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February 13, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: Chris Batsavage, Special Assistant for Councils

SUBJECT: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting Summary-Feb. 5-7, 2019

Issue

This memo informs the Marine Fisheries Commission of the issues discussed and actions taken by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Findings

- The memo highlights management actions of particular interest to the Marine Fisheries Commission.
- Additional information about the meeting can be found in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting summary.

Action Needed

For informational purposes only, **no action is needed at this time.**

Overview

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) met on Feb. 5-7, 2019 in Arlington, VA. Highlights of the management actions taken by the Commission are discussed below.

Striped Bass

The Striped Bass Management Board reviewed preliminary results from the 2018 benchmark stock assessment. The final stock assessment report and peer review were unavailable due to the partial federal government shutdown. The results reviewed by the board were from the single stock model since it is anticipated that the two stock model will not pass peer review. The single stock model results indicated that the stock is overfished* and overfishing* is occurring with the number of recreational dead discards comprising the majority of the total removals. These results are not expected to change with the release of the final assessment and peer-review reports. The board decided to wait to initiate management action either through a plan amendment or addendum until it reviews the final stock assessment report and peer review at their next meeting. The board tasked the Technical Committee to estimate the reductions necessary to meet either the fishing mortality* threshold or target and provide example



recreational regulations for the ocean and the Chesapeake Bay that would meet those reductions.

Atlantic Menhaden

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board voted to indefinitely postpone action to find the Commonwealth of Virginia out of compliance with the provision in Amendment 3 to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan that requires Virginia to implement a 51,000-metric ton cap on the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery. This action is contingent upon the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery not exceeding the cap. If the cap is exceeded, the board can reconsider the issue of compliance. The board will consider action to modify the Chesapeake Bay reduction cap after ecologically-based reference points are established for Atlantic menhaden and they are accepted by the board for management use. It is anticipated that these reference points will be available in 2020.

Upcoming Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will be April 29-May 2, 2019 at the Westin in Arlington, VA.

***Definitions**

Overfishing – Occurs when the rate that fish that are harvested or killed exceeds a specific threshold.

Overfished – Occurs when the spawning stock size of a population is below a specified threshold. This condition significantly reduces the stock's reproductive capacity to replace fish removed by harvest.

Fishing Mortality – A measurement of the rate of removal of fish from a population from fishing.

