

Blue Crab Update

Eastern Bay Pot Line

- *Public Hearing to discuss the possible change - August 11, 1:30 – 4 pm*

MD Coastal Bays Program – Ghost Pot Rodeo (Oct 3rd)

The MD CBP is looking for input from watermen:

- *Areas to focus effort*
- *Areas to avoid*
- *How to identify an Active v. Ghost Pot*



Early Start option for Crab Potters

- *When using FACTS...this has been available to crabbers since June 1*
 - *As of July 15th, 41 trips have taken advantage of the early start option*

Blue Crab Update

Alternate Container (Plastic)

- *The Crab Committee asked the department to look into a plastic alternative to the wooded bushel basket.*
 - The most practical alternative is larger than the standard wooden basket
 - Various implications...regulations, reporting, analysis and enforcement
 - Discussing with the manufacture a design equal the standard bushel volume
 - How many watermen would purchase something like this? Shorter?



ASMFC / MAFMC Updates and Announcements

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission



• *Next meeting to be held via webinar...August 3rd – 6th.*

➤ **Striped Bass Board (3rd and 4th)** – Consider initiating Amendment 7

- ✓ Small workgroup formed over the summer / met 4 times
- ✓ Discussed what may be included in an Amendment to the plan
- ✓ *Topics included: Stock rebuilding, management triggers, reference points, fishery goals and objectives, commercial allocation, conservation equivalency, regional management, recreational allocation, recreational dead discards.*

➤ *Report delivered to the Board...Possible decision on an Amendment*

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- **South Atlantic Board** – Final Action on Cobia Addendum I

- ✓ Possibly modify coastwide commercial/recreational allocation and quotas. *Quotas will go up...but the degree varies...5K – 90K potentially*
- ✓ *Set asides being considered for buffers.*
- ✓ *Call Lynn for questions (443.223.9279)*

- **Menhaden Board** – Adopting Ecosystem Reference Points

- ✓ *No significant changes expected – Already fishing below the ERPs*
- ✓ *Adoption of new reference points...could lead to a lower TAC / 2021*

ASMFC / MAFMC Updates and Announcements

ASMFC / MAFMC Joint Meetings

- *Two Joint Meetings are Planned (August 6th & August 11th – 12th).*

- Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish
- *4 Actions are being considered at this time...**All Significant!***
 - ✓ **Black Sea Bass Commercial Allocation** – For Public Comment
 - *Possible State-by-State reallocation / assessment and abundance*
 - ✓ **SF, Scup & BSB Comm/Rec Allocation Amendment**
 - *Approve a range of alternatives for the Amendment*

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- This Fall – October Joint Meetings
 - ✓ **Bluefish Amendment on Rebuilding and Allocation**
 - ✓ **Recreational Reform Initiative – More for SFAC**



Spanish Mackerel Update



Commercial Fishery Closed in Federal Waters

- *Northern Zone Closed on July 22nd...One month earlier than last year.*
 - Primary management is under the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. They set the quotas and the Feds (NMFS) monitor quotas.
 - Once federal waters close, states can implement a daily/trip vessel bycatch for fish caught in state waters.
 - In 2019, we implemented a 250lb bycatch. We can do the same this year, or increase up to 500 lb. *Set by Public Notice.*
 - For 2020, North Carolina will implement a 500 lb bycatch and close the fishery in state waters on November 15.
 - Virginia is has not yet determined their bycatch level and closure date.



Quota Tracking



Northern Zone (NC – NY) shares a quota of (662,670 lbs)

- Closure timing can be unpredictable – you can monitor status here:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/commercial-fishing/2020-2021-preliminary-south-atlantic-commercial-landings> - Last Updated 7/13/2020

Species Complex	Fishing Year	Estimated Landings (lb) (i)	Quota (lb) (i)	Quota %	ACL (lb) (i)	ACL %	Current Status
King Mackerel - Northern Zone	3/1/2020-2/29/2021	71,767	1,082,880	6.6	4,700,000	25.3	OPEN
King Mackerel - Southern Zone - Season 1 (Mar 1 - Sept 30)	3/1/2020-9/30/2020	1,116,175	2,170,272	51.4			OPEN
King Mackerel - Southern Zone - Season 2 (Oct 1 - end Feb)	10/1/2020 - 2/29/2021	0	1,446,848	-			CLOSED
Spanish Mackerel - Northern Zone	3/1/2020 - 2/29/2021	628,968	662,670	94.9	2,320,000	27.2	OPEN
Spanish Mackerel - Southern Zone		278,856	2,417,330*	11.5			OPEN

Shrimp Fishery In Maryland

A recent abundance of shrimp in MD waters has elevated an interest in establishing a fishery in the Ches. Bay / Ocean & CBs

- Simply put...It's Complicated!!
- This would require a series of actions (Regulatory and Legislative)
- Licensing: Shrimp are Shellfish
 - FIN: Cannot harvest shrimp commercially
 - OYH/CLM/CTL/LCC/CB3 – Cannot harvest 'These' shellfish
- Limited Entry? Quotas / Harvest Caps? Regional Management?
- Mechanisms for management:
 - FMP, In Need of Conservation & Legislative Delegation of Authority
 - Pros and Cons for each

Shrimp Fishery In Maryland (Con't)

A recent abundance of shrimp in MD waters has elevated an interest in establishing a fishery in the Ches. Bay / Ocean & CBs

- Gears used in this fishery?
 - Shrimp trawls in the Bay is a non-starter / small mesh / by-catch
 - Are there other passive gears that could work to catch shrimp?
- Pilot Program? Only if an FMP is written
- Virginia has an experimental fishery...we could talk with them and follow back up with TFAC at a future meeting.
- Thoughts?