



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Meeting Summary

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board
Conference Call
March 20, 2018

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Meeting Summary and Motions

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SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (MARCH 20, 2018)

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board met to consider regional proposals for the 2018 black sea bass recreational fishery for the following three regions: (1) Massachusetts through New York, (2) New Jersey, and (3) Delaware through North Carolina. The proposals were 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).

Each region proposed methodologies and regulatory standard measures to achieve the regional allocation of the 2018 RHL of 3.66 million pounds. The northern region (MA-NY) proposed a regulatory standard of a 4 fish possession limit, 15 inch minimum size limit, and a season including 16 days in wave 3 (May-June), 62 days in wave 4 (July-August), and 41 days in wave 5 (September-October). In an effort to increase equity in state access to the resource, the region developed alternative measures for each state to be used in 2018. These alternative measures and associated harvest targets will be the basis for conservation equivalency proposals for the northern states. New Jersey proposed several options that achieve the regional allocation. The southern region (DE-NC) proposed regulatory standard measures that match measures in federal waters for the 2018 recreational black sea bass fishery, including a 15 fish bag limit, 12.5 inch minimum size limit, and an open season from May 15 to December 31. The combined total projected harvest under the proposed measures is equal to 100% of the 2018 coastwide RHL.

The Board approved all three regional proposals. For the northern region only, the Board voted to preclude states within the region from implementing minimum size limits differing from the regulatory standard of 15 inches. Through their administrative processes, states will finalize 2018 recreational measures using the regional methodologies approved by the Board today and the requirements set forth in Addendum XXX. States will send their final measures to the Commission, who will in turn forward those measures to NOAA Fisheries.

For more information, please contact Caitlin Starks, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at cstarks@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to approve the proposed regulatory standard measures for the Southern Region for 2018 recreational black sea bass, those being a 12.5” minimum size limit, 15-fish bag limit, and a season from May 15 – December 31.

Motion made by Mr. Wong, and seconded by Mr. O’Reilly. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: In favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, NOAA Fisheries.

Move to approve for the New Jersey Region, the methodology for setting 2018 black sea bass recreational measures set forth in the memo from the NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries dated March 15, 2018, and included in the meeting materials.

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. O’Reilly. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: In favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, NOAA Fisheries.

Move to approve the Northern Region’s methodology for developing 2018 recreational black sea bass measures, including a regulatory standard of a 15” minimum size limit, 4 fish possession limit, and June 15–October 11 season coupled with the state measures and harvest targets set forth in Table 3 of the Proposal for the Northern Region, included in the meeting materials.

Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Mr. Fote. Motion amended.

Motion to Amend

Motion to amend to add this language: Implicit in this motion is the option for states to implement measures that are conservationally equivalent to Table 3 except for adjustments in minimum size.

Motion made by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Meserve. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Main Motion as Amended

Move to approve the Northern Region’s methodology for developing 2018 recreational black sea bass measures, including a regulatory standard of a 15” minimum size limit, 4 fish possession limit, and June 15–October 11 season coupled with the state measures and harvest targets set forth in Table 3 of the Proposal for the Northern Region, included in the meeting materials. Implicit in this motion is the option for states to implement measures that are conservationally equivalent to Table 3 except for adjustments in minimum size.

Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: In favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, NOAA Fisheries.