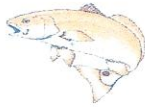


Tidewater Anglers Club



P.O. Box 55312, Virginia Beach, VA 23471-9312

28 June 2013

Recreational Fishing Advisory Board (RFAB)
C/O The Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Dear Mr. Hudgins

The Tidewater Anglers Club (TAC) has read and discussed the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) proposed study titled "Speckled trout, *Cynoscion Nebulosus*, in Virginia: are these fish genetically distinct?" and is very interested in the proposed project and the value of its potential findings in the advancement of fisheries management in Virginia.

The club has supported past Speckled Trout management initiatives including the special reduced creel limit and slot limit during winter periods when the fish may be cold water bound in some areas. The club feels that the Speckled Trout as a species in Virginia is under represented in the research area and there is a great need to better understand what their species characteristics are and if the species interbreeds with stocks from North Carolina etc. As some of you know the state of North Carolina has a Speckled Trout Management Plan and in that plan they have stated that the population of Speckled Trout in Virginia and North Carolina is depleted. Since Virginia does not have a Speckled Trout Management Plan we cannot scientifically state that they are wrong in their assumption. There has been some informal indication by the scientific community in Virginia that our fish do not interbreed with the North Carolina fish and therefore should be managed independently. This study could provide valuable information that would address this outstanding question and would allow the VMRC to cite the proper science to their North Carolina contemporaries concerning the management of Speckled Trout in the two states.

We hope that your interest in this project will provide the funding needed to move ahead in this important area.

Sincerely,

Robert Mandigo

Robert Mandigo,
President