

Update for the Tidal and Sport Fisheries Advisory Commissions May 17, 2011

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is taking public comment on the Draft Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout. The full document can be found on the ASMFC website at <http://www.asmfc.org>.

The Spanish Mackerel FMP was intended to achieve compatible management throughout the species range, including both state and federal waters. The management measures recommended in the Spanish Mackerel FMP for states are not consistent with current federal Spanish mackerel requirements. The FMP's mechanism to track and adopt regulations consistent with federal regulations is ineffective and the results undocumented.

Recommendations included in the amendment are summarized below. ASMFC is accepting comment on this amendment through July 20, 2011.

Spanish mackerel: Converting recommended measures to compliance measures could mean requiring:

- 1) recreational and commercial minimum size limits: **Already in place in MD.**
- 2) a commercial closure on directed fishing when the commercial quota is reached:
Already in place coastwide.
- 3) commercial trip limits and recreational bag limits: **Rec bag limits in place, Md com landings very low and unlikely effected.**
- 4) gill net minimum mesh size: **This is for directed Spanish mackerel trips, not operating in MD.**

5) commercial and charter boat permits: This is the only possible requirement to effect MD. NC is opposed to this requirement being extended to inshore waters. It is already in place for federal waters. Would require federal permits for charter boats fishing in state waters, and federal logbook in addition to state logbook.

Spot: Converting recommended measures to compliance measures could mean requiring:

- 1) bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in all trawls or trawls of certain characteristics: **This is not well defined and most likely directed at small mesh (primarily shrimp) trawls. This is an old recommendation that was put in before the current bycatch reduction devise regulations went into effect for the shrimp trawl industry.**
- 2) regulations to protect age 1 spot such as minimum size limits and gear restrictions: **This is unlikely to happen in the absence of an overfishing condition, as determined by a stock assessment. There has been no spot stock assessment to date.**

Spotted Seatrout: Converting recommended measures to compliance measures could mean requiring:

- 1) a 12" TL minimum size limit: **MD currently has a 14" rec and 12" com size limits. No effect**
- 2) comparable minimum mesh size limits for directed fisheries (currently defined as trips where seatrout is more than 60% of the total catch by weight): **No fishery in MD catches anywhere near 60% spotted seatrout. No Effect**

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the Omnibus Amendment. The final date that comments on the Draft Omnibus Amendment will be accepted is **July 20, 2011**. Comments may be submitted by mail, email, or fax. If you have any questions or would like to submit comment, please use the contact information below.

Mail: Danielle Brzezinski
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Email: dbrzezinski@asmfc.org
(subject line: Omnibus Amendment)
Phone: (703) 842-0740
Fax: (703) 842-0741

To view the entire document go to :

www.asmfc.org/speciesDocuments/southAtlanticSpecies/fmps/draftOmnibusAmendment.pdf