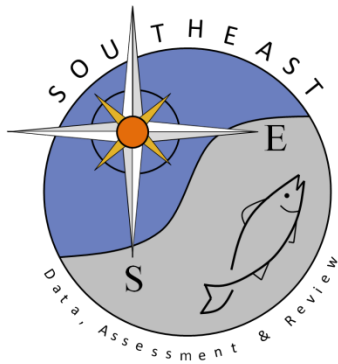


Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Memo: Blueline Tilefish Catch Series  
– March 14, 2016

Jason Didden

SEDAR50-RD37

25 January 2017





**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901-3910

Phone: 302-674-2331 | Toll Free: 877-446-2362 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org

Richard B. Robins, Jr., Chairman | Lee G. Anderson, Vice Chairman

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 14, 2016

**TO:** Chris Moore

**FROM:** Jason Didden 

**SUBJECT:** Blueline Tilefish Catch Time Series

As part of the Delphi Process, follow-up survey work with the blueline tilefish Delphi headboat participants has caused staff to reconsider the previous recommendation for the blueline tilefish catch series. Three headboats that appear to account for the majority of blueline tilefish headboat catches, and have been pioneers in this fishery in the Mid-Atlantic, provided their average catches of blueline tilefish for the time periods 2012-2015, 2008-2011, and 2004-2007. The vessels began fishing for blueline tilefish in 2004, 2005, and 2011. Accounting for the years they started fishing, their responses suggest that especially from 2004-2011, the existing headboat VTR records may not provide a reasonable account of headboat landings. Given other vessels also caught blueline tilefish during this period, including this updated information as a minimum estimate appears reasonable to staff, and staff believes these vessels have engaged in a good-faith effort to estimate their historical catch. Incorporating this additional data from the follow-up component of the Delphi Process results in the following updated table (next page) for recreational blueline tilefish catch, which staff believes to likely be more representative of the actual history of exploitation off the mid-Atlantic. The averaged 4-year period catches are used to maintain data confidentiality. Please refer to the previous memo for how the other fields were calculated.

Year	Charter VTR	Headboat VTR	Adjusted Charter (5.99*VTR for 2003-2014)	Adjusted Headboat: (1.40)*(VTR) used for 2012-2014; Delphi follow-up used for 2004-2011	Private (105.16% of Charter)	Total landings	Total Catch (2% Discards)
2003	Conf. but low, average 35	na	Conf. but low, average 208	0	na	208	212
2004		na		13,500	na	13,708	13,988
2005		na		13,500	na	13,708	13,988
2006		na		13,500	na	13,708	13,988
2007	500	2,498	2,995	13,500	na	16,495	16,832
2008	216	391	1,294	13,750	na	15,044	15,351
2009	313	3,861	1,875	13,750	na	15,625	15,944
2010	159	2,127	952	13,750	na	14,702	15,002
2011	324	3,261	1,941	13,750	2,041	17,732	18,094
2012	381	9,670	2,282	13,530	2,400	18,212	18,584
2013	711	11,127	4,259	15,569	4,479	24,306	24,802
2014	983	14,866	5,888	20,800	6,192	32,881	33,552
2015	1,798	11,636	10,770	16,281	11,326	38,377	39,160