

Red Drum Draft Addendum II: Modifying Red Drum Management for Board Review

Sciaenids Management Board August 5, 2025



Outline



Image credit: Ken Neill

- General Introduction/Overview
- For each issue:
 - Statement of the Problem and Background
 - Proposed Management Options
- Board action for consideration today: Consider approving Draft Addendum II for public comment



Introduction - Timeline

Meeting	Action
May 2025	Board initiated addendum
Late May-July 2025	PDT meetings to develop addendum
Aug 5, 2025	Board considers draft addendum for public comment
Late Aug-Sept 2025	Public Comment Period
October 2025	Board reviews public comment and takes final action



Introduction - Management Area

Southern region:
South Carolina
through the Atlantic
coast of Florida

Northern region:
North Carolina
through New Jersey



Proposed Management Options

3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes

Establish a process for states to propose changes to their regulations to meet the required fishing mortality level

3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate Fishing Mortality for Use in Management

Establish a pathway outside of the Commission's assessment process which allows for states to propose new methods to estimate fishing mortality

3.3 Management Requirements

Modify the FMP to require states to set regulations that would be expected to not exceed the threshold $F_{30\%}$ for fishing mortality

3.4 Northern Region Management Options

Consider changes to the recreational bag limits and slot limits for the northern region of red drum to address increasing fishing mortality

3.5 De Minimis Provisions

Update de minimis provisions of the FMP.



Background for 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3

Approved Board motion from Spring 2025:

 For the southern stock of red drum, initiate an addendum to modify the FMP to set the management threshold at F_{30%} and the management goal at $F_{40\%}$. Require all states to set regulations that would be expected to not exceed F30 for fishing mortality in their state. Direct staff to conduct a new stock assessment for red drum with a terminal year of 2031. When evaluating state regulations' ability to not exceed $F_{30\%}$, the Technical Committee shall not consider non-compliance. In the case where states have changed their regulations after the terminal year for F in the 2024 stock assessment, the Technical Committee shall use actual recreational harvest estimates to evaluate F.



Section 3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes



3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes *Background*

- Amendment 2 references one specific paper to direct states on what regulations attain the required level of fishing mortality
- The language in Amendment 2 does not have any flexibility to allow for any alt. methodology to accomplish this

Table 20. Static Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) for range of bag limits for the southern region (SC through FL), with (a) increasing minimum size and (b) decreasing maximum size (Vaughan and Carmichael 2001).

(a)		Incre	asing minimu	m size limit (m	aximum size =	= 27")	
Bag Limit	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	39.7	39.5	39.4	40.3	40.7	41.0	41.5
2	32.1	32.6	33.5	34.9	36.0	36.8	37.4
3	28.7	29.5	31.2	32.7	33.9	34.8	35.6
4	26.8	27.8	29.8	31.4	32.8	33.9	34.7
5	25.7	26.9	28.9	30.8	32.1	33.2	34.0

(b)		Decreasing maximum size (minimum size limit = 14")					
Bag Limit	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	56.8	54.5	52.2	49.6	47.0	44.1	39.7
2	52.8	49.9	46.9	43.7	40.6	37.1	32.1
3	50.8	47.6	44.3	40.8	37.4	33.8	28.7
4	49.7	46.3	42.8	39.2	35.6	31.8	26.8
5	49.1	45.6	42.0	38.3	34.6	30.8	25.7



3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes Statement of the Problem

3.1 Establish a process for states to propose changes to their regulations to meet the required fishing mortality level

- Following the most recent stock assessment, the tables are no longer the best scientific information available
- The Board has expressed interest in allowing for future flexibility, instead of specifying a new methodology
- Would provide southern region states with the tools to be able to address negative stock status



3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes *Proposed Management Options*

 Option A. Status Quo: No process to change management measures using a methodology that differs from Amendment

- Option B. Establish Process to Adjust Management Measures
 - Typically occur following the acceptance of a stock assessment for management use by the Board, to end and prevent overfishing



3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes *Proposed Management Options*

Following the approval of an assessment for management use:

- States develop proposals with regulation options (bag/slot/vessel limits) using Board-approved methodology.
- Proposals reviewed by Red Drum Technical Committee to ensure data and analysis are technically sound.
- Proposals would be presented to and approved by the Board.
- Once proposal is approved, states would select one of the regulation options to implement.



3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes *Proposed Management Options*

Following the approval of an assessment for management use:

1

If a state has already implemented regs to reduce catch following the terminal year of an assessment, data from MRIP would be used to estimate actual reductions achieved.

Requirements:

- Must use MRIP
- Regulations must be in place for at least 3 years before catch reduction can be calculated

4



Section 3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate Fishing Mortality for Use in Management



3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate F Statement of the Problem

Additional guidance received via email:

 Request for a pathway for new methods for estimating F for the evaluation of future regulation changes that states may propose.



3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate F Statement of the Problem

- Proactively address a concern that delays to future assessments may:
 - Delay re-evaluation of red drum management by the states
 - Force states to use outdated or obsolete methodologies to provide management advice
- Current Commission guidelines do not allow analyses submitted outside the Commission's assessment process to be considered for management use until next Commission benchmark assessment



Option A. Status Quo

- Current guidelines say outside assessments should be brought forward during a Commission benchmark stock assessment if a group would like their assessment to be considered for management. Alternative assessments are subject to same standards, documentation, and process as Commission assessments, including SAS, TC, and independent peer review
- Option B. Establish Process to Adjust State Management Measures, Allowing for Alternative Methods to Estimate Fishing Mortality



- Option A. Status Quo
- Option B. Establish Process to Adjust State Management Measures, Allowing for Alternative Methods to Estimate Fishing Mortality
 - Process would allow states to propose methods other than the most recent Board-approved regional benchmark stock assessment to estimate fishing mortality and be used in management





 State(s) submit methods and analyses used to estimate changes in fishing mortality to TC/SAS

2

• TC/SAS review what is submitted to ensure data and analysis are technically sound. The TC/SAS could recommend additional review by the Assessment Science Committee (ASC).

3

 Board would review comments from TC/SAS and ASC, if applicable, to make the decision whether to approve proposed analysis for management use.

If approved for management use by the Board, then the state(s) would submit proposals with management measures following a similar process laid out in 3.1.



If approved for management use by the Board, then the state(s) would submit proposals with management measures following a similar process laid out in 3.1.

- 1
- States develop proposals with regulation options (bag/slot/vessel limits) using Board-approved methodology

- 2
- Proposals reviewed by Red Drum Technical Committee to ensure data and analysis are technically sound.

- 3
- Proposals would be presented to and approved by the Board

- 4
- Once proposal is approved, states would select one of the regulation options to implement.



3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate F TC Discussion and Recommendations

- Red Drum TC and SAS met on June 2 and July 8, 2025 to receive an update on the addendum and discuss several topics from the PDT
- Summary of the TC/SAS discussion can be found in memo, primarily regarding addendum component of establishing a pathway to allow states to propose new methods to estimate fishing mortality outside Commission assessment process



3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate F Key points and recommendations from TC/SAS

- Primary concern: Potential for localized depletion, leading to adverse impacts on stock unit as a whole
 - More research needed to better understand mixing mechanisms
- Need safeguards, like a formal review process, to ensure substock/localized fishing mortality information is consistent with stockwide information
 - Proposed process deviates from Commission's existing process for alternative analyses which ensures alternative analyses undergo same level of external review as base assessment models
 - Estimates from stockwide assessment and sub-stock assessment would not be directly comparable
 - Analyses by groups independent of the SAS further complicate comparison of analyses due to differences in decisions and data treatment



3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate F Key points and recommendations from TC/SAS

- Need to clearly define the quantity being used as basis of fishing mortality info (e.g., SPR, escapement) and how it's calculated
 - Use of different quantities through time may lead to conflicting management advice
- One of the reasons noted for a process which allows for alternative methods to estimate F was concerns related to the timeliness of Commission assessments
 - The Commission has a process for management boards to request expedited assessments
 - TC believes at least a sub-adult generation time, similar to the five-year period recommended by the TC for the next benchmark assessment, is an appropriate minimum for assessing the impact of regulatory changes to stock status and considering new regulations



Section 3.3 Management Requirements



3.3 Management Requirements Statement of the Problem

- 3.3 Modify the FMP to require states to set regulations that would be expected to not exceed the threshold $F_{30\%}$ for fishing mortality in their state
 - Request from the Board to define the level of fishing mortality management measures must not exceed as $F_{30\%}$
 - Will not impact the biological reference points in Amendment 2

3.3 Management Requirements Background

Amendment 2

- Target = SPR of 40%
- Threshold = a SPR below 30%, results in an overfishing determination for red drum
- Required all states within the management unit to:
 - Implement appropriate recreational bag and size limit combinations needed to attain the target SPR



Image credit: GADNR, Chris Kalinowsky



3.3 Management Requirements Proposed Management Options

- Specifies a fishing mortality level which states would be required to achieve through proposed and implemented management measures
- Option A. Status Quo: States must implement an appropriate bag and size limit which will attain the target of 40% SPR or $F_{40\%}$
- Option B. Establish Required Fishing Mortality Level of 30%
 SPR or F_{30%}



Clarification needed from the Board

- Are the following two items meant to apply to the entire management unit or just the southern region?
 - 3.2 Establish a pathway outside of the Commission's assessment process which allows for states to propose new methods to estimate fishing mortality
 - 3.3 Modify the FMP to require states to set regulations that would be expected to not exceed the threshold $F_{30\%}$ for fishing mortality



Section 3.4 Northern Region Management Options



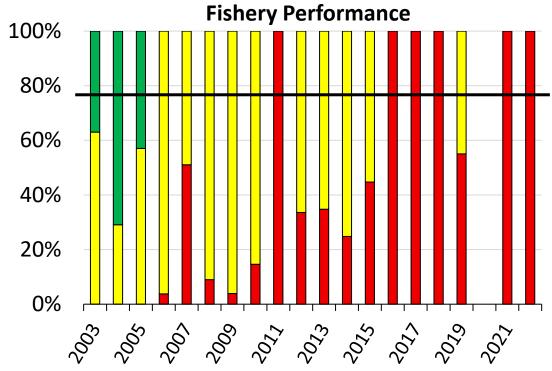
Approved Board motion from Spring 2025:

Initiate an addendum to consider changes to the recreational bag limits and slot limits for the northern stock of red drum to address increasing fishing mortality and to update *de minimis* provisions of the FMP.



3.4 Consider changes to the recreational bag limits and slot limits for the northern region of red drum to address increasing fishing mortality

 Although not found to be overfished or experiencing overfishing, an increasing trend in fishing mortality has been observed in the northern region





3.4 Consider changes to the recreational bag limits and slot limits for the northern region of red drum to address increasing fishing mortality

- Current management may no longer be appropriate to constrain harvest to appropriate levels
- Concern with increased numbers of red drum observed in the Chesapeake Bay in recent years + continued restrictive regulations of other traditional Chesapeake Bay sportfish



Image credit: MD DNR



3.4 Consider changes to the recreational bag limits and slot limits for the northern region of red drum to address increasing fishing mortality

 Secondarily, could also provide the northern region the opportunity to align regulations, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay

State	Recreational
NJ	18" - 27", 1 fish
DE	20" - 27", 5 fish
MD	18" - 27", 1 fish
PRFC	18" - 25", 5 fish
VA	18" - 26", 3 fish
NC	18" - 27", 1 fish



3.4 Northern Region Management Options *Proposed Management Options*

- Reductions achieved by any proposed regulations for the northern region cannot be calculated for the region as a whole due to limited data in states north of Virginia
- Appendix 1 has reductions achieved for several potential regulation changes in NC and VA.



Image credit: Ken Neill



3.4 Northern Region Management Options *Proposed Management Options*

- Option A. Status Quo: No required changes to current management measures in Northern region
- Option B. Chesapeake Bay Jurisdictions Modifications
 - All Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions would establish measures limiting recreational harvest to a Board specified bag limit of either 3, 2, or 1 fish per person per day and establish measures limiting recreational harvest to a Board specified slot size limit between 18" and 26".

State	Recreational
NJ	18" - 27", 1 fish
DE	20" - 27", 5 fish
MD	18" - 27", 1 fish
PRFC	18" - 25", 5 fish
VA	18" - 26", 3 fish
NC	18" - 27", 1 fish



3.4 Northern Region Management Options *Proposed Management Options*

- Option A. Status Quo: No required changes to current management measures in Northern region
- Option B. Chesapeake Bay Jurisdictions Modifications
 - All Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions would establish measures limiting recreational harvest to a Board specified bag limit of either 3, 2, or 1 fish per person per day and establish measures limiting recreational harvest to a Board specified slot size limit between 18" and 26".
- Option C. North Carolina Slot Size Limit Modifications
 - North Carolina would establish measures limiting recreational harvest to a Board-specified size limit between 18" and 26".
- Option D. Full Northern Region Modifications
 - **Sub-Option D1.** All states within the northern region would adjust the minimum size of their slot-size limit to be no less than 19".
 - <u>Sub-Option D2</u>. All states within the northern region would adjust the maximum size of their slot-size limit to a Board-specified maximum
 - Sub-Option D3. All states within the northern region would adjust their slot-size limit to be no less than 19" and must adjust the maximum size of their slot-size limit to a Boardspecified maximum



Section 3.5 De Minimis Provisions



3.5 *De Minimis* Provisions *Statement of the Problem*

3.5 Update de minimis provisions of the FMP.

- De minimis reduces the management burden for states whose measures would have a negligible effect on the conservation of a species
- In 2022, the Policy Board approved an updated De Minimis Policy, which contains:
 - a specific definition for states to be considered de minimis
 - a requirement that an FMP must establish a set of measures for de minimis states that would not have to change annually.
- Opportunity to establish specific de minimis provisions in red drum FMP to meet requirements in the 2022 Policy



3.5 *De Minimis* Provisions *Proposed Management Options*

- Option A. Status Quo: No specified de minimis requirements
- Option B. Update De Minimis Provisions
 - <u>Sub-Option B1. Coastwide De Minimis</u>: State would be considered de minimis if the average total landings for the last three years is less than 1% of coastwide total landings.
 - <u>Sub-Option B2. Regional *De Minimis*</u>: State would be considered *de minimis* if the average total landings for the last three years is less than 1% of total landings from its respective management region



3.5 *De Minimis* Provisions *Proposed Management Options*

- Option B. Update De Minimis Provisions
 - Sub-Option B1. Coastwide De Minimis: State would be considered de minimis if the average total landings for the last three years is less than 1% of coastwide total landings.
 - Sub-Option B2. Regional De Minimis: State would be considered de minimis if the average total landings for the last three years is less than 1% of total landings from its respective management region

For both sub-options:

- 1. The Plan Review Team and/or the TC would recommend commercial (if applicable) and recreational measures for *de minimis* states.
- 2. The Board would review the recommendation made by the PRT and/or TC and approve the *de minimis* measures.
- 3. All *de minimis* states would implement the *de minimis* measures, unless more restrictive regulations are already in place.



Board action for consideration today: Consider approving Draft Addendum II for public comment

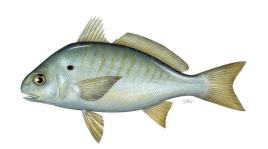


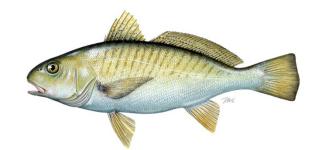
Questions?



Image credit: Ken Neill







2025 Traffic Light Analysis for Spot and Atlantic Croaker

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Sciaenids Management Board
Summer Meeting
August 5, 2025



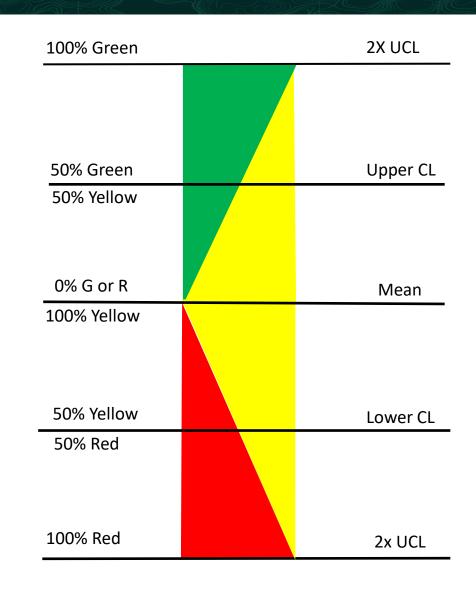
Outline

- 1. Brief description of TLA Methodology and Current Management Measures
- 2. 2025 TLA for Spot
- 3. 2025 TLA for Atlantic Croaker



TLA Calculation Review

- Index proportion of color is calculated using the mean and 95% confidence limits of the 2002 – 2012 reference period.
- Indices are combined into two metrics for each species: Harvest and Adult Abundance by region.





TLA Metrics Monitored

Spot



- By region
 - NJ VA & NC FL
- Harvest Metric:
 - Recreational
 - Commercial
- Adult 1+ Abundance Metric
 - Mid-Atlantic:
 - ChesMMAP Survey
 - NEFSC Trawl Survey
 - South-Atlantic:
 - SEAMAP
 - NC DMF Pamlico Sound Survey

Croaker



- By region
 - NJ VA & NC FL
- Harvest Metric:
 - Recreational
 - Commercial
- Adult 2+ Abundance Metric
 - Mid-Atlantic:
 - ChesMMAP Survey
 - NEFSC Trawl Survey
 - South-Atlantic:
 - SEAMAP
 - SC DNR Trammel Net Survey

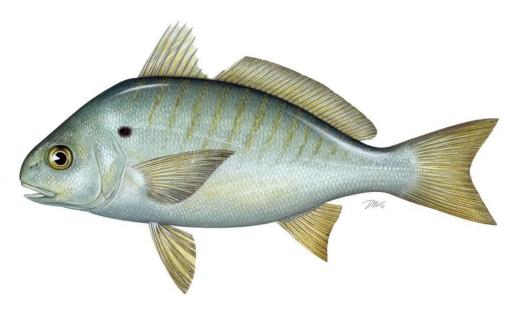


TLA Management Trigger

	Cro	aker	Spot		
Percentage Red	30%	60%	30%	60%	
Commercial	1% reduction	5% reduction	1% reduction	10% reduction	
Recreational	50 person/day	40 person/day	50 person/day	40 person/day	

- Both the spot and Atlantic croaker TLAs triggered at the 30% threshold in 2020
- Croaker: measures in place for at least 3 years
- Spot: measures in place for at least 2 years
- States with more restrictive measures will keep them in place
- Regulation can be relaxed when the Abundance metric is no longer trigged.





Spot



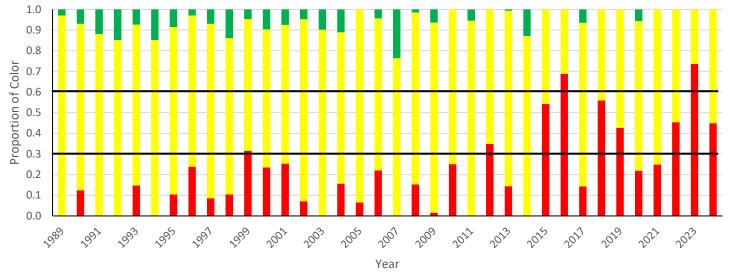
2025 Spot TLA: Harvest Composite Indices

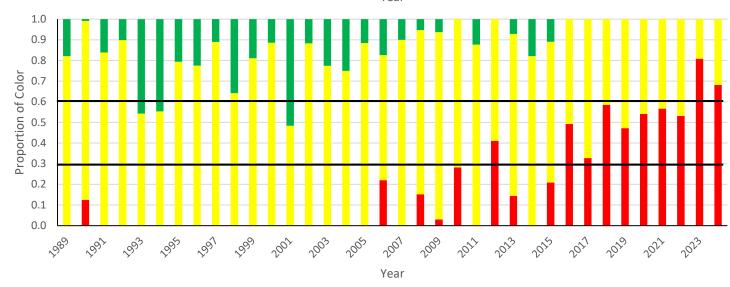
Mid-Atlantic

- 45% red in 2024
- Over the 30% threshold past three years

South Atlantic

- 68% red in 2024
- Ninth year in a row above the 30% threshold
- Over the 60% threshold the past two years







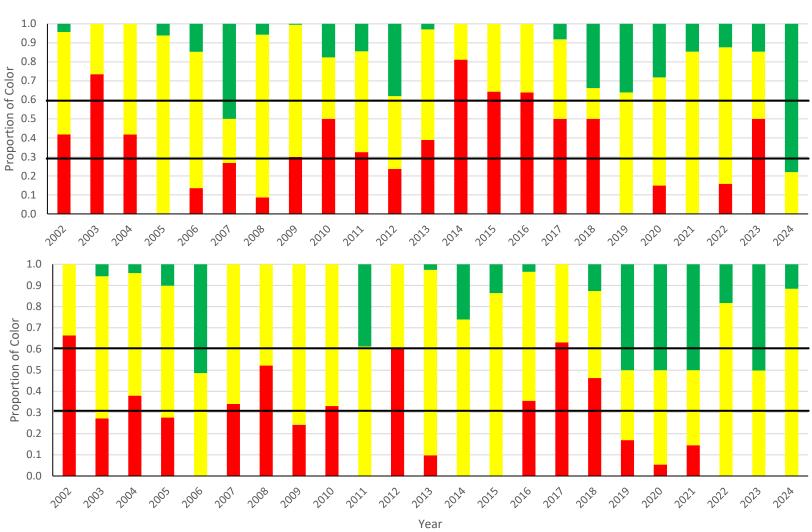
2025 TLA for Spot: Abundance Composite Indices

Mid-Atlantic

- Status is no longer exceeds a threshold
- No red in 2024
- Only one of the three terminal years above 30% Red

South Atlantic

- Status is no longer exceeds a threshold
- No red 2022 through 2024.



2025 TLA for Spot: Summary

Not triggered and management action no longer required

TLA Metric		2024 TLA			
TLA METIC	2022	2023	2024	Status	
Mid-Atlantic Harvest	45% red	74% red	45% red	Tripped	
South Atlantic Harvest	53% red	81% red	68% red	Tripped	
Mid-Atlantic Adult Index	16% red	50% red	0% red	Not Tripped	
South Atlantic Adult Index	0% red	0% red	0% red		

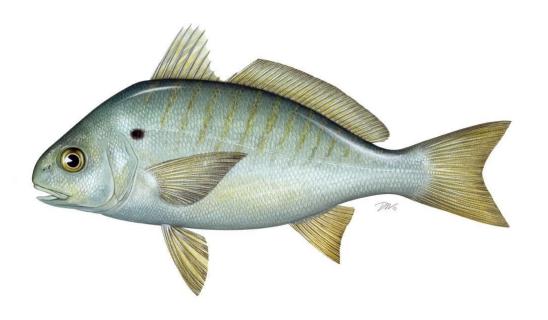


2025 Spot TLA: TC Management Recommendation

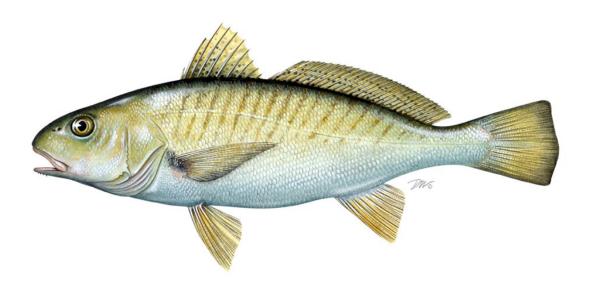
- The TC recommends maintaining current regulations for the 2026 fishing year.
 - Harvest metric was above the 30% threshold in both regions for the past three years.
 - The adult abundance metric in both regions are not tripped, but Mid-Atlantic was at 50% red in 2023.
 - Moving forward the harvest metric will continue to be considered in future spot TLA evaluations.
 - A benchmark stock assessment is scheduled to follow the Atlantic Croaker Assessment, (hopefully) early 2026.



Questions?







Atlantic Croaker



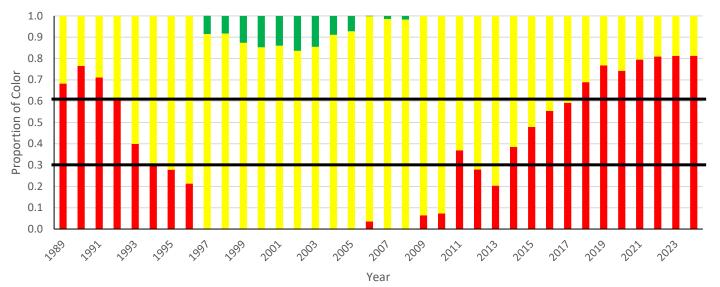
2025 Atlantic Croaker TLA: Harvest Composite Indices

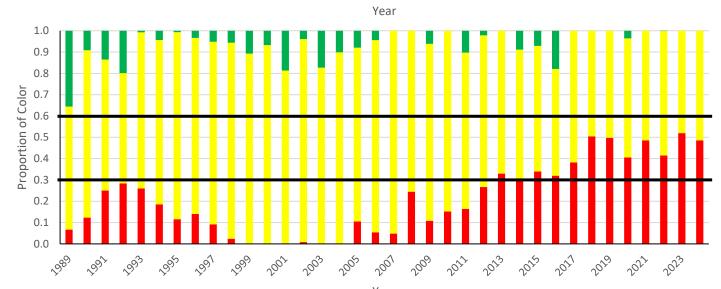
Mid-Atlantic

- 81 % red in 2024
- Exceeds 60 % threshold in all four terminal years

South Atlantic

- 49 % red in 2024
- Exceeds 30 % threshold in all four terminal years







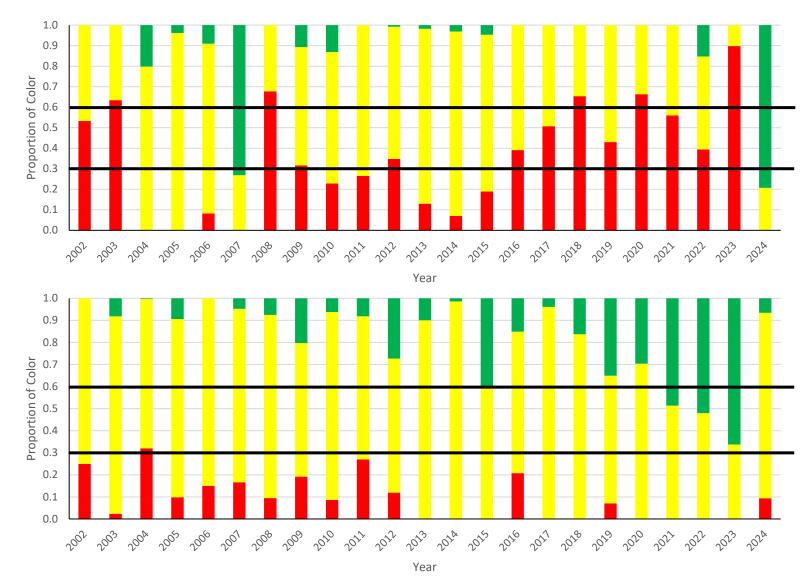
2025 Atlantic Croaker TLA: Abundance Composite Indices

• Mid-Atlantic

- 0 % red in 2024
- Exceeds 30 % threshold in three of four terminal years

South Atlantic

- 9 % red in 2024
- Predominantly green and yellow for last four years





2025 TLA for Atlantic Croaker: Summary

TLA Metric		2024 TLA			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	Status
Mid-Atlantic Harvest*	79% red	81% red	81% red	81% red	Unknown*
South Atlantic Harvest*	49% red	41% red	52% red	49% red	
Mid-Atlantic Adult Index	56% red	39% red	90% red	0% red	Tripped
South Atlantic Adult Index	0% red	0% red	0% red	9% red	
Overall					Triggered

^{*}Harvest metrics cannot be interpreted as a trigger mechanism in the TLA since catch restrictions to lower harvest were in place beginning in 2021 and Atlantic Croaker harvest and abundance have not been in an untriggered status since restrictions were implemented.

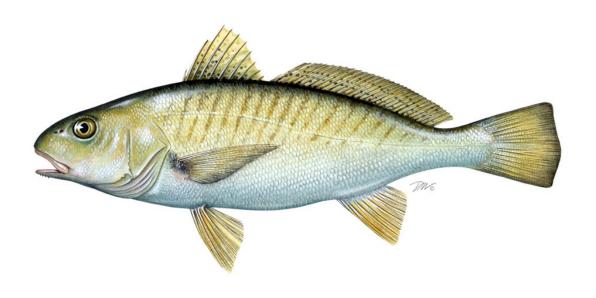


2025 Atlantic Croaker TLA: TC Management Recommendation

- The TC recommends maintaining current regulations for the 2026 fishing year.
 - There is no indication that more restrictive measures are necessary since the adult abundance metric did not reach 60% threshold in the Mid-Atlantic and did not reach 30% threshold in the South Atlantic
 - TC did not want to recommend more restrictive measures since the Atlantic croaker stock assessment is expected to be completed within the next year.



Questions?

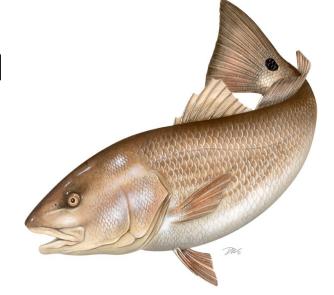




Red Drum and Atlantic Croaker Fishery Management Plan Reviews

Sciaenids Management Board August 5, 2025







Overview

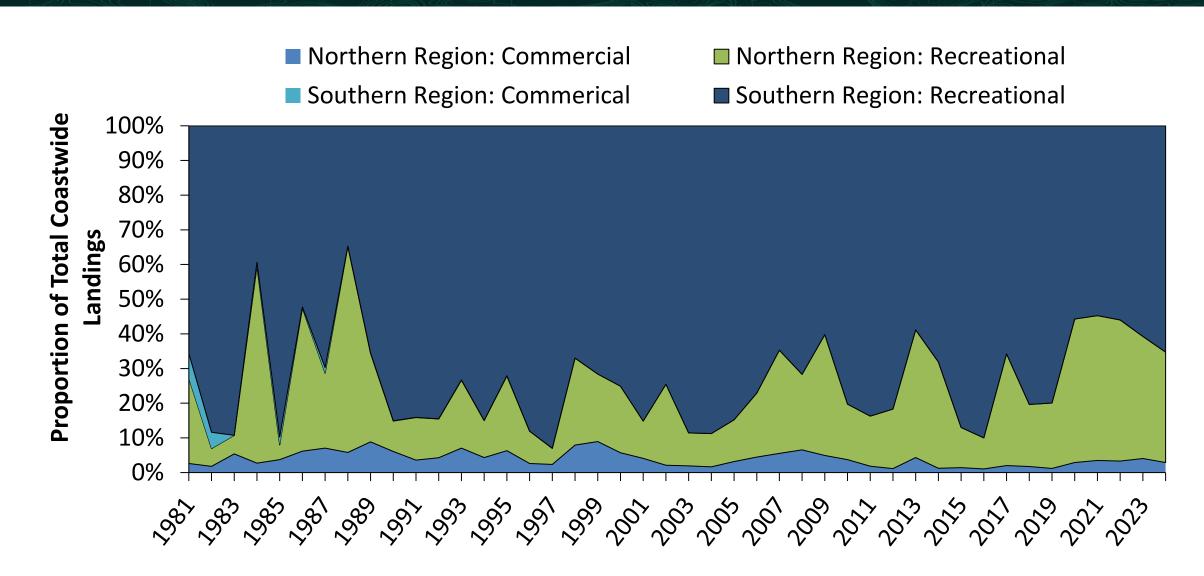
- Red Drum
 - Status of the Fishery
 - PRT Recommendations
- Atlantic Croaker
 - Status of the Fishery Management Plan
 - Status of the Fishery
 - De minimis Requests
 - PRT Recommendations



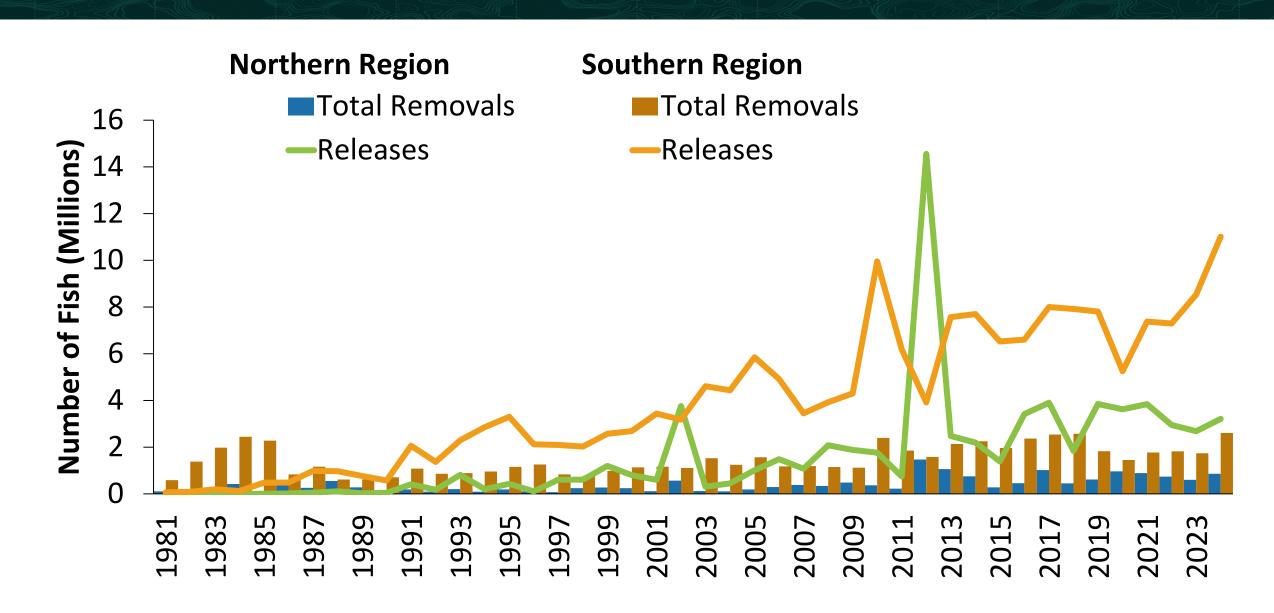
Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Review



Status of the Fishery – Total Landings



Status of the Fishery – Recreational Removals



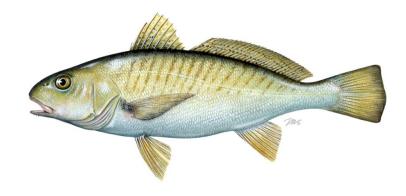


PRT Recommendations

- No inconsistencies found among states with regard to FMP requirements
- PRT recommends the approval of state compliance reports and de minimis status for New Jersey and Delaware
- Additional research/monitoring recommendations found in FMP Review, 2024 Red Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report, and the Red Drum Simulation Assessment and Peer Review Report



Atlantic Croaker Fishery Management Plan Review

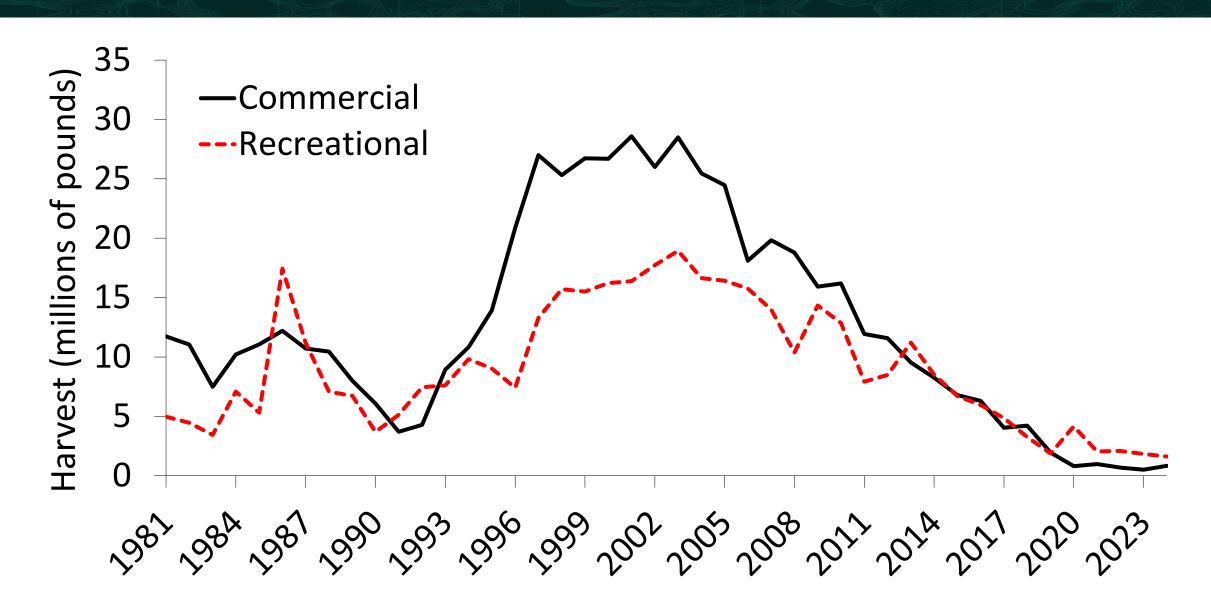




Status of the Fishery Management Plan

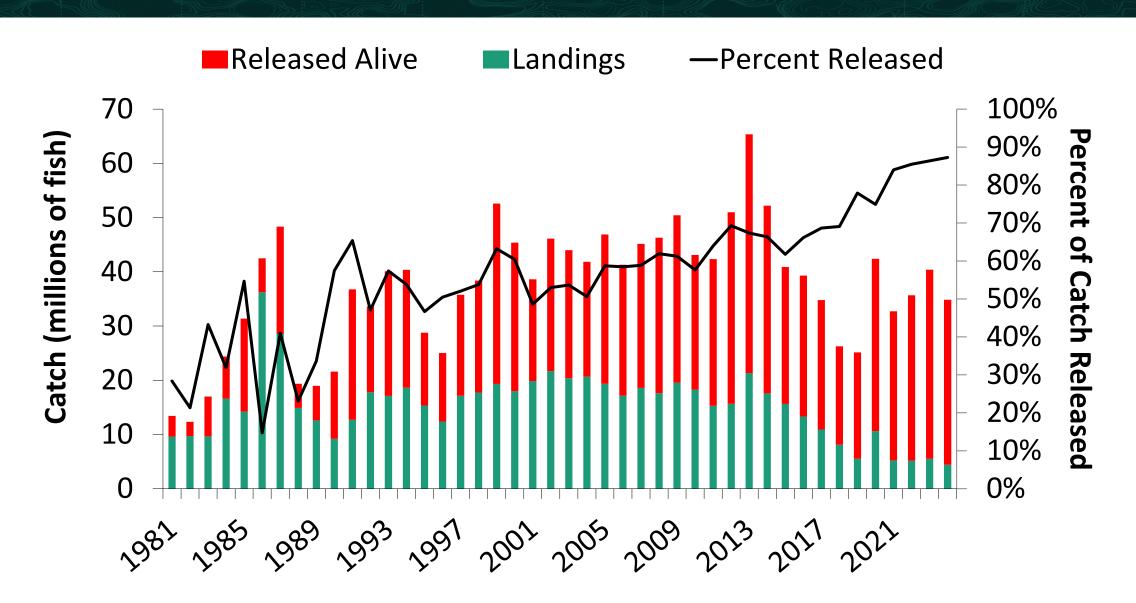
- Amendment 1 (2005)
- Addenda I, II, and III (2011, 2014, 2020)

Status of the Fishery – Atlantic Croaker Landings





Marine Fisheries Status of the Fishery - Recreational Catch





De Minimis Requests

- The 3-year average commercial or recreational landings (by weight) constitute less than 1% of the coastwide commercial or recreational landings for the same three-year period
- Qualify for de minimis in either recreational or commercial sector, or both
- Will only qualify for exemptions in the sector(s) that it qualifies for as *de minimis*



De Minimis Requests

- Commercial: New Jersey, South Carolina, and Georgia
 - South Carolina and Georgia meet de minimis requirements
 - New Jersey does not meet de minimis requirements, at 3.4%. However, this is the first year NJ has been above commercial de minimis threshold in approximately 9 years



De Minimis Requests

- Commercial: New Jersey, South Carolina, and Georgia
 - South Carolina and Georgia meet de minimis requirements
 - New Jersey does not meet de minimis requirements, at 3.4%. However, this is the first year NJ has been above commercial de minimis threshold in approximately 9 years
- Recreational: New Jersey
 - -Exceeded the 1% threshold at 1.7%
 - -Second year in a row NJ has exceeded threshold



PRT Recommendations

- No inconsistencies found among states with regard to FMP requirements
- PRT recommends approval of state compliance reports and de minimis status for New Jersey, South Carolina, and Georgia commercial fisheries
- PRT does not recommend de minimis for New Jersey's recreational fishery
 - In line with their recommendation last year
 - 2025 update of the TLA indicates a continued triggered state for Atlantic croaker at the 30% threshold
 - NJ is currently the only state in the management unit with no recreational regulations for Atlantic croaker



PRT Recommendations

- Delaware did not request *de minimis* for their commercial fishery, exceeded 1% threshold again this year, at 1.9%.
 - Will be required to implement measures that achieve a 1% reduction in most recent 10-years average of commercial harvest
- Additional research/monitoring recommendations found in FMP Review document



Board Action

 Motions on approval/disapproval of FMP reviews, state compliance reports, and de minimis requests for red drum and Atlantic croaker.



Questions?