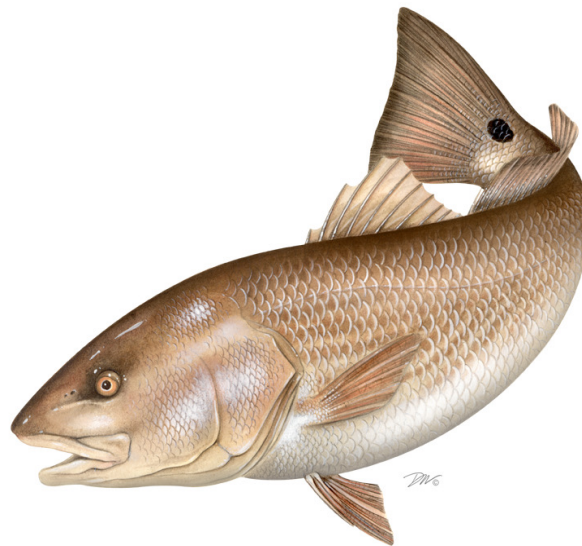


Red Drum Benchmark Assessment

Management History



August 13, 2024

Overview



- Management Unit
- ASMFC and SAFMC Management History
- State Regulations – Past and Present

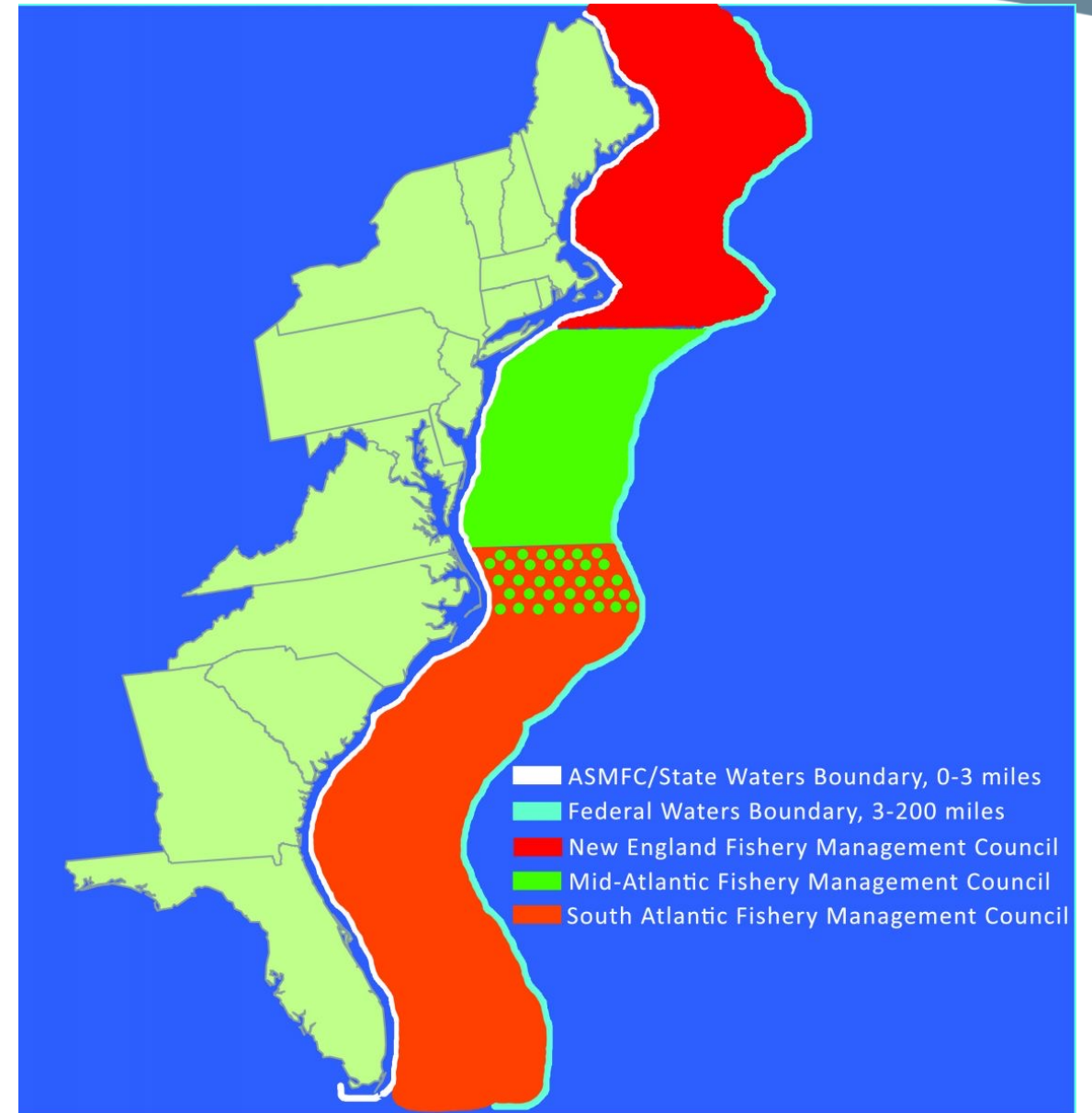


Photo credit: Chris Kalinowsky, GA DNR

Management Unit



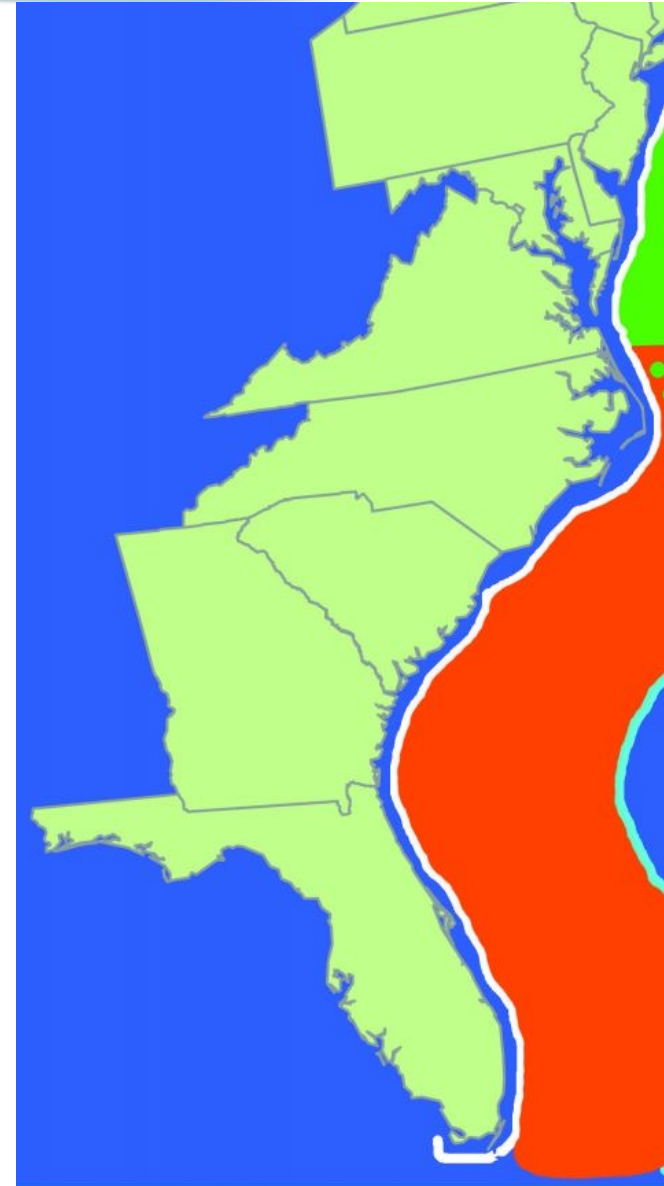
- The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has management authority through the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act
 - estuaries eastward to offshore boundary of the EEZ



Management Unit



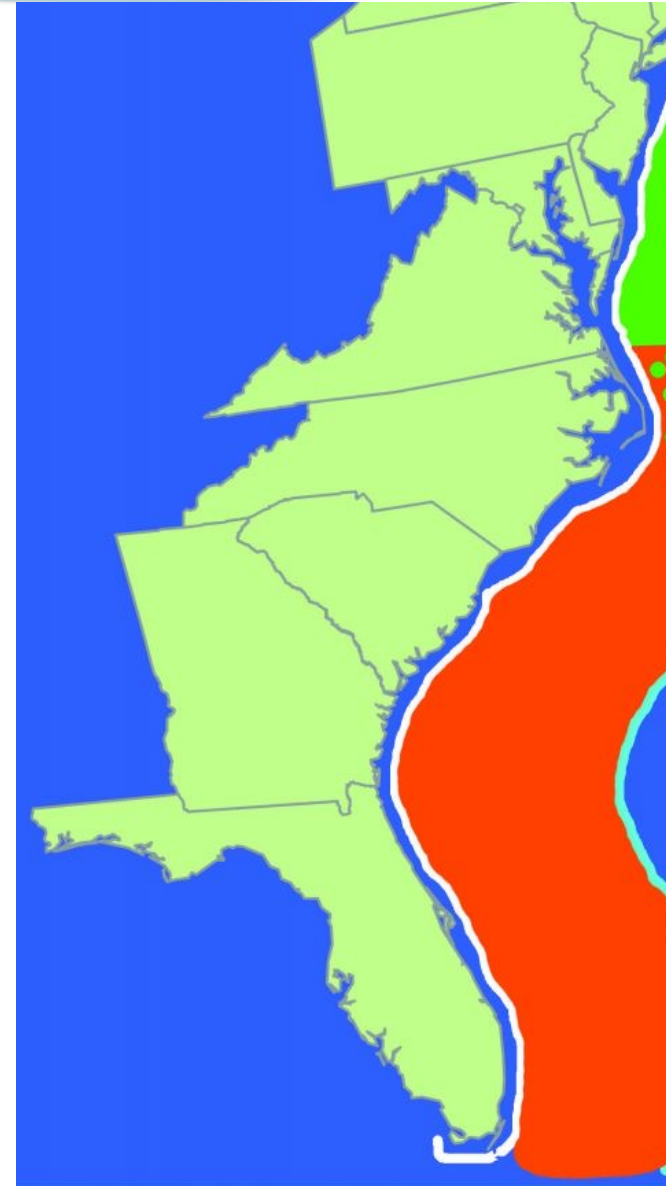
- U.S Atlantic coast waters of Florida through New Jersey – estuaries eastward to offshore boundary of the EEZ



Management Unit



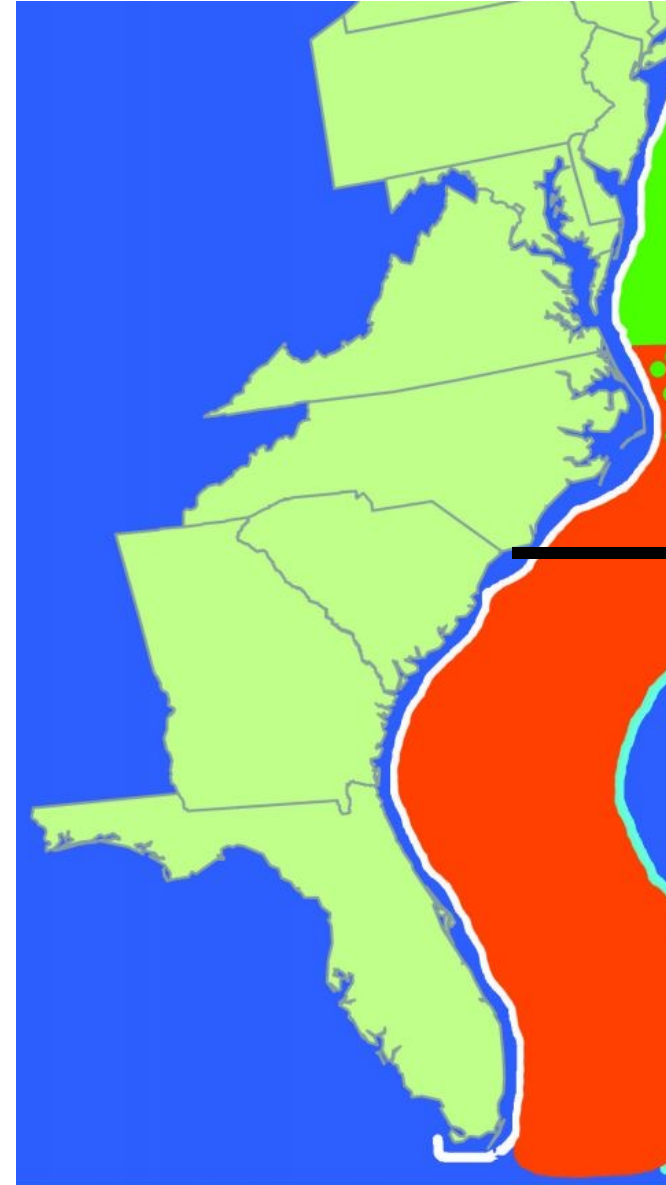
- U.S Atlantic coast waters of Florida through New Jersey – estuaries eastward to offshore boundary of the EEZ
- Based on red drum's biological distribution and historical harvest patterns



Management Areas



- **Northern region:** New Jersey to North/South Carolina border
- **Southern region:** North/South Carolina border to Atlantic coast of Florida



Management History



1984

- ASMFC's Interstate FMP for Red Drum

1990

- SAFMC's Red Drum FMP

1991

- ASMFC's Amendment 1

1998

- SAFMC's Amendments 1 and 2

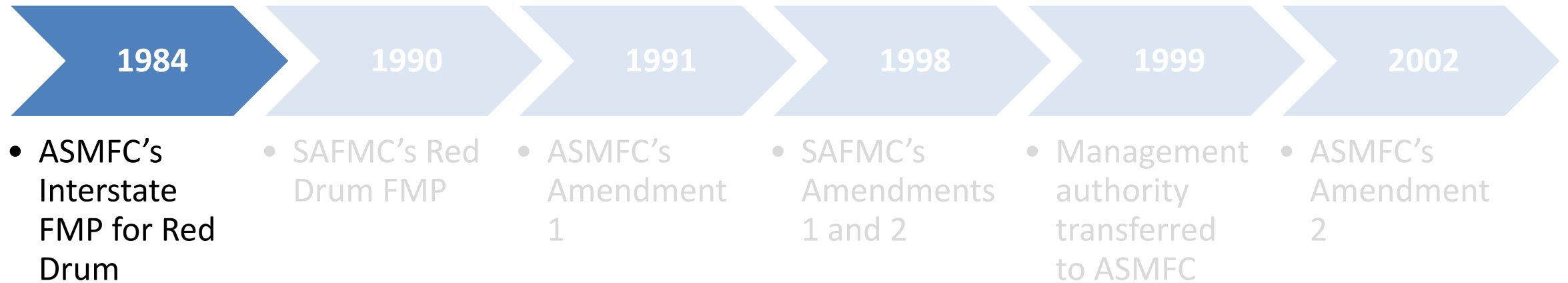
1999

- Management authority transferred to ASMFC

2002

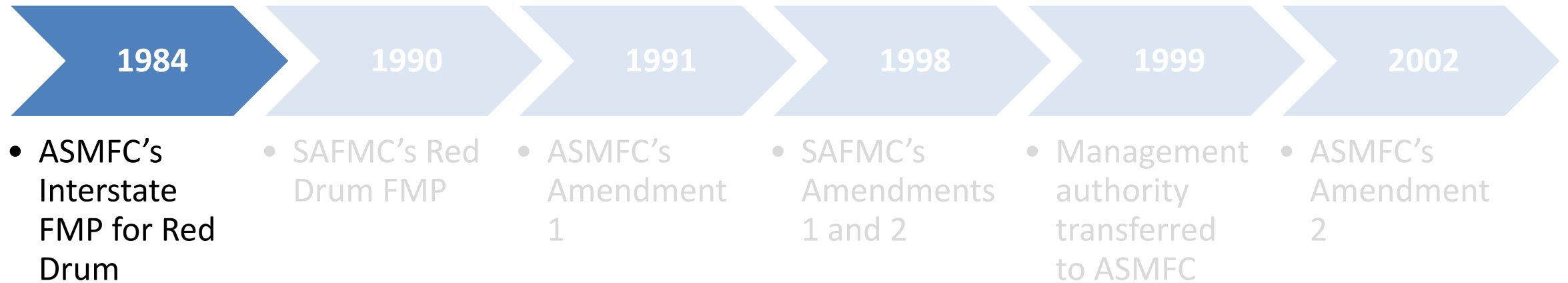
- ASMFC's Amendment 2

Management History



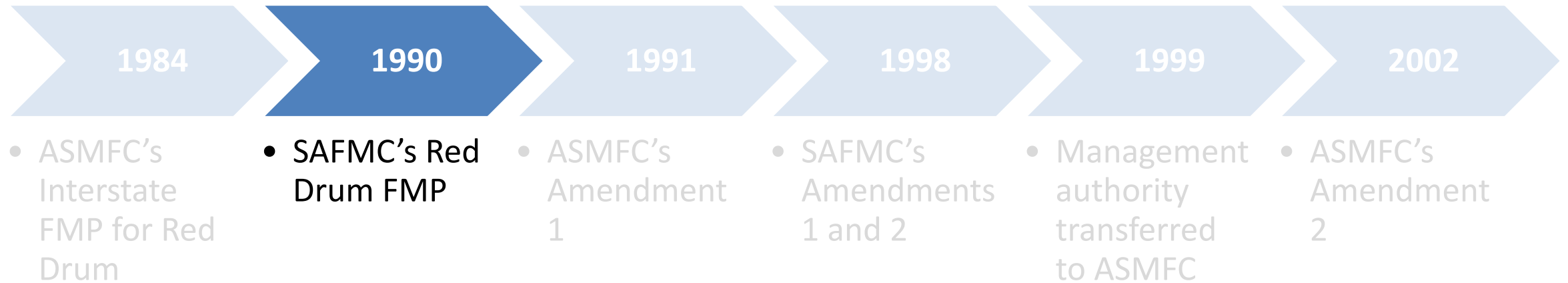
- Established an original management unit of FL to MD
- Management by both SAFMC and ASMFC
- Goal: address rec/com conflicts and lack of data needed to define OY

Management History



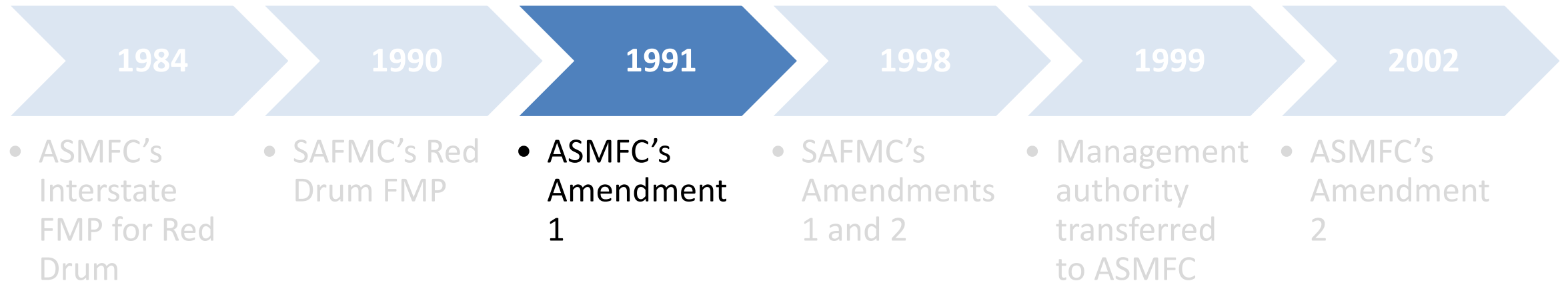
1. Attain, over time, optimum yield.
2. Maintain a spawning stock sufficient to minimize the possibility of recruitment failure.
3. Promote the cooperative interstate collection of economic, social, and biological data required to effectively monitor and assess management efforts relative to the overall goal.
4. Promote cooperative interstate research that improves understanding of the biology and fisheries of red drum.
5. Promote harmonious use of the resource among various components of the fishery through the coordination of management efforts among the various political entities having jurisdiction over the red drum resource.
6. Promote determination and adoption of the highest possible standards of environmental quality and habitat protection necessary for the natural production of red drum.

Management History



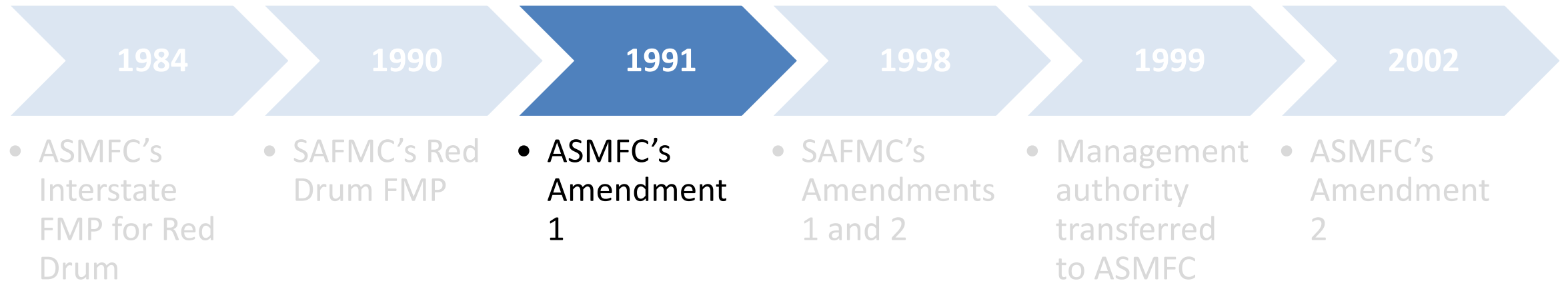
- Defined overfishing and OY
- Prohibited harvest of red drum in EEZ
- Recommended states implement measures to constrain harvest

Management History



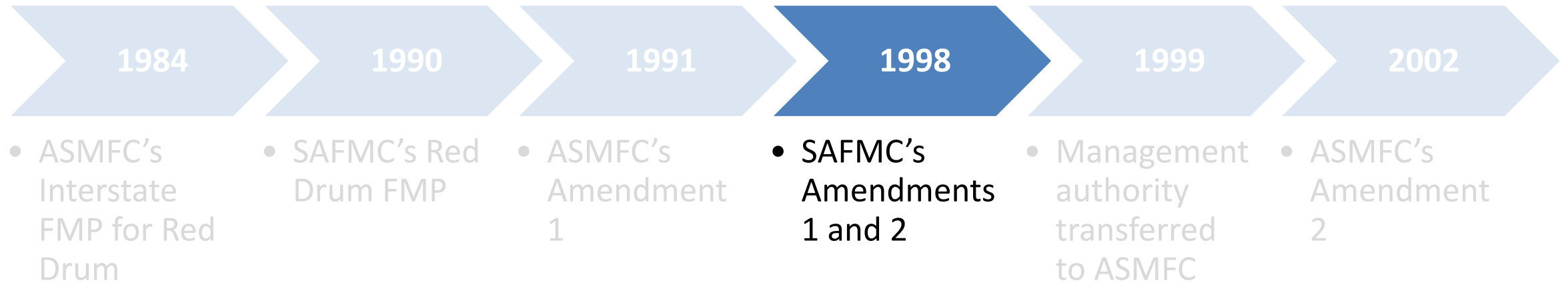
- Incorporated the goal to obtain OY, i.e., maintain the level of SSBR at or above 30% of the level which would result if F was zero
- However, a 30% escapement rate of sub-adult red drum to offshore adult spawning stock had to be used instead

Management History



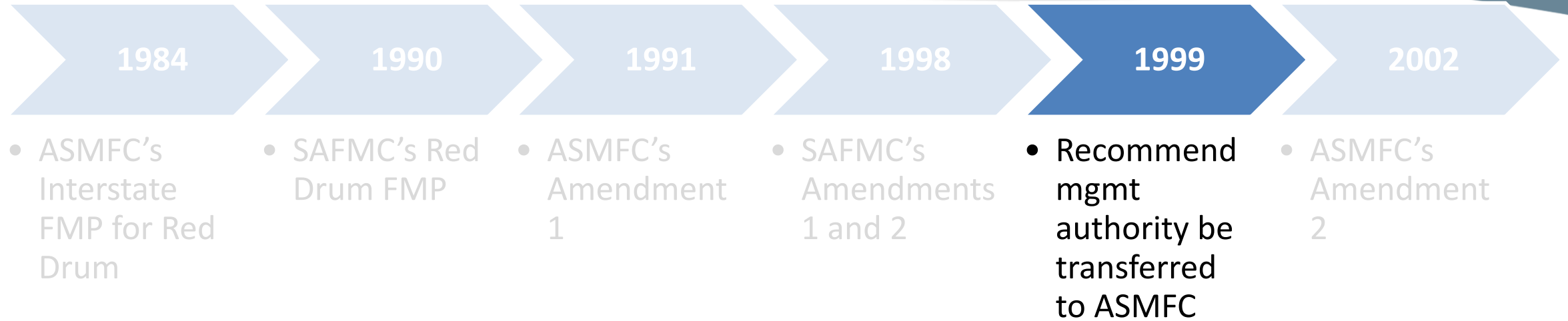
- Substantial reductions necessary to achieve 30% escapement rate
- Opted for a phase-in approach with 10% SPR goal

Management History



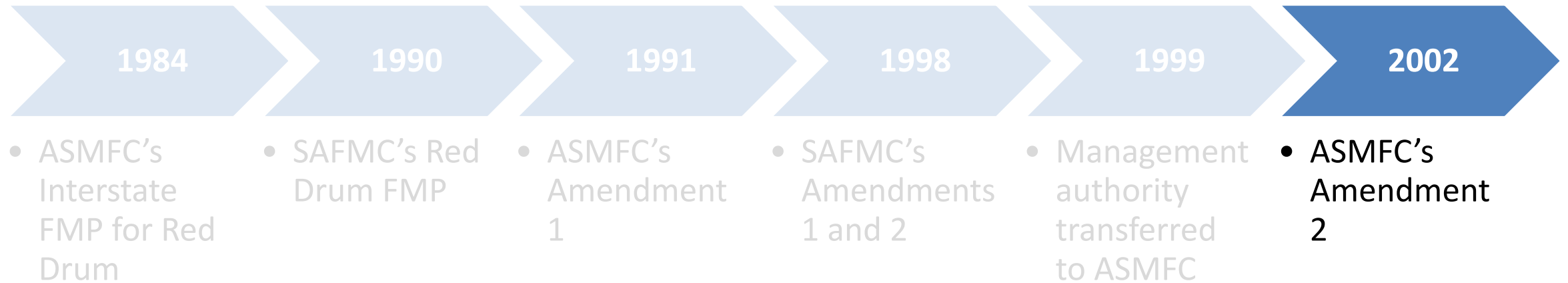
- SAFMC's Amendment 1 – updated MSY to 30% SPR, OY to 40% SPR, overfishing < 30% SPR, overfishing threshold = 10% SPR
- SAFMC's Amendment 2 – Identified, described, and recommended measures to protect Essential Fish Habitat and Areas of Particular Concern

Management History



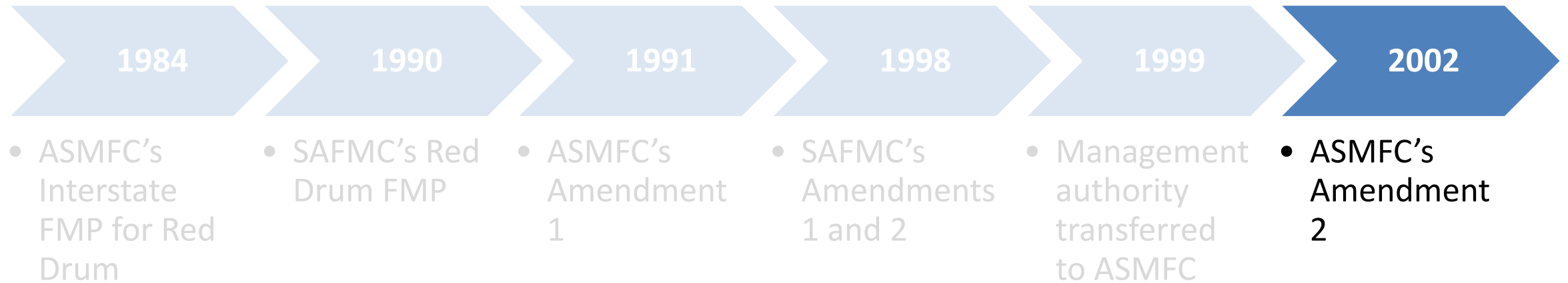
- SAFMC recommended management authority be transferred ASMFC
- Reasoning: unable to accurately determine overfished status, stock rebuilding targets and schedules

Management History



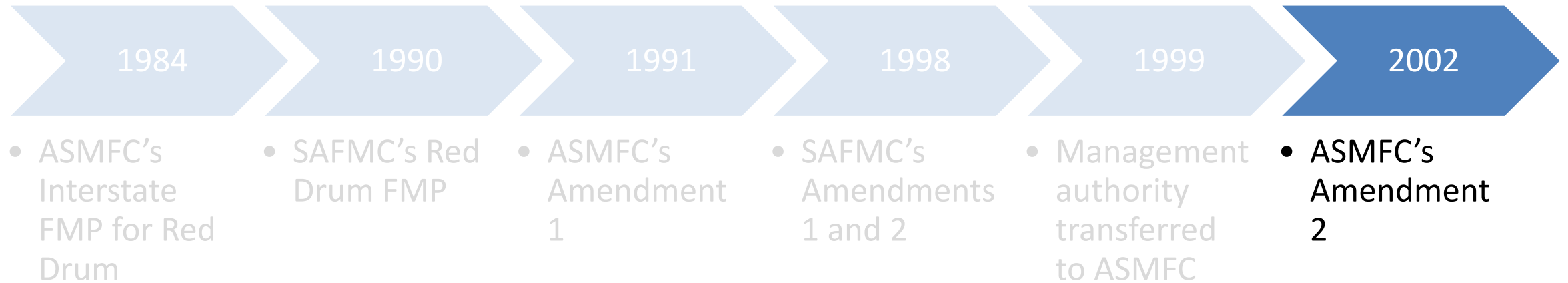
- Current management plan
- Moved mgmt. authority of red drum from SAFMC to the states
- Final rule that repealed SAFMC's FMP and transferred authority to ASMFC was effective Nov 5, 2008

Management History



- Goal: achieve and maintain the OY for the Atlantic coast red drum fishery to maintain SPR at or above 40%
- Required states to implement creel and size limits to achieve F target, including max size of 26 in TL and maintain existing comm regs
- All states were in compliance by Jan 1, 2003

Management History



1. Achieve and maintain an escapement rate sufficient to prevent recruitment failure and achieve an SPR at or above 40%.
2. Provide a flexible management system to address incompatibility and inconsistency among state and federal regulations which minimizes regulatory delay while retaining substantial ASMFC, Council, and public input into management decisions; and which can adapt to changes in resource abundance, new scientific information, and changes in fishing patterns among user groups or by area.
3. Promote cooperative collection of biological, economic, and sociological data required to effectively monitor and assess the status of the red drum resource and evaluate management efforts.
4. Restore the age and size structure of the Atlantic coast red drum population.

2013 – Addendum I to Amendment 2



- Updated Amendment 2's habitat section to include up-to-date info on red drum spawning habitat and habitat by lifestage
- Also identified and described the distribution of key habitats of concern

Regulation History



Photo credit: MD DNR

Regulation History – Northern Region



Initiation of Regulations

- New Jersey – 1994
 - 18" TL MLL; 1 fish > 27" TL person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Delaware – 1994
 - 18" TL MLL; 5 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹ w/ only 1 fish > 27"
- Maryland – 1991
 - 14" TL MLL; 2 fish > 32" TL person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Potomac River Fisheries Commission – 1990
 - 14" TL MLL
- Virginia – 1960
 - 2 fish > 32" TL person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- North Carolina – 1976
 - 14" TL MLL; 2 fish > 32" TL person⁻¹ day⁻¹

Regulation History – Northern Region



Current Regulations

- New Jersey – 1994
 - 18" TL MLL; 1 fish > 27" TL person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Delaware – 2003
 - 20-27" TL slot limit; 5 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Maryland – 2003
 - Recreational – 18-27" TL slot limit; 1 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹
 - Commercial – 18-25" TL slot limit; 5 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Potomac River Fisheries Commission – 2003
 - 18-25" TL slot limit; 5 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Virginia – 2014
 - Recreational – 18-26" TL slot limit; 3 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹
 - Commercial – 18-25" TL slot limit; 5 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- North Carolina – 2001
 - Recreational – 18-27" TL slot limit; 1 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹
 - Commercial – 18-27" TL slot limit; 250,000 lb ACL; 7 fish trip limit; daily landed catch of flounder, bluefish, black drum or striped mullet must exceed catch of drum; small mesh (<5" stretched mesh) gill net attendance requirement May 1 - Nov 30. Fishing year: Sept 1 – Aug 31.

Regulation History



Initiation of Regulations

- South Carolina – 1986
 - 14" TL MLL June-Aug; 1 fish > 32" TL person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Georgia – 1986
 - 14" TL MLL; 2 fish > 32" TL person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Florida
 - Pre-1925 – Allowed no commercial harvest by out-of-state citizens
 - 1925 – 12" FL MLL
 - 1985 – 18" TL MLL; 1 fish > 32" TL person⁻¹ day⁻¹

Regulation History



Commercial Harvest Ban

- South Carolina – 1987
- Georgia – 2013
- Florida – 1989

Current Regulations

- South Carolina – 2018
 - 15-23" TL slot limit
 - 2 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹ & 6 fish boat⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Georgia – 2013
 - 14-23" TL slot limit
 - 5 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹
- Florida – 2022
 - 18"-27" TL slot limit
 - NE Region – 1 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹, 4 fish vessel limit
 - Indian River Lagoon Region – 0 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹, 0 fish vessel limit
 - SE Region – 1 fish person⁻¹ day⁻¹, 2 fish vessel limit

Questions?



Photo credit: Spud Woodward