

TAUTOG (from page 7)

Following this analysis, all regions in the four region management scenario (Massachusetts-Rhode Island, Long Island Sound, New Jersey-New York Bight, and Delaware-Maryland-Virginia) were updated with landings and index data through 2015 (the accompanying table provides stock status by region when compared to the proposed reference points).

The Massachusetts-Rhode Island region was found to be not overfished and overfishing was not occurring.

The Long Island Sound and the New Jersey-New York Bight region were both found to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. The Delaware-Maryland-Virginia region was found to be overfished, but overfishing was not occurring. Short-term projections to determine the level of harvest required to have a 50% and 70% probability of achieving the fishing mortality target for each region, as well as the probability of being at or above the SSB threshold, by 2020 were also conducted in order to development management strategies to end overfishing for these stocks.

Atlantic Coastal Management

Tautog is managed under Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Tautog (October 2017). Based on the results of the 2015 Benchmark Stock Assessment and the 2016 Regional Stock Assessment, Amendment 1 delineates the stock into four regions due to differences in biology and fishery characteristics, and limited coastwide movement: Massachusetts-Rhode Island, Long Island Sound, New Jersey-New York Bight, and Delaware-Maryland-Virginia.

Amendment 1 includes new regional biological reference points, fishing mortality targets, and stock rebuilding schedules. Each region will implement measures to achieve the regional fishing mortality target with at least a 50% probability. Commercial and recreational management measures are determined individually by the four management regions in response to the 2016 Stock Assessment Update. If the current fishing mortality exceeds the regional threshold, the Board must initiate corrective action within one year.

Additionally, Amendment 1 addresses the pervasive issue of illegal harvest of undersized and unreported tautog by establishing a commercial harvest tagging program. Under the tagging program, all states within the management unit will require commercially permitted harvesters to tag all commercial caught tautog at the time of harvest or prior to offloading. Tautog must be landed in the state that is identified on the tag. The selected tags are non-lethal and will be applied to fish intended for both live and fresh markets. All states will implement the tagging program in 2020.



Proud to be a RISAA Member

by
Tom Jewett



A Great Good Morning to you Steve,

I passed a delightful hour on Monday evening listening to **Greg Vespe** talk about night fishing in Narragansett Bay. Damn, how I wish I had done more of it when I had the chance. Damn, how I wish I could run right out and do a bit right now.

For many reasons, that isn't going to happen, but I got to listen to something I found very interesting, from someone more than willing to share his considerable knowledge and his cool experiences. It certainly made my day, something that does not happen as often as I would like these days.

So, that was Greg Vespe, right? **WRONG!** That was RISAA in one of its great moments. You and RISAA have chosen **NOT** to just moan, groan and offer half-baked substitutes for the celebration of sport fishing in New England.

You and RISAA have found out how to make it possible for the organization to continue to reach into our lives at this very difficult time. Not only do I benefit, but I am quite impressed by RISAA's rapidly learned lessons of how to do it right when conducting remote video meetings. **WOW!**

I am a participant in such things rather often these days and it is truly rare that an organization manages to do such a fine job of continuing to present itself in a highly palatable, well managed and solid way.

And there's a little thing that means a lot to me. You have managed to continue to give meaning to my "Life" membership even as age has undercut my ability to take advantage of the many other benefits of membership.

I am proud to say, "I am a RISAA life member!"

At 75 I do suffer from the sense that when I am done here there will be little of persistent value left behind. Knowing that RISAA will continue, in some tiny part with my help, is a wonderful realization. Keep up the very fine work.

FINE JOB ALL! THANK YOU!

Best regards,
Tom Jewett

NOTICE

Articles that appear in the RISAA News Magazine are presented for educational and informational purposes. The views and opinions of authors are not necessarily the views of the R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association, its Board of Directors or its membership.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Articles and submissions for the RISAA newsletter must be received by the 15th for the next month's publication. Items received after this date will be held until the following month.

