SUMMARY OF 2021 SPOTTED SEATROUT SURVEYS

Jack Isaacs | LWFC Meeting | November 4, 2021
Email and Web Based Survey

- Sent 10,000 random e-mails to licensed residents with saltwater privileges.
- Email survey sent August 18
  - Two Reminders
  - Closed September 23
  - 990 Responses (10.4% of adjusted sample)
- Web survey open to anyone August 24
  - Results through September 23 Analyzed Here
  - 4,228 Responses
Respondents to Both Surveys

*Especially Web Survey Respondents*

Seem to Be

More Avid

than Most Louisiana Resident Anglers
Percentage Who Held the Specified Types of Licenses:

- Saltwater: 61.7% E-Mail, 53.9% Web
- Senior: 32.5% E-Mail, 13.6% Web
- Sportsman's Paradise: 10.4% E-Mail, 7.4% Web
- Lifetime: 15.3% E-Mail, 5.4% Web
### Reported Number of Coastal Fishing Trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percentage Who Reported Targeting Seatrout

- **E-Mail:** 83.2%
- **Web:** 95.5%
Percentage Who Reported Catching the Specified Number of Seatrout on a Typical Coastal Fishing Trip

Number of Trout on a Typical Coastal Fishing Trip

- None: 2.5% (Web), 11.2% (E-Mail)
- One to Five: 19.8% (Web), 28.4% (E-Mail)
- Six to Ten: 26.0% (Web), 25.7% (E-Mail)
- Eleven to Fifteen: 18.4% (Web), 19.2% (E-Mail)
- Sixteen to Twenty-Four: 12.2% (Web), 6.8% (E-Mail)
- Twenty-Five: 4.2% (Web), 4.2% (E-Mail)
Respondents’ Views of Change in Spotted Seatrout Stocks
Percentage Who Offered the Following Description of the Change in Spotted Seatrout Fishing in Area They Fished the Most

- Grown Worse: 41.7% (E-Mail) vs. 48.5% (Web)
- Stayed Same: 28.6% (E-Mail) vs. 30.7% (Web)
- Improved: 7.3% (E-Mail) vs. 10.0% (Web)
- Don't Know: 22.5% (E-Mail) vs. 10.7% (Web)
Percentage Expressing the Specified Level of Concern for Spotted Seatrout

Not Concerned at All: 7.0% (E-Mail), 9.0% (Web)
Slightly Concerned: 13.1% (E-Mail), 14.3% (Web)
Somewhat Concerned: 20.4% (E-Mail), 18.6% (Web)
Moderately Concerned: 25.9% (E-Mail), 23.4% (Web)
Extremely Concerned: 33.8% (E-Mail), 34.7% (Web)
Percentage Who Believed That the Specified Percentage of Released Seatrout Died as a Result of Being Caught

- **No Idea**: 19.1%
- **10 Percent or Less**: 59.1%
- **11 to 25 Percent**: 11.4%
- **Over 25 Percent**: 8.5%
- **All**: 2.0%

E-Mail

Web
Questions about General Management Preferences
Net Preferences for General Management Options

Net Preference = (Percent Strongly or Slightly Support) – (Percent Strongly or Slightly Oppose)
### Preferences for General Management Options

#### Net Preference = % Supported - % Opposed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
<th>Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowering Creel</td>
<td>3.95</td>
<td>3.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing Minimum Size</td>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slot Limits</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal Closures</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weighted Score= Average Score on a Scale from One to Five**
Respondents’ Preferences for Consistent Statewide or Variable Regional Regulations for Spotted Seatrout
Percentage Preferring Consistent Statewide or Variable Regional Seatrout Regulations

Separate Regulations for Different Parts of the State:
- E-Mail: 42.9%
- Web: 44.7%

One Set of Regulations for Entire State:
- E-Mail: 57.1%
- Web: 55.3%
Questions about Specific Management Scenarios

Respondents Rated on a 5-Point Scale
(From “Strongly Oppose” to “Strongly Support”)

**Current Seatrout Regulations**

+ 

**Five Alternatives**

Intended to Reduce Landings by 20% and Rebuild the Fishery within Five Years
Current Seatrout Regulations

Minimum Size Limit: 12”
Creel Limit: 25 Fish

- **Strongly Support**: 21.3% Web, 21.3% E-Mail
- **Slightly Support**: 16.9% Web, 18.4% E-Mail
- **Unsure**: 9.1% Web, 15.5% E-Mail
- **Slightly Oppose**: 21.3% Web, 20.7% E-Mail
- **Strongly Oppose**: 31.4% Web, 24.1% E-Mail
Creel Change Only Option

Minimum Size Limit: 12”
Creel Limit: 9 Fish

- Strongly Support: 11.5% (Web) 14.0% (E-Mail)
- Slighty Support: 17.8% (Web) 18.2% (E-Mail)
- Unsure: 6.3% (Web) 11.7% (E-Mail)
- Slightly Oppose: 14.6% (Web) 17.3% (E-Mail)
- Strongly Oppose: 49.7% (Web) 38.9% (E-Mail)
Size Change Only Option

Minimum Size Limit: 14”
Creel Limit: 25 Fish

- Strongly Support: 12.2% (Web 11.6%) - Slightly Support: 22.1% (Web 22.9%)
- Unsure: 8.2% (Web 16.2%) - Slightly Oppose: 20.0% (Web 21.7%)
- Strongly Oppose: 37.6% (Web 27.6%)

Options:
- Size Change Only Option
- Web
- E-Mail

Minimum Size Limit: 14”
Creel Limit: 25 Fish
Creel & Size Change I Option

Minimum Size Limit: 13”
Creel Limit: 11 Fish

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<tr>
<td>Strongly Oppose</td>
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<td>28.2%</td>
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</table>
Creel and Size Change II Option

Minimum Size Limit: 13.5”
Creel Limit: 15 Fish

- Strongly Support: 22.2% (Web), 17.2% (E-Mail)
- Slightly Support: 28.7% (Web), 30.2% (E-Mail)
- Unsure: 8.6% (Web), 15.1% (E-Mail)
- Slightly Oppose: 13.4% (Web), 13.7% (E-Mail)
- Strongly Oppose: 27.1% (Web), 23.8% (E-Mail)
Slot Option

Minimum Size Limit: 13”
Maximum Size Limit: 20”
Creel Limit: 13 Fish
(including one over 20”)

- Strongly Support: 25.5% (Web), 23.2% (E-Mail)
- Slightly Support: 22.4% (Web), 24.3% (E-Mail)
- Unsure: 8.9% (Web), 15.1% (E-Mail)
- Slightly Oppose: 10.3% (Web), 8.8% (E-Mail)
- Strongly Oppose: 32.9% (Web), 28.6% (E-Mail)
SUMMARY:
Net Preferences for Specific Management Options

Net Preference = (% Strongly or Slightly Support) – (% Strongly or Slightly Oppose)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Regulations</th>
<th>Creel Change Only</th>
<th>Size Change Only</th>
<th>Creel &amp; Size Change I</th>
<th>Creel &amp; Size Change II</th>
<th>Slot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12” 25 Fish</td>
<td>12” 9 Fish</td>
<td>14” 25 Fish</td>
<td>13” 11 Fish</td>
<td>13.5” 15 Fish</td>
<td>13”-20” 13 Fish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preferences for General Management Options

Weighted Score for Specific Management Options

Weighted Score = Average Score on a Scale from One to Five
SUMMARY

Respondents to Both Surveys Gave *Relatively High Ratings* to Two Options with a 20% Harvest Reduction & Five-Year Rebuilding Goal with Mid-Range Decreases in Creels AND Increases in Minimum Size Limits

- 15 Fish Creel - 13½” Minimum
- 13 Fish Creel – 13-20” Slot (with 1 over 20”)

*at the Time of the Survey*

- Both Options Were More Highly Rated than Current Regulations
- Large Percentages of Respondents Remained UNSURE about Both
  - Especially in the E-Mail Survey
Thank You!

- Dr. Rex Caffey – LSU Ag Center and Sea Grant Program
- Jason Adriance – LDWF
- Dr. Maryam Tabarestani – LDWF
- Chris Schieble-LDWF
- Harry Blanchet – LDWF
- Christian Winslow – LDWF
- Rebecca Hildebrandt - LDWF
- Dr. Steve Midway – LSU Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences
- David Smith – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Jason Froeba – LDWF
- Patrick Banks - LDWF
Questions

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