

Commercial Fisheries Forum

October 16, 2015

Commercial Fisheries Forum

Agenda

1. DNR Topics
 - a) Announcements
 - b) State of Commercial Fisheries & Management Opportunities
 - c) Electronic Reporting
 - d) Menhaden
 - e) Blueline Tilefish
2. Topics from You
 - a) Blue Crabs - Declaration, Hours
 - b) Horseshoe Crab Female Harvest Timeline
 - c) Past 6 Month Review
3. Open Discussion
4. Spiny Dogfish Workgroup Meeting

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Announcements

1. Striped Bass Sampling Handout
2. New Fisheries Service Director, David Blazer
3. Constituent Liaison, George O'Donnell

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State of Commercial Fisheries and Management Opportunities

We are concerned about the hardships resulting from regulatory changes and quota management (ex. summer flounder, black sea bass, spiny dogfish, female horseshoe crabs (HSC), lobster, bluefish).

We realize that the credibility of the science and management is being questioned. In many cases we are bound by MSA / Council Risk Policy.

What can we do about this? Via ASMFC /MAFMC

- Ongoing: Promote MSA modifications to provide flexibility for managers
- Planned 2016: Quota Setting...(SF,BSB,Scup,Blue,SD) - Risk Policy (MAFMC)
- Planned 2016-2018: Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment (Joint)
- Planned 2016: Chronic quota management issues (ex. BSB Mass) (Joint)
- Planned 2015/2016: Modify SD quota – (Joint)
- State Level (Now): Work to maximize catch, increase spiny dogfish trip limit
- Possible 2016/2017: Female HSC harvest. (ASMFC)
- Ongoing: Lobster assessment/management, collecting biological data

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State of Commercial Fisheries and Management Opportunities

What can you do about this?

- Serve on Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)/Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) Advisory Panels
- Attend ASMFC/MAFMC meetings, webinars
- Continue attending local public meetings
- Submit public comments
- Network with neighboring commercial communities
- Stay in contact with us
- Continue supporting at sea sampling programs
- Sign up for ASMFC, MAFMC, and NOAA emails
- Learn more about the MAFMC [online](#) – A Guide to Navigating the Council Process
- Learn more about the [ASMFC](#)

Electronic Reporting

Electronic Reporting

Goal – Work with commercial fishermen and dealers to design an online tool that fulfills State and Federal reporting requirements.

Benefits

- Eliminate redundancy, One place to report, saves time
- No more lost in the mail reports
- Improves harvest monitoring
- Timely opening/closures of fisheries

Timeline

- Seeking funding for Summer/Fall 2016
- Industry involvement

Menhaden

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ASMFC update

- No decisions in November 2015
- Reports from Allocation and Ecosystem Reference Point workgroups.
- Allocation:
 - a list of options developed including status quo.
 - Board will discuss list.
 - Approved list will go into a document for public comment – beginning the Amendment 3 process*.

ASMFC Amendment 3 for menhaden

- Addresses allocation and ecological reference points (amount of fish to be conserved for forage).
- Long process – multiple years in development.
- First step would be release of a public information document (PID) that contains all options for allocation, and allows for public comment.
- PID will not be released until sometime in 2016.

Allocation options on list

- Status quo
- Coast wide quota
- Regional quotas
- Bait and reduction quotas
- Minimum state quotas (each state begins with some minimum level and then is allocated the rest based on harvest history).
- Fleet Capacity Quotas
 - 3 category (puts Pound Nets and Gill Nets together)
 - 2 category – Purse Seine and Non Purse Seine Gears

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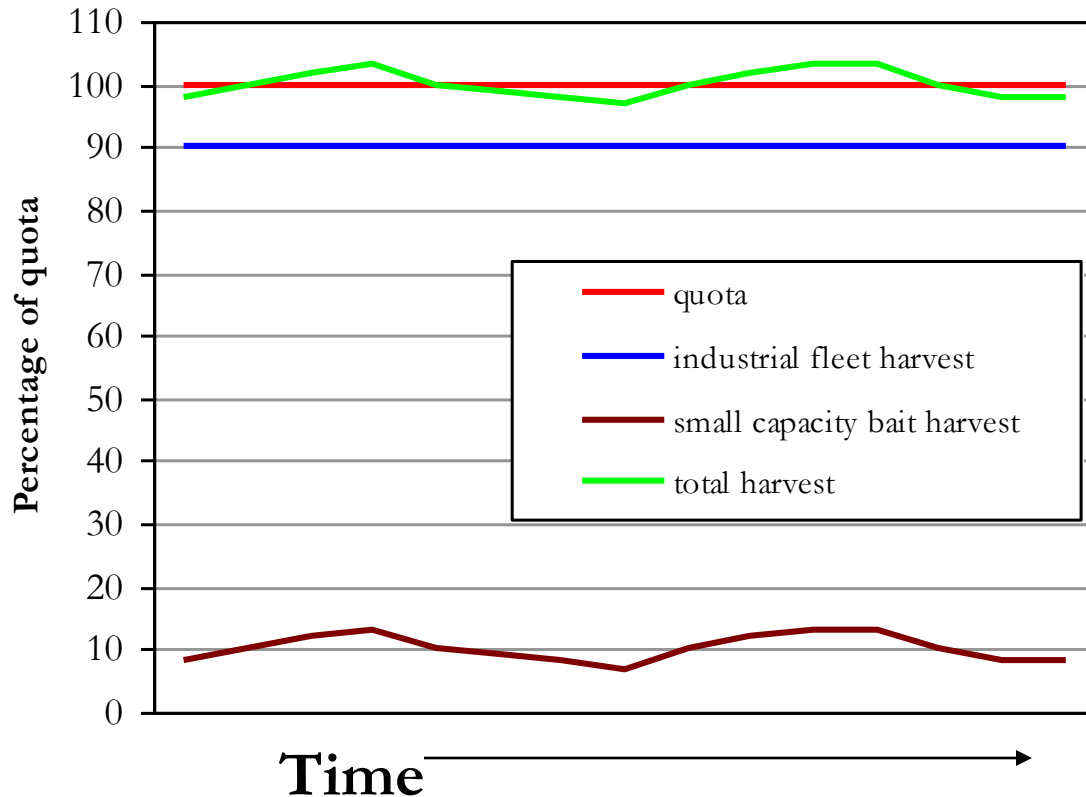
Current Department-supported option:

2 category: large and small capacity fleets

Small capacity fleet option would put all non-purse seine and pair trawl gears on a coast-wide soft quota.

Close monitoring still necessary, but flexibility allowed.

Triggers would be set so that if the coast wide quota gets too high over too many years action could be taken (e.g. set trip limits or return to state by state for small capacity fleets).



Blueline Tilefish

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Blueline Tilefish

NOAA announced emergency management measures for the blueline tilefish fishery in the Greater Atlantic Region at the recommendation of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, effective June 4, 2015.

- Commercial possession limit of 300 pounds whole weight per trip;
- Requirement that commercial and charter/party vessels must hold a valid open access golden tilefish permits to land blueline tilefish.
- MAFMC is working on the development of an amendment to the Golden tilefish plan with the assumption that we will be able to manage the Mid-Atl region separately from the SAFMC.
- At the October meeting...the Council asked for a control date to be set by NMFS for possible use later in the amendment.
- **Need to pay attention and communicate with DNR on this.**

Topics From You

1. Blue Crabs
 - Declaration
 - Hours
2. Female Horseshoe Crab Harvest
3. Past 6 Month Review

Blue Crabs

Blue Crab – Declaration

Suggestion: Regional blue crab declaration – Coastal Bays or Chesapeake Bay

Reasons for Suggestion

- Coastal Bay crabbers do not declare a day off but crabbing ends in October
- Chesapeake Bay crabbers declare a day off that allows them to fish into November
- People fishing both regions have an advantage

Blue Crab – Declaration

Our Research

- 131 people reported crabbing in the Coastal Bays in 2014
- 71% reported harvest from the Coastal Bays only

Discussion

Blue Crab – Hours

Suggestion: Change the Coastal Bays crabbing hours from 5:30 am to 5 am

Reasons for Suggestion

- Less exposure to hot temperatures, minimize dead loss
- Has become a common practice to start before 5:30 to decrease dead loss during the hot summer days.

Concerns

- Crabbers running in the dark/low light conditions
- Damage to gear – separation of pots from the floats, running over gill nets

Discussion

Female Horseshoe Crab Harvest

Female Horseshoe Crab Harvest (HSC)

Suggestion: Look into harvest of female HSC

Reasons for Suggestion

- Male only harvest has negatively impacted the fishery, no market
- Other states are allowed to harvest females
- Freezers already full of males
- VA allowed to harvest Females inside the COLREGs line
 - NPS intends to enforce the no commercial fishing regulation - Tom's Cove harvest, unknown timeline

Our Research

- The ARM does not support the taking of female HSCs at this time
- Red knot population has not meet the 82,000 threshold limit
- Data suggests that only 34% of MD HSC of DE Bay Origin

Female Horseshoe Crab Harvest (HSC)

Timeline

- ✓ Discuss with DNR Secretary - Explore Idea
- ✓ Discuss plan with ASMFC Technical Committee
 - ✓ This did not have a favorable outcome at the TC meeting.
- ✓ Networked with other Board members
 - ✓ Some support...but probably not enough for the 2016 specs.

- Forum Discussion
 - Option 1 – Proceed with asking for female HSC Harvest at the ASMFC Management Board in November
 - Option 2 – Work through the ARM review in 2016

**Past 6 Month Review
&
Open Forum Discussion**

Spiny Dogfish Industry Meeting



Spiny Dogfish Workgroup Meeting

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/mgmt-committees/sdwg-index.aspx>

Spiny Dogfish Industry Meeting

Spiny Dogfish Agenda

1. Fisheries Service Management Principles
2. Industry Goals
3. Outcome of last meeting
4. Trip Limits
5. Processing new entrants – determine procedure
6. Public Comment

Spiny Dogfish Industry Meeting

Fisheries Services' Management Principles

- 1) Sustainability
 - Provides for long-term availability of the fisheries resource
- 2) Accountability
 - Harvest reporting/accounting is transparent
- 3) Cost Recovery
 - The cost of managing the fishery (permits, quota monitoring, etc) is covered by the industry – the state does not incur any additional cost
- 4) Enforceability
 - The laws and regulations do not require additional man power, and compliance is easily verified

Spiny Dogfish Industry Meeting

Industry Goals

- 1) no ITQs;
- 2) protect local, active fishermen;
- 3) maintain flexibility; and
- 4) provide a sustained winter fishery from November – April.

Spiny Dogfish - Outcome of last meeting

In August we scoped the changes discussed at the May meeting. Recently, we decided to scope them again to include the ability to adjust the trip limits by Public Notice and permit replacement.

Eligibility -10,000lbs/2 years → 15,000 lbs/3 years

Eliminating paper permits

New Entrants

- Atlantic Striped Bass Permit Holder, Public Notice authority to change trip limits
- Permit Replacement

Spiny Dogfish Industry Meeting

Trip Limits

Since our last meeting we learned that there will be a significant decrease in quota.

This reduction will go into effect on May 1, 2016 (for 16/17 season)

- We were unsuccessful in our attempt to change the federal trip limit
- Do you want an increased trip limit for state waters only?
 - 10,000 lbs for permit holders
 - 5,000 lbs for SB permit holders
 - 1,000 lbs bycatch

Spiny Dogfish Industry Meeting

Processing New Entrants

Process

- Waitlist?
- Random?
- Application with criteria?
 - Number of other state and federal permits?
 - Must meet certain annual income?
 - Obtain a certain amount of existing landings during a given time period?



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Public Comments