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FMP Update Highlights Examples for 2016

The following are examples of species highlights for 2016. The goal under the new FMP Update Process is to provide a full list of examples after the submission of the FMP Update Report each year.

- **Croaker, Spotted Seatrout, and Spot:**
 - Croaker and spot are currently undergoing a coast wide stock assessment through ASMFC. Both species are being assessed at the same time (joint Stock Assessment Subcommittee). This is a benchmark assessment for croaker and the first coast wide assessment for spot. There has been one data workshop and the first, of two, assessment workshops will be in February. The current plan is to have the assessment done and peer reviewed by the end of the year, but the dates have not been set. It is possible they will not be presented to the board for management purposes until 2017. ASMFC is also considering transferring management of spotted seatrout to the states. There is some movement between states in the northern region (to avoid low winter water temps), but south of NC most individuals do not leave their natal estuary. Most states, including MD, have more restrictive regulations than required by ASMFC.

- **Red Drum**
 - The Red Drum Stock Assessment is starting to finalize and will go before the ASMFC Management Board for management approval possibly at the April meeting. The SFAC at their last meeting indicated they would like to see regulations of red drum in MD liberalized to allow keeping a trophy size fish. At this point, it is still a bit unclear how the Board will react to the stock assessment, but it is highly unlikely that they will be open to liberalizing any of the regulations on the species based on the results seen thus far.

- **River Herring**
 - River herring will have a stock assessment update in 2016. No major changes are expected.

- **Striped Bass**
 - States will continue Addendum IV reductions as mandated by ASMFC (25% reduction in spring trophy and 20.5% reduction in summer/fall). Commercial fishery will maintain the same quota as 2015.

 - States will consider new recreational regulations for 2016 seasons. Regulations not previously approved will need to be approved by ASMFC technical committee and management board.