

**ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
TAUTOG TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
Technical Committee Meeting Summary  
September 24, 2004**

Radisson Hotel Manchester  
700 Elm Street  
Manchester, New Hampshire

Attendees: Jason McNamee (RIFW), Peter Himchak (NJFW), Chad Boyce (VMRC), Joe Cimino (VMRC), Rich Wong (NCDMF), Bob Sadzinski (MDDNR)

Chairperson: Paul Caruso

ASMFC Staff: Lydia Munger, Patrick Kilduff

Paul Caruso called the meeting to order. The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the 4/3/03 Tautog Technical Committee (TC) meeting and the agenda for the 9/24/04 TC meeting. **The TC, by consensus, approved the minutes and agenda as submitted.**

The second order of business was to elect a new vice chairman for the TC. Jason McNamee volunteered for this position. The TC decided to do the official nomination at the end of the meeting.

P. Caruso gave a brief overview of the history of the TC and stated that the next assessment was due by next summer.

The TC reviewed the tautog landings from the various states. Two trends of note were that states that implemented management reductions saw recreational declines while states that did not implement management reductions saw increases in recreational catches.

Chad Boyce stated that there may be an issue with the MRFSS wave 5 data because they had a hurricane yet still saw increases in recreational landings.

Overall, management measures seem to be holding down total kill in all states involved in the fishery.

P. Caruso then went over the data submitted by the states and discussed data gaps from states where they occur.

The TC reviewed a slideshow that presented the various options that could be used by the TC for the upcoming stock assessment. After reviewing the slideshow the TC recommended going to a state by state model and build on the process from there. In other words, get state-by-state assessments when possible and then compare these to

regional and larger assessments to look for similar trends. Some other discussion occurred such as a suggestion by Rich Wong to use the existing tagging data for F estimates. J. McNamee and P. Caruso stated that the Rhode Island model could be used by the group to develop a larger assessment. Patrick Kilduff stated that during the data workshop, any states with models could bring them and give a brief presentation.

The TC then discussed potential members for the stock assessment committee, several potential members were recommended. Alice Weber (NYDEC) will be chair of the TC during the assessment, and as such will serve as an ex-officio member of the SASC. Other nominees currently include Jeff Brust, NJ, Paul Caruso, MA, and Jason McNamee, RI. Virginia mentioned that they would like to nominate a representative to the SASC, and the possibility was suggested of bringing someone on board from the federal government (NMFS).

L. Munger went over the draft terms of reference. The TC made several amendments to the terms. L. Munger took notes on the changes and stated that she would send this via email to the TC members for further comment.

P. Caruso went over the draft timeline for the upcoming sock assessment. He stated that June may be a little early for the assessment; July may be a little more realistic. Age keys and fishery independent indices should all be compiled and completed by February. The model runs will be in March through May. The data workshop will also take place during this time period. The TC will review the assessment in May. The models will then be re-run in May through June. The completed assessment document should be ready by June to be peer reviewed in July. It will then be placed before the Management Board during the August 8 through 11, 2005 meeting week. **The TC agreed with the timeline.**

P. Caruso requested that all data for the assessment be converted to metrics, that age/length data be in two columns, that size classes be in 1 cm ranges, and that the data be sent in Excel format.

**The TC, by consensus, nominated J. McNamee as Vice Chairman.**

P. Himchak brought up a post agenda discussion on black market fish, he felt that this is a problem which he wanted to discuss with the TC and also wanted it brought forward to the Management Board. L. Munger stated that a report from the Enforcement Committee had recently come out which dealt with this topic. She stated that she would email it to the TC.

P. Caruso adjourned the meeting.