



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board to Meet Via Conference Call March 20 *Board to Consider Approval of 2018 Recreational Black Sea Bass Regional Proposals***

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board will meet via conference call on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. to consider approval of regional proposals for the 2018 black sea bass recreational fishery. The proposals are required under Addendum XXX, which was approved in February 2018 and uses a combination of exploitable biomass information from the latest stock assessment and historical harvest to regionally allocate the coastwide recreational harvest limit (RHL). The three management regions are: (1) Massachusetts through New York, (2) New Jersey, and (3) Delaware through North Carolina. Their respective allocations of the 2018 coastwide RHL are 61.35%, 30.24%, and 8.41%.

To improve accountability, Addendum XXX holds states within each region collectively responsible for managing harvest to their regional allocation through the cooperative development of recreational measures. To increase regional consistency in measures, each region will establish a standard set of measures, with each state in the region provided the flexibility to adjust its measures up to one inch in minimum size and three fish in possession limit. Collectively, the combined regional measures are intended to achieve, but not exceed, the 2018 RHL.

The public is welcome to listen to the discussion by phone (866.214.0726, followed by passcode: 993961) and view the webinar using the following link <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6931931919817605123>. The meeting agenda can be found at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/Meetings/SFlounderScupBSB\\_BoardAgenda\\_3\\_20\\_18.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/Meetings/SFlounderScupBSB_BoardAgenda_3_20_18.pdf); meeting materials will be available March 15 at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/meeting-archive>.

Time permitting, there will be a limited opportunity for the public to provide comments. The Board Chair will outline the procedures for accepting public comment at the beginning of the conference call. We request the public and other nonparticipating attendees to please mute their phones in order to minimize distractions to the Board’s deliberations.

For more information, please contact Caitlin Starks, FMP Coordinator, at [cstarks@asmfc.org](mailto:cstarks@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201  
703.842.0740 (phone) 703.842.0741 (fax) [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)