

# Recreational Coastal Fisheries Forum

## October 16, 2015

## Recreational Fisheries Forum

# Agenda

1. DNR Topics
  - a) Announcements
  - b) Management Tools
  - c) Summer Flounder
  - d) Catch Rate Survey (APAIS)/MRIP Update
  
2. Topics from You
  - a) Commercial Activity
    - Commercial clamming in the Coastal Bays
    - Current commercial fishing in the Coastal Bays of Maryland
    - Future commercial fishing in the Coastal Bays of Maryland
  - b) Stocks
    - Spot and mullet in the back bays
    - Perceived threat to the feed stocks from rays
  
3. Open Discussion

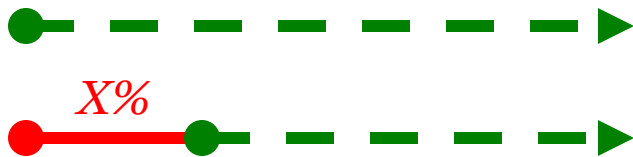
# Management Tools

~Changing Regulations to Achieve Reductions ~

*There are 3 'Tools for Management'*

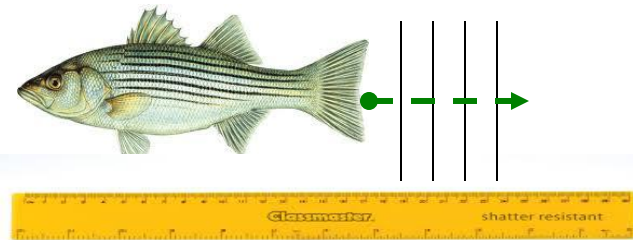
**Fishing Season**

(April 18<sup>th</sup> until May 15<sup>th</sup>)

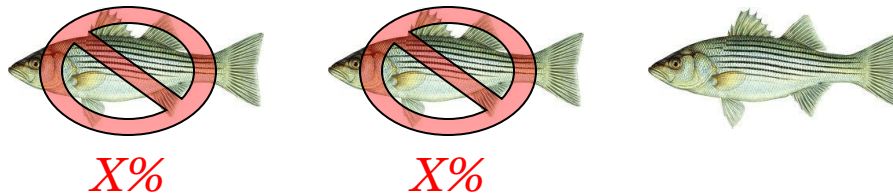


**Size Limits**

*X% per inch*



**Creel/Bag Limits**



# Summer Flounder

## Summer Flounder

Upcoming quota cut will be discussed at the November ASMFC meeting

- Management measures, season, creel size – toolbox
- Are you interested in continuing regionalization with Delaware and Virginia?

Current Coastal and Chesapeake Bay Regulations:

- Open year round
- 16 inches
- Creel - 4



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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# Catch Rate Survey (APAIS)/MRIP Update

## Catch Rate Survey (APAIS)/MRIP Update

### Catch Rate Survey

- The ASMFC took over October 1 as contractor under NMFS.
- Atlantic coastal states have 2 options:
  - Option 1. Conduct the survey (as a sub-contractor to ASMFC)
  - Option 2. Allow ASMFC to conduct the survey in your state.
- Option 1, conduct the APAIS
- We are in the process of hiring staff, and will be training in the winter to begin field sampling March 1.



## **Catch Rate Survey (APAIS)/MRIP Update**

### **Effort Survey**

- This survey is transitioning from a telephone survey to a mail survey.
- Telephone and mail surveys will be conducted side-by-side for at least 2 more years.
- MRIP estimates will use the telephone survey during that time.

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### Topics from You

#### 2. Topics from You

##### a) Commercial Activity

- Commercial clamming in the Coastal Bays
- Current commercial fishing in the Coastal Bays of Maryland
- Future commercial fishing in the Coastal Bays of Maryland

##### b) Stocks

- Spot and mullet in the back bays
- Perceived threat to the feed stocks from rays

## **Is there commercial clamming in the Coastal Bays?**

- Mechanical dredging for clams in the Coastal Bays has been banned (2008).
- We have heard from the commercial community that they would like to open it up to mechanical harvesting except for hydraulic escalator dredging.
- A legislative bill would be needed for that to change. Commercial clamming is currently limited to any hand gear (ex. rakes).

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# What commercial fishing is currently being done in the Coastal Bays of Maryland?

### **Main Species:**

**Bluefish**

Minnows

Croaker

**Menhaden**

Eel

**Spot**

**Blue crab, soft**

**Blue crab, hard**

Channel Whelk

### **Common Gears:**

Gill netting

Crab pots

Conch pots

Commercial trawling is not allowed

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### **What commercial fishing is being considered in the future for the Coastal Bays of Maryland?**

- The Department is not specifically developing any new fisheries.
- Macroalgae – has been brought to our attention
- Shrimp – had some questions about harvesting this year

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### **What is being done about bunker, spot, and finger mullet in the back bays?**

- Menhaden – ASMFC FMP
- Stock assessment is in the works for spot
- We are not currently managing white or striped mullet. They are measured and counted in our seine survey. Mullet may be included in the MAFMC Unmanaged Forage Species plan.

## **Comment on the perceived threat to the feed stocks from rays.**

- Rays do eat molluscs
- Aquaculture uses netting
- The extent of their impact to hard clams in the Coastal Bays is unknown.

# Open Discussion?