



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

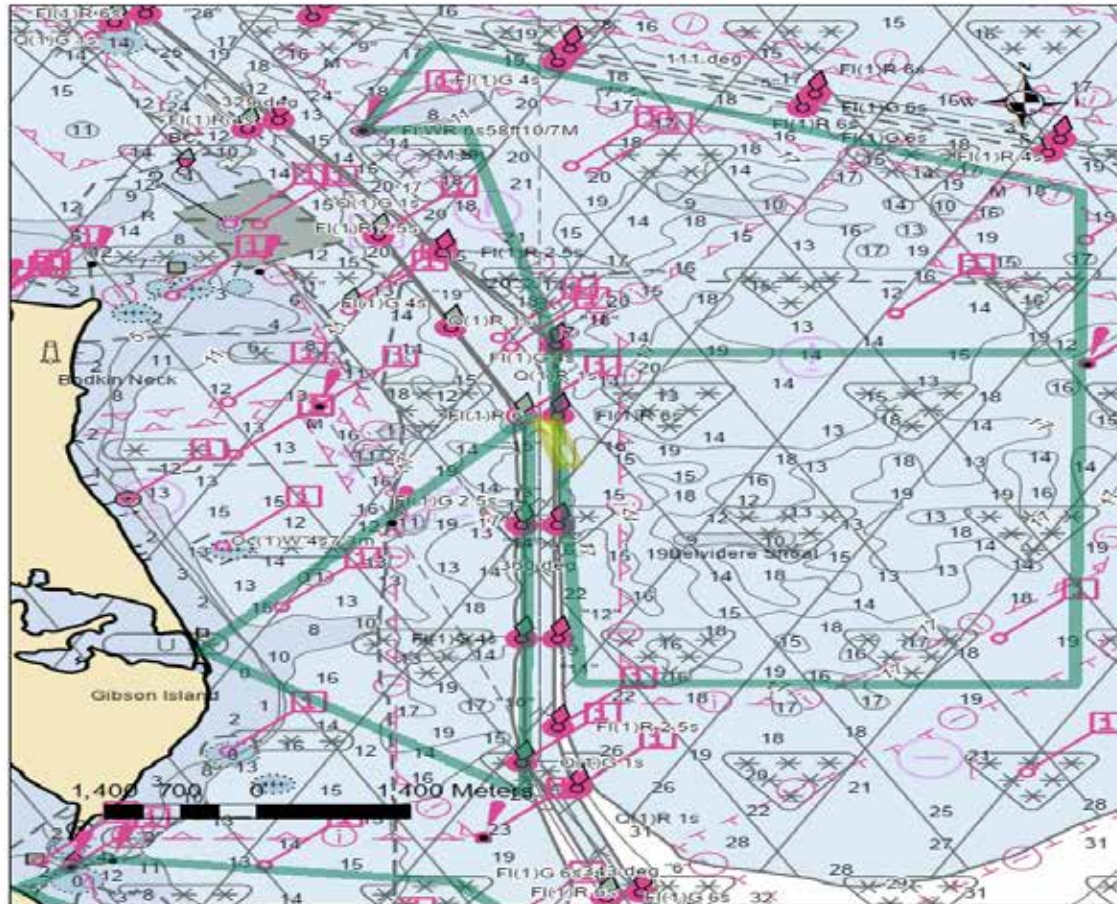
M/V EVER FORWARD GROUNDING

State Tidal Wetlands License Update





M/V Ever Forward Grounding



Ever Forward Vessel

- Ever Forward Footprint
- Dredge
- NOB (Natural Oyster Bar)



State Tidal Wetlands License

22-WL-0268EX

March 19th- BPW issued the state tidal wetlands emergency license recommended by MDE-- 22-WL-0268EX

- mechanically dredge an area of 349,427 sq. ft. to a depth of 40 feet at mean low water and to deposit a minimum of 110,000 cubic yards of dredged material in a cell at the Poplar Island Ecosystem Restoration Project

10 Special and 23 Standard Conditions-Special Conditions of Note in the Emergency License:

- Recommended use of a turbidity curtain
- The Licensee shall conduct a post dredge bathymetric survey
- The Licensee shall assess the dredge and vessel grounding area for impacts to the Natural Oyster Bar (NOB 4-2), provide a report on the findings within 30 days from completion of the vessel removal that describe the impacts to the NOB to MDE
- Any impacts to the NOB 4-2 due to grounding of the ship and dredging that are determined to require mitigation will require a mitigation plan submission to the Department within 60 days from the notice of determination that mitigation is required



Timeline 2022

- **March 28th**- a wetlands license modification was requested to increase the dredging depth from 40 ft to 43 ft and the amount of dredge material for placement at Polar Island to a minimum of 164,236.4 cubic yards
- **March 29th**- Modified license 22-WL-0268EX(R1) issued with the modified scope of work and with the same general and special conditions as the original
- **June 6th**- Joint Permit Application submitted to MDE
- **June 10th**- License transferred from Donjon Smit, LLC to Evergreen Marine Corp. (Taiwan), LTD



State Tidal Wetlands License

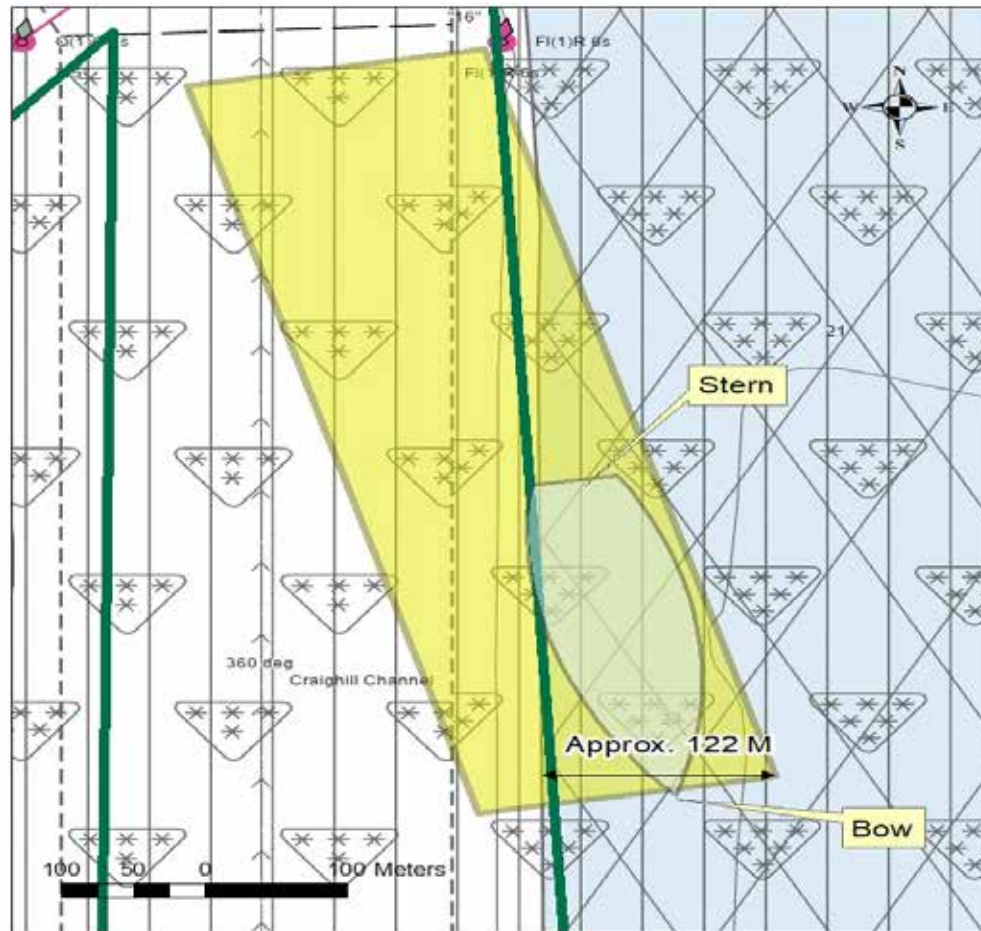
Next Steps

After Issuance of the Emergency License (Next Steps) COMAR 23.02.04.06C

- A formal Joint Federal/State Permit Application (JPA) is required to be submitted
 - **JPA was submitted on June 6, 2022 and is currently under review.**
- Public Notice will be issued to open a public comment period and opportunity for the public to request a hearing on the wetlands license
- At the completion of the public process, the Department will provide the BPW Wetlands Administrator with a recommendation to **ratify, modify, suspend, or revoke the emergency license**
- The BPW Wetlands Administrator will independently review the project and MDE's recommendation and make a recommendation to the BPW
- The project will be heard at a BPW meeting for a final decision



M/V Ever Forward location



Ever Forward Vessel

- Ever Forward Footprint
- NOB (Natural Oyster Bar)
- Dredge



Natural Resource Impact Assessment

Concurrent with the JPA review:

- Natural resource impact assessment/report- The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is the lead with supporting data provided by the Licensee to assess impacts and prepare a report
- Appropriate mitigation will be determined based on the outcome of the natural resource assessment report and be factored into the state tidal wetlands licensing decision



Contact

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Oyster Management Plan 2022 Amendment

Aquaculture Coordinating Council
Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission
Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

July 2022



Background

Background on Fishery Management Plans

- Serve as a framework for conserving and wisely using fishery resources
- Basic goal is to protect the reproductive capacity of a resource while allowing optimal harvest
- Plan defines goals, objectives, strategies and options/actions for managing the resource and addressing problems/issues
- Need to be broad and general to allow for flexibility in management via regulations over the next 10+ years

Oyster Fishery Management Plan last updated in May 2019



OMP Amendment

- Incorporate the OAC's package of consensus recommendations into the 2019 Oyster Management Plan
- Some new actions were drafted
- Some parts of the package of consensus recommendation were already being addressed in the 2019 OMP - no new action required.



OMP Amendment

Recommendation - DNR should develop tools to mark navigation hazards and oyster management boundaries.

Not being addressed in the 2019 OMP

Added a new Action in the amendment

Action 8.0.9

Continue supporting a mobile mapping application related to shellfish management.



OMP Amendment

Recommendation - Conduct a comprehensive survey of the Maryland Bay bottom with a focus on describing the current amount, quality, and location of oyster habitat.

Currently being addressed in the OMP with Action 3.0.6 and Action 6.1.1

- *Develop comprehensive maps of current oyster habitat within Maryland's Chesapeake Bay that include updated oyster bar boundaries and utilize best available data to locate oyster habitat and ground-truth the best areas for placing available substrate.*
- *Conduct a new bay bottom survey in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay and delineate the boundaries of oyster bars.*



Timeline

1. Amendment is reviewed by the Oyster Advisory Commission, Tidal and Sport Fisheries Advisory Commissions, and the Aquaculture Coordinating Council. Feedback is received and reviewed, and amendment is revised if necessary.
2. Amendment undergoes a 30-day public comment period. Feedback is received and reviewed, and amendment is revised if necessary.
3. The amendment is adopted
4. Department follows regulatory process to incorporate the amendment into regulation



Feedback

Please provide the department with feedback on the
draft OMP amendment by:

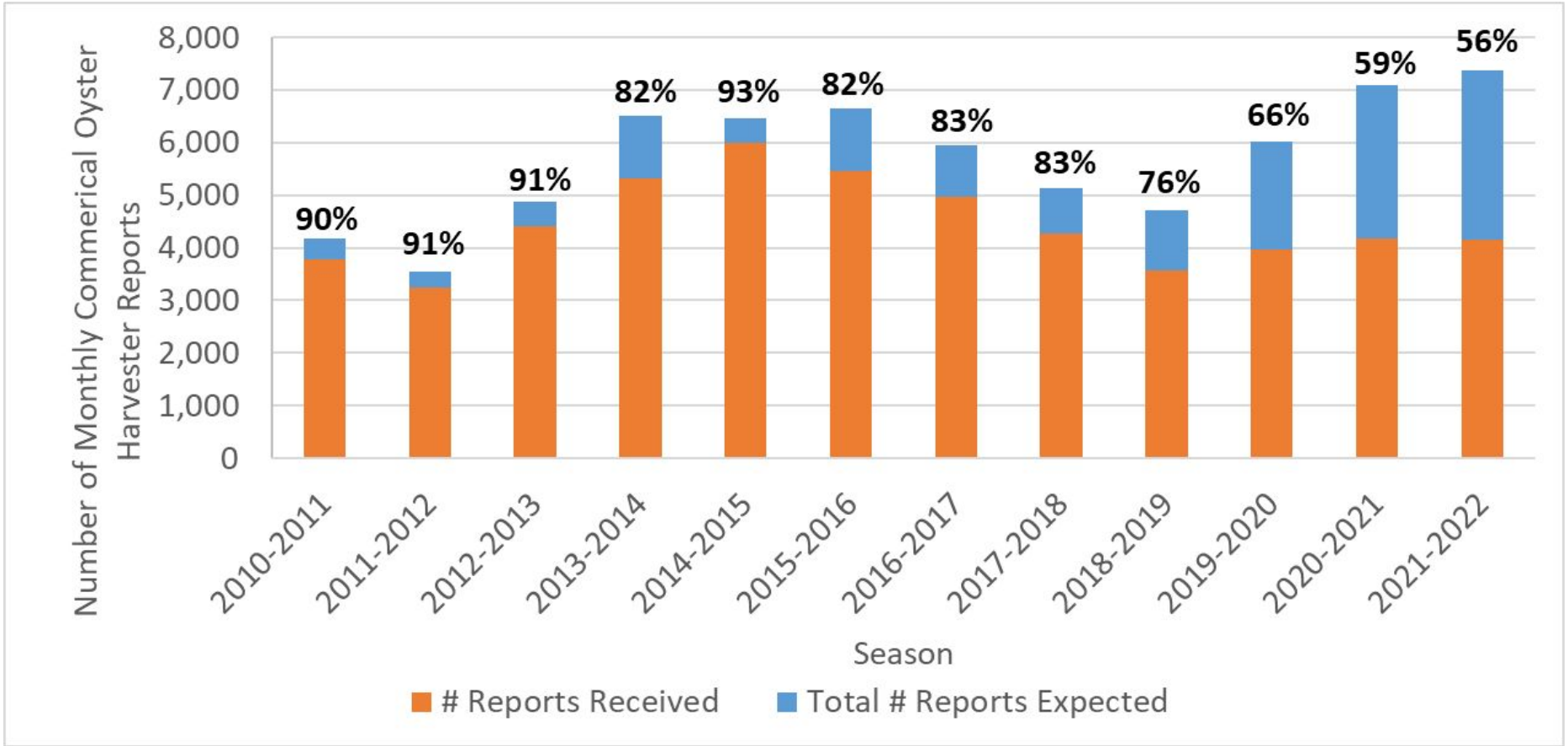
August 31, 2022

Send comments to:

fisheriespubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov



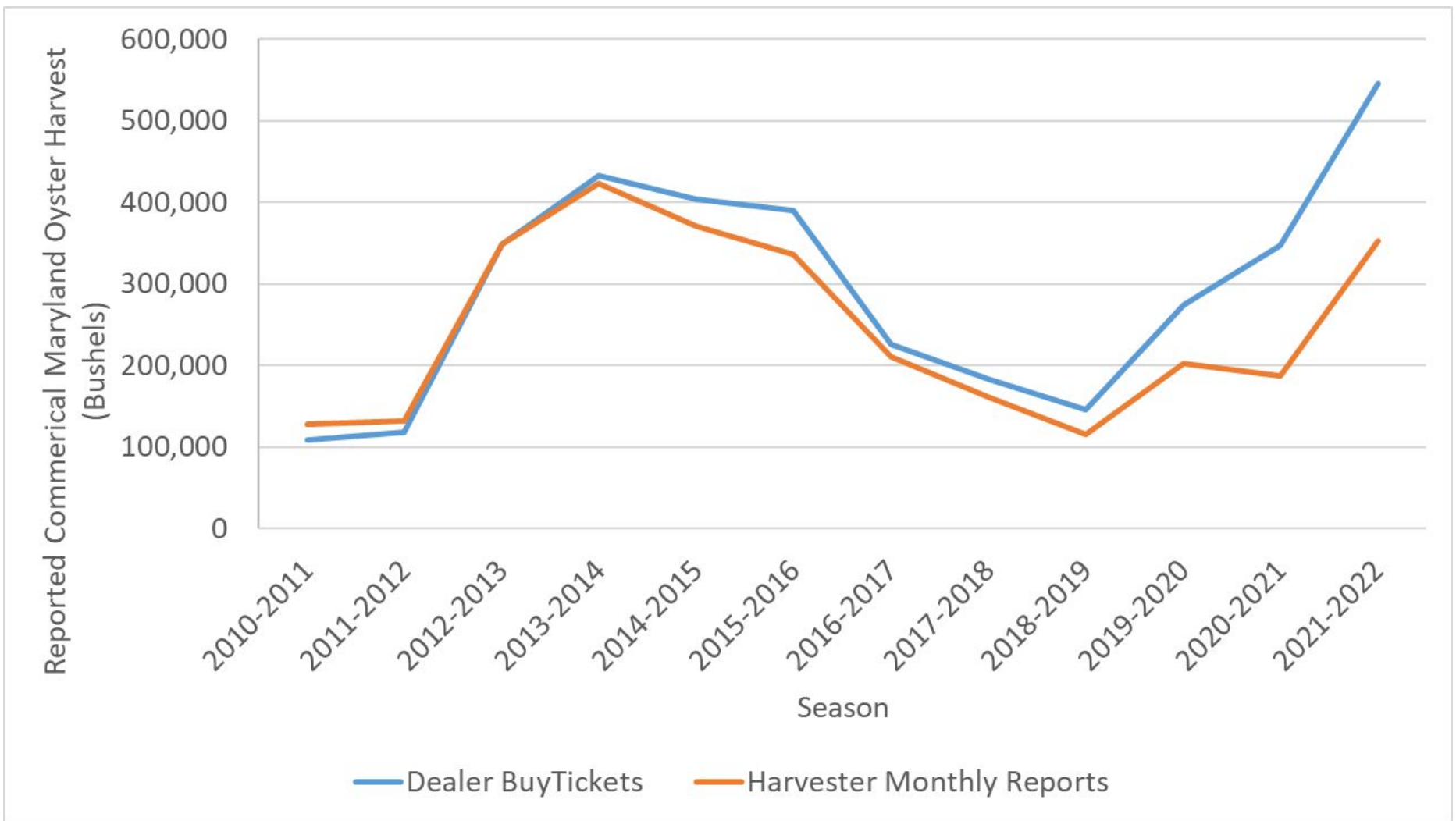
Oyster Reporting Rate



The reporting rate (%) are shown on the chart above.



Oyster Harvest





Discussion

Suggestions on how to improve
monthly harvester reporting
?????

ASMFC & MAFMC

Updates and Announcements



Presented By:
Michael Luisi & Lynn Fegley
July 21, 2022

(MAFMC/ASMFC) Quota Setting

Black Sea Bass, Summer Flounder, Scup and Bluefish

- Joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Council and ASMFC to establish quotas for State and Federally managed species - August 8th - 9th (Philadelphia, PA)
- A constant catch and landings recommendation made in August 2021 was made for all 4 species based on most recent stock assessment information
- NO CHANGES are being recommended by Council Staff - SSC Review next week



(ASMFC) Striped Bass - Finalized Amendment 7

Changes and Next Steps (Timeline)

- Board finalized Amendment 7 in May 2022
 - Establishes a more conservative recruitment trigger (sensitive to low recruitment - requires action to reduce fishing mortality)
 - If the SSb is below the threshold - Board must implement a rebuilding plan within 2 years
 - Establishes limitation on the use of Conservation Equivalency (CE) while the stock is considered overfished - This is the current status
- *August Meeting Highlights*
- *Updated Stock Assessment & Next Steps*



(ASMFC) Striped Bass - Finalized Amendment 7

Changes and Next Steps (Timeline)

- August Meeting Highlights
 - Board will be providing guidance to the Technical Committee (TC) on types of options that will be available to the Board following the 2022 update to the stock assessment
 - DNR will be asking TC to provide management options that include:
 - Split bag limits (Charter and Private sectors)
 - Seasonal modifications (closures) accounting for regional differences in the Ches Bay (VA, MD and PRFC)
 - Commercial Quotas are subject to change based on new assessment



(ASMFC) Striped Bass - Finalized Amendment 7

Changes and Next Steps (Timeline)

- Updated Stock Assessment & Next Steps
 - Stock Assessment Update will be presented to the Board at the Annual ASMFC meeting in November - Long Branch, NJ
 - Depending on the outcome of the assessment...reductions in fishing mortality may be required
 - Meetings with MD stakeholders after the Board meeting before the new year
 - Decision on new recreational (Private and Charter) measures and commercial quotas will be implemented for 2023 fishing year.



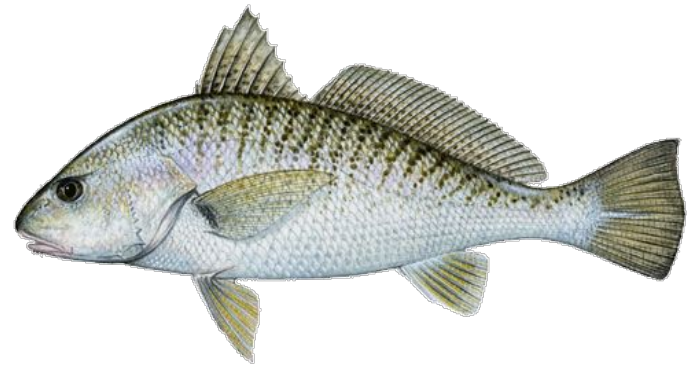
(ASMFC) Menhaden - Allocation Addendum

- Consider draft Addendum I of Amendment 3 to the Menhaden Management Plan - ALLOCATION!!
- Document will likely be approved - expect hearings in late summer.
- New Allocation on the ground for 2023
 - We are expecting our commercial allocation will be reduced
 - We will be working with state partners to secure the bycatch allowance
 - Objective is to minimize any functional interference with annual operations of the commercial fishery in MD
- Single species stock assessment update



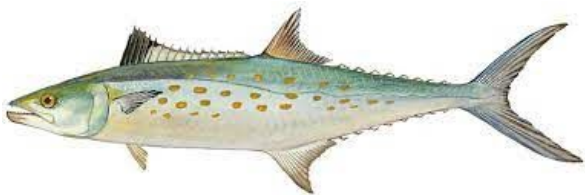
(ASMFC) Sciaenids - Spot, Croaker, Drum

- Updated Traffic Light Analysis for Spot and Croaker
- Hear about efforts to model Spot abundance in Chesapeake Bay



(ASMFC) Additional Announcements

- American Lobster
 - Update on Electronic Vessel Tracking (Tuesday, August 2nd)
- Spanish Mackerel:
 - 500 lb commercial limit per day/trip regardless of the # of licensees on boat
 - Commercial Season will be closed from Nov 16, 2022 - Jan 1, 2023
- Blue Catfish Science in the Chesapeake Bay
 - ASMFC Policy Board agenda (Thursday, August 4th)
 - MD will be presenting results of Patuxent River Project - Mary Groves



Websites and Contact Information



www.asmfc.org



www.mafmc.org

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EXTRA SLIDES

