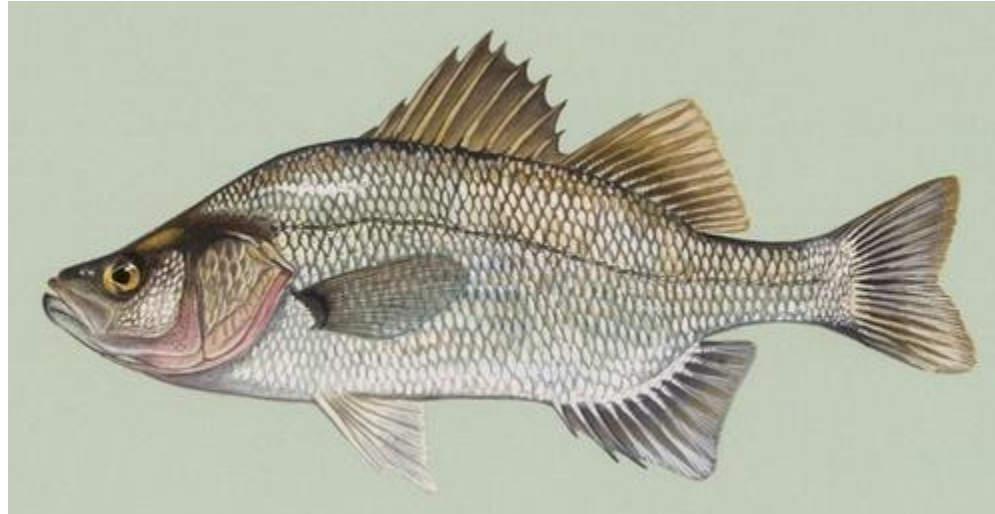


# 2015 Review of the Maryland White Perch Fishery Management Plan



Presented to Maryland Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

7-16-2015

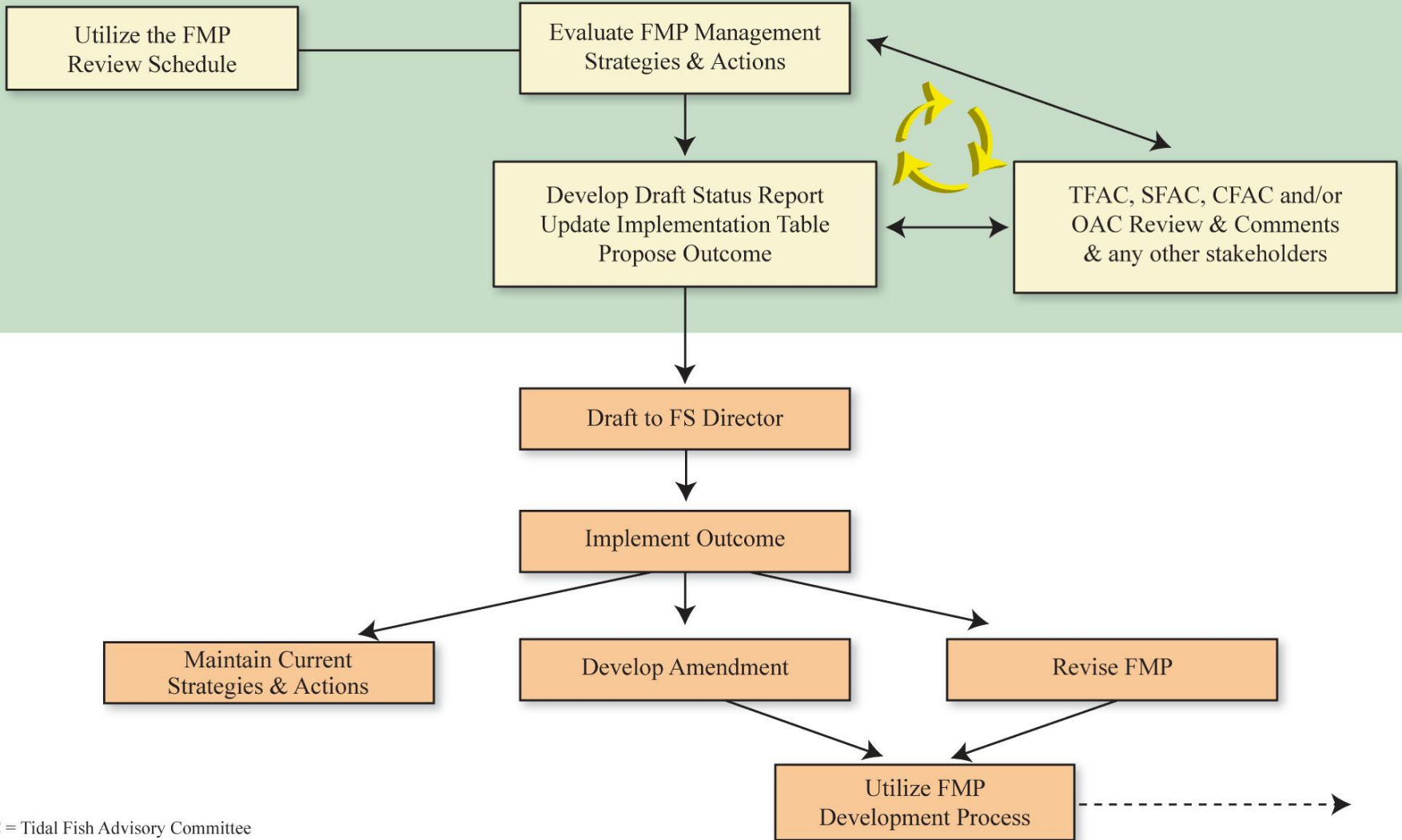
By Rick Morin

[Rick.Morin@Maryland.gov](mailto: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

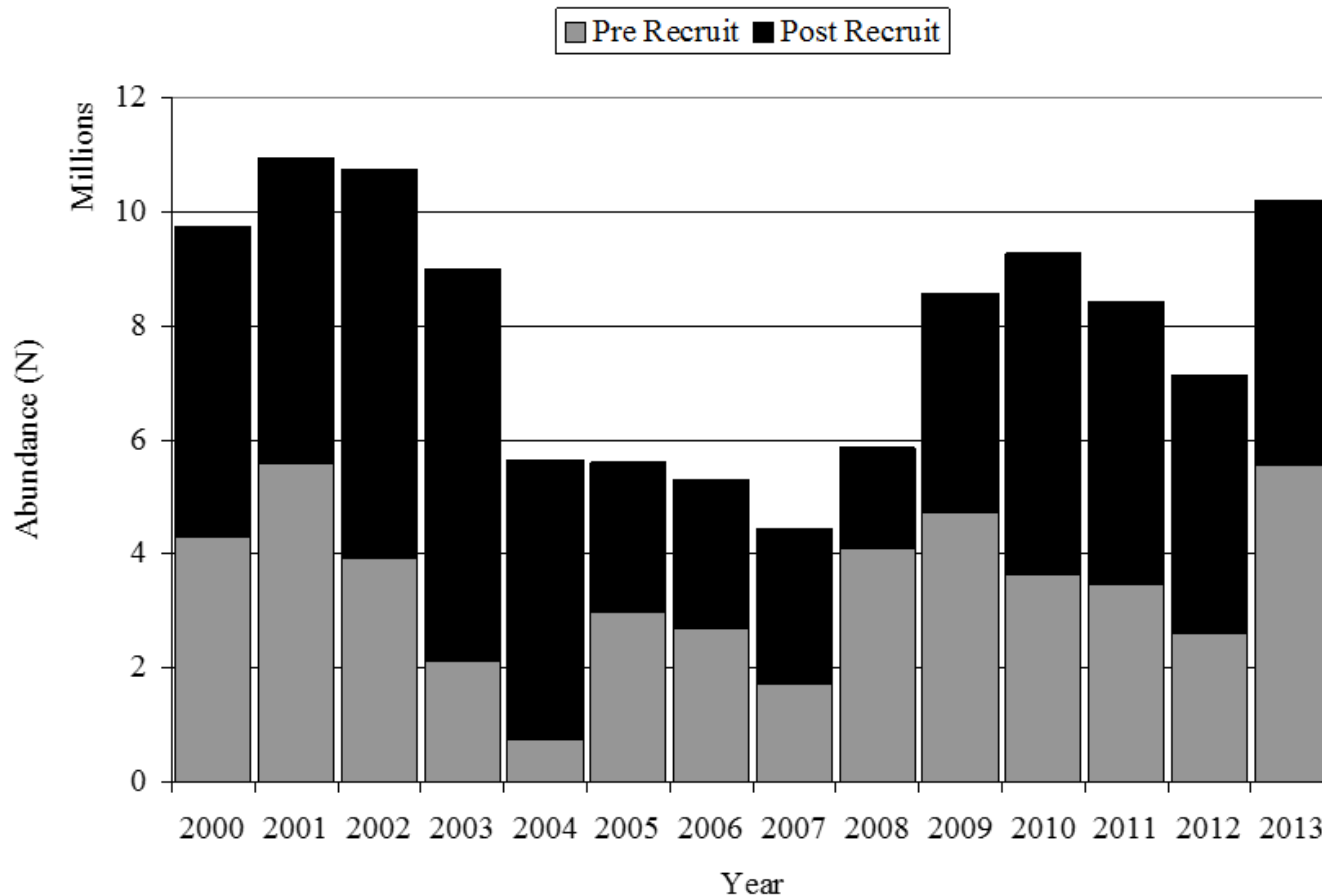
## Status of the Stocks

- 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

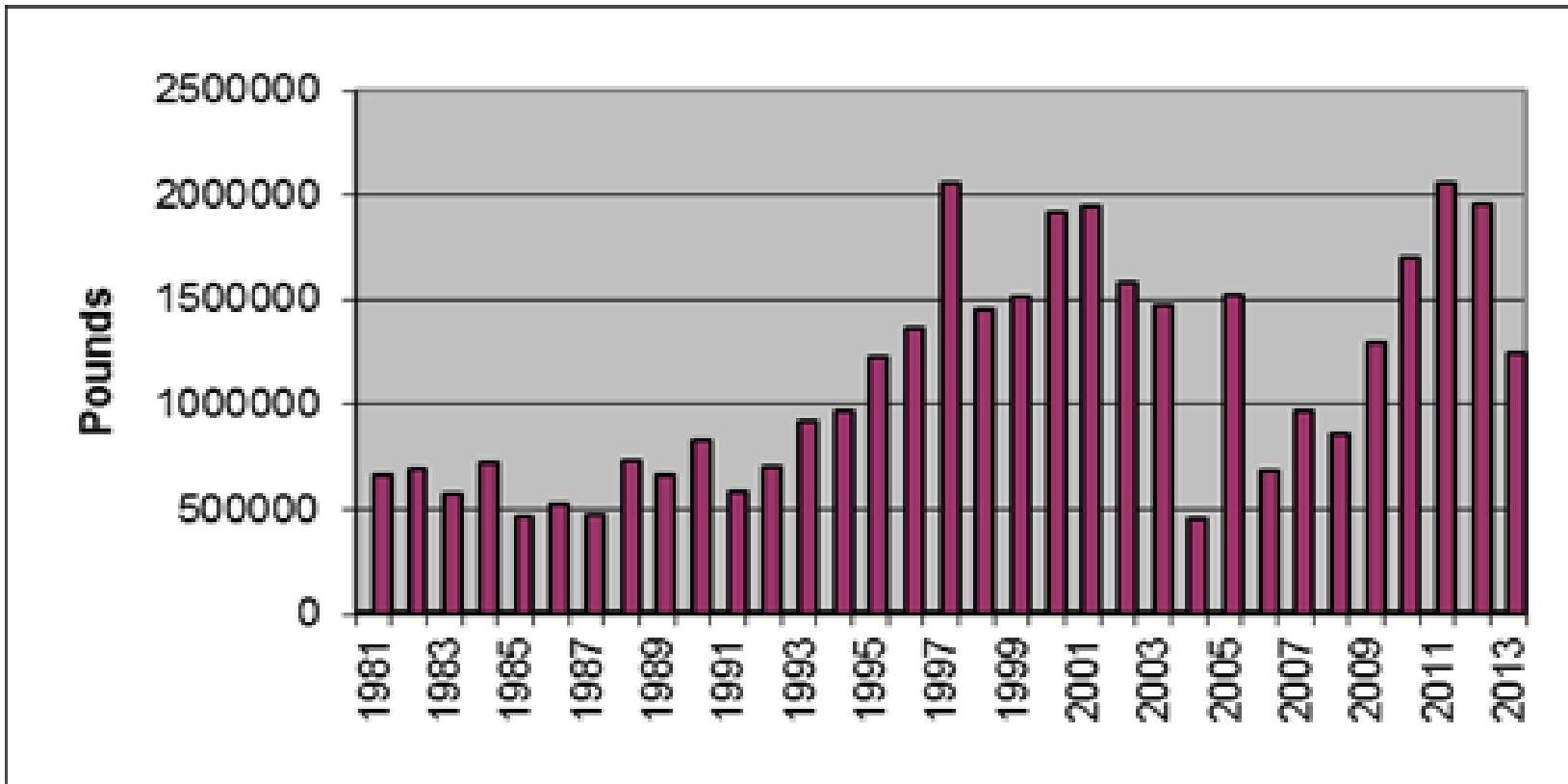
- White perch are third most valuable fish species (\$1.42 million in 2014).
- Drift gill nets and pound nets account for 72% of commercial harvest in 2014.



# 2015 Review of the Maryland White Perch Fishery Management Plan



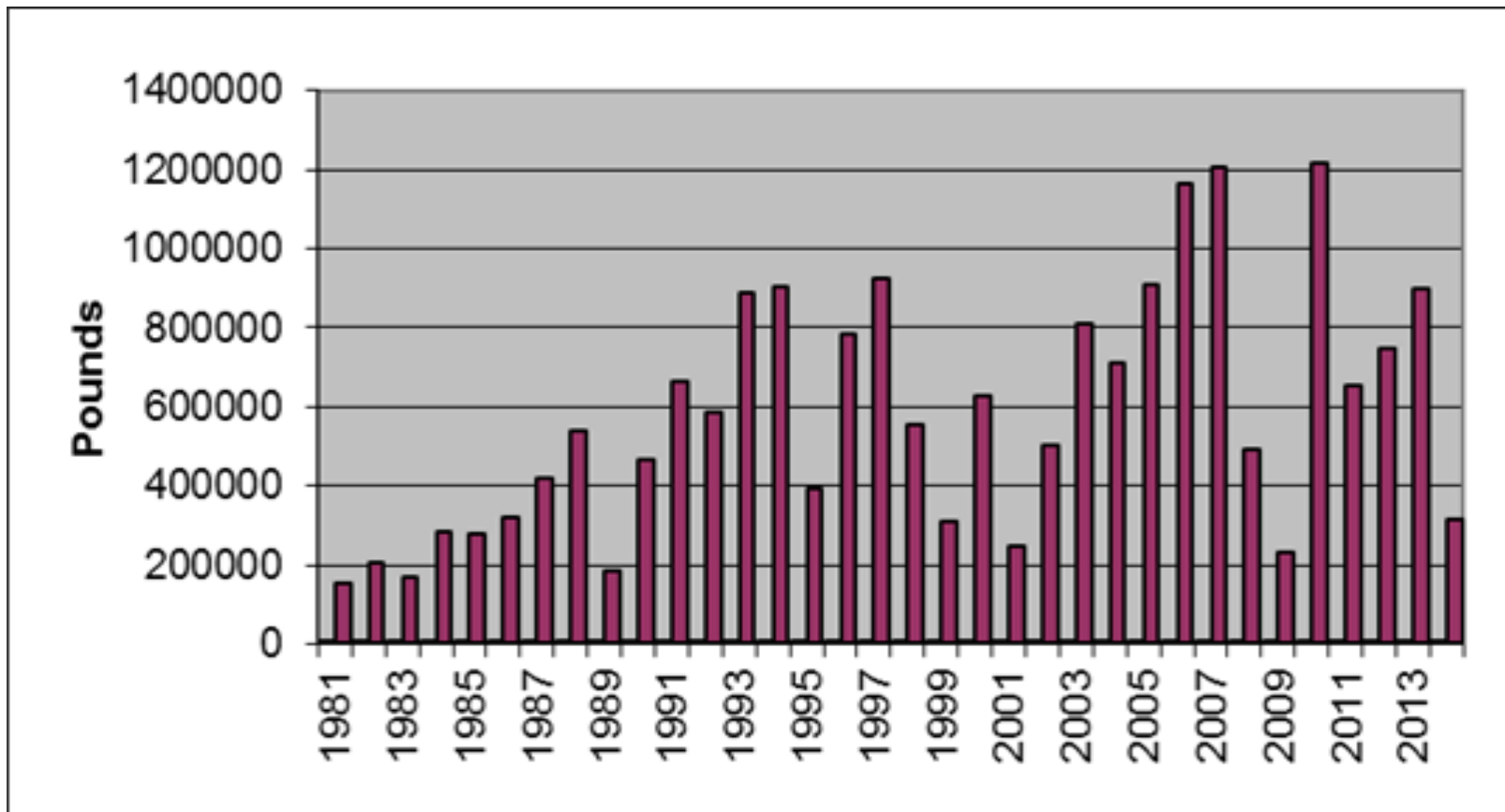
Commercial White Perch landings in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries, 1981-2013.



# 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.