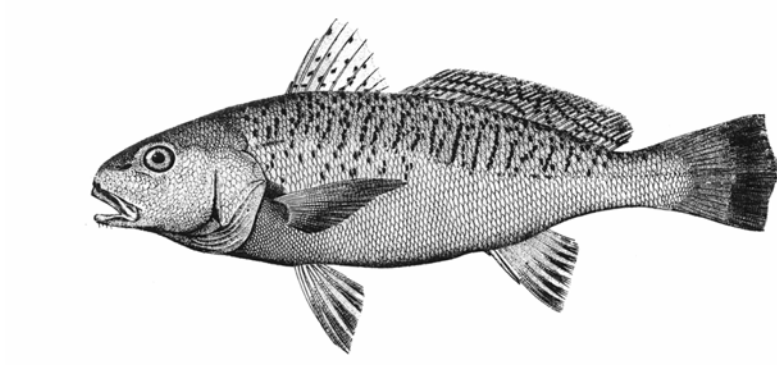


**2002 REVIEW OF THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR ATLANTIC CROAKER
(*Micropogonias undulatus*)**



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The Atlantic Croaker Plan Review Team

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Approved November 19, 2002

criteria in an amended plan. Size limits that are in place in the states have been there for several years and do not represent a response to the FMP. In order to minimize recreational discard mortality, a new amendment may evaluate the concept of encouraging the use of hook types which minimize such mortality.

VII. Implementation of FMP Compliance Requirements as of October 1, 2002

There are no regulatory compliance requirements in the 1987 Atlantic Croaker FMP.

VIII. Recommendations of FMP Review Team

General

- Compile and analyze existing data for updating the stock assessment.

Table 4. Summary of current state and federal regulations for Atlantic croaker.

State/Agency	Recreational	Commercial	Other
New York	none	none	
New Jersey	none	none	trawling prohibited from 0-2 miles from shore
Delaware	8"	none	
Maryland	9"; 25 fish limit	9"	trawling restricted in Ches. Bay; closed 1/1-3/15
PRFC	25 per person/day		
Virginia	none	none	trawling prohibited in state waters
North Carolina			Flynets excluded south of C. Hatteras and mesh size restrictions; culling panels required in long haul seines/pound nets; TEDs required in flounder trawls in most state waters; TED/BRD requirements and min. mesh restrictions in shrimp trawls
South Carolina	none	none	gear-related restrictions; TED/BRD requirements; license to land/sell
Georgia	8"; 25 fish limit	8"; 25 fish limit	BRD requirement; no trawling in sounds
Florida	none	none	net ban in state waters
Federal (EEZ waters)			

Management and Regulatory Recommendations

Management recommendations in the 1987 Croaker FMP should be adopted and implemented by appropriate regulations or legislation. They are as follows:

- Promote the development and use of trawl efficiency devices (TED's and BRD's) through demonstration in the southern shrimp fishery, and fish separators in the finfish trawl fishery; and
- Promote increases in yield per recruit through delaying entry to croaker fisheries to age one or older.

Amendments

- Develop an amended Atlantic Croaker FMP with objective compliance criteria.