



Atlantic States
Marine Fisheries
COMMISSION

Red Drum Draft Addendum II Modifying Red Drum Management

Public Hearings
September 2025

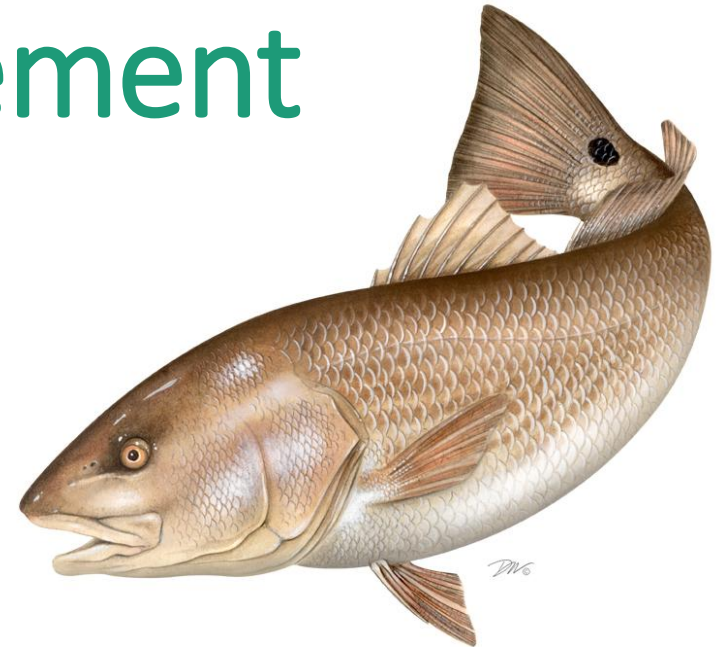
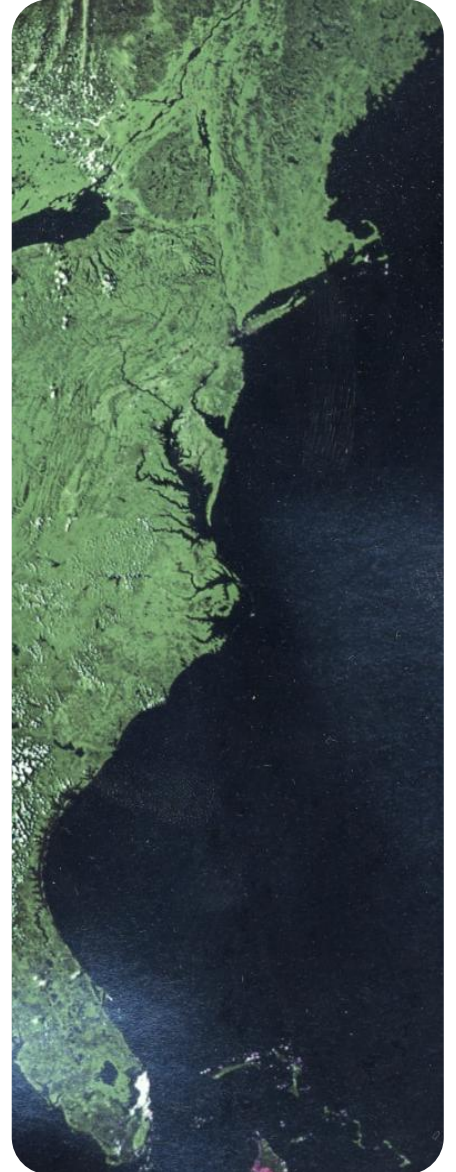




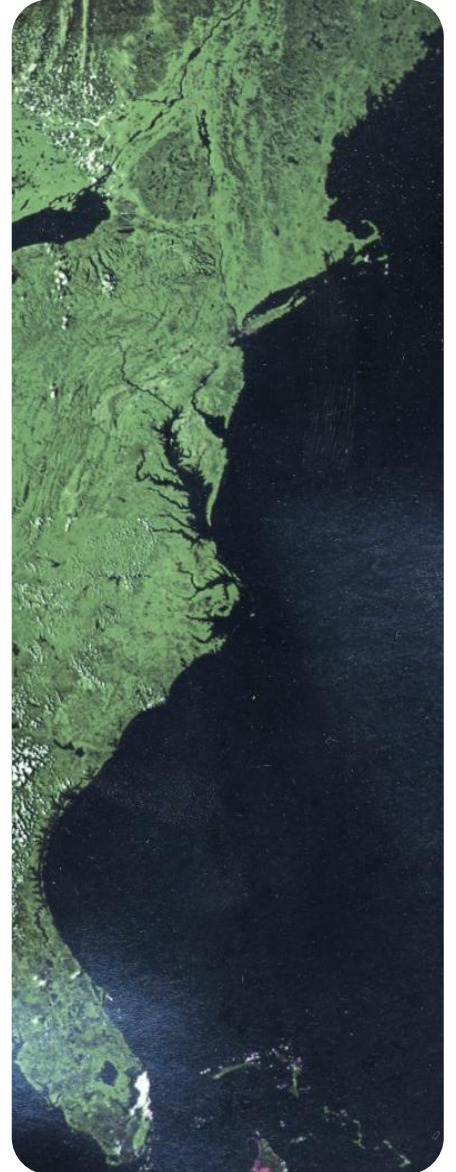
Image credit: Ken Neill

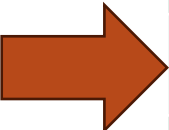
- Overview of ASMFC
- Draft Addendum II
 - Timeline
 - Background
 - Statement of the Problem and Proposed Management Options

- Formed in 1942 – Interstate Compact
- 15 Atlantic coast states: ME – FL
- Coordinates management 0 – 3 miles from shore
- Deliberative forum for states
- 3 Commissioners from each state
- Each state has one vote



- Sciaenids Management Board:
 - New Jersey through Florida
 - Potomac River Fisheries Commission
 - National Marine Fisheries Service



Meeting	Action
October 2024	Board approved benchmark assessment for management use, tasked TC with analyses to assist with next steps
November 2024 – April 2025	Red Drum TC met and completed analysis
May 2025	Board reviewed analysis and initiated addendum
Late May – July 2025	Red Drum PDT met to develop addendum
August 5, 2025	Board approved draft addendum for public comment
 September 2025	Public Comment Period
October 27-30, 2025	Board reviews public comment and takes final action

- Red drum is currently managed under **Amendment 2 to the Red Drum Interstate Fishery Management Plan (2002)**

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Red Drum Management Areas

Southern region:
South Carolina
through the Atlantic
coast of Florida

Northern region:
North Carolina
through New Jersey

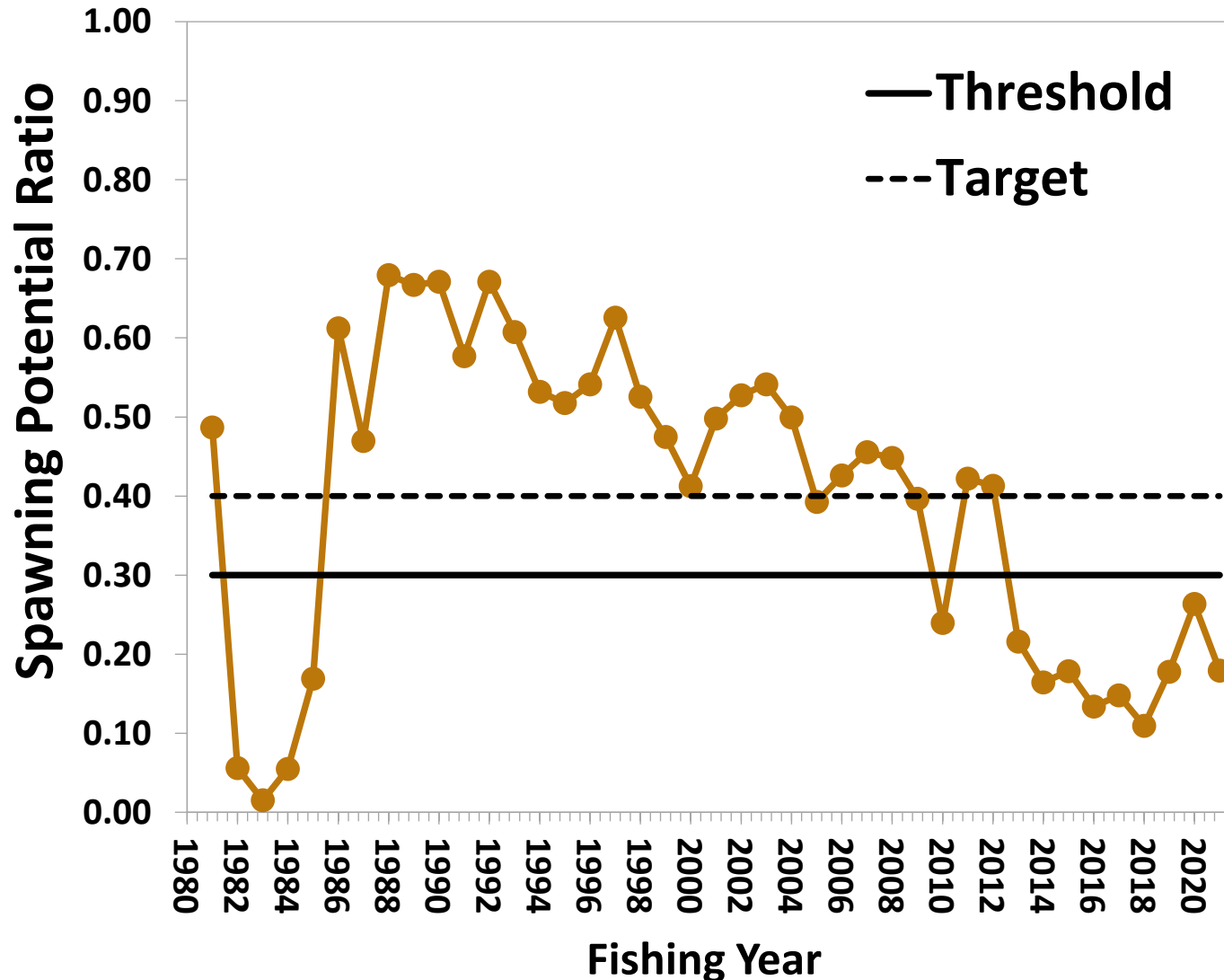
2024 Benchmark Stock Assessment

Southern region: South Carolina through the Atlantic coast of Florida

- *Overfished and experiencing overfishing*

Northern region: North Carolina through New Jersey

- *Not overfished and not experiencing overfishing*
- However, assessment observed an increasing trend in fishing mortality



Amendment 2 (2002)
Biological reference points

Target = 40% Spawning
Potential Ratio or $F_{40\%}$

Threshold = 30%
Spawning Potential Ratio
or $F_{30\%}$ = overfishing

Amendment 2 (2002)

- States must implement bag and size limits that attain management target, 40% SPR
- Specifies method states need to use to determine what regulations attain the target
- No flexibility to use any other method



Image credit: MD DNR

Proposed Management Options

3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes

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

3.3 Management Program

3.4 Northern Region Management Options

3.5 *De Minimis* Provisions



Section 3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes

Would apply to both northern and southern regions

3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes

Statement of the Problem

- The methodology in Amendment 2 which states would use to determine regulations that attain the fishing mortality goal is no longer the best scientific information available after the most recent assessment
- The Board has expressed interest in allowing for flexibility in the future, instead of specifying a new methodology
- Purpose is to provide southern region states with the tools to be able to address negative stock status

3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes

Statement of the Problem

- The methodology in Amendment 2 which states would use to determine regulations that attain the fishing mortality goal is no longer the best scientific information available after the most recent assessment
- The Board has expressed interest in allowing for flexibility in the future, instead of specifying a new methodology
- Purpose is to provide southern region states with the tools to be able to address negative stock status

This issue does not provide specific regulation options, but the process states would use to propose the regulations

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 2
- **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

- **Option A. Status Quo**: No process to change management measures using a methodology that differs from Amendment 2
- **Option B. Establish Process to Adjust Management Measures**
 - If a state has already implemented regs to reduce catch following the last year of an assessment, data from MRIP could be used to estimate actual reductions achieved.
 - Regs must be in place for at least 3 years before catch reduction can be calculated

3.1 Alternative State Management Regimes

Proposed Management Options

Option B. Establish Process to Adjust Management Measures

Following the approval of an assessment for management use:

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.



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

May apply to both northern and southern regions

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

3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate F

Proposed Management Options

- **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**

3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate F *Proposed Management Options*

- 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

3.2 Allow Alternative Methods to Estimate F

Proposed Management Options

1

- State(s) submit methods and analyses used to estimate changes in fishing mortality to Technical Committee

2

- TC review to ensure data and analysis are technically sound. The Board can request additional review by Assessment Science Committee.

3

- Board review comments from TC 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.

Process to Allow Alt. Methods to Estimate F

1

- State(s) submit methods and analyses used to estimate changes in fishing mortality to Technical Committee

2

- TC review submitted data and analysis. The Board can request additional review by Assessment Science Committee.

3

- Board reviews comments from TC and ASC, if applicable, and decide whether to approve analysis for management use.

Process to Adjust Management Measures

1

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

2

- Proposals reviewed by Red Drum TC 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

Considerations from Technical Committee

Focus of discussion: Using a sub-stock assessment in addition to a stockwide assessment to manage red drum

- There is potential for localized depletion, leading to adverse impacts on stock as a whole
- Need safeguards, like formal review process, to ensure sub-stock/localized fishing mortality information is consistent with stockwide information



Section 3.3 Management Program

May apply to both northern and southern regions

3.3 Management Program

Statement of the Problem

- 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



Image credit: GADNR, Chris Kalinowsky

3.3 Management Program

Proposed Management Options

Specifies a fishing mortality level which states would need to achieve through proposed and implemented regulations

- **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 $F_{30\%}$

May apply to both northern and southern regions

3.3 Management Program

Proposed Management Options

Specifies a fishing mortality level which states would need to achieve through proposed and implemented regulations

Option A –

$F_{40\%}$ (Status Quo)



Decreases
probability of
unsustainable
harvest and
further stock
declines

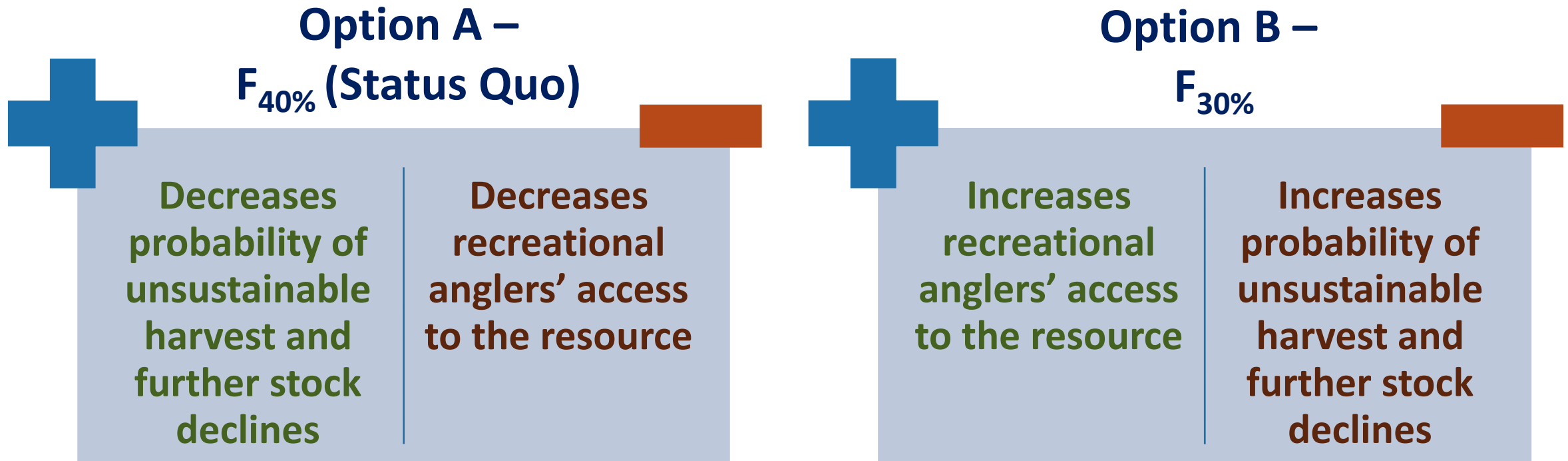


Decreases
recreational
anglers' access
to the resource

3.3 Management Program

Proposed Management Options

Specifies a fishing mortality level which states would need to achieve through proposed and implemented regulations



3.3 Management Program

Appendix I

Specifies a fishing mortality level which states would need to achieve through proposed and implemented regulations

*Specific to results from
2024 Benchmark Stock
Assessment for
southern region*

	F Level	Catch Reduction Needed from 2019- 2021 Average F Catch
Option A (Status Quo)	$F_{40\%}$	28.1%
Option B	$F_{30\%}$	14.4%



Section 3.4 Northern Region Management Options

Would apply to only the northern region

3.4 Northern Region Management Options

Statement of the Problem

- 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 + declining abundance of traditional Chesapeake Bay sportfish

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



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
MD	18" - 27", 1 fish
PRFC	18" - 25", 5 fish
VA	18" - 26", 3 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”.



Section 3.5 *De Minimis* Provisions

Would apply to both northern and southern regions

3.5 *De Minimis* Provisions

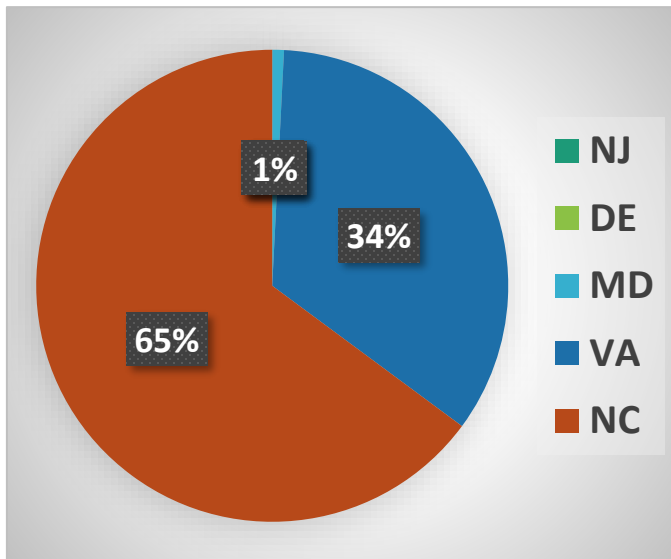
Statement of the Problem

- *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

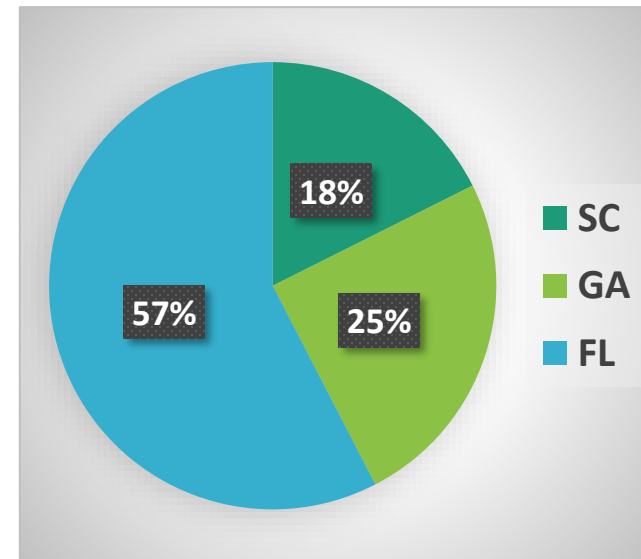
3.5 *De Minimis* Provisions *Proposed Management Options*

- **Option A. Status Quo**: No specified *de minimis* requirements
- **Option B. Update *De Minimis* Provisions**: 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

Northern Region



Southern Region





**Atlantic States
Marine Fisheries**
COMMISSION

How to Provide Public Comment

Public Hearing Schedule

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency
Monday, September 15 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Florida Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission
Tuesday, September 16 <i>Hybrid Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Wednesday, September 17 <i>Hybrid Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Thursday, September 18 <i>Hybrid Hearing</i> 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Monday, September 22 <i>Webinar Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Public Hearing Webinar
Tuesday, September 23 <i>Hybrid Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Wednesday, September 24 <i>In-person Hearing</i> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Draft Addendum II and Public Hearings on Action Tracker page

<https://asmfc.org/actions/red-drum-draft-addendum-ii/>

YouTube Presentation Recording



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Submit Written Comments to:

- 1. Mail:** Tracey Bauer, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
- 2. Email:** comments@asmfc.org
Subject line: “Red Drum Draft Addendum II”
- 3. Online:** <https://asmfc.org/actions/red-drum-draft-addendum-ii/>

**Deadline for Public Comments is
11:59 PM October 1, 2025**