



Virginia Marine Fisheries Management

2023 Virginia's Young Fishermen's Initiative Workshop

February 25, 2013

Virginia Beach



Pat Geer
Chief of Fisheries Management
Virginia Marine Resources Commission



Issues Facing Virginia Commercial Fisheries



Graying of the Fleet

Declining Participation

Loss of Infrastructure

Increasing Costs

Licenses Become a Commodity

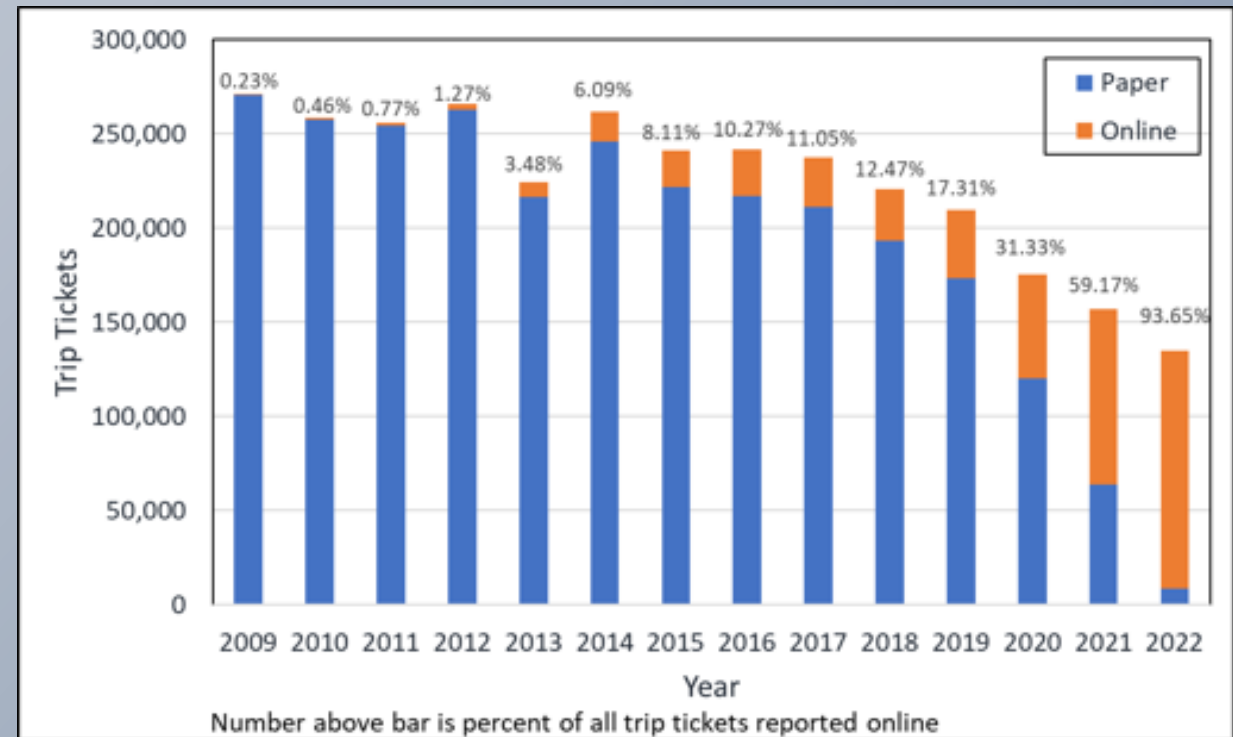


Mandatory Reporting



- All valid CFRL holders **MUST** report harvest monthly by the 5th.
 - Chapter 4 VAC20-610-10 et seq. and § 28.2-242. “Report of harvest required.”
- No Activity must also be reported
- Help Available from VMRC staff and some local libraries
- Mandatory Online Reporting for
 - Crabs, Cobia, Oysters, and
 - Aquaculture Products (July 2021)

<https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/>





Mandatory Reporting Penalties

| Months in Arrears | Minimum Penalty |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 | 1 year probation |
| 4 to 6 | 2 years probation |
| 7 to 12 | 6 month suspension of all licenses |
| > 12 | 1 year suspension of all licenses |

In Accordance with Chapter 4 VAC20-610-10 et seq.
(July 2021)

VMRC Commercial Licensing



- Commercial Fishermen Registration License (CFRL) \$190
 - “Commercial Card”
 - Two Year Delay Entry
 - Advantages to getting a card
 - Assigned a MRC ID#
 - Helper - get credit for reported landings
- Limited Entry Fisheries
 - Blue Crab, Striped Bass, Shrimp, Spiny Dogfish, Black Sea Bass, Oysters, etc
- Many fisheries have “history” eligibility requirements for licenses/permits
 - Harvest or Reported Fishing Days
 - Harvest during a specific time period



Limited Entry Fisheries

| License and Permits | Eligible or Max | 2022 Licenses Sold | Quota (lbs) |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| American Shad Bycatch Permits | M:30 | 25 | |
| Black Drum Permits | | 91 | 120,000 |
| Black Sea Bass Permits | | 101 | 762,062 |
| Blue Crab Limited Entry | E:1188 | 1032 | |
| Conch Pot Permit | | 46 | |
| Horseshoe Crab Permit | | 103 | 172,828 |
| Oyster User Fee | Goal:600 | 765 | |
| Spiny Dogfish Limited Entry Fishery Permit | | 69 | 3,191,020 |
| Striped Bass Permits | | 442 | 1,108,427 |
| Summer Flounder Endorsement License | | 149 | 2,743,231 |
| VB Area Shrimp Trawl License | Max:12 | 12 | |
| Charter Fishing and Guides License A and B | Max - A:200 | A: 107, B: 145 | |
| Commercial Hook & Line Limited Entry | Max:200 | 164 | |
| Gill Net Permit (A and B) | | 996 | |
| Pound Net License | Max:177 | 142 | |
| Experimental Gear & Scientific Collection Permits | | 115 | |

<https://mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/fm-permits.shtm>



Obtaining Licenses and Permits

- Limited Entry Fisheries or Gears
 - Must Purchase from Individual or Lottery when Applicable
- All other Licenses and Permits
 - VMRC Main Office - 757-247-2200. Regional Offices
 - Forms available at: <https://mrc.virginia.gov/Forms/index.shtm>
 - Scroll down to “Commercial Fisheries Licensing” click on link to the right.
 - Call Jeannie Baaklini, 757-247-2127, Jeanne.Baaklini@mrc.virginia.gov

Licenses and Quota for Sale

https://mrc.virginia.gov/quota-licenses_for_sale.shtm



Can't Afford the Initial Cost to Buy Licenses?

- Work as a Helper or Agent
 - Get Credit for Harvest If your MRC_ID is included on Harvest Reports.
 - Improves Eligibility
- Work with someone getting ready to retire
 - Work off the cost of buying licenses
- Get Everything in Writing
 - A Handshake or Verbal Agreement won't hold up in Court

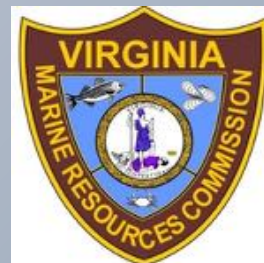
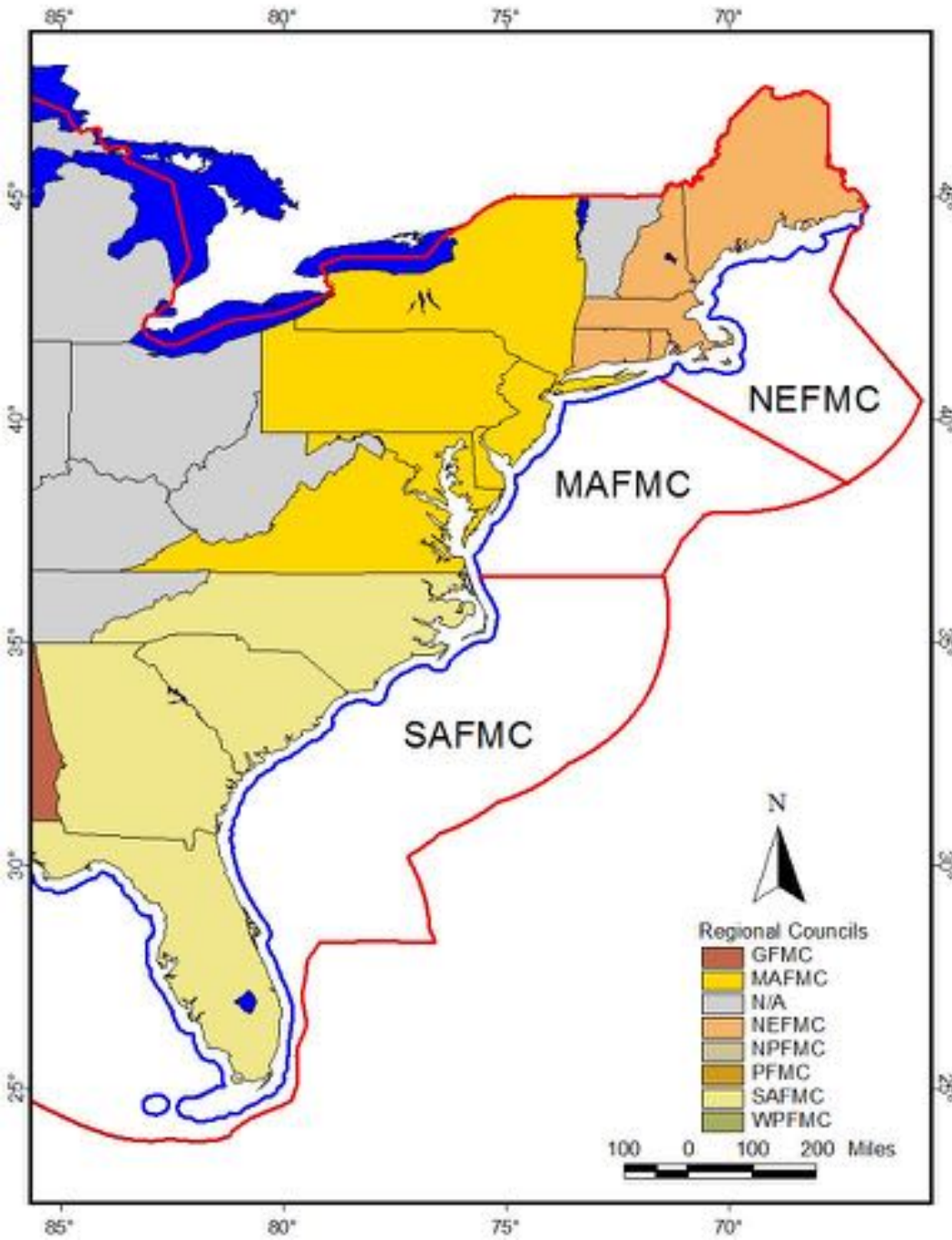
Fisheries Management 101





State Fisheries Management

- Closely tied to ASMFC and Councils
 - ASMFC: 0 – 3 nm (State waters)
 - 17 Members (ME to FL- 3 each), DC, PRFC, USFWS, NMFS
 - MAFMC: 3 – 200 nm (EEZ)
 - 21 Member, (NY to NC), NMFS, ASMFC, USGS, USFWS, USDOS



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

(Est. 1942)



- All 14 Atlantic Coast States (ME to FL), DC, PRFC, USFWS, NMFS (19 votes)
- Guiding Document:
 - Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (1993)
- 3 commissioners per state (DC, PRFC, USFWS & NMFS – 1)
 - Commissioners vote as one from each state
 - Administrative Appointee
 - Legislative Appointee
 - Governor Appointee
- 24 Species/Groups



ASMFC Oct 2022, Long Branch, NJ

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissioners



One State – One Vote

Virginia



*Patrick Geer
Administrative Proxy
(2018)*



*Jamie Green
Administrative
(2022)*



*Senator Monty Mason
Legislative (2018)*



*J. Bryan Plumlee
Governor Appointee (2018)*

ASMFC Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)

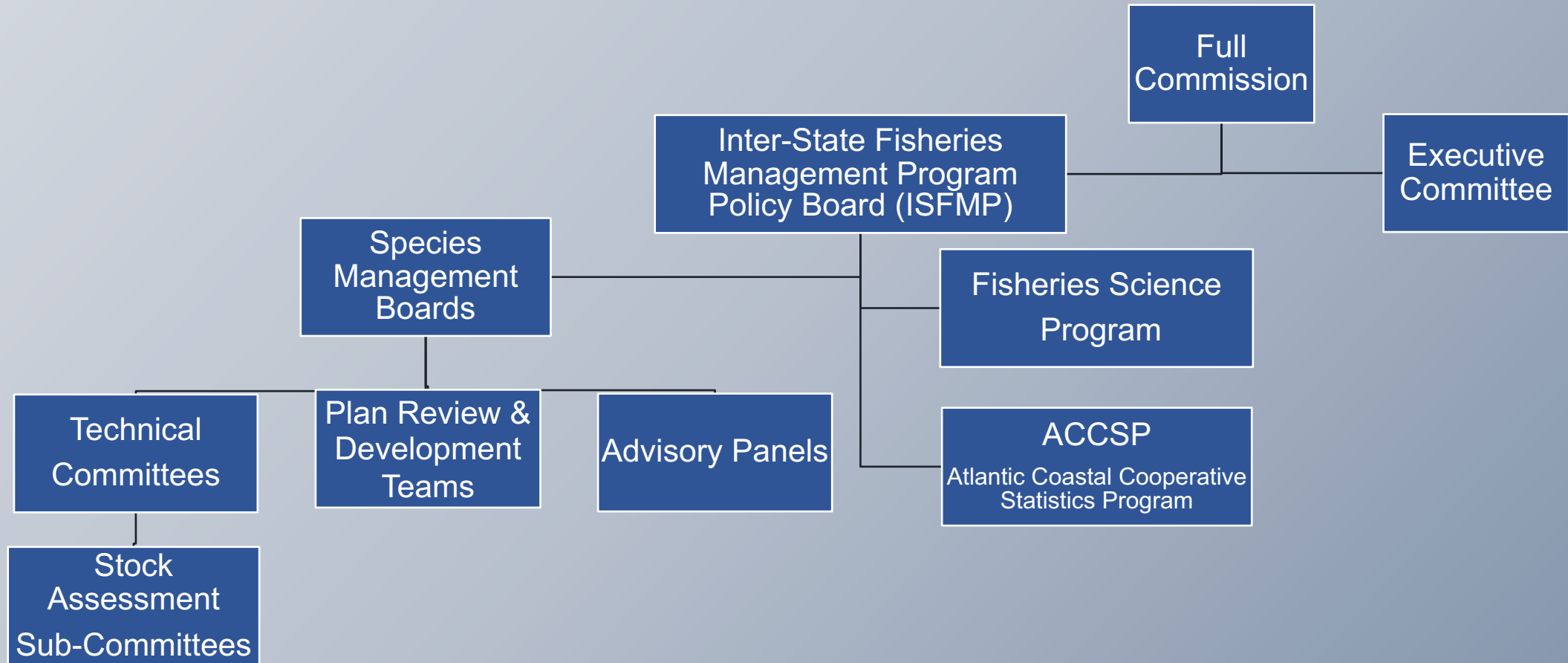


24 Species/Species Groups Under Management

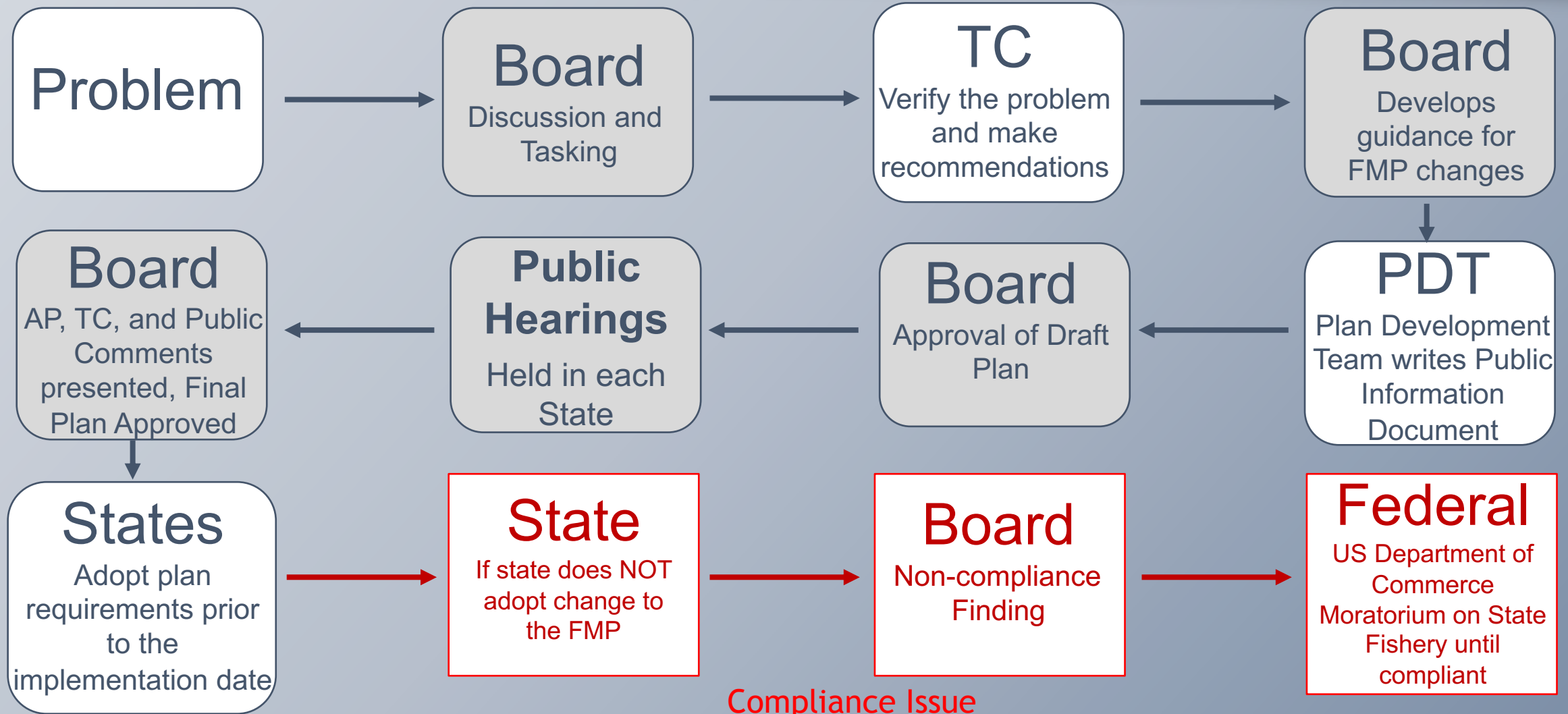
- American Eel
- American Lobster
- Atlantic Croaker
- **Atlantic Herring**
- Atlantic Menhaden
- Atlantic Sturgeon
- Black Drum
- *Bluefish
- Cobia
- Horseshoe Crab
- Jonah Crab
- **Northern Shrimp**
- Red Drum
- Shad & River Herring
- *Summer Flounder, Scup & Black Sea Bass
- Spanish Mackerel
- *Spiny Dogfish
- Atlantic Coastal Sharks
- Spot
- Spotted Seatrout
- Striped Bass
- Tautog
- Weakfish
- **Winter Flounder**

*Jointly Managed with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

ASMFC Organization Chart



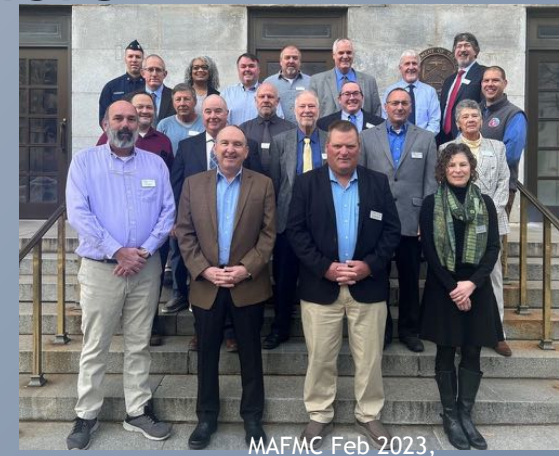
ASMFC FMP Process



Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Est. 1976)



- One of Eight Regional Fishery Councils
 - MAFMC: NY to NC
- 21 Voting Members: 7 State Designees, 7 State Obligatory Seats, 6 At-large Seats, NOAA Fisheries
- 4 Non-Voting Members: ASMFC, USFWS, USCG, & US State Dept.
- Manage Federal Waters 3 – 200nm offshore
- 15 Species
- Guiding Document:
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (2006)



MAFMC Management Plans



15 Species in 7 Fishery Management Plans

- Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass**
- Mackerel (Atlantic and chub), Squid (longfin and *Illex*), and Butterfish
- Atlantic Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs
- Atlantic Bluefish**
- Golden and Blueline Tilefish
- Spiny Dogfish*
- Monkfish*

*: Jointly Managed with the New England Council

** : Jointly Managed with ASMFC

Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council



One Person – One Vote



Patrick Geer
Designated State Official
2021



Dr. Ken Neill
At-large Member
(1st term, Exp. 2025)

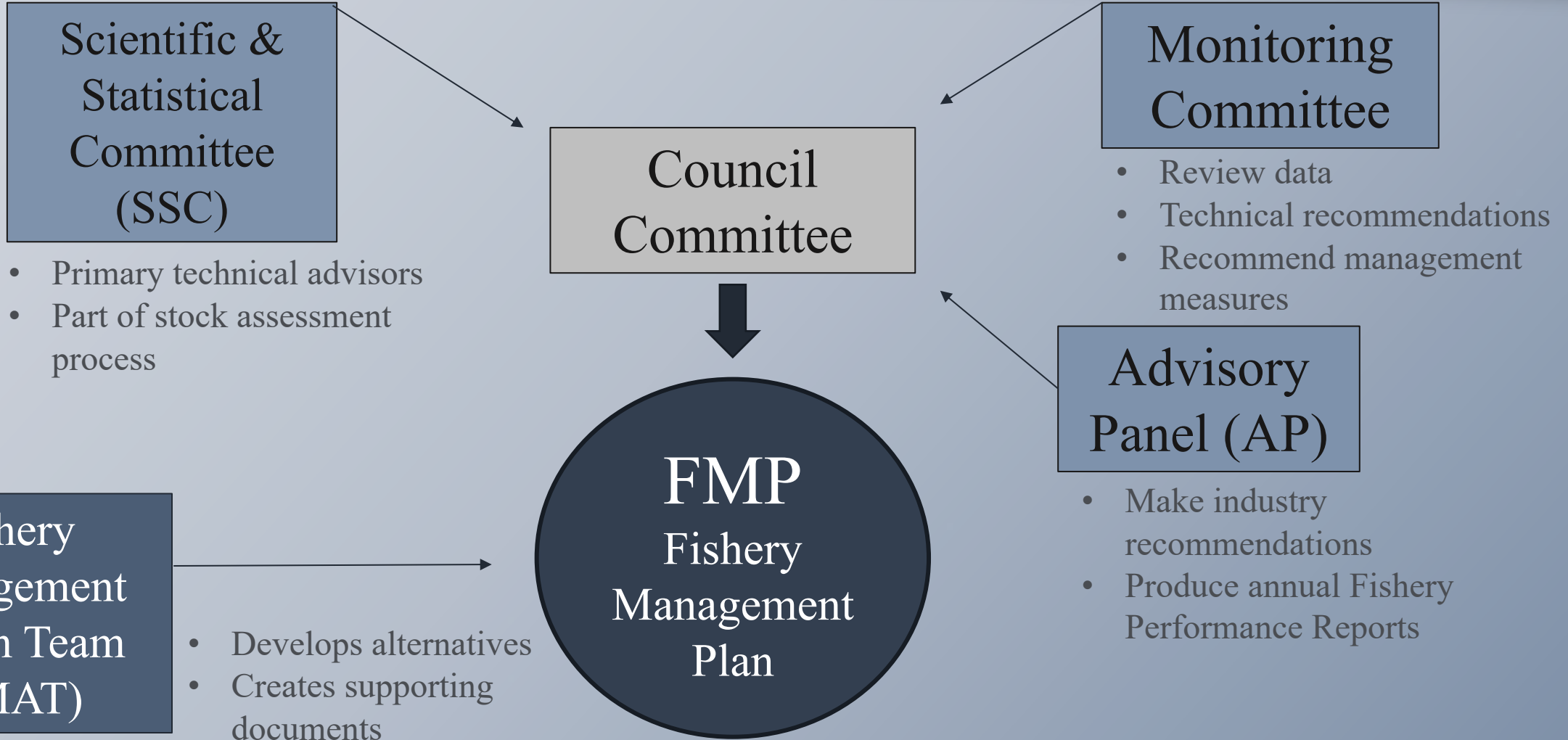


Skip Feller
Obligatory State Member
(1st term, Exp. 2024)

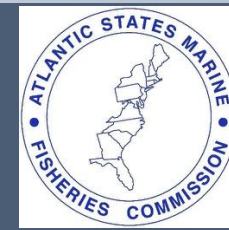


NOAA
FISHERIES

MAFMC FMP Process



ASMFC vs MAFMC



| | ASMFC | MAFMC |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Jurisdictions | 19 | 12 |
| Members | 49 | 25 |
| Votes | 19 | 21 |
| Management Area | State Waters (0-3 nm) | Federal Waters (3-200 nm) |
| FMPs | 24 | 7 |
| Voting Body | Species Board | Council Committee |
| Technical Review | Technical Committee | Monitoring Committee |
| Changing the FMP | PDT develops an Amendment or Addendum | FMAT develops an Amendment or Framework |
| Guiding Documents | ACFCMA (1993) | MSA (1976) reauthorization pending |



State's Role After a FMP Amendment is Approved

States must modify their Regulations to comply with the approved FMP

Finfish Management AC
Menhaden Management AC
Crab Management AC
Shellfish Management AC
Aquaculture Management AC

ASMFC or MAFMC
Final Decision

VIRGINIA

VMRC*
Advisory Committees
(FMAC & MMAC)

VMRC*
Commission Meeting
Public Hearing

States can be more conservative than Interstate FMP requires - Not less

Staff take options to Advisory Committees for discussion and endorsement.

Staff develop draft changes to regulation(s) with written evaluation explaining the rationale for those changes

* Public Comment Process

Virginia Regulated Species not under an ISFMP



- Blue Crabs
- Oysters
- Clams
- Conch/Whelk
- Catfish[†]
- Sheepshead^{*}
- Shrimp^{*}

* Managed by SAFMC - no authority in VA

† Primary management by DWR

Take Home Points



- Get Involved - Have Your Voice Heard!

- Early and Often

- ASMFC/MAFMC

- VMRC Advisory Committees



More Influence

- VMRC Public Hearings

**Last Chance
Less Influence**

- Stay Informed

Opportunities to Participate



- VMRC Management Advisory Committees
 - Finfish - presently 2 commercial seats available
 - Crabs
 - Menhaden
 - Shellfish
- ASMFC /MAFMC
 - Advisory Panel - State Reps - several openings for Virginia
 - Commissioner/Council Member - Appointed by Governor
- VIMS
 - Fisheries Resource Grants



Marine Resource Education Program (MREP)

“Empowers fishermen with better understanding of how, when, and where to engage effectively in fisheries science and management. MREP workshops are guided by local industry members, ensuring regional relevance for fishermen attendees.”



- Classes offered regionally
- All Expenses Paid for Classes, Lodging, and Travel
- <https://mrep.gmri.org/>

Important Links



- VMRC Licensing Information By Species and Gear: <https://mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/fm-permits.shtm>
- VMRC Mandatory Reporting: <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/>
- Forms available at: <https://mrc.virginia.gov/Forms/index.shtm>
- Licensing Department: Jeannie Baaklini, 757-247-2127, Jeanne.Baaklini@mrc.virginia.gov
 - Regional Offices: Southern Area (757) 247-2265, Middle Area (804) 695-1936,
Northern Area (804) 580-2901, Eastern Shore (757)414-0713
- Licenses and Quota for Sale: https://mrc.virginia.gov/quota-licenses_for_sale.shtm
- VMRC Commissioners: <https://mrc.virginia.gov/commissionboard.shtm>
- VMRC Advisory Panels: <https://mrc.virginia.gov/advisorycommittees.shtm>
- VMRC Meeting YouTube Video Archives: <https://www.youtube.com/@vamarineresources>
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission: <http://asmfc.org/>
- Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council: <https://www.mafmc.org/>

Questions

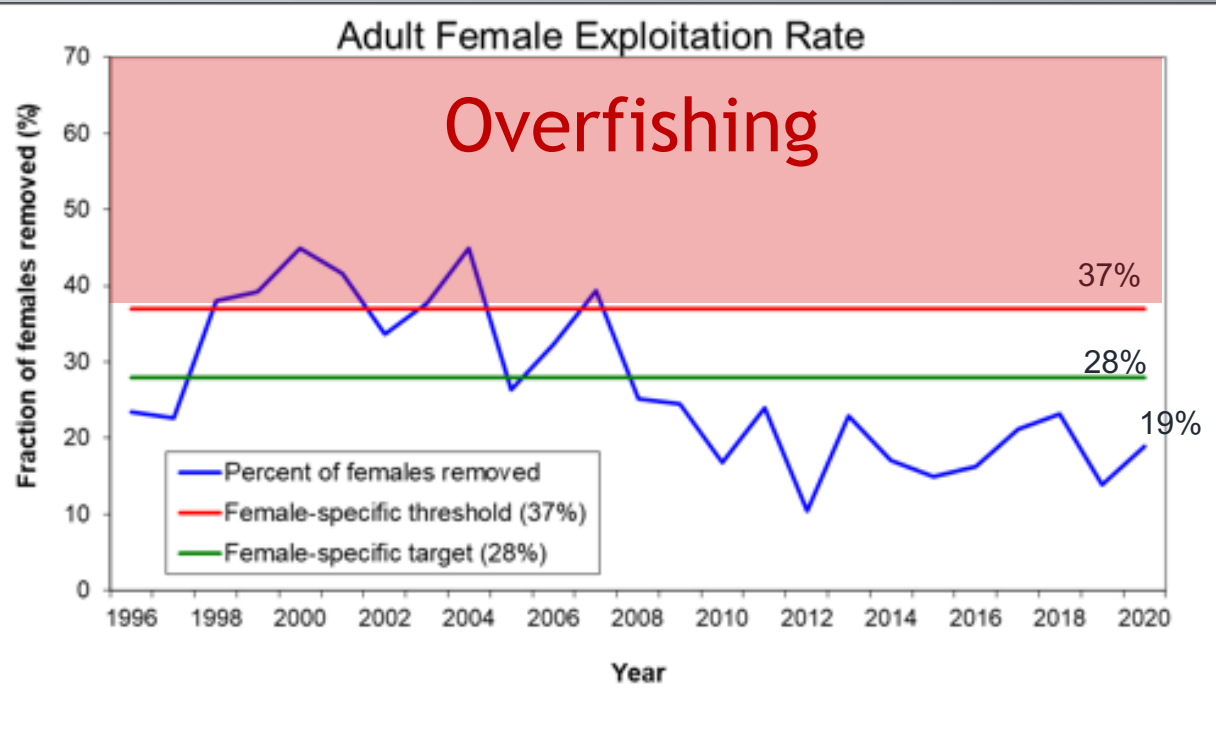


Other Slides





Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs Reference Points

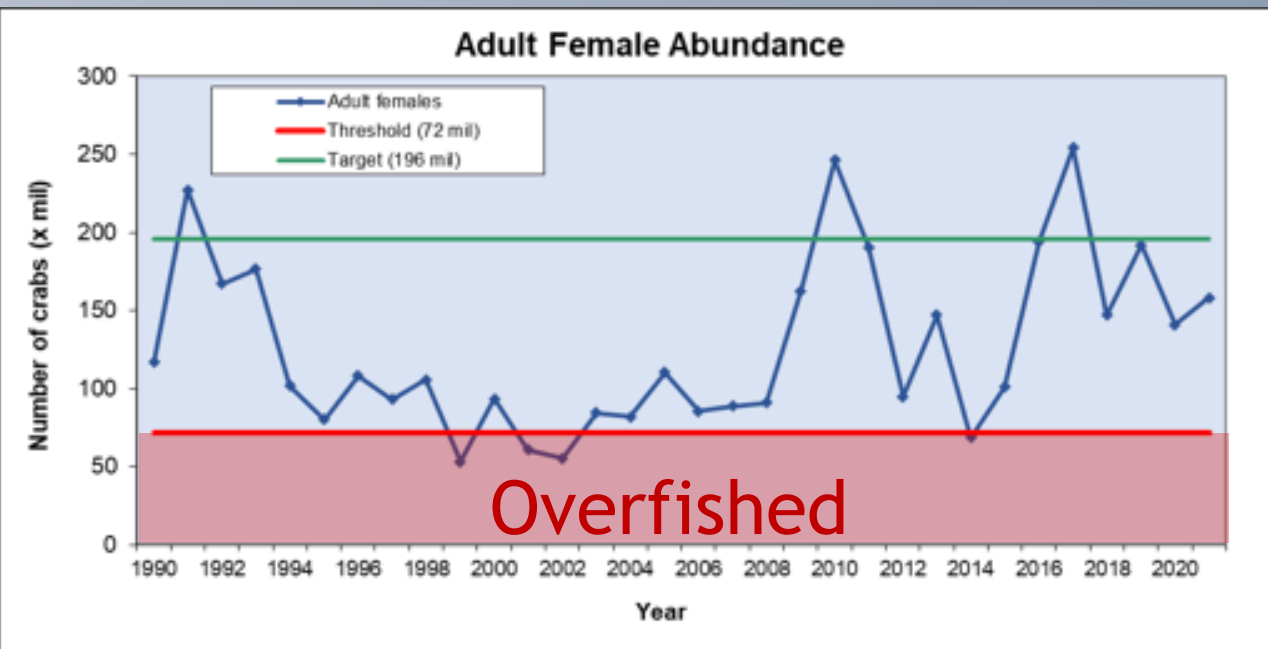


Spawning Stock Biomass

- Number/Weight of potential spawners
- Below Threshold = Stocked Overfished

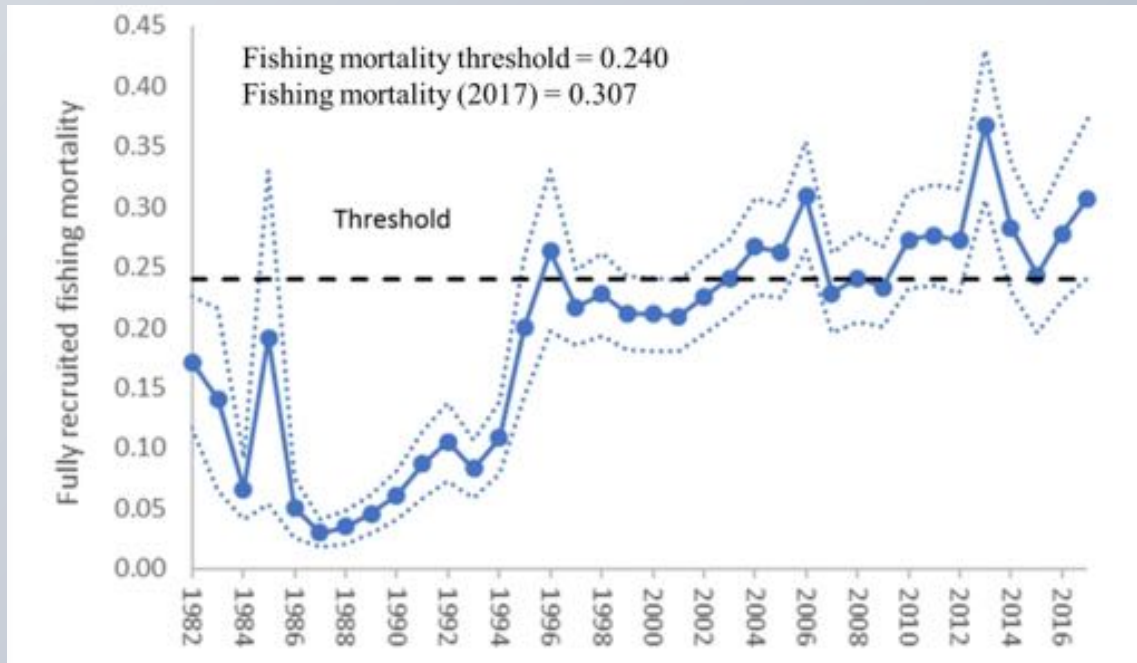
Exploitation Rate

- Pct of Population removed by fishing
- Above Threshold = Overfishing Occurring

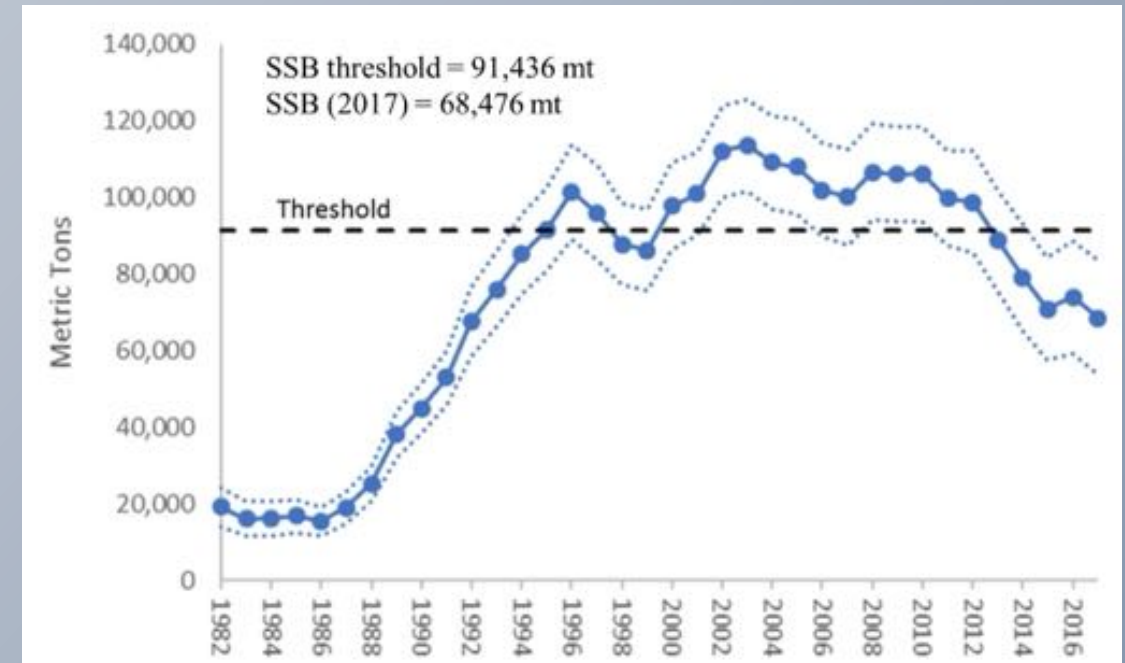


2018 Striped Bass Stock Assessment

(Data through 2017)



Fishing Mortality > Threshold - Stock is Overfished



Spawning Stock Biomass < Threshold - Overfishing is Occurring

Coastwide Recreational Discards Greater than Harvest

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)

Crab Management Advisory Committee (CMAC)

Shellfish Management Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (AMAC)

For Species Not Managed Under an ISFMP

Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC)

Menhaden Management Advisory Committee (MMAC)

ASMFC Fisheries Science and Management Process

