

CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS and MEETING SUMMARY
TAUTOG ADVISORY PANEL
Conference Call
July 11, 2007

Meeting Staff: Chris Vonderweidt (ASMFC)

Meeting Participants: Jack Conway (CT); Denis Wagner (NJ); Jim Dawson (VA)

MEETING SUMMARY

The Tautog Advisory Panel Convened via a phone conference at 4:00 pm on July 11, 2007. There was one participant. Chris Vonderweidt began the meeting with an overview of Draft Addendum V for Public Comment which had been mailed to the AP prior to the meeting. Other members were phoned at a later date to get further input. There was no consensus among AP members.

The representative from New Jersey does not want reductions to be allowed in the commercial fishery. Her concern is that reported recreational landings are lower than the actual recreational catch—making proportional reductions inaccurate and unfairly burdensome on commercial fishermen. She believes that the MRFSS data collects most of the head/charter boat landings but misses the majority of private anglers who are allowed to take up to 10 fish per trip in some states.

The NJ representative is in favor of removing NC from the management unit as long as we respond if landings increase for whatever reason.

The Connecticut representative agreed that we should grant states flexibility to achieve reductions however best fits their needs. He was also in favor of removing NC from the management unit.

The Virginia representative also agreed that states should be allowed to achieve the reductions in both sectors as best meets their needs. He was particularly concerned with protecting spawning grounds and felt that you need to have closures across sectors to be effective.

He was opposed to removing North Carolina from the management unit. His main concern was that fishermen could bring undersized live tautog in North Carolina that were caught in other states if NC did not at least have a minimum size limit for tautog.