this represents moderate concern to the fishery with moderate management response
- 60%- this represents significant concern to the fishery with elevated management response

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

### **Sub-Option 3A. Single Population Characteristic criteria for Management Action**

This management option would require management action be enacted when either one of the population characteristics consecutively achieve or exceed a threshold during a two year period.

### **Sub-Option 3B. Multiple Population Characteristic criteria for Management Action**

This management option would require that both population characteristics achieve or exceed the proportion of threshold (Adult abundance 'AND' Harvest) for the specified two year period.

**Under sub-option 3A or B**, management measures would remain in place for two years to promote consistent measures and allow for sufficient time to evaluate population response. Once management action has been taken, the thresholds will not be applied to the harvest characteristics in assessing the fishery for two years, as the fishery-dependent data may be influenced by management action.

### ***Management Measures***

The PRT would recommend the appropriate percent reduction in harvest needed and measures to achieve the harvest reduction on a state-by-state basis rather than be applied coastwide to be approved by the Board. This allows the states to meet the individual needs of their state's fisheries. The application of an overall harvest percentage reduction would be proportional to the magnitude of exceeding the trigger, using a combination of management tools that include size limits, bag/trip limits, seasonal closures, and gear restrictions.

#### **4.0 Compliance: To be determined by the Board**

##### 4.1 Atlantic Croaker

##### 4.2 Spot

## Draft Addenda for Public Comment

### 5.0 References

- ASMFC, 2005. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker. Approved 2005. 92pp.
- ASMFC, 2010. Atlantic Croaker 2010 Benchmark Stock Assessment. 366pp.
- ASMFC, 2011. Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout. Approved 2011. 131pp.
- Caddy, J.F. 1998. A short review of precautionary reference points and some proposals for their use in data-poor situations. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 379, 30pp.
- Caddy, J.F. 1999. Deciding on precautionary management measures for a stock based on a suite of Limit Reference Points (LRPs) as a basis for a multi-LRP harvest law. NAFO Sci. Council Studies, 32:55-68.
- Caddy, J.F. 2002. Limit reference points, traffic lights, and holistic approaches to fisheries management with minimal stock assessment input. Fisheries Research 56:133-137.
- Halliday, R.G., L.P. Fanning, and R.K. Mohn. 2001. Use of the Traffic Light Method in Fishery Management Planning. Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Research Document No. 108, 41pp.

**Draft Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment for Spot and Draft  
Addendum II to Amendment I to the Interstate Fishery  
Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker**

**WRITTEN COMMENT SUMMARIES**

**Prepared for Consideration of the South Atlantic State-  
Federal Management Board**

**August 7, 2014**

## Written Comment Summary on Draft Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment for Spot and Draft Addendum II to Amendment I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker

In total 117 written comments were received, with 1 comment provided on behalf of an association.

### Individual Comments

Individual comments submitted were predominately form letters from North Carolina residents. Three types of form letters were submitted (form A, B, and C), with slight variations for two of them (A1 & A2; C1 & C2). All form letters were in support of Option 1, status quo. A tally of form letters is listed below. A complete list of people who submitted form letters can be found in the Written Public Comment Section.

<b>Form Letters stated position regarding Spot &amp; Atlantic Croaker Draft Addenda Options</b>				
<b>Form Letter</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Support for</b>	<b>Opposition to</b>	<b>Count</b>
"A(1)"	My name is ____ I'm a recreational Fishermen in the State of NC....'	Option 1 (Status Quo) for both Spot & Atlantic Croaker	Options 2 & 3	69
"A(2)"	My name is ____ I'm a commercial Fishermen in the State of NC....'	Option 1 (Status Quo) for both Spot & Atlantic Croaker	Options 2 & 3	7
"B"	Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that overfishing is not occurring, and it's my belief that Spots and Atlantic Croaker are not in need of any additional regulations	Option 1 (Status Quo) for both Spot & Atlantic Croaker	Options 2 & 3	20
"C(1)"	My name is ____ . I fish in NC. I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan	Option 1 (Status Quo) for both Spot & Atlantic Croaker	Options 2 & 3	12
"C(2)"	My name is ____ . I fish in ____ River/Sound. I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan	Option 1 (Status Quo) for both Spot & Atlantic Croaker	Options 2 & 3	8
<b>Total</b>				<b>116</b>

Form letter A simply stated a preference for option 1 (status quo). Two variations of the form letter were submitted- indicating whether they were a commercial or recreational fisherman. 60 recreational fisherman submitted letters; 4 commercial fisherman submitted letters.

Form letter B stated a preference for option 1 (status quo), with several reasons cited. Reasons included a belief that neither spot or Atlantic croaker are experiencing overfishing; that additional regulations prior to completion of the scheduled 2016 stock assessment are not necessary; concern with the absence of the NEAMAP survey in the Traffic Light Approach; and that fishermen's knowledge and experience were not taken into consideration in management plans.

Form letter C stated an opposition to the Traffic Light Approach and a preference for option 1 (status quo), with three reasons cited. The reasons listed were that there hasn't been scientific research regarding 1) cycles of species abundance 2) size limitations, bag limits, gear restrictions, vs. Regulatory Discards (By-catch); and 3) Consideration of Harvest Effort. Additionally, the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment was cited as indicating that overfishing is not occurring. Two variations of the letter were submitted; the one specifying that a particular river or sound that the signee fishes from, the other indicating that they fish in North Carolina.

### **Group Comments**

The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Association (NCFA) submitted written comment on the Draft Addenda for Spot and Atlantic Croaker, in favor of option 1 status quo. Reasons cited were the need to incorporate the NEAMAP and CHESMMAP surveys, concern for bias regarding the role of shrimp trawl bycatch in affecting the abundance of both species, and the need to consider environmental factors in evaluating both species including water quality in estuarine waters, warmer water temperatures, and/or predation by other species.

Summary Table of Public Comments on Draft Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment for Spot and Draft Addendum II to Amendment I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker			Public Hearings		Written Individual Comments		Written Group Comments		Total Support	Total Oppose
			Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose		
<b>Spot Fisheries Management Options</b>										
<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Status Quo</b>		53		116		1		170	0
<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Utilization of the TLA: Coastwide Measures</b>					116			0	116
sub options	2A	Single Population Characteristic criteria for management action								
	2B	Multiple Population Characteristic criteria for management action								
<b>Option 3</b>	<b>Utilization of the TLA: State-by-State Measures</b>		6			116			6	116
sub options	3A	Single Population Characteristic criteria for management action	1							
	3B	Multiple Population Characteristic criteria for management action	4							
<b>Atlantic Croaker Fisheries Management Options</b>										
<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Status Quo</b>		53		116		1		170	0
<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Utilization of the TLA: Coastwide Measures</b>					116			0	116
sub options	2A	Single Population Characteristic criteria for management action								
	2B	Multiple Population Characteristic criteria for management action								
<b>Option 3</b>	<b>Utilization of the TLA: State-by-State Measures</b>		6			116			6	116
sub options	3A	Single Population Characteristic criteria for management action	1							
	3B	Multiple Population Characteristic criteria for management action	4							

## North Carolina Marine Fisheries Association Comments

On

### DRAFT ADDENDUM I TO THE OMNIBUS AMENDMENT FOR SPOT AND DRAFT ADDENDUM II TO AMENDMENT I TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC CROAKER

June 17, 2014

Brent Fulcher, Chairman

In review of your draft addenda for public comment I would like to know why the best available data is not presently being used in your stock assessments. It is apparent to industry that NEAMAP and CHESMMAP data along with NOAA's data from Woods Hole would be the best science available. I would also like on the record my disgust of your comment of significant bycatch and discards that may be occurring through the shrimp trawl fishery for both spot and Atlantic croaker. I do not see anything listed here that say's water quality in estuarine waters, warmer water temperatures, or increased predation due to huge populations of dog sharks, striped bass, tunas, etc. may these items not need to be looked at. It seems to be a very biased statement to speak on shrimp trawl bycatch and not even mention these other factors, since the introduction of the Turtle Excluder Device (TED) and the Fish Excluder Device (FED), it has been documented that there has been greater than a 50% reduction in bycatch. Please find attached a copy read into public record at the last NCMFC meeting in Pine Knoll Shores in May 22, 2014. I have highlighted some of the document for you. "North Carolina has been one of the leading states in bycatch reduction in the shrimp trawl industry. The Division of Marine Fisheries began development work on bycatch reduction in 1990, the same year that the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnum Act) was amended to include bycatch research. ASMFC Report on Gear Technology, 2008. On October 20, 1994 Amendment 2 of the weakfish FMP was passed. This amendment required all South Atlantic states (NC, SC, GA, & FL) to implement management measures to achieve the 40% reduction in bycatch of weakfish in the shrimp trawl fisheries

by the start of the 1996 shrimping season. ASMFC Report on Gear Technology, 2008. This amendment required all South Atlantic states (NC, SC, GA, & FL) to implement management measures to achieve the 40% reduction in bycatch of weakfish in the shrimp trawl fisheries by the start of the 1996 shrimping season. ASMFC Report on Gear Technology, 2008. From 1993 through 1996 NOAA and the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation observers logged 2,320 days in southeastern U.S. water aboard voluntarily participating shrimp trawlers testing bycatch reduction devices (BRD's). The total bycatch to catch ratios produced from this new study were in the stark contrast to an often quoted bycatch to shrimp ratio of 10:1. For the Gulf of Mexico the total bycatch to shrimp ratio was 5.25:1 and for the South Atlantic, including NC it was 4.5:1. More importantly, in the Gulf of Mexico the finfish to shrimp ratio was 4.2:1, and in the South Atlantic the ratio was 2.8:1. In the South Atlantic shrimp was 18% of the catch with spot being 9% of the catch, Atlantic croaker being 6% of the catch. Bycatch and its reduction in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Shrimp Fisheries, July 1997. In 2009 the North Carolina Department of Marine Fisheries conducted another study characterizing bycatch in the inshore commercial shrimp trawl fishery in the Pamlico Sound and its tributaries (Brown 2010b). Using the relative biomass tables in Brown's (2010b) study characterizing the inshore commercial shrimp trawl fishery in the Pamlico Sound and its tributaries, the calculated finfish to shrimp ratio was 2.7:1 for all gear types. N.C. Fishery Management Plan for Shrimp, Draft Amendment 1, 2014. During the period from August 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, NCDMF conducted onboard observation of the commercial shrimp trawl fishery, sampling 305 tows on 111 trips, to collect catch, effort, bycatch, and discard and mortality data. During this study shrimp represented 21.52% of the catch by weight. Atlantic croaker accounted for 21.52% of the catch by weight of which 82.00% were alive. Spot represented 15.57% of the catch by weight of which 54.72% were alive. Weakfish represented 1.73% by weight of which 44.95% were alive. Flounder represented 0.82% by weight of which 75.54% were alive. It is also

important to note that no red drum or striped bass were caught. Characterization of the commercial shrimp trawl fishery in near-shore and inshore waters of North Carolina, Brown, March 2014.”

The North Carolina Fisheries Association feels that Option 1, status quo should be recommended by this committee along with a request to include NEAMAP and CHESMMAP surveys before any decisions are made by Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission. I would like to thank you all for coming to North Carolina and allowing us the opportunity to speak.

## Bycatch in the Shrimp Trawl Fisheries in the South Atlantic and North Carolina

Bycatch is defined by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) as “the portion of the catch taken incidentally to the targeted catch because of non-selectivity of fishing gear to either species or size differences” (ASMFC 1994) Total bycatch can be divided into two components: incidental catch and discarded catch. Incidental catch refers to retained catch of non-targeted species usually for commercial value as personal consumption. Discarded catch is that portion of the catch that is returned to the sea as a result of economic, legal or personal considerations. N.C. Fishery Management Plan for Shrimp 2006, p. 144. Discarded catch can be further divided into two components: 1) Alive discards, bycatch that is alive when it returned to the sea and, 2) dead discards, bycatch that is dead when returned to the sea. Characterization Study of the commercial shrimp trawl fishery in near-shore and inshore waters of North Carolina (Preliminary Report) NCMF- Brown March 2014

Bycatch can be further quantified by separating finfish bycatch from other bycatch such as jelly fish, jelly balls, crabs, crustaceans, horseshoe crabs, etc. Finfish bycatch, like other bycatch can be divided into 1) incidental catch, non-targeted finfish which are retained for sale or personal consumption 2) alive discards, finfish bycatch that is alive when discarded and 3) dead discards, finfish bycatch which is dead when discarded.

North Carolina has been one of the leading states in bycatch reduction in the shrimp trawl industry. The Division of Marine Fisheries began development work on bycatch reduction in 1990, the same year that the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnum Act) was amended to include bycatch research. ASMFC Report on Gear Technology, 2008

Based on results obtained during North Carolina development work in 1990 and 1991 on NCDMF research vessels and operational testing conducted aboard a commercial trawler in 1992, the DMF required all shrimp trawlers working in state waters to equip their nets with functional fish excluders in October 1992. However, North Carolina was the only state that required finfish excluders; On October 20, 1994 Amendment 2 of the weakfish FMP was passed. This amendment required all South Atlantic states (NC, SC, GA, & FL) to implement management measures to achieve the 40% reduction in bycatch of weakfish in the shrimp trawl fisheries by the start of the 1996 shrimping season. ASMFC Report on Gear Technology, 2008.

Beginning in 1992 observers began observing aboard commercial fishing vessels in the South Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico that were trained by the National Marine Fisheries Service

(NMFS) to use a standardized sampling protocol. (NMFS Shrimp trawl bycatch characterization. Sampling Protocol Manual for Data Collection, 1992)

In April of 1995, National Marine Fisheries Service provided its report to Congress addressing finfish bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic shrimp fisheries. In its report NMFS stated that analysis of data for the South Atlantic shrimp fisheries revealed the ratio of finfish to shrimp caught for each hour of trawling is 1.6:1 by number, or 2.3:1 by weight. Cooperative Research Program Addressing Finfish Bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Shrimp Fisheries, A Report to Congress, April 1995, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrative, National Marine Fisheries Service.

From 1993 through 1996 NOAA and the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation observers logged 2,320 days in southeastern U.S. water aboard voluntarily participating shrimp trawlers testing bycatch reduction devices (BRD's). The total bycatch to catch ratios produced from this new study were in the stark contrast to on often quoted bycatch to shrimp ratio of 10:1. For the Gulf of Mexico the total bycatch to shrimp ratio was 5.25:1 and for the South Atlantic, including NC it was 4.5:1. More importantly, in the Gulf of Mexico the finfish to shrimp ratio was 4.2:1, and in the South Atlantic the ratio was 2.8:1. In the South Atlantic shrimp was 18% of the catch with spot being 9% of the catch, Atlantic croaker being 6% of the catch. Bycatch and its reduction in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Shrimp Fisheries, July 1997

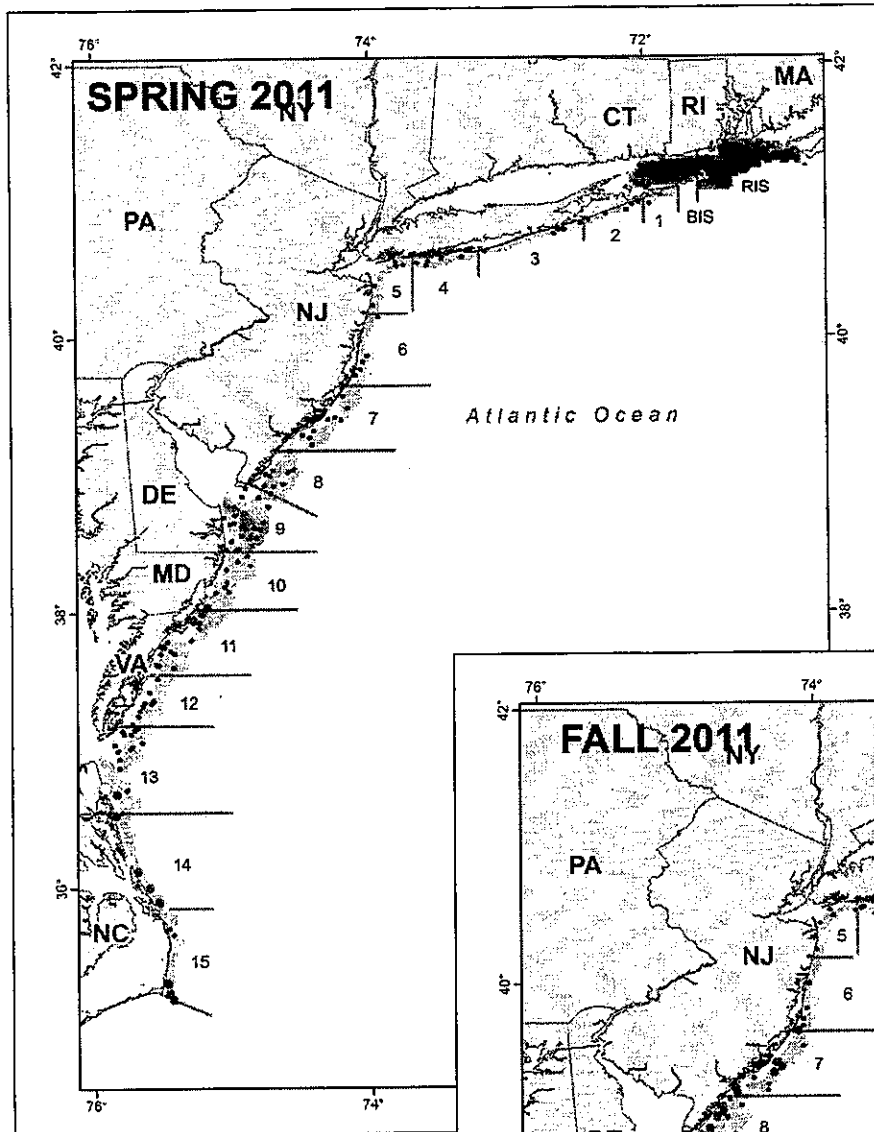
Various studies have been done on finfish to bycatch ratio in North Carolina. Reported finfish to bycatch ratios for North Carolina are 1.5:1 (Roelofs 1950), 1.6:1 (Diamond-Tissue 1999) and 1.2 to 1 (Johnson 2003). The Diamond-Tissue (1999) characterization study is the most extensive evaluation of bycatch in a North Carolina Fishery. (NC Fishery Management Plan for Shrimp, 2006 p. 148)

The Diamond-Tissue study, for all areas combined (Pamlico Sound, Core Sound, Cape Fear River and off Carolina Beach) found market-sized penaeid shrimp made up 44.3% of all organisms by number and 30.8% by weight (total bycatch to shrimp). Market-size penaeid shrimp were the top species in terms of both numbers and weight for all areas combined. N.C. Fishery Management Plan for Shrimp, Draft Amendment 1, 2014.

In 2009 the North Carolina Department of Marine Fisheries conducted another study characterizing bycatch in the inshore commercial shrimp trawl fishery in the Pamlico Sound and its tributaries (Brown 2010b). Using the relative biomass tables in Brown's (2010b) study characterizing the inshore commercial shrimp trawl fishery in the Pamlico Sound and its tributaries, the calculated finfish to shrimp ratio was 2.7:1 for all gear types. N.C. Fishery Management Plant for Shrimp, Draft Amendment 1, 2014

During the period from August 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, NCDMF conducted onboard observation of the commercial shrimp trawl fishery, sampling 305 tows on 111 trips, to collect

catch, effort, bycatch, discard and mortality data. During this study shrimp represented 21.52% of the catch by weight. Atlantic croaker accounted for 21.52% of the catch by weight of which 82.00% were alive. Spot represented 15.57% of the catch by weight of which 54.72% were alive. Weakfish represented 1.73% by weight of which 44.95% were alive. Flounder represented 0.82% by weight of which 75.54% were alive. It is also important to note that no red drum or striped bass were caught. Characterization of the commercial shrimp trawl fishery in near-shore and inshore waters of North Carolina, Brown, March 2014.



# Spot

## Sampling Priority: A

Figure 120. Spot biomass (kg) at each sampling site for 2011 NEAMAP cruises.

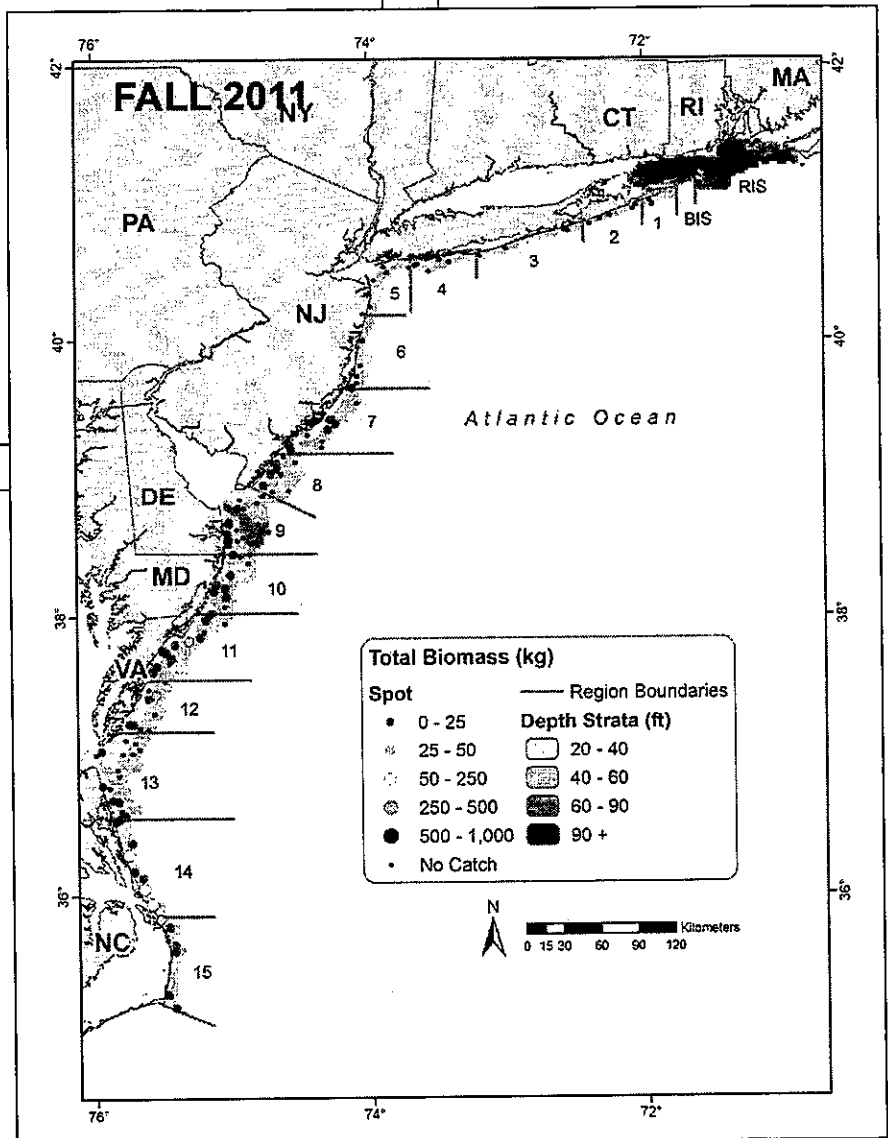


Table 71. Spot sampling rates and preserved specimen analysis status for each NEAMAP cruise.

Season	Year	Number Caught	Biomass Caught (kg)	Number Measured	Age Specimens	Ages Read	Stomach Specimens	Stomachs Analyzed
Spring	2008	28,561	1059.2	1,220	61	0	N/A	N/A
	2009	29,643	824.9	3,454	59	0	N/A	N/A
	2010	19,664	822.1	894	44	0	N/A	N/A
	2011	15,390	557.0	2,416	52	0	N/A	N/A
Fall	2007	44,437	3942.0	2,507	160	0	N/A	N/A
	2008	56,878	3872.0	3,435	213	0	N/A	N/A
	2009	8,428	593.0	2,699	169	0	N/A	N/A
	2010	95,990	5060.0	6,861	181	0	N/A	N/A
	2011	6,407	538.3	1,394	147	0	N/A	N/A

Table 72. Strata used for calculation of abundance indices for spot.

State (Nominal)	Region	Depth Stratum	Spring Index	Fall Index	State (Nominal)	Region	Depth Stratum	Spring Index	Fall Index
RI	RIS	60-90			DE	09	20-40		
		90+					40-60		
	BIS	60-90					60-90		
		90+			MD	10	20-40		
NY	01	40-60					VA	11	20-40
		20-40			40-60				
	03	20-40			12	20-40	40-60		
		40-60					13	20-40	40-60
	04	20-40			NC	14			20-40
		40-60					40-60		
NJ	06	20-40			15	20-40	20-40		
		40-60					40-60		
	07	20-40							
		40-60							
08	20-40								
	40-60								

     = used for abundance indices  
     = not used for abundance indices

Table 73. Spot preliminary geometric mean indices of abundance, by number and biomass, for spring and fall NEAMAP surveys, for all specimens captured.

Season	Year	Age	Numerical Index					Biomass Index				
			n	LCI	Index	UCI	CV (%)	n	LCI	Index	UCI	CV (%)
Spring	2008	All	31	8.25	<b>19.62</b>	44.98	13.2	31	1.59	<b>3.06</b>	5.35	16.0
	2009		31	7.43	<b>25.09</b>	79.79	17.3	31	1.27	<b>3.39</b>	7.51	22.4
	2010		29	1.14	<b>3.98</b>	10.56	26.2	29	0.13	<b>0.99</b>	2.50	41.1
	2011		29	2.67	<b>7.56</b>	18.97	19.7	29	0.59	<b>1.57</b>	3.14	25.3
Fall	2007	All	87	8.19	<b>14.66</b>	25.68	9.7	87	2.42	<b>3.92</b>	6.09	11.4
	2008		87	26.14	<b>49.17</b>	91.74	7.8	87	5.09	<b>8.09</b>	12.56	9.1
	2009		91	4.06	<b>5.93</b>	8.49	8.1	91	0.77	<b>1.13</b>	1.57	12.4
	2010		87	9.05	<b>17.07</b>	31.49	10.1	87	2.08	<b>3.44</b>	5.38	12.2
	2011		87	3.09	<b>4.70</b>	6.95	9.5	87	0.80	<b>1.17</b>	1.61	12.1

Figure 121. Spot preliminary geometric mean indices of abundance, by number and biomass, for spring and fall NEAMAP surveys, for all specimens captured.

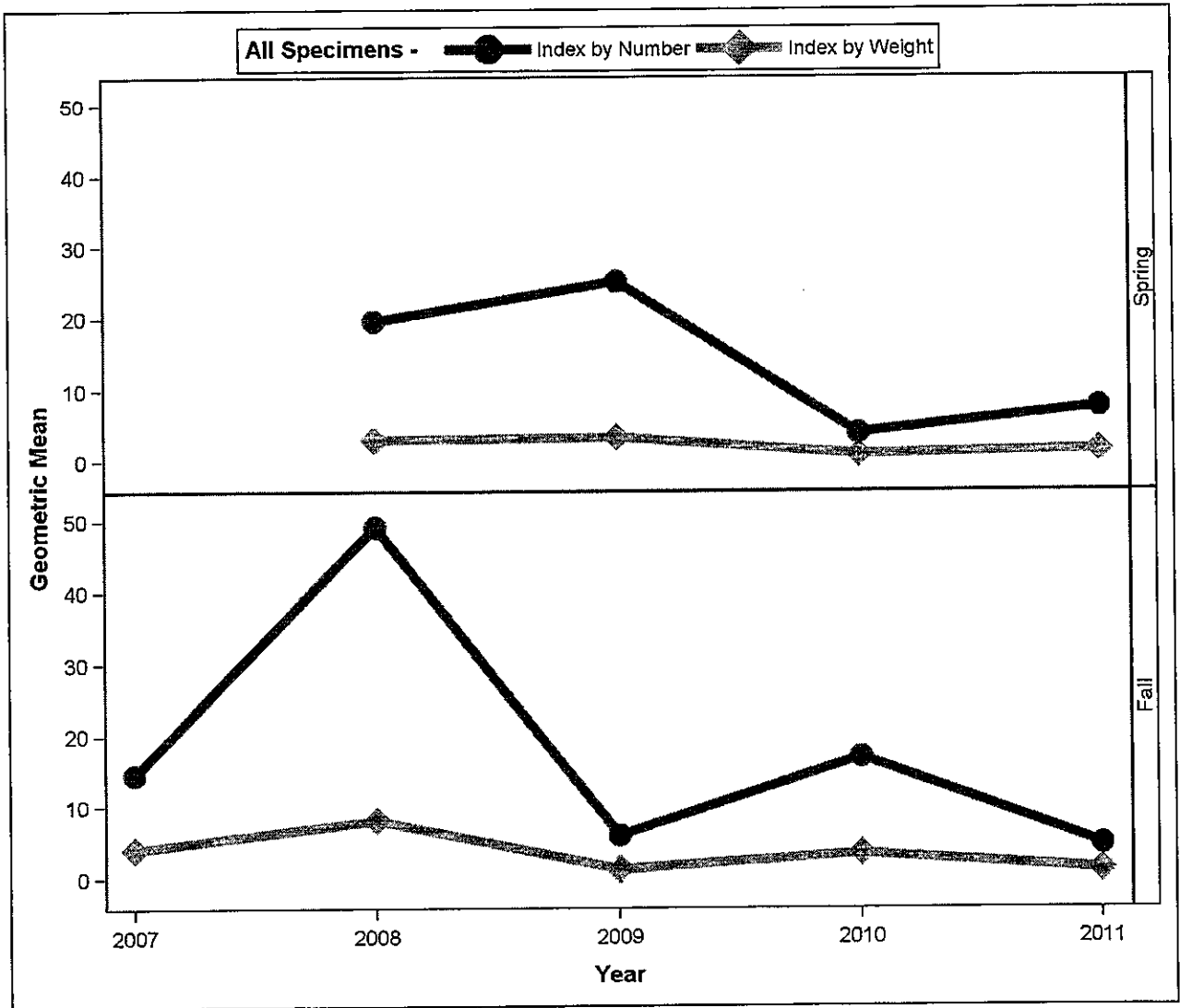


Figure 122. Spot length-frequency distributions, by cruise.

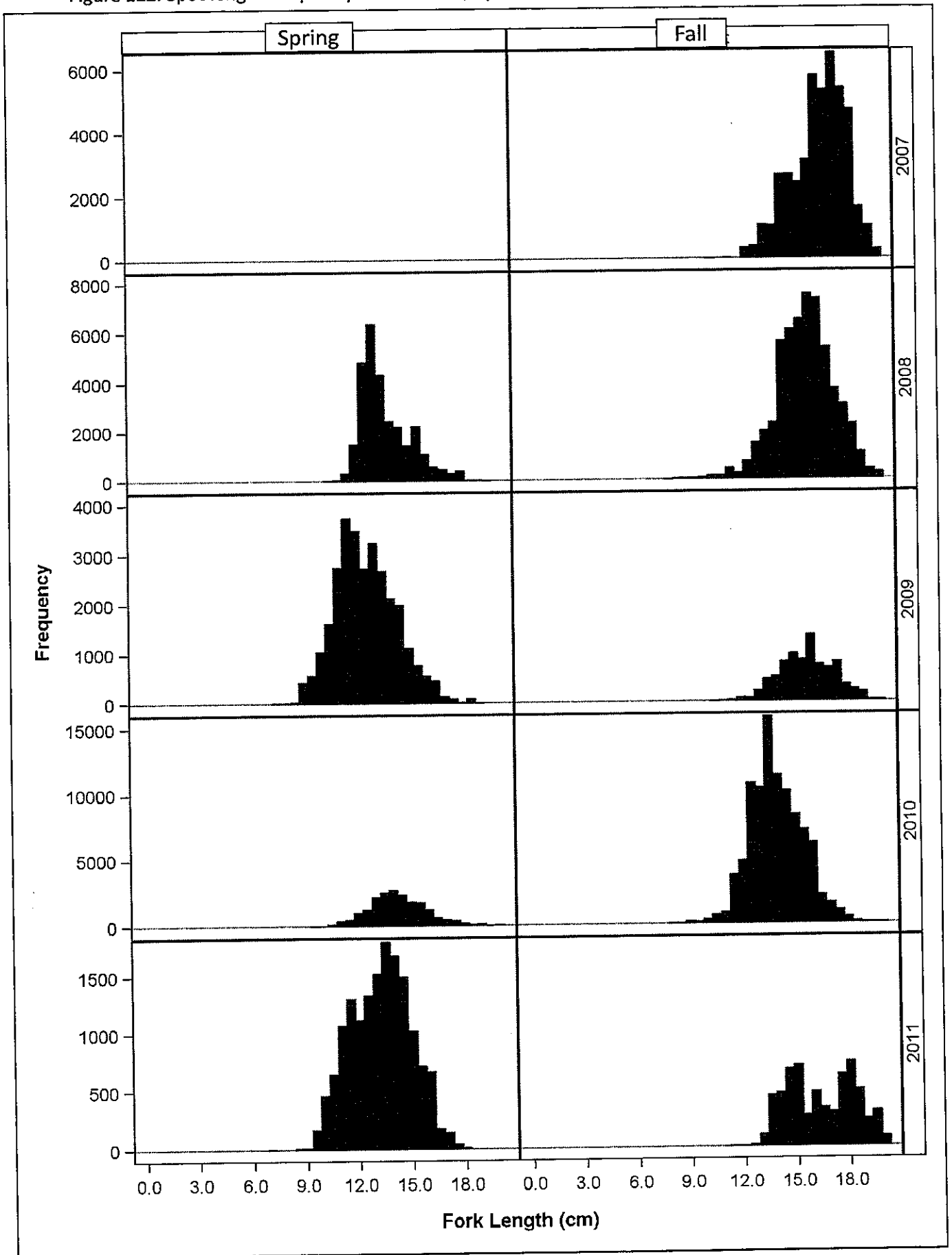


Figure 123. Spot length-frequency distributions, by cruise and sex.

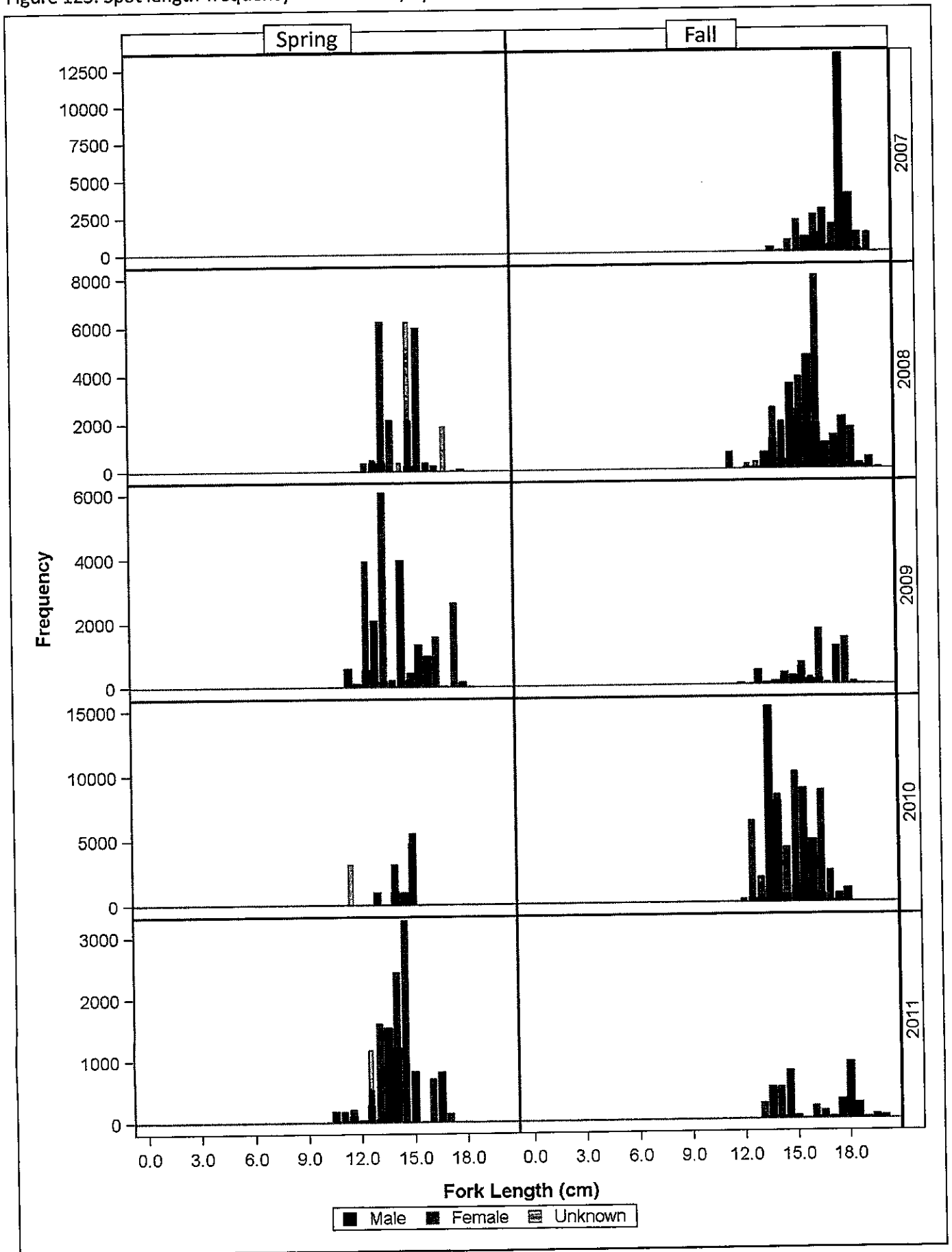
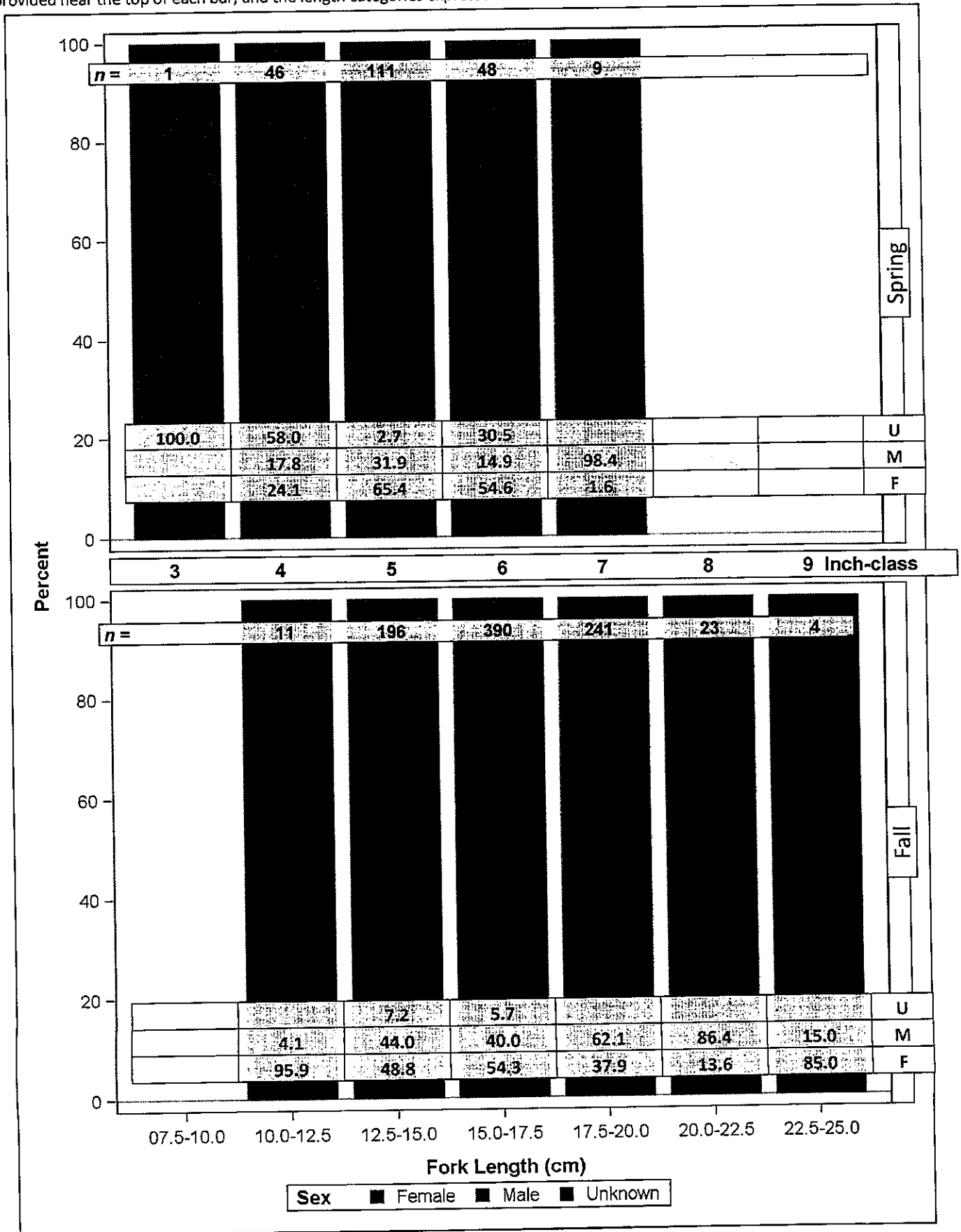
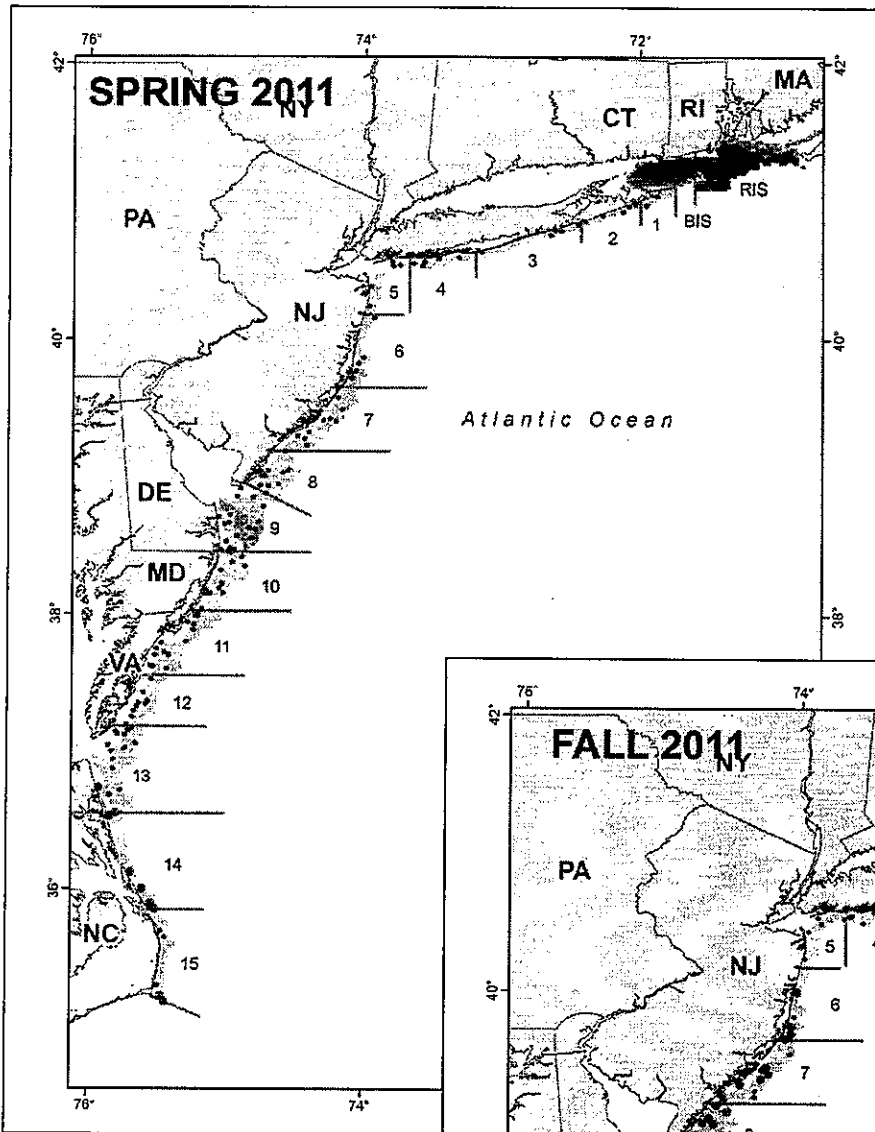


Figure 124. Spot sex ratio, by length group, for NEAMAP Spring and Fall cruises 2007-2011.

(The percentages for each category are given near the bottom of each bar. The number sampled for sex determination is provided near the top of each bar, and the length categories expressed in inches are shown between the two figures.)





# Atlantic Croaker

## Sampling Priority: A

Figure 24. Atlantic croaker biomass (kg) at each sampling site for 2011 NEAMAP cruises.

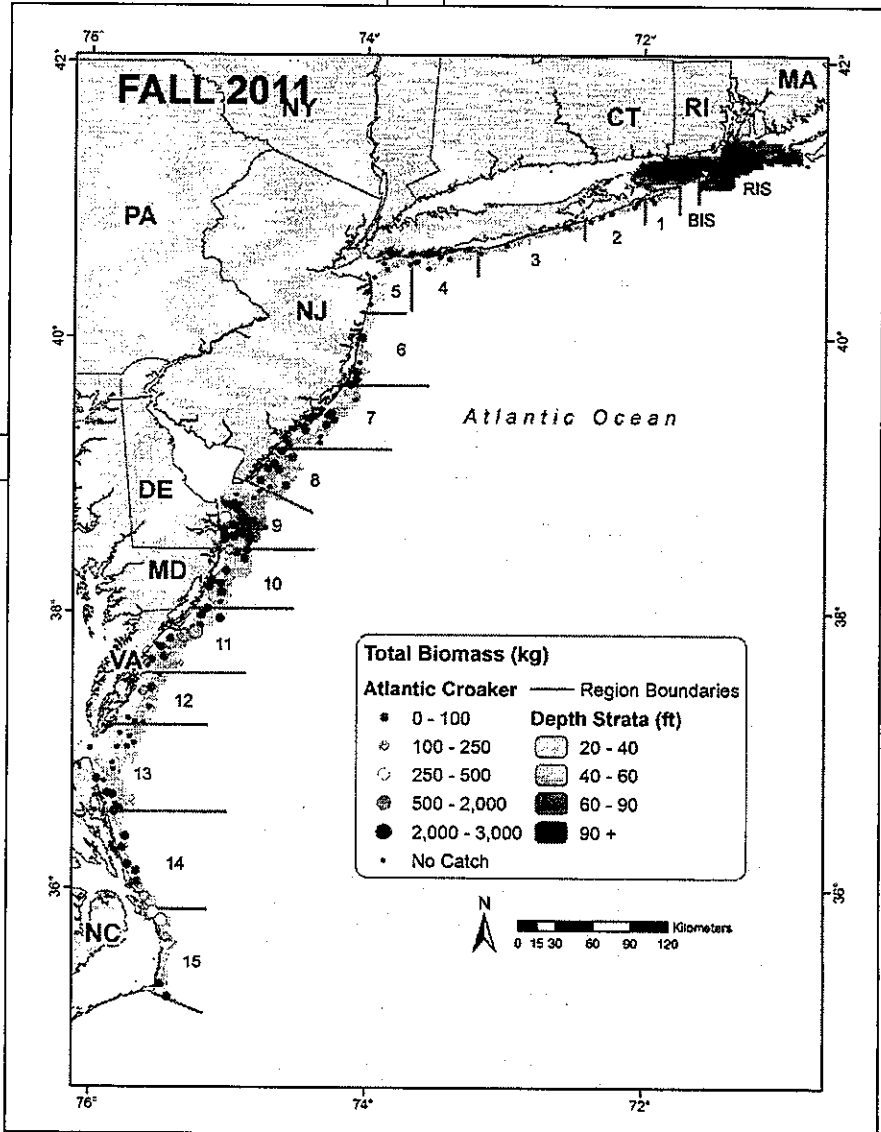
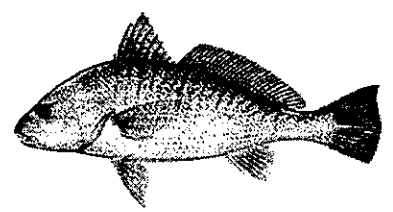


Table 15. Atlantic croaker sampling rates and preserved specimen analysis status for each NEAMAP cruise.

Season	Year	Number Caught	Biomass Caught (kg)	Number Measured	Age Specimens	Ages Read	Stomach Specimens	Stomachs Analyzed
Spring	2008	467	25.0	212	41	41	38	38
	2009	17,040	1004.3	1,225	80	78	66	60
	2010	29,365	1656.2	929	49	49	48	13
	2011	10,576	349.2	890	71	70	62	62
Fall	2007	58,763	7616.5	2,843	211	211	194	188
	2008	66,823	5123.2	3,591	307	307	283	280
	2009	45,730	5685.3	5,277	415	414	341	291
	2010	73,685	5715.1	4,095	275	271	217	213
	2011	58,671	6148.1	5,561	324	323	294	0

Table 16. Strata used for calculation of abundance indices for Atlantic croaker.

State (Nominal)	Region	Depth Stratum	Spring Index	Fall Index	State (Nominal)	Region	Depth Stratum	Spring Index	Fall Index		
RI	RIS	60-90			DE	09	20-40				
		90+					40-60				
	BIS	60-90					60-90				
		90+			MD	10	20-40				
NY	01	40-60					40-60				
		02	20-40					VA	11	20-40	
	40-60						40-60				
	03	20-40			12	20-40					
40-60				40-60							
04	20-40			13	20-40						
	40-60				40-60						
05	20-40			NC	14	20-40					
	40-60					40-60					
NJ	06	20-40					15	20-40			
		40-60						40-60			
	07	20-40			40-60						
		40-60			08	20-40					
20-40			40-60								

     = used for abundance indices  
     = not used for abundance indices

Table 17. Atlantic croaker preliminary geometric mean indices of abundance, for all specimens captured and by age-class for spring and fall NEAMAP surveys (age-specific indices for age-2 and older calculated for fall surveys only).

Season	Year	Age	Numerical Index					Biomass Index				
			n	LCI	Index	UCI	CV(%)	n	LCI	Index	UCI	CV(%)
Spring	2008	All	13	0.00	<b>2.19</b>	9.81	52.5	13	0.00	<b>0.53</b>	1.72	67.8
	2009		15	10.76	<b>46.78</b>	193.10	18.1	15	1.30	<b>4.13</b>	10.44	24.5
	2010		13	1.70	<b>19.25</b>	150.71	33.5	13	0.12	<b>3.77</b>	19.27	46.3
	2011		13	6.82	<b>40.80</b>	222.45	22.5	13	1.18	<b>4.74</b>	14.12	27.7
Fall	2007	All	102	11.28	<b>18.94</b>	31.38	8.1	102	4.18	<b>6.50</b>	9.85	9.2
	2008		102	6.23	<b>11.55</b>	20.78	10.9	102	1.79	<b>3.10</b>	5.03	13.6
	2009		107	17.26	<b>29.44</b>	49.73	7.5	107	4.67	<b>7.32</b>	11.21	9.1
	2010		102	4.72	<b>8.42</b>	14.52	11.1	102	1.93	<b>3.20</b>	5.01	12.5
	2011		102	11.79	<b>19.88</b>	33.08	8.1	102	3.57	<b>5.55</b>	8.37	9.5
Fall	2007	0	102	0.93	<b>1.74</b>	2.89	17.4	102	0.32	<b>0.67</b>	1.10	22.6
	2008		102	3.62	<b>6.76</b>	12.04	12.7	102	1.03	<b>1.84</b>	2.98	16.0
	2009		107	3.73	<b>6.04</b>	9.50	10.2	107	1.02	<b>1.61</b>	2.38	13.3
	2010		102	1.32	<b>2.49</b>	4.25	16.3	102	0.53	<b>1.00</b>	1.62	19.2
	2011		102	3.57	<b>5.98</b>	9.65	10.9	102	1.18	<b>1.89</b>	2.83	13.2
Spring	2008	1	13	0.00	<b>1.68</b>	6.95	55.2	13	0.00	<b>0.37</b>	1.16	73.1
	2009		15	9.75	<b>39.68</b>	152.97	18.0	15	1.18	<b>3.53</b>	8.42	24.2
	2010		13	1.28	<b>15.63</b>	120.16	35.3	13	0.05	<b>3.27</b>	16.40	48.4
	2011		13	6.14	<b>36.46</b>	195.57	22.9	13	1.05	<b>4.26</b>	12.52	28.4
Fall	2007	1	102	4.51	<b>7.59</b>	12.41	10.3	102	1.69	<b>2.71</b>	4.12	12.3
	2008		102	4.05	<b>7.46</b>	13.19	12.1	102	1.15	<b>2.02</b>	3.24	15.4
	2009		107	10.49	<b>17.63</b>	29.22	8.3	107	2.90	<b>4.52</b>	6.80	10.2
	2010		102	3.04	<b>5.46</b>	9.33	12.6	102	1.25	<b>2.11</b>	3.32	14.4
	2011		102	7.73	<b>12.86</b>	20.99	8.8	102	2.41	<b>3.73</b>	5.56	10.5
Fall	2007	2	102	4.34	<b>6.87</b>	10.59	9.4	102	1.72	<b>2.56</b>	3.67	10.6
	2008		102	1.26	<b>2.27</b>	3.73	15.6	102	0.42	<b>0.76</b>	1.19	19.2
	2009		107	5.24	<b>8.32</b>	12.92	9.0	107	1.68	<b>2.51</b>	3.59	10.7
	2010		102	1.98	<b>3.23</b>	4.99	12.1	102	0.78	<b>1.21</b>	1.73	13.5
	2011		102	4.00	<b>6.19</b>	9.33	9.2	102	1.23	<b>1.80</b>	2.53	11.2
Fall	2007	3	102	3.10	<b>4.59</b>	6.62	9.0	102	1.26	<b>1.78</b>	2.43	10.2
	2008		102	0.58	<b>1.02</b>	1.60	17.7	102	0.19	<b>0.37</b>	0.59	22.5
	2009		107	2.58	<b>3.88</b>	5.65	9.8	107	0.84	<b>1.22</b>	1.68	11.7
	2010		102	1.11	<b>1.69</b>	2.44	12.3	102	0.40	<b>0.60</b>	0.82	14.0
	2011		102	1.67	<b>2.46</b>	3.48	10.4	102	0.47	<b>0.69</b>	0.94	13.0
Fall	2007	4+	102	2.23	<b>3.18</b>	4.42	9.0	102	0.96	<b>1.33</b>	1.77	10.3
	2008		102	0.37	<b>0.64</b>	0.98	18.7	102	0.14	<b>0.27</b>	0.41	22.5
	2009		107	1.41	<b>2.05</b>	2.87	10.6	107	0.46	<b>0.67</b>	0.91	13.1
	2010		102	0.67	<b>0.99</b>	1.38	13.0	102	0.23	<b>0.35</b>	0.49	15.9
	2011		102	0.74	<b>1.08</b>	1.49	12.2	102	0.19	<b>0.29</b>	0.39	15.5

Figure 25. Atlantic croaker preliminary geometric mean indices of abundance, for all specimens captured (A - by number and biomass) and by age-class (B – numbers only) for spring and fall NEAMAP surveys (age-specific indices for age-2 and older calculated for fall surveys only).

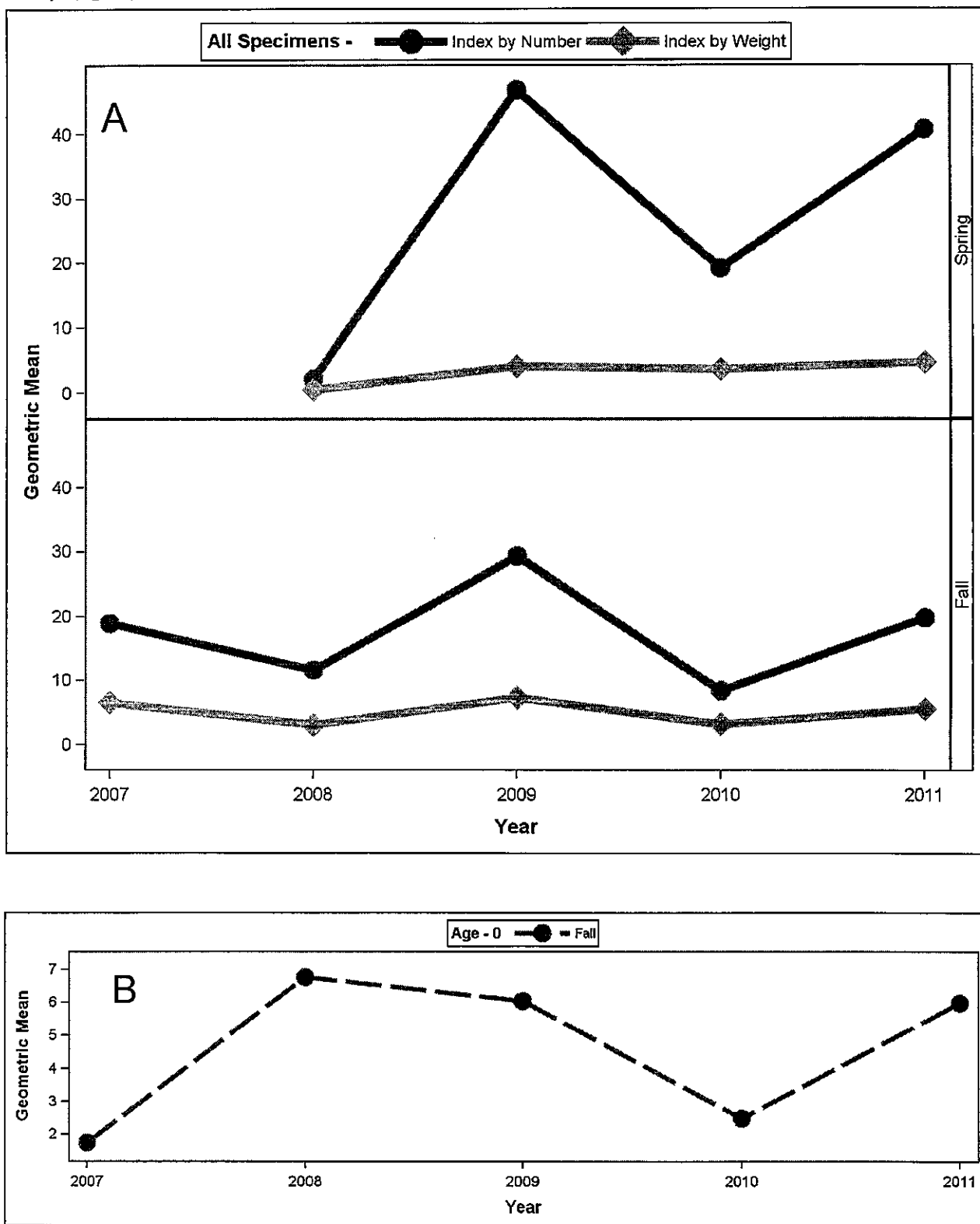


Figure 25. cont.

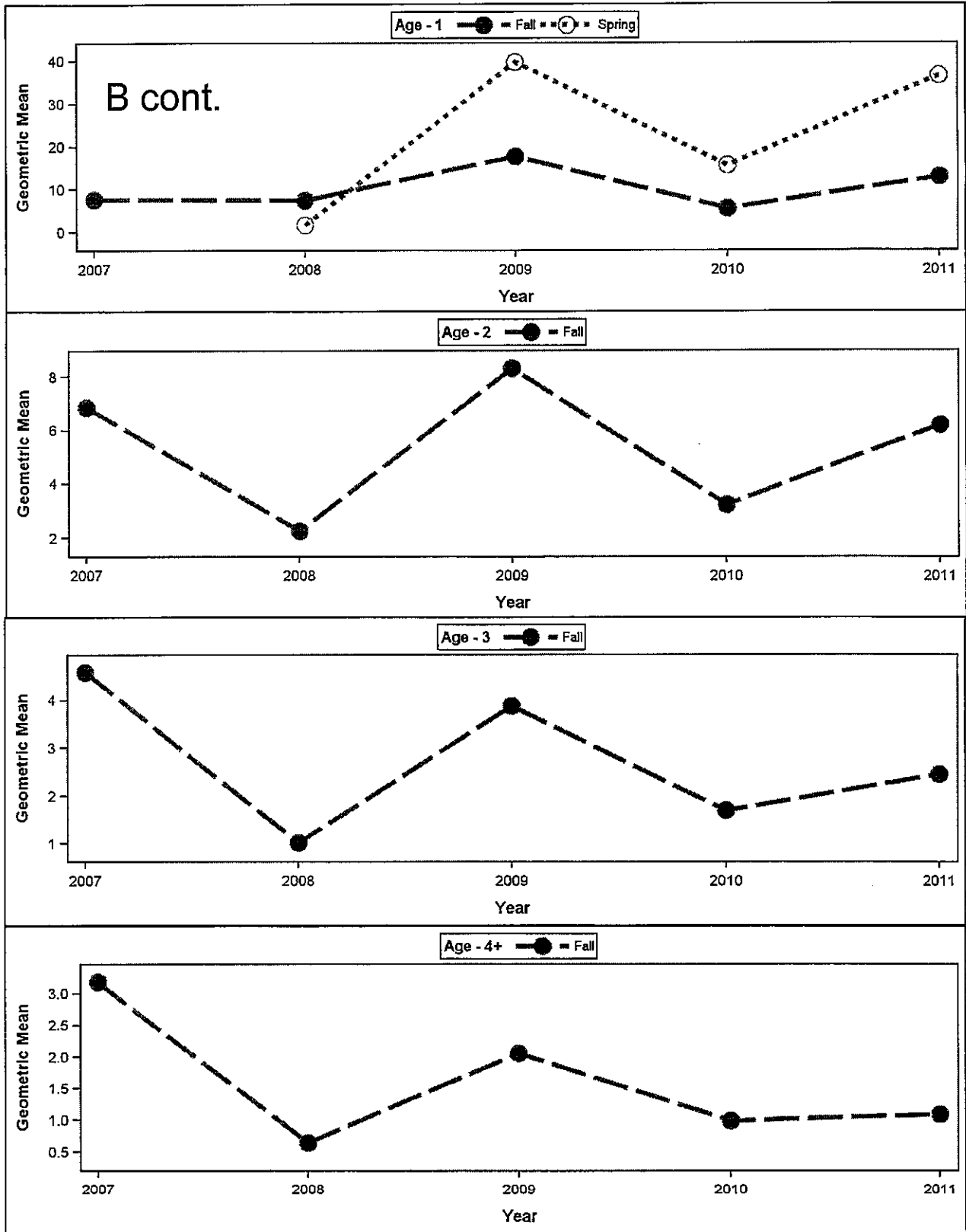


Figure 26. Atlantic croaker length-frequency distributions, by cruise.

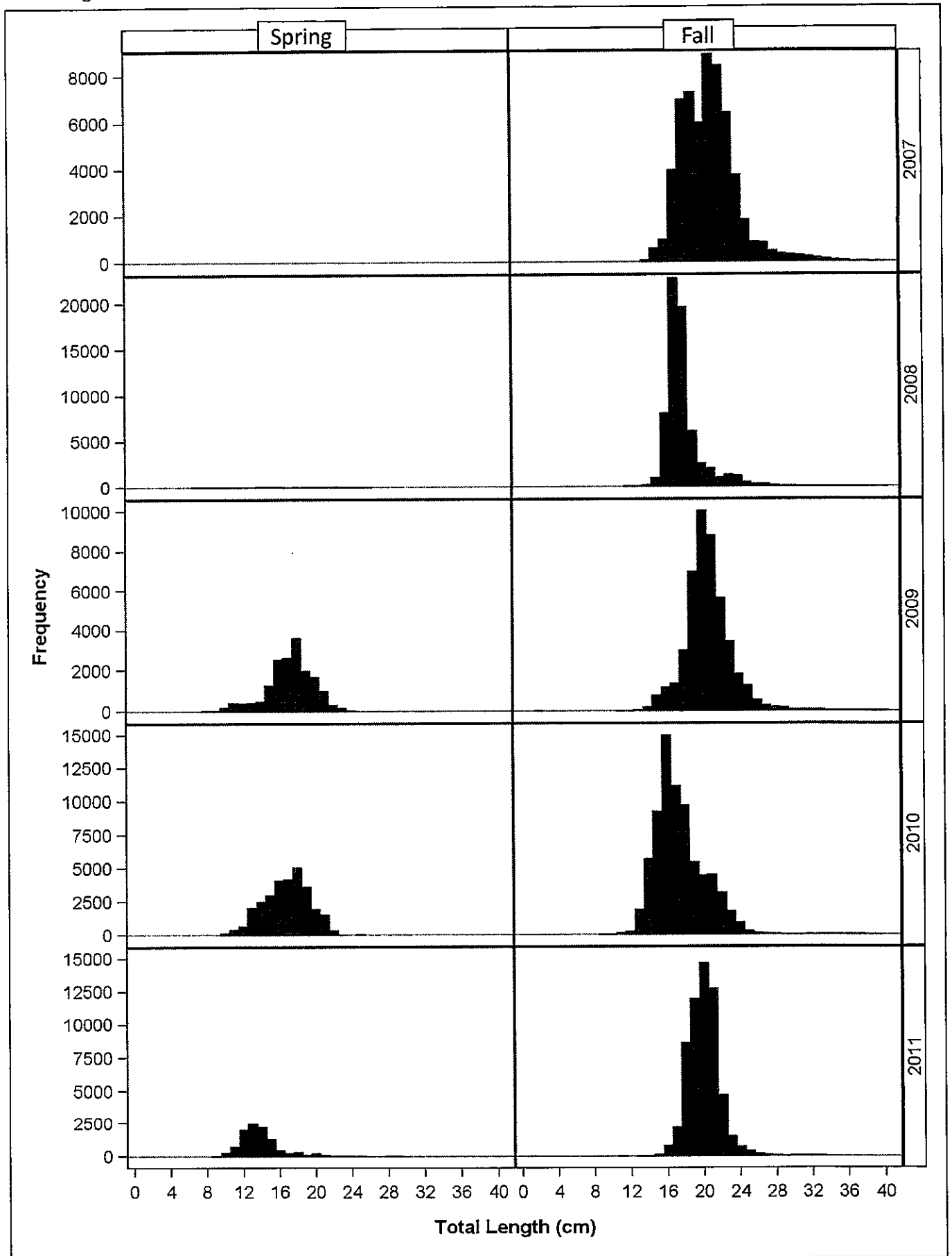


Figure 27. Atlantic croaker length-frequency distributions, by cruise and sex.

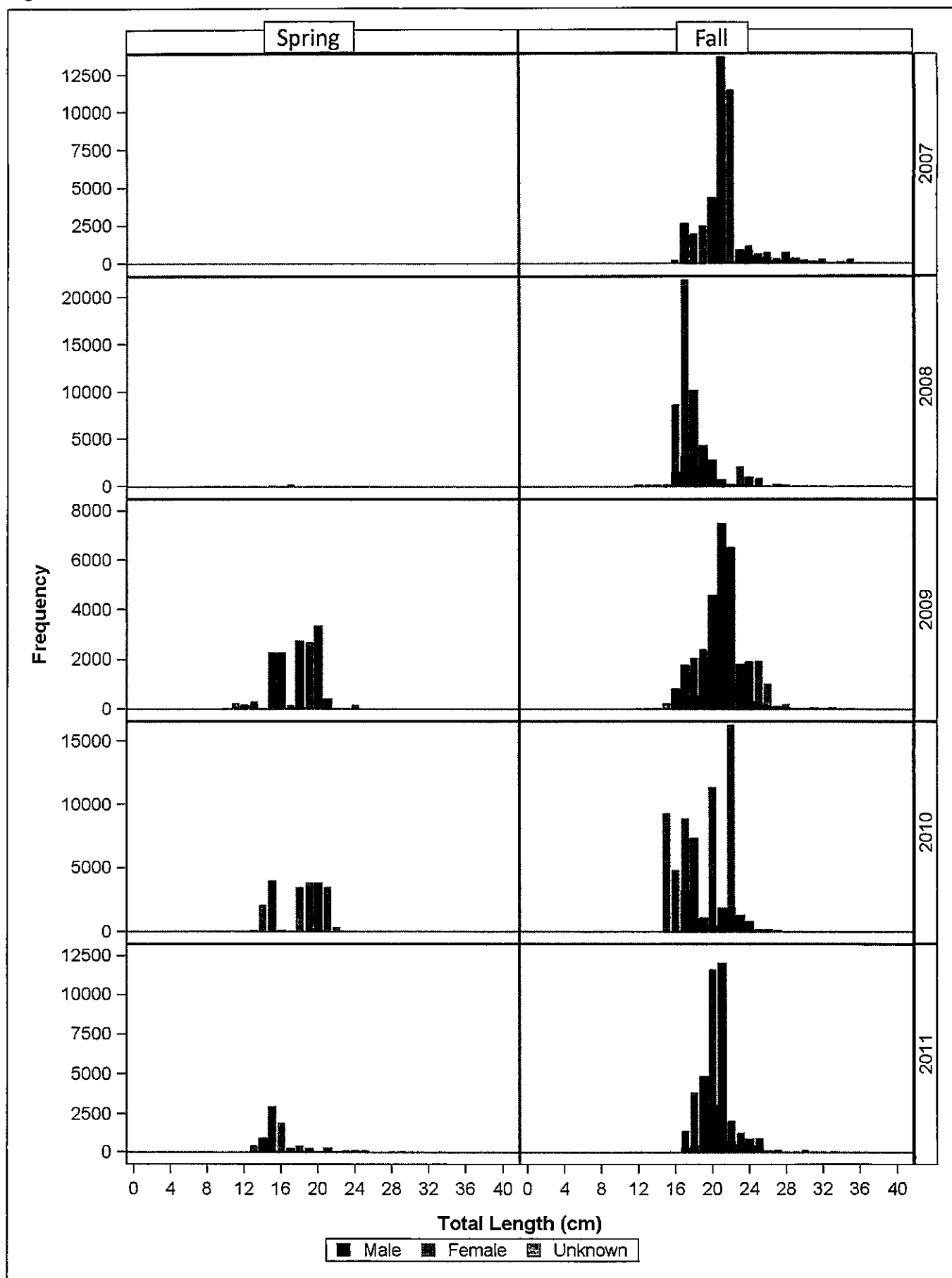


Figure 28. Atlantic croaker age-frequency distribution, by cruise. The estimated total number collected at a given age is provided above each corresponding bar.

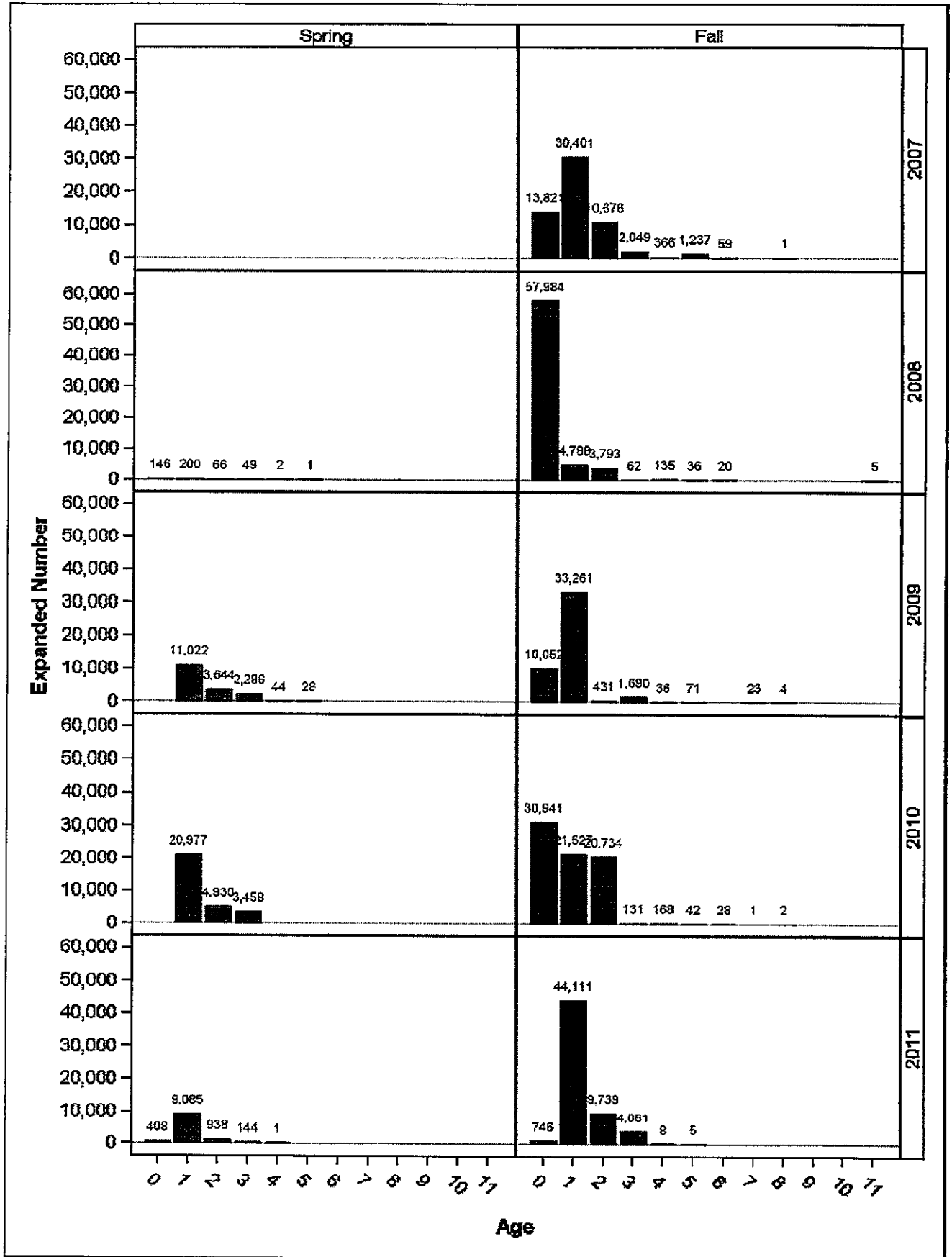


Figure 29. Atlantic croaker age-at-length proportions for all spring vs. all fall cruises combined, showing actual and loess smoothed proportions at each 1cm length bin.

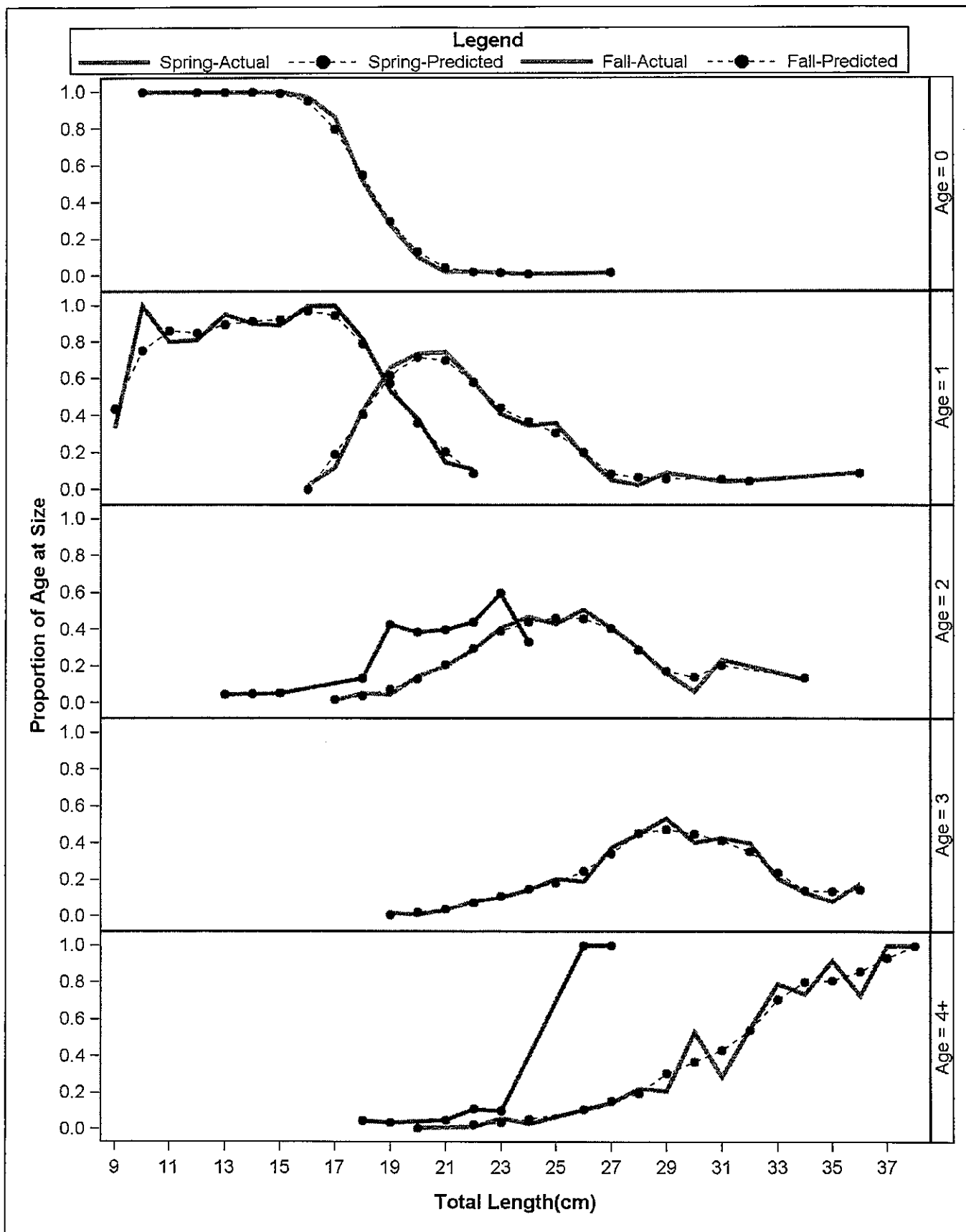


Table 18. Atlantic croaker loess smoothed age-at-length proportions for all fall cruises combined. (Greyed values assigned rather than calculated due to lack of data in particular cells. Arrows indicate the same value used for all length bins covered. Struck-through values are from actual data but are not used. Note that within a Season and a Length bin proportions may not add to exactly 1.0 due to the smoothing algorithm. Smoothing is done within an age-class rather than across all age-classes at any given length.)

Total Length(cm)	Spring					Fall				
	Age-0	Age-1	Age-2	Age-3	Age-4+	Age-0	Age-1	Age-2	Age-3	Age-4+
9	0.437					↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
10	0.752									
11	0.861									
12	0.850									
13	0.899									
14	0.914					1.000				
15	0.926					0.993				
16	0.970					0.951	0.000	0.000		
17	0.948					0.798	0.193	0.019		
18	0.789					0.549	0.407	0.039	0.000	
19	0.574					0.297	0.615	0.076	0.008	0.000
20	0.361					0.130	0.717	0.132	0.022	0.005
21	0.206					0.046	0.698	0.211	0.040	0.010
22	0.088					0.022	0.582	0.300	0.074	0.025
23	0.000					0.017	0.443	0.394	0.108	0.035
24						0.010	0.369	0.443	0.150	0.053
25						0.000	0.309	0.466	0.184	0.041
26							0.201	0.459	0.249	0.108
27						<del>0.018</del>	0.085	0.407	0.344	0.153
28							0.068	0.293	0.453	0.197
29							0.061	0.174	0.474	0.306
30							0.057	0.142	0.450	0.369
31							0.055	0.140	0.414	0.432
32							0.045	0.140	0.354	0.543
33							0.000	0.139	0.243	0.705
34								0.139	0.141	0.802
35								0.000	0.139	0.810
36							0.089		0.147	0.860
37									0.069	0.931
38									0.000	1.000

Figure 30. Atlantic croaker sex ratio, by length group, for NEAMAP Spring and Fall cruises 2007-2011. (The percentages for each category are given near the bottom of each bar. The number sampled for sex determination is provided near the top of each bar, and the length categories expressed in inches are shown between the two figures.).

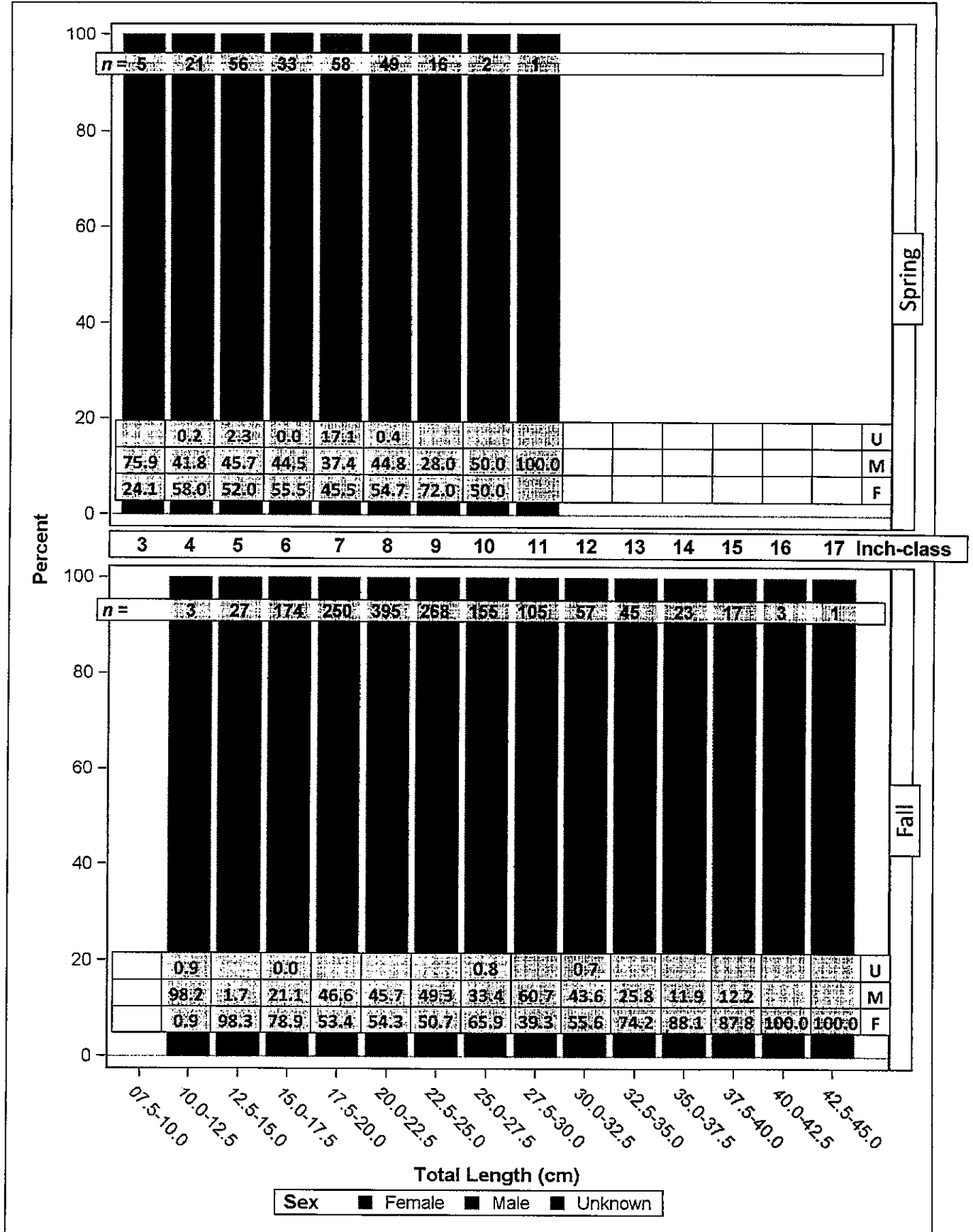
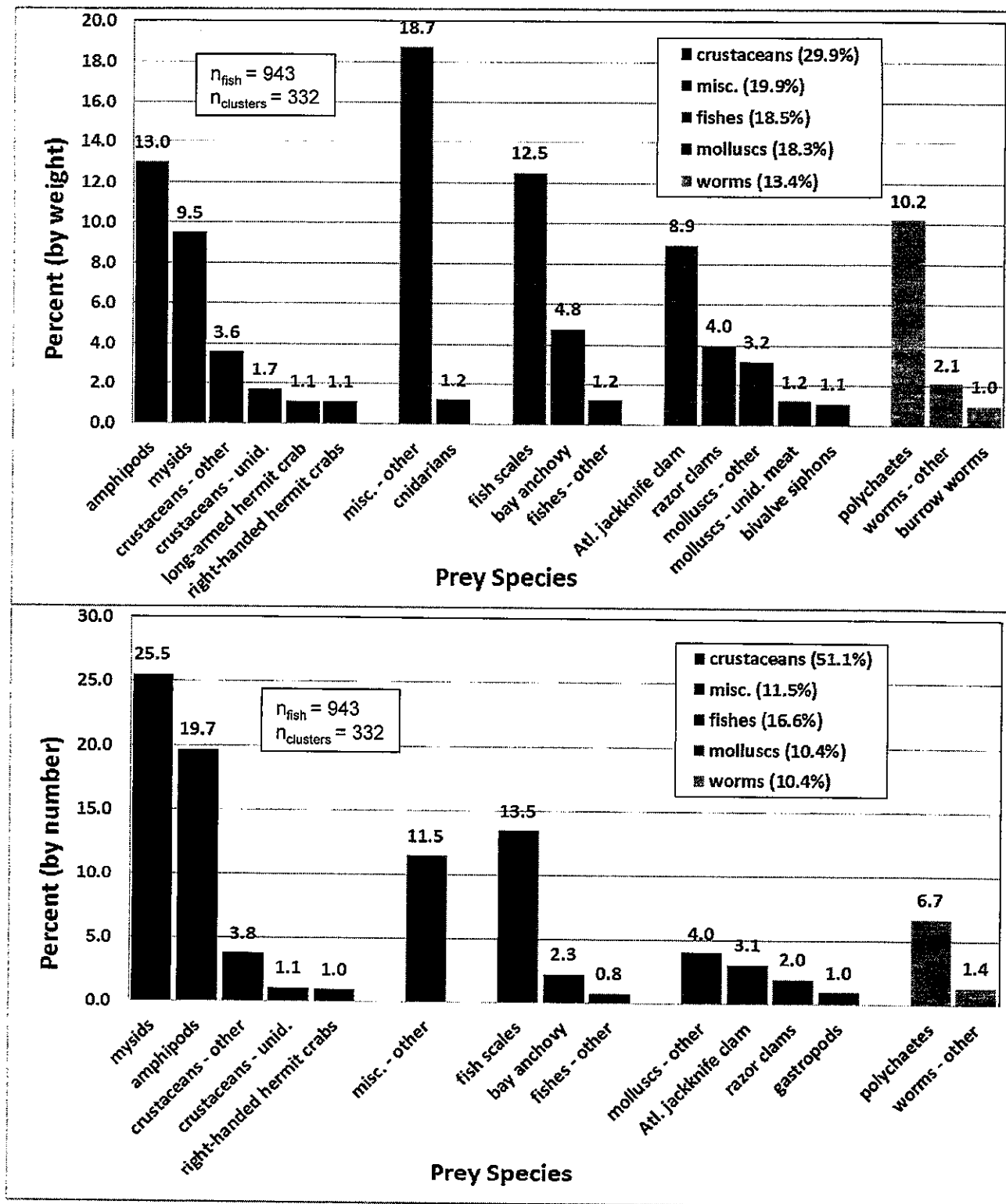


Figure 31. Atlantic croaker diet composition, expressed as percent by weight and number collected during NEAMAP cruises in 2007 through Spring 2011. (The number of fish sampled for diet is given by  $n_{fish}$ , while  $n_{clusters}$  indicates the number of clusters of this species sampled.)



### Example "A (1)"

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

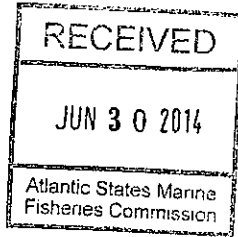
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Don Adams I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am  
in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management  
Plan.

Thank You

Don Adams

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
 Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
 1050 N. Highland St.  
 Suite 200A-N  
 Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdv@asmfc.org



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
 Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

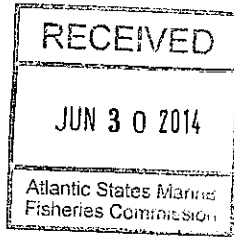
My name is Ernest D. Altonette I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Ernest D. Altonette

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
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Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741



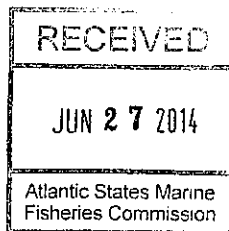
Date 6-27-14

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is VERNON AUBRY. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-26-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

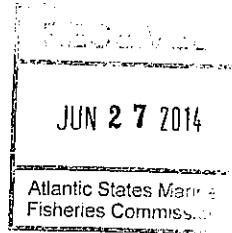
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Jenny Baker. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Jenny Baker

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-26-14

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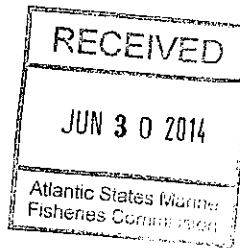
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Parker Baker. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Parker Baker

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
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Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-14

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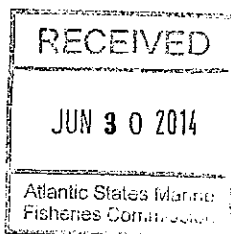
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Camden Ballou. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Camden Ballou

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-14

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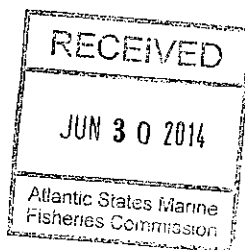
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is John Ballou. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

John Ballou

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdv@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Worth Ballou. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Worth Ballou

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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Arlington Va, 22201  
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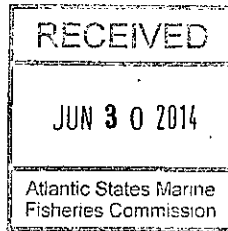
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Faith D. Barbour. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Faith D. Barbour

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



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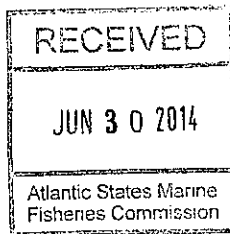
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Terry K BARBAR. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum I for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
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Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-29-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

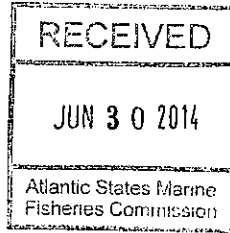
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Justin Barefoot. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Justin Barefoot

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-29-14

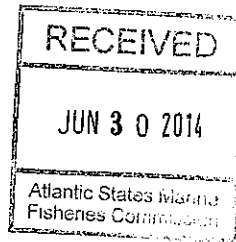
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Luke Barefoot. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-29-14

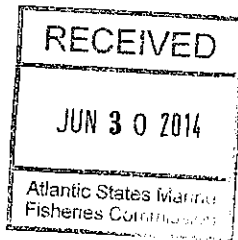
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Phil Barefoot. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
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Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date \_\_\_\_\_

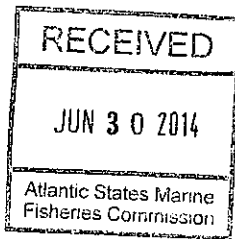
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is JOHN THOMAS BARNES am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option I (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum I for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Roy P. BARNES, JR. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option I (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum I for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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Fax (703)-842-0741



Date \_\_\_\_\_

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is ROY R. BARNES. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option I (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum I for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Roy R. Barnes

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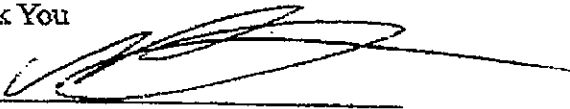
Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
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Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

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RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Will Bartholomew. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You



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Fax (703)-842-0741

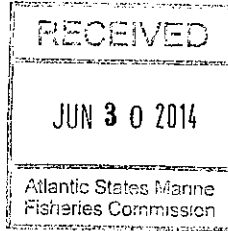
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Michael Beasley. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Michael Beasley

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
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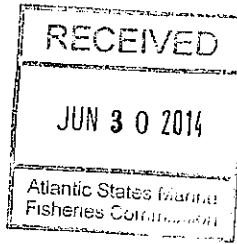
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Barbara Bowen. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Barbara Bowen

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
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Arlington Va, 22201  
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Date 6/27/14

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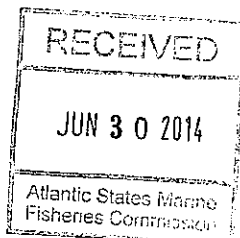
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Chadler W. Brown. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Chadler W. Brown  
June 27, 2014

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-14

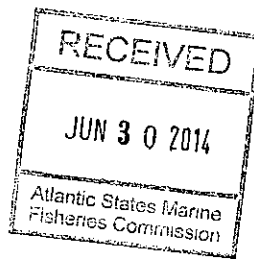
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Reuben Brown. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-28-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Charlene Crosby I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Charlene E Crosby

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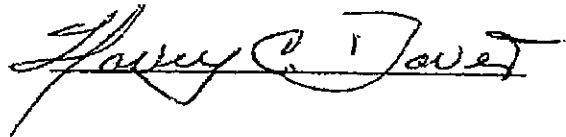
Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

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RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

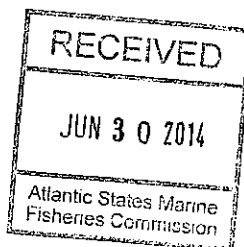
My name is HARVEY C. DAVIS I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You



Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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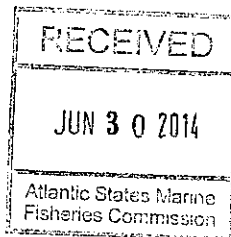
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Joe Davis. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Joe Davis

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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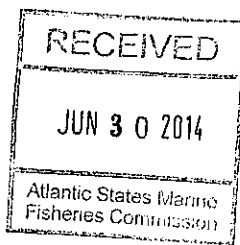
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Leslie M Davis III. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Leslie M Davis III

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6/27/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Diane Deenan. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

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RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is John Dewar. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

John Dewar

Date 6/27/14

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Phillip Dewar. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Phillip Dewar

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RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Tonja Dewar. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Tonja Dewar

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Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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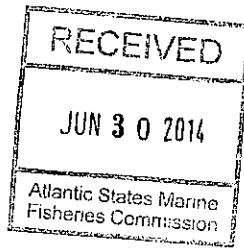
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Wayne Dewar. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Wayne Dewar

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-28-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

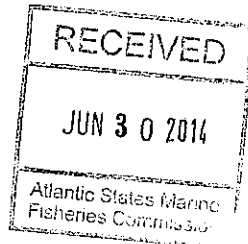
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Mike Dorman. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

*Mike Dorman*

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
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Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date Jul 28 14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Bobby Edwards I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

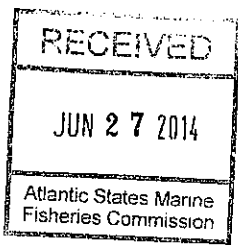
Thank You

Bobby Edwards

1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

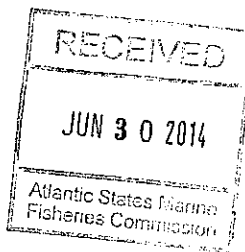
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum



My name is DOUG FLETCHER. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You  
Doug Fletcher

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-28-2014

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Dwain C. Helzer I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Dwain C. Helzer

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Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

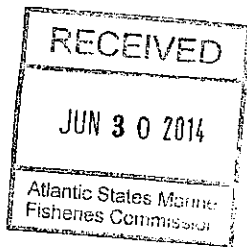
My name is Jack Correll. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Jack Correll

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

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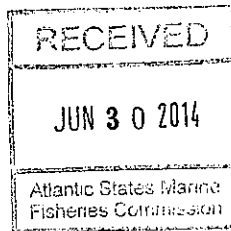
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is COREY CROFFY. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Corey Croffy

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 06/27/2014

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

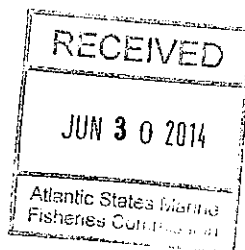
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is David R. Gurganw, Jr. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Gurganw, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

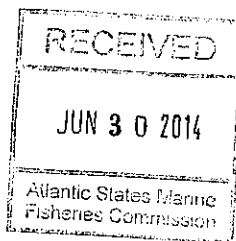
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is FRED HAMPTON. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

F Hampton

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-27-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Grant Hampton. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Grant Hampton

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Date 6-26-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Rocky Hardison I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Rocky Hardison

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6/27/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

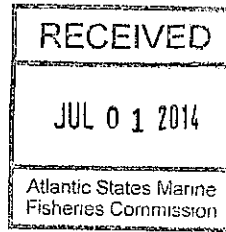
My name is Toye Jackson. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Toye Jackson

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Date 7-1-14



Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

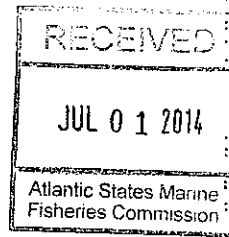
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Timmy Jarman. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Timmy Jarman

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



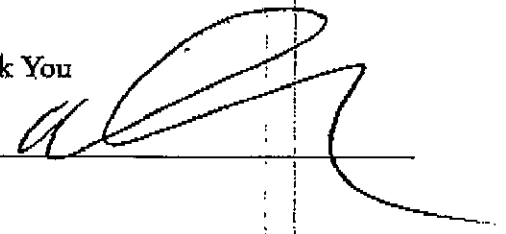
Date 7-1-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is DANIEL S. KEPLER, I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You



Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Date 6/26/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Randy B. Lassiter. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Randy B. Lassiter

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Date 6/24/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

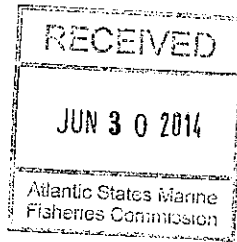
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Charles McClay I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Charles McClay

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6/27/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

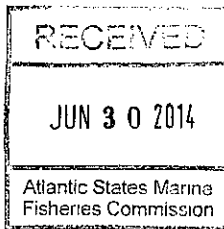
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Joseph M. Iler. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Joseph M. Iler

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
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Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6/28/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

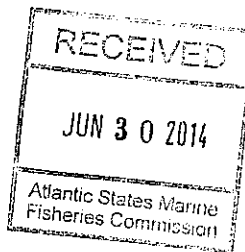
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is PAUL H. MINOR. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Paul H. Minor

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdv@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdv@asmfc.org)



Date 6-28-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

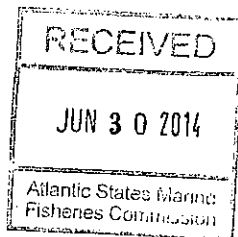
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is TAYLOR MINOR, I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Taylor Minor

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-27-14

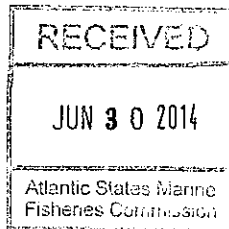
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is For Mitchell. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

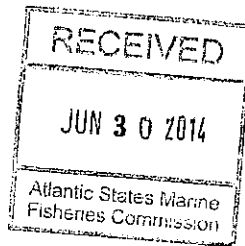
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is L. H. Peter Moss. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

*L. H. Peter Moss*

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-27-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Steve Nicholas. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

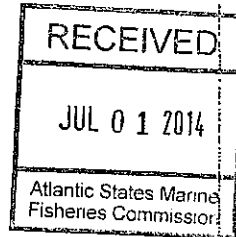
Thank You

Steve Nicholas

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum



Date 7-1-14

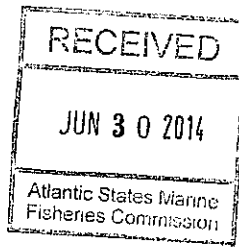
My name is Jeff Paul. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am  
in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management  
Plan.

Thank You

Jeff Paul

1598 Pamlico Rd  
Oriental 28571

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6/27/14

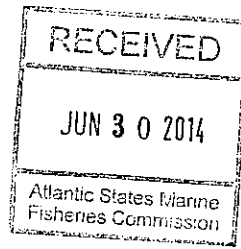
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is HARRY R PIERCE I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
 Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
 1050 N. Highland St.  
 Suite 200A-N  
 Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6/27/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
 Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Teresa Pierce. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You  
Teresa Pierce

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Date 6/27

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Joe Powell. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Joe Powell

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Date 6/27

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

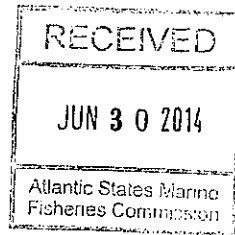
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Ralph Powell. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am  
in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management  
Plan.

Thank You

Ralph Powell

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Sandra D Rearden. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Sandra D Rearden

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-28-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

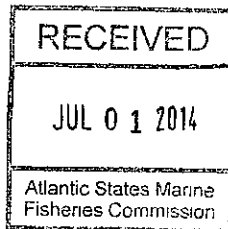
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is William Ritenor. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

William Ritenor

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 7-1-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Justin Rodgers, I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Justin Rodgers

1119 Straight Rd Oriental NC

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Date 6/27/14

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Susan Rollins. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Susan Rollins

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Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
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[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

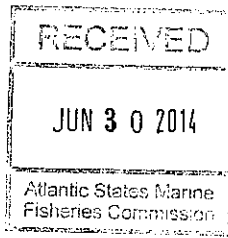
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Kelly D. Seymour. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum I for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

KELLY D. SEYMOUR

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-2014

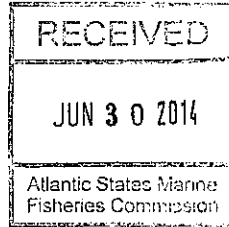
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is LEN SMITH. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
 Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
 1050 N. Highland St.  
 Suite 200A-N  
 Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-27-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
 Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Pat Smith. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Pat Smith

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Date 6-26-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Patrick Spickett. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Patrick Spickett

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)


Date 6-27-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is DAVID SPILKOTT, I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Spilkott", is written over a horizontal line.

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
 Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
 1050 N. Highland St.  
 Suite 200A-N  
 Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-26-14

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 Fax (703)-842-0741

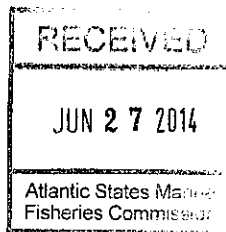
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Scott Stafford. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741



Date 6-26-14

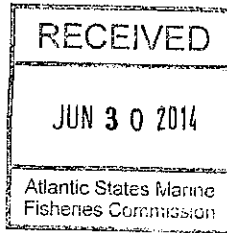
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Jonathan Tedder. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option I (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Jonathan Tedder

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdv@asmfc.org



Date 6-28-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Terry K. Willis. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Terry K Willis

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Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
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[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

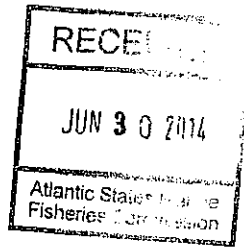
My name is Kathy Young. I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Kathy Young

## Example "A (2)"

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-26-14

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Fax (703)-842-0741

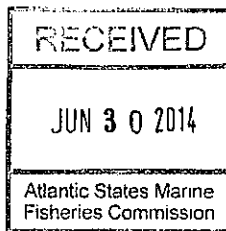
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is DON Acree. I am a Commercial Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You



Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-26-14

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Fax (703)-842-0741

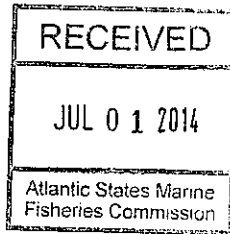
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Loretta Acree. I am a Commercial Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Loretta Acree


Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 7-1-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

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My name is . I am a Commercial Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Carl Blackman

RECEIVED JUN 20 2014

Date 6-19-14

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Thomas C. McArthur III. I am a Commercial Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Thomas C. McArthur III

RECEIVED JUN 20 2014

Date 6-19-14

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

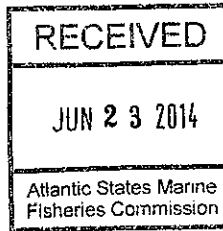
RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Monie Norman. I am a Commercial Fishermen in the State of NC. I am  
in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management  
Plan.

Thank You

Monie Norman

By Kootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Kootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 6-19-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is PERRI JAYE TOSTO II. I am a Commercial Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

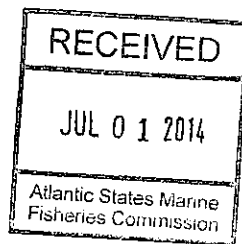
Perri J. Tosto II  
185 TOSTO Rd  
BEAUFORT NC 28516

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

Date 7-1-14



My name is BRANNON WILLIS. I am a Commercial Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

Brannon Willis

## Example "B"

REC 00  
JUN 30 2014  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NAME DON Acree  
STREET P.O. Box 508  
TOWN/CITY Atlantic Beach STATE NC  
EMAIL dacree54@gmail

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

RE: **Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum**

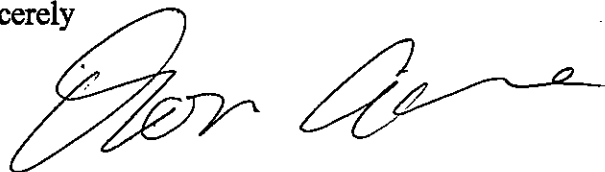
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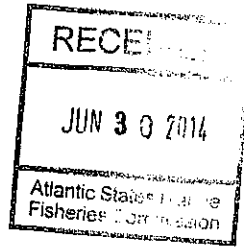
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1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 6-26-14

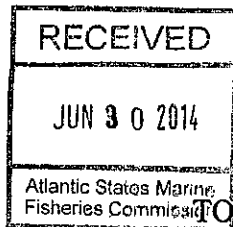
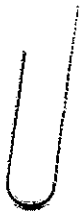
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is DON Acree. I am a Commercial Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You





NAME Loretta Acree  
STREET P.O. Box 3013  
TOWN/CITY Atlantz Beach STATE NC  
EMAIL tdoo  
ldacree228@gmail

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

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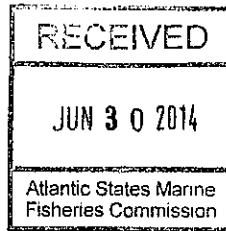
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Sincerely,

*Loretta Acree*

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



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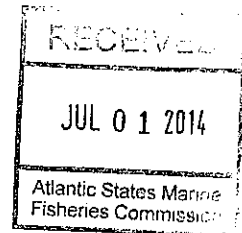
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Thank You

Loretta Acree

NAME Jamie Armstrong  
STREET 2736 NC Hwy 306 N  
TOWN/CITY Grantsboro STATE NC  
EMAIL [REDACTED]



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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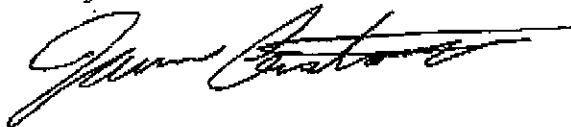
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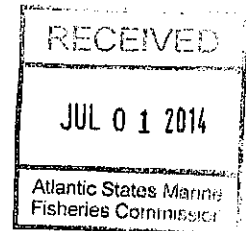
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Sincerely



NAME Hunter Barta  
STREET 264 Chadwick Rd  
TOWN/CITY Beth STATE NC  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

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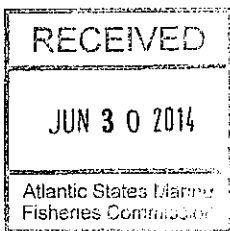
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Sincerely

*Hunter Barta*

---

*Donald H. Cannon*



NAME PAUL BIERMANN  
STREET 140 CLAUDIA CT  
TOWN/CITY ATLANTA STATE NC  
EMAIL PVBIERMANN@CENTURYLINK.NET

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

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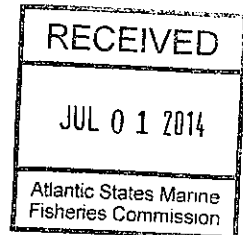
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Sincerely

*Paul Biermann*

NAME Jeffrey caton  
STREET 399 Mack Scott Ave  
TOWN/CITY New Bern STATE N.C  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
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Sincerely



NAME SHELDON DANIELS  
STREET 154 SILVER ROAD  
TOWN/CITY BEAUFORT STATE NC  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
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[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

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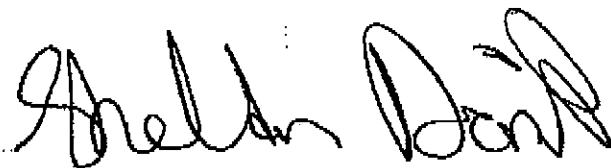
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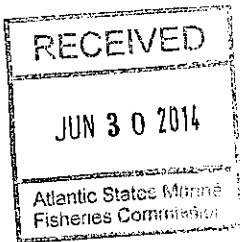
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NAME Leslie Dr. Sonny Davis  
STREET 1016 Atlantic Blvd  
TOWN/CITY Atlantic B. STATE N.C.  
EMAIL Capt Stacy Con

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
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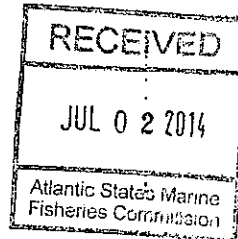
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*Leslie Dr. Sonny Davis*

NAME Brennen Guthrie  
STREET 1260 Salter Path Rd  
TOWN/CITY Salter Path STATE NC  
EMAIL Brennen.Guthrie@gmail.com

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Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
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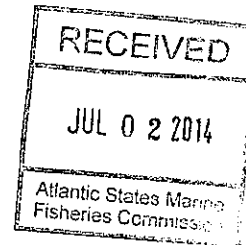
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Sincerely

NAME Gherman Guthrie  
STREET 191 Shore Dr.  
TOWN/CITY Salter Path STATE NC  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



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Management Plan Coordinator  
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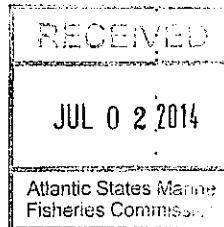
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Sincerely

NAME Mike Guthrie  
STREET 1760 Salter Path Rd.  
TOWN/CITY Salter Path STATE N.C.  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

Mr. Kirby Rootes-Murdy,

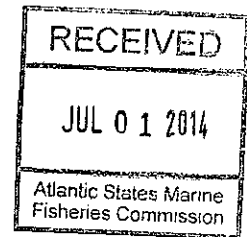
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Sincerely

NAME DANNEU HADGETT  
STREET TOWN Rd  
TOWN/CITY ORIENTAL STATE N.C  
EMAIL NO



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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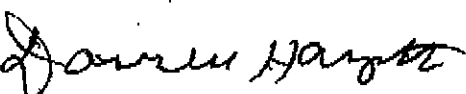
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Sincerely 

NAME Donald J. Pack Sr  
STREET 711 Station House Rd  
TOWN/CITY New Bern STATE NC  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED
JUL 01 2014
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

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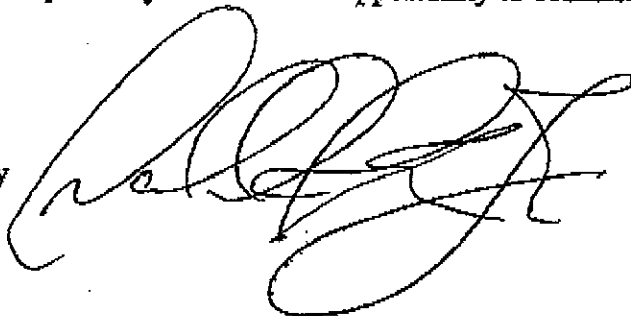
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Sincerely



RECEIVED JUN 20 2014

NAME Bruce Koonce  
STREET 715 Holly St.  
TOWN/CITY Emerald Isle STATE N.C.  
EMAIL Bill Fin 25789@gmail.com

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
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[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

**RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum**

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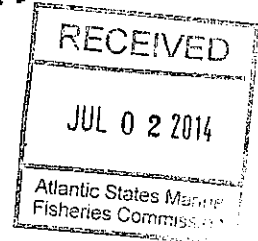
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Sincerely

NAME Mark Nobles  
STREET 328 SMOKEY Drive  
TOWN/CITY New Bern STATE N.C.  
EMAIL 28560



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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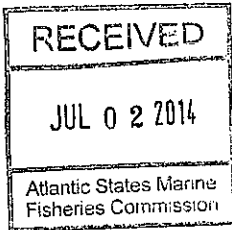
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Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Nobles", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.



NAME Joshua Dave Salter  
STREET 133 River Side drive  
TOWN/CITY Greensboro STATE NC  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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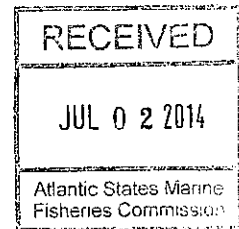
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Sincerely





NAME William Scott Smith  
STREET Box 409  
TOWN/CITY Aurora STATE NC  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
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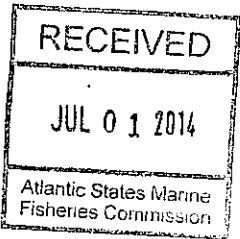
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Sincerely William Scott Smith  




NAME Christopher M Vealey  
STREET 500 Sandridge Rd  
TOWN/CITY Hubert STATE llc  
EMAIL bridgebuilder292@yahoo.com

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
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Sincerely

RECEIVED JUN 20 2014

NAME John C. Willis  
STREET 731 Crow Hill RD.  
TOWN/CITY Beaufort STATE N.C.  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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Sincerely

*John C. Willis*

RECEIVED JUN 27 2014

NAME STAFFORD M WITTE  
STREET 2005 Melodic Ln  
TOWN/CITY MHC STATE NC  
EMAIL MWITTE@EC.RR.COM

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
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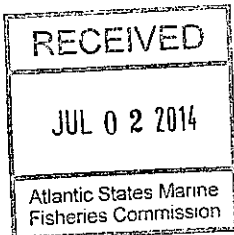
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Example " C (1) "

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 7-2-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Matthew David Brown 1 fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

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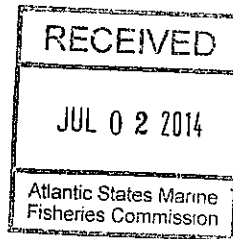
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Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,



Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 7-2-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
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RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Sammie Durham. I fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

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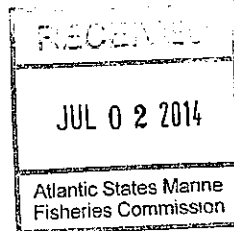
Sincerely,

Sammie Durham

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum



Date 7-2-14

My name is JIMMY EADY III I fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

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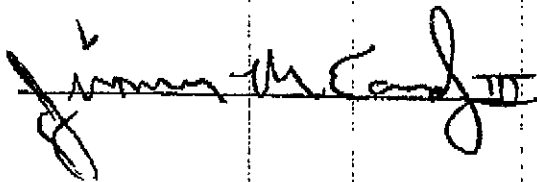
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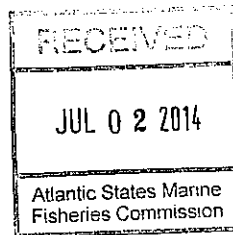
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Date 7-2-14

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RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Connie Forrest. I fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

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Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Connie Ray Forrest

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 7-2-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

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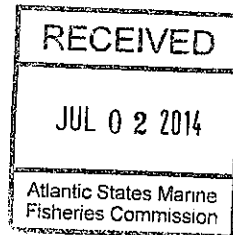
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Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 7-2-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

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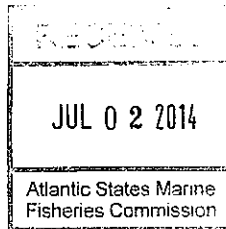
Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Marc Hansen

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 7-2-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Larry D. Murrell fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

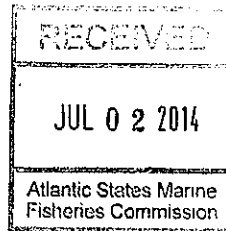
Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Murrell

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 7-2-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is JUSTIN SALTER. I fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

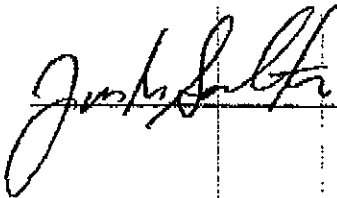
1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

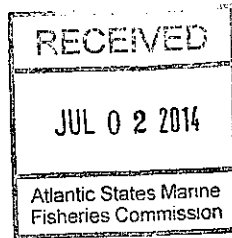
Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,



Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 7-2-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Gerry T. Smith I fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

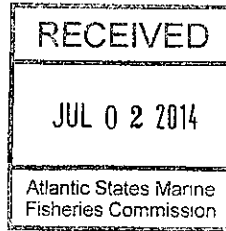
Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

GERRY T. SMITH

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date 7-2-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is : I fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,



Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum



Date 7-2-14

My name is Gordon Warren. I fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Gordon Warren

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

Date 7-2-14



RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum:

My name is CALVIN WILSON fish in NC.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

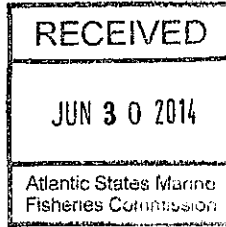
Sincerely,

Calvin Wilson

# Example " C (2) "

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
 Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
 1050 N. Highland St.  
 Suite 200A-N  
 Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Telephone (703)-842-0740  
 Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Ernest D. Stanton I fish in the Bogue/Pamlico <sup>Atlantic Co.</sup>  
 \_\_\_\_\_ River/Sound.

I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards (By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

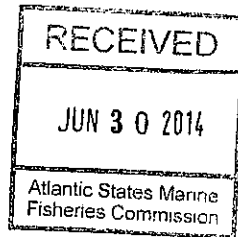
Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,



Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

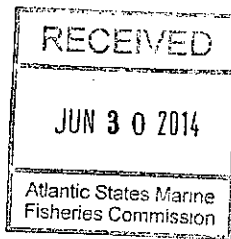
My name is EMERT D ALLEN I am a Recreational Fishermen in the State of NC. I am in favor of Option 1 (Status Quo) for the Draft Addendum 1 for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Management Plan.

Thank You

EMERT D ALLEN



Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org)



Date

6-25-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is JOSEPH J. DELUANE fish in the BOQUELEA RIVER

Sound

River/Sound. I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the

Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

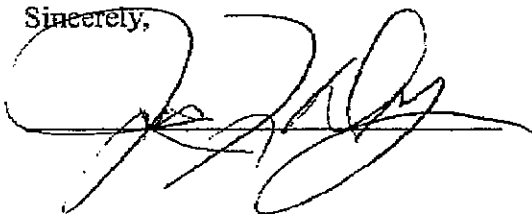
1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

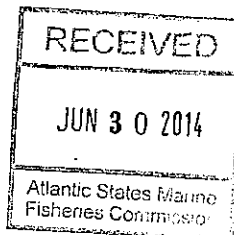
Sincerely,







Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org



Date 06-24-14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Stevenson Weeks Sr. I fish in the North Carolina Oceans  
and Inland waters River/Sound. I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the  
Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

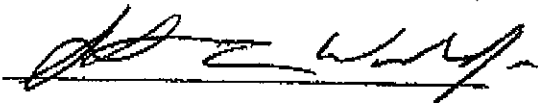
1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

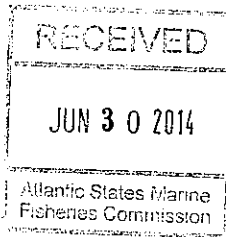
Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,



252-732-0051  
Beaufort N.C. 28516  
616 Russell Creek Rd.

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
Krootes-murdv@asmfc.org



Date 6/29/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is Capt David Williams, I fish in the Clem

Sound River/Sound. I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

- 1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
- 2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
- 3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

A Y'all are crazy DGM  
Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Kirby Rootes-Murdy  
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St.  
Suite 200A-N  
Arlington Va, 22201  
[Krootes-murdv@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdv@asmfc.org)

Date 6/27/14

Telephone (703)-842-0740  
Fax (703)-842-0741

RE: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum

My name is STAFFORD M WITT. I fish in the \_\_\_\_\_

Sound River/Sound. I am in opposition of the Traffic Light Approach for the  
Spot/Atlantic Croaker Addendum Management Plan.

There has been no proven scientific research for the following:

1. Fish Cycles vs. Trends
2. Size Limitations, Bag Limits, Gear Restrictions, etc. vs. Regulatory Discards(By-catch)
3. Consideration of Harvest Effort

Evidence from the 2010 Atlantic Croaker stock assessment indicate that Over fishing is not occurring.

Until the best available science is used, I think that Status Quo is the only available option at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Stafford M. Witt

**DRAFT ADDENDUM I TO THE OMNIBUS AMENDMENT FOR  
SPOT AND DRAFT ADDENDUM II TO AMENDMENT I TO  
THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR  
ATLANTIC CROAKER**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS SUMMARIES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 12, 2014	Annapolis, MD
June 16, 2014	Newport News, VA
June 17, 2014	Morehead City, NC
June 18, 2014	Brunswick, GA

**July 2014**

PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

Draft Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment for Spot and Draft Addendum II to Amendment I to the Interstate FMP For Atlantic Croaker

**Maryland**

*Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

*Conference Room C-1*

*Annapolis, Maryland*

**6/12/2014**

**Public Attendance:** see sign-in sheet (1 members of the public)

**State and ASMFC Personnel:**

Kirby Rootes-Murdy, ASMFC

Harry Rickabaugh, MD DNR

**Summary:**

One member of the public was in attendance. They stated their preference for option 3: State by State measures using the Traffic Light Approach with the precautionary management framework for both species. Reasons cited in support of this were the need to account for more regional-state level environmental factors that may affect the local population differently. In choosing between the sub-option listed, the attendee supported option 3B, the use of multiple population characteristics for applying the TLA to the precautionary management framework. Reason cited was the need to have more data to make an informed decision.



## PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

Draft Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment for Spot and Draft Addendum II to Amendment I to the Interstate FMP For Atlantic Croaker

### Virginia

*Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
4<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room  
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

**6/16/2014**

**Public Attendance:** see sign-in sheet (25 members of the public)

**State and ASMFC Personnel:**

Kirby Rootes-Murdy, ASMFC

Joe Grist, VMRC

Rob O'Reilly, VMRC

Lewes Grillingham, VMRC

Carrie Williams, VMRC

Rachel Maulirico, VMRC

Andre Ehler, VMRC

**Summary:**

14 attendees provided public comment, with mixed support for options 1 and 3. No one was in support of option 2

*Option 1: Status Quo*

9 attendees voiced their preference for option 1, status quo for both species. Reasons given in support of option 1, largely focus on concern over the data use in the Traffic Light Approach (TLA). Concerns regarding the data included the surveys selected; the ability of the surveys to effectively account for abundance; the surveys scope and lack of local area representation; a lack of effort data included in the commercial landings; and the role of market forces impacting commercial landings. Many voicing support for option 1 requested that NEAMAP data be included in the TLA and until done so, the TLA nor proposed management framework should be used. Other issues noted regarding the data were that the abundance of both species move in cycles, and to apply management measures would be naïve given the natural cycles the species abundance experiences. Lastly it was noted that if abundance has decreased it may be due to predation by spiny dogfish and red drum, with appropriate measures being increased harvest of both species.

Other issues cited in support of option 1 was concern over the proposed management framework and potential management measures. A few attendees noted that a size limit would be an ineffective and impractical management measure given the life history of both species. Other concerns regarding the management framework were the potential economic impacts management measures may cause fisherman and bait shop owners.

*Option 3: State-by-State measures using the TLA with precautionary management framework*

3 Attendees voiced their support for option 3, state by state measures. Reasons given in support of this option was the ability of the state to manage the fishery independently from other states, while addressing the issue in more localized context. Other reasons given in support of this option were the need to consider the resource before the fisherman. In choosing between the sub-options, opinions were split in support of either a single or multiple characteristics. Reasons given in support of the single harvest was mistrust in the currently used survey data, and preference for the harvest characteristic. Support in using both characteristics was listed as the need for more information in making management decisions.





PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

Draft Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment for Spot and Draft Addendum II to Amendment I to the Interstate FMP For Atlantic Croaker

**North Carolina**

*North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries*

*Central District Office*

*Morehead City, North Carolina 28557*

**6/17/2014**

**Public Attendance:** see sign-in sheet (45 members of the public)

**State and ASMFC Personnel:**

Kirby Rootes-Murdy, ASMFC

Michelle Duval, NC DMF

Kevin Brown, NC DMF

Jason Rock, NC DMF

**Summary:**

24 members of the public spoke in favor of option 1, status quo for both spot and Atlantic croaker. There was no evidence of any attendees in favor of either option 2 or 3. Many who spoke in favor of option 1- the majority- voiced concern for the data used in the Traffic Light Approach (TLA). Concerns regarding the data included the surveys selected; the ability of the surveys to effectively account for abundance; the surveys scope and lack of local area representation; inaccuracies with the recreational estimates; a lack of effort data included in the commercial landings; and the role of market forces impacting commercial landings. Many speaking in favor of option 1 also took issue with a perceived lack of attention to environmental factors such as water quality, salinity, temperature, and natural cycles of abundance. Many cited that neither fishery has been determined to be experiencing overfishing nor is overfished, and that overall abundance for both species is fine. Other noted that when abundance does change, it is less a result of human impact and more natural influences; as such, fishing pressure and management measures would have little impact. Lastly, some attendees noted that if abundance is decreasing for either species, predation from other species such as striped bass, spiny dogfish, and/or red drum many be to blame.

In speaking against the management framework proposed in options 2 and 3, many cited the proposed framework as containing inappropriate management tools for the fishery- such as size limits given the life history of both species. Other issues voiced regarding the proposed management framework were general sentiments of management measures not being needed; if management measures were implemented through the proposed management framework they would pose unnecessary restrictions on fishermen; management has created scenarios of less fish for fisherman, less revenue, and reduced livelihoods. Lastly, some attendees noted that when restrictions or management measures are put in place, such measures rarely if either go away- this was noted in relation to the proposed 2-3 year management measures period for evaluation in option 2 and 3.

Other comments made less directed at the proposed management framework and TLA, focused on the mischaracterization of shrimp trawl bycatch as impacting abundance. It was noted that North Carolina has been a leading state in reducing bycatch in the shrimp trawl fishery.

**Draft Addenda to the Spot and Atlantic Croaker Fishery Management Plans  
for Public Comment**

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
June 17, 2014  
North Carolina

**-- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY --**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company/Organization</u>	<u>City, State</u>
Allen Powell	MFG	Gloocetev, NC
Katy West	NCPMK	Washington, NC
<del>Thomas J. Smith</del>		<del>Warkers Island NC</del>
Sherlin Dillikin		Warkers Island NC
Cameron Dillikin		Bloucenton, NC
Ken M. Ayer	Commercial	HUBERT, NC. 28539
John Skinn	Commercial	Newport N.C. 28570
Michelle Dewal	NCDMF	Morehead City NC
Kevin Bradn	"	"
Jason Rock	"	Washington, NC
Dan Zapf	"	"
Tina Noora	"	Morehead City NC
Adam Tyle	Commercer	Smyrna
Charles Tyler	Commercial	SMYRNA
Jeremy Bradley	Support Commercial	Morehead City, N.C.
Taylor Williams	Support Commercial	Morehead City, NC
Leslie Ascenti	SUPPORT COMMERCIAL	HARKERS ISLAND
John Willis	COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN	731 CROCKETT
Quindia Oneal	NC Resident	Beaufort NC
Steve Weeks	Wheatly, Wheatly Weeks Massie, Tampa	Beaufort NC
Tommy McArthur	Commercial	867 Hwy 101 BEF NC 28516
Alex McArthur	Commercial	" " " "
Michael McArthur	Commercial	867 Hwy 101 BEF NC 28516
Arnold Ascenti	COMMERCIAL	HARKERS ISL., NC
David Jarou	Commercial	Swansboro, NC
Stanley M. Warton	Retired NMFS	Newport, NC
Franky Wright	Commercial	Gloocetev, N.C.
Bobby Kirkman	Bobby Kirkman Jr commercial	swansboro NC
Gurkey Leckling	Beaufort Inlet Seafood	Beaufort, N.C. 28516
Dwight Frost	Saltwater Fishery Crew	; N.C., 28512
Ray Cannon	Cannon Seafood	South River 28516



PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

Draft Addendum I to the Omnibus Amendment for Spot and Draft Addendum II to Amendment I to the Interstate FMP For Atlantic Croaker

**Georgia**

*Georgia Coastal Resources Division  
Susan Shipman Environmental Education Building  
Brunswick, Georgia*

**6/18/2014**

**Public Attendance:** see sign-in sheet (2 members of the public)

**State and ASMFC Personnel:**

Kirby Rootes-Murdy, ASMFC  
Carolyn Belcher, GA DNR-CRD  
Dawn Franco, GA DNR-CRD  
Kathy Nolte, GA DNR-CRD  
Pat Geer, GA DNR-CRD

**Summary:**

Two member of the public was in attendance. Both attendee voiced their support for options 3: State-by-State measures using the TLA with precautionary management framework. Reasons cited was the need for states to have more control over setting measures regarding their state's fishery. In consider the sub options for option 3, both were in support of using multiple population characteristics. Reasons cited were the need to have more data to make a more informed decision.

Other comments focused on the need to understand the environmental factors possibly playing a role in the abundance of both species. Particularly noted was that both species seem to go through natural cycles, and that elements such as water temperature may play a role in the local abundance and presence.

