



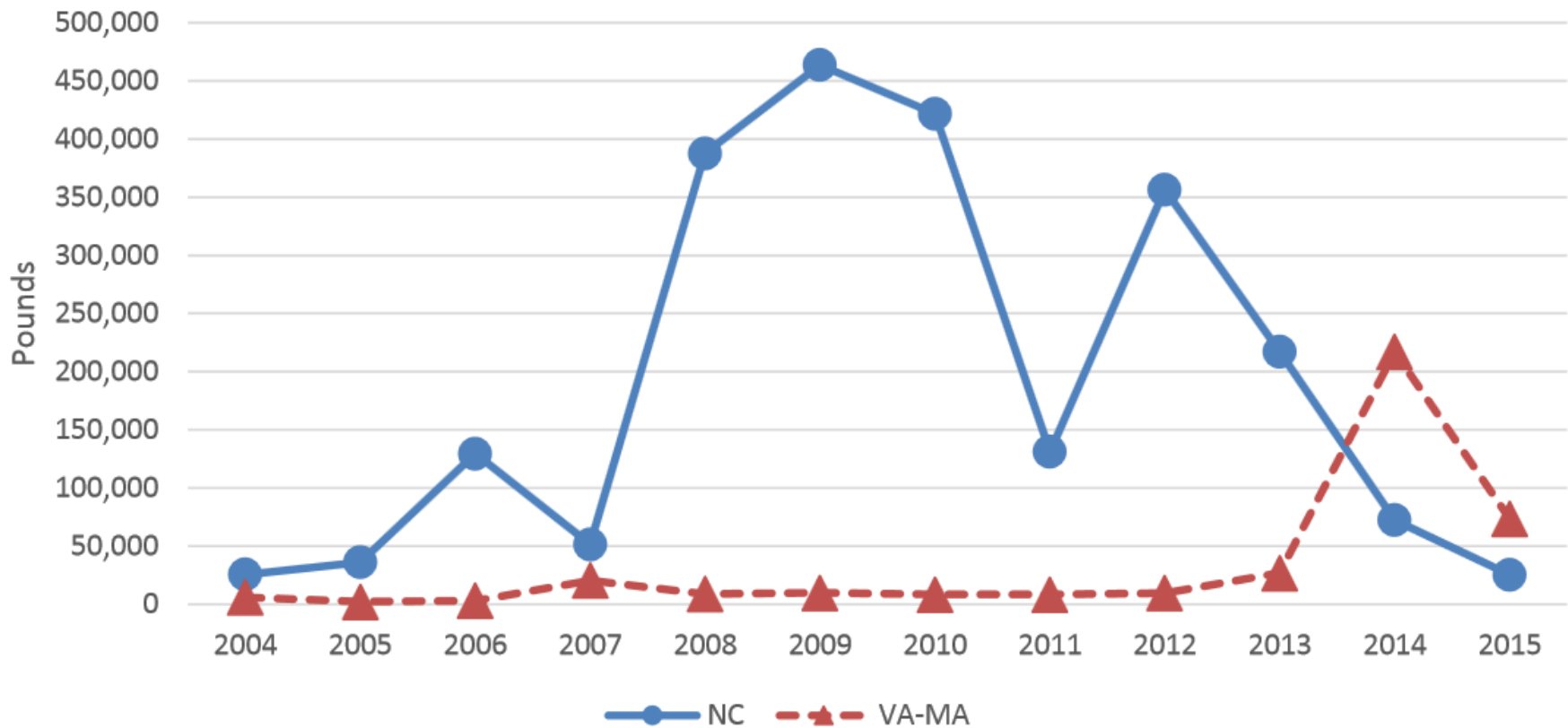
April 2016

Blueline Tilefish

Jason Didden
jdidden@mafmc.org

Background

Blueline Tilefish Commercial Dealer Landings 2004-2015



Background

- Emergency rule in effect for waters north of North Carolina
 - COM: 275 pounds (gutted)
 - REC: 7 fish per person
- SAFMC regulations apply off North Carolina and to the south
 - COM: 100 pounds; REC: limited season & 1 fish per BOAT. Framework pending (300/3)

Background

- Very high uncertainty
- Council's SSC developed Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for N of NC
- ~87,000 pounds
 - March 29 SSC meeting

Delphi Process

- Did not have good recreational data.
- Delphi process uses repeated surveys and discussions with experts.
- Small niche fishery, few participants
- 20 recreational fishermen – party, charter, private

Delphi Process



Delphi Process

- Developed an estimate of 2015 catch.
- Staff used ratios of 2015 reported catch (VTR) versus Delphi process to back cast time series.
- Final survey party-boat modifications.
- An estimate.
- Used by SSC...

Public Comments - NC

- Concerns over fairness, consideration of commercial participation, allocation (2014/2015)
- Discard issues
- 300 pound trip limit not a viable fishery
- Concern RE: speed of implementation
- Concern RE: ABC & science & need for assessment

Public Comments - VA

- Management area issues
- Reporting vs. other ways to collect data than reporting (LPS); compliance concerns
- Support for 7 fish/person
 - Parity re: longer trip issue (charter too)
- Concern re: AMs
- Concern RE: ABC & science & need for assessment

Public Comments - MD

- Support for 7 fish/person
 - Parity re: longer trip issue (charter too)
- Concern re: AMs
- Concern RE: ABC & science & need for assessment
- Concern about golden tilefish
- Make reporting easy, compliance concerns

Public Comments - NJ

- Support for 7 fish/person
 - Parity re: longer trip issue (N v S) – daily limit
- Concern re: AMs
- Concern RE: ABC & science & need for assessment
- Permitting issues (not HMS)
- Concern about need for eVTRs
- Use medians for allocation

Public Comments - NJ

- Different limits for different parts of recreational fishery
- Commercial viability, COM/REC parity
- Blueline/Golden disparity re: ABCs
- Concern about the average size that was used to develop ABC

Public Comments, Written and AP Summary

- Generally cover same range of issues as hearing comments
- Some support for private reporting
 - Concern about recreational effort
- Bycatch % allowance
- Commercial trip limit modification
- Season closures vs. bag limit
- Unintended consequences

Alternative 1

- No action
- Emergency measures expire June 3. No federal management north of NC/VA border. VA, MD, DE & NJ have measures in place that are comparable or stricter to emergency rules.

Alternative 1

- No action = stop.

Alternative 2

- Management Unit
- 2a - NC/VA Line
- 2b - Cape Hatteras
- 2c - Objectives

Alternative 2

- Some comments for both 2a and 2b
- FMAT/Staff recommends 2a (NC/VA line)

Alternative 3

- Status Determination Criteria
- Use most recent accepted assessment

Alternative 4

- Commercial Permitting/Reporting
 - 4a – Use golden tilefish permits
 - 4b – New blueline permits
 - 4c – Standard reporting
 - 4d – eVTRs
 - 4e – Dealer permits & reporting

Alternative 4

- Staff/FMAT
 - No major advantage to new permit at this time
 - Standard reporting likely sufficient – eVTR would facilitate more rapid assignment of catch tracking by area

Alternative 5

- For-Hire Permitting/Reporting
- 5a – Use golden tilefish permits
- 5b – New blueline permits
- 5c – Standard reporting
- 5d – eVTRs

Alternative 5

- Staff/FMAT
 - No major advantage to new permit at this time
 - eVTR facilitates rapid tracking of catch
 - Timing not specified, but going more than 24-48 hours may lose benefits of eVTRs
 - Match recreational timing if chosen?
 - Compliance concerns

Alternative 6

- Private Permitting/Reporting
 - 6a – Private Permit
 - 6b – Require HMS permit
 - 6c – Private reporting (HMS)
 - 6d – Private reporting (online pre-landing)

Alternative 6

- FMAT/Staff: Compliance Concerns
- Staff: Pros and Cons to permit alternatives
 - HMS permit easiest, least information
 - Indication of intent
 - Separate permit through HMS site, cost
- MRIP will never generate good tilefish data
 - Reporting...ACCSP

Alternative 7

- Monitoring Committee
- Use golden tilefish monitoring committee
- Advisory Panel?

Alternative 8

- Frameworks
- Allow previously-considered actions to be frameworked

Alternative 9

- Specifications
- 9a – Specifications mechanisms
- 9b – ABC Control Rule
- 9c – Risk Policy

- All needed to continue...

Alternative 10

- Allocations (landings)
- 10a – No allocations
- 10b1 – 5-year median (2009-2013)
- 10b2 – 5-year mean (2009-2013)
- 10c1 – 10-year median (2004-2013)
- 10c2 – 10-year mean (2004-2013)
- 10d – Specifications w/ allocations
- 10e - Specifications w/o allocations

Alternative 10

- Allocations (landings)
- 10a – No allocations
- 10b1 – 73% Rec, 27% Com
- 10b2 – 72% Rec, 28% Com
- 10c1 – 76% Rec, 24% Com
- 10c2 – 76% Rec, 24% Com
- 10d – Specifications w/ allocations
- 10e - Specifications w/o allocations

Alternative 10

- FMAT/Staff: Data concerns
- COM/REC?
- ABC...
- ACL...
- ACT...
- TAL...

Alternative 11

- Commercial Trip Limits (gutted)
- 11a – Current – 275 pounds
- 11b – 200 pounds
- 11c – 300 pounds
- 11d – 500 pounds
- 11e – 900 pounds
- 11f – 750 pounds

Alternative 11

- FMAT/Staff
- At assumed allocation, 300 pounds gutted likely to sufficiently restrain commercial fishery, avoid in-season action (based on 2015)

Alternative 12

- Recreational Limits
- 12a – Current – 7 fish
- 12b – 5 fish
- 12c – 9 fish
- 12d – 3 extra fish for longer trips

Alternative 12

- Recreational Limits
- FMAT/Staff – very difficult to predict what will happen given limited data.
- Reporting and in-season closures will avoid accounting overages, may affect compliance.
- All else being equal, simple is better for compliance.

Alternative 13

- EFH
- 13a – Wait
- 13b – EFH designation via life history information (46-256 meters)

Alternative 14

- Accountability Measures
 - 14a – AMs with allocations
 - Management measures, deductions
 - 14b – AMs w/o allocations
 - Management measures, deductions
 - 14c – In-season closure authority.