

## 2016 Review of the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sturgeon

Appelman, M.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

The Atlantic sturgeon is currently managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission through Amendment 1 (and addenda I-IV) to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The goal of the amendment is to restore Atlantic sturgeon spawning stocks to population levels that will provide for sustainable fisheries and ensure viable spawning populations. Under Amendment 1, states must maintain complete closure of any directed fishery for Atlantic sturgeon, and prohibit landings from any fishery. These moratoria will remain in effect until stocks exhibit a minimum of 20 protected year classes of spawning females, and the FMP is modified to permit harvest and possession. As part of compliance, states are required to report annually on results of bycatch monitoring in other fisheries, results of fishery-independent monitoring, status of habitat, and information on any aquaculture operations.