



Use of PSEs in Assessment and Management on the Atlantic Coast

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Agencies Surveyed

- Federal
 - NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC
- Interstate
 - ASMFC
- State
 - ME-FL



Recreationally Important Species

Agency	Species	% Recreational
ASMFC	tautog	91%
ASMFC	red drum	89%
ASMFC	spotted seatrout	87%
ASMFC	striped bass	80%
ASMFC	spot	43%
ASMFC	weakfish	41%
ASMFC	atlantic croaker	26%
NEFMC	atlantic cod	18%
NEFMC	pollock	8%
NEFMC	winter flounder	5%
MAFMC	bluefish	71%
MAFMC	black sea bass	51%
MAFMC	summer flounder	45%
MAFMC	scup	32%
MAFMC	spanish mackerel	30%
MAFMC	spiny dogfish	3%

Agency	Species	% Recreational
SAFMC	cero	100%
SAFMC	yellow jack	100%
SAFMC	wahoo	95%
SAFMC	sheepshead	81%
SAFMC	mutton snapper	78%
SAFMC	red snapper	74%
SAFMC	blue runner	72%
SAFMC	gray snapper	71%
SAFMC	black grouper	69%
SAFMC	crevalle jack	67%
SAFMC	greater amberjack	64%
SAFMC	gray triggerfish	58%
SAFMC	king mackerel	52%
SAFMC	red grouper	40%
SAFMC	vermilion snapper	38%
SAFMC	gag	38%
SAFMC	red porgy	37%
SAFMC	black sea bass	36%
SAFMC	spanish mackerel	34%
SAFMC	scamp	27%
SAFMC	yellowtail snapper	16%
SAFMC	dolphin	14%

Percent recreational based on 2004-2011.
 Data from MRFSS/MRIP Calibration
 Workshop Report 2012.



Federal Agencies

- NEFMC
 - No use of PSEs in assessment
 - No use of PSEs in management
 - Majority of managed species have very little recreational harvest
- MAFMC
 - Some use of PSEs in assessment
 - Summer flounder assessment used PSEs as CVs in SCAA model
 - No quantitative use of PSEs in management, but used qualitatively



Federal Agencies

- SAFMC
 - PSEs used quantitatively in assessments for some species
 - Used as CVs on MRIP CPUE indices, but not on recreational catch
 - PSEs used quantitatively in management

$$ACT = ACL \times (1 - PSE)$$

or

$$ACT = ACL \times 0.5$$

(whichever is greater)



Interstate Agencies

- ASMFC
 - PSEs used quantitatively in assessments for some species
 - Used as CVs on rec catch: Atlantic croaker, red drum, tautog (in progress), weakfish (in progress)
 - PSEs used quantitatively in management for SF and BSB
 - States cannot implement alternative management measures by mode or area fished if the PSEs for that state or regional mode/area are greater than a specific level
 - Considered qualitatively but not quantitatively used for other species
 - 1994 guidance document on acceptable levels, but not formally used in FMPs



State Agencies

- Assessments
 - ME, NH, RI, CT, DE, VA, SC, and GA do not conduct their own assessments
 - MA, NY, NJ, and MD do not use PSEs in their state assessments
 - NC and FL use PSEs quantitatively for some species as CVs on rec catch estimates for some species (e.g., striped bass and spotted sea trout)



State Agencies

- Management
 - No states use PSE quantitatively in management
 - All states use PSEs qualitatively to assess the reliability of the data
 - E.g., NY looks at PSE levels to decide whether to create mode-specific regs
 - No formalized guidelines about PSE thresholds
 - Generally, 20-50% is considered the cut-off



Conclusions

- No consistent set of practices across agencies
- Use of PSEs in assessment and management varies by species within agencies
- Many agencies do use PSEs both qualitatively and quantitatively
- Interest in formalizing more rigorous guidelines for use of PSEs in management practice