



Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, Inc. (VSSA)
P.O. Box 28898, Henrico, VA 23228
<http://www.ifishva.org>
A Non-Profit 501-C3 Organization
Representing All Virginia Recreational Saltwater Anglers

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Ashton Sharp, Tog FMP Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N
Arlington, VA 22201,

Subject: Tautog Public Information Document (PID). October 19, 2015

The Virginia Saltwater Sportsman Association (VSSA) is a new and growing organization of recreational fisherman in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our mission includes representing the interests of Virginia's recreational saltwater anglers, ensuring the long-term sustainability of Virginia's fisheries, while protecting Virginia's marine, boat and tackle industry jobs.

VSSA has polled hundreds of anglers in Virginia and we highly recommend ASMFC implement the following regarding tautog:

Issue #1. Implement regional management of tog with any option other than option 1. VSSA prefers option 4 as the most viable.

Issue #2. VSSA supports the ASMFC goals and objective as stated. Recommend adding support independent fisheries research to better justify regulatory actions.

Issue #3. VSSA supports current management structure implementing regional management of tog moving away from coast wide management. Allow each region to establish its own set of seasons and limits.

Issue #4. VSSA supports measures to rebuild stocks for those regions that are being overfished (which does not include Virginia).

Issue #5. An additional management measure recommended is to grant authority to regions (and/or states) to adjust tog season as necessary to account for cold winters as tog do not bite in very cold water.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. If you have any questions or comments, the best way to contact us is through our website or email, ifishva@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Mike Avery
Mike Avery