

Black Drum Update  
For the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission  
April 28, 2016  
Maryland DNR, Fisheries Service

**Most Recent Stock Status:** A coastwide benchmark stock assessment was accepted for management use in 2015 (data through 2012; conducted by ASMFC). The assessment determined the stock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring.

**Management Notes:** Maryland closed the Chesapeake Bay commercial black drum fishery in 1998. In 2013 ASMFC developed coastwide FMP, and requires all states to maintain their current level of restrictions, i.e. no relaxation of current commercial fisheries management measures. The ASMFC FMP also requires all states to establish a maximum possession limit by January 1, 2014 and a minimum size limit no less than 14 inches by January 1, 2016 for any open fishery (commercial or recreational).

**Commercial Regulations by State:**

Delaware: 65,000 pound annual catch limit, 10,000 pound/vessel/day catch limit and a 16 inch size limit.

Florida: 500 pounds/vessel/day and a 14 to 24 inch slot limit.

Georgia: Fifteen fish/person/day and a 14 inch minimum size limit.

Maryland: Chesapeake and coastal bays (including tributaries) = No open season.  
Atlantic Ocean = 1,500 pound total annual catch limit, 16 inch size limit.

New Jersey: 65,000 pound annual catch limit, 10,000 pound/vessel/day catch limit and a 16 inch size limit.

North Carolina: 14- to 25-inch total length slot size limit (except one fish greater than 25 inches total length may be kept) and a 500-pound commercial trip limit.

PRFC: One fish/license/day and a 16 inch size limit

South Carolina: Five fish/person/day and a 14 inch to 27 inch slot limit.

Virginia: 120,000 pound annual quota, Hook and line may only harvest one fish/person/day, and a black drum harvest permit is required to harvest more than one fish/person/day with any gear. Five inch minimum gill net mesh size and 16 inch minimum length.