



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Tautog Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee Conference Call Summary

September 15, 2016

Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee Members: Jason McNamee (TC Chair, RI), Lindy Barry (NJ), Nichole Ares (RI), Sandra Dumais (NY), Katie May Laumann (VA), Jeff Brust (SAS Chair, NJ), Alexei Sharov (MD), Scott Newlin (DE)

ASMFC Staff: Katie Drew, Ashton Harp

LIS Assessment WG: Jacob Kasper (UConn), Eric Schultz (UConn)

The Tautog Technical Committee (TC) and Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) held a joint conference call to discuss the coefficient of variation (CV) that will be used in the projection analyses and questions regarding ASAP input data and model configuration. The TC/SAS agreed to the following parameterization:

- The TC/SAS did not think there would be significant changes in biological parameters from year to year and preliminary runs indicated that the magnitude of the CV on those parameters did not have a significant impact on the probability of being above the target, therefore the group agreed to apply a constant CV of 0.01 to the parameters for maturity, natural mortality, SSB/Jan-1/mid-year weights-at-age, and selectivity for the projection runs.
- Variance for recruitment should be calculated from the time-series of model-estimated recruitment. Regions using SPR reference points should use the empirical recruitment option and input model-estimated recruitment for the entire time-series; regions using MSY reference points should use the Beverton & Holt parameters estimated by ASAP for the base model as well as the uncertainty estimate from this time series of recruitment information. MSY regions should also provide SPR reference points + projections using empirical recruitment as a back-up, since the Board has not decided which to use
- As agreed on the last call, the catch weight-at-age inputs should be the average catch WAA and associated CV over the last selectivity block in the model for each region
- The stock assessment update will include 3 year projections (2018-2020) that will calculate the landings necessary to result in a 50% or 70% probability of F being at or below the target in 2020. For 2016 and 2017 (before new management is implemented), use the average landings from the last 3 years
- The configuration of the likelihood function (i.e., the values for CVs, ESS, and lambdas) will be the same as used in the benchmark assessment, but regions may explore alternative values as sensitivity runs

It was requested that the regional model input and ASAP and AGEPRO configuration be reviewed by other TC members (in addition to the written report), to identify any major errors or misspecifications. Staff will ask for a volunteer for each region, who will have until the TC call the week of October 3rd to accomplish this.

2016 Tautog Stock Assessment Update Timeline

✓	Aug 16	TC/SAS Intro Call
✓	Week of Aug 29	TC/SAS Call to discuss projections and selectivity blocks
✓	Sept 1 or Before	Deadline to upload state data to the FTP site
✓	Week of Sept 12	TC/SAS Call to review CV decisions, other issues
	Sept 22	Deadline for leads to provide assessment text (e.g., paragraphs on assessment and projection results); provide input files as well
	Sept 26	Draft assessment update report distributed to TC/SAS for review
	Week of October 3	TC/SAS call to review assessment update report and results
	October 10	Final assessment update report distributed via Briefing Materials
	October 25	2016 stock assessment update presented to Tautog Board