

From: [Moore, Christopher](#)
To: [Beaty, Julia](#)
Subject: FW: Hello from Jim Dawson
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 4:16:17 PM
Importance: High

fyi

From: Jim Dawson <jimdawson1@verizon.net>
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 at 3:14 PM
To: Robert Beal <rbeal@asmfc.org>
Cc: Christopher Moore <cmoore@mafmc.org>, 'Patrick Geer' <Pat.Geer@mrc.virginia.gov>
Subject: Hello from Jim Dawson

Hello Bob,

Due to the virus crap, haven't had a chance to say anything, literally attempting to "adapt" because restaurants not purchasing "whole fish".

As I understand things, everyone somehow is supposed to get an "increase" for 2021 again. I feel that I MUST state this for the record:

I personally do NOT feel that the science backs up this action. I would like for the ASMFC to allow for ALL of us to place much more input from fishermen as well as data from VTR and "observer data sets" that have NOT been entered into the "scientific data sets" for 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation. I did not agree with the increase for mid 2020 and feel as though things at the very least should stay status quo until such time as observers can once again be placed on board for "full year" fishery observations.

I have spoken with several of the "active" black sea bass fishermen and we are in agreement about a growing concern over "year class". We as well as you all SHOULD understand that you all have been increasing allocations which are in fact changing the "dynamics" of the entire fishery. Influx also has not allowed for "marketability" especially with increases and Covid-19 related restaurant failures.

When speaking with the Mid-Atlantic members, I had made a remark Bob, indicating that I had witnessed a "start" of an increase in our stock size, however, that amount does NOT warrant the increase we saw for 2020, much less what you all have for 2021. I am "requesting" that we delay the 2021 increase due to Covid-19 not allowing for an accurate "read" on the "scientific" data due to the non-observer presence as well as our fisheries as a whole changing and the dangerous nature it creates for our fisheries moving to a "trawl" based fishery.

Black sea bass HAS made a comeback, PLEASE try and not succumb to the pressures of others and understand Bob, you all within black sea bass had made a difference until this last quota increase. I am in fear that within the areas that our trawl fleet can harvest these fish during the Winter and Spring months that they can wipe out what you all have "managed" and worked hard to accomplish

over the last 15 years. If crushing the small business fishermen is what you all are attempting to do, quantities of so many different "state run" black sea bass fisheries all being different will flood an already devastated restaurant industry to the point where it will not be affordable for "small quantity fishermen" to compete with trawlers who can make it on a \$1/pound fish... 50,000 pounds = \$50,000.00.

I have not seen fish stocks as high as they once were as we saw late 1990's and early 2000's. My VIMS study gives data from 2002 and 2003 where currently most of these fish do not migrate at all any longer within that area. I would like to request that we understand Covid-19 did not allow us scientific observer data for 2020 and ask ASMFC to delay what we do for 2021 until we can observe AND discuss these items without the forcing of restrictions holding those of us from doing much of anything, including openly coming to meeting to discuss these aforementioned items. I have no problem coming to ANY meeting without the fear of catching a virus (5) times smaller than ANY mask, much less a surgical bacterial mask as well as even worse a cloth mask. Surgical masks are rendered useless within 20-30 minutes, yet people are being forced to wear them. I am kindly asking you and your member AND the Mid Atlantic council to NOT make such decisions until "mask wearing" has been eliminated as so we can ALL meet to discuss these SERIOUS situational matters in person without ANYONE being fearful for ANY reason.

Thanks for listening and don't allow the people to destroy what our management has taken so long to build back up, it built up because we fished in small quantities...the quota increases will destroy that! The Winter trawl fishery will decimate these fish, especially the year classes they target, which in my case, I can verify by statistical and monetary evidence sets that ALREADY has happened! "Jumbo bass" has already gone missing by a lot! We see "large" but no where near the amount of the year class of "jumbo". This "should be" a warning Bob. Please allow me the time to verify this if we can.

Jim Dawson.