

**2001 REVIEW OF THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR SPOTTED SEATROUT
(*Cynoscion nebulosus*)**

Prepared by:

The Spotted Seatrout Plan Review Team

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Table 4. Summary of current state regulations for spotted seatrout.

State	Recreational	Commercial	Other
New York	none	none	
New Jersey	14" TL; 10 fish	13" TL; 12" TL when taken by otter trawl 9/1-12/31	weakfish regulations apply to spotted seatrout
Delaware	12" TL	none	
Maryland	14" TL; 10 fish	12" TL	minimum mesh size restrictions for trawl (3-3/8" sq. or 3-3/4" diam.) and gill nets (3")
PRFC	14" TL; 15 fish	14" TL	
Virginia	14" TL; 10 fish	14" TL	commercial quota of 51,104 pounds
North Carolina	12" TL; 10 fish	12" TL	
South Carolina	13" TL; 10 fish	no commercial harvest or sale	gamefish status
Georgia	13" TL; 15 fish	13" TL; 15 fish	
Florida	15-20" TL slot, 1 fish >20"; 5 fish (except South Region limit of 4); regional seasonal closures	15-24" TL; June 1-Aug. 31 season; 75 fish per day; hook & line or cast net only	

VII. Implementation of FMP Compliance Requirements as of October 1, 2001

All states required to implement the minimum size limit of 12 inches total length (TL) have done so.

VIII. Recommendations of FMP Review Team

Management and Regulatory Recommendations

- Develop an amended Spotted Seatrout FMP with objective compliance criteria.
- Efforts should be continued towards achieving full implementation of the FMP.
- Collection of commercial and recreational landings data should be continued, and increased emphasis should be placed on obtaining complimentary effort data.
- Development and implementation of methodologies to monitor stock status such as pre-recruit indices and virtual population analyses should receive more attention as should effort data associated with catches and size composition data on catches.
- The Spotted Seatrout FMP should be reviewed periodically and updated to incorporate new data and research findings and to assess the status of stocks and the fisheries.