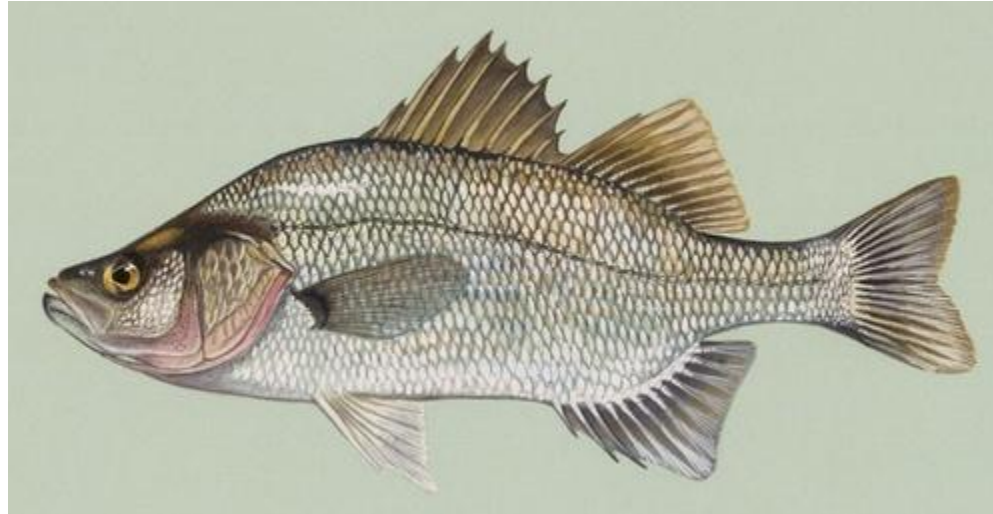


2015 Review of the Maryland White Perch Fishery Management Plan



Presented to Maryland Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

7-21-2015

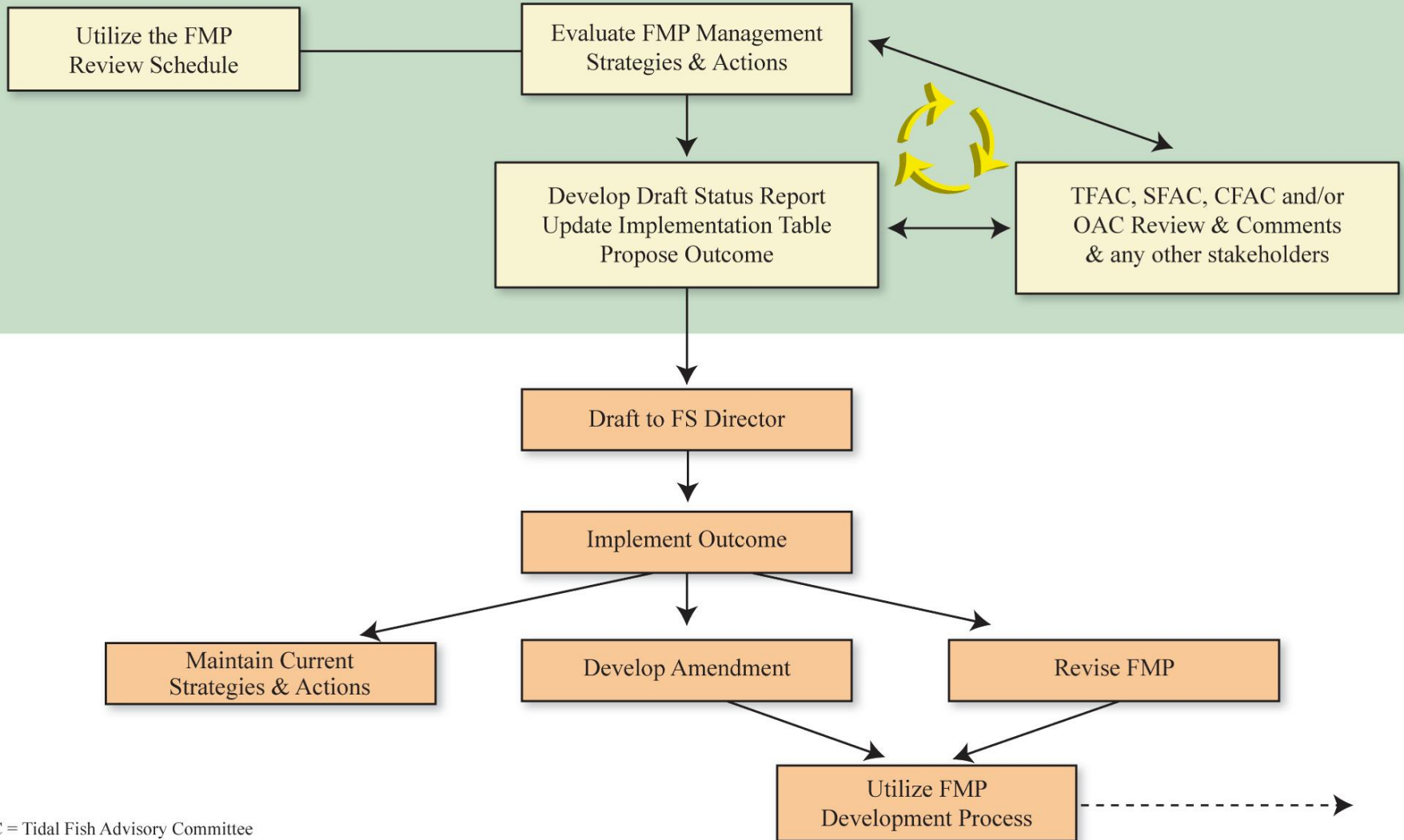
By Rick Morin

Rick.Morin@Maryland.gov

410-260-8272

Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Review Process

Plan Review Team (PRT)



TFAC = Tidal Fish Advisory Committee
SFAC = Sport Fish Advisory Committee
CFAC = Coastal Fisheries Advisory Committee
OAC = Oyster Advisory Committee

2015 Review of the Maryland White Perch Fishery Management Plan



2015 FMP Review Schedule

Species	Draft Review Date	Request for Allocation Materials – due date
Oysters	2016	TBD
Blue Crabs	2017	TBD
White Perch	July 16 – 21, 2015	June 15, 2015
Red Drum	October 13 – 15, 2015	September 14, 2015
Horseshoe Crabs	October 13 – 15, 2015 (tentative)	September 14, 2015

Maryland White Perch Fishery Management Plan History

- No ASMFC FMP
- 1990: Maryland Fishery Management Plan (FMP) developed but not formally adopted.
- No amendments to FMP
- 2005, 2015: White Perch FMP Review
- 2007 – present: annual FMP updates

Current Management Targets

- F target = F30%; F threshold (limit) = F20% (Control Fishing Mortality Strategy)
- Commercial Fishery 8" minimum if by net
- Overlapping gear restrictions with striped bass fishery

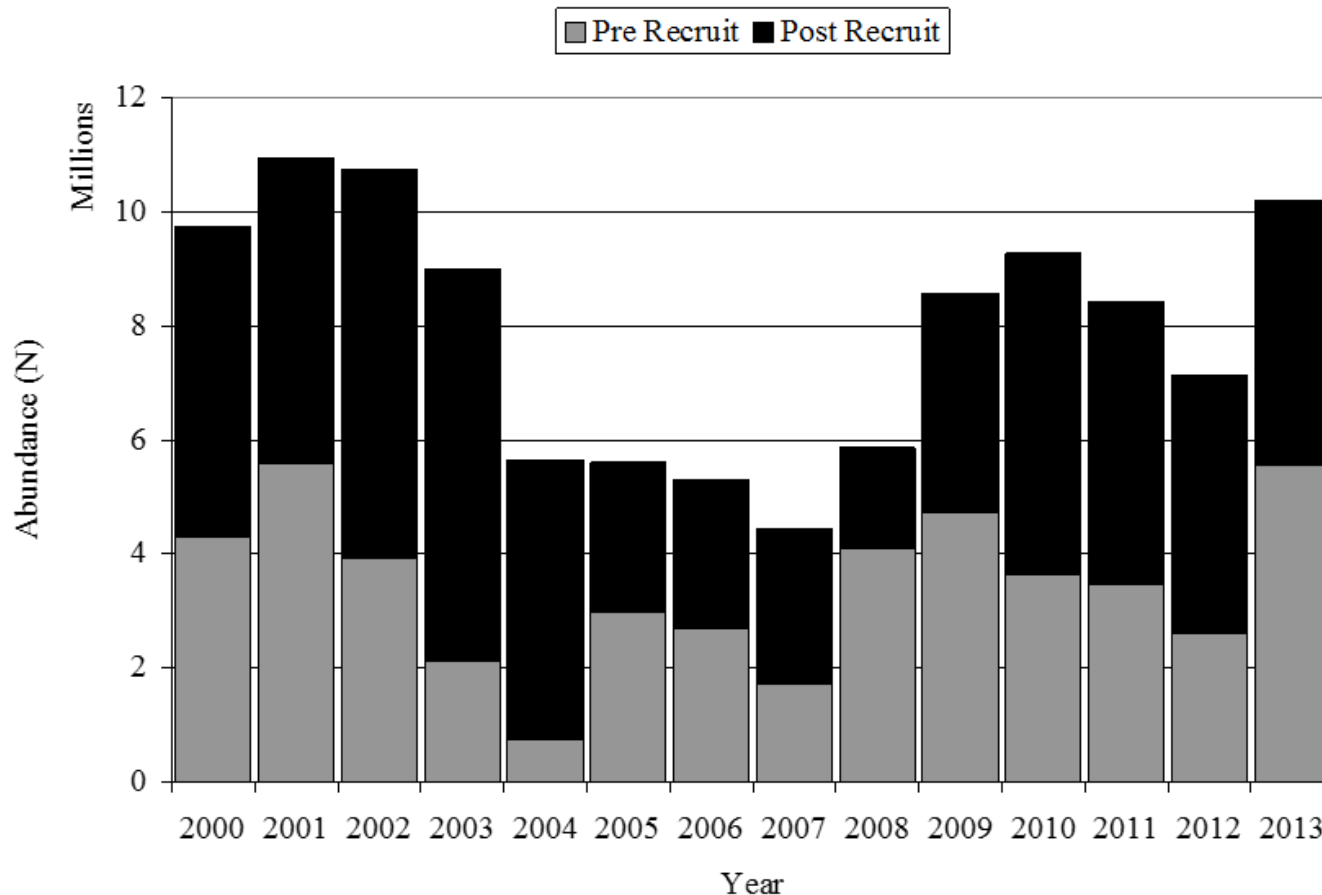
Status of the Stocks

- Stock assessments are conducted every 3-4 years.
- White perch stocks are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.
- White perch stocks exhibit high variability due to variable recruitment.
- Upper Bay population estimated at 10.2 million.
- Lower Bay qualitative study suggests that overfishing is not occurring.

2015 Review of the Maryland White Perch Fishery Management Plan



Total population estimate of upper Chesapeake Bay white perch from Catch Survey Analysis, 2000-2013



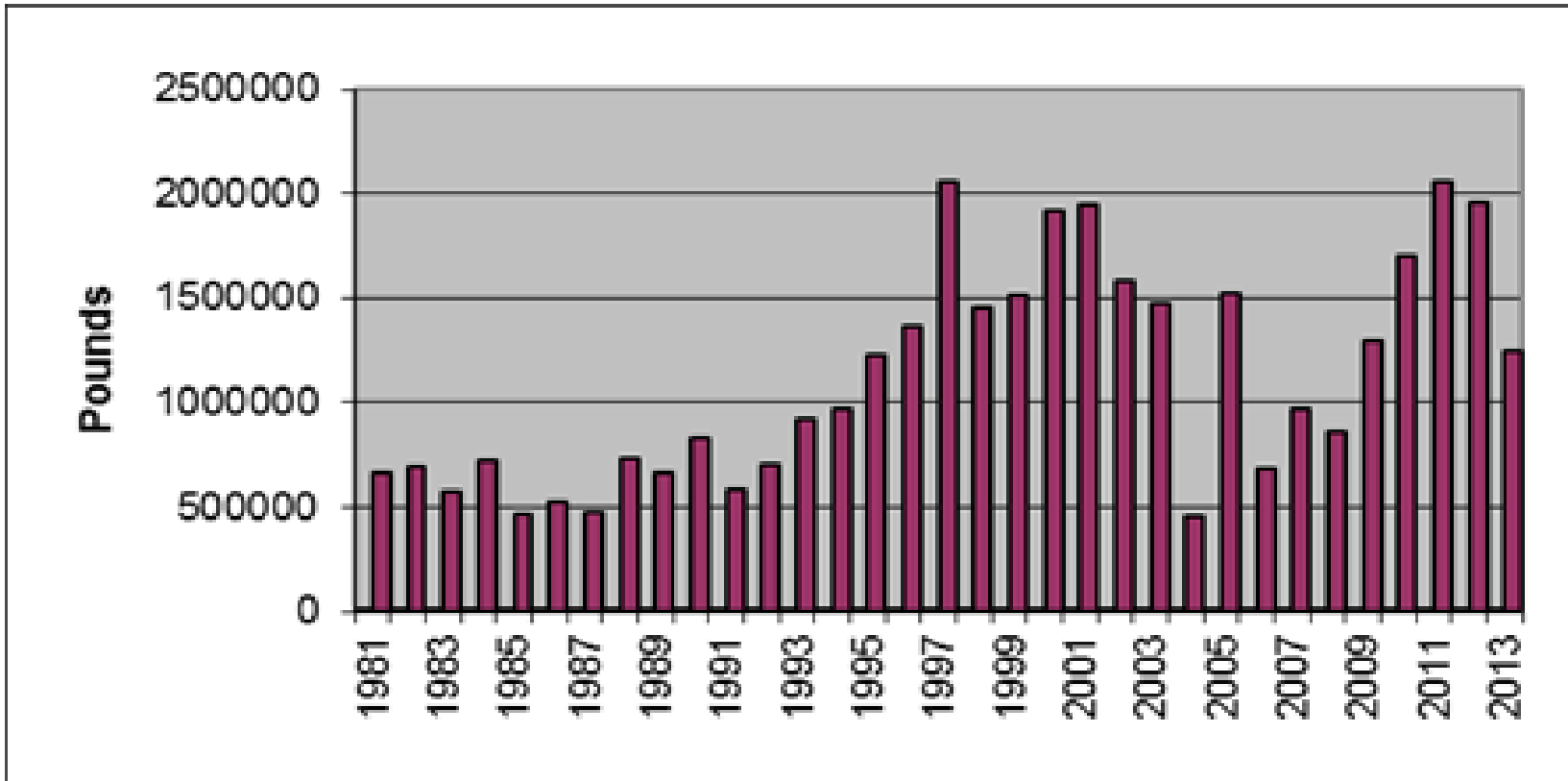
Status of the Fishery

- White perch are third most valuable fish species (\$1.42 million in 2014).
- Drift gill nets and pound nets account for 72% of commercial harvest in 2014.

2015 Review of the Maryland White Perch Fishery Management Plan



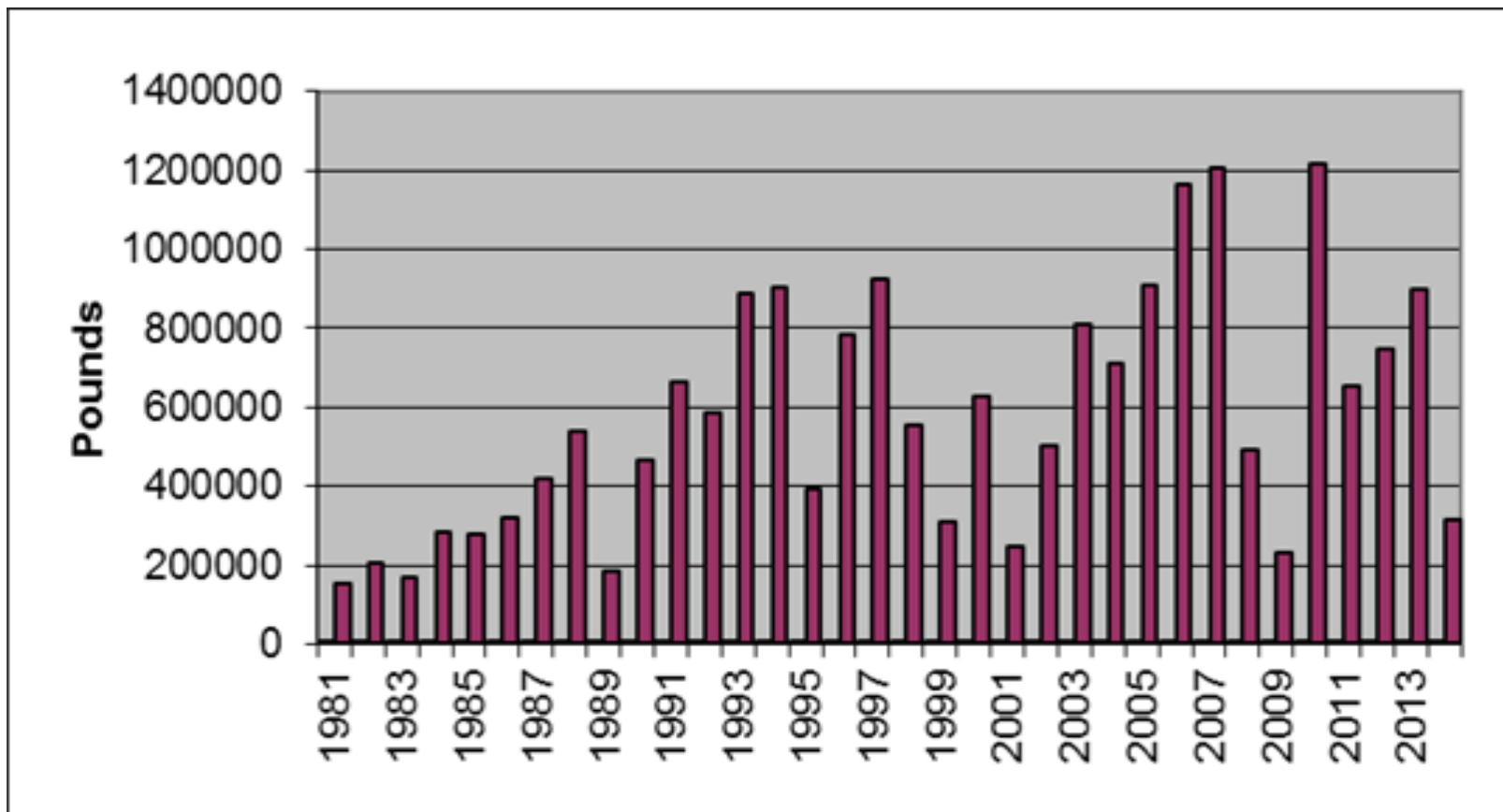
Commercial White Perch landings in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries, 1981-2013.



2015 Review of the Maryland White Perch Fishery Management Plan



Recreational white perch harvest estimates in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries, 1981-2014.



Compliance with FMP

1. **Mixed Fishery:** Increased net regulations since 1990 have relieved mixed fishery concerns. No new restrictive measures are necessary at this time.
2. **Optimum Harvest:** Abundance is variable and harvest is below threshold.
3. **Stock Assessment:** New surveys and models show that white perch are not overfished.
4. **Habitat Issues:** DNR supports 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement water quality goals.

Issues of Concern Identified by FS Plan Review Team

- Watershed Habitat Issues – Land Conservation should be management concern for white perch. Impervious surfaces reference points recommended.
- Species interactions: Invasive species a concern.

FS Plan Review Team Recommendations

- Maryland White Perch FMP is an appropriate framework for managing this species.
- Continue data collection and stock assessments on current schedule.
- Focus on habitat and water quality as primary concerns for white perch.