

1.2 CURRENT MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

1.2.1 Recreational Fishery

Recreational regulations on tautog harvest vary greatly from state to state. As a baseline, the fishery management plan for tautog required that all states implement (by April 1, 1998) and enforce a 14" minimum size for recreational fisheries. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Delaware have gone beyond this requirement by implementing a 16" minimum size limit for Massachusetts and Rhode Island state waters, and a 15" minimum size limit for Delaware state waters. Possession limits, size limits, and seasonal closures have been implemented by the states in order to achieve the Addendum III target of $F_{40\%SSB}=0.30$. See Table 1 for a list of the recreational tautog regulations by state that were in place in 2005.

Table 1: 2005 Recreational Tautog Regulations

STATE	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
Massachusetts	16"	3	All Year
Rhode Island	16"	3	May 1-May 31
	16"	3	July 1-October 21
	16"	10	October 22-December 15
Connecticut	14"	4	January 1-April 30
	14"	4	June 15- September 7
	14"	4	September 22-December 13
New York	14"	10	January 1 – May 31
	14"	10	October 1 – December 31
New Jersey	14"	4	January 1-May 31
	14"	1	June 1-November 14
	14"	8	November 15-December 31
Delaware	14"	10	January 1-March 31
	15"	3	April 1 - June 30
	14"	10	July 1-August 31
	14"	10	October 1-December 31
Maryland	14"	5	January 1-November 30
Virginia	14"	7	All Year

1.2.2 Commercial Fishery

Commercial regulations on tautog harvest vary greatly from state to state as well. As a baseline, the Tautog FMP required that all states implement (by April 1, 1998) and enforce a 14" minimum size for commercial fisheries. This Addendum does not require additional reductions in the commercial fishery to meet the coastwide $F = 0.20$ (section 4). States are not permitted to relax commercial tautog regulations under this Addendum and must maintain at least as stringent regulations as were in place for the 2006 fishing season. See Table 2 for a list of commercial tautog regulations by state that were in place in 2005.