

amendment also would require NMFS to provide fisheries data to support these activities in order to update the Council's Red Drum Source Document.

Currently, the consensus of the Commission/Council joint Plan Development Team is to await the results of the multi-state, fishery-independent study underway in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina which would help fill in current data gaps. Initiation of a joint plan amendment process should not begin until the multi-state independent sampling project and coastwide stock assessment is completed, currently anticipated in 1999.

VI. Current State-by-State Implementation per Compliance Requirements as of September 1, 1998

Amendment 1 designated a series of steps to achieve the target SSBR level of 30 percent. Currently, the South Atlantic Board has determined that the states must adopt the management measures that will attain an SSBR level above 10 percent (first step of phase-in approach). The 10 percent scenario requires states to adopt either of two options:

1. 18-inch total length (TL) minimum, 27-inch TL maximum, and a 5 fish bag limit with one fish exceeding 27-inch TL; or
2. 14-inch TL minimum, 27-inch maximum, and 5 fish bag limit, with no fish exceeding 27-inches TL

Based on the most recent assessment (Vaughan 1995) the first criterion of SSBR>10 percent appears to have been met for the southern area. The northern area is currently at 9 percent SSBR. Table 19 presents current state regulation for red drum.

Table 19. Atlantic coastal states' red drum regulations as of October, 1998

State	Size limit (TL inches)	Possession limit	Other	Meets plan requirement
ME	None	None	None	N/A
NH	18-27	None	0 fish > 27" TL	N/A
MA	Minimum 14	None	None	N/A
CT	None	None	0 fish <32" TL	N/A
RI	None	None	None	N/A
NY	14 min.	None	2 fish > 32" TL	N/A
NJ	18 min.; 27 max.	None	1 fish > 27" TL	Yes
PA	None	None	None	No
DE	18 min.; 27 max.	5 fish	1 fish > 27" TL	Yes
MD	18 min.; 27 max.	5 fish	1 fish > 27" TL	Yes
PRFC	18 min.; 27 max.	5 fish	1 fish > 27" TL	Yes
VA	18 min.	5 fish	1 fish > 27" TL	Yes
NC	18 min.; 27" max.	1 fish	0 fish > 27" TL; Commercial quota = 250,000 lbs.; daily trip limit of 100 lbs.; attend gill nets < 5" stretch mesh from May 1 – Oct. 31	Yes
SC	14 min.; 27 max.	5 fish	Gamefish - no sale	Yes
GA	14 min.	5 fish	0 fish > 27" TL	Yes
FL	18 min.; 27 max.	1 fish	Gamefish - no sale	Yes