



# Draft Amendment 1 PDT Update

Presented to the ASMFC Tautog Board  
February 2, 2016

# Draft Amendment 1



- Regional Management
  - Waiting for the release of the peer reviewed Long Island Sound and New York/New Jersey stock assessments
- FMP Goals and Objectives
  - Under review by the PDT
- Reference Points and Rebuilding Timeframes
  - Reviewed by the PDT; draft language will be presented
- Management Measures
  - Reviewed by the PDT; requires additional guidance from the Board and finalized stock assessments
- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
  - Under review by the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee; areas for future discussion will be presented separately

# Definition of Overfishing



- Overfishing occurs when the fishing mortality rate exceeds the fishing mortality threshold for one year.
- The Management Board will evaluate the current estimate(s) of fishing mortality (F) with respect to its reference points before proposing additional management measures. If the current F exceeds the threshold levels, the Board will take steps to reduce F to the target level according to the F reduction schedule in *Section 2.5.2*. If current F exceeds the target, but is below the threshold, the Board should consider steps to reduce F to the target level. If current F is below the target F, then no action would be necessary to reduce F.

# Fishing Mortality Reduction Schedule



## *Ending Overfishing (Reducing $F$ to the Target)*

- The Board shall reduce  $F$  to a level that is at or below the target within a maximum of three years.

## *Probability of Achieving $F$ Target*

- The Board will use a X% probability of achieving  $F$  target in three years.

# Definition of Overfished



- The stock is overfished when spawning stock biomass (SSB) falls below the spawning stock size threshold.
- The Management Board will evaluate the current estimate(s) of SSB with respect to its reference points before proposing additional management measures. If current SSB is below the threshold level, the Board will take steps to increase SSB to the target level according to the rebuilding schedule in *Section 2.5.2*. If current SSB is below the target, but above the threshold, the Board should consider steps to increase SSB to the target level. If current SSB is above the target SSB, then no action would be necessary to increase SSB.

# Stock Rebuilding Schedule



- When the stock is overfished (below SSB threshold), the Board will take efforts to rebuild the stock to SSBtarget within ten years.
- The Technical Committee will review progress of SSB toward its rebuilding target on a regular interval (through stock assessments) and make recommendations to the Board regarding rebuilding progress. Upon review of the TC recommendations, the Board may adjust management measures in an effort to remain on its rebuilding schedule.

# Regional Management Measures



- Within a region the Board can select to manage recreational and commercial fisheries:
  - (1) using a regional standard or
  - (2) using conservation equivalency

# Regional Management Measures



- Within a region the Board can select to manage recreational and commercial fisheries:

(1) using a regional standard

As an example, at this time the PDT recommends a 16 inch minimum size limit for the recreational and commercial fishery within each region

(2) using conservation equivalency



# Issues for Consideration



- The Board shall reduce F to a level that is at or below the target within a maximum of three years.
- The Board will use a X% probability of achieving F target in three years.
- When the stock is overfished (below SSB threshold), the Board will take efforts to rebuild the stock to SSBtarget within ten years.
- Management within a region – regional standard or conservation equivalency



# Questions

## **LIS and NY/NJ Stock Assessment (using data through 2013(?) for all management regions)**

- **Jan/Feb 2016:** UConn Long Island Sound stock assessment
- **Feb/March 2016:** NY/NJ assessment, excluding LIS
- **Aug 2016:** Board reviews peer-reviewed LIS and NY/NJ assessments; Board chooses one management region alternative (either 3 region or 4 region)
- **Aug-Oct 2016:** TC catch reduction analysis to determine specific management measures & PDT further develops options
- **Nov 2016:** Draft Amendment 1 is presented for public comment approval
- **Winter 2016:** Public comment/hearings
- **Feb 2017:** Board reviews public comments and considers final approval of Draft Amendment 1

# Stock Assessment Update

(using data through 2015 for all management regions)

- **Jan/Feb 2016:** UConn Long Island Sound stock assessment (SA)
- **Feb/March 2016:** NY/NJ assessment, excluding LIS
- **March-Oct 2016:** Board tasks the TC to work on a SA update
- **Aug 2016:** Board reviews peer-reviewed LIS and NY/NJ assessments; Board chooses one management region alternative (either 3 region or 4 region)
- **Nov 2016:** Board reviews the stock assessment update, in the update the TC could present the catch reduction analysis
- **Nov-Jan 2017:** PDT further develops options
- **Feb 2017:** Draft Amendment 1 is presented for public comment approval
- **Spring 2017:** Public comment/hearings
- **May 2017:** Board reviews public comments and considers final approval of Draft Amendment 1



# Questions



# Tautog Law Enforcement Sub-Committee Report Tagging Program Goals and Objectives

Presented to Tautog Management Board  
February 2016



# Subcommittee Tasks

- November 2015 subcommittee report
- Management Board direction:
  - Develop objectives for a tagging program
  - Explore tagging systems for the live-fish market
- Subcommittee met via phone January 12, 2016
- Memo summarizes the meeting



# Goal Statement

- The Subcommittee framed objectives based on a perceived goal for a commercial harvest tagging program that includes:
  - Accountability
  - Minimizes IUU fishing
  - Ease of use for fishing community
  - Neutral effect on marketability
  - Effective for enforcement





# Commercial Harvest Tagging Program

## Draft Objectives

- Verifiable system addressing enforcement needs
- Standardization among the states
- Effective tag designs for enforcement and tracking purposes
- Meets needs of live and dead fish markets



# Important Elements of Tags

- Color coding to identify states
- Consistent identifiers for year, state, tag #
- Tamper-proof and Single-Use
- System for returning unused tags
- Useable for both live and dead fish if possible
- Easy to attach, secure and economical
- Minimal impact on fish marketability



# Important Elements of Fishery

- More diffuse and de-centralized than other fisheries with tagging programs
- Inconsistency among states in how fishery is regulated (limited access vs. open)
- Illegal harvest by fishermen without commercial permits
- Point-of-Sale vs. Point-of Harvest tagging dilemma



# Issues for Board Consideration

- Who are commercial experts we can consult?
- Are there specific tag vendors we can review?
- Can any states help test tag prototypes for live tautog?
- Does the Board have a preference for a limited-entry vs. an open fishery?