

Project Description: NA11NMF4740258

1) The Potomac River is managed as a separate entity from either Maryland or Virginia for fishery matters. In order to meet reporting requirements of various fishery management plans adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) provides harvest estimates for recreational, charter and commercial fisheries conducted within its jurisdiction. Harvest data for commercial fishermen and charter boats is obtained directly from each licensee through a weekly harvest reporting system. Recreational fishery data is obtained via telephone interviews to the Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey.

2) The ASMFC fishery management plan for American eel requires each jurisdiction to monitor elver migrations onto the coast each spring at a minimum of one site. PRFC proposes two millpond sites adjacent to the Potomac River to be sampled once a week until juvenile eels are collected, using an Irish eel ramp. At both sites a combined sample of 60 glass eels will be collected if present, transported back to the laboratory, measured, weighted and pigment stage recorded. The remaining catch will be enumerated and returned to the water immediately. The ramps are removed once the survey has ended.

3) The PRFC will maintain a website with current season, size and catch limits to keep the public informed with up-to-date information.

4) The PRFC will publish a recreational fishing information document that lists current season, size and catch limits and then distribute widely to fishermen throughout the region.

5) To maintain compliance with ASMFC for the biological characterization of fisheries species with management plans within their jurisdiction, PRFC proposes to contract with a qualified research institution to collect, record and provide the requisite information.