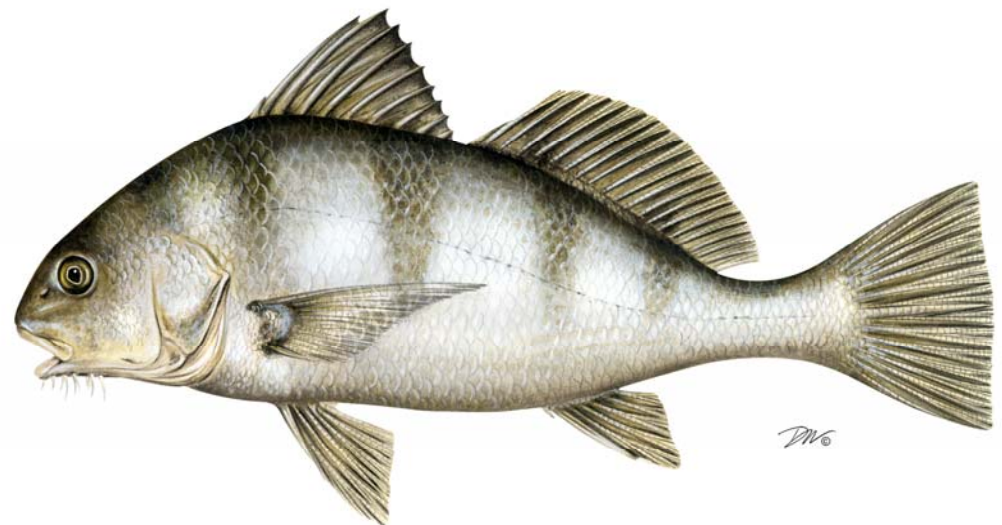




Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015

Draft Black Drum Interstate Fishery Management Plan For Final Action



May 2013



Projected Timeline

Season/Year	Interstate FMP
Spring 2012	Prepare PID for Review
Spring/Summer 2012	PID Public Hearings
Fall 2012	Draft FMP Development
Spring 2013	Public Hearings
May 2013	Review/Final Approval



Statement of the Problem

- An interstate species
- Lack of consistent coastwide regulations or goals
- Targeted fishery may be juveniles
- Framework to address future challenges



Goal/Objectives

Provide an efficient management structure to implement coastwide management goals in a timely manner

Objectives:

- 1) Flexible management system
- 2) Promote cooperative collection of biological, economic, and sociological data
- 3) Manage to protect both young individuals and established breeding stock.
- 4) Develop research priorities to maximize the biological, social, and economic benefits



Proposed Management Program

- Management unit is defined as the black drum resource throughout the range of the species within U.S. waters of the northwest Atlantic Ocean from the estuaries eastward to the offshore boundaries of the EEZ
- The management area shall be the entire Atlantic coast distribution of the resource from the east coast of Florida north through New Jersey

State	Recreational		Commercial			Notes
	Size	Bag	Size	Trip	Quota	
NJ	16" min	3/p/day	16" min	10K lbs	65K lbs	
Proposed	32" min	2/p/day	32" min	5K lbs	50K lbs	
DE	16" min	3/p/day	16" min	10K lbs	65K lbs	
MD	16" min	1/p/day 6/v (Bay)	16" min		1,500K Atlantic Coast	Ches Bay closed to commercial
VA	16" min	1/p/day	16" min	1/p/day *	120K lbs	*w/out Black Drum permit
NC	-	-	-	-	-	
SC	14" min 27" max	5/p/day	14" min 27" max	5/p/day		Commercial primarily bycatch
GA	10" min	15/p/day	10" min	15/p/day		
FL	14" min 24" max	5/p/day	14" min 24" max	500 lbs/day		One >24" recreational



Recreational Measures





Option 1: Minimum Size Limit

- 1a. No minimum size limit (status quo)
- 1b. 10" (GA)
- 1c. 14" (SC and FL)
- 1d. 16" (NJ, DE, MD, VA)
- 1e. 20"
- 1f. 32"



Option 2: Slot Limit

- 2a. No slot limit (status quo)
- 2b. 14-24" (FL)
- 2c. 14-27" (SC)
- 2d. 16-32"
- 2e. 30-48"
- 2f. 10-24" mix of GA and FL



Option 3: Trophy Allowance

A trophy fish is one that exceeds the max size limit

- 3a. No retention of a trophy fish (status quo)

- 3b. 1 trophy fish per day



Option 4: Bag Limit

- 4a. No Coastwide bag limit (status quo)
- 4b. 1 fish per person per day (MD and VA)
- 4c. 2 fish per person per day
- 4d. 3 fish per person per day (NJ and DE)
- 4e. 5 fish per person per day (SC and GA)
- 4f. 15 fish per person per day (GA)



Option 5: Vessel Limit

- 5a. No coastwide vessel limit (status quo)
- 5b. 6 fish per vessel per day (MD)
- 5c. 12 fish per vessel per day
- 5d. 20 fish per vessel per day



Option 6: Maintain Current Measures

- Under this option all states would keep their current state recreational regulations
- States would not be able to relax the current regulations
- This option could be used with one of the above options



Commercial Measures





Option 1: Minimum Size Limit

- 1a. No minimum size limit (status quo)
- 1b. 10" (GA)
- 1c. 14" (SC and FL)
- 1d. 16" (NJ, DE, MD, VA)
- 1e. 32"



Option 2: Slot Limit

- 2a. No coastwide slot limit
- 2b. 14-24" (FL)
- 2c. 14-27" (SC)
- 2d. 16-32"
- 2e. 30-48"
- 2f. 10-24" (combination of GA and FL)



Option 3: Trip Limit

- 3a. No coastwide trip limit
- 3b. 5 fish per person per day (FL)
- 3c. 15 fish per person per day (GA)
- 3d. 500 pounds per vessel per day (FL)
- 3e. 5,000 pounds per vessel per day
- 3f. 10,000 pounds per vessel per day (NJ & DE)
- 3g. Bycatch allowance of XX% is allowed (to be determined by the Board)



Option 4: Limited Entry

- 4a. No limited entry requirements (status quo)
- 4b. States must implement a limited entry program
 - Limit the number of participants in the fishery
 - Max number of permits issued would prevent the expansion of the current fishery



Option 5: Maintain Current Measures

- Under this option all states would keep their current state recreational regulations
- States would not be able to relax the current regulations
- This option could be used with one of the above options



DE Minimis Criteria

- Option 1: Recreational and Commercial separate *de minimis* status
- Option 2: Recreational and Commercial combined *de minimis* status

State may apply for *de minimis* if the average preceding 3 years data is x% less than the coastwide landings

- 1%
- 2%
- 3%



Additional aspects

- Recommendations to the Secretary
- Monitoring requirements/recommendations
 - No requirements but recommend states continue current programs
- Recommended Measures
 - Habitat program
- Research
- Protected Species



Public Comment

- 5 Public Hearings (NC, VA, MD, DE, NJ)
- 9 written comments
 - 1 letter from Cape may county Party and Charter Association
 - 8 letters from individuals



Summary of Comment

- Favored measures for the coast (all states should have regulations in place)
- States have implemented good management programs and should not have to change them
- NC should have measures in place



Recreational Measures

- Favor current state size limits
- 1 in favor of 14” and 6 in favor of 16”
- Bag Limit
 - 3 fish-3 favor
 - 1 fish- 1 favor
 - 2 fish- 1 favor
- Slot Limit
 - 14-27”



Recreational Measures

- Trophy
 - No trophy
- Bag limit
 - 1 fish
 - 2 fish
 - 3 fish
 - 5 fish
- Vessel limit
 - 5 fish
 - No coastwide measure



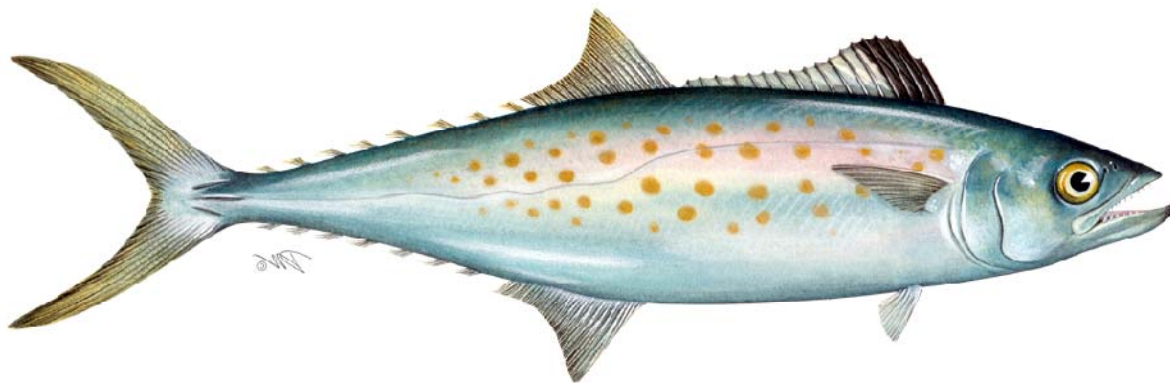
Commercial Measures

- Size limit
 - 8-10 inches
 - 14 inches
 - Same as the recreational
- Slot
 - 14-27"
- Trip limit
 - 500 pounds per day
- Limited entry
 - Mix of support



Spanish Mackerel

May 2013





Statement of the Problem

- **Just undersized Spanish mackerel are caught in pound nets in August and September**
- **Difficult to release alive**
- **Reduction in the size limit from 12 to 11.5 will reduce dead discards**



Background

- **Majority of NC harvest is in state waters (<5% in federal waters)**
- **Most landings from gill nets (avg 92%)**
- **Pound nets avg 6.7% of landings**
 - **Largest landing months in June and July**
- **Increased presence of fish $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ below min size limit**
 - **These fish die in the pound net**



Stock Status

- **Most recent assessment 2012**
- **Not overfished**
- **Overfishing is not occurring**



Proposed Solution

- **Allow the NC pound net fishery in August and September to reduce the size limit to 11.5 inches in estuarine waters only**
- **Intended to reduce or eliminate dead discards**



Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015

Black Drum Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
May 2013



Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

1. Characterize precision of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data used in the assessment, including the following but not limited to:
 - Provide descriptions of each data source (e.g., geographic location, sampling methodology, potential explanation for outlying or anomalous data, other caveats).
 - Summarize biological data (e.g., length frequency, age distribution, maturity information) if available.
 - Describe calculation and potential standardization of abundance indices.
 - Discuss trends and associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g., standard errors).
 - Justify inclusion or elimination of all available data sources.
 - Discuss the effects of data strengths and weaknesses (e.g., temporal and spatial scale, gear selectivities, aging accuracy, sample size) on model inputs and outputs.



Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

2. Review estimates and PSEs of recreational fishing from MRIP. Compare historical and current data collection and estimation procedures and describe data caveats that may affect the assessment.



Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

3. Develop simple, empirical indicators of stock abundance, stock characteristics, and fishery characteristics.



Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

4. Develop models used to estimate population parameters (e.g., F , biomass, abundance) and biological reference points, and analyze model performance.
 - Describe stability of models (e.g., ability to find a stable solution).
 - Perform sensitivity analyses for starting parameter values and conduct other model diagnostics as necessary.
 - Clearly and thoroughly explain model strengths and limitations.
 - Briefly describe history of model usage, its theory and framework, and document associated peer-reviewed literature.
 - If multiple models were considered, justify the choice of preferred model and the explanation of any differences in results among models.



Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

5. State assumptions made for all models and explain the likely effects of assumption violations on synthesis of input data and model outputs.



Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

6. Characterize uncertainty of model estimates and biological or empirical reference points.



Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

7. Recommend stock status as related to reference points (if available).



Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

8. Develop detailed short and long-term prioritized lists (high, moderate, or low) of recommendations for future research, data collection, and assessment methodology. Highlight improvements to be made by next benchmark review.



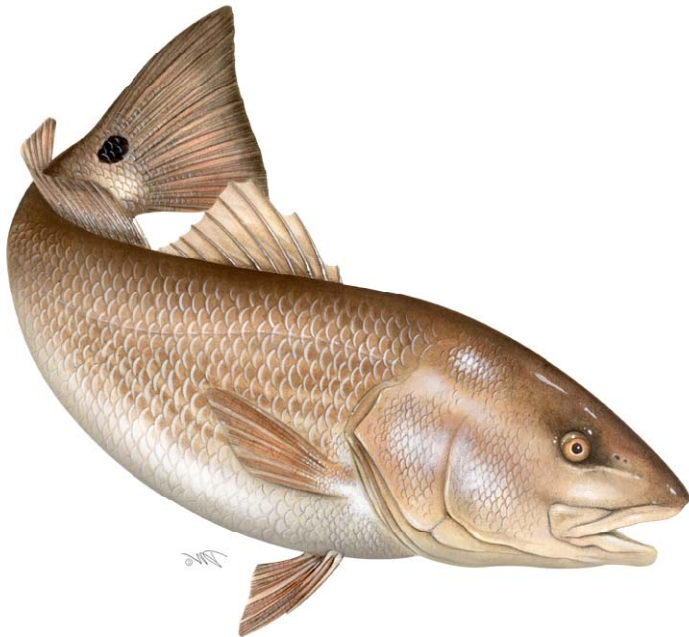
Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

9. Recommend timing of next benchmark assessment and intermediate updates, if necessary, relative to biology and current management of the species.



Red Drum Habitat Addendum

May 2013





Habitat Description

- **Spawning habitat**
- **Eggs and Larvae habitat**
- **Juvenile habitat**
- **Subadult habitat**
- **Adult habitat**



HAC

- **ID and distribution of habitat and HAC**
- **Present conditions of HAC**
 - **Coastal spawning**
 - **Estuarine Spawning, Nursery, juvenile and subadult habitat**
 - **Adult habitat**
- **Habitat Bottlenecks**
- **Ecosystem considerations**